



The Poisoned Pen
4014 N. Goldwater
Suite 101
Scottsdale, AZ 85251
Toll Free (888) 560-9919
(480) 947-2974 Fax (480) 945-1023
sales@poisonedpen.com
http://poisonedpen.com
http://twitter.com/poisonedpen

Collector's Corner—June 2015 Volume 24 No. 4

Dear Collectors,

As heat rises, or maybe it's just warming up where you are, in Phoenix our thoughts turn to reading under air-conditioning. I've been hard at it as you will see, giving you original reviews by me, Patrick (Millikin), Karen (Shaver), and David (Hunenberg) for some of our July and August books. As ever our curated collection is a work in progress so this is not a definitive list, but it does capture most event books which are our first priority to read along with our Book Buyer Club Picks.

Enjoy, and many thanks for supporting authors and The Pen Barbara

JOIN A CLUB AND EARN A GIFT CARD: THANK YOU!

We'd like to increase membership in our small Book Buyers Clubs. Makes it easier to meet demand and not disappoint you. And say thanks. So here's the deal:

If you Sign up for one of these clubs, or remain a member, and accept the July-December 2015 Picks, all six, in January we will send you a \$20 Gift Card to spend as you like. I like the card better than a discount per book since you can use it any way you like. The clubs are: **British Crime Club** (may be unsigned, may be a trade paperback, though rarely). **Fresh Fiction Club** (unsigned, often a foreign author). **Hardboiled Crime Club** (Signed). **History/Mystery Club** (Signed). **Surprise Me Club** (my favorite, Signed). **Thriller Club** (Signed). Join one or more. **Each six month Club membership earns a card.**

To join email Patrick@poisonedpen.com. You can also give a club membership as a gift (to Father, or anyone). This starts with the July Picks and ends with the December Picks. And can start a new cycle in 2016.

DANIEL SILVA'S JULY 2 EVENT

Unsurprisingly the Arizona Biltmore has to increase its charge for using its space for Poisoned Pen Events. (It's still a real deal considering that hotel space in Scottsdale at a minimum runs \$5000 for an event room.) So we are adding a \$5 per person fee to attend, giving you a wristband when you pay at the door. The cost of Daniel's book remains the published price.

To offset this, two things:

The Biltmore is giving us discount coupons for its Frank & Albert restaurant. We will open the Gold Room doors at 5:00 PM. Come and secure your wristband, bring a marker like a piece of paper with your name on it to reserve your seat, and then go eat. You can also eat afterwards. There will be a cash bar in the Gold Room. Valet parking (\$2 tip; self parking is \$3).

The Poisoned Pen Summer Room Rate at the Biltmore is \$105 plus tax. Why not make a night of it? Come to the event,

use your restaurant coupons, stay the night, or two nights. The hotel is located at 2400 E Missouri Ave, Phoenix, AZ 85016.

Phone: 602 955-6600. Use our Reservation Code: **2726435**

I'm thinking that we will use this same design for the launch of X by Sue Grafton on August 25 at the Gold Room. Same \$5 per person, same coupon, same room rate.

A LITTLE GEM

Hunter, Stephen, [The Citadel](#) (\$9.99 UNSIGNED). This is a novella by Hunter centered on a bibliomystery which in turn brings in Alan Turing of Bletchley Park and his wartime code (and decoding) work. It's very clever. The real joy in this gem is meeting Basil St. Florian, the sort of thug with the gloss of manners and rough physicality that the playing fields of Eton and Magdalen College, Oxford, produced. James Bond without the sophistication but with the sort of skills and guts that Daniel Craig brings to Bond. Basil goes on a more or less suicidal mission into Occupied France where in his view the French are treating the Germans as new markets and the Germans are so thankful it's Not Russia... well, it's a rocket of a ride. I truly loved it and so has everyone I've pressed it upon. My mission now is to get Hunter to write more missions for Basil.

BRITISH LIBRARY CRIME CLASSICS

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Resorting to Murder](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). From a golf course at the English seaside to a pension in Paris, and from a Swiss mountain resort to the cliffs of Normandy, here are the enjoyable and unexpected ways in which 14 vintage crime writers have used summer holidays as a theme, ranging widely across the golden age of British crime fiction. Stellar names from the past are well represented – Arthur Conan Doyle and G. K. Chesterton, for instance – with classic stories that have won acclaim over the decades. The collection also uncovers a wide range of hidden gems: Anthony Berkeley – whose brilliance with plot had even Agatha Christie in raptures – is represented by a story so (undeservedly) obscure that even the British Library seems not to own a copy. The stories by Phyllis Bentley and Helen Simpson are almost equally rare, despite the success which both writers achieved, while those by H. C. Bailey, Leo Bruce, and the little-known Gerald Findler have seldom been reprinted. What could make better summer reading than going on vacation on your own vacation?

Edwards, Martin, ed. [Capital Crimes: London Mysteries](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). London is a city where anything can happen. The possibilities for criminals and for the crime writer are endless. London has been home to many of fiction's finest detectives, and the setting for mystery novels and short stories of the highest quality. Edwards has curated an eclectic collection

of London-based crime stories, blending the familiar with the unexpected in a way that reflects the personality of the city. Alongside classics by Margery Allingham, Anthony Berkeley, and Thomas Burke are excellent and unusual stories by authors who are far less well known, and give you a flavor of how writers have tackled crime in London over the span of more than half a century. What they have in common is an atmospheric London setting, and enduring value as entertainment. For other British Library Crime Classics (coming on line at Poisoned Pen Press so some are not available now), [click here](#). Some forthcoming publications will be Classic Spy Stories. Coming in July: two by Freeman Willis Crofts: [Antidote to Venom](#); [The Hog's Back Mystery](#) (\$12.95 each).

SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR JUNE

Ackroyd, Peter. [Alfred Hitchcock](#) (Century \$36, 4 in stock). Ackroyd's biographies are gems. Here he takes on a master for film and crime fiction buffs alike.

Arlidge, M J. [Eeeny Meeny](#) (NAL \$15 UNSIGNED in stock). Take a walk on the dark side with this debut introducing DI Helen Grace—a read for fans of, say, Mo Hayder. Two people are abducted, imprisoned, and left with a gun. As hunger and thirst set in, only one walks away alive. It's a game more twisted than any Detective Helen Grace has ever seen. If she hadn't spoken with the shattered survivors herself, she almost wouldn't believe them. Helen is familiar with the dark sides of human nature, including her own, but this case—with its seemingly random victims—has her baffled. But as more people go missing, nothing will be more terrifying than when it all starts making sense.... I'd call this a Mo Hayder and Denise Mina sensibility and a British analogue of authors like Lisa Gardner and Karin Slaughter. It's our **June Fresh Fiction Pick**.

Atkinson, Kate. [God in Ruins](#) (Doubleday \$45, 6 in stock). In this follow-up to 2013's [Life After Life](#) (\$18), Kate Atkinson charts the adventures of Ursula Todd's younger brother, Teddy, through childhood, fatherhood and growing old, his life interrupted and forever colored by his service as a fighter pilot in World War II. Teddy's early years are the essence of childhood innocence: a home in the English countryside surrounded by nature, the adoration of his beautiful mother, the Great War now a memory shared by the adults—a horror that could surely not come again. The only blight upon his childhood comes from The Adventures of Augustus, a series of humorously naive children's stories written by his aunt, Izzie, and loosely based upon his own life. From Teddy's viewpoint, "She had taken his life and twisted it and turned him into quite a different boy, a stupid boy, having stupid adventures." After stumbling through an unfocused young adulthood, Teddy finds the outbreak of World War II a relief, because it gives him a purpose, but it upends his life forever.... "At times funny and at others heartbreaking, Atkinson revels in the beauty and horror of life in all its messiness."

Bacigalupi, Paolo. [The Water Knife](#) (Knopf \$25.95 a few still in stock). Our **June Modern Firsts Book** lets you discover a dystopic Dust Bowl that makes *Grapes of Wrath* look like a pleasant ride in the country. The depleted Colorado River has become one of the last lifelines and the object of armed conflict among the residents of Arizona, California, and Nevada. Angel Velasquez is a "water knife," a sort of mercenary factotum, whose job is to secure as much water as possible for

his Las Vegas boss, arcology developer Catherine Case. Sent to investigate a possible water source near drought-stricken Phoenix, Angel soon crosses paths with an idealistic journalist, Lucy Monroe, whose underground dispatches put her in constant danger. As vigilante bloodshed and desperation threaten to consume Phoenix, whispers of a 150-year-old document surface that may settle the water rights dispute and bring life back to the desert metropolis.

Billingham, Mark. [Time of Death](#) (LittleBrown \$41 5 in stock). Two schoolgirls are abducted in the small, dying Warwickshire town of Polesford, driving a knife into the heart of the community where police officer Helen Weeks grew up and from which she long ago escaped. But this is a place full of secrets, where dangerous truths lie buried. When it's splashed all over the press that family man Stephen Bates has been arrested, Helen and her partner Tom Thorne head to the flooded town to support Bates' wife – an old school friend of Helen's – living under siege with two teenage children and convinced of her husband's innocence. As residents and media bay for Bates' blood, a decomposing body is found. The police believe they have their murderer in custody, but one man believes otherwise. With a girl still missing, Thorne sets himself on a collision course with local police, townsfolk – and a merciless killer. Billingham adds, "Ooh! All that and a LOT of creepy-crawlies. Even I want to read it, and I wrote the flipping thing."

Blevins, Win. [Darkness Rolling](#) (Tor \$25.99 June 20). Karen reviews: "When Yazzie Goldman, one-half Navajo and one-half Jewish, returns to the desert after serving in WW II, his mother and grandfather have high hopes that he will be able to restore the family trading post to prosperity. Mose, his grandfather, a fiercely independent man, has been felled by a stroke and is limited by resulting disabilities. But Yazzie has something else in mind for his life. John Ford (the Hollywood one) is shooting a movie nearby and hires Yazzie as both a translator for the cast and a bodyguard for his star, Linda Darnell. As you might expect, there is an affair between the two, with Yazzie teaching her about the spirituality of the land and the significance of each season. Also involved in the story is Aunt Iris, an artist who has a special talent for making art out of the land. She is frequently accompanied by her cat, Cockeyed, who has one eye that will look at the speaker while the other wanders in another direction. This tight-knit family is unaware of the man watching their every move with the intention of destroying them as revenge for what he perceives was their destruction of him. In addition to this being a good story, there is something almost magical in how the authors describe the land and the myths of the Navajos. There is humor – I like the parts with the FBI – and Hollywood gossip, with fleeting mention of John Wayne, Peter Fonda, and Victor Mature, and Iris' way of being politically incorrect...."

Blume, Judy. [In the Unlikely Event](#) (Knopf \$27.95 tip-ins). *PW* gives a Star to what Blume says (for now, at age 77) is her last book. "The three fatal plane crashes that hit Elizabeth, N.J., during the winter of 1951–52 are the inspiration for Elizabeth-native Blume's latest adult novel (the first since 1998's *Summer Sisters*), in which young and old alike must learn to come to terms with technological disaster and social change. The novel opens in 1987, when Miri Ammerman's return to Elizabeth for a commemorative ceremony brings back memories of the year she turned 15. In flashback, readers are brought back to the 1950s...

Brown, Rita Mae. [Tail Gait](#) (Random \$28 in stock). Harry and her husband, Fair, are enjoying a cozy dinner with some of Crozet's leading citizens, including beloved University of Virginia history professor Greg "Ginger" McConnell and several members of UVA's celebrated 1959 football team. But beneath the cloak of conviviality lurks a sinister specter from the distant past that threatens to put all their lives in jeopardy. When Professor McConnell is found murdered on the golf course the next day—gunned down in broad daylight by an unseen killer—no one can fathom a motive, let alone find a suspect. Just as Harry and her furry cohorts begin nosing into the case, however, someone confesses—someone our sleuths don't believe did it.

Carlisle, Kate. [Ripped from the Pages](#) (NAL \$24.95 in stock). Excited to explore the secrets of wine country, Brooklyn attends an excavation of the caves hidden deep under her parents' commune—and the findings are explosive. A room is unearthed, and it contains a treasure trove of artwork, rare books, a chest of jewelry...and a perfectly mummified body. A closer examination of the murdered man's possessions reveals a valuable first edition of Jules Verne's *A Journey to the Center of the Earth*. Hidden in the book is a secret map that unveils an even greater hoard of treasures brought to California by French winemakers fleeing the Nazi invasion with the commune leader's grandfather, Anton, among them. As reporters and art appraisers flock to Sonoma to see the precious bounty, questions begin to rise—did Anton hide these items to protect them, or did he steal them for himself? Who is the mysterious man left for dead inside the cave? But not all crime is buried in the past.

Chercover, Sean. [The Devil's Game](#) (Thomas & Mercer \$24.95 in stock). Daniel Byrne worked as an investigator for the Vatican for ten years, scrutinizing miracle claims, until one investigation shook his faith and uncovered more troubling human conspiracies. Determined to find the truth, he joins a secretive group that wields massive influence over world events by embedding operatives at all levels of government, media, corporations, universities, and religious organizations. Daniel infiltrates a covert medical facility and uncovers a new strain of a plague with unusual side effects. Teaming up with disgraced physician Kara Singh, a woman beset with inexplicable visions, Daniel traces the root of this deadly pathogen from the valleys of Norway to the war-ravaged countryside of Liberia, where he discovers a terrifying truth... Follows [The Trinity Game](#) (\$14.95). Chercover's blend of religious, political, medical, spiced with a bit of the supernatural, is a long way from his Chicago PI roots but it's great fun and stylish.

Clark, Martin. [The Jezebel Remedy](#) (Knopf \$29). One of the best voices going, Virginia circuit court judge Clark transforms legal fiction into something arresting, entertaining—and unexpected! And in this, his 4th knockout novel, he adds a portrait of a marriage gone stale (in wife Lisa's eyes), the brinkmanship that becomes part of its dynamic, and the surprising result. Lisa and Joe Stone, lawyers (she was *Law Review*), partners, and 20 years man and wife, practice in Henry County, Virginia, a not so prosperous area. Their caseload is seldom glamorous, more the stuff of daily living, domestic disputes, personal injury work, some wills and estates. Their cantankerous client Lettie VanSandt sucks up a ridiculous amount of time with her constant will modifications, but then she dies in a freakish fire that the local law rules was the result of Lettie cooking meth. Lettie left a

handwritten will, superseding one she'd recently drawn, making Joe her sole beneficiary and executor. And that's the start of a scenario of conspiracies, slippery ethical choices, a rising murder investigation, and for Lisa, a need to shield Joe from a truly stupid mistake as his career, and hers, and everything, hangs in the balance. Don't miss this one. Out in June but our **July Surprise Me Club Pick as devised by Patrick and me.**

Doiron, Paul. [Precipice](#) (St Martins \$25.99 in stock). This is such a great thriller! The *PW* Starred Review: "Doiron brings his gift for making the Maine woods live and breathe to a taut whodunit in his stellar sixth novel featuring game warden Mike Bowditch. Bowditch is pulled away from a romantic weekend with his biologist girlfriend, Stacey Stevens, when word reaches the authorities that two young women have disappeared while hiking the Appalachian Trail's daunting Hundred Mile Wilderness. Samantha Boggs and Missy Montgomery, recent graduates of Pentecost University, a Christian school in the South, failed to check in with their parents in Georgia three days earlier, triggering a massive manhunt. Bowditch is teamed with an unusual volunteer, Bob Nissen (known as Nonstop for his record pace hiking the entire trail), and is soon able to narrow the parameters of the search. Bowditch identifies the women's "point last seen" via a logbook entry that contains an ominous reference to coyotes." Terrifying and exciting.

Finder, Joseph. [The Fixer](#) (Dutton \$27.95 in stock). For much of his career, Finder specialized in suspense novels set in the world of high finance; he also developed a series character, Nick Heller—Finder's so-called private spy. But starting with 2014's crisp *Suspicion*, Finder moved into different territory: the "ordinary suburban guy in jeopardy" thriller. It's an area that's been worked over best in recent years by writers like Harlan Coben, Linwood Barclay and the underrated Australian author Michael Robotham.

Golden, Christopher. [Tin Men](#) (Random \$26 in stock). *Avatar* meets Sigma Force, Taskforce, or Scot Harvath in a tense thriller upping war technology to a new level—the Remote Infantry Corps. Soldiers enter pods in hidden underground bases and pilot thousands of robots in the field. When anarchists set off a global pulse that shorts out electrical connections, a platoon in Damascus realizes its soldiers are trapped inside the Tin Men—something the government never warned them could happen. (Note: how much of today's world and the future presume, depends on, an uninterrupted supply of electricity?) Deaver wrote a dandy about this on a small scale; Golden ups it.). Meanwhile a G20 Summit in Athens comes under fire and POTUS is at risk as chaos descends complete with Bot killers. This well imagined work defies a genre label.

Harvey, Michael. [The Governor's Wife](#) (Knopf \$24.95 in stock). You will recognize from the get go that Harvey's twisty new story for Chicago PI Michael Kelly, once a cop and still a kind of Good Shepherd, is rooted in the reality of Illinois politics and its imprisoned former governor Rod Blagojevich. As Harvey says, what if...? It's been two years since disgraced Illinois governor Ray Perry disappeared from a federal courthouse in Chicago moments after being sentenced to 37 years in prison on corruption charges. Kelly is sitting in his office when he gets an anonymous e-mail offering to pay him nearly a quarter of a million dollars if he will find Perry, no questions asked. Kelly's

investigation begins with the woman Ray Perry left behind—his wife, Marie. Ostracized by her former friends and hounded by the feds, Marie tells Kelly she has no idea where her husband is. Like everyone else, Kelly doesn't believe her. As he hunts for her husband, and turns over even more corruption, Chicago style, Kelly begins to unwind Marie Perry's past. What he finds is a woman who turns out to be even more intriguing than her husband. This complex story plays out in offbeat ways trademarked by Harvey and is our **June Surprise Me! Club Pick**.

Hewson, David. [The Wrong Girl](#) (Macmillan \$41, 3 in stock). Sinterklaas, a beaming, friendly saint with a white beard, was set to mark his arrival in Amsterdam with a parade so celebrated it would be watched live on television throughout the Netherlands. Today the crowds would run into 300,000 or more, and the police presence would top four figures. The city centre was closed to all traffic as a golden barge bore Sinterklaas down the Amstel River, surrounded by a throng of private boats full of families trying to get close. Brigadier Pieter Vos is on duty with his young assistant, Laura Bakker, when the first grenade hits....

Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses Margaret of Anjou](#) (Putnam \$27.95 in stock). Volume Two in a trilogy that depicts a real-life *Game of Thrones*.... The Plantagenets and their successors the Tudors retain the fascination of say Sherlock Holmes, iconic figures filled with dynastic tropes, dysfunctional families, domestic suspense way more devastating than anything cooked up by Gillian Flynn and the current crop of writers in this genre, and personal tragedies that, appallingly, hooked in their subjects to spread the misery and deaths, as well as the glory, around. It's hard to imagine how terrifying life as a courtier or minister would have been, success going to the fluid and the nimble, and not less so for citizens, soldiers, anyone purposefully or randomly in the way. Henry VI, left king as a baby, was miserably unfit to rule. The unfortunate Margaret, his bride and mother of his only son, was stuck with trying to hold it all together for the Lancastrians, wearers of the Red Rose, as their ambitious relatives the Yorkists, of the White, sought the great prize, England's throne. Iggulden (it's a Sussex name) is a charming author we hope will leave off his three-piece suit this summertime at the Pen and a super stylish writer with many books under his belt, a marvelous read for those who devour Sharon Kay Penman or George RR Martin or PF Chisholm. Many of his novels plumb ancient Rome

Jarvis, Stephen. [Death and Mr. Pickwick](#) (Cape \$46 in stock). On 31 March 1836 the publishers Chapman & Hall launched the first issue of a new monthly periodical entitled *The Posthumous Papers of the Pickwick Club*. Conceived and created by the artist Robert Seymour, it contained four of his illustrations; the words to accompany them were written by a young journalist who used the pen-name Boz. The story of a sporting-cum-drinking club presided over by fat, loveable Mr. Pickwick, assisted by his cockney manservant Sam Weller, *The Pickwick Papers* soon became a popular sensation, outselling every other book except the Bible and Shakespeare's plays, and read and discussed by the entire population of the British Isles, from the duke's drawing-room to the lowliest chophouse. But one does not need to have read a single word of *The Pickwick Papers* to be enthralled by the story of how this extraordinary novel came to be. Jarvis

presents a vast, intricately constructed, indeed Dickensian work that is at once the ultimate homage to a much-loved book. As we see books like *The Da Vinci Code* and *Gone Girl* become phenoms, ask yourself if a century from now one will be the subject of a book like this. If I hadn't committed the History/Mystery Club to another title for June before this gem became available... so you who love this blend should snap it up.

Kerr, Philip. [The Hand of God](#) (Zeus \$35). Scott Manson Soccer thriller #2 begins in Athens where London City is set to play Olympiacos in the Champion's League. The temperature is high, and tempers even higher. Greece is rioting and manager Scott Manson is keeping his team on a tight leash. There must be no drinking, no nightlife and no women. After the game, they are to get back to London refreshed and ready for a crucial match at home stadium Silvertown Docks. Then when City's star striker collapses mid-match, it shocks the nation. Is it a heart attack? Or something more sinister? As the Greek authorities mount a murder investigation, Scott launches his own in hopes he will get his team home to confront the Docks. Who knew that Kerr would tap into such a media-rich, corrupt landscape with this series? He did, having told me two years ago that given the vast number of soccer fans, a series set in their world could not miss.

Lansdale, Joe R. [Paradise Sky](#) (LittleBrown \$26 June 21). A trademark Lansdale novel about Nat Love, an African-American cowboy with a famous nickname. In its Starred Review, *PW* commends "Edgar-winner Lansdale's folksy, cinematic fictional memoir tells the story of a man who was born a slave before the Civil War but grew up to become the legendary Deadwood Dick." Patrick reviews: "It's the 1870's and although the Union won the war, young black men like Willie Jackson are supposed to know their place. After his father is murdered by local thugs, Willie is forced on the run from his small Texas farm. He makes his way west, joins the buffalo soldiers for a brief stint, fights off roving bands of Apache Indians, picks up a group of Chinese prostitutes eager to escape from their sadistic pimp, and ultimately ends up in Deadwood, South Dakota. He befriends Wild Bill Hickok and soon becomes a part of the west's mythology after winning a sharpshooting contest. Rechristened 'Deadwood Dick,' he enjoys frontier fame and weds a beautiful young woman, but his past somehow manages to catch up with him, and our hero is forced on the run again, but this time he is the pursuer, intent on wreaking bloody havoc on those who would try to destroy his new life and family. Basing his protagonist on a real life character from western lore, Lansdale crafts a rollicking, raunchy adventure 'with true-hearted heroes, dastardly scoundrels,' that satisfies on all levels."

Leon, Donna. [Falling in Love](#) (\$40 UK edition, \$26 US, both with a few in stock). Rob and I recently rewatched Leon's first Brunetti, [Death at La Fenice](#) (\$7.99 or \$14.99) which takes place in Venice's opera house (before it burned and was rebuilt) and presents a soprano as a suspect in the death of the legendary conductor during a performance of *La Traviata*. It's a terrific novel you should grab if you have not yet read it. And Flavia is a wonderful diva so meeting her again enriched a quick reread of Leon's masterful new Brunetti, where Flavia moves central stage—as a possible victim of...whom? This time the opera is *Tosca* and the story's climax dovetails right into the opera's finale.

Magson, Adrian. [Close Quarters](#) (Severn \$44, 6 in stock). In Magson's fine second Marc Portman thriller (after 2014's *The Watchman*), the CIA hires the freelance operative, "a close-protection specialist," to rescue a State Department negotiator, Edwin Travis, who was sent to Ukraine to talk to the various factions involved in fighting the pro-Russian separatists. Some unknown group, probably backed by the Russians, kidnapped Travis, and Portman's job is to find and extricate him. It's a standard assignment for Portman, but this time he has to deal with a traitorous U.S. senator, Howard Benson, and other members of the Dupont Circle Group, who stand to make a great deal of money on energy stocks if the situation in Eastern Europe goes to hell. Because Benson oversees the CIA, he's aware of Portman's mission and does his best to derail it.

Marston, Edward. [Timetable of Death](#) (Allison \$45). 1859. St Mary's Church, Spondon. A little girl playing hide-and-seek jumps into a freshly-dug grave to find a dead man already occupying it. It is the body of a senior director of the Midland Railway. Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming travel to Derbyshire to investigate.

Matthews, Jason. [Palace of Treason](#) (Scribner \$26.99 in stock). Definitely one of summer's big books! The June Indie Next Pick for the next thriller by First Mystery Pick author Matthews. "Matthews' debut, Red [Sparrow](#) (\$9.99), was only the first 'date' for Russian agent Dominika Egorova and the CIA's Nate Nash. Now the spies and lovers find themselves on opposite sides of an even more dangerous game. Tight, authentic tradecraft was the hallmark of Matthews' former career in the CIA and it shows in this twisty race to unravel moles in both America and in Putin's Russia. Dominika is getting closer to Putin himself — close enough to catch his eye! — while Nate races to stop a man hell-bent on revenge on everyone. Spy versus spy, sex, trained assassins — here is everything you want in a summer read!" Matthews pulls no punches depicting Putin and his cronies. And he adds a surprising twist to the genre: recipes. "I had always admired authors who wrote passionately about food in their novels. Len Deighton is a good example. I thought it would be different (and maybe a little provocative) to include an elliptical recipe at the end of each chapter, many of which I have tried myself. Blending descriptions of interesting foreign food into the plot just takes a little planning."

MacBride, Stuart. [22 Dead Little Bodies](#) (Collins \$19.99, 7 in stock). As the title implies, this is a short novel set in Granite City. Aberdeen's Acting DI Logan McRae and DCI Robert Steel have had a bad week pissing on each other's turf. Every time McRae's unit turns up anything interesting, Steel's Major Investigation Team waltzes in and takes over, leaving CID with all the dull and horrible jobs. Like dealing with Mrs. Black, who hates her neighbor, the police, and everyone else. Or identifying the homeless man who drank himself to death behind some bins. Or tracking down the wife and kids of someone who's just committed suicide. But then... dead bodies start turning up. Maybe it was better to be working the less challenging cases....

Meltzer, Brad. [The President's Shadow](#) (Grand Central \$28 June 26). The action in this near-future third in series opens on a peaceful scene: the First Lady is giving herself a therapeutic break gardening at the White House when she digs up a severed arm. Her alarmed husband Orson Wallace sends a message to

the National Archives where Archivist Beecher White not only works but is one of six current members of The Culper Ring, a secret society founded by George Washington to "protect the presidency." Not an easy assignment for Beecher since he knows that Wallace once committed a violent crime, but is it the man, or the office, at stake? The dead man's hand is clutching a penny which furthers possible conspiracies at work as it may tie into the death of Beecher's father years ago, further affecting Beecher's judgment. Meltzer lets his inner Dan Brown off the chain in this third chapter of The Culper Ring #3 after [The Inner Circle and The Fifth Assassin](#).

Patel, Shona. [Flame Tree Road](#) (Mira \$14.95 June 30). A kind of prequel to one of our two bestselling trade paperbacks ever: [Teatime for the Firefly](#) (\$15.95). It takes you further back into India under the Raj and tells us the story of the grandfather. Patel's books defy labels as they blend history, suspense, romance, thrills. Here is a four star review from Romantic Times: "Readers fascinated by Brien Roy from *Firefly* will be thrilled to read this story. Patel enlivens her richly developed plot by deftly incorporating social and political issues, cultural differences and vivid descriptions of India's food, flavors and flame trees into the novel. The drama and sadness of the era come to life alongside a beautiful romance. Patel knows her country and its struggles so well that readers feel a part of it as well."

OK, now see that *Library Journal* has a different take: "Patel's latest historical opens in a small riverside village in 1870s India, where caste and tradition determine one's lot in life. When young Biren Roy's mother suffers the worst possible fate for a woman, widowhood, Biren swears he will become a lawyer and fight for women's rights in India. Eventually, he becomes the focused lawyer he set out to be, full of hope and determination, but Biren faces a whole new set of challenges fighting the barriers of India's history and tradition. Achieving his dream seems hopeless until he meets the passionate Maya. Armed with new hope because of her, Biren must find a balance between heritage and progress to attain his goals. Tradition and setting dominate this story of passion, politics, and love. The Indian countryside and village life play a big role, and the slow pace of writing matches the pace of change in India. Beautifully written, this novel is sure to please fans of Khaled Hosseini and Jhumpa Lahiri."

Pronzini, Bill. [Vixen: A Nameless Detective Novel](#) (Tor \$27). #44! When Nameless is hired by Cory Beckett, a beautiful young woman who claims to be a model, to find her missing brother, Kenneth, it seems to be a routine matter. Kenneth has fled San Francisco in a drug-induced panic to avoid trial on a charge of stealing a valuable necklace from the alcoholic wife of the man for whom he works, wealthy yachtsman Andrew Vorhees. When agency operative Jake Runyon locates and questions the frightened young man, Cory Beckett's motives come into question and the case takes on darkly sinister complexities.

Pryor, Mark. [The Reluctant Matador](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95). This Hugo Marston investigation in Barcelona will be signed sometime in September along with a standalone by Pryor, a Brit pursuing his legal career in Texas. Unsigned copies are in stock now.

Reich, Christopher. [Invasion of Privacy](#) (Knopf \$27.95). On a remote, dusty road forty miles outside of Austin, Texas, FBI

agent Joe Grant and a confidential informant are killed in a deadly shootout. Left to pick up the pieces is Mary Grant, Joe's young wife and mother of their two daughters. The official report places blame for the deaths on Joe's shoulders . . . but the story just doesn't add up and Mary has too many troubling questions that need answers. How did Joe's final voice mail—containing a cryptic warning for Mary, recorded moments before the fatal shooting—disappear without a trace from her phone? Stonewalled by the FBI, Mary will be drawn into a deadly conspiracy that puts her in the crosshairs of the richest and most powerful men in America...and the newest and most terrifying surveillance system known to man. Reich is a master of complicated and surprising thrillers embracing varied landscapes and subjects. And—he's a terrific writer.

Stephenson, Neal. [Seveveves](#) (Morrow \$35 in stock). When the moon explodes, no one knows why, how or who made it happen, but humanity needs to figure out what to do next, and fast. The Indie Next Pick: "In this exciting and cerebral epic spanning 5,000 years, Stephenson explores the effects of a devastating catastrophe on the course of humanity. After the moon is shattered by an unknown agent, small groups of humans survive the ensuing holocaust — some by digging deep underground, others by seeking refuge in space. Millennia later, the separate branches of mankind converge, inexorably changed. I was completely consumed by this book, terrified and awed by Stephenson's vision of our future. This is essential science fiction."

Talton, Jon. [High Country Nocturne](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 in stock). I quoted the *Booklist* and *Library Journal* Starred Reviews to you last month. Here's the *PW*: "Talton's intricately plotted eighth David Mapstone mystery (after 2013's *The Night Detectives*), a shipment of rough diamonds has been stolen, and Mapstone's ex-boss, former Maricopa County Sheriff Mike Peralta, who's now Mapstone's partner in their PI business, has disappeared in the Arizona high country, allegedly with the diamonds. Doubtful of the circumstantial evidence implicating his friend and partner, Mapstone, who has a Ph.D. in history, investigates the cryptic clues Peralta left behind and comforts the man's wife. Meanwhile, Mapstone revisits a cold case at the request of the current sheriff, Chris Melton (aka *Crisis Meltdown*), and also contends with a revenge-crazed former Canadian Mountie. Encounters with undercover agents, corrupt cops, and the Russian mob add to his travails on his way to the unexpected ending. Talton keeps the reader guessing throughout, but Mapstone's learned, insightful first-person commentary is what really stands out; his comments about the decline of the Phoenix he's always called home are particularly revealing and believable."

Thoft, Ingrid. [Brutality](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 23). PI Fina Ludlow #3 is fabulous; I could not put it down. When soccer mom Liz Barone is attacked in her kitchen and left with a life-threatening injury, Fina Ludlow is hired by Liz's mother to identify her attacker. It's unusual for Fina, daughter of a famous (and ruthless) Boston Personal Injury Lawyer and, unable to stomach the family firm, acting as its investigator) to take a case that isn't connected to Ludlow and Associates. What hooks Fina is that Liz was in the process of suing her alma mater, New England University—a suit that could be a legal gold mine as the visibility of damages sustained in head injuries grows. Fina is interested in justice for Liz, but she can sell investigating to her father on

this basis. While Fina casts a wide net, in the end what she hooks is, sadly, close to home. This terrific books threads difficult relationships into a blockbuster plot drawing upon collegiate sports and high flying finance.... I like the way Thoft is both following in the tradition of VI Warshawski and Kinsey Millhone yet reinventing the private eye novel, in part by allying it with a legal thriller. Hank Philippi Ryan will add her voice to mine in a June blog post about Thoft. Fill your time superlatively while waiting for our August events for Paretzky (15th) and Grafton (25th) by reading all three Thofts. [Click here](#) to order.

Walker, Martin. [The Dying Season](#) (Quercus \$42). The Dordogne town of St Denis may be picturesque and sleepy, but it has more than its fair share of mysteries, as Bruno, chief of police, knows all too well. But when Bruno is invited to the 90th birthday of a powerful local patriarch—a war hero with high-level political connections in France, Russia and Israel—he encounters a family with more secrets than even he had imagined. When one of the other guests is found dead the next morning and the family tries to cover it up, Bruno knows it's his duty to prevent the victim from becoming just another skeleton in their closet. Even if his digging reveals things Bruno himself would rather keep buried. Meanwhile, very modern battles are being fought in St Denis between hunters defending their traditions and environmentalists protecting local wildlife. Neither side, it seems, is above the use of violent tactics. At the centre of it all, Bruno must use all his cunning and character to protect his community's future from its present—and its past. The Brunos make our bestselling paperback series. [Click here](#) to order and read from the beginning with *Bruno, Chief of Police*. Walker joins us on September 29 for a whole evening of Bruno!

Walters, Minette. [The Cellar](#) (Hamilton \$34 5 in stock). Muna's fortunes changed for the better on the day that Mr. and Mrs. Songoli's younger son failed to come home from school. Before then her bedroom was a dark windowless cellar, her activities confined to cooking and cleaning. She'd grown used to being maltreated by the Songoli family; to being a slave. She's never been outside, doesn't know how to read or write, and cannot speak English. At least that's what the Songolis believe. But Muna is far cleverer—and her plans more terrifying—than the Songolis, or anyone else, can ever imagine.... A novella from the long absent Walters.

Williams, Beatriz. [Tiny Little Thing](#) (Putnam \$26.95 June 29). In the summer of 1966, Christina Hardcastle—"Tiny" to her illustrious family—stands on the brink of a breathtaking future. Of the three Schuyler sisters, she's the one raised to marry a man destined for leadership, and with her elegance and impeccable style, she presents a perfect camera-ready image in the dawning age of television politics. Together she and her husband, Frank, make the ultimate power couple: intelligent, rich, and impossibly attractive. It seems nothing can stop Frank from rising to national office, and he's got his sights set on a senate seat in November. But as the season gets underway at the family estate on Cape Cod, three unwelcome visitors appear in Tiny's perfect life and it begins to unravel. Other than the eventual truths revealed about Frank and Tiny, this is so evidently a novel about the Kennedys, not just Jack but his father Joe, and his sibs, it's almost a *roman a clef*. You can tell that Williams let herself off the chain writing it and her enjoyment will transfer to you. A terrific summer read, sort of a break from election fever, or better put, a throwback.

Wilson, Anne A. [Hover](#) (Forge \$24.99 in stock). Helicopter pilot Lt. Sara Denning joins a navy battle group with little fanfare—and that’s just the way she likes it. After her brother Ian’s tragic death, her career path seemed obvious: step into his shoes and enter the Naval Academy, despite her fear of water. But then comes a Navy SEAL team flight coordinator who requests her as an exclusive pilot and upends her world, not least during a stop in Hong Kong, and then a mission heading west where the US Vice President is in jeopardy... A terrific debut by a metro Phoenix author mixing Tom Clancy into Kristin Hannah territory. I read every word (in one gulp): thriller, romance, women’s fiction, military fiction.

Wilson, Laura. [The Wrong Girl](#) (Quercus \$40). In 2006, three-year-old Phoebe Piper went missing on a family holiday. Despite massive publicity and a long investigation, no trace of her was ever found. Seven years later, Molly Jackson, aged ten and recently uprooted to a Norfolk village, finds her great uncle Dan dead in his bed. Molly remembers nothing of her early years, but she’s been sure for ages that she is Phoebe. Everything in her life points to it and now, finally, she has proof. Dan’s death brings his hippie sister Janice back to Norfolk where she’s re-united with Molly’s mother Suze, the daughter she gave up for adoption decades earlier. Janice discovers that a former lover, Joe Vincent, lives nearby. Joe was a rock star who, at the height of his fame, turned his back on public life. As she is drawn back into the past, Janice begins to wonder if Dan’s death and Joe’s reputation as a reclusive acid casualty are quite what they appear. And then Molly disappears....

Winslow, Don. [The Cartel](#) (Knopf \$27.95 June 24). Patrick writes, “Winslow’s exceptional sequel to *The Power of the Dog* picks up in 2004 to continue his epic story of the Mexican drug cartel wars. Adan Barrera, leader of the Sinaloa cartel, has recently escaped from prison and is busy rebuilding his fractured empire against heavy inroads from competing organizations such as the Zetas. DEA Agent Art Keller agrees to jump back into the fray against his old nemesis, who remains in the wind and apparently untouchable. Meanwhile, ground zero for the war becomes Juarez as the violence reaches epidemic proportions. Winslow’s grasp of the material is awe-inspiring and he creates a devastating chronicle that will leave the reader forever changed.” Author Benjamin Percy says, “You don’t have to read Don Winslow’s [The Power of the Dog](#) (\$15.95) to get swept away by *The Cartel*, its ripped-from-the-headlines sequel, but you should. You should try to get your hands on everything Winslow’s written, because he’s one of the best thriller writers on the planet. You’ve read the headlines about the decapitations in Juárez, the kidnappings in Mexico City, the mass graves and battling cartels and corrupt politicians and police, the daily casualties of the Mexican-American drug wars, which made you second-guess that Club Med vacation. An epic, gritty south-of-the-border *Godfather* for this time.” And, “Don Winslow is to the Mexican drug wars what James Ellroy is to L.A. Noir. It’s a long-awaited sequel to one of his greatest, *The Power of the Dog*.” –Janet Maslin, *New York Times*

SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR JULY

Arango, Sascha. [The Truth and Other Lies](#) (SimonSchuster UK \$35). The *PW* Starred Review: “German scriptwriter Arango’s exceptional first novel, a highly entertaining thriller, focuses on Henry Hayden, a successful author who lives in a “nondescript

coastal town.” Wealthy beyond imagination, he appears to be a loving husband to his wife, Martha, and is so humble that people automatically like him. In truth, the vain and selfish Henry is seeing a mistress, Betty Hansen, who’s also his editor, and a few other women besides. As for those bestsellers, Henry never wrote one word—Martha did, allowing him to take credit as long as her authorial role remained a secret. Henry’s carefully constructed world is in danger when Betty becomes pregnant. His decision to take drastic action results in an accidental death. Dodging the police inquiry and an old acquaintance determined to expose his erratic past, Henry takes charge of his own fate. Wry humor punctuates this insightful look at a soulless man.” **A First Mystery Club Pick.** No Signed US editions.

Atkins, Ace. [The Redeemers](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 22). Corruption, Mississippi style. Quinn Colson got voted out of the sheriff’s job in Tibbehah County thanks to local kingpin Johnny Staff. Quinn’s OK with another tour in Afghanistan or something similar, but first he wants to bring down Stagg’s operation. And rescue his own addicted sister, Caddy. When a trio of criminals break into the safe room of a local lumber baron and make off with millions in cash—something odd there since the baron isn’t that wealthy—two people end up dead, one of them the new sheriff. Acting sheriff is now his friend Lillie Virgil and she asks Quinn to step into this mess. Why does he agree? Maybe he suspects there were secrets in that safe along with the money, secrets now on the loose, and dangerous....

Barclay, Linwood. [Broken Promise](#) (NAL \$25.95 July 28). Well before Gillian Flynn’s *Gone Girl* became The Next Big Thing, Linwood Barclay was writing intricate thrillers filled with betrayals, buried secrets, and surprises, the sort that make you catch your breath and go, Wow. Domestic suspense is small stage drama. The circle of characters is tight and usually made up of family, friends, neighbors—like those who fill Promise Falls, a small upstate New York town forming the landscape of *Broken Promise*, Barclay’s summer suspense treat. It’s like a “less salacious” return to Peyton Place. Anyone can be untrustworthy: spouses, parents, siblings. And while the stage is small and the stakes personal, they are huge for the players. Barclay, an elegant writer, skillfully smooths the reader along the narrative’s path from one twist or revelation to another, quietly building up the suspense for the gut punch to come. I wrote that for Indie Next and the publisher. *PW*’s review adds, “Linwood’s adept characterizations and knack for unsettling twists make this a surefire bestseller.” Analogues are Joseph Finder and Harlan Coben. July 28 is publication date.

Bolton, Sharon. [Little Black Lies](#) (Bantam UK \$34). The Falklands have fallen out the news since Britain waged war with Argentina over them. I’ve visited these lonely islands in the South Atlantic twice; the Falklands are British in culture with a rugged Scottish landscape, heavy on birds (penguins... rockhoppers), sheep, and a marine economy supporting its communities. So when three children go missing one by one from a small village, we’re in a version of a British village mystery by one of the most imaginative (and chilling) rising stars of crime fiction. The standalone novel centers on three people who have all confessed to the same crime: kidnapping and killing a local boy, the latest in what is believed to be a string

of missing children. *Little Black Lies* is a complicated novel, weaving together several mysteries in one. Can you summarize it? On a fundamental level, it's about three friends whose lives have been torn apart by tragedy, and how they manage to find their way home. Not in a literal sense, but metaphorically, as they get back to a place where they can be whole again as people in their own right, and where they can, to the extent possible, rebuild the relationships they used to have. It is also about people who live in a very isolated community, and the impact that that isolation and smallness can have upon a society, especially when something goes wrong. And as a mystery novel, I was intrigued by the idea of three people confessing to the same crime, when two of them have to be lying.

Castillo, Linda. [After the Storm](#) (St Martins \$25.99 July 20). Castillo comes to her hard-edged series from romance which enriches both the storylines of the criminals and of Kate Burkholder and her lover John Tomasetti, formerly a Cleveland cop but not an agent of the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation (meaning he can work with Kate, the police chief of Painters Mill, located in Holmes County). Kate's rebellious youth ended with her being expelled from the *Ordnung* and the Amish; she's on uneasy terms with her brother and sister and their families. And her status makes it both easier and harder to investigate crimes among the Amish. Her 7th investigation begins when a monster tornado tears through, destroying lives, buildings, a trailer park...and unearthing human remains. We know from the prologue who the remains are like to be, but how Kate gets there, the secrets she unearths, the secret she's keeping, and the horrifying conclusion to a 30-year-old case are trademark Castillo. This is one of my favorite series for its remarkable characters, astonishing and appalling plots, stylish writing—and its depiction of a closed community in a modern world that can harbor more evil inside its religious framework—or because of it—than seems possible. This story once again underlines how hard it is to break away from something to the unknown....

Dahl, Julia. [Run You Down](#) (St. Martins \$25.99 July 20). David reviews: Tabloid reporter Rebekah Roberts is on the fence as to whether she wants to meet the mother who abandoned her 23 years ago. But it doesn't look like she will have much of a choice in the matter when she is requested to investigate the death of an Ultra-Orthodox woman. Rebekah's mother, Aviva is somehow connected to the dead woman and the Jewish community. Dahl uses the voice of both mother and daughter to weave an intricate tale of deception, murder, revenge and new beginnings. She does an exceptional job here as Rebekah finds herself drawn in the close-knit Hasidic communities of New York in her quest for the truth about the deceased woman. Rebekah learns of a gay uncle whose life revolves around revenge against the religious school where he was molested at as a child. Throw in a neo-Nazi cell hell bent on destroying the Jewish community, a small town police force with shady connections and you get a fast-paced thriller that not only satisfies but leaves a hunger for the next installation in the series. Pessi Goldin was found dead in her bathtub. Many think it was suicide, but her husband feels otherwise and he seeks Rebekah's help in finding the truth. Facts lead Rebekah to rely on her connections with people who have left the Hasidic community and are trying to make it in the secular world. What Rebekah finds are deep secrets, rage... and her mother. It would be negligent to write more about what

happens, as this multi-layered and fine novel is so tightly woven, each level directly impacts the next. Dahl does not judge the lifestyle of the Ultra-Orthodox, rather she creates a stellar novel based on creativity and 'what if's'. This is the sequel to Dahl's Edgar finalist and 2014 Surprise Me Club Pick [Invisible City](#) (\$15.99). Fans of Faye Kellerman and Linda Castillo should definitely put Julia Dahl on their 'must read' list.

Goddard, Robert. [The Ends of the Earth](#) (Transworld \$45). July 1919. Ex-flying ace James 'Max' Maxted's attempt to uncover the secret behind the death of his father, Sir Henry Maxted, murdered while serving as an adviser with the British delegation to the Paris peace conference, has seemingly ended in failure – and his own death. The trail uncovered by him leads to Japan and a mysterious prisoner held by Sir Henry Maxted's old enemy, Count Tomura. Unaware of Max's fate, the team he has recruited to finish the job are already there, where their paths cross that of former German spymaster, Fritz Lemmer, now rebuilding his spy network in the service of a new, more sinister cause. In the days and weeks ahead, the quest Max embarked on in Paris will reach its dizzying end at Tomura's castle in the mountains of Honshu – and the full truth of what occurred thirty years before will finally be laid bare... Max Maxted #3

Gregory, Susanna. [A Poisonous Plot](#) (LittleBrown \$48). In 1358, over a century after its foundation in Cambridge, the college of Michaelhouse is facing a serious shortfall of funds and competition from upstarts rivals such as Zachary Hostel. Their problems are made no easier by the hostility of the town's inhabitants who favor the university moving away to the Fens. This simmering tension threatens to break into violence when a well-known tradesman is found dead in one of the colleges. Matthew Bartholomew knows he was poisoned but cannot identify the actual substance, never mind the killer. He also worries that other illnesses and deaths may have been caused by the effluent from his sister's dye works. Torn between loyalties to his kin and to his college, he fears the truth may destroy both his personal and professional life, but he knows he must use his skills as a physician to discover the truth before many more lose their lives entirely. Matthew Bartholomew #21.

Hewson, David. [The Flood](#) (Severn \$45). Florence, 1986. A seemingly inexplicable attack on a church fresco of Adam and Eve brings together an unlikely couple: Julia Well beloved, an English art student, and Pino Fratelli, a semi-retired detective who longs to be back in the field. Their investigation leads them to the secret society that underpins the city: an elite underworld of excess, violence and desire. Seeped in the culture of Tuscany's most mysterious city, *The Flood* takes the reader on a dazzling journey into the darkness in Florence's past: the night of the great flood in 1966...

Hobbs, Roger. [Vanishing Games](#) (Knopf \$25.95 July 14). 2013 First Mystery Club Pick [Ghostman](#) (\$14.95) swiftly became an international sensation, praised for its "intrigue, tradecraft, and suspense,"—Lee Child. And this comment from the *NY Times*—"Although Hobbes is an assured stylist who favors clean precise prose, he handles violence with a lyric touch"—applies equally well to the *Ghostman*—robber Jack—and the situation he's gotten in thanks to Angela. Once his mentor and boss, Angela disappeared from Kuala Lumpur six years back; Jack thought she was likely dead. And now in one text she summons him to a meeting and it's game on for their partnership as the action opens

just before dawn on the South China Sea when three experienced pirates open fire on a small smuggling yacht. What started as a bagful of smuggled, uncut sapphires out of Myanmar turns into a violent match of wits where players are literally losing their heads and they range among the superrich over Southeast Asia—Macao, Hong Kong, Mandalay, Yangon, and more—over even bigger treasure. “And, Hobbs stops the action, when he sees fit, in the most amazing fashion. In one scene, Jack and a professional assassin pause to discuss Greek mythology and the story of the Cyclops Polyphemus for several pages before resuming their battle to the death. Those who can stomach the graphic violence will find this an irresistible ride.”—*PW* Starred Review

Hodgson, Antonia. [The Last Confession of Thomas Hawkins](#) (Hodder \$36). Spring, 1728. A young, well-dressed man is dragged through the streets of London to the gallows at Tyburn. The crowds jeer and curse as he passes, calling him a murderer. He tries to remain calm. His name is Tom Hawkins and he is innocent. Somehow he has to prove it, before the rope squeezes the life out of him. It is, of course, all his own fault. He was happy with Kitty Sparks. Life was good. He should never have told the most dangerous criminal in London that he was ‘bored and looking for adventure’. He should never have offered to help Henrietta Howard, the king’s mistress, in her desperate struggles with a brutal husband. And most of all, he should never have trusted the witty, calculating Queen Caroline. She has promised him a royal pardon if he holds his tongue but then again, there is nothing more silent than a hanged man. Based loosely on actual events, Antonia Hodgson’s new novel is both a sequel to *The Devil in the Marshalsea* and a standalone historical mystery. And continues the rake’s progress of Tom Hawkins—assuming he can find a way to survive the noose...

Howells, Debbie. [The Bones of You](#) (Macmillan \$34). When eighteen-year-old Rosie Anderson disappears, the idyllic village where she lived will never be the same again. Local gardener Kate is struck with guilt. She’d come to know Rosie well, and thought she understood her—perhaps better even than Rosie’s own mother. A family torn apart Rosie was beautiful, kind and gentle. She came from a loving family and she had her whole life ahead of her. Who could possibly want to harm her? And why? Kate is convinced the police are missing something. She’s certain that someone in the village knows more than they’re letting on. As the investigation deepens, so does Kate’s obsession with solving the mystery of what happened to Rosie. **The Unsigned US edition is our June British Crime Club Pick.**

Kava, Alex. [Silent Creed](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 29). Ryder Creed and his K9 search-and-rescue dogs return in the second installment of an exciting new series, teaming up once more with FBI profiler Maggie O’Dell in their riskiest case yet. When Ryder Creed responds to a devastating mudslide in North Carolina, he knows that the difference between finding survivors and the dead is time. He and his sturdiest search-and-rescue dog, Bolo, get to work immediately, but the scene is rife with danger: continued rainfall prevents the rescue teams from stabilizing the land; toxic household substances spread by the crushing slide fill the area with hazardous waste; and the detritus and debris are treacherous for both man and dog to navigate. But most perilous are the secrets hidden under the mud and sludge—secrets someone would kill to protect. For this is no ordinary rescue mission.

Among the buildings consumed by the landslide was a top-secret government research facility, and Creed has been hired to find what’s left of it. Then rescuers recover the body of a scientist from the facility who was obviously dead before the landslide—killed by a gunshot to the head. The FBI sends Agent Maggie O’Dell to investigate....”

Keating, Kevin P. [Captive Condition](#) (Knopf \$24 July 13). The *PW* Starred Review: “Keating’s sophomore novel (after *The Natural Order of Things*) is a black comedy that transcends its own offbeat energy and becomes truly disturbing. Jesuit-educated Edmund Campion is attending graduate school in the small Midwestern town of Normandy Falls. When his master’s thesis topic is rejected by his self-important advisor, Dr. Kingsley, Edmund drops out and takes a job as a campus groundskeeper, working for a brutal supervisor known only as the Gonk. Meanwhile, Kingsley’s lover, Emily Ryan, is found dead in her swimming pool. This is only the beginning: hauntings, murders, live burials, and imprisonment in underground chambers are just some of the fates that lie in store for various unsuspecting townsfolk. The comically formal tone of the first two-thirds shows Keating to be an astute student of spooky scene-setters from Edgar Allan Poe to Stephen King to David Lynch. But in many of the final passages, such as a horrific building fire, he proves to be at least their equal. It’s a mysterious novel, both in terms of its plot and its ambitions—the book’s biggest missed opportunity is that its world feels a bit too hermetic and detached from our own—but it’s also a darkly funny read and a stylistic tour de force.” Now this is a book that truly depends on your taste—the prose is Dickensian, long sentences, the author rapt with words. His bio says he worked as a boilermaker in Ohio steel mills before becoming a Professor of English. This book’s style is too ornamental for me—*PW* notes it—which is why I quote the Starred Review.

Kuhn, Shane. [Hostile Takeover](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 July 15). Professional assassin John Lago faces off against his deadliest adversary yet—his wife—in the sequel to Shane Kuhn’s bestselling debut [The Intern’s Handbook](#) (\$15), which the *New York Post* called “a sexy, darkly comic thriller.” I have to say that July brings us two cartoonish thrillers: this one by Kuhn, the other the Dexter by Lindsay. Think of them more as made for the screen. “When newlywed hit man John Lago and his former nemesis, Alice, cap their bespoke Manhattan nuptials by bumping off their boss at Human Resources Inc.—a boutique contract assassination firm with the genius MO of getting killers close to otherwise inaccessible targets by placing them as interns—the couple expect some blowback. But nothing even their exquisitely twisted imaginations can conjure comes remotely close to the smoke and mirrors scenario that unfolds. John is eventually forced to return to the office battlefield in a role he swore he would never play again: the intern. Those who like Dexter will love John Lago... Character soon takes a back seat to the inspired multiplex-ready execution scenarios of the bullet-train plot.”—*PW*

Lancet, Barry. [Tokyo Kill](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 July 15). If you missed Lancet’s second nifty thriller for Jim Brodie after *First Mystery Pick* [Japantown](#) (\$15.99), here’s your chance. He’s coming to chat with Shane Kuhn. When an elderly World War II veteran shows up unannounced at Brodie Security begging for protection, the staff thinks he’s just a paranoid old man. He offers

up a story connected to the war and to Chinese Triads operating in present-day Tokyo, insisting that he and his few surviving army buddies are in danger. Fresh off his involvement in solving San Francisco's Japantown murders, antiques dealer Jim Brodie had returned to Tokyo for some R&R, and to hunt down a rare ink painting by the legendary Japanese Zen master Sengai for one of his clients—not to take on another case with his late father's P.I. firm. But out of respect for the old soldier, Brodie agrees to provide a security detail, thinking it'll be an easy job and end when the man comes to his senses. Instead, an unexpected, brutal murder rocks Brodie and his crew, sending them deep into the realm of the Triads, Chinese spies, kendo warriors, and an elusive group of killers whose treachery spans centuries—and who will stop at nothing to complete their mission.

Laurie, Victoria. [Sense of Deception](#) (NAL \$24.95 July 8). This is Laurie's 15th for Abby Cooper, a professional psychic and FBI consultant based in Austin, Texas, and we find her in the city jail for contempt of court after she expresses outrage when serial killer Don Corzo is freed following a mistrial, in part because of a defense challenge to Abby's credibility. Outrage she expresses by outing a Federal Judge as having an affair with his young male clerk. By chance Abby's cell mate is death row prisoner Skylar Miller who's temporarily stashed there. Abby, a synesthete who reads auras, is convinced Skylar did not murder her young son. Abby's best friend, Candice Fusco, agrees to help her exonerate Skylar, while Abby's husband, Dutch Rivers, of D&M Security, provides his expertise and support for the Skylar and Corso cases. "Abby uses her psychic powers in ways that often have humorous results. Fans of hard-edged cozies will be rewarded."—PW.

Lee, Patrick. [Signal: A Sam Dryden Novel](#) (St Martins \$28). This is one terrific thriller, rocket like and original in concept. With a spin towards a technology we must hope will remain imaginary. It begins when ex-Special Forces Op Sam Dryden gets a late night call from Claire Dunham, who says he must meet her in two hours just off the interstate near Barstow. Bang. Sam trusts Claire, so he does. No phone, as requested. When she scoops him up she's clearly racing down the freeway against the clock. They arrive at an old trailer where a horror of a guy has four girls kept in a cage and is about to torch them. Dryden puts him down, Claire hustles them away saying the girls will be OK now that help is rolling in. But in the preceding chapter the guy set fire to the trailer and the girls, they died, he got away. What is going on? Read on.... **Our July Thriller Club Pick.**

Lindsay, Jeff. [Dexter is Dead](#) (Knopf \$24.95 July 8). The concept of a vigilante serial killer working as a blood splatter tech in South Beach inspired a TV series. And now it's drawing to a close with this final chapter. It opens as Dexter finds himself imprisoned in the Turner Guildford Knight Correctional Facility after being discovered *in flagrante sanguine* with the bodies of his wife Rita, famous actor Robert Chase, and Dexter's 12-year-old adopted daughter Astor (the actual killer of pedophile Chase). Plus Dexter's lover Jackie is dead, killed by Chase while Dexter hunted him. A mess that can only escalate. Can Dexter's sister Deborah, a cop, deal with this? Or will his salvation, if any, lie with his demented brother Brian? But wait, there must be more players in the game, and a bigger game in motion, one that might lead to Dexter's demise....

Lovesey, Peter. [Down Among the Dead Men](#) (Little Brown \$43). A nightmare discovery in the boot of a stolen BMW plunges car thief Danny Stapleton into the worst trouble of his life. What links his misfortune to the mysterious disappearance of an art teacher at a private school for girls in Chichester? Orders from above push Peter Diamond of Bath CID into investigating a police corruption case in the Chichester force, and he soon finds himself reluctantly dealing with spirited schoolgirls, eccentric artists and his formidable old colleague, Hen Mallin—he's almost 99% she's being railroaded although it may just be bad police work. Sadly for Diamond, he's forced to work in concert with his superior in Bath, a woman who drives him mad.

Mark, David. [Taking Pity](#) (Quercus \$40). They have taken DS Aector McAvoy's family. They have taken DCI Colin Ray's foundation. They have taken DS Trish Pharaoh's fight. Now the ruthless criminal network that has tightened its stranglehold on Hull intends to take everything that remains from those who dare to stand in its way. Marks' latest police procedural/thriller pulls no punches in its story of three officers who can take no more, and a merciless nemesis that takes no chances and no prisoners. And no pity....

McPherson, Catriona. [Dandy Gilver and the Unpleasantness in the Ballroom](#) (Hodder \$45). Glasgow, 1932, is a city in the grip of dance-fever. Public ballrooms and back-street dancehalls are thronged every night and competition for professional titles is fierce. Even after the sudden death of one of last year's hopefuls there are plenty willing to take his place, and few who stop to wonder why he died. In the melting pot of the Locarno Ballroom in Sauchiehall Street, a debutante rubs shoulders with denizens of Glasgow's meanest streets, her respectable fiancé oblivious, her parents dismayed. When she starts receiving threats from a rival, they grow frantic enough to call on Dandy Gilver to save their precious daughter from harm. But as Dandy and her sidekick, Alec Osborne, begin to unravel the secrets of the dancehall, they soon discover that the rot goes much deeper than rivalry and there's more at stake than a silver cup. This may run late depending on McPherson's travel schedule.

Mina, Denise. [Blood, Salt, Water](#) (Orion \$39). DI Alex Morrow and her team have been shadowing a woman suspected of being involved in a large drug-smuggling and money-laundering operation. Roxanna Fuentecilla recently moved from London to Glasgow in suspicious circumstances and Morrow's bosses want all the glory when she's finally arrested. But then Roxanna disappears. She's left her partner and her two children and something about the situation, and the children's evasive attitude, leads Morrow to question what's really going on. In the nearby picturesque town of Helensburgh, Iain Fraser is struggling to live with his overwhelming guilt. Under orders from the infamous Mark Barratt he's just killed a woman and now he's left with blood on his hands. Meanwhile Miss Grierson, a former scout leader who left the sleepy seaside town decades ago, has returned. Allegedly she's here to sort out her recently deceased mother's estate, but Iain knows her mother died over two years ago and suspects she has an ulterior motive.

Panowich, Brian. [Bull Mountain](#) (Putnam \$26.95 July 13). The hottest debut of July, this **First Mystery Club Pick/Hardboiled Crime Club Pick** (Patrick likes it as much as I do) has garnered

so many quotes, plus raves from our staff, that I can't fit them all in. Here are a few. "Brian Panowich stamps words on the page as if they've been blasted from the barrel of a shotgun, and as with a shotgun blast, no one is safe from the scattered fragments of history that impale the people of Bull Mountain. From a conflict born of violence and loyalty, Panowich brings us a cast of remarkable characters who are linked by blood but severed by duty. This is a wonderfully rich and evocative debut novel that is steeped in both the history of Appalachia and well aware of the current challenges it faces."—Wiley Cash. The July Indie Next Pick: "Set in the mountainous region of northern Georgia and reminiscent of *Winter's Bone* by Daniel Woodrell, this debut is a potent tale about land and lineage, love and loyalty, livelihood and the law, and life itself. Panowich's words are fresh and clean, hard and dirty; he knows what he is writing about. The book's first chapter — a short story in its own right — is worth the price of admission to Bull Mountain. Climb on up and enjoy the view. Just watch your step!" And CJ Box adds, "Brian Panowich had me at the first word of his spectacular debut novel, 'Family,' and he held me until the very last page. *Bull Mountain* is a sprawling, gritty, violent, tribal inter-generational crime epic with a deeply rooted sense of place and an gut-punch ending I didn't see coming. Expect to see *Bull Mountain* on the short-list of many 'Best First Novel' awards." James Ellroy gets the last word: "*Bull Mountain* is a stone gas and a stone winner! It's brother-versus-brother in the dope-damned South. This first novel has it all: moonshine, maryjane and mayhem! Read this book now – and succumb to a startling new talent."

Parks, Brad. [The Fraud](#) (St Martins \$25.99 July 25). David reviews: "The sixth installation of Brad Park's Carter Ross series really shines due to two aspects: humor and the main character. Carter Ross isn't one of those jaded, hard drinking reporters bitterly reflecting on the good old days of journalism. He admits to his mistakes, learns from them and becomes a better reporter for them. He still has compassion for the less fortunate even when it clouds his judgment and leads him in the wrong direction. The humor he dishes out to himself and others around him makes for a likable character, one that the reader wouldn't mind having as a friend. Carter Ross has a boss/girlfriend who is about to give birth to their child and he is on edge when he is assigned a story. Newark has been the scene for a series of high end carjackings, a couple resulting in the death of the owners. Carter starts looking for a pattern and a connection for two of the deaths—one a well-to-do white man and the other a Nigerian immigrant looking for the American dream. He learns that the two men played a round of golf together, but what does it mean? Several dead-end conclusions bring Carter to the attention of the ring and the psychopathic killer himself, and put his girlfriend and child in harm's way, bringing forth a tense and satisfying conclusion. Park's easy writing style makes for a quick and pleasant reading experience."

Pulley, Natasha. [The Watchmaker of Filigree Street](#) (Bloomsbury UK \$35). Prepare to be immersed in London at a time of industrial change, characters on the margin of society, and Keita, a man who remembers the future. Not to mention his unforgettable companion, who you will surely fall for, a clockwork octopus... "Pulley's electrifying debut is a triumph of speculative fiction. It captures the frenetic energy of a world undergoing extraordinary changes: London in the time of new

electrical devices, Gilbert and Sullivan's theatre, and the terror of Irish nationalist bombings. Pulley expertly employs the tools of mystery and fantasy to examine the social pressures faced by the marginalized. The plot revolves around finding the bomber, but the heart of the story is the universal human quest for acceptance, understanding, and love."—*PW* Starred Review. This is **our July History/Mystery Pick and SciFi/Fantasy Book Club Pick**, recommended to readers of *Jonathan Strange & Mr. Norrell*—as well as recent bestseller, *The Bone Season*—and fans of Neil Gaiman, China Mieville...

Quinn, Spencer. [Scents and Sensibility](#) (Atria \$25 July 23). Chet (the dog) and Bernie Little (the PI) have returned to Arizona, the Valley of the Sun, from the swamper venues of New Orleans and DC. It's a dry heat, welcome to both. What isn't welcome as that someone has entered the house and made off with the hidden wall safe, including Bernie's grandfather's watch, their most valuable possession and the one they pawn to gain a stake. And that their elderly neighbor Mr. Parsons' wife is in the hospital. Worse, once they establish that Mr. Parsons, who had their dwellings' key, lost custody of it, Special Investigator Ellie Newburg of the State's Department of Agriculture rolls up to the door to accuse him of saguaro poaching—or being in illegal possession of the cactus newly planted in his front yard. Agent Newburg is accompanied by a dog called Shooter who, we immediately suspect, is intimately related to Chet, a charge Bernie tries to refute until Chet flies over the back yard gate to snatch a Slim Jim from Shooter's jaws. It goes pear shaped from here past the Parsons' jailbird son, an old kidnapping, and a dangerous criminal bent on exploitation. 8th in this hugely popular series.

Reichs, Kathy. [Speaking in Bones](#) (Ballantine \$29). Hazel "Lucky" Strike—a strident "websleuth," an amateur detective who mines the Internet for cold cases—comes to forensic anthropologist Tempe Brennan's Charlotte, NC, lab, with a tape recording of an unknown girl being held prisoner and terrorized. Strike is convinced the voice is that of Cora Teague, who went missing more than three years earlier. Strike, who keeps tabs on various registers, is also certain that the teenager's remains are gathering dust in Temperance Brennan's lab. Brennan has doubts about working with Strike, but she is interested enough to cancel a visit to Montreal and Andrew Ryan who works homicide for the Quebec Provincial Police—and who has asked a very skittish Tempe to marry him, a question she keeps dodging throughout the narrative. Teague is part of a family living in Avery County in the Blue Ridge Mountains, a family belonging to an offshoot, fundamentalist branch of the Catholic Church. Searching the site where Cora's putative bones were found again, aided by local cop Ramsey, more bones are found. But questions get no answers, lines of inquiry are blocked at every step, and Tempe gets distracted not get by Ryan but by her mother who's checked into Heatherhill nearby and refusing chemo for cancer. Still, an odd theory takes shape. Reichs' forensics are as meticulous and interesting as ever but they take a backseat to the medicals in this hair-raising drama.

Rosenfelt, David. [Who Let the Dog Out?](#) (St Martins \$25.99 July 21). Reluctant-to-practice lawyer Andy Carpenter is now married to former Patterson, NJ cop Laurie who works as his

private investigator. And they've adopted a young son, Ricky who, to Andy's dismay, shows little promise as a future baseball great. Life is happily slow until Willie Miller, Andy's partner in a dog rescue operation called the Tara Foundation after Andy's beloved Golden Retriever, calls with news the alarm has gone off there. The burglar has stolen just one item, a newly rescued dog called Cheyenne. As each Tara dog is fitted with a GPS-tracking collar, Andy and Willie trace Cheyenne to a house in downtown Patterson where they find Cheyenne next to a gruesomely murdered body. Is the victim the thief? If so, who hired him to steal Cheyenne, and why? It kicks off from here. We know from the get-go that a larger scheme connected to Maine is afoot so rock along and enjoy the ride with wisecracking Andy who rises to legal heights when he's really motivated. 14th in series. To go with, non-fiction: [Lessons from Tara](#) (St Martins \$25.99)

Sandford, John/Michele Cook. [Outrage](#) (Random \$18.99). Shay Remby and her gang of renegades have struck a blow to the Singular Corporation. When they rescued Shay's brother, Odin, from a secret Singular lab, they also liberated a girl. Singular has been experimenting on her, trying to implant a U.S. senator's memories into her brain—with partial success. Fenfang is now a girl who literally knows too much. Can the knowledge brought by ex-captives Odin and Fenfang help Shay and her friends expose the crimes of this corrupt corporation? Singular has already killed one of Shay's band to protect their secrets. How many more will die? A YA thriller: Book 2 in The Singular Menace after [Uncaged](#) (\$18.99 Signed).

Silva, Daniel. [The English Spy](#) (Harper \$27.99 July 2). With Chiara returning to Israel to await the birth of twins and Gabriel Allon devoting some time to restoring the long-lost Caravaggio that was a focus of 2014's [The Heist](#) (\$9.99), the last thing he needs is a summons from MI6. A bomb has exploded aboard a yacht carrying the iconic divorced wife of the heir to the British throne—an icon known only by her first name and beloved for her beauty, style, and charitable works—and her rich lover. Plus the crew. The only escapee appears to be a substitute chef brought on board to cook for the party for its holiday week. MI6 wants, indeed needs, the legendary spy/assassin Allon to track down her killer, a master bomb-maker who began with the IRA, hired out as a mercenary after peace talks, allied with Qaddafi before the dictator's end, and is a highly-paid free-lancer. In fact, one of the interesting story arcs of Allon's 15th quest is how two of the main actors—Irish Eamon Quinn, and British Christopher Keller, once a British Commando and now working out of Corsica for a Don—reached their present roles. Silva's [The Marching Season](#) (\$9.99) explored the Irish conflict while this is his 4th Allon to feature Keller and generate the wrap to an overall story arc for Keller that may propel us into a new one. Underlying the thriller is the question of what is the role of someone trained to create mayhem and kill, like Quinn, and how does he differ from the assassins Allon and Keller? A larger question for me has always been what happens to members of the IRA in peace—do they simply retire, or look for other troubles?

Stevens, Taylor. [The Mask](#) (Crown \$26). Ever since our two trips to Japan, the most recent with Laurie R. King, I'm a sucker for books taking me (and you) there. Information hunter Vanessa Michael Munroe, the chameleon—the survivor of a blistering childhood that's left her damaged, skilled, and ruthlessly self-

sufficient—is still healing from the brutal attack suffered Djibouti in 2014's [The Catch](#) (\$14). Nonetheless she joins her lover Miles Bradford in Osaka (a port near Kyoto and the first terminus of Kansai airport) where he's working in cyber security. She relaxes (as much as she is able) into a peaceful routine until Bradford is arrested for murder and faces 20 locked up in isolation. How far will she go to save him when the truth seems worse than his lies? Who will she trust in Japan? And who will she, a predator now reborn, kill? It's easy to liken Munroe to Reacher, neither eschews violence, but Reacher is a fixer, not a predator, so there's a difference.

Stradal, J Ryan. [Kitchens of the Great Midwest](#) (Viking \$27.95). **Our July Modern Firsts Club Pick is going to be huge**—I say that because the new head of Penguin is a personal supporter of this debut which means resources will be poured into it. Sometimes bestsellers reflect the resources devoted to marketing. And it's offbeat and surprising enough to catch on with a natural marketing hook: Farm-to-Table Dinners, a Locavore spin, unusual recipes with artisan foods, and a narrative handed off from one character to another starting with the inspired chef Lars Thorvald of Duluth, unwilling master of lutefisk (dried whitefish soaked in lye), who works slavishly to escape his assigned family role and the smell that indelibly clings to him. His young daughter Eva first appears in his chapter, as does his wife Cynthia whom he marries while capturing Minnesota's Twin Cities with his cuisine. The voice(s) of this book is like none other, the concept is way out, both funny yet sad (never maudlin; in fact sad is almost offhand), and what Stradal says about creating families and careers is... all her own. Rob, my own foodie, agrees there is nothing quite like this book.

Taylor, Brad. [The Insider Threat](#) (Dutton \$27.95 July 1). Pike Logan and the members of the secret American antiterrorist unit Taskforce go up against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS, traveling to Kenya where wealthy Saudi businessman, Ali Salim al-Naggar, is channeling funds to the Islamic State. Later, Pike and the team are ordered to Jordan to prevent an attack on a meeting of a new international anti-terror organization, which puts him on the trail of the Lost Boys, a group of four men directed by ISIS commander Omar al-Khatami. There's a lot going on in this 8th mission for Pike, Jennifer, and the team.

Teran, Andi. [Ana of California](#) (Penguin \$16). Here's a book that should bring adults and younger readers together. "Comparing Teran's debut to its inspiration, L.M. Montgomery's *Anne of Green Gables*, would do Teran's novel a disservice, as this contemporary take has a much quicker pace and a unique protagonist. To keep 15-year-old Los Angeles native Ana Cortez out of a group home, she is sent to Garber farms in Hadley, Calif., in a work-based living arrangement. Fans of Montgomery's series will appreciate nods to blackberry bushes, Ana's uncontrollable mouth, and the farm setting, but not recognizing these references will not hinder other readers' enjoyment. The novel skews to a younger audience, with tougher subjects (such as Ana's parents' ties to gangs and drugs) minimally explored... Readers will appreciate the references to music, books, and art, and the way shared artistic interests can bring people together."

Thor, Brad. [Code of Conduct](#) (Atria \$27.99). We open on Scot Harvath escorting his beloved Lara to the private sector

at Reagan to board a jet heading north to Alaska ahead of a pandemic already sending the President to the Bethesda Naval Hospital. Dial it back a week when Harvath is summoned to the Carlton Group's HQ in response to a video received by philanthropist Bea Beaman who heads CARE International. The video comes from a CARE clinic in Ituri Province, the Congo. Harvath is sent with a security team of four Brits, all former SAS, into Ituri. We already know it will not go well and indeed it gets way worse as realization that weaponized African Hemorrhagic Fever has been let loose. By whom? And why? And... what can Harvath or anyone do to halt it and derail the agenda behind it? Thor has clearly devised a plot from real world events made terrifyingly worse, an event that could, even without a fiend behind it, engulf nations or the whole world.

Tremayne, Peter. [Second Death](#) (Headline \$45). Ireland, AD 671. The Great Fair of Bealtain is almost upon the fortress of Cashel, and a line of painted wagons carries entertainers to mark the occasion. But preparations take a deathly turn when one of the carriages is set alight, and two corpses are found, lying poisoned, within. As Sister Fidelma and her companion, Eadulf, investigate, they are quickly plunged into the menacing marshlands of Osraige—where the bloody origin of the Abbey of Cainnech is wreaking his revenge. What is the symbolism of the Golden Stone, and who are the mysterious members of the Fellowship of the Raven? Fidelma and Eadulf must face untold mortal danger before they can untangle the evil that strikes at the very heart of the kingdom. Order early as we often run out of copies.

Tucker, Neely. [Murder DC](#) (Viking \$27.95). Washington Post journalist Tucker dazzled me with his second for DC reporter Sully Carter. This powerful urban noir—definitely for readers of Pelecanos—not only digs into the politics and powerful of our capital but into its African-American elite and history as well. The scion of one such Black family is found dead in the Potomac near the Bend. Sully has kept tabs on clusters of victims in the quadrants radiating out from the Capitol: the unsolveds (male) form a “deluge across the Anacostia, in Southeast DC. What was floaterman, William Sanders Ellison, doing that made him one of them? The cops can't find a lead. The politicians want Sully to stop poking. But he thinks there is more to this than a drug deal gone bad or domestic tragedy. So he digs deeper, being the kind of guy who, when challenged, bucks. Sully's debut in [The Ways of the Dead](#) (\$16) was a 2014 First Mystery Club Pick.

SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR AUGUST

Bowen, Rhys. [Malice at the Palace](#) (Berkley \$25.95 Aug. 4). October, 1934. Back from the dangers of Hollywood and abandoned instantly by her mother (who returns to Germany to marry a super-rich industrialist), Lady Georgiana Rannoch, 35th in line for the British throne but impoverished and homeless, briefly bunks with her friend Belinda. Belinda's surprise return from America sends Georgie back to her family's London home whence she is summoned by Queen Mary who wants her to show Princess Marina who is about to marry Prince George, 4th son of George V and the queen, how to go on in London. Georgie movies into antiquated Kensington Palace where ghosts and two elderly daughter of Victoria reside, and soon finds herself hobnobbing with Noel Coward and a fast crowd, learning more than she wishes about Prince George's libertine life (lovers of both sexes), observing the Prince of Wales and Mrs. Simpson, being embarrassed by her maid Queenie, and confronted with

the murder of a drug-injecting society beauty. And Georgie's true love Darcy turns up... what's up? This racy story incorporates actual history and personages.

Box, C J. [Badlands](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Aug. 3). Carrying forward some characters themes from his earlier standalones, Box relocates Cassie Dewell (*The Highway, Back of Beyond*) to Grimstad, a little town in the booming North Dakota oil fields. Despite the sub-zero weather, this prairie burg is bursting with roughnecks and rowdies who overstrain not only its small infrastructure but local law, allowing ruthless drug dealers wide scope. Cassie arrives just as a series of brutal murders signals the breakout of war between two rival drug gangs; we see its beginning when a pre-dawn car crash lands a duffle bag of swag in the hands of a special-needs kid doing his paperboy round. 12-year-old Kyle yearns for a stable home life, not the perils of possessing the bag, which he and Cassie work to combat in alternating chapters of the narrative. And then, for Cassie, the Lizard King, the serial killer who preys at truck stops, complicates things. In its Starred Review, which I have seen in a preview, *PW* adds, “The vulnerable boy's plight gives emotional heft to the criminal investigation, balancing cynicism with warm empathy.”

Chisholm, P F. [A Chorus of Innocents](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Aug. 17). In this superb novel given raves by Diana Gabaldon, Sharon Kay Penman, and Dana Stabenow, non-stop action begins on Thursday, 12th October, 1592. Eighteen days after the action closes in [An Air of Treason](#) (\$14.95: \$24.95 Signed by Chisholm Aug. 17), courtier Sir Robert Carey and Carey's surly, larcenous, and loyal henchman Henry Dodd, Land Sergeant of Gilsland, are back in Carlisle and the Debateable Lands, the Border country, the Wild North, the land of the hot trod where the thieving, feuding reiver clans are “English when it suited, and Scots at their pleasure.” The focus of this story is Sir Robert's married true love Lady Elizabeth Widdrington (her husband is a loser, a brute, but she stays physically faithful to him), who champions a very pregnant young woman whose minister husband has been murdered and she raped. Gabaldon says, “You wouldn't think these books could possibly get any better—and yet they do, every single time. *A Chorus of Innocents* is no exception: intricately clever plot and fascinating characters, with the patented P.F. Chisholm blend of matter-of-fact Elizabethan violence, straight-faced hilarity, and truly moving moments of tenderness and human longing.” —Diana Gabaldon. Dana adds, “The action proceeds full tilt for ten days and finishes with a marvelous set piece of derring-do involving enough arms and ammunition for the siege of Stalingrad, plus the last line will leave you with your heart in your mouth. As always the scene Chisholm sets is a veritable time travel portal you step through the instant you turn to the first page.” The Careys are my favorite historical series ever and I feel enormously privileged to edit and publish them (since book 4).

Fairstein, Linda. [Devil's Bridge](#) (Dutton \$27.95 Aug. 12). The Manhattan waterfront is one of New York City's most magnificent vistas, boasting both the majestic Statue of Liberty and the George Washington Bridge, the world's busiest span for motor vehicles. The NYPD's Mike Chapman finds it devastating—Prosecutor Alexandra Cooper has disappeared. Coop's sudden disappearance is fraught with terrifying complications: scores of enemies she has made after a decade

of putting criminals behind bars; a recent security breach with dangerous repercussions; and a new intimacy in her relationship with Mike, causing the Police Commissioner himself to be wary of the methods Mike will use to get Coop back... if he can. In a change up for this excellent long running series, we view much of it from Chapman's point of view, and in his voice. That's all I can say until my ARC arrives.

Grafton, Sue. [X](#) (Putnam \$28.95 Aug. 25). Talk about timing. Rob and I attended a gorgeous show of JMW Turner's paintings at the Getty in LA a month before my ARC of *X* arrived. And right there in the opening pages is a woman, a divorced and pissed off wife, who resolves to steal a small painting she believes is a Turner from the contents of a home her ex is putting up for sale. Next, a very wealthy woman asks Kinsey Millhone, Santa Teresa PI, to meet her in her glass-walled Montebello manse to take on the task of locating a young man out on parole from the federal prison at Lompoc, a young man the woman says is the son she bore at 15. She wants to make "amends." And off we go. It's March, 1989, and California is deep into a drought, water police maybe forming. *X* could have been for xeriscape, but how sexy is that? *X* means ten. *X* is the 24th letter of the alphabet. *X* marks... what? Grafton decides to call this one just "X".

Keller, Julia. [Last Ragged Breath](#) (St Martins \$25.99). You can't do cheery when writing about dying towns in West Virginia's mining country, but you can write compelling and clever. Keller is an ace at plots and at portraying the self-sufficient citizens of Acker's Gap where Belfa Elkins has forsaken the urban ease of DC and the kind of law practice her classmates enjoy for that of prosecutor of Raythune County. It's cost her her marriage, much of her only daughter Carla's time, and now her longtime collaboration with Sheriff Nick Fogelson, who didn't stand for reelection. With a wife disabled by mental illness, Nick has had enough. His replacement, former deputy Pam Harrison, summons Bell from a dinner date to a murder scene. The high-pressure salesman for Mountain Magic, a zillion-dollar high-end project, has been murdered. The chief suspect is Royce Dillard, a holdout against selling his property (and owner of 7 dogs). He's arrested and facing trial. Bell could just accept the Dillard scenario, none other presents itself, but she keeps worrying at it and in time a real piece of West Virginia history enters the picture and directs her towards.... Keller sucks me in every time with her plots and portraits of this beautiful, beleaguered state.

Kellerman, Jonathan. [The Murderer's Daughter](#) (Random \$28 Aug. 18). Now and then bestseller Kellerman takes a break from Alex Delaware (and Milo Sturgis) and turns his skills as a clinical psychologist and med school professor to other characters. He promises that you've never met anyone like Dr. Grace Blades—and I agree. In this high-wire act (actually it ends in one) we get to follow Grace from (pre)birth to master psychotherapist along a path through foster homes, school success, VA practice, teaching, and into private practice dealing with what she calls the Haunted, people crippled by devastating encounters, loss, and grief but who have become "super survivors." Having witnessed her mother kill her father, then herself, Grace can relate. She's also into risk; she likes to go trolling for one-night stands in LA. And her odyssey climaxes when she takes on two of the sick and twisted. August 18 is publication date.

Koryta, Michael. [Last Words](#) (LittleBrown \$26 Aug. 16). We get to sell this 2 days before on-sale date so ask for your copy to be dated. I haven't yet read my ARC so here is the *PW* Starred Review: "This moving series launch from bestseller Koryta illustrates why he's among today's top thriller writers. PI Mark Novak has not done well since his wife, Lauren, was murdered on her way to an interview on behalf of the Florida firm that specializes in exonerating death-row inmates for which the couple worked. Two years later, Mark, who's at risk of being fired by that firm, receives an unusual request. Ridley Barnes, an eccentric cave explorer, wants him to look into the decade-old murder of 17-year-old Sarah Martin, who disappeared inside Trapdoor Caverns in Garrison, Ind. Barnes was a prime suspect in that case, though he was never charged. The tragedy plunged the town into an economic depression after the cave's owners sealed it, cutting off the tourist trade. In Garrison, Mark encounters people who refuse to talk—and violence. Koryta sensitively portrays regret and grief while plunging the reader into exciting, claustrophobic scenes deep inside the massive cave."

McCafferty, Keith. [Crazy Mountain Kiss](#) (Viking \$26.95 on sale in June, signed with CJ Box Aug. 3). The 4th for Sean Stranahan is dark, dangerous, devious, and off the wall, akin to Box or Craig Johnson but verging towards James Crumley crossed with James Lee Burke. Reviews besides mine are terrific. *PW* Star: "The death of a young Montana rodeo star propels McCafferty's terrific fourth mystery featuring artist, fly-fisherman, and occasional PI Sean Stranahan (after 2014's *Dead Man's Fancy*). When 16-year-old Cinderella "Cindy" Huntington is found dead in the chimney of a Forest Service cabin, it's unclear if foul play is involved, but Cindy's mother, Etta, hires Sean to do some digging. This means Sean will have to work with Sheriff Martha Ettinger, and things are tense between them since she recently called a halt to their romance. However, they undeniably make a good team, and what seems to be a straightforward death soon proves to be anything but. This is a must for fans of eclectic mysteries in which the setting is just as important as the characters." "McCafferty does a marvelous job of manipulating mood, moving from light to dark... [*Crazy Mountain Kiss*] is the best McCafferty novel yet, and it's a must for Craig Johnson and C. J. Box fans."—*Booklist* Starred Review. "Stranahan's fourth case blends humor with heartbreak, all flavors of eccentricity with a struggle for normalcy, and a natural backdrop that can make even the most powerful humans and their deeds look small..."—*Kirkus Reviews*. Disclaimer: the fact that outdoor expert/columnist McCafferty ties a fly for me each book does not mean he buys me—I have raved about all four. Last book I hooked him up with Nevada Barr at The Pen, this time CJ Box.

McDermid, Val. [Splinter the Silence](#) (LittleBrown UK \$43). Psychological profiler Tony Hill is trained to see patterns, to decode the mysteries of human behavior, and when he comes across a series of suicides among women tormented by vicious online predators, he begins to wonder if there is more to these tragedies than meets the eye. Similar circumstances, different deaths. Could it be murder? But what kind of serial killer wants his crimes to stay hidden? Former DCI Carol Jordan has her own demons to confront, but with lives at stake, Tony and Carol begin the hunt....

Milchman, Jenny. [As Night Falls](#) (Random \$26 Aug. 16). The Indie Next Pick: “If you want to experience a great psychological thriller, you must read *As Night Falls*. Sandy has tried to leave her past behind and start a new life, but it comes crashing in on her in a vicious way. Two convicts break into her house, and that is just the beginning of the terror as Sandy must try to face the past and save her family. I could not put this book down!”

Moore, Christopher. [Secondhand Souls Tip-Ins](#) (Harper \$26.99). Something really strange is happening in the City by the Bay. People are dying, but their souls are not being collected. Someone—or something—is stealing them and no one knows where they are going, or why, but it has something to do with that big orange bridge. Death Merchant Charlie Asher is just as flummoxed as everyone else. He’s trapped in the body of a fourteen-inch-tall “meat” waiting for his Buddhist nun girlfriend, Audrey, to find him a suitable new body to play host. To get to the bottom of this abomination, a motley crew of heroes will band together: the seven-foot-tall death merchant Minty Fresh; retired policeman turned bookseller Alphonse Rivera; the Emperor of San Francisco and his dogs, Bummer and Lazarus; and Lily, the former Goth girl....

Nadel, Barbara. [Enough Rope](#) (Quercus \$45). Private investigator and ex-soldier Lee Arnold and Superintendent Paul Venus are by no means friends, but when Venus’ son Harry is kidnapped and ransom demands arrive from an address in Arnold’s patch in east London, the superintendent doesn’t know who else to turn to. Arnold and his partner Mumtaz Hakim soon find themselves chasing leads into several of the East End’s uneasily coexisting communities. Mumtaz uncovers a link to one of the area’s powerful Bangladeshi families, whose property empire has always seemed suspicious, while Arnold suspects the involvement of more old-fashioned East End gangsters, and wonders if some of the nastier rumors about Venus himself might be true. And neither Mumtaz nor Lee like the look of the children of the super-rich, arriving in droves in the trendy parts of Hoxton and Shoreditch and living in luxury just a stone’s throw from grinding urban poverty. The truth, however, is stranger and more dangerous than either Arnold or Hakim imagine.

Paretsky, Sara. [Brush Back](#) (Penguin \$27.95 Aug. 15). “South Chicago provides the setting for MWA Grand Master Paretsky’s electrifying 18th novel featuring PI V.I. “Vic” Warshawski. Vic thought she had left her old neighborhood—and her former teenage flame, Frank Guzzo—years ago, until he approaches her with a sensitive issue: his mother, Stella, just finished 25 years in prison for murdering Frank’s younger sister, Annie, and she’s now proclaiming her innocence. Reluctant to get involved—Stella always hated the Warshawski family—Vic agrees to look into the matter, but is floored when Stella accuses the detective’s beloved late cousin and Chicago hockey legend Boom-Boom (who was murdered in 1984’s *Deadlock*) of having a hand in Annie’s murder. Determined to clear Boom-Boom’s name, Vic throws herself into the investigation, which takes her into the murky political waters of her former stomping ground, with its back channels leading to the state’s highest echelons of power. Paretsky never shies from tackling social issues, and in this installment she targets political corruption without ever losing sight of her dogged sleuth’s very personal stake in the story.”—*PW* Starred Review

Penny, Louise. [The Nature of the Beast](#) (St Martins \$27.99). I am not going to rush reading my ARC so here is the *PW* Starred Review: “The bucolic Quebec village of Three Pines again proves no refuge in Penny’s stellar 11th Armand Gamache novel. Gamache has settled in the small community after retiring from the Sûreté, where he worked as a homicide detective. But he’s drawn back to the hunt after Laurent Lepage, a nine-year-old boy with a penchant for crying wolf, is found dead under circumstances that Gamache finds suspicious. The death followed Laurent’s latest fantastic—and disbelieved—claim, of having found a gun as big as a building with a winged monster on it in the woods. Despite Gamache’s unofficial status, he’s allowed to work the case, which takes multiple unexpected turns. In this typically engaging and fairly clued installment, Gamache wrestles with whether he can truly be content with the quiet life Three Pines offers, a struggle that echoes the choices, past and present, others have made about their responsibility to confront the evil the human spirit is capable of. Series fans will delight in Penny’s continued complex fleshing out of characters they have come to love.” Penny is doing a tiny tour so she will be signing our books for us rather than appearing here.

Robotham, Michael. [Close Your Eyes](#) (LittleBrown \$45). A mother and her teenage daughter are found brutally murdered in a remote farmhouse, one defiled by multiple stab wounds and the other left lying like Sleeping Beauty waiting for her Prince. Reluctantly, clinical psychologist Joe O’Loughlin is drawn into the investigation when a former student, calling himself the ‘Mindhunter’, trading on Joe’s name, has jeopardized the police inquiry by leaking details to the media and stirring up public anger. With no shortage of suspects and tempers beginning to fray, Joe discover links between these murders to a series of brutal attacks where the men and women are choked unconscious and the letter ‘A’ is carved into their foreheads. As the case becomes ever more complex, nothing is quite what it seems and soon Joe’s fate, and that of those closest to him, become intertwined with a merciless, unpredictable killer.... 8th in series

Scalzi, John. [The End of All Things](#) (Forge \$24.99 late Aug.). A down-on-his-luck Colonial Union starship pilot finds himself pressed into serving a harsh master-in a mission against the CU. But his kidnappers may have underestimated his knowledge of the ship that they have, quite literally, bound him to piloting. Part One of the four parts of *The End of All Things*, John Scalzi’s conclusion to the Old Man’s War tale that began with *The Human Division*.

Tanenbaum, Robert. [Trap](#) (Gallery \$27 Aug. 12). When a tremendous blast rocks an old school building in East Harlem during a meeting of the New York Charter Schools, killing six and wounding a dozen others, it’s initially blamed on a natural gas explosion. However, as Butch Karp digs a little deeper, he discovers the explosion was the work of a mysterious serial arsonist in the employ of the teacher’s union president, who is angry at the unqualified successes of the charter school movement in New York City and worried for the corrupt public school system. Also involved in the planning and cover-up is a major law enforcement player and a political hack who panders to the union for financial support and gets caught up in the homicidal scheme. At least that’s the conclusion Butch Karp is operating under when he indicts the pair for murder. But is it a trap? Great cover art! Tanenbaum appears with his longtime friend Linda Fairstein on August 12.

Todd, Charles. [A Pattern of Lies](#) (Harper \$25.99). Inspired by the actual destruction of a powder factory in 1916 Kent near Faversham, Todd imagines the fallout of the death of 100 men, the economic ruin of a village by the blast and by the factory's relocation up north away from the enemy, and equally how the survivors in Cranbourne near the Swale are desperate for someone to blame for it all, a human someone, not God. And so the factory owner, Philip Ashton, and his family are targets of malice and actual hostility. Nursing sister Bess Crawford is brought to spend the night by a former patient, Captain Ashford, the family's only son, when her train to London is delayed, and so is caught up in an escalating series of events culminating in Philip's arrest for the murders of the 100 dead men, his family helpless to defend him, and what follows. This is a chilling case where the power of rumor to fuel retaliation and revenge, even though misdirected, is potent and where Bess has to chase all kinds of leads on both sides of the Channel as the war moves towards Armistice. I wonder where this series will go when we get to war's end; here it is June, 1918, and terrible weather.

Tran, Vu. [Dragonfish](#) (Norton \$26.95). A **First Mystery Club Pick**, a kind of literary thriller. The *PW* Starred Review: "Tran's thriller debut revolves around an elusive woman who seems lost in her own private—and haunted—world. Robert Ruen is an Oakland, Calif., police officer whose Vietnamese ex-wife, Suzy, has remarried a shady Las Vegas gambler named Sonny Van Nguyen, a figure with whom she shares a distant past. When Suzy disappears, Ruen is strong-armed by Sonny's son, Junior, to help track down the woman Ruen never really knew. His search transpires in a wonderfully noirish Las Vegas, including second-tier casinos and strip-mall restaurants concealing underground aquariums stocked with illegal and exotic creatures—the titular dragonfish among them. Interspersed with Ruen's quest is Suzy's own first-person narrative about fleeing with her daughter war-torn Vietnam by boat for a Malaysian refugee camp. These long sections, addressed to the daughter she abandoned upon reaching the States, occasionally interrupt the novel's momentum. However, they also feature the strongest writing and elegantly reveal the roots of Suzy's mercurial behavior. This is a most enjoyable mystery, from its distinct, dazzling premise all the way to its satisfying conclusion." Sara Paretsky adds: "A haunting, beautifully written novel, almost more ghost story than thriller, as Tran explores the world of refugees, immigrants, and the long hold the past and its dead hold on the present."

Ware, Ruth. [In a Dark, Dark Wood](#) (Harvill \$36). S&S is giving this debut a big push into the current wave of domestic suspense fueled this year by *The Girl on the Train*. It's a bit of an Agatha Christie in that former school mates of a young woman called Clare are invited to attend her pre-wedding "hen party" by Clare's BFF Flo. It is held in a remote, modern glass house deep in a woods up a terrible road. London-based writer Nora at first dismisses her invitation—she doesn't want to revisit events of ten years past about which we know nothing—but after badgering and also learning Brazilian-born doctor Nina is going, agrees. At this point we want to start crying, "Don't go into the woods" as we would in one of those suspense stories where you know the heroine should not go up to the dark attic. And while the story creepily plays out, people die, secrets are revealed, I never find Nora believable or convincing, or the other characters

either. It's more like a storm in a teacup. But we're getting a few signed UK firsts for those who like this kind of book and/or don't want to miss anything "hot."

Wilson, Robert. [Stealing People](#) (Orion \$40). London, January 2014. In the space of 32 hours, in a well-planned and highly organized operation, six billionaires' children are taken off the streets of London in a series of slickly well-executed kidnaps. The gang demands £25 million per hostage for 'expenses' – not ransom. And when your child goes missing, you need Charles Boxer: a man with little left to lose who'll stop at nothing to save families suffering what he has. The wealthy parents of the missing children know that Boxer will do more than police can – but that doesn't mean the law will leave it to him. Intelligence agencies are all interested in the kidnaps because in each case the parents are related to people in power in the various countries involved. Soon the investigation goes beyond the corridors of power and the boardrooms of big corporations – and to far darker corners. Even more worryingly for Boxer, and his ex-wife Mercy, it threatens to lead back to their own lives, too. But still nobody knows what this mysterious kidnap gang ultimately wants and, if they have a cause, what the hell is it?

A FEW FOR FALL

Alexander, Tasha. [The Adventuress](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Oct.) Lady Emily #7 takes us to the French Riviera

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

Benn, James R. [White Ghost](#) (Soho \$29 Sept.) Billy Boyle in Solomon Islands

Block, Lawrence. [The Girl with the Deep Blue Eyes](#) (Titan \$22.99)

Booth, Stephen. [Murder Road](#) (LittleBrown \$40) Peaks District thriller

Brady, Eileen. [Unleashed](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Sept. 5) Veterinarian Kate Turner #2

Child, Lee. [Make Me](#) (Bantam UK \$45) Jack Reacher #20

Coel, Margaret. [The Man Who Fell from the Sky](#) (Berkley \$26.95 Sept. 8). Wind River Reservation #19 with Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [The Devil Wins](#) (Putnam \$27 Sept. 10) Jesse Stone #14

Connelly, Michael. [The Crossing](#) (LittleBrown \$28 Nov. 3) Harry works with Mickey now that Bosch has retired from the LAPD

Cussler, Clive. [The Solomon Curse](#) (Putnam \$28.95 Sept. 1) The Fargos; [The Pharaoh's Secret](#) (\$28.95 Nov.), with Graham Brown, NUMA Files

Evans, Mary Anna. [Isolation](#) (Poisoned Pen \$26.95 Sept. 13) Faye Longchamp on Joyeuse with a Civil War backstory

Finch, Charles. [Home by Nightfall](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 15) Charles Lennox

Gabaldon, Diana. [Outlandish Companion 2](#) (Random \$40) Late October

Gerritsen, Tess. [Playing with Fire](#) (Ballantine \$28 Nov 7 or 8) Standalone set in Rome/Boston/Venice dating back to a WWII secret. Terrific holiday gift!

Hallinan, Tim. [The Hot Countries](#) (Soho \$26.95) Poke Rafferty #7

Hamilton, Steve. [The Second Life of Nick Mason](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Oct. 7) Something new

Hart, Elsa. [Jade Dragon Mountain](#) (St Martins \$27 Sept.). A First Mystery Club Pick set in 18th Century China when the East India Company was knocking at the door in the then frontier province of Yunnan while the Manchus were consolidating their new reign and moving away from their Jesuit advisors. A must read in light of China today.

Jance, J.A. [Stand Down](#) (Harper \$26.99 Sept. 17) JP Beaumont/Seattle area

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [The Golem of Paris](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Nov. 4)

Lagercrantz, David. [Girl in the Spider's Web](#) (Quercus \$45) 4th in the Girl in the Dragon Tattoo series.

Limon, Martin. [The Ville Rat](#) (Soho \$26.95 Oct.) The Slicky Boys, Korean MPs

Mayor, Archer. [The Company She Kept](#) (St Martins \$28 late Sept.) Joe Gunther #26 in a brutal Vermont winter

Moss, Todd. [Minute Zero](#) (Putnam \$27 Sept. 15) Thriller follow up to *The Golden Hour* with State Department crisis manager Judd Ryker in Zimbabwe

Neville, Stuart. [Those We Left Behind](#) (Soho \$27.95 Sept. 30) DCI Serena Flanagan, Belfast

Perry, Anne. [Corridors of the Night](#) (Ballantine \$27 Sept. 16) William and Hester Monk. She will also sign a Christmas novella on Nov. 15: [Anne Perry's Merry Mysteries](#) (\$16), two Victorian holiday stories

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Crimson Shore](#) (Grand Central \$27 Nov. 10) Agent Pendergast

Pryor, Mark. [The Reluctant Matador](#) (Seventh Street \$15.95), a Hugo Marston taking the Paris Embassy security head to Barcelona; and a standalone legal thriller, [Hollow Man](#) (\$15.95), as a bonus, both signed sometime in Sept.

Qiu, Xiaolong. [Shanghai Redemption](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Sept. 23) Inspector Chen

Rankin, Ian. [Even Dogs in the Wild](#) (Orion \$46) John Rebus

Sandford, John. [Saturn Run](#) (Putnam \$28 Oct. 6) 2066 Thriller

Saylor, Steven. [Wrath of the Furies](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Oct. 21) Young Gordianus goes from Alexandria to Ephesus in Saylor's 15th novel of Ancient Rome

Slaughter, Karin. [Pretty Girls](#) (Morrow \$27.99 Oct.) A non-police-procedural novel about a long-missing girl and her sister

Walker, Martin. [The Patriarch](#) (Knopf \$24.95 Sept. 29) this is the same Bruno book as the June UK Signed edition *Dying Season*.

Willig, Lauren. [The Lure of the Moonflower](#) (NAL \$16) Jane's story, the final (at least for now) and 12th Pink Carnation Book (which wraps up many threads from earlier series books) and [The Other Daughter](#) (St Martins \$25.99) Standalone suspense. Both out in August but signed here Sept. 7.

Young, Hester. [The Gates of Evangeline](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Sept. 10) Southern Gothic suspense debut