

BOOKNEWS from

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FIREWORKS FOR JULY...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

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

FRIDAY JULY 4 CLOSED FOR THE HOLIDAY

THURSDAY JULY 10 7:00 PM

Meagan Beaumont signs [Carved in Darkness](#). (Midnight Ink \$14.99) San Francisco PD's Sabrina Vaughn #1

SATURDAY JULY 12 10:30 AM

Coffee and Crime discusses Keith McCafferty's first novel for PI and fishing guide Sean Stranahan, [The Royal Wulff Murders](#) (\$15)

SATURDAY JULY 12 5:00 PM

\$30 gets you a book, two tickets, and a guaranteed seat Or just show up and be seated when the ticketed seating is filled

At the Scottsdale Library, 3839 N Drinkwater Boulevard
Brad Thor signs [Act of War](#) (Atria \$27.99) Scot Harvath

SUNDAY JULY 13 Double the Fun 2:00 PM and 3:00 PM

Conn Iggulden signs [Wars of the Roses: Stormbird](#) (Putnam \$27.95) Series start

Linda Castillo signs [The Dead Will Tell](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Kate Burkholder

TUESDAY JULY 15 Publication Day Party

CJ Box signs [Shots Fired](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Joe Pickett Country Stories

WEDNESDAY JULY 16 7:00 PM

Brad Taylor signs [Days of Rage](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Pike Logan

SATURDAY JULY 19 NEW TIME 2:00 PM

Marcia Clark signs [The Competition](#) (LittleBrown \$26) LA's Rachel Knight

MONDAY JULY 21 7:00 PM Books at the Biltmore

Grand Ballroom, 2400 E Missouri (E Thunderbird), Phoenix
Doors open 6:00 PM. Cash bar and snacks.
Daniel Silva signs [Heist](#) (Harper \$27.99) Gabriel Allon

TUESDAY JULY 22 7:00 PM Edgar-winning Series

Ben Winters signs [World of Trouble](#) (Quirk \$14.95), Book III in The Last Policeman (pre-apocalyptic) Trilogy

THURSDAY JULY 24 7:00 PM

Hardboiled Crime discusses Jonathan Wood's [A Death in Mexico](#) (New Pulp \$14.95).

TUESDAY JULY 29 7:00 PM

Ace Atkins signs [The Forsaken](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Quinn Colson

August 3: Weston Ochse 2 PM

August 4: JA Jance

August 5: Spencer Quinn Publication Day Party

August 6: Douglas Preston/Lincoln Child

August 7: Linwood Barclay

August 8: Mark Pryor

August 9: Rhys Bowen 2 PM

August 12: Deborah Harkness

August 13: James Rollins

August 14: Robert K. Tanenbaum

August 15: Graham Brown, Tim Hallinan, Mark Sullivan

August 19: Ed Lin

August 20: Emily Arsenault, Elizabeth Little

August 21: Susan Slater, Reavis Wortham

August 26: Chelsea Cain

August 17: Margaret Coel and W. Kent Krueger

Labor Day: Louise Penny 5 PM

2014 MACAVITY AWARD NOMINATIONS

From members of Mystery Readers International
Best Mystery Novel

- Cook, Thomas. [Sandrine's Case](#) (\$15)
- Herron, Mick. [Dead Lions](#) (\$14.95)
- Krueger, WK. [Ordinary Grace](#) (\$16)
- Marwood, Alex. [The Wicked Girls](#) (\$16)
- Penny, Louise. [How the Light Gets In](#) (\$15.99)
- Rankin, Ian. [Standing in Another Man's Grave](#) (\$15)

Best First Mystery

- Coyle, Matt. [Yesterday's Echo](#) (\$14.99)
- Masterman, Becky. [Rage Against the Dying](#) (\$15.99)
- Milchman, Jenny. [Cover of Snow](#) (\$15)
- Miller, Derek. [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$14.95)
- Shames, Terry. [A Killing at Cotton Hill](#) (\$14.95)

Sue Feder Historical Mystery Award

- Calkins, Susanna. [A Murder at Rosamund's Gate](#) (\$15.99)
- Kresge, Robert. [Saving Lincoln](#)
- McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and a Bothersome Number of Corpses](#) (\$25.99)
- Morrell, David. [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16)
- Neville, Stuart. [Ratlines](#) (\$15.95)

EVENT BOOKS

Abbott, Jeff. [Inside Man](#) (Grand Central \$26 July 1). A terrific Starred Review from *PW*: “Thriller Award–winner Abbott draws on Shakespeare’s *King Lear* for his outstanding fourth Sam Capra novel. When Steve Robles, an old friend of Sam’s, is shot dead outside the Miami bar that Sam runs, Sam, a former CIA agent, resolves to find Steve’s killer. Under the name Sam Chevalier, Sam goes “inside” the luxurious Varela family compound in Puerto Rico, where Steve was working a security job for frightened Cordelia Varela. Meanwhile, Cordelia’s father, patriarch Rey Varela, is dividing his shipping empire—which is not entirely legitimate—among his three children, playing one against the other. Sam breaks laws to serve the good and rescue the innocent, while resisting Rey’s efforts to sweep him into a nefarious international scheme. Abbott injects enough of Sam’s back story to make his intricate plot believable, judiciously spices his tale with tasteful but usually interrupted romance, and convincingly makes Sam a genuine contemporary ‘chevalier.’ “I’ve liked all the Sam Capras with their character-driven plots— *Adrenaline*, *The Last Minute*, and *Downfall*— and we are delighted that Abbott is coming to see us for *Inside Man*! Order earlier Capras by [clicking here](#).

Abbott, Megan. [The Fever](#) (LittleBrown \$26 July 1). The *Booklist* Starred Review, echoed by Patrick: “Following her brilliant, cheerleading-as-blood-sport [Dare Me](#) (\$15), Abbott returns to high school for another disturbing drama. In an isolated northeastern town known for its miserable weather, Deenie and

her best friends, Lise and Gabby, find themselves at the center of a mysterious epidemic that causes girls to—do what, exactly? The symptoms are puzzling. Lise seizes in class, and Gabby collapses onstage during an orchestra recital, leaving Deenie to wonder if she’s next. Or is she a carrier? “What has gotten into these girls, sending them into seizures? Something occult? Chemical? Erotic? Psychosomatic? Ms. Abbott plants a strange phosphorescent lake in the region, attaches frightening symptoms to the girls’ attacks and then keeps her readers scared and guessing. She’s an adroit Edgar winner who knows how to play tricks.”—*NY Times*

Atkins, Ace. [The Forsaken](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 29). Thirty-six years ago, a nameless black man wandered into Jericho, Mississippi, with nothing but the clothes on his back and a pair of paratrooper boots. Less than two days later, he was accused of rape and murder, hunted down by a self-appointed posse, and lynched. Now evidence has surfaced of his innocence, and county sheriff Quinn Colson sets out not only to identify the stranger’s remains, but to charge those responsible for the lynching. As he starts to uncover old lies and dirty secrets, though, he runs up against fierce opposition from those with the most to lose—and they can play dirty themselves. Soon Colson will find himself accused of terrible crimes...

Beaumont, Maegan. [Sacrificial Muse](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99 July 10). Sabrina Vaughn #1. San Francisco Detective Sabrina Vaughn is able to shrug off the nine red roses being delivered to her office every day. But when only eight roses arrive on the same day a Berkeley student’s mutilated body is found, Sabrina fears that the killer is taunting her. Forced into a partnership with a deceitful reporter who somehow remains one step ahead of her, Sabrina discovers that she’s the object of a psychopath’s twisted delusion . . . and there may be no escape....

Box, CJ. [Shots Fired](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 15). Stories from Joe Pickett country. Box joins us on publication day so you may wish him to sign and date.

Castillo, Linda. [The Dead Will Tell](#) (St Martins \$25.99 July 13). This is an amazing series filled with unexpected characters and real plot surprises. In its Starred Review, *Library Journal* agrees: “Thirty-five years ago in Painters Mill, Ohio, the Hochstetler family was robbed in the middle of the night. The crime began as a quick money scheme but swiftly turned sinister, resulting in the deaths of the entire Amish family except for a teenage son who escaped. No suspects were found, and the case went unsolved. Suddenly this cold case is back on the radar when a prominent man is found dead with a clue connected to the Hochstetler murders. Soon several other residents die suspiciously, all with hints tied to the 1979 crime. Chief Kate Burkholder and her police force work feverishly to connect the dots between the murder victims and the cold case before the killer strikes again. Cryptic notes and sightings of a ghostly Amish woman late at night are linked to the recent deaths. Is a supernatural vengeance to blame? Castillo weaves a taut mystery in her sixth series title (after *Her Last Breath*) that will keep suspense fans glued to their books.” I recommend reading this series in order—fabulous for vacations or lazy days where you could use stirring up. See Our May Trade Paperback Picks for more and the link to the earlier Burkholders.

Clark, Marcia. [The Competition](#) (LittleBrown \$26 July 19 2 PM). This will be a tough year for Clark: it's the 20th anniversary of the Simpson trial. She's gone in a different direction in this ticking-bomb of a case for LA prosecutor Rachel Knight. The subject is tough: a school shooting. Called to suburban Fairmont High, the scene of the crime, by best friend Bailey Keller of the elite Robbery-Homicide Division of the LAPD, Knight finds that her presence may be far more than a formality when forensic evidence suggests that one or more of the mass murderers might have escaped. From there, the two women embark on a pedal-to-the-metal race to solve the case before there's another massacre, all while trying to keep their efforts under the radar to avoid spooking their quarry or panicking the public. [Click here](#) to order earlier investigations by Rachel.

Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses: Stormbird](#) (Putnam \$27.95 July 13). The span of British history from the progeny of William I (Angevin) to Henry II (Plantagenet) to the sons and descendants of Edward III who broke up into the House of Lancaster and the House of York, to end up with the glorious if short-lived Tudors, is like a giant soap. The Tudor industry is huge. To understand the Tudors, background is essential and British thriller writer/historian Iggulden has undertaken the story of the Wars of the Roses, the contest between Lancaster (red) and York (white) for the throne. He begins in Stormbird with Henry VI, child of the great warrior king Henry V who survived battles only to die way too young from disease, and Catherine, a French princess who remarried to Owen Tudor, a Welshman. Henry VI was a child, never healthy, never warlike and never really sound. An alliance was made with a daughter, Margaret, of the House of Anjou, meaning England gave up claim to more of its French lands. She, a sturdy queen, did her best but bad luck dogged her, her only son died, the Yorks gained a foothold. . . . This first volume is great stuff to read, Volume II is written. Readers of Sharon Kay Penman, Philippa Gregory, Kate Sedley, Anne Easter Smith, and the late Margaret Frazier will lap this up.

Silva, Daniel. [The Heist](#) (Harper \$27.99 July 21). A terrific story begins with the legendary spy Allon restoring an altarpiece in Venice where he and a pregnant Chiara are happy, more or less relaxed—although she's working with her father, the city's chief rabbi, in the Ghetto. But an urgent summons from the Italian police interrupts this idyll (a prelude to Gabriel's taking over the Office). The Allons' friend, London gallery owner Julian Isherwood, is being held as a suspect in a chilling murder up on Lake Como. The head of Italy's Art Squad, intent upon finally recovering a long-lost Caravaggio Nativity scene, has no scruples in blackmailing Allon with the threat to Isherwood to help his recovery effort out. However the dead man was once a British spy and he had a secret. . . . It all moves Allon from Venice to Marseilles, Corsica, Paris, and Geneva, and eventually to Austria. Without making a spoiler I'll say that Silva is the first to write about a particular regime and he does so with chilling insight in his 17th novel. The impact is such this is our **July Thriller Club Pick**.

Taylor, Brad. [Days of Rage](#) (Dutton \$27.95 July 16). Intent on embroiling the US in a quagmire that will sap its economy and drain its legitimacy, Russia passes a potential weapon of mass destruction to Boko Haram, an extreme Islamic sect in Nigeria. A relic of the Cold War, the Russian FSB believes the

weapon has deteriorated and is no longer effective, but they are wrong. Trying to solve the riddle of who might be stalking them, Pike Logan and the Taskforce have no idea what's been set in motion; but there's another secret from the Cold War buried in the Russian FSB, and exposing it will mean the difference between life and death—not only for Pike and his partner, Jennifer, but for perhaps millions more. *PW* writes, "Taylor is adept at combining past tragedies, like the terrorist attack on the 1972 Munich Olympics, with more recent developments, like the Snowden disclosures, and tracking the geopolitical changes in between. Throw in modern technology, gunfights, hand-to-hand combat, and a daring race to prevent a disaster that would make the Munich Olympics attack pale by comparison, and you have a thriller that really thrills." If you are mourning Vince Flynn, Taylor is your author.

Thor, Brad. [Act of War](#) (Atria \$27.99 July 12). This is unusual and gripping, my favorite plot for Thor's Scot Harvath series. The action ranges from North Korea and a SEALs team infiltration to Hong Kong to the UAE and to locations like the *USS Florida*, Boston, and McLean, for Harvath. I like the way the story is told, switching from one POV to another. And what I really like is Thor's take on China, its goals and strategies. Scary stuff—possibly all too real. An excellent thriller.

Winters, Ben H. [World of Trouble](#) (Quirk \$14.95 July 22). 3rd in his pre-apocalyptic The Last Policeman Trilogy, the Edgar-winning series imagining an America bracing for earth's collision with a monster asteroid. With Doomsday looming, Detective Hank Palace has found sanctuary in the woods of New England, secure in a well-stocked safe house with other onetime members of the Concord police force. But with time ticking away before the asteroid makes landfall, Hank's safety is only relative, and his only relative—his sister Nico—isn't safe. "As fascinating as Winters' imagined societal breakdown can be, it's his attention to human connections—heartfelt, heroic and lethal—that really make this trilogy worth reading."—*Kirkus*. Here is the Indie Next Pick: "Winters has masterfully concluded one wild ride of a series following retired Detective Henry Palace. Having found peaceful serenity in a wooded New Hampshire sanctuary, Hank feels unsettled and leaves his refuge in search of his sister and only living relative. As the clock winds down to impact with a deadly asteroid on a collision course with Earth, will Henry have enough time to reunite with Nico before time runs out? Filled with twists and turns and mysteries to solve along the way, *World of Trouble* is an amazing finale to this trilogy!" To read the first two installments, [click here](#).

FIRST NOVELS

Brown, Holly. [Don't Try to Find Me](#) (Harper \$25.99). When 14-year-old Marley Willits runs away, her parents embark on a public social media campaign to find her, exposing all their darkest secrets and changing their family forever. Debut

Cooley, M P. [Ice Shear](#) (Harper \$25.99). Widowed FBI agent June Lyons returns to her hometown in the rust belt of upstate New York to take a job with the local police department; when she discovers a body in the frozen river, the investigation unmasks a sordid maze of politics, drugs, and an outlaw motorcycle gang, and June finds that still waters run deep in this small town. A debut getting good reviews that left me, pardon the bad pun, cold.

Henderson, Smith. [Fourth of July Creek](#) (Ecco \$26.99). Out in May and almost surely reprinted. Patrick called my attention to this Starred Review in *Booklist* so I pass it on. No guarantee we can supply firsts to you. “Dedicated social worker Pete Snow lives in remote, impoverished Tenmile, Montana, in part because he’s hiding out from the fallout of his own fractious divorce and in part because he knows that poverty breeds dysfunctional families, and there are plenty of kids who need his care. When he is summoned to open a file on Benjamin Pearl, a nearly feral 11-year-old boy who is suffering from malnutrition, he comes into contact with the boy’s father, Jeremiah, a paranoid survivalist who mints his own money and is convinced that the end-time is near. Pete soon learns that the FBI is also interested in Jeremiah, targeting him as a homegrown terrorist. Meanwhile, Pete’s own family is in crisis; his teenage daughter has vanished, and his ex-wife can’t do much more than drink and pray. First-novelist Henderson not only displays an uncanny sense of place—he clearly knows rural Montana and its impassable roads, its dank bars, its speed freaks and gas huffers—he also creates an incredibly rich cast of characters, from Pete’s drunken, knuckleheaded friends to the hard-luck waitress who serves him coffee to the disturbed, love-sick survivalist. Dark, gritty, and oh so good.”

Jones, Stephen Lloyd. [The String Diaries](#) (LittleBrown \$26 US edition). A story that ranges from Britain to Paris and beyond, and rests on a cache of diaries tied together with string. Hannah is driving frantically through the night in Wales, her husband bleeding out, her daughter in the back seat, and the diaries in her trunk. The diaries carry rules of survival handed down over centuries, but... Think regular people fleeing extraordinary villains, and hidden family histories. Think Kostova’s *The Historian*. The Indie Next Pick: “Usually when we have the eerie feeling that something or someone dark and gruesome is following us, it’s just our vivid imaginations running amuck. But in *The String Diaries* it’s a very real monstrous being who is following Hannah and her family, and it’s been following them for nearly two hundred years as attested to in diaries passed to Hannah from her mother. The worst part is its ability to look like anyone — even someone Hannah loves. Prepare to grit your teeth and shudder. Yes, it’s that good!”

Rader-Day, Lori. [The Black Hour](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). Somewhat eccentric, told from the perspectives of Chicago sociology professor Amelia Emmett and of the graduate student who becomes her new teaching assistant, Nathaniel Barber. The result is somewhat jerky but the story, set on the Rothbert campus, is intense and engrossing. We meet Amelia as she is trying to climb the stairs to her office in Dale Hall, her injury so painful she can barely manage. Amelia had been shot by a student who then shot himself—no one could work out the why of either, but vague suspicions shroud her. The dean suggested she retire, but she worked too hard for tenure. Nathaniel is obsessed with Chicago’s violent history, has history of his own, and hopes his dissertation topic might be the attack on Dr. Emmett. That’s the set-up, there’s a much broader cast in play, and an unorthodox investigation to pursue.

Sweterlitsch, Thomas. [Tomorrow and Tomorrow](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Fans of William Gibson will thrill to this debut, as will those who enjoyed Adam Sternbergh’s [Shovel Ready](#) (\$24). It’s been just over a decade since Pittsburgh has been reduced

to ash. To work through his grief, Dominic Blaxton makes a living by closing cold cases while in the Archive, a digital, fully-immersive, interactive recreation of the city. But one such case is shadowed by several glitches, making it apparent that someone very powerful is trying cover their tracks. “Simultaneously trippy and hard-boiled, *Tomorrow and Tomorrow* is a rich, absorbing, relentlessly inventive mindfuck, a smart, dark noir... Sweterlitsch’s debut is a wild mash-up of Raymond Chandler, Philip K. Dick, and William S. Burroughs and, like their work, utterly visionary.”—Stewart O’Nan.

Zander, Joakim. [The Swimmer Signed](#) (Zeus \$34). A European debut as yet unread by me. See Where in the World? for more.

A PAIR OF QUIRKY DEBUTS

Bachman, Fredrik. [A Man Called Ove](#) (Atria \$25). The Indie Next Pick “by Swedish blogger and columnist Backman is one of those books you read and then want everyone else to read, too. It is also one of those books where you don’t dare go into detail about the main character, the setting, or the plot because that would ruin the experience for others. Suffice it to say that the man whose name is Ove is a curmudgeon. He’s grumpy. He’s cantankerous. And he is a delight! Long may he harrumph!” Note: I wasn’t as charmed as this bookseller. Those who like the Scandinavian crime scene will appreciate this. I found the elderly gentleman in [Norwegian by Night](#) (\$14.95), which is a mystery, to be superior. Now is a good time to grab a PP staff favorite.

Fenollera, Natalia Sanmartin. [The Awakening of Miss Prim](#) (SimonSchuster \$15). A charmer already an international bestseller, it’s very French, very much for book lovers, very much about choosing your life’s path...or deviating from one you’ve chosen that you might well abandon. Miss Prudencia Prim, tired of a gray life being exploited by her boss, answers an ad for the job of librarian in a remote French village. She’s apprehensive about her application since the ad requests candidates “preferably without work experience. Graduates and post-graduates need not apply.” Miss Prim—did I mention she’s proud, also actually prim?—holds four advanced degrees plus a shall we say rigid world vision and code of personal conduct. Still, the man in the wing-chair who interviews her hires her and the picturesque village of San Ireneo de Arnois welcomes her, both in their unconventional ways. And reluctantly Miss Prim becomes aware that not all of life can be learned from books. Not that she gives in easily—in fact, Italy ends up instrumental to her choices. Love the books, and the quotations.

BRITISH BOOKS

Airth, Rennie. [The Reckoning Signed](#) (Macmillan \$43). The 4th John Madden mystery—at last! On a quiet afternoon in 1947, retired bank manager Oswald Gibson is shot in the head while fishing. In Scotland, a respectable family doctor is killed in the same manner—and with the same gun. What is the connection? Scotland Yard’s Detective Inspector Billy Styles and local detective Vic Chivers are baffled until a letter from Gibson is discovered that might shed some light on the case—a letter concerning former Scotland Yard detective John Madden. Despite Madden’s legendary memory, he has no recollection of meeting Gibson or any idea of what their relationship might have been. Madden is happily retired from police work, but agrees to help his former protégé Styles and the clues they uncover only deepen the mystery. **The Unsigned August US edition goes to**

our British Crime Club members who don't order the Signed UK edition. To order Airth's first three marvelous mysteries, including First Mystery Pick [River of Darkness](#) (\$16), a sterling British mystery, please [click here](#).

Booth, Stephen. [The Corpse Bridge Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$45—might arrive n early in August). The old Corpse Bridge is the route taken for centuries by mourners from villages on the western fringes of Derbyshire to a burial ground across the River Dove, now absorbed into the landscaped parkland of a stately home. When Earl Manby, the landowner, announces plans to deconsecrate the burial ground to turn it into a car park for his holiday cottages, bodies begin to appear once again on the road to the Corpse Bridge. Is there a connection with the Earl's plans? Or worse, is there a terrifying serial killer at work? Back in his job after the traumatic events of previous months, Detective Sergeant Ben Cooper knows that he must unravel the mystery of the Corpse Bridge if he's going to be able to move on with his life. As the pressure builds, Ben doesn't know who he can trust and, when the case reaches breaking point, he has to make a call that could put everything—and everyone—at risk.

Frank, Matthew. [If I Should Die Signed](#) (Joseph \$36). For the Met investigation team's newest member, Joseph Stark, death is already all too familiar. Injured in an attack that killed his fellow soldiers and tortured by nightmares since he returned, Afghan veteran Stark has enough on his hands just trying to recover without enduring the scrutiny and sideways glances of his new colleagues. The drink and painkillers he's leaning on to keep going aren't helping. And there's only so long he can ignore the efforts of the Ministry of Defence to speak to him. When one of the victims of the attacks fights back it's soon clear that there's much more at stake than gangs preying randomly on society's weakest members. But as Stark hunts down the truth—and the rotten heart of the crimes—his own strength is fading. It seems that the ex-soldier's determination to see justice done may not, this time, be enough to carry him through. Starts a series with promise for fans of Mark Billingham, Peter James, Andy McNab, and *Prime Suspect*.

Gordon-Smith., Dolores. [After the Exhibition](#) (Severn \$28.95). "In Gordon-Smith's excellent eighth mystery set in 1920s England, Betty Wingate, the impoverished daughter of a solicitor, tells amateur detective Jack Haldean of a horrific encounter. One night, while walking home in Whimbrell Heath, a village about an hour south of London by train, Betty stopped by the cottage of Carlotta Bianchi, a woman of dubious reputation. As soon as Betty spotted Carlotta's strangled corpse on the sofa, someone chloroformed her from behind; when she came to, the body was gone. Everyone, including Betty's love interest, has dismissed her story as a fantasy. She hopes that Jack can vindicate her, with the aid of his Scotland Yard friend, Chief Insp. Bill Rackham. The charming and astute Jack, who finds himself drawn to Betty, soon discovers some trace evidence corroborating her story. The crafty plot ends up including multiple murders. Fans of lighthearted puckish sleuths like Peter Wimsey and Albert Campion will enjoy this outing."—*PW* Starred Review. Ordered on request.

Cleeves, Ann. [Silent Voices](#) (\$15.99). I agree with this *Booklist* Starred Review, having read the hardcover through in one gulp. "Vera Stanhope, the overweight, unfashionable, irascible, and brilliant detective inspector with the Northumbria police, has

been going great guns in the UK for years—five novels have appeared, and an ITV dramatization, Vera, is in its third season. This mystery, the fourth in the series, introduces U.S. readers to a woman who feels a bit guilty that a good murder case always lifts her spirits. A stab at getting fit puts Vera right in a crime scene this time, at the very fitness center where Vera has been hopelessly doing laps on the advice of her doctor. Vera sits in the steam room after her laps, feeling very bulky and out of place, envying the woman with the long lean legs who seems so relaxed next to her—a little too relaxed. Vera discovers that the woman is dead. The unraveling of the mystery that ensues delivers a deft blending of contemporary forensic analysis and old-fashioned interviewing that branches out from the fitness center (this is a locked-room mystery, at least to begin with) to the murdered woman's family and acquaintances...." Vera will appeal to fans, like me, of SJ Bolton.

Cleverly, Barbara. [The Spider in the Cup](#) (\$15.95). The Yard's Joe Sandilands works a case with an American connection. See Our July Trade Paperback Picks.

Corley, Elizabeth. [Grave Doubts](#) (St Martins \$26.99). I've been a fan of Corley's work since importing her UK debut [Requiem Mass](#) (\$25.99 US edition). If you like Booth, Martin Edwards, Peter Robinson, that sort of policing, you will like this new case for DCI Andrew Fenwick. Viciously attacked by a serial rapist, intent on murder, Sergeant Louise Nightingale is recovering from her ordeal, relieved that the psychopath has been put behind bars for a very long time. Escaping to a remote family home for a well-earned rest, she is unaware that her nightmare has only just begun. When a nameless, faceless terror starts stalking the country, her colleague, Detective Chief Inspector Andrew Fenwick, questions whether or not they have the right man. Leaving a trail of bodies in his wake, the killer soon makes clear his ultimate goal—Nightingale—and he will not rest until he can exact his cruel and calculated revenge. Desperately trying to reach her before the killer does, Fenwick wonders if her continued silence means he is already too late... It's not a British Crime Club Pick as we've sold it in UK editions.

Fyfield, Frances. [Gold Digger](#) (Harper \$13.99). In a vast house by the sea, a wealthy man lies dying. His young wife, Di, soon to be his sole heir, awaits the arrival of her in-laws, all of them bent on claiming an inheritance. A pair of poisonous daughters, a merciless husband, a beguiling grandson—each has a scheme, each keeps a secret. And each has underestimated the widow Di, who is far more resourceful, and far more merciless, than the family could possibly suspect....

James, Peter. [Want You Dead](#) (Macmillan \$46). When Red Westwood meets handsome, charming and rich Bryce Laurent through an online dating agency, there is an instant attraction. But as their love blossoms, the truth about his past, and his dark side, begins to emerge. Everything he has told Red about himself turns out to be a tissue of lies, and her infatuation with him gradually turns to terror. Within a year, and under police protection, she evicts him from her flat and her life. But Red's nightmare is only just beginning. For Bryce is obsessed with her, and he intends to destroy everything and everyone she has ever known and loved—and then her too. James is a perennial #1 British bestseller.

Kerr, Philip. [Research Signed](#) (Quercus \$42). "Bestselling Novelist John Houston's Wife Found Dead at Their Luxury

Apartment in Monaco.” So say the British tabloids. Houston, a thinly disguised James Patterson, is the richest writer in the world, a book factory publishing many bestsellers a year. He has hired writers, a team for his literary “atelier,” churning them out to his meticulously plotted outlines. Houston is a man who loves research and hates writing. So many people feed off his contracts and brand: his coauthors, his agent, his publisher and those working them—hundreds supported by the Houston franchise. Thus when he decides to take a year out to write something of quality, a novel that will win prizes and critical acclaim, a lot of people stand to lose their livelihoods. But Houston, the prime suspect in his wife’s murder, has disappeared—and is the Monaco police’s chief suspect. The wife was Irish, from a militant family, beautiful but no rose. It all sounds like the plot of a book—but whose, Houston’s? Or one of his ghost writers? Or a regular crook or thug? The snide observations, the wit, the humor, the dislike of Monaco, the take on publishing, are all very British. Kerr clearly had a perfectly marvelous time writing this and I enjoyed it hugely! It takes on greater relevance as Amazon expands its tactics to British publishing, and the Germans file an anti-trust action. Book wars—who knew? The lesson here, and in Kerr, is that publishers can’t afford for any one writer or retailer to hold their industry hostage.

Mark, David. [Sorrow Bound](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$26.95). *PW* Stars the US edition: “Det. Sgt. Aector McAvoy is suffering through mandated sessions with psychologist Sabine Keane while helping his boss, Det. Supt. Trish Pharaoh, track down a vicious killer, in Mark’s powerful third novel featuring the Yorkshire detective. With a second brutal murder, a pattern emerges that connects the victims to a serial rapist, Sebastien Hoyer-Wood, who was nearly killed by the husband of one of his victims. Meanwhile, Aector’s wife, Roisin, foils a robbery by midlevel drug boss Adam Downey, earning his wrath, and Det. Constable Helen Tremberg finds herself under threat of blackmail after a single debauched evening. Mark adroitly weaves all these threads together during a sweltering Hull summer full of lowering clouds but no rain, “a feverish heat; a pestilent, buzzing cloak.” The physically imposing Aector, a terrific lead, hews closely to the rules. Well-fleshed out supporting characters round out the cast. Readers should be prepared for graphic descriptions of gruesome crimes.”

Marsh, Ngaio. [Died in the Wool](#) (Felony \$14.95). The reissue of one of my favorite cases by Marsh, one set in her Native New Zealand in wartime. Also reissued: [Final Curtain: Roderick Alleyn #14](#) (\$14.95)

Marston, Edward. [Peril on the Royal Train](#) (\$16.95). A goods train in Scotland was derailed by an explosion killing the driver, stoker and guard. Inspector Robert Colbrook and Sergeant Leeming are called in to investigate in a tricky 10th case for the Railway Detectives. As they proceed, a larger conspiracy seems to be afoot. The targets: Queen Victoria and her Prince Consort en route to Balmoral.

Moyes, Jojo. [One Plus One Signed](#) (Viking \$27.95). . “Popular British author Moyes (2013’s *The Girl You Left Behind*) offers another warmhearted, off-kilter romance, this one between a financially strapped single mother and a geeky tech millionaire. Ten years ago, Jess Thomas got pregnant and dropped out of high school to marry Marty. Two years ago, hapless Marty temporarily

moved out of their home on the southern coast of England to sort out his life. He never returned. Cleaning houses by day and working in a pub at night, Jess barely earns enough to support her 10-year-old daughter, Tanie, and her 16-year-old stepson, Nicky, whom she’s been raising since he was 8.”—*Kirkus*. Math genius Tanie can attend the perfect private school for nurturing her if Jess can raise money to go with the scholarship. The only hope is winning prize money at a math tournament in Scotland, but how to get there? Enter Ed, computer whiz, at loose ends.... Moyes has a wonderful, warm style and quirky imagination, and in her 2013 book, displays a real command of history, mystery, and tragedy. This is one under the fun is looking at the widening gap between haves and have-nots. [The Girl You Left Behind](#) (\$16) is her new paperback: See our July Trade Paperback Picks.

Rayne, Sarah. [What Lies Beneath](#) (Felony \$14.95). Here’s a real Gothic with a plot that starts some 50 years ago when, post-WWII, a Cold War experiment emptied Priors Bramley of all its residents, relocating them. In theory decaying Cadence Manor was emptied too, but three village children, intent on a last walk through the village on a mutual dare before the noon airplane arrived, ended up there. The manor, once home to a family of bankers and their elegant wives, was—and still is—harboring dark secrets. And now the Poisoned Village is to be reopened, exposing.... You can figure out fairly easily one source of the Cadence Manor’s family’s weird history, but there are plenty of twists, some poignant.

Shaw, William. [A House of Knives Signed](#) (Quercus \$41). London, November 1968. The decade is drawing its last breath. In Marylebone CID, suspects are beaten in the cells and the only woman has resigned. Detective Sergeant Breen has a death threat in his in tray and two burned bodies on his hands. One is an unidentified, unmourned vagrant; the other the wayward son of a rising politician. One case suffers the apathy of a depleted police force; the other obstructed by a PR-conscious father with the ear of the Home Office. But they can’t stop him talking to Robert ‘Groovy Bob’ Fraser – whose glamorous Pop Art parties mask a spreading heroin addiction among London’s young and beautiful.... William Shaw paints the real portrait of London’s swinging sixties. Authentic, powerful and poignant, it reveals the shadow beyond the spotlight and the crimes committed in the name of liberation. Start Shaw with [Song from Dead Lips Signed](#) (\$36); US title [She’s Leaving Home](#) (\$26).

Viner, PD. [The Last Winter of Dani Lancing](#) (\$15). Dani’s disappearance in 1989, when she was a London college girl, devastated her parents and ultimately drove them apart. Encouraged by advances in DNA testing, her mother, Patty, a former investigative reporter, is obsessed with identifying the killer. She is willing to commit violence of her own to gather fresh evidence. Dani’s father, Jim, who is retired, suffers from night terrors, eased only by regular visits from his raped and murdered daughter’s ghost. Jumping back and forth in time and switching points of view, the novel connects all sorts of dots, on multiple narrative levels, in establishing suspects and can scramble the narrative although it moves to a solid conclusion. A first novel.

VACATION OR STAYCATION?

With all the books in translation from around the globe, you have a wealth of fiction (and non-) to open up other cultures and

countries for you. Let us know where you are going and we can recommend reading to enjoy on the road/plane/ship/train/car/foot, or to enrich a staycation. Here in the States, too. Or look through past issues of the Booknews at Global or British Crime. [Click here](#) for 2014 issues.

Fedarko, Kevin. [The Emerald Mile](#) (\$17) “re-creates an incredible voyage through the flood-swollen Grand Canyon [of spring, 1983] in such heart-pounding detail that you need to pause every few pages to catch your breath... He writes so vividly that your favorite reading chair becomes a spray-soaked perch on a bucking boat hit hard by a river running high and fast.”—*Dallas Morning News*. Odds are you can hike or raft the canyon safely.

Freely, John. [A Travel Guide to Homer](#) (Tauris \$28). On the trail of Odysseus through Turkey and the Mediterranean.

Gabalton, Diana. [Outlander \(Starz Tie-In Edition\)](#) (\$18). You can slip in time from the 18th to the 20th Century in this series, to Scotland, England, and England’s American colonies on their way to Independence. And into the lives of a large cast of characters, many of whom you will meet starting August 9 on STARZ as the first novel comes to life. If you wish a handsome hardcover, go with [Outlander 20th Anniversary Edition](#) (\$35). Gabaldon will sign both editions for you.

WHERE IN THE WORLD?

Alaux, Jean-Pierre/ Noel Balen. [Nightmare in Burgundy](#) (Le French Book \$16.95)). For his 3rd investigation, the Winemaker Detective leaves his native Bordeaux to go to Burgundy for a dream wine tasting trip to France’s other key wine-making region. It turns into a troubling nightmare when he stumbles upon a mystery revolving around messages from another era? What secrets from the deep past are haunting the Clos de Vougeot?

Cabot, Sam. [Skin of the Wolf](#) (Blue Rider/Putnam \$26.95). I’m going to say right up front that while I’m a big fan of SJ Rozan’s PI novels, I disliked the first vampire thriller she and her writing partner produced. So I’m going to quote the Starred Review in *Library Journal* to give you another critic’s view (message—ally yourself with a critic whose taste you like, whether me or Patrick or...). “Picking up a year after the events of Cabot’s [Blood of the Lamb](#) (\$9.99), art historian Livia Pietro, scholar Spencer George, and Father Thomas Kelly reunite in New York, where Livia attends a conference on Native American art. Concurrent with the conference is Sotheby’s annual auction of American Indian art, including a highly prized ritual wolf mask. During a private preview, Livia, a Noantri (vampire) who is hypersensitive to people and objects, senses the mask is not entirely as represented. This rare object, coveted by collectors, is the holy grail for a group of Others seeking to use it in a modern shape-shifting ceremony with potentially devastating consequences for humanity. Those familiar with Stephenie Meyer’s Twilight saga will appreciate the depiction of Noantri and shape-shifters, while fans of Katherine Neville, Steve Berry, and Raymond Khoury will enjoy the relic element. Part paranormal/religious thriller, part Native American ethnography, this is an exciting and atmospheric excursion through ‘cataclysm-causing artifact’ literary territory. Although this is a sequel, Cabot (the pen name of coauthors Carlos Dews and S.J. Rozan) provides sufficient flashbacks for new readers to jump in without feeling lost.” The *PW* reviewer agreed with me; the *LJ* reviewer is a fan. Take your pick.

Carroll, James. [Warburg in Rome](#) (Houghton \$28). Carroll, who explored the history of Catholic anti-Semitism in the nonfiction account *Constantine’s Sword*, returns to this theme. David Warburg, newly minted director of the U.S. War Refugee Board, arrives in Rome at war’s end, determined to bring aid to the destitute European Jews streaming into the city. Marguerite d’Erasmus, a French-Italian Red Cross worker with a shadowed past, is initially Warburg’s guide to a complicated Rome; while a charismatic young American Catholic priest, Monsignor Kevin Deane, seems equally committed to aiding Italian Jews. But the city is a labyrinth of desperate fugitives, runaway Nazis, Jewish resisters, and criminal Church figures. Marguerite, caught between justice and revenge, is forced to play a double game. At the center of the maze, Warburg discovers one of history’s great scandals—the Vatican ratline, a clandestine escape route maintained by Church officials and providing scores of Nazi war criminals with secret passage to Argentina. Warburg’s disillusionment is complete when, turning to American intelligence officials, he learns that the dark secret is not so secret... Though without the white-knuckle tension of Graham Greene’s *The Third Man*, a yarn that’s of a piece with it—and a worthy successor.”—*Kirkus*

Cumming, Charles. [A Foreign Country](#) (\$15.99). On the vacation of a lifetime in Egypt, an elderly French couple is brutally murdered. Days later, a meticulously-planned kidnapping takes place on the streets of Paris. Amelia Levene, the first female Chief of MI6, has disappeared without a trace, six weeks before she is due to take over as the most influential spy in Europe. It is the gravest crisis MI6 has faced in more than a decade. Desperate not only to find her, but to keep her disappearance a secret, Britain’s top intelligence agents turn to one of their own: disgraced MI6 officer Thomas Kell. Tossed out of the Service only months before, Kell is given one final chance to redeem himself: find Amelia Levene at any cost. The trail leads Kell to France and Tunisia, where he uncovers a shocking secret and a conspiracy that could have unimaginable repercussions for Britain and its allies. Love Cumming’s work; this is a fine example. For fans of Fesperman, Furst, Steinhauer, etc.

Cussler, Clive. [Mayday Signed 40th Anniversary Ed](#) (Joseph \$25). A reminder of Cussler’s first published novel. An extra shipment from the UK means we can lower the price.

Ewan, Chris. [The Good Thief’s Guide to Berlin](#) (\$15.99). Part-time writer, part-time thief Charlie Howard’s been on a larcenous binge since moving to Berlin. His thieving is now interrupted by the call to duty—on behalf of Her Majesty’s Government. Four embassy employees are suspected of stealing a sensitive item. Charlie is to break into their homes, find the culprit and recover the stolen property. But there’s a catch. The item is so sensitive Charlie isn’t told what he’s looking for. Charlie has been a successful thief because he follows his own rules, the first being “Don’t get caught.” Well, after he enters the first suspect’s home, he has to add a new rule: “Don’t admire the view.” As Charlie stares across the street, he sees something he really wishes he hadn’t—a woman being murdered. And that’s just for starters. What follows is a wild adventure in the former cauldron of spies.... Travel to other cities with Charlie; to order, [click here](#).

Goddard, Robert. [Corners of the Globe Signed](#) (Transworld \$42). Spring, 1919. James Maxted, former Great War flying ace, returns to the trail of murder and treachery he set out on in

The Ways of the World. He left Paris after avenging the murder of his father, Sir Henry Maxted, convinced the only man who knows about the mysterious events leading up to Sir Henry's death is elusive German spymaster, Fritz Lemmer. To find out more, he enlists in Lemmer's network under false colors and is dispatched to the Orkney Isles, where the German High Seas Fleet has been interned in Scapa Flow. His mission: to recover a document secreted aboard one of the German battleships. But the information it contains is so explosive Max is forced to break cover and embark on a desperate and dangerous race south, pursued by men happy to kill him to recover the document. The breathless chase will take Max from the far north of Scotland to London and on to Paris, where the world's governments are still bartering over the spoils in the aftermath of the Great War.

Hosseini, Khaled. [And the Mountains Echoed](#) (\$16). Hosseini explores the many ways in which families nurture, wound, betray, honor, and sacrifice for one another; and how often we are surprised by the actions of those closest to us, at the times that matter most. Following its characters and the ramifications of their lives and choices and loves around the globe—from Kabul to Paris to San Francisco to the Greek island of Tinos... an island visited in depth in Jeffrey Siger's [Target: Tinos](#) (\$14.95) which has a terrific new cover, like a gorgeous postcard, not yet posted on all on-line sites.

Jin-Sung, Jang. [Dear Leader: Poet, Spy, Escapee](#) (Atria \$27.99). A look inside North Korea written by a high-ranking counterintelligence agent who describes his life as "a former poet laureate to Kim Jong-il and his breathtaking escape to freedom."

Khara, David. [The Bleiberg Project: A Consortium Thriller](#) (Le French Book, \$16.95). Are Hitler's atrocities really over? For depressive Wall Street trader Jeremy Corbin, truths become lies overnight. He finds out his long-lost father is dead and boards a plane to Zurich with a Nazi medallion in his pocket, and a clearly dangerous Mossad agent on his tail. Can the conspiracy be stopped?

Magson, Adrian. [Death at the Clos Du Lac](#) (\$16.95). Picardie, France 1964. Midnight at the exclusive and mysterious Spa St Jean des Eaux, near Poissons-les-Marais. A man is standing in the therapy pool. But he's not there for his health; someone has chained him to the bottom and let him to die very, very slowly. Along with the unusual and elaborate method of execution, the dead man has Inspector Lucas Rocco's name and number in his pocket. Patrons at the Clos du Lac refuse to speak and the ministry officials sent from Paris to "assist", only attempt to derail Rocco's efforts to find answers. With the clock ticking away precious minutes, the body count rises... Ordered upon request like all books published by Severn House.

McGrath, MJ. [Bone Seeker](#) (Viking \$26.95). The Canadian Arctic and the culture of the Inuits form the intriguing landscape for this third case for Edie Kiglatuk. She's in Kuujuaq, a village where summer makes dwellings too hot for Edie. When Edie and Sgt. Derek Palliser, her policeman friend headquartered in Kuujuaq, find student Martha Salliaq's body in a desolate lake, Derek deputizes Edie to help with the case. Martha's father recently won a lawsuit against the government, enabling the village to reclaim land used for a Cold War radar base, and the military is about to start its cleanup. When the Department of Defense suddenly takes over the site and the case, the Salliaqs'

lawyer suspects that Martha's death might be connected to government secrets. The relationships are complex and surprising. 3rd in series.

Nesbø, Jo. [Police](#) (\$14.95). Oslo cop Harry Hole's newest paperback. See our July Trade Paperback Picks.

Nesser, Hakan. [The G File](#) (Mantle \$41). The 10th case for Chief Inspector Van Veeteren originates in 1987. Verlangan, a former cop turned private detective is hired by a woman to follow her husband Jaan "G" Hennan. A few days later, his client is found dead at the bottom of an empty swimming pool. Maardam police, led by Van Veeteren, investigate the case. He has encountered Hennan before and knows only too well the man's dark capabilities. As more information emerges about G's shadowy past, the Chief Inspector becomes more desperate than ever to convict him. But G has a solid alibi and no one else is a credible suspect. 2002. 15 years have passed and the G File remains the one case former Chief Inspector Van Veeteren has never been able to solve. But when Verlangan's daughter reports the private detective missing, Van Veeteren returns to Maardam CID... 10th in the series.

Pastor, Marc. [Barcelona Shadows](#) (Pushkin Press \$18.95) won the Crims de Tinta prize in 2008 and is the only one of Pastor's books to so far be published in English (Mara Faye Lethem translated the novel from the Catalan), and Pushkin Press released the English version earlier this year. Set in Barcelona in 1911, it tells the story of Enriqueta Martí, a former prostitute who turned to kidnapping, selling and murdering children. Martí, also known as "the vampire of Barcelona," really existed, and Pastor did an exhaustive amount of research to bring both her, and the time period, to life.

Rankin, Ian. [Dark Road Signed](#) (Orion \$34). It's been 25 years since Alfred Chalmers was convicted of the gruesome murder of four young women in Edinburgh. Isobel McArthur, Scotland's first Chief Superintendent, was the woman responsible for putting him behind bars, but the case has haunted her ever since. Now, with her retirement approaching, McArthur decides the time has come for answers. A play co-written by Rankin and Royal Lyceum's Artistic Director Mark Thomson.

Swarup, Vikas. [The Accidental Apprentice](#) (St Martins \$25.99). Swarup, of *Slumdog Millionaires* and *Six Suspects*, "puts a distinctively Indian spin on this thoroughly enjoyable crime novel with a scenario that will remind many of The Hunger Games. Vinay Mohan Acharya, a self-made industrialist and one of the richest Indians alive, approaches 23-year-old Sapna Sinha, a salesgirl struggling to support her family on the meager salary she earns from an electronics store in the heart of Delhi. The 68-year-old Acharya claims to have no worthy successor to his empire and offers to tap Sapna for the role, should she pass seven tests "designed to gauge mettle and potential as a CEO." Reluctant at first to submit to the whims of an apparent madman, Sapna is forced to accept Acharya's deal as she needs the reward he's offering. But, as she proves her mettle over and over again, questions arise: Is Acharya a benign spectator of the travails she has agreed to suffer or is he responsible for them? Is Acharya the person behind an ongoing financial scam that comes to light, and does he intend her to be the scapegoat? Or is the conspiracy elsewhere? It's not until she's falsely accused of murder that Sapna really understands her own capabilities or what she wants from life."—*PW* Starred Review.

Smith, Dan. [Red Winter](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Karen reviews: “The cold, bleak, sometimes brutal weather provides the backdrop for this story which takes place during the Russian Revolution. Brothers Kolya and Alex are trying to make their way home, discouraged by what their mission had become and how it strayed from the original goal. Their journey is fraught with unrelenting challenges from the weather and the people they meet. Mortally wounded, Alex is left behind while Kolya continues his travel, hoping to find some normality when he reaches home. But the challenges continue as he constantly must assess those he meets as friend or enemy and constantly changes his strategy to continue his trek. When he arrives home, the town is empty, the men having been massacred, the women and children taken. And so, Kolya begins his search for his wife and two boys, hoping to find them alive. The shadow of a folk tale character, Koschei, The Deathless One, accompanies him. This story is fast paced, intense and thoughtful. There is a subtle undertone that says that at times we’re not all that different given the same of circumstances and choices. A terrific read!”

Taylor, Patrick. [Now and in the Hour of Our Death](#) (Forge \$24.99). The Irish Troubles of the 1970s and ’80s provide the background for Taylor’s suspenseful sequel to 2013’s [Pray for Us Sinners](#) (\$15.99). In 1983, Davy McCutcheon has served nine years of a 40-year sentence for arms possession and the murder of a British soldier during a raid on a Northern Ireland farmhouse where IRA soldiers were hiding—a raid that thwarted a plot to assassinate the British prime minister. Davy still dreams of his former lover, Fiona Kavanagh, who has built a new life for herself in Vancouver, British Columbia. Davy’s closest friend, Jimmy Ferguson, who has also settled in Vancouver, takes Fiona’s photo during a chance meeting and sends it to Davy. On seeing the photo, Davy decides to participate in an IRA-led prison break—and to participate in one last attack against the British before escaping, with IRA consent, to Vancouver. Here are ordinary men and women caught up in a conflict not of their making, and in a past that won’t let go. Recommended by our own Celt, Patrick.

Zander, Joakim. [The Swimmer Signed](#) (Zeus \$34). A European debut as yet unread by me. Klara Waldeen was orphaned as a child and brought up by her grandparents on a remote Swedish archipelago. She is now a political aide in Brussels—and she has just seen something she shouldn’t: something people will kill to keep hidden. On the other side of the world, an old spy hides from his past. Once, he was a man of action, so dedicated to the cause that he abandoned his baby daughter to keep his cover. Now the only thing he lives for is swimming in the local pool. Then, on Christmas Eve, Klara is thrown into a terrifying chase through Europe. Only the Swimmer can save her. But time is running out...

THE COZY CORNER

Be sure to check our Mass Market Paperback section too

Andrews, Donna. [The Good, The Bad, and the Emus](#) (St Martins \$24.99). Meg Langslow’s long-lost paternal grandfather, Dr. Blake, has hired Stanley Denton to find her grandmother Cordelia. Dr. Blake was reunited with his family when he saw Meg’s picture—she’s a dead ringer for Cordelia—and now Stanley has found a trail to his long-lost love in a small town less than an hour’s drive away. He and Meg go to meet her, but the woman

is Cordelia’s cousin—Cordelia died several years ago, and the cousin suspects she was murdered by her long-time neighbor. Stanley and Meg agree to help track down the killer. Grandfather even has perfect cover: he will come to stage a rescue of the feral emus and ostriches (escaped from an abandoned farm) that infest this town. He dashes off to organize the rescue—which will, of course, involve most of Meg’s family and friends in Caerphilly. But then, the evil neighbor is murdered, and not only Cordelia’s cousin but also the entire contingents of emu-rescuers, who have had conflict with the neighbor, are suspects....

Barrett, Lorna. [Book Clubbed](#) (Berkley \$25.95). In Booktown Mystery #8, cranky Chamber of Commerce receptionist Betsy Dittmeyer is done reading people the riot act. After she’s crushed by a fallen bookcase, the next item to be read is her last will and testament—which is packed with surprises. It soon comes to light that Betsy was hiding volumes of dark secrets behind that perpetual frown of hers—and one of them just might have been a motive for murder. While Tricia tries to help Angelica—the newly elected Chamber of Commerce president and Betsy’s boss—solve the mystery, she discovers a hidden chapter in her own family history that rocks her to her very core. And with her ex-husband and the chief of police vying for her affections, it’s doubly hard to focus on who might have buried Betsy in a tomb of tomes. A series for fans of Kate Carlisle and Jenn McKinlay.

Brown, Rita Mae. [Nine Lives to Die Signed](#) (Random \$26). “Murder and mayhem are the order of the day in bestseller Brown’s well-plotted 22nd Mrs. Murphy mystery. A winter charity function ends badly when wealthy car dealer Pete Vavilov, a leader of the Silver Linings charity, which helps the disadvantaged youth of Albermarle County, Va., is found dead in his car during a snowstorm the same night as the party. Before New Year’s, another member of the Silver Linings Board disappears, series heroine Mary Minor “Harry” Haristeen discovers a skeleton, and checks go missing. As usual, the four-footed characters—felines Mrs. Murphy and Pewter and their canine chum, Tee Tucker—do much of the sleuthing, as they provide wry insights into the book’s human characters.”—*PW*

Clement, Blaize. [The Cat Sitter’s Nine Lives](#) (St Martins \$24.99). While driving along the beachside road that runs through the center of her hometown, Dixie Hemingway witnesses a terrible head-on collision. Ever the hero, she springs into action and pulls one of the drivers from his car just before it explodes in flames. A little shaken but none the worse for wear, Dixie proceeds to her local bookstore where she meets Cosmo, a fluffy, orange tomcat, and Mr. Hoskins, the store’s kind but strangely befuddled owner. The next day the driver whose life she saved claims that he is Dixie’s husband. Meanwhile, both Cosmo and Mr. Hoskins have disappeared without a trace, and a mysterious phone call from a new client lures her to a crumbling, abandoned mansion on the outskirts of town. Soon Dixie finds herself locked in a riddle of deception, revenge, murder, and mystery.

WOMEN’S FICTION

Clayton, Meg Waite. [The Wednesday Daughters](#) (\$15). This delightful book, taking Americans to England’s lovely and historical Lake District (remember Reg Hill’s and Martin Edward’s mysteries?), is about sisterhood, mothers and daughters, lovers, marriage, creative impulses, and Beatrix Potter! I can’t say enough good things so I’ll let bestselling author Paula

McLain of *The Paris Wife* say more for me: “The present and the past intertwine beautifully and inevitably in Meg Waite Clayton’s winning follow-up to *The Wednesday Sisters*. From the beguiling Lake District setting, to a completely charming (and spot-on) portrayal of Beatrix Potter, to the way the Wednesday daughters strive to unpuzzle both their own choices and their mothers’ legacies, every layer of the novel delivers. *The Wednesday Daughters* is utterly rich and satisfying.” Warmly recommended, a summer sojourn in its pages.

Frank, Dorothea Benton. [The Hurricane Sisters](#) (Harper \$26.99) features three generations of women and their experiences with love, trust, and the unbreakable bond of family. Ashley is in her mid-20s, struggling to explore her passion as an artist while remaining afloat financially through an illegal business venture. Her mother, Liz, is so busy helping abused women and children that she cannot face the reality that her marriage is crumbling and her son is gay. Grandma Maisie, a spit-and-vinegar octogenarian, moves in with a younger man and sets the family’s world on fire with her hard-earned wisdom and wit. But when Ashley gets involved with an aggressive politician, the family must ditch the drama and rally to keep her safe. An OK summer visit to Carolina’s Low Country, not up to the level of say [Sullivan’s Island](#) (\$7.99), which is a gem.

Mapson, Jo-Ann. [Owen’s Daughter](#) (Bloomsbury \$26). “This moving 12th novel from Mapson explores the importance of fresh starts among a group of people in New Mexico, some of them familiar from Mapson’s previous novels. Sara Kay “Skye” Elliot leaves a rehab clinic, which she’d entered to deal with her alcohol and drug problem, to find that her rodeo rider husband, Rocky—a fellow addict—and four-year-old daughter, Gracie, have vanished. Instead, she is met by her father, Owen, who arrives on horseback, leading alongside him Skye’s beloved horse, Lightning. Determined to make amends for abandoning Skye when she was 12, Owen helps her search for Gracie. In the process, they reconnect with Owen’s true love, painter Margaret Yearwood. She has her own problems, including death, multiple sclerosis, and painful family secrets. Mapson delves deeply into the messy, complex relationships between these people, while rendering the New Mexico landscape so beautifully that it emerges as an additional member of the cast. She has a particularly strong feel for human-animal bonds, creating four-legged (and in one unfortunate case, three-legged) characters that are as distinctive as the human variety.”—*PW*.

Tan, Amy. [The Valley of Amazement](#) (\$16.99). Shanghai, 1912. Violet Minturn is the daughter of the American madam of the city’s most exclusive courtesan house. But when the Ching dynasty is overturned, Violet is separated from her mother and forced to become a “virgin courtesan.” Spanning more than forty years and two continents, Amy Tan’s newest novel maps the lives of three generations of women—and the mystery of an evocative painting known as “The Valley of Amazement.” The story-line moves from the collapse of China’s last imperial dynasty to the growth of anti-foreign sentiment and the inner workings of courtesan houses.

Wiggs, Susan. [The Beekeeper’s Ball](#) (Harlequin \$24.95). One of the Starred Reviews: “Wiggs’ second in her Bella Vista Chronicles series juggles a modern love story with a heart-pounding chronicle of the Danish resistance in Nazi-occupied Copenhagen, creating a dazzling intergenerational tale of courage

and hope. No-frills, 30-year-old Isabelle Johansen is busy organizing the opening of her cooking school, a new beekeeping business, and the wedding of her half-sister, Tess. She’s doing all this from her grandparents’ mission-style hacienda and farm in Sonoma, but gets thrown off balance by the handsome, globe-trotting journalist Cormac O’Neill. He’s arrived to interview Isabelle’s grandfather, Magnus, for a biography about his youth thwarting the Nazi occupation, protecting Jewish families, and his ultimate flight to America.” *Booklist* adds, “Wiggs, who is known for her insightful, emotion-filled women’s fiction, has again written a tale with universal appeal. The background story of the Danish resistance as well as recipes from that part of the world are a nice touch, and add depth and atmosphere.”

OUR MAY TRADE PAPERBACK PICKS

Bertsch, David. [Death Canyon](#) (\$15). It’s early summer in Jackson, Wyoming, where former prosecutor Jake Trent has left the law behind to pursue his dream: becoming a fishing guide and opening a small bed-and-breakfast in the West. Now three seemingly unrelated deaths have occurred in one day—unheard of in the scenic valley of Jackson Hole—disrupting Jake’s idyllic new life. A skier perishes in a freak late-season avalanche. A French couple is discovered mutilated on a remote trail—presumably by a bear. And on the Snake River, Jake stumbles across the body of an expensively attired fisherman. Meanwhile, a series of small earthquakes—not to mention a bitter dispute between land developers and environmentalists—has left the townspeople uneasy.

Blake, James Carlos. [Rules of Wolfe](#) (\$14). Since private investigator Cal Weaver’s teenage son died in a tragic accident, Cal and his wife have drifted apart. Cal is mired in a grief he can’t move past. And maybe his grief has clouded his judgment. Driving home one night, a rain-drenched girl taps on his car window and asks for a ride. He knows a grown man picking up a teenage hitchhiker is foolish—but he lets her in. Cal soon senses that something’s not right with the girl or the situation. But it’s too late. He’s already involved. Drawn into a nightmare of secrets, lies, and cover-ups in his small, upstate New York town, Cal must expose the town’s secrets one by one—if he lives long enough.... Recommended in hardcover by Patrick.

Castillo, Linda. [Her Last Breath](#) (\$15.99). Ohio’s Painter’s Mill, located in Amish country, is a spot where cultures and values clash. This hair-raising case—actually all of Castillo’s work is extraordinary—begins with a dreadful accident as a speeding car hurtles into a buggy driven by a young Amish deacon. He and two of the three children die, leaving a widow and the surviving child clinging to life in intensive care—a witness unable to speak. You can’t imagine where the story goes from there.... See Event Books for the next gripping installment. Painter’s Mill Chief of Police Kate Burkholder, once Amish, is a resolute, gifted sleuth piloting these atmospheric procedurals. [Click here](#) to order them all.

☛Cleverly, Barbara. [The Spider in the Cup](#) (\$15.95). London, 1933: An amateur dowsing team searching the Thames for precious metals unearths the body of a young woman with a priceless coin in her mouth. The case falls on Scotland Yard Assistant Commissioner Joe Sandilands, but he has another, very high-profile assignment. London is hosting a massive economic conference to address the global Depression, and political tensions run high as world leaders stand either with or against a rapidly militarizing Germany. Sandilands is to protect visiting American senator Cornelius Kingstone throughout the conference.

Then a series of bizarre coincidences links the riverbank body to the senator... Another excellent British policing novel from Cleverly whose whole backlist we recommend. [Click here](#) to order. Note they move from India under the Raj to 1930s London.

Downie, Ruth. [Semper Fidelis](#) (\$17). Downie's a slow writer but her Roman mysteries are well worth the wait. Back at his post as a doctor in Roman-occupied Britain, 2nd Century CE, Gaius Petros Ruso uncovers a new danger even closer to home than the neighboring barbarians. As mysterious injuries, and even deaths, begin to appear in the medical ledgers, it's clear that all is not well amongst the native recruits to Britannia's imperial army. Ruso's complicated romance with his slave Tilla, who becomes his wife, adds suspense book to book. Coming in Aug.: [Tabula Rasa](#) (Bloomsbury \$26), moving our pair up north to the building site of the great (Hadrian's) wall.

Franklin, Tom. [The Tilted World](#) (\$14.99). "In a compelling, poetic, and detailed manner, Franklin and Beth Fennelly bring to life a little-known catastrophe in American history. *The Tilted World* weaves together the stories of two endearing characters—an orphan who grows up to be a decorated World War I hero-turned-Prohibition revenuer and a bootlegging firecracker of a woman who yearns for her lost child. Add the setting of a town on the brink of destruction by deluge and some unsavory characters looking to profit from calamity, and the reader will be swept away by their story."

Krueger, William Kent. [Tamarack County](#) (\$16). Two of the Starred Reviews for this sterling entry in the Cork O'Connor series. "...hold-your-breath suspense, heightened by the isolating blizzards of a Minnesota winter and the eerie presence of a stalker.... Because Krueger works in the history of his characters' relationships in a clear and elegant way, this exceptionally scary suspense story will prove riveting for both newcomers to the series and readers who have followed Cork as he and his family have aged and grown."—*Booklist*. "...a winter's tale that will both break and warm the reader's heart.... Krueger's evident empathy for the Ojibwe and their traditions and values blends seamlessly with horrific violence played out against O'Connor's struggles to heal his family's wounds—and his own."—*PW*. Krueger signs [Windigo Island](#) (Atria \$24.99) on Aug. 27.

☞MacNeal, Susan Elia. [The Prime Minister's Secret Agent](#) (\$15). Back from a deadly undercover mission in Berlin in 1941 (His Majesty's Hope, 2013), agent Maggie Hope feels dead inside. Working as an instructor at the Scottish black-ops base where she herself was trained, Maggie is plagued with what Churchill calls the "black dog" of depression. But when she takes time off to see a friend's ballet performance in Edinburgh and becomes involved in a murder investigation, her senses are reawakened. At the same time, the U.S. and Japan are involved in a futile diplomatic dance, with Churchill desperately wanting further American participation in the war effort and December 7 fast approaching. Even with the outcome known, MacNeal builds up pre-Pearl Harbor suspense, as coded messages fly back and forth, sometimes being delayed or dismissed because of their messengers. In her fourth solidly researched Maggie Hope mystery, MacNeal details small slips that lead to great tragedies as she lays the groundwork for a post-Pearl mission for Maggie. A treat for WWII buffs as well as British crime fans, and our **July British Crime Club Pick**.

☞Moyes, Jojo. [The Girl You Left Behind](#) (\$16). A marvelous "time-jump" story with a 100-year-old painting at the root of a mesmerizing, bittersweet tale. Gifted to Liv by her late husband, David, in celebration of their wedding, *The Girl You Left Behind* becomes a personal icon, embodying all that was good about their brief marriage. What is less clear is the painting's provenance and who has the right to assert ownership. Will Liv's notion of ownership unravel when the artist's heirs sue to reclaim what they call ill-gotten goods, seemingly misappropriated by German soldiers during WWI? Did the artist's wife—the subject of the portrait—give or sell it? Can anyone establish a clear trail of legitimate ownership? Does emotional attachment to a work of art have cash value? Can love ever trump greed? Moyes is not a mystery or thriller writer; this gem edges into many genres if one needs labels, but treat it as one outstanding story. My younger daughter got lost in it while we cruised last summer and skipped dinner to keep reading.

Nesbø, Jo. [Police](#) (\$14.95). A vindictive killer is stalking Oslo's streets, slaying police officers at the scenes of crimes they once investigated but failed to solve. The department urgently needs Harry Hole.

Parker, T. Jefferson. [The Famous and the Dead](#) (\$16). The 6th zinger for Charlie Hood wraps up a very long story arc, or rather, arcs, in a most satisfying way. Dana Stabenow and I, true fans, think this epic forms a classic in American literature—landscapes, characters, themes, history—that will only grow in stature. Parker joins us in October with something completely different.

Penny, Louise. [How the Light Gets In](#) (\$15.99). Penny has been writing towards this remarkable story for awhile, planting clues and leaving threads to follow in earlier Chief Inspector Armand Gamache cases. The opening scene is startling; its relevance muscling forward in the end game. With Christmas approaching in Quebec, Three Pines is dazzling in winter dress, yet vulnerable to dark deeds. Gamache, abandoned by his deputy Jean-Guy Beauvoir, his department gutted by a corrupt superior and his agents disengaged, Gamache lands a strange murder case. One thread of the story is based on real Quebec history, the other displays how Penny has reimagined the village mystery and expanded it. She signs [The Long Way Home](#) (St Martins \$27.99) on Labor Day at 5:00 PM.

Quinn, Spencer. [The Sound and the Furry](#) (\$16). When Chet and Bernie happen upon a prison work crew that includes Frenchie Boutette, an old criminal pal they sent up the river, getting a new case is the last thing they expect. But Frenchie, who comes from an old Louisiana family full of black sheep, needs help finding his one law-abiding relative, his brother Ralph, a reclusive inventor who has gone missing with his houseboat. Though he's tempted to take another job (with a big payday) in Alaska, Bernie decides to set course for the bayous of Louisiana, a trip that will introduce Chet to a world of sights, smells, and tastes that are like nothing he's ever encountered. Watch a video with Quinn by [clicking here](#). Quinn signs [Paw and Order](#) (Atria \$25) on Aug. 5 Publication Day.

Wortham, Reavis Z. [Vengeance Is Mine](#) (\$14.95). "Mob enforcer Anthony Agrioli's latest assignment is to rub out some Cuban casino owners in Las Vegas—and their young children. He takes care of the adults without trouble but has some problems killing the kids. He takes it on the lam, beating it out of Vegas before

his boss can track him down, but not before hooking up with a beautiful blonde (who will turn out to be a handful of a different sort than he had hoped). Hiding out in Center Springs, Texas, Anthony soon finds out this seemingly peaceful town is like a beacon for violence and corruption, most of which has nothing directly to do with him, but all of which soon ensnares him. This very entertaining novel, set in 1967, is reminiscent of Donald E. Westlake's Mob comedies *The Fugitive Pigeon* (1965) and *The Busy Body* (1966), which, like this book, feature offbeat characters getting themselves into offbeat situations—although this book also has a more serious side, too. Those who have read the author's earlier books, including **The Right Side of Wrong** (\$14.95), will be familiar with Center Springs and its rather unusual denizens, but knowledge of those earlier volumes is not required. This is a fully self-contained story, and it's real corker." — David Pitt, *Booklist* Starred Review. Wortham signs [Vengeance is Mine](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) on Aug. 21.

NEW BOOKS

Arsenault, Emily. [What Strange Creatures](#) (Harper \$14.99 Signed Aug. 20). "At the start of this captivating mystery, Theresa Battle—who has a houseful of pets in Thompsonville, Mass., and a dissertation she might never complete—agrees to dog-sit for her brother Jeff's new girlfriend, waitress Kim Graber. Then Kim's body is discovered, the police arrest Jeff for the murder, and Theresa sets out to prove his innocence. Kim was obsessed with discrediting a local politician with whom she shared an unpleasant history, but Theresa learns the investigation has unearthed other people's dark secrets, too. Arsenault deftly blends pet humor and laugh-out-loud moments with the unfolding portrait of complex, multilayered Kim. Only Theresa's romantic entanglements with an English department colleague and one of Kim's coworkers, who both have information that could help Jeff, ring a false note. Still, Theresa's self-deprecating honesty and anecdotes about her dissertation subject, medieval mystic Margery Kempe, are as engaging as her loyalty to her brother and willingness to face unsavory truths about him and herself."—*PW* Starred Review. More from me in August.

Atkinson, Rick. [Guns at Last Light](#) (\$20). The culminating volume of the critically acclaimed Liberation Trilogy begins with the D-Day invasion of Western Europe. The heroics of that much-anticipated event serve as a bloody prelude to the fierce fighting that would follow during the next eleven months...

Averbeck, Jim. [Hitch at the Fairmont](#) (Atheneum \$16.99). This is a YA novel but honestly it's so much fun you Hitchcock fans should pick it up. After the tragic death of his mom, 11-year-old Jack Fair's wicked Aunt Edith whisks him away to San Francisco's fancy hotel. Jack is condemned to fetch chocolates for her and her revolting pet chinchilla until one night when she disappears. A chocolate ransom note is the only vestige of Edith. Alone, Jack faces a quest here, but he meets an unlikely (and tubby) accomplice, himself a master of suspense. Boy and movie maker embark on an adventure filled with hidden doorways, secret societies, cryptic clues, sinister villains—and chocolate! Enjoy the tour of Baghdad by the Bay as well as the company of Alfred Hitchcock.

Bouman, Tom. [Dry Bones in the Valley Signed](#) (Norton \$24.95). Patrick makes a Hardboiled Club Pick for July. Fans of Craig Johnson's Longmire series will love this great debut. In Wild

Thyme, PA, some families go back a long ways and some devastating secrets as well. Henry Farrell, the lone cop in this rural town, finds himself having to deal with the rising drug trade, the shenanigans of fracking companies, and the occasional murder. "So smooth it's as if it was written on spring water. Shadowy, swift, impossible to put down. I was enraptured. Any justice and this writer will soon be a major star."—Joe Lansdale.

Burke, James Lee. [Wayfaring Stranger Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99). It is 1934 and the Depression is bearing down on Texas, as elsewhere. Hack Holland, his daughter, and his grandson Weldon are dealing with her disturbed state (a trip to the mental hospital), drought/dust, and other ills when two strangers in a car arrive on Holland land. It's a chance encounter with Bonnie and Clyde, which echoes through the story. Ten years later, Second Lieutenant Weldon Holland and his sergeant, Hershel Pine, escape certain death in the Battle of the Bulge and encounter a beautiful young woman named Rosita Lowenstein hiding in a deserted extermination camp. Eventually, Weldon and Rosita fall in love and marry and, with Hershel, return to Texas to seek their fortunes. There, they enter the domain of jackals known as the oil business. They meet Roy Wiseheart—a former Marine aviator haunted with guilt for deserting his squadron leader over the South Pacific—and Roy's wife Clara, a vicious anti-Semite who is determined to make Weldon and Rosita's life a nightmare. It will be the frontier justice upheld by Weldon's grandfather, Texas lawman Hackberry Holland, and the legendary antics of Bonnie and Clyde that shape Weldon's plans for saving his family.... Burke's fans will recognize his lyrical strengths regarding the themes of social justice and class struggle, violence set to a stunning backdrop of natural beauty and destruction, and a Gulf Coast region that includes historically accurate details to delight Texas and Louisiana natives. He creates strong and convincing characters on the sides of both right and wrong, and through them writes a compelling American history. Perhaps more than any of Burke's previous work, *Wayfaring Stranger* is a tender love story, proving yet again his versatility and skill in creating gorgeous, luscious, painful stories of the American experience.

Correia, Larry. [Monster Hunter: Nemesis](#) (\$25). #5 in this series finds Agent Franks, the genetically engineered superman who is the indestructible star of the U.S. Monster Control Bureau sworn to serve and protect the United States of America from all monsters by one of the country's founding fathers, facing a problem. At a secret location, biotech geniuses are constructing new supermen, just like him. And it turns out that the culprit is Franks' own boss....

Deutermann, P T. [Sentinels of Fire](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The tale of a lone destroyer, the USS Malloy, part of the Allied invasion forces attacking the island of Okinawa and the Japanese home islands. By the spring of 1945, the once mighty Japanese fleet has been virtually destroyed, leaving Japan open to invasion. The Japanese react by dispatching hundreds of suicide bombers against the Allied fleet surrounding Okinawa. By mid-May, the Allied fleet is losing a major ship a day to murderous swarms of kamikazes streaming out of Formosa and southern Japan. The radar picket line is the first defense and early warning against these hellish formations, but the Japanese direct special attention to these lone destroyers stationed north and west of Okinawa. One destroyer, the USS Malloy, faces an even more pressing issue when her Executive Officer Connie Miles begins to realize

that the ship's much-admired Captain Pudge Tallmadge is losing his mind under the relentless pressure of the attacks. This 3rd thriller in Deutermann's WII series earns an *LJ* Starred Review for "a war novel that is both sweeping and intensely personal. It begins with Guadalcanal and Midway and concludes with the largest naval battle in history, Leyte Gulf. Brutal yet poignant, this excellent novel will appeal to fans of David L. Robbins's World War II novels (*Broken Jewel*; *War of the Rats*)."

Doiron, Paul. [The Bone Orchard Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). "Having quit the Maine Warden Service for various personal reasons, Mike Bowditch barely ekes out a living as a fishing guide, showing off Maine's North Woods to tourists, in Edgar finalist Doiron's excellent fifth series installment featuring thoughtful plotting and strong characters." Though he still spends most of his time outdoors, Mike is acutely aware that he no longer has the authority to arrest lawbreakers, nor does he have the respect of his former colleagues. Mike realizes just how much of an outsider he is when his mentor and former boss, Sgt. Kathy Frost, kills Jimmy Gammon, a distraught Afghan war veteran and former military policeman, in self-defense. Later, a gunman seriously wounds Kathy outside her farmhouse. Despite his lack of authority, Mike joins the investigation into Kathy's shooting, sorting through the list of suspects.

Easley, Warren C. [Dead Float](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.95). Where better to spend time in July than along Oregon's Deschutes River? Doing some fishing? Investigating the merciless slaying of a CEO sleeping out under the stars thanks to snores that disturb his wife? Lawyer Cal Claxton, doing a stint as a fishing guide for his best bud, decides a railway spur brought in a killer—but which of the CEO's party arranged it? Meet Cal in [Matters of Doubt](#) (\$14.95), set in Portland where a street artist called Picasso is under suspicion of murder...

Gaiman, Neil. [The Ocean at the End of the Lane](#) (\$14.99). A fairy tale for adults.

Greaves, Chuck. [The Last Heir Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). A point of our Surprise Me! Club is to deliver one, whether with a new voice, a wild character, or a tweak in the plot. So here is the July Pick. Trial lawyer Greaves succeeds at all three elements in his 3rd investigation for LA lawyer Jack MacTaggart—I am crazy about all three and annoyed there are no paperbacks for you. An elderly, rich new client summons Jack to Napa Valley. Monsieur Philippe Giroux is distraught at the recent death of his younger son in a heli-skiing accident. His body has never been recovered. Philippe's father's will decrees that when the younger of Philippe's two sons reaches 40, Chateaux Giroux and its 150 wine-producing acres passes to them, away from Philippe. Elder son Phil is married to an activist who wants changes that are anathema to Philippe. And Phil is almost 40. So Jack's task is to disprove that Alain is dead and stall off the transfer of power for 2 more years. As Jack says, Philippe "is exactly the kind of client every lawyer needs—a worried millionaire." And there are recent credit card charges to Alain's AmEx card... So Jack and his law partner Marta Suarez, plus Marta's life partner Regan Fife, former cop and now the firm's investigator, head north to wine country and into a case that challenges on every front. I love the complications that Jack's wanna-be screenwriting receptionist adds—including a movie star who's a real person. Surprises abound and the final one is a lulu!

Hallinan, Timothy. [Herbie's Game Signed](#) (Soho \$26.9 Signed Aug. 15). Comic crime and crook-heroes fans, here's LA's Junior Bender once again, tangling with the San Fernando Valley's top "executive crook who has set up a secret chain of crooks to execute a hit—and then the crook's safe with the list is hit...by..." [Click here](#) for earlier Junior Benders.

Harkness, Deborah. [Book of Life Signed](#) (Viking \$28.95 Aug. 12). Diana and Matthew in their continued quest to find the missing pages of the Ashmole 782, also called The Book of Life. Firedrakes, daemons, a tree that grows in the living room and a house that produces strange objects swirl around the couple as they travel to Connecticut, France and Italy in search of answers to the questions that have chased them through the centuries. Harkness has done a satisfying, entertaining, secrets-revealing wrap-up to the All Souls Trilogy. [A Discovery of Witches](#) (\$16); [Shadow of Night](#) (\$17).

Hilary, Sarah. [Someone Else's Skin](#) (Penguin \$16). DI Rome is a detective with a past; five years ago, her parents were brutally stabbed to death by their foster son, who has yet to reveal his motives for the murders. This past comes barreling into the present when Rome makes a routine stop at a safe haven for domestic-abuse victims in London, only to walk in on the aftermath of an attempted murder: a shaken woman stands over the fallen body of her husband, holding a knife. What seems like a simple case of self-defense is rapidly complicated by a series of unexplained questions. In this start to a series, a detective investigates what should be a simple case of self-defense which turns out to be anything but simple.

Hillenbrand, Laura. [Unbroken](#) (\$16). Louis Zamperini was an incorrigible delinquent. As a teenager, he channeled his defiance into running, discovering a prodigious talent that had carried him to the Berlin Olympics. But when World War II began, the athlete became an airman, embarking on a journey that led to a doomed flight on a May afternoon in 1943. When his Army Air Forces bomber crashed into the Pacific Ocean, against all odds, Zamperini survived, adrift on a foundering life raft. Ahead of Zamperini lay thousands of miles of open ocean, leaping sharks, thirst and starvation, enemy aircraft, and, beyond, a trial even greater.... A WWII version of Captain Bligh's voyage after the mutiny on *HMS Bounty*.

Hillier, Jennifer. [The Butcher](#) (Free Press \$25). A rash of grisly serial murders plagued Seattle until the infamous "Beacon Hill Butcher" was finally hunted down and killed by police chief Edward Shank in 1985. Now, some thirty years later, Shank, retired and widowed, is giving up his large rambling Victorian house to his grandson Matt, whom he helped raise. Settling back into his childhood home and doing some renovations in the backyard to make the house feel like his own, Matt, a young up-and-coming chef and restaurateur, stumbles upon a locked crate he's never seen before. Curious, he picks the padlock and makes a discovery so gruesome it will forever haunt him... From the author of *Creep* and *Freak*.

Horwitz, Joshua. [War of the Whales: A True Story](#) (SimonSchuster \$28). Horvitz is a crusading attorney who stumbles on one of the US Navy's best-kept secrets: a submarine detection system that floods entire ocean basins with high-intensity sound—and drives whales onto beaches. As Joel Reynolds launches a legal fight to expose and challenge the

Navy program, marine biologist Ken Balcomb witnesses a mysterious mass stranding of whales near his research station in the Bahamas. Investigating this calamity, Balcomb is forced to choose between his conscience and an oath of secrecy he swore to the Navy in his youth.—“A gripping, brilliantly told tale of the secret and deadly struggle between American national security and the kings of the oceans.”—Bob Woodward

Howe, Melodie Johnson. [City of Mirrors](#) (Pantheon \$14.95). Running out of money, Diana Poole is forced to go back to the only work she knows: acting. Her much-loved husband and movie-star mother have died, and now Diana is over thirty-five. In Hollywood that means she might as well be dead. Still, a few key people remember her talent, and she lands a role in a new movie. But an actress should never get her hopes up, especially when she discovers the female lead’s murdered body. Raised in her mother’s shadow, Diana knows people in “the business” will go to dangerous lengths to protect their images. When her own life and career are threatened, Diana decides to fight back and unmask the killer—if she can.... A skillful look at Hollywood’s dark side.

Jance, JA. [The Remains of Innocence Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99 Signed Aug. 4). Joanna Brady works a Cochise County case in league with the Bisbee Police Chief and a storyline connected to Great Barrington, Mass. A strong story with wonderful views of Arizona—and it pulls no punches.

Johansen, Iris. [Sight Unseen](#) (St Martins \$27.99). Before the experimental surgery that gave her sight, Kendra Michaels developed her other senses to an amazing capacity. Law enforcement agencies clamor for her rare powers of perception and observation, too often disrupting the life she has built helping others through music therapy. Because so very often, only Kendra can get the job done. But in this case, it’s Kendra who first realizes that the apparent traffic accident on San Diego’s historic Cabrillo Bridge is in fact a murder scene. As the body count rises, someone appears to be mirroring Kendra’s most notorious cases....

Koontz, Dean. [The City Signed](#) (Random \$28). Jonah Kirk, son of an exceptional singer, grandson of a formidable “piano man,” a musical prodigy, is beginning to explore his own gifts when he crosses a group of extremely dangerous people, with shattering consequences. Set in a more innocent time not so long ago, *The City* encompasses a lifetime but unfolds over three extraordinary, heart-racing years of tribulation and triumph, in which Jonah first grasps the electrifying power of music and art, of enduring friendship, of everyday heroes.

Laurie, Victoria. [Fatal Fortune: A Psychic Eye Mystery](#) (NAL \$24.95). When Austin police show PI Abby Cooper surveillance video of her best friend and business partner, Candice Fusco, shooting a man in cold blood, she can’t believe her eyes. And when the cops tell her they think the victim has ties to the Mob—and perhaps Candice does too—she can’t believe her ears. Surely there is a logical explanation. But Candice is nowhere to be found. Abby decides the only way to find out the truth is to go to Vegas herself where she uncovers a rigged game of dirty double-dealing where the stakes are no less than life and death... Neither a thriller nor a cozy; read it if you’re a series fan.

Lawson, Mike. [House Reckoning](#) (Grove \$25). DC fixer Joe DeMarco lost his dad Gino years ago. Dad was a solid guy—and a hit-man for a mob. Its *capo* had Gino killed to prevent trouble brewing in his bailiwick. The identity of Gino’s killer has long been concealed. And now Joe is about to find out who killed his dad...and fix it! New in paperback: [House Odds](#) (\$14)

Muller, Marcia. [The Night Searchers Signed](#) (Grand Central \$27). Muller continues to change up Sharon McCone’s personal and professional life, no small achievement for such a long-running series. The constellation of characters, family and employees, change too. This unusual case begins with a client: a man who brings in his wife who claims to be beset with weird occurrences, most recently witnessing some kind “human sacrifices” in a building site. Skeptical, McCone soon becomes involved with an urban treasure hunting group called The Night Searchers who roam San Francisco. Just what are they up to after dark? And will McCone and husband Hy figure out how to consolidate their companies and work together in a realistic way?

Nisbet, Jim. [Death Puppet](#) (\$15.95). Smart, bored, attractive and single, Mattie Brooke is a not quite over-the-hill waitress in the tiny town of Dip, Washington. She’s lived all but one year of her life in Dip, and not much of what goes on there escapes her eye. But then, not much of what goes on in Dip is worth noticing. That is, until a traveling salesman named Tucker Harris drifts into town. Mattie cuts out on her steady guy just long enough for this stranger to introduce her to his bizarre brand of safe sex, and after Tucker splits, Mattie figures to go on with her life the same as before. What begins as sassy complicity in a capricious tryst triggers a subtle and vertiginous slide into hell... “In the tradition of Jim Thompson and Damon Runyon, Nisbet is too good to miss.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*, echoing Patrick.

Patterson, James/Mark Sullivan. [Private LA](#) (\$16). Thom and Jennifer Harlow are the perfect couple, with three perfect children. They maybe two of the biggest mega movie stars in the world, but they’re also great parents, philanthropists and just all-around good people. When they disappear without a word from their ranch, facts are hard to find. They live behind such a high wall of security and image control that even world-renowned Private Investigator Jack Morgan can’t get to the truth. But as Jack keeps probing, secrets sprout thick and fast...

Pessl, Marisha. [Night Film](#) (\$18). A page-turning thriller for readers of Stephen King, Gillian Flynn, and Stieg Larsson tells the haunting story of a journalist who becomes obsessed with the mysterious death of a troubled prodigy—the daughter of an iconic, reclusive filmmaker. On a damp October night, beautiful young Ashley Cordova is found dead in an abandoned warehouse in lower Manhattan. Though her death is ruled a suicide, veteran investigative journalist Scott McGrath suspects otherwise. As he probes the strange circumstances surrounding Ashley’s life and death, McGrath comes face-to-face with the legacy of her father: the legendary, reclusive cult-horror-film director Stanislas Cordova—a man who hasn’t been seen in public for more than thirty years. For McGrath, another death connected to this seemingly cursed family dynasty seems more than just a coincidence.... A huge *Poisoned Pen* (and elsewhere) bestseller in hardcover.

Phillips, Jayne Anne. [Quiet Dell](#) (\$16). A novel based on a real life crime by a con man who preyed on widows. In Chicago in 1931, Asta Eicher, a lonely mother of three, is desperate for money after the sudden death of her husband. She begins to receive seductive letters from a chivalrous, elegant man named Harry Powers, who promises to cherish and protect her, ultimately to marry her and to care for her and her children. Weeks later, Asta and her three children are dead. Emily Thornhill, one of the few women journalists in the Chicago press, wants to understand what happened to this beautiful family, particularly to the youngest child, Annabel, an enchanting girl with a precocious imagination and sense of magic. Determined, Emily travels to West Virginia to cover the murder trial and to investigate the story herself, accompanied by a charming and unconventional photographer equally drawn to the case, both of them determined to see Powers convicted.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Lost Island Signed](#) (Grand Central \$27 Aug. 6). Signed by both authors. Gideon Crew—brilliant scientist, master thief—is living on borrowed time. When his mysterious employer, Eli Glinn, gives him an eyebrow-raising mission, he has no reason to refuse. Gideon's task: steal a page from the priceless Book of Kells, now on display in New York City and protected by unbreakable security...

Pronzini, Bill. [Strangers Signed](#) (Forge \$27). #43 for Nameless! Cody Hatcher is the kind of teenager you don't want your kids hanging with. That's the book on him and it's why the citizens of Mineral Springs have no problem at all believing that he's guilty of three rapes. His mother, Cheryl, an old lover of Nameless', is also being harassed by vindictive townspeople. It's against such odds that he must work to prove Cody innocent. There are few to help him and plenty to get in his way. It's a classic situation for an iconic private investigator. "Pronzini is a pro at PI Fiction: he never cheats on the reader, respecting the conventions of the hard-boiled detective stories and puzzle mysteries he employs so well."—*Library Journal*.

Rosenfelt, David. [Hounded Signed](#) (St Martins \$28). This time it's an orphaned boy and a basset hound that prompt NJ lawyer Andy Carpenter to get off the couch and into the game. Andy and his lover and investigator Laurie Collins have been summoned to the crime scene by a mysterious call from their friend, the cop Pete Stanton, who has just discovered the corpse of ex-con Danny Balfour. Pete has summoned Andy and Laurie to scoop up boy and dog so they don't get shunted into the "system." This isn't such a big favor although Tara, the Carpenter resident Golden Retriever, may have some say. But when Pete is arrested as suspect number one in Balfour's murder, he needs a bigger one: Andy Carpenter for the defense, or even better, to preclude the need for a defense....

Rucka, Greg. [Bravo Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$26). The follow up to [Alpha](#) (\$8). Jad Bell, still recovering from emotional and physical trauma, is tasked with bringing in the Uzbek, the principal orchestrator of the terrorist attack that nearly cost Bell his wife and daughter. But the Uzbek's employer, the Architect, has already set an even deadlier attack in motion. Two women in deep cover are at the heart of his plot. The American may have crucial intel, but considering she's been someone else for years, can it—and she—be trusted? Familiar Rucka tropes about love and family enrich the story.

Sandford, John/Michele Cook. [Uncaged Signed](#) (Random \$18.99) Signed by Sandford and wife and writing partner Michele Cook, and dated July 8, pub day. They are flying in on the 7th and flying out that night, no event. This is a thriller for teens on up—no Sandford book is really going to be kid stuff, no? We have Shay, on a quest to find her brother in Hollywood armed with \$58 and a knife. Odin, a brilliant hacker and of course, a loose cannon. A radical activist group intent at striking at Singular Corp. research lab, a place Odin leaves with a high of highly encrypted flash drives...and a security team in pursuit... We are restocked with Signed copies of [Field of Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95). Sandford's October book for Virgil is [Deadline](#) (Putnam \$27.95).

Stevens, Taylor. [The Catch](#) (Crown \$25). We may swing signed copies of this new Vanessa Michael Monroe thriller which begins in Djibouti and boards an old freighter for a terrifying journey down the east Africa coast where it is attacked of Somali. But not as you might think... Please check with us for an update.

Stross, Charles. [The Rhesus Chart](#) (Ace \$26.95). As a newly appointed junior manager within the Laundry—the clandestine organization responsible for protecting Britain against supernatural threats—Bob Howard is expected to show some initiative to help the agency battle the forces of darkness. But shining a light on things best left in the shadows is the last thing Bob wants to do—especially when those shadows hide an occult parasite spreading a deadly virus. Traders employed by a merchant bank in London are showing signs of infection—an array of unusual symptoms such as superstrength and speed, an uncanny talent for mind control, an extreme allergic reaction to sunlight, and an unquenchable thirst for blood. While his department is tangled up in bureaucratic red tape (and *Buffy* reruns), debating how to stop the rash of vampirism, Bob digs deeper into the bank's history. I've always liked Stross' imagination and writing style.

Turner, Lisa. [The Gone Dead Train](#) (Harper \$14.99). Memphis and the blues go together. They and other stuff draw Detective Billy Able back to the city from Atlanta where he's thrust into an ever-widening case: two legendary blues musicians on the lam (and now dead); a disgraced major league baseball player; two iconic civil rights warriors of old carrying dark secrets; and brave woman called Frankie Malone, a by-the-book cop whose guilty conscience tortures her. Plus she knows a lot of useful stuff like Santeria which might factor into the blues men's murders. I'm handing this over to Patrick for further review.

Truman, Margaret. [Margaret Truman's Undiplomatic Murder](#) (Forge \$24.99). Donald Bain's latest for "Truman." Private investigator Robert Brixton has always hated Washington. Against his better judgment, he decides to stick around and take a job as an agent in a new State Department security agency headed by his former boss at the Washington P.D. After work one day he meets his youngest daughter, Janet, for a drink at an outdoor cafe. Shockingly, a young Arabic woman blows herself up, killing Janet and a dozen others. Seeking revenge for his daughter, Brixton follows the tracks of the bomber to a powerful senator's son. Brixton finds himself digging deep into what turns out to be a small but powerful cabal whose goal is to kill embassy workers from nations involved in the invasion of Iraq and Afghanistan. Bain also writes the Jessica Fletcher series.

Turow, Scott. [Identical](#) (\$16). Drawing his title from the Greek twins Castor and Pollux, you more or less know where this story is going, but the journey is the point, no? State Senator Paul Giannis is a candidate for Mayor of Kindle County. His identical twin brother Cass is newly released from prison, 25 years after pleading guilty to the murder of his girlfriend, Dita Kronon. When Evon Miller, an ex-FBI agent who is the head of security for the Kronon family business, and private investigator Tim Brodie begin a re-investigation of Dita's death, a complex web of murder, sex, and betrayal.

Verdon, John. [Peter Pan Must Die Signed](#) (Crown \$26). "Nero Award finalist Verdon combines a brilliant puzzle and psychological insight into his sleuth, Dave Gurney, in the stellar fourth novel featuring the retired NYPD homicide detective. Much to the dismay of Gurney's wife, he agrees to work on another case instead of relaxing at the couple's upstate New York property. Jack Hardwick, who lost his job with the state police after helping Gurney in the previous book, asks the detective to help overturn a murder conviction. Kay Spalter was convicted of shooting to death her husband, Carl, a gubernatorial candidate running on an anti-Mafia platform, at his mother's funeral, but some people think she was framed. Hardwick wants Gurney simply to identify irregularities in the investigation so as to make an appeal successful, but the only way Gurney knows how to do that is to find the truth. The plot is full of Verdon's usual challenges (e.g., it was apparently impossible for the murder to have been carried out), but the cleverness is surpassed by the probing analysis of what makes Gurney tick."—*PW* Starred Review, with which I concur. Of the upper-NY landscapes for crime I like Verdon's and Spencer-Fleming's work the best. OK, and Sarah Henry's!

Williams, Amanda Kyle. [Don't Talk to Strangers](#) (Random \$26). In the woods outside the small town of Whisper, Georgia, the remains of two girls have been uncovered: Tracy Davidson disappeared more than a decade earlier, while Melinda Cochran vanished eight months before; each was 13 years old at the time she went missing. Sheriff Kenneth Meltzer wants Keye, a Chinese-American who was adopted by a white Southern family and who was fired from the FBI because of her alcoholism, to help build the killer's psychological profile. Keye feels like a stranger in a strange town, where the other law enforcement officials are outright hostile to her and the residents veer from trying to assist her investigation to shutting her out of discussions. 3rd for an intriguing, flawed character changing up the PI novel in Karin Slaughter territory. [Click here](#) to order earlier Keye cases.

Willig, Lauren. [The Mark of the Midnight Manzanilla Signed](#) (NAL \$16). Not out until mid-August but please order this new chapter in the Pink Carnation series now so we can be sure to have enough signed copies. In October of 1806, the Little Season is in full swing. With a rampant vampire craze sparked by the novel *The Convent of Orsino*, it seems no one can speak of anything else. When Sally Fitzhugh hears a rumor that the reclusive Duke of Belliston is an actual vampire, she cannot resist the challenge of proving such nonsense false. At a ball in Belliston Square, she ventures across the gardens and encounters the mysterious Duke. He is well versed in the trouble gossip can bring. He's returned home to dispel the rumors of scandal surrounding his parents' deaths, which hint at everything from treason to dark sorcery. When a woman is found dead, her

blood drained, Lucien and Sally join forces to stop the so-called vampire from killing again. Willig has fun riffing on the paranormal craze of 200 years ago.

Woods, Stuart. [Cut and Thrust](#) (Putnam \$26.95). Stone Barrington heads to Hollywood in the train of the VP who may be declaring for the race to succeed her husband in the White House. This story is full of the glitterati, campaign donors, Stone's son who's becoming a mover and shaker in the movies, and Santa Fe attorney Ed and his homicidal ex-wife Barbara. This one is over the top!

Young, Tom. [Sand and Fire](#) (Putnam \$26.95). North Africa. A jihadist leader has seized a supply of sarin gas and is wreaking havoc: a nightclub in Sicily, a packed street in Gibraltar. Acting on information, and only a day away from retirement, Marine gunnery sergeant A. E. Blount, at six-foot-eight a formidable warrior, the grandson of one of the first black Marines, sets out with his strike force to kill or capture the terrorist. But it is a trap. A 5th fine military thriller from Young for fans of Clancy and Griffiths, and Brad Taylor.

OUR JULY MASS MARKET PICKS

Bass, Jefferson. [Cut to the Bone](#) (\$9.99). I'm a big fan of the Body Farm series, here in its 7th book. It's the summer of 1992. Dr. Bill Brockton is the young head of the anthropology department at the University of Tennessee. When prostitutes start turning up dead, all killed by similar means, their bodies deposited in the countryside, he becomes aware of the possibility that the killings resonate with a case from his past. "The brainy murderer, Satterfield, who provides his own narration, favors particular cutting tools and likes to slice off fingers. With each horrendous crime, he takes a step closer to Brockton's family. Brockton also gets opportunities to discuss the future of forensics with his assistant, explaining how studying insects removed from corpses will enable investigators to determine exact time of death. But if the pace of this prequel is sometimes leisurely, Bass (forensic anthropologist Dr. Bill Bass and science writer Jon Jefferson) is better than most at making the subject compelling. And when it comes time to turn up the intensity, he does that with satisfying efficiency, spreading the tension among a solid cast of supporting characters."—*Kirkus*. The 8th entry appears next February.

Beaton, MC. [Something Borrowed, Someone Dead](#) (\$7.99). The murder of Gloria French, a widow with an appetite for seduction and a penchant for borrowing but not returning things, sets off a calamitous chain of events in bestseller Beaton's lively 24th Agatha Raisin mystery. "Keen for a speedy resolution to the case, Jerry Tarrant, head of the parish council in the Cotswolds village of Piddlebury, hires PI Agatha to investigate. In the course of interviewing villagers who might have done in Gloria by giving her a bottle of poisoned elderberry wine, plucky and persistent Agatha annoys someone enough to prompt an attempt on her life. Comic mishaps include an impromptu TV performance in which she tries to cook an omelet. A Miss Marple who enjoys drink, cigarettes, and men, Agatha displays a wit and sharp tongue that will continue to please her many fans."—*PW*

Blackwell, Juliet. [Vision in Velvet](#) (Signet \$7.99). The 6th entry in Blackwell's Witchcraft /Vintage Fashion series begins when Lily Ivory opens an old trunk she has purchased, hoping to score some great vintage fashions. She quickly feels strange vibrations

emanating from a mysterious velvet cloak. When she tries it on, Lily sees awful visions from the past. Then the antiques dealer who sold her the cape is killed. Next, Lily's familiar, Oscar the potbellied pig, disappears. Lily will do anything to get him back—including battling the spirit of a powerful witch reaching out from the past. But even with the aid of her grandmother, unmasking a killer and saving Oscar might be beyond her... Fun, imaginative yet with good plotting.

Box, CJ. [The Highway](#) (\$9.99). When two sisters set out across a remote stretch of Montana road to visit their friend, little do they know it will be the last time anyone might ever hear from them again. The girls—and their car—simply vanish. Former police investigator Cody Hoyt has just lost his job and has fallen off the wagon after a long stretch of sobriety. Convinced by his son and his former rookie partner, Cassie Dewell, he begins the drive south to the girls' last known location. As Cody makes his way to the lonely stretch of Montana highway where they went missing, Cassie discovers that Gracie and Danielle Sullivan aren't the first girls who have disappeared in this area... Dark, filled with tension, heartbreaking!

Burke, James Lee. [Light of the World](#) (\$9.99). Sadist and serial killer Asa Surrette narrowly escaped the death penalty for the string of heinous murders he committed while capital punishment was outlawed in Kansas. But following a series of damning articles written by Dave Robicheaux's daughter Alafair, Surrette escapes from a prison transport van and heads to Montana, where an unsuspecting Dave—along with Alafair; Dave's wife, Molly; Dave's faithful partner Clete; and Clete's newfound daughter, Gretchen Horowitz—have come to take in the sweet summer air. Surrette may be even worse than Dave's old enemy Legion Guidry, a man Dave suspected might very well be the devil incarnate. But two more baddies must also be battled... The 20th Dave Robicheaux draws upon real events breaking for 20 years in Wichita.

Hillerman, Anne. [Spider Woman's Daughter](#) (\$9.99). Even Anne's father provided no better New Mexico landscapes (including Chaco Canyon and Santa Fe) in this continuation of the partnership between the legendary Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn and the less traditional Navajo Sergeant Jim Chee. But Anne wisely chooses Navajo Nation Police Officer Bernadette Manuelito, married now to Chee, as the point-of-view character. The story kicks off with a bang—Leaphorn is shot in a parking lot. A drive-by? Mistaken identity? An echo from Leaphorn's past—and old case? Naturally the investigation is pursued with urgency by his colleagues....

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Tell No Lies](#) (\$9.99). Daniel Brasher left a high-paying San Francisco job as a money manager to marry his community-organizer wife and do the work he loves, which leads him to group counseling sessions with recently paroled ex-cons. Now he's about to start a private practice. But just before his last day on the job, Daniel finds an envelope in his department mailbox. It reads, "admit what you've done. or you will bleed for it." The letter is actually addressed to someone else, a man who, Brasher soon discovers, has just been brutally murdered. Then he receives two more threat letters, each addressed to a new person. Why is Brashear, "last heir to a family fortune that can be traced back to the Union Pacific's golden spike," being targeted by someone who becomes known as The Tearjerker?

McAndrews, Jennifer. [Ill-Gotten Panes](#) (Berkley \$7.99). After a banking scandal loses stained-glass enthusiast Georgia Kelly her job and fiancé, she bolts to her grandfather's house in the old-fashioned, brick-making Hudson River hamlet of Wenwood, New York. Bad timing—not only is the close-knit community on edge about their beloved brickworks being turned into a marina to draw in tourists, one of those most opposed to the project winds up dead—cracked over the head with a famous Wenwood brick. Georgia wouldn't be broken up over the news except for the fact that the main suspect is the deceased's biggest adversary—her grandfather. Starts a series. McAndrews wrote an earlier mystery for Avalon, and romances as...?

Reichs, Kathy. [Bones of the Lost](#) (\$7.99). Bestseller Reichs draws on her experiences touring with the USO in Afghanistan for Tempe Brennan's 16th investigation. One may wonder how the forensic anthropologist could become so deeply involved in the events which connect Charlotte, NC to Peru (mummified dogs) to Afghanistan, but smuggling of objects (mummies, people, whatever sells) works like that. And you are always in expert hands with science when with Reichs. Tempe has a new case for you end of September.

Steinberg, Hank. [Out of Range](#) (\$9.99). Six years ago, journalist Charlie Davis nearly lost his life on assignment in Eastern Europe with his wife, Julie. Today, in his safe suburban life in Los Angeles, that scare feels like a lifetime ago. Then, on a trip home from Disneyland with the kids, Julie suddenly vanishes. Now Charlie fears something horrific has happened to her. And he becomes convinced that there are things she has kept from him. "A moving and suspenseful first novel... Tense and intriguing to the last page, this domestic thriller promises a bright future in crime fiction for Steinberg. Recommend this to fans of Harlan Coben, Robert Ludlum, and Lisa Unger." —*Booklist*

Tanenbaum, Robert K. [Echoes of My Soul](#) (\$9.99). Former NYC DA Tanenbaum writes a fascinating, moving account of an actual case: the first insider's account of the historic Wylie-Hoffert case, from the shocking double-murder to the wrenching interrogation of an innocent young man. "Manhattan Assistant D.A. Glass took an interest in the case and began to question the police tactics used to accuse Whitmore. A clue worthy of crime fiction eventually leads to the capture of the real killer, and a trial cleverly conducted by Keenan reveals police incompetence (and possible malfeasance) and sets Whitmore free. Tanenbaum's take on the case, which was cited by the Supreme Court in its 1966 *Miranda v. State of Arizona* decision regarding self-incrimination, is a thrilling and insightful addition to the true crime genre." —*PW*. I haven't presented nonfiction as a Pick before, but this terrific book is as gripping as any novel. Tanenbaum appears Aug. 14 with a new Butch Karp thriller.

Unger, Lisa. [In the Blood](#) (\$7.99). Lana Granger lives a life of lies. She has told so many lies about where she comes from and who she is that the truth is like a cloudy nightmare she can't quite recall. About to graduate from college and with her trust fund almost tapped out, she takes a job babysitting a troubled boy named Luke. Expelled from schools all over the country, the manipulative young Luke is accustomed to controlling the people in his life. But, in Lana, he may have met his match. Or has Lana met hers? A truly terrific psychological thriller filled with surprises!

NEW IN MASS MARKET PAPERBACK

Alten, Steve. [Omega Project](#) (\$9.99)
Barclay, Linwood. [A Tap on the Window](#) (\$9.99) Suspense!
Barrett, Lorna. [Not the Killing Type](#) (\$7.99) Booktown #7
Brown, Sandra. [Deadline](#) (\$8)
Budewitz, Leslie. [Crime Rib](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Food Lover's Village #2
Bush, Nancy. [I'll Find You](#) (\$7.99)
Cass, Laurie. [Tailing a Tabby](#) (Signet \$7.99) Bookmobile Cat
Cleeland, Anne. [Murder in Thrall](#) (\$7.99) New Scotland Yard Mystery
Crockett, Jessie. [Maple Mayhem](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Sugar Grove, NH, #2
Douglas, Carole Nelson. [Cat in an Alien X-Ray](#) (\$7.99) Midnight Louis #24
Faust, Christa. [Gabriel Hunt—Hunt Beyond the Frozen Fire](#) (Titan \$7.99)
Francis, Felix. [Dick Francis' Refusal](#) (\$9.99) Sid Halley returns
Gaylin, Alison. [Stay with Me: A Brenna Spector Novel](#) (Harper \$5.99)
Gilstrap, John. [End Game](#) (Pinnacle \$9.99)
Griffin, WEB. [Last Witness](#) (\$9.99) Badge of Honor #11
Hamilton, Victoria. [Muffin But Murder](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Merry Muffin #2
Hechtman, Betty. [Silence of the Lambs Wool](#) (\$7.99) Yarn Retreat #2
Hyzy, Julie. [Grace against the Clock](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Manor House #5
Jance, JA. [The Old Blue Line](#) (Harper \$3.99) Joanna Brady short
Johnstone, William W. [Massacre Canyon](#) (Picador \$7.50) Western
Lowell, Virginia. [Cookies and Scream](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Cookie Cutter Shop
Ludlum, Robert. [The Holcroft Covenant](#) (\$9.99) Noel Holcroft 1970s
Preston, Douglas. [Cabinet of Curiosities](#) (Grand Central \$10) Reissue
Robards, Karen. [Last Kiss Goodbye](#) (Ballantine \$7.99) Romantic suspense
Robb, J D. [Concealed in Death](#) (\$7.99) Lt. Eve Dallas #38
Rosen, Delia. [To Kill a Matzo Ball](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Deadly Deli
Snow, Robert L. [Killers in the Family](#) (Berkley \$9.99) True Crime
Winter, Ariel. [Falling Star](#) (\$7.99) Twenty Year Death Trilogy #2
Winter, Ariel. [Malvineau Prison](#) (\$7.99) #1
Winter, Ariel. [Police at the Funeral](#) (\$7.99) #3

SciFi/Fantasy/Paranormal/Romance

Brooks, Terry. [High Druids Blade the Defenders of](#) (\$7.99)
Capshaw, Carla. [Second Chance Cinderella](#) (Harlequin \$5.99)
Cates, Bailey. [Some Enchanted Éclair](#) (Signet \$7.99) Magical Bakery
Eastman, Dawn. [Be Careful What You Witch for](#) (Berkley \$7.99)
Family Fortune Mystery
Evanovich, Janet. [Full Bloom](#) (\$8.99)
Galenorn, Yasmine. [Night's End](#) (Berkley \$7.99) Indigo Court
Goodkind, Terry. [Third Kingdom](#) (\$9.99)
Harper, Molly. [Better Homes and Hauntings](#) (Pocket \$7.99)
Paranormal romance
Johnson, Christine. [Groom By Design](#) (Harlequin \$5.99)
Historical romance
Laurens, Stephanie. [The Masterful Mr. Montague](#) (Harper \$7.99)
Regency romance
Mallory, Sarah. [The Scarlet Gown](#) (Harlequin \$6.50) Historical romance
Martin, Gail Z. [Deadly Curiosities](#) (\$7.99)
McCoy, Max. [Spirit is Willing](#) (Kensington \$7.99) Ophelia Wylde
Nash, Sophia. [Once and Future Duchess](#) (Harper \$7.99)
Historical romance
Roberts, Nora. [Last Boyfriend](#) (\$7.99)
Roberts, Nora. [Next Always](#) (\$7.99)
Rowen, Michelle. [From Fear to Eternity](#) (Signet \$7.99) Immortal Bites #3
Rowland, Diana. [How the White Trash Zombie Got Her](#) (DAW \$7.99)
Schultz, Jamie. [Premonitions](#) (Roc \$7.99)
Schield, Cat. [Taste of Temptation](#) (Harlequin \$5.25)

HISTORY/MYSTERY

✎Andersen, Laura. [The Boleyn Reckoning](#) (Random \$15). The conclusion to a trilogy about the Tudor king who never was: the son of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn—Henry IX—who, along with his sisters and those he holds most dear, approaches a dangerous crossroads. One which will force Elizabeth to choose between her brother and the country....

Burton, Jessie. [The Miniaturist Signed](#) (Picador \$33). The action takes place during the Dutch Golden Age, in 17th-century Amsterdam, along the Herengracht, one of the most important and prestigious canals in the city, the neighborhood of the richest and most influential. On an autumn day in 1686, eighteen-year-old Nella Oortman knocks at the door of a grand house in the wealthiest quarter of Amsterdam. She has come from the country to begin a new life as the wife of illustrious merchant trader Johannes Brandt, but instead she is met by his sharp-tongued sister, Marin. Only later does Johannes appear and present her with an extraordinary wedding gift: a cabinet-sized replica of their home. It is to be furnished by an elusive miniaturist, whose tiny creations mirror their real-life counterparts in unexpected ways. Nella is at first mystified by the closed world of the Brandt household, but as she uncovers its secrets she realizes the escalating dangers that await them all. This debut for fans of Chevalier's *The Girl with a Pearl Earring* and Tartt's *The Goldfinch*, set in 1700s Amsterdam, will be our **August History/Mystery Club Pick**, since I fell so in love with Beatriz Williams' [The Secret Life of Violet Grant](#) (Putnam \$26.95) tracking the investigation of a 1964 descendant of a 1910-14 woman physicist who disappeared from Germany never to be heard of again as to her fate that I made it the July History Pick.

Downie, Ruth. [Semper Fidelis](#) (\$17). Roman medicus Petros and his wife Tilla, back in Britannia. See our May Trade Paperback Picks.

✎Fremantle, Elizabeth. [Sisters of Treason: A Novel](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99) Early in Mary Tudor's turbulent reign, Lady Catherine and Lady Mary Grey are reeling after the brutal execution of their elder seventeen-year-old sister, Lady Jane Grey, and the succession is by no means stable. Neither sister is well suited to a dangerous life at court. Flirtatious Lady Catherine, thought to be the true heir, cannot control her compulsion to love and be loved. Her sister, clever Lady Mary, has a crooked spine and a tiny stature in an age when physical perfection equates to goodness—and both girls have inherited the Tudor blood that is more curse than blessing. For either girl to marry without royal permission would be a potentially fatal political act. It is the royal portrait painter, Levina Teerline, who helps the girls survive these troubled times. She becomes their mentor and confidante, but when the Queen's sister, the hot-headed Elizabeth, inherits the crown, life at court becomes increasingly treacherous for the surviving Grey sisters.

Goodwin, Jason. [The Baklava Club Signed](#) (Faber \$35). Edgar-winner [The Janissary Tree](#) (\$16) won my heart from the start. Set in mid-19th Century Istanbul, rife with political and harem politics, menacing in its threat, delightful in its sleuth, it also transports you: "When you read a historical mystery by Jason Goodwin, you take a magic carpet ride to the most exotic place on earth." —*The New York Times Book Review*. Now Yashim returns in his fifth and (so it's said, but I hope it's not true) final

case, one where European politics, Italian and Polish, roil the Golden Horn and the Bosphorus. Three naïve Italian liberals, exiled in Istanbul, have bungled their instructions to kill a Polish prince—instead, they’ve kidnapped him and absconded to an unused farmhouse. Little do they realize that their revolutionary cell has been penetrated by their enemies, who are passing along false orders under the code name *La Piuma*, the Feather. It falls to Yashim to unravel all this—he’s convinced that the prince is alive and that the Italians have hidden him somewhere. Yashim’s dear friend the impetuous Polish Ambassador to the Porte becomes ensnared. The Valide (from Martinique, the widowed wife of the present Sultan’s grandfather) plays a role: she’s invited a young Russian from Siberian exile hoping to get the Ottomans to push the Tsar to pardon her father, a Decembrist, to Istanbul. Lots of fireworks accompany a pulse-pounding wrap to this amazing series. [Click here](#) to order them all.

✠Gregory, Susanna. [Death of a Scholar Signed](#) (LittleBrown \$50). The 20th for 14th Century Cambridge physician/scholar Matthew Bartholomew. In the summer of 1358 the physician Matthew Bartholomew returns to Cambridge to learn that his beloved sister is in mourning after the unexpected death of her husband, Oswald Stanmore. Aware that his son has no interest in the cloth trade that made his fortune and reputation, Oswald has left the business to his widow, but a spate of burglaries in the town distracts Matthew from supporting Edith in her grief and attempting to keep the peace between her and her wayward son. As well as the theft of irreplaceable items from Michaelhouse, which threatens its very survival, a new foundation, Winwick Hall, is causing consternation amongst Matthew’s colleagues. Note: Gregory retired from Cambridge so books have to be shipped to her into deepest Wales, hence the price.

✠Huber, Anna Lee. [Grave Matter](#) (Berkley \$16). Lady Darby needs a safe haven after the death of a dear friend in 1830. This means a return to her home where she hopes her beloved brother Trevor and the merriment of the Hogmanay Ball will distract her. But when a caretaker is murdered and a grave is disturbed at nearby Dryburgh Abbey, Kiera is once more thrust into the cold grasp of death. While Kiera knows that aiding in another inquiry will only further tarnish her reputation, her knowledge of anatomy could make the difference in solving the case. But agreeing to investigate means Kiera must deal with the complicated emotions aroused in her by inquiry agent Sebastian Gage. When Gage arrives, he reveals that the incident at the Abbey was not the first—some fiend is digging up old bones and holding them for ransom... 3rd in a series set in Scotland.

✠Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses: Stormbird Signed](#) (Putnam \$27.95). See Event Books.

Izner, Claude. [Strangled in Paris](#) (\$15.99). The coast of Normandy, 1894: A mysterious young woman is rescued by an anonymous man after a deadly shipwreck. Paris, a few months later: The body of a well-dressed woman in a velvet mask is found in the abattoir district of La Villette in Paris. Next to the brutally strangled corpse, the drunk watchman—who witnessed the crime but was too terrified to intervene—finds a pendant featuring a black unicorn. Newly married bookseller Victor Legris is asked by an acquaintance to solve the murder of Louise Fontane, but he is initially baffled by this, his 6th case....

Jacobs, Diane. [Dear Abigail](#) (Random \$28). I missed this in Feb. but in fact it’s excellent summer reading. We know Abigail from the TV drama, David McCullough’s *John Adams*, and her letters. But she was one of three remarkable sisters. Mary Cranch (“the good girl to Abigail’s rebel, who grew up to be an immensely capable and shrewd administrator”) and Elizabeth Shaw Peabody (“the most literary of the three sisters and the most competitive with Abigail”). After quite a bit of research, she amassed a “trove of witty, politically savvy, gossipy, incisive, heart-breaking letters” they wrote to each other, their husbands and children throughout the years. “Abigail’s sisters were without doubt her intellectual equals. But because they didn’t marry John Adams, their correspondence was harder to find.” Women like Abigail Adams educated the children and ran the family farms or businesses in their husbands’ absence, dealing with the day-to-day of wartime. They risked smallpox inoculations. The drama of these lives makes fabulous reading.

✠Jecks, Michael. [Fields of Glory Signed](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$46) focuses on the decisive English victory in France at the Battle of Crécy. Reissued in his medieval mysteries: [The Boy-Bishop’s Glovemaker](#) ; [Devil’s Acolyte](#) ; [Sticklepath Strangler](#); [Tournament of Blood](#) (\$14.95 each)

✠Knight, Bernard. [Crown’s Crusade](#) (\$15.95). 1192. Returning from the Holy Land at the end of the Third Crusade with Richard the Lionheart, King of England, Sir John de Wolfe, a Devon knight, finds England simmering with rebellion. Discovering a body washed up on the shores of the River Exe, its throat cut, Sir John deduces that he was a king’s courier. Tasked by Hubert Walter, the Chief Justiciar, to find out why the man died and who killed him, Sir John de Wolfe finds himself drawn unwillingly into affairs of state. His new career as a king’s coroner is about to begin... Sir John’s 15th case now in paperback. Ordered upon request.

Loan-Wilsey, Anna. [A Sense of Entitlement](#) (Kensington \$15)). Victorian America—its class system is seen no more obviously than in Newport, summer playground of the rich during the season. Rob and I visited Newport last fall and toured two Vanderbilt mansions, built to make statements to society in a style so extravagant it still shocks and awes. It’s the setting for the 3rd investigation by traveling secretary Hattie Davish, a woman trying to make a living and stay respectable as a single woman. She arrives in the train of her author/employer Sir Arthur and family, but he is called back to England where his father is gravely ill and his wife seizes her moment to rid herself of the expense of Hattie by thrusting her into the household of the very wealthy Mrs. Mayhew. This socialite is organizing the part of the season, hoping Mrs. Astor will attend and cement her status. Librarian Loan-Wilsey has researched what the party, the Newport lifestyle, and life below stairs was like and lays them and a mystery before you. I like this as an antidote to *Downton Abbey*.

✠Marston, Edward. [Peril on the Royal Train](#) (\$16.95). The Victorian Railway Detective—see British Books.

✠Michael, Livi. [Succession Signed](#) (Penguin UK \$35). 1445. Henry VI is married by proxy to Margaret of Anjou: an unpopular choice that causes national uproar. At the same time, the infant Margaret Beaufort is made a great heiress after her father, the Earl of Somerset’s, death. Everyone at court is competing to be her guardian: she brings with her the Beaufort fortune and an

advantageous alliance with her uncle. In the years that follow, English rule in France collapses, Henry VI goes insane, civil war erupts, and families are pitted against each other. And though Margaret Beaufort is still little more than a child, by the age of thirteen she has married twice and given birth to her only son, the future King of England. For readers like me fascinated by Anya Seton's Katherine; also background for the Conn Iggulden historical listed here.

Mitchell, Elizabeth. [Liberty's Torch](#) (Grove \$27). In the days before crowd-sourcing, how was an artist to fund a daring project? Here's the fascinating, myth-busting story of how quixotic French sculptor Frédéric Auguste Bartholdi, hungry for fame and adoration, brought the iconic statue to America. Following a trip to Egypt where he was inspired by the pyramids and the Sphinx, and with France in turmoil following the Franco-Prussian war, Bartholdi made for America, carrying with him the idea of a colossal statue of a woman in his mind. With no help coming from the French and American governments, he enlisted the help of a number of notable men and women of the age, including Joseph Pulitzer, Victor Hugo, Gustave Eiffel, and Emma Lazarus, and through a variety of money-making schemes and some very modern-seeming fundraising campaigns, collected almost all of the money required.

Pattison, Eliot. [Original Death](#) (\$15.95). The French and Indian War provides a backdrop for a complex tale of clashing cultures and mass murder. In the summer of 1760, Scotsman Duncan McCallum accompanies his Indian mate, Conawago, on a journey to reconnect with the remainder of his tribe, Christians all. A massacre they find at Bethel Church sends Conawago into deep grief. There are soldiers all around. Madame Pritchard, a Frenchwoman who feigns deafness so that the English don't imprison her or worse, reports that the raiders took the children of the community with them. With the help of a Mohawk named Sagatchie, they begin their slow pursuit, which is full of obstacles and hardships. "Duncan's third mystery, rich in period detail, is often somber and unblinking in its portrayal of a dark period in history."—*Kirkus*

Perutz, Leo. [The Swedish Cavalier](#) (\$14.95). A thief and a nobleman, both down on their luck, cross paths on a bitter winter's day in 1701. One, known locally as "The Fowl-Filcher," is fleeing the gallows; the other, the callow Christian von Tornefeld, has escaped execution to fight for his Swedish king. Neither will reach his destination. Sent with a message to secure aid for von Tornefeld, the thief falls in love with his companion's secret fiancée. He resolves to win her love for himself, and through a clever stratagem, exchanges his fate for the other man's. Risking everything to attain the woman and station of his dreams, he becomes the Swedish cavalier, staying one step ahead of exposure. Later, he sacrifices everything so that his daughter won't learn of his secret past. In this book he considered is masterpiece, Leo Perutz has created a picaresque world of barons and brigands, swashbuckling dragoons and spurned lovers, gentleman farmers and masked robbers, and lucky parchments, magic spells, and mystical visions.

✦Seward, Desmond. [Richard III: England's Black Legend](#) (Pantheon \$27.95). With the recent discovery of Richard III's remains, here is a newly-revised edition of the Seward's biography of the last fully Yorkist king. Read with Iggulden.

Smith, Dan. [Red Winter](#) (Pantheon \$25.95). Karen reviews: "The cold, bleak, sometimes brutal weather provides the backdrop for this story which takes place during the Russian Revolution... See Global Books for more.

Spann, Susan. [Blade of the Samurai](#) (St Martins \$25.99). 1565. We're in the capital city of Kyoto before it moved to Edo (Tokyo) as is the case in Laura Joh Rowland's series. The shogun, not yet the dynasty Rowland portrays, lives in a walled compound. Master ninja Hiro Hattori receives a pre-dawn visit from Kazu, a fellow shinobi working undercover at the shogunate. Hours before, the shogun's cousin, Saburo, was stabbed to death in the shogun's palace. The murder weapon: Kazu's personal dagger. Kazu says he's innocent, and begs for Hiro's help, but his story gives Hiro reason to doubt the young shinobi's claims. When the shogun summons Hiro and Father Mateo, the Portuguese Jesuit priest under Hiro's protection, to find the killer, Hiro finds himself forced to choose between friendship and the samurai's code of honor.... I mention Rowland as this Shinobi series is not up to its high standards.

✦Todd, Charles. [Unwilling Accomplice Signed](#) (Harper \$27). WWI Nurse Bess Crawford #6 in a series I truly enjoy—it lacks the melancholy of the Ian Rutledge mysteries. Home on leave, is asked to accompany a wounded soldier to Buckingham Palace, where he's to be decorated by the king. The next morning, when Bess goes to collect him, his room is empty and he's nowhere to be found. Both the army and the nursing service blame Bess for losing a patient, a hero at that... As ever with the Todds, the meticulous record-keeping of the British Army commands respect as the case develops into a countryside chase.... Probably won't arrive until early August.

Tremayne, Peter. [The Devil's Seal Signed](#) (Headline \$43). The 25th Sister Fidelma Mystery. When a curious deputation of religieux arrives in Cashel, death follows close behind and Sister Fidelma and her companion, Eadulf, seem unable to stem the bloodshed and discover the sinister reason behind it. Is one of the deputation responsible? What was the Venerable Verax, the elderly scholar from Rome, hiding? Was there an evil secret behind the austere and arrogant Bishop Arwald of Magonsaete? Indeed, what was the real reason behind Eadulf's own brother, Egric's, unexpected appearance at Cashel to coincide with these events? Victims and suspects combined to make a tangled skein that results in one of the most complex and bloody mysteries that Fidelma and Eadulf have ever had to face. Also new: [Atonement of Blood](#) (St Martins \$25.99), an older Sister Fidelma.

Tualla, Kris. [A Discreet Gentleman of Discovery](#) (Creative Arts \$12.99). Our July History Paperback Pick. Brander Hansen lost his hearing at age seven, his inheritance at twenty-three. Furious at his father's betrayal, Brander leaves home to make his way as Lord Olsen, a 'discreet gentleman of discovery' in 1721 Christiania, Norway. He intends to gain his own estate and begins buying the debt markers on Kildahlshus. Baroness Regin Kildahl's husband has gambled away her estate and sunk to more dangerous habits. She writes to Lord Olsen soliciting his help saving both her husband and her home. When her husband dies, Regin offers herself and her title to anyone who will redeem his gambling debts, unaware of Brander's plan and circumventing his efforts. The Hansen heir accepts her offer and hires Lord Olsen to deliver his bride. Brander's choices are clear: give the

widow and her estate to his younger brother, or claim them both as his own. But who would accept a deaf husband? First in a series.

✎Wallace, Wendy. [The Painted Bridge](#) (\$16). “A chilling page-turner about the muddy line between sanity and madness”
Outside London behind a stone wall stands Lake House, a private asylum for genteel women of a delicate nature. In the winter of 1859, recently married Anna Palmer becomes its newest arrival, tricked by her husband into leaving home, incarcerated against her will, and declared hysterical and unhinged. With no doubts as to her sanity, Anna is convinced that she will be released as soon as she can tell her story. But Anna learns that liberty will not come easily. The longer she remains at Lake House, the more she realizes that—like the ethereal bridge over the asylum’s lake—nothing is as it appears. She begins to experience strange visions and memories that may lead her to the truth about her past, herself, and to freedom...or lead her so far into the recesses of her mind that she may never escape.

✎Westerson, Jeri. [Cup of Blood](#) (Creative Arts \$13.99). Crispin Guest was disgraced and banished from court seven years ago. Seven long years of brooding over his lost lands, title, and wealth. But they haven’t been idle years, for Crispin has put his intellect to work as the “Tracker,” hired to find lost objects and solve murders. When a corpse turns up in his favorite tavern, Crispin begins an inquiry, never dreaming the murdered man to be a Knight Templar—an order thought to be extinct for the past seventy-five years—and charged with guarding a certain religious relic that is now missing. Scrapes with shadowy minions of the French anti-pope, a sultry courtier who wants Crispin to follow a mysterious man, two people from Crispin’s past he would rather forget, and a cunning young cutpurse all add up to more than murder in this intriguing prequel to the acclaimed series.

Yanique, Tiphanie. [Land of Love and Drowning](#) (Riverhead \$27.95). In the early 1900s an important ship sinks into the Caribbean Sea, just as the Virgin Islands are transferred from Danish to American rule. Orphaned by the sunken vessel are two sisters and their half-brother, now faced with an uncertain identity and future. Each of them is unusually beautiful, and each is in possession of a particular magic that will either sink or save them. Chronicling three generations of an island family from 1916 to the 1970s, *Land of Love and Drowning* is a novel of love and magic, set against the emergence of Saint Thomas into the modern world. Wholly unique, with echoes of Toni Morrison, Gabriel Garcia Márquez, and the author’s own Caribbean family history, the story is told in a language and rhythm that evokes an entire world and way of life and love. Following the Bradshaw family through sixty years of fathers and daughters, mothers and sons, love affairs, curses, magical gifts, loyalties, births, deaths, and triumphs. We may get signed copies.