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## Collector's Corner—August 2014 Volume 23 No. 5

### END OF SUMMER...

Means some last lazy days to read. Below are some terrific choices. Note please that many books we recommend are not crime but a range of fiction. As the world tumbles into chaos around us, we're seeing readers embracing world building, fantasy, as exemplified in books we are offering by Lev Grossman, his new No. 1 Bestseller, and Louise Penny (Three Pines is definitely an escape destination). Dystopian fiction or futuristic fiction maintains its surge; see Emily St. John Mandel. And Susan Vreeland pens a beautiful, moving book about Pissarro, Cezanne, and Chagall, collected by a senior living in Roussillon, Provence (today one of "les plus beaux villages de France"), and a young wife, then widow, weathering the miseries and horrors of the Nazi Occupation. I cherished every word.

And finally, don't miss any of the Spies of Summer, an outstanding range of reading.

### A BOOK WORTH READING

Mendelsund, Peter. [What We See When We Read](#) (Vintage \$16.95 original). Is it uncommon to mistake scenes from a favorite book for true memories of your own life? Why are some reading experiences so realistic and immersive while others feel artificial? Can we accurately picture any of the characters we fall in love with? What exactly happens when we read? Peter Mendelsund, associate art director for book publisher Knopf—notable for his cover designs for *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* and recent books by Ben Marcus, among many others—decided to find out. The result is the topsy-turvily illustrated marvel, lavishly illustrated. Reading isn't merely a system for semantic conveyance, as many bookworms well know. The activity instead resembles a kind of transfiguration, in which text fades into oblivion as new worlds flower in our minds. Thank heaven for Mendelsund's artistic knack because, as he notes early into the adventure, "We imagine that the experience of reading is like that of watching a film. But this is not what actually happens—this is neither what reading is, nor what reading is like." Why reading is unlike a movie playing in the mind can simply be illustrated by how vastly a book can differ when reread years later. But that doesn't bring us any closer to understanding the activity itself.

### THE SPIES OF SUMMER

What a rich variety of voices, landscapes, plots, and eras. This rich trove is still available to you for say a long Labor Day Weekend. Perfect for gift-giving. I have listed my favorites for you.

Brookes, Adam. [Night Heron](#) (LittleBrown \$28). UP for UK Dagners, this First Mystery Pick is crackerjack. A lone man called Peanut escapes a labor camp in the dead of night, fleeing across the winter desert of north-west China in harrowingly described scenes. You are immediately stunned by his perseverance, patience—and cunning. Two decades earlier, he was a spy for the British. But now Peanut must disappear on Beijing's surveillance-blanketed streets. Desperate and ruthless, he reaches out to his one-time MI6 paymasters via crusading journalist Philip Mangan, offering military secrets in return for extraction. But the secrets prove more valuable than Peanut or Mangan could ever imagine...and not only to the British...

Downing, David. [Jack of Spies](#) (Soho \$27.95). My favorite Spy of Summer, a pre-WWI story moving from a German sphere of influence in China across the Pacific to San Francisco, via train to NY, dipping into Mexico, and on to Europe. I loved Downing's WWII espionage series named for Berlin train stations, all of which prepped him for this gem.

Fesperman, Dan. [Unmanned](#) (Knopf \$28). You can never go wrong with an elegantly crafted, well researched, and beautifully written Fesperman who's taken us from Bosnia to Europe, Afghanistan, inside the US, in different time periods. Here he goes cutting edge with drones, drone warfare—and sets your teeth on edge (especially if Amazon gets into the drone business; think traffic control issues). *Library Journal* writes, "Winner of the Crime Writers' Association of Britain's John Creasey Memorial Dagger and Ian Fleming Steel Dagger awards and the International Association of Crime Writers' Dashiell Hammett Award, Fesperman once again proves that he's great for sophisticated readers with this work about a drone pilot devastated by what the drone's display revealed (particularly an Afghan child running for her life) after one catastrophic mission. So he teams up with some journalists to discover the anonymous operative who managed that mission..."

Furst, Alan. [Midnight in Europe](#) (Random \$29). Not Furst's strongest, but he takes us inside the Spanish Civil War and into the US, NY, and the late 1930s with his usual mix of characters both shady and selfless. I've always been sorry Churchill isn't alive to read Furst and Furst's "History of the Second World War."

Go, Justin. [The Steady Running of the Hour](#) (SimonSchuster \$28). A First Mystery Pick, again harking us back to WWI, up

onto Everest, north into Iceland, and all around with a kind of treasure hunt: is our narrator the legitimate son, or not, of a “hero” whose estate is the prize? Brilliant. Reads well with *Jack of Spies*.

Goddard, Robert. [Corners of the Globe](#) (Transworld \$44). It’s almost like having John Buchan, Scotland’s Baron Tweedsmuir, back thinking up a new version of his classic *The Thirty-Nine Steps*. Goddard’s lead is James Maxted, WWI flying ace. It’s 1919 and Max returns to the trail of murder and treachery he set out on in *The Ways of the World*. He left Paris after avenging the murder of his father, Sir Henry Maxted, convinced the only man who knows about the mysterious events leading up to Sir Henry’s death is elusive German spymaster, Fritz Lemmer. To find out more, he enlists in Lemmer’s network under false colors and is dispatched to the Orkney Isles, where the German High Seas Fleet has been interned in Scapa Flow. His mission: to recover a document secreted aboard one of the German battleships. But the information it contains is so explosive Max is forced to break cover and embark on a desperate and dangerous race south, pursued by men happy to kill him to recover the document

Hayes, Terry. [I Am Pilgrim](#) (Atria \$26.99). Global in scope, concept, and plot, yet so textured and paced you can lose yourself in it. Pilgrim has had so many covert identities he can barely remember his original name. Soul-weary Scott Murdoch has retired from the top echelon of ultrasecret espionage. Then a lone-wolf Middle Eastern native whom the Pilgrim code names “the Saracen” has a sure-fire bioterrorist plot to destroy the United States. In the cinematic chase that ensues, the action traverses the globe. Writing in the *NY Times*, Janet Maslin finds, “By Page 50, this book has involved Detroit, Dubai, Red Square, the Black Hills of South Dakota, Santorini, Greenwich, and a Nazi concentration camp; its plot has touched on the martial art Krav Maga and a secret code disguised as Shania Twain music. Mr. Hayes’s globe-trotting book has more kicks, twists and winks than anything of its dusty genre has provided in a long time. You will be happily surprised to find a new thriller franchise with brains to match its brawn.” A First Mystery Pick.

Palmer, Matthew. [The American Mission](#) (Putnam \$26.95). A serving Foreign Service Officer (Bosnia) learned the background of this absorbing debut on the ground in the Congo and the craft of writing from his father, Michael Palmer. With all the contemporary action on the Dark Continent, this thrilling story provides some real context to you through the dilemma facing Alex Baines, a former FS rising star, whose old mentor gives him a chance to reboot his career. At what price? A First Mystery Club Pick.

Silva, Daniel. [The Heist](#) (Harper \$27.99). We start in Venice where the legendary Gabriel Allon is restoring an altarpiece and quickly move to Lake Como where his London art gallery owner/friend has been set up for a grisly murder—which the Italian Art Squad uses to pressure Allon to help recover a long-missing and also legendary Caravaggio altarpiece. Silva tours you through the world of international art thievery and finance, taking aim at a regime in a story so (probable and) current it’s almost like breaking news. Bravo!

Taylor, Brad. [Days of Rage](#) (Dutton \$26.95). More military high-action fiction than spy story, but the plot draws upon the Cold War. Intent on embroiling the US in a quagmire that will sap

its economy and drain its legitimacy, Russia passes a potential weapon of mass destruction to Boko Haram, an extreme Islamic sect in Nigeria. A relic of the Cold War, the Russian FSB believes the weapon has deteriorated and is no longer effective, but they are wrong. Trying to solve the riddle of who might be stalking them, Pike Logan and the Taskforce have no idea what’s been set in motion; but there’s another secret from the Cold War buried in the Russian FSB....

Thor, Brad. [Act of War](#) (Atria \$27.99). A splendid concept: Chinese espionage, doing the unexpected. And questions of what to do if the terrorist is within, not without. I’m not normally a Thor fan but this one is not about politics, it’s a terrific story. And terrifying. The side-trip to North Korea is a bonus to the main story.

Wellington, David. [The Hydra Protocol](#) (Harper \$25.99). Here’s what *PW* has to say: “Wellington’s inventive sequel to 2013’s *Chimera* [see our *June Mass Market Picks*] teams Capt. Jim Chapel, of U.S. Military Intelligence, with Russian spy Nadia Asimova. The pair must find and disable a computer system known as the Dead Hand (or Perimeter to the Russians), a Cold War relic located at an unknown location in Kazakhstan. Certain conditions could cause Perimeter to think Russia is under attack and automatically fire all its missiles at the U.S. “The resulting fallout and nuclear winter would mean the end of the world,” Chapel learns at his Pentagon briefing. Of course, the mission isn’t that simple... An overlooked but excellent series, now two strong, joins the Spies of Summer.

#### SIGNED BOOKS IN STOCK

I went through our large inventory of recently signed books and picked out my favorites to re-recommend in case you missed one or more.

Box, C J. [Shots Fired](#) (Putnam \$26.95). A gripping collection of Joe Pickett stories allowing Box to explore some different facets of Joe’s complex character and life as well as some plots too small in scope to sustain a novel. This collection is one of the few story-assemblies I can recall to make the *NY Times* Bestseller List. It is an excellent way to introduce someone to Joe so think a great gift. We also restocked the last Joe Pickett novel when we ran out: [Stone Cold](#) (Putnam \$29), which gives falconer Nate Romanowski a starring role.

Brooks, Malcolm. [Painted Horses](#) (Grove \$28). Our July Modern Firsts Club Pick is the #1 Indie Next Pick (made by independent booksellers nationwide): “Brooks sweeps post-WWII American prosperity, ancient native traditions, and the rush to tame the still-wild West together in a novel driven by diverse and deeply realized characters that come together in a heart-pounding story. Catherine Lemay is a talented young archeologist defying the traditions of a ‘man’s world’ by accepting the challenge to explore a Montana canyon slated for flooding for hydroelectric power. What she discovers is beauty, history, threats, and John H — a former mustanger, Army veteran, and enigmatic canyon dweller. Far from her comfortable New York home, Catherine embraces Montana’s stark conditions and with John H uncovers both secrets of the region and truths within herself. A breathtaking debut!” Truly. Latch on to it now while you still can.

Castillo, Linda. [The Dead Will Tell](#) (St Martins \$25.99). The very recent kidnapping of two young Amish girls from their family

farm in upstate NY where many Amish have settled in their preferred isolation makes Castillo's amazingly plotted series set amid the Holmes County, Ohio Amish not only exciting reads but helpful in understanding the Amish way and why they do not integrate well. Every entry in Castillo's series is a heart-stopper! Chelsea Cain's getting all the press this month but Castillo writes as edgily.

Connelly, Michael. [The Gods of Guilt](#) (LittleBrown \$28). The Lincoln Lawyer arrives at a crime scene to learn that the dead woman was a former client, one he thought he'd "saved." And now he has to wonder if it was he who put her in the killer's sights. Look for the new Harry Bosch below in November.

Goodman, Lee. [Indefensible](#) (Atria \$26). It took so long to arrange for the Alaska author to sign his fascinating debut that I fear you may have overlooked this First Mystery Club Pick if you are not in the FMC Club (as all of you should be both to support new authors and guarantee you won't miss the sort of debut that becomes super-collectible; this is the area where I think The Pen is the most helpful to readers, introducing quality new voices). It offers fresh twists on the legal thriller in a combination both cynical and compassionate. It's almost like Deaver hung over his shoulder writing the end game(s). It begins when birdwatcher Cassandra Randall, accidentally observing two men digging a grave-like something in a state park that is probably in New England. She reports it to the authorities and Federal Prosecutor Nick Davis in the US Attorney's office, not taking it seriously, investigates the site. *Voilà*—there is a body. And it's just the first.... Goodman has a terrific voice.

Goodwin, Jason. [The Baklava Club](#) (Faber \$35). Yashim's first case, the Edgar-winner [The Janissary Tree](#) (\$16), won my heart from the start. Set in mid-19<sup>th</sup> Century Istanbul, rife with political and harem politics, menacing in its threat, delightful in its sleuth, it also transports you: "When you read a historical mystery by Jason Goodwin, you take a magic carpet ride to the most exotic place on earth." —*The New York Times Book Review*. Now Yashim returns in his fifth investigation. Three naïve Italian liberals, exiled in Istanbul, have bungled their instructions to kill a Polish prince—instead, they've kidnapped him and absconded to an unused farmhouse. Little do they realize that their revolutionary cell has been penetrated by their enemies, who are passing along false orders under the code name *La Piuma*, the Feather. It falls to Yashim to unravel all this—he's convinced that the prince is alive and that the Italians have hidden him somewhere. Yashim's dear friend the impetuous Polish Ambassador to the Porte becomes ensnared. The Valide (from Martinique, the widowed wife of the present Sultan's grandfather) plays a role: she's invited a young Russian from Siberian exile hoping to get the Ottomans to push the Tsar to pardon her father, a Decembrist, to Istanbul. Lots of fireworks accompany a pulse-pounding wrap to this amazing series.

Grimes, Martha. [Vertigo 42](#) (Scribner \$26). One of this year's best British mysteries, a Richard Jury leaning a bit on Alfred Hitchcock. Grimes did not lose a jot of her skill during Jury's four-year absence.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Herbie's Game](#) (Soho \$25). How I miss Donald E. Westlake, especially writing as Richard Stark. Hallinan's LA burglar lacks the cold steel of Parker, but his warmer persona fits these capers really well. Hallinan has

upped his game in this 4<sup>th</sup> in series. The August Indie Next Pick: "Amiable burglar Junior Bender is forced to chase down a stolen list of names before everyone on it ends up dead. First to fall is Junior's mentor and surrogate father, Herbie, who stole the list in the first place. This delightful mystery poses the question: Do we ever really know the people we love, and do we need to know everything in order to love them?" "If mysteries, thrillers, or just plain dark reads are your thing, then you'll love this summer's crop of twisty-turny heart-pounders... Junior Bender, the criminal who does detective work for other criminals, returns for a fourth hard-boiled mystery." —*Entertainment Weekly*.

Harkness, Deborah. [The Book of Life](#) (Viking \$28.95). The scope of Harkness' world-building for her witch-vampire-daemon population dwelling right alongside us warm-bloods is amazing. First we were largely in Oxford; second in 1590s England and Prague; and now, third, mostly in France, the Auvergne, and Venice. While finding a signed first of *A Discovery of Witches* is tough, we do have a few of the second in the All Souls Trilogy: [Shadow of Night](#) (\$28.95). Harkness says *TBOL* is the end of the story; she's moving on to new work.

Kerr, Philip. [Research](#) (Quercus \$44). You only have to read a few pages to realize that Kerr is hugely enjoying himself with this one-off satire of publishing, British, and bestsellers. Notably one bestseller, modeled on James Patterson, who became an industry by employing a stable of writers. One of them decides to stage a reversal of fortunes. Much of this takes place in Monaco, which also draws vitriol from Kerr's pen. And in the end we get a kind of morality tale: is fame and fortune worth the price? The prose is super sharp, too.

Lee, Jung Myung. [The Investigation](#) (Macmillan \$40). Another FMC Pick, this debut takes you to 1944 and inside Fukuoka Prison. Rob and I once got completely lost in Fukuoka which we thought was a fishing village and turned out to be so big it made a bid for the Summer Olympics! In the end we hired a taxi driver to lead us to our destination, a very good travel tip in case you get messed up driving in a foreign city. Anyway in the prison is kept a Korean poet called Yun Dong-ju. When prison guard Sugiyama is murdered, another guard, young Watanabe who has a passion for reading, is tasked with finding Sugiyama's killer. But what he realizes as war rages and moves towards its close, bombs dropping, is that he has to find a way to protect Yun. An amazing book, much recommended.

Muller, Marcia. [The Night Searchers](#) (Grand Central \$28). Ever one to push into new ground, Muller sends San Francisco PI Sharon McCone into urban adventuring—and way out of her comfort zone. McCone has worked cases in all kinds of landscapes, even weird ones like Mono Lake featured in the new James Rollins Sigma Force novel below, but her nocturnal investigations prove almost too challenging....

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

Robinson, Peter. [Abattoir Blues](#) (Hodder \$45). Hard to believe this is the 22<sup>nd</sup> DCI Alan Banks mystery, but so it is. When two boys vanish under mysterious circumstances, the local community is filled with unease. And when a caravan belonging to one of the youths is burned to the ground, and a bloodstain is discovered in a disused World War Two hangar nearby, things quickly become much more sinister. Assigned to the case, DCI Banks and his team are baffled by the mystery laid out before them. But when a motor accident throws up a gruesome discovery, the investigation spins into a higher gear—and in another direction. As Banks and his team struggle desperately to find the missing boy who holds the key to the puzzle, they find themselves in a race against time where it's their turn to become the prey. I can't locate a US pub date yet. 12 unreserved copies are all that are left.

Rollins, James. [The Sixth Extinction](#) (Morrow \$27.99). The 10<sup>th</sup> Sigma Force thriller features extremophiles escaping a lab at Mono Lake, Antarctica, and loads of other science and history-fueled thrillers. It all begins with Darwin on *HMS Beagle*. . . . As the Ebola pandemic grows, this is a spot-on story.

Talty, Stephan. [Hangman](#) (Random \$27). Patrick and I went wild for Talty's first Buffalo noir. Of this sequel, Patrick writes: writes, "Award-winning nonfiction writer Talty turned his hand to fiction last year with [Black Irish](#) (\$26), the first book in his Absalom "Abbie" Kearney series set in Buffalo, NY. This time out, the brilliant young detective is on the trail of a recently escaped killer called 'The Hangman,' who terrorized the area years earlier, leaving four teenage girls dead. Kearney follows his elusive trail across the class divide into the tony older neighborhoods of Buffalo's gentry. To gain the access she needs, she is forced to rely on 'The Network,' a shadowy group of aging former cops from the County, the working class Irish enclave from which Kearney hails. Talty incorporates some classic Thomas Harris set-pieces here, but avoids the easy cliché with his deft and original take on the serial killer novel."

Willig, Lauren. [Mark of the Midnight Manzanilla](#) (NAL \$16). In October of 1806, the Little Season is in full swing, and Sally Fitzhugh has had enough of the endless parties and balls. And of a rampant vampire craze sparked by the novel *The Convent of Orsino*. When she hears a rumor that the reclusive Duke of Belliston is an actual vampire, she cannot resist the challenge of proving such nonsense false. At a ball in Belliston Square, she ventures across the gardens and encounters the mysterious Duke, Lucien. He is well versed in the trouble gossip can bring. He's returned home to dispel the rumors of scandal surrounding his parents' deaths, which hint at everything from treason to dark sorcery. While he searches for the truth, he welcomes his fearsome reputation—until a woman is found dead in Richmond, her blood drained. . . . Willig has fun reminding us of this vampire craze of 200 years ago.

Xiaolong, Qiu. [Disappearing Shanghai](#) (Homa \$29.95). I'm a dedicated fan of Qiu's Shanghai mysteries with his poet policeman. You may have overlooked this volume by a small publisher with scenes of the city and text by Qiu. We have half a dozen left. A nice gift idea for a traveler or a fan of Inspector Chen.

## SIGNED BOOKS FOR THE REST OF AUGUST

Cain, Chelsea. [One Kick](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99 Aug. 26). Cain shifts publishers and into the start of a series with a truly edgy character. The Stockholm Syndrome is at work, and at moments one can see Uma Thurman in *Kill Bill*. From which you will gather that Kick Lannigan was kidnapped as a child, forced to live on the run and to make movies for pedophiles, and was famously missing for five years until rescued. The rescue led to the suicide of her "mother," the imprisonment of Mel Riley, her "father"—but alas not to the prosecution of the ring kidnapper Mel supplied because Kick herself initiated the auto nuke that erased all his computer files. There lies the endless guilt. She has an unusual skill set (like Thurman), she's in therapy, her real mother is getting rich off her ordeal, she's rescued James whom she calls her brother, she loves her dog Monster, and her conscience provokes her into agreeing to work with a guy called John Bishop to recover two Portland children who've gone missing. . . . Theirs is partly a partnership, and partly war. . . . I do not understand Kick's final action but bear in mind "her obituary would begin and end with Mel Riley." Child abduction is a hideous crime; one can hope that Cain's propulsive thriller will propel better counter-action.

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

Coel, Margaret. [Night of the White Buffalo](#) (Berkley \$26.95 Aug. 27—a week before pub date so we'll ask her to date them). Coel draws upon the Arapaho legend of the white buffalo, a rare calf whose arrival brings on floods of pilgrims. But the rancher, Dennis Carey, has been shot dead in his truck along Blue Sky Highway, exposing the news of the sacred calf to a wider audience, which complicates the investigation. Father John of the Jesuit mission had earlier been puzzled by a large and mysterious penitent at the confessional who confessed to murder and fled. And Vicki Holden is caught up in her law practice and a growing rift with her law partner and lover, Adam. Coel weaves all of this plus the life of the modern cowboy into 18<sup>th</sup> Wind River Mystery. To order the first 17, please [click here](#).

Eve, Nomi. [Henna House](#) (Scribner \$26). In the tradition of Anita Diamant's *The Red Tent*, a debut. This superb, moving book, at times making you angry, is our August Modern Firsts Club Pick. Yemen in 1920. Adela Damari's parents desperately seek a future husband for their young daughter. After passage of the Orphan's Decree, any unbetrothed Jewish child left orphaned will be pounced on by The Confiscator, a Muslim official, and adopted by the local Muslim community. (If this seems barbaric, recall that in medieval Christian countries, orphaned Jewish children—or those born with Christians in attendance who might die—were forcibly baptized and, if living, raised Christian.). With her parents' health failing, and no spousal prospects in sight, Adela's situation looks dire until her uncle arrives from a faraway city, bringing with him a cousin and aunt who introduce Adela to the powerful rituals of henna tattooing. Suddenly, Adela's eyes are opened to the world, and she begins to understand what it means to love another and one's heritage. She is imperiled, however, when her parents die and a prolonged drought threatens their long-established way of life. She and her extended family flee to the city of Aden where Adela encounters old loves, discovers her true calling, and is ultimately betrayed by the people and customs she once revered. Eve's debut forms a panorama from the traditions of the Yemenite Jews, to the far-ranging devastation of the Holocaust, to the birth of the State of Israel, as she sweeps us into a multi-person coming of age story and a betrayal that turns out to be salvation.

Grossman, Lev. [The Magician's Land](#) (Viking \$27.95). I won't even tell you what we went through to get real signed firsts (NOT tip-ins) of this new No. 1 Bestseller. It will take awhile longer for them to arrive, but be patient! In ways, malcontent antihero Quentin Coldwater had no choice. He had to return to Brakebills Preparatory College of Magic and Fillory, the scenes of his early struggles; but a spontaneous act of courage sends his life spiraling in unforeseen directions. The satisfying finale of a fantasy coming-of-age trilogy; a cunning mix of magical lands, ironic Harry Potter references, Narnia retakes, and real world realizations. The *NY Times* review by Sarah Lyall: "If the Narnia books were like catnip for a certain kind of kid, these books are like crack for a certain kind of adult. By the end, after some truly wondrous scenes that have to do with the dawn (and the end) of existence, ricocheting back and forth between the extraordinary and the quotidian, you feel that breathless, stay-up-all-night, thrumming excitement that you, too, experienced as a child, and that you felt all over again when you first opened up *The Magicians* and fell headlong into Mr. Grossman's world. Brakebills graduates can have a hard time adjusting to life outside... Readers of Mr. Grossman's mesmerizing trilogy might experience the same kind of withdrawal upon finishing *The Magician's Land*." In the *NY Times* Book Review, Grossman author of other fiction and book critic for *Time*, writes that only in fantasy has he found his real voice.

Krueger, William Kent. [Windigo Island](#) (Atria \$24.99 Aug. 27). *PW* Stars this: Edgar-winner Krueger highlights the vulnerability of Native American youth in his excellent 14th Cork O'Connor novel. PI Cork, a former Minnesota sheriff, reluctantly investigates the disappearance of 14-year-old Mariah Arceneaux, who left her home near Bad Bluff, Wis., a year earlier. The battered body of the friend who accompanied her, Carrie Verga, recently washed ashore on Windigo Island in Lake Superior. A

plea for help from Mariah's diabetic mother, Louise, to the sage Henry Meloux ends with Cork's older daughter, Jenny, rashly vowing to help save Mariah. This move forces Cork's hand, putting him on the trail of a ruthless man called Windigo. Jenny, Louise, and centenarian Henry play key roles as the mission tests both spiritual and physical powers.

Limón, Martin. [The Iron Sickle](#) (Soho \$26.95 Aug. 30). The latest in one of my favorite series ever. Signed Aug. 30 to be our Sept. Thriller Club Pick. Here is *PW*'s Starred Review: "Limón brilliantly combines a procedural with a harrowing portrayal of the wounds of war in his ninth novel featuring U.S. Army Criminal Investigation Division agents George Sueño and Ernie Bascom (after 2012's *The Joy Brigade*). Sueño and Bascom, who are serving in South Korea in the 1970s, have developed a reputation for pursuing the truth without regard for the consequences. They must once again balance integrity with professional (and personal) survival in the case of a Korean man, who entered the Seoul compound that houses the office responsible for claims for reparations, compensation, and damages against units attached to United States Forces Korea and slit the throat of its civilian head, C. Winston Barrettsford, with a sickle. Sueño's fluency in Korean gives him an advantage in tracking the killer, even as his superiors try to divert the pair with other duties. The murderer, who left a bizarre totem, including wire and a dead rat, strikes again, upping the pressure on the partners to solve the case. The secret at the heart of the crimes is truly chilling, and Limón's nuanced characters enhance a fast-paced, carefully crafted plot." Once again, Limón reminds us of the perils of transferring young men from one culture to another with no preparation.

Lin, Ed. [Ghost Month](#) (Soho \$26.95 Aug. 19). Our August Hardboiled Club Pick. "For a guy who scoffs at the ghosts revered by so many of his fellow Taiwanese, droll everyman Jing-nan, a night-market food stall manager, ironically finds himself spending much of his time chasing one as he investigates the murder of his childhood sweetheart, Julia Huang, in this darkly comic thriller from Lin. Baffled by what the ambitious valedictorian of his Taipei high school class was doing as a skimpily clad "betel-nut beauty" hawking betel nut to truckers on a remote highway, much less by who would want to kill her, Jing-nan keeps asking questions, despite risks to his own safety." [Click here](#) to watch the Video Trailer for *Ghost Month*.

Little, Elizabeth. [Dear Daughter](#) (Viking \$26.95 Aug. 20). A First Mystery Club Pick. Both Kate Atkinson and Tana French give it raves. It incorporates materials in the way that Minette Walters used to do. The narrator is a socialite who did ten years for the murder of her even more glamorous and impossible mother and was then released thanks to tainted lab work at the LA County Crime Lab. She's thrilled to be free—but she still doesn't know if she killed her mother. So devising various disguises to avoid celebrity seekers and all manner of media, Janie Jenkins, once an "It" girl, goes off the blogosphere makes her way to an isolated South Dakota town. Enlisting the help of some new friends (and the town's wary police chief), Janie follows a series of clues—an old photograph, an abandoned house, a forgotten diary—and begins to piece together her mother's seemingly improbable past, hoping to learn whether or not she, Janie, committed matricide.

Janie, like Kick in Chelsea Cain's book above, has a slicing wit, unusual and dangerous skills, leaps into risk, and is in a life forever warped by her past.

Maron, Margaret. [Designated Daughters](#) (Grand Central \$29). Judge Deborah Knott is summoned to her elderly and ailing Aunt Rachel's bedside where she is dying of a stroke—but has surprised her caregiver by suddenly starting to speak. When she arrives, the dying woman is surrounded by her children and half of Colleton County, NC. What a shock when, after she quiets again, an hour later Aunt Rachel is found dead in her bed. And someone impulsively, and not carefully, has smothered her with a pillow. What did Aunt Rachel say that provoked her murder? It takes two family trees, helpfully provided by Maron, to keep the kin straight as you follow various investigative lines. This is a warm book about family and the cycle of generations. And it's nice to see Deborah loving being married!

Rucka, Greg. [Bravo](#) (LittleBrown \$28). The follow up to [Alpha](#) (\$8). Jad Bell, still recovering from emotional and physical trauma, is tasked with bringing in the Uzbek, the principal orchestrator of the terrorist attack that nearly cost Bell his wife and daughter. But the Uzbek's employer, the Architect, has already set an even deadlier attack in motion. Two women in deep cover are at the heart of his plot. The American may have crucial intel, but considering she's been someone else for years, can it—and she—be trusted? Familiar Rucka tropes about love and family enrich the story.

Slater, Susan. [Rollover](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Aug. 21). The Starred Review: "Slater's excellent sequel to 2002's [Flash Flood](#) (\$14.95) takes insurance investigator Dan Mahoney to tiny Wagon Mound, N.Mex., where someone tunneled into the town bank, ignored millions in cash, and took only a valuable necklace belonging to 85-year-old Gertrude Kennedy. Other things don't make sense to Dan either, like the auto accident that he was lucky to survive that killed Curt Echols, a former stunt driver, who had offered him a lift into town after his car broke down. Dan discovers that Gert is a great old gal, but her daughter, Penelope, knows more than she admits. Meanwhile, Dan's girlfriend, Elaine Linden, may be in danger; a rancher has received government grants to save the prairie chicken; the bank president's policies irk his staff; and a sheriff is loath to suspect people he's known for years. Dan refuses to close the confusing case until he finds some answers. Readers will be glad they're along for the ride."

Todd, Charles. [Unwilling Accomplice](#) (Harper \$27). WWI Nurse Bess Crawford #6 in a series I truly enjoy—it lacks the melancholy of the Ian Rutledge mysteries. Bess, home on leave, is asked to accompany a wounded soldier to Buckingham Palace, where he's to be decorated by the king. The next morning, when Bess goes to collect him, Wilkins' room is empty and he's nowhere to be found. Both the army and the nursing service blame Bess for losing a patient, a hero at that, but label him a deserter. Feeling her reputation besmirched and that of her father as well, Bess sets off with the aid of family friend Simon to track down the missing soldier across England... As ever with the Todds, the meticulous record-keeping of the British Army commands respect as the case develops into a countryside chase.

Tremayne, Peter. [The Devil's Seal](#) (Headline \$43). The 25<sup>th</sup> Sister Fidelma Mystery. When a curious deputation of religieux arrives

in Cashel, death follows close behind and Sister Fidelma and her companion, Eadulf, seem unable to stem the bloodshed and discover the sinister reason behind it. Is one of the deputation responsible? What was the Venerable Verax, the elderly scholar from Rome, hiding? Was there an evil secret behind the austere and arrogant Bishop Arwald of Magonsaete? Indeed, what was the real reason behind Eadulf's own brother, Egric's, unexpected appearance at Cashel to coincide with these events? Victims and suspects combined to make a tangled skein that results in one of the most complex and bloody mysteries that Fidelma and Eadulf have ever had to face.

Wortham, Reavis Z. [Vengeance is Mine](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Aug. 21). Red River Mystery #4. *The Godfather* meets James Lee Burke in a small Texas town... It's 1967, the Summer of Love, when a man on the lam—with a hot blonde—could hide somewhere like Center Springs. No GPS, no cell phones, no credit cards...no digital footprints. So is it bad luck, or fate, that a Vegas hit man and his bombshell could turn Center Springs into a combat zone when a squad of gangsters arrives? Oddly they aren't dispatched after him by his former crime boss—they're after something, and someone, else. It's earned Wortham a coveted *Booklist* Starred Review, too: "Mob enforcer Anthony Agrioli's latest assignment is to rub out some Cuban casino owners in Las Vegas—and their young children. He takes care of the adults without trouble but has some problems killing the kids. He takes it on the lam, beating it out of Vegas before his boss can track him down, but not before hooking up with a beautiful blonde (who will turn out to be a handful of a different sort than he had hoped). Hiding out in Center Springs, Texas, Anthony soon finds out this seemingly peaceful town is like a beacon for violence and corruption, most of which has nothing directly to do with him, but all of which soon ensnares him. This very entertaining novel, set in 1967, is reminiscent of Donald E. Westlake's Mob comedies *The Fugitive Pigeon* (1965) and *The Busy Body* (1966), which, like this book, feature offbeat characters getting themselves into offbeat situations—although this book also has a more serious side, too. Those who have read the author's earlier books, including *The Right Side of Wrong* (2013), will be familiar with Center Springs and its rather unusual denizens, but knowledge of those earlier volumes is not required. This is a fully self-contained story, and it's real corker." Owen Laukkanen has become a Wortham fan and writes: "Great fun. Loaded with healthy doses of humor, adventure and intrigue, populated by a remarkable cast of characters both good and bad, and featuring one heck of an electrifying climax, *Vengeance is Mine* is a throwback to the pulp era in the best possible sense. A fantastic read."

#### **SIGNED BOOKS FOR SEPTEMBER (so far...)**

Sadly, I have been so swamped with events and editing books that I have read few September books. I'll be doing so—it's my rule to read all event books and club picks (other than Hardboiled Crime), but meanwhile here's an idea of what they are and what about... Both Patrick and I will write a September Collectors Corner.

I have no answers yet to Tana French, Julia Keller, a firm answer on David Liss although his new novel [Day of Atonement](#) is likely, GM Malliet, Walter Mosley's [Rose Gold: An Easy Rawlins Mystery](#), plus Patrick is reading other possibilities.

Amis, Martin. [Zone of Interest](#) (Canongate \$43). There was an old story about a king who asked his favourite wizard to create a magic mirror. This mirror didn't show you your reflection. Instead, it showed you your soul—it showed you who you really were. But the king couldn't look into the mirror without turning away, and nor could his courtiers. No one could. What happens when we discover who we really are? And how do we come to terms with it? "Fearless and original, *The Zone of Interest* is a violently dark love story set against a backdrop of unadulterated evil."

Benn, James R. [The Rest is Silence](#) (Soho \$29). I'm excited about this new chapter from one of my favorite authors. The original concept for Billy Boyle seemed a bit cheesy, but Benn, like Furst, has taken us into theaters and aspects of WWII with verve and skill. "Benn offers a thrilling mix of fact and fiction in his ninth whodunit featuring Boston cop-turned-army investigator Billy Boyle (after 2013's *A Blind Goddess*). On the eve of D-Day, Boyle, who serves on Eisenhower's staff, travels to Kingsbridge, England, and looks into the death of an unknown man whose corpse washed ashore on a beach. Since the location was used as practice for the amphibious assault that will be launched shortly in France, the higher-ups are concerned that a link may exist between the dead man, who was shot in the head, and the secret invasion plans. A feud among local gangsters that Boyle learns about suggests a less sinister theory, but the path to the truth is appropriately complex. The affable and capable Boyle continues to grow as a character, and Benn effectively uses the impending Allied invasion of Europe as the background for the whodunit plot."

Child, Lee. [Personal](#) (Bantam UK \$45). Once a go-to hard man in the US military police, Jack Reacher is now a drifter of no fixed abode. But the army once again tracks him down—someone has taken a long-range shot at the French president. Only one man could have done it. And Reacher is the one man who can find him... The Signed US edition: [Personal](#) (Random \$28). We still have half a dozen signed UK copies of last year's Reacher: [Never Go Back](#) (Bantam \$45)

Chodosh, Janie. [Death Spiral](#) (The Poisoned Pencil \$10.95 PBO Sept. 13). This YA novel kicks off the YA imprint for Poisoned Pen Press with a first investigation for Faith Flores. *PW* reviews: "Faith Flores, a Philadelphia teenager reeling from the recent death of her heroin-addicted mother. Certain that her mother didn't actually die from an overdose, the 16-year-old investigates the experimental treatment program she was on up until the end. When another member of the program dies in a similar fashion, and the people she's talking to start perishing in suspicious ways, Faith knows she's on to something. With the help of her friends, including best friend Anj and possible love interest Jesse, Faith risks all for the truth, which leaves her marked for death as well. Chodosh spins a dark and gritty tale set amid the seedy underbelly of urban Philly, and her protagonist is resourceful and grounded, despite deep-rooted traumas, insecurities, and other flaws. The science, which involves gene therapy and disease manipulation, is plausible, though the plot is straight-up conspiracy theory. Sharp characterization and deft descriptions make this a solid addition to the amateur detective shelf. Ages 12-up."

Cleeves, Ann. [Thin Air](#) (Macmillan \$42). 6<sup>th</sup> in her award-winning and TV-adapted Shetland series. A group of old university friends leave the bright lights of London and travel to Unst, Shetland's most northerly island, to celebrate the marriage of one of their friends to a Shetlander. But late on the night of the wedding party, one of them, Eleanor, disappears—apparently into thin air. It's mid-summer, a time of light nights and unexpected mists. The following day, Eleanor's friend Polly receives an email. It appears to be a suicide note, saying she'll never be found alive. And then Eleanor's body is discovered, lying in a small loch close to the cliff edge. Detectives Jimmy Perez and Willow Reeves are dispatched to Unst to investigate. Before she went missing, Eleanor claimed to have seen the ghost of a local child who drowned in the 1920s. Her interest in the ghost had seemed unhealthy—obsessive, even—to her friends: an indication of a troubled mind. But Jimmy and Willow are convinced that there is more to Eleanor's death than they first thought. Is there a secret that lies behind the myth? One so shocking that someone would kill—many years later—to protect? Ann Cleeves' striking new Shetland novel explores the tensions between tradition and modernity that lie deep at the heart of a community.

Coleman, Reed Farrel. [Robert B Parker's Blind Spot](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Sept. 11). Coleman wrapped up his excellent Moe Praeger series with [The Hollow Girl](#) (\$24.99) and now steps into the Parker franchise with Police Chief Jesse Stone. It's been a long time since Stone left L.A., and still longer since the tragic injury that ruined his chances for a major league baseball career. When Stone is invited to a reunion of his old Triple-A team at a hip New York city hotel, he is forced to grapple with his memories and regrets over what might have been. Jesse left more behind him than unresolved feelings about the play that ended his baseball career. The darkly sensuous Kayla, his former girlfriend and current wife of an old teammate is there in New York, too. As is Kayla's friend, Dee, an otherworldly beauty with secret regrets of her own. But Jesse's time at the reunion is cut short when, back in Paradise, a young woman is found murdered and her boyfriend, a son of one of the town's most prominent families, is missing and presumed kidnapped. This is crime fiction so you may imagine there will be a connection forged between the reunion and the crimes.

Crombie, Deborah. [To Dwell in Darkness](#) (Morrow \$25.99 Sept. 25). Recently transferred to the London borough of Camden from Scotland Yard headquarters, Superintendent Duncan Kincaid and his new murder investigation team are called to a deadly bombing at historic St. Pancras Station. By fortunate coincidence, Melody Talbot, Gemma's trusted colleague, witnesses the explosion. The victim was taking part in an organized protest, yet the other group members swear the young man only meant to set off a smoke bomb. As Kincaid begins to gather the facts, he finds every piece of the puzzle yields an unexpected pattern, including the disappearance of a mysterious bystander. The bombing isn't the only mystery troubling Kincaid. He's still questioning the reasons behind his transfer, and when his former boss—who's been avoiding him—is attacked, those suspicions deepen....

Cussler, Clive. [The Eye of Heaven](#) (Putnam \$28.95). Baffin Island: Husband-and-wife team Sami and Remi Fargo are on a climate-control expedition in the Arctic, when to their astonishment they discover a Viking longship in the ice, perfectly

preserved—and filled with pre-Columbian artifacts from Mexico. How can that be? As they plunge into their research, tantalizing clues about a link between the Vikings and the legendary Toltec feathered serpent god Quetzalcoatl—and a fabled object known as the Eye of Heaven—begin to emerge. But so do many dangerous people. Soon the Fargos find themselves on the run through jungles, temples, and secret tombs, caught between treasure hunters, crime cartels, and those with a far more personal motivation for stopping them. On-sale date is Sept. 2. Cussler is not doing a public signing for this new Fargos novel. A new Dirk Pitt: [Havana Storm](#) (Putnam \$28.95 Oct. 28)

Ellroy, James. [Perfidia](#) (Knopf \$27.95). It is December 6, 1941. America stands at the brink of World War II. Last hopes for peace are shattered when Japanese squadrons bomb Pearl Harbor. Los Angeles has been a haven for loyal Japanese-Americans—but now, war fever and race hate grip the city and the Japanese internment begins. The hellish murder of a Japanese family summons three men and one woman. William H. Parker is a captain on the Los Angeles Police. He's superbly gifted, corrosively ambitious, liquored-up and consumed by dubious ideology. He is bitterly at odds with Sergeant Dudley Smith—Irish émigré, ex-IRA killer, fledgling war profiteer. Kay Lake is a 21-year-old dilettante looking for adventure. Hideo Ashida is a police chemist and the only Japanese on the L.A. cop payroll. The investigation throws them together and rips them apart. The crime becomes a political storm centre that brilliantly illuminates these four driven souls—comrades, rivals, lovers, history's pawns. Patrick is loving this.

Evans, Richard Paul. [Michael Vey 4: Hunt for Jade Dragon](#) (SimonSchuster \$18.99 Sept. 30). Michael Vey, Taylor, Ostin and the rest of the Electroclan head to China in search of a girl who may have discovered why Michael and his friends became electric. Her name is Lin Julung, or Jade Dragon, and she's a child prodigy with an IQ higher than Einstein's—and Ostin's. But Hatch gets to her first, and the Elgen are holding her prisoner in their Taiwan Starxource plant. Now the Voice wants Michael and the Electroclan to go to Taiwan and free her before Hatch can realize his dreams of an army of electric children. The hunt for Jade Dragon is on... 4<sup>th</sup> in series.

Goldberg, Tod. [Gangsterland](#) (Continuum \$26 Sept. 17). "*Gangsterland* is rich with complex and meaty characters, but its greatest strength is that it never pulls a punch, never holds back, and never apologizes for life's absurdities. If this novel were a person, you could ask it for a bookie." —Brad Meltzer. "Goldberg injects Talmudic wisdom and a hint of Springsteen into the workings of organized crime and FBI investigative techniques and makes it all work splendidly." —*Publishers Weekly* Starred Review. "With his eye for human detail and trademark wit, as dry as a desert breeze, Tod Goldberg charts Sal Cupertine's unlikely transition from stone-cold mob hitman to Las Vegas rabbi. This tale of witness relocation-by-mob—part Elmore Leonard, part Theatre of the Absurd—is a compelling examination of salvation, which comes in various guises and moves in elusive ways. A wholly unique tale from a wholly unique voice." —Gregg Hurwitz

Hannah, Sophie. [The Monogram Murders](#) (Harper \$25.99). Hercule Poirot's quiet supper in a 1920s London coffee house is interrupted when a young woman confides to him that she

is about to be murdered. She is terrified, but begs Poirot not to find and punish her killer. Once she is dead, she insists, justice will have been done. Later that night, Poirot learns that three guests at a fashionable London hotel have been murdered, and a cufflink has been placed in each one's mouth. Could there be a connection with the frightened woman? While Poirot struggles to put together the bizarre pieces of the puzzle, the murderer prepares another hotel bedroom for a fourth victim and a police detective whose marked sensitivity oddly sidelines him relies upon Poirot. Signed UK edition: [The Monogram Murders](#) (Collins \$42)

Harrison, Kim. [Witch with No Name](#) (Harper \$26.99 Sept. 29). #13 in the bestselling Rachel Morgan series marks its conclusion—well, what else but #13 fits so well? Here's another example of world-building that captures readers. Rachel Morgan's come a long way from the klutzy runner of *Dead Witch Walking*. She's faced vampires and werewolves, banshees, witches, and soul-eating demons. She's crossed worlds, channeled gods, and accepted her place as a day-walking demon. She's lost friends and lovers and family, and an old enemy has become something much more. But power demands responsibility, and world-changers must always pay a price. That time is now, the time to save Ivy's soul and the rest of the living vampires, to keep the demonic ever after and our own world from destruction....

Haynes, Dana. [Gun Metal Heart](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Sept. 14). Fans of Taylor Stevens' Vanessa Michael Munro, or Greg Rucka's heroines, should rush to grab this second for Daria Gibrón after [Ice Cold Kill](#) (\$9.99; \$25.99). "In Haynes's brisk, darkly humorous sequel, Diego, a Mexican bodyguard, asks an old colleague of his, Israeli ex-spy Daria Gibrón, for help. Now an independent operative, Daria has been lying low in an Italian village far from the eye of various international espionage and crime organizations. Diego suspects that members of a Serbian paramilitary group, the White Scorpions, have seized his fellow bodyguard, Vince. Diego and Vince were protecting Italian engineer Gabriella Incantada, the inventor of a military-grade avionic control device. Meanwhile, Minister Dragan Petrovic, a Serb official, has hired a stunning but lethal blonde known as Major Arcana to get Gabriella's device for him. With some under the radar assistance from senatorial adviser John Broom, Daria—"a hand grenade in high heels"—embarks on a series of explosive deeds of derring-do across Europe in this high voltage, high-body-count thrill ride." Haynes, formerly known to readers as Conrad Haynes, will teach a workshop on Writing Thrillers at noon the same day as his book event.

Hayes, J M. [The Spirit and the Skull](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). Jean Auel meets Tony Hillerman in an arctic landscape... Crime fiction is about suspending disbelief and entering into the special world the author has created. This fascinating standalone mystery takes it to a new level. Kathleen and Michael Gear's First North Americans sagas imagine small bands who crossed the fragile land bridge from Asia and created a way of life in untouched lands. In JM Hayes' wonderfully imagined story, with murders, The People, a Paleolithic tribe crisscrossing Alaska, were among the first undocumented immigrants to enter the Americas. For them, murder is forbidden, a poisoning of the tribe's relationships with nature, the Spirits, and each other.

When a tribe member is garroted, aging Spirit Man Raven is on the case. So on the case that, in a twist to today's popular time-slip structure for fiction, Raven's skull survives millennia to bear witness to the murder and his investigation. And to offer up painfully prophetic dreams of when humans no longer live in harmony with nature, oil exploration despoiling the arctic world. Starred Reviews for this one.

Hurwitz, Gregg. [Don't Look Back](#) (St Martins \$26.99 Sept. 3). Karen reviews: "Known for his thrillers, the author combines, mystery, terror, and constant suspense making this, and other titles, a must read. Single mother Eve Hardaway joins a small group and goes on a long dreamed of trip, to the jungles of Oaxaca, Mexico. Among the group is a married couple, two young men who have been friends since childhood, one being gay, and a young woman with a disability. Early in the trip, Eve, wanders off course, sees a curious and frightening scene of a man throwing machetes at a human-shaped target. Later, she stumbles on items left behind by a journalist who has disappeared. The group eventually is aware of "the man in the woods" who stays hidden, but elicits a fear of danger in everyone. A storm isolates the group, making communication to the outside world impossible, the man in the woods being ever present. Eve puts her fear to work, remembering the strategic business techniques her ex-husband used, the nourishment, medicinal properties and protections she had observed in the jungle, and the determination to return to her young son and find a new place in life for them. Carve out some time, and treat yourself to this great read."

Iggulden, Conn. [Wars of the Roses Trinity](#) (Joseph \$43). 1454: King Henry VI has remained all but exiled in Windsor Castle, struck down by his illness for over a year, his eyes vacant, his mind a blank. His fiercely loyal wife and Queen, Margaret of Anjou, safeguards her husband's interests, hoping that her son Edward will one day know the love of his father. Richard Duke of York, Protector of the Realm, extends his influence throughout the kingdom with each month that Henry slumbers. The Earls of Salisbury and Warwick make up a formidable trinity with Richard, and together they seek to break the support of those who would raise their colors in the name of Henry and his Queen. But when the King unexpectedly recovers his senses and returns to London to reclaim his throne, the balance of power is once again thrown into turmoil. The clash of the Houses of Lancaster and York will surely mean a war to tear England apart... Start this trilogy with [Wars of the Roses: Stormbird](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Signed).

Kaehler, Tammy. [Avoidable Contact](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). Danica Patrick meets Dick Francis...on the race track. Think of the Corvette as a racing thoroughbred, Le Mans or Daytona like the Derby, and you've got it. The third Kate Reilly mystery takes you to Daytona International Speedway. The story has a built in ticking clock: the race's 24 grueling hours. The race, and sleuthing, all end as the clock reaches zero. Jeffery Deaver could not do better. Dick Francis never bored his readers with TMI. Tammy Kaehler has that same gift, making the thrills and skills—and the sleuthing—come alive.

Kadrey, Richard. [The Getaway God](#) (Harper \$24.99 Sept. 29). Trying to live a quiet life in L.A. was always probably a losing proposition for James Stark, the man formerly known as Sandman Slim (and for a brief period of time acting Lucifer in

Hell), especially since the City of Angels is fraying at the seams. The old gods, known collectively as Angra Om Ya, are more determined than ever to break through to our realm, and our God is too fractured to stop them. It's up to Stark to save the city, as he's the only man who can control the Qomrama Om Ya, the only weapon effective against the invading deities. This series has kept its energy well, even six volumes in, partially owing to the stubborn character of Stark. He doesn't evolve, per se; he's still a rude and violent walking weapon, but he never makes the same mistake twice.

Kellerman, Faye. [Murder 101](#) (Harper \$26 Sept. 16). Art theft provides the theme for bestseller Kellerman's deftly researched 22nd Peter Dekker/Rina Lazarus novel. Dekker, recently retired from the LAPD, has traded palm trees and sunshine for the snowy winters of upstate New York, taking a job in law enforcement in the sleepy college town of Greenbury. The effect of Dekker's Orthodox Jewish beliefs add color to the narrative: for example, when he looks into a theft from a cemetery, it's Shabbat, so he has to travel on foot, instead of by car. After two homicides in the area, Dekker picks up the trail of an art thief whose sights are set higher than a few graveyard treasures.

Kellerman, Jonathan/Jesse. [The Golem of Hollywood](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Sept. 16). In the spring of 2011, a "hard-domed insect" attacks a serial killer in Prague as he stalks a victim. A year later, Det. Jacob Lev, a wise ass who has been relegated to analyzing data in an LAPD traffic unit, catches a break when he's assigned to a bizarre murder case. At a house high in the Hollywood Hills, a severed head has been found on the living room floor; a burn mark on a kitchen counter spells out the Hebrew word for justice. In the course of the ensuing murder investigation, Lev repeatedly encounters a strange beetle. Eventually, his search for the truth takes him to Prague, long known for its Golem.

Kuhlken, Ken. [The Good Know Nothing](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). What if T Jefferson Parker's Edgar-winning *California Girl* drilled down into the early 20<sup>th</sup> Century? Like Philip Kerr, whose bestselling Bernie Gunther series moves back in forth in time during the mid-20<sup>th</sup> Century, Ken Kuhlken's Hickey family story covers a lot of ground. We're in 1936. But the story dips farther back, providing the final chapter, the one on which the mystery underlying the whole series rests: what happened to Tom's father, Charlie Hickey, an LA cop who just disappeared one day—forever? In his relentless effort to find out what happened to Charlie, Tom lures the novelist B. Traven to Catalina and accuses him of manuscript-theft and homicide. Traven's tale is that the Sundance Kid, having escaped from his reputed death in Bolivia, killed Charlie. But Tom has always believed media mogul William Randolph Hearst is the only one who knows the real story. Kuhlken won the St. Martins Press/PWA Best First Private Eye Novel contest with *The Loud Adios*, our first meeting with the Hickey family.

Lancet, Barry. [Tokyo Kill](#) (SimonSchuster \$25). Lancet's FMC Pick [Japantown](#) (15.99) set a high bar for Tokyo-based PI Jim Brodie. I can't wait to dig into his second case where antiques dealer-turned-P.I. Brodie matches wits with an elusive group of killers chasing a long-lost treasure that has a dangerous history. "A stellar novel of action, adventure, and intrigue. Jim Brodie is a true 21st century hero, part of the new, gritty mythos, warts and all, but capable of turning the ordinary into the extraordinary. On

page after page of Tokyo Kill, skeletons bang on every closet door longing to be set free—and Barry Lancet delivers.”—Steve Berry

Lane, Andrew. [The Young Sherlock Holmes #7: Stone Cold](#) (Pan \$35). Sherlock Holmes has been sent to live in Oxford to focus on his education. But something strange is happening in the university pathology labs. Body parts are being stolen from corpses and are being posted one by one to an address in London. What can these sinister goings-on mean, and what message is someone trying to send? In an attempt to find out, Sherlock follows the trail to a very sinister house deep in the countryside. Can he get to the bottom of another baffling mystery? No. 7 in this ostensibly YA series that’s fun for adults, too.

Lehane, Dennis. [The Drop](#) (Harper \$26). A short story is adapted into a film and into this novella by Lehane who returns to the scene of *Mystic River*.

Marr, Andrew. [Head of State](#) (Fourth Estate \$40). Two corpses. A country on the edge of a political precipice. A conspiracy so bold it would make Machiavelli wince. Andrew Marr’s debut novel imagines what really might be going on behind the door of 10 Downing Street. When a young investigative reporter is found dead on the streets of London few people notice. But when another body – minus its head and hands – is washed up on the banks of the Thames, its grisly condition arouses a little more interest. There appears to be no connection between the two dead men. But, unsuspected by the electorate, there is a shocking and dangerous secret at the very heart of government. While the United Kingdom approaches a crucial and delicately-balanced referendum on Europe, a group of ruthlessly determined individuals will stop at nothing – including murder – to prevent the truth from getting out. If you’ve missed the BBC’s 1990s dramatization of Michael Dodd’s *House of Cards*, Marr’s first novel presents “a gleefully twisted spin through the corridors of power.”

McDermid, Val. [Skeleton Road](#) (LittleBrown \$42). When a skeleton is discovered hidden at the top of a gothic Victorian building in Edinburgh, which is scheduled for renovation, Cold Case Squad detective Karen Pirie is given the task of identifying the decades-old bones. Her investigation leads her back to past conflicts, false identities and buried secrets...

McEwan, Ian. [Children Act](#) (Canongate \$40). Fiona Maye is a leading High Court judge, presiding over cases in the family court. She is renowned for her fierce intelligence, exactitude and sensitivity. But her professional success belies private sorrow and domestic strife. There is the lingering regret of her childlessness, and now, her marriage of thirty years is in crisis. At the same time, she is called on to try an urgent case: for religious reasons, a beautiful seventeen-year-old boy, Adam, is refusing the medical treatment that could save his life, and his devout parents share his wishes. Time is running out. Should the secular court overrule sincerely held faith? In the course of reaching a decision Fiona visits Adam in hospital, an encounter which stirs long-buried feelings in her and powerful new emotions in the boy. Her judgment has momentous consequences for them both.

Michael, Livi. [Succession](#) (Penguin UK \$35). 1445. Henry VI is married by proxy to Margaret of Anjou: an unpopular choice that causes national uproar. At the same time, the infant

Margaret Beaufort is made a great heiress after her father, the Earl of Somerset’s, death. Everyone at court is competing to be her guardian: she brings with her the Beaufort fortune and an advantageous alliance with her uncle. In the years that follow, English rule in France collapses, Henry VI goes insane, civil war erupts, and families are pitted against each other. And though Margaret Beaufort is still little more than a child, by the age of thirteen she has married twice and given birth to her only son, the future King of England. For readers like me fascinated by Anya Seton’s Katherine; also background for the Conn Iggulden historical listed here.

Mitchell, David. [The Bone Clocks](#) (Sceptre/LittleBrown UK \$45). One drowsy summer’s day in 1984, teenage runaway Holly Sykes encounters a strange woman who offers a small kindness in exchange for ‘asylum’. Decades will pass before Holly understands exactly what sort of asylum the woman was seeking, *The Bone Clocks* follows the twists and turns of Holly’s life from a scarred adolescence in Gravesend to old age on Ireland’s Atlantic coast as Europe’s oil supply dries up—a life not so far out of the ordinary, yet punctuated by flashes of precognition, visits from people who emerge from thin air and brief lapses in the laws of reality. For Holly Sykes — daughter, sister, mother, guardian — is also an unwitting player in a murderous feud played out in the shadows and margins of our world, and may prove to be its decisive weapon. The No. 1 Indie Next Pick for Sept. is also our Modern Firsts Club Pick in the signed UK edition. “Once again, Mitchell’s inventiveness and imagination prove to be nothing short of genius. He combines dark fantasy, boldly original prose, and finely drawn characters who will keep the reader riveted from Holly Sykes’ initial angst-ridden teen thought to the very last, hopeful sentence. Mitchell proves once again that he is a writer of no equal when it comes to the invention of language, place, and time, taking the reader to the edge of both the real and the imagined as if he were guiding you personally by the hand.” *The US is not signed, or would be tip-ins if you see them around.*

Moss, Todd. [The Golden Hour](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Sept. 8). The *PW* Starred Review for this Sept. First Mystery Club Pick—like FMC Pick *The American Mission*, by Palmer, set in Africa. Largely in West Africa. “Moss’s outstanding debut stars an Amherst college professor turned diplomat, Judd Ryker. An expert in conflict and coup-risk metrics, Judd believes in the Golden Hour principle: international political trauma can be reversed if dealt with swiftly and professionally. His timetable on coups d’état is 100 hours. When he’s named the director of a new State Department Crisis Reaction Unit just hours after a coup in Mali, where he once was part of a survey team assessing community water-management in Kidal, his theory is immediately put to the test. But Judd quickly realizes that every organization and country with an interest in Mali has an agenda—and he soon finds himself inundated with misinformation and treated as a pawn in a game where the stakes are about more than simply securing a country’s political freedom. An intriguing cast of morally dubious characters, an intricately constructed plot, and a tantalizing cliffhanger make this thriller a page-turner of the highest order. Advance praise from Douglas Preston, W.E.B. Griffin, John Sandford, and Francis Fukuyama.”

Mosse, Kate. [The Taxidermist's Daughter](#) (Orion \$40). Sussex, 1912. In a churchyard, villagers gather on the night when the ghosts of those who will die in the coming year are thought to be seen. Here, where the estuary leads out to the sea, superstitions still hold sway. Standing alone is the taxidermist's daughter. At 17, Constantia Gifford lives with her father in a decaying house: it is all that is left of Gifford's once world-famous museum of taxidermy. The stuffed animals that used to grace every parlor are out of fashion, leaving Gifford a disgraced and bitter man. The bell begins to toll and all eyes are fixed on the church. No one sees the gloved hand pick up a flint. As the last notes fade into the dark, a woman lies dead. While the village braces itself against rising waters and the highest tide of the season, Connie struggles to discover who is responsible, but finds herself under suspicion. Is Constantia who she seems — is she the victim of circumstances or are more sinister forces at work? And what is the secret that lies at the heart of Gifford House, hidden among the bell jars of her father's workshop?

Olsson, Fredrik T. **Chain of Events** (Sphere/Little Brown UK \$42). A high-concept thriller on a grand stage begins with the kidnapping of an aged agent from a Swedish hospital and moves on to an ancient alpine castle, nudges Amsterdam... To say it's complicated is understatement, involving coding, ancient Sumerian, cryptography, and laboratory experiments. I am still digesting it—this one I've read. More in September.

Palumbo, Dennis. [Phantom Limb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). The *Booklist* Starred Review: "Amputees say a missing arm or leg can itch and demand to be scratched, as though it were still there. That's a "phantom limb," and its ghostly presence is one of the keys to this lively novel. The premise is conventional enough: a has-been film star, married to a gazillionaire coot, is kidnapped. The stock characters are present: the old boy's bitter, boozy son; officious police and feds; a woman cop who chafes at not being taken seriously; and even the hero, the penetratingly analytical psychologist Daniel Rinaldi. A minor figure, who lost a leg in Afghanistan, waits in the wings as the plot races to its conclusion. But after the kidnap drama ends, there are about 170 pages to go. What follows is a reexamination of the evidence, when the phantom limb makes its nonpresence known. Could it be that the kidnap-ransom plot was really about something else? We're on the psychologist's turf now, and the revelations are more interesting than the author's attempt to turn this into an actioner. It's about fragmented people's attempts to be whole."

Penny, Louise. [The Long Way Home](#) (St Martins \$27.99 Sept. 1). Armand Gamache has retired from the Sûreté du Québec and is living leisurely and happily in Three Pines. Then villager Clara, an artist with new-found success, joins him on his hilltop bench to say that her husband Peter, once the more famous artist of the two, has failed to return as promised on the first anniversary of their separation. She's worried. She's not sure she is ready for him to come home, but how can she know until she sees him. Reluctant to leave his new nest, Gamache agrees to search for Peter and together with his former second-in-command, Jean-Guy Beauvoir, and Clara's dear friend Myrna Landers, opens lines of inquiry. Penny takes us back to when the Morrrows were students, tracks Peter's various destinations, and eventually all four set out on a journey down the St. Lawrence. The story is rich with observations about art and ways of experiencing and

expressing the world around us. One can't lose sight of the fact that Penny says she identifies with Clara. Or her very personal interpretation of grave sins.

Perry, Anne. [Blood on the Water](#) (Random \$26 Sept. 27—this date is iffy since Perry is dealing with US Immigration. We will update you). Perry's 20th William Monk Victorian historical opens with a powerful scene. Monk, commander of the Thames River Police, witnesses an explosion aboard a pleasure boat, which rapidly sinks. Despite his heroic efforts to save lives, almost 200 are lost in the tragedy, which the detective quickly concludes wasn't an accident. To Monk's dismay, the authorities take the case away from his force and assign it to the London Metropolitan Police. An Egyptian man, Habib Beshara, is charged with planting the bomb that caused the deadly explosion, though his motive is far from clear. Monk has misgivings about Beshara's guilt, but with the case reassigned and a culprit identified, he can investigate only at risk to his career. It's a pleasure to return to this series' main characters—Monk; his wife, Hester; and their 16-year-old surrogate son, Scuff.

Reichs, Kathy. [Bones Never Lie](#) (Random \$27). Unexpectedly called in to the Charlotte PD's Cold Case Unit, Dr. Temperance Brennan wonders why she's been asked to meet with a homicide cop who's a long way from his own jurisdiction. The shocking answer: Two child murders, separated by thousands of miles, have one thing in common—the killer. Years ago, Anique Pomerleau kidnapped and murdered a string of girls in Canada, then narrowly eluded capture. It was a devastating defeat for her pursuers, Brennan and police detective Andrew Ryan. Now, as if summoned from their nightmares, Pomerleau has resurfaced in the United States, linked to victims in Vermont and North Carolina. When another child is snatched, the reign of terror promises to continue—unless Brennan can rise to the challenge and make good on her second chance to stop a psychopath. But Brennan will have to draw her bitter ex-partner out of exile, keep the local police and feds from one another's throats, and face more than just her own demons as she stalks the deadliest of predators.... Reichs' UK tour preempts our usual event with her, but she's signing our copies.

Rendell, Ruth. [The Girl Next Door](#) (Hutchinson \$43). Before the advent of the Second World War, beneath the green meadows of Loughton, Essex, a dark network of tunnels has been dug. A group of children discover them. They play there. It becomes their secret place. Seventy years on, the world has changed. Developers have altered the rural landscape. Friends from a half-remembered world have married, died, grown sick, moved on or disappeared. Work on a new house called Warlock uncovers a grisly secret—the bones of two severed hands—buried a lifetime ago, and a weary detective, more preoccupied with current crimes, must investigate a possible case of murder.

St John Mandel, Emily. [Station Eleven](#) (Picador \$35). "*Station Eleven* is that rare find that feels familiar and extraordinary at the same time, expertly weaving together future and present and past, death and life and Shakespeare. This is truly something special."—Erin Morgenstern. For Kirsten Raymonde, Shakespeare came before and after the end of the world. At eight years old, she played a hallucination in a stage production of *King Lear* starring middle-aged film star Arthur Leander. As an adult, she portrays Cordelia, Titania and others for the Traveling

Symphony, an orchestra and Shakespearean theater company touring the wasteland of the former United States under the banner of a *Star Trek: Voyager* quote: “Survival is insufficient.” Twenty years after a virus wiped out so much of the human population that no statisticians were left to tally up the damage, many comforts are relics of a lost past: electricity, medicine, digital technology, automobiles. The Traveling Symphony offers cultural enrichment in exchange for food and shelter in loosely governed towns. In one such place, the company meets a dangerous cult leader known as the Prophet and his rabidly loyal followers. When the performers inadvertently attract the Prophet’s wrath, they struggle to escape. Their intended destination, an airport rumored to hold a Museum of Civilization, may also hold the key to the Prophet’s true identity—and link directly back to Arthur Leander, whose rise to fame, fortune and regret is told in interludes between pieces of the Symphony’s story. Thoroughly chilling, Mandel’s vision of the apocalypse gives humanity neither blame nor control; the collapse snuck up. Still, Mandel uses the before-and-after timeline to place modern life under a microscope

Sykes, Sarah. [Plague Land](#) (Hodder \$42). Oswald de Lacy was never meant to be the Lord of Somerhill Manor. Dispatched to a monastery at the age of seven, sent back at seventeen when his father and two older brothers are killed by the Plague, Oswald has no experience of running an estate. He finds the years of pestilence and neglect have changed the old place dramatically, not to mention the attitude of the surviving peasants. Yet some things never change. Oswald’s mother remains the powerful matriarch of the family, and his sister Clemence simmers in the background, dangerous and unmarried. Before he can do anything, Oswald is confronted by the shocking death of a young woman, Alison Starvecrow. The ambitious village priest claims that Alison was killed by a band of demonic dog-headed men. Oswald is certain this is nonsense, but proving it—by finding the real murderer—is quite a different matter. Every step he takes seems to lead Oswald deeper into a dark maze of political intrigue, family secrets and violent strife. And then the body of another girl is found. SD Sykes brilliantly evokes the landscape and people of medieval Kent in this first novel.

Taylor, Andrew. [The Silent Boy](#) (Collins \$40). Paris, 1792. Terror reigns as the city writhes in the grip of revolution. The streets run with blood as thousands lose their heads to the guillotine. Edward Savill, working in London as agent for a wealthy American, receives word that his estranged wife Augusta has been killed in France. She leaves behind ten-year-old Charles, who is brought to England to Charnwood Court, a house in the country leased by a group of émigré refugees. Savill is sent to retrieve the boy, though it proves easier to reach Charnwood than to leave. And only when Savill arrives there does he discover that Charles is mute. The boy has witnessed horrors beyond his years, but what terrible secret haunts him so deeply that he is unable to utter a word?

Tyler, LC. [Crooked Herring](#) (Allison \$42). Ethelred Tressider, mid-list crime writer, is surprised when fellow author Henry Holiday unexpectedly turns up on his doorstep. He’s even more surprised when Henry confesses that he may have committed murder while drunk on New Year’s Eve. Though he has little recollection of the night, Henry fears he may have killed drinking

companion and fellow crime writer Crispin Vynall, and asks Ethelred to discreetly make enquiries in order to discover the truth. As Ethelred and his trusty agent Elsie begin to investigate, they discover that Henry has been set up, and now all that remains is for them to find out why and, more importantly ...whodunnit?

Vreeland, Susan. [Lisette’s List](#) (Random \$29). In 1937, newlyweds Andre and Lisette Roux move from France’s vibrant capital to the pastoral southeastern town of Roussillon to care for his grandfather, Pascal, who has written that he is dying. A passionate Parisian, Lisette is at first miserable in the backwater town, and infuriated when Pascal turns out to be healthier than he let on: he simply wanted their company, and to share what he remembers about the famous French artists he has known. But Lisette is as fervent about art as she is about Paris, and Andre has trained in his grandfather’s trade of carving fine frames for fine paintings. She is captivated by Pascal’s collection of seven paintings. As a miner in the nearby ochre mines and later a pigment salesman, Pascal made the most of his access to these men, and now shares his recollections with the rapt Lisette—as well as his wisdom about life and love. Then war arrives. Before going off to fight, Andre hides the paintings without telling her where to protect her from inquisition. During the Occupation Lisette meets Marc Chagall and his wife, Bella, who are hiding in a nearby town. Upon receiving a gift painted specially for her by Chagall, she begins her own art collection and narrative. And with war’s end, comes the question of where is Pascal’s collection?

Wagner, David. [Death in the Dolomites](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Sept. 13). Rick Montoya, half New Mexican, half Italian, tours readers through Italy like a less cynical Donna Leon or Michael Dibdin. Rick’s taking a skiing break when the Roman cops send those of ski-resort Campiglio his way. An American banker posted to Milan is missing, last seen on his way to the slopes.... *La dolce vita* underscores the mystery—the sights, smells and tastes of Italy, experienced in a picture-perfect Alpine town where perfect ski conditions are punctuated by glorious wines and bowls of fresh pasta. And this near Milan, by fashionistas.

Waters, Sarah. [Paying Guests](#) (Viking \$46). It is 1922, and London is tense. Ex-servicemen are disillusioned, the out-of-work and the hungry are demanding change. And in South London, in a genteel Camberwell villa, a large silent house now bereft of brothers, husband and even servants, life is about to be transformed, as impoverished widow Mrs. Wray and her spinster daughter, Frances, are obliged to take in lodgers. For with the arrival of Lilian and Leonard Barber, a modern young couple of the ‘clerk class’, the routines of the house will be shaken up in unexpected ways. And as passions mount and frustration gathers, no one can foresee just how far-reaching, and how devastating, the disturbances will be. This is vintage Sarah Waters: beautifully described with excruciating tension, real tenderness.

White, Randy Wayne. [Haunted](#) (Putnam \$28). Out now but by the time our copies catch up with RWW in Florida it will be September. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> Hannah Smith thriller and thrill it does thanks to some dangerous creatures, only a few of which are human. Plus—there’s a haunted house! Which had a role in the Civil War, site of a bloody skirmish in which two of Hannah’s distant relatives played a part. The house is endangered by a

condo project, so Hannah becomes engaged both in halting it and in her family history. It begins when a rich Palm Beach widow hires her to prove the seller didn't disclose everything he knew about the house when he unloaded it. What Hannah learns is that ghosts take a back seat to real dangers and that a palmetto burn may have surprising consequences. There's a bit of *Deliverance* here, but so much more. 3<sup>rd</sup> in series (no Doc Ford in this one).

### SOME SIGNED BOOKS FOR OCTOBER

Alexander, Tasha. [The Counterfeit Heiress](#) (St Martins \$25.99). After an odd encounter at a grand masquerade ball, Lady Emily becomes embroiled in the murder investigation of one of the guests, a sometime actress trying to pass herself off as the mysterious heiress and world traveler Estella Lamar. Each small discovery, however, leads to more questions. Was the intended victim Miss Lamar or the imposter? And who would want either of them dead? As Emily and Colin try to make sense of all this, a larger puzzle begins to emerge: No one has actually seen Estella Lamar in years....

Bommersbach, Jana. [Cattle Kate](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Oct. 15). Award-winning journalist Bommersbach, author of *The Trunk Murderess*, *The Winnie Ruth Judd Story* (a One-Book Arizona selection) writes her first novel. "I grew up in Wyoming hearing one story about the lynching of Cattle Kate, but thanks to this revealing and meticulously documented historical novel, I now know the real story. And what a story it is! CATTLE KATE provides a fascinating and disturbing look at a very dark chapter in the annals of the American West. It literally re-writes history. And a few of the names of the true villains will be painfully familiar to Wyomingites." —C.J. Box, Wyoming native.

Cha, Steph. [Beware, Beware](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Oct. 11). Daphne Freamon, a painter who lives in New York, hires Juniper Song, fledgling Los Angeles PI, to trail her boyfriend, Jamie Landon, ghostwriter for film star Joe Tilley. As Jamie, whom Daphne suspects is using and possibly selling cocaine, cruises the L.A. party scene, the two women develop a long-distance friendship over the phone. Then Joe is murdered, the police zero in on Jamie, and Song's assignment changes to proving his innocence. After Daphne arrives in town, a sinister man stalking Song's roommate is shot, and both PI and police suspect a link between the cases. Song soon becomes caught in a complex plot involving deception, betrayal, and revenge. Cha follows noir conventions, with Daphne as femme fatale and Song forced into morally ambiguous choices, but she also offers a plucky heroine, warm secondary characters, and a vivid portrait of L.A.'s Koreatown. 2<sup>nd</sup> in series.

Cook, Matt. [Sabotage](#) (Forge \$25.99). A debut adventure thriller looks promising. A bidding war between the US and a terrorist code-named "Viking" targets a code that controls a dangerous weapons technology. Viking is safe from attack while a luxury cruise ship is stranded in the North Atlantic. But Stanford Professor Malcolm Clare is missing, and searching for him is doctoral candidate Austin Hardy. Aided by Clare's daughter and a squad of graduate students on campus, Hardy must devise Trojan horses, outfox an assassin, and sidestep treachery to foil Viking, aided by a meteorologist and ex-combat weatherman aboard the cruise ship....

Cornwell, Bernard. [The Empty Throne](#) (Collins \$45). The Warrior Chronicles, Book 8, most likely will arrive in Nov. What will

be the fate of his great hero, Uhtred of Bebbanburg? The forces of Wessex and Mercia have united against the Danes, but instability and the threat of Viking raids still hang heavy over Britain's kingdoms. For Aethelred, Lord of the Mercians, is dying, leaving no heir and the stage is set for rivals to fight for the throne. Uhtred of Bebbanburg, Mercia's greatest warrior, has always supported Atheltraed to be Mercia's next ruler, but will the aristocracy ever accept a woman as their leader? Even one who is Aethelred's widow and sister to the king of Wessex? As the Mercians squabble and the West Saxons try to annex their country, new enemies appear on the northern frontier. The Saxons desperately need strong leadership, but instead they are fighting for an empty throne and threatening to undo the unity and strength they have fought so hard to achieve.

At the same time, the bicentenary of Waterloo in 2015 inspires Cornwell to pen his first work of nonfiction: [Waterloo](#) (Collins \$50). On the 18th June, 1815 the armies of France, Britain and Prussia descended upon a quiet valley south of Brussels. In the previous three days the French army had beaten the British at Quatre Bras and the Prussians at Ligny. The Allies were in retreat. The blood-soaked battle of Waterloo would become a landmark in European history, to be examined over and over again, not least because until the evening of the 18th, the French army was close to prevailing on the battlefield. Now, brought to life by the celebrated novelist Bernard Cornwell, this is the chronicle of the four days leading up to the actual battle and a thrilling hour by hour account of that fateful day. "Cornwell combines his storytelling skills with a meticulously researched history to give a riveting account of every dramatic moment, from Napoleon's escape from Elba to the smoke and gore of the battlefields. Through letters and diaries he also sheds new light on the private thoughts of Napoleon and the Duke of Wellington, as well as the ordinary officers and soldiers." I can also recommend a work of fiction that illuminates aspects of Waterloo: Georgette Heyer's [An Infamous Army](#) (\$14.95).

Grant, Andrew. [Run](#) (Random \$26 Oct. 23). Marc Bowman, a highly successful computer consultant and software designer, walks into his job at a major tech company one morning only to find himself fired on the spot, stonewalled by his boss, and ushered out of the building. Then things get worse: An explosive argument drives his wife away and a robbery threatens to yank a million-dollar idea—and his whole future—out from under him. In a matter of hours, Marc has gone from having it all to being sucker-punched by fate. But it's only Monday, and before the week is over, he'll be stalked, ambushed, wiretapped, arrested, duped, double- and triple-crossed—until he can't tell enemies from allies. Suddenly, the only thing standing between him and the wrath of everyone from the FBI to Homeland Security to his desperate ex-bosses is a flash drive full of data that might just be the holy grail of high-tech secrets—and a holy terror in the wrong hands. Now, the gloves come off and the guns come out....

Hallinan, Timothy. [For the Dead](#) (Soho \$25 Oct. 21). Poke Rafferty is happier than he's ever been. He's financially solvent, his family is about to grow larger, and his adopted Thai daughter, Miaow, seems to have settled in at junior high school. All that is endangered when Miaow and her boyfriend, Andrew, buy a stolen iPhone from a shady vendor and discover photographs of two dead police officers on it—disgraced officers, violently murdered to avenge the long-dead. Surrounding the murder

investigation is a conspiracy that reaches the top rungs of Bangkok law enforcement, and perhaps beyond. It soon becomes apparent that Miaow's discovery threatens the entire family—which may soon have to rely on someone who earlier betrayed them.... The brilliant Poke Rafferty books are among the very best thrillers being written.

Lovett, Charlie. [First Impressions](#) (Mulholland \$27.95 Oct. 26). Calling all bibliophiles and Jane Austen fans. Book lover and Austen enthusiast Sophie Collingwood has recently taken a job at an antiquarian bookshop in London when two different customers request a copy of the same obscure book: the second edition of *Little Book of Allegories* by Richard Mansfield. Their queries draw Sophie into a mystery that will cast doubt on the true authorship of *Pride and Prejudice*—and ultimately threaten Sophie's life. "In a dual narrative that alternates between Sophie's quest to uncover the truth—while choosing between two suitors—and a young Jane Austen's touching friendship with the aging cleric Richard Mansfield, Lovett weaves a romantic, suspenseful, and utterly compelling novel about love in all its forms and the joys of a life lived in books." Lovett's second novel after FMC Pick [The Bookman's Tale](#) (\$16) set mostly in Hay-on-Wye.

Maden, Mike. [Blue Warrior](#) (Putnam \$26.95 Oct. 16). From the author of FMC Pick [Drone](#) (\$9.99). We're in the remote Sahara Desert, where a recently discovered deposit of strategically indispensable Rare Earth Elements (REEs) ignites an international rush to secure them. Standing in the way are the Tuaregs, the fierce tribe of warrior nomads of the desert wasteland, who are fighting for their independence. The Chinese offer to help the Malian government crush the rebellion by the Tuaregs in order to gain a foothold in the area, and Al-Qaeda jihadis join the fight. In the midst of all this chaos are Troy Pearce's closest friend and a mysterious woman from his past who ask him for help. Deploying his team and his newest drones to rescue his friends and save the rebellion, Troy finds that he might need more than technology to survive the battle and root out the real puppet masters behind the Tuareg genocide.

Mayor, Archer. [Proof Positive](#) (St Martins \$28) Joe Gunther's 25<sup>th</sup> case! The *PW* Starred Review: "Over 26 years and 25 books (most recently, 2013's *Three Can Keep a Secret*), Joe Gunther has moved from police detective in Brattleboro, Vt., to special agent of the Vermont Bureau of Investigation, and, as he has grown in stature, so has the series. During the Vietnam War, Signal Corps photographer Benjamin Kendall suffered a head wound and PTSD. Now a reclusive hoarder, he has turned his Dummerston farmhouse property into a massive warren of junk. When Kendall's body is found crushed "under a pile of personal effects," it looks like an accident, but Kendall's first cousin (and Gunther's lover), Beverly Hillstrom, asks Gunther to take a look. Recently, Hillstrom's college-age daughter, Rachel Reiling, discovered a cache of Kendall's war photographs while shooting a school project, and they became part of an exhibit at an art gallery that attracted a couple of hit men. A wave of killings ensues. Stopping the killers means nothing unless Gunther can locate the man behind them. Mayor makes full use of Gunther's excellent supporting cast, including Willy Kunkle, Lester Spinney, and Sammie Martens, in this smoothly plotted and absorbing mystery."

Ryan, Hank Phillip. [Truth Be Told](#) (Forge \$24.99 Oct. 23). The 2014 Agatha Award winner gets a rave: "Ryan's smart, well-paced third Jane Ryland novel takes aim at the housing crisis of recent years. *Boston Register* reporter Jane Ryland is at work on two stories: an apparent murder in a recently foreclosed house and a supposed puff piece about banking customer service. Both assignments lead straight to revelations of institutional financial malfeasance and possibly more death. Meanwhile, Det. Jake Brogan of the Boston PD receives the solution to a 20-year-old cold case—or has he been handed an inexplicable false confession? Ryan, a Mary Higgins Clark Award winner, cleverly ties the plot together, offers surprising but believable plot twists, and skillfully characterizes the supporting case, which includes a widower attorney, a bleeding heart banker, and an expectant mother who might be married to a murderer. She also provides just the right amount of romance between Jane and Jake, with a delectable hint that Jake might have some competition...." This novel is also a *Library Journal* Editors' Pick with a rave from Linda Fairstein.

Sandford, John. [Deadline](#) (Putnam \$27.95 Oct. 7 on sale date). Virgil Flowers works the murder of a local reporter down in SE Minnesota where a school board has met behind closed doors. The proposal up for a vote was whether to authorize the killing of a local reporter. The vote was four-to-one—in favor....

Sansom, CJ. [Lamentation](#) (Macmillan \$45). Summer, 1546. King Henry VIII is slowly, painfully dying. His Protestant and Catholic councilors are engaged in a final and decisive power struggle; whoever wins will control the government of Henry's successor, eight-year-old Prince Edward. As heretics are hunted across London, and the radical Protestant Anne Askew is burned at the stake, the Catholic party focuses its attack on Henry's sixth wife, Matthew Shardlake's old mentor, Queen Catherine Parr. Shardlake, still haunted by events aboard the warship *Mary Rose* the year before, is working on the Cotterstoke Will case, a savage dispute between rival siblings. Then, unexpectedly, he is summoned to Whitehall Palace and asked for help by his old patron, the now beleaguered and desperate Queen. For Catherine Parr has a secret. She has written a confessional book, *Lamentation of a Sinner*, so radically Protestant that if it came to the King's attention it could bring both her and her sympathizers crashing down. But, although the book was kept secret and hidden inside a locked chest in the Queen's private chamber, it has — inexplicably — vanished. Only one page has been found, clutched in the hand of a murdered London printer. Shardlake's investigations take him on a trail that begins among the backstreet print shops of London but leads him and Jack Barak into the dark and labyrinthine world of the politics of the royal court; a world he had sworn never to enter again. The theft of Queen Catherine's book proves to be connected to the terrible death of Anne Askew, while his involvement with the Cotterstoke litigants threatens to bring Shardlake himself to the stake.

Siger, Jeffrey. [Sons of Sparta](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Oct. 21). Think Joseph Wambaugh or Ed McBain, or Andrea Camilleri's Inspector Montalbano Sicilian series. In *Sons of Sparta*, the question is, can outsiders, Greek or other, break into the tight, bloody culture of the isolated Mani region where centuries of blood feuds—vendettas—based on strict codes of honor, have pitted neighbor against neighbor, relatives against relatives? The roots of the Mani, located at the tip of the mountainous

Peloponnese peninsula, run deep. Perhaps all the way back to ancient Sparta. The story begins when Special Crimes Division Detective Yiannis Kouros received a summons from his uncle to the Mani. This uncle, once head of the Mani's most significant criminal enterprise, in fact summons all the family to hear his plan for avoiding a new generational cycle of vendetta. Right! It isn't long before the deal is killed by the killing of the uncle. Plus back in Athens, Yiannis' boss, Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis, is investigating entrenched government corruption on a trail leading down to the Mani. There the two cops face Siger's trademark unexpected twists plus unanticipated players in the story...and more deaths. I will quote the Starred Reviews closer to event date.

Webb, Betty. [Desert Rage](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Oct. 18). If Sara Paretsky's VI Warshawski left Chicago for Scottsdale and its better weather, she'd hook up (professionally) with private eye Lena Jones. They share the same passion for social justice as well as crime busting. *Desert Rage* brings Lena a client, ruthless US Senate candidate Julia Thorsson, who thrusts her into surrogacy, family secrets, possible genetic components in juvenile crime, and unreliable confessions. Plus one more fascinating facet ...sssh, to reveal it would be a huge spoiler. The mystery opens with the horrific slaughter of a prominent doctor, his wife, and their ten-year-old son inside their Scottsdale home

#### **AND A FEW FOR NOVEMBER/DECEMBER**

Baldacci, David. [The Escape](#) (Grand Central \$29) John Puller US Army Special Agent

Barron, Stephanie. [Jane and the Twelve Days of Christmas](#) (Soho \$25 Nov. 22) Jane Austen

Cleland, Jane K. [Blood Rubies](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Dec. 14) Antiques expert Josie Prescott

Connelly, Michael. [The Burning Room](#) (LittleBrown \$27.95 Nov. 5) Harry Bosch

Connolly, John. [Wolf in Winter](#) (Atria \$26 Nov. 17) Charlie Parker, dangerous PI, arrives in Prosperous, Maine.

De Castrique, Mark. [Risky Undertaking](#) (Poisoned Pen #24.95). Burying Barry #8 Cherokee artifacts and grave desecration

Finch, Charles. [The Laws of Murder](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 22) Victorian sleuth Charles Leno

xJohnson, Craig. [Wait for Signs: 12 Longmire Stories](#) (Viking \$22 Nov. 1). And if you missed it, the last Walt novel: [Any Other Name](#) (\$26.95)

McKenzie, CB. [Bad Country](#) (St Martins \$24.99 Nov. 4) Debut; Hillerman Prize Winner

Parker, T Jefferson. [Full Measure](#) (St Martins \$25.99 Nov. 4) Standalone fiction

Preston, Douglas/Lincoln Child. [Blue Labyrinth](#) (Grand Central \$27 Nov. 11) Agent Pendergast

Ramsay, Frederick. [The Wolf and the Lamb](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Dec.) 3<sup>rd</sup> Jerusalem Mystery. Pontius Pilate has been framed for murder while outside the Antonia Fortress, Caiaphas is framing that pesky messiah....

Rizzolo, SK. [Die I Will Not](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95 Nov.). A 3<sup>rd</sup> Regency Mystery with Penelope Wolfe, barrister Buckler, and Bow Street Runner Chase

Whittle, Tina. [Deeper Than the Grave](#) (Poisoned Pen \$24.95) Atlanta's Tai Randolph #4 and a Civil War burial ground...with a new body.