

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 29, Number 10
September Booknews 2017
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A SIZZLING SEPTEMBER

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 3 2:00 PM

Louise Penny signs [Glass Houses](#) (St Martins \$28.99) Armand Gamache #13
Scottsdale Hilton 6333 N Scottsdale Road 85250
Doors Open 1:00 PM Program 2:00 PM
Free valet parking. Cash Bar
Admission by ticket only; One copy of the book = 2 tickets, no additional guests
Will Call only for attendees. Books and tickets can be picked up at the event.

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 4 4:00 PM

Tess Gerritsen signs [I Know a Secret](#) (Ballantine \$28)
Rizzoli & Iles #12

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 5 7:00 PM

Marcia Clark signs [Snap Judgment](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95; \$15.95)
Samantha Brinkman #3
Robert Dugoni signs [Close to Home](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95)
Tracy Crosswhite #5

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7 7:00 PM

The Great Giveaway Night – each attendee will take away one, if not two, Advance Reading Copies of new books
Michael Brandman signs [Missing Persons](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$26.95; \$15/95)
Deputy Sheriff Buddy Steele debut

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime Club discusses GM Malliet's [Wicked Autumn](#) (\$16.99)
Vicar Max Tudor #1

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9 12:15-1:15 PM

Writers Workshop: How to Promote Your Book with Craig Johnson's publicist Bennett Petrone (Viking) and Barbara Peters
NEW Location: The Poisoned Pen. Fee \$30.

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9 2:00 PM

Hosted by Mark Pryor
Craig Johnson signs [The Western Star](#) (Viking \$28)
Walter Longmire #13
Mark Pryor signs [The Sorbonne Affair](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95)
Location: Scottsdale Hilton 6333 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85250
Doors Open 1:00 PM Program 2:00 PM
Cash Bar. Free valet parking
Admission to the signing line only with the purchase of *The Western Star* from The Poisoned Pen

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 10 2:00 PM

Matt Goldman signs [Gone to Dust](#) (Forge \$25.99)
Minneapolis PI Nils Shapiro debut
Rachel Howzell Hall signs [City of Saviors](#) (Forge \$26.99)
LAPD's Elouise Norton #4

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 12 6:30 PM

Jesse and Jonathan Kellerman sign [Crime Scene](#) (Ballantine \$28.99)
Deputy Coroner Clay Edison debut

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13 7:00 PM

JA Jance signs [Proof of Life](#) (Harper \$27.99) JP Beaumont

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 14 7:00 PM

Attica Locke signs [Bluebird, Bluebird](#) (LittleBrown \$26)
A thriller from a writer/producer of *Empire*

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 15 7:00 PM SciFi Friday

The SciFi Club discusses Charlie Jane Anders, [All the Birds in the Sky](#) (\$15.99)
Winner of the 2016 Nebula Award

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16 10:30 AM

Croak and Dagger discuss CJ Sansom's [Dissolution](#) (\$17)
Matthew Shardlake Tudor Mystery #1

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 16 2:00 PM Mystery Tea

Sherry Thomas signs [A Conspiracy in Belgravia](#) (Penguin \$15)
Lady Sherlock #2

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17 2:00 PM

Reed Farrel Coleman signs [Robert B Parker's The Hangman's Sonnet](#) (Putnam \$27) Jesse Stone
Our copies come with guitar picks that match the book jacket

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 18 7:00 PM A Soho Duo

James R Benn signs [The Devouring](#) (Soho \$26.95)
Billy Boyle WWII Mystery #12
Francine Mathews signs [Death on Nantucket](#) (Soho \$24.95)
Merry Folger #5

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 19 7:00 PM

Anne Perry signs [An Echo of Murder](#) (Ballantine \$28)
William Monk #23

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 20 7:00 PM

James Carlos Blake signs [The Ways of Wolfe](#) (Grove \$25)

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 22 7:00 PM

James Sallis and TheThree-Legged Dog play

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 23 2:00 PM British Tea

Juliana Gray signs [A Strange Scottish Shore](#) (Penguin \$16)
Emmeline Truelove #2

Charles Todd signs [A Casualty of War](#) (Harper \$26.99)
Bess Crawford #9

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 26 7:00 PM

David Lagercrantz signs [The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye](#)
(Knopf \$27.95)

Lisbeth Salander Millennium Series #5

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 27 7:00 PM

Harlan Coben signs [Don't Let Go](#) (Dutton \$28)

September Thriller Club Pick.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28 6:30 PM

Thomas Mullen signs [Lightning Men](#) (Atria \$26)
The Darktown #2

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 28 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Mullen's [Darktown](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 30 2:00 PM Cupcakes!

Jenn McKinlay signs [Barking Up the Wrong Tree](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Bluff Point #2 – Love Is a Four-Legged Word

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 4 7:00 PM

Michael Koryta hosts

Martin Limon signs [The Nine-Tailed Fox](#) (Soho \$26.95)

Slicky Boys #12

THURSDAY OCTOBER 5 7:00 PM

Michael Koryta hosts and signs [Rise the Dark](#) (\$9.99)

Nelson DeMille signs [The Cuban Affair](#) (SimonSchuster \$28.99)

The Doubletree Hilton 5401 N Scottsdale Road 85250

Doors Open 6:00 PM Program 7:00 PM

Cash Bar. Free Valet Parking

EVENT BOOKS

Benn, James R. [The Devouring](#) (Soho \$26.95). “Extensive historical and military contextual detail, copious suspense, plenty of action, and the innate politics of power are distinctive traits of this acclaimed World War II-set series. Absorbing...”—*Library Journal*. Benn picks his landscapes carefully. This time it's Switzerland. Benn blasts holes in “Swiss neutrality” when he is sent there with his friend, the Polish émigré Kaz, to investigate the murder of a banking official with ties to England's OSS. With the US and Swiss governments embarking on diplomatic discussions regarding the Safehaven Protocols limited the amount of war materials Switzerland exports to the Nazis, putting an end to laundering looted gold, and preventing Nazis from storing up wealth for post-war use, the OSS wants the murder cleaned up. It's a tough start when Billy and Kaz crash land in France on their way through Occupied territory to the border.... In its unsparing approach to “neutrality” this is a very contemporary (and cynical) story, somewhat of a change in tone for Benn. Read them all from the beginning, [books 1-11](#).

Blake, James Carlos. [The Ways of Wolfe](#) (Grove \$25).

Patrick reviews a book he admires for its “tough, muscular prose” complementing Blake's “powerful storytelling.” Back in 1984, Axel Wolfe had a beautiful young wife, a baby daughter, and an assured place in his family's law firm, but an ill-fated decision to take part in a Dallas jewelry store heist forever altered his promising future. When the robbery went bad, Wolfe took a bullet and his two partners left him to take the fall. More than two decades into his prison sentence, the now middle-aged Wolfe decides he has nothing to lose when a young convict named Cacho enlists him in an escape plot orchestrated by powerful cartel relatives. Blake amps up the suspense as the two men find themselves on a wild river ride down the Rio Grande in a desperate attempt to make it across the border. And the personal as Blake dreams of being reunited with his daughter (after 20 years) if he survives. You can order all of [Blake's border noir series](#).

Brandman, Michael. [Missing Persons](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$26.95). We get two d Hollywood/TV legends as authors this month; Brandman September 7; Matt Goldman September 10. You who are interested in screenwriting, etc, will want to come to hear what they have to say. Brandman, who wrote three Jesse Stone novels for the Robert B. Parker estate (see Reed Farrel Coleman's new Stone below), creates his own narrator Buddy Steel. Buddy's smart, aggressive, and cynical, a lawman content working homicide at the LAPD until his father, the legendary Sheriff Burton Steel, falls ill with Lou Gehrig's disease. Burton is headquartered in Freedom, a privileged community within a county about two hours drive north of Los Angeles. Burton wants Buddy home, wants to groom him as the next Sheriff. Never mind that Buddy outgrew Freedom's limits and has only reluctantly met Burton's request. No sooner does Buddy hit town than he learns the wife of the high flying star of a world renowned broadcast ministry has gone missing. A visit to the woman's home leads to a hostile confrontation with the Reverend Barry Long, Jr.'s family and Buddy's realization that something greater than a missing person is at stake. Following up a lead to Los Angeles, Buddy meets Maggie, sister to the Long brothers She describes her family as “grifters,” father and sons, yet stays bound to them by money and blood. And blood soon flows in Freedom.... You can order the paperback: [Missing Persons](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95).

With his longtime partner, Tom Selleck, Brandman produced and co-wrote nine Jesse Stone movies and three Westerns. His and Emanuel Azenberg's production of Tom Stoppard's *Rosencrantz & Guildenstern Are Dead* won the Venice Film Festival's Golden Lion Award for Best Picture. He has produced more than 40 motion pictures including films written by Arthur Miller, Stephen Sondheim, Neil Simon, David Mamet, Horton Foote, Wendy Wasserstein, David Hare, and Athol Fugard.

Clark, Marcia. [Snap Judgment](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). LA Defense attorney Samantha Brinkman's third case is propelled

by a twisting plot informed by Clark's legal know-how. When the daughter of prominent civil litigator Graham Hutchins is found with her throat slashed, the woman's spurned ex-boyfriend seems the likely suspect. But only days later, the young man dies in what appears to be a suicide. Or was it? Now authorities are faced with a possible new crime. And their person of interest is Hutchins. It's Sam's obligation to trust Hutchins, her new client. Yet the deeper she digs on his behalf, the more entangled she becomes in a thicket of family secrets, past betrayals, and multiple motives for murder. Prosecutor Clark writes from the standpoint of the defense bar in this series. Fascinating stuff. Also in trade paperback: [Snap Judgment](#) (\$15.95). [Order all three!](#)

Coben, Harlan. [Don't Let Go](#) (Dutton \$28). Coben is the author of ten consecutive No. 1 *New York Times* best sellers and a winner of the Edgar, Shamus, and Anthony awards to boot. I like his standalones like this thriller set in suburban New Jersey which is an environment more dangerous than you might think. Coben begins this **September Thriller Club Pick** with a Note about "two common legends about my hometown." The second one inspired *Don't Let Go*, he says, but both proved to be true. You can decide for yourself whether you should read the Note or move straight to page one (my vote). And into a story that begins with a young woman in a scam who finds herself an unexpected target. And then moves into the narrative of Nap (for Napoleon), a cop in dream suburb Westbridge who can't move on with his own life. Why? He misses his twin, Leo, whose death in a hideous train accident with Leo's girlfriend Diana, and the disappearance of Nap's true love Maura, 15 years ago has stunted Nap's life. His mentor on the force, Augie, the father of Diana, is another mourner. Nap has his job, his best friend Ellie, and now he has a surprise—Maura's fingerprints showing up in a rental car of a suspected killer. At the heart of this tale, aside from teen-aged stupidity, is what's hidden out in the woods. No, this isn't a Brothers Grimm tale, it's a real thing. One we have to hope is truly obsolete. Also, remember —Trust No One!

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Robert B Parker's The Hangman's Sonnet](#) (Putnam \$27). A Starred Review: Coleman's heartfelt fourth contribution to Parker's Jesse Stone series explores the meaning of a haunting line from the eponymous sonnet: "The mirror has revealed my hangman's face." Jesse, the police chief of Paradise, Mass., has been deeply scarred by the tragic death of his significant other, who was murdered in front of him at the end of 2016's *Debt to Pay*. Several months later, Jesse is still taking refuge in the bottle, and despite his colleagues' efforts to cover for him, his diminished capacity has come to the attention of the town's mayor, Constance Walker, who was already not a fan of his. As he struggles to cope with his loss and his self-destructive response to it, Jesse must investigate the death of an elderly town resident during the course of a burglary. He also cooperates with private security on an upcoming birthday gala honoring a reclusive singer and songwriter who was once considered the "Boston Bob Dylan," a responsibility that becomes progressively more complicated. Coleman balances plot and character perfectly. **We have custom designed guitar picks to match the book jacket.** You can order [Coleman's many books](#) as well.

DeMille, Nelson. [The Cuban Affair](#) (SimonSchuster \$28.99). Our **October Thriller Pick**—he signs October 5—is drawing raves all around, including from me who in the early days of *The Pen* sold hundreds of copies of *The Charm School*, my late mother's

favorite thriller. DeMille has changed publishers and goes in a fresh direction with this his 20th novel. Or maybe not fresh—a line from the novel perfectly describes this page-turner: "Sex, money, and adventure. Does it get any better than that?" We're in 2015, in the early days of the thaw in US-Cuban relations (can we already be nostalgic for them?). Key West charter fishing boat skipper Daniel (Mac) McCormick is approached by three Cuban Americans who want his help extracting \$60 million stashed in a Cuban cave since the 1959 Cuban Revolution. The trio has their Cuban and American contacts ready, dates picked out, and a hare-brained proposition ready for Mac. It seems they need his brawn, his brains, and his boat to get the money to the United States. Mac's not a stranger to danger, having served in Afghanistan, but he's crippled by debt—he has a \$250,000 bank loan on his boat—and feeling existentially adrift. So for the small fortune on offer he agrees. The cover is a fishing tournament. What could go wrong? Among the starred reviews this from *LJ* is the most over the top: "His affably irreverent protagonist, fantastic believable supporting characters, and tense, realistic Cuba-set scenes including some jaw-dropping revelations make this a must-read for his many fans." And I add, for any fan of Randy Wayne White. Reissued: [The Gate House](#) (\$15.99)

Dugoni, Robert. [Close to Home](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). "Dugoni has a gift for creating compelling characters and mysteries that seem straightforward, but his stories, like an onion, have many hidden layers. He also is able to capture the spirit and atmosphere of the Pacific Northwest, making the environment come alive." —Associated Press. All of which comes into play in this, his 5th thriller for Tracy Crosswhite. While investigating the hit-and-run death of a young boy, the Seattle homicide detective makes a startling discovery: the suspect is an active-duty serviceman at a local naval base. After a key piece of case evidence goes missing, he is cleared of charges in a military court. But Tracy knows she can't turn her back on this kind of injustice. When she uncovers the driver's ties to a rash of recent heroin overdoses in the city, she realizes that this isn't just a case of the military protecting its own. It runs much deeper than that, and the accused wasn't acting alone. As Tracy moves closer to uncovering the truth behind this insidious conspiracy, she's putting herself in harm's way.... [Order all of her cases.](#)

Gerritsen, Tess. [I Know a Secret](#) (Ballantine \$28). 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. Soon the investigations lead 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. If you are a fan of *Grantchester* you will follow the developments in Maura's life closely....

Goldman, Matt. [Gone to Dust](#) (Forge \$25.99). How I love a classic PI story and, as here, one with a contemporary sensibility. Goldman is an Emmy Award-winning television writer/producer. He was nominated for a Writers Guild Award for his work

on *Seinfeld*. His credits also include *Ellen*, *Coach* and *The New Adventures of Old Christine*. He is in production on *Dirk Gently's Holistic Detective Agency*. He splits his time between LA and Minneapolis where his debut, our **Surprise Me Club! Pick** for September, is set. NOTE: since I limited the FMC Picks to one per month this year I can't make *Gone to Dust* one, but I would if we were under the older "take them as they come" design. Anyway, our hero is private investigator Nils Shapiro who is enduring a frigid Minneapolis winter, trying to forget his ex-wife, drum up a little business when he gets a call from a former colleague, neighboring Edina Police Detective Anders Ellegaard. The body of a suburban divorcee is found in her bedroom, her corpse covered with the contents of hundreds of emptied vacuum cleaner bags, it's clear a calculating killer has acted to obscure all possible DNA evidence. After the FBI demands that Nils drop the case, Nils and Ellegaard are forced to take their investigation underground, where the case grows as murky as the contents of the vacuum cleaner bags. Harlan Coben chimes in: "Sharp wit, complex characters, and masterful plotting makes Goldman a writer to watch. Irreverent and insightful, private detective Nils Shapiro is sure to become a fan favorite."

Gray, Juliana. [A Strange Scottish Shore](#) (Penguin \$16). Gray, aka Beatriz Williams, began this entertaining series with [A Most Extraordinary Pursuit](#) (\$15). Now we move to 1906 Scotland, a remote if gorgeous Orkney Islands to be more precise, and into the family history and drama of Thurso Castle. For centuries a legend of a selkie has haunted lives at Thurso and at nearby Hoy. Emmeline Truelove, the unorthodox (and royal, although illegitimate) researcher to the new Duke of Olympia, Maximilian Haywood (you have to read book one to get up to speed here), are no strangers to archaeological digs, nor to artifacts, but even they are puzzled by an unusual suit of clothing (the selkie's?). And distressed by violent events that overtook Emmeline on the train up and the way Lord Silverton (whom she loves) abruptly vanished into the night from an Edinburgh Street. It all takes a dangerous turn (again) through time so "time slip" is part of the story structure. Great fun.

Hall, Rachel Howzell. [City of Saviors](#) (Forge \$26.99). I was pleased to see the LAPD's Elouise Norton come in at No. 4 on the *Guardian's* list of Ten Best Female Detectives: "On a squad full of white men, Lou Norton is a black woman working as a homicide detective in South Central Los Angeles where she, too, grew up. Lou's childhood ended early when her older sister disappeared, and she chose this career partly to make sense of what happened. I love the smart, snappy voice in this series, as well as the way Lou is feminine and tough at the same time." The UK's *Daily Mail* adds, and I agree, that Hall "deserves to be compared to Kathy Reichs or Patricia Cornwell, and it will not be long before she is recognized as every bit as big a crime writing star." We are lucky Hall has signed all her books here and that she returns again on September 10 with Lou's 4th investigation. It opens, appropriately for 2017, after a Long Labor Day Weekend when 73-year-old Eugene Washington is found dead in his Leimert Park home. At first blush, his death seems unremarkable, a combination of heat wave with food poisoning from a holiday barbecue. But something in the way Washington died doesn't make sense. Lou learns that only family Washington had was the 6,000-member congregation of Blessed Mission Ministries, led

by Bishop Solomon Tate. And that maybe something wicked is lurking among the congregants of this church....

Jance, JA. [Proof of Life](#) (Harper \$27.99). Before he retired, J. P. Beaumont had looked forward to having his days all to himself. But too much free time doesn't suit a man used to brushing close to danger. When his longtime nemesis, retired Seattle crime reporter Maxwell Cole, dies in what's officially deemed to be an accidental fire, Beau is astonished to be dragged into the investigation at the request of none other than the deceased victim himself. In the process Beau learns that just because a long-ago case was solved doesn't mean it's over. Caught up in a situation where old actions and grudges can hold dangerous consequences in the present, Beau is forced to operate outside the familiar world of law enforcement. While seeking justice for his frenemy and healing for a long fractured family, he comes face to face with an implacable enemy who has spent decades hiding in plain sight. It's great to still be following Beau whose career was in good gear when I opened *The Poisoned Pen* back in 1989. So this title is more apt than usual, no?

Johnson, Craig. [The Western Star](#) (Viking \$28). The Wyoming author pays homage to Agatha Christie in his cleverly plotted 13th Walt Longmire novel, which zigzags between the past and the present. In 1972, Walt, an Absaroka County deputy and newly returned Vietnam War vet, joins his boss, Sheriff Lucian Connelly, for the Wyoming Sheriffs' Association annual excursion across the state aboard the steam train Western Star. In Walt's pocket is a copy of Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*. On the train, Walt attracts the attention of Kim LeClerc, the comely companion of Sheriff George McKay, who warns the deputy to stay away from her. Soon afterward, during a station stop, someone knocks Walt out just as he's about to reboard the train. Walt hitches a ride to the next stop, where he learns that McKay has disappeared and another sheriff has been shot dead. In the present day, Walt is opposed to the release of a serial killer, who's dying and has been imprisoned for decades, for a personal reason that will catch readers by surprise. Witty dialogue abounds; when Kim asks Walt if he killed many babies in Vietnam, he replies, "Hardly any, they're small... Hard to hit." And Johnson winds up the whodunit with a solution that Christie could never have imagined.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [Crime Scene](#) (Ballantine \$28.99). Father and son launched a new series on August 1 but weather foiled their visit so they now appear September 12. Meanwhile *Crime Scene* debuted in the top ten on the *NY Times Bestseller* list the first week so we're glad we had our supply of first prints in hand. I've written to you about it before so here's the *Times's* take: You could drive yourself crazy trying to figure out who wrote what in a collaboration between Jonathan Kellerman and his son, Jesse Kellerman, who's written some good stuff of his own. (One hint: An interview with Dr. Alex Delaware must come from Kellerman *père*, since that character figures in his own long-running series.) The amateur detective here is the narrator, Clay Edison, a meticulous and highly principled deputy coroner. Acting on his strong professional suspicion, Edison hesitates to rule the sudden death of Walter Rennert an accident without poking around in the man's life (and medicine chest). And when Rennert's daughter insists that her father was murdered, Edison has an authentic excuse to meddle. So who wrote what? Don't

ask me. But whoever came up with the fine line, “When I meet new people, they’re usually dead,” should pat himself on the back. For fun you can read a [2016 interview with Jonathan](#) in the *Times*, get to know him better.

Koryta, Michael. [Rise the Dark](#) (\$9.99). With no new novel for 2017, our 2015 Writer in Residence visits to host Martin Limon and next, Nelson DeMille. If you missed his 2016 bestseller, get in now in paperback. *Rise the dark*. These were the last words written in Lauren Novak’s notebook before she was murdered in a strange Florida village. They’ve never meant anything to the police or to her husband, investigator Markus Novak. Now the man he believes killed her is out of prison, and draws Markus to the place he’s avoided for so long: the lonely road where his wife was shot to death beneath the cypress trees and Spanish moss in a town called Cassadaga. In Red Lodge, Montana, a senseless act of vandalism shuts the lights off in the town where Sabrina Baldwin is still trying to adjust to a new home and mourning the loss of her brother, who was a high voltage linesman just like her husband, Jay. Drawing all this together is a messianic villain who understands that you can never outpace your past. You can only rise against the future...

Lagercrantz, David. [The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye](#) (Knopf \$27.95). The ink embedded in her skin is a constant reminder of Lisbeth Salander’s pledge to fight against the injustice she finds on every side. Confinement to the secure unit of a women’s prison is intended as a punishment. Instead, Lisbeth finds herself in relative safety. Flodberga is a failing prison, effectively controlled by the inmates, and for a computer hacker of her exceptional gifts there are no boundaries. Mikael Blomkvist makes the long trip to visit every week—and receives a lead to follow for his pains, one that could provide an important expose for Millennium: Salander tells him to check out Leo Mannheimer, a seemingly reputable stockbroker from Stockholm, somehow connected to the long-ago death of a child psychologist—and to the psychiatric unit where Lisbeth was an involuntary patient as a child. Lisbeth knows she is coming closer to solving the mysteries of her early life; and even within the confines of the prison, she feels the deadly influence exerted by her twin sister. And the manipulations of criminals outside the prison walls...

Limon, Martin. [The Nine-Tailed Fox](#) (Soho \$26.95). The marvelous Sueño and Bascom series following the two 8th Army CID detectives through challenging and immensely surprising cases in occupied South Korea blend the thriller, the police procedural, military fiction, with Limon’s deep grasp of Korean society and ancient and modern cultures with “the massive footprint of the 8th Army” on the culture. And he gets the seamy side of the encampments surrounding Army bases as well as local nightlife. I may best admire the way George and Ernie learn to work with the Korean homicide detective Mr. Kill, a stark realist, as both sides balance the politics in play with a sense of (often unorthodox) justice. This 12th novel presents the Slick Boys (as I usually call George and Ernie) with another difficult problem: three GIs have gone missing from three different bases. A rumor is circulating that a woman, a *gumiho* or legendary nine-tailed fox disguised as a woman, is involved. Then one man is found dead. Meanwhile the boys are caught up in a power struggle between two wives of 8th Army officers (a refrigerator figures in). It’s not easy to work to appease the bosses (male and female), work the case, and co-

operate with Mr. Kim... My advice is to [order the whole series](#)—Lee Child says, “Limon is one of the best military writers ever” but I think he’s one of the best crime writers working today.

Locke, Attica. [Bluebird, Bluebird](#) (LittleBrown \$26). Patrick raves. And here are other critics’ takes: “Attica Locke’s *Bluebird, Bluebird* reads like a blues song to East Texas with all its troubles over property, race, and love. Taut where it has to be to keep a murder investigation on its toes, this novel is also languid when you need to understand just what would keep a black woman or man in a place where so much troubled history lies. This novel marks Love’s (and Hatred’s) comings and goings amongst black and white, and all the shades between. Locke’s small town murder investigation reveals what lies at the heart of America’s confusion over race.”—Walter Mosley. “With *Bluebird, Bluebird* Attica Locke brings freshness and vitality to a beloved form. Her storytelling touch is just so strong! From the first beautifully done scene until the finale, this is a very propulsive novel concerning old deeds that keep influencing the present, injustice and courage—a powerful and dramatic look at contemporary black life in rural America.”—Daniel Woodrell. “Locke, having stockpiled an acclaimed array of crime novels, deserves a career breakthrough for this deftly plotted whodunit whose writing pulses throughout with a raw, blues-inflected lyricism.” —*Kirkus* Starred Review.

Mathews, Francine. [Death on Nantucket](#) (Soho \$24.95). Mathews “launched her career years ago with the four-book Merry Folger mystery series, set in Nantucket. Then she gave it up to write stand-alone and spy novels and the Jane Austen mystery series (under the name Stephanie Barron.) Now after a 19-year hiatus, Mathews returns with her fifth Merry Folger book. Detective Folger is still in her mid-30s, since Mathews has rewritten the first four books to give them a contemporary setting. (Mystery writers have the option of creating ageless characters caught in time warps). A woman’s body is found on the widow’s walk of an old island mansion, where it has lain for a month. She is identified as Nora, the adopted Hmong daughter of Spenser Murphy, who owns the house. Once an investigative journalist known for his coverage of the Vietnam War, Murphy is famous for a book he wrote about his escape from Laos, a tale that was made into a movie. He now suffers from dementia. Merry’s father has retired as retired as head of the Nantucket police department, replaced by a hard-nosed outsider, and Merry, third-generation on the force, is told she is expected to solve the death in a matter of hours. It’s not clear to Merry that Nora was murdered. But then a potential suspect is definitely killed.... Mathews is a story teller, and as with her other books, she has a fine sense of time and place. Her descriptions of Nantucket make you taste the salt air, and the drawl of the long-time residents puts you on the island. Nantucket is to the Merry Folger series what England is to Mathews’ Jane Austen mysteries (Stephanie Barron).” —Sandra Dallas reviewing for the *Denver Post*. I add that the twists in this story, the revelations of what is real in the characters’ pasts, the family’s dynamics where the role of fame cannot be discounted... remarkable stuff. My late Mother and I collected the first four Folders, now all revised to update them to today. [Order them all](#) for a real treat.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Barking Up the Wrong Tree](#) (Berkley \$7.99). After losing her job in Manhattan, Carla DeCusati is forced to

temporarily move back home to Bluff Point, Maine, to regroup. With her parents heading down to Florida for the winter, it will be Carla and her younger (and bratty) sister Gina staying in the house. Before Carla leaves NY, she unexpectedly inherits her deceased neighbor's animal menagerie. Not one for commitments of any kind, Carla figures she will find new homes for the pets. However, things don't go as planned, for Carla is having trouble finding a home for an ornery bird and an elderly dog. Then hunky physical therapist James Sinclair throws her a major curve ball by refusing to be her usual one-night stand. This gem earns 4.5 Stars from *Romantic Times*: "Dive on in to the second terrific book in McKinlay's Bluff Point series where romance and second chances are definitely in the air! Her newest heroine is a poster-child for being truly commitment-phobic, an attitude brought on by a nasty incident in her past. How the hero and her friends try to break through the heroine's barriers makes for a funny and warm-hearted story. But the cherry on top of this sundae is the addition of a trio of delightful furry (and feathered) sidekicks, the wonderfully foul-mouthed parrot Ike and the canine crew of Saul and Hot-heels. McKinlay is definitely on a hot streak!"

Mullen, Thomas. [Lightning Men](#) (Atria \$26). [Darktown](#) (\$16), a 2016 Hardboiled Crime Club Pick, gets a knockout follow up. Officer Denny Rakestraw and "Negro Officers" Lucius Boggs and Tommy Smith have their hands full in an overcrowded and rapidly changing Atlanta. It's 1950 and racial tensions are simmering as black families, including Smith's sister, begin moving into formerly all-white neighborhoods. When Rake's brother-in-law launches a scheme to rally the Ku Klux Klan to "save" their neighborhood, his efforts spiral out of control, forcing Rake to choose between loyalty to family or the law. Across town, Boggs and Smith try to shut down the supply of white lightning and drugs into their territory, finding themselves up against more powerful foes than they'd expected. Battling corrupt cops and ex-cons, Nazi brown shirts and rogue Klansmen, the officers are drawn closer to the fires that threaten to consume the city once again. "Mullen is a wonderful architect of intersecting plotlines and unexpected answers. But you also want justice, which you know neither Mullen nor our own time can provide... Compelling works of fiction such as Mullen's walk a fine line between art that reminds us of horrors past and art that trades on them with pieces too unfinished to play with."—*Washington Post*.

Penny, Louise. [Glass Houses](#) (St Martins \$28.99). We begin Armand Gamache's 13th investigation with the former head of Homicide now the Chief Superintendent of Sûreté du Québec, charged not only with the duties of the office but with restoring the service to its high level of "Service, Integrity, Justice" before it was corrupted under the previous regime. Protecting the province means getting up to speed on all levels despite the worsening degree of crime. Yet the book opens with Gamache on the witness stand in a Montreal court being questioned by the Chief Crown Prosecutor while Judge Maureen Corriveau presides over her first homicide trial. Fans of this series know that Gamache and his wife Reine-Marie have made their home in (magical) Three Pines. Now we learn as we zigzag back and forth in time that the village had been made at first uneasy, then threatened, by the appearance of a mysterious masked figure standing watch on the green. Watching whom? And why? "It was a person in costume," Gamache states. Then the Crown asks, "When did you realize it really was Death? Let me guess. When you were

standing over the body." (Don't peek at the Authors' Note at the end, it's better to be surprised by the figure's history). As ever, Penny combines the unusual and the mundane, surprising us with her signature blend of real events with what she makes up for the sake of the story. Library Reads concludes its rave review by saying, "Choices are made that will forever change our hero in ways we can only begin to imagine."

With Canada celebrating its 150th Canada Day last July, how timely to have this treat set in Three Pines and Montreal to enjoy.

[Read a fun interview](#) with Penny in the *NY Times*.

Perry, Anne. [An Echo of Murder](#) (Ballantine \$28). A Starred Review: "Set in the summer of 1870, bestseller Perry's skillful 23rd William Monk novel opens with the Thames River Police commander's arrival at a riverfront warehouse, where Hungarian businessman Imrus Fodor lies dead, impaled by a bayonet. Fodor's fingers are broken, and 17 candles are arrayed nearby, all bloody and two of an unusual blue. The victim's enigmatic countryman, Antal Dobokai, who discovered the body, serves as translator as Monk investigates London's close-knit Hungarian community. Leads are few, until identical murders occur. Londoners panic, ethnic tensions flare, and Monk's wife, Hester, becomes involved when a friend is suspected. Though the book's final quarter feels rushed, Perry smoothly intertwines themes—war's lingering cost, tensions around immigration and otherness—that challenge in both her period and our own. Her gritty depictions of Victorian medicine at home and on the battlefield ground the story in wrenching realism." Although we're in 1870, the capital of the Empire was not only a huge melting pot but a refuge for many immigrants such as the Hungarian community depicted here. The attitudes of the nativists Perry reveals are only too familiar today whether you look to the UK or the US. You can [order the entire William Monk series](#).

Pryor, Mark. [The Sorbonne Affair](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Hugo Marston, US Embassy Security, learns American romance writer Helen Hancock—"huge over here"—feels she is being spied upon. At the elegant Sorbonne Hotel where she has stayed for many years as a valued and pampered guest. Marston, a former FBI profiler whose past has resurfaced with the release of a prisoner back in Texas, 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. A theft at the American library and other events complicate Hugo's life even more as a plot that is studded with the publishing world unfolds in the French capital. 7th in a series we recommend: [order them all](#). I like to read them in order.

Thomas, Sherry. [A Conspiracy in Belgravia](#) (Penguin \$15). Thomas dared a new spin on an icon by introducing us to Charlotte Holmes last fall. "Thomas's use of language, the way she uses gender reversal to conceal revelations, and the intricacies of her plotting mean that I will rediscover more things to relish in [A Study in Scarlet Women](#) (\$16) each time I reread it."—NPR.com, judging it a Best Book of 2016. "Clever historical details and a top-shelf mystery add to the winning appeal of this first volume in the 'Lady Sherlock' series. A must-read for fans of historical mysteries."—*Library Journal* Starred Review. To say that Charlotte's life is complicated and filled with heartbreak as

well as sleuthing satisfaction—plus an overindulgence in baked goods—is an understatement. Thomas continues to weave those threads into a deucedly tangled web in the sequel. Among the puzzles brought to the consulting detective, the most dangerous is winking out a traitor. To say more would ruin this intricately spun plot that leaves you wishing the sequel would publish in October. For fans of Tasha Alexander, Elizabeth Peters, and Deanna Raybourn.

Todd, Charles. [A Casualty of War](#) (Harper \$26.99). The Bess Crawford series has been moving through WWI towards its end and this is the book where the final weeks shape events for Bess. The fighting not only rages on but intensifies. While Bess is waiting for transport back to her field post, Captain Alan Travis arrives suffering from a head wound. Alarmingly, this officer from Barbados insists that he was shot not by a retreating German but by a man he believes to be his distant English cousin. She can dismiss this, but some time later Alan Travis is brought in again, with a much more severe wound that will send him back to England, and with a stronger denunciation of James Travis as the shooter. But James Travis is dead, being killed in action awhile ago, leading to questions about Alan's sanity. It's easy to write him off as shell shocked and raving, but Bess can't believe that so experienced an officer could be so mistaken. And so, when on leave in England she finds the captain strapped to his bed in a unit treating brain injuries and the mad, she is horrified at his circumstances and enlists Sergeant major Simon Brandon to visit the Travis home in Suffolk. And there the whole becomes even more puzzling. As the guns that began firing in August, 1914, move towards silencing at 11 AM of the 11th month of 1918, so Bess moves towards a realization of the ills and evils of the Travis clan. This cleverly plotted and moving series is well worth reading in sequence. I recommend [ordering them all](#) and binging.

FIRST MYSTERY CLUB PICKS: FOUR GEMS

Selected as the best new voices and excellent plots.

July

Hansen, Hart. [The Driver](#) (Dutton \$26). My favorite voice of the summer! Hansen's "storytelling voice is off the charts: blunt, morbid, morally indignant and furiously funny."—*NY Times Book Review*. The *Times* begins by saying, "Open Hart Hanson's first novel and meet the great guys who work at Oasis Limo Services. Lucky is an Army veteran who's stable enough to drive a car, but as an immigrant with phony papers (and an observant Muslim), he's got to watch his back. Ripple, a 19-year-old who lost most of both legs in Afghanistan, is the dispatcher, when he's not drawing violent cartoons. Tinkertoy, a genius with all things mechanical, has a scary case of post-traumatic stress paranoia. And then there's Michael Skellig, the former Army Special Forces sergeant who owns the business. Skellig is relatively sane, but he does hear the voices of men he's killed in battle and can't help wondering why they're so helpful. One of those voices leads him into a near-death experience that saves the life of his client, a 'wunderkind skateboarding hip-hop mogul' who promptly tries to acquire Skellig for his entourage." Expect lots of buzz for what is sure to be one of the season's hottest first novels." It isn't me reading the tea leaves when I say you should not pass up this book. Plus Michael Skellig, wounded vet, has huge potential as a series lead. So rocket through this gem and pray for a second ride.

August

Rose, Augustus. [The Readymade Thief](#) (Viking \$26). A brilliant review in the *Wall Street Journal* for this original premise begins, "What would happen if a group of fanatical Marcel Duchamp fans set about cracking what they thought to be the cosmos-altering code of that French artist's oeuvre? What if they were determined to stop at nothing—even murder?" The Indie Next Pick captures the spirit of the whole well too: "Lee is a 17-year-old girl who has gotten into a bit of trouble. Not that she is innocent, or completely guilty either. She runs with the wrong crowd, steals something that is not hers, and now she is on the run with nobody to turn to. Rose takes readers into the underbelly of Philadelphia, the sections that people have abandoned, to solve the mystery Lee has fallen into, which has to do with the famous artist Duchamp. Rose melds together information and story methods with amazing skill, drawing on secret societies, hacking, art theft, conspiracies, drugs, and so much more. This plot moves; it does not slow down until it reaches the conclusion, which will have you gasping for breath. Such a brilliant journey."

September

Kamal, Sheena. [The Lost Ones](#) (Harper \$26.99). "A brave, unflinching heroine and brave, unflinching writing add up to an extraordinary debut—highly recommended."—Lee Child. I second that. And this from *Kirkus*: "[A] searing debut... Though comparisons to Stieg Larsson's Lisbeth Salander are inevitable, Nora blazes her own shining trail. A gritty, violent read with a tough, idiosyncratic, dryly witty heroine readers will root for even if they wouldn't want to invite her home." Yes, this is another great voice, but Kamal, her story arising in Vancouver, BC, gifts you with a crackerjack plot as well. Even I didn't see the ultimate twist coming for the brilliant, fearless, chaotic, and deeply flawed Nora Watts. She's a biracial product of the foster system, transient, homeless, scarred by a past filled with pain and violence—and by the day she gave her newborn Bonnie up for adoption. Now Bonnie has vanished, the cops view her as a chronic runaway, and here is Nora fiercely resolved to find Bonnie and off on an apparently hopeless quest. Go with it—and her. Only ten copies left as I write this.

October

Johns, Roger. [Dark River Rising](#) (St Martins \$28). In stock now but we're not ringing it up for the club until October. A love/hate relationship develops into a working partnership between a Baton Rouge police detective and a Drug Enforcement Administration agent. Baton Rouge cop Wallace Hartman has caught a strange case of homicide: a drug dealer murdered with a ghastly (OK, and imaginative) weapon. She knows that Ronnie Overman was a major coke distributor with plenty of enemies, but which of them would kill him in such a bizarre way? Mason Cunningham, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Intelligence at the DEA, rarely leaves his D.C. office, but something about Overman's death draws him to Louisiana to see this one for himself. The case becomes more complicated as a killer with a mysterious agenda threatens even greater violence, which may engulf them both. "As the detectives struggle to figure out what Matt was doing to arouse so much interest from drug dealers, the evidence points to a shocking development that will require some very creative detective work indeed. Johns' first novel is an exciting

police procedural rolled into a romantic thriller that hints of more to come.”—*Kirkus*. *LJ* adds, “Featuring a fine ensemble cast, this solid debut is strong on atmosphere and tension.” Johns’ voice is assured but for this Pick it’s the landscape of Louisiana that drew me, a James Lee Burke fan, solidly in.

SIGNED BOOKS

Backman, Fredrik. [Scandal](#) (Joseph \$32). When the worst happens, who will have the courage to stand against everyone else? Late one evening towards the end of March, a teenager picked up a double-barreled shotgun, walked into the forest, put the gun to someone else’s forehead and pulled the trigger. This is the story of how we got there.’ For most of the year it is under a thick blanket of snow, experiencing the kind of cold and dark that brings people closer together—or pulls them apart. Its isolation means that Beartown has been slowly shrinking with each passing year. But now the town is on the verge of an astonishing revival. Everyone can feel the excitement. Until....

Bouman, Tom. [Fateful Mornings](#) (Norton \$25.95). A one-man-department cop deals with the vagaries of his rural mountain township, including the disappearance of a young woman that has implications beyond his small town. Tom Bouman won the 2015 Edgar Award for Best First Novel with [Dry Bones in the Valley](#) (\$14.95)—one of our Hardboiled Crime Club Picks—a country noir set in rural Pennsylvania. Henry Farrell and Wild Thyme Township return in Bouman’s “comparably compelling yet vastly different *Fateful Mornings*. Henry is the lone cop in town, a good man who is fallible and sometimes lazy. Wild Thyme remains punctuated by drugs, alcohol, petty crime, frack-ing and the oddball miscreants who partake in them. Told over the span of more than a year, this slice of Henry’s life begins with one of many fateful mornings. Henry is called to a job site where Kevin O’Keeffe is rambling about his partner, Penny Pellings, going missing. While Kev is less clear on whether there might also have been a shooting, it’s not long before a body turns up. As the multi-fronted investigation moves forward at a slow burn, so does Henry. He plays music in a band, helps his friend Ed on a construction project, engages in romantic predicaments and doggedly pursues the ripples from Penny’s disappearance. Like Henry, Bouman works with quiet confidence, his narrative strong and compelling without unnecessary flash. A smart writer who respects his reader, Bouman evidences some nifty narrative tricks and writes about the crafts of music, carpentry and policing with detail that adds authenticity to Henry’s world.”—*PW*. Craig Johnson adds, “You would be hard-pressed to find a finer new series than Tom Bouman’s Henry Farrell novels because of the complexity of the plots or the richness of the characters, but what it really comes down to is just damn good writing.”

☛Clements, Toby. [Kingdom Come: Kingmaker 4](#) (Century \$42). In a new chapter in the Wars of the Roses, once again alliances shift. The recent tensions between King Edward and his great ally the Earl of Warwick lie forgotten these past months, but even as winter tightens her grip on the land, the peace is shattered by a vicious attack on one of the King’s allies. Long buried secrets are brought to the surface, and Thomas and Katherine must finally decide where their loyalties lie and to choose between fight or flight, knowing either choice will incur a terrible price. From Lincoln to Bruges, from Barnet to the great battle at Tewkesbury, both must play their part in one of the most savage wars in history.

☛Cleeves, Ann. [The Seagull](#) (Macmillan \$34.99). A visit to her local prison brings Northumberland DI Vera Stanhope face to face with an old enemy: former detective superintendent, and now inmate, John Brace. Brace was convicted of corruption and involvement in the death of a gamekeeper – and Vera played a part in his downfall. Brace promises Vera information about the disappearance of Robbie Marshall, a notorious wheeler-dealer, if she will look out for his daughter and grandchildren. He tells her that Marshall is dead, his body buried close to St Mary’s Island in Whitley Bay. However, when a search team investigates, officers find not one skeleton, but two. This cold case takes Vera back in time, and very close to home, as Brace and Marshall, along with a mysterious stranger known only as ‘the Prof’, were close friends of Hector, her father. Together, they were ‘the Gang of Four’, and Hector had been one of the last people to see Marshall alive.

Connolly, John. [He](#) (Hodder \$40). A reimagining of the life of Stan Laurel, one of the greatest screen comedians the world has ever known: a man who knew both adoration and humiliation; who loved, and was loved in turn; who betrayed, and was betrayed; who never sought to cause pain to others, yet left a trail of affairs and broken marriages in his wake, and whose life was ultimately defined by one relationship of such tenderness and devotion that only death could sever it: his partnership with the man he knew as Babe. Connolly recreates the golden age of Hollywood for an intensely compassionate study of the tension between commercial demands and artistic integrity, the human frailties behind even the greatest of artists, and one of the most enduring and beloved partnerships in cinema history: Laurel & Hardy.

Cussler, Clive. [The Romanov Ransom](#) (Putnam \$29 on sale September 12). **Signed by Clive with a Signed custom bookplate from Robin Burcell.** In 1918, a ransom of enormous size was paid to free the Romanovs from the Bolsheviks, but, as history knows, the Romanovs died anyway. And the ransom? During World War II, the Nazis stole it from the Russians, and after that—it vanished. Until now. When a modern-day kidnapping captures the attention of husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo, the couple soon learn that these long-lost riches may be back in play, held in trust by the descendants of a Nazi guerrilla faction called the Werewolves. It is their mission to establish the Fourth Reich, and their time is coming soon. And so the Fargos follow the trail across Europe, Northern Africa, and South America....

Dressler, M. [The Last to See Me](#) (Skyhorse \$25). Our **September SciFi/Fantasy Pick** is an unnerving literary ghost story, just the thing to set the mood for Halloween. But it also a classic Gothic in that the whole takes place inside the stately Lambry mansion located in a small logging town on the coast of northern California. Emma Rose Finnis was born and died there. But she’s still there, 100 years after her death, walking the village’s coves and cliffs, repelling anyone who wants to purchase the mansion which is still furnished but unoccupied since the death of the last Lambry...by anyone but Emma Rose. And she doesn’t plan on leaving. But one day a determined “hunter” arrives. His mission is to “clean” Emma Rose out of her haunt, meaning cancelling her afterlife. So (after a hilarious scene with two yuppie prospective homebuyers), Emma Rose goes to war on the living.... This

beautifully written novel is something different, no surprise from an author with her literary chops.

Estleman, Loren D. [Nearly Nero](#) (Gallery \$26). A collection of Nero Wolfe-inspired crime stories—another example of the incredible range of this prolific, multi-award winning author. 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?

✚Fellowes, Jessica. [The Mitford Murders](#) (Sphere \$32). It’s 1920, and Louisa Cannon dreams of escaping her life of poverty in London. Louisa’s salvation is a position within the Mitford household at Asthall Manor, in the Oxfordshire countryside. There she will become nursemaid, chaperone and confidante to the Mitford sisters, especially sixteen-year-old Nancy, an acerbic, bright young woman in love with stories. But then a nurse—Florence Nightingale Shore, goddaughter of her famous namesake—is killed on a train in broad daylight, and Louisa and Nancy find themselves entangled in the crimes of a murderer who will do anything to hide their secret... Based on an unsolved crime and written by Jessica Fellowes, author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Downton Abbey* companion books

✚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.

Harris, Robert. [Munich](#) (Hutchinson \$45). September, 1938. As Neville Chamberlain’s plane judders over the Channel and the Führer’s train steams relentlessly south from Berlin, two young men travel with secrets of their own. Hugh Legat is one of Chamberlain’s private secretaries; Paul Hartmann a German diplomat and member of the anti-Hitler resistance. Great friends at Oxford before Hitler came to power, they haven’t seen one another since they were last in Munich six years earlier. Now. As the future of Europe hangs in the balance, their paths are destined to cross again. When the stakes are this high, who are you willing to betray? Your friends, your family, your country or your conscience?

✚Horowitz, Anthony. [The Word is Murder](#) (Century \$45). Publishes in September but not Signed until October. Order now as this popular author’s books sell out early. 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? From the creator of TV hits *Foyle’s War* and *Midsomer Murders*, and recently the author of Holmes and Christie sorts of mysteries.

Knausgaard, Karl O. [Autumn \(Season’s Quartet\)](#) (Harvill \$38). The novelist eloquently expresses the delights, rewards, and insights of looking closely in this, the first of a projected quartet of autobiographical volumes based on the four seasons. Writing to his unborn daughter—the author and his wife, Linda, already have three other children—Knausgaard revels in everyday items such as tin cans and rubber boots; his perfect deconstruction of an old-fashioned landline telephone is a joy. His thoughts take to the heavens as well, whether contemplating the sun overhead, the arrival of twilight, or the migration of birds each year. He is not shy about exposing the scatological or the cruel in life; there is both softness and hardness in his musings, reverence and irreverence. Most of all, his writing encourages the reader to see the connections between quotidian things and the bigger picture and to appreciate both continuity and change. Autumn hums in the background as apple trees flourish and days get darker, and one looks forward to what associations he will uncover in the remaining seasons of the year.

Lagercrantz, David. [The Girl Who Takes an Eye for an Eye](#) (Quercus \$32). In case you prefer the UK edition to the US—see Event Books. Sweden’s Lagercrantz signs here September 26.

Mayor, Archer. [Trace](#) (St Martins \$27). The inventive Mayor writes a classic police procedural for his 28th Joe Gunther. And sidelines Joe, who is off caring for his injured mother, for most of it, leaving his VBI team in the reluctant charge of Sammie Martens, the partner of Willy Kunkle, the team’s non-team player. There are three separate cases for the Vermont cops to work. One is linked to Albany, NY, and to Joe’s lover, the Vermont Medical Examiner, through her daughter, the roommate of the girl in trouble, and is fairly straightforward although there’s a nice touch in the end game. One is a new look at a cold case that left a motorist dead as well as a Vermont state trooper murdered. This one falls to the team’s Lester Spinney and begins with evidence that fingerprints might have been planted to mislead the investigators. And the third, that begins when a rather feral urchin finds some bloody teeth alongside a train track, is clever and surprising, not to mention so challenging that only the dogged Willy Kunkle would actually see it through. A Starred Review, which I endorse, ends: “Mayor keeps the suspense high as he showcases each of his detectives’ special talents—Spinney’s patience and doggedness, Kunkle’s unorthodox but effective rule-bending, and Martens’ bravery and resourcefulness—in this welcome addition to the long-running series.” Mayor is an author I collect so addicted am I to his wonderful books.

✚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 . . .

Mills, Kyle. [Enemy of the State](#) (Atria \$28.99). “Mills’s exciting third contribution to the late Vince Flynn’s Mitch Rapp series

reinigorates the well-worn Middle East conspiracy thriller plot. Saudi prince Talal bin Musaid, nephew of the ailing King Faisal, is using Saudi money to finance ISIS attacks against the United States. Meanwhile, Aali Nassar, the head of the Saudi General Intelligence Directorate, is undermining the country's monarchy and actively aiding chief terrorist Mullah Sayid Halabi. The American president, determined that the Saudi perfidy must be stopped, asks CIA officer Mitch to eliminate all high Saudi officials who are acting against the U.S. Mitch forms a small but deadly team, including Claudia Gould, his love interest; Grisha Azarov, the Russian agent who almost killed him in an earlier confrontation; and Kent Black, a U.S. Army sniper turned illegal arms dealer. Series fans and newcomers alike will watch in wonder as Mitch executes a clever plan that leads to an explosive climax." Book reviews can be deadly serious but every once in awhile comes a great line like this: "A lily-livered reader might see an automatic weapon as a curious tool for staving off chaos, but said reader won't be following this series anyway. Fast-moving, fun..."—*Kirkus*

Moss, Todd. [Shadow List](#) (Putnam \$27). If ever a book were to illustrate the global nature of crime, braided with politics, this new Judd Ryker thriller by the State Department's Moss would be the one. And yet, as we race through these plots lines we enjoy their personal level, no racing to save the world from nuclear destruction but actors with a moral compass working to save individuals. The all-too-familiar email scam is no laughing matter for Jason Saunders, who quickly finds himself in a dangerous situation upon opening what he thought to be a harmless letter. Sitting in his office, Saunders opens a letter from an individual who claims to represent a firm that's been "designated by the Bank of England as a probate agent for uncovered funds from the Special Court of International Assets." The email then goes on to state that the Court has deemed the \$1,985,900,000 discovered in an offshore bank account of a foreign dictator must be held "by firms in two different sovereign jurisdictions," as per the legal requirements. The letter contains plenty of verbiage about banking regulations laws and, at first glance, appears to be half-way legit. What seals the deal for Saunders, though, is that the letter also references a prior situation his firm handled regarding Turkish bond trades. The Turkish bond trading situation was private, which meant whoever sent the letter knew what they were talking about and it wasn't just some mass-produced letter sent to everyone. It was, in fact, sent specifically to and for Saunders—that part was true. Just not for the reason he hoped. After Saunders goes missing in London, Judd Ryker, the head of the State Department's Crisis Reaction Unit, is sent to Nigeria—where the letter originated from—to investigate. There, he encounters far more than he bargained for, as Todd Moss pulls back the curtain on the international free-money scam that, unbelievably, is one of the largest organized crime rackets in the world. In another storyline, Judd's CIA agent wife, Jessica Ryker, is assigned to an operation looking into a ruthless Russian mobster known as the Bear.

Pamuk, Orhan. [The Red Haired Woman](#) (Knopf \$28). The Indie Next Pick for our **October Modern Firsts Club Pick** which will arrive in late September: "'Beguiling' is the perfect word to describe *The Red-Haired Woman*, which feels like an entrancing fairy tale, set in a far away, exotic land peopled with fascinating men and women. The story plays out over the life span of one man whose actions and choices over one summer, however fleet-

ing, will turn out to be the formative events that shape his entire life. I particularly enjoyed the summer nights in the quiet town, as the boy stole around the back alleys, hoping for a glimpse of the red-haired woman. This book is unlike any other I've read."

Ripley, Mike. [Kiss, Kiss, Bang, Bang](#) (Collins \$46). So went the words of Ian Fleming that make the title of this book Signed by Ripley and by Lee Child who writes the Introduction. Ripley examines the rise of the thriller from the austere 1950s through the boom time of the Swinging Sixties and early 1970s, examining some 150 British authors (plus a few notable South Africans). Drawing upon conversations with many of the authors mentioned in the book, he shows how British writers, working very much in the shadow of World War II, came to dominate the field of adventure thrillers and the two types of spy story: spy fantasy (as epitomized by Ian Fleming's James Bond) and the more realistic spy fiction created by Deighton, Le Carré and Ted Allbeury, plus the many variations (and imitators) in between. With the first George Smiley in years from Le Carré out in September among the wealth of new books to choose from, this reminder of literary roots is timely.

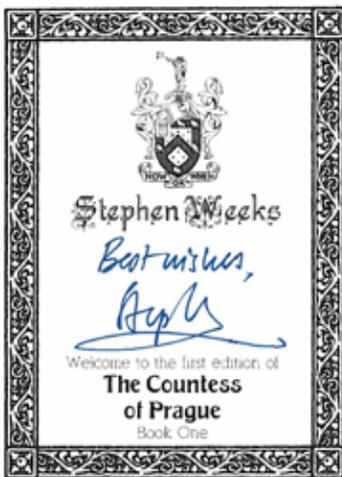
Rushdie, Salman. [The Golden House](#) (Cape \$39). Arrives in early October but please order now to avoid disappointment. Set in New York City, this is a thrilling tale about a real-estate tycoon and his mysterious, corrupt family—that could be ripped from today's headlines. The narrator, René, is an aspiring filmmaker who theorizes on history, art, cinema, literature and the nature of the auteur. This self-referential intellectualism includes entire narrative scenes in screenplay and monologue forms. In a modern nod to *The Great Gatsby*, René relays the story of his neighbor Nero Golden, an Indian immigrant and widower with a mysterious past and ostentatious amount of wealth. René earns the man's trust, befriends his three sons, but becomes dangerously entangled in family affairs when Nero's new wife, Vasilisa, makes an offer he can't refuse. Throughout the novel, René is making a probing film about the Golden family. At the heart of his endeavor is the question of identity, particularly American identity. Rushdie asks whether the American notion of a self-made person is possible, whether one can step out of the historical and create something new, detached from the past.

Stewart, Amy. [Miss Kopp's Midnight Confession](#) (Houghton \$26). Deputy sheriff Constance Kopp is outraged to see young women brought into the Hackensack jail over dubious charges of waywardness, incorrigibility, and moral depravity. The strong-willed, patriotic Edna Heustis, who left home to work in a munitions factory, certainly doesn't belong behind bars. And sixteen-year-old runaway Minnie Davis, with few prospects and fewer friends, shouldn't be publicly shamed and packed off to a state-run reformatory. But such were the laws—and morals—of 1916. Here's the Indie Next Pick for Stewart's 3rd in a sparky series drawn from real early 20th Century American life and real people as her Author's Note spells out: "Constance Kopp is back, solving mysteries and making headlines! Deputy Kopp is a heroine of her day and continues to inspire today. Whether assisting young girls in finding their footing on a law-abiding path, using her voice to stand up for the voiceless, or fighting crime alongside her all-male counterparts, Constance Kopp is breaking with traditional female roles and navigating sometimes-stormy waters with grace, dignity, and a bit of humor. What does a feminist look like? This is what a feminist looks like!"

Tallent, Gabriel. [My Absolute Darling](#) (Riverhead \$27). **Our September Modern Firsts Pick** is also the #1 Indie Next Pick for September. I found Tallent's debut to be remarkable and in ways akin to Karen Dionne's 2017 First Mystery Club Pick *The Marsh King's Daughter*. Here's the *NY Times* take: "With its unconventional heroine and unflinching portrayal of an abused girl's fight to save herself, *My Absolute Darling* seems poised to become the breakout debut of the year. The novel has drawn ecstatic blurbs from writers like Celeste Ng, Phil Klay and Stephen King, who declared the book a 'masterpiece' on par with *Catch-22* and *To Kill a Mockingbird*. 'It's one of those books where you start reading and you can't stop,' said Mr. Klay, whose story collection *Redeployment* won the National Book Award. "You get very attached to Turtle and desperate to see what happens, and it takes you to some very uncomfortable places." Mr. King, who gets so many requests for blurbs that he has a teeming pile of books in his office that he calls 'the guilt table, offered an unsolicited endorsement after he tore through an advanced copy of the 400-plus-page novel in three days. 'It's a first novel and he's got everything working,' Mr. King said. 'When I read it the first thing I thought was, I couldn't do this, and I've been doing it for 40 years.'"

Here the Indie Next Pick: "This is a Great American Novel: exquisitely lush language of the natural world; startlingly vivid characters; a global understanding of social context, in a particular place; and, in this case, steel-wire narrative tension stringing through the beautiful prose like piano wire. It is the book this year that I feel every American should read, because of its greatness and also because of its deep wrestling with issues of class, complacency, climate change, culture, and especially gender."

Weeks, Stephen. [The Countess of Prague](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Weeks introduces an intrepid new heroine, Countess Beatrice "Trixie" von Falkenburg... the plot is crammed as full of intrigue



as a Viennese pastry is of cream. Weeks blends equal parts espionage and farce into a frothy confection..."—*Kirkus Reviews*. Tasha Alexander calls it, "An unforgettable read, utterly charming."

LJ writes, "Dry wit, sexual innuendo, and extensive historical references in this atmospheric mystery may appeal to fans of Deanna Raybourn." Yes, it will, plus it appeals to Deanna who says, "Hooray for Countess Trixie! Stephen Weeks has conjured a breath of fresh air

with this colorful and memorable character. Fans of Elizabeth Peters will be charmed by the intrepid countess and her cast of valiant helpers. With its exotic setting and the promise of many more adventures to come, *The Countess of Prague* is sure to delight." Best of all, it's the first volume in a ten-book series that runs from 1904 when Trixie begins her first investigation to 1914 when she ends as the assassination at Sarajevo signals the end of the Old Order.

Trixie begins her new career at 28. She's leading a society life and growing apart from her husband although she is as yet too conventional to take a lover. When the brutalized body of an old man once under the command of her military uncle is fished from the Vltava, she takes to the role of a detective and finds solace in it, eventually going undercover (as a young man) on a train journey to Paris and London. Eventually, liaising with various officials, she arrives at Marienbad, the famous Czech spa, where Edward VII of England and his nephew Kaiser Wilhelm have staged a surprising May meeting....

Our September History Club Pick by the Prague author comes with a Signed Bookplate (he will join us by Skype on October 24). He tells us that the Coat of Arms in the bookplate is his own. You can order the paperback: [The Countess of Prague](#) (\$15.95).

✚Yap, Felicia. [Yesterday](#) (Weidenfeld \$32). The variations on the Trust No One (aka domestic suspense) craze from Britain are endless. This one has an unusual twist. How do you solve a murder when you can only remember yesterday? There are two types of people in the world. Those who can only remember yesterday, and those who can also recall the day before. You have just one lifeline to the past: your diary. Each night, you write down the things that matter. Each morning, your diary tells you where you were, who you loved and what you did. Today, the police are at your door. They say that the body of your husband's mistress has been found in the River Cam. They think your husband killed her two days ago. Can you trust the police? Can you trust your husband? Can you trust yourself? Lots of media for this, with comparisons, inevitably, to *Gone Girl*.

SOME MEMOIRS/BIOGRAPHIES

I don't often list this category of new books but September shows an interesting mix

Ackroyd, Peter. [Alfred Hitchcock](#) (\$16.95). Prolific British author/historian/biographer Ackroyd wrests the director's chair back from the master of control to reveal a lugubriously jolly man fond of practical jokes, who smashed a once-used tea cup every morning to remind himself of the frailty of life. Iconic film stars make cameo appearances throughout Hitchcock's story, just as the director did in his own films: Grace Kelly, Cary Grant, James Stewart and, perhaps most famously of all, Tippi Hedren, who endures cuts and bruises from a fearsome flock of real birds.

Burnett, Carol. [In Such Good Company](#) (\$16). Eleven years of laughter, mayhem, and fun "in the sandbox."

Clinton, Hillary Rodham. [What Happened](#) (SimonSchuster \$30). In her own words....

Cranston, Bryan. [A Life in Parts](#) (\$16). "An engrossing first-person account by one of our finest actors" (*Huffington Post*)—both a coming-of-age story and a meditation on creativity, devotion, and craft—Bryan Cranston, beloved and acclaimed star of one of history's most successful TV shows, *Breaking Bad*."

Ferrante, Elena. [Frantumaglia: A Writer's Journey](#) (\$17). The reclusive and anonymous Naples' author's journey told through letters and interviews.

Garfunkel, Art. [What Is it All But Luminous: Notes from an Underground Man](#) (Knopf \$27.95).

Le Carré, John. [Pigeon Tunnel: Stories from My Life](#) (\$17). I love this for its candor, the adventures and memories, and for its portrait of a life now at 8 years.

Mendelsohn, Daniel. [Odyssey: A Father, A Son, and an Epic](#) (Knopf \$26.95). From award-winning memoirist and critic, and bestselling author of *The Lost*, now a man of 81 with a son who teaches at Bard College, a deeply moving tale of a father and son's transformative journey in reading—and reliving—Homer's epic masterpiece *The Odyssey*. They both had much to learn. And so might you if you read both Mendelsohn and Homer.

Springsteen, Bruce. [Born to Run](#) (\$19.99). The revelatory and wildly bestselling memoir by legendary rock star Bruce Springsteen: “Glorious...a philosophically rich ramble through a rock 'n roll life...It's the lyric he was born to write” —*USA Today*

Wiesel, Elie. [Night: A Memoir](#) (Farrar \$22). A memorial edition of Elie Wiesel's seminal memoir of surviving the Nazi death camps, with tributes by President Obama and Samantha Power.

And coming in October we have a limited quantity of Signed copies of

Kelly, Scott. [Endurance](#) (Knopf \$29.95). The astronaut presents a candid account of his remarkable one-year aboard the International Space Station, of the space rides that preceded it, and of his formative years. Plus he highlights the challenges of long term space flight, the achievements of his fellow astronauts, and speculates on the next great challenge—to reach Mars!

FANTASTIC WORLDS

We stock a curated section of science fiction and fantasy. Here are a few new titles among them::

Abraham, Robert. [Magicians Impossible](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99). John Charles reviews: After discovering that he is descended from a line of magical spies, twenty-something bartender Jason Bishop, who is still struggling to come to terms with his estranged father's recent suicide, finds himself dragged into the middle of a centuries-old war involving a shadowy cabal of witches and warlocks, who were responsible for his mother's death years earlier. If you have read all of Ben Aaronovitch's *Rivers of London* books featuring Peter Grant and Simon R. Green's *Secret Histories* series with Eddie Drood, you may find this debut equally entertaining.

Beagle, Peter S., ed. [The New Voices of Fantasy](#) (Tachyon \$16.95). “This excellent anthology showcases up-and-coming speculative fiction writers, many of whom have received award nominations and critical attention to support their status as future influencers of the genre... Fantasy legend Beagle and Tachyon publisher Weisman have provided a valuable snapshot of SF/F's newest generation of writers.”—*PW* Starred Review

Christopher, Adam. [Killing Is My Business](#) (Forge \$25.99). Robot noir! Another golden morning in a seedy town, and a new memory tape and assignment for intrepid PI-turned-hitman—and last robot left in working order—Raymond Electromatic. But his skills may be rustier than he remembered in *Killing Is My Business*, the latest in Christopher's robot noir oeuvre, hot on the heels of 2016 SciFi Club Pick, [Made to Kill](#) (\$15.99).

✂Gaiman, Neil. [Neverwhere Illustrated Edition](#) (Harper \$19.99). Gaiman's first novel. Richard Mayhew is a young man with a good heart and an ordinary life, which is changed forever when

he stops to help a girl he finds bleeding on a London sidewalk. His small act of kindness propels him into a world he never dreamed existed. There are people who fall through the cracks, and Richard has become one of them....

Golden, Christie. [Battlefront II Inferno Squad](#) (LittleBrown \$28.99). We're in the Star Wars universe in this action-packed prequel to the hotly anticipated videogame *Battlefront II* introducing the Empire's elite force: Inferno Squad

Sammon, Paul M. [Future Noir Revised and Updated](#) (Harper \$16.99). Rediscover the groundbreaking magic of *Blade Runner* with this revised and updated edition of the classic guide to Ridley Scott's transformative film based on Philip K. Dick's sci-fi masterpiece—and published in anticipation of its sequel, *Blade Runner 2049*, premiering October 2017 and starring Ryan Gosling, Jared Leto, Robin Wright, and Harrison Ford. And you can read the original: Dick, Philip K. [Blade Runner](#) (\$9.99).

Shawl, Nisi. [Everfair](#) (\$16.99). Neo-Victorian alternate history novel that explores the question of what might have come of Belgium's disastrous colonization of the Congo if the native populations had learned about steam technology a bit earlier. Fabian Socialists from Great Britain join forces with African-American missionaries to purchase land from the Belgian Congo's “owner,” King Leopold II. Hugo winner NK Jemisin writes in the *NY Times Book Review*, “This land, named Everfair, is set aside as a safe haven, an imaginary Utopia for native populations of the Congo as well as escaped slaves returning from America. Shawl does a marvelous job of demonstrating the capabilities of the steampunk subgenre, which too often sacrifices the richness of actual, global history in favor of Victorian fetishization and racial exclusion...It has the feel of a travelogue...of a long, dangerous and fascinating journey through what might have been, and as such it will delight most readers.”

Ward, J R. [Devil's Cut](#) (Ballantine \$28). The finale of the *Bourbon Kings* series. At first, the death of William Baldwin, the head of the Bradford family, was ruled a suicide. But then his eldest son and sworn enemy, Edward, came forward and confessed to what was, in fact, a murder. Now in police custody, Edward mourns not the disintegration of his family or his loss of freedom...but the woman he left behind. His love, Sutton Smythe, is the only person he has ever truly cared about, but as she is the CEO of the Bradford Bourbon Company's biggest competitor, any relationship between them is impossible. And then there's the reality of jail time to face....

Wells, Jaye. [Volatile Bonds](#) (\$15.95). *Prospero's War #4*. When the Magic Enforcement Agency is called out to the scene of a dirty magic explosion, a body with a bullet wound is found in the smoldering ruins. As Detective Kate Prospero and her partner, Special Agent Drew Morales, hunt down the killer, they uncover evidence that a dangerous new coven may be operating in the Cauldron. It's not long before the bodies start piling up, and the heat is on for the team to make an arrest. Solving the murders will require unraveling dangerous alliances between the city's dirty magic covens. And if they're not careful, the new complexities of Morales and Prospero's own partnership threaten to make a volatile situation downright deadly. “Magic is a drug” is also the theme in books like Susanna Clarke's bestseller and TV series [Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell](#) (\$18).

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Bellairs, George. [Death of a Busybody](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Miss Tither, the village busybody, is not the best-loved resident of Hilary Magna. She has made many enemies: bombarding the villagers with religious tracts, berating drunkards, and informing the spouses of cheating partners. Her murder, however, is still a huge shock to the Reverend Ethelred Claplady and his parish. Inspector Littlejohn's understanding of country ways makes him Scotland Yard's first choice for the job. Basing himself at the village inn, Littlejohn works with the local police to investigate what lay behind the murder. A second death does little to settle the collective nerves of the village, and as events escalate, a strange tale of hidden identities, repressed resentment, religious fervor and financial scams is uncovered. George Bellairs was the pseudonym of Harold Blundell (1902-1985), a prominent banker and philanthropist from Manchester who became the author of a popular series of detective stories published for over 40 years. "Fascinating period detail from the blackout days, a plot that keeps surprising, and contemporary crime novelist Martin Edwards' insightful introduction add to the fun."—*Booklist*. *Kirkus* adds, "Bellairs' dryly ceremonious wit, which shines from the very first page, helps explain why Anthony Berkeley, aka Francis Iles, was such a fan 75 years ago."

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Continental Crimes](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Wish you were traveling at the end of summer? Range the Rhine, Paris, etc. Including stories by Agatha Christie, Arthur Conan Doyle, G.K. Chesterton, J. Jefferson Farjeon and other classic writers, this collection reveals many hidden gems of British crime. "Those unfamiliar with the bygone age of crime fiction celebrated in this volume will find this the perfect introduction."—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review). "Fans of classic British crime fiction will appreciate this anthology, and the vivid locations should lure readers who enjoy atmospheric reads."—*Library Journal*

OUR SEPTEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Baldacci, David. [The Fix](#) (\$15.99). Amos Decker witnesses a murder just outside FBI headquarters. A man shoots a woman execution-style on a crowded sidewalk, then turns the gun on himself. Even with Decker's extraordinary powers of observation and deduction, the killing is baffling. Decker and his team can find absolutely no connection between the shooter—a family man with a successful consulting business—and his victim, a schoolteacher. Nor is there a hint of any possible motive for the attack. Enter Harper Brown. An agent of the Defense Intelligence Agency, she orders Decker to back off the case. You bet....

Benn, James R. [Blue Madonna](#) (\$15.95). The 11th Billy Boyle WWII mystery is geared to the Allied invasion of Normandy. The US Army detective, a former Boston cop who's a remote relation to Ike, pursues another unorthodox investigation (and undercover, busted back to private and doing 3 months hard labor for Black Market trading). Ostensibly he's given a chance to avoid this sentence if he investigates a set of murders at an Allied safe house in Chaumont, France. But the faithful reader isn't fooled by this ploy.... For #12, see Event Books. My advice – read the whole series. Great stuff.

Hall, James W. [When They Come for You](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Harper McDaniel, the heroine of this thrilling series

launch from Edgar winner Hall, has recently lost her celebrity photographer mother to suicide, but she takes comfort in her loving husband, Ross, an investigative reporter for the *Miami News*, and their baby son, Leo, with whom she lives in Coconut Grove, Florida. Then one evening Harper returns home from a charity event to find cops and firefighters outside the remains of her house, which has been destroyed by fire. Inside she finds Ross and Leo, who have both been shot dead. Assisted by her brother, Nick, a resettlement specialist for the World Bank, and her gangster grandfather, she sets off to track down the killer. Her quest leads her to Africa, Switzerland, and Spain, where she pieces together a mosaic of crimes linked to the deaths of scores of innocent people. A woman of action, Harper fights her own battles, takes her own risks, and sets her own traps. PW finds that, "This intricately plotted novel delivers a protagonist to root for and villains worthy of the name." A winner of the Edgar and Shamus awards, Hall is the author of twenty novels, the most familiar of which feature Thorn. I'm thrilled he's into something new.

Hubbard, Janet. [Burgundy: Twisted Roots](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). First, read this long and [flavorful review](#)—start by pouring a glass of Burgundy to enjoy as you do. *PW* chimes in: "Hubbard's sprightly third Vengeance in the Vineyard—after [Champagne: The Farewell](#) and [Bordeaux: The Bitter Finish](#) (\$14.95 each)—takes NYPD Det. Maxine "Max" Maguire; her recently retired police detective father, Hank; and her French mother, Juliette, to France, to visit Max's grandmother Isabelle, who lives in a stately home 10 miles from the ancient walled town of Beaune. Max's lover, Olivier Chaumont, an antiterrorist magistrate based in Paris who grew up in the region, joins them. Max and Olivier are not the only ones getting in touch with their ancestral roots: 17-year-old American Lucy Kendrick, who has been working for a local vigneron, is also in Burgundy searching for the father she never knew. When Lucy goes missing and a local private detective falls to his death from his balcony, Max, Olivier, and Hank investigate. Steeped in wine lore, this entry has an authentic feel for the wines and people of Burgundy. Great meals and great wines accompany the mystery. Series fans will thoroughly enjoy its elegant, satisfying finish." You can also [read a glowing review](#) of *Bordeaux*. A plus: order Ellen Crosby's new paperback, [The Champagne Conspiracy](#) (\$7.99)—terrible cover, disregard it—for extra bubbles. Crosby will sign her new wine mystery [The Vineyard Victims](#) (St Martins \$25.99) here November 11.

Ide, Joe. [IQ](#) (\$15.99). Patrick reviews the Edgar and Anthony nominated 2016 First Mystery Club Pick: "The author has mentioned in interviews that his detective, Isaiah Quintabe (aka I.Q.) was inspired by the quintessential master of ratiocination himself, Sherlock Holmes, and it really shows in Ide's striking, original debut. Born and raised by his brother in one of LA's tougher neighborhoods, Quintabe was an outsider from the beginning; while his peers were getting into gangs and petty crime, I.Q. was busy developing his freakish intellect and setting up his own under-the-radar detective service. He specializes in the cases the police can't or won't touch, and he accepts whatever payment or trade that his customers can afford. When rap superstar Black the Knife's life is threatened by a particularly inventive hit man, I.Q. is brought on to investigate. This is an absolute blast of a book, and Isaiah Quintabe is exactly the kind of detective we need today: he is fiercely intellectual, showcases brains of brawn, and impervious to corruption." Ide signs the sequel, [Righteous](#)

(Mulholland \$26), for us on October 17 – again in company with John Sandford and his new Virgil Flowers thriller, [Deep Freeze](#) (Putnam \$29).

Johnson, Craig. [An Obvious Fact](#) (\$16). What fun, a Walt Longmire salted with Sherlock Holmes as read to him by Henry Standing Bear! The Wyoming lawman and his longtime friend and sidekick, Henry Standing Bear, look into the circumstances that led 22-year-old Bodaway Torres, now in a coma, to run his motorcycle off the road during the country's largest annual motorcycle rally, held in Sturgis, South Dakota. Much to Walt's surprise, Bodaway's mother turns out to be "the" Lola, namesake of not only Henry's beloved car but also Walt's infant granddaughter—and there's a history between Henry and Lola that's anything but pleasant. When it becomes clear that Bodaway's crash was no accident and that ATF has its eye on the victim—was he running guns, or even drugs?—Walt is glad when his undersheriff, the always fiery Victoria Moretti, shows up, fresh off investigating her brother's murder in Philadelphia. Whether he's squaring off against biker gangs or teasing out long-simmering feuds involving his closest friends, Walt Longmire is always the man for the job. Order earlier Longmires [here](#). And see event books

Lansdale, Joe R. [Paradise Sky](#) (\$15.99). A Western as only Lansdale could conceive it. A *Library Journal* Best Book of 2015! A rollicking novel about Nat Love, an African-American cowboy with a famous nickname: Deadwood Dick. Young Willie is on the run, having fled his small Texas farm when an infamous local landowner murdered his father. A man named Loving takes him in and trains him in the fine arts of shooting, riding, reading, and gardening. When Loving dies, Willie re-christens himself Nat Love in tribute to his mentor, and heads west. In Deadwood, South Dakota Territory, Nat becomes a Buffalo Soldier and is befriended by Wild Bill Hickok. After winning a famous shooting match, Nat's peerless marksmanship and charm earn him his nickname, as well as a beautiful woman. But the hellhounds are still on his trail... "A deftly told yarn. Everything about *Paradise Sky* is classic Western drama... You can almost smell the beans heating up on the campfire and see the rugged beauty of the frontier." —*Austin American-Statesman*

Mayor, Archer. [Presumption of Guilt](#) (\$16.99). When roofer Henry "Hank" Mitchell went missing in 1970, most assumed he'd abandoned his family and moved west to join the free love movement; 40 years later, though, his body is discovered inside a concrete slab at the decommissioned Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant, leaving special agent Joe Gunther and his team at the Vermont Bureau of Investigation to solve the man's now decades-old homicide. The subsequent murder of Hank's old business partner and the kidnapping of VBI investigator Lester Spinney's son suggest Hank's killer is still at large and won't go down without a fight. "Evocative prose, a strong sense of place, and a simple yet satisfying conclusion elevate this expertly crafted whodunit. Trip-wire tension complements intelligent detective work, fascinating forensics, and an airtight plot; the rich shared history of Mayor's deftly drawn ensemble cast adds texture and depth without leaving new readers in the dark." —*PW* Starred Review for the 17th Joe Gunther. See Signed Books for Joe #28.

Medhat, Katayou. [The Quality of Mercy](#) (Leapfrog \$16). The *PW* Starred Review for our September Fresh Fiction Pick: "Tony Hillerman fans will welcome Medhat's excellent debut and series

launch, a refreshing take on Navajo country's crime, culture, and history. After the discovery of a man's body carefully laid out near Chimney Rock, white policeman Franz Kafka (aka K), who has settled in fictional Milagro, San Matteo County ("one of the few places left in the Western hemisphere—and possibly the Eastern too—where his name rings no bells"), teams with Robbie Begay, a tracker with the Redwater Navajo Tribal Police. At the crime scene, Begay makes a number of impressive deductions from shoe and tire marks. Dental records identify the victim as 28-year-old Noah George, a member of a Navajo family known for its bad luck. As they investigate Noah's troubled past, Begay and K swap stories, insights, and insults that brilliantly illuminate the daily obstacles that Native Americans encounter. Medhat, who holds a Ph.D. in medical anthropology, uses pathos and humor, tragedy and comedy, to spin an entertaining and original mystery."

McGregor, Jon. [Reservoir 13](#) (Catapult \$16.95). "McGregor's unforgettable novel begins with a 13-year-old girl's disappearance from an English village, and then tracks the village through the following years, as teenagers become adults, babies are born, people grow old and die, and couples get together and separate while what happened to the girl remains a mystery. Rebecca Shaw and her parents are visiting the village over Christmas, staying at the barn conversion they rented the previous summer, when Rebecca vanishes during a walk on the moors. Residents, police, and mountain and cave rescue teams search but find nothing." Her disappearance is "now part of a village culture marked by dark undercurrents and occasional moments of light. McGregor portrays individuals and the community as a whole, across seasons, in mundane scenes and moments of heartbreak, cruelty, and guilt. Close-ups of flora and fauna are set against a landscape of reservoirs, dens, and caves, the village hall, the pub, and the flooded quarry. This is an ambitious tour de force that demands the reader's attention; those willing to follow along will be rewarded with a singular and haunting story" —*PW* Starred Review.. McGregor is the winner of the IMPAC Dublin Literature Prize, Betty Trask Award, and Somerset Maugham Award, and has twice been longlisted for the Man Booker Prize—this novel for the 2017 Prize.

✚Perry, Anne. [Revenge in a Cold River](#) (\$16). Commander of the Thames River Police William Monk at last reveals some of his, the past he has not been able to recall. When Monk is called to investigate the drowning of an escaped prisoner, he's forced to contend with customs officer McNab, who clearly bears a bitter grudge against him. But the reason is a mystery in itself. Monk's memory loss—a secret he guards closely—leaves him vulnerable to repercussions from his missing past, especially his exploits overseas in the tumultuous Gold Rush days of San Francisco. And now McNab, as icy and unfathomable as the steel-gray Thames itself, appears intent on using whatever damning facts he can find to his advantage to ruin Monk's future as an officer of the law. As Monk explores the possibility of a conspiracy, McNab's game of cat and mouse escalates.... See Event Books for the sequel. For the most recent Thomas & Charlotte Pitt in paperback: [Treachery at Lancaster Gate](#) (\$16).

Preston, Douglas. [The Lost City of the Monkey God](#) (\$15.99). This fabulous book was the joy of my heart last New Year's. It has everything one could want: high adventure, a city hidden by

centuries of virgin Honduran jungle, cool new technology, deadly and horrible ancient dangers like leishmaniasis and deadly fer-de-lance vipers, intrepid archaeologists intent on demonstrating that myth can be rooted in fact, photographers, and reporter Preston on assignment early on from the *New Yorker* and then *National Geographic*—and, above all, a polished, alluring narrative voice. My review copy was snatched from my hands by Dana Stabenow who writes a [stunning, insightful review](#) of the book which I strongly recommend you read. This is a book for every stripe of reader!

✦Raybourn, Deanna. [A Perilous Undertaking](#) (\$15). Raybourn's effervescent sequel to 2015's [A Curious Beginning](#) (\$15) combines witty suspense with a playful look at the secrets proper Victorians hid. When Veronica, an adventurous lepidopterist, meets a woman calling herself Lady Sundridge, she easily deduces her exalted true identity. Lady Sundridge wants Veronica to reinvestigate the murder of an artist known as Artemisia. Though she wants her late friend's death avenged, the woman insists that Artemisia's lover, Miles Ramsforth, soon to be hanged for the crime, is not guilty. Veronica and her associate, aristocratic natural historian Revelstoke "Stoker" Templeton-Vane, wend their way through opium dens, artists' studios, the headquarters of Scotland Yard, and the Elysian Grotto, an underground cave lavishly fitted out for sexual pleasure on the Ramsforth estate. The sleuths' lives are threatened as their investigation uncovers peccadilloes at the highest levels of society. Revelations about Stoker's painful past add nuance to the pair's spirited and sexually charged banter in this playful historical.

Smith, Martin Cruz. [The Girl from Venice](#) (\$16). Set in the canals of Venice and a small fishing village on its outskirts, it begins with fisherman Innocenzo pulling in the body of a young girl from the sea. Then a German gun boat hails him. Wishing he hadn't taken in dangerous cargo, Cenzo is surprised to see when his boat is searched, then trashed by Germans obviously looking for someone, that the girl has disappeared. As things progress, she reappears, the boat reappears, and in the end Giulia kills Lt. Hoff and she and Cenzo dump his body down a well. Now what? Giulia gradually reveals she is Jewish from an obviously wealthy family, used to privilege, and that she escaped a German roundup of Jews who'd been hiding for two years in San Clemente and now she's on a list, hunted by a disgruntled and randomly cruel Wehrmacht as the war winds down, the Allies run bombing raids, Il Duce breaks more promises, and various characters must not only survive but figure out their post-war strategies. Cenzo's own family is part of the problem. Smith captures it all with an almost gentle, bemused prose, so unlike his Russian thrillers, and while he details crimes, betrayals, executions, forgeries, a treasure hunt, and more, this is essentially a most unlikely but convincing love story.

Taylor, Brad. [Ghosts of War](#) (\$16). With Russia expanding its influence from Syria to the Baltic States, the Taskforce is placed on stand-down because of the actions of one rogue operator. Meanwhile, Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill travel to Poland, hired to verify artifacts hidden for decades in a fabled Nazi gold train, only to find themselves caught amid growing tensions between East and West. A Russian incursion into Belarus under the facade of self-defense is trumped by a horrific attack against the United States, driving NATO to mobilize even as it tries to determine

who is behind the strike. On the brink of war, Pike and Jennifer discover that there is a separate agenda in play, one determined to force a showdown between NATO and Russia. "Brad Taylor continues to solidify his claim as the best pure action thriller writer out there today....*Ghosts of War* combines the anticipatory genius of Tom Clancy's geopolitical tomes with the high-stakes plotting mastered by the likes of Brad Thor and Vince Flynn. A slam bang, read-it-till-you-drop thriller with as much brains as brawn."—*Providence Journal*. Taylor returns January 9 with a new Taskforce thriller.

✦Thomas, Will. [Hell Bay](#) \$15.99). A Victorian mystery that rewrites *And Then There Were None* with a very different ending. "Lord Hargrave hires detective Cyrus Barker and his assistant, Thomas Llewelyn, to provide security for his secret meeting with French Ambassador Michel Gascoigne to discuss a new treaty. The meeting will be disguised as a house party at Hargrave's home on Godolphin Island in the Isles of Scilly. Barker's cover will be provided by his lady friend, Philippa Ashleigh, a close friend of Lady Barker. The island has no telephone, only a red flag to run up a pole when help is required. Aside from the two detectives, the Hargraves, their daughter and two sons, and the ambassador, the party includes his lordship's doctor and his two daughters; Delacroix, the ambassador's bodyguard; the Honorable Algernon Kerry, an unpleasant old family friend recently returned from South America; Lady Alicia Travers; Colonel and Mrs. Fraser; and some 15 servants. On the first night, Hargrave is shot dead by an expert marksman, the ferry that brought the ambassador is sent away by a faked note, and Delacroix is found stabbed. Although the assassin has many opportunities to kill at will, he seems to be highly selective.... Thomas supplies plenty of suspects and red herrings, ratcheting up the tension steadily as he winnows the targets to make this period adventure one of his best."—*Kirkus Reviews* on this 8th in a series that gives a nod to Sherlock Holmes, too. Look for the sequel in October: [Old Scores Signed](#) (St Martins \$27), set in 1890.

TWO AKASHIC ANTHOLOGIES

Bloom, Amy, ed. [New Haven Noir](#) (\$15.95). Town-gown tensions highlight several of the 15 stories in this stellar Akashic noir anthology set in the Elm City. In "Evening Prayer," Stephen L. Carter movingly presents the world of white Ivy League privilege as seen through the eyes of an African-American boy whose father alternates between his positions as a respected church deacon and as an obsequious employee at a segregated hotel. Editor Bloom's "I've Never Been to Paris" is a nicely downbeat whodunit centered on the murder of a Yale English professor killed with a bust of Herman Melville. Roxana Robinson demonstrates that violence is not essential to noir in "The Secret Societies," the lead of which cloisters herself in Yale's Beinecke Library in a race to finish writing a biography of a reclusive author before a rival does. And an aspiring actress falls for a deli man in Jessica Speart's "Second Act," which leaves a nicely nasty aftertaste. Story authors include Michael Cunningham, Roxana Robinson, Stephen L. Carter, John Crowley, Amy Bloom, Alice Mattison, Chris Knopf, Jonathan Stone, Sarah Pemberton Strong, Karen E. Olson, Jessica Speart ...

Grady, James. [Montana Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). Akashic's Urban Noir series is broadening out. 14 writers drum up tales teeming with dead bodies, guns, strippers, booze, meth, weed and

problematic stores of cash. And they take us to unexpected places, from the rough parts of Great Falls to a depressing corner of Billings Heights, from the loneliest stretches of the Hi-Line's Highway 2 to the vomit-stained sidewalk in front of the Party Palace in Butte. "Editors Grady and Graff's selections...are all sharply attuned to their settings and to the ways those varying landscapes reflect the darkness within the people who walk the streets or drive the country roads." —*Booklist*. Includes Thomas McGuane, Carrie LaSueur, Walter Kim, James Grady.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. [The Scarred Woman](#) (Dutton \$28). I tried, but I did not become a fan of this dark, brutal 7th Department Q case from the Danish author. Whoever struck the blow that killed Rigmor Zimmermann and took 10,000 kroner from her handbag seemed to be copying the murder of substitute teacher Stephanie Gundersen more than 10 years ago, with one important difference: Gundersen's killer didn't go the extra mile in humiliation by pissing on her corpse. Carl Mørck, who heads Department Q, seizes the possible connection as avidly as a spaniel on a scent because solving another cold case would be the perfect way to keep Copenhagen's tightfisted budgeters from shutting his unit down. Unfortunately, Carl's boss, Lars Bjørn, has other ideas. We read often about men's cruelty to women; here we have women depicted as cruel, "morally bankrupt and/or irreparably damaged." Be warned!

Allen, Nancy Campbell. [The Secret of the India Orchid](#) (Shadow Mountain \$15.99). John Charles reviews: Anthony Blake is in love with his best friend's sister, Sophia Elliot. But his plans to court her are put on hold when he is forced to resume his role as an undercover spy for the Crown. To protect Sophia, Anthony cuts off all ties to her and exchanges his life as an honorable earl for the façade of a flirtatious playboy. Heartbroken and confused, Sophia travels to India, hoping to find healing in one of the most exotic regions of the British Empire. But the exotic land isn't as restful as she had hoped. Instead, she finds herself embroiled in a mystery of a missing sea captain, a possible murder, and a plot that could involve the prince of India. Miss those marvelous old books by Victoria Holt like *The Pride of the Peacock* and *The House of a Thousand Lanterns*? Or Lauren Willig's Pink Carnation series.

Baker, Shannon. [Stripped Bare](#): (\$15.99). Kate Fox is living the dream. She's married to Grand County Sheriff Ted Conner, the heir to her beloved Nebraska Sandhills cattle ranch, where they live with Kate's orphaned teenage niece, Carly. With the support of the well-connected Fox Clan, which includes Kate's eight boisterous and interfering siblings, Ted's reelection as Grand County Sheriff is virtually assured. That leaves Kate to the solitude and satisfaction of Frog Creek, her own slice of heaven. One night Kate answers a shattering phone call from Roxy at the Bar J. Carly's granddad Eldon, owner of the ranch, is dead and Ted has been shot and may never walk again. Kate vows to find the killer. She soon discovers Ted responded so quickly to the scene because he was already at the Bar J . . . in Roxy's bed. And to add to her woes, Carly has gone missing. Great premise, no? Baker signs the sequel for us on December 9.

Barry, Brunonia. [The Fifth Petal](#) (\$16). Barry returns to Salem with a mesmerizing tale filled with familiar characters from her previous works and new ones as well. Towner Whitney and John

Rafferty come to the aid of Callie Cahill as they attempt to piece together the circumstances surrounding the brutal murder of her mother while trying to keep herself from becoming a victim as well. This is a beautifully written story, full of twists and turns. Fans of *The Lace Reader* will love *The Fifth Petal*

Binet, Laurent. [HHHH](#) (\$16). The most lethal man in Hitler's cabinet, Reinhard Heydrich seemed indestructible—until two exiled operatives, a Slovak and a Czech, killed him and changed the course of history. In Laurent Binet's mesmerizing debut, we follow Jozef and Jan from their dramatic escape from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia to their fatal attack on Heydrich and their own brutal deaths in the basement of a Prague church. Binet creates a seamless blend of memory, actuality, and his own remarkable imagination. Fiction with a distinctly French sensibility. A reissue of this fine 2012 First Mystery Club Pick as the French author publishes (again, in translation) his impressive second novel, [The 7th Function of Language](#) (Farrar \$27),

Blaedel, Sara. [The Lost Woman](#) (\$14.99). A housewife is the target of a shocking, methodical killing. Shot with a hunting rifle through her kitchen window, the woman is dead before she hits the ground. Though murdered in England, it turns out that the woman, Sofie Parker, is actually a Danish citizen who's been on the Missing Persons list for almost two decades—so Louise Rick is called on to the case. Then, in an unexpected twist, the police discover that Sofie had been reported missing eighteen years ago by none other than Eik, Louise Rick's police colleague and lover. Impulsive as ever, Eik rushes to England, and ends up in jail on suspicion of Sofie's murder. Completely blindsided by Eik's connection to the case, Louise is thoroughly unsettled and sick with worry, yet she must set aside her own emotional turmoil if she hopes to find the killer in what will become her most controversial case yet...

Blum, Ben. [Ranger Games: A Story of Soldiers, Family and an Inexplicable Crime](#) (Doubleday \$28.95). Sometimes true stories are more surprising than fiction, no? Here the Indie Next Pick for one: "*Ranger Games* is a fascinating examination of family, duty, psychology, and crime. Ben Blum's cousin Alex wanted one thing in life, to be a U.S. Army Ranger, but after completing the program and right before his first deployment, he seemingly inexplicably wound up driving the getaway car for an armed bank robbery with three other Rangers. Blum digs deep into his cousin's story and the culture of the Rangers to find out why and how, and the result is a riveting, thought-provoking book."

✎Bolton, Sharon. [Dead Woman Walking](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Here's a propulsive standalone by one of my favorite British crime writers. Although the premise is terrific, and scary, Bolton lets you down a bit in the end game which is both over the top (as the Brits would say, meaning wildly exaggerated) and too neat. Still, it hits the ground running—so to speak—with a terrifying hot-air balloon flight that abruptly ends after the passengers witness a horrible murder from the air and the shooter chases them from a motorbike, killing the pilot. There is one survivor, a woman who loses her sister but evades the killer. But he saw her face and so a nerve-wracking cat-and-mouse game begins. All while you are trying to figure out what it's all about.

Borg, Todd. [Tahoe Payback](#) (Thriller \$16.95). I had to pause and count: this is Owen McKenna #15 from Borg who lives in the area and runs his own press. The first body is found On Lake

Tahoe's only island. When a man tells Detective Owen McKenna that his girlfriend disappeared, McKenna wonders if the woman got cold feet and ran away. But when she turns up murdered on Fannette Island with red roses in her mouth, McKenna discovers that she used a scam charity to steal millions. More bodies follow. This series is well rooted in a special landscape and has, if memory serves, a great dog! We stock [all Borg's books](#).

✂Boyd, Damien. [Heads or Tails](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). The 7th in the DI Nick Dixon series opens on a man who has been mutilated and left to drown on the incoming tide, handcuffed in his van. With the murder bearing a striking resemblance to a string of sadistic killings carried out with surgical precision in 1990s gangland Manchester, it can mean only one thing: the killer is back. Transferred to the Major Investigation Team, DI Nick Dixon is assigned a new partner and sent to Manchester. Meanwhile, the gruesome murders in Somerset continue. I cannot wait to read this UK import. The 6th, [Death Sentence](#) (\$15.95), was a wildly successful 2016 British Crime Club Pick, taking Boyd's work to a whole new, and high, level.

Brady, AF. [The Blind](#) (Pantheon \$26.99). Karen writes: Samantha James has successfully worked to perfect her professional persona as a competent, attractive psychologist at Typhlos, a decaying mental institution in Manhattan. Internally, she is a train wreck, imbibing in too much alcohol, cigarettes and abusive relationships. Richard, a recent admission arrives with little information. His paperwork is incomplete, giving no indication as to why he has been admitted, no diagnosis, no explanation for his time in prison. He also does not talk to anyone. Sam agrees to take him on as a project to be saved and continue to ignore her own issues. Thus begins, the constant, underlying tension between Sam and Richard that leads to the story's conclusion. *Library Journal* gives this debut title a starred review describing it as "...a face-paced riveting psychological chiller." Karen however doesn't love this and inserts the quote to remind you that everyone's taste in reading is uniquely his or her own.

Brodrick, William. [A Whispered Name](#) (Overlook \$27.95). First published in the UK in 2008, the 3rd Father Anselm. In the Larkwood Priory, secrets are rare. So Father Anselm is deeply dismayed by an allegation against Herbert Moore, one of the founding fathers of the Priory and the spiritual mentor who shaped his own vocation. The claim is inconceivable, but Anselm soon learns that Herbert did indeed have secrets in his past that he kept hidden all his life. While investigating the accusation, Father Anselm discovers the horrors of a long-buried secret of war involving the young Captain Moore. This novel has been compared to the work of John Le Carré. "The horrors of Passchendaele in 1917 run through this exquisite novel. Just how much can a man take before he must simply walk away? And what kind of strength enables one man to lay down his life for another?"— *The Guardian*

✂Brody, Frances. [Death at the Seaside](#) (St Martins \$25.99). I liked this Yorkshire-based post-WWI series at the outset but less so as it moves away into the 1920s where the dilemmas facing Kate Shackleton, a widow turned private enquiry agent, grow less compelling. Here she's in Whitby and visits the jewelry store where she and Gerald picked out a wedding ring. She finds the shopkeeper dead on the floor and reports it to the police. Why does the sergeant ask her not to mention the jeweler's death to

her old friend Alma? Whose young daughter Felicity has gone missing? The local color is appealing.

New in paperback, [Death of an Avid Reader](#) (\$16.99). It is forty years since the ghost of a dead librarian haunted the old library, yet the stories have begun again. Kate does not believe in ghosts but obligingly takes part in a ceremony to expel the restless spirit. Shockingly, there is a body in the basement, strangled, and covered in dusty volumes from a fallen bookcase. It is Dr. Potter, a mathematician. Dr. Potter's body is taken away. The police find a sick man sheltering in the basement, an Italian, who, Kate believes, is too ill to be the prime suspect the police deem him.... [Click here](#) to order the Kate Shackletons.

Brown, Dan. [Origin](#) (Doubleday \$29.95). Publishing October 5, a new Robert Langdon thriller. It begins in Bilbao.

✂Cleeves, Ann. [The Moth Catcher](#) (\$16.99). Life seems perfect in the quiet community of Valley Farm. Then a shocking discovery shatters the silence. The owners of a big country house have employed a house-sitter, a young ecologist, to look after the place while they're away. But his dead body is found by the side of the lane—a lonely place to die. When DI Vera Stanhope arrives on the scene, she finds the body of a second man. What the two victims seem to have in common is a fascination with studying moths—and with catching these beautiful, intriguing creatures. Only Lepidoptera seems to connect the two. But others in the town seem webbed together, or apart, by secrets.... In her 7th for Vera (star of a TV series), Cleeves draws "complex relations with her fellow detectives as well as the hidden springs of tension in the circle affected by the crime, touching on class relations, the ennui of middle age, and the deceits, frailties, and tenderness of long marriage." For the 8th, see Signed Books or order the US edition: [The Seagull](#) (St Martins \$25.99).

Denfeld, Rene. [The Child Finder](#) (Harper \$25.99). Crime fiction has recently been flush with women who have survived captivity and now help other victims. This one is especially well conceived and Naomi, the child finder, rendered believably in a darkly luminous story set in Oregon's Skookum National Forest of resilience and the deeply human instinct for survival where Denfeld blends "the magical thinking of childhood, of fairy tales, dreams, memories and nightmares" with the propulsion of a thriller. The Indie Next Pick: "A woman who searches for abducted or lost children must confront her own memories of being abducted as a young girl. While searching for a girl recently kidnapped in her hometown, she is haunted by her past and the lies that she used to weave her present, lies that often took the form of stories. Meanwhile, the abducted girl must survive years of terror and heartbreak, all while constructing a magical mythology to shield herself from the atrocities of her captor. These characters, especially the women, are strong and imaginative. Readers who enjoyed *Room* will devour this literary thriller, which promises to open up Denfeld's readership to a much wider level."

Doughty, Louise. [Black Water](#) (\$16). In her follow-up to 2014 British Crime Club Pick [Apple Tree Yard](#) (\$16), "Doughty has created a novel comparable to Graham Greene's masterpiece *The Quiet American* in its taut exploration of morality on a geopolitical and personal scale. It follows John Harper, long-time employee of The Institute—a mysterious organization that amounts to a non-governmental spy agency—who is forced into an uneasy furlough in rural Indonesia after a lapse of operational judgment.

Harper falls for Rita, another foreign transplant with a troubled past, as political turbulence increases prior to the 1998 resignation of President Suharto. Disturbing historical echoes force Harper to reckon with his own culpability in the 1965 massacres that killed some one million Indonesians, when he served as a courier ferrying lists of alleged communists to military officials. The plot is complex and delves into dark, unjustly forgotten corners of history, including the brutal consequences of the United States' anticommunist efforts. That said, *Black Water* is as much a character study as it is an espionage thriller, determined to explicate Harper's fractured identity. He is the son of an Indonesian mother and a Dutch father killed by the Japanese during World War II, and extended flashbacks trace his piecemeal upbringing."

Ellison, JT. [Lie to Me](#) (Mira \$26.99) brilliantly combines a domestic noir thriller with a searing portrait of two writers trapped in a web of lies, betrayals, and murder. Sharply written and masterfully plotted, full of hard truths about the creative life and modern marriage, Ellison has written her finest novel—a breakout page-turner certain to win her a wide audience." —Jeff Abbott. I am burned out on this genre but I agree with Jeff, who does this kind of book well, that *Lie to Me* is a cut above the rest. We begin in Franklin, Tennessee where the couple's quiet life blows up one morning when Ethan Montclair awakes on morning to a note that his wife has gone in quest of "some time away." Don't look for me, she writes. You can't help but think of *Gone Girl* with this set up, but no... Also in paperback: [Lie to Me](#) (\$15.99)

✚Follett, Ken. [Column of Fire](#) (Viking \$36). Christmas 1558, and young Ned Willard returns home to Kingsbridge to find his world has changed. The ancient stones of Kingsbridge Cathedral look down on a city torn by religious hatred. Europe is in turmoil as high principles clash bloodily with friendship, loyalty and love, and Ned soon finds himself on the opposite side from the girl he longs to marry, Margery Fitzgerald. Then Elizabeth Tudor becomes queen and all of Europe turns against England. The shrewd, determined young monarch sets up the country's first secret service to give her early warning of assassination plots, rebellions and invasion plans. Elizabeth knows that alluring, headstrong Mary Queen of Scots lies in wait in Paris. Part of a brutally ambitious French family, Mary has been proclaimed the rightful ruler of England, with her own supporters scheming to get rid of the new queen. Over a turbulent half-century, the love between Ned and Margery seems doomed, as extremism sparks violence from Edinburgh to Geneva. With Elizabeth clinging precariously to her throne and her principles, protected by a small, dedicated group of resourceful spies and courageous secret agents, it becomes clear that the real enemies – then as now – are not the rival religions, but those convinced their way is the right way. So modern, if Tudor...

Gattis, Ryan. [Kung Fu High School](#) (Farrar \$16). The student body of the titular high school is armed, girded with armor and versed in martial arts in this ultraviolent, dystopian debut novel from Gattis, the spawn of Quentin Tarantino and Robert Cormier. With a corrupt, ineffectual administration, Kung Fu High has become a prisonlike society ruled by gangs and neglected by the law. The novel's teenage warrior narrator, Jen B., tells the story.... Gattis has won major acclaim in the UK but is a rising star here (he's a Los Angelean) and I highly recommend his August noir [Safe](#) (Farrar \$27 Signed), a natural for readers of Joe Ide and the late Donald E. Westlake.

Goble, Steve. [Bloody Black Flag](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Pirate noir! Spider John Rush never wanted to be one, but it happened. He's learned to survive in a world of cut and thrust, fight or die in various horrible ways. Then when his comrade and friend Ezra is murdered by a shipmate, Spider vows revenge. But which of the cutthroats aboard killed his friend? And there's no law to invoke, so Spider will have to exact justice himself before the ship sails into Kingston, Jamaica, harbor. Actually, this is a kind of spy novel. A young Errol Flynn would have loved to play Spider.

Goldenbaum, Sally. [Murder Wears Mittens](#) (Kensington \$25). As autumn washes over coastal Sea Harbor, Massachusetts, the Seaside Knitters anticipate a relaxing off-season. But when murder shatters the peace, the craftiest bunch in town must unravel a killer's deadly scheme

✚Griffiths, Elly. [The Blood Card](#) (Houghton \$25). For her 3rd Magic Men mystery, Griffiths sets a clock ticking down towards Elizabeth II's coronation. It is looming, but DI Edgar Stephens is busy investigating the death of a local fortuneteller. Meanwhile, his old pal, the magician Max Mephisto, is rehearsing for his television debut, a Coronation Day variety show. But upon hearing that their wartime commander, Colonel Cartwright, has been found dead in his flat, the two men join forces to find out what happened. While Max is stuck in rehearsals, Edgar finds himself heading to New York, hot on the trail of a mesmerist he's sure has valuable information for them—and his trusty sergeant, Emma, investigates some important leads at home as the deadline looms.... [Order all three](#).

Hannah, Sophie. [Keep Her Safe](#) (Harper \$26.99). British author Hannah came to sign at The Pen in December, 2016, and one can see why: she was polishing up research for a mystery set in Phoenix. It's fun to guess which Paradise Valley resort forms the background: the Phoenician is the wrong side of the mountain to spy the Praying Monk, so it's the Camelback Inn most likely, or Montelucia. Sanctuary is not laid out the way the story demands. Pushed to the breaking point, Cara Burrows flees 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 at the front desk... but soon Cara realizes 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 natural life sentences for her murder. What does Cara trust, the evidence of her eyes, or the media coverage she's read? This isn't really an American novel; it has that wealth of detail and slower pace of a British thriller.

Harris, Charlaine. [Sleep Like a Baby](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Follows up [All the Little Liars](#) (\$7.99) with a very pregnant Aurora Teagarden and her new husband, Robin Crusoe, a writer who is up for an award at Bouchercon, the annual International Mystery Convention—and thus away.

Hoch, Ed. [All But Impossible](#) (Crippen & Landru \$19). The New England town of Northmont seemed to be haunted by ghosts, ghouls, and impossibilities, until Dr. Sam Hawthorne explained the seemingly impossible. All But Impossible contains fifteen of Dr. Sam's most extraordinary cases solved between 1936 and 1940, including: A newly murdered corpse in a sealed tomb in a cemetery; A body in a scarecrow; A jug that turns water into wine

– poisoned wine; A disappearance from a swimming pool; A baby who becomes a child’s doll on the way to being baptized; A room that appears and vanishes; And eight other ingenious problems for Dr. Sam Hawthorne.

James, Bill/Rachel. [The Man from the Train](#) (Scribner \$28). When (baseball) statistics guy James stumbled upon the unsolved 1912 axe killing of a Villasca, Iowa, family of eight, the lifelong Kansan began to comb newspaper archives for similar crimes in the southern Midwest. One unsolved grisly murder led to another until James put aside baseball to enlist his daughter’s help to research every remotely similar case. *The Man from the Train* is the story of their work mapping historical crimes and logging the key repeating elements of the murders. Working backward in time from 1912, they uncovered almost 100 killings that fit the pattern. They statistically categorized and tracked the incidents from Texas to Nova Scotia, convinced that the slaughters were the work of one man who traveled by local trains to and from the scenes. And they were confident that modern tools of forensics coupled with the Internet’s deep data, statistical analysis and their persistence would turn up the identity of the serial killer. Remarkably, they were right. Despite the best efforts of early 20th-century rural law enforcement, the angry emotions and vigilantism of neighbors, and voluminous newspaper reporting, only the James partnership got their man.

Ivey, Eowyn. [To the Bright Edge of the World](#) (\$16.95). An 1885 wilderness expedition, a female pioneer of photography, and Native American myths come to life make Ivey’s second novel (after *The Snow Child*) an entrancing, occasionally chilling, depiction of turn-of-the-century Alaska. Through diaries, letters, reports, newspaper clippings, drawings, and photographs, Ivey evokes an Indian Wars veteran’s expedition up the Wolverine River into Alaska’s northern interior. Colonel Allen Forrester’s mission is to map the territory, make contact with inhabitants, and collect information for future (military or commercial) enterprises. Years later, a descendant of the Forresters donates their journals and artifacts to a museum in the small town now on the expedition route, site of rafting tours and a million-dollar fishing lodge. In this splendid adventure novel, Ivey captures Alaska’s beauty and brutality, not just preserving history, but keeping it alive. The story of the expedition is framed by modern-day correspondence between Montanan Walter Forrester and the curator of the historical museum in Alpine, Alaska. Enjoy vivid depictions of the natural elements’ harsh brutality and a mystical, folkloric component.

Jones, Dan. [The Templars](#) (Viking \$30). Jerusalem, 1119. A small group of knights at loose ends after the First Crusade decide to form a new order, a band of elite warriors prepared to give their lives to protect Christian pilgrims to the Holy Land. Over the next 200 years the Templars became the most powerful religious order of the medieval world and have left a legacy of legend that still fascinates. Jones, the bestselling author of *The Plantagenets*, draws on original sources to write their history...as much as can be known. I add that the Templars’ misfortune was to excite the envy of a covetous King of France which led both to their destruction and to making their legend immortal—a *Game of Thrones* for their heyday with echoes of such games today.

Jones, Holly Goddard. [The Salt Line](#) (Putnam \$26). This is a much touted dystopian novel “in the spirit of *Station Eleven*

and California.” If you think we are actually living in the End Times, then here is a vision of the future where a tick infestation has driven humanity to barricade itself in a series of safe zones. Those inside the Salt Line zone live safe although limited lives and are controlled by their common fear. A few adrenaline junkies risk, for a fortune, venturing out to tour what is left of nature. Out Limit Excursions picks up its clients among the rich who revel in living on the edge. After an intense 3-week training on survival skills, everyone is assigned a partner who needs to be available with a lifesaving tool for those who are bitten by a tick, but cannot administer it themselves. But, once the border is crossed, the game changes. Group members become captives and are taken Ruby City composed of a determined cast of characters who have formed their own community, preferring a more natural world. The *Kirkus* Starred Review states “It’s *The Hunger Games* meets *The Godfather* meets Robin Cook, with female characters playing all the key roles.”

Kelly, Sofie. [A Tale of Two Kitties](#) (Berkley \$23). Library director Kathleen Paulson and her feline friends find themselves playing detective at the scene of another crime. Everyone in small town Mayville Heights turns a watchful eye on the rival Janes brothers, Victor and Leo, when they return home for a visit after many years away. A trip down memory lane turns sinister when Leo is found dead and his son has no alibi. Now, Kathleen and the cats must piece together a puzzle – with clues spanning decades – in order to prove their friend’s innocence.

Kent, Hannah. [The Good People](#) (Little Brown \$27). Three women in 19th-century Ireland are drawn together in the hope of rescuing a child from a superstitious community determined to rid itself of the strange and unfathomable....

Keyse-Walker, John. [Beach, Breeze, Bloodshed](#) (St Martins \$25.99). If you’re a fan of TV series *Death in Paradise* then you know that crime is no stranger to the Caribbean where it can go slow but still be lethal. Now an official Constable in the Royal Virgin Islands Police Force, widower Teddy Creque’s beat is Anegada. But a call comes from the larger Virgin Gorda where the mutilated corpse of a woman was spotted on the beach at The Baths. She was a clear victim of a shark attack. And yet how likely is it that the brown shark circling the beach was her killer rather than the clean-up squad? And that’s the start of Teddy’s investigation which takes him into the home of a lush and lovely woman, the mother of the silent (autistic) young boy, the only witness to what likely happened, and afool of the cops and some residents of the touristy Virgin Gorda who would like to write off the murder as an unfortunate swimming incident.... I’m a fan of Teddy’s debut in [Sun Sand, Murder](#) (\$27 Signed).

King, Stephen/Owen. [Sleeping Beauties](#) (Scribner \$32). This is a different vision of the future from that of Goddard Jones. Here when women go to sleep, they wake up shrouded in gauze in a place of harmony. Should this cocoon be violated, the woman inside becomes feral, seriously violent. Why is the mysterious Evie immune to the blessing or the curse of the sleeping disease? And is she an anomaly to be studied, or a problem to be slain? Abandoned to their primal urges, men divide into two warring factions over the question of Evie....

Land, Ali. [Good Me, Bad Me](#) (Flatiron \$25.99). The narrative of our **September British Crime Club Pick** is driven “by that most fascinating of crime-novel subjects, the female serial killer.”

says *Kirkus*, which permeates it with “a sense of creeping dread.” I find it sly, disturbing, and unsettling. It’s been a landslide bestseller in the UK and elsewhere. “When 15-year-old Annie Thompson, the unflinching narrator of British author Land’s chilling debut, tells the Devon police that her mother, Ruth, is a serial killer who preys on young children, the police arrest Ruth. Annie, who changes her name to Milly, moves in with the family of London psychologist Mike Newmont, who will help her prepare to testify at her mother’s trial. Saskia, Mike’s wife, knows Milly’s true identity, but the couple’s teenage daughter, Phoebe, believes that Milly is just an ordinary foster kid who’s monopolizing her parents’ attention. Milly attends the same school as Phoebe, who turns the other students against Milly in an effort to drive her away. Milly does her best to ignore the bullying, but the worse things get, the louder Ruth’s hectoring voice rings in Milly’s head, forcing Milly and the reader to question whether it’s possible to overcome both nature and nurture.”—*PW* Starred Review.

✂Le Carré, John. [Legacy of Spies](#) (Viking \$28). The first Smiley novel in more than 25 years summons retired British Secret Service officer Peter Guillam back to London as his Cold War past comes to claim him. Elderly and retired to France, the ex-spy Peter Guillam, an old acquaintance of the attentive Le Carré reader, is made to answer for long-buried sins when the adult children of the two principal casualties in *The Spy Who Came In From the Cold* suddenly bring a lawsuit against the security services. Guillam is forced to revisit the dubious setup and muddy justification for that operation, answering awkward questions from humorless young officials who have no patience for or understanding of how the agency operated in the old days. Even George Smiley himself makes an appearance.

I add that I am a huge fan of Le Carré’s memoir [Pigeon Tunnel: Stories from My Life](#) (\$17) for its candor, the adventures and memories, and for the total lack of bitterness in the long chapter about his con-man sponging father. This takes on resonance if you [Read this interview](#) between John Le Carré and Ben Macintyre, two men recruited by British intelligence services when they were young, in the *NY Times*!

Manus, Peter. [The Dorchester Five](#) (Diamond \$16.99). Boston’s historic, multicultural neighborhood of Dorchester provides the backdrop for this engrossing crime novel from Manus. One hot summer afternoon, an old woman who’s a churchgoer and pillar of the community is hit by a car and killed. An angry mob overturns the car, which bursts into flames, leaving Jakey Culligan, the young man behind the wheel, badly burned and permanently brain-damaged. Five men are charged and brought to trial, and all but one are released. Now, eight years later, a serial killer is targeting Jakey’s lawyer and the men who were tried for the incident. The narrative alternates between entries in the diaries of Marina Papanikitas, a police detective assigned to the case and self-described “spastic psychic,” and the voice of Nightingale, a dedicated killer with a flair for disguise who has a knack for getting into the minds of others—and who identifies with French actress Jeanne Moreau. The book offers some fun for fans of ’60s noir, Hitchcock, and schlock horror films

Meades, Christopher. [Hanna Who Fell From the Sky](#) (Park Row Books \$24.99). “Hanna is a young woman, like any other in the world today, except for one unique thing: she is part of a polyga-

mist community called Clearhaven and has just been told, at eighteen, she has to marry a man who is her father’s age and has four other wives. Hanna must make the confusing and heartbreaking decision about where her future path lies. Should she stay at home and be obedient to the only family she has ever known, or will she choose her own love and life?” Liberation, forbidden love, and who we are, make up some of the elements in a novel infused with a kind of magical realism up against gritty truth — shades of *Deliverance*, *Room*, and *Winter’s Bone*.

Meyer, Deon. [Fever](#) (Grove Atlantic \$26). “Meyer neatly integrates a whodunit into a sophisticated post-apocalyptic thriller”—*PW* echoed by *Booklist*: “A thought-provoking, post-apocalyptic examination of the human condition... With its stunning final revelation, this is a remarkable literary achievement.”). Stephen King invokes one of his own books and one of Justin Cronin’s, says *Fever* is, “Reminiscent of *The Stand* and *The Passage*. Great stuff.” The Indie Next Pick: “*Fever*, which grabbed me from the beginning, takes place in South Africa several years after a devastating illness wipes out most of the planet. It starts as a thrilling survival tale between a brilliant father and his 13-year-old son and quickly evolves into a fascinating study of human nature and the perils of building a new civilization from scratch. The survivalist details throughout the novel are especially fascinating, as are the conflicts within the society as it grows. A dense, captivating read that drew me in and kept me hooked.”

Miller, Linsey. [Mask of Shadows](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). When petty thief Sal Leon steals a poster from a royal scribe announcing open auditions for The Left Hand, Sal knows it’s a chance for a better life. The Queen’s powerful personal assassins are named after the rings she wears—Ruby, Emerald, Amethyst, and Opal—and are her most trusted advisors. But the audition is a fight to the death filled with clever circus acrobats, lethal apothecaries, and vicious ex-soldiers. A childhood as a common criminal hardly qualifies as preparation, but with each success, Sal comes closer to victory...and to the nobles who destroyed everything. Because Sal is there not only to win—but to get revenge. Ages 14+, starts a series.

Miller, Sarah. [Caroline: Little House, Revisited](#) (Morrow \$25.99). Miller retells the story of *Little House on the Prairie* from the point of view of Laura Ingalls’ mother, Caroline. In 1870, Caroline, Charles, and their two young girls leave their home and extended family to travel more than 600 miles in a covered wagon. This is a fresh, deeper look at a much-loved story.

Another classic revisited: Elise Hooper, [The Other Alcott](#) (Morrow \$15.95). Readers know Louisa, author of *Little Women* and other novels and quite a lot of penny dreadful. This is the story of her youngest sister, May, an artist in her own right and very likely “Amy March.”

Modiano, Patrick. [Sundays in August](#) (Yale University Press \$16). Nobel Prize winner Modiano publishes a masterful and gripping crime novel set in picturesque Nice on the French Riviera. Stolen jewels, black markets, hired guns, crossed lovers, unregistered addresses, people gone missing, shadowy figures disappearing in crowds, newspaper stories uncomfortably close and getting closer... this ominous novel is Patrick Modiano’s most noirish work to date. Set in Nice—a departure from the

author's more familiar Paris—this novel evokes the bright sun and dark shadow of the Riviera. A young couple in hiding keeps close watch over a notorious diamond necklace known as the Southern Cross. Its provenance is murky, its whereabouts known only to our hero and heroine, who find themselves trapped by its potential value—and its ultimate cost. This is French noir so it's subtle, building up a sense of dread through its unnamed narrator.

Nesbø, Jo. [Snowman \(Movie Tie-In Edition\)](#) (\$15.95). Just FYI.

Nugent, Liza. [Unraveling Oliver](#) (Gallery \$26). Mentioned in August, a novel by an Irish author focused on a sociopath that's excited some attention. As in this Indie Next Pick: "Oliver, the titular center of Liz Nugent's chilling debut thriller, will attract and repel the reader as his deep wounds and legacy of destruction are revealed by his own confessions and by the recollections of those whose lives intersect with his. The novel opens with Oliver, a successful writer living in apparent domestic contentment, beating his wife into a coma. Why? As Oliver's crimes come into focus, Nugent's brilliance is in balancing the evil he does with the evil that is done to him. Is he to be reviled or pitied? Or both?"

O'Reilly, Bill/Martin Dugard. [Killing England](#) (Holt \$30). Told through the eyes of George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson, and Great Britain's King George III, *Killing England* chronicles the path to independence in gripping detail, taking the reader from the battlefields of America to the royal courts of Europe. What started as protest and unrest in the colonies soon escalated to a world war with devastating casualties.

Patterson, James/James O Born. [Haunted](#) (Little Brown). When local cops uncover a grisly crime scene buried deep in the woods, they consult the vacationing Detective Michael Bennett, who jumps at the chance to atone for his own sins.

Penney, Stef. [Under a Pole Star](#) (Quercus \$26.99). As I read how ships can sail the Northwest Passage this summer without a need for icebreakers, I turned to this remarkable story of adventure and obsession with the Arctic that shapes the lives of one determined woman and several men. The daughter of a whaler, Flora Mackie first crossed the Arctic Circle at age 12. After a disappointment in love, this budding scientist and explorer sets out in 1889 at the head of a British expedition to northern Greenland. There she meets American Jakob de Beyn, member of a rival expedition headed by the ruthless Lester Armitage, a man who brooks no barrier to his preeminence in polar discovery. Flora's choices impact her life and the lives of others and echo unto 1948. But the real star of this rich and muscular narrative is Greenland. Today you can stop in a port about half way up its western coast.

Robb, J D. [Secrets in Death](#) (St Martins \$27.99). I haven't read through an Eve Dallas for a long time, but this one hooked me. The pace is brisk, the characters full of life, the Manhattan of the future much like the city of today. Chic nightclub Du Vin is not the kind of place NYPD Lt. Eve Dallas would usually patronize, and it's not the kind of bar where a lot of blood gets spilled. But while Eve is drinking with a friend in a booth one cold February evening, a woman staggers up from the bathroom and bleeds out. Eve is furious it happened on her watch so to speak, but not surprised that her husband Roark owns Du Vin. Dead Larinda Mars, a self-described "social information reporter," or as most people would call it, a professional gossip, had plenty of enemies, thus there are plenty of suspects as Eve's investigation rolls along.

Robbins, Jane. [White Bodies](#) (Touchstone \$24.99). A pair of twins, Tilda and Callie, has always had a push-pull relationship. Glamorous Tilda is an actress who made a name starring in a remake of *Rebecca*. Mousy but observant Callie has always stayed in Tilda's shadow. Things begin to tilt when Tilda introduces Callie to her new lover, wealthy American Felix, a hedge funder long on details and endowed with classic Scandinavian looks. Callie gradually becomes convinced Felix is abusing Tilda and takes cues from *controllingmen.com*. Pay attention to the many Hitchcock references as the story unfolds. I found the ultimate resolution not only unsatisfying but unjust.

Rouda, Kaira. [Best Day Ever](#) (Grand Central \$26.99) is narrated by Paul Strom. At first you take him at face value, but it isn't long before you begin to wonder at little things that gradually build. There's a very clever clue on page 2 you will almost surely miss. In time you question his reliability and gradually you realize what a classic example of a narcissist Paul is. It's difficult to put this down as the Strom's day unfolds by the hour, and the mile as he and Mia drive towards their cottage on Lake Erie, the two boys left behind in Columbus with a baby sitter. Best not to start this before bed, so addictive this novel is, and so surprising.

Saujani, Reshma. [Girls Who Code](#) (Viking \$17.99). "When I first started *Girls Who Code*, I realized that there was a need for books that described what it's like to actually be a girl who codes," says Reshma Saujani. "I always say, 'You can't be what you can't see.' And that's true for books, too. We need to read stories about girls who look like us in order to be inspired to try something new." So a book intended for teens but honestly, it might be of interest to seniors...like me.

Simenon, George. [Maigret's Revolver](#) (Penguin \$13). When Maigret's .45 revolver is stolen from his home, he becomes embroiled in a murder in which the gun may have played a deadly role

Weaver, Ashley. [The Essence of Malice](#) (St Martins \$24.99). There is a clever plot for this 4th investigation for Milo and Avery Ames, a 1930s power couple. They've been on the Riviera and are stopping in Lake Como when a message from Milo's one-time governess summons them to Paris where she suspects something is very wrong in the household of perfume king Helios Belanger. And indeed it is, beginning with the death of the family patriarch and moving on through various treacheries. But the really good thing about this intriguing novel is the world of French *parfumeurs*, the business, the blends, the marketing, the whole package. It was, and is, big money, and a signature perfume is a real trophy scent. Also, a plus, the Ames are becoming more like a skirmishing Nick and Nora Charles, English version.

New in paperback, the 3rd Ames, [A Most Novel Revenge](#) (\$15.99). Socialite Amory Ames and her newly reformed playboy husband, Milo, drive carefreely in their smart new motor car to Lyonsgate, a country estate, where a death occurred one evening years earlier. The guests from that tragic evening—plus Amory and Milo—have been reassembled by Isobel Van Allen, a magnetic woman who scandalized society with a novel, *The Dead of Winter*, closely based on drug- and alcohol-fueled events that led up to the discovery of the body. Van Allen's book ended with an accusation of murder against a fellow partygoer, but Isobel found herself ousted by society when the real-life model for her killer committed suicide.

✂Wein, Elizabeth. [The Pearl Thief](#) (Disney \$18.99). “It is both wonderful and heart-wrenching to be back in the mind of Julie, one of the two stalwart protagonists of [Code Name Verity](#) (\$9.99), a WWII story of a 1943 spy mission into Occupied France. The stakes may be a bit lower in *The Pearl Thief* but there is no doubt that Julie will pursue the mystery of an unknown attacker, a mysterious body, and missing pearls with just as much zeal.

Zevin, Gabrielle. [Young Jane Young](#) (Algonquin \$26.95). Told in four different voices, the story of Aviva Grossman, a young Congressional intern in South Florida who does the unthinkable: she sleeps with her boss. The book details the repercussions of that decision and examines the abuse of power that occurs in politics and in the day-to-day interactions between members of the opposite sex. The mother and the grandmother are more interesting for much of the book than is Aviva. I put this in not because I recommend it but because Zevin writes in a lively Jewish voice and we’re heading towards the High Holy Days at the end of September.

OUR SEPTEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Buckley, Julia. [Pudding Up with Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Covered Dish #3. When her wealthy neighbor, Marcus Cantwell, a man with many enemies, is found face down in her casserole, caterer and cook Lilah Drake, along with her trusty dog, Mick, must stir the pot to serve up a killer before someone else meets the same fate. If you hunger for more culinary mysteries like those written by Diane Mott Davidson and Virginia Rich, Buckley’s books may prove to be equally tempting.

Burke, James Lee. [The Jealous Kind](#) (\$9.99) Intervening when he sees a beautiful, gifted girl fighting with her boyfriend, a young man inadvertently challenges the power of the Mob in his Korean War-era Texas community and must summon the courage of his soldier father in order to stand up for his beliefs. *PW*’s review included this snippet “Burke has a hit with this dark, atmospheric story of teenagers trying to make it through high school without getting killed by Mafia hit men, low-life thugs, and greasers with oily ducktails and switchblade knives.”

Clark, Mary Higgins. [The Sleeping Beauty Killer](#) (\$8.99) Under Suspicion #3. Living under suspicion after wrongly serving time for her fiancé’s murder, Casey attracts the attention of newswoman Laurie, who pledges to exonerate her in spite of the machinations of an attention-stealing former prosecutor. *PW* loved this saying “A clever plot and a cast of intriguing characters, whose actions and agendas are easily misconstrued, boost bestseller Clark and Burke’s third novel featuring Laurie Morgan, the producer of the New York-based TV show Under Suspicion.”

Crosby, Ellen. [The Champagne Conspiracy](#) (\$7.99) Wine Country #7. When Quinn’s uncle is threatened by a blackmailer, Lucie Montgomery delves into a Prohibition-era mystery involving an ancestor’s murder the day after President Warren Harding’s death in the same San Francisco hotel. *PW* ended their review with “A series of cliff-hangers help propel the intriguing, well-paced plot. Like Lucie’s best wines, this story combines freshness, body, and considerable complexity.”

Cussler, Clive. [Pirate](#) (\$9.99) Fargo #8. Confronted by a determined adversary, husband-and-wife treasure hunters Sam and Remi Fargo embark on an international quest involving an 800-year-old relic and a brutal murder.

Flower, Amanda. [Assaulted Caramel](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Amish Candy Shop #1. Returning home to Harvest, Ohio, to help her grandparents run their Amish candy shop, chocolatier Bailey King must clear her grandfather’s name in the murder of a local English developer and catch a killer with a sweet tooth who is trying to fudge the truth. Flower has written a number of different cozy series, and with this new launch she combines two cozy favorites: the Amish and food.

Lescroart, John. [Fatal](#) (\$9.99) A fleeting crush becomes a dangerous obsession for a married woman who shares an intense encounter with a man she meets at a dinner party before a chilling act of violence marks the first of a series of horrifying events. *Kirkus* concluded with “Lescroart manages the first movement of this cautionary tale by mixing his pitches with exquisite control. Once the homicide investigation kicks in, things become altogether more routine, though he still has a few nifty surprises in store for fans who’d expect nothing less.”

Webb, Debra. [The Coldest Fear](#) (Mira \$9.99) When a serial killer targets Savannah’s elite society, causing cold cases to resurface and striking too close to home, Detective Bobbi Gentry enlists the help of Nick Shade, a fellow survivor of violence, to help her end the bloodshed.

White, Randy Wayne. [Seduced](#) (\$9.99) Doc Ford #24. With Florida’s orange industry threatened by infestation and genetic manipulation, Hannah Smith finds herself at the center of a violent competition to track down seeds descended from those planted by Spanish conquistadors centuries earlier. *Kirkus* says “Despite the disjunction between the sharply drawn threats and the heroine’s modest detective skills, her fourth outing may be her best to date, with a particularly effective climactic sequence that knots together every menace, and every sorrow, she faces.”

Winslow, Don. [The Cartel](#) (\$9.99) A sequel to the acclaimed *The Power of the Dog* finds a drug lord’s prison transfer to Mexico upsetting a precarious balance of peace and forcing DEA agent to come out of retirement to stop the ensuing violence. *LJ* was just one of the starred reviews of this book saying “The staggering body count will be a challenge for many readers to get past, but the payoffs for those who persevere are immense. Winslow’s two-novel project about this still-raging conflict is entertaining, well researched, and difficult to process, a jarring glimpse into a reality about which many Americans remain blissfully unaware.”

Reprints of first books in a series

Castillo, Linda. [Sworn to Silence](#) (\$9.99) Kate Burkholder #1. Kate Burkholder, a former Amish resident of Painters Mill, is returning as police chief sixteen years after a series of murders took place there, but when a new victim is found she struggles with a secret that could hurt her family.

✂Finch, Charles. [A Beautiful Blue Death](#) (\$9.99) Charles Lenox #1. When a servant girl is found dead, a supposed suicide, Victorian gentleman and amateur sleuth Charles Lenox is called in by his old friend, Lady Jane, to investigate and begins to suspect that the girl has fallen victim to a rare and deadly poison.

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

✂Archer, Jeffrey. [This Was a Man](#) (\$9.99) A conclusion to the best-selling saga finds Giles discovering the truth about his wife’s identity, Emma receiving a job offer from Margaret Thatcher

and Lady Virginia pursuing an opportunity to solve her financial problems before a shocking diagnosis throws all of their lives into turmoil.

Blake, Bethany. [Dial Meow for Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Lucky Paws Petsitting #2. When the owner of Tinkleston the cat is murdered on the night of a gala fundraiser for Fur-ever Friends Pet Rescue, experienced pet sitter Daphne Templeton, to take the suspicion off of her own mother, must solve this crime before the claws come out once again.

Burton, Mary. [Merciless](#) (Kensington \$9.99) When bleached human bones are identified as belonging to a former patient of Dr. James Dixon, Detective Malcolm Kier suspects the worst. Dixon was recently acquitted of attempted murder, thanks to defense attorney Angie Carlson. But as the body count rises, Kier is convinced that Angie is now the target of a brutal, brilliant psychopath.

Coco, Nancy. [Oh, Fudge!](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Candy Coated #5. When her estranged and bitter cousin, Tori, shows up unexpectedly on Mackinac Island, Allie McMurphy must let bygones be bygones when Tori is accused of murder and needs her help in catching the real killer.

Coulter, Catherine. [Devil's Triangle](#) (\$9.99) Brit in the FBI #4. Recently appointed Covert Eyes team heads Nicholas Drummond and Michaela Caine tackle a dangerous first case when an artifact is stolen from Istanbul and they receive a warning that a series of fatal Gobi sandstorms are actually manmade phenomena.

Cox Bryan, Moll. [Macramé Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Cora Crafts #3. Taking a break from her own crafting retreat, Cora Chevalier and her boyfriend, Adrian, arrive at the Sea Glass Island Craft Retreat, where they, enchanted by their surroundings, find their vacation shattered by murder—especially when Adrian stands accused of the crime.

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Tea Party](#) (\$7.99) Mystery with Recipes #12. Reluctantly catering a Mad-Hatter-themed tea party to support an eccentric billionaire's launch of an art complex that promises to bring culture and sophistication to a sleepy New York community, the Simmons sisters find themselves steeped in trouble when the host drops dead under mysterious circumstances.

Driscoll, Sara. [Lone Wolf](#) (Kensington \$9.99) FBI Special Agent Meg and Hawk are part of the FBI's elite K-9 unit. Hawk can sniff out bodies anywhere—living or dead. When a bomb rips apart a government building in Washington D.C., it takes all of the team's extensive search-and-rescue training to locate and save the workers and visitors buried beneath the rubble. But even as the duo is hailed as heroes, a bomber remains at large, striking terror in a widening spiral of unpredictability.

Dunnett, Kaitlyn. [Kilt at the Highland Games](#) (\$7.99) Liss MacCrimmon #10. It's July in Moosetookalook, Maine, and Scottish Emporium proprietress Liss MacCrimmon Ruskin is prepping her wares for the annual Celtic heritage festival. But as a sinister crime wave washes over the quiet town, this year's celebration might prove a wee bit more eventful—and deadly—than tartan and bagpipes.

Erickson, Alex. [Death by Eggnog](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Bookstore Café #5. When a murder halts the production of the local holiday musical extravaganza, bookstore-café owner Krissy Hancock, deciding to investigate, is faced with a pageant of suspects and must find the its curtains for someone else.

Evanovich, Jane. [Turbo Twenty-Three](#) (\$8.99) Stephanie Plum #23. When Larry Virgil skips town before his latest court date, leaving behind a hijacked freezer truck loaded with ice cream and a dead body, Stephanie Plum goes undercover at the ice cream factory to discover who is killing the employees and sabotaging the business.

Fluke, Joanne. [Christmas Caramel Murder](#) (\$7.99) Hannah Swenson #20. While preparing for the town's annual production of A Christmas Carol, Hannah must also find a way to support her friend, Lisa, when she is implicated in the murder of her husband's ex-girlfriend

Fox, Candice. [Fall](#) (Kensington \$9.99) To stop a killer in the making, homicide detective Frank Benner must place his trust in his partner, Eden Archer, a cop who moonlights as a killer, while Eden, who knows the temptation of evil, must confront a fear she cannot escape. (Editorial note: really, a cop who moonlights as a killer? I guess she can cut out the middleman and arrest herself).

Graham, Heather. [Wicked Deeds](#) (Mira \$8.99) A romantic weekend for historian Vickie Preston and special agent Griffin Pryce is interrupted by the murder of a popular author in a literature-themed restaurant, a case with disturbing parallels to the works of Edgar Allan Poe.

Harris, Charlaine. [All the Little Liars](#) (\$7.99) Aurora Teagarden #9. When four kids including her brother go missing from school and a dead body is found where they were last seen, a pregnant Aurora organizes a personal investigation that exposes the activities of a gang of bullies and her brother's gambling debts.

Hesse, Jennifer. [Yuletide Homicide](#) (Kensington \$7.99) When mayoral candidate Edgar Harrison, her boss's old friend, is blackmailed, family law attorney and practicing Wiccan Keli Milanni goes undercover to find the culprit until Harrison winds up dead and she must risk her own rebirth during the Wiccan holiday Yuletide to catch a killer.

King, Stephen. [Mr. Mercedes](#) (\$9.99) Reissue. Months after a crazed hit-and-run driver kills several attendees at a Midwestern job fair, a depressed retired cop and two unlikely allies join forces to find and stop the killer, who has sent a letter threatening another attack.

Lester, Meera. [The Murder of a Queen Bee](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Henny Penny Farmette #2. Leaving her job as a police officer to become a beekeeper, Abigail Mackenzie is drawn into a murder investigation after her friend is found dead in a mysterious car accident, suspecting that her friend's herbal business holds the key to finding the killer.

London, Colette. [Dead and Ganache](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Chocolate Whisperer #4. When her chocolate-making mentor is murdered during a nighttime festival, Hayden Mundy Moore, while visiting the culinary paradise of France's Brittany region, must unwrap the clues to catch a killer with a sweet tooth.

Macleod, Bracken. [Stranded](#) (Tor \$9.99) Forced by an apocalyptic storm into freezing, fog-enveloped waters, the crew of a ship without functioning navigation or communication equipment begins falling prey to a mysterious illness, forcing deckhand Noah Cabot and his remaining able-bodied shipmates to begin a treacherous journey across the ice.

Mugavero, Liz. [Purring Around the Christmas Tree](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Pawsitively Organic #5. When Santa arrives dead to the annual lighting of the Christmas tree, organic pet patisserie owner Kristan Connor must solve this crime before more holiday murder and mayhem ensues.

O'Connell, Carol. [Blind Sight](#) (\$9.99) Kathleen Mallory #12. Investigating the baffling disappearances of a blind child and a Catholic nun, Detective Kathy Mallory and her NYPD Special Crimes Unit colleagues race against time to stop a deadly spree by a killer with ties to high levels of public office.

Parker, Hank. [Containment](#) (Picador \$7.99) After a tick-borne illness outbreak appears linked to a global bioterrorist organization, an epidemiologist and a CIA agent must race against time to trace the virus to its source, through the jungles of the Philippines and the coral reefs off Malaysian Borneo.

Perry, Carol J. [Grave Errors](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Witch City #5. When her production class suggests extending Halloween with the traditional Mexican celebration *Dia de Los Muertos*, Lee Barrett finds it becoming all too real as a series of haunting graveyard visits and a missing person case plague her with psychic visions that will only go away if she solves the crime.

Reichs, Kathy. [Bare Bones](#) (\$9.99) Reissue. Temperance Brennan #5. Her plans for a romantic vacation interrupted by the discoveries of two murdered bodies and a small plane crash, Temperance Brennan traces leads to an isolated North Carolina farm, where she receives assistance from canine companion Boyd and an out-of-town friend.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Say No More](#) (\$7.99) Jane Ryland #5. Discovering that she has witnessed the collapse of an alibi after reporting a hit and run, Boston reporter Jane Ryland convinces a date rape victim to come forward as part of an expose on college campus sexual assaults, an assignment that is complicated by an ominous threat.

Smith, Wilbur. [War Cry: A Novel of Adventure](#) (\$9.99) A sequel to *Assegai* is set in Africa between World Wars I and II and finds widower Leon Courtney navigating murky political waters while his headstrong daughter, Saffron, travels to culturally contrasting London to attend Oxford.