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Collector's Corner—April 2015 Volume 24 No. 2

Rob and I are off on an exploration of the Everglades (how have we missed this till now?) and then a cruise from Miami to Barcelona while various repairs are being made to our house (I have mentioned the puppy, right? Plus there was a roof that leaked last fall). Travel is my best reading time so I am shipping a huge carton of May ARCs to read. Thus the reviews in the May section below are mostly quotes from others.

I'm here through Saturday and back in time to host Phil Kerr April 16.
Wishing you all a glorious start to spring, and good reading of your own
Barbara

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME AND SPY CLASSICS AND A SPECIAL APRIL 29 EVENING WITH KING AND PETERS

On April 29 at 7:00 PM, Laurie King and Barbara Peters present a program on King's work, their joint work, and the new British Crime and Spy Classics Series published by Poisoned Pen Press. This is great news for you fans of British fiction and cozies too. Edwards, a consultant to the British Library for the series, a PPP author of the Lake District Mysteries (new one in September), is also the archivist for the Detection Club, that fabled organization chaired in the past by Dorothy L. Sayers, Agatha Christie, HRF Keating, and, currently, Simon Brett. Membership is by invitation and embraces a fabulous roster of authors. Edwards has produced a history dated 1930-49 of this "mysterious literary club" that transformed crime fiction: [The Golden Age of Murder with Signed Bookplates](#) (Harper \$27.99). It's scholarly but it also dishes the dirt and thus may surprise you. What a treat! Edwards has signed bookplates for you.

Here are the May British Library Crime Classics: I love the old travel posters used for the cover art and Martin Edwards' insightful Introductions.

Bude, John. [The Sussex Downs Murders](#) (\$12.95). #1 in series. From the 1930s, a cleverly plotted novel in the tradition of Agatha Christie. Two brothers, John and William Rother, live and work together at Chalklands Farm in the beautiful Sussex Downs, along with William's wife. John is the senior and the money man, part of which comes from the Rother's trade in lime from their busy kiln. Their peaceful rural life is shattered when John Rother drives away to Wales—and disappears. His car and his bloodied cap are found that night a mere 11 miles away. Has he been kidnapped? Or is his disappearance more sinister? Superintendent Meredith is called to investigate – and begins to suspect the worst when human bones are discovered in the kiln. Unhurried, his patient piecing together of various investigative threads leads you the reader from one suspect to the next, until...

Kingston, Charles. [Murder in Piccadilly](#) (\$12.95). #2. Kingston (1884-1944) wrote over 20 mysteries in the period between the two world wars. Many are set in London, like this one that begins when Robert Cheldon falls for a pretty young dancer at the Frozen Fang in Soho. He envisions an idyllic marriage, but Nancy is set not so much on Cheldon as on the fortune he expects to inherit. Miserly Uncle Massy is not willing to relinquish the ten thousand a year the couple requires. Any crime fiction fancier realizes that the stage is now set for murder—but whose? Of the two, I think Bude reads better for modern mystery fans.

OUTLANDER UPDATES

To go with the April 4 STARZ resumption of *Outlander*:
Gabaldon, Diana. [The Outlandish Companion Volume 1 \(Revised\) Signed and with a Gaelic Greeting](#) (Random \$40). Updates the first four novels. Signed with a Gaelic greeting only available in our copies.
Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlander 4-Copy Boxed Set](#) (Random \$39.96). The first four, *Outlander*, *Dragonfly in Amber*, *Voyager*, *Drums of Autumn*, in a boxed set of mass market paperbacks.
Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlander Series One Blu-Ray Set](#) (\$45.99)
Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlander Series One DVD](#) (\$38.99)
To order for October 24: [The Outlandish Companion Volume II](#) (\$40), covering books 5-8.

COOKING UP CRIMES: Neither Signed

Hyzy, Julie/Laura Childs, eds. [The Cozy Cookbook](#) (Penguin \$16). More than 100 recipes from such as Avery Aames, Ellery Adams, Laura Childs, Cleo Coyle, Victoria Hamilton, Julie Hyzy, Jenn McKinlay, Paige Shelton. Mouth-watering appetizers, entrées, and desserts that will leave your family or book club group asking, "Whodunit?" In addition to recipes, choose a sleuth du jour from our menu of mystery series and get a taste of each of our authors' bread and butter—page-turning puzzles and stay-up-all-night suspense in excerpts from their bestselling works. Whether you like your meals sautéed, roasted, baked, or served cold like revenge, *The Cozy Cookbook* has something to satisfy every mystery fan.

White, Kate, ed. [The Mystery Writers of America Cookbook](#) (Quirk \$24.95). Wickedly good recipes from Lee Child, Harlan Coben, Mary Higgins Clark, Diane Mott Davidson, Nelson DeMille, Gillian Flynn, Sue Grafton (it must involve peanut butter!), Charlaine Harris, JA Jance, Brad Meltzer, James Patterson, Louise Penny, Kathy Reichs, Lisa Scottoline, Karin Slaughter, Scott Turow, and other pot stirrers. Hard-boiled Breakfasts, Cozy Desserts.... Plenty to savor. Color photos too.

SIGNED BOOKS FOR APRIL

Anderson, James. [The Never-Open Desert Diner](#) (Caravel \$25 April 22). CJ Box calls this debut novel and new **Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** “lyrical, whimsical, atmospheric, and skillfully rendered. *Library Journal* finds that, “Like a flash flood cascading down an arroyo, once the action begins, it’s nonstop.” *PW* chimes in with, “Anderson distills the heat and shimmering haze of the Utah desert into his fine first novel.... Just as important as the mysteries of human entanglement are the desert’s brilliant light, torrential downpours, and vast night sky.” Ben Jones is a truck driver, so nice a guy and soft touch that he’s descending into bankruptcy. His route in a lonely highway He delivers for UPS and FedEx but not DHL across a stretch of Utah heading north to Salt Lake and south to Moab. On his route is an old diner built in 1929 and for a time, 1955-87, it figured in a number of B-movies and had some fame as the Well-Known Desert Diner. Then tragedy struck the owners and the widower became a recluse repelling customers, hence its “Never-Open” renaming. One day Ben, needing to pee, ventures into the hidden entrance to an abandoned off-highway development and finds a beautiful woman playing a cello in the model home. He beats an embarrassed retreat. But something later calls him back... and the story flows, filled with surprises, from there....

Archer, Jeffrey. [Mightier Than the Sword](#) (Macmillan \$46 4 unreserved copies) opens with an IRA bomb exploding during the MV *Buckingham*’s maiden voyage across the Atlantic—but how many passengers lose their lives? When Harry Clifton visits his publisher in New York, he learns that he has been elected as the new president of English PEN, and immediately launches a campaign for the release of a fellow author, Anatoly Babakov, who’s imprisoned in Siberia. Babakov’s crime? Writing a book called Uncle Joe, a devastating insight into what it was like to work for Stalin. So determined is Harry to see Babakov released and the book published, that he puts his own life in danger. His wife Emma, chairman of Barrington Shipping, is facing the repercussions of the IRA attack on the Buckingham. Some board members feel she should resign, and Lady Virginia Fenwick will stop at nothing to cause Emma’s downfall. And so goes the continuation of The Clifton Chronicles.

Atherton, Nancy. [Aunt Dimity and the Summer King](#) (Viking \$27). Finch has always been a magical sort of village, not unlike Louise Penny’s Three Pines. Lori Shepherd, her lawyer husband Bill, and their twins have long lived in Finch, lately joined by Bill’s retired father, a Boston widower, lawyer too. But Willis, Sr., is now affianced to the dismay of the single village women, and his two sisters, aka the harpies, are coming from Boston to the wedding. Lori and Bill, happy with the birth of baby Bess, know this means it’s time for Lori to reengage with village life. She’s soon shocked to see four cottages standing empty, and questions what’s the deal with the leasing agent? But a chance walk down an unfrequented path and an encounter with the owner of an estate at its end changes up life in Finch. He’s an eccentric, elderly inventor called Arthur Hargreaves, aka the Summer King. Why does he have detailed maps of Finch in his library?

Baldacci, David. [The Memory Man](#) (Grand Central \$30). Mega-best-selling author Baldacci hits a milestone with his 30th adult novel, at the same time launching a new series. His hero, Amos Decker, has hyperthymesia—no, not a disease but the ability to remember everything thanks to a violent collision that ended his

first ever play in the NFL—and left him with a game-changing after effect. So he became a cop, a detective. Tragically, 20 years in, he returned from a stakeout one evening and entered a nightmare—his wife, young daughter, and brother-in-law had been murdered. His family destroyed, their killer’s identity as mysterious as the motive behind the crime, and unable to forget a single detail from that horrible night, Decker finds his world collapsing around him. He leaves the police force, loses his home, and winds up on the street, taking piecemeal jobs as a private investigator when he can. But over a year later, a man turns himself in to the police and confesses to the murders. At the same time a horrific event nearly brings Burlington to its knees, and Decker is called back in to help with this investigation. Decker also seizes his chance to learn what really happened to his family that night. To uncover the stunning truth, he must use his remarkable gift....” This thriller cries out to be our **April Thriller Club Pick though it may arrive a bit late depending on Baldacci’s schedule.**

Bauer, Belinda. [Shut Eye](#) (Bantam \$36 4 unreserved copies). Five footprints are the only sign that Daniel Buck was ever here. And now they are all his mother has left. Every day, Anna Buck guards the little prints in the cement. Polishing them to a shine. Keeping them safe. Spiraling towards insanity. When a psychic offers hope, Anna grasps it. Who wouldn’t? Maybe he can tell her what happened to her son... But is this man what he claims to be? Is he a visionary? A shut eye? Or a cruel fake, preying on the vulnerable? Or is he something far, far worse? More amazing crime fiction from the Gold Dagger winner who always surprises.

Berry, Steve. [The Patriot Threat](#) (St Martins \$26.95 April 7). Cotton Malone, once a member of an elite intelligence division within the Justice Department known as the Magellan Billet, is now retired and owns an old bookshop in Denmark. But when his former-boss, Stephanie Nelle, asks him to track a rogue North Korean who may have acquired some top secret Treasury Department files—the kind that could bring the United States to its knees—Malone is vaulted into a harrowing 24-hour chase that begins on the canals in Venice and ends in the remote highlands of Croatia. With appearances by Franklin Roosevelt, Andrew Mellon, a curious painting that still hangs in the National Gallery of Art, and some eye-opening revelations from the US \$1 bill, this riveting, non-stop adventure is trademark Steve Berry. [Click here](#) to order Berry’s earlier thrillers.

Blake, James Carlos. [The House of Wolfe](#) (Grove \$24 April 2). Ace Atkins says, “...a complex kidnapping tale, brings to mind Faulkner’s storytelling in *As I Lay Dying* with the grittiness and realism of Cormac McCarthy’s border tales. Brilliant and uncompromising, Blake again proves why he’s one of the best writers working today.” Patrick adds, “In Blake’s masterly third Border Noir a female member of the American branch of the Wolfe family (a large clan of outlaws who operate numerous legitimate businesses and deal in illegal arms on both sides of the U.S./Mexican border) finds herself in big trouble. In Mexico City, kidnappers led by El Galán, an up-and-coming gangster intent on making a name for himself, abduct college-age Jessie Juliet Wolfe, along with an entire 10-person wedding party, and demand payment of a \$5 million ransom within 24 hours. With aid from Los Jaguaros, as the Mexican Blake family’s criminal network is known, Rudy Max Wolfe, a cousin of Jessie’s, and

Charlie Fortune, another cousin, hope to slip into Mexico undetected and rescue Jessie, but of course everything goes to hell quickly.... [Click here](#) to order the two earlier Border Noirs.

Bowen, Peter. [Bitter Creek](#) (Open Road \$16.99 trade paperback). We've all missed Montana Métis Gabriel Du Pré and the "Toussaint" community which includes his main squeeze Madelaine, his two daughters, billionaire Bart, the sheriff and his wife.... It's been some years since this, one of our bestselling series, has had a new entry. *Bitter Creek* blends the present with a real cold case: what happened to a band of Métis who were last seen fleeing from (US) General Black Jack Pershing's troops in 1915? Are the rumors of a massacre at Bitter Creek true? And why would anyone today want to keep the truth of it buried? A Lt. John Pachen kicks this off when he arrives to persuade Madelaine's son, a wounded Marine, to accept the Navy Cross.... Great reading for fans of Margaret Coel, William Kent Krueger, and Craig Johnson.

Bradley, Alan. [As Chimney Sweepers Come to Dust](#) (Orion \$40). Following the dramatic events at the conclusion of *The Dead in Their Vaulted Arches* and the shocking revelations about her mother, Flavia de Luce finds herself expelled from the familiar confines of Bishop's Lacey and her beloved family home, Buckshaw, and 'packed off', as she puts it, to Miss Bodycote's Female Academy in Canada. With its forbidding headmistress and bizarre rules, adapting to Miss Bodycote's is quite a challenge. But Flavia is soon on familiar ground, when, on her first night, a mummified body is dislodged from a chimney, and she is presented with a gruesome puzzle to solve. [Click here](#) to order Flavia's earlier cunning investigations.

Caldwell, Ian. [The Fifth Gospel](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99). We sold out twice but have acquired 20 more Signed firsts. A terrific Easter gift. The characters are rich and the history of the Vatican and the Gospels compelling, whatever religion (or none) you may practice. Highly recommended.

Carter, MJ. [The Strangler Vine](#) (Putnam \$26.95 April 3). Every now and then I make a **First Mystery Club Pick** out of historical crime, generally when it has some relevance to the present day. And with the echoes of colonialism all around us, this account of deeds in 1837 India before the Raj, plus the myth busting element, makes *The Strangler Vine* an **FMC Pick**. Here's the *LJ* Starred Review, one of several: "From the thrilling prologue to the satisfying conclusion, former journalist and nonfiction author Carter's (*Anthony Blunt: His Lives*) first foray into fiction hooks the reader into a ripping adventure ride, full of danger, conspiracy, and trickery. Young William Avery, a soldier in the service of the British East India Company in 1837 India, receives an unexpected assignment. He is to accompany Jeremiah Blake, a secret political agent with an astonishing talent for languages and Sherlock Holmesian disguises, on a mission to find the scandalous British writer Xavier Mountstuart, who is missing. Each twist and turn of the duo's journey draws them deeper into the mystery of the sinister Thuggee cult and closer to uncovering the shocking truth at the heart of the puzzle of Mountstuart's disappearance." If you have embraced the romance of the Raj, this account will reshape your image. Avery is young, callow, and something of a sucker, so in part the narrative is his coming-of-age story. Blake is an Englishman gone native, widower of a Hindu wife, a wreck of a man, not a nabob, and over-confident.

But what grabbed me the most are the men up the command chain, their shameless self-interest. It's important to remember that the actual name of the Company—chartered as a private venture by Queen Elizabeth I—was *Governor and Company of Merchants of London trading with the East Indies*. It was always all about trade and profits—and greed—but then it grew into political power until the 1857 Mutiny brought in the Crown. The Company was dissolved in 1874. If you haven't run into an account of the Thuggee cult—Carter embraces a revisionist view—you will be further surprised by this debut given high praise by Bernard Cornwell who knows a thing or two about the dynamics it portrays.

Coben, Harlan. [The Stranger](#) (Dutton \$27.95 March 27). In case we have any left, this presents a website so bizarre (to me) and a kind of undirected malice that chills. Coben was doing domestic suspense way before Gillian Flynn's *Gone Girl*.

Connolly, John. [Song of Shadows](#) (Hodder \$36). Grievously wounded private detective Charlie Parker investigates a case that has its origins in a Nazi concentration camp during the Second World War.

Davis, Lindsey. [Deadly Election](#) (Hodder \$39). When a body is discovered inside a large chest that's about to go under the hammer at the Falco family auction house, Flavia Albia throws herself into the investigation. For one thing, it'd be nice to beat her adoptive father at his own game. For another, it'll give her yet another chance to work with Manlius Faustus, the man she just can't quite get enough of. But when Faustus then invites her to get involved in the Roman elections, Albia discovers links between the politician they're working for and the murder she's investigating. And those links implicate none other than Faustus. Davis excels at blending real Roman history with a delightfully imagined, sometimes dysfunctional but always triumphant, family of "private eyes." You lovers of Roman novels, [click here](#) to order Davis' books.

DeSilva, Bruce. [A Scourge of Vipers](#) (Forge \$25.99 April 21). This is a terrific new tale from the Edgar winning novelist/journalist; in its way it's an elegy to journalism, responsible journalism, something that should make all of us nervous. The plot? To solve Rhode Island's budget crisis, the state's colorful governor, Attila the Nun, wants to legalize sports gambling; but her plan has unexpected consequences. Organized crime, professional sports leagues, and others who have a lot to lose—or gain—if gambling is made legal flood the state with money to buy the votes of state legislators. Liam Mulligan, investigative reporter for The Providence Dispatch, wants to investigate, but his bottom-feeding corporate bosses at the dying newspaper have no interest in serious reporting. So Mulligan goes rogue, digging into the story on his own time. When a powerful state legislator turns up dead, an out-of-state bag man gets shot, and his cash-stuffed briefcase goes missing, Mulligan finds himself the target of shadowy forces who seek to derail his investigation by destroying his career, his reputation, and perhaps even his life. In its Starred Review *PW* notes of the Edgar winner's new novel, "The lean prose and clever plotting will remind hard-boiled fans of Loren Estleman's Amos Walker novels." I add Archer Mayor and Jon Talton to Estleman. I love the way this plays out and so it becomes our **April Surprise Me! Club Pick**. [Click here](#) to order DeSilva's earlier books.

Donoghue, John. [Death's Head Chess Club](#) (Atlantic UK \$34). Karen Shaver reviews: The game of chess becomes an unexpected link between an SS officer, Peter Meissner and an Auschwitz inmate, Emil Clement, known as “the Watchmaker.” Meissner was wounded and deemed only fit for administrative duties at the concentration camp. His first task was to improve morale among his men. He introduces the idea of a chess club where the men could compete and gamble on the games. He learns that the inmates play chess as well, the Watchmaker having a reputation of “unbeatable”. The idea is suggested that German staff play against the inmate to show the superiority of their race. The games begin and the Watchmaker consistently wins, refusing to purposely lose a game, despite possible consequences. His victories allow the inmates, one of the things that cannot be tolerated, and that is hope. Twenty years later, Peter, who is now in the clergy, and Emil meet up at an international chess tournament. Peter is anxious to talk, but Emil is resistant to any interaction. Peter persists, and tells the backstory of their time in the camp. Reviewers have called this book “very intelligent” and “brilliantly written.” For those who know the game of chess, moves are described and supplemented by a glossary of terms. The read is riveting, thoughtful and demonstrates the unexpected events that might cause some to fight for survival and trust and others who choose to give up.

Ephron, Hallie. [Night, Night, Sleep Tight](#) (Morrow \$26.99 April 14). Los Angeles, 1985. When Deirdre Unger makes the drive from San Diego to Beverly Hills to help her father put his dilapidated house on the market, she's expecting to deal with his usual kvetching and dark moods. But she gets a lot more than she expected. . . . In a cruel Sunset Boulevard—in a twist, Deirdre arrives home to find her father facedown in his too-small swimming pool—dead. At first, Deirdre assumes her father's death was a tragic accident. But the longer she stays in town, the more Deirdre begins to suspect that everything isn't as open-and-closed as she first presumed. The sudden resurfacing of Deirdre's childhood BFF Joelen Nichol—daughter of the famous and infamous Elenor “Bunny” Nichol—seems like more than a coincidence. Back in 1963, Joelen confessed to killing her movie-star mother's boyfriend. Deirdre was at the Nichols' house the night of the murder, which was also the night she suffered her own personal tragedy. Could all these events be connected? Craig Johnson writes, “Like that exquisitely mixed highball, that perfect little black dress, or that luminescent string of pearls, Hallie Ephron's novel undulates with suspense and expertly puts the tinsel in Tinseltown.” Ephron, also a reviewer for the *Boston Globe*, is the author of earlier novels plus *Writing and Selling Your Mystery Novel* (Writers Digest Book \$16.99) you can [click here](#) to order.

Fowler, Christopher. [Bryant and May and the Burning Man](#) (Doubleday \$42). London is under siege. A banking scandal has filled the city with violent protests, and as the anger in the streets detonates, a young homeless man burns to death after being caught in the crossfire between rioters and the police. But all is not as it seems; an opportunistic killer is using the chaos to exact revenge, but his intended victims are so mysteriously chosen that the Peculiar Crimes Unit is called in to find a way of stopping him. Using their network of eccentric contacts, elderly detectives Arthur Bryant and John May hunt down a murderer who adopts incendiary methods of execution. But they soon

find their investigation taking an apocalyptic turn as the case comes to involve the history of mob rule, corruption, rebellion, punishment and the legend of Guy Fawkes. At the same time, several members of the PCU team reach dramatic turning points in their lives—but the most personal tragedy is yet to come, for as the race to bring down a cunning killer reaches its climax, Arthur Bryant faces his own devastating day of reckoning. “I always said we'd go out with a hell of a bang,” warns Bryant. . . . London history, a terrific concept and lively writing make this series a staff favorite! [Click here](#) to order earlier PC cases.

Griffiths, Elly. [Ghost Fields](#) (Quercus \$35). Norfolk is experiencing a July heat wave when a construction crew unearths a macabre discovery – a buried WWII plane with the pilot still inside. Forensic archaeologist Ruth Galloway quickly realizes that the skeleton couldn't possibly be the pilot, and DNA tests identify the man as Fred Blackstock, a local aristocrat who had been reported dead at sea. When the remaining members of the Blackstock family learn about the discovery, they seem strangely frightened by the news. Events are further complicated by a TV company that wants to make a film about Norfolk's deserted air force bases, the so-called Ghost Fields, which have been partially converted into a pig farm run by one of the younger Blackstocks. As production begins, Ruth notices a mysterious man lurking close to the Blackstocks' family home. Then human bones are found on the family's pig farm. [Click here](#) to order Ruth's earlier investigations, best read in order.

Gruen, Sara. [At the Water's Edge](#) (Random \$29). A trio of privileged Philadelphia socialites — Maddie, her husband, Ellis, and their friend, Hank — travel to the Scottish Highlands during WWII to prove the existence of the Loch Ness Monster. There, they find themselves among villagers dealing with the atrocities of a war that they have blithely ignored. And Maddie discovers that she, too, has paid too little attention to the world and to her own life. In its way this is a coming of age story, but for a grown up. The period detail and the author's love of the landscape are warming, not a surprise from the author of the longtime bestseller *Water for Elephants*.” We have just 12 copies so order quickly.

Hannah, Kristin. [The Nightingale](#) (St Martins \$32.50 tip ins). We sold out shortly after Hannah's event but we do have a few of these coming if you missed this bestseller and #1 Indie Next Pick centering on two sisters who pursue different paths in southern France during WWII but save many of France's Jews.

Havill, Steven F. [Blood Sweep](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 in stock). As Dana Stabenow is to Alaska and Archer Mayor to Vermont, so is Steven Havill to New Mexico—mostly down in its boot heel in a fictional Posadas Country. There's some of Michael McGarrity and Margaret Coel, too, in the Posadas County Mysteries which first appeared in 1991.”In Havill's engrossing 20th mystery set in New Mexico's Posadas County (after 2013's *NightZone*), cop Estelle Reyes-Guzman is so busy that she can't take the persistent phone calls from her local bank. When she finally does, she gets her first hint that something's wrong. Estelle's 99-year-old mother, Teresa Reyes, has requested a cashier's check for \$8,000 drawn from her savings account. Teresa says that a colleague of Estelle's, a colonel in the Mexican *judiciales*, requested the money. To add to her worries, Estelle's younger son tells her that a man claiming to be her uncle called looking for his niece. The story line is satisfyingly complex,

but the novel's great strength is its well-rendered setting, from the opening description of a silent, motionless antelope to the evocation of a dry riverbed. The concluding note of empathy for the many people trying to cross the border is moving without being heavy-handed." ~*Publisher's Weekly* Starred Review. *Booklist* adds, "The Posadas County mysteries are carefully plotted, subtly written, and populated by an endearing, evolving cast of characters. A worthy entry in a fine series that appeals equally to procedural fans and to those who favor mysteries with a small-town setting." Click here to order them all, starting with [Heartshot](#) (\$14.95).

Henshaw, Mark. [The Snow Kimono](#) (Headline \$39). On the same day that retired police inspector Auguste Jovert receives a letter from a woman claiming to be his daughter, he returns to his Paris apartment to find a stranger waiting for him. That stranger is a Japanese professor called Tadashi Omura. What's brought him to Jovert's doorstep is not clear, but then he begins to tell his story – a story of a fractured friendship, lost lovers, orphaned children, and a body left bleeding in the snow. As Jovert pieces together the puzzle of Omura's life, he can't help but draw parallels with his own; for he too has led a life that's been extraordinary and dangerous – and based upon a lie.

Hess, Joan. [Pride V Prejudice](#) (St Martins \$27). It's always a treat to spend time with the acerbic Claire Malloy, now a semi-retired bookseller, nearly done mom, and newly married to her longtime beau Peter Rosen, the police chief. With efficient staff running the Book Depot and Caron closing in on college (Inez too), Claire is intrigued to be summoned for jury duty. Alas, the prosecutor of the murder case harbors a grudge against Peter and humiliates Claire on the voir dire. So, she vows revenge. And hunts down the accused, a woman charged with murdering her husband, and offers to help prove her innocence. Hmm... Some of Claire's earlier cases are still in print. [Click here](#).

Joy, David. [Where All the Light Tends to Go](#) (Putnam \$25.95 a few in stock). **This First Mystery Club Pick** has big buzz and bestseller status. Everyone on staff ate it up. "[A] remarkable first novel... This isn't your ordinary coming-of-age novel, but with his bone-cutting insights into these men and the region that bred them, Joy makes it an extraordinarily intimate experience."—Marilyn Stasio, *The New York Times Book Review*. "[An] accomplished debut... In Appalachia, a young outlaw, Jacob McNeely, struggles to escape what Faulkner called that "old fierce pull of blood," a violent meth-dealing father, the dark legacies of an unforgiving place and the terrible miseries it breeds. [A] beautiful, brutal book."—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*. "Readers of Southern grit lit in the tradition of Daniel Woodrell and Harry Crews will enjoy this fast-paced debut thriller. Fans of Ron Rash's novels will appreciate the intricate plot and Joy's establishment of a strong sense of place in his depiction of rural Appalachia."—*Library Journal*

Kanon, Joseph. [Leaving Berlin](#) (Atria \$27 in stock). Again, this is a reminder in case we have any unsold copies after his March 24 signing. My rave you've read. Here are others: "In his seventh thriller, Kanon (*Istanbul Passage*) turns to postwar Berlin and in particular to the Soviet sector during the difficult months of the blockade (1948–49). Noted author Alex Meier

fled Germany for the United States when the Nazis began persecuting Jews. Now, he has been invited back, along with other renowned authors, as culture becomes part of the cold war between East and West. But Alex's situation is precarious. He was actually forced to leave America (and his young son) owing to his intransigence when facing the congressional witch hunt for communists. Recruited as a spy with the promise of exoneration, Alex soon finds himself dealing with issues of trust and his own survival as the East German secret police force him to become an informer. Kanon's evocation of Berlin in ruins is masterly, but his most striking trait is his depiction of characters under stress."—*LJ* Starred Review. "Kanon, like Alan Furst, has found a landscape and made it his own. In fact, the two writers make outstanding bookends in any collection of WWII fiction, Furst bringing Paris just before and during the war to vivid life, and Kanon doing the same for Berlin in its aftermath."—*Booklist*. "Mr. Kanon, author now of seven top-notch novels of period political intrigue, conveys the bleak, oppressive, and creepy atmosphere of occupied Berlin in a detailed, impressive manner...Leaving Berlin is a mix of tense action sequences, sepia-tinged reminiscence, convincing discourse and Berliner wit."—*The Washington Post*

Kearsley, Susanna. [A Desperate Fortune](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99 April 6). When Diana Gabaldon first published *Outlander* in 1991, neither she nor I had a way to describe its structure for the reader. It isn't time travel. We've since learned to call *Outlander* and similar stories "time slip." And for the wonderful narratives created by Susanna Kearsley, an author whose work I've admired (and imported) for many years before Sourcebooks became her publisher—*The Shadowy Horses* was a Poisoned Pen bestseller for most of 1997—we can call them "time jump." Someone in the present day is presented with a puzzle, a path, which links to the past. We readers experience the way events unfold both now and back then, admiring the artistry with which the author tantalizes us, drives the suspense forward in both tales, and dovetails her narratives into a satisfying whole. In *A Desperate Fortune*, the present tale demands someone who can crack the cipher in a document generated at the Stuart court-in-exile in France. Sara Thomas is a modern computer programmer who sees the world through the scrim of mild Asperger's. Mary Dundas is a young woman challenged to keep her footing amidst the shifting politics of the 18th Century Jacobite and French courts. The interplay of courage, curiosity, coincidence—and love—generates Kearsley's trademark suspense, so satisfyingly on display in this her 11th delicious novel. [Click here](#) to order the earlier novels, all terrific.

Kerr, Philip. [Lady from Zagreb](#) (Putnam \$26.95 April 16). How special, the 10th in the Bernie Gunther series. In 1942, there are many worse places to be than Zurich, and the detective, once a Berlin cop, has seen his fair share of them. So when a superior asks him to track down a glamorous German actress, a rising star in UFA believed to be hiding in Zurich, he takes the job. Not that he has much choice: the superior is Goebbels himself. Soon Bernie finds himself involved in something much more sinister, dropped into the killing fields of Ustasha-controlled Croatia. The actress, it emerges, is the daughter of a fanatical Croatian fascist, the sadistic commandant of a notorious concentration camp. And the Swiss police have a cold case that they want Bernie to take a look at: one that seems to have connections to some

powerful people back in the Reich. I like the way the story starts with Bernie on the French Riviera after the war about to see the actress, briefly his lover, in a new movie.... Kerr is the writer of diverse fiction including some for children. [Click here](#) to order earlier books. We are lucky that Kerr, a Scot, comes to see us from the UK.

Knight, Renee. [Disclaimer](#) (Doubleday UK \$36). A **First Mystery Club Pick** gets this Starred *PW* Review: "A mysterious book within a book, which contains potentially damning information about the protagonist, jump starts this remarkable debut by British scriptwriter Knight. On the bedroom nightstand in the new apartment documentary filmmaker Catherine Ravenscroft shares with her husband, Robert, Catherine finds a self-published novel, *The Perfect Stranger*, which describes an incident that Catherine never told Robert about. Over 20 years earlier in Spain, 19-year-old Jonathan Brigstocke drowned while saving the couple's five-year-old son, Nicholas. The book suggests that Catherine was to blame... This unsettling psychological thriller about guilt and grief briskly moves to a shocking finale enhanced by its strong characters." We'll see if two *Gone Girl* sorts of debut can be lightning strikes this spring. One is *The Girl on the Train*. And here comes Knight (US edition is mid May). Nearly sold out; we acquired 6 extra copies.

Kornegay, Jamie. [Soil](#) (SimonSchuster \$26 in stock). If Dostoevsky were dropped into the present-day Mississippi Delta where an idealistic young family man/farmer conceives a revolutionary idea for agriculture that leads to his ruin, he'd run with this. When a corpse appears in the soil, the farmer, desperate to hang onto his wife and son, and his work, convinces himself he's being set up. He steps into "a maze of misperceptions and personal obsessions" where a predatory deputy, an itinerant criminal, even his estranged wife, play roles. Think Tom Franklin too, maybe Faulkner. Patrick has yet to read this but we have a few left and it's on the *NY Times* bestseller list.

Larsen, K J. [Bye, Bye Love](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Can Cat Deluca, terror of liars and cheats, catch a killer? After all, Stephanie Plum is a bond enforcement agent who collars them. Still, Cat's more like a girl from a Meg Cabot or a Jennifer Crusie than an Evanovich, as we see in *Bye, Bye, Love*, her 4th laugh-out-loud investigation. Cat comes from an outrageous, interfering Chicago Italian family. The men, even her shady, Ferrari-driving Uncle Joe, are all cops. There's an ex-spy (or two) in the mix, plus Cat's hot FBI boyfriend. No wonder crime scenes are as irresistible as mama's cannoli to the head of the Pants on Fire Detective Agency. But PI Cat is just out for a run in a neighborhood park when she crashes over a faceless body. She's assaulted by a guy sporting a Rolex but disguised as a member of Bridgeport's Parks Department. When the cops (mostly her relatives) show up, he's gone. So is the body. And Captain Bob, a stickler for habeas corpus, blows Cat off... from there, it's non-stop action, filled with trademark twists and zany characters. [Click here](#) for Cat's earlier cases.

Leon, Donna. [Falling in Love](#) (Heinemann \$40). Well, after I said no signed UK copies would be ours, indeed there will be some. In [Death at La Fenice](#) (\$7.99), Donna Leon's first novel in the Commissario Brunetti series, readers were introduced to the glamorous and cut-throat world of opera and to one of Italy's finest living sopranos, Flavia Petrelli – then a suspect in

the poisoning of a renowned German conductor. Now, many years after Brunetti cleared her name, Flavia has returned to the illustrious La Fenice to sing the lead in Tosca. As an opera superstar, Flavia is well acquainted with attention from adoring fans and aspiring singers. But when one anonymous admirer inundates her with bouquets of yellow roses – on stage, in her dressing room and even inside her locked apartment – it becomes clear that this fan has become a potentially dangerous stalker. Distraught, Flavia turns to an old friend for help. Familiar with Flavia's melodramatic temperament, Commissario Brunetti is at first unperturbed by her story, but when another young opera singer is attacked he begins to think Flavia's fears may be justified. US tip-ins: [Falling in Love](#) (Grove \$26)

Lippman, Laura. [Hush, Hush](#) (Morrow \$26.99 should be in the end of March). Tess Monaghan #12. "...it's good to see Laura Lippman's scrappy Baltimore private eye, Tess Monaghan, back on the job in *Hush Hush*, a tough-minded but wonderfully entertaining book that might be called a parenting mystery... Lippman knows her stuff and introduces some clever plot twists and turns... But her character studies, largely drawn from the way people feel about having children, are exceptional."—*New York Times Book Review*. "Lippman's latest installment in the Tess Monaghan series weaves an exploration of the joys and frustrations of motherhood with a clever and engaging mystery... Lippman dives deep not only into the ways women tend to question their choices and abilities, but also into whether all mothers, and kids, are a little crazy," says the *Kirkus* Starred Review, one of several.

Magson, Adrian. [Close Quarter](#) (Severn \$44). The return of The Watchman – deep cover specialist Marc Portman Close protection specialist Marc Portman is used to finding himself in hostile situations. But none can be more unpredictable than the troubled Ukraine, teetering on the brink of civil war. When a US State Department official on a fact-finding mission to the Ukraine is placed under house arrest, the CIA hire Portman (codename: Watchman) to get him safely out of the country. In that dangerous and volatile region, Portman will find himself up against local gangsters, Ukrainian Special Forces, professional snipers, pro-Russian separatists and power-crazed cops. What he cannot know however is that his most lethal enemy comes from his own side...

Morrell, David. [The Inspector of the Dead](#) (Mulholland \$26 in stock). I've given you my rave! Here is the *PW* Starred Review: "Fans of sophisticated historicals will embrace Macavity Award-winner Morrell's second suspense novel featuring Thomas De Quincey and his grown daughter, Emily. In 1855, just as the British are dealing with the collapse of the government following revelations of mismanagement during the Crimean War, London suffers a reign of terror. After murdering the servants of a Mayfair lord's household, a killer manages the seemingly impossible crime of slitting the throat of Lady Cosgrove in her private pew in St. James's Church. A note near her corpse contains only the words Young England, a reference to a group of conspirators that assassin Edward Oxford claimed were behind his attempt on Queen Victoria's life in 1840. The murders continue, in settings apparently selected to show Londoners that they aren't safe anywhere, and with a savagery that suggests a personal motive for the bloody spree. Impressively, Morrell even manages to introduce some humor into his grim tale, as shown by a scene in which De Quincey shocks Lord Palmerston by

admitting he once told George III a lie. Convincing period detail complements the fascinating story line.” Morrell won the Nero Wolfe Award and various nominations for [Murder as a Fine Art](#) (\$16) a History/Mystery Club Pick in 2013.

Nesbø, Jo. [Blood on Snow](#) (Knopf \$23.95). Norwegian Noir comes in this slim standalone set in 1970s Oslo where a contract killer, Olav, known as “the fixer,” works for a crime kingpin. Olav is so embedded in his boss’s business that maybe his boss wants to fix him.

Ohanesian, Aline. [Orhan’s Inheritance](#) (Algonquin \$25.95). The Indie Next Pick for our April **History/Mystery Pick**: “Debut author Ohanesian’s historical novel relives the nearly forgotten tragedy of the Armenian Genocide during and after WWI. Through deportations, massacres, and executions of Christian and Jewish Armenians, the Ottoman Empire and its successors eliminated 1.5 million citizens. Ohanesian’s beautifully written book shares a tale of passionate love, unspeakable horror, incredible strength, and the hidden stories that haunt a family. Highly recommended.” Karen Shaver adds, “Beautifully written, moves back and forth in alternate sections to Turkey 1915 and 1990. A successful businessman dies, his successful business goes to his grandson, and the will bequeaths his generations-old home to a woman no one has heard of, meaning eviction of his son and daughter. His grandson travels to the US to discover her identity and her place in his grandfather’s life. Back drop is the decay of the Ottoman Empire, brutal in its genocide of Armenians and Christians, the clear cut cultural lines between the rich and the poor, and the confusion of the grandson in understanding his heritage.

Pearl, Matthew. [The Last Bookaneer](#) (Penguin \$29). I’ve always admired Pearl’s historical thrillers and thus follow him gladly into a dark side of publishing in this ingenious literary caper—our **Modern Firsts Club Pick for May** (although it may appear in late April). In the 19th Century before comprehensive copyright, the unscrupulous could pirate books for profit, thus doing down the legitimate author. These thieves were called bookaneers, a delicious name. In the 1890s, trying to get ahead of an international copyright agreement, two bookaneers decide on a final act of piracy: they will sail for Samoa where Robert Louis Stevenson is dying, wrest away his manuscript, and get it to NY for publication ahead of the new law. Pen Davenport, with his assistant, disguises himself as a travel writer. Horrors!—they find another bookaneer in the field passing as a missionary. Pearl calls the Stevenson manuscript *The Shovels of Newton French*—and the bookaneers will need shovels and much more if they are to overcome “cannibals, incarceration, German colonists, and a betrayal from beyond the grave.” Pearl refers to the earlier theft of Shelley’s MS for *Frankenstein* in the history he imagines for the rogues roaming the book world as he creates “a loving testament to the enduring power” of print books.

Perry, Anne. [The Angel Court Affair](#) (Random \$27). Anne and I stay in communication—when she has an update on her return to the US, I will update you. Meanwhile here is a new challenge for Charlotte and Thomas Pitt. Perhaps signed copies will yet come our way.

Robotham, Michael. [Life or Death](#) (Mulholland \$26 April 21). Stephen King says it’s “a nerve-shredding thriller with the heart and soul so often missing from lesser crime and suspense novels.”

Robotham says, “I first stumbled upon the idea in March 1995 when I read a small newspaper story about a man who escaped from prison the day before his release. The obviously question was why?” Perhaps the answer lies in his past. In 2004, robbers hijacked an armored truck. Sheriff’s deputies chased and killed two perpetrators when the truck crashed. Audie survived a shot to the head at the scene, pled guilty to being the driver and received a 10-year sentence. The \$7-million haul, however, was never recovered. After he breaks out of prison, Audie is spotted outside the house of the former deputy—now sheriff—who shot him. This sets off a manhunt by local and federal law enforcement officers, including Sheriff Valdez and FBI Special Agent Desiree Furness. When more deaths occur, all blamed on Audie, Furness begins to question “official” versions of events, going back to the armored truck hijacking. “Audie is a captivating character, enigmatically enduring hell in prison with a Zen-like attitude. What keeps him going is an old promise he made, and readers will be eager to discover what that promise is. Well-developed supporting characters are painted in shades of gray, their motivations not all bad or good but plausible. Robotham, an Australian, convincingly evokes the feel and rhythms of Texas and its people, while telling a story that’s as beautiful as a wide-open sky and as full of heartache as a country love song.” Here Michael Robotham takes a break from his British series character Joseph O’Loughlin. [Read a terrific review](#) for this in the *NY Times Book Review*.

Russell. [Epitaph](#) (Harper \$27.99 April 18). Robert B Parker readers will have met Josie, eventual wife of Wyatt and curator of his story, in his novel [Gunman’s Rhapsody](#) (\$7.99). While filled with romance and danger, this account also embraces the bittersweet nature of real life and celebrates the humanity of some of our most lauded heroes, their heads made only heavier by the laurels. Readers’ natural reactions may be to assume that Russell cannot give them a better or different story than the films *Tombstone* and *Wyatt Earp*, in which the honorable Earp brothers and Doc Holliday defeat the cattle-rustling Cowboys gang in a showdown that symbolizes the civilized farmer-landowner conquering the lawlessness of the Wild West. However, Russell’s unique treatment of the material provides a more detailed and human look at some of the most lionized and reviled personalities in U.S. history without regard for their legendary status. The Indie Next Pick: “From a shroud of American West mythic bombast and misrepresentation, Russell creates compelling, realistic characters with Wyatt Earp and Doc Holliday shown to be both heroic and heartbreakingly human. *Epitaph* focuses on Josie Marcus, the love of Wyatt’s life. Theirs is a grand romantic tale told in hardscrabble detail, and Russell even makes what could have been cardboard villains into fully realized characters, both flawed and sympathetic. A rip-roaring good yarn!”

Sandford, John. [Gathering Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95 April 28 on sale date!). This is the Silver Anniversary Prey Novel. The 25th Lucas Davenport. Here’s a preview: They call them Travelers. They move from city to city, panhandling, committing no crimes—they just like to stay on the move. And now somebody is killing them. Lucas Davenport’s adopted daughter, Letty, is home from college when she gets a phone call from a woman Traveler she’d befriended in San Francisco. The woman thinks somebody’s killing her friends, she’s afraid she knows who it is, and now her

male companion has gone missing. She's hiding out in North Dakota, and she doesn't know what to do. Letty tells Lucas she's going to get her, and, though he suspects Letty's getting played, he volunteers to go with her. When he hears the woman's story, though, he begins to think there's something in it. Little does he know.... This means a lot of time is spent ripping along in Lucas' Porsche so **Sandford designed a license plate for it which you will get, on a postcard, in our copies.** [Click here](#) to order the first 24 Prey thrillers—and the Virgil Flowers.

Sansom, Ian. [County Guides: The Devon Mystery](#) (Collins \$34). What do they know of England who do not Devon know? Sidmouth. Budleigh Salterton. Dawlish. Teignmouth. Fine market towns, quaint little seaports, lovely villages, coves, fuscia hedges, deep valleys, winding ways, high ridges – and sudden storms. Swooping down from the majestic heights of Dartmoor, Swanton Morley, Miriam and Stephen Sefton embark on another adventure, only to find themselves involved in a mystery at All Souls School, Rousdon. Swanton Morley has been invited to speak at the school's Founders' Day. But a boy has died. With occasional outings to surf and to sample cream teas – Swanton Morley, Sefton and Miriam once again pit their wits against the dark, repressive, anti-intellectual forces of 1930s England. 2nd in this series.

Sendker, Jan-Philipp. [Whispering Shadows](#) (Atria \$25.99). We begin a trilogy with Paul Leibovitz who, his life imploded after some thirty years of success in Hong Kong as a journalist when his son dies of leukemia, lives a truly isolated life on an outlying island. Though German, when divorced he chose this rather than repatriation. His ferocious isolation is to allow him to keep memories of his son alive.”But his aimless existence is given meaning—and put into grave danger—when he helps an old friend, a Chinese homicide detective, find the truth behind the murder of an American businessman. A burgeoning—albeit fragile—relationship with a woman he meets while walking complicates his life further. Equal parts crime thriller, romance, and examination of the impact of China's Cultural Revolution on those who endured its atrocities, this novel is, at its heart, a story about the burden of survival. Despite a predictable ending, it still packs a wallop,” says *PW*. Sendker has written two “love stories” but this is his first mystery and begins a trilogy—and is a **First Mystery Club Pick**.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Every Fifteen Minutes](#) (St Martins \$29). “When Dr. Eric Parrish, longstanding chief of a successful psychiatric unit at a hospital outside of Philadelphia, responds to a routine emergency room consult and agrees to add a troubled teen to his private practice, he unwittingly makes a life-altering decision that could unravel everything that he values. As Eric struggles to balance his workload with his recent separation and custody issues regarding his small daughter, he becomes the target of a ruthless sociopath hell-bent on destroying his reputation and his life. When a murder is committed and Eric's troubled patient disappears, Eric takes matters into his own hands to protect a vulnerable client and himself. Soon he is hopelessly ensnared in a sociopath's cat-and-mouse game and may not escape unscathed. In a nail-biting stand-alone with two heart-pounding climaxes and several pulse-racing twists, Scottoline grabs her readers by the jugular and won't let go.”—*LJ's Starred Review*, one of several for this action-packed page-turner.

Simmons, Dan. [The Fifth Heart](#) (LittleBrown \$28 in stock). In 1893, Sherlock Holmes and Henry James come to America together to solve the mystery of the 1885 death of Clover Adams, wife of the esteemed historian Henry Adams—member of the Adams family that has given the United States two Presidents. Clover's suicide appears to be more than it at first seemed; the suspected foul play may involve matters of national importance. Holmes is currently on his Great Hiatus—his three-year absence after Reichenbach Falls during which time the people of London believe him to be deceased. Holmes has faked his own death because, through his powers of ratiocination, the great detective has come to the conclusion that he is a fictional character. This leads to serious complications for James—for if his esteemed fellow investigator is merely a work of fiction, what does that make him? And what can the master storyteller do to fight against the sinister power—possibly named Moriarty—that may or may not be controlling them from the shadows?

Taylor, Sara. [The Shore](#) (Heinemann \$36). A remarkable novel constructed with interconnected series of stories about two families in a group of islands off the coast of Virginia. Spanning 1876-2143, the narrative shows us how our actions can have unseen effects on the fates of others and how the bonds of blood affect each and every one of us. Taylor highlights outsider identities, the connection people have to place, and that place in constant peril in devastating prose and a structure not unlike the work of David Mitchell. Our **April Modern Firsts Pick** offers time-jump vignettes braiding into a brave picture of life along three islands off Accomack County, Virginia, one being smaller than Chincoteague... this is almost a Coastal Noir.

Unsworth, Simon K. [The Devils Detective](#) (Ebury \$34 running late: 4 unreserved copies). When an unidentified, brutalized body is discovered, the case is assigned to Thomas Fool, one of Hell's detectives, known as ‘Information Men’. But how do you investigate a murder where death is commonplace and everyone is guilty of something? What about those touristy angels led by one called Adam? This astonishing debut, a SciFi/Fantasy/Horror Club Pick calls on Dante and Milton in the creation of a vision of Hell that is truly...amazing!

White, Randy Wayne. [Cuba Straits](#) (Putnam \$26.95 in stock). Doc Ford's old friend, General Juan Garcia, has gone into the lucrative business of smuggling Cuban baseball players into the U.S. He is also feasting on profits made by buying historical treasures for pennies on the dollar. He prefers what dealers call HPC items—high-profile collectibles—but when he manages to obtain a collection of letters written by Fidel Castro between 1960–62 to a secret girlfriend, it's not a matter of money anymore. Garcia has stumbled way out of his depth. First Garcia disappears, and then the man to whom he sold the letters. When Doc Ford begins to investigate, he soon becomes convinced that those letters contain a secret that someone, or some powerful agency, cannot allow to be made public. A lot happened between Cuba and the United States from 1960–62. Many men died. A few more will hardly be noticed.

Woods, Stuart. [Hot Pursuit](#) (Putnam \$27.99 April 17). It's not often that Stone Barrington finds a woman as accustomed to the jet-set lifestyle as he, so he's pleasantly surprised when he meets a gorgeous pilot who's soon moving to New York, and available for closer acquaintance. Their travels together lead them from

Wichita to Europe, but trailing them is some unwanted baggage: his new lady love's unstable, criminal ex-boyfriend. And while Stone is fending off his newest adversary, trouble is brewing on the international stage. Several enemy operatives are at large, and only a coordinated intelligence effort will have any chance of stopping their deadly plot. But.... Avid pilot Woods brings a private jet to the narrative, just as he does to the Scottsdale airport to join us. [Click here](#) to order the 32 earlier Stone Barringtons.

SIGNED BOOKS FOR MAY

Atkins, Ace. [Robert B Parker's Kickback](#) (Putnam \$26. May 28). "A topical plot line propels bestseller Atkins's engrossing fourth Spenser novel. Sheila Yates, a resident of Blackburn, Mass., turns to the Boston PI for help when her teenage son, Dillon, is arrested and charged with terrorism after setting up a fake Twitter account for his high school vice principal. In Blackburn's juvenile court system, the accused are routinely denied the right to counsel. Judge Scali, the "Zero Tolerance for Minors guy," sentences Dillon to Fortune Island, a boot camp supposedly designed to rehabilitate offenders. In Blackburn, Spencer receives a less than warm welcome and quickly learns the extent of the problem. Atkins builds tension by alternating Spenser's wry first-person narration with third-person sections recounting the horrific conditions on Fortune Island. Lending support are Spenser's wingman, the deadly Hawk, and his soul mate, psychiatrist Susan Silverman. Once again, Atkins has done a splendid job of capturing the voice of the late Robert B. Parker."—*PW*

Billingham, Mark. [Time of Death](#) (LittleBrown \$41). Two schoolgirls are abducted in the small, dying Warwickshire town of Polesford, driving a knife into the heart of the community where police officer Helen Weeks grew up and from which she long ago escaped. But this is a place full of secrets, where dangerous truths lie buried. When it's splashed all over the press that family man Stephen Bates has been arrested, Helen and her partner Tom Thorne head to the flooded town to support Bates' wife – an old school friend of Helen's – who is living under siege with two teenage children and convinced of her husband's innocence. As residents and media bay for Bates' blood, a decomposing body is found. The police believe they have their murderer in custody, but....

Child, Lincoln. [The Forgotten Room](#) (Knopf \$26 May 13). Jeremy Logan (*The Third Gate, Deep Storm*) is an "enigmologist"—an investigator who specializes in analyzing phenomena that have no obvious explanation. In this newest novel Logan finds himself on the storied coastline of Newport, Rhode Island, where he has been retained by Lux, one of the oldest and most respected think tanks in America. Just days earlier, a series of frightening events took place in the sprawling seaside mansion that houses the organization. One of its most distinguished doctors began acting erratically—violently attacking an assistant in the mansion's opulent library and, moments later, killing himself in a truly shocking fashion. Terrified by the incident and the bizarre evidence left behind, the group hires Logan to investigate—discreetly—what drove this erudite man to madness. His work leads him to an unexpected find. In a long-dormant wing of the estate, Logan uncovers an ingeniously hidden secret room, concealed and apparently untouched for decades. New Pendergast from Preston & Child Nov. 10!

Crosby, Ellen. [Ghost Image](#) (Scribner \$2 May 5). This second investigation for photographer Sophie Medina, now freelancing and loving it although she misses her secret-agent husband who's off on an assignment while she works in DC, has a terrific premise tied in to Virginia history and Thomas Jefferson. Most of the action takes place in our capital but some moves across to London with some delicious scenes inside the regal Connaught hotel. It opens upon a DC society and power do where Sophie's task is to photograph a glamour couple, a Senator's daughter who has recently become engaged to the heir—his family renounced the title, but he's still royalty—of the Austrian Hapsburgs. Sophie is doing wedding photos at the request of Archduke Victor, whom she likes, and trying to damp down her irritation with the bride's mother, the US Senator. Sophie's dear friend, the Franciscan Kevin Boyle, arrives late to say a blessing over the couple. And the next afternoon he is found dead in the gardens of the order's nearby, gorgeous monastery by Sophie, who is heartbroken. Brother Kevin was a world-class botanist. Is the rumor he made a world-class discovery recently true? If so there are librarians and auctioneers and various others like a billionaire on the slide who may all be engaged in some kind of international treasure hunt. Sophie finds it impossible to stand aside—and so will you. Meet Sophie in [Multiple Exposure](#) (\$16).

Deaver, Jeffery. [Solitude Creek](#) (Grand Central \$2 May 14). This new thriller earned a Starred Review which is not yet posted—nor is my review. Meanwhile, a tragedy occurs at a small concert venue on the Monterey Peninsula. Cries of "fire" are raised and, panicked, people run for the doors, only to find them blocked. A half dozen people die and others are seriously injured. But it's the panic and the stampede that killed; there was no fire. Kathryn Dance—a brilliant California Bureau of Investigation agent and body language expert—discovers that the stampede was caused intentionally and that the perpetrator, a man obsessed with turning people's own fears and greed into weapons, has more attacks planned. She and her team must race against the clock to find where he will strike next...

Dennison, Hannah. [Deadly Desire at Honeychurch Hall](#) (St Martins \$24.99 May 9). *Kirkus* reviews: "Deception, theft, and death disrupt the Devonshire village of Little Dipperton. Kat Stanton, the former host of *Fakes & Treasures*, plans to return to her turf in London once she's convinced that her mother, Iris, can manage on her own in her new home on the Honeychurch Hall estate. But Iris' determination to protest a high-speed rail line that will cut through the entire valley makes Kat (*Murder at Honeychurch Hall*, 2014) decide to stick around, especially given her mother's talent for getting into trouble. Iris has other talents too. She writes bodice-rippers under the name Krystalle Storm, and just after she wishes aloud for a new beau for Kat, a tall, handsome man appears and introduces himself as Valentine Prince-Avery. The laugh is on Iris, though: the newcomer is a compensation consultant for the new train line. When Kat arrives at a private appointment with him to see what Iris' options are, she's dragged into a protest meeting as well. Prince-Avery inexplicably runs away from the meeting and leaves his SUV behind—along with the body of an elderly villager he may have run over in his haste to escape. While Kat's trying to get to the bottom of his part in the tragedy, she's also tracking down a missing bundle of £5,000, holding her ex-boyfriend at bay, and

living down a scandalous tabloid story while she tries to figure out which people in her life really are what they seem....”

Faye, Lyndsay. [The Fatal Flame](#) (Putnam \$26.95 May 19). No one in 1840s New York likes fires, but Copper Star Timothy Wilde least of all. So when an arsonist with an agenda begins threatening Alderman Robert Symmes, a corrupt and powerful leader high in the Tammany Hall ranks, Wilde isn't thrilled to be involved. His reservations escalate further when his brother Valentine announces that he'll be running against Symmes in the upcoming election, making both himself and Timothy a host of powerful enemies. Meanwhile, the love of Wilde's life, Mercy Underhill, unexpectedly shows up on his doorstep and takes under her wing a starving orphan with a tenuous grasp on reality. It soon becomes clear that this wisp of a girl may be the key to stopping those who have been setting fire to buildings across the city—if only they can understand her cryptic descriptions and find out what she knows. Boisterous and suspenseful, *The Fatal Flame* is filled with beloved Gotham personalities as well as several new stars, culminating in a fiery and shocking conclusion.

Grecian, Alex. [The Harvest Man](#) (Putnam \$26.95 May 21). In *The Devil's Workshop*, London discovered that Jack the Ripper was back, sending the city—and Scotland Yard's Murder Squad—into chaos. But now it is even worse. Not only is the Ripper still at large, but so is another killer just as bad. For Inspector Walter Day, it has been a difficult time. His wife has given birth to twins, his hostile in-laws have come to stay, and a leg injury has kept him at his desk. But when the Harvest Man begins killing, carving people's faces off their skulls, the Yard knows they need Day in the field. Not so Sergeant Nevil Hammersmith. Rash actions have cost him his job, but that doesn't stop his obsessive hunt for the Ripper. When the mutilated bodies of prostitutes start turning up again, Hammersmith enlists the help of a criminal network to stop Saucy Jack, his methods carrying him further and further from the ideals of the Yard, so far in fact that he may never be able to find his way back. So ironic that we are hosting Hunter and Grecian—and Jack!—back to back in May.

Griffin, Neal. [Benefit of the Doubt](#) (Forge \$25.99 May 15). Ben Sawyer was a big-city cop, until he nearly killed a helpless suspect in public. Now a detective in the tiny Wisconsin town where he and his wife grew up, Ben suspects that higher-ups are taking payoffs from local drug lords. Before long, Ben is off the force. His wife is accused of murder. His only ally is another outcast, a Latina rookie cop. Worse, a killer has escaped from jail with vengeance on his mind, and Newburg—and Ben Sawy—in his sights. A debut—not sure whether it will become a Pick until I read it.

Hart, Carolyn G. [Don't Go Home](#) (Berkley \$25.95 May 9) Here is the 25th Death on Demand mystery by Agatha winner and MWA Grand Master Hart. We're going to turn The Pen into the imagined bookstore complete with Christie Quiz, the paintings challenge (identify the title), and maybe a few potted palms. Perfect for Mother's day shopping as our author list is sparkling. This replaces Cozy Con. Annie Darling, owner of the Death on Demand mystery bookstore, is hosting a party to celebrate successful Southern literary icon—and former Broward's Rock resident—Alex Griffith and his bestselling new novel, *Don't Go Home*. But after the local paper announces that Griffith aims to reveal the real-life inspirations behind his characters, perhaps the

author should take his own advice. Not everyone in town is ready to give him a glowing review. As Annie attempts damage control, her friend Marian Kenyon gets in a heated argument with Griffith. It's a fight Annie won't soon forget—especially after the author turns up dead.

Hillerman, Anne. [Rock with Wings](#) (Harper \$27.9 May 12). “In her worthy sequel to 2013's *Spider Woman's Daughter*, Hillerman continues the exploits of the beloved Navajo cops of MWA Grand Master Tony Hillerman (1925–2008). Officer Bernadette Manuelito, Sgt. Jim Chee's wife, makes a routine traffic stop of a speeding car on a New Mexico road that morphs into a mystery when the nervous driver tries to bribe her—but the only suspicious cargo he has are two boxes of dirt. Meanwhile, Chee takes a security assignment in Monument Valley, where a movie is being filmed, and finds not only a missing person but a newly dug grave. Although Lt. Joe Leaphorn is still greatly handicapped by the injury he suffered in the previous book, his mind is sharp and his insights help both Chee and Manuelito solve some problems. Hillerman uses the southwestern setting as effectively as her late father did while skillfully combining Native American lore with present-day social issues.”—*PW*

Hunter, Stephen. [I, Ripper Signed](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99 May 20). I can't wait to read Hunter's take on Saucy Jack who terrified London and disappeared from the record (so far as we know). I've never bought Patricia Cornwell's theory the Ripper was the artist Walter Sickert. In fact, I think he just moved on (one theory is to Chicago)... or died. Serial killers rarely just quit.

Ifkovic, Ed. [Café Europa](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). *Booklist reviews*: “The year is 1914. Edna Ferber, a newspaper reporter and short-story writer who has published a few books of relatively little note, is touring Europe. In Budapest, Edna becomes fascinated by the story of a young woman who was, or so the story goes, murdered by a former lover. Edna believes the man is innocent and is determined to help him, but she can't begin to imagine what secrets she might uncover. The sixth in the Ferber series is, chronologically, the second Ferber mystery; it falls between the second book, *Escape Artist* (2011), set in 1904 when Ferber was a young reporter, and the fourth, *Downtown Strut* (2013), set in 1927 just after she won the Pulitzer Prize (the author, as series fans know, likes to jump around in time). It's as smartly written as its predecessors, but, as each book does, it shows us a slightly different Ferber—here, she's not quite a girl anymore, but neither is she the experienced woman we see in other series installments. Another totally successful entry in a consistently interesting series.”

Iles, Greg. [The Bone Tree](#) (Morrow \$27.99). Book two in an epic trilogy featuring Natchez's Penn Cage, a former prosecutor and now the city's mayor. The publishers says, “This is the most explosive, action-packed of the trilogy, and will take us to the serious conflicts and casualties that result when the darkest truths come to light—and readers will be shocked to see just how the hero we thought we knew is willing to go for those he loves.” Start this trilogy with 2014's [Natchez Burning](#) (\$9.99)

Janeway, Judith. [The Magician's Daughter](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 May 9). It's always a joy to discover a new voice. That of Judith Janeway was honed to a sharp, lively edge in romance, and translates superbly to the start of a mystery series featuring magician Valentine Hill, daughter of an amoral, compulsive

con woman. Valentine has no idea who her father is. Or even when she was born, or where. All she knows is her mother said her father was a magician. Desperate to learn her own story, Valentine has been searching (vainly) for her mother for years, supporting herself by busking, doing street performances of a skilled, solo magic act. No grifter like her mother, the scrupulous Valentine takes pride in always paying her way and never telling a lie. Which is a real handicap when she's robbed of her stake while busking in Vegas. She chases it to San Francisco where a series of odd events reunites her with her mother who, Valentine is sure, despite her respectable façade, is playing one of the city's super rich. And Valentine quickly enters a world where truly nothing is what it seems. A socialite is a ruthless criminal, a car mechanic a psycho killer, and a cab driver a seductive gangster. After a friendly FBI agent is killed, Valentine forces herself into adopting a grifter's role to put the criminals—and her mother—away. Or at the very least, get what she wants from mom. Starts a new series..

Johnson, Craig. [Dry Bones](#) (Viking \$27.95 May 18). Walt Longmire's 11th investigation stars the most complete fossil of a Tyrannosaurus Rex ever found. Its discovery has little to do with Sheriff Walt Longmire—until the original claimant, a Cheyenne rancher, is found drowned. Our copies will come with a specially designed "Save Jen" memento for you.

Leotta, Alison. [A Good Killing](#) (Touchstone \$25 May 12). Newly single after calling off her wedding, sex-crimes prosecutor Anna Curtis is summoned home to Michigan when her old high school coach—a hometown hero—is killed in a fiery car crash. But Anna isn't there to prosecute a crime, she's home to support her innocent sister, Jody, who has been wrongfully accused of the coach's murder. But maybe Jody isn't so innocent after all... Leotta is a former federal prosecutor.

Lescroart, John. [The Fall](#) (Atria \$26.99 May 7). Daughter Rebecca is now grown up and an associate in Dismas Hardy's San Francisco law firm. Late one night, a teenage African American foster child named Tanya Morgan plummets to her death from the overpass above San Francisco's Stockton tunnel, causing a monumental traffic backup as well as a terrible tragedy. But did she fall...or was she pushed? Rushing to produce a convictable suspect in the glare of the media spotlight, SFPD Homicide focuses attention on a naïve young man named Greg Treadway, a middle school teacher who volunteers as a Special Advocate for foster children. At first, the only thing connecting him to Tanya's death is the fact that they shared a meal earlier that night. But soon enough, elements of that story seem to fall apart...and Rebecca finds herself drawn into the young man's defense. By the time Greg's murder trial gets underway, the Hardys have unearthed several other theories about the crime—but how to get them before a jury? [Click here](#) to order Lescroart's earlier books.

Martini, Steve. [The Enemy Inside](#) (Harper \$27.99 May 14) Paul Madriani #13. One of the most successful lawyers in the country, Olinda Serna is a master at managing money as well as her influential clients. After years of fierce combat in the political trenches, Serna knows all the dirty secrets, where the bodies are buried, and how deeply they are stacked. When she's killed in a roadside crash in the high desert of Southern California, powerful heads in Washington begin to panic, worried that their

secrets may not be safe anymore. Alex Ives, a friend of Paul Madriani's daughter, is accused of vehicular manslaughter in Serna's death....bringing in Paul, a brilliant defense attorney.

Palmer, Matthew. [Secrets of State](#) (Putnam \$27.95 May 26). Sam Trainor's career of overseas work coupled with a penchant for being outspoken has left him on the outside of the competitive Washington establishment. Formerly the top South Asia expert in the State Department's Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Trainor has moved to the private sector, working as an analyst for the consulting firm Argus Systems. But Sam soon discovers that for all their similarities, the government and their hired contractors have vastly different motives. As he struggles to adjust to a more corporate, profit-driven version of the work that had been his life, he stumbles across an intelligence anomaly—the transcript of a phone conversation about the fastest ways to upend the delicate political balance keeping India and Pakistan from all-out war... Palmer, son of the late Michael Palmer, is a career Foreign Service officer.

Page, Katherine Hall. [The Body in the Birches](#) (Harper \$26). Faith Fairchild #22 finds the caterer/sleuth at home on Sanpere Island, Maine, once again. The Fourth of July is one of the hottest on record and even the breeze off Penobscot Bay can't seem to cool things down for Faith Fairchild and the rest of the folks on Sanpere Island. But the fireworks are just beginning. After the celebrations are over, Faith discovers a body in the woods near The Birches, an early twentieth-century "cottage." The body is identified as The Birches' housekeeper, who seems to have succumbed to a heart attack. The death is only one of the dramatic events upending the historic house. A family gathering has been called to decide who will inherit the much loved, and very valuable, estate that has been in the Proctor family for generations. With this much money involved, it's just a matter of time before trouble arises.

AND A FEW WE ARE SURE OF FOR JUNE

Bass, Jefferson. [Breaking Point](#) (Harper \$26.99 Signing date TBA) Body Farm

Coes, Ben. [Independence Day](#) (St Martins \$26.99 June 3) Dewey Andreas tangles with a Russian hacker known as the Cloud. #5 in series

Finder, Joseph. [The Fixer](#) (Dutton \$27.95 June 11) Reporter Rick Hoffman loses all and, in renovating his childhood home, discovers millions hidden in the walls

Harvey, Michael. [The Governors Wife](#) (Knopf \$24.95 week of June 16) Chicago's Michael Kelly, PI, after former, disgraced, Governor Ray Perry disappears from Club Fed.

Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses: Margaret of Anjou](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 19) Book two in series. 1454. The French-born queen is the focus, she unluckily married off to England's Henry VI and trying to make a good job of it. I've always felt for Margaret who got a bum deal (as did Catherine of Aragon later)

Matthews, Jason. [Palace of Treason](#) (Scribner \$26.99) Star-crossed Russian agent Dominika Egorova and CIA's Nate Nash in a desperate race to the finish from the author of the Edgar winner *Red Sparrow*, a First Mystery Pick

Meltzer, Brad. [The President's Shadow](#) (Grand Central \$28 June 26) The Culper Ring #3. A severed arm, found buried in the White House Rose Garden. A lethal message with terrible consequences for the Presidency. And a hidden secret in one family's past that will have repercussions for the entire nation.

Patel, Shona. [Flame Tree Road](#) (Mira \$14.95 June 30) Prequel to *Teatime for the Firefly*, India in the 20th Century

Silva, Daniel. [The English Spy](#) (Harper \$27.99 July 2) Gabriel Allon

Talton, Jon. [High Country Nocturne](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 date TBA) David Mapstone goes north above the Mogollon Rim... there are diamonds in the plot

Taylor, Brad. [The Insider Threat](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 1) Pike Logan & Taskforce #8

Thoft, Ingrid. [Brutality](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 23 or 24) Fina Ludlow #3. When soccer mom Liz Barone is attacked in her kitchen and left with a life-threatening injury, Fina Ludlow is hired by Liz's mother to identify her attacker. It's unusual for Fina to take a case that isn't connected to the family firm.

Winslow, Don. [The Cartel](#) (Knopf \$27.95 June 23 or 24). Follow up to *The Power of the Dog*, the drug wars spanning a deadly decade (starts 2004). "Don Winslow delivers his longest and finest novel yet... This is the *War and Peace* of dopewar books. Tense, brutal, wildly atmospheric, stunningly plotted, deeply etched. —James Ellroy. "Sensationally good, even after the near-perfection of *The Power of the Dog*. Less of a sequel than an integral part of a solid-gold whole"—Lee Child. "...a gut-punch of a novel. Big, ambitious, violent and widely entertaining, Don Winslow's latest is an absolute must-read."—Harlan Coben