

BOOKNEWS from

ISSN 1056-5655, © The Poisoned Pen, Ltd.
Volume 30, Number 15
December Booknews 2018
sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd.
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
480-947-2974



Happy Holidays to All....

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 5 7:00 PM

Location: Doubletree Hilton, 5401 N Scottsdale Rd 85250
Michael Connelly signs [Dark Sacred Night](#) (LittleBrown \$29)
Bryan Gruley signs [Bleak Harbor](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95 or \$15.95)

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

THURSDAY DECEMBER 6 7:00 PM

Matt Coyle signs [Wrong Light](#) (Oceanview \$26.95)
Rick Cahill #5
Patricia Smiley signs [The Second Goodbye](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99)
Pacific Homicide #3
James L. Thane signs [Fatal Blow](#) (Moonshine Cove \$13.95)
Sean Richardson #3

SATURDAY DECEMBER 8 2:00 PM History Holiday Party

Join us for special cookies, conversations, and crimes (We have cookie cutters of Egyptian and Sherlockian design)
Laurie R King and Leslie S Klinger sign [For the Sake of the Game: Stories Inspired by the Sherlock Holmes Canon](#) (Norton \$25.95)
King also signs [Island of the Mad](#) (\$28) and [Mary Russell's War](#) (\$15.95)
Klinger also signs [Classic American Crime Fiction of the 1920s](#) (Norton \$35)

Dana Stabenow signs [Death of an Eye](#) (Zeus \$29.95) as well as [Silk and Song](#) (\$29.95) and the 21st Kate Shugak [Less Than a Treason](#) (\$12.95).

MONDAY DECEMBER 10 7:00 PM

Cassandra Claire in conversation with Diana Gabaldon
Tickets: \$28 per person, includes Cassandra Clare book

Location: Madison Center for the Arts 5601 N 16th St Phoenix, AZ 85016

Cassandra Clare signs [Queen of Air and Darkness: Dark Artifices #3](#) (McElderry Books \$24.99)
Diana Gabaldon signs [Voyager: 25th Anniversary Edition](#) (Delacorte \$40)

AND START THE NEW YEAR WITH US

SATURDAY JANUARY 5 7:00 PM

Location: Kerr Center 6110 N. Scottsdale Road 85253
(Note: turn into Rose Lane at the light, then take the first left to the Kerr Center which is not precisely on Scottsdale Road. Plenty of parking)

Douglas Preston signs [Verses for the Dead](#) (Grand Central \$28), presigned by Lincoln Child who joins in by Skype. Plus there's a very cool vintage postcard with a message written by Agent AXL Pendergast.

DECEMBER DISCUSSION CLUBS

Coffee & Crime: Saturday December 8 10:30 AM: Holiday Potluck

SciFi Friday: December 14 7:00 PM: Holiday Party and discusses Rebecca Lighthorse's [Trail of Lightning](#) (\$16.99)

Croak & Dagger: Saturday December 15 10:30 AM: Holiday Party and discusses David Rosenfelt's [The Twelve Dogs of Christmas](#) (\$7.99)

Hardboiled Crime: Thursday December 20 7:00 PM: Holiday Party and discusses Daniel Boyd's [Easy Death](#) (\$9.95)

EVENT BOOKS

Clare, Cassandra. [Queen of Air and Darkness](#) (McElderry Books \$24.99). What if damnation is the price of true love? Innocent blood has been spilled on the steps of the Council Hall, the sacred stronghold of the Shadowhunters. In the wake of the tragic death of Livia Blackthorn, the Clave teeters on the brink of civil war. One fragment of the Blackthorn family flees to Los Angeles, seeking to discover the source of the disease that is destroying the race of warlocks. Meanwhile, Julian and Emma take desperate measures to put their forbidden love aside and undertake a perilous mission to Faerie to retrieve the Black Volume of the Dead. What they find in the Courts is a secret that may tear the Shadow World asunder and open a dark path into a future they could never have imagined. Caught in a race against time, Emma and Julian must save the world of Shadowhunters before the deadly power of the parabatai curse destroys them and everyone they love. Book 3 of the Dark Artifices Trilogy and one of, if not *the*, big book for young as well as mature adults for fall.

Connelly, Michael. [Dark Sacred Night](#) (LittleBrown \$29). “LAPD Det. Renée Ballard, first seen in 2017’s [The Late Show](#) (\$9.99), makes a welcome return in this outstanding, complex police procedural. Relegated to the night shift at the Hollywood Station following a sexual harassment suit against her former lieutenant, Ballard works her cases with a quiet focus and intensity. Late one night, Ballard surprises a man looking through some old case files. It turns out to be retired LAPD detective Harry Bosch, now working cold cases for the San Fernando PD. After Bosch leaves, Ballard takes a look at the file, detailing the unsolved 2009 murder of Daisy Clayton, a 15-year-old runaway. The slain girl was the daughter of a recovering addict, who has been taken in by Bosch. Ballard is hooked, and begins working the case with Bosch. Meanwhile, Bosch’s investigation into another cold case, the execution-style killing of a 52-year-old gang leader, has put the detective squarely in the sights of Varriso San Fer 13, one of the valley’s most violent gangs. Bosch and Ballard, both outsiders with complicated pasts, form a perfect partnership in this high spot of Edgar-winner Connelly’s long and distinguished career.” And an excellent way forward for Bosch. **Don’t miss a chance to get a personalized copy for yourself or for a gift.**

Coyle, Matt. [Wrong Light](#) (Oceanview \$26.95). Naomi Hendrix’s sexy voice hovering over the radio waves isn’t the only thing haunting the Southern California nights. A demented soul is stalking Naomi, hiding in the shadows of the night, waiting for the right moment to snatch her and fulfill a twisted fantasy. When Naomi’s radio station hires PI Rick Cahill to protect Naomi and track down the stalker, he discovers that Naomi is hiding secrets about her past that could help unmask the man. However, before Rick can extract the truth from Naomi, he is thrust into a missing person’s case—an abduction he may have unwittingly caused. The investigating detective questions Rick’s motives for getting involved and pressures him to stop meddling. While Rick pursues Naomi’s stalker and battles the police, evil ricochets from his own past and embroils Rick in a race to find the truth about an old nemesis. Is settling the score worth losing everything? 5th in the Rick Cahill PI series.

Gruley, Bryan. [Bleak Harbor](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95). Gruley bids farewell to Starvation Lake, Michigan, site of his first three zingers, to explore the kidnapping of an autistic teenager who shares the same state and much the same state of mind. Danny Peters was something of a trial even before he disappeared. Lacking much of an affinity for other people, he was interested mainly in dragonflies, computers, and Wallace Stevens. Now he’s gone off with someone who promised him a milkshake, and his mother and stepfather are agonizing about how to raise the quixotic ransom of \$5.145 million by the impossibly tight deadline. Both of them have reason to worry about their ability to pull together in their hour of need. *Kirkus* finds this to be, “A deep dive into the deepest secrets of a one-family town and its leading family that sometimes gets murky, even exhausting, but is never less than enthralling. And you’ll finish it with a wonderful sense that you’ve finally come up for air.” **Attend Gruley’s event with Connelly and get this at a special low price AND a coupon for a drink to enjoy during the conversation. Also in paperback which also gets a drink coupon.** [Bleak Harbor](#) (\$15.95). And we have a few copies of his excellent debut: [Starvation Lake](#) (\$16) but these do not come with a drink coupon.

King, Laurie and Klinger, Leslie, eds. [For the Sake of the Game: Stories Inspired by The Sherlock Holmes Canon](#) (Norton \$25.95). The 4th volume in this wonderful series where modern writers let loose their inner Sherlock includes tales by Peter S. Beagle, Rhys Bowen, Reed Farrel Coleman, Jamie Freveletti, Alan Gordon (!), Gregg Hurwitz, Harley Jane Kozak, DP Lyle, Weston Ochse, Zoe Sharp, Duane Swierczynski, and F. Paul Wilson. In short, it’s full of surprises. “Following their three earlier co-edited collections exploring farther and farther reaches of the universe of Sherlock Holmes pastiches, King and Klinger have commissioned 14 new stories that make up their wildest, weirdest crop yet,” says *Kirkus Reviews*. “The goal is not to write a straightforward period pastiche but to produce something more loosely inspired by the canon.” Introduction by editors King and Klinger for our **December Modern Firsts Book of the Month Club Pick**.

Klinger also signs [Classic American Crime Fiction](#) (Norton \$39.95). American crime writing was reborn in the 1920s. After years of dominance by British authors, new American writers—with fresh ideas about the detective and the mystery—appeared on the scene and rose to heights of popularity not witnessed since the success of the Sherlock Holmes tales in America. Classic American Crime Writing of the 1920s—including *House Without a Key*, *The Benson Murder Case*, *The Roman Hat Mystery*, *Red Harvest*, and *Little Caesar*—offers some of the very best of that decade’s writing. Klinger intends to continue with the 1930s, 1940s, etc.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Verses for the Dead](#) (Grand Central \$28). Publishes Dec. 31 but as that’s not a feasible event date, it will be signed here on Saturday January 5. A new Assistant Director in Charge of the FBI’s NY field office upends Agent Pendergast’s life. Pendergast is abruptly forced to accept an unthinkable condition of continued employment: the famously rogue agent must now work with a partner. So junior Special Agent Coldmoon too is assigned to a gruesome case in Miami Beach where a young woman has had her throat slashed and her

heart cut out in a gruesome crime. The heart, left on a local cemetery gravestone along with a note, is apparently a link to a suicide some years earlier in Maine. This confounding MO is repeated, linked to another woman's suicide. But the seeming lack of connection between the old suicides and the new murders is soon the least of Pendergast's worries—outside of having to work with Coldmoon and report to Director Pickett.... This is pure Pendergast and filled with both thrills and uncommon information. **Our copies come with a special vintage postcard of Miami written by Pendergast and sent to Corrie....**

Smiley, Patricia. [The Second Goodbye](#) (Midnight Ink \$15.99). Was Sara a saint caring for her dying husband or a gold-digger with a sketchy background? Did she commit suicide or was she murdered? Before her marriage, Sara lived comfortably without any obvious source of income, unusual for an orphan raised in foster care. As Detective Davie Richards digs deeper, she unearths Sara's troubled past and a viper's nest of villains who are willing to kill to keep their secrets hidden. In her latest Pacific Homicide, "Patricia Smiley tackles Michael Connelly territory and succeeds with a realistic, compelling police procedural in the badlands of contemporary Los Angeles. Detective Davie Richards is a smart, no-nonsense heroine, and the storytelling had me turning the pages at the expense of mundane activities like sleeping. *The Second Goodbye* is an intriguing mystery laced with well-researched law enforcement practices."—Raymond Benson

Stabenow, Dana. [Death of an Eye](#) (Zeus \$29.95). We don't have enough of crimes going on in Ancient Egypt, especially in the last days of the Ptolemies. Dana, feeling fierce about the roles of women, sets a private eye novel, the start of a trilogy (or more) in the early days of Cleopatra's reign. The queen's agent, the Eye of Isis, is struck down one night and Cleo elects her childhood friend Tetisheri to take up the Eye's assignment which relates to minting new coins to shore up the shaky Egyptian economy. While Cleo grows heavy with Caesar's child, Sheri embarks on a dangerous voyage while dodging vicious politics in Alexandria as well as her vicious ex-husband, a tool of Cleo's brother and co-ruler. Note: This is not your mother's Julius Caesar, either! **Order early as a second printing is already underway in the UK where this book is published.**

Thane, James L. [Fatal Blow](#) (Moonshine Cove \$13.95). Becky Miller is stunned to discover that her husband, Walter, is having an affair with a scatterbrained cocktail waitress. In retaliation, she devises a clever plan that will place her philandering husband squarely in the sights of both the police and the IRS before she divorces him and leaves him to the tender mercies of his dopey girlfriend. But as she sets her scheme into motion, things go tragically wrong and Becky winds up a victim of her own carefully-orchestrated plan. Shortly thereafter, a female torso floats to the surface of a Phoenix canal and the case is assigned to homicide detective Sean Richardson and his partner, Maggie McClinton. DNA tests confirm that the victim is Becky Miller. But what seems at first to be a fairly straight-forward investigation turns out to be much more complicated, and as their case becomes increasingly convoluted, Sean and Maggie must sort through the havoc that Becky Miller has left in her wake and somehow find the solution to an especially gruesome crime before anyone else pays the ultimate price for a scheme that's gotten way out of hand. "*Fatal Blow* is a meticulous and engrossing

procedural – from the perspective of both the dogged detective and the surprising, enterprising criminal."—Lou Berney. You can [order all 3 Richardsons](#).

SIGNED BOOKS

✎Aaronovitch, Ben. [Lies Sleeping](#) (Gollancz \$39). 7th in the River of London police procedurals which embody magic and are absolutely fabulous, slightly snarky in a British way, filled with delightful characters yet plot driven. I was glued to this one. For more see [Some New Books for December](#) below.

Akunin, Boris. [The Black City](#) (Weidenfeld \$45). When the Tzar's head of security is assassinated, Fandorin is called to investigate: the killer has been overheard mentioning a 'black city' so Fandorin and his trusty companion, Masa, head to Baku, the burgeoning capital of oil. But as soon as they arrive, they are attacked and Fandorin almost drowns in an oil well. Saved by a stranger who hides him in the labyrinth of Baku's Old City, Fandorin begins to suspect the plot might be part of something larger - and much more dangerous. With war brewing in the Balkans, and Europe's empires struggling to contain the threat of revolution, Fandorin must try and solve his difficult case.

Bowen, Rhys. [Ghosts of Christmas Past](#) (Berkley \$24.99). We still have a stash of this Christmas mystery for Molly Murphy from last holiday season. Semi-retired private detective Molly Murphy Sullivan is suffering from depression after a miscarriage following her adventure in San Francisco during the earthquake of 1906. She and her husband, Daniel, are invited for Christmas at a mansion on the Hudson, and they gratefully accept, expecting a peaceful and relaxing holiday season. What they get is an American country house murder mystery to solve.

✎Chisholm, PF. [A Suspicion of Silver](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95) comes with a signed bookplate—the author lives in Budapest). Dana Stabenow reviews: "A wrong-side-of-the-blanket cousin of Queen Elizabeth I, perspicaciously able, perennially broke, persistently in love with the married Lady Elizabeth Widdrington, Sir Robert is fresh off saving James the VI/I's life from a double assassination attempt. With the whole-hearted if covert backing of Sir Robert Cecil he is now tasked by James to catch and kill the would-be assassin, a thoroughly creepy serial killer, and along the way if he can figure out how the German silver miners in Keswick are stiffing the queen out of her share of the take, so much the better. It doesn't help matters that his surly right hand, Sergeant Henry Dodd, is missing and presumed dead. Chisholm displays a masterful hand in drawing several plot lines from the previous novels to a resoundingly satisfying conclusion, and in setting a terrific hook on the last page. Mickey Spillane, who famously said 'The last line sells the next book,' would have given her a standing ovation for this one. I have never loved Sir Robert more." Nor have I. See [Our December Large Paperback Picks](#) for more and if you have missed Sir Robert, order the (to be continued) [nine-book set](#).

Fairstein, Linda. [Secrets from the Deep](#) (Dial \$16.99). In Devlin Quick #3, our modern Nancy Drew Dev goes to Martha's Vineyard for rest, relaxation...and a hidden pirate treasure! Yes, Dev is invited to join her best friend Booker's family on vacation at their summer home in Martha's Vineyard. Booker has a science project for school: to take a daily bucket of water from the Vineyard Sound and submit a sample to an oceanographic DNA lab. From

that, they can actually tell you what species of fish have been in those waters: striped bass, blues...and sharks! But Devlin comes up with something else in her bucket from the days when pirates hid treasures along New England coastline. With access to the crime DNA lab back in NYC (courtesy of her mother), Dev is going to solve the mystery of this treasure...and figure out all of the secrets Martha's Vineyard is hiding. You can order all 3 [Devlin Quicks](#).

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

Harrison, Mette. [Not of This Fold](#) (Soho \$26.95). The 4th investigation by the bishop's wife publishes in December, Signed here on January 12 (weather permitting) with Carol Potenza. "...In Harrison's exceptional fourth Linda Wallheim mystery, Gwen Ferris, who has been active in the church's Spanish ward, has befriended Gabriela Suarez, a young mother of three, whose husband has been deported to Mexico. One day, Gabriela leaves a phone message for Gwen that suggests she's in some sort of trouble, and that night, her strangled body turns up at a gas station. Gwen prevails on her good friend Linda to help bring Gabriela's killer to justice. Tension rises between Linda and her Mormon bishop husband, Kurt, who worries about her interfering in police matters. Meanwhile, Linda fears that their youngest son, Samuel, who's on a mission in Boston, may be encountering prejudice from fellow Mormons because he's openly gay. The culprit will surprise few, but Harrison maintains the suspense as the action builds to an altogether fitting resolution, in which an unexpected character plays a major role. Readers of all faiths will relate to kindhearted, thoughtful Linda, a devout Mormon who isn't afraid to question the policies and leadership of the LDS church."—*PW* Starred Review. While you wait [order the first three for Linda](#).

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

Hunt, Laird. [In the House in the Dark of the Woods](#) (Little Brown \$23) is our **December SciFi/Fantasy Book of the Month Club Pick**. It "takes off at a full gallop and never looks back. In just over 200 pages, Hunt evokes countless stories embedded in the American consciousness, from Grimm's' fairy tales to Wash-

ington Irving's creepy stories of the early 1800s...[Hunt] has fashioned an edge-of-the-seat experience more akin to watching a horror movie. Don't go in the cellar! Don't eat that pig meat! Darkness is everywhere. And never assume you can trust the narrator. So prepare yourself. This is a perfect book to read when you're safely tucked in your home, your back to the wall, while outside your door the wind rips the leaves from the trees and the woods grow dark."—*New York Times Book Review*. In short, an antidote to holiday cheer. Tuck yourself away and read.

✠Kernick, Simon. [We Can See You](#) (Random UK \$32). We've kidnapped your daughter, and we know everything about you. Including the dark secrets from your past you thought were forgotten. We tell you not to contact the police – and that we'll know if you do. Because we can see you. And now you know this is no ordinary abduction. It's worse. Within hours you're on the run, with only one thought in your head: That you will stop at nothing to get your daughter back. Even murder...

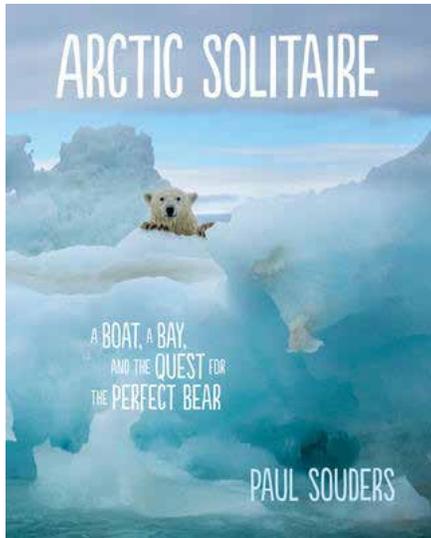
Potenza, Carol. [Hearts of the Missing](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Winner of the 2017 Tony Hillerman Prize, this debut, our **December First Mystery Book of the Month Club Pick**, is led by Pueblo Police Sergeant Nicky Matthews. She's assigned to the suicide of a young woman linked to a list of missing Fire-Sky tribal members. Further investigation probes deeply into what it means to be a Fire-Sky Native and victims chosen and murdered because of their genetic makeup. The killer is not only taking their lives but determined that the spirits of those targeted will wander forever, lost to their family and to their ancestors. In an interview Potenza remarks, "My sister-in-law, who works as a police officer on a reservation, never saw visions until she started working out there. It made a huge impression on me. I gathered her stories over the years and started using them in my writing. I've also been doing some ride-alongs with the police and conservation officers at the pueblo, and they have all been telling me more of these vision stories. I've got some great ghost stories." Actually this is not a woo-woo at all but has some believable science as well as a truly evil villain. **Potenza will not be here to sign her book for us until January 12 at 2:00 PM.** Patience, please.

✠Shott, Ben. [Jeeves and the King of Clubs](#) (Hutchinson \$39). Storm clouds loom over Europe. Treason is afoot in the highest social circles. The very security of the nation is in peril. Jeeves, it transpires, has long been an agent of British Intelligence, but now His Majesty's Government must turn to the one man who can help—Bertie Wooster. Seriously? So Jeeves and Wooster head out on an uproarious adventure of espionage through the secret corridors of Whitehall, the sunlit lawns of Brinkley Court, and the private clubs of St James's. They encounter outraged chefs and exasperated aunts, disreputable politicians and gambling bankers, slushy debs and Cockney cabbies, sphinx-like tailors, and sylph-like spies. There is treachery to be foiled, naturally, but also horses to be backed, auctions to be fixed, engagements to be escaped, madmen to be blackballed, and a new variety of condiment to be cooked up, all contributing to this homage to PG Wodehouse. A marvelous treat, and also gift.

Simpson, Rosemary. [Let the Dead Keep Their Secret](#) (Kensington \$26). Simpson's 3rd Gilded Age mystery publishes in December and is Signed here January 19 in conversation with Karen Odden. "New York opera singer Claire Buchanan, whose twin sister, Catherine, died in childbirth eight months earlier, calls

on the services of Prudence MacKenzie and her investigative partner, Geoffrey Hunter. Death of both mother and child during birth was not unusual in 1889, but Claire believes that her twin's death was not natural. Catherine's husband, Aaron Sorensen, who inherited her wealth, is an unsuccessful gambler who married another heiress with indecent haste after her death, and his new wife is eight months pregnant. Geoffrey sets out to learn all he can about Aaron's past, while Prudence, fearing that Aaron's second wife and her child are also in danger, formulates a perilous plan to expose the gambler's murder-for-inheritance scheme. Simpson's New York is gritty and dark, and she convincingly portrays the era's fascinating macabre spiritualist beliefs, class and gender stereotypes, and racial prejudices."

Souders, Paul. [Arctic Solitaire](#) (Mountaineer Books \$26.95). How



did photographer Souders find himself alone aboard a tiny boat, enduring bad weather and worse cooking, while struggling to find his way across more than a thousand miles of Hudson Bay? It was all for a picture. He dreamed of photographing the Arctic's most iconic animal, the polar bear, in its natural habitat. It was a seemingly simple plan: Haul a 22-foot fishing boat northeast a few thousand miles,

launch, and shoot the perfect polar bear photo. Of course it didn't go that way....

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

Here is the *LJ* Starred Review: "Shona McMonagle is librarian of Edinburgh's Morningside Library, just down the road from the Marcia Blaine School for Girls, where she received the finest education in the world. She loathes getting requests for a novel presumably based on the school but riddled with errors and assumptions about its distinguished alumnae. So whenever an order arrives for *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*, she hides the copy away to keep it from sullyng the name of Marcia Blaine, defending the honor of her alma mater. Shona's honor, her knowledge, skills, and loyalty all make her an elite recruit of a distinctly different sort, thus Marcia Blaine herself sends Shona back in time

to tsarist Russia on a secret mission, where she must use all of her instruction in all sorts of murderly circumstances. This absolutely delightful time-traveling murder mystery is perfect for fans of Jasper Fforde and Genevieve Cogman's "Invisible Library" series as well as Russian history fans who enjoy stories with a sharp sense of humor." As our Signed copies (from Scotland) are extremely limited, you can order the paperback edition: [Miss Blaine's Prefect](#) (\$14.95).

GIFTS UNIQUE TO THE PEN

No. 1: A Poisoned Pen Gift Card. In any amount, can be emailed anywhere or given as a physical card. Click [HERE](#) to purchase or check your balance if you have been given a card. Can be emailed and so make that last minute gift a cinch to arrive on time.

No. 2: Poisoned Pen Merchandise all with our logo

[Book Bags](#) (\$13.95) – book bags make great gift wrap if you choose books to go inside as gifts. This is our most popular PP logo item

[Caps](#) in black, white, or red (\$14.95)

[Mugs in black](#) (\$8.99) or [Mugs in red](#) \$8.99) or [Mugs in white](#) (\$8.99)

[A Pen](#) (\$19.95), classy in black

[A Pen](#) (\$7.95), ballpoint in red and black

[Tee Shirts](#) in black, red, or white S-XL \$17); XXL (\$18)



We also have **single note cards** with a painting of the store (\$2.50 each) and in packs of 7 (\$14.95) you can request. Add one or a pack to a pen for a gift

No. 3: Membership in our Mystery of the Month Club (tailored to individual tastes, billed by the month to the donor's credit card). Email pat@poisonedpen.com to sign yourself or someone up, and for details as well as filling out the member's preferences form.

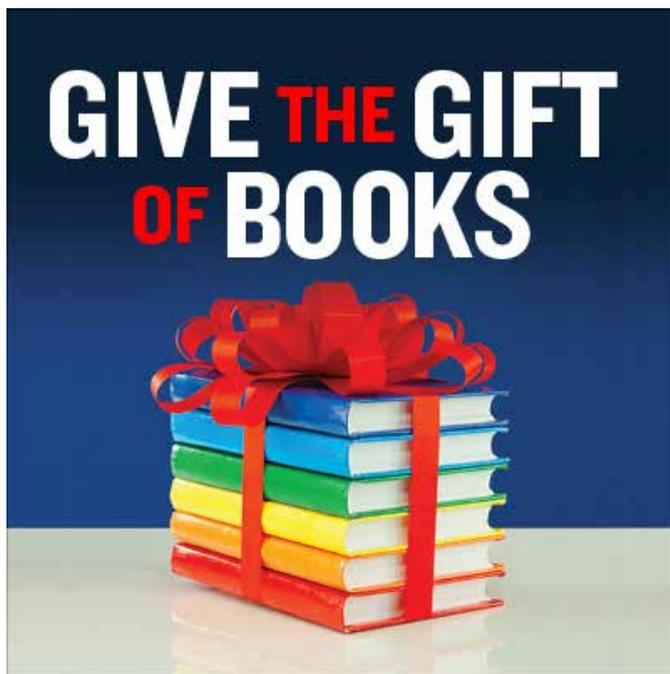
No. 4: Membership in any of our Book of the Month Clubs where one carefully selected title ships to all members each month and is charged each month to the donor's credit card. A six months' membership comes at the conclusion with a \$25 Gift Card to spend on anything. Choices are **British Crime**; **Cozies**; **Discovery**; **History** (one paperback or occasional unsigned hardcover per month for these four clubs). Or **First Mysteries**;

Hardboiled Crime; History/Mystery; Modern First Editions; SciFi/Fantasy; Surprise Me!; Thriller (one signed hardcover per month for these clubs). Our carefully curated Book of the Month Clubs give a gift with a much longer shelf life than say, the Fruit of the Month or Flower of the Month Club. Email karen@posonedpen.com to join. And think of giving a membership in a club to yourself as a gift. Who better than you?

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

GREAT GIFT IDEAS

Note: ask for free gift wrap. We ship all over the world but allow enough time. And check out our fun stuff like socks and mugs and tees....For more suggestions please see this section in the November Booknews



Arizona Historical League. [Tastes and Treasures II](#) (\$30). A fun book for foodies.

Cole, John Y. [An Illustrated History of the Library of Congress](#) (D. Giles \$39.95). I'm partial to this since once I was a librarian here and learned much about its history from its 1800 founding under John Adams to the love shown it by Thomas Jefferson whose personal collection was purchased to replace what was destroyed in the War of 1812 (in 1814 actually) through its struggle for legitimacy as our national library and the ways it expanded and still does today guided by the most recent Librarian of Congress, Carla D. Hayden. Loads of illustrations are a pleasure to browse.

Eggers, Dave. [The Monk of Mokha](#) (Knopf \$28.95). The humorist introduces us to Yemeni coffee having once met Mokhtar Alkanshali while the young Yemeni American was working as a doorman in San Francisco. Intrigued by Mokhtar's quixotic mission to restore Yemeni coffee to global prominence—after all, Yemen claims it originated there, Eggers takes a deep dive into

the complex world of coffee from its origin story to its cultivation, processing, and marketing. Eggers' rousing adventure yarn is in sad contrast to the devastation the increasingly violent civil war is wreaking on the country. **For other books on beverages (tea, coffee, wine, whiskey) and on cookbooks and such, see the November Booknews.**

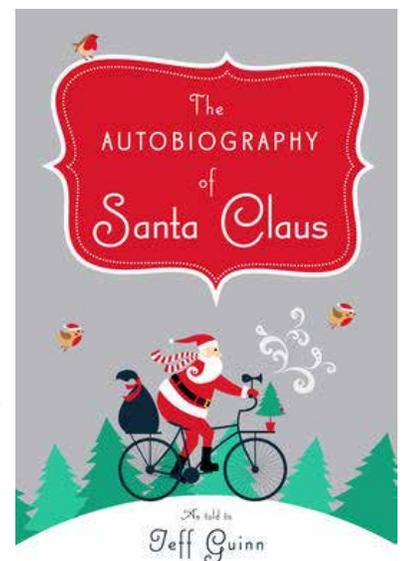
Gaiman, Neil. [Art Matters: Because Your Imagination Can Change the World](#) (Harper \$19.99). "The world always seems brighter when you've just made something that wasn't there before."—Neil Gaiman, who issues a call for creativity by writing four pieces illustrated with the striking four-color artwork of Chris Riddell.

Gaines, Joanna. [Homebody](#) (Harper \$40). The publisher says, "Gaines walks you through how to create a home that reflects the personalities and stories of the people who live there. Using examples, this comprehensive guide will help you assess your priorities and instincts, as well as your likes and dislikes, with practical steps for navigating and embracing your authentic design style." I can imagine this could be a big help in decluttering as well as giving you a push on the best shelving for your books. We all need a push towards [The Life Changing Magic of Tidying Up](#) (\$16.99), even if it sounds more appealing (and glamorous) to call it "embracing your design style." Also that line allows you to gift this book to others without offense.

⌘Gould, Tom. [The Snooty Bookshop](#) (Drawn and Quarterly \$19.95). This adorable small hardcover for ages 14+ gives you 50 postcards by British ace cartoonist Gould as published in *The Guardian*. He's a master of condensing grand, highbrow themes into comic panels. A delight for those appreciating (British) humor. Funny but serious, these postcards allow Gould to put his impressive knowledge of history, literature, and pop culture on full display—his impeccable timing and distinctive visual style setting him apart from the rest. This postcard set celebrates more than a decade of Gould's contributions to *The Guardian*.

Griffin, Simon. [Fucking Apostrophes](#) (Icon Books \$9.99). "At last, a book that tell you exactly where to stick your apostrophe... funny and useful, the perfect stocking filler." – David Marsh, *Guardian*. It comes in a rich red color, nearly jumps into your hand.

Guinn, Jeff. [The Autobiography of Santa Claus](#) (Penguin \$16). Santa reveals his story for the first time (second actually—this is a reissue). Nicholas (his real name) was born in the Middle Eastern Country of Lycia to wealthy parents who died when he was young. The kind people of Lycia taught him the lessons of goodness and generosity, which he began to practice as a child by sharing wealth with those in need. As a young man, Nicholas realized he possessed special abilities to distribute his presents to deserving children every-



where. And so it was that Santa broadened his gift-giving and spread his message to many others who also valued his belief in the goodness of giving. Families will delight in each chapter of this Christmas classic—one per each cold December night leading up to Christmas! And who better to lead us through seventeen centuries of Christmas magic than Santa?

Haldar, Raj. [P is for Pterodactyl!](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99), or *The Worst Alphabet Book Ever*. Let's get real—the English language is bizarre. A might be for apple, but it's also for aisle and aeons. Why does the word “gnat” start with a G but the word “knot” doesn't start with an N? It doesn't always make sense, but don't let these rule-breaking silent letters defeat you! This whimsical, funky book from Raj Haldar (aka rapper Lushlife) turns the traditional idea of an alphabet book on its head, poking fun at the most mischievous words in the English language and demonstrating how to pronounce them. Fun and informative for word nerds of all ages! A “raucous trip through the odd corners of our alphabet.” —*The New York Times*

Harkness, Deborah. [The World of All Souls](#) (\$40), a “Complete Guide to the All Souls Trilogy.” Perfect timing since the first volume, [A Discovery of Witches](#), debuts on TV in January. For the uninitiated, give *The All Souls Trilogy Boxed Set* (\$54), all inscribed by Harkness when here in October. Teens and up.

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

Johnson, Alex. [Book Towns](#) (Frances Lincoln \$22.95). Wow, here's a knockout for the money and the content. Forty Five paradises for book lovers. Dream away in Ureña in Spain or Fjaerland in Norway, where bookshops have been set up in buildings including former ferry waiting rooms and banks. While the UK has the best-known examples at Hay, Wigtown and Sedbergh, the book has a broad international appeal, featuring locations such as Jimbochu in Japan, College Street in Calcutta, and major unofficial “book cities” such as Buenos Aires. This is the perfect gift for a reader (or traveler) of any stripe. The customer who brought it to our notice writes, “...small towns and villages in rural and scenic locations around the world that have independent book stores. Beautiful photographs included. It is a “bookstore travel book” that encourages visits.”

Johnson, Spence. [Out of the Maze: An a-Mazing Way to Get Unstuck](#) (Portfolio \$22). Sadly Dr. Johnson, the author of the unlikely bestseller *Who Moved My Cheese?*, died while editing this long-awaited sequel. *Out of the Maze* reveals what mouse-sized Hem did next—and how his discoveries can help you unlock the riddle of whatever mazes you may face yourself. When you follow Hem and his new friend, Hope, on their new journey, you'll discover how to get more out of life by thinking outside the box. Or, in this case, outside the Maze. Written for all ages and backgrounds, this story takes less than an hour to read while providing endless insights.

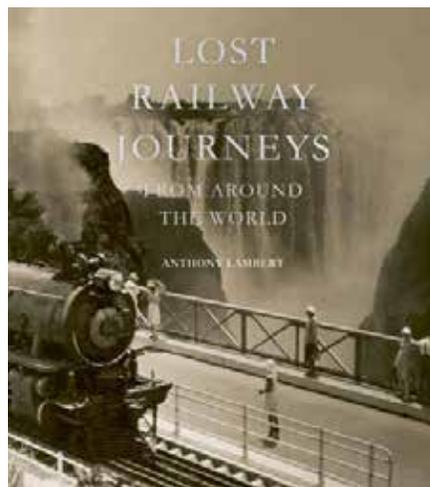
Katz, Harry, et al. [Baseball Americana: Treasures from the Library of Congress](#) (Harper Perennial \$24.99). The Library houses one of the world's largest baseball collections document-

ing everything from the history of the game to its stars, its street urchins, its sandlots and Little League and Major League games, and its stories through vintage photos, baseball cards, cartoons, clippings, ads, movie posters... and not in this book, great video. When I visited the Library in July a fabulous exhibition drawn from these treasures was on. It was hard to tear away from the footage, but this colorful, lavishly illustrated volume helped. Did I mention that women players are well represented too? Recommended for any baseball fan of any age.

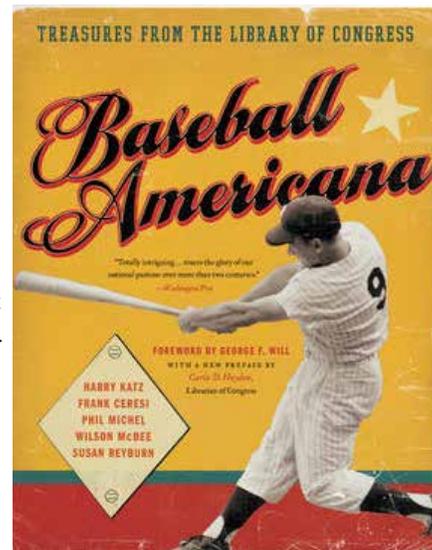
Keahey, John. [Sicilian Splendors](#) (St Martins \$28.99). “Once again, John Keahey finds the roads less traveled. A Sicilian blue highway adventure, Keahey's latest effort takes the reader into the towns and villages not often found on tourism maps, finds local characters and haunts, samples the food, describes the always stunning vistas, visits the ancient ruins and modern construction and tells the local tales. His abiding passion for all things Italian, and especially Sicilian, remain evident in this travelogue, which should be recommended reading for anyone planning a visit to this magical island.” —Paul Paolicelli. I am sad not to be able to make our planned trip to the island over the holidays so I'm buying a copy.

Knowles, Elizabeth, ed. [And I Quote... A History of Using Other People's Words](#) (Oxford University Press \$25). Why we use them, how we use them, and why some stick in common usage while others fade away are among the topics. Many quotes well known today have long histories filled with minor tweaks when deployed. While language keeps evolving, Shakespeare remains a constant. Anyone interested in language will love browsing Knowles.

Lambert, Anthony. [Lost Railway Journeys from Around the World](#) (White Lion \$35). The glamour (and hardships) of railroad



travel have mostly given way to jets and cruise ships. But Lambert presents an irresistible blast from the past. From the great cathedral-like railways stations of the steam age to obscure lines built through spectacular landscapes to open up countries before the advent of motorized road transport, this book is a celebration of our lost railway heri-

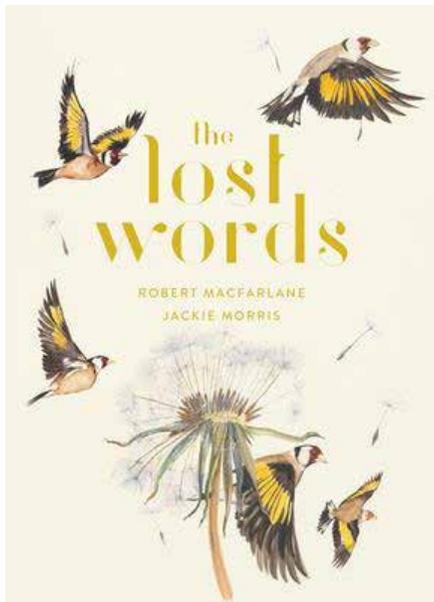


tage and the lines that can no longer be travelled. Like the other 32 journeys featured in the book, the Canadian Pacific's Big Hill line, a temporary fix for a tunnel problem, is long gone. But the tales and photographs of these defunct routes evoke a time when trains still represented the cutting edge of travel technology. Across the world, Lambert resurrects a bygone world of steam engines, narrow-gauge tracks, and custom monorails that carried cows 10 miles to the seaside. I've visited both the terminal and the Pera Palace Hotel in Istanbul, the end (or beginning) of a trip on the Orient Express back in the day, and yearned to have made the fabled trip. I do recommend Rovos Railway from Pretoria to Cape Town if ever you are in South Africa.

Lewis-Jones, Huw. [The Writer's Map: An Atlas of Imaginary Lands](#) (Univ. Chicago \$45) contains dozens of the magical maps writers have drawn or that have been made by others to illustrate the places they've created.

You map geeks will also love Edward Brooke-Hitching's [Phantom Maps: The Greatest Myths, Lies, and Other Blunders](#) (Chronicle \$29.95). A richly illustrated collection of colorful histories behind a striking range of real antique maps that are all in some way a little too good to be true. Mysteries within ancient maps: The Phantom Atlas is a guide to the world not as it is, but as it was imagined to be. Cartographical errors, invented places, speculative maps endowing a place with the characteristics of a known landscape. Not so much Here Be Dragons as Here Are Goofs....

And don't overlook [National Geographic's Almanac 2019](#) (\$19.99) filled with its characteristic beautiful photographs of the natural world and cornucopia of information presented in bite-size articles. Fun for teens and up.



Macfarlane, Robert. [The Lost Words](#) (Anansi \$35 comes with a bookplate signed by Macfarlane and illustrator Jackie Morris). Mere words can't do justice to this extraordinarily beautiful book. Which has a great story behind it. "Once upon a time, words began to vanish from the language of children. They disappeared so quietly that at first almost no one noticed—fading away like water on stone."

So writes Robert Macfarlane in his wistful introduction to this large, lovely book of verse filled with sumptuous paintings by Jackie Morris. "The words were those that children used to name the natural world around them: acorn, adder, bluebell, bramble, conker—gone! Fern, heather, kingfisher, otter, raven, willow, wren...all of them gone!" No witch or sorcerer banished these words from the vocabulary of the young but editors at Oxford University Press who, a decade ago, began culling terms that no longer seemed relevant for the users of OUP's junior dictionar-

ies. A visual and linguistic tribute to words falling from use as technological terms supplant those describing the natural world. Art, verse and nature are combined with entertaining elegance by word collector Robert Macfarlane and illustrator Jackie Morris to bridge a gap created by a new Oxford Junior Dictionary edition that drops words such as otter, willow and dandelion to make way for blog, broadband and voice-mail. "*The Lost Words* is a challenge to the loss of natural world language and an educational tribute to vocabulary and the environment. Each of 20 words graces three open-faced sections, moving from letters "hidden" within a single element of nature (i.e., ferns), transitioning to a descriptive acrostic verse and full-page image of the subject (an adder), finishing with a stunning confluence of the two (adder snake and ferns in the surroundings they share). This large, quality hardcover allows words and watercolor to shine and results in a work that can be left open at any page to stunning affect." This is a book to savor—by kids and their parents. I read it cover to cover in Frankfurt and then read it all over again. Drooling. Last year we recommended DK's [Remarkable Books](#) (\$30) as the most beautiful we could offer for the holidays. And now you can buy oth these gems!

Mankoff, Robert. [New Yorker Encyclopedia of Cartoons](#) (Running Press \$100). Splash out with this Semi-Serious A to Z Archive in a two-volume, slip-cased collection containing nearly ten decades' worth of cartoons from the magazine.

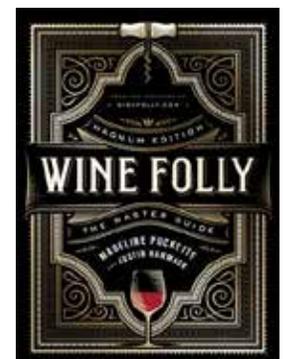


Mount, Jane. [Bibliophile: An Illustrated Miscellany](#) (Chronicle \$24.95). Mount embraces all things bookish in an absolutely charming volume that will delight book lovers of all stripes. "The goal of this book is to triple the size of your To Be Read pile," Mount writes in the introduction. Gorgeous illustrations, thematically linked and annotated book stacks, literary quizzes, recommendations from writers, editors, booksellers, librarians and more—

lots more—guarantee Mount will meet her goal and then some. And here is another plug for DK's [Remarkable Books](#) (\$30), an absolutely stunning tribute to print.

Mustich, James. [1000 Books to Read Before You Die](#) (Workman \$35). Think of this not as a bucket list but as a way to check your own reading profile (How many have you read? How many do you want to read?) How best do you allocate your time? There is increasing data to show that reading a book vs. gluing yourself to a device sharpens concentration, brain power, and analytical thinking.

Puckette, Madeline/Justin Hammack. [Wine Folly: Magnum Edition](#) (Avery \$35). From the creators of winefolly.com, an absolute gem of a guide to the art and pleasures of drinking wine. Regions are explored. Labels 101. Wine glasses by type, storing your wine, colorful guides to aromas, colors, reading labels, and pairings, all with a global scope. You can spend hours with this whether you drink wine or not since it



makes a kind of travel book. Lavish and useful color illustrations illuminate this thorough guide.

OUR DECEMBER BOOK OF THE MONTH CLUB PICKS

Give a membership (6 months or 12) to yourself or to anyone who loves good stories. Email Karen@poisonedpen.com to sign up. 6 months earns a \$25 Gift Certificate at the end of the period. New cycle starts in January, 2019.

British Crime Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Shaw, MB. [Murder at the Mill](#)

Cozy Crimes Club One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Tesh, Jane. [Death by Dragonfly](#)

Discovery Club One Unsigned paperback or hardcover per month

Thornley, Scott. [Erasing Memory](#)

First Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Potenza, Carol. [Hearts of the Missing](#)

Hardboiled Crime Club One Signed First per month

Lethem, Jonathan. [The Feral Detective](#)

History/Mystery Club One Signed First per month

Stabenow, Dana. [Death of an Eye](#)

History Paperback One per month

Robb, Candace. [A Murdered Peace](#)

Modern First Editions One Signed First per month

King, Laurie and Klinger, Leslie, ed. [For the Sake of the Game: Stories Inspired by The Sherlock Holmes Canon](#)

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club One Signed First per month

Hunt, Laird. [In the House of the Dark Woods](#)

Surprise Me! Club One Signed First per month

Lupica, Mike. [Robert B Parker's Blood Feud](#)

Thriller Club One Signed First per month

Gruley, Bryan. [Bleak Harbor](#)

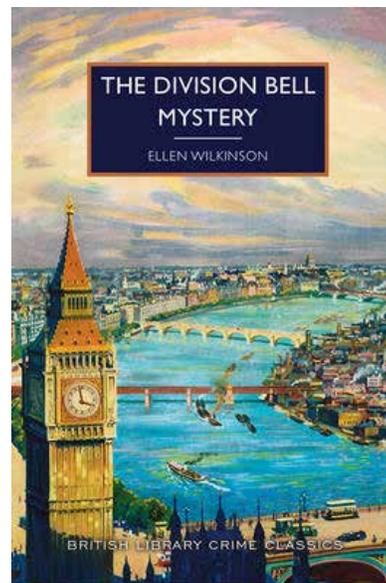
BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Gribble, Leonard. [The Arsenal Stadium Mystery](#) (\$12.95). The 1939 Arsenal side is firing on all cylinders and celebrating a string of victories. They appear unstoppable, but the Trojans – a side of amateurs who are on a winning streak of their own – may be about to silence the Gunners. Moments into the second half the whistle blows, but not for a goal or penalty. One of the Trojans has collapsed on the pitch. By the end of the day, he is dead. Gribble's unique mystery, featuring the actual Arsenal squad of 1939, sends Inspector Anthony Slade into the world of professional football to investigate a case of deadly foul play on and off the pitch. "Football" for the British is soccer for Americans. Introduction by Martin Edwards.

Symons, Julian. [The Belting Inheritance](#) (\$12.95). A January release likely to arrive on our shelves before Christmas. An intriguing puzzle centered on identity drives this entry in the British Library Crime Classics series, first published in 1965, from MWA Grand Master Symons (1912–1994). Within five weeks in 1944, Lady Wainwright learns that two of her four sons, Hugh and David, are missing in action and presumed dead. Some years after WWII, Oxford student Christopher Barrington, the nephew

of Lady Wainwright, returns to Belting, the family home, after learning that she's dying of cancer. Lady Wainwright reveals that she has just received a letter purporting to be from David. The writer explains that he escaped his fighter plane's crash with a minor injury, only to end up in a Russian labor camp for seven or eight years. David's mother naturally considers the missive a miracle, but her surviving sons are skeptical. The claimant's arrival at Belting is followed by a murder, whose solution is tied to the question of whether David is an imposter. Symons throws in some clever twists, though the book is less memorable than similarly themed mysteries such as Josephine Tey's [Brat Farrar](#) (\$16), one of my favorites by this Golden Age author.

Wilkinson, Ellen. [The Divisional Bell Mystery](#) (\$12.95). "Through the double clamour of Big Ben and the shrill sound of the bell rang a revolver shot." So it begins... A financier is found shot in the House of Commons. Suspecting foul play, Robert West, a parliamentary private secretary, takes on the role of amateur sleuth. Used to turning a blind eye to covert dealings, West must now uncover the shocking secret behind the man's demise, amid distractions from the press and the dead man's enigmatic daughter. Originally published in 1932, this was the only mystery novel to be written by Ellen Wilkinson, one of the first women to be elected to Parliament. Wilkinson offers a unique insider's perspective of political scandal, replete with sharp satire. Introduction by Martin Edwards and a Preface by Rachel Reeves, MP.



OUR DECEMBER LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Brookmyre, Chris. [The Sacred Art of Stealing](#) (\$17). A robbery in Scotland might not seem like an unusual background for a crime novel—until it's put into the hands of one of the U.K.'s leading satirists, "Vintage Brookmyre—equal parts adrenaline and empathy, a plot that opens out like a Japanese flower dropped in hot water, and characters so real you want to reach through the page and save them." —Diana Gabaldon

☞Chisholm, P F. [A Suspicion of Silver](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Here is a new Sir Robert Carey adventure, his 9th. Edinburgh, 1593. The new year begins. Sir Robert Carey has just foiled a double plot against King James. He rides for Leith hunting the would-be assassin now identified as Joachim Hochstetter, also known as Jonathan Hepburn. Has he taken ship for the Continent, or ridden nearly 130 miles south and west into England? There at Keswick, his family, originally from Augsburg, runs a mining operation that pays a royalty to Queen Elizabeth in gold. It's ruled by the widow Radagunda Hochstetter, his mother. Sir Robert's other problem? His dour, difficult, and now treasonous henchman, Sergeant Henry Dodd, has disappeared somewhere on the snowy moors. Why can't anyone find Dodd's body? Before

going after Hochstetter, Carey must escort Dodd's widow back to her home at Gilsland. It's a complex operation involving a cart, Widow Ridley and Skinabake Armstrong. That's the man who sold Janet Dodd to Wee Colin, the Elliot headman, on her way to Edinburgh before Dodd disappeared. If Hochstetter goes to ground in Keswick, how far will the colony of German miners go to protect Radagunda's favourite child? He may be an outlaw in Scotland, and King James certainly wants his head, but Carey has no official authorization to kill the man in England. A man must improvise, no? This series from *A Famine to Horses* to *A Suspicion of Silver* is one long (and to be continued) story arc. [Order the whole set](#) and escape into the past with Sir Robert and friends, a series beloved of Diana Gabaldon, Sharon Kay Penman, Dana Stabenow, and me.

Cooper, Steven. [Dig Your Grave](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). I am naturally delighted with a story set in Phoenix, and when it's as good as this crackerjack procedural rich in characters, local landscapes, and surprises. *PW* agrees with this Star: "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](#) (\$15.95). 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." Truly—highly recommended.

DeMille, Nelson. [The Cuban Affair](#) (\$17). When his shaky finances compel him to accept a lucrative job for a 10-day fishing tournament to Cuba, Army combat veteran-turned-charter boat captain Mac learns that one of his clients is seeking to claim millions hidden by her grandfather, who was forced to flee Castro's revolution years earlier. *PW* found a way to distill the literary appeal of DeMille's latest by saying "A line from the novel perfectly describes this page-turner: "Sex, money, and adventure. Does it get any better than that?"

Hamilton, Ian. [The Goddess of Yantai](#) (Anansi \$15.95). The latest in The Triad Years story arc (11th in the series not counting the e-book prequel and 5th in The Triad Years) swerves from asset recovery and strategic investments towards relationship protection. Lesbian Lee and Chinese super star Pang Fai fell hard for each other, but keep it secret in conservative China. Traveling to Beijing (our first time in the city with Ava Lee who's been based in Toronto where her second-wife mother lives) for the premiere of Fai's new film *Mao's Daughter*, Ava quickly realizes Fai is deeply upset. She is, in fact, being blackmailed by high ranking officials (one, anyway) of the China Movie Syndicate, which controls the industry. One in particular seeks sexual favors in return for supporting her career. It gets worse when someone threatens to release scandalous video footage of a reckless young Fai's hook ups with a woman, video that could torpedo her career even if she gives in to the senior official's demands. Ava, a specialist

in finding pressure points to achieve favorable outcomes, identifies one Fai can use against the Syndicate honcho, but it quickly grows more complex than that. This is a love story both for the two women and for Hamilton who in writing it greatly expanded his longtime appreciation for Chinese films, and it develops other relationships for Ava Lee rooted in earlier books. I recommend [reading the entire series](#) from the beginning. A bonus is you will travel to unusual places and learn many surprising things. I'm totally hooked. And film is in the works which should be a spectacular franchise.

✂Huang, Christopher. [A Gentleman's Murder](#) (Inkshares \$15.99). "Dorothy Sayers is alive and well and writing under the name of Christopher Huang. *A Gentleman's Murder* echoes the traditional mysteries in the best sense: no car chases or explosions, just great characters and a feel for time and place." I am once again indebted to Rhys Bowen for directing us to this debut from Canada. The year is 1924. The cobblestoned streets of St. James ring with jazz as Britain races forward into an age of peace and prosperity. London's back alleys, however, are filled with broken soldiers and still shadowed by the lingering horrors of the Great War. Only a few years removed from the trenches of Flanders himself, Lieutenant Eric Peterkin has just been granted membership in the most prestigious soldiers-only club in London: The Britannia. But when a gentleman's wager ends with a member stabbed to death, the victim's last words echo in the Lieutenant's head: that he would "soon right a great wrong from the past." Eric is certain that one of his fellow members is the murderer: but who? Eric's investigation will draw him far from the marbled halls of the Britannia, to the shadowy remains of a dilapidated war hospital and the heroin dens of Limehouse. And as his gentlemanly façade cracks, Eric faces a Matryoshka doll of murder, vice, and secrets pointing not only to the officers of his own club but the very investigator assigned by Scotland Yard. Other raves include *Booklist*: "Huang surrounds his engaging lead character with a meaty supporting cast, many of whom quickly become suspects with tantalizing motives. The mystery itself is clever and should keep even the most experienced whodunit finders guessing. We hope [this] will be only the first of many Eric Peterkin adventures."

Jacobs, Nova. [The Last Equation of Isaac Severy](#) (\$16). Our March 2018 First Mystery Book of the Month arrives in paperback for tantalizing escape reading. This debut is distinguished by a lively, original voice and a great story premise well executed, and is filled with surprising twists. The apparent suicide of a legendary mathematician drives Jacobs's intricate and moving first novel. Isaac Severy, renowned for having developed complex predictive equations for seemingly random events, such as "the erratic pattern of melting ice in the Arctic," dies in the backyard hot tub at his L.A. home after being electrocuted by a string of Christmas lights. His granddaughter, Hazel Severy, the owner of a struggling Seattle bookstore, receives one last letter from him, postmortem. In the letter, Isaac states that he hopes not to evade the assassin who has been following him; asks Hazel to destroy his "work in Room 137," except for one equation, which she must hand over to a man whose "favorite pattern is herringbone"; warns her not to stay in his house after October 31st; and tells her that he is but the first of three people who will die. Hazel attempts to honor her grandfather's cryptic last requests and solve his murder. We quickly sold out the signed hardcover so if you missed out, waste no time grabbing this Pick.

Knebel, Fletcher. [Night of Camp David](#) (\$15.95). “What would happen if the president of the USA went stark-raving mad?” asks this groundbreaking novel that *The New York Times* called “A little too plausible for comfort.” Written by Fletcher Knebel — Washington insider, journalist, and co-author of *Seven Days in May* — *Night of Camp David* was originally published in 1965 by Harper & Row and has been out-of-print for over two decades. Vintage is republishing it. I put the book here since the 25th Amendment is so little known.

✚McDermid, Val. [Insidious Intent](#) (\$16). The 10th in the Gold Dagger-winning Tony Hill and Carol Jordan series. In the north of England, single women are beginning to disappear from weddings. A wedding crasher is luring the women away—only to torch the victims’ bodies in their own cars in remote locations, leaving behind no personal clues or forensic traces. It is the first official case for Carol’s elite Regional Major Incident Team—and maybe the toughest case she and Tony have ever had to face. It all “comes together in an ending that hits like a bomb blast.” With narcissism a hot topic these days, the narcissistic killer grabs attention.

✚Robb, Candace. [A Murdered Peace](#) (Pegasus \$15.95). The sequel to [Service of the Dead](#) (\$15.95) is a knockout. Historical mystery ace Robb has made medieval York her home and here, in a second gripping chapter in the life of Kate Clifford, widow, she offers further perspective on the fallout from Henry Bolingbroke’s wresting the crown from Richard II and laying the groundwork as the fifteenth century opens for the War of the Roses that will consume England through the Tudor era. It’s deep winter, 1400, and at stake is the life of Richard who is being held, and apparently starved, in Pontefract Castle. An uprising intended to dethrone Henry IV as he’s now called has spelled Richard’s doom. Kate’s emotions are further roiled by the disappearance of her cook and confidante, Berend. Was he really bound to a former lord? What lord? Forced to shelter old friend Lady Margery whose husband has just been executed by Henry, Kate is further stunned when Berend reappears, only to be accused of murdering a spice seller in the city. And why does he have a chest of jewels belonging to Lady Margery? I love this—it’s our **December History/Mystery Paperback Book of the Month**. But read *Service of the Dead* first.

Thornley, Scott. [Erasing Memory](#) (Anansi \$15.95). I came across an exciting series by Canadian Thornley at the Frankfurt Book Fair and grabbed copies of all four. This is the first. I read it straight through. While some of the plot is improbable, the characters and propulsive action hooked me. Also the writer this Starred Review that I discovered this week: “Thornley’s impressive debut opens when a young violinist is found murdered and left in an artful death pose dressed in her best evening gown. Clearly a macabre message is being sent, or so Detective Superintendent MacNiece believes. The only lead: a murder weapon used exclusively by former Eastern Bloc hit teams. The plot thickens when MacNiece discovers the victim’s father was once a highly placed microbiologist in communist Romania’s Ceausescu regime. While the book starts out as a by-the-numbers crime procedural, it quickly becomes a stand-out character driven mystery. MacNiece, a brilliant detective whom the whole department admires, is still tortured over the death of his wife, and his inner demons distract him to the point that he makes errors on the job,

resulting in the gruesome murder of an important witness he was protecting. MacNiece’s humanness, and his squad’s continued admiration of him despite his fallibilities, fuel this terrific novel as much as the tight plot does. Superb writing, complex and highly likable characters, and the occasional delicious burst of violence definitely make the next books in this series worth watching for”—and boy howdy, as Craig Johnson would say, they really are. See Some New December Books for the next three. *Erasing Memory* is our **December Discovery Club Book of the Month**. I suppose it has extra resonance for me since I read it soon after traveling through Romania and learning the horrors of its Communist regime so vividly.

Speaking of Romania, a sad if familiar WWII story, Roxanne Veletzos’ [The Girl They Left Behind](#) (Atria \$26.99), begins with a Jewish couple who leave their little daughter on a doorstep hoping someone will protect her while they flee. She’s eventually adopted by a rich and childless couple, renamed Natalia, and life goes on until Romania falls under Soviet occupation. Will she eventually learn her heritage and reconnect with family, by now, 1960, living in New York? A powerful book and one in a less familiar landscape and facing not just the Nazis but the ruthless Romanian communists.

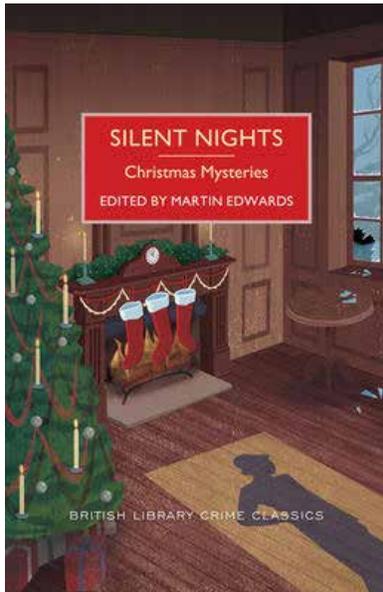
And some classics for the holidays—excellent stocking stuffers too

✚Duncan, Francis. [Murder for Christmas](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). Introducing Golden Age detective Mordecai Tremaine. When he arrives at the country retreat of one Benedict Grame on Christmas Eve, he discovers that the revelries are in full swing in the sleepy village of Sherbroome—but so are tensions amongst the assortment of guests. When midnight strikes, the partygoers discover that presents aren’t the only things nestled under the tree... there’s a dead body too. A dead body that bears a striking resemblance to Father Christmas. With the snow falling and suspicions flying, it’s up to Mordecai to sniff out the culprit.

✚Edwards, Martin, ed. [Crimson Snow: Winter Mysteries](#) (British Library/Poisoned Pen \$12.95). “Edwards’s second winter-themed anthology in the British Library Crime Classics series is a standout. As in the most successful of such volumes, the editor’s expertise results in a selection of unusual suspects, expanding readers’ knowledge. The longest and best of the 11 selections is by Victor Gunn, whose “Death in December” features Bill “Ironsides” Cromwell, an endearingly irascible Scotland Yarder. Ironsides joins a young colleague on a family visit to Derbyshire, only to encounter multiple impossibilities, starting with a man who crosses their path without leaving footprints in the snow and continuing with the appearance, and disappearance, of a bloody corpse from a locked and supposedly haunted room.... Edwards even offers an entry with a challenge to the reader, “Mr. Cork’s Secret,” featuring Macdonald Hastings’s canny insurance investigator, which originally came with a cash prize for the most logical solution.”—*PW* Starred Review

✚Edwards, Martin, ed. [Silent Nights](#) (British Library/Poisoned Pen \$12.95). Like an assortment of presents under a Christmas tree, there’s something for everyone in this Yule-themed reprint anthology in the British Library Crime Classics. The 15 selections range from stories by such leading lights of the genre’s golden age as Arthur Conan Doyle (“The Blue Carbuncle”) and Dorothy L. Sayers (“The Necklace of Pearls”) to works by such

forgotten authors as H.C. Bailey (“The Unknown Murderer”) and Ralph Plummer (“Parlour Tricks”). Connoisseurs of locked-room mysteries will welcome Edmund Crispin’s “The Name on the Window.” Ethel Lina White’s “Waxworks” will send shivers down readers’ spines, though it contains the now-cliché stopped watch to indicate time of death. In “Stuffing,” Edgar Wallace repeats Doyle’s prize-in-the-bird trick from “Carbuncle,” but this is another quibble. These classic tales of murder and jewel thievery with a light dusting of snow reveal bygone sensibilities, which, by and large, are fun to read about.



☞Hare, Cyril. [An English Murder](#) (Faber \$14.95). The snow is thick, the phone line is down, and no one is getting in or out of Warbeck Hall. All is set for a lovely Christmas, with friends and family gathered round the fire, except as the bells chime midnight, a murder is committed. But who is responsible? The scorned young lover? The lord’s passed-over cousin? The social climbing politician’s wife? The Czech history professor? The obsequious butler? And perhaps the real question is: Can they survive long enough to find out? A classic county house murder set up, similar to Agatha Christie’s [Hercule Poirot’s Christmas](#) (\$13.99).

☞Hay, Mavis Doris. [The Santa Klaus Murder](#) (British Library/Poisoned Pen \$12.95). This extremely clever country-house murder mystery is the perfect holiday gift for the avid cozy crime fan. It has an aristocratic setting, a dead earl, and a major suspect ... There are loads of clues, red herrings, and twists in a truly classic Christmas mystery with all the golden age patina.’ —*Globe and Mail*. Aunt Mildred declared that no good could come of the Melbury family Christmas gatherings at their country residence Flaxmere. So when Sir Osmond Melbury, the family patriarch, is discovered—by a guest dressed as Santa Klaus—with a bullet in his head on Christmas Day, the festivities are plunged into chaos. Nearly every member of the party stands to reap some sort of benefit from Sir Osmond’s death, but Santa Klaus, the one person who seems to have every opportunity to fire the shot, has no apparent motive. Various members of the family have their private suspicions about the identity of the murderer, and the Chief Constable of Haulmshire, who begins his investigations by saying that he knows the family too well and that is his difficulty, wishes before long that he understood them better. In the midst of mistrust, suspicion and hatred, it emerges that there was not one Santa Klaus, but two.

Simenon, George. [A Maigret Christmas](#) (Penguin \$13). Christmas mysteries abound in this light-hearted holiday collection of nine Jules Maigret’s exploits: In one, an otherwise sensible little girl insists that she has seen Father Christmas, a statement alarming to her neighbors, Monsieur and Madame Maigret. Then, a choir-boy helps the inspector solve a crime while he lies in bed with a cold; another boy, pursued by a criminal, ingeniously leaves

a trail to help Maigret track him. Many of these stories feature observant and resourceful children, frightened yet resolute, who bring out a paternal streak in the childless Maigret.

A NEW AKASHIC URBAN NOIR

This series has gone enticingly international, adding volumes set in Prague, Marrakech, Vancouver, and Baghdad recently. They provide excellent introductions to travelers, whether road warriors or armchair dreamers. Check out the series and [order cities](#) that catch your eye. The volumes introduce you to writers and make excellent gifts.

Ng, Jason Y, ed. [Hong Kong Noir](#) (\$15.95) defies the fates by presenting a collection of 14 stores—by Chinese tradition, an ominous number—illustrating the city’s dark side... a city on the brink, haunted by its past but facing an uncertain future. “Readers can feel lucky to have such a collection” with all new stories, each one set in a distinct neighborhood or location within the respective city.

NEW BOOKS

☞Aaronovitch, Ben. [Lies Sleeping](#) (Daw \$26.95). Martin Chorley, aka the Faceless Man, wanted for multiple counts of murder, fraud and crimes against humanity, has been unmasked and is on the run. Peter Grant, Detective Constable and apprentice wizard, now plays a key role in an unprecedented joint operation to bring Chorley to justice. But even as the unwieldy might of the Metropolitan Police bears down on its foe, Peter uncovers clues that Chorley, far from being finished, is executing the final stages of a long term plan. A plan that has its roots in London’s 2000 bloody years of history, and could literally bring the city to its knees. 7th in the Rivers of London fantasy series you fans of British Crime might enjoy. For more Fantasy see the end of this section of the Booknews.

Ahnhem, Stefan. [Eighteen Below](#) (St Martins \$29.99). I sometimes think 1 out of 5 adults in the Nordic countries is writing crime fiction. Ahnhem is up to book #3 here with a hero irresistibly named Fabian Risk. Here’s a Starred Review: Intricately plotted... “Police detective Risk is struggling with his deteriorating marriage and his troubled teenage son, Theodor, when he and other members of the Helsingborg crime squad, led by Astrid Tuveesson, become involved in a bizarre case. Wealthy IT magnate Peter Brise appears to have died in a car crash, but forensic evidence proves that Brise died two months earlier. As the bodies of other wealthy people pile up, Risk and his fellow officers realize that serial killers are stealing the identities of their victims. Meanwhile, Risk’s Danish police counterpart, Dunja Hougaard, is stuck in out-of-the-way Zealand, where she’s tracking a ring of disaffected teens known as ‘happy slappers’ who randomly assault people—and Theodor is involved with them. Readers will sympathize with Risk, a decent man caught between the demands of his family and his job, and such well-drawn supporting characters as Tuveesson, who’s sinking into alcoholism. Ahnhem unflinchingly unveils the monstrous crimes lurking beneath Scandinavia’s seemingly placid surface.” Which indeed is part of the pull of Nordic Noir.

Bailey, Sarah. [Into the Night](#) (Grand Central \$26). With no advance reading copy to peruse, I quote *LJ*: “Set in the author’s hometown of Melbourne Bailey’s second novel after [The Dark Lake](#) (\$14.99) finds Det. Sgt. Gemma Woodstock and her partner

Nick Fleet desperate to solve two murders. The victims—one an elderly homeless loner, the other a rising star in the movie business—couldn't be less alike, but each was stabbed once in the heart. The latter case is particularly baffling. Sterling Wade was killed in the street, on camera, in the midst of a zombie attack with hundreds of extras swarming. He was so well liked that finding a motive and narrowing down potential killers is challenging. Gemma recently moved from a small town, and she struggles to find her place in the police department. Her investigating partner's sarcasm is an annoyance, and she misses her five-year-old son, who's back home with her ex. She finds it difficult to give up sleeping with strangers, despite being pursued by a handsome lawyer. Will she place herself and others at risk to solve the crimes?" Bailey is just one of the wave of Australian crime that may soon swamp other imports. We're excited that Jane Harper is visiting us on February 7.

Beck, Peter. [Damnation](#) (Point Blank \$26.99). How did I miss this back in April? Luckily I picked up a copy at the Frankfurt Bookfair. Translated from the German, this zinger is set in the world of Swiss banking, thus financial crimes, and starts with a horrific helicopter crash. Tom Winter, head of security for an elite, private bank, mourns his associate (and potential lover Anna) who is killed in what turns out to be an explosion, along with a valuable client of the bank. A man heading an important Egyptian clan. With the NSA watching, Winter, a former Special Forces commander, links up with a mysterious Egyptian business woman called Fatima, and together they go hot on a money trail around the world that circles back to the Bernese Oberland via Cairo, Bergen, Boston. Are they the hunters—or the hunted? A strong voice, high action, knowledgeable plot—it's billed as "Jack Reacher meets George Smiley" and that's not far off. You thriller fans should snatch this one up.

Bohnhoff, Maya Kaathryn. [The Antiquities Hunter](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). I mentioned this in November and have now had a chance to read it. If you are looking for something offbeat and fun then Gina Miyoko, known as Tink (short for Tinkerbelle), is the private eye for you. She rides a Harley, packs a baby blue Magnum, has a drama queen mother and a Sherlock-Homes obsessed father, both of different cultures. And when Tink's best friend Rose, an undercover agent for the National Park Service, drags her into the path of looters, Tink ends up in the Mexican jungle on the hunt for traffickers of priceless artifacts. I'm always up for stories about treasure. Are you?

Chamberlain, Diane. [The Dream Daughter](#) (St Martins \$27.99). As the home bookstore for Outlander we are accustomed to time travel. Still, Chamberlain surprised me with this lovely story where it's not about the how but basically the why—the why of why Hunter, married to the sister of the pregnant Caroline, the girls both orphaned young and Caroline's husband Jim a recent casualty in Vietnam, while present at Caroline's NIH appointment in Bethesda, April, 1970, reveals he's a traveler. And sends Caroline, aka Carly, into the future to Princeton, NJ, April 2001. Wouldn't anyone of us wish to send someone ahead if we knew that what would be a miracle now will become ordinary in the future? But it's not really the plot here, it's the characters and the choice a malfunction creates that make this book so compelling. Highly recommended for its power to make us feel better about people at a time when it's easy to despair.

Chiaverini, Jennifer. [The Enchantress of Numbers](#) (\$16). I'd always thought of Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace, merely as the only legitimate child of scandalous poet Lord Byron. But her heritage from her mathematician mother, and the strict schooling in math and sciences Byron's estranged wife provided in a bid to save Ada from the Byron heritage, made Ada a superstar in that world. When she is introduced to London society and its intellectual and social circle, and meets the brilliant Charles Babbage, inventor of an extraordinary machine called the Difference Engine (think computer), Ada is set to realize her extraordinary destiny.

Childs, Laura. [Eggs on Ice](#) (Berkley \$26). Some say that casting crusty attorney Allen Sharpe as Scrooge in the Kindred Players production of *A Christmas Carol* is just playing to type. He's not the most beloved man in town. In fact, you'd have a Dickens of a time finding someone who liked him. Still it's a shock when the Ghost of Christmas Past stabs him during the first rehearsal. Suzanne, co-owner of the Cackleberry Club café, Kindred's favorite combination diner, craft store and bookshop, chases the murderer out of the building but loses him in the alley. And as the days pass the list of suspects grows longer....

Cook, Robin. [Pandemic](#) (Putnam \$27). Medical thrillers are not just entertaining but informative when drawing on new advances and veteran Cook marshals up intelligence on the realm of CRISPR/CAS9, the gene-editing technology and draws readers into the dark belly of the organ transplant market. ME Jack Stapleton is the lead and kicks the story off when a healthy young woman collapses on the NYC subway and dies upon reaching the hospital. Why does her illness remind Jack of the 1918 flu pandemic? And how will he stop a repeat? And more puzzling, she turns out to have had a heart transplant but, against all odds, her DNA matches that of the donor heart.

Dabos, Christelle. [A Winter's Promise](#) (Europa \$19.95). The Indie Next Pick for a gem for Teens: "I had high hopes since I've been coveting this book since I saw it in a Metro station in Paris a year ago. It definitely did not disappoint. *A Winter's Promise* is a stellar addition to the fantasy genre booksellers can recommend to adults and teens alike. The world building is incredible and Ophelia is a heroine you can immediately relate to: clever, resourceful, and constantly underestimated. Dabos delights and thrills readers as Ophelia finds herself caught in the middle of political intrigue and deadly secrets with nothing but her wits to keep her alive. As the tension builds and mysteries are revealed, it's impossible to put the book down." Book One in the Mirror Visitor Quartet—for more SciFi and Fantasy see the end of this section of the December Booknews.

Dorsey, Tim. [The Pope of Palm Beach](#) (\$15.99). A killer opening sentence sets the tone for bestseller Dorsey's 21st comic novel featuring eccentric murderer Serge Storms "The sun was going down behind the Big Burger when the alligator came flying in the drive-through window." Starting in the Florida Keys, Serge and his childhood friend, Coleman, embark on a literary tour of the state. Along the way, they make detours so Serge can mete out his own brand of justice to various bad guys, beginning with Sterling Hanover, a pharmaceutical company's callous president. Dorsey is generally less about a plot and more about the wacky fun.

✂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 the series and written in 1952. For Tremaine #1, see the Christmas recommends under Our December Large Paperback Picks.

Dornbush, Jennifer. [The Coroner](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). There is much to like about this start of a medical cozy series other than the over-familiar trope of the woman climbing a successful city career (Chicago) who is called home by a crisis (her estranged father, the local Medical Examiner, has had a massive although not fatal heart attack), arrives only to confront her former high school love (naturally, he's now the sheriff), learns she has to use her skills (she's a doctor too) to help dad (shutting out her entirely delightful doctor fiancé) and gets a (high profile) victim to autopsy. The ensuing hunt for a killer can only end one way if this is to be the start of a series set in Freeport, Michigan, no? If it weren't so predictable an effort to set up a small town scenario I'd recommend it for the strong characters.

✂Emerson, Kathy Lee. [Murder in the Queen's Wardrobe](#) (\$17.95). London, 1582: Mistress Rosamond Jaffrey, a talented and well-educated woman of independent means, is recruited by Queen Elizabeth I's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham, to be lady-in-waiting to Lady Mary, a cousin of the queen. With her talent in languages and knowledge of ciphers and codes, she will be integral to the spymaster as an intelligence gatherer, being able to get close to Lady Mary just at the time when she is being courted by Russia's Ivan the Terrible. However, there are some nobles at court who will do anything they can to thwart such an alliance; and Rosamond soon realizes the extent of the danger, when a prominent official is murdered and then an attempt is made on both her and Lady Mary's lives. In her quest to protect her ward — and her estranged husband — Rosamond must put herself in peril.

✂Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May: Hall of Mirrors](#) (Bantam \$27). 15th in a quirky, clever, always surprising British crime series. The year is 1969 and ten guests are about to enjoy a country house weekend at Tavistock Hall. But one amongst them is harboring thoughts of murder. The guests also include the young detectives Arthur Bryant and John May — undercover, in disguise and tasked with protecting Monty Hatton-Jones, a whistle-blower turning Queen's evidence in a massive bribery trial. Luckily, they've got a decent chap on the inside who can help them — the one-armed Brigadier, Nigel 'Fruity' Metcalf. The scene is set for what could be the perfect country house murder mystery, except that this particular get-together is nothing like a Golden Age classic. For the good times are, it seems, coming to an end. The house's owner — a penniless, dope-smoking aristocrat — is intent on selling the estate (complete with its own hippy encampment) to a secretive millionaire, but the weekend has only just started when the millionaire goes missing.... This clever series incorporates history and landmarks with astonishing plots and is a

real favorite with me. If you've missed them [order those we can provide](#) for delightful holiday reading.

Fox, Sarah. [Wine and Punishment](#) (Kensington \$26). A New England pub is the anchor for a new small town cozy series filled with familiar elements. Shady Creek, Vermont, seems like the ideal escape for Sadie Coleman. When she's not inventing new cocktails, curating reading lists for meetings of the local book club, and mediating quarrels among cantankerous townspeople, The Inkwell, a literary-themed pub she's opened in an old mill, keeps her busy. And keeping busy prevents Sadie from dwelling on her busted romance with fellow Bostonian Eric Jensen, whose return to the gambling table after promising he'd quit sent her off to the countryside and the solace of her nurturing Aunt Gilda. Of course, quiet doesn't always mean tranquil, and matching wits with her handsome but cranky neighbor Grayson Blake, owner of Spirit Hill Brewery, keeps Sadie on her toes. A fire that guts two stores in Shady Creek's tiny business district makes her uneasy. But what really puts Sadie on edge is learning that Eric's coming to town with plans to win her back.

Frost, Jacqueline. [T'Was the Knife Before Christmas](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). When a body turns up in a larger-than-life candy bowl filled with peppermints on the town square, Holly White is horrified to learn her best friend Caroline is the main suspect. Everyone in town, including Mistletoe, Maine's sheriff, saw Caroline fighting with the victim on the night of his death. Worse, a custom kitchen knife, engraved with Caroline's initials was found with him. There are only ten days until Christmas to bring off an investigative miracle.

Furman, Laura, ed. [The O. Henry Prize Stories 2018](#) (Anchor \$16). Dip into a range of authors from a range of small publishers of all stripes and read essays by Fiona McFarlane, Ottessa Moshfegh, and Elizabeth Tallent. Here's a gift idea for readers of all stripes as well.

Golden, Christopher, ed. [Hark! The Herald Angels Scream](#) (Anchor \$16.95). Want to add a shred of dread to the season? Go with 18 stories of Christmas horror from bestselling, acclaimed authors including Kelley Armstrong, Sarah Lotz, Joe R. Lansdale, Elizabeth Hand, Jonathan Maberry, Tim Lebbon, Scott Smith, Seanan McGuire, Josh Malerman. Michael Koryta has a brilliant tale set in Maine along the Appalachian Trail and Sarah Pinborough does a kind of Dickens thing with a small orphan boy forced into being a thieving chimney sweep and the ghost of a murdered Japanese bride who haunts the hangman's mansion. Both are terrific.

✂Gregory, Susann. [Intrigue in Covent Garden](#) (LittleBrown \$26.99). This is the US edition of the 13th adventure for Thomas Chaloner. By January 1666, the plague has almost disappeared from London, leaving its surviving population diminished and in poverty. The resentment against those who had fled to the country turns to outrage as the court and its followers return, their licentiousness undiminished. The death of a well-connected physician, the mysterious sinking of a man-of-war in the Thames and the disappearance of a popular courtier are causing concern to Thomas Chaloner's employer. When instructed to investigate them all, he is irritated that he is prevented from gaining intelligence on the military preparations of the Dutch. Then he discovers common threads in all the cases, which seem linked to those planning to set a match to the powder keg of rebellion in the city.

Battling a ferocious winter storm that causes serious damage to London's fabric, Chaloner is in a race against time to prevent the weakened city from utter destruction. We have two Signed UK firsts, [Intrigue in Covent Garden](#) (\$50) left.

Griffin, WEB. [Enemy of My Enemy](#) (Putnam \$29). In *Clandestine Operations #5*, Special agent James Cronley Jr. finds that fighting both ex-Nazis and the Soviet NKGB can lead to strange bedfellows in a series about the birth of the CIA and the Cold War. A month ago, Cronley managed to capture two notorious Nazi war criminals, but not without leaving some dead bodies and outraged Austrian police in his wake. He's been lying low ever since, but that little vacation is about to end. Somebody—Odessa, the NKGB, the Hungarian Secret Police?—has broken the criminals out of jail, and he must track them down again. But there's more to it than that. Evidence has surfaced that in the war's last gasps, Heinrich Himmler had stashed away a fortune to build a secret religion, dedicated both to Himmler and to creating the Fourth Reich. That money is still out there in the hands of Odessa, and that infamous organization seems to have acquired a surprising—and troubling—ally. Cronley is fast finding out that the phrase “the enemy of my enemy is my friend” can mean a lot of different things...

Hall, Oakley. [So Many Doors](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). Unpublished for half a century, this lost novel from Pulitzer finalist and writers' mentor Hall begins on Death Row, with a condemned man refusing the services of the lawyer assigned to defend him. It begins with a beautiful woman dead, murdered: Vassilia Caroline Baird, known to all simply as V. That's where this extraordinary novel begins. But the story it tells begins years earlier, on a struggling farm in the shadow of the Great Depression and among the brawling “cat skimmers” of Southern California, driving graders and bulldozers to tame the American West. And the story that unfolds, in the masterful hands of acclaimed author Oakley Hall, is a lyrical outpouring of hunger and grief, of jealousy and corruption, of raw sexual yearning and the tragedy of the destroyed lives it leaves in its wake.

✎Harrison, Cora. [Murder at the Queen's Old Castle](#) (Severn \$28.95). Harrison is at the top of her game in her sixth whodunit set in 1920s Cork, Ireland, featuring the Reverend Mother Aquinas. Joseph Fitzwilliam, the notoriously tight-fisted owner of a “shop selling cheap clothes and household linens” known as the Queen's Old Castle, has offered to let the reverend mother take her pick of water-damaged goods to distribute to the city's poor. While doing so, the religious leader is horrified to see Joseph, who's clutching a small barrel-shaped canister used for transporting change, fall over a railing outside his office on an overhead platform to his death. The canister smells of gas, suggesting he was poisoned. Joseph's hysterical widow, who witnessed his fatal fall, cries murder, then points her finger at 14-year-old shop employee Brian Maloney, accusing the boy of mistakenly killing her husband instead of herself. While the politics of the time are not central to the plot as in other entries, the fair-play puzzle is among Harrison's finest.

✎Harvey, Samantha. [The Western Wind](#) (Grove \$26). “Harvey weaves a dazzling tapestry around loss and confession in late-15th-century England in this breathtaking novel, a medieval detective story. “Thomas Newman, benevolent landlord and relative newcomer to the hamlet of Oakham, disappeared into the river

on the Saturday before Ash Wednesday. Parish priest John Reve recounts the icy unnamed rural dean's condescending investigation into the death across four days in reverse order, beginning on Shrove Tuesday, the day Newman's shirt is found near the river. The dean urges Reve to report any information gleaned from the parish's pre-Lent confessions to determine if Newman was killed, slipped, or committed suicide. During his investigation, Reve hears about the mundane mistakes, distressing habits, and intentionally aggressive mutterings from a number of possible suspects.... “Harvey's final chapter unspools the truth of Newman's death and Reve's own surprising secrets. The lush period details and acute psychological insight will thrill fans of literary mysteries and historical fiction. This is an utterly engrossing novel.”—*PW* Starred Review, echoed by the UK's *Guardian*.

Henshaw, Mark. [The Last Man in Tehran](#) (\$16). When a dirty bomb goes off in an Israeli port, Israel's feared intelligence service—the Mossad—unleashes their most deadly assassins across the globe. They suspect that Iran supplied the radioactive material used in the attack, and Israel will protect the homeland by any means necessary. Meanwhile at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, Kyra Stryker is just settling in to her new position: chief of the Red Cell, the CIA's special ops think tank. Soon after the attack on Israel, the CIA discovers evidence that a mole in Langley is helping Mossad wage its covert war. Stryker must work to save the CIA from being torn apart by a mole at the highest echelons, with the help of recently retired analyst, Jonathan Burke. The author is a decorated current CIA analyst.

✎Hill, Susan. [The Comforts of Home](#) (Overlook \$26.95). In a surprising and dark series turn—this is the 9th book—Hill opens with DCI Simon Serrailer hospitalized from his last case with a team effort desperate for his recovery. It isn't a full one. Unsure about his future with the Lafferton police department in spite of the encouraging words of his supervisor, Chief Constable Kieron Bright, Simon goes to mull and heal on the remote Scottish island of Taransay. While he's there, he agrees to do some cold-case work for Kieron, who's not just his chief, but now also his brother-in-law, having married Simon's sister, Dr. Cat Deerbon, during this protracted healing period. Shorthanded, Kieron asks Simon to investigate the murder of Kimberley, the daughter of Marion Still, who was likely killed by a repeat offender imprisoned for life—but there's no proof. Looking into this case remotely doesn't restore Simon to his old self but does help remind him of his unique skill set, which comes in handy when a member of the small island community suddenly dies under mysterious circumstances. 9th in an intelligent series that works well for fans of Louise Penny, Ann Cleeves, and Camille Lackberg.

Howarth, Paul. [Only Killers and Thieves](#) (\$16.99). Did I not mention the rising Australian crime wave? Set in 1885 Queensland, Australia, this taut and harrowing narrative begins with 14-year-old Tommy uncovering a brutal crime, the murder of his parents and the wounding of his sister. He begins to believe that the investigation is spiraling out of control when the notorious Inspector Noone of the Queensland Native Police accuses the local Kurrong tribe of the crimes. Recruited to Noone's tracking party, Tommy becomes increasingly convinced of the man's corrupt, unfettered power as well as the Kurrong's innocence. This fast-paced story explores the psychology of complicity in uncomfortable detail.

✧Jewell, Lisa. [Watching You](#) (Atria \$26). Melville Heights is one of the nicest neighborhoods in Bristol, England; home to doctors and lawyers and old-money academics. It's not the sort of place where people are brutally murdered in their own kitchens. But it is the sort of place where everyone has a secret. And everyone is watching you. As the headmaster credited with turning around the local school, Tom Fitzwilliam is beloved by one and all—including Joey Mullen, his new neighbor, who quickly develops an intense infatuation with this thoroughly charming yet unavailable man. Joey thinks her crush is a secret, but Tom's teenaged son Freddie—a reclusive prodigy with aspirations of becoming a spy for MI5—excels in observing people and has witnessed Joey behaving strangely around his father. One of Tom's students, Jenna Tripp, also lives on the same street, and she's not convinced her teacher is as squeaky clean as he seems. For one thing, he has taken a particular liking to her best friend and fellow classmate, and Jenna's mother—whose mental health has admittedly been deteriorating in recent years—is convinced that Mr. Fitzwilliam is stalking her. In the background we know that a schoolgirl wrote in her diary 20 years back about her obsession with a handsome young English teacher named Fitzwilliam. Jewell is a UK bestseller and has written some fine books like, new in paperback, [Then She Was Gone](#) (\$16). But this one is based on horrific abuse—the teenage girls are appalling—and I find the actions of the characters, especially those of Fitzwilliam, highly implausible.

Jones, Stan. [The Big Empty](#) (Soho \$26.95). “In Jones's intriguing sixth outing for Native Alaskan public safety director Nathan Active, the first in the series to be coauthored with Watts, Nathan's bush pilot friend, Cowboy Decker, persuades him to look into the deaths of Evie Kavoonah and her physician fiancé, Todd Brenner. The couple were killed after the Cessna Evie had been piloting smashed into a mountain, a tragedy that federal investigators concluded was due to pilot error. Despite his skepticism, Nathan agrees to travel with Cowboy to the site of the wreckage, where they discover evidence of sabotage. Meanwhile, Nathan and his wife, Grace, are expecting their first child, a development that will complicate their relationship with Grace's teenage daughter, Nita. Nita's father is Grace's father, who raped her years before her marriage to Nathan. Though the whodunit story line may be unexceptional, it's buttressed by the family melodrama and the authors' insights into the culture of Alaska's indigenous peoples.”—*PW*

Kelton, Elmer. [Hard Ride](#) (Forge \$27.99). Bandits, outlaws, romance, and adventure abound in *Hard Ride*, the second-ever collection of tales of the American West from renowned, seven-time Spur Award-winning author Elmer Kelton. Here's a gift for the fan of the Western.

Lapidus, Jens. [Top Dog](#) (Vintage \$18). Swedish criminal defense lawyer Lapidus produced this No. 1 bestseller at home that is now available in translation. Emelie, a young lawyer who started her own firm, and Teddy, a criminal looking for a fresh start, teamed up in Stockholm Delete and uncovered a sex ring. They've been apart since but when a vulnerable young client of Emelie's is murdered before she can testify against her abusers, Emelie turns to Teddy for help. Meanwhile Teddy's nephew Nikola has bent sent into the path of a naïve hipster with a drug cache and thus into Stockholm's dark side. As the pair's investigations heat up, Teddy may land in prison again, if not both of them in body bags.

✧Lake, Alex. [The Last Lie](#) (Harper \$12.99). Lake follows [After Anna](#) (\$12.99) with the sort of story so popular in the UK: women in messy lives, a focus on motherhood (good and bad parenting), problematical romantic partnerships, casual or even serious hook ups, and a preoccupation with status. Here we get Claire Daniels, a woman obsessed with getting pregnant, and her husband Alfie, who's built their marriage on a lie. As it develops, Claire is a smart career woman capable of real planning, and Alfie is a chancer who loves the life of ease and status his marriage brings but has devised what he thinks is a brilliant way to make his increasing disdain for his wife survivable. It's clever in the plotting.

✧Lloyd, Catherine. [Death Comes to Bath](#) (Kensington \$26). I am a serious fan of this intelligent, lively Regency series that is not Jane Austen in style but pleasantly its own. As I await a reading copy here's a review for you: Sir Robert Kurland and his wife, Lucy, take themselves to Bath, where he can take the waters for an old war injury suffered at Waterloo. There they grow friendly with Sir William Benson, an elderly Yorkshireman whose businesses have earned him wealth and a peerage. Benson controls his squabbling family, whose failings he publicly derides, with threats of disinheritance; when he's found stabbed in the Roman baths, all have motives. His beautiful second wife is greedy and deceptive, his three sons all have money troubles, and his two stepsons make no secret of their contempt for the victim. As the Kurlands investigate Benson's murder, they contend with his missing will, a second death, and coded letters that may help illuminate the family's many secrets. Lucy's desire to bear children despite a string of miscarriages adds appealing personal drama. The couple's complementary investigative skills shine in a plot that balances colorful characters and lively action. I wish I could start all over at the beginning—but you can. [Order up](#).

Maine, Sarah. [Woman of the Dunes](#) (Atria \$16). I missed this one in July but luckily books don't go bad on the shelf. In the vein of Kate Morton, Maine, author of *The House Between Tides*, whisks you to Ullaness, a spur of land on Scotland's wild west coast, where a legend springing from the 8th century focused on a Norsewoman who comes ashore where a solitary monk holds sway has taken enduring root. Libby Snow has always felt Ullaness' pull and a sense of mystery about her grandmother and stories of a forebear called Ellen, a maid at Sturrock House. The Sturrocks have owned this land, not as far back as Ulla's time, but for many generations. Libby, an archaeologist, uses permission for a team to execute a limited dig into a mysterious mound on the Sturrocks' estate to dig into her obsession with Ulla and her past.

✧Maxwell, Alyssa. [A Devious Death](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Somewhat in the style of Tessa Arlen and T E Kinsey, we have a lady and her maid as a detecting duo. Lady Phoebe Renshaw and her sister Julia are eager for a summer getaway at High Head Lodge, the newly purchased estate of their cousin Regina. But they are not the only houseguests. Regina's odd friend, Olive, is far from friendly, and Regina's mother and brother—bitter over the unequal distribution of her father's inheritance—have descended on the house to confront Regina. In addition to the family tension, Eva is increasingly suspicious of Lady Julia's new maid—wondering why she left her former employer so suddenly. And why does Regina seem ill at ease around the maid, as if they were previously acquainted? But things go from tense to tragic when

their hostess meets an untimely end—murdered in her bed with no signs of struggle.

McCoy, Sarah. [Marilla of Green Gables](#) (Morrow \$26.99). If you are a fan of the iconic Anne and her life in rural Prince Edward Island then you will be interested in this precursor, the imagined 19th Century life of spinster Marilla Cuthbert...who while young has no idea of the future plotted for her by Lucy Maud Montgomery.

McDermid, Val. [Broken Ground](#) (Grove \$26). Alice Summerville and her husband travel to the Scottish Highlands in search of a legacy buried by her grandfather at the end of World War II and bequeathed to her just before his death. Aided by the property owner, they ascertain the exact location and dig into a peat bog, unearthing both the treasure and a corpse. When it's determined that the body was buried long after the end of the war, DCI Karen Pirie, head of the Historical Crimes Unit of the Edinburgh Police, is called in to catch a killer on the loose for nearly 20 years. While seeking justice for this murder, Karen must also deal with a superior with an ax to grind who has planted a mole in the unit, a cold case involving a serial rapist, and an overheard conversation that may lead to a fresh crime—all while grieving the loss of her partner. Here's a tight police procedural with a strong female lead. While this is number five in the series, newcomers are brought up to speed and delighted as well fans of Ian Rankin and Tana French. UK Signed First: [Broken Ground](#) (\$44).

Molin, Meghan Scott. [The Frame Up](#) (47North \$24.95). I include this for you young Geeks and comics fans as MG Martin is a woman who lives and breathes geek culture. She's giddy with working as a writer for a comic book company she's long idolized. Despite her love for hooded vigilantes and caped crusaders, in real life she's appalled when someone starts recreating crime scenes mirroring her favorite comic. Worse, she's the LAPD's best, actually only, lead for she recognizes the golden arrow left at the crime scene as the calling card of one of her favorite action heroes....

Morris, Heather. [The Tattooist of Auschwitz](#) (Harper \$16.99). This paperback original has been a sleeper bestseller. Based on a true story of love and survival such as tragically keep emerging from the Second World War, it begins in April, 1942, when Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov is forced into the camps at Auschwitz-Birkenau. When the Nazis discover he speaks several languages he is put to work as a *Tätowierer*, tasked with permanently inking his fellow prisoners. His own number is 32407. For over two and a half years he constantly risks his life trying to help them survive while, having met in July, 1942, a young woman awaiting number 34902, he pursues his vow to survive and somehow find and marry her....

Obregon, Nicolas. [Sins as Scarlet](#) (St Martins \$27.99). In this follow-up to Nicolás Obregon's critical hit Blue Light Yokohama, Inspector Iwata returns. After a brutal investigation ripped apart his life, Kosuke Iwata quit both his job as a detective with the Tokyo Police Department and his country, leaving Japan for the sunnier shores of Los Angeles, California. But, although he's determined to leave his past behind, murder still follows him. Having set up shop as a private investigator, Iwata is approached by someone from his old life. Her daughter has been killed and the case has gone cold. Out of loyalty, Iwata agrees to take on the case and reinvestigate the homicide. However, what seems

initially like a cold-blooded but simple murder takes a complex turn when a witness, a vagrant, recalls the killer's parting words: "I'm sorry."

Patterson, James/Shan Serafin. [The 13-Minute Murder](#) (Little-Brown \$26). An anonymous client offers Ryan a rich payout to assassinate a target in Harvard Yard. It's exactly the last big job he needs to complete his plan of enough to support his wife Maria. The precision strike starts perfectly, then somehow explodes into a horrifying spectacle. Ryan has to run and Maria goes missing. Now the world's fastest hit man sets out for one last score: Revenge. And every minute counts. New in paperback: [17th Suspect](#) (\$15.99).

Phillips, Matt. [The Bad Kind of Lucky](#) (Shotgun \$14.95). Remie Miken is starting over after a bad run. He's got himself a crappy apartment in the big city and a job hustling burgers and fries. One night Remie makes nice with a neighborhood gangster. So begins his quixotic pursuit of a whore-on-the-run and ten grand in cash. Heading south into Baja, Remie brushes shoulders with lowdown crooks, a Catholic priest, cartel enforcers, a strawberry picker, and a wild-eyed expat. Call this "a twisted comedic noir that follows Remie straight into the void."

Preston, Lisa. [The Clincher](#) (Skyhorse \$24.99). Horseshoer Rainy Dale, the narrator of this exuberantly quirky series opener, becomes a murder suspect after the police inform her that the wealthy new-wife client for whom she just did a job, Patsy-Lynn Harper, is dead. Recently settled in Cowdry, Oregon, Rainy worries that her fraught past will be brought to light as the police probe the murder. With the help of her handsome landlord, chef Guy Kittredge, Rainy aims to suss out Patsy-Lynn's killer, but being the new girl in town isn't easy, and she encounters plenty of resistance. "The tough and irascible but innately good-hearted Rainy, determined to rise above her past, is brought to vivid life by Preston, whose effortless prose immerses readers in rural Cowdry, populated by horses that are just as interesting as its human residents." Rainy likes horses and her dog, Charley, more than people, and her attempts to meet her "heart's new goal" to be nice offers genuinely funny moments, balancing the story's darker elements. Rainy's is indeed a unique voice and will be fun to follow.

Robertson, Robin. [The Long Take: A Noir Narrative](#) (Knopf \$28). Patrick reviews: Walker is a Canadian World War II vet who experienced the intimate horrors of hand-to-hand combat in Europe. He's returned to his native Nova Scotia a profoundly damaged man and flees his homeland for America. After a brief stint as a dock worker in New York, Walker takes the train to Los Angeles, where he ultimately finds work as a reporter. He lives on Bunker Hill next to Angels Flight and he soon finds a community of dispossessed veterans down on skid row who've been abandoned by the country they recently served. Walker determines to write about the homeless and the fate of the city, which is in a period of great transition. The interstate is coming through town and the old L.A. is rapidly being dismantled to make way for the car culture of the 1950's. Of course, this period dovetails precisely with the rise of film noir, and Walker finds himself responding to the gritty, fatalistic narratives that seem to perfectly capture the underbelly of the Norman Rockwell facade. This book, told in prose poetry form, reads like a novel and Robertson's gorgeous, lacerating imagery is simply unforgettable. Do not miss this

one.” Shortlisted for the Man Booker prize; winner of the 2018 Goldsmiths Prize.

✚Shaw, M B. [Murder at the Mill](#) (St Martins \$27.99). It’s nearing Christmas in a Hampshire village where the Wetherby family lives a picture-perfect life in a refurbished old mill and hosts an annual Christmas Eve party. Iris Gray has rented a quaint cottage nearby and paints there while debating her stale marriage to playwright-gone-dry Ian who’s stubbornly remained in London. Iris’ gift is for portraiture although she’s working on landscapes, and chance leads to a commission to paint a portrait of Dominic Wetherby, the celebrated crime writer and the target of Ian’s envy were he to join in Iris in Hazelford. The party reveals undercurrents in the villagers and on Christmas Day a body from Mill House is found drowned in the Itchen. Is the death a terrible accident? Or is it murder? This starts a village series where bestseller Tilly Bagshawe gets to reinvent herself as a writer of mystery and is our **December British Crime Club Book of the Month Pick**.

✚Setterfield, Diane. [Once Upon a River](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28). It begins, as good stories should, with the rescue of a pair of strangers on a winter night. Though all is not as it seems in Diane Setterfield’s latest, as *Once Upon a River* quickly delves into a mystery. The young girl was dead when she was pulled from the river, but hours later she begins to breathe. As the story of her revival spreads, more than one member of the village feels mysteriously drawn to her. Could she be their missing child, estranged granddaughter, long-lost sister? “Setterfield’s work is the closest an adult can come to settling down for story time, and *Once Upon a River* has the same magic, timeless, and cozy charm of a tale that has been told through the ages. Simply lovely.” Setterfield’s 2006 debut, [The Thirteenth Tale](#) (\$17), was a stunning First Mystery Club Book of the Month. If you somehow missed it, grab one now. Her second was a disappointment—it happens. I was a bit torn about this for the British Crime Book of the Month Club this month but decided the MB Shaw being a series start and with a Christmas background was the better choice. But you BCC members should take note of Setterfield.

Shields, Jody. [The Winter Station](#) (\$15.99). 1910: people are mysteriously dying at an alarming rate in the Russian-ruled city of Kharbin, a major railway outpost in Northern China. Strangely, some of the dead bodies vanish before they can be identified. During a dangerously cold winter in a city gripped by fear, the Baron, a wealthy Russian aristocrat and the city’s medical commissioner, is determined to stop this mysterious plague. Battling local customs, an occupying army, and a brutal epidemic with no name, the Baron is torn between duty and compassion, between Western medical science and respect for Chinese tradition. Plus everyone is concealing secrets. Based on a true story.

Simenon, George. [Maigret’s Secret](#) (Penguin \$13). The 54th reissue. At one of his friends’ frequent dinner parties, Maigret shares the story of a case from a few years back that haunts him to this day, in which a man named Adrien Josset was found guilty and was executed for the murder of his wife, Christine. Adrien had been a weak-willed, mild-mannered man, but Christine, who was much wealthier than he, had used her connections to land him an influential position in an important career. Maigret had interviewed Adrien only once when the examining magistrate took over the case and successfully moved to have him executed. But though all the clues pointed to Adrien’s guilt, Maigret remained

unconvinced, and years later, he still doubts the murderer’s true identity.

Tesh, Jane. [Death by Dragonfly](#) (\$15.95). At the outset of Tesh’s amusing sixth Grace Street mystery, our **December Cozy Crimes Book of the Month Club Pick**, Leo Pierson, an actor who looks like “the guy who always plays the kings and generals,” hires PI David Randall, who lives and works at a boarding house on Grace St. in Parkland, N.C., to recover several valuable items stolen from his Art Nouveau collection, notably an exquisite—and possibly cursed—glass dragonfly. Shortly after Pierson leaves the boarding house, Jordan Finley of the Parkland PD shows up and tells Randall that Pierson is a suspect in a possible murder case. Finley warns Randall to stay away from Pierson, but Randall forges ahead with the robbery investigation, aided by his friend and landlord, Camden, who has “considerable and erratic psychic ability.” Soon, people on the detective’s suspect list start turning up dead. The mystery plot is convincing and motives abound, but the vivid characters are the main draw, in particular the wryly observant Randall, who narrates the story with verve. Fans of cozies with a paranormal twist will be rewarded.

Thornley, Scott. [Vantage Point](#) (Anansi \$15.95). In this 4th MacNeice procedural set in what is Hamilton, Ontario, by another name, two bodies have been found in the master bedroom of a mansion in Dundurn’s old-money neighborhood under the mountain. Howard Terry and his son Matthew have both been shot twice in the chest. Under Matthew’s body is a doll with blood red cotton wadding spilling out of its head. Nearby, a female mannequin in a nightshirt lies on its back with two bullet holes in the chest. On the other side of town, a body is discovered below the Devil’s Punch Bowl waterfall. Leaning against an enormous rock is a man in a cotton nightshirt wearing a *papier mâché* donkey’s head. Two rounds in the chest. Something about the way the bodies have been arranged triggers a memory in MacNeice of an image he saw years before.... And so he begins his relentless and meticulous investigation. The first MacNeice is reviewed in Our December Large Paperback Picks above and is our December Discovery Club Book of the Month Pick as well. Start there but [order them all](#) and go on to *Ambitious City* and *Raw Bone* before you read this one.

Weymouth, Laura E. [The Light Between Worlds](#) (Harper Teen \$17.99). OK, it says for Teens, but anyone who loves the Narnia Chronicles will lap this up. The set up is that one wartime night two sisters, Evelyn and Philippa, were swept out their Anderson bomb shelter in London and away to a strange and beautiful kingdom called the Woodlands where a stag mentors them. That was six years ago in real time, but long in Woodlands time. Now back in post-war England the sisters struggle to adjust to it, to their brother Jamie, and to their parents. But Ev can’t move on. Her despair and longing for the Woodlands grows unbearable and she goes missing. Cervus the stag had said from the beginning he could not call them back. But he added, “A Woodlands heart always finds its way home.” Is that what happened to Ev? And what does that mean for her family? There is much to love here, and some sound history, as well as to contemplate how would it go for you if you could cross to Narnia or Oz and then had to leave? The dark side of the fairy tale. It’s actually the same dynamic as the *Outlander* story with similar hard choices.

NEW NOIR FROM STARK HOUSE

Brewer, Gil. [A Killer is Loose / The Red Scarf](#) (\$19.95). “A noir Everyman, his pregnant wife on the verge of labor, finds his fate accidentally entangled with that of a psychopath. The less you know about the plot, the better—this is a creepy classic.”—David Rachels. “A great noir novel.”—James Reasoner

Chase, James Hadley. [Make the Corpse Walk / No Business of Mine](#) (\$19.95). Crazed millionaire Kester Weidmann believes money can buy everything—even life and death. So when his brother dies, he seeks the services of a voodoo expert to bring him back to life... Something different from the author of *No Orchids for Miss Blandish*.

Hitchens, Bert & Dolores. [End of the Line](#) (\$9.99). “Hitchens had a good ear and a dead-on eye for the various charades played by the human animals. She also wrote a series of railroad mysteries with her husband Bert.”—Ed Gorman

Rabe, Peter. [War of the Dons / Black Mafia](#) (\$19.95). “Lots of dead bodies, tough guy mob patter, double-crosses, and violent action are what you find here. The humor is dry much like Westlake’s.”—Goodreads.

OUT OF THIS WORLD: SCIFI/FANTASY

Belcher, R S. [King of the Road](#) (Forge \$27.99). Set Belcher’s urban fantasy Nightwise universe, the Brotherhood of the Wheel returns to explore the haunted byways and truck stops of the U.S. Interstate Highway System. New in paperback: [Queen of Swords](#) (\$15.99)

Harkaway, Nick. [Gnomon](#) (\$16.96). In the world of Gnomon, citizens are constantly observed and democracy has reached a pinnacle of ‘transparency.’ Every action is seen, every word is recorded, and the System has access to its citizens’ thoughts and memories—all in the name of providing the safest society in history. And so, when suspected dissident Diana Hunter dies in government custody, it marks the first time a citizen has been killed during an interrogation. The System doesn’t make mistakes, but something isn’t right about the circumstances surrounding Hunter’s death... From the author of *The Gone-Away World* and *Tigerman*, comes a new novel set in a near-future, high-tech surveillance state that is equal parts dark comedy, gripping detective story, and philosophical puzzle, named a Best Science Fiction Book of 2017 (in hardcover) by the *Guardian*.

Jemisin, NK. [How Long ‘til Black Future Month?](#) (Orbit \$26). Three-time Hugo Award winner N. K. Jemisin’s first collection of short fiction. Dragons and hateful spirits haunt the flooded streets of New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. In a parallel universe, a utopian society watches our world, trying to learn from our mistakes. A black mother in the Jim Crow South must save her daughter from a fey offering impossible promises. And in the Hugo award-nominated short story “The City Born Great,” a young street kid fights to give birth to an old metropolis’s soul.

Lazellari, Edward. [Blood of Ten Kings: Guardians](#) (Forge \$29.99). The Guardians return to their reality, ill-equipped to fend off Farrenheil’s invading soldiers, which have saturated the kingdom. Daniel and Seth must vanquish ancient ghosts to claim the powers of their birthrights even as Cat MacDonnell fights to retain her husband against a kingdom that would rather see Callum wed to Chryslantha Godwynn. Their fellowship broken, Seth,

Catherine, Callum, and Daniel must deftly navigate the dangers of Aandor or face oblivion in the final volume of the Aandor Trilogy.

Martin, GRR. [Fire and Blood](#) (Random \$35). This is old news for you fans, but... Centuries before the events of *A Game of Thrones*, House Targaryen—the only family of dragonlords to survive the Doom of Valyria—took up residence on Dragonstone. Fire & Blood begins their tale with the legendary Aegon the Conqueror, creator of the Iron Throne, and goes on to recount the generations of Targaryens who fought to hold that iconic seat, all the way up to the civil war that nearly tore their dynasty apart. Volume One of the two-part Fire and Ice Series, the history of the Targaryens.

Messinger, Holly. [Curious Weather](#) (St Martins \$25.99). When Jacob Tracy—Civil War veteran, ex-seminarian, and reluctant psychic—agrees to move into Miss Fairweather’s St. Louis mansion and study magic with her, he has one purpose in mind: to hunt down and destroy the necromancer Mereck, a predatory madman who has twice tried to make a meal of Trace and trapped Trace’s partner Boz in a monstrous half-life. Sabine Fairweather has her own grievance with Mereck, though Trace doesn’t know the details. The woman may be a brilliant scientist and a powerful witch in her own right, but there is darkness in her and bitter secrets that threaten the tenuous faith Trace has in her. A post-Civil War fantasy.

Oates, Joyce Carol. [Hazards of Time Travel](#) (Harper \$26.99). A recklessly idealistic girl dares to test the perimeters of her tightly controlled (future) world and is punished by being sent back in time to a region of North America — “Wainscotia, Wisconsin”—that existed eighty years before. Cast adrift in time in this idyllic Midwestern town she is set upon a course of “rehabilitation”—but cannot resist falling in love with a fellow exile and questioning the constraints of the Wainscotia world with devastating results.

Reilly, Matthew. [The Three Secret Cities](#) (Gallery \$26.99). When Jack West Jr. won the Great Games, he created chaos in the four kingdoms. Now forces from a dark shadow world beyond our own are ready to get him, and he had better do something fast—like find the three secret cities, lost in the mists of time.

Roberts, Nora. [Year One](#) (\$17.99). It began on New Year’s Eve. The sickness came on suddenly, and spread quickly. The fear spread even faster. Within weeks, everything people counted on began to fail them. The electrical grid sputtered; law and government collapsed—and more than half of the world’s population was decimated. And as the power of science and technology receded, magick rose up in its place. Some of it is good, like the witchcraft worked by Lana Bingham, practicing in the loft apartment she shares with her lover, Max. Some of it is unimaginably evil, and it can lurk anywhere, around a corner, in fetid tunnels beneath the river—or in the ones you know and love the most. As word spreads that neither the immune nor the gifted are safe from the authorities who patrol the ravaged streets, and with nothing left to count on but each other, Lana and Max make their way out of a wrecked New York City. At the same time, other travelers are heading west too, into a new frontier.

Valente, Cather. [Space Opera](#) (Saga \$14.99). A century ago, the Sentience Wars tore the galaxy apart and nearly ended the entire concept of intelligent space-faring life. In the aftermath, a curious

tradition was invented—something to cheer up everyone who was left and bring the shattered worlds together. Once every cycle, the great galactic civilizations gather for the Metagalactic Grand Prix—part gladiatorial contest, part beauty pageant, part concert extravaganza, and part continuation of the wars of the past. Species far and wide compete in feats of song, dance and/or whatever facsimile of these can be performed by various creatures who may or may not possess, in the traditional sense, feet, mouths, larynxes, or faces. And if a new species should wish to be counted among the high and the mighty, if a new planet has produced some savage group of animals, machines, or algae that claim to be, against all odds, sentient? Well, then they will have to compete. And if they fail? Sudden extermination for their entire species. This year, though, humankind has discovered the enormous universe....

Windo, Nick Clark. [The Feed](#) (Harper \$16.99). The Feed is accessible everywhere, by everyone, at any time. It instantaneously links us to all information and global events as they break. Every interaction, every emotion, every image can be shared through it; it is the essential tool everyone relies on. Tom and Kate use the Feed, but Tom has resisted its addiction, which makes him suspect to his family. After all, his father created it. But that opposition to constant connection serves Tom and Kate well when the Feed collapses after a horrific tragedy shatters the world as they know it. Tom and Kate have managed to protect themselves and their family. But then their six-year-old daughter, Bea, goes missing. Who has taken her? How do you begin to look for someone in a world without technology? And what happens when you can no longer even be certain that the people you love are really who they claim to be? This is certainly a novel for our time!

BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

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

Bartlett, Lorraine. [Yule Be Dead](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Victoria Square #5. When the daughter of tea shop owner Francine Barnett is murdered, and then she herself is attacked, Katie Bonner, the manager of Artisan's Alley in Victoria Square, must quickly close in on a killer before they close in on her.

Blake, Bethany. [A Midwinter's Tail](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When a pet-care mogul is murdered and her friend, Moxie, is accused of the crime, professional pet sitter Daphne Templeton, along with her basset hound, must find the real killer.

Delany, Vicki. [Rest Ye Murdered Gentlemen](#) (\$7.99). Year-Round Christmas series. When her holiday float is sabotaged, Merry Wilkinson, the owner of Mrs. Claus's Treasures, must discover who the Scrooge is in Christmas Town after the dead body of a reporter is found and the evidence points to her best friend, Vicky.

[Hark the Herald Angels Slay](#) (\$7.99). When her ex-fiancé, who has returned to Rudolph, New York, to do a feature on the Christmas in July festivities, is murdered, Merry Wilkinson, the owner of Mrs. Claus' Treasures, must catch a killer who is definitely on the naughty list.

[We Wish You a Murderous Christmas](#) (\$7.99). When the son of Jack Olsen, who owns the Yuletide Inn, decides to no lon-

ger celebrate Christmas at the Inn, sending the local shopkeepers into a tizzy, Merry Wilkinson is faced with a holiday homicide when he is found stabbed to death.

Todd, Charles. [The Walnut Tree](#) (\$9.99). Haunted by what she witnessed in France during the enemy invasion of 1914, Lady Elspeth Douglas is transformed by her experience and leaves her life behind to become a nurse and return to the battlefields of France to do her part.

OUR DECEMBER SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Berry, Steve. [The Bishop's Pawn](#) (\$9.99.) Cotton Malone #13. Former Justice Department Agent Cotton Malone uncovers a disturbing link between a case from his past and the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr. that risks innocent lives and threatens the legacy of the Civil Rights movement's iconic martyr. *Library Journal* concluded their review with "Berry's fans will not be disappointed. He has a knack for presenting alternative history that seems as though it might be true."

Bradford, Laura. [Just Plain Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Claire Weatherly #6. When his mentor is murdered, police detective Jakob Fisher, while in Heavenly, PA to reconnect with his Amish family members, and his love, Claire Weatherly, discover that this crime hits too close to home as shocking secrets are revealed. *Library Journal* concluded their review with "Fans of Bradford's character-centric series will appreciate this latest entry. New readers may enjoy meeting the protagonists in the first book in the series, *Hearse and Buggy*."

Carr, Jack. [The Terminal List](#) (\$9.99). A Navy SEAL who has lost everything including his family and his teammates uncovers a dark conspiracy behind the murders before resolving to use his elite skills to exact justice. Lee Child fans, who have yet to discover this series debut, will want to add it to their lists a.s.a.p.

Cavanagh, Steve. [The Plea](#) (\$9.99). Pressured by the FBI to secure a murder suspect's testimony against a corrupt law firm, con artist-turned-lawyer Eddie Flynn begins to believe the suspect is innocent in spite of overwhelming evidence to the contrary in a case that tests the limits of his skills on both sides of the law. *PW* had this to say "This is perfect for anyone who likes a locked-room mystery wrapped inside a legal thriller on steroids."

Elliott, Lauren. [Murder by the Book](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Beyond the Page #1. After an unexpected inheritance from a great aunt, who also left her countless first editions and other treasures, Addie moves back home to the small New England town where she grew up in order to fulfill her dream of opening a bookstore. But there's trouble from day one, and not just from the grumpy woman who runs the bakery next door. A car nearly runs Addie down. Someone steals a copy of *Alice in Wonderland*. Then, Addie's friend Serena, who owns a nearby tea shop, is arrested—for killing another local merchant. The police seem pretty sure they've got the story in hand, but Addie's not going to let them close the book on this case without a fight

Grafton, Sue. [Y is for Yesterday](#) (\$9.99). Kinsey Millhone #25. A penultimate installment in the best-selling series follows the release of a young rapist who Kinsey Millhone carefully monitors in the wake of a vengeful sociopath's determination to exact revenge.

Greaney, Mark. [Agent in Place](#) (\$9.99). Gray Man #7. Taking a contract to abduct the mistress of a Syrian dictator to obtain

any information she may possess, Court Gentry learns that the woman has given birth to the dictator's only son and that in order to secure her cooperation, he must retrieve the child safely out of Syria *PW* ended their rave by saying "Greaney's steady escalation of the risks that Court faces, and the exceedingly clever ways he tackles them, make this entry in the exemplary Gray Man series a can't-miss."

Hart, John. [Redemption Road](#) (\$9.99). Reprint. In a town on the brink and on a road with no mercy, a boy with a gun waits for the man who killed his mother, a detective finally confronts her troubled past, a good cop walks free after serving 13 years in prison and the unthinkable happens on the altar of an abandoned church. *Library Journal* said this about Hart "He is a skilled writer who can plumb the minds of a wide range of characters while building tension with an intricate plot and revealing backstories. The somewhat overly idyllic ending doesn't detract much from readers' wonder at this accomplished achievement."

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Hellbent: An Orphan X Novel](#) (\$9.99). Orphan X #3. When the man who raised and trained him warns him that secret government forces are trying to eliminate all surviving members of the Orphan Program, Evan Smoak is challenged to track down and protect his teacher's last protégée from a brutal new program leader. *Kirkus* shortly and succinctly concluded with "As well-done as the rest of the series and bloody good fun."

Shelton, Paige. [Lost Books and Old Bones](#) (\$7.99). Scottish Bookshop #3. When a medical student who was one of several new patrons selling her antique medical tomes is found murdered in her store's alley, Edinburgh bookseller Delaney Nichols follows leads to the story of a long-dead doctor before discovering that she has been targeted by the killer herself. *PW* had this to say "Shelton's lovely depictions of Edinburgh, its denizens, and its bookshops will enchant lovers of cozies with a Scottish setting."

Taylor, Brad. [Operator Down](#) (\$9.99). Pike Logan #12. Veteran operator Pike Logan and his team embark on a high-risk search for an undercover Mossad agent only to stumble on a ruthless military coup in Africa, a situation that tests his Taskforce loyalties. *Library Journal*, among others, loved this saying "Former Delta Force officer Taylor relies on his familiarity with modern combat logistics to create credible characters and complex plots that pulse with intense intrigue, authenticity, and realism. Fans of military thrillers will enjoy how this narrative mirrors current events in the worldwide war on terror."

NEW FOR DECEMBER

Alexander, Ellie. [Live and Let Pie](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Bakeshop #8. Bakeshop owner Jules finds herself mixed up in two very different murder investigations—one from the past and one from the present—that collide as she tries to track down whodunit

Archer, Jeffrey. [Kane and Abel](#) (\$9.99). Reprint. William Lowell Kane and Abel Rosnovski, one the son of a Boston millionaire, the other a penniless Polish immigrant. Two men, born on the same day, on opposite sides of the world, their paths destined to cross in their ruthless struggle to build a fortune.

Blackmoore, Stephanie. [Gown with the Wind](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When the childhood rival she won a replica Scarlett O'Hara wedding gown from is found dead, professional wedding planner Mallory Shepard becomes the prime suspect and must find the real killer to prevent an unhappy-ever-after.

Blum, Christine. [Name of the Rose](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When her best friend Sally is suspected of both drug smuggling and murder, Annie "Halsey" Hall and the rest of the Rose Avenue Wine Club ladies must uncork the clues to catch the real culprit.

Burnell, Mark. [The Rhythm Section](#) (St Martins \$9.99). When Stephanie Patrick learns that a terrorist bomb was responsible for the plane crash that killed her family, she embarks on a plan for revenge that includes training to become a terrorist herself.

Cahoon, Lynn. [Slay in Character](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Cat Latimer #4. Faced with a real-life murder while attending a writer's retreat in Outlaw, Colorado, an "Old West" tourist town where its inhabitants are dressed up as famous figures from history, Cat Latimer confronts a colorful cast of characters in her quest for justice

Cohen, William. [Final Strike](#) (Forge \$9.99). National Security Advisor Sean Falcone leads a dangerous off-the-books operation to rescue hostage Robert Hamilton from Moscow as part of an effort to convince a paranoid Russian government to help destroy an asteroid that is threatening the planet.

Cummins, Fiona. [The Collector](#) (Kensington \$9.99). After escaping the clutches of serial killer Brian Howley, Detective Sergeant Etta Fitroy must follow his grisly clues to finally bring him to justice but his endgame has a terrifying twist—one that will not only change his fate but the fate of everyone she loves.

Dyer-Seeley, Kate. [Violet Tendencies](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Rose City #2. When the city's annual Rose Festival is ruined by protestors and murder, floral boutique owners Britta Johnston and her aunt Elin must weed out a killer and stem the violence before things get even more out of control.

Eaton, J C. [Botched 4 Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Sophie Kimball #4. When her mother's book club friend Myrna, who is just about to be tossed out of the bocce league, is accused of murder, Sophie "Phee" Kimball and her investigator boyfriend Marshall must find the real culprit before Myrna is bounced into jail.

Ferencik, Erica. [The River at Night](#) (9.99). Struggling with a soul-crushing job, a beloved sibling's death, and a divorce, Wini joins her friends on a hiking and rafting trip only to become stranded away from their survival gear and targeted by sinister rescuers who force the women to reconsider their loyalties and secrets.

Furlong, Susan. [Splintered Silence](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Released from military duty in the aftermath of a traumatizing IED explosion, former Marine Brynn, accompanied by her canine partner, returns to the insular Appalachian community of her youth, only to stumble on a murder scene with ties to dark community secrets and Brynn's own past.

Goldstein, Debra. [One Taste Too Many](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When her ex drops dead, seemingly poisoned by her twin sister's award-winning rhubarb crisp, culinarily challenged Sarah Blair suffers a fate worse than death when she is forced to enter the kitchen to catch a killer.

Griffin, WEB. [Death at Nuremberg](#) (\$9.99). Clandestine Operations #4. Assigned to the Nuremberg war trials, special agent James Cronley, Jr., finds himself fighting wars on multiple fronts, in a dramatic entry in the popular series about the birth of the Central Intelligence Agency and the Cold War.

Harper, Karen. [Shallow Grave](#) (Mira \$7.99). Claire Britten #4. Volunteering with a support group for children affected by domestic violence, forensic psychologist Claire Britten, aided by partner Nick Markwood, investigates a suspicious death at a wildlife sanctuary, only to be confronted by an attack that is too close to home.

Herbert, A L. [Murder with Macaroni and Cheese](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Soul Food #2. Catering her upcoming high-school reunion, soul food master Halia is embroiled in the suspicious death of a catty former classmate whose demise is complicated by extramarital affairs, mega-church scandals and sports secrets.

Johansen, Iris. [Shattered Mirror](#) (\$9.99). Eve Duncan #23. After receiving a skull and instructions for its reconstruction, Eve Duncan discovers that the dead woman's twin's life is in danger.

Kelly, Diane. [Long Paw of the Law](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Paw Enforcement #8. When an abandoned baby is found at a local station, police officer Megan Lutz, along with her K-9 partner Sergeant Brigit, is led to a religious sect at the far reaches of Fort Worth, Texas city limits where her investigation is blocked at every turn.

Kubica, Mary. [Don't You Cry](#) (\$9.99). In Chicago, Esther Vaughan disappears, leaving only a haunting letter as a clue for her roommate, Quinn Collins; meanwhile, in a small Michigan harbor town, 18-year-old dishwasher Alex Gallo is drawn to a charming mystery woman, whose allure spirals into something far more sinister.

Larsen, Ward. [Cutting Edge](#) (Forge \$9.99). Waking up in Maine, hundreds of miles away from where his helicopter crashed, Coast Guard rescue swimmer Trey DeBolt is forced to go on the run when the nurse caring for him is killed by military-trained assassins.

Ludlum, Robert. [The Tristan Betrayal](#) (\$9.99). Reprint Working for the U.S.'s secret intelligence forces in Europe during the Second World War, Stephen Metcalf undertakes a bold plan for which he must locate and betray a former lover in order to protect free-world interest

Pressey, Rose. [Fashions Fade, Haunted is Eternal](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When a graveyard fashion shoot leads to murder, vintage-clothing-store owner Cookie Chanel, with the help of her ghostly friends, must focus on the truth before someone else is edited out of the picture.

Richtel, Matt. [Dead on Arrival](#) (\$7.99). The bizarre deaths of everyone in a remote Colorado ski town thrusts world-class virologist Lyle Martin into a mystery involving a deadly syndrome that causes him to wonder if the world might be better left unsaved.

Robb, J D. [Leverage in Death](#) (\$8.99). Eve Dallas #47. When an airline executive is blackmailed into a suicide bombing in his Wall Street office, lieutenant Eve Dallas investigates strange inconsistencies in the case while trying to uncover the blackmailers' true agenda.

Ross, Barbara. [Steamed Open](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Maine Clambake #7. When a mysterious new neighbor is murdered after blocking access to the beach, cutting off the Snowden Family Clambake's supply, Julia Snowden must discover who was steamed enough to kill.

Simon, Misty. [Deceased and Desist](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When she stumbles upon the dead body of a shady building inspector while cleaning a renovated B&B, Tallie Graver, along with her best gal pal, launches her own investigation before this case gets swept under the rug.

Smith, Karen Rose. [Cut to the Chaise](#) (Kensington \$7.99). With her wedding only weeks away, home stager Caprice De Luca is plunged into a nuptial nightmare when her wedding venue, Rambling Vines Winery, becomes the site of a murder, putting a permanent stain on her dreams.

Spillane, Mickey. [The Bloody Spur](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When stubborn rancher George Cullen takes a stand against the Santé Fe Railroad—which wants to build a spur through Trinidad, New Mexico—Sheriff Caleb York must deal with Cullen's former cronies, who have arrived in town with murder on their minds.

Truman, Margaret. [Margaret Truman's Allied in Danger](#) (\$8.99). Mourning the suspicious death of his son in Nigeria, a security worker at America's British Embassy in London uncovers dangerous information about his son's killers at the same time international investigator Robert Brixton identifies common links between two cases.

Washburn, Tim. [Cyber Attack](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When orchestrated cyber-attacks unleash waves upon waves of death and mass destruction across the country, two specially trained FBI agents must infiltrate a faceless enemy's twisted network to save America.

White, Karen. [The House on Tradd Street](#) (\$7.99). Melanie Middleton #1. Inheriting an historic home from an elderly man she had recently met, Melanie Middleton, a Charleston real-estate agent who possesses the ability to see ghosts, finds herself dealing with an entire family of haunts and joins forces with Jack Trenholm, a handsome writer, to unravel the house's dark history and find some long-missing diamonds.