

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.

Volume 26, Number 6

June Booknews 2014

sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919

<http://poisonedpen.com>

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.

Scottsdale, AZ 85251

480-947-2974



A Rich and Exciting June...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast at <http://new.livestream.com/poisonedpen>.

TUESDAY JUNE 3 7:00 PM

Martha Grimes signs [Vertigo 42](#) (Scribner \$26) Richard Jury

THURSDAY JUNE 5 7:00 PM

Jim Butcher signs [Skin Game](#) (Roc \$27.95) Harry Dresden #15

FRIDAY JUNE 6 7:00 PM Little Brown Authors Trio

Michael Koryta signs [Those Who Wish Me Dead](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Montana teen Jace Wilson

Sarah Lotz signs [The Three](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Debut

Matthew Quirk signs [The Directive](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Mike Ford #2

SATURDAY JUNE 7 5:00 PM

David Wellington signs [The Hydra Protocol](#) (Harper \$25.95) Jim Chapell #2

TUESDAY JUNE 10 BOOKS AT THE BILTMORE 7:00 PM

Diana Gabaldon signs [Written in My Own Heart's Blood](#) (Delacorte \$35) Outlander Series

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11 7:00 PM

Also at Tempe Library, 3500 S Rural Road 3:00-4:00 PM

Beatriz Williams signs [The Secret Life of Violet Grant](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Hidden secrets tracking WWI with today

Willig, Lauren. [That Summer](#) (St Martins \$25.99) English Gothic

THURSDAY JUNE 12 7:00 PM

Hosted by **Christopher Reich**

Joel Dicker signs [The Truth about the Harry Quebert Affair](#) (Penguin \$16) Debut

FRIDAY JUNE 13 7:00 PM

Reed Farrel Coleman signs [Hollow Girl](#) (Adams \$24.95) 9th Moe Praeger PI

Jenny Milchman signs [Ruin Falls](#) (Random \$26) Adirondacks Mystery

SATURDAY JUNE 14 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses author Laura Childs, reader's choice

SATURDAY JUNE 14 5:00 PM

Alafair Burke signs [All Day and a Night](#) (Harper \$26.99) Ellie Hatcher

SATURDAY JUNE 15 2:00-4:30 PM

Writers Workshop with Anne Perry \$50 Registration required. Limited to 25

TUESDAY JUNE 17 7:00 PM BOOK LAUNCH

Kevin Hearne signs [Shattered: The Iron Druid Chronicles](#) (Random \$26)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 18 7:00 PM

Linda Fairstein signs [Terminal City](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Alexandra Cooper at Grand Central Terminal

THURSDAY JUNE 19 7:00 PM

Ridley Pearson signs [The Red Room](#) (Putnam \$26.95)

Rutherford Risk #3

Neely Tucker signs [The Ways of the Dead](#) (Viking \$26) First Mystery Club Pick

SATURDAY JUNE 21 2:00 PM COZY TEA

Hosted by **Jenn McKinlay, the Cupcake Cozy Queen**

Eileen Brady signs [Muzzled](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Debut cozy

Kate Carlisle signs [The Book Stops Here](#) (NAL \$24.95)

Bibliophile Mystery #8

Donis Casey signs [Hell with the Lid Blown Off](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Alafair Tucker

TUESDAY JUNE 24 7:00 PM BOOK LAUNCH

Karin Slaughter signs [Cop Town](#) (Random \$27) Standalone Atlanta serial killer

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25 7:00 PM

Matthew Palmer signs [The American Mission](#) (Putnam \$26.95)

First Mystery Club Pick by Foreign Service veteran

THURSDAY JUNE 26 7:00 PM Lisa See, [China Dolls](#) (Random \$27) San Francisco, 1938

FRIDAY JUNE 27 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Sam Hawken's [Tequila Sunset](#) (\$16 Signed)

SATURDAY JUNE 28 5:00 PM Resolute Women

Chevy Stevens signs [That Night](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Ingrid Thoft signs [Identity](#) (Putnam \$26.95) PI Fina Ludlow #2

MONDAY JUNE 30 7:00 PM

Jacqueline Winspear signs [The Care and Management of Lies](#) (\$26.99) WWI Novel

TUESDAY JULY 1 7:00 PM Abbotts Family Night (the authors are not related)

Jeff Abbott signs [Inside Man](#) (Grand Central \$26) Sam Capra

Megan Abbott signs [Fever](#) (LittleBrown \$26)

2014 CWA DAGGER NOMINEES

Historical Dagger

Hodgson, Antonia. [The Devil in the Marshalsea](#) (a 2014 History Club Pick)
Walsh, Jill Paton. [The Late Scholar](#) (see British Books below)
Peter Wimsey
Parris, S.J. *Treachery* (sold out)
Russell, Michael. *The City of Strangers*
Griffin, Kate. *Kitty Peck and the Music Hall Murders*
Robertson, Ingrid. [Theft of Life](#) (see British Books below)
Ryan, Robert. *The Dead Can Wait* (sold out)

International Dagger

Indridason, Arnaldur. [Strange Shores](#) (August)
LeMaitre, Pierre. [Irene](#) (see Global Crime below)
Perez-Reverte, Arturo. *The Siege*
Truc, Olivier. *Forty Days with Shadow*
Urban, Simon. *Plan D*
Vargas, Fred. *Dog Will Have His Day*

EVENT BOOKS

Abbott, Jeff. [Inside Man](#) (Grand Central \$26 July 1). A terrific Starred Review from *PW*: “Thriller Award–winner Abbott draws on Shakespeare’s *King Lear* for his outstanding fourth Sam Capra novel. When Steve Robles, an old friend of Sam’s, is shot dead outside the Miami bar that Sam runs, Sam, a former CIA agent, resolves to find Steve’s killer. Under the name Sam Chevalier, Sam goes “inside” the luxurious Varela family compound in Puerto Rico, where Steve was working a security job for frightened Cordelia Varela. Meanwhile, Cordelia’s father, patriarch Rey Varela, is dividing his shipping empire—which is not entirely legitimate—among his three children, playing one against the other. Sam breaks laws to serve the good and rescue the innocent, while resisting Rey’s efforts to sweep him into a nefarious international scheme. Abbott injects enough of Sam’s back story to make his intricate plot believable, judiciously spices his tale with tasteful but usually interrupted romance, and convincingly makes Sam a genuine contemporary ‘chevalier.’” I’ve liked all the Sam Capras with their character-driven plots—*Adrenaline*, *The Last Minute*, and *Downfall*—and we are delighted that Abbott is coming to see us for *Inside Man*! Order earlier Capras by [clicking here](#).

Abbott, Megan. [The Fever](#) (LittleBrown \$26 July 1). I fell for Abbott’s plotting skills, sense of the past, and terrific voice with its 1950s noirish vibe in *Die a Little*, a 2005 First Mystery Pick and 2006 Edgar and Anthony Awards nominee. Her career has burgeoned and captured Patrick, too. She’s daring and surprising. Like this book. A teen girl suffers a seizure at school. Then another one does. Then another. The Nashes are a close-knit family. Tom is a popular teacher, father to two teens: Eli, a hockey star and girl magnet, and his sister Deenie, a diligent student. Their seeming stability, however, is thrown into chaos when Deenie’s best friend Lise is struck by a terrifying, unexplained seizure during class. Rumors of a hazardous

outbreak spread through the family, school and community. As hysteria swells and more girls succumb, a series of tightly held secrets emerge, threatening to unravel friendships, families and the town’s fragile idea of security... [Click here](#) to order other novels by Megan. She and Jeff are funny, great performers. Don’t miss our The Abbotts Night.

Brady, Eileen. [Muzzled](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 June 21). A Phoenix author’s debut, a cozy getting terrific reviews. Here’s one from the normally sardonic *Kirkus Reviews*: “A veterinarian moves to a small town whose residents have plenty to hide. Kate Turner abandoned Long Island and a romance gone bad for the lovely Hudson River town of Oak Falls; she’s subbing for Doc Anderson, who’s on a trip around the world. Her new routine is soon spectacularly disrupted when she makes a house call and discovers two dead bodies—Vivian and Thomas Langthorne, whose lives revolved around their kennel of top-notch Cavalier King Charles spaniels. They would never have left their 27 valuable dogs running around the house, which is how Kate finds them. Unable to accept the police theory of murder-suicide, Kate begins to snoop for clues... Kate’s debut has plenty to offer pet lovers and mystery mavens alike.” *PW* adds, “Readers will want to see more of the likable Kate, who, as she snoops and doctors, provides an inside look at quirky pet owners and the oft-satirized dog show set (shoe polish shines a nose!).”

Burke, Alafair. [All Day and a Night](#) (Harper \$26.99 June 14). Has suspected serial killer Anthony Amaro spent 18 years in New York’s Five Points Correctional Facility for a murder he didn’t commit? “In Burke’s gripping fifth novel of suspense featuring NYPD Det. Ellie Hatcher, Ellie must suss that out in the wake of a fresh slaying in Brooklyn with the same signature, for which Amaro has an ironclad alibi. She must also consider the evidence against Amaro in five earlier murders in his hometown of Utica, N.Y., for which he was never prosecuted. That Ellie has recently moved in with the guy calling the shots, ADA Max Donovan, complicates matters, as does Carrie Blank, the associate of the lawyer handling Amaro’s wrongful-conviction claim, being the half-sister of one of the Utica victims. Burke sets the equally driven Ellie and Carrie on a collision course in a propulsive thriller...”—*PW*. [Click here](#) to buy Burke’s earlier books.

Butcher, Jim. [Skin Game](#) (Roc \$27.95 June 5). As Winter Knight to the Queen of Air and Darkness, Harry Dresden never knows what the scheming Mab might want him to do. Usually, it’s something awful. Mab has just traded Harry’s skills to pay off one of her debts. And now he must help a group of supernatural villains—led by one of Harry’s most dreaded and despised enemies, Nicodemus Archleone—to break into the highest-security vault in town, so that they can then access the highest-security vault in the Nevernever. It’s a smash and grab job to recover the literal Holy Grail from the vaults of the greatest treasure hoard in the supernatural world—which belongs to the one and only Hades, Lord of the freaking Underworld and generally unpleasant character. Worse, Dresden suspects that there is another game afoot that no one is talking about. And he’s dead certain that Nicodemus has no intention of allowing any of his crew to survive the experience. Especially Harry. Dresden’s always been tricky, but he’s going to have to up his backstabbing game to survive this mess... 15th in the Dresden Files series. [Click here](#) to order #1-14.

Carlisle, Kate. [The Book Stops Here](#) (NAL \$24.95 June 21) Bibliophile Mystery #8. Brooklyn Wainwright is thrilled to be appearing on the San Francisco edition of the hit TV show *This Old Attic* as a rare-book expert and appraiser. Her first subject is a very valuable first-edition copy of the classic children's story *The Secret Garden*, which is owned by a flower vendor named Vera. Once she hears what her book is worth, Vera is eager to have Brooklyn recondition it for resale. But after the episode airs, a furious man viciously accosts Brooklyn, claiming that Vera found the first edition at his garage sale, and he wants it back—or else. Brooklyn is relieved that she's put *The Secret Garden* in a safe place, but Randolph Rayburn, the handsome host of *This Old Attic*, is terrified by the man's threats. He confides in Brooklyn that he fears he is being stalked. He doesn't know who might have targeted him, or why. In the days that follow, several violent incidents occur on the set, and Brooklyn is almost killed... [Click](#) here to order earlier books by Carlisle.

Casey, Donis. [Hell with the Lid Blown Off](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 June 21). The 7th Alafair Tucker mystery set in summer, 1916, Oklahoma, resonates today with its powerful portrait of a raging tornado striking Boynton, Oklahoma. *PW* gives it a coveted Starred Review: "A huge tornado brings unexpected trouble to the people of Boynton, Okla., in Casey's excellent seventh Alafair Tucker mystery (after 2012's *The Wrong Hill to Die On*). One day in the summer of 1916, a twister blows Jubal Beldon's body into a field, but no one is very sorry, since he was a most unpleasant man. When it's discovered that Jubal was murdered before the tornado, suspicion falls on 17-year-old Ruth Tucker's beloved music teacher, Beckie MacKenzie. Alafair, a farmer's wife, uses her innate knowledge of human nature to help, while Sheriff Scott Tucker and his deputy, Trenton Calder, follow their own theories. As the action builds to a surprising denouement, Casey provides an engaging portrait of the close-knit society that was commonly found in the rural Midwest at the time. Alafair Tucker, her large family, and their friends are a pleasure to spend time with." [The Wrong Hill to Die On](#) (\$14.95) takes place a hundred years or so ago in Tempe, Arizona. [Click here](#) to buy earlier Alafairs.

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [The Hollow Girl](#) (Adams \$24.95 June 13) The 9th Moe Praeger wraps it up for the NY private eye. Moe Praeger is still grieving the death of his fiancée, who was killed in a car accident for which he feels responsible. He's awakened by his brother from a drunken sleep; Nancy Lustig, a woman he met 35 years earlier, wants to hire Moe to find her missing 30-year-old daughter, Sloane, who enjoyed brief notoriety a decade earlier as Internet sensation "Hollow Girl," airing "real life performance art." Although their relationship has always been tortured, mother and daughter spoke biweekly. Sloane has not called in a month, and when new, more graphically sadistic videos starring a seemingly comatose Sloane start appearing online, Moe gets that uneasy feeling in his "kishka" (gut) that something is amiss. "Coleman gives Moe an absorbing send-off in this hard-boiled series finale. Moe is the everyman PI, waxing philosophical about life, love, and family. Fans of literary mysteries, private detectives, police procedurals, and nice guys will devour this book."—*LJ*. Note: Coleman will be writing Parker's Jesse Stone series and visits us in mid-September with his first effort, *Blind Spot*, 13th for Jesse Stone. [Click here](#) to order some of the earlier Moes. Some are out of print.

Dicker, Joel. [The Truth About the Harry Quebert Affair](#) (Penguin \$16 June 12 with Christopher Reich). This debut hit #1 in France, and then in Italy, and then in Spain, displacing Dan Brown's *Inferno* from the top spot. Its US editor cries, "Finally, a French novel that's fun to read!" And adds, "I loved its energy, its spirit—its exuberance, and the evident joy the author took in telling the story. I loved the cleverness of the plot—its intricacy and dizzying number of twists. I loved its celebration of books and writers—the world of the novel is an America in which a young, bestselling writer can become a household name, and in which a book has the potential to save someone's life. And, perhaps curiously for an editor who has published books about so many different parts of the world, I loved its depiction of small-town America, and how it called to mind some of the fictional portraits of America that I've found indelible: those of *Twin Peaks*, of Tom Perrotta's *Little Children*, of Rick Moody's *The Ice Storm*, of *Mr. Bridge and Mrs. Bridge*, of *American Beauty*, John Irving's *Hotel New Hampshire*." The story begins on August 30, 1975. The day of the disappearance. The day a small New Hampshire town lost its innocence. That summer Harry Quebert fell in love with fifteen-year-old Nola Kellergan. Thirty-three years later, her body is dug up from his yard along with a manuscript copy of his career-defining novel. Quebert is the only suspect. Marcus Goldman—Quebert's most gifted protégé—throws off his writer's block to clear his mentor's name."

Fairstein, Linda. [Terminal City](#) (Dutton \$27.95 June 18). I'm mad about trains so am mad about this story for NY DA Alexandra Cooper and its historical focus, Grand Central Terminal. The world's loveliest station" is hiding more than just an underground train system. When the body of a young woman is found in the tower suite of the Waldorf Astoria—one of the most prestigious hotels in Manhattan—Cooper and Detectives Mike Chapman and Mercer Wallace find themselves hunting for an elusive killer whose only signature is carving a carefully drawn symbol into his victims' bodies, a symbol that bears a striking resemblance to train tracks. When a second body bearing the same bloody symbol is discovered in a deserted alleyway right next to the terminal building, all attention shifts to the iconic transportation hub, where the potential for a bigger attack weighs heavily on everyone's minds. With the President of the United States set to arrive for a United Nations meeting at the week's end, Alex and Mike must contend with Grand Central's expansive underground tunnels and century-old dark secrets. To me the darkest is why the Women's Room is so damned far from The Oyster Bar. [Click here](#) to order Alexandra's earlier legal thrillers loaded with NY history.

Gabalton, Diana. [Written in My Own Heart's Blood](#) (Delacorte \$35 June 10). The 8th Outlander novel. No spoilers here but I can say that it's 1778, France has declared war on Great Britain, Washington is on the march from Valley Forge, and... There's a terrific scene about how to treat a terrible asthma attack with remedies at hand, thanks to Claire's 20th Century medical training. And there is a 20th century storyline... The STARZ TV 16-episode presentation of *Outlander* airs sometime in late summer. Order while supplies last and you get a nifty announcement card from STARZ.

Grimes, Martha. [Vertigo 42](#) (Scribner \$26 June 3). After too long an absence, Scotland Yard's Richard Jury is back—and with a

tip of the hat to Alfred Hitchcock's famous film. Supt. Jury is meeting Tom Williamson at Vertigo 42, a bar on the forty-second floor of an office building in London's financial district. Despite inconclusive evidence, Tom is convinced his wife, Tess, was murdered seventeen years ago. The inspector in charge of the case was sure Tess's death was accidental—a direct result of vertigo—but the official police inquiry is still an open verdict and Jury agrees to re-examine the case. Jury learns that a nine-year-old girl fell to her death five years before Tess at the same country house in Devon where Tess died. [Click here](#) to order earlier Jurys. Grimes will also sign copies of her memoir about alcoholism written with her son: [Double Double](#) (\$25).

Hearne, Kevin. [Shattered: The Iron Druid Chronicles](#) (Random \$26 June 17). One of our bestselling authors is Hearne, author of this excellent SciFi series. *Shattered* is the first to publish in hardcover. For nearly two thousand years, only one Druid has walked the Earth—Atticus O'Sullivan, the Iron Druid, whose sharp wit and sharp sword have kept him alive as he's been pursued by a pantheon of hostile deities. Now he's got company. Atticus's apprentice Granuaile is at last a full Druid herself. What's more, Atticus has defrosted an archdruid long ago frozen in time, a father figure (of sorts) who now goes by the modern equivalent of his old Irish name: Owen Kennedy. And Owen has some catching up to do... [Click here](#) to order earlier Iron Druid Chronicles.

Koryta, Michael. [Those Who Wish Me Dead](#) (LittleBrown \$26 June 6). This marks a return to crime for the talented Koryta who recently completed three thrillers touching upon the supernatural. When 13-year-old Jace Wilson witnesses a brutal murder, he's plunged into a new life, issued a false identity, and hidden in a wilderness skills program for troubled teens. The plan is to get Jace off the grid while police find the two killers. The result is the start of a nightmare... "This book captured me. Here are two bad guys so bad, so well drawn, that I wanted to avert my eyes—but I didn't want to miss a beat of this sharp thriller. This is a smart big book with what are called twists and turns, but which are really terrific surprises in every deepening layer. Young Jace's journey to survive is a gripping rush. I know not to run in the woods but I wanted to tell him: run, woods or not, just run!"—Ron Carlson. [Click here](#) to order other Korytas.

Lotz, Sarah. [The Three](#) (LittleBrown \$26 June 6). *The Three* begins on January 12, 2012—later known as Black Thursday—when four airplanes crash in Japan, the U.S., the U.K. and South Africa. Each of the first three accidents leaves a sole survivor: a child. All aboard the plane that crashed in Africa die. The children are dubbed The Three by the media, which go wild with conspiracy theories about how these kids survived such disasters. In the aftermath, the questions shift from how and why they survived to who they really are: relatives of the children notice they're not quite the same as they were before the crash. Unexplainable things start happening around them—some good, some benign, some creepy. Are these children miracles, harbingers of the end times, aliens or simply traumatized innocents hounded by the media and gullible masses? The story is presented as a book within a book, a journalist's nonfiction tome called *Black Friday: From Crash to Conspiracy* that includes interviews and conversations with people connected to the crashes. "Lotz writes convincingly in the different voices of the interviewees. The sense of dread builds as the characters'

paranoia mounts, and some plot twists are shocking. The coincidence of this novel's debut so soon after the real-life disappearance of Malaysia Airlines Flight 370 only adds to the eeriness. The ending may be frustratingly ambiguous for some, but this epic tale shouldn't be missed."—Shelf Awareness.com. "Recommended to fans of SciFi and apocalyptic thrillers by authors such as Justin Cronin and Stephen King."—*Library Journal* Starred Review.

Milchman, Jenny. [Ruin Falls](#) (Ballantine \$26 June 13). Karen writes: "Liz and Paul are taking their two children on a well-deserved vacation. Part of the time will involve a visit with his parents, who have remained distant in both geography and communication. The first morning they wake up, the children are gone and a frantic search begins. Then, Paul also disappears. The police discover that the children, at last citing, were in the company of their father and it can no longer be considered a case for them. Liz is scared, confused and angry. She begins a life completely out of the context she has known. She visits her in-laws who remain distant and uncooperative, even under the circumstances. Liz's discovery of motivations and, finally, resolution, are stunning as she learns of secrets that have been well-kept for many years. Milchman, as in her previous book, *Cover of Snow*, is skilled at engaging the reader at the very beginning and continues to build the suspense throughout the story, surprising the reader with twists and turns of the plot." The Indie Next Pick adds, "Milchman continues her theme of women facing the worst that life can hand them and yet finding a way to overcome these challenges... When both children go missing from their hotel room in the middle of the night, Liz has no idea who might have taken them, nor does she realize the depth of her own courage that it will take to find out. A wonderful, high-octane read!" Milchman's [The Cover of Snow](#) (\$15; possibly Signed Firsts \$26), A First Mystery Pick, won the 2014 Mary Higgins Clark Award.

Palmer, Matthew. [The American Mission](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 25). Foreign Service veteran Palmer, a son of the late Michael Palmer (and brother of suspense novelist Daniel) proves ink flows in the Palmer veins with this thoughtful, exciting, and cynical First Mystery Club Pick. It takes genius to interest me in the Congo, where much of this super-charged thriller occurs. And it left me more acutely aware of the exploitation more developed (OK, and greedy) nations have visited upon Africa leaving it even more open to exploitation by elements of its own people. And we see in vignettes of Foreign Service Officers spied outside the main plot how heroic some can be, as once were some diplomats, consuls, or regular citizens working in Nazi Europe. No wonder Madeleine K. Albright gives her endorsement to Palmer. The focus here is Alex Baines, a former rising star of the State Department before Darfur, who is stuck in visa-stamping limbo. Just as he's about to sign on in the private sector, a call from his old mentor offers a chance to reboot his career (unheard of). Sadly, opportunity comes with a shady US-based mining company, up to...what? *Booklist* reports, "Palmer's first novel offers an insider's look at the world of American diplomats stationed in foreign countries... Pair this one with John le Carré's *The Constant Gardener* (2001)."

Pearson, Ridley. [The Red Room](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 19). This 3rd entry in the exciting Rutherford Risk series displays both Pearson's creative and research skills—you have a ton of

fun and learn intriguing info. The setting is Istanbul, a city in ferment as the news underlines, the cast is global and diverse, the stakes are high, yet the personal plight of John Knox remains the focus that carries us through the story. Pearson again shows himself the master of the intelligent thriller. *PW* reports Pearson, “takes security operative John Knox, who’s also an art trader, and his partner, former Chinese government spy Grace Chu, to Istanbul, where they are to perform a simple in-and-out delivery job for David Dulwich, Knox’s pal at the private contracting firm Rutherford Risk. Knox and Chu are to offer the bust of Harmodius, a piece of ancient artwork worth millions, to restaurant owner Akram Okle, who’s acting as middleman for a wealthy brother of his named Mashe. Since Knox needs the money for medicine for his autistic, mentally-challenged brother, he accepts the assignment. To no one’s surprise, the mission turns deadly in Istanbul and proves anything but simple.” A satisfying denouement too. Istanbul is one of my favorite cities and is much in the news. To read more of it in fiction consult Orhan Pamuk, Jason Goodwin (new novel in History), and Joseph Kanon’s *Istanbul Passage*. Rutherford Risks #1 and #2: [The Risk Agent](#); [Choke Point](#) (\$9.99 each).

Quirk, Matthew. [The Directive](#) (LittleBrown \$26 June 6). What a pleasure to read a fast-paced, intelligent thriller that isn’t about the fate of nations or global disaster or the coming apocalypse but instead pits a guy against greed. Quirk brought this off in his 2013 First Mystery Club Pick [The 500](#) (\$15.99), and yay, he’s done it again, and again with lawyer/political fixer Mike Ford who is still romancing fellow lawyer Annie, a woman of my heart—although Mike is so not the choice of Annie’s powerful father. That’s because Harvard Law grad Mike comes from a world of small-stakes con men, his father having done time, his brother Jack your basic outlaw. Now, framed for murder, Mike is forced to play front man in a scheme to steal—before its release—the top-secret directive regularly issued by the Federal Reserve to guide U.S. economic policy. Hedged by betrayals, your heart hopes that Mike and Annie will find the steel not to succumb to the bad guys or to their relatives.

See, Lisa. [China Dolls](#) (Random \$27 June 26). We’ve moved to San Francisco, 1938, the Golden Age of Chinese nightclubs. New to me: the Chop Suey Circuit, part of a story that unspools from try-outs at Treasure Island in 1938 to the Ed Sullivan Show and beyond. “In the beginning of See’s stellar ninth book, three young women, Grace, Helen, and Ruby, meet and form an unlikely but strong bond... The story alternates between their viewpoints, with each woman’s voice strong and dynamic, developing a multilayered richness as it progresses. The depth of See’s characters and her winning prose make this book a wonderful journey through love and loss.”—*PW* Starred Review. Their circumstances, so different. The bond they forge, so tenacious. The betrayals they visit on each other along with friendship, so deep. Richly textured, lively storytelling. [Click here](#) to buy all of See’s outstanding books.

Slaughter, Karin. [Cop Town](#) (Random \$27 June 24). Join our Publication Party for a standalone Atlanta serial killer thriller that delivers a real punch not just with the story but with its unsparing account of prejudice, racism, anti-gay, in the city’s 1974 culture. As a brutal murder and a furious manhunt rock the city’s police department, Kate Murphy wonders if her first day on the job will also be her last. She’s determined to defy

her privileged background by making her own way—wearing a badge and carrying a gun. But for a beautiful young woman, life will be anything but easy in the macho world of the Atlanta PD, where even the female cops have little mercy for rookies. It’s also the worst day possible to start given that a beloved cop has been gunned down, his brothers in blue are out for blood, and the city is on the edge of war. Kate isn’t the only woman on the force who’s feeling the heat. Maggie Lawson followed her uncle and brother into the ranks to prove her worth in their cynical eyes. When she and Kate, her new partner, are sidelined in the citywide search for a cop killer, their fury, pain, and pride boil over. Withal, there’s a good feeling of kindness and solidarity in the story alongside its brutalities. [Click here](#) to buy earlier books by Slaughter.

Stevens, Chevy. [That Night](#) (St Martins \$25.99 June 28). The dark power of bullying and hidden family secrets in a small town fuel a harrowing page-turner with some gripping plot twists. Canadian Stevens, winner of a Thriller Award, presents Toni, now 34 and on parole. She and her boyfriend Ryan were accused of, then convicted of, the brutal murder of her younger sister, a sister Toni adored. The conditions of parole are stringent and include no contact with Ryan, but he’s convinced they can put their heads together and figure out what really happened to Nicole. The risks are great, but neither is going to move on with life if they don’t reach the truth. Nicole had haunting secrets of her own. And Shauna, a real monster, does too.... [Click here](#) to check out earlier books by Stevens including *Still Missing*....

Thoft, Ingrid. [Identity](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 28). PI Fina Ludlow #2. Not long after her last case (*Loyalty*), PI Fina Ludlow is still reeling from some heinous revelations about her family, so another mystery to solve is just what she needs. Renata Sanchez is a single mom who wants to find the sperm donor who resulted in her daughter, Rosie. The giver turns out to be a prominent man with connections in high places, but, luckily, Fina, whose father is one of Boston’s most successful attorneys, has plenty of connections of her own. When the donor turns up dead, Fina soon realizes that there is much more than DNA at the heart of this case, and if she doesn’t find the killer quick, she and her family might soon be targets. “In the second book featuring the pragmatic, gastronomically insatiable Fina Ludlow, Thoft takes a look at assisted reproduction and some of the ethics behind it, which dovetails nicely with the running theme of complex family dynamics. Fina is mercurial, dogged, somewhat snarky, and rarely takes no for an answer. Fans of Sara Gran’s Claire DeWitt, Bill Loehfelm’s Maureen Coughlin, or readers who like their heroines rough around the edges yet with plenty of heart will enjoy this very entertaining and surprising series.”—*LJ*

Tucker, Neely. [The Ways of the Dead](#) (Viking \$26 June 19). Although Neely is writing in Pelecanos territory, the backstreets of DC, basing his story on the 1990s Princeton Place murders, it’s easy to see why Michael Connelly and John Sandford champion it—the protagonist is a reporter, one Sully Carter; the newsroom clearly that of the *Washington Post* if named differently; and the investigation shows how an investigative journalist sinks his teeth into a developing story and won’t let go. Irresistible—thus a **First Mystery Club Pick**. *Kirkus* gives it a Starred Review like me:” Clinton-era Washington, D.C., provides the squalid, menacing backdrop for this crisp, crafty and sharply observed debut by a seasoned reporter. As the curtain’s

about to fall on the 20th century, Sully Carter, a one-time war correspondent weighed down with physical and psychological scars, finds himself working the crime beat in Washington, D.C., at a time when criminal behavior is all but taken for granted at opposite ends of the sociopolitical spectrum. For all of Sully's battle-hardened professionalism, his bosses don't think he's quite stable—or sober—enough to cover the murder of a teenage girl near a convenience store, especially since the victim is the daughter of a high-profile federal judge with whom Sully's had (let's say) negative history. Nevertheless, Sully works as if he's in a war zone and eventually connects this murder with a series of cold cases involving dead and missing young women in the same at-risk neighborhood. Tucker, a 25-year newspaper veteran who's spent most of his career at the *Washington Post*, writes with rueful authority and caustic familiarity about the District's criminal and working classes as well as the dreary anxiety of working for a fin-de-siècle big-city newspaper. Along with an ear for inner-city argot almost as finely tuned as those of Elmore Leonard and fellow D.C. crime writer George Pelacanos, Tucker has a knack for ingenious plotting that jolts his narrative into unexpected directions."

Wellington, David. [The Hydra Protocol](#) (Harper \$25.99 June 7). "Wellington wants those of you who haven't kept up with the news to know that Cold War relics and new world order infighting have made the former Soviet Union a very dangerous place indeed. Just because the USSR is no more doesn't mean it's not armed to the teeth."—*Kirkus* on our **June Thriller Club Pick**. Wow. Here's what *PW* has to say: "Wellington's inventive sequel to 2013's *Chimera* [see our *June Mass Market Picks*] teams Capt. Jim Chapel, of U.S. Military Intelligence, with Russian spy Nadia Asimova. The pair must find and disable a computer system known as the Dead Hand (or Perimeter to the Russians), a Cold War relic located at an unknown location in Kazakhstan. Certain conditions could cause Perimeter to think Russia is under attack and automatically fire all its missiles at the U.S. "The resulting fallout and nuclear winter would mean the end of the world," Chapel learns at his Pentagon briefing. Of course, the mission isn't that simple, and cross and double cross are the order of the day, as Chapel tries to work out who is friend and who is foe. He has two secret weapons: a bionic left arm and a controller known as Angel, whom he knows only from radio transmissions. Plenty of twists and rolling action keep the pages turning." Wellington has an interesting list of earlier books—even I liked the vampires! [Click here](#) to order.

Williams, Beatriz. [The Secret Life of Violet Grant](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 11). June is full of two track stories, one in the present flowing over one in the past. This one is a real zinger! Start in Manhattan, 1964. Vivian Schuyler, newly graduated from Bryn Mawr College, has recently defied the privilege of her storied old Fifth Avenue family to do the unthinkable for a budding Kennedy-era socialite: break into the Madison Avenue world of razor-stylish *Metropolitan* magazine, living on peanuts instead of family money. But when she receives a bulky overseas parcel in the mail, forwarded from Switzerland, the unexpected contents draw her inexorably back into her family's past, and the hushed-over story of an aunt, a scientist married to an Oxford don, her mentor, just before WWI when women had little chance of an actual degree or career. She and the don moved to Berlin soon after their marriage where Williams unfolds, bit by

bit, the crimes that ended up getting the aunt wiped out of the family record. You will be outraged for her! "Readers will love wallowing in the twists and turns of this irresistibly luxurious tale." —*Booklist*. Williams' last book is the bestseller [A Hundred Summers](#) (\$16), an American Gothic. The Indie Next Pick for it: "Memorial Day, 1938. As the 1938 hurricane bears down on Rhode Island, a storm of another kind is brewing in this novel that "blends history, romance, and social commentary into...much more than a summer guilty pleasure" (*Connecticut Post*)..."

Willig, Lauren. [That Summer](#) (St Martins \$25.99 June 11). Willig describes this as her English Gothic and it is, blending stories that begin in 2009 and 1839. They are both rooted in a house on London's Herne Hill, inherited in 2009 by New Yorker Julia Conley from a great-aunt. Surprise. Julia, still traumatized by the death of her mother when she was five, has grown up in the city, starting a career she took more or less to defy her family. Abruptly fired, she goes to Herne Hill to sort out the house and is cast into a modern family drama as well as one from the past, and into mysteries that include a hidden Pre-Raphaelite painting found behind a false back in an old wardrobe. The Victorian story is pretty grim, more Bronte than Willig, and very powerful. Recommended. August brings us a new adventure for the Pink Carnation spy ring. [Click here](#) for Willig's books and especially for the terrific *The Ashford Affair*.

Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Care and Management of Lies](#) (Harper \$26.99 June 30). First, not a Maisie Dobbs. But we're in familiar territory. "In this dazzling novel Jacqueline Winspear writes irresistibly about the First World War, both in the trenches of France and the fields of England. Her characters walk off the page and into our imaginations, as we fight with them, farm with them, cook with them. I devoured this book."—Margot Livesey. Herman Wouk (!) adds, "An engaging picture of the human spirit in a distant time of war, World War I, from the battlefields to the home front in an English village." You know going in this is going to be a heartbreaker as well as a story of grit and survival. Two women, best friends; two men who love one of them, who go to war; family, community, and tragedy. And the power of food, of a good table. Reread Winspear's debut, [Maisie Dobbs](#) (\$14.95).

FIRST NOVELS

Brady, Eileen. [Muzzled Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). A Phoenix author's debut, a cozy getting terrific reviews. "Readers will want to see more of the likable Kate, who, as she snoops and doctors, provides an inside look at quirky pet owners and the oft-satirized dog show set (shoe polish shines a nose!)." —*PW*. See Event Books. Note: the hardcover is sold out, so don't delay ordering. A trade paperback edition: [Muzzled](#) (\$14.95).

Brookes, Adam. [Night Heron Signed](#) (Redhouse/Little Brown \$27). Another timely topic and landscape. A lone man called Peanut escapes a labor camp in the dead of night, fleeing across the winter desert of north-west China in harrowingly described scenes. You are immediately stunned by his perseverance, patience—and cunning. Two decades earlier, he was a spy for the British. But now Peanut must disappear on Beijing's surveillance-blanketed streets. Desperate and ruthless, he reaches out to his one-time MI6 paymasters via crusading journalist Philip Mangan, offering military secrets in return for extraction. But the secrets

prove more valuable than Peanut or Mangan could ever imagine... and not only to the British. A first rate thriller, unusual, and also a June **First Mystery Club Pick**. I was forcibly reminded of Eliot Pattison's Edgar-winning debut [The Skull Mantra](#) (\$16.99), one of our bestsellers ever, which began in a harsh Chinese labor camp far to the west of Beijing. Don't miss it either if you have not read it. Both make great gifts for Dad.

Brown, Andrew. [Coldsleep Lullaby](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Now here is a truly engrossing story, one that begins the present-day wine lands of South Africa—Stellenbosch—when Detective Eberard Februarie is summoned to investigate the death of a young woman found adrift in the Eerste River. She turns out to be the daughter of a Boer lecturer at the Faculty of law, an activist in defending the Afrikaans culture. Three centuries earlier, the Dutch Governor at the Cape arrived at this river and envisioned the vineyards that would eventually take root in this climate so different to Europe's but capable of producing great grapes. The modern investigation runs atop a brutal Boer backstory and eventually the two dovetail. The whole underlines Paton's long ago novel, *Cry the Beloved Country*, and forms a work akin to the super novels of Malla Nunn I've long endorsed. Brown, a novelist, lawyer and Cape Town volunteer police officer, won the *Sunday Times* Fiction Prize for this outstanding book.

Burton, Jessie. [The Miniaturist Signed](#) (Picador UK \$33). This debut for fans of Chevalier's *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Tartt's *The Goldfinch*, set in 1700s Amsterdam, will be our **July History/Mystery Club Pick**. Non-club members should order quickly to secure a copy as supply is limited.

Collins, Courtney. [The Untold](#) (Amy Einhorn Books/Putnam \$26.95). With shades of *Water for Elephants* and *True Grit*, a stunning debut novel set in the Australian outback about a female horse thief, her bid for freedom, and the two men trying to capture her. "Collins deftly navigates Cormac McCarthy territory right out of the gate with her searing novel of real-life horse thief Jessie Hickman. Hickman tries to escape her convict life and brutal husband while a fellow thief and the sheriff search for her. Collins's writing is gorgeous and unflinching, conjuring magic from history, dust, and dirt."

Donoghue, Clare. [Never Look Back](#) (St Martins \$24.99). An able but not inspired debut features a South London copper, Mike Lockyer, head of homicide, faced with the horrible murders of three young women, their bodies discarded—in fact, perhaps staged in death. Each was in plain view, and only a few feet away from help during the attacks that killed them. As he and DS Jane Bennett work to establish a link, we learn about Sarah Grainger. Once an outgoing photographer, she senses a shadowy stalker who is escalating his invasions of her life. Is he desperate to tell her a secret, a secret that Lockyer's team should know? And is he a predator, or a protector?

Frank, Matthew. [If I Should Die Signed](#) (Joseph \$36). For the Met investigation team's newest member, Joseph Stark, death is already all too familiar. Injured in an attack that killed his fellow soldiers and tortured by nightmares since he returned, Afghan veteran Stark has enough on his hands just trying to recover without enduring the scrutiny and sideways glances of his new colleagues. The drink and painkillers he's leaning on to keep going aren't helping. And there's only so long he can ignore the efforts of the Ministry of Defence to speak to him. When one of

the victims of the attacks fights back it's soon clear that there's much more at stake than gangs preying randomly on society's weakest members. But as Stark hunts down the truth—and the rotten heart of the crimes—his own strength is fading. It seems that the ex-soldier's determination to see justice done may not, this time, be enough to carry him through. Starts a series with promise for fans of Mark Billingham, Peter James, Andy McNab, and *Prime Suspect*.

≠Giltrow, Helen. [The Distance Signed](#) (Orion \$35). Charlotte Alton has put her old life behind her. The life where she bought and sold information, unearthing secrets buried too deep for anyone else to find, or fabricating new identities for people who need their histories erased. But now she has been offered one more job. To get a hit-man into an experimental new prison and take out someone who according to the records isn't there at all. It's impossible. A suicide mission. And quite possibly a set-up. So why can't she say no?

Go, Justin. [The Steady Running of the Hour Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). Last call for this dynamic **First Mystery Club Pick** with its far-flung landscapes including Mt. Everest and the WWI killing fields, its sweeping quest for a fortune by a potential heir, and the verve and style of the writing. I'm amazed we aren't sold out and urge you not to miss this splendid reading experience. **A great gift for Dad too as there's a bit of a boy's-own-adventure to it.**

Goodman, Lee. [Indefensible](#) (Atria \$26). The author lives in Alaska so signed books are not an option; otherwise this would be our June Thriller Club Pick as it offers fresh twists on the legal thriller in a combination both cynical and compassionate. It's almost like Deaver hung over his shoulder writing the end game(s). It begins when birdwatcher Cassandra Randall, accidentally observing two men digging a grave-like something in a state park that is probably in New England given references to shuttered mills. She reports it to the authorities and Federal Prosecutor Nick Davis in the US Attorney's office, not taking it seriously, investigates the site. Voila—there is a body. Which turns out to be 'a shy and likable kid who was selling pot to pay his college tuition.' More deaths follow. Nick, who heads the criminal division of his district's U.S. Attorney's office, turns for help to such distinctive supporting characters as his world-weary FBI agent friend, Chip d'Villafranca, and colleague Upton Cruthers, his probable successor if Nick gets a Circuit Court judgeship. A 'rotten summer' of killings turns into a bitter autumn of self-doubt for Nick, who wrestles with both the prosecutor's sin, failure of objectivity, and the defender's, failure of loyalty."—*PW* Starred Review. Despite threats to his extended family. Nick knows that he must hold fast to the law, until he learns the cost. And ultimately, he achieves justice in unorthodox ways even a strict constructionist might applaud. I certainly did. One could compare it to Landay's bestselling *Defending Jacob*. The many faces of being a father Goodman paints make this another interesting gift idea.

Hayes, Terry. [I Am Pilgrim Signed](#) (Atria \$26.99). An exceptional thriller that boasts an utterly credible narrator who has had so many covert identities he can barely remember his original name. Soul-weary Scott Murdoch (aka the Pilgrim) has retired from the top echelon of ultrasecret espionage, but duty and faith in the human spirit call him back into service. A lone-

wolf Middle Eastern native whom the Pilgrim code names “the Saracen” has a sure-fire bioterrorist plot to destroy the United States. In the cinematic chase that ensues, the action traverses the globe, from the Oval Office to the dusty trails of Afghanistan, each scene fleshed out in the smallest resonating detail (e.g., a Down syndrome child’s laughter, the endless nausea of waterboarding). Like many pilgrimages, this one is painfully long and packed with unexpected menace, its glimpses of the goal fitful and far between, but readers will agree that this journey of body and soul is well worth the effort. In its Starred Review, PW adds, “This is a book whose style and storyline will haunt you for a long time.” **A First Mystery Club Pick for one of the biggest books of the year.** Writing in the *NY Times*, Janet Maslin finds, “By Page 50, this book has involved Detroit, Dubai, Red Square, the Black Hills of South Dakota, Santorini, Greenwich, and a Nazi concentration camp; its plot has touched on the martial art Krav Maga and a secret code disguised as Shania Twain music. Mr. Hayes’s globe-trotting book has more kicks, twists and winks than anything of its dusty genre has provided in a long time. You will be happily surprised to find a new thriller franchise with brains to match its brawn.”

Howorth, Lisa. [Flying Shoes](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). A funny, compassionate first novel tracks a week in the small-town Mississippi life of a woman confronting a 30-year-old family tragedy. Mary Byrd Thornton, the scatterbrained wife of gallery owner Charles and mother of 11-year-old Eliza and eight-year-old William, is unsettled by a cold call from a Richmond, Va., police detective wanting to reopen the decades-old unsolved murder of Mary Byrd’s nine-year-old step-brother, she must revisit that life-changing family event just as a freak ice storm rattles through her bucolic Mississippi college town. Planes are grounded, roads are slick with black ice... this may sound like the makings of some kind of Southern gothic nightmare, and in many ways it is. However, in Howorth’s able hands, it is more Barry Hannah than Larry Brown—more funny, character-driven storytelling with crackling dialogue than whiskey-fueled violence and mayhem. The title comes both from a Townes Van Zandt song and from young William’s fascination with the winged sandals of mythology’s Mercury—“if you didn’t like something, or something bad happened, you would just fly away.” But Mary Byrd knows better: you can’t fly away from your troubles, your family tree or your Delta roots.

Malerman, Josh. [The Bird Box](#) (Ecco \$25.99). Using Detroit as its landscape, artfully playing on our fear of the unknown, Malerman defines a world in which something has arrived on Earth—something that, when one looks upon it, causes instant madness and deadly violence. The few remaining survivors have largely hidden indoors, sheltered behind closed doors and curtained windows. Venturing outside requires extreme caution and a covering over the eyes. Written in the present tense, the chapters toggle between the movements of Malorie and her two young children throughout one very long and scary day navigating a 20-mile river trip while blindfolded and Malorie’s memories of the last half-decade that led up to that day. Although graphic in some spots, most of the page-turning tension is produced by what is not seen, but heard and felt and imagined as Malerman explores the world of the senses and the way humans interact with one another when trapped in a house together for a long period.

Maum, Courtney. [I Am Having So Much Fun Here Without You](#) (Touchstone \$25.99). Despite the success of his first solo show in Paris and the support of his brilliant French wife and young daughter, 34-year-old British artist Richard Haddon is too busy mourning the loss of his American mistress to a famous cutlery designer to appreciate his fortune. But after Richard discovers that a painting he originally made for his wife—when they were first married and deeply in love—has sold, it shocks him back to reality and he resolves to reinvest wholeheartedly in his family life just in time for his wife to learn the extent of his affair. Rudderless and remorseful, Richard embarks on a series of misguided attempts to win Anne back. The Indie Next Pick: “Sometimes a book’s characters grab you by the heart and make you ache with understanding and anticipation. You will laugh, wince, and relate as Maum’s debut plunges you into a visceral experience with her characters that is both familiar and agonizing. Love, trust, and creative expression are explored as a French lawyer and a British artist grapple with whether love can be rebuilt after betrayal. Gripping!”

✕Owen, Lauren. [The Quick Signed](#) (Cape \$39). A high-buzz debut, variously described as “A sly and glittering addition to the literature of the macabre... As soon as you have breathed with relief, much worse horrors begin.”—Hilary Mantel. Or “A suspenseful, gloriously atmospheric novel, and a feast of gothic storytelling.”—Kate Atkinson. What we have is a kind of Dickens or Sarah Waters Victorian—and vampires. A darker, wilder version of Setterfield’s [The Thirteenth Tale](#) (\$16) and, appropriately, set in the wilds of Yorkshire where an orphaned brother and sister are bound by tragedy. Then there’s London and luxurious rooms of the mysterious Aegolius Club whose members are among the richest, and most ambitious, men in England. At some point, a trapdoor will open, changing the contours of reality.... See British Books for more.

Palmer, Matthew. [The American Mission Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). **A First Mystery Club Pick** compels with its no-holds-barred look at the Foreign Service and the role of exploiters, individual, corporate, nations, in the Congo. Fabulous. See Event Books.

Tucker, Neely. [The Ways of the Dead Signed](#) (Viking \$26 June 19). Although Neely is writing in Pelecanos territory, the backstreets of DC, basing his story on the 1990s Princeton Place murders, it’s easy to see why Michael Connelly and John Sandford champion it—the protagonist is a reporter, one Sully Carter; the newsroom clearly that of the *Washington Post* if named differently; and the investigation shows how an investigative journalist sinks his teeth into a developing story and won’t let go. Irresistible—thus a **First Mystery Club Pick**. See Event Books for a bigger review.

BRITISH BOOKS

Aird, Catherine. [Dead Heading](#) (St Martins \$25.99). CD (Seedy) Sloan and Constable Crosby, two of my favorite coppers, keeping Calleshire County safe from malfeasance and actual evil doers. Lively, amusing, and cleverly plotted, this long-running series is one of my favorites and this new chapter struck me as especially entertaining with an especially tricky mystery at its heart. A break-in at Jack Haines’ greenhouse exposing the orchids to a wicked frost seems to be mere malicious mischief. But Sloan’s intuition says there’s more. Similar reports then

arrive and sabotage is hotly rumored—the local plant industry is competitive. Then Sloan and Crosby are drawn into the case of the missing, and mysterious, Miss Enid Maude Osgathorp, who lives simply but enjoys luxury travel. And her deserted home at Canonry Cottage house has been ransacked. All the clues are laid out but I didn't see the end coming until...I neared the end. Enjoy! Some of Aird's extensive backlist can be ordered: [click here](#) to view.

Airth, Rennie. [The Reckoning Signed](#) (Macmillan \$43). The 4th John Madden mystery—at last! On a quiet afternoon in 1947, retired bank manager Oswald Gibson is shot in the head while fishing. In Scotland, a respectable family doctor is killed in the same manner—and with the same gun. What is the connection? Scotland Yard's Detective Inspector Billy Styles and local detective Vic Chivers are baffled until a letter from Gibson is discovered that might shed some light on the case—a letter concerning former Scotland Yard detective John Madden. Despite Madden's legendary memory, he has no recollection of meeting Gibson or any idea of what their relationship might have been. Madden is happily retired from police work, but agrees to help his former protégé Styles and the clues they uncover only deepen the mystery. **The Unsigned August US edition goes to our British Crime Club members who don't order the Signed UK edition.**

Auxier, Jonathan. [The Night Gardener](#) (Amulet \$16.95). Intended for Young Adult readers and a winner for those who've enjoyed John Connolly's [The Book of Lost Things](#) (\$16), also for YAs, and imaginative tales like *The Narnia Chronicles*. Readers first meet 14-year-old Molly and 10-year-old Kip McConnachie, two Irish orphaned siblings, as they navigate the English countryside through the "sourwoods" in search of the Windsor estate. Broke and alone, Molly has secured a place for them as servants to a family that turns out to be in financial distress itself. What alarms Molly most about the rundown mansion is the way a tree has "insinuated itself into the very architecture." Its limbs protrude through the plaster walls. Quickly making themselves indispensable, Molly takes great care of the lady of the house and her two spoiled children, Penny and Alistair, while Kip, who may be lame, nonetheless recreates a glorious garden. The house and its family are haunted by this mysterious tree with a mind of its own and the sinister Night Gardener who cares for it. Auxier shifts the third-person narrative between Molly and Kip's perspectives to tell us the power of the tree, the Night Gardener, and of storytelling. Plus there's a surprise ending.

Baker, Jo. [Longbourn](#) (\$15.95). A hit in hardcover, Baker's imagining of life for the servants of Austen's Bennet family works surprisingly well. Fans of *Downton Abbey*, *Upstairs, Downstairs*, etc., not to mention *Pride and Prejudice*, should grab this. Speaking of *Pride and Prejudice*, PD James imagined a well textured, spirited follow up—crimes too—in [Death Comes to Pemberley](#) (\$15).

Billingham, Mark. [Bones Beneath Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$43). Tom Thorne is back in charge—but there's a terrifying price to pay. Stuart Nicklin, the most dangerous psychopath he has ever put behind bars, promises to reveal the whereabouts of a body he buried twenty-five years before. But only if Thorne agrees to escort him. Unable to refuse, Thorne gathers a team and travels to a remote Welsh island, at the mercy of the weather and cut off

from the mainland. Thorne is determined to get the job done and return home before Nicklin can outwit them. But Nicklin knows this island well and has had time to plan ahead... US edition: [Bones Beneath](#) (Grove \$26). New in paperback: [Dying Hours](#) (\$15).

Bolton, Sharon. [A Dark and Twisted Tide Signed](#) (Transworld \$32). To write of London is to write of the Thames. This case begins in the river. One morning police officer Lacey Flint, out for an unlawful swim off her houseboat, finds the body of a shrouded young woman at the old King's Wharf. She assumes the discovery was one of chance. But what if the body had been left near the mouth of Deptford Creek for Lacey to find? The story highlights the cultural/racial mix of London and provides a surprise killer. Bolton is one of my favorite contemporary British crime writers and this new Lacey Flint confirms her skills (earlier books are written as SJ Bolton). Bolton is a Mary Higgins Clark Award winner. US edition: [A Dark and Twisted Tide](#) (St Martins \$25.99).

Booth, Stephen. [The Corpse Bridge Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$45). July, but please order now to avoid disappointment. The old Corpse Bridge is the route taken for centuries by mourners from villages on the western fringes of Derbyshire to a burial ground across the River Dove, now absorbed into the landscaped parkland of a stately home. When Earl Manby, the landowner, announces plans to deconsecrate the burial ground to turn it into a car park for his holiday cottages, bodies begin to appear once again on the road to the Corpse Bridge. Is there a connection with the Earl's plans? Or worse, is there a terrifying serial killer at work? Back in his job after the traumatic events of previous months, Detective Sergeant Ben Cooper knows that he must unravel the mystery of the Corpse Bridge if he's going to be able to move on with his life. As the pressure builds, Ben doesn't know who he can trust and, when the case reaches breaking point, he has to make a call that could put everything—and everyone—at risk.

Casey, Jane. [The Stranger You Know](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Casey's 4th Maeve Kerrigan is our **June British Crime Club Pick**. I've liked this series all along, yet this entry grabs me the most in a month where we're spoilt for choice for terrific British crime. London copper Maeve is a wonderful character: resolute, creative, intuitive, admiring of her difficult partner DI Derwent. She's up against someone who meets women, gains their trust, then sadistically kills them in their homes where no sign of a break-in shows. Puzzled how to move forward, Maeve is shocked when evidence points to Derwent whose secrets begin to emerge. How well does she know him? "The Maeve Kerrigan [novels are] all solid procedurals with exceptionally well-drawn characters whose relationship continue to develop in each entry. Derwent, a brilliant copper in Maeve's eyes despite his numerous personality defects, serves as a foil and balance for her, and, with him at the center here, this novel attains further complexity in the interplay of the police-force members. Prime crime fiction."—*Booklist* Starred Review. Start at the series' beginning by [clicking here](#) to order.

Davies, David Stuart. [The Darke Chronicles: Tales of a Victorian Puzzle-Solver](#) (History Press \$13.95). From a Holmes expert, a collection of short stories introducing the aristocratic and flamboyant Victorian detective Luther Darke, who tackles

mysteries which have baffled Scotland Yard and are seemingly unexplained. The cases take Darke into a world of deception, murderous sleights of hand, spiritualism, vampires, curses, and phantoms in *fin de siècle* London. A treat for fans of vintage crime fiction (and Sherlockians).

Donoghue, Clare. [Never Look Back](#) (St Martins \$24.99). South London policeman Mike Lockyear chases a serial killer.... See First Novels.

Fielding, Helen. [Bridget Jones: Mad About the Boy](#) (\$15.95). The awkward, journaling Londoner is back....

Frank, Matthew. [If I Should Die Signed](#) (Joseph \$36). See First Novels for more on this edgy South London police procedural that I hope starts a series.

Galbraith, Robert. [The Silkworm](#) (LittleBrown \$28). When novelist Owen Quine goes missing, his wife calls in private detective Cormoran Strike. At first, Mrs. Quine just thinks her husband has gone off by himself for a few days—as he has done before—and she wants Strike to find him and bring him home. But as Strike investigates, it becomes clear that there is more to Quine’s disappearance than his wife realizes. The novelist has just completed a manuscript featuring poisonous pen-portraits of almost everyone he knows. If the novel were to be published, it would ruin lives—meaning that there are a lot of people who might want him silenced. When Quine is found brutally murdered under bizarre circumstances, it becomes a race against time to understand the motivation of a ruthless killer.

Anyone who orders this edition of “Galbraith’s” second book after [The Cuckoo’s Calling](#) (\$18) by on-sale date June 19 will be put into a drawing to purchase a UK copy Signed by JK Rowling (who is writing as Galbraith) at the UK regular price.

Giltrow, Helen. [The Distance Signed](#) (Orion \$35). See First Novels.

Grimes, Martha. [Vertigo 42 Signed](#) (Scribner \$26). Supt. Richard Jury. And shades of Alfred Hitchcock. See Event Books.

Harrod-Eagles, Cynthia. [Phoenix](#) (\$13.95). #35 in the Morland Dynasty series that began during the War of the Roses and hews to one family....

Healey, Emma. [Elizabeth is Missing](#) (Harper \$25.99). Despite Maud’s growing anxiety about Elizabeth’s welfare, no one takes her concerns seriously—not her frustrated daughter, not her caretakers, not the police in the south of England, and especially not Elizabeth’s mercurial son—because Maud suffers from dementia. But even as her memory disintegrates and she becomes increasingly dependent on the trail of handwritten notes she leaves for herself in her pockets and around her house, Maud cannot forget her best friend. Armed with only an overwhelming feeling that Elizabeth needs her help, Maud resolves to discover the truth—no matter what it takes. As this singular obsession forms a cornerstone of Maud’s rapidly dissolving present, the clues she uncovers lead her deeper into her past, to another unsolved disappearance: that of her sister, Sukey, who vanished shortly after World War II. As vivid memories of a tragedy that occurred more than fifty years ago come flooding back, Maud’s search for Elizabeth develops a frantic momentum. Whom can she trust? Herself maybe least of all?

James, Peter. [Want You Dead Signed](#) (Macmillan \$46). When Red Westwood meets handsome, charming and rich Bryce Laurent through an online dating agency, there is an instant attraction. But as their love blossoms, the truth about his past, and his dark side, begins to emerge. Everything he has told Red about himself turns out to be a tissue of lies, and her infatuation with him gradually turns to terror. Within a year, and under police protection, she evicts him from her flat and her life. But Red’s nightmare is only just beginning. For Bryce is obsessed with her, and he intends to destroy everything and everyone she has ever known and loved—and then her too. James is a perennial #1 British bestseller.

Kasasian, Martin. [The Curse of the House of Foskett Signed](#) (Harcourt \$39). 25 Gower Street, 1882. Sidney Grice once had a reputation as London’s most perspicacious personal detective. But since his last case led an innocent man to the gallows, business has been light. Listless and depressed, Grice has taken to lying in the bath for hours, emerging in the evenings for a little dry toast and a lot of tea. Usually a voracious reader, he will pick up neither book nor newspaper. He has not even gathered the strength to re-insert his glass eye. His ward, March Middleton, has been left to dine alone. Then an eccentric member of a Final Death Society has the temerity to die on his study floor. Finally, Sidney and March have an investigation to mount, an investigation that will draw them to an eerie house in Kew, and the mysterious Baroness Foskett... Kasasian’s first was the smashing [The Mangle Street Murders](#) (\$25.95).

King, Laurie R. [The Beekeeper’s Apprentice 20th Anniversary Edition Signed](#) (Picador \$25). Hard to believe it’s been 20 years since teenager Mary Russell met Sherlock Holmes. But so it is.... Look for a new adventure for them next February. Trade paperback edition: [The Beekeeper’s Apprentice 20th Anniversary Signed](#) (\$17).

Marston, Edward. [Inspector Colbeck’s Casebook: Thirteen Tales Signed](#) (Allison \$45). All original, and challenging.

Owen, Lauren. [The Quick Signed](#) (Cape \$39). For fans of Anne Rice, *The Historian*, and *The Night Circus*. 1892: James Norbury, a shy would-be poet newly down from Oxford, finds lodging with a charming young aristocrat. Through this new friendship, he is introduced to the drawing-rooms of high society and finds love in an unexpected quarter. Then, suddenly, he vanishes without a trace. Alarmed, his sister, Charlotte, sets out from their crumbling country estate determined to find him. In the sinister, labyrinthine London that greets her, she uncovers a hidden, supernatural city populated by unforgettable characters: a female rope walker turned vigilante, a street urchin with a deadly secret, and the chilling “Doctor Knife.” But the answer to her brother’s disappearance ultimately lies within the doors of the exclusive, secretive Aegolius Club, whose predatory members include the most ambitious, and most bloodthirsty, men in England. Random House is giving the US edition a giant push: [The Quick](#) (\$27).

Parsons, Tony. [The Murder Bag Signed](#) (Century \$21). A smashing start to London-based police series that begins in one of England’s oldest public schools, one founded by Henry VIII in 1509 (and where he had his prized dogs interred in a special grave). Max Wolfe follows his conviction in the face of orders to stand down and kills a suicide bomber. He gets The Queen’s Medal, but what he wants is to join the Homicide Division,

and so he does, at 27 Savile Row, London's West End Central. Working with a mentor he respects, he's thrown into one, then two brutal killings, men with their throats so cut they smothered before they bled out. Max connects the two victims through a photo of a group of boys who were pupils together at Potter's Field school. Max, a single dad with a five-year-old daughter called Scout (shades of *To Kill a Mockingbird*) and a scared King Charles Spaniel puppy, isn't going to last long with all that's thrown at him in this—but it makes for an exciting, surprising read (albeit with one cliché I wish Parsons had skipped). Love the writing, the characterizations. Our **Surprise Me Club Pick** for June, but highly recommended to fans of Peter Robinson and Ian Rankin, Peter James too.

Runcie, James. [Sidney Chambers and the Problem of Evil](#) (\$17). Canon Sidney Chambers attempts to stop a serial killer with a grievance against the clergy; investigates the disappearance of a famous painting after a distracting display of nudity by a French girl in an art gallery; uncovers the fact that an "accidental" drowning on a film shoot may have been something more sinister; and discovers the reasons behind the theft of a baby from a hospital just before Christmas 1963. In the meantime, Sidney wrestles with the problem of evil and attempts to fulfill the demands of his faithful Labrador, Dickens. 3rd in the Grantchester mysteries, projected to be six set from 1953-81. Click [here](#) to order all three.

Setterfield, Diane. [Bellman and Black](#) (\$16). This is the moment for me to urge you to read Setterfield's unsettling, amazing bestseller, the country-house, Gothic, bibliomystery [The Thirteenth Tale](#) (\$16). This new book is less successful, a kind of Victorian ghost story inspired by a flock of rooks. When young William Bellman in a moment of boyhood bravado aims his slingshot at one such bird and kills it, he little knows the future consequences the act will bring....

Shaw, William. [A House of Knives Signed](#) (Quercus \$41). London, November 1968. The decade is drawing its last breath. In Marylebone CID, suspects are beaten in the cells and the only woman has resigned. Detective Sergeant Breen has a death threat in his in tray and two burned bodies on his hands. One is an unidentified, unmourned vagrant; the other the wayward son of a rising politician. One case suffers the apathy of a depleted police force; the other obstructed by a PR-conscious father with the ear of the Home Office. But they can't stop him talking to Robert 'Groovy Bob' Fraser—whose glamorous Pop Art parties mask a spreading heroin addiction among London's young and beautiful—nor to a hippy squat that risks exposing it. Then the potential perpetrator of his death threats is murdered and Breen becomes a suspect. Out in the cold, banished from a corrupt and mercilessly changing system, Breen is finally forced to fight fire with fire. William Shaw paints the real portrait of London's swinging sixties. Authentic, powerful and poignant, it reveals the shadow beyond the spotlight and the crimes committed in the name of liberation. Start Shaw with *A Song from Dead Lips Signed* (\$36); US title [She's Leaving Home](#) (\$26).

Simson, Graeme. [The Rosie Project](#) (\$15.99). A gem of a debut posits a brilliant professor of genetics who wishes to get a wife. Don't difficulty? He has Asperger's, making him socially inept. Determined, he designs the Wife Project, a 16-page valid survey to filter out the unsuitable. And then he meets Rosie Jarman

who is pursuing a design of her own: The Father Project. This delightful romantic comedy strikes many notes as Simson pursues his literary design with warmth, depth, humor, and an evident delight in the characters he's created. A Modern Firsts Club Pick in 2013.

Tope, Rebecca. [Trouble in the Cotswolds](#) (Allison \$29.95). Thea Osborne hopes to spend a quiet Christmas house-sitting in the picturesque village of Stanton despite the bleak winter. Walks in the local countryside with the dogs are all the excitement she wants. Her arrival at the village coincides with the funeral of Douglas Callender and the murder of his girlfriend the following day. Thea's interest is stirred but the onset of flu looks to prevent any sleuthing. However, when two people show up brutally murdered the following afternoon, even when battling a fever Thea finds herself thrust into the middle of yet another Police investigation. With the Callendar family linked to most of the village Stanton is bursting with motives for the murders.

Todd, Charles. [A Question of Honor](#) (\$14.99). The 5th mystery for Bess Crawford, WWI nurse and reluctant but successful sleuth. This tale begins in India under the British Raj where in 1908 Bess' father is serving with his regiment. A member under suspicion of murder vanished near the Khyber Pass. But his body was never found. And now, in 1918 France... See our May Trade Paperback Picks.

Upson, Nicola. [The Death of Lucy Kyte](#) (Harper \$15.99). Golden Age author Josephine Tey is Upson's detective, pursuing a lesbian lifestyle in London and living more discreetly in her ancestral Scottish village. Upson has upped her game and skills book to book which I recommend you read in order. *PW* has this to say in its Starred Review: "Lyrical prose ('sheaves of corn stood abandoned, like the forgotten tents of a retreating army') and subtle plotting make Upson's fifth novel a worthy successor to [Fear in the Sunlight](#) (\$14.99), a *PW* Best Mystery of 2013. Tey, who's struggling with writing a biography, is surprised to learn of a bequest from her godmother, actress Hester Larkspur (who was a close friend of Tey's mother), as she herself barely knew the woman. Larkspur has left her a Red Barn Cottage in Suffolk located near the site of a notorious murder, and the will gives the writer the choice of sorting through its contents, including the actress's papers, or having them all destroyed unseen. Tey decides to take a look at what she's inherited, and, in the process, learns some unsettling details about the circumstances of her godmother's death. In addition, the cottage may be haunted. Upson lays out the suspicious events gradually, but amply rewards her readers' patience with a satisfying resolution that feels true to life rather than pat." [Click here](#) for the other three in series.

Walsh, Jill Paton. [The Late Scholar](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Walsh wraps up the career of Lord Peter Wimsey and his wife, the novelist Harriet Vane, now a Duchess as Peter succeeds to his brother's estate and title: Duke of Denver. In a way this is *Downton*, and it breaks new ground while retaining the spirit of the Sayers' classics although I'm not convinced DLS, despite her love for Wimsey, would approve of his elevation to a dukedom. The great fun here also is the return to Oxford, this time to St. Severins College where Peter has agreed to another title, that of Visitor, an Oxford term for a mediator. St. Severins possesses a priceless book alleged to have belonged to Alfred the Great. One

faction of the Fellows wants to sell the book in order to purchase land to later sell at profit, while the other opposes the sale on the grounds that the scholarly value of the volume far outweighs its monetary worth. Deadlocked, they summon the new Visitor. Peter arrives to find the Warden missing and fatal accidents befalling certain dons, one so like a fall depicted in one of Harriet's books that the couple suspect...murder. I say this 4th by Walsh is a wrap, but in crime, you never know... This book will read better if you first peruse [The Attenbury Emeralds](#) (\$14.99).

Willig, Lauren. [That Summer Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). A wonderful English Gothic running a modern tale over a dark Victorian thriller. I like the love story too. See Event Books.

Wilson, Edward. [The Whitehall Mandarin](#) (Arcadia \$28.95). British intelligence has a mole deep in the KGB. When that mole reports on a Soviet spy ring in London, MI6 gets worried. And when MI6 gets worried, they call Catesby. He is sent on a mole hunt that leads him through the seamy sex scandals of 1960s London to the jungles of Vietnam. The tectonic plates of world power are shifting. Thrilling and deeply intelligent, *The Whitehall Mandarin* reveals the US government's most deeply held secret—its investigation into the People's Republic of China, and its concurrent rise to world domination. It's a secret that Catesby may not live to share. "Thematically, Wilson cares little for the machinations of the old-boy aristocracy who find themselves at the helms of superpowers. He takes shots at Hiroshima's psycho-sexual implications, the Bay of Pigs bumbling, Mao's bad dental habits and the realpolitik of Red China's quest for the hydrogen bomb. This cynically complex plot is laid over perfectly described settings, from London to Moscow to Vietnam. Wilson's characters and their consciences come alive to lend the book its power. 'The wonderful thing about espionage wasn't what enemies did to each other, but the way allies stabbed each other in the back,' he writes. A deftly plotted homage to the mavens of Cold War spy thrillers."—*Kirkus*

Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Care and Management of Lies Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99). "In this dazzling novel Jacqueline Winspear writes irresistibly about the First World War, both in the trenches of France and the fields of England. Her characters walk off the page and into our imaginations, as we fight with them, farm with them, cook with them. I devoured this book."—Margot Livesey. Reread Winspear's debut in [Maisie Dobbs](#) (\$14.95)

LOST FOR WORDS: BRITISH SATIRES ON LITERARY PRIZES

Edwards, Ruth Dudley. [Carnage on the Committee](#) (\$14.95). More a stab to the heart of literary prize committees than St. Aubyn's new novel, Edwards' book is also a murder mystery not unlike Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. When the chairperson of the prestigious Knapper-Warburton Literary Prize dies in suspicious circumstances, Robert Amiss (the token sane member of the judging panel) wastes no time in summoning Baroness "Jack" Troutbeck to step into the chair. Speculation that a killer may be targeting the judges worries the baroness not in the slightest. It's the prospect of immersing herself in modern literature that fills her with dread. But noblesse must oblige, even when it means joining the ranks of the superciliati sitting in judgment of the literati. With the baroness at the helm, the judges resume the task of whittling away at the short-list. But the killer,

too, has resumed work and is whittling away at the judges. The *NY Times* delights in *Carnage*, saying "The literary cognoscenti hold no terror for this ribald satirist."

St Aubyn, Edward. [Lost for Words](#) (FSG \$26). Winner of the 2014 Bollinger Everyman Wodehouse Prize for Comic Fiction. Ironically, this clever, amusing, and trenchant satire of literary awards has won one. The *Guardian* reports, "At the Hay Festival May 24, St. Aubyn wins a Gloucestershire Old Spot pig—to be named after his winning novel—plus the Everyman's Library edition of P.G. Wodehouse and a selection of champagne. Calling himself 'delighted and grateful,' St. Aubyn said, 'The only thing I was sure of when I was writing this satire on literary prizes was that it wouldn't win any prizes. I was wrong. I had overlooked the one prize with a sense of humor.'" What's *Lost for Words*, a great title, about? The judges on the panel of the Elysian Prize for Literature must get through hundreds of submissions to find the best book of the year. Meanwhile, a host of writers are desperate for Elysian attention: the brilliant writer and serial heartbreaker Katherine Burns; the lovelorn debut novelist Sam Black; and Bunjee, convinced that his magnum opus, *The Mulberry Elephant*, will take the literary world by storm. Things go terribly wrong when Katherine's publisher accidentally submits a cookbook in place of her novel; one of the judges finds himself in the middle of a scandal; and Bunjee, aghast to learn his book isn't on the short list, seeks revenge.

GLOBAL FICTION

Alaux, Jean-Pierre/Noel Balen. [Grand Cru Heist](#) (Le French Book \$12.95). In another Epicurean journey in France, wine critic Benjamin Cooker's world gets turned upside down in Paris. He retreats to the region around Tours to recover from [Treachery in Bordeaux](#) (\$12.95) at a luxury country hotel. There, a flamboyant British dandy, a spectacular blue-eyed blonde, a zealous concierge, and touchy local police disturb his well-deserved rest, so the Winemaker Detective and his assistant Virgile turn private eye to solve two murders and heist.

Black, Benjamin. [Holy Orders](#) (\$16). In 1950s Ireland the Catholic Church dominates nearly everyone's life. But when Quirke's daughter Phoebe loses her close friend, journalist Jimmy Minor to murder, Quirke can no longer play by the Church's rules. Along with Inspector Hackett, his sometime partner, Quirke investigates Jimmy's death, asking if whatever story he'd been working on contributed. The dour pathologist soon learns just how far the Church and its supporters will go to protect their own interests. "[*Holy Orders*] starts and ends as strongly as the best of the Quirkes...This 6th book may well introduce many readers to the series, as it is sure to get major attention this year when the BBC airs in Great Britain its production of Black's work. It stars Gabriel Byrne as Black's protagonist, the dour, self-hating, sometimes alcoholic pathologist, Quirke, in 1950s Dublin."—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Named One of the 10 Best Mysteries of 2013 by *The Wall Street Journal*. [Click here](#) to buy earlier Blacks including his Philip Marlowe homage.

Boyd, William. [Solo: A James Bond Novel](#) (\$15.99). It's 1969, and, having just celebrated his forty-fifth birthday, James Bond—British special agent 007—is summoned to headquarters to receive an unusual assignment. Zanzarim, a troubled West African nation, is being ravaged by a bitter civil war, and M directs Bond to quash the rebels threatening the established

regime. Bond's arrival in Africa marks the start of a feverish mission to discover the forces behind this brutal war—where nothing is straightforward.

Brackmann, Lisa. [Hour of the Rat](#) (\$14.95). Iraq War vet Ellie McEnroe has a pretty good life in Beijing, representing the work of controversial dissident Chinese artist Zhang Jianli. Even though Zhang's mysterious disappearance has attracted the attention of the Chinese authorities. Even though her Born-Again mother has come for a visit and shows no signs of leaving. But things really get complicated when Ellie's agrees to help out an old Army buddy with his search for his missing brother. Ellie finds herself entangled in a conspiracy that may or may not involve a sinister biotech company, eco-terrorists, an art-obsessed Chinese billionaire, and lots of cats—a conspiracy that will take her on a wild chase through some of China's most beautiful and most surreal places. Brackmann's first novel *Rock, Paper, Tiger* made a First Mystery Pick. [Click here](#) to order.

Brown, Andrew. [Coldsleep Lullaby](#) (St Martins \$24.99). A knockout debut set in South Africa now and under the Dutch. See First Novels. To understand it better, read Emma Brockes. [She Left Me the Gun](#) (\$16). Despite her mother's tales of a rustic childhood in South Africa and bohemian years in London, Brockes grew up knowing that some crucial pieces of the past were left unspoken. A mystery to her friends and family, Brockes' mother, Paula, was glamorous, no-nonsense, and totally out of place in their quaint English village. What compelled her to emigrate to England was never explained, nor what empowered her tremendous strengths and strange fears. Looking to unearth the truth after Paula's death, Brockes begins a dangerous journey into the land—and the life—her mother fled, a life shaped by South Africa's violent history.

Camilleri, Andrea. [Angelica's Smile](#) (Penguin \$16). "CWA International Dagger Award-winner Camilleri's many fans will shout *grazie* for his 17th Insp. Salvo Montalbano mystery (after 2013's *Treasure Hunt*). Montalbano, who, perhaps, loves his antipasto more than his detective work, looks into a rash of copycat burglaries in the Sicilian coastal village of Vigàta. Victims are carefully chosen for the fact that they have two homes to burglarize. One such victim is Angelica Cosulich, so drop-dead gorgeous that Montalbano can barely breathe, much less speak, in her presence. But the investigation must go on! Midnight stakeouts, threatening anonymous letters, and even a puzzling murder ensue, all to the tune of those requisite seaside lunches and Angelica's alluring smile. Poor lovesick Montalbano tries to keep his mind on the case (but not too hard) in this delightful caper, replete with charming companions and a setting that's a pleasure to return to." The Montalbanos have made fabulous TV available on Direct via MHZ. [Click here](#) for the earlier books.

Disher, Garry. [Hell to Pay](#) (Soho \$26.95). Aussie author Disher executes hardboiled crime with the best, as his awards and reviews show. Now we meet Constable Paul Hirschhausen, just demoted from Adelaide, a booming metropolis in the south, to Riverton, a rustic backwater in "wool and wheat" country three hours north. But internal affairs is still after him despite his disgrace, maybe even willing to plant evidence of something. What's that bullet casing in his mailbox? When the body of a 16-year-old local girl is found on the side of the highway, the

situation in Tiverton gets even more sinister, and whether or not he finds her killer, there's going to be hell to pay. "Disher has drawn both a vivid and visceral picture of a backblocks bush town, its inhabitants ground down by the stresses of isolation, hard work and irregular, relentlessly shrinking incomes... The story pulls no punches." —*The Guardian*. New for jewel thief Wyatt in paper: [Fallout](#) (\$14.95).

Doerr, Anthony. [All the Light We Cannot See Signed](#) (Scribner \$27). An Indie Next Pick and a **Modern Firsts Club Pick** was ten years in the writing. The result: braided storylines to savor that explore the impact of a voice coming over radio, how to preserve a heritage as Paris was about to be invaded, and the progress of two different lives, two children's path that cross for but a moment in St. Malo as the Allies arrive to bomb it. How did they reach that moment, and what came after? The girl, blind, is the daughter of a Paris museum employee entrusted with a great treasure. The boy is German, curious, ferociously intelligent, a Jewish orphan with a young sister, a reluctant soldier whose passion is radio. They mature as WWII looms and rages, a time when "the potential of thousands of children will be unrealized or thwarted. Will a mythical gemstone save them or unite them? Gorgeously written, Doerr's epic tale brings alive the beauty of two souls, their quest for learning, the turbulent times they cannot control, and the rock that mysteriously guides their fate." Poignant, intimate, vintage are adjectives that come to mind.

Furst, Alan. [Midnight in Europe Signed](#) (Random \$27). Paris, 1938. As the shadow of war darkens Europe, democratic forces on the Continent struggle against fascism and communism, while in Spain the war has already begun. Alan Furst, whom Vince Flynn has called "the most talented espionage novelist of our generation," now gives us a taut, suspenseful, romantic, and richly rendered novel of spies and secret operatives in Paris and New York, in Warsaw and Odessa, on the eve of World War II. Cristián Ferrar, a brilliant and handsome Spanish émigré, is a lawyer in the Paris office of a prestigious international law firm. Ferrar is approached by the embassy of the Spanish Republic and asked to help a clandestine agency trying desperately to supply weapons to the Republic's beleaguered army—an effort that puts his life at risk in the battle against fascism. Joining Ferrar in this mission is a group of unlikely men and women: idealists and gangsters, arms traders and aristocrats and spies. From shady Paris nightclubs to white-shoe New York law firms, from brothels in Istanbul to the dockyards of Poland, Ferrar and his allies battle the secret agents of Hitler and Franco. The tapestry Furst has created from myriad aspects of the war forms a singular literary achievement. [Click here](#) to order the earlier books.

Highsmith, Patricia. [The Two Faces of January](#) (\$16). Originally published in 1964, and the winner of the CWA Best Foreign Novel Award. In a grubby Athens hotel, Rydal Keener is bored and killing time with petty scams. But when he runs into another American, Chester MacFarland, dragging a man's body down the hotel hall, Rydal impulsively agrees to help, perhaps because Chester looks like his father. Then Rydal meets Collete, Chester's younger wife, and captivated, becomes entangled in their sordid lives, as the drama marches to a shocking climax at the ruins of the labyrinth at Knossos. A film version of *The Two Faces of January*, starring Viggo Mortensen, Kirsten Dunst, and Oscar Isaac (*Drive*, *Inside Llewelyn Davis*) is in production.

Hill, Antonio. [The Good Suicides](#) (Crown \$26). After a company retreat in a remote country house, senior employees of Alemany Cosmetics return with a dark secret. They've each received an anonymous, menacing email of only two words: "Never forget". What's worse, the message is accompanied by a nightmarish photo attachment showing the bodies of dogs—hung to death from a tree—near the very same farm estate of the retreat. When they begin killing themselves, one by one, the connection between the shocking photos and the suicides baffles Barcelona law enforcement and corporate think tanks alike. Breaking through the insular power structures of these enigmatic executives isn't easy, but Barcelona's Inspector Salgado has his own ways of making those still alive speak up. As the clock is ticking before another suicide, Salgado ups his pace despite his preoccupation with the puzzle of his missing wife Ruth.... Salgado's first case, [The Summer of Dead Toys](#) (\$15), was a First Mystery Pick.

Kepler, Lars. [The Fire Witness](#) (\$16). Flora Hansen makes her living masquerading as a medium. Yet when a young woman is brutally murdered at a rural home for wayward girls, she begins to suffer visions that are all too real. She calls the police, claiming to have seen a ghost, but Detective Inspector Joona Linna is the only one who listens. The case seems obvious to everyone: Another girl fled the home on the night of the killing and left behind a bloody hammer under her pillow. But Hansen insists that the murder weapon was, in fact, a stone. Linna refuses to accept such easy answers...

Koch, Herman. [Summer House with Swimming Pool Signed](#) (Crown \$24). The Indie Next Pick, seconded by Karen: "If you enjoyed [The Dinner](#) (\$14), you will relish the strong, smart, sometimes chilling voice of the narrator in Koch's new novel. Marc Schlosser, a successful but reluctant doctor for many theater people and artists in Amsterdam, is faced with the monotony of his practice and countless unwanted invitations. When Marc, his wife, and their beautiful teenage daughters agree to join a famous actor and his family for an innocent summer vacation at a rented house with a swimming pool on the Mediterranean, the scene is set for tragedy. Koch is at his very disturbing best in this story where little is what it seems. You will be left unable to put this book down." In its Starred Review, *PW* adds, "In Koch's equally devious follow-up to *The Dinner*, civilization is once again only a thin cover-up for man's baser instincts... The air is rife with sexual tension as Ralph showers too much attention on Marc's underage daughter, Julia, and Marc toys with having an affair with Ralph's wife, Judith. Then tragedy strikes. Very few real-world events will distract readers from finishing this addictive book in one or two sittings."

Krajewski, Marek. [Phantoms of Breslau](#) (\$15.95). Breslau, 1919: The hideously battered, naked bodies of four sailors are discovered on an island in the River Oder. As he pieces together the elements of this brutal crime, which has disturbing overtones of the supernatural, Criminal Assistant Mock combs the brothels and drinking dens of Breslau and is drawn into a dangerous game: it seems that anyone he questions during the course of the investigation is destined to become the next victim. At the same time, he is haunted by appalling nightmares; only nights spent drinking and carousing can keep his demons at bay. The Mocks have, unsurprisingly, a European sensibility, very noir, a touch Kafkaesque. Order the rest by [clicking here](#).

LeMaitre, Pierre. [Irene Signed](#) (Quercus \$39). For Commandant Verhoeven life is beautiful: he is happily married, expecting his first child with the lovely Irène. But his blissful existence is punctured by a murder of unprecedented savagery. Worse still, the press seems to have it in for him—his every move is headline news. When he discovers that the killer has killed before, that each murder is a homage to a classic crime novel, the Fourth Estate is quick to coin a nickname: "The Novelist." With both men in the public eye, the case develops into a personal duel, each hell-bent on outsmarting the other. There can only be one winner—whoever has the least to lose.... Start with [Alex](#) (\$14.99).

Manchette, Jean-Patrick. [The Mad and the Bad](#) (NY Review of Books \$14.95). Introduction by James Sallis. "Raconteur, bon vivant, leftist militant, agent provocateur, swinger, French crime kingpin, gadfly foe of the Fifth Republic. Man-oh-man Manchette was a decades-long hurricane through the Parisian cultural scene. We must revere him now and rediscover him this very instant." —James Ellroy. "This early masterpiece by Jean-Patrick Manchette shows him in most glorious, coldest fury, wrapping a scathing critique of the excesses of greed and capitalism in the bloody bow of a chase thriller. You'll want to turn the pages at the fastest possible clip, but slow down a little and you'll see how much Manchette packs in—and how much of a punch this mean little book packs." —Sarah Weinman

Mark, David. [Original Skin](#) (\$16). Scottish noir. When "swinger" Simon Appleyard is found strung-up and naked in his apartment, the authorities are only too happy to chalk it up to suicide. After all, a new gang has taken over the local drug trade, and Detective Superintendent Trish Pharaoh's Serious and Organized Crime Unit is run ragged. A murder investigation is the last thing they need. But more bodies begin to surface, and all are somehow connected to the underground erotic scene. Although Detective Sergeant Aector McAvoy would be perfectly content to stay home with his wife and their newborn baby, he begins to suspect that murder is just the beginning. As his investigation brings him uncomfortably close to the local political elite, McAvoy realizes he is hunting a sadistic killer. Start with [The Dark Winter](#) (\$15). 3rd: [Sorrow Bound Signed](#) (\$40).

McGrath, M J. [The Bone Seeker Signed](#) (Macmillan \$39). When young Inuit Martha Salliaq goes missing from her settlement, her teacher, ex Polar Bear Hunter Edie Kiglatuk enlists her police friend Derek Palliser to help search for the girl. But once a body is discovered floating in a polluted lake on the site of a decommissioned Radar Station, Edie's worst fears are realized. As the investigation into Martha's murder begins, the Inuit community – and Martha's devastated family – are convinced the culprits lie within the encampment of soldiers stationed nearby. Before long Sergeant Palliser finds evidence linking two of the men with the dead girl. But Edie and local lawyer Sonia Gutierrez remain unconvinced. Why are the military quite so willing to cooperate with the investigation? What has Edie's boyfriend Chip Muloon, a simple academic researcher, got to hide? And why has the lake where Martha's body was found been suddenly cordoned off? A gripping, atmospheric thriller set in the Arctic's long white nights. 3rd in a brilliant series that began with First Mystery Pick *White Heat*. [Click here](#) to order.

McIlvanney, William. [Laidlaw](#) (Europa \$16). Originally published in 1977, *Laidlaw*, the first book in a trilogy, set a

standard for noir mystery. In this reissue, McIlvanney's gruff, broad strokes read as freshly as ever. Glaswegian detective inspector Laidlaw is the quintessential hardened, hard-drinking cop. Sarcasm, problems at home and a prickly exterior belie a sensitive man who believes that his society bears some responsibility for every crime he investigates. Laidlaw is approached by a thug he's dealt with before: Bud Lawson's daughter hasn't come home from the club, and Lawson wants Laidlaw's help.

Molay, Frédérique. [The 7th Woman](#) (Le French Book \$16.95). There's no rest for Paris's top criminal investigation division, La Crim'. Who is preying on women in the French capital? How can he kill again and again without leaving any clues? A serial killer is taking pleasure in a macabre ritual that leaves the police on tenterhooks. Chief of Police Nico Sirsky—a super cop with a modern-day real life, including an ex-wife, a teenage son and a budding love story—races against the clock to solve the murders as they get closer and closer to his inner circle. Will he resist the pressure? Winner of France's most prestigious crime fiction award.

Monroe, Aly. [Black Bear](#) (Hodder \$12.95). The 4th Peter Cotton from CWA Historical Dagger winner Monroe. Sent to Manhattan as part of the British effort to build intelligence into the new United Nations Organization “from the foundations up,” Agent Peter Cotton wakes up in the Ogden Clinic on East 76th Street, a private facility reserved for very special patients and veterans. He is told he was found badly bruised, slumped in a doorway, and that he had been injected with at least three “truth-drugs.” He is lucky to be alive. Plagued by vertigo, color blindness, and tunnel vision, and unable to be certain what is real and what is hallucinatory, Cotton must piece together what has happened to him, who is responsible, and why. What he discovers is even more unsettling. His biggest uncertainty? Why he has been allowed to live. I think of the Cottons as more Eric Ambler or Graham Greene than Alan Furst.

Nakamura, Fuminori. [Evil and the Mask](#) (\$15.95). When Fumihiro Kuki is eleven years old, his elderly, enigmatic father calls him into his study for a meeting. “I created you to be a cancer on the world,” his father tells him. It is a tradition in their wealthy family: a patriarch, when reaching the end of his life, will beget one last child to dedicate to causing misery in a world that cannot be controlled or saved. From this point on, Fumihiro will be specially educated to learn to create as much destruction and unhappiness in the world around him as a single person can. But as his education progresses, Fumihiro begins to question his father's mandate, and starts to resist.

Nunn, Malla. [Present Darkness](#) (Atria \$16). After a knockout start with First Mystery Club Pick [A Beautiful Place to Die](#) (\$15), Nunn was moved into paperbacks. I think her books are amazing. And *PW* agrees with me in this Starred Review: “In Nunn's superlative fourth mystery set in 1950s South Africa a murder case puts Det. Sgt. Emmanuel Cooper, a mixed-race Johannesburg cop, in a difficult position. A savage break-in at the house of Ian Brewer, a high school principal, has left Brewer dead, his wife nearly so. The white couple's 15-year-old daughter, Cassie, who escaped unscathed, asserts that she can identify the two attackers by their voices: black students who participated in an extracurricular program run by her father, one of whom, Aaron Shabalala, is the son of Det. Constable Samuel Shabalala

of the Native Branch, a friend of the detective's. Emmanuel is convinced that Cassie is lying, but his supervisor isn't, making the search for the real killers especially urgent. Nunn's descriptions of the impoverished township where the suspects live are particularly moving, but the true toll of apartheid is conveyed effectively throughout.” [Click here](#) for earlier Nunn's.

Faveron Patriau, Gustavo. [The Antiquarian](#) (Grove \$16). Three years have passed since Gustavo, a renowned psycholinguist, last spoke to his closest friend, Daniel, who has been interned in a psychiatric ward for murdering his fiancée. When Daniel unexpectedly calls to confess the truth behind the crime, Gustavo's long buried fraternal loyalty resurfaces and draws him into the center of a quixotic investigation in an unnamed Latin American country. While Daniel reveals his unsettling story using fragments of fables, novels, and historical allusions, Gustavo begins to retrace the past for clues: from their early college days exploring dust-filled libraries and exotic brothels to Daniel's intimate attachment to his sickly younger sister and his dealings as a book collector. As the circumstances grow increasingly macabre and intricate, Gustavo is forced to deduce an intricate series of events from allegories that are more real than police reports and metaphors more revealing than evidence. A debut novel from Patriau, a Peruvian journalist, critic, and Roberto Bolaño scholar, “possesses much of the unease and horror characteristic of Bolaño's work...beautiful and beguiling...This perfect blend of page-turning narrative and knockout prose is as good as it gets—Patriau's book is pure pitch-black fun.” —*PW* Starred Review echoing praise from Mario Vargas Llosa.

Roslund, Anders. [Two Soldiers](#) (Quercus \$26.99). In a bleak Stockholm suburb where juvenile gang crime is rapidly on the rise, two 19-year-old boys, best friends since third grade and drug addicts since age 9, have spent their young lives establishing a ruthless criminal enterprise—known as the Råby Warriors. With the recruitment of children as foot soldiers, the Warriors are now poised to become the most powerful syndicate in the region. Twenty years on the force, José Pereira now heads the Organized Crime and Gang Section in Råby. If it was not so deadly, Pereira might appreciate the absurdity of watching boys like Leon and Gabriel, raised on Hollywood images, morph themselves into characterizations of gangsters. After Leon and Gabriel execute a maximum-security prison break, in which a female guard is kidnapped and feared murdered, Pereira is joined in his investigation by Chief Superintendent Ewert Grens, a cop who never gives up....

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon](#) (\$14.95). A possible impostor and a cosmetologist's nightmare are at the center of this No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency novel. First, Precious Ramotswe is contacted by an estate lawyer who doubts the identity of a young man purporting to be the nephew of a recently deceased farmer. Then the owner of the Minor Adjustment Beauty Salon calls with a very major problem: Person or persons unknown are attempting to put her out of business, but who and why? Closer to home, our astute Botswanan problem solver notices that Mma Makutsi seems to be harboring a secret—or is it a secret baby?”

Smith, Tom Rob. [The Farm](#) (Grand Central \$26). Karen writes, “Daniel, an only child, viewed his parents through an idealistic lens. When they we off to retirement, Daniel received a phone

call, from his father, with a troubling message about his mother. Sometime later, a call from his mother with equally troubling information. And so begins Daniel's journey to unravel the myth he'd believed in for so long about his parents."

Tan, Cheryl Lu-Lien, ed. [Singapore Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). The Akashic Urban Noir series moves to China. 14 tales by Singapore natives.

Walker, Martin. [Children of War Signed](#) (Quercus\$46). A delightful new case for Bruno, Chief of Police. The St Denis charmer is already busy with a case when the body of an undercover French Muslim cop is found in the woods, a man who called Bruno for help only hours before. But Bruno's sometime boss and rival, the Brigadier, doesn't see this investigation as a priority—there are bigger issues at stake. Bruno has other ideas. Meanwhile, a Muslim youth named Sami turns up at a French army base in Afghanistan hoping to get home to St Denis. One of Bruno's old army comrades helps to smuggle Sami back to France, but the FBI aren't far behind. Then an American woman appears in St Denis with a warrant for Sami's extradition. Bruno must unravel these multiple mysteries, amidst pressure from his bosses. My favorite is The Mayor.

Walker, Ray. [The Road to Burgundy](#) (\$17). Fuel for your dreams. An intoxicating memoir of an American who discovers a passion for French wine and gambles everything to chase a dream of owning a vineyard in Burgundy.

Wilkinson, Toby. [The Nile, A Journey Downriver Through Egypt's Past and Present](#) (Knopf \$27.95). Egyptologist Wilkinson leads us through space and time from the Pharaohs through the Arab Spring. A wonderful book for fans of Elizabeth Peters, Michael Pearce, or those interested in the Burton/Speke affair.

Woods, Jonathan. [A Death in Mexico](#) (NAL \$14.95). "Brutal as the kick of raw mescal, the first novel from Woods (the short fiction collection *Bad Juju & Other Tales of Madness and Mayhem*) depicts a nightmarish drug-ridden modern Mexico, where corruption and sadism lie in wait for unwary Americans like artist's model Amanda Smallwood, found with her neck broken and eyes gouged out at 2 a.m. on a San Miguel de Allende street. Certain that the police, through bribes and moral decay, are losing the war on crime, Insp. Hector Diaz, wracked by cigarettes, heavy drinking, and intestinal upheavals, nonetheless relentlessly pursues Amanda's killer, hoping that a moment of justice may redeem his own soul."—*PW*

Xiaolong, Qiu. [Enigma of China](#) (\$15.99). Poetry writing, book-loving, Chief Inspector Chen Cao of the Shanghai Police Department is one of crime fictions most powerful and poignant creations. I am a mad fan. See our June Paperback Picks for more on his new contest with Party vs. policing.

SALUTING MARY STEWART—ROMANCE PLUS SUSPENSE

Freeman, Kimberley. [Ember Island](#) (SimonSchuster \$16). An Aussie whose work is akin to that of countrywoman Kate Morton presents a two track story: one beginning in 1891 Dorset moving swiftly to the Channel Island of Guernsey; the other in 2012 at Starwater House on Moreton Bay, Ember Island, Australia where novelist Nina has fled to the family home built in 1868 and left empty when renters decamped without paying. Our **June History/Mystery Club Paperback Pick**.

Lawrenson, Deborah. [The Sea Garden](#) (Harper \$26.99). 3 linked novellas explore little known Resistance heroines. "The Sea Garden." On the lush Mediterranean island of Porquerolles off the French coast, Ellie Brooke, an award-winning British landscape designer, has been hired to restore a memorial garden. Unsettled by its haunted air and the bitterness of the garden's owner, an elderly woman who seems intent on undermining her, Ellie finds that her only ally on the island is an elusive war historian. "The Lavender Field." Near the end of World War II, Marthe Lincel, a young blind woman newly apprenticed at a perfume factory in Nazi-occupied Provence, finds herself at the center of a Resistance cell. When tragedy strikes, she faces the most difficult choice of her life and discovers a breathtaking courage she never expected. "A Shadow Life." Iris Nightingale, a junior British intelligence officer in wartime London, falls for a French agent. But after a secret landing in Provence results in terrible Nazi reprisals, he vanishes. When France is liberated, Iris is determined to uncover the truth. Was he the man he claimed to be?

Mackin, Jeanne. [The Beautiful American](#) (Penguin \$16). As recovery from World War II begins, expat American Nora Tours travels from her home in southern France to London in search of her missing sixteen-year-old daughter. There, she unexpectedly meets up with an old acquaintance, famous model-turned-photographer Lee Miller. Neither has emerged from the war unscathed. Nora is racked with the fear that her efforts to survive under the Vichy regime may have cost her daughter's life. Lee suffers from what she witnessed as a war correspondent photographing the liberation of the Nazi concentration camps. Nora and Lee knew each other in the heady days of late 1920s Paris, when Nora was giddy with love for her childhood sweetheart, Lee became the celebrated mistress of the artist Man Ray, and Lee's magnetic beauty drew them all into the glamorous lives of famous artists and their wealthy patrons. But Lee fails to realize that her friendship with Nora is even older, that it goes back to their days as children in Poughkeepsie, New York, when a devastating trauma marked Lee forever.

Williams, Beatriz. [A Hundred Summers](#) (\$16). Lily Dane has returned to Seaview, Rhode Island, where her family has summered for generations. It's an escape not only from New York's social scene but from a heartbreak that still haunts her. Here, among the seaside community that has embraced her since childhood, she finds comfort in the familiar rituals of summer. But this summer is different. Budgie and Nick Greenwald—Lily's former best friend and former fiancé—have arrived, too, and Seaview's elite are abuzz. Under Budgie's glamorous influence, Lily is seduced into a complicated web of renewed friendship and dangerous longing. As a cataclysmic hurricane churns north through the Atlantic, and uneasy secrets slowly reveal themselves, Lily and Nick confront a storm of their own.... This is fun for summer, but Williams lifts her storytelling to new levels in *The Secret Life of Violet Grant*, a treasure. See Event Books. And check out the new Lauren Willig in Event Books as well, plus her real Mary Stewart homage in [The Ashford Affair](#) (\$15.99).

✻Wyler, Susan M. [Solsbury Hill](#) (Penguin \$16). So, a windswept country house on the Yorkshire moors, rustic and possibly haunted; a reluctant American heiress whose past eventually surprises her; two suitors, one an American childhood sweetheart,

the other dark and... what?... found at Trent Hall; a ghost on the moors who speaks to New Yorker Eleanor Abbott hinting at a cache of papers left for Eleanor to find. Yes, and Emily Bronte and shades of *Wuthering Heights* all over this. Enjoy the blended elements that make up a rewarding story.

And Books with a Modern Vibe (and more sex)

Andrews, Mary Kay. [Save the Date](#) (St Martins \$26.99). A savannah florist is about to score the wedding of a lifetime—one that will solidify her career as the go-to-girl for society nuptials. Ironically, Cara Kryzik doesn't believe in love, even though she creates beautiful flower arrangements to celebrate them. But when the bride goes missing and the wedding is in jeopardy, Cara must find the bride and figure out what she believes in. Maybe love really does exist outside of fairy tales.

Lowell, Elizabeth. [Night Diver](#) (Harper \$26.99). Mary Stewart would never write the hot sex that Kate Donnelly and Holden Cameron enjoy in this tense thriller set among treasure seekers/divers working off the island of St Vincent. The Donnelly family, wracked by tragedy when Kate and her brother Larry were orphaned by a storm/accident that took their parents while diving for the sunken *Moon Rose* and its treasure. Their grandfather carried on with his salvage boat, but Kate fled. An accountant, she reluctantly returns for one try at sorting out Grandpa's and Larry's operation before the British Crown project manager kills it. Enter Holden Cameron, sent to oversee or shut it down. Then he meets Kate... I like this much better than *Pirates of the Caribbean*.

MAY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

This month produces a bumper crop of terrific trade papers for your summer reading pleasure. Please check the other sections of the Booknews for more since I can't include them all in our Picks.

Atkins, Ace. [Broken Places](#) (\$16). "Ace Atkins's killing honesty sets a new standard for Southern crime novels. Gone is the fuzzy nostalgia for the old hometown, switched out for a more authentic look at the modern "Mayberry of domestic violence, drug use, child endangerment and roadhouse brawls."—*NY Times*. So it is in this Quinn Colson. A year after becoming Tibbehah County sheriff, he is faced with this 3rd Colson where a pardoned killer returns to Jericho. Jamey Dixon now preaches redemption and forgiveness, but the family of the woman he was convicted of killing isn't buying it. They warn Quinn that his sister's relationship with Dixon could be fatal. Others don't think the new preacher is a changed man, either—a couple of dangerous convicts who confided in Dixon about an armored car robbery believe he's after the money they hid. So they do the only thing they can: break out and head straight to Jericho, leaving a trail of bodies in their wake. Colson and his deputy, Lillie, have their work cut out for them. But they don't count on one more unwelcome visitor: a tornado. Atkins returns with the sequel, [The Forsaken](#) (Putnam \$26.95), on July 29.

Casey, Donis A. [Hell with the Lid Blown Off](#) (\$14.95). The 7th Alafair Tucker mystery set in summer, 1916, Oklahoma, resonates today with its powerful portrait of a raging tornado striking Boynton, Oklahoma. In the twister's wake the town mourns—but not a soul weeps for Jubal Beldon, found sprawled dead. Jubal, head of an unlovely clan, made it his business to ferret out secrets and blackmail folks. Did the storm kill him? If not the list of suspects is a long one. *Booklist* praises "this edgy

historical mystery works as a powerful picture of the times." See Event Books for more.

Doiron, Paul. [Massacre Pond](#) (\$15.99). On an unseasonably hot October morning, Game Warden Mike Bowditch is called to the scene of a bizarre crime: the corpses of seven moose have been found senselessly butchered on the estate of Elizabeth Morse, a wealthy animal rights activist who is buying up huge parcels of timberland to create a new national park. What at first seems like mindless slaughter—retribution by locals for the job losses Morse's plan is already causing in the region—becomes far more sinister when a shocking murder is discovered and Mike's investigation becomes a hunt for a killer. Edgar nominee Doiron, whose first was a First Mystery Pick, publishes Bowditch #5, [The Bone Orchard Signed](#) (St Martins \$28), in July.

Kahn, Michael. [Face Value](#) (\$14.95). What puts a chill up your spine? Murder? Financial deception? A backroom law firm employee, Stanley Plotkin, is a genius. He also has Asperger's Syndrome which makes employing him tricky. So Sari's firm employed Stanley in the mail room. Among his obsessions is the Facial Action Coding System (FACS), a massive compilation that correlates hundreds of facial muscle actions with specific emotions and mental states. So when the firm's bright young Sari Bashir is found dead from a fall from the 8th floor of the firm's parking garage, and the ME and the cops call it suicide, Stanley disagrees. His reading of Sari using FACS says, no way. St. Louis attorney Rachel Gold, familiar with Stanley, can't leave this one alone.... The sequel to [The Finch Factor](#) (\$14.95).

Lemaitre, Pierre. [Alex](#) (\$14.99). Winner of the 2013 CWA International Dagger, here's the English language debut for LeMaitre and the start of a trilogy for Paris' Commandant Camille Verhoeven. "Lemaitre's plot is laid out with mathematical precision: a beautiful woman is kidnapped, stripped naked, thrown into a cage and subjected to the systematic torture of a brutal captor... Revenge narratives go all the way back to the Greeks, but it's the vagina dentate component that sets a specimen like Alex apart, as Lemaitre adapts Larsson's blueprint with moves of his own."—*NY Times*. "Before you can say *Gone Girl*, Verhoeven discovers the crime is far from random and Alex anything but an ordinary victim. This gritty page-turner is the first in a promised trilogy."—*Entertainment Weekly*. See Global Crimes for the sequel.

Lindsay, Jeff. [Dexter's Final Cut](#) (\$15.95). Hollywood gets more than it bargained for when television's hottest star Robert Chase arrives from Hollywood at the Miami Police Department and develops an intense, professional interest in a camera-shy blood spatter analyst named Dexter Morgan. Dexter looks like an ordinary Joe with a fondness for donuts and his family. To perfect his role, Chase is obsessed with shadowing Dexter's every move and learning what really makes him tick. There is just one problem—Dexter is a serial killer whose goal is to stay out of the spotlight. But maybe even he can't resist the call of fame? [Click here](#) for the earlier Dexters.

✠Lovett, Charlie. [The Bookman's Tale](#) (\$16). Hay-on-Wye, 1995. Peter Byerly isn't sure what drew him into this particular bookshop. Nine months earlier, the death of his beloved wife, Amanda, had left him shattered. The young antiquarian bookseller relocated from North Carolina to the English countryside, hoping to rediscover the joy he once took in collecting and

restoring rare books. But upon opening an eighteenth-century study of Shakespeare forgeries, Peter is shocked when a portrait of Amanda tumbles out of its pages. Of course, it isn't really her. The watercolor is clearly Victorian. Yet the resemblance is uncanny, and Peter becomes obsessed with learning the picture's origins. As he follows the trail back first to the Victorian era and then to Shakespeare's time, Peter learns the truth about his own past...and more. A 2013 First Mystery Pick.

Masterman, Becky. [Rage Against the Dying](#) (\$15.99). A 2013 First Mystery Club Pick set in Tucson is a "pulse-quickening debut thriller...ex-FBI agent Brigid [age 59] invokes Hannibal Lecter and *The Silence of the Lambs* as she taunts one prime suspect. It's a fair comparison for Ms. Masterman to make, given both books' perverse crimes, mercifully understated detail and capacity to send more chills than thrills. And, like *The Silence of the Lambs*, *Rage Against the Dying* becomes the story of a heroine in peril, even though she's a tough woman very skilled in the arts of self-defense. Brigid...is a character who'll be more than welcome if Ms. Masterman turns her scorching debut into a running series."—Janet Maslin. The Washington Post adds, "Masterman had me suspecting just about everyone...Anyone who appreciates graceful, thoughtful, suspenseful writing will be glad to meet sexy, tough, conflicted and compassionate Brigid Quinn."

✎Morrell, David. [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16). Thriller Master Morrell reinvents himself as a cross between Dickens, PD James, and Thomas DeQuincey as he creates a Gaslight Thriller addressing the unsolved Ratcliffe Highway Murders of December, 1811, some 43 years later. Thomas De Quincey, infamous for his memoir *Confessions of an English Opium-Eater*, is the major suspect in the new killings terrorizing London. The blueprint for the killings seems to be DeQuincey's essay "On Murder Considered as One of the Fine Arts." Desperate to clear his name but crippled by opium addiction, De Quincey is aided by his devoted daughter Emily and a pair of determined Scotland Yard detectives. My highest recommendation comes with this addictive story which gets a follow-up in the spring of 2015.

Rindell, Suzanne. [The Other Typist](#) (\$16). A 2013 First Mystery Pick may become a major motion picture starring Keira Knightly. Meanwhile, enjoy the paperback. Confessions are Rose Baker's job. A typist for the 1920s New York City Police Department, she sits in judgment like a high priestess. Criminals come before her to admit their transgressions, and, with a few strokes of the keys before her, she seals their fate. But while she may hear about shootings, knifings, and crimes of passion, as soon as she leaves the room, she reverts to a dignified and proper lady. Until Odalie joins the typing pool. As Rose quickly falls under the stylish, coquettish Odalie's spell, she is lured into a sparkling underworld of speakeasies and jazz. And what starts as simple fascination turns into an obsession.

Rosenfelt, David. [Unleashed](#) (\$15.99). The 11th mystery for NJ lawyer Andy Carpenter and his team including Tara the beloved golden retriever begins when Carpenter's accountant, Sam Willis, receives a phone call out of the blue from Barry Price, a high school friend he hasn't spoken to in years, pleading for help with something too frightening to discuss on the phone. Hedge-fund manager Barry needs Sam's financial acumen and Andy's legal expertise—immediately. But when Sam almost runs over an

injured dog lying in the road on the way to Barry's house, he can't drive off without waiting for help to arrive. By the time Sam makes it, Barry's already taken off on a private airplane headed who-knows-where. Assuming their help is no longer needed, Sam and Andy turn their full attention to helping the dog Sam found recover from his injuries. Then they learn that Barry's plane has crashed, and they come to the terrifying realization that Sam was also supposed to have been killed on that plane. Barry was in far more serious trouble than either of them knew... now what? [Click here](#) to order earlier Carpenters, all aces with me. The 12th, [Hounded Signed](#) (St Martins \$28), publishes in July.

Schirach, Ferdinand Von. [The Collini Case](#) (\$15). A 2013 First Mystery Club Pick combines a tense German courtroom thriller with WWII history. A bestseller in Germany since 2011, it explores many issues riveting modern Europe. Fabrizio Collini is recently retired. He's a quiet, unassuming man with no indications that he's capable of hurting anyone. And yet he brutally murders a prominent industrialist in one of Berlin's most exclusive hotels. Collini ends up in the charge of Caspar Leinen, a rookie defense lawyer eager to launch his career with a not-guilty verdict. Complications soon arise when Collini admits to the murder but refuses to give his motive, much less speak to anyone. As Leinen searches for clues he discovers a personal connection to the victim and unearths a terrible truth at the heart of Germany's legal system that stretches back to World War II. But how much is he willing to sacrifice to expose the truth?

✎Todd, Charles. [A Question of Honor](#) (\$14.99). The 5th mystery for Bess Crawford, WWI nurse and reluctant but successful sleuth. This tale begins in India under the British Raj where in 1908 Bess' father is serving with his regiment. A member under suspicion of murder vanished near the Khyber Pass. But his body was never found. And now, in 1918 France, Bess, nursing a dying soldier, hears words that suggest Wade might still be alive. With her father's and the regiment's honor on the line, wishing to avoid a scandal, Bess decides to review the earlier crimes, the murder of a family, as well as the present situation. The truth of it all proves shattering.... [Click here](#) for earlier titles in this outstanding series.

✎Upton, Nicola. [The Death of Lucy Kyte](#) (\$15.99). The 5th investigation by real-life Golden Age crime writer Josephine Tey is haunting, disturbing, absorbing. See British Books for more.

Xiaolong, Qiu. [Enigma of China](#) (\$15.99). Poetry writing, book-loving, Chief Inspector Chen Cao of the Shanghai Police Department is one of crime fictions most powerful and poignant creations. I am a mad fan. The murder of Zhou Keng—a trusted Red Prince, son of a major party member—really tests him. The man was head of the Shanghai Housing Development Committee when a number of his corrupt practices were exposed on the internet. Removed from his position and placed into extra-legal detention, Zhou apparently hanged himself while under guard. The Party presses Chen to sign off on suicide, but he's sure it isn't...a nightmare for this ethical cop working in a totalitarian state. [Click here](#) to order all the Chens beginning with First Mystery Pick and Anthony Award winner *Death of a Red Heroine*.

SOME BLASTS FROM THE PAST

Dobkins, J. Dwight. [Winnie Ruth Judd The Trunk Murders](#) (\$14.95). Patrick writes, “The first book published about the endlessly fascinating 1931 Phoenix murder case, Dobkins and Hendricks’ 1973 account is now being reissued at last, and it still holds up as a solid, impartial piece of reportage. Check this out, read Jana Bommersbach’s book, [The Trunk Murderess](#) (\$16.95), then make up your own mind. I predict that more will be revealed about this case in the coming years.”

Gifford, Thomas. [The Wind Chill Factor](#) (\$14.95). His marriage destroyed by drinking, John Cooper is just beginning to piece his life together when he gets a telegram from Buenos Aires. With Cooper’s family history, that can mean only one thing: decades after Hitler’s fall, the Nazis are now coming for him plans to resurrect the Reich have long been in motion. John Cooper’s legacy makes him a part of this plan, and now he must outrun his past... A reissue of a thriller from Gifford who died in 2000.

Highsmith, Patricia. [The Two Faces of January](#) (\$16). Originally published in 1964, and the winner of the CWA Best Foreign Novel Award. See Global Crimes for more, and about the movie.

MacDonald, John D. [All These Condemned; Dead Low Tide](#) (Random \$16 each). Two more reissues of the MacDonald *oeuvre*.

McIlvanney, William. [Laidlaw](#) (Europa \$16). Originally published in 1977, *Laidlaw*, the first book in a trilogy, set a standard for noir mystery. See Global Crimes for more.

Smith, Vern E. [The Jones Men: 40th Anniversary Edition](#) (\$15.95). This latest volume in Norton’s “Old School Books” series plunges the reader into the world of drugs, corruption, and murder as it follows the downfall of “Lennie Jack,” a Vietnam vet who attempts to take over the action of the neighborhood’s biggest drug lord

Wright, June. [Murder in the Telephone Exchange](#) (Verse \$15.95). The publisher says, “First published in 1948, when it was the best-selling mystery of the year in the author’s native Australia, it stars feisty young operator Maggie Byrnes.” When one of her more unpopular colleagues is murdered — her head bashed in with a “buttinsky,” a piece of equipment used to listen in on phone calls — Maggie resolves to turn sleuth. Some of her coworkers are acting strangely, and Maggie is convinced she has a better chance of figuring out who is responsible for the killing than the rather stolid police team assigned to the case, who seems to think she herself might have had something to do with it. But then one of her friends is murdered too, and it looks like Maggie might be next. Narrated with verve and wit, this is a whodunit in the tradition of Dorothy L. Sayers and Daphne du Maurier.

NEW BOOKS

Ahmad, A X. [The Last Taxi Ride](#) (St Martins \$25.99). 2nd in the Ranjit Singh Mysteries after [The Caretaker](#) (\$14.99), which I recommend you read first as it informs this story. Singh, exiled from India and his army career, drives a taxi in metro NY, trying to survive. His wife who returned to India has divorced him; his daughter is coming for a visit. He has friends in the taxi-driver community, rooted in the old country and bonded by the hard, low-paying life. One of them turns up as the doorman at the Dakota on Central Park West and that leads Singh, unwisely, inside and into the life of a Bollywood star, a lovely if aging woman with an apartment in the iconic building. Disaster, murder,

follows... An absorbing, unusual community is well worth exploring.

Armstrong, Kelley. [Omens: A Cainsville Novel](#) (\$16). Olivia Taylor-Jones is shattered to learn that she’s adopted. Her biological parents? Notorious serial killers. On a quest to learn more about her past, Olivia lands in the small town of Cainsville, Illinois. As she draws on long-hidden abilities, Olivia begins to realize that there are dark secrets in Cainsville—and powers lurking in the shadows.

Baldacci, David, ed. [Faceoff](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). Karen writes, “This anthology brings together duos of characters by notable crime writers. Imagine Patrick Kenzie (Dennis Lehane) and Harry Bosch (Michael Connelly) working together on a case. Other pairings include Paul Madriani (Steve Martini) and Alexander Cooper (Linda Fairstein) as well as Jack Reacher (Lee Child) working with Nick Heller (Joseph Finder). There are eleven pairings altogether, some a surprise, but always interesting.” “Rhymes with Prey” by Deaver and Sandford is, for me, the plum in this International Thriller Writers Association project/fundraiser. We will have bookplates Signed by some of the authors to insert into your copy. One bookplate/copy per customer. This book has reprinted so don’t delay ordering yours.

Berg, David. [Run, Brother, Run](#) (\$16). In 1968, David Berg’s brother, Alan, was murdered by Charles Harrelson, a notorious hit man and father of Woody Harrelson. Alan was only thirty-one when he disappeared (David was twenty-six) and for more than six months his family did not know what had happened to him—until his remains were found in a ditch in Texas. There was an eyewitness to the murder: Charles Harrelson’s girlfriend, who agreed to testify. For his defense, Harrelson hired Percy Foreman, then the most famous criminal lawyer in America. Despite the overwhelming evidence against him, Harrelson was acquitted. 1960s Houston was some oil boomtown, not a place to grow up Jewish in a segregated city. After burying his brother all those years ago, David Berg rarely talked about him. Yet in 2008 he began to remember and research Alan’s life and death. Here is the result, a book as gripping as any thriller.

Bird, Kai. [The Good Spy](#) (Crown \$26). On April 18, 1983, a truck loaded with explosives crashed into the lobby of the United States embassy in Beirut, Lebanon. Today, it’s “a largely forgotten moment in the history of America’s presence in the Middle East,” Kai Bird writes in *The Good Spy*, but one with great underlying significance—the beginning of America’s deadly encounter with a political Islamist movement.” Among the 63 people killed in the bombing was Robert Ames, a CIA agent who had played a pivotal role in establishing a line of communication between the U.S. government and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. *The Good Spy* pays tribute to his accomplishments and sacrifice; though it was written without any official cooperation from the CIA, more than 30 retired officers shared their personal and professional recollections.

Birmingham, Kevin. [The Most Dangerous Book: Ulysses](#) (Penguin \$29.95). “A great story—how modernism brought down the regime of censorship—told as a great story. Kevin Birmingham’s imaginative scholarship brings James Joyce and his world to life. There is a fresh detail on nearly every page.”—Louis Menand

Blanding, Michael. [The Map Thief](#) (Gotham \$28). Considered

by many to be a reputable antique map dealer, E. Forbes Smiley III was also a thief who stole hundreds of valuable maps (some estimates put his haul at over 200) from libraries and other institutions and then sold them. Here, reporter Blanding examines and contextualizes the curious case. What began as the occasional pilferage in order to keep his business afloat ballooned as Smiley's debt increased exponentially, due in no small part to a grand lifestyle—the most glaring example of which was Smiley's renovation of a rustic farmhouse, including a \$105,000 kitchen from Italy. This is a highly readable profile of a narcissist who got in over his head and lost it all. Sort of like the on-line vendor of autographed books who one day put up for sale a signed copy of *A Confederacy of Dunces*. He, too, lost it all.

Brown, Daniel James. [The Boys in the Boat](#) (\$17). “In this sweeping saga, Brown vividly relates how, in 1936, nine working-class rowers from the University of Washington captured gold at the Berlin Olympics. Mentored not just by their coach but by legendary boat-builder George Pocock, these athletes overcame the hopelessness common during the Great Depression by learning to trust themselves and one another, and by rowing with grace and power. The crew's camaraderie and unmatched precision surpassed expectations, shocking the sporting world.”—*LJ*

Brown, Rita Mae. [Nine Lives to Die Signed](#) (Random \$26). “Murder and mayhem are the order of the day in bestseller Brown's well-plotted 22nd Mrs. Murphy mystery. A winter charity function ends badly when wealthy car dealer Pete Vavilov, a leader of the Silver Linings charity, which helps the disadvantaged youth of Albemarle County, Va., is found dead in his car during a snowstorm the same night as the party. Before New Year's, another member of the Silver Linings Board disappears, series heroine Mary Minor ‘Harry’ Haristeen discovers a skeleton, and checks go missing. As usual, the four-footed characters—felines Mrs. Murphy and Pewter and their canine chum, Tee Tucker—do much of the sleuthing, as they provide wry insights into the book's human characters. Brown's idyllic world, with its Christian values, talking animals, and sympathetic middle-aged pet owners, has understandably struck a chord with many readers.”—*PW*

Bryson, Bill. [One Summer](#) (\$16.95). The summer is 1927, the place is America, and the events include Lindbergh's flight, the Babe's home run chase, the filming of Jolson's *The Jazz Singer*, Coolidge took a three-month vacation in the Black Hills, and on Long Island four bankers had a fateful meeting....

Card, Orson Scott. [Earth Awakens](#) (Forge \$25.99). The story of The First Formic War continues...

Carey, MR. [The Girl with All the Gifts](#) (Orbit \$25). Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, Sergeant keeps his gun pointing at her while two of his people strap her into the wheelchair. She thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite, but they don't laugh. Melanie is a very special girl... “The story of Melanie and the people around her is so thoughtfully crafted, so heartfelt, remorseless and painfully human, that it takes the potentially tired trope of the zombie apocalypse and makes it as fresh as it is terrifying. The story spirals towards a conclusion so surprising, so warm and yet so chilling, that it takes a moment to realize it's been earned since the first page, and even before. It left me

sighing with envious joy, like I'd been simultaneously offered flowers and beaten at chess. A jewel.”—Joss Whedon

Child, Lee, ed. [Inherit the Dead](#) (\$15). Although it's not a sequel to 2011's *No Rest for the Dead*, this novel-by-committee is a very good follow-up. Twenty writers—among them such notables as Billingham, Box, Bruen, Connolly, and McDermid—combine forces. ... There are some stylistic variations between the 20 authors—John Connolly doesn't sound like Charlaine Harris—but, for the most part, the story moves as though there were a single hand on the tiller. Not merely a genre curiosity, the book is a well-told mystery that stands on its own two (or 40) feet.

Clinton, Hillary Rodham. [Hard Choices](#) (SimonSchuster \$35). A personal chronicle focused on her four years as Secretary of State. Those interested in public affairs can explore Justice John Paul Stevens' [Six Amendments](#) (LittleBrown \$23), how and why we should change the Constitution. And for a biography of Sally Ride, our first woman astronaut, along with a look at NASA's evolution, order Lynn Sherr's [Sally Ride](#) (SimonSchuster \$28).

Coates, Deborah. [Strange Country](#) (Forge \$26.99). “Serial killings and macabre motives are the order of the day in this solid third adventure (after *Wide Open* and *Deep Down*) featuring psychic Hallie Michaels, whose return from the land of the dead has opened her life up to a plethora of supernatural incursions. Someone is assassinating residents of West Prairie City, S.D., and Hallie and her boyfriend, deputy sheriff Boyd Davies, wind up square in the killer's sights when Boyd uncovers magically powered stones at two crime scenes. His findings also implicate five townspeople—including the first two victims—in a cabalistic confederacy forged 20 years earlier. Meanwhile, Hallie is vexed by a series of mysterious notes and phone calls that she believes are related to her ongoing *pas de deux* with Death. Coates plots this novel as a conventional murder mystery, with the usual paranormal activity serving as colorful filigree to a well-wrought tale of Midwestern noir. Unresolved subplots suggest that further adventures are in store for Hallie and Boyd.”—*PW*

Colfer, Eoin. [Screwed](#) (\$15.95). In this sequel to [Plugged](#) (\$14.95), Colfer adds a new chapter to the adventures and misadventures of Daniel McEvoy, the down-on-his-luck Irish bouncer at a seedy New Jersey bar who, with the help of a motley crew of characters, solved a bizarre string of murders—including the one of the girl he loved. But people around him continue to die mysteriously, and Daniel is called into action once again. Patrick and I both recommend this surprising noir series by the impish author of the *Artemis Fowl* YA adventures—not only for the quality but to applaud an author reinventing himself.

Conn, Andrew Lewis. [O, Africa! A Novel](#) (Crown \$25). Andrew Lewis Conn sculpts a seriocomic view of American racism and anti-Semitism against the background of the nascent late-1920s film industry. It's a tale that, to steal his own expression, “has trumpets and cymbals in it, a voice that carries its own conductor's baton.” Brooklyn-born twin brothers Micah and Izzy Grand (originally Grombotz) shared not only a womb but also a life passion: filmmaking. While they walk the same career path, though, they couldn't be more different....When their studio starts hurting for cash, its president decides to try a new moneymaking scheme: making stock footage of foreign locations. Micah and Izzy's first assignment is Africa, and while neither initially wants to go, Micah's enormous gambling debts to a black gangster

happen to come due at the same time. Packing up their crew, including their volatile assistant director, a down-on-his-luck script man and the teenage brother of Micah's black mistress, the brothers head off intending to return with stock footage, a new silent film for the studio—and a secret. In place of repayment, the gangsters have ordered Micah to make a picture about the history of the slave trade. What the crew ultimately discovers and endures will forever change the way they see film, humanity and themselves. Bold, bawdy and charged with the tensions of an era of prejudice and oppression...

Conrad, Hy. [Mr. Monk is Open for Business](#) (NAL \$23.95). After failing to win back his girlfriend Ellen in Summit, New Jersey, Monk returns to San Francisco where he is surprised to find another relationship has taken a new turn. Natalie decided to make things official by setting up an office for Monk and Teeger, Consulting Detectives. Then a disgruntled employee turns shooter at a small import business. Visiting the bed-ridden survivor, Monk finds Sarabeth to be helpful, cooperative and—now that he's on the rebound from Ellen—quite charming as well. But as he and Natalie try to track down Sarabeth's assailant, they discover that Wyatt has left barely a trace of his past behind....

Craven, Michael. [The Detective and the Pipe Girl](#) (Bourbon Street/Harper \$14.99). While I'm not Hollywood—or Los Angeles—crazy, it's the perfect backdrop for introducing private eye John Darvelle. He likes smart women, cheap American beer, simple modern design, drives a forgettable car, avoids brunches, lives in a neighborhood not bottled up by the street grids, and plays a mean game of ping pong. He admires the talents of filmmaker Arthur Vonz, an unusual storyteller with a record of hits and flops. So he accepts when Vonz summons him to one of those ritzy neighborhoods and hire him to find the missing Suzanne Neal. It seems a slam dunk but no. Soon Darvelle is facing off with the LAPD, a crime ring, and an elusive killer. Stylish, insightful, a touch of stardust. I hope this starts a series.

Crouch, Katie. [Abroad: A Novel](#) (Farrar \$26). A mystery and exploration of “modern girlhood” set in Italy and based on the Amanda Knox case.

Dedman, Bill. [Empty Mansions](#) (\$17). Pulitzer winner Dedman examines the life and the profligate wealth of heiress Huguetta Clark (1906-2011) who left empty homes, especially a Manhattan penthouse, to spend her final years in a hospital. Her story didn't attract interest until she reached 103. 70 photos.

Downey, Jen Swann. [Ninja Librarians: The Accidental Keyhand](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). For Young Adult readers but why not enjoy it? Just a little story about your average sword-swinging, karate-chopping, crime-fighting ninja librarians. Who knew an overdue book could lead to...? “[Downey] shows a rare gift for crafting scrambles so madcap that it's hard to turn the pages fast enough to keep up.” —*Kirkus* Starred Review

Dyer, Geoff. [The Search](#) (Graywolf \$15). Dyer's second novel, first published abroad in 1993 but unavailable in the U.S. until now, is a take on the detective/noir genre in the vein of Auster, Calvino, and Borges. When Walker, a brooding, heavy-drinking loner and experienced “tracker” with something of a criminal reputation, meets the seductive Rachel, he agrees—against his better judgment—to heed to her request to look for her “secretive” missing ex-husband Malory. With few clues to go on (Malory avoids being photographed), Walker sets off on a journey through

absurd fictional cities that make his quest harder and logically muddy—in one city he loses his motivation to leave; in another, people seem to be in constant danger—but also add a layer of intrigue. Those familiar with Dyer's later works may be at first surprised that he is capable of writing in this plotted and cerebral mode, though his considerable talents, including the ability to write in other veins, are on display here.

Evanovich, Janet. [Top Secret Twenty-One Signed](#) (Random \$28). Stephanie Plum has her work cut out for her with a killer on the run and an assassin targeting Ranger, but these are mere nothings compared to a Grandma Mazur intent upon her bucket list.

Flynn, Rory. [Third Rail Signed](#) (Houghton \$25). Patrick makes a **June Hardboiled Club Pick**. “When it comes to police work, Eddy Harkness is a natural; The young Boston detective already has a rep for his savant-like investigating abilities. But bad luck and drama seem to follow Harkness and his family. Following a World Series game, a prank turns deadly and a Red Sox fan is dropped to his death over a freeway. Some folks think Harkness could have prevented it, and he is bumped down to parking meter duty in his home town of Nagog, Massachusetts. Plagued with guilt, Harkness goes on a self-destructive run, during which his police issue Glock is stolen and apparently used in fresh homicides. There's also a new smart drug on the street, ‘Third Rail,’ which may be the ticket back to Harkness's spot on an elite Narco-Intel squad, that is if it doesn't kill him first. A stylish and fresh crime. fiction debut by the pseudonymous Flynn. Perfect for Pelecanos fans.”

Freed, David. [Voodoo Ridge](#) (Penguin \$2). “Freed's third Cordell Logan mystery finds the pilot-sleuth up in the air again, both aeronautically and personally. Flying to Lake Tahoe in his creaky Cessna to remarry his ex-wife, Savannah, Logan spots a shiny piece of metal where it shouldn't be, high in the Sierra Nevadas. Evidence of a plane crash? Logan dutifully reports the sighting to the authorities and accompanies police into the mountains in search of the wreckage. They find the downed plane, and it turns out to be not just any plane, but rather a long-missing aircraft carrying mysterious but apparently highly sought-after cargo. And, one more thing: they also find the body of a recently shot young man. It only gets worse. Soon enough, Savannah has been abducted, and Logan's wedding weekend is looking like a world-class disaster. Freed has a serious surprise in store for the reader this time, and he skillfully builds up to the shocker. The unusual pilot-sleuth premise, the jaunty style, and the genuine suspense combine to make this one a thoroughly entertaining installment in what has become a fine series.” —*Booklist*

Fuller, David. [Sundance: A Novel](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). What if the Sundance Kid, Harry Longbaugh, did not die in Bolivia in 1908 but instead did time in a Wyoming Prison? Released in 1913, he finds the world different (they track him by car after he has to fight a gun duel), but his resolution to find his wife Etta Place is strong as ever. It's been two years since her letters stopped coming. He follows her trail to New York, discovers what's up, and then tries to save her before his own legend catches up and beats him. A refreshing, pacy story, poignant yet unsparing, seizing a fascinating idea and running with it. Robert Redford is probably past the role as Harry isn't yet a senior.

Gardiner, Meg. [Phantom Instinct](#) (Dutton \$26.95). When shots ring out in a crowded L.A. club, bartender Harper Flynn watches helplessly as her boyfriend, Drew, is gunned down in the cross fire. Then somebody throws a Molotov cocktail, and the club is quickly engulfed in flames. L.A. Sheriff Deputy Aiden Garrison sees a gunman in a hoodie and gas mask taking aim at Harper, but before he can help her a wall collapses, bringing the building down and badly injuring him. A year later, Harper is trying to rebuild her life. Certain that a third gunman escaped and is targeting the survivors, Harper enlists the help of Aiden Garrison, the only person willing to listen. But the traumatic brain injury he suffered has cut his career short and left him with Fregoli syndrome, a rare type of face blindness that causes the delusion that random people are actually a single person changing disguises. As Harper and Aiden delve into the case, Harper realizes that her presence during the attack was no coincidence—and that her only ally is unstable, and mistrustful of her.

Garnier, Philippe. [Goodis: A Life in Black and White](#) (Black Pool \$25 PBO). Patrick writes, “Noir freaks like myself have been waiting for this book for many years. Garnier’s investigation into the complicated life of noir icon David Goodis (*Dark Passage*, *Shoot the Piano Player*, and many others) has for decades only been available in French. As Duane Swierczynski writes: “I’ve been waiting for a translation of this book for over 20 years, getting to the point where I almost learned French just to read it.” Talk about delayed gratification. Eddie Muller can be thanked for bringing this treasure into print in English for the first time, and what a revelation it is. Garnier writes like an existential gumshoe himself, tracking down the secret life of this most fascinating artist.”

Grabenstein, Chris. [Free Fall](#) (\$14.95). It’s the start of another action-packed summer for the wise cracking Danny Boyle and straight-arrow cop (now Chief of Detectives) John Ceepak down the Jersey Shore as they do their best to help Danny’s friend, a young nurse who claims she has been falsely accused of aggravated assault by a prestigious Sea Haven doctor. Ceepak’s unshakable code of honor is tested when he trusts that the nurse is telling the truth. It’s stretched to the limit when one of the nurse’s home health care patients turns up dead. Now Ceepak and Danny must answer the hard and horrible question: “Did we just help a friend get away with murder?”

Greaves, Chuck. [The Last Heir Signed](#) (St Martins \$27). A point of our Surprise Me! Club is to deliver one, whether with a new voice, a wild character, or a tweak in the plot. Trial lawyer Greaves succeeds at all three elements in his 3rd investigation for LA lawyer Jack MacTaggart—I am crazy about all three and annoyed there are no paperbacks for you. An elderly, rich new client summons Jack to Napa Valley. Monsieur Philippe Giroux is distraught at the recent death of his younger son in a heli-skiing accident. His body has never been recovered. Philippe’s father’s will decrees that when the younger of Philippe’s two sons reaches 40, Chateaux Giroux and its 150 wine-producing acres passes to them, away from Philippe. Elder son Phil is married to an activist who wants changes that are anathema to Philippe. And Phil is almost 40. So Jack’s task is to disprove that Alain is dead and stall off the transfer of power for 2 more years. As Jack says, Philippe “is exactly the kind of client every lawyer needs—a worried millionaire.” And there are recent credit card charges to Alain’s AmEx card... So Jack and his law partner Marta Suarez,

plus Marta’s life partner Regan Fife, former cop and now the firm’s investigator, head north to wine country and into a case that challenges on every front. I love the complications that Jack’s wanna-be screenwriting receptionist adds—including a movie star who’s a real person. Surprises abound and the final one is a lulu! **Out in June but our July Surprise Me Pick.**

Hall, Louisa. [The Carriage House](#) (\$15). A decaying building on a family estate becomes a metaphor for 3 sisters rebuilding lives. “Louisa Hall writes about the wars waged between neighbors and family members with extraordinary sympathy and a keen sense of humor. Part Jane Austen, part John Cheever, this tale of upheaval in a suburban Philadelphia household marks the debut of a stunning new writer.”—Philipp Meyer

Hamilton, Laurel K. [A Shiver of Light](#) (Berkley \$27.95). Merry Gentry, ex-private detective, now full-time princess, knew she was descended from fertility goddesses, but when she learned she was about to have triplets, she began to understand what that might mean. Infertility has plagued the high ranks of faerie for centuries. Truth is, Taranis, King of Light and Illusion, failing to seduce her, raped her. To save herself and her babies from Taranis she will use the most dangerous powers in all of faerie: a god of death, a warrior known as the Darkness, the Killing Frost, and a king of nightmares. They are her lovers, and her dearest loves, and they will face down the might of the high courts of faerie—while trying to keep the war from spreading to innocent humans in Los Angeles, collateral damage.

Hannibal, James R. [Shadow Maker](#) (Berkley \$16). A suicide bomber blows himself up near the Health and Human Services building in Washington, D.C. Special Ops veteran Nick Baron, his wife, toddler son, and father escape serious injury in their car near the explosion, which was masterminded by the Qaim, aka “the Emissary of the Mahdi,” who has made it a high priority to commit acts of terrorism and to wreak vengeance on Nick, his family, and friends. “Nick and his long-term teammate, Drake Merigold, race around the globe trying to head off both a biological attack and a nuclear bomb, always one step behind the brilliant Emissary. The addition of legendary Hashashin assassins and some secret codes nudges the plot into *DaVinci Code* territory, but the book ends strongly with a down-to-the-wire, page-turning chase.”—PW

Harvey, John. [Darkness, Darkness Signed](#) (Heinemann \$42). Thirty years ago, the Miners’ Strike threatened to tear the country apart, turning neighbor against neighbor, husband against wife, father against son—enmities which smoulder still. Resnick, recently made up to inspector, and ambivalent at best about some of the police tactics, had run an information gathering unit at the heart of the dispute. Now, the discovery of the body of a young woman who disappeared during the Strike brings Resnick out of virtual retirement and back into the front line to assist in the investigation into her murder—forcing him to confront his past in what will assuredly be his last case.”In this masterful unearthing of the grudges and resentments left behind by the Miners’ Strike of three decades ago, John Harvey has found the perfect case for Resnick to get his teeth into. All the ingredients are here: social history, the problem of male violence, the shadow of death, and, of course, the search for a decent cup of coffee. Anyone new to Resnick’s world should probably start here; John Harvey has saved the best for last.”—Jon McGregor, echoed by Michael Connelly

Hiaasen, Carl. [Bad Monkey](#) (\$15). Andrew Yancy, late of the Miami Police and soon-to-be-late of the Monroe County sheriff's office, has a human arm in his freezer. There's a logical (Hiaasenian) explanation for that, but not for how and why it parted from its shadowy owner. Yancy thinks the boating-accident/shark-luncheon explanation is full of holes, and if he can prove murder, the sheriff might rescue him from his grisly Health Inspector gig (it's not called the roach patrol for nothing). But first—this being Hiaasen country—Yancy must negotiate an obstacle course of wildly unpredictable events with a crew of even more wildly unpredictable characters...

Housewright, David. [Devil May Care](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Karen reviews: "Rushmore McKenzie is a former detective in the St. Paul, MN police department, and is now an unlicensed, millionaire PI. Riley Brodin is the granddaughter of a powerful and influential man in the community. Riley has contacted McKenzie to find her boyfriend who seems to have vanished into thin air. There are two problems. Grandpa is not interested in the pursuit of his granddaughter's concern and, as McKenzie gets into the case, the question as to whether or not the boyfriend ever existed becomes problematic. Always the adventurer, McKenzie resists discouragement and in his own self-disparaging way, investigates to the end. Colorful characters, plot, and writing makes this a fun, satisfying read."

Hyzy, Julie. [Inaugural Parade](#) (Berkley \$17). One volume for the first 3 White House Chef Mysteries. "State of the Onion." White House chef Olivia Paras jumps from the frying pan into the fire to smoke out an assassin. "Hail to the Chef." Following the shocking death of an electrician, Olivia steps out of the White House kitchen to turn up the heat on a killer. "Eggsecutive Orders." Olivia has too many eggs in one basket for the White House's Easter celebration. But when a government official dies after eating a dinner her staff prepared, she has more than egg on her face to worry about.

Ifkovic, Ed. [Final Curtain: An Edna Ferber Mystery Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). "Ifkovic's fifth Edna Ferber mystery provides a splendid view of the highbrow theater culture of another era... While George [S. Kaufman] can't take anything—including an unexplained homicide—seriously, the redoubtable Edna refuses to let the case go unsolved in this rewarding installment."—*PW*. Bestseller Edna Ferber makes a fabulous sleuth and Ifkovic, a real Ferber scholar, has a blast putting her into mysteries, each linked to a Ferber book or play—or here, her long-desired stage debut as an actress in *The Royal Family*. The venue: across in Hudson in Maplewood, NJ, summer, 1940. Against the chilling backdrop of Hitler's rise and the specter of another world war, Edna and co-playwright George S. Kaufman are set for a week of summer stock. But before opening night, a mysterious understudy is shot to death, and his murder opens up a world of lies, greed, and hypocrisy. With George as the director of the production, the two begin a different kind of collaboration: the discovery of the murderer. Why did so many members of the cast maneuver to be there? As George wisecracks his way through the story, Edna methodically examines the facts, determined to find the answer and increasingly sure it lies in Hollywood. The trade paperback: [Final Curtain](#) (\$14.95)

Ignatius, David. [The Director](#) (Norton \$26.95). Not since Robert Littell wrote [The Company](#) (\$18)—highly recommended if you

missed it—has there been such an intelligent thriller focused on the mission of the CIA and how it operates—or ought to in a post-9/11 world. The President goes with billionaire Graham Weber as the new director. Weber, who built his company on buying spectrum and bandwidth, has been a member of the Intelligence Advisory Board and met the Director of the CIA's Information Operation Center at a DEF-Con meeting in Vegas where he spoke. James Morris, resembling those hackers he combats, hooked Weber on the idea of being the Director.

Kahn, Michael. [Face Value Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). "Ample humor and skillful dialogue—about legal, financial, and scientific matters—are a plus, as is the expertly evoked St. Louis locale...in Kahn's engaging ninth mystery featuring lawyer Rachel Gold..."—*PW*. According to the medical examiner, lawyer Sari Bashir quit for good on leaving work one Thursday night. That's when she fell to her death from the eighth floor of the downtown garage adjacent to her firm. The police ruled her death a suicide. Stanley Plotkin, however, rules it a homicide. Stanley is a genius. He also has Asperger's Syndrome which makes employing him tricky. So Sari's firm employed Stanley in the mail room. Among his obsessions is the Facial Action Coding System (FACS), a massive compilation that correlates hundreds of facial muscle actions with specific emotions and mental states. For someone like Stanley, who can't read people's emotions from their facial expressions, FACS is like a hearing aid for the hearing impaired. And his mastery of FACS is so complete he's sure that Sari did not kill herself. Rachel had been close with Sari, who worked for her during law school. She also knows Stanley because their mothers are friends. When he calls Sari's death a murder, Rachel swings into action... A surprising and well plotted legal thriller. [Face Value](#) (\$14.95)

Kerns, Arthur. [The African Contract Signed](#) (Diamond \$14.95). Hayden Stone is brought back into the CIA to help navigate the choppy diplomatic waters between the U.S., Canada, England, South Africa, and any number of other players in a mission to prevent the worst of weapons from falling into the wrong hands. While representatives from other countries are there to help him, Hayden knows the only person he can trust is himself, and that once the weapon is located, all bets are off. His mission will take him into palatial mansions and parched-earth slums, into the shadowy world of black ops and the chaos of an endless war. It will lead him directly into the crosshairs—but whose finger is on the trigger? From the former op who authored [The Riviera Contract Signed](#) (\$17.99), introduced ex-FBI Stone.

King, Stephen. [Mr. Mercedes](#) (Scribner \$30). In a mega-stakes, high-suspense race against time, three unlikely and winning heroes try to stop a lone killer from blowing up thousands. In the frigid pre-dawn hours, in a distressed Midwestern city, hundreds of desperate unemployed folks are lined up for a spot at a job fair. Without warning, a lone driver plows through the crowd in a stolen Mercedes, running over the innocent, backing up, and charging again. Eight people are killed; fifteen are wounded. The killer escapes. In another part of town, months later, a retired cop named Bill Hodges is still haunted by the unsolved crime. When he gets a crazed letter from someone who self-identifies as the "perk" and threatens an even more diabolical attack, Hodges wakes up from his depressed and vacant retirement, hell-bent on preventing another tragedy. Then there's the guy who loved the feel of death under the wheels of the Mercedes, and he wants

that rush again. King is King, a great storyteller. But he'll have to go some to beat the psycho in Stephen Hunter's [Night of Thunder](#) (\$9.99) who uses cars as weapons. I've read its last two pages several times just to admire their brilliance as Bob Lee Swagger...! New in paperback: [Doctor Sleep](#) (\$17), revisiting Dan of *The Shining*.

Lansdale, Joe R. [Cold in July](#) (Tachyon \$14.95). Richard Dane has killed a man. He cannot unhear the firing of the gun or unsee the blood on his living room wall. But everybody in the small town of LaBorde, Texas knows Dane acted in self defense. Everybody except Ben Russel, the ex-con father of the small-time criminal who invaded Dane's home. When Russel comes looking for revenge against Dane's family, the two are unexpectedly drawn into a conspiracy that conceals the vilest of crimes. From the Edgar Award-winning author of the Hap and Leonard mysteries comes a shocking crime thriller that inspired the 2014 major motion picture *Cold in July*, starring Michael C. Hall (*Dexter*), Sam Shepard (*Black Hawk Down*), and Don Johnson (*Miami Vice*).

Martin, George RR, ed. [Rogues](#) (Random \$30). 21 all new stories from Joe Abercrombie • Daniel Abraham • David W. Ball • Paul Cornell • Bradley Denton • Phyllis Eisenstein • Gillian Flynn • Neil Gaiman • Matthew Hughes • Joe R. Lansdale • Scott Lynch • Garth Nix • Cherie Priest • Patrick Rothfuss • Steven Saylor • Michael Swanwick • Lisa Tuttle • Carrie Vaughn • Walter Jon Williams • Connie Willis, plus a new *Game of Thrones* story and an Introduction by Martin.

McManus, Patrick F. [Circles in the Snow](#) (Skyhorse \$24.95). "Someone's been killing bald eagles; a widely disliked rancher has been murdered (with an arrow, no less); and mysterious circles, perfectly round, are appearing in the snow. Blight County, Idaho, Sheriff Bo Tully, thinking of retirement, juggles a handful of likely murder suspects with his usual wit and aplomb, while handling his cantankerous, ex-sheriff father with rather less finesse. McManus, who's a humor columnist and nonfiction writer when he's not writing the Tully novels, has a real gift for dialogue and character; the humor in this delightful series comes out of the characters and the situations, not from clever wordplay or comedy set pieces. And it's worth mentioning, for those readers who haven't yet read a Tully novel (this is the sixth), that the mysteries are well crafted and genuinely suspenseful, not merely an excuse for some lighthearted goings-on, but solid puzzlers in their own right. Warning to McManus: you'd better not let Bo retire anytime soon."—*Booklist*. I'm with this reviewer, the books have been a treasure. This is a new publisher so our odds of getting Signed copies went away.

McMurtry, Larry. [The Last Kind Words Saloon](#) (Liveright \$24.95). In his first novel in five years, McMurtry tells the story of the closing of the American frontier through the travails of two of its most immortal figures: Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday.

Miller, Sue. [The Arsonist Signed](#) (Knopf \$25.95). A small New Hampshire town provides the backdrop for Miller's provocative novel about the boundaries of relationships and the tenuous alliance between locals and summer residents when a crisis is at hand. After years of being an aid worker in Africa, Frankie Rowley returns to the idyllic Pomeroy, N.H., summer home to which her parents have retired. But all is not well in Pomeroy, where a spate of house fires leaves everyone wary and afraid.

Frankie, who may have seen the arsonist her first night home, contemplates her ambiguous future. "Miller, a pro at explicating family relationships as well as the fragile underpinnings of mature romance, brilliantly draws parallels between Frankie's world in Africa and her life in New Hampshire, and explores how her characters define what 'home' means to them and the lengths they will go to protect it."—*PW*.

Page, Katherine Hall. [Small Plates: Short Fiction Signed](#) (Harper \$26). Each of Page's novels satisfies like a delicious, hearty meal. Now, Page has set out to satisfy a different appetite. Those who might prefer a collection of tasty little snacks are in luck!

Patterson, James/David Ellis. [Invisible](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Everyone thinks Emmy Dockery is crazy. Obsessed with finding the link between hundreds of unsolved cases, Emmy has taken leave from her job as an FBI researcher. Now all she has are the newspaper clippings that wallpaper her bedroom, and her recurring nightmares of an all-consuming fire. Not even Emmy's ex-boyfriend, field agent Harrison "Books" Bookman, will believe her that hundreds of kidnappings, rapes, and murders are all connected. That is, until Emmy finds a piece of evidence he can't afford to ignore. More murders are reported by the day—and they're all inexplicable.... New in paper: [Gone](#) (\$16).

Pratchett, Terry. [Long Mars](#) (Harper \$25.99). 2040-2045: In the years after the cataclysmic Yellowstone eruption there is massive economic dislocation as populations flee Datum Earth to myriad Long Earth worlds. Sally, Joshua, and Lobsang are all involved in this perilous rescue work when, out of the blue, Sally is contacted by her long-vanished father and inventor of the original Stepper device, Willis Linsay. He tells her he is planning a fantastic voyage across the Long Mars and wants her to accompany him. But Sally soon learns that Willis has an ulterior motive for his request... Meanwhile U. S. Navy Commander Maggie Kauffman has embarked on an incredible journey of her own, leading an expedition to the outer limits of the far Long Earth. For Joshua, the crisis he faces is much closer to home. He becomes embroiled in the plight of the Next: the super-bright post-humans who are beginning to emerge from their "long childhood" in the community called Happy Landings, located deep in the Long Earth. 3rd in the Long Earth Series. New in paperback: [Science of Discworld: A Novel](#) (\$15.95)

Rice, Anne. [The Wolves of Midwinter](#) (\$15). With this standalone sequel to *The Wolf Chronicles*, we return to the Northern California coastline retreat of Nideck Point where Reuben Golding continues to wrestle with adjustments to his new life as a Man Wolf.

Roy, Lori. [Until She Comes Home](#) (\$16). Roy follows her Edgar® Award-winning debut novel, [Bent Road](#) (\$15), set in 1967 Detroit, with a spellbinding tale of suspense set against the crumbling façade of a once-respectable Detroit neighborhood in 1958. The ladies of Alder Avenue—Grace, Julia, and Malina—struggle to care for one another amidst a city ripe with conflict, but life erupts when child-like Elizabeth disappears. A black woman was recently murdered at the factory where their husbands work, and the ladies fear that crime may foretell Elizabeth's fate. When an unmistakable sound rings out, will the vicious secrets that bind them all be revealed?

Rotstein, Robert. [Reckless Disregard](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). A Hollywood Gothic with a modern twist: video gaming. Former

topnotch attorney Parker Stern, still crippled by courtroom stage fright, takes on a dicey case for an elusive video game designer known to the world only by the name of “Poniard.” In Poniard’s blockbuster game, “Abduction,” a real-life movie mogul is charged with kidnapping and murdering a beautiful actress who disappeared in the 1980s. Predictably, the mogul—William “the Conqueror” Bishop—has responded with a libel lawsuit. Poniard convinces Parker to defend him on the only realistic ground—Bishop is guilty. But Parker, still concealing his past as a former child, has personal reasons for opposing Bishop’s lawyer. “Endless novelties, endless twists, endless complications, endless surprises in and out of the courtroom. Whatever you read legal drama for, it’s here, along with a whole lot of other stuff you never thought to ask for.”—*Kirkus* Starred Review

Sefton, Maggie. [Yarn Over Murder](#) (Berkley \$25.95). It’s early summer in Fort Connor, Colorado, and a herd of alpacas requires rescuing from a raging wildfire. Kelly Flynn and the House of Lambspun knitters may be able to save the helpless animals, but not the unexpected victim of a cold-blooded murder.... 11th in the Knitting Mystery series.

Smith, Dan. [The Child Thief](#) (\$14.95). A troubled WWI veteran races across the frozen steppe of 1930s Ukraine to save a child from a shadowy and sadistic killer with unthinkable plans... Everyone here is super excited about Smith’s July thriller, [Red Winter](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). We may pursue Signed copies.

Stone, Robert. [Death of the Black-Haired Girl](#) (\$14.95). At an elite college in a once-decaying New England city, Steven Brookman has come to a decision. A brilliant but careless professor, he has determined that for the sake of his marriage, and his soul, he must end his relationship with Maud Stack, his electrifying student, whose papers are always late yet always incandescent. But Maud is a young woman whose passions are not easily curtailed, and their union will quickly yield tragic and far-reaching consequences. “Unsettling and tightly wrought—and a worthy cautionary tale about capital-C consequences.” — *Entertainment Weekly*

Tervalon, Jervey. [Monster’s Chef](#) (Harper \$24.99). Once upon a time, Gibson was a successful chef with a popular restaurant and a beautiful loving wife. He was also a drug addict with a habit that nearly destroyed him. Fresh out of rehab, he’s now using his skills to feed his fellow halfway house residents budget gourmet meals—a talent that attracts two shady women who offer him a job cooking for a music superstar named Monster. Though Gibson doesn’t have a good feeling about his seeming good fortune, he needs a job. Arriving on Monster’s compound, Gibson senses that trouble is still on his tail. First, he’s asked to sign a confidentiality agreement. Then he meets the compound’s gardener, who warns him not to go outside at night—and tells him that to stay alive he must see nothing, hear nothing, say nothing. It is advice that proves all too true when Gibson discovers a dead body near his bungalow a few nights later....

Vachss, Andrew. [Shockwave: An Aftershock Novel](#) (Knopf \$26.95). “In Vachss’ engrossing sequel to 2013’s [Aftershock](#) (\$15.99), a battered corpse with a shattered skull washes up on the beach of the Oregon town where Adelbert ‘Dell’ Jackson and his wife, Dolly, have settled, determined to live peacefully under aliases. The only clues to the dead man’s identity are in the Nazi tattoos covering his body. The police arrest Homer, a

schizophrenic homeless man, for murder after he produces the victim’s watch. Mack, a social worker colleague of Dolly’s who believes Homer is innocent and won’t survive confinement, asks Dolly for help. Dolly turns to Dell, who’s forced to return to the violent life he forsook when he joined the French Foreign Legion. Along with Mack, Dell explores a dark world inhabited by the homeless, hate groups, and tattoo artists. Intelligently drawn characters and assured prose help make this crime novel a winner.”—*PW*

Van Lustbader, Eric. [Robert Ludlum’s The Bourne Ascendancy](#) (Grand Central \$28). He has been hired to impersonate a high-level government minister at a political summit meeting in Qatar, shielding the minister from any assassination attempts. Suddenly, armed gunmen storm the room, killing everyone but Bourne. Their target, however, isn’t the minister Bourne impersonates....it is Bourne himself. Kidnapped and transported to an underground bunker, Bourne finds himself face-to-face with an infamous terrorist named El Ghadan (“Tomorrow”). El Ghadan holds as his captive Soraya Moore, former co-director of Treadstone, and a close friend to Bourne, along with her two year old daughter. Why? He is desperate to prevent Israel and Palestine from signing a treaty, and demands Bourne kill POTUS to quash it. If Bourne won’t, then Soraya will die....

White, Kate. [Eyes on You](#) (Harper \$25.99). After losing her on-air job two years ago, television host Robin Trainer has fought her way back and now she’s hotter than ever. With her new show climbing in the ratings and her first book a bestseller, she’s being dubbed a media double threat. But suddenly, things begin to go wrong. Small incidents at first: a nasty note left in her purse; her photo shredded. But the obnoxious quickly becomes threatening when the foundation the makeup artist uses burns Robin’s face. It wasn’t an accident—someone had deliberately doctored with the product. An adversary with a dark agenda wants to hurt Robin, and the clues point to someone she works with every day. While she frantically tries to put the pieces together and unmask this hidden foe, it becomes terrifyingly clear that the person targets her life....

Wilson, Daniel H. [Robogenesis: A Novel](#) (Knopf \$26.95). At the end of [Robopocalypse](#) (\$15.99), the modern world was largely devastated, humankind was pressed to the point of annihilation, and the earth was left in tatters . . . but the master artificial intelligence presence known as Archos had been killed. In *Robogenesis*, we see that Archos has survived. Spread across the far reaches of the world, the machine code has fragmented into millions of pieces, hiding and regrouping. In a series of riveting narratives, *Robogenesis* explores the fates of characters new and old, robotic and human, as they fight to build a new world in the wake of a devastating war.

Wright, Erica. [The Red Chameleon](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Poet Wright turns to crime. Kathleen Stone’s ability to blend in makes her an ace private investigator, but when a cheating spouse she is tailing ends up dead she fears that someone from her past has seen through her disguises. As a private investigator, Stone relies on her ability to blend into the background. Aided by her street-smart drag queen friend plus the best wigmaker in NY to create her disguises, she feels confident that her camouflage is up to snuff. But when a cheating spouse she’s been trailing ends up dead under suspicious circumstances, she fears that someone

she angered in her past job—busting gangs and drug dealers as an undercover cop—has seen through her disguises. “Painful repressed memories start to surface that touch on the reason she resigned from the police force at age 25. A possible romance with Ellis adds to the intrigue, as does the appearance of a past lover.” So, a fresh take on the private eye novel....and the start, one hopes, of a series.

JUNE MASS MARKET PICKS

Davidson, Diane Mott. [The Whole Enchilada](#) (\$7.99). Colorado’s Goldy Schulz knows her food is to die for, but she never expected one of her best friends to keel over as she left a birthday party Goldy catered. It turns out to be a generous serving of cold-blooded murder. And the clever culprit is just getting going. When a colleague—a woman who resembles Goldy—is stabbed, and Goldy is attacked outside her house, it becomes clear that the popular caterer is the main course on a killer menu... 17th in this bestselling series.

Ellis, David. [The Last Alibi](#) (\$9.99). “Bestseller Ellis conceals and reveals information like a skilled poker player in his strong fourth legal thriller featuring Midwestern attorney Jason Kolarich (after 2012’s *The Wrong Man*). Jason, who’s on trial for murder, is sure of only one thing: if he testifies, he won’t tell the truth. The clock turns back six months to when Jason meets beautiful court reporter Alexa Himmel, whom he’s soon dating. He also has an odd-looking new client, James Drinker, who tells Jason that he’s afraid that he’ll be accused of murder. Jason and his partner, Shauna Tasker, begin to suspect that Drinker is guilty of murder, though the victim’s identity isn’t revealed until halfway through the book. Meanwhile, Jason appears to be battling a simple illness that turns out to be something a lot more sinister. Ellis’s own background as an attorney gives weight to the courtroom scenes, and the plot twists keep readers guessing throughout.”—*PW*. #3 in series. Ellis, a lawyer running for the bench, has also co-written with James Patterson.

Evanovich, Janet. [Takedown Twenty](#) (\$8.99). New Jersey bounty hunter Stephanie Plum knows better than to mess with family. But when powerful mobster Salvatore “Uncle Sunny” Sunucchi goes on the lam in Trenton, it’s up to Stephanie to find him. Uncle Sunny is charged with murder for running over a guy (twice), and nobody wants to turn him in—not his poker buddies, not his bimbo girlfriend, not his two right-hand men, Shorty and Moe. Even Trenton’s hottest cop, Joe Morelli, has skin in the game, because—just Stephanie’s luck—the godfather is his actual godfather. New in June: [Top Secret Twenty-One Signed](#) (Random \$28).

Hoag, Tami. [The 9th Girl](#) (\$9.99). On a frigid New Year’s Eve in Minneapolis, a young woman is found brutally murdered—the ninth so far this year in a string of grisly slayings. Homicide detectives Sam Kovac and Nikki Liska fear that it’s the work of a serial killer they call Doc Holiday, a transient who has brought his gruesome game to a new and more terrifying level. But as Kovac and Liska uncover the truth, they find that the monsters in the ninth girl’s life may live closer to home. And then another young woman disappears... 4th in series.

Jance, JA. [Second Watch](#) (\$9.99). J. P. Beaumont is finally taking some time off to have knee-replacement surgery. But instead of recuperating, he is plunged into one of the most perplexing and mind-blowing mysteries he’s ever faced. A series of dreams takes

Beaumont back to his early days on the force with the Seattle PD, and then even earlier to his time in Vietnam. Are these drug-induced hallucinations? Beaumont doesn’t think so—not when images from the past lead him to present-day murders . . . and dead bodies from the Second Watch that won’t stay buried.

Pearson, Ridley. [Choke Point](#) (\$9.99). How I love this book with its rapid-fire action, its unusual characters, the crimes at its heart, and the growth of John Knox, with his former combat experience, and forensic accountant Grace Chu, who can trap and trace even the most sensitive financial information. Rutherford Risk is the global security agency currently providing their paychecks and their assignments. Which currently lands them in Amsterdam working through the picturesque streets and canals where they face Middle Eastern mobsters, the owner of a local brothel, and police officers they don’t trust. [The Risk Agent](#) (\$9.99). See Event Books for the 3rd in series, *The Red Room*, taking them to Istanbul.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [White Fire](#) (\$10). This is a Secret Agent Pendergast but it can be read as a thrilling standalone to anyone new to Preston & Child. The fascinating story takes you to an exclusive Colorado ski resort to rescue Pendergast’s FBI protégée, Corrie Swanson. The landscape is beautiful, the history of the old mining area fascinating—and the danger, high! What a gem. [Click here](#) for Preston & Child thrillers.

Taylor, Brad. [The Widow’s Strike](#) (\$9.99). Iranian bad guys want to release the virus that caused the influenza pandemic of 1918. The carrier will be a Chechen widow who hates the United States. If Logan and his cohorts from the Taskforce (an off-the-books group created to solve problems without having to get authorization from Congress or the courts) don’t stop her, the death toll could run into the millions. Taylor ups his game book to book: he signs a new Pike Logan here July 16. [Click here](#) for all the Logans.

Toyne, Simon. [The Tower](#) (\$9.99). In the conclusion to the Ruin Trilogy, a cyber-attack at NASA’s flight center in Maryland disables the Hubble space telescope and the Nobel prize-winning scientist in charge disappears. The only clues are a cryptic countdown clock and a chilling message displayed on the missing man’s computer: Mankind Must Look No Further. FBI Agent Joe Shepherd discovers a note in the scientist’s handwriting that reads “end of days” as well as further evidence linking the attack to strange events eight months earlier: an explosion at the Citadel, an ancient monastery in Turkey; a viral outbreak that occurred in its wake; and the disappearance of a journalist named Liv Adamsen and ex-special forces operative Gabriel Mann. Shepherd’s investigation leads him to the secrets at the very edge of the universe and also into his own past as the countdown clock continues—to Revelation, or Devastation?

Wellington, David. [Chimera: A Jim Chapel Mission](#) (\$9.99). A band of fugitives has escaped from a secret military facility. Each has a target—an innocent civilian—and they will not stop until that target has been eliminated. Wounded Special Forces veteran Jim Chapel has been stuck behind a desk, but now medical technology has finally caught up with Chapel’s ambitions, and combined with his unstoppable determination he’ll get back to where he thrives: in the thick of the action. Chapel must hunt down the escapees—all extremely deadly, genetically modified

killers. Aided by a mysterious woman named Angel and a courageous, beautiful veterinarian, Chapel begins a cross-country hunt to stop the murders. But are the killers really rogues, or are they part of a sinister conspiracy. For the sequel, see Event Books.

NEW IN MASS MARKET FOR JUNE

Alan, Isabella. [Murder, Simply Stitched: Amish Quilt Shop #2](#) (Signet \$7.99)

Bolin, Janet. [Night of the Living Thread: Threadneedle #4](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Brennan, Allison. [Dead Heat](#) (\$7.99)

Brown, Dale. [Drone Strike](#) (\$9.99)

Bruce, Alison. [Silence](#) (Harper \$9.99)

Cain, James M. [Cocktail Waitress](#) (\$7.99)

Clement, John. [Cat Sitter's Cradle](#) (\$7.99)

Connolly, Sheila. [Razing the Dead: Museum Mystery #5d](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Cooper, Amanda. [Tempest in a Teapot: Teapot Collector #1](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Corleone, Douglas. [Good as Gone](#) (\$9.99)

Costa, Shelley. [Basil Instinct: Miracolo Restaurant #2](#) (\$7.99)

Coulter, Catherine. [Bombshell](#) (\$9.99)

Cussler, Clive. [Zero Hour](#) (\$9.99) NUMA Files #9 with Kurt Austin

Davis, Krista. [Diva Wraps it Up: Domestic Diva #8](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Desmet, Christine. [Hot Fudge Frame-Up: A Fudge Shop Mystery](#) (Signet \$7.99)

Freydout, Shelley. [Independence Slay](#) (\$7.99)

Gardiner, Meg. [Shadow Tracer](#) (\$7.99)

Graham, Heather. [Cursed](#) (\$7.99)

Hamilton, Donald. [Betrayers](#) (\$7.99)

Kelly, Diane. [Paw Enforcement](#) (\$7.99). Starts a cozy procedural

King, Stephen. [Joyland](#) (\$7.99)

Laurie, Victoria. [Deadly Forecast: A Psychic Eye Mystery](#) (Signet \$7.99)

Lee, Amanda. [Thread End: An Embroidery Mystery](#) (Signet \$7.99)

Ludlum, Robert. [Road to Gandolfo](#) (\$9.99)

Parra, Nancy J. [Engaged in Murder: Perfect Proposals Mystery #1](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Patterson, James. [Confessions of a Murder Suspect](#) (\$8)

Patterson, James. [Second Honeymoon](#) (\$10)

Rollins, James/Rebecca Cantrell. [Innocent Blood](#) (\$9.99) Order of the Sanguines #2

Sefton, Maggie. [Close Knit Killer](#) (7.99)

Sparks, Nicholas. [The Notebook](#) (\$8)

Taylor, Patrick. [An Irish Country Courtship](#) (\$7.99)

Van Lustbader, Eric. [Robert Ludlum's the Bourne Retribution](#) (\$10)

Young, Tom. [Warriors](#) (\$9.99)

SciFi/Fantasy/Paranormal

Barnes, John. [Last President](#) (\$7.99)

Cheney, J Kathleen. [Golden City](#) (\$7.99)

Davidson, Maryjanice. [Undead and Unsure](#) (\$7.99)

Correia, Larry. [Warbound](#) (\$7.99)

Green, Simon R. [Casino Infernale](#) (\$7.99)

Hamilton, Laurell K. [Affliction](#) (\$7.99)

Harris, Charlaïne. [All Together Dead](#) (\$7.99)

Jackson, D B. [Thieves' Quarry](#) (\$8.99)

Lackey, Mercedes. [Steadfast](#) (\$7.99)

Lawrence, Mark. [Emperor of Thorns](#) (\$7.99)

Ochse, Wes. [Grunt Life](#) (\$7.99). Task Force Ombra

Pike, Aprilynne. [Earthbound](#) (\$9.99)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

Alferi, Annamaria. [Strange Gods](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In early 20th century British East Africa, there are rules for the British and different ones for the Africans. Vera McIntosh, the daughter of Scottish missionaries, doesn't feel she belongs to either group; having grown up in Africa, she is not interested in being the well-bred Scottish woman her mother would like her to be. More than anything she dreams of seeing again the handsome police officer she's danced with. But more grisly circumstances bring Justin Tolliver to her family's home. The body of Vera's uncle, Dr. Josiah Pennyman, is found with a tribesman's spear in his back. Tolliver, an idealistic Assistant District Superintendent of Police, is assigned to the case. He first focuses on Gichinga Mbura, a Kikuyu medicine man. But the spear belonged to the Maasai tribe. Unfortunately the powers that be are pressing for quick resolution of a messy case highlighting the different standards for Europeans vs. Africans. Starts a series aiming for *Out of Africa* enthusiasts after 3 historical mysteries set in South America.

✎Baker, Jo. [Longbourn](#) (\$15.95). An Upstairs/Downstairs scenario, mostly Downstairs, focused on the servants in Austen's Bennet family. See British books for more.

✎Bates, Stephen. [The Poisoner](#) (Overlook \$27.95). It's difficult to imagine the crowds and the "going to the fair" atmosphere that accompanied an execution in Victorian England. In 1856 a crowd of all stripes, including women, crowded outside Stafford prison to watch the hanging of Dr. William Palmer. Was he a serial killer, a gambler so far in debt he killed people for money to sustain his addiction and pay off pressing creditors? Or was he unlucky that medicine could not provide definitive answers and the dead John Cook's stepfather was both interested and rich enough for force an enquiry? While Bates consults original sources such as previously undiscovered letters from Palmer, the interest here is less his guilt or innocence (since Palmer was self-destructing anyway) than in forensics and the conduct of investigations and trials. Fascinating.

Beavor, Antony. [Crete 1941](#) (\$18). Nazi Germany expected its airborne attack on Crete in 1941 to be a textbook victory based on tactical surprise. Little did they know that the British, using Ultra intercepts, had already laid a careful trap. It should have been the first German defeat of the war when a fatal misunderstanding turned the battle around. Reissue with a new Introduction by Beavor.

✎Benmore, James. [Dodger of the Dials Signed](#) (Heinemann \$41). Two years on from the events of *Dodger* (\$16), Jack Dawkins is back as top-sawyer with his own gang of petty thieves from Seven Dials. But crime in London has become a serious business—and when Jack needs protection he soon finds himself out of his depth and facing the gallows for murder. The evidence against him seems insurmountable, until a young reporter by the name of Oliver Twist takes up his cause. After freeing Jack from gaol, the pair must bury their past differences and join forces to hunt down the men who framed Jack and stole that which he treasures most.

Burton, Jessie. [The Miniaturist Signed](#) (Picador UK \$33). This debut for fans of Chevalier's *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Tartt's *The Goldfinch*, is set in the 1700s Amsterdam and opens with a young woman knocking on the door of the older, wealthier man to whom she has been betrothed. The title references a doll

house the heroine's husband gives to her, thinking it will be a source of entertainment. The editor calls the book a novel of "secrets and hypocrisies" detailing "how our private lives so often differ from our public ones." Our **July History/Mystery Club Pick**. Non-club members should order quickly to secure a copy as supply is limited.

Casey, Donis a. [Hell with the Lid Blown Off Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). A small Oklahoma town is hit by a terrible tornado. Is the body found in a field a casualty of the storm...or a killer? See Event Books for this new Alafair Tucker mystery set a little more than 100 years ago in Boynton. [Hell with the Lid Blown Off](#) (\$14.95)

⌘Davies, David Stuart. [The Darke Chronicles: Tales of a Victorian Puzzle-Solver](#) (History Press \$13.95). A treat for fans of vintage crime and Sherlockians. See British Books.

Davis, Lindsey. [The Ides of April](#) (\$15.99). Flavia Albia is the adopted daughter of Marcus Didius Falco and Helena Justina. From her mother, she learned how to blend in at all levels of society; from her father, she learned the tricks of their mutual professional trade. Now, working as a private informer in Rome during the reign of Domitian, Flavia has taken over her father's old ramshackle digs at Fountain Court in the Subura district, where she plies her trade with energy, determination, and the usual Falco luck. Recently hired to help investigate a fatal accident, she finds herself stuck with a truly awful person for a client and facing a well-heeled, well-connected opponent. That is, until her client unexpectedly dies under what might be called "suspicious circumstances." While this is not a huge loss for society, it is a loss for Flavia Albia's pocket. Even worse, it's just one of a series of similar deaths for which she now finds herself under suspicion.... Out this month:

Flavia Alba #2: [Enemies at Home](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Roman law decreed that if the head of a household was murdered at home, and the culprit wasn't quickly discovered, his slaves—all of them, guilty or not, "enemies at home"—were presumed responsible and were put to death. Without exception. When a couple is found dead in their own bedroom and their house burglarized, some of their household slaves know what is about to happen to them. They flee to the Temple of Ceres, which by tradition is respected as a haven for refugees. This is where Flavia Albia comes in. The authorities, under pressure from all sides, need a solution. This is the premise, enemies at home, that drives Bruce Macbain's first Pliny mystery, [Roman Games](#) (\$14.95), a locked-room plot turning on the murder of the master at his *mansio*.

Fabbri, Robert. [False God of Rome](#) (\$12.95). Vespasian is serving as a military officer on the outskirts of the Roman Empire, suppressing local troubles and defending the Roman way. But political events in Rome—Tiberius's increasingly insane debauchery, the escalating grain crisis—draw him back to the city. When Caligula becomes Emperor, Vespasian believes that things will improve. But soon.... Remember that Vespasian is Rome's Emperor for Lindsey Davis' Falco series.

Finn, Peter. [The Zhivago Affair: The Kremlin, The CIA, and the Battle over a Forbidden Book](#) (Knopf \$26.95). In brisk and thrilling fashion, Washington Post national security editor Finn and Saint Petersburg State University instructor Couvée take readers into the world of Soviet intelligentsia and shadowy Cold

War politics to study how Boris Pasternak came to write and publish *Doctor Zhivago* (which first appeared in Italy in 1957). The authors use rich archival research, including previously classified CIA files, to depict the oppressive political conditions that gave rise to Pasternak's masterpiece, and the international firestorm that occurred when the novel was banned in the Soviet Union. The book offers nuanced depictions of the people in Pasternak's life, including his lover, Olga Ivinskaya, who championed his work and shared his torment at the hands of the KGB..."—*PW* Starred Review

Freeman, Kimberley. [Ember Island](#) (SimonSchuster \$16). An Aussie whose work is akin to that of countrywoman Kate Morton presents a two track story: one beginning in 1891 Dorset moving swiftly to the Channel Island of Guernsey; the other in 2012 at Starwater House on Moreton Bay, Ember Island, Australia where novelist Nina has fled to the family home built in 1868 and left empty when renters decamped without paying. So what is the link between Tilly Kirkland, the Edwardian bride, and the modern writer suffering from severe block it takes nearly to the end of the story to explain? There's a greedy heir eager to claim his entailed property (so Jane Austen), a dashing French émigré, an endangered bride, attempted murder, a brutal prison that once operated on Ember Island, plenty of suspense and romance in the style of the late Mary Stewart. **Our June History Paperback Pick**, thus.

Goodwin, Jason. [The Baklava Club](#) (Farrar \$26). 19th Century Istanbul. Yashim returns for his 5th and final adventure. Three naïve Italian liberals, exiled in Istanbul, have bungled their instructions to kill a Polish prince—instead, they've kidnapped him and absconded to an unused farmhouse. Little do they realize that their revolutionary cell has been penetrated by their enemies, who are passing along false orders under the code name La Piuma, the Feather. It falls to Yashim to unravel all this—he's convinced that the prince is alive and that the Italians have hidden him somewhere. But there are just a few problems: He has no idea who La Piuma is, and he's in no mood to put up a fight—he's fallen in love! As he draws closer to the farmhouse and to the true identity of La Piuma, what Yashim discovers leaves him shocked and in the most dangerous situation of his career. Yashim's first investigation, [The Janissary Tree](#) (\$16), a First Mystery Club Pick, won the Edgar for Best Novel. [Click here](#) to order all Yashim's cases.

⌘Gregory, Susanna. [Death of a Scholar Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$50). In the summer of 1358 the physician Matthew Bartholomew returns to Cambridge to learn that his beloved sister is in mourning after the unexpected death of her husband, Oswald Stanmore. Aware that his son has no interest in the cloth trade that made his fortune and reputation, Oswald has left the business to his widow, but a spate of burglaries in the town distracts Matthew from supporting Edith in her grief and attempting to keep the peace between her and her wayward son. As well as the theft of irreplaceable items from Michaelhouse, which threatens its very survival, a new foundation, Winwick Hall, is causing consternation amongst Matthew's colleagues. A perfect storm between the older establishments and the brash newcomers is brewing when the murder of a leading member of the Guild is soon followed by the death of one of Winwick's senior Fellows. Assisting Brother Michael in investigating these fatalities leads Matthew into a web of suspicion, where conspiracy theories

are rife but facts are scarce and where the pressure from the problems of his college and his family sets him on a path that could endanger his own future Gregory now resides in Wales, hence the high price.

Hastings, Max. [Catastrophe 1914: Europe Goes to War](#) (\$17.95) “brilliantly shows how, within its first few months, World War I came to assume the dispiriting and bloody form it would hold for the next four years.”—*NY Times*. It was Winston Churchill who wrote, “No part of the Great War compares in interest with its opening.”

Hillenbrand, Laura. [Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival](#) (\$16). “In May 1943, an Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific and quickly sank, leaving behind only two survivors bobbing helplessly in the restless seas. One of them was Louis Zamperini, a 26-year-old airman who had overcome a troubled past to become an Olympic athlete. After 47 perilous days adrift on a raft, Zamperini and his companion survivor were rescued by the Japanese navy. He remained a prisoner of war until the end of hostilities. This riveting narrative by the author of *Seabiscuit* is the story of one plucky man,” now in his 90s.

Ifkovic, Ed. [Final Curtain Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). “Ifkovic’s fifth Edna Ferber mystery provides a splendid view of the highbrow theater culture of another era... While George [S. Kaufman] can’t take anything—including an unexplained homicide—seriously, the redoubtable Edna refuses to let the case go unsolved in this rewarding installment.”—*Publishers Weekly*. [Final Curtain](#) (\$14.95). See New Books for more.

Jecks, Michael. [Fields of Glory Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$46). The year is 1346 and King Edward III is restless. Despite earlier victories his army has still not achieved a major breakthrough and the French crown remains intact. Determined to bring France under English rule and the French army to its knees he has regrouped and planned a new route of attack. And on the beaches of Normandy his men now mass, ready to march through France to victory. But the French are nowhere to be seen. Edward knows that the worst thing he could do would be to take the battle to the French, where they will have the advantage and so he sets up camp near a small hill at Crecy and waits. The Battle of Crecy will be a decisive turning point in the Hundred Years’ Wars. Two trade paperbacks: [Belladonna at Belstone](#) (\$14.95); [Traitor of St Giles](#) (\$14.95).

Kane, Ben. [Hannibal: Enemy of Rome](#) (St Matins \$26.99). As Rome rose to power in the 3rd century BCE there was only one real rival in the Mediterranean—Carthage. In the First Punic War, the Roman legions defeated and humiliated Carthage. Now Hannibal, a brilliant young Carthaginian general, is out for revenge. Caught up in the maelstrom are two young boys, Hanno, the son of a distinguished soldier and confidant of Hannibal, and Quintus, son of a Roman equestrian and landowner. A disastrous adventure will see Hanno sold into slavery and bought by Quintus’s father. Although an unexpected friendship springs up between the two boys—and with Quintus’s sister, Aurelia—the fortunes of the two warring empires will tear them apart.

✠Kasasian, Martin. [The Curse of the House of Foskett Signed](#) (Harcourt \$39). A Sherlockian sort of pair, one female, in Edwardian London. See British Books.

Kuhns, Eleanor. [Cradle to Grave](#) (St Martins \$25.99). In 1797, weaver Will Rees longs for his old freedom of the road despite his happy new marriage and managing his Maine farm with his long-estranged son. Then his wife Lydia receives a frantic appeal from an old friend in the Shaker community at Mount Unity, NY: she’s in trouble with the local law for kidnapping five children in response to the lack of care by their mother. So the newlyweds brave the icy roads and the controversy that greets them in Mount Unity—the unfit mother, Maggie Whitney, has been murdered and their Shaker friend is the obvious suspect... Small town secrets and politics, inheritances, and boundaries between Shakers and civilians enter into an unusual story, 3rd in series. *A Simple Murder* was a History/Mystery Club Pick: [click here](#) to order all three.

✠Marston, Edward. [Inspector Colbeck’s Casebook Signed](#) (Allison \$45). 13 original tales following cases worked by Colbeck, collected for your pleasure.

May, Elizabeth. [The Falconer](#) (Chronicle \$17.99). Debutante by day. Murderess by night. Edinburgh’s only hope. 1844. Beautiful Aileana Kameron only looks the part of an aristocratic young lady. In fact, she’s spent the year since her mother died developing her ability to sense the presence of Sithichean, a faery race bent on slaughtering humans. She has a secret mission: to destroy the faery who murdered her mother. But when she learns she’s a Falconer, the last in a line of female warriors and the sole hope of preventing a powerful faery population from massacring all of humanity, her quest for revenge gets a whole lot more complicated. The first volume of a fantasy trilogy for ages 14+.

McCleary, Carol. [No Job for a Lady](#) (Forge \$24.99). Pyramids, dark magic, and dead bodies are what the intrepid Nellie encounters when she takes off for Mexico after her editor refuses to let her work as a foreign correspondent because “it’s no job for a lady.” It’s 1886 and Mexico has not cast off all its bloodthirsty Aztec past. Among the towering pyramids in the ghost city of Teotihuacán, Nellie is stalked by ruthless killers seeking Montezuma’s legendary treasure and an ancient cult that resorts to the murderous Way of the Aztec to protect it. Nellie travels with Gertrude Bell, who will go on to be called Queen of the Desert for her later exploits in Egypt, as well as the most glamorous and beautiful woman of the era, Lily Langtry, mistress of the Prince of Wales. Along for the ride is a young gunfighter called the Sundance Kid. And there’s the mysterious Roger Watkins, who romantically and physically challenges Nellie. 4th in the Nellie Bly series.

✠McGee, James. [Rapsallion: A Regency Crime Thriller](#) (\$15.95). For a French prisoner of war, there is only one fate worse than the gallows: the hulks. Former man-o-wars, now converted to prison ships, their fearsome reputation guarantees a sentence served in dreadful conditions. Few survive, fewer escape. Yet reports persist of a sinister smuggling operation and the Royal Navy is worried enough to send two of its officers to investigate. When they disappear without a trace, the Navy turns to Bow Street for help. It’s time to send in a man as dangerous as the prey. It’s time to send in Matthew Hawkwood. 3rd in series.

Niebuhr, Gustav. [Lincoln’s Bishop](#) (Harper \$26.99). It is hard to recall what powerful moral voices Protestant church leaders had in the formative years of the nation. Gustav Niebuhr travels back to the Minnesota frontier of 1862 when Dakota Sioux

rose up against pioneering families and slaughtered hundreds. Citizens demanded mass executions and deportations. Into this turmoil stepped Henry Benjamin Whipple, the state's first Episcopal bishop. Whipple had already loudly decried the crimes and corruption of those managing Indian affairs. Now he made the case of mercy and a deeper justice, which eventually led to meeting with President Lincoln. Lincoln was moved to intervene, surprisingly taking the time to review all 303 cases and overturning the death sentence for most of the Indians. Nevertheless, the result was still the largest single execution on American soil. If not for Whipple's vigorous campaigning, both in state and in Washington, DC, a greater tragedy might well have occurred. His success should haunt us: Where today do we hear these trumpet calls for justice like those given by figures such as Bishop Henry Benjamin Whipple?

✠Robertson, Imogen. [Theft of Life Signed](#) (Headline \$44). London, 1785. When the body of a West Indies planter is found pegged out in the grounds of St Paul's Cathedral, suspicion falls on one of the victim's former slaves, who was found with his watch on the London streets. But it seems the answer is not that simple. The impact of the planter's death brings tragedy for Francis Glass, a freed slave now working as a bookseller and printer in the city, and a painful reminder of the past for William Geddings, Harriet Westerman's senior footman. Harriet is reluctant to be drawn in to the difficult and powerful world of the slave trade, but she and her friend, reclusive anatomist Gabriel Crowther, begin to understand the dark secrets hidden by the respectable reputation of London's slave owners. Together, they negotiate the interests of the British government, the secrets of the plantation owners, and a network of alliances stretching across the Atlantic. 5th in a terrific series, not quite Georgian Noir but unflinching in its look at an era of accelerating change and concomitant greed.

Rowe, Rosemary. [Dark Omens](#) (\$15.95). #14 for Libertus, freed man of Roman Britain (Gloucester), a mosaic man. He accepts a contract to install a pavement for Genialis, a self-important citizen from a nearby town, in the house of the customer's intended but unwilling and young bride, Silvia. However, the winter is exceptionally severe, and although the mosaic is laid in time to earn the promised bonus, Genialis goes missing in the snow before payment can be made. Meanwhile, at an important feast, the sacrifice is spoiled as an aged priest lets go of the sacrificial ram – and when news arrives that the Emperor is dead, it seems that these dark omens are being realized. The subsequent discovery of not one, but two mutilated corpses only adds to the puzzle. A strong entry in this fine series I much enjoy.

Shaara, Jeff. [The Smoke at Dawn](#) (Random \$28). The latest novel in the series that started with [A Blaze of Glory](#) (\$16) and [A Chain of Thunder](#) (\$17). It's Summer, 1863. The last great push of the Army of the Cumberland sets the stage for a decisive confrontation at Chattanooga that could determine the outcome of the war. The Federal triumph at Vicksburg has secured complete control of the Mississippi River from the Confederacy, cementing the reputation of Ulysses S. Grant. Farther east, the Federal army under the command of William Rosecrans captures the crucial rail hub at Chattanooga. But Rosecrans is careless, and while pursuing the Confederates, the Federal forces are routed in north Georgia at Chickamauga Creek. Retreating in a panic back to Chattanooga, Rosecrans is pursued by the Confederate forces under General Braxton Bragg. And then...

See, Lisa. [China Dolls Signed](#) (Random \$27). Her best since [Snow Flower and the Secret Fan](#) (\$15 Signed). Explore 1938 San Francisco's Chinese community, its clubs, the Chop Suey circuit, how WWII plays, and on... See Event Books for more.

Smith, Noble. [Spartans at the Gates](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Action! Adventure! The Peloponnesian War has begun. An army of merciless Spartan invaders have arrived at the gates of Plataea, bent on obliterating the city and its inhabitants. Plataea's oldest allies, the Athenians, are spread too thin in their own campaigns to send help. Cut off and alone, the Plataeans dig in behind their high walls for the coming siege, while the ruthless Spartans gather outside. On a rugged mountain road a young Plataean warrior named Nikias rides to Athens on an urgent quest. He carries with him a bag of ill-gotten gold, hoping to raise an army of mercenaries to help defend his city from the coming Spartan assault. But in the sprawling stronghold of Athens, Nikias encounters perils that prove to be more dangerous....

✠Todd, Charles. [A Question of Honor](#) (\$14.99). The 5th for Bess Crawford. See our May Trade Paperback Picks for a mystery that begins in India under the Raj.

Tremayne, Peter. [The Seventh Trumpet](#) (\$15.99). Ireland, AD 670. When the body of a murdered young noble is discovered not far from Cashel, the King calls upon his sister, Fidelma, and her companion Eadulf to investigate. Fidelma, in addition to being the sister of the king, is a dailaigh—an advocate of the Brehon Law Courts—and has a particular talent for resolving the thorniest of mysteries. But this time, Fidelma and Eadulf have very little to work with—the only clue to the noble's identity is an emblem originating from the nearby kingdom of Laign. Could the murder be somehow related to the wave of violence erupting in the western lands of the kingdom? The turmoil there is being stirred up by an unknown fanatical figure who claims to have been summoned by “the seventh angel” to remove the “impure of faith.”

Order the 25th Sister Fidelma, [The Devils' Seal Signed](#) (Headline \$43), out in July, now to avoid disappointment.

Whyte, Jack. [Robert the Bruce](#) (\$17.99). He spearheaded the valiant Scots in their quest for freedom, leading his people during the Wars of Scottish Independence against the Kingdom of England during the Middle Ages. His reign saw the recognition of Scotland as an independent nation, and today Bruce is remembered in Scotland as a national hero. It was by no means a fair and easy road for this indomitable fighter. As a young man he saw the English king Edward I award the vacant Crown of Scotland to John Balliol. The nation quickly splintered into factions and this spurred Robert and his father to at first side with Edward and then against John, whom many of the nobles did not feel was the correct person to guide the nation. Thus began a decades-long path for Scottish freedom. See Robyn Young below for more of the Bruce's story.

✠Willig, Lauren. [That Summer Signed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Willig describes this as her English Gothic and it is, blending stories that begin in 2009 and 1839. The Victorian backstory that begins in 1839 is so Bronte and chilling, plus filled with Pre-Raphaelites, that you could well call this an historical suspense novel.

✂Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Care and Management of Lies Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99). You know going in this is going to be a heartbreaker as well as a story of grit and survival. Two women, best friends; two men who love one of them, who go to war; family, community, and tragedy. And the power of food, of a good table. Reread Winspear's debut, [Maisie Dobbs](#) (\$14.95).

Young, Robyn. [Kingdom Signed](#) (Hodder \$39). Robert the Bruce has achieved his great ambition to be crowned King of Scotland, but in so doing has provoked the wrath of Edward of England. Raising the feared dragon banner, the English king marches north, determined to recapture the kingdom. But the English are not Robert's only enemies. By murdering his great rival, John Comyn, he has split the kingdom apart and with his forces depleted and many of his own countrymen turned against him, Robert is for