



The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

November 2021

Golf season 2021 is coming to a close. As it turned out, alas, I gave Marian this first weekend of November off—the newsletter was rearing its ugly head and the weather forecast was poor—but what a spectacularly lovely, perfect-for-golf, weekend it turned out to be. Caca, but that's the way the cookie crumbles sometimes. I'm not complaining. Marian had offered to mind the store this weekend, but I elected to work. Don't feel bad for me; this was a great summer for golf, and I played more than my fair share. The forecast for early next week is also looking pretty good—let's see if they get that correct—so perhaps another few rounds, but it's certainly down to the short strokes. Anxious as I am to get away for some winter golf, I can hang in for another little bit while the rest of the world catches up on their inoculations. Not in any rush to get sick or die.

As Marian will tell you at length further on, Prince is turning out to be a wonderful little guy. I just adore him. I adore Ms. Pix as well, so I have been very careful to pay her lots of attention. Do not want her to think that she's being replaced. I also want her to accept the little guy and she is warming up to him a little bit more with each passing day. Fingers crossed, she'll come to adore him as much as the two of us do. I say, little guy, but he's going to be a big one. His dad is of a substantial size and looking at Prince's paws...

Did you catch the **Carmen Mola** story? During an event to award Spain's prestigious Planeta literary prize just a few weeks ago, the famed but reclusive crime novelist Carmen Mola was actually revealed to be the creation of three male writers. The three not only created a series of highly successful crime novels in Mola's name, but also invented the author herself. Mola—or rather the trio behind the pseudonym—won the prize for the novel The Beast, though the author is perhaps best known for the Inspector Elena Blanco series.

According to an article in the Globe and Mail:

The revelation has attracted international attention. Mola, the celebrated author of the Elena Blanco detective series published by Penguin Random House, had been described in publicity material as a female university professor who juggled academia with motherhood and writing crime thrillers. A photo on Mola's literary agency's website depicts a woman in a trench coat, taken from the back. (The Beast is not an Inspector Blanco book; it is set in 19th-century Madrid during a cholera epidemic.)

Among the wow-were-we-ever-fooled factoids that emerged after the bombshell was a tidbit involving **Margaret Atwood**. Last year, a Spanish chapter of The Women's Institute had recommended one of Mola's thrillers in a list of must-read books and films by women that included Atwood. Mola's The Girl was on the list, as was Atwood's The Penelopiad.

Atwood was not bothered about sharing space on that list with a novel that turned out to be written by men. But she acknowledged that The Women's Institute might not be happy about it. (She used somewhat less delicate phrasing.)

And, alas, as best as I can tell the Elena Blanco novels have not been translated into English. The Spanish language editions are available in Canada, so if your Spanish is up to the task, we'll get them for you.

Well, I'll leave it at that.

JD's Picks

The new **JOHN BANVILLE** novel, April in Spain (#8) (\$34.99) is a delight. He has won far too many literary prizes for me to list, but, I will mention one, a biggie: the Booker. That said, let me just give you

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the Kirkus review, in its entirety, as it says all I could hope to say, but much more eloquently.

A literary period piece featuring colorful characters and a mysterious crime.

In postwar Ireland, “Terry Tice liked killing people,” and he offs his gay friend Percy on a whim. Meanwhile, in Donostia in the Basque region of Spain, a semihappy couple named Quirke and Evelyn are visiting for an April holiday. He’s an Irish pathologist—hero of earlier mysteries Banville published under the name Benjamin Black—and she’s an Austrian psychiatrist who survived the Holocaust. Quirke is the perfect name for the husband, who “could never say the word ‘love’ without flinching.” And he “made love deftly, in an exploratory sort of way, like a doctor searching for the source of an obscure malady.” Evelyn loves to tease him: “You love to be miserable,” she says. “It’s your version of being happy.” Meanwhile, a young woman named April Latimer is dead, murdered by her brother, but her body has never been found. April is the catalyst who eventually brings the storylines together—but well before that, readers will savor the author’s imagery and playful language. After doing in his pal, Terry finds Percy’s photos of nude “fellows with enormous how’s-your-fathers.” In a restaurant, Quirke and Evelyn’s “waiter looked like a superannuated toreador.” Earlier, the odors in a fish stall made Quirke think of sex. They buy oysters, an innocent act that lands Quirke in the hospital, where Doctor Angela Lawless haunts his thoughts but he doesn’t know why. Meanwhile, Doctor Cruz demands to know why the couple is really in Spain. Are they poking into the April Latimer business? The bulk of the story focuses on the two vacationers, but Tice may have the last word on whether they can ever return to the Emerald Isle. The plot is good, but the prose—ah, the prose: A woman watches fat raindrops fall, and she “imagined them to be tiny ballerinas making super-quick curtsies and then dropping through little trapdoors hidden in the stage.” And who can’t smile at a woman’s observation that a fellow may be “inclined to the leeward side of Cape Perineum”?

Great fun from a masterful writer.

It is indeed great fun. And from a masterful writer. Some of the earlier novels are available and [Christine Falls](#) (#1) (\$23.50) is the first.

Another lion of the printed word is **COLSON WHITEHEAD**, although most of what he has written would not fall into the crime fiction category. He too has won more literary awards than I could possibly list, so, again, I’ll just mention one, a biggie: the Pulitzer and that twice!

His current novel, [Harlem Shuffle](#) (\$36) was my introduction to this American writer.

Here’s an excerpt from the Publishers Weekly’s review:…returns with a sizzling heist novel set in civil rights-era Harlem. It’s 1959 and Ray Carney has built an “unlikely kingdom” selling used furniture. A husband, a father, and the son of a man who once worked as muscle for a local crime boss, Carney is “only slightly bent when it [comes] to being crooked.” But when his cousin Freddie—whose stolen goods Carney occasionally fences through his furniture store—decides to rob the historic Hotel Theresa, a lethal cast of underworld figures enter Carney’s life, among them the mobster Chink Montague, “known for his facility with a straight razor”; WWII veteran Pepper; and the murderous, purple-suited Miami Joe, Whitehead’s answer to *No Country for Old Men*’s Anton Chigurh. These and other characters force Carney to decide just how bent he wants to be. It’s a superlative story, but the most impressive achievement is Whitehead’s loving depiction of a Harlem 60 years gone—“that rustling, keening thing of people and concrete”—which lands as detailed and vivid as Joyce’s Dublin. Don’t be surprised if this one wins Whitehead another major award.

An excellent read.

And, one more for good measure. Way back in 2012 **JOHN LAWRENCE REYNOLDS** wrote a novel called [Beach Strip](#) (#1) (\$13.99). You might remember that the author, a Hamilton, Ontario native, wrote a series of crime novels featuring Boston homicide detective Lieutenant Joe McGuire, back in the late 80s and 90s. What brought [Beach](#) to mind was the announcement that the sequel [Beach Blonde](#) (#2) (\$29.95) is imminent. Decided to read the first one. I remember reading the McGuire novels, liked the series, and always thought John was a stylish, accomplished writer. He, too, has won numerous awards, including three Arthur Ellis Awards.

Here’s the blurb:

“I’d rather laugh in bad taste than cry in good taste.”

That’s how Josie Marshall deals with the death of her detective husband, Gabe, found naked outside their home on the beach with a bullet in his brain. Everyone calls it suicide. Josie knows it isn’t . . . but fears it could be. After all, she had provided Gabe with a motive. The clues are so strong that even Josie begins to believe Gabe shot himself. But when a horrific slaying occurs literally at her feet, she knows Gabe was murdered, and her determination to prove it carries her toward dark corners of the beach strip and exposes the darker sides of its residents. Fending off her fears with humour and outrage, she encounters a drug-crazed drifter, an organized-crime boss with romance on his mind, a woman with a murderous past and a pervert who’s been frequenting her garden shed. When a chance remark leads Josie to the astonishing truth of Gabe’s death, her story takes a shocking turn that no one could have seen coming.

“It’s witty, tense and gripping, and features a beautifully realized lead character in the shape of mouthy, stubborn Josie Marshall. The beach strip itself is a delight to wander, a character in itself.” Says our **Peter Robinson**.

I liked Josie, and I liked the setting. I’m looking forward to the sequel.

Marian’s Picks

Is the end of Covid restrictions in sight for small businesses? As I write this a lot of the major entertainment venues in Ontario are allowed to be open at full capacity whereas us, small businesses, are still restricted as to the number of folks we can let into the store. Sort of doesn’t seem fair. I suspect that quite soon the government will take off the capacity restrictions for everyone, but I just can’t figure out the logic of having 18,000 people watch a hockey game, but we can only have five people in the bookstore. (*But they are still required to maintain social distancing, Marian, only for them it’s now six centimetres—jd*). We have weathered the storm this far, so a few more days/weeks(?) won’t stop us!

And still talking about Covid, I know we have all been hearing about “supply chain” issues. Books, in particular are being affected as paper is in short supply, so please forgive us if we run out of a title you would like but can’t get it back in stock fast enough for those special Christmas and holiday gifts you need. Publishers and distributors are not having an easy time of it either.

Prince is growing into a lovely dog. There are moments of zaniness, most especially when he wants to grab onto Pixie’s leash and take her for a walk, but he is not yet 5-month-old, so still a puppy, and acting like one. I am taking him to training classes up near my cottage, The

training, of course, is more for me than him, and I'm learning a lot. (*Marian's been surprisingly well behaved recently—jd*). I took both Percy and Pixie to puppy classes, and they had lots of fun playing with all the other puppies, but it's a bit different for Prince being the only dog in the class. We can sit, down, touch and watch. Heeling is another issue, but we are getting there, albeit slowly.

I just love discovering a new writer and **TREVOR WOOD** will be one to watch. His first book, *The Man on the Street* (#1) (\$17.99) introduces us to a unique main character, Jimmy Mullen, a homeless veteran, who is struggling with PTSD. Set in Newcastle, UK, Jimmy reluctantly agrees to help a young woman whose dad is missing. Jimmy's criminal record does not stand him well with the local police, and they certainly don't believe anything he says. The story is told partly via flashbacks to when Jimmy was in the Navy and how he got to be where he is now: homeless. There are great insights into living a homeless life; the constant threats to body and soul; trying to keep off the police radar; trying to keep clean and just plain trying to survive when everything and everyone seems to be against you. You will be rooting for Jimmy all the way through the book, he's a very likeable guy and I can hardly wait to read the second mystery, *One Way Street* (#2), which is due out in December in hardcover (\$34.99) and in trade paperback in February 2022 (\$17.99). Give this a read, you won't be disappointed, it's brilliant.

One of the reviews for *The Man on the Street* was by **VAL McDERMID** which then reminded me she also has a new book out, which I decided to read next. *1979* (#1) (\$37.95) is, you guessed it, set in 1979 and introduces us to Allie Burns, an investigative journalist whose stories lead her into the world of corruption, terror, and murder. Her editors at the Scottish daily *The Clarion* keep assigning her to "women's stories," but Allie has other ideas and striking up an alliance with budding investigative journalist Danny Sullivan, she begins covering international tax fraud, and then goes on to discover a group of Scottish ultranationalists aiming to cause mayhem ahead of a referendum on breaking away from the United Kingdom. Their stories quickly get attention and create enemies for the two young up-and-comers. You can hear the typewriters clacking, smell the smoke from the cigarettes and feel the tension in the newsroom as the team works to get the paper out before someone else gets the scoop.

"A sterling series launch from McDermid . . . McDermid does an excellent job capturing a time in Scotland's history fraught with political unrest, IRA terrorism, and labor strikes that nearly paralyze the country. Fans will look forward to seeing more of the highly capable Allie." —*Publishers Weekly* (Starred review)

I've just started *The Girl from the Channel Islands* (\$22.99) by **JENNY LECOAT** and it's promising to be a good read. Inspired by true events, it's the story of a young Jewish woman trapped on the occupied island of Jersey during World War II. She escaped from Vienna but now must survive the occupation of the Channel Islands by the Germans. So far so good, and I'll report back in the next newsletter. Here is the blurb in case you want to get started now:

Summer 1940: Hedy Bercu fled Vienna two years ago. Now she watches the skies over Jersey for German planes, convinced that an invasion is imminent. When it finally comes, there is no counterattack from Allied forces—the Channel Islands are simply not worth defending. Most islanders and occupying forces settle into an uneasy coexistence, but for Hedy, the situation is perilously different. For Hedy is Jewish—a fact that could mean deportation, or worse.

With no means of escape, Hedy hides in plain sight, working as a translator for the Germans while silently working against them. She forges a tentative friendship with a sympathetic German officer who is likewise trapped by circumstance. But as the war intensifies, Hedy knows she is in greater danger each day. Soon, her survival will depend not just on her own courage but on the community she has come

to cherish and a man who should be her enemy.

Vividly recreating little-known events, this is an unforgettable tale of resilience and bravery, and of the extraordinary power found in quiet acts of heroism and love.

It was with some trepidation that I started *State of Terror* (\$39.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) by **HILLARY RODHAM CLINTON** and **LOUISE PENNY**. I've enjoyed every book that Ms. Penny has published, so I wondered how collaborating with Ms. Clinton would work. Oh my goodness, what a thrill this was. I can hardly wait for book number two. There had better be a book number two! If you like political thrillers, then I don't think you can get much better than this. Ms. Clinton, with her background as Secretary of State, (and her intimate knowledge of the working of the US government), and Ms. Penny, with her gift for words and making characters come alive on the page, have created a wonderful character in Ellen Adams, the Secretary of State for a newly elected President. I'm not sure how the two of these very talented women worked together, sharing the load, as I did not see any of the interviews they gave, but their collaboration works perfectly and has created a terrific read.

Here is a very brief summary of the plot:

There is no love lost between the President of the United States and Ellen Adams, his new secretary of state. But it's a canny move on the part of the president. With this appointment, he silences one of his harshest critics, since taking the job means Adams must step down as head of her multinational media conglomerate.

As the new president addresses Congress for the first time, with Secretary Adams in attendance, Anahita Dahir, a young foreign service officer (FSO) on the Pakistan desk at the State Department, receives a baffling text from an anonymous source.

Too late, she realizes the message was a hastily coded warning.

What begins as a series of apparent terrorist attacks is revealed to be the beginning of an international chess game involving the volatile and Byzantine politics of Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Iran; the race to develop nuclear weapons in the region; the Russian mob; a burgeoning rogue terrorist organization; and an American government set back on its heels in the international arena.

And, finally, just a quick note that *The Winemaker's Wife* (\$12.99) by **KRISTIN HARMEL** has just come out in mass market paperback. It's a wonderful, heartbreaking read set among the champagne vineyards in Northern France. Got my tastebuds all ready for champagne but settled for a nice crémant due to the extravagant prices for champagne.

Here is the blurb for this book, which I had included as one of my picks when it was originally released:

Champagne, 1940: Inès has just married Michel, the owner of storied champagne house Maison Chauveau, when the Germans invade. As the danger mounts, Michel turns his back on his marriage to begin hiding munitions for the Résistance. Inès fears they'll be exposed, but for Céline, half-Jewish wife of Chauveau's chef de cave, the risk is even greater—rumors abound of Jews being shipped east to an unspeakable fate.

When Céline recklessly follows her heart in a desperate bid for happiness, and Inès makes a dangerous mistake with a Nazi collaborator, they risk the lives of those they love—and the champagne house that ties them together.

New York, 2019: Liv Kent has just lost everything when her eccentric French grandmother shows up unannounced, insisting on a trip to France. But the older woman has an ulterior motive—and a tragic,

decades-old story to share. When past and present finally collide, Liv finds herself on a road to salvation that leads right to the caves of the Maison Chauveau.

Hardbacks

ARCHER, JEFFREY warwick OVER MY DEAD BODY (#4) (\$34.99) In London, the Metropolitan Police set up a new Unsolved Murders Unit—a cold case squad—to catch the criminals nobody else can. In Geneva, millionaire art collector Miles Faulkner—convicted of forgery and theft—was pronounced dead two months ago. So why is his unscrupulous lawyer still representing a dead client? On a luxury liner en route to New York, the battle for power within a wealthy dynasty is about to turn to murder. And at the heart of all three investigations are Detective Chief Inspector William Warwick, rising star of the department, and ex-undercover agent Ross Hogan, brought in from the cold. But can they catch the killers before it's too late?

BANVILLE, JOHN quirke APRIL IN SPAIN (#8) (\$34.99) On the idyllic coast of San Sebastian, Spain, Dublin pathologist Quirke is struggling to relax, despite the beaches, cafés and the company of his disarmingly lovely wife. When he glimpses a familiar face in the twilight at Las Acadas bar, it's hard at first to tell whether his imagination is just running away with him. Because this young woman can't be April Latimer. She was murdered by her brother, years ago—the conclusion to an unspeakable scandal that shook one of Ireland's foremost political dynasties. Unable to ignore his instincts, Quirke makes a call back home to Ireland and soon Detective St. John Strafford is dispatched to Spain. But he's not the only one en route. A relentless hit man is on the hunt for his latest prey, and the next victim might be Quirke himself.

BEATON, M C agatha DOWN THE HATCH (#32) (\$36.50) Private detective Agatha Raisin, having recently taken up power-walking, is striding along a path in Mircester Park during her lunch break when she hears a cry for help. Rushing over, she finds an elderly couple, Mr. and Mrs. Swinburn, in the middle of the green—with the body of an old man lying at their feet. The man, who the coroner determines died by poisoning, was known as "the Admiral," a garden-er notorious for his heavy drinking, and Chief Inspector Wilkes writes the death off as an accident. Local gossip, however, points to the Swinburns themselves as the killers, spurred by a feud at the club where they, as well as the Admiral, were members. Distracted at this accusation, they turn to Agatha to clear their name, and she takes the case—despite the warnings of Chief Inspector Wilkes.

BERKELEY, ANTHONY WINTRINGHAM MYSTERY aka cicely disappears (\$21) Republished for the first time in nearly 95 years, a classic winter country house mystery by the founder of the Detection Club, with a twist that even **Agatha Christie** couldn't solve!

BOWEN, RHYS royals GOD REST YE, ROYAL GENTLEMEN (#15) (\$35) Georgie is excited for her first Christmas as a married woman in her lovely new home. But aunt Ermintrude has other plans. She has moved to a house on the edge of the Sandringham estate, near the royal family, and wants to invite Darcy and his new bride for Christmas. Aunt Ermintrude hints that the queen would like Georgie nearby, which is almost a royal request, so Georgie, Darcy, and their Christmas guests: Mummy, Grandad, Fig, and Binky all head to Sandringham. Georgie soon learns that the notorious Mrs. Simpson, mistress to the Prince of Wales, will also be in attendance. It is now crystal clear to Georgie that the Queen expects her to do a bit of spying...

BRETT, SIMON decluttering UNTIDY DEATH (#2) (\$38.99) When Alexandra Richards approaches professional declutterer Ellen Curtis to ask her to help sort out her mother's chaotic flat, Ellen gets the impression Alexandra doesn't like her mother very much. But when Ingrid Richards' body is discovered in her burned-out home, Alexandra's exasperated words don't seem such a joke. Due to the hazardous state of the victim's over-cluttered residence, the police are inclined to dismiss her death as an unfortunate accident. Ellen's not

so sure. Could Alexandra's resentment towards her mother have escalated into outright violence? The more she discovers about the dead woman's remarkable past, the more convinced Ellen becomes that there's something decidedly suspicious about her death.

CALKINS, SUSANNA champion CRY OF THE HANGMAN (#6) (\$39.95) London, 1667. Printer's apprentice Lucy Campion is unsettled when, on a frozen December morning after church, an elderly woman dressed in mourning clothes whispers an ominous warning in her ear. Lucy sternly tells herself it's nonsense, but then her much-loved former master, Magistrate Hargrave, is viciously attacked with a brass hourglass during a break-in. But what exactly was the intruder searching for? And why did they first stop to steal a piece of Cook's lamb and lentil pie? The puzzling case is just the start of a series of dark, bizarre crimes. Lucy's determined to uncover the truth and see that justice is done. But someone is equally determined to stop her—whatever it takes.

CAMBRIDGE, COLLEEN bright MURDER AT MALLOWAN HALL (#1) (\$35) Tucked away among Devon's rolling green hills, Mallowan Hall is home to archaeologist Max Mallowan and his famous wife, Agatha Christie. Phyllida, housekeeper, is both loyal to and protective of the crime writer, who is as much friend as employer. An aficionado of detective fiction, Phyllida has yet to find a gentleman in real life half as fascinating as Mrs. Agatha's Belgian hero, Hercule Poirot. But though accustomed to murder and its methods as frequent topics of conversation, Phyllida is unprepared for the sight of a very real, very dead body on the library floor...

CHILD, LEE & ANDREW reacher BETTER OFF DEAD (#26) (\$38.99) Reacher goes where he wants, when he wants. That morning he was heading west, walking under the merciless desert sun—until he comes upon a curious scene. A Jeep has crashed into the only tree for miles around. A woman is slumped over the wheel. Dead? No, nothing is what it seems. The woman is Michaela Fenton, an army veteran turned FBI agent trying to find her twin brother, who might be mixed up with some dangerous people, who would know his fate. Reacher is good at finding people who don't want to be found, so he offers to help, despite feeling that Fenton is keeping secrets of her own. But a life hangs in the balance. Maybe more than one.

CHILDS, LAURA tea TWISTED TEA CHRISTMAS (#23) (\$35) Tea maven Theodosia Browning and her tea sommelier, Drayton Conneley, are catering a Victorian Christmas party at a swanky mansion in downtown Charleston. Drucilla Heyward, the hostess, is one of the wealthiest women in town. As the champagne flows and the tea steeps, Drucilla is so pleased with the reception by her partygoers that she reveals her secret plan to Theodosia. The Grande Dame has brought the cream of Charleston society together to reveal that she is planning to give her wealth away to various charitable organizations. However, before she can make the announcement, Theodosia finds her crumpled unconscious in the hallway. It looks like the excitement has gotten to the elderly woman—except that there is a syringe sticking out of her neck.

CLARK, CASSANDRA chandler DAY OF THE SERPENT (#2) (\$39.95) January, 1400. The bowman strikes at night, slaying one of King Henry's loyal garrison men before melting back into the darkness. Was the murder the result of a personal quarrel? Or is it, as Henry's stepbrother, Swynford, fears, the start of an uprising against England's self-crowned king? Swynford orders Brother Chandler to investigate, before the spark of rebellion can set the whole country alight.

CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM & LOUISE PENNY STATE OF TERROR (\$39.99 hardcover, \$24.99 trade paperback) After a tumultuous period in American politics, a new administration has just been sworn in, and to everyone's surprise the president chooses a political enemy for the vital position of secretary of state. There is no love lost between the president of the United States and Ellen Adams, his new secretary of state. But it's a canny move on the part of the president. With this appointment, he silences one of his harshest critics, since taking the job means Adams must step down as head of her multinational media conglomerate. As the new president addresses Congress for the first time, with Secretary Adams in attendance,

Anahita Dahir, a young foreign service officer (FSO) on the Pakistan desk at the State Department, receives a baffling text from an anonymous source. Too late, she realizes the message was a hastily coded warning.

CONNOLLY, JOHN [parker NAMELESS ONES \(#19\)](#) (\$37) In Amsterdam, four bodies, violently butchered, are discovered in a canal house, the remains of friends and confidantes of the assassin known only as Louis. The men responsible for the murders are Serbian war criminals. They believe they can escape retribution by retreating to their homeland. They are wrong. For Louis has come to Europe to hunt them down: five killers to be found and punished before they can vanish into thin air. There is just one problem. The sixth.

DICKENS, CHARLES [OUR MUTUAL FRIEND](#) (\$28.99) A dead body is dredged from the Thames, presumed to be the son of wealthy miser John Harmon, in the author's final novel. This book is part of the Macmillan Collector's Library; a series of attractive, clothbound, pocket sized classics with gold foiled edges and ribbon markers. Includes an introduction by Lucinda Dickens Hawksley and original illustrations by Marcus Stone.

DONACHIE, DAVID [pearce HMS HAZARD \(#16\)](#) (\$39.95) 1796: John Pearce is stuck with a difficult mission, a raw crew of Quota Men forced to enlist in the Royal Navy, four brand new midshipmen as well as Samuel Oliphant, companion cum spy, whom he finds a constant irritant. In his favour he commands HMS Hazard, a sound and speedy warship, a pair of competent officers and, of course, his trusty old friends the Pelicans. Their primary mission is to head for the Mediterranean Fleet and warn Admiral Sir John Jervis of impending danger he will face, fighting a combined French/Spanish fleet. But there is a serious distraction, the imminent arrival of a Spanish vessel from South America carrying silver, for which they Spaniards are waiting before declaring war. Stop that and they will lack the funds to truly engage as an enemy of Britannia, but it is a distraction from his main task and specific orders. Can John Pearce resist the lure of such a valuable capture and risk his ship in a dangerous battle to gain it, or will his duty come first?

DOYLE/LOVEGROVE, JAMES [holmes SH AND THE THREE WINTER TERRORS \(#8\)](#) (\$25.99) 1889. The First Terror. At a boys' prep school in the Kent marshes, a pupil is found drowned in a pond. Could this be the fulfilment of a witch's curse from over two hundred years earlier? 1890. The Second Terror. A wealthy man dies of a heart attack at his London townhouse. Was he really frightened to death by ghosts? 1894. The Third Terror. A body is discovered in the dark woods near a Surrey country manor, hideously ravaged. Is the culprit a cannibal, as the evidence suggests? These three chilling and strangely linked crimes test Sherlock Holmes's deductive powers, and his scepticism about the supernatural, to the limit.

FRENCH, NICCI [UNHEARD](#) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$21.99 trade paperback) Maybe Tess is overprotective, but passing her daughter off to her ex and his new young wife fills her with a sense of dread. It's not that Jason is a bad father—it just hurts to see him enjoying married life with someone else. Still, she owes it to her daughter Poppy to make this arrangement work. But Poppy returns from the weekend tired and withdrawn. And when she shows Tess a crayon drawing—an image so simple and violent that Tess can hardly make sense of it—Poppy can only explain with the words, “He did kill her.” Something is horribly wrong. Tess is certain Poppy saw something—or something happened to her—that she's too young to understand. Jason insists the weekend went off without a hitch. Doctors advise that Poppy may be reacting to her parents' separation. And as the days go on, even Poppy's disturbing memory seems to fade. But a mother knows her daughter, and Tess is determined to discover the truth.

FROST, JACQUELINE [SLASHING THROUGH THE SNOW \(#3\)](#) (\$35.99) Reindeer Games Christmas Tree Farm is going into the B&B business, and Holly White is looking forward to her new role as innkeeper. Even better, Mistletoe, Maine's sheriff, Evan Gray, has deputized his little sister Libby to help Holly wrap presents for Mistletoe's toy drive. But a cold wind ruffles the cheery holiday decorations when a new guest checks in: Cleo, a vicious B&B critic, who

could make or break the new inn. And the short December days turn even darker when Evan and Libby find Cleo's dead body in the gift-wrapped toy donation box. The suspect list is longer than Santa's naughty list...

GRISHAM, JOHN [lacy JUDGE'S LIST \(#2\)](#) (\$39) Sequel to [Whistler](#) (#1) (\$12.99), Lacy Stoltz investigated a corrupt judge who was taking millions in bribes from a crime syndicate. She put the criminals away, but only after being attacked and nearly killed. Three years later, and approaching forty, she is tired of her work for the Florida Board on Judicial Conduct and ready for a change. Then she meets a mysterious woman who is so frightened she uses a number of aliases. Jeri Crosby's father was murdered twenty years earlier in a case that remains unsolved and that has grown stone cold. But Jeri has a suspect whom she has become obsessed with and has stalked for two decades. Along the way, she has discovered other victims. Suspicions are easy enough, but proof seems impossible. The man is brilliant, patient, and always one step ahead of law enforcement. He is the most cunning of all serial killers. He knows forensics, police procedure, and most important: he knows the law. He is a judge, in Florida—under Lacy's jurisdiction. And he has a list...

GRISHAM, STEPHANIE [I'LL TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS NOW: WHAT I SAW AT THE TRUMP WHITE HOUSE](#) (\$35.99) Stephanie Grisham rose from being a junior press wrangler on the Trump campaign in 2016 to assuming top positions in the administration as White House press secretary and communications director, while at the same time acting as First Lady Melania Trump's communications director and eventually chief of staff. Few members of the Trump inner circle served longer or were as close to the first family as Stephanie Grisham, and few have her unique insight into the turbulent four years of the administration, especially the personalities behind the headlines.

HADFIELD, CHRIS [APOLLO MURDERS](#) (\$36) 1973. A final, top-secret mission to the Moon. Three astronauts in a tiny module, a quarter of a million miles from home. A quarter of a million miles from help. As Russian and American crews sprint for a secret bounty hidden away on the lunar surface, old rivalries blossom and the political stakes are stretched to breaking point back on Earth. Houston flight controller Kazimieras "Kaz" Zemeckis must do all he can to keep the NASA crew together, while staying one step ahead of his Soviet rivals. But not everyone on board Apollo 18 is quite who they appear to be.

HAUGHTON, EMMA [DARK](#) (\$32.49) Emergency room doctor Kate North has been knocked out of her orbit by a personal tragedy. So when she's offered the opportunity to be an emergency replacement at the UN research station in Antarctica, she jumps at the chance. The previous doctor, Jean-Luc, died in a tragic accident while out on the ice. The move seems an ideal solution for Kate: no one knows about her past; no one is checking up on her. But as total darkness descends for the winter, she begins to suspect that Jean-Luc's death wasn't accidental at all. And the more questions she asks, the more dangerous it becomes for them all . . .

JOHNSON, MAUREEN [YOUR GUIDE TO NOT GETTING MURDERED IN A QUAIN T ENGLISH VILLAGE](#) (\$22.99) A weekend roaming narrow old lanes, touring the faded glories of a country manor, and quaffing pints in the pub. How charming. That is, unless you have the misfortune of finding yourself in an English Murder Village, where danger lurks around each picturesque cobblestone corner and every sip of tea may be your last. If you insist on your travels, do yourself a favor and bring a copy of this little book. It may just keep you alive. Brought to life with dozens of Gorey-esque drawings by illustrator Jay Cooper and peppered with allusions to classic crime series and unmistakably British murder lore, this lovely little book gives you the tools you need to avoid the same fate, should you find yourself in a suspiciously cozy English village (or simply dream of going). Good luck! And whatever you do, avoid the vicar.

KESTREL, JAMES [FIVE DECEMBERS](#) (\$29.99) December 1941. America teeters on the brink of war, and in Honolulu, Hawaii, police detective Joe McGrady is assigned to investigate a homicide that will change his life forever. Because the trail of murder he uncovers will

lead him across the Pacific, far from home and the woman he loves; and though the U.S. doesn't know it yet, a Japanese fleet is already steaming toward Pearl Harbor.

KOPE, SPENCER ECHOES OF THE DEAD (#4) (\$38.50) Magnus "Steps" Craig is the best 'tracker' in the world, renowned for his ability to follow a person's trail anywhere - no matter the terrain or how old the trail. Steps has a kind of synesthesia where he can see the 'essence' of a person—which appears to him as a unique color or pattern he calls "shine"—on everything they've touched. It's a secret Steps has shared with a rare few people and could, if revealed, endanger not only himself but the unit that he serves. Steps and the Special Tracking Unit are called in on a new case where the local law enforcement is baffled. Four friends have vanished while on their annual fly-fishing trip—a congressman, a district attorney, a CEO of a major accounting firm, and a cofounder of a successful hedge fund.

LE CARRE, JOHN SILVERVIEW (\$34.95) Julian Lawndesley has renounced his high-flying job in the City for a simpler life running a bookshop in a small English seaside town. But only a couple of months into his new career, Julian's evening is disrupted by a visitor. Edward, a Polish émigré living in Silverview, the big house on the edge of town, seems to know a lot about Julian's family and is rather too interested in the inner workings of his modest new enterprise. When a letter turns up at the door of a spy chief in London warning him of a dangerous leak, the investigations lead him to this quiet town by the sea . . .

LEBEDEV, SERGEI UNTRACEABLE (\$34.50) The terrifying, lengthening list of Russia's use of lethal poisons against its critics has inspired this novel. With uncanny timing, the author examines how and why Russia and the Soviet Union have developed horrendous neurotoxins. At its center is a ruthless chemist named Professor Kalitin, obsessed with developing an absolutely deadly, undetectable and untraceable poison for which there is no antidote. But Kalitin becomes consumed by guilt over countless deaths from his Faustian pact to create the ultimate venom. When the Soviet Union collapses, the chemist defects and is given a new identity in Western Europe. After another Russian is murdered with Kalitin's poison, his cover is blown and he's drawn into an investigation of the death by Western agents. Two special forces killers are sent to silence him—using his own undetectable poison. From Nazi labs, Stalinist plots and the Chechen Wars, to present-day Russia, the author probes the ethical responsibilities of scientists supplying modern tyrants and autocrats with ever newer instruments of retribution, destruction and control.

LLOYD, ROBERT J BLOODLESS BOY (\$38.99) The City of London, 1678. New Year's Day. Twelve years have passed since the Great Fire ripped through the City. Eighteen since the fall of Oliver Cromwell and the restoration of a King. London is gripped by hysteria, and rumors of Catholic plots and sinister foreign assassins abound. When the body of a young boy drained of his blood is discovered on the snowy bank of the Fleet River, Robert Hooke, the Curator of Experiments at the just-formed Royal Society for Improving Natural Knowledge, and his assistant Harry Hunt, are called in to explain such a ghastly finding—and whether it's part of a plot against the king. They soon learn it is not the first bloodless boy to have been discovered. Wary of the political hornet's nest they are walking into—and using scientific evidence rather than paranoia in their pursuit of truth—Hooke and Hunt must discover why the boy was murdered, and why his blood was taken.

LOVESEY, PETER diamond DIAMOND AND THE EYE (#20) (\$35.95) If there's one thing detective Bath Peter Diamond has no patience for, it's a dumb git trying to get involved in one of his investigations—for example, a Philip Marlowe-wannabee private investigator like the self-styled Johnny Getz (his card claims he Getz results). But fate has saddled Diamond with this trial. A Bath antiques dealer, Septimus "Seppy" Hubbard, has disappeared without a trace, and his daughter, Ruby, has hired Johnny Getz to find him. When a dead body is discovered in Seppy's locked-up store, the missing persons case becomes a murder investigation, and now Diamond has to collaborate with the insufferable private eye.

MACILVANNEY/MCILVANNEY, WILLIAM & IAN RANKIN laidlaw DARK REMAINS (#4) (\$32.95) Lawyer Bobby Carter did a lot of work for the wrong type of people. Now he's dead and it was no accident. Besides a distraught family and a heap of powerful friends, Carter's left behind his share of enemies. So, who dealt the fatal blow? DC Jack Laidlaw's reputation precedes him. He's not a team player, but he's got a sixth sense for what's happening on the streets. His boss chalks the violence up to the usual rivalries, but is it that simple? As two Glasgow gangs go to war, Laidlaw needs to find out who got Carter before the whole city explodes. William McIlvanney's Laidlaw books changed the face of crime fiction. When he died in 2015, he left half a handwritten manuscript of Laidlaw's first case. Now, Ian Rankin is back to finish what McIlvanney started.

MACLEAN/MCLEAN, STUART VINYL CAFE CELEBRATES (\$34) From Canada's much-missed, nationally bestselling storyteller, a must-have collection featuring ten never-before-published stories and ten classic favourites, perfect for old fans and Vinyl Cafe newcomers alike. For more than two decades, the author entered the hearts and homes of Canadians via The Vinyl Cafe radio show, his many tours across the country, and multiple nationally bestselling books. His charming, humane, and side-splitting stories brought the trials and triumphs of Dave, Morley, Sam, and Stephanie to life, and made their memorable circle of friends, family, and neighbours as real as our own.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL allie burns 1979 (#1) (\$37.95) It's only January, and the year 1979 has already brought blizzards, strikes, power cuts, and political unrest. For journalist Allie Burns, however, someone else's bad news is the unmistakable sound of opportunity knocking, an opportunity to get away from the "women's stories" her editors at the Scottish daily The Clarion keep assigning her. Striking up an alliance with budding investigative journalist Danny Sullivan, Allie begins covering international tax fraud, then a group of Scottish ultranationalists aiming to cause mayhem ahead of a referendum on breaking away from the United Kingdom. Their stories quickly get attention and create enemies for the two young up-and-comers. As they get closer to the bleeding edge of breaking news, Allie and Danny may find their lives on the line.

MEDAWAR, TONY BODIES FROM THE LIBRARY 4 (\$19.99) This annual anthology of rare stories of crime and suspense brings together tales from the Golden Age of Detective Fiction for the first time in book form, including a short novel by **Christianna Brand**
MORRIS, JAMES MCGRATH TONY HILLERMAN: A LIFE (\$40.95) A new biography of the author of eighteen detective novels featuring Navajo Tribal Police detectives Joe Leaphorn and Jim Chee. The author simultaneously transformed a traditional genre and unlocked the mysteries of the Navajo culture to an audience of millions.
NESBO, JO JEALOUSY MAN AND OTHER STORIES (\$36) A dark, thrilling collection of stories probing twisted minds and vengeful hearts from a master of suspense. A detective with a nose for jealousy is on the trail of a man suspected of murdering his twin; a bereaved father must decide whether vengeance has a place in the new world order after a pandemic brings about the collapse of society; a woman finally overcomes her intimacy issues through a dark encounter with her Peeping Tom neighbour; a hired assassin pits his wits against his greatest adversary, another assassin, in a dangerous fight for survival; and an instantly electric connection between passengers on a flight to London may spell romance, or something much more sinister.

OBAMA, BARACK & BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN RENEGADES: BORN IN THE USA (\$65) A candid, revealing, and entertaining dialogue between President Barack Obama and legendary musician Bruce Springsteen that explores everything from their origin stories and career-defining moments to our country's polarized politics and the growing distance between the American Dream and the American reality. Filled with full-color photographs and rare archival material, it is a compelling and beautifully illustrated portrait of two outsiders—one Black and one white—looking for a way to connect their unconventional searches for meaning, identity, and community with the American story itself.

PARKS, ALAN mccoey APRIL DEAD (#4) (\$29.50) In a grimy flat in Glasgow, a homemade bomb explodes, leaving few remains to identify its maker. Detective Harry McCoy knows in his gut that there'll be more to follow. The hunt for a missing sailor from the local US naval base leads him to the secretive group behind the bomb, and their disturbing, dominating leader. On top of that, McCoy thinks he's doing an old friend a favour when he passes on a warning, but instead he's pulled into a vicious gang feud. And in the meantime, there's word another bigger explosion is coming Glasgow's way—so if the city is to survive, it'll take everything McCoy's got.

QUINN, SPENCER chet berni IT'S A WONDERFUL WOOF (#12) (\$36.99) Holiday time in the Valley, and in the holiday spirit—despite the dismal shape of the finances at the Little Detective Agency—Bernie refers a potential client to Victor Kloovsky, a fellow private eye. It's also true that the case—promising lots of online research but little action—doesn't appeal to Bernie, while it seems perfect for Victor, who is not cut out for rough stuff. But Victor disappears in a rough-stuff way, and when he doesn't show up at his mom's to light the Hanukkah candles, she hires Chet and Bernie to find him.

REYES, RAQUEL V MANGO, MAMBO, AND MURDER (\$35.99) Food anthropologist Miriam Quiñones-Smith's move from New York to Coral Shores, Miami, puts her academic career on hold to stay at home with her young son. Adding to her funk is an opinionated mother-in-law and a husband rekindling a friendship with his ex. Gracias to her best friend, Alma, she gets a short-term job as a Caribbean cooking expert on a Spanish-language morning TV show. But when the newly minted star attends a Women's Club luncheon, a socialite sitting at her table suddenly falls face-first into the chicken salad, never to nibble again. When a second woman dies soon after, suspicions coalesce around a controversial Cuban herbalist, Dr. Fuentes. Detective Pullman, although not happy about it, enlists Miriam's help.

ROBB, CANDACE archer RIVERWOMAN'S DRAGON (#13) (\$39.95) May, 1375. Owen Archer returns from London to find York in chaos. While the citizens are living in terror of the pestilence which is spreading throughout the land, a new physician has arrived, whipping up fear and suspicion against traditional healers and midwives. With the backing of the new archbishop, he is especially hostile towards Magda Digby, the wise woman who has helped and healed the people of York for many years.

Magda's troubles deepen when she discovers a body in the river near her home—and finds herself under suspicion of murder. Determined to prove Magda's innocence, Owen sets out to find answers—but the more he uncovers, the deeper the mystery becomes . . .

ROSENFELT, DAVID carpenter BEST IN SNOW (#24) (\$34.99 hardcover, \$23.99 trade paperback) Christmas has come early to the town of Paterson, New Jersey, in the form of a snowstorm that dumps two feet of snow on the ground. Lawyer Andy Carpenter likes snow—white Christmas and all that—but it can cause problems for the walks he takes his dogs on every day. When Andy's golden retriever, Tara, goes to play in the snow and instead discovers a body, Andy ends up on the phone with the local newspaper editor. The murder victim is Mayor Alex Oliva, who had an infamous relationship with the newspaper. Last year a young reporter published an expose, and Oliva had him fired for libel. Now, the young reporter—and prime suspect—is in need of a lawyer. Andy agrees to take the case, though it's not looking good this holiday season. The evidence is piling up faster than the snow..

ROWLING, J K CHRISTMAS PIG (\$29.99) One boy and his toy are about to change everything...Jack loves his childhood toy, Dur Pig. DP has always been there for him, through good and bad. Until one Christmas Eve something terrible happens—DP is lost. But Christmas Eve is a night for miracles and lost causes, a night when all things can come to life... even toys. And Jack's newest toy—the Christmas Pig (DP's replacement)—has a daring plan: Together they'll embark on a magical journey to seek something lost, and to save the best friend Jack has ever known...

TOIBIN, COLM MAGICIAN (\$36) When the Great War breaks out in 1914 Thomas Mann, like so many of his fellow countrymen, is fired up with patriotism. He imagines the Germany of great literature and music, that had drawn him away from the stifling, conservative town of his childhood, might be a source of pride once again. But his flawed vision will form the beginning of a dark and complex relationship with his homeland, and see the start of great conflict within his own brilliant and troubled family. Although Thomas Mann becomes famous and admired, his inner life is hesitant, fearful and secretive. His blindness to impending disaster in the Great War will force him to rethink his relationship to Germany as Hitler comes to power.

TOWLES, AMOR LINCOLN HIGHWAY (\$40) In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. His mother long gone, his father recently deceased, and the family farm foreclosed upon by the bank, Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight-year-old brother, Billy, and head to California where they can start their lives anew. But when the warden drives away, Emmett discovers that two friends from the work farm have hidden themselves in the trunk of the warden's car. Together, they have hatched an altogether different plan for Emmett's future, one that will take them all on a fateful journey in the opposite direction—to the City of New York. Spanning just ten days and told from multiple points of view....

TURSTEN, HELENE elderly ELDERLY LADY MUST NOT BE CROSSED (#2) (\$18.99) Don't let her age fool you. Maud may be nearly ninety, but if you cross her, this elderly lady is more sinister than sweet. Just when things have finally cooled down for 88-year-old Maud after the disturbing discovery of a dead body in her apartment in Gothenburg, a couple of detectives return to her doorstep. Though Maud dodges their questions with the skill of an Olympic gymnast a fifth of her age, she wonders if suspicion has fallen on her, little old lady that she is. The truth is, ever since Maud was a girl, death has seemed to follow her. In these six interlocking stories, memories of unfortunate incidents from Maud's past keep bubbling to the surface. Meanwhile, certain Problems in the present require immediate attention. Luckily, Maud is no stranger to taking matters into her own hands...even if it means she has to get a little blood on them in the process.

WESTERSON, JERI guest DEADLIEST SIN (#15) (\$39.95) 1399, London. A drink at the Boar's Tusk takes an unexpected turn for Crispin Guest, Tracker of London, and his apprentice, Jack Tucker, when a messenger claims the prioress at St. Frideswide wants to hire him to investigate murders at the priory. Two of Prioress Drueta's nuns have been killed in a way that signifies two of the Seven Deadly Sins, and she's at her wits end. Meanwhile, trouble is brewing outside of London when the exiled Henry Bolingbroke, the new Duke of Lancaster, returns to England's shores with an army to take back his inheritance. Crispin is caught between solving the crimes at St. Frideswide's Priory, and making a choice once more whether to stand with King Richard or commit treason again.

WOODS, STUART barrington FOUL PLAY (#59) (\$37) Stone Barrington is nearing his New York City abode when he stumbles into trouble. As it turns out, a new client is in danger—and with both business and the safety of the city at stake, he has no choice but to get involved. When it soon becomes clear that a complicated scheme is being hatched, Stone will need to use his expertise and connections to unravel the clever plot. Though the source remains unknown, it's just a matter of time before he and Stone must each show their hands. From ritzy Manhattan high-rises to the lush serenity of the Connecticut countryside, the game of cat and mouse can end with only one victor....

Paperbacks

ABDULLAH, KIA NEXT OF KIN (\$24.99) On an ordinary working day, Leila Syed receives a call that cleaves her life in two. Her brother-in-law's voice is filled with panic. His son's nursery has called to ask where little Max is. Leila was supposed to drop Max off that morning. But she forgot. Racing to the carpark, she grasps the horror of what she has done. Her worst nightmare is about to come true. What follows is an explosive, high-profile trial that will tear the family apart. But as the case progresses it becomes clear there's more to this incident than meets the eye...

ANDREWS, DONNA langslow TWELVE JAYS OF CHRISTMAS (#30) (\$23.99) Meg and Michael's annual holiday celebration is well underway, with a throng of out-of-town relatives staying at their house. Hosting these festivities is a little harder than usual—they have to relocate all the events normally held in their library, currently occupied by Roderick Castlemayne, the irascible wildlife artist who's creating twelve paintings of birds to illustrate Meg's grandfather's latest nature book. Then someone murders Castlemayne in the middle of a blizzard and sets loose the birds he was painting. Can Meg help the police crack the case before the killer strikes again? Can she keep Christmas merry in spite of the body in the library? Can she recapture the twelve escaped jays before they begin nesting in the Christmas tree?

AYE, MICHAEL ANDALUCIA (\$29.99) The war with the colonies is almost over—a war that was not only mishandled but costly. Spain became allies of the Americans, taking many unsuspecting ships and numerous lives. Considering this treachery, the British government feels Spain must pay, and a plan is made to raid the Manila-Acapulco treasure galleons. Gabe Anthony, now a Commodore, leads a squadron to the Pacific via the Magellan Strait in search of the galleon Andalusia. How long will the operation take? Will he survive the Spanish guns and the harsh elements for which the Magellan Strait is famous?

BLACKE, OLIVIA brooklyn NO MEMES OF ESCAPE (#2) (\$22) Odessa Dean has made a home of Brooklyn. She has a fun job waiting tables at Untapped Books & Café and a new friend, Izzy, to explore the city with. When she's invited on a girls' day out escape-room adventure, she jumps at the chance. It's all fun and games until the lights come on and they discover one of the girls bludgeoned to death...The only possible suspects are Odessa and the four other players that were locked in the escape room with the victim. She refuses to believe that one of them is responsible for the murder, despite what the clues indicate. In between shifts at the café, Odessa splits her time interviewing the murder suspects, updating the bookstore's social media accounts, and searching for the impossible—an affordable apartment in Brooklyn. But crime—and criminally high rent—waits for no woman. Can Odessa clear her and Izzy's names before the police decide they're guilty?

BOLTÓN, GINGER donut DECK THE DONUTS (#6) (\$21.95) It's Christmastime again in Fallingbrook, Wisconsin. Emily has truly decked the halls of her donut shop and decorated her donuts with festive designs from green and red frosting to snowflake sprinkles. But the holidays just aren't the same without an unexpected disaster or two. A tour bus on its way to the festival has crashed and a snowstorm has left all the shaken passengers stranded and shivering. Emily and her friends open their homes to shelter the traveling families, while the bus driver is admitted to the hospital for his injuries. But the following morning, Emily discovers his body—buried beneath Frosty the Donut. With multiple motives for murder piling up, it will take a Christmas miracle for Emily to solve this crime...

BRETT, SIMON feathering GUILT AT THE GARAGE (#20) (\$26.99) Carole Seddon's trusty Renault is one of her most treasured possessions. So when it is vandalised, there's only one person she will entrust with its repair: Bill Shefford has been servicing the vehicles of the good citizens of Fethering for many years. But how could some-

thing like this happen in Fethering of all places? Then the note is shoved under Carole's kitchen door: Watch out. The car window was just the start. It would appear that she has been deliberately targeted. But by whom? And why? Matters take an even more disturbing turn when a body is discovered at Shefford's Garage, crushed to death by a falling gearbox. It would appear to be a tragic accident. Carole and her neighbour Jude are not so sure. And the more they start to ask questions, the more evidence they uncover of decidedly foul play...

BROWN, RITA MAE arnold OUT OF HOUNDS (#13) (\$23) "Sister" Jane Arnold and her hounds must sniff out a thief with expensive taste when a string of missing paintings leads to murder...
BRUNS, CATHERINE chef THE ENEMY YOU GNOCCHI (#3) (\$12.99) With snow dusting the ground and sauce sizzling on the stove, local chef Tessa Esposito is ready to serve up some holiday cheer. And with the annual Festival of Lights underway, it seems nothing can dim her spirits. Not even Mario Russo, the newest scrooge in town whose espresso bar has been quickly disrupting businesses and stealing customers from Harvest Park's favorite coffee-house. But when Mario is discovered at the festival's opening, face down in a Santa suit, Tessa realizes the bah humbug runs deeper than she could have imagined. And when one of her dearest friends is implicated in the crime, she must make a list of Mario's enemies, check them twice, and discover the cold-blooded killer. Especially before they can sleigh again.

BURKE, JAMES LEE robicheau SWAN PEAK (#17) (\$22) Dave Robicheaux, his wife, and his buddy Clete Purcell have retreated to an old friend's ranch, hoping to spend their days fishing and enjoying their distance from the harsh, gritty landscape of Louisiana post-Katrina. But the serenity is soon shattered when two college students are found brutally murdered in the hills behind where the Robicheauxs and Purcell are staying. Published 2007.

BURKE, JAMES LEE robicheau GLASS RAINBOW (#18) (\$23) On the trail of a killer responsible for the deaths of seven young women in neighboring Jefferson Davis parish, Detective Dave Robicheaux and his best friend Clete Purcell can't seem to stay away from Herman Stanga, a notorious pimp whose name constantly resurfaces in their investigation, and whom both men despise. When Stanga turns up dead shortly after a fierce beating in front of numerous witnesses at the hands of Clete Purcell, the case takes a nasty turn, and solving the mystery of the Jefferson Davis deaths becomes more important than ever. Published 2010.

CAROFIGLIO, GIANRICO piet COLD SUMMER (#1) (\$22.50) On May 23, 1992, a roadside explosion killed the Palermo judge Giovanni Falcone, his wife and three police officers. A few weeks later judge Paolo Borsellino and five police officers were killed in the center of Palermo. These anti-mafia judges became heroes but the violence spread to the region of Bari in Puglia, where we meet a new, memorable character, Maresciallo Pietro Fenoglio, an officer of the Italian Carabinieri. Fenoglio, recently abandoned by his wife, must simultaneously deal with his personal crisis and the new gang wars raging around Bari. The police are stymied until a gang member, accused of killing a child, decides to collaborate, revealing the inner workings and the rules governing organised crime in the area.

CHRISTIE, AGATHA poirot HERCULE POIROT'S CHRISTMAS (#20) (\$19.99) On Christmas Eve at Gorston Hall, the Lee family's festivities are shattered by a deafening crash of furniture and a high-pitched wailing scream. Upstairs—in a locked bedroom—the tyrannical patriarch Simeon Lee lies dead in a pool of blood, his throat slashed. When Hercule Poirot offers to assist, he finds an atmosphere not of mourning but of mutual suspicion. It seems everyone had their own reason to hate the old man, but which one of them turned a special occasion into an occasion for homicide? The suspects will indeed be stirring this Christmas Eve...Published 1938.

CLARK, MARY HIGGINS & ALAFAIR BURKE PIECE OF MY HEART (\$12.99) Television producer Laurie Moran and her fiancée, Alex Buckley, the former host of her investigative television show, are just days away from their mid-summer wedding, when things take a dark turn. Alex's seven-year-old nephew, Johnny, vanishes from the beach, triggering a search party. Witnesses recall Johnny playing in

the water and collecting shells behind the beach shack, but no one remembers seeing him in the afternoon. As the sun sets, Johnny's skim board washes up to shore, and everyone realizes that he could be anywhere, even under the water.

CLINTON, HILLARY RODHAM & LOUISE PENNY STATE OF TERROR (\$24.99) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

COBEN, HARLAN WIN (\$22.99) Over twenty years ago, the heiress Patricia Lockwood was abducted during a robbery of her family's estate, then locked inside an isolated cabin for months. Patricia escaped, but so did her captors—and the items stolen from her family were never recovered. Until now. On the Upper West Side, a recluse is found murdered in his penthouse apartment, alongside two objects of note: a stolen Vermeer painting and a leather suitcase bearing the initials WHL3. For the first time in years, the authorities have a lead—not only on Patricia's kidnapping, but also on another FBI cold case—with the suitcase and painting both pointing them toward one man. Windsor Horne Lockwood III—or Win, as his few friends call him—doesn't know how his suitcase and his family's stolen painting ended up with a dead man. But his interest is piqued, especially when the FBI tells him that the man who kidnapped his cousin was also behind an act of domestic terrorism—and that the conspirators may still be at large. The two cases have baffled the FBI for decades, but Win has three things the FBI doesn't: a personal connection to the case; an ungodly fortune; and his own unique brand of justice.

CONNELLY, MICHAEL haller LAW OF INNOCENCE (#6) (\$12.99) On the night he celebrates a big win, defense attorney Mickey Haller is pulled over by police, who find the body of a former client in the trunk of his Lincoln. Haller is immediately charged with murder but can't post the exorbitant \$5 million bail slapped on him by a vindictive judge. Mickey elects to represent himself and is forced to mount his defense from his jail cell in the Twin Towers Correctional Center in downtown Los Angeles. All the while he needs to look over his shoulder—as an officer of the court he is an instant target, and he makes few friends when he reveals a corruption plot within the jail. But the bigger plot is the one against him. Haller knows he's been framed.

CORNWELL, BERNARD sharpe SHARPE'S ASSASSIN (#22) (\$24.99) It's been some fifteen years since the previous Sharpe adventure, but he's back! Lieutenant-Colonel Sharpe is a man with a reputation. Born in the gutter, raised a foundling, he joined the army twenty-one years ago, and it's been his home ever since. He's a loose cannon, but his unconventional methods make him a valuable weapon. So when, the dust still settling after the Battle of Waterloo, the Duke of Wellington needs a favour, he turns to Sharpe. For Wellington knows that the end of one war is only the beginning of another. Napoleon's army may be defeated, but another enemy lies waiting in the shadows—a secretive group of fanatical revolutionaries hell-bent on revenge.

Sharpe is dispatched to a new battleground: the maze of Paris streets where lines blur between friend and foe. And in search of a spy, he will have to defeat a lethal assassin determined to kill his target or die trying.

COX, HELEN hartley DEATH AWAITS IN DURHAM (#4) (\$17.99) When librarian and budding private investigator Kitt Hartley visits her ex-assistant Grace Edwards in Durham, she soon learns of an unsolved murder. A year ago Jodie Perkins, a Mechanics student, disappeared after her student-radio broadcast was cut short with a deafening scream. The police suspect Jodie was murdered although her body was never found. Keen to be on the front line of one of Kitt's investigations, Grace convinces Kit to use her recent private investigator training to solve the mystery. Can Kitt and Grace uncover the truth?

DAHL, K O ASSISTANT (\$20.95) Oslo, 1938. War is in the air and Europe is in turmoil. Hitler's Germany has occupied Austria and is threatening Czechoslovakia; there's a civil war in Spain and Mussolini reigns in Italy. When a woman turns up at the office of police-turned-private investigator Ludvig Paaske, he and his assistant—his one-time nemesis and former drug-smuggler Jack Rivers—begin a seemingly straightforward investigation into marital infidelity. But all

is not what it seems, and when Jack is accused of murder, the trail leads back to the 1920s, to prohibition-era Norway, to the smugglers, sex workers and hoodlums of his criminal past ... and an extraordinary secret.

DANNA, JEN J capella EXIT STRATEGY (#1) (\$11.99) A heavily armed gunman has taken hostages at City Hall. As the force's top hostage negotiator, NYPD detective Gemma Capello races downtown to join the rest of the Hostage Negotiation Team as they scramble to identify the captives—fearing the mayor may be among them. But as they search for answers and struggle to gain control of the circumstances, it becomes clear that the mayor is at the center of it all, just not in the way they initially believed. With time running out, Gemma risks it all—her career and her life—in a last-ditch effort to save the hostages. Now, she needs to figure out how to save herself...

DEVERELL, WILLIAM beauchamp KILL ALL THE JUDGES (#3) (\$19.95) Is someone systematically killing the judges called to the British Columbian bar? At least one has been murdered and several have disappeared. Arthur Beauchamp returns from retirement once again to take on the case, this time defending his former nemesis, backwoods poet Cudworth Brown. He finds himself chasing all kinds of leads, including tracking down a mystery novel that Brown's unreliable former lawyer has been writing, just as Beauchamp's own wife, Margaret, has announced her candidacy for the Green Party. Published 2008.

DEVERELL, WILLIAM beauchamp SNOW JOB (#4) (\$19.95) In this zany political thriller, the leader of the despotic Asian nation of Bhashyistan declares war on Canada after a limo bearing its visiting delegation is blown sky-high in snowy Ottawa. The suspected assassin, Abzal Erzhan, a Bhashyistani revolutionary, disappears. Was he kidnapped, was he murdered, or did he get away scot-free? Enter famed trial lawyer Arthur Beauchamp, dragged from retirement on his idyllic Gulf Island farm. As he prepares to represent Erzhan, he must ponder a hard, ethical question: is the alleged terrorist guilty, or has he been set up to take the fall? Arthur soon finds himself tangled up with wily civil servants, scheming cabinet members, an abrasive Bhashyistani propagandist, and a government spy who stumbles about like a bull in a china shop. Meanwhile, the international pressure mounts as Canadian oil executives are taken hostage while three Canadian female tourists, fearing terrorism, hide out in Bhashyistani's wintry wilds. Published 2009.

DEVERELL, WILLIAM beauchamp I'LL SEE YOU IN MY DREAMS (#5) (\$19.95) Arthur Beauchamp, after a successful and much-lauded career at the criminal bar, is now retired to Garibaldi Island. His immediate desire is to win the Mabel Orfmeister Trophy for the Most Points in Fruits and Vegetables at the Garibaldi Island fall fair. With his crop picked and packed, Beauchamp is ready to do battle. While waiting for the judges, he can muse on his recently published biography by one Wentworth Chance. It is appropriately florid, with enough catty references to make it readable. And it takes Beauchamp back to his first big criminal case in 1962, the one, in legal terms, that "made him," the trial of Gabriel Swift. Published 2011.

DIRICO, MARIA IT'S BEGINNING TO LOOK A LOT (#3) (\$11.99) Mia's busy with a full schedule of events at the family business—among them an over-the-top Nativity-themed first birthday party and a Sweet Sixteen for a teen drama queen. But her personal life is even more challenging. Her estranged mother has returned—and her lifelong friend Jamie has discovered a shocking secret about his past. He's so angry that he starts hanging out with Lorenzo, who claims to be his long-lost brother—even after it becomes clear that Lorenzo's story is as fake as a plastic Christmas tree. Then a body turns up among the elves in a Santa's-workshop lawn display, and amateur sleuth Mia has a buffet of suspects to choose from. Amid the holiday celebrations, she intends to find out who's the guilty party...

DORGAN, DENNIS NARCISSISM OF SMALL DIFFERENCES (\$22.19) A noir detective novel about the guiding influences of memory and the subconscious mind. It's also a story about how insignificant the differences are between the defenders of law and order and those who live in the world outside of it. And, while it is also a

fast-paced police procedural, in the end this is the story of Conor Delaney, a man who can see into the dark.

DORSEY, CANDAS JANE epitome WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH MARY JANE? (#2) (\$19.95) A wise-cracking, grammar-obsessed, pansexual amateur sleuth is thrust into the world of the uber-rich when her enigmatic, now-famous childhood friend breezes back into her life begging for help with a dangerous stalker. Sequel to Adventures of Isabel (#1) (\$19.95).

DOWDALL, ANNA AU PAIR (#1) (\$27.99) It's not all fun and games for Ashley Smeeton, in her mid-twenties and trying to run a private investigation agency in Montreal despite a temporary cash flow problem. She's as surprised as anyone when she agrees to take a summer au pair job in the scenic Laurentian Mountains. Montreal might be enduring a heat wave, but at Columbine Lodge, occupied by a few generations of immensely wealthy Sampsons, things are heating up as well. Between the mystery that surrounds four-year-old Meade and her complicated mother Layla, and the lingering mood of past suffering in the old lodge, Ashley quickly becomes intrigued. The uneasy atmosphere of her idyllic surroundings intensifies when people unexpectedly begin to die. With a capricious little girl in her charge, Ashley's got her work cut out for her...but the urge to uncover the dark secrets of Columbine Lodge proves irresistible

DOYLE, ARTHUR CONAN SIGN OF THE FOUR (\$13.50)

Adapted for young readers, this classic, first published 1880.

DOYLE/THOMAS, SHERRY lady sherlock MISS MORIARTY, I PRESUME? (#6) (\$22) A most unexpected client shows up at Charlotte Holmes's doorstep: Moriarty himself. Moriarty fears that tragedy has befallen his daughter and wants Charlotte to find out the truth. Charlotte and Mrs. Watson travel to a remote community of occult practitioners where Moriarty's daughter was last seen, a place full of lies and liars. But the more secrets Charlotte unravels about Miss Moriarty's disappearance, the more she wonders why Moriarty has entrusted this delicate matter to her of all people. Is it merely to test Charlotte's

DURRELL, LAWRENCE WHITE EAGLES OVER SERBIA

(\$19.50) Methuen is a seasoned British secret agent, weary of espionage missions and desperately in need of a break—but he can't resist an assignment to investigate dirty dealings in the Balkans. A fellow British spy has been murdered in Serbia by a guerrilla gang of underground royalists, the White Eagles—but when Methuen arrives, he soon finds himself in a life-and-death struggle, pursued by both the royalists and Communists alike ...Published 1957.

EDVARDSSON, M T NEARLY NORMAL FAMILY (\$12.99)

Eighteen-year-old Stella Sandell stands accused of the brutal murder of a man almost fifteen years her senior. She is an ordinary teenager from an upstanding local family. What reason could she have to know a shady businessman, let alone to kill him? Stella's father, a pastor, and mother, a criminal defense attorney, find their moral compasses tested as they defend their daughter, while struggling to understand why she is a suspect. How well do you know your own children? How far would you go to protect them?

ELLIOTT, C M sibanda SIBANDA AND THE BLACK SPARROW HAWK (#2) (\$17.99) When a skinned body is discovered on the side of the railway line deep in the Matabele bush, Detective Inspector Jabulani Sibanda, along with his sidekicks, Sergeant Ncube and the troublesome Land Rover, Miss Daisy, is back on the trail of a murderer. As more girls go missing and more bones are discovered, Sibanda realises they are dealing with the signature of a vicious serial killer who chooses the train as his killing field.

ELLIOTT, C M sibanda SIBANDA AND THE DEATH'S HEAD MOTH (#3) (\$17.99) Two bodies are discovered near Gubu, one burning at the base of a tree struck by lightning and, on the banks of the Zambezi, a second killing which threatens to tear Detective Sibanda's life apart. The victims are not connected as one is a foreign wildlife researcher and the other a local driver, but Sibanda's intuition tells him the murders are linked. The only clues are a fragment of material found in the brain of one victim, a puncture wound in the thigh of the other, and a diary full of coded names.

ELLIOTT, LAUREN bookstore TO THE TOME OF MURDER

(#7) (\$11.99) Three weeks before Thanksgiving, bookstore owner Addie Greyborne already has a full plate—and a killer on her case...

ERICKSON, ALEX bookstore DEATH BY HOT APPLE CIDER

(#9) (\$11.99) Krissy Hancock's bookstore-café in Pine Hills, Ohio, is teaming up with the local library for a seasonal celebration, but someone is spiking the refreshments—with fatal results...With autumn in full swing and Thanksgiving on the way, Krissy's supplying cider and her staff is manning the apple-bobbing booth at a town event. But then a patron dunks his head in—and doesn't come back up. It soon becomes clear that Krissy's brew wasn't to blame. But with her policeman boyfriend looking to make detective, she can't help being drawn into the investigation. The victim was notorious for harassing not only her own bookstore but the library and the school for promoting supposedly scandalous literature—before someone censored him permanently. Now, Krissy will have to check out a stack of suspects to find a killer who's rotten to the core...

ERIKSSON, KJELL lindell NIGHT OF THE FIRE (#8) (\$24.99)

Police inspector Ann Lindell has left the Uppsala police and is living a quiet life, producing local cheese in a small town in Uppland. But life in the country is not as idyllic as it seems. On New Year's Eve someone sets fire to the former village school, which is now a home for asylum seekers, and three people are killed. Ann Lindell's investigative instincts come back to life and soon she takes on the case. She is contacted by a person who has been involved in a previous investigation and who wants to warn her. His message is short and clear: Many will die. A few weeks later a bomb explodes in a suburb of Stockholm.

EVANOVICH, JANET plum FORTUNE AND GLORY (#27)

(\$12.99) When Stephanie's beloved Grandma Mazur's new husband died on their wedding night, the only thing he left her was a beat-up old easy chair...and the keys to a life-changing fortune. But as Stephanie and Grandma Mazur search for Jimmy Rosolli's treasure, they discover that they're not the only ones on the hunt...

EVANOVICH, JANET plum GAME ON TEMPTING TWENTY-EIGHT (#28) (\$24.99) When Stephanie Plum is woken up in the middle of the night by the sound of footsteps in her apartment, she wishes she didn't keep her gun in the cookie jar in her kitchen. And when she finds out the intruder is fellow apprehension agent Diesel, six feet of hard muscle and bad attitude who she hasn't seen in more than two years, she still thinks the gun might come in handy...Turns out Diesel and Stephanie are on the trail of the same fugitive: Oswald Wednesday, an international computer hacker as brilliant as he is ruthless.

FEENEY, ALICE ROCK PAPER SCISSORS (\$24.99) Things have been wrong with Mr. and Mrs. Wright for a long time. When Adam and Amelia win a weekend away to Scotland, it might be just what their marriage needs. They both know this weekend will make or break their marriage, but they didn't randomly win this trip. One of them is lying, and someone doesn't want them to live happily ever after.

FLETCHER & BAIN MURDER, SHE WROTE: KILLING IN A KOI POND (\$11.99) After traveling to Bethesda for a mystery writers' conference, Jessica Fletcher decides she's earned a vacation and takes a train to Columbia, South Carolina, to visit her old college friend Dolores, who has recently married her third husband, Willis Nickens, a wealthy and cutthroat businessman. They've moved into an opulent historic home with plenty of space for guests, and Jessica is ready for a week of shopping, gossiping, and relaxing at the grand estate. But the morning after she arrives, Jessica discovers Willis facedown in the koi pond, and despite what the police think, she's sure foul play is involved. She hadn't known Willis long, but it's clear to her that he didn't concern himself with making friends. The question isn't if her friend's husband was murdered but by who

FLUKE, JOANNE swensen CHRISTMAS DESSERT MURDER

(#20) (#23) (\$17.50) The perfect stocking stuffer for fans of culinary capers, this holiday omnibus featuring two classic mysteries set in Hannah Swensen's Cookie Jar bakery in Lake Eden, Minnesota: Christmas Caramel Murder and Christmas Cake Murder.

FRADKIN, BARBARA **green** DEVIL TO PAY (#11) (\$19.99) Sidelined to administrative duties, Inspector Michael Green misses the thrill of the chase. So when his daughter Hannah, now a rookie patrol officer, responds to a 911 call about a domestic disturbance in a wealthy suburban neighbourhood, he is intrigued. Both husband and wife deny a problem and, despite Hannah's doubts, no further police action is taken, but Green encourages her to dig deeper on her own. When the husband disappears and his car is found at the airport, the police conclude he is simply fleeing an unhappy home, a floundering law practice, and a mountain of debt.

FRASER-SAMPSON, GUY WHAT WOULD WIMSEY DO? (#1) (\$23.95) A series of ugly killings has shattered the orderly workings of the Hampstead police station. And truth be told, they have shattered the confidence of the lead investigator on the case, who has long taken pride in his old-school "copper's nose." When yet another body turns up, he's forced to give way to a new chief with fancy new detecting techniques. But when those, too, prove unequal to the task, the police are stymied. So they reach back to the past, invoking the skills of one of the great Gentleman Sleuths. Is this nutty? No doubt. But Lord Peter Wimsey always got his man.

FRENCH, NICCI UNHEARD (\$21.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

FRENCH, TANA SEARCHER (\$24) Cal Hooper thought a fixer-upper in a bucolic Irish village would be the perfect escape. After twenty-five years in the Chicago police force and a bruising divorce, he just wants to build a new life in a pretty spot with a good pub where nothing much happens. But when a local kid whose brother has gone missing arm-twists him into investigating, Cal uncovers layers of darkness beneath his picturesque retreat, and starts to realize that even small towns shelter dangerous secrets.

GOLDENBAUM, SALLY **society** CRIME OF A DIFFERENT STRIPE (#4) (\$21.95) When a body is discovered at Sea Harbor's opening reception for the autumn art series, the Seaside Knitters must take a break from stitching baby gear to unravel a series of secrets...

GRIFFO, J D **ferrara** MURDER AT THE MISTLETOE BALL (#6) (\$11.99) Alberta is delighted that her estranged daughter has arrived in Tranquility, NJ, even if Lisa Marie has an ulterior motive. Her son, Alberta's twenty-one-year-old grandson, Sergio, hasn't been heard from in six months, shortly after taking up with a woman named Natalie. Maybe Alberta and her crime-reporting partner-in-sleuthing granddaughter, Jinx, can track him down before Christmas?

HANNAH, DARCI **beacon bake** MURDER AT THE CHRISTMAS COOKIE BAKE OFF2 (\$11.99) With the spirit of the holidays wafting through the Beacon Bakeshop, Lindsey thinks she has the recipe for the sweetest Christmas ever—winning the town-wide cookie bake-off. Unfortunately, striving for a picture-perfect December in Beacon Harbor is a lot like biting into stale shortbread. Low on staff and bombarded by visits from family, Lindsey can barely meet demands at work, let alone summon the confidence to face fierce competition...Just as the competition heats up, everything falls apart when the judge is found dead—and covered in crumbs from Lindsey's signature cookie! Solving a murder was never on Lindsey's wish list. But with her reputation on the line during the happiest time of the year, she'll need to bring her best talents to the table in order to sift out the true Christmas Cookie culprit.

HARDING, ROBYN PERFECT FAMILY (\$24.99) Thomas and Viv Adler have a picture-perfect family. Affluent and attractive, with two well-mannered kids almost out of the nest, they live in a beautifully restored Craftsman house in a well-to-do neighborhood in Portland, Oregon. Their jobs are secure; their children are thriving; the world is their oyster. Until one morning, when they wake up to find that their house and car have been pelted with eggs. Thomas dismisses it as the work of a few out-of-control kids, but when a smoke bomb is tossed on their front lawn, and the tires on their BMW are punctured, he begins to worry. The police assure them that this is just the work of bored teenagers. But no one in the Adler family believes it. After all, each of them has a secret—kept not only from the outside world but from each other...

HARMEL, KRISTIN WINEMAKER'S WIFE (\$12.99) A *Marian's Pick* in the October newsletter. Set amid the champagne vineyards of northern France during the darkest days of World War II and in contemporary New York.

HARROD-EAGLES, C **slider** HEADLONG (#21) (\$17.50) When one of London's best-known literary agents is found dead in strange circumstances, seemingly having fallen from his office window, DCI Slider is under pressure to confirm a case of accidental death. But when the evidence points to murder, the team find themselves uncovering some decidedly scandalous secrets. Every lead seems to result in more questions, and as Slider delves deeper into the publishing world it's up to him to sort fact from fiction.

HAUTY, CHRIS **chill** SAVAGE ROAD (#2) (\$12.99) When a series of devastating cyber attacks rock the United States, Hayley Chill is tasked by the "deeper state" to track down their source. NSA analysts insist that Moscow is the culprit, but that accusation brings plenty of complications with Hayley directing the president as a double agent against the Russians. With increasing pressure on the president to steer him towards a devastating war, it's up to Hayley to stop the mysterious computer hacker and prevent World War III—while also uncovering some shocking truths about her own life.

HEWSON, DAVID DEVIL'S FJORD (\$17.50) If the new District Sheriff, Tristan Haraldsen, thought moving to a remote village on the island of Vagar would be the chance for a peaceful life with his wife Elsebeth, his first few weeks in office swiftly correct him of that notion. Provoked into taking part in the village's whale hunt against his will, Haraldsen blunders badly, and in the ensuing chaos two local boys go missing. Blaming himself, Haraldsen dives into the investigation and soon learns that the boys are not the first to have gone missing on Vagar. As Tristan and Elsebeth become increasingly ensnared by the island's past, they realise its wild beauty hides an altogether uglier and sinister truth.

HOROWITZ, ANTHONY **hawthorne** LINE TO KILL (#3) (\$24.99) When Ex-Detective Inspector Daniel Hawthorne and his sidekick, author Anthony Horowitz, are invited to an exclusive literary festival on Alderney, an idyllic island off the south coast of England, they don't expect to find themselves in the middle of murder investigation—or to be trapped with a cold-blooded killer in a remote place with a murky, haunted past. Arriving on Alderney, Hawthorne and Horowitz soon meet the festival's other guests—an eccentric gathering that includes a bestselling children's author, a French poet, a TV chef turned cookbook author, a blind psychic, and a war historian—along with a group of ornery locals embroiled in an escalating feud over a disruptive power line. When a local grandee is found dead under mysterious circumstances, Hawthorne and Horowitz become embroiled in the case. The island is locked down, no one is allowed on or off, and it soon becomes horribly clear that a murderer lurks in their midst. But who?

JEWELL, LISA NIGHT SHE DISAPPEARED (\$24.99) On a beautiful summer night in a charming English suburb, a young woman and her boyfriend disappear after partying at the massive country estate of a new college friend. One year later, a writer moves into a cottage on the edge of the woods that border the same estate. Known locally as the Dark Place, the dense forest is the writer's favorite area for long walks and it's on one such walk that she stumbles upon a mysterious note that simply reads, "DIG HERE." Could this be a clue towards what has happened to the missing young couple? And what exactly is buried in this haunted ground?

KALTEIS, DIETRICH UNDER AN OUTLAW MOON (\$19.95) Based on the true story of Depression-era bank robbers Bennie and Stella Mae Dickson. She's a teenage outsider longing to fit in. He's a few years older and he's trouble. They meet at a local skating rink and the sparks fly. They marry and Stella dreams of a nice house with a swing out back, while Bennie figures out how to get enough money to make it happen. Setting his sights on the good life, he decides to rob a bank. Talking Stella into it, he lays out his plan and teaches her to shoot. The newlyweds celebrate her 16th birthday by robbing a local bank. They pull it off, but the score is small, and Bennie realizes the money won't last long, so he plans a bigger robbery. What lays

ahead is more than either of them bargained for. After J. Edgar Hoover finds out they crossed state lines, he declares them public enemies number one and two — wanted dead or alive. So much for the good life. The manhunt is on, and there's little room for them to run.

KAPLAN, PHILIP NIGHT IN TEHRAN (\$23.99) In the style of **Alan Furst**, this suspenseful thriller—based on real events—places an idealistic American diplomat in a turbulent, US-hating Tehran in the days leading up to the Iranian Revolution. Backed by the CIA, and trailed by a beautiful and engaging French journalist he suspects is a spy, David Weisman's mission is to ease the Shah of Iran out of power and find the best alternative between the military, religious extremists, and the political ruling class—many of whom are simultaneously trying to kill him.

KELLERMAN, JONATHAN delaw SERPENTINE (#36) (\$12.99) LAPD homicide lieutenant Milo Sturgis doesn't call his best friend, the brilliant psychologist Alex Delaware, except on "different" cases. This murder warrants an immediate call. Milo's independence has been compromised as never before, as the department pressures him to cater to the demands of a mogul: a hard-to-fathom, megarich young woman who is obsessed with reopening the coldest of cases—the decades-old death of the mother she never knew.

KELLY, DIANE lodge GETAWAY WITH MURDER (#1) (\$12.99) As if hitting the half-century mark wasn't enough, Misty Murphy celebrated her landmark birthday by amicably ending her marriage and investing her settlement in a dilapidated mountain lodge at the top of the Blue Ridge Mountains. With the old inn teetering on both a bluff and bankruptcy, she must have lost her ever-loving mind. Luckily, handyman Rocky Crowder has a knack for rehabbing virtual ruins and for doing it on a dime, and to Misty's delight, the lodge is fully booked on opening night, every room filled with flexible folks who'd slipped into spandex and ascended the peak for a yoga retreat with plans to namastay for a full week. Misty and her guests are feeling zen—at least until the yoga instructor is found dead. With a killer on the loose and the lodge's reputation hanging in the balance, Misty must put her detective-skills to the test. Only one thing is as clear as a sunny mountain morning—she must solve the crime before the lodge ends up, once again, on the brink.

KENT, CHRISTOBEL cellini VIPER (#6) (\$20.95) Sandro Cellini hasn't set foot in La Vipera, a derelict farmhouse just outside Florence that was once home to a free-living commune, for forty years—until the discovery of two bodies nearby leads him back there. At the start of his career, Cellini investigated an accusation that minors were being corrupted at La Vipera, but no charges were ever brought. Now, tasked with tracking down former members of the community, he has a chance to finally discover what really went on all those years ago. But in order to learn the true nature of the commune's mission, he must face his own traumatic memories. As he sifts through the lies, those closest to him are placed in danger. Only Cellini can unravel the final mystery of La Vipera, and so protect those he loves.

LANSING, KATE wine MULLED TO DEATH (#3) (\$11.99) When Parker Valentine decides to take a weekend getaway with her boyfriend Reid, a ski trip seems like the perfect choice. Between hitting the slopes and persuading the resort's wine director to sell her mulled wine, Parker is eager to mix business with pleasure. But her plans are muddled when she finds the resort owner's body on a treacherous portion of ski trail near the resort. As a result, not only is Parker's romantic weekend thrown into chaos, but now that the owner has died, her business deal is due for a frosty reception, and her life might be in danger as well. After a series of unfortunate mishaps befall Parker, she realizes that whoever killed the resort owner might want to tie up loose ends. Parker's going to need all of the investigative skills at her disposal to catch a killer before they put her on ice.

LE CARRE, JOHN AGENT RUNNING IN THE FIELD (\$11.99) Nat, a forty-seven-year-old veteran of Britain's Secret Intelligence Service, thinks his years as an agent runner are over. He's back in London with his long-suffering wife, Prue, but MI6 has other plans. To tackle the growing threat from Moscow Centre, Nat is put in charge of The Haven, a defunct substation of London General with a rag-tag band of spies. Nat's weekly badminton session with the

young, introspective, Brexit-hating Ed offers respite from the new year. And it is Ed, of all unlikely people, who will take Nat and his team down the path of political anger that will ensnare them all.

LOCHTE, DICK SLEEPING DOG (\$33.99) This beloved, comedy-noir thriller teams up Leo Bloodworth, a hard-drinking, middle-aged Los Angeles PI with hypertension and a low tolerance for precious teenagers, with Serendipity Dahlquist, a bright and strong-willed roller-blading 14-year-old searching for her lost dog. But things quickly escalate, plunging the oddest of odd couples into the dark underworld of sunny Southern California and pitting them against one of the biggest, and most brutal, organized crime families in Mexico.

LOVESEY, PETER ed. USUAL SANTAS (\$21.95) The perfect stocking stuffer for the crime fiction lover in your life! With a foreword by CWA Diamond Award-winner **Peter Lovesey**, these eighteen delightful holiday stories by your favorite Soho Crime authors contain laughs, murders, and plenty more. Nine mall Santas must find the imposter among them. An elderly lady seeks peace from her murderously loud neighbors at Christmastime. A young woman receives a mysterious invitation to Christmas dinner with a stranger. Niccolò Machiavelli sets out to save an Italian city. Sherlock Holmes's one-time nemesis Irene Adler finds herself in an unexpected tangle in Paris while on a routine espionage assignment. Jane Austen searches for the Dowager Duchess of Wilborough's stolen diamonds. These and other adventures in this delectable volume will whisk readers away to Christmases around the globe, from a Korean War POW camp to a Copenhagen refugee squat, from a palatial hotel in 1920s Bombay to a crumbling mansion in Havana. Includes Stories By **Helene Tursten, Mick Herron, Martin Limón, Timothy Hallinan, Teresa Dovalpage, Mette Ivie Harrison, Colin Cotterill, Ed Lin, Stuart Neville, Tod Goldberg, Henry Chang, James R. Benn, Lene Kaaberbøl & Agnete Friis, Sujata Massey, Gary Corby, Cara Black, Stephanie Barron** and a Foreword and story by **Peter Lovesey**.

MACDERMID/MCDERMID, VAL pirie STILL LIFE (#6) (\$23.95) When a lobster fisherman discovers a dead body in Scotland's Firth of Forth, DCI Karen Pirie is called into investigate. She quickly discovers that the case will require untangling a complicated web—including a historic disappearance, art forgery, and secret identities—that seems to orbit around a painting copyist who can mimic anyone from Holbein to Hockney. Meanwhile, a traffic crash leads to the discovery of a skeleton in a suburban garage. Needless to say, Karen has her plate full. Meanwhile, the man responsible for the death of the love of her life is being released from prison, reopening old wounds just as she was getting back on her feet.

MACDONALD/MCDONALD, CHRISTINA DO NO HARM (\$22.99) Emma loves her life. She's the mother of a precocious kindergarten, married to her soulmate—a loyal and loving police detective—and has a rewarding career as a doctor at the local hospital. But everything comes crashing down when her son, Josh, is diagnosed with a rare form of cancer. Determined to save him, Emma makes the risky decision to sell opioids to fund the life-saving treatment he needs. But when somebody ends up dead, a lethal game of cat and mouse ensues, her own husband leading the chase. With her son's life hanging in the balance, Emma is dragged into the dark world of drugs, lies, and murder. Will the truth catch up to her before she can save Josh?

MACKINLAY/MCKINLAY, JENN library ONE FOR THE BOOKS (#11) (\$11.99) Love is in the air in Briar Creek as library director Lindsey Norris and boat captain Mike (Sully) Sullivan are finally tying the knot. The entire town is excited for the happy day, and Lindsey and Sully's plan for a small wedding evaporates as more and more people insist upon attending the event of the year. When Lindsey and her crafternoon pals head out to Bell Island to see if it can accommodate the ever-expanding guest list, they are horrified to discover a body washed up on the rocky shore. Even worse, Lindsey recognizes the man as the justice of the peace who was supposed to officiate her wedding ceremony. When it becomes clear he was murdered, Lindsey can't help but wonder if it had to do with the wedding. Now

she has to book it to solve the mystery before it ends her happily ever after before it's even begun....

MACLEOD, TORQUIL sundstrom MAMMON IN MALMO (#8) (\$20.95) Anita Sundstrom, out of the force for a year after her resignation, is approached by a dying woman to track down a collection of paintings stolen from her family. The paintings were looted by the Nazis in Budapest in 1944. But needing the money, Anita takes on this seemingly impossible task. As she heads off to Hungary, she has no idea of the dangers ahead.

MARGOLIN, PHILLIP lockwood MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH (#4) (\$12.99) Joe Lattimore, homeless and trying desperately to provide for his young family, agrees to fight in a no-holds-barred illegal bout, only to have his opponent die. Lattimore now finds himself at the mercy of the fight's organizers who blackmail him into burglarizing a house. However, when he breaks in, he finds a murdered woman on the floor and the police have received an anonymous tip naming him the murderer. Robin Lockwood, an increasingly prominent young attorney and former MMA fighter, agrees to take on his defense. But the case is seemingly airtight—the murdered woman's husband, Judge Anthony Carasco, has an alibi and Lattimore's fingerprints are discovered at the scene. But everything about the case is too easy, too pat, and Lockwood is convinced that her client has been framed. The only problem is that she has no way of proving it and since this is a death case, if she fails then another innocent will die.

MARTIN, MIKE windflower BURIED SECRETS (#12) (\$22) RCMP Sergeant Winston Windflower is at a crossroads as career opportunities intrude on his near-perfect life in the blustery paradise of Grand Bank, Newfoundland. Just as the pandemic ends, the little oceanside communities are rocked by the murders of prominent figures, an RCMP Staff Sergeant in St. John's and a minister in Grand Bank, and it's implied that there are national security implications to at least one crime. There's also a sinister new character hanging around doing the parish's dirty work. Windflower finds himself a primary investigator, balancing work, potential major changes, and life with a young family while seeking guidance from his ancestral teachings and dreams. Are the crimes connected, and can Windflower and his team find the killer before they strike again? As the police work becomes more complicated and even dangerous, Sgt. Windflower finds time to enjoy his family, his friends and always some great food.

MEIER/HOLLIS/EHRHART CHRISTMAS CARD MURDER (\$11.99) Everyone dreams of a picture-perfect small-town Christmas, but when murder is in the cards, some holiday greetings are addressed to kill...Includes Christmas Card Murder by **Leslie Meier** (In the midst of holiday home renovations, Lucy Stone unwraps a murder mystery decades in the making when she discovers an old Christmas card with a nasty message inside. The case may be colder than a New England Christmas, but Lucy's determined to sort it out before Santa comes to town.), Death of a Christmas Carol by **Lee Hollis** (The Island Times Christmas soiree gets off to a scrooge start when Hayley Powell, Mona Barnes, and Rosana Moretti receive a Christmas card from the town flirt, Carol Waterman, who threatens to run off with one of their husbands! The ladies chalk it up to an imprudent prank... until they find Carol mistletoe-up under her tree...) and Death of a Christmas Card Crafter by **Peggy Ehrhart** (Slay bells ring when the body of Arborville High School's beloved art teacher (and annual Christmas card designer), Karma Karling, is discovered on the first day of the Holiday Craft Fair. Now, Pamela Paterson and the Knit and Nibble crew must swap swatching for sleuthing in order to put a Christmas killer on ice.)

MICHAUD, MARTIN lessard DEVIL'S CHOIR (#3) (\$21.99) When a young Montreal family dies in an orgy of bloody violence, all signs point to a rampage by the father. But Victor Lessard isn't convinced. The brilliant, brooding detective suspects that others were involved in the killings. But who? And why? As Lessard struggles to solve the puzzle, the discovery of a nightmarish chamber of horrors seems to confirm that the murders are part of a wider pattern. Meanwhile, in the Major Crimes Unit, Jacinthe Taillon is investigating the strange kidnapping of Laila François, a former street kid turned

webcam girl. Could there be a connection with Lessard's case? With a ghost from his past making him doubt his own sanity, Lessard must evade the lethal operatives of a powerful, highly secretive organization as he races to untangle the mystery—before a diabolical killer can strike again.

MONCRIEFF, ADA MURDER MOST FESTIVE (\$21.99) Imagine being stuck indoors with your family, waiting for something to happen... and then disaster strikes. Christmas 1938. The Westbury family and assorted friends have gathered together for another legendary Christmas at their Sussex mansion. As family tensions simmer on Christmas Eve, the champagne flows, the silver sparkles and upstairs the bedrooms are made up ready for their occupants. But one bed will lie empty that night...Come Christmas morning, guest David Campbell-Scott is found lying dead in the snow, with only a hunting rifle lying beside him and one set of footprints leading to the body. But something doesn't seem right to amateur sleuth Hugh Gaveston. Campbell-Scott had just returned from the East with untold wealth—why would he kill himself? Hugh sets out to investigate... and what he finds is more shocking than he ever could have expected.

MORROW, BRADFORD forgers FORGER'S DAUGHTER (#2) (\$23.95) After twenty years of living life on the straight and narrow, Will finds himself drawn back to forgery, ensnared in a plot to counterfeit the rarest book in American literature: Edgar Allan Poe's first, Tamerlane, of which only a dozen copies are known to have survived. Until now. Facing threats to his life and family, coerced by his former nemesis and fellow forger Henry Slader, Will must rely on the artistic skills of his older daughter Nicole to help create a flawless forgery of this stolen Tamerlane, the Holy Grail of American letters.

NEVILLE, STUART Iennon TRAVELLER AND OTHER STORIES (\$20.95) A collection of the author's short fiction—twelve chilling stories that traverse and blend the genres of noir, horror, and speculative fiction, and which bring the history and lore of the author's native Northern Ireland to life. The Traveller concludes with the long-awaited eponymous novella, the companion piece to The Ghosts of Belfast (\$20.95). Complete with a foreword from Irish crime fiction legend **John Connolly**,

O'CONNOR, CARLENE Irish MURDER AT AN IRISH CHRISTMAS (#6) (\$11.99) This December in Kilbane, the entire O'Sullivan brood has gone off to West Cork to spend the holidays with brother James's fiancée Elise's family, including her grandfather, the famous orchestral conductor Enda Elliot. All is going well, until the cantankerous conductor is discovered crushed under a ninety-pound harp in a local concert hall. With the extended family—including Enda's much-younger new wife Leah, a virtuoso violinist—suspected in his murder, it's up to Siobhán to ensure the guilty party faces the music before the killer orchestrates another untimely demise...

PANDIAN, GIGI ALCHEMIST OF FIRE AND FORTUNE (\$32) Alchemist Zoe Faust's mentor Nicolas Flamel is back in her life, but catching up with him will have to wait. An elusive blackmailer has threatened to expose a dangerous alchemical secret. Zoe's boyfriend is out of town protecting secrets of his own. So when rumors of a treasure map reach Zoe, she turns her back on what sounds like no more than a game. Zoe's mischievous living gargoyles best friend Dorian, who thinks of himself as a modern-day Poirot, is convinced the map is real—and that it's the key to proving himself as valuable to Zoe as her human family. With the help of the neighborhood teenagers, Dorian sets out to find the treasure, risking more than he planned in the process. Rumors, treasures, and secrets intersect to unearth more than Zoe could have dreamed—and could leave her family changed forever. Can Zoe stop the threat to the family unit she's created?

PARKER, ROBERT B Spenser SOMEONE TO WATCH OVER ME (#48) (\$12.99) Ten years ago, Spenser helped a teenage girl named Mattie Sullivan find her mother's killer and take down an infamous Southie crime boss. Now Mattie—a college student with a side job working for the tough but tender private eye—dreams of being an investigator herself. Her first big case involves a fifteen-year-old girl assaulted by a much older man at one of Boston's most prestigious private clubs. The girl, Chloe Turner, only wants the safe return of her laptop and backpack. But like her mentor and boss, Mattie has a

knack for asking the right questions of the wrong people. Soon Spenser and Hawk and Mattie are investigating an eccentric billionaire and his sadistic henchwoman with connections extending well beyond Massachusetts. Written by **Ace Atkins**.

PARKS, ALAN mccoY BOBBY MARCH WILL LIVE FOREVER (#3) (\$17.50) There's a heatwave in Glasgow and the drugs trade is booming. The whole force is searching for missing thirteen-year-old Alice Kelly. All except Harry McCoy, who has been taken off the case after a run-in with the boss, and is instead, sent alone to investigate the death of rock-star Bobby March, who has just overdosed in the Royal Stuart hotel. The papers want blood. The force wants results. McCoy has a hunch. But does he have enough time?

PENZLER, OTTO BIG BOOK OF VICTORIAN MYSTERIES (\$36) Behind the velvet curtains of horse drawn carriages and amid the soft glow of the gaslights are the detectives and bobbies sniffing out the safecrackers and petty purloiners who plague everything from the soot-covered side streets of London to the opulent manors of the countryside. This collection brings together incredible stories from **Arthur Conan Doyle, Thomas Hardy, Oscar Wilde, Charles Dickens, Wilkie Collins, and Guy de Maupassant** among other legendary writers of the grand era of the British Empire. So brush off your dinner jackets and straighten out your ball gowns for these exciting, glitzy mysteries.

PERSHING, AMY cape cod AN EGGNOG TO DIE FOR (#2) (\$11.99) Professional foodie Samantha Barnes has a simple Christmas list: a quiet holiday at home with her dog and a certain handsome harbor master; no embarrassing viral videos; and no finding dead bodies. Unfortunately she's got family visiting, she's spending a lot of time in front of the camera, and she's just stumbled over the lifeless body of the town's Santa Claus. Plus, Sam's plans for Christmas Eve are getting complicated. There's the great eggnog debate among her very opinionated guests. There's the "all edible" Christmas tree to decorate. And there's her Feast of the Five Fishes prepare. Nonetheless, Sam finds herself once again in the role of sleuth. She needs to find out who slayed this Santa—but can she pull off a perfect feast and nab a killer?

PINE, ALEX walker CHRISTMAS KILLER (\$17.99) DI James Walker is ready for a quiet family Christmas in the sleepy village of Kirkby Abbey. But when he opens an early Christmas present left on his doorstep, he soon realizes it is no gift. Inside is a gruesome surprise, and a promise—twelve days, twelve murders. Not long after, the first body is found, half frozen in the snow. As the blizzards descend, panic spreads through the remote Cumbrian village—there's a killer amongst them, and with eleven more victims to go, anyone could be next... Can James stop the killer before they strike again?

PORTER, C S morris BENEATH HER SKIN (#1) (\$19.95) When a small east coast town falls prey to a series of shocking murders, city homicide detective Kes Morris is called in to lead the case with the aid of the local precinct. As usual, she's the only woman in the room, and must draw on the lessons passed down by her detective father, a furtive and dangerous practice of going deep inside a killer's mind to put on their skin. What Kes uncovers is a web of gruesome crimes reaching back decades, and a town that may have been complicit. With a reputation of being hard, relentless, and unbending to authority, she finds herself on the hunt for a killer seeking brutal retribution, someone who takes sadistic pleasure in the death and wants their work seen. The farther she follows the trail, the more the line blurs between guilt and innocence, predator, and prey.

QUEEN, ELLERY ellery AMERICAN GUN MYSTERY (\$21.95) When a washed-up Hollywood cowboy-turned-circus rodeo actor is shot dead in the midst of his performance at a New York sports-palace, in front of thousands of onlookers, it seems obvious that someone would have seen the perpetrator of the crime—or at the very least, recovered the gun. But when the ensuing investigation fails to turn up any evidence, even after the newsreels made in the moment are reviewed, the net of suspicion widens across the troupe of performers and the circus staff. Who among them is cunning enough to have constructed such a baffling murder scene? Unluckily for the

murderer, genius sleuth Ellery Queen is among the thousands that witnessed the crime. Published 1933.

RADER-DAY, LORI DEATH AT GREENWAY (\$23.99) Bridey Kelly has come to Greenway House—the beloved holiday home of Agatha Christie—in disgrace. A terrible mistake at St. Prisca's Hospital in London has led to her dismissal as a nurse trainee, and her only chance for redemption is a position in the countryside caring for children evacuated to safety from the Blitz. Greenway is a beautiful home full of riddles: wondrous curios not to be touched, restrictions on rooms not to be entered, and a generous library, filled with books about murder. The biggest mystery might be the other nurse, Gigi, who is like no one Bridey has ever met. Chasing ten young children through the winding paths of the estate grounds might have soothed Bridey's anxieties and grief—if Greenway were not situated so near the English Channel and the rising aggressions of the war. When a body washes ashore near the estate, Bridey is horrified to realize this is not a victim of war, but of a brutal killing. As the local villagers look among themselves, Bridey and Gigi discover they each harbor dangerous secrets about what has led them to Greenway. With a mystery writer's home as their unsettling backdrop, the young women must unravel the truth before their safe haven becomes a place of death . . .

RENDON, MARCIE blackbear MURDER ON THE RED RIVER (#1) (\$22.95) Renee "Cash" Blackbear, a 19-year-old, tough-as-nails, resilient Ojibwe woman, has lived all her life in Fargo, sister city to Minnesota's Moorhead, just downriver from the Cities. Her life revolves around driving truck for local farmers, drinking beer, playing pool, smoking cigarettes, and solving criminal investigations through the power of her visions. She has one friend, Sheriff Wheaton, who's also her guardian and helped her out of the broken foster care system. Together they must work to solve a murder across cultures in a rural Midwest community layered in racism, genocide, and oppression.

ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL haven WHEN SHE WAS GOOD (#2) (\$17.99) Evie Cormac was found at a murder scene six years ago, hiding in a secret room. She has never revealed her real name, why she was in that house, or what she saw. Forensic psychologist Cyrus Haven wants to help the traumatised teenager. He thinks unravelling Evie's secrets will free her from the past. But he has no idea what he's about to unleash.

ROSENFELT, DAVID carpenter SILENT BITE (#22) (\$22.99) Lawyer Andy Carpenter can finally take a breath; he's almost back on dry land after a family Caribbean cruise forced on him by his wife, Laurie, to get into the Christmas spirit. Andy can't wait to get back to the Tara Foundation, the dog rescue organization that's always been his true passion. But before the boat even docks, Andy gets several calls from his partner, Willie Miller. He needs to see Andy as soon as the Carpenters are back on solid ground. When Andy arrives home, he finds that all is not calm or bright, and Willie needs his help. Willie's old cellmate, Tony Birch, has been arrested for murder. Andy doesn't necessarily believe in Tony, but Willie does. And Andy believes in Willie, which is why Andy decides to take the case.

ROSENFELT, DAVID carpenter BEST IN SNOW (#24) (\$23.99 trade paperback, \$34.99 hardcover) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

SCOTTOLINE, LISA DIRTY BLONDE (\$21) Attractive, sexy, tough-minded Cate Fante has just been appointed to the federal bench in Philadelphia. Uncomfortable among the elite meritocracy of the federal judiciary, the hard-charging woman with working class roots secretly indulges her taste for bad boys and men who work with their hands, like those she knew growing up in an old northeastern Pennsylvania coal-mining town. Presiding over a high-profile multi-million-dollar lawsuit, Cate quickly learns that being a judge doesn't always mean she can do justice. While a wronged former Philly ADA has the moral high ground, the sleazy television producer he's suing has the law on his side. Upset over the trial's outcome, Cate wants to forget with a few drinks and a night of anonymous sex. But when she realizes she's made a mistake, the stranger she picked up becomes aggressive, and she barely escapes without getting seriously hurt. For Cate though, the trouble has only begun. Returning home, she learns

that the TV producer from her court case has been murdered. Then the body of her failed one-night stand is discovered. Suddenly Cate's secret private life is splashed across the media and her job is in jeopardy. Her only hope is to find a murderer and clear her name. But can she uncover the truth before the cold-blooded killer silences her?

SCRIBNER, ALAN severus MARS THE AVENGER (#1) (\$18.50) 158 CE, during the reign of Antoninus Pius. Marcus Flavius Severus, a judge in the court of the Prefect of the City of Rome, investigates the disappearance of a senator's wife and the finding of the body of a murdered man thrown on the steps of the Temple of Mars the Avenger. As the investigation unfolds, the two cases become connected to a love affair seventeen years before in the Roman orient. The investigation leads Judge Severus and his court and police aids through the City and the society of ancient Rome, into a slave market, wealthy villas, taverns, tenement apartment houses and the Circus Maximus. Allegedly quite accurate as to the criminal laws of the time, including the use of judicial torture. All laws, rescripts and legal procedures are from Roman law sources. The first of nine novels featuring Roman judge Marcus Flavius Severus.

SHELTON, PAIGE alaska COLD WIND (#2) (\$10.99) Beth Rivers is still in Alaska. The unidentified man who kidnapped her in her home of St. Louis hasn't been found yet, so she's not ready to go back. But as October comes to a close, Benedict is feeling more and more like her new home. Beth has been working on herself. She's managed to get back to writing, and she's enjoying these beautiful months between summer and winter in Alaska. Then, everything in Benedict changes after a mudslide exposes a world that had been hidden for years. Two mud-covered, silent girls appear, and a secret trapper's house is found in the woods. The biggest surprise, though, is a dead and frozen woman's body in the trapper's shed. No one knows who she is, but the man who runs the mercantile, Randy, seems to be in the middle of all the mysteries. Unable to escape her journalistic roots, Beth is determined to answer the questions that keep arising: Are the mysterious girls and the frozen body connected? Can Randy possibly be involved? And—most importantly—can she solve this mystery before the cold wind sweeping over the town and the townspeople descends for good?

SLAUGHTER, KARIN trent SILENT WIFE (#10) (\$12.99) Investigating the killing of a prisoner during a riot inside a state penitentiary, GBI investigator Will Trent is confronted with disturbing information. One of the inmates claims that he is innocent of a brutal attack for which he has always been the prime suspect. The man insists that he was framed by a corrupt law enforcement team led by Jeffrey Tolliver and that the real culprit is still out there—a serial killer who has systematically been preying on women across the state for years. If Will reopens the investigation and implicates the dead police officer with a hero's reputation of wrongdoing, the opportunistic convict is willing to provide the information GBI needs about the riot murder. Only days ago, another young woman was viciously murdered in a state park in northern Georgia. Is it a fluke, or could there be a serial killer on the loose? As Will Trent digs into both crimes it becomes clear that he must solve the cold case in order to find the answer.

STEADMAN, CATHERINE SOMETHING IN THE WATER (\$12.99) If you could make one simple choice that would change your life forever, would you? Erin is a documentary filmmaker on the brink of a professional breakthrough, Mark a handsome investment banker with big plans. Passionately in love, they embark on a dream honeymoon to the tropical island of Bora Bora, where they enjoy the sun, the sand, and each other. Then, while scuba diving in the crystal blue sea, they find something in the water... Suddenly the newlyweds must make a dangerous choice: to speak out or to protect their secret. After all, if no one else knows, who would be hurt? Their decision will trigger a devastating chain of events...

SWANSTON, A D CHAOS (\$19.99) February 1574. Winter holds London in its icy grasp, but the city is also caught in a fervour of paranoia, superstition and rumour. Mob violence is commonplace. A whispered word is all it takes to condemn a woman to burn as a witch. Following his success in foiling the 'Incendium' plot against

the queen, Dr Christopher Radcliff's standing within court is high. However, he has no time to reap any rewards. Counterfeit coins are circulating on London's streets, bearing the likeness of his master, Robert Dudley, Earl of Leicester. This in itself is a treasonous offence, but slogans have also begun to appear. Daubed on walls and doorways, they suggest that someone close to the queen harbours treacherous intent – none other than Leicester himself... So Radcliff and his team of informants and amateur spies are sent out into the city's markets, drinking dens and brothels to track down who might be behind such outrageous and subversive acts. The investigation will lead them down a murderous path to face an elusive foe with an extraordinary agenda. And time is running out: for when rumour and fear catch fire, then surely violent insurrection and bloody chaos will follow.

SYMON, VANDA shephard BOUND (#4) (\$20.95) The New Zealand city of Dunedin is rocked when a wealthy and apparently respectable businessman is murdered in his luxurious home while his wife is bound and gagged, and forced to watch. But when Detective Sam Shephard and her team start investigating the case, they discover that the victim had links with some dubious characters. The case seems cut and dried, but Sam has other ideas. Weighed down by her dad's terminal cancer diagnosis, and by complications in her relationship with Paul, she needs a distraction, and launches her own investigation. And when another murder throws the official case into chaos, it's up to Sam to prove that the killer is someone no one could ever suspect.

TAYLOR, ANDREW lydmouth CALL THE DYING (#7) (\$17.99) Love and need make unexpected bedfellows, and both are blind. As the grip of a long hard winter tightens on Lydmouth, a dead woman calls the dying in a seance behind net curtains. Two provincial newspapers are in the throes of a bitter circulation war. A lorry-driver broods, and an office boy loses his heart. Britain may be basking in the warm glow of post-war tranquillity, but in the quiet town of Lydmouth, darker forces are at play...

skills as an investigator, or has the man of shadows trapped her in a nest of vipers?

THOR, BRAD horvath ACT OF WAR (#13) (\$23) After a CIA agent mysteriously dies overseas, his top asset surfaces with a startling and terrifying claim. There's just one problem—no one knows if she can be trusted. But when six exchange students go missing, two airplane passengers trade places, and one political-asylum seeker is arrested, a deadly chain of events is set in motion. With the United States facing an imminent and devastating attack, America's new president must turn to covert counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath to help carry out two of the most dangerous operations in the country's history.

THOR, BRAD horvath FOREIGN AGENT (#16) (\$23) Scot Harvath has exactly the skills the CIA is looking for. He's a former U.S. Navy SEAL with extensive experience in espionage. Working for a private intelligence company, he will provide the CIA, and more important, the President, with absolute deniability. But deep within the Russian Caucasus, Moscow also has its own special kind of operative. As a child, Sacha Baseyev endured an unimaginable horror. Today, he lives and breathes for only one reason—to kill. And he will kill as many Americans as it takes to accomplish his mission. As the attacks mount, and terror is brought to the very doorstep of the White House, Harvath finds himself in the race of his life.

THOR, BRAD horvath CODE OF CONDUCT (#14) (\$23) Hidden deep within one of the world's most powerful organizations is a secret committee with a devastating agenda. Its members are afforded incredible protections—considered elites, untouchables. But when four seconds of video is captured halfway around the world and anonymously transmitted to DC, covert wheels are set in motion, and counterterrorism operative Scot Harvath is tapped to undertake the deadliest assignment of his career.

UNGER, LISA LAST GIRL GHOSTED (\$24.99) She met him through a dating app. She fell for him—hard. It happens sometimes, a powerful connection with a perfect stranger takes you by surprise. Could it be love? But then, just as things were getting real, he stood

her up. Then he disappeared—profiles deleted, phone disconnected. She was ghosted. Maybe it was her fault. She shared too much, too fast. But isn't that always what women think—that they're the ones to blame? Soon she learns there were others. Girls who thought they were in love. Girls who later went missing. She had been looking for a connection, but now she's looking for answers. Chasing a digital trail into his dark past—and hers—she finds herself on a dangerous hunt. And she's not sure whether she's the predator—or the prey.

WALLACE, AURALEE *evenfall* IN THE COMPANY OF WITCHES (#1) (\$11.99) When a guest dies in the B&B she helps her aunts run, a young witch must rely on some good old-fashioned investigating to clear her aunt's name in this magical and charming new cozy mystery.

WOODMAN, RICHARD *drinkwater* CORVETTE (#5) (\$26.99) The frozen splendor of the Arctic Ocean and the absorbing drama of a nineteenth century whale hunt unfold as Drinkwater escorts a whaling fleet to Greenland and meets disaster, treachery and death.

WOODMAN, RICHARD *drinkwater* BENEATH THE AURORA (#12) (\$26.99) The Year is 1813. Captain Nathaniel Drinkwater succeeds Lord Dungarth as head of the Royal Navy's Secret Department. While the Grand Army of Napoleon faces defeat on the battlefields of Germany, the discovery of a secret treaty with America leads Drinkwater into the forbidding fjords of Norway, and one of the most desperate missions of his career. Increasingly isolated and affected by the long war with France and her allies, Drinkwater pursues his personal odyssey against often daunting odds. In a compelling narrative the author brings vividly to life conditions at sea during the Napoleonic wars. The fate of one of Napoleon's most charismatic marshals is linked with American privateers, escaped prisoners and the Danish Navy resulting in a violent confrontation set beneath the aurora.

WRIGHT, JUNE *mother paul* RESERVATION FOR MURDER (#1) (\$22.50) The kindly Reverend Mother Mary St Paul of the Cross may seem vague and otherworldly, but little escapes her attention—she has a shrewd grasp of everything that's going on beneath the surface. In this debut, she is in charge of a residential hostel for young women who work in offices and shops in Melbourne. A tense atmosphere pervades the house—many of the residents have received unpleasant anonymous letters, and there is much speculation as to their author. When Mary Allen finds a stranger stabbed in the garden, who dies after uttering a mysterious name, and a few days later one of the residents is found drowned, an apparent suicide, the tension reaches fever pitch. Is there a connection between these two deaths? Or between them and the letters? The police investigation, abetted by the resourceful Mary Allen, proceeds in fits and starts, but meanwhile Mother Paul pursues her own enquiries. Published 1958.