

# BOOKNEWS from

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## AN AMAZING AUGUST

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 [YouTube](#) and any time thereafter at a time that suits you. You don't have to belong to FB to click in. Listen to them on [Google Music](#) and [iTunes](#) our [Podcasts](#)

### SATURDAY AUGUST 1 1:00 PM

**Catherine Coulter** discusses [Deadlock](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99)  
Signed books available

### SATURDAY AUGUST 1 2:00 PM

**Erica Ruth Neubauer** discusses [Murder at the Mena House](#) (St Martins \$27)  
Our August First Mystery Book of the Month; Signed copies sold out

### MONDAY AUGUST 3 5:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

**Karin Slaughter** discusses [The Silent Wife](#) (Morrow \$28.99)  
Preorder your signed copy to get an exclusive: a cell phone wallet to go with the book. Free Shipping for *The Silent Wife*

### TUESDAY AUGUST 4 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

**Rhys Bowen** discusses [The Last Mrs. Summers](#) (Berkley \$26)  
Her Royal Spyness  
Signed books available

### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 5 6:00 PM

**Christopher Reich** signs [The Palace](#) (LittleBrown \$28)  
Signed books available

### FRIDAY AUGUST 7 6:00 PM

**Mary Kowal** discusses [The Relentless Moon](#) (Tor \$31) with Pat  
Our first 15 orders will get an Artemis Base spaceflight patch and all orders will ship with a special postcard  
Signed books available. Unsigned pbk: [The Relentless Moon](#) (\$17.99)

### SATURDAY AUGUST 8 2:00 PM

**Hank Phillippi Ryan** discusses [The First to Lie](#) (Forge \$27.99)  
Signed books available

### SATURDAY AUGUST 8 3:00 PM

**Fiona Davis in conversation with Kate Quinn**  
Davis discusses [The Lions of Fifth Avenue](#) (Dutton \$27)  
Our August Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month  
Signed books available

### SUNDAY AUGUST 9 12:00 PM

**Canadian author Robert Pobi** discusses [Under Pressure](#) (St Martins \$26.99) with his editor **Keith Kahla**. S  
The sequel to Lucas Page's sensational debut & Staff favorite [City of Windows](#) (\$17.99). Signed bookplates

### SUNDAY AUGUST 9 1:00 PM

**Lee Child in conversation with Mark Billingham**  
Billingham's prequel to the Tom Thorne series is [Cry Baby](#) (Atlantic \$26)

The purchase of a copy of *Cry Baby* is required for your invitation to the Zoom event. Free shipping for *Cry Baby*  
You don't want to miss this; professional comedian Billingham is England's answer to Harlan Coben, a real treat

### MONDAY AUGUST 8 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch

**T Jefferson Parker** discusses [Then She Vanished](#) (Putnam \$27)  
PI Roland Ford  
Signed books available

### TUESDAY AUGUST 11 6:00 PM

**Matt Goldman** discusses [Dead West](#) (Forge \$26.99)  
PI Nils Shapiro does Hollywood  
**David Ricciardi** discusses [Black Flag](#) (Berkley \$28)  
Jake Keller thriller  
Signed books available for both books

### WEDNESDAY AUGUST 12 5:00 PM

**James Lee Burke** discusses [A Private Cathedral](#) (Simon Schuster \$28) with Patrick  
Dave Robicheaux  
Signed books available

### THURSDAY AUGUST 13 3:00 PM

**Karen Rose** discusses [Say No More](#) (Berkley \$26) with John  
Sacramento Series police procedural

### THURSDAY AUGUST 13 TBA

**Ariel Sabar** discusses [Veritas](#) (Knopf \$29.95)  
Journalist Sabar's investigation of a sensational religious forgery  
This is THE book to read after finishing Daniel Silva's [The Order](#)

### CELEBRATING BOOKSTORE ROMANCE DAY

#### SATURDAY AUGUST 15 1:00 PM Victorian Mystery

**Jennifer Ashley** discusses [Murder in the East End](#) (Berkley \$16)  
**Dianne Freeman** discusses [A Lady's Guide to Mischief and Murder](#) (Kensington \$26)  
Signed books available for both books

**SATURDAY AUGUST 15 2:00 PM 18<sup>th</sup> Century Mystery**

**Elsa Hart** discusses [The Cabinets of Barnaby Mayne](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

Our August Historical Fiction Book of the Month

Signed books available

**MONDAY AUGUST 17 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch**

**Kevin Hearne** discusses the spinoff from The Iron Druid Chronicles [Ink & Sigil](#) (Del Rey \$28)

**TUESDAY AUGUST 18 5:00 PM**

**Jonathan Slaght** discusses [Owls of the Eastern Ice](#) (St Martins \$28)

With photos! Fascinating nature writing

**TUESDAY AUGUST 18 7:00 PM Virtual Book Launch**

**Keith McCafferty** discusses [The Bangtail Ghost](#) (Viking \$27)

Montana's Sean Stranahan

Signed books available

**WEDNESDAY AUGUST 19 6:00 PM**

**David Joy** discusses [When These Mountains Burn](#) (Putnam \$27)

with Patrick

Signed books available

**THURSDAY AUGUST 20 12:00 PM**

**UK's Rosie Walsh** hosts **Kate Riordan**

Riordan discusses [The Heatwave](#) (Grand Central \$27)

**THURSDAY AUGUST 20 7:00 PM**

**Owen Laukkanen** discusses [Lone Jack Trail](#) (Mulholland \$28)

Winslow & Burke, Deception Cove #2. Fabulous

**SATURDAY AUGUST 21 1:00 PM**

**Heather Gudenkauf** discusses [This Is How I Lied](#) (Park Row \$17.99)

**Julia Heaberlin** discusses [We Are All the Same in the Dark](#) (Ballantine \$27)

Signed books available for Heaberlin

**SATURDAY AUGUST 22 2:00 PM**

The Jungle Red Bloggers hang out with us

**Rhys Bowen, Lucy Burdette, Deborah Crombie, Hallie Ephron, Jenn McKinlay, Hank Phillippi Ryan, Julia Spencer-Fleming**

Rhys Bowen, [The Last Mrs. Summers](#) (Berkley \$26)

Lucy Burdette, [The Key Lime Crime](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Jenn McKinlay, [Paris Is Always a Good Idea](#) (Berkley \$16)

Hallie Ephron, [Careful What You Wish For](#) (\$16.99)

Hank Phillippi Ryan, [The First to Lie](#) (Forge \$27.99)

Julia Spencer-Fleming, [Hid from Our Eyes](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

Deborah Crombie, [A Bitter Feast](#) (Morrow \$25.99))

**MONDAY AUGUST 24 3:00 PM**

**John Shea in conversation with Larry**

Shea discusses Willie Mays [24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid](#) (St Martins \$28.99) Foreword by Bob Costas

**MONDAY AUGUST 24 6:00 PM Virtual Book Launch**

**William Kent Krueger in conversation with David Heska Wanbli Weiden**

Weiden discusses his debut [Winter Counts](#) (Ecco \$34.99)

A groundbreaking thriller, our August Crime Book of the Month

Signed books available

**TUESDAY AUGUST 25 3:00 PM**

**Wendy Corsi Staub** discusses [The Butcher's Daughter](#) (Morrow \$8.99) with John

**TUESDAY AUGUST 25 6:00 PM**

**Sandra Brown in conversation with Linda Castillo**

**Brown** discusses [Thick as Thieves](#) (Grand Central \$28)

Signed books available

**SATURDAY AUGUST 29 12:00 PM**

**Sophie Hannah in conversation with Alex Pavesi**

**Hannah** discusses her new Hercule Poirot [The Killings at Kingfisher Hill](#) (Harper \$27.99) available September 15

**Pavesi** discusses his Christie-style debut [The Eighth Detective](#) (Holt \$26.99)

Signed UK editions of both books available

**SATURDAY AUGUST 29 2:00 PM Virtual Book Launch**

**Co-authors CS Harris, Anna Lee Huber, Susanna Kearsley,**

**Christine Trent** discuss [The Deadly Hours](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Our copies come with a folded Monster & Mermaids poster, bookplates signed by the authors, and anyone who orders by August 29 is entered into a drawing for a fabulous Gift Basket

**SIGNED BOOKS**

Ashley, Jennifer. [Murder in the East End](#) (Berkley \$16). When young cook Kat Holloway learns that the children of London's Foundling Hospital are mysteriously disappearing and one of their nurses has been murdered, she can't turn away. She enlists the help of her charming and enigmatic confidant Daniel McAdam, who has ties to Scotland Yard, and Errol Fielding, a disreputable man from Daniel's troubled past, to bring the killer to justice. Their investigation takes them from the grandeur of Mayfair to the slums of the East End, during which Kat learns more about Daniel and his circumstances.... 4th in an engrossing [Victorian Upstairs/Downstairs series](#) we heartily recommend.

Bowen, Rhys. [The Last Mrs. Summers](#) (Berkley \$26). It's 1935. Lady Georgiana Rannoch is just back from her African honey-

moon with the dashing Darcy O'Mara and is adjusting to her new role, having inherited a fortune, as the lady of a Sussex manor. But she's a bit at loose ends when Darcy departs doing something secret for the British government once again. So she leaps at an invitation from her old friend Belinda Warburton-Stoke to visit Cornwall. Their accommodation most definitely doesn't suit so they end up as guests in the vast, ghost-haunted home of Tony Summers, a former fling of Belinda's. And despite the presence of his wife, Rose, Tony seems hot to rekindle the flame. The first Mrs. Summers died from a fall off a cliff. The second Mrs. Summers believes that Tony killed the first, and is plotting to kill her too... This twisted Gothic tale of betrayal, deception and, most definitely, murder, is, if not an homage, a nod to Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*.

Brown, Sandra. [Thick as Thieves](#) (Grand Central \$28). Twenty years ago in the dead of night, four seemingly random individuals pulled the ultimate heist and almost walked away with half a million dollars. But by daybreak, their plan had been shot to hell. One of them was in the hospital. One was in jail. One was dead. And one got away with it. Arden Maxwell, the daughter of the man who disappeared all those years ago, presumably with the money, after murdering his accomplice, has never reconciled with her father's abandonment of her and her sister. After countless personal setbacks she decides to return to her family home near mysterious Caddo Lake, and finally get answers to the many questions that torment her. Little does she know two of her father's co-conspirators—a war hero and a corrupt district attorney—are watching her every move.

Burke, James Lee. [A Private Cathedral](#) (Simon&Schuster \$28). The *NY Times* reviews: “Dave Robicheaux is having visions again. Sometimes, James Lee Burke’s ghost-haunted Cajun detective sees Confederate soldiers in the mist. Other times, he has apparitions of long-dead slaves pulling the oars on a phantom galleon making its way up Bayou Teche. Robicheaux confronts an unattractive spirit named Gideon Richetti (‘his skin was green’ and ‘his neck looked like it was dripping scales into his shirt’). Richetti, for reasons known only to the living dead, is messing in the affairs of the living. Burke describes him as some kind of time traveler, suggesting that demagogues transcend their historical eras, discharging waves of toxicity that survive in a continuum of space and time to infect the generations that come after them. Somewhere, even as we speak, a baby Benito Mussolini is being born. The Louisiana detective is on a mission to shake up the two leading crime families that uneasily share the local territory. One of these mob bosses—either Mark Shondell or Adonis Balangie, but which one?—ordered the hit on two journeyman hoods whose bodies were found in the same barrel floating in Vermilion Bay. Like families everywhere, these powerful clans are troubled by domestic headaches that are getting in the way of business. For one thing, two of their children are in love, ‘Romeo and Juliet’ style, and have run away to cut a record at a famous studio in Muscle Shoals. More worrisome to Robicheaux and his sidekick, Clete Purcel, the mobsters have been dabbling in human trafficking. From these ingredients, Burke has concocted his usual gumbo of thrills and chills, stirred it with gusto and seasoned it with plenty of local superstition and rumor. What makes these books so enduring (this is the 23rd Robicheaux novel) and the storytelling so seductive is that Burke has the voice to do justice to the region’s ancient curses and its modern crimes.”

Connolly, John. [The Dirty South](#) (Hodder \$44). Cargill is a backwater town in Arkansas struggling to survive the exit of the timber industry. With the promise of a new company considering the location, politicians present the town as an ideal placement for the new investment. This means subduing the brutal murders of three young women. Enter Charlie Parker. He is resented by many and admired by few of the town’s citizens as he joins forces with the struggling law enforcement to bring justice to the victims. He learns about the high profile Cade family who has a long history with the town and wields enough power to subdue anything that would appear unfavorable to the outside world. Connolly’s crimes are grisly, but his writing is intriguing and so elegant that it’s worth the ride just to follow his thinking process and get to the surprise ending.

Coulter, Catherine. [Deadlock](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). A young wife is forced to confront a decades-old deadly secret when a medium connects her to her dead grandfather. A vicious psychopath wants ultimate revenge against Savich, but first, she wants to destroy what he loves most—his family. A series of three red boxes are delivered personally to Savich at the Hoover Building, each one containing puzzle pieces of a town only FBI agent Pippa Cinelli recognizes. Savich sends in Cinelli to investigate undercover but someone knows who she is. Savich and Sherlock are up to their eyebrows in danger as they work to figure out the red box puzzle and the young wife’s secret....

Davis, Fiona. [The Lions of Fifth Avenue](#) (Dutton \$28). A series of book thefts roils the iconic New York Public Library, leaving two generations of strong-willed women to pick up the pieces. It’s 1913, and on the surface, Laura Lyons couldn’t ask for more out of life—her husband is the superintendent of the New York Public Library, allowing their family to live in an apartment within the grand building, and they are blessed with two children. But headstrong, passionate Laura wants more, and when she takes a leap of faith and applies to the Columbia Journalism School, her world is cracked wide open. As her studies take her all over the city, she is drawn to Greenwich Village’s new bohemia, where she discovers the Heterodoxy Club—a radical, all-female group in which women are encouraged to loudly share their opinions on suffrage, birth control, and women’s rights. Soon, Laura finds herself questioning her traditional role as wife and mother. But when valuable books are stolen back at the library, threatening the home and institution she loves, she’s forced to confront her shifting priorities head on . . . and may just lose everything in the process. Eighty years later, in 1993, Sadie Donovan struggles with the legacy of her grandmother, the famous essayist Laura Lyons, especially after she’s wrangled her dream job as a curator at the New York Public Library. But the job quickly becomes a nightmare when rare manuscripts, notes, and books for the exhibit Sadie’s running begin disappearing from the library’s famous Berg Collection. Determined to save both the exhibit and her career, the typically risk-adverse Sadie teams up with a private security expert to uncover the culprit. However... Every year I make a book of the month club pick for one category that is about books.

So it’s our **August Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month**. *PW* adds in its Starred Review: “Davis illuminates the world of special books through keen descriptions of the library and rare book dealers, while leading readers through the twin mysteries of the missing books. The characters and story are stellar, but the real star of the show is the library, which Davis evokes beautifully.”

Freeman, Dianne. [A Lady’s Guide to Mischief and Murder](#) (Kensington \$26). Frances, the widowed Countess of Harleigh, needs a venue for her sister Lily’s imminent wedding, away from prying eyes. Risings, George Hazleton’s family estate in Hampshire, is a perfect choice, and soon Frances, her beloved George, and other guests have gathered to enjoy the usual country pursuits—shooting, horse riding, and romantic interludes in secluded gardens. But the bucolic setting harbors a menace, and it’s not simply the arrival of Frances’s socially ambitious mother. Above and below stairs, mysterious accidents befall guests and staff alike. Before long, Frances suspects these “accidents” are deliberate, and fears that the intended victim is Lily’s fiancé, Leo. Frances’s mother



is unimpressed by Lily's groom-to-be and would much prefer that Lily find an aristocratic husband, just as Frances did. But now that Frances has found happiness with George—a man who loves her for much more than her dowry—she heartily approves of Lily's choice. As Frances and George search for the culprit among the assembled family, friends, and servants, more victims fall prey to the mayhem.... Best to [order all three](#) in this sprightly series.

Goldman, Matt. [Dead West](#) (Forge \$26.99). I really love the PI Nils Shapiro series, in part because Goldman kicks them off with...kick ass premises. So original. Here's a Starred Review for the latest: "In bestseller Goldman's excellent third mystery featuring Minneapolis PI Nils Shapiro, Beverly Mayer, a grumpy matriarch, hires Nils to check on her grown grandson, Ebben, who she believes is wasting his time in the movie business. Ebben, whose fiancée has just died, is trying to launch a creator-focused studio, but Nils suspects that Ebben's fiancée was murdered and that Ebben himself might have been the target. Along with his good friend Jameson White—a nurse and former athlete fighting inner demons after being on shift during a school shooting—Nils dives into the L.A. scene, meeting mysterious East European mobsters, attractive screenwriters, powerful agents, and plenty of others who might have wanted to kill Ebben. Goldman wisely keeps the Hollywood satire to a minimum, focusing instead on the actual detective work, the very real dangers Nils faces, and emotionally grueling issues Jameson is attempting to process. Goldman takes a classic trope—a working-class private detective set loose in Hollywood—and squeezes enough originality out of it to make for a dazzling tale." Don't delay ordering [all of Nils' cases](#), such a treat.

Hannah, Sophie. [The Killings at Kingfisher Hill](#) (Collins \$48). Out end of August, probably due in early September here. The world's greatest detective, Hercule Poirot—think *Murder on the Orient Express* and *Death on the Nile*—returns to solve a fiendish new mystery. Hercule Poirot is travelling by luxury passenger coach from London to the exclusive Kingfisher Hill estate. Richard Devonport has summoned him to prove that his fiancée, Helen, is innocent of the murder of his brother, Frank. There is one strange condition attached to this request: Poirot must conceal his true reason for being there from the rest of the Devonport family. On the coach, a distressed woman leaps up, demanding to disembark. She insists that if she stays in her seat, she will be murdered. A seat-swap is arranged, and the rest of the journey passes without incident. But Poirot has a bad feeling about it, and his fears are later confirmed when a body is discovered in the Devonports' home with a note that refers to 'the seat that you shouldn't have sat in'. Could this new murder and the peculiar incident on the coach be clues to solving mystery of who killed Frank Devonport? And can Poirot find the real murderer in time to save an innocent woman from the gallows?

Hart, Elsa. [The Cabinets of Barnaby Mayne](#) (St Martins \$28). The fabulously talented Hart turns her storytelling gifts from 18<sup>th</sup> Century China and her mysteries solved by librarian Li Du to London, 1703, our **August Historical Fiction Book of the Month**. And as is consistent with much of what we offer for August, it earns a Starred Review: "Hart establishes herself as a versatile talent with this exceptional standalone set in 1703 London. Botanist Cecily Kay has left her diplomat husband behind in Smyrna to spend time in the home of Sir Barnaby Mayne, a

legendary collector, who believes his holdings "contain no less than the future course of all knowledge toward the secrets God left for man to discover." Kay hopes to use Mayne's collection of plants to help her classify the flora she collected in Smyrna. She's delighted to find that Mayne's other guests include a childhood friend, Meacan Barlow, an artist who's been retained to illustrate a new catalogue of the nobleman's possessions. Both women's plans are disrupted when Mayne is found stabbed to death in his study, with the bloody knife in the hands of another member of the household, who confesses to the murder before fleeing. The astute Kay doubts the confession's truthfulness, but her pursuit of answers puts her in danger. The author has a gift for vivid similes (randomly displayed objects are 'like guests at a poorly planned party who cannot find a common topic of conversation'). Hart is bound to become a household name for readers who love clever and fair whodunits."

Heaberlin, Julia. [We Are All the Same in the Dark](#) (Ballantine \$28). The disappearance of popular 19-year-old cheerleader Trumanell Branson and her violent father, Frank, still haunts Odette Tucker, a West Texas town's youngest deputy, 10 years later in this exceptional. Trumanell's bloody handprint on her home's door was the only clue; her brother, Wyatt, now the town pariah and vilified in a TV documentary, is still the chief suspect. Odette visits Wyatt's remote farmhouse after hearing rumors that he has kidnapped a teenage girl. Wyatt claims he found the girl, whom he calls Angel, dumped in a field. Odette, who lost a leg in a traumatic accident, instantly bonds with Angel, who lost an eye while suffering violent abuse. Odette strives to help Angel, who at first refuses to talk, as she tries to unravel the mystery of what happened to Trumanell, whose reputation remains that of a near saint. After a devastating twist halfway through, the intense plot builds to an emotional finale. Heaberlin sensitively addresses issues of survival and vulnerability in this heart-wrenching gothic tale

Hodgson, Antonia. [The Silver Collar](#) (Hodder \$36). Autumn, 1728. Life is good for Thomas Hawkins and Kitty Sparks. The Cocked Pistol, Kitty's wickedly disreputable bookshop, is a roaring success. Tom's celebrity as 'Half-Hanged Hawkins', the man who survived the gallows, is also proving useful. Their happiness proves short-lived. When Tom is set upon by a street gang, he discovers there's a price on his head. Who on earth could want him dead - and why? With the help of his ward, Sam Fleet, and Sam's underworld connections, Tom's investigation leads to a fine house in Jermyn Street, the elegant, enigmatic Lady Vanhook and an escaped slave by the name of Jeremiah Patience. But for Tom and Kitty, discovering the truth is only the beginning of the nightmare.

Horowitz, Anthony. [Moonflower Murders](#) (Collins \$45). Retired publisher Susan Ryeland is living the good life. She is running a small hotel on a Greek island with her long-term boyfriend Andreas. It should be everything she's always wanted. But is it? She's exhausted with the responsibilities of making everything work on an island where nothing ever does, and truth be told she's beginning to miss London. And then the Trehearnes come to stay. The strange and mysterious story they tell, about an unfortunate murder that took place on the same day and in the same hotel in which their daughter was married—a picturesque inn on the Suffolk coast named Farlingaye Hall—fascinates Susan and piques her editor's instincts.

One of her former writers, the late Alan Conway, author of the fictional *Magpie Murders*, knew the murder victim—an advertising executive named Frank Parris—and once visited Farlingaye Hall. Conway based the third book in his detective series, *Atticus Pund Takes the Cake*, on that very crime. The Trehearne's, daughter, Cecily, read Conway's mystery and believed the book proves that the man convicted of Parris's murder—a Romanian immigrant who was the hotel's handyman—is innocent. When the Trehearnes reveal that Cecily is now missing, Susan knows that she must return to England and find out what really happened.

Retired publisher Susan Ryeland is running a small hotel on a Greek island with her long-term boyfriend. But life isn't as idyllic as it should be: exhausted by the responsibility of making everything work on an island where nothing ever does, Susan is beginning to miss her literary life in London – even though her publishing career once entangled her in a lethal literary murder plot. So when an English couple comes to visit with tales of a murder that took place in a hotel the same day their daughter Cecily was married there, Susan can't help but find herself fascinated. And when they tell her that Cecily has gone missing a few short hours after reading *Atticus Pund Takes the Case*, a crime novel Susan edited some years previously, Susan knows she must return to London to find out what has happened. The clues to the murder and to Cecily's disappearance must lie within the pages of this novel.

Joy, David. [When These Mountains Burn](#) (Putnam \$27). Joy serves up an engrossing drama of violence and vengeance in western North Carolina. In 2016, as the Tellico fire burns thousands of acres, Joy delves into the life of retired forester Raymond Mathis; his 40-year-old opiate-addicted son, Ricky, who has already stolen everything from Ray's house that could be pawned; Ricky's fellow addict and thief Denny Rattler, bearing a face "whittled" by drugs to "bone and shadow"; and DEA agent Ronald Holland. After a pill pusher tells Ray he has to pay \$10,000 or he'll kill Ricky, the four men become unlikely allies. The money was meant to be Ray's nest egg, having received it after a drawn-out battle with the state over eminent domain. Joy's razor-sharp prose details disturbing, graphic images of brutality that begin when Raymond resolves to protect his son. The threads of the story intertwine after Ricky gets hurt and Ronald connects the dots. As the fire spreads, the characters offer emotional reflections on the loss of their mountain culture, already being "sold off for tourists dollars" at the time of the fire. Joy handles everything with ease, proving himself to be one hell of a writer.

Kahn, Vaseem. [Midnight at Malabar House](#) (Houghton \$40), As India celebrates the arrival of a momentous new decade, Inspector Persis Wadia stands vigil in the basement of Malabar House, home to the city's most unwanted unit of police officers. Six months after joining the force she remains India's first female police detective, mistrusted, sidelined and now consigned to the midnight shift.

And so, when the phone rings to report the murder of prominent English diplomat Sir James Herriot, the country's most sensational case falls into her lap. As 1950 dawns and India prepares to become the world's largest republic, Persis, accompanied by Scotland Yard criminalist Archie Blackfinch, finds herself investigating a case that is becoming more political by the second. Navigating a country and society in turmoil, Persis, smart, stub-

born and untested in the crucible of male hostility that surrounds her, must find a way to solve the murder—whatever the cost.

Kowal, Mary. [The Relentless Moon](#) (Tor \$31). The Earth is coming to the boiling point as the climate disaster of the Meteor strike becomes more and more clear, but the political situation is already overheated. Riots and sabotage plague the space program. The IAC's goal of getting as many people as possible off Earth before it becomes uninhabitable is being threatened. Elma York is on her way to Mars, but the Moon colony is still being established. Her friend and fellow Lady Astronaut Nicole Wargin is thrilled to be one of those pioneer settlers, using her considerable flight and political skills to keep the program on track. But she is less happy that her husband, the Governor of Kansas, is considering a run for President....

MacDonald, Helen. [Vesper Flights](#) (Grove Atlantic \$27). The bestselling nature writer of [H Is for Hawk](#) (\$16) brings together a collection of her best-loved writing along with new pieces covering a thrilling range of subjects. There are essays here on headaches, on catching swans, on hunting mushrooms, on twentieth-century spies, on numinous experiences and high-rise buildings; on nests and wild pigs and the tribulations of farming ostriches.

Mallery, Susan. [The Friendship List](#) (Mira 26.99). Single mom Ellen Fox couldn't be more content—until she overhears her son saying he can't go to his dream college because she needs him too much. If she wants him to live his best life, she has to convince him she's living hers. So Unity Leandre, her best friend since forever, creates a list of challenges to push Ellen out of her comfort zone. Unity will complete the list, too, but not because she needs to change. What's wrong with a thirty-something widow still sleeping in her late husband's childhood bed? *The Friendship List* begins as a way to make others believe they're just fine. And then....

McCafferty, Keith. [The Bangtail Ghost](#) (Viking \$26). "Like Brad Smith and Elmore Leonard, McCafferty does a marvelous job of manipulating mood... A must for Craig Johnson and C.J. Box fans." —*Booklist* reviewing one of my favorite authors. He nails Montana, his characters are remarkably vivid, and his plots explosive. In Montana's Gravelly Range, paw prints and a single whisker discovered at a scene of horrific violence suggest a woman had been attacked and carried away by a mountain lion. Sheriff Martha Ettinger employs her fiancé, sometimes-detective Sean Stranahan, to put a name to the gnawed bones comprising all that is left of the body. The woman's is the first of several deaths that Sean suspects are not as easily explained as they appear. As a reign of terror grips the Madison Valley, blood in the tracks will lead him from the river below to the snow-covered ridge tops, Sean comes closer to unearthing the secret shared by the dead and missing, the tracks he is following will turn, and the hunter becomes the hunted. I miss the wonderful books by the late Peter Bowen; McCafferty's are darker and more intricate but as closely married to the landscape. How I wish I had an ARC but learning patience is part of the pandemic.

McDermid, Val. [Still Life](#) (Little Brown UK \$44). On a freezing winter morning, fishermen pull a body from the sea. It is quickly discovered that the dead man was the prime suspect in a decade-old investigation, when a prominent civil servant disappeared without trace. DCI Karen Pirie was the last detective to review the file and is drawn into a sinister world of betrayal and dark se-

crets. But Karen is already grappling with another case, one with even more questions and fewer answers. A skeleton has been discovered in an abandoned campervan and all clues point to a killer who never faced justice - a killer who is still out there. In her search for the truth, Karen uncovers a network of lies that has gone unchallenged for years. But lies and secrets can turn deadly when someone is determined to keep them hidden for good.... Look for a book talk with Val on our website sometime in the fall.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Paris Is Always a Good Idea](#) (Berkley \$16). When Chelsea Martin's mother died seven years ago, her life changed completely. No longer the free spirit she once was, the now 30-year-old Chelsea is addicted to structure and afraid of new experiences. She hasn't even been on a date since a series of flings on a trip abroad before her mother's death. She's snapped out of her funk by her father's announcement that he is engaged to a woman he's only known for two weeks. In an effort to remember that kind of wild, reckless love, Chelsea decides to retake her European trip and revisit the men she dated in Ireland, France, and Italy. But while she's overseas, Jason Knightley, her work rival, needs her help on the largest project of either of their careers, and she agrees to give him some of her time. She never could have anticipated that their video calls would lead to romance. Chelsea's European adventure leads to some uproarious mishaps and, though they're worlds away from each other, readers will have no trouble investing in Chelsea and Jason's enemies-to-lovers romance. Their witty banter and complimentary personalities make them an easy couple to root for. This flawless rom-com is sure to delight. "McKinlay proves she is also a master at romantic women's fiction with this dazzling novel that delivers everything McKinlay's fans expect—deliciously acerbic wit, delightfully relatable characters, and deeply funny dialogue—all deftly poured into a plot that also thoughtfully examines what true happiness really means."—*Booklist*

Mina, Denise. [The Less Dead](#) (Harvill \$40). When Margo goes in search of her birth mother for the first time, she meets her aunt, Nikki, instead. Margo learns that her mother, Susan, was a sex worker murdered soon after Margo's adoption. To this day, Susan's killer has never been found. Nikki asks Margo for help. She has received threatening and haunting letters from the murderer, for decades. She is determined to find him, but she can't do it alone.... In her dazzling new thriller Mina examines identity and the value of a life.

Neubauer, Erica. [Murder at the Mena House](#) (St Martins \$27). An exotic trip back in time to 1920s Egypt, with a cast of winning characters right out of the Golden Age of crime fiction forms this charming adventure cum murder mystery set in a luxury hotel at the foot of the great pyramids. Gigolos, card sharps, smugglers, rich aunts, and one achingly handsome romantic interest surround our plucky, irresistible, complex heroine, the young widow Mrs. Jane Wunderly. This "auspicious start to what promises to be an exciting and compelling series is our **August First Mystery Book of the Month. Signed copies sold out but I put it here to encourage you to order a copy anyway.**

Parker, T. Jefferson. [Then She Vanished](#) (Putnam \$27). A Starred Review: "In bestseller Parker's outstanding fourth Roland Ford novel, the San Diego PI takes on the case of state legislator Dalton Strait, whose wife, Natalie, has disappeared in the midst of a challenging reelection campaign. Natalie has run away

before—she has a history of mental illness—but this time her abandoned car is found with the word HELP scrawled in lipstick on the back of the front seat. Meanwhile, the San Diego area is rocked by increasingly deadly terrorist attacks. A group called the Chaos Committee claims responsibility with a disturbing anarchist manifesto that takes aim at California's elected officials at multiple levels, inciting widespread violence. Ford's investigation takes him into the heart of Strait's prominent family, including his sister, an entrepreneur in the California marijuana business (legalized, but still threatened by Mexican cartels), as well as the larger social issues of the Chaos Committee and the community of wounded war veterans. The plot is as well crafted as it is thought provoking. Parker writes with confidence, insight, and real humanity."

Pavesi, Alex. [Eight Detectives](#) (Joseph \$35). Book editor Julia Hart has come to a small Mediterranean island, the home of reclusive author Grant McAllister, to help him prepare his 25-year-old story collection, *The White Murders*, for reissue. Privately printed in the early 1940s, the collection was based on a 1937 paper by Grant, whose intent was "to give a mathematical definition of a murder mystery." As the editor and author go through each of the seven stories, they discuss Grant's mathematical rules for his fiction. Julia spots inconsistencies in each, and remarks on the fact that the collection's title echoes an unsolved crime from the time of the book's origin. Pavesi clearly knows his classic murder mysteries as shown by a story that evokes Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, and all his plot tricks will please readers with a similar passion...."Dizzying, dazzling — a potent potion of a thriller, a brew of bibliophilia (think *The Shadow of the Wind*), wire-taut tension (*The Talented Mr. Ripley*), and plot swerves so sharp and sudden you risk whiplash with each turn of the page, as bold as the best of Michael Connelly and Lisa Gardner. When did you last read a genuinely original thriller?"—AJ Finn. The US title is [The Eighth Detective](#) (Holt \$26.99), almost guaranteed to be a bestseller like Peter Swanson's March hit *Eight Perfect Murders*. This is a late August UK release and thus will be our **September First Mystery Book of the Month** so we have it here in September.

Reich, Christopher. [The Palace](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Thriller Award winner Reich's entertaining third Simon Riske novel finds professional problem solver Riske's old friend Rafael "Rafa" de Bourbon, a Spanish entrepreneur who's about to open a luxury hotel on the coast of Thailand, worried about illegal activities he's witnessed while working with a company called PetroSaud. As Rafa is considering exposing PetroSaud's crimes, the Thai police arrive at the hotel and arrest him for bribery and extortion. Rafa asks Simon for help. Simon, who has just completed a mission in Amsterdam to recover a stolen painting, comes to Rafa's rescue because he owes his friend a big favor—and because Rafa has recently married an ex-lover he's fond of. Simon has less success with this operation than with the one in Amsterdam, and he's soon on the run. Appealing supporting characters ex-Mossad agent Danni Pine and top-notch financial reporter London Li come to his aid. An unexpected closing twist promises exciting developments to come. Clever, sophisticated Riske stands out in the crowded action hero field. Reich's work has always done so; I'm a fan from the beginning and have learned surprising things from the research underlying his thrillers. A lot of it financial crimes.



Ricciardi, David. [Black Flag](#) (Berkley \$28). Ricciardi's exciting third Jake Keller thriller finds the CIA officer and his agency partner, John Pickens, in Mogadishu, Somalia, seeking to identify the mastermind behind the bandits who have been using high-speed skiffs to attack oil tankers. After killing the crews, the bandits seize the oil and sell it on the black market. The two most promising suspects are Badeed, chief elder of the Hawiye clan, and Yaxaas, the warlord of the Darwood clan. Yaxaas keeps a pet alligator named Little Yaxaas, and it's no surprise what Little Yaxaas's job is in the organization. Keller has a plan to lure the mastermind out of hiding, but the mission is complicated by a secret agenda originating from CIA headquarters. The appealing leads have complementary strengths. Pickens is old school, interested in human intelligence, while Keller comes from an analysis background and is adept with technology. The complicated plot and furious action build to a final, head-snapping twist. Ricciardi has hit his stride with this outing.

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [The First to Lie](#) (Forge \$27.99). J.T. Ellison says Ryan's latest novel "is like reading a burning stick of dynamite." And here is a Starred Review: "In this stellar standalone from five-time Agatha Award winner Ryan, broadcast journalist Elle Berensen relishes her first assignment for Boston's startup Channel 11—proving that a much touted drug made by the pharmaceutical company Pharminex can make women barren. Elle wants to ferret out the information with facts and ethical journalism, but Meg West, her new, overly enthusiastic assistant, is consumed by the story. Lacking scruples, Meg will go to any lengths, including lying, cheating, and violence, to usurp Elle and humiliate the family who own Pharminex. Elle has to wonder whether security agents for Pharminex have uncovered her investigation after her home is broken into and she's followed a couple of times. Meanwhile, confident Nora Quinn, the drug firm's newest pharmaceutical sales representative, who visits doctors' offices and chats with patients in waiting rooms, has her own agenda. The breathlessly energetic plot touches on corporate intrigue, journalism ethics, revenge, and the corrosive nature of lies. Ryan could win a sixth Agatha with this one."

Slaughter, Karin. [The Silent Wife](#) (Morrow \$28.99). **Virtual Event August 3. Preorder your signed copy and get an exclusive: a cell phone wallet designed to go with the book.** Many of you learned to love Slaughter's thrillers by starting with those in Grant County, Georgia. The first, [Blindsighted](#) (\$9.99), was published in almost 30 languages and made the Crime Writers' Association's Dagger Award shortlist for «Best Thriller Debut» of 2001. The dynamics between Sara Linton, the town's pediatrician and part-time coroner and her ex-husband, Jeffrey Tolliver, who is chief of police, were compelling, and surprising. Slaughter threw a third into the mix: Tolliver's subordinate, detective Lena Adams. I personally could hardly wait for her to leave for Macon... good riddance. In time, a larger stage beckoned and Will Trent moved Slaughter fans to Atlanta. And then Sara became part of Will's life in the Georgia Bureau of Investigation, and....we keep learning more about them both. (I'm leaving out the standalones here). What Slaughter has done in *The Silent Wife* is find a way to carry us back to Grant County, back into Jeffrey's life (OK, and Lena's). It's narrative genius. A brilliantly conceived story about a psychopath that preys on young women and a chance encounter that turns up a connection to another series of unsolved murders years back....

There are other reasons to grab your copy of *The Silent Wife* as it does not flinch from real, heart-heavy issues. But if you are a long time Slaughter reader (or even a brand new one), you will be so gripped (and outraged) by unfolding events you will hate to put the book down until you reach the end. Is a sadistic serial rapist (still) at large? What is Lena up to? Will's partner, Faith? Will's scrutiny of Jeffrey's detective work sends Sara on a wistful trip down memory lane, leaving Will uncertain of their future. And Slaughter delivers an unflinching, deeply empathetic exploration of the stigma surrounding rape and the enduring trauma suffered by its survivors.

Watson, S.J. [Final Cut](#) (Doubleday UK \$36). Blackwood Bay. An ordinary place, home to ordinary people. It used to be a buzzing seaside destination. But now, ravaged by the effects of dwindling tourism and economic downturn, it's a ghost town – and the perfect place for film-maker Alex to shoot her new documentary. But the community is deeply suspicious of her intentions. After all, nothing exciting ever happens in Blackwood Bay – or does it? Blackwood Bay. An ordinary place, home to an extraordinary secret. And behind this disturbing and clever plot there's a genuinely heartrending story.

Weiden, David Heska Wanbli. [Winter Counts](#) (Ecco \$29). Virgil Wounded Horse, the half Lakota, half white narrator of Weiden's gorgeous, ground-breaking debut, serves as a fists-for-hire enforcer on South Dakota's Rosebud Indian Reservation.

Virgil makes his living as a private enforcer. Tribal police have very limited powers, and the feds don't bother with much on the reservation short of murder, so the Lakota often resort to hiring someone like Virgil to deliver vigilante justice. Now he gets to beat up his former bullies, and earn a few bucks doing so. It's not necessarily work to take pride in, though, especially in the eyes of his ex-girlfriend's politically powerful family. So Virgil is surprised when her father, a tribal council member, asks for his help. And he's even more surprised when the case brings Marie back into his life. The scope of the case quickly grows beyond this private enforcer's comfort zone, and he has a renewed romance to manage, while trying to keep Nathan safe at the same time. Out-of-town gangs, heavy hitters and hard drugs challenge Virgil's skills. To keep all these threads together, he may need to reconnect with his Native roots, after all.

"The setting of *Winter Counts* offers an important and overlooked glimpse at the particular challenges faced by Native Americans, especially concerning crime and justice. But make no mistake: at the heart of this crime novel is a fight for the future of Rosebud Reservation and the lives of Virgil, Nathan, Marie and many more for whom this place is home. Tightly paced, compelling, realistic and deeply felt, *Winter Counts* offers a fresh take on the crime thriller. The novel twists delicately around various personal conflicts while artfully addressing issues related to the politics of the reservation. Weiden combines funny, complex, and unforgettable characters with strong, poetic prose ("This was the winter of my sorrow, one I had tried to elude but which had come for me with a terrible cruelty"). This is crime fiction at its best. This debut is our **August Crime Book of the Month**.

We're excited that William Kent Krueger will be the host for David's virtual event.

## UNSIGNED EVENT BOOKS

Billingham, Mark. [Cry Baby](#) (Atlantic \$26). Every Bingham fan will want this gripping prequel to his acclaimed debut, *Sleepyhead*. And *Cry Baby*, being London copper Tom Thorne's first case, can be read as an introduction to this British series. It's 1996. Detective Sergeant Tom Thorne is a haunted man. Haunted by the moment he ignored his instinct about a suspect, by the horrific crime that followed and by the memories that come day and night, in sunshine and shadow. So when seven-year-old Kieron Coyne goes missing while playing in the woods with his best friend, Thorne vows he will not make the same mistake again. Cannot. The solitary witness. The strange neighbor. The friendly teacher. All are in Thorne's sights. This case will be the making of him...or the breaking. **This is our August International Crime Book of the Month so club members will receive their invitation to the zoom event with Mark and Lee Child.**

Gudenkauf, Heather. [This Is How I Lied](#) (Park Row \$17.99). Detective Maggie Kennedy-O'Keefe of the Grotto, Iowa, PD is assigned to a cold case, the murder of her 16-year-old best friend, Eve Knox, after two kids find a new piece of evidence, Eve's boot, in the cave where Maggie found Eve's body 25 years earlier. Maggie's job is to inform the Knox family, review the case files, gather all the evidence, and send it to the state lab for testing. She speaks to Eve's mentally unstable sister, the sister's abusive boyfriend, a pedophile neighbor, and her own father, the former Grotto PD police chief, who suffers from dementia. To complicate matters, Maggie is eight months pregnant and fatigued. When she receives threatening phone calls, and the barn on her property is torched, it becomes clear this small town is filled with secrets people want to keep buried. Maggie has to make one impossible choice after another as the action builds to a satisfying conclusion. Through alternating viewpoints Gudenkauf keeps the tension high throughout.

Harris, CS, Anna Lee Huber, Susanna Kearsley, Christine Trent. [The Deadly Hours](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). The four authors collaborate to pen the tale of a priceless and cursed gold watch as it passes through time wreaking havoc from one owner to another. The characters are irrevocably linked by fate, each playing a key role in breaking the curse and destroying the watch once and for all. From 1733 Italy to Edinburgh in 1831 to a series of chilling murders in 1870 London, and a lethal game of revenge decades later, the watch touches lives with misfortune, until it comes into the reach of one young woman who might be able to stop it for good.

Hannah, Sophie. [The Killings at Kingfisher Hill](#) (Harper \$27.99). A Starred Review: "Bestseller Hannah displays her superior ability to devise mind-blowing setups in her fourth authorized continuation of Agatha Christie's Hercule Poirot series. In 1931, Poirot agrees to come to Kingfisher Hill, the country estate of the Devonport family in Surrey, at the request of Richard Devonport. The previous year, Richard's older brother, Frank, died from a fall at Kingfisher Hill, and Frank's fiancée, Helen Acton, who confessed to intentionally pushing him, has a date with a hangman. Richard, who's Helen's current fiancé, believes she's innocent, and has arranged for Poirot and Scotland Yard's Insp. Edward Catchpool to visit the estate and investigate under the pretense of being interested in a board game Richard's father has invented. On the luxury motor coach from London to Kingfisher

Hill, the pair encounter a distraught woman, who, when forced to sit in the one available seat, declares that a man told her that to sit there would mean her death. Then another passenger confesses to a murder. Hannah provides logical and reasonable answers to every oddity. Fans of classic fair-play puzzle mysteries will clamor for more." **For the UK edition see Signed Books above.**

Hearne, Kevin. [Ink & Sigil](#) (Del Rey \$28). **Hearne lives in Canada so he can't join us in person.** Hearne returns to the world of his beloved Iron Druid Chronicles in a spin-off series about an eccentric master of rare magic solving an uncanny mystery in Scotland. Al MacBharrais is both blessed and cursed. He is blessed with an extraordinary white moustache, an appreciation for craft cocktails—and a most unique magical talent. He can cast spells with magically enchanted ink and he uses his gifts to protect our world from rogue minions of various pantheons, especially the Fae. But he is also cursed. Anyone who hears his voice will begin to feel an inexplicable hatred for Al, so he can only communicate through the written word or speech apps. And his apprentices keep dying in peculiar freak accidents. As his personal life crumbles around him, he devotes his life to his work, all the while trying to crack the secret of his curse. But when his latest apprentice, Gordie, turns up dead in his Glasgow flat, Al discovers evidence that Gordie was living a secret life of crime. Now Al is forced to play detective....

Laukkanen, Owen. [Lone Jack Trail](#) (Mulholland \$28). Laukkanen too lives in Canada. He is sending us Signed Bookplates! This exciting book in a series we here love!, like so many others in a crowded August, gets a Starred Review: "Laukkanen brilliantly integrates psychological depth into a suspenseful whodunit plot in his superior sequel to 2019's [Deception Cove](#) (\$16.99), a book we here at The Pen absolutely loved. Jess Winslow has returned from military service in Afghanistan deeply traumatized by her experience, but she's found some solace through her service dog, Lucy, and her boyfriend, Mason Burke, an ex-con who spent more than a decade behind bars for murder. Winslow is also settling into a new job as a deputy in Washington's Makah County under a new sheriff, who has taken over for an ineffective predecessor. Meanwhile, Brock Boyd, a hockey star who went to prison for illegal dog-fighting, has returned to the area. Boyd gets into a fistfight with Burke after Boyd mistreats Lucy, whom he discovered tied to a railing outside a restaurant where Burke was inside ordering food to go. The altercation ends with Burke on the losing end. Days later, Boyd's corpse, with a bullet wound in its head, washes up near town, making Burke the prime suspect. The sophisticated characterizations elevate this above similarly themed books. This thriller ranks with the best work of Reed Farrel Coleman and Michael Koryta."

Mays, Willie/John Shea. [24: Life Stories and Lessons from the Say Hey Kid](#) (St Martins \$28.99). "Even if, like me, you thought you had pretty much read and heard all there was to read and hear about Willie Mays, this warmhearted book will inform and reward you. And besides, what true baseball fan can ever get enough of Willie Mays? Say Hey! Read on and enjoy." —From the Foreword by Bob Costas. Presented in 24 chapters to correspond with his universally recognized uniform number, Willie's memoir provides more than the story of his role in America's pastime. This is the story of a man who values family and community, engages in charitable causes especially involving children and follows a philosophy that encourages hope, hard work and



the fulfillment of dreams. “It’s because of giants like Willie that someone like me could even think about running for President.”  
—President Barack Obama

Pavesi, Alex. [The Eighth Detective](#) (Holt \$26.99). The US edition has a different title than the UK, and a different cover (see **Signed Books above**). It’s a debut with a debt to Agatha Christie and somewhat in the style of Stuart Turton’s [The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle](#) (\$16.99) and the Signed edition is our **September First Mystery Book of the Month**. But don’t wait, this US edition publishes August 4.

Pobi, Robert. [Under Pressure](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Pobi is another Canadian. **This is actually my very favorite August book which says a lot given the fine selections for the month.** We will devise something fun, probably with a scanned signature. And he too gets Starred Reviews like this one: “In Pobi’s stellar sequel to 2019’s [City of Windows](#) (\$17.99), a big staff favorite here at The Pen, astrophysicist, bestselling author, and former FBI agent Lucas Page, who was severely injured in an accident years earlier and now has a prosthetic arm and leg, reluctantly returns to duty after a thermobaric bomb explodes in Manhattan’s Guggenheim Museum during a private gala, killing more than 700 people with little damage to the building. The alleged bomber sends a manifesto of sorts to news outlets calling for immediate revolution and a rejection of technology. As the bombings continue—and the body count rises—Page uses his unique way of looking at the world in geometric terms to find connections among the targeted sites and victims. Page stands out as a highly unusual lead in a crowded genre, and Pobi combines a razor sharp sense of humor with surgical use of political and social commentary throughout. This is a must for fans of sophisticated crime fiction.”

Riordan, Kate. [The Heatwave](#) (Grand Central \$27). Sylvie Durand, the unreliable narrator of this disturbing psychological thriller, would prefer to forget the tragic events that broke up her marriage a decade earlier and prompted her to flee La Rêverie, the home where she grew up in the South of France, for a fresh start in London with her then four-year-old daughter, Emma. But the news of an arson fire at the now unoccupied property sends up a warning flare she dares not ignore. Sylvie’s return to finally prepare La Rêverie for sale threatens to rekindle traumatic memories, since it’s the last place she and Emma lived with Elodie, Sylvie’s bad seed firstborn, who died mysteriously at 14. And it swiftly appears there may also be a more immediate menace, beyond the peril of annual summer forest fires in the area. Riordan skillfully manipulates the reader through what initially feels like a ghost story but.... S.J. Watson fans will want to check this one out.

Rose, Karen. [Say No More](#) (Berkley \$26). Seventeen years ago. That was the last time Mercy Callahan saw Ephraim Burton, the leader of the twisted Eden cult where she was raised. But even though she escaped the abuse and terror, they continue to haunt her. When her brother Gideon discovers new evidence of the cult’s--and their victims’--whereabouts, Mercy goes to Sacramento to reconnect with him. There, she meets Gideon’s closest friend--homicide detective Rafe Sokolov. From Rafe, she receives an offer she never knew she needed: to track down Ephraim and make him pay for everything. But Ephraim, who had thought Mercy long dead, discovers she is in fact alive and

that she is digging around for the cult’s secrets. And now he’ll do anything to take her back to Eden--dead or alive. Start Rose’s Sacramento Series with [Say You’re Sorry](#) (\$7.99).

Sabar, Ariel. [Veritas](#) (Knopf \$29.95). Sabar, the National Book Critics Circle Award-winning author of *My Father’s Paradise*, whose journalism has appeared in outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Atlantic*, *Harper’s*, and *This American Life*, pens “A real-life *Da Vinci Code*, from a terrific writer.” —Ron Charles, *F*. This astonishing book—part detective story, part exercise in reporting conducted at its highest level—reaches hold of you by the shirt collar and doesn’t let go. Here is a gallery of types that have surrounded Christianity since its earliest beginnings: the professionally cynical, the frankly mercenary, and the profoundly faithful. It is a tale that takes us from the offices of two Harvard presidents to, perhaps inevitably, that of a Florida pornographer. Exciting on every level, it poses the deepest question of faith: does it depend on the scholarly verification of ancient fragments or on what Heaney called a journey ‘into the marvelous?’ Fascinating stuff to see how a most serious scholar wants to believe in the veracity of a lost fragment. Those of you old enough to remember the impact of Elaine Pagels’ work will have more sympathy. If you have read Daniel Silva’s [The Order](#) (\$28.99), *Veritas* will be of great interest.

Slaght, Jonathan C. [Owls of the Eastern Ice](#) (Farrar Strauss \$28). From the very first pages, Slaght, the Russia and Northeast Asian Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, grips readers with vivid language and tight storytelling. His many months trekking through the icy wilderness to find and track rare fish owls—the largest owl on Earth—inform a narrative that blends field research, personal journey, and adventure writing. Part of the book’s success lies in the author’s ability to present the stakes and draw out the tension therein, making what could be a dry tale of bird-watching a compelling story of the necessity of conservation. In this case, the stakes include the owls’ disappearing habitat but also Slaght’s livelihood. “Fieldwork is often regular repetition of challenging or unpleasant activities,” writes the author, “an application of persistent pressure to a question until the answer finally emerges.” In the bitter cold terrain of eastern Russia, it’s that much more difficult. Throughout the book, Slaght lives up to his rugged-conservationist persona as he writes of helter-skelter snowmobile trips circumnavigating rushing rivers of ice, vodka-soaked encounters with village locals, and solitary, achingly beautiful nights observing the majestic owls firsthand. He is an engaging writer who imbues each scene with an intimate sense of place.

I am excited about doing a virtual event with field scientist and conservationist Slaght who is on a quest to save the world’s largest owl, the elusive Blakistan’s Fish Owl—in the most forbidding reaches of eastern Russia. My only qualification is visiting two owl sanctuaries, one on the Columbia River and one at Penrith Castle, Wales. Plus extensive arctic travel. Clearly Slaght will be doing the heavy lifting. You who are birders or conservationists will, I hope, tune in. The new technology we are being forced to use does open up new opportunities! Our copies will include an irresistible owl photo, perhaps more.

Staub, Wendi Corsi. [The Butcher’s Daughter](#) (Morrow \$8.99). Investigative genealogist Amelia Crenshaw solves clients’ genetic puzzles, while hers remains shrouded in mystery. Now she suspects that the key to her birth parents’ identities lies in an

unexpected connection to a stranger who's hired her to find his long-lost daughter. Bracing herself for a shocking truth, Amelia is blindsided by a deadly one. NYPD Detective Stockton Barnes had walked away from his only child for her own good. He'll lay down his life to protect her if he and Amelia can find out where—and who—she is. But someone has beat them to it, and she has a lethal score to settle. Amelia and Stockton's entangled roots have unearthed a femme fatale whose family tree holds one of history's most notorious killers. Does the apple fall far from the tree?

## OUR AUGUST BOOKS OF THE MONTH

**The Crime Book of the Month** One Signed hardcover First per month

Wanbli, David Heska Weiden. [Winter Counts](#) (Ecco \$34.99)

**British Crime Book of the Month** One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Perks, Heidi. [Three Perfect Liars](#)

**Cozy Crimes Book of the Month** One unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Dennison, Hannah. [Death at High Tide](#)

**Fantastic New Fiction Book of the Month** One Signed hardcover First per month

[Fantastic = fabulous, not fantasy]

Davis, Fiona. [The Lions of Fifth Avenue](#)

**First Mystery Book of the Month** Club One Signed hardcover First per month

Neubauer, Erica. [Murder at the Mena House](#) sold out

**Historical Fiction Book of the Month** One Signed hardcover First per month

Hart, Elsa. [The Cabinets of Barnaby Mayne](#)

**International Crime Book of the Month** One Unsigned hardcover or paperback per month

Billingham, Mark. [Cry Baby](#)

**SciFi/Fantasy Book of the Month** One hardcover or paperback per month signed when possible.

Hearne, Kevin. [Ink & Sigil](#)

## CLASSICS

Beckford, William. [Vathek](#) (The Haunted Library/Poisoned Pen Press \$14.99). This Gothic novel classic was composed in French beginning in 1782, and then translated into English by Reverend Samuel Henley in which form it was first published in 1786. Now The Haunted Library presents a new edition with an Introduction by Joe R. Lansdale and annotations by Leslie S. Klinger, editor of this series from the Horror Writers of America. Vathek, the majestic and fierce ninth caliph of the Abassides, has the world at his feet, with pleasure palaces constructed solely to satisfy his every possible appetite. Both his anger and his intellect are legendary; possessed of an intense thirst for knowledge, he often invites scholars to converse with him, but imprisons those who cannot be persuaded via logic or bribes to his point of view. Nothing is beyond his grasp, until a hideous stranger sells him glowing swords with letters on them that cannot be translated even by experts—because the letters are ever changing as if by magic! Obsessed with obtaining the stranger's knowledge, Vathek undertakes a massive search of his kingdom. His journey

becomes increasingly horrific as he ventures into the underworld, meeting demons and witches.

Forester, CS. [The Greyhound](#) (\$16). From 1955, originally published as *The Good Shepherd*, and republished to coordinate with the upcoming "major motion picture" (in Hollywood jargon). It was greeted as a riveting classic of WWII and naval warfare from one of the 20th century's masters of sea stories.

The mission of Commander George Krause of the United States Navy is to protect a convoy of thirty-seven merchant ships making their way across the icy North Atlantic from America to England. There, they will deliver desperately needed supplies, but only if they can make it through the wolfpack of German submarines that awaits and outnumbers them in the perilous seas. For forty eight hours, Krause will play a desperate cat and mouse game against the submarines, combating exhaustion, hunger, and thirst to protect fifty million dollars' worth of cargo and the lives of three thousand men.

Johnson, W. Bolingbroke. [The Widening Stain](#) (Penzler \$15.95). First published in 1941, this sparkling academic mystery from Johnson (the pseudonym of Cornell professor Morris Bishop) takes place at "the University" (a stand-in for Cornell), home to self-absorbed professors, anxious instructors, and quick-witted Gilda Gorham, the chief cataloguer at the University Library. When French instructor Lucie Coindreau, "the oomph-girl of the Romance Language Department," leaves a party at the university president's house suspiciously early, curious Gilda follows her to the library. Inside, Gilda hears a scream and a crash. Lucie is lying dead on the marble floor below a high gallery, having apparently taken an accidental fall over the gallery railing. When a professor is later strangled in a locked room filled with ancient erotica, Lucie's colleagues have to wonder whether Lucie, too, was murdered. A master of lively word play, Johnson exposes the foibles of his characters with sly wit. Readers will regret that this funny, erudite novel was poet and scholar Bishop's only foray into fiction.

Manchette, Jean Patrick. [No Room at the Morgue](#) (NY Review of Books \$15.95). Business is slow for Paris PI Eugène Tarpon, the narrator of this clever crime novel from Manchette (1942–1995) first published in 1973. "I sleep a lot. Or rather, I'm half awake a lot," he admits. Tarpon also drinks a lot. Then late one night, Memphis Charles, a small-time actor, rings the bell of his tiny, five-flight walkup apartment. She has found her roommate, Griselda Zapata, with a slit throat, but doesn't want to go to the police because she's afraid she'll be arrested for the murder. When Tarpon refuses to assist, Memphis knocks him out with his phone. The hard up Tarpon later accepts a large check from Griselda's brother to find the killer. The private eye eventually reconnects with Memphis, and lies to the police about her whereabouts, as he follows leads deep into the porn industry. Manchette plays this story for ironic humor, which might distress the many fans who know him for the symphonic sessions of assassination and gunplay in such masterpieces as *The Prone Gunman* and *The Mad and the Bad*.

Shannon, Dell. [Case Pending](#) (Poisoned Pen Press \$14.99). This Library of Congress Crime Classic was first published in 1960 by Elizabeth Linington who adopted Dell Shannon as one of several pseudonyms. *Case Pending* is thought to be the first police pro-

cedural written by a woman and was a 1961 Edgar Award finalist. The lead in this and subsequent Shannon books is Lieutenant Luis Mendoza of the LAPD.

Elena Ramirez's death was like many others. Hers was the kind of casual homicide that occurred every week in a city like Los Angeles in the sixties. Beaten, robbed, and left in an abandoned lot. But in fact, her murder was nearly identical to a murder that happened six months earlier—a case that Detective Luis Mendoza was never able to solve. The detective isn't a fan of puzzles but knows one when he sees it. He puts two and two together—these vicious murders must have been committed by the same deranged individual—and leads the charge into a case that is astounding in its complexity. Along with the begrudging help of Detective-Sergeant Hackett, Mendoza must separate the many twisted threads of this crime, from murder to black-market adoption and extortion.

## **SPEND TIME WITH THE NATURAL WORLD IN AUGUST**

Giggs, Rebecca. [Fathoms: The World in the Whale](#) (SimonSchuster \$27). There is wonderful nature writing publishing and this gem presents a gorgeous meditation on the awe-inspiring lives of whales, revealing what they can teach us about ourselves, our planet, and our relationship to other species. When Giggs encountered a humpback whale stranded on her local beachfront in Australia, she began to wonder how the lives of whales reflect the condition of our oceans. Her book blends natural history, philosophy, and science to explore: How do whales experience ecological change? How has whale culture been both understood and changed by human technology? What can observing whales teach us about the complexity, splendor, and fragility of life? In *Fathoms*, we learn about whales so rare they have never been named, whale songs that sweep across hemispheres in annual waves of popularity, and whales that have modified the chemical composition of our planet's atmosphere. We travel to Japan to board the ships that hunt whales and delve into the deepest seas to discover how plastic pollution pervades our earth's undersea environment. In the spirit of Rachel Carson and Rebecca Solnit, Giggs gives us a vivid exploration of the natural world even as she addresses what it means to write about nature at a time of environmental crisis.

Johnson, Sarah Stewart. [The Sirens of Mars: Searching for Life on Another World](#) (Crown \$28.99). In this quietly gorgeous book. Johnson brings her characters to vivid life—philosophers and scientists from the annals of Western history, family and teachers from her own life, or the dusty dunes of the 'red planet' itself—with clear, almost poetic prose, detailing the history of humanity's fascination with Mars, as well as her own. You will leave these pages with a deeper understanding of interplanetary science and the wonder of humanity's next discovery." An Indie Next Pick.

Lee, Jessica J. [Two Trees Make a Forest](#) (Catapult \$16.95). This lovely and fascinating book is about Lee's mixed immigrant family, but the heart of the book is Taiwan, her ancestral homeland. For those not familiar with its geography or history this is a rich trove to explore, along with history, geographical forces (the island sits on the Ring of Fire and its young mountains are growing higher), and memoir. A chance discovery of letters written by her grandfather who returned to Taiwan to die leads Lee who was raised in Canada and works in Berlin. The natural world is magnificent and all this comes from a non-white,

anti-colonial perspective. One of the *Guardian's* Best Books of the year and recommend to readers of William Finnegan's *Barbarian Days*. But IMHO, to anyone. I loved it.

Levesque, Emily. [The Last Stargazers](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99). "Astronomy is dangerous. Wild (sometimes venomous) animals, thin air, heavy equipment, hazardous chemicals... Dr. Levesque captures all this with amusement and personal experience, making this a delightful read for everyone." Humans from the earliest civilizations were spellbound by the night sky—craning their necks each night, they used the stars to orient themselves in the large, strange world around them. Stargazing is a pursuit that continues to fascinate us: from Copernicus to Carl Sagan, astronomers throughout history have spent their lives trying to answer the biggest questions in the universe. Now, award-winning astronomer Emily Levesque shares the stories of modern-day stargazers, the people willing to adventure across high mountain-tops and to some of the most remote corners of the planet, all in the name of science. From the lonely quiet of midnight stargazing to tall tales of wild bears loose in the observatory, *The Last Stargazers* is a love letter to astronomy and an affirmation of the crucial role that humans can and must play in the future of scientific discovery. In this sweeping work of narrative science, Levesque shows how astronomers in this scrappy and evolving field are going beyond the machines to infuse creativity and passion into the stars

MacDonald, Helen. [Vesper Flights](#) (Grove Atlantic \$27 Signed). The bestselling nature writer of [H Is for Hawk](#) (\$16) brings together a collection of her best-loved writing along with new pieces covering a thrilling range of subjects. There are essays here on headaches, on catching swans, on hunting mushrooms, on twentieth-century spies, on numinous experiences and high-rise buildings; on nests and wild pigs and the tribulations of farming ostriches. Here is a book "about observation, fascination, time, memory, love and loss and how we make the world around us. Moving and frank, personal and political." *H Is for Hawk* was a #1 bestseller for a long time, deservedly so. If you missed it, wait no longer.

McConaghy, Charlotte. [Migrations](#) (Flatiron \$26.99). This novel, the #1 Indie Next Pick, is fiction but I think it belongs here. Franny Stone has always been a wanderer. By following the ocean's tides and the birds that soar above, she can forget the losses that have haunted her life. But when the wild she so loves begins to disappear, Franny can no longer wander without a destination. She arrives in remote Greenland with one purpose: to find the world's last flock of Arctic terns and follow them on their final migration. She convinces Ennis Malone, captain of the Saghani, to take her onboard, winning over his salty, eccentric crew with promises that the birds she is tracking will lead them to fish. As the Saghani fights its way south, Franny's new shipmates begin to realize that the beguiling scientist in their midst is not who she seems. Battered by night terrors, accumulating a pile of letters to her husband, and dead set on following the terns at any cost, Franny is full of dark secrets. When the story of her past begins to unspool, Ennis and his crew must ask themselves what Franny is really running toward—and running from. Propelled by a narrator as fierce and fragile as the terns she is following, *Migrations* is a shatteringly beautiful ode to the wild places and creatures now threatened. But at its heart, it is about the lengths we will go, to the very edges of the world, for the people we love.



Nezhukumatathil, Aimee. [World of Wonders: In Praise of Fireflies, Whale Sharks, and Other Astonishments](#) (Milkweed \$24.95). I can't tell if this is still an August publication or has moved to September, but I am putting it here. In her luminous prose, illustrated by Fumi Nakamura, poet Aimee who teaches in the University of Mississippi's MFA program, paints the way through essays that flora and fauna, from the catapult tree to lightning bugs, can buttress and inspire life. Her Filipina mother, a doctor, fostered this in Kansas, Arizona, New York, Ohio, and in his home base with her Indian father. This is a remarkable book that will rejuvenate your sense of wonder. Think of it as a lovely holiday gift too.

Slaght, Jonathan C. [Owls of the Eastern Ice](#) (Farrar Strauss \$28). From the very first pages, Slaght, the Russia and Northeast Asian Coordinator for the Wildlife Conservation Society, grips readers with vivid language and tight storytelling. His many months trekking through the icy wilderness to find and track rare fish owls—the largest owl on Earth—inform a narrative that blends field research, personal journey, and adventure writing. Part of the book's success lies in the author's ability to present the stakes and draw out the tension therein, making what could be a dry tale of bird-watching a compelling story of the necessity of conservation.

#### OUR AUGUST LARGE PAPERBACK PICKS

Benn, James R. [When Hell Struck Twelve](#) (\$16.95). I can't rave enough about this superb series, part wartime drama, part murder mystery, sometime spy story, always a sure-handed blend of WWII history and pulsing story-telling. Here are bits of two Starred Reviews by critics as captivated as I: *PW*: "In August 1944, Capt. Billy Boyle is working for General Eisenhower in the Office of Special Investigations of the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force...As the Allies close in on the enemy forces trying to escape the Falaise Gap, Billy's job is to interrogate prisoners to learn about German plans to defend Paris. Boyle soon figures out that his assignment is a ruse to make it appear that the Allies are desperate for information about Paris, a clear signal that an attack on that city is in the works, when Eisenhower actually intends to bypass Paris. Meanwhile, one of the captured soldiers they question reveals that a French partisan group's leader, code-named Atlantik, has been betraying members of the Resistance. A briefing is planned that's intended to flush out Atlantik, complete with a phony mortar attack, but it goes wrong, and two men, including an American officer, are murdered amid the chaos. The author makes the most of the tense and dramatic backdrop to this high-stakes whodunit. Benn has surpassed himself with this installment." *Booklist*: "This consistently strong series has jumped to another level, with this volume clearly the hands-down best so far...a grandly suspenseful, old-school war story. Benn's portrayal of the gallimaufry of competing Resistance groups, whose bullets, Billy learns, kill you just as dead as the Germans' more powerful weaponry, adds a fascinating dimension to this exciting story of the sometimes-deadly chaos that accompanied the liberation of Paris." Order all the [Billy Boyles](#) and read your way through the war in a more linear fashion than with say Alan Furst, but as compellingly. Look for the sequel [The Red Horse](#) (Soho \$27.95), Signed, in September with our Virtual Event for Benn September 2.

Box, CJ. [Long Range](#) (\$16). It begins when a retired FBI agent warns the Wyoming Game Warden's longtime falconer friend, Nate Romanowski, that the Mexican drug cartel whose four assassins Nate helped take down in *Wolf Pack* have marked Nate as a target for revenge. The cartel has dispatched Orlando Panfile, an expert marksman, to do the job. Meanwhile, someone takes an astonishing long-range shot at ill-tempered Judge Hewitt in his home that hits Hewitt's wife, leaving her in critical condition. Could it be Panfile? Joe is asked to join the investigation by the new county sheriff, Brendan Kapelow, a guy who'd rather strut than sleuth and seems to be focused on political office. Kapelow finds it easier to arrest Nate, a remarkable shooter, than actually investigate, especially after a long-range rifle is discovered hidden in one of Nate's falcon pens. Of course, Joe isn't buying it, and conducts his own unauthorized investigation to help clear Nate. But why does Panfile mount an effort to have Nate freed? Several other odd questions need answering, too. I am impressed with the way Box skillfully elicits sympathy for Panfile, a stone cold killer if ever there was one. I love Nate trying to be a conventional family man and.... But it's a Box hallmark never to do the obvious!

Gardner, Lisa. [When You See Me](#) (\$17). On a hike in the hills outside the quaint tourist town of Niche, Georgia, a couple finds the partial skeletal remains of Lilah Abenito, who went missing 15 years ago. Lilah was thought to be one of the first victims connected to Jacob Ness, who kidnapped Flora eight years ago when she was a Boston college student and held her captive, mostly in a coffin-sized box, for 472 days. The chance to link the deceased Ness to additional crimes is impossible to pass up, and FBI agent Kimberly Quincy invites D.D., Flora (who is a confidential informant for D.D.), and computer analyst Keith Edgar, Flora's friend/love interest, to be part of her task force. A search through the hills turns up a mass grave full of more skeletal remains. While D.D. is updating the mayor, Howard Counsel, and his wife, Martha, who own the charming Mountain Laurel B&B, she becomes interested in their timid, fearful maid, a young Hispanic woman who's brain damaged and unable to speak following a car accident when she was a child. When Martha suddenly hangs herself (or so it seems), D.D. realizes something very odd is going on at ye olde B&B. Gardner juggles multiple narratives, including that of the Counsels' nameless maid, with ease affirming "Gardner's evolving and sensitive exploration of trauma and its insidious, lasting effects."

Greaney, Mark. [One Minute Out](#) (\$17). In this remarkable ninth Gray Man novel, Courtland Gentry—the Gray Man—takes on the Consortium, an international sex slave cartel, the existence of which he stumbles on while committing a hit on a Serbian strongman. A former CIA employee, Gentry fell out of favor to the point that the agency was trying to kill him, and after getting that misunderstanding straightened out, the agency is still kind of trying to kill him, though he works as an off-the-books assassin in a secret CIA program called Poison Apple. Never mind his official status. What's important is that he's probably the greatest assassin in the world, and those who oppose him usually end up dead. In this case, he decides to defy his bosses and hunt down the men who are part of the Consortium, running his own op with no help other than that from Talyssa Corbu, a junior analyst for Europol, whose sister the sex traffickers have captured. As always, Gentry is up to the task. And Wow, there is big news about the Gray Man

coming to film starring Ryan Gosling and Chris Evans...on a James Bond scale. Netflix is mentioned as “the perfect place for this film”

Hamilton, Ian. [The Diamond Queen of Singapore](#) (Anansi \$15.95). This new entry in The Triad Years begins after the father of Ava Lee’s best friend, Mimi, loses his family’s savings in a Ponzi scheme, Mimi turns to her old friend for help. Ava launches an investigation that sends her from Amsterdam to Antwerp and then to Singapore. As she tracks the money, Ava is reminded of an old case she worked with Uncle years before that took her to Singapore for the first time. In her mind, the two cases begin to merge, and as they do, Uncle becomes visible to Ava, counseling her and urging her to make use of her new triad connections. Ava is reluctant to do so, but Uncle is persistent, and soon Ava finds herself in conflict with one of the most influential family dynasties in Singapore and eventually back in Toronto, where she confronts a new face of power and corruption. Ava Lee is a forensic accountant, something of a modern pirate, a lesbian in love with a Chinese film star and also tight with close women friends as well as Uncle’s heir. I learn new things as well as travel worldwide with this remarkable series.

✚Harris, Robert D. [The Second Sleep](#) (\$16.95). How unfortunate it is that if I tell you why this is such a surprising read I will ruin it for you. The best I can do is say, imagine yourself in a small village near Exeter and then quote this Starred Review: “Thriller Award–winner Harris does a masterly job playing with readers’ expectations in this mystery set in 15th-century England. Father Christopher Fairfax has been dispatched by his bishop to Wessex to officiate at the funeral of Father Thomas Lacy, a parish priest who died in a fall. The assignment seems routine enough, but on reaching the town of Addicott St. George, he finds unexpected questions to answer. When he visits Lacy’s library, he learns that the man he’s about to inter in consecrated ground possessed numerous heretical volumes relating to an antiquarian society proscribed by the church. Eager to keep things uncomplicated, Fairfax proceeds with the funeral service as if he’d never seen the books, only to have the rites disrupted by an attendee who yells that Lacy’s death was not the result of “evil chance.” When foul weather delays Fairfax’s departure, he finds even more oddities, including the disappearance of the church register and an unsettling letter by a Cambridge professor found in a mass grave, which supports his suspicion that Lacy’s interest in the past was more than innocent scholarly curiosity. Few readers will pick up on the fairly planted clues” You really have to pay attention!

Hirsch, Paddy. [Hudson’s Kill](#) (\$18.99). Hirsch follows up his zinger of a 2018 History/Mystery Book of the Month [The Devil’s Half Mile](#) (\$16.99), introducing Justice Flanagan, with a knock-out sequel that evokes the rapidly urbanizing island and deploys a good deal of cant (there’s a handy glossary of terms to consult but most of it is obvious in context). Justy is now serving as a marshal in Manhattan in 1803. Crime is rising in the expanding city, but upper class residents, who can afford to protect themselves, oppose a permanent police force, fearing the equivalent of a standing army, and politicians object to the concept as an English idea. When Kerry O’Toole, a former mixed-race pick-pocket to whom Justy has given a chance to lead a law-abiding life, comes across an unidentified teenage girl in an alley who has been disemboweled Justy investigates. Tattoos on the dead girl’s

hands suggest that she’s a Muslim, which, along with her dark skin color, makes identifying her and catching her killer a low priority for Justy’s boss. Justy persists, however, and his inquiries take him and Kerry to Hudson’s Kill, the sequestered home of a significant Muslim community, whose members must be up to something behind their wall. Hirsch makes the most of his setting and has a rich vein of potential future plots to mine with trademark thoroughness. We still have 3 Signed firsts: [Hudson’s Kill](#) (\$25.95).

Johnson, Craig. [Land of Wolves](#) (\$17). Attempting to recover from his harrowing experiences in Mexico, Sheriff Walt Longmire is neck deep in the investigation of what could or could not be the suicide of a Chilean shepherd, working on a Basque family ranch, who has been found hanged in a tree. The man’s death has unsettling connections to the ranch family with its reputation for removing the legs of Absaroka County sheriffs (Walt’s predecessor Lucas). And Walt is distracted from the case by the appearance of an oversize wolf in the Big Horn Mountains, a big male who could be a local and not an imported wolf, to which Walt finds himself feeling more and more empathetic. And then there are those moments when Walt just seems to freeze, not relating to anything or one.... All the [Walt Longmires](#) are in print and form an indelible picture of the wide cast of characters and of varying aspects of Wyoming.

Mizushima, Margaret. [Tracking Game](#) (\$16.99). An explosion rocks the Timber Creek, Colorado, community building where Deputy Mattie Cobb and her boyfriend, veterinarian Cole Walker, are attending the Celebration of Summer dance. When Cole and Mattie investigate, they discover a burning van and a gunshot victim who turns out to be Nate Fletcher, the son-in-law of prominent ranchers. Mattie’s German shepherd K-9 partner, Robo, detects traces of cocaine during a sweep of the van, leading Mattie to suspect drug running. When another man is shot and attacked by an animal in the mountains, Mattie fears something more sinister is afoot. Meanwhile, Cole adjusts to single fatherhood while Mattie struggles with her painful past. The interactions between Mattie and Robo will tug the heartstrings of every dog lover as it has in the previous four cases they have worked together. An outdoors series for fans of Nevada Barr and Paula Munier.

Prescott, Lara. [The Secrets We Kept](#) (\$16.95). This perfect historical novel is made of the most alluring ingredients. First, a divine and doomed love affair between Russian author Boris Pasternak and his muse and secretary, Olga Ivinskaya, a woman immortalized in Pasternak’s epic novel *Doctor Zhivago*, which was banned in Russia for more than 30 years. Second, two American women typists working for CIA and their forbidden love story in the midst of the Cold War and the witch hunt against homosexuals. Lara Prescott brilliantly portrays how a timeless novel like *Doctor Zhivago* can change course of history. One reader writes, “After I finished reading *The Secrets We Kept*, I pressed the book against my chest, as if I could hear the lovers’ hearts still beating.” A Reese Witherspoon Book Club Pick and One of the Best Books of the Year: *The Washington Post*; NPR; *Entertainment Weekly*; NY Public Library; *Library Journal*, etc.

Quinn, Spencer. [Heart of Barkness](#) (\$17.99). Narrator Chet the Dog, Watson to P.I. Bernie Little, and Bernie encounter heartache and much worse in the world of country music. They’re both music lovers, so when Lotty Pilgrim, a country singer from long ago,

turns up at a local bar, they drive out to catch her act. Bernie's surprised to see someone who was once so big performing in such a dive, and drops a C-note the Little Detective Agency can't afford to part with into the tip jar. The C-note is stolen right from under their noses – even from under Chet's, the nose that misses nothing – and before the night is over, it's stolen again. Soon they're working the most puzzling case of their career, a case that takes them back in time in search of old border-town secrets, and into present-day danger because powerful people want those secrets to stay hidden.

Tokarczuk, Olga. [Drive Your Plow Over the Bones of the Dead](#) (\$17). Tokarczuk follows her Man Booker International winner *Flights* with an astounding mystical detective novel. Narrator Janina Duszejko, an English teacher and winter caretaker for a few summer houses in an isolated Polish hamlet near the Czech border, is awakened one night by her neighbor, whom she calls Oddball, who informs her that their neighbor, nicknamed Big Foot, is dead in his house. Before the police arrive, Janina and Oddball find a deer bone in Big Foot's mouth. Soon another body turns up, and Janina, an avid creator of horoscopes and, more generally, prone to theorizing and ascribing incidents to larger systems, develops a theory that animals are killing the locals. As the body count rises, Tokarczuk's novel succeeds as both a suspenseful murder mystery and a powerful and profound meditation on human existence and how a life fits into the world around it. Novels this thrilling don't come along very often.

Wegert, Tessa. [Death in the Family](#) (\$17). In the 1990s I was a fan of Stephen F Wilcox's mysteries like *St. Lawrence Run* set in the Thousand Islands region of Upper New York State bordering Canada. In that book there was a grand old mansion called Castle House. Those of you who saw *Knives Out* with Daniel Craig get the idea. So I am delighted to return to this special landscape with Wegert's debut. Thirteen months ago, former NYPD detective Shana Merchant barely survived being abducted by a serial killer. Now hoping to leave grisly murder cases behind, she's moved with her fiancé, the psychiatrist treating her, to the Thousand Islands to reboot, but takes a job with the Jefferson County Bureau of Criminal Investigation. Detection remains her thing. And the sheriff responds to a call by sending her and fellow investigator Tim Wellington to an isolated private island owned by the wealthy Sinclair family. Jasper Sinclair is missing. As a nor'easter bears down on her new territory, Shana and Tim arrive to find blood in Jasper's bedroom and a house full of Sinclair family and friends on edge. While Tim guesses they're dealing with a runaway case, Shana is convinced that they have a murder on their hands. As the gale intensifies outside, she starts conducting interviews and discovers the Sinclairs and their guests are crawling with dark and dangerous secrets—so Agatha Christie! Trapped on the island by the raging storm with only Tim whose reliability is thrown into question, the increasingly restless suspects, and her own trauma-fueled flashbacks for company, Shana will have to trust the one person her abduction destroyed her faith in—herself—to see the investigation through.

## TWO FOR THE YOUNGER READER

### *A pair of Indie Next Picks*

Page, Nathan. [The Montague Twins: The Witch's Hand](#) (Knopf \$25.99). What a perfect book for summer! The Montague Twins is a modern take on the Hardy Boys and the '60s. This graphic novel expertly mixes magic, detective skills, madcap adventure, brotherhood, and friendship. Illustrated by Drew Shannon

Stutzman, Jonathan. [Llama Unleashes the Alpocalypse](#) (Holt, \$18.99). Funny and relatable. Who doesn't like a well-balanced breakfast but could do without the well-balanced mess it creates? In this hilarious sequel to [Llama Destroys the World](#) (\$17.99), Jonathan Stutzman once again regales readers with Llama's mis-adventures... this time involving his good friend Alpaca. Heather Fox's illustrations perfectly bring to life that lovable polymath, Llama. Illustrated by Heather Fox

## A WEALTH OF COZIES

*All those books that were postponed from May and June are dropping into August. What a feast for you readers. Stock up, they won't spoil on the shelf....Note also books by Rhys Bowen and Carolyn G. Hart for August*

Baxter, Cynthia. [Last Licks](#) (\$15.95). When Sunny Coolidge's curmudgeonly boss, Oliver Barnstable, lands in rehab after breaking his leg, Sunny is stuck shuttling between their offices in Kittery Harbor, Maine, and the facility where Ollie is recuperating. And if putting up with temper tantrums from her boss wasn't enough, his rehab roommate, Gardner Scatterwell, is a shameless flirt. But when Scatterwell dies unexpectedly in the night, Ollie is convinced it wasn't from natural causes. He gives Sunny a new assignment—find out who killed the old tomcat. And speaking of cats, Shadow, Sunny's feline partner in crime, takes a peculiar interest in the rehab's resident angel of death—a calico cat called Portia, with an uncanny talent for cozying up to patients right before they pass away. Together, Sunny and Shadow will have to nose out clues to discover if Portia's jinx had anything to do with Gardner's passing....

Berenson, Laurien. [Howloween Murder](#) (Kensington \$20). Although Melanie Travis is best known for the triumphs of her champion standard poodles in the dog-show ring, her job tutoring special needs students at Howard Academy, a private school in upscale Greenwich, is also a source of satisfaction for the breeder. Melanie works to maintain good relationships with her colleagues, even agreeing to help novice teacher Cheryl Feeney prepare for this year's Halloween celebration. But the person who really needs Melanie's help, Cheryl confides, is Harriet Bloom. The omniscient school secretary spent the better part of the fall making marshmallow puffs, a delicacy cherished by both the Howard Academy staff and Ms. Bloom's neighbors. That is, until one of those neighbors, Ralph Penders, dies after eating one. Once the police zero in on Harriet as chief suspect, she reaches out to Melanie... Once Melanie starts digging, she discovers a treasure trove of microaggressions and petty grievances in this quiet corner of Connecticut.

Black, Laura Gail. [For Whom the Book Tolls](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Jenna Quinn stands out in the ranks of cozy sleuths—she comes to a small North Carolina town freshly acquitted of a



murder she didn't commit and walks straight into another crime scene. And so her crazy life takes a turn and leads her right into a fabulous bookshop. "This cozy mystery has unexpected layers of intrigue and interest. You'll love all the characters, and the mystery will keep you guessing. You won't want to miss this one." —Paige Shelton

Bolton, Ginger. [Boston Scream Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95). October 31 is just around the corner and Emily Westhill's Boston cream donuts, carved with a scream, have made an indelible impression on local eccentric Rich Royalson. So much so that he's ordered three dozen, with no screaming faces and twice the fudge frosting, for his seventieth birthday—a special event in more ways than one. It's to be held on fog-shrouded Lake Fleekom where, twenty years ago, his wife mysteriously drowned. But the next day, when Emily arrives with her Boston cream donuts, she stumbles upon Rich's corpse. With a guest list of possible perpetrators left at the scene, Emily soon discovers that the Royalson closet is rattling with skeletons.

Brook, Allison. [Checked Out for Murder](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Daphne Marriott strolls into Clover Ridge and informs librarian Carrie Singleton that she's a psychic. But had she foreseen what fate awaited her, Daphne would have steered clear of the quaint Connecticut town. Evelyn, the library ghost, tells Carrie that there's more to Daphne than she lets on. The mysterious woman grew up in Clover Ridge with her no-good dad, who apparently met his end at the hands of Daphne's brother, Billy. Still, Daphne proves a welcome distraction when Carrie's overbearing mother hits town. Mom's much younger husband, Tom, is in a movie that's lensing locally, and she's there to keep an eye on him: Tom's costar, sultry Ilana Reingold, is also his ex-fiancée, and there's no denying the chemistry is still there. Soon after mingling with the moviemakers at a meet-and-greet, Daphne is found dead. Carrie and Evelyn investigate, assisted by bushy-tailed library cat Smoky Joe. But the suspect list could overflow the library shelves....

Burdette, Lucy. [The Key Lime Crime](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Food critic Hayley Snow is covering a key lime pie contest for *Key Zest* magazine. The island is full of revelers the week between Christmas and New Year's, which means that Hayley's new husband, cop Nathan Bransford, barely has time to sleep. It's the worst possible time for Nathan's mother, Helen Bransford, to visit, especially since Hayley is left to entertain her food-averse new mother-in-law on her own. Things take a deadly turn when Hayley and Helen discover one of the pastry chef contestants, Claudette Parker, lying dead on her front porch, dressed in a Santa outfit. Nathan cautions Hayley not to get involved, but Helen has her own reasons to investigate Claudette's murder, and turns out to have some pretty impressive sleuthing skills herself. Charming characters, an appealing setting, and mouthwatering bonus recipes make [this series](#) a perfect choice for foodie cozy lovers.

Connolly, Sheila. [The Secret Staircase](#) (St Martins \$26.99). Kate Hamilton is feeling good about her plans to recreate Asheboro, Maryland as the Victorian town it once was. The town is finally on her side, and the finances are coming together. Even two recent murders aren't enough to discourage her: after she helped to solve them, she put them behind her. Now comes the time to make real plans, and her first goal is to renovate the Barton

Mansion on the outskirts of town. Luckily, it's been maintained in good condition in the century since the wealthy Henry Barton lived and died there. So the only substantial change she's planning is to update the original kitchen so that it can be used to cater events in the building. But when the contractor gets started, he discovers a staircase that had been walled in years earlier. And of course, given the way Kate's luck has been going, there's a body on the stairs. After the first shock, Kate is relieved when the autopsy reveals that the man had died around 1880. Unfortunately, it also reveals that he had not died a natural death....

✚Dennison, Hannah. [Death at High Tide](#) (Minotaur \$25.99). Our **August Cozy Book of the Month** launches the Island Sisters series where two sisters inherit an old hotel in the Isles of Scilly, situated off the coast of Cornwall. Tregarrick Rock, one of the Scillies, and the old hotel, used in its heyday to house detective novelists.... See more below in New Books. I visited the Scillies in May of 2019 and had morning coffee at a hotel like this and spent the afternoon at the unbelievably beautiful, and unusual, Tresco Abbey Gardens. We met people from Cornwall who'd flown over for the weekend.

Gerard, Anna. [Peachy Scream](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). It's nothing short of inevitable that Cymbeline, Georgia, hosts an annual Shakespeare festival. But stage-struck Nina Fleet is about to learn that putting on an amateur theatrical production can be murder. Nina's anticipating showbiz glamour and glitz when a community Shakespearean troupe arrives for a two-week stay at her B&B. But the lights dim when she learns the company's director is her nemesis, struggling actor Harry Westcott—who still claims to be the rightful heir to Nina's elegant Queen Anne home. Meanwhile, the troupe members are not content to leave the drama upon the stage. Accusations of infidelity and financial malfeasance make a shambles of rehearsals. And then, two days into the troupe's stay, the lead actor is found dead in Nina's formal Shakespeare garden!

Gilbert, Victoria. [Booked for Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Nestled in the historic waterfront town of Beaufort, North Carolina, Chapters Bed-and-Breakfast is a reader's paradise. Built in 1770, the newly renovated inn hosts a roster of special events celebrating books, genres, and authors. It's the perfect literary retreat—until a rare book dealer turns up dead in the carriage house during a celebration of Golden Age mystery author Josephine Tey. The victim's daughter points the finger at forty-two-year-old widow and former schoolteacher Charlotte Reed, who inherited the B&B from her great-aunt Isabella. Charlotte is shocked to discover that the book dealer suspected Isabella of being a thief who founded Chapters on her ill-gotten gains. Charlotte has successfully learned the B&B business in a year, but nothing has prepared her to handle a death on the premises. Armed with intelligence and courage and assisted by her vibrant older neighbor, a visiting author, and members of a local book club, Charlotte is determined to prove her innocence and to clear her great-aunt's name....

Giordano, Mario. [Auntie Poldi and the Handsome Antonio](#) (Houghton \$24/\$14.99). "Dreams of a sweet Sicilian retirement are dashed for a Munich matron when her ex turns up and entices her into a murder investigation. The story opens at a moment of high drama: A shady character known as Handsome Antonio is holding a fish cleaver up to the throat of beloved Auntie Poldi. The witness and chronicler of this scene is her nephew, an aspir-

ing writer who's the gregarious first-person narrator of her adventures. Antonio wants, and assumes that Poldi has, 'it!' But before the reader can learn what 'it' is, the story flashes back to a visit Poldi receives from her Tanzanian ex-husband, John Owenya, whom she thought she was well rid of. Not only does this put a crimp in her budding relationship with Vito Montana; John's half brother, Thomas, has disappeared, presumably on the run from the Mafia. Given her reputation as a detective, it's no wonder that John wants Poldi's help. The only clue left behind is a card with the name "Handsome Antonio" and a 12-digit number printed on it. And so the game is afoot. There's no dearth of banter, chases, and narrow escapes. A dash of zest comes from capsule descriptions of the narrative at the beginning of each chapter. Giordano's third Auntie Poldi mystery is frothy, if forgettable, fun. Mrs. Polifax would be proud."—*Kirkus Reviews*

James, Miranda. [Cat Me If You Can](#) (Berkley \$26). The latest Cat in the Stacks Mystery begins when rare books librarian Charlie Harris takes Charlie from Athena, Mississippi, to Asheville, N.C., along with Charlie's fiancée, bistro owner Helen Louise Brady, and his Maine Coon cat, Diesel, for a weeklong retreat attended by members of the Athena Public Library mystery group. Charlie and Helen Louise are hoping for a relaxing time, despite Helen Louise's anxiety about giving a presentation on British author Elizabeth Cadell, and Charlie's Jessica Fletcher-like habit of getting enmeshed in real-life homicide investigations. Sure enough, lightning strikes again, and Charlie winds up evaluating the motives of his fellow mystery readers after one attendee is stabbed to death with a hatpin at the hotel hosting the event. That murder leads to a reevaluation of a previous death at the hotel that was attributed to natural causes....

Laurie, Victoria. [To Coach a Killer](#) (Kensington \$26). In a fast sequel to Catherine Cooper's last adventure in [Coached to Death](#) (\$7.99), Cat is stuck on investigating a sociopathic hit woman responsible for a trail of murders tangentially affecting Cat's life. Take, for example, the killing of Lenny Shepherd. The real estate agent was snatched by the killer years earlier, and Cat wants to get to the bottom of it so she can allay the ignorance of her friend (just friend, she insists) Detective Steve Shepherd about why his ex-wife was killed by such a notorious fiend. Meanwhile, Cat's love interest, Maks Grinkov, who's been all but MIA lately, shows up asking Cat for an act of faith. Because of his connection to Canadian Security Intelligence Services, he needs Cat to act as a go-between for him and his handler. Surely Cat—or Catherine, as he formally puts it—trusts him, right? And Cat's real-life job as East Hampton's newest life coach is a perfect cover for making handoffs to strangers. Besides, her only recent client, Willem Entwistle, a little person plagued by a curse of bad luck, is hardly occupying all her time. **Laurie will do an event with Vicki Delany in October and we will have Signed copies of this then.**

Lim, Roselle. [Vanessa Yu's Magical Paris Teashop](#) (Berkley) (\$16). Let's skip mystery and go for location and romance. Vanessa is an accountant with the power of clairvoyance. She travels to a tea shop in Paris to learn to control her predictions with the help of her Aunt Evelyn. There, she finds a new purpose by connecting the people around her and just might find true love for herself. Sweet, romantic, and cozy. "For readers who enjoyed *Number One Chinese Restaurant* and *Kitchens of the Great Midwest*," says one librarian. But really, for anyone who longs for a visit to Paris.

McKevett, GA. [Murder in the Corn Maze](#) (\$15.95). Even if she has to stick to a budget, Stella Reid always makes holidays like Halloween memorable for twelve-year-old Savannah and the rest of her grandchildren. After joining trick-or-treating and the annual parade down Main Street, Granny Reid and the kids head to Judge Patterson's antebellum mansion, where a corn maze awaits. Most of the youngsters are too terrified to make it all the way to the middle. It's lucky for them, because when Savannah and Granny get there, it proves to be even scarier than they expected—half buried in the mud at the center of the maze lies a human skull. The grisly discovery uncovers a mystery that stretches back decades—and seems to be related to the long-unsolved murder of Granny Reid's own part-Cherokee mother.

Meier, Leslie. [Wicked Witch Murder](#) (Kensington \$12.95). Wiccan shopkeeper Diana Ravenscroft and her cat familiar, Piewocket, stir up trouble in Tinker's Grove, Maine. Soon after Lucy, "a hardheaded reporter" for the town's weekly newspaper, receives a reading from Lady Diana, high priestess of the Silver Coven, warning her of approaching danger, Lucy and her Labrador, Libby, stumble over a burned corpse during a woodland walk. The victim turns out to be the Silver Coven's Malcolm Malebranche, a magician whom Diana believed to be in England. Later, Lucy's two teenage daughters, Sara and Zoe, and Abby, the daughter of Lucy's new neighbor, religious zealot Ike Stoughton, become entranced by the bewitching Diana. When Ike's ill wife dies, Ike blames the high priestess. As Abby sickens, Lucy feels increasing pressure to find out what's going on. "The intrepid journalist uncovers no magic in the dark heart of murder in this neat little cozy." This reissue from 2011 in one of the numerous Lucy Stone mysteries celebrating holidays.

Walker, Laura Jensen. [Murder Most Sweet](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). Set in Lake Potawatomi, Wisconsin, this light and sassy series launch introduces 43-year-old Theodora "Teddie" St. John, breast cancer survivor, cozy mystery author, and master cake and cookie baker. The town is all agog at the prospect of meeting Tavish Bentley, "a rich-and-famous *New York Times* best-selling author," who's doing a signing at the local bookstore, where Teddie will be providing refreshments. At the event is Tavish's ex-fiancée, Kristi Black, who's seeking to win him back. During a visit to the bookstore ladies' room, Teddie loses her scarf, which was apparently taken by one of the two women, one of whom may have been Kristi, she overheard arguing over Tavish while she was in a stall. Later that day, Teddie goes for a walk and discovers Kristi dead in a dumpster, with the missing scarf around her neck. Someone has obviously tried to frame Teddie, who sets out with aplomb to find the real killer.

### SOME NEW BOOKS FOR AUGUST

*To be real, such an avalanche of books is pouring out, many delayed from April-July, that I can't cover them all. Be sure to check our [webstore](#) for favorites I've missed, etc. With so few Advance Reading Copies available much of the time I am quoting reviews to help you discover what you want to read this month.*

*On another subject, there is a river of political books running. We either stock or can quickly supply any of them. Please check our [webstore](#) and send those orders.*

*Thank you.*

Bancroft, Collette, ed. [Tampa Bay Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95). The headline story for many of you will be one by Michael Connelly. For too long readers have connected Florida Noir with the admittedly fascinating locales of Miami-Dade County, thanks to a slew of talented and popular writers no doubt, but there's another major metropolitan area on the Gulf Coast that's every bit Miami's equal for bizarre noir. Tampa Bay gets a much-deserved turn in the spotlight with this new collection in the Akashic series, edited by Colette Bancroft and featuring some stellar contributions from writers out of the greater Tampa diaspora, including Tim Dorsey, Sarah Gerard, Ace Atkins, Lisa Unger, Sterling Watson, and Lori Roy.

Blooms, Ashley. [Every Bone a Prayer](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99). Misty's holler looks like any of the thousands of hollers that fork through the Appalachian Mountains. But Misty knows her home is different. She may be only ten, but she hears things. Even the crawdads in the creek have something to say, if you listen. All that Misty's sister Penny wants to talk about are the strange objects that start appearing outside their trailer. The grown-ups mutter about sins and punishment, but that doesn't scare Misty. Not like the hurtful thing that's been happening to her, the hurtful thing that is becoming part of her. Ever since her neighbor William cornered her in the barn, she must figure out how to get back to the Misty she was before — the Misty who wasn't afraid to listen. This is the story of one tough-as-nails girl whose choices are few but whose fight is boundless, as her coping becomes a battle cry for everyone around her. Written by a survivor of sexual abuse, *Every Bone a Prayer* "evokes the magic of my favorite childhood stories — thrilling, but eerie — but it's also a painful, beautiful, and necessary examination of trauma and autonomy." —Buzzfeed

Bokur, Debra. [The Fire Thief](#) (Kensington \$26). For those missing August vacations here's a chance to travel to Hawaii and into its folklore as well as into a mystery. It begins when police captain Walter Alaka'i discovers the body of a young surfer bobbing among the lava rocks of Maui's southern shore. When a close look shows the boy, so promising an athlete, was murdered, Walter solicits the help of his niece, also a cop, Detective Kali Mahoe. She's the granddaughter of a respected spiritual leader and on track to becoming a *kahu* herself, so she sees evidence of ritual murder here. Plus there are sightings of a malicious spirit. And a grisly sacrifice. Island legends come into play as does police work and forensics. This is a solid procedural, never fear, but it provides a deep dive into a lovely landscape. And it appears to start A Dark Paradise mystery series!

Bova, Ben. [Space Station Down](#) (Forge \$26.99). When an ultra-rich space tourist visits the orbiting International Space Station, NASA expects a \$100 million win-win: his visit will bring in much needed funding and publicity. But the tourist venture turns into a scheme of terror. Together with an extremist cosmonaut, the tourist slaughters all the astronauts on board the million-pound ISS—and prepares to crash it into New York City at 17,500 miles an hour, causing more devastation than a hundred atomic bombs. In doing so, they hope to annihilate the world's financial system. All that stands between them and their deadly goal is the lone survivor aboard the ISS, Kimberly Hasid-Robinson, a newly divorced astronaut who has barricaded herself in a secure area.

Bradbury, Ray. [Killer, Come Back to Me](#) (Hard Case Crime \$39.99). Honoring the 100th birthday of Ray Bradbury, renowned author of *Fahrenheit 451*, this new, definitive collection of the master's less well-known crime fiction, published in a high-grade premium collectible edition, features classic stories and rare gems, a number of which became episodes of ALFRED HITCHCOCK PRESENTS and THE RAY BRADBURY THEATER, including the tale Bradbury called "one of the best stories in any field that I have ever written." Is it murder to destroy a robot if it looks and speaks and thinks and feels like a human being? Can a ventriloquist be incriminated by the testimony of his own dummy? Can a time traveler prevent his younger self from killing the woman they both loved? And can the survivor of a pair of Siamese twins investigate his own brother's murder? No other writer has ever rivaled the imagination and narrative gifts of Ray Bradbury, and the 20 unforgettable stories in this collection demonstrate this singular writer's extraordinary range and influence.

Campbell, Lisbeth. [The Vanished Queen](#) (Saga Press \$27.99). Does high fantasy tickle your fancy for August? This beautiful package is just the thing. Long ago, Queen Mirantha vanished. King Karolje claimed it was an assassination by a neighboring king, but everyone knew it was a lie. He had Disappeared her himself. But after finding the missing queen's diary, Anza—impassioned by her father's unjust execution and inspired by Mirantha's words—joins the resistance group to overthrow the king. When an encounter with Prince Esvar thrusts her into a dangerous game of court politics, one misstep could lead to a fate worse than death. Esvar is the second son to an evil king. Trapped under his thumb and desperate for a way out, a chance meeting with Anza gives him the opportunity to join the resistance. Together, they might have the leverage to move against the king—but if they fail, their deaths could mean a total loss of freedom for generations to follow. Set in a world where resistance is as dangerous as it is important, *The Vanished Queen* is a tale of the courage and sacrifice it requires to take on a tyrant.

Carcattera, Lorenzo. [Payback](#) (Ballantine \$28). Tank Rizzo is a New York cop on unwanted retirement thanks to an assailant's bullet. He's taken the time to put together what he calls his "team": his teenage nephew, Chris, living with him after losing his parents in a suspicious car crash; his girlfriend, Connie Tramonti; his ex-partner, Frank "Pearl" Monroe, who uses a wheelchair after having been shot at the same time as Tank; Connie's restaurateur father, Carmine Tramonti, a retired mobster; and various other contacts on both sides of the law. Prompted by what his nephew is able to dig up on the internet, Tank comes to believe that the accounting firm his late brother worked for arranged his death and sets out to prove it. As if a white-shoe firm willing to stoop to murder isn't enough of an opponent, Tank also goes after a retired White police detective whose unsurpassed number of closed murder cases had to do with his willingness to pressure young Black men into confessing to crimes they didn't commit... "The two cases intertwine in an action-filled plot spiced with gangster lore and New York history. Those who like their cop novels to take retribution to wild and wicked extremes will have fun" with this sequel to [Tin Badges](#) (\$9.99) which is just out in paperback.

Collins, Megan. [Behind the Red Door](#) (Atria \$27). Fern, whose emotional fragility never feels forced or cliché, sees a familiar-



looking woman on TV, a former kidnapping victim, and realizes she maybe can't trust her own childhood recollections of those events. Enter a sadistic psychologist father, a mother who builds a floor out of the fragments of broken pottery, and a slew of suspicious hometown acquaintances.... "Behind the Red Door isn't just a gripping, finely-tuned thriller, it's a masterful meditation on fear. Dark forests, crumbling cabins, and mutating nightmares all populate this New England landscape where one woman may hold the key to saving a kidnapping victim. But in order to do so, she'll have to confront a lifetime of terror, including the ultimate fear: not knowing who can be trusted or where the monsters live. I was hooked from the first page." —Mindy Mejia

✦Dennison, Hannah. [Death at High Tide](#) (Minotaur \$25.99).

At the start of this winning series launch from Dennison (the Honeychurch Hall mysteries), 36-year-old Evie Mead learns that her recently deceased older husband, Robert, has left her in financial difficulties, but a document discovered at his accountant's office indicates she may have inherited Tregarrick Rock, a hotel on the island of Tregarrick off the coast of Cornwall. Accompanied by Margot Chandler, her glamorous Hollywood producer sister, Evie heads to remote Tregarrick to check out her possible inheritance. Nasty Jago Ferris claims he owns Tregarrick Rock, and denies knowledge of Robert and any such document, though Evie later finds a photo of them together next to a picture of Robert's first wife in Jago's office. Jago's artist wife, Tegan, takes a particular dislike to Evie, and two hotel employees are conspicuously cool to the sisters. Two murders and a high tide cutting off the police heighten the suspense. Intriguing characters and an intricate plot lift this twist on Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*. Cozy fans will look forward to further skullduggery on Tregarrick. It is our August Cozy Crimes Book of the Month but it could as well be our British Crime Book of the Month so I urge those of you who like lighter British mystery to check this series start out.

Donoghue, Emma. [The Pull of the Stars](#) (Little Brown \$28) is an unexpectedly timely novel bringing readers to the maternity ward of a Dublin hospital during the height of the 1918 Spanish Influenza pandemic. In an Ireland doubly ravaged by war and disease, Nurse Julia Power works at an understaffed hospital in the city center, where expectant mothers who have come down with the terrible new Flu are quarantined together. Into Julia's regimented world step two outsiders — Doctor Kathleen Lynn, a rumored Rebel on the run from the police, and a young volunteer helper, Bridie Sweeney. In the darkness and intensity of this tiny ward, over three days, these women change each other's lives in unexpected ways. They lose patients to this baffling pandemic, but they also shepherd new life into a fearful world. With tireless tenderness and humanity, carers and mothers alike somehow do their impossible work. This is a story of war, death, birth, family traumas and independence.

✦Dyer Ashley. [The Cutting Room](#) (\$16.99). While Britain is obsessed with the newest hit true-crime television show, Fact, or Fable? Detectives Ruth Lake and Greg Carver are tormented by a fiendish flesh-and-blood killer on the loose. Lured to a "crime scene" by a mysterious digital invitation, Ruth Lake is horrified by what she finds: a bizarre and gruesome tableau surrounded by a crowd of gawkers. The deadly work is the latest "art installa-

tion" designed by a diabolical criminal dubbed the Ferryman. Not only is this criminal cold-blooded; he's a narcissistic exhibitionist desperate for an audience. He's also clever at promoting his deadly handiwork. Exploiting England's current true-crime craze, he uses social media to titillate and terrorize the public. Ruth is joined in the investigation by her partner Greg Carver, who is slowly regaining his strength after a run-in with another sadistic criminal. But Greg can't seem to shake the bewildering effects of the head wound that nearly ended him. Are the strange auras blurring his vision an annoying side effect of his injury, or could they be something more...a tool to help him see a person's true nature? Start this serial-killer focused series with [A Splinter in the Blood](#) (\$15.99).

Ephron Hallie. [Careful What You Wish For](#) (\$16.99). Meet professional organizer Emily Harlow, owner of Freeze-Frame Clutter Kickers. Emily likes to keep her things in order, but husband Frank loves to hit the yard sales on the weekends and has filled their home with stuff. One would think Emily could fix the issue of clutter at her own house, but she has a rule that you can only organize your own things, so Frank's finds are off-limits. While working, she meets Mrs. Murphy and Quinn Newell. Mrs. Murphy hires Emily to go through the possessions of her recently deceased husband, while Quinn Newell hires her company to declutter her garage. Emily crosses professional boundaries by getting a little tipsy during her initial consultation with Quinn. They both joke about getting rid of their sloppy spouses, and a few days later Emily finds herself in a huge mess. "With smooth dialog and a title that is a good representation of the story line, Ephron offers a great 'murder swap' mystery reminiscent of the 1951 Hitchcock classic *Strangers on a Train* (also a great novel by Patricia Highsmith). Recommended for those who love puzzling, unpredictable mysteries with a little lesson in professional organizing on the side," says *LJ*.

Emezi, Akaeke. [The Death of Vivek Oji](#) (Riverhead \$27). One afternoon, in a town in southeastern Nigeria, a mother opens her front door to discover her son's body, wrapped in colorful fabric, at her feet. What follows is the tumultuous, heart-wrenching story of one family's struggle to understand a child whose spirit is both gentle and mysterious. Raised by a distant father and an understanding but overprotective mother, Vivek suffers disorienting blackouts, moments of disconnection between self and surroundings. As adolescence gives way to adulthood, Vivek finds solace in friendships with the warm, boisterous daughters of the Nigerwives, foreign-born women married to Nigerian men. But Vivek's closest bond is with Osita, the worldly, high-spirited cousin whose teasing confidence masks a guarded private life. As their relationship deepens—and Osita struggles to understand Vivek's escalating crisis—the mystery gives way to a heart-stopping act of violence. Recommended to fans of Oyinkan Braithwaite's [My Sister the Serial Killer](#) (\$14.95).

Feldman, Ellen. [Paris Never Leaves You](#) (St Martins \$30). A bookstore in Paris, a life disrupted by the Occupation, a life rebooted in 1950s New York as an editor in a publishing company. It sounds bookish and it is, but it's much more than that as we learn gradually about Charlotte and how she survived and what prices people paid for her daughter Vivi to do so too. It's an unorthodox love story with surprises and one of the better novels about women in the war I have read.

Galligan, John. [Bad Axe County](#) (\$16). Fifteen years ago, Heidi White's parents were shot to death on their Bad Axe County farm. The police declared it a murder-suicide and closed the case. But that night, Heidi found the one clue she knew could lead to the truth—if only the investigators would listen. Now Heidi White is Heidi Kick, wife of local baseball legend Harley Kick and mother of three small children. She's also the interim sheriff in Bad Axe. Half the county wants Heidi elected but the other half will do anything to keep her out of law enforcement. And as a deadly ice storm makes its way to Bad Axe, tensions rise and long-buried secrets climb to the surface. As freezing rain washes out roads and rivers flood their banks, Heidi finds herself on the trail of a missing teenage girl. Clues lead her down twisted paths to backwoods stag parties, derelict dairy farms, and the local salvage yard—where the body of a different teenage girl has been carefully hidden for a decade. As the storm rages on, Heidi realizes that someone is planting clues for her to find, leading her to some unpleasant truths that point to the local baseball team and a legendary game her husband pitched years ago. Dennis Lehane meets Megan Miranda in this “dark beauty of a novel”

—William Kent Krueger

And now the sequel: [Dead Man Dancing](#) (Atria \$27). The town gathers for the annual *Syttende Mai*—or Norwegian Independence Day—festival. During this rollicking family-oriented event filled with dancing and food, Sheriff Heidi Kick discovers a dark and shocking event—a migrant worker has been savagely beaten but refuses to explain what happened. Then, a sudden murder of a band member shatters the festival. Something is deeply wrong in Bad Axe County. As she looks for answers, Heidi plunges into a secret underworld where high-stakes cage fights double as combat training for the White Nationalist movement. Then all hell breaks loose for Heidi when her husband disappears and a secret he's been keeping from Heidi is revealed.

Garza, Amber. [When I Was You](#) (Mira \$16.99). Depressed, lonely Kelly Medina, the principal narrator of this clever psychological thriller from Garza (Play Safe), misses her son, Aaron, who's away at college, and sees little of her emotionally distant professor husband, who prefers to stay near campus instead of their Folsom, Calif., home. One day, Kelly is surprised to receive a call from Aaron's pediatrician about an appointment. When Kelly looks into this mistake, she discovers that the town is home to another Kelly Medina, who has an infant son. Kelly goes out of her way to meet this other Kelly, in whom she develops an unhealthy interest. Believing that the younger woman's son looks remarkably like Aaron at the same age, she sets out to take charge of the baby's upbringing. When the point-of-view shifts to that of the younger Kelly, the plot takes some murderous turns along the way to the unexpected ending. Through the skillful use of the second-person, Garza makes it tantalizingly unclear at times which Kelly is which. Fans of tricky tales of obsession and revenge will be well satisfied. **NOTE: We will host a virtual event with Garza in early September; this book publishes August 25 and we've run out of August dates.**

Goldin, Megan. [The Night Swim](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). After the first season of her true crime podcast became an overnight sensation and set an innocent man free, Rachel Krall is now a household name—and the last hope for thousands of people seeking justice. But she's used to being recognized for her voice, not

her face. Which makes it all the more unsettling when she finds a note on her car windshield, addressed to her, begging for help. The small town of Neapolis is being torn apart. A local Olympic swimmer has been accused of rape. Rachel is asked to look into a case from 25 years earlier in which a local girl supposedly drowned. Goldin “casts a searing light on small-town politics and how bias can affect the way people view rape victims and their alleged assailants.” I thought Goldin's nail-biting thriller [The Escape Room](#) (\$16) was excellent; try both of her books.

Harrison, Helen A. [An Accidental Corpse](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). On the night of August 11, 1956, in a quiet East Hampton hamlet, Jackson Pollock crashed his car into a tree. The accident killed Pollock, the world-renowned abstract painter and notorious alcoholic, and his 25-year old passenger, Edith Metzger...or did it? Metzger's autopsy reveals that she was already dead before the crash. Was it murder? This shocking question draws vacationing Detective Juanita Diaz and her husband, Captain Brian Fitzgerald, of the NYPD into a homicide investigation that implicates famous members of East Hampton's art community—including Pollock himself. This is slight but well researched and based on Pollock's real demise, if with imagined extras. Begin with [An Exquisite Corpse](#) (\$14.95), featuring Surrealist refugees, and again, NYC and the Hamptons.

Hart, Carolyn. [Ghost Ups Her Game](#) (Severn \$28.99). After a busy morning dispatching emissaries from Heaven's Department of Good Intentions to those in need, Bailey Ruth Raeburn is feeling flush with success. So when an urgent call for help comes through from her old hometown, she can't resist taking on the mission herself. After all, what could go wrong? With the shouted warning of her boss, Wiggins ringing in her ears, she arrives to face a shocking scene: Professor Iris Gallagher leaning over the corpse of her colleague Matt Lambert, the murder weapon clutched in her hand. Bailey Ruth is only sent to help the innocent, but things are looking very black for Iris. With Wiggins breathing down her neck, and her old friend Police Chief Sam Cobb casting doubt on her every theory, Bailey Ruth must uncover the truth—or this could be the last trip to earth she's ever allowed to make. Ordered Upon Request.

Hart, Ellen. [In a Midnight Wood](#) (St Martins \$26.99). MWA Grand Master Hart's elegantly plotted 27th Jane Lawless mystery takes Jane, a Minneapolis restaurateur and researcher for crime podcasts dealing with Minnesota cold cases, and her best friend, theater director Cordelia Thorn, to Castle Lake for a few days of relaxation before the small town's annual arts festival. Jane and Cordelia are distracted by some gruesome news from Emma Granholm, the friend they're staying with. The remains of Sam Romilly, Emma's high school boyfriend who disappeared in 1999, have just been found buried beneath a coffin in a local graveyard, along with his backpack. For decades, it was rumored that Sam's father had murdered him. Jane decides to investigate Sam's death for a podcast, and in the course of her digging comes to realize that someone other than Sam's father had motive to kill the teenager. Hart builds tension by alternating chapters focused on Jane and friends in the present with those showing Sam and his schoolmates in 1999. Each new glimpse of the past alters readers' understanding of the present. This complex mystery from an icon in the LGBTQ community will satisfy newcomers and longtime fans alike.

Hart, Rob. [The Warehouse](#) (\$17). Paxton never thought he'd be working for Cloud, the giant tech company that's eaten much of the American economy. Much less that he'd be moving into one of the company's sprawling live-work facilities. But compared to what's left outside, Cloud's bland chainstore life of gleaming entertainment halls, open-plan offices, and vast warehouses... well, it doesn't seem so bad. It's more than anyone else is offering. Zinnia never thought she'd be infiltrating Cloud. But now she's undercover, inside the walls, risking it all to ferret out the company's darkest secrets. And Paxton, with his ordinary little hopes and fears? He just might make the perfect pawn. If she can bear to sacrifice him. As the truth about Cloud unfolds, Zinnia must gamble everything on a desperate scheme—one that risks both their lives, even as it forces Paxton to question everything about the world he's so carefully assembled here. Together, they'll learn just how far the company will go...to make the world a better place. While Amazon is clearly Cloud, this is a timely read as we focus on the role of the tech giants in shaping our world.

Hamilton, Laurell K. [Sucker Punch](#) (Berkley \$27.99). So along with Stephenie Meyers' new vampire novel in the Twilight Saga (#5), see below, we get a new Anita Blake. When a fellow U.S. Marshal asks her to fly to a tiny community in Michigan's Upper Peninsula on an emergency consult, she knows time is running short. When she arrives, there is plenty of proof that a young were leopard killed his uncle in the most gruesome and bloody way possible. As the mounting evidence points to him, a warrant of execution is already under way. But something seems off about the murder, and Anita has been asked for her expert opinion on the crime scene. Despite the escalating pressure from local cops and the family's cries for justice for their dead patriarch, Anita quickly realizes that the evidence doesn't quite add up. Time is against Anita, as the tight-knit community is up in arms and fear against supernaturals is growing.

Hayes, Emery. [Cold to the Bone](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99). The real reason to read this what appears to be a series start is the wonderful visit to Montana near Glacier National Park. It's a thriller and features the first female sheriff of Toole County, Nicole Cobain, who fled her fast-track rise as a homicide detective with the Denver PD to save herself and her son from.... She answered a recruitment ad and in six years was elected sheriff, not without disgruntled colleagues. But she and her son are thriving. And then a young girl is found in icy Lake Maria, a young girl who did not die a natural death. Where it goes from there demands some suspension of disbelief (although you would seriously wish it were true) but as I said, the plot's not the real point. Hayes has a good feel for character, too.

Hiaasen, Carl. [Squeeze Me](#) (Knopf \$28.95). Angie runs her own business, Discreet Captures in Palm Beach where she traps and relocates wildlife. She receives a call from the caretaker of a local estate about a giant python and manages to remove the snake without offending party guests. But what happened to Kiki Pew, the wealthy hostess who seems to have vanished from the event? Hiaasen pens a new novel of social and political intrigue, set against the glittering backdrop of Florida's gold coast.

Howard, Catherine Ryan. [The Nothing Man](#) (Blackstone \$24.99). Between 2000 and 2001 in County Cork, Ireland, the Nothing Man, the villain of this fiendishly clever psychological thriller from Edgar finalist Howard (*The Liar's Girl*), raped, tortured,

and—toward the end of his spree—killed his victims. After the Nothing Man killed 12-year-old Eve Black's parents and seven-year-old sister, the murders stopped. Now, 18 years later, Eve has published a memoir, in which she writes: "I was the girl who survived the Nothing Man. Now I am the woman who is going to catch him." Jim, a security guard in his 50s, spots Eve's book at the shopping mall where he works. After opening a copy ("The Nothing Man. His other name. The one the newspapers had given him. The one no one knew belonged to him"), Jim begins to read. Chapters alternate between passages from Eve's book and Jim's reaction to them. The stakes rise with the publication of a revised, second edition of the memoir, which contains new revelations. Howard uses serial killer tropes in original and surprising ways in this tour de force. I can't wait to read this.

Kline, Christina Baker. [The Exiles](#) (Custom House, \$27.99). "In her extremely readable fashion, Kline has created another masterpiece of historical fiction. This time she takes readers on a journey from England to Australia, where prisoners were exiled in the 19th century. The riveting story becomes personal as Kline engages readers in the individual stories of the enslaved women. Perfect for book groups and fans of Lisa Wingate and Kristin Hannah."

Kope, Spencer. [Shadows of the Dead](#) (St Martins \$27.99). If you're interested in synesthesia, as you T Jefferson Parker fans must be, then a new Magnus Craig, the leader of the FBI's Special Tracking Unit, is for you. Craig and his partner, Jimmy Donovan, succeed in capturing "mental train wreck" Murphy Cotton at a remote cabin on Washington's Olympic Peninsula. In the trunk of a car Cotton has stolen is a bound woman, Charice Qian. Craig and Donovan learn from Cotton that he kidnapped Charice on behalf of someone he knows only as the Onion King. Cotton refers to Charice as Eight, leading the FBI agents to believe that there are at least seven other victims who might still be alive. Aided by other FBI personnel, Craig and Donovan make a gruesome discovery deep in the woods that helps them identify the other victims. Craig has a secret ability that allows him to perceive that surfaces have been touched by specific individuals months or even years afterward. Not a magic bullet, this ability is a useful tool for identifying suspects, victims, and locations, but it can't be used to secure a search warrant, replace a computer search, or make entry into a building. By layering Craig's skill with traditional FBI procedural techniques, Kope has created something truly special. He also does justice to the Olympic Peninsula, a great landscape for a tale like this.

Kubica, Mary. [The Other Mrs.](#) (Park Row \$16.99). Offered a much-needed new start, Dr. Sadie Foust, her husband Will, and their family leave Chicago and relocate to the dreary home on a Maine island where Will's sister lived before taking her own life. Alice left behind her teenage daughter Imogen, who's brimming with anger. Sadie finds it hard to adapt to the remote, insular community and antagonistic mood at home. When a neighbor, beautiful Morgan Baines, is savagely murdered, questions linger as suspicion mounts. Anxious and afraid of a murderer in their midst, Sadie is uncertain and becomes increasingly fearful as police officer Berg focuses attention on her and strange objects unexpectedly appear. Twisty but not this author's best work.

Langley, Mark Edward. [Death Waits in the Dark](#) (Blackstone \$15.99). Set in the Navajo nation where a terrible tragedy robs



Margaret Tabaaha, the widow of a Marine killed in Afghanistan, of her two teen aged sons. It's all downhill into a bottle for the distraught woman after that, but Arthur Nakai and police chief Jake Bilagody chew into this like dogs on a bone. The mystery itself isn't surprising but what is wonderful is Langley's descriptions of the landscape of the high desert Reservation. For those of you who love New Mexico territory in work that like of Michael McGarrity or the Hillermans, this will please you.

✚LeCarre, John. [Agent Running in the Field](#) (\$17). Nat, a 25-year veteran of MI6, is afraid that he's about to be put out to pasture. Instead, he's offered the opportunity to take over the management of a derelict London intelligence substation, the Haven, "a dumping ground for resettled defectors of nil value and fifth-rate informants on the skids." Nat accepts, and advocates for a new subordinate's covert op aimed at a Ukrainian oligarch code-named Orson, who has close links to "pro-Putin elements in the Ukrainian Government." The straightforward operation against Orson ends up becoming complicated and includes an obligatory mole hunt. Meanwhile, Nat befriends Ed Shannon, an agent for another branch of British intelligence, who reveals himself to be a strident opponent of Britain's leaving the E.U. and a believer that Trump is leading the U.S. toward fascism. Your reaction to this book will be colored by your political views.

✚Lovesey, Peter. [The Finisher](#) (Soho \$27.95). Detective Superintendent Peter Diamond finds an intricate web of mysteries swirling around, and beneath, the city of Bath's Other Half marathon fifty years after his career was launched with [Wobble to Death](#), where running, Victorian era, was the theme. Just as Spiro, an enslaved worker from Albania, is escaping the gangmaster dubbed the Finisher—because no one ever finds the bodies he's responsible for—a complicated series of mischances makes schoolteacher Maeve Kelly resolve to enter the Other Half to raise sponsorship money she feels she owes the British Heart Foundation. Unlike Olga Ivanova, the burly Russian she recently rescued after a mugging, Maeve is no athlete, and her training regimen is tough. But not as tough as the challenge fellow runner Belinda Pye faces when, in the middle of the race, she's chatted up and groped by Olga's trainer, Tony Pinto, who's recently been released from prison after serving 12 years for slashing the face of Bryony Lancaster, a teenage ex-lover who warned another woman about him. Concerned because Belinda's disappeared after failing to finish the race, Diamond explores a nearby quarry—don't call it a mine shaft—that seems a likely place to have hidden a corpse and is seriously injured moments after glimpsing evidence that his hunch was correct. Nothing daunted, he summons the highhandedness that's made him a legend and assigns dozens of coppers to search the elaborate system of quarries beneath the city's surface in the hope of retracing his steps, setting himself up for an ugly confrontation with Assistant Chief Constable Georgina Dallymore when things don't go quite the way he expected. "A witty, steadily absorbing procedural marked by Lovesey's customary inventiveness and an unguessable solution."

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Kingscote](#) (Kensington \$26). A murder at a Newport, Rhode Island, "cottage"—as the locals call their mansions—highlights the chasm between rich and poor in 1899. The coastal resort is a playground for the fabulously wealthy, and Emma Cross, editor-in-chief of the *Newport Messenger*, is familiar with all sides of society, since she's a poor relation of the

Vanderbilt family. Philip King, the son of Mrs. Ella King, owner of Kingscote, has borrowed an automobile for the town's first motorcar parade and, being a bit intoxicated, gotten into a minor accident that results in a dinner invitation to Kingscote for Emma and Messenger owner Derrick Andrews, who helped rescue the family. Emma's romantic feelings have been divided between Derrick and Detective Jesse Whyte, her old friend and partner in crime-solving, but Derrick, whose mother thinks her not good enough, has finally won her heart. The dinner party is interrupted when Kingscote's butler is crushed against a tree by the car Philip was driving; it's assumed that a drunken Philip ran him down, and he's placed under house arrest. Soon after a note to Emma hints that all is not well with the Kingscote servants, the murder of a footman opens up a new line of investigation.... "A charming addition to the Gilded Age series that's laced with social and historical commentary and is based on a true story."

McElwain, Julie. [Shadows in Time](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Our blogger Lesa writes this Starred Review for *Library Journal*: "In McElwain's follow-up to [Betrayal in Time](#), time-traveling former FBI agent Kendra Donovan now lives 200 years earlier in Regency England in 1816. She's still uncomfortable with the restrictions on women, so she's surprised when she encounters Mrs. Horatia Gavenston, who owns and runs a brewery that has passed down from mother to daughter. Mrs. Gavenston knows Kendra found a killer once, so she asks her to find her missing business manager, Jeremy Pascoe. She has secrets, though, so even she is a suspect when Kendra finds Pascoe's body. Kendra also has troubles closer to home. The Duke of Aldridge has made Kendra, his ward, feel as if she were his daughter, Charlotte, who was swept overboard 20 years earlier. When a woman shows up claiming to be Charlotte, Kendra has her doubts. She hires Sam Kelly, a Bow Street Runner, to assist with both cases. The fifth "Kendra Donovan" novel is an atmospheric and character-driven mystery. The time travel, intrigue, romance, and returning characters will appeal to Diana Gabaldon's fans."

Meyer, Stephenie. [Midnight Sun](#) (Little Brown \$24.99). Meeting beautiful, mysterious Bella Swan is both the most intriguing and unnerving event Edward Cullen has experienced in his long life as a vampire. As we learn more fascinating details about Edward's past and the complexity of his inner thoughts, we understand why this is the defining struggle of his life. How can he let himself fall in love with Bella when he knows that he is endangering her life? Until now, fans have heard only Bella's side of the story. At last, readers can experience Edward's version in the long-awaited companion novel to the Twilight Saga. Billed as for ages 12+ but adults, go for it.

Muir, Tamsyn. [Harrow the Ninth](#) (Tor \$26.99). "This follow-up to *Gideon the Ninth* is a fantastic gothic mystery, peopled with aristocrats vying to be the Undying Emperor's new Lyctor. Muir switches up the POV, and because Harrow's body and mind are failing her, she's an unreliable narrator. The story moves around in time, so when events from the first book are revisited, the perspective changes. And there's still that looming, unwinnable battle. A rare and beautiful gem for fans of *The City We Became* and *Dune*."

Mosse, Kate. [The Burning Chambers](#) (\$18.99). France has been riven by bitter religious wars down the centuries. The Cathars. And now, in 1562, it's the Huguenots who spark war with the

Catholics, dividing neighbors, friends, and family—meanwhile, nineteen-year-old Minou Joubert receives an anonymous letter at her father’s bookshop. Sealed with a distinctive family crest, it contains just five words: She knows that you live. Before Minou can decipher the mysterious message, she meets a young Huguenot convert, Piet Reydon. Piet has a dangerous task of his own, and he will need Minou’s help if he is to stay alive. Soon, they find themselves on opposing sides, as forces beyond their control threaten to tear them apart. As the religious divide deepens, Minou and Piet find themselves trapped in Toulouse, facing new dangers as tensions ignite across the city and a feud that will burn generations begins to blaze. Fans of historical fiction should grab this first chapter of a story that continues in January with *The City of Tears*.

✂Perks, Heidi. [Three Perfect Liars](#) (Gallery \$27). Laura has returned to work at Morris and Wood after her maternity leave, only to discover that the woman she brought in to cover for her isn’t planning on going anywhere. Despite her close relationship with the agency’s powerful CEO, Harry Wood, she feels sidelined—and outmaneuvered—as she struggles to balance the twin demands of work and motherhood. “Following the fatal fire that reduces the Morris and Wood advertising agency’s showplace headquarters on Britain’s south coast to smoldering rubble, the Lymington police face a somewhat unusual problem—a glut of suspects—in this ingeniously plotted page-turner. Persons of interest include CEO Harry Wood’s disgruntled wife, prominent former barrister Janie; Harry’s protégée—as well as his rumored mistress—Laura Denning, incensed at returning from maternity leave to find that the temp she hired has filled her shoes all too well; and the no longer temporary Mia Anderson, who may just have a hidden agenda. But all the intramural turmoil serves as springboard for the far darker and twistier tale that emerges as the author gradually exposes these women’s secret ambitions, jealousies, and sorrows. Though it’s tougher to empathize with some of the leading ladies than it should be—new mother Laura becomes increasingly off-putting as she treats her supportive stay-at-home husband like a doormat—this puzzler takes enough turns to keep readers hooked until the final bombshell.” **As you who belong to our British Crime Book of the Month Club will discover in this our August selection.**

✂Purser-Hallard, Philip. [Sherlock Holmes: The Spider’s Web](#) (Titan \$14.95). It is 1897, and Sherlock Holmes is called in to investigate a mysterious death at a society ball, hosted by a family with a remarkable past. After an unidentified man pitches to his death from a balcony during a party hosted by the famed Ernest Moncrieff, Viscount Goring asks Holmes and Watson to prove the innocence of his wife, who is suspected of the crime. But members of this elite circle, including the indomitable Lady Bracknell, are just as concerned with their interference as they are the identity of the murderer. For though the history of Ernest Moncrieff, alias Jack Worthing, is well known, there may be more to the story of his discovery as a baby in a handbag at Victoria Station. And why did the dead man give his name as ‘Mr. Bunbury’? Soon Holmes and Watson are on the trail of a mysterious blackmailer who trades in the shameful secrets of an elite circle.

Sherlockians may enjoy listening to Dispatches from The Baker Street Irregulars, presented fortnightly. [Here is the link](#)

✂Redmond, Heather. [Grave Expectations](#) (\$15.95). London, June 1835: In the interest of being a good neighbor, Charles checks in on Miss Haverstock, the elderly spinster who resides in the flat above his. But as the young journalist and his fiancée Kate ascend the stairs, they are assaulted by the unmistakable smell of death. Upon entering the woman’s quarters, they find her decomposing corpse propped up, adorned in a faded gown that looks like it could have been her wedding dress, had she been married. A murderer has set the stage. But to what purpose? As news of an escaped convict from Coldbath Fields reaches the couple, Charles reasonably expects the prisoner, Ned Blood, may be responsible. But Kate suspects more personal motives, given the time and effort in dressing the victim. When a local blacksmith is found with cut manacles in his shop and arrested, his distraught wife begs Charles and Kate to help. At the inquest, they are surprised to meet Miss Haverstock’s cold and haughty foster daughter, shadowed by her miserably besotted companion. Secrets shrouded by the old woman’s past may hold the answers to this web of mystery.

Ricca, Brad. [Olive the Lionheart](#) (St Martins \$29.99). Lost Love, Imperial Spies, and One Woman’s Journey into the Heart of Africa. From the Edgar-nominated author of the bestselling *Mrs. Sherlock Holmes* comes the true story of a woman’s quest to Africa in the 1900s to find her missing fiancé, and the adventure that ensues. In 1910, Olive MacLeod, a thirty-year-old, redheaded Scottish aristocrat, received word that her fiancé, the famous naturalist Boyd Alexander, was missing in Africa. So she went to find him. Olive the Lionheart is the thrilling true story of her astonishing journey. In jungles, swamps, cities, and deserts, Olive and her two companions, the Talbots, come face-to-face with cobras and crocodiles, wise native chiefs, a murderous leopard cult, a haunted forest, and even two adorable lion cubs that she adopts as her own. Making her way in a pair of ill-fitting boots, Olive awakens to the many forces around her, from shadowy colonial powers to an invisible Islamic warlord who may hold the key to Boyd’s disappearance. As these secrets begin to unravel, all of Olive’s assumptions prove wrong and she is forced to confront the darkest, most shocking secret of all: why she really came to Africa in the first place. “...her story is so full of adventure and acts of courage, it’s hard to believe she actually lived. And yet she did! Brad Ricca has found a heroine for the ages, and written her tale with a winning combination of accuracy and imagination.” — Paula McLain

Rindell, Suzanne. [The Two Mrs. Carlyles](#) (Putnam \$27). San Francisco’s massive and deadly 1906 earthquake lasted approximately one minute, yet its aftermath created a dramatic divide in Cora, Flossie and Violet’s friendship. The trio’s longtime bond from their childhood in St. Hilda’s Home for Girls. A tragedy moments before the San Francisco earthquake presents the three with a life-changing decision, yet subsequent odd occurrences lead Cora and Flossie to sever their relationship with Violet. Bereft at their betrayal, Violet’s determination to reinvent herself parallels San Francisco’s civic rebirth, depicted in a symbolic yet subdued fashion. “Bit by bit, the city poked its head up from the ashes, rising shyly at first, curling into the air like a seedling sending its first green shoots up from the soil, feeling for sunlight. Folks began to rebuild. California is like a woman.... California really had reconfigured herself.” When Violet meets and marries wealthy scion and arts patron Harry Carlyle, her life transforms

further while mysteries surround the couple: Why does Harry's longtime housekeeper Miss Weber dislike Violet so intensely? Are the unexplained happenings throughout Harry's mansion due to Violet's spells or a sinister presence? And is Harry's first wife, Madeleine, dead or alive? *The Two Mrs. Carlyles* is an atmospheric thriller with both a fairy tale and gothic feel. And reading it reminded me of the Spreckles mansion on Nob Hill.

✠Ripley, Mike. [Mr. Campion's Séance](#) (Severn \$28.99). In 1946, CID Superintendent Stanislaus Oates consults Mr. Campion about a murder at London's Grafton Club, an establishment that skirts the prohibition on selling alcohol by operating as a "bottle club," ostensibly just serving patrons with booze that they themselves previously purchased. Tony Valletta, the club's shady owner, was found with a bullet to the back of his head, kneeling in front of a safe, which contained IOUs from a number of rich and powerful men as well as an autographed copy of a mystery novel by bestselling author Evadne Childe. Valletta's murder is an almost identical match for a fictional one in another novel Childe wrote, which was published before the killing. Campion doesn't make any progress, but he gets another chance at cracking the case six years later when he's contacted by a woman who worked in the Grafton Club at the time of the crime. Ripley spins a head-scratching whodunit while effectively recreating Allingham's tone and characters. Ordered Upon Request.

And if you haven't read Margery Allingham's Golden Age Mysteries I recommend you find some. [The Tiger in the Smoke](#) (\$12.99) is my favorite. You can also catch the TV series on Acorn which is very period and well done. Where do the British find all those lovely old cars and trains?

Shaw, Johnny. [The Southland](#) (Polis \$26). Three unauthorized Mexican immigrants living in Los Angeles: Luz works multiple jobs to provide for herself and her teenage son Eliseo. Nadia, a former journalist with PTSD, fled Mexico and tries to stay hidden from the dangerous men that she exposed in Sinaloa. Ostelinda works as a laborer in a garment factory, having been deceived by coyotes and imprisoned in the same building since her arrival. Their lives intersect through terrifying circumstance that clarify and contrast the horrors of existence.

Simenon, Georges. [Maigret and the Informer](#) (Penguin \$15). The body of a well-known Parisian restaurateur turns up on Avenue Junot in Montmartre, having seemingly been killed elsewhere. Inspector Maigret dives into the investigation and soon discovers that the murder may be gang-related after a colleague working in the red-light district receives a tip from an anonymous informer. Deeply engrossing, and revealing insights about the class-conscious world of the Paris elite, *Maigret and the Informer* draws the reader into a complicated case that could hinge on one man's word. #74 in this reissue program. You can really binge on 20<sup>th</sup> Century France if you order up the Maigrets.

Smith, Timothy Jay. [Fire on the Island](#) (Arcade \$24.99). This Booknews is heavy on books with locations that may satisfy a yearning for travel or escape into another world. Here we have the lure of the Greek islands and a gay romance between FBI Agent Nick Damigos and Takis, a young bartender who becomes the primary suspect in a case of arson in the struggling village of Vourvoulos. When Nick arrived he was just in time to rush into the flames and rescue a beloved truffle-sniffing dog. He's hailed as a hero, embraced by the community. And soon working under-

cover to investigate a string of mysterious fires. Among other suspects are the local priest who is an art forger, an Albanian waiter harboring a secret, the captain of the island's coast guard station who has some kind of agenda, and in truth the whole village with its longtime violent history. Not to mention Greece's real-world refugee and economic crisis in which the island is caught.

I am both editor and fan of Jeffery Siger's wonderful Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis thrillers set in different parts of Greece and recommend reading [An Aegean April](#) (\$15.95) set on Lesbos where the refugee crisis is huge as a companion piece to Smith's work. It has a wonderful villain and a dramatic chase scene but movingly portrays the human tragedies in play

✠Vaughan, Sarah. [Little Disasters](#) (Atria \$17). Liz Trenchard is an experienced pediatrician with a duty to protect all children admitted to her busy emergency room. So when her friend Jess turns up at the ER one night with her baby girl and a story that doesn't quite add up. It's easy to think you know where this one is going but you'll be wrong. The ethical dilemma facing the doctor, the challenges facing the family of the baby girl with the fractured skull, a look at the National Health Service that provides a more common experience for Britons than Americans, are all gripping. I can give one hint: the author was given the idea behind this absorbing book by her physician husband.

Walton, Jo. [Or What You Will](#) (Tor \$26.99). This contemporary fantasy is a clever and curious book that uses stories to ponder the nature of storytelling. Sylvia, author of 30 books over a 40-year career, is working on a new novel set in the same location as some of her earlier works: Thalia, a Florence-like city in a Renaissance-resembling time. But this novel is getting away from her, slowly filling with stories of her own life, the muse that lives inside her head interjecting himself into her writing more frequently. As Sylvia writes, both she and her muse face down their own mortality, even as the Thalian novel grows and spins and fills into itself, full of semi-historical detail and literary traditions (including a cast of characters drawn straight from the pages of various Shakespeare plays).

✠Watson, SJ. [Final Cut](#) (Harper \$28). "Award-winning documentary filmmaker Alex Young, the narrator of this outstanding psychological thriller from Watson (*Before I Sleep*), needs a new assignment to keep her career's momentum. But Alex isn't enthusiastic when her producer receives an unsigned postcard urging her to go Blackwood Bay, a small English town that was the site of smuggling operations centuries ago. The job is to document daily life in Blackwood Bay. As town residents send their own videos to Alex, she's more interested in the disappearances of three teenage girls over the past decade. It's not the project that Alex dreads, but dredging up lost memories, since Alex believes she's one of those girls. She has no idea why she fled—perhaps because she was in danger. Having changed her looks, Alex digs into the girls' backgrounds while keeping her identity secret and trying to remember which of the residents she might have known. A tight, brisk plot drives this sharp character study. Watson perfectly captures small town ennui while illustrating how corruption can hide in plain sight."—*PW* Starred Review. **For the Signed UK edition see Signed Books above.**

Woods, Stuart. [Choppy Water](#) (Putnam \$28). Being president-elect of the United States is no bed of roses for former Secretary of State Holly Barker, who's marked for assassination even



before she takes the oath of office. Retired Army Colonel Wade Sykes, aka Watchman, and his white supremacist cabal, who've somehow managed to tolerate the presidency of Katharine Lee, have drawn a line in the sand since Holly was elected in the closing pages of [Hit List](#) (\$29.2 Signed copies left). Luckily, Holly has a secret weapon: her sometime lover Stone Barrington, the New York lawyer who survived his own targeting for death in the same installment. The first attempt on Holly's life, which appropriately takes place during a secret vacation at Stone's place in Dark Harbor, Maine, leaves six dispensable Secret Service agents dead but doesn't muss Holly's hair. So Sykes and company, nothing daunted, try again in a series of increasingly improbable locations. For all their pains, Holly, a longtime franchise character, is probably a lot safer than Elizabeth Potter, a brand-new undercover FBI agent who's infiltrated Sykes' inner circle without quite winning his unconditional trust.

Yokomizo, Seishi. [The Inugami Curse](#) (Pushkin/Vertigo \$14.95). In 1940s Japan, the wealthy head of the Inugami clan dies, and his family eagerly awaits the reading of the will. But no sooner are its strange details revealed than a series of bizarre, gruesome murders begins. Detective Kindaichi must unravel the clan's terrible secrets of forbidden liaisons, monstrous cruelty, and hidden identities to find the murderer, and lift the curse wreaking its bloody revenge on the Inugamis. Here is classic mystery from a giant of Japanese crime writing, starring the legendary detective Kosuke Kindaichi.

But start with [The Honjin Murders](#) (Pushkin Vertigo \$14.95). In the winter of 1937, the village of Okamura is abuzz with excitement over the forthcoming wedding of a son of the grand Ichiyonagi family. But amid the gossip over the approaching festivities, there is also a worrying rumor—it seems a sinister masked man has been asking questions around the village.

#### OUR AUGUST SMALL PAPERBACK PICKS

✎ Abdul-Jabbar, Kareem. [Mycroft and Sherlock](#) (\$8.99). Mycroft Holmes #3. Rising War Office star Mycroft Holmes persuades his brother, Sherlock, to volunteer at a friend's orphanage, where the suspicious death of a street urchin and a mysterious Chinese woman lead the brothers into the London opium trade's dark underside. *PW* had this to say "Although the authors' active Mycroft is a far cry from the canon's sedentary genius, their depiction of what he was like as a young man works as a plausible backstory."

Grant, Andrew. [Too Close to Home](#) (\$9.99). This sequel to *Invisible* finds intelligence agent-turned-courthouse janitor Paul McGrath uncovering a shocking connection between a file of missing evidence and unwelcome truths about the mother he lost as a child. *Kirkus* was just one review source that loved Grant's latest saying "Crisp pacing, complex plotting, and a sympathetic good guy all make for a most satisfying read. Grant has several great series going, and the janitor-in-the-courthouse theme is fodder for another."

Kramer, Julie. [Shunning Sarah](#) (\$7.99). Riley Spartz #5. Reissue. Television reporter Riley Spartz's investigation into the murder of a young Amish woman is hampered by Amish beliefs about forgiveness and the banning of graven images, a case that turns particularly dark when Riley uncovers a dark web of fraud, deception and sexual deviousness in Sarah's community. Fans of Linda Castillo's Amish-set mysteries may want to give this series a try.

Mills, Kyle. [Vince Flynn: Lethal Agent](#) (\$9.99). Mitch Rapp #19. A divisive presidential election is complicated by terrorist videos of a kidnapped scientist who is being forced to produce anthrax, catapulting Mitch Rapp into an undercover mission to prevent the weapon from being smuggled into America. *PW* ended their starred review with "Despite these familiar plot elements, Mills makes them fresh and handles the writing as skillfully as Flynn as ever did. The pages will fly by."

Petrie, Nick. [The Wild One](#) (\$9.99). Peter Ash #5. Traumatized war veteran Peter Ash tracks a murderer from a criminal family through the icy landscapes of Reykjavik, where he is confronted by government officials who would block his investigation. Here is *PW* again "This kinetic, breathless masterpiece illustrates why Petrie is here to stay."

Rollins, James. [Last Odyssey](#) (\$9.99). Sigma Force #15. When a medieval ship containing a clockwork gold atlas by famous Muslim inventor Ismail al-Jazari is discovered beneath Greenland's frozen tundra, Sigma Force is challenged to prevent a regional uprising inspired by the tales of Homer. *PW* said "Rollins sprinkles in enough facts and details to make what could have been an over-the-top premise plausible. This is a thoughtful, nonstop thrill ride that's an exemplar of an escapist page-turner."

Sandford, John. [Bloody Genius](#) (\$9.99). Virgil Flowers #12. When a culture war between rival departments at a local state university culminates in the death of a renowned scholar, Virgil Flowers struggles to identify a killer among a group of wildly passionate, diametrically opposed zealots. *Kirkus* ended their review with "Steadily absorbing revelations of all manner of malfeasance, beautifully handled, even if the final twist is less than the best."

Singh, Nalini. [A Madness of Sunshine](#) (\$9.99). Returning to her impoverished New Zealand hometown to reconnect with familiar things after a personal tragedy, Anahera Rawiri bonds with detective Will Gallagher to uncover the community secrets behind a missing-persons case. *LJ* observed "Fans of Lisa Gardner, Michael Connelly, and of both crime dramas and romantic suspense will find this novel hard to put down."

Wingate, Marty. [The Bodies in the Library](#) (\$7.99). The new curator of an exclusive first-edition library in Bath encounters resistance in her efforts to modernize, before the murder of a fan-fiction writer threatens everything she has worked to achieve. *PW* ended their review of this launch to a stellar new traditional mystery series with "Fans of British sleuths will appreciate the references to the classics of the genre."

#### NEW IN SMALL PAPERBACKS

Archer, Winnie. [Dough or Die](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Bread Shop #5. When murder interrupts the filming at their Yeast of Eden bakery, which is reality TV bound, Ivy Culpepper, with the town craving answers, must move quickly to solve the crime before her business collapses.

Baart, Nicole. [Little Broken Things](#) (Picador \$9.99). When her estranged sister, Nora, disappears after asking her to keep a little girl safe, Quinn Cruz struggles to honor her sister's request, while Nora faces a life and death situation as she goes to great lengths to protect the ones she loves.

Brecher, Christine. [15 Minutes of Flame](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Nantucket Candle Maker #3. The discovery of a skeleton in the

walls of her friend's Nantucket home leads Stella to investigate the town's intricate history and leaves her to wonder who is friend and who is foe as she tries to solve this centuries-old murder.

Brown, Janelle. [Watch Me Disappear](#) (\$9.99). When a woman goes missing during a hike in California's Desolation Wilderness, her devastated family is forced to come to terms with her secretive nature.

Childs, Laura. [Mumbo Gumbo Murder](#) (\$7.99). Scrapbooking #16. When the local antiques shop owner is murdered during Jazz Fest in New Orleans, Carmela and her best friend, Ava, help the local police in identifying a murderer.

Collins, Max Allan. [Mike Hammer Murder, My Love](#) (Forge \$8.99). While investigating who might be blackmailing a United States Senator from New York, Mike Hammer discovers something more is going on when the suspects on his list begin turning up dead.

Colt, Peter. [The Offislander](#) (Kensington \$9.99). In 1982 Boston, Vietnam veteran and private investigator Andy Roark is hired to find a father who went missing on Cape Cod—but may find far more than he bargained for.

Cook, Robin. [Genesis](#) (\$9.99). Investigating the suspicious death of a social worker, Chief New York City Medical Examiner Laurie Montgomery makes the controversial decision to use genealogic DNA databases to identify a mysterious killer.

Cox Bryan, Mollie. [Goodnight Moo](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Butter-milk Creek #2. Something stinks in Shenandoah Springs, Virginia, when two dead bodies turn up as the summer fair approaches, forcing cheesemaker Brynn MacAlister to get to the bottom of things as she realizes that the town harbors some unsavory characters.

Crais, Robert. [A Dangerous Man](#) (\$9.99). Elvis Cole and Joe Pike #18. Rescuing a bank teller from an abduction attempt, Joe Pike tackles the most perilous case of his career when the would-be kidnappers are found murdered and the bank teller goes missing.

Cussler, Clive. [The Titanic Secret](#) (\$9.99). Isaac Bell #11. Investigating a mine tragedy in 1911 Colorado that killed nine people, Isaac Bell discovers a larger puzzle involving an international power scheme aimed at seizing control of a rare element.

Delaney, Devon. [Eat, Drink and Be Wary](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Cook-Off #4. While competing in the New England Fall Food Fest, cook Sherry Oliveri, after a fellow competitor is murdered, must catch a killer before another deadly course is served.

Doyle, Carrie. [Death on Lily Pond Lane](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99). Hampton Murder #2. East Hampton innkeeper and chef Antonia Bingham has settled in to town and taken on extra work as an estate manager, giving her entree into some of the area's most glamorous homes. Once inside, Antonia checks the heat, looks for leaks or damage, and finds the occasional dead body. It's up to Antonia—a modern day Miss Marple with an adoration of carbs and a kamikaze love-life—to put her skills of deduction to use.

Ehrhart, Peggy. [Knit of the Living Dead](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Knit & Nibble #6. When murder marches in the town's much-anticipated Halloween parade, Pamela and the Knit and Nibble Club of Arborville, New Jersey, sink their teeth in this bone-chilling mystery

Ellison, J T. [Good Girls Lie](#) (\$9.99). In a follow-up to *Lie to Me* and *Tear Me Apart*, a popular transfer student at an elite prep school races to protect a dangerous secret when a killer sets her up for a string of murders.

Fox, Hester. [The Witch of Willow Hall](#) (\$7.99). Fleeing to a rural estate in the wake of a scandal, young Lydia of the affluent Montrose family is forced to confront dark secrets, a sinister presence and a tragedy to safeguard her loved ones.

Gates, Eva. [Read and Buried](#) (\$7.99). Lighthouse Library #6. Librarian Lucy Richardson unearths a mysterious map dating back to the Civil War while workers are repairing the foundation of the lighthouse library. But if she can't crack its code, she may end up read and buried.

Goldstein, Debra H. [Three Treats Too Many](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Sarah Blair #3. When sous chef, Riley Miller, is found dead and Sarah's friend Jacob becomes the prime suspect, Sarah must turn up the heat on the real culprit, while dealing with the fact that her late ex-husband's mistress is opening a restaurant across the street.

Griffin, Laura. [Hidden](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Texas Murder Files #1. When a woman is found brutally murdered on Austin's lakeside hike-and-bike trail, investigative reporter Bailey Rhoads turns up on the scene demanding access and answers. She tries to pry information out of the lead detective, Jacob Merritt. But this case is unlike any he's ever seen, and nothing adds up.

Henry, Julia. [Digging Up the Remains](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Garden Squad #3. When a newspaper reporter who was digging up dirt on Goosebush's most notable family is murdered, Lilly and her Garden Squad must weed out a killer and save the Fall Festival.

Johansen Iris. [Smokescreen](#) (\$8.99). Eve Duncan #25. Racing to Africa when a village is attacked by guerilla forces, Eve Duncan begins to suspect a deeper plot before finding herself stranded in the jungle of an unstable country.

Little, Bentley. [The Haunted](#) (Berkley \$9.99). When the Perry family moves to a bigger, nicer home in their city's historic district, they soon discover that something isn't right, and that "something" is ready to come out of the shadows of their basement and into their lives.

Mann Don. [Seal Team Six: Hunt the Leopard](#) (\$9.99). Thomas Crocker and his Black Cell team take on the charismatic leader of Boko Haram in northeastern Nigeria who is kidnapping school-girls to trade for arms with Cameroon

Meier, Leslie. [Haunted House Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). A trio of spooky mystery stories set on coastal Maine includes "Haunted House Murder" by Leslie Meier, "Death by Haunted House" by Lee Hollis and "Hallowed Out" by Barbara Ross.

Perry, Carol J. [Murder, Take Two](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Witch City #10. When a recent murder bears a resemblance to a killing from almost two centuries ago, WICH-TV reporter and amateur sleuth Lee Barrett delves deeper than ever into Salem's past, and into her own psychic gifts, to catch a killer.

Rowley, Emma. [You Can Trust Me](#) (Kensington \$8.99). When her new client, glamorous Oliva Hayes – the perfect domestic goddess, lets her into her home, ghostwriter Nicky Wilson soon discovers the shocking truth about Olivia, who will do anything to preserve the life she's made.

Thompson, Victoria. [City of Scoundrels](#) (\$7.99). Counterfeit Lady #3. Elizabeth Miles races to find the hidden will of a Great War soldier who was killed in action after secretly marrying and leaving his fortune to his wife and unborn child.

Watkins, Eileen. [The Bengal Identity](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Cat Groomer #2. Unexpectedly in possession of a valuable Bengal show cat after its alleged owner winds up dead, groomer Cassie McGlone works with the police to find the stolen feline's real owners and must dig her claws into the case after a second body is found to avoid a brush with death.

Weiss, Kirsten. [Gourd to Death](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Pie Town #5. When a fellow contestant in the best pumpkin pie contest is found crushed under an enormous pumpkin, Val Harris, the owner of Pie Town, wonders if this will be her last Halloween as attempts are made on her life as she tries to find the killer.