

BOOKNEWS from

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Volume 21, Number 5

May Booknews 2009 Part 1



A MERRY MAY OF MURDER...

AUTHORS ARE SIGNING...

Some Events will be webcast at <http://poisonedfiction.blogspot.com/>. Click on the On Demand button below the video screen to see each Event

TUESDAY MAY 12

Greg Rucka 7:00 pm

Signs **Walking Dead** (Bantam \$25)

THURSDAY MAY 14

Iain Pears 7:00 pm

Signs **Stone's Fall** (Siegel \$29).

SATURDAY MAY 16

2:00 pm Lindsey Davis

Signs **Alexandria** (St Martins \$25)

Davis' editor joins us for a free publishing program 12:30-2:00 pm

MONDAY MAY 18

Tom Lowe 7:00 pm

Signs **False Dawn** (St Martins \$25)

TUESDAY MAY 19

John Sandford 7:00 pm

Signs **Wicked Prey** (Putnam \$27).

WEDNESDAY MAY 20

Garry Disher, John Shannon 7:00 pm

Australia's Disher signs **Blood Moon** (Soho \$24).

Shannon signs **Palos Verdes Blue** (Pegasus \$25).

THURSDAY MAY 21

George Pelecanos 7:00 pm

Pelecanos signs **The Way Home** (LittleBrown \$25)

WEDNESDAY MAY 27

Lee Child, Andrew Grant 7:00 pm Scottsdale Library

Child signs **Gone Tomorrow** (Bantam \$29)

Grant signs **Even** (St Martins \$25)

\$29 ticket/book. \$2 a companion ticket.

Copies of both will be on sale at the event.

SATURDAY MAY 30

Rebecca Cantrell 2:00 pm

Signs **Trace of Smoke** (Forge \$25)

TUESDAY JUNE 2

Robert K. Tanenbaum 7:00 pm

Signs **Capture** (Pocket \$26)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3

Alan Bradley 7:00 pm

Signs **Sweetness in Bottom of the Pie** (Bantam \$23)

THURSDAY JUNE 4

Michael Connelly 7:00 pm

Signs **The Scarecrow** (Little Brown \$27).

TUESDAY JUNE 9

Jack Ballentine, Frederick Ramsy 7:00 pm

Ballentine signs **Murder for Hire** (St Martins \$26)

Ramsay signs **Choker** (Poisoned Pen \$25)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 10

Craig Johnson 7:00 pm

Signs **Dark Horse** (Viking \$25).

WEDNESDAY JUNE 11

Andie Ryan 7:00 pm

Signs **Shakedown** (Lenox \$24)

TUESDAY JUNE 16

CJ Box 7:00 pm

Signs **Below Zero** (Putnam \$26)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 17

Jeffrey Deaver 7:00 pm

Signs **Roadside Crosses** (Simon \$26)

TUESDAY JUNE 23

Michael Baden 7:00 pm

Signs **Skeleton Justice** (Knopf \$25)

WEDNESDAY JUNE 24

Steve Martini 7:00 pm

Presigns **Guardian of Lies** (Morrow \$27)

SATURDAY JUNE 27

Clive Cussler et al 6:00 pm

Signs **Medusa** (Putnam \$30) and then introduces...

James Rollins hosted by Brent Ghelfi

Rollins signs **Doomsday Key** (Morrow \$28) and his book for

kids, **Jake Ransom and the Skull King's Shadow** (\$17)

Ghelfi previews **The Venona Cable** (Holt \$25)

SUNDAY JUNE 28

Lisa See 2:00 pm

Signs **Shanghai Girls** (Random \$25)

MONDAY JUNE 29

Jilliane Hoffman 7:00 pm

Signs **Plea of Insanity** (Vanguard \$26)

TUESDAY JUNE 30

Eric Stone 7:00 pm

Signs **Shanghaied** (Bleak House \$25; \$15 tpbk)

WEDNESDAY JULY 1

Ridley Pearson 7:00 pm

Signs **Killer Summer** (Putnam \$25)

OUR BOOKCLUBS ARE READING...

SATURDAY MAY 16

Saturday Club 10:30 am

Hosseini, Khaled. **A Thousand Splendid Suns** (\$16)

THURSDAY MAY 28

Hardboiled Crime Club 7:00 pm

Phillips, Gary. **The Jook** (\$16)

SATURDAY JUNE 13

Coffee and Crime 7:00 pm

Lippman, Laura. **What the Dead Know** (\$7.99)

SATURDAY JUNE 20

Saturday Club 10:30 am

Title TBA

THURSDAY JUNE 25

Hardboiled Crime Club 7:00 pm

Harwood, Seth. **Jack Wakes Up** (Three Rivers \$14).

The author will join the program.

OUR TOP TWELVE MAY PAPERBACKS

Box, CJ. **Blood Trail** (\$7.99).

Burke, James Lee. **Swan Peak** (\$10).

Goldstein, Paul. **Patent Lie** (\$15).

Greenwood, Kerry. **Heavenly Pleasures** (\$15).

Kearsley, Susanna. **Mariana** (\$16).

Johnson, Jane. **Tenth Gift** (\$15).

LaPierre, Janet. **Run a Crooked Mile** (\$15).

Pressfield, Steven. **Killing Rommel** (\$15).

Sandford, John. **Phantom Prey** (\$10).

Starr, Jason. **Fake ID** (\$6.99).

Terrell, Heather. **Map Thief** (\$7.99).

Viets, Elaine. **Clubbed to Death** (\$6.99).

OUR MAY STAFF PICKS

Barbara Peters

Blasi, Marlena De. **That Summer in Sicily** (\$14).

Bradley, Alan. **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** (\$23 Signed).

Brophy, Grace. **Deadly Paradise** (\$13)

Cantrell, Rebecca. **Trace of Smoke** (\$26 Signed).

Clemens, Judy. **Embrace the Grim Reaper** (\$25 Signed).

Clements, Rory. **Martyr** (\$32 Signed).

Connelly, Michael. **Scarecrow** (\$27 Signed).

Davis, Lindsey. **Course of Honour** (\$15).

Dean, Anna. **Moment of Silence** (\$15).

Freveletti, Jamie. **Running from the Devil** (\$27 Signed).

Hare, Cyril. **Tragedy at Law** (\$17).

Hart, John. **Last Child** (\$27 Signed).

Ignatius, David. **Increment** (Norton \$27 Signed).

Johnson, Craig. **Dark Horse** (\$25 Signed).

King, Laurie R. **Language of Bees** (\$25 Signed)

Macaulay, Tom. **Warning Bell** (Orion \$32).

Paretsky, Sara. **Writing in an Age of Silence** (\$13).

David Strang

Child, Lee. **Gone Tommorrow** (\$27 Signed)

Ford, Jamie Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet (\$25 Signed)

Talton, Jon. **Pain Nurse** (\$25 Signed)

John Goodwin

Bradley, Alan. **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** (\$23 Signed)

Larsen, Reif. **Selected Works of T.S. Spivet** (\$30 Signed)

Pears, Ian. **Stones Fall** (\$28 Signed)

John Nadeau

Sandford, John. **Wicked Prey** (\$28 Signed)

Atkins, Ace. **Devils Garden** (\$25 Signed)

Lea Love

Baldacci, David. **First Family** (\$30 Signed)

Bradley, Alan. **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** (\$23 Signed)

Child, Lee. **Gone Tommorrow** (\$27 Signed)

Sandford, John. **Wicked Prey** (\$28 Signed)

Scottoline, Lisa. **Look Again** (\$27 Signed)

Ariel Amsden

Collins, Suzanne. **Hunger Games** (\$18)

Dahlquis, Godon. **Dark Volume** (\$26)

Simner, Janni Lee. **Bones of Faerie** (\$17)

Syder, Maria V. **Storm Glass** (\$14 Signed)

Lorri Amsden

Cleland, Jane K. **Killer Keepsakes** (\$25 Signed)

Dallas, Sandra. **Prayers for Sale** (\$27 Signed)

King, Laurie R. **Language of Bees** (\$25 Signed)

Rucka, Greg. **Walking Dead** (\$25 Signed)

Snyder, Maria V. **Storm Glass** (\$14 Signed)

My Mother

Airth, Rennie. **Dead of Winter** (\$42 Signed).

Barnard, Robert. **Killings at Jubilee Terrace** (\$24).

Bradley, Alan. **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** (\$23 Signed).

Clemens, Judy. **Embrace the Grim Reaper** (\$25 Signed).

Connelly, Michael. **Scarecrow** (\$27 Signed).

Greenwood, Kerry. **Devils Food** (\$25).

Hill, Reginald. **Midnight Fugue** (\$32 Signed).

Horwitz, Tony. **Voyage Long and Strange** (\$18).

Pat King

King, Laurie R. **Language of Bees** (\$25 Signed)

Larsen, Reif. **Selected Works of T.S. Spivet** (\$30 Signed)

Rucka, Greg. **Walking Dead** (\$25 Signed)

Snyder, Maria V. **Storm Glass** (\$14 Signed)

Patrick Millkin

Disher, Gary. **Blood Moon** (\$24 Signed).

Gilman, Keith. **Fathers Day** (\$27 Signed).

Guthrie, Allan. **Savage Night** (\$15).

Harwood, Seth. **Jack Wakes Up** (\$14 Signed).

Leonard, Elmore. **Road Dogs** (\$28 Signed).
McKinty, Adrian. **Fifty Grand** (\$25).
Pelecans, George P. **Way Home** (\$25 Signed).
Shannon, John. **Palos Verdes Blue** (\$25 Signed).
Urrea, Luis Alberto. **Into the Beautiful North** (\$25 Signed).

Rob

Connelly, Michael. **Scarecrow** (\$27 Signed).
Greenwood, Kerry. **Devils Food** (\$25).
Leonard, Elmore. **Road Dogs** (\$28 Signed).
Rucka, Greg. **Walking Dead** (\$25 Signed)

Will

Horwitz, Tony. **Voyage Long and Strange** (\$18).
Mills, Kyle. **Lords of Corruption** (\$26 Signed)
Nunn, Malla. **Beautiful Place to Die** (\$27 Signed)
Talton, Jon. **Pain Nurse** (\$25 Signed)

2009 AWARDS UPDATE

2009 Agatha Awards

Best Novel

Penny, Louise. **Cruellest Month** (\$6.99).

Best First Novel

Malliet, GM. **Death of a Cozy Writer** (\$14)

Best YA Novel

Grabenstein, Chris. **Crossroads** (\$17)

Best Short Story

“The Night Things Changed” by Dana Cameron in **Wolfsbane & Mistletoe** (\$25)

Best Critical Work

Emerson, Kathy Lynn. **How to Write Killer Historical Mysteries** (\$15)

Also up for a Macavity Award

2009 Edgar Awards

Best Novel

Box, CJ. **Blue Heaven** (\$7.99)

Best First Novel by an American Author

Lin, Francie. **The Foreigner** (\$14)

Best Paperback Original

Gardiner, Meg. **China Lake** (\$7.99)

Best Fact Crime

Blum, Howard. **American Lightning: Terror, Mystery, the Birth of Hollywood, and the Crime of the Century** (\$25; \$15 Oct.)

Best Short Story

Parker, T Jefferson. “Skinhead Central” in **The Blue Religion** ed. by Michael Connelly (\$27; \$16).

2009 Mary Higgins Clark Award

Floyd, Bill. **The Killer’s Wife** (\$24)

2009 Los Angeles Time Book Prize

Michael Koryta, **Envy the Night** (\$25; \$7.99 Aug.)

Koryta’s debut **Tonight I Said Goodbye** (\$6.99) was a 2004 First Mystery Club Pick

2009 Macavity Award Nominees

Best Novel

Chercover, Sean. **Trigger City** (\$26 Signed)
Crombie, Deb. **Where Memories Lie** (\$25; \$7.99 July)
Hughes, Declan. **Price of Blood** (\$14 June)
Indridason, Arnaldur. **Draining Lake** (\$14 Sept.)

Lutz, Lisa. **Curse of the Spellmans** (\$14)

Penny, Louise. **Cruellest Month** (\$7.99)

Ure, Louise. **Fault Tree** (\$15)

Best First Mystery

Ferraris, Zoe. **Finding Nouf** (\$14)

Larsson, Stieg. **Girl with the Dragon Tattoo** (\$15 June)

Malliet, GM. **Death of a Cozy Writer** (\$14)

Newton, Charlie. **Calumet City** (\$14)

Pratt, Scott. **Innocent Client** (\$7.99)

Stanley, Michael. **Carrion Death** (\$15)

Waddell, Dan. **Blood Detective** (\$25)

Best Short Story

“The Night Things Changed” by Dana Cameron in **Wolfsbane & Mistletoe** (\$25)

“A Sleep Not Unlike Death” by Sean Chercover in **Hardcore Hardboiled** (\$14)

“Keeping Watch Over His Flock” by Toni L. P. Kelner in **Wolfsbane & Mistletoe** (\$25)

“Scratch a Woman” by Laura Lippman in **Hardly Knew Her** (\$24)

“Between the Dark and the Daylight” by Tom Piccirilli in *EQMM*, Sep/Oct 2008)

2009 Sue Feder Historical Mystery Award Nominees

Bowen, Rhys. **Royal Pain** (\$7.99 July)

Larsen, Ward. **Stealing Trinity** (\$25)

Liss, David. **Whiskey Rebels** (\$15 June)

Westerson, Jeri. **Veil of Lies** (\$25)

Maitland, Karen. **Company of Liars** (\$24)

Stanley, Kelli. **Nox Dormienda** (28 Signed)

2009 Hugo Award Nominees

Doctorow, Cory. **Little Brother** (\$18)

Gaiman, Neil. **Graveyard Book** (\$17)

Scalzi, John. **Zoe’s Tale** (\$7.99)

Stephenson, Neal. **Anathem** (\$30)

Stross, Charles. **Saturn’s Children** (\$7.99 July)

⌘ = British

FIRST NOVELS...

New First Mystery Club Picks: Cantrell, Corbin, Hall, Hilton for 12 through June. They come in bunches but will not exceed 24/year. Consider joining the club, it’s fun to read new voices and each year some of the books become highly collectible.

⌘Borodale, Jane. **The Book of Fires** (Collins \$32 Signed). The fashion in British historicals is to write Big, to embrace some technology or seminal event fascinating in its own right. Here we get a look at fireworks in 18th Century London, pyrotechny that may change the world—or at least blow some ugly holes in it. Agnes Trussel, pregnant at 17 with a baby whose father she so doesn’t want, steals some gold coins from a dead woman and runs away from rural Sussex to London where she is shocked by its squalor and poverty. But she lucks into a berth as assistant to John Blacklock, a middle-aged fireworks maker. Trained to weave, Agnes’ nimble fingers help make rockets, portfires, fiery rain, and stars, and she becomes thoroughly intrigued. But what is her brooding boss hiding from her and what will happen when her pregnancy shows, as the housekeeper suspects? Agnes hatches a plot that involves a seller of gunpowder, but what with her crime and her condition, ruin looms....

✚Bradley, Alan. **Sweetness at the Bottom of the Pie** (Bantam \$23 Signed June 3). Inventive and quick-witted, with tongue-in-cheek humor that transcends the macabre seriousness of its subject. Its story is told by precocious pre-teen Flavia de Luce. While winning hearts she could well be poisoning the tea as she has a consuming passion for chemistry. And for revenge. An English country house in summer, an original voice, a nifty plot—do not miss this fresh first novel which Laurie R. King calls “wickedly clever, dead true, and in an original voice,” brilliant, unpredictable, and not easily fazed. PLUS this is a cradle-in-yours hands sort of book, small and lime green with a lovely stamped cover rather than a dust jacket. It positively leaps into your arms! And is perfect for reading in bed.

Cantrell, Rebecca. **A Trace of Smoke** (Forge \$25 Signed May 30). It's 1931 in Berlin and hardbitten crime reporter Hannah Vogel is nonetheless devastated to see a photo of her brother's body posted in the Hall of the Unnamed Dead. Ernst, a cross-dressing lounge singer at a seedy club, had many secrets, reams of lovers, and a penchant for trouble. But still.... Hannah delves into the city's underbelly to flush out his killer but the arrival of 5-year-old Anton on her doorstep claiming that Hannah is his mother and Ernst his father adds a new thread and leads to her probe of scandals in the ranks of the rising Nazi Party.... It's always seemed to me that a key question is: how did the Nazis get control of Germany? Is it a classic case of evil happening when good men do nothing? Or too little? There is so much of a similar vein loose in today's world, is it time to review the past? Along with Jonathan Rabb's marvelous 1930s Berlin novel **Shadow and Light** (Farrar Strauss \$27 Signed), spring brings us Cantrell's take.

✚Clements, Rory. **Martyr** (Murray \$32 Signed; Bantam \$24). In 1587, one of the Queen's cousins is found murdered, her flesh marked with profane symbols. A plot to assassinate Sir Francis Drake is uncovered. Shadowed by his rival, Elizabeth's chief torturer, John Shakespeare is charged with solving both prickly cases and to detect a conspiracy, if any. Is a zealous killer at work, one he can expose? Will's older brother John makes an interesting guardian for Queen and Country, and Sir Francis Walsingham, the spymaster, has always fascinated me. A Tudor debut akin to the work of CJ Sansom makes our History/Mystery Pick for June.

✚Corbin, Julie. **Tell Me No Secrets** (Hodder \$43 Signed). I am indebted to Val McDermid for writing to alert me to this First Mystery Pick. The voice is wonderful, the style elegant, the setting in a small village on the east coast of Scotland up from St. Andrews is magically rendered, you completely embrace it. Can you embrace the dilemma—and the secrets—of Grace, the wife of Paul and mother of twins? And her choices? I've been digesting them for days and my answer now is, yes. Not I perhaps: but are they possible? Is life not a series of choices made, some wise, some not. The problem for Grace is that she can never let the older Paul know the worst secret she carries, but when Orla, the girl once her best friend, phones from the blue, what can Grace do? The march towards doom seems inevitable but the betrayals prove more complex than Grace, or the reader, suspects.

✚Dean, Rebecca. **Palace Circle** (Doubleday \$14). “From London to Cairo, in the glittery world of high society before WWII, Dean

taps into an exotic and distant world in her page-turning debut. Marvelous... Dean beautifully captures the mood and color of the era.”—*Publishers Weekly*. It begins in Virginia, continues in London and at a stately home, and travels to between the wars Cairo and the court of King Farouk where spirited Delia, wife to a stuffy British Viscount, her two rebellious daughters, and real characters like Wallis Simpson, Winston Churchill, Gamal Abdel Nasser and Anwar Sadat, King Farouk and Queen Farida, play roles. I forgot to note in April this is a first novel and start of a trilogy

✚Duncan, Elizabeth J. **Cold Light of Morning** (St Martins \$25). A reminder of a British Crime Club Pick set in Wales where Canadian Penny has retired to a cottage where she runs a nail salon. Doing a bride's manicure on the morning of the wedding to the local squire changes Penny's life: the bride is a no-show for her wedding and Penny was the last to see her.... The punch of the ending is a bit of a surprise given the understated tenor of the narrative to that point. Duncan is the first Canadian winner of the Minotaur/Malice Domestic Best First Traditional Mystery Novel competition,

Gilman, Keith. **Father's Day** (St Martins \$27 Signed). Patrick makes a Hardboiled Pick: “Private Investigator Louis Kline left the Philadelphia PD years back following the alleged suicide of a friend and fellow cop. Now, he's come back to the old neighborhood, which is gradually losing traction in its downhill slide. Surrounded by the ghosts of his past, Kline moves back into his childhood home following his mother's murder. The wife of his dead buddy looks Kline up and asks him to investigate her nineteen year old daughter's disappearance. The missing girl's trail leads him into Philly's underworld and into his own past. Keith Gilman has been a cop for over fifteen years and he brings authority and perspective to this terrific debut, which won the PWA's Best First Private Eye Novel.”

Grant, Andrew. **Even** (St Martins \$25 Signed May 27). I gave you my take in April. Here is *PW's*: “Jason Bourne fans will welcome Grant's thrill-packed debut, which introduces Lt. Cdr. David Trevellyan, of Royal Navy Intelligence. Near the end of a mission in New York City, Trevellyan's chance discovery late one night of a bum in an alley with six neatly arranged bullet holes in his chest makes the secret operative the NYPD's prime suspect in the man's murder. After the FBI takes over the case, Trevellyan learns the victim was an undercover agent for the bureau, the sixth to die in a series of killings. Disavowed by his British bosses, Trevellyan realizes he has to fend for himself in what is clearly some sort of frame-up. A villainess with a taste for genital mutilation lends a James Bondian touch, but Grant, bestseller Lee Child's younger brother, never strikes a false note in a plot that could have gone over-the-top in lesser hands. Effortlessly filling in bits of his protagonist's backstory during breathing spaces between action scenes, Grant closes on a nicely dark note.” Grant and Child make just 3 tour stops together. Lucky us!

Hall, Tarquin. **The Case of the Missing Servant** (Simon Schuster \$24 June; \$32 Signed UK for the FMC Pick). Meet Vish Puri, India's most private investigator. Portly, persistent, and unmistakably Punjabi, he cuts a determined swath through modern India's swindlers, cheats, and murderers. In hot and dusty Delhi, where call centers flourish, odds are crime does, too. Vish works two cases in this charmer of a debut, a book much

in the vein of the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency and reflecting the globalization of mystery in its polished prose. And it's great fun! Credit to Alexander McCall Smith for fostering this year's spate of gentle yet sharp traditional mysteries set in exotic places. My beloved FMC Pick **Bruno, Chief of Police** (\$27 Signed) is another, carrying you to a French village.

Hilton, Matt. **Dead Men's Dust** (Hodder \$23 Signed for the FMC; Morrow \$25 June). Let's turn from the traditional to the serial killer thriller in this vicious, witty, and wild debut. As a former military operative, Joe Hunter considers himself a problem fixer. And good. Tubal Cain is a killer—smart, stealthy, and arrogant—but he's also sentimental. His most precious possession is the set of knives he uses. When his favorite Bowie blade is stolen by a guy who turns the tables on him along a lonely US highway, Cain will stop at nothing to get it back. The thief is Hunter's reprobate brother John, who is, Hunter gradually learns, on the run from his own gambling jones after deserting his women and his kids. So Hunter heads from England to Florida to pick up a backup buddy and then to LA and finally to a trophy site in Death Valley after some bad action goes down... "A dose of pure rocket fuel. Starts fast, gets faster, and doesn't quit right through to the slam bang finale... as enjoyable a thriller as you will read this year. My ears are still ringing with gunfire! I loved this book." —*Christopher Reich*.

Larsen, Reif. **Selected Works of TS Spivet** (Penguin \$30 Signed). A 12-year-old genius mapmaker who uses his skills to get a ticket traveling from Montana to the halls of the august Smithsonian Institution in Washington, DC, makes a peculiarly charming hero. The illustrations festooning every page of this oversized and original work enhance it further. This debut is an all around PP Staff Pick as well as one for our Modern Firsts Club so we snagged a new batch, the last Signed Firsts from the publisher..

Lowe, Tom. **False Dawn** (St Martins \$25 Signed May 18). The St. Johns River near the Ocala National Forest forms the rural landscape here, an evocation that will remind readers of Jonathon King's first novel *The Blue Edge of Midnight* (an Edgar winner and FMC Pick sadly gone out of print), and of some of Randy Wayne White's Doc Ford thrillers. Violence can flare up here on the edges of urban Florida at any moment. Which is too bad for former Miami cop Sean O'Brien who seeks a quiet life. A grieving widower, he's companioned by his late wife's truly winning 8-pound miniature dachshund Maxine. While not cutesy, this little animal's potential jeopardy will worry readers more than what may befall humans. She's fearless, foxy—not your mystery cliché. Sean's burgeoning local friendships pull him into two plots, one human trafficking, the other a serial killer. The writing is very strong, the story could have used less going on. But this first rate voice is not to be missed.

Lowry, Elizabeth. **The Bellini Madonna** (Farrar Strauss \$25). How did Thomas Lynch go from rising young Irish art historian to a disgraced middle aged professor at a Vermont college too fond of the bottle and his students and stuck in the perverse aesthetics of religious art? It's time to get a grip and his chance lies in a lost masterpiece, a legendary Madonna by the brilliant Italian painter Bellini that could be, could have made its way, into Mawle, a crumbling English manor house. Is Lynch but a pawn in an elaborate game played by the beautiful women who live there,

or is he playing them? A Victorian diary draws Robert Browning into the missing Madonna's provenance as Lynch moves from the English countryside to the hill town of the Veneto and story from the 15th century to the 21st. Intelligent, unpredictable, and wonderfully original, here us literary (crime) fiction of a high order. For more on Bellini, grab (grab it even if you don't care about Bellini) Jason Goodwin's 3rd case of the 19th Century Ottoman Empire and Yashim the Sultan's man: **The Bellini Card** (Farrar \$25; \$32 Signed UK).

Ryan, Andie. **Shakedown** (Lenox \$24 Signed June 11: \$16 trade pbk). Our June Surprise Me! Pick surprised me not with its classic villain-hero tug-of-war, which is well done, but with how human a face—and with what suspense—the author painted an insider trading scheme, financial shenanigans, a corporate meltdown. What happens at Sledd Payne feels both real and like a parable. Tom Hollister, who thinks he's been bribed to whitewash a scandal but discovers he's in a murder conspiracy as well as company crimes, is a compelling flawed hero. This comment sums up my reaction: "The page-turner is not only timely but appeals to a wide audience, as Ryan weaves a love story and murder into the financial scandal. It's a trifecta that is a winner... So well written that even a novice in financial matters will be able to understand—not only understand, but easily follow—the heart stopping action." This is a real discovery book.

✂Robertson, Imogen. **Instruments of Darkness** (Headline \$45 Signed). You could think Daphne DuMaurier for the brooding atmosphere of Thornleigh Hall, the ornate seat of the Earl of Sussex. Fair enough. I think Charles Todd's second Rutledge **Wings of Fire** (\$6.99) or Ruth Rendell for building suspicions and sense of menace, the dark secrets, that cluster within its walls—if Rendell wrote 18th Century with such flair and immediacy. Then you could cite someone like Gerritsen for the details of the dissecting room and Stephanie Barron for the grasp of politics and motivations in a time when British victims of the American War of Independence helped fuel unrest in rural and urban politics. So: David Liss. It's a History/Mystery Pick and I loved it.

Tafoya, Dennis. **The Dope Thief** (St Martins \$25). Ray and Manny, flashing bogus badges and wearing DEA windbreakers purchased at a "flea market in Jersey," take down small drug dealers in Bucks County, Pennsylvania. It's easy and lucrative, but they know it can't last in this raw debut. "Everyone was high. Everyone was stupid. Everyone had guns." Reality, in the form of New England bikers trying to muscle into the Philadelphia–New Jersey drug trade, rears its head, putting Ray and Manny on the run. "But that's only half of this fine first novel. An abusive, criminal father and a number of jail stints beginning in high school seem to have doomed Ray to relive his father's sordid life, but Ray is a bright man looking for a shot at redemption. When it comes, redemption is both unlikely and interesting." —*Booklist*

POISONED PEN PRESS...

Clemens, Judy. **Embrace the Grim Reaper** (Poisoned Pen \$25 Signed). A fabulous start to a new series where a grieving widow accompanied by Death travels rootlessly and lands in a tiny Ohio town where dark deeds are afoot. Think Lee Child crossed with Charles Todd. For More: New Books for May.

Greenwood, Kerry. **Devil's Food** (Poisoned Pen \$25). Third for Melbourne baker Corinna Chapman, chef and crimebuster,

after **Earthly Delights** and **Heavenly Pleasures** (\$15). See New Books for May.

Hayes, JM. **Broken Heartland** (\$15). Completes the four seasons crime quartet powered by Sheriff English and his Cheyenne shaman brother Mad Dog of Benteen County, Kansas. For More: New Books for May.

UK QUICK READS (\$5 each)

Boyne, John. **The Dare**. One moment can change a family forever.

Moss, Kate. **The Cave**, centers on Frederick. When he meets a beautiful young girl he learns of a 600-year-old mystery. Suspense in high style from the author of **The Labyrinth** (\$15).

Phinn, Gervase. **All These Lonely People**. Even with a huge problem needing sorting, the village's Father McKenzie still manages to see the good in everyone. Yorkshire's answer to Jan Karon.

Rankin, Ian. **A Cool Head**. Gravy is having an ordinary day until his friend Benjy turns up in an unfamiliar car. Is it Benjy? It's hard to say what with the bullet in his chest....

HARD CASE CRIME(S)...

Blauner, Peter. **Casino Moon** (Hard Case Crime \$7.99). The Edgar Award-winning author of *Slow Motion Riot* and *The New York Times* bestseller *The Intruder*, writes about a mobster's son who tries to escape a life of crime by backing a washed-up fighter's comeback bid in the boxing rings of Atlantic City. "You could cut a lip on his dialogue...a honey of a writer." —*The New York Times*

Starr, Jason. **Fake ID** (Hard Case Crime \$6.99) continues the sports theme found in May with the story of a bar bouncer who robs his boss to buy into a horse racing syndicate. This is Starr's rarest novel – it's never before been published in America. A "one-of-a-kind, mesmerizing read." —*PW* Starred Review. "Starr... parlays the story of a doomed gambler down to its most basic elements for a swift, irresistible plummet through the darkness.... Pulp thrills for the Jim Thompson set." —*Booklist*.

And new:

Hunt, Gabriel. **Hunt at the Well of Eternity** (Hard Case Crime \$6.99). The woman carrying the bloodstained flag seemed desperate for help—but it was the attack that followed that convinced Gabriel there was something here men would kill for. And that was before he knew about the dungeon in the Mayan ruins, or the legendary secret hidden in the rain forest of Guatemala... This imprint launches "a thrilling pulp adventure series in the tradition of Indiana Jones, Allan Quatermain and the immortal Doc Savage titled *The Adventures of Gabriel Hunt*. The series will feature painted covers in the grand pulp tradition by artist Glen Orbik and chronicle the travels and travails of modern-day adventurer and explorer Gabriel Hunt, who scours exotic locales all over the globe in pursuit of precious artifacts, lost civilizations and secrets that could save the world...or destroy it. *Publishers Weekly* has already extolled its virtues, giving this inaugural book a Starred Review: "pulp adventure fans will be thrilled to see the genre so smashingly resurrected."

The series will be published under house name Gabriel Hunt, but will actually be penned by Hard Case veterans and other well-known pulp enthusiasts. "These books are for anyone who grew up reading H. Rider Haggard and Edgar Rice Burroughs or

watching Harrison Ford wield his bullwhip at the movies. We're talking classic adventure fiction, complete with horses, snakes, shovels, pickaxes, torches, traps, bottomless pits, barroom brawls, jungles, jewels and just about everything else that's ever made your heart beat faster."

NEW FOR MAY...

✠Adams, Jane A. **Power of One** (Severn \$28). Two men are found shot dead aboard a luxury yacht. Strangers have come to Frantham looking for a secret and the key seems to lie with a company that makes computer games. Why was Paul de Freitas, a games designer, shot dead aboard *The Greek Girl* and what secret was he protecting that so many people are prepared to kill to get hold of? Rina Martin takes it upon herself to get to the bottom of things, much to the consternation of her friend, DI McGregor. "A Miss Marple-type heroine, the charm of the best British cosies, and a plot packed with unexpected twists and turns combine to make Adams' latest Rina Martin book a winner through and through." —*Booklist* Starred Review.

Anderson, Kevin J. **Enemies & Allies** (Morrow \$27). The Dark Knight meets The Man of Steel... Two heroes must perform and America and the Soviet Union race to build their nuclear stockpiles. Things are stirring in Gotham (Batman) and Metropolis (Superman). For those hooked on the hokey....

Baldacci, David. **First Family** (Grand Central \$30 Signed). Here is the set-up: "Plenty of intense action drives bestseller Baldacci's stellar fourth novel to feature former Secret Service agents Michelle Maxwell and Sean King (after *Simple Genius*). Maxwell and King, D.C. PIs, step on the toes of everyone, including the FBI and the Secret Service. They even manage to bruise the ego of First Lady Jane Cox, who hires them after her 12-year-old niece is kidnapped following a birthday party at Camp David. Baldacci excels at making the improbable believable as one obsessed man, 62-year-old Sam Quarry, takes on the best security the U.S. can muster from his Alabama redoubt." Hard to resist this *PW* review, no?

Ballentine, Jack. **Murder for Hire** (St Martins \$26 Signed June 9). Ballentine became a Phoenix police officer in 1978 and quickly rose to the top as one of the world's most successful undercover operatives, posing as a hit man. His work led to 24 convictions out of 24 indictments on murder conspiracy charges. He is a three-time Police Officer of the Year, and has been awarded both the International Investigator of the Year and the Medal of Merit. He currently serves as the Director of Investigations for the Phoenix Fire Department. Here is his story running from vengeful spouses and partners to the criminally insane. In assuming an alternate identity among bikers, strippers, junkies, and thugs, he developed an intricate network of sources who fed him work and kept him hopping while trying to live with a new wife and stepson in Mesa.

✠Barnard, Robert. **The Killings on Jubilee Terrace** (Scribner \$24). When Vernon Watts accidentally steps in front of a bus, his fellow actors on the long-running Jubilee Terrace, who never cared much for him, are less upset than hopeful that their own story lines will surge to fill the gap. An anonymous letter suggesting foul play brings Leeds Inspector Charlie Peace to the studio. Worse follows and the various actors prove adept at...acting. "Witty, wry and a great deal of back-biting fun until Barnard opts for a wrenching denouement." —*Kirkus*.

Bateman, Colin. **Mystery Man** (Headline \$41). Murder, Mayhem, and Sexy Trousers, it must be another darkly comic caper from Bateman. So who is the Mystery Man? He's the Man With No Name and the owner of No Alibis, a mystery bookshop in Belfast [Note, this store actually exists, I've been there]. But when a detective agency next door goes bust, the agency's clients start calling into his shop asking him to solve their cases. It's not as if there's any danger involved. It's an easy way to sell books to his gullible customers and Alison, the beautiful girl in the jewelry shop across the road, will surely be impressed. Except she's not – because she can see the bigger picture. And when they break into the shuttered shop next door on a dare, they have their answer. Suddenly they're catapulted along a murder trail which leads them from small-time publishing to modern dance to Nazi concentration camps and serial killers...

Beckett, Simon. **Whispers of the Dead** (Bantam \$24). British forensic anthropologist David Hunter, pretty shattered and recovering from being stabbed, comes to Tennessee's Body Farm in Knoxville where he trained. Is he still up to the job of sorting through murders? Somewhat less successful than the two crackerjack cases **Chemistry of Death**; **Written to the Bone** (\$6.99 each).

Block, Lawrence. **Step By Step** (Morrow \$25 Signed). Block explores his years as a recreational and competitive race-walker – well, he is, and his passion for walking has taken him all over the world, composing his books almost every step of the way. Often, to finish them, he checks into a hotel or retreat for a few weeks of solitude.

✚Bolton, SJ. **Awakening** (Bantam \$32 Signed). I loved this, a combination English village mystery and totally terrifying thriller—especially if you fear snakes. Bolton has a wicked and unusual imagination as her Shetland Islands village mystery **Sacrifice** (\$15) proved. Don't miss this clearly rising star who is fascinated with British folklore.

Boyne, John. **House of Special Purpose** (Transworld \$32 Signed). In 1915, at the age of 16, Georgy Jachmenev steps in front of an assassin's bullet intended for the heart of a senior member of the Russian Imperial Family. He is instantly proclaimed a hero. Before the week is out, his life as the son of a peasant farmer changes to that of bodyguard to Prince Alexei, the only son of Tsar Nicholas II. Boyne writes so well of young men in gripping plights, here one ripped from a loving home and thrust into the heart of a dying empire. Privy to the secrets of Nicholas and Alexandra, the machinations of Rasputin and the events which led to the final collapse of the autocracy, Georgy is a witness and participant. The novel moves from revolutionary St Petersburg to Paris after WWI, and from London during the Blitz to the eastern coast of Finland during the 1980s, and finally, after 65 years, to the quiet London hospital bed where Georgy's wife lies dying. Boyne's **The Boy in the Striped Pajamas** (\$16) was a 2006 Modern Firsts Pick; I love his novel **Mutiny** (\$26 Signed), the story of Captain Bligh and his cabin boy.

Brophy, Grace. **Deadly Paradise** (Soho \$13). Florence's Commissario Alessandro Cenni learns that the motive for an elderly woman's murder in a small Umbrian village may derive from WWII Venice and the forgery of millions of British pounds. A wonderful novel appealing to fans of Donna Leon, Magdalen Nabb, and David Hewson. **A Deadly Paradise** (\$13) introducing

Cenni has a weaker story but a zinger voice that made it a FMC Pick.

Bryson, Bill. **Bryson's Dictionary for Writers/Editors** (\$16) is fun to read and yes, useful!

Butcher, Jim. **Dresden Files: Storm Front Graphic** (Del Rey \$23).

Canadeo, Anne. **While My Pretty One Knits** (Pocket \$15). The Black Sheep Knitters—Maggie, Lucy, Dana, Suzanne, and Phoebe—meet once a week without fail, sharing the varied and colorful skeins of their lives as much as knitting tips, recipes, and small-town gossip, and creating an intricate, durable pattern of friendship. Now a shocking murder has peaceful Plum Harbor, Massachusetts, in knots—and the Black Sheep women must herd together to protect one of their own from a scandalous frame-up when Amanda Goran, the owner of the rival Knitting Nest, is found dead in her shop on the other side of town.

Caldwell, Joseph. **Pig Come to Dinner** (Delphinium \$23 Signed). Book two of the trilogy that begin with staff favorite **Pig Did It** (\$14) opens as Irish writer Kitty McCloud and husband Kieran Sweeney battle to stave off specters threatening to destroy their newfound nuptial bliss. The beautiful ghosts of Taddy and Brid haunt Castle Kissane, the couple's new abode, as well as their dreams. Then the very real Lord Shaftoe appears after his family's two-century-long absence to reclaim the keep. Onto the scene trots the lesbian pig, whose ramblings and rootings could destroy the lovely estate—or help save it. Irresistible—give it to Mom a bit late, or to Dad. It will send them, or you, rushing out for a DVD of *Waking Ned Devine* should you have missed that Irish village gem.

Challinor, CS. **Murder in the Raw** (Midnight Ink \$14). When beautiful French actress Sabine Durand mysteriously disappears, Rex Graves flies to the Caribbean paradise of St. Martin to investigate. But no one told the Scottish barrister that the island's white sand beaches would be filled with people walking around in the nude. Not even a few pints of Guinness can prepare Rex for all the brazenly exposed body parts he encounters. Keeping his gaze well above the shoulders, Rex interviews Sabine's friends. It seems everyone has something to hide, especially the couple who hired Rex to find their missing friend. Nice island setting, smooth and witty dialogue, a good premise if somewhat slim, this cozy follows the British cozy hit **Christmas Is Murder** (\$14).

Child, Lee. **Gone Tomorrow** (Bantam \$27 Signed May 27). Jack Reacher shows some special survival skills on a big stage: New York City. The (seemingly) indestructible Reacher sees a potential terrorist threat on a NYC subway and takes action he will come to regret as he learns what was really going on with the terrified woman.

Clemens, Judy. **Embrace the Grim Reaper** (Poisoned Pen \$25 Signed). Devastated by the death of her husband and infant son in a car crash that she survived, Casey Maldonado has taken to traveling rootlessly (think Jack Reacher), her companion Death whom only she can see (and hear, thus think Hamish in the Charles Todd books—is it a manifestation of survivor's guilt, or?). She ends up in Clymer, Ohio, a small town crunched by the loss of its major manufacturer. When Casey learns of the apparent if unlikely suicide of a local woman, she joins the woman's boyfriend in an attempt to prove murder. From

Booklist: “An interesting premise, shades almost of *The Fugitive*, and a vulnerable but strong protagonist though Death adds an unexpected dimension.” *PW* adds, “Clemens is adept at creating an appealing cast of characters while keeping the plot moving at a fast clip. Casey and Death make an oddly entertaining pair.” Refreshing and fun, and perfect for these tense times.

Finishing up the Stella Crown quintet, **Different Paths** (\$15) sees Stella visiting her boyfriend Nick and his family in Virginia when a phone call sends her racing home to Bucks County, Pennsylvania. Her veterinarian and friend Carla Beaumont narrowly escaped death when her truck was hijacked. The police are looking for someone who’s after drugs. Dairy farmer Stella is pleased that Carla is recovering in the hospital, but not so pleased to meet her new boyfriend Bryan. The crime wave continues, taking out professional women. Stella develops a theory while working to sort out her future with Nick who’s been diagnosed with MS. “A sprightly tale and a surprising ending, along with Clemens’s trademark quirky characters.”—*Kirkus Reviews*. Start with **Till the Cows Come Home** (\$15).

Cohen, Gabriel. **Neptune Avenue** (St Martins \$25 Signed). “If we took it all personally,” Brooklyn South homicide detective Jack Leightner tells his rookie NYPD partner, “there’s no way we could do the job.” But here is Jack plumbing the mysteries of the Russian enclave Bright Beach after the murderer of a friend down on Neptune Avenue, an immigrant he shared a hospital room with after Jack took a bullet. What lonely Leightner finds first is love—or infatuation—with Zhenya, his friend’s widow. Meanwhile, someone in central Brooklyn is killing young women and posing them as suicides. From the crimes of World War II to the harshness of his own father, Jack’s new case is a superb follow up to **Graving Dock** (\$23).

Connelly, Michael. **The Scarecrow** (Little Brown \$27 Signed June 4; UK \$42 Signed; CD \$40). Losing none of his storytelling power or narrative skills, Connelly lets his rage at the sorry state of journalism leak into a look at Los Angeles’ Jack McEvoy, the reporter met in **The Poet** (\$7.99). McEvoy gets his pink slip on the morning he gets a haunting phone call from a woman who claims the 16-year-old being held for murder is actually innocent. It’s an old story but McEvoy, deciding to end his career with a chase at the Pulitzer, decides to write it as if the claim were true. And if it is, then there’s a serial killer out there working under everyone’s radar. And one place that might be is in Mesa, Arizona.

✻Corley, Elizabeth. **Innocent Blood** (\$17). AS DCI Fenwick tries to break a powerful crime ring, Ins. Nightingale is left to deal with a former soldier turned vigilante. The question for both is: when is a murderer not a murderer? Continues Fenwick from **Grave Doubts** (\$15).

Cortez, Liza. **Hit List** (Arte Publico \$20). A groundbreaking anthology of short fiction by Latino mystery writers features an intriguing and unpredictable cast of sleuths, murderers and crime victims. Reflecting the authors’—and society’s—preoccupation with identity, self, and territory, the stories run the gamut of the mystery genre, from traditional to noir, from the private investigator to the police procedural, and even a “chick lit” mystery. Acevedo, Corpi, Ramos...

Dallas, Sandra. **Prayers for Sale** (St Martins \$27 Signed). Hennie Comfort is eighty-six and has lived in the mountains of

Middle Swan, Colorado since before it was Colorado. Nit Spindle is just seventeen and newly married. She and her husband have just moved to the high country in search of work. It’s 1936 and the depression has ravaged the country and Nit and her husband have suffered greatly. Hennie notices the young woman loitering near the old sign outside of her house that promises “Prayers For Sale”. The two women form a close friendship while sharing their dark secrets of the past. As is usual with Dallas’ brilliant novels, you get a beautiful story resonant with pain, love, an forgiveness that can’t fail to move readers. Dallas’ **The Persian Pickle Club** (\$13) is one of the slyest, most captivating mysteries we’ve ever sold (and it’s a bestseller) and one of the most fun, the rowdiest, is **The Chili Queen** (\$14).

David, Evelyn. **Murder Takes the Cake** (Echelon \$14). “What do a sexy mortician, a feisty septuagenarian with a souped-up scooter, and an Irish wolfhound with a nose for murder have in common? They’re all helping Washington DC PI Mac Sullivan find out who’s trying to kill a very nervous bride-to-be. Smart, fast and laugh-out-loud funny, here is another tasty treat from Evelyn David who takes readers on a merry chase from a turkey farm in Virginia all the way to Capitol Hill. And JJ, a Goth computer expert, is one of the coolest characters I’ve met in years!”—*Rosemary Harris*. Meet the cast first in **Murder Off the Books** (\$13).

Disher, Garry. **Blood Moon** (Soho \$24 Signed May 20). Challis and his team investigate the brutal beating of the chaplain of a prestigious school and the murder of the woman in charge of punishing local land use violations. But will Hal Challis and Ellen Destry’s new romantic relationship interfere with their work? Australian Disher “has packed this police procedural with the kind of detail that entralls fans of the genre and with deftly sketched characters.”—*Ft. Worth Star-Telegram*. “Disher creates the kind of complex, edgy, principled yet flawed characters it’s a pleasure to worry about.”—*Kirkus Starred Review*.

✻Duffy, Maureen. **The Orpheus Trail** (Arcadia \$23 tpbk). When a child is found dead among the charred remains of a pier fire, surrounded by the old-fashioned toys of the Greek God Dionysus and a ritualistic fire basket, Detective Inspector Hildreth calls in the local museum’s curator, Alex Kish, to help him decipher the mysterious symbolism. Soon Hildreth and Kish are caught up in a race against time to interpret these ancient codes before the killer strikes again.

Easter, George, ed. **Deadly Pleasures #57 Spring 2009** (\$4.50). A fanzine. We carry many others: *Mystery Scene* (the new issue features Laurie R. King); *Mystery News*; *Crimespree*; *The Mystery Readers International Journal*, and *Firsts, the Magazine for Book Collectors*. Ask us for info.

Epperson, Tom. **The Kind One** (\$15). In the kill-or-be-killed criminal underworld of 1930s Los Angeles, “Two Gun Danny” Landon has a distinct disadvantage. According to the fellas, he used to pull all kinds of shoot-ups and shenanigans...but damned if he can’t remember a thing from before last year, when he got hit over the head with a lead pipe. Sadistic mobster Bud Seitz—known to friends and enemies alike as “The Kind One”—seems to have big plans for him, but truthfully, Danny can’t stomach the dirty work. His aim is off, the other wiseguys laugh at him, and he’d gladly trade in the drunken parties and the endless broads for a day at the movies with his colorful and mysterious neighbor

Dulwich and eleven-year-old Sophie, whose deadbeat mother delivers an endless stream of emotional and physical abuse. But when Bud's beautiful girlfriend Darla begs Danny to help her escape the Kind One's dark, brutal world, Danny must confront a dangerous test of loyalty that could irrevocably change his future—and his past—forever.

Evanovich, Janet. **Finger Lickin' Fifteen** (St Martins \$29 Signed June). The next Stephanie Plum novel, in which complications arise, loyalties are tested, cliffhangers are resolved, and donuts are eaten.

✚Faulks, Sebastian. **Devil May Care** (\$14; \$7.99). Apparently you get a choice of paperback formats for this “new” James Bond adventure written for the Fleming estate. It's slower and more character driven than the Flemings but fun for fans.

Ferraris, Zoe. **Finding Nouf** (\$14). A finely detailed literary mystery set in contemporary Saudi Arabia, Ferraris's debut centers on Nouf ash-Shrawi, a 16-year-old girl who disappeared into the desert three days before her marriage and has been found dead, several weeks pregnant. Palestinian Nayir al-Sharqi who lives in Jeddah and works occasionally for the rich Shrawi family, is asked by them to investigate Nouf's death discreetly. Nayir, a conservative Muslim and an outsider because of his nationality, his class and his large stature, is wary of traversing the wide gulf between Saudi men's and women's worlds, and is encouraged by his friend Othman, an adopted son of the Shrawis, to seek out the help of Katya Hijazi, Othman's fiancée. Katya has a Ph.D. and is employed in the women's section of the state medical examiner's office.

Flynn, Gillian. **Dark Places** (Areheart \$26 Signed). A mesmerizing, intricately orchestrated thriller that ravages a family's past to unearth the truth behind a horrifying crime. As the star witness to the murder of her mother and two sisters, seven-year-old Libby points to her 16-year-old brother. Twenty-five years later, Libby, never able to move past the damage, is forced to rethink, then check, her memories. Flynn takes the heroine's pain up to a level seldom met and keeps twisting the knife. I was crazy about her prize-winning FMC Pick **Sharp Objects** (\$14) in which the female narrator was a cutter.

French, Tana. **The Likeness** (\$15). 2008 Edgar winner French, author of First Mystery Pick *In the Woods* (\$14), follows up with another Irish zinger. Detective Cassie Maddox return to unravel a case even more sinister and enigmatic than the first. Six months after the events of *In the Woods* (\$15), an urgent telephone call beckons Cassie to a grisly crime scene. The victim looks exactly like Cassie and carries ID identifying herself as Alexandra Madison, an alias Cassie once used. Suddenly, Cassie must discover not only who killed this girl, but, more importantly, who is this girl? This is a disturbing tale of shifting identities.

Gibbons, Dave. **Tiger Warrior** (Headline \$43 Signed; Bantam \$6.99 US June). India. 1879. Lieutenant John Howard witnesses something so unspeakable it changes him for ever. His subsequent disappearance is never solved. Egypt. Present day. Marine archaeologist Jack Howard makes an astonishing discovery on a deep-sea dive. What's the connection? Jack Howard doesn't know yet. But he's about to find out. This isn't just a treasure hunt; it's a desperate search for the truth. A truth that will unlock the mystery of Jack's great-great grandfather's disappearance, taking Jack from the jungles of India to the lost

tombs of emperors of China... Great reads for Cussler and Rollins fans.

Goldenbaum, Sally. **Patterns in the Sand** (Obsidian \$24). The Seaside Knitters welcome the young artist Willow Adams to the studio and knitting circle. When the body of a popular gallery owner is discovered, dark secrets also emerge and soon the knitters need to be sharp as needles to unravel the case. **Death by Cashmere** (\$14).

Goldstein, Paul. **A Patent Lie** (\$15). After being forced from his high-powered Manhattan law firm, Michael Seeley has set up shop in his native Buffalo. Partly out of need, partly out of pride, Seeley takes on a case for his estranged brother, whose small biotech firm is suing a Swiss pharmaceutical giant over a controversial new AIDS vaccine. Seeley heads out to Silicon Valley to lead the case, but soon realizes there is much more at stake than he was first led to believe. As certain partnerships come to light, and financial gains become staggeringly clear. It's a plot only a lawyer could craft and a strong sequel to FMC Pick **Errors and Omissions** (\$14) which has nifty stuff about royalties, contracts, and the Cold War Black List.

✚Gowers, Rebecca. **The Twisted Heart** (Canongate \$34). Kit, a work-obsessed literature student, decides on a whim to go to a dance class. And for a while it looks like Joe, the shadowy figure she meets there, may tempt her to put her books aside and live a little. But as Joe's world becomes increasingly threatening and Kit's research leads her to stumble on an extraordinary historical mystery, she is faced with a choice. Will she hide herself away in her studies or will she make the leap of faith that could change her existence forever? “A hugely enjoyable novel about the challenges of love and a startling exploration of previously unrecognized links between the young Charles Dickens and the deranged murder of a prostitute known as The Countess.”

Greenwood, Kerry. **Devil's Food** (Poisoned Pen \$25). If there's one thing Corinna Chapman, baker extraordinaire and proprietor of Earthly Delights, Melbourne's sweet spot, hates to see it's people pass up good food like her just-baked, freshly buttered sourdough bread. So when a strange cult which denies the flesh and eats only famine bread turns up and a malnourished corpse is found in a park, Corinna is set to act. Plus her hippie mother, Starshine, has turned up out of the blue, hysterical that Sunlight, Corinna's father, has absconded to Melbourne with all their money and a desire for a new young lover. Meanwhile, someone is also poisoning people with weight loss herbal teas. And odd things are happening at the nearby Cafe Vlad Tepes, which attracts a very strange clientele... Altogether, it's another delicious recipe for murder, mayhem and mystery after **Earthly Delights** (\$15). Then comes **Heavenly Pleasures** (\$15). Biting into what should have been a lovely violet cream chocolate and instead chomping down on a chili-filled catastrophe pushes Corinna into crimestopping once again.

Grippando, James. **Intent to Kill** (Harper \$26). A young sports jockey in Boston discovers that the hit and run that killed his wife was no accident....

Guthrie, Allan. **Slammer** (Polygon \$18). Young prison officer Nicholas Glass is finding the stress of the job increasingly hard to handle. Bullied and abused by inmates and colleagues alike, he caves when a group of cons use outside help to threaten his wife and daughter if he won't help them out with a “favor.” As their

threats escalate one favor leads to another and Glass may shatter....
New in pbk, a favorite of Patrick's: **Savage Night** (\$15).

☞Hare, Cyril. **Tragedy at Law** (\$17). A classic Golden Age mystery, one of my all time favorites, follows a self-important High Court Judge, Mr. Justice Barbour, as he presides over cases on the Southern England circuit. How vulgar that murder intrudes on a man preceded (still) by trumpeters....

Harris, Charlaine. **Dead and Gone** (Ace \$28 Signed). Sookie Stackhouse's world is playing on HBO as *True Blood*. In Sookie's latest, the were and shifters have finally decided to reveal their existence to the ordinary folks.

☞Harvey, John. **Far Cry** (Heinemann \$45 May). Ruth and Simon Pierce's rare romantic break is shattered by devastating news: their daughter, Heather, on holiday in Cornwall with a friend's family, has disappeared... The loss is more than they, or their marriage, can bear. But time does heal and slowly Ruth builds a new life for herself with a new husband, Andrew, and bears a second daughter in Beatrice. The chances that history could repeat itself are next-to-impossible—until years later, a desperate phone call launches DI Will Grayson and his partner, DS Helen Walker, into a harrowing investigation.

Hayes, JM. **Broken Heartland** (\$15). Sleepy Benteen County, Kansas, turns frantic on election day. The radical religious right is out to unseat Sheriff English. Englishman's only available deputy rammed a school bus carrying the Benteen County teen choir while chasing a vehicle involved in a mystery. The sheriff's wife has breast cancer and wants to go to Paris. The whole caper goes down in 24-hours, true to the ticking-clock feature of the Benteen County quartet that has shifted some of its action to Tucson in **Server Down** (Poisoned Pen \$25 Signed). **Mad Dog and Englishman; Prairie Gothic; Plains Crazy** (\$15 each) begin this edgy, well written, pacy, and funny series by an author deserving a wide audience.

☞Herron, Mick. **Down Cemetery Road** (\$13). This fine debut makes it to US paperback. One quiet evening in Oxford, a house near Sarah Tucker's explodes. The reported cause is a gas leak, but when a child disappears in the aftermath, Sarah—a young married woman, bored with her life—becomes obsessed with finding her.

Hiaasen, Carl. **Downhill Lie, A Hacker's Return** (\$14).

☞Hill, Reginald. **Midnight Fugue** (Harper \$32 Signed). It starts with a phone call to Superintendent Dalziel from an old friend asking for help. Gina Wolfe has come to Mid-Yorkshire in search of her missing husband, believed dead. Her fiancé, Commander Mick Purdy of the Met, thinks Dalziel should be able to take care of the job. What none of them realize is how events set in motion decades ago will come to a violent head on this otherwise ordinary summer's day. A Welsh tabloid journalist senses the story he's been chasing for years may have finally landed in his lap. A Tory MP's secretary suspects her boss's father has an unsavory history that could taint his prime ministerial ambitions. The ruthless entrepreneur in question sends two henchmen out to make sure the past stays in the past. And the lethal pair dispatched have some awkward secrets of their own. Four stories, two mismatched detectives trying to figure it all out, and 24 hours in which to do it: Dalziel and Pascoe are about to learn the hard way exactly just how much difference a day makes!

☞Hore, Rachel. **The Glass Painter's Daughter** (\$15). In a tiny stained-glass shop hidden in the backstreets of Westminster lies the cracked, sparkling image of an angel. The owners of Minster Glass have also been broken by the death of Fran's mother, an event never mentioned by her difficult, secretive father. But now he's ill and Fran is called back from her international career as a classical musician to take over the shop. She and his craftsman Zac accept a beguiling commission to restore a shattered glass window in a local church. As they reassemble the dazzling shards of colored glass, they uncover an extraordinary love story from the Victorian past, sparked by the window's creation. Slowly, Fran begins to see her own reflection in its themes of passion, tragedy and redemption, set her on a search for the truth about her mother....

Horwitz, Tony. **A Voyage Long and Strange** (\$18). The bestselling author of MM's beloved **Blue Latitudes** (\$15), following in the footsteps of Captain Cook, goes on an eye-opening voyage to pre-*Mayflower* America where a blend of history, myth, and misadventures captures for readers the (nearly lost) wonder of first contact.

Ignatius, David. **The Increment** (Norton \$28 Signed). A rave from Karen Shaver: "Harry Pappas has been given the dubious assignment of determining whether or not a message from Iran is legitimate or bogus. He enlists a number of others, including Adrian King in Britain, to track down the sender and validate the information. The story takes the reader into a maze of conspiracy and distrust among the game players. They set out to find Al-Majnoun, thought to have died years ago and whose philosophy is "power was not what you did, but what people believed you did." As the search begins, Harry fights his own demons, skating in and out of government policies and personnel, to do what is right without demolishing the entire project. The author brings together contrasting characters on a common mission complicated by their equally contrasting methods. This is a great read that will keep you going until the end." **Body of Lies** (\$14) made a gripping 2007 Surprise Me! Club Pick.

Johnston, Paul. **Crying Blue Murder** (Mira \$15; reissue of *A Deeper Shade of Blue*, 2002). Half-Greek, half-Scots, Alex Mavros works as a private eye. He's in a perfect position to play tourist and investigate when American Rosa Ozai disappears from an idyllic Greek island. Two young islanders, he learns, have ended up in the nets of a local fishing boat, a British resident has departed without warning, and the resident millionaire and museum owner Theocans is clearly uneasy.... **The Golden Silence; The Last Red Death** (\$15 each).

☞Kearsley, Susanna. **Mariana** (\$16 reissue). The first time Julia Beckett saw Greywethers she was only five, but she knew at once that it was her house. Now, 25 years later, by some strange chance, she has just become the new owner of the ancient Wilshire farmhouse. But Julia soon begins to suspect that more than coincidence has brought her there. As if Greywethers were a porthole 17th Century England, Julia becomes Mariana, a beautiful young woman struggling against danger and treachery, and battling a forbidden love for Richard de Mornay, handsome forebear of the present squire of Crofton Hall. Each time Julia travels back, she becomes more enthralled with the past, falling ever deeper in love with Richard...until one day she realizes Mariana's life threatens to eclipse her own. For all Diana

Gabaldon and Barbara Michaels readers, a gem from the winner of the Catherine Cookson Fiction Prize.

Krueger, William Kent. **Red Knife** (\$15). A searing 9th case for former sheriff Cork O'Connor, part Ojibwa, who is now a part time PI. He's caught up in racial tensions and diverse threats that could split Tamarack County asunder. Certainly horrible crimes are haunting Northern Minnesota here.

LaPierre, Janet. **Wandering Girl** (Perseverance \$15). Rosemary Mendes is looking for a new life after her husband's death and may have found it in California's remote Trinity Alps. There she is drawn into the life of the small community and a growing sense of identification with another newcomer, one she won't meet since the young woman was shot dead in the forest. Rosemary adopts the dead woman's dog. Apparently "Wandering Girl"—the woman's email moniker—had come to live a self sufficient life and found death. What will happen to Rosemary if she investigates? This book is terrific!

Leonard, Elmore. **Road Dogs** (Morrow \$28; CD \$40). "You may best recall Jack Foley, as played by George Clooney, bantering with Jennifer Lopez in the trunk of a jailbreak getaway car, but when **Out of Sight** ended, Foley was headed back to the clink to finish a 30-year bid. And here he is on the van to prison with Cundo Rey, a pint-size Cuban who soon engineers their early release—legally. Jack's happy to be out and enjoying the California hospitality of Cundo and his wife Dawn (both Leonard veterans too, from **LaBrava** and **Riding the Rap** (\$7.50 each). But Dawn is lovely and wily (and maybe a psychic), Cundo is a murderously jealous husband who may well think Jack owes him big-time, and Jack? Well, when you've robbed a hundred-twenty or so banks, is it that easy to go straight? As so often with Leonard, the real fun is less in the action than the talk, especially from Foley, the pleasure-minded, level-headed hood: an ex-con whose biggest con may be that he is exactly who he says he is."
—Tom Nissley

Levine, Laura. **Killer Cruise** (Kensington \$22). Mystery writer/sleuth Jaine Austen dives into a dangerous case....

Liang, Diane Wei. **Eye of Jade** (\$15). Beijing's Mei Wang is a modern, independent woman. She has her own apartment. She owns a car. She has her own business with that most modern of commodities—a male secretary. Her short career with China's prestigious Ministry for Public Security has given her intimate insight into the complicated and arbitrary world of Beijing's law enforcement. And now she's set up as the city's first successful female private eye. And she is searching for a missing artifact looted from the Luoyang Museum during the Cultural which leads her to discover the dishonorable secrets of her nation's culture—and her family's past. Read on in **Paper Butterfly** (SimonSchuster \$24). Mei receives a call from the chief executive at Guanghua Record Company. One of Mr. Peng's top starlets, the beautiful pop star Kaili, has been missing for four days.

Littell, Robert. **The Stalin Epigram** (Simon Schuster \$26). Here is a chronicle of Russian poet Osip Mandelstam's defiance of the dictator and his regime, Osip's subsequent exile, and his tragic death.

Macaulay, Tom. **Warning Bell** (Orion \$32 Signed). Our Surprise Me! Pick for June is one on two levels: it will perhaps change

your view of France during the Nazi Occupation—remember Aaron Elkins' interesting thriller *Turncoat* and Cara Black's **Murder in the Marais** (\$13)—and we don't know who the author really is! He lives near Oxford and I am betting it is.... Nope, not telling. Anyway I like this because of the unlikely hero, the interesting landscapes in Brittany, and the gradual revelations of truly terrible crimes. It's at least a one-handkerchief novel. Highly recommended, and to members of the British Crime Club too.

MacLean, Alistair. **River of Death** (\$16). From 1981, a reissue of a classic jungle adventure.

Meyer, Deon. **Blood Safari** (Hodder \$42). Lemmer is a freelance bodyguard for Body Armor, a personal security company. Lean, angry, and violent, his services are among South Africa's underground bargains. Emma le Roux wants to find her missing brother, supposedly dead some 20 years. She thinks she's recently seen him on the news as a suspect in the killing of a witch doctor and four poachers. So Lemmer is to watch her back while she goes hunting....

⌘Malliet, GM. **Death and the Lit Chick** (\$15). Chick lit mystery writer Kimberlee Kalder is the guest of honor at an exclusive writers' conference at Dalmorton Castle in Scotland—and soon a murder victim All too many writers would have killed this diva. It's up to Detective Chief Inspector St. Just to track down the true killer. St Just's first case, **Death of a Cozy Writer** (\$13) has just won the 2009 Agatha for Best First Novel.

McGilloway, Brian. **Gallows Lane** (\$15). Garda Inspector Benedict Devlin investigates a series of gruesome murders linked to the road down which Donegal criminals were once led to their fate. 2nd in a fine Irish noir series after **Borderlands** (\$15).

McKinty, Adrian. **Fifty Grand** (Henry Holt \$25). "McKinty offers a challenging conceit, which is to put the tough, spare rhythms associated with classic hard-boiled novels (think Hemingway himself, James Ellroy, James Cain) into the mind of a first-person female protagonist. The result is an incendiary, adrenalin-fuelled thriller, but one that also functions as a blackly hilarious social satire of the skewed values of pre-Obama America, as Hernandez, in the role of exploited illegal immigrant, infiltrates the glitzy world of Colorado's ski-resort set, cleaning up the mess left behind by Hollywood's jet-set. Most successful of all, however, is McKinty's ability to slip inside Hernandez's skin. The undercover Hernandez is thrown back on her own resources as she investigates her father's death and brings those responsible to a very particular kind of justice, without recourse to conventional resources. As vulnerable as she is tough, as scared as she is determined, as fragile as she is lethal, she makes for a highly unusual, creepily authentic and utterly compelling anti-heroine."—Declan Burke.

Paretsky, Sara. **Writing in an Age of Silence** (\$13). As close to an autobiography as we may get, the author writes of growing up Jewish in mainstream Kansas, her escape to Chicago, her dysfunctional family, and her work and political/social conscience. It's riveting.

Pelecanos, George. **Way Home** (Little Brown \$26 Signed May 21). Patrick raves, "Since his first book, *A Firing Offense*, in 1992, George Pelecanos has been building a body of work that has built upon the hardboiled template created

by his predecessors (Chandler, Crumley, Price and others) and created a type of novel wholly his own. The lens of his early autobiographical books has expanded into a kind of social history of Washington, D.C. as examined through the crime novel. *The Way Home* is a remarkable novel about fathers and sons, the passage of time, the imprint of the past, violence and survival, among other things. Of course, at the end of the day, it is a story about people and situations. The first section of the book deals with 16-year old Chris Flynn's time in a juvenile reformatory. He seems destined to a life of crime and degeneracy. Fast forward ten years, Chris has straightened himself out a bit, works a steady job for his father's flooring company. He's not on the college track, but he's comfortable. Then, on a standard carpet installation, he and a coworker find a bag of money tucked into some floorboards...."

Pressfield, Steven. **Killing Rommel** (\$15). If you're going to read Macaulay above, you can't go wrong with another Brit's story of WWII, this time of the campaign in North Africa. Fabulous characters, a brilliant story, I can't recommend this highly enough.

Robinson, Patrick. **Diamondhead** (Vanguard \$26). Navy SEAL Commander Mack Bedford watches in horror as the rogue missile code-named Diamondhead takes out his team. The resulting court martial and the terminal illness of his son force Mack to take bold (if unlikely, but there's a reason this is called "military fiction") action.

Ross, Ann B. **Miss Julia Delivers the Goods** (Viking \$25). Miss Julia has just learned a secret: Hazel Marie is pregnant with twins and the prospective dad has skipped. Meanwhile Abbottsville has become a crime scene with a heist and Miss Julia knows that only renowned PI JD Pickens can solve this crime. What a coincidence that JD is Hazel Marie's wayward love. Miss Julia needs to work her magic or end up (literally) as the one who will deliver the goods....

Rosett, Sara. **Magnolias, Moonlight, and Murder** (Kensington \$23 Signed). The author of the *Mom Zone Mysteries* feature Air Force wife Ellie Avery. Ellie and her family have settled into their new home in Georgia. But, when Ellie finds a skull while walking the dog, it isn't the easiest way to get to know the neighbors. As this is a new setting for the series, you can pick it up without having read the earlier books.

✂Rowson, Pauline. **Deadly Waters** (\$15). A new "Marine Mystery" so-called because they take place around the sea, mostly the Solent off Portsmouth. When a woman, the head teacher of a struggling local school, is found brutally murdered in Langstone Harbor DI Andy Horton is appointed to lead the investigation. But not for long if Superintendent Uckfield has his way. Horton is given only a week to find the killer, after that he will be shunted off the case. A note was found on the victim along with money wrapped up in a five-pound note and smothered with honey. Is there a clue in "The Owl and the Pussy-cat" rhyme here?

Rucka, Greg. **Walking Dead** Bantam \$25 Signed May 12). Compelling antihero Atticus Kodiak returns in a blistering crime blockbuster from the author who has patented a Swiss watch of a thriller, well-machined, precise and inexorable. Atticus and his lover, the former assassin Alena, are still living under the radar in Georgia by the Black Sea. The brutal slaying of his neighbor's

family and disappearance of the 14-year-old daughter send Atticus on a violent quest into Turkey and Dubai while Bridget (remember her, she's fabulous) reappears in an interesting nanny role that embraces her Irish connections. At the core of the story is a plague that wrings your heart so while this is a high-action, high-body-count book, it's written with anger and heart by the very talented Rucka who is also well known in the comics community.

Sandford, John. **Wicked Prey** (Putnam \$28 Signed May 19 at our Sandford and Snacks Night). This Lucas Davenport reads like an Elmore Leonard or Stephen Hunter's fabulous **Night of Thunder** (\$26)—except that Davenport is in the Twin Cities and the heist is targeting people gathered for the Republican Convention. Meanwhile another scum plots to take revenge on Davenport, who put him in a wheelchair, by attacking Lucas' adopted daughter....

Schuster, John. **Haunting Museums** (Forge \$15). No ghost story, this collection of museum curiosities is devoted to demystifying legendary exhibits like the 19th century Cardiff Giant and the worldwide array of shrunken heads. For many obscure subjects, Schuster's explanations provide an extensive history. Most of the second half of the book features niche museums covering everything from murder to medicine.

✂Shaffer, Mary Ann. **The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Society** (\$14). In 1946 as London is barely thawing from the war, writer Juliet Ashton, in a dry spell, receives a letter from a stranger, a founding member of the Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society. Intrigued, Juliet replies and gradually begins the remarkable story of how some of this Channel Island's residents survived the German occupation. But it speaks to more than just survival and pays tribute to the resilience of the human spirit in the darkest times.

Shannon, John. **Palos Verdes Blue** (Pegasus \$25 Signed May 20). PI Jack Liffey. Liffey takes an assignment to find Blue, the missing teenaged daughter of his ex-wife's best friend. His search takes him into a tense feud between Palos Verdes' wealthy teen surfers and a group of Mexican day-laborers who camp in the area's ravines. Patrick reports, "Over the course of eleven books, Shannon has shown us the real Los Angeles (if such is possible), taking us on a tour of LA County's various ethnic communities. If you like Raymond Chandler, Michael Connelly, Nathanael West and Joan Didion, you need to read John Shannon. You won't be disappointed..."

Shreve, Anita. **Testimony** (Little Brown \$15). A sex scandal caught on tape is about to break at a New England boarding school....

✂Tames, Richard. **Shakespeare's London on 5 Groats a Day** (Thames Hudson \$19). Drop back 400 years and learn some history as you find yourself on a traveler's budget based on works of Tudor wills, letters, legal records, and authors. Buy a buskin. Attend a bear-baiting. **Ancient Athens on Five Drachmas a Day; Ancient Rome on Five Denarii a Day** (\$19 each).

Temple, Peter. **Shooting Star** (\$17). Lovely and wayward Anne Carson, age 15, is abducted. Her rich family closes ranks and summons Frank Calder, ex-soldier and former police hostage negotiator, to deliver the ransom to the drop. He wants the law but they refuse since years before police bungling nearly cost

the life of another Carson child kidnapped years before. Are the crimes connected? And what's the real motive?

✦ Templeton, Aline. **Lamb to the Slaughter** (\$15). A proposed superstore has divided the market town of Kirkluce. Its tranquility has given way to war, bored youths, a bloody carcass of a sheep, and a murder. DI Margery Fleming struggles to make sense of the—no, now make that two—murders.... News Just In: **Dead in the Water** (Hodder \$42 Signed). More in the May *Booknews*, Part II.

Thayer, Terri. **Ocean Waves** (Midnight Ink \$15). Dewey Pelicano intends to mix business with pleasure at the Sewing-by-the-Sea Symposium in Asilomar, California. Her plan is derailed by Mercedes Madsen, the militant organizer whose style is more dictator than director. And by a notorious ghost, a mysterious missing woman, and a stolen heirloom sewing box....and a corpse. Armed only with blueprint fabric and her wits, Dewey searches for a pattern in this third Quilting Mystery.

Urrea, Luis Alberto. **Into the Beautiful North** (Little Brown \$24.99). Patrick is loving May books. Here's another rave review: "I've been following Urrea's work closely ever since I read his groundbreaking non-fiction chronicle of the people living in the Tijuana dumps, *Across The Wire*. Urrea has published various novels, poetry collections and short stories in the years since, including his literary epic, **The Hummingbird's Daughter** (\$15—much admired by me, Barbara). Urrea's latest book will appeal to fans of Don Winslow's **The Power of The Dog** (\$15), Kem Nunn's **Tijuana Straits** (\$15), and Ken Kuhlken's **The Vagabond Virgins** (\$15 July). The protagonist is a 19-year old girl, Nayeli, who is inspired by the film *The Magnificent Seven* and takes off on her own odyssey north to find "siete magnificos," seven men who will return with her to protect her town from the narcos and bandidos who threaten to overrun it. A terrific, timely read." Ask Patrick about **Mr. Mendoza's Paintbrush** (\$17).

Viets, Elaine. **Killer Cuts** (Obsidian \$23). How intimate is the relationship between women and their hair stylists? In this latest Dead End job mystery from the irrepressible Viets who finds humor, irony, and heartbreak in Helen Hawthorne's under-the-radar life, we see how flamboyant Cuban-born stylist Miguel Angel works his magic at a Fort Lauderdale salon to revive flagging acting careers, and make ordinary women into the stylish "Miguel's Angels." But beauty is high risk and soon Miguel is mixed up with murder...as is his new assistant, Helen.... Read about Helen swimming with sharks in the country club set in **Clubbed to Death** \$6.99).

Wall, Kathryn R. **Covenant Hall** (St Martins \$25). Bay Tanner's case is to locate the estranged sisters of her client Joline. Joline's daughter has leukemia and will die without a bone marrow transplant from the right donor. Bay is also dealing with her father's rapidly failing health and whether she can commit to her fiancé, always an issue for the widow. Carolina's Low Country, the Hilton Head area, is the real star of this now nine-book series, as is the strong-minded Bay. Recommended to Julia Spencer-Fleming and Carolyn G. Hart fans.

✦ Wells, Shirley. **Where Petals Fall** (Soho \$25). A woman's body is found in a quarry, wrapped in a shroud. Five years earlier, four women were killed the same way. But the man whom Jill Kennedy and Max Trentham believed to be guilty is dead—isn't he?

NEW IN MASS MARKET...

Alten, Steve. **The Loch** (\$10). Summer reading, why not be scary? Marine biologist Zachary Wallace once nearly drowned in Loch Ness. Now long-forgotten memories of it bubble up as his wily and estranged Highlander father Angus goes on trial for murder....

Bardsley, Michele. **Over My Dead Body** (Signet \$6.99). Will paranormal romance ever die? Not this season. Here is Simone Sweet in Broken Heart, Oklahoma, ready to start a new life—so to speak for one of the undead—after her husband tried to kill her and her daughter won't speak since. What is local hunk Braddock Hayes sees her as she really is, and finds out about her past, it could "kill" her....

Benedict, Lyn. **Sins and Shadows** (Berkley \$7.99). Starts the *Shadow Inquiries* series of urban fantasies with a kick-ass female clearly intended to latch onto the Harry Dresden hits. Sylvie Lightner, PI, specializes in cases where magic is real, so when one of her employees is murdered, despite her wish to quit, Sylvie agrees to find the god of Justice's lost lover....

✦ Blair, JMC. **The Lancelot Murders** (Berkley \$7.99). Second in the Merlin investigations after **The Excalibur Murders** (\$7.99) and set in Camelot where Guinevere holds her own court in the forbidding Spider's House with Lancelot. Even Merlin is surprised when the pair plot to present themselves to the Byzantine Emperor as England's rightful rulers. As Arthur and Merlin make a move, Guinevere's father is murdered and Lancelot is tagged for the crime....

Bond, Stephanie. **5 Bodies to Die for** (Mira \$7.99). Carlotta Wren, Neiman Marcus sales associate by day and body mover by night, needs a safe haven. She's been stalked by a serial killer, pushed off a balcony, blown up with her car. She's linked to the Charmed Killer who places a bracelet charm in the mouth of his victim. She can't rely on her oxy-dependent brother, her parents are dead, so she moves into the supposedly secure mansion of her rich high-school boyfriend—with the consent of her policeman lover Jack. Most dangerous is the Persian cat whose goal is to make Carlotta's life unbearable....New to the *Body Movers* series. **2 Bodies for the Price of One; 3 Men and a Body** (\$6.99 each).

✦ Booth, Stephen. **Scared to Live** (\$7.99). A reclusive—no, make that agoraphobic—woman is found shot in her home. The first challenge for Peaks District Sleuths Cooper and Fry is to work out who she is. This baffling case runs into one dead-end after another. Then there's the suspicious house fire that killed Lindsay Mullen and two of her young children, while her husband, Brian, escaped with minor injuries. I must say Booth comes up with a zinger of an ending to this story.... New: **Kill Call** (\$43 Signed).

Box, CJ. **Blood Trail** (\$7.99). Though its Elk season in Wyoming's Rockies, Game Warden Joe Pickett is up against a human hunter stalking human prey—in fact a man has been found at a camp: strung up, gutted, flayed as if he were an elk. A poker chip lies next to the body. Governor Rulon makes an unpopular call to end the season early but it doesn't stop the hunter.... Box signs **Below Zero** (Putnam \$27), the next Pickett, here June 16.

Burke, James Lee. **Swan Peak** (\$10; \$28 Signed). Dave Robicheaux and Clete Purcell are fishing in rural Montana when trouble erupts and rocks this new landscape for the Louisiana duo. It's great!

Burke, Jan. **Bones** (\$7.99 reissue from 2002). The family of a missing mother of two sought the help of reporter Irene Kelly. But despite Irene's best efforts, until now only one person has known where to find Julia Sayre: her killer. Nick Parrish, brilliant and sadistic, already faces the death penalty in a torture-murder case. Now he wants to cop a plea: life imprisonment in exchange for directing police to the isolated mountain grave where he buried Julia Sayre. His real plan...?

Carlo, Philip. **The Ice Man** (\$7.99). Confessions of a Mafia contract killer, a partner with Sammy the Bull in killing Castellano. Hired by Gotti. He is Richard Kuklinski who took out some 200 men while functioning as a married father of three and kind to kids in his NJ neighborhood.

Carmon, Haggai. **The Chameleon Conspiracy** (Leisure \$7.99). The master criminal and con man known as the Chameleon has eluded international law enforcement for twenty years. Dan Gordon was sure he finally had him, but he was left empty-handed. Now he won't rest until the Chameleon is stopped. The Chameleon is actually more than a mere criminal—he's an undercover sleeper agent. But Gordon is more than he seems, too. He's an experienced hunter, trained by the Mossad, working now for the CIA. The author is an Israeli attorney/covert US op on white collar crime. **Triple Identity**; **Red Syndrome** (\$7.99 each).

Child, Lee. **Bad Luck and Trouble**; **The Enemy**; **A Hard Way**; and his book with one of the best opening chapter for a thriller ever, **Persuader** (\$10 each), all reissued in larger format.

Connolly, John. **The Reapers** (\$10; 1 Signed UK \$42). Charlie Parker's dark friends Louis is targeted by someone from his past who attacks his home, his business, and his partner Angel. Time to strike back led by private detective Parker, himself a Reaper in waiting.... The next Parker is **The Lovers** (\$26 Signed June).

Cotton, Ralph. **Riders from Long Pines** (Signet \$5.99). Just to let you know the Western is alive and well and you can buy into various franchises like this and L'Amour. Here we get some drovers who stumble into the aftermath of a stagecoach robbery and find money that belongs to the big guy in the county. They decide to do the right thing and return the cash rather than run, but....

Coyle, Harold. **Prometheus's Child** (\$7.99). Written with Mesa's Barrett Tillman, a series about private military contractor Strategic Solutions, Inc. A SSI team led for former Read Admiral Derringer is in Chad on a training mission that turns into tracking a nuclear fuel plot....

Day, SJ. **Eve of Darkness Book 1** (Tor \$6.99). *PW* writes, "Exhilarating adventure in an edgy world of angels and demons highlights the opener of Day's Marked trilogy. After a steamy encounter in a stairwell, Evangeline Hollis discovers that she has been branded with the Mark of Cain, unfairly punished because of a man's attraction to her. She is now a Mark: a celestial bounty hunter charged with sending rogue demons and other Infernals back to hell...." Look for **Eve of Destruction Book 2** and **Eve of Chaos Book 3** (\$6.99 each) in June.

Deaver, Jeffery. **Broken Window** (\$10). The mysterious villain known as "522" commits vicious crime and plants ironclad evidence to implicate the innocent. The case against Lincoln Rhyme's cousin for murder looks airtight. But our genius sleuth suspects the work of a seriously devious serial killer who uses

data-mining to steal the identities of his victims and then frame innocent folk. Really scary on all levels, and reflects Deaver's cutting edge....

Deutermann, PT. **The Moonpool** (\$7.99). A PI working Wilmington, NC, is found dead in a gas station restroom. Her body sets off radiation alarms in the pathologist's office and throws suspicion on the nearby Hellos nuclear plant. It's most exposed part is its moonpool, the radioactive storage pond. Ex-cop Cam Richter decides the FBI, local cops, and Hellos security team's investigation could use his help....

Finlay, CC. **The Patriot Witch** (Del Ray \$7.99). It's 1775. Proctor Brown appears to be an ordinary young man working the family farm in New England, drilling with the Mnutemen. Yet with magic in his blood, he is so much more. His mother has taught him to hide it lest he be hanged as a witch, but a chance encounter with an arrogant British officer bearing magic of his own catapults Proctor into revolution.... **A Spell for the Revolution** (\$7.99) comes in June; **The Demon Redcoat** (\$7.99) in July.

Frost, Mark. **Second Objective** (\$7.99 reissue). *Booklist* Starred Review: "The idea of Nazi spies behind the lines during World War II remains a potent plot device, especially if, as in Ken Follett's 1978 classic **Eye of the Needle** (\$7.99), the Germans are at least partially sympathetic figures. Fro introduces several wrinkles of his own. The plot is based on recently declassified documents relating to *Operation Greif*, a Nazi scheme to send English-speaking Germans, dressed as American GIs, behind the lines in the days prior to the Battle of the Bulge. The plan was to disrupt the Allied response to the German counterattack, but there was a second objective: send a smaller group of commandos to France to assassinate Eisenhower.... Frost builds the characters beautifully, including a parallel story involving two American MPs, and, like Follett, he somehow manages to generate incredible suspense."

Galenorn, Yasmine. **Legend of the Jade Dragon** (Berkley \$7.99). The Tarot never lies. When the cards predict chaos and bad luck for her last client of the day, Emerald O'Brien, the owner and medium at the Chintz 'n China Tea room, is worried. The man leaves Em a jade statue of a dragon in thanks—and dies in a hit-and-run right outside her shop. More disasters appear to stem from the jade....

Garcia, Eric. **Repossession Mambo** (Harper \$7.99). The creator of that gem *Anonymous Rex* is back with a new and inventive story using nearly indestructible artificial organs. These wonders of metal and plastic are far more reliable and efficient than the cancer-prone lungs and fallible kidneys—and the Credit Union will be delighted to work out an equitable payment plan. But, of course, if you fall delinquent, one of their dedicated professionals will be dispatched to repossess the product. This is the story of the making—and unmaking—of the best Bio-Repo Man in the extraction business, who finds his soul when he loses his heart—and then he has to run.

Gardner, Lisa. **Say Goodbye** (\$7.99). FBI Agent Kimberly Quincy is 5 months pregnant but still on the job. A serial killer is targeting young women using *spiders* as weapons, but with no bodies or hard evidence, could Kimberly be on a wild goose chase?

George, Elizabeth. **Careless in Red** (\$7.99). A grieving Thomas Lynley, having resigned from the Yard: how to get him back in the game? Answer, send him on a long coastal trek in his native Cornwall where, on day 43, he looks over the cliffs and spots a body dressed in red. Lynley looks like a tramp and is first taken as a suspect, but Havers arrives....

Gerritsen, Tess. **The Sinner** (\$7.99). Its icy cold in New England but bone-chilling at the scene of carnage in the chapel at Our Lady of Divine Light convent where two nuns have died in a savage attack. Maura Isles' autopsy adds to the chill: young Sister Camille had given birth before she was murdered....

Goldberg, Tod. **Burn Notice: The End Game** (Signet \$6.99). Spy Michael Westen gets a burn notice, but rather than quit the action he takes on a new role, helping those who need his unique talents. Gennaro Stefania is the helmsman for a yacht entered in the Hurricane Cup, a winner take all race preceded by a lot of high risk and attitude. Gennaro's family has been taken hostage to force him to lose the race. So it's all about money, not patriotism, but hey....

Golemon, David Lynn. **Ancients** (7.99). The Event Group led by Colonel Jack Collins faces the discovery of the great weapon of Atlantis which once disappeared in a suicidal storm of fire and water. It's in the South Pacific. It's being deciphered by evil men who wish to complete the evil plan mapped out millennia ago....

Greenlaw, Linda. **Fisherman's Bend** (\$7.99). Former Miami cop Jane Bunker moved to Green Haven, Maine, planning to leave behind the noise, the pollution...the deed bodies. You'd think after **Slipknot** (\$6.99) she'd have earned her respite, but no, dark undercurrents continue to run through the idyllic coastal village....

Harris, Charlene. **Last Scene Alive** (\$7.99). Aurora Teagarden is still mourning her husband's death when a movie company arrives in Lawrenceton, Georgia, to make a film based on a book by Roe's one-time boyfriend, Robin Crusoe. The book details their shared investigation of a series of murders. The lead, who is playing Roe, is killed, putting Roe and Robin together to sleuth....

Hess, Joan. **Busy Bodies** (\$6.99 reissue). Avant-garde artist Zeno Gorgias has been turning heads in tame college town Farberville, Arkansas. Local bookseller/sleuth Claire Malloy soon learns there's a dark side to Zeno. But should he be arrested for murder when a body turns up in the coffin in his front yard?

Howard, Linda. **Death Angel** (\$7.99). Drea Rousseau has a taste for diamonds and dangerous men. She's ready to ditch drug lord Rafael Salinas but not before stealing a stash of cash to finance her escape. Salinas dispatches an assassin in hot pursuit. Left for dead, Drea survives, a changed woman, and joins forces with the FBI to take the Salinas crew down....

Isaacs, Susan. **Past Perfect** (\$7.99). Former CIA analyst Katie Schottland has turned her experiences into the basis for a successful cable-TV show based on her novel, *Spy Games*. Katie was canned when the Cold War ended but now she has the prospect of learning what *really* happened. Sassy and fun, with a serious chime or two.

Jackson, Liam. **Keys of Solomon** (St Martins \$7.99). Fallen angels, powerful demons, and the descendants of Templar knights threaten to wage war on heaven and earth. Only Sam Connor and his fellow Offspring can stop them but Sam is tired of using his

special gifts to defend the universe.... Poor baby.

Johansen, Iris. **Dark Summer** (\$7.99). Veterinarian Devon Brady is working in a makeshift hospital on a remote mission. When a man arrives with a wounded black Lab named Ned, Devon has no idea she's about to get sucked into a scenario of revenge with a high body count.... From Bantam (\$6.99) comes Johansen romantic suspense where a bone fide prince wishing to be more than a pretty face embarks on an adventure to a distant and treacherous country with a self-made international financier....

Johnston, Paul. **Soul Collector** (Mira \$7.99). After surviving an attack by a serial killer, truecrime writer Matt Wells rebuilds his life though his tormentor is still on the loose. After mystery writers start dying and his best friend is killed, Wells musters up all he's got to stop the psycho.

Jordan, R T. **Final Curtain** (\$6.99). When Polly Pepper, the legendary superstar of TV's golden age, lands the title role in a new musical, she finds herself starring in a murder mystery after the discovery of the dead director....

Katherine, Anna. **Salt and Silver** (Tor \$6.99). Ever since her mom ran away to Rio with Rio—her tennis instructor—stealing Allie's trust fund and her comfortable way of life, Allie has been floundering. She works in Sally's Diner, and lives above it. And one night in the basement, she and her friends chant a ridiculous spell—for money, for luck, for love...and open a Doorway to Hell. When the Door opened, Ryan appeared out of nowhere, a Stetson-wearing demon hunter dressed in leather. He's assigned to the Door, and hangs out at the diner, and when the Door disappears he is certain that Allie had something to do with it. Is this really Brooklyn?

Kelner, Toni L. **Curse of the Kissing Cousins** (Berkley \$6.99). Boston freelance reporter Tilda Harper writes articles about former stage and screen stars. When someone starts killing off the cast from the TV show *Kissing Cousins*, and an actress vanishes, Tilda sets out to find her....

Konrath, JA. **Fuzzy Navel** (\$7.99). Chicago cop Jack Daniels is back. This time she's been locked up along with her fiancé, mom, and a terribly scary psycho just escaped from prison....

Koontz, Dean. **Odd Hours** (\$7.99). Odd Thomas is drawn into his own dreams of an encompassing red tide which pulls him to a small California coastal town....

Lavene, Joyce And Jim. **Corpse for Yew** (Berkley \$7.99). No rain means no dough at The Potting Shed garden center so Peggy Lee joins her mom on a 'bone harvest' expedition for the local historical society. And thus she discovers a fellow volunteer dead—with curiously red lips....

Lebbon, Tim. **The Fallen** (\$6.99). Stoker-winner Lebbon successfully combines quest adventure and horror in this gripping and disturbing tale. Some 4,000 years before the events of *Dusk* (2006), the people of Norela are just beginning an era of expansion. Blocking the voyagers' southward journeys, however, is the Great Divide, a cliff that reaches into the clouds. Ramus Rheel, an aging explorer battling cancer, and Nomi Hyden, whose wealth has not diminished her craving for adventure, are friendly enemies who set out to scale the Divide and earn recognition as the greatest voyagers of all. When they find the lair of one of the ancient Sleeping Gods, they get considerably more excitement—and terror—than they bargained for.

Loomis, Greg. **The Coptic Secret** (Leisure \$7.99). In Loomis's latest, law Langford Reilly uncovers a museum murder that sends him racing across the world to find a previously unknown Gospel, while a secret organization trails him on his journey. The novel includes all the ancient secrets, international locales, and non-stop action that readers loved in his previous releases—**The Pegasus Secret, The Julian Secret, The Sinai Secret** (\$7.99 each). Think Steve Berry and James Rollins here.

Ludlum, Robert [Eric van Lustbader]. **The Bourne Sanction** (\$10). To regain his identity as David Webb, Jason accepts an invitation from his mentor Dominic Specter to join the linguistics department at Georgetown. Then Specter tells Bourne about the Black Legion who are hell bent on attacking America and Bourne knows he has to help. Two Pentagon ops meanwhile plan to accomplish what the CIA never could: hunt down Bourne and kill him.

Macalister, Katie. **Crouching Vampire, Hidden Fang** (Signet \$7.99). Pia Thomason's dream of being married has come true, but her husband is straight out of her nightmares. He believes she has ties to the group working to destroy his people. She goes back to her humdrum life in Seattle determined to forget about Kristoff, but events indicate they are going to be shackled together for better or worse....

Maffini, Mary Jane. **Death Loves a Messy Desk** (Berkley \$6.99). Clutter-busting sleuth Charlotte Adams loves freeing people from mess and boasts a waiting list of sloppy clients. One of them has hired her to organize a coworker's desk. But the miss behind the mess has gone missing....

Margolin, Phillip. **Executive Privilege** (\$10). PI Dana Cutler is hired to follow college student Charlotte. The morning after Charlotte's clandestine meeting with the US Prez, the pretty coed is dead, an apparent victim of the DC Ripper. Back in Oregon, Brad Miller learns from a death row serial killer that he had been tagged for one crime he did not commit: the murder of a teenaged baby sitter who worked for the Prez, then the Oregon governor....

Meier, Leslie. **Father's Day Murder** (\$6.99). Tinker's Cove part-time reporter Lucy Stone is sent to a Boston newspaper conference. There she resolves to investigate the sudden murder of the head of a newspaper dynasty—and return home in time for Father's Day.....

✠Novik, Naomi. **Victory of Eagles** (\$7.99). Novik's dragon books may be for Young Adults but I find them addictive. This is the 5th for British Capt. William Laurence and his faithful celestial dragon, Temeraire. Picking up after **Empire of Ivory** (\$7.99), a disgraced Laurence has been convicted of treason, sentenced to a prison ship, and is only one step away from the hangman's noose. Temeraire is relegated to a breeding area in Wales along with other dragons viewed as past their prime. When Bonaparte invades England, Laurence and Temeraire are soon freed to fly and fight for king and country.

Page, Katherine Hall. **Body in the Gallery** (\$7.99). Business is slow for caterer Faith Fairchild, so she agrees to friend Patsy's proposal to take over the café at the Ganley Art Museum. Patsy wants Faith to work undercover since she's convinced the priceless piece Patsy loaned the museum has been switched with a fake. Who knew it would lead to murder at the art installation party Faith caters at the Ganley? This is an excellent story, intelligent and fierce.

Parker, Robert B. **Resolution** (\$10). A greedy mine owner threatens the coalition of local ranchers in Resolution, pitching Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch into a local war that will challenge their friendship.... The sequel to the excellent **Appaloosa** (\$7.99) which did well as a movie.

Patterson, James. **Sail** (\$10). Only an hour out of port, the Dunne family's summer getaway to paradise is already turning into the trip from hell. The three children are miserable-and not shy about showing it. Katherine Dunne had hoped this vacation would bring back the togetherness they'd lost when her husband died four years earlier. Suddenly, a disaster hits. Faced with this real threat, the Dunes rediscover the meaning of family. But this catastrophe is just a tiny taste of the true danger that lurks ahead....

Perry, Steve. **Indiana Jones and the Army of the Dead** (Del Rey \$7.99). Fresh from spying for the Allies in the thick of WWII Germany, the archaeologist joins in a search for a fabled black pearl known as the Heart of Darkness and enters the jungles of Haiti....

Rabe, Jean and Martin Greenberg, eds. **Terribly Twisted Tales** (Daw \$7.99). Take fairy tales and give them a spin and you get 18 original stories with a new perspective on the classics. Includes McKiernan and Stackpole.

Reich, Christopher. **Rules of Deception** (\$7.99). Let's let Reich speak for this super book! "It's a story about an honest and courageous doctor named Jonathan Ransom. He's a surgeon who works for Doctors Without Borders in some of the toughest parts of the world. He's a happily married man with a big heart and a beautiful English wife he deeply loves named Emma who works with him. What Jonathan doesn't know is that nothing about his life is what it seems. In fact, it's all a web of lies and he's caught in the middle of something extraordinarily dangerous. I can't say more than that, and I shouldn't have to, because if I've done my job right, when you get to page five you'll be hooked." Speaking for me, I most definitely was. And Lea stole my ARC for **Rules of Vengeance** (Doubleday \$27 Signed July), curse it!

Reiss, Bob. **Black Monday** (\$7.99). A federal investigator tries to stop the spread of a catastrophic virus that could wipe out the world's oil supply....

Sandom, JG. **God Machine** (Bantam \$7.50). The Church claimed it didn't exist. They lied. They said it was a Masonic legend. It wasn't. It is a 2000-year-old secret found in a world of secret societies and ancient conspiracies. The coded journals of Ben Franklin, a hidden map, a legendary gospel all challenge intrepid mathematician hero Joseph Koster and lovely engineer Savita Sajan...and will bridge the gap to Dan Brown in Sept.

Sandford, John. **Phantom Prey** (\$10). Lucas Davenport is hunting what seems like a modern Jack the Ripper working the Twin Cities when a student disappears and two more are found slashed to death. But the reality turns out to be... well, it's a surprise. The climax atop the bridge is memorable.

Shearin, Lisa. **Trouble with Demons** (Berkley \$7.99). For seeker Raine Benares, a demon infestation on the Isle of Mid has come at a rotten time. She's already fighting the influence of a soul-stealing stone and is magically bonded to a dark mage and a white knight—two men on opposing sides. What the demons want is the key to unlock the stone.... **Armed and Magical** (\$7.99).

Sheckley, Alisa. **Moonburn** (Ballantine \$6.99). In the past year, veterinarian Abra Barrow has left Manhattan for the deceptively quiet small town of Northside, ditched her cheating husband, and discovered that he has infected her with the rare werewolf virus. Now Abra is finally beginning to feel as if she has her life under control—except when the moon is full. Then she starts losing her temper—and her inhibitions—even when the sun is shining. Her new man, shape-shifting wildlife expert Red Mallin, seems to know more about her condition than he’s letting on, but he’s a little preoccupied with strange creatures....

Solomon, Barbara H and Eileen Panetta, ed. **Passages: 24 Modern Indian Stories** (Signet Classics \$7.95). Tales from Rushdie, Desai, Lahiri, Jhabvala, Mukherjee, and many more.

Spencer-Fleming, Julia. **I Shall Not Want** (\$7.99). Just as you think Police Chief Russ Van Alstyne and the Reverend Clare Fergusson might catch a break, Edgar and other awards winner Spencer-Fleming gives the relationship a painful new knock. Meanwhile there’s an investigation going on into the discovery of a man killed with just one shot to the back of his head. Then two more ignite fears a serial killer is at work—in tiny Millers Kill, New York?

Staub, Wendy Corsi. **Dead Before Dark** (\$6.99). The Night Watchman is ready to kill—again. After 35 years in prison, he’s free to commit the same atrocities that had made him as infamous as the Zodiac Killer. Now at last, his moment has come. For renowned psychic Lucinda Stone, who can “see” murders after they are committed, this is all bad news....

Sweeney, Leann. **The Cat, the Quilt, and the Corpse** (Signet \$6.99). Recently widowed Jillian Hart is rebuilding a life with her three cats, Chablis, Syrah, and Merlot, as a quilter in a tiny South Carolina town (this kind of set up always makes me ask: where is the money going to come from?). So business is good (!) when, on returning from a quilting show, Jillian discovers Chablis is sneezing (her allergy to humans) meaning someone was in the Hart home. Abyssinian Syrah is in fact missing—it’s a catnapping. And it’s murder....

Terrell, Heather. **The Map Thief** (\$7.99). There is some great stuff here about old maps and about Portugal and its Empire. Mara Coyne, an attorney skilled in recovering stolen art, is hired by Republican kingmaker Richard Tobias to recover a map stolen from a dig he is sponsoring in China. Tobias doesn’t tell her the whole story: the map is super valuable and his motives are super sinister. I really enjoyed this! **The Chrysalis** (\$6.99).

Thor, Brad. **Last Patriot** (\$10). A car bomb explodes and thrusts Scott Horvath into a life he’s tried to leave behind. The former SEAL turned Homeland Security operative soon becomes party to a secret militant Islam never wants revealed. It’s a secret stemming from June, 632 AD and given momentum in Sept. 1789 when Thomas Jefferson makes a startling discovery about pirates of the Barbary Coast. Thor wrote this before the whole pirates thing heated up, and his thesis is interesting. He signs **The Apostle** (SimonSchuster \$27) here June 8.

Unger, Lisa. **Black Out** (\$7.99). Annie Powers life in a comfortable Florida suburb with husband and daughter is idyllic. But that changes when the demons of her previous life resurface: a dark figure on the beach, the murder of her psychologist, it all triggers confusing memories.... **Beautiful Lies** (\$7.99). Unger earlier wrote mysteries as Lisa Miscione.

Viets, Elaine. **Clubbed to Death** (\$6.99). Dead End job heroine Helen Hawthorne finds customer care at Superior Country Club means dealing with the rich and spoiled. In fact, it’s cut throat in several ways... If only one could be sure that her ex would get his when he unexpectedly shows.

Wignall, Kevin. **People Die** (\$6.99). His clients are international. His targets never see it coming. He’s the best assassin money can buy. His only rule: never become involved emotionally. But when a hit goes down in a Moscow hotel and JJ lets a lovely lady walk away carrying her clothes and a package, he knows he’s broken his No. 1 rule. Soon the predator finds himself prey. “Compelling, gritty, and sharp as a blade,” says Jeffrey Deaver.

Woods, Stuart. **Hot Mahogany** (\$10). Stone Barrington is hired to protect a man who has forgotten more than most people know...but will the bad guys believe this?

THE PEMBERLEY CHRONICLES

Collins, Rebecca. **The Ladies of Longbourn** (Sourcebooks \$15). The 4th “sequel” to **Pride and Prejudice** (\$8) find Darcy and Elizabeth, Bingley and Jane, caught up in new events. Australian Collins is so into Jane Austen she has written ten novels: **The Pemberley Chronicles**; **The Women of Pemberley**; **Netherfield Park Revisited** (\$15 each) and new: **Mr. Darcy’s Daughter** (\$15). **My Cousin Caroline** is slated for Sept. (\$15).

HISTORY/MYSTERY

☞Ackroyd, Peter. **The Casebook of Victor Frankenstein** (Vintage \$17). Frankenstein begins his anatomy experiments in the secluded village of Headington near Oxford. The Coroner’s office in Clarendon Street has a steady supply of corpses, but most have died violently and are damaged. Frankenstein moves his equipment to a deserted pottery in Limehouse, London, and makes contact with the Domesday Men. The imaginative Ackroyd gives the legend and Resurrection Men his own twist....

☞Baruth, Philip. **The Brothers Boswell** (Soho \$24). In 1763, James Boswell and celebrity author Dr. Samuel Johnson embark on a trip down the Thames to Greenwich. Unknown to either, they are being stalked by James’ younger brother John who has recently been released from an asylum for the insane. John is equipped with a pair of miniature pistols which fire a single golden bullet each, a sense of injury over perceived slights...and murder in his heart. An ingenious novel this, in fact, remarkable, a character-driven adventure tale. And John Boswell makes a classic unreliable narrator.

Brandreth, Gyles. **Oscar Wilde and the Dead Man’s Smile** (Murray \$35 Signed). Paris, 1883. Oscar Wilde, aged 27 arrives and rekindles his friendship with the divine Sarah Bernhardt. Wilde is to collaborate with France’s most celebrated actor-manager, Edmond La Grange. He discovers dark secrets lying at the heart of the La Grange company, and is confronted by murders both foul and bizarre in a dangerous adventure leading past *la vie bohème* to an insane asylum, from a duel in the Bois de Boulogne to the gates of Reading Gaol. The collaboration between Wilde and Conan Doyle was won many fans in **Wilde and a Death of No Importance** (\$14); **Wilde and a Game Called Murder** (\$14; \$35 Signed); **Wilde and the Candlelight Murders** (\$35 Signed).

☞Cameron, Kenneth. **The Frightened Man** (St Martins \$25). The author of 30 some books turns to 1900 London and a mix of

the prostitution, evisceration and voyeurism that made the Jack the Ripper legend so terrifying and still plays into serial killer thrillers. But here what we get is an American novelist, a Civil War vet and former frontier sheriff, who leads a lonely life on the edge financially and socially. Dumped by his lover, Denton is further disconcerted by an “R. Mulcahy” who brings a tale of glimpsing a man he knows to be the Ripper on a city street. Mulcahy is terrified, but not we gradually learn, for the obvious reason. Social worker Janet Striker may prove a match for the dour Denton. For fans of Anne Perry’s Inspector Monk mysteries.

✦Clare, Alys. **Out of the Dawn Light** (Severn \$29 Signed). The era of the Domesday Book forms the background for new direction for medievalist Clare. England under the heel of the Normans presented from the standpoint of fen dwellers, many descended from those natives who took refuge in the marshes and developed a special lifestyle there. Two villagers end up on a quest to the coast where an unusual treasure is brought up from the sea, a treasure linked to earlier Norse invaders. Rich in details, tinged with legend and the supernatural as were the Hawkenlye Abbey mysteries.

✦Clark, Cassandra. **Red Velvet Turnshoe** (Murray \$41). It’s Black February, 1383. Against a background of plague and warfare between England and France, the nun Hildegard is sent across Europe in search of a relic, the Cross of Constantine. The independent Abbess of Meaux will need remarkable skills to survive such a dangerous quest.... **Hangman Blind** (\$25).

✦Clements, Rory. **Martyr** (Murray \$32 Signed; Bantam \$24). A Tudor debut akin to the work of CJ Sansom makes our History/Mystery Pick for June. See First Novels in this *Booknews*.

Davis, Lindsey. **Course of Honour** (\$15). Joy, a reissue of Davis’ first book, perhaps her favorite. It’s about Vespasian and the unusual love affair he had with a slave who in time became a freed woman—but one as Emperor he could not marry. He stuck with her anyway for reasons clear to Davis and in her compelling narrative, the reader....

✦Dean, Anna. **Gentlemen of Fortune** (Allison \$42 Signed). Miss Dido Kent, an 1806 analogue of Miss Guinevere Pettigrew of the film *Miss Pettigrew Lives for a Day*, has developed rather a taste for mysteries. Having solved the riddle of her niece’s missing fiancé and the body in the bushes at Belsfield Hall in History Pick **Moment of Silence** (\$15), the unexpectedly shrews Miss Dido Kent is finding her quiet holiday at her cousin Flora’s home pretty flat. When a neighbor ups and dies leaving her entire estate to her young nephew, Miss Kent can’t help but be suspicious. She feels justified when the local doctor calls it an overdose and publicly accuses the nephew. Flora begs her aunt to prove otherwise and digs into dirty dealings amongst the upper classes in Richmond on Thames. “Beautifully written. Characters one cares about immediately and a mystery which becomes more urgent with every page.”—*Anne Perry*. “Anna Dean has captured the tricky business of presenting a clever and resourceful woman, hedged in by a tight-laced society, who turns those limitations to her own benefit. Decorative and thoughtful, this is a worthy addition to the historical crime tradition.”—*Laurie R. King*.

Dean, Rebecca. **Palace Circle** (Doubleday \$14). “From London to Cairo, in the glittery world of high society before WWII, Dean taps into an exotic and distant world in her page-turning debut. Marvelous... Dean beautifully captures the mood and color of

the era.”—*Publishers Weekly*. It begins in Virginia, continues in London and at a stately home, and travels to between the wars Cairo and the court of King Farouk....

✦Depoy, Philip. **The King James Conspiracy** (St Martins \$26). I’ve always liked Depoy’s Georgia mountains mysteries which link folklore and local culture to interesting crimes. He has a good sense of theater being in fact the director of the theater program at Clayton State University. So it’s no surprise that he orchestrates a complex story of the group of scholars brought together by King James in 1605 in Cambridge to create a definitive English translation of the Bible. It was (and remains) a great work, powered per DePoy by superstitious James’ fear of witchcraft. Deacon Marbury, the man in charge of the diverse scholars, is challenged here by savage murder of one of the group. Brother Timon has a secret past, blood on his hands, and is an agent for forces wishing to stop the translation work in its tracks. And the body count rises. Depoy has really done his homework here and any history buff will be enthralled by the debates and disputes over the great work of the Bible. This is a book that demands you take your time with it!

✦Faye, Lindsey. **Dust and Shadow** (SimonSchuster \$25). From the gritty streets of London, the loyal and courageous Dr. Watson offers a tale unearthed after generations of lore: the harrowing story of Sherlock Holmes’s attempt to hunt down Jack the Ripper. See Cameron, above.

Gale, Iain. **Rules of War** (\$17). Jack Steel, a maverick gentleman fighting under John Churchill (Duke of Marlborough) on the continent, and his Scottish Grenadiers join a crucial campaign in Spain against the Crown, aided erratically by local guerrillas. Jack has to choose between civilized warfare or a rougher brand.... First, **Man of Honor** (\$71); third: **Brothers in Arms** (\$31 Signed).

✦Haran, Maeve. **The Lady and the Poet** (Pan \$15). As Elizabeth’s reign draws to a close, an illicit and passionate love affair between John Donne and Ann More ends, against all odds, in their marriage. 16th Century London springs vividly to life alongside the rural existence led by the More family at Loseley Park in Surrey.

Harrison, Cora. **Sting of Justice** (Macmillan \$40 Signed). A gorgeous package wraps the third Burren mystery set in 16th Century Ireland where the old Celtic society is about to give way, though it doesn’t know it, to the incoming English. It’s autumn, and Mara, the judge, is attending the funeral of the priest. The last thing she expects is another corpse on the church steps: a man stung to death by bees. The victim, one Sorley, the silversmith, was a greedy rogue, little trusted by the Burren, and many might have wished him dead. Who really stood to gain is the question the wise Mara must ask—and answer. A wonderful sense of place and a sensibility surprisingly gentle for a medieval mystery. **My Lady Judge** (\$14); **A Secret and Unlawful Killing** (\$25; UK *The Michaelmas Tribute*).

✦Heyer, Georgette. **Bath Tangle** (\$14). Of all Heyer’s superlative Regencies, this is the one that walks the streets of the spa so town often associated with Austen. Lady Serena Carlow, a beauty with a fiery temper, is put out that her father’s unexpected death leaves her, a spinster, the ward of the Marquis of Rotherham—a man she once jilted. With the heir to her father’s estate taking over, Lady Serena and her lovely stepmother move household to Bath

and there various entanglements develop. We stock all Heyer's novels, Regencies, historicals, mysteries, mostly in UK editions (\$17 each).

Hockensmith, Steve. **The Black Dove** (\$14). Old Red and Big Red Amlingmeyer, the cowboy brothers who admire Sherlock Holmes, do some detectifying in 1893 San Francisco, the world's wickedest city. After their disastrous tour of duty as railway policemen, they go for jobs as professional detectives. Dead is Dr. Chan, whom they met on that train they patrolled. The police call it a suicide. Old Red calls that a lie. With their only clue the exotic and elusive Black Dove, they take on Barbary Coast thugs, Chinatown tongs, and crooked cops.... **Holmes on the Range; On the Wrong Track** (\$14 each). Coming in July: **The Cracked Lens** (St Martins \$26 Signed).

Iliffe, Glyn. **King of Ithaca** (\$15; \$32 Signed). It was a time of heroes. When Eperitus, young and exiled, comes to the aid of a group of warriors at battle among Greece's feuding kingdoms, he little knows he's about to join up with the charismatic king Odysseus and embark on a vital quest, a voyage of discovery. First in an Odysseus trilogy.

Izner, Claude. **The Marais Assassin** (Gallic \$17). Parisian bookseller Victor Legris finds a new case falls close to him when his business partner's apartment is burgled. Curiously the only stolen item is a decorative goblet. But wait, two people have been murdered in connection to this valueless object: maybe it has some special significance?

Japp, Andrea. **Breath of the Rose** (Gallic \$17). Book Two in the Agnes de Souarcy Chronicles (four medieval mysteries) translated from the French. Agnes here uses her remarkable knowledge of her country's history to tell a spellbinding, mysterious story. I liked **The Season of the Beast** (\$17) a lot; Book one is dark and atmospheric, something different.

Jonnes, Jill. **Eiffel's Tower and the Worlds Fair** (Viking \$28). Speaking of iconic images like the *Mona Lisa*, Gustave Eiffel's landmark has been a Paris landmark since it opened in May, 1889. to be a centerpiece of the World's Fair, and it stirred up a storm of controversy. Figures like Buffalo Bill and Thomas Edison play into a story designed like say Ross King's **Brunelleschi's Dome** (\$14) or Erik Larsen's **Devil in the White City** (\$15) to combine biography, social and technological history, and suspense into narrative nonfiction.

✠Knight, Bernard. **Crowner Royal** (SimonSchuster \$25 June). It's 1196. Richard the Lionheart has commanded Sir John de Wolfe to leave Exeter and the West for the Palace of Westminster to take up the role of Coroner of the Verge. Richard is overseas and Crowner John quickly learns the court is a hotbed of deceit and desire...and the scene of the murder of a palace clerk. Can a conspiracy to overthrow Richard be afoot, and what of the coming visit of Dowager Queen Eleanor?

Lavery, Brian. **The Frigate Surprise** (Norton \$40). The complete story of the ship made famous in the novels of Patrick O'Brian (Norton was his US publisher).

✠Lawrence, Paul. **Sweet Smell of Decay** (Beautiful Books \$18). Follow the fortunes of the rogue Harry Lytle as he attempts to find out who savagely murdered his young female cousin in Restoration London.

MacLean, Shona. **Redemption of Alexander Seaton** (\$15; \$35

UK Signed). "This could be the premise for a contemporary crime thriller - except that the novel is set in the 1620s and steeped in the history of that period."—*Scotland on Sunday*. I thought so too, which is why I made this debut set north on Banff on Scotland's east coast a First Mystery Pick. The evocation of a Puritan mind, of superstition and fears and witch hunts, of a society both rigid and closed where women, healers, and here a disgraced ministerial student are pushed to the fringe. The body was moved to the house of this student, Alexander Seaton, and it pushes him into a quest to regain his faith in God and himself as well as to catch a killer.

✠Mantel, Hilary. **Wolf Hall** (Fourth Estate \$43 Signed).. Into the mess of 1520s England where the king lacks a male heir and wishes to divorce, the pope and most of Europe oppose him, the brilliant Cardinal Wolsey flounders, Henry VIII grows dangerously petulant steps the son of a brutal blacksmith, Thomas Cromwell. A political genius, "a briber, bully boy, and charmer," he's risen to power by breaking all the rules of a rigid society and he's prepared to make more to reshape England in a court where "man is wolf to man." No wonder it takes 652 pages to tell the story this year marking the 500th anniversary of Henry's accession. Some of it belongs to Sir Thomas More, some to the Seymours of Wolf Hall. "A fascinating read, so good I rationed myself. It is remarkable and very learned; the texture is marvelously rich, the feel of Tudor London and the growing household of a man on the rise marvelously authentic. Characters real and imagined spring to life, from the childish and petulant King to Thomas Wolsey's jester, and it captures the extrovert, confident, violent mood of the age wonderfully.—*C.J. Sansom*.

✠Martin, Andrew. **Death on a Branch Line** (\$15). One Friday evening in the sweltering summer of 1911, a special train rolls into York station. On board is a young noble recently found guilty of killing his father in the sleepy village of Adenwold. He is entrusted to railway detective Jim Stringer and warns Stringer of another murder—that of his reclusive brother. Jim and his wife Lydia train to Adenwold along a near deserted branch line and there encounter a host of suspects and the potential victim....

McIntosh, Pat. **The Rough Collier** (\$16). 5th for Glasgow notary Gil Cunningham. It begins when Gil is teaching his young bride swordplay up in his mother's attic (no, really, that's not an innuendo) and the peat cutters come to report the dead man. Is the corpse a missing local? Fil and Alys uncover more murders and we learn a lot about medieval mining. An excellent series, continuing with **A Stolen Voice** (Constable \$45 Signed; Soho \$25 July Unsigned), which is completely fascinating in its look at the role of music, song, and singers in (celtic) communities in and lying outside Scotland. Start with **The Harper's Quine** (\$15).

Meyerson, Daniel. **In the Valley of the Kings** (Ballantine \$25). Meyerson looks at the story of Howard Carter, discoverer of the treasure-laden tomb of Tutankhamum in 1922, an archaeologist rising from an untrained copyist to the brilliant Petrie in a time when the burgeoning field was dominated by the upper classes, was unlikely to make history until he met up with adventure-loving occultist Lord Carnarvon. Various factors contributed to the fame and (lost) fortunes that followed. It's a nifty tale in its own right and essential reading for Elizabeth Peters fans.

Monaldi, Rita. **Imprimatur** (Polygon \$20 tpbk). 11 September 1683. Rome is a city on a knife-edge. The citizens wait anxiously

for news of the outcome of the Battle of Vienna, as the Islamic forces of the Ottoman Empire lay siege to the defenders of Catholic Europe. Meanwhile a suspected outbreak of plague causes a famous Roman tavern to be placed under quarantine. Among this detained in the Locanda Donzello is the mysterious Atto Melani, a spy in the service of the French king. With the help of the young serving boy, he discovers a secret passage leading to a network of tunnels under the city. Their nocturnal journeys into the Roman underworld lead them to some startling discoveries about the deadly enmity between Pope Innocent XI and Louis XIV, and a plot to unleash a weapon of mass destruction in the battle between Islam and the West. Making “revelations that have been concealed for centuries,” this thriller sheds new light on the power struggles of 17th-century Europe, the repercussions of which are still felt today. First published to great controversy in Italy in 2002, *Imprimatur* was boycotted by the Italian press, but became a European bestseller translated into 20 languages and published in 45 countries.

✠Perry, Anne. **Callander Square; A Dangerous Mourning** (\$14 each). Reissues of a Thomas Pitt and of the second William Monk mystery.

✠Phillips, Charles. **Castles and Palaces of Tudors/Stuarts** (\$19). Divided into four chronological sections from Tudor palaces to Elizabethan Houses to Jacobean and Restoration palaces and stately homes. 200+ color images. A great reading companion and travel guide.

Pintoff, Stefanie. **In the Shadow of Gotham** (St Martins \$27 Signed). The first winner of the MWA/St Martin’s Press content for new writers excavates a rich vein of early criminology/psychology plus early feminism: the murder victim is among the first female graduate students at Columbia. It’s 1905 and Simon Ziele, working in the village of Dobson while mourning the fiancée who died in a ferry sinking, is drawn back into the city by the woman’s murder in her bedroom. He consults with Columbia scholar Alison Sinclair, a criminologist contributing new insights to police work—but Ziele’s investigation is all his own. If I hadn’t filled up the History Picks I’d have made this one.

Scotti, RA. **The Vanished Smile** (Knopf \$24). On August 11, 1911, the *Mona Lisa* was lifted off the wall and walked out of the Louvre. In fact, more than 24 hours passed before museum officials realized she was gone. The investigation was mess. Two suspects included the avant-garde poet Guillaume Apollinaire and his friend, the rising star Pablo Picasso. The French detectives employed the latest technology like Bertillon’s fingerprinting, in its infancy, and the burgeoning global media spread the word. Thousands flocked to see the empty space where *Mona Lisa* had hung. Scotti, a splendid novelist, not only presents an ingenious account of what happened, its 1914 recovery in Florence, but discusses its transformation into an icon, its travels and its current secure display.

Smith, Wilbur. **Assegai** (St Martins \$28). It’s 1913 in British East Africa where the saga of the Courtney family of Africa begun in 1964 with *When the Lion Feeds* continues. Leon Courtney, ladies’ man and former lieutenant in the King’s African Rifles, becomes a professional big game hunter and safari guide in the years leading up to WWI.

Unger, Miles J. **Magnifico, The Brilliant Life and Violent Times of Lorenzo de’ Medici** (\$18). A look at a dynasty integral

to the high Renaissance in 15th Century Italy and the history of Florence. Heir to a vast international banking empire and trading cartel with branches in Venice, London and Geneva, Lorenzo de’ Medici (1449–1492) was born to excel. So he did....

Vaughn-Hughes, Pip. **Painted in Blood** (\$15). Europe is in turmoil in 1242 AD as Louis of France elects to stamp out the Cathars once and for all. Brother Petroc and his mentor, Captain de Montalhac, are on the wrong side of this horrible conflict.... Concludes the Petroc trilogy: **Relics** (\$15); **Vault of Bones** (\$15; \$20 Signed).