



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of SLEUTH of Baker Street

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Greetings

January 2005

The devastation in Asia caused by the earthquake and tsunami has been on all of our minds. It's been heart-warming to see ordinary Canadians and Americans reach deep into their pockets and help. The amount of money donated by Canadian citizens, a stunning C\$75 million at last count, is approaching the C\$80 million pledged by the Government of Canada, but lots more needs to be raised. For our part Marian and I have decided that Sleuth will donate C\$3.50, 10% of the cover price, for each copy of **Peter Robinson's** new Insp. Banks novel, Strange Affair, sold in the month of January 2005. Please order lots of copies.

And on that note... **PETER ROBINSON's** next Insp. Banks novel, Strange Affair (\$34.99), is due any day. Actually by the time you get this it'll be in the store. It had better be, as we're launching it at Sleuth on **Thursday, January the 20<sup>th</sup>!** His Canadian publisher has stopped producing advance reading copies so none of us have had a chance to read it yet, but we all know that it will be wonderful, yet again, but we did manage to get you a short blurb:

While Inspector Banks is at home on holiday, his brother Roy leaves a disturbing message on his answering machine. When Banks can't reach Roy by phone, he heads to London to find him. As soon as he leaves, he's wanted back in Eastvale. Two rambblers find a young woman shot dead behind the wheel of her car, and Banks's address is in her back pocket. But Banks has left his mobile at home and cannot be easily tracked down.

As DI Annie Cabbot investigates the murder, Banks lives in Roy's mews house in South Kensington, digging into the life of the brother he never really knew or liked. He soon discovers that something has gone seriously wrong with Roy's high-flying lifestyle. Before long Annie's and Banks's investigations begin to

Join McClelland & Stewart and the wonderful people of Sleuth

at the official launch of

**PETER ROBINSON's**

latest Insp. Banks novel

Strange Affair

(\$34.99)

**Thursday, January 20**

**6-8 pm at Sleuth**

converge, leading them both towards terrifying and shocking conclusions that edge them into that dark territory where world events taint and shatter individual lives.

Strange Affair is **Peter Robinson's** fifteenth Inspector Banks novel, and it amply demonstrates why he's counted among the top crime fiction writers in the world.

For years we used a word processor called Ami Pro 3.0 to produce The Merchant of Menace. It was the product of the fertile brains at Lotus, of Lotus 123 fame, and it was simple to learn, was powerful enough, and in the increasingly crowded field of sexy new feature-rich alternatives it held up rather well. So much so that despite free copies of Microsoft Word which came with every new machine I simply could not justify the time and effort required to switch. Recently we did however, had to actually, because of some technical requirements at our printers. (IBM bought Lotus some

## The Merchant of Menace,

SLEUTH of Baker Street's bi-monthly newsletter is available by subscription at an annual fee of CDN\$35. Agree to buy at least \$75 of books in any calendar year and we'll waive the fee. Ask for a complimentary copy. All subscriptions are for a calendar year, by the way, so we'll prorate as necessary.

### Postage & Handling Within Canada

\$6 per book, max. \$15\*

**To the United States**

\$8.50 per book, max. \$20\*

**Elsewhere**

Actual postage

(\*with the odd exception)

### Hours of Business

**10 am to 6 pm**

every day

**except**

Sunday: **Noon - 4pm**

Holidays: **closed**

years back, "improved" the software, changed the name, and promptly killed it.) Well, I have to tell you that I hate MS Word. There is so much to despise about Word that I could go on for pages—my diatribe can be rather amusing so it's worth a few hours at the bar and a drink or six—and yet it does the job. It's probably not as bad as I'm suggesting--haven't billions of dollars been spent to make this intuitive?—and I find it anything but. There is one thing about Word, though, that I just adore and it's the Office Assistant. Quite unannounced, a little cat appeared on my screen, as is their wont, and I've since found out his name is Link. He's a little cartoon cat that sits on your screen—Did I see a mouse move?—and does all the wonderful things that cats do. Every once in a while he'll stretch, purr, curl up and go to sleep, and that just so warms my heart that I want to find Paddington, wherever he's hiding because Dad just won't leave him alone, and give him a big hug. Stupid way for a grown man to behave, but all I have to do is look at Link and I laugh. As an Office Assistant he's pretty useless but for pure entertainment he's the cat's meow.

It's been almost five years, as best as anyone around here can remember since we raised our shipping rates. In that period of time the rates have increased many, many times. We've had to make the painful decision to do likewise. In the last year Canada Post has taken to adding a fuel surcharge and that was pretty much what forced our hand. The revised rates are listed on page one. We hope that you'll understand our need for this increase.

## Wendy's Picks

Happy New Year!! I hope that everybody had a wonderful holiday season with family and friends. My Christmas and New Year were very quiet as I am recovering from a concussion and have to take it easy, said the doctor. I did my best, with all the purest of intentions, to stay still and rest over the holidays but I just *couldn't* stay in all the time. I did very little reading in December because my head hurt and therefore, my list is short:

The Strange Laws of England (hardcover, \$19.95) by **NIGEL CAWTHORNE** is hilarious. The author has uncovered some of the weirdest laws, some still in effect, in England. There are laws pertaining to feudal times, laws limiting the fun that one can have, laws pertaining to sex, diet and apparel, parliament, punishment and general naughtiness. I just opened the book up to any page, read and laughed (but not too hard). If you enjoy English history, this is a wonderful book to have.

I hadn't read anything by **MARGARET MURPHY** in quite a while but when I met her at Bouchercon, I was so impressed that I decided that I should pick up her latest book, The Dispossessed (hardcover \$34.95, trade paperback \$24.95) and thoroughly enjoyed it. Set in Liverpool, DI Jeff Rickman is investigating the brutal murder of a young Afghan refugee. As the body count increases, Rickman's investigation takes him into a community that won't let down its guard and then, just to make it personal, he's framed for a murder he did not commit. Wonderful writing.

Dead Sight (\$34.95) by **GLENN CHANDLER** was in the November newsletter but I hadn't yet read it. I really liked the first, Savage Tide (\$10.99), set in Brighton with DI Steve Madden. He's back, still dealing with events from the first book and pining for his re-married ex-wife. Psychic Lavinia Roberts had contacted him to say she 'saw' one of her clients becoming a serial killer. Madden does not take her seriously until she is murdered. When another

victim is discovered, Madden finds himself searching for a serial killer who doesn't seem to care who his victims are or how he kills them.

There are a couple of paperbacks that I'd like to tell you about. I picked Desert Places (\$9.99) by **BLAKE CROUCH** when it was published last year in hardcover; it is now available in paperback. This is what I wrote back then: "Desert Places introduces novelist Andrew Taylor, a man who enjoys his solitude in his lakefront home, isolated from his neighbours and fifteen miles from Charlotte. On his nightly stroll down his long driveway to check the mailbox, he discovers a note that says there is a body buried on his property. In the body's jeans pocket is a piece of paper with a phone number that Andrew is to call. If he doesn't call within one day, the police will receive an anonymous tip. Andrew, at first, believes the note to be a joke but later decides to search his property. Guess what - it's no joke. From this point on, Andrew's life is out of his control. I couldn't put this book down. It is, at times, very gruesome but I had to keep reading to find out how it would all end for Andrew..." As Pat Conroy says on the back of the book: "Terrific.. harrowing...a whacked-out combination of Stephen King and Cormac McCarthy."

The second paperback is Tainted Lives (\$10.99) by **MANDASUE HELLER**. This is a compelling story, set in the Manchester area, about three rejected children and the people they become. Sarah Mullen was put into care by her drug-addicted mother when she was seven. Harry Shaw's own mother could not bear to look at his ugly face and he was bullied by everyone. Vinnie Walker is thirteen, also rejected by his mother, with one last chance to straighten out his life. They all come together at Starlight, a residence for children with no one and no place else. This is a book about friendship, loyalty, betrayal, growing up and murder. Oh yes, there is a body and when the circumstances are fully revealed, I felt vindication for one of the characters. A terrific book about three tainted lives.

Criminal Records (\$10.00), edited by **OTTO PENZLER**, is a wonderful collection of 15 novellas by some of my favourite writers: **Ian Rankin, Peter Lovesey, S.J. Rozan and June Thomson** to name a few. I would read anything by these writers so the novellas are just a treat but this collection also introduced me to authors that I've never read before including **Robert Barnard, H.R.F. Keating, and Anne Perry**. I probably would have remained completely ignorant of these fine writers if I had not read this collection but now I know what I've been missing. Whether I go back and read all the titles that I can find by them remains to be seen. Too many books, so little time. This is a very large trade paperback at a very low price so if you want to try out some new authors, give this a go. (*I managed to talk the publisher into making us a keen price and we're passing the savings along. It was originally published at C\$24.95 – JD*)

## Marian's Picks

I hope all of you had a wonderful time with your families over the holidays. I always find it hectic and tend to eat more than I should. I will never admit to drinking more than I should. Among the presents I got for Christmas, Wendy gave me a lovely brooch in the shape of a martini glass. When I opened Mary's present I found two martini glasses and olives soaked in vermouth. A theme I thought, or maybe they both know me more than I would like to admit.

Both deny they knew what the other was giving me. Oh yeah! JD gave me some lovely wine glasses. A continuation of the theme? Am I that transparent? We all missed Princess this Christmas tearing into the used wrapping paper as cats are wont to do. Paddington, now being an only cat, has become so much more affectionate and needy. So, in a small way, her loss is being made up for by himself. Thanks to all of you who said you loved Princess as well.

A new year brings with it a new set of accomplishments for me to tackle. It's sort of like when September rolls around and I think I should go back to school. What to do this year? I will run a half marathon in New York City in April. (Any more restaurant recommendations, Henrietta?) It's for women over forty and when I did it last year I had a lot of fun. I think it was New York City I had fun investigating and not the run. I have decided to run another marathon and this time I am going to register for the Chicago Marathon. If anyone who lives there knows of a reasonably priced hotel in the downtown core please let me know. I was looking at the rates of some of them and they start at US\$275. That's a lot of money for a room! But for 2005, as with any year, I really want to stay healthy and enjoy life, my cottage, and my bookstore.

I love discovering new writers and in this newsletter I want to mention three of them. **PATRICIA SMILEY** introduces Los Angeles business consultant Tucker Sinclair in False Profits (\$34.95). Tucker has to write a business plan for neurologist Dr. Milton Polk that will entice investors to his new clinic. Not that hard to do, except the doctor gets himself killed and Tucker and the consulting firm she works for are accused of bilking the investors out of millions of dollars. It seems that someone falsified the business plan and stole the original documents signed by the doctor out of Tucker's office, so she can't prove her innocence. A great read, fast paced and witty.

Another new writer is **CLAIRE MATTURRO** who has written Skinny-Dipping (\$33.95). This book was actually listed in the November 2004 newsletter but I did not read it until my Christmas time off. It was wonderfully witty and a delight to read. Lilly Rose Cleary is a tough partner working in a Sarasota, Florida, law firm representing fat-cat (the jacket blurb's words) physicians in malpractice cases. She is also a bit of an obsessive-compulsive health nut and has a boyfriend who is driving her crazy. After successfully defending a client in a kayak whiplash case she is attacked at her office door. Why? Good fun and as zany as it sounds.

I picked up Beneath a Panamanian Moon by **DAVID TERRENOIRE** (\$33.95), the third newbie, because I liked what I read on the dust jacket blurb: "Must be proficient in firearms and explosives. Successful candidate must also play piano. \$1.5K/day. Compensation package includes death benefits to next of kin". Why not give it a try? I loved it although I must admit there were a couple of times I got a bit lost. (Maybe my stuffed up head was a bit too stuffed up.) The writing style is light and breezy and the banter reminds me of the Elvis Cole novels by **Robert Crais**. Something bad is going to happen on New Year's Eve so the US government sends reluctant spy/pianist John Harper to Panama to find out what's going on.

I have now read all three books that **CORNELIA FUNKE** has written: The Thief Lord (\$10.99 paperback), Inkheart (\$24.99 hardcover) and her latest, Dragon Rider (\$16.99 hardcover). They are all kids books and they are all wonderful. Dragon Rider tells the story of a dragon who is looking for a safe place to bring the rest of

his dragon family so they can live without interference by humans. Of course there is a young boy who helps and an assortment of other animals. Delightful and it really works for all us young-at-heart older people as well.

Bloodline by **FIONA MOUNTAIN** (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) is so much better than Pale as the Dead (\$10.99) and I liked Pale as the Dead a lot! An enigmatic old man commissions ancestor detective Natasha Blake to do a family tree of his granddaughter's boyfriend. When granddad is killed and facts about the past are brought to light, Natasha continues her research to unmask the killer. I enjoyed the methodology about researching ancestors and info about the Second World War and the land girls. The plot seemed to be a bit more complicated than her first book, almost as though she practiced first, and then got it right.

**C. J. SANSOM** has written two novels featuring hunchback lawyer Matthew Shardlake. The first, Dissolution (\$9.99 paperback or \$22.95 trade paperback if you need larger print), has Matthew investigating a murder at one of the monasteries that Henry VIII is dissolving and is an excellent read. But I think I prefer the second novel better: Dark Fire (\$34.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback). Matthew is in Lincoln's Inn, London, trying to help a young woman who will be pressed to death (by having stones laid over her body) if she does not plead innocent or guilty to the murder she is accused of. While he is in the middle of this case he is summoned by Thomas Cromwell to search for the secret of Greek Fire. Both books have wonderful characters, great plots, and some neat history tidbits. Wonderful, wonderful, wonderful.

I mentioned At Risk by **STELLA RIMINGTON** (\$27.95 trade paperback) in an earlier newsletter thinking that we would soon have stock. Well, I should have known better. We never received any of the hardcovers that we ordered and have just recently received the trade paperback. But that's not the author's fault. She did her bit by writing a wonderful spy novel. The former head of MI5 knows what she's talking about. For Liz Carlyle, an MI5 Intelligence Officer, news from MI6 that an invisible has been activated on mainland Britain is not good news. An invisible is a terrorist who, because he or she is an ethnic native of the target country, can cross its borders unchecked and move around the country unquestioned. As Liz gets incoming evidence and reports from her agents she realizes there is an imminent terrorist threat. Great read.

The Canterbury Papers by **JUDITH KOLL HEALEY** (\$19.95) has just arrived in trade paperback and I remember thinking this was a neat historical mystery when I read it in hardcover. Alais, the King of France's sister, is abducted while on a mission for Eleanor of Aquitaine to retrieve hidden letters. She is rescued by a Knights Templar and the story is filled with action and people you have heard about in history class.

I finally read Winter House by **CAROL O'CONNELL** (\$36.00) which was listed in the November 2004 newsletter. Ice-hearted Mallory is back and she is back to her usual form. The dead burglar was in fact a vicious killer. To make sure he was dead he was stabbed with an ice pick first and then a pair of scissors. Sixty years ago five siblings, father, stepmother, nanny, and housekeeper were also killed by an ice pick in the same house. Hard-edged Mallory, along with Riker and Charles Butler, investigate. I think this is one of the best books Ms. O'Connell has written in a long time.

## J.D.'s Picks

I've often told you that I do not read historical novels but you know that to be rot. I'll read anything if it catches my interest. I've started all sorts of novels, historical and otherwise, and dropped them soon after because they just failed to amuse me. I recognize that that's often a case of my mood or attention level—it took me three or four tries to realize that Thus Was Adonis Murdered (\$9.99) by **SARAH CAUDWELL** is one of the greatest crime novels ever—and not necessarily any particular fault with the book. And I've read with great delight all number of novels that I didn't think I'd like—All Hat (\$10.99) by **BRAD SMITH** and Ice Harvest (\$18) by **SCOTT PHILLIPS** were truly unexpected pleasures—and Crippen by **JOHN BOYNE** is another one of the these. (\*\*\*\*Spoiler alert\*\*\*\* I caught a lot of grief a few years ago because I “gave away” a key element of the story—Morse dies, even though that had been reported widely on the news—and I'm reluctant to do that again. So...this warning: I'm assuming that you, dear reader, know the basic story of Dr. Crippen and Insp. Dew; if you do not you might want to skip the next paragraph.)

We probably all know the story of Dr. Crippen, who in 1910 murdered his wife and fled to Canada on the CP Ship *SS Montrose*. Accompanying him, disguised as his son, was his mistress, Ethel Le Neve. Canadians have probably seen the Heritage Canada commercials that informed you that the captain became suspicious and used the recently installed Marconi Telegraph to alert Scotland Yard and no doubt you've heard of Inspector Dew who raced across the ocean to be in Quebec City ahead of the pair and arrested them on arrival. Meek and mild-mannered Dr. Hawley Harvey Crippen was not a serial killer and certainly was not the monster that many have come to believe. He “only” killed one person and for that he paid a severe penalty. He was hanged. Ethel was acquitted of the murder and she moved to Canada and finally settled in Toronto. She died in 1967 at the age of 84. Dr. Crippen's last request of his executioners was that a photograph of his lover be buried with him; in her will, Ethel left instructions that a picture of Crippen also be placed in her hands before her coffin was sealed. Both requests were granted. Isn't that sad.

**JOHN BOYNE** is a young Irish writer with three novels to his credit. I had not come across the earlier ones as they did not appear to be crime novels, but the title of the new one, Crippen (\$18), of course, caught my eye. It's a lengthy book, almost 500 pages, and it's historical, so I'm not sure why I picked it up. Probably because there was a pile of them and they were not moving! What hooked me though, and I'm glad it did, was the Author's note. Novels based on true events often include a short note detailing the incident on which the story is based and, sometime, how the author has deviated from it for the sake of the story. Read this short two page note and you'll want to read the book and find out all about this fascinating case. The novel is a joy to read, and despite knowing the outcome I still wanted to read it. It was the most pleasurable journey and not just the destination. It's articulate, suspenseful and witty. I recommend it highly. The author is a talented writer and I, for one, will look for more from him. In particular, a very interesting character that appears in this novel, Matthieu Zela, has appeared in an earlier novel The Thief of Time, and I'm going to search it out and add it to my teetering unread pile.

**ROSS THOMAS** is a favourite author for many of us and it's been nice to see a number of his books reprinted for a new generation of

readers to enjoy. One thing that has puzzled me is the choice of titles to re-issue. Where I am grateful that St. Martin's have (or should that be has?) begun the re-issue program why they would re-print Out on the Rim (\$19.95), the second Artie Wu/Quincy Durant novel, two years before Chinaman's Chance (\$21.95), the first, is for greater minds to ponder. All I know is that little oversight has now been remedied and we can enjoy one of the best novels in the author's canon. (*I agree. - Marian*) At least with the McCorkle and Padillo novels the first one, Cold War Swap (\$19.95) was available even if they then jumped over the second and third straight to the fourth Twilight at Mac's Place (\$19.95). But that's quibbling. There are nine in print now and they are all great so enjoy them all.

Another long-time favourite is Sleeping Dog (\$20) by **DICK LOCHTE**. To my knowledge he has written five novels but if for nothing else his permanent spot in the annals of crime fiction is assured by this novel. (*Another one I agree with. - Marian*) Originally published in 1985, it won the Nero Wolfe Award and was nominated for the Edgar, Shamus, and Anthony Awards. It was also selected as one of the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century (\$19) by an association of independent mystery booksellers. It was re-printed in 2001 by Poisoned Pen Press but I do not recall us ever featuring it or making a fuss over it. That was our failing and something I'm going to rectify here. This is a classic and such great fun that y'all should read it.

Terrific news. **GEORGE MACDONALD FRASER** is going to publish a new Flashman novel!! Flashman on the March (\$39.95 cloth, \$24.95 trade paperback) is not due for another three months or so yet, but it's not too late to place your order now and to start re-reading the series. Flashman and Royal Flash (\$19.95 ea.) are the first two and a great place to start reading or re-reading.

Like all of us here you've likely been following the phenomenal success of **DAN BROWN's** Da Vinci Code (still in hardcover at \$37.95 and new last December the illustrated edition, \$48). Some eighteen million copies of the book have been sold worldwide and that's mostly in hardcover. Have you read it yet? It's not bad for what it is, a thoroughly entertaining tongue-planted-firmly-in-cheek kind of read. Don't expect to see God, nor the Son, let the action carry you along and it won't be the worst book you've read. Why has it become the unprecedented bestseller that it has? Some have suggested that the appetite for conspiracy novels is great. Others found the Church's shenanigans, from financial misdealing to “subjugating” women, make for entertaining reading. The controversial topics—was Da Vinci's *The Last Supper* altered, does the holy grail exist—all added to the buzz around the book. The fact that the large retailers who like to sell lots of copies of a very small number of books have gotten behind it has not hurt sales. Many have also wondered exactly how accurate historically is the book and how much has been invented by the author. Well, read on, we have the answers for you.

**SHARAN NEWMAN**, author of the Catherine Le Vendeur novels, medieval scholar, longtime member of the Medieval Academy etc...reveals the historical truths and myths behind the bestseller. No need to thank us, it's just part of the service we provide. You were wanting to know and THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND THE DA VINCI CODE (\$22) tells all. Was Mary Magdalene a prostitute? An apostle? The wife of Jesus? Who were the Templars, why were they so brutally suppressed, and do they still exist? Just some of the questions you'll find the answers to in this book.

And if that's not enough, **MARTIN LUNN's** Da Vinci Code Decoded (\$13.95) could be useful. The author, an expert historian,

reveals the truth behind Dan Brown's research. This is the essential unauthorized guide to the secrets of The Da Vinci Code. The reality of Catholic offshoot Opus Dei, the hard facts about the bloodline of Christ and King David, the shocking secrets of the Holy Grail, and the origins of the Knights Templars are just some of the topics explored.

David, whose column follows, and I were out for drinks with some other friends a few weeks back—we've started a literary drinking society/boy's night out club and could entertain the thought of additional members—and he mentioned a book that he thought might be well suited for me as he remembered how much I had loved Peace Like A River (\$19.50) by **L.L. ENGER**. Sister North (19.95) by **JIM KOKORIS** is the book and he was right. The story is about a Chicago lawyer who is content to drift through life until an act of violence shatters his world and he's come apart. Wandering aimlessly through life he comes across a late night TV show featuring Sister North, and knows that he must go see her and get the answers to the big questions that are eluding him. Not a crime novel, but such a wonderful, heart warming read that I recommend it to you without hesitation. Of course, if you've not read Peace Like a River, then you need to do that as well.

*J.D.'s Golf Money*  
By David

David has come through again with three suggestions.

Scorched Earth (\$21) by **DAVID L. ROBBINS**.

This riveting book by historical novelist **Robbins** came out about three years ago. Word is it did not fare as well as his bestsellers The End of War and War of the Rats, which is a shame because **Robbins** brought his finely crafted prose and great storytelling ability to the crime genre and it seemingly went unnoticed. Scorched Earth is a mystery, a powerful courtroom drama and an intricate story of race, justice and betrayal set in a small Virginia town. A literary page turner involving Tom Deacon, a well-respected Pastor, Nat Deeds, a reluctant prosecutor, and a murder committed in the worst drought the region has seen in years. Fans of **Scott Turow** and **David Baldacci** will enjoy this one.

Shoedog (\$9.99) by **GEORGE PELECANOS**

This book is a stand alone for Pelecanos and for the longest time was only available as an imported trade paperback. Well, now it's been reprinted in mass market and it's well worth the price of admission. Constantine is a drifter who has held down every type of odd job in just about every U.S. town. His life changes forever when he hitches a ride with Polk, a good old boy with time on his hands. When Polk's old army buddy convinces Constantine to do a quick in-and-out liquor store robbery, things go **Jim Thompson / Boston Teran / Daniel Woodrell** bad. Unvarnished and violent, very well written, this departure for **Pelecanos** deserves a second look. (*I'm sure David would agree with me that the author deserves a second and third look. I'm a fan -JD*)

Sleep Toward Heaven (\$19.95) by **AMANDA EYRE WARD**.

Ok, this novel doesn't exactly fit my usual criterion ( the great read that slipped under the radar in recent years) but I include it here because it's amazing, and because I haven't seen it on shelves anywhere (except for Sleuth, of course.)

This book is hard to summarize, even more difficult to define. Told from the alternating perspectives of Karen Lowen, a death row inmate, Celia Mills, the widow of Lowen's final victim, and Franny Wren, the State prison doctor who befriends Karen Lowen, this is a tale that is impossible to put down and culminates in a revelation of the possibility of faith and the responsibility of friendship. Imagine The Lovely Bones (\$19.95) but darker and more "crime-focused" and you'll have at least an idea of what to expect in this brilliant novel that seems to have gone unrecognized.

Well, that's it for this time. Thank you David for those fine suggestions and we look forward to seeing many of you at **Peter Robnison's** signing. Enjoy.

Marian, Mary, Wendy, JD

*Hardcover*

**AIRTH, RENNIE** BLOOD DIMMED TIDE (\$36.95) (Macmillan) The long awaited sequel to River of Darkness (\$10.99). It's 1932 and John Madden, former Scotland Yard inspector, is retired. His quiet life is shattered when he discovers the body of a young girl and he is convinced the killer has struck before. The trade paperback, at \$19.99, was mentioned in our November newsletter. Both books are great reads.

**ANDREWS, DONNA** ACCESS DENIED (\$35.00) (Berkley) Turing Hopper, the Artificial Intelligence Personality we were introduced to in You've Got Murder and Click Here For Murder (\$9.99 each) has been monitoring criminal-at-large Nestor Garcia's credit card. So when thousands of dollars of purchases are made and delivered to a vacant house, Turing and her friends (of both kinds) investigate. Good fun.

**BANNISTER, JO** DEPTHS OF SOLITUDE (\$33.95) (St. Martin's) Brodie Farrell is a single mom living in a small seaside town. She spends her days running a finding agency, helping clients locate items that have proved elusive by more conventional methods. When her best friend Daniel Hood goes missing she must use all her skills to locate him.

**BARRE, RICHARD** WIND ON THE RIVER (\$24.95) (Capra Press) A tiny 60 page Christmas story with a forward by Harlan Coben.

**BLACK, MICHAEL** WINDY CITY KNIGHTS (\$32.95) (Five Star) Not sure if this got in an earlier newsletter but we have two signed copied left of this Ron Shade novel.

**BLAND, ELEANOR** COLD AND SILENT DYING /';,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,ki (Paddington) (\$33.95) (St. Martin's) When a homeless woman turns up dead, Lieutenant Nicholson dismisses the case but homicide detective Marti MacAlister takes it upon herself to find the killer. Number twelve in the series.

**BRAUN, LILIAN JACKSON** CAT WHO WENT BANANAS (\$35.00) (Putnam) WOW, or should we say MEOW. Number twenty-seven in the series. The theft of a rare book and the death of an out-of-town actor keep Jim, Koko and Yum Yum busy.

**BUCKLEY, FIONA** SIREN QUEEN (\$36.00) (Scribner) When an invitation to visit arrives from the powerful Duke of Norfolk, Ursula Blanchard, illegitimate half sister to Queen Elizabeth I, sees it as a chance for her fourteen-year-old daughter Meg to meet an apparently worthy young man of the Duke's household. But two suspicious deaths, the threat of a plot to put Mary Queen of Scots on the English throne, and a letter written in code, keep Ursula busy. Number eight in the series.

**BURKE, JAN** BLOODLINES (\$36.00) (Simon & Schuster) A story that spans a forty-five year period: from the story of the burial of a bloodstained car in 1958 with O'Connor and his mentor Jack Corrigan working for the Las Piernas News Express; then 1978 when Irene Kelly was in her first days as a novice reporter working for managing editor O'Connor and reporting on the ground breaking ceremony for a shopping center and the unearthing of a buried car; to today where Irene faces the impending closing of the paper. How do all three incidents tie together?

**CARLSON, P M** DEATHWIND (\$37.95) Deputy Marty Hopkins investigates the death of a young woman whose body was found in a bank lobby, the cause of death unclear. In the meantime, Marty's recent application for divorce is not being well received by her husband or her young daughter.

**CAWTHORNE, NIGEL** STRANGE LAWS OF OLD ENGLAND (\$19.95) A neat little non-fiction book full of interesting tidbits about English law. See *Wendy's Picks*.

**CHABON, MICHAEL** FINAL SOLUTION (\$23.95) (Fourth Estate) In deep retirement in the English countryside, an eighty-nine-year-old man is more concerned with his beekeeping than with his fellow man. Into his life wanders Linus Steinman, nine years old and mute, who has escaped from Nazi Germany with his African Gray parrot. What is the meaning of the mysterious string of German numbers the bird spews out? This novella (131 pages) is the winner of the 2004 Aga Khan Prize for fiction.

**CHURCHILL, JILL** MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S SCREAM (\$33.95) 09swx (Paddington) Jane Jeffry helps her friend Shelly handle caterers who will be feeding the actors at a rundown theatre donated to a local college. Students are in rehearsal for a never before produced opus, but petty feuds, ego trips, and power struggles lead to murder.

**CLARK, MARY HIGGINS & CAROL** CHRISTMAS THIEF (\$30.50) (Scribner) Alvirah Meeham, the lottery winner turned amateur sleuth, teams up with Regan Reilly to solve another Christmas mystery.

**CLEMENT, PETER** INQUISITOR (\$34.95) (Ballantine) SARS, severe acute respiratory syndrome, has hit America hard and the staff at St. Paul's hospital in Buffalo, New York, are desperately trying to protect its patients. No one notices the spike in the death rate of patients in the palliative care ward. When ER chief Dr. Earl Garnet gets blamed for the unexpected death of a patient, he starts his own investigation and discovers something more sinister than disease is killing the patients.

**COLBERT, CURT** QUEER STREET (\$35.95) (Uglytown) mknj3 (Paddington) When a Seattle female impersonator is killed, Jake Rossiter and Miss Jenkins investigate.

**COLLINS, MAX ALLAN** ROAD TO PURGATORY (\$34.95) (Morrow) Michael O'Sullivan returns from fighting the Japanese a battle-scarred veteran of twenty-two, ready to pick up his old war against the Chicago Mob. Set in 1942.

**CORK, VENA** THORN (\$34.95) (Headline) A stalker terrorizes Rosa Thorn and her children after she takes a post as drama teacher at the local school. A debut novel.

**COTTERILL, COLIN** CORONER'S LUNCH (\$35.95) (Soho) For want of a better candidate Dr. Siri Paiboun, a physician trained in Paris, has been appointed chief coroner in Laos. After months of boredom there is a sudden spate of bodies, one slain more mysteriously than the next. The Communist Pathet Lao party wants answers but at his advanced age Dr. Siri feels immune from bureaucratic pressure.

**CRAIG & TAPPLY** SECOND SIGHT (\$35.00) (Scribner) J.W. Jackson, fisherman and sometime PI, has agreed to take the job of driver and guide to a Scottish pop star. While his friend, Boston lawyer Brady Coyne, has business on the Vineyard looking for the

daughter of an old friend, the two jobs weave together in this second outing. The first co-authored book is First Light (\$36.50).

**CRAWFORD, ISIS** CATERED WEDDING (\$31.00) (Kensington) Bernadette and Libby Simmons, owners of A Taste of Heaven, have been asked to cater a high-society wedding. But the bride takes an arrow in the chest hours before the event and so the two sisters investigate. A Catered Murder (\$7.99) is the first in the series. Recipes included.

**CRICHTON, MICHAEL** STATE OF FEAR (\$36.95) (Harper Collins) With over fifteen pages of bibliography this is a very well researched novel. In Paris a physicist dies after performing a lab experiment for a beautiful visitor. In the jungles of Malaysia, a mysterious buyer purchases deadly cavitation technology, built to his specifications. In Vancouver, a small research submarine is leased for use in the waters off New Guinea, and in Tokyo, an intelligence agent tries to understand what it all means.

**CRUIKSHANK, JEFFREY L** MURDER AT THE B-SCHOOL (\$34.95) (Mysterious Press) Tragedy strikes Harvard Business School when Eric MacInnes, the school's golden boy, has a misfortune in a campus hot tub. Struggling assistant professor at the bottom end of the exalted "B-School"'s tenure track, Wim Vermeer, is assigned to placate both the victim's parents and the Boston police. But Wim is shocked when the drowning begins to look like an ingenious murder.

**CUSSLER, CLIVE** BLACK WIND (\$40.00) (Putnam) With Dirk Cussler. In the waning days of WWII two Japanese submarines, carrying a revolutionary new strain of biological virus, were sent to the West Coast of the USA. They never made their designated target but today someone has a plan for the lost virus. A marine biologist named Summer, a marine engineer named Dirk, and their father, Dirk Pitt, the new head of NUMA, must stop him.

**CUTLER, JUDITH** DRAWING THE LINE (\$57) (Allison & Busby) Lina Townend, orphaned at a young age, has finally found some measure of happiness but still longs to learn about her past. One day at an antiques fair she comes across a frontispiece from an extremely rare book and that triggers a memory; she must find the rest of the book and perhaps get some answers. Others are also looking for the book and it soon becomes clear that she is involved in something a lot more dangerous than some family research.

**CUTLER, JUDITH** STAYING POWER (\$34.95) This is the US edition of the second novel featuring Kate Power. Originally published in a UK hardcover in 1999, the paperback is no longer in print.

**DAMATO, BARBARA** ON MY HONOR (\$60.00) (Five Star) Due to the price of the book this will be on a special order basis only.

**DAMS, JEANNE M** WINTER OF DISCONTENT (\$34.95) (Forge) Dorothy Martin's closest friend Jane Langland has been having a fling with Bill Fanshawe, well as much of a fling as two eighty-year-olds living in a small southeastern English town can have. When Bill is murdered Dorothy's investigation takes her back to events that happened in WWII.

**DEMILLE, NELSON** NIGHT FALL (\$39.95) (Warner) At dusk on July 17, 1996, on a deserted Long Island beach, a man and a woman engage in adulterous sex in front of a video camera. Suddenly a blast lights up the sky as TWA Flight 800 explodes in midair, and the video camera has recorded the last moments of the doomed airliner. Five years later the government has declared the crash a result of mechanical failure. But John Corey, an ex-NYPD detective who is now a contract agent with the US Federal Anti-Terrorist Task Force, is persuaded by Kate, his wife and task force partner, that the case deserves a second look.

**DIETZ, DENISE** EYE OF NEWT (\$32.95) (Five Star) Sydney St. Charles is descended from a long line of witches. She owns an apothecary shop in Manitou Falls, Colorado. Stocked with all the

usual health products, she also sells spells, potions and talismans. When a member of a rock band is murdered and the band's stage manager dies in a fire after buying a love spell from Sydney, she decides to investigate.

**DOUGLAS, CAROLE NELSON** SPIDER DANCE (\$34.95) (Forge) Irene Adler is lured to America with information about her parentage. Her faithful chronicler Nell, along with Sherlock Holmes, also makes the voyage.

**DOYLE & KLINGER** NEW ANNOTATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$110.00) A nice package, two books in a slip cover. Includes The Adventures, The Memoirs, The Return, The Case-Book, and His Last Bow.

**[DOYLE] KURLAND, MICHAEL ed** SHERLOCK HOLMES: THE HIDDEN YEARS (\$34.95) (St. Martin's) What happened to Sherlock Holmes between 1891 and 1894? A collection of original possibilities.

**[DOYLE] WYNNE, CATHERINE** COLONIAL CONAN DOYLE (\$175.00) British Imperialism and Irish Nationalism. Due to the price this will be a special order only.

**DOYLE, ROSE** SHADOWS WILL FALL (\$34.95) (Hodder & Stoughton) In March 2003 in Dun Laoghaire Ireland, Francis Shaw comes upon the body of a young woman, naked, dead from drowning and carefully laid out in the doorway of the hospital morgue. The police suspect copy-cat murders as they discover women were found in similar positions on Coney Island, New York in 1963 and again in Dun Laoghaire in 1953. Francis feels otherwise.

**DUMAS, MARGARET** SPEAK NOW (\$34.95) (Poisoned Pen Press) Charley Van Leeuwen surprises all her friends when she returns from England with her new husband, Jack Fairfax. Between finding a dead body in their hotel room bathtub and getting rescued by her husband in a hail of bullets, Charley begins to believe her new husband is not the mild-mannered meteorologist he claims to be. "Good fun" says Marian. Donna Andrews says: "...a modern day Nick and Nora Charles.....". A debut novel.

**ECCLES, MARJORIE** KILLING A UNICORN (\$33.95) (Thomas Dunne) Mentry Place has been the home of the Calvert family for over a hundred years. When the body of Bianca, the woman Chip Calvert brought home to live with him, is found in a pool beneath a waterfall on the estate, Francesca, wife of Mark Calvert, investigates.

**FAIRSTEIN, LINDA** ENTOMBED (\$37.50) (Scribner) Workers demolishing a nineteenth-century brownstone, where Edgar Allan Poe once lived, discover a human skeleton standing, entombed, behind a brick wall. When assistant district attorney and sex crimes prosecutor Alexandra Cooper hears about the case it sounds like classic Poe, except forensic evidence shows this young woman died within the last twenty-five years. On top of that case, the Silk Stocking Rapist has started preying on women again, after a hiatus of four years, so Alex, detectives Mercer Wallace and Mike Chapman have their hands full.

**FIELDING, JOY** PUPPET (\$35.95) (Doubleday, Canada) Florida transplant, successful twenty-eight-year-old criminal attorney Amanda Travis returns to Toronto when she learns her mother shot a man at point-blank range in the lobby of the Four Seasons Hotel. Her mother claims she did not know the man so why did she kill him?

**FOLLETT, KEN** WHITEOUT (\$39.00) (Dutton) A missing canister of a deadly virus. Toni Gallo, the security director of a Scottish medical research firm knows she has problems, but she has no idea of the nightmare to come. "Great" says Wendy.

**FRANCOME, JOHN** BACK HANDER (\$34.95) (Headline) Amateur jockey Alan Morrell has a 100,000 pound debt and an untested racehorse as his only asset. Fellow-jockey Max Ashwood has his own gambling problems and the "convenient" death of a

man to whom Max owed money. Max is looking pretty guilty. The life of a jockey! Also available in trade paperback at \$24.95.

**FREDRICKSON, MICHAEL** DEFENSE FOR THE DEAD (\$34.95) (Forge) Does Boston attorney Jim Morrissey have a dead man as a client? The FBI tracked down and killed a suspected serial killer but did they get the wrong man? It's not long before Morrissey realizes he's been sent a message from beyond the grave and the murderer is still alive.

**FUNKE, CORNELIA** DRAGON RIDER (\$16.99) See *Marian's Picks*.

**GLEESON, JANET** GRENADILLO BOX (\$39.50) (Simon & Schuster) The North American edition of this wonderful story that both Marian and Wendy enjoyed. Nathaniel Hopson, journeyman to the illustrious cabinetmaker Thomas Chippendale, has been sent to Cambridge to install a new library at the country home of Lord Montfort. When Montfort is found dead Nathaniel becomes the unlikely investigator. A lot of neat stuff about wood.

**GRAVES, SARAH** TOOL AND DIE (\$30.00) (Bantam) Jake Tiptree promised her new housekeeper Bella Diamond that she would speak to ex-con Jim Diamond who is harassing his ex-wife. She arrives at his apartment to find him dead. Suddenly Jake and her best friend Ellie White find themselves in the middle of a murder, with the threat of a hoard of her dad's long-lost relatives descending on her intending to be put up at her far from fixed up fixer-upper.

**GREGORY, PHILIPPA** VIRGIN'S LOVER (\$35.95) (Touchstone) Using documents and evidence from the Tudor era, this is the story of what could have happened when Queen Elizabeth I took the throne and fell in love with a married man, Sir Robert Dudley. All the land rejoiced in the crowning of the new queen. Everyone, except Amy Dudley.

**GRIFFIN, W E B** BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT (\$39.00) (Putnam) A plane is hijacked in Angola and the US President turns to an outsider to investigate. Delta Force major Carlos Guillermo Castillo, known as Charley, travels under cover to Africa, and there helped, and hindered by unexpected allies and determined enemies, begins to untangle a story of frightening dimensions. This looks to be the start of a new series.

**GUR, BATYA** BETHLEHEM ROAD MURDER (\$34.95) (Harper Collins) Chief Superintendent Michael Ohayon is called to the scene of the murder of a young woman discovered in the attic of a Bethlehem Road house, in a neighbourhood of Jerusalem known for its impenetrability to outsiders. The fifth to be translated.

**HALL, PATRICIA** FALSE WITNESS (\$57.00) (Allison & Busby) An expensive British import so on a special order basis only. Detective Chief Inspector Michael Thackeray believes the arrest of a volatile black teenager for the murder of a teacher is a cut and dried case. But when Thackeray's girl-friend Laura Ackroyd begins digging into the case for a newspaper article she is working on, some disturbing facts come to light.

**HASBURGH, PATRICK** ASPEN PULP (\$33.95) (Thomas Dunne) Washed-up Hollywood hack Jake Wheeler and his gang of booze-addled misfits, rehabbing ski bums, and a magnificently loyal Alaskan malamute, team up to search for a missing high school basketball star. A debut novel.

**HAVILL, STEVEN** CONVENIENT DISPOSAL (\$33.95) (Thomas Dunne) Posadas County Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman doesn't believe young Deena is responsible for the beating of Carmen Acosta. But who is? Retired Sheriff Bill Gastner is there to offer suggestions to Estelle.

**HIGGINS, GEORGE V** EASIEST THING IN THE WORLD (\$36.50) (Carroll & Graf) A collection of stories and two novellas.

**HILL, SUSAN** VARIOUS HAUNTS OF MEN (\$34.95) The first in a new series featuring Detective Chief Inspector Simon Serrailier. A woman goes missing in a small English cathedral town

but are the police really that concerned? One of Wendy's Picks back in Sept. 04.

**HILLERMAN, TONY** SKELETON MAN (\$36.95) (Harper Collins) The latest novel featuring Jim Chee. Former Navajo Tribal Police Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn comes out of retirement to help investigate what seems to be a trading post robbery. A simpleminded kid accused of the crime is the cousin of an old colleague of Sergeant Jim Chee. Proving his innocence requires finding the remains of one of 172 people whose bodies were scattered among the cliffs of the Grand Canyon in an airplane crash fifty years ago. That passenger had handcuffed to his wrist an attaché case filled with a fortune in diamonds, one of which seems to have turned up in the robbery. Margaret Cannon, who reviews mysteries for Toronto's *Globe and Mail* said that this is one of the best novels in the series.

**HURLEY, GRAHAM** CUT TO BLACK (\$34.95) (Orion) Bazza Mackenzie has a chokehold on the Portsmouth cocaine market and after the detective in charge of a long-term covert operation to take him down is almost killed in a hit-and-run, it's up to Joe Farady to put him away. An excellent series.

**HYZY, JULIE** ARTISTIC LICENSE (\$32.95) (Five Star) After five years in a bad marriage Annie Callaghan served her husband with divorce papers. Feeling sorry for him she spends one last night with him but becomes pregnant. Trying to start her own life as an artist painting murals she ends up becoming involved in a scheme her soon-to-be-ex sets in motion involving a stolen painting.

**JAMES, BILL** GIRL WITH THE LONG BACK (\$32.95) (Norton) London, underworld, drugs, and a new order when a new chief constable comes to town. With a dangerous mix of greed and fear, the looming threat of a stricter police force, and three sudden deaths, all sides are preparing for a full-scale battle of the ugliest kind. Harper and Iles are back.

**JAMES, BILL** EASY STREET (\$51.00) An expensive British import so special order only.

**JECKS, MICHAEL** CHAPEL OF BONES (\$34.95) (Headline) Forty years ago Exeter Cathedral Close rang to the clamour of weapons and death. Today in 1323, more deaths have occurred. Sir Baldwin Furnhill, Keeper of the King's Peace, and his friend, Bailiff Simon Puttock are there to investigate.

**JOHNSON, CRAIG** COLD DISH (\$35.00) (Viking) Cody Pritchard is found dead near the Northern Cheyenne Reservation in Wyoming's Absaroka County. Two years earlier he and three other high school boys were convicted of brutally raping a young Cheyenne girl with fetal alcohol syndrome, and were let off with suspended sentences. Is this revenge? Sheriff Walt Longmire investigates.

**KAMINSKY, STUART** LAST DARK PLACE (\$33.95) (Forge) Lieberman goes to Arizona to pick up a mob enforcer. But the man is gunned down at the airport and Lieberman is determined to find out who arranged the hit. And there's the small matter of his grandson's bar mitzvah, which threatens to bankrupt him.

**KARP, LARRY** FIRST, DO NO HARM (\$34.95) (Poisoned Pen Press) Martin can't understand why his dad, Leo, is upset when he tells him he has been accepted to medical school. It seems that sixty years ago Leo was convinced his father, Samuel, Martin's grandfather who was the town doctor, covered up a murder. Martin starts to investigate.

**KEATING, H R F** DETECTIVE AT DEATH'S DOOR (\$34.95) (Macmillan) Someone is out to kill Detective Superintendent Harriet Martens and almost succeeds. As she makes a slow recovery from the attempted poisoning she faces the knowledge that she must find the person responsible. No sooner has she mustered the strength to start the enquiries the poisoner strikes again.

**KELLERMAN, JONATHAN** TWISTED (\$37.95) (Ballantine) Hollywood homicide detective Petra Connor takes center stage in

this novel. She investigates what seems like a random drive-by shooting. At the same time a whiz-kid grad student researching homicide statistics at the station house discovers a bizarre connection between several unsolved murders.

**KOKORIS, JIM** SISTER NORTH (\$33.95) (St. Martin's) Sam was an indifferent Chicago lawyer, content to drift through life, until a violent incident shatters his world. Newly addicted to watching Sister North, a nun with a popular TV program, he embarks on a trip to Lake Eagleton, Wisconsin, to see the wise nun personally, seeking forgiveness and spiritual guidance. When he arrives, he discovers that he has been watching reruns and Sister North has disappeared. As he waits, he unexpectedly falls in love with a reclusive waitress. Also available in trade paperback at \$19.95.

**KOONTZ, DEAN** LIFE EXPECTANCY (\$40.00) (Bantam) Jimmy Tock is born on the same night his grandfather Josef dies. As Josef suddenly sits up in his hospital bed and speaks coherently for the first time since his stroke, he predicts that his grandson will have five dark days in his life. These days will be in Jimmy's twentieth year, his twenty-third year, his twenty-eighth, his twenty-ninth, and his thirtieth, and he must prepare for them.

**LAKE, DERYN** DEATH IN THE SETTING SUN (\$35.95) (Allison & Busby) Apothecary John Rawlings is forced into hiding when he is suspected of murdering an actor. Number ten in this hard to get series.

**LEHANE, CORNELIUS** BEWARE THE SOLITARY DRINKER (\$34.95) (Poisoned Pen Press) Brian McNulty, veteran bartender at Oscar's on the Upper West Side, respects his customer's privacy. But one of them is murdered and another is accused of the crime. With the help of the victim's sister and a cadre of neighbourhood cronies he investigates.

**LESCROART, JOHN T** MOTIVE (\$38.00) Number six featuring Abe Glitsky with a guest appearance by Dismas Hardy.

**LEWIS, ROY** HEADHUNTER (\$51.00) (Constable) An expensive British import so on a special order basis only. Archaeologist Arnold Landon inadvertently picks up a document case containing pornographic material and is drawn into a case where a headless body of a child is pulled out of the Tyne at North Shields.

**LONGWORTH, GAY** UNQUIET DEAD (\$34.95) (St. Martin's) Years ago, the Marshall Street Baths in the heart of Soho were full of kids taking swimming lessons. Today they are crowded with addicts, homeless people, and DI Jessie Driver's new boss thinks, a teenage runaway. But when CID searches the decaying building, they find a man's mummified body buried in the ground in the basement. How long has he been there? What happened to him? And where is the runaway?

**LUPICA, MIKE** TOO FAR (\$36.00) (Putnam) The Long Island town of South Fork has a great high school basketball team. But a kid on the school newspaper has heard rumours of brutalities at a team retreat, of hazing that went over the line and of murder. When he tries to investigate, with the help of veteran reporter Ben Mitchell, the ranks close against him.

**MCBAIN, ED** ALICE IN JEOPARDY (\$36.00) (Simon & Schuster) Since her husband Eddie's tragic death in a boating accident eight months ago, Alice Glendenning has struggled to maintain a normal life for her two children. They don't come home from school one day and she gets a call from a woman claiming to have the kids and demands a ransom identical to the amount Alice is due from the insurance company for Eddie's accident. Alice calls on Charlie Hobbs, a new friend, for help.

**MCKEVETT, G A** MURDER A LA MODE (\$31.00) (Kensington) As a special birthday treat, PI Savannah Reid's friends have arranged for her to compete for the affection of Lance Roman, her favourite romance novel cover man, on a reality TV

show called “Man of My Dreams”. She and four other women will be living in a medieval castle with Lance trying to out-flirt each other and win the hunk’s heart. But murder strikes and Savannah investigates.

**MCKINTY, ADRIAN** HIDDEN RIVER (\$35.00) (Scribner) Forced to resign in disgrace from Northern Ireland’s police anti-drug squad after becoming hooked on heroin, Alex Lawson is asked by the family of his high school love to look into her murder. He flies to Denver, Colorado to investigate. Dead I well May Be (\$10.50) is his first novel.

**MCNAB, ANDY** DEEP BLACK (\$54.00) An expensive British import so special order only.

**MANKELL, HENNING** BEFORE THE FROST (\$35.95) (New Press) The North American edition of the latest Mankell. This one features Linda Wallander, daughter of Kurt Wallander. Linda has just graduated from the police academy and is soon looking into the disappearance of her childhood friend Anna. Her father’s case, an ominous series of animal killings, dovetails with Linda’s.

**MOUNTAIN, FIONA** BLOODLINE (\$37.95) (Orion) See *Marian’s Picks*. Also available in trade paperback at \$27.95.

**MURPHY, MARGARET** DISPOSSESSED (\$34.95) (Hodder & Stoughton) Detective Inspector Jeff Rickman investigates the murder of a teenaged prostitute in Liverpool. But as the body count starts rising he is framed for a crime he didn’t commit. Also available in trade paperback for \$24.95. See *Wendy’s Picks*.

**MURRAY, MIKE** RAVEN (\$28.95) (ibooks) Operation Raven had one purpose: ambush Hitler’s private train, kill Hitler, and have actor Archie Smythes, whose only claim to fame was an uncanny ability to mimic Hitler, impersonate the Nazi dictator long enough to issue the order to cancel Germany’s invasion of England. But when the time comes for Archie to escape from the successful ambush, he chooses to remain behind.

**NEWMAN, SHARAN** WITCH IN THE WELL (\$34.95) (Forge) Catherine LeVendeur receives a message from her grandfather saying that she and her family must come to his castle in Blois because the castle well is going dry. Legend has it that as long as the spring that feeds the well flows, the castle will stand. Number ten in this wonderful twelfth century series.

**PAWEL, REBECCA** LAW OF THE RETURN (\$35.95) (Soho) It is 1940 and Carlos Tejada, newly promoted to the rank of lieutenant in the Guardia Civil, has been transferred from Madrid to Salamanca. His investigation into the disappearance of a politically suspect former law professor leads him to the border town of San Sebastian where he meets Elena Fernandez who is there to help a Jewish friend cross over into Spain. The first in the series is Death of a Nationalist (\$17.95 trade paperback).

**PEARCE, MICHAEL** DEAD MAN IN TRIESTE (\$31.95) (Carroll & Graf) The US edition of the new series introducing Seymour of Special Branch. Set in Trieste in 1906.

**PITMAN, JENNY** VENDETTA (\$34.95) (Macmillan) When Jan Hardy triumphs at Cheltenham she is asked to train Morning Glory, a promising young horse. Nervous, and terrified of traveling, the thoroughbred seems impossible to train until a young stable hand new to Jan’s yard discovers his horse whispering talents. Meanwhile, a violent robbery leads to unexpected tragedy and brings to a head the rivalry between Jan and fellow trainer, Virginia Gilbert.

**PRATCHETT, TERRY** CITY WATCH TRILOGY (\$34.95) (Gollancz) Includes: Guards! Guards!, Men At Arms, and Feet of Clay.

**PUZO, MARIO** GODFATHER RETURNS (\$37.95) (Random House) Written by **Mark Winegardner**. The continuing saga of the Corleone family.

**RATHBONE, JULIAN** BIRTH OF A NATION (\$39.00) (Little, Brown, UK) Eddie Bosham is in prison for a murder he did not

commit. But he’s not worried. He has hidden proof of a ghastly scandal that could bring down the monarchy. He takes up the writing of his memoirs from when he was left marooned on the Galapagos Islands where he offers young Charles Darwin an explanation of why finches on the island vary, to Acapulco, to the Alamo, to the Cherokee Trail of Tears and the California Gold Rush.

**REID, VAN** FIDDLER’S GREEN (\$38.00) (Viking) Subtitle: A Wedding, A Ball, and the Singular Adventures of Sunday Moss. Sounds strange and I don’t know why we have this. Must have been recommended by one of our sales reps. This is the fifth escapade in the saga of the Moosepath League. Set in Maine in 1897.

**ROBERTS, GILLIAN** TILL THE END OF TOM (\$32.95) (Ballantine) Why was Tomas Severin’s take-out cup of herbal tea laced with the party drug Amanda Pepper’s students call “Roofie”? Why did he fall down the school’s marble staircase? Amanda is hired to investigate. Number twelve in the series.

**SANSOM, CHRISTOPHER J** DARK FIRE (\$34.95) (Macmillan) The Summer of 1540 and the dissolution of the monasteries is complete. (Read Dissolution (\$9.99) “Excellent” say Marian). Hunchback lawyer Matthew Shardlake receives a new assignment from Thomas Cromwell: find the Greek Fire. See *Marian’s Picks*.

**SMILEY, PATRICIA** FALSE PROFITS (\$34.95) (Mysterious Press) A great new read according to Marian. See *Marian’s Picks*.

**SMITH, ALEXANDER** GIRL WHO MARRIED A LION (\$27.00) (Pantheon) A collection of folktales from Zimbabwe and Botswana as retold by Mr. Smith.

**SMITH, MARTIN CRUZ** WOLVES EAT DOGS (\$37.50) (Simon & Schuster) There is no evidence of foul play when Arkady Renko investigates the death of one of Russia’s new billionaires but he does discover a mountain of salt in the victim’s bedroom closet. Why? The search for answers leads him to Chernobyl and its environs.

**STARK, RICHARD** NOBODY RUNS FOREVER (\$34.95) (Mysterious Press) Parker is back in his twenty-second outing and is involved in a scheme that is stuffed with money and trouble.

**TAPPLY, WILLIAM G** BITCH CREEK (\$33.95) (Lyons Press) Stoney Calhoun is a man without a past. A tragic event has obliterated his memory and he now has a chance to reinvent himself. He has moved to Maine and become a fishing guide but when someone close to him is murdered he fears that he was the intended victim. The first in a proposed new series.

**TEERNOIRE, DAVID** BENEATH A PANAMANIAN MOON (\$33.95) (Thomas Dunne) We are introduced to John Harper, a reluctant spy who plays the piano. When a Panamanian resort hotel advertises for a piano player with lethal skills, the US government sends Harper into the twisted company of American mercenaries, camera-shy Colombians, and a revolution set for New Year’s Eve. “So far, so good, witty and quite readable” says Marian who is part way through it.

**THURLO, AIMEE & DAVID** THIEF IN RETREAT (\$33.95) (St. Martin’s) At the request of the archbishop, Sister Agatha must discreetly investigate the goings on at a former monastery sold by the diocese and now operating as a hotel and business retreat. Several valuable pieces of Southwestern folk art owned by the diocese and left on loan in the retreat have been stolen and replaced by replicas. m lkj (Paddington)

**TRANTER, NIGEL** MARIE AND MARY (\$34.95) (Hodder & Stoughton) The story of two ill-starred queens of Scotland: Mary Queen of Scots and her mother, Marie de Guise.

**WILSON, JOHN MORGAN** MOTH AND FLAME (\$33.95) (St. Martin’s) When freelance writer Bruce Bibby is murdered during an apparent burglary, his uncompleted assignment for the city of West Hollywood is a much needed opportunity for journalist Benjamin

Justice. Hired to complete the dead man's assignment, researching and writing a booklet on the city's historic ally relevant buildings, Justice resists becoming involved in the murder investigations. But that is not the end of it. Number six in the series.

## Paperback

**ADAM, PAUL** FLASH POINT (\$10.99) Camerawoman Maggie Walsh has been everywhere. When she hears through an Indian contact that the Dalai Lama is dying she smuggles herself into the compound for the biggest coup of her career. But things do not work out as well as she thought they would.

**AMBLER, ERIC** LIGHT OF DAY (\$17.00) One the greats of the espionage novel who has mostly been out of print recently, but finally that's changing. A dozen or so are now available.

**ANDREWS, RUSSELL** APHRODITE (\$10.50) Detective Justin Westwood moved to East End Harbor to escape a dark, disturbing past, and to lead a quiet life. He has retreated from reality by taking a menial post with a Long Island police department, drowning his troubles in mindless traffic duty and booze. But when he arrives at the scene of what looks like a tragic accident he can't help noticing that the details don't quite add up. Susan Morgan hjyuuuuuuki25 6.18777777 (Paddington) had gotten up in the middle of the night, tripped, fallen and broken her neck. But a terrified witness confirms that it was murder.

**ANDREWS, SARAH** EARTH COLORS (\$9.99) Em Hansen is forced out of her lethargy when she is asked to authenticate a painting by a famous painter of the American West. What are pigments, in fact, but ground-up minerals, and so it's a perfect task for a geologist. But her innocent project takes a sinister twist. Number nine in the series.

**ANNANDALE, DAVID** KORNUKOPIA (\$11.99) Jen Blaylock, Canadian-Forces-soldier-gone-rogue discovers that the New York mob is paying crooked cops and anarchists to cause disturbances at an Ottawa anti-globalization rally. She sees a chance to rev up her war machine once again, and heads for the Big Apple.

**BAANTJER, ALBERT CORNELIS** DEKOK AND THE GEESSE OF DEATH (\$19). A collection of two novellas, also includes DeKok and the Grinning Strangler. Murder in Amsterdam (\$20) which includes Dekok and the Sunday Strangler and Dekok and the Corpse on Christmas Eve is also available.

**BARNES, LINDA** DEEP POCKETS (\$9.99) Should Boston PI Carlotta Carlyle help Harvard professor Wilson Chaney find out who is blackmailing him? After all he did have the affair with one of his students. When she uncovers a suspicious death as part of the backstory to Dr. Chaney's situation she realizes the case is more complicated and dangerous than it first seemed. Number ten in the series.

**BATES, KAREN GRIGSBY** PLAIN BROWN WRAPPER (#1) (\$9.99) African-American reporter Alex Powell finds her boss, Everett Carson, dead at a black journalists' conference and it's up to her and old friend Paul Butler to sort it out. Love and death.

**BEATON, M C** DEATH OF A POISON PEN (#19) (\$9.99) Constable Hamish Macbeth loves his quiet life in the highlands with his dog, but he uncovers a vicious letter writer who uses the local post to spread seeds of gossip, fear and murder. He also has to contend with vacationer Jenny Ogilvie and local reporter Elspeth Grant who both want to land themselves a man

**BEIRNE, GERARD** ESKIMO IN THE NET (\$20.95) See *JD's Picks*.

**BELL, NANCY** RESTORED TO DEATH (#1) (\$6.99) Jackson Crain is a widowed country judge who lives with his delightfully

idiosyncratic thirteen-year-old daughter. When his deceased wife's sister is bludgeoned to death, her husband Ron is accused of the crime, and the judge decides to help in the investigation.

**BOWEN, RHYS** FOR THE LOVE OF MIKE (#3) (\$9.99) For Molly Murphy, determined to be a private detective in turn-of-the-century New York City, two business opportunities come up simultaneously. An aristocratic family wants Molly to track down their daughter who has fled from Dublin to New York with her unsavoury boyfriend. She is also asked to go undercover as a piece worker in the garment business to investigate a potential case of industrial espionage. The first two are Murphy's Law (\$9.50) and Death of Riley (\$9.99).

**BOYNE, JOHN** CRIPPEN (\$18.00) A novel. Based on the true story of the murder of Cora Crippen, at the hands of her husband, Dr. Hawley Crippen, and his subsequent flight to Canada with his mistress, Ethel Le Neve. Beautifully written.

**BRADY, LIZ** SEE JANE RUN (\$15.95) The third Jane Yeats novel. She's a Toronto crime journalist who's on the trail of a serial rapist and killer. Sequel to Sudden Blow (\$12.95) and Bad Date (\$13.95)

**BRITE, POPPY** LOST SOULS (\$11.99) A special order but we can do that for you as well.

**BROWN, DALE** PLAN OF ATTACK (\$10.99) Will the President of the US listen to the advice of disgraced and discredited young bomber commander Major General Patrick McLanahan? The Russians have made a sneak attack on US strategic air forces and retaliation may spark a global thermonuclear war.

**BUCKLEY, FIONA** FUGITIVE QUEEN (#7) (\$19.00) It's 1568, and Mary Queen of Scots is Queen Elizabeth's captive and a "guest" at Bolton Castle. Illegitimate daughter of King Henry VIII and half sister to Elizabeth, Mistress Ursula Blanchard is entrusted by the Queen to carry a confidential message to Mary.

**BUTCHER, JIM** STORM FRONT (#1) (\$9.99)

**CAINE, RACHEL** ILL WIND (\$9.99) A fantasy and a murder mystery. Finally someone is doing something about the weather.

**CARL, JOANNA** CHOCOLATE PUPPY PUZZLE (\$8.99) Sequel to The Chocolate Cat Caper, The Chocolate Bear Burglary and Chocolate Frog Frame-up (\$8.99 each.) Four delightful novels featuring Lee McKinney and her aunt Nettie and all about chocolate. Yum.

**CARLON, PATRICIA** WHO ARE YOU LINDA CONDRICK (\$17.95) The contentious relatives living on the Forst sheep station in the Australian outback are united against the stranger in their midst. Linda Condrick has come from Sydney to nurse the family matriarch in her last illness. Then Gregory Forst, the old woman's heir, announces their engagement. The others are fearful that they will be turned out of the valley once the wedding has taken place. A raging fire threatens all of their homesteads, and everyone turns out to fight it. When the charred body of a swagman is subsequently found, it seems he may have been murdered, and suspicion falls upon Linda. Originally published in 1962.

**CHABON, MICHAEL (EDT)** MCSWEENEY'S ENCHANTED CHAMBER OF ASTONISHING STORIES (\$21.00) Stories from Margaret Atwood, Stephen King, Roddy Doyle, David Handler and many more.

**CLEMENT, PETER** MORTAL REMAINS (\$10.99) In a small upstate New York town, a lake yields a ghastly discovery when the skeletal remains of a young woman missing for twenty-seven years are pulled from its icy depths, along with unmistakable evidence of her murder. When the police claim that the trail is too cold local coroner Dr. Mark Roper decides to investigate.

**COLFER, EOIN** THE ETERNITY CODE (\$10.99) The third in the Artemis Fowl series. Children's fiction but don't let that stop you. Marian loves these.

**COLLEY, BARBARA** POLISHED OFF (#3) (\$8.99) When Charlotte LaRue, owner of New Orleans's Maid-for-a-Day, pays a visit to a wealthy client's lavish mansion, an urn breaks open and human bones spill out. A little snooping around turns up a driver's license belonging to Nadia's no-good, abusive, ex-boyfriend who hasn't been seen for ages. Nadia has recently married Charlotte's nephew Daniel and both are prime suspects in the murder. A light-hearted series, says Marian. Earlier titles are: Maid for Murder (\$7.99) and Death Tidies Up (\$8.99).

**COOPER, NATASHA** PLACE OF SAFETY (#5) (\$11.99) Barrister Trish Maguire is asked by Sir Henry Buxford to investigate one of his private charities, a magnificent art collection built up before 1914 and lost for most of the twentieth century. Taking a crash course in the murkier aspects of the art world, she is determined to unlock the secrets she is sure are hidden somewhere in the collection.

**CORNWELL, PATRICIA** BODY OF EVIDENCE (\$11.99) A re-issue of the second Kay Scarpetta novel.

**COTTAM, FRANCIS** SLAPTON SANDS (\$27.00) Nobody seems to know what happened in April 1944 on Slapton Sands where 1,500 American Marines lost their lives and Alice Bourne is researching it. But someone is making her increasingly unwelcome. From the author of the excellent The Fire Fighter (\$19.95).

**CROUCH, BLAKE** DESERT PLACES (\$9.99) Successful suspense thriller writer Andrew Thomas receives a bizarre letter that eventually threatens his career, his sanity, and the lives of everyone he loves. A murderer is designing his future, and for the life of him, Andrew can't get away. A debut thriller. See *Wendy's Picks*.

**CUSSLER, CLIVE** TROJAN ODYSSEY (\$10.99) At the end of Valhalla Rising (\$10.99) Dirk Pitt discovered, to his shock, that he had two grown children, fraternal twins, and both have inherited his love of the sea. They are now about to help their dad battle his deadliest, and most extraordinary, foe.

**DEMILLE, NELSON (ED)** BEST AMERICAN MYSTERY STORIES 2004 (\$19.95)

**DEUTERMAN, P T** FIREFLY (\$10.50) "A top-notch thriller from a top-notch writer" says Nelson DeMille who adds that this one may be his best to date and that it is reminiscent of The Day of the Jackal (\$12.99)

**DEVERAUX, JUDE** ALWAYS (\$11.99) A special order.

**DEVERELL, WILLIAM** DANCE OF SHIVA (\$19.95) A re-issue. By the author of the marvelous Trial of Passion (\$19.95).

**DEWEESE, GENE** MURDER IN THE BLOOD (\$6.99) When local history teacher Lou Cameron disappears, Farrell County sheriff Frank Decker is puzzled by the flurry of accusations of embezzlement.

**DOBBS, MICHAEL** CHURCHILL'S HOUR (\$28.95) The third in the series featuring the wartime exploits of Churchill. Sequel to Winston's War and Never Surrender (\$10.99 each).

**DOHERTY, PAUL** MAGICIAN'S DEATH (\$10.99) A meeting between the scholars of England and France to try and break the code of the Book of Secrets turns murderous. Hugh Corbett and Ranulf-atte-Newgate investigate the murders whilst also trying to decipher the great secrets of one of England's most outstanding scholars, the Franciscan monk Roger Bacon.

**DOHERTY, PAUL** SONG OF THE GLADIATOR (#3) (\$24.95) Christianity, and the deep divisions amongst its adherents, is becoming a threat to the stability of Rome. The Emperor Constantine invites theologians from both sides of the division to come to his villa and debate.

**DONALDSON, STEPHEN** MAN WHO RISKED HIS PARTNER (\$9.99) Mick "Brew" Axbrewder is a PI who has seen better days. A while back, deeply into alcoholism, he accidentally shot and killed a cop who turned out to be his brother. In a case not

long after that, in order to protect Brew from the consequences of his own mistakes, his partner, Ginny Fistoulari, blew off her own left hand. Now he works mostly as hired muscle for Ginny. Their latest client's story doesn't add up, but to solve the case Brew and Ginny are going to have to start working together while Brew faces some of his greatest fears.

**DORSEY, TIM** CADILLAC BEACH (#6) (\$9.99) Serge A. Storms, a one-man crime spree, is out to solve an infamous 1964 gem heist. Could this be what got his grandfather Sergio killed? **[DOYLE]DOUGLAS, CAROLE NELSON** GOOD NIGHT MR HOLMES (#1) (\$10.99) The first in the Irene Adler series, now re-issued.

**[DOYLE]DAVIES, MARTIN** MRS. HUDSON AND THE SPIRITS' CURSE (\$19.00) Newly employed as housekeeper to the eminent detective Sherlock Holmes and the ever-present Dr. Watson, the stalwart Mrs. Hudson tends to mind her own affairs. But if the great detective needs a hand all he has to do is ask...

**[DOYLE]EMBLER, JEFFREY** WATSON WITHOUT HOLMES (\$31.95) Mild-mannered Walter Willoughby auditions and wins the role of Dr. Watson in an amateur production of The Hound. When murders occur in the village it becomes Walter's real-life task to solve them. And solve them he does.

**[DOYLE]FRAWLEY, KENNETH** SHERLOCK HOLMES AND TCOT MISSING AMERICAN CULTURE (\$31.95) Another adventure for Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson.

**[DOYLE]STEINHAEUER, LAUREN** SHERLOCK HOLMES LOST ADVENTURE: THE TRUE STORY OF THE GIANT RAT OF SUMATRA (\$26.99)

**DUNANT, SARAH** FATLANDS and UNDER MY SKIN (\$17.50 ea.) The US editions of the Hannah Wolfe stories. Great to see this excellent series available again. The missing Wolfe, Birth Marks is due to be reprinted in February. Reserve your set now.

**ELTON, BEN** PAST MORTEM (\$27.95) Mild-mannered detective Edward Newson's love life and work life are, well, complicated. He's in love with the lovely but very attached sergeant, Natasha, and failing comprehensively to solve a series of baffling and peculiarly gruesome murders. Great fun.

**EPHRON, G H** OBSESSED (\$9.99) Forensic neuropsychologist and expert defense witness Peter Zak is trying to help a co-worker, Dr. Emily Ryan, who is being tormented by a stalker. The first three in the Zak series are Amnesia (\$8.50), Addiction (\$8.99) and Delusion (\$9.99).

**FAHY, THOMAS RICHARD** NIGHT VISIONS (\$19.95) "A fine debut" says **John Case** and "Chilling" says **Katherine Neville**. Dreams and nightmare coming true. Tough to glean a real good idea from the blurb, but I'm in the process of reading it and I'll tell all in the next newsletter. What, besides the attractive model on the cover, made me want to read it? A reference to Bach's Goldberg Variations!

**FARRER, KATHARINE** CRETAN COUNTERFEIT (\$20) An Oxford mystery, first published in 1954. Reprinted by The Rue Morgue Press with an excellent introduction by the editors, Tom and Enid Schantz. The second of three Insp. Ringwood novels. When Sir Alban found a Minoan ring where a Minoan ring shouldn't be found, it made his reputation. It may also have cost him his life. Sequel to Missing Link (\$20)

**FARRIS, DAVID** LIE STILL (\$9.99) After an exhausting love affair with one of his professors, a charismatic brain surgeon, surgical resident Malcolm Ishmail lost his job at a busy Phoenix hospital after he exposed the subtle difficulties she had in the operating room. He now works in a sleepy, small-town Arizona hospital. A thirteen year old boy lies in a coma after inexplicably suffering a cardiac arrest. His doctors are perplexed. As Malcolm struggles to save the boy's life, and his future as a surgeon, he

wonders whether his former lover may have exacted a disturbing revenge in payment

**FIELDING, JOY** MISSING PIECES (\$10.99) Family therapist Kate Sinclair, healer of lost souls, perfect wife and mother, has become trapped in a nightmare of her own. One of her daughters has discovered sex and lies, an old boy-friend is back looking for trouble and the “misunderstood” sociopath her sister is planning on marrying is on trial for abducting and killing thirteen women. And more women are going missing.

**FINDER, JOSEPH** PARANOIA (\$9.99) Adam Cassidy is twenty-six and a low level employee at a high-tech corporation. When he manipulates the system to do something nice for a friend, he finds himself charged with a crime. Corporate Security gives him a choice: prison or become a spy in the headquarters of their chief competitor, Trion Systems. They train him and feed him inside information and now he's a star at Trion, discovering talents he never knew he had. He's rich, drives a Porsche, lives in a fabulous apartment, works directly for the CEO and is dating the girl of his dreams. All he has to do to keep his life perfect is betray everyone he cares about. When he tries to break off from his controllers he finds he's in way over his head.

**FRANCOME, JOHN** BACK HANDER (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**FRANCOME, JOHN** STALKING HORSE (\$10.99) Jockey Josh Swallow is planning to retire in style. He's landed all the big prizes in the sport, except one. So he's determined that this season the title champion jockey will be his. Not everyone wants Josh to succeed.

**FRASER, GEORGE MACDONALD** FLASH FOR FREEDOM (#3) (\$20.00) Rejoice, Flashman on the March, the next in the series is due out in April in both hardcover and trade paperback. So, one, reserve your copy now and two, start re-reading the series so that you can be ready. All are available in trade paperback.

**FRAZER, MARGARET** HUNTER'S TALE (#13) (\$9.99) In the summer of 1448 Sir Ralph Woderove is found murdered but no one grieves his death. Dame Frevisse's role is to accompany Sir Ralph's widow and daughter back to the manor to provide comfort. Another death, most likely related to the grossly inequitable terms of the estate's settlement, causes Dame Frevisse to realise that there is a murderer among them who will not rest until the Woderove legacy has been settled.

**GAIMAN, NEIL** NEVERWHERE (\$10.99) “A dark contemporary ‘Alice in Wonderland’...imaginative, well-crafted and highly visual.” - *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. Richard Mayhew is a plain man with a good heart. When he stops to help a bleeding girl on a London sidewalk his world is changed forever. Welcome to the world of abandoned subway stations and sewer tunnels below the city that he never dreamed existed.

**GARCIA-ROZA, LUIZ ALFREDO** SOUTHWESTERLY WIND (#3) (\$18.00) Insp. Espinosa, Chief of the Copacabana precinct, is happy to interrupt his paperwork when a terrified young man arrives at the station with a bizarre story. A psychic has predicted that he would commit a murder, and the prediction has become fact in the young man's mind. Silence of the Rain (\$20.00 trade paperback) and December Heat (\$18.00 trade paperback) are the first two.

**GLASS, LESLIE** OVER HIS DEAD BODY (\$10.99) After twenty-six years of marriage Cassie Sales has a face lift to recapture her youthful allure. The surprise for her husband goes awry when he returns home early from a business trip; he collapses on the spot. The resulting coma may spare him from the tax audit he's facing but Cassie is forced to step in and she discovers her “loving” husband was preparing to divorce her, swindle her out of tons of money, and run off with another woman. Revenge is sweet.

**GLAUSER, FRIEDRICH** THUMBPRINT (\$20) Born in 1896, died 1938. Often referred to as the Swiss Simenon. Diagnosed a

schizophrenic, addicted to morphine and opium, he spent much of his life in psychiatric wards, insane asylums and in prison. His Sergeant Studer novels, of which this is one, have ensured his place as a cult figure in Europe. Incidentally, the German Edgar is the Glauser. This novel of murder and was first published in 1936.

**GLEESON, JANET** SERPENT IN THE GARDEN (\$21.00) It is summer of 1765 and portrait painter Joshua Pope, eager to escape London and his unhappy past, accepts a commission to paint a wedding portrait for Herbert Bentnick and his bride-to-be Sabine Mercier. Sabine has spent most of her life in the Indies and is an avid pineapple grower. Back in England, she has a vast conservatory converted to pineapple growing. Joshua can't understand why the body of a dead man found among her pineapple plants doesn't create more concern. He takes it upon himself to investigate. The first novel, which featured wood and woodworking, is Grenadillo Box (\$39.50 US hardcover, \$21.00 UK trade paperback). An excellent writer.

**GODDARD, ROBERT** PLAY TO THE END (\$10.99) Actor Toby Flood is visited by his estranged wife Jenny, who asks him to follow a man who is lingering around her shop in the Lanes in Brighton. It turns out the man's father died of cancer while working at a now defunct plastic factory run by the wealthy entrepreneur Jenny now lives with.

**GOODMAN, CAROL** DROWNING TREE (\$21.00) Juno McKay intended to avoid the nearby campus of her alma mater during the fifteenth reunion weekend, but a lecture given by her long-time friend Christine Webb was something she did not want to miss. But her friend made some very revealing comments during her lecture about two sisters, members of the powerful and influential family whose name the college bears, and shortly afterwards goes missing. Juno is determined to find her.

**GORMAN, ED** RUNNER IN THE DARK (\$10.50) DA Jessica Dennis believes in the death penalty and is going to debate it on TV the night murderer Roy Gerard is scheduled to be executed. Roy's brother has his own plan to rescue his brother and get his revenge on the prosecutor who placed his brother in the electric chair.

**GRANGE, JEAN-CHRISTOPHE** THE EMPIRE OF THE WOLVES (\$24.50) “France's own Stephen King” - (*VSD*). What is the link between Anna Heymes, the wife of a top-ranking Parisian official and the “Grey Wolves”, a powerful and ruthless Turkish mafia? And why can't she remember the drastic cosmetic surgery that she's obviously undergone?

**GRANGER, ANN** THAT WAY MURDER LIES (#15) (\$10.99) With the help of Inspector Jessica Campbell, a new member of Markby's team, and the non-professional but enthusiastic assistance of Meredith and her friend Toby, Detective Superintendent Alan Markby unravels a twenty-five-year-old mystery and its legacy of violence.

**GRANOVETTER, MATTHEW** MURDER AT THE BRIDGE TABLE (\$19.95) Mystery and bridge.

**GRISHAM, JOHN** LAST JUROR (\$11.99) In 1970 the brutal rape and murder of a young mother made newspaper headlines in Ford County. The murderer, Danny Padgitt, was tried before a packed courthouse in Clanton, Mississippi. The trial came to a startling and dramatic end when the defendant threatened revenge against the jurors if they convicted him. They found him guilty and he was sentenced to life imprisonment. Nine years later he managed to get himself paroled then returned to Ford County and the retribution began.

**HAMILL, DENIS** SINS OF TWO FATHERS (\$20.00) Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Hand Tobin's world is shattered when his aspiring journalist son follows an anonymous tip to a can't miss story—the firebombing of a Brooklyn Mosque—only to be framed for the crime and thrown into jail. Hand knows his son is innocent,

and soon discovers the truth—that someone from his own past has not forgotten him.

**HAMILTON, LAURELL K** SEDUCED BY MOONLIGHT (\$10.99) Romance, high fantasy, mystery... The third Meredith Gentry novel.

**HARPER, KAREN** DARK ROAD HOME (#1) (\$5.99) The first of three novels set in the Amish community of Maple Creek. Also available is the second, Dark Harvest (\$6.99). A hit-and-run accident leaves a young girl dead and the community is split between those who want to forgive and forget and Brooke Benton who wants answers.

**HARRISON, JANIS** REAP A WICKED HARVEST (\$9.99) River City, Missouri, florist Bretta Solomon and her dad attend an open house given by Parker Greenhouse, a big and varied operation that also specialises in orchids. But her dad discovers the body of one of the greenhouse employees, and since Bretta knows the greenhouse staff so well, the sheriff wants her to help figure out who could be behind such a brutal crime. Number five in the series.

**HARRISON, KIM** DEAD WITCH WALKING (\$9.99) All the creatures of the night gather in “the Hollows” of Cincinnati, to hide, to prowl, to party...and to feed. Vampires rule the darkness and it’s Rachel Morgan’s job to keep that world civilized. A bounty hunter and witch with serious sex appeal and an attitude, she’ll bring ‘em back alive, dead...or undead.

**HARROD-EAGLES, C** DREAM KINGDOM (#26) (\$10.99) Jessie Compton has traveled down from Morland Place to London to secure an offer of marriage. She hopes it will be to the man who has already captured her heart, Lord Brancaster. But the death of the King brings to a head the threatened constitutional crisis, and who knows what lies ahead. Number twenty-six in the series.

**HARVEY, JOHN** FLESH AND BLOOD (#1) (\$27.95 trade paperback) Detective Inspector Elder flees as far as it is possible to go in England without running out of land after his wife’s betrayal and his retirement from the force. But the release from prison of a man convicted in the rape and murder of a young girl forces him back into action.

**HEALEY, JUDITH KOLL** CANTERBURY PAPERS (\$19.95) A debut novel. Eleanor of Aquitaine sends her former ward, Alais, the sister of the King of France, to retrieve a cache of letters hidden in Canterbury Cathedral, letters that in the wrong hands could bring down King John. Kidnapping, deceit, Knights Templar, tons of action and a touch of romance. See *Marian’s Picks*.

**HIGGINS, JACK** BROUGHT IN DEAD (\$10.99) A re-issue. First published in 1967.

**HIGHSMITH, PATRICIA** BLACK HOUSE (\$20.00) and SLOWLY, SLOWLY IN THE WIND (\$19.00) Two collections of stories, dozen or so each. ...hypocrisies of the Catholic Church, the delusions of a writer’s life, fantasy of suburbia, are all grist for this author’s mill.

**HUMPHREYS, C. C.** BLOODING OF JACK ABSOLUTE (#2) (\$24.95) Prequel to Jack Absolute (\$10.99). This is how Jack came to be what he became. Set in the mid-1750s. Forced to flee, Jack joins the Army and ends up at the assault of Quebec, one of the most brutal battles of North American history.

**HURLEY, GRAHAM** CUT TO BLACK (#5) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**IRWIN, JAMES E** SHERLOCK HOLMES QUOTATION PUZZLES, VOL I (\$19.99) There are 32 puzzles that you can complete, each will result in a quotation from a Sherlock Holmes story.

**JACKSON, LEE** METROPOLITAN MURDER (\$19.95) The last train of the night pulls into the gas-lit platform of Baker Street underground station. A young woman is found strangled, her body abandoned in a second-class carriage. The brutal railway murder

brings Inspector Decimus Webb to the newly formed Metropolitan Line.

**KAMINSKY, STUART** MIDNIGHT PASS (#3) (\$9.99) Lew Fonesca is asked by a local minister to find a town council member who has gone missing just before a crucial council vote that could ruin a struggling community. A distraught father comes to Lew to track down his wife and two kids, who Lew suspects ran off with the man’s best friend. When people start turning up dead, Lew knows he’s in way over his head. The first two in the series are Vengeance (\$8.99) and Retribution (\$9.99).

**KEATING, H R F** DREAMING DETECTIVE (#4) (\$9.99) Summoned by the new, fanatically determined Chief Constable of Greater Birchester Police, Harriet Martens is tasked with making use of the latest DNA techniques to investigate a murder committed thirty years ago. When forensic laboratory tests fail to solve the crime, Harriet relies on her investigative abilities.

**KELLERMAN, JONATHAN** CONSPIRACY CLUB (\$11.99) (Ballantine) five dccc (Paddington) When his brief, passionate romance with nurse Jocelyn Banks is cut short by her kidnapping and brutal murder, Dr. Jeremy Carrier is left emotionally devastated, haunted by his lover’s grisly demise and warily eyed by police still seeking a prime suspect in the unsolved slaying. To escape the pain he buries himself in his work as staff psychologist at City Central Hospital, only to be drawn deeper into a nightmare when women turn up murdered in the same gruesome fashion.

**KELLEY, LEE CHARLES** TO COLLAR A KILLER (#3) (\$9.99) Kennel-owner and ex-cop Jack Field would rather be playing with his corgi, Tipper, than mingling at a July 4<sup>th</sup> shindig. When Tipper comes back with a bloodstained boating cap in her teeth instead of the tennis ball, Jack knows trouble is not far off. As to how much and how it’ll implicate him, he’s about to find out.

**KELLY, NORA** OLD WOUNDS and HOT PURSUIT (\$10.50 each) The fourth and fifth Gillian Adams mysteries. Old Wounds is a re-issue but this is the first paperback edition of Hot Pursuit. An excellent series.

**KENNER, JULIE** SPY WHO LOVES ME (\$10.50) Romance and espionage. Pretty high on the erotic scale is what I hear as Marian says it’s more of a “romantic” spy story than a “mystery” spy story.

**KENT, DAVID** MESA CONSPIRACY (\$10.50) The second novel in the Department Thirty series, sequel to Department Thirty (\$10.50). This elusive government agency erases criminal identities in exchange for lethal secrets.

**KIRINO, NATSUO** OUT (\$17.95) Winner of Japan’s top mystery award. A young mother who works a night shift making boxed lunches brutally strangles her dead-beat husband and then seeks the help of her co-workers to dispose of the body and cover up her crime. It’s a cat and mouse game between seasoned detectives and a group of determined but inexperienced criminals. Great reviews by customers.

**KOKORIS, JIM** SISTER NORTH (\$19.95) Terrific. See the hardcover section for an annotation and also *J.D.’s Picks*.

**LAMBDIN, DEWEY** HAVOCS SWORD (#11) (\$21.95) Captain Alan Lewrie of the Royal Navy is back to cut a wide swath through the war torn Caribbean in 1798. He’s vowed to avenge a friend’s honour in a duel to the death; he faces the unwelcome arrival of HM Government’s Foreign Office agents; and he engineers the showdown with his arch foe and nemesis, the hideous ogre of the French Revolution’s Terror, the clever fiend Guillaume Choundas.

**LAND, JON** LAST PROPHECY (\$10.99)

**LARSEN, JODIE** DARKEST NIGHT (#2) (\$10.50) People are disappearing from national parks and Kaycee Miller and Max Masterson part of a Search and Rescue team, are on the job. Sequel to At First Sight (\$10.50).

**LE CARRE, JOHN** ABSOLUTE FRIENDS (\$11.99) This is a story of two friends: Ted Mundy, British soldier's son born in 1947 in Pakistan and Sasha, refugee son of an East German Lutheran pastor and his wife who have sought refuge in the West. The two first meet in riot torn West Berlin in the late sixties, again during the grimy looking-glass of Cold War espionage, and in today's unipolar world of terror, counter-terror and the war of lies.

**LISS, DAVID** SPECTACLE OF CORRUPTION (#2) (\$21.00) Remember the wonderful Conspiracy of Paper (\$22.95 trade paperback)? This is the second in the series featuring Benjamin Weaver. Moments after he is convicted of murder he is accosted by a stranger who slips him a lockpick and a file. It's obvious someone has gone to a great deal of trouble to see him condemned to hang for a crime he didn't commit and also someone else is determined to see him free. Set in eighteenth-century London.

**LOCHTE, DICK** SLEEPING DOG (\$20.00) Originally published in 1985, it won the Nero Wolfe Award and was nominated for the Edgar, Shamus, and the Anthony Awards. It was also selected as one of the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century (\$19) by an association of independent mystery booksellers. This is a classic and such great fun that y'all should read it.

**LODGE, DAVID** THINKS (\$19.99) This was a special order for a customer but it looks like so much fun that we've ordered more copies and Marian is going to read it. (*If I have time!! M.*) "A sublime sexual comedy of manners." - *Tattler* and "A cleverly crafted novel which asks provocative questions about sex, love and death, and the relationship between mind and body." - *Literary Review*.

**LOVESEY, PETER** BLOODHOUNDS (\$18.95) The fourth in the excellent series featuring Bath Police Inspector Peter Diamond has been finally reprinted bringing all but one back into circulation. This one won the 1996 CWA Silver Dagger Award so I'm not the only one who thinks that this is a terrific series. It won't be long before they go back out of print so start now and get them while you can. The Last Detective (\$21.50) is the first one and a great place to start.

**LUNN, JONATHAN** KILLIGREWS RUN (#5) (\$10.99) The Baltic, 1854 on the eve of the Crimean War. Commander Kit Killigrew must escape from Tsarist secret police, rescue Viscount Bullivant and his family, steal back their yacht, sail through the treacherous Ekenas Archipelago and take on a Russian paddle-sloop with an unarmed schooner. The fifth in the series

**MCBAIN, ED** 87TH WIDOWS (#43) (\$11.99) A re-issue.

**MCCUTCHAN, PHILIP** HALFHUDE AND THE GUNS OF ARREST (#3) (\$18.95), HALFHUDE'S ISLAND (#2) (\$19.95) and HALFHUDE FOR THE QUEEN (#5) (\$19.95). More installments in the Halfhyde saga, in trade paperback format.

**MCDONALD, GREGORY** FLETCH AND THE MAN WHO (\$17.00) A re-issue.

**MCILVANNEY, WILLIAM** LIDLAW (#1) and THE PAPERS OF TONY VEITCH (#2) (\$25 each). Long before there was Ian Rankin there was this writer and his three Detective Jack Laidlaw novels. Discovered a very few copies of the first two and will try to find more. Excellent novels.

**MCKEVETT, G A** CEREAL KILLER (#9) (\$8.99) When two full-figured models are killed while dieting under contract to Wentworth's Slender Flakes (lose thirty pounds in sixty days!!), plus-sized private-eye Savannah Reid becomes suspicious. Some of her eight earlier novels are available in paperback.

**MCPHON, NEIL** TO THE BONE (#3) (\$9.99) The third novel featuring physician Dr. Carroll Monks and San Francisco's Mercy Hospital. The search for eternal beauty has landed many in trouble, perhaps none so horribly as the all-American beauty queen who's in Dr. Monk's care. "A compelling novel by a first-rate writer. I urge you to read it." - *Robert B. Parker*.

**MACNAB, ANDY** DARK WINTER (\$21.00)

**MALLORY, MICHAEL** MURDER IN THE BATH (\$23.99)

**MARION, STEPHEN** HOLLOW GROUND (\$20.00) This was a special order for David and chances are good it'll appear in his column soon. Be ahead of the curve and order a copy now.

**MARKLUND, LIZA** PARADISE (\$11.99) The third novel featuring Annika Bengtson, a newspaper sub-editor. A young woman running for her life finds refuge in Paradise, a foundation dedicated to people whose lives are in danger. Annika runs into both the young woman and Paradise when she covers the story of Paradise for the newspaper. Neither are quite what they appear. Translated from the Swedish.

**MICHOD, ALEC** WHITE CITY (\$17.95) A debut novel. Murder at the Chicago World's Fair and based on the story of the Great Fair and America's first serial killer, H. H. Holmes.

**MONTELEONE, THOMAS F** RECKONING (\$10.99) The new Pope, an American, had decidedly different ideas--allowing priests to marry, giving power to women--on the future of the Church. It's good for attendance but is it good for the Church?

**MOUNTAIN, FIONA** BLOODLINE (#2) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**MURPHY, MARGARET** DISPOSSESSED (#1) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation and *Marian's Picks*.

**MURPHY, SHIRLEY ROUSSEAU** CAT FEAR NO EVIL (\$9.99) When antiques and valuables begin to disappear from resident's homes, tomcat and feline sleuth Joe Grey knows that something is very wrong in Molena Point, California. With the help of his tabby friend Dulcie and their tattercoat friend Kit, Joe Grey investigates his ninth mystery.

**NEWMAN, SHARAN** THE REAL HISTORY BEHIND THE DA VINCI CODE (\$22) The Da Vinci Code (\$37.95 and \$48 for the illustrated version, which by the way is well worth the extra \$10) by **Dan Brown is the phenomenal bestseller**

**NOVAK, KAREN** INNOCENCE (\$21.95) The second Leslie Stone novel, sequel to Five Mile House (\$23.95). This series has been quietly gathering a lot of enthusiastic friends.

**O'BRIEN, MAUREEN** DEAD INNOCENT (#3) (\$10.99) Kate Creech is in Bristol and Det. Insp. John Bright is not far behind. When a girl's corpse is discovered at the home of Kate's niece, Maisie, Bright, who loves Maisie as though she were his own daughter, wants to help. Hardly tolerated by the local police force, he resorts to his own unofficial methods of investigation.

**O'DONNELL, PETER** SILVER MISTRESS, I LUCIFER and DRAGON'S CLAW (\$22.95 each.) A number of the Modesty Blaise novels are now back in print in lovely trade paperbacks. These are the newest ones to become available. There are others. One of Marian's all time favourite characters.

**PATTERSON, JAMES** THIRD DEGREE (\$10.99) The third in the Women's Murder Club series, sequel to First to Die and Second Chance (\$10.99 ea.)

**PAWSON, STUART** PICASSO SCAM (\$12.95) The first in this wonderful series featuring Charlie Priest, now reissued.

**PENCE, JOANNE** COURTING DISASTER (#12) (\$9.99) The latest in a long series of culinary mysteries, featuring Angie Amalfi.

**PENMAN, SHARON KAY** DRAGON'S LAIR (#3) (\$21.00) July 1193 and Richard Lionheart languishes in a German dungeon while his mom, Queen Eleanor, tries to raise the ransom required to get him released. When one of the ransom payments disappears the queen sends her trusted man, Justin de Quincy to Wales to search for it. "Excellent story with delightful historical tidbits mixed in", says Marian. The first two in the series, which Marian also liked, are The Queen's Man and Cruel as the Grave (\$9.99 each)

**PERONA, TONY** SECOND ADVENT (\$6.99) A wealthy man has committed suicide and left a large sum of money to a religious organization called The Children of the Second Advent. The

man's granddaughter is convinced that this is murder not suicide and asks investigative reporter Nick Bertetto for help.

**PERRY, ANNE** COME ARMAGEDDON (#2) (\$23.50) This is the sequel to Tathea (\$21.99 trade paperback) her fantasy series.

Five hundred years have passed since the events that drove Tathea, the Empress of Shinabar, into exile in the Lost Lands. Tathea is waiting for the Warriors that will lead the forces of Light.

**PITMAN & MACNALLY** BET YOUR LIFE (#4) (\$26.95) In his role as racing security advisor Frankie Houlihan is charged with the safety of Eddie Malloy, a former champion jockey who lost his arm in a terrible accident on Mount Everest. Also available in hardcover at \$46.95.

**POWE, BRUCE ALLEN** ALDRESHOT 1945 (\$22.95)

**PRESTON, ALISON** CHERRY BITES (\$16.95) The third Insp. Frank Foote novel, sequel to Rain Barrel Baby and Geranium Girls (\$16.95 each). Cherry has finally been deserted by her dysfunctional little family and she couldn't be happier. But disturbing incidents begin to occur around her and it's lucky that nice police inspector Frank Foote lives in the neighbourhood.

**PRESTON, M K** SONG OF THE BONES (#2) (\$6.99) When an oil company approaches Thelma Patterson for rights to lease her land, legal technicalities demand that she find her husband, Billy Ray, who walked out on her nearly thirty years earlier. He's presumed dead, until, that is, he walks back to town. Is he Billy Ray or a clever imposter? Surrogate niece Chantalene Morrell is asked to help. Set in Tetumka, Oklahoma. Sequel to Perhaps She'll Die (\$6.99).

**PUZO, MARIO** FOURTH K (\$11.99) A re-issue.

**RAND, NAOMI** STEALING FOR A LIVING (#2) (\$9.99) Sequel to One That Got Away (\$9.99). Single mother Emma Price juggles raising a toddler and a troubled teen with her job as an investigator with the Capital Defenders Office and is finding the going tough. But her dedication to justice is strong. She's not about to let one killer run free while another unfairly pays the ultimate price.

**RANKIN, IAN** WATCHMAN (\$10.99) An espionage novel, first published in 1988, written soon after the first Rebus novel. Times were tough for this budding writer who, of course, only went on to become the biggest thing since sliced bread.

**REEMAN, DOUGLAS** BADGE OF GLORY (#1) (\$23.95), FIRST TO LAND (#2) (\$24.95), HORIZON (#3) (\$24.95) and DUST ON THE SEA (#4) (\$24.95). Captain Philip Blackwood of the Royal Marines has appeared in four novels and here they are in US trade paperback format.

**RENDELL, RUTH** ROTTWEILER (\$10.99) Since her actor husband died Inez Ferry has supplemented her modest income by taking in tenants above her antiques shop in Marylebone. But the unpredictable obsessive activities of a serial killer, called The Rottweiler by the press, has thrown the neighbourhood into turmoil.

**RICKMAN, PHIL** PRAYER OF THE NIGHT SHEPHERD (#6) (\$9.99) Jane Watkins, daughter of Merrily Watkins, has a weekend job at a Victorian mansion turned hotel on the Welsh border which hosts murder mystery weekends run by Ben Foley. Local tradition argues that the origins of The Hound of The Baskervilles lie not on Dartmoor but in the Herefordshire legend of a black dog foreshadowing death in the Vaughan family. Merrily is unhappy when she learns how Foley proposes to prove the theory. Number six in the series.

**RIMINGTON, STELLA** AT RISK (\$27.95) By now you've heard a lot about how wonderful this book is. Marian loved it. Ms. Rimington was the former head of MI5 so she knows what she is writing about. MI6 sends a report to MI5 that an Invisible is active in England. An Invisible is a terrorist who is a native to the country and can move around with ease, so almost impossible to trace. As MI5 Intelligence officer Liz Carlyle sifts through the incoming

evidence and gets reports from her agents she realises that there is an imminent terrorist threat. But who or what is the target? Fast paced, great spy stuff, a definite must read for those who enjoy spy thrillers. See *Marian's Picks*.

**RIORDAN, RICK** SOUTH TOWN (#5) (\$10.99) When convicted killer Will "the Ghost" Stirman escapes from prison, Tres Navarre, English professor turned P.I., fears for his boss and mentor, Erainya Manos. It was her husband, along with rival P.I. Sam Barrera, who built the case that sent Stirman away.

**ROBINSON, PETER** PLAYING WITH FIRE (\$10.99) A classic from a classic. Not sure whether it was Marian or Wendy who won dibs on this for their "picks" when it was in hardcover. Detective Chief Inspector Banks investigates the deaths of three people burnt to death in suspicious fires. Music, art, scotch, and murder. What a great mix.

**ROOS, KELLEY** FRIGHTENED STIFF (\$19.95) (Rue Morgue Press) The ground level apartment in Greenwich was perfect for Haila and Jeff Troy. That is if you didn't count the body in the garden that looked like it had drowned in their bathtub. Originally published in 1942 and made into a movie in 1943 titled A Night to Remember.

**ROWE, ROSEMARY** GHOSTS OF GLEVUM (#6) (\$10.99) It's up to Libertus to prove his patron's innocence and find the true culprit, in this sixth mystery set in Roman Britain.

**ROWLANDS, BETTY** SWEET VENOM (#12) (\$10.99) Cotswold's crime writing sleuth Melissa Craig investigates the death of Aidan Cresney who was stung by his bees. When a second member of the family also dies from bee stings the puzzle continues.

**RYGG, PERNILLE** BUTTERFLY EFFECT (\$21.00)

**SANSOM, CHRISTOPHER J** DARK FIRE (#2) (\$22.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation and also *Marian's Picks*.

**SCHAFFTER, PETER** SCHUMANN PROOF (\$14.95) Can a piece of music really have inspired a murderer in the sophisticated world of classical music? Vikkan Lantry, a pianist with more talent than ambition, is content with his job at an upscale cocktail lounge until a request from a reclusive soprano draws him grudgingly back into the world of classical music and the investigation of a double murder. A debut novel from this new Canadian writer.

**SCHERF, MARGARET** GUN IN DANIEL WEBSTER'S BUST (\$19.95) (Rue Morgue Press) This was originally published in 1949 and is the first of four to feature Lentement Decorating Shop owner Emily Murdock and her employee Henry Bryce, whom she'd love to marry. When one of their customers is killed the police can't find the murder weapon. Could it possibly have been the gun hidden in Daniel Webster's bust that has been sitting in the shop for the past year?

**SERANELLA, BARBARA** UNPAID DUES (#6) (\$10.50) Munch Mancini's old life returns to haunt her when the battered body of an old friend and fellow "biker mama" is discovered—and a photo of Munch appears in the woman's criminal file. But she's done with that life and with the help of her cop-boyfriend wants to clear the record.

**SMITH, APRIL** GOOD MORNING KILLER (\$9.99) Complex, strong-willed, often a maverick, FBI agent Ana Grey, whom we first met in North of Montana (\$7.99) is back. She is working on the kidnapping of fifteen-year-old Juliana, who was abducted in Santa Monica. Grey's counterpart in the Santa Monica police department is Detective Andrew Berringer, and they are more than just colleagues. When Juliana is found totally traumatised, Ana finds that Andrew has betrayed her, and in a moment of panic, Ana points her gun and shoots. She now is both criminal investigator and criminal.

**SPRINKLE, PATRICIA** BUT WHY SHOOT THE MAGISTRATE (\$14.99) An earlier title available once again.

## Non-Mysteries

**STANSBERRY, DOMENIC** CONFESSION (\$8.99)

**STANSBERRY, DOMENIC** SPOILER (\$31.95) An excellent baseball mystery, first published in 1987. Now re-issued in trade paperback, it was nominated for the Edgar for Best First Novel that year. Expensive, but nice to see it back in print.

**STEWART, MIKE** PERFECT LIFE (\$9.99) Scott Thomas has been chosen. He has the perfect life and someone needs a life to destroy. From the author of the Tom McInnes novels Sins of the Brother and Dog Island (\$8.99 each).

**STRONG, TERENCE** COLD MONDAY (\$11.99)

**TREVOR, ELLESTON** FLIGHT OF THE PHOENIX (\$9.99) First published in 1964, now re-issued to tie-in with the release of the remake of the movie. Everything old is new again. Pseudonym of **ADAM HALL**.

**VARGAS, FRED** HAVE MERCY ON US ALL (\$19.95)

Commissaire Jean-Baptiste Adamsberg enlists the help of a mediaeval scholar to help him unravel messages delivered to the town crier in the 14<sup>th</sup> arrondissement of Paris. The messages are from Pepys diary, from the year 1665, the year of the Great Plague of London. Has the Plague revisited Paris? Contemporary but has the feel of a historical novel. Chosen by the booksellers of France as their book of the year. Excellent.

**VARGAS, FRED** SEEKING WHOM HE MAY DEVOUR

(\$29.95) The second Commissaire Adamsberg investigation. Wolves are roaming the French countryside and killing sheep. Is this the work of wolves or werewolves? The locals need someone to blame and suspicion falls on Massart, a local.

**WALKER, SUE** REUNION (\$32.00) See annotation in the hardcover section.

**WALLACE, DAVID FOSTER** INFINITE JEST (\$29.95)

**WALPOW, NATHAN** ONE LAST HIT (\$20.95) Joe Portugal wants to reunite his band from the 1960s in the third novel in the series. Trouble is he can't find the lead guitarist and it's clear that someone doesn't want to see a reunion.

**WALTERS, GUY** OCCUPATION (\$24.95 trade paperback) In 1945 in his bunker in Berlin, Hitler makes a deadly decision: to deploy the V3, a secret weapon that is being constructed by slave labourers beneath the Channel Island of Alderney. June 1990:

Workmen digging the foundations for a new hotel on Alderney start to fall sick. Their illness is similar to that suffered by many islanders over the past fifty years. Journalist Robert Lebonneur is determined to unearth the reason, despite the denials and threats that meet his questions. Then Lebonneur discovers a diary written by Lieutenant-Colonel Max von Luck during the occupation.

**WHITNEY, PHYLLIS** SINGING STONES (\$6.99) First published in 1990, now re-issued at a special price to entice you to discover or re-discover this winner of the Grand Master Award for Lifetime Achievement from the Mystery Writers of America.

**WOOD, GRAHAM R** DETECTIVE LAURIANT

INVESTIGATES (\$21.00) Two stories featuring Detective Lauriant set in the pastoral ambiance of 1960s France: A Death in a Ditch and The Murder in the Vendee.

**WOODWORTH, STEPHEN** WITH RED HANDS (\$10.99) The sequel to Through Violet Eyes (\$10.99) The police call them *The Violets*. They have a special gift that is crime-fighting's secret weapon. Through their violet eyes, they can interview the dead victims of violent crime and expose murderers. Natalie Lindstrom is one of them, but she had dropped out as the violence was getting too close to home. But when she sees injustice...

**YARBRO, CHELSEA QUINN** MIDNIGHT HARVEST (\$9.99)

In the mid-1930s Ferenc Ragoczy, le Comte de Saint-Germain, leaves Spain as the country plunges into civil war. He goes to San Francisco unaware that an assassin has followed him.

It occurs to us that there are some non-mystery titles that we stock as a matter of convenience for our local customers but we do not list in the newsletter. These tend to be the big Canadian titles, often signed, and never more than a dozen or so. Would you like this selection listed in the newsletter? This should also remind you that we are more than happy to order any book in print for you on a special order basis—we do deal with all the publishing houses—so do not hesitate to put us to work. We'll track it down.

**ATTWOOD, MARGARET** MOVING TARGETS (\$39.95, signed) (Anansi) A collection of Ms. Atwood's non-fiction. She is writing about her peers: John Updike, Elmore Leonard, Mordecai Richler, Toni Morrison among others. She writes about the aunts who encouraged her beginning her writing career to the influence of George Orwell's Nineteen-Eighty-Four on *The Handmaid's Tale*. Also included are two political pieces, both not-so-veiled warnings about the repercussions of the war in Iraq.

**BALDWIN, SHAUNA SINGH** TIGER CLAW (\$34.95) (Knopf, Canada) When Noor Inayat Khan's father dies she is forced to follow her uncle's ideas on feminine propriety. When she falls in love with Armand, a Jewish pianist and composer, her uncle forbids her to see him. As the Germans invade France in 1940 Armand persuades Noor to leave France. She flees to England with her family but volunteers to serve in a special intelligence agency. Trained as a radio operator she is sent back to Occupied France. She needs unwavering courage to perform her mission and to find her lover. The novel opens in December 1943. Noor has been imprisoned. She begins writing in secret, tracing the events that led to her capture, and exploring the consequences of her love. When Germany surrenders in 1945 her brother begins his search for her through the chaos of Europe's displaced person's camps.

**MUNROE, ALICE** RUNAWAY (\$34.99) (McClelland and Stewart) A collection of eight stories that have not been published in book form before.

**SUZUKI, DAVID & GRADY, WAYNE** TREE, A LIFE STORY (\$28.00) (Greystone) A delightful little book which tells the tale of a single tree, from the moment the seed is released from a cone until, more than five hundred years later, the tree lies on the forest floor as a nurse log, giving life to ferns, mosses, and hemlocks, even as its own life is ending.

**TOWES, MIRIAM** A COMPLICATED KINDNESS (\$29.95) (Knopf, Canada) Nomi Nickel, a heartbreakingly bewildered and wry young woman, is trapped in a small Mennonite town that seeks to set her on the path to righteousness and smother her at the same time. Her mother and her sister are missing and she spends her days piecing together the reasons they have gone missing and trying to figure out what she can do to avoid a career at Happy Family Farms, a chicken abattoir on the outskirts of East Village, in southern Manitoba.

**WRIGHT, RICHARD B.** ADULTREY (\$32.95) (HarperCollins, signed) By the author of Clara Callan, winner of the Giller Prize and the Governor General's Award, two of the most prestigious literary awards in Canada. A few stolen moments of passion explode into the sort of incomprehensible violence that we read about in the newspapers every day.