

BOOKNEWS from

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A SIZZLING SEPTEMBER

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 5 7:00 PM Noir Night

Peter Blauner signs [Sunrise Highway](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 6 7:00 PM Longmire!

Please register: \$30 One book, admits one; \$35 one book, admits two

[Register for the event HERE](#)

Location: Kerr Cultural Center 6110 N Scottsdale Rd, Scottsdale, AZ 85253

Craig Johnson signs [The Depth of Winter](#) (Viking \$28)

Walt Longmire #15

Our copies come with a link to an exclusive podcast recorded at Craig's home Doors open 6:00 PM Program 7:00 PM

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8 10:30 AM

Coffee & Crime discusses Dorothy L. Sayers' [Murder Must Advertise](#) (\$14.99)

A Lord Peter Wimsey drawing on Sayers' career in advertising

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 8 2:00 PM Mystery Foursome!

Karen White, Beatriz Williams, and Lauren Willig sign their novel [The Glass Ocean](#) (Harper \$26.99)

Kristina McMorris signs [Sold on a Monday](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 10

Elsa Hart signs [City of Ink](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Li Du #3 18th Century China; September History Club Pick

Boyd Morrison signs [Shadow Tyrants](#) (Putnam \$29) presigned by Clive Cussler

Oregon Files #13

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 11 7:00 PM

Julia Keller signs [Bone on Bone](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Bel Elkins #8—a real surprise!

Paul Munier signs [A Borrowing of Bones](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Debut mystery featuring two working dogs

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 13 7:00 PM

Hosted by Paige Shelton

Jenn McKinlay signs [Hitting the Books](#) (Berkley \$25)

Library Lovers #9

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15 10:30 AM

Croak & Dagger discusses Brad Meltzer's [The First Counsel](#) (\$9.99)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 15 2:00 PM

Caz Frear signs [Sweet Little Lies](#) (Harper \$26.99)

September Hardboiled Crime Club Pick

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 18 7:00 PM

Reed Farrel Coleman signs [Robert B Parker's Colorblind](#) (Putnam \$27)

Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 21 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday discusses Alan Moore's [Watchmen](#) (\$19.99)

MONDAY SEPTEMBER 24 7:00 PM

Andrew Gross signs [Button Man](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

A Garment Industry thriller based on family history

Our copies come with a collectible created by Gross

TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 25 7:00 PM

Joanne Fluke signs [Christmas Cake Murder](#) (Kensington \$20)

Food and recipes and fun for this book launch!

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses Erle Stanley Gardner's

[The Knife Slipped](#) (\$9.95)

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 27 7:00 PM

Sarah Weinman discusses [The Real Lolita](#) (Ecco \$27.99)

True crime!

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 28 7:00 PM Double Thrills

Jack Carr signs [The Terminal List](#) (Atria \$26)

Kyle Mills signs [Vince Flynn: Red War](#) (Atria \$28.99)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 29 2:00 PM Mystery Tea

Scott Graham signs [Yosemite Fall](#) (Torrey House \$15.99)

National Park Mystery #4

CC Harrison signs [Death by G-String](#) (Written Dreams \$15.99)

Roger Johns signs [River of Secrets](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Wallace Hartman #2

Margaret Mizushima signs [Burning Ridge](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Timber Creek K-9 #

EVENT BOOKS

Benn, James R. [Solemn Graves](#) (Soho \$26.95). The D-Day invasion has so often been chronicled. What makes Benn's 13th Billy Boyle investigation so special is the war theater—Normandy, being gradually liberated as the Germans horrifically defend it. And the role of the Ghost Army. It's now summer, 1944, and US Army Investigator Boyle is assigned the case of Major David Jerome, the commanding officer of a signals company, who has been found with his throat slit in a *pressoir* [apple pressing/cider farm]. A glass near the body with a residue of morphine convinces Boyle that the murderer spiked the major's drink to before killing him. Oddly, troops from Jerome's company who were at the crime scene when Boyle arrived don't hang around to be questioned—and Boyle must also account for the presence of young Yvonne Virot, a mute woman living in the villa, whose clothing is drenched with blood. Complicating Billy's task are a morally suspect Resistance leader and the *pressoir*'s owner, a widow whose code name in the Resistance—Corday—evokes the excesses of the French Revolution. The opening of this can be hard to follow but it becomes clear when we recognize what we're dealing with here. The twist in the end is a real surprise and reinforces the whole sleight-of-hand scenario. "Benn has never been better at integrating a whodunit plot line with a realistic depiction of life on or near the battlefield." You can read this gem without ever having read a previous series entry. Or you can give yourself a huge treat and [read Benn](#) all the way through.

Blauner, Peter. [Sunrise Highway](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Bestseller Blauner's excellent sequel to 2017's [Proving Ground](#) (\$16.99) connects two strong story lines—the discovery of a body washed up on a beach in Far Rockaway, Queens, and a trail of murdered women along Long Island's Route 27 (aka Sunrise Highway) that dates back to 1977. The case involving the body found on the beach—a badly decomposed pregnant woman with stones lodged in her throat—resonates with NYPD Det. Lourdes Robles, whose sister has been missing for six months. But as she begins to find connections between the killing and numerous murders out of her jurisdiction in Suffolk County, she becomes entangled with police chief Joey Tolliver, a charmer who has more than a few skeletons in his closet. "The intertwining narratives—Robles's investigation and Tolliver's shadowy backstory—make for an action-packed and plot twist-laden thriller. Exploring such subjects as police corruption, misogyny, and racism, this is a page-turner of the highest order." And not for the faint-hearted. I'm such a fan girl of Blauner whose unsparing novels of his region remain icons for me. I suspect this one is inspired by a real trail of murders along a regional highway.

Carr, Jack. [The Terminal List](#) (Atria \$26). We have hung onto our Signed Firsts of Carr's exceptional debut thriller and are down to 13. If you miss out—it's reprinted often and a second publishes in April, 2019—no whining! Mentored by Brad Thor, Carr is a former SEAL and writes in the Vince Flynn tradition, which is why we are bringing him in to chat with Kyle Mills and his new Mitch Rapp.

Coleman, Reed F. [Robert B Parker's Colorblind](#) (Putnam \$27). The first thing to keep in mind is Jesse Stone's resolve, springing from the events in [The Hangman's Sonnet](#) (\$9.99), to admit he's an alcoholic and accept addiction treatment rather than kid himself his own stints of resolve are enough of a coping mechanism. This ticks along behind the well paced plot. "Edgar-finalist Coleman's superior fifth Jesse Stone novel finds the police chief of Paradise, Mass., back on duty after two months in rehab to try to stay sober. His return coincides with a series of hate crimes, starting with the vicious beating of an African-American woman, Felicity Wileford. That her attacker wrote the word slut on her belly in lipstick suggests a connection with the first murder Stone ever handled in Paradise. A cross burning on the lawn of a mixed-race couple follows, and a group calling itself the Saviors of Society circulates flyers calling for Paradise's citizens to revolt and take back their community from the pernicious forces that have invaded it. The situation gets even more flammable when one of Stone's officers, Alisha Davis, who's African-American, guns down an apparently unarmed white man. Coleman makes the impact of these events on individuals palpable, giving this nuanced entry more emotional weight than most Spenser books."

De Castrique, Mark. [Secret Undertaking](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). 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. And there's a link to the last Lucas Davenport by Sandford where Lucas is a US Marshal.

Easley, Warren. [Moving Targets](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Angela Wingate, the grown daughter of a prominent Portland, Oregon, couple against whom she rebelled as a teen, needs Cal Claxton's help in Easley's entertaining sixth mystery featuring the genial lawyer with a strong sense of social responsibility. A year earlier, Angela's rich real estate developer father died of a stroke. Soon afterward, she began to make peace with her estranged mother, Margaret. The two bonded during the Women's March on Wash-

ington, with Margaret returning home determined to shift the focus of Wingate Properties from luxury apartments to affordable housing. Five weeks before Angela's visit to Cal, Margaret was killed by a hit-and-run driver. Angela now wants justice. Political corruption, collusion with foreign interests, money laundering, and so much more emerge as Cal investigates. 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." I think of Easley as a kind of poet of Portland and some rural regions. The [Cal Claxtons](#) are all winners, especially the Hillerman-like thriller arising from events in the Columbia Gorge: [Not Dead Enough](#) (\$15.95).

Evans, Mary Anna. [Undercurrents](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.96). Evans, whose last book for archaeologist Faye Longchamp, [Burials](#), has just been announced as one of 3 finalists for the 2018 WILLA Award, and who has a Sisters in Crime Research Grant for a work on Agatha Christie in the works, sets Faye to work in Memphis, a city "steeped in music, poverty, history, and the smoky tang of barbecue." She's there working alone to do an assessment of a site, welcome work for her small archaeological consulting firm. Faye spies a child too young to be wandering along a creek alone. A day later she uncovers a dying woman, buried alive near a spot where the girl might well be hiding. Nobody would blame Faye for turning away, but she can't make herself leave Kali, the woman's now orphaned daughter, who might be in danger. She's not welcomed by the people in Kali's struggling community, nor by the police working the crime. Yet she stays, for Kali, and for the bereaved. When they confide rumors of other women beaten to death by a man so obsessed with burial that he places fresh flowers in their cold hands, Faye begs the police to widen the investigation to seek a serial killer. They refuse. Faye's gut is telling her that a monster is stalking Memphis—if the police can't catch him, then she will have no choice but to try to find him herself. "The Longchamp mysteries combine history and mystery in a gritty way that makes them feel different from most amateur-sleuth fare—dark -edged rather than cozy. Faye, too, is not your traditional amateur sleuth; she could just as easily anchor a gritty thriller series and give some of the giants in that genre a run for their money." —*Booklist*. The [Faye series](#) which has won Mississippi and Florida Awards for Evans will reward your time spent with it.

Frear, Caz. [Sweet Little Lies](#) (Harper \$26.99). Our **September Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** is a debut about an Irish cop with huge baggage working a dark beat in Islington for the Metropolitan Police. Call it 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.... Readers will root for the spiky Kinsella, with her empathetic center, and hope to see more of her in future books." — **Recommended to our First Mystery Club as well.**

Graham, Scott. [Yosemite Fall](#) (Torrey House \$15.99). National Park Mystery #4. Death by landscape! Archaeologist Chuck Bender arrives with his family in Yosemite Valley to study the 150-year-old murders of a pair of gold prospectors in the midst of preparations for the annual Yosemite Slam rock-climbing competition and a reunion with his old climbing buddies. The trip quickly turns threatening when one climber never shows up, climbing equipment fails, and Chuck and his wife, Janelle Ortega, are suspected in the shocking, present-day death of one of Chuck's former rock-climbing partners. Together, Chuck and Janelle race against time to solve the dual mysteries and prove their innocence—all while facing down a ruthless killer on the loose. I am a fan of this series and so will you missing Nevada Barr's Anna Pigeon.

Gross, Andrew. [Button Man](#) (St Martins \$27.99). In 1915, 12-year-old Morris Raab lands a job sweeping floors and making deliveries for a clothing manufacturer on the Lower East Side. His family of 5 brothers and a sister has experienced tragedy. Morris' ambition and drive lead him to put in extra hours and to closely study the work of the industry veteran Mr. Beck. Despite his youth and inexperience, Morris takes over from Beck after his mentor announces his retirement. By the time he turns 20, Morris is basically running the business. But the garment trade is a target for criminals and protection rackets. In time, Morris runs afoul of an organized crime group, whose leaders include the vicious Lepke Buchalter; marries the daughter of a big-shot lawyer; and aids mob-busting prosecutor Thomas Dewey in his investigations, a bit of political history that you may not know. **Gross emails me this book is based on his Jewish family's history and he will be creating something special for our copies to with them.**

Hogsett, Annie. [Murder to the Metal](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). "Allie Harper and her lover, Professor Thomas Bennington III, who is blind, have formed the T & A Detective Agency not as a way to earn a living but as a way to give back to the community – Cleveland – in gratitude for Tom winning \$550 million in the MondoMegaJackpot as told in [Too Lucky to Live](#) (\$15.95). However, from the beginning of their new-found and enormous wealth, their lives have been filled with all kinds of requests for money or attempts to rob them. And murders. Loretta Coates was the head librarian at the library where Allie had gotten a job and although they weren't terrifically close, Loretta can't think of anyone else to turn to when the man she loves and has every reason to believe really loves her has simply disappeared along with his car, a classic GTO, which was the only thing of value that he owned. Allie, Tom, and Otis take on the case because it is exactly the sort of thing they intended T & A to do. Then all hell breaks loose... "This new series is engrossing, well thought-out, and just plain fun. Hooray!" —*ReviewingtheEvidence.com* on an engaging cozy series.

Hart, Elsa. [City of Ink](#) (St Martins \$25.99). A Starred Review for Hart's third which completes the overarching story set up in Li Du's first two investigations: "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 du-

ties. 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.” I add that this series is superb and that you may think as you read this our **September History/Mystery Club Pick** that the various plot threads will never come together—and then they do before Hart sets Li Du free from Beijing for further adventure. I cannot recommend [Jade Dragon Mountain](#) (\$15.95) and [The White Mirror](#) (\$16.99), highly enough.

Johns, Roger. [River of Secrets](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Herbert Marioneaux, a Louisiana politician infamous for changing his mind on hot-button issues, has been murdered and his body posed to send a message. Baton Rouge homicide detective Wallace Hartman has to figure out who—and why? DNA points to Eddie Pitkin, a social justice activist who also happens to be the half-brother of Wallace’s childhood best friend. But even with the combative history between Pitkin and Marioneaux, murder seems out of character for Pitkin, whose usual MO is to confront the wealthy and powerful with their inconvenient past. As Wallace digs deeper, she unearths a possible alibi witness as well as suspicion over Marioneaux’s son. While Eddie’s supporters are convinced of his innocence, his enemies are equally certain of his guilt. Under pressure from all directions, threading politics across a heated racial divide, Wallace pursues her investigation into the dark heart of the political establishment as Baton Rouge falls under the shadow of escalating violence. I thought Johns’ debut in [Dark River Rising](#) (\$26.99), a 2017 First Mystery Club Pick, was terrific and am delighted to see Baton Rouge once again his crime beat.

Johnson, Craig. [The Depth of Winter](#) (Viking \$28). “Bestseller Johnson’s harrowing 14th mystery featuring Sheriff Walt Longmire takes the Wyoming lawman to Mexico, where ruthless killer Tomás Bidarte holds Walt’s grown daughter, Cady, captive in a remote mountain compound in the middle of the Chihuahua desert. The six-foot-four Walt faces formidable obstacles in rescuing Cady, not least being his attention-drawing size. Fortunately, one of his allies on this suicidal mission, a blind man known as the Seer, thinks to pass him off as real-life retired NFL star Bob Lilly, a ruse that works for a while. Once Walt and his team arrive at the compound, the trouble really begins. The tension lets up only intermittently as Walt lurches from one dire situation to another. Humorous asides and witty dialogue provide welcome relief from the often grim circumstances in which Walt finds himself, including a stint in the stocks during a Day of the Dead celebration and the climactic confrontation with Bidarte, who plays matador to Walt’s bull. Johnson is in fine form.”—*PW* Starred Review. Our copies come with access to an exclusive Podcast I made with Craig at his home in Ucross, Wyoming. Such fun. Why not binge by ordering the [Longmire series](#)?

Keller, Julia. [Bone on Bone](#) (St Martins \$26.99). A Star for this one too: “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 ultraviolet 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). **Note: already reprinted so please order now.**

Kies, Thomas. [Darkness Lane](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.96). [Random Road](#) introduced Geneva Chase— “a reporter with a compelling voice, a damaged woman who recounts her own bittersweet story as she hunts down clues,” says *Library Journal*—to murders straight out of a nightmare: six bodies found naked and cut to ribbons in a posh Connecticut home. It’s a scene straight out of Hieronymus Bosch painting. Having survived this and a personal tragedy, Geneva’s story still includes alcoholism and career challenges compounded by the rocky finances of her newspaper employer. But she’s working. She’s fighting the urge to reconnect with a magnetic yet married lover. And she’s raising a rebellious young lady who is not her daughter but a cherished legacy. Nevertheless the newshound in Geneva spurs her to bad if not downright dangerous choices as two unrelated crimes unexpectedly collide. Out on the crime beat, Geneva works to unravel the connection, if any, between the disparate, potentially grim, stories while her newspaper is put up for sale, a high-flying Hollywood production lights up the town, and her personal battles accelerate. Jarring twists and turns include charming movie stars, a missing girl, treacherous diamond merchants, adultery, sex traffickers—and murder.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Hitting the Books](#) (Berkley \$25). Lindsey Norris, the director of the Briar Creek, Connecticut, library, witnesses a hit-and-run, an attempt to murder tennis coach Theresa Huston, the fiancée of wealthy businessman Larry Milstein. Despite being overwhelmed with the adjustment of moving in with her heart-throb, former navy man Mike Sullivan, Lindsay can’t resist investigating, especially after the hit-and-run driver is found dead in a stolen vehicle loaded with audiobook CDs from her library. The Milsteins provide a number of leads. Larry’s college-age daughter, Liza, seems crazy about Theresa, but perhaps it’s an act to keep herself in Daddy’s good graces. Then there’s Larry’s previous wife, Liza’s mom, who disappeared when Liza was barely more than a toddler. Or maybe it’s that multimillion-dollar life insurance policy Larry insisted on taking out on Theresa before their wedding. “Plentiful suspects and motives keep the pages turning in this suspenseful cozy,” written by former Phoenix Librarian McKinlay. “An upbeat cozy mystery with great characters and strong sense of place. For fans of the Aurora Teagarden

mysteries and the Isabel Dalhousie mysteries.” Order all the [Library Lover’s Mysteries](#). We have some great socks to add for a fun gift idea.

McMorris, Kristina. [Sold on a Monday](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99). 2 CHILDREN FOR SALE. McMorris’ novel is inspired by an actual newspaper photograph that stunned the nation. The sign is a last resort. It sits on a farmhouse porch in 1931, but could be found anywhere in an era of breadlines, bank runs and broken dreams. It could have been written by any mother facing impossible choices. For struggling reporter Ellis Reed, the gut-wrenching scene evokes memories of his family’s dark past. He snaps a photograph of the children, not meant for publication. His editor sees it and offers him a feature to go with it. But the photo is accidentally ruined and Ellis has to recoup. With unexpected consequences. This is a story of the Depression, a love story, but most of all a terrific evocation of the newspaper at the height of its powers, filled with excitement and craft and ambition and stories. Highly recommended.

Mills, Kyle. [Vince Flynn: Red War](#) (Atria \$28.99). Black ops thrillers are certainly escape reading....and the late Flynn did them well. Mills has run with Mitch Rapp both respectfully and with his own stamp. I’ve enjoyed them. And as is true this year, we see a (re)turn to Russia in our **September Thriller Club Pick**. When Russian president Maxim Krupin discovers that he has inoperable brain cancer, he’s determined to cling to power. His first task is to kill or imprison any of his countrymen who can threaten him. Soon, though, his illness becomes serious enough to require a more dramatic diversion—war with the West. Upon learning of Krupin’s condition, CIA director Irene Kennedy understands that the US is facing an opponent who has nothing to lose. The only way to avoid a confrontation that could leave millions dead is to send Mitch Rapp to Russia under impossibly dangerous orders. With the Kremlin’s entire security apparatus hunting him, he must find and kill a man many have deemed the most powerful in the world. Success means averting a war that could consume all of Europe. But if his mission is discovered, Rapp will plunge Russia and America into a conflict that neither will survive.

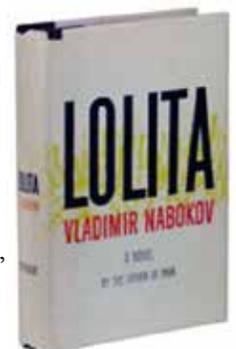
Mizushima, Margaret. [Burning Ridge](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Colorado’s Redstone Ridge is a place of extraordinary beauty, but this rugged mountain wilderness harbors a horrifying secret. When a charred body is discovered in a shallow grave on the ridge, Officer Mattie Cobb and her K-9 partner Robo are called in to spearhead the investigation. But this is no ordinary crime—and it soon becomes clear that Mattie has a close personal connection to the dead man. Joined by local veterinarian Cole Walker, the pair scours the mountaintop for evidence and makes another gruesome discovery: the skeletonized remains of two adults and a child. And then, the unthinkable happens.... “Mattie’s interactions with her colleagues and friends, particularly with Cole, to whom she’s romantically attracted, ring true. Robo, meanwhile, comes across as a real dog without any of the anthropomorphic characteristics that many genre authors impose upon animals. Readers will be fascinated to learn how search dogs are trained and to see one in action. Mizushima delivers a sufficiently complicated plot, well-developed interpersonal relationships, awe-inspiring landscape descriptions, and some excruciatingly vivid action.” Order all 4 [Timber Creek K-9 Mysteries](#).

Munier, Paula. [A Borrowing of Bones](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Tracy of our staff writes, “Dog fans rejoice! Here is an engaging series first featuring 29-year-old Mercy Carr, retired military police, and Elvis, retired army bomb sniffing dog. Both Mercy and Elvis are working through grief and PTSD by hiking the Vermont forests, but finding an abandoned baby along the trail along with human bones allows both of them to use their rusty skills. They find compatriots in game warden Troy Warner and his canine sidekick Susie Bear who become part of Mercy’s search for the baby who goes missing from the local hospital. I liked all of the main characters including the dogs—Elvis is a Belgian Shepherd—and look forward to the next book. The portrayal of working dogs will appeal to fans of David Rosenfelt and Margaret Mizushima.

Rankin, Ian. [Rebus’s Scotland: A Personal Journey](#) (Orion \$25). This is the UK paperback edition as the original photo essay with text by Ian in the nearest thing there is for an autobiography is long out of print. Ian also has a story in [Ten Year Stretch](#) (\$10), an anthology of stories by loads of terrific writers like him, Lee Child, Jeffery Deaver, Ann Cleeves, Sophie Hannah, James Sallis! and more. Sallis can sign his story at our Conference along with Rankin.

Straley, John. [Baby’s First Felony](#) (Soho \$25.95). Reading the Shamus Award-winning Sitka, Alaska, author is not for the faint-hearted. Cecil Younger is not your average investigator—criminal defense work—as this unusual narrative underlines. In part it’s because the citizens of Sitka are far from regular guys and so in part he coaches would-be felons on how to avoid self-incrimination, using a kind of illustrated guide he constructs called Baby’s First Felony. The question is will he follow his own advice when his teen-age daughter Blossom is caught up in a crime scene where \$50K is washing around. One of his own rules? No good can come of walking around with a lot of someone else’s money. Cecil narrates this story in a structure fashioned on a trial where he is testifying in his own defense, having more or less blown away his professional and private life.... There is an interesting (and accidental) parallel to the situation Julia Keller’s Bell Elkins opens with in the novel Keller signs for us Sept. 11. It’s an intriguing wrinkle to put the investigator in the role of (maybe) criminal, no? Soho has put all the [Cecil Youngers](#) back in print.

Weinman, Sarah. [The Real Lolita](#) (Ecco \$27.99). Vladimir Nabokov’s *Lolita* is one of the most arresting novels of all time. And yet, very few of its readers know that the subject of the novel was inspired by a real-life case: the 1948 abduction of eleven-year-old Sally Horner. Weinman argues that Nabokov and his wife, Véra—who served as her husband’s spokesperson and flatly denied the use of Sally’s story as inspiration for his novel—allowed Sally to be eclipsed by her fictional counterpart: Sally’s life had been “strip-mined to produce the bones of *Lolita*.” Drawing from interviews with relatives of those involved, Nabokov’s personal documents, and court reporting from La Salle’s trial, this is nonfiction with speculative elements that pairs with T. Greenwood’s August novel, [Rust and Stardust](#) (St Martins \$26.99). I love the Greenwood and look forward to reading



about Sally in parallel. “*The Real Lolita* ...restores the forgotten victim to our consciousness.” —David Grann, author of *Killers of the Flower Moon*.

Note: Alice Bolin has published a fascinating set of essays in [Dead Girls](#) (Morrow \$15.99) where she examines some iconic American books and other essays by such as Joan Didion illuminating a “widespread obsession with women who are abused, killed, or disenfranchised, and whose bodies (dead or alive) are used as props to bolster stories.” What are the implications of this cultural fixation—including books like *Lolita*?

White, Karen/ Beatriz Williams, Lauren Willig. [The Glass Ocean](#) (Harper \$26). May 2013. Her finances are in dire straits and bestselling author Sarah Blake is struggling to find a big idea for her next book. Desperate, she breaks the one promise she made to her Alzheimer’s-stricken mother and opens an old chest that belonged to her great-grandfather, who died when the RMS *Lusitania* was sunk by a German U-Boat in 1915. What she discovers there could change history. Sarah embarks on an ambitious journey to England to enlist the help of John Langford, a recently disgraced Member of Parliament whose family archives might contain the only key to the long-ago catastrophe... April 1915. Southern belle Caroline Telfair Hochstetter’s marriage is in crisis. She’s hoping a trip to London in *Lusitania*’s lavish first-class accommodations will help them reconnect—but she can’t ignore the spark she feels for her old friend, Robert Langford, who turns out to be on the same voyage. Tessa Fairweather is traveling second-class home to Devon. Or at least, that’s her story. Tessa has never left the United States and her English accent is a hasty fake. She’s really Tennessee Schaff, the daughter of a roving con man, and she can steal and forge just about anything. Her partner has promised that if they can pull off this one last heist aboard the *Lusitania*, they’ll finally leave the game behind. Tess desperately wants to believe that, but Tess has the uneasy feeling there’s something about this job that isn’t as it seems. Three women work against time to unravel a plot that will change the course of their own lives...and history itself. The trio’s first collaboration is [The Forgotten Room](#). (\$16).

Note: we still have a few Signed First of Williams’ July bestseller, [The Summer Wives](#) (\$26.99).

Wortham, Reavis. [Gold Dust](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). “Reading the seventh Red River Mystery is like coming home after a vacation: we’re reuniting with old friends, returning to a comfortable place. Wortham’s writing style is easygoing, relying on natural-sounding dialogue and vivid descriptions to give us the feeling that this story could well have taken place.”—*Booklist*. This from Wortham: “A significant portion of the novel is based on the true story of a CIA experiment in California back in 1950. To conduct a simulation of a biological warfare attack, the U.S. Navy sprayed large quantities of seemingly harmless bacteria over the city of San Francisco during a project called Operation Sea-Spray. A number of citizens contracted pneumonia-like illnesses, and at least one person died as a result. It was frightening to find out those tests were continued until at least 1969. I came across this story four or five years ago and thought, “What if?” The story moved on from there and became *Gold Dust*, when my fictional CIA agents contracted for a substance of the same name to be sprayed on the tiny community of Center Springs, Texas. I

also had to get the right songs in the right year, talking to Stock Inspectors about cattle rustling in the 1960s (yep, in addition to the biological experimentation, there’s a secondary plot line about rustling), and driving to the Broken Spoke dance hall in Austin and interviewing the man who still owns it. I also wanted to check into the Austin music scene at that time, and that took a little doing to find out who was playing then.” Order all 7 [Red River Mysteries](#) including [The Rock Hole](#) at its \$9.99 series-first price.

SIGNED BOOKS

Akhtar, Amina. [#fashionvictim](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). You fans of hashtags will know at once this is a book about the fashion world and its obsession with social media. Anya St. Clair, fashion editor at New York magazine *La Vie*, is obsessed with her co-worker Sarah Elizabeth Taft, a tall, willowy, rich blonde who has the magic touch for decreeing fashion. Anya is so determined to hang out, do nails, go to bars, and take selfies with Sarah that she will do anything to keep her job despite the bitch editor and Sarah’s disdain. The first to die is the editor’s assistant Mulberry von Gratz, slain with one of her own vintage shoes. More mayhem follows as Anya’s obsession deepens. “If Anya’s co-workers seem one-dimensional, it’s all part of the picture where characters engage in excessive exercise, self-harm, starvation dieting, narcissism, and paranoia, yet Anya’s point of view makes their behavior funny as well as profoundly unsettling with the “shallow friendships, betrayals, shifting alliances, and many, many designer shoes.” A debut and by an author who lived the life herself and has retired to Sedona to pillory it.

✎Atkinson, Kate. [Transcription](#) (Little Brown \$29). We start with a British woman hit by a car while looking the wrong way up the street! How does that happen? Flash back: Londoner Juliet Armstrong is recruited at the age of 18 into MI5. She begins her life in espionage in a flat in Dolphin Square in 1940, transcribing secretly recorded conversations. In the bugged neighboring flat, Godfrey Toby, posing as a Gestapo agent, meets a dreary bunch of British Nazi sympathizers who pass on intelligence about Jews and other enemies of the Führer. To Juliet, the conversations are either difficult to discern or achingly dull. Her transcriptions, amusingly, are full of notes like “biscuit interval” and “inaudible.” But she gains the trust of MI5, and is soon promoted to full-fledged spy. Juliet’s secret service becomes far more exciting when she’s running around London. She must infiltrate the Right Club, an insidious group of well-connected fascists, befriend its female members, and steal its membership ledger. As she gets closer to success and real danger, the mission takes a deadly turn. A decade later, Juliet has put her clandestine activities behind her to focus on her job with the BBC. But, as Atkinson knows better than most, history is never as far behind us as we would like to believe. Atkinson thinks she “would have made a good spy.” For fans of smart, witty, suspenseful, historical or spy fiction and authors like Tana French, Laurie R. King, and John Le Carré, and thus our **October British Crime Club Pick** as it publishes the very end of September. [Transcription](#) (Doubleday UK \$54) while they last.

✎Cleeves, Ann. [Wild Fire](#) (Macmillan UK \$34.99). Drawn in by the reputation of the Shetlands, a new English family moves to the area, eager to give their autistic son a better life and make a

new start. But a spate of poison pen letters (!) and then a young nanny's body found hanging in the barn of their home, and rumors of her affair with the husband begin to spread like wild fire. With suspicion raining down on the family, DI Jimmy Perez is called in to investigate. His on-off lover and boss Willow Reeves, who will run the case, is dispatched from Inverness. Perez is already facing the most disturbing investigation of his career, when Willow drops a real bombshell.... Cleeves, a veteran and inventive writer who has movingly and beautifully described the Shetlands, says this 8th Shetland Mystery is the last she will write but the IMHO knockout TV series will continue. Long experience has taught me when authors say "last"—it often isn't. I recommend all the [Shetland Island Mysteries](#) and the TV show to boot.

Cussler, Clive/Boyd Morrison. [Shadow Tyrants](#) (Putnam \$29 on sale Sept. 11). #13 in the Oregon Files is **Signed by both authors**. Nearly two thousand years ago, an Eastern emperor charged a small group with safeguarding secrets powerful enough to change the history of mankind. They went down in legend as the Nine Unknown Men—and now two rival factions of their descendants prepare to save the world—or ruin it. Soon, Juan Cabrillo and his team of expert operatives aboard the *Oregon* find themselves trapped between two power-hungry adversaries, both of whom are willing to use shocking means to accomplish their goals. Cabrillo and the men and women of the *Oregon*, a state of the art super ship disguised as a derelict rust-bucket, must divide and conquer as they fight dual threats, which include a supercomputer at sea and satellites that can wipe out technology across the globe as team Cussler once again blends history with modern adventure. Such fun, and instructive.

Faulks, Sebastian. [Paris Echo](#) (Hutchinson \$45). Here is Paris as you have never seen it before – a city in which every building seems to hold the echo of an unacknowledged past, the shadows of Vichy and Algeria. American postdoctoral researcher Hannah and runaway Moroccan teenager Tariq have little in common, yet both are susceptible to the daylight ghosts of Paris. Hannah listens to the extraordinary witness of women who were present under the German Occupation; in her desire to understand their lives, and through them her own, she finds a city bursting with clues and connections. Out in the migrant suburbs, Tariq is searching for a mother he barely knew. For him in his innocence, each boulevard, Métro station and street corner is a source of surprise.

Forsyth, Frederick. [The Fox](#) (Bantam UK \$44). Most weapons do what you tell them. Most weapons you can control. What if the most dangerous weapon in the world isn't a smart missile or a stealth submarine or even an AI computer program? What if it's a 17-year-old boy with a blisteringly brilliant mind, who can run rings around the most sophisticated security services across the globe, who can manipulate that weaponry and turn it against the superpowers themselves? How valuable would he be? And what wouldn't you do to get hold of him? Old pro Forsyth constructs a "race against time" thriller, or as Deaver would say, a ticking clock one.

✎Grant, Rob. [The Quanderhorn Experimentations](#) (Gollancz \$39). The UK has a vibrant SciFi publishing community so maybe once a year I like to highlight one of its new books as this, our

September SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick. And this one is, appropriately, set in England, 1952. A time of peace, regeneration and hope. A Golden Age. Unfortunately, it's been 1952 for the past 65 years. Meet Professor Quanderhorn: a brilliant, maverick scientific genius with absolutely no moral compass. Assisted by a rag-tag crew—his part-insect "son" (reputedly 'a major breakthrough in Artificial Stupidity'), a recovering amnesiac, a brilliant scientist with a half-clockwork brain, and a captured Martian hostage—he'll save the world. Even if he has to destroy it in the process. With his Dangerous Giant Space Laser, Utterly Untested Matter Transfuser Booth and Fleets of Monkey-driven Lorries, he's not afraid to push the boundaries of science to their very limit. And far, far beyond... This is our **September SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**.

Green, Hank. [An Absolutely Remarkable Thing](#) (Penguin \$26). The younger Vlogbrother (John Green is the other) draws on his passion for science and his experience as a "Tier 3" celebrity ("You'll probably trend on Twitter if you die") for a comic debut that combines science fiction and mystery with philosophical musings about the perils of internet fame. The sweeping, cinematic tale focuses on a young woman who becomes an overnight celebrity before realizing she's part of something bigger, and stranger, than anyone could have possibly imagined. The Carls just appeared. Coming home from work at 3:00 AM., 23-year-old April May stumbles across a giant sculpture. Delighted by its appearance and craftsmanship—like a ten-foot-tall Transformer wearing a suit of samurai armor—April and her friend Andy make a video with it, which Andy uploads to YouTube. The next day April wakes up to a viral video and a new life. News quickly spreads that there are Carls in dozens of cities around the world—everywhere from Beijing to Buenos Aires—and April, as their first documentarian, finds herself at the center of an intense international media spotlight. The question becomes, what are the Carls? And what do they want from us?

✎Haig, Matt. [Notes on a Nervous Planet](#) (Canongate \$32). 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. This follow-up to the number one UK nonfiction bestseller *Reasons to Stay Alive* is a personal and vital look at how to feel happy, human and whole in the 21st century. US edition doesn't pub until February.

✎Hannah, Sophie. [The Mystery of Three Quarters](#) (Harper \$27.99). This is Hannah's third "New Hercule Poirot Mystery" commissioned by the Agatha Christie estate. "It proves to be the most satisfying sort of pastiche: faithful to its model in the essentials but flexible enough to allow for an animated plot and protagonist. It's an odd puzzle that confronts the Belgian detective Poirot, living in London in 1930. Four people unknown to him have received letters bearing his name—accusing each of the murder of one Barnabas Pandy, a 94-year-old man whose bathtub drowning was ruled accidental. The reactions of the recipients, some of whom knew Pandy and some of whom did not, range from irate to apathetic. Poirot himself is vexed to have been used in such a scheme—and concerned about greater mischief to come. Ms. Hannah employs many Christie tropes but with a light touch, says *The Wall Street Journal*. The gratifying reveal is

a neat variation on one of Christie's own solutions and demonstrates Hannah's facility at combining her own plotting gifts with another author's creation. **Our copies include an interview with Sophie.** The Signed UK Edition: [The Mystery of Three Quarters UK Edition](#) (Collins \$46).

Harkness, Deborah. [Time's Convert](#) (Viking \$29) is perfect for October—a novel about what it takes to become a vampire channeling the world-building this author excels at. **Out in September, Signed here October 17** (The date has to do with her book tour schedule). She will also sign [The World of All Souls](#) (\$40), a "Complete Guide to the All Souls Trilogy." My plan, be warned, is to discuss the trilogy in full so please come prepared as there will be spoilers.

Jance, JA. [Field of Bones](#) (Harper \$27.99 on sale Sept. 4). Due to an injury Jance will not be touring but she is signing for us at her home. A serial killer investigation disrupts Joanna Brady's maternity leave in bestseller Jance's exciting 18th novel featuring the Cochise County, Arizona, Sheriff. Acting Sheriff Tom Hadlock is on duty when June Carver brings in her son, Jack, with a skull that the high school senior found in the remote San Bernardino Valley. Evidence at the scene suggests that a serial killer has been using it as a dump site. Readers know from the first chapter that a man known only as the Boss has been keeping his victims prisoner, torturing them, and disposing of their bodies in the desert. Hadlock puts every available officer on the case, while Joanna offers advice and secures an FBI profiler willing to help. Jance ratchets up the tension by switching between the Boss's depredations and the police's efforts to identify him and rescue his prisoners. The birth of Joanna's daughter, Sage, and other developments in her personal life will enthrall established fans.

Koontz, Dean. [The Forbidden Door](#) (Bantam \$29). Just because you're paranoid doesn't mean you're crazy. And indeed Jane Hawk, once a top FBI agent and now a Most-Wanted Fugitive, is entirely sane. She knows a powerful cabal with terrifying mind-control technology is out to kill her as it has her beloved husband and others. Her mission is to save her child and take them down, but Jane's enemies are about to hit back hard. If their best operatives can't outrun her, they mean to bring her running to them, using her five-year-old son as bait. Jane knows there's no underestimating their capabilities, but she must battle her way back across the country to the remote shelter where her boy is safely hidden... for now. As she moves resolutely forward, new threats begin to emerge: a growing number of brain-altered victims driven hopelessly, violently insane. With the madness spreading like a virus, the war between Jane and her enemies will become a fight for all their lives—against the lethal terror unleashed from behind the forbidden door. This terrific [five-book thriller series](#) began with *The Silent Corner*, *The Whispering Room*, and *The Crooked Staircase* and will end with *The Night Window* (coming soon).

✎Lyle, HB. [Red Ribbon: Irregulars Book 2](#) (Hodder \$45). Captain Vernon Kell's fledgling secret intelligence service faces being shut down before it has even begun its job of saving the Empire from German and Russian spies. Harassed by politicians, like the ambitious Winston Churchill, bullied by Special Branch, undermined by his colleague Cumming's ill-advised foreign ventures and alarmed at his wife's involvement with militant suffragettes, Kell is making no progress in tracking high-profile leaks from the government. To make matter worse, his only agent,

Wiggins, would rather be working on cases of his own. Wiggins grew up on the streets, one of the urchins trained in surveillance by Sherlock Holmes and known as the Baker Street Irregulars. He has promised to avenge the death of his best friend, and to track down a missing girl. But when his search takes him towards a club in Belgravia—a club containing a lot of young women and presided over by the fearsome Big T, one of his former gang-mates—Wiggins is drawn into a conspiracy that will test both his personal and his professional resolve.

✎Maitland, Karen. [A Gathering of Ghosts](#) (Headline \$46). It's 1316. On the wilds of Dartmoor stands the isolated Priory of St Mary, home to the Sisters of the Knights of St John. People journey from afar in search of healing at the holy well that lies beneath its chapel. But the locals believe Dartmoor was theirs long before Christianity came to the land. And not all who visit seek miracles. When three strangers reach the moor, fear begins to stir as the well's waters run with blood. What witchcraft has the young woman, the Knight of St John and the blind child brought with them?

Mayor, Archer. [Bury the Lead](#) (St Martins \$29). Mayor has taken Shakespeare as his inspiration for a drama that ranges from a Vermont ski area to a kind of Whole Foods warehouse in White River Junction where first arson and then more serious sabotage occurs with a death. There's also a murderer's confession that just doesn't add up. Mayor, writes, "I pursue the inner workings of a huge grocery wholesaler—a shipper of millions of items, from deodorant sticks to frozen shrimp and fresh lettuce—that end up at your local store. I toured such a facility, interviewed the people who run it, studied how products came, went, and were handled in between, and then invented a way to fictionally make it all come to grief. (That is, after all, what I love to do.) And then, it's time for Joe Gunther to set things right. I also thought it would be interesting for readers to gain a little insight into Willy Kunkle's lame arm and how he is progressing, and how he copes day to day. Finally, I've given more writing space to a couple of complex young women. Rachel Reiling, Beverly Hillstrom's photojournalist daughter, and Sally Kravitz, the Tag Man's daughter, are both back still playing their quirky roles while Beverly is loosening up as well." Mayor has few peers (other than Steven Havill) writing procedurals. This is one of the few series I collect—all of them, which has been some achievement but luckily most of it done in real time as the Gunthers publish. I've always felt Archer should be a real bestseller to go with his rave reviews, but he's always been seen as regional in NY publishing. But ask yourself why Box, an author I've collected entirely in real time, is not? You will do so too—[order here](#)

✎Morton, Kate. [The Clockmaker's Daughter](#) (Mantle \$45). Morton, one of my very favorite authors, explores the tangled history of people and place in her outstanding, bittersweet sixth novel. In contemporary London, Elodie, a young archivist, encounters among her employer's collection a satchel, a photographic portrait, and a sketch of a country house. The sketch, in particular, arouses Elodie's professional curiosity and her memories, since it bears close resemblance to a house figuring heavily in the magical stories her late mother once told her. The trail of Elodie's research—spurred by her discovery that the sketch depicts an actual place—is woven together with tales of the house's various denizens between 1862 and the present, as well as with the

voice of a spirit who haunts its walls. This specter—who remains nameless for most of the novel—is the clock maker’s daughter of the title, abandoned as a young girl, trained as a pickpocket, and eventually chosen as an artist’s muse, but possessing an artist’s eye of her own. The novel’s central mystery focuses on the circumstances of her abrupt disappearance in the 19th century, entangled with the abduction of a priceless jewel, the murder of the artist’s fiancée, and the artist’s personal and professional collapse. At the novel’s emotional core, however, is the intersection of lives across decades..In addition to love—not only romantic love but also love between parents and siblings—and loss, the stories, brilliantly told by Morton, offer musings on art, betrayal, and the ways in which real lives and real places can evolve over time into the stuff of legends.

Mosley, Walter. [John Woman](#) (Grove \$26). A convention-defying novel by the prolific and always amazing Mosley, *John Woman* recounts the transformation of an unassuming boy named Cornelius Jones into John Woman, an unconventional history professor—while the legacy of a hideous crime lurks in the shadows. At twelve years old, Cornelius, the son of an Italian-American woman and an older black man from Mississippi named Herman, secretly takes over his father’s job at a silent film theater in New York’s East Village. Five years later, as Herman lives out his last days, he shares his wisdom with his son, explaining that the person who controls the narrative of history controls their own fate. After his father dies and his mother disappears, Cornelius sets about reinventing himself—as Professor John Woman, a man who will spread Herman’s teachings into the classrooms of his unorthodox southwestern university and beyond. But there are other individuals who are attempting to influence the narrative of John Woman, and who might know something about the facts of his hidden past. Engaging with some of the most provocative ideas of recent intellectual history, *John Woman* is a compulsively readable, deliciously unexpected novel about the way we tell stories, and whether the stories we tell have the power to change the world. Mosley enthusiast Patrick writes: “A brilliant and provocative *tour de force*. Just the kind of unapologetically intellectual novel that we need today. Mosley is a national treasure.”

Pelecanos, George. [The Man Who Came Uptown](#) (Little Brown \$28). Michael Hudson awaits trial in a Washington, D.C., jail for armed robbery. Like many of his fellow inmates served by jail librarian Anna Byrne who leads discussions of carefully chosen books (you get to see which and why), Hudson has taken to reading as a way to pass the time. As Hudson, a young Black who lost his way as a teen (Pelecanos portrays him perfectly), devours novels, he begins to catch a glimpse of a larger world outside, one that he didn’t realize was available to him. Meanwhile, Phil Orzanian, an investigator for Hudson’s defense attorney, dissuades a witness from testifying, and Hudson is suddenly out free. Orzanian turns out to run a side business robbing drug dealers and other criminals of their ill-gotten gains, and he reminds Hudson of the debt the former inmate owes him. As their fates collide, Pelecanos shows that doing the right thing isn’t always the easiest option. “Inspired by the author’s own experience with prison literacy programs, this is the work of a master storyteller at the top of his game.” Patrick adds: What can I say – I’ve been a Pelecanos diehard since the mid 90s. I admire his work so much, and this novel just may be his best yet. A real love

letter to bookstores, libraries and the written in word. If you’ve never read Pelecanos, this is a great place to start.” I agree and thus make it our **October Modern Firsts Club Pick**—while there’s crime in the narrative it’s really about redemption and the transformative power of (printed) books. Edgar-finalist and TV honcho Pelecanos once again has the walk and talk of both DC and his characters down perfectly.

Another bookseller adds, “In the plot triangle of inmate, librarian, and detective, no one is the hero, and no one is the villain. Like the best of Elmore Leonard, *The Man Who Came Uptown* can be read in a flash as a straight crime novel, but afterwards you’ll be left marveling at everything that Pelecanos packs into those pages, and wondering how in the hell he pulled it off.”

✎Perry, Anne. [Dark Tide Rising](#) (Ballantine \$27.99). A knock-out Victorian case for William Monk to solve. **It publishes in September but Anne and I agreed she would wait and join us on November 8 to sign this and her Christmas novella, [A Christmas Revelation](#)** (Ballantine \$20), **and celebrate her 80th birthday**. Please purchase the 24th William Monk now to secure a first printing. An attorney approaches the Thames River police commander on behalf of Harry Exeter, an affluent man whose wife was abducted in broad daylight from a London riverbank the previous day. Exeter, who has assembled the considerable ransom demanded, wants Monk’s help with handing it over at the site that the kidnappers have set for the exchange: Jacob’s Island, not literally an island but a “region of interconnecting waterways with old offices and wharfs.” Monk agrees to accompany Exeter there the next day, and assembles a group of his most trusted officers to be on the scene in disguise. But despite Monk’s careful planning, the exchange ends in bloody failure, and he’s left to wonder who on his team gave the kidnappers the details of his operation. “The added suspense from Monk’s mole hunt makes this one of the Victorian series’ more powerful recent entries.” Amazing how Perry’s inventiveness never flags!

Rankin, Ian. [Long Shadows](#) (Orion \$41). The stage debut for the legendary detective John Rebus in this brand new, original story by Ian Rankin, written alongside the award-winning playwright Rona Munro.

✎Rhys, Rachel. [Fatal Inheritance](#) (Doubleday UK \$39). Rhys’ debut in [Dangerous Crossing](#) (\$26) took a Golden Age-style British mystery aboard an ocean liner in an Agatha Christie scenario. Rhys is back with an English housewife trapped in a loveless marriage who didn’t have an enemy in the world...until she inherited a fortune. London 1948: Eve Forrester is dwells joylessly in a gloomy house in a grey suburb. Out of the blue, she received a solicitor’s letter. A wealthy stranger has left her a mystery inheritance but in order to find out more, she must travel to the glittering French Riviera. Eve discovers her legacy is an enchanting villa overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and suddenly, life could not be more glamorous. But while she rubs shoulders with film-stars and famous writers, under the heat of the golden sun, rivals to her unexplained fortune begin to emerge—rivals who want her out of the way. Alone in paradise, Eve must unlock the story behind her surprise bequest— before events turn deadly.... Readers of Ruth Ware who I think is vastly overrated will recognize much of this scenario from Ware’s May novel, [The Death of Mrs. Westaway](#)

✂Scott, Manda. [A Treachery of Spies](#) (Bantam UK \$39). This Spies of Summer ties into the new James R. Benn so well that I had to order a few—less is written about Occupied France and its aftermath than, say, about the London Blitz. An elderly woman of striking beauty is found murdered in Orleans, France. Her identity has been cleverly erased but the method of her death is very specific: she has been killed in the manner of traitors to the Resistance in World War Two. Tracking down her murderer leads police inspector Inès Picaut back to 1940s France where the men and women of the Resistance were engaged in a desperate fight for survival against the Nazi invaders. To find answers in the present Picaut must discover what really happened in the past, untangling a web of treachery and intrigue that stretches back to the murder victim's youth: a time when unholy alliances were forged between occupiers and occupied, deals were done and promises broken. The past has been buried for decades, but, as Picaut discovers, there are those in the present whose futures depend on it staying that way.

Shteyngart, Gary. [Lake Success](#) (Random \$28). The author spent four years immersing himself in the hedge fund culture to write our **September Modern Firsts Club Pick**. Here's the Indie Next Pick: "When Barry Cohen's marriage and hedge fund company begin to crumble, he hops a Greyhound bus to El Paso, hoping to find himself among the 'real Americans' of the Trump era. Meanwhile, the wife he left behind struggles to build a solo life among the one percent. Together, their stories are a biting portrait of a country unimproved by the best of intentions. Equal parts *Sense and Sensibility*, *A Confederacy of Dunces*, and *Bonfire of the Vanities*, *Lake Success* is a wickedly funny satire and a rollicking good story for tough times." Shteyngart delivers another painfully funny novel about ambition, disappointment, and the darker side of the American dream. Note: **I would make Delia Owen's incredible fiction debut *Where the Crawdads Sing* the Modern Firsts Club Pick along with the September First Mystery Club Pick but there is some membership overlap. I urge anyone who hungers for a strong new voice and a vibrant sense of place to snag a Signed First of Owens while we have them.**

Stewart, Amy. [Miss Kopp Just Won't Quit](#) (Houghton \$26). **Out the end of September and Signed here October 11.** Deputy Constance Kopp, of Bergen County, N.J., comes under scrutiny during the brutal 1916 election season in bestseller Stewart's fraught fourth Kopp Sisters novel. While her mentor and boss, Sheriff Robert Heath, runs for Congress, the real-life Constance prepares for a successor less supportive of the "lady deputy." Her extracurricular investigation into the case of Anna Kayser, a seemingly sane woman whose husband and doctor conspired to send her to a mental institution, unexpectedly threatens to affect the election. Stewart draws on newspaper accounts from the era for the vicious rhetoric aimed at Constance, whose audacity at working in a male-dominated profession provides political fodder for her boss's opponents. The 4 Koppes (with more to come) have inspired development of TV series of hour-long segments:

✂Todd, Charles. [A Forgotten Place](#) (Harper \$27.99). **Publishes in late September; will be Signed here October 27 along with Tasha Alexander's new *Lady Emily Mystery*.** WWI has finally ended in Mary Higgins Clark Award-winner Todd's 10th mystery featuring British nurse Bess Crawford. And while the battlefield horrors are ended, the wounds physical and psychological of the men in Bess' care may never heal. While she could end her nursing service and go home to Somerset, Beth won't abandon these

shattered soldiers—in particular, a group of Welshmen facing bleak futures unfit for employment at home where work is mostly in the mines. When she's reassigned to a clinic back in England, Bess is reunited with the Welshmen, only to find several of them suicidal. The survivors are sent off home together, but their Captain, Hugh Williams with whom she's duelled, soon writes to inform her that one of the privates took his own life. Can she help the other accept their new lives? Bess uses some leave to seek Williams out. Her difficult journey lands her in a desolate and insular town on the Welsh coast, where the locals suspect Hugh of murdering his own brother [Hugh is living with his sister-in-law at the family farm]. The gorgeous but hostile peninsular landscape is matched by its claustrophobic community where Bess is trapped when her hired driver disappears into the night. As ever, Todd ramps up the suspense and delivers a surprise final punch.

✂Tremayne, SK. [Just Before I Died](#) (Collins \$32). I ordered this for fans of Stephen Booth and others who write of picturesque if sinister English landscapes. It was just a patch of ice. Just a bit of bad luck. But it was nearly enough to kill Kath Redway, spinning her car into Burrator Reservoir in the beautiful Dartmoor National Park. Miraculously, Kath escapes her accident with a few bruises and amnesia. She is shocked but delighted to be back in her remote moorland farmhouse with her handsome husband Adam, and her shy, gifted daughter Lyla. She's alive! But her family is not so delighted. Her husband is cold, even angry. Her daydreaming daughter talks ever more strangely, about a 'man on the moor'. Then, as chilling fragments of memory return, Kath realizes her 'accident' was nothing of the kind. Tremayne is the author of UK bestseller *The Ice Twins*.

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Hart, Elsa. [City of Ink](#)

History Paperback One per month

Van der Vlugt, Simone. [Midnight Blue](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Shteyngart, Gary. [Lake Success](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Grant, Rob. [The Quanderhorn Experimentations](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First per month

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Trust Me](#)

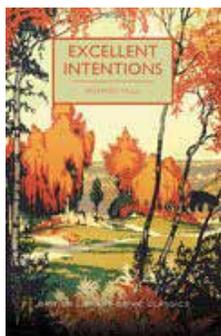
Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Mills, Kyle. [Vince Flynn: Red War](#)

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSIC

Hull, Richard. [The Murder of My Aunt](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). That popular reviewer phrase “fiendishly clever” could have been coined to describe this 1934 mystery, reissued by the British Library as part of its Crime Classics series. “It’s narrated by Edward Powell, a young man who is tied to his tyrannical Aunt Mildred in the expectation that, should he still be living with her upon her death, he will inherit her money and estate. Powell keeps a diary. He’s enormously funny about this dissatisfaction with life in the Welsh countryside, the dreary routine of the household, the beyond-boring neighbors. Most of all, his Aunt Mildred thwarts him constantly. The diary takes an increasingly dark turn, as Powell fights off and then commits to a scheme to end his misery by murdering Aunt Mildred. Gallows humor abounds as Powell’s plots keep failing and then getting more elaborate. Toward the end of the tale, another diary-keeper emerges, leading readers to a spectacular turn at the end. Powell’s movement toward the dark side will remind readers of Patricia Highsmith’s *Strangers on a Train* (and the Hitchcock film based on it). Fine psychological acuity, humor, and plotting throughout.”—*Booklist*

And here’s a take from a reader on NetGalley: “This book is hilarious. Maybe not laugh-out-loud for the most part, but constantly amusing, page after page. This is the story of two thoroughly unredeemably nasty people, honestly, you cannot choose between them for sheer unlikability. The two main characters are Mildred Powell, a horrid woman, and her wretched nephew Edward. They live together in a big house in rural Wales in 1934 (when the book was published) and spend their days purposely getting on each other’s nerves. It is the reader’s great good fortune to watch them.”



Hull, Richard. [Excellent Intentions](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Coming for October, with a gorgeous fall cover. Great Barwick’s least popular man is murdered on a train. Twelve jurors sit in court. Four suspects are identified – but which of them is on trial? This novel has all the makings of a classic murder mystery, but with a twist: as Attorney-General Anstruther Blayton leads the court through prosecution and defense, Inspector Fenby carries out his investigation....

Other Classics

✚Cameron, Kenneth. [The Frightened Man](#) (\$14.95). London at the birth of the 20th century, the dying days of the old queen’s reign. It’s a city of chaos and fevered ambition, just the place for a man who wants to be invisible. And there are two such men. One is an American, Denton, a celebrated author desperate to escape his increasingly relentless memories. The other...may not exist at all. Jack the Ripper? He hasn’t been heard of for more than 15 years: He’s just a creature of bad girls’ bad dreams. But at least one ferrety little fellow claims to have seen him at his grisly work, and when a prostitute turns up dead, Denton can’t shake the notion that the frightened man may have something to be frightened about. Denton is an irresistible character—a deeply cynical romantic with a tragic past, a wisecracking manservant,

and a startling respect for women. Carry on to [The Bohemian Girl](#) (\$14.95) where Denton comes to the aid of a damsel in distress in Soho.

Gardner, Erle Stanley. [The Knife Slipped](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). Lost for more than 75 years, this title was meant to be the second book in the Donald Lam/Bertha Cool series but got shelved when Gardner’s publisher objected to (among other things) Bertha Cool’s tendency to “talk tough, swear, smoke cigarettes, and try to gyp people.” But this tale of adultery and corruption, of double-crosses and triple identities—however shocking for 1939—shines today as a glorious present from the past, a return to the heyday of private eyes and shady dames, of powerful criminals, crooked cops, blazing dialogue, and delicious plot twists. TV fans may know that Frank Sinatra played Donald Lam on the U.S. *Steel Hour of Mystery* in 1946.

Head, Matthew. [The Congo Venus](#) (Felony & Mayhem \$14.95). “A witty, well-written mystery first published in 1950” —*New York Times*. My late Mother loved books by Head. It doesn’t take a lot to be the belle of the expat community in Leopoldville, a flyspeck in the Belgian Congo: A pulse and a pair of pumps will do the trick. Liliane Morelli brought rather more than that to the party, but it didn’t help: She’s still dead of what the doctor calls blackwater fever though any idiot could tell you that mosquitoes were not to blame. Enter Dr. Mary Finney, the Miss Marple of the missionary brigade. She doesn’t do a lot of praying—or a lot of doctoring, come to that – but her sleuthing skills are top-notch. Peering and poking, sticking her sunburned nose where it doesn’t belong, she soon discovers the sad truth: Lots of people wanted Liliane. But nobody seems to have liked her much. Begin with [The Devil in the Bush](#) and [The Cabinda Affair](#), then go to the 4th, [Murder at the Flea Club](#) (\$14.95 each).

✚Moyes, Patricia. [Dead Men Don’t Ski](#) (Felony \$14.95). Here is the first Inspector Henry Tibbett! He and his wife Emmy (always a key partner) are enjoying a skiing vacation in the Italian Dolomites when it is interrupted by a spot of murder. A pleasantly old-fashioned whodunnit. When I opened The Pen back in 1989 Moyes was a mystery icon, feted at Malice Domestic, a friend of Elizabeth Peters, Dorothy Cannell, and such. Start here and you can move on to [more Tibbetts](#) being republished!

OUR SEPTEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Benn, James R. [The Devouring](#) (\$15.95). Billy Boyle’s 12th WWII investigation finds him in 1944 Switzerland where he and Lt. Kazmierz, a Polish baron, have been sent to work with the OSS in the ostensibly neutral nation. But wait, are Swiss banks laundering Nazi gold? And what of the Safehaven Protocols aimed at Ally limitations on the export of war materials from the Swiss to the Nazis? Are the Swiss also exporting refugees, mostly Jews? See Event Books for more.

Burke, James Lee. [Robicheaux](#) (\$16). Dave Robicheaux—detective, veteran, widower, father, alcoholic— may be at home in New Iberia, Louisiana, but he’s not safe from suspicion and self-doubt when the man who killed his wife is murdered. Together with his best friend, PI Clete Purcell, Robicheaux seeks truth, no matter how incriminating, even as more bodies fall and mysteries twine together. The cast is Shakespearean in its variety: a demagogue, a novelist, the mob, good cops and bad, victims of

hubris and hate, and ghosts aplenty. No one here is blameless and Robicheaux and Cleve never shy away from confronting what they see as the world's evils. But as the stakes get higher, the friends—who are more than happy to risk themselves—must decide what it will take to protect those they love and respect. Along the way, Burke investigates accusations of rape, corporate colonialism, and Southern nostalgia, not always without his own bias. “The novel’s murders and lies—both committed with unsettling smiles—captivate.” This is one of the great American crime series, a reboot back in 1995 with [Neon Rain](#) (\$16) for a career nearly lost.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Fool’s River](#) (\$15.99). The eighth installment in Hallinan’s Edgar Award–nominated ticking-clock thriller about the most dangerous facets of Bangkok’s seedy underbelly. The two most difficult days in Bangkok writer Poke Rafferty’s life begin with an emergency visit from Edward Dell, the almost-boyfriend of Poke’s teenage daughter, Miaow. The boy’s father, Buddy, a late-middle-aged womanizer who has moved to Bangkok for happy hunting, has disappeared, and money is being siphoned out of his bank and credit card accounts. It soon becomes apparent that Buddy is in the hands of a pair of killers who prey on Bangkok’s “sexpats”; when his accounts are empty, he’ll be found, like a dozen others before him, floating facedown in a Bangkok canal with a weighted cast on his unbroken leg. His money is almost gone. Over forty-eight frantic hours, Poke does everything he can to locate Buddy before it’s too late.

Ide, Joe. [Righteous](#) (\$15.99). Patrick reviews: “Ide takes us deep into the psyche of his protagonist, Isaiah Quintabe, exploring the real story behind his brother’s murder ten years ago. This is one hell of a page turner, and at the same time it carries an emotional punch that really resonates. It’s hard to imagine anyone improving on such an instant classic as I.Q., but Ide pulls it off with style.” This is Edgar-finalist Ide’s outstanding sequel to 2016’s [IQ](#) (\$15.99). Ide joins us October 15 with I.Q.’s 3rd, [Wrecked](#) (LittleBrown \$27).

Land, Ali. [Good Me, Bad Me](#) (\$17.99). Milly’s mother is a serial killer. Though Milly loves her mother, the only way to make her stop is to turn her in to the police. Milly is given a fresh start: a new identity, a home with an affluent foster family, and a spot at an exclusive private school. But Milly has secrets, and life at her new home becomes complicated. As her mother’s trial looms, with Milly as the star witness, Milly starts to wonder how much of her is nature, how much of her is nurture, and whether she is doomed to turn out like her mother after all. When tensions rise and Milly feels trapped by her shiny new life, she has to decide: Will she be good? Or is she bad?

Lescroart, John. [Poison](#) (\$16). The 17th Dismas Hardy begins when a former client who did her time begs for his help. Abby Jarvis found a job as a bookkeeper with Grant Carver and his prestigious company. When Carver kills himself, his will specifies a huge windfall for her. Then a second autopsy reveals that he was poisoned with aconite, and she becomes the No. 1 suspect—after all she was clearly embezzling funds from the company. Hardy feels compelled to help Jarvis, not only because he truly believes that she didn’t kill Carver, but also because he can’t stay away from the courtroom even though he’s flirting with “retirement” after being shot during his 16th investigation. This is an excellent entry into a favorite and award-winning series.

Limon, Martin. [The Nine-Tailed Fox](#) (\$15.95). The marvelous Sueño and Bascom series following the two 8th Army CID detectives through challenging and immensely surprising cases in occupied South Korea blend the thriller, the police procedural, military fiction, with Limon’s deep grasp of Korean society and ancient and modern cultures with “the massive footprint of the 8th Army” on the culture (*Booklist* Starred Review). This 12th novel presents the Slicky Boys (as I usually call George and Ernie) with another difficult problem: three GIs have gone missing from three different bases. A rumor is circulating that a woman, a *gumiho* or legendary nine-tailed fox disguised as a woman, is involved. Then one man is found dead. Meanwhile the boys are caught up in a power struggle between two wives of 8th Army officers (a refrigerator figures in). It’s not easy to work to appease the bosses (male and female), work the case, and cooperate with Mr. Kim. . . . My advice is to [order the whole series](#)—Lee Child says, “Limon is one of the best military writers ever” but I think he’s one of the best crime writers working today.

Matthews, Jason. [The Kremlin’s Candidate](#) (\$17). Book #3 in the Red Sparrow Trilogy opens with Russian president Vladimir Putin planning the covert assassination of a high-ranking US official with the intention of replacing him with a mole whom Russian intelligence has cultivated for more than fifteen years. Catching wind of this plot, Dominika, Nate, and their CIA colleagues must unmask the traitor before he or she is able to reveal that Dominika has been spying for years on behalf of the CIA. Any leak, any misstep, will expose her as a CIA asset and result in a one-way trip to a Moscow execution cellar. . . . If you missed it, start with 2013 First Mystery Club Pick and winner of the Edgar for Best First Novel [Red Sparrow](#) (\$17) and #2, [Palace of Treason](#) (\$16.99).

Meltzer, Brad. [The Escape Artist](#) (\$15.99). Mortician Jim Zigarowski, the hero of this stellar series launch from bestseller Meltzer, works the U.S. government’s most top-secret and high-profile cases at Dover Air Force base in present-day Delaware. Zig’s world changes when a military plane mysteriously crashes in the Alaskan wilderness and the body of soldier Nola Brown, who as a child saved his daughter from an explosion at a Girl Scout camp, arrives on his table. As Zig prepares the body, he discovers that the scars he knows Nola sustained at camp are missing! When he finds a crumpled piece of paper in the woman’s stomach (the only safe vessel for it in a plane crash), a warning for Nola, his suspicions are confirmed: this isn’t Nola. Zig is determined to discover what happened to her and whether she’s safe.

Perry, Anne. [An Echo of Murder](#) (\$17). A Starred Review: “Set in the summer of 1870, bestseller Perry’s skillful 23rd William Monk novel opens with the Thames River Police commander’s arrival at a riverfront warehouse, where Hungarian businessman Imrus Fodor lies dead, impaled by a bayonet. Fodor’s fingers are broken, and 17 candles are arrayed nearby, all bloody and two of an unusual blue. The victim’s enigmatic countryman, Antal Dobokai, who discovered the body, serves as translator as Monk investigates London’s close-knit Hungarian community. Leads are few, until identical murders occur. Londoners panic, ethnic tensions flare, and Monk’s wife, Hester, becomes involved when a friend is suspected. . . .” See Signed Books for the new Monk.

Reardon, Scott. [The Prometheus Man](#) (\$15.99). When a pile of bodies is found in Paris, CIA Agent Tom Blake hustles his way onto a major case: tracking a man with enhanced abilities, the test subject of a secret government program. There's just one problem: the man using Agent Blake's identity is not Agent Blake. He's Tom Reese, a man without a family or a home. Reese is searching for his brother's killer. He stole Agent Blake's identity two months ago and has bluffed his way onto the team investigating his only lead. But his time as a CIA agent is accelerating toward its expiration date.

✦Weaver, Ashley. [Essence of Malice](#) (\$16.99). There is a clever plot for this 4th investigation for Milo and Avery Ames, a 1930s power couple. They've been on the Riviera and are stopping in Lake Como when a message from Milo's one-time governess summons them to Paris where she suspects something is very wrong in the household of perfume king Helios Belanger. And indeed it is, beginning with the death of the family patriarch and moving on through various treacheries. But the really good thing about this intriguing novel is the world of French *parfumeurs*, the business, the blends, the marketing, the whole package. It was, and is, big money, and a signature perfume is a real trophy scent. Also, a plus, the Ames are becoming more like a skirmishing Nick and Nora Charles, English version.

Yu, Ovidia. [The Frangipani Tree Mystery](#) (Constable \$13.99). Our **September Cozy Crimes Club Pick** is set in 1936 in the Crown Colony of Singapore where the British abdication crisis and rising Japanese threat seem far away. When the nanny looking after the Acting Governor's daughter dies suddenly, Mission-School-educated local girl SuLin – an aspiring journalist trying to escape an arranged marriage – takes her place. But then another murder at the residence occurs and it takes all SuLin's traditional skills and intelligence to help British-born Chief Inspector Thomas LeFroy solve the murders – and escape with her own life." Yu writes that she based unconventional Su Lin on her own grandmother, the first girl in her province to go to university, and Inspector LeFroy on her grandmother's hero Inspector Rene Onraet, who set up Singapore's Special Branch. Starts a Crown Colony Mysteries series. This cozy historical offers a rare commodity in the genre—a young, Asian, female amateur sleuth.

And I recommend these September Large Paperback—reviews are found in Event Books for the hardcover editions. I am proud of all three

De Castrique, Mark. [Secret Undertaking](#) (\$15.95). North Carolina

Easley, Warren. [Moving Targets](#) (\$15.95) Portland, Oregon

Wortham, Reavis. [Gold Dust](#) (\$15.95) Texas Red River Country 1969

GET YOUR HALLOWEEN ON...

Preview: Horrors, a Dracula Party

Thursday October 18 6:00 PM

Join us for Evil Drinks, Treats, and Prizes. Costumes Encouraged!

Robert Masello signs [The Night Crossing](#) (T&M \$24.95 or \$14.95)

Bram Stoker kept secret a tale even more terrifying than Dracula. It begins among the Carpathian peaks, when an intrepid explorer discovers a mysterious golden box. She brings it back with her to the foggy streets of Victorian London, unaware of its dangerous power...or that an evil beyond imagining has already taken root in the city. Stoker, a successful theater manager but frustrated writer, is drawn into a deadly web...



Leslie S. Klinger hosts and signs [The New Annotated Dracula](#) (Norton \$39.95)

With a daring conceit, Klinger accepts Stoker's contention that the 1887 classic *Dracula* is based on historical fact. Traveling through 200 years of popular culture and myth as well as graveyards and the wilds of Transylvania, Klinger's notes illuminate every aspect of this haunting narrative (including a detailed examination of the original typescript of *Dracula*, with its shockingly different ending, previously unavailable to scholars). Laurie R King joins Rob and me touring Transylvania in September so one day Mary Russell may have her own spin to add to all this....

Also available in October:

Rice, Anne. [Blood Communion](#) (Knopf \$27.95). A Tale of Prince LeStat in the Vampire Chronicles.

And available in September:

Villareal, Raymond A. [A People's History of the Vampire Uprising](#) (Mulholland \$27). **Actually out since June**, this panoramic fictional oral history begins with one small mystery: the body of a young woman found in an Arizona border town, presumed to be an illegal immigrant, disappears from the town morgue. To the young CDC investigator called in to consult with the local police, it's an impossibility that threatens her understanding of medicine. Then, more bodies, dead from an inexplicable disease that solidified their blood, are brought to the morgue, only to also vanish. Soon, the U.S. government—and eventually biomedical researchers, disgruntled lawmakers, and even an insurgent faction of the Catholic Church—must come to terms with what they're too late to stop: an epidemic of vampirism that will sweep first the United States, and then the world. With heightened strength and beauty and a steady diet of fresh blood, these changed people, or "Gloomings," rapidly rise to prominence in all aspects of modern society. Soon people are beginning to be "re-created," willingly accepting the risk of death if their bodies can't handle the transformation. As new communities of Gloomings arise, society splinters.... Surely a novel for our time, no?

White, Kiersten. [The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein](#) (Random \$18.99). Elizabeth Lavenza hasn't had a proper meal in weeks. Her thin arms are covered with bruises from her "care-giver," and she is on the verge of being thrown into the streets... until she is brought to the home of Victor Frankenstein, an unsmiling, solitary boy who has everything—except a friend. Victor is her escape from misery. Elizabeth does everything she

can to make herself indispensable—and it works. She is taken in by the Frankenstein family and rewarded with a warm bed, delicious food, and dresses of the finest silk. Soon she and Victor are inseparable. But her new life comes at a price. As the years pass, Elizabeth's survival depends on managing Victor's dangerous temper and entertaining his every whim, no matter how depraved. Behind her blue eyes and sweet smile lies the calculating heart of a girl determined to stay alive no matter the cost . . . as the world she knows is consumed by darkness. "Kiersten White has breathed fresh life into a much-loved classic. Even Mary Shelley herself would be riveted by the dark lengths Elizabeth Lavenza would go to in order to survive. A dark and lovely midnight read" for Ages 12+. Why not Treat with a book AND candy?

Wolfe, Jennifer. [Watch the Girls](#) (Grand Central \$26). Fifteen years after her youngest sister's disappearance, former teen star Olivia Hill (now Liv Hendricks) has distanced herself from her family, been fired from the Scooby-Doo-esque reality mystery show *Bullsh*t Hunters* and crowdfunded her own web series to explore unsolved mysteries. This lands her in the small central California town of Stone's Throw, secretly hired by local horror film auteur Jonas Kron to investigate the disappearance of several young blonde women from aptly named Dark Road just outside of town. The secluded mountain village is as quaint as it is bizarre; home to apple orchards, a film festival, a wolf sanctuary and the lore of the Ulv Konge ("Wolf King"), a nightmarish creature created by Kron. Wolfe, who also writes YA as Jennifer Bosworth (Struck), twists together a wide spectrum of themes on an action-packed track through Crazy Town. With dark woods, missing women, eccentric locals, unsettling wolf masks, secret messages and nighttime stalkers, *Watch the Girls* has all the nightmare fuel of great horror movie camp mixed with an absorbing mystery even if it strays into implausibility....

AND THINK ABOUT OTHER WORLDS

Bennett, Robert Jackson. [Foundryside](#) (Crown \$27). "Bennett's stunning fantasy, the first in a series, is set in Tevanne, a city-state run by four merchant houses, funded by pillaging nearby lands and powered by scribes who use sigils to make devices that defy reality. When talented thief Sancia Grado steals a sentient golden key named Clef, she's pursued by paladin-like police captain Gregor Dandolo, scion of the Dandolo merchant house. Clef and Sancia are both shocked when they find they can communicate telepathically. This and Sancia's other abilities—linked to a painful scar on her skull—hint at strange, terrible things in her past. When someone tries to kill Gregor to get Sancia, they discover that a very ambitious and powerful figure is building something that could "annihilate scriving on a mass scale," a disastrous disruption of Tevanne's society. Sancia sets out to pull off the most dangerous theft of her life. Her journey of self-realization serves as a backbone for nearly nonstop, cleverly choreographed action sequences. This is a crackling, wonderfully weird blend of science fiction, fantasy, heist adventure, and a pointed commentary on what it means to be human in a culture obsessed with technology, money, and power."—*PW* Starred Review

Hearne, Kevin/Delilah Dawson. [Kill the Farm Boy](#) (Del Rey \$27). Signed by both last July. I can't resist this fan review: "Wildly unpredictable, tremendously goofy, and brilliantly inventive, *Kill the Farm Boy* is a laugh-out-loud fantasy trope extravaganza. A talking goat, a fierce warrior, a bumbling rogue,

a wannabe dark wizard, and an enchanted bard set out on a quest full of adventure, mishaps, and lots of cheese. I can't count the number of times I giggled, snorted, and chuckled at a clever quip or ludicrous joke. Fans of Monty Python and *Robin Hood: Men in Tights* will definitely find *Kill the Farm Boy* to their liking." **But I really include the book here as I am seduced by this line on the cover: "Once. A pun. A time."**

Pessl, Marisha. [Neverworld Wake](#) (Delacorte \$18.99). "*Neverworld Wake* begins like a young adult version of *Groundhog Day*, with a group of young people experiencing the same 11 hours over and over, trapped in a purgatory. One will be allowed to live while the others will die—and they must unanimously vote on it! Mysteries and secrets from the past intertwine with the dangers of the present in this wonderfully dark fantasy novel. Pessl really delves into the psyche of young people, exposing traumas and fears that are usually well-hidden. The finale is stunning—a brilliant piece of psychological drama that is both suspenseful and, ultimately, incredibly moving. This is a book adults and young adults will love, particularly those who glommed onto Pessl's amazing adult fiction [Special Topics in Calamity Physics](#) (\$17), a *NY Times* bestseller.

Shiffman, Jay. [Game of the Gods](#) (Forge \$28.99). Here's an action-packed adventure across an intriguing world. On a distant future Earth, a nation called the Federacy keeps its citizenship closely guarded. This high-tech, low-freedom polity uses Judges to decree who is worthy of living in the Federacy and who will be cast to its dangerous, war-torn borders. Maxomillion Cone is the Federacy's highest-ranking Judge, a former soldier who carries out his grim duties despite longing for a quiet life, and harboring hatred for the men in his government who made that life impossible by essentially lobotomizing his wife. When a fellow Judge shows Max a foreign device that can supposedly tell the future, it starts a chain reaction that may cause the end of the world....

NEW BOOKS FOR THE JEWISH HIGH HOLIDAYS

Atkinson, Kate. [Transcription](#) (Little Brown \$29 Signed). We start with a British woman hit by a car while looking the wrong way up the street! How does that happen? Flash back: Londoner Juliet Armstrong is recruited at the age of 18 into MI5. She begins her life in espionage in a flat in Dolphin Square in 1940, transcribing secretly recorded conversations. In the bugged neighboring flat, Godfrey Toby, posing as a Gestapo agent, meets a dreary bunch of British Nazi sympathizers who pass on intelligence about Jews and other enemies of the Führer...

Benn, James R. [The Devouring](#) (\$15.95). Billy Boyle's 12th WWII investigation finds him in 1944 Switzerland where he and Lt. Kazmierz, a Polish baron, have been sent to work with the OSS in the ostensibly neutral nation. But wait, are Swiss banks laundering Nazi gold? And betraying Jewish refugees?

Goldberg, Tod. [Gangster Nation](#) (\$16.95). Patrick writes, "Goldberg is in top form here with a dark, and twisted trip down deep into the American underworld, revealing the criminal underpinnings that exist not very far below the surface. As always, Goldberg's writing reveals an infectious wit and a true sense of the absurd. Not to be missed." It's been two years since the events of [Gangsterland](#) (\$15.95), when legendary Chicago hitman Sal Cu-pertine disappeared into the guise of Vegas Rabbi David Cohen.

It's September of 2001 and for David, everything is coming up gold: Temple membership is on the rise, the new private school is raking it in, and the mortuary and cemetery—where Cohen has been laundering bodies for the mob—is minting cash. But Sal wants out. He's got money stashed in safe-deposit boxes all over the city. He's looking at places to escape to, Mexico or maybe Argentina. He only needs to make it through the High Holidays....

Gross, Andrew. [Button Man](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Gross bases this East Side NY garment industry thriller on his own family history and is creating something special to go along with our copies.

Kadish, Rachel. [The Weight of Ink](#) (\$16.99). A mysterious collection of papers hidden in a historic London home sends two scholars of Jewish history on an unforgettable quest. When Helen Watt receives a phone call from a former student about centuries-old documents secreted away in his posh residence, she doesn't hold out much hope for their importance. Close to retirement, Helen's seen it all. But a cursory look at the papers tells her she's holding something special. She returns to the house with Aaron Levy, an eager American graduate student, in tow. Despite butting heads over process, the unlikely pair of literary detectives uncovers a stunning truth: the writer of the documents is a 17th-century woman who chronicled the Jewish diaspora, from the horrors of the Spanish Inquisition to the rich trade city of Amsterdam and the relative safe haven of London.... "Kadish's characters are memorable, and we're treated to a host of them: pious rabbis and ribald actors, socialites and troubled young men, Mossad agents and rule-worshipping archivists. From Shakespeare's Dark Lady to Spinoza's philosophical heresies, Kadish leaves no stone unturned in this moving historical epic. Chock-full of rich detail and literary intrigue"—*Kirkus*. Margot Livesey (echoed by Toni Morrison) adds, "How thrilling it is to watch the imperious Helen and the scholarly Aaron turn into brilliant literary detectives as they uncover the identity of a woman who lived more than 300 years ago, and how thrilling it is to get to know that woman intimately in her own time. A beautiful, intelligent and utterly absorbing novel." And winner of various book awards.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER

It's a massive month and I can't get to all new books so I will do a Booknews to bridge you into October and finish October when I return from the Frankfurt Bookfair.

A new survey of America's favorite novels highlighted in the *Wall Street Journal* shows that storytelling moves us far more than literary quality. Or so the selections for the PBS *Great American Read* underlines. I wish more publishers had read and digested this since literary fiction drenched in social issues has crowded out novels driven by adventure, thrills, mystery, and such. And as always with big publishing, books about New York City, reviewing its past, predicting its possibly dystopian future, eat up space and budgets. I'm sure that many of us look to books for places of safety and escape from all the noise and divisiveness. I feel we are living in some alternate universe at present (fiction could never get away with the daily news stories) so we might as well pick up a book and go somewhere we enjoy.

Adler-Olsen, Jussi. [The Scarred Woman](#) (\$16). Carl Mørck, the cantankerous head of Department Q (Copenhagen's cold-case division), seeks a connection between the murder of an elderly woman and a similar crime more than a decade earlier. With

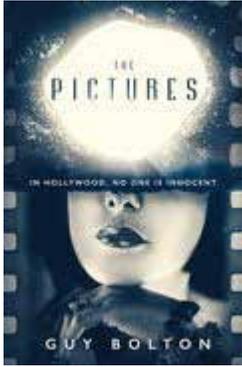
looming budget cuts threatening the very existence of Department Q and a crime documentary program's production crew dogging his every move, Mørck must also deal with the mental unraveling of his assistant, Rose Knudsen, whose nightmarish past comes to light after she inexplicably vanishes. When Mørck and his team discover that a series of brutal hit-and-run murders targeting young women are connected with not only the cold case but Rose's disappearance, they must locate her before it's too late. If you read a lot of Nordic (also called Scandi) Noir or watch televised dramas you know there's a different sensibility at work. Go with it.

Barker, Pat. [The Silence of the Girls](#) (Knopf \$27.95). The ancient Greeks are having another moment. The question before Barker is, where are the women's voices? So she writes a new novel for them. When her city falls to the Greeks, Briseis' old life is shattered. She is transformed from queen to captive, awarded to the god-like warrior Achilles as a prize of war. And she's not alone. On the same day, and on many others in the course of a long and bitter war, innumerable women have been wrested from their homes and flung to the fighters. The Trojan War is known as a man's story: a quarrel between men over a woman, stolen from her home and spirited across the sea. But what of the other women in this story, silenced by history? What words did they speak when alone with each other, in the laundry, at the loom, when laying out the dead? We see through them the rift between Agamemnon and Achilles, the bond between Achilles and Patroclus, and the complex, beautiful support system the captured women weave together.

Bird, Sarah. [Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Visit post-Civil War America from the imagined perspective of Buffalo Soldier Cathy/Cathay Williams, the first woman to serve in the legendary all-black cavalry and infantry. Mining the rich terrain of Civil War military history, the nation's western expansion and clashes with Native Americans, and the fraught issues of gender and race relations, Bird frames an epic romantic tale around Williams. It tracks her life from the time she's taken from her family as "contraband" by the Union Army in the waning days of the Civil War, to her service as a cook's aide to Gen. Philip Sheridan, to her illicit enlistment in the Army—disguised as William Cathay—and service as a rifleman with the Buffalo Soldiers cavalry. "Williams, as narrator, reveals a bravado fueled by her love of dashing Yankee soldier Wager Swayne, hero-worship of Sheridan, and pride in her heritage as the granddaughter of an African queen. Bird's fast-paced, action-packed story is a bittersweet one."

Blackwell, Juliet. [The Lost Carousel of Provence](#) (Berkley \$15). An artist lost to history, a family abandoned to its secrets, and the woman whose search for meaning unearths it all. Blackwell seamlessly incorporates details about art, cast making, and the City of Light... and especially stuns in the aftermath of the main story by unleashing a twist that is both a complete surprise and a point that expertly ties everything together. "An untrusting American orphan meets a dysfunctional French family—and each turns out to possess wisdom that helps the other to heal from old, old wounds. As Cady points her camera at one antique carousel after another, this novel should come with a warning: Will cause enormous desire to travel to France."—Stephen P. Kiernan

Bolton, Guy. [The Pictures](#) (Oneworld \$14.99). Shortlisted for the CWA New Blood Dagger Award. Hollywood 1939. The year that *The Wizard of Oz* and *Gone with the Wind* were made. Detective Craine has spent his life working as a studio fixer, whitewashing the misdemeanors and crimes committed by the studio players



and stars. But now he's trying to turn his back on that life following the recent death of his wife as he's determined to be a better parent to his young son. But then Craine's services are called upon one last time. MGM need him to smooth over the press coverage of the suicide of one of their producers. And soon, what should be a straightforward case proves anything but when connections are made between it and a brutal murder across town. And that's just the start of the story. It's only a matter of time before Craine must decide

whether to follow orders, or to attempt to redeem a career of concealment by going in search of the ugly truth. ShelfAwareness finds our **September Discovery Club Book** to be "a compelling and dazzling debut for fans of Raymond Chandler and James Ellroy. Bolton's tightly paced mystery vividly re-creates 1930s Hollywood and is enriched with complicated, fascinating and flawed characters."

✚Borman, Tracy. [The King's Witch](#) (Atlantic \$27). England's Joint Chief Curator of Historic Royal Palaces writes her first novel and takes a fascinating subject: the transition from Elizabeth I and her tolerant religious policy to King James of Scotland, now England, with his severe brand of Protestantism, intolerance, and fear of witches. Longford Castle (real) is the home of Frances Gorges and her parents, figures at court where her mother was a favorite of the old Queen. When Elizabeth dies, it's 1603. Frances becomes a lady to the Princess Elizabeth and thus familiar with Queen Anne who has Catholic sympathies and a rocky marriage to James. In time a plot is born, known as the Gunpowder Plot. These characters including Frances' eventual lover Tom Wintour (real also) died in its aftermath as an ardent Catholic, becomes caught up in forces, plot and counterplot, that spun out of control. Borman presents an interesting point of view and writes movingly and propulsively of her cast of characters in what is billed as the first in an historical trilogy. She has also familiarized herself with herbs and medicinal brews.

Bowen, Peter. [Solus](#) (Open Road \$14.99). When a hunted military whistleblower and his family need someplace to hide and someone to trust, Toussaint, Montana, Métis Indian former cattle inspector and sometimes deputy Gabriel Du Pré is the man. Karen, like me a fan, writes: "Filled with characters from previous titles, the town of Toussaint, Montana becomes a sheltering place for a whistleblower who is being hunted by those he exposed. Hoyt Poe was an honorable military man who was assigned, as a guard, to a Kabul prison. When he sees the inmates tortured by Temple Security employees, he goes up the chain of command to report the abuses. The fanatic security company goes after him and his family for the transgression. Making every effort to keep the Hoyt family safe, Gabriel Du Pre also navigates a troubling journey by his granddaughter, Pallas, as she tries to find her place in the world. Bowen's writing is full of subtle humor, and comments that could easily run parallel to today's political climate.

His characters are good, decent people who value their heritage and loyalty to one another. Bowen is a pleasure to read." Plus you get a Kazakh eagle hunter prowling the hills above town.

Boyle, William. [Gravesend](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). "Everyone thinks they can write Italian-American characters because they watched *The Sopranos*, but most people are terrible at it. It takes an insider to get it right, and *Gravesend* is a Brooklyn story by a son of Brooklyn—one who knows its people and portrays the working class using the relentless magnifying glass of someone who loves it and, like James Baldwin said about America, thus has the right to criticize it endlessly. This is a story of three people, woven masterfully: Conway, whose gay brother's killer is about to be released from prison; Alessandra, an actress who briefly escaped the gravitational pull of the neighborhood only to fall back into the atmosphere at a self-destructive velocity; and Eugene, the younger nephew of the killer, eager to wear the mantle of his uncle's infamy. Boyle subverts our expectations; this is no garden-variety revenge story. The characters deal with grief in ways that will be familiar only to those who have faced it firsthand. Boyle twists them together in a perfect braid, as compelling as Season 2 of *The Wire*. I haven't read an Italian-American family story as strong since *The Wanderers* by Richard Price, and I have been looking. *Gravesend* is a strong story of Brooklyn noir that doesn't need to front. It is as authentic as it gets and has the heart of a prizefighter."—Thomas Pluck

Bythell, Shaun. [The Diary of a Bookseller](#) (Melville House \$25.99). "When you enter The Book Shop in Wigtown, Scotland, you enter Shaun Bythell's world. You'll recognize his colorful staff and quirky customers immediately and fall in love with them instantly. *The Diary of a Bookseller* was written for book buyers, booksellers, and book lovers everywhere (you must be one of them!). While books and The Book Shop occupy much of Bythell's hilarious story, it is made whole with priceless pieces on gardening, fishing with his dad, cycling, and, of course, music, food, and drink. Cheers!"

Camilleri, Andrea. [Death at Sea: Montalbano's Early Cases](#) (Penguin \$16). Set in 1980s Vigàta, Sicily, the eight stories in this delightful collection from CWA International Dagger Award-winner Camilleri show a young Salvo Montalbano encountering tricky situations and crimes that can't always be solved by traditional police work. The cast is familiar, even though Camilleri has not yet rounded the interplay of his main characters into a mature form. Livia is already Salvo's lover; Inspector Mimi Augello and Detective Fazio are already his able assistants; and office aide Catarella is butchering the language as usual. Highlights include "Room Number 2," in which Salvo solves an arson case, and "Double Investigation," in which he has a seminal confrontation with Augello. Salvo's cleverness derails a complex drug operation in "Death at Sea." Pamela, an unlikely but sexually voracious barmaid, disappears in "The Stolen Message," and Salvo figures out the surprising reason why. This is a must for Montalbano fans and anyone else who values superb plotting.

Carter, Andrea. [Death at Whitewater Church](#) (Oceanview \$26.95). Dublin solicitor Carter has made a real splash with her debut in a projected series for solicitor Benedicta "Ben" O'Keeffe. Ben did practice in Dublin but a trauma she hints at (and finally describes) sent her first to American and then to buy a small practice in rugged Donegal. Inishowen Peninsula is, as she puts

it, “the most northerly solicitor’s office in Ireland” and where you get the “Last legal advice before Ireland.” This might be put on her letterhead (my personal favorite Irish business motto is for Ashford Castle: “Excellence since 1228”). A routine job connected to the conveyance of a deconsecrated church sends her to the site where she and the surveyor stumble upon a crypt. In it is a human skeleton...its skull tucked on a pillow. The locals assume the bones are those of a man who went missing on his wedding day five years back, but DNA testing says no. And it goes from there in a slow-moving plot that harks back to Derry as a major port, and that will reward you in the end game of an investigation headed by Garda Tom Molloy who may have a personal interest in “Ben” (her assumed name).

✠Cleeves, Ann. [Wild Fire](#) (St Martins \$26.99). See Signed Books for a review of this 8th Shetland Island mystery.

Cunningham, Bill. [Fashion Climbing](#) (Penguin \$27). During his life, the fashion journalist and late-life *NY Times* photographer was a charming and influential public enigma in the fashion world, despite being the focus of a 2010 documentary. After his death, his family found this memoir. It covers his early life in repressive 1930s-’40s Boston, his rise as a successful milliner in 1950s-’60s New York City, and the start of his second career as a fashion journalist. “It is no tell-all, but there are plenty of juicy reasons why such a tactful, private person would have left it in a drawer for so long. Taste, joy and creative expression were his guiding lights, and he rails against those who cultivate fashion only for status. Cunningham’s personal life is glossed over, but his social portrait of the workshops, fitting rooms, runways, ballrooms and stylish characters of this time is wonderfully detailed and incomparable.” I followed his Sunday photo spreads in the *Times* for years.

Dacher, Christina. [Vox](#) (Berkley \$26). The Indie Next Pick: “This ambitious debut scared me so much that I started reading it in very small portions. In Dalcher’s version of the future, women have lost all of their rights and are limited (via electronic handcuffs) to speaking only 100 words per day. Their entire purview has been relegated to the home and family, where even girls may not speak more than their allotted words. Women cannot work, female representation in government has dropped precipitously, and the Bible Belt has become a bible corset as men have sought to reclaim their masculinity through dominance of women in all areas. While we are consumed with the unthinkable changes in the current political environment, this book reminds us to keep our eyes open and our voices heard.” *Vox* is getting buzz as analogous to Atwood’s *The Handmaid’s Tale*.

Day, Elizabeth. [The Party](#) (Little Brown \$26). Despite coming from opposite sides of the tracks, Ben and Martin have been best friends since childhood. So it’s not surprising that Martin and his wife, Lucy, are the first to show up when Ben’s wife, Serena, throws him an opulent party in the couple’s palatial new country home. What is surprising is that, three weeks later, Martin is in a police station sans lawyer being questioned about the events of the evening. As Day reveals, the events that take place have their roots deep in a past that is held up by a cleverly woven web of lies and half-truths. This is an exquisitely written thriller, equal parts modern *Gatsby* and a novelistic game of *Clue*. “An enticing mix of social climbing, barely hidden lust, and possible crimes...

The Party knowingly nods toward *Brideshead Revisited* and *The Talented Mr. Ripley*. But Day refreshes their themes for an age in which the upper echelons retain their allure and their grasp on power while posing as common folk...her shrewd eye and authorial tone also provide a gleeful wit...A smart, irresistible romp.”—*New York Times Book Review*. I have to say this all reminds me of Herman Koch’s bestselling tour de force [The Dinner](#) (\$17) and Olen Steinhauer’s 2015 hit [All the Old Knives](#) (\$16), both constructed around a single dinner.

✠Dearman, Lara. [Dark Sky Island](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Jenny Dorey heads out from Guernsey, where she’s a reporter for the *Guernsey News*, to the nearby Channel Island of Sark, where a human skeleton has turned up in a cave. Sark—three miles long by a mile wide—has a population of about 450. For police work, the Sarkees depend on the force in Guernsey. Renting a bike and pedaling to the site, Jenny sees the investigating officer, her friend DCI Michael Gilbert, who tells her that the skeleton is female and has been there for at least 20 years. Hours later, someone slits the throat of doddering old Reg Carré—what more can happen on Sark? The answer is—plenty. While going for the stories, Jenny remains obsessed with the death of her father, who fell from his boat two years earlier and drowned in what was officially deemed an accident, but she believes was murder. Dearman paints Sark and surrounding islands vividly and tells this story that zigzags back into the past through several narrators. I think it has a stronger plot than [The Devil’s Claw](#) (\$15.99), which, too, is highly atmospheric. Mystery fans previously encountered Sark and its largely medieval social structure in Sarah Caudwell’s brilliant mystery [The Sirens Sang of Murder](#) (\$7.99), winner of the 1990 Anthony Award.

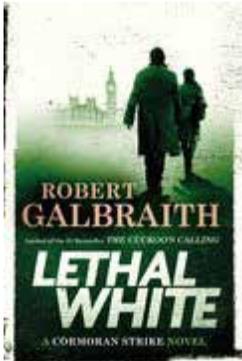
This gives me a chance to encourage you to go to Netflix and watch the very fine two-hour film *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* based on the [book by Shaffer and Barrows](#)

Dorsey, Tim. [Coconut Cowboy](#) (\$15.99). The 19th for Florida’s favorite trigger-happy, shoot-from-the-hip vigilante history teacher. Serge A. Storms is hitting the road. Inspired by the classic biker flick *Easy Rider*, the irrepressible trivia buff and his drug-addled travel buddy, Coleman, head out on a motorcycle tour down the length of the Sunshine State, on a mission to rediscover the lost era of the American Dream. But going from small town to small town, they discover that some have lost much of their former charm—including one particular hamlet of sleazy rural politicians hell-bent on keeping prying eyes out of their ineptly corrupt style of local government. Serge and Coleman engage in some high-life hijinks, complete with the state’s trademark crop of jerks, lethal science experiments, drug kingpins, double-crosses, unearthed bodies, barbecue, and groovy tunes. And when a few innocent newcomers stumble into the mix, the stakes are raised to new backwoods heights.

Egan, Jennifer. [Manhattan Beach](#) (\$17) is “a dreadnought of a World War II-era historical novel, bristling with armaments yet intimate in tone. It’s an old-fashioned page-turner, tweaked by this witty and sophisticated writer so that you sometimes feel she has retrofitted sleek new engines inside a craft owned for too long by James Jones and Herman Wouk...”—*NY Times*. *The Brooklyn Daily Eagle* finds that it “more than delivers on the foreboding promise of its ‘Treasure Island’-like opening set piece. The book

is a Whitmanesque mosaic that truly does ‘embrace multitudes.’” Ellison, JT. [Tear Me Apart](#) (\$16.99). This is a large-scale and engrossing story with many ramifications and driven by Ellison’s wish to raise awareness for Project Semicolon, focused on preventing self harm and suicide. The lynch pin of the gripping plot is 17-year-old Mindy Wright, a championship skier who’s on track to qualify for the U.S. Olympic team. In bad conditions in Vail, she breaks her leg in a downhill race. At the local hospital, the girl’s parents, Jasper and Lauren Wright, are at first hopeful that their daughter will be able to ski again. But surgical prep reveals Mindy has an aggressive form of leukemia. It doesn’t respond well and the next step, looking for donors for a stem cell transplant, reveals much more than the fact her parents nor her aunt are a match. Pressure grows on the whole family as the aunt, a DNA tech with the Colorado Bureau of Investigation, does some digging and comes up with a startling discovery while Ellison threads the story with flashbacks that gradually fuse past with present. While never downplaying the stresses and the tragedies, Ellison suffuses it with Mindy’s courageous, bright spirit. Skip any further reviews or jacket copy and go with the bumpy ride to the surprises.

✚Galbraith, Robert. [Lethal White](#) (Mulholland \$29). I hand it to JK Rowling who is not sitting on her money but among other projects writing a new crime novel for Cormoran Strike. When Billy, a troubled young man, comes to private eye Strike’s office to ask for his help investigating a crime he thinks he witnessed as a child, Strike is left deeply unsettled. While Billy is obviously mentally distressed, and cannot remember many concrete details, there is something sincere about him and his story. But before Strike can question him further, Billy bolts from his office in a panic. Trying to get to the bottom of Billy’s story, Strike and Robin El-lacott—once his assistant, now a partner in the agency—set off on a twisting trail that leads them through the backstreets



of London, into a secretive inner sanctum within Parliament, and to a beautiful but sinister manor house deep in the countryside. And during this labyrinthine investigation, Strike’s own life is far from straightforward: his newfound fame as a private eye means he can no longer operate behind the scenes.... 4th in this [intriguing series](#). Best to start with *The Cuckoo’s Calling*.

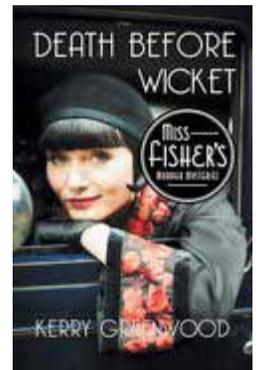
Gayle, Stephanie. [Idyll Hands](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Set in 1999, former New York City homicide detective Thomas Lynch, now out as gay, is still settling in as police chief of the small town of Idyll, Connecticut. Lynch has a high-strung station house to win over, and his being gay doesn’t make his crew more welcoming, nor his former colleagues any friendlier. Besides being excluded from the annual Cops and Firefighters softball game, the chief has to worry whether Matt Cisco, his hot FBI lover, is faithful. Meanwhile, two major crimes occupy the police. Michael Finnegan, one of Lynch’s best detectives, is guilt-burdened because he didn’t promptly report his 16-year-old sister Susan’s disappearance back in 1972; she’s still missing, so Lynch reopens the case as a favor to the grieving man. In addition, the discovery of a young woman’s skeleton in the woods signals that a murderer has eluded justice for decades. The characters’ dogged

persistence and ingenuity in not following standard procedure are commendable. This throwback to 1972 for the Catholic Finnegan clan and 1999 for the investigation in play makes for thoughtful reading today.

Goble, Steve. [The Devil’s Wind](#) (\$15.95). In 1723, Spider John is lying low in Port Royal, Jamaica, hoping to put his pirate career behind him, until someone recognizes him in a crowd witnessing the hanging of a former shipmate; he barely escapes capture before boarding a merchant vessel bound for Boston, the Redemption. That one of the passengers is Sam Smoke, who previously sailed with Ned Low, a pirate even more vicious than Blackbeard, unsettles John, and he finds himself in more peril after a shooting death in a locked room, a tragedy that necessitates a visit to the ship from members of a Royal Navy frigate escorting the Redemption. Though the victim appears to have shot himself, John spots evidence to the contrary and embarks on a search for the killer while trying to remain at liberty. Goble adroitly combines action and deduction as he did in [The Bloody Black Flag](#) (\$15.95), sometimes described as “Agatha Christie meets Patrick O’Brian.” Judge for yourself.

Goldberg, Tod. [Gangster Nation](#) (\$16.95). Patrick writes, “Goldberg is in top form here with a dark, and twisted trip down deep into the American underworld, revealing the criminal underpinnings that exist not very far below the surface. As always, Goldberg’s writing reveals an infectious wit and a true sense of the absurd. Not to be missed.” Why? See above New Books for the Jewish High Holidays.

Greenwood, Kerry. [Death Before Wicket](#) (\$15.95). Phryne Fisher is on holiday. She means to take the train to Sydney (where the harbor bridge is being built), go to a few cricket matches, dine with the Chancellor of the university, and perhaps go to the Arts Ball with that young modernist, Chas Nutall. She has the costume of a lifetime, and she’s not afraid to use it. When she arrives there, however, her maid Dot finds that her extremely respectable married sister Joan has vanished, leaving her small children to the neglectful care of a resentful husband. So Phryne girds up her loins, loads her pearl-handled .32 Beretta, and sallies forth to find mayhem, murder, black magic, and perhaps a really good cocktail before more crime erupts in Sydney. 10th in the delightful series that has captured a worldwide audience, partly because of the TV series and its “costume porn” as Rob calls it. Yay, there’s going to be a movie.



✚Griffiths, Elly. [The Blood Card](#) (\$14.99). Elizabeth II’s coronation is looming, but DI Edgar Stephens is busy investigating the death of a local fortune-teller. Meanwhile, his old pal, the magician Max Mephisto, is rehearsing for his television debut, a coronation day variety show. But upon hearing that their wartime commander, Colonel Cartwright, has been found dead in his flat, the two men join forces to find out what happened. While Max is stuck in rehearsals, Edgar finds himself heading to New York, hot on the trail of a mesmerist he’s sure has valuable information for them—and his trusty sergeant, Emma, investigates some important leads at home. As the clock ticks down to coronation day, the team must scramble to keep Max’s small-screen debut from

ending in a dangerously explosive finale.

Hanks, Tom. [Uncommon Type](#) (\$16). Stories linked by one thing—a typewriter playing a part large or small in each. To many, typewriters represent a level of craftsmanship, beauty, and individuality that is harder and harder to find in the modern world. In these stories, Hanks gracefully reaches that typewriter-worthy level. Note: **We have a beautiful restored typewriter at The Pen just waiting for you to come and write something for everyone to read!**



✎Harris, Robert J. [The Thirty One Kings](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). John Buchan's *The 39 Steps* is a classic spy novel and film. And now, June, 1940, Richard Hannay returns. Harris has brought Hannay back for a riveting World War II assignment. Our hero is dispatched to Paris in 1940 on the brink of the city's fall to Germany. His mission is to find an individual code-named Roland, who may have been captured by the Nazis. Hannay must track Roland down and spirit him back to London, along with certain information he possesses, upon which "the whole future of the war could hang." By airplane, Hannay makes his way into France, aided by agents working undercover there. Daring measures and hairbreadth escapes are the rule in this first-person chronicle. The can-do spirit of Mr. Harris's book evokes a time when it seemed the fate of the world might hinge on the acts of a handful of brave souls. *The Thirty-One Kings* is old-fashioned in many ways—which is what makes it such a reassuring pleasure to read.'—*WSJ*

Hill, Edwin. [Little Comfort](#) (Kensington \$26). Harvard librarian Hester Thursby is hired by Lila Blaine to find her brother, Sam, who ran away from their home in New Hampshire 12 years earlier, when he was 14, along with his friend Gabe DiPursio. Lila says she wants to sell a piece of lakefront property called Little Comfort and split the proceeds with Sam. Sam has sent Lila postcards and Hester works out the clues therein to locate him. He's now living in Boston under an alias and has captivated wealthy socialite Wendy Richards. You'd think this was a cozy debut or domestic suspense—with more than one unreliable narrator—but it's a gay serial killer thriller with some over the top moments. Not to say that diminutive Hester might draw a different kind of case if she returns....

✎Huber, Anna Lee. [Traacherous is the Night](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Verity Kent #2. It's not that Verity Kent doesn't sympathize with those eager to make contact with lost loved ones. After all, she once believed herself a war widow. But now that she's discovered Sidney is very much alive, Verity is having enough trouble connecting with her estranged husband, never mind the dead. Still, at a friend's behest, Verity attends a séance, where she encounters the man who still looms between her and Sidney—and a medium who channels a woman Verity once worked with in the Secret Service. Refusing to believe her former fellow spy is dead, Verity is determined to uncover the source of the spiritualist's top secret revelation and ends up in Belgium and in a marital crisis. #1 is [This Side of Murder](#) (\$15).

Jennings, Luke. [Killing Eve: Codename Villanelle](#) (\$14.99). "Assassin Oxana Vorontsova, who was once a linguistics student at the University of Perm, is employed by someone she knows only as Konstantin, who works for a secret international organization called the Twelve, a dozen men who decide which evildoers who threaten the stability of the world should die. Three years earlier, Konstantin rescued Oxana from the Dobryanka women's remand center in the Ural Mountains, where she was serving time for murdering three gangsters. After a year of intensive training, Oxana now goes by the code name Villanelle. After carrying out several assigned killings, she guns down Russian political theorist Viktor Kedrin in London, which brings her to the attention of former British MI5 agent Eve Polastri, who was in charge of protecting Kedrin. Eve slowly begins putting together the pieces of the Villanelle puzzle. The wide-open ending points to more to come in the struggle between these two resourceful antagonists."—*PW* Starred Review.

"Fans of Stieg Larsson will adore both the steely, resourceful Villanelle and the determined Eve. This finely tuned, knife-edge thriller with two equally unflinching women refuses to sacrifice an ounce of adrenaline while allowing the characters room for depth and complexity. Highly recommended."—*LJ* Starred Review on this spy thriller and series launch.

Kelly, Sofie. [The Cats Came Back](#) (Berkley \$24). The charming Minnesota town of Mayville Heights is hosting a music festival, and the whole place is bustling with musicians and tourists. Kathleen is looking forward to taking in some fabulous performances—and her two cats, Owen and Hercules, are looking forward to taking in some fabulous sardine crackers. But then the trio stumbles across a dead body by the river. The victim is a close friend—who also happens to be a look-alike of a popular cabaret singer set to perform at the festival. Who could have wanted to harm this innocent girl? Meanwhile, everyone's preparing for veterinarian Roma's wedding to Eddie out at the old Henderson estate, the birthplace of Kathleen's unusual kitties. "Kelly succeeds in making the adorable Owen and Hercules surprisingly believable, even to readers who aren't cat people." Corral a few more of the [Magical Cats](#) series.

Kepnes, Caroline. [You](#) (\$17). Wanting a book shaped to the social media age? Try this debut. When a beautiful, aspiring writer strides into the East Village bookstore where Joe Goldberg works, he does what anyone would do: he Googles the name on her credit card. There is only one Guinevere Beck in New York City. She has a public Facebook account and Tweets incessantly, tell-

ing Joe everything he needs to know: she is simply Beck to her friends, she went to Brown University, she lives on Bank Street, and she'll be at a bar in Brooklyn tonight—the perfect place for a “chance” meeting. As Joe invisibly and obsessively takes control of Beck's life, he orchestrates a series of events to ensure Beck finds herself in his waiting arms. Moving from stalker to boyfriend, Joe transforms himself into Beck's perfect man, all while quietly removing the obstacles that stand in their way—even if it means murder.

King, Stephen. [Sleeping Beauties](#) (\$19.99). This “delicious” first collaboration between Stephen King and his son Owen is a horror-tinged realistic fantasy that imagines what could happen if most of the women of the world fall asleep, leaving men on their own. No one in Dooling County figures the sickness will affect their rural Appalachian life, but....”

Kingsbury, Kate. [Doom with a View](#) (\$15.99). With the arrival of six senior reading group members at the Merry Ghost Inn, the long-awaited Grand Opening week has finally begun for Melanie West and her grandmother, Liza. All is well with the Oregon coast-side B&B until Melanie's dog, Max, finds the dead body of one of their guests. Everyone at the inn immediately falls under suspicion, including the innkeepers themselves.

Kubica, Mary. [When the Lights Go Out](#) (Park Row/Harper \$26.99). After her mother's death, Jessie is trying to rebuild her life. In her way is her debilitating insomnia and the discovery that her Social Security # actually belongs to a girl long dead that shakes the core of her identity. More would give you spoilers Psychological suspense with an unreliable narrator—her mother. This novel is excellent and will hook you *Gone Girl* fans right in.

Kutscher, Volker. [The Silent Death](#) (Picador \$17). Missing Philip Kerr like me? Kutscher's huge German bestsellers, the basis for TV's *Babylon Berlin*, are available here. [Babylon Berlin](#) (\$17) is “an excellent police procedural that cleverly captures the dark and dangerous period of the Weimer Republic before it slides into the ultimate evil of Nazism.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. But a word of warning: the 421 pages display in a small type face which will make it hard for some of you to read it. If so I'd recommend you look for the Ebook.

In *Silent Death*, it's March 1930: The film business is in a process of change. Talking films are taking over the silver screen and many a producer, cinema owner, and silent movie star is falling by the wayside. Celebrated actress Betty Winter is hit by a spotlight while filming a talkie. At first it looks like an accident, but Superintendent Gereon Rath finds clues that point to murder. While his colleagues suspect the absconded lighting technician, Rath's investigations take him in a completely different direction, and he is soon left on his own. Steering clear of his superior who wants him off the case, Rath's life gets more complicated when his father asks him to help Cologne mayor Konrad Adenauer with a case of blackmail, and ex-girlfriend Charly tries to renew their relationship—all while tensions between Nazis and Communists escalate to violence. “Set in atmospheric 1930s Berlin, where a maverick detective is hunting a serial killer, *The Silent Death*, [like its predecessor, *Babylon Berlin*,] owes much to its author's commitment to historical accuracy and the cynical feel of the times.”—Peter James

Lee, MacKenzie. [The Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue](#) (\$9.99). For Young Adults and the mature, a smash hit in hard-

cover. The Indie Next Pick: “In this delicious, historical romp, Monty and Percy, best friends since forever and Monty hopes maybe something more, are headed off on their grand tour. Despite severe prohibitions on alcohol, sex, and other vices, Monty is determined to have a decadent time. But they get more than they bargained for when Monty accidentally steals an important object from the French court. Filled with highwaymen, pirates, and heart-pounding exploits of a romantic nature, this is the road-trip adventure you've been waiting for.”

Leonard, Peter. [Raylan Goes to Detroit](#) (Rare Bird \$26.95). After an altercation with his superiors in Harlan County, Kentucky, Deputy US Marshal, Raylan Givens is offered two choices. He can either retire or finish his career on the fugitive task force in the crime-ridden precincts of Detroit. Acting on a tip, Raylan and his new partner, deputy marshal Bobby Torres arrest Jose Rindo, a destructive and violent criminal. Rindo is also being pursued by the FBI who arrive shortly after he is in custody. Raylan bumps heads with a beautiful FBI agent named Nora Sanchez, who wants Rindo for the murder of a one of their own. When Rindo, escapes from the county jail and is arrested in Ohio, Raylan and FBI Special Agent Sanchez drive south to pick up the fugitive and bring him back to stand trial. Later, when Rindo escapes again, Raylan and Nora—still at odds—are reunited and follow the elusive fugitive's trail across Arizona to El Centro, California and into Mexico where they have no jurisdiction or authority. How are they going to bring Rindo, a Mexican citizen, across the border without anyone knowing? *Raylan Goes to Detroit* is an exciting continuation of one of Elmore Leonard's greatest heroes.

✦Logan, TM. [Lies](#) (St Martins \$27.99). A spur-of-the-moment decision forever changes the life of Joe Lynch, the narrator of British author Logan's gripping first novel. Full of unexpected twists and turns, our **September British Crime Club Pick** gets this comment from Karen: “Beth and Melissa have a history together. They each marry, but maintain a friendship, meeting up for an occasional dinner with their husbands. Beth has married Ben Delany, a sometimes ruthless but, highly successful business man. Melissa is wed to Joe Lynch, a school teacher and devoted family man. On a fluke sighting of Melissa's car while driving their young daughter home, Joe happens on a scene in a parking garage where Ben and Melissa are together in what appears to be a heated argument. Then Ben disappears and Joe becomes the focus of a police missing person/murder investigation. Through a labyrinth of emails and text messages from a variety of sources, not easily identified, Joe struggles to clear his name but someone is always a step – or two – ahead of him. Logan keeps the reader guessing as Joe struggles to connect the dots in a game he doesn't know how to play with rules he does not understand. An addictive read.” And with a surprise finish in the Trust No One tradition.

MacBride, Stuart. [Blood Road](#) (Harper \$25.99). Logan McRae's personal history is hardly squeaky clean, but now that he works for Professional Standards he's policing his fellow officers. When Detective Inspector Bell turns up dead in the driver's seat of a crashed car it's a shock to everyone. Because Bell died two years ago, they buried him. Or they thought they did. As an investigation is launched into Bell's stabbing, Logan digs into his past. Where has he been all this time? Why did he disappear? And what's so important that he felt the need to come back from the dead? We have 2 UK Firsts: [Blood Road](#) (Collins \$39).

✚Macmillan, Gilly. [I Know You Know](#) (Harper \$16.99). Podcaster Cody Swift, the narrator of this psychological thriller from Edgar-finalist Macmillan, was best friends with two boys—11-year-old Scott Ashby and 10-year-old Charlie Paige—who were beaten to death in Bristol, England, in 1996. In February 2017, Sidney Noyce, a mentally challenged adult who was convicted of the killings, commits suicide in prison. Two months later, Cody returns to Bristol to reexamine the murders in a series of podcasts that raise doubts about Sidney’s guilt. The people he angers include Charlie’s mother, who turns to wealthy Felix Abernathy to control Cody’s probing; Detective Superintendent Howard Smail, whose career was ended by the case; and DI John Fletcher, who built the case against Sidney. The podcasts draw increasing threats as Cody’s interviews reveal more and more new details. Macmillan skillfully marries this information with revealing scenes from the original investigation. A clever ending caps this riveting thriller following upon [What She Knew](#) (\$9.99).

Markley, Stephen. [Ohio](#) (Simon & Schuster \$27). The Indie Next Pick: “Markley’s powerful debut plumbs the depths of the cruel trick played on small-town America during the recession, war, and political and cultural hostility of the last 15 years and delivers us the gift of surprising and exquisite beauty and hope. In this story of four former classmates and one summer night in 2013, Markley gives us insightful and gorgeous prose revealing the humanity that continues to carry on in the broken center of America.”

Mason, Daniel. [The Winter Soldier](#) (LittleBrown \$28). The Indie Next Pick: “The depth and complexity of Daniel Mason’s new three-dimensional tapestry of war and its consequences make for a remarkable read. There are the basic wartime themes of love, horror, and loss—of limbs and lives, of innocence and empire. A whole world just vanishes in bombs, guns, and smoke, and the reader is left clutching at hints, but the richness of the story makes it uplifting rather than melancholy. Everything is below the surface; you sink down, discover something new at every turn, and come away refreshed. How does that happen with a war story? Don’t ask—just read.”

McElwain, Julie. [Caught in Time](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). “FBI agent Kendra Donovan is still trapped in the 19th century, but now that it’s been a few months since she accidentally slipped through a wormhole, she’s starting to adapt to the strictures of the earlier era; and since the Duke of Aldridge declared her his ward, she’s allowed much more leeway than most women get. Kendra and the Duke are traveling to one of his country estates when a heavy fog slows their journey. In the mist they see a group of Luddites, armed with axes, off to destroy the mechanical looms at a local mill. The travelers stop in the town of East Dingleford, intending to remain only for the night, but when the constable discovers, along with the broken machines, the brutalized body of the mill owner, Kendra can’t help but intervene. The Duke, fascinated with her hints about the future and forensic science, aptly aids her, even calling in his handsome nephew, Alec, to assist. McElwain weaves a delicate web that can keep readers guessing until the very last moment, and the time travel framing the story adds a fascinating extra layer. It’s well-researched with a fast-moving plot and many quirky village characters in this fascinating time-traveling mystery.”—Jessica Howard

✚McGeorge, Chris. [Guess Who](#) (Hanover/Harper \$26.99). Here’s a 21st Century update on the locked room mystery. At eleven years old, Morgan Sheppard solved the murder of a teacher when everyone else believed it to be a suicide. The publicity surrounding the case laid the foundation for his reputation as a modern-day Sherlock Holmes. He parlayed that fame into a gig as TV’s “resident detective,” solving the more typical tawdry daytime talk show mysteries like “Who is the father?” and “Is he cheating?” Until, that is, Sheppard wakes up handcuffed to a bed in an unfamiliar hotel room. Around him, five strangers are slowly waking up, as well. Soon they discover a corpse in the bathtub and Sheppard is challenged to put his deductive skills to the test. One of the people in the room is the killer. He has three hours to solve the murder. If he doesn’t find the killer, they all will die. This is definitely one for the Sophie Hannah Hercule Poirot readers.

McIntyre, Ben. [The Spy and the Traitor](#) (Crown \$27.99). If anyone could be considered a Russian counterpart to the infamous British double-agent Kim Philby, it was Oleg Gordievsky. The son of two KGB agents and the product of the best Soviet institutions, the savvy, sophisticated Gordievsky grew to see his nation’s communism as both criminal and philistine. He took his first posting for Russian intelligence in 1968 and eventually became the Soviet Union’s top man in London, but from 1973 on he was secretly working for MI6. For nearly a decade, as the Cold War reached its twilight, Gordievsky helped the West turn the tables on the KGB, exposing Russian spies and helping to foil countless intelligence plots. Desperate to keep the circle of trust close, MI6 never revealed Gordievsky’s name to its counterparts in the CIA, which in turn grew obsessed with figuring out the identity of Britain’s obviously top-level source. Their obsession ultimately doomed Gordievsky: the CIA officer assigned to identify him was none other than Aldrich Ames, the man who would become infamous for secretly spying for the Soviets. Unfolding the delicious three-way gamesmanship between America, Britain, and the Soviet Union, and culminating in the gripping cinematic beat-by-beat of Gordievsky’s nail-biting escape from Moscow in 1985, Ben Macintyre’s latest may be his best, a sure fire read for fans of LeCarre and for sure of Daniel Silva’s [The Other Woman](#) which reaches deeply into Philby’s post-exposure life.

Mejia, Mindy. [Leave No Trace](#) (Atria \$26), per the Indie Next Pick, “captures the brutal cold and harsh winter conditions of the Boundary Wilderness area in Minnesota, where psychiatric hospital speech therapist Maya is assigned to Lucas Blackthorne, who has been missing and presumed dead for the past 10 years. The extreme conditions for both staff and patients are eye-opening, and Maya’s previous life unravels in layers as she tries to uncover truths from Lucas. Your body will instinctively curl up for warmth as Mejia deftly and elegantly describes how the wonder, beauty, majesty, and cruel nature of the Boundary Wilderness invade your soul. Highly propulsive storytelling with revealing truths parsed out until the very end, this is suspense at new and arresting heights!” Kent Krueger readers, take heed. You could do worse than spend September reading Mejia along with JT Ellison and Mary Kubica, above.

Moretti, Kate. [In Her Bones](#) (Atria \$16). Having a mother who’s a serial killer isn’t easy for Edie Beckett. We’re in 2016 Philadelphia where Edie’s life has been spiraling out of control ever

since her mother, Lilith Wade, was convicted in 2001 of killing six women. An alcoholic who isolates herself from others, Edie is obsessed with the surviving family members of Lilith's victims and uses her spare time to Facebook stalk them and gather their personal information. She's particularly interested in Peter Lipsky, whose wife was fatally stabbed. She contrives to meet and seduce Peter—soon after he's murdered in his apartment which makes Edie the prime suspect. It sends her undercover determined to clear herself, meaning she must first elude Gil Brandt, a homicide detective who worked on Lilith's case and later befriended Edie to the point of getting her off a DUI charge. Include this in the raft of twisty psychological thrillers afloat.

Morrow, Bradford. [The Prague Sonata](#) (\$17). In 1939 Prague, as the grasping Germans sweep in, Otylie Barošová protects a musical score her father cherished by splitting it into three parts. Decades later, an elderly Czech immigrant gives New York-based musicologist Meta Taverner the yellowed pages of an entrancing but incomplete sonata that has the sound of an authentic 18th-century work. Is it by C.P.E. Bach? Mozart? A lesser composer demonstrating sudden genius? A burningly eager Meta sets off to Prague in search of the missing movements and the score's original owner. "A big, fun, page-turning rush of a novel, with Bard professor Morrow writing wonderfully about music (Meta isn't just a classicist but a metalhead, too)."—*LJ*

Patterson, James/Nancy Allen. [Juror 3](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Ruby Bozarth, a newcomer to Rosedale, Mississippi, is also fresh to the Mississippi Bar—and to the docket of Circuit Judge Baylor, who taps Ruby as defense counsel in a racially charged felony. The murder of a woman from one of the town's oldest families has Rosedale's upper crust howling for blood, and the prosecutor is counting on Ruby's inexperience to help him deliver a swift conviction. Ruby's client is a college football star who has returned home after a career-ending injury, and she is determined to build a defense that will stick. She finds help in unexpected quarters....

Picoult, Jodi. [A Spark of Light](#) (Random \$28.99). The warm fall day starts like any other at the Center—a women's reproductive health services clinic—its staff offering care to anyone who passes through its doors. Then, in late morning, a desperate and distraught gunman bursts in and opens fire, taking all inside hostage. This is a second novel by Picoult about a shooter, the last in a school.... It's too close to actual terrible events for me.

Robb, J D. [Leverage in Death](#) (St Martins \$28.99). You could ask if at book #47 in the In Death series Robb would be running out of steam? Far from it. The case opens with a bang. "One morning, Paul Rogan arrives at a Downtown Manhattan office building, where he's to participate in a meeting about a merger between his company, Quantum Air, and another company, EconoLife. Shortly after entering the conference room, Rogan detonates the suicide vest he's wearing, killing himself and 10 others. At the scene, Lt. Eve Dallas and her team have to wonder whether the suicide bombing was an act of terrorism or of homicide. When they interview Rogan's wife, Cecily, and their eight-year-old daughter, Melody, they learn that two men broke into the Rogans' brownstone earlier and threatened to kill Cecily and Melody, or worse, unless Rogan did their bidding." I am impressed at the energy with which Robb drives the fast-paced action, crafts a hair-raising plot around in part art and antiques, and deploys the members of her ensemble cast to interview survivors, analyze the

bomb used, and gain enough clues to identify the villains. The Starred Review has it right: "Series fans will be enthralled."

Sendker, Jan-Philippe. [The Language of Solitude](#) (\$16). I was mesmerized by the international bestseller's first foray into Hong Kong's sinister underbelly in [Whispering Shadows](#) (\$16). He's plunging deeper into dangerous Chinese politics by imperiling grieving expatriate Paul Leibovitz's tentative new happiness with Christine Wu after Christine receives a letter from her long-lost brother, Da Long. This estranged sibling lives in a remote village outside of Shanghai, where a mysterious illness is affecting the locals and his wife has fallen victim. So Paul and Christine set out to for it. Paul soon realizes the cluster of diseases is caused by a chemical conglomerate polluting local water. Min Fang can't be healed, but more will suffer if the corporation is not held accountable. Da Long and his two children, elegant musician Yin-Yin and anxious Communist Party member Xiao Hu, have misgivings about Paul's call to action. Indeed, the eyes of the state track Paul and a newly emboldened Yin-Yin's probing, and she must decide whether justice is worth risking what's left of the shattered family's safety. Sendker is a must read for those like me who devour Qiu Xiaolong (where is he, anyway?).

Shin, Sook Kyung. [The Court Dancer](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). "Identity becomes the central, defining conundrum here: 'Who am I?' the orphaned Jin constantly asks herself. If she is not a Korean lady or a French *Madame*, what is she? She has long heard of the glories of the Louvre, but when she visits finds herself wondering what right the French had to loot such treasures as the Venus de Milo from other countries. She feels increasingly that her country is on display and that she herself is an exhibit. Sorrow threads itself through the pages, yet there is richness both to the period and the narrative as beautiful as any silk fan. Shin has become one of South Korea's most popular authors, and for good reason. Her deep understanding of the subtleties of the human heart effortlessly crosses borders and informs her portrait of a different place and a faraway time."—NPR. "Far from the gilded cage of the Joseon court, Yi Jin finds a new kind of restriction. The novel delves into major historical events, including 1884's Gapsin Coup and the Imo rebellion in 1882, while the power struggle between China and Japan for influence over Korea looms in the background. By placing Korean history beside a Western narrative, Shin highlights the disparity between Europe and the more isolated Asian nation. At its core, *The Court Dancer* examines what countries lose in identity in exchange for technological advancement."—*The Washington Post*

Simenon, George. [Maigret's Doubts](#) (Penguin \$13). Inspector Maigret finds himself caught in the middle of a husband and wife duo's case of "he said/she said"—with murderous consequences. #52 in the republication of the classic French crime series.

Smith, Ian, MD. [The Ancient Nine](#) (St Martins \$27.99). In 1988, Harvard undergrad Spenser Collins is invited to a reception given by the Delphic Club, the "most secretive of Harvard's nine most exclusive clubs," whose membership includes "some of the world's most prominent men." Intrigued, Spenser researches the club's past and learns that a Harvard student, Erasmus Abbott, vanished in 1927 after attempting to break into the Delphic Club. Spenser decides to investigate, and the path to the truth, of course, proves perilous. Meanwhile, Spenser strikes up a romance with a stunning community college student, Ashley Garrett, who works

as a server in his dining hall. Ashley, who turns out to be brilliant but oddly dreams of a career as a wedding planner, initially dismisses the notion of dating a snobby Harvard man before their relationship arrives at a predictable destination. Those seeking an inside look at an Ivy League secret society will get their money's worth.

Spain, Jo. [Confession](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). What appears to be an open-and-shut case—a perpetrator, a victim, a witness, and a confession—is anything but in this mesmerizing thriller from Irish author Spain. After J.P. Carney, a broke loner, severely beats financier Harry McNamara in front of his wife, Julia, at the couple's home in Dalkey, an affluent Dublin suburb, Carney confesses to the crime. He offers no explanation for the attack other than that he snapped. Julia harbors her own theory, but is loath to pursue it. Det. Sgt. Alice Moody, who has no such qualms, is determined to solve the case, even as top brass pressure her to let it go, satisfied with Carney's confession and confinement to a mental health facility. Spain's vivisection of guilt and revenge pulls readers through to a harrowing denouement. Even seasoned genre veterans will be riveted by this modern-day morality tale, which peels away layers of the present and past to reveal ugly truths and sins aplenty, from lust and greed to addiction and deceit.

Staalesen, Gunnar. [Big Sister](#) (Orenda \$14.95) In Norwegian author Staalesen's terrific 20th novel featuring Bergen PI Varg Veum. Veum—a divorced former child welfare officer, now over 60 but still fit—seeks missing 19-year-old university student Emma Hagland, one of “life's lost souls.” The puzzling case is brought to Veum by Norma Bakkevik, his 76-year-old half-sister, whose existence he has hitherto largely ignored. Step by ominous step, Veum uncovers successively darker secrets about his parents, neither of whom he really knew, as he pursues his search for Emma. He encounters Emma's absentee father and members of her father's drug-dealing biker gang, who were responsible for a gang rape years earlier that plays a pivotal role in solving Emma's disappearance. Meanwhile, religious fanatics have been using the internet as a weapon to drive depressed young people into suicide. “Like Raymond Chandler, Staalesen creates intense emotion through dialogue and description, but his altogether Norwegian focus forces home a substantial social message: ignoring the past is inevitably tragic.” Back in 1989 Staalesen reprints were about all The Pen could offer in Nordic Noir!

Tracy, P J. [The Guilty Dead](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). I vividly recall the wow! that came with the debut of the Monkeewrench gang in 2004 First Mystery Club Pick [Monkeewrench](#) (\$8.99). It revolved around the Serial Killer Detective game and software that was cutting edge then. Various investigations have followed as things in Minneapolis for the gang have evolved. In their 9th, the computer geeks of (the very pregnant) Grace MacBride's Monkeewrench software company join forces with Minneapolis homicide detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth. The death of Minnesota philanthropist Gregory Norwood just one year after the fatal overdose of his addict son, Trey Norwood, looks like a suicide, until Leo and Gino uncover enough oddities to suggest murder. And the Minneapolis PD is also ramping up a possible local terrorist plot investigation... “The book's chief pleasure lies in watching the members of MacBride's oddball crew, including Harley Davidson and Roadrunner, match wits and skills with the

wise-cracking detectives.” This is the first book Traci has produced without her late mother and writing partner who is sorely missed.

✠Turton, Stuart. [The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). Here's a book to love or hate, or merely find tiresome, depending on the kind of reader you are. Sourcebooks clearly paid a fortune for US rights and is spending one to promote it. I found no one in the book to like. Instead the buzz is all about how clever Turton's idea is. “Turton's complex debut blends mystery with *Groundhog Day* and *Quantum Leap*. Guests have been invited to the Hardcastle family manse, the dilapidated Blackheath House in the English countryside, for a masquerade ball that the Hardcastles are holding for the return of their daughter, Evelyn, from Paris. At the novel's start, several days before the ball, an unnamed protagonist comes upon Blackheath and enlists those inside to find the body of a woman he thinks has just been murdered. He's forgotten his identity, but people at the house think he's Dr. Sebastian Bell, an invitee to the ball. It turns out Bell is the first of eight people—invited guests of the Hardcastles, their associates, staff, and a police officer—whom the main character will inhabit over eight days in a repeating loop. This loop revolves around two mysteries: who killed young Thomas Hardcastle 19 years ago, and who murders Evelyn, his older sister, the night of the ball? As the hero amasses clues about the past and present, a mysterious costumed ‘Plague Doctor’ chimes in to direct the action, explaining the only escape from this loop is to expose the identity of Evelyn's murderer. This is a complicated, twisting plot that may delight some looking for a puzzle but may leave others exasperated at the overly abstruse rules and kitchen-sink concept.”

Turton himself says he used the bodies to help pace the story, using age, physical health, and intelligence to accelerate or slow down the action at various points. “I needed somebody early in the book to run around the house getting in scrapes,” he says. “So I invented a character who was young, fit, and very stupid”

Van der Vlugt, Simone. [Midnight Blue](#) (Morrow \$15.99). Having now read this novel of 17th Century Holland by the Dutch novelist, I can truly recommend it to those who enjoyed Susan Vreeland's magical [Girl in Hyacinth Blue](#) (\$15) and Tracy Chevalier's [Girl with the Pearl Earring](#) (\$16), and also Jessie Burton's [The Miniaturist](#) (\$16.99). The young widow Catrin who leaves her small village for work in Amsterdam with a highly successful Dutch East Indies Company merchant family and eventually ends up in Delft as the artist and proprietor of a pottery making the famous blue and white Delftware is convincing, compelling, and actually this is a crime novel with a murder. It also is a forcible reminder that while one can employ resolve and embrace risk to change one's life, it takes some lucky breaks and influential people as well. Highly recommended as our **September History Paperback Pick**.

Van Lente, Fred. [Ten Dead Comedians](#) (Quirk \$24.99). As the story opens, nine comedians of various acclaim are summoned to the island retreat of legendary Hollywood funnyman Dustin Walker. The group includes a former late-night TV host, a washed-up improv instructor, a ridiculously wealthy “blue collar” comic, and a past-her-prime Vegas icon. All nine arrive via boat to find that every building on the island is completely deserted. Marooned without cell phone service or wifi signals, they soon

find themselves being murdered one by one. But who is doing the killing, and why? A darkly clever take on Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None* and other classics of the genre.

✚Wassmer, Julie. [The Whitstable Pearl Mystery](#) (LittleBrown \$26.99). Oyster bar owner and empty nester Pearl Nolan, the heroine of this enjoyable series launch from British author Wassmer has decided what she needs is to open her own detective agency in the North Kent coast town of Whitstable, even though the town is hardly experiencing a crime wave, which is precisely why DCI Mike McGuire requested a transfer there from London. He's looking for a respite. But when Pearl discovers the body of an old friend, fisherman Vinnie Rowe, floating near his boat, her long dormant crime detection senses reawaken. Suspecting foul play, she's eager to investigate or at least help the police. McGuire's not so certain he wants her help. Besides, he's also not so sure he can rule her out as a suspect. Meanwhile, Pearl's mother, Dolly, thinks her single mom daughter and the single DCI make a handsome couple. Between the travel brochure descriptions of this scenic tourist locale and its divertingly quirky inhabitants, cozy fans are in for a treat.

✚Weaver, Ashley. [An Act of Villainy](#) (St Martins \$27.99). I like this series which for me has ups and downs: the first was excellent, thought the second weak, loved the third, and now as we move to London 1933. It's June, the season will wind down, but the West End theater district has the lights on. Amory Ames and her (reformed rake) husband Milo run into Gerard Holloway. This former actor and his wife Georgina are old friends and invite them to the dress rehearsal of a new play Holloway is directing. But what Holloway really wants is to hire them to look into why leading lady Flora is receiving death threats of a bizarre nature. Amory is outraged to discover Flora is Holloway's mistress and his marriage is in trouble. Feeling Georgina's distress (which mirrors her own regarding Milo), Amory digs in and finds motives in nearly all of the cast for the murder of... Clever plot that will appeal to Ngaio Marsh readers. I do feel cleverness dominates over heart so I stayed on the surface of the story rather than engaging. You can order all 4 [Amory Ames Mysteries](#).

White, Karen with Beatriz Williams and Lauren Willig. [The Forgotten Room](#). (\$16). Their first collaboration opens in 1945 when a wounded Captain Cooper Ravenal is brought to a private hospital on NY's Upper East Side. It throws Dr. Kate Schuyler into a mystery that connects three generations of women in her family to a single room in a Gilded Age mansion. See Event books for *The Glass Ocean*, their new collaborative novel.

✚Willan, Jane. [Shadow of Death](#) (\$15.99). Wales' Sister Agatha and Father Selwyn debut. Gwenafwy Abbey in picturesque rural Wales is dwindling in human and financial resources as its religious age. It depends heavily on the income from its cheese, Heavenly Gouda. Sister Agatha, a die-hard mystery fan and eager listener to a podcast, How to Write a Mystery Novel, is forced to abandon fiction for reality when the Abbey's sexton is found—murdered by an avalanche of the cheese. Signed copies of this charming cozy: [The Shadow of Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Recommended by John and by me.

Zafon, Carlos Ruiz. [Labyrinth of the Spirits](#) (Harper \$35). Whoo hoo! Zafon has completed his four-book Cemetery of Forgotten Books series. The author, along with providing the fourth book, has also supplied a narrative edict. "Each individual install-

ment in the Cemetery of Forgotten Books series can be read in any order, enabling the reader to explore the labyrinth of stories along different paths which, when woven together, lead into the heart of the narrative." [The Shadow of the Wind](#) (\$17), a brilliant bibliomystery set in Barcelona, remains one of the First Mystery Club Picks I've made I've most cherished.

OUR SEPTEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Alexander, Ellie. [Death on Tap](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Sloan Krause #1. After catching her husband cheating on her, craft brew expert Sloan Krause leaves the family business to work for a hip, new nano-brewery, only to discover a competitor dead in the fermenting tub, clutching a secret recipe. *LJ* raved about this saying "The author of the "Bakeshop" mysteries introduces a new series with likeable characters, an atmospheric small-town setting, and a quirky adversary for the amateur sleuth. The engaging premise and pairings of beer and food should appeal to fans of Avery Aames' "Cheese Shop" titles."

Chien, Vivien. [Dim Sum of All Fears](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Noodle Shop #2. While running her parents' noodle shop while they are in Taiwan, dutiful daughter Lana Lee finds herself an Asia Village mystery when the newlyweds who just opened the souvenir store next door turn up dead. *Kirkus* had this to say "A worthy sophomore outing provides plenty of twists and turns and a perky, albeit conflicted, sleuth."

Coleman, Reed F. [Robert B Parker's the Hangman's Sonnet](#) (\$9.99). Jesse Stone #15. Struggling to hold himself together through Suitcase Simpson's wedding while grieving the loss of his fiancée, Jesse Stone investigates the death of an elderly woman whose demise may be linked to the disappearance of a master recording tape by a decades-reclusive music genius. *PW* concluded its starred review with "Coleman balances plot and character perfectly."

Cussler, Clive. [The Romanov Ransom](#) (\$9.99). Fargo #9. Husband-and-wife team Sam and Remi Fargo investigate a kidnapping that may be linked to the Nazi-stolen Romanov ransom, a case that is complicated by the heinous acts of a guerrilla faction that would establish the Fourth Reich.

Mills, Kyle [Vince Flynn]. [Enemy of the State](#) (\$9.99). Mitch Rapp #17. In the aftermath of a secret non-aggression pact that America will cover up evidence of Saudi involvement in the September 11 attacks in exchange for oil, evidence of hostile Saudi activity forces Mitch Rapp to resign from the CIA and assume the guise of a traitor as part of a covert mission to keep the peace. *PW* weighed in with "Series fans and newcomers alike will watch in wonder as Mitch executes a clever plan that leads to an explosive climax."

Page, Katherine Hall. [The Body in the Casket](#) (\$7.99). Faith Fairchild #24. Catering the lavish birthday party of a Broadway legend, Faith Fairchild is astonished when her client reveals that he hired her less for her culinary prowess and more for her skills as a detective and that one of his guests is trying to kill him. Here is *PW* again "Realistic characters and a pair of intriguing side stories contribute to a satisfying read."

Sandford, John. [Deep Freeze](#) (\$9.99). Virgil Flowers #10. When a woman from a community where he exposed school-board corruption years earlier is found dead, Virgil Flowers identifies clues linking the case to a 20-year high school reunion and its related

traumas, dramas and rivalries. *Kirkus* had this to say “As so often in Sandford’s small-town adventures, the greatest pleasures here are incidental: clipped conversations, quietly loopy humor, locals mouthing off to and about each other. Pull up a seat, make yourself comfortable, and enjoy.”

Winslow, Don. [The Force](#) (\$9.99). A highly decorated NYPD detective at the head of an elite anti-gang task force risks betraying his colleagues, his city and the woman he loves when federal agents discover the corrupt activities that have enabled him to skim millions in drugs and cash. *LJ* was just one of the many reviews giving this a star saying “Winslow’s writing, with its torrents of profane, single-sentence paragraphs, is as potent as ever, but his story’s trajectory is familiar, particularly for fans of the show *The Shield*. Despite those reservations, this propulsive novel should be eagerly welcomed by readers of Ken Bruen.”

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Cattrell, Bailey. [Marigolds for Malice](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Enchanted Garden #3. Perfume shop owner Elliana Allbright must use her inherited abilities to solve the murder of a local history professor who had recently discovered a rare and valuable botanical manuscript.

Cooke, CJ. [I Know My Name](#) (Grand Central \$7.99). Appearing on the shores of a small Greek island with no memory of who she is or how she became shipwrecked, a woman discovers from her caregivers that she is the object of a dark mystery, while in a London suburb, a frantic husband searches for his missing wife.

Crawford, Isis. [A Catered Costume Party](#) (\$7.99). Mystery with Recipes #13. When Darius Witherspoon hires them to cater a costume party in honor of his missing wife, Bernie and Libby arrive at the haunted Berkshire Arms only to find out that murder is on the menu when Darius is found hanging from a noose during the festivities.

Ehrhart, Peggy. [Died in the Wool](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Knit and Nibble #2. When the body of an unpopular history teacher is found under her crafting table during a fundraiser, Pamela Pater-son and her Knit and Nibble knitting club are considered suspects and must unravel the clues to catch a crafty killer.

Harris, Charlaine. [Sleep Like a Baby](#) (\$7.99). Aurora Teagarden #10. Stricken with flu while her husband is on a business trip, Roe accepts the help of an in-home nurse who goes missing on a stormy night at the same time a body is found outside the house.

Hesse, Jennifer. [Samhain Secrets](#) (Kensington \$7.99). While trying to juggle her professional career with her private Wiccan spiritual practice, attorney Keli Milanni investigates the death of her beloved aunt, using her one-of-a-kind magic to banish negative energy and catch a killer this Samhain season.

Hiaasen, Carl. [Lucky You](#) (\$9.99). Reprint. The latest winner of the Florida lottery, JoLayne Lucks faces an unexpected problem in collecting her winnings when Bodean Gazzo and his sidekick steal her ticket, planning to collect the millions to help their white supremacist group prevent a NATO invasion of the U.S.

Hiaasen, Carl. [Nature Girl](#) (\$9.99). Reprint. Honey Santana, the bipolar, self-proclaimed “queen of lost causes,” has plans to give telemarketer Boyd Shreave and his mistress a lesson in civility, unaware that she is being followed by her obsessed ex-employer Piejack, her one-time drug runner ex-husband Perry, and their

twelve-year-old son, Fry, or that they will all intrude on the privacy of would-be recluse Sammy Tigertail.

James, Steven. [Every Wicked Man](#) (Berkley \$9.99). Drawn into an intricately woven tapestry of dangerous lies after a senator’s son takes his own life, FBI Special Agent Patrick Bowers must unravel the mystery quickly once it gets personal.

Kashian, Tina. [Stabbed in the Baklava](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Kebab Kitchen #3. When the best man at a high-society wedding she is catering is found dead, Lucy Berberian, the owner of Kebab Kitchen, must prove the innocence of her ex, and head chef, in the crime before her reputation is permanently skewered.

Keppes, Caroline. [You](#) (\$9.99). Meeting at an East Village bookstore, aspiring writer Guinevere Beck and store employee Joe embark on an intimate relationship, only to suffer deadly consequences when their passion spirals out of control.

Leonard, Elmore. [Gunsights and Forty Lashes Less One](#) (\$7.99). Lieutenant Brendan Early, a cavalry officer, and Dana Moon, a guide, lead the pursuit of Loco, the leader of a group of renegade Apaches, who have kidnapped Katherine McKean.

Meier, Leslie. [Halloween Murder](#) (\$7.99). Includes reprints of two early cases for Lucy Stone including *Trick or Treat Murder* and *Wicked Witch Murder*.

Novak, Brenda. [Face Off](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Evelyn Talbot #4. When the evidence in a string of murders near the maximum-security psychiatric hospital where Dr. Evelyn Talbot works points to the man who tried to murder her years earlier, she tries to find him before he can kill her.

Overton, Hollie. [Baby Doll](#) (\$7.99). After escaping the basement prison she’d been held in for eight years, kidnapping victim Lily and her young daughter return to her family only to discover that the hardest part still lies ahead.

Ripley, J R. [Die, Die Birdie](#) (Kensington \$7.99). While trying to get her birding shop off the ground, Amy Simms must clear her name in the murder of a man with an ugly past over whom she was caught standing with a bloody birdfeeder.

Rovin, Jeff. [Tom Clancy’s Op Center Dark Zone](#) (St Martins \$9.99). When Douglas Flannery, former American ambassador to Ukraine,