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## Collector's Corner—November 2014 Volume 23 No. 7

### Happy holidays to you all from The Poisoned Pen

#### FORTHCOMING SIGNED BOOKS

Because of the holidays, the books listed below are in stock or will arrive sometime during November and December. Signing dates are given. We have a great January-March line-up coming which I will save for another issue as it will keep changing.

As a thank you for your support, I try to provide you with a preview for ordering, and occasionally with rare chances to acquire, and with more honest reviews than I can publish on-line. There's no good in slamming an author or the author's fans, but you deserve our honesty.

I add that I am really proud of the October *Booknews*. I put A LOT of effort into it, covered a variety of genres and ages and tastes. Do please take time to read it; there is a wealth of unsigned but excellent hardcovers as well as paperback originals and reprints of hardcovers. In fact, each month I think the best section in the *Booknews* is the monthly Trade Paperback Picks. Paperback originals are given with the name of the publisher to distinguish them from reprints of earlier editions.

Finally, you may wonder if Starred Reviews for books are so common as to mean nothing. No. Few are given. The reason I often quote them is we pick the cream of the new-book crop for you, books that have earned them. I'm especially proud of the high number awarded to books published by Poisoned Pen Press (and I cite them so you will get a disinterested review of books I edit).

Please leave yourself adequate shipping time for gifts so you don't waste money on expedited shipping. And remember that a terrific last minute gift, always appreciated, is a Poisoned Pen Gift Certificate which you can order by email sent anywhere.

I'm leading with a special book we have restocked: John Sharpe's mouthwatering [Las Posada Turquoise Room Cookbook](#) (\$40) which the acclaimed chef signed for me when I stopped in Winslow for a night at the renovated Santa Fe Railroad hotel and managed both dinner and breakfast in its extraordinary restaurant. Did I mention the bar where the Ruby Margarita is peerless? This is a marvelous gift for any foodie. Also fans of Route 66. Dana and I are indulging in an overnight in mid-December before Rob and I depart for South Africa, so we can get more. But don't count on it—order now while we have it.

*And with this charmer:*

Gooderham, Wayne. [Dedicated to...](#) (Bantam UK \$25) Used book ephemera reveal hidden stories and loves. Charming, a nice gift for the bibliophile

*And now for the rest....*

Aaronovitch, Ben. [Foxglove Summer Rivers of London #5](#) (Gollancz \$39). A SciFi/Fantasy Club Pick, 5<sup>th</sup> in a bestselling fantasy series recently highly recommended to me by Deborah Crombie. Aaronovitch takes Peter Grant out of whatever comfort zone he might have found and takes him out of London to a small village in Herefordshire where the local police are reluctant to admit that there might be a supernatural element to the disappearance of some local children. But while you can take the London copper out of London you can't take the London out of the copper. Travelling west with Beverley Brook, Peter soon finds himself caught up in a deep mystery and having to tackle local cops and local gods. And what's more all the shops are closed by 4pm...

Ackroyd, Peter. [Civil War: The History of England Vol. III](#) (Macmillan \$46). Ackroyd is England's version of Dean Koontz or Stephen King with their incredible outputs. He's everywhere but here he's in the 17<sup>th</sup> Century after Vol. II: *The Tudors*.

Alexander, Tasha. [The Counterfeit Heiress](#) (St Martins \$25.99 in stock). An elegant masquerade ball in *fin-de-siècle* London provides the perfect occasion for Lady Emily Hargreaves to dazzle, dressed as the goddess Artemis, but the evening ends in chaos after a similarly costumed woman is found murdered. As Emily and her husband, Colin, investigate, they realize that the dead woman, Mary Darby, was posing as heiress Estella Lamar, who is ostensibly traveling the world. No one has actually seen Estella for years, apart from some blurry newspaper photos taken in various exotic locations. Why would anyone pose as Estella? Did the killer mean to murder the heiress or the impostor? And is the real Estella still alive? In her ninth Lady Emily novel, Tasha Alexander weaves a compelling double mystery, alternating between Emily's attempts to solve Mary's murder in 1897 and Estella's story in Paris several decades earlier. Tasha dedicated the book to the late Elizabeth Peters and drew inspiration from the incredible story of copper heiress Huguette Clark who died in 2011.

Anderson, Gillian. [Vision of Fire](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 in stock. Signed, not tip-ins). Book One of the Earthen Saga. Renowned child psychologist Caitlin O'Hara is a single mom trying to juggle her job, her son, and a lackluster dating life. Her world is suddenly upturned when Maanik, the daughter of India's ambassador to the United Nations, starts speaking in tongues and having violent visions. Caitlin is sure that her fits have something to do with the recent assassination attempt on her father—a shooting that has escalated nuclear tensions between India and

Pakistan to dangerous levels—but when teenagers around the world start having similar outbursts, Caitlin begins to think that there’s a more sinister force at work. With Asia on the cusp of nuclear war, Caitlin must race across the globe to uncover the mystical links among these seemingly unrelated incidents. And save...what?

Baldacci, David. [The Escape](#) (Grand Central \$29). “In bestseller Baldacci’s clever third John Puller thriller, the chief warrant officer faces his most difficult and most personal assignment yet. Puller’s older brother, Robert, a former major in the USAF, is a convicted traitor serving a life sentence in Leavenworth. A seemingly impossible chain of events ends with Robert escaping and a corpse left in his cell. A trio of high-placed officials, Army, Air Force, and National Security, go against normal protocol, and charge Puller with finding and arresting Robert. Puller has to figure out the identity of the dead man found in his brother’s cell, as well as who enabled Robert to escape. To add to his problems, he’s not sure he can trust the Army Intelligence agent assigned to work with him, Veronica Knox. The Puller brothers are in deep trouble, and it will take all their ingenuity and skills just to survive. Baldacci handles the complex plot with consummate ease as the Pullers navigate nearly endless surprises.”—*PW*

Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (Soho \$25 Nov. 22). Christmas Eve, 1814: Jane Austen has been invited to spend the holiday with family and friends at The Vyne, the gorgeous ancestral home of the wealthy and politically prominent Chute family. The Vyne is situated near the rectory where live Jane Austen’s clerical brother James and his second wife. Jane is thrilled to move from the discomforts of the rectory (James is notably stingy) to the comforts of a country home. Her mother and Cassandra, ditto. As the year fades and friends begin to gather beneath the mistletoe for the twelve days of Christmas festivities, the house party, except for James’ pill of a wife, is in a celebratory mood...until murder strikes. Barron really puts her talent for edgy satire into the narrative. It’s almost like Austen noir....

CJ. [Shots Fired](#) (Putnam \$26.95 in stock). I remind you that this collection of stories by Box, mostly Joe Pickett, is a winner of a gift for anyone including a reader who has yet to meet Box.

Brown, Dan. [Inferno: Special Illustrated Edition](#) (Knopf \$40 tip-ins). Designed for holiday gift giving. Harvard professor of symbology Robert Langdon awakens in a hospital in the middle of the night. Disoriented and suffering from a head wound, he recalls nothing of the last thirty-six hours, including how he got there . . . or the origin of the macabre object that his doctors discover hidden in his belongings. Langdon’s world soon erupts into chaos, and he finds himself on the run in Florence with a stoic young woman, Sienna Brooks, whose clever maneuvering saves his life. Langdon quickly realizes that he is in possession of a series of disturbing codes created by a brilliant scientist—a genius whose obsession with the end of the world is matched only by his passion for Dante Alighieri’s dark epic poem *The Inferno*. Over 200 color illustrations.

Busch, George W. **41 Deluxe Edition** (Random \$150). The publishers says, “Each copy will be hand-signed by President George W. Bush, printed on high-quality, acid-free paper, and bound in a full cloth case with foil stamping. Additionally, the book will include a 4-color frontispiece of a stunning never-

before-seen portrait of father and son painted by President George W. Bush and will be slipcased and shrinkwrapped. Email [Patrick@poisonedpen.com](mailto:Patrick@poisonedpen.com); we have so few we don’t want to put it into general inventory.

Christie, Alex. [Gutenberg’s Apprentice](#) (Harper \$30, 5 in stock). Topping *Publishers Weekly’s* list of Ten Best Historical Novels is Christie’s stand-out debut that takes readers into Gutenberg’s 15th-century Mainz workshop to experience the frustration and exhilaration of designing, typesetting, and rolling the first printed Bible off the press. Johann Gutenberg, a driven and caustic inventor, has devised a revolutionary—and, to some, blasphemous—method of bookmaking: a machine he calls a printing press. Fust is financing Gutenberg’s workshop, and he orders Peter to become Gutenberg’s apprentice. Resentful at having to abandon a prestigious career as a scribe, Peter begins his education in the “darkest art.” This beautifully packaged novel so impressed me it’s both our October Modern Firsts Club and History Club Pick. Do not miss out.

Cleland, Jane K. [Blood Rubies](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Dec. 13). Ana Yartsin is on the verge of becoming a celebrity chef. Her custom Fabergé egg-shaped cakes have brought her national attention, as has the story behind the cakes: Her family owns the spectacular Fabergé Spring Egg snow globe, a magnificent example of the master craftsman’s work that includes five ruby-red tulips. As she prepares to be filmed for a reality TV show about the launch of her bakery in Rocky Point, New Hampshire, Ana hires antiques expert Josie Prescott to appraise the precious egg and snow globe. The show’s pilot will show Ana planning the desserts for the upcoming wedding of her friend Heather to investment guru, Jason. When Josie arrives at Ana’s home, however, she finds Jason murdered and the priceless snow globe smashed beyond repair. All that remains for Josie to examine are bits and pieces—which to her shock reveals... nope, not gonna spoil it. This is an intelligent, elegantly written series loving New Hampshire as well as the antiques business. A very nice gift book.

Connelly, Michael. [The Burning Room](#) (LittleBrown \$28 Nov. 5). Harry Bosch is still at work under DROP with about a year to go. And in the LAPD’s Open-Unsolved Unit, where as the senior detective he’s assigned “Lucky Lucy”—Lucia Soto, new to Homicide having survived a shootout that killed her partner. And that’s not all she’s survived...as we learn. The two are assigned a look into the death of a mariachi player who succumbed to the bullet lodged in his spine ten years after the shooting. It’s now an active homicide. There’s not much to work with but that doesn’t stop Bosch who revisits Mariachi Plaza, scene of the shooting, and reinterviews the surviving members of the mariachi band. One of them is no longer in LA. So a visit to Tulsa ensues. Meanwhile Harry realizes Soto is working a cold case on her own, one where five children died of smoke inhalation at their unlicensed day care center. How likely is it these cases will connect? The story moves relentlessly forward, like Bosch, and is rich with plot and cynicism. Solving cases in Bosch’s world is as much about battling politics and command as it is about detective work.

Connolly, John. [The Wolf in Winter](#) (Atria \$26 Nov. 17). Charlie Parker, dangerous PI, arrives in Prosperous, Maine. The community has always thrived when others have suffered. Its inhabitants are wealthy, its children’s future secure. It shuns

outsiders. It guards its own. And at the heart of Prosperous lie the ruins of an ancient church, transported stone by stone from England centuries earlier by the founders of the town... But the death of a homeless man and the disappearance of his daughter draw the haunted, lethal Parker to Prosperous Has Parker been marked to die so that Prosperous may survive? Come with CD of original music by Connolly, called "Ghosts." Those who bought the (sold out) UK edition will get one upon request with your next book shipment.

Cornwell, Bernard. [The Empty Throne](#) (Collins \$45 only 6 unclaimed copies). Warrior #8 in Cornwell's Anglo-Saxon Chronicle. What will be the fate of his great hero, Uhtred of Bebbanburg? The forces of Wessex and Mercia have united against the Danes, but instability and the threat of Viking raids still hang heavy over Britain's kingdoms. For Aethelred, Lord of the Mercians, is dying, leaving no heir and the stage is set for rivals to fight for the throne. Uhtred of Bebbanburg, Mercia's greatest warrior, has always supported Atheltraed to be Mercia's next ruler, but will the aristocracy ever accept a woman as their leader? Even one who is Aethelred's widow and sister to the king of Wessex? At the same time, the bicentenary of Waterloo on June 18, 2015, inspires Cornwell to pen his first work of nonfiction: [Waterloo](#) (Collins \$50). "Cornwell combines his storytelling skills with a meticulously researched history to give a riveting account of every dramatic moment, from Napoleon's escape from Elba to the four days leading up to the actual battle and a thrilling hour by hour account of that fateful day. Through letters and diaries he also sheds new light on the private thoughts of Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington, as well as the ordinary officers and soldiers."

Crombie, Deborah. [To Dwell in Darkness](#) (Morrow \$25.99 in stock). In the 16<sup>th</sup> novel in a stellar series, Duncan and Gemma are still juggling their intense jobs with their hectic home life (they have a foster daughter, two sons from previous marriages, plus a small menagerie of pets). Gemma, a Detective Inspector in South London, is investigating the rape and murder of a young girl. Duncan, recently demoted from Scotland Yard, is heading up a major-incident team in Holborn. Duncan's team is called in to St. Pancras Station when a protest goes awry and fire breaks out. Someone (a man?) dies horribly in the conflagration, and the closure of this major transit hub interrupts train service across England and Europe. Duncan's team is under pressure from the higher-ups to assess quickly not only who died but also whether the apparent self-immolation was a terrorist attack or an accident. Struggling to cooperate with team members resentful of his appointment, Duncan finds himself searching for the truth through unofficial channels. Meanwhile, Gemma is struggling to find hard evidence to link the dead girl to the man she believes to be guilty. "On display is Crombie's trademark blend of happy family minutiae and disturbing murder details. But the darkness of the crimes spills over into the protagonists' household, creating a sense of conspiracy and unease that will keep readers anxiously turning the pages."—Quirky Bookworm

Cussler, Clive. [Havana Storm](#) (Putnam \$28.95 in stock; signing Oct. 30). Aztecs. Archaeology. Treachery. While investigating a toxic outbreak in the Caribbean Sea that may ultimately threaten the United States, Pitt unwittingly becomes involved in something even more dangerous—a post-Castro power struggle for the control of Cuba (clever and really alarming!). Meanwhile,

Pitt's children, marine engineer Dirk and oceanographer Summer, are on an investigation of their own, chasing an Aztec stone that may reveal the whereabouts of a vast historical Aztec treasure. The problem is, that stone was believed to have been destroyed on the battleship *Maine* in Havana Harbor in 1898, which brings them both to Cuba as well—and squarely into harm's way....

De Castrique, Mark. [Risky Undertaking](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Dialogue like Robert B. Parker, cultural sensitivity like Tony Hillerman, richly portraying his region like James Lee Burke or, as these are North Carolina-based mysteries, like Margaret Maron. Gainesboro's Barry Clayton, part time sheriff's deputy and fulltime undertaker, and Sheriff Tommy Lee Wadkins are drawn to the Cherokee Reservation when Cherokee activist Jimmy Panther is found executed atop a recently deceased public figure's grave. The cemetery was already the scene of controversy when Cherokee burial remains were uncovered at a planned expansion. And there's much more including a Boston hit man, the cop on his tail, and a possible rival casino on the rez. "De Castrique's latest mystery continues the irreverent wit and independent spirit that has marked the series thus far. The focus on the beautiful setting of western North Carolina and its Cherokee traditions is well crafted. While there are a number of other series featuring sleuthing funeral directors, this is a complex and well-executed police procedural as well."—LJ

Estleman, Loren D. [You Know Who Killed Me](#) (Forge \$27). "Edgar-finalist Estleman's compelling 24th Amos Walker novel finds the hard-bitten Detroit PI in rehab, after overdosing on alcohol and Vicodin. The doctor treating Walker gives him a break by not reporting his possession of the pain medication without a prescription. Meanwhile, an old friend asks his help with a murder case in nearby Iroquois Heights: Donald Gates, who maintained the computer that operated the city's traffic lights, was gunned down in his basement. Lt. Ray Henty, who's in charge of the corrupt Iroquois Heights PD, has a tough job made harder by the placement of huge billboards featuring Gates's photo and the legend, "You Know Who Killed Me." The responses to the ads flood the sheriff's department tip line with dozens of anonymous calls, which Walker is deputized to look into. The solution is among the author's craftiest and bleakest," says the Starred Review—which is why it's our Dec. Surprise Me! Pick, paying homage to veteran Estleman.

Faber, Michel. [The Book of Strange New Things](#) (Crown \$28). Peter Leigh is a missionary called to go on the journey of a lifetime. Leaving behind his beloved wife, Bea, he boards a flight for a remote and unfamiliar land, a place where the locals are hungry for the teachings of the Bible—his 'book of strange new things'. It is a quest that will challenge Peter's beliefs, his understanding of the limits of the human body and, most of all, his love for Bea. A wildly original tale of adventure, faith and the ties that might hold two people together when they are worlds apart. The Indie Next Pick deals with questions: "Why wasn't his wife allowed to accompany him? Why is everyone in the human base camp uninterested in the catastrophes that are befalling Earth while they are light years away? Why was Peter's appointment as pastor to the aliens so urgent? Faber does a great job addressing the question of faith and its consequences. A great book group selection!"

Finch, Charles. [The Laws of Murder](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 22). I'm a fan of Charles Lenox, a man in the Lord Peter Wimsey tradition (once LPW married Harriet, not when he was a silly ass early in the game). It's 1876 and Lenox, once London's leading private investigator, is trying to find his footing after giving up his seat in Parliament (to find out why, read his last case: [An Old Betrayal](#) (\$15.99; \$25.99 Signed), which is fascinating about parliament and politics and Disraeli). With three colleagues he's formed an agency, but it's a hard slog for Lenox. Has he been off the game too long, or is someone sabotaging his new start? A chance to become a player arrives when, tragically, a friend, a member of Scotland Yard, is shot near Regent's Park. Near the elegant home of a man Lenox considers to be truly evil. As Lenox begins to parse the peculiar details of the death – an unlaced boot, a days-old wound, an untraceable luggage ticket – he realizes that the incident may lead him into grave personal danger, Lady Jane and his loved ones as well. One reason I love this series is that each book—this is the 8<sup>th</sup>—propels you toward the next.

Frank, Matthew. [If I Should Die](#) (Joseph \$36 in stock). I have somehow failed to convey my enthusiasm for Constable Joseph Stark, once handsome and now scarred war veteran and newly minted cop at London's Met. He's a terrific character with compelling voice and is working a gripping case. I find Stark more dimensional than Mark Billingham's Tom Thorne, less jaded other British police protagonists. In ways he reminds me of Helen Mirren's portrayal in *Prime Suspect*, or of SJ Bolton's policewoman Lacey Flint. This is a first novel—I was prevented from making it a FMC Pick by not enough available Signed firsts. Don't miss it whether you are a fan of British crime fiction or no. "A gripping murder story ... Frank brilliantly maintains a balance between the demands of a complex plot and his character's difficulty in returning to civilian life ... an accomplished first novel (*Sunday Times*)"

Grafton, Sue. [Grafton A-W Set in Hardcover](#) (\$725 free shipping in stock). Note: only some are first printings; those not are reprints of the original with same text and art work, not book club editions or remainders.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Zig Zag Girl](#) (Quercus \$40). When the body of a girl is found, cut into three, Detective Inspector Edgar Stephens is reminded of a magic trick, the Zig Zag Girl. The inventor of the trick, Max Mephisto, is an old friend of Edgar's. They served together in the war as part of a shadowy unit called the Magic Men. Max is still on the circuit, touring seaside towns in the company of ventriloquists, sword-swallowers and dancing girls. Changing times mean that variety is not what it once was, yet Max is reluctant to leave this world to help Edgar investigate. But when the dead girl turns out to be known to him, Max changes his mind. Another death, another magic trick: Edgar and Max become convinced that the answer to the murders lies in their army days. When Edgar receives a letter warning of another 'trick', the Wolf Trap, he knows that they are all in the killer's sights.... Starts a new series by the author of the nearly magical cases featuring Ruth Galloway, a Cambridgeshire archaeologist.

Grossman, Lev. [The Magician's Land](#) (Viking \$29.99 in stock). Signed by Grossman, not tip-ins for this No. 1 bestseller completing his world-building series (I think it can work for older teens, too). In ways, malcontent antihero Quentin

Coldwater had no choice. He had to return to Brakebills Preparatory College of Magic and Fillory, the scenes of his early struggles; but a spontaneous act of courage sends his life spiraling in unforeseen directions. The satisfying finale of a fantasy coming-of-age trilogy; a cunning mix of magical lands, ironic Harry Potter references, Narnia retakes, and real world realizations.

Hall, James W. [The Big Finish](#) (St Martins \$28). Edgar-winner Hall goes deep into eco-terrorism in a dark and violent case where his son Flynn—a young man he's only recently discovered—is in mortal danger. Hall's heart-pounding 14th Thorn novel takes the hard-bitten Florida PI to Pine Haven, N.C., where Flynn Moss and his fellow Earth Liberation Front activists target a hog factory farm in an "action" that goes awry. Shortly after, Thorn receives the latest in a series of postcards from Flynn, dropped anonymously at the office of his PI friend, Sugarman, and bearing only two words: "Help Me." The rescue attempt mounted by the pair soon becomes complicated as Sugar's girlfriend, Tina Gathercole, and FBI agent Madeline Cruz attach themselves to the effort. Meanwhile, murderous ex-con X-88 and his girlfriend, Pixie, descend on Pine Haven with evil intent. "Hall keeps the tension mounting as motives and alliances shift with the foul-scented wind. Even as violence looms, Hall's talent for description adds a balancing, poetical note."

Hallinan, Timothy. [For the Dead](#) (Soho \$25 in stock). "It begins: Bangkok, a city of corruption, sex and violence. An exotic locale where cultures clash and social status is measured vertically, by how many stories you live above the teeming throngs of market stalls and traffic-strangled streets. This is easy country for crime writers. Unless you're Timothy Hallinan, who has avoided the seedy clichés to tell much harder stories of family bonds in Thailand's capital. In a series of highly accomplished thrillers, Hallinan explores relationships that have less to do with blood ties than ones built on sacrifice, trust and shared experience. His latest book, "For the Dead," is no exception, once again using crime as a foil to test the limits of love."—Robert Anglen on the Poke Raffertys which are brilliant all the way from the idea of an American travel writer forging a family in the Thai capital to the nail-biting plots and local color. One of my own favorite series. Our copies precede the Nov. 4 pub date.

Harrison, Mette Ivie. [The Bishop's Wife](#) (Soho \$26.95) places much of the context of *Gone Girl* into a Mormon community in Utah. Things we think we understand about a missing wife are upset as the book moves along. While I find the bishop's wife curiously passive, often lost in domestic detail, her narration underlines how people on the outside of households are reluctant to act or embrace scenarios with no specific (criminal) foundation. It's a disturbing book that will intrigue and possibly annoy you. *PW* writes, "Harrison has been a more or less conservative Mormon since her teenage years, and she hopes to reach two audiences with *The Bishop's Wife*: a national audience willing to see an older Mormon mother as sympathetic, and a Mormon audience of women who are afraid to ask their own questions about religion. *The Bishop's Wife* has all the hallmarks of a twisted murder mystery: a missing wife, dark secrets, and an atmospheric setting. But its characters are Mormons, and Linda, the protagonist, is deeply involved with the church." This First Mystery Pick is out in Dec. and will be signed here Jan. 13.

Hart, Carolyn G. [Ghost Wanted](#) (Berkley \$25.95 in stock). Ghostly gumshoe Bailey Ruth Raeburn of Heaven's Department of Good Intentions is checking out a troubling disturbance in Adelaide, Oklahoma. But what seems at first like simple vandalism won't be an open-and-shut case. Her supervisor, Wiggins, is worried about a dear old friend. The ghost of elegant Lorraine Marlow haunts Adelaide's college library. Known as the Lady of the Roses, she plays matchmaker, using the fragrant flowers to pair up students. But someone's making mischief after hours, leaving roses strewn about the library, destroying a gargoyle, and stealing a valuable book. Soon after her arrival, trouble begins to stack up in this charming cozy.

Hoffman, Patrick. [The White Van](#) (Grove \$24 in stock). Patrick makes the October Hardboiled Crime Club Pick: "A woman on the make in San Francisco meets a Russian businessman in a bar. Thinking that he might be the ticket out of her grim reality, she leaves to party with him. A week later, she finds herself in a drugged stupor, wanted for robbery, and on the run. A dissolute cop hears about the unsolved bank job and decides to retrieve the stolen loot on his own. Desperate, damaged people ruled by their baser desires. What else could you ask for? An addictive noir debut." With a sharply drawn cast of characters—dirty cops, Russian drug dealers, Chinese black-market traders, street smart Cambodians, and shady entrepreneurs—all take part in this terrifying tour through San Francisco's underbelly.

Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses Trinity](#) (Joseph \$43) Vol. II continues a view of the ill-starred reign of Henry VI moving into collision with the House of York, the white rose branch of the Plantagenets. Of special interest is the role of Henry's wife, a fierce French princess who I think got a bad deal (as did Catherine of Aragon, a Spanish princess). Marrying royalty was always risky, even more so if foreign. Start with [Wars of the Roses Stormbird](#) (Putnam \$27.95)

Johnson, Craig. [Wait for Signs 12 Longmire Stories](#) (Viking \$22 Nov. 1). Ten years ago, Johnson wrote his first short story, the Hillerman Award-winning "Old Indian Trick." This was one of the earliest appearances of the sheriff who would go on to star in Johnson's bestselling, award-winning novels and the A&E hit series *Longmire*. Each Christmas Eve thereafter, Johnson sent out a new short story featuring an episode in Walt's life that doesn't appear in the novels; over the years, many have asked why they can't buy the stories in book form. *Wait for Signs* collects some—and one entirely new story, "Petunia, Bandit Queen of the Bighorns"—for the very first time in a single volume. I found it compelling reading about Martha, Walt's wife, before she died, and Walt mourning her. Click here to order last Christmas' Longmire too: [The Spirit of Steamboat](#) (\$12 trade paper or \$20 hardcover), and [Any Other Name](#) (Viking \$26.95), last May's Walt Longmire novel.

Jones, Stephen Lloyd. [Written in the Blood](#) (Headline \$44). High in the mountains of the Swiss Alps, Leah Wilde is about to gamble her life to bring a powerful man an offer. A promise. Leah has heard the dark stories about him and knows she is walking into the lion's den. But her options are running out. Her rare lineage, kept secret for years, is under terrible threat. That is, unless Leah and her mother Hannah are prepared to join up with their once deadly enemies. Should the prey ever trust the predator? Is hope for future generations ever enough to

wash away the sins of the past? With a new and chilling danger stalking them all, and the survival of their society at stake, they may have little choice...

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [The Golem of Hollywood](#) (Putnam \$27.95). Starts an unusual series blending history, the supernatural, and Jewish lore (next: *The Golem of Paris*). David Hunenberg says, "Not since Bette Midler's 'Kreplach that ate Cleveland' has something Jewish made such a grand entrance. Jonathan Kellerman and his son Jesse have co-written a book that is part crime, part Jewish lore with the supernatural thrown in to draw everything together. Don't bother trying to figure who wrote what, just sit back and devour this creative endeavor. Detective Jacob Lev is a hard drinking, jaded cop in L.A., living on the edge. Demoted, then reassigned to the 'special project' section, he is thrown into a perplexing case involving a severed head and a cryptic Hebrew message etched into a kitchen countertop. The case becomes extremely frustrating and the facts don't add up as Lev finds himself without the support of his department and supervisors. But Lev proves that despite his failings, he is still a good cop. As the case points to past serial murders around the country, Lev finds himself in Prague in an attempt to trace the beginning of the spree." "

Kerr, Philip. [January Window](#) (Zeus \$35). Scott Manson is team coach for London City football club. He's also their all-round fixer—he gets the lads in to training, and out of trouble, keeps the wags at bay and the press in his pocket. The players love him, the bosses trust him. But now London City manager Joao Zarco is dead, killed at his team's beloved stadium at Silvertown Docks. Even Scott Manson can't smooth over murder... but can he catch the killer before he strikes again? Set in the glamorous but corrupt world of Premier League football, this is a gripping thriller. Kerr told me at dinner last May that he was inspired by attached a "football match" to write a thriller set in that exciting world. So here it is, of interest to fans of his work and of soccer, or those following the NFL as there are some parallels.

King, Laurie R./Klinger, Leslie S., eds. [In the Company of Sherlock](#) (Pantheon \$24.95 Nov. 18). Note: Michael Connelly's story is Signed. "Devotees of the greatest of all fictional detectives will welcome this anthology from King and Klinger... who have assembled a murderers' row of talent, including bestselling authors not usually associated with Holmes and Watson." —*PW* Starred Review. Contributors are Michael Connelly, Cornelia Funke, Sara Paretsky, Denise Hamilton, Michael Sims, Michael Dirda, Andrew Grant, Harlan Ellison, Jeffery Deaver, Nancy Holder, Laura Caldwell, Leslie S. Klinger, John Lescroart, Gahan Wilson, and Leah Moore & John Reppion.

Lane, Andrew. [The Young Sherlock Holmes #7: Stone Cold](#) (Pan \$35). Sherlock Holmes has been sent to live in Oxford to focus on his education. But something strange is happening in the university pathology labs. #7 in a YA Sherlockian series. Only 2 copies left.

Lanh, Andrew. [Caught Dead](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Think SJ Rozan's Lydia Chin, a private eye in New York's Chinatown. Or San Francisco's Sharon McCone if male, half-Vietnamese instead of half-Indian, relocated to Hartford, Connecticut, and operating in Little Saigon. "At the outset of this masterful series debut from Lanh (the pseudonym of Ed Ifkovic, author of *Final Curtain* and four other Edna Ferber mysteries), set

in Hartford, Conn., Hank Nguyen begs his former professor, insurance fraud investigator Rick Van Lam, to take a look at the drive-by shooting of his relative, Mary Le Vu, who was known as one of the local Vietnamese community's "beautiful Le sisters." While the Hartford police are convinced Mary's death was just collateral damage in a gang war, Rick insists that the solution must lie in the lives of the first- and second-generation immigrants in her family. The Le family members initially seem to fit into obvious molds—the spoiled heiress, the grieving widower, the conservative immigrant parents—but Lanh expertly avoids stereotypes. Each character proves to be a richly drawn enigma. Indeed, Rick's exploration of the Le family is so engaging that readers may forget about the mystery itself. Lanh's faithful portrayal of the complexity of the human experience demonstrates that people, with their secrets and devious motives, are the most captivating mysteries of all."—*PW* Starred Review for our November Surprise Me! Club Pick.

Liss, David. [Day of Atonement](#) (Random \$30 in stock). A gem of historical fiction and the perfect Hanukkah gift. Liss starts his wonderful new novel, much akin to his Edgar-winning [A Conspiracy of Paper](#) (\$15), in roughly 1745 when Sebastião Raposa is 13, so we know the quake is like a ticking clock behind the drive of the action. The Raposas are among Lisbon's conversos, Jews forced into Catholicism as the merciless Inquisition grinds on. One day his parents are seized but they have arranged for him to escape on a ship bound for England (a major trading partner thanks to Portugal's wines). Ten years later, in the guise of English merchant Sebastian Foxx, he returns to Lisbon well schooled by Benjamin Weaver, the notorious bounty hunter of earlier Liss work, in the mental and physical (weapons) skills needed to seek vengeance on whoever ratted out his family, and on the ruthless Inquisitor priest Pedro Azinheiro, who we quickly realize is in this for the money (maybe for the Church, but using the Inquisition for gain nonetheless). How it unfolds with twists, surprises, sorrow and joy, is what makes this another delight from Liss in what may be his last historical fiction. Issues in it plague Europe today.

Lovett, Charlie. [First Impressions](#) (Viking \$27.95 in stock). An Indie Next Pick: "What if Jane Austen plagiarized her greatest work, *Pride and Prejudice*? By alternating chapters about Austen and her fictional friendship with an elderly minister and writer with those involving a modern-day bookseller and Austen fan who is searching for love and rare books, Lovett builds suspense." How great to get lost in a library, whether in a great country house or a modern London flat. I like the time-jump structure as well as the wonderful wisdom imparted by Lovett, a collector of some 30 years experience (his focus is Lewis Carroll). Lovett shows how a second printing of a book can be more valuable than a first. If you [click here](#) you can enjoy a sneak peek at a Book Club discussion kit for this book.

Maden, Mike. [Blue Warrior](#) (Putnam \$26.95 in stock). Second books can go either way. Maden's sequel to Troy Pearce's debut in [Drone](#) (\$9.99 or \$36.95 Signed), a 2013 FMC Pick, really ups his game. Africa remains a hard sell although thrillers are shifting to its diverse landscapes. Here we are in Mali in a region of the remote Sahara rich in Rare Earth Elements. REEs are strategically valuable and ignite an international rush to secure them. But the Tuaregs, fierce warrior nomads, are resolute in defending their wasteland and independence. The Chinese align

with the Malian government to crush the tribe. Al-Qaeda sees opportunity. So Pearce and his drone-deploying team go into action to save the Tuareg rebellion and, incidentally, colleagues. But more than advanced technology is needed to unmask the puppet master(s) behind the Tuareg revolt. Boots-on-the-ground action plus advanced cyber warfare and weaponry are dexterously employed alongside respect for an ancient culture.

Malliet, GM. [A Demon Summer](#) (St Martins \$25.99 in stock). This charming and just sufficiently quirky English village series gets spice from the handsome Rev. Max Tudor's previous life as an agent of MI6. And his romance with Awena, the owner of the village's New Age center. Before Max works up a way to tell his bishop about his upcoming marriage, that cleric dispatches Max to the nunnery of Monkbury Abbey, where the sisters produced a fruitcake that sickened the Earl of Lislelivet some months after a visit. Was the poisoning an accident? Can Max gain the sisters' confidence and learn the truth about the fruitcake. The community, Max learns, is divided between those who want the abbey to have more contact with the outside world and those who don't. Meanwhile, he has a possibly related crime to solve. Readers of Louise Penny's *The Beautiful Mystery* will find extra enjoyment in a case that ends with a Golden Age gathering together of all the murder suspects.

Marr, Andrew. [Head of State](#) (Fourth Estate \$40 1 copy in stock). Two corpses. A country on the edge of a political precipice. A conspiracy so bold it would make Machiavelli wince. Andrew Marr's debut novel imagines what really might be going on behind the door of 10 Downing Street. When a young investigative reporter is found dead on the streets of London few people notice. But when another body—minus its head and hands—is washed up on the banks of the Thames, its grisly condition arouses a little more interest. There appears to be no connection between the two dead men. But, unsuspected by the electorate, there is a shocking and dangerous secret at the very heart of government. If you've missed the BBC's 1990s dramatization of Michael Dodd's *House of Cards*, Marr's first novel presents "a gleefully twisted spin through the corridors of power."

Marston, Edward. [Deeds of Darkness](#) (Allison \$45). In June 1916, a young woman is found murdered in a cinema. Harvey Marmion and Joe Keedy set out to find the killer who so elusively fled in the dark. Before long, two more victims, of striking similarity but differing backgrounds, are found dead around the city. Meanwhile, miles from home, Marmion's son Paul prepares for life on the front line as he marches towards the Battle of the Somme. Suffering a vicious blow in No Man's Land, Paul is left blinded for the rest of his life. Marmion must come to terms with the permanent darkness of his son's life, while continuing to search for the brutal killer who only strikes in the dark.... A Homefront Mystery.

Mayor, Archer. [Proof Positive](#) (St Martins \$28 in stock). I don't know why everyone doesn't read Joe Gunther's surprising police procedures with killer plots, unusual characters, great forensics, and wonderful Vermont (and nearby) landscapes. This is his 25<sup>th</sup> case and involves a hoarder whose death, crushed under a pile of personal effects among the junk, looks like an accident. But it turns out that the dead man had been an ace war photographer before a head wound and PTSD ruined him.... I mention this

gem again because you can now order all 24 earlier Gunthers. I am adding the missing to our inventory as soon as I finish this *Collectors Corner*. [Click here](#) to order. I cannot recommend starting at No. 1 and reading them in order enough for a mesmerizing reading experience.

McKenzie, CB. [Bad Country](#) (St Martins \$24.99 Nov. 4). The 2014 Tony Hillerman Prize winner and a First Mystery Club Pick. “PI Rodeo Grace Garnet, a Pascua Yaqui who’s the sole resident of Vista Montana Estates in El Hoyo, Ariz., returns home from vacation to find a man shot dead by his front gates. Garnet first calls Sheriff “Apache” Ray Molina to report the crime, then notifies his lawyer, Jarred Willis, in Tucson, just in case law enforcement wants him for questioning. Later, a state trooper asks Garnet about three other recent murders in the area. Meanwhile, Katherine Rocha, a fellow Pascua Yaqui, asks him to look into the drive-by killing of her gang-member grandson, though she’s curiously indifferent to his fate...”—*PW*. “*Bad Country* is a compelling debut, full of stark imagery and soaring prose. This novel’s beautiful conclusion is going to stay with me for a long, long time.” —Jeff Guinn

McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and the Reek of Red Herrings](#) (Hodder \$45). #9 for the 1920s Scottish detective. On the rain-drenched, wave-lashed, wind-battered Banffshire coast, tiny fishing villages perch on ledges which would make a seagull think twice and crumbly mansions cling to crumblier cliff tops while, out in the bay, the herring drifters brave the storms to catch their silver darlings. It’s nowhere for a child of gentle Northamptonshire to spend Christmas. But when odd things start to turn up in barrels of fish—with a strong whiff of murder most foul—that’s exactly where Dandy Gilver, in her 9<sup>th</sup> case, finds herself. Enlisted to investigate, she and her trusty cohort Alec Osborne are soon swept up in the fisherfolk’s wedding season as well as the mystery. Between age-old traditions and brand-new horrors, Dandy must think the unthinkable to solve her grisliest case yet.

Morrow, Bradford. [The Forgers](#) (Grove \$24 in stock). Our Nov. Modern Firsts Club Pick as it pairs brilliantly with Alix Christie’s debut noted above: both are bibliofiction, that is, fiction about books and the book world. The Indie Next Pick: “This literary thriller is all about book collectors, booksellers, old books and manuscripts, and, of course, forgers. A famous book collector is found murdered and one of the suspects is Will, his future brother-in-law, who was once arrested for forgery. Nothing is proven, but soon Will starts to receive threatening letters written in the hand of long-dead authors. Feeling challenged in his craftsmanship, Will goes into a forgery duel that will force him to the limits to save his livelihood and the love of his life. So well written, *The Forgers* will take some time to finish as readers might want reread every sentence!” We have only a dozen signed firsts left, so hurry!

Mosley, Walter. [Rose Gold](#) (Knopf \$25.95 in stock). We had to exert a lot of muscle to get this one signed. Confirmation came late. Do not miss it. Patrick reviews: “Set in 1967 Los Angeles, amid political upheaval, the escalating Vietnam War, hippies, free love and free drugs, Mosley crafts an unforgettable tale that captures the tense, powder keg feeling of the times. This time out, Rawlins is approached by the LAPD, to investigate the disappearance of Rosemary Goldsmith, daughter of a wealthy

arms dealer. “Rose Gold” had been keeping company with young black boxer-turned-political-radical Bob Mantle. Was she kidnapped? Or did she leave willingly and is now trying to extort her millionaire daddy? To say that Easy is ambivalent about taking this case is an understatement, and soon the cops and the FBI are at odds with each other, with Easy in the middle. Mosley is a national treasure and this is one of the great, enduring series in modern fiction.”

Nadel, Barbara. [Poisoned Ground](#) (Quercus \$45 only 1 in stock). Ex-soldier Lee Arnold and his Muslim assistant Mumtaz Hakim run a detective agency in London’s ethnically diverse, crime-ridden East End. Mumtaz is approached by an Egyptian woman, Salwa, whose husband is in Belmarsh on terrorism charges. Salwa convinces Mumtaz of her husband’s innocence and persuades her to go undercover to prove it. But Salwa is not what she seems...

Neville, Stuart. [The Final Silence](#) (Soho \$26.95 Nov. 9). Memories of Belfast’s troubled history haunt every street corner, but for one tortured soul, the incredible violence in his past is also his most cherished legacy. Rea Carlisle—daughter of influential Stormont politician Graham Carlisle—has inherited a house from an uncle she never knew. While cleaning it out, she finds a leather-bound book containing detailed descriptions of eight murders, along with fingernails and hair taken from the bodies of victims. Her father, a member of Northern Ireland’s parliament, the Stormont Assembly, fears for his political career, and forbids Rea to go to the authorities. Instead, Rea seeks unofficial help from Jack Lennon, who was once her lover, unaware that Lennon is facing suspension for shooting a fellow officer in Stolen Goods.... Neville is the co-editor of [Belfast Noir](#) (Akashic \$15.95) and will sign copies. Stories by Glenn Patterson, Eoin McNamee, Garbhan Downey, Lee Child, Alex Barclay, Brian McGilloway, Ian McDonald, Arlene Hunt, Ruth Dudley Edwards, Claire McGowan, Steve Cavanagh, Lucy Caldwell, Sam Millar, and Gerard Brennan.

Nichols, Amy. [Now That You’re Here](#) (Knopf \$16.95 Dec. 14). A YA debut from a James Sallis student earns a coveted Starred Review: “Danny Ogden is a graffiti artist for an extremist sect when an explosion thrusts him into a Phoenix classroom on a parallel Earth—ours. Eevee Solomon, 15, is his only connection to home; a romantic acquaintance in his semi-totalitarian dimension, she’s a brilliant science nerd in this one, and perhaps the only person who can help him return to his world. Debut novelist Nichols explores this jarring turn of events from both characters’ perspectives as a disoriented Danny muddles through a world where his parents are dead while Eevee must reconcile that the Danny who tormented her best friend has been replaced by a boy with whom she’s falling in love. Nichols infuses the story with a smattering of science fiction and science fact, while making a welcome departure from the stereotype of the book-smart outcast trying to fit in. These geeks own their intelligence like a badge of honor, using science to help a friend and explore strange new worlds. Riveting in its own right, the story sets the stage for a mirror-image sequel, which will follow the other Danny and Eevee. Ages 12–up.”

Ochse, Weston. [Reign of Evil: A Seal Team 666 Novel](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 13). This exuberant vampire series is a

favorite of our staffer Pat King. Fun more than collectible but rumor has it a film is in the works.... Legend holds that when Britain is in its darkest hour, King Arthur will return to save the country, if not the world. That legend is dead wrong. When a Grove of Druids sacrifice the lives of a group of innocents, including the fiancée of a member of SEAL Team 666, the ancient king is brought back from the dead and sets his sight on subjugating humanity and cleansing his land of all who are not true Britons. Because of political sensitivities, Triple 6 is ordered to stand down, but that order is ignored by one of them seeking his own vengeance... 3<sup>rd</sup> in series.

Parker, T. Jefferson. [Full Measure](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 4). Since he abandoned journalism in 1985 to make up his own world of Southern California cops and robbers, T. Jefferson Parker has socked away three Edgar Awards and watched his novels climb the bestseller lists. “In its commission and its resolution, *Full Measure*, however, is not a crime novel (although it contains plenty of crimes: arson, vehicular homicide, prostitution, robbery, assault). Rather, it is the story of an avocado-farming family in the small San Diego County town of Fallbrook, just up the highway from the Camp Pendleton Marine base.... a hard look at the effects of war, the bonds of both brothers and brothers-in-arms, the fate of the family farm in modern society, and the economic stress on small American towns after 9/11 and the Great Recession. If that sounds like a lot of weight for one novel to carry, Parker’s 30 years of crime writing equip him to pack the load. When it turns out that the wildfire is the result of arson, *Full Measure* picks up the pace as Homeland Security agents come to Fallbrook to investigate a local white-supremacy gang, as well as Muslim and Mexican immigrants.”—Bruce Jacobs

Pattison, Eliot. [Soul of the Fire](#) (St Martins \$28). Shan Tao Yun #8. The magic of his Edgar winner STY #1 *Skull Mantra* never fades despite the horrors confronting Tibetans and those (Chinese, America, whatever) in sympathy with them. Plus Pattison has worked in some Native American elements from time to time. Former rising star in the Party Inspector Shan Tao Yun was sent into grim exile in Tibet and, though free, remains tied to its brave people. Per a Starred Review, “Pattison’s superlative eighth mystery featuring Shan Tao Yun, takes the former Beijing government investigator to Zhongje, a Tibetan community that the Chinese regard as a ‘showcase for the motherland.’ To Shan’s astonishment, he’s been tapped to serve on the People’s International Commission for Peace and Order, ‘dedicated to eliminating the criminal acts of self-aggression that undermine harmonious coexistence in ethnic geographies.’ Shan, who has served time in labor camps, is to fill the designated slot reserved for a reformed criminal, but on his first day on the commission, he witnesses a self-immolation. His police training causes him to doubt that the death was a suicide, and his refusal to ignore the facts puts him at odds with his superiors, who don’t want the truth derailing their political agenda. Pattison impressively combines a thrilling plot with a passionate denunciation of the Chinese oppression of the Tibetan people.” Truly this is a knockout entry in a brilliant series. I bet you won’t forget its startling conclusion.

Perry, Anne. [Blood on the Water](#) (Random \$26). Perry’s 20th William Monk opens with a powerful scene. Monk, commander

of the Thames River Police, witnesses an explosion aboard a pleasure boat, which rapidly sinks. Despite his heroic efforts to save lives, almost 200 are lost in the tragedy, which the detective quickly concludes wasn’t an accident. To Monk’s dismay, the authorities take the case away from his force and assign it to the London Metropolitan Police. An Egyptian man, Habib Beshara, is charged with planting the bomb that caused the deadly explosion, though his motive is far from clear. Monk has misgivings about Beshara’s guilt, but with the case reassigned and a culprit identified, he can investigate only at risk to his career. It’s a pleasure to return to this series’ main characters—Monk; his wife, Hester; and their 16-year-old surrogate son, Scuff. Also, [A New York Christmas](#) (Random \$18), one of her holiday novellas. Tentatively scheduled for Nov. 23 but it depends on Perry’s visa status. Eventually she will return to The Pen to sign, we just can’t promise when.

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Blue Labyrinth](#) (Grand Central \$27 No. 11). Agent Pendergast slowly came back to life in [White Fire](#) (\$10; \$27) after the terrible events of [Two Graves](#) (\$10; 4 Signed at \$26.95). And now he’s back in Manhattan with his ward Constance when one of his most relentless enemies shows up at the door—as a corpse. It’s a perfect murder—but for one clue: the dead man has a bit of turquoise lodged in his stomach. This leads Pendergast west to the bleak Salton Sea (a fabulous landscape and history) and an abandoned mine. Nevertheless a long-buried family secret eventually surfaces with wide-ranging repercussions. Constance gets a co-starring role in this wickedly plotted addition to the bestselling Pendergast novels. Don’t overlook the pair’s 3<sup>rd</sup> Gideon Crew, [Lost Island](#) (Grand Central \$27), and Preston’s solo [Kraken Project](#) (Forge \$26.99).

Ramsay, Frederick. [The Wolf and the Lamb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). It’s Passover. Pontius Pilate has been framed for murder while outside the Antonia Fortress, High Priest Caiaphas is framing that irritating messiah he is determined to martyr despite Rabban Gamaliel’s advice he should not. *PW* gives this its ultimate accolade: a Boxed and Starred Review (in case you think this is me being a fan girl): “Ramsay audaciously sets his outstanding third Jerusalem mystery (after *The Eighth Veil* and *Holy Smoke*) at the very time of Jesus’ arrest. When Pontius Pilate, emperor’s prefect of Judea and overseer of Palestine, is arrested for murdering his rival, Aurelius Decimus, all the evidence is against him. Pilate was caught literally red-handed, covered in blood at the scene of the crime, with his dagger stuck in Decimus’ corpse. Pilate insists he was framed. Since he doesn’t believe he will get justice from his Roman countrymen, he turns to Rabban Gamaliel, chief rabbi of the Sanhedrin, the ruling body of first-century Israel. The rabbi’s commitment to justice compels him to accept the case, despite his loathing for his ‘client’ and the consequences to his own standing if his fellow Jews get wind of his role. Meanwhile, the Dagger Men, a sect of Jewish assassins, begin their reign of terror. Ramsay brings the tumult of the time to vivid life while neatly integrating the events leading to Christ’s crucifixion into the whodunit story line.”

Rankin, Ian. [The Beat Goes on Complete Stories](#) (Orion \$50). Brought together for the first time, and including brand new material, this is the ultimate Rebus short-story collection

Rice, Anne. [The Prince Lestat](#) (Knopf \$27.95 tip-ins). “For over a decade, her devotees have been clinging to the slender

possibility that Anne Rice would rescind her decision that 2003's *Blood Canticle* was the final volume in her classic Vampire Chronicles. ...” That Brat Prince Lestat has returned—and he couldn't have been called from his exile at a more pressing time. The entire vampire world has descended into bloody massacres and the madness of destruction. Many of Rice's hallmark characters also return.

Rizzolo, Suzanne. [Die I Will Not](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Today's “Austenland” features light-hearted dramas. And women dream of a Mr. Darcy. They don't dream of what it was like to choose the wrong partner—or have no partner. They don't dream of no control of their property, or their children. Jane Austen's world was still a man's world. Readers of CS Harris and Stephanie Barron know there was a dark side to the Regency where poverty, politics, passions, and privileges roiled England. The French had had their revolution. Would the British avoid one? Penelope Wolfe, a young wife and mother who married unwisely—an artist, no family man—and must live with the consequences, fears scandal will engulf her family when revelations about her father circulate in 1813 London. They include seditious writings and an unsolved murder. Penelope can't turn to an established police force. So she enlists firebrand lawyer Edward Buckler and Bow Street Runner John Chase, her allies in two earlier investigations into murder. The men put their careers at risk supporting Penelope while trying to identify a new killer and the one who's escaped justice so long... “Rizzolo vividly depicts Regency London through her trio of contrasting but equally likable protagonists—Penelope, Buckler, and Chase.”—*PW*.

Rothfuss, Patrick. [The Slow Regard of Silent Things](#) (DAW \$18.95) Novella. The University, a renowned bastion of knowledge, attracts the brightest minds to unravel the mysteries of enlightened sciences like artificing and alchemy. Yet deep below its bustling halls lies a complex and cavernous maze of abandoned rooms and ancient passageways—and in the heart of it all lives Auri. Formerly a student at the University, now Auri spends her days tending the world around her. She has learned that some mysteries are best left settled and safe. No longer fooled by the sharp rationality so treasured by the University, Auri sees beyond the surface of things, into subtle dangers and hidden names.

Rowland, Laura Joh. [The Iris Fan](#) (St Martins \$28). It's 1709. The shogun, master and enemy of Sano Ichiro, is dying. Events in previous books see Sano, once the Shogun's investigator, then chamberlain, reduced to lowly patrol guard. His marriage to Reiko is in tatters. His enemies Yanagisawa and Lord Ienobu appear to have formed an alliance that leaves Sano puzzled—and wary. Sano's longtime lieutenant Hirata is plotting against the regime. Yet bushido, the Way of the Warrior, keeps Sano loyal to his Samurai code of honor. Then the shogun is stabbed, in his palace with a fan of painted silk having sharpened iron ribs, and Sano is restored to his chief investigator's role to catch the culprit. But he also has to match wits with his enemies and fear the displeasure of the shogun's heir.... This is the final chapter in a splendid series brilliantly bringing feudal Japan alive. I have sucked up every single one of the previous 17 novels, plus this one.

Sansom, CJ. [Lamentation](#) (Macmillan \$45). Summer, 1546. King Henry VIII is slowly, painfully dying. His Protestant and Catholic councilors are engaged in a final and decisive power

struggle. The Catholic party focuses its attack on Henry's sixth wife, Matthew Shardlake's old mentor, Queen Catherine Parr.

Scarrow, Simon. [Brothers in Blood](#) (Headline \$42). A messenger on the streets of Rome has been intercepted and tortured, revealing a plot to sabotage the Roman army's campaign against Caratacus, commander of Britannia's native tribes. A treacherous agent's mission is to open a second front of attack against them and eliminate the two Roman soldiers who could stand in the way. Unwarned, Cato and Macro are with the Roman army pursuing Caratacus and his men through the mountains of Britannia. Defeating Caratacus finally seems within their grasp. But the plot against the two heroes threatens not only their military goals but also their lives. #13 in series.

Scottoline, Lisa. [Betrayed](#) (St Martins \$27.99 Dec. 3). Scottoline, a Philly lawyer herself, has clearly loved creating the all-women firm Rosato & Associates, then giving the various lawyers therein starring roles in her legal thrillers. This time out it's gutsy Judy Carrier, who has yet to make partner and chafes at Bennie Rosato's control—and especially at being assigned 75 asbestos case referrals. It's big bucks, but boring work. Plus Mary DiNunzio, newly minted partner, has her mind on her upcoming wedding. Judy's down and sinks lower when a call from her beloved Aunt Barb reveals a breast-cancer diagnosis—and Judy's disapproving mother's arrival from Santa Barbara. And then Barb's caregiver, Iris, a Hispanic who works part-time in the local mushroom industry, is murdered. And leaves unexplained stashes of cash.... There are major surprises as this unusual case unfolds—don't think this is a girlfriends' book—and you will enjoy Judy's end game.

Siger, Jeffrey. [Sons of Sparta](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 in stock). Think Joseph Wambaugh or Ed McBain, or Andrea Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano Sicilian series. In *Sons of Sparta*, the question is, can outsiders, Greek or other, break into the tight, bloody culture of the isolated Mani region where centuries of blood feuds—vendettas—based on strict codes of honor, have pitted neighbor against neighbor, relatives against relatives? The roots of the Mani, located at the tip of the mountainous Peloponnese peninsula, run deep. Perhaps all the way back to ancient Sparta. Here is the *PW* Starred Review: “For Chief Insp. Andreas Kaldis, interacting with known crime boss Orestes is just another day at the office in Siger's perfectly plotted sixth mystery set in Greece. But for Special Crimes Division detective Yianni Kouros things get a little too personal when a beloved relative dies in an apparent accident...” 6<sup>th</sup> in a muscular, dramatic series drawing on Greek history, ancient and of today, as well as its landscapes.

Stabenow, Dana. [By the Shores of the Middle Sea](#) (Gere \$14.95 Nov. 29) Silk and Song Vol. II after Vol. I: [Everything Under the Heavens](#) (\$14.99) where 16-year old Johanna fled Cambaluc—and her murderous stepmother—to join her uncle's westbound caravan on the Silk Road. With her foster brother Jaufre and a few faithful companions, they made it to the rooftop of the world—Terak Pass—separating Mongol China from the scattered sheikdoms of the Persian Empire. Then, disaster struck. Now Johanna is a prisoner in the harem at Talikan, with Baron Ogodei's army pillaging the countryside and preparing to sack the tiny Persian enclave. In Kabul, thousands of leagues to the south, Jaufre lies recovering from his near-fatal wound. Their

journey has taken them thousands of miles from home, yet thousands more lie between them and Gaza, where Johanna and Jaufre once meant to take ship for Venice and the sanctuary of Johanna's grandfather Marco Polo's family. Gaza and Venice: two cities on opposite shores of the Middle Sea that together open a door to the West. For Johanna and Jaufre, it's a passage that will shape their destiny, if only they can reach it (hence Vol. III in 2015).

Stockwin, Julian. [The Silk Tree](#) (Allison \$44). Forced to flee Rome from the barbaric rampages of the Ostrogoths, merchant Nicander meets an unlikely ally in the form of Marius, a fierce Roman legionary. Escaping to a new life in Constantinople, the two land upon its shores lonely and penniless. Needing to make money fast, they plot and plan a number of outrageous money-making schemes, until they chance upon their greatest idea yet. Armed with a wicked plan to steal precious silk seeds from the faraway land of Seres, Nicander and Marius must embark upon a terrifyingly treacherous journey across unknown lands, never before completed. But first they must deceive the powerful emperor Justinian and the rest of his formidable Byzantine Empire in order to begin their journey into the unknown...An adventurous tale of mischief, humor and deception, Nicander and Marius face danger of the highest order.

Taylor, Andrew. [The Silent Boy](#) (Collins \$40 in stock). Here is the awaited follow-up to bestseller and History Club Pick *The American Boy* (US title: *An Unpardonable Crime*). Charles Savill, scarred, older, and having lost his wife Augusta during his time in America, is back in London lodging in Nightingale Lane and looking after his daughter Lizzie. Word comes from 1792 Paris that Augusta has been killed in the riots at the Tuileries, and that she is survived by a ten-year-old son. The boy is now deep in rural England in custody of émigrés including the powerful Conte de Quillon, once Augusta's lover. Augusta's uncle, the wealthy Mr. Rampton, a figure in government—he says the Post Office but it's the Black Letters Department—wishes Savill to travel to Charnwood Court and bring the boy to London where he will be made Rampton's heir, even though Savill may claim him; Lizzie is the boy's closest relative. That's the set-up for a complex story where you should take nothing for granted other than Charles truly has been made mute by the shock of Augusta's murder. If you like Imogen Robertson's Mrs. Westerman's novels, waste no time grabbing this.

Taylor, Brad. [No Fortunate Son](#) (Putnam \$26.95 out Dec. 30 Signed Jan.9). Pike Logan and partner Jennifer Cahill receive a letter from Blaisdell Consulting—the umbrella cover company for their real employer, a top secret counterterrorist unit called the Taskforce—they expect orders for their next mission-impossible tasking. Instead, they learn that their latest actions have gotten them fired, despite having saved thousands of innocent lives. Pike's shock and fury is redirected when their commander, Colonel Kurt Hale, asks him and Jennifer for help with a personal matter: His niece Kylie, an exchange student in England, has gone missing. Meanwhile, all Taskforce teams have been redirected to a developing situation. A terrorist organization has targeted military relatives of key members of the US government, including the vice president's son. Their seizure of hostages was far-reaching and meticulously coordinated, and the full extent of the threat—and potential demands—has thrown the government into turmoil. With worse to come....

Todd, Charles. [A Fine Summer's Day](#) (Morrow \$26.99 Jan. 8). On a fine summer's day in June, 1914, Ian Rutledge pays little notice to the assassination of an archduke in Sarajevo. An Inspector at Scotland Yard, he is planning to propose to the woman whom he deeply loves, despite intimations from friends and family that she may not be the wisest choice. To the north on this warm and gentle day, another man in love—a Scottish Highlander—shows his own dear girl the house he will build for her in September. While back in England, a son awaits the undertaker in the wake of his widowed mother's death. This death will set off a series of murders across England, seemingly unconnected, that Rutledge will race to solve in the weeks before the fateful declaration in August that will upend the world.

Tóibín, Colm. [Nora Webster](#) (Scribner \$27.99). The Irish novelist captures the social tumult of late-'60s Ireland, but the eponymous heroine's story is age-old and resonant. She's a young widow facing single motherhood in a fishbowl of a small town, struggling to forge a new life despite sympathetic but judgmental family and friends. The children, her work and peaceful evenings satisfy Wexford's Nora, but she does love music, something she and Maurice did not share. She joins the Gramophone Society and accepts an offer of singing lessons. As she embraces experiences she has created for herself, she acknowledges her strong will and comes into her own. The Troubles erupt, a union comes to town, her children grow into young adults, and Nora handles it all with quiet grace.

Twelve Hawks, John. [Spark](#) (Knopf \$25.95 en route). Another signed book late to confirm. Jacob Underwood is a contract employee of the Special Services Section, a small shadow department buried within the multinational corporation DBG, headquartered in New York City. Jacob is not a businessman—he is a hired assassin whose job is to neutralize problems deemed unacceptable by the corporation. But Jacob is not like other employees, nor is he like other people. After a catastrophic motorcycle accident leaves him with Cotard's syndrome—an actual condition that causes those afflicted to believe they are dead—Jacob perceives himself as nothing but a “Shell,” with no emotions and no tether to the concept of right and wrong. Emily Buchanan is a bright young second-year associate for DBG, and she has disappeared without a trace. Suspecting that Emily has stolen either vast sums of money or valuable information from the company, Ms. Holquist, Jacob's handler at DBG, assigns him the task of tracking down the young woman and neutralizing her. Ms. Holquist fails to allow how the assignment may neutralize Jacob.... Terrific premise from a skilled writer.

Tyler, LC. [Cruel Necessity](#) (Constable \$45) starts a tongue-in-cheek UK series set in Restoration England. The narrator John Grey, a young Cambridgeshire student of law, is a mixture of the naïve and the shrewd, and misses much of what's going on in his village and in the story. The theatres are padlocked. Christmas has been cancelled. It is 1657 and the unloved English Republic is eight years old. Though Cromwell's joyless grip on power appears immovable, many still look to Charles Stuart's dissolute and threadbare court-in-exile, and some are prepared to risk their lives plotting a restoration. For the officers of the Republic, constant vigilance is needed. So, when the bloody corpse of a Royalist spy is discovered on the dung heap of a small Essex village, why is the local magistrate so reluctant to investigate? Grey, believing the dead man deserves justice while villagers are

ignoring the murder, is drawn into a vortex of plot and counter-plot and into the all-encompassing web of intrigue spun by Cromwell's own spy-master, John Thurloe. I really enjoyed how the story plays out.

In stock now, only 2 copies left: [Crooked Herring](#) (Allison \$42). Ethelred Tressider, mid-list crime writer, is surprised when fellow author Henry Holiday unexpectedly turns up on his doorstep. He's even more surprised when Henry confesses that he may have committed murder while drunk on New Year's Eve. Though he has little recollection of the night, Henry fears he may have killed drinking companion and fellow crime writer Crispin Vynall, and asks Ethelred to discreetly make enquiries in order to discover the truth. As Ethelred and his trusty agent Elsie begin to investigate, they discover that Henry has been set up, and now all that remains is for them to find out why and, more importantly ...whodunnit?

Waite, Urban. [Sometimes the Wolf](#) (Morrow \$26.99). The Indie Next Pick: "In this powerful story set amidst the lush landscape of the Northwest, former sheriff Patrick Drake has just been released from prison. As he tries to make a new start with his son, who is a sheriff's deputy in his father's old department, his past comes back to haunt him. Violence from Patrick's old life plays out in the forefront, and the issues of family loss, disappointment, and forgiveness are the backdrop for this rapidly paced, spellbinding novel." Patrick gave it a rave in the October *Booknews* and makes it the Nov. Hardboiled Crime Club Pick.

Walker, Casey. [Last Days in Shanghai](#) (Consortium \$26). This edgy first novel delivers a scathing indictment of congressional politics as it follows a young aide on a business trip to China. Walker's smart writing on a host of issues, including China's frenzied construction boom, which has paved over ancient traditions block by block, and the sorry state of American politics, gives this cautionary tale *frisson*." —*Booklist*. Walker's shockingly plausible literary debut...[turns] an outrageous tale of embezzlement into a rollicking moral drama." —*PW* Starred Review for our Dec. Thriller Club Pick.

Whittle, Tina. [Deeper Than the Grave](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95). Atlanta's Tai Randolph #4 and a Civil War burial ground...with a new body. When a tornado blows by a Kennesaw Mountain cemetery near Atlanta, the storm wreaks havoc, striking a mausoleum and scattering the bones of a Confederate hero. But wait—there's more buried beneath the Georgia red clay and a live murderer on the loose... Tai Randolph's lover, Trey Seaver, a former SWAT cop brain-injured in an accident, faces huge challenges, challenges he must relearn skills to meet. He's been relying on GQ for cues on how to dress or decorate his apartment where Tai is gradually gaining a foothold—moving up to decent drawer space and half the closet. But can Trey go further? This question is as compelling as the mystery in Confederate-themed gun-shop owner Tai's 4th case. Whittle's series is a must for fans of Meg Gardiner and Sara Paretsky and a less-dark Karin Slaughter who like "a little whiplash humor and a lot of slightly crooked heart." And here's what bestseller Beatriz Williams has to say: "*Deeper Than the Grave* hooked me from the first page: a deliciously addictive fusion of mystery, history, and combustible physical chemistry. Whittle has created an unforgettable crime-solving duo in Tai Randolph and ex-FBI agent Trey Seaver, who kept me guessing to the end as they tracked down a series of murders linked to Atlanta's Civil War past. A thoroughly satisfying read."

Wilson, F. Paul. [Fear City](#) (Forge \$25.99 Nov. 12). Repairman Jack #18. Set in 1993, the riveting chronicle of Jack's early years finds the score-settling "fixer" living in Manhattan, straddling the boundary between both sides of the law. "A brutal murder catalyzes the collision of several subplots developed in Jack's two previous outings, notably the Ancient Septimus Fraternal Order's backing of Muslim extremists, whose passion for bringing jihad to America sets them on course to bomb the World Trade Center. Jack loses several people dear to him in the destruction of the Twin Towers, and is witness to interrogations that come close to being torture porn, discovering just how cruelly the darkness inside him can express itself. Wilson skillfully cross-cuts between characters and their viewpoints as the clock ticks down to the exciting climax. If, as the author's note suggests, this may be the last Repairman Jack adventure, Wilson has certainly sent the series off with a bang," says *PW*. Say it ain't so, Paul.

Wilson, Valerie Plame. [Burned](#) (Blue Hen/Putnam \$26.95). Covert CIA ops officer Vanessa Pierson has dedicated her career to capturing one man: Bhoot, the world's most notorious nuclear arms dealer. That mission has been impeded by the murders of her assets, who were betrayed by a mole within her own agency. When she narrowly escapes death during a devastating explosion at the Louvre, Vanessa immediately suspects that Bhoot was the architect of the brazen terrorist attack. But when a previously unknown militant group claims responsibility for the bombing and promises even greater carnage, she is forced to rethink her initial assumptions. Especially when she hears from Bhoot! Written with Sarah Lovett.

Woods, Stuart. [Paris Match](#) (Putnam \$29 in stock). Stone Barrington, NY lawyer to the glitterati and also the politician—including the pregnant Democratic nominee for President, Kate—is also co-owner of the Arrington Hotel empire. And L'Arrington is opening in Paris. Naturally Stone jets over. And naturally he is quickly coopted by the CIA for an assignment. Between bouts of sex with a Frenchwoman who is the sister of the Prefect of the Paris Police and with Holly Barker, plus his former lover Ann on the phone from Kate's campaign HQ, Stone has to keep up his strength with Knob Creek and many meals. This is a kind of male bodice-ripper with Stone working the gears of government along with the CIA's Lance and local personnel. A real male fantasy, this one, and fun. Woods is my secret indulgence for the smoothness, OK, and shallowness, of the whole. Sometimes it's good to read purely for entertainment.

#### **MORE SIGNED BOOKS INVENTORY**

Amis, Martin. [Zone of Interest](#) (Canongate \$44) Controversial novel exploring deep questions in context of a concentration camp

Baldacci, David. [The Target](#) (Grand Central \$30) Will Robie #3

Benn, James R. [The Rest is Silence](#) (Soho \$29) Gripping depiction of the Allied Forces preparing to embark from southern England for D Day.

Billingham, Mark. [The Bones Beneath](#) (LittleBrown \$44) London copper Tom Thorne is challenged by a psychopath who will reveal the whereabouts of a body buried 25 years ago—if Thorne escorts him to the site

Bommersbach, Jana. [Cattle Kate](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Debut telling the true story behind the lynching of a Wyoming settler—it was murder

Bouman, Tom. [Dry Bones in the Valley](#) (Norton \$24.95) Outlaws and a murder hunt in rural northeastern Pennsylvania where Wild Thyme lives up to its name

Bowen, Rhys. [Queen of Hearts](#) (Berkley \$25.95) Her Royal Spyness visits America

Box, C. J. [Stone Cold](#) (Putnam \$29) Joe Pickett plumbs the dark and deadly at a massive hidden ranch in Wyoming's Black Hills

Brady, Eileen. [Muzzled](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Debut featuring a veterinarian in a small, upstate-NY town. Wonderful animal stories

Brookes, Adam. [Night Heron](#) (Random \$28) FMC Pick brilliantly depicting modern espionage with the China front

Brown, Rita Mae. [Nine Lives to Die](#) (Random \$26) A new Pet Cozy

Burke, James Lee. [Light of the World](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99)

Burke, James Lee. [Wayfaring Stranger](#) (SimonSchuster \$27.99)

Cain, Chelsea. [One Kick](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99) Starts a new series led by a woman kidnapped by predators when a girl

Casey, Donis. [Hell with the Lid Blown Off](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) A tornado leaves wreckage—and a body—in 1915 Boynton, Oklahoma where other winds of change can be felt in a fabulous book

Cha, Steph. [Beware, Beware](#) (St Martins \$25.99) 2<sup>nd</sup> for LA Koreatown sleuth Juniper Song

Child, Lee. [Never Go Back](#) (Bantam \$45) The 2013 Jack Reacher

Child, Lee. [Personal](#) (Bantam UK \$46) True first of the 2014 Jack Reacher

Clements, Katherine. [Crimson Ribbon](#) (Headline \$39) Based on the true story of Elizabeth Poole, accused of witchcraft in 1646

Coben, Harlan. [Stay Close](#) (Dutton \$27.95) From 2012...

Coel, Margaret. [Night of the White Buffalo](#) (Berkley \$26.95) Wind River Rez crimes

Cohen, Nancy J. [Shear Murder](#) (Five Star \$25.95) From the Bad Hair Day series

Coleman, Reed Farrell. [Robert B Parkers Blind Spot](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Jesse Stone

Connelly, Michael. [Gods of Guilt](#) (LittleBrown \$28) Latest for the Lincoln Lawyer

Cussler, Clive. [Bootlegger](#) (Putnam \$27.95)

Cussler, Clive. [Crescent Dawn](#) (Putnam \$27.95)

Cussler, Clive. [Eye of Heaven](#) (Putnam \$28.95)

Cussler, Clive. [Ghost Ship](#) (Putnam \$28.95)

Cussler, Clive. [Mayday 40th Anniversary Edition](#) (Joseph \$25)

Cussler, Clive. [Mirage](#) (Putnam \$28.95)

Cussler, Clive. [Poseidon's Arrow](#) (Putnam \$28.95)

Cussler, Clive. [Thief](#) (Putnam \$27.95)

Desai, Kishwar. [Sea of Innocence](#) (SimonSchuster \$32) Simron Singh #3 set in Goa where a British teen goes missing on its beaches

Easley, Warren C. [Dead Float](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) 2<sup>nd</sup> for Oregon attorney Cal Claxton, much set in Hell's Canyon

Ellroy, James. [Perfidia](#) (Knopf \$28.95) Patrick recommends

Evanovich, Janet. [Top Secret Twenty-One](#) (Random \$28) A plum for Plum

Evans, Richard Paul. [Michael Vey 4 Hunt for Jade Dragon](#) (SimonSchuster \$18.99) YA fun

Eve, Nomi. [Henna House](#) (Scribner \$26) One of my favorite debuts of 2014, opening in 1920 Yemen in a traditional Jewish community and ending in Israel. The henna lore is amazing! An outstanding gift for Hanukkah

Faherty, Terence. [Eastward in Eden](#) (Mysterious \$26) An Owen Keane mystery

Fairstein, Linda. [Terminal City](#) (Dutton \$27.95) Alexandra Cooper showcases the structure and history of NYC's Grand Central Terminal. Terrific (and great for train junkies)

Fesperman, Dan. [Unmanned](#) (Knopf \$28) Amazing spycraft (like drones) from this master of elegant espionage fiction

Flynn, Rory. [The Third Rail](#) (Houghton \$25)

Fox, Essie. [Goddess and the Thief](#) (Orion \$44)

French, Tana. [The Secret Place](#) (Viking \$27.95) 5<sup>th</sup> Dublin Squad Mystery

Furst, Alan. [Midnight in Europe](#) (Random \$29) The Spanish WWII story

Gilman, David. [Master of War](#) (Zeus \$26) A medieval fiction series begins at the Battle of Crécy

Go, Justin. [The Steady Running of the Hour](#) (SimonSchuster \$28) Outstanding FMC Pick with global scale, history ranging from WWI to today, and a kind of treasure hunt as a man pursues what may be a huge legacy from a hero/mountaineer who went off the radar

Goddard, Robert. [Corners of the Globe](#) (Transworld \$44) Second in a WWI British spy series

Goodman, Lee. [Indefensible](#) (Atria \$26) A FMC Pick legal thriller in the spirit of *Defending Jacob* that begins when birdwatcher Cassandra glimpses two men apparently digging a grave in a state park. Loved this one.

Gran, Sara. [Claire Dewitt and the Bohemian Highway](#) (Houghton \$20)

Grant, Andrew. [Run](#) (Random \$26) Great pace, standalone thriller

Hallinan, Timothy. [Herbie's Game](#) (Soho \$25) 4<sup>th</sup> Junior Bender in a caper series similar to work by Westlake and Block

Hannah, Sophie. [The Monogram Murders](#) (Harper \$25.99) Hercule Poirot, 1929

Harkness, Deborah. [The Book of Life](#) (Viking \$28.95) Completes the All Souls trilogy

Harris, Charlaime. [Midnight Crossroad](#) (Berkley \$27.95) Starts a trilogy set in dried-up Midnight, Texas where there are more secrets than people

Harrison, Kim. [Witch with No Name](#) (Harper \$26.99) 13<sup>th</sup> and final urban noir with Rachel Morgan

Havill, Steven F. [Nightzone](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Posadas County is getting a superb tourist attraction high on a mesa that may spell deep trouble....

Hayes, J. M. [The Spirit and the Skull](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Jean Auel meets Tony Hillerman in an ancient Arctic landscape

Haynes, Dana. [Gun Metal Heart](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Freelance op Daria Gibron's rocket-like thrillers are for fans of Taylor Stevens

Hearne, Kevin. [Shattered](#) (Random \$26) First hardcover and #7 in his urban fantasy series

Hoffman, Patrick. [The White Van](#) (Grove \$24). Debut, our Sept. Hardboiled Crime Club Pick.

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Don't Look Back](#) (St Martins \$26.99) Scary standalone thriller with a woman trying to survive threats human and natural in the wilds of Oaxaca

Ifkovic, Ed. [Final Curtain](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Edna Ferber tries starring in one of her own plays written with GS Kaufman over in NJ as WWII looms and murder is main stage

- Iles, Greg. [Natchez Burning](#) (Morrow \$27.99) Starts a trilogy as Iles brings lawyer Penn Cage, and himself, back to books
- Jance, JA. [Remains of Innocence](#): (Harper \$26.99) Joanna Brady Jones, Chris Morgan. [Jackal's Share](#) (Macmillan \$40) 2<sup>nd</sup> Ben Webster spy thriller pitting Ben against a charismatic tycoon called Darius Qazai
- Kadrey, Richard. [Getaway God](#) (Harper \$24.99) An unusual Sandman Slim fantasy
- Kaehler, Tammy. [Avoidable Contact](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) 3<sup>rd</sup> for racing ace Kate O'Reilly as the 24-hour clock at Daytona ticks... for Dick Francis readers, make the jump from horses to the Corvette
- Kaehler, Tammy. [Braking Points](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Kate's 2<sup>nd</sup> thriller
- Kahn, Michael. [Face Value](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Rachel Gold and an autistic law firm asset in facial recognition software solve a most unlikely St. Louis murder
- Kellerman, Faye. [Murder 101](#) (Harper \$26.99) Pete Dexter and Rina Lazarus relocate to a small NY college town where art and murder doubly challenge them
- Koontz, Dean. [The City](#) (Random \$28)
- Krueger, William K. [Windigo Island](#) (Atria \$24.99) Cork O'Connor
- Kuhlken, Ken. [The Good Know Nothing](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95)
- La Seur, Carrie. [The Home Place](#) (Harper \$28). Kind of legal thriller debut and FMC Pick set around Billings, Montana (and Seattle)
- Lancet, Barry. [Tokyo Kill](#) (SimonSchuster \$25) 2<sup>nd</sup> for Tokyo-based PI Jim Brodie after FMC Pick [Japantown](#) (\$15.99)
- Lee, Jung Myung. [The Investigation](#) (Macmillan \$40) FMC Pick set in a 1944 Fukuoka prison camp where a guard is murdered and a Korean poet suspected despite the misgivings of guard Watanabe, a lover of reading
- Leon, Donna. [By Its Cover](#) (Heinemann \$42) Commissario Guide Brunetti
- Limon, Martin. [The Iron Sickle](#) (Soho \$26.95) The 1970s 6<sup>th</sup> Army MPs we love as the Slick Boys pursue a dark and dangerous course made the more so since its own may have to give up secrets from long-ago wartime...
- Magee, Audrey. [The Undertaking](#) (Atlantic UK \$32) A look at the Eastern Front from a German soldier's point of view, a man who has first made a marriage of convenience...
- Mandel, Emily St. John. [Station Eleven](#) (Bantam \$24.95) A remarkable debut and bestseller, nominated for the 2014 National Book Award
- Maron, Margaret. [Designated Daughters](#) (Grand Central \$29) NC Judge Deborah Knott's senior family members star in what begins in an unlikely murder in hospice
- McGrath, MJ. [Boy in the Snow](#) (Viking \$26) You who like Scandinavian crime should visit the Canadian Arctic in this unpredictable series
- Mones, Nicole. [Night in Shanghai](#) (Houghton \$25) Spying, jazz, love, politics, and the incoming Japanese form an entrancing if explosive mix in late 1930s Shanghai
- Mosby, Steve. [Black Flowers](#) (Orion \$14) A little girl missing reappears on a seaside promenade and tells a story that starts a chain reaction, not least for policeman Neil whose copper father commits suicide...
- Moss, Todd. [The Golden Hour](#) (Putnam \$26.95) A FMC Pick. When Judd Ryker is appointed director of the new State Department Crisis Reaction Unit, he little expects to put his knowledge of "the golden hour"—the first 100 following a coup—to immediate use as a coup strikes Mali...
- Myers, Beverle Graves. [Whispers of Vivaldi](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26) 18<sup>th</sup> Century Venice is mad for opera. Tito Amato, his voice in tatters, considers the role of impresario when his longtime mentor is murdered. 6<sup>th</sup> in one of my favorite historical mystery series notable for Venice, unusual history, Jewish history, and music
- Naughtie, James. [Madness of July](#) (Zeus \$26.95) A British spy story somewhat resembling the post-war *Foyle's War*...
- Norfolk, Lawrence. [John Saturnall's Feast](#) (Bloomsbury \$25) In the remote village of Buckland, a mob chants of witchcraft. It is 1625, and John and his mother are running for their lives. Chefs, food, and murder mix it up in this historical thriller
- Oldfield, Mark. [Sentinel](#) (Harcourt \$41) A thriller unlocking the dark heart of Spain: 1936 Badajoz, 1953 Madrid, and 2009, Las Peñas, where forensic Investigator Ana María Galindez unearths a mass grave in a disused mine that will unlock terrible secrets...
- Palmer, Daniel. [Desperate](#) (Kensington \$25) Domestic suspense like Harlan Coben's work depicts a young widower whose hope of starting a new family with his new wife lead them to take in a pregnant woman found crying on a curb...
- Palmer, Matthew. [The American Mission](#) (Putnam \$26.95) An FMC Pick by a career Foreign Service officer focused on a FSO trying to work a case and restart his career during an African assignment
- Palumbo, Dennis. [Phantom Limb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) 4<sup>th</sup> for Pittsburgh psychologist Daniel Rinaldi, a consultant to the PD, and now with a glamorous new patient to says she plans to kill herself at 7 PM....
- Pashley, Hilton. [Gabriel's Clock](#) (Anchor \$32) Jonathan is half-angel, half-demon, and the only one of his kind. But he has no idea of his true identity, and now a rogue archdemon wants him for his own sinister purpose. With the aid of a group of unlikely new friends, Jonathan races to find the mysterious Gabriel's Clock, which has the power to start a war between Heaven and Hell
- Pearson, Ridley. [Red Room](#) (Putnam \$26.95) Rutherford Risk sends its two aces into Turkey in a strong entry for #3 in the series
- Penny, Louise. [The Long Way Home](#) (St Martins \$27.99) Retired Armand Gamache agrees to help Clara search for her missing husband, the artist Peter
- Phillips, Scott. [Hop Alley](#) (Consortium \$27) Part of 1878 Denver, this area witnesses what happened to Bill Sadler of the earlier *Cottonwood*...
- Quirk, Matthew. [The Directive](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Mike Ford #2 after FMC Pick/Edgar nominee [The 500](#) (\$15.95) is a knockout, involving chicanery at NY's Federal Reserve Bank and Ford's con-men father and brother. Loved it!
- Rankin, Ian. [Dark Road](#) (Orion \$32) Written and produced for Edinburgh theater
- Rankin, Ian. [Saints of the Shadow Bible](#) (LittleBrown \$26) Rebus

Rendell, Ruth. [The Girl Next Door](#) (Hutchinson \$44) Her latest suspense focuses on a handsome man who never wishes to work

Riches, Anthony. [Emperor's Knives](#) (Hodder \$36)

Rollins, James/Rebecca Cantrell. [Innocent Blood](#) (Harper \$27.99) 2<sup>nd</sup> in a religious thriller with vampires

Rollins, James. [The Sixth Extinction](#) (Morrow \$27.99) Sigma Force thriller begins near Mono Lake, CA, home of extremophobes, and ranges outward

Rucka, Greg. [Bravo](#) (LittleBrown \$28)

Ryan, Hank Phillippi. [Truth Be Told](#) (Forge \$24.99) *Library Journal* just named this one of its Five Best Thrillers of 2014. 3<sup>rd</sup> case for Boston reporter Jane Ryland

Sallis, James. [Driven](#) (Poisoned Pen \$19.95) The sequel to [Drive](#) (\$13.95) and set in Phoenix. So far Ryan Gosling's been too busy to film it.

Sandford, John. [Deadline](#) (Putnam \$27.95) Rollicking Virgil Flowers case set in a Minnesota "holler" similar to those in Appalachia. Dogs.

Sandford, John. [Field of Prey](#) (Putnam \$28.95) 2014's Lucas Davenport

Sandford, John. [Uncaged](#) (Random \$18.99) Starts a YA trilogy

Shepherd, Lynn. [A Treacherous Likeness](#) (Corsair \$42) In the dying days of 1850 the young detective Charles Maddox takes on a new case. His client? The only surviving son of the long-dead poet Percy Bysshe Shelley, and his wife Mary, author of *Frankenstein*...

Silva, Daniel. [The Heist](#) (Harper \$27.99) Gabriel Allon in Italy after a killer and a long-missing Caravaggio altar painting

Simon, Clea. [Panthers Play for Keeps](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Pet Noir, fun

Slater, Susan. [Rollover](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Fast-moving, smart caper for insurance investigator Dan Mahoney involving a small New Mexico town bank heist, a Tiffany diamond necklace, and threats to his life

Slaughter, Karin. [Cop Town](#) (Random \$27) Murder and a manhunt roil 1974 Atlantic where cop Kate Murphy wonders if her first day on the job will be her last...

Talton, Jon. [The Night Detectives](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) David Mapstone and former Sheriff Peralta take it private as they work a case linking Phoenix and San Diego

Talty, Stephan. [Hangman](#) (Random \$27) Superb follow up to [Black Irish](#), both set in Buffalo and earning raves from me and Patrick

Taylor, Brad. [Days of Rage](#) (Dutton \$26.95) Pike Logan and TaskForce mix it up with Russian and Boko Haram

Teran, Boston. [The Country I Lived In](#) (Heinemann \$24) A 1955 odyssey through Texas and into Mexico to uncover a (true) conspiracy....

Thoft, Ingrid. [Identity](#) (Putnam \$26.95) 2<sup>nd</sup> case for Boston PI Fina Ludlow continuing also the unnerving dynamics of her attorney family in [Loyalty](#) (\$9.99)

Thor, Brad. [Act of War](#) (Atria \$27.99) Scot Harvath works to defuse a chain of deadly events involving Chinese penetration into the US. IMHO his best thriller

Todd, Charles. [An Unwilling Accomplice](#) (Harper \$28) WWI nurse Bess Crawford is forced into a thrilling chase around England after a deserter in her care....

Tremayne, Peter. [The Devil's Seal](#) (Headline \$46) 25<sup>th</sup> Sister Fidelma medieval Irish mystery

Verdon, John. [Peter Pan Must Die](#) (Crown \$26) Dave Gurney #4 delivers another ingenious puzzle for the former NYPD homicide ace to solve upstate

Vreeland, Susan. [Lisette's List](#) (Random \$29) Art and love combine in 1937 Provence and move forward during wartime. A beautiful (and informative) book

Wagner, David. [Death in the Dolomites](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Amer-Italian translator Rick Montoya runs into murder on ski slopes—plus real danger to his waistline

Wait, Lea. [Shadows on a Maine Christmas](#) (Penguin \$15.95) A new case combining blackmail and murder plus romantic developments for antiques prints specialist Maggie Summer

Walker, Martin. [Resistance Man](#) (Putnam \$30) Bruno, Chief of Police, finds wartime France casts long shadows (neat geography, too)

Waters, Sarah. [Paying Guests](#) (Viking UK \$464) 1922 London suspense

Webb, Betty. [Desert Rage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) A hair-raising investigation for Scottsdale PI Lena Jones with at least 3 true surprises plus some deep background on both Lena and a foster child accused of murder

Wellington, David. [Hydra Protocol](#) (Harper \$25.99) An exciting operation pitting Special Forces ace Jim Chapel against a plot involving use of a long-hidden Russian supercomputer

White, Randy Wayne. [Haunted](#) (Putnam \$29) #3 for Hannah Smith—there's a haunted house that played a Florida Civil War role, and dangerous creatures both animal and human. Terrific

Whitmer, Benjamin. [Cry Father](#) (Gallery \$26) Patrick's Sept. Hardboiled Crime Club Pick he recommends to readers of Daniel Woodrell and Larry Brown. . "Searing, spare, beautiful prose and characters who arrive on the page already well-worn...."

Williams, Charlotte. [House on the Cliff](#) (Macmillan \$25) Atmospheric British suspense debut

Willig, Lauren. [Mark of the Midnight Manzanilla](#) (NAL \$16) A Pink Carnation story of espionage, London Society, and the Gothick craze as Sally Fitzhugh meets a reclusive and sinister duke....

Winspear, Jacqueline. [The Care and Management of Lies](#) (Harper \$26.99) A WWI novel, not a Maisie Dobbs

Woods, Stuart. [Collateral Damage](#) (Putnam \$28) A particularly well plotted Stone Barrington

Wortham, Reavis Z. [Vengeance is Mine](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) A truly brilliant nourish caper set in 1960s Texas Red River Country. 4<sup>th</sup> in an often Starred series

Xiaolong, Qiu. [Disappearing Shanghai](#) (Holt \$29.95) Photos of Shanghai with poems