

BOOKNEWS from

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sales@poisonedpen.com tel (888)560-9919
http://poisonedpen.com

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



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TURNING ON THE HEAT FOR JUNE....

Note: All the times are Scottsdale time, 3 hours later than EDT

Please look for pop up book chats with authors and editors and who knows what from time to time on our Home Page and then moved to Facebook.

Watch these virtual events on [Facebook Live](#) or our [You Tube](#) and any time thereafter at a time that suits you

MONDAY JUNE 1 5:00 PM

Francesca Serritella chats about her debut [Ghosts of Harvard](#) (Random \$27)

Signed books available for this our June First Mystery Book of the Month. Please order quickly to secure yours

TUESDAY JUNE 2 7:00 PM

JA Jance chats about her new Ali Reynolds investigation [Credible Threat](#) (Gallery \$27.99)

Signed books available. Please order quickly to secure yours. Books will arrive from Jance a bit delayed

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 5:00 PM

David Pepper chats about his new book [The Voter File](#) (Putnam \$27)

This is a must read and not a political thriller. Our Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month for June

Signed books available. Please order quickly to secure yours

SATURDAY JUNE 6 1:00 PM

Francine Matthews chats about [Death on Tuckernuck](#) (Soho \$27.95), her new Merry Folger Nantucket Mystery

Signed books available. Please order quickly to secure yours

SATURDAY JUNE 6 2:00 PM

Laurie R. King chats about [Riviera Gold](#) (Bantam \$28), her new Russell/Holmes mystery set in Monaco and the Riviera, as they search for Mrs. Hudson

Signed books available. Please order quickly to secure yours

MONDAY JUNE 8 5:00 PM

Heather Young chats about [The Distant Dead](#) (Morrow \$27.99) with **Ivy Pochoda** whose new novel is [These Women](#) (Ecco \$27.99) Signed copies of both books available.

TUESDAY JUNE 9 5:00 PM

Mike Maden chats about [Tom Clancy Firing Point](#) (Putnam \$29) Signed books available. Please order quickly to secure yours

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10 5:00 PM

Sean McFate discusses his thriller [High Treason](#) (Harper \$27.99) with **Brad Taylor**

Signed books available. Please order quickly to secure yours

THURSDAY JUNE 11 2:00 PM with John

Kristan Higgins chats about [Always the Last to Know](#) (Berkley \$26/\$16)

THURSDAY JUNE 11 3:00 PM with John

Susan Mallery previews her August Book [The Friendship List](#) (Harlequin \$26.99)

Susan Elizabeth Phillips discusses [Dance Away with Me](#) (Harper \$28.99)

Signed books available in June for Phillips. Signed bookplates for Mallery in August. Please order quickly to secure yours

SATURDAY JUNE 13 2:00 PM

Kate Carlisle chats about [The Grim Reader](#) (Berkley \$26)

Jill Orr chats about [The Full Scoop](#) (Prospect Park Books \$25.95/\$16)

Signed books available for both. Please order quickly

MONDAY JUNE 15

Tom Clavin talks with Patrick about [Tombstone](#) (St Martins \$29.99)

The true story of the Earp brothers, Doc Holliday, and the famous Battle at the OK Corral, by the New York Times bestselling author of Dodge City and Wild Bill

Signed books available

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17 6:00 PM

Gregory Benford and Larry Niven discuss [Glorious](#) (Tor \$29.99), continuing the hard science Bowl of Heaven novels, with Pat

Books are signed by Niven with a bookplates by Benford. Please order quickly to secure yours

FRIDAY JUNE 19th 7:00 PM

SciFi Friday meets on Zoom to discuss Scott Hawkins' [The Library at Mount Char](#) (\$17)

To join in email Pat@poisonedpen.com for an invitation

SATURDAY JUNE 20th 10:30 AM

Croak and Dagger meets on Zoom to discuss Clare Mackintosh's [Let Me Lie](#) (\$16)

To join in email Pat@poisonedpen.com for an invitation

SATURDAY JUNE 20th 2:00 PM

Rachel Harris and Sara Sligar in conversation

Harrison chats about [The Return](#) (Berkley \$26)

Sligar chats about [Take Me Apart](#) (FSG \$27), her extraordinary debut

TUESDAY JUNE 23 Time TBA

James Murray, aka “Murr,” chats with Pat about [Obliteration](#)

(Harper Voyager \$27.99), in the Awakened universe series

Signed books available. Please order quickly

WEDNESDAY JUNE 25 6:00 PM

Michael Elias chats about his new thriller [You Can Go Home Now](#) (Harper \$27.99)

Signed books available. Please order quickly

THURSDAY JUNE 25 5:00 PM

Nina Laurin joins in with **David Bell, J.T. Ellison, Meg Gardiner, and Heather Gudenkauf** to discuss her new book [A Woman Alone](#) (Grand Central \$14.99) as well as work by the other authors

SATURDAY JUNE 27 2:00 PM

Conversation and Cooking

Diana Gabaldon and Theresa Carle-Sanders present

[Outlander Kitchen Volume 2](#) (Delacorte \$35)

Our copies are signed by Diana while Theresa, a Canadian, includes a signed recipe card for a delicious treat

[Outlander Kitchen Volume 1](#) (\$35) is also available, again signed by Diana with a different recipe card signed by Theresa

MONDAY JUNE 29 5:00 PM

Megan Miranda signs [The Girl from Widow Hills](#) (Simon-Schuster \$26.99)

Riley Sager signs [Home Before Dark](#) (Dutton \$27)

Books signed by both authors available. Please order quickly

TUESDAY JUNE 30

Jill Clark chats with about Clark’s July First Mystery Book of the Month, [The Last Flight](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99) with Liv Constantine whose new book is [The Wife Stalker](#) (Harper \$27.99)

Signed books by both authors available. Please order quickly

THURSDAY JULY 2 2:00 PM

Ellie Alexander chats with John about [Nothing Bundt Trouble](#) (\$8.99)

Abby Collette signs [A Deadly Scoop](#) (Berkley \$16)

Signed bookplates come with our copies

THURSDAY JULY 2 5:00 PM

Paul Doiron chats with Tess Gerritsen about his new Mike Bowditch Maine thriller [One Last Lie](#) (Minotaur \$27.99)

Signed books for Doiron available. Perfect for CJ Box and Randy Wayne White fans.

SIGNED BOOKS

Benford, Gregory/Larry Niven. [Glorious](#) (Tor \$29.99). Signed by Niven with a signed bookplate from Benford. Here’s an enthusiastic review: “Written by highly acclaimed, multi-award-winning authors, Gregory Benford (Timescape) and Larry Niven’s (Ringworld), *Glorious* concludes the Bowl of Heaven series. In the journey that began with *Bowl of Heaven* and its sequel, *Shipstar*, audacious astronauts encounter bizarre, sometimes deadly life forms, and strange, exotic, cosmic phenomena, including miniature black holes, dense fields of interstellar plasma, powerful gravity-emitters, and spectacularly massive space-based, alien-built labyrinths. The alien civilization is far more advanced than our own, and difficult for our astronauts to comprehend. The astronauts must explore and document this brave, new, highly dangerous world, while also dealing with their own personal triumphs and conflicts—their loves and jealousies, joys and disappointments.

Carlisle, Kate. [The Grim Reader](#) (Berkley \$26). John reviews: A murderer makes a big splash at Dharma’s first Book Festival in the 14th charmingly addition to Kate Carlisle’s *New York Times* best-selling Bibliophile series. San Francisco-based book restorer Brooklyn Wainwright is more than happy to help out her mom Becky, who is on planning committee for Dharma’s first book festival, by doing some rare book appraisals and staging the festival’s production of *Little Women*. But when one of the festival committee members is found dead, and the festival’s funds go missing, Brooklyn and her husband Derek Stone must take on the added volunteer duty of amateur detectives in order to put the festival back on track. Cozy mystery readers can always count on Carlisle to deliver everything they crave, and her latest addictively readable Brooklyn Wainwright book is a perfectly calibrated blend of endearingly quirky characters, an inviting small town setting, engaging writing seasoned with just the right dash of dry wit, and some fascinating tidbits about books and the book world. This is a [series you can order](#) and enjoy...in order.

Chakraborty, SA. [Empire of Gold](#) (Harper \$28.99). A Library Reads Pick for the third by this author we’ve offered to you: “This is a story about colonialism and cycles of trauma, giving an in-depth look at the politics and psychology of a land warred over by ethnic factions for centuries. Highly recommended to anyone looking for an imaginative fantasy with complex characters, well developed relationships, and insightful social commentary. For readers who enjoy N.K. Jemisin and Tasha Suri.”

Clark, Julie. [The Last Flight](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99). Here is one of the Starred Reviews for our **July First Mystery Book of the Month**: “In this outstanding thriller, New York socialite Clair Cook, who has a plan to run away from her emotionally and physically abusive husband, and Eva James, a woman heading home to Berkeley, Calif., who says she’s mourning her late husband, meet by chance at an airport bar at JFK before their flights. Claire tells Eva that she would do anything not to go to Puerto Rico, where her husband is expecting her. Eva agrees to fly to Puerto Rico in Claire’s place, and the two swap e-tickets and phones. On arrival at Oakland’s airport, Claire learns that the Puerto Rico flight has crashed, killing everyone aboard. Though

she's devastated that Eva has died in the crash, Claire takes the opportunity to assume the life Eva left behind only to discover that Eva was not who she said she was and was fleeing her own dangerous past. The moral dilemmas that the multifaceted, realistic characters face in their quest for survival lend weight to this pulse-pounding tale of suspense." Recommend to you who enjoyed *The Last Mrs. Parrish* by Liv Constantine and *The Passenger* by Lisa Lutz. And not by chance Liv Constantine will host Clark's June 30th Virtual Event. Her new psychological thriller is [The Wife Stalker](#) (\$27.99)

Clavin, Tom. [Tombstone](#) (St Martins \$29.99). The true story of the Earp brothers, Doc Holliday, and the famous Battle at the OK Corral, by the bestselling author of *Dodge City* and *Wild Bill*

Doiron, Paul. [One Last Lie](#) (Minotaur \$27.99). **Let me start by saying that any reader of CJ Box and Randy Wayne White should order this book immediately.** You can explore the wilds of the Everglades (the python!) and the wilds of northern Maine where poachers run rampant back and forth over the border which is heavily patrolled now (think Joe Pickett here). And Maine Warden Investigator Mike Bowditch, with police powers, is working a cold case off the grid (OK, not Nate Romanowski but then, something of his style).

It arises unexpectedly while Bowditch is doing a new hire evaluation down in Florida and has time to join his ex, Stacy, on a python hunt. Wheelchair-bound Ora Stevens calls to say that Bowditch's mentor and father figure, her elderly husband Charley, is missing. Without explanation or contacts. Catching a flight back to Maine, Mike begins an off-the-radar-from-the-Warden-Service investigation. It takes him into the state's northern river-side border where Acadians of the St. John Valley, separated by the artificial national border, form a closed community. A Warden went undercover there 15 years back, infiltrating a ruthless gang of poachers, mostly run by a father and two sons. Charley ended up killing the father in the manhunt that followed the officer's exposure. Is a badge Charley spotted very recently at a flea market what touched off his disappearance? And does it connect to that old situation? And if so, who besides the villagers is covering up secrets? Some fellow Wardens? I completely agree with this *PW* Starred Review: "Edgar finalist Doiron artfully blends a whodunit plot with superior characterizations in his top-notch 11th mystery featuring Mike Bowditch....Doiron vividly portrays the Maine woods setting while maintaining taut suspense. This entry reinforces the author's position in the front rank of regional thriller writers."

Elias, Michael. [You Can Go Home Now](#) (Harper \$27.99). If you relish a no-holds-barred police procedural with a revenge-seeking torpedo of a cop, this is your book. In short, Iranian-American Long Island City, NY, PD Officer Nina Karim can operate in gray areas to see justice done, not unlike Jesse Stone in her way. I agree with this comment on the book by Steve Martin: "Elias is so conversant with the mindset of criminals, cops, and trigger-pullers, it makes me wonder about his personal life. This is a compelling thriller that has the rarest of qualities: 'What's going to happen next?' has a secret reason for joining the Long Island City, N.Y., PD—she wants access to resources only a police officer has so that she can find the anonymous Army of God sniper who killed her father when she was a teen in 1999. In the course of her work as a detective, she sees a pattern in murder victims who abused women while they were alive and connects them all

to the Artemis Shelter for Women, where she goes undercover as an abuse victim. Meanwhile, she pursues a lead on the identity of her father's killer. Though Nina's feelings about the "cowardly bastard" are clear, she's morally conflicted about finding the killer of the abusers. And she conveys the unsurprising stories of the women in the shelter in their painful realities.

Gabalton, Diana/Theresa Carle-Sanders. [Outlander Kitchen Volume 2](#) (Delacorte \$35). Sink your teeth into over 100 new easy-to-prepare recipes inspired by Diana Gabaldon's beloved *Outlander* and Lord John Grey series, as well as the hit Starz original show—in the second official cookbook from *Outlander Kitchen* founder Theresa Carle-Sanders! "If you thought Scottish cuisine was all porridge and haggis washed down with a good swally of whiskey, *Outlander Kitchen*'s here to prove you wrong."—*Entertainment Weekly* on [Outlander Kitchen Volume 1](#) (\$35), also signed by Diana with a signed recipe card from Theresa who, a Canadian, is not able to travel to the US

Goldberg, Leonard. [The Art of Deception](#) (St Martins \$28). It begins when Inspector Lestrade calls on Dr. John Watson, Joanna Blalock, and Joanna's husband, Dr. John Watson Jr., at 221b Baker Street shortly before Christmas 1916. Lestrade needs their help catching the vandal slashing costly paintings in London's West End. Joanna deduces that the culprit is seeking something—perhaps another artwork—hidden behind one of them. All the canvases have been repaired at the elite but financially troubled Hawke and Evans art gallery by Harry Edmunds and James Blackstone, making them prime suspects. But since Edmunds has apparently died in an explosion, while Blackstone has fled to Australia, neither man can be questioned. When Joanna's son, Johnny, comes home from Eton, he adds his own astute analysis to the case. "Holmes lovers will enjoy the intricate Sherlockian reasoning Joanna and Johnny bring to the puzzle."

Higgins, Kristan. [Always the Last to Know](#) (Berkley \$26/\$16). John reviews: After almost fifty years of being married to her husband John, Barb Frost decided it was time they finally parted ways. However, before Barb can follow through with her plans for a divorce, John suffers a stroke, and loses his ability to speak. Now all bets are off for the Frost family as Barb re-evaluates her decision to end her marriage, and the couple's daughters – perfect wife and mother Juliet and artistic wild child Sadie – also find their own lives changing as each of the Frost women plays her own part in helping John navigate the road to recovery. *New York Times* best-selling Kristan Higgins writes with great heart as well as a generous measure of deliciously snarky wit about family, friendship, love, and loss. Told from the viewpoints of each of the Frost women (with occasional insights from John Frost), *Always the Last to Know* is a master class in characterization as Higgins deftly demonstrates just how little we really know about those closest to us.

Jance, JA. [Credible Threat](#) (Gallery \$27.99). Is it possible to feel sympathy for a cold-blooded killer? Bestseller Jance pulls it off in her poignant 15th Ali Reynolds mystery. Rachel Higgins has been going through the motions in the years since her grown son, David, died of an overdose. But after she realizes that David was molested as a teen by his swimming coach, Father Needham, at St. Francis High in Phoenix, Rachel carefully plots her revenge. Since Needham died of AIDS in prison after being convicted of multiple counts of pedophilia, Rachel decides to kill Needham's

superior, Archbishop Francis Gillespie, for letting it happen. When the archbishop begins receiving anonymous threats, he asks High Noon Enterprises, a cybersecurity firm owned by Ali and her husband, B. Simpson, to investigate after the police dismiss the notes as not a credible threat. When B. has to go overseas, the case is left to Ali and her team of cyber experts. Depth of character compensates for some overwriting. Jance has rendered a masterly study of the effects of grief, rage, and the power of forgiveness.

King, Laurie R. [Riviera Gold](#) (Bantam \$28). King, Laurie R. [Riviera Gold](#) (Bantam \$28). It's summertime on the Riviera, and the Jazz Age has come to France's once-sleepy beaches. From their music-filled terraces, American expatriates gaze along the coastline at the lights of Monte Carlo, where fortunes are won, lost, stolen, and sometimes hidden away. Some of them stay at the Hotel du Cap, not as famous then as now. When Mary Russell arrives by ship from Venice, tanned and hard of hand from pulling ropes and such, she falls into easy friendship with an enthralling American couple, Sara and Gerald Murphy [real people], whose golden life on the Riviera has begun to attract famous writers and artists—and some of the scoundrels linked with Monte Carlo's underworld. The Murphy set will go on to inspire everyone from F. Scott Fitzgerald and wife Zelda to Pablo Picasso, but in this summer of 1925, their importance for Russell lies in one of their circle's recent additions: the Holmeses' former housekeeper, Mrs. Hudson, who hasn't been seen since she fled England under a cloud of false murder accusations. When a beautiful young man is found dead in Mrs. Hudson's front room, she becomes the prime suspect in yet another murder with Russell and Holmes determined to plumb her past and preserve her present.... Fans will recall that other murder detailed in [The Murder of Mary Russell](#) (\$17)—and if not, this is a good time to order it and bone up.

Maden, Mike. [Tom Clancy Firing Point](#) (Putnam \$29). "Alive, not dead." That is young Jack's task in South Korea—to bring a bad guy back for interrogation—but he knows there's "a long, nasty road of hurt" between life and death. Later, he's in a Barcelona restaurant sipping vermouth when he unexpectedly meets an old flame. They chat, and he leaves just before an explosion kills everyone inside. Rushing back—because that's what Ryans do—he hears his dying friend whisper "Sammler." Enraged, he will stop at nothing to find her killer. Later on, a woman from Spain's security service also dies in Jack's presence. No wonder he's single; the guy's a walking danger zone. In typical Clancy style, the action spans four continents and the Pacific Ocean, where a container ship carrying illegal cargo is sunk. In "a new kind of piracy," drones disguised as tiger sharks sink enough ships to warrant the attention of President Ryan, whom one character calls "sharp as a tack, and blunt as a hammer." That's much better than what a bad guy calls his son: "this Ryan asshole." Father and son go to great lengths to keep their relationship from being known, yet it's still curious that no one seems to noodle on the idea they might look alike for a reason. A geek named Gavin, a "one-man wrecking machine when it came to hacking," pointlessly reminds Jack that he's "not authorized to do anything." If Jack follows that advice, half the story disappears. "The ultimate stakes are much higher than sunken ships: The theft of trillions of dollars may cause an 'economic apocalypse,' and what's a Clancy thriller without a ticking clock (Jack's watch, really) and a threat of World War III? Fast action and dead bodies abound in

this enjoyable bit of hero worship," says Kirkus Reviews. I really like Maden's Clancy-verse with Jack, Jr., and wish I had an early copy to read. But I will catch up before talking to Maden June 9.

Mallery, Susan. [The Friendship List](#) (Harlequin \$26.99). This book is not available until August 4 and will come with a Signed bookplate. Here is John's review so you can order it now: Ellen Fox needs to convince her college-bound son Coop that she is perfectly fine living on her own. Unity Leandre is tired of everyone around her telling her it's time to move on after her husband Stuart's death three years ago. So, Unity comes up with the friendship list: a series of personal challenges designed to push each woman out of their comfort zone and show the world the two best friends are going to be A-OK. Once again, Mallery works her own easy, breezy brand of literary magic delivering a heartwarming, uplifting, often humorous tale of two women facing life's challenges—both large and small—head one on while at the same time effectively underscoring the true importance of friendship in our lives.

Mathews, Francine. [Death on Tuckernuck](#) (Soho \$27.95). The *Washington Post's* take: "Nantucket police detective Merry Folger makes her sixth appearance in a mystery that's so suspenseful it's hard not to skip a chapter to see if certain deeply likable characters are still alive. Folger's wedding with a rich, nice-guy cranberry farmer is threatened by (a) an approaching Category 3 hurricane and (b) the need to deal with a female corpse and a man in a coma who turn up on a grounded yacht along with a fortune in raw heroin. Meanwhile, plucky, conscientious Dionis Mather runs into a mysterious stranger with a gun while she is battering down Tuckernuck, a private island. The novel lives and breathes New England island life, with a plot brimming with the best kinds of rude surprises.

McFate, Sean. [High Treason](#) (Harper \$27.99). This book starts with a kick-ass action scene, a really gripping depiction straight out of *The Blacklist* of how an ordinary event can be turned into an explosive situation. Military contractor Tom Locke, introduced in *Shadow War* and *Deep Black*, half a world away, doubts accounts of what really went down. Instead he suspects his former employer Apollo Outcomes, engineered the assassination, with the President as the target. The question is, why? Apollo is a global security firm. Young FBI Agent Jennifer Lin is convinced Russia is behind the strike. Returning to D.C., Locke discovers that a civil war has fractured Apollo. A division has splintered off, a rogue unit led by an ambitious, unprincipled former colleague who may have planned the attack himself. But Apollo couldn't have pulled this off without help from inside the government, which means there must be a traitor high up in either the White House or the NSA who is leaking information to Apollo. The question again is, why? As I discussed with David Baldacci (listen to our podcast or watch the video), since 1996 when he wrote *Absolute Power*, the government and its high officers are increasingly taking the roles of villains in thrillers.... An ominous sign IMHO for our democracy which is based on trust in its institutions.

Miranda, Megan. [The Girl from Widow Hills](#) (SimonSchuster \$26.99). The hospital administrator who now calls herself Olivia Meyer has put as much distance as possible between her and the drama that riveted the country two decades earlier when, as sleepwalking six-year-old Arden Maynor, she was swept away

during a storm into the drain pipes of her hometown of Widow Hills, Kentucky. The only trace of her, a small shoe, until she is miraculously rescued three days later before a storm would surely have killed her. There was a charitable outpouring of funds as well as fame for her and her single mother. Olivia has never been able to remember much of her ordeal, but she hates the notoriety and grows distant from her mother. As an adult, Liv restarts her life in Central Valley, NC, with a job she loves. But she's traumatized still and one night out sleepwalking, she stumbles over a dead body. As Liv tries to keep Detective Nina Rigby at bay while she investigates further herself, a succession of suspects emerges....

Orr, Jill. [The Full Scoop](#) (Prospect Park Books \$25.95). Reporter Riley Ellison of Tuttle Corner, Virginia, has always grieved for the untimely death of her grandfather—and tried to chase down his killer. No luck. But now a new tragedy strikes: the death of her friend and mentor at the paper, Flick. In a car “accident.” So it's officially ruled, but Riley knows that Flick's death was murder and that it is linked to what happened to her grandfather. And once she sinks her teeth into a story, she won't let go despite the continuing upheaval in her love life, her attempts at matchmaking despite her own situation, and her mother who has signed her up for an on-line astrology service (which provides the running gag in the story). Riley is a Scorpio so astrology fits! In this entertaining series, Tuttle Creek reminds me of Cabot Cove.

Pepper, David. [The Voter File](#) (Putnam \$27). I, and perhaps you, was somewhat put off by the title. But make no mistake, this is a genuine thriller with a truly scary scenario, not a political agenda. Yes, it drills into election chaos, and yes, into outside interference in elections, starting in Appleton, Wisconsin (birthplace of Harry Houdini and Edna Ferber, FYI). A young woman temping in a campaign whose job it is to manage the voter file (new to me, and something truly scary in a digital age—Pepper explains it well), has lured a recently fired investigative reporter (from a cable TV gig) to town. Tori Justice (great name, no?) tells Jack Sharpe that there is no way a local judge could have beaten his opponent in the recent election. And explains (to you, too) why. But the bad actors (Russian, naturally, but not all) get wind of the leak and the whole plot rolls into motion on a global scale. It's really clever. And fast paced. And against corporate power, not a particular party. I think it's a book all of us should be reading. Those in our **Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month Club**, but anyone who loves thrillers and first rate fiction. And anyone concerned about our electoral process.

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. [Dance Away With Me](#) (Harper \$28.99). John reviews: Nurse midwife Tess Hartsong runs away from the world to Runaway Mountain, where Tess hopes to come to terms with her grief over the death of her beloved husband Travis. However, instead of the solitude and peace she desperately seeks, Tess is almost immediately descended upon by the quirky residents of the small Tennessee town of Tempest, including Tess's cranky neighbor Ian North, a famous street artist not-so-silently suffering from creative block. No one has quite the same graceful flair for blending moments of heartbreak, hope, and humor as *New York Times* best-selling and RWA Hall of Fame award winning Susan Elizabeth Phillips, and her latest long-awaited, brilliantly constructed and flawlessly written novel is exactly the kind of thoughtful, tender, and life-affirming book readers so desperately need in times like this.

Pochoda, Ivy. [These Women](#) (Ecco \$27.99). Michael Connelly recommend this highly during his Virtual Event on May 26, pointing out Pochoda writes about a part of LA unfamiliar to him. Patrick also raves. Here is a Starred Review: “Fish shack owner Dorian Williams, one of several working-class women at the center of this heartbreaking novel, has done little to fill the void in her life in the 15 years since her teenage daughter, Lecia, was murdered in 1999—the 13th and presumed final victim of a serial killer who was never caught. Then one evening, near her fish shack in South Central L.A., a woman's body is dumped exactly as Lecia was, throat slit and a plastic bag over her face. Without sacrificing narrative drive, Pochoda lets her story unfold organically and impressionistically, through the eyes of her distinctive female characters, who include Julianna, now a hard-partying cocktail waitress but once the child Lecia babysat the night she died; undersized Hispanic LAPD detective Essie, who knows all too well what it's like not to be taken seriously; and former hooker Feelia, left for dead back in 1999 after Lecia's murder, whose potentially critical information the police repeatedly ignore. This deep dive into the lives of women too often unseen in the shadows makes them vividly unforgettable.”

Sager, Riley. [Home Before Dark](#) (Dutton \$27). Interior designer Maggie Holt is shocked to learn after the death of her father, Ewan, that he has left Baneberry Hall, near Bartleby, Vermont, to her. She hadn't realized that Ewan still owned the spooky mansion that Maggie, Ewan, and her mother moved into 25 years earlier. Maggie's parents were able to buy the house cheaply, because of a recent tragedy there—the prior owner smothered his six-year-old daughter with a pillow before killing himself. The Holt family had their own traumatic episodes in Baneberry Hall, including Maggie's visions of a ghostly figure, which led to their fleeing into the night just 20 days after they moved in. Ewan, financially struggling, wrote a bestseller about the experience which made pots of money. And then he and Maggie's mother split. Maggie, who still suffers from night terrors, decides to move into Baneberry Hall to get a better understanding of what happened to her. The big question: how much of Ewan's book was true? In this modern Gothic, “Sager, who makes the house a palpable, threatening presence, does a superb job of anticipating and undermining readers' expectations. Haunted house fans will be in heaven.”

Scott, J. Todd. [Lost River](#) (Putnam \$27). In this powerful standalone from Scott the arrival of new, fentanyl-laced heroin from Mexico has led to an unprecedented number of overdoses in the small town of Angel, Ky. EMT-in-training Trey Dorado, the son of a cop, sees the devastating impact first-hand every day, including the death of the former police chief's wife. Dorado, who consoles himself with the knowledge he's saved a few lives and is haunted by the rest, is called to a bloody scene at the Glasser family compound in a nearby town. Most of the bullet-riddled bodies are members of the notorious Glasser clan, which has held sway in the region for generations, making the natural transition from moonshine to marijuana, methamphetamines, and now heroin. DEA special agent Casey Alexander, who has ghosts of her own following a traumatic assignment in the Southwest, enlists Dorado to help navigate the complex case, which has deep ties to the local community. Scott, a 25-year veteran of the DEA, writes with authority about the drug crisis. Don Winslow fans won't want to miss this wrenching thriller. Nor will you! Scott joins us July 14 in a Virtual Event with Ace Atkins and Patrick.

Serritella, Francesca. [Ghosts of Harvard](#) (Random \$27). I gave you my Indie Next nomination in the May Booknews Part 2. Here's another review for our **June First Mystery Book of the Month**: Cady Archer begins her studies at Harvard University less than a year after the death of her older brother, Eric, a Harvard student and the golden child of the family whose schizophrenia has long been a source of trouble in Cady's life. She and her parents have been devastated by his suicide, and now Cady wants to know what happened and what her brother's life was like at Harvard. Using one of Eric's cryptic notebooks like a treasure map, Cady wanders the campus and talks with Nikos, her brother's friend, and Mikaela Prokop, his faculty advisor, who explain how he stopped taking medication as he became increasingly dedicated to his physics research on entanglement theory. Her desire for resolution also sparks an interest in geocaching (scavenger hunts based on GPS locating) and she begins to hear voices: first, one that helps her out in a history class; and then one that helps her escape a rapist. Serritella has a wonderful touch for her secondary characters—there's a Professor Hines who is a note-perfect caricature of a tenured Harvard professor—and Cady herself has a great voice. Readers of campus mysteries will love this surprising and intricate bildungsroman."

And one more: *Ghosts of Harvard* is written with a masterly, focused hand, belying the fact that this is Serritella's debut novel. The pages burn with frenetic energy and are peopled by memorable, compelling characters. The tension is palpable, the twists and surprises perfectly timed and the stakes as high as humans should be asked to endure. The end result, a novel you will long remember and characters you will want to see again. A triumph in every respect."—David Baldacci. I add that Francesca has written several humorous nonfiction books with her mother Lisa Scottoline.

Sligar, Sara. [Take Me Apart](#) (MCD \$27). I'm giving one more push to a First Mystery Book of the Month with this from Indie Next: "In this delicious psychological thriller, we learn what it means to take on the job of archiving a famous person's memories as found in papers, photos, and diaries. As Kate begins the daunting task, it does not take her long to find an uneasiness creeping into her heart and mind concerning how Miranda Brand died years before. And when she begins to wonder about Miranda's son, Theo, and his potential involvement in the death, things get very scary, indeed. This is a grand debut that will give you chills and thrills, and a chance to hone your investigative skills.

Taylor, Sarah Stewart. [The Mountains Wild](#) (St Martins \$27.99). In a series debut for fans of Tana French and Kate Atkinson, set in Dublin and New York, homicide detective Maggie D'arcy finally tackles the case that changed the course of her life. Our blogger Lesa reviews: In 1993, Maggie D'Arcy's cousin Erin went missing in Ireland, and Maggie flew over to help in the search. Although she found Erin's broken necklace in the forest, there was no other trace. Now, twenty-three years later, the police in Ireland have more evidence and another missing woman, so Maggie returns. As a homicide detective on Long Island, she brings experience to the investigation, working with some of the same police officers from the original case. By now, there's a name for the predator, the "Southeast Killer", and the latest victim could bring the total to four, including Erin. Maggie and a local detective retrace their steps, and re-interview witnesses in a desperate attempt to find the newest victim before she's

murdered. The atmospheric, intricately plotted story introduces an intelligent, mature detective caught up in a personal cold case. The first in a new series blends the history and romance of Ireland with a contemporary police investigation of missing women and murder victims.

Karen adds: "Descriptions of Ireland are vivid, the clues inviting and the answer closer to home than expected. Taylor wins high praise from fellow author, Deborah Crombie." We will do a virtual event with Taylor on July 24. Signed copies available end of June.

Williams, Beatriz. [Her Last Flight](#) (Harper \$27.99). Out end of June, due in July along with Beatriz's virtual event in July. Basically this is Williams turning her imagination loose on Amelia Earhart with some additions. In 1947, photographer and war correspondent Janey Everett arrives at a remote surfing village on the Hawaiian island of Kauai to research a planned biography of forgotten aviation pioneer Sam Mallory, who joined the loyalist forces in the Spanish Civil War and never returned. Obsessed with Sam's fate, Janey has tracked down Irene Lindquist, the owner of a local island-hopping airline, whom she believes might actually be the legendary Irene Foster, Mallory's onetime student and flying partner. Foster's disappearance during a round-the-world flight in 1937 remains one of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries. At first, the flinty Mrs. Lindquist denies any connection to Foster. But Janey informs her that the wreck of Sam Mallory's airplane has recently been discovered in a Spanish desert, and piece by piece, the details of Foster's extraordinary life emerge: from the beginnings of her flying career in Southern California, to her complicated, passionate relationship with Mallory, to the collapse of her marriage to her aggressive career manager, the publishing scion George Morrow [a thinly disguised George Putnam]. As Irene spins her tale to its searing conclusion, Janey's past gathers its own power....

Young, Heather. [The Distant Dead](#) (Morrow \$27.99). This is an amazing and original work and thus our **June Crime Collectors Book of the Month**. To tell the truth I considered it for Fantastic New Fiction but it touches on the May FNF Book Jordan Farmer's *The Poison Flood* (\$) so I shifted it. There are many things to dig into including the beauty of mathematics and the ravages of grief. A body burns in the high desert hills. A young boy, Sal Prentiss, walks into a fire station in Lovelock, Nevada, a remote community ravaged by poverty and the opioid epidemic, pale with the shock of a grisly discovery. Nora Wheaton, a local social studies teacher, worries when her colleague is late for work. By day's end, when the body is identified as the middle school's new math teacher Adam Merkel, a small town will begin its reckoning with a brutal and calculated murder. Adam had moved there seeking sanctuary only to die a terrible death seven months later. Nora is trapped there, a caregiver for the father she loves but can't forgive. And so, with her ex a cop and Jake, the fire department crew in nearby and tinier Marzen, Nora keeps digging. As part of it, she tries to gain the wary boy's trust, she finds he holds not only the key to Adam's murder, but an unexpected chance at the life she thought she'd lost. "[A] second stunning piece of redemptive fiction...[Nora Wheaton's] search for the truth amid passages of almost unbearable poignancy make this an ideal recommendation for fans of Kate Atkinson and Jodi Picoult." — *Booklist* Starred Review

OUR JUNE BOOKS OF THE MONTH

[British Crime Club](#) One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

North, Alex. [The Shadows](#)

[Cozy Crimes Club](#) One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Berenson, Laurien. [Game of Dog Bones](#)

[First Mystery Book of the Month Club](#) One Signed First per month

Serritella, Francesca. [Ghosts of Harvard](#)

[The Crime Collectors Book of the Month Club](#) One Signed First per month

Young, Heather. [The Distant Dead](#)

[Historical Fiction Club](#) One Signed First per month

Edwards, Martin. [Mortmain Hall](#)

[Fantastic New Fiction](#) One Signed First per month

Pepper, David. [The Voter File](#)

CLASSIC CRIME

✎Bude, John. [Death in White Pyjamas / Death Knows No Calendar](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). You Agatha Christie fans, maybe John Dickson Carr too, should grab this double volume. The two novels are a kind of cross between a country house and a locked room murder. The style is a bit ornate for modern taste but wow, you have to appreciate both Bude's fabulous vocabulary and the way he names things so specifically. In today's vocabulary I'd say he's using "granular details" or he's "drilling down." He wrote these during WWII in a lighthearted manner to entertain people under stress so what could be better reading at the moment? In the first we have a group of theater people gathered at the owner/financier's estate and the unusual murder of a stage designer. In the second, a rich painter who is the village vamp is found in her studio, an apparent suicide. The Introduction by the British Library Crime Classics editor Martin Edwards is well worth reading and illuminates his choice of these two works by Bude. Yay.

Here's a reminder of John Dickson Carr's outstanding [Castle Skull](#) (\$14.95) with this Starred Review: First published in 1931, this excellent whodunit from Carr (1906–1977) makes the most of its creepy setting. French investigating magistrate Henri Bencolin and his Watson, Jeff Marle, travel to the Rhine at the request of Jérôme D'Aunay, a Belgian financier, following the murder of English actor Myron Alison, who was shot and set on fire at Castle Skull, D'Aunay's home on the Rhine. Witnesses saw Alison running around the battlements before he collapsed. Alison's own home was across the river from the castle, which once belonged to a legendary magician, Maleger, who was in business with Alison and D'Aunay. Seventeen years earlier, Maleger's body was recovered from the Rhine shortly after he disappeared from a train car that was under constant observation. Carr's gift for evoking atmosphere is very much in evidence... Golden age fans will hope that the British Library Crime Classics series continues to make more from Carr." This volume too has an informative introduction by Martin Edwards.

Gardner, Erle Stanley. [The Case of the Baited Hook](#) (\$15.95). The bait is half of a \$10,000 bill, delivered to Perry Mason by a man who promises the second half of the note should his companion, a silent masked woman, ever require the lawyer's services. When a dead body is discovered soon after, Mason

feels the hook—but how can one prove the innocence of a person whose identity is unknown? Suspecting that he's been set-up, but curious nonetheless, Perry sets out to solve the mystery from the ground up, beginning with the face behind the veil. The more he learns, the more complex his investigation becomes. Uncovering a convoluted case of stock fraud, divorce, and inheritance, Mason's nearly left reeling—that is until, with the help of Della Street and Paul Drake, he pulls off one of his most daring gambits ever to finally cast light on the killer.

Also by Gardner who is having a new "moment" thanks in part to the new TV series: [Turn on the Heat](#) (Hard Case Crime \$9.95). This is not Perry Mason but Cool and Lam. Hired by a mysterious "Mr. Smith" to find a woman who vanished 21 years earlier, Donald Lam finds himself facing a sadistic cop, a desperate showgirl, a duplicitous client, and one very dogged (and beautiful) newspaper reporter – while Bertha Cool's attempts to cut herself in on this lucrative opportunity land them both hip-deep in murder.... Packaged as ever with Hard Case Crime books as pulp fiction.

Grafton, C.W. [The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). From 1943, the first mystery by Sue Grafton's father, a lawyer, is the second Library of Congress Crime Classic, a series that pairs with the British Library Crime Classics. See Our June Large Paperbacks below for a review.

✎Setterfield, Diane. [The Thirteenth Tale](#) (\$17). This isn't a classic in terms of years gone by, but it remains one of our most successful First Mystery Books of the Month and is IMHO a modern classic—especially good for book lovers and English Gothics. Reclusive author Vida Winter, famous for her collection of twelve enchanting stories, has spent the past six decades penning a series of alternate lives for herself. Now old and ailing, she is ready to reveal the truth about her extraordinary existence and the violent and tragic past she has kept secret for so long. Calling on Margaret Lea, a young biographer who works in an antiquarian bookshop and is troubled by her own painful history, Vida reveals the life she meant to bury for good. Margaret is mesmerized by the author's tale of gothic strangeness—featuring the beautiful and willful Isabelle, the feral twins Adeline and Emmeline, a ghost, a governess, a topiary garden and a devastating fire. Together, Margaret and Vida confront the ghosts that have haunted them.

Stark, Richard. [Lemons Never Lie](#) (Hard Case Crime \$6.99). When he's not carrying out heists with his friend Parker, Alan Grofield runs a small theater in Indiana. But putting on shows costs money and jobs have been thin lately—which is why Grofield agreed to fly to Las Vegas to hear Andrew Myers' plan to knock over a brewery in upstate New York. Unfortunately, Myers' plan is insane—so Grofield walks out on him. But Myers isn't a man you walk out on.... The great Donald E. Westlake, working under his dark pseudonym "Richard Stark" (whose first name inspired "Richard Aleas" and whose last name inspired Stephen King's "George Stark" in *The Dark Half*), tells the story of a heist plan gone wrong and the price paid by one of Parker's trusted associates.

While many [Hard Case Crime Series](#) books are out of stock for now, you can search for more and order those we have. The pulp covers are terrific and some of the works by writers like Block and Westlake will surprise you.

OUR JUNE LARGE PAPERBACKS

A large number of books slated for June release have shifted to July and later because of publisher warehouse closures. The below are still out in June

Bell, David. [The Request](#) (Berkley \$16). David. Ryan Francis has it all—great job, wonderful wife, beautiful child—and he loves posting photos of his perfect life on social media. Until the night his friend Blake asks him to break into a woman’s home to retrieve incriminating items that implicate Blake in an affair. Ryan refuses to help, but when Blake threatens to reveal Ryan’s darkest secret—which could jeopardize everything in Ryan’s life—Ryan has no choice but to honor Blake’s request. When he arrives at the woman’s home, Ryan is shocked to find her dead—and just as shocked to realize he knows her. Then his phone chimes, revealing a Facebook friend request from the woman. With police sirens rapidly approaching, Ryan flees, wondering why his friend was setting him up for murder.

✦Casey, Eliza. [Lady Rights a Wrong](#) (Berkley \$16). As the suffragette movement sweeps England in 1912, Lady Cecilia Bates wants to march but ends up trailing a killer instead. Lady Cecilia of Danby Hall feels adrift. She couldn’t be less interested in helping to plan the church’s upcoming bazaar. Instead, what excites her most is the Woman’s Suffrage Union meeting she has just attended. Inspired by the famous and charismatic leader of the group, Mrs. Amelia Price, Cecilia is eager to join the Union—if she can hide it from her parents, that is. But when Mrs. Price is found dead at the foot of the stairs of her home, her Votes for Women sash torn away, Cecilia knows she must attend to a more urgent matter: finding the killer with the help of her lady’s maid Jane and intelligent cat Jack.

Clark, Martin. [The Substitution Order](#) (\$16.95). Virginia Judge Clark is one of my favorite authors, crafting legal thrillers that amaze. Here’s a Starred Review for this one: “Prominent Virginia attorney Kevin Moore, the narrator of this exceptional legal thriller, is reduced to working in a fast-food sandwich shop after a drug and alcohol binge led to the suspension of his law license and the end of his marriage. He’s hoping to keep his head down and wait for reinstatement, but his life is upended when he’s approached at the sandwich shop by a stranger who calls himself Caleb. Caleb represents an organization that monitors the information received by “virtually every group with a disciplinary board” to identify people vulnerable to being coerced into participating in a fraud scheme. In Kevin’s case, Caleb asks him to agree to a lie—that he committed malpractice a few years earlier by failing to execute a purchase order for land that cost a client millions. When Kevin refuses, he’s set up for a probation violation and framed for even more serious charges. Clark does a masterly job combining Kevin’s plans to get himself out from under with a powerful portrayal of human frailty. John Grisham fans won’t want to miss this one.”

✦Collins, Sara. [The Confessions of Frannie Langton](#) (\$16.99). In an era of #MeToo and emphasis on diversity, this remarkable work of historical fiction illuminates the life, trial, and hanging of Frances Langton, known as Ebony Fran, a slave in the household of George and Marguerite Benham of Bedford Square London, 1826. Her crime: the murder of George and Marguerite on 27th January with “malice aforethought” and hence punished on the gallows. But the real story is both twisted, multi-layered, and

shocking, framed as a confession by Frances written in the last hour of her life. It is bitterly ironic, too.

Cotterill, Colin. [The Second Biggest Nothing](#) (\$16.95). Dr. Siri Paiboun, having received a scary threat in 1980 Vientiane which is preparing a celebration of five years under Communist rule, takes us back to his youth and into 1932 Paris where colonialists who exploited Southeast Asia are pretty smug and one, now the President, is assassinated. Siri witnessed the backup hit man who may now be a possible author of the vow of vengeance, delivered by tying a note to the tail of his dog. With much current talk about “structured racism” today both these books are timely. The bonus here as one Starred Reviews put it is, “The eccentric Siri, who some believe to be possessed by a thousand-year-old shaman, has rarely been funnier or more astute. Cotterill is writing at the top of his game.” This is a marvelous series: unusual, clever, humorous, and imaginative with characters who are, despite the eccentricities and almost supernatural elements, fully human. [Order it and binge read.](#)

Doiron, Paul. [Almost Midnight](#) (\$17.99). 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](#). For Book #11, see Signed Books.

✦Freeman, Dianne. [A Lady’s Guide to Gossip and Murder](#) (\$15.95). 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. When Frances teams with George and Charles to find the real culprit, they discover that Mary may not have been a blackmailer who threatened to expose shameful secrets. Meet the Countess in [A Lady’s Guide to Etiquette and Murder](#) (\$15.95), a delightful British cozy wherein Freeman takes a witty look at Victorian polite society, and the best place to start. Both are highly recommended. We have two Signed [A Lady’s Guide to Gossip and Murder](#) (\$26) in stock.

Gentill, Sulari. [A Dangerous Language](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99). Australia is not famed for its immigration policies and in *A Dangerous Language* the roiling politics of the 1930s Down Under, so reflective of today with the right bashing the left, mirror the turmoil of Europe and America. The story begins when Rowland Sinclair, Australia's "answer to Lord Peter Wimsey," volunteers his services as a pilot (he loves all new things mechanical and can afford to buy them) to fly renowned international peace advocate Egon Kisch between Fremantle and Melbourne. Rowland is unaware that Australia's new attorney-general will fight hard to keep "raging reporter" Kisch off Australian soil. In this, it seems, the government is not alone, as clandestine right-wing militias reconstitute into deadly strike forces. A Communist agent is murdered on the steps of Parliament House and Rowland finds himself drawn into a dangerous world of politics and assassination. But it's not all political action a disgraced minister, an unidentified corpse and an old flame all bring their own special bedlam to the story. In fact, the old flame may pressure Rowland into marriage despite his hopeless *amour* for the sculptress, Edna, who forms part of his unconventional household. Gentill does an ace job in the series of mixing up mystery genres in this series so perfect for fans of Dorothy L. Sayers, Jacqueline Winspear, Rhys Bowen, and Anne Perry.

✠Goldberg, Leonard. [The Disappearance of Alistair Ainsworth](#) (\$17.99). 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."

Grafton, C.W. [The Rat Began to Gnaw the Rope](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). First published in 1943, this outstanding hard-boiled whodunit from Grafton (1909–1982), the father of MWA Grand Master Sue Grafton, that sends a very junior lawyer nosing around among the dirty secrets of the well-heeled family that dominates Harpersville, Kentucky, in both good ways and bad, introduces Kentucky attorney Gil Henry. Ruth McClure would like Henry to ascertain the value of some stock her father, John McClure, who died 10 days earlier in a car accident, owned in Harper Products. Shortly before his death, John had cautioned Ruth that should anything happen to him, she was "to hold tight" to the stock. William Jasper Harper, the company's owner, is offering to buy back the shares from Ruth for almost five times the amount they're selling for. The ante's upped after Ruth's home is broken into and searched—and someone shoots out Henry's tire as he's driving to Harpersville to look into the situation. The lawyer is soon investigating multiple murders, as well as possible financial chicanery. Series editor Les Klinger's annotations enhance the text. The superior prose and logical but surprising plot twists amply justify this volume's reissue as a Library of Congress Crime Classic, 2nd in the series after Anna Katherine

Green's [That Affair Next Door](#) (\$14.99). "Series Editor Leslie S. Klinger's conscientious period footnotes contrast amusingly with Grafton's headlong pace."

Lippman, Laura. [Lady in the Lake](#) (\$16.99). Inspired by the unsolved death of Shirley Parker in mid-1960s Baltimore, a cavalcade of narrators tells the story as Maddie investigates. Former reporter Lippman "tells a classic mystery through the prism of many characters, all feeling the reverberations of dawning feminism and racial tension in civil-rights-era Baltimore...*Lady in the Lake* is aching, thoughtful, and compulsively readable."—*Vanity Fair*

Nesbø, Jo. [Knife: A New Harry Hole Novel](#) (\$16.95). "Jo Nesbø has ripped the throat out of the serial-killer genre. He's exsanguinated it, soaking up every dark pleasure and wringing them out onto the page. There's no need to ever read another one, Nesbø has so completely deconstructed the trope with a multi-dimensional novel that blurs lines among crime, psychological procedural and, yes, horror thrillers... [Hole] survives in a literary landscape dreamt up by Stephen King or Edgar Allen Poe... Nesbø shows his true mastery with plots evocative of James Ellroy and Lee Child with crime layered upon crime."—Robert Anglen, *Arizona Republic*

Nesser, Hakan. [The Summer of Kim Novak](#) (World Editions \$16.99). Sweden in the '60s. Erik and his friend Edmund spend their vacation by a forest lake daydreaming about Ewa, a young substitute teacher with an uncanny resemblance to the actress Kim Novak. The boys are having the time of their lives until a shocking discovery disrupts their world. Twenty-five years later, Erik comes across a newspaper article about unsolved crimes and is overwhelmed by memories and questions from that summer of his youth. What actually happened back then? "Hakan Nesser is an expert at the slow-burner murder mystery. His dialogue is snappy and quick, and the plot is intricate. This is a coming of age story that turns into a classic whodunit. If you've read his Inspector Van Veeteren novels, you will find this unputdownable."

✠North, Alex. [The Whisper Man](#) (\$16.99). In the pseudonymous North's superb thriller, a police procedural with supernatural overtones, DI Amanda Beck heads the search for six-year-old Neil Spencer, who has gone missing from the English village of Featherbank. Neil may have been lured from his home by someone who whispered at his window at night, the same m.o. as incarcerated serial child killer Frank Carter (aka the Whisper Man), who was apprehended 20 years earlier by DI Pete Willis. Beck brings in Willis to assist, specifically because he's the only person Carter will talk to. Meanwhile, author Tom Kennedy, still reeling from his wife's death, seeks a fresh start in Featherbank with his seven-year-old son, Jake—a kid who doesn't just see dead people, he hears voices too. Jake talks to a little girl who isn't there and fears "the boy under the floor" in their odd new house. North knits the supernatural and the procedural together while ratcheting up danger. "Readers will have a tough time putting down this truly unnerving tale, with its seemingly unexplainable elements and glimpses of broken and dangerous minds." See Some New Books for North's next, our June British Crime Club Book of the Month.

Paretsky, Sara. [Love and Other Crimes: Stories](#) (Harper \$16.99). **Our copies come with a bookplate signed by Paretsky.** The 14 stories in this welcome collection from MWA Grand Master

Paretsky are loosely tied together by the theme of people who kill for love in all its permutations: a sister for her brother, a child for her father, a son for the mother he never knew. Classic mystery detectives appear in two delightful homages: “The Curious Affair of the Italian Art Dealer,” which involves Sherlock Holmes, and “Murder at the Century of Progress,” set at the 1933–1934 Chicago World’s Fair, which includes a Miss Marple-like sleuth. Two standout tales set during the Vietnam War era are “Miss Bianca,” a touching story of a little girl’s love for a laboratory mouse, and “Wildcat,” a child’s-eye view of the 1966 Chicago race riots. “Safety First,” a terrifying story set in a dystopian near future in which a female doctor is arrested for treating undocumented immigrants, feels only too possible, while “Trial by Fire,” set on the Kansas plains during Prohibition, starkly portrays a grim reality of America’s past. “The love that really comes through in each story is the love and empathy Paretsky has for her all-too-human characters.”

Penny, Louise. [A Better Man](#) (\$17.99). It’s Gamache’s first day back as head of the homicide department, a job he temporarily shares with his previous second-in-command, Jean-Guy Beauvoir. Flood waters are rising across the province. In the middle of the turmoil a father approaches Gamache, pleading for help in finding his daughter. As crisis piles upon crisis, Gamache tries to hold off the encroaching chaos, and realizes the search for Vivienne Godin should be abandoned. But with a daughter of his own, he finds himself developing a profound, and perhaps unwise, empathy for her distraught father. Increasingly hounded by the question, how would you feel?, he resumes the search. As the rivers rise, and the social media onslaught against Gamache becomes crueler, a body is discovered. And in the tumult, mistakes are made. There will be a new Gamache on September 1, [All the Devils Are Here](#) (St Martins \$28.99), but as Penny lives in Canada there will be no US book tour or Signed copies.

REVISIT JANE AUSTEN’S WORLD WITH THIS TRIO

My eye was caught by the twinned reviews of Hadlow and Hornby in the New York Times Summer Reading issue. These are both books I think are fabulous and recommended before. Jenner is an interesting third

Hadlow, Janet. [The Other Bennet Sister](#) (Holt \$27.99). I’ve mentioned this gem before but I’m hoping this new review will pique more interest: “Her Mary Bennet is indeed the plain and awkward sibling of *Pride and Prejudice*, whose action is reprised in the early chapters of Hadlow’s novel, this time from Mary’s lonely, yearning, deeply insecure point of view. ‘Your sisters get in the way,’ Mrs. Hill, the kindly housekeeper, informs her. ‘A daffodil seems quite ordinary when planted between lilies. But looked at without them, it has its own kind of beauty.’ In the aftermath of her father’s death, Mary’s hesitant efforts to find a place in life are threatened by a familiar enemy, Lady Catherine de Bourgh, and encouraged by a surprisingly benign old one, Mr. Collins, whose wife’s hospitality she accepts at Longbourn and whose marital troubles she finds herself resolving. But it isn’t until Mary takes up residence in London with her warm and welcoming aunt and uncle, the Gardiners, that she’s able to address her own predicament and the daffodil starts to hold her own against the lilies. Another nemesis appears: Miss Bingley is, it seems, still on the hunt for a husband.... Will the endlessly interfering Mrs. Bennet achieve her life’s ambition: seeing all her

daughters married? The answer isn’t really in doubt. And neither is the wisdom of the lesson Mary imparts to Hadlow’s readers: “The best response to glorious, unexpected happiness was not to seek explanation for its appearance but simply to embrace it and be glad.”

✎Hornby, Gill. [Miss Austen](#) (Flatiron \$26.99). “Cassandra Austen oversaw the legacy of another of English literature’s greats, and generations of readers have wondered what was in the letters she destroyed after the death of her sister, Jane. Hornby presents a persuasive portrait of that bane of scholars and biographers, introducing an elderly Cassandra hurriedly inviting herself to the vicarage where an intimate friend of the Austen family once lived. Jane’s confidante, the mother of Cassandra’s onetime fiancé, is long dead and now her husband is also gone; with a new vicar about to arrive, it’s crucial that any remaining trace of Jane’s correspondence be kept from prying eyes. There are others in the village who might also profit from this kind of trove, and as Cassandra acts as a genteel snoop she must also contrive to discourage their efforts. Why such desperate conniving? Every now and then, Hornby sends us back to the past, starting in the 1790s, when the Austen girls had yet to become confirmed spinsters. As time goes on and their situation seems ever more precarious, the reasons for Cassandra’s fierce protectiveness emerge. ‘There was but one fact that was allowed to walk with the novels into posterity: that Jane had lived her short life as a stranger to drama; that few changes, no events, no crises broke the smooth current of its course.’ Cassandra, of course, knows otherwise. In the background of Cassandra’s search, Hornby depicts a romance that could have emerged from an Austen novel and a number of real-life characters whose traits Austen may have borrowed for her fiction.”

✎Jenner, Natalie. [The Jane Austen Society](#) (St Martins \$26.99). I mentioned this is May but here is another comment that should tickle your interest: “Fans of *The Chilbury Ladies’ Choir* and *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* will adore *The Jane Austen Society*... A charming and memorable debut, which reminds us of the universal language of literature and the power of books to unite and heal.” —Pam Jenoff

THE PERFECT BEACH READ (whether you get to a beach or not)

St. John, Katherine. [The Lion’s Den](#) (Grand Central \$27.99). I was going to write this up and then the *NY Times* said it better although it doesn’t underline this is a true thriller! *The Lion’s Den* is classic escapist reading, in every sense of the word. On the one hand, the story whisks pasty, vitamin D-deprived readers onto a luxury yacht cruising the French Riviera. We stow away with Belle, an aspiring actress and gimlet-eyed observer, and a gaggle of pals eager to bask in the wealth of their frenemy’s much older billionaire boyfriend. There is limoncello. There are breathtaking views and onboard pedicures. On the other hand, there are also bodyguards, surveillance cameras and cabin doors that lock from the outside. Turns out, this is not your average pleasure cruise. Something fishy is happening — and it’s not just the toxic dynamic of the women along for the ride. Subtlety is not St. John’s strong point. She lays a trail of Wonder Bread-size bread crumbs from Belle’s complicated childhood in Georgia to the marina where she meets her fellow travelers. But the journey is as entertaining as it is obvious. St. John wraps a fun yarn around a sinister mystery complete with confiscated passports, drugs

slipped into drinks and — my personal worst nightmare — tightly controlled meals and sightseeing itineraries. Toss in a dysfunctional family dynamic (the host has her sister and mother in tow) and you're off to the regatta. After all, a vacation gone wrong is great fun, as long as you're not on it. And, I add, it takes you to the Riviera where it's unlikely you will get to go this summer.

SOME NEW BOOKS FOR JUNE

Abbs, Annabel. [The Joyce Girl](#) (Morrow \$16.99). For readers who are drawn to novels like *The Paris Wife*, *Z*, and *Loving Frank*, or *Lady Clementine* comes Abbs' highly praised debut novel, where she spins the story of James Joyce's fascinating, and tragic, daughter, Lucia. This is another example of authors mining the lives of women whose stories grip.

Alfon, Dov. [A Long Night in Paris](#) (Quercus \$25.95). Winner of the CWA International Dagger is not perhaps the vision of Paris we want at this moment. Then again, it's a chance to visit Paris! When an Israeli tech exec disappears from Charles de Gaulle airport with a woman in red, logic dictates youthful indiscretion. But Israel is on a state of high alert nonetheless. Colonel Zeev Abadi, the new head of Unit 8200's Special Section, just happens to have arrived on the same flight. For Commissaire Léger of the Paris Police, all coincidences are suspect. When a second young Israeli from the flight is kidnapped, this time at gunpoint from his hotel room, his suspicions are confirmed—and a diplomatic crisis looms. As the race to identify the victims and the reasons behind their abductions intensifies, a covert Chinese commando team watches from the rooftops, while hour by hour the morgue receives fresh bodies from around Paris.

Barnett, SK. [Safe](#) (Dutton \$26). Jenny Kristal was six years old when she was snatched off the sidewalk from her quiet Long Island suburban neighborhood while walking two houses down to a play date. Her parents are devastated and for awhile the whole town puts up flyers and conducts searches. Zilch. Twelve years late an 18-year-old presents herself to the town police, saying she'd like to go home to her parents, Jake and Laurie, and her older brother, Ben, who was 8 when Jenny went missing. While the FBI isn't quite satisfied with her story of the mysterious "Mother" and "Father" who abducted her, Jake and Laurie are beside themselves and don't hesitate to bring Jenny back into the fold. They're ecstatic that she remembers so much of her childhood with them before her abduction and are eager to get on with their lives. So is Jenny. But Ben is less so. Jenny's disappearance took a heavy toll on him, and his welcome is not quite as warm. In fact, his attitude is downright hostile. After years of enduring one horror after another, Jenny fears that her newfound safety and security with her family may be fleeting, and a highly honed sense of self-preservation tells her that something isn't right in the Kristal house.... That's the set up. If you read this genre a lot as I have to do, you can figure out where this is going but I give the pseudonymous author points for keeping up the tension and delaying the reveal as long as possible.

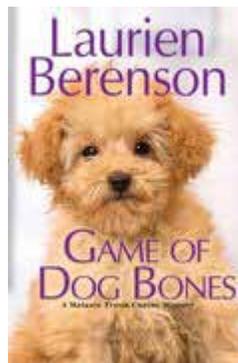
Barry, Jessica. [Don't Turn Around](#) (Harper \$27.99). Two women, seemingly strangers to each other, set out on a mysterious nighttime drive from Lubbock to Albuquerque. At the wheel is Cait Monaghan, a directionless 20-something bartender from Austin. Rebecca McCrae, Cait's prim 30-something passenger, is trying to escape her husband. Their journey quickly turns from an easy 300-mile trip to a fight for survival as an unknown driver tries

to run them off the road on a desolate stretch of highway. As the attacks escalate, Cait and Rebecca must work together to survive their hellish road trip, and "Barry builds a believable bond between the two women, born of both necessity and something deeper. The present-day narrative is cut with tidbits from each woman's life, and Barry gets inside the heads of men both intimately and peripherally connected to them, offering a disturbing glimpse at what drives men to horrible extremes as well as the constant sacrifices, big and small, that women are expected to make for them. Barry's electric, perfectly paced tale reads like the gritty lovechild of *Thelma and Louise* and Spielberg's *Duel*, and readers will cheer for Cait and Rebecca all the way to the end of the road."—*Kirkus Reviews*

Belle, Kimberly. [Stranger in the Lake](#) (Park Row \$16.99). "Charlotte, the narrator of this well-paced novel set in Lake Crosby, N.C., was raised in poverty, but she has achieved her dream of a better life by marrying Paul Keller, the richest man in the Appalachian tourist town of Lake Crosby, N.C., despite the local gossip that Paul drowned his first wife four years earlier. Then one day she's disturbed to spot a nervous-looking Paul talking to a strange woman. The next day, Charlotte finds the woman's body floating under their lakefront dock, just like Paul's first wife. When shown the body, Paul tells the police he's never seen the woman. He later takes off without telling anyone where he's going. Frightened and confused, Charlotte turns to Paul's two best friends for support, one the town crazy, the other the police chief's son, both with dark secrets of their own. Belle weaves an intricate web of connections among the characters as the action moves toward the surprising ending. Those who like a message of hope in their psychological thrillers."—*PW*

Bennett, Brit. [The Vanishing Half](#) (Riverhead \$27) is "a brave foray into a particularly American existential conflict — the tension between personal freedom and responsibility to a community. Bennet grapples with that American racial chimera known as passing for white. Bennett asks: What is the cost, to an individual and to a community, of the passing person's estrangement from family, friends, culture and identity — all sacrificed to maintain an assumed whiteness? What toll might such a decision take on those left behind in blackness? With great ambition, Bennett explores these questions through 20 years in the lives of twin sisters, Desiree and Stella Vignes, one of whom chooses to pass while the other does not."—*NY Times*. After her best-selling debut, *The Mothers*, there's plenty of anticipation for Bennett's tale of black identical twin sisters who grow up to lead very different lives when one abandons her hometown and her culture to pass for whites

Berenson, Laurien. [Game of Dog Bones](#) (Kensington \$26). As



Greenwich, Connecticut, slows down during a bitterly cold February, Melanie and her spunky Aunt Peg head to the city that never sleeps for the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden. Aunt Peg can't wait to demonstrate her judging chops on national TV, even after being hounded by frustrating mishaps—all seemingly orchestrated by Victor Durbin, an ousted Paugussett Poodle Club member with a bone to pick. But the bright lights of the show ring grow

dim when Victor is found murdered, and she's the one topping the suspect list... Driven to solve the crime on her aunt's behalf, Melanie fetches hair-raising clues about the victim. Victor didn't score many friends with his unethical breeding practices, sketchy puppy café, and penchant for mercilessly scamming others to get ahead. He burned so many bridges that his own business partner admits to being delighted by news of his death. It appears Victor finally toyed with the wrong person—but surely not Aunt Peg! Note: I admit that I am strongly influenced in making this the June Cozy Crime Clubs Pick by the book's jacket.

Speaking of canines, don't miss going to our [YouTube](#) and checking out the "spinoff" of Detective Coltrane that was created as an April Fool's video by Michael Connelly and the cast of *Bosch*.

Carr, Matthew. [Black Sun Rising](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). Set in 1909, this superior mystery from Carr opens with a literal bang when a bomb planted in a Barcelona, Spain, café blows up a foreigner. The victim may be Randolph Foulkes, an English explorer, who's been missing since the blast. Mrs. Randolph Foulkes, who suspects that her husband is the dead man, wants to hire a fellow countryman to confirm it—and also to figure out why he left a bequest to an unknown woman. Henry Lawton, an English private investigator, accepts Mrs. Foulkes's lucrative offer to travel to Barcelona to investigate. Once there, he's able to confirm Foulkes's death through a comparison of fingerprints. Identifying the relationship of the beneficiary to the dead man proves trickier. The reported presence in Barcelona of a blood-drinking murderer known as the Raval Monster complicates his search. Carr excels at incorporating early 20th-century Spanish political developments into a suspenseful and clever plot line. Philip Kerr fans will be pleased.

Collette, Abby. [A Deadly Scoop](#) (Berkley \$16). Recent MBA grad Bronwyn Crewse has just taken over her family's ice cream shop in Chagrin Falls, Ohio, and she's going back to basics. Win is renovating Crewse Creamery to restore its former glory, and filling the menu with delicious, homemade ice cream flavors—many from her grandmother's original recipes. But unexpected construction delays mean she misses the summer season, and the shop has a literal cold opening: the day she opens her doors an early first snow descends on the village and keeps the customers away.

Cotterill, Colin. [The Delightful Life of a Suicide Pilot](#) (Soho \$27.95). This delightful series comes to a close with this chapter, a deliciously clever puzzle that illuminates the history of World War II in Southeast Asia. Laos, 1981: When an unofficial mailman drops off a strange bilingual diary, Dr. Siri is intrigued. Half is in Lao, but the other half is in Japanese, which no one Siri knows can read; it appears to have been written during the Second World War. Most mysterious of all, it comes with a note stapled to it: Dr. Siri, we need your help most urgently. But who is "we," and why have they left no return address? To the chagrin of his wife and friends, who have to hear him read the diary out loud, Siri embarks on an investigation by examining the text. Though the journal was apparently written by a kamikaze pilot, it is surprisingly dull. Twenty pages in, no one has died, and the pilot never mentions any combat at all. Despite these shortcomings, Siri begins to obsess over the diary's abrupt ending...and the riddle of why it found its way into his hands. Did the kamikaze pilot ever manage to get off the ground? To find out, he and

Madame Daeng will have to hitch a ride south and uncover some of the darkest secrets of the Second World War. If you missed this series—and ask yourself how much you otherwise know about Laos—then I can't recommend more enthusiastically that you start with our 2004 First Mystery Book of the Month [The Coroner's Lunch](#) (\$9.99) and go from there.

Cumming, Laura. [The Vanishing Velazquez](#) (\$17). Want to read something true? This 2016 nonfiction, a *WSJ* Top of 2016, may do it for you. "When John Snare, a nineteenth century provincial bookseller, traveled to a liquidation auction, he found a vivid portrait of King Charles I that defied any explanation. The Charles of the painting was young—too young to be king—and yet also too young to be painted by the Flemish painter to whom the piece was attributed. Snare had found something incredible—but what? A thrilling investigation into the complex meaning of authenticity and the unshakable determination that drives both artists and collectors of their work, *The Vanishing Velázquez* is a "brilliant" (*The Atlantic*) tale of mystery and detection, of tragic mishaps and mistaken identities, of class, politics, snobbery, crime, and almost farcical accident that reveals how one historic masterpiece was crafted and lost, and how far one man would go to redeem it." In this superb and original book, Cumming interweaves the gripping story of Snare with that of Diego Velázquez himself, painting at the court in Madrid in the 17th century. Sometimes, dual biographies can be a contrivance, but here the two stories enhance each other. Like Donna Tartt's novel *The Goldfinch*, this is about the particular forms of obsession that only art can generate. Cumming uses Snare's story as a way to explore the extraordinary personal connection Velázquez's art creates with its audience... "This enthralling book is about what it means to create art so luminous that others would fight just to get close to it."—*The Sunday Times*

Datlow, Ellen. [Final Cuts: New Tales of Hollywood Horror](#) (Knopf \$16.95). Here are 18 all new stories of weird and dark fiction inspired by cinema and TV as well as new media. It's a good book to dip into when you can't concentrate on a novel or lack the time. Authors include Josh Malerman, Christ Golden, Stephen Graham Jones, Garth Nix, Laird Barron Kelley Armstrong, Richard Kadrey, Lisa Morton, and more.

Dickson, Allison. [Other Mrs. Miller](#) (\$17). "When Phoebe Miller spots a mysterious vehicle parking on her Chicagoland street every day, the silhouette of the driver sitting there for hours at a time, she has no idea the mayhem that's about to be set loose. After all, Phoebe already has enough to worry about. Her late father, the infamous Daniel Noble, may have left her financially set for life, but he also saddled her with his notoriety. Exposed as a womanizer and rapist, he's left her little choice but to hunker down inside her mansion to escape the glare of public shame. Her husband, Wyatt, with his incessant harping on babies—whether gotten by fertility treatments or adoption—isn't helping. Phoebe can barely wait for him to leave for work each day. What's an heiress to do but drink away her days? That is, until the new neighbors arrive, offering distractions. Despite her volatile and alcoholic husband, Vicki Napier may turn out to be Phoebe's new best friend. But Phoebe isn't just an overly privileged woman who likes her cabernet sauvignon a little too much: Like her father, she gets what she wants when she wants it. And Vicki's 18-year-old hunk of a son, Jake, catches Phoebe's sensual attentions immediately. Soon, the little cul-de-sac at the end of a Lake

Forest road is writhing with passion and intrigue—all ominously surveilled by the driver of the mysterious car. Dickson's debut novel swoops and swirls through startling plot twists and multiple perspectives, opening doors into the dark secrets lurking in her characters' pasts. Adept at crafting unlikable characters who make despicable decisions, Dickson also manages to make us care about these potential villains, because they, too, have been wronged. So when someone ends up murdered, fingers point in multiple directions, and every suspect has reason to chill our bones or break our hearts. A Hitchcock-ian thriller from a new voice worth noting."—*Kirkus Reviews*

Doyle, Roddy. [Love](#) (Penguin \$27). A new novel by the Irish author once again taking the form of a conversation between two old friends getting together in a Dublin pub for a revealing evening of drinking and storytelling. Doyle has said that the Irish men of his generation "have great trouble expressing feelings and vulnerability."

Dunnett, Kaitlyn. [A Fatal Fiction](#) (Kensington \$26). Forgotten on the outskirts of quaint Lenape Hollow, Feldman's Catskill Resort Hotel has outlasted its heyday as a popular tourist destination and now awaits demolition. But once Mikki is hired to edit a revealing memoir by Sunny Feldman, the last living relative of its original owners, the doomed resort quickly ends up back in the spotlight. Unfortunately, everyone's attention shifts to Mikki when a body is discovered at the demolition site. Seen arguing with deceptive entrepreneur Greg Onslow right before his shocking death, the editor has no choice but to spell out exactly why she isn't guilty of murdering him.... Mikki's dash for answers brings Greg's shady dealings into focus, along with an unsettling list of potential culprits. As false leads and dead ends force her to revise theories on who really did it, can Mikki judge fact from fiction?

Ekwensi, Cyprian. [People of the City](#) (NY Review of Books \$15.95). The late Nigerian author Ekwensi, in his electric debut novel, originally published in 1963, follows the exploits of Amusa Sango in mid-20th-century Lagos. Sango works as a crime reporter for the West African Sensation, plays in a dance band, rents a room in a fine home where he lives with his houseboy, and enjoys the lush vibrancy of the city. Yet his dreams are thwarted by government corruption, the elitist attitudes of the upper class, and his own selfishness. Sango is a womanizer and has one-night stands with what seems an endless stream of young, beautiful women available to him. But when his relationship with the beguiling thief Aina and the illegal schemes of his friend Bayo lead to his being evicted, Sango becomes increasingly aimless and frustrated. He flits from one girl to another, hides his situation from his ailing mother, and continues to engage in reckless if truthful reporting on the rampant corruption in the city. Ekwensi (1921–2007) paints a vivid picture of cultural cacophony in a modernizing Nigeria filled with colonizers, revolutionaries, dreamers, and schemers. The mesmerizing tale and its feckless, frustrating protagonist provide stark glimpses into the class struggles, misogyny, and violence that often lurk beneath a bustling metropolis.

Flynn, Vince. [Transfer of Power](#) (\$17). This is a reissue of the 3rd Mitch Rapp thriller. I mention it because the series appears to be coming out in this large paperback format. Some in the run up to the new Kyle Mills Mitch Rapp, [Total Power](#) (SimonSchuster \$28.99), in September.

✂Foley, Lucy. [The Guest List](#) (Harper \$27.99). Join the sumptuous wedding of Jules, a highly successful editor of an online magazine and Will, the charismatic handsome star of a survival TV show. The setting is a remote island haunted by ghosts and the characters all have deep secrets that are slowly revealed as the story unfolds. The writing is brilliant and as bits and pieces are revealed about a character you are sure you know who is dead and why until more bits and pieces are revealed about another character. You soon realize that you will not know the truth about anything or anyone until the last page of this eerie and nightmarish gothic mystery. When the murder finally happens — when the identity of the victim is revealed — it makes total sense. The only question is why no one did it sooner. A good choice for fans of Ruth Ware.

Gerber, Daryl Wood. [A Sprinkling of Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Since childhood, Fairy garden store owner Courtney Kelly has loved fairies. After her mother died when Courtney was ten, she lost touch with that feeling of magic. A year ago, at age twenty-nine, she rediscovered it when she left her father's landscaping business to spread her wings and start a fairy garden business and teashop in beautiful Carmel, California. At Open Your Imagination, she teaches garden design and sells everything from fairy figurines to tinkling wind chimes. Now she's starting a book club tea. But the light of the magical world she's created inside her shop is darkened one night when she discovers neighboring dog-grooming business owner Mick Watkins dead beside her patio fountain. To make matters worse, the police suspect Courtney of the crime. To clear her name and find the real killer, Courtney will have to wing it. But she's about to get a little help from an unexpected source....

Haddon, Mark. [The Porpoise](#) (\$16.95). In this "provocative" novel, Haddon revisits the part of Shakespeare's "Pericles" likely not penned by Shakespeare to grant a princess and her abusers "poetic justice." In the words of our reviewer, Sarah Lyall, Haddon's writing is "beautiful, almost hallucinatory at times."—*NY Times*

✂Hall, Araminta. [Imperfect Women](#) (Farrar \$27). Three British women have been best friends since their days at Oxford...and then there were two. Nancy is the beautiful, rich blonde who is cheating on her husband; dumpy Eleanor is married to her career of humanitarian work overseas; Mary is the harried mother of three whose professor husband can barely manage to stop by the house between affairs. As the novel opens, Nancy has turned up dead after a rendezvous with her mystery lover, of whom no one knows a thing. Or just one small, possibly false, thing—she told Eleanor his first name was David. Hall's fifth novel takes a refreshing approach to the multiple-narrator thriller, eschewing at least two tired gambits: back-and-forth chapters between two points of view and tricking the reader by having a narrator withhold information....[The suspense is] a little on the slow side, with much ruminating on the part of each character, and the Betty Friedan-era feminist themes—career vs. family, the awfulness of housework, the constriction of traditional gender roles—feel oddly dated." Actually I thought it was both improbable and creepy in a very British way, and do not recommend this.

Hearne, Kevin/Delilah A. Dawson. [The Princess Beard: The Tales of Pell](#) (\$17). "A rollicking fantasy adventure that upends numerous genre tropes in audacious style . . . a laugh-out-loud-

funny fusion of Monty Python–esque humor and whimsy à la Terry Pratchett’s Discworld.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. “Dawson and Hearne’s reimagining of a traditional fairy tale is reminiscent of William Goldman’s *The Princess Bride* and William Steig’s *Shrek!* Irreverent, funny, and full of entertaining wordplay, this will keep readers guessing until the end.”—*Library Journal*

Hoffman, Patrick. [Clean Hands](#) (Grove \$26). Love this book, love this review from the *NY Times* in its recent Thrillers section: ...”Be glad you are not Chris Cowley, a hapless young associate at a fancy corporate law firm in New York. This kicks off as “Chris gets drunk and then, still apparently hung over, has his cell phone stolen in Grand Central Terminal as he goes to work the next day. No bonus for him! (Especially after an investigator examines a video of the incident and sees what looks like a suspicious split-second interaction between Chris and the pickpocket.) Not only is the cell phone unlocked and not password-protected, if such a thing is even possible, it also contains a trove of highly confidential and compromising documents related to a sensitive case the law firm is working on [sounds like a Joseph Finder thriller here, no?]. Topics covered include a failed merger, a shell corporation in Oman, collusion and bond-price manipulation... [“hot docs]. The stolen phone passes through various layers of New York City criminality until it reaches Avi Lessing, one in a series of middlemen of varying intelligence, who decides to copy the compromising files onto his own hard drive. What a great idea! “He would come to regret that decision more than anything he’d ever done in his life,” Hoffman notes. Valencia Walker, the no-messing-about former C.I.A. operative hired by the firm, brings an elaborate arsenal of threats, promises, violence, subterfuge and charm to bear as she plays the various factions against one another. It becomes increasingly clear that the whole thing is far more complicated, with much higher stakes, than most of the pawns in this grand chess game understand. The fun is in the details. A lot of characters find themselves in places they would rather not be, feeling paranoid, anxious and compromised by things they wish they had not done. Chris, the associate who started the whole thing, has perhaps the hardest time coming to grips with what a sorry turn his life has taken.... Was that life completely over? Apparently so.”

✎Jewell, Lisa. [The Family Upstairs](#) (\$17). Soon after her twenty-fifth birthday, Libby Jones returns home from work to find the letter she’s been waiting for her entire life. She rips it open with one driving thought: I am finally going to know who I am. She soon learns not only the identity of her birth parents, but also that she is the sole inheritor of their abandoned mansion on the banks of the Thames in London’s fashionable Chelsea neighborhood, worth millions. Everything in Libby’s life is about to change. But what she can’t possibly know is that others have been waiting for this day as well—and she is on a collision course to meet them. “Rich, dark, and intricately twisted, this enthralling whodunit mixes family saga with domestic noir to brilliantly chilling effect” (Ruth Ware) as one family’s past returns to haunt them and buried secrets threaten to come to light.”

Jonasson, Ragnar. [The Mist](#) (St Martins \$27.99). This is an interesting reading choice in its highlighting of the pernicious effects of extreme isolation and conditions of fear, perhaps more appealing in June than it would have been in April of this year. In February 1988, Hulda, who has returned to work after time off to deal with an unidentified personal issue, is still struggling

to get through the day and perform any meaningful work. She’s forced into action by her boss when multiple corpses are found on a farm, with indications that the bodies have been there since around Christmas. Flash back to a snowy day in December 1987. Einar and Erla Einarsson, who live on a remote farm, answer a knock on the door to an unexpected visitor, who introduces himself as Leó. The couple offer Leó shelter for the night, but Erla becomes suspicious of their guest’s account of how he arrived at their home. Jónasson ratchets up the nail-biting tension gradually, alternating the developments at the farm in Iceland’s extreme backcountry along with the events in Hulda’s life that led have put her in a stupor. No wonder this is the final volume in the Hulda series as its dark story pulls no punches.

Note: **The Signed UK edition [The Mist](#) has been put back until July, or even later. We have only a couple of unreserved copies on order and will not be able to reorder, so please secure yours now.**

Knecht, Rosalie. [Vera Kelly Is Not a Mystery](#) (Tin House \$15.99). This “excellent sequel to [Who Is Vera Kelley?](#) (\$15.99) picks up with ex-CIA agent Vera in 1967 New York City, as she tries to solve a mystery in an era when only men are expected to do the job. Vera’s poetry professor girlfriend, Jane, announces she’s had enough of not feeling wanted, and leaves. Then Vera loses her editing job at a TV station after her boss finds out she’d been dating a woman. She decides to fall back on her old skills and becomes a private detective. When the Ibarra family asks Vera to find their nephew’s child, Félix, who was sent to New York from the Dominican Republic amid political unrest, Vera takes on the case. Meanwhile, Vera balances the emotional consequences of her breakup with a new love interest: the bartender at her favorite, oft-raided, bar. When Vera realizes the Ibarra aren’t who they say they are, her mission becomes a different one: find Félix and his real parents, reunite them, and throw the fake Ibarra off the scent. This leads her to the Dominican Republic, where the police mistake her for a spy. Knecht brilliantly captures Vera’s emotions, and shines with keen observations of the varied settings. This winning literary page-turner gives a strong sense of a smart, queer, and complex person navigating an unfriendly world.”

✎Marsons, Angela. [Silent Scream](#) (Grand Central \$12.99). Five figures gather round a shallow grave. They had all taken turns to dig. An adult-sized hole would have taken longer. An innocent life had been taken, but the pact had been made. Their secrets would be buried, bound in blood Years later, a headmistress is found brutally strangled, the first in a spate of gruesome murders which shock the Black Country. But when human remains are discovered at a former children’s home, disturbing secrets are also unearthed. D.I. Kim Stone fast realizes she’s on the hunt for a twisted individual whose killing spree spans decades. As the body count is rising.... For fans of Stephen Booth and Val McDermid

✎McAllister, Gillian. [The Choice](#) (Putnam \$16) is an “almost unbearably tense novel, divides its narrative into alternative stories, ‘Sliding Doors’-style, playing out two possible futures in one person’s life. It’s such a fascinating thought, how a moment can change everything. Both scenarios begin when Joanna Oliva, a young woman walking home from a bar at night, pushes a threatening man who seems to be following her down a set of stairs in London. In the first scenario, Joanna resuscitates him and seeks help — concealing vital details about what happened but still

facing the possibility of life in prison. In the other, she leaves the man to die, and is driven to virtual madness by the weight of her conscience and the burden of concealment. *The Choice* is less a conventional thriller than a morality tale, a granular exploration of secrecy and guilt — how they corrode, how they poison a psyche — in the manner of *Crime and Punishment* or *The Tell-Tale Heart*.”—*NY Times Book Review*. What this means is that the author writes two different novels, shuffling the chapters of one with the other, as she imagines two ways life for Joanna will play once the man falls down the stairs into the puddle and drowns. She is so guilt ridden and indecisive I had trouble connecting with either version.

✦McKenna, Clara. [Murder at Blackwater Bend](#) (Kensington \$26). Wild-hearted Kentuckian Stella Kendrick cautiously navigates the strict demands of British high society as the future Lady of Morrington Hall. Following a whirlwind engagement to Viscount Lyndhurst, Stella is finding her footing within an elite social circle in picturesque rural England. Except tea time with refined friends can be more dangerous than etiquette faux pas—especially in the company of Lady Philippa, the woman Lyndy was once set to marry, and her husband, the ostentatious Lord Fairbrother. Outrage erupts and accusations fly after Lord Fairbrother’s pony wins best in breed for the seventh consecutive year. The man has his share of secrets and adversaries, but Stella and Lyndy are in for a brutal shock when they discover his body floating in the river during a quiet morning fishing trip. Suddenly unwelcome around hardly-grieving Lady Philippa and Lyndy’s endlessly critical mother, Stella faces the bitter reality that she may always be an outsider—and one of her trusted new acquaintances may be a calculating killer. Start this series with [Murder at Morrington Hall](#) (\$15.95).

McPhee, Martha. [An Elegant Woman](#) (Scribner \$27) charts the course of a hardscrabble youth in the raw American West that’s deftly camouflaged by a prosperous, sophisticated Eastern adulthood. Isadora, McPhee’s novelist narrator, takes us back to the Montana of more than a century ago, where her grandmother, Tommy, and her little sister, Katherine, are left mostly to fend for themselves while their steely-eyed mother, Glenna, in flight from a bad marriage and in pursuit of independence, bounces from one teaching post to another, campaigning in her off hours for a woman’s right to vote. Glenna is an artful liar and her message to her girls is simple: You can be what you pretend to be, especially if you take care to look the part. So they, like her, are impeccably dressed as they migrate from dirt-poor farms to rough mining towns to desperately poor Indian reservations, even though they can fit everything they own into a single battered trunk. But when the girls are grown and Glenna abandons them for good, tomboy Tommy must stop pretending that she’s pretty Katherine’s foster mother, especially since Katherine’s dreams of Hollywood don’t include her. What’s the harm in risking one more lie, even if it’s a big one?...” And that’s why you want to read this...to find out.

Meyerson, Amy. [The Imperfects](#) (Park Row \$27.99) begins with an unnamed, pregnant young woman receiving a secret gift in 1918 Vienna. “In present-day Philadelphia, a Holocaust survivor named Helen dies, bequeathing her house to her daughter, Deborah, and her remaining estate to her grandchildren, Ashley, Jake and Beck. Beck also inherits a brooch with a large yellow stone, seemingly a piece of costume jewelry Helen favored. When Beck gets it appraised, she’s startled to learn the yellow stone is the

137.27-carat Florentine Diamond, part of the Austrian crown jewels and missing since 1918. And possibly worth \$10 million. The appraisal sets off a chain of events, and Beck promptly receives letters from several parties—including the Italian and Austrian governments—who all claim the diamond belongs to them. The FBI seizes the stone in a civil forfeiture: “If the government knows a property was involved in a crime but doesn’t know who committed the crime, they can... hold on to it until the court determines who it rightly belongs to.” With that, Helen is called a jewel thief by the media. It’s now up to her descendants to prove she didn’t steal the diamond and that it rightfully belongs to them. Meyerson based *The Imperfects* on events surrounding the real Florentine Diamond, weaving an absorbing version of what happened to fill in the holes historical accounts don’t address.”

✦North, Alex. [The Shadows](#) (Celadon \$26.99) . The pseudonymous North follows up his sensational debut, 2019’s [The Whisper Man](#) (\$16.99), with another terrifying spine-tingler set in Featherbank, England. When Paul Adams was 15, his school playground was the scene of the murder of one of his friends. The alleged killer, teenager Charlie Crabtree, was another friend of Paul. Charlie disappeared and was never seen again. After going away to college, Paul doesn’t return to the village of Featherbank until, as a 40-year-old English teacher, he decides he must come home to tend to his dying mother. To his dismay, history appears to be repeating itself with a series of copycat killings of teenage boys. Detective Amanda Beck, from the previous novel, investigates as the bodies pile up and suspects accumulate. Ghosts (real and imagined) continue to haunt Paul, whose senile mother fears something strange is in the house. The complex plot shifts smoothly between past and present with numerous unexpected twists. An overwhelming atmosphere of doom and disaster hovers over the perennial darkness of the nearby woods. This heart-pounding page-turner is impossible to put down. A British Stephen King sort of book.... and our (very late in) **June British Crime Book of the Month**.

The Indie Next Pick adds: “Paul Adams may have left behind his hometown and the tragedy that happened 25 years ago, but as we know, ‘The past is never dead. It’s not even past.’ The murder that has haunted him for so long comes roaring back into his life when there’s a new killing and secrets are uncovered. Dreams really do come true, but this one may just kill Paul. Highly atmospheric and emotionally gripping, *The Shadows* is best read with all the lights on and well before you plan to go to sleep.”

O’Connor, Joseph. [Shadowplay](#) (Europa \$26). “O’Connor’s high-spirited latest puts ample flesh on the bones of the little-known story of the theatrical ménage involving celebrity actors Henry Irving and Ellen Terry, and Irving’s business manager, Bram Stoker. Composed (like *Dracula*) in epistolary style from diary entries, letters, recording transcripts, and the like, the narrative follows Stoker as he moves with his family from Dublin to London in 1879 to help Irving establish his Lyceum Theatre. Over the next quarter century the two indulge in a frequently bitter love/hate relationship—Irving drives Stoker mercilessly and cruelly taunts him for his literary ambitions. Via commentary from Terry on *Dracula*, O’Connor’s narrative suggests that Stoker likely channeled the personality of Irving and the drama of their contretemps into his tale of the imperious vampire scourge. O’Connor’s characters are magnificently realized and colorfully

depicted by the virtues that define them: Irving's egotism, Terry's feminism, Stoker's stoicism, and—for the brief time he appears—Oscar Wilde's witticisms. The repartee O'Connor imagines between them is priceless, in particular when they refer to each other by their nicknames ("Chief" for Irving, "Auntie" for Stoker), and he fills the tale with numerous rib nudges that readers of *Dracula* will recognize. This novel blows the dust off its Victorian trappings and brings them to scintillating life."—*PW Starred Review*

✠Parris, SJ. [Execution: A Giordano Bruno](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). A mad fan of SJ Sansom? If you enjoy a ripping yarn and/or are a history buff who demands accuracy in the details, wait no longer to read Parris. Giordano Bruno, an Italian heretic, philosopher, ex-priest, and spy, is dispatched to England to inform Elizabeth's spymaster Sir Francis Walsingham of a plot, led by Anthony Babington, to kill the queen. Bruno is chagrined to find that Walsingham already knows of the plot and has sent a spy, Clara Poole, into the midst of the conspirators. However, a young woman identified as Clara is soon found murdered, her body dumped in an unconsecrated graveyard. Walsingham asks Bruno to infiltrate Babington's group and discover who killed Clara. The action starts slowly as Parris supplies the background of the bitter conflict between Elizabeth and her cousin Mary, both of whom believe themselves to be the rightful queen of England. From the moment the perceptive and courageous Bruno agrees to go undercover, the story fairly races along, filled with murders, kidnapping, political intrigue, ciphers, romance, and a spot of torture.

Parry, HG. [A Declaration of the Rights of Magicians](#) (Orbit \$28). I am mad for New Zealand author Parry's debut [The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep](#) (\$16.99), a bookish fantasy that leans heavily on Dickens. "If you've ever checked the backs of your wardrobe for snow and lamp-light—if you've ever longed to visit Pemberley House or 221B Baker Street, to battle the Jabberwock or wander through a fictional London fog—this book belongs to you. It's a star-studded literary tour and a tangled mystery and a reflection on reading itself; it's a pure delight."—Alix E. Harrow.

Now here is a new genre-defying new novel by this dazzling new writer. It is the Age of Enlightenment—of new and magical political movements, from the necromancer Robespierre calling for revolution in France, to the weather mage Toussaint L'Ouverture leading the slaves of Haiti in their fight for freedom, to the bold new Prime Minister William Pitt weighing the legalization of magic amongst commoners in Britain and abolition throughout its colonies overseas. But amidst all of the upheaval of the early modern world, there is an unknown force inciting all of human civilization into violent conflict. And it will require the combined efforts of revolutionaries, magicians, and abolitionists to unmask this hidden enemy before the whole world falls to darkness and chaos. You can't say Parry is afraid to be ambitious, no?

Patterson, James. [The Summer House](#) (LittleBrown \$27.99). When seven murder victims are found in a small town, the homicide investigation shakes a small-town sheriff to her core. New in paperback: [Hush](#) (\$17.99).

Pyun, Hye-Young. [The Law of Lines](#) (Arcade \$24.95). Those who didn't know that Korean noir is a thing may have gotten their first taste while watching 2019's Oscar-winning *Parasite*. 27-year-old Se-oh Yun returns home to find that the house she

shares with her elderly father has gone up in flames; he dies at the hospital from his injuries. According to a detective, the explosion occurred after the old man cut the house's gas hose. Se-oh begins spying on her father's debt collector when she learns that the man visited the house just after the fire broke out. Meanwhile, Ki-jeong Shin, a teacher, receives a phone call from the police saying that her sister's body was found in the Namgang River. An autopsy confirms death by drowning, although whether it was suicide or an accident remains unclear. When the police give Ki-jeong the name of the person who made the last call to her sister's phone, Ki-jeong doesn't recognize it, but readers will. "In this riveting literary thriller set in Seoul, each of two intersecting storylines concerns a young woman related to someone undone by debt."

Quinn, Spencer. [Heart of Barkness](#) (\$17.99). Chet, the series' good-natured, loyal, and exuberant canine narrator, and his partner and friend, Bernie Little, the owner and sole employee of the Little Detective Agency (based in an unnamed Western state which we know is Arizona), receive free passes to a performance at a local dive of country singer Lotty Pilgrim, whose megastar status is a thing of the dim and distant past. Bernie, saddened by the singer's reduced circumstances, slips a \$100 bill into her tip jar, though he can ill afford to do so. He subsequently tackles the thief who tries to steal it, only to have it plucked from his hand by Lotty's shady manager. When her manager ends up dead and all clues point to Lotty as the murderer, Bernie offers his help, which she hotly refuses. Bernie and Chet, who won't take no for an answer, stumble on a web of murder, fraud, and blackmail, plus enough sorrow to inspire a sheaf of country tunes. Dog lovers, enjoy the meandering plot echoing Chet's short attention span. 9th in a series much loved by Tracy of our staff, among others. Look for the sequel, [Of Mutts and Men](#) (Forge \$28), Signed, in July.

Reichl, Ruth. [Save Me the Plums](#) (\$18). Juicier than a porterhouse steak" is how our reviewer, Kate Betts, described the former *New York Times* restaurant critic's "poignant and hilarious" look back at the 10 years when she was editor in chief of *Gourmet* magazine. The book says a lot about the culture of *Gourmet*'s hey-day, the extravagant travel and photo shoots, the lifestyles, not to mention the glorious food. I personally have never forgiven SI Newhouse, the now deceased publisher, for his decision to axe *Gourmet* in favor of a far lower caliber magazine, but the question becomes largely moot in today's magazine world. Reichl has gone on to write some excellent books, at least one of them a novel I enjoyed called [Delicious](#) (\$17) involving New York's most iconic food magazine. Away from her family, particularly her older sister, Genie, Billie feels like a fish out of water—until she is welcomed by the magazine's colorful staff. She is also seduced by the vibrant downtown food scene, especially by Fontanari's, the famous Italian food shop where she works on weekends.

Roberts, Nora. [Hideaway](#) (St Martins \$28.99). I don't normally review Roberts in the Booknews, leaving it to her fan John for the BookNotes (I do admire Roberts writing crime as JD Robb). But here we get a mystery along with high stakes romance. Ten-year-old Cate Sullivan is a fourth generation actor whose famous great-grandfather has recently died. At a celebration of his life, Cate is kidnapped and held for ransom, but she soon escapes to a nearby ranch. Once the police begin investigating, it

becomes evident that Cate's mother planned the kidnapping as a way to make some quick money and is arrested. As Cate grows up, the shadow of what her mother did follows her; until, as a grown woman, she returns home and is reunited with Dillon, the boy whose family owns the ranch Cate escaped to after her kidnapping. But as Cate's feelings for Dillon develop, she once again becomes the target of threats—which may be linked to the recent release of her mother from prison.

Simenon, Georges. [Maigret's Madwoman](#) (Penguin \$15). #72. A kind but seemingly paranoid old lady turns to Inspector Maigret for help, believing someone has been in her apartment. Things have been moved around, she says, and she can feel the presence of the unknown intruder. Against the judgment of his subordinates, who insist the woman is imagining things, Maigret decides to pay a visit to her Parisian apartment to investigate—but is he already too late?

Smith, Alexander McCall. [The Second Worst Restaurant in France](#) (\$16). Cookbook author Paul Stuart finds it difficult to get any writing done. His new girlfriend Gloria, who also happens to be his editor, moves in without being invited, bringing with her two Siamese cats, who make it nearly impossible for Paul work. With his love life on the fritz and a new title on the philosophy of food due in only six months, he turns to his older cousin, Chloe. She invites him to travel to France, where she rents a house every year. Paul finally gets some peace and quiet, but soon the two become friendly with the twins who own the house, agreeing to dine in their restaurant, which has a bad reputation. Paul eats mussels and suffers from a bout of food poisoning. Once recovered, he is talked into teaching the chef how to cook, so that the restaurant might flourish. Paul is not winning but cousin Chloe makes up for it.

Whitehead, Colson. [The Nickel Boys](#) (\$15.95). Winner of the 2020 Pulitzer Prize for Fiction and a Best book for a variety of critics, the novel is based on the real story of a Jim Crow-era reform school that operated for 111 years and warped the lives of thousands of children. When Elwood Curtis, a black boy growing up in 1960s Tallahassee, is unfairly sentenced to a juvenile reformatory called the Nickel Academy, he finds himself trapped in a grotesque chamber of horrors. Elwood's only salvation is his friendship with fellow "delinquent" Turner, which deepens despite Turner's conviction that Elwood is hopelessly naive, that the world is crooked, and that the only way to survive is to scheme and avoid trouble. As life at the Academy becomes ever more perilous, the tension between Elwood's ideals and Turner's skepticism leads to a decision whose repercussions will echo down the decades.

OUR JUNE SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

Andrews, Donna. [Terns of Endearment](#) (\$7.99). Meg Langslow #25. When her family's cruise vacation is interrupted by a ship breakdown and reports of a passenger's suspicious leap overboard, blacksmith Meg Langslow races against time to uncover the truth. *PW* loved this saying "Andrews smoothly combines a clever plot with distinctive and endearing characters. Cozy fans will wish this long-running series never ends."

Atkins, Ace. [The Shameless](#) (\$9.99). Quinn Colson #9. Approached by two New York reporters to reopen a 20-year-old suicide case, Sheriff Quinn Colson finds the investigation complicated by a local crime syndicate's involvement in a gubernato-

rial election. *PW* had this to say "Atkins makes the thrilling plot accessible for first-timers, while further deepening both main and secondary characters. Series fans will be eager to see what's next in store for Quinn."

Conte, Cate. [Witch Hunt](#) (Kensington \$7.99). *Witch Hunt* #1. When a murder and the arrival of her estranged mother Fiona and a surprise sister reawaken her long-dormant mysterious power, Violet Mooney, the owner of The Full Moon crystal shop, must use it to clear her name. The usually cranky *Kirkus* fell under the spell of this debut saying "Zippy and fun, with an otherworldly hook that's further enhanced by characters with a little magic of their own."

Dodd, Christina. [Strangers She Knows](#) (\$7.99). Living on an obscure, technology-free island off California means safety from the murderer who hunts Kellen Adams and her new family. ... or does it? *Booklist* gave this a coveted starred review saying "Dodd continues her addictively readable Cape Charade series featuring Kellen Adams with another white-knuckle tale that simply begs to be inhaled in one sitting. With a fascinating island setting that includes a spooky old mansion, a secondary storyline involving World War II, and an antagonist who could give Villanelle from *Killing Eve* a pointer or two, this is Dodd at her brilliant best."

Doyle, Carrie. [Death on Windmill Way](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). *Hampton's Murder* #1. Antonia Bingham, a renowned chef and the new owner of East Hampton's Windmill Inn, escaped to the Hamptons to get away from a harrowing past. Yet she finds herself in more danger than ever when she learns about a curse that haunts the inn—all previous owners have died suspiciously.

Kirkus ended their rave review with "An appealing, three-dimensional heroine and some clever plot twists make this an enjoyable, quick read."

Gerritsen, Tess. [The Shape of Night](#) (\$9.99). Boston-based food writer Ava Colette tries to outrun her past by moving to Tucker Cove, Maine only to be confronted by a string of murders and the ghost of a sea captain who is haunting her isolated home. *PW* ended their rave review with "This supernatural thriller from bestseller Gerritsen (the Rizzoli and Isles series) ranks with the best of her crime fiction. <A> magnetic haunted house story will keep readers riveted from the very first page."

Hunter, Stephen. [Game of Snipers](#) (\$9.99). Bob Lee Swagger #12. Obsessively tracking a sniper with skills that match his own, Bob Lee Swagger teams up with the Mossad, the FBI, and local law enforcement to identify the killer's next target. *PW*'s starred review concluded with "Put this one on the shelf next to *The Day of the Jackal*. It's that good."

McKinlay, Jenn. [A Word to the Wise](#) (\$7.99). Library Lover #10. When gardening enthusiast, town newcomer and Lindsey Norris' unwelcome suitor Aaron Grady winds up dead outside Lindsey's library, Lindsey must work to prove her fiancé Sully's innocence. *PW* gave this a star saying "McKinlay does a good job building the suspense. Rarely does a clean-as-a-whistle cozy qualify as riveting, but this one definitely does"

Parker, T Jefferson. [The Last Good Guy](#) (\$9.99). Roland Ford #3. Reluctantly accepting a case involving a missing teen, private investigator Roland Ford uncovers a dark conspiracy involving an American Nazi compound and a celebrity evangelist. *LJ* said "Three-time Edgar Award winner and New York Times best-

selling Parker delivers another exceptional noir with the third installment of the series (*The Room of White Fire, Swift Vengeance*). Readers of C.J. Box will enjoy the strong character development; fans of James Patterson will delight in the twists and turns, while T.C. Boyle fans will appreciate the atmospheric California setting.”

Penny, Louise. [A Better Man](#) (\$9.99). Armand Gamache #15. Searching for a missing woman amid a catastrophic flood and blistering social media attacks, a demoted Armand Gamache bonds with the victim’s distraught father, who contemplates a murder of his own. *PW* said “With an uncompromising eye, Penny explores the depths of human emotion, both horrifying and sublime. Her love for her characters and for the mystical village of Three Pines is apparent on every page.”

Pobi, Robert. [City of Windows](#) (\$9.99). When his former partner is murdered by an unusually skilled sniper, disabled former FBI agent Lucas Page uses his exceptional ability for reading difficult crime scenes struggles to outmaneuver a killer during a historical blizzard. *BookPage* was just one review source raving about this ending their starred review with “The tension ratchets up for the reader just as it does for Page as he and his loved ones find themselves in the crosshairs. Pobi has written five other books, but this is his first thriller. It would seem he has found his calling.”

Steadman, Catherine. [Something in the Water](#) (\$9.99). Treating a man found on the beach with no memory of his identity, a neuro-psychologist who would hide her own past is confronted by her patient’s mysterious knowledge of her secrets. *Kirkus* concluded with “A spellbinding thriller perfect for those dark and stormy nights.”

JUNE SMALL PAPERBACKS

Alexander, Ellie. [Nothing Bundt Trouble](#) (\$8.99). Bakeshop #9. Spring has sprung in Ashland, Oregon, and everything at Torte seems to be coming up buttercream roses. But just when Juliet Capshaw seems to have found her sweet spot—with her staff set to handle the influx of tourists for this year’s Shakespeare festival while she moves back into her childhood home—things take a dramatic turn. Jules discovers a long-forgotten dossier in her deceased father’s belongings that details one of the most controversial cases in Ashland’s history: a hit-and-run accident from the 1980s. Or was it? Now it’s up to Jules to parse through a whole new world of details from another era, from unraveling cassette tapes to recipes for Bundt cakes, to head off an old enemy.

✦Archer, Jeffrey. [Nothing Ventured](#) (\$9.99). In this series debut, London detective William Warwick investigates the theft of a priceless Rembrandt painting only to come up against a suave art collector and his brilliant lawyer, who are willing to bend the law to the breaking point to stay one step ahead of William.

Barrett, Lorna. [A Killer Edition](#) (\$7.99). Booktown #13. Balancing a baking contest with her rocky volunteer efforts at the local animal shelter, Tricia Miles searches for answers when a woman is found dead in the aftermath of a neighbor dispute.

✦Beaton, M C. [Beating About the Bush](#) (\$7.99). Agatha Raisin #29. Discovering evidence of a gruesome murder in a roadside hedge, private detective Agatha Raisin is embroiled in a case involving industrial espionage, a bad-tempered donkey and her own growing fame.

Black, Lisa. [Let Justice Descend](#) (Kensington \$9.99). Gardiner and Renner #5. Forensics expert Maggie Gardiner and Cleveland detective Jack Renner investigate the bizarre murder of a senator whose demise is linked to dangerous secrets.

Blackwell, Juliet. [The Last Curtain Call](#) (Penguin \$7.99). Haunted Home Renovation #8. When murder delays her plans to bring the Crockett Theatre back to life, Mel Turner makes a discovery that could bring down the curtain for the last time

Blake, Heather. [To Catch a Witch](#) (\$7.99). Wishcraft #10. While organizing the Wicked Mad Dash, a competition that takes place in the Enchanted Village, wishmaster Darcy Merriweather must investigate the murder of her client—and her friend.

Burdette, Lucy. [Death on the Menu](#) (\$7.99). Key West Food Critic #8. Florida Keys food critic Hayley Snow investigates after a local prized possession, Ernest Hemingway’s gold Nobel Prize medal, goes missing followed shortly thereafter by the sole suspect.

Bush, Nancy. [The Babysitter](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Twenty years after a brutal attack on her sister Emma, Jamie, when a new nightmare emerges, realizes that Emma’s fractured memories may contain the answers to the past killings and the current attacks.

Day, Maddie. [Nacho Average Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Country Store #7. While attending a high school reunion back in California, Robbie Jordan catches wind of rumors that her mother may not have died of natural causes all those years ago, and, with the help of friends, must solve this mystery to return home alive.

Gilstrap, John. [Hellfire](#) (Kensington \$9.99). When two boys entrusted in his care go missing, hostage rescue specialist Jonathan Grave must fight fire with fire as he goes up against the brutal Cortex Cartel who will stop at nothing to stop the boys’ mother from testifying at their trial.

Grisham, John. [The Guardians](#) (\$9.99). Cullen Post, an Episcopal minister and lawyer, fights to exonerate Quincy Miller, who has spent over twenty years in prison for killing a lawyer, only to discover that powerful forces want the murder to remain unsolved.

Hollon, Cheryl. [Still Knife Painting](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Paint & Shine #1. When her new business is threatened by murder, Miranda Trent, the owner of Paint & Shine, must prove her innocence in a town where she is considered an outsider.

King, Samantha. [The Sleepover](#) (Kensington \$8.99). Izzy is thrilled when her shy 12-year-old son is invited for his first sleepover, but she is also a bit nervous since it has been just a year since some school bullies put Nick in the hospital. So when Izzy arrives the following morning to collect Nick and he isn’t there, is it any wonder she might be a bit panicked?

Long, Beverly. [No One Saw](#) (Mira \$7.99). A.I. McKittridge and his partner, Rena Morgan, must untangle a growing web of lies to find a five-year-old girl before it’s too late.

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Marble House](#) (\$7.99). Gilded Newport #2. When her 18-year-old cousin—Consuelo Vanderbilt, who is being forced into marriage with the Duke of Marlborough—disappears after the murder of a fortune teller, society-page reporter Emma Cross must employ her sleuthing skills to find the vanishing Vanderbilt and catch a killer.

Parnell, Sean. [All Out War](#) (\$9.99). In this follow-up to *Man of War*, injured special operative Eric Steele is tracking the unknown assailants behind an attack on his parents only to become embroiled in a bombing plot designed to shatter peaceful international alliances.

Regan, Lisa. [Vanishing Girls](#) (\$7.99). When Isabelle Coleman, a blonde, beautiful young girl goes missing, everyone from the small town of Denton joins the search. They can find no trace of the town's darling, but Detective Josie Quinn finds another girl they didn't even know was missing. Someone in this close-knit town is committing unspeakable crimes. Can Josie catch the killer before another victim loses their life?

Ross, Barbara. [Jane Darrowfield, Professional Busybody](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Jane Darrowfield #1. A year into her retirement, Jane Darrowfield is hired by the director of an adult condo community to solve a murder mystery when one of the residents is bludgeoned to death with a golf club.