

# BOOKNEWS from

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## ANOTHER AWESOME AUGUST

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

*Some Events will be webcast at <http://new.livestream.com/poisonedpen> and on Facebook Live*

#### AUGUST 1 7:00 PM

**Jonathan and Jesse Kellerman** sign [Crime Scene](#) (Ballantine \$28.99)

Starts a Coroner's Investigator series

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 2 7:00 PM

**Gin Phillips** signs [Fierce Kingdom](#) (Viking \$25)

Modern Firsts Club Pick

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 5 2:00 PM Tea

**Rhys Bowen** signs [On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service](#) (Berkley \$26) Lady Georgiana 11

#### MONDAY AUGUST 7 7:00 PM

**Hosted by Betty Webb (author and zoo volunteer)**

**Dawn Langley Reno** signs [The Mourning Parade](#)

(Amberjack \$16.99)

Elephants!

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 8 7:00 PM

**Wendy Walker** signs [Emma in the Night](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Surprise Me Club Pick!

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 9 7:00 PM

**Larry Correia** signs [Monster Hunter Siege](#) (Baen \$25)

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 12 2:00 PM British Tea

**Susan Elia MacNeal** signs [The Paris Spy](#) (Bantam \$26)

Maggie Hope

#### MONDAY AUGUST 14 7:00 PM Book Launch

**Lisa Scottoline** signs [Exposed](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

Rosato & DiNunzio

And [I Need a Lifeguard Everywhere But the Pool](#) (\$21.99)

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 15 7:00 PM

**Karin Slaughter** signs [The Good Daughter](#) (Harper \$27.99)

Our copies come with a nifty collectible

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 17 7:00 PM

**Robert K. Tanenbaum** signs [Without Fear or Favor](#) (Gallery \$27)

Butch Karp

#### FRIDAY AUGUST 18 7:00 PM SciFi Club Friday

**Benjamin Percy** (on Skype) discusses [The Dark Net](#) (Houghton \$27 Signed)

Then the SciFi Club discusses Justin Cronin's [The Passage](#) (\$18)

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 19 10:30 AM

**Croak & Dagger** discusses Steve Hamilton, [The Second Life of Nick Mason](#) (\$16)

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 23 7:00 PM

**Andrew Gross** signs [Saboteur](#) (St Martins \$27.99) WWII

Thriller

Plus Barbara plans a Norway Travelogue with photos

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 24 7:00 PM

**Julia Keller** signs [Fast Falls the Night](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Prosecutor Bell Elkins

#### FRIDAY AUGUST 25 7:00 PM

**The Three-Legged Dog** plays music

#### TUESDAY AUGUST 29 7:00 PM

**Jane Eppinga** signs [Death at Papago Park POW Camp](#) (History Press \$21.99)

A dark, forgotten chapter of Arizona's WWII history

#### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 30 7:00 PM

**Hardboiled Crime** discusses Bill Beverly's multi-award-winning debut [Dodgers](#) (\$15)

#### THURSDAY AUGUST 31 7:00 PM

**William Kent Krueger** signs [Sulfur Springs](#) (Atria \$26)

Cork O'Connor

**T Jefferson Parker** signs [The Room of White Fire](#) (Putnam \$27)

San Diego PI Roland Ford

## EVENT BOOKS

Bowen, Rhys. [On Her Majesty's Frightfully Secret Service](#) (Berkley \$26). As Lady Georgie tells us, When Darcy runs off on another secret assignment, I am left to figure out how to travel to Italy sans maid and chaperone to help my dear friend Belinda, as she awaits the birth of her baby alone. An opportunity presents itself in a most unexpected way—my cousin the queen is in need of a spy to attend a house party in the Italian lake country. The Prince of Wales and the dreadful Mrs. Simpson have been invited, and Her Majesty is anxious to thwart a possible secret wedding. What luck! 11<sup>th</sup> in a delightful, clever series. [Order all eleven](#)

Clark, Marcia. [Snap Judgment](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95 or \$15.95). Samantha Brinkman #3 publishes August 29, signed here September 5. Clark's new series earned another *PW* Starred Review: "Samantha Brinkman, Clark's flawed but sympathetic L.A. defense attorney protagonist, must deal with more than one explosive case in her highly suspenseful third outing. When someone slashes the throat of USC freshman Alicia Hutchins, the natural suspect is Roan Sutton, Alicia's ex-boyfriend. Roan allegedly posted nude pictures of Alicia online, along with her address and an invitation for site visitors to help Alicia realize her rape fantasies. But before the evidence establishing whether Roan's guilty of either the revenge porn posting or the murder can be found, he turns up dead, an apparent suicide. Alicia's father, a prominent litigator, turns to his friend Sam for help, in anticipation of the LAPD considering him a person of interest in Roan's death. Meanwhile, gangster Javier Cabazon, who knows of Sam's role in arranging the death of a thug who killed a baby, insists that she lead him to a witness he wants dead. Clark keeps up the frenetic pace, but never allows the plot's tricky developments to overwhelm her characterizations."

Correia, Larry. [Monster Hunter Siege](#) (Baen \$25). When Monster Hunter International's top hunter, Owen Zastava Pitt, was given a tip about some hunters who had gone missing in action, he didn't realize their rescue mission would snowball into the single biggest operation in MHI's history. Their men are being held prisoner in a horrific nightmare dimension, and the only way to reach them is through the radioactive ruins of a monster-infested war zone. As if that wasn't bad enough, it's also the home base of the powerful creature behind the devastating attacks on the Last Dragon and Copper Lake. It turns out ancient gods of chaos really hate trespassers. But this god picked a fight with the wrong crew, and now MHI wants payback.

Eppinga, Jane. [Death at Papago Park POW Camp](#) (History Press \$21.99). Patrick writes, "The POW camp at Papago Park has long been a source of fascination and curiosity for us long time Arizonans. There have been numerous accounts of the infamous escape attempt, but until now little has been known about this much darker chapter in our state's history. Eppinga does a terrific job of collecting archival documents and photographs to bring the story to life." World War II came to Arizona via two significant avenues: prisoner-of-war camps and military training bases. Notorious for its prisoners' attempted escape through the Faustball Tunnel, Papago POW Camp also had a dark reputation of violence among its prisoners. An unfortunate casualty was

Werner Drechsler, who supplied German secrets to U.S. Navy authorities after his capture in 1943. Nazis held there labeled him a traitor and hanged him from a bathroom rafter. Controversy erupted over whether the killing was an act of war or murder, as well as the lack of protection Drechsler received for aiding in espionage. Ultimately, seven POWs were hanged for the crime, the US's last mass execution. Betty Webb's [Desert Run](#) (\$14.95) uses an attempted escape from this camp as the springboard for one of her very best Lena Jones plots.

Gerritsen, Tess. [I Know a Secret](#) (Ballantine \$28 out August 15, to be signed here September 4). Two separate homicides, at different locations, with unrelated victims, have more in common than just being investigated by Boston PD detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles. In both cases, the bodies bear startling wounds—yet the actual cause of death is unknown. It's a doubly challenging case for the cop and the coroner to be taking on, at a fraught time for both of them. As Jane struggles to save her mother from the crumbling marriage that threatens to bury her, Maura grapples with the imminent death of her own mother—infamous serial killer Amalthea Lank. While Jane tends to her mother, there's nothing Maura can do for Amalthea, except endure one final battle of wills with the woman whose shadow has haunted her all her life. Amalthea hasn't lost her taste for manipulating her estranged daughter—this time by dangling a cryptic clue about the two bizarre murders Maura and Jane are desperately trying to solve. But whatever the dying convict knows is only a piece of the puzzle. Soon the investigation leads to a secretive young woman, an independent horror film that may be rooted in reality, and a slew of martyred saints who died cruel and unusual deaths.

Gross, Andrew. [Saboteur](#) (St Martins \$27.99). This excellent thriller is based on true events—only the names have been changed to protect... as one says. Kurt Nordstrum is part of a ragtag resistance that wants to take Norway back from the Nazis and from the puppet dictator, Vidkun Quisling. The war is going badly for Germany, and rumors among the Quislings have it that the Norsk Hydro plant in southern Norway is Hitler's "golden goose," though nearly no one understands why. The Nazi defeat at Stalingrad gives Hitler "a new urgency to develop a weapon that could tilt the war his way." He desperately needs the "heavy water"—deuterium oxide—the Norsk plant secretly produces. We know it's critical to developing an atomic bomb. Norsk is set atop unscalable cliffs above an impenetrable gorge, is connected by a single suspension bridge, and is under constant heavy guard. British Special Operations assigns Nordstrum and his small team a virtually impossible mission: penetrate the plant and destroy the heavy water supply and the means of its production. The task is extraordinarily dangerous—an earlier attempt results in the "loss of forty elite men," so the Norwegians are chosen for "one last raid." The story has been told before—Kirk Douglas and Richard Harris star in the 1965 movie *The Heroes of Telemark*; Francine Mathews incorporated it into *The Alibi Club*. But Gross brings his characters to life, even Nordstrum's traitorous nemesis, Dieter Lund... And it's winter, so expect great skiing scenes. A terrific story filled with tension and surprises right to the end. That's two World War II winners in a row for Gross."—*Kirkus* Starred

Review. If you get to visit the Museum of the Resistance in Oslo you will find further examples of Norwegians' immense courage. If you missed Gross' reality-based WWII thriller [One Man](#) (\$9.99) last August, we recommend it.

Keller, Julia. [Fast Falls the Night](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Lots to talk about with this latest in the Pulitzer winner's West Virginia series which compresses the action to 24-hours and lasers in on the opioid epidemic. The first drug overdose comes just after midnight, when a young woman dies on the dirty floor of a gas station bathroom. To the people of the small town of Acker's Gap, West Virginia, it is just another tragedy. It is sad—but these days, depressingly familiar. But then there is another overdose. And another. And another. Prosecutor Bell Elkins soon realizes that her Appalachian hometown is facing its starkest challenge yet: a day of constant heroin overdoses from a batch tainted with a lethal tranquilizer. While the clock ticks and the bodies fall, Bell and her colleagues desperately track the source of the deadly drug—and engage in fierce debates over the wisdom of expending precious resources to save the lives of self-destructive addicts. This is less about drugs and more about Keller's strength in writing about the ties that bind, and chafe, small rural communities. Bestseller *Hillbilly Elegy* is a nonfiction analog.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [Crime Scene](#) (Ballantine \$28.99). Alex Delaware meets Temperance Brennan in the start of a series. Natural causes or foul play? That's the question Clay Edison must answer each time he examines a body. He's not a cop; he works for the coroner. In this series start, Clay, a Bay Area star athlete whose athletic career was derailed by injury, is called to the home of the reclusive and notably eccentric Walter Rennert. Rennert's body lies cold at the bottom of his stairs. At first glance the scene looks straightforward: a once-respected psychology professor, felled by a combination of booze and a bad heart. But his daughter Tatiana insists on a closer look. Such a decision is not a part of his job, but his are the trained eyes at the scene. So at Tatiana's pleas, he decides to buck the system and take a closer look at not just Rennert's grim death, but the facts of his grim life. At Left Coast Crime in Honolulu last March Jesse told me about the depth of his research for creating Clay, and how fascinating it was.

Krueger, William Kent. [Sulfur Springs](#) (Atria \$26). An author whose stories are rooted in landscapes as well as character, Minnesotan Krueger has inevitably been drawn to Arizona (he took a 2017 spring break in Sedona). The state's southern border is as unforgiving as some of Minnesota's territories. On the Fourth of July, just as fireworks are about to go off in Aurora, Minnesota, Cork O'Connor and his new bride Rainy Bisonette listen to a desperate voicemail left by Rainy's son, Peter. The message is garbled and full of static, but they think they hear Peter confess to the murder of someone named Rodriguez. When they try to contact him, they discover that his phone has gone dead. Arriving in Coronado County, they learn Peter had been fired six months earlier from his job at a drug-rehab center. Their only lead to him is the nearby little desert town of Sulfur Springs where Peter has been receiving his mail. But no one in Sulfur Springs seems to know him. They do, however, recognize the name Rodriguez. Carlos Rodriguez is the head of a cartel that controls everything illegal crossing the border from Mexico into Coronado County. Take it from there, as does Cork, who's a bit uneasy that Rainy knows more than she'll say And if he can't trust Rainy, who can he trust? Order all of [Cork's investigations](#).

MacNeal, Susan Elia. [The Paris Spy](#) (Bantam \$26). "Only Susan Elia MacNeal—and the extraordinary Maggie Hope—could wrap such a tale of courage and betrayal around a secret that will cost lives and honor to protect."—Charles Todd on our **August History/Mystery Club Pick**. Maggie Hope has played many roles in war-torn Britain, from Churchill's secretary to Special Operations Executive spy. Now she's in Paris waiting for forged identity papers and hoping to find her half sister, Elise Hess, a Resistance fighter who'd escaped from Germany, and to learn the whereabouts of SOE agent Erica Calvert, who's been collecting sand samples to help determine where the invasion forces should land. When the documents arrive, Maggie checks into the Hôtel Ritz posing as neutral Irishwoman Paige Kelly, who's shopping for her trousseau. But tending to the wounds of a German knocked down by a bike as she's on her way to the Ritz brings Maggie to the highly consequential attention of Generaloberst Christian Ruesdorf. At the Ritz, Maggie's befriended by Coco Chanel, who introduces her to high-ranking Germans she'd rather avoid. And off we go.... Order all of this [captivating series](#) and binge read novels akin to the recent *Maisie Dobbs* by Jacqueline Winspear.

Pamuk, Orhan. [The Red-Haired Woman](#) (Knopf \$28). Publishes August 22 but signed for us just in time to become our October Modern Firsts Club Pick. The Nobel Prize winner (2006) draws this comment from poet, writer, and editor Scott Neuffer: "He's a heavy hitter in international letters and is fascinated by the myriad ways myth and real life interact. *The Red-Haired Woman* takes place in his native Turkey, outside Istanbul. At first, the story is narrated by a young boy named Cem, whose father, a leftist dissident, is taken to prison. Desperate for money, Cem finds a job as an apprentice for a renowned well digger, Master Mahmut, in the small town of Öngören. The two work together on a barren plateau to find water for a client. Relying on the master's experience and instinct, they begin a well that becomes an ordeal.... Pamuk writes with the lean, archaic simplicity of parable, gradually adding moral weight to his tale with each successive chapter. Cem and Mahmut's search for water takes on mythical qualities...." I immersed myself in this wonderful novel—you will, too. Order early as our supply is limited.

Parker, T Jefferson. [The Room of White Fire](#) (Putnam \$27). The double Edgar winner is back in the thriller game with this new series opener making our **August Thriller Club Pick**. And he's continuing to be focused on returning soldiers. San Diego PI Roland Ford, one of those, a widower with a dodgy work history and taste for bourbon, must hunt down Air Force veteran Clay Hickman who's engineered an escape from a high-end treatment campus. Hickman is damaged by war, dangerous, and on the run. While Ford has an ace rep for finding people, he needs intel—and he can't understand either the surveillance at Arcadia hospital or the shroud of secrecy hanging over Clay's disappearance. He does however make an unexpected contact with a carefree teen called Sequoia who helped bust Clay out. Ford, widowed when his wife's beloved small plane crashed into the Pacific, is a pilot. He's going to need his skills on land and air to survive finding Clay. This is a loose, edgy Parker voice you fans of his Charlie Hood novels will relish (there's nothing supernatural however).

Penny, Louise. [Glass Houses](#) (St Martins \$28.99). Armand Gamache #13 publishes August 29, Signed here September 3. I am saving this to read in early August while in Santa Fe so here is a comment from Library Reads: "A new threat arises in Three

Pines as a mysterious masked figure stands watch on the village green. 'It' refuses to communicate in any way, which is just the start of another thrilling adventure in this long-running series. Gamache is still trying to restore the Sûreté du Québec back to what it was before it was corrupted under the previous regime. Choices are made that will forever change our hero in ways we can only begin to imagine." With Canada celebrating its 150<sup>th</sup> Canada Day last July, how timely to have this treat set in Three Pines and Montreal to enjoy.

Phillips, Gin. [Fierce Kingdom](#) (Viking \$25—we have the last of the first prints for this very hot summer book). The zoo is nearly empty as Joan and her four-year-old son soak up the last few moments of playtime. They are happy, and the day has been close to perfect. But what Joan sees as she hustles her son toward the exit gate minutes before closing time sends her sprinting back into the zoo, her child in her arms. And for the next three hours—the entire scope of the novel—she keeps on running. Our **August Modern Firsts Club Pick** boldly explores the ferocity of a mother's love and will have you asking, what would I do? While this is a mother, it could be a father, a sibling, anyone thrust into a shooter's path. Read this [terrific review in the NY Times](#) which points out: "Part of the book's great allure is that the reader feels as if this character, Joan, is working out each of her dilemmas in real time. The book starts at 4:55 p.m. and ends just after 8:05 p.m. — we know because the story is structured as a ticktock, with digital-watch chapter titles (5:23 p.m., 5:32 p.m., 5:42 p.m., etc.)... [Yet it] starts as so many scary ones do: Tranquilly. Joan and her adorable, regulation-precocious 4-year-old boy, Lincoln, are passing a pleasant afternoon at the zoo. "

Pryor, Mark. [The Sorbonne Affair](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95) Hugo Marston #7 —an author, spies, Paris, *joie!* Someone is spying on American author Helen Hancock. Former FBI profiler Hugo Marston is dispatched to investigate. Almost immediately, the stakes are raised from surveillance to murder when the hotel employee who appears to be responsible for bugging Hancock's suite is found dead. Out in August but signed here with Craig Johnson September 9.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Exposed](#) (St Martins \$27.99). A Prepublication event on August 14 so ask for your copy to be dated. Newly made a partner, Mary DiNunzio, never ever able to resist the bonds of her large (often extended) family, becomes engaged in a battle of wills with senior lawyer Bennie Rosato when Mary wants to represent an old friend, a sales rep she believes has been wrongly fired by his company. Bernie, no sentimentalist, says No, pointing out a conflict of interest since she, Bernie, represents the parent corporation. Plus she's known the charismatic CEO for years. The situation could blow apart the powerhouse Rosato & DiNunzio law firm if a pathway forward can't be found, since neither partner is about to back down. Scottoline excels at creating conflicts for her characters. We still have a few signed copies of her April bestseller, [One Perfect Lie](#) (\$27.99), another of Scottoline's amazing standalone suspense stories where the unimaginable has to be...managed.

Slaughter, Karin. [The Good Daughter](#) (Harper \$27.99 August 15). Charlotte and Samantha Quinn's happy small-town family life was torn apart by a terrifying attack on their family home. It left their mother dead. It left their father Rusty — Pikeville's notori-

ous defense attorney — devastated. And it left the Quinn family fractured beyond repair, consumed by secrets from that terrible night. Twenty-eight years later, Charlie has followed in her father's footsteps and become a lawyer herself — the archetypal good daughter. But when violence comes to Pikeville again — and a shocking tragedy leaves the whole town traumatized — Charlie is plunged into a nightmare. Not only is she the first witness on the scene, but it's a case which can't help triggering the terrible memories she's spent so long trying to suppress." This is a brutal, take-no-prisoner's look at violence done to women and deep wounds that demand to be excised.

Only after you read *The Good Daughter* you should pick up the very powerful memoir [The Fact of a Body](#) (Flatiron \$26.99) by Alexandria Marzao-Lesnevich, and only after you read that should you read [this review in the NY Times](#) . This book was highly recommended to me by Fiona Barton during drinks after her event here July 22 for [The Child](#) (\$26 Signed), one of the summer's best domestic suspense hits.

Tanenbaum, Robert. [Without Fear or Favor](#) (Gallery \$27). When a cop shoots down the son of a respected inner-city Baptist preacher, the community rises up in anger and demands to have the officer prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law. But there's something more than a call for justice at work here: a plot to bring down the city's police force through a conspiracy so vast and malicious only Butch Karp and his wife Marlene Ciampi can stop a radical organization of armed militants bent on the cold-blooded murder of uniformed on-duty police officers. Tanenbaum's series has tackled some tough major issues in its recent releases from the former DA's point of view.

Walker, Wendy. [Emma in the Night](#) (St Martins \$26.99). I selected this novel from bestseller Walker for our **August Surprise Me! Club Pick** even though it falls into the Trust No One/Missing Probably Dead Children category because of its riveting portrayal of an alarming personality disorder. I urge you not to look up on-line reviews as it will spoil the impact of the book if you know what the disorder is, and who it is. Trust me! Briefly, one night three years ago, the Tanner sisters disappeared: fifteen-year-old Cass and seventeen-year-old Emma. Three years later, Cass returns, without her sister Emma. Her story is one of kidnapping and betrayal, of a mysterious island where the two were held. But to forensic psychiatrist Dr. Abby Winter, something doesn't add up. Among its many Starred Reviews are these: "A tense thriller explores the bond between sisters and family dynamics that give new meaning to the term 'dysfunctional'...This thriller aims right for the heart and never lets go." —*Kirkus*. "Both twisted and twisty, this smart psychological thriller sets a new standard for unreliable narrators." —*Booklist*.

Karen of our staff, a professional in the psychology field, will interview Walker. She comments thusly: "There doesn't seem to be any playbook for the investigation of this intriguing dysfunctional family. While Special Agent, Leo Strauss looks for what can be seen or heard, Forensic Psychologist, Dr. Abigail Walker, hones in on the less obvious language — how things are said, what isn't said. Walker invites the reader to join in the journey through a twisted labyrinth of the knowns and unknowns leading to a surprising conclusion. A terrific read, with all of the essentials: entertaining, suspenseful and intense."

## SIGNED BOOKS

Brookes, Adam. [The Spy's Daughter](#) (LittleBrown UK \$40). Pearl Tao has a secret. She longed for the life of a normal American teenager: summers at the pool, friends, backyard barbecues in the Washington DC suburbs. But she was different. Pearl had a gift for mathematics, a college sponsorship from a secretive technology corporation, and a family riven with anger and dysfunction. And it's only now, at nineteen years old, that she has started to understand what role she is to play. What her parents intend for her. For Pearl Tao, any hope of escape lies with two British spies: Trish Patterson, sidelined in disgrace, and Philip Mangan, blown and discredited – and following his own trail of corruption. Finding out the truth about Pearl will be the most urgent, the most dangerous mission they'll ever undertake. I am wild for the inventive, propulsive fiction of Brookes who links his plots to China. His first, [The Night Heron](#) (\$15), was a bestselling 2014 First Mystery Pick for us. Grab a copy if you missed reading it.

Estleman, Loren D. [Nearly Nero](#) (Gallery \$26). A collection of Nero Wolfe–inspired crime stories. From 1934 until his death in 1976, Rex Stout entertained the world with the exploits of Nero Wolfe—the eccentric, orchid-breeding detective genius—as related by Archie Goodwin, his irreverent legman. Nearly Nero is an affectionate, tongue-in-cheek homage to Stout's greatest creation. Claudius Lyon is a fanatic admirer of Wolfe. He has retrofitted himself and his townhouse after Wolfe's and has hired a man named Arnie Woodbine to serve as his Archie Goodwin. However, Lyon's naiveté and Woodbine's larcenous nature constantly put them in jeopardy—more than Wolfe and Goodwin ever faced. Somehow the imitator manages to find a solution from every problem. But can he and his assistant keep up this pretense for long?

Gattis, Ryan. [Safe](#) (Farrar \$27). It's 2008, the bottom of the financial crash. Ricky Mendoza, Junior (a.k.a. Ghost), is a DEA safe-cracker. In recovery and working as a freelance safecracker for the DEA, the FBI, and any other government agency willing to pay him, Ghost is determined to live clean for the rest of his days which may be few since he has terminal cancer. And maybe he could, if the most important person in his life hadn't gotten into serious financial trouble. When Ghost goes rogue and steals thousands of dollars from a safe that belongs to Rooster, an LA crime lord who happens to be Glasses' boss, he endangers a deal Glasses had with a DEA official. As Ghost sets out to steal as much money as he can get his hands on – all with the plan to give it to those hit hardest by the crash – and Rooster gets ever closer to catching him, Glasses tries desperately to keep his plans on track. Although I could cut down on the number of expletives, this is a compelling story with unusual twists. Our **August Hard-boiled Club Pick**, it reminds me of Roger Hobbs' bestselling debut, [Ghostman](#) (\$16). And in the LA depicted, Joe Ide's [IQ](#)

✎Goldberg, Leonard. [The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes](#) (St Martins \$27). Imagine if Holmes and Irene Adler had produced a child. It's 1910. A man falls from a building, apparently a suicide. Joanna Blalock, a highly skilled nurse, and her ten-year-old son are accidental witnesses. The boy insists the man didn't fall from the open window, but from the roof. Elderly Dr. John Watson and his charming son John Jr., also a doctor, are visited soon after by Mary Harrelston, the dead man's sister, who insists he would never have taken his life. And she mentions his debts

to one Christopher Moran. The game is afoot. The Watsons call upon the Blalocks and impressed with their observations, invite them to join their investigation. While dodging the usual impediments, John, Sr. is not only impressed by Joanna, he suspects she, and her son, are the result of a most unlikely assignation—and delighted!

✎Gregory, Susanna. [The Habit of Murder](#) (Sphere \$45). In 1360 a deputation from Cambridge ventures to the Suffolk town of Clare in the hope that the wealthy Elizabeth de Burgh has left a legacy to Michaelhouse. Yet when they arrive they discover that the report of her death is false and that the college seems destined for bankruptcy. Determined to see if some of its well-heeled citizens can be persuaded to sponsor Michaelhouse, Matthew Bartholomew, Brother Michael and Master Langelee become enmeshed in the town's politics. They quickly discover that a great many other people in Clare have recently met untimely deaths. These killings, combined with the arrogance Lady de Burgh has shown over the refurbishment of the church and the grotesque behaviour of some of her entourage, have created a dangerous restlessness in the town: an atmosphere intensified when yet more murders occur. One of the victims is a fellow traveler of the Michaelhouse contingent....

Hart, Hansen. [The Driver](#) (Dutton \$26). A **First Mystery Club Pick**. *Bones* creator Hansen's debut is all about the voice and the narrative which is filled with magical prose moments. Plus Hansen's ability to immerse you in LA, the beautiful and the ugly, and the crazy, blooms with affection. In this I was reminded of Chandler and Connelly, although I must point out the plot here is often a stretch. Michael Skellig, a much decorated Army veteran with injuries and traumas of his own, runs Oasis Limousines (3 vehicles) which not only supplies transportation but employment and shelter for other wounded vets plus his Afghan interpreter he smuggled into the US. Their bonds (and dialogue) form much of the glue backing a story where Skellig and his team (including his lawyer Connie and cop Delilah Groopman, BFFs with a history with Skellig) are faced with the challenge of keeping skateboard mogul (and basic street rat) Bismarck Avila alive while working out who wants him dead—and why. Plus how to dispose of the sadistic, crooked cop in the game. I pray for a Skellig sequel.

✎Hannah, Sophie. [Did You See Melody?](#) (Hodder \$32). Pushed to breaking point, Cara Burrows abandons her home and family and escapes to a five-star spa resort she can't afford. Late at night, exhausted and desperate, she lets herself into her hotel room and is shocked to find it already occupied—by a man and a teenage girl. A simple mistake on the part of the hotel receptionist—but Cara's fear intensifies when she works out that the girl she saw alive and well in the hotel room is someone she can't possibly have seen: the most famous murder victim in the country, Melody Chapa, whose parents are serving life sentences for her murder. Cara doesn't know what to trust: everything she's read and heard about the case, or the evidence of her own eyes. Did she really see Melody? And is she prepared to ask herself that question and answer it honestly if it means risking her own life?

Hoeg, Peter. [The Susan Effect](#) (Random UK \$35.99). A new crime novel translated from the Danish by the author of mega-bestseller *Smilla's Sense of Snow*. Susan Svendsen has an unusual talent. She is an expert in finding out secrets. People feel com-

pelled to confide in her and unwittingly confess their innermost thoughts. Her whole life, she has exploited this talent, but now her family is in jeopardy and there is a prison sentence hanging over her head. Then Susan gets a timely offer from a former government official: use her power one more time and have all charges dropped. To get her life back in order, she must track down the last surviving members of a secret think tank, the Future Committee, and find out the details in this committee's mysterious final report. But there are some powerful people determined that the report is never revealed.

✂Horowitz, Anthony. [The Word Is Murder](#) (Century UK \$45). Publishes August 24 but not available until early September. A wealthy woman strangled six hours after she's arranged her own funeral. A very private detective uncovering secrets but hiding his own. A reluctant author drawn into a story he can't control. What do they have in common? Unexpected death, an unsolved mystery and a trail of bloody clues....

Kamal, Sheena. [The Lost Ones](#) (Morrow\$26.99). Lee Child blurbs a huge number of books. Here's one for this Canadian gem with which I agree completely: "A brave, unflinching heroine and brave, unflinching writing add up to an extraordinary debut—highly recommended." This top-notch thriller, our **August First Mystery Club Pick**, features a fascinating main character; a wounded, tough as nails, biracial and scarred street survivor called Nora Watts. A woman who gave up her newborn for adoption 15 years ago as best for mom and child. And now comes a call from the child's adopted family—Bonnie is missing and Nora is their best hope of finding her thanks to her freakish ability to detect truth from lies. The cops have labeled Bonnie a chronic runaway into the streets of Vancouver, but Nora can't help herself in rejecting the runaway scenario. And so we move to a truly surprise ending! And did I mention Whisper, the dog to match Nora? "Nora out-Salanders Lisbeth Salander. The atmospheric PNW setting is suitably dark, wet and creepy. The villains are memorably villainous. This novel is fresh and compelling."

Knausgaard, Karl Ove. [Autumn](#) (Season's Quartet) (Harvill \$38). *Autumn* begins with a letter Karl Ove Knausgaard writes to his unborn daughter. He adds one short piece per day, describing the material and natural world with the precision and mesmerizing intensity that have become his trademark. This tender and deeply personal book is beautifully illustrated by Vanessa Baird, and is the first of four volumes marveling at the vast, unknowable universe around us.

Lange, Richard. [The Smack](#) (Mulholland \$27). "It's Thanksgiving Day in Richard Lange's latest novel and Rowan Petty is doing what he always does on a national holiday and every other day — swindling gullible people out of their hard-earned cash. 'I talk chumps out of their money,' admits Petty, a grifter so down on his luck he has to work his current hustle from a crummy hotel on the Reno strip. When Dandy Don O'Keefe, a fellow con artist, tips him off about a more lucrative scam in Los Angeles, Petty hits the road with a hooker who calls herself Tinafe and is too cute for words. Honestly, how hard can it be to write a likable hooker? (Give her a brutish ex-husband, have some thug hold her for ransom, and take her shopping on Rodeo Drive.) But it takes real talent to write a coyote [an actual animal] with personality.... The caper plot is tidier (and more violent) than Lange's usual free-form efforts, with a solid back story about Army buddies conniving to retrieve the cash they

made from stolen goods....The book is most fun, though, when it focuses on Petty's clever ruses to separate the rubes from their life's savings."—*NY Times Book Review*, seconded by Patrick.

✂McDermid, Val. [Insidious Intent](#) (LittleBrown UK \$39). When charred human remains are discovered in the driver's seat of a burning car, DCI Carol Jordan and psychological profiler Tony Hill are brought in to investigate. They soon discover that what appeared to be a terrible accident is, in fact, murder. Delving deeper into the case, they begin the dangerous hunt for a most sinister killer with the power to inflict untold fear and pain on their victims.... 10<sup>th</sup> in series.

McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and a Spot of Bother](#) (Hodder \$42). Scotland, 1934. Fair is foul and foul is fair as aristocratic private detective Dandy Gilver heads off to Castle Bewer to solve a mystery of a missing ruby necklace and a tragic family curse. She arrives as the residents are preparing to stage a production of Macbeth, yet sinister goings on seem to be more than amateur dramatics. 12<sup>th</sup> in an always unusual historical series, always great fun too.

Muller, Marcia. [The Color of Fear](#) (Grand Central \$26). "The savage beating of Sharon McCone's 82-year-old father by a gang of thugs kicks off MWA Grand Master Muller's outstanding 34th mystery featuring the San Francisco PI. McCone's father, nationally known Native American painter Elwood Farmer, arrived in San Francisco from Montana two days earlier for the Christmas holidays. He was shopping for gifts in the city's Marina district when he was assaulted in what may have been a racially motivated attack. SFPD Sgt. Priscilla Anders, however, suspects the beating may be tied to Farmer's relationship to McCone, and that theory seems more and more plausible after a break-in at McCone's office and vandalism directed at her employees. The stakes rise when McCone becomes the target of cyber attacks and death threats. She pursues a number of leads, many of which fail to pan out and others that are frustratingly vague, but she eventually discovers that a hate group may be involved after all. At the exciting climax, McCone valiantly arms herself and goes into action alone."—*PW Starred Review*

Percy, Benjamin. [The Dark Net](#) (Houghton \$27). The Indie Next Pick: "In Percy's best work yet, the author takes the poorly understood underbelly of the Internet and brings it to terrifying life in Portland, Oregon, in a tale complete with hipsters and homeless people, supernatural beings, hardcore geeks, a journalist, and a blind 12-year-old girl. As a former resident of Portland and a technologist, I was particularly impressed with Percy's nuanced portrayal of downtown Portland and its landmarks, including Powell's Books. Percy does a masterful job of making the Internet scary in a thriller that feels like a combination of American Gods and the Stephen King books I tore through as a teenager." *Kirkus* adds, "Percy takes the darkest conspiracy theories you can imagine and makes them the stuff of nightmares....humankind is held responsible for its irresponsibility, paying the price for all the convenience we take for granted, for our obsession with the digital world...the message is effective and scary...there's something undeniably creepy about the thought that your smartphone can possess you. A gory cautionary tale." Chuck Wendig praises our August SciFi Pick, saying, it "kicked my ass with its deft mash-up of both blackhat hacker culture and black magic. Percy reveals an upgraded, rebooted battle between good versus evil — a fast, fantastic, throat-punch of a read."

Pulley, Natasha. [The Bedlam Stacks](#) (Bloomsbury). Publishes in late August; signed here by the British author on Nov. 6 when it will be our **November History/Mystery Club Pick**—when I will also do a Peru travelogue. “*The Bedlam Stacks* is a gorgeously detailed historical fantasy novel that spans from England to China to Peru. The year is 1859, and Merrick Tremayne is enlisted by his former employer, the East India Trading Company, to smuggle ingredients for a crucial malaria treatment past the monopoly holders of the fast vanishing cinchona trees—their bark is the source of the quinine needed in India and Ceylon—in Peru’s tropical Andean forests. Along the way, his story slips into fantasy as easily as sliding into warm water. Though Merrick begins his trip loyal only to the Company, his loyalties shift the longer he’s in Peru. Richly described and quietly romantic, this book is an absorbing and beautiful read.” I liked her [The Watchmaker of Filigree Street](#) (\$16), a 2015 History/Mystery Club Pick, which has a tie-in.

Rose, Augustus. [The Readymade Thief](#) (Viking \$26). This debut is not pure entertainment—it will challenge you. “Much to the chagrin of my household, once I started this book I refused to put it down. I let my children fend for themselves while I walked along the Philly streets with Lee and Tomi, solving the age-old puzzle in the midst of which 17-year-old Lee has found herself. She has many of the same struggles and life choices to make as high school seniors across the country, but with a mysterious conspiracy thrown in. I love a book that is both well-written and completely absorbing. This is a great read for vacation, for a long plane ride, or for an escape while in the comfort of your own home.” This Indie Next Pick publishes August 29 and is a **First Mystery Club Pick** for either September or October, depending on when he can sign it. **The other FMC Pick** we’re juggling for those two months is by Roger Johns, [Dark River Rising](#) (St Martins \$27), also publishing August 29. It’s a welcome police novel set in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, with a truly appalling opening murder (method). We have to take good debuts when we find them and then assign them a FMC month.

Sager, Riley. [Final Girls](#) (Dutton \$26). Riley Sager uses the slasher movie trope of the “final girl” (the lone female who manages to survive and escape the killer) as the foundation for a nail-biting thriller. Quincy Carpenter. Samantha Boyd. Lisa Milner. Even though the three women have never met in person, their names are inextricably linked as the Final Girls, lone female survivors of mass murders so gruesome they rival big-screen slasher flicks. Years after surviving a bloody massacre, Quincy runs a successful baking blog and enjoys a stable relationship with her compassionate boyfriend, Jeff. But when Lisa Milner dies under suspicious circumstances and Sam Boyd turns up on her doorstep, Quincy can no longer hide from her past. Part thriller, part horror story, *Final Girls* borrows riffs from *Friday the 13th*, *Halloween* and *Single White Female*, but remains its own sophisticated creature. Although the story’s inspiration is pure camp, Sager takes on the heavy theme of trauma survival thoroughly and with due seriousness.

Sykes, SD. [City of Masks](#) (Hodder \$40). For some reason I have failed to excite most of you about Sykes’ terrific medieval series. So for its 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter, set in a remarkably depicted Venice, I recommend you read this [rave in the NY Times Book Review](#) and then buy a copy.

Tallent, Gabrielle. [My Absolute Darling](#) (Riverhead \$28). As it publishes August 29, this bold debut will be our **September Modern Firsts Club Pick** when the author drops by to sign it in September. It’s remarkable. If you liked Karen Dionne’s [The Marsh King’s Daughter](#) then preorder it now! “The tale of Turtle, a teenage girl being raised by her unstable widower father in the Northern California wilderness, will draw you so intimately into the heart and mind of this troubled captive that you’ll almost feel her anguish—emotional and physical—as your own... Tallent’s breathtaking debut is a harrowing and at times psychologically difficult journey on the scale of *A Little Life* or *The Goldfinch*, but it’s worth it. The unflagging tenacity of this young heroine as she navigates her path to adulthood against seemingly insurmountable odds is a true inspiration.” —*Harper’s Bazaar*. This is a fearsome book!

Woods, Stuart. [Barely Legal](#) (Putnam \$28). The plan is for Woods to sign his October book [Quick and Dirty](#) (\$28), a Stone Barrington, and this one with Stone’s bumbling young partner at Woodman and Weld Herbie Fisher in the lead, sometime in mid-October when he visits Phoenix. If you wish to backorder *Barely Legal* we won’t charge you for it until he signs the two books.

#### FOR THE ARMCHAIR OR ACTUAL TRAVELER

August is no longer the traditional end-of-summer vacation month what with new school schedules and such, but it’s still a great time to hit the road or fantasize you are doing so. Here are some books to further your enjoyment... and here are a few vacation [destination reading recommendations](#) from John Connolly.

Lonely Planet. [Lonely Planet Epic Drives](#) (\$35). 50 classic road trips across the world, beautifully illustrated with maps and first-hand descriptions. 150 additional suggestions, too. Buckle up!

New York Times. [Footsteps: From Ferrante’s Naples to Hammett’s San Francisco. Literary Pilgrimages Around the World](#) (Three Rivers \$16). A curated collection of the newspaper’s popular travel column, *Footsteps* explores iconic authors’ relationships to landmarks and cities around the world through pilgrimages following the geographic muses behind some of history’s greatest writers. From the “dangerous, dirty and seductive” streets of Naples, the setting for Elena Ferrante’s famous Neapolitan novels, to the “stone arches, creaky oaken doors, and riverside paths” of Oxford. F. Scott Fitzgerald’s time on the Riviera, etc. “And before readers were terrified by a tentacled dragon-man called Cthulhu, H.P. Lovecraft was enthralled by the Industrial Trust tower—the 26-story skyscraper that makes up the skyline of Providence, Rhode Island.”

*And if you can’t travel, comfort yourself with this*

Parks, Stella. [Bravetart: Iconic American Desserts](#) (Norton \$35). This cookbook from Serious Eats contributor Parks follows that same spirit, offering histories, tips, and recipes that take old standards to new, delectable treats ranging across the USA in origin; many recipes are historical as in chocolate chip cookies that predate the Tollhouse Inn in Massachusetts and Prohibition-era ice cream sodas.

## SUDDENLY SHERLOCK....

Boström, Mattias. [From Holmes to Sherlock](#) (Mysterious Press \$27.99). This is a fascinating study, not of Holmes, but of the men and women who created “an icon,” or in today’s jargon, “the brand.” It ranges from Doyle sitting in a Scottish lecture hall noting his medical mentor’s remarkable accounts of what can be learned by close observation to Jeremy Brett and crew and cast to those behind today’s Sherlock with Cumberbatch. Who was the world’s first literary agent? What has been the role of Dame Jean Conan Doyle? This is a delightful volume to dip in and out of so you have time to mull over what you ingest. At 497 pages that’s a lot of browsing material. Full bibliography citing some of today’s Holmesians like Leslie R Klinger and Laurie R. King.

Finlay, Mick. [Arrowood](#) (Harper \$15.99). London Society takes their problems to Sherlock Holmes. The lower 99% goes to Arrowood. So this is not your 1895 221B clientele; it’s dirtier and darker. The Afghan War is over and a deal with the Irish appears to have brought an end to sectarian violence, but Britain’s position in the world is uncertain and the gap between rich and poor is widening. London is a place where the wealthy party while the underclass is tempted into lives of crime, drugs and prostitution. A serial killer stalks the streets. Politicians are embroiled in financial and sexual scandals. The police don’t have the resources to deal with everything that goes on in the capital. The rich turn to a celebrated private detective when they need help: Sherlock Holmes. But in densely populated south London, where the crimes are sleazier and Holmes rarely visits, people turn to Arrowood, a private investigator who despises Holmes, his wealthy clientele, and his showy forensic approach to crime. Arrowood understands people, not clues. Our **August History/Mystery Paperback Pick**.

Goldberg, Leonard. [The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes](#) (St Martins \$27). Imagine if Holmes and Irene Adler had produced a child. It’s 1910. A man falls from a building, apparently a suicide. See Signed Books for more.

Lovegrove, James. [The Labyrinth of Death](#) (Titan \$14.95). Here’s an interesting and mixed review for a novel I haven’t read: Sir Osbert Woolfson, a judge, consults the Baker Street duo after his beloved 29-year-old daughter, Hannah, disappears. Given Hannah’s awareness of his depression following the death of his wife, Sir Osbert refuses to believe that she vanished of her own free will, but the absence of any demands argue against foul play on the part of someone seeking money or revenge. Holmes finds a cache of letters that Hannah received from a friend, Sophia Tompkins, who has become involved with the Elysians, a mysterious group devoted to ancient Greek myths and rituals. The Elysians gather at Charfome Old Place, a huge estate in the country. Holmes and Watson travel to the area to see whether Hannah went to Old Place in search of Sophia. The plot thereafter veers into territory reminiscent of an Indiana Jones movie. Lovegrove does a convincing job of capturing Watson’s voice, though he overdoes the doctor’s emotional involvement in the case. He also uses clichés that Conan Doyle would never have used (“I’ll have at the blackguard”).

Murthy, Vasudev. [Sherlock Holmes, The Missing Years: Timbuktu](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). The wild success of the nonfiction [The Bad Ass Librarians of Timbuktu](#) (\$16) was previewed by this excellent and imaginative adventure sending Holmes (thought to

be dead after the Reichenbach Falls encounter) and Watson on a remarkable quest which in times takes them across the Sahara, into Tuareg culture, and to the ancient African city guarding a trove of books. You will learn about the famous traveler and scholar Ibn Battuta. For more fun follow Holmes and Watson on a perilous voyage from England across the Med and down Suez and across the Indian Ocean to end in Tokyo where they may be in time to thwart a dastardly plot with global ramifications in [The Missing Years: Japan](#) (\$15.95)..

Siciliano, Sam. The [Further Adventures of Sherlock Holmes—The Moonstone’s Curse](#) (Titan \$12.95). Siciliano continues to excel in the niche he’s created for himself in the ever-growing universe of new Sherlock Holmes novels. Like most of his previous pastiches, his fifth (after 2016’s *The White Worm*) is inspired by a well-known work of suspense fiction—this time, Wilkie Collins’s seminal *The Moonstone*. About 50 years after the events of that book, the legendary curse of the diamond known as the Moonstone casts a pall over the life of Alice Bromley, whose great-great-uncle stole it from India in 1799. Alice has inherited a life-interest in the jewel, but views that as a burden and now fears that a mysterious Indian man she has spotted lurking outside her London home has designs on it. Her attentive husband, Charles, seeks out Holmes for help, and the detective agrees to assess the safety measures that Charles has taken to safeguard the gem from theft before one last public display. Siciliano has devised an intelligent challenge for the iconic character, who’s faithful to Conan Doyle’s original, notwithstanding the use of a Watson substitute for the tale’s narrator.

## OUR AUGUST LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

*Most choices continue our armchair traveler theme for August.* Aichner, Bernhard. [Woman of the Dead](#) (\$15). This stellar First Mystery Club Pick from 2015 was in theory the first book in a trilogy with a near-ninja mortician in the lead, hell bent on discovering who killed her much loved husband. Blum, a female undertaker, has been leading a good life as the loving wife of a decorated police officer whom she met in a time of terrible crisis. She’s a loving mother, and a successful business woman. Husband Mark and her friends adore her. And then in one moment it’s all ripped away: a hit and run kills Mark. Overwhelmed by grief, Blum packs up his office one day and discovers evidence that Mark’s death was no accident. It was murder. So Blum, a woman with a skill set few suspect and a resolve honed in a dreadful childhood to match, goes after the killer or killers, bent on revenge. I will now conduct my own quest to discover where is book two from this talented Austrian author who sets the book in his country.

Camilleri, Andrea. [A Nest of Vipers](#) (Penguin \$16). Sicily’s Inspector Montalbano investigates the death of wealthy accountant Cosimo Barletta. Thought to be a widower living out a quiet life by the sea, Cosimo’s sudden death, by gunshot to the neck, opens up his past to scrutiny. What Montalbano uncovers is Cosimo’s trove of salacious photographs, used to extort young women, and a history full of greed and corruption. Montalbano, though resolved to find the killer, muses on where justice lies—in his pursuit of a suspect or with one of Cosimo’s innumerable victims getting the revenge they deserved? “The novels of Andrea Camilleri breathe out the sense of place, the sense of humor, and the sense of despair that fills the air of Sicily.” —Donna Leon. But let’s not forget its delicious food and gorgeous landscapes.



✧Cleeves, Ann. [Telling Tales](#) (\$16.99). We're in Northumberland with Vera Stanhope. It has been ten years since Jeanie Long was charged with the murder of fifteen-year-old Abigail Mantel. Now residents of the East Yorkshire village of Elvet are disturbed to hear of new evidence proving Jeanie's innocence. Abigail's killer is still at large. For one young woman, Emma Bennett, the revelation brings back haunting memories of her vibrant best friend—and of that fearful winter's day when she had discovered her body lying cold in a ditch. As Inspector Vera Stanhope makes fresh enquiries on the peninsula and villagers are hauled back to a time they hoped to forget, tensions rise.... The success of this series on TV benefits readers since the books are now in the American market. Start with the first Vera case, [The Crow Trap](#) (\$16.99).

Correa, Armando. [The German Girl](#) (\$16). Countless aspects of the terrible Nazi years fuel novels and this one is no less heart-breaking. German Jews including two close families board the SS St Louis believing it offers safe passage out of 1939 Germany. Those on board little imagine they will be turned away from Cuba, and then from New York, and forced to return to Hamburg. Seven decades later a young Anna Rosen receives a package from her previously unknown great-aunt from Cuba and learns of her family's tragic past. "Now, in a new age of people in peril and adrift on the world's seas, this magnificent novel—and the unexpected and intricate tragedies of its powerfully imagined characters—bespeaks this eternal injustice."—Thomas Keneally, author of *Schindler's List*

✧Douglas, Claire. [Local Girl Missing](#) (Harper \$15.95). Here's another example of today's hottest genre, less Trust No One than the Unreliable Narrator? But who? It's very British in an unglamorous way with a center on a seaside town in Somerset and its old Victorian pier, a kind of Coney Island, where the youth of Oldcliffe-on-Sea would hang out despite the pier's decay. And from there 21-year-old Sophie Collier disappeared 18 years ago. Her best friend Francesca, relocated to London with her family and its hotel business, now gets a call from Sophie's brother, Daniel. Human remains have been found washed up near the pier. Could they be Sophie's? The news pulls Frankie back to her hometown and we go from there. This is a quietly harrowing novel, well crafted, hardly a beach read despite its location but recommended.

✧Edwards, Martin. [The Story of Classic Crime in 100 Books](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.99). Written as a companion to the British Library's Crime Classics series of reprints, this descriptive critical catalogue of 100 crime and mystery novels (mostly British) published in the first half of the 20th century is irresistible for aficionados and a reliable reading list for newcomers. Edwards' picks, most published during detective fiction's golden age between the two world wars, range chronologically from Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902) to Julian Symons's *The 31st of February* (1950) and include, in addition to many of the usual suspects, a few outliers sure to enliven debates among diehard fans. "A crime novelist in his own right, Edwards (*The Golden Age of Murder*) brings a specialist's discerning eye to discussions of each book's significance, and without giving away key plot points. This is an exemplary reference book sure to lead readers to gems of mystery and detective fiction." So this pick travels you back into the past.

French, Tana. [The Trespasser](#) (\$17). Over to Ireland and the Dublin Crime Squad bestsellers. What looks like another by-the-numbers lovers' quarrel gone bad turns out to be anything but in Detective Antoinette Conway's new case. Being on the Murder squad is nothing like Conway dreamed it would be. Her partner, Stephen Moran, is the only person who seems glad she's there. The rest of her working life is a stream of thankless cases, vicious pranks, and harassment. Conway is savagely tough, but she's getting close to the breaking point. Will it come with this seemingly simple case? You readers know it will prove to be anything but by the numbers... I'm proud of having made French's debut [In the Woods](#) (\$17) a 2007 First Mystery Club Pick. Joining the FMC is the best way to get to know new authors of promise. And ten years later, she's more than delivered on it.

Rogneby, Jenny. [Leona: The Die is Cast](#) (Other \$16.95). It's rare to find something truly different...*et voila* (I wish I could say that in Swedish!), here it is. There are countless surprising things in this story narrated by Leona Lindberg of Stockholm's Violent Crimes Division, beginning with a bank robbery carried out in daylight by a naked seven-year-old girl armed only with a tape recorder. Leona volunteers to work the case. She seems the perfect choice. But you already know from, page one that she's a woman with some kind of Asperger's and with a "flat" affect, meaning blunted to no emotional expression. She has a husband and children she'd as soon shuck. She can work with her colleagues but it's a show. Working the case and keeping the violent pieces of her life under control keeps the tension mounting for her and the reader. Eventually the line between right and wrong becomes unclear—and even irrelevant. In one sense I could say Leona challenges feminine norms but that's putting a sociological spin on a crime story riddled with the unexpected. It appears the this the first in the "Leona series" that has been a Scandinavian bestseller by an author of unusual background herself who's been an investigator in the Stockholm City Police Department—which is why she has procedure right as she screws it for the story. Highly recommended.

✧Thomas, Julia. [Penhale Wood](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.95). Putting me in mind of Catriona McPherson's darker standalone mysteries is this one that is rooted in a dark December night in Cornwall where three-year-old Sophie Flynn disappears along with her nanny Karen Peterson while her older and younger sibs, one each, are left behind to nearly freeze on a rocky Truro riverbed. Sophie's body is found the next day on a riverbank in Penhale Wood. DCI Rob McIntyre of the Truro Police is never able to find a credible lead or close the case. A year later the children's mother Iris, distraught, desperate, and broke, appears on his doorstep. She has left her two surviving children with her sister in Australia where the family relocated and borrowed just enough to return and demand the case be worked. McIntyre has his own demons to parry—his wife has left him to pursue a career as a novelist with no explanation—but he isn't able to fend Iris off as she hijacks his life in her determination to bring Sophie's killer to justice. How this plays out—it's quietly complicated—and the crux of it all will surprise you in a low key but powerful novel of suspense.

Watson, Larry. [As Good As Gone](#) (\$15.95). Montana is a place I want to visit in summer. Here we go back in time with Watson. "Calvin Sidey is a former cowboy in his seventies who is living in a trailer outside of town when Bill, his estranged son, comes

looking for him. Bill's wife has to go to Missoula for an operation, so Bill asks his father if he'll return to look after their two kids, Will and Ann. Calvin hasn't been much of a grandfather to them, but he agrees to head into town and the re-inhabit the house he once abandoned in order to care for the children. Every player has a role in this well-plotted and moving western novel, but it is the quiet, thoughtful, slightly tragic Calvin who emerges as the star. He's a simple man, a man of action, the kind of man you find in a Jim Harrison or Ivan Doig novel. He can't help but set straight some of the wrongs he sees around him; but in doing so, he manages to straighten out some of the crooked lines within himself as well."—Chris Schlupep

*And a small Paperback Pick by me*

Harris, Robert. [Conclave](#) (\$9.99). The Catholic Church is not so blatant as to say, "The king is dead. Long live the King." But that's what happens when the Pope dies and the College of Cardinals convenes to elect a new pontiff. Harris clearly did enormous research into how this works, its traditions, and writes a novel of suspense. John Connolly says, "The cardinals of the Catholic Church gather in Rome to elect a new leader, but the leading contenders may have secrets to hide. And who, exactly, is the mysterious Cardinal Benítez, elevated in secret by the late pope? It's a novel designed around its ending, but the momentum is irresistible."

#### ENLIVEN THE DOG DAYS WITH THESE QUIRKY PAPERBACKS

✠Cannon, Joanna. [The Trouble with Goats and Sheep](#) (\$16).

"Best friends Grace and Tilly spend England's sweltering summer of 1976 sleuthing for clues to uncover the reason for their neighbor's disappearance. They go from house to house, neighbor to neighbor, investigating as only guileless little girls can do. While they're at it, they also look for god in the most unusual places. As the mystery of the neighborhood is slowly revealed, so are the many secrets behind every door on the avenue. If you loved [A Man Called Ove](#) (\$16), you will love *The Trouble with Goats and Sheep*. Funny, quirky and profound!"

Gentill, Sulari. [Crossing the Lines](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). See New Books for this **August Fresh Fiction Pick** from Australia, a marvelous meta-mystery with two mystery novelists—which one is real, which fiction—and which a murderer? "As one for whom certain story lines and characters have become as real as life itself, *Crossing the Lines* was a pure delight, a swift yet psychologically complex read, cleverly conceived and brilliantly executed."—Dean Koontz

Kahn, Michael. [Played!](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Baseball and murder, what's not to like in this tale of two brothers—the brilliant nerdy attorney who must try to save his knucklehead younger brother, who has been wrongly indicted for the kidnapping and murder of the wife of Leonard Pitt, a powerful and corrupt attorney. "Here's the beach read that will provide a diversion from the cares of this troubled world. *Played!* is all about legal shenanigans, sexy affairs, clandestine meets and baseball. Milton Bernstein, a successful middle-aged St. Louis corporate lawyer, won the DNA lottery for the brains and workaholic ethic from some ancestor. His younger brother, Hal, inherited the athleticism, good looks and charm from some other branch of the family tree. Each brother has made the most of his talents, put aside any

differences, and remain good friends. "This comedic screw-up is laced with legal legerdemain, clever dialogue, clandestine encounters and stakeouts, but above all, brotherly love between two men who come to one another's rescue in a classic thriller ending." Milton's client list reads like the who's who of Missouri's wealthiest country club set, while Hal, now in his 30s and once a shoo-in for the big leagues of baseball, works at the country club as a lifeguard. However, neither is prepared for the red-hot Cherry, the unhappy third wife of Milton's legal nemesis, Leonard Pitt. When Hal becomes the main suspect in a murder, Milton's hands are tied. The only legal advice he can give Hal is that he needs a lawyer—a Class A trial lawyer. This comedic screw-up is laced with legal legerdemain, clever dialogue, clandestine encounters and stakeouts, but above all, brotherly love between two men who come to one another's rescue."—Book Reporter

Keller, Sophie Chen. [The Luster of Lost Things](#) (Putnam \$15). A fable-like debut for readers of Mark Haddon's *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* and Rebecca Makkai's *The Borrower*, in which a boy with an uncanny ability to find lost objects must embark on his most important search yet in order to save his mother's enchanted dessert shop, the only place he's ever called home.

✠Paris, BA. [Behind Closed Doors](#) (\$16.99). Everyone knows a couple like Jack and Grace. He has looks and wealth; she has charm and elegance. He's a dedicated attorney who has never lost a case; she is a flawless homemaker, a masterful gardener and cook, and dotes on her disabled younger sister. Though they are still newlyweds, they seem to have it all. You might not want to like them, but you do. And they are inseparable. Is this enviable, or worrisome? This is a superior suspense that doesn't answer the full question until the very last sentence. Terrific!

✠Reed, Mary. [Ruined Stones](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). A surprising story in the canon of unexpected facets of WWII.—Roman ruins figure into wartime Newcastle-upon-Tyne. Grace Baxter, a policeman's daughter, is recruited from a small town to serve in the city's police force. She is less-than-welcomed by those who see her as a poor replacement for the real police who have been called off to war. Newcastle itself is unreceptive: peculiar in its Geordie dialect and insular in its ways. The mood is tense: angry at Hitler but far off from the battlefield, the townspeople can only shake fists at one another. Grace is given what is considered a trivial job. She is assigned to talk to prostitutes to discover the identity of a corpse. The body had been discovered at an old temple, with her arms and legs spread out in the form of a reverse swastika. Soon, however, a second body appears at the same site and posed in the same manner. With the very nation under attack, both the small police force and Grace feel overwhelmed, unable to get the support they need for a proper investigation. With the setting of the ancient ruins, its history of pagan rituals, and the constant presence of local superstitions, the story takes on an eerie tone. The tone and sense of time and place are near perfect. The town suffers from despair and loss, of plodding ahead because the past is ruined.

Schweizer, Mark. [The Lyric Wore Lycra Signed](#) (St James Music Press \$13.95). Police Chief Hayden Konig solves crimes. He likes his part-time job as organist at St. Barnabas Church. He likes typing his detective stories on Raymond Chandler's 1939 Underwood typewriter. Hayden is good at two of these things.

Crimes rarely go unsolved in the little Appalachian town of St. Germaine, North Carolina. Fat Tuesday: the only religious holiday for the horizontally challenged. It's only natural that St. Barnabas Church should offer a Lenten class called "Paunches Pilates." As the gang ponders forty days of penitence and self control, it becomes clear that there is a murderer in town. Ashes to ashes, dust to dust—will they ever get this mess cleaned up? 14<sup>th</sup> in this amusing series. You can order them all.

### SOME NEW BOOKS FOR AUGUST

*As ever this is a partial listing. Please consult our Web Store [New By Category](#) listings for August. And of course you can browse the whole store...*

Andrews, Donna. [Gone Gull](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Meg Langslow is spending the summer at the Biscuit Mountain Craft Center, helping her grandmother Cordelia run the studios. Vandals threaten to ruin the newly-opened center's reputation. Is it the work of a rival center? Have the developers who want to build a resort atop Biscuit Mountain found a new tactic to pressure Cordelia into selling? Or is the real target Meg's grandfather, who points out that any number of environmentally irresponsible people and organizations could have it in for him? While Meg is trying to track down the vandal, her grandfather is more interested in locating a rare gull. Their missions collide when a body is found in one of the classrooms. 21<sup>st</sup> in this humorous mystery series.

Avdic, Asa. [The Dying Game](#) (Penguin \$16). Speculative fiction given a twist where if you enter an Orwellian future where the USSR never fell and most of Europe is united in a totalitarian union, imagine a version of Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* playing out. Anna Francis, a workaholic bureaucrat in the Union of Friendship is assigned to take 6 people to a tiny island and there stage her own death as a test for a top-secret intelligence position. "A deliciously creepy novel revolving around a terrific paradigm shift: The job you think you're doing? That's not the job you're really doing." —Chris Pavone

Bateson, John. [The Education of a Coroner](#) (Touchstone \$27). Not available until mid-August, but here is the perfect companion read for the new Kellerman thriller signed here August 1 – see Event Books. Ken Holmes worked the job for nearly four decades in Martin County, California, seeing high-profile death, the work of serial killers, suicides, accidents... The book's subtitle is Investigating Death and shares Holmes' account of his work as a death investigator which is the job filled by Clay in the Kellermans' *Crime Scene*. Kathy Reichs' told me during her recent visit to The Pen that elected coroner's are giving way to appointed Medical Examiners but the work is the same, no?

Binet, Laurent. [The Seventh Function of Language](#) (Farrar \$27). From the prizewinning author of [HHhH](#) (\$16 September) comes a romp through the French intelligentsia of the 20th century. Paris, 1980. The literary critic Roland Barthes dies—struck by a laundry van—after lunch with the presidential candidate François Mitterand. The world of letters mourns a tragic accident. But what if it wasn't an accident at all? What if Barthes was murdered? "An affectionate send-up of an Umberto Eco—style intellectual thriller that doubles as an exemplar of the genre, filled with suspense, elaborate conspiracies, and exotic locales." —*Esquire*. "[Binet] ups the metafictional ante.... This novel is alive with the potential signifiers lurking behind language . . . A charming *roman à clef* like no other...[A] loving inquiry into 20th-cen-

tury intellectual history that seamlessly folds historical moments... into a brilliant illustration of the possibilities left to the modern novel." —*PW* Boxed and Starred Review

Bond, Mike. [The Last Savanna](#) (Mandeville \$15.99). "The central figure is not human; it is the barren, terrifying landscape of Northern Kenya and the deadly creatures that inhabit it." — Daily Telegraph. As ivory poachers are gunning down Africa's last elephants, former SAS officer Ian MacAdam leads a commando squad against them. He pursues the poachers through jungled mountains and searing deserts, only to find they have kidnapped a young archaeologist, Rebecca Hecht, whom he once loved and bitterly lost. He embarks on a desperate trek to save not only Rebecca but his own soul in an Africa torn apart by wars, overpopulation and the slaughter of its last wildlife. Based on the author's own experiences pursuing elephant poachers in the wilds of East Africa

Brennan, Allison. [Shattered](#) (St Martins \$28). Over a span of 20 years, four boys have been kidnapped from their bedrooms, suffocated, and buried nearby in a shallow grave. Serial killer or coincidence? That's the question investigative reporter Maxine Revere sets out to answer when an old friend begs her to help exonerate his wife, who has been charged with their son's recent murder.

Cleave, Paul. [Killer Harvest](#) (Atria \$26). Cleaves has carved a place for himself in the hardboiled crime genre. He ups his game with this imaginative, skillfully played investigation that begins in Christchurch, NZ, when two cops about to arrest a stone killer slip up and one dies along with the serial homicide. The survivor makes good on his promise to his partner: to make sure that the dead dad's eyes are donated to his blind young son, Joshua. The stone killer oddly enough is an organ donor. So you can guess what happens which introduces in the question of cell memory as well as the gradual revelation of the secret lives the two cops were leading....

Cook, Robin. [Charlatans](#) (Putnam \$27). This is a terrific book with a plot that is intended to shake up the medical community in an age of the internet (no hiding one's past, but maybe one can create avatars so to speak) and on-line education. The opening scene is super-suspenseful as we move around a super-modern operating suite—"several hybrid operating rooms of the future"—at Boston Memorial Hospital into surgery and the appalled realization that even the most advanced techniques and equipment can't save a patient who's lied about following his pre-op instructions and an egotistical surgeon who runs concurrent operations with no margin for error. But that's just the prelude to all that follows inside the famed teaching hospital, much of it echoing on for the anesthesiologist Dr. Ava London and ambitious, newly minted super chief (surgical) resident Dr Noah Rothausser. You may think they are stock characters but....

Cotterill, Colin. [The Rat Catcher's Olympics](#) (Soho \$26.95). Opportunity is what you make of a change up. When the 1980 Olympics in Moscow are boycotted after the USSR invades Afghanistan, some smaller nations find a slot for their athletes have opened up. Among them is the Democratic People's Republic of Laos [sic]. To send a team to Moscow however demands a doctor. The aging (mid-seventies, that was older then and in Laos than today) former national coroner, Dr. Siri Paiboun, deftly finagles

this slot. Once settled in the Olympic Village, he begins to suspect an imposter among the athletes. Liaising with his friend the cop Phosy back home, Siri snoops, but soon a Laos team member is accused of murder, forcing Dr. Siri to navigate not one but two paranoid and secretive government machines to achieve what he calls justice. Filled with eccentric characters and sharp, amusing snipes at Siri's world, this is another excellent entry in a prize-winning series.

Coughlin, Sergeant J. [In the Crosshairs](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The Central Intelligence Agency is under attack and so is its top field operative, Kyle Swanson. He is assigned to find the root of the problem and is partnered up with Luke Gibson, a skilled operative rated as being almost as good as Swanson. But before Kyle and Luke can eliminate the threat, they must identify and find the man who wants them dead.

Crider, Bill. [Dead, To Begin With](#) (St Martins \$25.99). This Texas series with Sheriff Dan Rhodes hits its 24<sup>th</sup> entry when a wealthy recluse incomer who is leading the restoration of the town of Clearview's old opera house falls to his death. Rhodes wants to call it murder but he can't figure out a motive for killing a community benefactor. Maybe the answers lie in the past? Meanwhile the Sheriff has to deal with people fighting over baseball cards at a yard sale, writers who want to talk to him about his sex life, and the Clearview Ghost Hunters, headed up by Seepy Benton, who believes that the old theater is haunted.

✚Dams, Jeanne. [The Missing Masterpiece](#) (Severn \$28.99). American Dorothy Martin leaves her comfortable home in Sherebury, England, for a holiday in Normandy, where her English husband, retired chief constable Alan Nesbit, vows to join her shortly. A tumble down the steps of the abbey at Mont Saint-Michel lands Dorothy in the middle of a mystery involving a missing tourist, a person pulled from quicksand, and rumors of an undiscovered medieval manuscript that's drawing scholars and adventure hunters to the vicinity. Dorothy won't allow her two titanium knees and her need for naps and decent meals to slow her down. When Alan arrives on the scene, his fluent French and police contacts provide crucial information. No one dies until late in the book, but along the way readers learn a lot about such subjects as the D-Day landing at Omaha beach, the Bayeux tapestry, and the history of illuminated manuscripts. Armchair travelers will be pleased. Ordered upon request.

Davis, Fiona. [The Address](#) (Dutton \$26). Publishers, so many located in New York City, can't resist books about their icons. "Like in her debut, *The Dollhouse*, Fiona Davis meshes historical fiction, thriller, mystery, and love story in her sophomore novel, moving back and forth between the late 1800s and the mid-1980s and putting her own juicy and highly readable literary spin on classic 'women's' fiction, this time set in New York's storied and infamous Upper West Side apartment building The Dakota. *The Address* juxtaposes the stories of two women whose lives are disrupted, in danger, and intertwined through circumstances the reader progressively learns more about during the course of the novel. There's illicit love, an illegitimate child, drug abuse, a mysterious murder weapon, wealthy wrong-doers, a severed finger, a stay in an insane asylum, and a guest appearance by none other than famed feminist reporter Nelly Bly! Plus the hulking Dakota, which is gorgeous and lavish and reeking of secrets, many of them deadly."

Dawkins, Curtis. [The Graybar Hotel](#) (Scribner \$25). An Indie Introduces Pick: "Discard the thought that Curtis Dawkins is serving a life sentence and insert the thought that this is an amazing short-story collection by a debut author. In *The Graybar Hotel*, we glimpse the emotional lives of the inmates of a Kalamazoo prison, who are cut off from the world and in a place where time moves and sounds different than before. One character calls random numbers just so he can hear a voice or any noise for his allotted fifteen minutes, anything to connect to the outside world again. *The Graybar Hotel* reminded me of reading early Denis Johnson, in the way that the writing is so sparse I fell right into the stories and suffered along with the inmates. A captivating read that allowed me a glimpse of the humanity of prison life."

Easley, Warren. [Blood for Wine](#) (\$15.95 or **\$26.95 Signed**). Cal Claxton's good friend and neighbor, Jim Kavanaugh, is charged with murdering his wife. Jim's a gifted vintner and owner of some of the most coveted acreage for growing pinot noir grapes in the world. It doesn't take Cal long to discover that Jim's the victim of a frame driven by the value of his winery and the burgeoning Oregon wine business. Easley writes, "Wine's central to the story so, inevitably, I was faced with immersing myself in the business of wine making and how it's practiced in Oregon. Another daunting research task? Not this time! It turns out I'm an enthusiastic oenophile, which began when I was living and working in Geneva, Switzerland. My wife and I discovered French wines, particularly those made in the Burgundy region, a mere two and a half hour drive up the road. It was love at first taste. Oh, the drudgery. How to proceed researching *Blood into Wine*, lawyer Cal's 5<sup>th</sup> tricky yet satisfying case?"

Ephron, Hallie. [You'll Never Know, Dear](#) (Morrow \$26.99). When Lis Strenger was 7, her sister Janey disappeared from the family yard under her watch. Also missing was Janey's doll, a special owner-replica doll made by the girls' mother, Sorrel Woodham. Now, in the 39th year since it disappeared, Janey's doll may have finally come home. Three decades of Woodham women are determined to identify the doll and perhaps discover what happened to Janey. This is Karin Slaughter light.

Ferencik, Erica. [The River at Night](#) (\$16). A gal-pal thriller set in very rural, rough Maine. "Ferencik's debut novel is a must-read for anyone who loves high intensity thrillers. Her use of foreshadowing and flair for suspense is impeccable; it sets the stage for a terrifying few days in the wilderness of northern Maine. Rich imagery and attention to detail are just a few of the reasons why Ferencik is one of the best new thriller writers out there!"—*Romantic Times*

Fossum, Karin. [Hell Fire](#) (\$14.99). A gruesome tableau awaits Inspector Konrad Sejer in the oppressive summer heat: a woman and a young boy lay dead in a pool of blood near a dank camper. The details of the deaths of Bonnie Hayden and her five-year-old son Simon are mysterious. There is no sign of robbery or assault. Who would brutally stab a defenseless woman and her child? Sejer and his fellow investigator Jakob Skarre begin a hunt for the killer. I find this series very bleak.

Gabalton, Diana. [Voyager \(Starz Tie-In Edition\)](#) (\$18). And Season 3 of *Outlander* begins September 10. Diana visited the set in Cape Town last spring. Here's a [short video](#) showing snowfall on Table Mountain falling over the city sent by the tour guide we shared with her for her visit.

Gentill, Sulari. [Crossing the Lines](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). “A delightful, cerebral novel featuring a crime writer who grows dangerously enamored with her main character. As the interplay between creator and created reaches Russian-nesting-doll complexity, it forces us to question the nature of fiction itself.” —Gregg Hurwitz. *Kirkus* reviews our **August Fresh Fiction Pick**: It becomes ever harder to determine what is truth and what is fiction in the intertwining stories of murder, love, and obsession. In this intriguing and unusual tale, a stunning departure from Gentill’s period mysteries, the question is not whodunit but who’s real and who’s a figment of someone’s vivid imagination. *Booklist* says, “Inevitably, the writers (real or imagined) become closer, complicating the progress of their stories and sometimes disturbing those around them. **This is an elegant exploration of the creative process, as well as a strong defense of the crime-fiction genre, as Gentill illustrates the crossing of lines between imagination and reality.** Rich with insights that can add pleasure to the reading of crime fiction.” Watch a [short video](#) saying more. See Quirky Reads above for the paperback edition (\$15.95).

Gerrard, David Burr. [The Epiphany Machine](#) (Putnam \$27). The Starred Review: “Gerrard’s superb second novel has an exhilarating premise: what if there were a machine that could reveal your deepest secret—the uncomfortable truth about yourself you choose to overlook—by tattooing it on your forearm? The novel is composed of rules about the machine, testimonials, descriptions of quasiprophetic operator Adam Lyons, and excerpts from books by the mysterious Steven Merdula about the machine—but primarily the book is Venter Lowood’s memoir about coming of age in New York at the turn of the 21st century. Lowood contemplates and discusses American political history from the American Revolution to the War on Terror, raising questions about privacy, destiny, responsibility, and truth. Gerrard’s deft command of character, humor, and metaphor keep this intricate, philosophical novel fast-moving, poignant, and fun. In snarky banter, Venter and his best friend Ismail Ahmed communicate their deep affection and their playful rivalry, and in Venter’s tense conversations with his father, readers can see the painful legacy of the Lowoods’ encounters with Lyons and the machine. The figurative language is inventive and insightful: ‘Life is an extended freefall. An epiphany may help you see better.... Rather than a meaningless blur, you will see rocks and trees and lizards. An epiphany is not a parachute.’” This is a wildly charming, morally serious *bildungsroman* with the rare potential to change the way readers think.

Goldenbaum, Sally. [Murder Wears Mittens](#) (Kensington \$25). When unassuming Dolores Cardozo is found dead in her home and single-mom Kayla Stewart vanishes, the Seaside Knitters—Cass Halloran, Izzy Perry, Nell Endicott, and Birdie Favazza—shift into sleuthing mode... “The four friends discover some unsuspected truths in the course of investigating Dolores’s murder and figuring out what happened to Kayla. Meanwhile, they take time to enjoy a martini, a glass of champagne, or just a nice cup of coffee. As usual, the mystery element is slight, with clues doled out in between family reunions, meals, and walks on the beach. Goldenbaum has created an idyllic world in which good friends, good works, and discussing the passing of time and changes in the community are as important as solving crimes. A knitting pattern for socks rounds out the volume.” —PW

Grafton, Sue. [Y is for Yesterday](#) (Putnam \$29). Sad news. Sue has an injury and will neither tour for the August 22<sup>nd</sup> release of *Kinsey Millhone 25*, or be able to sign copies. Bestsellers like Grafton almost always have new books reprinted so it’s best to order yours now and wait upon events if a signed copy is important to you. The 25<sup>th</sup> *Kinsey* has a title which reflects its structure that begins in January, 1979, inside the expensive Climping Academy—K through 12—in Santa Teresa where a kind of outlaw new girl of 14, disgruntled from moving from Detroit to California, sets a cheating scandal in motion. Pick it up in 1989 when the parents of one of the students involved in the cheating/bullying/rape/murder that blew up hire *Kinsey*. Their son has been released at age 25 from prison and a blackmail letter has arrived which could send him back on an aggravated rape charge. Meanwhile *Kinsey* can’t shake the fear that Ned Lowe continues to endanger her. And Henry has given shelter to the huge homeless woman called Pearl who’s bivouacking in his backyard next to *Kinsey*’s beloved rental studio. And from there it moves back and forth from 1979 to 1989 as Grafton weaves all the threads together for *Kinsey*’s final report, which as ever, she Respectfully Submits.

✎Gregory, Philippa. [The Last Tudor](#) (Touchstone \$27.99). The story of martyred Lady Jane Grey and her two sisters, Katherine, who can’t be allowed to bear a Tudor son, and Mary, a beautiful dwarf, who, too, may dare defy her cousin Queen Elizabeth. It’s the end game for Tudor princesses who might lay claims to Elizabeth’s throne. Sympathetically written, well researched and imagined, this is a perfect summer read.

Hamdy, Adam. [Pendulum](#) (Quercus \$26.99) is the very definition of addictive reading. This taut cat-and-mouse thriller throws readers immediately into the action when photojournalist John Wallace awakens in his apartment to discover he’s been drugged and bound. His hulking captor is a cunning serial killer in black armor whose face is hidden with a black mask and black goggles. The killer has put a noose around Wallace’s neck, tied it to a rafter and is intent on making this murder look like a suicide. Through sheer luck, John is able to escape (albeit with some broken ribs and collarbone), but the murderer is constantly on his heels as he attempts to hide and piece together who is after him and why through shifting locations—Vegas, LA, Chicago, New York...

✎Hamer, Kate. [The Doll Funeral](#) (Melville House \$25.99). On her 13th birthday, Ruby gets a wish come true—the couple who have raised her aren’t her parents at all. Her real mother and father are out there somewhere, and Ruby is determined to find them. And so she ventures into the forest with nothing but a suitcase and the company of her only true friend—the imaginary Shadow Boy. Hamer had a 2016 bestseller in her debut, [The Girl in the Red Coat](#) (\$16.99).

Handler, David. [The Girl with the Kaleidoscope Eyes](#) (Morrow \$14.99). What fun if you like tongue-in-cheek bibliomysteries. We haven’t seen ghost writer Stewart Hoag (and his basset hound Lucy) for 20 years. And they’ve not aged—it’s 1992 in a story where Hoagy meets his literary agent, aka Silver Fox, for lunch and is reluctantly pulled into the orbit of “the future of American publishing,” a slimy self-promoter, and into the orbit of a long-missing author. Richard Aintree wrote one of the three [sic] YA icons (*Catcher in the Rye*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and *Not Far*

*From Here*), then vanished the night after his wife committed suicide. He left behind two daughters, one of whom Hoagy had madly loved before he married his now-ex. Richard Aintree has sent a letter saying he's about to tell the real story, his story. So Hoagy is asked to ghostwrite the tell-all book that will result. One daughter, who wrote an earlier confessional book about Richard abusing her sexually (false), runs a crumbling media empire. The other runs the Root-Chakra Institute in upstate NY. Who is trustworthy in this mix? The sly insider names and bits made this fun for me. You can Google some of them to figure out why.

Handy, Bruce. [Wild Things: The Joy of Reading Children's Literature as an Adult](#) (Simon & Schuster \$26). Cultural critic Bruce Handy presents a wise, witty exploration of children's literature and its lasting appeal for adults. Beginning with *Goodnight Moon* (so ubiquitous in American nurseries that Handy dubs it "gear," like a stroller or pacifiers), he explores the cultural forces that shape these beloved stories and their large, underlying existential themes: Beatrix Potter's animal tales; Maurice Sendak's fever-dream picture books; Dr. Seuss's zany, rhyming early readers. Handy read many of these as a boy and rediscovered them when his two children were young, but his keen eye is rarely sentimental; he includes thumbnail biographical sketches of the authors and asks insightful questions about what makes their stories tick. Few critics would think to compare *The Runaway Bunny* to *Portnoy's Complaint*, but Handy gets away with it—partly because of his obvious delight in the former, which he calls "as incisive a treatise on the parent-child bond" as Philip Roth's novel.

If you are nostalgic for books that stirred you as a young reader, here's fun: Edgar Cantero, [Meddling Kids](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). The surviving members of a forgotten teen detective club and their dog called Tim reunite as broken adults to embark on a wacky effort to solve a terrifying cold case that ruined them all and sent the wrong man to prison. *Meddling Kids* subverts teen detective archetypes like the Hardy Boys, the Famous Five, and Scooby-Do

Henderson, Bruce. [Sons and Soldiers: The Untold Story of the Jews Who Escaped the Nazis and Returned With the U.S. Army to Fight Hitler](#) (Morrow, \$28.99). "Fans of *Unbroken* and *The Boys in the Boat* will be thrilled to know that that there is at least one more thrilling tale of WWII heroism able to leave readers nearly breathless. *Sons and Soldiers* is the remarkable story of German-born Jews who escaped the country during Hitler's rise to power." After training with the U.S. military, these same men returned to their homeland to fight the Nazis. Their knowledge of German culture, geography, and language made them uniquely skilled at gathering enemy intelligence, but also especially vulnerable should they be captured. "Bruce Henderson has written a masterpiece, an inspiring and gripping tale of selfless men who risked everything to defeat unspeakable evil."—Christopher Rose

Henry, Veronica. [How to Find Love in a Bookshop](#) (Pamela Dorman \$25). "When Emilia's father dies, she returns to her small English village, takes over his beloved bookshop, and begins working through both her grief and the myriad renovations and changes the store needs. The author weaves stories of multiple village residents and their romantic travails and triumphs. I admired the well-crafted nature of this story, with the interwoven storylines offering wide variety without becoming scattered or

straining to remain believably interrelated. All in all, just lovely" says Library Reads for August.

Hoffman, Alice. [Faithful](#) (\$16.99). Growing up on Long Island, Shelby Richmond is an ordinary girl until one night an extraordinary tragedy changes her fate. Her best friend's future is destroyed in an accident, while Shelby walks away with the burden of guilt. What happens when a life is turned inside out?

Jackson, Joshilyn. [The Almost Sisters](#) (Morrow \$26.99). The #1 August Indie Next Pick: "Leia Birch is pretty much a rock star in the comic world, but her personal life has taken over the drama of her heroines, Violet and Violence. Leia is pregnant with a biracial child after too much tequila and a one-night stand at Comic-Con, her sister's perfect marriage is imploding, and it appears her sweet, proper Southern grandmother has been hiding all kinds of improper things, including advancing dementia. As always, Jackson is witty and charming, and her characters are so wonderfully drawn, it's hard to believe you don't actually know these people. *The Almost Sisters* is a hopeful book about our ability to preserve the dignity of one another while still helping them grow and change." First prints may not be possible.

Jecks, Michael. [A Murder Too Soon](#) (Severn \$28.99). Gambler Jack Blackjack, who lives among "the purse-snatchers and pilferers" of London, got caught up in the 1554 rebellion that sought to overthrow Queen Mary. Later in the year, England is calm only on the surface. Since he's eager to escape a paramour's jealous husband in London, Jack agrees to undertake a distasteful job for his patron, Sir Thomas Percy—to travel beyond Oxford to the palace of Woodstock, where Princess Elizabeth is confined, and murder one of Elizabeth's guardians, Lady Margery, who poses a threat to the princess's security and safety. When Jack arrives in Woodstock, "a place steeped in misery and deceit," he's astonished to discover that Lady Margery has already been murdered. Jack, himself a suspect, faces the daunting task of identifying the real killer. Plot twists abound, but the novel's greatest strength is its jaunty tone, plunging the reader into raucous Elizabethan England. Ordered Upon Request, like all titles published by Severn House which floats books across the Atlantic in limited number to the US.

Lapena, Shari. [A Stranger in the House](#) (Harper \$26). I won't even attempt to describe all the cross purposes in a Domestic Suspense story where nearly everyone is working at cross purposes—a husband is having an affair with a woman who lives across the street, a wife who is hiding her past but is called out to meet it, and double reveals at the very end... nothing good comes of adultery, as crime fiction so vividly illustrates, nor of burying one's past if in fact it isn't dead.

Lee, Krys. [How I Became a North Korean](#) (Penguin \$16). Yongju is an accomplished student from one of North Korea's most prominent families. Jangmi, on the other hand, has had to fend for herself since childhood, most recently by smuggling goods across the border. Then there is Danny, a Chinese-American teenager whose quirks and precocious intelligence have long made him an outcast in his California high school. These three disparate lives converge when they flee their homes, finding themselves in a small Chinese town just across the river from North Korea. As they fight to survive in a place where danger seems to close in on all sides, in the form of government informants, husbands, thieves, abductors, and even missionaries, they come

to form a kind of adoptive family. But will Yongju, Jangmi and Danny find their way to the better lives they risked everything for? Lee transports the reader to one of the least-known and most threatening environments in the world. If you miss the wonderful thrillers of James Church like I do, try this.

Le Carré, John. [The Night Manager](#); [Our Game](#); [The Tailor of Panama](#) (\$16 each). Rereleases of some of the author's work in advance of the publication of his new George Smiley spy novel [A Legacy of Spies](#) (Viking \$28) on September 5.

Lescroart, John. [The Fall](#) (\$16). After a teenaged foster child plunges off a San Francisco overpass and no one is sure if this was an accident or murder, the police focus on a teacher/foster care advocate. Rebecca Hardy, Dismas' daughter, is drawn into his defense. And soon her father and his unorthodox investigating team is, too.... 16<sup>th</sup> in a terrific series.

Middleton, Jarett. [Darkansas](#) (Dutton \$26.95). Rooting through the Ozark hills and hollers reminiscent of the hillbilly noir of Daniel Woodrell, Middleton kicks up the violent secrets of generations of Baynes and their genetic legacy of twins and patricide. Like Woodrell, Middleton packs a lot of hamburger in a small bun—200 pages of serious drinking, country lore, a bear attack, guitar picking lessons, an abandoned mine collapse, bootleg logging, both mindless and attentive sex, a motorcycle crash and a vengeful immolation. At the center of his story are noted bluegrass musician Walker Bayne and his twin sons, Jordan and Malcolm. An accomplished guitarist himself, Jordan bolts from the Ouachitas in rebellion against his father's fame. He plays country honk, drinks shine and whores his way through dive bars like "Bourbon & Boots, one of the most worn out shitholes in all of San Antonio." Malcolm is the solid over-achiever who always caught the most fish, killed the most ducks and picked up the pieces after a Jordan rampage. As Jordan explains to an old girlfriend: "He followed the rules, I broke them. I used my hands, he used his brain. I went through life like a freight train and he slipped by undetected." In the shadows behind the story of the Bayne family is a pair of strikingly described mountain phantoms stalking Jordan and Malcolm with murderous intent....

Nugent, Liz. [Unraveling Oliver](#) (Gallery \$26). A #1 bestseller in Ireland, a man's shocking act of savagery stuns a local community—and the revelations that follow. It begins with this line: "*I expected more of a reaction the first time I hit her.*" What follows is a remarkable portrait of a man hiding his violent personality and the effect on those around him. It's more Patricia Highsmith than crime, a character study, but bad things happen.

Patterson, James/Richard DiLallo. [The Store](#) (LittleBrown \$27). New York writers Jacob and Megan Brandeis are going undercover to dig up the secrets of a powerful e-tailer called The Store. With nothing escaping The Store's watchful eye, Jacob must find a way to publish his exposé—before the truth dies with him.

Penzler, Otto, ed. [Bibliomysteries](#) (Pegasus \$26.95). I mention this because Penzler has commissioned some bibliomysteries, collected in part here. Authors are Bruen, Estleman, DeMille, Anne Perry, Deaver, Box, Cook, and Lippman. See Ellroy in the June section for one of the new titles in the series. I expect to see more titles collected in future trade editions; fingers crossed for Stephen Hunter's entry (we sold out) which introduced a truly fabulous character.

Richtel, Matt. [Dead on Arrival](#) (Harper \$26.99). In his life as a Pulitzer-winning *NY Times* reporter, Richtel has done in depth coverage on technology and "science, technology, business and narrative-driven story telling around these issues, including cancer immunotherapy, electronic cigarettes, and the impact of heavy technology use on behavior and the brain." Which he's incorporated into his novels. So here we get Dr. Lyle Martin, a world authority on infectious disease, who's on board when a plane crash lands at a desolate airport in Colorado. In aid of the surviving crew he, and they, observe that everyone outside the plane appears to be dead. And soon all but one passenger, a lady using the restroom, is dead too. Is there a lethal virus at work and if so, what's its origin? And is it naturally doing its lethal work, or is it something weaponized?

Robinson, Peter. [Sleeping in the Ground](#) (Harper \$26.99). This latest for Yorkshire copper Alan Banks hits all the right notes, some of them light which is a change for a series where chapters can be dark and dour. It begins tragically when a small festive wedding at a country church ends tragically when a sniper kills the groom. He makes a (nearly) clean escape leaving nothing for Supt. Banks and his team to work with. Profiler Jenny Fuller makes a return as the investigation takes twists and turns to a climax that is pure Robinson surprise. This is an excellent place to start reading him if you have not as the novel can work as a standalone.

Rose, M.J. [The Library of Light and Shadow](#) (Atria \$26). "The novels of M.J. Rose are always rich in sensual detail, and her latest is no exception. Though the other senses are hardly neglected, in *The Library of Light and Shadow* the sense of vision is central to Delphine Duplessi, a young Frenchwoman who is a painter as well as a witch, and who sees both the surface of things and their hidden secrets. Thanks to the author's rich descriptions, readers, too, will see beyond their ordinary abilities, to the passion between Delphine and the man she loves but feels she must give up forever." Rose's novels are too florid for me; I get impatient at the mix of elements, time, and sensory loads, and would rather reread Kate Mosse—such as [The Labyrinth](#) (\$17).

Schmidt, Sarah. [See What I Have Done](#) (Grove \$26). The Indie Next Pick calls this novel based on the Lizzie Borden case, "a spellbinding historic reimagining of a Gothic tale many of us grew up knowing about. Schmidt brings to life all the characters in Lizzie Borden's world and takes the reader on an adventure through time and the investigation into the murder of her parents. Schmidt uses context to make the moment in history as much of a character as the people in the story, and the lively characters will keep you transfixed on the murder mystery. It is hard to say that a book about a murder is delightful, but *See What I Have Done* is a delightful, suspenseful, and satisfying read."

Shaw, William. [The Birdwatcher](#) (LittleBrown \$26). I chose this for our **August British Crime Club Pick** for its setting and for the world of birding. Warning: the first 100 pages drag but stick with it and you'll end up in a rollercoaster of a climax. "This quiet novel has an air of Scandinavian noir about it—the chilly landscape, the dysfunctional relationships—and like the best northerly fiction, it brilliantly uses close character studies to immerse readers." —*Booklist* Starred Review. "Award-winning author Shaw (Breen and Tozer series) delivers an outstanding standalone novel; its gritty protagonist, intricate plot, and atmospheric

description of the English countryside will please readers of Tana French's Dublin Murder Squad series."—*Library Journal*. Elly Griffiths, a master of this bit of English country, finds *Birdwatcher*, to be, "An astoundingly good crime novel. The characters and setting are brilliantly drawn—the descriptions spare but always telling—and the plot builds to an unforgettable resolution."

I like this review from Shelf-Awareness: "William South is an ordinary copper. A birdwatcher in his free time, he's patient and meticulous, keen to police everyday troubles folks find themselves in. With death in his past, what South wants most is to avoid the murder squad at all costs. When former London Detective Sergeant Alexandra Cupidi joins the Kent Police and draws a bludgeoning for her first case, South's boss puts him on her team to help with the "local impact" of the crime. The victim is South's neighbor and fellow birdwatcher Bob Raynor. South initially fights the assignment, but can't help but be intrigued by both Cupidi and revelations about his dead friend. How much didn't he know about seemingly harmless Bob? Shaw's writing is true British procedural; lean and spectacle-free, it nevertheless grabs and doesn't let go. With minimal telling, Shaw paints full characters and relationships with seemingly preternatural ease. Particularly satisfying are South's relationship with Cupidi's daughter Zoe and emotional flashbacks to his childhood in Ireland during the Troubles. A well-plotted mystery with love and loyalty at its core, *The Birdwatcher* is a gratifying standalone."

Scottoline, Lisa. [Damaged](#) (\$16.99). 4<sup>th</sup> in the family/girlfriends-driven Rosato & DiNunzio law firm series set in Philly by lawyer Scottoline. At its core is a young boy who is bullied at school. When Patrick attacks a school aide the aide quits and sues the boy, his family, and the school district, driving his grandfather to the R&N offices. And indeed, there is more to the story.... See Event Books for the 5<sup>th</sup> in this entertaining series.

Simenon, George. [Maigret, Lognon, and the Gangsters](#) (Penguin \$13). Will the French detective meet his match going up against a group of American bad guys?#40 in the Maigret series being republished by Penguin. *Merveilleux!*

Spufford, Francis. [Golden Hill](#) (Scribner \$26). A debut from a British nonfiction star plumbing Old New York has won various awards including the Costa First Novel Award. A handsome young stranger named Richard Smith arrives in New York City from London with a promissory note for 1,000 pounds (a fortune, at that time) that he hopes to cash. Local gossip goes into overdrive. Is he an agitator? A spy? A thief on the lam? He refuses to say what he plans to do with his money, should he get it, or whether he intends to remain in the New World. He maintains a pleasant if sphinx-like mien. "When a man creeps into a city in time of danger with a bag of gold," Richard is warned, misadventure may follow. Misadventure occurs. Richard does not escape entirely unharmed. Richard is clearly something of a gentleman. He's well read, speaks many languages and is up-to-date on British theater. He is slowly drawn into New York society. The depiction of this society is where Spufford especially shines. The *NY Times* finds this debut to be, "a high-level entertainment, filled with so much brio that it's as if each sentence had been dusted with Bolivian marching powder and cornstarch and gently fried. Some of this swashbuckling action goes over the top, but you will probably be turning the pages too quickly to register a complaint."

Stein, Triss. [Brooklyn Wars](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). At the core of

this contemporary mystery is a remarkable, moving WWII story that moved me to tears while editing it. From the earliest days of the Republic until the administration of LBJ, the Brooklyn Navy Yard was, proudly, both an arsenal of democracy, in FDR's words, and the creator of 70,000 local jobs. In time it became best known as the scary place New Yorkers had to locate to rescue their impounded cars. And then it came back to life, but not without a war. A public meeting becomes a battleground over plans to redevelop the once-proud Brooklyn Navy Yard. Walking towards the condemned Admirals' Row, Eric Donato, wrapping up her PhD and changing up her life, witnesses the brutal murder of a power broker in the Game of Thrones that is NY real estate development. And her accidental involvement takes her into family and Navy history where earlier crimes occurred.

Sternbergh, Adam. [Blinds](#) (Harper \$26.99). From the Edgar Award-nominated author of *Shovel Ready* comes a blistering new thriller that Dennis Lehane calls "propulsive and meaningful." Ideal for fans of Cormac McCarthy, Jim Thompson, the Coen Brothers, and *Lost*.

Storey, Erik. [Promise to Kill](#) (Scribner \$26). I really liked Storey's debut in [Nothing Short of Dying](#) (\$7.99) last year. The Western landscape, the ex-mercenary drifter called Clyde Barker who finds he can't go home again when a frantic phone call from his sister calls him back to Colorado ranch country where she pleads he must come to her rescue. He's on the move again and riding horseback in Ute country comes across an old Indian having a heart attack by the road. The aftermath lands him on a family ranch on the reservation where he hires on to help with chores. The rundown, half-abandoned village nearby is more or less under siege by an outlaw biker gang. But why? Barr can't see what's in it for them, at least for awhile. I feel Barr is Storey's conscious effort to create a Jack Reacher, and to that end he forces things including the conclusion in a way that isn't organic but self-conscious.

Tipton, Eric. [Beautiful Criminals](#) (Atria \$26). For fans of the Spellman Files comes an irreverent family drama about love, crime, and the ties that bind as three generations of women attempt to go straight...or not.

Tracy, P.J. [Nothing Stays Buried](#) (Putnam \$27). Who could forget the spiningling series debut, [Monkeewrench](#) (\$8.99)? The characters rose up off the page in all their quirks and dramas and the game technology was startling. That was in 2003. Today we find that Minneapolis cops Magozzi and Rolseth are still trucking and this time it's after the worst kind of nightmare: a vicious serial killer. It begins when a young woman with a charmed life stumbles into his path and our team takes on a mission to recover her.... Sadly the mother of this mother-daughter writing team has died after battling a long illness.

Walker, Wendy. [All is Not Forgotten](#) (\$16.99). Walker visits with her new novel on August 8 when we'll discuss this story narrated by the psychiatrist to whom the victim and her family turn when a controversial memory drug turns out to have unanticipated consequences. "In affluent Fairview, Connecticut, a young girl who's been sexually assaulted is given a drug to help her forget—and the fallout isn't what anyone expected. Twisty and spellbinding."—*People*

Willis, Connie. [Crosstalk](#) (\$18). A genre-bending novel that



pushes social media, smartphone technology, and twenty-four-hour availability to hilarious and chilling extremes as one young woman abruptly finds herself with way more connectivity than she ever desired. Named one of the Best Books of the Year by NPR.

Wilson, Daniel. [The Clockwork Dynasty](#) (Doubleday \$26.95). A new novel from the author of *Robocalypse*. When an inventor, employed by Peter the Great, creates two human-like clockwork automaton robots using anima discovered near a stream, he has no idea about the history behind those anima, nor could he imagine his creations' future. Weaving through the present and the past, this book creates a world where humans co-inhabit alongside a group of powerful automaton robots. Fun, intriguing and nearly impossible to put down!

✎Yap, Felicia. [Yesterday](#) (LittleBrown \$27). A debut combining dystopian fiction with *Trust No One*. Imagine a world in which classes are divided not by wealth or religion but by how much each group can remember. Monos, the majority, have only one day's worth of memory; elite Duos have two. In this stratified society, four different perspectives tell the story of a race against an ever-resetting clock to find a killer.

Young, David. [Stasi Child](#) (St Martins \$25.99). 1975. When Oberleutnant Karin Muller is called to investigate a teenage girl's body at the foot of the Berlin Wall, she imagines she's seen it all before. But she soon realizes that this is a death like no other before it—the girl was evidently trying to escape from West Berlin.

#### AUGUST SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

✎Bowen, Rhys. [Crowned and Dangerous](#) (\$7.99) Royal Spyness #10. The elopement of Lady Georgiana Rannoch and Darcy O'Mara is thrown into turmoil by the arrest of Darcy's father for the murder of a wealthy American, a charge that compels their journey to Ireland to prove his innocence. *PW* ended their review with "Colorful set pieces and larger-than-life characters enrich the clever plot, which enchants and satisfies while forwarding the series arc."

Conte, Cate. [Cat About Town](#) (St Martins \$7.99) Cat Café #1. When her new feline friend finds the dead body of the town bully, cat café owner Maddie James finds all eyes on her and must sniff out the real culprit, while two eligible bachelors, who think she is the cat's pajamas, vie for her attention. Can't get enough cozies with cats? Love amateur sleuth mysteries with a hint of romance? You will want to add this delightful start to a new series to your reading lists.

Eden, Cynthia. [After the Dark](#) (Harlequin \$7.99). A disgraced FBI profiler, Samantha Dark retreats to Alabama where an all-too-familiar serial killer begins hunting once again, forcing her to place her trust in her former partner, Blake Gamble, who wants her back in the FBI—and in his bed. *PW* said this about *After the Dark* "Eden pulls readers into Samantha's head from the first page and takes them on a first-class thrill ride, complete with effective red herrings and characters who practically leap off the page. This tale could have been ripped from today's newspaper headlines; it's deeply disturbing and impressively believable."

Grant, Andrew. [False Friend](#) (\$9.99) Cooper Deveraux Book 2. When an arsonist begins setting fires at local schools, exposing a terrible mystery about long-buried bones on one of the sites, police detective Cooper Deveraux struggles to solve the mystery

in the face of a blackmailer who would expose Cooper's darkest secrets. *LJ* said this about Grant's latest "The second installment starring Devereaux (after *False Positive*) is a suspenseful action-packed drama that is sure to please fans of the series and mystery/thriller lovers alike. As a stand-alone, it will inspire newcomers to seek out the first book."

Hagberg, David. [End Game](#) (\$9.99) Kirk McGarvey #20. When a series of gruesome murders occur in Langley, retired CIA assassin Kirk McGarvey investigates a code carved into the copper panels of the CIA headquarters' legendary statue before uncovering a dire secret behind the killings. *PW* ended their review with "Former CIA director McGarvey and his team of operatives embark on a thrilling search for answers that takes them to Greece, Iraq, and many points in between. Each twist in the tale opens up new possibilities. Hagberg expertly juggles the questions: How? Who? and Why? "

Harris, Robert. [Conclave](#) (\$9.99) After the demise of the Pope, 118 cardinals converge on the Sistine Chapel to cast their votes in the world's most secretive election, where ambition and rivalry play out over the course of 72 hours. Among the positive reviews for Harris' latest was *PW*'s which said "This is another impressive outing from an extremely versatile author. "

Rollins, James. [The Seventh Plague](#) (\$9.99) Sigma Force #12. When a British archaeologist who had been missing for two years reappears and dies amid findings that his body was being mummified while he was still alive, Sigma Force must stop an ancient plague with ties to some of history's most innovative minds. *PW* loved the latest Sigma force concluding their review with "Rollins's characters are as large as his landscape in this vast and vastly entertaining thriller saga. "

#### NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

✎Beaton, M C. [Pushing Up Daisies](#) (\$7.99) Agatha Raisin #27. When a wealthy land developer who had been planning to turn a community garden into a housing estate winds up dead, Agatha Raisin is hired by the victim's accused son to clear him of suspicion and identify the real killer among numerous suspects.

Brennan, Allison. [Poisonous](#) (\$7.99) Max Revere #3. Reluctantly taking the cold case of a teen Internet bully's murder, mourned by none save her mentally challenged stepbrother, investigative reporter Max Revere, accompanied by assistant David Kane, travels to California and works with helpful police officers before realizing that the killer may be hiding in plain sight.

Cass, Laurie. [Wrong Side of the Paw](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Bookmobile Cat #6. While in Chilson, Michigan, librarian Minnie and her rescue cat, Eddie, find themselves in the middle of murder and, together, they must sniff out the real killer before the book is closed on an innocent man.

✎Cole, Martina. [Betrayal](#) (Headline \$9.99) Aiden O'Hara has been head of the family since he was kid, and he's going to keep it that way. Jade Dixon watches his back. Mother of his son, she's the one who makes him invincible. But Jade's been in the game a lot longer than Aiden. She knows no one's indestructible. And when you're at the top, that's when you've got to watch the hardest. Especially the ones closest to you.

Flowers, Jean. [Addressed to Kill](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Postmistress Mystery #3. As the town of North Aschet, Massachusetts, gears up for Valentine's Day—and a special dinner dance at the senior

center—postmistress Cassie Miller is determined to solve the murder of a physics professor and musician before someone else winds up with more than a broken heart.

Galdorisi, George. [Tom Clancy's Op-Center: Scorched Earth](#) (St Martins \$9.99) When a U.S. Navy admiral is taken hostage by ISIS forces in retaliation for an airstrike, the admiral's son, a Navy SEAL, embarks on a lone-wolf mission to rescue his father while Geek Tank operatives work fervently to stay ahead of ruthless adversaries.

Hamilton, Victoria. [Muffin to Fear](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Merry Muffin #5. As the ghost-hunting crew from the TV show Haunt Hunt investigate her home, Wynter Castle, Merry and her new husband, while being saddled with the guests from hell, have a real-life whodunit on their hands after two ghost hunters are found dead.

Hechtman, Betty. [A Tangled Yarn](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Yarn Retreat #5. When a travel writer from a neighboring retreat is found dead in his room among a sea of feathers and yarn, Casey, while hosting another yarn retreat, must unravel the clues to find the killer before one of her retreaters is wrongly accused of the crime.

Holmes, Julianne. [Chime and Punishment](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Clock Shop #3. While repairing Orchard's ornate clock tower, expert clockmaker Ruth Clagan must race against time to find the killer of everyone's least favorite town manager, who was crushed under the tower's bell, before the clock runs out.

Neggers, Carla. [Liar's Key](#) (\$7.99) Sharpe and Donovan #6. An FBI legend, a mysterious antiquities specialist, and a brazen art thief draw top FBI agents Emma Sharpe and Colin Donovan into a complex web of blackmail, greed, and murder.

Robb, J D. [Echoes in Death](#) (\$8.99) Eve Dallas #44. Rescuing a severely traumatized survivor of a violent house invasion that ended the life of her obsessive husband, New York lieutenant Eve Dallas makes unsettling discoveries about the victim while struggling to piece together baffling clues about the killer.

Vallere, Diane. [Dressed to Confess](#) (Penguin \$7.99) Costume Shop #3. When the head dancer of a local dance troupe is found dead, costume shop owner Margo Tamblyn must unmask the real killer to save her dad's best friend from going to prison for a crime he didn't commit.

Wood, Tom. [Final Hour](#) (Penguin \$9.99) With a target on his head due to his work for the CIA, Victor, the ultimate killing machine, turns to a lethal assassin whose life he once saved for help in eluding a new, high-ranking U.S. intelligence official who, bent on revenge, will stop at nothing—not even murder—to find him.