

BOOKNEWS from

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Another Awesome August

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

Listen to some interviews on our new [podcast channel](#)

TUESDAY JULY 31 7:00 PM

Flynn Berry signs [A Double Life](#) (Viking \$26)

The Edgar winner pens our August British Crime Club Pick

THURSDAY AUGUST 2 7:00 PM

Ben Coes signs [Bloody Sunday](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Dewey Andreas takes on Kim Jong-un

MONDAY AUGUST 6 7:00 PM

Edgar Cantero signs [This Body's Not Big Enough for Both of Us](#) (Doubleday \$26.95) and [Meddling Kids](#) (\$16.95)

TUESDAY AUGUST 7 7:00 PM

A Lady Georgiana Rannoch Wedding Party with Bubbles and Cake!

Rhys Bowen signs [Four Funerals and Maybe a Wedding](#) (Berkley \$26)

Our copies come with a special Wedding Invitation designed for us

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 8 7:00 PM

Michael Brandman signs [One on One](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95)
Sheriff Buddy Steel #2

FRIDAY AUGUST 10 7:00 PM

Tickets Required: \$20 To purchase: 480-947-2974 or 888-560-9919

Diana Gabaldon signs her Introduction to [The Life and Adventures of Joaquin Murieta, The Celebrated California Bandit](#) (Penguin Classics \$17) and [Seven Stones to Stand or Fall](#) (\$18), a collection of Outlander short fiction

Susanna Kearsley signs [Bellewether](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99 or \$26.99)

Parallel suspense between today and 1760s America

SATURDAY AUGUST 11 2:00 PM

Susan Elia MacNeal signs [The Prisoner in the Castle](#) (Bantam \$26)

Maggie Hope #8

MONDAY AUGUST 13 7:00 PM

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

Rosato & DiNunzio #6 –hilarious and scary

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 15 7:00 PM

Joanna Luloff signs [Remind Me Again What Happened](#) (Algonquin \$26.95)

Our August Modern Firsts Club Pick

Gina Wohlsdorf signs [Blood Highway](#) (Algonquin \$16.95)

Our August Hardboiled Crime Club Pick

FRIDAY AUGUST 17 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses Jeff Vandermeer's [Borne](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY AUGUST 18 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Francine Mathews' [Death in the Off Season](#) (\$9.99), the first Merry Folger Nantucket Mystery

MONDAY AUGUST 20 7:00 PM Two Bravura PI/Thrillers
William Kent Krueger signs [Desolation Mountain](#) (Atria \$26)
Cork O'Connor #17

T Jefferson Parker signs [Swift Vengeance](#) (Putnam \$27)
PI Roland Ford #2

TUESDAY AUGUST 21 7:00 PM

Mary Robinette Kowal signs [The Fated Sky](#) (Tor \$16.99)

Lady Astronaut #2 after [The Calculating Stars](#) (\$18.99 reprints)

John Scalzi signs [Head On](#) (Forge \$25.99)

The sequel to [Lock In](#) (\$8.99)

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 22 7:00 PM

Hosted by J Todd Scott

David Joy signs [The Line That Held Us](#) (Penguin \$27)

THURSDAY AUGUST 23 7:00 PM

T. Greenwood signs [Rust and Stardust](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

A novel based on the kidnapping that inspired *Lolita* – amazing!

SUNDAY AUGUST 26 7:00 PM

David Corbett signs [The Long Lost Love Letters of Doc Holliday](#) (Blackstone \$15.95)

MONDAY AUGUST 27 7:00 PM Debut

Delia Owens signs [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) (Putnam \$26)
Our September First Mystery Club Pick

WEDNESDAY AUGUST 29 7:00 PM

Steve Hamilton signs [Dead Man Running](#) (Putnam \$26)
Alex McKnight #11

Hank Phillippi Ryan signs [Trust Me](#) (Forge \$26.95)
Knockout standalone suspense

THURSDAY AUGUST 30 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Jada Davis' [One for Hell](#) (\$15.95)

SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2-3

[The Poisoned Pen Conference](#)

Arizona Biltmore 2400 E Missouri Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016

Sunday 9:00-5:30; Monday 9:00-4:00

Fee: \$125 480- 947-2974 or 888- 560-9919

Panels, Agatha Christie Tea, Sallis/Rankin Lunch Conversation, Rankin on Scottish Literature and his 30 year career, Stabenow and Straley speak Alaskan Mystery, 9 Panel Discussions with 17 authors. Sunday night concert with James Sallis and the Three-Legged Dog Band

EVENT BOOKS

Berry, Flynn. [A Double Life](#). (Viking \$26). Our **August British Crime Club Pick** from the author of the award-winning [Under the Harrow](#) (\$16). Claire is a hardworking doctor living a simple, quiet life in London. Nearly thirty years ago, while Claire and her infant brother slept upstairs, a brutal crime was committed in her family's townhouse. Her father's car was found abandoned near the English Channel the next morning, with bloodstains on the front seat. Her mother insisted she'd seen him in the house that night, but his powerful, privileged friends maintained his innocence. The first lord accused of murder in more than a century, he has been missing ever since. When the police tell Claire they've found her father, her carefully calibrated existence begins to fracture. She doesn't know if she's the daughter of a murderer or a wronged man. How far will she go to discover which? Berry does her own spin on the real life story of Lord Lucan, one yet to be, or probably never will be, played out. Read [Berry's essay](#) about the Lucan case.

The *NY Times* adds, "Berry tells stories about women who seethe over the knowledge of violence and are fueled by a howling grief for its victims. "Her prose can be as blistering as it is lush," according to Karen Valby's review. "The writing is rich and moody, without any unnecessary fuss. ... As desperate and consumed as our messy heroine may get in the process, Berry always lets her hold onto her humanity."

Bowen, Rhys. [Four Funerals and Maybe a Wedding](#) (Berkeley \$26). Our copies come with a special Wedding Invitation designed for us. Lady Georgie writes, "If only Darcy and I had eloped! What I thought would be a simple wedding has been transformed into a grand affair, thanks to the attendance of the queen, who has offered up the princesses as bridesmaids. Silly me! I thought that withdrawing from the royal line of succession would simplify my life. But before Darcy and I tie the knot in front of queen and country, we have to find a place to live as man and wife... House hunting turns out to be a pretty grim affair. Just as we start to lose hope, my globetrotting godfather offers us his fully staffed country estate. Mistress of Eynsleigh I shall be! With Darcy off in parts unknown, I head to Eynsleigh alone, only to have my hopes dashed. The grounds are in disarray and the small staff is suspiciously incompetent. Not to mention the gas tap leak in my bedroom, which I can only imagine was an attempt on my life. Something rotten is afoot—and bringing the place up to snuff may put me six feet under before I even get a chance to walk down the aisle..." This charming story will light up your August and, for you faithful followers, it wraps up any number of plot threads in pleasing ways. If you've missed reading [Her Royal Spyness' investigations](#), waste no time ordering them all.

Brandman, Michael. [One on One](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). When legendary Sheriff Burton Steel summoned his son Buddy home from LAPD Homicide, a reluctant Buddy agreed. Burton is debilitated by ALS, Lou Gehrig's disease. While Buddy is to cover Burton's back, not an assignment he wants, the clincher is it's his last chance to connect with his proud, overbearing parent. What Buddy didn't expect was to encounter crime in Freedom, a privileged coastal community a hundred miles north

of Los Angeles, as vicious and challenging as that of the city. Buddy did good work in [Missing Persons](#) (\$15.95). And now, one spring morning, the latest challenge erupts. The brutal murder of a prominent Freedom High School sports coach leads Buddy into a clandestine universe of sexual deception, play parties, unwitting athletes, over-privileged youths, treacherous bullies, and shocking malfeasance. At the same time, a sudden scourge of graffiti is disfiguring both public and private property, despoiling the beauty and serenity of Freedom's unassuming landscape. While he is determined to shut down the young graffer who is painting his art all over Freedom, work Buddy despises, he empathizes with the aspirations and rebelliousness of the young street artist. My co-editor Annette Rogers, says, "What I liked was the moment where Buddy compared the artist to himself, two young men trying for distance and individuality from their overbearing fathers. Buddy went the extra mile in finding a compassionate yet effective resolution." Meanwhile he has the larger crimes to crack. Also in large paperback: [One on One](#) (\$15.95).

Cantero, Edgar. [This Body's Not Big Enough for Both of Us](#) (Doubleday \$26.95) Twins Adrian Kimrean and Zooley Kimrean, the PI protagonists of this winning spoof, are collectively known as A.Z. Kimrean, since their personalities occupy the same body. They are polar opposites. Super cerebral Adrian has a high IQ and a photographic memory; Zooley is a creative type who paints, writes, and plays musical instruments—she's also a nymphomaniac. They maintain an office at San Francisco's Fisherman's Wharf, where one day Deputy Chief Llewelyn Carlyle of the SFPD arrives in need of a favor. Someone has killed the grown son of Victor Lyon, the supreme ruler of the San Carnal, Calif., drug cartel, and Lyon is about to start a gang war that could threaten police plans to bring down the cartel. A.Z. agrees to help out. Literary references (Bret Easton Ellis, John Grisham, and Ayn Rand in one sentence), clever quips and bad puns add to this spoof by the Barcelona author of bestseller [Meddling Kids](#) (\$16.95). Fun! "In A.Z. Kimrean, Cantero has written the funniest private investigator this side of Peter Sellers. How can you not love the warring siblings, opposites in a single body, as they outwit everyone they meet?" Think *The Pink Panther* when Sellers was at, IMHO, his best.

Coes, Ben. [Bloody Sunday](#) (St Martins \$26.95). Mark Greaney calls this "a propulsive read with enough plot hooks, twists, and action to fill five thrillers. Fans of Brad Thor, Vince Flynn, and Tom Clancy will tear through *Bloody Sunday* and close the book counting the days till Dewey's next adventure." The Real Book Spy opines: "Nobody has ridden a more scorching hot streak than Coes is right now since maybe Vince Flynn's impressive stretch of Mitch Rapp books about a decade ago. This book has it all, including nonstop action, plenty of humor, an amazing plot, and more than a few surprises stashed along the way. Coes' last four books have been incredible, but this one is his boldest, most daring thriller so far. North Korea, increasingly isolated from most of the rest of the world, is led by an absolute dictator and a madman with a major goal—he's determined to launch a nuclear attack on the United States. While they have built, and continue to successfully test nuclear bombs, North Korea has yet to develop

a ballistic missile with the range necessary to attack America. But their missiles are improving, reaching a point where the U.S. absolutely must respond. What the U.S. doesn't know is that North Korea has made a deal with Iran. In exchange for effective missiles from Iran, they will trade nuclear triggers and fissionable material. An exchange, if it goes through, that will create two new nuclear powers, both with dangerous plans. Dewey Andreas, still reeling from recent revelations about his own past, is ready to retire from the CIA. But he's the only available agent with the skills to carry out the CIA's plan to stop North Korea. The plan is to inject a singular designer poison into the head of the North Korean military and in exchange for the nuclear plans, provide him with the one existing dose of the antidote. But it goes awry when Dewey manages to inject a small amount of the poison into himself. I won't say more other than to commend Coes for his remarkable portrait of Kim Jong-un and the Supreme Leader's (fictional) mentor. Compelling stuff. This is Dewey's 8th and most propulsive mission. [Order all of them.](#)

Corbett, David. [The Long Lost Love Letters of Doc Holliday](#) (Blackstone \$15.95). Lisa Balamaro is an ambitious arts lawyer with a secret crush on her most intriguing client: former rodeo rider and reformed art forger, Tuck Mercer. In his newfound role as an expert in Old West artifacts, Tuck gains possession of the supposedly destroyed correspondence between Doc Holliday and his cousin and childhood sweetheart, Mattie—who would become Sister Mary Melanie of the Sisters of Mercy. Given the unlikelihood the letters can ever be fully authenticated, Tuck retains Lisa on behalf of the letters' owner, Rayella Vargas, to sell them on the black market. But the buyer Tuck finds, a duplicitous judge from the Tombstone area, has other, far more menacing ideas. As Lisa works feverishly to make things right, Rayella secretly enlists her ex-marine boyfriend in a daring scheme of her own. When the judge learns he's been blindsided, he rallies a cadre of armed men for a deadly standoff reminiscent of the moment in history that made Doc famous: The Gunfight at the OK Corral. Patrick adds, "An inventive re-imagining of history, a revealing look at the contentious world of black market historical memorabilia, with lots of sly nods to classic Western mythology. Corbett is a natural storyteller and he hits all the right notes here, molding genres seamlessly into an irresistible page-turner."

Gabaldon, Diana. [Seven Stones to Stand or Fall](#) (\$18). A collection of Outlander short fiction including two never-before-published novellas—featuring Jamie Fraser, Lord John Grey, Master Raymond, and many more.

Greenwood, T. [Rust and Stardust](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Library Reads, and I, call this terrific book, "Disturbing crime fiction based on real events that inspired Nabokov's *Lolita*." In Greenwood's set-up for this harrowing story, in 1948, lonely fifth grader Sally Horner from an impoverished home in Camden, NJ, resolved to commit a petty crime when the school mean girls tell her it's her passport to the in-crowd. It made her vulnerable to be kidnapped by a fifty-ish man, Frank LaSalle, fresh out of prison and set to make his move on Sally by pretending to be an FBI Agent who can have her arrested. Sally eventually breaks free after two years forced to travel with Frank across country to San Jose, but her life is forever stunted, the stuff of tragedy. Greenwood tells the story in Sally's voice, adding immediacy. "Yet grace touches this dark tale, too, in the form of genuinely kind

characters whose concern is a balm to the difficult events of the book—including Sally's brother-in-law, whose dogged determination to find Sally drives the search, and a neighbor who turns out to be a lifeline. Greenwood's story will spellbind readers as the terrors mounts." **It will be fascinating to read this novel and then Sarah Weinman's much praised account of Sally's kidnapping in [The Real Lolita](#) (Ecco \$27.99), to be signed here September 27. For anyone interested in writing (and reading) fiction vs. nonfiction, this is a rare and instructive opportunity to compare two new books side by side.**

Hamilton, Steve. [Dead Man Running](#) (Putnam \$26). Our **August Thriller Club Pick**, the 11th Alex McKnight, gets this Starred Review: "Why would a scarily intelligent serial killer allow himself to be caught? That's the enigma at the center of Edgar-winner Hamilton's brilliant 11th Alex McKnight thriller. Thanks to a home surveillance system, robotics engineer Martin Livermore, a necrophiliac who's eluded the law, is spotted abusing a corpse in the Arizona home of a couple vacationing in Europe. It's unclear whether he murdered the victim before or after he brought her to the house. As Livermore's m.o. is to return to where he left his victim, FBI agent Roger Halliday leaves the cadaver in place and later arrests Livermore when he goes back to the scene of his crime. The FBI brings in McKnight, a retired Detroit police officer who now works as a bounty hunter in Michigan, after Livermore discloses that he knew about the surveillance system and that he will provide details only to McKnight about another potential victim, who, at least for now, is still alive. McKnight, who has never heard of Livermore, has no idea why the killer requested his involvement. The plot develops in multiple unexpected directions, and its logical convolutions are matched by Hamilton's deepening portrayal of his fully realized lead. Fans of serial killer fiction won't want to miss this one." It's not the McKnight of old, and makes it fun to speculate where he will go from here, if he survives.... Hamilton is a two-time Edgar winner, his first being Alex's debut in [A Cold Day in Paradise](#) (\$16.99).

Joy, David. [The Line That Held Us](#) (Penguin \$27). Joy pulls no punches in this stark and violent examination of sacrifice and suffering. "Think *No Country for Old Men* meets *There Will Be Blood*—*The Line that Held Us* is beautifully written, perfectly executed, and breathtakingly violent." Two poachers, both trespassing on private land, accidentally cross paths, kicking off this killer plot. Set in North Carolina just before fall, the story opens with Darl Moody, a simple man who doesn't give "a wet sack of sh-t what the state considered poaching." Annoyed by hunting laws, which barely allow men like him who are just trying to feed his family provide a little meat for the dinner table, Darl sets out a few hours before dark to poach wild game. Instead, he accidentally kills a man. While Darl was hunting out of season, Carol "Sissy" Brewer was stealing ginseng. Tragically, Moody mistakenly thought Carol was a boar. Thinking back to the time a father and son nailed a 580-pound hog just inside Transylvania County, netting them more than 150 pounds of meat, Darl was ripe with excitement, stalking the animal through the woods before finally taking a shot with his cheap rifle. Darl hit his target, amazing even himself, but quickly realized his mistake when he went to find the boar and instead found Carol sprawled out on the ground, dead. On one hand, neither of the men were supposed to be there, and both were in violation of the law. There's a good chance that

Darl would be charged with nothing more than poaching, even though he accidentally shot and killed Carol, who was rooting around on all fours. On the other hand, Darl knows that Carol's big brother, Dwayne, is not the type to let such a mistake go unpunished. Fearing not only for his own safety but also for his mother, sister, nieces, and nephews, Darl calls his best friend, Calvin Hooper, to help him out. Together, under the cover of darkness, Darl and Calvin dig a grave and toss Carol's mangled body inside it. The sunrise hours later brings a new day and with it new problems for Darl. Just as he predicted, Dwayne Brewer, a big man with a short fuse who is quick to violence, begins investigating his brother's absence." I lost track of where I read this zinger of a review—I think credit goes to the Real Book Spy.

Kearsley, Susan. [Bellewether](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). "RITA Award-winning author Kearsley pens a captivating tale of a Long Island family caught up in the tumultuous events of the French and Indian War (1754–63) that culminated in the fall of French Canada to the British. The narrative is told from the point of view of three individuals: Lydia and Jean-Philippe, a captured French Canadian soldier billeted with Lydia's family, and present-day curator Charley, who is establishing Lydia's home as a museum. Kearsley skillfully creates an atmosphere of parallel times between past and present by connecting a random object from the end of each of Charley's present-day chapters to a like object at the start of the succeeding chapter belonging to Lydia or Jean-Philippe. This magical feeling is enhanced by the ghostly presence that Charley encounters at the museum site and the legends she learns about the ill-fated lovers. Rich characterizations and vivid historical flavor will keep readers enthralled in both past and present story lines. Highly recommended for Kearsley's many admirers and fans of romantic dual-time historical fiction."—*LJ*. "I'm drawn to the subject matter of a book because I'm personally fascinated," Kearsley says. "If I happen to pass on some of what I've learned to my readers, then that's a bonus." To learn more about Long Island during the French and Indian War, Kearsley made many weekend research trips to New York. Her background in museum curating deeply informed that exploratory process. In addition to seeking out primary sources such as original letters, journals, and wills, the author contacted period experts. Kearsley was also conscientious about the words she used in *Bellewether*. "Working in museums taught me to be mindful of the power of small choices," Kearsley says. "Curators influence how we preserve and view the past by choosing what to keep, what to discard, what to display, and what to tuck away in storage, out of sight. And writers, too, make choices that can influence the way their readers view someone or imagine what the past looked like. I won't make a real-life person a villain or a saint without good evidence or change the outcome of a real event."

Library Reads adds of our **August History Paperback Pick**: "A character-driven story with a nice surprise twist, this gothic-style fiction, set on Long Island, will not disappoint Kearsley's many fans. Readers who enjoy good doses of romance, history, and magic will be pleased." I am crazy about her work: [order it all](#) for wonderful trips into the past with parallels in the present. Diana Gabaldon is a fan too which is why she will be hosting Kearsley on August 10.

Krueger, William Kent. [Desolation Mountain](#) (Atria \$26). All his life, Stephen O'Connor has had visions of tragedies to come.

When he experiences the vision of a great bird shot from the sky, he knows something terrible is about to happen. The crash of a private plane on Desolation Mountain in a remote part of the Iron Lake Reservation, which kills a United States senator and most of her family, confirms Stephen's worst fears. Stephen joins his father, Cork O'Connor, and a few Ojibwe men from the nearby Iron Lake reservation to sift through the smoldering wreckage when the FBI arrives and quickly assumes control of the situation. What seems like the end of the O'Connors' involvement is, however, only the beginning of a harrowing journey to understand the truth behind the Senator's death and the mysterious disappearances of several first responders to the crash site. As he initiates his own probe, Cork O'Connor stumbles upon a familiar face.... Krueger delivers yet another "punch-to-the-gut blend of detective story and investigative fiction" as Cork and his son Stephen work together to uncover the several truths and agendas at play in a thriller that blends PI work with that of various agencies. Plus a character I've always liked from a standalone Krueger returns. It all evokes Fake News. And, by coincidence, pairs perfectly with T Jeff Parker's new book of similar ilk, so we have lots to discuss on August 20 together. If you haven't read the [first 16 O'Connors](#), don't delay ordering them up.

Luloff, Joanna. [Remind Me Again What Happened](#) (Algonquin \$26.95). If I had read this gripping novel, our **August Modern Firsts Pick**, before traveling to Myanmar, I'd never have passed up the Japanese encephalitis vaccine. What a horrible disease. It's the one that strikes Claire, a journalist, while on assignment in India. She wakes up in a Florida hospital room with no clue how she got there, or why, and paralyzed by the severe loss of memories. The best she can do as she slowly gains some strength is piece together her life through old photos saved by Charlie, her husband, and her best friend Rachel. Augmented by old letters, casual jottings, and the odd recollection, her fragmented brain wants to create a narrative but senses a mystery at the heart of her past and a feeling that a piece of it is not complete. Is Charlie still her husband? Is Rachel still her friend? And as we hear bits of the story from the two of them, we are pulled into all three minds until the smudge clears, and the choices as well. A most unusual novel that reminds me some of the Youngson *Meet Me at the Museum*, reviewed in New Books, in pulling you into lives, losses, loves, and the choice to start over—but Luloff is more provocative than inspirational.

MacNeal, Susan Elia. [The Prisoner in the Castle](#) (Bantam \$26). John Charles reviews: Forbidden Island is where the British Special Operations Executive (SOE) sends all of its problems. Of course, the SOE doesn't tell the agents it sends there the truth, but instead tells these future prisoners that they are being sent to the out-of-the-way island off the coast of Scotland for "special training." As the SOE's latest problem, Maggie Hope hates being on Forbidden Island. Maggie wants to be back in the thick of things doing her part to help win the war for the Allies instead of spending her days slowly being driven mad by boredom. However, any thoughts of ennui are soon banished when first one, then another, and then another of the small group of carefully trained agents on Forbidden Island begin dying. The Prisoner in the Castle, the eight stellar addition to MacNeal's exceptional Maggie Hope series, is another literary tour de force. From the book's perfectly calibrated plot to its incisively etched characters, everything is handled with perfect finesse by the author. Agatha

Christie fans will especially appreciate the deft way in which MacNeal tips her cap to the Queen of Crime's [And Then There Were None](#) (\$14.99), and the inventive manner in which MacNeal utilizes that classic mystery as inspiration for her own cleverly crafted storyline. [Order the whole series.](#)

Owens, Delia. [Where the Crawdads Sing](#) (Putnam \$26). Our **September First Mystery Club Pick**, one that could as well be a **Modern Firsts Club Pick**, gets an Indie Next Pick: "*Where the Crawdads Sing* is a stunning and beautiful novel that readers will want to simultaneously savor and devour with every luxurious word. You'll hear the gulls cry on the beach through these pages, you'll see the light flickering through the marsh trees, you'll smell the homemade grits sizzling on the stovetop. Your heart will ache for the lonely marsh girl and your wheels will start turning when a body is discovered, but you'll never regret reading this gorgeous novel." Wow, for sure—it's one of the most impressive fiction debuts I've been lucky enough to read. **My highest recommendation!**

In Owens's evocative debut, Kya Clark is a young woman growing up practically on her own in the wild marshes outside Barkley Cove, a small coastal community in North Carolina. In 1969, local lothario Chase Andrews is found dead, and Kya, now 23 and known as the "Marsh Girl," is suspected of his murder. As the local sheriff and his deputy gather evidence against her, the narrative flashes back to 1952 to tell Kya's story. Abandoned at a young age by her mother, she is left in the care of her hard-drinking father. Unable to fit in at school, Kya grows up ignorant until a shrimper's son, Tate Walker, befriends her and teaches her how to read. After Tate goes off to college, Kya meets Chase, with whom she begins a tempestuous relationship. The novel culminates in a long trial, with Kya's fate hanging in the balance. Kya makes for an unforgettable heroine. Owens memorably depicts the small-town drama and courtroom theatrics, but perhaps best of all is her vivid portrayal of the singular North Carolina setting.

Parker, T Jefferson. [Swift Vengeance](#) (Putnam \$27). Lindsey Rakes, the troubled woman at the center of bestseller Parker's terrific sequel to 2017's [The Room of White Fire](#) (\$9.99), was once part of a team of U.S.-based drone operators attacking terrorists 7,500 miles away. The psychological toll of the work eventually sent her into a tailspin of drinking and gambling that cost her her family, but she's now recovering. When Lindsey receives a death threat in the mail from someone who calls himself Caliphornia, she shares it with series lead Roland Ford, a San Diego, Calif., PI. Ford enlists the help of FBI agent Joan Taucher, who worries that the threat comes from "homegrown violent extremists." The stakes rapidly rise after one of Lindsey's former colleagues in Bakersfield is beheaded. The hunt for Caliphornia is suspenseful, the backstory behind the threats is disturbingly horrible, and the denouement is scary and satisfying. Parker deepens the narrative with musings on Ford's life, the horrors and ambiguities of the war on terror, and the fine line between justice and vengeance."—*PW* Starred Review. **Pairing Parker and this book with Krueger on August 20 was, I say modestly, a stroke of genius! There is so much to discuss including the blend of private eye work with a kind of military fiction, creating two thrillers of an unconventional stripe.**

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Trust Me](#) (Forge \$26.95). Hank is thrilled with this line from the *Booklist* Starred Review: "This is the first stand-alone for Ryan, author of the Jane Ryland–Jake Brogan

mystery series, and it's a knockout. Truth is elusive here, as the plot twists, driven by guilt and desperation, and tension grows. First-rate psychological suspense." Grief-stricken journalist Mercer Hennessey believes there are "no more good days" after her husband and three-year-old daughter die in a car crash, until she's assigned to write a true crime book about the Baby Boston murder trial. She gains a renewed sense of purpose—to avenge two-year-old Tasha Nicole Bryant, whose body was dumped in Boston harbor. Tasha Nicole's mother, Ashlyn Bryant, is accused of her daughter's murder, and Mercer is sure she's guilty. But when Ashlyn is found not guilty, Mercer must write a redemption story instead. After spending time with Ashlyn, Mercer begins to wonder whether Ashlyn is in fact innocent—and whether the book will be Ashlyn's redemption story—or her own. *PW* notes, "Ryan casts a revealing light on media sensationalism, ethics in journalism, and the nature of truth."

Scottoline, Lisa. [Feared](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Scottoline has signed a new book contract which includes an historical or two. So Rosato & DiNunzio will go on hiatus for awhile. This is a terrific send off: hilarious (Mary is very pregnant) and scary (the law firm proves to be under attack in sinister and surprising ways). Scottoline proves herself a master of clever plotting, legal fireworks, and vivid characters including Mary's boisterous Italian family. This nail-biter (I was really worried about Bennie, Judy, and Mary all the way through) will light up your August as will Lisa's always hilarious presentation. It was SRO last August so don't miss this firecracker evening August 13.

Wohlsdorf, Gina. [Blood Highway](#) (Algonquin \$16.95). Rainy Katherine Cain is a preternaturally smart 17-year-old who lives in Minneapolis—or rather has developed a survival strategy designed to get her through high school and off into her own life—with her mother, a cancer nurse. Who experienced a psychotic break and is insane. Mom literally refuses to admit Rainy exists. One day Rainy comes home from school to discover Mom has committed suicide. Soon afterward, she's kidnapped by Sam, her supposedly dead father, who has escaped from prison so he can grab her and the \$3 million he believes her mother hid away from a robbery. They embark on a horrific odyssey that eventually takes them to the woods in Northern California. A sadistic psychopath, Sam alternates between crooning to his "Kat" that he just wants to take care of her, and robbing and murdering people they run across. Sergeant Blaine, a Minneapolis police detective with baggage of his own, befriended Rainy before mom's death. He follows her as best he can—why, you will ask—but things keep getting worse. This crackling tale mesmerized me, Rob, and Patrick and makes our **August Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** because we don't have a category for Crazy Crimes. In its Starred Review *PW* agrees: "This intense story can be painful to read, but it's more than worth the ride." There are several amazing novels for August featuring bad parenting, kids adept at surviving, damaged or insane adults, and hidden crimes. See Delia Owen above for another stellar example.

SIGNED BOOKS

Abbott, Megan. [Give Me Your Hand](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Abbott, who always immerses readers in hothouse subcultures in her novels — like cheerleading, gymnastics — here explores the relationship between competitive scientists at a cutthroat university laboratory. "The reason to read this compelling and hypnotic

novel is not the execution of the plot or the sleight-of-hand final revelation,” Ruth Ware writes in her review. “What makes it stand out is Abbott’s expert dissection of women’s friendships and rivalries.” Abbott sows suspense by shifting between past and present, the present being in the lab of the brilliant scientist who inspired Kit Owens’ career where she is hoping for a sport on a career-making research project. Her high school friend Diane Fleming once confided a terrible secret to her. Will Kit now betray Diane to advance her prospects? Or....?

Atkins, Ace. [The Sinners](#) (Putnam \$27). The latest crime novel featuring Sheriff Quinn Colson revolves around a high-end marijuana operation, Fannie Hathcock’s thriving strip joint/brothel and a crooked trucking outfit based in Tupelo, Miss., that cons drivers into hauling stolen goods across state lines into Louisiana, a land of lush landscapes and exotic place names like Turtle Bayou, Lake Charles, Breaux Bridge, the Atchafalaya River. “If you’re a romantic,” Marilyn Stasio writes in her crime column in the *NY Times*, “just reading these luscious names can make you smell the wisteria, feel the breeze and melt into the scenery.”

Atkinson, Kate. [Transcription](#) (Doubleday UK \$54). “Think of it as an adventure,” Perry had said right at the beginning of all this. And it had seemed like one. A bit of a lark, she had thought. A Girls’ Own adventure.” Is it ever possible to transcend the choices of the past? In this superb new novel, it’s 1940 when Juliet Armstrong is recruited into the British intelligence service, MI5.... See more in More Summer of Spies.

Barclay, Linwood. [A Noise Downstairs](#) (Harper \$26.99). The *NY Times* writes, Paul Davis, a nerdy professor at West Haven



College in Connecticut, has the bad luck to come across Kenneth Hoffman, a fellow faculty member, trying to dispose of the bodies of two women. Some months later, Hoffman is in prison and Davis is having nightmares and headaches from his close encounter with a murderer. His wife, Charlotte, tries to curb his morbid fancies by bringing home an antique typewriter that proves to be an amusing distraction. Until the machine starts typing notes from the two murdered women. Before he sends Davis around the bend, Barclay places his protagonist in the kind of normal suburban situations we expect from this author - playing squash with a friend, getting breakfast for his son, consulting a shrink. Don’t turn your back on any of these guys.” For sure! No wonder this is our August Surprise Me! Club Pick.

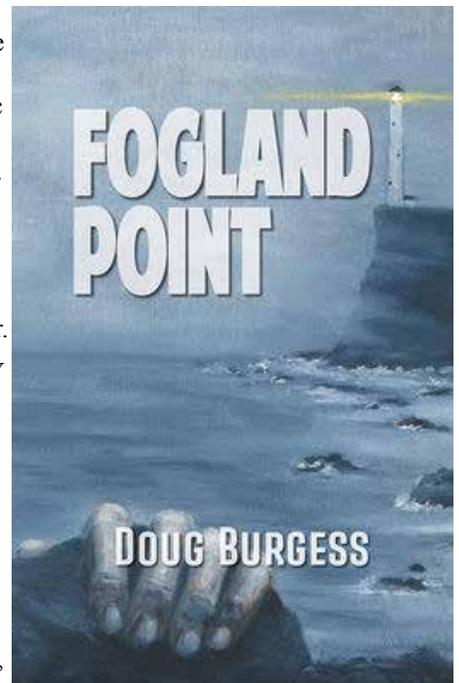
☞Booth, Stephen. [Fall Down Dead](#) (LittleBrown UK \$44). “Almost before she’d stopped breathing, a swirl of mist snaked across her legs and settled in her hair, clutching her in its chilly embrace, hiding her body from view. It would be hours before

she was found.” The mountain of Kinder Scout offers the most incredible views of the Peak District, but when thick fog descends there on a walking party led by enigmatic Darius Roth, this spectacular landscape is turned into a death trap that claims a life. For DI Ben Cooper however, something about the way Faith Matthew fell to her death suggests it was no accident, and he quickly discovers more than one of the hikers may have had reason to murder their companion. To make things worse, his old colleague DS Diane Fry finds herself at centre of an internal investigations storm that threatens to drag Cooper down with it. Booth’s long-running series is brim full of the Peaks’ special atmosphere and intricately plotted.

☞Brook, Elizabeth. [The Call of the Curlew](#) (Doubleday UK \$32). Virginia Wrathmell has always known she will meet her death on the marsh. And so she does. One snowy New Year’s Eve, at the age of eighty-six, Virginia feels the time has finally come. New Year’s Eve, 1939. Virginia is ten, an orphan arriving to meet her new parents at their mysterious house, Salt Winds. Her new home sits on the edge of a vast marsh, a beautiful but dangerous place. War feels far away out here amongst the birds and shifting sands - until the day a German fighter plane crashes into the marsh. The people at Salt Winds are the only ones to see it. What happens next is something Virginia will regret for the next 75 years, and which will change the whole course of her life. A novel likened “to *Rebecca* and *Jane Eyre*,” filled with wonderful atmosphere and of course, there’s the house!

Burgess, Doug. [Fogland Point](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Our **August First Mystery Club Pick** has earned rave reviews from authors, booksellers, and the media. I love it. Murders. Dementia. An unusual love story. And pirates! David Hazard wanted nothing more than to forget his renegade family of ship wreckers and the little New England village where he grew up. When sudden tragedy brings him back to care for his ailing grandmother he discovers her fragile memories may hold the key to a bizarre mystery half a century old. But can he trust her recollections, especially when they seem to implicate those closest to her? Then on Halloween an eccentric millionaire’s yacht disappears into the fog, and Grandma’s stories come vividly to life, setting off a chain of events both horrifying and hauntingly familiar.

Here’s the *PW* Starred Review for our **August First Mystery Club Pick**: According to history professor David Hazard, the sly narrator of Burgess’s masterly first novel, nothing ever happens in Little Compton, R.I., his hometown, but he’s soon proved wrong after he sets out from Boston on receiving a garbled phone message from his Grandma Maggie claiming



that she found a body. David doubts there's been a murder, but he fears that Maggie's dementia is worsening. As he puts it, "in Maggie Hazard's cockeyed world it could be high noon or three a.m., yesterday or 1957. Walking through the front door is like coming upon a play mid-scene." When David arrives in Little Compton, he discovers Maggie's best friend and next-door neighbor, Emma, is indeed lying dead on her kitchen floor. Was Emma murdered? Was Grandma remembering another incident? And who is wealthy Marcus Rhinegold, whose sudden appearance in town has started tongues wagging? In his search for answers, David stumbles on more family secrets than he could ever have imagined. Elegant prose, a veritable Chinese box of puzzles, and authentic, well-rounded characters make this a standout.

De Castrique, Mark. [Secret Undertaking](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). Out in August, Signed September 2. This is a very clever (and sneaky) plot. Barry Clayton runs the only funeral home in Gainesboro while working part-time as Sheriff Tommy Lee Wadkins' deputy. He's wearing his lawman's hat when his lifelong antagonist, Archie Donovan Jr., approaches him with a dubious charitable scheme: Archie wants to be arrested during the Apple Festival Parade so he can raise bail, the proceeds to go to the local Boys and Girls Club. Naturally, the gesture will also be good for Archie's insurance business. But the parade is marred by a shooting—the Commissioner of Agriculture is injured, and Barry's beloved Uncle Wayne is gravely wounded as he tries to wrestle the gun away from the shooter. The shooter's son is soon found dead in his trailer, a clean shot to the head, and Barry realizes he's dealing with something a lot bigger than a spur-of-the-moment killing. Unraveling the complicated case requires him to collaborate with slick Archie and fend off the intrusions of multiple state and federal law enforcement agencies. "The hero's easy charm in his seventh case makes the reader feel like a longtime Gainesboro resident and a sleuthing sidekick."—*Kirkus Reviews* on a series I recommend to all fans of Margaret Maron and of Sharyn McCrumb's *Ballad Series*. You can [order a full set](#) of Barry's engrossing investigations—they aren't folksy, as the tag line "Buryin' Barry" suggests.

Dewitt, Patrick. [French Exit](#) (Harper \$25.99). DeWitt pens a pithy tragicomedy touched by the absurd—a Paris escape that sounds like a fantasy come true, with touches of unrest creeping into the idyll and pricking the heart. *Bon vivant* widow and devout cynic Frances Price and her codependent adult son, Malcolm, are out on the streets of Manhattan after their inheritance runs out. The family's financier recommends selling their possessions and using the profits to start over, but Frances has "never generated money, but only spent it." After the liquidation of their assets, mother and son quietly sneak out of their suites at the Four Seasons without paying their bill and skip the country on a passenger ship bound for France. Malcolm leaves behind his fiancée, Susan, who still loves him even though she admits he's a "pile of American garbage" and a "lugubrious toddler" who will always choose his mother first. Frances leaves behind a scandal surrounding her seemingly callous reaction to the death of husband Frank years ago. With them comes Small Frank, a housecat who houses Frank's spirit, according to Frances. Crashing at the vacant apartment of Frances's best friend, Joan, the Prices grapple with ennui, existential crises, and the unwanted friendship of lonely expat Mme Reynard, whose kindness falls

on the Prices' ears like a foreign language. When Small Frank goes missing, the resultant panic beckons a host of houseguests including a private investigator, a clairvoyant, and a doctor who brings his winemonger on house calls. "*French Exit* is a one-of-a-kind 'tragedy of manners,' a send-up of high society, as well as a moving mother/son caper." And in the long tradition of French farce which has always had bite.

Easley, Warren. [Moving Targets](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Out in August, Signed September 2. "Warren Easley delivers another humdinger of a tale featuring the City of Roses. But there's so much more to like about this story than just its evocative Portland setting. Cal Claxton is a guy worth rooting for, and the gang who aid him in solving the complex and dangerous mystery involved are a fun bunch to follow. If you're not familiar with these gems out of Oregon, now's the perfect time to give Warren Easley and Cal Claxton a try. You won't be disappointed."—William Kent Krueger. "Cal treats everyone with the respect and consideration they deserve, but wrongdoers get exactly what's coming to them. Intelligent dialogue, evocative descriptions of the Oregon landscape, and sly pokes at the current cultural climate make this a winner."—*PW*. Easley has become the Bard of Portland so excellent are his portraits of the city and its rural surroundings in this series. [Order the whole set](#).

Frear, Caz. [Sweet Little Lies](#) (Harper \$26.99). Out now, Signed here as our **September Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** on September 15. This debut about an Irish cop with huge baggage working a dark beat in Islington for the Metropolitan Police, is *Brit Noir*. It earns a Starred Review: "Detective Constable Cat Kinsella, the heroine of British author Frear's taut, psychologically twisted debut, always suspected that her father, Michael McBride, knew more than he let on about the disappearance of Maryanne Doyle, a teenager who went missing in 1998 when eight-year-old Kinsella and her family were on vacation in Mulderrin, Ireland. For one thing, Michael, a serial adulterer, was seen with Maryanne but later lied to the police about having had any contact with her. In 2016, Alice Lapaine, a part-time pub chef, is found murdered near the London pub frequented by Kinsella's father... As the case takes its own twists and unexpected turns, just as fascinating are the mental gymnastics that Kinsella performs in an effort to keep her personal and professional lives from colliding..." More in September. Recommended to our First Mystery Club as well.

Goldberg, Leonard. [A Study in Treason](#) (St Martins \$26.99—only half a dozen left so...). On the eve of WWI, Sir Harold Whitlock, First Sea Lord, asks Joanna Blalock, whom we now know is the daughter of Sherlock Holmes and Irene Adler, for help in finding a sensitive document that has disappeared from a locked room on the foreign secretary's estate. The police suspect the butler's son and the German-born groundskeeper of colluding to sell the document to the Germans, but a careful examination of the clues leads Joanna to conclude otherwise. In Goldberg's telling, Holmes died in 1903, and Joanna is married to John Watson Jr., M.D., the son of Holmes's original sidekick, Dr. Watson, who's still around to point out the similarities between Joanna and her late detective father. "Avid Sherlockians will be delighted by the many echoes of the original Holmes canon, from the dog who did not bark to Joanna's unlikely disguises and knack for martial arts." Start with [The Daughter of Sherlock Holmes](#) (\$16).

Gould, Howard M. [Last Looks](#) (Dutton \$26). “*Last Looks* is more than just a fun ride—it’s a new spin on a Hollywood P.I. mystery. With a blend of humor and suspense that calls to mind Harlan Coben and Robert Crais, Howard Michael Gould brings to life the quirky Charlie Waldo, a former cop confined to 100 worldly possessions and the claustrophobia of his own guilt over a former case gone bad. His journey back to the world is a ride well worth taking.”—Gregg Hurwitz. “Gripping, smart and funny, *Last Looks* features a wholly new and compelling hero in former detective-turned-PI Charlie Waldo. With razor sharp dialogue, hardboiled intrigue, and a plot that hums along at high speed, Howard Michael Gould’s remarkable debut thriller is not to be missed.”—Harlan Coben

✎Gregory, Susann. [Intrigue in Covent Garden](#) (LittleBrown \$44). By January 1666, the plague has almost disappeared from London, leaving its surviving population diminished and in poverty. The resentment against those who had fled to the country turns to outrage as the court and its followers return, their licentiousness undiminished. The death of a well-connected physician, the mysterious sinking of a man-of-war in the Thames and the disappearance of a popular courtier are causing concern to Thomas Chaloner’s employer. When instructed to investigate them all, he is irritated that he is prevented from gaining intelligence on the military preparations of the Dutch. Then he discovers common threads in all the cases, which seem linked to those planning to set a match to the powder keg of rebellion in the city. All this as a ferocious winter storm causes serious damage to London’s fabric.

Haig, Matt. [Notes on a Nervous Planet](#) (Canongate \$32). British bestseller Haig visited us in February to sign that month’s Modern First Editions Club [How to Stop Time](#) (Penguin \$26—Signed copies sold out long ago). So we have a few imported copies of his very personal look at how to feel happy and human...and whole. The world is messing with our minds. Rates of stress and anxiety are rising. A fast, nervous planet is creating fast and nervous lives. We are more connected, yet feel more alone. And we are encouraged to worry about everything from world politics to our body mass index. How can we stay sane on a planet that makes us mad? How do we stay human in a technological world? How do we feel happy when we are encouraged to be anxious? After experiencing years of anxiety and panic attacks, these questions became urgent matters of life and death for Matt Haig, who discussed his mental and emotional crisis with us. August is a month of novels looking at mental illnesses and survival strategies—I can’t say enough about the value in reading Delia Owens and Gena Wohlsdorf, also Joanna Luloff and Hank Philippi Ryan, among other writers with August releases.

✎Hannah, Sophie. [The Mystery of Three Quarters](#) (Harper \$27.99). Returning home after lunch one day, Hercule Poirot finds an angry woman waiting outside his front door. She demands to know why Poirot has sent her a letter accusing her of the murder of Barnabas Pandey, a man she has neither heard of nor ever met. Poirot has also never heard of a Barnabas Pandey, and has accused nobody of murder. Shaken, he goes inside, only to find that he has a visitor waiting for him — a man who also claims also to have received a letter from Poirot that morning, accusing him of the murder of Barnabas Pandey. Poirot wonders how many more letters of this sort have been sent in his name. Who sent them, and why? More importantly, who is Barnabas

Pandey, is he dead, and, if so, was he murdered? And can Poirot find out the answers without putting more lives in danger? This book will be available at our September 2 Agatha Christie Tea at The Poisoned Pen Conference and any left over on sale thereafter. You can order the Signed UK Edition which won’t arrive until sometime in September: [The Mystery of Three Quarters UK Edition](#) (Harper \$46)

Hart, Elsa. [City of Ink](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Out in August, signed here Sept. 10 with Boyd Morrison interviewing Hart. Here’s the *PW* Starred Review: “Hart’s superb third novel set in 18th-century China finds librarian Li Du back in Beijing after a period of exile. As the secretary to Chief Inspector Sun, he transcribes witness statements and performs other clerical duties. When two bodies are found in a tile factory office with their throats slit, Li Du accompanies his boss to the scene. The victims are Madam Hong, whose husband, Hong, owns the factory, and Pan Yongfa, an employee of the Ministry of Rites, responsible for negotiating contracts with Hong and inspecting the quality of the work being done. The proximity of the corpses to each other leads Sun to suspect that they were discovered *in flagrante delicto* by Hong, who murdered them in a jealous rage—a motive that under Chinese law serves as an absolute defense. Hong refuses to confess, however, and Li Du, who suspects that the case is much less straightforward than it appears, investigates on his own. As always, Hart excels at making even walk-on characters fully realized and at combining a gripping whodunit plot with a vivid evocation of the period. This entry solidifies her status as a top-notch historical mystery author.” Prep by reading Hart’s first two for Li-Du: [Jade Dragon Mountain and The White Mirror](#).

Hewson, David. [The Savage Shore](#) (Severn \$44). Roman police detective Nic Costa has been sent undercover to Italy’s beautiful, remote Calabrian coast to bring in the head of the feared mob, the ‘Ndrangheta, who has offered to turn state witness for reasons of his own. Hoping to reel in the biggest prize the state police have seen in years, the infamous Butcher of Palermo, Costa and his team are aware the stakes are high. But the constant deception is taking its toll. Out of their depth in a lawless part of Italy where they are the outcasts, not the men in the hills, with their shotguns and rough justice, the detectives find themselves pitched as much against one another as the mob. As the tension rises, it’s clear the operation is not going to plan. 10th in a series I absolutely loved when published in the US so I’m pleased to see Hewson giving it new life.

Keller, Julia. [Bone on Bone](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Out August 27, Signed here September 11. *PW* Stars it: “The inhabitants of the dying town of Acker’s Gap, West Virginia, face only bleak prospects in Keller’s beautifully written seventh Bell Elkins novel. Adults close themselves off emotionally, clutching their despair, while young people are likely to slip into hopeless drug addiction—or dealing. Wheelchair-bound former sheriff’s deputy Jake Oakes and just-out-of-prison former prosecutor Bell, who was put behind bars after confessing to her abusive father’s murder, also appear to have no useful futures, but they get a new focus by investigating the shooting murder of banker Brett Topping. The police question Topping’s 19-year-old drug-addicted son, Tyler, but once Tyler is cleared, along with his ultraviolent dealer, Deke Foley, suspicion shifts to more seemingly wholesome members of the community. Despite the pervading melancholy, characters stubbornly struggle to rediscover purpose for their lives and

to pin down responsibility for personal failures. This thoughtful, painfully empathetic story will long linger in the reader's memory." If you haven't read Keller the best place to start is with the first Bell, [A Killing in the Hills](#) (\$9.99).

Kellerman, Faye. [Walking Shadows](#) (Morrow \$29). An unwelcome discovery on the grounds of an empty house brings Detective Peter Decker, who retired from the LAPD, to the allegedly quiet town of Greenbury, New York, up against a criminal plot that stretches back 20 years. The thrill-seeking kids who smashed seven mailboxes on Canterbury Lane admit under questioning that they found the body of Brady Neil in the yard of an absent vacationer before Decker did but insist they didn't kill him even though he also seems to have been attacked with a baseball bat. Since Decker's not about to credit the punks with either the animus or the enterprise to have clubbed Brady to death, he has to look elsewhere. And there are so many places to look that Decker's soon ruefully observing, "Sometimes crimes have too few pieces to solve. I have too many." When Decker learns that Neil's father was doing time for a double homicide, he probes whether the bludgeoning was somehow connected with those murders. Enjoy spending time with old friend Pete and his wife Rina Lazarus whose latest case publishes at the end of August, so expect a bit of a delay to September. IMHO Kellerman's first mystery, [The Ritual Bath](#) (\$9.99), introducing Rina, is a classic.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [A Measure of Darkness](#) (Random \$28.99). "You could drive yourself crazy trying to figure out who wrote what... but whoever came up with the fine line, 'When I meet new people, they're usually dead,' should pat himself on the back."—*The New York Times Book Review* on [Crime Scene](#) (\$9.99; 2 Signed Firsts also), the first for Alameda County Coroner's Deputy Clay Edison. In this sequel, when a West Oakland party gets violent, Edison gets a call. The bad news: several people are dead. The victims include a six-year-old boy, who was struck by a stray bullet while sleeping in his bed, and a female pedestrian, seemingly accidentally dragged to her death by a car. The really bad news: there's a victim no one can identify, and she's been strangled instead of shot. A new baby precludes the father and son from joining us this August, **so we have a custom bookplate signed by Jon to go into books actually signed by Jesse for you.**

✎Kernick, Simon. [Dead Man's Gift and Other Stories](#) (Random UK \$32). MP Tim Horton arrives home to find his seven year old son has been abducted by a ruthless gang of kidnapers. All they have left behind is the brutally murdered body of the Horton's nanny. The gang's demands are simple: Tim must sacrifice his own life in order to save his son's. It's the ultimate dead man's gift ... This plus our more short thrillers.

Larison, John. [Whiskey When We're Dry](#) (Penguin \$26). This is a MAYBE SIGNED—Patrick is working on it and in any case, is wildly enthused over this novel. In the spring of 1885, seventeen-year-old Jessilyn Harney finds herself orphaned and alone on her family's homestead. Desperate to fend off starvation and predatory neighbors, she cuts off her hair, binds her chest, saddles her beloved mare, and sets off across the mountains to find her outlaw brother Noah and bring him home. A talented sharpshooter herself, Jess's quest lands her in the employ of the territory's violent, capricious Governor, whose militia is also hunting Noah—dead or alive. Wrestling with her brother's

outlaw identity, and haunted by questions about her own, Jess must outmaneuver those who underestimate her, ultimately rising to become a hero in her own right. "A thunderclap of originality, here is a fresh voice and fresh take on one of the oldest stories we tell about ourselves as Americans and Westerners. It's riveting in all the right ways."—Timothy Egan

Mazzola, Anna. [The Story Keeper](#) (Tinder \$39). A wonderful combination of a thrilling mystery and a perfectly depicted period piece makes our **August History/Mystery Pick** although it publishes the end of July. I picked it in part because Rob and I are mad for the TV Series *Shetland* based on Ann Cleeves' Gold-Dagger winning novels. Audrey Hart is on the Isle of Skye to collect the word-of-mouth folk tales of the people and communities around her. It is 1857, the Highland Clearances have left devastation and poverty, and the crofters are suspicious and hostile, claiming they no longer know their stories. Then Audrey discovers the body of a young girl washed up on the beach and the crofters tell her that it is only a matter of weeks since another girl has disappeared. They believe the girls are the victims of the spirits of the unforgiven dead. Initially, Audrey is sure the girls are being abducted, but then she is reminded of her own mother, a Skye woman who disappeared in mysterious circumstances. It seems there is a link to be explored, and Audrey may uncover just what her family has been hiding from her all these years. Think Hannah Kent's *Burial Rites* and don't expect the conventional.

✎McDermid, Val. [Broken Ground](#) (LittleBrown UK \$42). When a body is discovered in the remote depths of the Highlands, DCI Karen Pirie finds herself in the right place at the right time. Unearthed with someone's long-buried inheritance, the victim seems to belong to the distant past—until new evidence suggests otherwise, and Karen is called in to unravel a case where nothing is as it seems. It's not long before an overheard conversation draws Karen into the heart of a different case, however, a shocking crime she thought she'd already prevented. As she inches closer to the twisted truths at the centre of these murders, it becomes clear that she's dealing with a version of justice terrifyingly different to her own... The last Pirie, [Out of Bounds](#) (\$16), drew this from the *Washington Post*: "There are few other crime writers in the same league as Val McDermid. Her stories are ingeniously plotted, moody... It's Karen's character that's the enduring draw of this series... *Out of Bounds* is another terrific and intricate suspense novel by a writer who has given us 30 of them."

Mezeske, Meg. [Red Tea](#) (City Owl \$14.95). Travel to rural Japan with this debut. Jordan Howard moves to the Japanese countryside to become a high school English teacher, not an amateur detective. But when Jordan's students are murdered one after another, she resolves to find the culprit, fueled by lingering guilt over her own brother's death. Toshihiko Sakurai, the ambitious police detective investigating the murders, warns Jordan against getting too involved, both with the case and with him. Yet, the two of them cannot seem to disentangle. As Jordan gets closer to uncovering buried secrets surrounding the deaths, the murderer closes in on her—could she be next on the serial poisoner's list?

Muller, Marcia. [The Breakers](#) (Grand Central \$26). Muller. McCone is dismayed to learn that 23-year-old Chelle Curley, a daughter of friends who restores old buildings, has disappeared from the Breakers, a former nightclub that Chelle was renovating

to turn into a service center for disabled veterans. Interviews with Chelle's friends lead nowhere, but McCone is intrigued that the nook where Chelle was camping out in the Breakers was next to a wall covered with news clippings about killers such as Jack the Ripper and Charles Manson. The case gets even weirder when Zack Kaplan, one of the building's tenant's acquaintances, asks McCone to come over right away; disturbingly, Zack is nowhere to be found, but the PI finds a note in Chelle's handwriting, stating, "I've got a right to disappear."

Novik, Naomi. [Spinning Silver](#) (Del Rey \$28). Here's a Starred Review for our **August SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**. "This gorgeous, complex, and magical novel, grounded in Germanic, Russian, and Jewish folklore but richly overlaid with a cohesive, creative story of its own, rises well above a mere modern re-imagining of classic tales. Novik (Uprooted) begins the story through the eyes of Miryem, a Jewish moneylender's daughter, whose pride in her ability to wring payments from borrowers draws the demanding attention of the terrifying, otherworldly, and rules-bound Staryk, who are ruled by a wintry, gold-loving king. Secondary characters—a peasant boy, a duke's daughter, a tsar—eventually become narrators, weaving interconnections that feel simultaneously intimate and mythic. Novik probes the edges between the everyday and the extraordinary, balancing moods of wonder and of inevitability. Her work inspires deep musings about love, wealth, and commitment, and embodies the best of the timeless fairy-tale aesthetic. Readers will be impressed by the way Novik ties the myriad threads of her story together by the end, and, despite the book's length, they will be sad to walk away from its deeply immersive setting. This is the kind of book that one might wish to inhabit forever." I'd recommend this to teen readers as well as the mature.

✦Parry, Ambrose. [The Way of All Flesh](#) (Canongate \$35). No, this is not a reissue of Samuel Butler's classic semi-autobiographical novel attacking Victorian hypocrisy. But there is a link. What we have here is a vivid and gripping historical crime novel set in 1847 Edinburgh, co-written by bestselling author Chris Brookmyre—long a favorite of Patrick and me—and consultant anesthetist Dr Marisa Haetzman (and Signed by both). In the city's Old Town a number of young women have been found dead, all having suffered similarly gruesome ends. Across the city in the New Town, medical student Will Raven is about to start his apprenticeship with the brilliant and renowned Dr Simpson. Simpson's patients range from the richest to the poorest of this divided city. His house is like no other, full of visiting luminaries and daring experiments in the new medical frontier of anesthesia. It is here that Raven meets housemaid Sarah Fisher, who recognizes trouble when she sees it and takes an immediate dislike to him. She has all of Raven's intelligence but none of his privileges, in particular his medical education. With each having their own motive to look deeper into the city's spate of suspicious deaths, Raven and Sarah find themselves propelled headlong into the darkest shadows of Edinburgh's underworld, and compelled to overcome their differences to survive.

✦Robinson, Peter. [Careless Love](#) (Hodder \$44). A young local student has apparently committed suicide. Her body is found in an abandoned car on a lonely country road. She didn't own a car. Didn't even drive. How did she get there? Where did she die? Who moved her, and why? Meanwhile a man in his sixties is found dead in a gully up on the wild moorland. He is wearing an

expensive suit and carrying no identification. Post-mortem findings indicate he died from injuries sustained during the fall. But what was he doing up there? And why are there no signs of a car in the vicinity? As the inconsistencies multiply and the mysteries proliferate, Annie's father's new partner, Zelda, comes up with a shocking piece of information that alerts Banks and Annie to the return of an old enemy in a new guise....

Slaughter, Karin. [Pieces of Her](#) (Harper \$27.99). Andrea Cooper knows everything about her mother Laura. She's knows she's spent her whole life in the small beachside town of Gullaway Island; she knows she's never wanted anything more than to live a quiet life as a pillar of the community; she knows she's never kept a secret in her life. Because we all know our mothers, don't we? But all that changes when a Saturday afternoon trip to the mall explodes into violence and Andrea suddenly sees a completely different side to Laura. Because it turns out that before Laura was Laura, she was someone completely different. For nearly thirty years she's been hiding from her previous identity, lying low in the hope that no one will ever find her. But now she's been exposed, and nothing will ever be the same again. Twenty-four hours later Laura is in the hospital, shot by an intruder who's spent thirty years trying to track her down and discover what she knows. Andrea is on a desperate journey following the breadcrumbs of her mother's past. Read this plot description and tell me you're not dying to know who Laura really is!

Steinhauer, Olen. [The Middleman](#) (St Martins \$26.99). "Two modern-day revolutionaries, one violent and one not, band together to get their message out to the masses. Violence explodes, and the movement is destroyed. Or is it? Two FBI agents who are in the middle of everything — one in seclusion in the mountains and the other just barely having escaped an assassination attempt — must unite to find the real answers to this international conspiracy. With a subtle nod to 1992's *Sneakers*, Olen Steinhauer crafts a fast-moving tale of intrigue that has echoes of today's politics." Told from the individual perspectives of an FBI agent, an undercover agent within the group, a convert to the terrorist organization, and a writer on the edges of the whole affair. Known for his Milo Weaver thrillers, Steinhauer is a Dashiell Hammett Award winner and has been nominated for the Anthony, Macavity, and Barry awards and for Ellis Peters Historical and Ian Fleming Steel Daggers and has twice been an Edgar finalist. His new work features an FBI agent wrestling with domestic left-wing terrorists.

Tolkien, JRR. [The Fall of Gondolin](#) (Collins \$45). No, not signed by Tolkien but by the illustrator, Alan Lee, of this gorgeous volume. In the words of Tolkien, it was 'the first real story of this imaginary world' and, together with *Beren and Lúthien* and *The Children of Húrin*, he regarded it as one of the three 'Great Tales' of the *Elder Days*. There is Morgoth of the uttermost evil, unseen in this story but ruling over a vast military power from his fortress of Angband. Deeply opposed to Morgoth is Ulmo, second in might only to Manwë, chief of the Valar. Central to this enmity of the gods is the city of Gondolin, beautiful but undiscoverable. It was built and peopled by Noldorin Elves who, when they dwelt in Valinor, the land of the gods, rebelled against their rule and fled to Middle-earth. Turgon, King of Gondolin, is hated and feared above all his enemies by Morgoth, who seeks in vain to discover the marvelously hidden city, while the gods in Valinor in heated debate largely refuse to intervene. Into this world comes Tuor, cousin of Túrin, the instrument of Ulmo's designs.

Guided unseen by him Tuor sets out from the land of his birth on the fearful journey to Gondolin, and in one of the most arresting moments in the history of Middle-earth the sea-god himself appears to him, rising out of the ocean in the midst of a storm. In Gondolin he becomes great; he is wedded to Idril, Turgon's daughter, and their son is Eärendel, whose birth and profound importance in days to come is foreseen by Ulmo. Then comes the terrible ending.... The US edition is available August 30: [The Fall of Gondolin](#) (\$30).

Tremayne, Peter. [Bloodmoon](#) (Severn UK \$46). Ireland, AD 671. Sister Fidelma has a mission, and she is sworn by oath to reveal her purpose to no other. The secret investigation leads her and her companions to the abbey of Finnbar to question the abbot. But before they have a chance to speak to him, the abbot is found murdered - and the young girl suspected of the crime has fled the scene. As vicious rumors spread, accusing Fidelma's family, the Eóghanacht Kings of Cashel, of conspiring to assassinate the High King and abduct his wife, Sister Fidelma's life is placed in mortal danger. Unable to tell the truth of her quest to anyone, including her husband Eadulf, Fidelma's time is running out - and now she has no choice but to face the challenge, and her enemies, alone.

Wortham, Reavis. [Gold Dust](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). Out in August, Signed September 2. "It's 1969 in Center Springs, Texas, where "a crime so monstrous that two of the town's patriarchs will have to travel far from home to avenge it" kicks off Wortham's 7th Red River Mystery. Pilot Curtis Gaines has been hired to spray water filled with what a pair of government agents calling themselves Mr. Brown and Mr. Green tell him is water infused with "microscopic metal particles our scientists call 'Gold Dust' " over Lamar County. In fact, the Gold Dust is actually a combination of *bacillus globigii* and *bacillus subtilis*. Though it's thought to be harmless, it actually has a toxic effect on anybody frail and elderly, like centenarian elevator operator Jules Benton, or anybody with asthma, like Constable Ned Parker's teenage grandson Top... Apart from the sudden outbreak of mysterious illnesses, Ned, along with Deputy Anna Sloan and retired Texas Ranger Tom Bell, recently returned from a sojourn in Mexico thought to have left him dead, has to contend with a pair of murderous cattle rustlers and the rumor, spitefully initiated by Top's nearly identical female cousin, Pepper, that there's a treasure in gold buried close by. While Wortham is still introducing more relatives and hangers-on to the Parkers in Center Springs, Ned, infuriated as his grandson hovers near death, decides to go directly after the CIA in Washington. "Tom joins him on the 1,200-mile drive and the unlikely game of polecat-and-mouse that unfolds in a series of developments as preposterous as they are richly enjoyable. The result reads like a stranger-than-strange collaboration between Lee Child, handling the assault on the CIA with baleful directness, and Steven F. Havill, genially reporting on the regulars back home."—*Booklist*. The [Red River Mysteries](#) are all ingenious, unusual, and great fun.

OUR AUGUST BOOK BUYERS CLUBS PICKS

British Crime Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Berry, Flynn. [A Double Life](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Lunney, Tessa. [April in Paris, 1921](#)

Discovery Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Reed, Graham. [The Chairman's Toys](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Burgess, Doug. [Fogland Point](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One Signed First per month

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History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

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History Paperback One per month

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Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

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SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Novik, Naomi. [Spinning Silver](#)

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Barclay, Linwood. [A Noise Downstairs](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Hamilton, Steve. [Dead Man Running](#)

MORE SUMMER OF SPIES

Note how several authors have shifted from the Middle East to Russia as fiction follows real world perceptions, fears, and actions

Alger, Christina. [The Banker's Wife](#) (Putnam \$27). It's a bit of a stretch to call this a spy novel but as the plot turns on secretive and illegal banking and corporate/government malfeasance plus an off-the-books operation to achieve the surprise ending. I remind you of it. The Swiss are not lily-white and Alger's portrait of the Swiss landscape and society leaps to life. In its recommendation the *NY Times* writes, "In Alger's cerebral, expertly paced Swiss thriller, an American expat wife sorts through the conflicting stories surrounding her husband's death and the shady investigations that follow. Tina Jordan, reviewing the book, calls it 'slick, heart-hammering entertainment.'"

Atkinson, Kate. [Transcription](#) (Doubleday UK \$53). "Think of it as an adventure," Perry had said right at the beginning of all this. And it had seemed like one. A bit of a lark, she had thought. A Girls' Own adventure." Is it ever possible to transcend the choices of the past? In this superb new novel, it's 1940 when Juliet Armstrong is recruited into the British intelligence service, MI5. She supports an operation by transcribing recorded meetings between a British agent, posing as a member of the Gestapo, and British Nazi sympathizers. At 19 and somewhat naïve but with considerable wit and intelligence, she is soon entangled in espionage, undertaking an active role in the operation and bringing several traitors to justice. When the war ends, Juliet leaves MI5 for the BBC, first in Manchester, and then in London, where she produces programs for the emerging schools educational service in 1950. As Juliet's life tantalizingly unfolds, it becomes apparent that she has made some very provocative choices during the war, and that absolutely nothing is as it seems. With a fasci-

nating cast of characters, careful plotting, and lyrical language in turns comical and tragic, Atkinson's complex story carefully unveils the outer demands and inner conflicts that war inflicts on people. A delight for fans of A.S. Byatt and Ian McEwan."—*LJ* Starred Review. We are working on the less expensive Signed US edition but if you want a signed copy go for this and soon as our supply is very small.

Brandreth, Benedict. [The Spy of Venice](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). What if William Shakespeare was an intelligence agent before he became a playwright? That's the clever premise of Brandreth's impressive first novel. See New Books for more.

Brown, Dale. [The Moscow Offensive](#) (St Martins \$28.99). On a remote island estate, a billionaire investor sells his air freight company to a mysterious new owner. The purchaser is none other than the President of Russia, Gennadiy Gryzlov. The Russians will use these private planes to secretly transport dangerous cargo into the United States. The inept American President Stacy Anne Barbeau has failed to account for the Russian threat. But others have been vigilant. America's first line of defense—Brad McLanahan and the heroes of the Iron Wolf Squadron—must counter a dangerous Russian strike from within the homeland.

Carpenter, Lea. [Red White Blue](#) (Knopf \$26.95) is a beautifully written spy novel told in short segments, many of them narrated by a nameless CIA officer. Successful banker and stockbroker Noel spied for the CIA for 30 years. During this time, his wife, Lulu, abandoned the family, and Noel was left to raise their precocious child, Anna, alone. When Noel dies, Anna tries to piece together her father's life in the face of accusations that he was really a spy for the Chinese. The nameless CIA agent, who was Noel's protégé and is now missing, is wanted by the CIA for unofficially exfiltrating a Chinese double agent, who was recruited by Noel. Where most thrillers showcase familiar tips on spy craft and weaponry, Carpenter depicts the more esoteric and often byzantine facets of intelligence work. She skips the easy morality of guns, patriotic loyalty, and heroic action to slowly disclose the complexities of the secret world and how it relates to the human heart. Readers should not expect to come away satisfied with pat solutions, but rather to be seduced and enthralled with the far more challenging questions that arise and are sometimes, as in life, left unanswered.

✦Carson, Clare. [The Salt Marsh](#) (Zeus \$14.95). Sam Coyle's father lived in the shadows—an undercover agent among the spies and radicals of Cold War London. That world claimed his life, and Sam is haunted by his absence. He left nothing behind but his enemies; nothing to his daughter but his tradecraft and paranoia. Now, her boyfriend Luke is missing too—the one person she could trust, vanished into the fog on the Kentish coast. To find him, Sam, haunted by her father's absence and history as an undercover agent, finds herself pursuing Luke's disappearance into the fog of the Kentish coast. This is book two in the Sam Coyle Trilogy: start with [Orkney Twilight](#) and continue to book #3, [The Dark Isle](#) (\$14.95 each). This is a UK import so supply is limited.

Coes, Ben. [Bloody Sunday](#) (St Martins \$26.95). "North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong-un is dying of cancer. With less than a month to live, Jong-un decides to go out in a blaze of nuclear glory and take two American cities with him. All he needs is a

couple of long-range missiles, and it so happens that his ally Iran is happy to supply them. Dewey has personal reasons for wanting to quit the spy business, but U.S. president J.P. Dellenbaugh talks him into staying on and dealing with the North Korean threat. CIA newcomer Jenna Hartford, on loan from MI6, has designed a mission to poison Gen. Pak Yong-sik, head of the North Korean armed forces, and force him to divulge Korean secrets in exchange for an antidote for the poison. It's a complicated mission, and in the end only Dewey has the skills, courage, and sheer badass tenacity to pull it off. A ticking clock ratchets up the tension in the best entry in the series so far."—*PW* Starred Review. Coes' research on the Kim is a wow! I plan to discuss it thoroughly with him August 2.

✦Cunningham, Peter. [Acts of Allegiance](#) (Arcade \$22.99). Here's a Starred Review for a spy story with a less visited focus. "Marty Ransom, the mild-mannered narrator of this remarkable novel from Irish author Cunningham, works in the economics section of the Department of External Affairs in Dublin. With his wife and children, he spends weekends at his family's farm in the country, where, one day in the summer of 1964, his friend Alison, who's employed by the British Home Office and whose husband once dated Marty's wife, suggests that he should either have an affair with her or do some spying for the English. He agrees to the latter. As the years pass, Marty meets occasionally with Alison to talk about what the Irish government is planning, especially after the 1969 riots in Northern Ireland. Eventually, Alison asks Marty to help capture the Irish Republican Army's top bomb maker, Iggy Kane, who's his cousin and childhood friend. As Marty tumbles down the rabbit hole of espionage, his marriage begins to fail and his secret involvement with the English turns deadly. Readers are advised to pay close attention as Cunningham's beautiful, twisting story unfolds until arriving at its sad, shocking conclusion." May not be available until the end of August/

✦Follett, Ken. [A Column of Fire](#) (\$19.99). Treasonous plots, family rifts, and international political intrigue abound in the third installment of Follett's (*Pillars of the Earth*) Kingsbridge series. When 18-year-old nobleman Ned Willard loses his sweetheart Margery and his family's importing business to Margery's upward-climbing Catholic family after the queen condemns them for being pro-Protestant, he decides to join Protestant Princess Elizabeth Tudor's secret service... Much has been written about Sir Francis Walsingham and his spy network, so Tudor yet so modern.

Greaney, Mark. [Agent in Place](#) (\$16). This 7th Gray Man thriller gets a Starred Review: "Erstwhile CIA operative Court Gentry, now a freelance mercenary, has a tall order: first he has to kidnap the mistress of Syria's tyrannical president, Ahmed Al-Azzam, to enlist her aid in toppling his murderous regime, then rescue her infant son left behind in Damascus. As cover, Court joins a mercenary force..."

Knecht, Rosalie. [Who Is Vera Kelly?](#) (Tin House \$15.95). Who is Vera Kelly? The Indie Next Pick says, "Find out in this twisty, turny spy thriller set in 1960s Argentina as Vera, working for the CIA, becomes stuck in the country during a hostile takeover. Through flashbacks, we learn about Vera's past and the forces that worked together to create this devilishly smart, very sexy woman. The book reads like the love child of John le Carré and Rita Mae Brown. I loved Vera immensely, even more so as the

plot progressed and the threats became deadlier. What a fun read and what a terrific character!”

Krugler, David. [Rip the Angels from Heaven](#) (Norton \$25.95). Set in 1945, Krugler’s superior second thriller featuring Lt. Ellis Voigt of the Office of Naval Intelligence finds Voigt the target of NKVD thugs seeking the truth about the fate of the missing Herbert Himmel, a Russian who used a clipping service as a cover for a Washington, D.C., spy ring. In the previous book, Voigt went undercover in Himmel’s business and was present at a meeting that Himmel had at an automat with a scientist from Los Alamos, N.Mex., who passed on secrets about a bomb being built in the desert. Voigt persuades his boss to send him on a mission to Los Alamos, where he will make contact with the Russian agents on his tail and offer them misinformation—in particular, that he forced the scientist spy to give him the package with the classified information meant for Himmel. Krugler’s further exploration of his lead’s moral ambiguity enhances a captivating story line that will appeal to fans of Joseph Kanon.

Larsen, Ward. [Assassin’s Run](#) (Forge \$26.99). When a Russian oligarch is killed by a single bullet on his yacht off the Isle of Capri, Russian intelligence sources speculate that a legendary Israeli assassin, long thought dead, might be responsible. However, David Slaton—the assassin in question—is innocent. Realizing the only way to clear his name is to find out who’s truly responsible, he travels to Capri. While he searches, a web of disparate events unfolds across the Middle East. Three ships, owned by the group of Russians, deliver a mysterious cargo to the shores of the Arabian Peninsula. In Morocco, a Russian aerospace company begins flight testing an innovative new drone. From Switzerland to the Red Sea to Morocco, Slaton gradually uncovers a conspiracy of monumental scope. It is a plot that will change the world strategic order—and one that goes straight to the top of the Russian government. “Slaton is like a cross between Gabriel Allon and The Gray Man. . . if you like either of those guys, you’ll love Ward Larsen’s stuff.” This is the 4th David Slaton – why not start with the first, [Assassin’s Silence](#) (\$9.99)?

Maden, Mike. [Tom Clancy: Line of Sight](#) (Putnam \$29 – we sold out of Signed copies). Aida Curic is a self-possessed beauty who runs a refugee agency that helps the children of her native Bosnia. Jack finds himself drawn to her, but before he can act on his feelings she’s snatched off the streets of Sarajevo by kidnapers. In Jack’s desperate search for Aida, he finds himself opposed by everyone from Serbian mobsters to Croatian paramilitary units. The Balkan War may have ended two decades ago, but the region still seethes with ethnic animosities. The deeper Jack plunges into this world the more he faces a disturbing truth, the scars of war fester long after the surface has healed. Mike Maden was a brilliant choice to take over the Jack Ryan Junior franchise when Grant Blackwood exited the series. What he’s done is nothing short of incredible, putting a charge into this franchise that, while popular, always seemed to be in the shadows of the Jack Ryan Senior books. That changes now. . . thanks to Maden putting his own stamp on this series and elevating it to new heights. I think Maden’s first for young Jack, [Point of Contact](#) (\$9.99), is a gem and recommend it highly.

McFaul, Michael. [From Cold War to Hot Peace](#) (Houghton \$30) is a memoir of his time spent in the USSR (and then Russia, as

America’s ambassador under President Obama) that sometimes read like a spy thriller. Not only was McFaul personally banned from Russia by the Kremlin (thus ending his diplomatic mission), he was recently listed as an American citizen the Kremlin would like to interrogate in exchange for information on the Democratic 2016 hacking scandal.

McGrane, Sally. [Moscow at Midnight](#) (Saraband \$14.95). Former CIA agent Max Rushmore, hired by a private contractor, returns to Moscow to investigate the death of a beautiful nuclear waste disposal expert. Soon he is drawn into a game of cat-and-mouse that takes the agent across the country, following his only clue: a rare Siberian diamond. This comment from another bookseller had me at “rare Siberian diamond” although I do wonder if an ugly expert would draw Rushmore in?

Parker, T Jefferson. [Swift Vengeance Signed](#) (Putnam \$27). In its way this 2nd investigation by San Diego PI Roland Ford fits the Summer of Spies as Ford drills down to find whoever is knocking off CIA drone operators.

Silva, Daniel. [The Other Woman Signed](#) (Harper \$28.99). Fast as a bullet, hauntingly beautiful, and filled with stunning double-crosses and twists of plot, *The Other Woman* is a tour de force that proves once again that “of all those writing spy novels today, Daniel Silva is quite simply the best” –*Kansas City Star*. If you missed this in July, wait no longer! Silva expertly performs what he calls “the novelist’s trick” of portraying the present by writing a parallel story of the past. The past here goes back to 1933-34 and the start of Kim Philby’s career as a Russian spy and allows Silva to speak to us about Russia, its relentless and long term strategies, its new Tsar, and so much more. Truly this is the summer’s Must Read whether or not you’ve read any of the 17 previous Gabriel Allons.

Steinhauer, Olen. [The Middleman Signed](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Steinhauer’s sweeping espionage novel traces the rise and fall of a domestic left-wing terrorist group. Told from the individual perspectives of an FBI agent, an undercover agent within the group, a convert to the terrorist organization, and a writer on the edges of the whole affair.

Thomas, August. [Liar’s Candle Signed](#) (Scribner \$25). The *Wall Street Journal* has given our May Thriller Club Pick a knockout review – an “often witty, action-packed debut” that features the admirable Penny Kessler, a 21-year-old intern from Michigan working at the US Embassy in Ankara when a terrorist bomb explodes at an embassy party, killing hundreds. Survivor Penny hoists a large American flag out of the chaos—and a news photo of her act goes viral. Even as her own country’s spinmeisters are attempting to capitalize on this dramatic image, Turkish officials whisk Penny away from her hospital bed. . . . Meanwhile the internet shame-game is working at full force. . . . The unexplained disappearance from the blast scene of the young diplomat Zack Robson raises suspicion. . . . After Penny flees her Turkish captors, a young CIA agent is sent in successful pursuit of her, warned by his boss that Penny may have ‘turned’ to the dark side. . . . As Penny and Connor go off the grid and into the terrorist underground in search of Zach, *Liar’s Candle* blends an infinity-of-mirrors intrigue of an espionage page-turner with the thrills of an adventure movie” and a heroine whose response to armed threats is she has “Nothing to lose.”

Thor, Brad. [Spymaster Signed](#) (Atria \$27.99). Across Europe, a secret organization has begun attacking diplomats. Back in the United States, a foreign ally demands the identity of a highly placed covert asset. In the balance hang the ingredients for all-out war. With his mentor out of the game, counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath must take on the role he has spent his career avoiding. But, as with everything else he does, he intends to rewrite the rules—all of them. “In *Spymaster*, Scot Harvath is more cunning, more dangerous, and deadlier than ever before. If you have never read a Brad Thor novel, this is the place to start! His last book revealed a shocking diagnosis for one of the series’ most beloved characters. . . so on top of wanting to see Scot Harvath kick some serious ass, that storyline helps propel *Spymaster* like a rocket,” says the Real Book Spy. Brad cancelled his tour but he’s Signed our firsts for us. Don’t miss out.

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC

Hull, Richard. [The Murder of My Aunt](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Originally published to wide acclaim in 1934, this entry in the British Library Crime Classics series from Hull (1896–1973) holds up well with its wry humor and delicious descriptions of people and places. Edward Powell, the effete but daftly amusing narrator (think Bertie Wooster with a mean streak), is financially dependent on his rich Aunt Mildred, with whom he’s forced to live in her rambling house outside the small “and entirely frightful” town of Llwlwl, Wales. The novel opens with an amusing rant: “How can any reasonably minded person live in a place whose name no Christian person can pronounce?” Edward’s only means of escaping his blighted existence is to do away with Aunt Mildred, his sole guardian and trustee. He confides his dissatisfaction and his various schemes for precipitating the old girl’s demise to his diary, which makes for lively reading. The book fairly races along to its surprising resolution. Fans of vintage crime fiction will hope for more reissues of Hull’s work

And another classic

Burnett, Frances Hodgson. [The Secret Garden](#) (Harper \$19.99). Harper Collins is going heavily into its vaults to reimagine and revitalize its wealth of classics. This is a deluxe gift edition featuring stunning new artwork and several interactive features from the award-winning design studio behind the graphics for the Harry Potter film franchise, MinaLima. The book includes several exclusive interactive features: a layout of the Manor House and grounds, a map of the Secret Garden, a dial showing how plants grow throughout the season, a cut out doll of Mary and her clothes, and a removable letter to Dickon from his sister.

More reissues are in the works from the Collins Crime Club (whenever—the publication dates are vague but you can order and wait upon them)

Bagley, Desmond. [The Golden Keel](#) (\$12.99)

Bagley, Desmond. [Landslide](#) (\$12.99)

Froest, Frank. [Rogues Syndicate: The Maelstrom](#) (\$15.99)

Hume, Fergus. [Millionaire Mystery](#) (\$15.99)

Leroux, Gaston. [The Mystery of the Yellow Room](#) (\$15.99)

Rhode, John. [The Paddington Mystery](#) (\$15.99)

TRAVEL WITH AUTHORS

Adams, Mark. [Tip of the Iceberg: My 3,000-Mile Journey Around Wild Alaska, the Last Great American Frontier](#) (Dutton \$28).

The author of bestselling travel gem [Turn Right at Machu Picchu](#)

(\$16) pens a fascinating and funny journey into Alaska, America’s last frontier, retracing the historic 1899 Harriman Expedition. Railroad magnate Edward H. Harriman organized a most unusual summer voyage by converting a steamship into a luxury “floating university,” populated by some of America’s best and brightest scientists and writers, including the anti-capitalist eco-prophet John Muir. Those aboard encountered a land of immeasurable beauty and impending environmental calamity. Today, Alaska is still America’s most sublime wilderness, both the lure that draws a million tourists annually on Inside Passage cruises and a natural resources larder waiting to be raided. As ever, it remains a magnet for weirdos and dreamers. Armed with Dramamine and an industrial-strength mosquito net, Mark Adams sets out to retrace the 1899 expedition. Using the state’s intricate public ferry system, the Alaska Marine Highway System, Adams travels three thousand miles, following the George W. Elder’s itinerary north through Wrangell, Juneau, and Glacier Bay, then continuing west into the colder and stranger regions of the Aleutians and the Arctic Circle. Along the way, he encounters dozens of unusual characters (and a couple of very hungry bears) and investigates how lessons learned in 1899 might relate to Alaska’s current struggles in adapting to climate change.

Atkins, William. [The Immeasurable World: Journeys in Desert Places](#) (Doubleday \$28.95). British author Atkins takes readers on a thoroughly enjoyable tour of the world’s deserts in the spirit of Bruce Chatwin and Geoff Dyer. After a breakup with his girlfriend of four years and a week spent with Cistercian monks in southwest England, Atkins became obsessed with deserts. His fascination began when he read, in the monastery’s well-stocked library, accounts of desert explorers and he soon became consumed with the desire to “stand in the desert... and imagine what it might do to a person who abandoned himself to it.” And so began an odyssey that took Atkins to eight deserts across the globe: the Empty Quarter in Oman, the Gobi and Taklamakan in China, Australia’s Great Victoria, the Aral Sea area in Kazakhstan, the Black Rock and Sonoran in the U.S., and Egypt’s Eastern Desert. Interspersed with his own adventures are tales of those who have gone before him, such as Christian missionary Mildred Cable, who traveled the Gobi desert at the turn of the 20th century. Atkins also takes a contemporary look at deserts, describing, for example, the setting of the Burning Man festival in Nevada’s Black Rock Desert. Atkins infuses his travel writing with poetic prose (he describes the Great Australian Bight as “a callused web of skin between two digits”) to describe the beauty of what many consider to be wastelands. Atkins’s thoughtful book is a wonderfully satisfying travelogue.

Bass, Rick. [The Traveling Feast: On the Road and at the Table with My Heroes](#) (Little Brown \$28). “Bass invites himself, and his grad student mentees and daughter, into the presence and pantries of the greats. He likens their literary quests to birds flocking to feeders. Those feeders included Peter Matthiessen, Lorrie Moore, Gary Snyder, Joyce Carol Oates, Terry Tempest Williams and more. He explains, “To stand in the presence of living greatness has inexplicable and inexhaustible value.” In his Subaru and at the table, Bass and his crew explore life’s hungers, delights and disappointments great and small. A failed pine nut tart. A failed opportunity to ask a question of a dying man. A failed marriage. A failed trip to the Corn Palace. Some moments reverberate with shy courage. Others whoosh by, eliciting bursts

of laughter. Some do both: see the essay on Bass's attempt to cook a dozen quail, "the haiku of poultry," for David Sedaris. Others acknowledge time and its cruelties, the steamroller of change, the weight of grief. Above all, Bass's prose, powerful and poignant, is a reminder of mortality and the feast that comes first. Dig in." —Katie Weed

Fallows, James/Deborah. [Our Towns: A 100,000-Mile Journey into the Heart of America](#) (Pantheon \$28.95). A vivid, surprising portrait of the civic and economic reinvention taking place in America, town by town and generally out of view of the national media. A realistically positive and provocative view of the country between its coasts.

Fox, Porter. [Northland](#) (Norton \$26.95). It takes a lot more than the vague "from sea to shining sea" description to establish one of the world's longest national borders. As Maine native Fox learns in his journey along the Canada/United States border, it took nearly 150 years to lay monument markers along the western 49th parallel boundary line. In the east, however, much of the border roams through lakes, rivers, bays and canals—Fox's travel by kayak or freighter could just as easily put him in one country as the other. *Northland* is an account of his journeys along the northern edge of the United States, and includes a healthy dose of the history of early explorers and Native American resettlements in the northern Great Plains. He begins in tiny Lubec, Maine, the easternmost town in the United States, originally "populated by bootleggers, businessmen, snake-oil salesmen, fishing families, smugglers, shipbuilders, and frontiersmen." Following the route of many explorers, he heads West across 4,000 miles, dipping into what interests him and producing a beautifully written story of the region's history with a riveting account of his travels.

Harris, Kate. [Lands of Lost Borders: A Journey on the Silk Road](#) (Harper/Dey Street \$24.99). Magnificent! I can't say that words fail me in describing this astonishing debut – astonishing in its prose, its ferocious excitement about breaking limits and opening the world, and its destinations – or I wouldn't be writing this. I can say that this shares with Delia Owens' debut *Where the Crawdads Sing* (see Events) a quality and imagination of narrative I've seldom seen. Reading Harris' memoir/travelogue of her journey with a woman friend by bicycle across the Silk Road illuminates her interior landscape along with the exterior one unfolding. It begins when she's a teenager in a small Ontario town, struck by Marco Polo, Magellan, and their ilk, who resolves she will visit Mars. Winning scholarships (among them a Rhodes to Oxford) and writing for fellowships and grants, she realizes that an explorer is someone, in any day and age, who refuses to live between the lines, and that while Mars is a goal, in fact Tibet can be the odyssey of her dreams. As travel writing this is superb, as a meditation about limits and the wildness of self, a history of science and exploration, and compulsive reading, it can't be beat. I've always loved books that take you out of yourself and into places you may never visit (as a kid, the Oz books were my most treasured possessions), and transform you into a different, braver person.

Knausgaard, Karl Ove. [Summer](#) (Penguin \$30). After the success of his six-part autofiction project *My Struggle*, Norwegian author Karl Knausgaard embarked on a new project: a quartet of memoiristic reflections on the seasons. Knausgaard wraps up the quartet with *Summer*, an intensely observed meditation on

the Swedish countryside that the author has made a home in with his family. Extra treat: it is illustrated with paintings by the great German artist Anselm Kiefer.

Two New Akashic Noirs:

You can search here for all the [Noir anthologies](#) in this series

Adnan, Yassin, ed. [Marrakech Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). Northern Africa finally enters the Noir Series arena with a finely crafted volume of dark stories, translated from Arabic, French, and Dutch. And despite the noir it's upbeat, Marrakech called "The Joyful City." Featuring brand-new stories tending to the fanciful by: Fatiha Morchid, Fouad Laroui, Taha Adnan, Mohamed Zouhair, Lahcen Bakour, Mahi Binebine, Halima Zine El Abidine, Hanane Derkaoui, Allal Bourqia, My Seddik Rabbaj, Abdelkader Benali, Mohamed Nedali, Mohamed Achaari, Karima Nadir, and Yassin Adnan

Shirmon, Samuel, ed. [Baghdad Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). One of the world's most war-torn cities is portrayed through a noir lens in this chilling story collection. Brand-new stories by: Muhsin al-Ramli, Nassif Falak, Hadia Said, Ahmed Saadawi, Salima Salih, Roy Scranton, Hayet Raies, Mohammed Alwan Jabr, Dheya al-Khalidi, Hussain al-Mozany, Sinan Antoon, Salar Abdoh, Ali Bader, and Layla Qasrany.

A TRIO FOR YOUNGER READERS ADULTS MAY DEVOUR

Funk, Josh. [How to Code a Sandcastle](#) (Viking \$16.99). Here's a useful and fun summer read for the ages 4-8 set, a picture book that recasts a summertime beach building project into a primer on coding. Just my skill level so I plan to give this a look.

Marcus, Deborah. [The Letting Go](#) (Sky Pony Press \$16.99). Emily thought she was safe after changing her identity, but when a corpse appears at the front door of her new school, she fears the murders may be starting again. "In her debut novel, Markus has created a perfectly tortured main character whose horrible past has forced her to become an 'unusually restless shadow.' As the mystery of the new murder eats at her, she becomes ever more confused about what is real. Events hurtle toward a terrible and satisfying conclusion in this fascinating literary thriller" for ages 14+.

White, JA [Nightbooks](#) (Harper \$16.99). In this clever synthesis of *One Thousand and One Nights* and *Hansel and Gretel*, a boy captured by a witch must tell a different spooky story every night if he wishes to stay alive long enough to escape her clutches. But even though he has notebooks full of nightmare-inspired tales, Alex needs to come up with new material to appease his captor, whose impossibly large apartment is filled with lurking terrors. He finds a reluctant ally in Yasmin, a fellow captive, but even she may not be able to help him outwit the witch and return to the real world. Too bad he's suffering from writer's block. White skillfully interweaves Alex's peril with the stories he tells, which possess a juvenile gotcha horror in their own right. (Possessed teddy bears, ghost-filled playgrounds, and vampires who steal reflections all make appearances.) The blend of folk and fairy tale elements works extremely well under the circumstances, and the protagonists share an enjoyable camaraderie as they attempt to thwart their common enemy. Despite the dark premise, the narrative never quite crosses the line into horror, making it a safe bet for younger readers. Ages: 8–12

OUR AUGUST LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Burgess, Doug. [Fogland Point](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). **The Signed hardcover is our August First Mystery Club Pick**, but it comes out in paperback too. Here are some of the raves: Francine Mathews writes, “If only we all had friends like the Laughing Sarahs: fiercely loyal, mordantly funny and murderously clever. Doug Burgess’ *Fogland Point* brings a wildly original amateur detective to the table of the most secretive small town in New England. I can’t wait to go back.” Nick Petrie finds this debut, “unique, surprising, moving, occasionally hilarious, and entirely marvelous book about the complicated mysteries that lie at the heart of all families—although the Hazard family is definitely more complicated and mysterious and interesting than most.” Hank Phillippi Ryan adds, “Drop everything and read this book. A terrific story in a terrifically honest voice—it’s intelligent and original, hilarious and heartbreaking, evocative and charming. A beautifully written tale of murder, dementia, family, love—and surprises! Standing ovation.” For the Starred Review, see Signed Books above.

Chirovici, EO. [The Book of Mirrors](#) (\$16). A 2017 First Mystery Club Pick is rife with faulty memories, outright lies, and secrets that make it hard to know whom to believe. The story is told in three parts. The first is a memoir or one Richard Flynn referencing his time at Princeton in the 1980s and the murder of famous Professor Joseph Wieder a night before Christmas, 1987. The case is still cold. So 25 years later, is Flynn now using this book, which has been submitted to literary agent Peter Katz, to reveal Wieder’s killer? The story is then moved forward by two other men, the last a retired cop who worked the Wieder murder. This book has tremendous hype behind it, sales in 36 countries including later this year in the US. Reviews have been excellent – “A smart, sophisticated murder puzzle sure to please the more literary-minded aficionados of the form.” –*Kirkus Reviews*. Why not order the Signed UK 1st –[The Book of Mirrors](#) (Century \$20)—for a special price instead?

Denfeld, Rene. [The Child Finder](#) (\$15.99) is “a powerful novel about a search for a missing girl that’s also a search for identity... It’s *Deliverance* encased in ice.” Three years ago, Madison Culver disappeared when her family was choosing a Christmas tree in Oregon’s Skookum National Forest. She would be eight-years-old now—if she has survived. Desperate to find their beloved daughter, certain someone took her, the Culvers turn to Naomi, a private investigator with an uncanny talent for locating the lost and missing. Known to the police and a select group of parents as “the Child Finder,” Naomi is their last hope. Naomi’s methodical search takes her deep into the icy, mysterious forest in the Pacific Northwest, and into her own fragmented past. She understands children like Madison because once upon a time, she was a lost girl, too. “While Denfeld’s novel is indeed loaded with suspense, its resonance comes from its surprising tilt toward storytelling restraint, a rarity in this typically crackling genre. Elegiac, informative and disquieting, it artfully moves between Naomi’s painstaking search...and the survival tactics of plucky Madison... Denfeld adroitly dive bombs up, down and around her main characters’ experience of secrets, resilience, fantasy and death, all set in a dark, gloomy forest fit for the Brothers Grimm.”—*NY Times Book Review* on a novel I too give a rave.

⌘Follett, Ken. [A Column of Fire](#) (\$19.99). Treasonous plots, family rifts, and international political intrigue abound in the third installment of Follett’s (*Pillars of the Earth*) Kingsbridge series of historical dramas. In the middle of 16th-century England, Kingsbridge Cathedral stands above a town divided by religious conflict. Queen “Bloody Mary” Tudor is killing Protestants. When 18-year-old nobleman Ned Willard loses his sweetheart Margery and his family’s importing business to Margery’s upward-climbing Catholic family after the queen condemns them for being pro-Protestant, he decides to join Protestant Princess Elizabeth Tudor’s secret service.

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

Greaney, Mark. [Agent in Place](#) (\$16). This 7th Gray Man thriller gets a Starred Review: “Erstwhile CIA operative Court Gentry, now a freelance mercenary, has a tall order: first he has to kidnap the mistress of Syria’s tyrannical president, Ahmed Al-Azzam, to enlist her aid in toppling his murderous regime, then rescue her infant son left behind in Damascus. As cover, Court joins a mercenary force supporting Al-Azzam. Greaney brilliantly contrasts Court’s *pro bono* humanitarian mission with the greedy mercenaries who fuel the Syrian civil war. Court, whose *nom de guerre* denotes a moral ambiguity, is not without avarice himself, but the mercs’ depravity and lack of *esprit de corps* disgust him. When related missions out of his control are compromised, Court undertakes the suicidal task of eliminating Al-Azzam. Greaney’s steady escalation of the risks that Court faces, and the exceedingly clever ways he tackles them, make this entry in the exemplary Gray Man series a can’t-miss.”

Johnson, Craig. [The Western Star](#) (\$16). 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. Johnson and Walt return September 6 to sign [The Depth of Winter](#) (Viking \$28)—our copies will come with an exclusive link to a podcast I made with Craig at his home in Ucross, Wyoming.

Lippman, Laura. [Sunburn](#) (\$16.99). “The author gives the star-crossed souls of James M. Cain’s fiction the Lippman treatment. Hence, desperate lovers Polly and Adam meet in a sleepy Delaware not-quite-beach town and harbor secrets there and in Baltimore. They circle each other warily, but it’s fated they’ll end up together. Their affair is threatened by the things they conceal from each other and by enemies lurking all around. Lippman’s complicated *femme fatale* heroine and conflicted hero are more layered than one would expect from noir protagonists, and her nuanced characterizations extend beyond the couple at the center of the story. With an economy of words, she creates three-dimensional characters such as Irving, the man who hires Adam to spy on Polly, Cath, the weak link in a love triangle, and Polly’s mother-in-law Savannah, who’s not quite sure she’s grandma material. Lippman’s minute observations about modern life, human foibles, and the many faces of love are lagniappes to this tasty feast of a novel. Just try to read this fantastic stand-alone from the creator of the Tess Monaghan series slowly. Modern noir at its best, it will delight old-movie lovers.”—*LJ* Starred Review

✎McGregor, Jon. [The Reservoir Tapes](#) (Catapult \$22). In the follow-up to his Costa Award-winning novel [Reservoir 13](#) (\$16.95), McGregor’s newest book focuses on the crime at the center of its predecessor: the disappearance of 13-year-old Becky Shaw. After Becky goes missing, an interviewer comes to town to collect stories from the villagers. Over the course of the book, the community reveals what happened (or what may have happened) in the days and weeks before the incident. In its starred review, *Kirkus* called the novel a “noteworthy event” that, when put in conversation with *Reservoir 13*, is “nothing short of a remarkable experiment in storytelling.” Where *Reservoir 13* looked at the long-term effects of Becky Shaw’s disappearance in a small English village through the cyclical nature of the seasons, *The Reservoir Tapes* takes an entirely different approach. Each villager has a memory to share or a secret to conceal. You’ll learn more about Becky, and more about some villagers. In its way this kind of storytelling was pioneered by Durrell in the *Alexandria Quartet*.

McTiernan, Dervla. [The Ruin](#) (Penguin \$16). A debut fairly reeking in Irish atmosphere begins in 1993 when detective Cormac Kelly is called to a sad domestic scene in County Mayo: a mother lies dead of a drug overdose, her 15-year-old daughter Maude and five-year old son Jack alive. Skip to 2013 when Jack’s body turns up in a Galway river. A witness claims to have seen Jack jump in and so the obvious verdict is suicide, but Maude, just back from Australia disagrees and calls it murder. Enter Cormac to not only work Jack’s death but, armed with new information, reopen the death of the mother. It’s a complex and tightly woven plot that wraps up well. The Indie Next Pick: “Cormac Reilly, an honest and likable 20-year veteran detective recently relocated to Galway, Ireland, is trying to figure out where he fits in at his new police station. Reilly’s investigation of a cold case from his

rookie days soon intersects with the current case of an apparent suicide that proves to be much more than it appears. With a detailed setting, McTiernan introduces readers to a mystery rife with intriguing characters and tense, suspenseful plot twists. *The Ruin* will compel readers to keep turning the pages until they reach the satisfying conclusion, which will leave them impatiently waiting for the next installment in this promising series.”

Petrie, Nick. [Light it Up](#) (\$16). This is combat veteran Peter Ash’s 3rd propulsive thriller. The action is high starting with a gutsy block-and-grab on a Colorado highway that underscores the risks in the marijuana trade, essentially a cash operation in a state where it is legal but federal law doesn’t agree. Ash, who’s been rebuilding hiking trails in Oregon where he met and fell hard for the hardy June Cassidy, is on his way to rendezvous with her when he stops off by Denver to do a favor by helping old friend Henry Nygaard’s Heavy Metal Protection team deliver a truckload of medical marijuana to Denver-area shops, then deliver the money collected. When the ambush leaves Ash the sole survivor, he’s bent on avenging his friends while recovering the money and unmaking the conspirators responsible for the massacre. I’d never bet against Ash and it has to be said that June and ex-Marine Lewis are as fearless as he. “Petrie is a master of orchestrating convincing mayhem” but his characters are not mere tools serving the action, they leap off the page too. [The Drifter](#) (\$16) and [Burning Bright](#) (\$16), start with them. Petrie will be back in January with a 4th Peter Ash.

✎Robinson, Peter. [Sleeping in the Ground](#) (\$15.99). This latest for Yorkshire copper Alan Banks hits all the right notes, some of them light which is a change for a series where chapters can be dark and dour. It begins tragically when a small festive wedding at a country church ends tragically when a sniper kills the groom. He makes a (nearly) clean escape living nothing for Supt. Banks and his team to work with. Profiler Jenny Fuller makes a return as the investigation takes twists and turns to a climax that is pure Robinson surprise. This is an excellent place to start reading the Alan Banks series if you have not as the novel can work as a standalone.

Rose, Augustus. [The Readymade Thief](#) (\$17). A 2017 First Mystery Club Pick got this Indie Next Pick also: This debut is not pure entertainment—it will challenge you. “Much to the chagrin of my household, once I started this book I refused to put it down. I let my children fend for themselves while I walked along the Philly streets with Lee and Tomi, solving the age-old puzzle in the midst of which 17-year-old Lee has found herself. She has many of the same struggles and life choices to make as high school seniors across the country, but with a mysterious conspiracy thrown in. I love a book that is both well-written and completely absorbing. This is a great read for vacation, for a long plane ride, or for an escape while in the comfort of your own home.”

✎Todd, Charles. [Casualty of War](#) (\$15.99). While Bess Crawford is waiting for transport back to her field post, Captain Alan Travis arrives suffering from a head wound. Alarming, 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.

Walker, Wendy. [Emma in the Night](#) (\$16.99). I chose this for a 2017 Surprise Me Club Pick for its riveting portrayal of an alarming personality disorder. I urge you not to look up on-line reviews as it will spoil the impact of the book if you know what the disorder is, and who it is. Trust me! Briefly, one night three years ago, the Tanner sisters disappeared: fifteen-year-old Cass and seventeen-year-old Emma. Three years later, Cass returns, without her sister Emma. Her story is one of kidnapping and betrayal, of a mysterious island where the two were held. But to forensic psychiatrist Dr. Abby Winter, something doesn't add up. Among its many Starred Reviews are these: "A tense thriller explores the bond between sisters and family dynamics that give new meaning to the term 'dysfunctional'... This thriller aims right for the heart and never lets go." —*Kirkus*. "Both twisted and twisty, this smart psychological thriller sets a new standard for unreliable narrators." —*Booklist*.

CHANDLER IS HAVING A MOMENT

"Marlowe has become such an archetype of the fictional American private investigator, it's easy to forget that he starred in only seven Chandler novels, from *The Big Sleep* through the equally renowned *Farewell, My Lovely* (1940) and *The Long Good-bye* (1953), to *Playback* (1958). The author's demise in 1959, though, didn't compel his protagonist to hang up his fedora and firearms forever. Over the last three decades, the Chandler estate has selected other wordsmiths to appropriate the detective for use in their own books. This month sees the release of one such Marlowe outing, *Only to Sleep*, by British-born Bangkok resident Lawrence Osborne. Paired with the recent publication of *The Annotated Big Sleep*, it reminds us that the streets down which Marlowe tramps may be mean, but they sure have carried him a long way."—Crime Reads

Chandler, Raymond. [The Annotated Big Sleep](#) (Vintage \$25). The first fully annotated edition of Raymond Chandler's 1939 classic features hundreds of illuminating notes and images alongside the full text of the novel. Patrick gave this a rave last month. It's a treat to reread a seminal book with fresh eyes and the benefit of scholarly input. The editors remind us that "Chandler's book [is] a portrait of times and places, of manners and buildings, of forgotten crimes in forgotten newspaper accounts..." replacing intuition with knowledge. Some of the language and attitudes shock today's sensibilities, but like *The Great Gatsby*, *The Big Sleep* has a value as an historical document as well as a literary landmark.

Osborne, Lawrence. [Only to Sleep](#) (Hogarth \$26). Osborne selects Baja California, 1988, for a case for the 72-year-old Mar-

lowe who lives with his maid and a stray dog. Officially retired, he accepts a job from an insurance company to investigate the death of a debt-ridden and cranky American developer, Zinn, who drowned off the coast. Before the company pays out, they want to be sure there's nothing suspect. Armed with a sword-case, the aging knight-errant sets forth on "one last outing." Osborne succeeds brilliantly in capturing "the dreamlike quality of the original Marlowe novels." In recommending *Only to Sleep*, the *NY Times* finds it to be "A thriller that jolts Philip Marlowe, Raymond Chandler's iconic private investigator, out of his quiet Mexican retirement and back into the world of scams and seductions. Osborne, who worked as a reporter along the border in the early 1990s, knows Mexico well and he passes that knowledge along to Marlowe. 'The book's greatest suspense centers on Osborne's fealty to Chandler's Marlowe,'" our reviewer, Laura Lippman, writes. "I'm wide open to Osborne's version ... which forces us to wonder at times whether he's still a man of honor." The *WSJ* notes the case "ends with a whimper, not a bang—which seems a fine way to leave an old fictional friend, taking at last a well-earned rest in the sun... Until next time..."

And out earlier

Black, Benjamin. [The Black-Eyed Blonde](#) (\$16)

Parker, Robert B. [Poodle Springs](#) (\$16)

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NEW BOOKS

There is some marvelous British fiction that defies genre in this list so you fans should read New Books carefully

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. [The Washington Decree](#) (Dutton \$28). This standalone by Danish bestseller Adler-Olsen, written in 2006, begins, "*The president has gone way too far. . . . These are practically dictatorial methods we're talking about.*" The Real Book Spy comments, "I loved Stephen Coonts' *Liberty's Last Stand*, which is perhaps the most politically incorrect novel I've ever read after Vince Flynn's *Term Limits*. *The Washington Decree* isn't quite on that level, but it's very solid, timely... and absolutely terrifying."

Karen writes: This standalone title opens with a Foreword by the author stating "nothing is eternal ... mighty empires come and go". He's chosen the United States as a platform to illustrate this concept. In 1992, Governor Bruce Jansen sponsors a quiz program with three winners – Rosalie Lee, an African American single mother, T. Perkins, sheriff of a small bucolic town, and Dorothy "Doggie Rogers, daughter of wealthy hotelier, Bud Curtis. The prize is a trip to China where the winners, plus an NBC reporter, and the relative of a staff member look forward to a celebration. The joy is quickly terminated when Jansen's wife is murdered. Sixteen years later, Jansen is running for President of the United States. With his second young, pregnant wife beside him, his charismatic presence offers hope for victory. Although Doggie's father, Bud Curtis, is opposed to Jansen's politics, he sees an opportunity in opening his hotel to a lavish celebration on election night. In the chaos of the celebration, Jan-

sen's wife is shot and killed. In the harrowing aftermath, Curtis is accused of being the shooter, convicted and placed on death row. Curtis is emphatic about his innocence, confusing Doggie, raising questions from everywhere. There is a rumor that President Jansen judgment has been impaired as he sets out to announce his philosophy of A Secure Future, to eliminate the country's fear. Plans are put in place – guns can be purchased, ammunition cannot and there's a severe consequence for those who start hoarding the items. There are checkpoints and roadblocks that prevent trucks getting goods to supermarkets and retailers. Prisoners are released and prison guards assigned to them, as mentors, to assist them in navigating the real world. Executions of Death Row occupants are accelerated. Certain media are censored. While this is going on, there is a sniper in New York City randomly killing people, and pockets of Miitia Men are plotting an end to the president's plan. Through all the chaos, Rosalie, T. Perkins, Doggie, the reporter, and the staff relative, question their own loyalties and how, or if, they can do anything to stop the train wreck from crashing. The suspense is captivating and the end result surprised me. It's interesting to note that this book was published in Denmark in 2006. Additionally, there is an appendix defining the purpose of The National Security Council, The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and a list of "executive orders that are at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's disposal, where the US Constitution and Bill of Rights can be instantly overridden by a mere presidential signature."

Alemán, Gabriela. [Poso Wells](#) (City Lights \$14.95). An Indies Introduce Pick: "*Poso Wells* explores the dichotomy between the new and old worlds of Ecuador through an exciting noir about missing women and corrupt politicians. Following a journalist's attempt to unravel the secrets of the infinitely labyrinthine cityscape of Poso Wells, this is a debut translation of a celebrated Ecuadorian author."

✎Alexander, Christine/Margaret Smith, eds. [The Oxford Companion to the Brontës](#) (Oxford University Press \$39.95). This special edition commemorates the 200-year anniversary of the birth of Emily Brontë, author of *Wuthering Heights*. It "aims to evoke the milieu in which the Brontës lived and wrote, to disseminate new reliable research, and to provide detailed information about their lives, works, and reputation." Authors and editors Christine Alexander (*Love and Friendship: And Other Youthful Writings*) and Margaret Smith (*Selected Letters of Charlotte Brontë*) and seven additional contributors have created an authoritative and enjoyable reference work.

✎Ambrose, Marty. [Claire's Last Secret](#) (Severn \$28.99). Lord Byron Mystery #1, the first of a trilogy, centers on the real-life Claire Clairemont, Mary Shelley's passionate, rebellious step-sister. The action jumps between the summer of 1816, when the teenage Claire recklessly pursues a love affair with the married Lord Byron in Geneva, Switzerland, and 1873, when the now elderly Claire is living in Florence, Italy, with relatives. Nearly destitute, she struggles with whether to sell her intensely personal letters from her youth to a biographer. Billed as a mystery, this is more a historical novel laced with suspense, though a friend of the older Claire, a priest trying to help her, does meet a grisly end. It poses a question about the greatest tragedy of Claire's past, but is most effective as a study of a young woman who takes a huge risk with her body and soul, and spends the rest of her life deal-

ing with the consequences. Ambrose provides a fresh perspective on Byron and his literary circle. Ordered Upon Request.

Andrews, Donna. [Toucan Keep a Secret](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Meg Langslow is at Trinity Episcopal Church locking up after an event and checking on the toucan her friend Rev. Robyn Smith is fostering in her office. When she investigates the sound of hammering in the underground crypt where cremated remains are buried), Meg finds the murdered body of an elderly parishioner. Several niches have been chiseled open; several urns knocked out; and amid the spilled ashes is a gold ring with a huge red stone. The curmudgeonly victim had become disgruntled with the church and ranted all over town about taking back his wife's ashes. While Chief Burke investigates the murder, Robyn recruits Meg to contact the families of the people whose ashes were disturbed. While doing so, Meg learns many secrets about Caerphilly's history—and finds that the toucan might play a role in unmasking the killer...

Arsenault, Emily. [The Last Thing I Told You](#) (Morrow \$15.99). This is a month for troubled adolescence and Arsenault imagines one such girl who committed an assault on a teacher. Nine years later Nadine returns to her Connecticut home town for a holidays and the therapist who had treated her is found bludgeoned to death. "Intertwining strands of police procedural and personal-confession details set the reader up for one of the most surprising plot twists in recent memory," says critic Tom Nolan.

Blake, Heather. [To Catch a Witch](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). When wishcrafter Darcy Merriweather's personal concierge company is hired by elite runner Abby Stillwell to organize the Wicked Mad Dash, a competition that takes place in the Enchanted Village, Darcy is more than willing to help her friend. As blizzard conditions rage on the morning of the race, Darcy's main concern is the terrible weather—until Abby goes missing...and is later found dead, buried in the snow. As Darcy investigates her friend's untimely death, she learns that she didn't really know Abby well at all. 8th in a cozy series.

✎Brandreth, Benedict. [The Spy of Venice](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). What if William Shakespeare was an intelligence agent before he became a playwright? That's the clever premise of Brandreth's impressive first novel. In 1585, the 20-year-old William, who's been working half-heartedly in the family glove trade, leaves Stratford-upon-Avon on the urging of his father after the discovery of his affair with a young woman, Alice Hunt, whose father, a steward to the local MP, could do him harm. William heads to London, where he becomes an actor and meets Sir Henry Carr, the English ambassador to Venice. Sir Henry, who's embarking on a delicate diplomatic mission, is looking for actors to be part of the delegation. With his country under threat from Spain, France, and the Netherlands, he hopes that the offer of a trade deal will persuade the Venetians to ally with England. William signs on and travels to Venice, where he must contend with various perils, including Catholic assassins. Brandreth, the rhetoric coach to the Royal Shakespeare Company, plausibly and imaginatively fills a gap in the historical record of the Bard's life.

Brennan, Allison. [Abandoned](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Investigative reporter Max Revere has cracked many cases, but the one investigation she's never attempted is the mystery from her own past. Her mother abandoned her when she was nine, sending her peri-

odic postcards, but never returning to reclaim her daughter. Seven years after the postcards stop coming, Martha Revere is declared legally dead, with no sign of what may have happened to her. Until now. With a single clue—that her mother’s car disappeared sixteen years ago in a small town on the Chesapeake Bay—Max drops everything to finally seek the truth. As Max investigates, and her mother’s story unfolds, she realizes that Martha teamed up with a con man. They traveled the world living off Martha’s trust and money they conned from others. Though no one claims to know anything about Martha or her disappearance, Max suspects more than one person is lying. When she learns the FBI has an active investigation into the con man, Max knows she’s on the right path. 5th in the Max Revere series which thank heaven is not a Trust No One concept.

Brown, Sandra. [Tailspin](#) (Grand Central \$27). Rye Mallett, a fearless “freight dog” pilot charged with flying cargo to far-flung locations, is often rough-spoken and all business, but soft on regulations when they get in the way of meeting a deadline. But he does have a rock-solid reputation: he will fly in the foulest weather, day or night, and deliver the goods safely to their destination. So when Rye is asked to fly into a completely fogbound northern Georgia town and deliver a mysterious black box to a Dr. Lambert, he doesn’t ask questions. As Rye’s plane nears the isolated landing strip, more trouble than inclement weather awaits him....

✎Candlish, Louise. [Our House](#) (Penguin \$26). It’s another British domestic thriller but it revolves on an interesting crime: property fraud. Can someone just steal a house? In the UK you can do the whole deal on line... so Fi Lawson can indeed return to her family’s South London townhouse and discover that her estranged husband has stolen it out from under her. Candlish says her inspiration is in part because the value of houses has shot up so high in value that they’ve almost taken on a dangerous kind of central role in a family. And adds that she tells a chunk of this book via a podcast which incorporates tweets from listeners. Very 2018, no?

✎Cannon, Joanna. [Three Things About Elsie](#) (Scribner \$26). I really enjoyed Cannon’s debut in [The Trouble with Goats and Sheep](#) (\$16). The unreliable narrator of Cannon’s amusing and heartbreaking new spends most of the story lying in a heap on the floor of her apartment at the Cherry Tree “sheltered accommodation” for the elderly, reviewing her life. Florence, 84 and opinionated, is beginning to wonder whether she can trust her senses. First, she notices that somebody appears to be moving small objects in her apartment; then, she recognizes a new resident, and realizes to her horror that he is somebody she is sure died in 1953. Fortunately, Florence has as her companion her best friend from childhood onward, Elsie, who helps her solve these mysteries and always knows what to say to make her feel better. Florence’s acerbic and sometimes troubled voice is the main narration, though the perspective sometimes shifts to those of well-meaning administrator Miss Ambrose and dogged, socially awkward handyman Simon... Readers may come for the mystery, but they’ll stay to spend time with Florence.

✎Challinor, CS. [Upstaged by Murder](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99). In Rex Graves’ 9th investigation, the Scottish barrister and his new wife Helen attend the opening night of a play in which five famous literary sleuths of a bygone era are invited to Pinegrove Hall in Derbyshire to solve the mystery of a missing heirloom.

When the play’s heroine meets with a sinister end, the audience applauds, unaware that the real drama has only just begun. Miss Marple, Hercule Poirot, Lord Peter Wimsey, Sherlock Holmes, and Father Brown—the actors playing these sleuths are all suspects as is the leading man. Read it more for the fun of this gathering than for the plot.

Charles, Paul. [A Day in the Life of Louis Bloom](#) (Dufour \$30). Brendy McCusker, a retired Ulster detective inspector who sometimes helps the Belfast police, and DI Lily O’Carroll are interviewing Elizabeth Bloom, the wife of Queen’s University lecturer Louis Bloom, in her living room late one night. Four hours earlier, Louis abruptly walked out of the house. Normally, 48 hours have to pass before the police can respond to a missing person’s report, but Elizabeth’s sister, Angela, is the wife of Supt. Niall Larkin, who’s in effect the boss of both McCusker and O’Carroll. On receiving Elizabeth’s distress call, Angela persuaded her husband to act immediately. McCusker and O’Carroll’s search for Louie leads them to Queen’s University, where they discover a host of suspects, including scheming academics and a shady American. The crime solving takes a backseat to an examination of a tangle of unusual relationships, starting with the Blooms’. Louis’s lectures on love were famous, but he and Elizabeth, as fond as they were of each other, stopped having sex early in their marriage. “Charles’s skillful depiction of the many sides of love and its strange bypaths lifts this clever novel well above the genre average.”

✎Chen, Katherine J. [Mary B.](#) (Random \$27). “Chen’s charming and thoroughly satisfying debut shines a light on frumpy 19-year-old Mary Bennet, the overlooked sibling of beautiful Jane, desirable Lizzy, and winsome Kitty and Lydia of Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice*. Following social tenets, the Bennet clan is engrossed in marriage prospects, which are all but secured for the quartet but not for unattractive Mary.” An intellectual, Mary finds solace among books and her own writing, believing her life could never rival her imagination. Although Mary fades into the background at social gatherings, she discovers a newfound independence that her sisters could neither appreciate nor possess: “if no one would speak to me, then I had no cause to speak to them, and my time remained my own.” Mary’s staid life changes trajectory when she is invited to Pemberley, the English estate belonging to Mr. Darcy and Lizzy after they marry, and finds her brother-in-law intrigued by her writing. She even discovers a kindred spirit in surly Colonel Fitzwilliam, Darcy’s visiting cousin, and learns there are different ways to capture a man’s attention besides appearance. “Chen’s lively retelling proves that centuries after its creation, Mary’s story deserves to be told.” I’m never quite sure whether we should call books like this “fan fiction,” but on a lazy summer day, why not spend time with the English leisure class?

✎Clare, Alys. [Angel in the Glass](#) (Severn \$28.99). June, 1604. When the emaciated body of a vagrant is found on the edge of the moor, it’s the verdict of physician Gabriel Taverner that the man died of natural causes – but is all as it seems? Who was the dead man, and why had he come to the small West Country village of Tavy St Luke’s to die cold, sick and alone? With no one claiming to have known him, his identity remains a mystery. Then a discovery found buried in a nearby field throws a strange new light on the case ... and in attempting to find the answers, Gabriel Taverner and Coroner Theophilus Davey unearth a series of shocking secrets stretching back more than fourteen years. Ordered Upon Request.

Clemens, Judy. [Beyond the Grave](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Think of this as a soft version of a Jack Reacher. Casey Maldonado, who's still haunted by the deaths of her husband and baby son, and her traveling companion, Death, an apparition with a penchant for old films and fancy costumes, arrive at the small Idaho hamlet of Armstrong, "a strange town with dark undertones. Lots of old grudges, unsolved mysteries, and layers of resentment." Still suffering from bruised ribs and a blossoming black eye from a recent dustup with some small-town thugs, Casey accepts the offer of a place to stay and some part-time work from Vern and Dottie, who own Armstrong's general store and lunch counter. Soon she and Death, whom only she can see, are piecing together the reasons for a 45-year-old vendetta, which has soured local residents, as well as shining some light on more contemporary malevolence. "Clemens draws the reader smoothly into this fantasy world while providing an original approach to the iconic figure of the Grim Reaper." I recommend reading this captivating [series in order](#).

Cotterill, Colin. [Don't Eat Me](#) (Soho \$26.95). In Cotterill's excellent 13th mystery, set sometime after 1980 in the People's Democratic Republic of Laos, Dr. Siri Paiboun, the country's national coroner, and his friend Chief Inspector Phosy Vongvichai, who's a rare honest cop, have a grisly murder to solve. A night patrol has found a skeleton at the base of the Anusawari Victory Arch belonging to a woman who was apparently eaten by animals, possibly while she was still alive. The sensitive inquiry implicates a powerful official, placing Phosy's career and life at risk. The crime may also be connected with illegal animal trafficking. A subplot involving Siri's plans to produce a film based on *War and Peace*—and his navigating of the bureaucracy to get the project green-lit—provides comic relief from what would otherwise be a grim tale. Wry prose ("Life sped by in Vientiane like a Volkswagen van on blocks") also lightens the mood. The eccentric Siri, who's possessed by spirits (including those of a dog, his dead mother, and a transvestite fortune-teller), continues to stand out as a unique and endearing series sleuth. Indeed we've been captivated since we met Dr. Siri in [The Coroner's Lunch](#) (\$9.99). Do [order them all](#) for a real treat.

Dalcher, Christina. [Vox](#) (Berkley \$26). Jean McClellan spends her time in almost complete silence, limited to just one hundred words a day. Any more, and a thousand volts of electricity will course through her veins. A new government is in power, everything has changed. But only if you're a woman. Almost overnight, bank accounts are frozen, passports are taken away and seventy million women lose their jobs. Even more terrifyingly, young girls are no longer taught to read or write. For herself, her daughter, and for every woman silenced, Jean resolves to reclaim her voice. The Indie Next Pick: "In the future world depicted in *Vox*, women are limited to speaking 100 words per day. Readers will want to shout every word in their heads, hoard every book in their libraries, and second guess the words of every person in their lives. A captivating, timely book that explores women's rights in a fast-paced, compelling story."

Davis, Fiona. [The Masterpiece](#) (Dutton \$26). In 1928 New York City, illustrator and artist Clara Darden teaches at the Grand Central School of Art. Confident and brash, Clara scrapes by until she secures employment drawing illustrations for *Vogue*. Clara's romantic involvement with budding poet Oliver Smith changes her life as they enjoy the parties of New York's elite and

she gains notoriety for her art. Her life takes a turn, however, as her friendship with mercurial artist Levon Zakarian threatens her relationship with Oliver, and the stock market crash of 1929 devastates the country. Fast-forward to 1974 when divorcee Virginia Clay gets a job at Grand Central's information booth. While exploring the abandoned art school, Virginia finds a painting by Clara Darden that looks very similar to a painting she had seen in an auction catalogue, leading her to believe that Clara may be the artist known as Clyde, whose valuable painting will soon be auctioned by Sotheby's. Virginia searches for the artist who painted the Clyde as she seeks to unravel the circumstances behind Clara's disappearance in 1931. "Davis entices with a fast-paced mystery and expertly reveals parallels between the two periods in New York and between Clara and Virginia." Grand Central Terminal, which served as an art school in the 1920s, is threatened with demolition in the 1970s, and connects the threads of Clara Darden's and Virginia Clay's lives. Well researched and captivating.

Dearman, Lara. [The Devil's Claw](#) (\$15.99). I recommend this British debut for its portrait of the Channel Island of Guernsey; the plot is predictable and it's easy to figure out who is behind it all, but the landscape is fabulous. Finding a drowned woman's body on the beach is the last thing journalist Jennifer Dorey's fragile psyche needs. She left London for her island home in the aftermath of a trauma that shook her to her core. It's Jennifer's job to investigate the woman's death so she enlists the help of DCI Michael Gilbert. They realize there's a pattern of similar deaths over the last fifty years. Though he's looking forward to a comfortable—and imminent—retirement, Gilbert joins Jennifer on a dark trail of island myths and folklore that leads to the door of a Nazi soldier's illegitimate son. But there's worse to come...

De Bernières, Louis. [So Much Life Left Over](#) (Pantheon \$26.95). England between the two world wars is revisited in this witty and heartfelt novel. Daniel Pitt, a former RFC pilot, is married to Rosie McCosh and runs a tea factory in Ceylon. His brother, Archie, a soldier on the North-West Frontier (what is present-day Pakistan), is secretly in love with Rosie—just as Rosie's spinster sister, Otilie, back at home in England, is secretly in love with Archie. Readers also meet Rosie's other sister, Christabel, a bohemian who has a special relationship with Gaskell, a barnstorming artist; Oily Wragge, the gardener on the McCosh family estate, who suffers from nightmares about his war experiences; and various and sundry mistresses of unhappily married Daniel, who bear him several illegitimate children over the years. Through a variety of points of view, de Bernières creates an impressionistic depiction of Britain recovering from one world war and slipping inexorably into another as motion pictures begin to talk, land and air records are set, and Daniel and his friends and family heroically try to adjust to changing times. The novel is light on plot, but the characters are such excellent company that it makes for an irresistible reading experience, especially for fans of *Downton Abbey*.

Deutermann, PT. [Iceman](#) (St Martins \$26.99). At the start of this exciting WWII naval thriller set in 1942, Lt. Commander Malachi Stormes launches a submarine attack on a German U-boat base in France that destroys three enemy subs. His daring earns him a promotion and the command of the *USS Firefish*, a new long-range sub based in Perth, Australia, replacing a timid skipper more concerned with preserving torpedoes than engag-

ing foes. The *Firefish*'s crew members are unprepared for his aggressive and unorthodox tactics. The phlegmatic captain earns the nickname "the Iceman" for his cool detachment, even taking time to grab a smoke while an enemy destroyer bears down on his boat. But a family history of alcoholism and violence back home in Kentucky haunts the captain and could adversely affect his judgment. "Deutermann packs authentic information on submarine tactics and naval warfare in between the taut underwater action. Fans of old-school submarine novels like *Run Silent, Run Deep* will love this." Cussler fans, too.

De Giovanni, Maurizio. [Nameless Serenade](#) (Europa \$17). "Deep melancholy infuses the crafty whodunit plot of de Giovanni's superior ninth mystery set in 1930s Italy." After the corpse of Constantino Irace, the owner of a celebrated fabric store, is discovered on a Naples street, Commissario Luigi Ricciardi and his deputy, Brigadier Raffaele Maione, are under political pressure to close the case quickly with the arrest of Vincenzo Sannino, who once had a successful boxing career in America that was a source of pride for his country. Sannino quit after his trademark punch, dubbed the snakebite, caused the death of an opponent—and even an entreaty from Mussolini to box again proved unpersuasive. Although Irace might have been killed by a blow resembling the snakebite, and Sannino had motive to kill Irace, because he married the woman Sannino had long been pining for, the honest policemen pursue a less obvious theory, despite its risk to their positions. Ricciardi, who's literally haunted by visions of the dead, continues to be one of the most nuanced and intriguing sleuths in contemporary crime fiction.

✚Doherty, Paul. [Dark Queen Rising](#) (Severn \$28.99). The ever fertile historian starts a series led by Margaret Beaufort, matriarch of the Tudors and mother of the man who became Henry VII. She's descended from John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, and his mistress Katherine Swynford, whose eventual marriage legitimized their children. **If you've never read Anya Seton's classic historical [Katherine](#) (\$16), one of my very favorites, start there for background.** And on to May, 1471. The Wars of the Roses are reaching their bitter and bloody climax. Edward of York has claimed the English throne, and his supporters are extracting a savage revenge on all who supported the Lancastrian cause. Surrounded by enemies wherever she turns, the position of Margaret Beaufort, Countess of Richmond and mother to Henry Tudor, the last remaining hope of the House of Lancaster, is precarious to say the least. Determined to protect her son whatever it takes, Margaret must rely on her sharp-witted clerk Christopher Ulswicke to be her eyes and ears. When four bodies are discovered in a London tavern, their throats slit, and Margaret herself is suspected of being behind the crime, it's up to Ulswicke to prove his mistress's innocence and unmask the real killer.

Eekhaut, Guido. [Absinthe](#) (Skyhorse \$25.99). Eekhaut's gripping thriller, the first in his Amsterdam trilogy, introduces Belgian Chief Inspector Walter Eekhaut, who's transferred to Amsterdam because of issues with authority that are never fully explored or explained. Walter arrives there right as political activist Pieter Van Boer is killed after stealing a list of secret donors to an ultra-conservative political party. Pieter's girlfriend escapes with the list, pursued by a Russian henchman with connections to Putin and the Russian mob. Walter pairs with Chief Supt. Alexandra Dewaal, who harnesses his rebellious nature enough to use it to her advantage in the investigation. Meanwhile, Walter spends

nights at a local bar, Absinthe, meeting with a mysterious woman with possible ties to the crimes. A few frustrating plot lapses aside, Eekhaut does a fine job of highlighting the cultural differences between Belgium and the Netherlands as revealed through the interactions between Walter and Alexandra. It's a fascinating glimpse into the workings of two distinct cultures.

Feiffer, Jules. [The Ghost Script](#) (Liveright \$26.95). A Starred Review for the legendary cartoonist's conclusion to his noir trilogy: "Feiffer concludes the remarkable trilogy that began with [Kill My Mother](#) (\$18.95) and [Cousin Joseph](#), inspired by the tropes of film noir and the historical reality of anticommunist witch hunts, in this feverish crime story. In 1950s Hollywood, everyone is talking about the legendary "Ghost Script," a screenplay rumored to be floating around L.A. that supposedly reveals a real-world conspiracy behind the Hollywood blacklist. Some blacklisted screenwriters decide to turn the legend into reality, adding another maddening level to the confusion between truth and fiction that runs through the plot. Soon an expansive cast of characters is chasing the script, eager to either expose the red baiters or cover them up. Poor gumshoe Archie Goldman, nominally the protagonist, gets hired by interested parties on both sides but is barely able to keep up with the twists and turns. Feiffer has been drawing comics since before the era in which the book is set (one character mentions growing up reading *The Spirit*, which Feiffer worked on in the 1940s) and he shows off his mastery of the form with grace. The plot loops so often that it's easy to lose threads, but the atmosphere of paranoia, censorship, and enforced patriotism thrums. Unsurprisingly for Feiffer, the strongest sections are the portraits of individual characters, squirming and dancing out their preoccupations. In this capstone to a graceful three-volume performance, Feiffer has an utterly unique take on crime fiction and crime comics, drawing with an energy that practically hurls the characters off the page."

Giambanco, Valentina. [Sweet After Death](#) (Quercus \$26.99). "Giambanco's superb fourth police procedural featuring Seattle homicide detective Alice Madison takes Madison and her team—Detective Sergeant Kevin Brown and crime scene investigator Amy Sorenson—to Ludlow, Wash., where Dr. Robert Dennen was found burned to death in his car. Ludlow's tiny police force isn't equipped to handle the town's first ever homicide, and the Seattle PD detectives must deal with makeshift crime facilities, treacherous weather, and the residents' daunting, long-established "fabric of relationships." Key to solving Dennen's murder is 15-year-old Samuel Tanner, who lives with his many siblings on an isolated farm that's more of a compound and controlled by his abusive father. Sorenson's smart use of forensics enhances Madison and Brown's intuitive partnership. Giambanco seamlessly melds a solid look at police work with an intriguing glimpse at small-town life and the secrets that motivate people."—PW Starred Review

Hall, James W. [When You Can't Stop](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Despite Harper McDaniel's best efforts, the man responsible for the murder of her husband and son was exonerated thanks to some slick legal wrangling. This blatant injustice has only made Harper more determined than ever to bring down the culprit. Her ammunition? Incriminating information about his olive oil operations in Italy. But the clues that she follows are leading her into the depths of a corrupt plot that is more poisonous and far-reaching than she realizes. And more dangerous, too, because her

enemy is prepared for her pursuit. Accompanied by her brother and mobster grandfather, Harper treks across Spain from Seville to a medieval castle, home to a successful olive farmer who is one of Harper's closest allies, shadowed every step of the way by a ruthless assassin... I miss Thorne but Hall is such a terrific thrillermeister I can't wait to read this.

Hartsuyker, Lin. [The Sea Queen](#) (Harper \$27.99). Ragnvald Eysteinsson is now king of Sogn, but fighting battles for King Harald keeps him away from home, as he confronts treachery and navigates a political landscape that grows more dangerous the higher he rises. Ragnvald's sister Svanhild has found the freedom and adventure she craves at the side of the rebel explorer Solvi Hunthiofsson, though not without a cost. She longs for a home where her quiet son can grow strong, and a place where she can put down roots, even as Solvi's ambition draws him back to Norway's battles again and keeps her divided from her brother. As a growing rebellion unites King Harald's enemies, Ragnvald suspects that some Norse nobles are not loyal to Harald's dream of a unified Norway. He sets a plan in motion to defeat all of his enemies, and bring his sister back to his side. What could go wrong? 2nd in this Norse series after [The Half-Drowned King](#) (\$15.99). I'd start there....

✎Heley, Veronica. [Murder by Suggestion](#) (Severn \$28.99). Ellie Quicke is shocked when her daughter, Diana, turns up at her door with a suitcase in tow. Bunny Brewster has died of an overdose, and Diana's husband, Evan, is convinced that she is responsible for his friend's death. It seems that Diana and four other neglected, bored wives of Evan's friends recently joked about ways to kill their husbands. Diana's suggested method of murder involved muddling up pills – could this be how Bunny died, or was it just a tragic accident? All five women are soon causing havoc at Ellie's house, but a further distressing development confirms Ellie's instinct that there's more to this than meets the eye... This is the latest in a long British cozy series. Ordered Upon Request.

Higgins, Kristin. [Good Luck with That](#) (Berkley \$16). A 2018 RITA Award winner tackles body image and self acceptance. Emerson, Georgia, and Marley met as teens at a 'fat camp.' When one of them dies young, the others are forced to confront their own struggles with self-esteem. Library Reads finds that, "With equal measures of humor and heartbreak, this book sparks questions about society's idea of the perfect size and explores how body image can have far-reaching effects."

Hoang, Helen. [The Kiss Quotient](#) (Berkley \$15). A debut romance getting a big play features a heroine who is autistic who hires an escort for lesson in sex. Stella is aware she lacks insight and empathy and the disconnect between herself and others who find her actions inscrutable. "Her frustration is a sharp sadness in an otherwise gentle, frothy book" (*NYTBR*) that is not without conflict. The author bases her story on herself. You regular readers of the Booknews will recognize this is a variation from a woman's point of view on Graeme Simsion's [The Rosie Project](#) (\$16) which, if you have not read it, I can't recommend highly enough.

✎Howells, Debbie. [Her Sister's Lie](#) (Kensington \$26). Music teacher Hannah Roscoe is dismayed to learn that her sister, Nina Tyrell, from whom she has been estranged for 10 years, has died in London, leaving Hannah as next of kin to raise Nina's sulen, uncommunicative 15-year-old son, Abe. The responsibility

weighs especially heavy on Hannah, because she's reeling from a recent breakup with her boyfriend, Matt Elliot. And on it goes with more than one unreliable narrator and a plot I find to be such a stretch I wore out and looked up the end. Not recommended which is too bad as I liked her debut [The Bones of You](#) (\$9.99).

Izzo, Jean-Claude. [Chourmo](#) (Europa \$16). Noirist Izzo died in 2000. This second novel in his Marseilles trilogy, originally published in 2006, has the additional benefit of providing a touching tribute to the author's beloved city, in all its color and complexity. Fabio Montale is an unwitting hero in this city of melancholy beauty. Fabio Montale has left a police force marred by corruption, xenophobia, and greed. But getting out is not going to be so easy. When his cousin's son goes missing, Montale is dragged back onto the mean streets of a violent, crime-infested Marseilles. To discover the truth about the boy's disappearance, he infiltrates a dangerous underworld of mobsters, religious fanatics, crooked cops, and ordinary people whom desperation has driven to extremes. With Peter Mayle gone, Izzo's work keeps Marseilles alive for you. [Order the whole trilogy.](#)

✎Jones, Sandie. [The Other Woman](#) (St Martins \$26.99). St Martins is betting huge on yet another British psychological thriller that involves a sexy IT recruiter called Adam working in London who dazzles narrator Emily while his sixty-ish mother Pammie stops at nothing to split the couple asunder. I am so bored with this genre. I read 30 pages and skipped to the "big reveal" at the end. Jones clearly engineered the surprise to be, well, a surprise with a second surprise, but I don't give her points for what is basically the story of an enabler. Also please do not confuse this book with the new Daniel Silva [The Other Woman](#) (Harper \$28.99 SIGNED), the same title but a fabulous spy novel!

Kepler, Lars. [The Hypnotist](#) (\$16.95). This is the retranslated, re-edited edition of the first novel in the Swedish author's remarkable Joona Linna series. Two more retranslated Linnas will publish to bring you current with the book they signed for us last March: [The Sandman](#) (Knopf \$25.95). This internationally best-selling series is for fans of Stieg Larsson and got a rave review from Robert Anglen.

Koutsakis, Pol. [Baby Blue](#) (Bitter Lemon \$14.95). The streets of Athens prove as mean as those of Raymond Chandler's L.A. in Koutsakis' brilliant second noir featuring Stratos Gazis whom we met in [Athenian Blues](#) (\$14.95). Angelino, a powerful and shadowy figure, asks Stratos—who considers himself a kind of caretaker, someone who "clears the world of filth and gets paid for it"—to look into the three-year-old unsolved murder of Themis Raptas. A former respected journalist who ended up living on the streets, Raptas was tortured before being shot 10 times. The m.o. matches that of the currently active killer the press has dubbed the Avenger, who has been targeting pedophiles identified by a popular reality TV show. Raptas had an adopted daughter, Emma, now 14, whom Angelino took in after her father's death. Emma tells Stratos she wants revenge, not justice, a charge complicated by his learning of an apparent connection between Raptas and the Avenger. While the plotting matches James Ellroy's best work, Koutsakis does a better job of making the twists flow organically from the characters.

Kluger, Richard. [Beethoven's Tenth](#) (Orca \$26.95). You may enjoy this snarky start to the *Kirkus Review* more than reading the book: "A piano tuner—sorry, make that piano technician—

happens on the find of a lifetime, which may also be the price he pays for it. ‘Today I don’t pay you in money,’ elderly piano teacher Olga Pieczynski tells Frank Ryan after he restores her Steinway to proper pitch by removing Coco, her dead dog, from inside it. ‘Today I pay you in art,’ she adds as she presses a copy of *Songs of Springtime* into his hands. And what art it is. An improbably cursory examination is enough to alert Frank that she’s actually given him the manuscript of the first three movements of Ludwig van Beethoven’s *Tenth Symphony*. It’s too late to ask Miss P where she got it or what she’d like Frank to do with it, since a strategically placed piano wire has already sent her following Beethoven and Coco into the great beyond.” So.... I love music with mystery so I’ll wait until a copy arrives and see if it strikes a good chord.

Lapena, Shari. [An Unwanted Guest](#) (Viking \$26). Karen reviews: Mitchell’s Inn, nestled in the Catskills, is the perfect place for people to go to when needing peace, reflection and relaxation. For Gwen and Riley, two friends from journalism school, it’s a chance to repair their fractured relationship. For David Paley, an attorney, it is a time to examine his place in life and how to move forward. Lauren and Ian want to revitalize a stagnant relationship while Beverly is wanting the same, not realizing her husband, Henry, has already checked out. Candace White just wants to work on her book and be left alone. Finally, there is the golden couple, Dana and Matthew – he’s rich, she’s beautiful. The weekend quickly goes awry when a brutal snow storm strikes, cutting off electricity resulting in no contact with the rest of the world. Guests are discouraged from going outside to escape the tension that escalates as time goes by. The staff is reduced to two people, the owner and his son. And then there’s the murder, made to look like an accident, but suspicious to some. Two more murders follow before the group can finally contact the outside world and seek an end to their nightmare. Lapena’s descriptions of the environment and the Inn are spectacular, and few hints are given as to who is responsible for the fear and lack of trust among the guests.

Lunney, Tessa. [April in Paris, 1921](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Paris in 1921 is the city of freedom, where hatless and footloose Kiki Button—war veteran, party girl, detective, and spy—can drink champagne and dance until dawn. She works as a gossip columnist, partying with the rich and famous, the bohemian and strange, using every moment to create a new woman from the ashes of her war-worn self. While on the modeling dais, Picasso gives her a job: to find his wife’s portrait, which has gone mysteriously missing. That same night, her spymaster from the war contacts her—she has to find a double agent or face jail. Through parties, whisky, and seductive informants, Kiki uses her knowledge of Paris from the Great War to connect the clues. Set over the course of one springtime week. The analogy between this series start by Australian Button and Kerry Greenwood’s Phryne Fisher mysteries is obvious—and good news, Greenwood publishes a new Corinna Chapman, her marvelous Melbourne baker sleuth, with us in March 2019. Our **August Cozy Crimes Club Pick** earns these raves reviews: “Button is naughtier than Kerry Greenwood’s Phryne Fisher, as strong as Suzanne Arruda’s Jade del Cameron, and every bit as clever as Susan Elia MacNeal’s Maggie Hope. This thoroughly entertaining, delightfully witty debut is imbued with Paris’ unique ambiance and will have readers eagerly awaiting Button’s next adventure.”—*Booklist* Starred Review. *LJ* adds, “An atmospheric, verbose historical novel

that foreshadows the next war while reveling in the debauched bohemianism of Paris between the wars. Spying is just part of the excitement.”

Maitland, Barry. [Slaughter Park](#) (Text \$15.95). Book #3 in the Beltree Trilogy pits former Sydney homicide cop Harry Belltree against DI Deb Velasco over whether Belltree’s estranged wife Jenny, who left him over the shooting that injured her and threatened her pregnancy, is guilty in the death of Terry Palfreyman. The dead man was a self-appointed watchdog constantly showing up at company shareholder meetings to question ethical practices. Nordlund Resources, Inc., was Terry’s favorite target, and aiming to develop Sydney’s Slater Park into an Aussie showplace... In addition to working to clear Jenny, Belltree is investigating the accident that killed his parents in the trilogy opener *Crucifixion Creek*. Order all three.

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Ochre Court](#) (Kensington \$26). Reporter Emma Crossback returns to Gilded Age Newport after a year in NY where her efforts to break out from society reporting into hard news failed. Her first assignment in Newport is the coming-out ball for Cleo Cooper-Smith, hosted by her Aunt May at lavish Ochre Court. The conceit is to display Cleo as Cleopatra on a throne studded with electric light bulbs, a costly new technology in 1898. And a fatal one—a shock kills Cleo. Emma, seeing opportunity, decides to investigate. The best part of this is watching the transition from gaslight to electricity, a tech revolution akin to those of today like AI. 6th in series.

Mizushima, Margaret. [The Hunting Hour](#) (\$15.99). A medical emergency prevented the Colorado author from signing the hardcover of her 3rd Timber Creek K-9 Mystery last December. Here it is in large paperback: A depressed Mattie Cobb still struggles with issues from her past and a previous case. She and Robo, her K-9 coworker, are still a tightly bonded team, but Mattie has withdrawn from her police colleagues and local vet Cole Walker and his daughters. When a teenage girl is reported missing, Mattie and Robo are on the case then find the girl’s body near the high school. Then one of Cole’s daughters is kidnapped. The suspense ratchets up as the search for the missing girl accelerates. Mizushima excels at revealing Mattie’s conflicted mind-set regarding Cole and his children and the disconnect she feels in her life. This is a popular series with Pat King. [Order all 3](#) and then join us September 29 when Mizushima signs a new one.

✠O’Connor, Nuala. [Becoming Belle](#) (Penguin \$25). For those fascinated by the British aristocracy in its heyday, a novel based on a real woman. In 1887, Isabel Bilton is the eldest of three daughters of a middle-class military family, growing up in a small garrison town. By 1891 she is the Countess of Clancarty, dubbed “the peasant countess” by the press, and a member of the Irish aristocracy. *Becoming Belle* is the story of the four years in between, of Belle’s rapid social ascent and the people that tried to tear her down. It all began when Isabel moved to London alone at age nineteen, changed her name to Belle, and took the city by storm, facing unthinkable hardships while earning fame. A true bohemian and the star of a dancing double act she performs with her sister, she reigns over The Empire Theatre and The Corinthian Club, where only select society entertains. It is there she falls passionately in love with William, Viscount Dunlo, a young aristocrat. For Belle, her marriage to William is a dream come true, but his ruthless father makes clear he’ll stop at nothing to

keep her in her place. So, this is more *Vanity Fair* and Becky Sharpe than *Downtown*. But ordinary society marriages make less exciting material for fiction.

Parry, Ambrose. [The Way of All Flesh](#) (Canongate \$26). Edinburgh, 1847. Victorian Edinburgh is having a moment in mystery—see the July *Booknews* and also check Signed Books for the UK edition signed by Parry who is Christopher Brookmyre and a doctor. Young women are being discovered dead across the Old Town, all having suffered similarly gruesome ends. In the New Town, medical student Will Raven is about to start his apprenticeship with the brilliant and renowned Dr Simpson. Simpson's patients range from the richest to the poorest of this divided city. His house is like no other, full of visiting luminaries and daring experiments in the new medical frontier of anesthesia. It is here that Raven meets housemaid Sarah Fisher, who recognizes trouble when she sees it and takes an immediate dislike to him. She has all of his intelligence but none of his privileges, in particular his medical education. With each having their own motive to look deeper into these deaths, Raven and Sarah find themselves propelled headlong into the darkest shadows of Edinburgh's underworld, where they will have to overcome their differences to survive.

Patterson, James. [Texas Ranger](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99). Hooking up with Andrew Bourelle, Patterson presents a Western thriller where a Ranger fights for his life, his freedom, and the town he loves as he investigates his ex-wife's murder.

✂Pearce, AJ. [Dear Mrs. Bird](#) (Scribner \$26). John covered this in the July *BookNotes* but I am adding my own push for this charmer of a story set in London during the 1940 Blitz. While there is inevitable loss, this is a quintessentially British story of pluck, getting on, doing one's bit for the war effort, standing up to Hitler, nearly paralyzing deference and following the rules, one outdated, closed-minded bully (a virtual caricature of a Daughter of Empire), and loyalty and bravery. Plus it's very funny. At the hub is Emmeline Lake, a young woman dying to be a Lady War Correspondent who sees an ad for a Junior at Launceston Publishing and takes the position without asking what it entails. To her shock instead of a post at the *London Evening Chronicle* she's billeted upstairs at the outmoded Woman's Friend where the advice columnist, the terrifying Mrs. Henrietta Bird, holds sway. Emmy, first reader of the readers' letters asking for help, begins by following Mrs. Bird's rules, but in time, and after being jilted, she begins to reply to a few. What follows is inevitable but full of surprises. I thought I'd read every variation on Seeing Through the War, but here's one entirely fresh. Don't miss it.

Penzler, Otto, ed. [Bibliomysteries: Volume Two](#) (Pegasus \$26.95). The 15 distinguished contributors to Penzler's sequel to 2017's [Bibliomysteries](#) (\$16.95 now out in large paperback; \$25.95 for a hardcover) all provide creative variations on this reprint anthology's theme—mysteries set in the world of books. Peter Lovesey offers his trademark blend of solid plotting, grim humor, and unexpected twists in "Remaindered," in which a bookseller's chance discovery of multiple first editions of Agatha Christie leads to multiple deaths. In Megan Abbott's creepy "The Little Men," an actress-turned makeup artist is haunted by strange sights and sounds in her Hollywood bungalow, possibly related to its prior tenant, a bookseller. In "The Gospel of Sheba," Lindsay Faye adds to the growing ranks of quality Sherlockian stories that

bring different perspectives on the great detective by portraying him through non-Watsonian eyes—in this case, those of the minor canonical character of Lomax, the sub-librarian of "The Illustrious Client." In Joyce Carol Oates's "Mystery, Inc.," a taut tale of suspense, the victims of a serial killer are all booksellers whose inventories he wants to acquire. You won't want to miss this opportunity to dip in and out of crime during summer days (or nights).

Petrou, Laurie. [Sister of Mine](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Set in the small Canadian town of St. Margaret's, Petrou's debut finds Penny Grayson, the book's eloquent narrator, and her younger sister, Hattie, sharing their family home after the death of Penelope's abusive husband, Buddy, in a fire. Penny, the director of the town's day care center, and Hattie, who works at the beauty salon, have settled into a relatively comfortable routine. However, the delicate balance of their lives changes when a handsome stranger, Jameson Leung, comes to teach at the local school. "This is the published *PW Review* I read and I have to wonder what the reviewer was smoking since I found this Trust No One unpleasant and indeed, absurd. "The women's complicated relationship—made up of shifting emotions of rage, jealousy, guilt, grief, and profound love—is repeatedly tested. Meanwhile, the question of what really happened to Buddy hovers over the novel. The plot may be a tad melodramatic [way more than a tad...., I say], but it moves swiftly toward the shocking answer to that question. Readers will be keen to see what Petrou comes up with next [maybe... but not me].

Phillips, Adam Walker. [The Big Con](#) (Prospect Park \$16). John Charles enjoys the Chuck Restic series of which this is #3. Chuck is a corporate exec in human resources. And he has to step lively to resolve the conflict between his boss and two employees over training sessions that a women's consulting company Power One provides to Chuck's LA company. A murder ensues. One of Chuck's lines of investigation is the confusing past as a librarian of Power One's founder. "Phillips pokes wry fun at corporate life through his refreshingly humane investigator" which is a nice offset to the way HR personnel can be portrayed, no? You can order [all three of Chuck's cases](#) to date.

Redondo, Dolores. [All This I Will Give to You](#) (Crossing \$26.95). Recommended to me for "the elegance, complexity and subtlety of the story, and how surprising it is as a crime novel. The protagonist is a reluctant sleuth—a bestselling author whose husband dies in a car crash, and in the aftermath, he discovers his partner had a secret life, which included a wealthy family that kept some very dark and horrifying secrets about his childhood. And the setting is a gorgeous, vibrant character unto itself—Spain's Ribiera Sacra, famous for its vertical vineyards and for having the most dangerous wine harvest in the world.

Rader-Day, Lori. [Under a Dark Sky](#) (\$15.99). When 34-year-old Eden Wallace, the narrator of this cleverly plotted mystery from Mary Higgins Clark Award-winner Rader-Day, discovers that her deceased husband, Bix, was planning a 10th anniversary surprise at a remote Michigan stargazing resort, she decides to keep the reservation. With no work to distract her, Eden is still grief-stricken nine months after Bix's death, and she wants to spend time alone in an environment far from her Chicago home. However, she no sooner arrives at the resort than she learns the intimate cottage she envisioned is to be shared with six 20-some-

things gathered for some sort of college reunion. After one of the six is murdered, suspicions turn friend against friend and, by turns, each against Eden. “It’s a great setting for a murder, and each of Rader-Day’s prickly millennials feels capable of murder—to say nothing of sleep-deprived, near hysterical Eden. Readers will have fun following the subtle clues.”

Rose, MJ. [Tiffany Blues](#) (Atria \$26). The Indie Next Pick: “After spending my vacation reading an entire stack of rather intense psychological suspense novels, I wasn’t sure what kind of book I was ready for next! Alas, I picked up Tiffany Blues and couldn’t stop reading. This book offers the reader so much to think about: it’s a mystery, it’s a love story, it’s historical fiction, and, at the heart of it, it’s art. Rose’s newest follows Jenny Bell, an artist with secrets. The men in her life are domineering and the women can be that way, too. Jenny’s story is as captivating as the backstory of Louis Comfort Tiffany and his art colony.” Rose specializes in historical fiction focused on characters and the passions that consume them.

Shaffer, Andrew. [Hope Never Dies](#) (Quirk \$14.99). I include this because it’s become a surprise hit and not to make any political statement...nor a literary one. Vice President Joe Biden is fresh out of the Obama White House and feeling adrift when his favorite railroad conductor dies in a suspicious accident, leaving behind an ailing wife and a trail of clues. To unravel the mystery, “Amtrak Joe” re-teams with the only man he’s ever fully trusted: the 44th president of the United States. Vice President Joe Biden is fresh out of the Obama White House and feeling adrift when his favorite railroad conductor dies in a suspicious accident, leaving behind an ailing wife and a trail of clues. To unravel the mystery, “Amtrak Joe” re-teams with the only man he’s ever fully trusted: the 44th president of the United States. I add I really hate the book’s cover which enforces the opportunist nature of its publication.

Schaffer, Bernard. [The Thief of All Light](#) (Kensington \$26). Summer is not just for spies. Serial killers get pages too. Veteran cop Schaffer verges towards true crime in this SK thriller: “I want to focus on the purest, most high octane creature I can create.” So Rookie cop Carrie Santero and her boss, Chief Bill, are presented with someone wreaking havoc in their rural Pennsylvania town. Each murder is different and each is created in the manner of a famous SK of the past: Ed Gein, etc. And each crime scene contains differing evidence. The two cops need help and tap a former colleague, Jacob Rein, whose career facing monsters has made him a dark, lost soul—but one whose insights can help Santero catch her own monster. Starts a series.

Simenon, George. [Maigret Travels](#) (Penguin \$13). The attempted suicide of a countess and the death of a billionaire in the same luxury Paris hotel combine to send Maigret to the Riviera and then to Switzerland, as he searches for the truth amid the glittering world of the super-rich. #51 in the republication of the Maigrets.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Quiet Side of Passion](#) (Knopf \$25.95). With two small boys to raise, a mountain of articles to edit for the *Review of Applied Ethics* and the ever-increasing demands of her niece, Cat, who always seems to need a helping hand at the deli. Isabel barely has any time for herself. Her husband, Jamie, suggests acquiring extra help, and she reluctantly agrees. In no time at all, Isabel and Jamie have a new au pair, and Isabel hires an intelligent assistant editor to share her workload.

Both women, though, have romantic entanglements that threaten to interfere with their work, and Isabel must decide how best to navigate this tricky domestic situation. Should an employer ever inject herself into her employees’ affairs?

New in paperback, #11: [A Distant View of Everything](#) (\$15). When a matchmaker begins to question her latest match, Isabel Dalhousie is called upon to help.

Solares, Martin. [Don’t Send Flowers](#) (Black Cat/Grove \$16). Unread by me, but this review will grip you Winslow fans. “Solares follows up *The Black Minutes* with another unpredictable descent into a region of Mexico teetering on the edge of complete lawlessness. It is reminiscent of Don Winslow’s dark thrillers *The Power of the Dog* and *The Cartel* in its emphasis on the miseries wrought by the drug trade, but Solares’ focus is firmly on the Mexican side of the border. His novel, translated from Spanish by Heather Cleary, centers on the all-too-common crime of kidnapping in the Gulf town of Ciudad Miel. In this case, the missing girl has a powerful father who convinces retired police detective Carlos Treviño to help find his daughter before it’s too late. Treviño has a history with the local police that ended with his torture and desperate escape, so he has to dodge the police as well as two cartels warring over territory. Simply moving around the city is a dangerous proposition. The scope of the story is complicated by surprising tangents and perspective shifts. Few characters seem untouched by what they refer to as “the trade”: “Throw a rock and you’ll hit someone living off the cartels. And Solares is unafraid to look through the eyes of borderline villainous characters, taking readers deep into the calculations and moral compromises they’ve made to stay alive or even prosper in what increasingly seems like a modern Wild West. About halfway through, the story pivots in dramatic fashion; It conjures up the hottest, sultriest days of summer.”

Sternbergh, Adam. [The Blinds](#) (\$16.99). Sternbergh’s 3rd novel is a big hit with some of the PP staff. A dusty rural Texas town, *The Blinds* is populated by criminals plucked from their lives. Their memories altered, given new identities and a second chance, these misfits don’t know if they’ve perpetrated a crime or just witnessed one. But it’s clear that if they leave, they’ll end up dead. *The Blinds* is no sleepy hideaway. It’s simmering with violence and deception, aching heartbreak and dark betrayals.... “The neat trick of *The Blinds*, is that he builds a smart, pulpy crime novel out of that material—it’s a critique of our best-intentioned it-takes-a-village sentiments that’s both more realistic and more weaponized than similar treatments.”

Swann, Christopher. [Shadow of the Lions](#) (\$15.95). A literary thriller set in the elite—and sometimes dark—environs of Blackburne, a prep school in Virginia. When Matthias Glass’s best friend, Fritz, vanishes without a trace in the middle of an argument during their senior year, Matthias tries to move on with his life, only to realize that until he discovers what happened to his missing friend, he will be stuck in the past, guilty, responsible, alone. Almost ten years after Fritz’s disappearance, Matthias gets his chance. Offered a job teaching English at Blackburne, he gets swiftly drawn into the mystery. In the shadowy woods of his alma mater, he stumbles into a web of surveillance, dangerous lies, and buried secrets—and discovers the troubled underbelly of a school where the future had once always seemed bright. The somewhat Gothic nature of private schools endlessly enralls writers...and readers.

Swift, Earl. [Chesapeake Requiem: A Year With the Watermen of Vanishing Tangier Island](#) (Dey Street Books \$28.99). An Indie Next Pick: "I was so impressed with this story of Tangier, an exploration of science, history, religion, and culture driven by emotionally salient commentary from people who live there today. I thought it was particularly interesting to learn that the community is conservative both religiously and politically, but their home is being swept away by rising sea levels thanks to climate change, which is usually a politically charged topic. It was also interesting to have insight into what is likely the United States' first group of 'climate refugees' — terms that are also politically charged. Thoughtfully, lovingly, and intelligently done. An important read!"

Tolkien, JRR. [The Fall of Gondolin](#) (Houghton \$30). For a description see this title in Signed Books (no, not by Tolkien, by the illustrator). A plus: *The Tale of Eärendel*, which Tolkien never wrote, is sketched out in this book from other sources. Christopher Tolkien and Alan Lee collaborated to produce this beautiful volume for teen readers on up.

Van der Vlugt, Simone. [Midnight Blue](#) (Morrow \$15.99). A year ago April when visiting Holland for tulips, we were finally able to arrange a day in Delft, still famed for its distinctive blue and white porcelain/pottery patterns developed in the 17th Century when the Dutch were at the peak of their commercial empire. The minute I saw the cover of this book translated into English by Jenny Watson I knew it was centered in Delftware and for fans of *Girl with a Pearl Earring*, *The Miniaturist*, *Tulip Fever*, *The Coffee Trader*, and other fiction rooted in real Dutch history. We begin in 1654 Amsterdam, the Dutch Golden Age, where a suddenly widowed young Catrin has left her village and become housekeeper to a rich merchant family. Madam Van Nulandt takes expensive painting lessons from local master Rembrandt van Rijn. Catrin picks up a brush to finish some of her mistress' work and Rembrandt encourages her talent. Then a dangerous secret from her past forces Catrin to flee to Delft where her gift earns her employment painting pottery at a local workshop when has begun to develop a new product to rival the fancy blue-on-white imported Chinese porcelain. Catrin's designs help revolutionize the industry. Then tragedy strikes and she has hard choices to make....

Von Däniken, Erich. [Chariot of the Gods: 50th Anniversary Edition](#) (Berkley \$24). Many scientists and historians ridiculed it, but this book that introduced the theory that ancient Earth established contact with aliens became a popular phenomenon. It was translated into 28 languages and sold more than 16 million copies, with steady sales that continue today. Von Däniken wrote 32 sequels and companion novels on the similar subjects, and his works have led to many documentaries, films, video games, TV shows and, most notably, the Ancient Aliens series on the History Channel. *Chariots of the Gods* remains a kind of bible in the UFO community. To celebrate the publication of this surprise bestseller, Berkley has just published a deluxe hardcover 50th-anniversary edition of the book, with a new foreword and afterword by the author. Publishing loves anniversaries as opportunities but realistically, we at The Pen realize that readers may relish an introduction or a refresher read of a book that dropped to a low profile.

Walsh, Rosie. [Ghosed](#) (Penguin \$26). Walsh's bittersweet debut tackles the perils of modern dating. When Sarah meets Eddie in London, she's sure she's met the love of her life. After a whirlwind week of romance, Eddie leaves for a trip and tells Sarah how excited he is to see her when he returns. Then he stops returning her texts and calls. Sarah's friends tell her she's fallen victim to that terribly modern method of break-up, ghosting. But when she discovers Eddie's friends haven't heard from him lately, either, she worries something horrible may have happened. Little does she know that reason for Eddie's radio silence might be worse than a cowardly breakup, and, indeed, the truth is gut-wrenching, truly surprising, and heartbreaking. Flashbacks to Sarah's magical week with Eddie provide ample justification for her refusal to just let it go, but she's also self-aware enough to know how desperate she looks as she keeps searching for Eddie. Though the ending comes abruptly, this tale of heartbreak will please readers who enjoy a good twist. Expect John Charles to say more in the August BookNotes but warning: first prints may well be gone.

Walker, Nico. [Cherry](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Based on Nico's life, this is the story of a serial bank robber that has to keep robbing to support his heroin habit to self-treat his PTSD from the Army. Our Knopf sales rep tells us this was written on a typewriter while Walker was in prison.

Walters, Minette. [The Last Hours](#) (Mira \$26.99). June, 1348: the Black Death enters England through the port of Melcombe in the county of Dorsetshire. Unprepared for the virulence of the disease, and the speed with which it spreads, the people of the county start to die in their thousands. In the estate of Develish, Lady Anne takes control of her people's future - including the lives of two hundred bonded serfs. Strong, compassionate and resourceful, Lady Anne chooses a bastard slave, Thaddeus Thurkell, to act as her steward. Together, they decide to quarantine Develish by bringing the serfs inside the walls. With this sudden overturning of the accepted social order, where serfs exist only to serve their lords, conflicts soon arise. Ignorant of what is happening in the world outside, they wrestle with themselves, with God and with the terrible uncertainty of their futures. Lady Anne's people fear starvation but they fear the pestilence more? And overturning the status quo.

Wang, Daren. [The Hidden Light of Northern Fires](#) (Picador \$16). Mary Willis has always been an outcast, an abolitionist in a town of bounty hunters and anti-Union farmers. After college, she dreams of exploring the country, but is obligated to take over the household duties and management of her family's farm, while her brother Leander avoids his own responsibilities. Helping run-aways is the only thing that makes her life in Town Line bearable. When escaped slave Joe Bell collapses in her father's barn, Mary is determined to help him cross to freedom in nearby Canada. But the wounded fugitive is haunted by his vengeful owner, who relentlessly hunts him up and down the country, and his sister, still trapped as a slave in the South. As the countryside is riled by the drumbeat of civil war, rebels and soldiers from both sides bring intrigue and violence of the brutal war to the town and the farm.

Woods, Stuart/Parnell Hall. [The Money Shot](#) (Penguin \$28). I really enjoyed Hall's 2016 debut as a coauthor in [Smooth Operator](#) (\$9.99), featuring Teddy Fay. And now Teddy is back having

donned a new disguise--that of Mark Weldon, a stuntman and actor starring in Centurion Studios' newest film. When the picture's leading lady begins receiving blackmail threats, Teddy is in the perfect position to investigate, and it soon becomes clear that the villains have more in their sights than just money. Money they've got. What they need is prestige, the cache of a respected studio to lend authority and legitimacy to their artistic endeavors . . . and a little bit of vengeance in the bargain.

Young, Hester. [The Shimmering Road](#) (\$16). As she nervously awaits the birth of her daughter, journalist Charlie Cates has better things to do than pine for the woman who abandoned her decades earlier. Yet when her estranged mother turns up dead in Arizona with a sister Charlie never knew she had, Charlie must confront her own painful family history...and face the child left behind. A child who speaks to Charlie in her dreams. A child who was present on the night of the murders. A child with no one else to turn to. Led by her mysterious gift--a supernatural ability to connect to both the future and the past through dreams and visions--Charlie travels to Tucson and soon unearths new clues about the unsolved double homicide. The search for answers will take her on a hair-raising journey across the Mexican border, from the resort town of Rocky Point to the impoverished border town of Nogales. But time may run out....

✳Youngson, Anne. [Meet Me at the Museum](#) (Flatiron \$23.99). Epistolary novels make changing up points of view easy. Jane Austen cut her teeth on one in *Lady Susan*. I've always liked them including one by someone I can't recall, maybe Meg Cabot, who did an ace job with email exchanges for a modern take. Anyway, this touching book begins when an English pig-farmer's wife loses a lifetime friend to death along with their shared dream of visiting a Copenhagen museum and Tollund Man, the subject of Seamus Heaney's famous poem. In her grief she writes to the curator, Professor Anders Larsen, quite formally and with no expectation of reply. Larsen, far more urbane, has suffered loss too--his wife, and their hopes for the future. He replies and as they exchange more and more about themselves, their worlds, their experiences, they find they have more in common than they could have imagined. This lovely debut by a 70-year-old author forms a beautiful portrait of love and loss, lives lived, and two seniors finding the courage to reverse and start again. Highly recommended.

You-Jeong, Jeong. [The Good Son](#) (Penguin \$16). Worth another mention for a variety of reasons including mental health issues, the Korean landscape, and the mystery. After waking up one morning to find his mother dead and himself covered in blood, a young South Korean man seeks the truth about what happened. There's been a rash of unreliable narrators in recent crime fiction but Yu-jin still manages to stand out from the crowd. He's not purposefully withholding information; he just can't remember details because of his seizures and the meds. Like Yu-jin, readers may feel dread creep along their skin as the truth is slowly revealed about the whole bloody mess, and once everything has been made clear, the brutal chill comes from more than the rain on the night of the murder. This makes an interesting pair with Ben Coes' 8th Dewey Andreas thriller that pivots on Kim Jong-un--see Event Books.

Zur, Yigal. [Death in Shangri-La](#) (Oceanview \$26.95). Dotan Naor, a retired Israeli operative, specializes in rescuing fellow coun-

trymen who have gotten into trouble abroad. After Israeli arms dealer Willy Mizrachi is found beheaded in Delhi, Naor, who has just returned to Israel from Mumbai, is visited by the police, who want to know why Naor's name was in the dead man's appointment book. Naor doesn't reveal that Mizrachi beseeched him a year earlier for help with Mizrachi's son, who gave up a promising legal career to join a Buddhist monastery in northern India. When Naor learns that the murder coincided with a series of terror attacks in India targeting Israeli tourists, he agrees to return to that country to investigate. He's joined by intelligence agent Maya Kfir, who, conveniently for Naor's libido, happens to be a knockout. "Zur doesn't make suspension of disbelief easy, especially after saddling his lead with a backstory that includes a martial arts match against Vladimir Putin at China's legendary Shaolin Monastery." Still, Zur's US debut intrigues.

OUR AUGUST SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Baldacci, David. [End Game](#) (\$9.99). Will Robie #5. Returning home from an overseas mission to discover that his boss has gone missing in remote Colorado, Will Robie and his sometime partner, Jessica Reel, team up in an increasingly violent small town, where their lives are soon in jeopardy.

Coben, Harlan. [Six Years](#) (\$9.99). Harboring an enduring love for Natalie six years after her marriage to another man, Jake Sanders learns of his rival's death and attends the funeral only to discover that Natalie is not the woman she seemed to be, a situation that compels a determined search for answers. *Kirkus* was just one of the review sources that gave this a big thumbs up saying "Like Jeffery Deaver, veteran Coben (*Stay Close*, 2012, etc.) is a magician who's a lot more fun to watch when you don't know how he's fooling you."

Connelly, Michael. [The Late Show](#) (\$9.99). Relegated to the night shift after filling a sexual harassment complaint against a supervisor, a once up-and-coming LAPD detective disobeys orders by refusing to walk away from two cases, including an assault on a prostitute and the death of a young woman in a nightclub shooting, *PW's* starred review concluded with "What follows is classic Connelly: a master class of LAPD internal politics and culture, good old-fashioned detective work, and state-of-the-art forensic science--plus a protagonist who's smart, relentless, and reflective. Talking about the perpetrator of the assault, Ballard says, "This is big evil out there." That's Connelly's great theme, and, once again he delivers.

Kelly, Sofie. [Tale of Two Kitties](#) (Berkley \$7.99). *Magical Cats* #9. When one of two estranged brothers is found murdered, Kathleen Paulson and her highly attuned feline helpers are challenged to dig deep into the town's history to clear a lead suspect's name and find the real culprit. *Kirkus* ended their glowing review with "Kelly writes a tale that is Minnesota nice in the best possible way, allowing readers to enjoy the story with tipping into either Pollyanna or snark.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Death in the Stacks](#) (\$7.99). *Library Lover's* #8. Targeted by a new library board president who she is sure is trying to drive her out, library director Lindsey Norris and her new hire, Paula, are declared suspects when the combative president is found dead, a situation that forces them to find the real killer to clear their names. *PW* had this to say "Once again, McKinlay invites the reader into an appealing world inhabited by kind, intelligent people and only the occasional nasty villain."

Parker, T Jefferson. [The Room of White Fire](#) (\$9.99). A marine-turned-private investigator struggling from the recent death of his wife races against time to track down a shattered young soldier who has escaped from a mental institution and who possesses a dangerous secret.

✂Pinborough, Sarah. [Behind Her Eyes](#) (\$9.99). The secretary of a successful psychiatrist is drawn into the seemingly picture-perfect life of her boss and his wife before discovering a complex web of controlling behaviors and secrets that gradually reveal profound and dangerous flaws in the couple's relationship. *PW* again "British author Pinborough (Murder) effectively shifts perspectives between two complex characters in this twisty psychological thriller set in North London."

Randall, Shari. [Against the Claw](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Lobster Shack #2. Allie Larkin is still back home at Mystic Bay, healing up from a broken ankle and lending a hand at her aunt's Lazy Mermaid Lobster Shack. But now that the famed restaurant is branching out into the world of catering, Allie's help is needed more than ever—even on the lobster boat. The last thing she expects to find once she's out on the bay, however, is the dead body of a beautiful young woman.

Slaughter, Karin. [The Good Daughter](#) (\$9.99). Decades after an attack on her family that left her mother dead and her sister traumatized, a New York-based lawyer returns to her hometown to help her father save the life of a young woman accused of a school shooting. *Kirkus* had this to say "It's hard to think of any writer since Flannery O'Connor, referenced at several key moments here, who's succeeded as consistently as Slaughter at using horrific violence to evoke pity and terror. Whether she's extending her franchise or creating standalones like this, she really does make your hair stand on end."

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Abbott, Allyson. [Last Call](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Mack's Bar #6 Bar Owner MacKenzie. Dalton must employ her extra-perceptive senses when Milwaukee police detective Duncan Albright asks for her help with investigating a shooting—a case that forces her to question everything she believes in—and could cause her to go bottoms up.

Black, Lisa. [Perish](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Gardiner and Renner #3. Forensic expert Maggie Gardiner discovers troubling new details about her colleague Jack Renner, a homicide detective with a brutal approach to law and order.

Buckley, Julia. [Dark and Twisting Path](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Writer's Apprentice #3. When her boyfriend, Sam West, who had been cleared of his wife's murder, is accused of killing a mail carrier with whom he had a falling out, writer's apprentice Lena London must prove his innocence.

Conte, Cate. [Purrder She Wrote](#) (St Martins \$7.99). When her café volunteer Adele is accused of killing Holly Hawthorne, an irresponsible cat mom, cat café owner Maddie James, as the fur flies, must find a killer while trying to hold her family and new business together.

Cook, Robin. [Charlatans](#) (\$9.99). New chief resident Dr. Noah Rothausser investigates a series of deadly anesthesia errors during routine procedures and begins to have suspicions about a resident who has created multiple Internet personas for herself.

Corrigan, Maya. [Smore Murders](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Five Ingredient Mysteries #5. When she is hired to serve the last meal the Titanic passengers ate during a murder-mystery game aboard a yacht, Val Deniston discovers that murder is also on the menu and that's only the tip of the iceberg.

Coulter, Cather. [Enigma](#) (\$9.99). Savich and Sherlock #21. Agents Savich and Sherlock network with agent Cam Wittier and New York Special Forces agent Jack Cabot in a race against time to catch an international criminal and solve the enigma of the man called John Doe.

Day, Maddie. [Death Over Easy](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Country Store #5. During the annual Brown County Bluegrass Festival, country store and café owner Robbie Jordan must help a group of banjo players clear their names in the murder of another performer.

Fairstein, Linda. [Final Jeopardy](#) (\$9.99). Reprint of Alex Cooper #1. Alexandra Cooper, assistant district attorney in charge of Manhattan's sex crime prosecution, takes on the murder of movie star Isabella Lascar in Alexandra's summer home and someone from her high-profile past who may have intended to kill Alexandra.

Gardner, Lisa. [Live to Tell](#) (\$9.99). Reprint of D.D. Warren #4. Investigating the murder of an entire family that initially appears to be a senseless act of violence, Sergeant Detective D. D. Warren uncovers disturbingly personal ties to the case that push her to the edges of her sanity.

Greaney, Mark. [Dead Eye](#) (\$9.99). Reprint of The Gray Man #4. A former CIA master assassin reappears from hiding to take revenge upon a former employee, who is a practiced killer himself.

Griffo, JD. [Murder on Memory Lake](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Inheriting a fortune and a lake house in Tranquility, New Jersey, Alberta finds her new home anything but peaceful after the body of her childhood nemesis is found floating in the water and her estranged granddaughter, an aspiring crime reporter, shows up to investigate.

Hiaasen, Carl. [Sick Puppy](#) (\$9.99). Reprint. Eco-terrorists, evil politicians, a millionaire obsessed with Barbie, and an ex-governor named Skink are just a few of the characters who populate this comic novel of politics as unusual in Florida.

Hiaasen, Carl. [Stormy Weather](#) (\$9.99). Reprint. Two honeymooners at a hotel in the Florida Keys are at the center of a chaotic adventure that brings together a seductive con artist, a shotgun-toting mobile home salesman, a law school dropout, a Gaboon viper, and a troop of storm-shocked monkeys

Jackson, Lisa. [You Will Pay](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Investigating remains found at a summer camp where a prank gone wrong led to the disappearances of two teens decades earlier, detective Lucas Dalton struggles with his father's ties to the case.

Klein, Libby. [Midnight Snacks Are Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Between trying to get her gluten-free baking business off the ground and helping her aunt remodel her old Victorian into the Butterfly House Bed and Breakfast in Cape May, New Jersey, Poppy McAllister is ready to call, "Mayday!" And now Aunt Ginny—who's a handful wide-awake—is sleepwalking on her

new sleeping pill prescription and is the police's prime suspect in the murder of a local humanitarian, who worked with troubled teens.

Neggers, Carla. [Thief's Mark](#) (Mira \$7.99). Sharpe and Donovan #7. Working with an international art thief to investigate the murders of his parents and his own kidnapping in early childhood, FBI agents Emma Sharpe and Colin Donovan must also confront a killer who would like to play out some dark fantasies.

O'Brien, Kevin. [They Won't Be Hurt](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Laura Gretchell and her young children are held hostage by intruders who are responsible for brutally slaughtering another family and must do what they say and give them what they want, soon discovering that the nightmare is only just beginning.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Corrupted](#) (\$8.99). Reprint of Rosato and Associates #14. Taking the case of a former classmate who has been wrongly accused of murdering a bully who sent him to juvenile detention when they were children, Bennie is forced to relive some of the darkest memories of her life in order to defend the boy she once failed.

Smith, Wilbur. [Tiger's Prey](#) (\$9.99). Embarking on a treacherous voyage across the ocean, Tom Courtney, the son of master mariner Sir Hal Courtney, faces dangerous enemies.

Staub, Wendy Corsi. [Little Girl Lost](#) (Harper \$7.99). Determined to discover the truth about the birth mother who abandoned her, Amelia Crenshaw soon discovers that she is on a collision course with a killer and a brash young NYPD detective whose case is connected to a long-ago crime.

Tracy, P.J. [Nothing Stays Buried](#) (\$9.99). Monkeewrench #8. A serial murder case involving a killer who leaves playing cards on his victims and a private missing-persons case in a small farming community connect in disturbing ways that prompt a collaborative investigation between the Minneapolis police and the unconventional Monkeewrench crew.