

BOOKNEWS from

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Happy New Year to All...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast at <http://new.livestream.com/poisonedpen>.

THURSDAY JANUARY 15 7:00 PM Western Crime

Robert Knott signs [Robert B. Parker's The Bridge](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Cole & Hitch

TUESDAY JANUARY 20 7:00 PM Two from Tucson

Becky Masterman signs [Fear the Darkness](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Lydia Millet signs [Mermaids in Paradise](#) (Norton \$25.95)

WEDNESDAY JANUARY 21 7:00 PM Thriller!

Mark Sullivan signs [Thief](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Robin Monarch #3
Sullivan also appears January 20 at 6:30 PM at Sunrise Mountain Library 21109 N 98th Ave, Peoria, AZ 85345

THURSDAY JANUARY 22 7:00 PM

Thomas Perry signs [String of Beads](#) (Grove \$26) Jane Whitefield

SATURDAY JANUARY 24 2:00 PM

Pioneering news helicopter pilot Jerry Foster signs [Earth-bound Misfit](#) (\$26)

TUESDAY JANUARY 27 7:00 PM

Alex Kava signs [Breaking Creed](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Creed/K9+Maggie O'Dell

Jeanne Matthews signs [Where the Bones Are Buried](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95)

THURSDAY JANUARY 29 7:00 PM Debut

Rebecca Scherm signs [Unbecoming](#) (Viking \$27.95) First Mystery Pick

FRIDAY JANUARY 30 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime Club discusses China Mieville, [The City and the City](#) (\$16)

SATURDAY JANUARY 31 2:00 PM SciFi

Sam Sykes signs [The City Stained Red](#) (Orbit \$16)

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 3 A Cozy Duo

Kate Carlisle signs [This Old Homicide](#) (Signet \$7.99)

Eva Gates signs [By Book or By Crook](#) (Signet \$7.99)

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 11:00 AM-1:00 PM First of two Art Programs

Dianne Hales signs [Mona Lisa: A Life Discovered](#) (SimonSchuster \$28) and gives an illustrated talk

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 4 7:00 PM The second Art Program

Paul Perry shows a documentary he's made about Catalan surrealist Salvador Dali: *Salvador Dali's Great Secret: The Story Behind the Painting That Changed Dali's Life*. Copies are for sale (\$19.95).

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5 7:00 PM

Tess Gerritsen signs [Die Again](#) (Ballantine \$27) Rizzoli & Iles

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8 2:00 PM

Lisa Gardner signs [Crash and Burn](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Tessa Leon

TUESDAY FEBRUARY 10 7:00 PM

Kristin Hannah signs [The Nightingale](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Feb. Modern Firsts Club Pick

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 11 7:00 PM Killer Thrillers

James Rollins signs [Blood Infernal](#) (Harper \$27.99) Order of the Sanguines #3

Are you clever enough to decode a scripture of the Blood Gospel? Order using this link and receive an exclusive print from the authors written in the Enochian language.

Michael Sears signs [Long Way Down](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Jason Stafford #3

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 12 Caribbean Crime

Timothy Williams signs [The Honest Folk of Guadeloupe](#) (Soho \$26.95)

SATURDAY FEBRUARY 14 2:00 PM Valentine's Party

Jenn McKinlay signs [At the Drop of a Hat](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

EVENT BOOKS

Carlisle, Katie. [This Old Homicide](#) (Signet \$7.99). Fixer Upper Mystery #2. Valentine's Day is approaching, and while Shannon is delighted to be friends with not one but two handsome men, not everyone in town is feeling the love. After her elderly neighbor Jesse Hennessey fails to make his daily appearance at the local diner, Shannon swings by his place to check on him. Not only does she find Jesse dead—of an apparent heart attack—but she also realizes that his home has been ransacked. Someone suggests that a thief was searching for a priceless necklace Jesse claimed to have retrieved from a capsized sailing ship, but Shannon doesn't believe it. Everyone knows Jesse had a penchant for constructing tall tales—like the one about him having a hot new girlfriend. But his death is soon ruled a homicide, and shady suspects begin popping out of the woodwork.... [High-End Finish](#) (\$7.99). To order other series, [click](#) here.

Foster, Jerry. [Earthbound Misfit](#) (\$26). The Channel 3 news helicopter /reporter writes a memoir of his pioneering days, flying a chopper with one hand, wielding a camera with the other, and what came after when he (first) retired in 1988. It's been a swashbuckling life (resting now in Sun City) filled with folks like Barry Goldwater.

Gates, Eva. [By Book or By Crook](#) (Signet \$7.99). For ten years Lucy has enjoyed her job poring over rare tomes of literature for the Harvard Library, but she has not enjoyed the demands of her family's social whorl or her sort-of-engagement to the staid son of her father's law partner. But when her ten-year relationship implodes, Lucy realizes that the plot of her life is in need of a serious rewrite. Calling on her Aunt Ellen, Lucy hopes that a little fun in the Outer Banks sun—and some confections from her cousin Josie's bakery—will help clear her head. But her retreat quickly turns into an unexpected opportunity when Aunt Ellen gets her involved in the lighthouse library tucked away on Bodie Island. Lucy is thrilled to land a librarian job in her favorite place in the world. But when a priceless first edition Jane Austen novel is stolen and the chair of the library board is murdered, Lucy suddenly finds herself ensnared in a real-life mystery. Starts a series as "Gates" by PPP author Vicki Delany. To order the Delany mysteries, many about Constable Molly Smith of Trafalgar, BC, [click](#) here. Excellent for Louise Penny readers.

Gardner, Lisa. [Crash and Burn](#) (Dutton \$27.95). Nicole Frank shouldn't have been able to survive the car accident, much less crawl up the steep ravine. Not in the dark, not in the rain, not with her injuries. But one thought allows her to defy the odds and flag down help: Vero. Sergeant Wyatt Foster is frustrated when even the search dogs can't find any trace of the mysterious missing child. Until Nicky's husband, Thomas, arrives with a host of shattering revelations: Nicole Frank suffers from a rare brain injury and the police shouldn't trust anything she says. Who is Nicky Frank, and what happened the night her car sailed off the road? A puzzle indeed for Tessa Leoni.

Gerritsen, Tess. [Die Again](#) (Ballantine \$27). When Boston homicide detective Jane Rizzoli and medical examiner Maura Isles are summoned to a crime scene, they find a killing worthy of the most ferocious beast—right down to the claw marks on

the corpse. But only the most sinister human hands could have left renowned big-game hunter and taxidermist Leon Gott gruesomely displayed like the once-proud animals whose heads adorn his walls. Did Gott unwittingly awaken a predator more dangerous than any he's ever hunted? Maura fears that this isn't the killer's first slaughter, and that it won't be the last. After linking the crime to a series of unsolved homicides in wilderness areas across the country, she wonders if the answers might actually be found in a remote corner of Africa.

Hannah, Kristin. [The Nightingale](#) (St Martins \$27.99 10). In the quiet village of Carriveau, Vianne Mauriac says goodbye to her husband, Antoine, as he heads for the 1939 Front. She doesn't believe that the Nazis will invade France...but invade they do... This is our February Modern Firsts Pick and the No. 1 Indie Next Pick: "Filled with sacrifice, betrayal, suspense, courage, and ultimately, forgiveness, *The Nightingale* offers a haunting glimpse of what it was like for women to survive during WWII. Set in a small town in France, *The Nightingale* tells the alternating stories of two sisters, their father, and the friends and enemies that occupy their lives during this tragic period of history. Based on a true story, Hannah weaves a riveting tale around the heroism of Isabelle, a young woman who serves as a key player in the underground Resistance, and her sister, Vianne, who is back home under German occupation, near starvation and struggling to save Jewish children. In the end, however, perhaps this novel is more about the sisterly bonds of love that, although stretched to the limit, still endure."

Knott, Robert. [Robert B Parker's The Bridge](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Territorial Marshals Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch are back in Appaloosa, where their work enforcing the law has been exceptionally quiet. All that is about to change. An ominous storm rolls in, and along with it a band of night riders with a devious scheme, who show up at the Rio Blanco camp, where a 300-foot bridge is under construction. Appaloosa's Sheriff Sledge Driskill and his deputies are the first to respond, but as the storm grows more threatening, news of troubles at the bridge escalate and the Sheriff and his deputies go missing. Virgil and Everett saddle up to sort things out but before they do the hard drinking, Beauregard Beauchamp arrives in Appaloosa with his Theatrical Extravaganza troupe and the promise of the best in lively entertainment west of the Mississippi. With the troupe comes a lovely and mysterious fortune-teller who is set on saving Everett from imminent but indefinable danger. The trouble at the bridge, the missing lawmen, the new arrivals, and Everett's shoot-out in front of Hal's Café aren't the only things on Cole and Hitch's plate as a gang of unsavory soldiers ease into town with a shady alibi, shadier intentions, and a soon-to-be-discovered wake of destruction. [Click here](#) to order earlier "Parkers" by Knott.

Kava, Alex. [Breaking Creed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). "Kava spins off dog trainer Ryder Creed, introduced as a subordinate character in her Maggie O'Dell novel *Stranded* (2013), into his own series. FBI Agent O'Dell appears here, too, working a multiple-murder case, but it's Creed who takes center stage, as what was supposed to be a routine search for drugs concealed on a boat leads Ryder to make a decision that could change his own life and that of a young girl, assuming he can keep both himself and the girl alive.

Creed is a very well designed character—unlike O’Dell, he’s not a law-enforcement professional—and readers who enjoyed his appearance in *Stranded* (he played a small role, as though the author were testing the waters) will definitely want to check out his first full-length story. There are some very nice twists and turns, and, for O’Dell’s fans, Maggie’s appearance here is a lot more than window dressing.”—*Booklist*. *PW* adds, “Romance fans will enjoy following how the attraction between O’Dell and Creed plays out. Dog lovers will also find a lot to like!” To order earlier books by Kava, [click](#) here.

Masterman, Becky. [Fear the Darkness](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Tucson’s Masterman scored a big hit and FMC Pick with [Rage Against the Dying](#) (\$15.99), a First Mystery Club Pick. Retired FBI agent Brigid Quinn still knows how difficult it can be to overcome one’s past. But she is nothing if not a fighter. Even when the return of a serial killer from her past threatened to derail her new marriage, she managed to hold on to the life she’s been trying to build in Tucson with her husband, Carlo. At first, the new challenges in her life seem pretty mundane compared to a serial killer. After her sister-in-law dies, Brigid’s nineteen-year-old niece Gemma Kate comes to live with her and Carlo, to establish Arizona residency before starting college. Brigid doesn’t exactly love the idea, especially since there’s always been something unsettling about Gemma Kate, but family is family. Meanwhile, Brigid agrees to help a local couple by investigating the death of their son—until dangerous things start to happen. “Masterman riffs on fears of disease and mortality while delving into the rocky landscape of family dynamics. Brigid’s armor of capability and desensitization cracks under the pressure of hallucinations and other mysterious health woes, leaving this tough heroine vulnerable—and more sympathetic—as she worries that the true culprit might be age or terminal illness. Still more affecting is her concern that the malevolence she suspects in Gemma-Kate is merely a degree of the darkness inherent in every Quinn, a coldness Brigid herself has felt in the line of duty. Gifted at laying false trails and establishing multiple threads of possibility, Masterman pulls off a surprise reveal with virtuoso-level skill. Feisty and multilayered, Brigid shows she can think as well as fight her way out of a tough situation, an admirable if unlikely heroine readers will look forward to seeing again.”—Jaclyn Fulwood.

Matthews, Jeanne. [Where the Bones Are Buried](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). “Matthews’s intricately plotted fifth Dinah Pelerin mystery finds the American anthropologist living happily in Berlin with her Norwegian lover, counterintelligence agent Thor Ramberg, and lecturing on Native American cultures at Humboldt University. Then Dinah’s Seminole mother, Swan Calms, and Margaret Dobbs, both of whom were once married to drug dealer Cleon Dobbs, arrive to do a “little detective job.” The two women are seeking money from a criminal partner of Cleon’s, Reiner Hess, who belongs to a local club devoted to American Indians. Two attempts to kill or injure Swan and Margaret increase the pressure on them to find the elusive Hess. When a member of the Indian club is shot and scalped at a drumming ceremony, Swan becomes the prime suspect. Dinah’s subsequent sleuthing may expose her own dark secrets. Matthews makes fine use of Berlin’s turbulent history and the enduring German fascination with Indian culture.”—*PW*. [Where the Bones Are Buried](#) (\$14.95). To order Dinah’s earlier investigations, [click](#) here.

McKinlay, Jenn. [At the Drop of a Hat](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Book #3 in the Hat Shop Mysteries opens in cousins Scarlett Parker and Vivian Tremont’s fashionable London hat shop. Mim’s Whims is visited by a new customer bearing an old hat box. Ariana Jackson is getting married and wants to restore her mother’s bridal hat and veil for the occasion. The elegant item was made by Scarlett and Vivian’s grandmother over thirty years ago, so Viv is delighted to take the job. When Scarlett goes to Ariana’s office to consult about the restoration cost, she finds her outside, standing over her boss’s dead body. Though Ariana claims to know nothing about his demise, the investigation unveils a motive for murder. Now the bride-to-be is in custody and the wedding on hold.... This charming cozy by Phoenix bestseller McKinlay is dedicated to the staff of The Poisoned Pen! For all three books in the Hat Shop series, [click](#) here.

Millet, Lydia. [Mermaids in Paradise](#) (Norton \$25.95). Tucson’s Millet may possess one of the most original voices I’ve read. The age-gap heightens it for it’s not just the voice but the mind-set displayed by narrator Deb who is young and firmly entrenched in today’s consumer culture that startles. She’s skeptical, unflinching, and opinionated and has her “handsome on-line gamer” fiancé Chip on a tight leash. It’s a wonder they ever bring off the ceremony and agree on a honeymoon venue—Virgin Gorda. There they befriend a marine biologist who discovers actual mermaids in a coral reef. And apparently drowns the next night in her hotel bath. Someone or ones are making moves on the mermaids (so exploitable), so our newlyweds hook up with a former Navy SEAL and a Tokyo DJ in an effort to protect them from the evil corporation who wants to turn the mermaid habitat into a theme park. The results are surprising (and make you smile). Millet’s voice is just right for her riff on a consumer society. She holds up a mirror that can make you both laugh and squirm.

Perry, Paul. *Dali’s Greatest Secret* (DVD \$19.95). “Heaven is to be found exactly in the center of the bosom of the man who has faith,” he wrote. “At this moment I do not yet have faith, and I fear I shall die without heaven.” Then Dali was approached by John Haffert, the charismatic leader of a religious order with an offer to paint *The Vision of Hell*, one of the famous visions seen by the shepherd children at Fatima in 1917. Dali was only slightly interested until he had a secret meeting with Sister Lucia, the cloistered nun who saw the vision of Hell as a child. With that meeting Dali began to experience faith, and the escape from death it promised. But how would he keep the world from knowing he had returned to church? And why did many in the Catholic Church dislike Salvador Dali’s visionary masterpiece? And why was this masterwork hidden beneath a nun’s bed for 30 years? *Dali’s Greatest Secret* is an untold story that changes our view of Salvador Dali and answers many mysteries in his work and personal life. Revealing, touching and puzzling, *Dali’s Greatest Secret* takes us on the spiritual journey of history’s greatest surrealist artist.

Perry, Thomas. [A String of Beads](#) (Grove \$26). I’m so glad Perry resurrected Jane Whitefield and brought her up to date. “In Edgar-winner Perry’s explosive eighth Jane Whitefield novel, Jane, who helps people in danger disappear, would like nothing better than to disappear herself—into the quieter side of her double life, as an upstate New York surgeon’s wife—but her Seneca clan elders have other plans. At first, her mission seems straightforward enough: find her now-fugitive childhood friend from the rez, Jim-

my Sanders, who faces a murder charge in connection with the shooting of a man he'd bested in a bar fight a few months earlier, and bring him in safely to surrender to authorities. But it quickly becomes clear the case is far more complex, with ruthless mob-connected muscle apparently determined to kill Jimmy first...a hair-raising adventure with a woman warrior who would make her Seneca forbears proud."—*PW*. *Booklist's* Starred Review adds, "Many scenes have an almost Twilight Zone atmosphere of sudden recognition. The landscape is filled with references to tribal history, and Perry also delivers fascinating information on how to hide and change identity.... First-rate suspense." What I like the best is the Tony-Hillerman-like depiction of Jane's tribe, the Senecas. You can order earlier Jane Whitefield's by [clicking](#) here.

Rollins, James. [Blood Infernal](#) (Harper \$27.99). **Are you clever enough to decode a scripture of the Blood Gospel? Order using this link and receive an exclusive print from the authors written in the Enochian language.** As an escalating scourge of grisly murders sweeps the globe, archaeologist Erin Granger must decipher the truth behind an immortal prophecy foretold in the Blood Gospel, a tome written by Christ and lost for centuries: The shackles of Lucifer have been loosened, and his Chalice remains lost. It will take the light of all three to forge the Chalice anew and banish him again to his eternal darkness. With the Apocalypse looming, Erin must again join forces with Army Sergeant Jordan Stone and Father Rhun Korza to search for a treasure lost for millennia. But the prize has already fallen into the hands of their enemy, a demon named Legion, before whom even the walls of the Vatican will fall. The search for the key to salvation will take Erin and the others across centuries and around the world, from the dusty shelves of the Vatican's secret archives to lost medieval laboratories, where ancient alchemies were employed to horrific ends. The third volume in the Order of the Sanguines trilogy. Order the first two [here](#).

Scherm, Rebecca. [Unbecoming](#) (Viking \$27.95). How do you tell what's fake from what's real? There's the question driving this First Mystery Club Pick. "'Self-assured' doesn't begin to describe the skill with which Rebecca Scherm develops her central character—Grace—and the tangled web she weaves, which is her life itself. It's a completely compelling read from start to finish, beautifully researched and brilliantly constructed. I loved it." —Elizabeth George. **A First Mystery Club Pick.**

Sears, Michael. [Long Way Down](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Jason Stafford continues to mix up money, murder, and autism. Two years in Club Fed taught Jason when people lie. He doesn't think Philip Haley is lying. An engineer on the verge of a biofuel breakthrough, Haley has been indicted for insider trading on his own company, and Stafford believes him when he says he's been set up. Haley does indeed have enemies. He is not a nice man. Doesn't make him a criminal. It does make him dangerous to be around, though. The deeper Stafford investigates, the more secrets he starts to uncover, secrets people would kill for. And that's exactly what happens. Soon, it is Stafford himself who is under attack and, worse, his family—his fiancée, his young son—and he is a fugitive, desperately trying to stay one step ahead of both the killers and the law. "As soon as Stafford tears into his new assignment, a buzz starts that won't let go. The sequence of lies and betrayals that constitute the plot are revealed in action scenes and confrontational dialogue with wry undercurrents, sort of Ian

Fleming by way of Woody Allen...the tension and suspense are genuine and gripping, as is the view of a world where billionaires, like drug cartels, have hit squads." — *Booklist* on the latest from the Shamus winner also nominated for the Edgar, Thriller, and Anthony Awards. Order *Black Fridays* and *Mortal Bonds* [here](#).

Sullivan, Mark. [Thief](#) (St Martins \$25.99). We first met Robin Monarch scaling a tower of the poshest hotel in St. Moritz. This time he's breaking into a posh party on Long Island in an intricately choreographed mission where once again he is stealing to order. It lands him, and started, in slums in Buenos Aires. Monarch has a complicated history as soldier, CIA agent, and freelance op, but he never lets go of the terrified orphaned 12-year-old he once was, and the woman who saved him. "Terrific page-turner...Sullivan has crafted a remarkable antihero in Monarch, and the mix of action with thought provoking insight into what constitutes good or evil makes this a winner on every level." —*Booklist* Starred Review. For *Rogue* and *Outlaw*, [click](#) here. **Our January Thriller Club Pick.**

Sykes, Sam. [The City Stained Red](#) Orbit (\$16). After years in the wilds, Lenk and his companions have come to the city that serves as the world's beating heart. The great charnel house where men die surer than any wilderness. They've come to claim payment for creatures slain, blood spilled at the behest of a powerful holy man. And Lenk has come to lay down his sword for good. But this is no place to escape demons. New epic fantasy in the Bring Down Heaven series.

Williams, Timothy. [The Honest Folk of Guadeloupe](#) (Soho \$26.95). See Where in the World for Williams' second in series.

FIRST NOVELS

Buwalda, Peter. [Bonita Avenue](#) (Hogarth \$26). The *PW* Starred Review: "Dutch author Buwalda's magnificent first novel offers proof of Tolstoy's dictum that 'every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.'" Three uniquely unreliable voices narrate this darkly humorous familial drama: the mentally precarious Aaron Bever; his beautiful girlfriend, Joni Sigerius; and her stepfather, eminent math genius and university rector Siem Sigerius. Their interweaving narratives, which hop between the Netherlands, Shanghai, Belgium, and California, chart the years between the rise and fall of their outwardly successful but privately dysfunctional family. Buwalda displays the sexual appetites of his characters from puritanical to hedonistic against the 1990s backdrop of an emerging Internet and concomitant ascendency of online porn. Temperatures rise until the explosion of a Dutch fireworks factory, which is followed by familial pyrotechnics. A custard doughnut plays a decisive role in deciding the Sigeriuses' fate."

De Mariaffi, Elisa. [The Devil You Know](#) (Touchstone \$24.99). Here is a rookie reporter, whose memories of the murder of her childhood best friend bring danger—and a stalker—right to her doorstep. "The year is 1993. Evie Jones is haunted by the unsolved murder of her best friend Lianne Gagnon who was killed in 1982, back when both girls were eleven. The suspected killer, a repeat offender named Robert Cameron, was never arrested, leaving Lianne's case cold. Now twenty-one and living alone for the first time, she leans on another childhood friend, David Patton, for help—but every clue they uncover seems to lead to an unimaginable conclusion. As she gets closer and closer to the truth, Evie becomes convinced that the killer is still at large—and

that he's coming back for her. "Evie is a tough, wisecracking narrator worthy of the greatest private-eye pulp novels. . . . [Her] vulnerable yet empowered voice, is refreshingly reverent."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review). "[An] artful first novel . . . Hooked readers will silently implore Evie to refrain from entering a basement or a cabin in the woods in pursuit of a story—and a killer." — *Publishers Weekly*. **This would be a First Mystery Club Pick if we could get the books signed. But no. So it's our January Fresh Fiction Pick.**

Harrison, Mette. [The Bishop's Wife Signed](#) (Soho \$26.95). "Set against the unusual backdrop of a tight-knit Mormon congregation, *The Bishop's Wife* is both a terrific crime novel and a wrenching story of faith, doubt, and personal tragedy." —Michael Wallace. "Turns a critical eye toward some long-held norms of a historically patriarchal religion. Throw in a wickedly twisted mystery – actually, two – and you have the makings of a page-turner that is revealing and thought-provoking."—*Kirkus Reviews* on a **First Mystery Club Pick**

Hawkins, Paula. [Girl on the Train Signed](#) (Riverhead \$26.95 tip-ins—our UK Signed Firsts sold out). "Rachel Watson, the principal narrator of Hawkins's psychologically astute debut, is obsessed with her ex-husband, Tom. She's having a hard time putting the past behind her, especially since she confronts it daily, during the hour-long commute to London from her rented room in Ashbury, Oxfordshire, when her train passes the Victorian house she once shared with Tom. She also frequently spies an attractive couple, four doors down from her former home, who she imagines to be enjoying the happily-ever-after that eluded her. Then, suddenly, the woman, blonde pixy Megan Hipwell, vanishes—only to turn up on the front page of the tabloids as missing.... The surprise-packed narratives hurtle toward a stunning climax, horrifying as a train wreck and just as riveting."—*PW* Starred Review. The Indie Next Pick adds: "Just when you believe you have a grasp on the entire mystery, Hawkins pulls the rug out from under you with yet another breathtaking plot revelation." This sure to be bestseller combines an unreliable narrator with a Gillian Flynn plot for one of the hottest debuts of the winter. "*The Girl on the Train* was so thrilling and tense and wildly unpredictable, it sucked up my entire afternoon. I simply could not put it down. Not to be missed!" —Tess Gerritsen. "It's Alfred Hitchcock for a new generation and a new era" —Terry Hayes.

Hooper, Emma. [Etta and Otto and Russell and James Signed](#) (Simon Schuster \$26 tip-ins). Otto finds the note left by his wife in the kitchen of their farmhouse in windswept Saskatchewan. Eighty-three-year-old Etta will be walking 3,200 kilometers to see the ocean, but somehow, Otto understands. He took his own journey once before, to fight in a faraway land. With Etta gone, Otto struggles with his demons of war, while their friend Russell initially pursues the woman he has loved from afar. And James—well, James you have to meet on the page. Moving from the hot and dry present of a quiet Canadian farm to a dusty, burnt past of hunger, war, and passion, from trying to remember to trying to forget, *Etta and Otto and Russell and James* is an astounding literary debut about friendship and love, hope and honor, and the romance of last—great—adventures. "Heartfelt... In simple, graceful prose, Hooper has woven a tale of deep longing, for reinvention and self-discovery, as well as for the past and for love and for the boundless unknown."—*San Francisco Chronicle*.

Imagine Strayed (of *Wild*) if she were an 83-year-old Saskatoonian. However, the best character—and surprise—is James. Magical realism.... The Indie Next Pick: "This is a beautiful and sometimes hauntingly stark portrait of three WWII-generation lives, sprinkled with the wise counsel of ... James. I loved it!" Alas the author is in the UK so only tip-ins are possible. Think an unusual Valentine's gift.

July, Miranda. [The First Bad Man](#) (Scribner \$25). I do not love all first novels. In fact, I hated this one. It's gotten a lot of press (Miranda is a filmmaker and wrote a nonfiction bestseller) which cuts it a break when the unappealing narrator reveals a maternal streak and skills in the uneven story structure, but I don't consider them sufficiently redemptive for the unpleasant experience of reading about Cheryl, Cleo, Philip, and Cheryl's self-centered exploitative employers. Their sex lives are even more repulsive. The mystery here is why July, or anyone, would populate a world thus. When I think of the good books that go unpublished and unheralded, this one makes me want to weep.

Khan, Ausma Zehanat. [Unquiet Dead](#) (St Martins \$25.99). "In Khan's beautiful and powerful first novel, Esa Khattak, a second-generation Canadian Muslim and the head of Toronto's Community Policing Section, and his sergeant, Rachel Getty, investigate the death of Christopher Drayton, who fell from a cliff overlooking Lake Ontario "with no evidence of outside interference." When their inquiries reveal that Drayton was, in fact, the alias for a Serb who oversaw the slaughter of thousands of Muslim men and boys at Srebrenica, Khattak and Getty have to wonder whether foul play was involved. Through her characters' interactions and passages taken from testimony at war crimes trials, Khan reveals the depths of horror and venality that people are capable of while also portraying the healing of long-sundered relationships."

Macallister, Greer. [The Magician's Lie Signed](#) (Sourcebooks \$25). For openers, the "most famed female illusionist in the world"—very nearly the only one in existence in turn-of-the-century America—is preparing to go on stage in 1905 Janesville, Iowa, to perform. Her show ends with her terrifying Halved Man, where she cuts a man in two through his trunk. And then restores him to life, no wound visible. That's how the trick is supposed to go. But this night, Arden is going to end her career. Tonight, she will kill him. But...although the man is indeed cut in twain with the axe, did she kill him? Captured by chance by Virgil Holt, a police officer with his own issue—he's been shot and the doctors won't operate on the bullet near his spine—and charged with murder, the Amazing Arden tells him her life story. Will she convince him she's innocent? Will he release her? It's a compelling tale ranging from Tennessee to the Biltmore estate in Asheville to New York and on and draws a fascinating portrait of early 20th Century Vaudeville, traveling magic shows, illusions, and Mid-America. The Indie Next Pick for **Our January History/Mystery Pick**: "Macallister's debut novel is historical fiction that blends magic, mystery, and romance. In turn-of-the-century America at the height of stage magic's popularity, As Arden's story unfolds over the course of the night she spends in police custody, the reader, as well as Officer Holt, must decide if she is telling the truth or if this, too, is part of her act."

Scherm, Rebecca. [Unbecoming Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). The Indie Next Pick: “Julie rents a room in a dilapidated house outside of Paris. She repairs antiques, mostly things no one else wants, and is a loner with no friends or social life. In her room at night, she reads the news from Garland, Tennessee, her hometown, where two men are about to be let out on parole for a crime for which she was the mastermind. Julie is terrified of being found and is just trying to survive. This is an exhilarating page-turner with multi-layered characters and several good twists. Once you hit the halfway point, it’s a race to the finish to find out what’s going to happen.” See Event Books for more on this **First Mystery Club Pick**.

Walker, Casey. [Last Days in Shanghai Signed](#) (Continuum \$26). Walker’s first novel tells of a young Washington aide’s fight to stay centered in the swirling chaos of modern China as his congressman boss succumbs to the temptations of booze and big money. “A fellow at the Iowa Writers’ Workshop, Walker spent time in China in 2007 and it shows. He’s seen the ubiquitous construction cranes sending skyscrapers into clouds of smog where their “skysucking towers altered the whistle of Shanghai wind.” He knows the shady ways that money changes hands and people’s lives, the mantra of “embezzle, skim, divide the spoils.” Last Days in Shanghai displays a good deal of cynicism about the “Chinese economic miracle” and the United States’ naïve efforts to exploit it. But it’s also a perceptive novel about the old giving way to the new and of one young man’s attempts to find an abiding moral center in the heady swirl of a Washington-Beijing axis of money, power, women and corruption. Walker dances with the big global superpowers and waltzes away with a suspenseful modern story of sin, subterfuge and redemption.”—ShelfAwareness on our **December Thriller Club Pick**.

BRITISH BOOKS

Arlen, Tessa. [Death of a Dishonorable Gentleman](#): (St Martins \$25.99). “Readers of this debut set in Edwardian England will feel as though they’ve stepped into an episode of *Downton Abbey*, complete with murder and intrigue upstairs and downstairs... Incorporating exquisite period detail into her well-mannered mystery, Arlen offers readers an engaging peek into the lives of upper and lower classes of early 1900s England combined with a little history interspersed.”—*Library Journal* on our **January British Crime Club Pick**. Lady Montfort has been planning her annual summer costume ball for months with scrupulous care. Pulling together the food, flowers and a thousand other details for one of the most significant social occasions of the year is her happily accepted responsibility. But when her husband’s degenerate nephew is found murdered, it’s more than the ball that is ruined. In fact, Lady Montfort fears that the official police enquiry, driven by petty snobbery and class prejudice, is pointing towards her son as a potential suspect. Taking matters into her own hands, the rather over-imaginative countess enlists the help of her pragmatic housekeeper, Mrs. Jackson, to investigate the case, track down the women that vanished the night of the murder, and clear her son’s name. Elegant and elegaic.

Bradley, Alan. [As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust](#) (Random \$25). In Alan Bradley’s seventh novel, intrepid 11-year-old sleuth Flavia de Luce has been banished from her beloved Buckshaw Manor in bucolic England to Miss Bodycote’s Female Academy in Toronto, her late mother’s alma mater. Her gloom lifts when a desiccated corpse plunges from the chimney to her dorm room’s

hearth on her first night in Canada! It’s a ready-made case for the precocious chemist. At the end of the last novel in the series, *The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches*, Aunt Felicity hinted at Flavia’s destiny to continue the family’s cryptic Duty. Homesick and missing even her annoying sisters, plucky Flavia puts on a good show for her tight-lipped classmates and Headmistress Miss Fawltorne, who has “the look of a pirate who had given up the sea for a career in education.” The mysteries of the De Luce family (for example, why was Winston Churchill at her mother’s funeral?) plus the secretive attitudes of her classmates put Flavia on guard. Not knowing whom she can trust, she performs—swooning, weeping, cajoling—in order to place herself in the best positions for sleuthing. Book seven is a rollicking read for anyone just meeting Flavia, but readers of previous installments will welcome her visit to Toronto. New in paper: [The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches](#) (\$15). See Our January Trade Paperback Picks.

Dolan, Eva. [Tell No Tales Signed](#) (Harvill \$32). DS Ferreira and DI Zigic are called in from the Peterborough Hate Crimes Unit to handle the hit-and-run, but with another major case on their hands, one with disturbing Neo-Nazi overtones, they are relieved when there seems to be an obvious suspect. But the case isn’t that simple and with tensions erupting in the town leading to more violence, the media are soon hounding them for answers. Ferreira believes that local politician Richard Shotton, head of a recently established right-wing party, must be involved somehow. Journalists have been quick to acclaim Shotton, with his Brazilian wife and RAF career, as a serious contender for a major political career, despite his extremist views, but is his party a cover for something far more dangerous?

Doughty, Louise. [Apple Tree Yard](#) (\$16). A fabulous and surprising legal thriller. See our January Trade Paperback Picks for more.

Dunsany, Lord. [The Strange Journeys of Colonel Polder](#) (Talos \$12.99). An inspiration to many for his style and prose, Lord Dunsany was a pioneer for fantasy fiction, inspiring such famous writers as H. P. Lovecraft, J. R. R. Tolkien, and Neil Gaiman, to name a few. More than sixty years since its first publication, *The Strange Journeys of Colonel Polders* is now once again available to readers. In this classic fantasy story, a no-nonsense British officer, having offended an Indian swami in his club, finds his spirit lodged into a succession of animal bodies. Some of the animals the officer’s spirit enters are a cat, a goat, an eel, a fox, and many others. In his fantastic style, Dunsany captures the exact sentiments of each animal, making it believable that the office has, in fact, taken them as his own. Out of print for more than sixty years.

Fetlocks, Gillian. [Downtrodden Abbey: The Interminable Saga](#) (\$9.99). Parody.

Frank, Matthew. [If I Should Die](#) (\$18). Dana reviews: “Joseph Stark serves in the Territorial Army in the sandboxes of both Iraq and Afghanistan and returns home wounded (and how is in itself is a long, slow and positively delicious reveal). Honorably discharged as physically unfit for duty, he becomes a constable in training for the CID in Greenwich. His first case begins as a series of vicious muggings of the homeless, and one of the things I loved about this plot is that the cops know immediately whodunnit. Cops usually do, in fact real police work isn’t usually much of a mystery, but don’t think for one moment that that fact makes

this narrative any less absorbing. They know, all right, but they can't prove it at first, not even with all the cell phone cameras of modern life and CCTV-laden public spaces of the UK at their disposal. Then the most recent victim dies, and now they are looking for murderers. The tension amps up excruciatingly, especially when the perps escalate their offenses while infuriatingly keep slipping through the grip of the police. In the meantime Stark is going through physical and psychological rehab (with the best shrink character I've ever read), he is exacerbating his healing by acting like he can chase down perps like any healthy copper, the Army keeps calling with steadily increasing exasperation about his last action in the field, he's falling in love with his hydro-therapist, and his DS is the nosiest, most prying detective living. I would have popped her one at least once, superior or no, but then I'm not a good soldier, and Stark is the very definition of one. I think what grabs so hard in this book is that the good guys really are good guys, especially Stark. He was an exemplary soldier and he's going to be an exemplary CID detective, once he gets over his absolute refusal to ask for help when he needs it, the idiot (one of the nicer things his DS calls him). Detective Sergeant Fran Millhaven is just one of the best women copper characters you'll ever meet between the covers of a book, and DCI Groombridge is a boss to be admired and emulated. The action scenes, too, are terrific." This is a UK paperback: our Signed Firsts sold out.

Hannah, Sophie. [The Carrier](#) (Putnam \$27.95). The smothering of a supremely unlikable woman provokes a conspiracy, a false confession, a hysterical outburst and round upon round of sifting through the evidence by DC Simon Waterhouse and his wife, DS Charlie Zailer. I haven't yet read this but reviewers note how unpleasant are the characters populating the story. *Kirkus* puts it this way: "Hannah bores down deep into her tiny cast's secret lives, then still deeper, pausing along the way to cite or reprint a dozen poems, some of them clues, some not. Fans will love the endlessly knotty complications; those unable to commit their full attention to the problem at hand may well quit in exhaustion before the denouement." This underlines the divide that can separate popular British (also German) fiction from American.

Hawkins, Paula. [Girl on the Train Signed](#) (Riverhead \$26.95 tip-ins). See First Novels.

Hayes, Samantha. [Until You're Mine](#) (\$15). Claudia Morgan-Brown finally has it all. Pregnant with a much-wanted first baby of her own, she has a happily established family of two small step-sons and a loving husband with a great career. But she is also committed to her full-time job as a social worker, and her husband travels often. So when Claudia hires Zoe to help her around the house in anticipation of the baby's arrival, it seems like the answer to her prayers. But despite Zoe's glowing recommendations and instant rapport with the children, there's something about her that Claudia cannot trust. And—she's right.

Hill, Susan. [Soul of Discretion](#) (Overlook \$25.95). The Indie Next Pick: "Fans of character-driven suspense who aren't afraid of gritty plot lines are sure to enjoy Hill's Chief Inspector Simon Serrailleur series. Hill doesn't shy away from taking her characters into difficult territory, and *The Soul of Discretion* is definitely her most nerve-racking novel yet. Serrailleur goes deep undercover to try to stop a ring of child pornographers while his sister, Cat, is left to deal with family drama, financial problems, a rift in their

father's second marriage, and an attentive police officer. Guaranteed to keep you on the edge of your seat!" I'm a big fan of this fine series. [Click here](#) to order earlier entries.

Hitchings, Henry. [Sorry!: The English and Their Manners](#) (\$18). An investigation into the history of and reasons behind manners. "In this terrifically entertaining, surprisingly thoughtful book . . . Hitchings is a lively guide . . . pointing out the bizarre while inviting us to take another look at just how our conventional manners, so inevitable to us now, arose from history, circumstance, and luck."—Kate Tuttle, *The Boston Globe*

Hogan, Phil. [A Pleasure and a Calling](#) (Picador \$25). This is one of those books our English colleagues pushed but I reserved judgment since so often British humor or satire resonates there but not here. I was wrong on this one—the US reaction has been richly enthusiastic. **Read this on our February British Crime Club Pick, due in in January with the Allen so they can ship together.** "Mr. Heming is a real estate agent in an English village, very successful, very curious, and very dangerous. He has sold hundreds of houses in 17 years and has kept the keys to all of them. He uses the keys to enter homes and spy, obsessively and surreptitiously interjecting himself into the homeowners' lives, occasionally altering things for his own amusement, learning everything about each family: "I squeezed the juice out of them, though they didn't know it." Mr. Heming doesn't think of himself as a stalker or voyeur, and he doesn't consider himself a thief. He is, however, a man who will act decisively if threatened or even merely annoyed. His orderly life is suddenly complicated when he becomes smitten with Abigail Rice, a young woman to whom he sold a house. Abigail is involved with a philandering predator—a married man named Douglas Sharp, another one of Mr. Heming's clients. Mr. Heming decides that Sharp must be removed, and, with his customary thoroughness, the realtor decides to discredit Sharp, but his complex plan takes a deadly turn. Hogan's Mr. Heming is a monumentally diabolical character—the fact that he narrates the story further ups both the stakes and the tension. Readers won't soon forget this first-rate, white-knuckle suspense novel."—*Publishers Weekly* Starred Review. "Delicious and addicting. William Heming joins the ranks of unforgettable, unreliable narrators in this gloriously creepy novel of psychological suspense."—*Booklist* Starred Review. "A memorably creepy sociopath. . . Hogan skillfully builds a character that combines Mr. Goodbar, Hannibal Lector, and Moriarty."—*Kirkus Reviews*. "Channeling the socially detached and unnerving personality of Nabokov's Humbert Humbert, Phil Hogan creates a character that will inspire intrigue as well as ire. . . . This perfectly paced psychological suspense story is a roller-coaster ride through paranoia and manipulation."—*BookPage*

Johnson, Boris. [The Churchill Factor: How One Man Made History](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). The Mayor of London celebrates the brilliance in many arenas of the British Prime Minister: journalist, politician, historian, orator, soldier. . . an outsize man with astonishing gifts, in many ways the last of an age. I read recently that Churchill is the most quoted figure of all time, much being attributed to him that might not be accurate, but gains from his power. Copyright expires 70 years in the UK from the writer's death (so not until 2035) so Churchill's words remain under it.

Jones, Stephen. [The String Diaries](#) (\$16). Hannah is frantically driving through the night—her daughter asleep in the back, her

husband bleeding out in the seat beside her. In the trunk of the car rests a cache of diaries dating back 200 years, tied and retied with strings through generations. The diaries carry the rules for survival that have been handed down from mother to daughter since the 19th century. “This is a book of authorial wizardry, as Jones hopscoches among three time periods and locales (late 1800s Hungary; 1970s France and England; and present-day Snowdonia, in northern Wales) with grace, wit and dexterity.”—*Dallas Morning News*. “Jones doles out his narrative revelations with patience, turning over his cards deliberately like a well-trained casino dealer.”—*Entertainment Weekly*

Kasasian, MRC. [The Curse of the House of Foskett](#) (Pegasus \$25.95). I found Kasasian had given too free a rein to his inner Gothic in this second novel set in late Victorian London featuring Miss March Middleton and her eccentric genius of a guardian, Sidney Grice. (Yes, the nod to Holmes and Watson, or more aptly, Holmes and Mary Russell, is clear although it gets an original spin). Partly it’s the idea of a Death Society (or tontine) where the survivor of a group takes all. Partly it’s the Miss Havisham-like figure of Lady Parthenia Foskett, final survivor of an ancient line, and her household. Partly it’s the murder methods (like prussic acid in ear wax inserts). And partly the final revelations of the villainy and villain. Here Kasasian borrows the Rex Stout technique of much explication by Grice (Wolfe) of the myriad plot complications. Still, it’s good fun and the first in series—[The Mangle Street Murders](#) (\$14.95), fabulous, see Our January Trade Paperback Picks—was so good I recommend this one as an investment in the series’ future. And in case you think I’m a slave to Starred Reviews, this book has drawn at least one so far (*PW*) which doesn’t alter my report to you.

Kernick, Simon. [Final Minute Signed](#) (Random \$32). A traumatic car-crash. A man with no memory, haunted by nightmares. When the past comes calling in the most terrifying way imaginable, Matt Barron is forced to turn to the one person who can help. Ex Met cop, turned private detective, Tina Boyd. Soon they are both on the run

La Plante, Lynda. [Wrongful Death](#) (Harpers \$15.99). London’s DCI Anna Travis is scheduled for training at Quantico, part of an exchange between the Met and the FIB. Before she can leave she has to review a case her boss, DCS Langton, hands her. Six months back, nightclub owner Josh Reynolds was ruled a suicide, the case closed. But now a young man awaiting trial for armed robbery claims that Reynolds was murdered. Of course the man has info to share. What should have been routine thus becomes a political powder keg as the competence of the original investigating team is questioned. Does Anna close ranks or ignore consequences in a push for the truth of the matter?

MacBride, Stuart. [The Missing and the Dead Signed](#) (Collins \$45). When you catch a twisted killer there should be a reward, right? What Acting Detective Inspector Logan McRae gets instead is a ‘development opportunity’ out in the depths of rural Aberdeenshire. Welcome to divisional policing – catching drug dealers, shop lifters, vandals and the odd escaped farm animal. Then a little girl’s body washes up just outside the sleepy town of Banff, kicking off a massive manhunt. The Major Investigation Team is up from Aberdeen, wanting answers, and they don’t care who they trample over to get them. Logan’s got enough on his

plate keeping B Division together, but DCI Steel wants him back on her team. As his old colleagues stomp around the countryside, burning bridges, Logan gets dragged deeper and deeper into the investigation. One thing’s clear: there are dangerous predators lurking in the wilds of Aberdeenshire, and not everyone’s going to get out of this alive... 9th in this very hardboiled series.

Quinn, Antony. [Curtain Call Signed](#) (Cape \$36). On a sultry afternoon in the summer of 1936 a woman accidentally interrupts an attempted murder in a London hotel room. Nina Land, a West End actress, faces a dilemma: she’s not supposed to be at the hotel in the first place, and certainly not with a married man. But once it becomes apparent that she may have seen the face of the man the newspapers have dubbed ‘the Tie-Pin Killer’ she realizes that another woman’s life could be at stake. Jimmy Erskine is the raffish doyen of theatre critics who fears that his star is fading: age and drink are catching up with him, and in his late-night escapades with young men he walks a tightrope that may snap at any moment. He has depended for years on his loyal and long-suffering secretary Tom, who has a secret of his own to protect. Tom’s chance encounter with Madeleine Farewell, a lost young woman haunted by premonitions of catastrophe, closes the circle: it was Madeleine who narrowly escaped the killer’s stranglehold that afternoon, and now walks the streets in terror of his finding her again. *Curtain Call* is a comedy of manners, and a tragedy of mistaken intentions

Robertson, Michael. [Moriarty Returns a Letter](#) (\$15.99). A charmer in the modern Baker Street series. See Our January Trade Paperback Picks.

Robson, Jennifer. [After the War is Over](#) (Morrow \$14.99). The Indie Next Pick for **our January History Paperback Club Pick**: “In 1919, Britain is licking its wounds after years of a horrid and merciless war. Charlotte Brown and other women have determined to do what they can to change things by providing financial assistance and offering help where possible to those in need. A newspaper editor gives Charlotte the opportunity to express her views by hiring her to write a weekly commentary, which enables her to speak for the disenfranchised. Soon after, she encounters her former employer, the Earl of Cumberland, who still causes her heart to flutter. In the meantime, Charlotte’s articles are getting a lot of attention, and awareness from the upper classes.” For fans of Jackie Winspear although Charlotte lacks the charm of Maisie Dobbs.

Seskis, Tina. [One Step Too Far](#) (Morrow \$25.99). Another novel of domestic suspense. It’s well done but I conclude that I do not want to read any more books about the deaths of children and the lives that are shattered. Seskis does give this a surprisingly upbeat ending, but at the cost of terrible pain.

Whitehouse, David. [The Mobile Library](#) (Scribner \$25). Out in the neighborhood, Bobby Nusku, abandoned by his mother and beaten by his father, encounters Rosa, a peculiar girl whose disability invites the scorn of bullies. When Bobby takes Rosa home, he meets her mother, Val, a lonely divorcee, whose job is cleaning a mobile library. Bobby and Val come to fill the emotional void in each other’s lives, but their bond also draws unwanted attention. After Val loses her job and Bobby is beaten by his father, they abscond in the sixteen-wheel bookmobile. On the road

they are joined by Joe, a mysterious but kindhearted ex-soldier. This “puzzle of people” will travel across England, a picaresque adventure that comes to rival those in the classic books that fill their library-on-wheels. At once tender, provocative and darkly funny, *Mobile Library* is a fable about the intrinsic human desire to be loved and understood—and about one boy’s realization that the kinds of adventures found in books can happen in real life.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Bowen, Rhys. [City of Darkness and Light](#) (\$15.99). Molly Murphy and the baby journey to France where their expected sojourn with their NY neighbors puts an apparently abandoned Molly on her mettle in Paris. See Our January Paperback Picks for more. Bowen’s new case for Molly, [The Edge of Dreams](#) (St Martins \$25.99), will be signed March 5.

Brekke, Jorgen. [Where Monsters Dwell](#) (\$15.99). Nearly identical, sickening murders in the US at Richmond’s Poe Museum in and Norway at a Trondheim library unite the efforts of a US cop and a Norwegian. The common clue seems to be a 16th Century palimpsest, *The Book of John*, which appears to be a journal of a serial murderer back in 1529 Norway, a book bound in human skin. I wanted to like this debut—but I didn’t.

Camilleri, Andrea. [The Brewer of Preston](#) (Penguin \$15). *PW* finds, “Fans of Camilleri’s Inspector Montalbano series will relish this amusing, playful tale set in Vigàta, Sicily, in 1874. The citizens of Vigàta are smarting under the rule of the prefect of Montelusa, Eugenio Bortuzzi, who has decided that the town’s impressive new theater will be inaugurated by a performance of *The Brewer of Preston*. The opera was written by a mediocre composer, Luigi Ricci, who once presented a rehashing of Mozart’s *The Marriage of Figaro* as his own work. Grumbles from the Vigàta Civic Club reach the ear of Bortuzzi via the tongue of Emanuele “Uncle Meme” Ferraguto, a self-serving toady. Fire strikes the theater mere hours after its inauspicious opening. A series of absurd incidents follow in almost random fashion, some comic, some tragic. Camilleri cleverly ends the novel with chapter one, which provides the perfect summation that proves history is written (or rewritten) by the survivors.”

Gage, Leighton. [Ways of Evil Men](#) (\$14.95). Sadly, the last mystery from the late Gage, but it’s terrific. The Awana tribe, who live in the remote Amazon jungle in the Brazilian state of Pará, have dwindled to only 41 members—and now 39 of them have dropped dead of what looks like poison. The neighboring white townsfolk don’t seem to be mourning the genocide much—in fact, the only person who seems to care at all is Jade Calmon, the official tribal relations agent assigned to the area. She wants justice for the two survivors, a father and his 8-year-old son. But racism is deeply entrenched and no one is going to help her get to the truth. Unfortunately, this is far from the first time the Brazilian federal police have had a tribal genocide to investigate. Chief Inspector Mario Silva and his team are sent in from Brasilia to try to solve the increasingly complex case just as a local white man is discovered murdered. Someone has done their best to frame the surviving Awana man, and the town is about to erupt. How sad I am to lose Mario Silva.

Galera, Daniel. [The Blood Drenched Beard](#) (Penguin \$26.95). A young man’s father, close to death, reveals to his son the true story of his grandfather’s death, or at least the truth as he knows it. The mean old gaucho was murdered by some fellow villagers

in Garopaba, a sleepy town on the Atlantic now famous for its surfing and fishing. It was almost an execution, vigilante style. Or so the story goes. It is almost as if his father has given the young man a deathbed challenge. He has no strong ties to home, he is ready for a change, and he loves the seaside and is a great ocean swimmer, so he strikes out for Garopaba, without even being quite sure why. His rare neurological condition means that he doesn’t recognize the faces of people he’s met, leading frequently to awkwardness and occasionally to hostility. And the people who know about his grandfather seem fearful, even haunted. Life becomes complicated in Garopaba until it becomes downright dangerous. “Galera writes lyrically of a land of jungle and beach, even when the mood turns Hitchcockian... An elegant, literate and literary mystery of appearances and disappearances.”—*Kirkus*. *Library Journal* adds: “The talented Galera, evidently highly regarded in his native Brazil, invests the mystery/quest structure of this novel with abundant colorful and lively details.”

Kaaberbol, Lene. [Boy in the Suitcase](#) (\$9.99); [Death of a Nightingale](#) (\$15.95). Reissues of the first two Nina Borg cases in preparation for a third from the Danish writing duo.

Khan, Ausma Zehanat. [Unquiet Dead](#) (St Martins \$25.99). “This is part page-turning murder mystery with complex characters and part heartbreaking story of the Bosnian war that explores the themes of loss and the cost of justice. Rachel Getty and Esa Kahattak work in a special division of the Canadian police that handles minority-sensitive cases. They get called in on a case that looks like someone fell off the bluffs in an unfortunate accident, but rumors are that the victim isn’t an ‘average Joe’ at all, but a Bosnian war criminal using an assumed identity. As Esa and Rachel begin to investigate, they find that nothing is really as clear-cut as it seems. This is a brilliant debut, and I can’t wait to see more from this talented author.” More to come.

Michener, James A. [The Covenant](#) (Random \$20). Appositely, Random reissues Michener’s final novel, one telling the story of South Africa, just as Rob and I return from there. Our guide in Cape Town and Stellenbosch gave us his own copy to read on the plane. It ends during apartheid (Michener died in 1981) so you can see for yourselves how Michener’s analysis has worked out. Recommended. It starts with Bushmen in approximately 13,000 BC, which you can compare to the Bushmen in Michael Stanley’s terrific contemporary mystery [The Death of the Mantis](#) (\$14.99).

Nadel, Barbara. [Land of the Blind Signed](#) (Headline \$45). A body is found in the ruined Constantinople hippodrome: a woman, clutching a piece of red stone. She’s recently given birth, but there’s no sign of the baby. Inspector Cetin Ikmen discovers she was a Byzantine specialist on a crusade to protect the historic but now squalid areas of Istanbul that her enemy, property developer Ahmet Oden, seeks to destroy and rebuild. As Ikmen searches for the lost child and the truth behind her death, the people of Istanbul rise up in protest against their government in Gezi Park, and the city lurches into chaos and anger. Against this background, Ikmen will unravel a tale of ancient hostility and modern desires, where the truth is concealed within the secret history of this antique city.

Neuhaus, Nele. [The Ice Queen](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Karen reviews: “Vera von Kaltensee is a baroness, philanthropist, and tough minded matriarch of a wealthy family. When the body of

a Holocaust survivor is found with a curious indication that he was an SS officer in Germany, during WWII, a complex story uncovers a maze that brought this, and other murders, back to the powerful and wealthy family. Told with the same suspenseful presentation as her previous books, *Snow White Must Die* and *Bad Wolf*, this current police procedural puts abundant characters and twisted plots together in a story that keeps the reader engaged. Great read to indulge in." New in paper: [Bad Wolf](#) (\$16.99)

Reilly, Matthew. [The Great Zoo of China](#) (Gallery \$26). It is a secret the Chinese government has been keeping for forty years. They have found a species of animal no one believed even existed. It will amaze the world. Now the Chinese are ready to unveil their astonishing discovery within the greatest zoo ever constructed. A small group of VIPs and journalists has been brought to the zoo deep within China to see its fabulous creatures for the first time. Among them is Dr. Cassandra Jane "CJ" Cameron, a writer for National Geographic and an expert on reptiles. The visitors are assured by their Chinese hosts that they will be struck with wonder at these beasts, that they are perfectly safe, and that nothing can go wrong. Of course it can't...

Rotella, Sebastian. [The Convert's Song Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$28). The *PW* Starred Review: "Valentine Pescatore, the hero of Rotella's excellent second thriller, left his job as a U.S. Border Patrol agent to become a PI in Buenos Aires, Argentina. There he runs into Raymond Mercer, his former best friend, whom he hasn't heard from since they were teenagers in Chicago. A charming, failed singer, Raymond has converted to Islam, but is vague about what he does for a living. When hundreds are killed in a terrorist attack at a shopping mall near the city's garment district, the authorities suspect that Raymond and Valentine committed the crime. To clear his name, Valentine works with French agent Fatima Belhaj to pursue Raymond across the globe, from South American jungles to Paris and Baghdad. Valentine realizes how little he knows about his former friend. Is Raymond a terrorist or an informant, a spy or a scam artist? Rotella ratchets up the action with an absorbing look at international politics." With an investigative journalist's insider knowledge and a thriller writer's pace, is a convoluted trip through the world of terrorist cells fueled by drug money and extremism—and the most dangerous player is often any convert who works only for himself. Our January Hardboiled Crime Club Pick.

Thilliez, Franck. [Bred to Kill](#) (Viking \$27.95). I really liked the first by Thilliez. *PW* Stars the second: "French author Thilliez's exceptional thriller, a sequel to 2012's [Syndrome E](#) (\$16), poses a chilling question: what if a "violence gene" passed down from prehistoric man has concealed itself in human DNA and periodically churns out a serial killer or another person capable of extraordinary brutality? The action is again set in and around Paris, where doctoral researcher Eva Louts is found dead inside a gorilla cage at a primate research center. Homicide inspector Franck Sharko and former detective Lucie Henebelle—both haunted by past personal tragedies—quickly determine that Louts had recently been researching violent criminals who all had an identical set of characteristics: left-handedness, lactose intolerance, and a mother who died in childbirth. Also tied into the case are the recent theft of a 42,000-year-old Cro-Magnon mummy and the existence of a primitive jungle tribe that lives deep within

Brazil's Amazon region. Aside from the occasional genetics lecture that slows the action, this shines as a thought-provoking, brilliant piece of speculative fiction. Thilliez plumbs humanity's dark side without relying on familiar conventions of plot and character."

Williams, Timothy. [The Honest Folk of Guadeloupe Signed](#) (Soho \$26.95 in stock. but signed Feb. 12). April 1990: French-Algerian judge Anne Marie Laveaud has been living and working in the French Caribbean département of Guadeloupe for more than a decade, but her days are still full of surprises. She is only just starting to investigate the suspicious suicide of a high-profile environmental activist and media personality when she is pulled off the case. Is it because she was getting too close to the truth? But the new case she's been assigned takes precedence. The naked body of a white woman has been discovered on a beach. The victim's remains offer no clues about her final hours—she was found without any of her belongings, and it seems she had been dead at least three days before anyone spotted her corpse. What turned this woman's vacation in paradise into a final nightmare? It unleashes a media frenzy harmful to the island's tourist industry....

OUT OF THIS WORLD

Carey, Jacqueline. [Kushiel's Dart](#) (\$17.99). Trained from childhood to a life of servitude and espionage, Phedre Delaunay serves her master, Anafiel, as a courtesan and spy, ferreting out the dangerous secrets of the noble houses of Terre d'Ange. When she uncovers a treasonous conspiracy, however, her life takes on a new and deadly purpose. Set in a world reminiscent of late medieval and early Renaissance Europe, Carey's first novel portrays a society based upon political and sexual intrigue. *Kirkus* notes, "Superbly detailed, fascinatingly textured, and sometimes unbearably intense: a resonant, deeply satisfying, and altogether remarkable debut—but, emphatically, not for squeamish or judgmental readers."

Connolly, John. [Empire Signed](#) (Headline \$32). She is the trophy of a civilization at war with itself. He is its rebel captive. Separated by millions of light years, they will fight to be united. And they will risk everything to make their world — all worlds — right again. The follow-up to [Conquest](#) (\$26 Signed; 1 UK Signed 1st @ \$40) in the epic *Chronicles of the Invaders* trilogy by John Connolly and Jennifer Ridyard.

Cutter, Nick. [The Deep](#) (Gallery \$26). A strange plague called the 'Gets is decimating humanity on a global scale. It causes people to forget—small things at first, like where they left their keys... then the not-so-small things like how to drive, or the letters of the alphabet. Then their bodies forget how to function involuntarily... and there is no cure. But now, far below the surface of the Pacific Ocean, deep in the Marianas Trench, an heretofore unknown substance hailed as "ambrosia" has been discovered—a universal healer, from initial reports. It may just be the key to a universal cure. In order to study this phenomenon, a special research lab, the Trieste, has been built eight miles under the sea's surface. But now the station is incommunicado, and it's up to a brave few to descend through the lightless fathoms to greet...what? "Fans of unflinching bleakness and all-out horror will love this novel...The novel's horror is notable both for quantity and quality. Horror fans will love it."—*PW* Starred Review

Gordon, Alex. [Gideon](#) (Harper \$14.99). Gordon's debut novel, a

rapid-fire battle between modern-day witches and the demon who wants to enter this realm, opens in 1836 when the resident witches of Gideon, Ill., governed by their Master and Mistress, have the task of guarding the border between this world and the next, protecting all from the demons that roam on the other side of the boundary. To ward off evil, they perform a ritual killing, burning Nicholas Blaine at the stake, but fail to realize the full implications of his death by fire. More than 100 years later, in 2015, a former resident of Gideon dies, leaving a mysterious book for his daughter, Lauren. After reading the book, she questions who—and what—her father really was, so she travels to Gideon in search of her father's true identity. What Lauren uncovers as she enters the bleak town where crows refuse to roost and cell phone service is nonexistent stretches the margins of everything she's ever known and believed. Gideon is filled with supernatural entities that rise from the dead and witches who cast spells on a daily basis, in a place where this world collides with another and even time is in flux. The hierarchy of the characters and the actions they take to protect the Master and Mistress of Gideon bring to mind Shirley Jackson's "The Lottery." Fast paced and filled with lively details, Gordon's prose propels readers into a fantastical world that is haunting to the very end

Grahame-Smith, Seth. [The Last American Vampire](#) (Grand Central \$26). "Not content to snack on passersby, title character Henry Sturges moves impulsively through jaunts in England (where he meets Jack the Ripper) and stateside, moving through great events and venomous vampire back roads with equal aplomb. Keep the nightlight burning and the doors locked."—B&N.com

Hearne, Kevin. [Heir to the Jedi: Star Wars](#) (Random \$27.99). A rescue mission told entirely through the eyes of Luke Skywalker. We won't have Signed copies.

Martin, George RR. [Wild Cards IV: Aces Abroad](#) (\$15.99). Shared worlds. The action-packed alternate fantasy returns for a new generation, featuring fiction from Martin, Michael Cassutt, Melinda M. Snodgrass, Lewis Shiner, and more—plus two completely new stories from Kevin Andrew Murphy and bestselling author Carrie Vaughn.

Shannon, Samantha. [The Mime Order Signed](#) (Bloomsbury \$36). The January SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick. Paige Mahoney has escaped the brutal prison camp of Sheol I, but her problems have only just begun: many of the survivors are missing and she is the most wanted person in London... As Scion turns its all-seeing eye on the dreamwalker, the mime-lords and mime-queens of the city's gangs are invited to a rare meeting of the Unnatural Assembly. Jaxon Hall and his Seven Seals prepare to take centre stage, but there are bitter fault lines running through the clairvoyant community and dark secrets around every corner. Then the Rephaim begin crawling out from the shadows. But where is Warden? Paige must keep moving, from Seven Dials to Grub Street to the secret catacombs of Camden, until the fate of the underworld can be decided. *The Bone Season* was a bestseller on three continents, translated into 28 languages. As we are taken deeper into Scion, a dark and disturbing underworld awaits. London's most-wanted fugitive Paige Mahoney, and without giving anything anyway, nothing could have prepared her for what awaits her back in the capital...

ROMANCE RECOMMENDATIONS

We welcome respected Romance reviewer John Charles to our staff on a part-time basis this month. You will meet him at the store and he's setting up some events and perhaps a discussion club. Romance is a very broad literary umbrella and includes suspense, history, and social issues.

Here are two books John reviews for you for January. We are debating publishing a short separate Romance issue for you which would post along with the *Booknews*.

Henrie, Stacie. [Hope Rising](#) (Grand Central \$8.00). From the Love and War Series: American Evelyn Gray knows that nurses are forbidden from socializing with soldiers, but Evelyn can't resist the charm of Pvt. Ralph Kelley. Their plans to marry are derailed, however, when Ralph is killed in battle. A now pregnant Evelyn finds herself making an unconventional proposal to an injured Cpl. Joel Campbell, who feels responsible for Ralph's death. *Hope Rising* is the second title in Henrie's excellent trilogy of romances set during World War I, and the author's meticulous attention to period details and ability to effortlessly evoke life during that era will definitely resonate with fans of Charles Todd's Bess Crawford books.

Krentz, Jayne Ann. [Trust No One Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). The bottle of vodka Grace Elland finds by Sprague Witherspoon's dead body is the first clue that tells Grace the killer is toying with her. Next come the emails containing one of Witherspoon's famous inspirational sayings (all of which were written by Grace) sent to her from Sprague's personal account. Grace decides to take action before the murderer strikes again by trying to figure out who wanted her old boss out of the picture. Fortunately for Grace, her new next door neighbor, Julius Arkwright, seems more than willing to help Grace put the pieces of this puzzle together. When it comes to consistently delivering a sophisticated mix of sexy romance and suspenseful thrills, Krentz can't be beat. Add in the author's deliciously dry sense of wit, and you have a novel that is guaranteed to hit the sweet spot for any fan of romantic suspense.

JANUARY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Bowen, Rhys. [City of Darkness and Light](#) (\$15.99). "It's lucky number 13 for this lively addition to the award-winning Molly Murphy series. After their New York home is bombed, police captain Daniel Sullivan packs wife Molly and young son Liam off to Paris to stay with friends. Newly retired from the detective business, Molly lands in the middle of another mystery when her expat hosts aren't in their Paris apartment to receive her. Her only clue to their whereabouts is a recent letter that mentions a pending introduction to the artist Reynold Bryce. But, quelle horreur, Bryce has just been murdered! Inquiring of artists in turn-of-the-century Paris, Molly meets Pablo Picasso, Gertrude Stein, Mary Cassatt, and Edgar Degas. (All while finding trustworthy child care for her still-nursing son and getting up to speed on the Dreyfus affair.)"—*Booklist*

✠Bradley, Alan. [The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches](#) (\$15). Readers were awaiting the story of young Flavia de Luce's missing mother Harriet—and here it is in Bradley's 6th captivating case for the young detective. The family is assembled at the local train halt where Harriet is coming home at last—in a coffin escorted by former PM Winston Churchill. Shortly after, a man with a cryptic message is crushed beneath a train. The curious young

scientist sleuth has a more difficult time being objective in a case so personal. In her 7th, we find she's off to school in Canada.... See British Books.

✦Doughty, Louise. [Apple Tree Yard](#) (\$16). This truly fabulous book was a British Crime Club Pick in hardcover. If you missed it, wait no longer. A respected, together married woman of 52 (OK, she may be a frump in a stolid life) commits one rash indiscretion with a mysterious man she meets by chance, it's the first step towards her trial for murder. Is the mystery man a spy with MI5, a politician, or?? When Yvonne is raped by a sadistic colleague, the mystery man is the only one she can turn to. And then, as the Brits say, it all goes pear-shaped.... A shocker both surprising and spell-binding.

Elo, Elisabeth. [North of Boston](#) (\$16). This unusual debut, a 2014 First Mystery Pick, combines elements like Boston's waterfront and Canadian whales. "The novel's subplots ripple out from the opening collision, circling a story rich with wicked smart allusions to Russian literature and clever nods to Western culture's most famous fishing story — *Moby-Dick*. Pirio is a fascinating character and Elo a noteworthy new voice in the genre." —*Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*

✦Frank, Matthew. [If I Should Die](#) (\$18). Dana reviews: "Joseph Stark serves in the Territorial Army in the sandboxes of both Iraq and Afghanistan and returns home wounded (and how is in itself is a long, slow and positively delicious reveal). Honorably discharged as physically unfit for duty, he becomes a constable in training for the CID in Greenwich. His first case begins as a series of vicious muggings of the homeless, and one of the things I loved about this plot is that the cops know immediately whodunnit. See British Books for more.

Jacobsen, Annie. [Operation Paperclip](#) (\$18). We don't include nonfiction in this list often, but this outstanding book deserves a Pick. In the chaos following World War II, some of the greatest spoils of Germany's resources were the Third Reich's scientific minds. The U.S. government secretly decided that the value of these former Nazis' knowledge outweighed their crimes and began a covert operation code-named Paperclip to allow them to work in the U.S. without the public's full knowledge. Drawing on exclusive interviews with dozens of Paperclip family members, colleagues, and interrogators, and with access to German archival documents (including papers made newly available by direct descendants of the Third Reich's ranking members), files obtained through the Freedom of Information Act, and lost dossiers discovered in government archives and at Harvard University, Annie Jacobsen follows more than a dozen German scientists through their postwar lives and into one of the most complex, nefarious, and jealously guarded government secrets of the 20th century.

✦Kasasian, MRC. [The Mangle Street Murders](#) (\$14.95). After her father dies, March Middleton has to move to London to live with her guardian, Sidney Grice, the country's most famous private detective. It is 1882 and London is at its murkiest yet most vibrant, wealthiest yet most poverty-stricken. No sooner does March arrive than a case presents itself: a young woman has been brutally murdered, and her husband is the only suspect. The victim's mother is convinced of her son-in-law's innocence, and March is so touched by her pleas she offers to cover Sidney's fee herself. The investigations lead the pair to the darkest alleys of the East End: every twist leads Sidney Grice to think his client

is guilty; but March is convinced that he is innocent. This first in a late Victorian crime series clearly aligns with Doyle and King (Mary Russell) with twists of its own. While not precisely parody, it stays on its track and provides humor and some original elements. I am disappointed that the sequel, noted above in British Books, falls over the line, reminding us that less is more.

Koryta, Michael. [Those Who Wish Me Dead](#) (\$16). A change of pace for the multitalented Koryta gets this from the *NY Times*: "Michael Koryta is a fearless stylist who has put his hand to ghost stories, historical novels, killer-thrillers, revenge tragedies, morality tales and detective stories. He's now swinging from the high wire with *Those Who Wish Me Dead*, a heart-thumping backwoods adventure... Koryta rigs his tripwire plot with all sorts of unpredictable characters and unforeseen events, including a "flint-and-steel" electrical storm that will make your hair stand on end."

LaPlante, Alice. [A Circle of Wives](#) (\$15). LaPlante's second mystery is as much a zinger as the first, [Turn of Mind](#) (\$15), a First Mystery Pick. She's of the Highsmith/Hitchcockian ilk building suspense out of what seem ordinary events. When Dr. John Taylor is found dead in a hotel room in his hometown, the local police find enough incriminating evidence to suspect foul play. Detective Samantha Adams, whose Palo Alto beat usually covers small-town crimes, is innocently thrown into a high-profile murder case that is more intricately intertwined than she could ever imagine. A renowned plastic surgeon, a respected family man, and an active community spokesman, Dr. Taylor was loved and admired. But, hidden from the public eye, he led a secret life—in fact, multiple lives—as a closeted polygamist.

Pavone, Chris. [The Accident](#) (\$18). Who knew the publishing process could be such a killer? Literally—as literary agent Isabel Reed discovers when she is delivered an anonymous manuscript that exposes many secrets, some hers, some that of a media mogul. On one hand, if published, it would be a guaranteed mega-bestseller; on the other, it might get her sued—or worse. She's not imagining the hazards for soon an associate is executed and Isabel finds herself the target of a rogue CIA assassin. And, there's more. By the author of Edgar-winner [The Expats](#) (\$15). Pavone is a veteran of the publishing industry with inside information few can match.

✦Robertson, Michael. [Moriarty Returns a Letter](#) (\$15.99). This entry in the Baker Street series is a real charmer. PW agrees and awards a Star: "You don't have to be a Sherlockian to enjoy Robertson's excellent fourth Baker Street mystery. Early chapters, including one set in 1893 in which a Pinkerton agent attempts to save his own life by claiming to be Professor Moriarty, set the groundwork for the well-constructed plot that follows. In the book's present-day of 1998, London barrister Reggie Heath, who leases 221B Baker Street on condition that he deal with letters addressed to Sherlock Holmes, is still recovering months later from the trauma of having been the target of "schizophrenic savant" Darla Rennie, who believed he was actually Holmes. Blaming Heath for the death of her notorious ancestor, Professor Moriarty, Rennie kidnapped Heath's love interest, Laura Rankin, before apparently falling to her death in the Thames. Robertson does a nice job of playing with the notion that both Holmes and Moriarty were real in an entry that exhibits the rich possibilities of his premise." [Click here](#) for all four books.

Swanson, Peter. [The Girl with a Clock for a Heart](#) (\$14.99).

“What do you say when a woman who broke your heart years ago and is wanted for questioning in connection to a murder pops back into your life to ask a favor? If she’s as alluring as Liana Dector, you say, ‘Yes.’ And hope you survive...a twisty, sexy, electric thrill ride.”—Dennis Lehane on a 2014 First Mystery Pick I truly enjoyed making. What a question: what would you do if the person you once loved and thought dead reappears and asks you...? Swanson publishes [The Kind Worth Killing](#) in February. More to come.

NEW BOOKS

Abel, James. [White Plague](#) (Berkley \$26.95). Those interested in the Arctic will be intrigued by the landscape of this thriller that begins when the Navy’s newest submarine reports it’s on fire under the ice—and there is a threat of bioterrorism. Marine Colonel Joe Rush, among other expertises an MD, is tasked by his director to head the rescue and stop potential plague by whatever means required. It goes from there. If the next bio-threat comes from thawing rather than tropical regions, and if we’ve invested too much of our defense in deserts, this story is a wake-up call. The prose is serviceable and plot points are predictable, but I enjoyed it and found it alarming.

Allende, Isabel. [Ripper](#) (\$15.99). “Super-smart high-school senior Amanda Martín is obsessed with an Internet role-playing game, Ripper (as in Jack), and oversees a group comprising four other brilliant misfit teens from around the world as well as her grandfather, who raised her after her very young parents divorced. Amanda’s father, Bob, is a deputy chief of homicide in the San Francisco police department. Her mother, Indiana, is a healer too kind for her own good who is romantically entangled with a former navy SEAL and a wealthy dilettante. As Amanda and her cyber-brigade investigate a series of ritualistic murders no one else believes are connected, Allende richly portrays a range of intriguing characters, from Ayani, a famous Ethiopian model and women’s rights activist, to Attila, a heroic war dog. Sensitive to inequality, injustice, and psychological complexity and touching on everything from aromatherapy to illegal immigrants to PTSD, Allende’s tightly plotted tale of crimes obvious and masked is sharply perceptive...”—*Booklist*

Axelrod, Steven. [Nantucket Five-Spot Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). If Robert B. Parker’s Paradise Police Chief Jesse Stone wrote poetry he’d hang out with Nantucket’s Chief Henry Kennis. Kennis is not unique. Literary police officers who are poets include PD James’ Adam Dalgleish and Qiu Xiaolong’s Inspector Chen. London, Shanghai, Nantucket... which is also an apparent target for terrorism at the height of its summer tourist season. Seriously? But then, who envisioned the “Boston Massacre”? A threat to bomb Nantucket’s annual Boston Pops Concert could destroy the island’s economy, along with its cachet as a safe, if mostly summer-time, haven for America’s ruling class. The threat of terrorism brings in The Department of Homeland Security along with prospects for a rekindled love affair—Henry’s lost love works for the DHS now. But, is the bomb threat really a red herring? If so, directing attention away from what? And who? *Nantucket Five-Spot*, second in the Henry Kennis series written by a Nantucket resident, plays out against 20-year old secrets, betrayed friendship, infidelity, and the quiet poisonous feuds of small town life.

Christie, Michael. [If I Fall, If I Die](#) (Crown \$25). Unreliable narrators are often children, filtering what they experience and relate through what they can understand. It takes awhile to realize that “The boy” who “steps Outside and did not die” is the child of an agoraphobic mother. To Will, the world she’s constructed for the two of them is ordinary, his regular life. But an impulse he can’t suppress pulls him out. What follows is fascinating. Skateboarding especially (hence the title). The prose is first rate and the journey worth making. Recommended. Christie lives in British Columbia so our chances for signed books for the Modern Firsts Club are poor. But maybe....

Cleland, Jane K. [Consigned to Death Japanese Edition](#) (Ivy \$10). Cleland makes half a dozen copies available for Japanese-reading mystery fans.

Collins, Max Allan. [Quarry’s Choice](#) (Titan \$9.95). Quarry is a pro in the murder business. When the man he works for becomes a target himself, Quarry is sent South to remove a traitor in the ranks. But in this wide-open city – with sin everywhere, and betrayal around every corner – Quarry must make the most dangerous choice of his deadly career: who to kill? Love the pulp cover!

Green, John. [Looking for Alaska Special 10th Anniversary Edition](#) (Penguin \$19.99). “The Printz Award-winning novel that kickstarted John Green’s career and introduced a whole generation of teens to a new era of YA literature is turning 10 this year. Though the text itself remains the same, there are many extras included in this edition. There is an introduction by Green himself, a helpful Q & A section, and, perhaps most interesting for scholars, portions of the original manuscript that didn’t make it into the final book, along with correspondence between Green and his editor. Purists may gasp to hear that the now-iconic “smoking” cover has been redesigned. But take heart; the new jacket, created by Rodrigo Corral, pays homage to the original with a deep black background and a subtle wisp of smoke. Replace worn copies and introduce a whole new crop of teens to this new classic.”—*School Library Journal*

Griffin, W E B. [The Assassination Option](#) (Putnam \$28.95). The dramatic second adventure in the brand-new Clandestine Operations series about the Cold War, the fledgling Central Intelligence Agency—and a new breed of warrior. James Cronley thought he had done well—he didn’t know he’d done this well. His first successful mission for the about-to-be-official new Central Intelligence Directorate has drawn all kinds of attention, some welcome, some not. On the plus side, he’s now a captain; promoted to Chief, DCI, Europe; and in charge of a top secret spy operation. On the minus side, a lot of people would like to know about that operation, including not only the Soviets, but his own Pentagon, as well as a seething J. Edgar Hoover. Cronley knows that if just one thing goes wrong, he’s likely to get thrown to the wolves. As if that weren’t enough pressure, complications are springing up on all sides. He’s discovered a surprising alliance between the former German intelligence chief and, of all things, the Mossad. A German family that Cronley never knew he had suddenly, and suspiciously, emerged. And he’s due for a rendezvous with an undercover agent against the Soviets known only as Seven K. It’s when he meets Seven K that he gets the real surprise.

Grippando, James. [Cane and Abe](#) (Harper \$26.99). Unbelievable was the word for her. Samantha Vine was unbelievably beautiful. It was unbelievable that she’d married me. Even more unbeliev-

able that she was gone... And now Abe Beckham's new wife has helped him through the loss, but some say it was a step back for Abe to marry Angelina, a love from his past. Abe doesn't want to hear it, and he's even managed to remain a star prosecutor at the Miami State Attorney's Office through his ups and downs. Then everything goes wrong. A woman's body is discovered dumped in the Everglades, and Abe is called upon to monitor the investigation. The FBI is tracking a killer in South Florida they call "Cutter" because his brutal methods hark back to Florida's dark past, when machete-wielding men cut sugarcane by hand in the blazing sun. Then Angelina goes missing and the respected attorney finds himself under fire....

Guinn, Jeff. [Manson: The Life and Times of Charles Manson](#) (\$17). Really scary. Guinn did a lot of research including interviewing Manson. Plus there are rare photos....

Hagberg, David. [Retribution](#) (Tor \$25.99). On May 1, 2011, a team of twenty-four members of US SEAL Team Six swooped down on the compound of Osama bin Laden in Abbottabad, Pakistan. Their mission, code-named Neptune Spear, was to find and kill the terrorist leader. The mission was a success. Since that day, elements of the government of Pakistan have harbored a deep hatred for the SEALs who violated their sovereign territory. Now they've hired a team of German assassins to kill all twenty-four of the ST6 operators...and only one man stands a chance of stopping them: legendary former Director of the CIA Kirk McGarvey.

Hall, Parnell. [Puzzled Indemnity](#) (St Martins \$24.99). During a cold, lonely winter, long distance has cooled the Puzzle Lady Cora Felton's on-and-off romance with Sergeant Crowley. When her attorney friend Becky asks her to explore a problem for a client—that her philandering husband may be planning to murder her for the insurance payout—Cora jumps at. She brings in her scummy ex Marvin to play blackmailer and prove the affair. Then the client's husband is killed by a car bomb right outside the Bakerhaven PD and it turns out the client had insurance on him!

Higgins, Jack. [Rain on the Dead](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Sean Dillon is one of most durable action heroes going. In his 21st outing the former IRA gunman and his colleague Afghan war hero Captain Sara Gideon accompany President Jake Cazalet to Nantucket where they thwart an assassination attempt by two Chechen brothers. The question is, how did the brothers get to the island? Amazing that this set-up publishes in the same month as Steve Axelrod's second Nantucket thriller, above! And I thought the idea of terrorists on Nantucket would be implausible!

Hoag, Tami. [Cold Cold Heart](#) (Putnam \$27.95). "Talented young newscaster Dana Nolan is left to navigate a psychological maze after barely escaping serial killer Doc Holiday. The damage he did to her is terrible. Her mother nearly drives her mad as she recuperates, but Dana goes home anyway to Shelby Mills, Indiana, to restart her life. There she meets her former high school classmates John Villante and Tim Carver. Football hero Tim is ashamed of flunking out of West Point, and now he's a sheriff's deputy. After Iraq and Afghanistan tours, John's home with PTSD too, "angry and bitter and dark." What binds the trio is their friend Casey Grant, who's been missing five years, perhaps also a Holiday victim. "Hoag's first 100 pages are a gut-wrenching dissection of the aftereffects of traumatic brain injury... Impulsive and paranoid, Dana obsesses over linking Casey's disappearance to Holiday, with her misfiring brain convincing her that "finding

the truth about what had happened to Casey [was] her chance of redemption." But then Hoag tosses suspects into the narrative faster than Dana can count.... Tense, tightly woven, with every minor character, from Dana's fiercely protective aunt to Mercer's pudgy campaign chief, ratcheting up the tension, Hoag's narrative explodes with an unexpected but believable conclusion. A top-notch psychological thriller."—*Kirkus*

Jenkins, Grant. [Done in One](#) (Forge \$25.99). Written with Jan Thomas, whose first novel this is, here is an intense, fast-paced, gripping story of a series of shootings that have paralyzed Northern California. One suspect is Lee Staley, a former SWAT sniper and mentor and friend to active sniper Jake Denton. Jake doesn't believe Staley's guilty, but how easy would it be for him—or Jake—to cross the line. This "visceral look at the world of the police sniper gets your adrenal glands working overtime"—Stephen Hunter—but what I like, aside from the nifty twists in the plot, is the daily life of the snipers, so much of the time just average cops. Until.... Highly recommended.

Johnson, Deborah. [The Secret of Magic](#) (\$16). Regina Robichard works for Thurgood Marshall, who receives an unusual letter asking the NAACP to investigate the murder of a returning black war hero. It is signed by M. P. Calhoun, the most reclusive author in the country. As a child, Regina was captivated by Calhoun's *The Secret of Magic*, a novel in which white and black children played together in a magical forest. The book was a sensation, featured on the cover of Time magazine, and banned more than any other book in the South. And then M.P. Calhoun disappeared. With Thurgood's permission, Regina heads down to Mississippi to find Calhoun and investigate the case. But as she navigates the muddy waters of racism, relationships, and her own tragic past, she finds that nothing in the South is as it seems. Named one of four titles on the shortlist for this year's Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, awarded by the Baton Rouge Area Foundation

Johnston, Tim. [The Descent Signed](#) (Algonquin Books \$25.95). Karen reviews our **January Modern Firsts Club Pick**: "This is the story of what might seem, on the outside, the ideal family. Mom, Dad, daughter and son. The parents are hard working, daughter is academically accomplished and a star in the competitive field of running, son is a rascal in a nice kind of way. On the inside, Grant and Angela are trying to repair their relationship after an indiscretion on his part. When daughter, Caitlin, goes on a run, trailed by her brother, Sean, she disappears. Thus begins the story of a family whose grief and anger put them on their separate paths in coping and resolving the loss of a child. One follows a relentless effort to find her, another goes off with a trusted instinct that things will turn out all right and the other goes between the two with feelings of confusion and guilt. The title has been called "a literary thriller" and highly praised by independent bookstores and authors alike. This title has all the ingredients I appreciate in a book: rich setting, elegant writing, believable characters. Those elements, combined with a stunning ending make for a satisfying, hard-to-put-down read." The Indie Next Pick adds: "Descent is a gripping, utterly engrossing account of a girl's disappearance in the Rocky Mountains. The aftermath of this tragedy is told in alternating voices: the injured brother at the scene of the accident when she left with a stranger to get help; the mother who has been hospitalized and stunned into breathtaking grief; the father who has been unable to leave

the small town where the family was vacationing when his daughter disappeared — and most stunning of all, through the words of the victim herself. A real page-turner with a brilliantly conceived climax!”

Kahn, Michael A. [The Sirena Quest Signed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). “Equal parts rollicking adventure, existential and spiritual quest, and coming-of-(middle)-age tale, this stand-alone set in 1994 from Kahn includes a cameo appearance from series lead Rachel Gold (*Face Value*, etc.). A wealthy alumnus of Barrett, a prestigious New England college, has challenged graduates to locate the statue of a beautiful woman, Sirena, that’s been missing from the campus for 35 years before Barrett’s upcoming 150th anniversary ceremonies. If the statue is returned, \$23 million goes to the college and \$2 million goes to its rescuers. St. Louis lawyer and widower Lou Solomon, as his 20th class reunion looms, agrees to join the quest—and begins a haphazard and, at times illegal, cross-country mission with his three former roomies that is both deeply nostalgic and profoundly transformative. This heartwarming misadventure isn’t so much about four middle-aged men finding a statue as about finding themselves.”—*PW*. *Booklist* adds: “Kahn effectively blends road-trip themes with a humorous and engaging caper novel. Good fun for fans of comic crime.” Also [The Sirena Quest](#) (\$14.95).

King, Stephen. [Mr. Mercedes](#) (\$16). Three unlikely heroes try to stop a lone killer from blowing up thousands. “*Mr. Mercedes* is a rich, resonant, exceptionally readable accomplishment by a man who can write in whatever genre he chooses.”—*Washington Post*

Lawson, MA. [Viking Bay](#) (Blue Hen/Putnam \$26.95). The Indie Next Pick: “As recounted in the first book in this series, Rosarito Beach, Kay Hamilton went rogue when working for the DEA and was fired. She now has the perfect job working for the Callahan Group, a top secret agency that does the government’s dirty work. Lawson has found the perfect vehicle for Kay’s daredevil personality and her no-holds-barred action when she is trying to right a wrong or bring someone to justice. A rogue agent in a rogue agency suits Kay to a T and makes for nonstop action and a great, entertaining read.”

Loehfelm, Bill. [Doing the Devil’s Work Signed](#) (Farrar \$28 only a handful). The Indie Next Pick: “In this third book in a series, Maureen Coughlin, a gritty, strong-willed redhead, is finally a full-fledged New Orleans cop. After a mysterious corpse is found and a late-night traffic stop goes awry, all hell breaks loose. Is Maureen a target yet again? This book grabs readers from the first paragraph and only releases them wanting more a few hundred pages later. Venture in and become a part of Maureen Coughlin’s New Orleans, and you’ll be holding your breath for the entire ride!”

Muller, Marcia/Bill Pronzini. [The Body Snatchers Affair Signed by Both](#) (Forge \$27). While this is set in post-Gold Rush San Francisco and is thus historical, its breezy style, the presence of a kind of Sherlock Holmes knockoff (or wait, maybe it really is Holmes!), and the local lore (what city almost beat Sacramento out for the capital, losing by only ten votes?) cause me to put it here. The death of a WASP lawyer hauled out of an opium den by PI Quincannon and gunned down by a Chinese assassin fuels a plot circling tong rivalries and corrupt cops. Quincannon and his agency partner Sabina Carpenter, an independent widow, pursue

professional and personal agendas throughout in the 3rd of this entertaining series.

Murakami, Haruki. [The Strange Library](#) (Knopf \$18). “A boy’s routine day at the public library becomes a trip down the rabbit hole in Murakami’s short novel. The boy meets a demanding old man, who forces him to read the books he’s requested in a hidden reading room in the basement. After following the labyrinthine corridors, the boy is led by the old man into a cell, where he must memorize the history of tax collection in the Ottoman Empire. In the bowels of the library, the boy meets a beautiful, mute girl who brings him meals, as well as a subservient sheepman (whom we also meet in Murakami’s *A Wild Sheep Chase*) who fixes the boy crispy doughnuts and clues him in to the old man’s sadistic plans. Full-page designs from Chip Kidd divide the sections, bolstering the book’s otherworldliness with images from the text alongside mazelike designs and dizzying close-ups of painted faces. This dryly funny, concise fable features all the hallmarks of Murakami’s deadpan magic, along with splashes of Lewis Carroll and the brothers Grimm.”—*PW*

O’Nan, Stewart. [West of Sunset](#) (Viking \$27.95). The Indie Next Pick: “This novel begins after F. Scott Fitzgerald and his wife Zelda have streaked across the Jazz Age sky like bright, shiny shooting stars. Scott is in Hollywood working as a script doctor and shakily holding on to sobriety; Zelda is in a mental hospital clinging to sanity just as tenuously. Unaccustomed to the workaday world, Scott struggles to prove his worth in Hollywood by showing up to work on time, paying his bills, and living a life of quiet desperation. Gone are the days of wine and roses; Scott must now learn to live as if there is a tomorrow. O’Nan offers a subtle portrait of an American icon as an ordinary man attempting to redefine himself after nearly losing it all.” Julia Jenkins adds: “O’Nan brilliantly, sensitively portrays Fitzgerald’s internal drama with a tone of wry wit and doom. The nuances of Zelda’s character are apt and appropriate, and appearances by Dorothy Parker, Hemingway and Humphrey Bogart add color and humor. O’Nan’s characterization and dialogue are spot-on, and his choice of the less-glamorous years of his subject’s life yields a beautiful, elegiac novel worthy of its model.”

Patterson, James. [Private Vegas](#) (LittleBrown \$28). Also [Confessions: The Paris Mysteries](#) (\$18); [House of Robots](#) (\$13.99); [The Lost](#) (\$18); [Maximum Ride Forever](#) (\$18).

Pelecanos, George P. [The Martini Shot: A Novella and Stories Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$27). Patrick reviews: “This first collection of Pelecanos’ short fiction showcases the modern master’s skill in a variety of different forms. The stories herein range from early in his career, such as the hard hitting “When You’re Hungry,” to the devastating “The Confidential Informant,” which could have been a novel in itself. The more recent “Chosen” will help fill in the gaps for readers about Pelecanos’ new series protagonist, Spero Lucas, and his family background. Finally, the title novella, published for the first time here, is a bit of a departure, taking readers behind the scenes of a cable television set, and a script-writer who finds himself in a world of trouble when life begins to imitate art a bit too closely.”

Scotton, Christopher. [The Secret Wisdom of the Earth](#) (Grand Central \$26). The No. 1 Indie Next Pick for January: “Struggling to recover from the trauma of his baby brother’s tragic death, Kevin and his broken mother relocate to Medger, Kentucky, for

the summer. Their return to the Appalachian coal town in which their family is deeply rooted is intended to heal them both. While Kevin's grandfather is just the person and the wild hollows surrounding their little town just the place to help him mend, Kevin finds that Medger and its citizens are in need of healing as well. Poverty, a mountaintop removal operation, and desperation are tearing their town and the land around it apart. Scotton's finely wrought characters, perfectly paced plot, and keen sense of place make *The Secret Wisdom of the Earth* resonate with the reader long after the book has been finished."

Simsion, Graeme. [The Rosie Effect](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). Don Tillman and Rosie Jarman are back. The Wife Project is complete, and Don and Rosie are happily married and living in New York. But they're about to face a new challenge because—surprise!—Rosie is pregnant. Don sets about learning the protocols of becoming a father, but his unusual research style gets him into trouble with the law. Fortunately his best friend Gene is on hand to offer advice: he's left Claudia and moved in with Don and Rosie. As Don tries to schedule time for pregnancy research, getting Gene and Claudia to reconcile, servicing the industrial refrigeration unit that occupies half his apartment, helping Dave the Baseball Fan save his business, and staying on the right side of Lydia the social worker, he almost misses the biggest problem of all: he might lose Rosie when she needs him the most. "The lovely thing about Don Tillman is that he's a legitimately uncommon character, particularly in a romantic book, and while he's not always easy to understand, he's always easy to feel for... For a chronicler of a love affair to choose to tell the story solely through the eyes of a man who would himself tell you that he has little facility with people and almost no capacity to describe emotion in the abstract is to increase the level of difficulty substantially. That these books are as funny and charming and often touching as they are is a tribute to the skill with which they're written."—NPR.org. The Indie Next Pick: "If you loved [The Rosie Project](#) (\$15.99), you'll love knowing what happens next to Don and his new wife, Rosie, as they settle into their lives in New York City and find out that Rosie is pregnant! Rosie may love Don, but neither of them is sure if he's ready to be a father. This book is as warm as the original and as full of Don's humorous — and cringe-worthy — misunderstandings of social behavior."

Sternbergh, Adam. [Near Enemy](#) (Crown \$24). You have to start with [Shovel Ready](#) (\$14) to enter the toxic world that is New York in Sternbergh's fiction. A city decimated by a dirty bomb (Times Square) is also riddled with citizens escaping into the limnosphere, a virtual safe haven (so like the old opium dens). Spademan is a hit man (his wife was killed by the terrorists), box-cutter at the ready. His latest job is to ice Lesser, one of those lowlifes who steal into other people's limnosphere fantasies. But at the moment of attack, Lesser snaps out of the limn with a claim that terrorists are planning to attack the city—again.... It requires energy to enter Sternbergh's world and follow the plot.

Straley, John. [Cold Storage, Alaska](#) (\$15.95). After seven years in prison, Clive McCahon heads home to Cold Storage, Alaska. On the way, he liberates a pile of cash from his drug-dealer former boss and adopts a dog as big as a wolf. Clive plans to open a bar/church and acquaint himself with the tiny burg "clinging to the sides of the mountains with no roads, no cars, and virtually no sense of the outer world." But his older brother, Miles, suspects that Clive will "bring his own excitement"; it comes in the person

of his vengeful former boss, who, in addition to selling drugs by the pound, also writes screenplays. Accessible only by boat or float plane, Cold Storage seems to be somewhere northwest of Chichagof island, in a vast area Google Maps represents as devoid of any settlements.... Straley has created a wonderfully evocative place in *Cold Storage*. His evocation of nature and human nature approaches the lyrical, and he seems guided by Faulkner's dictum that the only thing *truly worth writing about is the human heart in conflict with itself.*"—*Booklist* Starred Review. "[Straley] writes crime novels populated by perpetrators whose hearts are filled with more poetry than evil." —*The Wall Street Journal*

Woods, Stuart. [Insatiable Appetites Signed](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Stone Barrington's friend Kate has won the Presidency and Stone finds himself in her kitchen cabinet. So the election is over. He also finds himself in the Lincoln Bedroom (once) with Kate's chief of staff Ann, but that too will be over as she stays in DC and he is not leaving NY. How would he eat if far from Patron? A very old friend, a stalwart of the city's Italian crime scene, dies and Stone finds himself responsible for distributing the man's estate. It looks straightforward, but the process unearths secrets that range from merely surprising to outright alarming. Meanwhile Stone is bedding a *NY Times* reporter and fending off a lethal beauty from his past. Has the man never heard of STDs? Briskly paced, fun, and so easy to read.

JANUARY MASS MARKET PAPERBACK PICKS

January cozies are mostly food mysteries, which is ironic as it's diet month...

Cavender, Chris. [Missing Dough](#) (Kensington \$7.99). "In Cavender's delightful sixth Pizza Lovers mystery, the residents of Timber Ridge, N.C., including Eleanor Swift, owner of A Slice of Delight, the local pizzeria, and her sister, Maddy Spencer, have spent weeks preparing for Timber Ridge's largest annual celebration, the Founders Day Festival. On the day of the fair, Maddy's ex-husband, Grant Whitmore, shows up and picks a fight with Maddy's fiancé, Bob Lemon. That evening, someone stabs Grant in the heart with a barbecue skewer, as Eleanor and Maddy later learn from police chief Kevin Hurley, who fingers Bob as the most likely murder suspect. When the sisters set out to clear Bob's name, they discover that plenty of others had motives for the crime. Each suspect is a distinctive character, and, as usual, Cavender does a fine job capturing the feel of a small North Carolina town and its people."—*PW*

Hardy, Susannah. [Feta Attraction](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Georgie Nikolopatos manages the Bonaparte House, a Greek restaurant and historic landmark in beautiful upstate New York rumored to possess ghosts and hidden treasure. But when her husband disappears and her main competitor is found dead, it's up to Georgie to solve a big fat Greek murder.

Hunter, Stephen. [Sniper's Honor](#) (\$9.99). If you read only one paperback this month, make it this fabulous time-jump thriller going from the present to Germany's Eastern Front as it begins to lose WWII. Bob Lee Swagger is mesmerized by hints of a Russian sniper—a woman—and you will be, too. This is one of the best WWII novels I've ever read and includes a surprising love story as well as a Nazi official who epitomizes cruelty in a way more chilling than the physical.

Jaffarian, Sue Ann. [Ghost in the Guacamole](#) (Berkley \$7.99). In the fourth spirited installment of the Ghost of Granny Apples mysteries, medium Emma Whitecastle and the ghost of her beloved Granny Apples become involved in a feud between two sisters over the family business that threatens to turn deadly when Emma is asked to contact the sisters' deceased father from beyond the grave.

Jance, JA. [Moving Target](#) (\$9.99). An excellent story. *Booklist* agrees: "Just weeks before her wedding, Ali Reynolds accompanies eighty-something Leland Brooks, her longtime beloved majordomo, to England for his first trip back to his homeland in almost 60 years, a visit that reveals shocking family secrets. Meanwhile, Ali's fiancé, B. Simpson, head of high-tech security company High Noon Enterprises, is diverted from his international business by the plight of teenage computer wunderkind Lance Tucker. Put in juvenile detention after breaking into his Texas school district's computer system, Lance is almost fatally injured in what is deemed an accident. But as the bodies pile up, including those of Lance's math teacher and a maintenance man at the detention center, it's clear that someone badly wants GHOST, "the cyber version of Harry Potter's invisibility cloak" that allows undetected web surfing, developed by Lance and his late teacher. In the ninth Ali Reynolds outing, Jance adroitly combines well-rounded characterizations and brisk storytelling with high-tech exploits, arson, kidnappings, and a shootout for an entertaining and suspenseful addition to this solid series." Jance signs the next Reynolds for us in March.

Kellerman, Jonathan. [Killer](#) (\$9.99). "Psychologist Alex Delaware's custody consultations can get ugly, but Alex enters uncharted territory when his best friend, LAPD Lieutenant Milo Sturgis, warns him that there's a contract out on Alex's life. Successful (and apparently unhinged) scientist Connie Sykes has just been denied custody of her sister Cherie's daughter, and she's exacting revenge for Alex's recommendation in Cherie's favor. Hours after the LAPD's hit-man sting operation fails to snag her, Sykes is murdered. In quick succession, two men she named in court as the baby's possible fathers are also killed, and Cherie and the baby go missing. Is Cherie eliminating custody threats, or is someone else involved? With Milo focusing on Cherie, Alex follows his gut instinct that she's no killer and hunts for other leads. As usual, the rapport between Alex and Milo is a show-stealer..." "Kellerman kicks this one up to a whole new level."—RT Book Reviews says of this No. 1 bestseller.

King, Maggie. [Murder at the Book Group](#) (Gallery \$7.99). The Murder on Tour book discussion group have enjoyed some lively exchanges in the past talking about mysteries that share a geographic setting however, at their latest meeting, the group's co-founder Carlene Arness seems especially critical about the selection of Florida-based books after an old acquaintance of hers turns up. One cup of cyanide-spiked tea later and Carlene is dead leaving the group's other co-founder Hazel Rose to wonder if there might be more to Carlene's past than everyone thought. *Booklist* has this to say "While certain plot elements may strike readers as far-fetched, this promising series debut – edgier and sexier than many cozies- should intrigue anyone who enjoys biblio crime."

Rollins, James. [The Kill Switch](#) (\$9.99). This is a truly killer thriller, filled with history, science, travel (trains!), a former Army ranger on a mission and a race against time. And one fabulous

dog—Kane, a Belgian Malinois, the K-9 now Tucker Wayne's working dog. And a full participant in the narration (love the inter-species communication). Did I mention the race against time? The traverse of Russian landscape... South Africa, too? I can't wait for the sequel. The first 10 to order the paperback will get a special dog-tag made for this book.

Taylor, Brad. [The Polaris Protocol](#) (\$9.99). Taylor's Pike Logan military thrillers are the clear heirs to the works of the late Tom Clancy and Vince Flynn. They get better book to book. Taskforce operators Pike Logan and Jennifer Cahill are used to putting their lives at risk, but this time it's Jennifer's brother who is in danger. As an investigative reporter working on the Mexican drug cartels, Jack Cahill has unknowingly gotten caught between two rival groups. His desperate call to his sister is his last before he's kidnapped. In their efforts to rescue Jack, Pike and Jennifer uncover a plot much more insidious than illegal drug trafficking—the cartel that put a target on Jack's back has discovered a GPS hack with the power to effectively debilitate the United States. "A great premise, nonstop action, and one of the baddest villains in the genre...make this a winner."—*Publishers Weekly*

Wait, Lea. [Twisted Threads](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Angie Curtis returns home to Harbor Haven, ME after ten years at the request of her grandmother Charlotte, who raised Angie after her mother mysteriously vanished. When Angie agrees to investigate a dead-beat business associate of Charlotte's, Angie and Charlotte wind up becoming suspects in the man's murder, a case that just might be connected to Angie's mom's disappearance years ago. Wait is the author of the Agatha award-winning "Antique Print" series, and *Twisted Threads* launches a new crafty-cozy series (this one is centered on needlepoint) for the author.

NEW IN MASS MARKET

Allen, Beverly. [For Whom the Bluebell Tolls](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Bridal Shop Bouquet #2. Florist Audrey Bloom soon regrets agreeing to help with the floral arrangements for a new reality television show when one of the co-hosts winds up dead.

Bourbon, Melissa. [Seamless Murder](#) (NAL \$7.99) Magical Dressmaking #6

Any garment Harlow Jane Cassidy whips up grants its wearer their deepest desire, but somehow Harlow is positive that disagreeable Delta Lee Mobley didn't wish she was dead.

Brown, Dale. [Starfire](#) (\$9.99). While designing the world's first orbiting solar power plant, James McLanahan Bradley and his team of young engineers become caught in the middle of a dangerous battle to control space.

Carlisle, Katie. [This Old Homicide](#) (Signet \$7.99) Fixer Upper #2 Full-time contractor and part-time amateur sleuth Shannon Hammer tries to nail down a killer when her elderly neighbor is murdered. Signed here Feb. 3.

Christopher, Paul. [Secret of the Templars](#) (NAL \$9.99). Retired Army Ranger John "Doc" Holliday stumbles into a conspiracy that links the Catholic Church to art forgeries done by the Nazis. This thriller is tailor-made for Dan Brown and Steve Berry fans.

Cook, JJ. [In Hot Water](#) (Berkley \$7.99. Sweet Pepper Fire Brigade #3

Sweet Pepper Fire Chief Stella Griffin has her hands full dealing with the ornery party that purchased her cabin as well as a suspicious house fire that killed an ex-state legislator.

Fluke, Joanne. [Blackberry Pie Murder](#) (\$7.99). Hannah Swensen Mysteries #15

Hannah thinks she killed a former high school football star with her car until the autopsy reveals he was dead before Hannah hit him.

Griffin, W E B. [Hazardous Duty](#) (\$9.99). Colonel Charley Castillo is called back into action when Mexican drug cartels begin shooting up the streets of Laredo and El Paso and Somali pirates take three U.S. tankers hostage.

Hamilton, Donald. [Poisoners](#) (\$7.99) Matt Helm #13. Super-secret agent Matt Helm investigates the shooting of a fellow agent in Los Angeles. Helm is the star of 27 books, among other things, and a new Matt Helm film is in pre-production at Steven Spielberg's Dreamworks studio.

Higgins, Jack. [Death Trade](#) (\$9.99) Sean Dillon #20. Higgins latest testosterone drenched novel is ripped from the headlines as Dillon and company set out to rescue a French-Iranian scientist, who has developed a cheap and very powerful new nuclear bomb.

Hooper, Kay. [Deadly Web](#) (\$9.99) Bishop Files #2. The only person who can truly protect psychic Tasha Solomon is Guardian John Brody.

Husom, Christine. [Snow Way Out](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Snow Globe Shop #1. Curio shop owner Camryn Brooks finds a new snow globe in her shop that depicts a real murder scene.

Hyzy, Julie. [All the President's Menus](#) (Berkley \$7.99) White House Chef #8

Working with a bunch of Saardiscan chefs is no picnic for White House Executive Chef Olivia Paras, especially when one of them winds up dead on her kitchen floor.

Laurie, Victoria. [No Ghouls Allowed](#) (NAL \$7.99) Ghost Hunter #9. While visiting her estranged father in Georgia, M.J. Holliday and the rest of the Ghoul Getter gang find themselves trapped in a haunted mansion.

Lee, Elizabeth. [Snoop to Nuts](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Nut House #2. Pastor Jenkins drops dead after tasting Amelia Blanchard's entry in the "most original pecan treat," which leaves Lindy Blanchard convinced that someone is trying to frame her meemaw Amelia for murder. The first in this new series was a real charmer.

Price, Cate. [Lie of the Needle](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Deadly Notions #3. Antique shop owner Daisy Buchanan tries to stop an ambitious real estate developer from bulldozing a two-hundred year old farmhouse.

Taylor, Mary Ellen. [Union Street Bakery](#) (Berkley \$7.99). When a long-standing customer bequeaths an old journal to Union Street Bakery Owner Daisy McCrae, Daisy discovers more about her family's past than she ever could have imagined.

Wenger, Christine. [Diners Drive-Ins and Death](#) (NAL \$7.99) Comfort Food #3

In between dishing up orders of delicious food at the Silver Bullet, Trixie Matkowski helps her best friend Antoinette Chloe Brown beat a murder rap.

SciFi/Fantasy/Horror/Romance

✦ Aaronovitch, Ben. [Foxglove Summer](#) (DAW \$7.99) Rivers of London #5

Griffin, Patience. [Meet Me in Scotland](#) (NAL \$7.99)

Hamilton, Laurell K. [Jason](#) (\$7.99)

Krentz, Jayne Ann. [River Road](#) (\$7.99) True Crime Older, Daniel Jose. [Half-Resurrection Blues](#) (NAL \$7.99)

Pratchett, Terry. [Long Mars](#) (\$9.99)

Shusterman, Neal. [Tesla's Attic \(Accelerati Trilogy\)](#), (Diamond \$7.99)

Warrington, Freda. [Taste of Blood Wine](#) (Forge \$7.99)

Woods, Sherryl. [Dogwood Hill](#) (\$8.99)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

✦ Carpenter, David. [Penguin Classics Magna Carta](#) (Penguin \$25).

Wrested by rebellious barons from a very reluctant King John, Magna Carta set out a series of rights and duties that have been appealed to, ignored, suppressed, and argued about ever since. Here, David Carpenter's forceful new translation is accompanied by extensive commentary that sheds new light on this illustrious legal document.

✦ Chase, Ella March. [The Queen's Dwarf](#) (\$16.99). It's 1629, and King Charles I and his French queen Henrietta Maria have reigned in England for less than three years. Young dwarf Jeffrey Hudson is plunged into the Stuart court when his father sells him to the most hated man in England—the Duke of Buckingham. Buckingham trains Jeffrey to be his spy in the queen's household, hoping to gain intelligence that will help him undermine her influence with the king. Desperately homesick, Henrietta Maria surrounds herself with her "Royal Menagerie of Freaks and Curiosities of Nature"—a "collection" consisting of a giant, two other dwarves, a rope dancer, an acrobat/animal trainer and now Jeffrey, who is dubbed "Lord Minimus." Dropped into this family of misfits, Jeffrey must negotiate a labyrinth of court intrigue and his own increasingly divided loyalties.

✦ Collins, Wilkie. [The Dead Secret](#) (Arcade \$15.95). Like much of Collins's work, *The Dead Secret* explores the consequences of a single, hidden act. The Cornish mansion Porthgenna harbors the secret of such an act, one that has ruined the life of the servant girl Sarah Leeson. This same secret lies hidden for fifteen years until the heiress to Porthgenna, Rosamund Treverton, returns and exposes it. Her detective work may reveal the truth, but her revelation of a long-forgotten crime could mean disaster for her and the entire estate.

✦ Cornwell, Bernard. [The Empty Throne](#) (Harper \$27.99). 8th in the Saxon Tales, set in the early 10th Century, AD, and through its muscular fiction portraying "mysticism, history, brutality, muck, and mire to splendid effect in this compelling fictional version of the birth of a great nation." —*Booklist*. "This novel easily stands alone, with perfectly choreographed battle scenes and political infighting... The lusty, rollicking narrative... is totally accessible and great good fun. Cornwell's done it again. New readers: Draw a flagon of ale, and be prepared to find the first seven in the series." —*Kirkus*. Sound advice. Uhtred of Mercia is some warrior! The 7th is now in paperback: [The Pagan Lord](#) (Harper \$15.99)

✦ Hodges, Andrew. [Alan Turing: The Enigma](#) \$16.95). The, or anyway a, book that inspired the film and takes us into the world of WWII codebreaking that supported the eventual Allied victory. I've always liked Robert Harris' novel [Enigma](#) (\$7.99), set mostly in 1943, and recommend it as well. The portrait of the grey life led by civilians (no soap, so literally grey) is indelible.

Jacobsen, Annie. [Operation Paperclip](#) (\$18). In the chaos following World War II, some of the greatest spoils of Germany's resources were the Third Reich's scientific minds. The U.S. government secretly decided that the value of these former Nazis' knowledge outweighed their crimes and began a covert operation code-named Paperclip to allow them to work in the U.S. without the public's full knowledge. This excellent non-fiction account supports the story laid out in a VI Warshawski case by Sara Paretsky: [Critical Mass](#) (\$9.99). We highly recommend both books.

Nesbit, Tarashea. [The Wives of Los Alamos](#) (\$16). "Written in the first person plural—the collective 'we'—TaraShea Nesbit's debut is both understated and poetic as it describes the lives of the women who accompanied their scientist husbands to the American desert to work on a secret project that turned out to be the making of the atomic bomb. "We were Western women born in California and Montana, East Coast women born in Connecticut and New York, Midwestern women born in Nebraska and Ohio. . . ." Nesbit writes, and so they were: all different, of course, and yet much the same as they came to bear and raise children, and make lives in a dangerous and secretive time and place. What was it like to be attached to a project you weren't allowed any knowledge of? How did such a world-changing invention change you, your marriage, your family? "—Sara Nelson on a 2014 Modern Firsts Club Pick, now in paper. To be read with Joe Kanon's brilliant [Los Alamos](#) (\$7.99), told mostly from the male perspective.

✂Parmar, Priya. [Vanessa and Her Sister](#) (Ballantine \$26). "This novel tells the story of sisters Vanessa and Virginia Stephens, later to become Vanessa Bell and Virginia Woolf. Vanessa, an emerging painter, tells their stories in her journal accompanied by the letters and telegrams of their families, husbands, and the many brilliant artists and painters in their circle. It is a story of art, literature, betrayal, emotional upheaval, and, above all, the many complicated forms love takes. Set against the backdrop of Edwardian England, a time of sweeping social transformations, *Vanessa and Her Sister* is a moving portrait of a brilliant family." Robson, Jennifer. [After the War is Over](#) (Morrow \$14.99). The Indie Next Pick for **our January History Paperback Club Pick**: "In 1919, Britain is licking its wounds after years of a horrid and merciless war. Charlotte Brown and other women have determined to do what they can to change things by providing financial assistance and offering help where possible to those in need. A newspaper editor gives Charlotte the opportunity to express her views by hiring her to write a weekly commentary, which enables her to speak for the disenfranchised. Soon after, she encounters her former employer, the Earl of Cumberland, who still causes her heart to flutter. In the meantime, Charlotte's articles are getting a lot of attention, and awareness from the upper classes, those... For fans of Jackie Winspear although Charlotte lacks the charm of Maisie Dobbs.

Sidebottom, Harry. [Iron and Rust: Throne of the Caesars Book 1](#) (Overlook \$26.95). British historian/author Sidebottom does for Rome what Cornwell does for Britain. Here is the start of series focused on one of the bloodiest ever for Rome: the Year of the Six Emperors. In spring AD 235, a surprise attack and the brutal murder of Emperor Alexander and his mother ends the Severan dynasty and shatters four decades of Roman certainty. Military hero Maximinus Thrax is the first Caesar risen from the barracks....

✂Thomas, Sam. [The Witch Hunter's Tale](#) (St Martins \$24.99). The winter of 1644 is a harsh one in York, not least because the rotten weather has ruined the crops. War, famine, misery—and a collective madness that is fuelled by a witch hunt. Lady Bridget Hodgson, widow and midwife, has suffered it all along with the turbulence of her dead husband's family, and created a small one of her own with her maid, her nephew, and a little orphan girl. It is all threatened when her elder stepson, the ruthless Puritan Joseph, launches his accusations. There's really only one way to stop him.... 3rd in a taut series I admire for many reasons including the prose. It will be interesting to see what Thomas does next given the resolution of this wrenching drama. [Click here](#) to order all three. It is best to read them in order.

Zeit, Joshua. [Lincoln's Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay and the War for Lincoln's Image](#) (\$17). A look into Lincoln's White House and the aftermath of his death, via the lives of his two closest aides.