

# BOOKNEWS from

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## JUNE EVENTS...

(continued from the calendar in the Memorial Day Booknews)

### AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

*Some Events will be webcast on Facebook Live*

Check out our new [YouTube Channel](#)

#### THURSDAY JUNE 13 7:00 PM A 20<sup>th</sup> Book Party

**Cara Black** signs [Murder in Bel-Air](#) (Soho \$27.95)

Aimée Leduc #19!

**Nina Laurin** signs [The Starter Wife](#) (Grand Central \$14.99)

Madness....

#### SATURDAY JUNE 15 2:00 PM La Dolce Vita

**David Wagner** signs [Roman Count Down](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95)

The Rick Montoya Italian Mysteries Prequel is Our June Cozy Crimes Book of the Month.

#### MONDAY JUNE 17 7:00 PM

**BA Shapiro** signs [The Collector's Apprentice](#) (\$15.95)

1920s Paris art thriller featuring fraud, theft, scandal, murder, and revenge

#### THURSDAY JUNE 20 7:00 PM

**James Ellroy** signs [This Storm](#) (Knopf \$29.95)

A massive novel of World War II Los Angeles

Ellroy also signs new volumes from Everyman's Library:

[The LA Quartet](#) (\$40); [The Underworld USA Trilogy Volume 1](#)

(\$35); [The Underworld USA Trilogy Volume II](#) (\$32)

#### SATURDAY JUNE 22 2:00 PM Mystery Tea

**Nancy Atherton** signs [Aunt Dimity and the Heart of Gold](#) (Viking \$26)

Utterly charming English village mystery

#### SUNDAY JUNE 23 2:00 PM Westerns!

**Loren D. Estleman** signs [Wild Justice](#) (Forge \$26.99)

A Page Murdoch mystery

**Reavis Z. Wortham** signs [Hawke's Target](#) (Kensington \$9.99)

3<sup>rd</sup> in the Texas Ranger Sonny Hawke series, winner of the 2019 Spur Award from the Western Writers of America

Wortham also signs [Gold Dust](#) (Poisoned Pen/Sourcebooks \$15.95) and his other [Red River Mysteries](#)

#### MONDAY JUNE 24 7:00 PM

**Ellen LaCorte** signs [The Perfect Fraud](#) (Harper \$26.99)

A thriller debut with links to Sedona

**Kelsey Rae Dimberg** signs [The Girl in the Rearview Mirror](#)

(Harper \$26.99)

Our June First Mystery Book of the Month, set in Phoenix

**Our copies come with a complete promotional packet with lots of fun material about the book and the author**

#### TUESDAY JUNE 25 7:00 PM

**Michael Brandman** signs [Wild Card](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95)

Buddy Steel #3

#### THURSDAY JUNE 27 7:00 PM

**Chris DeRose** signs [Star Spangled Scandal: Sex, Murder, and the Trial that Changed America](#) (Regnery \$29.99)

Antebellum true crime history in Washington DC circles

#### SUNDAY JUNE 30 2:00 PM

**Brad Thor** signs [Backlash](#) (Atria \$27.99)

Scot Harvath #19

#### MONDAY JULY 1 7:00 PM

**Paul Doiron** signs [Almost Midnight](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

Maine Game Warden Investigator Mike Bowditch #10

#### JUNE DISCUSSION CLUBS

**Coffee & Crime:** Saturday June 8 10:30 AM

Stuart Palmer, [The Puzzle of the Happy Hooligan](#) (\$15.99)

**SciFi Friday:** June 21 7:00 PM

Tade Tompson, [Rosewater](#) (\$15.99)

**Croak & Dagger:** Saturday June 15 10:30 AM

Denise Mina, [The End of the Wasp Season](#) (\$15)

**Hardboiled Crime:** Wednesday June 26 7:00 PM:

Jordan Harper, [She Rides Shotgun](#) (\$16.99)

## EVENT BOOKS

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Heart of Gold](#) (Viking \$26 June 22). Of all the books I've read for June, this is at once the most comforting, the best escape, and right up there with the best written. Atherton sparkles. Just like the ice storm that turns a Christmas party into a pajama party and leads to a discovery! It's almost Christmas in the small English village of Finch—and nearly everyone has the Yuletide Blight. Though many of the villagers regretfully decline their invitations to Emma Harris's annual Christmas bash, Lori Shepherd has no intention of missing it. That evening, a storm strikes. A car skids into the ditch. And an extra guest joins those now spending the night at Anscombe Manor. Emma asks her other guests if they would like a tour, citing there's an old storage room now cleared of junk that puzzles her. Tilly, the newcomer, a woman of astonishing self-effacement and historical knowledge, identifies its purpose. Which leads to a lot of local detective work. And the gradual blossoming of two romances. If you long for a charming read, look no further: Finch is a cozier version of Three Pines. At under 200 pages this can easily be read before bed. 28<sup>th</sup> [in the Aunt Dimity Series](#)—all of which are still in print.

Black, Cara. [Murder in Bel-Air](#) (Soho \$27.95 June 13). The *NY Times* writes: "To be sure, time goes slowly in this captivating series and it's still only 1999. Aimée is still wearing high-fashion vintage clothing and scooting around on her pink Vespa while solving computer security breaches for Leduc Detective — and the odd murder case for her own satisfaction. Here Aimée's in Paris's 12th Arrondissement, not for the opera or for a stroll in the Bois de Vincennes, but to solve the murder of a homeless old woman. Aimée is also in search of her unpredictable American mother, Sydney, who has disappeared after failing to pick up Chloé from her playgroup in Bel-Air. Aimée doesn't need to pack heat on these adventures; the stiletto heels of her Louboutin ankle boots are weapon enough. But something more lethal is called for when Sydney's secretive work as a former C.I.A. operative comes to light, threatening not only Sydney and her professional contacts but also her family, including (gasp!) baby Chloé."

Alan Furst finds this, "Transcendentally, seductively, irresistibly French." In an earlier review the *NYT* wrote, "The abiding pleasure of this series is the chance to ride with a cabdriver who wants to discuss Sartre or just tearing around Paris on Aimée's pink Vespa, making stops at the Jardin du Luxembourg and the Île Saint-Louis, where Aimée has an apartment. Lucky girl." Order the entire series for a French summer binge (alongside Bruno, Chief of Police).

Speaking of Bruno, here's the *NY Times* on [The Body in the Castle Well](#) (Knopf \$26—we still have a few in stock signed). Did Martin Walker really kill off that nice American art history student? Yes, he did, which is very daring, considering that this is one of his charming mysteries set in the beautiful Périgord region of France and featuring his amiable sleuth, Bruno Courrèges. Nice young women like Claudia Muller are rarely bumped off in nice country mysteries with nice local detectives, especially not detectives who take their horses and their truffle hounds into the woods for the sheer joy of it. But Walker knows exactly what he's doing in this series, which artfully seasons its plots with regional

lore about the sport of falconry and with lessons in French history, particularly the World War II resistance — all while gently teasing the locals for indulging in "the French love of ceremony and dressing up."

Brandman, Michael. [Wild Card](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 June 25). Brandman has racked up 5 Star reviews from readers for his 3<sup>rd</sup> sharp Buddy Steel investigation. I quote one: "I was quite impressed with his multi layers of plot and ability to bring the characters to life. I love the witty repartee, the moral integrity of Buddy Steel and his sarcasm. The action starts in a small California town with a shocking murder and the action takes off from there. Buddy has returned home to his hometown as a Sheriff to care for his ailing Father and he is not happy about his situation. He battles a Russian who refuses to follow American laws without compromise and humor. As the plot deepens, he soon has a serial killer case that is giving him headaches as the town demands answers. Many layers of personalities enter into his investigation and I enjoy the likable characters this author creates. This is a good, interesting read with humor, witty dialogue, and plenty of action. Buddy does not suffer fools and does things with his own morals applied to each and every investigation. I love the character of Buddy and appreciate his realistic outlook on life. Highly recommended." Buddy's first case, [Missing Persons](#) (\$15 special HC price), gets a new paperback edition in August. His second: [One on One](#) (\$15.95).

DeRose, Chris. [Star Spangled Scandal: Sex, Murder, and the Trial that Changed America](#) (Regnery \$29.99 June 27). It is two years before the Civil War, and Congressman Daniel Sickles and his lovely wife Teresa are popular fixtures in Washington, D.C. society. Their house sits on Lafayette Square across from White House grounds, and the president himself is godfather to the Sickles' six-year-old daughter. Because Congressman Sickles is frequently out of town, he trusts his friend, U.S. Attorney Philip Barton Key—son of Francis Scott Key—to escort the beautiful Mrs. Sickles to parties in his absence. Revelers in D.C. are accustomed to the sight of the congressman's wife with the tall, Apollo-like Philip Barton Key, who is considered "the handsomest man in all Washington society... foremost among the popular men of the capital." Then one day an anonymous note sets into motion a tragic course of events that culminates in a shocking murder in broad daylight in Lafayette Square. This is the riveting true story of the murder and trial that sparked a national debate on madness, male honor, female virtue, fidelity, and the rule of law, a topic constantly under discussion today. .

Dimberg, Kelsey. [Girl in the Rearview Mirror](#) (Harper \$26.99 June 24). We can't resist a **First Mystery Book of the Month** set in Phoenix. Nor the young woman drawn into a prominent political family and all the dynamics, lies, and secrets that it harbors. The Martins are Phoenix's first family with its multi-term sitting US Senator, his handsome son Philip Martin, the heir to his seat; Philip's stylish and autocratic wife, director of the city's fine arts museum; and the center of it all for Finn Hunt, the working girl who agrees to become the Martin's nanny: Amabel. A little daughter who is precocious, sometimes a pain, beautiful, and loved. Or is she? Although she's often treated like a prop in a photo op, she's only four. And one terrible day, she becomes forever four.

Finn is devastated, but Finn has been keeping the intrusions of a young woman wanting to contact Philip a secret. Not to mention secrets of her own. *PW* adds, “In Dimberg’s almost dizzyingly twisty debut, Finn Hunt escapes a problematic past to secure a job as nanny to four-year-old Amabel Martin, the feisty granddaughter of Senator Jim Martin of Arizona. Finn’s bright future includes a blossoming romance with one of the senator’s top aides, Bryant Dewitt. But she’s about to discover that even deeply buried secrets, her own as well as the Martins’, have a way of surfacing—with life-shattering consequences. With a few wobbles, the plot speeds to the bombshell final betrayal. Dimberg’s evocative prose and affecting characters flag her as a writer to watch.” Our copies come with extra material you’ll enjoy reading.

Doiron, Paul. [Almost Midnight](#) (St Martins \$27.99 July 1). In the landmark #10 for Maine Game Warden Investigator Mike Bowditch, a deadly attack on one of Maine’s last wild wolves opens up a path to a deadly conspiracy. Ironically, it begins when Bowditch is on vacation. Billy Cronk, one of his oldest friends and a man he had to reluctantly put behind bars for murder, sends him a summons. Billy wants him to investigate a new female prison guard with a mysterious past, and Mike feels honor-bound to help his friend. But when the guard becomes the victim in a brutal attack at the prison, he realizes there may be a darker cover-up at play—and that Billy and his family might be at risk. Then Mike receives a second call for help, this time from a distant mountain valley where Shadow, a wolf-hybrid he once cared for, has been found shot by an arrow and clinging to life. He searches for the identity of the bowman, but his investigation is blocked at every turn by the increasingly hostile community. And when Billy’s wife and children are threatened, Mike finds himself tested like never before. How can he possibly keep the family safe when he has enemies of his own on his trail? This is a rousing series vividly painting Maine’s landscape and unsparing of animals and people. You CJ Box fans want to dive right in and order the [Bowditch series](#).

Ellroy, James. [This Storm](#) (Knopf \$29.95 June 20). This is a huge book so I am again resorting to the *NY Times* for a long review: The Los Angeles of James Ellroy’s latest historical thriller is the kind of place where rats as big as cats fearlessly scoot across the front porch, where lovers rendezvous in welcoming Tijuana, anonymous among the “child-beggar swarms” and “cat-meat taco vendors,” and where sentiments of pure, undiluted venom (“Hate, hate, hate. Kill, kill, kill”) express the prevailing state of race relations. We’re talking about the Los Angeles of January 1942, when a New Year’s Eve broadcast by Father Charles Coughlin laments that his war-battered listeners must stand shoulder to shoulder with the “rape-happy Russian Reds” in resistance to “the more sincerely simpatico Nazis.” In such a soul-crushing environment, a simple murder comes as a relief. Or so thinks Dudley Smith, a sergeant in the Los Angeles Police Department, currently working for Army intelligence and devising all kinds of war-profiteering hustles on the side. ... But the repercussions of the case will play out over the next several months.

For readers who keep track of these things, *This Storm* is the second volume, after *Perfidia*, of Ellroy’s Second L.A. Quartet. (For my money, the most notable novels in his great saga are *The Black Dahlia* and *L.A. Confidential*, the first and third books of The L.A. Quartet. But honestly, you can pick up the story anywhere)."

Patrick says this of the **June Hardboiled Crime Book of the Month**: “New Year’s Eve 1941: Anti-Japanese hysteria grips the country in the wake of Pearl Harbor; alliances of left-wing and right-wing groups struggle to work out the best way to profit off of the war. Police Sergeant Dudley Smith heads south of the border to thwart Fifth Column pro-Nazi subversives and suspected Japanese submarine encroachments in Baja. In reality, however, his aim is to set up a lucrative wartime business smuggling heroin and illegal immigrant labor. Meanwhile, police uncover a body in Griffith Park which may provide a link between an unsolved gold heist and a lethal fire in the 1930’s. Forensics expert Hideo Ashida, the only Japanese-American on the LAPD, must grapple with his devotion to Dudley Smith and his own conscience as he begins to piece an intricate story together. As the Dudster squares off against Bill Parker, an LAPD captain on the rise, things get complicated and ugly very quickly. Ellroy’s obsessive, documenting of history of 20th century America is never sanitized for our protection and is refreshing as hell. I can’t wait to see how Ellroy proceeds through the war years and connects everything up to his LA Quartet.”

Ellroy also signs new volumes from Everyman’s Library: [The LA Quartet](#) (\$40); [The Underworld USA Trilogy Volume 1](#) (\$35); [The Underworld USA Trilogy Volume II](#) (\$32). And you can read more about him [HERE](#).

Estleman, Loren D. [Wild Justice](#) (Forge \$26.99 June 23). In his 13<sup>th</sup> Page Murdock Western, it’s the spring of 1896. Judge Harlan Blackthorne dies, ending thirty years dispensing justice in the territory of Montana. His death leaves Deputy US Marshal Murdock, his most steadfast officer, to escort the judge’s remains across the continent by train. The long journey—interrupted from time to time by station stops for the public to pay its respects and for various marching bands to serenade the departed with his favorite ballad, “After the Ball”—gives Murdock plenty of opportunity to reflect upon the years of triumphs and tragedies he’s seen first hand, always in the interest of bringing justice to a wilderness he, his fellow deputies, and the Judge played so important a role in its settlement. As the funeral train chugs through prairie, over mountains, and across rivers once ruled by buffalo herds, Indian nations, trappers, cowboys, U.S. Cavalry, entrepreneurs, and outlaws representing every level of heroism, sacrifice, ambition, and vice, *Wild Justice* provides a capsule history of the American frontier.

Patrick, my co-host June 23, adds, “Estleman is a modern master. I’ve always loved his western historical novels, from early classics like *Billy Gashade* to 2017’s terrific *The Ballad of Black Bart*. The new Murdock novel *Wild Justice* is a rollicking and insightful look at the end of the frontier era. Not to be missed.”

LaCorte, Ellen. [Perfect Fraud](#) (Harper \$26.99 June 24). A propulsive debut thriller where mysticism and medicine intersect with dramatic results in LaCorte’s accomplished page-turning debut. When we first meet Claire, she’s living in Sedona, Arizona with her boyfriend Cal and ducking calls from her mother. Her mom is a world class psychic on the East Coast and Claire doesn’t want her to discover the truth. Claire works in the family business and calls herself a psychic, but she doesn’t really have “the gift” and hasn’t for a long time. She’s a fraud. Meanwhile, on the other side of the country, Rena, a young mother, has family

issues of her own. She's divorced and her four-year-old daughter, Stephanie, suffers from mysterious, seemingly incurable stomach problems. No matter how many specialists Rena drags her to, no matter how many mommy-blog posts she makes about her child's health issues, trying to get help and support from her online community, Stephanie only gets sicker. The latest doctor Rena consults has run every test he can think of and still can't find what's causing Stephanie's distress. In her frustration, Rena decides to take Stephanie to a specialty doctor in Phoenix. A seat change on the plane ride brings Claire and Rena together, though neither of them thinks much of the other. That is, until Claire has an experience that she's only ever heard her mother talk about.

Laurin. [The Starter Wife](#) (Grand Central \$14.99 June 13). "Local police have announced that they're closing the investigation of the suspected drowning of 37-year-old painter Colleen Westcott. She disappeared on April 11, 2010, and her car was found parked near the waterfront in Cleveland two days later, but her body has never been found. The chief of police has stated that no concrete evidence of foul play has been discovered in the probe." I close the online search window, annoyed. These articles never have enough detail. They think my husband's first wife disappeared or they think she is dead." That's the voice in a novel that unnerves with its portrait of obsession and the mostly crazy.

Shapiro, Barbara. [The Collector's Apprentice](#) (\$15.95 June 17). A woman with a shameful past, now in search of revenge and her family's forgiveness, finds herself assisting an irascible patron of the arts who is building one of the world's great private art collections. But will his paintings ever be hers? "Inspired by the story of Philadelphia's famed Barnes Foundation but fictionalized with a sizeable swirl of sensationalism, Shapiro's latest art-world novel spans three timelines involving Belgian Paulien Mertens, who grew up in a home graced by a collection of valuable art, including seven modern works by groundbreaking postimpressionists including Cézanne and Matisse. As the novel opens in Paris in 1922, Paulien, aged 19, has been banished from her home and family, which has been bankrupted in a Ponzi scheme launched by her fiancé, George Everard. Flashing back periodically to 1920, the novel shows how innocent Paulien fell into George's trap; flashing forward to 1928, it reveals her reincarnated as Vivienne Gregsby, on trial for the murder of Dr. Edwin Bradley, a rich American chemist who was amassing a vast collection of postimpressionist art, including those seven Mertens paintings which Paulien dreams of restoring to her father. The central 1922 thread traces Paulien's rebirth as Vivienne, her developing involvement with Bradley, and her move to the U.S. and yearning to inherit his collection herself..."—*Kirkus Reviews*, which nails it. *PW* adds, "Shapiro delivers a clever and complex tale of art fraud, theft, scandal, murder, and revenge. [Her] portrayal of the 1920s art scene in Paris and Philadelphia is vibrant, and is populated by figures like Alice B. Toklas and Thornton Wilder; readers will be swept away by this thoroughly rewarding novel."

Thor, Brad. [Backlash](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99 June 30). In ancient texts, there are stories about men who struck from the shadows, seemingly beyond the reach of death itself. These men were considered part angel, part demon. Their loyalty was to their families, their friends, and their kings. You crossed these men at your peril. And once crossed, there was no crossing back. They were fearless; men of honor who have been known throughout history by different names: Spartan, Viking, Samurai. Today, men like these

still strike from the shadows. They are highly prized intelligence agents, military operatives, and assassins. One man is all three. Two days ago, Scot Harvath, that man, was crossed. Badly. And now....

Wortham, Reavis Z. [Hawke's Target](#) (Kensington \$9.99 June 23). "Think: Elmore Leonard meets James Lee Burke." —Jeffery Deaver. Judge. Jury. Executioner. One man is taking the law into his own hands. His targets are criminals who slipped through the justice system. From California to Texas, this relentless avenger hunts down the unpunished and sentences them to death. The trail of bodies stretches across the Lone Star State to the most savage clan East Texas has ever seen. Bring on Sonny Hawke, a Texas Ranger committed to his job with no time for vigilante justice. 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Texas Ranger Sonny Hawke series after [Hawke's Prey](#) (\$9.99) and [Hawke's War](#) (\$79.9), winner of the 2019 Spur Award from the Western Writers of America.

Wortham also signs [Gold Dust](#) (Poisoned Pen/Sourcebooks \$15.95). *PW* reviews: "In Wortham's entertaining, well-crafted seventh Red River mystery set in late 1960s Center Springs, Texas, two CIA agents persuade a local crop duster to spray an unknown substance that they call Gold Dust. They claim it's to test weather patterns, but Constable Ned Parker and his old friend Tom Bell, a retired Texas Ranger, believe the spray may be spreading illness. Meanwhile, Sheriff Cody Parker and his deputies investigate a rancher's murder that could be related. And Ned's 14-year-old granddaughter, Pepper Parker, starts a rumor about buried treasure that sparks a gold rush in the area. Ned and Tom pursue the CIA operatives to Washington, D.C., in their quest for justice. Their triumph may be farfetched, but it's a pleasure to watch them deal with orneriness as well as just plain evil. Readers nostalgic for this period—songs by the Monkees and Tommy James and the Shondells blast from transistor radios—will find plenty to like." *Booklist* adds, "Reading the seventh Red River Mystery is like coming home after a vacation: we're reuniting with old friends, returning to a comfortable place. Wortham's writing style is easygoing, relying on natural-sounding dialogue and vivid descriptions to give us the feeling that this story could well have taken place. Another fine entry in a mystery series that deserves more attention." Wortham also signs his other [Red River Mysteries](#). We are all huge fans of this amazing series.

## JUNE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

**British Crime Club** One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Montclair, Allison. [The Right Sort of Man](#)

**Cozy Crimes Club** One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Wagner, David. [Roman Count Down](#)

**Discovery Club** One paperback or hardcover per month

Linden, Eugene. [Deep Past](#)

**First Mystery Club** One Signed First per month

Dimberg, Kelsey Rae. [The Girl in the Rearview Mirror](#)

**Hardboiled Crime Club** One signed First per month

Ellroy, James. [This Storm](#)

**History/Mystery Club** One Signed First per month

Willig, Lauren. [The Summer Country](#)

**History Paperback** One per month

Ashley Jennifer. [Death in Kew Gardens](#)

**Modern First Editions** One Signed First per month

Grames, Juliet. [The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna](#)

**SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club** One Signed First per month

LeGrand, Claire. [Kingsbane](#)

**Surprise Me! Club One Signed First Per Month**

Laukkanen, Owen. [Deception Cove](#)

**Thriller Club** One Signed First per month

Ricciardi, David. [Rogue Strike](#)

## SIGNED BOOKS

✎Beckett, Simon. [The Scent of Death](#) (Random UK \$43). Once a busy hospital, St Jude's now stands derelict, awaiting demolition. Once a place of healing, it's now a burial ground. When a partially mummified corpse is found in the building's cavernous loft, forensics expert Dr David Hunter is called in to take a look. He can't say how long the body's been there, but he is certain it's that of a young woman. And that she was pregnant. Then part of the attic floor collapses, revealing another of the hospital's secrets: a bricked-up chamber with beds inside. And some of them are still occupied. For Hunter, what began as a straightforward case is about to become a twisted nightmare. And it soon becomes clear that St Jude's hasn't claimed its last victim

✎Brady, Tom. [Secret Service](#) (Random UK \$32). To those who don't really know her, Kate Henderson's life must seem perfectly ordinary. But she is in fact a senior MI6 officer, who right now is nursing the political equivalent of a nuclear bomb. Kate's most recent mission has yielded the startling intelligence that the British Prime Minister has cancer – and that one of the leading candidates to replace him may be a Russian agent of influence. Up against the clock to uncover the Russian mole, Kate risks everything to get to the truth.... So glad to see a new book by one of my favorite British authors, a busy journalist who's written some pips!

Cussler, Clive/Robin Burcell. [The Oracle](#) (Putnam \$29). *PW* gives this a big Starred Review! "In the prologue of bestseller Cussler's exceptional 11th Sam and Remi Fargo adventure, Gelimer, the king of the Vandals, consults an oracle in a North African town in 533 C.E. Gelimer must retrieve a stolen scroll and return it to its rightful owner if his kingdom is to survive. The kingdom falls before he can find the scroll, whose location remains a mystery until the present day, when some clues turn up in an archaeological dig sponsored by Sam and Remi's foundation. Meanwhile, the theft of a shipment of supplies to the girls'

school the Fargos support in Nigeria prompts the couple to travel from California to Africa to deliver replacement supplies. The subsequent kidnapping of Remi and some of the school girls by robbers appears to be related to the missing scroll. Witty dialogue, loads of detail about the local culture and food, and plenty of red herrings will delight Cussler fans. This entry may be the best yet in the series." **Our copies are signed by both authors.**

Gilbert, Elizabeth. [City of Girls](#) (Riverhead \$28) begins a "beguiling tale of an innocent young woman discovering the excitements and pleasures of 1940 New York City with a light touch, as her heroine, Vivian Morris, romps through the city. Gradually the story deepens into a psychologically keen narrative about Vivian's search for independence as she indulges her free spirit and sexuality. Freshly expelled from Vassar for not attending any classes, 19-year-old Vivian is sent by her parents to stay with her aunt Peggy Buell in Manhattan. Peg runs a scruffy theater that offers gaudy musical comedies to its unsophisticated patrons. As WWII rages in Europe, Vivian is oblivious to anything but the wonder behind the stage, as she becomes acquainted with the players in a new musical called *City of Girls*, including the louche leading man with whom she falls in love with passionate abandon. Vivian flits through the nightclubs El Morocco, the Diamond Horseshoe, and the Latin Quarter, where she hears Count Basie, Billie Holiday, and Louis Prima. Drinking heavily and scooting into the arms of numerous men, one night at the Stork Club she meets Walter Winchell, the notorious gossip columnist, who plays a pivotal role in the tabloid scandal in which Vivian becomes embroiled. Vivian's voice—irreverent, witty, robust with slang—gradually darkens with guilt when she receives a devastating comeuppance. Eventually, she arrives at an understanding of the harsh truths of existence as the country plunges into WWII. Vivian—originally reckless and selfish, eventually thoughtful and humane—is the perfect protagonist for this novel, a page-turner with heart complete with a potent message of fulfillment and happiness."—*PW* Starred Review. I am not at all sure I agree with it; celebrity authors often get higher praise than the work deserves.

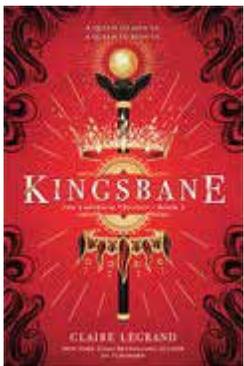
✎Goldberg, Leonard. [The Disappearance of Alistair Ainsworth](#) (St Martins \$28). Sherlock Holmes's daughter, Joanna Blalock, is searching for cryptographer Alistair Ainsworth, who has been kidnapped by Germans. Joanna, Dr. John Watson, and the doctor's son (and her husband), John Jr., join forces with the police and naval intelligence officers to scour the city for Ainsworth, who, they discover, is part of a high-ranking unit charged with ensuring that the Germans can't decipher British naval codes. Like her late father (who died in 1903, according to Goldberg), Joanna works through the logic of any puzzle presented, large or small, and "fans of traditional mysteries will appreciate the way each clue is laid out for Joanna to piece together. John Jr. does an able job as narrator as the action builds to a satisfying finale. The many references to the original Sherlock Holmes adventures will please Conan Doyle fans."

✎Herron, Mick. [Joe Country](#) (Joseph \$36). Inside Slough House, the London outpost for disgraced MI5 spies, memories are stirring, all of them bad. Catherine Standish is buying booze again, Louisa Guy is raking over the ashes of lost love, and new recruit Lech Wicinski, whose sins make him an outcast even among the slow horses, is determined to discover who destroyed his career, even if he tears his life apart in the process. Meanwhile, in Re-

gent's Park, Diana Taverner's tenure as First Desk is running into difficulties. She wants to remake the service to her own vision, ruthlessly; if she's going to succeed, she might have to make deals with a familiar old devil... And with winter taking its grip, Jackson Lamb would sooner be left brooding in peace, but even he can't ignore the dried blood on his carpets. So when the man responsible for killing a slow horse breaks cover at last, Lamb sends the slow horses out to even the score. And sadly, someone pay the ultimate price.

Laukkanen, Owen. [Deception Cove](#) (Mulholland \$28). The first thing to say about our **June Surprise Me Book of the Month** is, Great Dog! Loyal Lucy, a black-and-white mix whose role is to help former US Marine Jess Winslow, a new widow, cope with loss and reentry into civilian life. Jess has no other assets besides her medical discharge but a falling-down house. Mason Burke is also reentering civilian life—from prison. His assets are few, a set of clothes, his wallet, and a photo of Lucy, the service dog he trained while doing time. What he knows is that Lucy is now living in Deception Cove, Washington. Mason arrives at Jess' door thus only to find her in standoff with the local sheriff. It seems Jess' husband left something behind and now it's gone and the sheriff has seized Jess' only asset—Lucy. Who will be destroyed unless Jess turns over the goods, which she doesn't have. Mason doesn't want to be dragged into this; Jess doesn't want to trust a stranger. But neither of them can abandon Lucy.... **The last thing I'll say is there are very few Signed copies since Laukkanen lives in Vancouver. Only the truly persevering bookseller could bring this off.**

Lee, Patrick. [Dark Site](#) (St Martins \$29). A Starred Review calls this, "A compulsive, nail-biting, stay-up-all-night thriller." It's all (possibly) improbable but go for the ride. I read it in one sitting. Bestseller Lee's riveting third Sam Dryden novel reads like an amped-up version of TV's *Stranger Things*. While it's a pure thriller with a rocket pace, it is also full of surprises which makes it our May Surprise Me! Book of the Month but it could well have been the Thriller selection. The action begins with a terrific scene in Brookings, Oregon, where Danica Ellis is set up by a young man and woman outside a convenience store for an abduction. Some scrapper, she escapes after killing the woman and, unable to imagine what the danger is, but recognizing there is an acute one, heads for her estranged retired FBI Agent-stepfather's home. Meanwhile Sam Dryden, a former Special Forces operative who lives in Malibu, California where he fixes up old houses to flip, has a near thing with a man with a pistol. Another wild escape scene follows and ends with Sam finding the man's cell phone and receiving a text. It connects him with Danica. And then we shift to 1988 and rural Iowa where we meet Danica and Sam as kids....



Legrand, Claire. [Kingsbane](#) (Sourcebooks \$21). **Our June SciFi/Fantasy Pick.** Giving readers only brief recaps to the bestselling Empire Trilogy #1, [Furyborn](#), this book throws them right into complicated storylines in this large, lovingly detailed fantasy world filled with multiple countries, two different time periods, and hostile angels. Newly ordained Rielle contends with villainous Corien's interest in her, the weakening gate that holds the

angels at bay, and distrust from those who don't believe her to be the Sun Queen. A thousand years in the future, Eliana chafes under her unwanted destiny and finds her fear of losing herself to her powers (like the Blood Queen) warring with her need to save those close to her. A bookseller writes, "I hope everyone is ready to cry a bucket of tears over this victorious and vengeful sequel.... Legrand's writing has never been so fierce and frenetic, and *Kingsbane* moves at a breakneck pace that left me breathless. I wanted to stay in this world forever."

✠Lovesey, Peter. [The Crimes of Miss Oyster Brown and Other Stories](#) (Crippen & Landru \$45). The Diamond Dagger and multi-other-awards winner will be honored at the 2019 Bouchercon in Dallas. This collection of stories is one way publishers are honoring him. He has a new Peter Diamond, [Killing with Confetti](#) (Sphere \$50), out in July (Signed) in the UK with a US edition in the fall for the international mystery convention.

This collection also comes in an Unsigned paperback edition: [The Crimes of Miss Oyster Brown](#) (\$20).

Marlantes, Karl. [Deep River](#) (Grove \$30). This fabulous, deeply felt novel is my top recommendation for Summer Reading. The history of Finland and America, the immigrants' saga, the logging industry in Washington, the rich picture of environments and communities as well as the forces building toward the Russia Revolution that forced the Finns to America... it's a Great American Novel. Sadly most of our copies came damaged from the author so I can only say grab one of the 9 while you can.

From the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Matterhorn* and *What It Is Like to Go to War*, a rich family saga about Finnish immigrants who settle and tame the Pacific Northwest, set against the early labor movements, World War I, and the upheaval of early twentieth-century America. In the early 1900s, as the oppression of Russia's imperial rule takes its toll on Finland, the three Koski siblings—Ilmari, Matti, and the politicized young Aino—are forced to flee to the United States. Not far from the majestic Columbia River, the siblings settle among other Finns in a logging community in southern Washington, where the first harvesting of the colossal old-growth forests begets rapid development, and radical labor movements begin to catch fire. The brothers face the excitement and danger of pioneering this frontier wilderness—climbing and felling trees one-hundred meters high—while Aino, foremost of the books many strong, independent women, devotes herself to organizing the industry's first unions. As the Koski siblings strive to rebuild lives and families in an America in flux, they also try to hold fast to the traditions of a home they left behind.

A fellow bookseller adds, "You'll want to go home every night to read Karl Marlantes's *Deep River*—it's a big book—as the characters of the Koski family develop with ease and settle into your consciousness. *Deep River* immerses you into the sometimes harsh world of an immigrant family with nuance and sensitivity, capturing the American spirit with the power of Steinbeck's *Grapes of Wrath*."

✠Marston, Edward. [The Unseen Hand](#) (Allison \$42). It is the autumn of 1917, and at the luxurious Lotus Hotel in Chelsea, a maid is disrupted from her morning rounds by a horrifying discovery: instead of the dignified older lady who has been occupying a room, she find the dead body of a much younger woman. Harvey Marmion and Joe Keedy are dispatched from Scotland Yard to investigate, and learn that she seems to have

been poisoned. But who is this woman? And what has happened to the previous occupant of the room? With a high profile client to impress, Marmion and Keedy must solve the mystery in this latest Home Front series as quickly as possible, before the reputation of the hotel is damaged beyond repair.

MacBride, Stuart. [All That's Dead](#) (Collins \$40). Inspector Logan McRae was looking forward to a nice simple case – something to ease him back into work after a year off on the sick. But the powers-that-be have other ideas.... The high-profile anti-independence campaigner, Professor Wilson, has gone missing, leaving nothing but bloodstains behind. There's a war brewing between the factions for and against Scottish Nationalism. Infighting in the police ranks. And it's all playing out in the merciless glare of the media. Logan's superiors want results, and they want them now. Someone out there is trying to make a point, and they're making it in blood. If Logan can't stop them, it won't just be his career that dies with this 12<sup>th</sup> in a hardhitting Aberdeen-based police series.

Masterman, Becky. [We Were Killers Once](#) (St Martins \$27.99). You do not want to miss Becky Masterman's masterful tale featuring Tucson's Bridget Quinn, a sixty-something retired FBI Agent, whose lover, a former priest, is threatened by a man who is the third party in the killings at the Clutter farm in Kansas. Masterman finds plenty of holes in Capote's true crime classic [In Cold Blood](#) (\$16) in which to craft her story. It will send you straight back to a reread of Capote armed with these insights and ask why he didn't fill them. So Masterman provides two tracks to her narrative, one of them subtext. Brava!

Morrell, David. [Before I Wake](#) (Subterranean \$40). Thriller Award finalist Morrell, in his fine third collection after 2004's *Nightscape*, includes among these 14 stories both standalones and tales connected to his series. One highlight is a prequel to his Thomas De Quincey trilogy, "The Opium-Eater," which presents the tragic and moving backstory to the writer's addiction. "The Abelard Sanction," a coda to his *Mortalis* books, centers on the intriguing premise that intelligence operatives of any country can find refuge in safe houses established across the world where, "in extreme situations, any member of any agency would be guaranteed immunity from harm." Wicked twists lift a number of tales expanding on his Cavanaugh novels, about an ex-Special Forces member who now runs a security agency. *Twilight Zone* fans will appreciate the ingenuity of "Time Was," in which a detour that leads a man to a town apparently set up to recreate the Old West turns his life upside down. Morrell skewers the state of the publishing industry in "The Architecture of Snow," which involves the possibility that a gifted reclusive author much like J.D. Salinger submits a manuscript anonymously. This is a perfect showcase for Morrell's versatility.

Mosse, Kate. [The Burning Chambers](#) (St Martins \$29) is an epic novel of the French Wars of Religion, packed with historical detail in richly textured stories of love, family, betrayal, faith and war. The first in a planned four-part series, the novel opens with a prologue set in South Africa in 1862—a nod to the eventual 300-year story arc planned for the series. But after this brief tease, the rest of *The Burning Chambers* remains squarely stationed in the late 16th century, starting in the very early days of the violent battles between the Huguenots (French Protestants) and Catholics that wracked France from 1562 to 1598. In the small town

of Carcassonne, Minou, the daughter of a Catholic bookseller, works to keep her family afloat as her father grieves the loss of his beloved wife. At the same time, the Protestant Piet Reydon finds himself in Carcassonne to deliver a stolen relic to fellow Huguenot revolutionaries. Piet's path crosses with that of his one-time friend, now a powerful Catholic priest in the nearby city of Toulouse, and then with Minou's, setting off a series of events that is both labyrinthine and expertly plotted. Amidst these comings and goings and encounters, diary entries from an unnamed woman suggest there is more than just a relic missing—there is a will and an inheritance at stake.

Nadel, Barbara. [A Knife to the Heart](#) (Headline \$48). When historian Suzan Tan is asked to examine the contents of a derelict villa on the Bosphorus, she is intrigued to discover a Ouija board among the artifacts. Forty years ago, a young girl was found with a knife in her heart in this villa. It is said that before her death this very Ouija board spelled out her name. The verdict was suicide—but what if it was a brutal act of murder and her killer was still walking free? Suzan asks Ikmen to solve the case, and despite his reluctance to get involved, he soon finds himself drawn into the mystery. With the help of his friend Inspector Süleyman, Ikmen delves into Istanbul's dark underbelly to uncover a terrifying tale of secrets, lies and murder in his 21st case.

✦North, Alex. [The Whisper Man](#) (Joseph \$32). This may well be the August British Crime Book of the Month in the unsigned US edition, but for those who want a signed copy, this is the ticket. still devastated after the loss of his wife, Tom Kennedy and his young son Jake move to the sleepy village of Featherbank, looking for a fresh start. But Featherbank has a dark past. Fifteen years ago a twisted serial killer abducted and murdered five young boys. Until he was finally caught, the killer was known as 'The Whisper Man'. Of course, an old crime need not trouble Tom and Jake as they try to settle in to their new home. Except that now another boy has gone missing. And then Jake begins acting strangely. He says he hears a whispering at his window....

✦Royal, Priscilla. [Wild Justice](#) (Sourcebooks/Poisoned Pen \$26.95). Here is the belated hardcover edition and it earns a Starred Review: "Set in England in 1282, Royal's superlative 14th medieval mystery finds Prioress Eleanor traveling to Mynchen Buckland Priory, bearing a gift of money and a sealed letter from her brother, Baron Hugh of Wynethorpe, to a woman she has never met, Prioress Amicia. On arrival, Eleanor and her companions, Brother Thomas and Sister Anne, discover Prioress Amicia imprisoned, having been found guilty of murdering a gossiping widow from the village. When Eleanor talks to Amicia in her cell, she believes Amicia's claim of innocence..." NOTE that **this is the first printing of the hardcover** even though the title page verso makes it appear to be a second printing. I am clearing up confusion at our new publishing partner about this but think of it as a printer error and thus *Wild Justice* is even more collectible. In short, ignore the incorrect number sequence.

Swyler, Erika. [Light from Other Stars](#) (Bloomsbury \$27). Eleven-year-old Nedda Papas is obsessed with becoming an astronaut. In 1986 in Easter, a small Florida Space Coast town, her dreams seem almost within reach—if she can just grow up fast enough. Theo, the scientist father she idolizes, is consumed by his own obsessions. Laid off from his job at NASA and still reeling from the loss of Nedda's newborn brother several years before, Theo

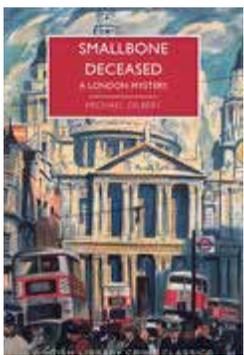
turns to the dangerous dream of extending his living daughter's childhood just a little longer. The result is an invention that alters the fabric of time. This superbly imaginative and executed story is one of summer's best reads.

Vuong, Ocean. [On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous](#) (Penguin \$26). Our July Modern Firsts Book of the Month is on sale now. I'm quoting Dwight Garner in the *NY Times Book Review*: Ocean Vuong is a young Vietnamese-American writer — born in Saigon, he was raised in Hartford, Conn. — who made his debut in 2016 with *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*, a strong and much-praised book of poems. Like his first book, this one is semi-autobiographical and speaks solemnly to his experiences as an immigrant and a gay man. The narrator is known to nearly everyone as Little Dog. He's a writer in his late 20s, but this story is told largely in retrospect. We learn about his troubled family and youth, and about some occasional ecstasies, sexual and otherwise. Little Dog's abusive father is absent. His mother works at a nail salon, smokes Marlboro Reds and has PTSD from the napalm and mortars that fell in Vietnam when she was a child. Her English is poor. She hits Little Dog too often, once smiting him with a box of Legos. This novel takes the form of a letter to her. Lan, Little Dog's elderly grandmother, also lives in Hartford. She has schizophrenia and is dying of cancer. Back home, during the Vietnam War, she worked as a prostitute, a bar girl, and was deemed a traitor for her dalliances with the enemy. Little Dog's ostensible grandfather, a former American Navy man named Paul, met Lan in Saigon. Paul and Lan are now estranged. Thanks to Agent Orange, he has cancer as well. Vuong pins the details of these marginalized immigrant lives, the food stamps and Goodwill stores and Thomas Kinkadee images and expensive nighttime E.S.L. classes and trips to the corner store for "cigarettes and Hot Cheetos." Some lines have the almost hallucinatory exactness of his best poems: "The black wren this morning on my windowsill: a charred pear." He can also dispatch Lenny Bruce-like wisecracks: "The one good thing about national anthems is that we're already on our feet, and therefore ready to run."... Vuong's novel is a book of highs and lows. At its best, it's unleashed in every regard.

## CRIME CLASSICS

### *British Library Crime Classic*

Gilbert, Michael. [Smallbone Deceased: A London Mystery](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). Horniman, Birley, and Craine is a highly respected legal firm with clients drawn from the highest in the land.



When a deed box in the office is opened to reveal a corpse, the threat of scandal promises to wreak havoc on the firm's reputation—especially as the murder looks like an inside job. The partners and staff of the firm keep a watchful and suspicious eye on their colleagues, as Inspector Hazlerigg sets out to solve the mystery of who Mr. Smallbone was—and why he had to die. Written with style, pace, and wit, this is a masterpiece by one of the finest writers of traditional British crime novels since the Second World War.

### *Other classics*

Dunnett, Dorothy. [The Game of Kings](#) (\$18). Unsurprisingly

both *Game of Thrones* and *Outlander* inspire the republication of Book One in the Legendary Lymond Chronicles by the fabulous Scottish writer Dunnett whom I sorely miss. Dive into political intrigue and sweeping romanticism with an antihero who returns to Scotland with a wild plan to redeem his reputation and save his home. The year is 1547. Scotland is clinging to independence after a humiliating English invasion. Paradoxically, the country's freedom may depend on a man who stands accused of treason. He is Francis Crawford of Lymond, a scapegrace nobleman of crooked felicities and murderous talents, with a scholar's erudition and a wicked tongue. Clawing his way back into a country that has outlawed him, and to a family that has turned its back on him, Lymond will prove that he has both the will and the cunning to clear his name and defend his people. I hope further chapters in the Lymond Chronicles follow.

✚Heyer, Georgette. [Detection Unlimited](#) (Poisoned Pen/Sourcesbooks \$14.99). Slumped on a seat under an oak tree is local solicitor Sampson Warrenby, stone cold dead, with a bullet in his brain. And everybody in the village seems ready to tell Chief Inspector Hemingway who murdered him. Could the killer have been the dead man's niece, who found him in the first place? The couple at the farm had a guilty secret—what was it? And why is it someone else actually wants to be the prime suspect? *Detection* is unlimited when everyone in the tiny village has a theory about who murdered the socially pushy newcomer. With no shortage of motives and means, it's up to Chief Inspector Hemingway to uncover which of the villagers is guilty of the crime. Here's another reissue of Heyer's classic country house mysteries. What better time than June to [order them all](#) for a summer binge? A special treat for fans of Agatha Christie and Dorothy L. Sayers, even Josephine Tey but not quite in the Margery Allingham vein.

✚Orczy, Baroness. [The Old Man in the Corner: The Teahouse Detective Volume 1](#) (Vertigo \$12.95). This welcome reissue of a 1908 collection by Orczy, author of the immortal *The Scarlet Pimpernel*, opens with a story in which the eponymous lead, whose real name is never revealed, sits down uninvited at the table of reporter Polly Burton in a London tea shop. As arrogantly as Sherlock Holmes, the interloper proclaims that "there is no such thing as a mystery in connection with any crime, provided intelligence is brought to bear upon its investigation." He then demonstrates his acumen by advancing a solution to a high-profile puzzle that has eluded a solution for a year—a murder case involving a Siberian millionaire. The quirky sleuth goes on to propose answers to Polly for a variety of mysteries, including that of a woman found poisoned in an underground railway carriage, as well as the strangulation of a man in Regent's Park who just had a lucky run at cards. The unusual format of the tales—which keeps victims, witnesses, and suspects all offstage—combined with a detective viewed by many as a prototype for Nero Wolfe, makes this a must-have for whodunit fans.

Rinehart, Mary Robert. [Miss Pinkerton](#) (Penzler \$15.95). Everyone involved seems to agree that mild-mannered Herbert Wynne wasn't the type to commit suicide but, after he is found shot dead at his country mansion, with the only other possible killer being his ailing, bedridden aunt, no other explanation makes sense. Now the elderly woman is left without a caretaker and Patton sees the perfect opportunity to employ Miss Pinkerton. A nurse, not a detective—at least, not technically speaking. Sometimes Detective Inspector Patton rings Miss Adams when he needs

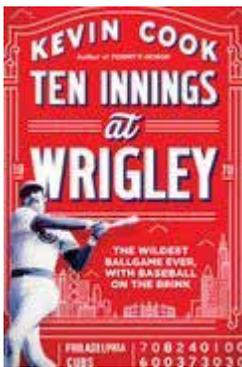
an agent on the inside. And when he does, he calls her “Miss Pinkerton” after the famous detective agency. Reprinted for the first time in twenty years, *Miss Pinkerton* is a suspenseful tale of madness and murder. The book served as the basis for a 1932 film with the same title. The Introduction is by Carolyn G. Hart.

### BOOK SUGGESTIONS FOR DAD

Abrams, Dan. [Theodore Roosevelt for the Defense](#) (Signed) (Hanover Square \$27.99). Roosevelt, the boisterous and mostly beloved legendary American hero, had accused his former friend and ally, now turned rival, William Barnes of political corruption. The furious Barnes responded by suing Roosevelt for an enormous sum that could have financially devastated him. The spectacle of Roosevelt defending himself in a lawsuit captured the imagination of the nation, and more than fifty newspapers sent reporters to cover the trial. Accounts from inside and outside the courtroom combined with excerpts from the trial transcript give us Roosevelt in his own words recounting a battle fought against the leader of the Republican party.

Clavin, Tom. [Wild Bill](#) (St Martins \$29.99). “A well-written and well-researched tale of a most interesting American frontiersman, lawman and shootist. Those interested in the true story of the life and times of Wild Bill Hickok will enjoy this book.” —*Washington Times*. “*Wild Bill* will appeal to readers with a fascination for American history, particularly those with an interest in post-Civil War westward expansion. But to a wider audience that has grown up with a romanticized and possibly sanitized version of this slice of America’s story, Clavin’s book will offer a well-researched, entertaining, and more realistic version of America’s past.” —*The Missourian*. And finally, “Clavin, a wily veteran of the writing trade, tacks up the truth like wanted posters in every chapter, while simultaneously savoring a few of the more fanciful falsehoods along the way, a neat trick in which he displays some ambidexterity of his own.” —*New York Times Book Review*

Cook, Kevin. [Ten Innings at Wrigley](#) (Holt \$28). It was the highest-scoring ballgame in a century, and much more than that. And it began on a Thursday at Chicago’s Wrigley Field, mostly sunny with the wind blowing out. Nobody expected an afternoon game between the Philadelphia Phillies and Chicago Cubs on May 17, 1979, to be much more than a lazy early-season contest matching two teams heading in opposite directions—the first-place Phillies and the Cubs, those lovable losers—until they combined for thirteen runs in the first inning. “The craziest game ever,” one player called it. “And then the second inning started.” Ten Innings at Wrigley is Kevin Cook’s vivid account of a game that could only have happened at this ballpark, in this era, with this colorful cast of heroes and heels: a 1979 slugfest.



Odell, Jenny. [How to Do Nothing](#) (Melville \$25.99). The subtitle is Resisting the Attention Economy and is focused on dealing with tech addiction. Which means leaving you more time to say, read.... This bestseller has reprinted so we can’t offer you firsts.

Wilson-Lee, Edward. [The Catalogue of Shipwrecked Books](#) (SimonSchuster \$30). This is a fabulous book for anyone who loves books, libraries, and even cataloguing for truly a library needs a

find-and-retrieve system. Christopher Columbus’ son was a true bibliophile, a liner descendant of those working at the fabled library at Alexandria. But this book is also a portrait of adventure, mainly Columbus’ fraught 4<sup>th</sup> voyage, and of the relationship between a famous father and an illegitimate son. I loved it and can’t think of a better book for dad. For a more in depth look [read this full page review](#) in the *NY Times Book Review*.

And why not add [Remarkable Books](#) (DK \$30)? It’s gorgeous. It’s informative. It’s eminently browsable. It displays well. A beautiful and enthralling guide to more than 80 of the world’s most celebrated, rare, and important written works, from the Dead Sea Scrolls to Anne Frank’s diary to the first Penguin paperbacks. I dip into my copy often.

### AND FOR KIDS

Murray, Diana. [Unicorn Day](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99). The unicorns are celebrating their favorite day of the year, complete with rainbows, cupcakes, butterflies, and all sorts of joyful things. But when it’s revealed there’s an impostor in their midst, the party comes to a screeching halt... Will the unicorns welcome all and continue their fun in all its glittery glory? A clever, colorful, picture book about unicorns, celebrations, and most importantly, friendship for ages 4-8.

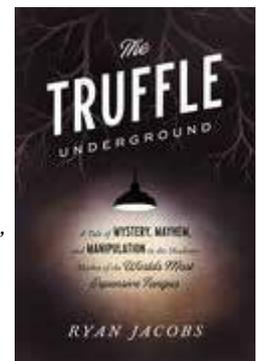
Patchett, Ann. [Lambslide](#) (Harper \$18.99). Nicolette Farmer is running for class president, and the rest of the Farmer family tells her she’ll win by a landslide. A pack of overconfident lambs mistakenly hear lambslide and can’t believe there’s a slide made just for them. But when they can’t find one on the farm, there’s only one thing left to do: take a vote! They campaign. They bargain. They ask all the other animals if they, too, would like a lambslide. Will the lambs ever get one? Ages 4-8. I include this on Patchett’s name since I haven’t read it.

### A TREAT! SOMETHING DELICIOUS. ALSO EXPENSIVE

Jacobs, Ryan. [The Truffle Underground](#) (Clarkson Potter \$16).

What a gem! Or should I say, delicious!

Do you know how much money there is in truffles? Martin Walker wrote his third Bruno mystery, [Black Diamond](#) (\$15.95), focused on this fungus and pointing out there are millions in the truffle trade, so I recommend you package up *The Truffle Underground: A Tale of Mystery, Mayhem, and Manipulation in the Shadowy Market of the World’s Most Expensive Fungus* with *Black Diamond*: one a true crime from a food books publisher, the other a mystery set in the Périgord. If you’re a sport you can add a bottled truffle! The other good thing aside from the fun and gift factors is that Jacobs has written a very good book, lively, well researched, and intriguingly presented.



### OUR JUNE LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

*And please note new paperbacks by Dianne Freeman and Laurie R. King in New Books as well*

Belle, Kimberly. [Dear Wife](#) (Park Row \$15.99). The premise here is that of an abused wife seeking escape from her controlling husband. It’s not original. But what is compelling is how she has thought through every step of her way, steps made without revealing how the husband could be virtually omniscient in tracking her. You should be able to work it out. I like the voice and

you can't help but root for Beth on the run...and ask why Sabine Hardison is missing.

Harvey, Michael. [Pulse](#) (\$16.99). "Looking for a terrific read? I highly recommend *Pulse*... It's a story to get lost in." —Stephen King. It's Boston, 1976. In a small apartment above Kenmore Square, sixteen-year-old Daniel Fitzsimmons is listening to his landlord describe a seemingly insane theory about invisible pulses of light and energy that can be harnessed by the human mind. He longs to laugh with his brother Harry about it, but Harry doesn't know he's there—he would never approve of Daniel living on his own. None of that matters, though, because the next night Harry, a Harvard football star, is murdered in an alley. Detectives "Bark" Jones and Tommy Dillon are assigned to the case. The veteran partners thought they'd seen it all, but they are stunned when Daniel wanders into the crime scene. Even stranger, Daniel claims to have known the details of his brother's murder before it ever happened. The subsequent investigation leads the detectives deep into the Fitzsimmons brothers' past. They find heartbreaking loss, sordid characters, and metaphysical conspiracies. Even on the rough streets of 1970s Boston, Jones and Dillon have never had a case like this... An inventive stand-alone from the brilliant Harvey.

Hummel, Maria. [Still Lives](#) (\$16.95). The premise really hooked me, the narrative moves along well, and the background for it is enthralling. Gorgeous jacket art, too. Here's a Starred Review: "When artist Kim Lord fails to show up at Los Angeles's Rocque Museum for the gala opening of her show of self-portraits in the guises of famous murdered women such as Nicole Brown Simpson, museum staff editor Maggie Richter, the narrator of this exceptional suspense novel from Hummel, gets involved in the subsequent investigation, in which Kim's boyfriend, gallerist Greg Shaw Ferguson-Maggie's ex-becomes the primary suspect in her disappearance. In her quest for the truth, Maggie must navigate the social and emotional edges of her own relationships, unsure of whom to trust. The careful characterizations of the players in the Rocque's sphere of influence mean that, as the mystery unfolds to reveal them as suspects or victims, the reader feels deep empathy that comes from perceiving them as real people, not plot devices. This gem was our July 2018 Discovery Book of the Month in hardcover.

✳Rhys, Rachel. [Fatal Inheritance](#) (\$17). Rhys' debut in [Dangerous Crossing](#) (\$16), which I also recommend, took a Golden Age-style British mystery aboard an ocean liner into an Agatha Christie scenario. Rhys is back with an English housewife trapped in a loveless marriage who didn't have an enemy in the world...until she inherited a fortune. London 1948: Eve Forrester is dwells joylessly in a gloomy house in a grey suburb. Out of the blue, she received a solicitor's letter. A wealthy stranger has left her a mystery inheritance but in order to find out more, she must travel to the glittering French Riviera. Eve discovers her legacy is an enchanting villa overlooking the Mediterranean Sea and suddenly, life could not be more glamorous. But while she rubs shoulders with film-stars and famous writers, under the heat of the golden sun, rivals to her unexplained fortune begin to emerge—rivals who want her out of the way. Alone in paradise, Eve must unlock the story behind her surprise bequest—before events turn deadly. Her husband is truly someone you will love to hate as you root for her to throw off the shackles of convention. This alluring story will appeal to fans of historical fiction who like a twist of mystery.

Shimada, Soji. [Murder in the Crooked House](#) (Pushkin/Vertigo 14.94). Set in 1983, Shimada's brilliant sequel to 2015's [The Tokyo Zodiac Murders](#) (\$14.95) will thrill fans of golden age puzzle mysteries. Kozaburo Hamamoto, the president of the Hama Diesel company, has invited guests to celebrate Christmas at the unusual home he has constructed on Hokkaido. The building features intentionally sloping floors, and Hamamoto's own rooms are in a tower resembling the Leaning Tower of Pisa, which can only be accessed by a drawbridge connecting it to the main structure. Astrologer, fortuneteller, and self-styled sleuth Kiyoshi Mitarai investigates when a member of the party is stabbed to death with a knife inside a locked room. Oddly, the murder weapon has some string attached to it. Other bizarre elements include one of the victim's hands being tied to the foot of a bed and a scream apparently issuing from the corpse a half hour after the killing. The tension rises as one impossibility follows another before an effective and dramatic reveal. Shimada combines fantastic crimes with a logical and fair solution likely to stump even the most astute readers. Some of whom will be those signed up for our **July History Paperback Book of the Month** which publishes the very end of June.

Stanley, Michael. [Shoot the Bastards](#) (Poisoned Pen/Sourcebooks \$15.99). Let me start with a quote from CJ Box, my go-to-guy for poachers. "From Minnesota to South Africa to Mozambique to Vietnam, Michael Stanley's *Shoot the Bastards* is an extraordinary tale of the extreme measures taken to combat international poaching and smuggling." The dark winter nights of Minnesota seem to close in on investigative journalist Crystal Nguyen as she realizes that her close friend Michael Davidson has disappeared while researching a story for *National Geographic* on rhino poaching and rhino-horn smuggling in Africa. Crystal, fearing the worst, wrangles her own assignment on the continent. Within a week in Africa she's been hunting poachers ("Shoot the bastards," she's told), hunted by their bosses, and questioned in connection with a murder—and there's still no sign of Michael. Crystal quickly realizes how little she knows about Africa and about the war between poachers and conservation officers. What she does know is she must find Michael, and she's committed to preventing a major coup plotted to secure a huge number of horns... but exposing the financial underworld supporting the rhino-horn market is only half the battle. Equally important is convincing South African authorities to take action... Truly, a black market feeds all appetites. Note: Michael Stanley visits The Pen on November 5 when he can sign this. But why wait?

Steinhauer, Olen. [The Middleman](#) (\$18). "Two modern-day revolutionaries, one violent and one not, band together to get their message out to the masses. Violence explodes, and the movement is destroyed. Or is it? Two FBI agents who are in the middle of everything — one in seclusion in the mountains and the other just barely having escaped an assassination attempt — must unite to find the real answers to this international conspiracy. With a subtle nod to 1992's *Sneakers*, Olen Steinhauer crafts a fast-moving tale of intrigue that has echoes of today's politics." Told from the individual perspectives of an FBI agent, an undercover agent within the group, a convert to the terrorist organization, and a writer on the edges of the whole affair. Known for his Milo Weaver thrillers, Steinhauer is a Dashiell Hammett Award winner and has been nominated for the Anthony, Macavity, and Barry awards and for Ellis Peters Historical and Ian Fleming Steel Daggers and has twice been an Edgar finalist. His new work features an FBI agent wrestling with domestic left-wing terrorists.

Todd, Charles. [A Forgotten Place](#) (\$15.99). Despite the conclusion of the fighting, Nurse Bess Crawford still has plenty of soldiers to tend to at a hospital in France—in particular, a group of Welsh soldiers, whose serious injuries make their future employment doubtful. When she’s reassigned to a clinic back in England, Bess is reunited with the Welshmen, only to find several of them suicidal. Following their discharge, their leader, Capt. Hugh Williams, writes to inform her that one of the privates took his own life, and to ask for help to avert future suicides. She uses some leave to seek Williams out, ending up in a desolate and isolated town on the Welsh coast, where he’s suspected of his own brother’s murder. His warning that it’s not safe for Bess to remain there proves prescient. The atmosphere of the claustrophobic community Bess is trapped in is palpable as Todd expertly ratchets up the suspense in a truly unusual landscape! This is a [wonderful series](#), well worth ordering to read all the way through.

Walker, Martin. [A Taste for Vengeance](#) (\$16). Bruno Courrèges, the police chief of the Dordogne village of St. Denis, goes looking for English tourist Monika Felder after she fails to show up for a cooking class. Bruno learns that Monika, who left her husband back in England, was traveling with Patrick McBride, an Irishman with a house in the area. Monika turns up at the house, fatally stabbed in the bathroom; McBride’s body is found hanging from a tree in the nearby woods. What at first appears to be a murder-suicide proves to be a double homicide, and the case widens way beyond St. Denis. Bruno also manages to help one of the women’s rugby players he’s coached since childhood sort out some serious problems, run through some favorite Dordogne recipes while teaching a cooking class, and continue his on-again, off-again romance with a former colleague. As ever, delicious! As is the [whole series](#) which if you somehow have missed it until now, gloriously awaits your order. See my piece on Truffles which includes Bruno’s 3<sup>rd</sup> investigation, *Black Diamond*, above.

Walker, Nico. [Cherry](#) (\$16.95). Based on Nico’s life, this is the story of a serial bank robber who has to keep robbing to support his heroin habit to self-treat his PTSD from the Army. Our Knopf sales rep tells us this was written on a typewriter while Walker was in prison and it certainly gains power from his personal experience.

Williams, Beatriz. [The Summer Wives](#) (\$16). “When her mother marries a man with an estate on secretive Winthrop Island, Miranda Schuyler forgoes hobnobbing with the wealthy to spend her time with the lighthouse keeper’s son. By the end of the summer, Miranda will find herself banished from the island for nearly 20 years. “Williams gives readers a fascinating view into a world of privilege, wealth and well-kept secrets.” Elin Hilderbrand calls it, “An exquisitely rendered novel that tackles two of my favorite topics: love and money. The glorious setting and drama are enriched by Williams’ signature vintage touch. It’s at the top of my picks for the beach this summer.” It’s not too soon to order Williams’ July novel, [The Golden Hour](#) (Morrow \$26.99), set in WWII Nassau where the Duke and Duchess of Windsor have been effectively exiled, but continually disrupt despite their glamour. This is our July History Book of the Month, rife with spies, swindles, racism, and a murder set against a Caribbean wartime colonial playground.

Zafón, Carlos Ruiz. [The Labyrinth of Spirits](#) (\$18.99). Here is the final volume of Ruiz Zafón’s cycle of novels set in the

universe of the Cemetery of Forgotten Books. Beautiful and enigmatic Alicia Gris, with the help of the Sempere family, uncovers one of the most shocking conspiracies in all Spanish history. Nine-year-old Alicia lost her parents during the Spanish Civil War when the Nacionales (the fascists) savagely bombed Barcelona in 1938. Twenty years later, she still carries the emotional and physical scars. Weary of her work as an investigator for Spain’s secret police in Madrid, a job she has held for more than a decade, the 29-year old agrees to solve one last case: the mysterious disappearance of Spain’s Minister of Culture, Mauricio Valls. With her partner, the intimidating policeman Juan Manuel Vargas, Alicia discovers a possible clue—a rare book by the author Victor Mataix hidden in Valls’ office in his Madrid mansion. Valls was the director of the notorious Montjuic Prison in Barcelona during World War II where several writers were imprisoned, including David Martín and Victor Mataix. Traveling to Barcelona on the trail of these writers, Alicia and Vargas meet with several booksellers, including Juan Sempere, who knew her parents. As Alicia and Vargas come closer to finding Valls, they uncover a tangled web of kidnappings and murders tied to the Franco regime.... Zafón’s [Shadow of the Wind](#) (\$17) is one of our greatest First Mystery Club Picks and has remained a Pen bestseller since 2004.

#### NEW BOOKS

Arnett, Kristen. [Mostly Dead Things](#) (Norton \$24.95). A Most Anticipated Book of 2019 at *Esquire*, *The Week*, *BuzzFeed*, *NY-LON*, *Bustle*, *HuffPost*, *The Boston Globe*, and more publishes this June, Gay Pride Month, and is a bestseller in Indie Next bookstores. One morning, Jessa-Lynn Morton walks into the family taxidermy shop to find that her father has committed suicide, right there on one of the metal tables. Shocked and grieving, Jessa steps up to manage the failing business, while the rest of the Morton family crumbles. Her mother starts sneaking into the shop to make aggressively lewd art with the taxidermied animals. Her brother Milo withdraws, struggling to function. And Brynn, Milo’s wife—and the only person Jessa’s ever been in love with—walks out without a word. As Jessa seeks out less-than-legal ways of generating income, her mother’s art escalates and the Mortons reach a tipping point. For the first time, Jessa has no choice but to learn who these people truly are, and ultimately how she fits alongside them.

✱Atkinson, Kate. [Big Sky](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Jackson Brodie, a detective who stumbles through life, relationships, and mysteries with a mix of cynicism and hope, has relocated to a quiet seaside village, in the occasional company of his recalcitrant teenage son and an aging Labrador, both at the discretion of his ex-partner Julia. It’s picturesque, but there’s something darker lurking behind the scenes as we slowly learn as Atkinson takes us into a circle of other characters, gradually raising the curtain on whom they really are. Jackson’s current job, gathering proof of an unfaithful husband for his suspicious wife, is fairly standard-issue, but a chance encounter leads him into the rings within rings of the players. Atkinson dissects adults and kids with an incisive knife-like pen, offers up observations on child rearing, ditching your past, and bonding while eventually meting out justice to a variety of perps in a satisfying way. The role Jackson’s daughter plays left me feeling it was artificially contrived as a class comment but that’s my cavil on an otherwise pure-Atkinson Jackson Brodie novel.

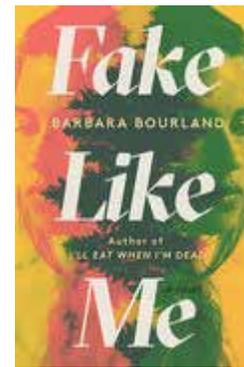
Awad, Mona. [Bunny](#) (Penguin \$26). “In this highly addictive, darkly comedic tale of sardonic Samantha Mackey, a fiction MFA student at a top-tier New England school. There, four of her fellow writers are a ghoulish clique of women who cryptically refer to each other as “Bunny.” To outsiders, the Bunnies come across as insipid with their colorful, patterned dresses and perfect hair. Samantha feels more grounded after her first year and after meeting Ava, who becomes her only friend, over the summer break. Samantha dreads the Bunnies’ return upon learning the four of them are the only other participants in her writing workshop; once in class, they dismiss her work while praising their own. The trajectory of Samantha’s life alters after she receives an unexpected invitation from the Bunnies to join them. “Samantha’s desire for acceptance leads her down a dangerous path into the Bunnies’ rabbit hole, which begins with them drinking weird concoctions and reading erotic poetry together in sessions they call the ‘Smut Salon.’ Soon, though, Samantha begins to believe in the Bunnies’ views, becomes unreliable as a narrator, and willingly participates in their increasingly twisted games. Awad will have readers racing to find out how it all ends—and they won’t be disappointed once the story reaches its wild finale. This is an enchanting and stunningly bizarre novel,” says a Starred Review.

✎Baker, Jo. [The Body Lies](#) (Knopf \$25.95). Still traumatized three years after being assaulted during her pregnancy near her South London home, the unnamed novelist who narrates this lyrical suspense novel leaps at the offer of a university lectureship in rural Lancashire, even though it means she and her toddler son will be separated from her husband, who can’t leave his teaching job in London. The move will indeed change everything—but hardly the way she hopes. For starters, their rose-covered rented house redefines remote. And then there are the unanticipated challenges presented by her creative writing students—in particular, the most talented but also most troubling one, Nicholas Palmer, whose seemingly autobiographical work in progress centers on a young woman who dies under mysterious circumstances. Though Nicholas starts pushing for an inappropriate personal relationship with the narrator, his writing skill makes her loathe to establish firm boundaries—a decision that backfires catastrophically after a Christmas party. Soon she’s fighting to save her job, her marriage, and even her life. All too plausible, Baker’s powerful tale is at times heart-rending to read—and impossible to put down and is thus our **July British Crime Club Pick** though publishing in late June. Baker is the author of [Longbourn](#) (\$16), a 2013 release heaped with literary kudos where servants take center stage in an irresistibly imagined belowstairs answer to *Pride and Prejudice*. If you missed it, waste no time ordering a copy.

Berenson, Laurien. [Bite Club](#) (Kensington \$26). Thanks to Aunt Peg and her enthusiastic pedigree dog show pals, Melanie’s aptly named Bite Club reading group has book lovers all over town burying their noses in thrilling murder mysteries. But another pet project surfaces when Melanie reluctantly agrees to train a Bulldog puppy for elusive member Evan Major. Between the unusual bruise on his face and a bizarre run-in with an unknown dog show attendee, introverted Evan can’t dodge trouble. It even sends him to an early grave—while landing Melanie in the hot seat for homicide. Caught at the wrong place at the wrong time, Melanie delves into the victim’s shady past to prove her innocence in her 23<sup>rd</sup> cozy.

✎Billingham, Mark. [Their Little Secret](#) (Atlantic \$26). Billingham’s 16<sup>th</sup> for London copper Tom Thorne earns raves: “Billingham’s outstanding novel finds DCI Thorne on duty with a team responsible for assessing whether sudden deaths are suspicious when Philippa Goodwin jumps in front of a train in the London Underground... The twisted plot unfolds gradually, with a maximum of suspense.”—*PW*. In a Starred Review, *Booklist* adds, “This is a fantastic thriller, combining a gripping plot and lead characters of remarkable depth. Billingham is a multiple-award winner, and his books have sold more than six million copies. Readers who grab this one but aren’t familiar with its predecessors will be seeking them out. A series to savor.”

Bourland, Barbara. [Fake Like Me](#) (Grand Central \$28). The unnamed artist who narrates this exceptional thriller from Bourland is finally enjoying success and financial freedom in her career. Then disaster strikes when a fire in her New York City loft/studio destroys Rich Ugly Old Maids, her newest series of seven paintings, which she considered her “crowning glory.”



Out of desperation, she assures her gallerist that only one was destroyed. Now she has three months to recreate her large, intricate oil paintings for a Paris show. She secures space at a sprawling former upstate summer resort, the home of art collective Pine City and her idol, sculptor Carey Logan, whose suicide by drowning three years earlier served as a turning point in the artist’s work. She feverishly

dives into painting and falls hard and fast for Carey’s paramour, Tyler Savage, soon becoming consumed by the mystery of Carey’s last days, her rumored final work, and what drove her to suicide. “Bourland expertly shines a light on the nature of female ambition and desire and the often dark heart of inspiration. Readers fascinated with the blood, sweat, and tears of creating art will be especially rewarded.”—*PW* Starred Review

✎Borman, Tracy. [The King’s Witch](#) (\$16). In March of 1603, as she helps to nurse the dying Queen Elizabeth of England, Frances Gorges dreams of her parents’ country estate, where she has learned to use flowers and herbs to become a much-loved healer. When King James of Scotland succeeds to the throne, Frances is only too happy to stay at home, far from the decadence and debauchery of his court. Yet when her ambitious uncle forces Frances to return to the royal palace as a lady in the bedchamber of the young Princess Elizabeth, she becomes a ready target for the twisted scheming of the Privy Seal, Lord Cecil. As a dark campaign to destroy both King and Parliament gathers pace, culminating in the Gunpowder Plot of 1605, Frances is surrounded by danger... First in a trilogy

✎Brett, Simon. [The Liar in the Library](#) (Blackthorn \$14). Veteran crime writer/humorist Brett kicks off a new imprint with a slight but very witty in British style mystery set in the West Sussex coastal village of Fethering he has often visited in company with his sleuths Jude and Carole. It begins with a bestselling author of soaring ego but a womanizing and unsuccessful past known to Jude who is in town for a library event. Some of his fans fawn but some ask critical questions. After unwisely accepting his offer of a lift home on the rainy night, and fighting off his usual advances, Jude finds herself the police’s chief suspect in Burton St. Clair’s murder....

Brown, Rita Mae. [Whiskers in the Dark](#) (Bantam \$28). Joined by her crime-cracking cats Mrs. Murphy and Pewter, plus corgi Tee Tucker, postmistress Mary Minor “Harry” Harristeen tries to figure out who killed an old friend whose body is found by the Virginia hunt club’s baying beagles. Meanwhile, an 18th-century family attempts to modernize their household routines giving you a narrative split between past and present.

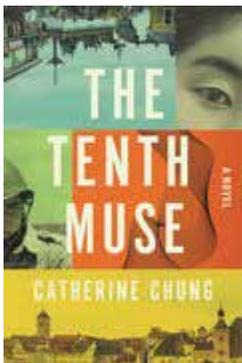
Butcher, Jim. [Brief Cases](#) (\$17). A story collection from the Dresden Files wherein Chicago’s Harry Dresden, the city’s only professional wizard, delves into truth, justice, and the American way. It’s urban fantasy, tilting dark.

✂Candlish, Louise. [Those People](#) (Berkley \$26). An upscale London neighborhood becomes the setting for escalating class warfare. Candlish’s latest opens with a teaser about the horrific, unexpected death of an unidentified character and then backtracks eight weeks to examine the events that precipitated that death on a quiet little block of Lowland Way.

✂Carter, Ali. [The Colours of Murder](#) (Oneworld \$15.95). Flirtatious American blonde, Miss Hailey Dune, should never have accepted a summer weekend invitation to Fontaburn Hall. But when the Honourable Archibald Cooke Wellingham’s gentrified house party are woken, in the early hours of Sunday morning, it’s too late: Miss Dune’s blood is on their hands. With the aid of well-mannered Detective Chief Inspector Reynolds, intelligent Sergeant Ayari and loyal friend Dr Toby Cropper, Susie Mahl, on a timely commission drawing six racehorses nearby, seizes the opportunity to play detective for a second time. Her inquisitive nature, tenacity for truth and artist’s eye for detail make her ideally suited to the task in hand, but is she getting carried away by her previous triumph... Ali Carter is a contemporary UK author writing in Golden Age mode.

Chase, Mike. [How to Become a Federal Criminal](#) (Atria \$26). Hint: it’s unbelievably easy. Anyone can do it. Have you ever clogged a toilet in a national forest? That could get you six months in federal prison. Written a letter to a pirate? You might be looking at three years in the slammer. Leaving the country with too many nickels, drinking a beer on a bicycle in a national park, or importing a pregnant polar bear are all very real crimes, and this ridiculously entertaining and fully illustrated book shows how just about anyone can become—or may already be—a federal criminal. ““Somebody with credentials has combed through a mountain of boring literature, highlighted all the ticklish parts and served them up for appreciation. This is an excellent book for people who like to start sentences with ‘Did you know that...’”

—*The New York Times*. **Buy one to read over the Fourth as you’re sure to commit some kind of federal crime then. Recommended.**



Chung, Catherine. [The Tenth Muse](#) (Ecco \$26.99). This is an amazing book on so many levels—and beautifully written. I wish I’d gotten to it sooner as it surely would have been a Book of the Month. My advice: grab a copy and enjoy the universe and mathematics, made intelligible (think Carl Sagan); the history, the love story, and the gorgeous prose. Mesmerizing. The Indie Next Pick: “Chung’s female protagonist is a trailblazing math-

ematician, and it is thrilling to have a woman scientist who is a complex character in an even more complex novel. In trying to solve a math riddle, she ends up exploring the riddle of her own childhood, which is inextricably linked to WWII and one of the darkest episodes in human history. Catherine Chung has woven a rich tapestry mixing present and past, ambition, identity, and gender issues. A beautiful book.” **Highly recommended.**

Crouch, Blake. [Recursion](#) (Crown \$27). Cutting-edge science drives this intelligent, mind-bending thriller from bestseller Crouch. Neuroscientist Helena Smith, whose mother has dementia, has devoted herself to studying the biology of memory. She seeks “a way to save memories for deteriorating brains that can no longer retrieve them.” Her struggle to find grants for her work ends in 2007 when inventor and philanthropist Marcus Slade offers her carte blanche to pursue her work on his facility located on a repurposed oil rig in the Pacific Ocean—unlimited funding, whatever computing power she needs, and a team of highly skilled scientists. Helena’s research leads to some disturbing results. Meanwhile, in 2018 Manhattan, a woman jumps to her death from a tall building after telling the NYPD detective trying to save her that she has false memories of being married to a man whose first wife jumped from the same building 15 years earlier. “Crouch effortlessly integrates sophisticated philosophical concepts—such as the relationship of human perceptions of what is real to actual reality—into a complex and engrossing plot. Michael Crichton’s fans won’t want to miss this one.”—*PW Starred Review*

De Giovanni, Maurizio. [Cold for the Bastards of Pizzofalcone](#) (Europa \$18). A heinous, double murder in a squalid apartment on the wrong side of town pits Inspector Lojacono, Di Nardo, and the rest of the motley collection of cops known as the “bastards” of the Pizzofalcone precinct against their superiors, the press, and the local political hierarchy. Only by bringing the killer to justice can they save their reputations and the department. **3<sup>rd</sup> in this series which, yay!, I recommend highly on MHZ-TV. Season 1.** It’s contemporary Naples, past and present highlighted in its glamour and dangers, with a great cast. Anyone who reads Elena Ferrante should dig into [all 3 Pizzofalcones](#)—it’s a police station in danger of being shut down so the basic cast is the odd collection of cops manning it.

Dunnett, Kaitlyn. [Clause & Effect](#) (Kensington \$26). Nestled in the picturesque Catskills, the village of Lenape Hollow prepares to celebrate the 225th anniversary of its founding. Freelance book editor Mikki Lincoln has been drafted to update and correct the script, left over from the town’s bicentennial, which is housed at the historical society. The building is being renovated for the first time since that last celebration. But when construction reveals a shocking discovery—human remains walled up in a fireplace—Mikki shifts focus from cold-reading to solving a cold case. Just as her investigation seems to have hit a brick wall, a new murder rattles the townspeople....#2 in the Deadly Edits cozy series.

✂Dyer, Ashley. [The Cutting Room](#) (Harper \$26.99). This sequel to 2018’s [Splinter in the Blood](#) (\$15.99) puts Liverpool DCI Greg Carver and DS Ruth Lake on the trail of the Ferryman, a serial killer believed responsible for the disappearances of as many as 12 men over half a year. Soon after Mick Tennent, the host of a TV show called *Fact or Fable?* airs a program on the missing men, he himself vanishes, and police receive an email stating that

the “Ferryman is no fable.” The case takes a macabre turn when a message from the killer directs the police to what appears to be an art installation attached to scaffolding in front of a commercial building; the installation includes sections of three human brains, each within a disk of Plexiglas. This gruesome display gains the Ferryman a legion of followers on social media, some of whom work to stymie the official inquiry. Chapters narrated by the Ferryman heighten the suspense. “Though the plot, complete with Carver and Lake keeping secrets from each other, is nothing new, the material is fresh enough to keep readers turning the pages. For fans of British police procedurals.”

Edvardsson, M T. [A Nearly Normal Family](#) (Celadon \$26.99). Swedish author Edvardsson make his U.S. debut with an ambitious novel that focuses on the question: What would one do to save one’s child from the consequences of a horrible crime? Rebellious 18-year-old Stella Sandell has a violent temper and a penchant for getting into trouble, reflecting a need to defy her overprotective father, Adam, a Church of Sweden pastor in the town of Lund. When Stella is arrested for the murder of her lover, 33-year-old Christopher Olsen, a criminal law professor’s son with a checkered past, Adam and his lawyer wife, Ulrika, go to great lengths to help their troubled daughter. Edvardsson uses first-person narratives from Adam, Stella, and Ulrika to tell the story which like other books in June ends in a trial that reveals surprises. I was not enamored of this Nordic not quite noir, but I do agree with this comment: Edvardsson “peels away the compromises we make with ourselves to be the people we believe our beloveds expect, revealing just how flimsy those pretenses can be.”

Fesperman, Dan. [Safe Houses](#) (\$16.95). West Berlin, 1979. Helen Abell oversees the CIA’s network of safe houses, rare havens for field agents and case officers amid the dangerous milieu of a city in the grip of the Cold War. Helen’s world is upended when, during her routine inspection of an agency property, she overhears a meeting between two agents speaking a coded language. This chance event and a second sends her on the run aided by two female colleagues and results in two brutal murders decades later—today—in rural Maryland. Helen’s daughter Anna with the aid of a jaded DC fixer won’t let her mother’s murder rest.... Fesperman excels at unusual spy stories and this is a gem.

Freeman, Dianne. [The Lady’s Guide to Gossip and Murder](#) (Kensington \$26). London, 1899. American-born Frances Wynn, Countess of Harleigh, settling happily into her independent life as a widow. Two relatives and a close friend are visiting from New York, and, as an added bonus, Frances’s relationship with her charming neighbor, George Hazelton, is beginning to take a distinctively romantic turn. Frances recently introduced Charles Evingdon, her genial cousin-by-marriage, to widow Mary Archer, thinking the two would make a good match, so she’s disappointed when she learns that Charles and Mary have called it quits. Her disappointment turns to alarm when Mary is murdered and Charles becomes the prime suspect. The investigation reveals that Mary was the anonymous author of a newspaper gossip column. Was she also a blackmailer? Countess of Harleigh Mystery #2 following the award-winning [A Lady’s Guide to Etiquette and Murder](#) (\$15.95). Freeman returns to Scottsdale in the fall when she can sign copies of her books, but meanwhile go for a delightful summer read.

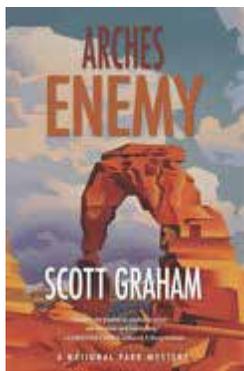
Gailey, Sarah. [Magic for Liars](#) (Tor \$25.99). When a gruesome murder is discovered at The Osthorne Academy of Young Mages, where her estranged twin sister teaches Theoretical Magic, reluctant detective Ivy Gamble is pulled into the world of untold power and dangerous secrets. She will have to find a murderer and reclaim her sister—without losing herself. The Indie Next Picks call it, “A blend of fantasy and murder mystery. Magic meets noir, throw in some romance and some witty dialog and you have a great pick for summer reading. For fans of Jasper Fforde and the Charley Davidson novels.”

Giolito, Malin. [Beyond All Reasonable Doubt](#) (Orion \$16.99). Law professor Hans Segerstad persuades Stockholm defense attorney Sophia Weber, a former student, to try to prove the innocence of Stig Ahlin, a medical researcher. Ahlin was convicted 13 years earlier in 1998 for the murder of 15-year-old Katrin Björk, whose body was found by police in her parents’ house after responding to neighbors’ complaints about the girl’s barking dog. Giolito builds tension by alternating between Sophia’s search for evidence to free Ahlin and flashbacks to the original police investigation. Allegations that Ahlin molested his own daughter complicate Sophia’s efforts to get a retrial. This meticulously crafted novel proves Segerstad’s bitterly ironic claim made at the time he asks Sophia to take on the case: “How could Stig Ahlin be innocent? Our police always tell the truth, our prosecutors are never careless, and the opinions of our judges never fail. Everything is perfect in our country.” Fans of Nordic noir won’t want to miss this one.

Goldstone, Lawrence. [Assassin of Shadows](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). This excellent novel draws on real events to imagine a zinger of a plot. What if President McKinley’s assassination in 1901 was not just the work of a lone nut? That’s the premise of this outstanding thriller from Goldstone. After anarchist Leon Czolgosz manages to get close enough to McKinley at the Pan American Exposition in Buffalo, N.Y., to shoot him, Secret Service agents Walter George and Harry Swayne are dispatched to that city to investigate. Their boss, John Wilkie, and power broker Mark Hanna are convinced there’s a conspiracy. But McKinley, who initially survives the shooting, insists that the agents not railroad anyone and pursue the truth, which could lead to Czolgosz’s political allies, who include Emma Goldman. The dogged George and Swayne begin to wonder if the attack was aided from the inside, given that the agents protecting McKinley weren’t suspicious of the assassin’s bandaged hand, which concealed his weapon. As McKinley’s condition worsens, George and Swayne come under surveillance—and under fire. Goldstone combines an intriguing theory of the crime with a jaw-dropping ending. Although fiction the facts behind the assassination and the contest among factions who want to build a canal through Nicaragua and those who vote for Panama, and Roosevelt’s role, are all true. Recommended—and it’s a real thriller too.

Graham, Scott. [Arches Enemy](#) (Torrey \$15.95). Archeologist Chuck Bender his family—paramedic wife Janelle Ortega and two stepdaughters—to Utah’s Arches National Park, where Bender has been hired to study a pictograph considered to be “the most detailed example of Ancestral Puebloan storytelling ever discovered.” Meanwhile, the park’s Landscape Arch has collapsed, apparently as a result of shock waves from seismic

pounding conducted by those “trolling for underground deposits of oil and natural gas.” A jogger also died in the collapse. When Bender finds evidence that someone planned to blow up the arch, and two more people die, he again turns detective. His task is complicated by the possible role in the mystery of his scam artist mother.... “Masterfully plotted in confident prose, *Arches Enemy* is not only an adventurous and fascinating mystery you can’t put down, it delivers important insight on ancestral cultures and their sacred lands. Only a truly gifted novelist is able to keep a reader turning pages while imparting extensive knowledge about the



people, the landscape, and the park system. Scott Graham proves yet again that he is one of the finest.”—Christine Carbo, author of mysteries set in Glacier National Park. With Anna Pigeon gone silent I recommend Graham’s investigations in various parks to you.

✎Hall, Alexis. [The Affair of the Mysterious Letter](#) (Penguin \$16). Upon returning to the city of Khelathra-Ven after five years fighting a war in another universe, Captain John Wyndham finds himself looking for somewhere to live, and expediency forces him to take lodgings at 221b Martyrs Walk. His new housemate is Ms. Shaharazad Haas, a consulting sorceress of mercurial temperament and dark reputation. When Ms. Haas is enlisted to solve a case of blackmail against one of her former lovers, Miss Eirene Viola, Captain Wyndham is drawn into a mystery that leads him from the salons of the literary set to the drowned back-alleys of Ven and even to a prison cell in lost Carcosa. Along the way he is beset by criminals, menaced by pirates, molested by vampires, almost devoured by mad gods, and called upon to punch a shark. But the further the companions go in pursuit of the elusive blackmailer, the more impossible the case in this affectionate tribute to Sherlock Holmes appears.

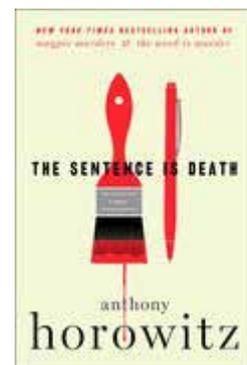
Harkness, Deborah. [Time’s Convert](#) (\$18). On the battlefields of the American Revolution, Matthew de Clermont meets Marcus MacNeil, a young surgeon from Massachusetts, during a moment of political awakening when it seems that the world is on the brink of a brighter future. When Matthew offers him a chance at immortality and a new life free from the restraints of his puritanical upbringing, Marcus seizes the opportunity to become a vampire. But his transformation is not an easy one and the ancient traditions and responsibilities of the de Clermont family clash with Marcus’s deeply held beliefs in liberty, equality, and brotherhood. Fast-forward to contemporary Paris, where Phoebe Taylor—the young employee at Sotheby’s whom Marcus has fallen for—is about to embark on her own journey to immortality. Though the modernized version of the process at first seems uncomplicated, the couple discovers that the challenges facing a human who wishes to be a vampire are no less formidable than they were in the eighteenth century. The shadows that Marcus believed he’d escaped centuries ago may return to haunt them both....

✎Herron, Mick. [Joe Country](#) (Soho \$26.95). Here’s an interesting take from Crime Reads—for Signed UK copies, see Signed Books above: Herron’s been immersed in PIs and spies since his 2003 debut, *Down Cemetery Road*. A desire to write about an ensemble of characters saw Herron penning 2010’s [Slow](#)

[Horses](#) (\$9.99), not realizing he was kicking off an entirely new series. The eponymous characters make up a team of MI5 rejects: they’ve either messed up in one way or another—classified material left on a train here, losing a cache of weapons there—or someone more powerful simply wanted them out of the way. As a team, they work out of the shabby, rickety, central London Slough House, a carefully-crafted, paper-pushing hell specifically designed to cause them to lose the will to live and quit Her Majesty’s Service without litigation. Lording over them is MI5 legend Jackson Lamb, and trying to lord over him from their mothership-perch of the official Security Service building, are a series of bad actors. Of course, under Herron’s canny hand, Jackson’s slow horses see more action than their more legitimate colleagues, chasing after kidnappers, terrorists, and dirty politicians at the drop of a hat, all-too-often discovering that bad behavior begins close to home. In his latest, *Joe Country*, for example, the sixth Slough House outing, Herron melds a mad, badly done cover-up of a posh party which itself had gone terribly awry – a combustible combination of arms dealers, sex, drugs, and a royal-family member—with a parallel plot drawn from the storyline of last year’s novella [The Marylebone Drop](#) (\$7.99), a tightly wound tale of old-school spook intrigue that introduces Lech Wicinski—the latest reluctant Slough House *arriviste*—and further develops him.

Herron says, “The more that politics come into these books, the more black humor there is: in 2019 that’s the only way—certainly in the UK and I suspect in America, too—the only way you can look at politics without going mad with despair.”

✎Horowitz, Anthony. [The Sentence Is Death](#) (Harper \$27.99). These, heard over the phone, were the last recorded words of successful celebrity-divorce lawyer Richard Pryce, found bludgeoned to death in his bachelor pad with a bottle of wine—a 1982 Chateau Lafite worth £3,000, to be precise. Odd, considering he didn’t drink. Why this bottle? And why those words? And why was a three-digit number painted on the wall by the killer? And, most importantly, which of the man’s many, many enemies did the deed? Baffled, the police are forced to bring in Private Investigator Daniel Hawthorne and his sidekick, the author Anthony, who’s really getting rather good at this murder investigation business. The *NY Times* adds, “If you’re going to be bludgeoned to death with a bottle of wine, it might as well be a vintage with a certain cachet. A celebrity divorce lawyer named Richard Pryce is murdered with a 1982 bottle of Chateau Lafite Rothschild, which is not too shabby. Classier still is the metafictional plot construction, which allows Horowitz-the-author to play Horowitz-the-character in his own novel. ‘I like to be in control of my books,’ he says, explaining why he has positioned himself as the lead detective Hawthorne’s sidekick—think Watson to Holmes.” Begin by reading [The Word Is Murder](#) (\$16.99).



✎Howells, Debbie. [Her Sister’s Lie](#) (\$15.99). It’s been ten years since Hannah Roscoe saw her older sister, but that distance fades to nothing when she receives a call from the police saying Nina is dead. As a teenager, desperate to leave home and make her

career in music, Hannah moved into Nina's cottage in the English countryside. In that secluded setting, Nina was trying to give her children the freedom she and Hannah never knew growing up. Now Nina is gone, and Hannah is left to care for her young nephew, Abe, who's remote and moody in the wake of his loss. But worse is to come, as Nina's death, first ruled an accident, becomes a murder investigation. Hannah is forced to confront their unhappy childhood and the reasons she and Nina drifted apart. As for Abe, Hannah suspects he's hiding something. If Nina is dead is this the beginning of a new nightmare?

Ireland, Sandra. [Bone Deep](#) (Gallery \$22). Chill out with a contemporary Gothic set in the Scottish town of Fettermore. Mac, a retired academic and writer, is working on a new collection of folktales, inspired by local legends such as the one about two sisters in a nearby castle. At the insistence of her only child, Arthur, she hires a young assistant, Lucie, to live in a cottage on her property and help her transcribe them. What Arthur doesn't know is that his mother is determined to keep the secrets of her past from ever being discovered. And what Mac doesn't know is that Lucie has a few complicated secrets of her own. The creaking presence of an ancient water mill next to Mac's property that used to grind wheat into flour serves as an eerie counterpoint for these two women as they circle warily around each other, haunted by the local legend of two long-dead sisters as Mac and Lucie both tell different sides of the same ancient story.

Jones, Sadie. [The Snakes](#) (Harper \$26.99). "*The Snakes* is many things—a parable and an ancient drama where a father's greed devours his children, a police procedural, an avid take on tabloid venality, and a bitter comedy, superbly observed, where behind a woman's eyes she is 'all movement inside herself, like a wasp in a glass.'"—Louise Erdrich. "After growing up among private jets and criminally narcissistic parents, Bea Adamson has cut herself off from her family and their money and has never been open with her biracial husband, Dan, who has only been introduced once, about the extent of their wealth. The couple lives close to the bone in London off their earnings as a psychotherapist and real estate agent. When they decide to take a break and drive an old Peugeot around the continent, their first stop is to see Bea's ne'er-do-well brother, Alex, who has been set up by their father with a hotel outside Beaune, a town not far from the Swiss border. When they arrive at the Hotel Paligny, they are surprised to find a defunct operation which hasn't seen guests in quite some time. "There are loads of snakes," Alex warns when taking them up to the attic. "Mostly they're just grass snakes. They're sort of company....It's the vipers I don't like." Soon after, the hotel gates swing open and more snakes arrive—Adamson père et mère. As horrified as she is by the appearance of Griff and Liv, Bea has no idea how bad things can get."—*Kirkus Reviews*. This book is on many "highly anticipated" lists but I will say right now it was not for me. Deeply unpleasant. Read at your peril.

Kamali, Marjan. [The Stationery Shop](#) (Gallery \$27). The Indie Next Pick calls this story of love, loss, and late reunion that begins in an Iranian bookshop, "One of the most beautifully written novels I have read in a long time. The masterful plot brings us to a lost time and culture, but also transcends time and country. In a story set against the upheaval of 1953 Tehran, we discover how events change the destiny of two teenagers who meet in a book and stationery shop and fall in love. This novel of political dreams, family loyalty, lingering memories, love, and fate will haunt you long after the story ends."

✶Kara, Lesley. [The Rumor](#) (Ballantine \$17). Rumor has it that a notorious killer, who committed a brutal crime as a child, has been living a new life under an assumed identity in Joanna's seaside town. So who is the criminal hidden in their midst? Suspicion falls on everyone. As Joanna becomes obsessed with the case, her curiosity will expose her son and his father to the supposedly reformed murderer—who may be ready to kill again. She will learn how dangerous one rumor can become...and just how far she must go to protect those she loves. She is going to regret the day she ever said a word. The nonstop flood of psychological thrillers from Britain continues.

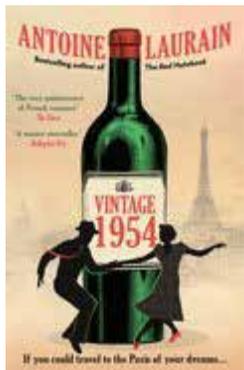
King, Laurie R. [Island of the Mad](#) (\$17). The idea of a retired, bee-keeping Sherlock Homes marrying a much younger American, a half-Jewish girl with money of her own and firmly self-reliant, raised some eyebrows in the mystery world back in 1994. Across a range of remarkable books, employing a fluidity of dates, landscapes, and cultures, Russell and Holmes have won a dedicated readership and a load of awards for the author. This is the 15th. It may be set in the mid-1920s but King's plot built upon the treatment of mental illness, the powerlessness of women (think Wilkie Collins and *The Woman in White*), and the realities of Fascism under Benito Mussolini and his Black Shirts, affirms we've learned nothing from history except to repeat it. To create a novel at once historical and timely is a remarkable achievement. Plus King's brilliant portrait of Venice should dazzle readers off Donna Leon. *Island of the Mad* is built around a haunted island in the Venice lagoon. Poveglia has a long history of...eeriness. It was one of several islands used to quarantine suspected ships before they could reach Venice—and because of this, the island soil is permeated by the bones of the dead.

Kirschenbaum, Binnie. [Rabbits for Food](#) (Soho \$26). It's New Year's Eve, the holiday of forced fellowship, mandatory fun, and paper hats. While dining out with her husband and their friends, Kirshenbaum's protagonist—an acerbic, mordantly witty, and clinically depressed writer—fully unravels. Her breakdown lands her in the psych ward of a prestigious New York hospital, where she refuses all modes of recommended treatment. Instead, she passes the time chronicling the lives of her fellow "lunatics" and writing a novel about what brought her there. A biting funny, and occasionally heartbreaking, look at mental illness, love and relations. "Kirshenbaum's portrait of intractable depression is acerbic, heartbreaking, and improbably hilarious."

Koch, Herman. [The Ditch](#) (Hogarth \$26). When Robert Walter, popular mayor of Amsterdam, sees his wife toss her head back with laughter while chatting to one of his aldermen at a New Year's reception, he immediately suspects the worst. Despite their long and happy marriage, Robert is convinced that Sylvia is cheating on him—with the respectable alderman who is dedicated to the environment, no less. The man who wants to spoil the capital's skyline with wind turbines. The New Year's reception marks the end of the "happy family" era that the mayor has enjoyed for so long. His wife and their daughter, Diana, however, are not aware of his suspicions and carry on as usual. Robert starts spending a lot of time and energy "behaving normally." Naturally, his normal behavior is far more suspicious. Normally Robert's not really present when he's at home—he's preoccupied with his phone, the newspapers, and his own thoughts. But now Robert is so sure he'll miss the clues if he doesn't pay attention that he starts to be almost alarmingly attentive and interested—

ultimately losing himself in increasingly panicked and paranoid trains of thought that may cost him...

Laurin, Antoine. [Vintage 1954](#) (Gallic \$14.95). When Hubert Larnaudie invites some fellow residents of his Parisian apartment building to drink an exceptional bottle of 1954 Beaujolais, he has no idea of its special properties. The following morning, Hubert



finds himself waking up in 1950s Paris, as do antique restorer Magalie, mixologist Julien, and Airbnb tenant Bob from Milwaukee, who's on his first trip to Europe. After their initial shock, the city of Edith Piaf and An American in Paris begins to work its charm on them. The four delight in getting to know the French capital during this iconic period, whilst also playing with the possibilities that time travel allows. But, ultimately, they need to work out how to get back to 2017, and time is of the essence...

Macfarlane, Robert. [Underland: A Deep Time Journey](#) (Norton \$27.95). Nature writer Macfarlane expands readers' horizons while delving into the various "worlds beneath our feet" in an eye-opening, lyrical, and even moving exploration. His look at the network of roots below London's Epping Forest leads into a discussion of the recent discovery that trees share nutrients with neighboring trees that are ill or under stress, a finding consistent with new ideas about plant intelligence and a "wood wide web" of interconnected plant and fungal life. In another section, Macfarlane descends more than half a mile below the Yorkshire countryside to visit "a laboratory set into a band of translucent silver rock salt left behind by the evaporation of an epicontinental northern sea some 250 million years earlier," where a physicist is searching for proof of dark matter's existence. Here, too, Macfarlane makes counterintuitive concepts fully accessible while capturing the poetry beneath the science, describing the tangible world humans perceive "as mere mist and silk" in relation to dark matter. Perhaps most importantly, he places humanity's time on Earth in a geological context, revealing how relatively insignificant it is. Macfarlane's rich, evocative survey enables readers to view themselves "as part of a web... stretching over millions of years past and millions to come," and deepen their understanding of the planet.

Mackintosh, Clare. [After the End](#) (Putnam \$26). Instead of a new Trust No One thriller as she has been writing, Mackintosh moves into full out Jodi Picoult territory with a drama about parents locked in a bitter dispute about risk vs. palliative or end of life care for their little boy. It's inspired by events in the author's life although I truly hope not these particular events. Another wrenching read like several I list below including McCallister and McLean.

Mason, Tim. [The Darwin Affair](#) (Algonquin \$27.95). Mason, author of the YA novel *The Last Synapsid*, makes his adult debut with an audacious historical thriller. In 1860, DCI Charles Field, the inspiration for Inspector Bucket in Dickens's *Bleak House*, is part of the added security force for Queen Victoria and Prince Albert after several assassination attempts. One day, Field is guarding the route the royal couple's carriage is taking through London when he spots 18-year-old pickpocket Stevie Patchen,

who appears to be holding a weapon. Field tackles Patchen, only to realize that the youth was a decoy. The actual gunman, Philip Rendell, a former bookkeeper, is able to fire only a few stray shots at the carriage before he's apprehended. In the ensuing confusion, someone cuts Patchen's throat and removes one ear, leading Field to suspect a conspiracy. The intelligent plot features prominent figures of the time, including Karl Marx, who may have a link to Rendell, and Charles Darwin, whose heretical theory of evolution has unsettled some very powerful men. Wry prose and vivid period detail help make Mason's speculations feel plausible.

McCallister, Gillian. [The Good Sister](#) (\$16). McCallister makes her U.S. debut with this riveting psychological thriller set in Brighton, England. Sisters Martha and Becky Blackwater have always been best friends. When work takes Martha to Greece and her husband, Scott, is going to be out of town on business, Becky, who hates her dead end jobs and her failing marriage, agrees to look after their eight-week-old baby, Layla, who suffers from reflux and endless crying jags. Lyla dies while under Becky's care, an apparent victim of SIDS, but suffocation is soon ruled the cause of death. When Becky is charged with murder, she claims innocence. The family torn asunder, Becky moves in with her parents while out on bail; Martha and Scott, both consumed by guilt, try to survive. The sisters don't see each other for nine months, until the trial begins. At this point you don't know what to think nor can you envisage the outcome. Read on... This is a wrenching read but a well wrought drama.

McLean, Felicity. [The Van Apfel Girls Are Gone](#) (Algonquin \$15.95). I can't overlook a debut that adds to the Australian crime wave. Tikka Malloy can't forget the summer of 1992: that was the summer her three best friends, the Van Apfel sisters—Hannah, Ruth, and the hauntingly beautiful Cordelia—walked off into the wild bushland near their Australian suburb, never to be seen again. In a winding novel of flashbacks and hidden memories, readers see Tikka, now a woman in her 30s who has since moved to Baltimore, unable to move past that one summer. Returning to Australia to care for her sister, Laura, who was recently diagnosed with cancer, Tikka navigates the shadowy past of her childhood. Through conversations with Laura, neighbors, and her parents, Tikka stumbles upon painful feelings of guilt, hidden secrets and scandals, and memories better left forgotten. McLean peels back the layers of one scorching Australian summer in a book that is, frankly, painful to read, and unnerving, one more statement why #MeToo matters.

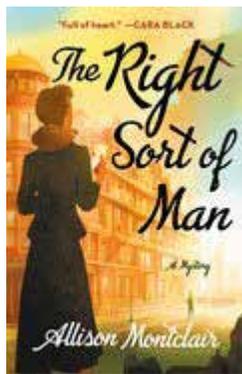
McQuiston, Casey. [Red, White & Royal Blue](#) (St Martins \$16.99). Here's a romance hit for June, Gay Pride Month. First Son Alex Claremont-Diaz is the closest thing to a prince this side of the Atlantic. With his intrepid sister and the Veep's genius granddaughter, they're the White House Trio, a beautiful millennial marketing strategy for his mother, President Ellen Claremont. International socialite duties do have downsides—namely, when photos of a confrontation with his longtime nemesis Prince Henry at a royal wedding leak to the tabloids and threaten American/British relations. The plan for damage control: staging a fake friendship between the First Son and the Prince. Alex is busy enough handling his mother's bloodthirsty opponents and his own political ambitions without an uptight royal slowing him down. But beneath Henry's Prince Charming veneer, there's a soft-hearted eccentric with a dry sense of humor and more than

one ghost haunting him. As President Claremont kicks off her reelection bid, Alex finds himself hurtling into a secret relationship with Henry that could derail the campaign and upend two nations.

Mina, Denise. [Conviction](#) (Little Brown \$27). A true-crime podcast sets a trophy wife's present life on a collision course with her secret past. The day Anna McDonald's quiet, respectable life explodes starts off like all the days before: Packing up the kids for school, making breakfast, listening to yet another true crime podcast. Then her husband comes downstairs with an announcement, and Anna is suddenly, shockingly alone. Reeling, desperate for distraction, Anna returns to the podcast. Other people's problems are much better than one's own — a sunken yacht, a murdered family, a hint of international conspiracy. But this case actually is Anna's problem. She knows one of the victims from an earlier life, a life she's taken great pains to leave behind. And she is convinced that she knows what really happened. Then an unexpected visitor arrives on her front stoop, a meddling neighbor intervenes, and life as Anna knows it is well and truly over. The devils of her past are awakened — and in hot pursuit. Convinced she has no other options, she goes on the run, and in pursuit of the truth, with a washed-up musician at her side and the podcast as her guide.

Miranda, Megan. [The Last House Guest](#) (Simon & Schuster \$26). Littleport, Maine, has always felt like two separate towns: an ideal vacation enclave for the wealthy, whose summer homes line the coastline; and a simple harbor community for the year-round residents whose livelihoods rely on service to the visitors. Typically, fierce friendships never develop between a local and a summer girl—but that's just what happens with visitor Sadie Loman and Littleport resident Avery Greer. Each summer for almost a decade, the girls are inseparable—until Sadie is found dead. While the police rule the death a suicide, Avery can't help but feel there are those in the community, including a local detective and Sadie's brother, Parker, who blame her. Someone must know more than they're saying....

Montclair, Allison. [The Right Sort of Man](#) (Minotaur \$26.99). Set in 1946 London, Montclair's stellar debut and series launch introduces an unlikely pair of detectives. Gwen Bainbridge, whose husband died during WWII, lives with her late husband's parents, who managed to get legal custody of her six-year-old son, Ronnie. Gwen and Iris Sparks, a former operative for British intelligence, run the Right Sort Marriage Bureau. Their innocuous business becomes less so after client Tillie La Salle is stabbed to death shortly after her particulars were provided to Dickie Trower, a shy accountant. Dickie is charged with Tillie's murder, his purported motive anger over the cancellation of their first date. Convinced that the wrong person is behind bars and facing intensely negative press, Gwen and Iris investigate Tillie's death. They soon find plausible alternative motives, including fallout from the dead woman's involvement in the black market and a former beau's jealousy. Both leads are complex, well-developed characters, whose penchant for humorous byplay never comes at the expense of the plot, which resolves itself in a clever fair play reveal. Fans of Maisie Dobbs and Bess Crawford will be delighted as



will those receiving our **June British Crime Book of the Month**.

I just picked up this review with which I concur: "In 1946 London, two women have set up a matchmaking business, but turn their hand to sleuthing when one of their clients is found dead. *The Right Sort of Man* is a fantastic historical romp. It mixes the bureau's various clients in search of their perfect spouse with an intriguing case that takes the two women into the underworld of stocking smugglers and other criminals trying to get around strict postwar rationing. Gwen's tragic past and Iris's vim make them a delightfully unusual pair, adding humor to the way they investigate. But when Iris goes undercover, posing as a friend of Tillie, things quickly become dangerous for the ladies of the marriage bureau. Fans of Jacqueline Winspear or Rhys Bowen will love first novel by Allison Montclair, and she has created a charming and insightful pair of detectives that will hopefully be featured in many more books."—Jessica Howard

Moore, Jonathan. [Blood Relations](#) (Houghton \$14.99). San Francisco PI Leland Crowe, the narrator of this page-turner from Moore, investigates the alleged suicide of the only daughter of one of California's wealthiest women. When Claire Gravesend, a student attending Harvard University, is found dead on top of a Rolls Royce and wearing a black cocktail dress in the city's seedy Tenderloin neighborhood, the coroner quickly deems the death a suicide—but Claire's mother wants more information and enlists Crowe's help. After fending off an attacker while searching Claire's residence in Boston, Crowe connects the pieces—which include horrific scars on Claire's back from her childhood, the mysterious origins of her birth, and her interest in stem cell research—to uncover a conspiracy that those involved are willing to murder to keep hidden. Though the disgraced and divorced Crowe is largely a genre cliché, a well-crafted plot, relentless pacing, and the highly satisfying conclusion more than compensate. Equal parts mystery and thriller, this standalone is a winner right up until the conclusion which I found tailed away after the fabulous suspense arc of the story.

Moore, Syd. [Strange Tombs, An Essex Witch Museum Mystery](#) (OneWorld \$14.95). Halloween in Essex, and things are going well for the writers on the Mystery and Suspense course at old Ratchette Hall. Things however take a turn for the downright nasty when early on All Saints Day the course administrator is discovered dead in the hall. Lips drawn back, eyes wide open, his face a mask of utter terror, it looks to all intents and purposes that Graham has been scared to death. When he is found to be clutching a cold stone finger the writers are thrown into confusion and fear, convinced the long dead knights have claimed his soul. But how could the marble effigies have come back to life on Halloween? And why would anyone, dead or alive, want to kill mild-mannered Graham? There is only one way to get to the bottom of the mystery and the Essex Witch Museum investigators are quickly drafted in. Very soon, however, Rosie and Sam realize not everything, and everyone, is what they seem at Ratchette Hall....

Patterson, James/David Ellis. [Unsolved](#) (LittleBrown \$28). FBI agent Emmy Dockery is absolutely relentless. She's young and driven, and her unique skill at seeing connections others miss has brought her an impressive string of arrests. But a shocking new case-unfolding across the country-has left her utterly baffled. The victims all appear to have died by accident, and have seemingly nothing in common. But this many deaths can't be coincidence.

And the killer is somehow one step ahead of every move Dockery makes. How?

New in paperback, and coauthored with Bill Clinton: [The President Is Missing](#) (\$17.99).

Petrova, Daniel. [Her Daughter's Mother](#) (Putnam \$26). New York art curator Lana Stone, the 39-year-old heroine of Petrova's impressive debut, faces her last chance at carrying a baby to full term with the help of an egg donor after battling with infertility for years. Three days before the scheduled transfer, Tyler, Lana's partner, abandons her. Heartbroken, Lana proceeds with the transfer and becomes pregnant without Tyler's knowledge. A week later, while riding the subway, Lana recognizes her baby's anonymous egg donor, vivacious 21-year-old Ivy League graduate Katya Dimitrova, from the photo in Katya's egg donor profile. Lana approaches Katya, with whom she shares a Bulgarian heritage, and the two develop a close, if risky, friendship. When Katya suddenly goes missing, Lana realizes that she was probably the last person to see her. Some will piece together the mystery faster than Lana can, but there are still burning questions that will keep readers at the edge of their seats. Fascinating details about Bulgarian culture leaven this gripping tale of the consequences of obsession. Petrova is off to a promising start.

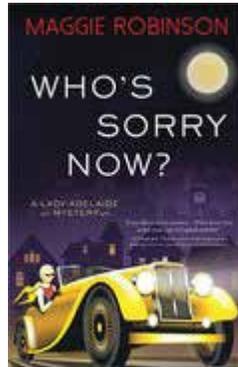
Pike, Signe. [The Lost Queen](#) (\$17). Here's a reminder of a big book set in romantic (and ancient) Scotland you can wallow in during Droughtlander: One of the most powerful early medieval queens in British history, Languoreth ruled at a time of enormous disruption and bloodshed, when the burgeoning forces of Christianity threatened to obliterate the ancient pagan beliefs and change her way of life forever. Together with her twin brother Lailoken, a warrior and druid known to history as Merlin, Languoreth is catapulted into a world of danger and violence. When a war brings the hero Emrys Pendragon, to their door, Languoreth collides with the handsome warrior Maelgwn. Their passionate connection is forged by enchantment, but Languoreth is promised in marriage to Rhydderch, son of the High King who is sympathetic to the followers of Christianity. As Rhydderch's wife, Languoreth must assume her duty to fight for the preservation of the Old Way, her kingdom.

Ramsay, Caro. [The Suffering of Strangers](#) (Canongate \$14). Canongate is a UK publisher with a new line of crime. Here's an author exploring Glasgow that you Denise Mina readers may wish to try. DI Costello faces a disturbing child abduction case; a six-week-old has been stolen and replaced with another baby. The swap took cold and meticulous planning, so Costello treads the seedy, Glaswegian back streets for answers. She's convinced that more than one young life is at stake. Promoted into the Cold Case Unit, Colin Anderson reviews the unsolved rape of a young mother, whose attacker is still out there. Each case pulls Anderson and Costello in the same direction and, as their paths keep crossing, they begin to suspect their separate cases are dangerously entwined.

☞Robb, Candace. [A Conspiracy of Wolves](#) (Severn \$28.99). What good news, Owen Archer of York is back, and in an 11<sup>th</sup> investigation. 1374. When a member of one of York's most prominent families is found dead in the woods, his throat torn out, rumors spread like wildfire that wolves are running loose throughout the city. Persuaded to investigate by the victim's father, Owen Archer is convinced that a human killer is responsible. But before he

can gather sufficient evidence to prove his case, a second body is discovered, stabbed to death. Is there a connection? What secrets are contained within the victim's household? And what does apprentice healer Alisoun know that she's not telling? Teaming up with Geoffrey Chaucer, who is in York on a secret mission on behalf of Prince Edward, Owen's enquiries will draw him headlong into a deadly conspiracy. **Ordered Upon Request. NOTE: If a dozen of you commit to signed copies I will explore this with Candace. We can't order them on spec as we usually do.**

Robinson, Maggie. [Who's Sorry Now?](#) (Poisoned Pen/Sourcebooks \$26.99 or \$15.99). We're in London, 1925 (but first a brief moment of chaos in New York). Lady Adelaide Compton and her younger sister are in the US during the 1920s, when the speakeasy is about to be raided by the police. Lady Adelaide's



deceased husband, Rupert, materializes to help them get out of trouble. While glad not to be caught in the raid, Lady Adelaide really, really wishes her philanthropic husband would stay dead.... But he reappears in London where Lady Adelaide is keeping watch over her younger sister who has been unsettled by a crush. Unfortunately other Bright Young Things, that crowd of fashionables chasing a good time (as in early Lord Peter Wimseys), starts to be murdered one by one at a night club, unsettling both Lady A and the Yard's Devenand Hunter who wishes she'd stay safely out of range and his case....

"If you like a clever mystery, a handsome ghost, and the far-from-bereaved widow who can't find the elusive killer without Rupert's help, *Who's Sorry Now?* is just your cup of English murder."—Charles Todd. One of the 5 Star reviews adds, "Robinson does a great job of character building, scene setting, and writing a good mystery. I'm looking forward to more with this cast (and seeing if Rupert can redeem himself to leave Lady Adelaide in peace!). Start with [Nobody's Sweetheart Now](#) (\$15.95) for two delightful June treats.

Rose, MJ. [Tiffany Blues](#) (\$16). A young painter's traumatic past threatens to derail her career at a prestigious summer artists' colony run by Louis Comfort Tiffany of Tiffany & Co. fame.

Rossner, Rena. [The Sisters of the Winter Wood](#) (\$15.99). "Rossner's intricately crafted, gorgeously rendered debut alternates perspectives between teenage sisters Liba and Laya Leib, who narrate in prose and verse, respectively. They are left to fend for themselves in the mysterious woods that border the town of Dubossary while their parents are away on urgent business. Before their parents leave, the sisters learn the family secret: their father can transform into a bear, a gift Liba will inherit, and their mother into a swan, as Laya will. The pair disagrees on how to enjoy their newfound independence... Drawing on true events, folklore, and Christina Rossetti's classic *The Goblin Market*, Rossner's fairy tale is creepy and moving by turn, full of heart, history, and enchantment,"—*PW* Starred Review which drew me into the hardcover which I thought was truly fabulous!

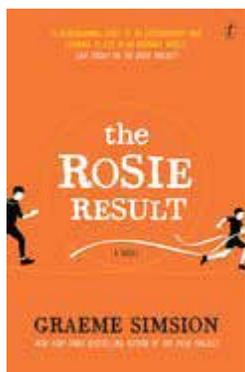
Roy, Lori. [Gone Too Long](#) (Dutton \$27). "In this gripping, gut-wrenching thriller from Edgar-winner Roy a member of the local Ku Klux Klan in Simmonsville, Georgia, kidnaps 10-year-old

Beth, the daughter of a single mother, in a bungled attempt to scare Beth's Puerto Rican babysitter and the babysitter's family into leaving the area. Unwilling to kill Beth, her captor holds her prisoner in the basement of an outbuilding on a remote property used for Klan business. Seven years later, in 2017, Imogene Coulter, a foe of the Klan who's descended from a prominent Klansman, by chance discovers the basement, where she finds a boy, Christopher, who has been held there since infancy with Beth, and takes him home. Shortly before, Beth had escaped and is in hiding. The tension rises as Beth tries to survive and Imogene fights to safeguard Christopher (and herself) from his captors. Vividly told though somewhat implausibly plotted, Roy's tragic cautionary tale demonstrates what can happen when decent people allow themselves to be bullied into turning a blind eye while others do their worst, including murder." I quote a review because Roy's thriller didn't light me up. But I do endorse the last line about bullying as we see more and more outrage-fueled mobs weaponizing social media. The historian in me feels as if we are revisiting France's Reign of Terror.

Shepherd, Peng. [The Book of M](#) (\$16.99). One afternoon at an outdoor market in India, a man's shadow disappears—an occurrence science cannot explain. He is only the first. The phenomenon spreads like a plague, and while those afflicted gain a strange new power, it comes at a horrible price: the loss of all their memories. Ory and his wife Max have escaped the Forgetting so far by hiding in an abandoned hotel deep in the woods. Their new life feels almost normal, until one day Max's shadow disappears too. Knowing that the more she forgets, the more dangerous she will become to Ory, Max runs away. But Ory refuses to give up the time they have left together. Desperate to find Max before her memory disappears completely, he follows her trail across a perilous, unrecognizable near future world....

Silvis, Randall. [A Long Way Down](#) (Poisoned Pen/sourcebooks \$15.99). Ryan DeMarco returns to his hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania, after his estranged wife, Laraine, attempts suicide. Unfortunately, Laraine has decided that the only person who can make her well again is DeMarco himself. DeMarco disagrees. As he is leaving the hospital, he runs into a former high school football teammate, now the Mahoning County sheriff. DeMarco learns that three unsolved murders have occurred in his old stomping grounds over the past month, and that they might be related to a cold case from 1988, the year he graduated from high school. And so....

Simson, Graeme. [The Rosie Result](#) (Text \$26.99). When readers last saw the brilliant and socially clueless geneticist, he and wife Rosie had just become parents. Now they've relocated back to Melbourne, Australia, from New York, but the move brings disaster. Rosie lands her dream job but faces sex discrimination in the workplace. Eleven-year-old Hudson acts out at his new school, leading teachers to suggest an autism screening. In a parent-child parallel, Don's superiors urge him to pursue his own diagnosis as protection from accusations of racism following the so-called Genetics Lecture Outrage. Ever the pragmatist, Don sets out to rescue his family's plummeting life-contentment graph trajectory. All he has to do is teach



Hudson everything he knows about life, open a sensory-friendly cocktail bar and not start trouble. What could possibly go wrong? Simson returns to comic form seamlessly, pitting Don against his greatest challenge: parenting. Hudson is Don in miniature with a double helping of Rosie's sass, and whether the two are butting heads or joining forces, hilarity ensues. A decade after events in [The Rosie Effect](#) (\$15.95, Don Tillman returns to confront his greatest challenge—raising his tween son—in this series finale portraying autism with realism and humor.

Straley, John. [Baby's First Felony](#) (\$15.95). Sitka, Alaska, criminal defense investigator Cecil Younger spends his days coaching would-be felons on how to avoid incriminating themselves. He even likes most of the rough characters who seek his services. So when Sherrie, a returning client, asks him to track down some evidence to clear her of a domestic violence charge, Cecil agrees. Maybe he'll find something that will get her abusive boyfriend locked up for good. Cecil treks out to the shady apartment complex only to discover the "evidence" is a large pile of cash—fifty thousand dollars, to be exact. That is how Cecil finds himself in violation of one of his own maxims: Nothing good comes of walking around with a lot of someone else's money. And so this book is a narrative written by Cecil to his teenager Blossom who becomes collateral in his investigation.

✱Velton, Sonia. [Blackberry and Wild Rose](#) (Blackstone \$27.99). "Velton's intriguing debut spotlights both the successes and hardships of Huguenot silk weavers in 18th-century England. Young and alone, Sara Kemp arrives in Spitalfields, London. She is soon swept away to the Wig and Feathers tavern by a forceful brothel proprietress, thus beginning a dangerous, dismal life of prostitution. Esther Thorel, the wife of one of the finest master silk weavers, offers Sara a position as lady's maid and a fresh start away from her unsavory past. Esther, a painter, longs to design silks, but her husband, Elias, dismisses her talent while resenting her barrenness and inability to provide a son to learn his trade. Enter Bisby Lambert, an exquisitely talented journeyman commissioned by Elias to weave his masterpiece on the Thorels' attic loom. As the weaving begins to take shape, the tumultuous Thorel household, full of secrets and longing, begins to unravel. The story unfolds in alternating points of view between Sara and Esther, women of vastly different circumstances who both harbor secrets. Fans of Tracy Chevalier and Jennifer Chiaverini will be captivated by this story for its atmospheric, historically rich drama, and forbidden romance."—LJ

Woods, Stuart. [Skin Game](#) (Putnam \$28). The CIA calls on its favorite rogue ex-operative, Teddy Fay to flush out a mole in its Paris office. Agency director Lance Cabot makes no bones about how serious the problem is when he reaches out to Teddy, aka film producer Billy Barnett, aka stunt man Mark Weldon, demanding his help and offering in return no money, precious little logistical support, and not even the pretense that Teddy owes his country something. In fact, the problem's even more serious than Lance knows: Syrian strongman Fahd Kassin can already listen in on Lance's phone calls, and soon enough his operatives have drawn a bead on Teddy's communications as well. Uncertain exactly what Teddy's charge is or how he plans to fulfill it, Kassin dispatches a series of assassins to neutralize the threat in this 3<sup>rd</sup> Stuart Woods/Parnell Hall for Teddy Faye.

## OUR JUNE SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Atkins, Ace. [The Sinners](#) (\$9.99). Quinn Colson #8. When the patriarch of a drug-dealing clan begins targeting the family of the man responsible for his imprisonment, Quinn Colson finds himself relying on new deputies to survive.

Brabazon, James. [The Break Line](#) (\$9.99). Dispatched to Sierra Leone to help combat rebel forces who are slaughtering innocent villagers, British intelligence operative and hardened assassin Max McLean searches for the monster behind the attacks, only to be confronted by a deadly mistake from the past.

Castillo, Linda. [A Gathering of Secrets](#) (\$9.99). Kate Burkholder #10. A deadly fire resulting in the death of an Amish teen exposes the dark side of the community to which Chief of Police Kate Burkholder once belonged.

Dratch, Dana. [Seeing Red](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Discovering that her boyfriend Ian is more than just a simple bed and breakfast owner when a body is found in his basement, his father goes missing and a “reproduction” Renoir is found in his library, intrepid ex-reporter Alex Vlodnachek must stay one step ahead of danger to expose the truth. Dratch launched her fun and funny series with the fabulous *Confessions of a Red Herring* last year. While the plot of *Seeing Red* is like something straight out of a Marx Brothers movie, Dratch’s latest is another winning mix of quirky and endearing characters paired up with writing liberally seasoned with zinging humor.

Grisham, John. [The Reckoning](#) (\$9.99). In 1946 Clanton, Mississippi, World War II hero Pete Banning calmly and inexplicably kills his pastor and friend, the Reverend Dexter Bell, and refuses to defend his actions during the subsequent trial.

Lippman, Laura. [Sunburn](#) (\$9.99). After meeting at a local tavern in Belleville, Delaware, Polly and Adam have an affair, but when someone dies the two are so ensnared in each other’s lives and lies that neither can escape.

Paretsky, Sara. [Shell Game](#) (\$9.99). V.I. Warshawski #20. Returning to Chicago to prevent an erroneous murder charge, V. I. Warshawski traces a stolen artifact with links to a network of international mobsters, terrorist financiers, scammers and art thieves.

Rosenfelt, David. [One Dog Night](#) (\$7.99). Andy Carpenter #9. When a rehabilitated drug addict who saved Tara the golden retriever’s life is wrongly implicated in a cold-case murder, defense attorney Andy Carpenter, the dog’s dedicated owner, taps every conceivable resource to prove the man’s innocence.

Rutger, Michael. [The Anomaly](#) (\$7.99). A rogue archaeologist (think Indian Jones circa 2018) finds himself and his team the target of malevolent forces as they retrace a 1909 expedition in search of a mysterious Grand Canyon cave. Perfect reading for fans of James Rollins or Lincoln Child and Douglas Preston.

Scott, J Todd. [High White Sun](#) (\$9.99). After a local river guide is murdered, Chris Cherry, the new sheriff in a Texas town, and his deputy confront the head of a violent local clan and a white supremacist as they are drawn into a blood feud that began twenty years earlier.

Silva, Daniel. [The Other Woman](#) (\$9.99). Gabriel Allon #18. After his asset inside Russian intelligence is assassinated, Gabriel’s search for the truth leads him to the twentieth century’s greatest act of treason.

## NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS FOR JUNE

Archer, Jeffrey. [Heads You Win](#) (\$9.99). When Alexander Karpenko and his mother must flee Russia, they flip a coin to see if they will emigrate to London or New York and in a single moment, a double twist decides Alexander’s future in a story spanning two continents and thirty years.

Barrett, Casey. [Against Nature](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Private investigator Duck Darley must confront his past when his former partner Cass Kimball lures him back to the sinister world of professional sports after she is charged with double homicide.

Betley, Matthew. [Field of Valor](#) (\$9.99). In this follow-up to *Oath of Honor*, the discovery of a deadly global conspiracy prompts Logan West to form a covert task force to dismantle a nameless enemy who is using lucrative resources to escalate tensions between China and the United States in order to dismantle the world’s security and economy.

Brecher, Christ. [Murder’s No Votive Confidence](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When the unity candle she created for a wedding is used as a murder weapon, Nantucket candle store owner Stella Wright, to stop her business from going up in smoke, decides to do some sleuthing on her own, determined to make a killer go down in flames.

Bush, Nancy. [Bad Things](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Kerry Monaghan, returning home to Edwards Bay after her step-brother’s death, discovers that his death is linked to several others and teams up with cop Cole Sheffield to discover the secret that has unleashed a killer’s unstoppable fury.

Connolly, Sheila. [Murder at the Mansion](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Victorian Village #1. Talented hotel manager Katherine Hamilton is tasked with devising a plan to use the huge Victorian mansion just outside of town to attract tourists and save her bankrupt hometown, only to be declared a chief suspect in the murder of her high-school nemesis.

Conte, Cate. [The Tell Tail Heart](#) (St Martins \$7.99). While turning her grandfather’s house into a cat café, scoping out places to open a juice bar and embarking on a new relationship, Maddie James discovers that there is no downtime on Daybreak Island when murder comes to town and the secrets of its residents come to light.

Day, Maddie. [Strangled Eggs and Ham](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Country Store #5. When a protestor opposed to the building of a luxury resort at one of the most scenic hilltops in Brown County is murdered, country store owner Robbie Jordon must crack the case before her aunt, a fellow protestor, gets served the same fate.

Delaney, Devon. [Guilty As Charred](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Back home in Connecticut after winning the America’s Good Taste Recipe Challenge, Sherry Oliveri finds her good fortune marred by the murder of an acquaintance and launches her own investigation while organizing a fourth of July cook-off event.

Finley, Jeremy. [The Darkest Time of Night](#) (St Martins \$9.99). Politician’s wife Lynn Roseworth becomes ensnared in a conspiracy involving UFO research and her own past when she struggles to rescue her missing grandson.

Flower, Amanda. [Toxic Toffee](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Amish Candy Shop #4. Returning home from New York after filming *Bailey’s Amish Sweets*, Bailey King must catch a killer with a sweet tooth

when jovial rabbit farmer Stephen Raber is found poisoned to death by a tasty piece of toffee.

Gilstrap, John. [Total Mayhem](#) (Kensington \$9.99). When America comes under attack by a group of former Special Forces operatives working for ISIS, Jonathan Grave and his team go undercover to eliminate the traitors until they discover that these assaults are rehearsals for extreme disaster.

Greenlaw, Linda. [Bimini Twist](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Jane Bunker #4. Deputy Sheriff Jane Bunker races against time to save the life of a foreign exchange student who has gone missing from her summer job during Green Haven's busy tourist season.

Griffin, J M. [Left Fur Dead](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When her black-and-white rabbit, Bun, who has the ability to communicate through mental telepathy, spots a body, Jules Bridge is drawn into a murder mystery involving a mime and multiplying suspects that put them in the crosshairs of a killer.

Hilderbrand, Elin. [The Perfect Couple](#) (\$7.99). When a bride-to-be is found dead in the harbor, Chief of Police Ed Kapenash searches for the killer within her own wedding party. Beach reads queen Hilderbrand dips her toe into mysteries with this breezy read.

Hollon, Cheryl. [Down in Flames](#) (Kensington \$7.99). When a hit-and-run driver strikes down bartender Nicole Borawski outside of her glass shop, Savannah Webb, all fired up, is determined to break the case before someone else meets the same fate.

James, Miranda. [Claws for Concern](#) (\$7.99). Cat in the Stacks #9. Befriending a man who reveals that he is performing genealogical research on the life of one of Charlie's own family members, proud grandfather Charlie Harris is alarmed when a true-crime writer informs him that the man is suspected in a homicide that occurred years earlier.

Jameson, Chris. [Shark Beach](#) (St Martins \$9.99). The Scully family and their friends find their trip to Florida's Captiva Island turning into a bloody nightmare when test subjects that are part of a secret military research project escape from a nearby marine institute. Probably not the best book to pack for a day of reading on the beach.

Jewell, Lisa. [I Found You](#) (\$9.99). In a windswept British seaside town, single mum Alice Lake finds an amnesiac man sitting on the beach outside her house. Against her better judgment, she invites him inside. Meanwhile, in a suburb of London, twenty-one-year-old Lily Monroe has only been married for three weeks. When her husband fails to come home from work one night, she is left alone in a place where she knows no one and with the police telling her that her husband never existed.

Lapena, Shari. [Stranger in the House](#) (\$9.99). Lapena's debut thriller was *The Couple Next Door*. Now she introduces readers to a woman who is found injured in a shady part of town, but who can be sure exactly what happened to her. Is it any wonder her husband and the police are having trouble with her story?

Parnell, Sean. [Man of War](#) (\$9.99). Eric Steele, and elite clandestine intelligence Operative (really, is there any other kind of intel op?), draws on the skills he learned as a Special Forces soldier when an adversary from his past attacks a military convoy and steals a nuclear weapon.

Sefton, Maggie. [Dyeing Up Loose Ends](#) (\$7.99). House of Lamb-spun #16. When a well-liked waitress with no known enemies is found murdered, Kelly enlists the Lambspun knitters to catch a heartless killer.

Slimani, Leila. [The Perfect Nanny](#) (\$9.99). After a French couple finds a too-good-to-be-true nanny to care for their two children, the relationship between the couple and the nanny soon becomes full of jealousy, resentment, and suspicion.

Wortham, Reavis. [Hawke's Target \(Signed\)](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Texas Ranger Sonny Hawke, taking on his most dangerous job yet, is fast on the trail of a man who is taking the law into his own hands, leaving a trail of bodies across the Lone Star State that lead the most savage clan deep East Texas has ever seen.