

BOOKNEWS from

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HORRORS! IT'S ALREADY OCTOBER

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 3 6:30 PM Sherlockians

The Transfixed Correspondence meets to discuss Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Sign of the Four"
transfixedcorrespondence@gmail.com for more information

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6 12:00 PM

Weston Ochse signs [Burning Sky](#) (Solaris \$14.99)
Military horror...fits October

SATURDAY OCTOBER 6 2:00 PM English Tea

Sherry Thomas signs [The Hollow of Fear](#) (Berkley \$15)
Lady Sherlock #3

MONDAY OCTOBER 8 7:00 PM

Sara Gran signs [The Infinite Blacktop](#) (Atria \$26)
Clare DeWitt noir
Amy Stewart signs [Miss Kopp Just Won't Quit](#) (Houghton \$26)
Kopp Sisters #4

TUESDAY OCTOBER 9 7:00 PM Thrillers!

Lou Berney signs [November Road](#) (Harper \$26.99)
1960s cat-and-mouse thriller
John Sandford signs [Holy Ghost](#) (Putnam \$29)
Our copies of Virgil Flowers' new case come with a "Wardell Holland for Mayor" postcard with a few of his campaign slogans

MONDAY OCTOBER 15 7:00 PM

Joe Ide signs [Wrecked](#) (LittleBrown \$27)
IQ #3
Wallace Stroby signs [Some Die Nameless](#) (Mulholland \$26)
Our October Thriller Club Pick

TUESDAY OCTOBER 16 7:00 PM

Michael McGarrity signs [Residue](#) (Norton \$25.95)
Kevin Kerney and Clayton Istee

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 17 7:00 PM

Deborah Harkness signs [Time's Convert](#) (Viking \$29) and [The World of All Souls](#) (\$40)

THURSDAY OCTOBER 18 6:00 PM

Dracula Party! Prizes, Treats, Costumes Encouraged
Robert Masello signs [Night Crossing](#) (47 North \$24.95)
Victorian thriller with Bram Stoker
Leslie S Klinger hosts and signs [The New Annotated Dracula](#) (Norton \$39.95) as well as his brand-new [Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s](#) (Norton \$35)

SATURDAY OCTOBER 20 2:00 PM

Martin Limon signs [The Line](#) (Soho \$26.95)
Korean thriller for Sueño and Bascom #13

Ed Lin signs [99 Ways to Die](#) (Soho \$26.95)
Taipei Night Market #3

SUNDAY OCTOBER 21 2:00 PM

Beth Cato signs [Roar of Sky](#) (Harper Voyager \$16.99)

TUESDAY OCTOBER 23 7:00 PM

Jeff Abbott signs [The Three Bets](#) (Grand Central \$26)
Book Publication Day Party!

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 24 7:00 PM

Michael Harvey signs [Pulse](#) (Harper \$27.99)

FRIDAY OCTOBER 26 7:00 PM

James Sallis and the Three Legged Dog

SATURDAY OCTOBER 27 2:00 PM

A History Lovers Tea
Tasha Alexander signs [Uneasy Lies the Crown](#) (St Martins \$27.99)
Lady Emily #13 plus an essay written just for The Pen copies
Charles Todd signs [A Forgotten Place](#) (Harper \$27.99)
WWI Nurse Bess Crawford #10

SUNDAY OCTOBER 28 1:00 PM

Doubletree Hilton 5401 N Scottsdale Road 85250
Tickets Required: \$43 480 947 2974 or 888 560 9919
Buy tickets on line [HERE](#)
Diana Gabaldon signs [Voyager: 25th Anniversary Edition](#) (Delacorte \$40)
Doors open at NOON
Cash bar. Free valet parking

THURSDAY NOVEMBER 1 7:00 PM

Two Arizona Legends Together!
Jon Talton signs [The Bomb Shelter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95)
Journalist Talton writes a thriller on the Don Bolles murder
Marshall Trimble signs [Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomalies and Tamales](#) (History Press \$23.99)
Our State Historian contributes to the American Legends Series

DISCUSSION CLUBS

Coffee & Crime: October 13 10:30 AM
Read Carol Goodman's [The Widow's House](#) (\$15.99)
Croak & Dagger October 20 10:30 AM
Read Ben Aaronovitch, [Midnight Riot](#) (\$7.99)
Hardboiled Crime October 25 7:00 PM
Read Charles Willeford's [Understudy for Death](#) (\$9.99)
SciFi Friday October 19 7:00 PM
Read Holly Goddard Jones, [The Salt Line](#) (\$16)

EVENT BOOKS

Abbott, Jeff. [The Three Beths](#) (Grand Central \$26). My mom would never leave me. This has been Mariah Dunning's motto. Her compass. Her belief. So when she glimpses her mother—w ho's been missing for the past year—on the other side of a crowded food court, Mariah's conviction becomes stronger than ever. Or is she losing her mind? When Beth Dunning disappeared without a trace, suspicion for her murder—despite the lack of a body or any physical evidence—immediately fell upon Mariah's father. Until Mariah stumbles upon two other recent disappearances from Lakehaven. And all three women had the same name: Beth. This zinger arrives on publication day for our pub party for Abbott. [Order his earlier books.](#)

Alexander, Tasha. [Uneasy Lies the Crown](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Bestseller Alexander's engrossing 13th Lady Emily mystery opens in 1901 when the dying Queen Victoria hands Colin Hargrave, Lady Emily's diplomat husband, a cryptic note: "One and no more. Dare to know." The queen's funeral is barely over when Colin and Emily learn of a murder in the Tower of London. The corpse has been posed to resemble Henry VI. Meanwhile, someone is sending Colin on a scavenger hunt with a series of notes left in locations that recall Henry V. When three more bodies show up, all killed in ways that mimic the deaths of English kings, Colin is convinced that it's a warning to the new sovereign, Edward VII, that even a king can be killed. But Emily uncovers a connection between the dead men that suggests the murders are more about vengeance. Providing counterpoint are flashbacks to the 15th century, when Colin's ancestor William fought with Henry V at Agincourt. The two seemingly unrelated plots centuries apart come together in the end in a neat twist. English history lovers will be enthralled. As you will be with Tasha's essay written for us and included, "The Death of Kings." Order all of [Lady Emily's investigations.](#)

Berney, Lou. [November Road](#) (Harper \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick for Edgar-winner Berney's moving novel that "unfolds in the immediate aftermath of JFK's assassination, but the heady confusion and shock of that dark day play second fiddle to the stories of Frank Guidry and Charlotte Roy, two desperate individuals seeking to outrun the entanglements of their very different lives. Guidry, a once-trusted player for the Marcello mob, is a marked man fleeing for his life; Roy, a weary housewife, seeks better prospects for herself and her daughters, so she must escape from both her dead-end town and deadbeat husband. Told in sharp, cinematic prose, this novel explodes the boundaries of the typical crime novel and offers up something more literary, a finely tuned exploration of the will to change." In one of the 4 Starred Reviews, *PW* says, "While Berney creates nail-biting suspense by placing Marcello's top hit man on Guidry's trail, the book's power derives from Charlotte, who finds hidden strength as she confronts unexpected challenges. This is much more than just another conspiracy thriller." And it's our **October Hard-boiled Crime Club Pick**.

"Wistful and complex, Berney's confident portrait of a roadside America traumatized by Kennedy's death gives the novel literary heft, while the ticking clock of the mob closing in

on the family to settle accounts lends a genre bite. With depth and genre crossover appeal, this literary crime thriller will please fans of Dennis Lehane or George Pelecanos and also satisfy a wider audience." — *Library Journal* Starred Review. "Berney bends his notes exquisitely, playing with the melody, building his marvelously rich characters while making us commit completely to the love story, even though we hear the melancholy refrain and see the noir cloud lurking in the sky. Pitch-perfect fiction." — *Booklist* Starred Review. "Berney's gentle, descriptive writing brilliantly reflects these times of both disillusionment and hope. The men in the novel, including Frank and Barone, the hit man, also symbolize the Romantic notion of a time that has come to an end. Perfectly captures these few weeks at the end of 1963—all that was lost and all that lay tantalizingly and inevitably just beyond the horizon." — *Kirkus* Starred Review.

Cato, Beth. [Roar of Sky](#) (Harper Voyager \$16.99). Wrapping up the Blood of Earth Trilogy, alternated history laced with magic and some steampunk elements, geomancer Ingrid must find a way to use her extraordinary abilities to save her world from the woman hell-bent on destroying it. As the trilogy is a coming of age story, this is a great event bringing teens.

Gabalton, Diane. [Voyager: 25th Anniversary Edition](#) (Delacorte \$40). Bound in an arresting emerald green and featuring a new Introduction by Diana. Jamie Fraser is not dead—but he is in hell. Waking among the fallen on Culloden Field, he is concerned neither for his men nor his wounds but for his wife and their unborn child. Lord, he prayed passionately, that she may be safe. She and the child. It's a prayer he'll utter many times over the next twenty years, never knowing but always hoping that Claire made it through the standing stones, back to the safety of her own time. To create your set of anniversary editions buy [Outlander 20th Anniversary Edition](#) and [Dragonfly in Amber 25th Anniversary Edition](#) (\$40 each). A matched set makes a great gift!

Gran, Sara. [The Infinite Blacktop](#) (Atria \$26). "At the start of Gran's bold and stunning third novel featuring PI Claire DeWitt, a series Patrick heaps with praise, Claire is headed for Las Vegas, Nevada, in 2011 when she's nearly killed by a crazed driver in Oakland. She manages to limp away from the scene, wondering who would have wanted to kill her. Flash back to Brooklyn in 1985, when Claire was the world's greatest teenage detective. As a devotee of Jacques Silette, the French author of an obscure book called *Détection*, she and best friends Tracy and Kelly solved many cases. That same year Tracy vanished without a trace, and her disappearance has haunted Claire ever since. Back in 2011, Claire has discovered a lead in Las Vegas involving a rare comic book that may hold the key to what happened to Tracy. In a third narrative strand, set in Los Angeles in 1999, the 20-something Claire, who needs hours to earn her PI license, takes on a cold case involving the strange deaths of two artists. Mixing classic tropes of teen detective fiction with elements of eastern philosophy and a profound sense of the absurd, Gran takes readers on an unforgettable journey."—*PW* Starred Review on our **October Surprise Me Club Pick**. You can order the first two Claire Dewitts too: [The City of the Dead; The Bohemian Highway](#) (\$14.95 each).

Harkness, Deborah. [Time's Convert](#) (Viking \$29). In the first in a new series set in the world of her All Souls trilogy, vampire Marcus Whitmore, son of Matthew de Clermont, is set to marry 23-year-old human Phoebe Taylor, who will be made a vampire herself. Marcus's required 90-day separation from Phoebe during the process inspires him to seek comfort at the home that his father shares with his wife, the witch Diana Bishop. Diana, through her magic, senses that Marcus hasn't come to terms with his past as a field doctor during the Revolutionary War and the events leading up to his rebirth as a vampire in 1781, and attempts to draw him out. Meanwhile, Diana and Matthew's delightful brightborn (half-vampire, half-witch) twins Philip and Becca are already manifesting an alarming aptitude for magic, and Philip has summoned a new familiar, a griffin named Apollo. "Harkness's easy familiarity with her fully realized characters will make readers feel at home. Phoebe's transition from warmblood to vampire is particularly fascinating, as is the fraught history of vampires and witches. Best to read the All Souls Trilogy first. And helpfully, she will also sign [The World of All Souls](#) (\$40), a "Complete Guide to the All Souls Trilogy."

If you have missed the All Souls Trilogy waste no time ordering: [A Discovery of Witches](#); [Shadow of Night](#); [The Book of Life](#) (\$18 each) or treat yourself to [The All Souls Trilogy Boxed Set](#) (\$100 hardcovers; \$54 large paperbacks). The hardcover boxed set has bonuses: a limited edition of Diana Bishop's Commonplace book—which contains a floor plan of the Old Lodge, snippets of poetry, some passages from a witch's grimoire, astrological insights, and much more. Please preorder these to avoid disappointment.

Harvey, Michael. [Pulse](#) (Harper \$27.99). Set in 1976 Boston, this suspense novel from Harvey combines a gritty police story with elements of speculative fiction in a way that doesn't quite jell. Daniel Fitzsimmons, a 16-year-old high school student who has been sharing a place with his Harvard football star brother, Harry, takes a room in the apartment of Simon Lane, who claims to be a former Harvard professor of theoretical physics and suggests to Daniel that quantum entanglement may also be possible between two people. When Harry is murdered in Boston's red-light district, the police have an obvious suspect, but the medical examiner finds inconsistencies. Meanwhile, Daniel has been having strange experiences—transforming into animals and believing he has a quasi-mystical connection to some people—though it's unclear whether these actually occur or are hallucinations. Harvey often writes beautifully, even tenderly, but the ending will leave readers questioning what exactly happened and why. This standalone will appeal to those willing to suspend some disbelief, but not to anyone who wants everything to make sense.

Ide, Joe. [Wrecked](#) (LittleBrown \$27). Isaiah Quintabe—IQ for short—has never been more successful, or felt more alone. A series of high-profile wins in his hometown of East Long Beach have made him so notorious that he can hardly go to the corner store without being recognized. Dodson, once his sidekick, is now his full-fledged partner, hell-bent on giving IQ's PI business some real legitimacy: a Facebook page, and IQ's promise to stop accepting Christmas sweaters and carpet cleanings in exchange for PI services. So when a young painter approaches IQ for help tracking down her missing mother, it's not just the case Isaiah's looking for, but the human connection. And when his new

confidant turns out to be connected to a dangerous paramilitary operation, IQ falls victim to a threat even a genius can't see coming. Waiting for Isaiah around every corner is Seb, the Oxford-educated African gangster who was responsible for the death of his brother, Marcus. Only, this time, Isaiah's not alone. Joined by a new love interest and his familiar band of accomplices, IQ is... lethal in this darker book. *Library Journal* reports that, "Dodson steals the show in this tale with a backstory that has grown more nuanced throughout each book." [IQ](#) (\$15.99), a First Mystery Club Pick and winner of the Anthony, Macavity, and Shamus Awards; [Righteous](#) (\$15.95 or \$26).

Klinger, Leslie S. [Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s](#) (Norton \$35). Five novels that were all wildly popular when first published offer a window on the world of manners and attitudes in America in the 1920s. They can still be enjoyed as mysteries, or they can be read as historic documents, enriched by Klinger's copious annotations that help fix each in its time and place. These notes help the reader understand just how groundbreaking it was for Earl Derr Biggers to create Charlie Chan of the Honolulu Police, one of crime fiction's first positive Asian characters, who makes his debut in *The House without a Key*. The next two books, set among the moneyed classes of New York, introduce amateur sleuth Ellery Queen in Ellery Queen's *The Roman Hat Mystery* and erudite know-it-all Philo Vance in S.S. Van Dine's *The Benson Murder Case*. Toffs are followed by tough guys, and the tone gets darker in Dashiell Hammett's first Continental Op novel, *Red Harvest*, and W.R. Burnett's *Little Caesar*, which describes the rise and fall of Chicago gangster Rico Bandello. "Klinger offers a veritable buffet of food for thought for crime fiction fans."

Klinger also signs [The New Annotated Dracula](#) (Norton \$39.95) which is a lavishly illustrated, thoroughly explored and footnoted homage to the legend and takes the position that Bram Stoker based his tale historical fact. I will just be back from Transylvania with stories to add to the fun of our October 18 Dracula Party!

Limón, Martin. [The Line](#) (Soho \$26.95). The bludgeoning murder of Corporal Noh Jong-bei, a South Korean assigned to augment American forces, provides the latest high-stakes case for canny U.S. Army CID agents George Sueño and Ernie Bascom in Limón's superb 13th investigation set in 1970s South Korea (after 2017's *The Nine-Tailed Fox*). The sensitive location of the body in the Joint Security Area separating the two Koreas exacerbates tensions: Noh's left boot is in South Korea, while the rest of him lies in North Korea. The temperature rises even more after Sueño and Bascom are ordered to retrieve the corpse, leading the North Korean army to go on high alert. The case doesn't get easier after they identify a person of interest, an American private who was dating the dead man's sister, and the truth about the private's culpability becomes secondary to their bosses. The maverick agents' efforts to defy authority take another hit when they're assigned to trace a major's missing wife. "Limón has never been better at incorporating a logical mystery plot into the politics of his chosen time and place." In fact every single one of his spectacular series fuses character, landscape, and plot into a whole that is always surprising and amazingly fresh. And after all these years, truly timely! [Order them all](#); you can read them in order or dip in.

Lin, Ed. [99 Ways to Die](#) (Soho \$26.95). “At the start of Lin’s stellar third Taipei Night Market novel, Jing-nan Chen, who ‘makes the best skewers and stews in the Shilin Night Market,’ receives a distress call from high school classmate Peggy Lee. Peggy’s wealthy businessman father, Tommy Lee Tong-ming, ‘who controlled some of the most powerful tax-dodging entities in Taiwan’ and is also Jing-nan’s landlord in the market, has been brazenly kidnapped at a banquet. Since a police escort was present, the Taipei PD is desperate to keep their embarrassing security lapse private. Peggy asks Jing-nan to get involved after the kidnappers demand the design for a “power-efficient mobile chip” that they insist is in her father’s files, despite her ignorance of its existence. Jing-nan reluctantly agrees to reach out to a relative with underworld connections as well as to his girlfriend’s former lover, a tech executive imprisoned for bribery who might know the design’s location. Jing-nan has three days to come up with results before the kidnappers’ deadline expires. Lin effortlessly blends humor, plausible plot twists, and the politics and economics of contemporary Taiwan.”—*PW* Starred Review. This is one terrific and timely series, fun to read and bringing you up to speed on fast-moving life in modern Asia. [Ghost Month](#) (\$9.99); [Incensed](#) (\$15.95).

Masello, Robert. [Night Crossing](#) (47 North \$24.95). This Victorian-age thriller tells the story of the terrifying events that inspired Dracula. It begins with a howling storm on a mountaintop, and a suicide attempt in London. A young explorer named Mina takes a picture of a mysterious sphinx, while a desperate match girl prepares to throw herself into the Thames, and a conflicted Bram Stoker finds success in producing plays but finds himself unable to write the novel he has always dreamed of writing. Masello takes the reader on a journey through the London writer’s clubs, where Arthur Conan Doyle and Oscar Wilde’s brother make appearances, up to the Romanian mountains, and then to the *Titanic* as she prepares for her maiden, and fateful, voyage. “Masello creatively reimagines the inspiration for Dracula with thrills, frights, and a splendid final confrontation aboard the doomed ship.” Part supernatural thriller, with shades of Lovecraftian horror and Indiana-Jones style adventuring, it also includes fascinating historical facts throughout that ground the plotline even as Egyptian magic rises and writhes through the London streets. This will be huge fun for me who will just be back from a trip that includes visiting Transylvania and other part of Romania. I may be able to snap photos to share at the event.

McGarrity, Michael. [Residue](#) (Norton \$25.95). A publication day party for Kevin Kerney who we find continuing his contemporary law enforcement career. In this 13th investigation, a long-unsolved missing person case becomes a homicide investigation when the bones of Kim Ward are unearthed in Las Cruces, New Mexico, forty-five years after her disappearance. Compelling forensic and anecdotal evidence quickly shifts suspicion to Ward’s old college boyfriend: former Santa Fe Police Chief Kevin Kerney. With damning evidence against him compiled by his own son, New Mexico State Police Lieutenant Clayton Istee, Kerney is arrested. He has no alibi and not a single witness to speak for him. Under intense media scrutiny and 24/7 police surveillance, Kerney must rely solely on the help of his wife, Sara, and a renowned criminal defense lawyer to discover if there are any remaining clues that can exonerate him or lead to the killer. As the trio begins to reconstruct the events leading to Ward’s murder, Istee reexamines his suspicions about Kerney’s guilt and decides to risk everything

to help prove his father’s innocence. Working together to identify one person who can clear Kerney’s name and expose the killer, the four soon discover that Ward’s murder isn’t the only crime to be solved. [Order](#) earlier Kerneys plus the American West trilogy portraying his family’s history.

Ochse, Weston. [Burning Sky](#) (Solaris \$14.99). The intense brand-new military horror series from “one of the Major Horror Authors of the 21st Century” – American Library Association. Everything is dangerous in Afghanistan, nothing more so than the mission of a Tactical Support Team or T.S.T. All veterans, these men and women spend seasons in hell, to not only try and fix what’s broken in each of them, but also to make enough bank to change their fortunes. But seven months later, safely back on American soil, they feel like there’s something left undone. They’re meeting people who already know them, remembering things that haven’t happened, hearing words that don’t exist. And they’re all having the same dream... a dream of a sky that won’t stop burning. Do not expect a Flynn or a Thor here.

Sandford, John. [Holy Ghost](#) (Putnam \$29). In bestseller Sandford’s wickedly enjoyable 11th outing for Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agent Virgil Flowers, Wardell Holland, the maverick mayor of Wheatfield (pop. 650), and his 17-year-old sidekick, John Jacob Skinner, decide the town needs an economic boost, so they contrive for the Virgin Mary to appear at St. Mary’s Catholic Church, with one of Skinner’s many sexual conquests, Jennie Fischer, in the Mary role. The Marian Apparition succeeds in bringing flocks of tourists to Wheatfield. Then sniper-like shootings that wound two citizens threaten the bonanza. Flowers’s subsequent investigation turns up suspects ranging from a few would-be Nazis to a farmer/gun range owner and Jennie’s porn-loving boyfriend. When the shootings turn deadly, Flowers gets help, which he badly needs as he comes to realize that he must outwit a clever killer who proves one of his maxims: “If it’s criminal, it’s either stupid or crazy.” Sandford’s trademark sly humor shines throughout. Love the Virgil’s, [Escape Clause](#) being my top favorite. [Order them all](#).

Stewart, Amy. [Miss Kopp Just Won’t Quit](#) (Houghton \$26). Trailblazing Constance’s hard-won job as deputy sheriff is on the line. After a year on the job, New Jersey’s first female deputy sheriff has collared criminals, demanded justice for wronged women, and gained notoriety nationwide for her exploits. But on one stormy night, everything falls apart. While transporting a woman to an insane asylum, Deputy Kopp discovers something deeply troubling about her story. Before she can investigate, another inmate bound for the asylum breaks free and tries to escape. In both cases, Constance runs instinctively toward justice. But the fall of 1916 is a high-stakes election year, and any move she makes could jeopardize Sheriff Heath’s future—and her own. Although Constance is not on the ballot, her controversial career makes her the target of political attacks. With wit and verve, book-club favorite Amy Stewart brilliantly conjures the life and times of the real Constance Kopp. The Indie Next Pick: “With a feminist edge and true historical details, Amy Stewart has brought Constance Kopp to life in such a well-developed and interesting manner; not only are the characters exemplary, but the story is grabbing and exciting as well. I hope this is not the end of Constance and her sisters, because WWI is on the brink and I think they would be the perfect small-town heroines for the fight.” [Order all four](#) of the Kopp Sisters investigations.

Stroby, Wallace. [Some Die Nameless](#) (Mulholland \$26). Published in July but we await Stroby and his reboot to join Joe Ide for a serious party! Ray Devlin is retired, living a simple life off the grid in Florida, when a visit from an old colleague stirs some bad memories—and ends with a gunshot. Soon Devlin is forced to again face a past he'd hoped to leave behind, as a member of a mercenary force that helped put a brutal South American dictator into power. Tracy Quinn is an investigative reporter at a struggling Philadelphia newspaper decimated by layoffs and cutbacks. Then one day what appears to be a straightforward homicide—a body left in an abandoned row house—draws her and Devlin together, and ultimately enmeshes both in a conspiracy that stretches over twenty years and reaches to the highest levels of the U.S. government. Before long, they're both the targets of a ruthless assassin haunted by his own wartime experiences. For Devlin, it could all mean a last shot at redemption. For Tracy, the biggest story of her career might just cost her life. Making this the **October Thriller Club Pick**, Patrick writes: "Fans of Stroby's killer Crissa Stone novels are in for a treat with this thoughtful muscular thriller. Don't miss it!"

Talton, Jon. [The Bomb Shelter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 or \$15.95). "The real-life case of Arizona reporter Don Bolles, one of only a few American journalists murdered in the U.S. in modern times, is the inspiration for Talton's lively ninth mystery featuring former history professor turned Phoenix sheriff's deputy David Mapstone. After attending an event commemorating the 40th anniversary of the death of reporter Charles Page, blown up by a car bomb in 1978, Sheriff Mike Peralta, Mapstone's boss, receives a threatening text: solve the unsolved Page case or your family will suffer the consequences. Peralta asks Mapstone to investigate, and soon he's on the trail of a series of brutal murders of people who are in some way involved with the decades-old case. Through Mapstone's wryly witty first-person narrative, Talton expresses his genuine love of Phoenix as it once was, as well as his exasperated but tolerant attachment to the city as it is today. Clear writing, an intricate plot, and credible characters make this entry a winner."—*PW*, echoed by other reviewers and members of the media here in Phoenix.

Here's what our State Historian Marshall Trimble says of *The Bomb Shelter*: "It's a great read and I sat riveted the whole way through complex tale that kept me turning the pages. I personally knew many of the characters and all the places in the story. I don't get much time for R&R reading but I took a few days off to hide out in our cabin in the Rim Country and have done nothing but read. I'm really proud of Jon." So am I, who recommends all the [David Mapstone](#) Phoenix-based investigations Talton so superbly crafts.

Thomas, Sherry. [The Hollow of Fear](#) (Berkley \$15). The 3rd in the Lady Sherlock Series, such fun, a Victorian romp but clever and well plotted, and a favorite with John and me. Charlotte Holmes, using "Sherlock Holmes" as a cover as any respectable young woman could not openly work as a consulting detective, continues to battle evil. First, her half-brother disappears. Then Lady Ingram, the (evil) estranged wife of Charlotte's dear friend Lord Ingram, turns up dead on his estate. Ingram, who's smitten with Charlotte, becomes the prime suspect in the murder of his estranged wife, Lady Ingram, who became a fugitive after Charlotte exposed Lady Ingram's role in the death of three agents of the Crown. With Scotland Yard closing in, Charlotte and Mrs.

Watson get cracking... Best to read in order" [A Study in Scarlet Women](#); [A Conspiracy in Belgravia](#) (\$15 each).

Todd, Charles. [A Forgotten Place](#) (Harper \$27.99). One thing I truly admire about the two Todd series is its remarkable, always evocative sense of landscape and of the communities inhabiting it. In this 10th Bess Crawford the WWI nurse could resign her post and return to comfortable Somerset life, but with her strong sense of duty and her compassion for the wrecks who survived the war but may not the peace where their wounds will disrupt family and jobs, she stays on and becomes entangled with a cadre of wounded Welsh. One of them, the captain, in time asks for her help and draws her to a wild peninsula in Wales and a community that defines insular. Trapped by her lack of transport once her car and driver do a bunk in the night, worried that someone may kill the captain, and in time facing a murder, Bess confronts one of the harshest landscapes that Todd has presented. Amazing! [Order this excellent series](#) to read in order although you can plunge into *A Forgotten Place* as a standalone.

Trimble, Marshall. [Arizona Oddities: Land of Anomalies and Tamales](#) (History Press \$23.99). For example: 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. Our State Historian as ever enjoys collecting Arizona facts and stories. And he's crazy about Jon Talton's *Bomb Shelter* having lived through the Don Bolles case.

AUDIO BOOKS FROM THE PEN

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SIGNED BOOKS

Albom, Mitch. [The Next Person You Meet in Heaven](#) (Harper \$23.95). Fifteen years ago, in *The Five People You Meet in Heaven*, Eddie, a grizzled war veteran-turned-amusement park mechanic, died saving the life of a young girl named Annie. Eddie's journey to heaven taught him that every life matters. The accident that killed Eddie left an indelible mark on Annie. It took her left hand, which needed to be surgically reattached. Injured, scarred, and unable to remember why, Annie's life is forever changed by a guilt-ravaged mother who whisks her away from

the world she knew. Bullied by her peers and haunted by something she cannot recall, Annie struggles to find acceptance as she grows. And just as she finds happiness through an old connection, an accident happens... and Annie and Eddie reconnect. I'm having trouble thinking of this as "heartwarming." If we believe each life matters, we don't need Albom to tell us so.

Archer, Jeffrey. [Heads You Win](#) (Macmillan \$45). Available in early November but preorders encouraged. Leningrad, Russia, 1968. Alexander Karpenko is no ordinary child, and from an early age, it is clear he is destined to lead his countrymen. But when his father is assassinated by the KGB for defying the state, he and his mother will have to escape from Russia if they hope to survive. At the docks, they are confronted with an irreversible choice: should they board a container ship bound for America, or Great Britain? Alexander leaves that choice to the toss of a coin... In a single moment, a double twist decides Alexander's future. During an epic tale of fate and fortune, spanning two continents and thirty years, we follow his triumphs and defeats as he struggles as an immigrant to conquer his new world.

Axelrod, Steven. [Nantucket Counterfeit](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). It's a good thing Nantucket Island Police Chief Henry Kennis loves to solve puzzles, because he finds himself investigating another doozy. The poet and LAPD veteran, is slowly adjusting to Nantucket society, with its sharp contrasts between the working class and the often vulgar rich who plant their mansions all over the island. He's folded his two children into a family unit with his girlfriend, author Jane Stiles. Now someone sets the cat among the pigeons by murdering Horst Refn, the Artistic Director of the Nantucket Theatre Lab, a man so widely hated that Kennis expects a hard time winnowing down the suspects. Even Jane comes under suspicion when a neighbor describes someone who looks like her running from the scene. Refn has been seducing and then blackmailing members of the upper crust, at least one of whom has been witnessed fighting with him. Although Kennis likes to use his keen sense of observation to solve crimes, he's not above using the skills of a computer-savvy officer who turns up some shocking news. Because Refn, or whoever he really is, is using the name of a dead man, the myriad suspects from his current life may well be joined by more from his mysterious past. Hacking his way through a tangle of conflicting stories is a tough job, but the introspective detective is up to the task. "The fifth in Axelrod's clever series casts a cynical eye on Nantucket's decidedly diverse denizens. Only the most careful readers, undistracted by his satire, will figure out whodunit."

Brady, Eileen. [Penned](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Out in October, signed November 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. Kate has some romantic feelings for Luke, but he's still entangled with his high school girlfriend, and she's dating her college boyfriend, Jeremy, though their long-distance relationship is challenging. 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. A talk with the dog's retired veterinarian, who remembers Wolf and Brownie well and was surprised the FBI never interviewed him, gives her the idea to look into people in the area interested in that special training. She wonders if she's getting paranoid when she feels that she's being followed. 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.

Connelly, Michael. [Dark Sacred Night](#) (Little Brown \$29). Publishes Oct. 30. Last year Mike wrote two books, one a Bosch, the other introducing Renee Ballard of the LAPD. This year he teams Ballard with Bosch. It begins with her working the night beat and arriving at the Hollywood Station to find an intruder—Harry Bosch. He's working a cold case. She kicks him out but then her curiosity kicks in... [Dark Sacred Night UK](#) (Orion \$45)

Cornwell, Bernard. [War of the Wolf](#) (Collins \$45). The Last Kingdom Book 11. Uhtred might have regained his family's fortress, it seems that a peaceful life is not to be – as he is under threat from both an old enemy and a new foe. The old enemy comes from Wessex where a dynastic struggle will determine who will be the next king. And the new foe is Sköll, a Norseman, whose ambition is to be King of Northumbria and who leads a frightening army of wolf-warriors, men who fight half-crazed in the belief that they are indeed wolves. Uhtred, believing he is cursed, must fend off one enemy while he tries to destroy the other. In this new chapter of the Saxon Tales series—a rousing adventure as seen through the eyes of a warrior straddling two worlds—Uhtred returns to fight once again for the destiny of England.

Enger, Leif. [Virgil Wander](#) (Grove \$27). Enger, the author of 2001 bestseller and Modern Firsts Club Pick [Peace Like a River](#) (\$16), best described as a heroic quest novel, and a 2008 Minnesota novel about an aging train robber, *So Brave, Young, and Handsome*, is back after a ten-year hiatus. Virgil has just driven his car into icy Lake Superior when the book opens. Suffering from a concussion and possibly hallucinations, Virgil, the middle-aged town clerk and owner of a decrepit money pit of a movie theater, decides to take his emergence from the lake as a sign of rebirth. He's aided in that endeavor by a mysterious, kite-flying Norwegian stranger named Rune, who has just arrived in the decaying former mining town of Greenstone.... Greenstone is one of those folksy Minnesota towns just a little north of the literary territory of Lake Wobegon, full of characters doing their awkward best, with a touch of evil added by nihilist screenwriter Adam Leer, who has returned to his hometown for nefarious if not entirely defined purposes. Enger's novel gives magical realism a homely Midwestern twist. The Indie Next Pick adds, "From the fated flight of Virgil Wander's Pontiac into the frigid waters

of Lake Superior to an encounter with Rune, an enigmatic kite enthusiast searching for word of a long-lost son, and other interactions with the citizens of Greenstone, Minnesota, Leif Enger's new novel is a most welcome, albeit quirky, story of words and people lost and found.... A perfect remedy for those whose hearts ache from our present reality."

☞ Fellowes, Jessica. [Bright Young Dead](#) (Sphere \$32). Meet the Bright Young Things, the rabble-raising 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? For the first Mitford Murders Mystery see Our October Large Paperback Picks below.

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? Based on the podcast of the same name, Fink's thrilling first solo novel follows a woman thrown into the middle of a secret war that takes place in the vast, empty stretches of America. And fills his world with fully realized characters. Fink has made a name with "It Devours!" with Jeffrey Cranor.

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

Horowitz, Anthony. [The Sentence Is Death](#) (Century \$45). Available in early November Horowitz always sells out early so please preorder ASAP. 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 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).

Leavy, Jan. [The Big Fella](#) (Harper \$32.50). From baseball fan and sportswriter Leavy, who could the Big Fella be? No mystery—it's the Babe, and the world he created. Ruth was by many estimations the first modern celebrity, who lived in the present tense—the camera lens. "Aided by his crucial partnership with Christy Walsh—business manager, spin doctor, damage control wizard, and surrogate father, all stuffed into one tightly buttoned double-breasted suit—Ruth drafted the blueprint for modern athletic stardom."

Mason, Daniel. [The Winter Soldier](#) (Mantle \$45). "Part mystery, part war story, part romance, *The Winter Soldier* is a dream of a novel."—Anthony Doerr, author of *All the Light We Cannot See*. The author of *The Piano Teacher* pens another sweeping novel. Vienna, 1914. Lucius is a twenty-two-year-old medical student when World War One explodes across Europe. Enraptured by romantic tales of battlefield surgery, he enlists, expecting a position at a well-organized field hospital. But when he arrives, at a commandeered church tucked away high in a remote valley of the Carpathian Mountains, he finds a freezing outpost ravaged by typhus. The other doctors have fled, and only a single, mysterious nurse named Sister Margarete remains. But Lucius has never lifted a surgeon's scalpel. And as the war rages across the winter landscape, he finds himself falling in love with the woman from whom he must learn a brutal, makeshift medicine. Then one day, an unconscious soldier is brought in from the snow, his uniform stuffed with strange drawings. He seems beyond rescue, until Lucius makes a fateful decision that will change the lives of doctor, patient and nurse forever.

Paretsky, Sara. [Shell Game](#) (Harper \$27.99). V.I. Warshawski returns to the Windy City to save an old friend's nephew from a murder arrest. The case involves a stolen artifact that could implicate a shadowy network of international criminals. The police are trying to pin a murder on Lotty's Canadian-born engineering student nephew, Felix, who's involved with Engineers in a Free State, whose members include several Middle Eastern students. In the midst of trying to gently extract information out of the recalcitrant Felix, Warshawski's own past turns up on her door in the form of Harmony Seale, the niece of her sleazy lawyer ex-husband. Harmony wants Warshawski's help in finding her older sister, Reno, who moved to Chicago for work but has fallen off the grid. Warshawski reluctantly tries to track down the wayward Reno and finds herself in the middle of a corporate power struggle, where rich men take what they want and young women caught in the middle bear the brunt of power grabs and worse. Paretsky isn't one to tiptoe around injustice, and this entry proves once again that she's one of the sharpest crime writers on the scene today.

Rankin, Ian. [In a House of Lies](#) (Orion \$46). A missing private investigator is found, locked in a car hidden deep in the woods. Worse still—both for his family and the police—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. Every officer involved must be questioned, and it seems everyone on the case has something to hide, and everything to lose. But there is one man who knows where the trail may lead—and that it could be the end of the line for him, John Rebus.

Reed, Mary/Eric Mayer. [An Empire for Ravens](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95). There are far fewer mysteries set in Ancient Rome than there used to be. But here is a knockout. The 12th John The Lord Chamberlain Mystery “places the reader in the middle of the turmoil of sixth-century Rome and into a tense historical mystery,” raves *Kirkus Reviews*. And the Starred from *PW*: “Reed and Mayer’s outstanding 12th whodunit set in the sixth century CE takes John the Eunuch, a worshipper of the sun god Mithra and former lord chamberlain to Emperor Justinian, from Greece, where he has been in exile from Constantinople, to Rome, which is under siege by the Goths. General Felix, one of Justinian’s emissaries, has summoned John to help him deal with unspecified troubles. His arrival is viewed suspiciously by the general in charge of the Roman garrison, Diogenes, who dispatches a courier to determine whether Justinian knows that John has left Greece. To John’s further dismay, he learns that Felix has been missing for days, and he races to find him in the city’s labyrinthine catacombs. His explorations uncover a dead man, stabbed with an ancient knife used in ritual sacrifices. The cleverness of the plot and the solution to the murder are among the series’ best.” I add if you want a very clever locked-room plot set in the imperial city, Bruce MacBain’s [Roman Games](#) (\$14.95) featuring Pliny Secundus as the sleuth, is just your ticket to SPQR. As is the sequel, [The Bull Slayer](#) (\$14.94).

Rosenfelt, David. [Deck the Hounds](#) (St Martins \$26.99). In Edgar-finalist Rosenfelt’s enchanting Christmas-themed 18th mystery featuring Paterson, N.J., attorney Andy Carpenter, Andy’s wife, Laurie, urges him to offer their garage apartment to a homeless veteran, Don Carrigan, and his dog. When Carrigan is arrested for murder, Andy takes the case (and the dog), even though he isn’t sure of his client’s innocence. The ensuing investigation uncovers links to a sniper working in the area and to a complex, chilling plot that threatens not only Carrigan’s future but others’ lives, including Andy’s. Along with his trademark courtroom twists, Rosenfelt provides a compassionate look at the plight of veterans suffering from PTSD. Series fans will appreciate the chance to catch up with Andy’s family, dogs, and investigative team, while new readers will find this feel-good tale a good introduction to the series. Plenty of humor, a passion for animal rescue, and a healthy dose of Christmas cheer, courtesy of Laurie, make this the perfect holiday gift for animal lovers.

Stone, Peter. [The Perfect Candidate](#) (SimonSchuster \$18.99). A political thriller for teens? You bet, but I read it thinking adults will appreciate the moral dilemmas Cameron encounters after he arrives from modest Lagrima, California, to be a Summer Intern for Congressman Billy Beck, a powerful man slated to become the Speaker of the House if his party wins in November.

Cameron’s journey catches you but what really zings is his clear-eyed view of DC, its political machinery, the whole “swamp” thing. And he captures the DC cityscape vividly and spices up the narrative with acute and witty observations about the staffer social scene on the Hill through the eyes of a newcomer. Truman Scholar Stone who was an intern in Gary Condit’s Capitol Hill office one hot, sweaty summer before Condit’s disgrace, captures the voice of teenager Cameron perfectly. And he says while this may appear to be a “burn” book it’s actually a love letter (if to what he wishes were true, not what is). An excellent book to give to young readers for entertainment but also for inspiration.

Zafon, Carlos Ruiz. [The Labyrinth of the Spirits](#) (Weidemann \$55). The Indie Next Pick: “I have been entranced by the adventures of Daniel Sempere and Fermín and many others. In this 4th in his Cemetery of Forgotten Books series, the horrors of the Spanish Civil War loom large over Daniel’s family and those he loves. And Alicia Gris — what a (spy) story she has to tell. In the midst of this violent time in Spanish history, the love that the characters have for each other shines bright. Through it all, Zafón shares magnificent tales about books, booksellers, authors, and life. This is a must-read!”

OUR OCTOBER BOOK BUYERS CLUB PICKS

British Crime Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Atkinson, Kate. [Transcription](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Alexander, Ellie. [The Pint of No Return](#)

Discovery Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Masello, Robert. [The Night Crossing](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month TBA

Hardboiled Crime Club One Signed First per month

Berney, Lou. [November Road](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Parry, Ambrose. [The Way of All Flesh](#) (UK signed sold out; this is the US unsigned edition)

History Paperback One per month

Harper, Bradley. [A Knife in the Fog](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

Pelecans, George. [The Man Who Came Uptown](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Rossner, Rena. [The Sisters of the Winter Wood](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First per month

Gran Sara. [The Infinite Blacktop](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Stroby, Wallace. [Some Die Nameless](#)

CRIME CLASSICS

British Library Crime Classic

Hull, Richard. [Excellent Intentions](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). This droll and inventive golden age mystery, first published in 1938, from Hull (1896-1973) offers a courtroom-based whodunit with a twist. A murder defendant, unidentified for the bulk of the book,

stands accused of poisoning Henry Cargate by mixing powdered potassium cyanide into his snuff while traveling on a train. As the deceased was perversely hostile to almost everybody, Scotland Yard has no shortage of suspects, including a stamp dealer whom Cargate accused of fraud. Twelve jurors sit in court. Four suspects are identified - but which of them is on trial? This novel has all the makings of a classic murder mystery, but with a twist: as Attorney-General Anstruther Blayton leads the court through prosecution and defense, Inspector Fenby carries out his investigation....

American Classics

Gardner, Erle Stanley. [Count of 9](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). "Not every reprint of a classic crime writer is a gem." In 1958, Gardner, the prolific creator of the Perry Mason legal thrillers, published this smooth and easy entry in his Cool and Lam detective series, now reissued with a classic—but brand new—cover by legendary paperback artist Robert McGinnis. Globe-trotting adventurer Dean Crockett hires Bertha Cool ("a hundred and sixty-five pounds of potatoes in a sack") to do security for a party in his penthouse. But then Crockett is found dead inside a locked room, the apparent victim of darts from a blowgun, and two small jade idols are missing. Bertha mostly sits this one out, bringing in her diminutive partner, Donald Lam, to do the heavy sleuthing. For Lam, think young skinny Frank Sinatra, who was perfectly cast for the role in a 1946 radio adaptation of 1940's 'Turn on the Heat.' As usual, the little gumshoe gets the snot pounded out of him by towering thugs (think Ernest Borgnine). Lam has his brain to rely on, however, and comes up with solutions to the locked-room and other puzzles."—*PW*

Hughes, Dorothy. [The So Blue Marble](#) (\$15.95). An Art Deco suspense novel where three well-heeled villains terrorize New York's high society in pursuit of a rare and powerful gem. Hughes' novels "are carefully crafted pieces, ahead of their time in their use of psychological suspense and their piercing observations about class and race. She was among the best." —Walter Mosley

Queen, Ellery. [The Chinese Orange Mystery](#) (\$15.95). The offices of foreign literature publisher and renowned stamp collector Donald Kirk are often host to strange activities, but the most recent occurrence is unlike any that have come before. Some time after an unknown caller is sent into the anteroom to wait for the return of Mr. Kirk, he is discovered dead on the floor. Nobody, it seems, entered or exited the room, and yet the crime scene clearly has been manipulated: everything in the room—including the furniture, the picture frames, and even the man's clothing—has been turned backwards and upside down. Stuck through the back of the corpse's shirt are two long spears and a tangerine is missing from the fruit bowl. Enter master detective Ellery Queen who, coincidentally, was invited for a banquet at the offices, arriving just in time to witness the discovery of the body. "A new Ellery Queen book has always been something to look forward to for many years now." —Agatha Christie

Rawson, Clayton. [Death from a Top Hat](#) (\$15.95). Now retired from the tour circuit on which he made his name, master magician The Great Merlini spends his days running a magic shop in New York's Times Square and his nights moonlighting as a

consultant for the NYPD. The cops call him when faced with crimes so impossible that they can only be comprehended by a magician's mind. In the most recent case, two occultists are discovered dead in locked rooms, one spread out on a pentagram, both appearing to have been murdered under similar circumstances. The list of suspects includes an escape artist, a professional medium, and a ventriloquist.

Rice, Craig. [Home Sweet Homicide](#) (\$15.95). Unoccupied and unsupervised while mother is working, the children of widowed crime writer Marion Carstairs find diversion wherever they can. So when the kids hear gunshots at the house next door, they jump at the chance to launch their own amateur investigation—and after all, why shouldn't they? They know everything the cops do about crime scenes, having read about them in mother's writing. They know what literary detectives Bill Smith and Don Drexel would do. They certainly wouldn't shy away from a case that involved a famous actress, a beleaguered husband, and a clever French artist. Plus, if the children solve the puzzle before the cops, it will do wonders for the sales of mother's novels. But this crime scene isn't a game at all; the murder is real, and when its details prove more twisted than anything in mother's fiction, they'll have to enlist Marion's help to sort them out. Or is that just part of their plan to hook her up with the lead detective on the case?

Rinehart, Mary. [The Red Lamp](#) (\$15.95). An all-around skeptic when it comes to the supernatural, literature professor William Porter gives no credence to claims that Twin Towers, the seaside manor he's just inherited, might be haunted. He finds nothing mysterious about the conditions in which his Uncle Horace died, leaving the property behind; it was a simple case of cardiac arrest. But arrived at Twin Towers, But not long after they arrive, Porter sees the evidence of haunting that the townspeople speak of: a shadowy figure illuminated by the red light of Horace's writing lamp, the very light that shone on the scene of his death. And though he isn't convinced that it is a spirit and not a man, Porter knows that, whichever it is, it is responsible for the rash of murders — first of sheep, then of people — that break out across the countryside. Somehow, though, the suspect eludes him every time, and in his pursuit, Porter risks implicating himself in the very crimes he hopes to solve. Rinehart is the clear forerunner of Mary Higgins Clark.

Willeford, Charles. [Understudy for Death](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). First released in 1961 under the title *Understudy for Love*, this reissue from Willeford (1919–1988) commemorates the 30th anniversary of the quirky author's death. Like most of his paperback originals during this period, it features a male animal on the prowl: one Richard Hudson, a newspaperman in a small Florida city who finds his routine disrupted when a housewife murders her two children and then commits suicide. Assigned to ferret out reasons for the baffling crime, Hudson tracks down her friends, husband, priest, and creative writing teacher, even as he begins to question his own existence. Given the demands of the sleaze market of the day, Hudson naturally falls into bed with his sexy wife every few chapters and has a torrid affair on the side....

DRACULA! AND OTHER HALLOWEEN TREATS

On October 18, 7:00 PM, join us for Evil Drinks, Treats, and Prizes. Costumes Encouraged!



Robert Masello signs [The Night Crossing](#) (47 North \$24.95 or \$14.95)

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

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

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

Also new:

✶Bailey, Dale. [In the Night Wood](#) (Houghton \$23). Diving into the supernatural in remote Yorkshire where a primeval forest, the Eorl Wood, surrounds the home of Caedmon Hollow, the Victorian author of a legendary children's book, Shirley Jackson Award winner Bailey, also nominated for the Nebula and Bram Stoker awards, writes a very British story from the point of view of Americans. Charles Hayden, son of a mother rejected by the Hollow clan, has inherited the manse. Failed scholar and husband Charles, whose daughter Lissa had died under his care, and his even more bitterly grieving wife, have left North Carolina for Hollow House to forget the past. And Charles hopes to reboot his career with a biography of the author of *In the Night Wood*. With himself absorbed and wife Erin stupefied by her hoard of prescription drugs, they only gradually become an ancient power rising, the horned figure of a forgotten king, and the demand that another young girl be sacrificed. This is very low key on horror and wonderfully atmospheric.

Beckett. [Anne Rice's Vampire Chronicles: An Alphabettery](#) (Anchor \$20 large pbk). An annotated cosmology of Anne Rice's Vampirism from A(kasha) to Z(enobia)—all fifteen books of

the Vampire Chronicles detailed, by a longtime Anne Rice reader and scholar; the who, what, where, why, (and often) how of her beloved characters, mortal and 'im', brought together in a book for the first time. Illustrated by Mark Edward Geyer. An excellent gift for a Rice fan.

✶Bolton, Sharon. [The Craftsman](#) (St Martins \$27.99). What would October be without a great story featuring witches? But this is so much more, a police procedural and a psychological thriller. I loved it. See Some New Books for October for a fuller review.

Jensen, Lisa. [Beast: A Tale of Love and Revenge](#) (Candlewick \$18.99). While written to teens this lovingly reimagined tale of Beauty and the Beast is set on the Beaumont estate where the Chevalier, Jean-Loup, is gorgeous but cruel. Infuriated a servant, Lucie, vows revenge and enlists a wise woman to cast a spell to transform the Chevalier de Beaumont into a beast (wings, feathers, fur, a mane, etc) reflecting the monster he is. But amazingly the Beast proves to be the better man with a heart more human and Lucie falls for him. Then the innocent beauty Rose arrives at the chateau bringing with her the power to break the spell so that Beast becomes again the man. How does Lucie feel about this? And how does the Beast? And what happens at the wedding feast? Is there a happily ever after? This is really Lucie's story "a much," says Jensen, "as the Beast deserves to be the hero in my book." And I recommend it.

Kolar, Rachel. [Mother Ghost: Nursery Rhymes for Little Monsters](#) (Sleeping Bear \$16.99). Not your grandmother's Mother Goose tales. Instead: "Mary Had a Little Ghost." "Wee Willie Werewolf." "Zombie Miss Moffat." "Twinkle, twinkle, Lantern Jack." With not-scary illustrations by Roland Garrigue. A treat for Ages 4-8.

Rice, Anne. [Blood Communion](#) (Knopf \$27.95). Part adventure, part fairy-tale, here is 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.

Rossner, Rena. [The Sisters of the Winter Wood](#) (Orbit \$27). A Starred Review for our **October SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick**: "Rossner's intricately crafted, gorgeously rendered debut alternates perspectives between teenage sisters Liba and Laya Leib, who narrate in prose and verse, respectively. They are left to fend for themselves in the mysterious woods that border the town of Dubossary while their parents are away on urgent business. Before their parents leave, the sisters learn the family secret: their father can transform into a bear, a gift Liba will inherit, and their mother into a swan, as Laya will. The pair disagrees on how to enjoy their newfound independence: where Laya longs for freedom, Liba craves stability, worrying constantly for her younger sister's safety. People are going missing from the town, there are rumors of a bear in the woods, and anti-Semitic sentiment is on the rise. All of these strange occurrences coincide with the arrival of the Hovlins, a seductive band of fruit-peddling brothers whose otherworldly appeal Laya cannot resist. To save her sister and her people, Liba must learn to accept her bear-like nature. Drawing on true events, folklore, and Christina Rossetti's classic *The Goblin Market*, Rossner's fairy tale is creepy and moving by turn, full of heart, history, and enchantment." Signed copies.

Stoker, Dacre. [Dracul](#) (Putnam \$27). The prequel to *Dracula*, inspired by notes and texts left behind by the author of the classic novel, *Dracul* is a supernatural thriller that reveals not only Dracula's true origins but Bram Stoker's—and the tale of the enigmatic woman who connects them. It is 1868, and a twenty-one-year-old Bram Stoker waits in a desolate tower to face an indescribable evil. Armed only with crucifixes, holy water, and a rifle, he prays to survive a single night, the longest of his life. Desperate to record what he has witnessed, Bram scribbles down the events that led him here... A sickly child, Bram spent his early days bedridden in his parents' Dublin home, tended to by his caretaker, a young woman named Ellen Crone. When a string of strange deaths occur in a nearby town, Bram and his sister Matilda detect a pattern of bizarre behavior by Ellen—a mystery that deepens chillingly until Ellen vanishes suddenly from their lives. Years later, Matilda returns from studying in Paris to tell Bram the news that she has seen Ellen—and that the nightmare they've thought long ended is only beginning.

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

White, Kiersten. [The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein](#) (Random \$18.99). Elizabeth Lavenza hasn't had a proper meal in weeks. Her thin arms are covered with bruises from her “caregiver,” and she is on the verge of being thrown into the streets . . . until she is brought to the home of Victor Frankenstein, an unsmiling, solitary boy who has everything—except a friend. Victor is her escape from misery. Elizabeth does everything she can to make herself indispensable—and it works. She is taken in by the Frankenstein family and rewarded with a warm bed, delicious food, and dresses of the finest silk. Soon she and Victor are inseparable. But her new life comes at a price. As the years pass, Elizabeth's survival depends on managing Victor's dangerous temper and entertaining his every whim, no matter how depraved. Behind her blue eyes and sweet smile lies the calculating heart of a girl determined to stay alive no matter the cost . . . as the world she knows is consumed by darkness. “Kiersten White has breathed fresh life into a much-loved classic. Even Mary Shelley herself would be riveted by the dark lengths Elizabeth Lavenza would go to in order to survive. A dark and lovely midnight read” for Ages 12+

OUR OCTOBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Cooper, Steven. [Dig Your Grave](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). A murder scene in a Phoenix, Arizona, cemetery, where the unknown victim was forced to dig his own grave before being beaten to death, puzzles homicide detective Alex Mills and his team in Cooper's funny, thoughtful sequel to 2017's *Desert Remains*. A cardboard sign bearing a message of apology from the dead man marks the grave. Alex turns for help to his psychic friend, Gus Parker, whose visions can be useful, even if fragmented and erratically available. Gus does start getting tantalizing glimpses of events that led up to the crime—mixed with hints that a stalker is after his lover, rock 'n' roll legend Billie Welch. More graveyard murders occur, while an apparently deranged fan closes in on Gus and Billie. Along with the authentic police procedural detail, Cooper provides quirky and vivid characters, smart and snarky social observations, and challenging but fulfilling personal relationships. This is first-rate entertainment.

Corbett, Ron. [Cape Diamond](#) (ECW Press \$15) follows up Corbett's knockout series debut, [Ragged Lake](#) (\$14.95), with an equally gritty and tough tangle of cases set in Detective Frank Yakabuski's home city near Ontario's Northern Divide watershed. Yakabuski investigates the gruesome murder of the region's most feared gang leader, who was found strung up on a fence with his eyes cut out and a huge raw diamond placed in his mouth. His gang, the Shiners, retaliate, warring against their secretive and elusive rivals, the Travellers. Yakabuski has a lot on his plate with a revenge killing of a prominent Traveller and a kidnapping, a town gripped in fear, and a paid Mexican assassin headed north to kill him and leaving a path of dead bodies in his wake. Setting Yakabuski on home ground reveals more layers of his character, depicted by his relationships with his ex-cop dad and his sister, whose husband has strong Shiner ties. Like the first book, the writing in this one is sparse and lean, echoing the harshness and isolation of the land, but with literally less ground to cover within the city's borders, this entry is even tighter. The protagonist evolves, and Corbett lays a strong foundation for what promises to be a truly captivating series.

✶Dunmore, Helen. [Birdcage Walk](#) (\$17). Dunmore's final novel, written before she knew she was dying but oddly prescient, is one to read slowly and savor. It's very rich in the landscape and history of Bristol, England, and the rise of 18th Century Radicals. And it “addresses the very issues with which all authors must grapple: What does one leave behind as a writer? What is the mark writers leave upon time?” The layered story begins with a man coming across the 18th-century headstone of Julia Elizabeth Fawkes, inscribed, “Her Words Remain Our Inheritance.” But no record of her writing survives. Dunmore then leads the reader back 200 years to the cover-up of a murder, and then to Lizzy Fawkes Tredevant—daughter of the aforementioned Julia, raised among radicals in the English city of Bristol during the tumultuous period of the French Revolution. The willful Lizzy has married John Diner Tredevant, an ambitious builder with a dark past, who is hostile to the new political ideas making their way to England from Paris, ideas he believes may destroy his business prospects. He also resents Lizzy's susceptibility to the influence of her mother and Julia's entourage of English radicals. As the revolution in France comes to its frenzied zenith, Tredevant's

creditors balk, and his project for a terrace of houses in Bristol collapses. As her husband's debts overwhelm them, Lizzy's very life is threatened and John spirals into desperate acts. Dunmore says in her poignant Afterword that she wanted to depict characters "whose struggles and passions have been hidden from history.... But even so, did they not shape the future?" Which she has done, brilliantly.

✚Fellowes, Jessica. [The Mitford Murders](#) (\$16.99). In her first novel, the author of five companion books to the PBS series *Downton Abbey* brings readers a mystery based on a 1920s unsolved murder in England. The plucky heroine, Louisa Cannon, flees an abusive uncle in London to take a job as a nursery maid in the country for the Mitford family. Sixteen-year-old Nancy Mitford (the future novelist and one of the famous Mitford sisters) develops a keen interest in the murder of Florence Nightingale Shore, a retired wartime nurse, on a train. Louisa and railway police officer Guy Sullivan follow the leads with Nancy's help. There are plenty of surprises and the side plot involving Louisa's uncle rounds out the story. I'm sorry to say that at P 81 I haven't been able to make much sense of the plot or characters in the sequel *Bright Young Dead* reviewed above in Signed Books.

✚Harper, Bradley. [A Knife in the Fog](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Here's how the creator of Sherlock Holmes solves the notorious Jack the Ripper murders. Not only does Harper skillfully immerse the reader in the squalid conditions of the London slums of the 1880s, he does so convincingly and engagingly in the authentic voice of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. In addition, Harper introduces us to the man who actually inspired the creation of Sherlock Holmes: Doyle's mentor, Dr. Joseph Bell. But the real treat is the touching relationship that develops between Doyle and Margaret Harkness, a writer and feminist who rocks Doyle's chauvinistic world. Mark Twain makes a cameo appearance, too. "Ardent feminism and cerebral detection face down the Ripper in the fog-shrouded streets of London: a feast for lovers of historical crime!"—Laurie R. King on our **October History Paperback Pick**. Biographical note: Harper is a retired US Army Colonel and pathologist with a great deal of experience in autopsies and forensic investigation. A life-long fan of Sherlock Holmes, he did intensive research for this debut novel, including a trip to London's East End with noted Jack the Ripper historian Richard Jones.

Kepler, Lars. [Nightmare](#) (\$16.95). One summer night, police discover the lifeless body of a young woman on an abandoned yacht. She appears to have drowned, but it's clear she was never in the water. The next day, a man is found hanging in his completely empty apartment. It seems like a suicide, but the circumstances are suspicious. Detective Joona Linna is called in to investigate, and, with the help of a young Swedish Security Police detective named Saga Bauer, he soon discovers a surprising connection between the two deaths. But more lives are at stake.... This is Swedish cop Jonna Linna #2, the new translation promised to you by the Keplers when they signed the 4th, [The Sandman](#) (Knopf \$27.95—2 Signed copies) for us last March. The first, [The Hypnotist](#) (\$16.95), a 2011 First Mystery Club Pick, has also been retranslated.

✚Kinsey, TE. [A Picture of Murder](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$15.95). Late October 1909, and the season of ghouls and things that go bump in the night has descended on the village of Littleton

Cotterell. Lady Hardcastle and her trusted lady's maid, Florence, find themselves hosting a colorful cast of actors whose spooky moving picture, *The Witch's Downfall*, is being shown to mark Halloween. But things take a macabre turn when the first night's screening ends with a mysterious murder, and the second night with another... One by one the actors turn up dead in ways that eerily echo their film. With the police left scratching their heads, Lady Hardcastle calls upon her amateur sleuthing skills to launch an investigation, with Flo's able assistance. Surrounded by suspects both human and supernatural, Lady Hardcastle must use a little trickery of her own to unmask the murderer. I'm a fan of these delightful British cozies. Order all four [Lady Hardcastles](#) starting with [A Quiet Life in the Country](#).

Lin, Ed. [Incensed](#) (\$15.95). In Taipei Market Mystery #2, we're in the annual Mid-Autumn Festival when Taiwanese prioritize family. When 25-year-old Jing-nan's gangster uncle, Big Eye, asks a favor, Jing-nan can't exactly say no, especially because two goons are going to follow him around to make sure he gets it done right. The favor is this: Big Eye's 16-year-old daughter, Mei-ling, has a biker boyfriend from the wrong side of the tracks—in Big Eye's gangster opinion—and Big Eye wants Jing-nan to bring her to Taipei, away from the bad influences, and straighten her out. It doesn't take Jing-nan long to discover Mei-ling is even more trouble than the average bratty, rebellious teenager. But Mei-ling is also hiding a secret—one that puts her in harm's way. If Jing-nan wants to save his cousin from her own demons, he has to figure out the truth, even if it tears his family apart—again. "*Incensed* is a stylish, smart thriller for the mind, heart, and gut. Sex, music, history, politics, food, humor, and just a touch of violence and death—you get it all. And when you're done, you'll beg for more." —Viet Thanh Nguyen, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Sympathizer*. See Event Books for the first and third in this darkly comedic and intriguing series.

Mayer, Eric. [An Empire for Ravens](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). A knockout Roman mystery where the city is under siege by Alaric and his Goths. Filled with twisted loyalties, ambushes, undercover work, a murdered General sent by Justinian to fight under General Diogenes, and a missing woman servant. John, Justinian's former Lord Chamberlain, breaks his exile in Greece out of loyalty to his old warrior friend Felix and risks immediate execution every day he stays in a city that does not feel Eternal at all... See Signed Books for more.

Meyer, Deon. [Fever](#) (\$16). "Meyer neatly integrates a whodunit into a sophisticated post-apocalyptic thriller"—*PW* echoed by *Booklist*: "A thought-provoking, post-apocalyptic examination of the human condition... With its stunning final revelation, this is a remarkable literary achievement." Stephen King, invoking one of his own books and one of Justin Cronin's, says *Fever* is, "Reminiscent of *The Stand* and *The Passage*. Great stuff."

Radermacher, Cay. [Murderous Mistral](#) (\$16.99). Capitaine Roger Blanc, an investigator with the anti-corruption-unit of the French Gendarmerie, was a bit too successful in his investigations. He finds himself removed from Paris to the south of France, far away from political power. Or so it would seem. The stress is too much for his marriage, and he attempts to manage the break up while trying to settle into his new life in Provence in a 200-year-old, half-ruined house. At the same time, Blanc is tasked with his first murder case: A man with no friends and a lot of enemies, an

outsider, was found shot and burned. When a second man dies under suspicious circumstances in the quaint French countryside, the Capitaine from Paris has to dig deep into the hidden, dark undersides of the Provence he never expected to see. Radermacher began with International Dagger Award nominee *The Murderer in Ruins*.

Viskic, Emma. [And Fire Came Down](#) (SimonSchuster \$14.95). Ned Kelly Award–winner Viskic combines nuanced characters and thoughtful plotting in her impressive sequel to Resurrection Bay, which introduced hearing-impaired Australian PI Caleb Zelic. In the wake of the previous book’s murderous events, the investigator has been reduced to doing small-time jobs out of an office in his Melbourne home. One day, a stranger stops Caleb near his apartment and shows him a note written in lipstick with his name and address. He follows the man to a dim alleyway, where a woman emerges from the shadows and signs the word help. Shortly thereafter, a muscle-bound thug grabs the woman, who escapes with Caleb’s help only to stumble backward into the street, where she’s fatally struck by a van. Determined to find out what led to the tragedy, Caleb doggedly follows thin leads back to his hometown of Resurrection Bay, where he’s attacked in his brother Ant’s home by a man and woman who warn him not to go to the police. Caleb, whose life is described by Ant as “a wasteland of shattered people,” is a brilliantly realized flawed lead. Fans of Michael Koryta’s broken protagonists will bond quickly with award-winning Aussie crime writer Viskic.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR OCTOBER

✦Abdul-Jabbar, K. [Mycroft and Sherlock](#) (Forge \$25.99). Abdul-Jabbar and Waterhouse’s intriguing sequel to 2015’s bestselling *Mycroft Holmes* again places Sherlock Holmes’s older brother in the lead. In 1872, 26-year-old Mycroft’s acumen has landed him a senior position in the War Office in London, and even brought him to the attention of Queen Victoria, who seeks his help in averting tensions with Scotland over a football match. Mycroft also serves in loco parentis for his 18-year-old younger sibling, whose interest in crime has manifested itself by an appetite for newspaper reports on the subject. The brothers join forces with Mycroft’s close friend from Trinidad, philanthropist Cyrus Douglas, to investigate a number of mysteries, including a series of bizarre killings dubbed the Savage Gardens murders after the name of the small street where they occurred. The murderer has claimed seven victims, six of them Chinese, who were all sliced into quarters and left to bleed out. Although the authors’ active Mycroft is a far cry from the canon’s sedentary genius, their depiction of what he was like as a young man works as a plausible backstory.

Alexander, Ellie. [The Pint of No Return](#) (St Martins \$26.99). I feel that our **October Cozy Crimes Pick** should celebrate something cheerful and fun. Like Oktoberfest. No other festival compares to it in Leavenworth, Washington. The whole town is buzzing with excitement over this year’s activities and eagerly awaiting Nitro’s latest offering Cherrywizen, made with locally sourced cherries. But local brewmaster Sloan Krause is tapped out. Between trying to manage the pub, her pending divorce with Mac, and her mounting feelings for Garrett, she’s fermenting in internal turmoil. To complicate matters, dreamy movie star Mitchell Morgan and his production crew have arrived in the village to film during the authentic Bavarian brewfest. Mitchell

has his eye on Sloan and a taste for Nitro’s Cherrywizen. Sloan escapes his advances for good when she finds Mitchell slumped over the bar. Is this a case of murder, or merely of one pint too many?

Andrews, Donna. [Lark! The Herald Angels Sing](#) (St Martins \$26.99). It’s Christmastime in Caerphilly and Meg, full of holiday spirit, is helping out with the town’s festivities. While directing a nativity pageant and herding the children participating in it, she finds a surprise in the manger: a live baby. A note from the mother, attached to the baby girl’s clothes, says that it’s time for her father to take care of her—and implicates Meg’s brother, Rob, as the father. And while a DNA test can reveal whether there’s any truth to the accusation, Rob’s afraid the mere suspicion could derail his plan to propose to the woman he loves. Meg quickly realizes it’s up to her to find the baby’s real identity. She soon discovers that the baby—named Lark according to the fateful note—may be connected to something much bigger. Something that eventually puts a growing number of Meg’s friends and family in danger. For more murderous cheer [order Andrews’ backlist](#)

Anonymous. **The Kingfisher Secret** (McClelland \$26). This is all I know, sent to us by the publisher’s rep. The author is a respected writer and former journalist. His identity is being kept secret in order to protect the source of the ideas that inspired this novel. Her codename is Kingfisher. Her mission: to seduce and marry a man of wealth and political influence. Now she must protect a terrifying secret. October 2016: In America, the election is a few weeks away and journalist Grace Elliott discovers a story so big, so explosive that it could decide the election and launch a new Cold War. As long as she can stay alive long enough to tell it. This is an energetic thriller infused with political intrigue and conspiracy. And you might have already guessed that Kingfisher might also go by the name **Please call to order as there is no linking information as yet available.**

✦Atkinson, Kate. [Transcription](#) (Little Brown \$28). The Indie Next Pick for our **October British Crime Club Pick**: “Kate Atkinson brings the past of mid-20th-century Britain so thoroughly to life that she almost seems to be reporting rather than inventing. Her details are so rich and her hand so certain that, as readers, we are there — we are walking those streets, sitting in those smoky rooms. And, most of all, we are completely caught up in the emotional power of the tensions and fears of that past. With Juliet Armstrong, Atkinson has given us a remarkable addition to the canon of British spies.”

Axelrod, Steven. [Nantucket Counterfeit](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). See Signed Books for a rave review of the latest case to challenge island police chief Henry Kennis. I’ve always liked mysteries connected to theaters—possibly from being a Ngaio Marsh reader for so long.

Baart, Nicole. [You Were Always Mine](#) (Atria \$16). Iowa school teacher Jess Chamberlain, the heroine of this harrowing domestic thriller, and her husband Evan, a family practitioner, have been separated for six months, and it’s been hard on their 13-year-old son, Max, and their six-year-old adopted son Gabe. When Evan is killed in a hunting accident in Minnesota, Jess is shocked and suspicious, especially since Evan didn’t hunt. With the support of her family and friends, Jess struggles to move on from the death of a man she still loved. As Jess attempts to retrace Evan’s steps leading up to what becomes increasingly clear was his murder,

she discovers that Evan was communicating with Gabe's birth mother and may have been onto something that hits very close to home. Heartbreaking letters and emails sent by Gabe's birth mother to various others, including Gabe, add emotional heft. Baart sensitively mines the bonds of motherhood and marriage while shining a light on a darker side of the adoption industry.

✎Banville, John. [Mrs. Osmond](#) (\$15.95). Banville's sequel to Henry James's *The Portrait of a Lady* is a delightful *tour de force* that channels James with ease. The rich and measured prose style is quintessentially Jamesian: the long interior monologues perfectly capture the hum of human consciousness, and the characters are alive with psychological nuance. Readers join James's heroine where his classic left her; Banville's Isabel Archer Osmond is now a sedate, proper matron, who bitterly rues her marriage to deceitful Gilbert Osmond.

✎Beaton, MC. [The Dead Ringer](#) (St Martins \$26.99). I know that Agatha Raisin is a TV hit and that she has many fans, but I must say that this is possibly the worst book I have read in years. Disregarding all the errors and omissions in the Advance Reading Copy (arising either from complacency or disrespect), the story makes no sense, it's a bunch of vignettes of Agatha being petty or lustful; the cast including the bully of a vicar who beats his wife, a woman who embraces being a victim, and the predatory bishop, is just a set of props; and there is no one to like. I'm not sure where Beaton turned from being amusing to repelling. Don't buy this book.

Beer, Alex. [Second Rider](#) (Europa \$17). Austrian author Beer makes her English-language debut with this outstanding series launch set in 1919 Vienna. For three months, Insp. August Emmerich has been on the trail of Veit Kolja, the head of a large-scale black market smuggling operation that supplies people with basic needs—food, medicine, and clothing—that remain scarce in a city still devastated by WWI. Emmerich dreams of a reassignment to the elite division that handles homicides and hopes to showcase his deductive skills after his inexperienced new assistant stumbles across a corpse in the woods. The dead man is eventually identified as war veteran Dietrich Jost, who suffered from extreme shell shock. The coroner and Emmerich's boss, District Inspector Leopold Sander, are eager to label Jost's death a suicide, even after a second body turns up. Emmerich resists Sander's directives to devote himself to the smuggling ring, even as he grapples with debilitating pain from a war wound as well as a devastating development in his personal life. Despite the plot's essential grimness, Beer is able to inject some humor. Fans of Philip Kerr's Bernie Gunther series will be intrigued.

✎Belfoure, Charles. [The Fallen Architect](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). Once again Belfoure, author of the bestseller [The Paris Architect](#) (\$14.99), uses his professional expertise to construct an ingenious murder and frame up. But the real strength of this new novel is the way he sharply etches the British caste system, the social ladder where it is easy to drop down rungs and nearly impossible to rise up any. "This was not simple snobbery but part of the system of ironclad discrimination that ruled society." Privilege and status were the only things that determined one's social identity. So when Douglas Clayton, who grew up the son of a master brick and stonemason in Dorset, a rung above working class, deploys his intellect and talent to become a renowned architect and marries an Earl's daughter, does rise by concealing his origins, he

plunges to the bottom when the balcony in a theater he designed collapses and blame falls squarely on him. Five years in prison, a divorce, and the loss of his credentials and standing nearly break him. But he finds his way forward in the backstage world of the turn of the 20th Century...and uncovers what actually happened at the Britannia Empire Theater. As a tale of redemption it's a bit sugary, but as a look at imperial-era society, it's razor sharp.

Blake, James Carlos. [The Ways of Wolfe](#) (\$16). Patrick reviews: "Back in 1984, Axel Wolfe had a beautiful young wife, a baby daughter, and an assured place in his family's law firm, but an ill-fated decision to take part in a Dallas jewelry store heist forever altered his promising future. When the robbery went bad, Wolfe took a bullet and his two partners left him to take the fall. More than two decades into his prison sentence, the now middle-aged Wolfe decides he has nothing to lose when a young convict named Cacho enlists him in an escape plot orchestrated by powerful cartel relatives. Blake amps up the suspense as the two men find themselves on a wild river ride down the Rio Grande in a desperate attempt to make it across the border...."

✎Bolton, Sharon. [The Craftsman](#) (St Martins \$27.99). I'm a fan of Bolton's always unusual plots and here she veers away from her London policing series to a story foreshadowed in 1612 Lancashire at the infamous Pendle Witch Trials. I once visited the dungeon where these unfortunate women were imprisoned. If you're brave they will lock you inside for a few minutes. The darkness is so absolute it's completely disorienting, you can't even see any part of your own body, and you quickly understand why this imprisonment would drive anyone mad. Bolton, who is from the North, updates to August, 1999, at the funeral of Sabden village's coffin maker, a man responsible for burying alive three teens in 1966. Florence Lovelady's career in the police was made when she convicted Larry Glassbrook. Now Floss is back in Sabden for the burial. And events from the past begin to repeat. Is someone copying the original murders? Or did she get it wrong all those years ago? When her own son goes missing she has to not only reevaluate the Glassbrook investigation but also citizens of Sabden, men who might be part of the Craftsmen, and women who might form a coven? The conclusion to this unusual nail-biter is just perfect. As is this book for October!

✎Brodrick, William. [The Silent Ones](#) (Overlook \$27.95). The Starred Review: "British author Brodrick's outstanding sixth Father Anselm thriller plunges the monk and former lawyer into a horrific child molestation case. Given the Catholic Church's notorious history of child sexual abuse by priests, Anselm would just as soon not get involved. But he's drawn in unawares at the special request of a nameless visitor to Larkwood Priory. By the time Anselm realizes what kind of monster he may be dealing with, he's already met the victim, 11-year-old Harry Brandwell, and it's too late to drop the matter. In particular, Anselm must determine why Harry is accusing an innocent man of the crime. Meanwhile, local newspaper reporter Robert Sambourne receives a cryptic letter that dangles the carrot of a London-based church scandal before the ambitious newsman's eyes. Secrets and lies by omission play out amid expertly executed plot lines and deeply thought-provoking situations. Anselm must dig his wig and gown out of mothballs and return to the Old Bailey, so he can defend a man who refuses to speak. Sophisticated prose elevates this timely, painful tale."

Brown, Rita Mae. [Homeward Hound](#) (Ballantine \$27). As winter deepens over the Blue Ridge Mountains, even the threat of snowstorms cannot derail this year's Christmas run, not as long as Sister Jane has a say in it. With spirits high and traditions strong, a glorious parade of hunters in full holiday regalia gathers on the grounds of Tattenhall Station. But a blinding blizzard brings an early end to the sport. More disturbing: A horse soon returns without its rider. Gregory Luckham, the president of a powerful energy company pushing for a pipeline through central Virginia, is the missing hunter. His presence on the hunt has been controversial to say the least, and few would bemoan his passing. A search is organized for what is presumed will be a dead, frozen body. What is discovered, however, chills everyone to the bone—and points toward murder. Jane Arnold investigations are darker than Sneaky Pie's but display Brown's affection for the Virginia countryside. No Signed copies.

Carpenter, Lea. [Red, White, Blue](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Some new reviews have arrived for a fine book I recommended in our Spies of Summer round up. "Employing a failed spy operation as the backdrop for a young woman's search for identity, Carpenter's mesmerizing follow-up to her acclaimed war novel, *Eleven Days*, is as deeply affecting as it is razor-sharp." —*Kirkus* Starred Review. And the *PW* Star in part: "Where most thrillers showcase familiar tips on spy craft and weaponry, Carpenter depicts the more esoteric and often byzantine facets of intelligence work."

Childs, Laura. [Glitter Bomb](#) (Berkley \$26). New Orleans scrapbook shopkeeper Carmela Bertrand and her best friend, Ava Gruix, are watching the Mardi Gras festivities when the King Neptune float explodes, flinging Carmela's ex-husband, Shamus Meechum, practically at their feet. Shamus isn't in the worst condition. That distinction belongs to the captain of the float's "krewes," hedge fund CEO Hughes Wilder, who's very dead. Next thing you know, Shamus is begging Carmela to investigate before her boyfriend, Det. Edgar Babcock, arrests him. Shamus fears he's the prime suspect because he made a bad investment with Wilder using bank funds, a distinctly wrong thing to do. Reluctantly, Carmela agrees to search for the real Neptune Bomber, with the eager help of Ava and despite Edgar's disapproval. Scrapbooking tips and yummy recipes round out the volume.

Dahl, Kjell Ola. [The Ice Swimmer](#) (Orenda \$14.95). Lena Stiger-sand, one of the decent, talented, hard-working Oslo police detectives in Dahl's ensemble procedural series, takes center stage in the excellent sixth installment to appear in English (after 2017's *Faithless*). When the body of political aide Sveinung Adeler is removed from an icy Oslo fjord shortly before Christmas, Lena takes charge of the case. As she investigates Adeler's suspicious death, she uncovers international intrigue involving a prominent Norwegian politician and runs into opposition from Norway's National Security Service. A second case, in which a homeless drug addict apparently committed suicide by jumping onto some train tracks, raises the stakes. Lending assistance are grouchy, intuitive old-school detective Gunnarstranda and still-suspended Frank Frølich, Gunnarstranda's trusted partner. Meanwhile, Lena must deal with a troubled fellow detective, her mixed feelings about her new journalist lover, and the brutal necessity of confronting her own mortality when she's diagnosed with breast cancer. For fans of Scandinavian noir.

✂Daly, Paula. [Open Your Eyes](#) (Grove \$26). Jane Campbell is accustomed to having her husband, Leon, handle their finances, household decisions, and even any comments that may arise over their biracial marriage (she's white, he's black). The family lives comfortably in Liverpool on Leon's income as a top-selling crime fiction writer. Jane concentrates on their two children, their home, and teaching creative writing a couple of times a week. That her own manuscripts have been rejected several times is her one sore spot. Jane's life changes when Leon is shot in the head with a nail gun in their driveway minutes after a confrontation with their elderly neighbor with whom they've had an ongoing feud. As Leon recovers, Jane begins to learn how much her husband has hidden from her—they are deeply in debt, he is way behind in his latest manuscript, and he has made some dangerous enemies.

✂Duncan, Francis. [In at the Death](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). Mordecai Tremaine and Chief Inspector Jonathan Boyce rarely allow a promising game of chess to be interrupted — though when murder is the disrupting force, they are persuaded to make an exception. After a quick stop at Scotland Yard to collect any detective's most trusted piece of equipment — the murder bag — the pair are spirited away to Bridgton. No sooner have they arrived than it becomes clear that the city harbors more than its fair share of passions and motives...and one question echoes loudly throughout the cobbled streets: why did Dr. Hardene, the local GP of impeccable reputation, bring a revolver with him on a routine visit to a patient? 4th in a [Christie-style historical mystery series](#).

Forsyth, Frederick. [The Fox](#) (Putnam \$28). After a brilliant English teenager known only as The Fox is unmasked as the mastermind of ferocious cyber attacks on the Pentagon, the National Security Agency, and the CIA just for fun, it's decided not to punish him but to put him to use undermining America's enemies. Naturally, doing so places the boy squarely on a geopolitical minefield.

✂Francis, Felix. [Crisis](#) (Penguin \$27). Harrison Foster, a crisis manager for a London firm, is summoned to Newmarket after a fire in the Chadwick Stables kills six very valuable horses, including the short-priced favorite for the Derby. There is far more to the "simple" fire than initially meets the eye...for a start, human remains are found among the equestrian ones in the burnt-out shell. All the stable staff is accounted for, so who is the mystery victim?

French, Tana. [Witch Elm](#) (Viking \$27.99) is Tana French's first standalone, following five Dublin Murder Squad mysteries and follows the unraveling of Toby starting the night he surprises two burglars in his apartment. It evokes her earliest two books, *Into the Woods* and *The Likeness*, using the driving mystery—of course, there's a murder—as a vehicle for asking complex questions about identity and human nature. But in this latest work, privilege is French's subject; more specifically, the relationship between privilege and what we perceive as luck. Who might we become if the privileges we take for granted were suddenly ripped away? Instead of a world-weary detective, our narrator is Toby, an easygoing 20-something who has always taken his wild good fortune as a matter of course. He's attractive, clever, and universally liked. A publicist for a Dublin art gallery, his life is forever altered when robbers break into his apartment and beat

him so badly that the physical damage fundamentally alters his appearance, his gait, and his sense of self. His memory is newly riddled with gaps; his frustration as he attempts to discern what's real, what's remembered, and what's paranoia adds fuel to the plot. While he's in the hospital, his beloved Uncle Hugo, keeper of the Ivy House, a family property that's rendered with French's signature attention to real estate, is diagnosed with terminal brain cancer. Toby moves in with him, both to keep him company and because he, too, needs a caretaker. When a human skull turns up in a hollow of a witch elm in the backyard of the Ivy House, the plot revs its engine.

✚Fuller, Claire. [Bitter Orange](#) (Tin House \$25.95) "is set in one of those decaying British mansions tailor-made for a story of dysfunctional relationships. In the summer of 1969, socially awkward and anxious Frances Jellico is 39 and has been hired by an American who just bought a crumbling estate in the British countryside to survey the landscape and buildings on it. Making herself at home in a decrepit attic room, she is surprised to discover a young couple there, living in the rooms below hers, and can't resist spying on them through a peephole that conveniently links her bathroom to theirs. Cannily releasing clues on the way to an explosive finale, Fuller moves fluidly between the time of the story and a period 20 years later, when Frances is lying in a hospital and close to death. The lush setting and remarkable characters make for an immersive mystery." The Indie Next Pick: "What I look forward to most in Claire Fuller's writing is the deliberate unfolding of plot and character, the careful chemistry that crackles when characters observe one another and reader observes narrator. *Bitter Orange* is Fuller's most mysterious novel yet, a house haunted by the stories its characters tell of their pasts and the slow unraveling of the truth. Dark and twisty and full of secrets, this is a satisfying page-turner perfect for readers who like a spooky and psychological read."

Goldstone, Nancy. [The Lady Queen](#) (\$19.99). A riveting history of a beautiful queen, a shocking murder, a papal trial—and a reign as triumphant as any in the Middle Ages. On March 15, 1348, twenty-two-year-old Joanna I, Queen of Naples, stood trial for the murder of her husband before the Pope and his court in Avignon. Determined to defend herself, Joanna won her acquittal against overwhelming odds. Victorious, she returned to Naples and ruled over one of Europe's most prestigious courts for the next three decades—until she herself was killed.

Grann, David. [The Old Man and the Gun](#) (Vintage \$11). Before [Killers of the Flower Moon](#) (\$16.95), David Grann published a collection of true crime short stories. The title story of this collection is now a major motion picture starring Robert Redford and Sissy Spacek. Also in this collection is the story of a Polish detective who suspects that a novelist planted clues in his fiction to an actual murder and the tale of a French imposter who assumes the identity of a missing boy from Texas and infiltrates the boy's family....

Green, Sally. [The Smoke Thieves](#) (Viking \$18.99). The Indie Next Pick finds this book for teens with its visionary princess, idealistic soldier and streetwise hunter to be "a brilliant opening salvo in a new trilogy. Featuring five very different characters whose stories weave together in unexpected ways, this book is a rapid-fire read full of pulse-pounding action. The world-building feels effortless as Sally Green creates a land filled with brutal

kings, demons, and political machinations. I was not ready to leave this world at the end of the first book and will be waiting very impatiently for the sequel!"

Greenwood, Kerry. [The Castlemaine Murders](#) (\$15.95). The fabulous Phryne Fisher, her sister Beth and her faithful maid, Dot, decide that Luna Park is the perfect place for an afternoon of fun, but when a mummified, bullet-studded corpse falls to the ground in front of them, Phryne's pleasure trip becomes business. 13th in the 1920s Australian series that has become hit TV. Order all the [Miss Fisher Mysteries](#) for a real treat.

✚Griffiths, Elly. [The Vanishing Box](#) (Houghton \$25). What do a murdered Brighton flower seller, the death of Cleopatra and a nude tableau show have in common? One thing's for sure—it could be the most dangerous case yet for Stephens and Mephisto. Christmas, 1953. Max Mephisto and his daughter Ruby are headlining Brighton Hippodrome, an achievement only slightly marred by the less-than-savory support act: a tableau show of naked 'living statues'. This might appear to have nothing in common with DI Edgar Stephens' investigation into the death of a quiet flower seller, but if there's one thing the old comrades have learned it's that, in Brighton, the line between art and life—and death—is all too easily blurred... #4 in the [Magic Men Mysteries](#) by the author of the IMHO superior Ruth Galloway mysteries.

Grisham, John. [The Reckoning](#) (Doubleday \$29.95). Grisham takes a trip back to Clanton, MS, where Pete Banning—a family patriarch, war hero, good neighbor, and good Methodist—walks in to the church one crisp October morning in 1946 and shoots the Rev. Dexter Bell to death. All he says is, "I have nothing to say." Does the shooting connect to Banning's commitment of his wife Liza to a hospital?

✚Herron, Mick. [The Marylebone Drop: A Novella](#) (Soho \$7.99). Old spooks carry the memory of tradecraft in their bones, and when Solomon Dortmund sees an envelope being passed from one pair of hands to another in a Marylebone cafe, he knows he's witnessed more than an innocent encounter. But in relaying his suspicions to John Bachelor, who babysits retired spies like Solly, he sets in train events which will alter lives. Bachelor himself, a hair's breadth away from sleeping in his car, is clawing his way back to stability; Hannah Weiss, the double agent whose recruitment was his only success, is starting to enjoy the secrets and lies her role demands; and Lech Wicinski, an Intelligence Service analyst, finds that a simple favor for an old acquaintance might derail his career. Meanwhile, Lady Di Taverner is trying to keep the Service on an even keel, and if that means throwing the odd crew member overboard, well: collateral damage is her specialty. **Note: A Signed UK [The Drop](#) (\$15) will be available in November.**

James, Miranda. [Six Cats a Slayin'](#) (Berkley \$26). Widowed librarian Charlie Harris isn't looking forward to the Christmas open house his flirtatious new neighbor, Gerry Albritton, has invited him to attend. But even though she has offended half the town of Athena, Miss., everyone shows up at Gerry's party out of curiosity. Who is this woman who claims to have grown up in Athena, but no one remembers? At least one guest knows more than he or she is letting on, for Gerry collapses and dies, poisoned at her own party. Charlie doesn't relish getting involved in the investigation, but he can't stay on the sidelines. As Charlie looks into Gerry's past, he discovers a tangle of tragic family se-

crets that have been hidden for decades. Meanwhile, Charlie and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel, are also dealing with a box of five lively kittens that someone left on his doorstep. James has crafted a warmhearted Christmas story that combines seamlessly with a satisfying 10th mystery in the *Cat in the Stacks* series.

Jonasson, Ragnar. [The Darkness](#) (St Martins \$27.99). The body of a young Russian woman washes up on an Icelandic shore. After a cursory investigation, the death is declared a suicide and the case is quietly closed. Over a year later Detective Inspector Hulda Hermannsdóttir of the Reykjavík police is forced into early retirement at 64. She dreads the loneliness, and the memories of her dark past that threaten to come back to haunt her. But before she leaves she is given two weeks to solve a single cold case of her choice. She knows which one: the Russian woman whose hope for asylum ended on the dark, cold shore of an unfamiliar country. Soon Hulda discovers that another young woman vanished at the same time, and that no one is telling her the whole story. Even her colleagues in the police seem determined to put the brakes on her investigation. Jonasson will startle you with how it ends and how he plans to make this the start of the *Hidden Iceland* series.

Jones, Stan. [Tundra Kill](#) (\$15.95). When Chukchi Police Chief Nathan Active discovers dirt on the governor of Alaska, the woman he is appointed to protect, he finds himself in a precarious position: Expose the truth and risk his job or become complicit in her dangerous affairs? Active must outwit the governor and save the people he cares for most before time runs out.

Kingsolver, Barbara. [Unsheltered](#) (Harper \$29.99). Our copies include a one-page letter from the author addressing you the reader directly. Designed with full-color border artwork, includes “insight about the inspiration for the new novel.” Willa Knox has always prided herself on being the embodiment of responsibility for her family. Which is why it’s so unnerving that she’s arrived at middle age with nothing to show for her hard work and dedication but a stack of unpaid bills and an inherited brick home in Vineland, New Jersey, that is literally falling apart. The magazine where she worked has folded, and the college where her husband had tenure has closed. The dilapidated house is also home to her ailing and cantankerous Greek father-in-law and her two grown children. A science teacher with a lifelong passion for honest investigation, Thatcher finds himself under siege in his community for telling the truth: his employer forbids him to speak of the exciting new theory recently published by Charles Darwin. Thatcher’s friendships with a brilliant woman scientist and a renegade newspaper editor draw him into a vendetta with the town’s most powerful men. At home, his new wife and status-conscious mother-in-law bristle at the risk of scandal, and dismiss his financial worries and the news that their elegant house is structurally unsound. Kingsolver presents two families living a century apart working to navigate major cultural shifts.

☞Lawton, John. [Friends and Traitors](#) (\$16). The lives of Scotland Yard detective Frederick Troy and real-life historical figure Guy Burgess, the English traitor who spied for the Russians, intersect in Lawton’s superb eighth Inspector Troy novel. After their initial meeting in 1935 at a party in Hertfordshire, Troy views Burgess as “an endless blabbermouth,” and his older brother warns him about being seen in Burgess’s company because Burgess is “queer as a coot,” and his father tells him Burgess is a spy.

Despite all this, Troy finds the man intriguing. Through WWII and into the cold war era, as Troy rises in the ranks at Scotland Yard, Burgess is always hovering somewhere nearby, until he defects to the Soviet Union in 1951. Then in 1958, their paths cross again in Vienna after a concert; Burgess indicates that he wants to return to England. Troy alerts MI5, who send an agent to debrief Burgess. But when the agent is shot dead outside the British embassy, Troy becomes a suspect in the man’s murder. Lawton’s portrayal of Burgess as far less dangerous than seen in most accounts adds to the interest of this smart, fascinating historical thriller. I’ve always found Lawton’s books to be truly superior fiction. Start with [Black Out](#) but [order them all](#).

☞Lee, Mackenzi. [The Lady’s Guide to Petticoats and Piracy](#) (Harper \$18.99), the sequel to the bestselling [The Gentleman’s Guide to Vice and Virtue](#) (\$9.99). Felicity Montague must use all her womanly wits and wiles to achieve her dreams of becoming a doctor—even if she has to scheme her way across Europe to do it. For Ages 13+

Lemaitre, Pierre. [Inhuman Resources](#) (Quercus \$16.99). Alain Delambre is a fifty-seven-year-old former HR executive, drained by four years of hopeless unemployment. The only job offers he gets are for low-level, demoralizing positions. He has reached rock bottom and can see no way out. So when a major company finally invites him in for an interview, Alain is ready to do anything—borrow money, shame his wife and his daughters, and even participate in the ultimate recruitment test: a role-playing game that involves taking hostages. Alain vows to commit body and soul in this struggle to regain his dignity. But if he had realized that the odds were stacked against him from the beginning, he never would have tried to land the position. Now, his fury is limitless. And what began as a role-playing game could quickly become a bloodbath. “Lemaitre may be the best current French writer of crime fiction.” —*Financial Times*

Manzini, Antonio. [Out of Season](#) (Harper \$15.99). Manzini’s engrossing third mystery featuring Deputy Police Chief Rocco Schiavone opens with a cargo van blowing a tire and veering off a wet, icy road in Italy’s mountainous Valle d’Aosta region into a stand of trees. The driver and his front seat passenger are killed almost instantly. It looks like a job for the highway police, until the authorities discover that the van has stolen license plates. Rocco and his motley crew of officers take over the case, which rapidly develops into a web of crimes—from money laundering to murder. The complex, plausible plot is peopled with authentic characters, most notably the wry, pot-smoking, disillusioned Rocco, who was born and raised in Rome. When asked why his superiors transferred him to this remote part of Italy, he replies: “Punishment... let’s just say that I got a little overenthusiastic.” His conversations with colleagues and suspects are sprinkled with wit and astutely shed light on Italy’s political and cultural conundrums.

☞Masello, Robert. [The Night Crossing](#) (\$14.95). A Victorian mystery of Bram Stoker and a secret makes our **Discovery Club Pick for October**. See our *Dracula* and *More* section.

Meier, Leslie. [Silver Anniversary Murder](#) (Kensington). This is the 25th Lucy Stone mystery and so it is aptly titled. As Tinker’s Cove, Maine, buzzes over a town-wide silver wedding anniversary bash, Lucy is reminded of her own nuptials and ponders the whereabouts of Beth Gerard, her strong-willed maid

of honor. Lucy never would have made it down the aisle without Beth's help, and although the two friends lost touch over the years, she decides to reach out. It only takes one phone call for Lucy to realize that a reunion will happen sooner than later—at Beth's funeral. Beth, who was in the process of finalizing her fourth divorce, had a reputation for living on the edge—but no one can believe she would jump off a penthouse terrace in New York City. The more Lucy learns about Beth's former husbands, the more she suspects one of them committed murder.

✠Morton, Kate. [The Clockmaker's Daughter](#) (Atria \$28). Archivist Elodie Winslow gets shivers when she discovers the photograph of a woman in Victorian garb with a sketchbook featuring a twin-gabled house. What's her connection to Oxfordshire's Birchwood Manor, where in 1862 Edward Radcliffe gathered young artists for a summer of creative fun that ended tragically? Morton is for me today's Mary Stewart, a lodestar in a universe also populated by Rhys Bowen in her standalones, Deanne Raybourn, Beatriz Williams and Lauren Willig. One can truly sink into a Morton for hours of pleasure (and escape).

Meuleman, Sarah. [Find Me Gone](#) (Harper \$15.99). Belgian author Meuleman's fascinating, multilayered debut shifts between countries and time periods. After the miscarriage of a much-wanted child, Hannah, a successful society columnist for a high-profile New York fashion magazine, is desperate to change her life. She leaves her husband, quits her job, and moves from Greenwich Village to Brooklyn's Bushwick neighborhood. Her plan is to write a book about Agatha Christie, Barbara Newhall Follett, and Virginia Wolfe: three writers who "fought their battles, swam against the current, and then disappeared one day." Her research into why these women chose to walk away from their lives stirs up turbulent memories. It seems that her beloved authors are "dragging her back to places she needs to forget. All the way back to" Bachte-Maria-Leerne, the little Belgian town where she grew up. Meuleman skillfully reveals, bit by tiny nuanced bit, the story of Hannah and her best friend, Sofie, who likewise disappeared one day long ago in Bachte. This intelligently written psychological thriller provides much food for thought

Mustich, James. [1,000 Books to Read Before You Die](#) (Workman \$35). Sounds intimidating? A literary bucket list? Longtime bookseller Mustich, a voracious reader and a co-founder of the acclaimed book catalogue *A Common Reader*, has taken on the task: he's compiled a massive, eclectic, surprisingly accessible list. The fifth installment in Workman Publishing's 1,000... Before You Die series, here is an erudite, lively encyclopedia of gems from many genres. Organized alphabetically, it runs the gamut of taste and time: classic novels, myths and plays; beloved mysteries and children's books; acclaimed contemporary fiction; seminal works of cultural criticism and much more. But it is not, as Mustich insists in his introduction, a canon or a prescriptive list. Rather, it's an invitation to explore. Begin at the beginning, the end, or anywhere you like. The Indie Next Pick: "Irresistible! A book about books! What a joy to read a thoughtfully compiled list. Many of my favorites are found among the pages, along with new suggestions to investigate. With so many books to choose from, you will surely find some new treasure to enjoy or be reminded of an old pleasure to revisit."

Parry, Ambrose. [The Way of All Flesh](#) (Canongate \$26). "A rip-roaring tale of murder amid the medical experiments of

1847-century Edinburgh. The book brings both city and period to colorful life and is a joy to read." –Ian Rankin on our **October History/Mystery Club Pick (signed UK copies are sold out to the club so only the unsigned US edition is available)**. *City of Medicine, Money, Murder*. In the city's Old Town a number of young women have been found dead, all having suffered similarly gruesome ends. Across the city in the New Town, medical student Will Raven is about to start his apprenticeship with the brilliant and renowned Dr Simpson. Simpson's patients range from the richest to the poorest of this divided city. His house is like no other, full of visiting luminaries and daring experiments in the new medical frontier of anesthesia. It is here that Raven meets housemaid Sarah Fisher, who recognizes trouble when she sees it and takes an immediate dislike to him. She has all of Raven's intelligence but none of his privileges, in particular his medical education. With each having their own motive to look deeper into the city's spate of suspicious deaths, Raven and Sarah find themselves propelled headlong into the darkest shadows of Edinburgh's underworld, where they will have to overcome their differences if they are to make it out alive. "Parry's Victorian Edinburgh comes vividly alive – and it's a world of pain."—Val McDermid. Ambrose Parry is a pseudonym for Chris Brookmyre and wife Marisa Haetzman. Brookmyre is the international bestselling and multi-award-winning author of over twenty novels, including *Black Widow*, winner of both the Theakston Old Peculier Crime Novel of the Year and the McIlvanney Prize for Scottish Crime Novel of the Year. Dr Marisa Haetzman's research for her Master's degree in the History of Medicine uncovered the material upon which this novel was based.

Patterson, James/James O Born. [Ambush](#) (LittleBrown \$28). An anonymous tip about a crime in Upper Manhattan proves to be a setup. An officer is taken down—and, despite the attackers' efforts, it's not Michael Bennett. New York's top cop is not the only one at risk. One of Bennett's children sustains a mysterious injury. And a series of murders follows, each with a distinct signature, alerting Bennett to the presence of a professional killer with a flair for disguise. Bennett taps his best investigators and sources, and they fan out across the five boroughs. But the leads they're chasing turn out to be phantoms. The assassin takes advantage of the chaos to pursue an agenda that feels oddly personal...

Penny, Louise, ed. [Best American Mystery Stories 2018](#) (Houghton \$15.95). 20 stories by big guns like Bayard, JL Burke, Child and Connelly and Harris and Limón along with some less familiar names. Foreword by Penny. A very nice gift or a treat for yourself.

Perry, Sarah. [Melmoth](#) (Harper \$27.99). Helen Franklin, a translator living in Prague, has a strange manuscript come into her possession. It is filled with testimonies from the darkest chapters of human history, which all record sightings of a tall, silent woman in black, with unblinking eyes and bleeding feet: Melmoth, the loneliest being in the world. Condemned to walk the Earth forever, she tries to beguile the guilty and lure them away for a lifetime wandering alongside her. Everyone that Melmoth seeks out must make a choice: to live with what they've done, or be led into the darkness. Helen can't stop reading, or shake the feeling that someone is watching her. As her past of 20 years finally catches up with her, she too must choose which path to take. Hailed as an architect of "literature's gothic revival," Perry's work "packs a punch of atmosphere, creepiness, fear and

melancholy. I am going to move it off my bedside table because it is haunting my sleep.”—Susan Hill, another master of this genre. Perry is the author of the much praised [The Essex Serpent](#) (\$16.99)—which sports an intricate and arresting cover art.

Pike, Signe. [The Lost Queen](#) (Touchstone \$27.99). While you are waiting for the 9th *Outlander* to publish, we have some suggestions. One is the December publication of PF Chisholm’s 8th Sir Robert Carey, [A Suspicion of Silver](#) (\$26.95 of \$15.95), ranging from the snowy moors outside Edinburgh to the city, across to Carlisle and down to Keswick in the English lakes country chasing an assassin who has targeted James VI of Scotland. Another is this novel of a forgotten but powerful queen of the 6th Century and twin sister of the man who inspired the legend of Merlin. *Outlander* meets *Camelot*...

Riordan, Rick. [9 from the Nine Worlds: Magnus Chase](#) (Hyperion \$12.99). Nine stories in the Gods of Asgard Series. Ages 8-12

✂Skaife, Christopher. [The Ravenmaster](#) (Farrar \$26). My Life with the Ravens at the Tower of London, a behind-the-scenes account of how Skaife takes care of the birds. Why do they matter? “The ravens at the Tower of London are of mighty importance: rumor has it that if a raven from the Tower should ever leave, the city will fall.”

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Colors of All the Cattle](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Possible signed copies; please inquire. 19th in the No 1 Ladies’ Detective Agency Series begins 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. To everyone’s surprise, she wins. However, politics do not agree with Mma Ramotswe and she eventually resigns. She thinks there will be a new election, but she discovers that the rules state that in such an event, the runner-up automatically takes the seat. Violet is triumphant. But Mma Makutsi and Mma Potokwane are not about to make it easy for her. If you’ve missed this [Botswana cozy series](#) in whole or in part you can order them all.

Taylor, Patrick. [An Irish Country Cottage](#) (Forge \$25.99). “What Herriot did for Yorkshire, Taylor now does for Northern Ireland’s County Antrim and County Down, minus the animals, of course, but with all the good sentiments.” The New Year brings challenges and changes to the colorful Irish village of Ballybucklebo. The Christmas holidays have barely passed before a fire engulfs the humble thatched cottage housing of Donal Donnally and his family. Although the family escapes the blaze more or less unsinged, Donal, his wife, their three small children, and their beloved dog find themselves with nothing left but the clothes on their back. Good thing Doctors O’Reilly and Laverty are on hand to rally the good people of Ballybucklebo to come to their aid. And that’s just one challenge for the doctors. As a new and tumultuous decade approaches, sectarian division threaten to bring unrest to Ulster, but in Ballybucklebo at least, peace still reigns and neighbors look after neighbors. Taylor is not Maeve Binchy but her fans should dip into this long-running series.

✂Thackeray, William Makepeace. [Vanity Fair](#) (\$13.99). The classic novel of ‘villainy, crime, merriment, lovemaking, jilting, laughing, cheating, fighting and dancing’, soon to be a major new ITV series from the producers of *Poldark*, *Victoria*, and *And Then There Were None*. Thackeray’s witty literary classic is set against the backdrop of the Napoleonic Wars, and follows anti-heroine and ruthless social climber Becky Sharp as she attempts to claw her way out of poverty and scale the heights of English Society. Her story takes her all the way to the court of King George IV, via the Battle of Waterloo, breaking heart and fortunes as she goes.

NOTE: Marriott, Emma. [The World of Vanity Fair](#) (Little Brown \$28.99). The tie-in to the TV series is full of treats for fans of the Victorian world whether mystery or historical fiction. The tales of charismatic, shrewd, and amoral Becky Sharp’s journey from Miss Pinkerton’s academy for young ladies to a wider world in which wealth and status is valued above all else is arguably as relevant today as it was nearly 200 years ago.

✂Turton, Stuart. [The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). Evelyn Hardcastle will die. Every day until Aiden Bishop can identify her killer and break the cycle. But every time the day begins again, Aiden wakes up in the body of a different guest. And some of his hosts are more helpful than others.... I gave this a harsh review in September and I stick to it, finding it tiresome rather than inventive but other readers enjoyed it more. Here’s the October Indie Next Pick: “I didn’t know how badly I needed to escape my own life and sink into someone else’s, or, in this case, many lives. Multiple perspectives give this book a mind-blowing mash-up feeling of *Clue* and the best Agatha Christie. There’s a certain delicious joy to being confused and then ignoring the rest of the world while you read, desperate to discover the answers. Sure, it’s the basic premise of a mystery, but for some readers it’s a forgotten joy in need of reviving. Fun, inventive, and thoroughly entertaining, perhaps ‘leave your own reality’ reading is the new binge-watching.”

Unger, Lisa. [Under My Skin](#) (Park Row \$16.99). It’s been a year since Poppy’s husband, Jack, was brutally murdered during his morning run through Manhattan’s Riverside Park. In the immediate aftermath, Poppy spiraled into an oblivion of grief, disappearing for several days only to turn up ragged and confused wearing a tight red dress she didn’t recognize. What happened to Poppy during those lost days? And more importantly, what happened to Jack? The case was never solved, and Poppy has finally begun to move on. But then she starts having nightmares and blackouts—there are periods of time she can’t remember, and she’s unable to tell the difference between what is real and what she’s imagining. When she begins to sense that someone is following her, Poppy is plunged into a game of cat and mouse, determined to unravel the mystery around her husband’s death.

✂Vaughan, Sarah. [Anatomy of a Scandal](#) (\$16). This is a debut with a narrative akin to a #MeToo ripped from the newspapers. What we have is a wife to a rising Junior Minister star, a public figure she fell for while at Oxford. James is a handsome, charismatic public figure, a good father, her husband... and then one day he’s accused of raping his Parliamentary assistant Olivia. In an elevator. Sophie is shocked and hurt. James says his affair with Olivia was short, a one-off, this is revenge. The PM, an old friend, supports him. Kate is a lawyer who believes Olivia and is

certain that James is guilty and she will make him own up to this crime, perhaps other crimes. And so, through these various narrators, the story builds. This technique is a condensed version of Lawrence Durrell's structure for *The Alexandria Quartet*.

Von Doviak, Scott. [Charlesgate Confidential](#) (Hard Case Crime \$22). I quote another bookseller: "The theft of masterpieces from the Gardner Museum in 1990 is the premise of this fabulous novel, but the author ingeniously stages it in 1946. Three men foolishly rob the wrong card game at the derelict Charlesgate Hotel, and as punishment are forced to take part in the theft. We jump to 2014, and a murder at the now expensive Charlesgate. In 1986, the building is owned by Emerson College, and student Tommy Donnelly is writing the history of the building, bringing him to the attention of one of the thieves. And so it goes, jumping ahead decades, then jumping back, each chapter introducing colorful characters, each with the idea of getting rich. How it all plays out is priceless."

✎Watkins, Roz. [The Devil's Dice](#) (Harper \$12.99). A lawyer is found dead in a Peak District cave, his face ribboned with scratches. Amidst rumors of a local curse, DI Meg Dalton is convinced this is cold-blooded murder. There's just one catch – chiselled into the cave wall above the body is an image of the grim reaper and the dead man's initials, and it's been there for over a century. As Meg battles to solve the increasingly disturbing case, it's clear someone knows her secrets. The murderer is playing games with Meg – and the dice are loaded. "A touch of Agatha Christie, a dash of Ann Cleeves's Vera and a suitably moody setting in the Peaks...bring a formidable newcomer to British crime writing."—*The Daily Mail*. Shortlisted for the CWA Debut Dagger Award; *The Times* Crime Book of the Month, April 2018, and a good bet for readers of Stephen Booth.

Watkins, Eileen. [Feral Attraction](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Cassie McGlone, owner of Cassie's Comfy Cats, a grooming and boarding business in Chadwick, N.J., attends a condominium meeting of a suburban enclave whose mostly elderly homeowners are battling over how to deal with a colony of feral cats living in the surrounding woods. While some call for drastic measures, 70-year-old Sabrina Ward seeks a more humane solution. Cassie tries to persuade the condo board to try a trap-neuter-return program. Later, Sabrina is found dead near one of her cat feeding stations. The autopsy lists the cause of death as a heart attack, but Dawn, a friend of both Cassie and Sabrina, refuses to believe this assessment and asks Cassie to help her prove it was murder. The top cat of the feral colony leads Cassie to an important clue and perhaps saves her life, but the detection takes a back seat to information on both domestic and feral cat behavior. Third in the Cat Groomer cozies.

Williams, Paige. [The Dinosaur Artist](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99). *New Yorker* staff writer Williams uses the story of fossil enthusiast Eric Prokopi to illuminate the murky world of modern fossil hunting in this fascinating account. The story begins with Eric's discovery, around age five, of a fossilized shark tooth off the coast of Florida, which sparked a lifelong fascination with prehistoric life. Eric's passion led him to take a cataloguing position with the Florida Museum of Natural History, and later to teach himself how to prepare fossils for exhibition. Williams carries this tale through Eric's starting a business to sell his acquisitions, to his prosecution in 2012 by the federal government for smuggling

into the U.S. and auctioning off Tarbosaurus bones deemed the rightful property of Mongolia, where they were found. Williams provides just the right amount of context, from the long-standing tensions between paleontologists and commercial fossil dealers, to Mongolia's hardscrabble history since the days of Genghis Khan. To this foundation of solid research, she adds a vivid storytelling style. The combination results in a narrative nonfiction page-turner.

✎Wodehouse, PG. [The Essential Jeeves and Wooster](#) (Overlook \$55). A handsome boxed set with 3 of Wodehouse's gems. First, the hilarious account of the first encounter between Jeeves and Wooster in *Carry On, Jeeves* is an ideal introduction to Wodehouse's marvelous world. *Thank You, Jeeves* is the first full-length novel to feature our heroes, along with an American millionaire, a terrifying conflagration, and an exceedingly annoying instrument called the banjolele. And *Joy in the Morning* is regarded by many to be the very best of the Jeeves novels—after reading about the adventures of Nobby Hopwood, Boko Fittleworth, and Stilton Cheesewright, you'll find it hard to disagree. Evokes another era, obviously, but Wodehouse's charm remains bright.

NOTE: a hilarious "Jeeves" publishes in November imagining Jeeves and Bertie Wooster as spies, agents of the British government as the storm clouds of war gather: Ben Schott, [Jeeves and the King of Clubs](#) (\$39 SIGNED).

Woods, Stuart. [Desperate Measures](#) (Putnam \$28). Dropping his most recent squeeze, Kelly, who's returning to her career at Langley, at the NYC heliport, Stone Barrington meets a stunning woman who might fill a professional need. Tiny Faith Barnacle is a pilot, flying for charter airline Trans-Continent. She needs a ride to an employees' hotel on Lexington. But before long he's protecting her when the city is rocked by a series of disturbing crimes. And Faith might be the next target....

Yu, Ovidia. [The Betel Nut Tree Mystery](#) (Constable \$13.99). The second Crown Colony Mystery after [The Frangipani Tree Mystery](#) (\$13.99) begins: "What we came to think of as the betel nut affair began in the middle of a tropical thunderstorm in December 1937." Singapore is agog with the news of King Edward VIII's abdication to marry American heiress Wallis Simpson. Chen Su Lin, now Chief Inspector Le Froy's secretarial assistant in Singapore's newly formed detective unit, still dreams of becoming a journalist and hopes to cover the story when the Honorable Victor Glossop announces he is marrying an American widow of his own, Mrs. Nicole Covington, in the Colony. But things go horribly wrong when Victor Glossop is found dead, his body covered in bizarre symbols and soaked in betel nut juice. The beautiful, highly-strung Nicole claims it's her fault he's dead—just like the others. And when investigations into her past reveal a dead lover, as well as a husband, the case against her appears to be stacking up....

OUR OCTOBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Andrews, Donna. [How the Finch Stole Christmas!](#) (\$7.99). Meg Langslow #22. When her husband organizes a full-scale production of "A Christmas Carol" with a famous veteran actor in the starring role, Meg finds herself navigating unexpected challenges in the star's baggage and enemies. *PW* ended their review with "Andrews manages her large cast with dexterity and drops clues to the culprits' identity, but the ending will catch most readers by surprise.

Box, C.J. [Paradise Valley](#) (\$9.99). Cassie Dewell #3. Setting a trap for a serial killer she has hunted for three years, investigator Cassie Dewell is disgraced when the operation goes horribly wrong, a situation that is further complicated by the loss of her job, the disappearance of a troubled youth and her determination to catch the killer at any cost. *PW* gave this a star saying “The intrepid, appealing Cassie relies on her keen investigative instincts to hone in on Pergram in this top-notch thriller, which makes vivid use of the American West.”

Gardner, Lisa. [Look for Me](#) (\$9.99). D. D. Warren #9. Detective D. D. Warren teams up with Flora Dane from *Find Her* in an investigation involving the sinister disappearance of a 16-year-old girl whose family has been brutally murdered.

PW concluded with “Gardner shines a heartbreaking light on foster care abuse while steadily ratcheting up the tension to a genuinely surprising and emotional finale.”

Lin, Ed. [Ghost Month](#) (\$9.99) Taipei Night Market #1. Shocked to learn that his high-school ex has been murdered, food-stand worker Jing-nan explores inconsistencies in the story with former classmates and the young woman’s bereaved parents only to make a startling discovery. *LJ* was just one of the review sources raving about this saying “Taiwan’s traditions play a major role in Lin’s category-defying thriller that manages to be both funny and profound. Lin, who also pens the New York City-set Robert Chow procedural series (*One Red Bastard*), writes with strong literary overtones and delivers a bang-up finale sure to keep readers engaged well past lights out.” See Event Books for his second and third books in this terrific series.

Masterman, Becky. [A Twist of the Knife](#) (\$9.99). Brigid Quinn #3. Traveling back to her Florida hometown when her former partner asks for her help with a case that is not going well, ex-FBI agent Brigid Quinn turns skeptical when she learns that her former colleague would save an innocent man on death row. *Kirkus* concluded their review with “Against all odds, the harrowing back story and repeated doses of present-tense violence make the investigation not so much shocking as deeply, heart-wrenchingly sad. It’ll be a long time before intrepid readers who enter Masterman’s latest labyrinth shake off its suffocating spell.”

Rose, Karen. [Death is Not Enough](#) (Berkley \$7.99). When he wakes up in bed with a dead woman, her blood on his hands and no recollection of how he got there, Baltimore defense attorney Thorne must confront his past once and for all to figure out who is trying to frame him. If you love programs like *Criminal Minds* and authors like Lisa Gardner, you really need to be reading Rose’s intense, dark suspense novels.

Rosenfelt, David. [The Twelve Dogs of Christmas](#) (\$7.99). Andy Carpenter #15. Defending a friend who has been reported by a cranky neighbor for fostering homeless puppies during the holiday season, Andy Carpenter encounters more trouble than anticipated when the neighbor is found murdered. *LJ* concluded its review with, “The wisecracking, dog-loving attorney still has plenty of appeal in this fast-paced Christmas mystery that avoids any holiday sentimentality.”

Spindler, Erica. [The Other Girl](#) (\$7.99). The ritualistic murder of a beloved college professor forces a small-town Louisiana police officer to confront a traumatic night from her long-buried past. *PW* said this “Multidimensional characters with a plethora of hidden agendas help drive the riveting plot to its explosive conclusion.”

NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Coyle, Cleo. [The Ghost and the Bogus Bestseller](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Haunted Bookshop #6. After a new customer has a breakdown in her shop, Penelope Thornton-McClure suspects there is something bogus behind the biggest bestseller of the year. This popular potboiler is so hot that folks in her tiny Rhode Island town are dying to read it—literally. Now, with the help of her gumshoe ghost, Pen must solve the real-life cold case behind the bogus bestseller before the killer closes the book on her.

Evanovich, Jane. [Hardcore Twenty-Four](#) (\$9.99). Plum #24. Reluctantly agreeing to babysit a professional grave robber’s pet boa constrictor, Stephanie Plum is embroiled in a bizarre series of crimes that escalate from the violation of stolen corpses to the murder of a homeless man, a case that is complicated by the return of the hunky but reckless Diesel.

Fury, Dalton. [Execute Authority](#) (St Martins \$9.99). Kolt “Racer” Raynor and his Delta Force squadron provide security for a newly elected, controversial American President during an urgent NATO meeting in Greece, where the Greek prime minister is assassinated by an infamous sniper.

Grippando, James. [Death in Live Oak](#) (\$9.99). When the president of a black fraternity is murdered, defense attorney Jack Swytek navigates a maelstrom of racial uprisings as he investigates the chief suspect, an effort that is further challenged by the case’s eerie similarities to a Jim Crow-era lynching.

Johansen, Iris. [Mind Game](#) (\$9.99). Eve Duncan #21. Searching for a long-missing treasure in Scotland, Jane MacGuire experiences vivid dreams of a girl in danger at the same time she reconnects with a volatile ex and is confronted by stunning changes in the lives of those closest to her.

Meier, Leslie. [Trick or Treat Murder](#) (\$7.99). Reissue. Lucy Stone #3. While preparing for the annual Halloween festival in Tinker’s Cove, Maine, Lucy Stone investigates a series of arson fires that are destroying local architectural treasures, crimes that claim the life of the owner of the town’s oldest home and turn an arsonist into a killer.

Thompson, Victoria. [City of Lies](#) (\$7.99). Counterfeit Lady #1. Using her guile to relieve so-called respectable men of their ill-gotten gains, a woman on the run hides among a group of privileged women and bonds with an honest man while outmaneuvering a nemesis who blames her for his losses.

Wallace, Aurale. [A Haunted Hayride with Murder](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Otter Lake #5. When she, along with the rest of Otter Lake Security, is hired to investigate a murder, which the townsfolk attribute to the ghost of a long-dead witch, Erica Bloom searches for an earthlier culprit to lay this case to rest.

Ware, Ruth. [In a Dark, Dark Wood](#) (\$9.99). Reluctantly accepting an old friend’s invitation to spend a weekend on the English countryside, reclusive writer Leonora awakens in a hospital badly injured, unable to recall what happened and confronting a growing certainty that someone involved has died.

Watterson, Kate. [Severed](#) (Tor \$9.99). When the district attorney’s daughter is brutally murdered, her boyfriend is immediately arrested, but homicide detectives Ellie Macintosh and her partner, Jason Santiago, sense something off.