



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

September 2022

Try as I might I just cannot come up with anything worth saying here, so I'll just leave it and not waste your time with something banal and uninteresting. Or, should that be more banal and uninteresting than what I usually come up with here! I'll just tell you that all is well, the puppies are great, golf has been plentiful, we are all healthy, knock on wood.

Actually, talking about wood reminds me, and since I have you...did you read about the wandering delivery robot that was spotted in the woods of Northampton in the United Kingdom? Matthew McCormack, a history professor at the University of Northampton came across this robot while cycling in Lings Wood, he told NPR over email. "We have them all over town for grocery deliveries, but I was surprised to see it so far from the shops, so I took a picture of it." Since sharing that picture on Twitter, he has been enjoying some minor social media celebrity. He did take a bit of poetic license by tweeting, "On my bike ride this morning, saw a delivery robot lost in the woods." He continues, "It doubtless knew where it was going and got there eventually, but it did seem curious trundling along in woodland." Apparently, others have come across this wandering traveler out in the woods. This little fella prefers the wilderness to life in Northampton and who could blame him. If you want to see the picture: <https://tinyurl.com/4kf8bknn>

So, to books.

JD's Picks

A Man Named Doll (#1) (\$22.99) was a dark PI novel, which I rather enjoyed. Although **JONATHAN AMES** has written some half-dozen novels, it seems that the early ones were not crime novels, so he was new to me. I'm not a big fan of the cozy novel, full of recipes and talking animals, nor of the tongue-planted-so-firmly-in-cheek-that-it-hurts thriller where everyone dies except for the hero, so that leaves the ones in between, the ones that tend to be a bit more "realistic" or somewhat grounded in reality. I use the term "reality" guardedly! The PI novel falls nicely into that middle ground, and I used to read a lot of that sub-genre at one stage. With their more-or-less realistic approach, often with lots of humour, and their booze-soaked melancholic and dark outlook on life... well they were satisfying reads. **Robert B Parker, Robert Crais, Jonathan Valin, Sue Grafton, Sara Paretsky**...not to mention the greats, **Raymond Chandler, Ross MacDonald, Dashiell Hammett**...were great writers of the PI category.

The Merchant of Menace,

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ry. So, when I came across Happy Doll, it was time to dive back in...

Here's the blurb: Happy Doll is a charming, if occasionally inept, private detective living just one sheer cliff drop beneath the Hollywood sign with his beloved half-Chihuahua half-Terrier, George. A veteran of both the Navy and LAPD, Doll supplements his meager income as a P.I. by working through the night at a local Thai spa that offers its clients a number of special services. Armed with his sixteen-inch steel telescopic baton, biting dry humor, and just a bit of a hero complex, the ex-cop sets out to protect the women who work there from clients who have trouble understanding the word "no."

Doll gets by just fine following his two basic rules: bark loudly and act first. But when things get out-of-hand with one particularly violent patron, even he finds himself wildly out of his depth, and then things take an even more dangerous twist when an old friend from his days as a cop shows up at his door with a bullet in his gut.

It might be time to revive the private eye novel and this might be as good a place to start as any. It's dark enough—Hadn't rained this long in years, and LA had turned Irish green: the brown, scorched hills were soft with new grass, like chest hair on a burn victim. What twisted mind comes up with that analogy? — just violent enough to be realistic and with the odd bit of humour. The sequel, Wheel of Doll (#2) (\$33) was released about a month ago.

There's a new **CRAIG JOHNSON** Walt Longmire novel just published, Hell and Back (#18) (\$37.99), boy howdy! As ever, I drop whatever else I'm reading and hunker down with the new Longmire. I try to not inhale it in one sitting, a whole lot easier said than done, and try to make the new novel last as long as possible. Discipline, discipline, only allowing myself a couple of chapters at a time. So, I'm a hundred-odd pages into it and this is as intense and strange and confusing and bold as anything ever from this brilliant writer. I know I'm going to be re-reading it as soon as I finish the first go-around just to make sure I squeeze out all the magic and charm and pleasure out of this novel.

The blurb: What if you woke up lying in the middle of the street in the infamous town of Fort Pratt, Montana, where thirty young Native boys perished in a tragic 1896 boarding-school fire? What if every person you encountered in that endless night was dead? What if you were covered in blood and missing a bullet from the gun holstered on your hip? What if there was something out there in the yellowed skies, along with the deceased and the smell of ash and dust, something the Northern Cheyenne refer to as the Éveohtsé-heómèse, the Wandering Without, the Taker of Souls? What if the only way you know who you are is because your name is printed in the leather sweatband of your cowboy hat, and what if it says your name is Walt Longmire . . . but you don't remember him?

Do not miss this one. Do not miss the entire series. Feel free to skip the TV adaptation, it is so bad.

There's a lovely article and interview with the author in *The Spokesman-Review* talking about his writing and this new novel in particular. Here's a link: <https://tinyurl.com/39upcms8>

Marian's Picks

I have a new toy. A new laptop that is so fast, oh my goodness, it's a pleasure to work with. My old Dell would take seven or eight minutes to boot up! I would turn it on, make myself a pot coffee and it would still be thinking it over. I know cottage life is a slower, languid pace, but those eight minutes would feel like an eternity! I'm sure the Dell was fast when it was new, and I'm also sure I'll be complaining about how slow the new computer is soon enough, but, for the moment, wahoo! *(Don't know how she put up with that ancient Dell for so long, without complaining, I would have pitched it through the window. Truth be told, the real reason I suggested she get a new one was more for me. And the safety of the cottage windows- jd)*

I showed Pix and Prince the new Lenovo, but they didn't seem too impressed. When's lunch, mom? Well, actually, that was more Prince. The perfect Miss Pix is much more interested in being petted and adored. Which we do in spades. The one thing neither of them is particularly fussy about is getting groomed. It's an ordeal for them. Three or four hours, somewhat immobilized...I have to literally lift them out of the car. Percy

was the same, he didn't like to get groomed either. However, it has to be done as they don't shed their hair, it just grows and grows. I, of course, just love the way they look after a grooming, especially that rascal Prince, so neat and tidy. Burrs are so much easier to pick out with short hair, as well, the burr magnets that they are.

I read a number of books this past month and I'm excited to tell you about them. Most of you know I really enjoy reading spy, espionage type stories and when I saw that **MATTHEW QUIRK** had written a new book, I just had to read it. It took me a while to get into Red Warning (\$35.99) but once I was in, I was hooked. CIA officer Sam Hudson, as his mentor before him, has been searching for a deep cover Russian operative for years. Trouble is that no one else at the CIA believes this assassin, Konstantin, exists. But when a bomb goes off in Washington DC, Sam realizes that Konstantin is in the USA and there is every indication that a massive attack on Washington is imminent, and the country will be brought to its knees. Tons of action, lots of twists and turns, and a darn good read. If you have not tried **Matthew Quirk**, and don't want to spend the big bucks right away, then read The Night Agent or Hour of the Assassin (\$12.99 each), both super excellent. And yes, I DID MEAN super excellent.

In the August 2022 newsletter I mentioned that The Cover Wife (\$23) was the first **DAN FESPERMAN** novel that I read, I rather liked his story telling and writing and so I decided to read on. His latest book, Winter Work (\$37) had just arrived, so, why not that one? Once again, I was quite pleased with the read and quite happy that there are so many more to chew through! This new one is inspired by a true story about the secrets up for grabs just after the fall of the Berlin Wall. At the end of the story the author goes into a lot of detail about what happened during the early months after the fall, which was quite the eye opener. It's hard to think back to a time when there was virtually no social media nor the technological wizardry, we have now. As the Berlin Wall crumbled in 1989, the Stasi, East Germany's intelligence service, began destroying the documentary evidence of its crimes, and the C.I.A. did their best to try to get a hold of any information it could. I'm not giving away any plot details, but the author tells us that the Stasi had 90,000 employees and at least 170,000 informants, (with a total population of just over 16,000,000), creating mountains of documents that had to be destroyed. (The shredders couldn't keep up and broke down!). There are accounts of thousands of documents just thrown onto the streets, or burnt, as they could not cope with all the shredding needed, and no one knows whose hands some of these documents may have ended up in. This is an account of what could have happened.

On a chilly early morning walk on the wooded outskirts of Berlin, Emil Grimm finds the body of his neighbor, a fellow Stasi officer named Lothar, with a gunshot wound to the temple and a pistol in his right hand. Despite appearances, Emil suspects murder. A few months earlier he would have known just what to do, but now, as East Germany disintegrates, being a Stasi colonel is more of a liability than an asset. More troubling still is that Emil and Lothar were involved in a final clandestine mission, one that has clearly turned deadly. Now Emil must finish the job alone, on uncertain ground where old alliances seem to be shifting by the day.

Meanwhile, CIA agent Claire Saylor, sent to Berlin to assist an Agency mop-up action against their collapsing East German adversaries, has just received an upgrade to her assignment. She'll be the designated contact for a high-ranking foreign intelligence officer of the Stasi, although details are suspiciously sketchy. When her first rendezvous goes dangerously awry, she realizes the mission is far more delicate than she was led to believe.

Unpacking boxes of new titles is like opening presents, so when I pulled out a book that said 'A Novel of Renaissance Venice' on the front cover, I got all tingly. The Color Storm (\$34.99) by **DAMIAN DIBBEN** is set in Venice in the early 1500s. It tells the story of some very well-known artist vying for the honour of being the one chosen to paint with a newly found colour, prince orient. The description of colours, pigments, paintings—I Googled quite a number of the paintings mentioned in the book—and of Venice, magnificent structures and smelly, filthy lagoons, was mesmerizing. The end of the book came too fast as I thought the depiction of the Plague being in or near Venice was gripping and I wanted to read more about it. But I am nit picking. If you love art and/or Venice, you will love this book.

Here is the plot summary: Enter the world of Renaissance Venice, where the competition for fame and fortune can mean life or death... Artists flock here, not just for wealth and fame, but for revolutionary color. Yet artist Giorgione "Zorzo" Barbarelli's career hangs in the balance. Competition is fierce, and his debts are piling up. When Zorzo hears a rumor of a mysterious new pigment, brought to Venice by the richest man in

Europe, he sets out to acquire the color and secure his name in history.

Winning a commission to paint a portrait of the man's wife, Sybille, Zorzo thinks he has found a way into the merchant's favor. Instead, he finds himself caught up in a conspiracy that stretches across Europe and a marriage coming apart inside one of the floating city's most illustrious palazzi.

As the water levels rise and the plague creeps ever closer, an increasingly desperate Zorzo isn't sure whom he can trust. Will Sybille prove to be the key to Zorzo's success or the reason for his downfall?

I've been waiting for **ROBERT POBI**'s new book, Do No Harm (#3) (\$36.99), to arrive and, OMG, it did not disappoint. It is terrific. If you haven't read this author yet, there are two earlier titles in the series you can try, City of Windows (#1) (\$24.50) and Under Pressure (#2) (\$24.99). All three are fast passed, FBI, full of action, engaging characters, terrific plots, New York City...can you tell I'm a fan? Trouble is, now I have to wait another year for the next one. The main character, Lucas Page is an extremely interesting and likeable man and here is how the blurb on the book describes him: Lucas Page is a polymath, astrophysicist, professor, husband, father of five adopted children, bestselling author, and ex-FBI agent—emphasis on "ex." So read these books but set aside a few hours clear, at least, as you will not want to put the book down.

Here is the rest of the blurb for Do No Harm: Severely wounded after being caught in an explosion, Page left the FBI behind and put his focus on the rebuilding the rest of his life. But Page is uniquely gifted in being able to recognize patterns that elude others, a skill that brings the F.B.I. knocking at his door again and again.

Lucas Page's wife Erin loses a friend, a gifted plastic surgeon, to suicide and Lucas begins to realize how many people Erin knew that have died in the past year, in freak accidents and now suicide. Intrigued despite himself, Page begins digging through obituaries and realizes that there's a pattern—a bad one. These deaths don't make sense unless the doctors are being murdered, the target of a particularly clever killer. This time, the FBI wants as little to do with Lucas as he does with them, so he's left with only one option—ignore it and go back to his normal life. But then, the pattern reveals that the next victim is likely to be...Erin herself.

Hardbacks

ABRAMS, STACEY RULES OF ENGAGEMENT (\$37) Dr. Raleigh Foster, an operative for a top-secret intelligence organization, knows that her undercover work has its risks. So she doesn't hesitate when asked to infiltrate Scimitar, the terrorist group that has stolen lethal environmental technology. But when she's assigned a partner—brooding, sexy Adam Grayson—to pose as her lover, Raleigh discovers that the most dangerous risk of all...is falling in love. Adam blames himself for the botched mission that got his best friend killed by Scimitar, and he believes that Raleigh may have contributed to the man's death. But the closer he works with his alluring partner, the more his suspicions turn to trust—and intense desire. Now, as he and Raleigh untangle a twisted web of secrets and lies, the tension mounts between them...until their masquerade as a couple proves too tempting to resist.

AMES, JONATHAN happy doll WHEEL OF DOLL (#2) (\$33) Although badly scarred and down to his last kidney after the previous caper, Happy Doll is back in business. When a beguiling young woman turns up at his door, it's Doll's past that comes knocking. Mary DeAngelo is searching for her estranged mother, Ines Candle—a singular and troubled woman Doll once loved. The last he'd seen her she'd been near-death: arms slit like envelopes. Although she survived the episode, she vanished shortly thereafter. Now, years later, Mary claims Ines is alive and has recently made contact—messaging her on Facebook and calling her from a burner phone—only to disappear once again. Although his psychoanalyst would discourage it, Doll takes the case, desperate to see Ines again. But as the investigation deepens, there are questions he can't shake. What's led the flighty Ines to reappear? Is Mary only relaying half the truth? And who is Mary's strange and mysterious husband?

AMSINCK, HEIDI MY NAME IS JENSEN (\$32.95) Guilty. One word on a beggar's cardboard sign. And now he is dead, stabbed in a wintry Copenhagen street, the second homeless victim in as many weeks. Dagbladet reporter Jensen, stumbling across the body on her way to work, calls her ex lover DI Henrik Jungersen. As, inevitably, old

passions are rekindled, so are old regrets, and that is just the start of Jensen's troubles. The front page is an open goal, but nothing feels right. When a third body turns up, it seems certain that a serial killer is on the loose. But why pick on the homeless? And is the link to an old murder case just a coincidence? With her teenage apprentice Gustav, Jensen soon finds herself putting everything on the line to discover exactly who is guilty ...

BENN, JAMES R billy boyle FROM THE SHADOWS (#17) (\$36.95) Southern France, 1944: What should be a simple assignment with a Special Operations Executive officer gets complicated quickly as Billy navigates the tensions between Resistance groups in the process of gathering information on Vichy officials and other collaborators who escaped with the retreating Germans. Unexpectedly, the SOE officer has many enemies in the Resistance, linked to the failed Vercors uprising. Diana Seaton, Billy's wartime lover, crosses paths with him as she and legendary SOE agent Christine Granville embark on a humanitarian mission on behalf of those killed while helping the SOE. The search for a witness to a deadly explosion leads Billy to the legendary 442nd Regimental Combat Team, a unit made up of Nisei soldiers that became the most highly decorated unit in the history of the US Army. With sacrifice and betrayal afoot, Billy doesn't know who he can trust, or how close to death this case may bring him.

BOWEN, GAIL WHAT'S PAST IS PROLOGUE (#21) (\$34.95) When Libby Hogarth, the go-to lawyer for the rich or famous who have committed heinous crimes, comes to Regina to deliver the prestigious Mellohawk Lecture, she is met with a torrent of hostility and misinformation. Libby Hogarth had successfully defended Jared Delio, a wildly popular national radio host, against charges of sexual abuse brought against him by three Regina women. Her no-holds-barred cross-examination of the women stirred up a rage that still smolders. Zack and Joanne Shreve's commitment to protect Libby goes beyond the fact that in defending Delio, Libby had simply applied the principles at the root of the justice system. Zack and Libby share a history. They were the last two students to article with Fred C. Harney, a brilliant alcoholic lawyer who changed both their lives. Sawyer MacLeish, Libby's associate, was like a much-loved third son to Joanne when he was growing up, and she fears that Sawyer will suffer collateral damage from any attack on Libby. Joanne's fears are not groundless, and when the inevitable happens, Joanne, Zack, and their extended family must pick up the pieces.

BROADFOOT, NEIL fraser NO QUARTER GIVEN (#4) (\$34.99) Jennifer MacKenzie being hit by a car was a tragic accident. Or so it seemed. Until Connor is summoned to a meeting his girlfriend's dad, Duncan McKenzie. MacKenzie claims that Jen's accident was actually a message intended for him—and a way to force him to kill his trusted lieutenant Paulie King, who has now mysteriously disappeared. His request to Connor is simple. Find Paulie and the men who hurt his daughter. Do whatever it takes. As an all-out gang war threatens to explode across Central Scotland, Connor begins a journey that forces him to confront some uncomfortable truths about his girlfriend and the family he is connected to through her. But Connor is also driven by a vow—to find Paulie. And when he does, no quarter will be given.

CLARK, TRACY RUNNER (\$35) Chicago in the dead of winter can be brutal, especially when you're scouring the frigid streets for a missing girl. Fifteen-year-old Ramona Titus has run away from her foster home. Her biological mother, Leesa Evans, is a recovering addict who admits she failed Ramona often in the past. But now she's clean. And she's determined to make up for her mistakes—if Cass can only help her find her daughter. Cass visits Ramona's foster mother, Deloris Poole, who is also desperate to bring the girl home. Ramona came to Deloris six months ago, angry and distrustful, but was slowly opening up. The police are on the search, but Cass has sources closer to the streets, and a network of savvy allies. Yet it seems Ramona doesn't want to be found. And Cass soon begins to understand why. Ramona is holding secrets dark enough to kill for, and anyone who helps her may be fair game. And if Ramona can't run fast enough and hide well enough to keep the truth safe, she and Cass may both be out of time.

CLEEVES, ANN vera RISING TIDE (#10) (\$39.95 hardcover, \$25.99 trade paperback) Fifty years ago, a group of teenagers spent a weekend on Holy Island, forging a bond that has lasted a lifetime. Now, they still return every five years to celebrate their friendship, and remember the friend they lost to the rising waters of the causeway at the first reunion. When one of them is found hanged, Vera is called in. Learning that the dead man had recently been fired after misconduct allegations, Vera knows she must discover what the friends are hiding, and whether the events of many years before could have led to murder then, and now. But with the tide rising, secrets long-hidden are finding their way to the surface, and Vera and the team may find themselves in more danger than they could have believed possible.

DAVIS, LINDSEY flavia DESPERATE UNDERTAKING (#10) (\$38.99) A mad killer (or killers!) is strewing bodies around some of the most beautiful buildings in Rome, in the most gruesome of manners and, true to form, it is up to Flavia Albia to determine

what is really going on and stop this bacchanal of death.

DIBBEN, DAMIAN COLOR STORM (\$34.99) Renaissance Venice, where the competition for fame and fortune can mean life or death... Artists flock here, not just for wealth and fame, but for revolutionary color. Yet artist Giorgione “Zorzo” Barbarelli’s career hangs in the balance. Competition is fierce, and his debts are piling up. When Zorzo hears a rumor of a mysterious new pigment, brought to Venice by the richest man in Europe, he sets out to acquire the color and secure his name in history. Winning a commission to paint a portrait of the man’s wife, Sybille, Zorzo thinks he has found a way into the merchant’s favor. Instead, he finds himself caught up in a conspiracy that stretches across Europe and a marriage coming apart inside one of the floating city’s most illustrious palazzi.

DOIRON, PAUL bowditch HATCHET ISLAND (#13) (\$36.99) A call for help from a former colleague leads Maine game warden investigator Mike Bowditch and his girlfriend Stacey Stevens on a sea kayaking trip to a research station far off the coast of Maine. Stacey spent summers interning on the island, a sanctuary for endangered seabirds, and they are shocked by the atmosphere of tension they encounter when they come ashore. The biologists are being threatened and stalked by a mysterious boatman who they suspect is trespassing on the refuge late at night. And now the sanctuary’s enigmatic founder, whose mind has been slowly unraveling, has gone missing. Someone in the village knows more about the killings than they dare admit...

DOYLE/GOLDBERG, LEONARD daughter of SH BLUE DIAMOND (#6) (\$35.99) During a critical stage in World War One, the Governor-General of South Africa journeys to London for a meeting of The Imperial War Conference. He’s travelling with a most precious blue diamond, to be presented to King Edward, which weighs nearly 3000 carats, rendering it one of the world’s largest and most valuable gems. Security is tight, yet the famous diamond is stolen from the Governor-General’s suite in the middle of the night, with no clues left behind. With Scotland Yard baffled, Joanna and the Watsons are called in to investigate the theft and it becomes clear that the crime is not simply the work of a master thief, but one that could greatly aid the Germans and turn the tide of war in their favor. Time is of the essence and the blue diamond must be recovered before it begins its travels which could cause irreparable damage to the allied war plans.

DOYLE/UTECHIN, NICHOLAS SHERLOCK HOLMES PLAYING CARDS (\$22.50) The game is afoot! Play your card games with this Holmes and Watson—and other well-known characters from the Sherlock Holmes **olmesseries**—deck of cards. Discover more about the great detective’s comrades, clients and adversaries from the enclosed booklet packed with expert notes.

EDWARDS, MARTIN LIFE OF CRIME Detecting the History of Mysteries and their Creators (\$36.99) In the first major history of crime fiction in fifty years, this history of the field traces the evolution of the genre from the eighteenth century to the present, offering brand-new perspective on the world’s most popular form of fiction.

GALBRAITH, ROBERT strike INK BLACK HEART (#6) (\$40) When frantic, disheveled Edie Ledwell appears in the office begging to speak to her, private detective Robin Ellacott doesn’t know quite what to make of the situation. The cocreator of a popular cartoon, The Ink Black Heart, Edie is being persecuted by a mysterious online figure who goes by the pseudonym of Anomie. Edie is desperate to uncover Anomie’s true identity. Robin decides that the agency can’t help with this—and thinks nothing more of it until a few days later, when she reads the shocking news that Edie has been tasered and then murdered in Highgate Cemetery, the location of The Ink Black Heart. Robin and her business partner, Cormoran Strike, become drawn into the quest to uncover Anomie’s true identity.

GATES, EVA lighthouse DEATH BY BEACH READ (#9) (\$35.99) Librarian Lucy’s new historic house comes with a lot of baggage and family secrets. Can she put them to rest or will a killer bring Lucy’s family to their downfall, in the 9th Lighthouse Library mystery.

GRIFFITHS, ELLY galloway LOCKED ROOM (#14) (\$34.99) Three years after her late mother’s death, Ruth is finally sorting through her things when she finds a curious relic: a decades-old photograph of Jean’s Norfolk cottage with a peculiar inscription. Ruth returns to the cottage to uncover its meaning as Norfolk’s first cases of COVID-19 make headlines, leaving her and Kate to shelter in place there. They struggle to stave off isolation by clapping for frontline workers each evening and befriending a kind neighbor, Zoe, from a distance. But when Nelson breaks quarantine to rush to Ruth’s cottage and enlist her help in investigating a series of murder-suicides he has connected to an archeological discovery, he finds Zoe is hardly who she says she is. The further Nelson investigates these deaths, the closer they lead him to Ruth’s friendly neighbor—until Ruth, Zoe, and Kate all go missing, and Nelson is left scrambling to find them before it’s too late.

HAMBROCK, MEREDITH OTHER PEOPLE’S SECRETS (\$37.99) Baby’s heart is in the right place, but she’s got problems—namely, a fierce taste for booze and an on-

again, off-again boyfriend who can't commit. She's living and working at Oakwood Hills, a crumbling lakeside resort, with her friends, Crystal Nugget and DJ Overalls, reeling since her adoptive mother died of a stroke. And now, the return of the local drug kingpin, Bad Mike, is about to throw her already unstable summer into full-blown chaos. To make matters worse, the owner of Oakwood Hills announces plans to sell the resort to Amelia, her boyfriend's wealthy twin sister, who plans to renovate it, sucking the life out of the only home Baby's ever known. Desperate to thwart the sale, Baby and her friends decide to try to recover a sunken treasure rumored to be sitting at the bottom of the lake. But Bad Mike also has his eyes on the prize and when the search gets criminal, Baby will be forced to walk down a road full of hidden secrets that will change how she sees herself—and her life—forever.

ISAKA, KOTARO THREE ASSASSINS (\$34) Suzuki is an ordinary man until his wife is murdered. To get answers and his revenge, Suzuki abandons his law-abiding lifestyle and takes a low-level job with a front company operated by the crime gang Maiden, who are responsible for his wife's death. Before long, Suzuki finds himself caught up in a network of quirky and highly effective assassins: Cicada, a knife expert, the Pusher nudges people into oncoming traffic and the Whale whispers bleak aphorisms to his victims until they take their own lives. ...a wild ride through the criminal underworld of Tokyo, populated by contract killers who are almost superhumanly good at their jobs.

JOHNSON, CRAIG walt HELL AND BACK (#18) (\$37.99) What if you woke up lying in the middle of the street in the infamous town of Fort Pratt, Montana, where thirty young Native boys perished in a tragic 1896 boarding-school fire? What if every person you encountered in that endless night was dead? What if you were covered in blood and missing a bullet from the gun holstered on your hip? What if there was something out there in the yellowed skies, along with the deceased and the smell of ash and dust, something the Northern Cheyenne refer to as the Éveohtsé-heómèse, the Wandering Without, the Taker of Souls? What if the only way you know who you are is because your name is printed in the leather sweatband of your cowboy hat, and what if it says your name is Walt Longmire . . . but you don't remember him?

KELLERMAN, FAYE decker HUNT (#27) (\$35.99) Detective Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus return to Los Angeles when a kidnapping hits close to home...

KING, LAURIE R BACK TO THE GARDEN (\$37.99) A fifty-year-old cold case involving California royalty comes back to life—with potentially fatal consequences—in this standalone novel from the author of the Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes series. A magnificent house, vast formal gardens, a golden family that shaped California, and a colorful past filled with now-famous artists: the Gardener Estate was a twentieth-century Eden. And now, just as the Estate is preparing to move into a new future, restoration work on some of its art digs up a grim relic of the home's past: a human skull, hidden away for decades. Inspector Raquel Laing has her work cut out for her.

KRUEGER, WILLIAM KENT cork FOX CREEK (#19) (\$37) The ancient Ojibwe healer Henry Meloux has had a vision of his death. As he walks the Northwoods in solitude, he tries to prepare himself peacefully for the end of his long life. But peace is destined to elude him as hunters fill the woods seeking a woman named Dolores Morrisseau, a stranger who had come to the healer for shelter and the gift of his wisdom. Meloux guides this stranger and his great niece, Cork O'Connor's wife, to safety deep into the Boundary Waters, his home for more than a century. On the last journey he may ever take into this beloved land, Meloux must do his best to outwit the deadly mercenaries who follow. Meanwhile, in Aurora, Cork works feverishly to identify the hunters and the reason for their relentless pursuit, but he has little to go on.

LIN, ED DEATH DOESN'T FORGET (\$36.95) Taipei is rocked by the back-to-back murders of a recent lottery winner and a police captain just as the city is preparing to host the big Austronesian Cultural Festival, which has brought in indigenous performers from all around the Pacific Rim to the island nation of Taiwan. Jing-nan, the proprietor of Unknown Pleasures, a popular food stand at Taipei's largest night market, is thrown into the intrigue. Is he being set up to take the rap, or will he be the next victim? The fallout could jeopardize Jing-nan's relationship with his girlfriend, Nancy, who is herself soon caught up in the drama, and is increasingly annoyed at Jing-nan's failure to propose to her. He has to untangle the mystery of the killings while keeping his food stall afloat against hip new competition. Both his life, and his Instagram follower count, hang in the balance.

PARKER, ROBERT B/LUPICA, MIKE stone FALLOUT (#21) (\$39) The small town of Paradise is devastated when a star high-school baseball player is found dead at the bottom of a bluff just a day after winning the team's biggest game. For Jesse, the loss is doubly difficult—the teen was the nephew of his colleague, Suitcase Simpson, and Jesse had been coaching the young shortstop. As he searches for answers about how the boy died and why, he is stonewalled at every turn, and it seems that someone is determined to keep him from digging further. Jesse suddenly must divide his attention between two cases after the shocking murder of former Paradise police chief, Charlie

Farrell. Before his death, Farrell had been looking into a series of scam calls that preyed upon the elderly. But how do these “ghost calls” connect to his murder? When threats—and gunshots—appear on Jesse’s own doorstep, the race to find answers is on. Both old and new enemies come into play, and in the end, Jesse and his team must discover the common factor between the two deaths in order to prevent a third.

PARKS, ALAN mccooy MAY GOD FORGIVE (#5) (\$33.95) Glasgow is a city in mourning. An arson attack on a hairdresser's has left five dead. Tempers are frayed and sentiments running high. When three youths are charged the city goes wild. A crowd gathers outside the courthouse but as the police drive the young men to prison, the van is rammed by a truck, and the men are grabbed and bundled into a car. The next day, the body of one of them is dumped in the city centre. A note has been sent to the newspaper: one down, two to go. Detective Harry McCoy has twenty-four hours to find the kidnapped boys before they all turn up dead, and it is going to mean taking down some of Glasgow's most powerful people to do it . . .

POBI, ROBERT lucas page DO NO HARM (#3) (\$36.99) A series of suicides and accidental deaths in the medical community are actually well-disguised murders and only Lucas Page can see the pattern and discern the truth that no one else believes. As Page begins digging through obituaries he realizes that the deaths don't make sense unless the doctors are being murdered, the target of a particularly clever killer. This time, the FBI wants as little to do with Lucas as he does with them, so he's left with only one option—ignore it and go back to his normal life. But then, the pattern reveals that the next victim is likely to be...his wife, Erin, herself. Sequel to the excellent City of Windows (#1) (\$24.50) and Under Pressure (#2) (\$24.99).

PRYOR, MARK DIE AROUND SUNDOWN (\$36.99) Summer 1940: In German-occupied Paris, Inspector Henri Lefort has been given just five days to solve the murder of a German major that took place in the Louvre Museum. Blocked from the crime scene but given a list of suspects, Henri encounters a group of artists, including Pablo Picasso, who know more than they're willing to share. With the clock ticking, Henri must uncover a web of lies while overcoming impossible odds to save his own life and prove his loyalty to his country. Will he rise to the task or become another tragic story of a tragic time?

QUINN, SPENCER chet berni BARK TO THE FUTURE (#13) (\$35.99) When Chet the dog, “the most lovable narrator in all of crime fiction” (*Boston Globe*), and his human partner, PI Bernie Little, are approached by a down-and-out older man with a cardboard sign at an exit ramp, Bernie is shocked to discover the man is a former teammate from his high school baseball team. Chet and Bernie take Rocket out for a good meal, and later, Bernie investigates Rocket’s past, trying to figure out what exactly went wrong. Then, Rocket goes suspiciously missing. With his former teammate likely in danger, Bernie goes back to his old high school for answers, where much that he remembers turns out not to be true—and there are powerful and dangerous people not happy with the questions Bernie is asking. Bernie soon learns that he misunderstood much about his high school years—and now, Chet and Bernie are plunged into a dangerous case where the past isn’t dead and the future could be fatal.

QUIRK, MATTHEW RED WARNING (\$35.99) For years CIA officer Sam Hudson has been hunting Konstantin, a Russian deep cover operative responsible for a string of assassinations in the West—and he believes a well-placed source in Geneva can finally get him close to the killer. But when their meeting is ambushed, Sam’s partner is murdered and he barely makes it out alive himself. Back in the States, the bosses put him on leave and want him to drop his obsession with Konstantin, but Sam can’t let a man who’s taken so many lives slip away again. When he gets a mysterious call at the Lincoln Memorial just before a bomb goes off, he realizes Konstantin has followed him to the U.S.—and is targeting him and everyone close to him. Teaming up with fellow CIA officer Emily Pierce, he sets out to redeem himself and uncover a plot that has been lying in wait since the end of the Cold War, its elements hidden among the most iconic buildings in the capital.

RAYBOURN, DEANNA KILLERS OF A CERTAIN AGE (\$37) Billie, Mary Alice, Helen, and Natalie have worked for the Museum, an elite network of assassins, for forty years. Now their talents are considered old-school and no one appreciates what they have to offer in an age that relies more on technology than people skills. When the foursome is sent on an all-expenses paid vacation to mark their retirement, they are targeted by one of their own. Only the Board, the top-level members of the Museum, can order the termination of field agents, and the women realize they’ve been marked for death. Now to get out alive they have to turn against their own organization, relying on experience and each other to get the job done, knowing that working together is the secret to their survival. They’re about to teach the Board what it really means to be a woman—and a killer—of a certain age.

RICKMAN, PHIL watkins FEVER OF THE WORLD (#16) (\$39.95) William Wordsworth, England's most famous poet once thought of himself as a modern druid and found his deepest inspiration on the banks of the River Wye, where Celtic magic

can still be found and an old darkness lingers. Now, as the world is at the mercy of the coronavirus pandemic, diocesan exorcist Merrily Watkins learns that the ghosts of the lower Wye Valley still need some attention...

RIPLEY, MIKE *campion* MR. CAMPION'S MOSAIC (#10) (\$41.99) London, 1972. The Evadne Childe Society has gathered in honour of what would have been the author's eighty-second birthday, and Albert Campion is there as a reluctant guest speaker and ceremonial birthday cake cutter. But Campion's oratory skills aren't the only thing in demand. A TV remake of a twenty-year-old film adaptation of one of Evadne's classic novels, *The Moving Mosaic*, has been derailed by someone attempting to murder the leading man—the latest in a series of increasingly disturbing incidents—and the society wants Campion to investigate. Who is determined to sabotage the production at any cost, and why? Travelling to the picturesque village of Kingswaller Manor in Dorset where filming is due to start, Campion soon stumbles upon dark secrets, ghosthunters, an impressive mosaic, and murder.

SCHELLMAN, KATHARINE *lily* DEATH AT THE MANOR (#3) (\$35.99) Regency widow Lily Adler is looking forward to spending the autumn away from the social whirl of London. When she arrives in Hampshire with her friends, the Carroways, she doesn't expect much more than a quiet country visit and the chance to spend time with her charming new acquaintance, Matthew Spencer. But something odd is afoot in the small country village. A ghost has taken up residence in the Belleford manor, a lady in grey who wanders the halls at night, weeping and wailing. Half the servants have left in terror, but the family seems delighted with the notoriety that their ghost provides. Intrigued by this spectral guest, Lily and her party immediately make plans to visit Belleford. They arrive at the manor the next morning ready to be entertained—only to find that tragedy has struck. The matriarch of the family has just been found killed in her bed. The dead woman's family is convinced that the ghost is responsible. Lily is determined to learn the truth before another victim turns up—but could she be next in line for the Great Beyond?

SCRIVENOR, HAYLEY *DIRT CREEK* (\$36.99) When twelve-year-old Esther disappears on the way home from school in a small town in rural Australia, the community is thrown into a maelstrom of suspicion and grief. As Detective Sergeant Sarah Michaels arrives in town during the hottest spring in decades and begins her investigation, Esther's tenacious best friend, Ronnie, is determined to find Esther and bring her home. When schoolfriend Lewis tells Ronnie that he saw Esther with a strange man at the creek the afternoon she went missing, Ronnie feels she is one step closer to finding her. But why is Lewis refusing to speak to the police? And who else is lying about how much they know about what has happened to Esther?

SMITH, ALEXANDER *botswana* SONG OF COMFORTABLE CHAIRS (#23) (\$34) In this latest installment in the beloved No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency series, Grace Makutsi encounters a pair of quandaries that will require all of her and Mma Ramotswa's cleverness and generosity to resolve: Mma Grace Makutsi's husband, Phuti, is in a bind. An international firm is attempting to undercut his prices in the office furniture market. Phuti has always been concerned with quality and comfort, but this new firm seems interested only in profits. And, Mma Makutsi is approached by an old friend who has a troubled son. Grace and Phuti agree to lend a hand, but the boy proves difficult to reach, and the situation is more than they can handle on their own. It will require not only all of their patience and dedication, but also the help of Mma Ramotswa and the formidable Mma Potokwani in order to help the child. But, with her usual grace, along with the kindness, generosity, and good sense that the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency is known for, be assured that in the end, all these matters will be set right.

Paperbacks

ADAF, SHIMON *lost detecti* ONE MILE AND TWO DAYS BEFORE SUNSET (#1) (\$23) At age thirty, Elish Ben Zaken has found himself in a life he never imagined. As a university student, Elish was an esteemed rock-music critic for local newspapers; now, disenchanted with an increasingly commercialized music scene, he has joined a private investigation agency where he is content to be a "clerk of small human sins"—a finder of stolen cars and wayward husbands. But when a disconcertingly amiable detective asks him to look into the suicide of an infamous philosophy professor—and the police file contains an unexpected allusion to Dalia Shushan, a celebrated young rock singer whose recent murder remains unsolved—Elish's natural curiosity is piqued. And when violence begins to dog the steps of his investigation, he knows that dangerous secrets are at hand. Haunted by the ghost of Dalia, a true artist with a transformative voice whose dark brilliance Elish was one of the first to recognize, he must face the long-buried trauma of his own past in order to unravel the intertwining threads of two lives,

and their ends.

AHNHEM, STEFAN risk X WAYS TO DIE (#4) (\$20.95) In murder investigations, it pays to keep things simple: motive, method, opportunity. But the case in front of Detective Fabian Risk is a nightmare. A killer who strikes out of nowhere. No apparent motive. No consistent method. Victims are tortured, strangled, burned, dismembered – each grisly killing carried out with savage precision, as if following the rules of a hellish game. Fear and chaos have spread through the seaside town of Helsingborg. While Fabian Risk hunts the killer, his life is falling apart: a son on the run from the law; a daughter gravely injured; a colleague with dark secrets of his own. But there's no turning back now. The game of death is on, and Fabian Risk must play to win. After all, there are many ways to die...

ALEXANDER, ELLIE bakeshop DONUT DISTURB (#15) (\$12.99) Love is in bloom in Ashland, Oregon. The Shakespearean hamlet is bursting with fresh spring energy. Fragrant lilacs and the sweet aroma of vanilla cake fill the air as everyone in town gathers at Lithia Park for the celebration of the year—Thomas and Kerry's wedding. It's a picture perfect day. Guests gather on picnic blankets in front of the bandshell to watch Kerry walk down the aisle and wed Ashland's favorite detective in training, Thomas. Jules and her team at Torte have been tasked with catering the outdoor reception and everything is going according to plan, until a wedding crasher shows up. Soon, death crashes the wedding as well.

AMES, JONATHAN happy doll MAN NAMED DOLL (#1) (\$22.99) Happy Doll is a charming, if occasionally inexpert, private detective living just one sheer cliff drop beneath the Hollywood sign with his beloved half-Chihuahua half-Terrier, George. A veteran of both the Navy and LAPD, Doll supplements his meager income as a P.I. by working through the night at a local Thai spa that offers its clients a number of special services. Armed with his sixteen-inch steel telescopic baton, biting dry humor, and just a bit of a hero complex, the ex-cop sets out to protect the women who work there from clients who have trouble understanding the word "no." Doll gets by just fine following his two basic rules: bark loudly and act first. But when things get out-of-hand with one particularly violent patron, even he finds himself wildly out of his depth, and then things take an even more dangerous twist when an old friend from his days as a cop shows up at his door with a bullet in his gut.

BAKER, BREE seaside PLEADING THE FISH (#7) (\$12.99) Café owner and amateur sleuth Everly Swan, like every Swan woman before her, is cursed in love. The only problem? Her fiancé Detective Grady Hayes has something to say about it—he doesn't believe in magic and is determined to prove the curse wrong so they can spend their lives together. Everly wishes it could be so simple! It feels like a sign when a historian looking into Swan history is found dead in an antique wishing well, and Everly fears the curse is spreading. Grady takes the case, looking to find justice and prove the curse wrong, while Everly does a bit of investigating on her own. Big change is coming for Everly and her friends, but with mysterious strangers lurking about and someone leaving increasingly threatening messages for the happy couple, Everly's not sure she'll get her happily-ever-after!

BALDACCI, DAVID pine MERCY (#4) (\$22.99) For her entire life, FBI agent Atlee Pine has been searching for her twin sister, Mercy, who was abducted at the age of six and never seen again. Mercy's disappearance left behind a damaged family that later shattered beyond repair when Atlee's parents inexplicably abandoned her. Now, after a perilous investigation that nearly proved fatal, Atlee has finally discovered not only the reason behind her parents' abandonment and Mercy's kidnapping, but also the most promising breakthrough yet: proof that Mercy survived her abduction and then escaped her captors many years ago.

BANVILLE, JOHN quirke APRIL IN SPAIN (#8) (\$22.99) On the idyllic coast of San Sebastian, Spain, Dublin pathologist Quirke is struggling to relax, despite the beaches, cafés and the company of his disarmingly lovely wife. When he glimpses a familiar face in the twilight at Las Acadas bar, it's hard at first to tell whether his imagination is just running away with him. Because this young woman can't be April Latimer. She was murdered by her brother, years ago—the conclusion to an unspeakable scandal that shook one of Ireland's foremost political dynasties. Unable to ignore his instincts, Quirke makes a call back home to Ireland and soon Detective St. John Strafford is dispatched to Spain. But he's not the only one en route. A relentless hit man is on the hunt for his latest prey, and the next victim might be Quirke himself.

BEATON, M C agatha DOWN THE HATCH (#32) (\$12.99) Death finds Agatha Raisin! This time it's an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Swinburn—with the body of an old man lying at their feet. The man, who the coroner determines died by poisoning, was known as "the Admiral," a gardener notorious for his heavy drinking, and Chief Inspector Wilkes writes the death off as an accident caused by the consumption of weedkiller stored in a rum bottle. Agatha is not convinced that anyone would mistake weedkiller for rum but carries on with her work at Raisin Investigations, until she receives an anonymous tip that the Admiral's death was no accident. Local gossip points to the

Swinburns themselves as the killers, spurred by a feud at the club where they, as well as the Admiral, were members. Distraught at this accusation, they turn to Agatha to clear their name, and she takes the case—despite the warnings of Chief Inspector Wilkes.

BELL, DAVID KILL ALL YOUR DARLINGS (\$23) After years of struggling to write following the deaths of his wife and son, English professor Connor Nye publishes his first novel, a thriller about the murder of a young woman. There's just one problem: Connor didn't write the book. His missing student did. And then she appears on his doorstep, alive and well, threatening to expose him. Connor's problems escalate when the police insist details in the novel implicate him in an unsolved murder from two years ago. Soon Connor discovers the crime is part of a disturbing scandal on campus and faces an impossible dilemma—admit he didn't write the book and lose his job or keep up the lie and risk everything. When another murder occurs, Connor must clear his name by unraveling the horrifying secrets buried in his student's manuscript.

BOLTON, SHARON PACT (\$17.99) A golden summer, and six talented friends are looking forward to the brightest of futures—until a daredevil game goes horribly wrong, and a woman and two children are killed. 18-year-old Megan takes the blame, leaving the others free to get on with their lives. In return, they each agree to a 'favour', payable on her release from prison. Twenty years later Megan is free. Let the games begin . . .

BOWEN, GAIL IMAGE IN THE LAKE (#20) (\$24.95) 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. Things are looking bright. But when a charismatic young woman wearing a grief amulet that contains a lock of her dead brother's hair arrives with a dark secret, the success of *Sisters and Strangers* is jeopardized, and only Joanne and Zack can put an end to the threat.

BRUTON, KEITH LEMON MAN (\$35.50) The Lemon Man is Patrick Callen, a bicycle-riding hitman with mild O.C.D. in Dublin, Ireland whose carefully ordered life is totally upended when he becomes the accidental caretaker of a baby boy. Now he's got to balance his daily to-do list of errands and murders-for-hire with his unexpected domesticity, which impacts him and his work in ways he never expected...and that could get him killed.

BUCHHOLZ, SIMONE HOTEL CARTAGENA (\$20.95) Twenty floors above the shimmering lights of the Hamburg docks, Public Prosecutor Chastity Riley is celebrating a birthday with friends in a hotel bar when twelve heavily armed men pull out guns, and take everyone hostage. Among the hostages is Konrad Hoogsmart, the hotel owner, who is being targeted by a young man whose life – and family – have been destroyed by Hoogsmart's actions. With the police looking on from outside—their colleagues' lives at stake—and Chastity on the inside, increasingly ill from an unexpected case of sepsis, the stage is set for a dramatic confrontation . . . and a devastating outcome for the team . . . all live streamed in a terrifying bid for revenge.

BURROWS, STEVE jejeune FOREBODING OF PETRELS (#7) (\$19.99) On suspension and unable to work, DCI Domenic Jejeune finds his attention snared by an unexplained death at an Antarctic research base. Meanwhile, DS Danny Maik investigates a string of arson attacks in Norfolk. When a corpse is discovered in a bird hide, Danny's investigation escalates. It appears the body links the two enquiries, but the men are unable to share information. As they attempt to unravel a twisted web of leads involving Antarctic researchers, uncompromising climate scientists and billionaire philanthropists, Jejeune is forced to decide how much he is willing to sacrifice in the pursuit of truth.

CARR, JACK terminal list SAVAGE SON (#3) (\$24.99) Deep in the wilds of Siberia, a woman is on the run, pursued by a man harboring secrets—a man intent on killing her. A traitorous CIA officer has found refuge with the Russian mafia with designs on ensuring a certain former Navy SEAL sniper is put in the ground. Half a world away, James Reece is recovering from brain surgery in the Montana wilderness, slowly putting his life back together with the help of investigative journalist Katie Buranek and his longtime friend and SEAL teammate Raife Hastings. Unbeknownst to them, the Russian mafia has set their sights on Reece in a deadly game of cat and mouse.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA marple SLEEPING MURDER (\$19.99) Soon after Gwenda moved into her new home, odd things started to happen. Despite her best efforts to modernize the house, she only succeeded in dredging up its past. Worse, she felt an irrational sense of terror every time she climbed the stairs. In fear, Gwenda turned to Miss Marple to exorcise her ghosts. Between them, they were to solve a “perfect” crime committed many years before.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA poirrot MYSTERY OF THE BLUE TRAIN (\$21) When the luxurious Blue Train arrives at Nice, a guard attempts to wake serene Ruth Kettering from her slumbers. But she will never wake again—for a heavy blow has killed her, disfiguring her features almost beyond recognition. What is more, her precious rubies

are missing. The prime suspect is Ruth's estranged husband, Derek. Yet Hercule Poirot is not convinced, so he stages an eerie reenactment of the journey, complete with the murderer on board. . . .

CLARK, AARON PHILIP UNDER COLOR OF LAW (\$23.99) Black rookie cop Trevor "Finn" Finnegan aspires to become a top-ranking officer in the Los Angeles Police Department and fix a broken department. A fast-track promotion to detective in the coveted Robbery-Homicide Division puts him closer to achieving his goal. Four years later, calls for police accountability rule the headlines. The city is teeming with protests for racial justice. When the body of a murdered black academy recruit is found in the Angeles National Forest, Finn is tasked to investigate. As pressure mounts to solve the crime and avoid a PR nightmare, Finn scours the underbelly of a volatile city where power, violence, and race intersect. But it's Finn's past experience as a beat cop that may hold the key to solving the recruit's murder. The price? The end of Finn's career... or his life.

CLEEVES, ANN vera RISING TIDE (#10) (\$25.99) Fifty years ago, a group of teenagers spent a weekend on Holy Island, forging a bond that has lasted a lifetime. Now, they still return every five years to celebrate their friendship, and remember the friend they lost to the rising waters of the causeway at the first reunion. When one of them is found hanged, Vera is called in. Learning that the dead man had recently been fired after misconduct allegations, Vera knows she must discover what the friends are hiding, and whether the events of many years before could have led to murder then, and now. But with the tide rising, secrets long-hidden are finding their way to the surface, and Vera and the team may find themselves in more danger than they could have believed possible...

COLLETTE, ABBY books BODY AND SOUL FOOD (#1) (\$11.99) When Koby Hill and Keaton Rutledge were orphaned at age two, they were separated, but their unbreakable connection lingered. Years later, they reunite and decide to make up for lost time and capitalize on their shared interests by opening up a well-stocked bookstore and cozy soul-food café in the quaint Pacific Northwest town of Timber Lake. But this new chapter of their lives could end on a cliffhanger after Koby's foster brother is found murdered. The murder, which occurred in public between light-rail stops, seems impossible for the police to solve. But as Keaton and Koby know, two heads are always better than one, especially when it comes to mysteries. With just a week to go before the grand opening of their new café, the twins will use their revitalized connection with each other to make sure this is the killer's final page.

CONNOLLY, JOHN parker NAMELESS ONES (#19) (\$25.99) In Amsterdam, four bodies, violently butchered, are discovered in a canal house, the remains of friends and confidantes of the assassin known only as Louis. The men responsible for the murders are Serbian war criminals. They believe they can escape retribution by retreating to their homeland. They are wrong. For Louis has come to Europe to hunt them down: five killers to be found and punished before they can vanish into thin air. There is just one problem: the sixth.

COSBY, S A BLACKTOP WASTELAND (\$12.99) Beauregard "Bug" Montage is an honest mechanic, a loving husband, and a hard-working dad. Bug knows there's no future in the man he used to be: known from the hills of North Carolina to the beaches of Florida as the best wheelman on the East Coast. He thought he'd left all that behind him, but as his carefully built new life begins to crumble, he finds himself drawn inexorably back into a world of blood and bullets. When a smooth-talking former associate comes calling with a can't-miss jewelry store heist, Bug feels he has no choice but to get back in the driver's seat. And Bug is at his best where the scent of gasoline mixes with the smell of fear. Haunted by the ghost of who he used to be and the father who disappeared when he needed him most, Bug must find a way to navigate this blacktop wasteland...or die trying.

CRANE, FRANCES abbott TURQUOISE SHOP (#1) (\$21.95) In a small arts community in mid-century New Mexico, a wealthy patron is accused of murder...With characters and a setting inspired by Mabel Dodge Luhan and the Taos art colony, The Turquoise Shop is a delightful Golden Age mystery adorned with Southwestern historical detail. It is the first novel in the popular and long-running Pat and Jean Abbott series, which charmed mid-century audiences with over twenty-five installments, and which was adapted for multiple radio programs in the 40s and 50s.

CROSS, A J traynor DARK DIVIDED SELF (#3) (\$26.99) When the badly decomposed remains of a young woman are discovered in an isolated wooded area just outside Birmingham, the victim is quickly identified as Amy Peters, a Manchester University student who disappeared three years earlier. She is one of five young women who vanished from the streets of Manchester within a two-year period. Called in to assist the police investigation, criminologist Will Traynor believes they are looking for an intelligent, socially confident individual, someone adept at covering his tracks. But why would the killer transport the victim on an eighty-mile journey from Manchester to Birmingham? If he can find the answer to that question, Traynor believes he has the key to

cracking the case. But at every stage of the investigation, the killer seems to be one step ahead of him. If he's going to outsmart him, Will realizes he's going to have to play this twisted individual at his own deadly game.

CROSS, A J traynor DEVIL IN THE DETAIL (#2) (\$26.99) The emergency call comes in the early hours of the morning. A man and a woman found in a car in a run-down part of the city, both of them critically injured. A random, opportune attack by a stranger? Or were the pair deliberately targeted? Is there a connection to series of car-jackings which has been plaguing the area? Nothing about this case seems to add up. As each theory as to what might have happened leads to yet more questions, Detective Inspector Bernard Watts decides to call on the help of criminologist Dr Will Traynor. Traynor knows that it's the small, easily missed details that will crack the case, but not even he could suspect just where those seemingly insignificant details will lead...

DAMS, JEANNE M oak park MURDER IN THE PARK (#1) (\$26.99) June, 1925. Having been widowed in the First World War, Elizabeth Fairchild lives a quiet life at the home of her wealthy parents in genteel Oak Park village, Illinois. Although she does her best to avoid emotional entanglements, determined never to be hurt again, Elizabeth forms a close friendship with gentle Mr Anthony, who owns the local antiques store. But tragedy strikes when Mr Anthony is found stabbed to death in the alley behind his shop. Why would anyone murder a mild-mannered antiques dealer who simply loved beautiful things? A robbery gone wrong? A gangland execution? Or could it have something to do with the mysterious customer who bought a gold pocket watch from Mr Anthony on the day he died? Elizabeth investigates.

DAVIS, KRISTA paws&claws GOOD DOG'S GUIDE TO MURDER (#8) (\$11.99)

The great Gingerbread Dog & Cat House competition has come to Wagtail, along with another murder to solve for Holly and her supersmart Jack Russell terrier Trixie.

DAVIS, KRISTA pen & ink COLORFUL SCHEME (#4) (\$22.95) The fourth cozy mystery with a color-it-yourself cover finds Florrie Fox, the manager of Color Me Read Bookstore, attending her boss's wedding to a well-known romance novelist. But when a guest turns up dead, all bets are off on the happily ever after! Includes A Front and Back Cover for You to Color!

DIXON, HELENA underhay MURDER AT THE COUNTRY CLUB (#9) (\$19.99)

Kitty Underhay is accompanying her fiancé, Matthew Bryant, and Bertie, his new cocker spaniel, on an outing to Torbay Country Club. However, the delightful day soon turns to disaster. Walking Bertie in the shaded grotto after an exhilarating archery demonstration, Kitty makes an unsporting discovery: the body of their host, Sir William Winspear, with an arrow in his back. When the local inspector falls foul interviewing female witnesses, Kitty steps up to the mark.

DIXON, HELENA underhay MURDER IN FIRST CLASS (#8) (\$19.99) Kitty Underhay is looking forward to a week of long lunches and wedding planning with her husband-to-be, Captain Matthew Bryant. But the plan is derailed when he is called on to collect a former comrade-in-arms, arriving on the 15:50 from Bakerloo. As the train bearing Simon Travers pulls up to the platform, a piercing scream rises over the screech of its brakes. Travers is dead in his seat, a dagger in his heart. Who gave this defenceless man a one-way ticket to the next life? And why?

DOHERTY&TURNERY, rise GODS OF ROME (#3) (\$23.99) The story of Constantine and Maxentius, two ambitious young men, two brilliant generals, two friends destined to fight to the death as they strive to become Emperor of Rome. The final installment of the trilogy. For one to rule, the other must die...

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE SECOND STAIN

(\$10.50) A secret government document has been stolen. It's up to Holmes and Watson to find it and save the country from war! But with sly secret agents, mysterious murders and the question of a curious bloodstain to contend with, will Holmes and Watson be able to piece the puzzle together in time? Ages 7-11.

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN THREE FAMOUS MYSTERIES (\$14.99) These three short mystery tales from a collection of the greatest literary minds of all time—***Conan Doyle, Poe, and Maupassant**—make for an enjoyable yet spine chilling read. This volume includes **Arthur Conan Doyle's** The Sign of the Four, **Guy de Maupassant's** The Flayed Hand, and **Edgar Allan Poe's** The Murders in the Rue Morgue. Classics Illustrated tells this wonderful tale in colorful comic strip form, offering an excellent introduction for younger readers. This edition also includes a biography of Emile Zola, theme discussions and study questions, which can be used both in the classroom and at home to further engage the reader in the story. The Classics Illustrated comic book series began in 1941 with its first issue, **Alexandre Dumas's** The Three Musketeers, and has since included over 200 classic tales released around the world. This new Paperback Replica edition is part of a continuing effort to make Classics Illustrated available to all, be they young readers just beginning their journeys into the great world of classic literature, or collectors who have fond memories of this much loved comic book series.

ELDRIDGE, JIM hotel MURDER AT THE SAVOY (#2) (\$19.50) September 1940: the height of the Blitz. The Savoy Hotel boasts London's strongest air raid shelter with

all the luxury expected from one of the capital's most prestigious hotels. It prompts the arrival of a disgruntled crowd from the East End, demanding they be allowed entry and respite from the endless bombing raids. They are given permission to enter and are stunned by the opulence that greets them. The all-clear sounds the next morning and London comes slowly back to life, but not everyone can dust themselves down and carry on. One of the hotel's guests has been discovered dead, stabbed in the back. Detective Chief Inspector Coburg and Sergeant Lampson are called in and the finger of suspicion falls firmly upon the East Londoners, but not everything is as it seems in these sumptuous surroundings.

ELLIS, KATE BLOOD PIT (\$15.99) DI Wesley Peterson has never witnessed such a bizarre crime scene. A man has been brutally murdered by two precise wounds to his neck and his body drained of blood. It seems that the victim was not a popular man in the Devon area and Wesley doesn't have a shortage of suspects. But then two more victims are found killed in an identical fashion. As if Wesley didn't have enough to investigate, Wesley's friend, archaeologist Neil Watson, begins to receive disturbing anonymous letters about macabre events at a medieval abbey. The gory details bare resemblance to the recent deaths and Neil fears they are being sent by the killer. Wesley and Neil are forced to face shocking revelations as they come face to face with a murderer scarred by past sins.

EMERY, ANNE monty collins FENIAN STREET (#12) (\$24.95) Shay Rynne grew up in the Corporation Flats—public housing—in Fenian Street, Dublin. He has always toyed with the idea of joining the Garda Síochána, the Irish police. But in the early 1970s, young fellows from the tenements of Dublin have not been welcomed in the police force. When his friend Rosaleen is killed and the case goes unsolved, Shay decides to put on the uniform of a Dublin garda and sets out to find the killer. The murder inquiry makes an enemy of the detective who failed in the first investigation. Shay knows Detective McCreevy is just waiting for the chance to get revenge. But the violent death of a prominent politician gives Shay the opportunity to prove himself, perhaps even be promoted. Shay works with the lead detective on the murder inquiry and his star is rising, until suspicion falls on a member of Shay's own family. So Shay is off the case. Officially. Determined to clear his family name, his under-the-radar investigation takes him from an opulent mansion in Dublin to Hell's Kitchen in New York. And his good friend Father Brennan Burke has some surprising contacts for Shay in the shadowy world of New York's Irish mob.

EMERY, ANNE monty collins POSTMARK BERLIN (#11) (\$24.95) Father Brennan Burke is coming off a rough stint in Belfast and he's been trying to obliterate those memories with drink ever since. His troubles intensify when the body of one of his parishioners washes up on the beach in Halifax. Meika Keller came to Canada after escaping through the Berlin Wall. Now a Canadian military officer is charged with her murder. Defense lawyer Monty Collins argues that her death was suicide. That's the last thing Father Burke wants to hear. Guilty of neglecting his duties as a priest when Meika needed him most, Brennan feels compelled to uncover whatever prompted her cry for help and led to her death. He suspects that the answer lies overseas. But nothing could have prepared him for the events that unfold when he flies to Germany to investigate the case. In the midst of all this, Brennan and Monty must deal with conflicts between the two of them, which arose out of their time in Belfast and have yet to be resolved.

FEENEY, ALICE DAISY DARKER (\$24.99) Daisy Darker was born with a broken heart. Now after years of avoiding each other, Daisy Darker's entire family is assembling for Nana's 80th birthday party in her crumbling gothic house on a tiny tidal island. The family arrives, each of them harboring secrets. When the tide comes in, they will be cut off from the rest of the world for eight hours. But at the stroke of midnight, as a storm rages, Nana is found dead. And an hour later, the next family member follows... Trapped on an island where someone is killing them one by one, the Darkers must reckon with their present mystery as well as their past secrets, before the tide goes out and all is revealed.

FERRARS, E X basnett MURDER TOO MANY (#5) (\$24) Ah, it's an academic conference, with all the egos, the scandals, the terrifyingly petty squabbles on display. Well...perhaps not so petty. Professor Andrew Basnett has returned to his old university for a meeting of the Botanical Association, an event that should be entirely benign, except that he can't help being just a little curious about Carl Judd, an artist who was murdered here just two years ago. And, of course, about Stephen Sharland, who's in prison for the murder, only no one thinks he did it, not even Judd's widow. The rumors are flying, the tongues are wagging, and then the only witness to the crime? He gets murdered, too! It's all too exciting—no, sorry, too terrible, too terrible for words. Thank heavens Andrew Basnett is on hand to weed out the gossip and dig for the taproot of truth.

FERRARS, E X basnett SMOKE WITHOUT FIRE (#6) (\$24) Andrew Basnett does not have very good luck with Christmas. Most recently, visiting friends in Australia for the festive season, he wound up with a front-row seat to some rather extraordinary fam-

ily strife. And this time around, his plans for a peaceful, English-village holiday get blown up when...well, when his hosts' neighbor, Sir Lucas Dearden, gets blown up. A bomb, you know. This is England, it's the 1980s: everyone shudders, blames the IRA, and moves on. Except, of course, for Andrew Basnett. Who knew, he wonders, about Sir Lucas's last-minute change of plans? Why had Sir Lucas meticulously removed one page of the (rather stunningly dull) memoir he was writing? And could the bomb possibly have been intended for someone else?

FIELDEN, T P miss dimont DIED AND GONE TO DEVON (#4) (\$18.99) Temple Regis, 1959: Devon's prettiest seaside resort is thrown into turmoil by the discovery of a body abandoned in the lighthouse. It's only weeks since another body was found in the library – and for the Riviera Express's ace reporter-turned-sleuth Judy Dimont, there's an added complication. Her friend Geraldine Phipps is begging her to re-investigate a mysterious death from many years before. What's more, Judy's position as chief reporter is under threat when her editor takes on hot-shot journalist David Renishaw, whose work is just too good to be true. Life is busier than ever for Devon's most famous detective. Can Judy solve the two mysteries—and protect her position as Temple Regis's best reporter—before the murderer strikes again?

FITZEK, SEBASTIAN AMOK (\$21.95) This morning a dangerous psychopath is playing an old game with new rules. He's taken six people hostage at Berlin's leading radio station. Every hour, a telephone will ring somewhere in Berlin. Maybe it will be in your house. Or your office. And if you pick up and answer with the new slogan, then a hostage will be set free. Sounds fair, doesn't it? Renowned police psychologist Ira Samin is rushed to the scene, where she is forced to negotiate live on air. With the nation listening, the kidnapper makes his sole demand: find his fiancée and bring her to the station. But she is dead. Burnt to a crisp in a devastating car accident eight months ago. Facing an impossible demand and a police commander who won't reveal the truth, Ira must race against the clock to resolve one of the hardest negotiations of her career. All the while, somewhere in the city... a telephone is ringing.

FLOWER, AMANDA amish shop PEANUT BUTTER PANIC (#7) (\$11.99) Thanksgiving has come to Harvest, Ohio. But between whipping up hundreds of delicious treats for the village festivities, dealing with boyfriend issues, and investigating a suspicious death-by-peanut allergy, chocolatier Bailey King won't have much time to count her blessings!

FLYNN, VINCE mitch rapp* ENEMY AT THE GATES (#20) (\$12.99) Mitch Rapp has worked for a number of presidents over his career, but Anthony Cook is unlike any he's encountered before. Cunning and autocratic, he feels no loyalty to America's institutions and is distrustful of the influence Rapp and CIA director Irene Kennedy have in Washington. When Kennedy discovers evidence of a mole scouring the Agency's database for sensitive information on Nicholas Ward, the world's first trillionaire, she assigns Rapp the task of protecting him. In doing so, he finds himself walking an impossible tightrope: Keep the man alive, but also use him as bait to uncover a traitor who has seemingly unlimited access to government secrets. As the attacks on Ward become increasingly dire, Rapp and Kennedy are dragged into a world where the lines between governments, multinational corporations, and the hyper-wealthy fade. An environment in which liberty, nationality, and loyalty are meaningless. Only the pursuit of power remains. By *Kyle Mills.

FLYNN, VINCE mitch rapp* OATH OF LOYALTY (#21) (\$24.99) With President Anthony Cook convinced that Mitch Rapp poses a mortal threat to him, CIA Director Irene Kennedy is forced to construct a truce between the two men. The terms are simple: Rapp agrees to leave the country and stay in plain sight for as long as Cook controls the White House. In exchange, the administration agrees not to make any moves against him. This fragile détente holds until Cook's power-hungry security adviser convinces him that Rapp has no intention of honoring their agreement. In an effort to put him on the defensive, they leak the true identity of his partner, Claudia Gould. As Rapp races to neutralize the enemies organizing against her, he discovers that a new generation of assassins is on her trail. A killer known to intelligence agencies only as Legion. By *Kyle Mills.

FOLLETT, KEN century tril EVENING AND THE MORNING (#0) (\$14.99) Prequel to The Pillars of the Earth (\$29). Set in England at the dawn of a new era: the Middle Ages. It is 997 CE, the end of the Dark Ages. England is facing attacks from the Welsh in the west and the Vikings in the east. Those in power bend justice according to their will, regardless of ordinary people and often in conflict with the king. Without a clear rule of law, chaos reigns.

FRENCH, JACKIE miss lily MISS LILY'S LOVELY LADIES (#1) (\$21) Inspired by true events, this is the story of how society's 'lovely ladies' won a war. Each year at secluded Shillings Hall, in the snow-crisped English countryside, the mysterious Miss Lily draws around her young women selected from Europe's royal and most influential families. Her girls are taught how to captivate a man - and find a potential husband - at a dinner, in a salon, or at a grouse shoot, and in ways that would surprise outsiders. For

in 1914, persuading and charming men is the only true power a woman has. Sophie Higgs is the daughter of Australia's king of corned beef and the only 'colonial' brought to Shillings Hall. Of all Miss Lily's lovely ladies, however, she is also the only one who suspects Miss Lily's true purpose. As the chaos of war spreads, women across Europe shrug off etiquette. The lovely ladies and their less privileged sisters become the unacknowledged backbone of the war, creating hospitals, canteens and transport systems where bungling officials fail to cope. And when tens of thousands can die in a single day's battle, Sophie must use the skills Miss Lily taught her to prevent war's most devastating weapon yet. But is Miss Lily heroine or traitor? And who, exactly, is she?

GAGNON, JILLY ALL DRESSED UP (\$23) The weekend getaway at a gorgeous hotel should have been perfect. But Becca is smarting from her husband Blake's betrayal and knows that the trip is just an expensive apology attempt. Still, the drinks are strong, and the weekend has an elaborate 1920s murder mystery theme. She decides to get into the spirit and enjoy their stay. Before long, the game is afoot: Famed speakeasy songstress Ida Crooner is found "murdered," and it's up to the guests to sniff out the culprit. Playing the role of Miss Debbie Taunte, an ingenue with a dark past, Becca dives into the world of pun-heavy clues, hammy acting, and secret passages, hoping to take her mind off her marital troubles. But it doesn't a game for long...

GOLDIN, MEGAN STAY AWAKE (\$23.99) Liv Reese wakes up in the back of a taxi with no idea where she is or how she got there. When she's dropped off at the door of her brownstone, a stranger answers—a stranger who claims to live in her apartment. She reaches for her phone to call for help, only to discover it's missing. In its place is a bloodstained knife. Her hands are covered in scribbled messages, like graffiti on her skin: STAY AWAKE. Two years ago, Liv was thriving as a successful writer for a trendy magazine. Now, she's lost and disoriented in a New York City that looks nothing like what she remembers. And why does she remember nothing from the past two years? Liv finds herself on the run for a crime she doesn't remember committing. But there's someone who does know exactly what she did, and they'll do anything to make her forget—permanently.

GRISHAM, JOHN lacy JUDGES LIST (#2) (\$12.99) Investigator Lacy Stoltz follows the trail of a serial killer and closes in on a shocking suspect—a sitting judge! Suspicions are easy enough, but proof seems impossible. The man is brilliant, patient, and always one step ahead of law enforcement. He is the most cunning of all serial killers. He knows forensics, police procedure, and most important: he knows the law. He is a judge, in Florida—under Lacy's jurisdiction.

HAIN, PETER RHINO CONSPIRACY (\$22.95) In the last decade more than 6,000 rhinos have been killed in South Africa. Relentless poaching for their horns has led to a catastrophic fall in black rhino numbers. Meanwhile, a corrupt South African government turns a blind eye to the international trade in rhino horn. This is the background to this pacy and timely thriller... Battling to defend the dwindling rhino population, a veteran freedom fighter is forced to break his lifetime loyalty to the ANC as he confronts corruption at the very highest level. Hell-bent on catching the poachers and exposing their trade, the veteran and his young "born free" colleague hatch a plan to install a GPS tracking device inside a replica horn in an attempt to locate its destination. The stakes are high. Can the country's ancient rhino herd be saved from extinction by state-sponsored poaching? Has Mandela's "rainbow nation" been irretrievably betrayed by political corruption and cronyism?

HARROD-EAGLES, C slider DYING FALL (#23) (\$26.99) The woman lies dead at the foot of the stairs. It's obvious what happened: she tripped and fell. But PC D'Arblay, called to the dilapidated West London villa by an anonymous tip-off, can't shake the feeling that's exactly what someone wants him to think. It was the deep head wound that killed her—but her dying fall left no blood trail, so what was it she hit her head on? DCI Slider, of the Shepherd's Bush murder squad, is soon convinced D'Arblay's right. But with no motive, no murder weapon and no idea even who the victim is, Slider faces steep odds to get a result . . . while each painstaking step towards the truth brings him closer to a ruthless, evil killer.

HAWKINS, PAULA SLOW FIRE BURNING (\$22) Laura has spent most of her life being judged. She's seen as hot-tempered, troubled, a loner. Some even call her dangerous. Miriam knows that just because Laura is witnessed leaving the scene of a horrific murder with blood on her clothes doesn't mean Laura is a killer. Bitter experience has taught her how easy it is to get caught in the wrong place at the wrong time. Innocent or guilty, everyone is carrying damage. Some are damaged enough to kill.

HENDRICKS, GREER WIFE BETWEEN US (\$22.50) When you read this book, you will make many assumptions. You will assume you are reading about a jealous ex-wife. You will assume she is obsessed with her replacement—a beautiful, younger woman who is about to marry the man they both love. You will assume you know the anatomy of this tangled love triangle. Assume nothing. Read between the lies.

HUBER, ANNA LEE kent CERTAIN DARKNESS (#6) (\$22.95) March 1920: Life has turned unsettlingly quiet for former British Intelligence agent Verity Kent and her

husband, Sidney. But even that false calm is about to end. As threats remain, the French authorities soon request Sidney's help with a suspect who claims to have proof of treason—shortly before she is assassinated. And Verity, too, is called to investigate the murder of a Belgian lawyer aboard a train which at first seems to be a simple case of revenge. But the victim was connected to British Intelligence, and possessed papers detailing the sinking of a gold-laden German ship during the war. As Verity and Sidney dig deeper, they discover their cases are intertwined—and a lethal adversary persists. Officially, the Great War may be over, but this is a battle of nerves and wits they cannot afford to lose . . .

JANCE, J A ali reynolds UNFINISHED BUSINESS (#16) (\$12.99) Ali Reynolds's personal life is thrown into turmoil just as two men show up on the scene—a former employee of her husband's who has just been released from prison and a serial killer who sets his sights a little too close to home.

JANCE, J A beaumont NOTHING TO LOSE (#25) (\$12.99) Years ago, when he was a homicide detective with the Seattle PD, J. P. Beaumont's partner, Sue Danielson, was murdered. Volatile and angry, Danielson's ex-husband came after her in her home and, with nowhere else to turn, Jared, Sue's teenage son, frantically called Beau for help. As Beau rushed to the scene, he urged Jared to grab his younger brother and flee the house. In the end, Beaumont's plea and Jared's quick action saved the two boys from their father's murderous rage. Now, almost twenty years later, Jared reappears in Beau's life seeking his help once again—his younger brother Chris is missing. Still haunted by the events of that tragic night, Beau doesn't hesitate to take on the case. Following a lead all the way to the wilds of wintertime Alaska, he encounters a tangled web of family secrets in which a killer with nothing to lose is waiting to take another life.

JECKS, MICHAEL bloody mary MOORLAND MURDERERS (#6) (\$26.99) July, 1556. En route to France and escape from Queen Mary's men, Jack Blackjack decides to spend the night at a Devon tavern, agrees to a game of dice - and ends up accused of murder. To make matters worse, the dead man turns out to have been the leader of the all-powerful miners who rule the surrounding moors - and they have no intention of waiting for the official court verdict to determine Jack's guilt. But who would frame Jack for murder . . . and why? Alone and friendless in a lawless land of cut-throats, outlaws and thieves, Jack realizes that the only way to clear his name - and save his skin - is to unmask the real killer. But knowing nothing of the local ways and customs, how is he to even begin? As Jack's attempts to find answers stirs up a hornet's nest of warring factions within the town, events soon start to spiral out of control . . .

JECKS, MICHAEL bloody mary DEATH COMES HOT (#5) (\$26.99) London. May, 1556. Hal Westmecott, one of the city's most feared executioners, reckons Jack Blackjack owes him a favour - and now he's come to collect his dues. Hal has ordered Jack to track down his long-lost son and, although Jack believes he's been set an impossible task, he's in no position to refuse. But when Jack's search draws him to the attention of a ruthless nobleman, a dead priest's vengeful brother and finally to a blood-stained body in a filthy lodging house, he comes to realize he is an unwitting pawn in a mesh of schemes dreamed up by the most powerful people in England. Just who is a friend, who is a foe - and will Jack escape with his life intact? A fast-paced Tudor mystery set during Bloody Mary's reign of terror.

KELLERMAN&KELLERMAN clay BURNING (#4) (\$12.99) A raging wildfire. A massive blackout. A wealthy man shot to death in his palatial hilltop home. For Clay Edison, it's all in a day's work. As a deputy coroner, caring for the dead, he speaks for those who cannot speak for themselves. He prides himself on an unflinching commitment to the truth. Even when it gets him into trouble. Then, while working the murder scene, Clay is horrified to discover a link to his brother, Luke. Horrified. But not surprised. Luke is fresh out of prison and struggling to stay on the straight and narrow. And now he's gone AWOL. The race is on for Clay to find him before anyone else can. Confronted with Luke's legacy of violence, Clay is forced to reckon with his own suspicions, resentments, and loyalties. Is his brother a killer? Or could he be the victim in all of this, too?

KELLY, SOFIE magical cats HOOLED ON A FELINE (#13) (\$11.99) It's summer in Mayville Heights, and Kathleen Paulson and her detective boyfriend, Marcus, are eager to attend the closing concert of the local music festival. The concert is a success, but then one of the band members is discovered dead shortly after it. At first it's assumed the death is a robbery gone wrong, but Kathleen suspects foul play—and she's certain that she, along with her trusty side-cats, Owen and Hercules, can help solve the murder. Before his death, Kathleen had noticed the victim in the library researching his genealogy, and when she and Marcus take a closer look at the man's family tree, they begin to think a previous death of one of his relatives now seems suspicious...

KINSEY, T E ROTTEN TO THE CORE (\$22.95) Summer 1911. A scorching heat-wave engulfs the quiet town of Littleton Cotterell and brings about an unusually early harvest. The villagers are thrilled, but events quickly turn sour when one of them turns up dead in an apple orchard, stabbed through the heart. Amateur sleuth Lady Hardcastle

and her trusty lady's maid, Flo, suddenly have a juicy case on their hands. Might the mysterious stranger they recently met in the village be to blame? When a second cider-related murder takes place, it quickly becomes clear that there's more to these mysterious deaths than meets the eye.

KORYTA, MICHAEL NEVER FAR AWAY (\$22.99) Nina Morgan's bloodstained car was found a decade ago on a lonely Florida road. Forensic evidence suggested she'd been murdered, although her body was never found. Her disappearance left her infant children to the care of their father. Once a pilot, mother, wife, and witness to a gruesome crime, Nina had to flee her old life to save her family. She reinvented herself as Leah Trenton, a guide in the Allagash Wilderness in northern Maine. She never expected to see her children again, but now tragedy has returned them to her—only they have no idea that she's their mother—and delivered all of them back into danger. "Aunt Leah" will need some help, and an old ally has a suggestion: an enigmatic young hitman named Dax Blackwell.

LAGERCRANTZ, DAVID DARK MUSIC (\$24) Professor Hans Rekke is a world authority on interrogation techniques, capable of dizzying feats of logic and observation. He was born into wealth and power and has a picture-perfect wife and daughter. But he also has a fragile psyche that falls apart under pressure.

Micaela Vargas is a street-smart police officer, daughter of Chilean political refugees, who grew up in the projects on the outskirts of Stockholm and has two brothers on the wrong side of the law. She is tenacious and uncompromising, and desperate to prove herself to her fellow cops. Micaela needs Hans's unique mind to help her solve the case of a murdered asylum-seeker from Afghanistan. Hans needs Micaela to save him from himself. Together, they need to find the killer before they're both silenced for good.

LAMBERT, ANN leduc WHALE FALL (#3) (\$22.95) Marie Russell and Detective Roméo Leduc are finally getting married, but the joyous occasion is overshadowed by the unexpected arrival of Magnus Sørensen, renowned eco-warrior and Marie's first great love. When Magnus' plans for a dramatic environmental protest take a dark turn, Roméo and Marie are forced to abandon their honeymoon in the Laurentians in order to catch a killer, unearthing long-buried secrets along the way. Fast-paced and chilling, Whale Fall is a riveting tale of love, vengeance, and climate justice.

MACKINLAY/MACKINLAY, JENN library KILLER RESEARCH (#12) (\$11.99) Spring is livening up Briar Creek after a long, cold winter, and newlyweds Lindsey and Sully could not be happier. Even though the upcoming mayoral election is getting heated, everything else in town is coming up daffodils...until a body is found. Ms. Cole, a librarian and current candidate for town mayor, is shocked when she opens her trunk to discover a murder victim who just so happens to be a guy she dated forty years ago and the founder of the baking empire Nana's Cookies. As the town gossip mill turns, a batch of rumors begins to circulate about Ms. Cole's rebellious youth, which—along with being a murder suspect—threatens to ruin her life and her budding political career. But Ms. Cole is one tough cookie who will not go down without a fight. Has the campaign for mayor turned deadly? It is up to Lindsey, Sully, and the rest of the crafternoon pals to see how the cookie crumbles and figure out who is trying to frame Ms. Cole for murder and why.

MAJOR, TIM NEW ADVENTURES OF SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$21.95) 1896. A new client at Baker Street claims he's being threatened via the new art of the moving image...Eadweard Muybridge, pioneer of motion picture projection, believes his life is in danger. Twice he has been almost run down in the street by the same mysterious carriage, and moreover, disturbing alterations have been made to his lecture slides. These are closely guarded, yet just before each lecture an unknown hand has defaced images depicting Muybridge himself, which he has discovered, to his horror, only as he projects them to his audience. As Holmes and Watson investigate, a bewildering trail of clues only deepens the mystery, and meanwhile, newspaper speculation reaches fever pitch. The great detective's reputation is on the line and may be ruined for good unless he can pick apart a mystery centred on capturing, for the first time, of figures in motion, and the wonders of the new cinematograph.

MALLIET, G M st just DEATH IN CORNWALL (#4) (\$26.99) To celebrate their engagement, DCI Arthur St. Just and Portia De'Ath visit the quiet village of Maidsfell in Cornwall. Upon arriving they find the villagers in an uproar over plans to redevelop the local seafront. The fishermen want to build a new slipway to aid their business, but many residents worry it will spoil the view for the tourists who help drive the economy. After a heated village meeting on the issue, St. Just overhears an argument involving Lord Bodwally—an unpopular aristocrat staunchly opposed to the plans. Later, Bodwally's lifeless body is discovered. It's murder. Although Bodwally was disliked, who'd go so far as to kill him? St. Just, although an outsider from Cambridge, feels compelled to help local authorities investigate. Is Bodwally's death linked to the seafront, his suspect business dealings, or a secret from the past? One thing is certain, the fallout threatens to change Maidsfell forever...

MAS, VICTORIA MAD WOMEN'S BALL (\$19) The Salpêtrière Asylum: Paris,

1885. Dr. Charcot holds all of Paris in thrall with his displays of hypnotism on women who have been deemed mad and cast out from society. But the truth is much more complicated—these women are often simply inconvenient, unwanted wives, those who have lost something precious, wayward daughters, or girls born from adulterous relationships. For Parisian society, the highlight of the year is the Lenten ball—the Mad Women’s Ball—when the great and good come to gawk at the patients of the Salpêtrière dressed up in their finery for one night only. For the women themselves, it is a rare moment of hope.

PARKER, ROBERT B stone STONE’S THROW (#20) (\$12.99) The town of Paradise receives a tragic shock when the mayor is discovered dead, his body lying in a shallow grave on a property on the lake. It’s ostensibly suicide, but Jesse Stone has his doubts...especially because the piece of land where the man was found is the subject of a contentious and dodgy land deal. Two powerful moguls are fighting over the right to buy and develop the prime piece of real estate, and one of them has brought in a hired gun, an old adversary of Jesse’s: Wilson Cromartie, aka Crow. Meanwhile, the town council is debating if they want to sacrifice Paradise’s stately character for the economic boost of a glitzy new development. Tempers are running hot, and as the deaths begin to mount, it’s increasingly clear that the mayor may have been standing in the wrong person’s way. By ***Mike Lupica**.

PATTERSON, JAMES cross FEAR NO EVIL (#29) (\$22.99) Dr. Alex Cross and Detective John Sampson venture into the rugged Montana wilderness—where they will be the prey. They’re not on the job, but on a personal mission. Until they’re attacked by two rival teams of assassins, controlled by the same mastermind who has stalked Alex and his family for years. Darkness falls. The river churns into rapids. Shots ring out through the forest. No backup. No way out. Fear no evil.

PENNEY, ELIZABETH bookshop TREACHEROUS TALE (#2) (\$12.99) Lately, Molly has been feeling that she might have fallen into a fairy tale: she’s reinvigorated the family bookshop Thomas Marlowe—Manuscripts and Folios, made friends in her new home of Cambridge, England, and is even developing a bit of a romance with the handsome Kieran—a bike shop owner with a somewhat intimidating family pedigree. Having recently discovered *The Strawberry Girls*, a classic children’s tale, Molly is thrilled to learn the author, Iona York, lives nearby. But while visiting the famous author at her lovely cottage in nearby Hazelhurst, an old acquaintance of Iona’s tumbles off her roof to his death. Then, when one of Iona’s daughters—an inspiration for the original *Strawberry Girls*—goes missing, Molly begins to worry this story might be more Brothers Grimm than happily-ever-after. Especially after Molly learns about the mysterious long-ago death of Iona’s husband and co-author of *The Strawberry Girls*... could past and present crimes be linked? Molly must put the clues together before someone turns this sweet tale sour.

PERRY, ANNE elena standish DARKER REALITY (#3) (\$23) On her first trip to Washington, D.C., Elena Standish finally gets to visit her American mother’s wealthy parents and their magnificent home. Elena’s grandparents are marking a milestone anniversary by throwing an elaborate party with the influential friends of her grandfather, a prominent political industrialist. Even President and First Lady Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt are there, and Elena takes pride in capturing the illustrious guests on camera. But the festivities come to a sudden and tragic end when one of the guests, Lila Worth, is run over by a car in the driveway outside. Elena believes Lila was trying to tell her something before her death, and when a call from her employer back home, MI6, confirms that Lila was a British spy, Elena pairs with a fellow agent to find out what vital information the young woman had in her possession.

PHILIPPE, EDOUARD IN THE SHADOWS (\$17.99) He thought the worst was behind them. The primaries done and dusted. The Presidency within arm’s reach. He couldn’t have been more wrong. Not only were the primaries rigged; they had revealed a web of lies that was but the tip of a huge iceberg. But where there’s a will, there’s a way...

PORTER, HENRY harland EMPIRE STATE (#2) (\$23.95) The head of the US National Security Agency is assassinated in spectacular fashion at Heathrow. An airport employee and his family are found murdered in their council house in Uxbridge. In New York, a fashionable Upper East Side osteopath receives two postcards showing the Empire State Building. A group of migrant workers are brutally gunned down in Macedonia. Legendary spy Robert Harland is drawn back into a world he thought he’d left behind with a dual role for the UN and MI6 in the nail-biting quest to find the link between these apparently random events

QUIGLEY, MINDY deep dish SIX FEET DEEP DISH (#1) (\$12.99) Delilah O’Leary can’t wait to open her new gourmet deep-dish pizzeria in Geneva Bay, Wisconsin—a charming resort town with a long history as a mobsters’ hideaway, millionaires’ playground, and vacation mecca. Engaged to a hunk with a hefty trust fund, Delilah is poised to begin a life that’s just about as delicious as one of her cheesy creations. Just before opening night, though, Delilah’s plans for pizza perfection hit the skids when her

fiancé dumps her and leaves her with a very large memento from their relationship—Butterball, their spoiled, plus-sized tabby cat. Delilah's trouble deepens when she discovers a dead body and finds her elderly aunt holding the murder weapon. Handsome local police detective Calvin Capone, great grandson of the legendary gangster, opens an investigation, threatening to sink Delilah's pie-in-the-sky ambitions before they can even get off the ground. To save her aunt and get her pizza place generating some dough, Delilah must deliver the real killer.

RICHES, ANTHONY VENGEANCE: EMPIRE XII (\$17.99) After saving the emperor's life in Rome, Marcus and his comrades have been sent across the sea to the wealthy, corrupt Greek metropolis of Aegyptus, Alexandria. An unknown enemy has slaughtered the garrison of the Empire's last outpost before its border with the mysterious kingdom of Kush. Caravans can no longer reach the crucial Red Sea port of Berenike, from which the riches of the East flow towards Rome. The Emperor's most trusted and most devious adviser has ordered Marcus's commander Scaurus and his trusted officers to the south. With orders that are tantamount to a suicide mission, and with only one slim hope of success. Can a small force of highly trained legionaries restore the Empire's power in this remote desert no-man's-land, when faced by the fanatical army of Kush's iron-fisted ruler?

RIPLEY, MIKE campion MR CAMPION'S WINGS (#9) (\$26.99) Cambridge, 1965. The honorary doctorate ceremony for Albert Campion's wife takes a dramatic turn when Lady Amanda is arrested by Special Branch for breaking the Official Secrets Act. Never before having taken much interest in his wife's work in cutting-edge aircraft design, Mr Campion sets out to discover more about the top-secret Goshawk Project in which Amanda is involved. He quickly realizes he is not the only one keen to learn the secrets of the project. When a badly mutilated body is discovered at the Goshawk Project's hangar - the result, it would appear, of a bizarre accident - Campion is drawn into a turbulent mix of industrial espionage and matters of national security. And as he attempts to get to the bottom of the deadly goings-on, it seems that the bicycles and punts are almost as dangerous as the aircraft...

ROBARDS, KAREN GIRL FROM GUERNICA (\$24.99) On an April day in 1937, the sky opens and fire rains down upon the small Spanish town of Guernica. Seventeen-year-old Sibi and her family are caught up in the horror. Griff, an American military attaché, pulls Sibi from the wreckage, and it's only the first time he saves her life in a span of hours. When Germany claims no involvement in the attack, insisting the Spanish Republic was responsible, Griff guides Sibi to lie to Nazi officials. If she or her sisters reveal that they saw planes bearing swastikas, the gestapo will silence them—by any means necessary. As war begins to rage across Europe, Sibi joins the underground resistance, secretly exchanging information with Griff. But as the scope of Germany's ambitions becomes clear, maintaining the facade of a Nazi sympathizer becomes ever more difficult. And as Sibi is drawn deeper into a web of secrets, she must find a way to outwit an enemy that threatens to decimate her family once and for all.

ROBERTS, NORA MIDNIGHT SHADOWS (\$12.99) Two novellas: Night Shield (Jonah Blackhawk knows trouble when he sees it, and Allison Fletcher definitely falls into that category. Ally isn't just the undercover cop investigating a case at Jonah's nightclub—she's also the police commissioner's daughter, which makes her off-limits. Though the two have to work together, they're constantly at odds, hardly able to agree on the best way to crack the case. The day Ally and Jonah part for good can't come soon enough, but a passionate embrace might have them changing their minds about each other...) and Hidden Star (Bailey James can't remember a thing. She doesn't even know who she is, let alone why her bag is filled with cash, a gun and a large blue diamond. Desperate for help, she heads to the first detective office she can find, hoping that PI Cade Parris is someone she can trust—and with no options, Bailey doesn't have much of a choice. Cade is sure the woman of his dreams walked through the door when Bailey first shuffles in, but he'll have to convince her that she's not a criminal before he can consider his love for her.)

SLAUGHTER, KARIN GIRL FORGOTTEN (\$23.99) Longbill Beach, 1982. Emily Vaughn gets ready for the prom. For an athlete, who is smart, pretty and well-liked, this night should be the highlight of her high school career. But Emily has a secret. And by the end of the evening, that secret will be silenced forever. Forty years later, Emily's murder remains a mystery. Her tight-knit group of friends closed ranks; her respected, wealthy family retreated inwards; the small town moved on from her grisly attack. But all that's about to change. US Marshal Andrea Oliver arrives in Longbill Beach on her first assignment: to protect a judge receiving death threats. But, in reality, Andrea is there to find justice for Emily. The killer is still out there—and Andrea must discover the truth before she gets silenced, too...

ST JAMES, DOROTHY bookroom PERFECT BIND (#2) (\$11.99) Tru Beckett succeeded in building a secret book room in her now bookless library, where book lovers from lovely Cypress, South Carolina, can rejoice in the printed word. Now she's working hard to maintain the little library downstairs while keeping her "real job" upstairs in

the bookless technology center. The last thing she needs is a mysterious vandal who seems intent on breaking into her secret book-filled sanctuary and creating chaos. The nasty interloper doesn't steal anything, but brutalizes the books, damaging them and knocking them off shelves. Creepy goings-on have been happening at the library for years, especially in the basement where the secret book room is located; a poltergeist. Tru is certain it's hogwash, but she's at a loss to think of who might be vandalizing the beautiful books she fought so hard to protect. And when a dead body shows up right behind the library, Tru is certain that it's not a ghost but a cold-blooded killer that she and her trusty tabby Dewey Decimal will need to uncover.

STAUB, WENDY CORSI OTHER FAMILY (\$21) A family making a fresh start moves into a house which was the site of an unsolved triple homicide—and are watched by an unknown person...

STEINHAUER, OLEN ALL THE OLD KNIVES (\$23.99) Six years ago in Vienna, terrorists took over a hundred hostages, and the rescue attempt went terribly wrong. The CIA's Vienna station was witness to this tragedy, gathering intel from its sources during those tense hours, assimilating facts from the ground and from an agent on the inside. So when it all went wrong, the question had to be asked: Had their agent been compromised, and how?

STOPPS, ROSALIND BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO MURDER (\$17.99) Grace, Meg and Daphne, all in their seventies, are minding their own business while enjoying a cup of tea in a café, when seventeen-year-old Nina stumbles in. She's clearly distraught and running from someone, so the three women think nothing of hiding her when a suspicious-looking man starts asking if they've seen her. Once alone, Nina tells the women a little of what she's running from. The need to protect her is immediate, and Grace, Meg and Daphne vow to do just this. But how? They soon realise there really is only one answer: murder. And so begins the tale of the three most unlikely murderers-in-the-making, and may hell protect anyone who underestimates them.

TAKAMURA, KAORU LADY JOKER vol 1 (\$24.95) Tokyo, 1995. Five men meet at the racetrack every Sunday to bet on horses. They have little in common except a deep disaffection with their lives, but together they represent the social struggles and griefs of post-War Japan: a poorly socialized genius stuck working as a welder; a demoted detective with a chip on his shoulder; a Zainichi Korean banker sick of being ostracized for his race; a struggling single dad of a teenage girl with Down syndrome. The fifth man bringing them all together is an elderly drugstore owner grieving his grandson, who has died suspiciously after the revelation of a family connection with the segregated buraku community, historically subjected to severe discrimination. Intent on revenge against a society that values corporate behemoths more than human life, the five conspirators decide to carry out a heist: kidnap the CEO of Japan's largest beer conglomerate and extract blood money from the company's corrupt financiers. Inspired by the unsolved true-crime kidnapping case perpetrated by "the Monster with 21 Faces"...

TAYLOR, BRAD logan END OF DAYS (#16) (\$12.99) When a paragliding trip over the picturesque mountains of Switzerland results in the brutal murder of the former head of Israeli intelligence, Mossad brings in terrorist hunters Aaron and Shoshana to investigate. But they'll need help to find out who was behind the attack and what they're planning next—and they know exactly who to call: Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill.

THOR, BRAD horvath SPYMASTER (#17) (\$24.99) Across Europe, a secret organization has begun attacking diplomats. Back in the United States, a foreign ally demands the identity of a highly placed covert asset. In the balance hang the ingredients for all-out war. With his mentor out of the game, counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath must take on the role he has spent his career avoiding. But, as with everything else he does, he intends to rewrite the rules—all of them.

THOR, BRAD horvath BACKLASH (#18) (\$24.99) In ancient texts, there are stories about men who struck from the shadows, seemingly beyond the reach of death itself. These men were considered part angel, part demon. Their loyalty was to their families, their friends, and their kings. You crossed these men at your peril. And once crossed, there was no crossing back. They were fearless; men of honor who have been known throughout history by different names: Spartan, Viking, Samurai. Today, men like these still strike from the shadows. They are highly prized intelligence agents, military operatives, and assassins. One man is all three. Two days ago, that man was crossed—badly. Now, far from home and surrounded by his enemy, Scot Harvath must battle his way out.

VAN DINE, S S philo vance BENSON MURDER CASE (#1) (\$21.95) All of Wall Street and Manhattan high society is abuzz after playboy stockbroker Alvin Benson is discovered dead in his brownstone mansion, slumped over in an easy chair with a bullet in his head. The man's body is found in a room locked from the inside, and his head is missing the toupee that usually adorned it. Ballistics experts, detectives, and the NY-PD's top brass can't solve the crime, but luckily they don't have to: New York's leading flaneur and art connoisseur, Philo Vance, is on the case, and he's got precisely the

far-flung and esoteric knowledge needed to interpret the clues and determine whodunit.

VERNON, P J BATH HAUS (\$23) Oliver Park, a recovering addict from Indiana, finally has everything he ever wanted: sobriety and a loving, wealthy partner in Nathan, a prominent DC trauma surgeon. Despite their difference in age and disparate backgrounds, they've made a perfect life together. With everything to lose, Oliver shouldn't be visiting Haus, a gay bathhouse. But through the entrance he goes, and it's a line crossed. Inside, he follows a man into a private room, and it's the final line. Whatever happens next, Nathan can never know. But then, everything goes wrong, terribly wrong, and Oliver barely escapes with his life. He races home in full-blown terror as the hand-shaped bruise grows dark on his neck. The truth will destroy Nathan and everything they have together, so Oliver does the thing he used to do so well: he lies. But once you start to lie...

WINTER, W A MY NAME IS JOE LAVOIE (\$19) On Thanksgiving Day, 1991, the tattered remnants of the notorious LaVoie crime family gather for a melancholy reunion. Sister Ronnie, a faded beauty who's outlived three husbands and countless lovers, is the host. Her guests include eldest brother Eugene, the family's detested Judas; Adriana, the flamboyant widow of youngest brother Michael, who was presumed killed in Vietnam; and Joe, the sole survivor of a fraternal trio of pint-sized desperadoes who terrorized the Upper Midwest during the summer of 1953. Also present, if only in Joe's fevered imagination, are the ghosts of his ne'er-do-well father and neurasthenic mother; his partners in crime, brothers Jack and Bernard; and his beautiful, otherworldly little sister, Janine. Then there's the specter of H.V. Meslow, the aged, obsessed cop who pursued the brothers to their spectacular end but will not be satisfied until he claims Joe's soul. Crippled by a police bullet during the climactic shootout, Joe has spent the past 38 years in a wheelchair. Now, dying, he's desperate to know—yet terrified to learn—the awful truth behind his family's demise. Years after the brothers' bloody rampage, a local journalist wrote: "People blame poverty, lack of parental control, a failure of the criminal justice system, even the brothers' diminutive stature. I would add to that list some kind of curse—a dark star or black cloud—that shadowed them for decades. The LaVoies couldn't get anything right. They couldn't catch a break. They couldn't win for losing." Inspired by a crime spree that shocked the Midwest in the 1950s...

WOODS, STUART barrington FOUL PLAY (#59) (\$12.99) Stone Barrington is nearing his New York City abode when he stumbles into trouble. As it turns out, a new client is in danger—and with both business and the safety of the city at stake, Stone has no choice but to get involved. It's soon clear that a complicated scheme is being hatched, and the source remains enigmatic . . . but it's only a matter of time before he and Stone must each show their hands. From ritzy Manhattan high-rises to the lush serenity of the Connecticut countryside, the game of cat-and-mouse can end with only one victor.