

BOOKNEWS from

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Wishing You A Happy Thanksgiving ...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 1 Celebrating Arizona

Jon Talton signs [The Bomb Shelter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 of \$15.95)

David Mapstone #9

Marshall Trimble signs [Arizona Oddities](#) (History Press \$23.99)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 3 1:00 PM A Cozy Fest

Free to attend. There will be swag gift bags for all attendees and special advance reading copies to raffle off. Expect two panels with a break between for refreshments

Tamara Berry signs [Séances Are for Suckers](#) (\$26)

Lynn Cahoon signs [Of Murder and Men](#) (\$7.99)

JC Easton signs [Staged 4 Murder](#) (\$7.99)

Jessica Elliott signs [Murder Flies the Coop](#) (\$26)

Dianne Freeman signs [A Lady's Guide to Etiquette and Murder](#) (\$26)

Cheryl Hollon signs [Shattered At Sea](#) (\$7.99)

JR Ripley signs [Die, Die Birdie](#) (\$7.99)

Kym Roberts signs [Lethal Literature](#) (\$15)

Rosemary Simpson signs [Lies That Comfort and Betray](#) (\$15.95)

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 8 7:00 PM Birthday Party!

Join us to celebrate Anne's Birthday!

Anne Perry signs [A Christmas Revelation](#) (Ballantine \$20), her annual Christmas novella, and her new William Monk, [Dark Tide Rising](#) (Ballantine \$28)

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10 2:00 PM

Eileen Brady signs [Penned](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.99; \$15.99)

Ellen Crosby signs [Harvest of Secrets](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

MONDAY NOVEMBER 12 7:00 PM Arizona Trio

Amina Akhtar (Sedona) signs [#fashionvictim](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

A murderous take on the fashion world

Shannon Baker (Tucson) signs [Bitter Rain](#) (Baker \$14.99)

Kate Fox #3

Karen Odden (Phoenix) signs [A Dangerous Duet](#) (Harper \$15.99)

Historical mystery debut

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 13 7:00 PM

Timothy Hallinan signs [Nighttown](#) (Soho \$26.95)
Burglar Junior Bender #7

WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 14 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$35 includes book; \$38 admits two, includes one book

Location: Clive Cussler's new Scottsdale Car Collection
16055 North Dial Boulevard, Suite 16, 85260

Clive Cussler signs [Sea of Greed](#) (Putnam \$29)

NUMA Files

Our copies include a card signed by Graham Brown

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 17 2:00 PM

Jonathan Lethem signs [The Feral Detective](#) (Harper \$26.99)

CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 24 12:--4:00 PM

Join us for Small Business Saturday

Dana Stabenow recommends books

A Special Sale

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 27 7:00 PM

Jana Bommersbach signs [thedeadgirlinthevacantlot](#) (\$20) as well as [The Trunk Murderess](#) (\$16.95) and [Cattle Kate](#) (\$14.95)

AZ Playwright **Ben Tyler** joins the event to talk about his audio version

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 29 7:00 PM

Celebrate Clancy and Parker

Marc Cameron signs [Oath of Office](#) (Putnam \$29.95)

Jack Ryan #19

Mike Lupica signs [Robert B Parkers Blood Feud](#) (Putnam \$27)

Reboot of Sunny Randall, Boston PI

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5 7:00 PM

Tickets: \$33 admits one, includes book; \$38 admits two, includes one book

Location: Doubletree Hilton, 5401 N Scottsdale Rd 85250

Michael Connelly signs [Dark Sacred Night](#) (LittleBrown \$29)

Bryan Gruley signs [Bleak Harbor](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95 or \$15.95)

Those attending may purchase *Bleak Harbor* at a special low price AND receive a coupon for a free drink to enjoy during the event

NOVEMBER DISCUSSION CLUBS

Saturday November 10 10:30 AM: Coffee and Crime discusses Elizabeth Peters' [The Crocodile on the Sandbank](#) (\$10), the first Amelia Peabody mystery

Friday November 16 7:00 PM: SciFi Friday discusses Mary Robinette Kowal's [The Calculating Stars](#) (\$18.99)

Saturday November 17 10:30 AM: Croak and Dagger 10:30 AM discusses Alex Grecian's [The Yard](#) (\$16)

Wed. November 28 7:00 PM: Hardboiled Crime discusses Clarence Cooper's [The Syndicate](#) (\$14.95)

EVENT BOOKS

Akhtar, Amina. [#fashionvictim](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). "A diabolical page-turner...impossible to put down."—*Forbes*. "Darkly funny."—*Fashionista*. Akhtar, coming from the fashion world, writes a fantasy of obsession while skewering a social media age of excessive exercise, self-harm, starvation dieting, narcissism, and paranoia. Akhtar's gleefully bloodthirsty debut sends up the mean girls of the New York fashion industry. Anya St. Clair, whose buzzing, intrusive thoughts lead to violent urges toward anyone who disrespects her, has grown from troubled child to unacceptably chubby style editor at fashion magazine *La Vie*. Obsessed with becoming the BFF of her perfect, blonde coworker, Sarah Taft, Anya is willing to use everything at her disposal—mood boards, spy software, planted evidence, or elimination of the competition—to suck up to Sarah or bring the woman down, whichever works. When Anya and Sarah become rivals for a promotion, Anya starts making increasingly unrealistic choices. This isn't supposed to be believable in the way of the ordinary crime novel. "The shallow friendships, betrayals, shifting alliances, and many, many designer shoes will keep readers hooked and laughing, if a bit uncomfortably, from Page 1 until the shocking ending."—*Kirkus*

Baker, Shannon. [Bitter Rain](#) (Baker \$14.99). As the third Kate Fox opens, Kate's meddling family is at it again. Despite their efforts to pair her off, she's settling into single life as Grand County Sheriff—until Deputy Kyle Red Owl's sister disappears. Shocked by the harsh realities of rez life, and coming smack up against a Lakota-hating sheriff, end-of-world preppers, and a greedy liquor store owner, Kate fears the worst for the missing girl. Old loyalties and lies collide with new secrets. Secrets someone is willing to kill to keep hidden. Knowing she'll always be an outsider when it comes to her good 'ol boys world, Kate is more determined than ever to find the girl society has abandoned, but can she do it before someone else dies?

Brady, Eileen. [Penned](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 in stock, Signed Nov 10). A sleuthing veterinarian plays cat and mouse with a serial killer. Introduced to elderly Gloria LaGuardia at the Oak Falls, New York, Halloween party, Dr. Kate Turner finds her both confused and afraid of someone evil she's just seen. So when police officer and law student Luke Gianetti, her friend, tells Kate that Gloria's been strangled in an apparent burglary, she's suspicious that there may be more to the story. At Gloria's funeral, Kate meets Tucker Weinstein, who's writing a book about a fugitive killer named Carl Wolf, who was living across the street from Gloria when he murdered his wife and children 21

years ago. Interviews Tucker gives to promote his book, in which he mentions Kate, make them both targets of the killer, who may now be living nearby. When Tucker is badly beaten near his Brooklyn home, the police think it's a hate crime because Tucker is gay. But Kate suspects the Big Bad Wolf. As she goes about her business treating everything from randy goats to an intelligent cockatoo, her connection to dogs involved in Schutzhund training gives her a new lead. Wolf had a Schutzhund-trained German shepherd that he loved enough to leave alive when he fled. Learning too much for her own good, Kate works to unmask the killer before he makes her his next target. "Veterinarian Brady imbues this page-turner with authentic details about a vet and the critters she treats." 4th in the DVM Kate Turner series for fans of Rosenfelt and even Rollins.

Cameron, Marc. [Oath of Office](#) (Putnam \$29.95). The Ayatollah's power in Iran is subsiding, a Persian Spring blossoms brightly, and the Campus casts its eye on an international arms dealer stepping into the power vacuum. Jack Ryan, Jr., the President's son, travels to Iran where he is kidnapped, adding to his father the President's domestic problems: flu ravaging the Southeast after floods, and unethical Senator trying to bring the presidency down. And then two Russian missiles are hijacked. Cameron builds the main action to a clever twist in his second entry into the Clancy universe.

Connelly, Michael. [Dark Sacred Night](#) (Little Brown \$29 in stock now, Signed and personalized Dec. 5). Enjoy this Starred Review like we have. "LAPD Det. Renée Ballard, first seen in 2017's *The Late Show*, makes a welcome return in this outstanding, complex police procedural. Relegated to the night shift at the Hollywood Station following a sexual harassment suit against her former lieutenant, Ballard works her cases with a quiet focus and intensity. Late one night, Ballard surprises a man looking through some old case files. It turns out to be retired LAPD detective Harry Bosch, now working cold cases for the San Fernando PD. After Bosch leaves, Ballard takes a look at the file, detailing the unsolved 2009 murder of Daisy Clayton, a 15-year-old runaway. The slain girl was the daughter of a recovering addict, who has been taken in by Bosch. Ballard is hooked, and begins working the case with Bosch. Meanwhile, Bosch's investigation into another cold case, the execution-style killing of a 52-year-old gang leader, has put the detective squarely in the sights of Varrio San Fer 13, one of the valley's most violent gangs. Bosch and Ballard, both outsiders with complicated pasts, form a perfect partnership in this high spot of Edgar-winner Connelly's long and distinguished career." And there is this: "Harry Bosch has had plenty of partners, but he might have met his match. ...none of them has clicked with Bosch in the way that Ballard does—like a master with a student who could become his equal." —*Tampa Bay Times*

Crosby, Ellen. [Harvest of Secrets](#) (St Martins \$26.99). It's harvest season at Montgomery Estate Vineyard—the busiest time of year for winemakers in Atoka, Virginia, made scarier by the approach of Hurricane Lolita. Everyone is exhausted by the hours and the migrant workers are fewer, and nervous, made the more so by the police presence after a skull is discovered in the roots of a felled tree. It's an old skull, but it haunts winemaker Lucie Montgomery who thinks the location by the family cemetery means the

skull may have been family. On the neighboring estate La Vigne, the new presence of the bad-boy aristocratic French winemaker who was Lucie Montgomery's first crush when she summered in France at 13 ratchets up tension. The then the discovery of family secrets puts Lucie on a collision course with a murderer and her need to absolve what is the obvious suspect. This is a generous read in length and in all the history and local landmarks with which Crosby laces her intriguing plot. So far, the best in series for me. **Our November Surprise Me Book of the Month and recommended to quilters.**

Cussler, Clive. [Sea of Greed](#) (Putnam \$29). A NUMA Files adventure co-written with Graham Brown publishes November 6; signed November 14 as Clive is off at a European car rally. The world's oil supply is vanishing, the stock market is plummeting, and the key to saving the future seems to a baffling historical mystery. After an explosion in the Gulf of Mexico destroys three oil rigs trying to revive a dying field, Kurt Austin and the NUMA Special Projects Team are tapped by the President of the United States to find out what's gone wrong. The trail leads them to a brilliant billionaire in the alternative energy field. Her goal is the end of the oil age; her company has spent billions developing the worlds' most advanced fuel-cell systems. But is she an environmental hero...or a rogue genetic engineer? Our copies include a card signed by Graham Brown.

Gruley, Bryan. [Bleak Harbor](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Gruley bids farewell to Starvation Lake, Michigan, site of his first three zingers, to explore the kidnapping of an autistic teenager who shares the same state and much the same state of mind. Danny Peters was something of a trial even before he disappeared. Lacking much of an affinity for other people, he was interested mainly in dragonflies, computers, and Wallace Stevens. Now he's gone off with someone who promised him a milkshake, and his mother and stepfather are agonizing about how to raise the quixotic ransom of \$5.145 million by the impossibly tight deadline. Both of them have reason to worry about their ability to pull together in their hour of need. *Kirkus* finds this to be, "A deep dive into the deepest secrets of a one-family town and its leading family that sometimes gets murky, even exhausting, but is never less than enthralling. And you'll finish it with a wonderful sense that you've finally come up for air." **Attend Gruley's event with Connelly and get this at a special low price AND a coupon for a free drink to enjoy during the conversation.**

Hallinan, Timothy. [Nighdtown](#) (Soho \$26.95). I'm always happy to see Starred Reviews for visiting authors and none more so than for Tim, whether his books for Poke Rafferty or here, for LA burglar Junior Bender, such a hit with the whole PP staff. "Edgar finalist Hallinan's suspenseful, well-crafted seventh Junior Bender mystery (after 2016's *Fields Where They Lay*) finds the L.A. burglar/investigator, who has worked on the wrong side of the law for more than 20 years, desperate for money to help his girlfriend, Ronnie Bigelow. Ronnie's two-year-old son, Eric, has been taken from her by the boy's father, "a New Jersey mob doctor," and Junior needs major funds to pull off his plan to reunite Eric with his mother. In desperation, he agrees to break into a house last occupied by the late Daisy Horton, a nonagenarian known as the "Cruella de Vil of fading Los Angeles gentility," to retrieve a doll for an unidentified client. Junior comes up empty, as does the rival seeking the same item he encounters in the

creepy Horton house. Junior's lack of success, combined with the murder of the other burglar shortly after she leaves the premises, leads Junior to seek the truth behind his commission and its connection with what he did find—rare first editions, including an autographed copy of Conan Doyle's *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes*. Hallinan's top-notch prose and plotting are reminiscent of Lawrence Sanders and Elmore Leonard." Don't forget that signed copies of the hilarious Bender, [Fields Where They Lay](#) (\$15.95), make a welcome stocking stuffer for the fan of mystery or just fun books.

Lethem, Jonathan. [The Feral Detective](#) (Ecco \$26.99). *Kirkus* writes, "Lethem has written a hallucinatory novel set in the desert fringes of the Inland Empire in California. Readers, many of whom should be absorbed by this story, will soon realize the author has more to say about the current state of America and his deeply fractured heroine than lies on the surface. Our narrator is Phoebe Siegler, once a bourgeois Manhattanite with a sarcastic streak, now unmoored by the last presidential election. Trying to break her malaise, she travels to Los Angeles at the behest of a friend whose teenage daughter has disappeared during a Leonard Cohen-inspired pilgrimage to Mount Baldy. She's referred to private detective Charles Heist, a 'fiftyish cowboyish fellow' dubbed 'The Feral Detective' for his predilection for saving strays, be they kids or animals. What might have devolved into a Coen Brothers-esque farce instead offers a dark reflection on human nature as Heist introduces Phoebe to something like a cult living on the fringes of society—what might happen if hippies and outcasts left civilization, never to return, devolving into a tribal, ritualistic culture tinged with conspiracy theory. It's a place where the seemingly laconic Heist has deep roots and a culture where his mere presence yields disturbing violence. There's not really a mystery to solve, and the sexual tension between Phoebe and Heist feels obligatory, but Lethem fills his canvas with tinder-dry tension. The subtext is the division in American society." This is a book that may well be Lethem's post-2016-election therapy. As he comes to us after November 6 he may, or may not, need more.

Lupica, Mike. [Robert B. Parker's Blood Feud](#) (Putnam \$27). Zow. I have to say Lupica is the perfect choice to reboot the Sunny Randall series and make our **December Surprise Me Book of the Month Club Pick**. He gives the fiercely independent cop's daughter turned PI new life but he brings the Parker universe forward perfectly, especially the cops and the Boston gangsters, the rivalrous Irish and Italians (Whitey Bulger looms behind much of the Irish mob squad), and references Sunny's past romance with Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone in a believable way. You won't be surprised that her ex, Richie, is her focus and in fact it's the whole Burke family history that drives this complex plot with its echoes of *West Side Story*. The reporter in Lupica spices up the Boston of today, and he doesn't spare our politicians in DC either. I'm delighted to be talking to him about Sunny on November 29 and say that you Parker fans will be delighted with the way he joins Atkins and Coleman in honoring Parker's characters but giving them independent futures. Yay!

Odden, Karen. [A Dangerous Duet](#) (Harper \$15.99). *USA Today* bestselling author Odden introduces readers to Nell Hallam, a determined young pianist who stumbles upon the operations of a notorious—and deadly—crime ring while illicitly working as the

piano player in a Soho music hall. Perfect for readers of Tasha Alexander, Anne Perry, and Deanna Raybourn. Nineteen-year-old Nell Hallam lives in a modest corner of Mayfair with her brother Matthew, an inspector at Scotland Yard. An exceptionally talented pianist, she aspires to attend the Royal Academy; but with tuition beyond their means, Nell sets out to earn the money herself—by playing piano in a popular Soho music hall. And the fact that she will have to disguise herself as a man and slip out at night to do it doesn't deter her. Spending evenings at the Octavian is like entering an alternate world, one of lively energy, fascinating performers, raucous patrons—and dark secrets. And when Nell stumbles upon the operations of an infamous crime ring working in the shadows of the music hall, she is drawn into a conspiracy that stretches the length of London. To further complicate matters, she has begun to fall for the hall owner's charismatic son, Jack, who has secrets of his own. What with Tasha and Anne Perry visiting the Pen soon it's a good season for Victorian mystery fanciers.

Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Revelation](#) (Ballantine \$20). Signed here November 8 as we celebrate the author's birthday with a party! Even if you don't read Perry, the purchase of the Christmas novella would be a very nice tribute to a veteran bestseller who never flags in writing the best and most inventive books she can. In this latest replete with Victorian holiday trapping, an orphan boy investigates a woman's kidnapping—and discovers there's more at stake than a disappearance. Readers of the William Monk books will recognize the boy Worm, who teams up with Hester's grumpy old bookkeeper Squeaky Robinson.

Perry also signs [Dark Tide Rising](#) (Ballantine \$28), her September William Monk detection where the River Police ace is called out for emergency action by his old friend the lawyer Oliver Rathbone. Rathbone has a client in wealthy property investor Harry Exeter whose wife, Kate, has been kidnapped. Able to raise the huge ransom, Exeter has asked for protection as he delivers it to a most dangerous and peculiar spot on the Thames—the slum called Jacob's island. It goes wrong, Kate is found dead, and worse develops, ending with putting Harry Exeter in the dock charged with murder. Monk and Rathbone work feverishly to exonerate him. Perry, whose trademark is trials that produce stunning revelations, hasn't lost her clever touch!

Smiley, Patricia. [The Second Goodbye](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99). In Pacific Homicide #3, "Sassy and analytical, L.A. Detective Davie Richards utilizes 'shoe leather and minutiae' to unravel a brilliantly staged fake suicide. Seamless prose, tightly crafted clues, and surprising twists make *The Second Goodbye* a memorable police procedural. Brew the coffee for the graveyard shift, as you'll be up all night reading."—K.J. Howe. There's nothing about thirty-four-year-old Sara Montaine or her death that makes sense. Was Sara a saint caring for her dying husband or a gold-digger with a sketchy background? Did she commit suicide or was she murdered? Before her marriage, Sara lived comfortably without any obvious source of income, unusual for an orphan raised in foster care. As Davie digs deeper, she unearths Sara's troubled past and a viper's nest of villains who are willing to kill to keep their secrets hidden.

Talton, Jon. [The Bomb Shelter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). Trimble gives this a rave—he, like Talton, lived through the Don Bolles bombing assassination, a never fully solved murder of a

Phoenix reporter. Talton writes a modern mystery rooted in the Bolles case worked by his historian/lawman David Mapstone. In it he sheds light on some of Arizona's major power brokers including the Goldwaters and tours you around the city. I think it's essential reading for natives, longtimers, and newcomers as well as a twisty story highlighted by Talton's trademark surprises.

Trimble, Marshall. [Arizona Oddities](#) (History Press \$23.99). What fun, an eccentric collection assembled by Trimble. Arizona has stories as peculiar as its stunning landscapes. The Lost Dutchman's rumored cache of gold sparked a legendary feud. Kidnapping victim Larcena Pennington Page survived two weeks alone in the wilderness, and her first request upon rescue was for a chew of tobacco. Discover how the town of Why got its name, how the government built a lake that needed mowing and how wild camels ended up in North America. Author Marshall Trimble unearths these and other amusing anomalies, outstanding obscurities and compelling curiosities in the state's history. A fun stocking stuffer, no?

SIGNED BOOKS

Baldacci, David. [The Long Road to Mercy](#) (Grand Central \$30 on sale Nov. 13). Our **November Thriller Book of the Month Pick** introduces Atlee Pine, an FBI agent with special skills assigned to the remote wilds of the western United States who must confront a new monster...and an old nightmare. Ever since her twin sister was abducted by a notorious serial killer at age five, Atlee has spent her life hunting down those who hurt others. And she's the best at it. She could be one of the Bureau's top criminal profilers, if she didn't prefer catching criminals in the vast wilderness of the West to climbing the career ladder in the D.C. office. Her chosen mission is a lonesome one—but that suits her just fine. Now, Atlee is called in to investigate the mutilated carcass of a mule found in the Grand Canyon—and hopefully, solve the disappearance of its rider. But this isn't the only recent disappearance.

Barry, Tamara. [Séances Are for Suckers](#) (\$26). Signed at our Kensington Cozy on November 3 and our **November Cozy Crimes Book of the Month Club Pick**. We may not have extra stock. The premise is fun: an unconventional rebel of a young woman works to support the care of her comatose triplet sister by ghost-busting. The ghosts turn out to be pests like rats in the attic but her grateful clients gain peace of mind so it's a win-win. Then a very wealthy Brit turns up and despite his clear skepticism persuades her (for a lot of money) to visit his haunted castle and rid it of the ghost that is upsetting his mother. Ellie, at odds with her other triplet, brother Liam, about how she's earning her fees, accepts despite her reservations. And.... This is not a supernatural mystery despite its title. And it starts a series.

Child, Lee. [Past Tense](#) (Bantam \$28.99 on sale November 7, Signed for us by Child in NY). Jack Reacher hits the pavement and sticks out his thumb. He plans to follow the sun on an epic trip across America, from Maine to California. He doesn't get far. On a country road deep in the New England woods, he sees a sign to a place he has never been: the town where his father was born. He thinks, what's one extra day? He takes the detour. At the same moment, in the same isolated area, a car breaks down. Two young Canadians had been on their way to New York City to sell a treasure. Now they're stranded at a lonely motel in the middle of nowhere. The owners seem almost too friendly. It's a strange

place, but it's all there is. The next morning, in the city clerk's office, Reacher asks about the old family home. He's told no one named Reacher ever lived in town. He's always known his father left and never returned, but now Reacher wonders, Was he ever there in the first place? As Reacher explores his father's life, and as the Canadians face lethal dangers, strands of different stories begin to merge. Then Reacher makes a shocking discovery....
[Past Tense UK](#) (Bantam \$45).

✂Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder Flies the Coop](#) (Kensington \$26). Signed November 3 at our Cozy Fest so I can't tell if we'll have extras. This is book two of an engaging English village mystery series set in 1920 led by a village spinster with a nearly empty purse and her flamboyant American school friend, also single but a real high flyer, who too is lonely and answered Edwina's ad for a room to let in her home in Walmsley Parva and stays on to help out. They solved a missing person case and a murder in [Murder in an English Village](#) (\$15.95) rooted in WWI, and now they decide to set up as private enquiry agents and engage with the vicar in a case involving the local pigeon-racing club. The treasurer has absconded with the club funds and several prized birds. Can our two sleuths flush out the missing man?

Evanovich, Jane. [Look Alive Twenty Five](#) (Putnam \$28 on sale November 13). There's nothing like a good deli, and the Red River Deli in Trenton is one of the best. World-famous for its pastrami, coleslaw, and for its disappearing managers. Over the last month, three have vanished from the face of the earth, and the only clue in each case is one shoe that's been left behind. The police are baffled. Lula is convinced that it's a case of alien abduction. Whatever it is, they'd better figure out what's going on before they lose their new manager, Ms. Stephanie Plum.

✂Fellowes, Jessica. [Bright Young Dead](#) (Sphere \$32). Meet the Bright Young Things, the rabble-rousing hedonists of the 1920s whose treasure hunts were a media obsession. One such game takes place at the 18th birthday party of Pamela Mitford, but ends in tragedy as cruel, charismatic Adrian Curtis is pushed to his death from the church neighboring the Mitford home. The police quickly identify the killer as a maid, Dulcie. But Louisa Cannon, maid and chaperone to the Mitford girls and a former criminal herself, believes Dulcie to be innocent, and sets out to clear the girl's name...all while the real killer may only be steps away. IMHO the real mystery is how did so many young asses addicted to risky or just stupid behavior survive? Fellowes began this series last year with [The Mitford Murders](#) (\$16), now in paperback.

Fink, Joseph. [Alice Isn't Dead](#) (Harper \$19.99). "This isn't a story. It's a road trip." Keisha Taylor lived a quiet life with her wife, Alice, until the day that Alice disappeared. After months of searching, presuming she was dead, Keisha held a funeral, mourned, and gradually tried to get on with her life. But that was before Keisha started to see her wife, again and again, in the background of news reports from all over America. Alice isn't dead, and she is showing up at every major tragedy and accident in the country. Following a line of clues, Keisha takes a job with a trucking company, Bay and Creek Transportation, and begins searching for Alice. She eventually stumbles on an otherworldly conflict being waged in the quiet corners of our nation's highway system—uncovering a conspiracy that goes way beyond one missing woman. Why did Alice disappear? What does she have to do with this secret war between inhuman killers? Why did the

chicken cross the road?

✂Griffiths, Elly. [The Stranger Diaries](#) (Quercus \$32). I love the Ruth Galloway books even as her romantic life becomes ever more ridiculous. So I'm excited at a new book by this talented writer. Clare Cassidy is no stranger to murder. As a literature teacher specializing in the Gothic writer RM Holland, she teaches a short course on it every year. Then Clare's life and work collide tragically when one of her colleagues is found dead, a line from an RM Holland story by her body. The investigating police detective is convinced the writer's works somehow hold the key to the case. Not knowing who to trust, and afraid that the killer is someone she knows, Clare confides her darkest suspicions and fears about the case to her journal. Then one day she notices some other writing in the diary. Writing that isn't hers. Peter James gives this a thumbs up and Louise Penny adds, "At once homage to the Gothic thriller, and a re-imagining, it is goose-bump spooky, smart, and haunting, in every sense. I loved this book! And you will too." Good news: Ruth Galloway #11, [The Stone Circle](#), published in February.

Harris, Charlaune. [An Easy Death](#) (Saga \$28). Our **November SciFi/Fantasy Book of the Month Pick** gets this Starred Review: "In a bleak alternate history of what's left of a broken-up United States after Franklin Roosevelt is assassinated—where poverty is rampant and magic is real but not widely accepted—Harris tells the harrowing story of a young bodyguard, Lizbeth "Gunny" Rose, whose job is to keep others alive. After her team and closest friends are killed in a mission gone wrong, Rose is forced to move on for the sake of survival, even if it means taking a gig protecting those she's spent her life hating: two Russian wizards, or *grigoris*, who have come to town looking for another wizard. She tells them he's dead, but doesn't mention that she killed him—or why. It's not until she's too deep into the search for his brother that she finds out her own life is in danger: these wizards are more hunted than they realized, but she may be the one the hunters really want. In this fast-paced thriller fueled by magic and gunslinging, no one can be trusted. Harris's vividly detailed story will leave readers enthralled with the fascinating setting and a heroine who's sure to be a new fan favorite."

Havill, Steven. [Lies Come Easy](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). One blizzardy New Mexico night, Posadas County Deputy Pasquale picks up a toddler scooting his Scamper along the shoulder of State 56. Yes, it's horrifying—a child apparently dumped out of a truck by his father. Nearly as horrifying is what unrolls while Christmas approaches after dad Darrell Fisher's arrest: a request arrives from the US Forest Service to locate a missing range tech and his unit last reported headed for nearby Stinkin' Springs, and the brutal murder of Constance Suarez in the border town of Regál, population 37. "Havill's irresistible 23rd mystery set in tiny Posadas County, NM, combines a police procedural with a complex family saga. Havill's inviting world welcomes newcomers and keeps fans happily coming back for more."—*PW*. *LJ* reviews it enthusiastically: Three days before Christmas, a Posadas County, NM, deputy finds a two-year-old walking his scooter alongside the highway. It won't be a happy holiday for little Derry Fisher's family. His father is thrown in jail and once bailed out is found shot to death in his pickup. At first it appears to be suicide, until evidence indicates otherwise. Sheriff Robert Torrez is convinced the man was murdered, as another shooting death arouses more suspicion. While Undersheriff Estelle

Reyes-Guzman juggles a Christmas celebration with a surprise visit from her two sons, Torrez is determined to find the killer despite the holiday and outlandish stories told by residents of the community where the victims lived. Havill follows [Easy Errors](#) with a character-driven police procedural that combines a step-by-step murder investigation with the heartwarming reunion of the Reyes-Guzman family. This compelling novel contrasts the loving family and community life shared by Reyes-Guzman and her retired mentor, Sheriff Bill Gastner, with the troubled lives led by victims and criminals in the county. Series devotees will eagerly welcome this latest installment.”

✎Herron, Mick. [The Drop](#) (Murray UK \$22). This little novella carries a big punch. It’s not so much the old-school spycraft witnessed by old retired spook Solomon Dortmund that’s interesting as the predicament of aging John Bachelor, another spy veteran who’s been reduced to babysitting guys like Solly and their comfortable pensions. And the double, or is she a triple, agent Hannah Weiss whose role lies at the heart of the drop. Herron really is a cynic if in a dispassionate, almost kind way, truly an heir to LeCarre. Enjoy what is essentially “Slough House 5.5” The US edition (unsigned) is called [The Marylebone Drop](#) (\$7.99).

✎Horowitz, Anthony. [The Sentence Is Death](#) (Century \$45). Richard Pryce is an elegant, smooth-tongued lawyer who has made a fortune out of celebrity divorces—and a lot of enemies in the process. Unmarried himself, he lives in a handsome bachelor pad on the edge of Hampstead Heath. Or rather he used to.... When he is found murdered, the police confront the most baffling of mysteries: who was the visitor who came to Pryce’s house moments before he died, arriving while he was still talking on the phone? “You shouldn’t be here. It’s too late...” were Pryce’s last recorded words but what exactly do they mean? Why does his killer paint a three-digit number on the wall before leaving the crime scene? And why exactly was he bludgeoned to death with a bottle of wine—a 1982 Chateau Lafite worth £3,000—when he didn’t drink alcohol? Horowitz continues to do Golden Age mysteries with his second for disgraced PI Daniel Hawthorne, but this is more Lord Peter with his cultivated palate than Hercule Poirot. Meet Hawthorne in [The Word Is Murder](#) (\$27.99).

Hunt, Laird. [In the House of the Dark Woods](#) (LittleBrown \$23) is our **December SciFi/Fantasy Book of the Month Club Pick**, but we will have some spare copies in November. It “takes off at a full gallop and never looks back. In just over 200 pages, Hunt evokes countless stories embedded in the American consciousness, from Grimms’ fairy tales to Washington Irving’s creepy stories of the early 1800s... [Hunt] has fashioned an edge-of-the-seat experience more akin to watching a horror movie. Don’t go in the cellar! Don’t eat that pig meat! Darkness is everywhere. And never assume you can trust the narrator. So prepare yourself. This is a perfect book to read when you’re safely tucked in your home, your back to the wall, while outside your door the wind rips the leaves from the trees and the woods grow dark.”—*New York Times Book Review*. In short, an antidote to holiday cheer. Tuck yourself away and read.

Klinger, Leslie. [Classic American Crime Fiction](#) (Norton \$39.95). Classic American Crime Writing of the 1920s—including *House Without a Key*, *The Benson Murder Case*, *The Roman Hat Mystery*, *Red Harvest*, and *Little Caesar*—offers some of the very best of that decade’s writing. Earl Derr Biggers wrote about Charlie Chan,

a Chinese-American detective, at a time when racism was rampant. S. S. Van Dine invented Philo Vance, an effete, rich amateur psychologist who flourished while America danced and the stock market rose. The quintessential American detective Ellery Queen leapt onto the stage, to remain popular for fifty years. Dashiell Hammett brings readers another mystery narrated by the Continental Op. W. R. Burnett, created the indelible character of Rico, the first gangster antihero. Each of the five novels included is presented in its original published form, with extensive historical and cultural annotations and illustrations added by Edgar-winning editor Klinger. He’ll be back on December 8 and can personalize but we do have signed stock of this handsome volume now.

Kluger, Richard. [Beethoven’s Tenth](#) (Rare Bird \$26.95). We have a few extra copies of our **October First Mystery Book of the Month Club Pick**. “A wonderful mystery...Kluger succeeds admirably in both making the possibility of a tenth Beethoven symphony seem probable and undermining it throughout the authentication process undertaken by those planning to profit from it. A true tour de force—readable, clever, erudite, and with a tantalizing ending.”—Robert P. Morgan, Professor Emeritus of Music, Yale University. “This wonderful yarn is a page turner with all the ingredients of the most intelligent and entertaining mysteries—engaging characters, plot twists varied locales, behind-the-scenes glimpses of the auction business, and lessons in music history, forensics, and the law. I loved it.”—Susan Forscher Weiss, Professor of Musicology, The Peabody Conservatory, Johns Hopkins University. I loved it too, a kind of DaVinci clone with something to me more valuable at stake than a religious artifact.

Penny, Louise. [Kingdom of the Blind](#) (St Martins \$28.99). **This is a MAYBE SIGNED but please order and say whether you will take an unsigned copy if it doesn’t work out.** When a peculiar letter arrives inviting Armand Gamache to an abandoned farmhouse, the former head of the Sûreté du Québec discovers that a complete stranger has named him one of the executors of her will. Still on suspension, and frankly curious, Gamache accepts and soon learns that the other two executors are Myrna Landers, the bookseller from Three Pines, and a young builder. None of them had ever met the elderly woman. The will is so odd and includes bequests that are so wildly unlikely that Gamache and the others suspect the woman must have been delusional. But what if, Gamache begins to ask himself, she was perfectly sane? When a body is found, the terms of the bizarre will suddenly seem less peculiar and far more menacing. But it isn’t the only menace Gamache is facing.... 14th in series and not published until November 27. We’ll know about signed copies before then.

Rankin, Ian. [In a House of Lies](#) (Orion \$46). Out in October but likely not to arrive until November, a new John Rebus thriller. A missing private investigator is found, locked in a car hidden deep in the woods. Worse still – both for his family and the police – is that his body was in an area that had already been searched. Detective Inspector Siobhan Clarke is part of a new inquiry, combing through the mistakes of the original case. There were always suspicions over how the investigation was handled and now – after a decade without answers – it’s time for the truth. Nobody is innocent. Every officer involved must be questioned, and it seems everyone on the case has something to hide, and everything to lose. But Rebus alone knows where the trail may lead – and that it could be the end of him.

Rice, Anne. [Blood Communion](#) (Knopf \$27.95). The Vampire Chronicles continue with Prince Lestat and the story of the Blood Communion as he tells the tale of his coming to rule the vampire world and the eternal struggle to find belonging, a place in the universe for the undead, and how, against his will, he must battle the menacing, seemingly unstoppable force determined to thwart his vision and destroy the entire vampire netherworld.

✚Robinson, Maggie. [Nobody's Sweetheart Now](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). A delightful English cozy series begins in August 1924. Lady Adelaide Compton has recently (and satisfactorily) interred her husband, Major Rupert Charles Cressleigh Compton, hero of the Somme, in the family vault in the village churchyard. Rupert died by smashing his Hispano-Suiza on a Cotswold country road while carrying a French mademoiselle in the passenger seat. With the house now Addie's, needed improvements in hand, and a weekend house party underway, how inconvenient of Rupert to turn up! Not in the flesh, but in—actually, as—a spirit. Rupert has to perform a few good deeds before becoming welcomed to heaven—or more likely, thinks Addie, to hell. Before Addie can convince herself she's not completely lost her mind, a murder disrupts her careful seating arrangement. Which of her twelve houseguests is a killer? Her mother, the formidable Dowager Marchioness of Broughton? Her sister Cecilia, the born-again vegetarian? Her childhood friend and potential lover, Lord Lucas Waring? Rupert has a solid alibi as a ghost and an urge to detect. Enter Inspector Devenand Hunter from the Yard, an Anglo-Indian who is not going to let some barmy society beauty witnessed talking to herself derail his investigation. Something very peculiar is afoot at Compton Court and he's going to get to the bottom of it—or go as mad as its mistress trying. *Kirkus* calls this, “A lively debut filled with local color, red herrings, both sprightly and spritely characters, a smidgen of social commentary, and a climactic surprise.” Recommended to fans of Kerry Greenwood, Ashley Weaver—and think Charles Todd light for this our **November History/Mystery Book of the Month Club Pick**.

✚Ryan, WC. [House of Ghosts](#) (Zaffire \$32). Winter 1917. As the First World War enters its most brutal phase, back home in England, everyone is seeking answers to the darkness that has seeped into their lives. At Blackwater Abbey, on an island off the Devon coast, Lord Highmount has arranged a spiritualist gathering to contact his two sons who were lost in the conflict. But as his guests begin to arrive, it gradually becomes clear that each has something they would rather keep hidden. Then, when a storm descends on the island, the guests will find themselves trapped. Soon one of their numbers will die. For Blackwater Abbey is haunted in more ways than one.... Likened to Christie's classic *And Then There Were None*, enjoyably creepy. “A splendid tale of wartime skullduggery, featuring both kinds of spooks—perfect fireside reading”—Mick Herron

✚Shott, Ben. [Jeeves and the King of Clubs](#) (Hutchinson \$39). Storm clouds loom over Europe. Treason is afoot in the highest social circles. The very security of the nation is in peril. Jeeves, it transpires, has long been an agent of British Intelligence, but now His Majesty's Government must turn to the one man who can help—Bertie Wooster. Seriously? So Jeeves and Wooster head out on an uproarious adventure of espionage through the secret corridors of Whitehall, the sunlit lawns of Brinkley Court, and the private clubs of St James's. They encounter outraged chefs

and exasperated aunts, disreputable politicians and gambling bankers, slushy debts and Cockney cabbies, sphinx-like tailors, and sylph-like spies. There is treachery to be foiled, naturally, but also horses to be backed, auctions to be fixed, engagements to be escaped, madmen to be blackballed, and a new variety of condiment to be cooked up, all contributing to this homage to PG Wodehouse. A marvelous treat, and also gift.

✚Thomas, Will. [Blood Is Blood](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Speaking of Victorian mystery, here's another in a favorite series. Thomas Llewelyn, former Oxford student, convict, etc, and for the past six years assistant to private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker, is finally going to wed the widow Rebecca and hope that her Jewish family will learn to accept him. He is scared this luck will fail him. And he hates Mondays. And sure enough this one blows up on him—literally. Someone bombs the Barker office premises and severely injures Cyrus. And then we learn from the banker next door that someone impersonating Cyrus has withdrawn nearly £5000. The next surprise is the appearance of Caleb Barker, Cyrus' Pinkerton Agent brother, from America. Is Caleb going to be an ally or should Thomas, on his own for now, heed Cyrus' warning about his brother. This is an excellent chapter in this series, lots of fun as well as clever. You can read it if you've never read one of the earlier gems by Thomas but should you not have I recommend you waste no time digging in.

✚Walters, Minette. [The Turn of Midnight](#) (Allen and Unwin \$44). An unexpected second novel set in Dorsetshire where Walters has long lived. It's a remarkable portrait of the Black Death and how one man, Develish, quarantined itself thanks to the moat its brutal lord had constructed well before 1348, and his own miserable death from the plague. His widow, the much tried Lady Anne, and her faithful servants, have worked out they must stay inside Develish and not take pity on those dying around the manor. But with its stores dwindling and its corrupt steward a threat, they may have no choice but to leave. Dorsetshire was ground zero for the plague which arrived at a port in June. It's now nearing 1349. Walters began this story in [The Last Hours](#) (Mira \$26.99—our signed UK copies sold out). I'm told she's had writer's block for years but delving into this history has freed her up. I found *The Turn of Midnight* to be gripping as well as highly atmospheric.

Wojtas, Olga. [Miss Blaine's Prefect and the Golden Samovar](#) (Felony & Mayhem \$28). Comfortably padded and in her middle years, Shona McMonagle may look bookish and harmless, but her education at the Marcia Blaine School for Girls has left her with a deadly expertise in everything from martial arts to quantum physics and a bone-deep loathing for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, that scurrilous novel that spread scandalous untruths about the finest educational institution in Edinburgh. Shona is the perfect recruit for a new and interesting project: Time-travel to Tsarist Russia, prevent a gross miscarriage of romance, and – in any spare time – see to it that only the right people get murdered. This quirky novel, limited to 250 Signed hardcovers, has earned 3 Starred Reviews and is a **First Mystery Book of the Month Club Pick**, perfect escape reading!

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Membership in any clubs but Mystery of the Month earns a \$25 gift card at the end of the cycle you can spend on anything we sell. The current cycle ends with December so the new one starts with January 2019.

5. Actual books:

Guinn, Jeff. [The Autobiography of Santa Claus](#) (Penguin \$16). "Guinn's clever premise draws on the historical roots of the

commercialization of Christmas, and his Santa, who narrates, is sanguine when faced with the prospect of facing off against street corner Santas." A fine stocking stuffer, no? It's fun to see a journalist who could write of Charles Manson switch to Saint Nick.

Harkness, Deborah. [All Souls Trilogy Boxed Set](#) (\$54). A handsome presentation of all 3 novels—*A Discovery of Witches*, *Shadow of Night*, and *Book of Life*—all Signed by Harkness, to set up a new reader for the January US TV adaptation of *A Discovery of Witches*. And we have Signed 1sts of the series Companion [The World of All Souls](#) (\$40).

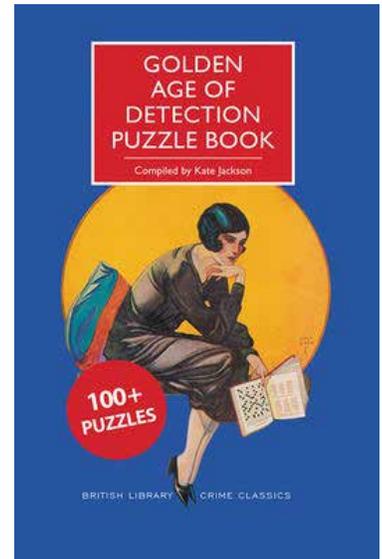
Jackson, Kate. [The Golden Age of Detection Puzzle Book](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). This is the perfect stocking stuffer, bright, colorful, challenging, pocket sized. Take it along anywhere and while away idle moments. The puzzles cover a wide range and are great fun. **This is in fact a British Library Crime Classic release with all the style the series commands.**

L'Amour, Louis. [No Traveler Returns](#) (Bantam \$28).

L'Amour's long lost first novel is completed by his son, Beau, and earns this Starred Review: "As Beau explains in an afterword, he has taken the 'roughly patched' segments of what

would have been his father's first novel and turned them into a highly entertaining nautical adventure. The narrative focuses on the 33 men who comprise the crew of the tanker *SS Lichenfield*, which is carrying a cargo of highly explosive naphtha from Los Angeles across the Pacific in early 1939. L'Amour (1908–1988) drew on his experiences as a merchant seaman and those of his fellow sailors to create characters such as Dutchman Pete Brouwer, who's always planning to return home but never making it; Tex Worden, the lone survivor of a shipwreck; and thoughtful Second Mate John Harlan, who delivers some of the book's best lines.... Beau L'Amour has done his father's fans a service by showcasing the future bestselling author's already developed storytelling and mature insights into human nature."

Macfarlane, Robert. [The Lost Words](#) (Anansi \$35 comes with a bookplate signed by Macfarlane and illustrator Jackie Morris). Mere words can't do justice to this extraordinarily beautiful book. Which has a great story behind it. "Once upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first almost no one noticed—fading away like water on stone." So writes Robert Macfarlane in his wistful introduction to this large, lovely book of verse filled with sumptuous paintings by Jackie Morris. "The words were those that children used to name the natural world around them: acorn, adder, bluebell, bramble, conker—gone! Fern, heather, kingfisher, otter, raven, willow, wren...all of them gone!" No witch or sorcerer banished these words from the vocabulary of the young but editors at Oxford University Press who, a decade ago, began culling



terms that no longer seemed relevant for the users of OUP's junior dictionaries. Out went words about wild things, and in came chilly domesticated terms, including blog, broadband and bullet-point. A living language like English is always evolving, of course, but the supplanting of the real and natural by the artificial and machine-made in a children's dictionary speaks to a cultural shift that is more than linguistic. With elegance and a gorgeous visual summoning of plants and animals, *The Lost Words* invites children to appreciate 20 of the exiles, from acorns to wrens. Macfarlane, an eminent nature writer, evokes each with an acrostic poem—the first letter of each line spells the name of the thing described. This is a book to savor—by kids and their parents. I read it cover to cover in Frankfurt and then read it all over again. Drooling. Last year we recommended DK's [Remarkable Books](#) (\$30) as the most beautiful we could offer for the holidays. And now you can buy two such gems!

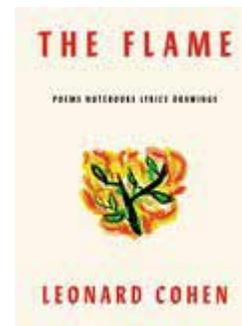
Reichl, Ruth. [The Best American Food Writing 2018](#) (Houghton \$15.99). The inaugural volume. "It's about time... Food is, in a very real sense, redesigning the world." Indeed, the twenty-eight pieces in this volume touch on every pillar of society: from the sense memories that connect a family through food, to the scientific tinkering that gives us new snacks to share, to the intersections of culinary culture with some of our most significant political issues.

✚Shott, Ben. [Jeeves and the King of Clubs](#) (Hutchinson \$39). Storm clouds loom over Europe. Treason is afoot in the highest social circles. The very security of the nation is in peril. Jeeves, it transpires, has long been an agent of British Intelligence, but now His Majesty's Government must turn to the one man who can help—Bertie Wooster. Seriously? See Signed Books for more.

✚Skaife, Christopher. [The Ravenmaster](#) (Farrar \$26). First-time author Yeoman Warder Christopher Skaife, of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London, takes readers inside his singular occupation as Ravenmaster, caretaker of the seven corvids who call the Tower home. According to legend, if all the Tower's ravens ever desert it, the fortress will fall and Great Britain itself will face peril. See New Books for more on a real charmer that will appeal to all Anglophiles, bird lovers, and history buffs. Skaife, a man of little formal education and 24-years Army service, does himself proud with his hard-won knowledge of the great fortress and its history, of ravens worldwide, and with his unique brand of care. I loved dipping in and out of this, a perfect way to kick back.

Spring, Justin. [The Gourmand's Way](#) (\$17). During the thirty-year boom in France following World War II—*les Trente Glorieuses*—Paris was not only the world's most stylish tourist destination, it was also the world capital of gastronomic genius. Spring tells the story of six American writer-adventurers having the time of their lives in the City of Light during this period and, in doing so, transforming the way Americans talk and think about food—and the way they eat. The six are A. J. Liebling, Alice B. Toklas, M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, Alexis Lichine, and Richard Olney. *The Gourmands' Way* is the first book ever to look at these unforgettable figures as a group. It is also the first to focus specifically on their Paris-based adventures. "The broad outline of Spring's thesis is so persuasive, the details so evocative (not to mention mouth watering), that anyone interested in the evolution of cooking in America will find *The Gourmands' Way* informative and indispensable." —Wendy Smith, *Boston Globe*

Teicher, Craig Morgan. [We Begin in Gladness: How Poets Progress](#) (Graywolf \$16) considers how poets start out, how they learn to hear themselves, and how some offer us that rare, glittering thing: lasting work. Teicher traces the poetic development of the works of Sylvia Plath, John Ashbery, Louise Glück, and Francine J. Harris, among others, to illuminate the paths they forged—by dramatic breakthroughs or by slow increments, and always by perseverance. *We Begin in Gladness* is indispensable for readers curious about the artistic life and for writers wondering how they might light out—or even scale the peak of the mountain. "Teicher's reasoning is sound, articulate, and accessible to readers of all poetic fluency levels, but also so original that even experts will find new ways of thinking about old favorites."



And what could be a better companion read than the late Leonard Cohen's [The Flame](#) (Farrar \$28)? "It's clear that Cohen remained sharp until the very end, and the book, a kind of farewell tribute by the poet-prophet, offers ample evidence of his abiding sense of humor... Though he claimed not to know the origins of his poetry nor to be able to locate his mission, what Cohen offered his many fans and followers was the opportunity to partake of the kind of

spiritual experience that makes it possible for us to feel, if only for a moment, that we are not alone." — *Los Angeles Review of Books*

Witherspoon, Reese. [Whiskey in a Teacup](#) (Touchstone \$35). Reese loves sharing her Southern grandmother Dorothea's most delicious recipes as well as her favorite southern traditions, from midnight barn parties to backyard bridal showers, magical Christmas mornings to rollicking honky-tonks. And baking biscuits.

WHAT TO DRINK?

Beckwith, Sebastian. [A Little Tea Book, All the Essentials](#) (Bloomsbury \$20). Tea, the most popular beverage in the world after water, has brought nations to war, defined cultures, bankrupted coffers, and toppled kings. And yet in many ways this fragrantly comforting and storied brew remains elusive, even to its devotees. As down-to-earth yet stylishly refined as the drink itself, *A Little Tea Book* submerges readers into tea, exploring its varieties, subtleties, and pleasures right down to the process of selecting and brewing the perfect cup. From orange pekoe to pu'er, tea expert Sebastian Beckwith provides surprising tips, fun facts, and flavorful recipes to launch dabblers and connoisseurs alike on a journey of taste and appreciation. For extra fun package this gift idea up with Lisa See's [The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) (\$16.95) which will inform you about pu'er. And Shona Patel's totally submersive [Teatime for the Firefly](#) (Mira \$15.95) which takes you to 1943 and the tea plantations in the jungles of Assam. Brava!

Greene, Philip. [A Drinkable Feast](#) (Perigree \$18). A history of the Lost Generation in 1920s Paris told through the lens of the cocktails they loved. In the Prohibition era, American cocktail enthusiasts flocked to the one place that would have them—Paris. In this sweeping look at the City of Light, cocktail historian Philip Greene follows the notable American ex-pats who made themselves at home in Parisian cafes and bars, from Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Gertrude Stein to Picasso,

Coco Chanel, Cole Porter, and many more. *A Drinkable Feast* reveals the history of more than 50 cocktails: who was imbibing them, where they were made popular, and how to make them yourself from the original recipes of nearly a century ago. Filled with anecdotes and photos of the major players of the day.

McInerney, Jay. [Wine Reads](#) (Grove \$27). The acclaimed wine columnist for *Town & Country*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *House and Garden* selects over twenty pieces of memorable fiction and nonfiction about the making, selling, and of course, drinking of fine wine. One of my favorite crime writers, the late Michael Dibdin, is included for Barolo, Barbaresco, and Brunello vintages.

Michelman, Jordan. [The New Rules of Coffee](#) (Potter \$14.99). This introduction to all things coffee written by the founders and editors of Sprudge, the premier website for coffee content, features a series of digestible rules accompanied by whimsical illustrations. Divided into three sections (At Home, At the Cafe, and Around the World), *The New Rules of Coffee* covers the basics of brewing and storage, cafe etiquette and tips for enjoying your visit, as well as essential information about coffee production (What is washed coffee?), coffee myths (Darker is not stronger!), plus facts, lore, and popular culture from around the globe.

Risen, Clay. [Single Malt](#) (Quercus \$29.99). Risen pleases with this introduction to the long history, fascinating science, and incredible diversity of malted whisky, as well as a practical drinker's guide to buying and enjoying hundreds of the greatest examples of the distiller's tradition. With maps of essential whisky regions of Scotland, profiles of each of the makers, and photographs of the bottles and tasting notes for each of the most widely available expressions—compiled from tasting sessions conducted by a panel of leading whisky experts—readers will discover a rich vein of knowledge about one of the world's most storied beverages. Selected from more than one hundred active distilleries in Scotland, the 330 expressions featured in this book provide a curated yet comprehensive primer of the single-malt whiskies. I wish we'd had this gem when we drive the whiskey trail along Scotland's River Spey which is a trip I recommend for scenery as well.

WHAT'S COOKING?

A selection of new fall publications we've added to our Food section

Deravian, Naz. [Bottom of the Pot](#) (Flatiron \$37.50) Persian recipes and stories

Eataly. [Eataly: All About Pasta](#) (Rizzoli \$25)

Farrimond, Stuart. [Spice: Understand the Science of Spice](#) (DK \$25)

Fetterman, Lisa. [Sous Vide Made Simple](#) (Potter \$30)

Flanagan, Shala. [Run Fast Cook Fast Eat Slow](#) (Potter \$24.99)

Gamoran, Joel. [Cooking Scrappy: Making More with Less](#) (Harper \$29.99)

Freedman, Georg. [Cooking South of the Clouds](#) (Octopus \$34.99) Recipes and stories from China's Yunan Province

Homolka, Gina. [Skinnytaste One and Done: 140 No Fuss Instant Dinners](#) (Potter \$30)

Hubb Community. [Together: Our Community Cookbook](#) (Potter \$16.99)

Kateman, Brian. [The Reducetarian Cookbook: 125 Easy, Healthy, Plant-based Recipes](#) (Center Street \$21.99)

Kimball, Christ. [Milk Street Tuesday Nights: More Than 200 Simple Weeknight Suppers](#) (LittleBrown \$35)

King, Tiffany. [Eat at Home Tonight: 101 Recipes for Slow Cooker etc](#) (Potter \$22)

Kochilas, Diane. [My Greek Table](#) (St Martins \$35)

Lo, Anita. [Solo: A Modern Cookbook for a Party of One](#) (Knopf \$28.95)

Ludwinski, Lisa. [Sister Pie](#) (Potter \$25) Recipes and Stories of the Big Hearted Detroit Bakery

Mackey, John. [Whole Foods Cookbook](#) (Grand Central \$30)

Matheson, Matty. [Matty Matheson, A Cookbook](#) (Harper \$35)

Menashe, Ori. [Bestia: Bold Italian Cooking](#) (Potter \$35)

Morante, Coco. [Ultimate Instant Pot Cookbook](#) (Potter \$29.99)

Pansino, Rosanna. [Baking All Year Round](#) (Atria \$29.99)

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NEW URBAN NOIRS FROM AKASHIC PRESS

A perfect gift for anyone set to travel to an unfamiliar destination, or to soak up more about a known one

[Montreal Noir](#) (\$15.95). "The best reason for reading short-story anthologies is to discover new writers. That means searching for talented editors to select the goods and, in this case, John McFetridge and Jacques Filippi have definitely delivered in this elegant collection for the wonderful Akashic city noir series. There are no bad stories here, but there are many standouts...It's worth having this book around for quick reading and rediscovery of old spots in Montreal. It also makes a great little gift for mystery fans, and even those who aren't."—*The Globe and Mail*

[Vancouver Noir](#) (\$15.95). Weibe and the 13 other mostly Canadian contributors to this solid anthology expose the seedy underbelly that belies the Vancouver known to tourists and fans of the many films shot in Hollywood North. "The rain-soaked Pacific Northwest may not be a tradition setting for 'noir' but with a city in flux, like Vancouver, there's no shortage of incisive, mysterious, violent stories, touching on the city's housing crisis, its thriving movie industry, and many more mysteries. Contributors include Nathan Ripley, Sheena Kamal, and the collection's editor, Sam Wiebe. This is the perfect balance of captivating page-turners and hard-hitting social noirs."—*CrimeRead*. Vancouver is host to Left Coast Crime March 18-31 2019.

COZY CRIMES

In addition to the books in our November 3 Cozy Con (see the front page of this Booknews), here is some other light holiday reading

Adams, Ellery. [The Whispered Word](#) (Kensington \$26). Secret Book and Scone Society #2. Miracle Books owner Nora Pennington and her fiction loving friends in small-town Miracle Springs, North Carolina, encounter a young woman desperately in need of a new beginning. She calls herself Abilene, and though Nora and her friends offer work, shelter, and a supportive ear, their guest isn't ready to divulge her secrets. But when a customer is found dead in an assumed suicide, Nora uncovers a connection that points to Abilene as either a suspect—or another target.

Allen, Amanda. [Santa Fe Mourning](#) (\$15.99). Madeline Vaughn-Alwin's picture-perfect life fades to gray when her childhood sweetheart perishes in the Great War. The aspiring painter leaves her wealthy New York family behind to travel across the country and start over in California. But when Maddie reaches Santa Fe, New Mexico, she halts her westward journey, certain she's found her new home amid the striking scenery and inspiring artistic community. To help out around her new adobe cottage, Maddie

hires the Anayas, a local Native American family. But when the father is found murdered outside a speakeasy, the police brush off the death as just another inebriated man finding trouble. Shocked and distraught, Maddie takes on the case herself...

Avon, Joy. [In Peppermint Peril](#) (Crippen \$26.99). In the run-up to Christmas Eve, organizer of book-themed tea parties Callie Aspen and her lovable Boston terrier will have to conquer three-fold trouble—a mysterious will, a missing heirloom and a dead body—to restore the festive spirit to their small town of Heart’s Harbor, Maine where her great aunt runs Book Tea, a vintage tearoom where every sweet treat contains a bookish clue.

Bell, Maymee. [Cake and Punishment](#) (\$15.99). Bucolic Rumford, Kentucky has glowing fields of bluegrass, a fine selection of bourbons, and now a professional pastry chef returned home from New York. Sophia Cummings, pastry chef extraordinaire, must craft the perfect cake for an old friend’s wedding while sifting through the suspects in a murder. Debuts a Southern baking cozy series.

Chance, Maia. [Naughty on Ice](#) (St Martins \$26.99). The Discreet Retrieval Agency is doing a brisk holiday business of retrieving lost parcels, grandmas, and stolen wreaths. But with their main squeezes Ralph and Jimmy once more on the back burner, both Lola and Berta pine for a holiday out of New York City. So when they receive a mysterious Christmas card requesting that they retrieve an antique ring at a family gathering in Maple Hill, Vermont, they jump at the chance. Sure, the card is signed Anonymous and it’s vaguely threatening, but it’s Vermont, so safe. In Maple Hill, several estranged members of the wealthy Goddard family gather. And no sooner do Lola and Berta recover the ring—from Great-Aunt Cressida Goddard’s arthritic finger—than Mrs. Goddard goes toes-up, poisoned by her Negroni cocktail on ice. When the police arrive, Lola and Berta are caught-red-handed with the ring, and it becomes clear that they were in fact hired not for their cracker-jack retrieving abilities, but to be scapegoats for murder. 4th in a Prohibition Era caper series.

Delany, Vicki. [Scandal in Scarlet](#) (Crippen \$26.99). Walking her dog Violet late one night, Gemma Doyle, owner of the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop, acts quickly when she smells smoke outside the West London Museum. Fortunately no one is inside, but it’s too late to save the museum’s priceless collection of furniture, and damage to the historic house is extensive. Baker Street’s shop owners come together to hold an afternoon auction tea to raise funds to rebuild, and Great Uncle Arthur Doyle offers a signed first edition of *The Valley of Fear*. But the auction never happens—I, museum board chair Kathy Lamb is found dead in the back room. Sherlock Holmes Bookshop Mystery #4.

Fletcher, Jessica. [Murder, She Wrote: Manuscript](#) (Berkley \$25). Jessica Fletcher has had plenty to worry about over her storied career, both as a bestselling novelist and amateur sleuth. But she never had any reason to worry about her longtime publisher, Lane Barfield, who also happens to be a trusted friend. When mounting evidence of financial malfeasance leads to an FBI investigation of Lane, Jessica can’t believe what she’s reading. So when Barfield turns up dead, Jessica takes on the task of proving Barfield’s innocence—she can’t fathom someone she’s known and trusted for so long cheating her. 48th in series, now being written by Jon Land.

Flower, Amanda. [Death and Daisies](#) (Crippen \$26.99). Fiona Knox thought she was pulling her life back together when she inherited her godfather’s cottage in Duncreigan, Scotland—complete with a magical walled garden. She cracked one murder. And now, imperious parish minister Quaid MacCullen makes it undeniably clear that he would be happy to send Fiona back to Tennessee. Then, a horrific lightning storm threatens to tear apart the elderly cottage and sends Fi and Isla cowering under their beds. The storm passes, but then the tiny village’s weak-kneed volunteer police chief, finds a dead body on the beach. Hmm—can it be the minister? #2 in the Magical Garden series.

Frost, Jacqueline. [The Twelve Slays of Christmas](#) (\$15.99). When Holly White’s fiancé cancels their Christmas Eve wedding with less than two weeks to go, Holly heads home with a broken heart. Lucky for her, home in historic Mistletoe, Maine is magical during Christmastime—exactly what the doctor ordered. Except her plan to drown her troubles in peppermints and snickerdoodles is upended when local grinch and president of the Mistletoe Historical Society Margaret Fenwick is bludgeoned and left in the sleigh display at Reindeer Games, Holly’s family tree farm. Sequel in late November.

Hechtman, Betty. [On the Hook](#) (\$15.99). Molly Pink and the Tarzana Hookers are busy crocheting baby blankets for charity, but before long, they’re tangled up in a mystery that may be their unraveling. Elise Belmont has earned her real estate license and is itching to show her first house. But when the house’s tenant turns up dead from a pink squirrel cocktail laced with cyanide, the Hookers could be on the hook for murder....

OUR NOVEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Bruen, Ken. [The Ghosts of Galway](#) (\$16). Irish ace Bruen gets a fair share of Starred Reviews: “Jack Taylor, Bruen’s perennially tortured protagonist, suffers new levels of angst in his 13th noir outing. Recovering from a failed suicide attempt after a mistaken diagnosis of terminal cancer, Taylor is trying to live the quiet life in Galway, working as a security guard and looking after his dog, Storm. Trouble, however, has a way of finding him. When his boss offers him a job searching for The Red Book, a lost heretical text apparently in the possession of an ex-priest hiding in Ireland, Taylor initially scoffs at the “Dan Brown lite” scheme, but he needs the money and ultimately accepts. Meanwhile, a series of slain animals are found in Galway’s Eyre Square accompanied by cryptic notes left by an ultra-right-wing group that aims to return to an earlier era of conservative religion. When Emily, the chameleon-like sociopath who’s flitted in and out of Jack’s life, turns out to be mixed up in the plot, things get really nasty. Bruen is in top form, and, although everything Taylor touches seems to turn to ash, he embodies such humanity that readers will be unable to resist rooting for him.” [Order](#) other Jack Taylors.

Burke, Alafair. [The Wife](#) (\$16.99). This is a real rocket ride, more propulsive than Burke’s earlier novels. “Angela Powell, the unreliable narrator of this plot-propelled roller-coaster of a domestic thriller from Edgar-finalist Burke,” is the wife of a respected NYU economics professor and rising media star and the mother of a 13-year-old. She leads a privileged, if somewhat boring life—which is precisely what she craves after miraculously surviving, as a teen, the kind of ordeal that spawns true crime tomes. But then intern Rachel Sutton accuses her husband, Jason, of sexual

harassment, and a second woman comes forward to claim rape and then suddenly vanishes. NYPD Detective Corrine Duncan doggedly investigates the initial allegations and later the disappearance of consultant Kerry Lynch, who Jason claims was his mistress. In the process, Corinne uncovers Angela's painstakingly buried past, and it starts to look as though almost no one, maybe least of all Angela, is who he or she seems.

✠Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder in an English Village](#) (\$15.95). Begins an engaging English village mystery series set in 1920 led by a village spinster with a nearly empty purse and her flamboyant American school friend, also single but a real high flyer, who too is lonely and answered Edwina's ad for a room to let in her home in Walmsley Parva and stays on to help out. Beryl starts a rumor that Edwina is not really broke but disguising her role as a secret agent. It leads to Edwina and Beryl solving a missing person case and a murder rooted in WWI since they have to investigate something to maintain this cover story. See Signed Books for book two.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Fields Where They Lay](#) (\$15.95). The halls are decked, the deck is stacked, and here comes that jolly old elf. Junior Bender, divorced father of one and burglar extraordinaire, finds himself stuck inside the Edgerton Mall, and not just as a last-minute shopper (though he is that too). Edgerton isn't exactly the epicenter of holiday cheer, despite its two Santas, canned Christmas music, chintzy bows, and festive lights. The mall is a fossil of an industry in decline; many of its stores are closed, and to make matters worse, there is a rampant shoplifting problem. The murderous Russian mobster who owns the place has decided it takes a thief to catch a thief and hires Junior—under threat—to solve the shoplifting problem for him. But Junior's surveillance operation doesn't go well. It's three days until Christmas and Junior, Hollywood's fast talking fixer for the felonious, is up to his ears in shopping mall Santas, Russian mobsters, desperate holiday shoppers, and ('tis the season) murder. I repeat this Pick since Hallinan joins us November 13 and can sign paperbacks for stocking stuffers.

Hendricks, Greer. [The Wife Between Us](#) (\$17.99). A fiendishly smart cat-and-mouse thriller" —*New York Times Book Review*. You will assume you are reading about a jealous ex-wife. You will assume she is obsessed with her replacement – a beautiful, younger woman who is about to marry the man they both love. You will assume you know the anatomy of this tangled love triangle. You will be wrong. A superior Trust No One. The authors join us on January 16 with a new book.

✠Jackson, Kate. [Golden Age of Detection Puzzles](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Talk about stocking stuffers. This gem is IT. Challenging, colorful, portable, fun, this is a November British Library Crime Classic.

Kepler, Lars. [Fire Witness](#) (\$16.95). A new translation from the Swedish for the 3rd detective Joona Linda investigation. He is on leave dealing with personal and professional issues when he gets pulled into the investigation of a horrific murder at a home for wayward teenage girls. One girl is dead, and another is missing. The local police want to close the case quickly, especially after they discover a bloody hammer under the missing girl's bed. But a woman claiming to see visions of the murdered girl insists there is more going on than meets the eye, and Joona is inclined to be-

lieve her. As he digs deeper into the case, he finds himself in dark and dangerous territory—think Nordic Noir such as Jo Nesbø and Stieg Larsson. [Order](#) the first two Linnas in their new translations.

✠Lovesey, Peter. [Beau Death](#) (\$16.95). Only Lovesey creates plots like this, our December 2017 British Crime Club Pick! A wrecking ball crashes through the roof of a terraced cottage in Bath and exposes a skeleton in eighteenth-century clothes. Can these possibly be the remains of Beau Nash, the so-called King of Bath, whose body is said to have ended up in a pauper's grave? Peter Diamond, the city's most experienced detective, is ordered to investigate, but grappling with historical events causes ructions in his team until everyone is diverted by a modern killing during a fireworks display on the Royal Crescent lawn. Yet Beau Nash refuses to be ignored—and when astonishing new facts emerge about the case, Bath's history is rewritten and mysteries ancient and modern are fused in a devastating climax. The thing about Lovesey is that no matter how wild the hare he courses, it's all possible. And infused with humor. Lovesey is this year's recipient of the Mystery Writers of America's Grand Master award, which makes him one of only 13 in history to be a recipient of the CWA Diamond Dagger and a MWA Grand Master, and one of only four living. You can [order](#) the earlier Supt. Peter Diamonds, all much loved by me.

Mamet, David. [Chicago](#) (\$17.99). Mike Hodge—veteran of the Great War, big shot of the *Chicago Tribune*, medium fry—probably shouldn't have fallen in love with Annie Walsh. Then, again, maybe the man who killed Annie Walsh had known better than to trifle with Mike Hodge. "A big-shouldered, big-trouble thriller set in mobbed-up 1920s Chicago"—a city where some people knew too much, and where everyone should have known better—by the Oscar-nominated screenwriter of *The Untouchables* and Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright of *Glengarry Glen Ross*.

Massey, Sujata. [The Widows of Malabar Hill](#) (\$16.95). Bombay, 1921. This outstanding series launch from Agatha-winner Massey introduces Perveen Mistry, Bombay's first female solicitor, who works for her father's law firm, handling contracts and estate work. Faisal Mukri, the trustee of the estate of recently deceased textile-mill owner Omar Farid, writes to the Mistry firm to request changes in the estate settlement, claiming that Farid's three widows want to donate all their assets to a charitable foundation that would benefit the needy while paying them an annuity. The paperwork documenting the widows' intentions appears suspect, and Perveen's visit to their home and her conversation with Mukri only strengthen her conviction that something irregular is at work. Her due diligence in insuring that the widows' interests are protected eventually enmeshes her in a murder investigation. "In addition to getting an unusual perspective on women's rights and relationships, readers are treated to a full view of historical downtown Bombay—the shops and offices, the docks and old fort, and the huge variety of conveyances, characters, and religions—in an unforgettable olio that provides the perfect backdrop to the plot and subplots. Each of the many characters is uniquely described, flaws and all, which is the key to understanding their surprising roles in the well-constructed puzzle."

✠Robinson, Maggie. [Nobody's Sweetheart Now](#) (\$15.95). Our **November History Paperback Pick** makes an enchanting kick-back from the holidays. Why?

“A lively debut filled with local color, red herrings, both sprightly and spritely characters, a smidgen of social commentary, and a climactic surprise.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. Lady Adelaide is the recent widow of Major Rupert Compton. Theirs “was not a happy union, and there was no one in Britain more relieved than Addie when Rupert smashed up his Hispano-Suiza on a quiet Cotswold country road with Mademoiselle Claudette Labelle in the passenger seat.” Six months after the funeral, Addie is preparing for a dinner party at her country house, Compton Chase, when Rupert’s ghost appears in her dressing room, offering unasked-for criticism about her dress: “far too flimsy and sheer and short.” It seems that Rupert must do some good deeds in order to be allowed into heaven. How he will do this is a mystery to them both. Addie joins her guests downstairs, but the dinner is interrupted when a dead—and nude—body is found in her barn. Scotland Yard’s Inspector Devenand Hunter investigates, aided by Addie and the meddlesome major. (This treat is our **November History Book of the Month Club Pick** in signed hardcover.)

✠Thomas, Will. [Old Scores](#) (\$16.99). It’s 1890. The first Japanese diplomatic delegation arrives in London to open an embassy. Private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker who does the occasional gig for the Foreign Office is enlisted to display his personal Japanese garden to the dignitaries. And so he does. Later that night Ambassador Toda is shot and killed and Cyrus is discovered across the street, watching the murder scene at the home a Lord has loaned to the Japanese for its embassy, and armed with a revolver. It has one spent cartridge. The Special Branch quickly arrests Barker, but his ace assistant Thomas Llewelyn and his solicitor get him released. And then General Mononobe, who’s stepped up as the new Ambassador, hires Barker to find the actual killer—and the motive for so bizarre a crime? Barker takes the case and in doing so inevitably opens up his own fraught past, a real plus for fans of this terrific series that is inspired by the classic Holmes/Watson partnership. See Signed Books for the delightful sequel, and [order](#) them all.

OUR NOVEMBER BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB PICKS
British Crime Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Truss, Lynn. [A Shot in the Dark](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Berry, Tamara. [Séances Are for Suckers](#)

Discovery Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Braithwaite, Oyinkan. [My Sister the Serial Killer](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Wojtas, Olga. [Miss Blaine’s Prefect and the Golden Samovar](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One Signed First per month

Harvey, Michael. [Pulse](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Robinson, Maggie. [Nobody’s Sweetheart Now](#)

History Paperback One per month

Robinson, Maggie. [Nobody’s Sweetheart Now](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

TBA

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Harris, Charlaine. [An Easy Death](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First per month

Crosby, Ellen. [Harvest of Secrets](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Baldacci, David. [Long Road to Mercy](#)

SOME NEW BOOKS

Bagley, Desmond. [The Freedom Trap](#) (Collins \$12.99). A new release from the Collins vaults of classics is this thriller by Bagley. An agent of the British Government is sent on a new and deadly assignment: to snare The Scarperers (a notorious gang of criminals who organize gaol-breaking for long-term prisoners) and Slade, a notorious Russian double agent whom they have recently liberated. The trail leads him to Malta, where he comes face-to-face with these ruthless killers and must outwit them to save his own life.

Bell, Albert A., Jr. [The Gods Help Those](#) (Perseverance Press \$15.95). In his 7th investigation, Pliny the Younger is summoned down to the Tiber by the vigils where torrential rains have washed away the foundations of his warehouse. Which contains several dead people: one of them, a man apparently of the equestrian class who, Pliny discovers, was stabbed earlier before crushed. A woman is faintly alive. And...there’s a baby that is rescued by Pliny’s household slave and lover, Aurora. On horrible terms with his wife Livia, Pliny has long concealed his relationship with Aurora who has recently suffered a miscarriage and fiercely insists on taking in the tiny boy. Who is circumcised and thus is a Jew. And it turns out, so is the murdered man whose mouth is stuffed with 30 denarii and sewn shut. So this excellent story explores not only Ancient Rome in the late 1st Century AD but mixes in Roman politics and religion along with that of Jews dispersed after the Roman conquest of Judea. Also the lives of slaves as well as patricians, and looks at Roman divorce law. Along with Pliny, his friend Tacitus is an historical character. For another view of Pliny as an investigator try Bruce Macbain’s [Roman Games](#) (\$14.95), a Roman locked-room mystery.

Blaedel, Sarah. [The Midnight Witness](#) (Grand Central \$7.99). “After a breakdown that put her out of commission for a year, Sara Blaedel’s intrepid Danish police detective, Louise Rick, is back on the job in Mark Kline’s translation, investigating the homicide of a young woman found strangled in a quiet Copenhagen park. Coincidentally (or not), a crime reporter with a major newspaper is found stabbed to death behind the Royal Hotel, and since a journalist outranks a 23-year-old nurse, Rick is reassigned to the high-profile case. Although Rick refuses to give up on the nurse, the easy answer — that she was murdered by her boyfriend — doesn’t pan out. So the detective finds herself juggling both cases, plus the demands of her own longtime boyfriend, who has been offered a job in Scotland and wants her to come along. ‘It’s about you and me,’ he insists. ‘This is about making sacrifices for each other.’ He presents a good argument, but given that Rick may be in line to become the first female head of the homicide division, that decision seems like a no-brainer.”—*NY Times Book Review*

Bohnhoff, Maya Kaathryn. [The Antiquities Hunter](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). A feisty private detective goes undercover to try to break up a ring of antiquities smugglers. Gina “Tinkerbelle” Miyoko barely hits five feet, but her fierce attitude makes up for her tiny stature and keeps her busy as a private detective in San Francisco. Her mother (who may or may not be a Russian witch) and her

father (a former SFPD detective), are very protective, constantly overloading Gina with Russian *obereg* and Japanese *mingei* as charms to protect her. Gina may need the charms most when she gets a case far outside her usual realm of cheating spouses and deadbeat dads. Her best friend, Rose, an undercover agent for the National Park Service, is worried she's being stalked, so the NPS hires Gina to be Rose's bodyguard on a mission to break up a ring of Mayan antiquities smugglers. But plans go awry, and Rose is badly injured, forcing Gina to take Rose's place. Suddenly Gina is in Mexico, with a handsome archeologist assisting her as she cozies up to some Mexican bigwigs. She'll need every bit of her brashness and wits to outsmart the bad guys, protect the antiquities and resist Dr. Cruz Veras' allure.

Boyne, John. [A Ladder to the Sky](#) (Hogarth \$27). "Enter the disturbing world of high stakes publishing and meet an author so twisted and unscrupulous you will beg for justice. For readers who like an unlikeable character and sardonic tone." Maurice Swift is handsome, charming, and hungry for fame. The one thing he doesn't have is talent – but he's not about to let a detail like that stand in his way. After all, a would-be writer can find stories anywhere. They don't need to be his own. Working as a waiter in a West Berlin hotel in 1988, Maurice engineers the perfect opportunity: a chance encounter with celebrated novelist Erich Ackermann. He quickly ingratiates himself with the powerful – but desperately lonely – older man, teasing out of Erich a terrible, long-held secret about his activities during the war. Perfect material for Maurice's first novel. Once Maurice has had a taste of literary fame, he knows he can stop at nothing in pursuit of that high....

Braithwaite, Oyinkan. [My Sister the Serial Killer](#) (Doubleday \$22.95). This debut from a Nigerian author is both sly and wrenching—and bloody—making our **November Discovery Club Book of the Month Pick**. Korede, a nurse, has just received a call from her younger sister. Ayoola has just killed her third boyfriend and a quick Google search reveals that 3 murders = serial killer. What is a big sister to do? "Korede puts up with so much from her sister Ayoola (the serial killer). Braithwaite tells a dark, lively, and funny story of how begrudgingly cleaning up after someone else's deadly habits is just one of those things one does for family." But it's more than that as Ayoola's history is revealed. Still, there's no ducking the fact that it will all come to grief if not in Braithwaite's story.

Bruen, Ken. [In the Galway Silence](#) (Grove \$26). After much tragedy and violence, Jack Taylor has at long last landed at contentment. Of course, he still knocks back too much Jameson and dabbles in uppers, but he has a new woman in his life, a freshly bought apartment, and little sign of trouble on the horizon. Once again, trouble comes to him, this time in the form of a wealthy Frenchman who wants Jack to investigate the double-murder of his twin sons—Menendez brothers wannabes. Jack is meanwhile roped into looking after his girlfriend's nine-year-old son, and is in for a shock with the appearance of a character out of his past. "Powered by nonstop action and acerbic wit, Edgar-finalist Bruen's 14th novel featuring ex-cop Jack Taylor is—like the pints of Guinness that the saga's existentially tortured, pill-popping antihero consumes on a daily basis—unfathomably dark." For the 13th Taylor, see Our November Large Paperback Picks.

Burrows, Steve. [A Tiding of Magpies](#) (Oneworld \$14.99). I am really hooked on this wonderful Birder Murder Mystery series of which this is the 5th entry. When his most celebrated case is suddenly reopened, Detective Chief Inspector Jejeune's long-buried secrets threaten to come to light. Meanwhile, his girlfriend, Lindy, faces an unseen threat of her own, one which Jejeune may not be able to protect her from. Between fending off inquiries from the internal review and an open murder case to solve, more than ever Jejeune will have to rely on the help of the stalwart Sergeant Danny Maik. But Maik is learning things on his own that have caused him to question his DCI's actions, both past and present. Read it with Christopher Skaife's book (below) about being the Tower of London's Ravenmaster. [Order](#) all the Burrows, best read from the beginning, and enjoy odd plots, intriguing characters...plus you learn nifty stuff.

Clark, Mary Higgins/Alafair Burke. [You Don't Own Me](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). When we last saw Laurie Moran, she had recently become engaged to her show's former host, Alex Buckley. Since then, the two have been happily planning a summer wedding and honeymoon, preparing for Alex's confirmation to a federal judicial appointment, and searching for the perfect New York City home for their new life together. But then Laurie is approached by Robert and Cynthia Bell, parents of Dr. Martin Bell, a famously charming and talented physician who was shot dead as he pulled into the driveway of his Greenwich Village carriage house five years ago. The Bells are sure that Martin's disgraced and erratic wife, Kendra, carried out the murder. Determined to prove Kendra's guilt and win custody over their grandchildren, they plead with Laurie to feature their son's case on "Under Suspicion," ensuring her that Kendra is willing to cooperate. Naturally it's not that simple....

Cleveland, Karen. [Need to Know](#) (\$16). Our February 2018 First Mystery Book of the Month Club Pick, now in paperback. Vivian Miller is a dedicated CIA counterintelligence analyst assigned to uncover the leaders of Russian sleeper cells in the United States. On track for a much-needed promotion, she's developed a system for identifying Russian agents, seemingly normal people living in plain sight. After accessing the computer of a potential Russian operative, Vivian stumbles on a secret dossier of deep-cover agents within America's borders. A few clicks later, everything that matters to her—her job, her husband, even her four children—are threatened. Vivian has vowed to defend her country against all enemies, foreign and domestic. But now she's facing an impossible choice. And worse, her husband Tom confirms her discovery. Where can they go from there? The Indie Next Pick: "Vivian Miller is good at her job, and dedicated. But what she discovers will blow apart everything she thought she knew about her life. What do you do when the choice is country or family? How do you protect your children — and Vivian cares deeply about her children — while walking a tightrope between two superpowers? There are twists and turns aplenty as Vivian steps into a dangerous game that could destroy everything she loves and values. Cleveland keeps the tension going right to the very last page.

✶Cornwell, Bernard. [War of the Wolf](#) (Harper \$28.99). Saxon Tales #11. See Signed Books for more of Game of Thrones series—but real.

De Rosnay, Tatiana. [The Rain Watcher](#) (St Martins \$27.99). De Rosnay once again uses Paris as a dramatic backdrop. The novel overlays the small dramas of a family amid the crushing events of a devastating natural disaster. The Malegarde family gathers in Paris to celebrate father Paul's 70th birthday and his 40th anniversary with wife Lauren. Their grown children, Linden and Tilia, travel from San Francisco and London, respectively, for the long-overdue reunion. As each family member arrives at the hotel, rain pours outside, accompanied by warnings in the news of potential catastrophic flooding. Their celebratory weekend quickly falls apart as first Paul and then Lauren become seriously ill while the Seine continues to rise and much of the city is evacuated. De Rosnay creates a dark and ominous atmosphere as the family crisis unfolds in parallel with the growing natural disaster.

Eskens, Allen. [The Shadows We Hide](#) (LittleBrown \$27). Karen reviews: Joe Talbert Jr. first appeared in Eskens award winning book, *The Life We Bury*. In this sequel, Joe lives with his girlfriend who is cramming for her law exams, and his special needs brother, Jeremy. Joe is a cub reporter for the Associated Press and is being threatened with a law suit for an article he wrote. A leave of absence offers him time to explore the murder of a man named Joseph Talbert, potentially a father he never met and whose reputation did not erase everything he knew about the man. Joe begins a journey of discovery of his fractured family and the possibility of an inheritance he never saw coming. Readers will be treated to a surprise ending. *PW* gives this title a starred review, noting the "deeply developed characters" and describing it as a "darkly lyrical and brutally intimate story..." It's a pleasure to read.

Feeney, Alice. [Sometimes I Lie](#) (\$16.99). My name is Amber Reynolds. There are three things you should know about me: 1. I'm in a coma. 2. My husband doesn't love me anymore. 3. Sometimes I lie. This Trust No One got lots of buzz in hardcover. "Alice Feeney's twisty psychological thriller, *Sometimes I Lie*, her debut novel, slides neatly into the company of Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl* and Paula Hawkins's *The Girl on the Train*. With its various plot twists, it's a dizzying, disturbing read that becomes hard to put down once Amber tells us, 'I'm back now and I remember everything.'" —*The Minneapolis Star Tribune*

♀Fellowes, Jessica. [Bright Young Dead](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Meet the Bright Young Things, the rabble-rousing hedonists of the 1920s whose treasure hunts were a media obsession. One such game takes place at the 18th birthday party of Pamela Mitford, but ends in tragedy as cruel, charismatic Adrian Curtis is pushed to his death from the church neighboring the Mitford home. The police quickly identify the killer as a maid, Dulcie. But Louisa Cannon, chaperone to the Mitford girls and a former criminal herself, believes Dulcie to be innocent, and sets out to clear the girl's name... all while the real killer may only be steps away. For Signed UK copies, see Signed Books.

Forsyth, Frederick. [The Fox](#) (Putnam \$28). I finally had time to read this possibly last book by thriller master Forsyth and I couldn't put it down. Not just because of the story—an 18-year-old Asperger's kid working in a cobbled-together attic computer room is gifted with such skill and intuition he can break into the world's most secure systems, attracts an MI5 SWAT team with American members, is set to work against today's major threats (e.g., Iran, Korea, Russia...)—but because of the characters,

especially the aging British knight/spy, and the outcomes one wishes would/could come true in the messed up world we're in.

Fraser, Caroline. [Prairie Fires](#) (\$17). The *Little House* books, for all the hardships they describe, are paeans to the pioneer spirit, portraying it as triumphant against all odds. But Laura Ingalls Wilder's real life was harder and grittier than that, a story of relentless struggle, rootlessness, and poverty. It was only in her sixties, after losing nearly everything in the Great Depression, that she turned to children's books, recasting her hardscrabble childhood as a celebratory vision of homesteading—and achieving fame and fortune in the process, in one of the most astonishing rags-to-riches episodes in American letters. Drawing on unpublished manuscripts, letters, diaries, and land and financial records, Caroline Fraser—the editor of the Library of America edition of the *Little House* series—masterfully fills in the gaps in Wilder's biography which has won The Pulitzer Prize, The National Book Critics Circle Award, *The Chicago Tribune* Heartland Prize for NonFiction, and a place in the *NY Times* 10 Best Books of 2017. Wilder's legend is in this disruptive age not without controversy.

Harris, Robert. [Munich](#) (\$16.95). Hugh Legat is a rising star of the British diplomatic service, serving at 10 Downing Street as a private secretary to the Prime Minister, Neville Chamberlain. Paul von Hartmann is on the staff of the German Foreign Office—and secretly a member of the anti-Hitler resistance. The two men were friends at Oxford in the 1920s, but have not been in contact since. Now, when Hugh flies with Chamberlain from London to Munich, and Hartmann travels on Hitler's train overnight from Berlin, their paths are set on a disastrous collision course. And once again, Robert Harris gives us actual events of historical importance—here are Hitler, Chamberlain, Mussolini, Daladier—with his thrilling plot.

♁Harvey, John. [Body and Soul](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). When his estranged daughter Katherine suddenly appears on his doorstep, Frank Elder, a former copper who resigned for life in Cornwall at this and that and now works as a civilian attached to the Devon and Cornwall Major Incident Support Team knows that something is badly wrong. The breakdown of her relationship with a controversial artist has sent her into a self-destructive tailspin which culminates in murder. And as Elder struggles to protect Katherine and prove her innocence, the terrors of the past threaten them both once more. This is the 4th Elder, the book Harvey swore he'd never write which of course makes it more compelling to find out why by reading it

Havill, Steven. [Lies Come Easy](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Visit Posadas County in NM's boot heel during the Christmas season when cold murder rages. Terrific stuff. See Signed Books for more.

Higashino, Keigo. [Newcomer](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Detective Kyochiro Kaga of the Tokyo Police Department has just been transferred to a new precinct in the Nihonbashi area of Tokyo. Newly arrived, but with a great deal of experience, Kaga is promptly assigned to the team investigating the murder of a woman. But the more he investigates, the greater number of potential suspects emerges. Buried somewhere in the woman's past, in her family history, and the last few days of her life is the clue that will lead to the murderer. The story is told almost entirely through the perspective of people he interviews, gradually reveal-

ing the puzzling who, how, and why in this mystery. “For fans of Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie and Columbo as well as lovers of international crime novels.” And then there is this view: “Part Sherlock Holmes, part Harry Bosch, Higashino’s hero is a quietly majestic force to be reckoned with.” —*Kirkus* Starred Review.

✎Horowitz, Anthony. [Forever and a Day](#) (Harper \$26.99). Yes, it’s Bond. James Bond. In an origin story for 007. The arresting opening sentence, “So, 007 is dead,” refers to Bond’s predecessor, whose body was found floating in the water off Marseilles, where he was investigating the activities of the Corsican underworld. M dispatches Bond, newly recruited to the Double-O section, to the South of France to track down the agent’s killer. In his last radio transmission, the first 007 mentioned Sixtine, a mysterious independent operative, whom Bond makes a point of meeting at a casino. Sixtine leads him to Corsican mobster Jean-Paul Scipio, a classic Bond villain who’s so obese that he can “pulverize his enemies using his own weight.” There is no end to the fun and fascination of Ian Fleming’s creation as interpreted by fine writers like Horowitz, Deaver, etc.

✎Jewell, Lisa. [Then She Was Gone](#) (\$16). More than a whiff of *The Lovely Bones* wafts through this haunting domestic noir. The disappearance of beautiful, brainy 15-year-old Ellie Mack in May 2005 from her north London neighborhood takes a terrible toll on her parents and siblings, even a decade later. Most profoundly affected is her now-divorced mother, Laurel. After a shocking development in the cold case jolts Laurel from her lonely limbo, Laurel stuns herself by agreeing to dinner with a man she meets in a café, genial author Floyd Dunn, and quickly falls into a relationship with him and the younger of his daughters, precocious nine-year-old Poppy—who reminds Laurel eerily in so many ways of Ellie. But then unsettling coincidences start to emerge....

King, Stephen. [Elevation](#) (Scribner \$19.95). *PW* reviews: “In this surprisingly sweet and quietly melancholy short novel, King weaves an eerie, charming tale of the ways that strange circumstances can bring people together. Scott Carey is losing weight, but not mass, and there’s no scientific explanation for it. Scales register him as lighter and lighter, though his body remains as potbellied as ever, and the effect is constant regardless of what he’s wearing or holding. Shaken by his untreatable, supernatural ailment, Scott begins to notice the world around him—and particularly becomes aware of the nasty prejudice that other residents of Castle Rock, Maine, are inflicting on his lesbian neighbors, Deirdre and Missy. He sets out to fix the injustice ailing their small town, and maybe make some friends along the way. This is a lilting ode to the ineffable power that crises hold to change and mold those involved into something new. King’s tender story is perfect for any fan of small towns, magic, and the joys and challenges of doing the right thing.”

✎Kinsey, TE. [A Picture of Murder](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). In the 4th for Lady Hardcastle and her trusted lady’s maid Florence, it’s late October, 1909, in Littleton Cotterell. Lady Hardcastle has developed a passion for making motion pictures of the village via her camera. A kitchen fire at Lady Farley-Stroud’s sends the guests for the village’s first film festival over to stay. They’re an interesting company and there is a fierce rivalry going on between its head and his former partner. Their motion picture *The Witch’s Downfall* gets its first screening on Halloween along with a murder. And the next night, another. One by one the actors turn

up dead in ways that echo their roles. Lady Hardcastle and Flo, realizing the police are baffled, summon up their skills as former agents of the crown and launch an investigation.... Ingenious and fun, as is this whole series. [Order](#) them all—I still like *A Quiet Life in the Country* best.

Lange, Richard. [The Smack](#) (\$15.99). A book Patrick recommends is also noted in the NY Times Book Review: “The caper plot is tidier (and more violent) than Lange’s usual free-form efforts, with a solid back story about Army buddies conniving to retrieve the cash they made from stolen goods...in Afghanistan. The book is most fun, though, when it focuses on Petty’s clever ruses to separate the rubes from their life’s savings...Lange’s bread and butter are his quick studies of colorful characters, many of whom die here in unpleasant ways.”

Loewenstein, Laurie. [Death of a Rainmaker](#) (Akashic \$16.95). Small-town sheriff, Temple Jennings, shoulders yet another burden in the hard times of the 1930s Dust Bowl, when an investigation closes in on a teenager serving with the Civilian Conservative Corps. Temple’s wife, Etha, quickly becomes convinced of the teen’s innocence and sets out to prove it. But Etha’s own probe soon reveals a darker web of secrets, which imperil Temple’s chances of reelection and cause the husband and wife to confront their long-standing differences about the nature of grief.

Patterson, James. [Target Alex Cross](#) (LittleBrown \$29). Six assassins are on the loose. A leader has fallen, and Alex Cross joins the procession of mourners from Capitol Hill to the White House. Then a sniper’s bullet strikes a target in the heart of DC. Alex Cross’s wife, Bree Stone, newly elevated chief of DC detectives must solve the case or lose her position. The Secret Service and the FBI deploy as well in the race to find the shooter.

Rademacher, Cay. [Deadly Camargue](#) (St Martins \$26.99). This 2nd Provence Mystery after [Murderous Mistral](#) (\$16) defines cynical. It’s a staple of British crime TV and often books that senior officers and politicians are more interested in hushing up damage than solving crime and distributing justice. Here it’s the French clamping down and giving the rich and/or elite passes. Capitaine Roger Blanc has in fact been exiled from Paris to the Camargue for probing too deeply and pissing off a politico (clearly a nemesis who will keep following him even into the marshes). And now when a prize fighting bull is gunned down by an overeager cop when found having gored a cyclist who passed by as the bull charged out of the (open) gate of his field, Blanc doesn’t believe it was a careless latch or other accident. In fact he finds a little bit of evidence at the scene. As he tried to investigate under the radar we learn a lot about Vincent Van Gogh, a local museum, a missing painting, and all manner of hush-ups.

Schweizer, Mark. [The Choir Director Wore Out](#) (St James Music \$13.95 Signed). In Liturgical Mystery #15, the final volume, it was a dark and stormy night: the wind whistled like an old man with drugstore teeth trying to teach his grandkids to say, “She sells sea shells by the sea shore,” causing the little shavers to wonder why Peepaw was suddenly talking like Daffy Duck, whether he’d just had a stroke, and if any one of them was in the will. So begins Police Chief Hayden Konig’s final opus. His writing skills have not improved (despite using Raymond Chandler’s typewriter to bang out his hard-boiled prose), but his crime solving prowess is still first rate. He’ll need it, since murder seems to abound in the little Appalachian town of St. Germaine, North

Carolina. St. Germaine is in a season of change: a couple of new shops have appeared on the square; the Great Smoky Mountain Renaissance Festival has just opened out at Camp Possumtickle; and St. Barnabas Church has a new priest, straight from France. As well as having his Episcopal appointment from the bishop, Father Moneyduck is also a famous mystery author and detective. It's a good thing, because the police department has a raft of homicides on its hands with no end in sight. Of course, they do things a little differently in France ... Order all the [Liturgical Mysteries](#).

Simenon, George. [Maigret and the Reluctant Witness](#) (Penguin \$13). When the head of a powerful Parisian family business is murdered in his bed, Maigret must pick apart the family's darkest secrets to reveal the truth. #53 in the Maigret series.

✠Skaife, Christopher. [The Ravenmaster](#) (Farrar \$26). First-time author Yeoman Warder Christopher Skaife, of Her Majesty's Royal Palace and Fortress of the Tower of London, takes readers inside his singular occupation as Ravenmaster, caretaker of the seven corvids who call the Tower home. According to legend, if all the Tower's ravens ever desert it, the fortress will fall and Great Britain itself will face peril. To stave off this fate and also entertain the millions of visitors to the Tower each year, the landmark maintains a small unkindness of the intelligent, mischievous birds. Part tour guide and part gamekeeper, Skaife lives at the Tower and bears responsibility for the health and happiness of its feathered occupants. In bite-size chapters more akin to essays, he relates delightful tidbits about nearly everything to do with the birds and The Tower. He toured the US in his Tudor uniform; regrettably, not here. This is a charmer for you Anglophiles and bird fanciers.

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Colors of All the Cattle](#) (Knopf \$25.95). And here is the 19th in the No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency Series finding Mma Precious Ramotswe entering into politics. When Mma Potokwane suggests to Mma Ramotswe that she run for a seat on the City Council, Mma Ramotswe is at first unsure. But when she learns about the proposed construction of the flashy Big Fun Hotel next to a graveyard, she allows herself to be persuaded. Her opponent is none other than Violet Sephotho, who is in the pocket of the hotel developers. Although Violet is intent on using every trick in the book to secure her election, Mma Ramotswe refuses to promise anything beyond what she can deliver—hence her slogan: “I can't promise anything—but I shall do my best.” To everyone's surprise, she wins. Then what?

Starr, Jason. [Fugitive Red](#) (Oceanview \$26.95). Jack and Maria have a tortuous history. Currently, they live in a claustrophobic Manhattan apartment with their eight-year-old son, Jonah. Jack has quit booze, but his music career ended abruptly, and he isn't doing much better as a real estate agent. Maria's doing well at her corporate job, but she travels frequently. While they both love their son, they don't seem to have much else in common and their sex life is nonexistent. When a former band member tells Jack about a new extramarital dating app called Discreet Hookups, Jack quickly meets Sophia, who goes by the online name Fugitive Red. Jack and Sophia hit it off and have a steamy online affair. When Jack agrees to rendezvous with Sophia at her townhouse, he discovers her dead—strangled by a red necktie. Immediately, Jack becomes a person of interest in the murder. Convinced that Sophia's husband is the killer, Jack sets out to

prove his innocence and save his marriage. Instead, he leaves a trail of dead bodies in his wake. Patrick is a longtime fan of Starr.

Thompson, Victoria. [City of Secrets](#) (Berkley \$26). In the second for Elizabeth Miles, a grifter turned suffragette who finds that playing by high society's rules is her greatest con, has befriended a sister suffragette called Priscilla Knight. The twice-widowed young woman has been robbed of her life savings and left destitute. Worse, Elizabeth realizes the circumstances surrounding the deaths of both Priscilla's husband are...suspicious. Despite the disapproval of her fiancé, attorney Gideon Bates whose formidable mother is a rules player, Elizabeth digs in and learns that Priscilla's second husband was being manipulated by blackmailers in possession of compromising photographs. While Gideon struggles with Elizabeth's tactics, we learn the story from more than one point of view including that of the very handsome minister. The casual sexism on parade would stir up a modern #MeToo response.

✠Todd, Charles. [The Gate Keeper](#) (\$15.99). It's December, 1920. Inspector Ian Rutledge, an emotionally scarred WWI veteran, is driving in Suffolk after closing another harrowing case, with no particular destination in mind, when his headlamps catch a car stopped in front of him. Next to the car, a woman with blood-stained hands is bending over a man lying in the road. Rutledge stops to investigate. The man, Stephen Wentworth, is dead. The woman explains that Stephen was driving her home after a dinner party when a man stepped out in front of them. After Stephen got out of their vehicle and exchanged a few words with him, the man shot Stephen. Over local opposition, Rutledge successfully lobbies to take charge of the inquiry, and then struggles to learn why anyone would want to murder Stephen, a popular local bookseller. He's not about to buy into a theory the killing was random. Excellent! As are all the [Ian Rutledge](#) cases.

✠Truss, Lynne. [A Shot in the Dark](#) (Bloomsbury \$27). Our **November British Crime Book of the Month Club Pick** gets this review: “We all know Truss can work miracles—after all, she managed to make a manual on punctuation (*Eats, Shoots and Leaves*) a bestseller—but I doubt even Constable Twitten could work out how she has produced a whodunit that exudes heart-warming coziness whilst boasting ‘Game of Thrones’ levels of violent death, or given her cast of amusing caricatures more life than most of the characters I've encountered in fiction this year.” —*Daily Telegraph*

Tursten, Helene. [An Elderly Lady is Up to No Go](#) (Soho \$12.99). Little old lady. Stone-cold killer. Meet Maud, an 88-year-old Swedish woman with no family, no friends...and no qualms about a little murder to preserve her peaceful, private life. For the past seventy years, Maud has lived in her family's spacious apartment in downtown Gothenburg, content with traveling the world and surfing the net from her father's ancient armchair. It's a solitary existence, and she likes it that way. Over the course of her adventures, this little old lady will handle a crisis with a local celebrity who has her eyes on Maud's apartment, foil the engagement of a long-ago lover, and dispose of some pesky neighbors. But when the local authorities are called to investigate a dead body found in Maud's apartment, will Maud finally become a suspect? A stocking stuffer for a wide range of readers. Love this from Peter Lovesey: “I ought to feel guilty for enjoying her crimes, but I

don't.”

Yokoyama, Hideo. [Seventeen](#) (Farrar \$28) is an investigative thriller that focuses on the real-life tragedy of Japan Airlines Flight 123, a 1985 crash that left 520 dead. This follow-up to his novel *Six Four* draws heavily on the author's experience as a reporter at a local newspaper in Gunma Prefecture after the passenger plane crashed into a nearby mountain range. His novel follows fictional protagonist Kazumasa Yuuki, an experienced reporter at the North Kanto Times in Gunma. Yuuki's career has been stalled for years after a tragic incident with a coworker, but he finds his status elevated once he's assigned to be desk chief for the JAL crash. The novel alternates between the frenzy of the 1985 newsroom and 2003, when Yuuki attempts to fulfill a promise made in those hectic days by climbing the famously dangerous Tsutate rock face on Mount Tanigawa. Nicknamed “Devil's Mountain,” Tanigawa claimed 779 lives prior to Yuuki's attempt, and he is understandably nervous. These sections of the novel frequently reference the phenomenon known as “climber's high,” when “the body gets overstimulated, reaches a level of extreme excitement. The fear makes them numb.... They climb in a mad frenzy and, before they know it, they're at the peak.” This high—which promotes recklessness and is usually followed by a crash—serves as a link between the climbing sections and the events of 17 years prior, when Yuuki was forced to make a number of high-pressure decisions in a short amount of time. Although *Seventeen* takes place in a distinct era of journalism, many of its concerns feel eternally relevant.

OUR NOVEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Atkins, Ace. [The Fallen](#) (\$9.99). Quinn Colson #7. Investigating a series of skillfully executed bank robberies, Mississippi sheriff and former Army Ranger Quinn Colson calls on old allies in order to outmaneuver a band of elite criminals, who he believes are ex-military personnel. *Kirkus* was just one of the raves for this saying “Beneath the down-home Southern trappings, fans will find Atkins' customary mixture of political corruption, true-blue policing, intimate betrayals, and wholesale violence. The satisfyingly inconclusive ending of this sequel to the equally dark *The Innocents* (2016) puts a whole new spin on catharsis.”

Barclay, Linwood. [Parting Shot](#) (\$9.99). In this standalone spin-off from the Promise Falls trilogy, Cal Weaver investigates threats made against an accused killer's family in spite of local outrage and finds himself involved in a case that embroils him in a vicious revenge plot. *PW* concluded its review with “Barclay adroitly blends themes of internet vitriol and simmering societal rage with a taut plot full of sly hints, unexpected twists, and red herrings. With access to both investigations, readers can make some connections before the characters do, but Barclay has surprises in store for readers and his leads alike.”

Carlisle, Kate. [Wrench in the Works](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Fixer-Upper #6. When Erica, the executive producer of her sister Chloe's popular home-repair show, is murdered, contractor Shannon Hammer must clear Chloe's name. Can't get enough of Carlisle's fun cozies? Then catch the Hallmark movies based on her character Shannon Hammer.

Clark, Mary Higgins/Alafair Burke. [Every Breath You Take](#) (\$8.99). Laurie Moran #4. Struggling with the departure of co-host Alex Buckley, television crime solver Laurie Moran is teamed with a despised Ryan Nichols, who draws her into the

cold case of a wealthy widow pushed to her death from the roof of a famous museum. Reviews were mixed for this installment, but *Kirkus* said “Readers who recognize early on that the most suspenseful question here is whether the heroine will regain her lost love will know perfectly well whether this latest installment is for them.”

Cussler, Clive. [Typhoon Fury](#) (\$9.99). Oregon Files #12. When they are hired to track down a valuable art collection, Juan Cabrillo and the crew of the Oregon find themselves sailing into a perfect storm involving a Filipino insurgency, a Japanese developed super-warrior drug, and a South African mercenary. *PW* loved this saying “Expertly drawn characters and a well-constructed plot make this one of Cussler's better efforts.”

Margolin, Phillip. [The Third Victim](#) (\$9.99). Robin Lockwood #1. When a series of abductions, tortures, and murders are traced to the home of a prominent attorney in rural Oregon, a rookie lawyer becomes a second chair to a legendary criminal defense attorney who holds a dangerous secret. Margolin's second legal suspense mystery featuring Robin Lockwood will be out next March, so here is your chance to get ready by reading the first.

Petrie, Nick. [Light It Up](#) (\$9.99). Peter Ash #3. Helping a friend whose daughter's security company has been attacked by hijackers targeting cannabis transports, combat veteran Peter Ash investigates the disparity between the sophisticated heists and the suspiciously lower value of the cargo they are stealing. *PW* raved concluding with “The final hand-to-hand battle between Peter and the psychotic villain, involving a variety of guns, axes, and even a hammer, is a violent *pièce de résistance*. Petrie is a master of orchestrating convincing mayhem.”

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [City of Endless Night](#) (\$9.99). Pendergast #17. Heading an investigation into the murder of a wealthy tech billionaire's daughter, Lieutenant CDS Vincent D'Agosta teams up with FBI Special Agent A.X.L. Pendergast, only to uncover the work of a serial killer whose agenda threatens an entire city. *Kirkus* concluded with “One of the best in the series—tense and tightly wound, with death relentlessly circling, stalking, and lurking behind every shadow.”

Wilson, F. Paul. [God Gene](#) (\$9.99). A sequel to *Panacea* finds Rick Hayden and Laura Fanning investigating the baffling disappearance of Rick's brother, a prominent NYU zoologist whose writings alluded to a mysterious gene marking the evolutionary development of human consciousness.

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Baldacci, David. [The Christmas Train](#) (\$7.99). Banned from flying after an altercation with airport security, cash-strapped journalist Tom Langdon is forced to take the train to Los Angeles to spend Christmas with his girlfriend, financing the trip by selling a story about a train ride taken during the holiday season.

Berenson, Laurien. [Wagging Through the Snow](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Melanie Travis #21. With Christmas approaching, Melanie investigates a possible murder after discovering a whimpering Maltese beside the dead body of a squatter on the property her ex-husband just bought.

Brennan, Allison. [Too Far Gone](#) (\$9.99). Lucy Kincaid #13. Lucy Kincaid is assigned to investigate the death of a mentally unstable man during a hostage situation who used to be an upstanding citizen, and whose story proves more complicated and dangerous

than she initially imagines.

Cameron, Marc. [Tom Clancy Power and Empire](#) (\$9.99). A newly belligerent Chinese government leaves U.S. President Jack Ryan with only a few desperate options to control a series of attacks designed to sabotage peace negotiations.

Farrow, Sharon. [Killed on Blueberry Hill](#) (Kensington \$7.99). During the Blueberry Blow Out festival, Marlee Jacob, owner of The Berry Basket, must clear the name of her fiancé when he is accused of killing a rival orchard owner whose dark family secrets are the key to finding a killer bent on sweet revenge.

Golemon, David. [Supernaturals](#) (\$8.99). Event Group #12. The producer of a ghost-hunting television series convinces a professor to become part of a Halloween show at a haunted mansion, despite the fact that the professor's previous investigation there ended in tragedy.

Greenlaw, Linda. [Slipknot](#) (\$7.99). Jane Bunker #1. Jane Bunker returned to Maine to escape the mean streets of Miami. So, it's a bit of a shock, then, when Nick Dow, AKA the town drunk, turns up dead—and it's not the simple accident that everyone assumes it to be. Now it's up to Jane to plunge the depths of this case even though only two things are certain: Nothing is what it seems, and the whole town is in each other's business.

Harper, Karen. [Silent Scream](#) (Mira \$7.99). Assisting a college roommate at a Florida peat bog archaeological dig where long-buried bodies have been discovered perfectly preserved, forensic psychologist Claire Britten uncovers clues linking the dig to her criminal lawyer husband's murder case.

Lester, Meera. [Hive of Homicides](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Abby Mackenzie is delighted to provide her trademark lavender honey for her friend Paola, a truffle maker, who is renewing her vows with her husband Jake, owner of the Country Schoolhouse Winery. But things go sour after the ceremony when Abby discovers Jake shot dead in his car and Paola injured beside him.

Meier, Leslie. [Mistletoe Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Reissue of Lucy Stone #1. While moonlighting during the Christmas rush for a trendy mail-order house, Lucy Stone stumbles upon the body of the company's founder and turns sleuth to find a killer in the small town of Tinker's Cove, Maine.

Meier, Leslie. [Turkey Trot Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Lucy Stone #24. Besides the annual Turkey Trot 5K on Thanksgiving Day, Lucy expects the approaching holiday to be a relatively uneventful one until she finds beautiful Alison Franklin dead and frozen in Blueberry Pond. No one knows much about Alison, except that she was the daughter of wealthy investor Ed Franklin and struggled quietly with drug addiction.

Penny, Louise. [Bury Your Dead](#) (\$9.99). Reissue. Armand Gamache #6. Taking leave during Quebec's Winter Carnival after a case gone wrong, a disgruntled Chief Inspector Armand Gamache is unable to avoid assisting a politically charged investigation involving a historian's murder during a search for a famous figure's burial site.

Wood, Tom. [Kill for Me](#) (Berkley \$9.99). Caught in the middle of a Guatemalan cartel war, hired killer Victor must decide which patron of the largest cartel—Heloise Salvatierra or her sister, Maria—lives or dies after Heloise offers him a large sum of money to take out Maria.