



# The Merchant of Menace

The official newsletter of

## SLEUTH of Baker Street

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### sleuthofbakerstreet.com

Greetings

November 2007

Although we have barely gotten by Halloween, I'm already thinking Christmas. For many reasons. Having the right amount of stock of the right books, gearing up for the busy season, snow, lights, but, mostly, because this is the last newsletter of the year. Although I hope to talk to each and every one of you before the end of the year, it's probably not going to happen, so, I'd like to take a moment to wish all of you a wonderful holiday season, with lots of time off to do the things you want to do, and to wish all of you nothing but peace and health in 2008. Marian and I would like to thank you for all your support and friendship this past year, this past quarter-century actually, and here's to the next year.

We may not be able to do much about the strengthening Canadian Dollar but we can do something about our shipping rates. So, with apologies to our American friends, as an experiment, for the balance of 2007, we will go to fixed rates, within Canada, as follows:

**\$6 within Ontario and Quebec and \$8 for the rest of Canada.**

And with the end of the year comes the end of the newsletter subscription for some of you. If you will not have bought at least \$100 worth of books by the end of December, then this is the last issue that will be mailed to you. You have two months to fix that. Call if you are unsure as to the status of your subscription.

Just back from my annual visit to Muncie, Indiana, the site of Magna cum Murder. Magna, installment #14 this year by the way, is a small crime fiction festival held around the end of October and attracting around three hundred attendees. It's thus small enough to be intimate but there are enough authors, and certainly enough prominent ones over the years, to make this a must attend. The Guest of Honour this

## 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 \$100 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.

## Signings

**Barbara Fradkin**

author of the Insp. Green novels

&

**Mary Jane Maffini**

author of the Fiona Silk novels

will be at Sleuth

**Wednesday, Nov. 14, 2007**

From 6:30—7:30pm

to tell you about the latest novels  
in their series.

Please note that times do vary. If you cannot attend but would like a signed or inscribed copy, just call us with the details and we'll make it happen. Check the website for more details, as last minute changes may occur.

**Steven Owad**

Author of Bodycheck

&

**Jon Redfern**

Author of Boy Must Die

will be at Sleuth

**Friday, Nov. 23, 2007**

From 6—7pm

to tell you about their  
second novels.

year was **Lindsey Davis** and, I have it on good authority, that **Louise Penny** will be next year's. You gotta go. One of the authors in attendance this year was **Julia Pomeroy**. You might remember that in the May issue I had selected her debut novel Dark End of Town (\$18.50) as one of my *Picks* and now I got to meet her. Well, she is every bit as delightful and wonderful as you would expect the creator of such a fine novel to be and I thoroughly enjoyed chatting with her. I even played devoted fan and got her to autograph a copy of her new novel, Cold Moon Home (\$33.95) for my collection! See, you should go Magna. (Visit [magnacummurder.com](http://magnacummurder.com) for details.)

While I'm on the topic of mystery conventions, it's not too early to register for **Bloody Words 2008**, the Toronto mystery convention, to be held June 6 – 8, 2008 at the Eaton Centre Downtown Marriott Ho-

### Postage & Handling

**Ontario & Quebec: \$6\***

**Rest of Canada: \$8\***

**To the United States**

\$10 per book, max. \$20\*

**Elsewhere**

Actual postage

(\*with the odd exception)

### Hours of Business

**Tuesday to Saturday**

10 am to 6 pm

**Sunday**

Noon - 4pm

**Monday &**

**Statutory Holidays**

Closed

tel, and the Guests of Honour will be **ROSEMARY AUBERT** and **CAROLYN HART**. Toronto is lovely that time of the year and you should come visit. And, for our American friends, don't worry, by next summer the US\$ will have, once again, regained its dominant position and travel to Canada will be cheap, cheap. (Visit [www.bloodywords.com](http://www.bloodywords.com) for details.)

You'll note the return of *Leeanne's Picks* a little further on. It's been a few issues since she last was in these pages, but we're glad she's back...and a new column, *Cottage Lady's Picks*. The Cottage Lady is a friend of Marian and I'll let Marian introduce her. Welcome Cottage Lady and welcome back, Leeanne. Incidentally, if you noticed Harry Popi in the July newsletter and Pumpkin Popi here—congratulations, you'd make a fine detective—then you should know that these are Leeanne's doing. She's drawn up a few more versions—Irish Popi, Santa Popi, Scholar Popi etc...and I'll swap them around on the website and here as appropriate. If this one looks a tad crooked, that's because Popi was into the pumpkin juice a tad heavily. Yuk, yuk. By the way, Popi was the great big tabby cat you might have seen in the store a few years ago. His nickname was Ploppy, a reference to both his size, he were massive, and his habit of plopping down on whatever he wanted to.

## J.D.'s Picks

Well, I'm guilty of perpetuating the hoariest of hoary myth. So, I've been told. In the March 2007 issue I stated—in the context of the feared demise of Andy Dalziel in **REGINALD HILL's** latest novel *Death Comes for the Fat Man* (\$34.95, terrific! Paperback due January, \$11.99),—that fans of Sherlock Holmes, upset when the author so ignominiously jettisoned his famous creation over the Reichenbach falls, took to walking around “sporting black armbands” to protest their displeasure. I am now told, by an eminent Sherlockian—who says he finally got around to reading the March newsletter—that he “may be chuffed (for those of us without benefit of a cosmopolitan education, this is how the Brits say “delighted”) to hear that the newsletter is still well worth pursuing with a red pen in one hand and a needful eye on the bank account” but that “the claim of black arm bands is the hoariest of the Sherlockian myths and no matter how many times I try to drive a stake through its essence, it resurfaces. To put the case in a nutshell -- there is no contemporary account from 1893 that men wore black armbands to mark SH's supposed demise at Reichenbach Falls. That doesn't mean it didn't happen, of course, since you can never prove a negative.” Well, my apologies to learned Sherlockians everywhere. Fifty-six lashes with a coke-filled calabash pipe for me. No, wait, I'd better check. Did Holmes really use coke? Did he even know what a Calabash pipe was?

Talking about things Sherlockian, **ANDREW LYCETT**, the biographer of **Ian Fleming**, **Dylan Thomas**, and **Rudyard Kipling** has turned his considerable talents to the life and times of Arthur Conan Doyle. The result is a handsome volume called *Conan Doyle, The Man Who Created Sherlock Holmes* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, \$39.95, signed copies for the moment). The author was in town recently and spoke to a group of Sherlockians about the lengthy process of researching the life of his subject and then the arduous task of writing the book. His timing was certainly right. Over the last few years a huge amount of Arthur Conan Doyle's previously unpublished private correspondence has become available to collectors and researchers and **Lycett** was fortunate enough to have access to some of this material. He was also fortunate enough to have access to various public and private collections. All of which make for "(An) excellent biog-

raphy. Comprehensive and authoritative, it is undoubtedly the best account of Doyle to date"--John Carey, *Sunday Times*. Of course, I should have thought to ask Mr. Lycett about the armbands...

And while I'm on the topic of ACD, another biography, *Arthur Conan Doyle: A Life in Letters* (\$45.50) by **JON LELLENBERG**, **DANIEL STASHOWER** & **CHARLES FOLEY** is about to hit the shelves. This is an annotated collection of that aforementioned previously unpublished private correspondence of the creator of Sherlock Homes. What a great time to be a Sherlockian.

A novel I picked up because the cover was so striking turned out to be a fabulous read. *Sharp Objects* (\$18) by **GILLIAN FLYNN**, an Edgar Nominee for Best First Novel, is a terrific debut novel. “An admirably nasty piece of work, elevated by sharp writing and sharper insights.” says **Stephen King**. This novel hooked me from the first page and did not let go. Our heroine is Camille Preaker, a thirty-something journalist, working for Chicago's fourth newspaper—no one reads it—and is sent by her boss to her hometown of Wind Gap, in the “boot heel of Missouri,” to cover the murders of two preteen girls. Can't tell you any more without giving away too much, but what I can tell you is that if you are anything like me, you won't be able to put this down. It was “Sharp, clean, exciting writing that grabs you from the first page. A real pleasure.” says **Kate Atkinson**. And she should know. You might remember that **Kate Atkinson** is the author of the fabulous *Case Histories* (\$19.95), one of the finest examples of sharp, clean, exciting writing that grips you from the first page and is a real pleasure.

Marian has pulled rank—**Rankin**, yuk yuk—and told me in no uncertain terms that *Exit Music* (\$37.95 signed UK hardcover second printings, alas, and \$24.95, unsigned, alas, trade paperbacks) was going to be her Pick. Knowing fully well that this is a small price to pay to keep peace in Enterprise Sleuth, I'm going to let her. Psst...it's terrific.

Seems like a waste of time and space, redundant even, to tell you that **PETER ROBINSON's** latest Insp. Banks novel, *Friend of the Devil* (\$34.99 signed McClelland & Stewart) is terrific. You know it's going to be because Peter has been getting better with each novel, the reviews have told you so, and you've seen it for yourself. But this is not just better than the last one, it's an order better, and I'd be remiss if I did not say so. This novel is accomplished, articulate and entertaining. It is also terrific to see Peter reaping the rewards of his success—the international publishing deals, *Friends* hitting #1 on the UK best seller charts, the signing tours—even if it means I don't get to do lunch with him very often.

*The Chemistry of Death* (\$8.99), **SIMON BECKETT's** first novel and the first appearance of Dr. David Hunter was much liked by reviewers and customers alike. The sequel *Written in Stone* (\$30), I liked a great deal. This time around Hunter's on a windswept Scottish island in the Outer Hebrides to inspect a puzzling set of remains. The body has been burnt beyond recognition but the cottage is pretty much undamaged. A bizarre set of circumstances, even for our forensic anthropologist hero. Lonely, windswept Outer Hebrides islands tend to be mostly inaccessible and strangers walking around burning people to death get noticed easily, so, does this mean that the culprit is a local? The only place Hunter wants to be is in London trying to convince the lovely Jenny that his work is not the most important thing in his life. Instead he's stranded on this forsaken rock trying to coax the dead into telling him their stories. A great read. And, do see the *Cottage Lady's Picks* as she reviews this one also, in a bit more depth, and far more eloquently than I ever could.

I just do not read vampire novels—I have enough trouble dealing with the *normal*, how could I ever deal with the *paranormal*?—but Marian does and she’s going to tell you a little more about this genre in her section. But, I lie. I did read [Nymphs of Rockey Flats](#) (\$16.50) by **MARIO ACEVEDO** recently. How could I not like the thought of rampant nymphomaniacs! Our hero, Felix Gomez, is asked by an old friend to investigate an outbreak of nymphomania at the secret government facilities in Colorado. It didn’t quite work for me, but I’m glad I read it.

## Marian's Picks

My marathon this year was in Corning, NY. About fifteen of us went down and spent a lovely weekend exploring the Corning Glass Museum, eating at some nice restaurants and, for me anyway, feeling yucky walking the marathon. I don’t know why I felt so poorly, but probably a combination of the heat, the smell from the cow pastures and the newly asphalted road surfaces. I did finish the marathon, however, and got a great medal—made of glass, as you could probably guess—and I’m already thinking ahead to my next one. Which might well be the Flying Pig Marathon in Cincinnati next year. That’s another fun looking medal; how I’m picking my marathons these days! I already have a Mickey Mouse medal, now Corning.

You will see some book reviews in this newsletter from my cottage neighbour, the one I have martinis with at 5 pm every day. I hope you enjoy them. The busy schedule of signings and, now, the newsletter, has kept me from going to the cottage for weeks so I’ve missed my little elixirs. But soon, with any luck. It’s my turn to supply the makings and I can’t decide, vodka or gin? Too difficult a decision to make right now. And, I’m getting nowhere with the darn newsletter.

I would like to say a huge thank you to each and every one of you for all the support you have given us over the past year. This year has not been without its challenges—my sister’s health being the biggest one, training new staff, the rising Canadian dollar—but having your friendship and support makes it manageable. It means a lot to me when you come into Sleuth and tell me about your trips, your family, your likes and dislikes. It makes me feel a little bit part of your family. I hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a lovely holiday.

It’s always a treat to discover a new writer whose work you devour in one sitting. (But distressing at the same time, knowing that it’ll be a long year before the next one.) And, you’d rather we read those new writers so that we can tell you about them. But there are those favourite writers whose every book I just have to read—this is, after all, equal parts fun and work for me—and, so, I read...

**IAN RANKIN.** I have one word to describe this veteran’s latest John Rebus novel, [Exit Music](#) (\$37.95 signed hardcover reprints and \$24.95 unsigned trade paperback) and that is WOW. It is the best police procedural I have read in a very long time. Fans are in for a real treat. This may well be the last Rebus, and he’s going out in style. If you are one of the four people on this planet who has yet to enjoy this fine series, we envy you, you have so much great fiction ahead of you. You can read [Exit Music](#) without having read any of the previous Rebus novel, as it stands by itself quite well, or you could sample earlier Rebus stories first. We’d, of course, suggest you start at the beginning and read all seventeen in succession, but, just pick one and read it. Any one. The first is [Knots and Crosses](#) (\$10.99). As I mentioned earlier, word has it that this is the last Inspector Rebus novel but I hope there will be more. I don’t really care what he does, I just

want to read more Rebus. I am not going to say much about the plot of [Exit Music](#) because I don’t want to spoil it but my goodness, well, I won’t even tell you what the my goodness was going to be about. I want you to be as entertained as I was.

And then I read [Friend of the Devil](#) (\$34.99) by **PETER ROBINSON** and, my goodness me, another great read. I wanted this to be my pick but I was told, quite clearly, by J.D. that it was going to be his pick. So I’ll let him have it. However, you won’t want to miss it. And we have some **autographed copies** which will make a lovely gift for the holidays.

I have read and enjoyed all three novels written by **LOUISE PENNY**. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his team from Montreal have travelled three times to the small village of Three Pines, in the Eastern Townships in Quebec, to investigate the goings on of its residents. The first two, [Still Life](#) and [Dead Cold](#) (\$10.99 each), are terrific and so is the latest, [Cruellest Month](#) (\$37.95 hardcover and \$24.95 trade paperback). My favourite might well be [Still Life](#) but only for sentimental reasons. All three are so well done, so well written, that you too will have a hard time selecting a favourite. A séance held at the old Hadley house goes horribly wrong and someone dies, apparently frightened to death. As Gamache investigates he is also aware that someone very high up in the Sûreté (*I can never see this word without thinking of Insp. Clouseau—J.D.*) has planted a traitor on his team with the hope of bringing him down and getting him suspended. I think it is the way Louise depicts her characters and gives us such a sense of place that keeps me wanting more. I’d love to visit Three Pines, although I wouldn’t want to live there, the murder rate is up there with DC’s, but I can picture the village green, the coffee shop and the hated Hadley house. We have some **autographed copies** of the hardcover.

A good spy story is hard to come by these days but fortunately **STELLA RIMINGTON** is on the job. Her latest, [Illegal Action](#) (\$34.95 hardcover and \$24.95 trade paperback), is a treat. MI5 officer Liz Carlyle has been transferred to Counter-Espionage, a department which has been reduced in size since the end of the Cold War. Liz learns that the Russian government is plotting to “silence” one of its influential oligarchs who has come to London to spend his billions. Liz goes undercover and joins the retinue of the oligarch in an effort to determine who the killer is. A great story, with the good old boys trying to run things but the smart new women getting in their way. [At Risk](#) and [Secret Asset](#) (\$11.99 each) are the first two in this series and I enjoyed both of these immensely, even if the ending on [Secret Asset](#) was, for me, a bit too convenient. We need more espionage novels. When is the next **HENRY PORTER** going to be published?

I have only recently started reading books featuring vampires and werewolves and the like and I am enjoying most of what I have sampled. But either my psyche is resisting or I’ve reached the limits of my memory banks because I just can’t seem to retain these author’s names or titles of the books. Might have to resort to coding the books in our data base so that I can find them when required! Of course, there are a couple of customers who have read a ton more of this genre than I have (Leeanne whose reviews appear in this issue, for one) and I’ll rely on them to remind me and to direct me. I know that vampires and werewolves are not usually considered mystery fiction but we have more and more customers willing to give them a try, consequently, we are expanding our selection and sampling. Keeping in mind that I only like ‘paranormal’ stories where the main characters are **good** vampires or werewolves you should give...

**STEPHANIE MEYER** a try. These books are written for young

adults so consider them for the teenagers on your Christmas list. Buy them now and you get to read them before you give them as presents! I hadn't even finished the first one and I was ordering numbers two and three in the series! Twilight (\$11.99 trade paperback, \$21.99 hardcover) introduces us to seventeen-year-old Bella Swan who has just moved to Forks, Washington, to live with her dad, the sheriff. At her new high school Bella spies this hunky looking guy and his brothers and sisters sitting alone in the cafeteria. As you can well guess, she falls for him, finds out he is a vampire (don't forget he's a good vampire) and she too wants to become a vampire. By book three there are also werewolves and some Native American folklore which is quite interesting. I know this may not be to your taste but I couldn't believe how many copies of her books Ms. Meyer sells in Canada alone. She is quite the bestseller! By the way, nos. two and three in the series are New Moon and Eclipse (\$21.99 each). What fun.

Historical mysteries are among my favourite reads because, although I am reading fiction, I feel that I am learning something about a different time and place. The Alehouse Murders (\$9.99) by **MAUREEN ASH** introduces us to Knight Templar Bascot de Marins. After spending eight years in captivity in the Holy Land, he has escaped and is now recuperating in Lincoln Castle in England. With Lincoln's mid-summer fair about to begin, four victims are found slain in the town alehouse and that's not good for business. Bascot is called upon to help investigate the murders. The story has great period detail, interesting characters and a twisty-turvey plot. Really, really super and I will definitely read the next one in the series, Death of a Squire (\$9.99), which is scheduled for January 2008.

**JASPER FFORDE** dropped by the store quite unexpectedly, my kind of surprise, and he signed our copies of First Among Sequels (\$39.95 hardcover reprints, alas, and \$24.95 trade paperbacks, **signed copies** while available). Why the title? As the author explained, the Thursday Next series was meant to be four novels long, and as this is the fifth, it became the first sequel. Brilliant, eh? Yes, it is, and you should read them all. Maybe start with the first Thursday Next, The Eyre Affair (\$14.95).

Catnapped (\$9.99) by **GABRIELLA HERKERT** is the first in a new series featuring legal investigator Sara Townley. She does not like her boss, a senior partner at a big Seattle law firm, and she certainly doesn't like her latest assignment: she has to find a missing cat. The cat has just inherited millions of dollars but is nowhere to be found. The other complication in her life is her new husband: she got married to a Navy SEAL, a man she didn't even know, while on a trip to Las Vegas. The story is lighthearted fun but does have its share of serious issues. I loved it. Of course, the husband is drop dead gorgeous and his SEAL training comes in really handy when he helps Sara out of a tricky situation or two. I look forward to the next novel.

## *Cottage Lady's Picks*

Marian, British mystery buff and my fellow cottager, walking buddy, dog and nature lover, and the world's best martini maker suggested a "Cottage Lady" (moi) review of summer reads. So, here we go.

Although **KATHY REICHS** is a famous forensic author, forensics is not what kept me reading Bones to Ashes (\$29.99). It was, instead, my immediate connect with the main character's childhood during the 1960s. Temperance Brennan, the central character in this long-running series, talks about a world of Catholic schools, nuns, wakes, tragic deaths in the family and a "gnarled old granny of 56". But it is

Tempe's relationship with her childhood friend, the exotic Evangeline, that really intrigued me. Evangeline disappears, haunting Tempe for the rest of her life. So much so that when a child's skeleton is found in New Brunswick, she immediately thinks of the long lost Evangeline. And for Tempe, the solving of her friend's disappearance begins anew. Of course, there is much in this story for loyal **Reichs** fans. It moves along at a solid pace, has many good teaching moments with lots of forensic work and explanations, computer wizardry, even ventures into handwriting analysis. In addition, we follow the ongoing love affair with Ryan plus Tempe's relationship with her sister Harry and colleague, Hippo. **Reichs** has done even more research as we learn about Acadian language and culture, illegal rum running and prohibition. Of course, a series of horrific crimes are also solved along the way with the aid of some rather complex methods. In short, an entertaining, nostalgic read for female boomers.

**MARLISS MELTON's** Next to Die (\$9.99) is not my usual kind of read. However, the gripping prologue and the author's acknowledgements grabbed my attention. So on a chilly, overcast afternoon at the cottage I cuddled up in my lazy boy with my golden retriever, Barney, stretched at my side—actually, he was lodged tightly under the foot rest—and for a few hours, I escaped into this well written romantic suspense novel. Chapter one introduces sisters, Penelope and Ophelia, and the enticing theme of unrequited love. Add lots of hot Navy Seals, the Taliban, and Afghanistan and you have the recipe for a nice, relaxing get-away. This is definitely a "girlie romantic story". But sometimes "fluff" is just what the doctor ordered. I suspect I will get Ms. Melton's two earlier novels for a couple of winter afternoons at the cottage, Barney still at my side and a hot chocolate - or better still, a hot toddy.

**ANNA FIENBERG**, an Australian children's author, has written a very exciting mystery that builds toward an attention-grabbing climax. Number 8 (\$21.95) is about a thirteen-year-old boy, Jackson, and his widowed mother hiding from the mob. I got hooked right from the first sentence when Jackson (mildly obsessive compulsive) opens with, "I think the best number in the whole world is eight. My friend, Asim, likes numbers about as much as me but he likes them all - odd or even." Jackson continues, "The worst number in the universe, though, is seven. For a start it's an odd number and it's thin and sharp and mean-looking, like a medieval scythe. So when I saw 777 on that Mustang's number plate, I knew it was the start of something bad." Told alternately by Jackson and his friend Esmeralda, the tale is an action packed mystery, with plenty of humour, friendship, and music. It touches on the themes of immigration and single parenthood. The mob threats facing Jackson, his family, and friends are very real and serious. In the end, regular people doing extraordinary things, without aid from witchcraft or magic wands, win the day. This one is at the top of my pre-teen Christmas gift list.

My favourite crime writer is **Stuart Pawson** and my favourite policeman is his Charlie Priest. But I do like variety in my mystery/crime reading so I have recently discovered **KEN BRUEN** (a kindred spirit to **Lee Child**) and have read several of his works. **Bruen's** policing environment and behaviour are light years from **Pawson's**, as is his lead character, Brant, from Priest. In Ammunition (\$16.95), the latest, Brant and his colleagues have many "issues"; including an illegal approach to handling the evil underclass of Southeast London. But there is something quite compelling about the characters. Even though they have questionable values, I found them likeable - probably because **Bruen** makes no bones about their hang-ups and vulnerabilities. And I admire the writing style. It is sharp, witty and precise. But, be forewarned. There is a fair amount of rough language and the tale is definitely in the hard-boiled category. Unlike **Pawson's** work, this is not

a cozy read but it's well suited for a late stormy autumn evening.

**HUMPHREY HAWKSLEY** is a foreign correspondent with the BBC and History Book (\$28.99) is his most recent action-packed thriller. In this one he has chosen a futuristic setting in a world of all-encompassing surveillance and international intrigue. His female heroine, Kat Polinski, is compelling. She is bright, young, tough and feisty - yet vulnerable. She is an Internet hacker forced to work for Homeland Security to avoid jail time. She cracks into databases of foreign embassies and performs other clever illegal activities. In this story, she is seeking revenge for the death of her sister. The tale is crammed with exploits - just one hair-raising episode after another. Be prepared for murders, police chases, boat, car and helicopter escapes, layered with complicated computer maneuvers - all set in the future against a backdrop of globalization and international intrigue. There's so much to keep up with, I couldn't handle it in one sitting as I usually do with many books. My impression is that this is the first in a series with the clever and vulnerable Kat. There is plenty of room for this "female 007" to evolve. I'm looking forward to the next one.

As an avid fan of English police/crime novels and the BBC Drama, "Silent Witness", I happily agreed to review **SIMON BECKETT**'s Written In Bone (\$30). David Hunter, a forensic anthropologist, is asked to investigate a corpse found in a cottage on Runa, a remote island in the Hebrides. There are no police officers available because of a serious train crash on the Scottish mainland. Intrigued, Hunter agrees to go despite previous commitments to his girlfriend. He arrives on the island and is greeted by the local police sergeant and the retired DCI who discovered the body. The death is indeed strange, as the body is almost totally incinerated except for the hands and feet. Hunter rejects the spontaneous combustion theory and concludes murder. Hunter is instructed to begin the enquiry, as the SOC teams are still not available. A ferocious Atlantic storm attacks this struggling island and its inhabitants, creating an eerie and violent backdrop to multiple murders that begin to happen. Dependent on the sea and tourism for a living, the local inhabitants are at turns hostile, suspicious and worried as the number of murders mounts. Their anger and frustration grow as they realize that one of their own must be guilty. Suspense increases as the storm cuts off all power and contact with the mainland. This is a good read. It has an isolated and remote setting, three-dimensional characters, a plot that twists and turns, suspense and forensic explanations without endless minutiae. While the villain is not wholly credible, Beckett does use tension effectively. And the ending is a surprising cliffhanger. I will definitely check out Beckett's first novel, The Chemistry of Death (\$8.99).

## *Lecanne's Picks*

Do you know what bugs me, dear reader? When I find a book that I really enjoy and then...nothing. It's a singleton. Feeling bereft, I wander listlessly through bookshelves searching for that wonderful right-brain high I had just experienced. What bugs me almost as much is waiting for an author to give birth to a sequel. Although, I do feel for these creative souls, I certainly wouldn't want to face someone like me demanding seconds and thirds. "It better be fast but it had better be perfect!" Ah, the voracious mob that is me!

Like most fans of **DIANA GABALDON**'s Outlander series, I am a huge Jamie Fraser fan—every woman I have referred to these novels has come to agree that Jamie is the man against whom all other men are measured—but it's a different character, Lord John, who's been her focus of late. I had gobbled up Lord John and the Private Matter

(\$14.95) when it was released a few years ago but I cannot say I was thrilled with it. Mostly, I think I was not pleased that Jamie was absent. Nonetheless, needing at least a glimpse of Jamie, I did get Lord John and the Brotherhood of the Blade (\$34), and hoped to see him. (As if I could pass up the new **Gabalton!**) Happily, it turned out well, and Lord John has truly come into his own. The first novel didn't have me sneaking pages while waiting for my coffee, but this one did! It wasn't the mystery aspect of the novel that gripped me but rather the story of his personal relationships. If you are not familiar with these characters, Lord John is homosexual and, with the exception of a few references, he has been rather dormant on the intimacy front. Which, I'm sorry, but gay or straight, sexless does not a complete character make. Here, though, we see Grey, not as his usually reserved, honorable self, but as a man with passions, concerns, and trials of conscience, the likes of which I hope I never have to face. **Gabalton** clearly depicts what fears circled the lives of gay men in the 1700s. Grey's honour does prevail, though, even to the extent of...dare I say it, painting my dear Jamie Fraser in the wrong, EGAD! Outlander fans, do not hesitate! Read it.

I have always adored the works of **Oscar Wilde** and was terribly pleased to pick up **GYLES BRANDRETH**'s Oscar Wilde and a Death of No Importance (\$28 hardcover, \$16.99 trade paper, due January 2008), a mystery in the "tradition of **Dorothy Sayers** and **Arthur Conan Doyle**." Oscar Wilde is investigating the death of a young male prostitute and artist's model, a man of no importance. Little wonder that he solves the case; he has another writer, **Arthur Conan Doyle**, around to help. Although, truth be told, Wilde could have managed very well on his own. The first problem was proving that there actually was a murder—the body and all evidence has very inconveniently disappeared, leaving Oscar the only witness and questioning his own sanity. He coyly collects clues amidst the backdrop of Victorian England, dodging scandal, and downing copious amounts of champagne along the way. A completely charming and clever read. The story is narrated by Wilde's own Watson, Robert Sherard, some fifty years later. Expect more adventures—a sequel has been announced for mid-2008—and do note that the book was first published in the UK under the title Oscar Wilde and the Candlelight Murders.

I have not had occasion to read **ROBERT MCCAMMON** before but am very happy that The Queen of Bedlam (\$29.99 hardcover, \$18.99 trade paperback) made its way into my hands. A solid, well described book, coming in at just under 650 pages, but well worth each one. It has everything! A main character with a grudge against the corrupt governor of the orphanage he grew up in, a clandestine group known as the Herral Agency, a headstrong love interest who's nothing but bad luck to those around her, a conspiracy to take over the world through a secret university, and, of course "The Masker", a serial killer that has kept the inhabitants of New York rushing home before curfew in fear of being the next victim. A ton of plots and ideas swirling around in this novel but the author keeps them all straight and weaves them into an excellent read. It'll surely lead up to another novel, and that's fine with me.

In the course of my short existence I have had the honour of knowing a number of witches, sorcerers, vampires and daemons. I haven't met any werewolves yet, but I hear good things. I'll let you decide if I'm speaking about lesser know sub-cultures or simply in metaphors. For my day to day fix of such personalities though, I rely on supernatural fiction. One such find was **CAMILLE BACON-SMITH**'s Daemon Eyes (\$10.99) which is a one-volume collection of her Eye of the Daemon and Eyes of the Empress. Very entertaining, doubly so. The two stories tell the tale of Evan Davis as he is reunited with his father, Kevin Bradley, a daemon lord. Joining them is Lily Ryan, a sensual

daemon lord in her own right, and the threesome runs a detective agency with some very specialized skills. **Bacon-Smith** gives us an enjoyable insight to the dominion of daemon Princes and how tricky it might be to run a business when your two partners can level a city if they get cranky.

There is a human tendency to vilify things we do not understand. For some readers, **LISA SEE's** Snow Flower and the Secret Fan (\$21) may seem like a story solely about the cruel practice of foot binding. I felt it to be much more, this softly rendered story of Lily, a young woman in the Hunan County of China, who enters an arranged and binding friendship, becoming a *laotong* with another girl named Snow Flower. Through the decades these two women converse and share their lives using *nu shu*, a hidden language known only to *laotong*. Set in the nineteenth-century where wide-spread illness, continued traditions, arranged marriages and social choices can make or destroy lives, this is a beautifully written story that lends us a greater understanding of a culture that I, for one, had little knowledge of. If you enjoyed Memoirs of a Geisha (\$21) then you may well enjoy this.

I first heard of **ISHMAEL BEAH** in the July 2007 issue of *Vanity Fair* in which they reviewed his novel, A Long Way Gone (\$26.95). The book examines the civil war in Sierra Leone not from a political perspective but from the eyes of the people who lived it, and most importantly, from the eyes of the children. I had to have a copy of this book! Slim at only 226 pages, I am still amazed by how much heaviness it holds. Child soldiers may not be entirely new to our species but reading it from **Beah's** perspective leaves a unique mark. I know that the idea of reading novels is to escape from the day to day challenges of our own lives, but I couldn't not bring this book to your attention. The author's style is charming and endearing, despite everything he has been through, and on occasion I felt as if I had stumbled upon the lost writings of **Kipling**. Please give it a read. It is an amazing and fascinating story, and being just in his mid-twenties, I'm sure that Mr. Beah will have more for us.

## Hardbacks

**ADAMS, JANE** LEGACY OF LIES (\$36) (Severn House) Naomi Blake and her detective boyfriend, Alec Friedman, travel to the Fenland home of Alec's beloved Uncle Rupert, for his funeral. Rupert, who ran an antiques business and wrote books on local history, was something of a maverick. At the funeral, Rupert's business partner speaks of the violence of his friend's death and it becomes clear there were suspicious circumstances surrounding the supposed heart attack. Alec agrees to make inquiries.

**ALBERT, SUSAN** TALE OF HAWTHORNE HOUSE (\$30) (Berkley) A baby, Flora, is left on Beatrix Potter's doorstep with a note, a sprig of Hawthorn and a scarab ring. All Beatrix knows about Flora's previous guardian is that she was a gray-haired woman, capable of scaling a brick wall in seconds. Beatrix and her animal friends have a mystery on their hands. The others in this delightful series are The Tale of Hill Top Farm, The Tale of Holy How and The Tale of Cuckoo Brow Wood (\$9.99 each).

**ALLAN, BARBARA** ANTIQUES MAUL (#2) (\$28) (Kensington) More tips on antiques and another murder for Brandy Borne to solve. Sequel to Antiques Roadkill (\$9.99).

**BARCLAY, LINWOOD** NO TIME FOR GOODBYE (\$28) (Bantam) Told you about this one in the previous newsletter. As Wendy said in her picks in the September newsletter she "read it in one gulp". Fourteen-year old Cynthia Bigge woke up one morning to find herself alone. Her mom, dad and brother had disappeared without

a word. Twenty-five years later she is still trying to find out answers. "A terrific read" says Marian. "I couldn't wait to get to the end to see if Cynthia found out what happened to her family".

**BEATON, M C agatha** KISSING CHRISTMAS GOODBYE (#18) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) A wealthy widow hires Agatha Raisin because she is convinced a member of her family is trying to kill her. Agatha is intrigued, especially when the widow drops dead after a high tea at the manor house. Who, in this rather sterile house complete with fake family portraits, could have hated the old lady enough to kill her?

**BECKETT, SIMON** WRITTEN IN BONE (#2) (\$30) (Delacorte) As a favour to a beleaguered cop, forensic anthropologist Dr. David Hunter travels to a remote island in the Outer Hebrides to inspect a baffling set of remains, where he ignites a harrowing murder investigation and a tale of menace and revenge. The first in the series is Chemistry of Death (\$8.99). *Raves reviews for this series. See Cottage Lady's Picks and J.D.'s Picks.*

**BENEDEK, EMILY** RED SEA (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) Four airliners are blown out of the sky taking hundreds of lives and striking fear into people and governments. Aviation reporter Marie Petersen has a hunch about the crashes and her investigation, with the help of maverick FBI agent Morgan Ensley, leads her to a terrorist plot which will explode a nuclear device in New York Harbour.

**BENEDICT, LAURA** ISABELLA MOON (\$32) (Ballantine) Two years ago, in idyllic Carystown, Kentucky, nine-year-old Isabella Moon disappeared on her way home from school. Kate Russell, a young woman with no discernable past, arrived in town just months before Isabella's disappearance. When Kate walks into Sheriff Delaney's office to tell him that Isabella's ghost has led her to the child's hidden grave, he immediately views her as a suspect. A debut.

**BENN, JAMES R billy boyle** FIRST WAVE (#2) (\$30) Billy Boyle, a young Irish-American cop from Boston, has become General Dwight Eisenhower's personal investigator. He goes ashore with the first wave of American troops to land on Beer Green invasion beach, sixteen miles from the Algerian capital. Once in Algiers, he encounters SOE Agent Diana Seaton, an English girl with whom he has fallen in love, among a group of French rebels captured by the French fascist militia. While solving a series of murders, he also must rescue Diana from renegade Vichy collaborators. The first in the series is Billy Boyle (\$14.50).

**BERENSON, LAURIEN travis** HOUNDED TO DEATH (#14) (\$28) Woops, or should that be woofs?, sold out. More on order.

**BILLINGHAM, MARK** DEATH MESSAGE (#7) (\$29) (Little, Brown) Why is DI Tom Thorne receiving photos of murder victims on his mobile phone? The killer is quickly identified as a man just released from prison who believes he has nothing left to live for. It seems the most vicious psychopath Thorne has ever faced is still a master at manipulating others to do his dirty work, even though he is behind bars.

**BOOTH, STEPHEN** DYING TO SIN (#8) (\$28.95) (Harper Collins) With pressure from a new Superintendent and little forensic evidence to help them, DI Diane Fry and DC Ben Cooper have only the memories of the local people to piece together the history of Pity Wood Farm. Building work at the farm has unearthed human remains.

**BRIGHTWELL, EMILY** MRS. JEFFRIES AND THE FEAST OF ST. STEPHEN (\$27.50) (Berkley) Wealthy Stephen Whitfield dies during a Christmas-time dinner and Scotland Yard wants Inspector Witherspoon to find the killer before Christmas. Mrs. Jeffries and the rest of her staff to the rescue.

**BROOKMYRE, CHRISTOPHER** ATTACK OF THE UNSINKABLE RUBBER DUCKS (\$55) (Expensive British import) Jack Parlabane did not believe in ghosts until he found himself dead, with an exclusive still to file. From his position on high, Parlabane relates the events leading up to his demise. Trade paperback coming, not quite sure when, at \$24.

**BROWN, RITA MAE** TELL TALE HORSE (#6) (\$32) (Ballantine) A woman is found murdered and her naked body is placed atop a horse statue outside a tack shop. The theft of a treasured foxhunting prize from inside the store may be linked to the grisly scene. Everyone in town is on edge. Jane Arnold, master of the Jefferson Hunt Club, uses her fine-tuned horse sense to solve the crime. It's too bad that humans can't understand the local foxes, horses and hounds because they too have a few theories.

**BUSH, NANCY jane kelly** ULTRAVIOLET (#3) (\$25.95) (Kensington) Process server-turned-private eye, Jane Kelly has to prove that very wacky ex-wife #2, Violet, did not kill her former husband, plastic surgery magnate Roland Hachmere. Sequel to the equally witty Candy Apple Red and Electric Blue (\$9.99 each).

**BUTCHER, JIM** WHITE NIGHT (#9) (\$30) The latest in the Dresden series.

**CAIN, CHELSEA lowell** HEARTSICK (#1) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Portland detective Archie Sheridan spent ten years tracking Gretchen Lowell, a beautiful serial killer, but in the end it was she who caught him. Two years ago she kidnapped him, tortured him for ten days, then let him go and turned herself in. Now damaged Archie lives in a prison of another kind. He is addicted to pain pills, unable to return to his old life, powerless to get those ten horrible days out of his mind. When another killer begins snatching teenage girls off the streets of Portland, Archie has to pull himself together to lead the new task force investigating the murders. Kinda gruesome.

**CAMPBELL, GORDON** MISSING WITNESS (\$28.95) (Morrow) Phoenix, Arizona, 1973. A beautiful woman, armed with a gun and accompanied by her twelve-year-old daughter, enters a house. Shots are fired, mom and daughter leave, and inside the house her husband lies dead. The case seems open and shut. Everyone believes the woman is guilty. The only witness to the shooting lies in a catatonic state and cannot testify. But the murdered man's wealthy father believes he owes the woman something and hires Dan Morgan, the best lawyer in Phoenix, to defend her. A debut novel.

**CARRELL, JENNIFER** INTERRED WITH THEIR BONES (\$31) (Dutton) On the eve of the Globe's production of Hamlet, Shakespeare scholar Kate Stanley's eccentric mentor gives her a mysterious box, claiming to have made a groundbreaking discovery. Before she can reveal it to Kate, The Globe burns down and she is found dead in the ruins. Opening the box, Kate finds the first piece in a Shakespearean puzzle that sets her off on a deadly, high-stakes hunt, racing from England to Spain to America. Marian has just started reading this and says it's great so far and suspects it will be a *Pick* in the next newsletter. "This will make a great Christmas present for the Shakespeare fans on your list. It has an academic feel to it without being stodgy. And, it's enough of a thriller—flying madly from country to country, the bad guys hard on your heels—to keep you wanting to read it."

**CARVER, C J** GONE WITHOUT A TRACE (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Orion) Ex-army captain Jay McCaulay now works for TRACE, an international aid agency that helps track and unite families separated by conflict. Her old job with Royal Signals seems far away. Until she spots someone from her past. It is a past that involves Zamira, a beautiful young girl whose life Jay saved in Kosovo, and Milot Dumani, an organized crime boss from Albania, who was seen on the streets of Bristol. Jay's specialist knowledge means she is a perfect candidate for an MI6 mission to trail Dumani, but Detective Inspector Tom Sutton isn't happy. He has just asked Jay to marry him and he doesn't like the fact that she's teaming up with Max Blake from SOCA. Max has a dangerous reputation and Tom doesn't trust him.

**CASEY, DONIS** DROP EDGE OF YONDER (\$29.95) (Poisoned Pen Press) Alafair Tucker is desperate to find out who killed Uncle Bill. One August evening in 1914, a bushwhacker ended a pleasant evening by blowing a hole in Bill, kidnapping and ravaging Bill's fi-

ancée, and wounding Alafair's daughter, Mary. The bullet that grazed Mary has blotted out her memory of the event. But it seems the killer is still in the area so Alafair investigates in order to save Mary.

**CHARNEY, NOAH** ART THIEF (\$29.99) (Atria) Rome: In the small Baroque church of Santa Giuliana, a magnificent Caravaggio altarpiece disappears without a trace in the middle of the night. Paris: In the basement vault of the Malevich Society, the curator is shocked to discover the disappearance of the Society's greatest treasure, White-on-White by Suprematist painter Kasimir Malevich. London: At the National Gallery of Modern Art, the museum's latest acquisition is stolen just hours after it was purchased for more than six million pounds. How are these thefts related?

**CHRISTIE, AGATHA** SAD CYPRESS: A HERCULE POIROT MYSTERY (\$15.95) A hardcover reprint.

**CHRISTIE, AGATHA** DEATH ON THE NILE, MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS, SECRET OF CHIMNEYS and MURDER ON THE LINKS (\$19.95 ea.). Graphic novels.

**CHRISTIE, AGATHA** ABC MURDERS, BIG FOUR, MURDER IN THE MEWS, and THREE ACT TRAGEDY (\$30 ea.). Four more facsimile editions. Smuggled in from the UK as they are not available in Canada otherwise.

**[CHRISTIE]THOMPSON, LAURA** AGATHA CHRISTIE: AN ENGLISH MYSTERY (\$34.95 hard cover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Headline) Non fiction. Biography. With the blessing of Christie's family and full access to her unpublished letters, papers, and notebooks, award-winning biographer Laura Thompson has embarked on a full scale investigation into the author's life. She explores Christie's Edwardian upbringing, her relationships with her two husbands and daughter and, perhaps most intriguing of all, the motive behind her eleven-day disappearance in 1926. The book also includes a listing of the works of Agatha Christie (although not the titles of her short stories), extensive endnotes and an index.

**CLEVERLY, BARBARA** FOLLY DU JOUR (\$49.95) (Constable) Expensive British import. Paris 1927. Joe Sandilands is in Paris attending an Interpol conference but ends up trying to sort out a friend's problems with the local police. It seems that Sir George Jardine, has stabbed someone at a performance of the Folies Bergere.

**COEL, MARGARET** GIRL WITH BRAIDED HAIR (#13) (\$30) (Berkley) By 1973, the American Indian Movement, AIM, a militant organization, had spread its influence across several reservations. After a standoff against federal authorities on the Pine Ridge Reservation in South Dakota, AIM's members went into hiding on other reservations. Liz Plenty Horses was there during the Pine Ridge incident. Afterwards, she returned to the Wild River Reservation to help AIM members wanted by the FBI blend in with her people. But when one of them was shot to death by the police, Liz was accused of being an informant, and fled with her baby daughter never to be seen again. Now, the remains of a skeleton with a gunshot wound in the back of the skull have been discovered at the bottom of a remote ravine on the Wild River Reservation. The body is that of an Indian woman who was murdered sometime in 1973. While the police encounter a wall of silence, Vicky Holden and Father John O'Malley unravel the truth.

**CORNWELL, BERNARD** SWORD SONG (#4) (\$34.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback) (Harper Collins, UK) The year is 885 and England is at peace, divided between the Danish kingdom to the north and the Saxon kingdom of Wessex in the south. Uhtred, the deposed son of a Northumbrian lord, has a duty given to him by Alfred to hold the frontier on the Thames. But trouble stirs and new Vikings have arrived to occupy London. Their dream is to conquer Wessex, and to do it they need Uhtred's help. Sequel to Last Kingdom, Pale Horseman, and Lords of the North (\$10.99 each).

**CORNWELL, PATRICIA** BOOK OF THE DEAD (\$32.50) (Putnam) Moving to Charleston, South Carolina, Kay Scarpetta opens a private forensic pathology practice, one in which she and her col-

leagues, including Pete Marino and her niece Lucy, offer expert crime scene investigation and autopsies to communities lacking local access to competent death investigations and modern technology. She goes up against local politicians, someone who wants to sabotage her business, and very violent murders.

**COTTERILL, COLIN** ANARCHY AND OLD DOGS (#4) (\$29.95) (Knopf, Canada) Dr. Siri Paiboun, reluctant national coroner of Laos, sets out to decipher a letter found in the pocket of a blind dentist who was run down by a logging truck. The letter is written in invisible ink and in code. The dentist's widow explained that the enigmatic letters and numbers describe chess moves in a long-distance game her husband was playing. But to Dr. Siri, the symbols are unlike any chess symbols he has previously encountered. Sequel to The Coroner's Lunch (\$15.95), Thirty-Three Teeth (\$17.95) and Disco for the Departed (\$17.95).

**CURZON, CLARE** PAYBACK (\$57) An expensive British import and a special order.

**DELANY, VICKI** IN THE SHADOW OF THE GLACIER (\$29.95) (Poisoned Pen) When an American who came to the small mountain town of Trafalgar, British Columbia, as a draft dodger dies, he leaves land and money to the town. But the money must be used to build a garden to honour draft dodgers and that has torn the town apart. When the body of the leading opponent to the garden is found, Constable Molly Smith is assigned to help veteran Detective Sergeant John Winters in the investigation. But Winters doesn't want the help of this enthusiastic rookie.

**DIBDIN, MICHAEL** END GAMES (#11) (\$34.99) (McClelland & Stewart) Aurelio Zen has been posted to Cosenza, Calabria, to replace the local chief of police who is recuperating after shooting himself in the foot. When a missing American lawyer's body is discovered in Altomonte, Zen is determined to penetrate the local code of silence. This is the last Zen novel as Mr. Dibdin died earlier this year.

**[DOYLE] DAVIES, DAVID STUART** STARRING SHERLOCK HOLMES: CENTURY ON SCREEN (\$44) A beautiful book illustrating the history of Sherlock Holmes on screen. With a forward by Ian Richardson.

**[DOYLE] LYCETT, ANDREW** CONAN DOYLE: THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$39.95) (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) With access to vast amounts of archival material, Mr. Lycett shows the agonies, struggles and humanity of Conan Doyle as never before. **Signed copies** available. See *J.D.'s Picks*.

**DUNDEE, WAYNE** DAY AFTER YESTERDAY (\$50) A special order.

**DUNN, CAROLA** BLOODY TOWER (#16) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Daisy Dalrymple is invited to the Ceremony of the Keys at the Tower of London but because the complex is locked and guarded during the ceremony she has to spend the night. This is the first time she will be apart from her two-month-old twins. As she is leaving the next morning she stumbles over the body of a yeoman warder. With her husband, Scotland Yard Detective Chief Inspector Alec Fletcher, assigned to the case, she finds herself once again enmeshed in a puzzling case of murder. Set in 1925.

**ECCLES, MARJORIE** SHADOWS AND LIES (\$29.95) It is 1910 and the bloodstained body of an unknown woman is found on the grounds of Sir Henry Chetwynd's Shropshire estate. The murder has an unexpected impact on Sir Henry and his family. And, how does the Shropshire murder relate to Hannah, a woman living in London, who has lost her memory of everything that happened in the past dozen years previous to a serious accident in which she was involved? We also have copies of the expensive British first editions at \$57 each.

**EDWARDS, MARTIN** lake dist ARSENIC LABYRINTH (#3) (\$42.95) (Allison & Busby) Ten years ago a woman left her cottage and never came back. Police at the time were unable to establish whether she left of her own accord or was the victim of suicide, acci-

dent or murder. The unresolved case has always irked DCI Hannah Scarlett, who heads the local Cold Case Review Team.

**ELLIS, WARREN** HEART OF AMERICA/CROOKED LITTLE VEIN (\$27.95)

**ELLORY, ROGER JON** QUIET BELIEF IN ANGELS (\$37.95) (Orion) Back in Georgia in 1939, twelve-year-old Joseph Vaughan hears of the murder of a young girl and he and his friends establish The Guardians, a group of children determined to protect the people of Augusta Falls against the evil in their midst. But the murderer eludes them and they watch helplessly as one child after another is taken from their ranks. It will be another fifty years before the final chapter unfolds and Joseph confronts the nightmare that has overshadowed his life.

**ELTON, BEN** CHART THROB (\$45.95) (Bantam, UK) Ninety-five thousand hopefuls. Three Judges. Just one winner. And that is Calvin Simms, the genius behind the TV show. Calvin always wins because Calvin always writes the rules but he has no idea that the rules are about to change. Also available in paperback at \$10.99.

**FINDER, JOSEPH** POWER PLAY (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) It was the perfect retreat for a troubled company. No cell phones, no Black-Berrys, no cars, just a luxurious lodge surrounded by thousands of miles of wilderness. All the top officers of the Hammond Aerospace Corporation are there. And one last minute substitute, a junior executive named Jake Landry. When a band of backwoods hunters crashes the opening-night dinner, the executives find themselves held hostage. The corporate big shots hadn't wanted Jake there, but now he's the only one who can save them.

**FOLLETT, KEN** WORLD WITHOUT END (\$42) (Dutton) 1014 pages is a lot of book. This story takes place in the town of Kingsbridge, two centuries after the townsfolk finished building the Gothic cathedral that was the heart of Pillars of the Earth (\$10.99).

**FORREST, CHRISTOPHER** GENESIS CODE (\$27.95) (Forge) Nobel Prize winning geneticist Joshua Ambergris has made an astounding find: he has discovered a coded text hidden in human DNA. Before he can change the course of history by announcing his incredible discovery, he is murdered in his office at Triad Genomics, an international biotech company. Who planted this code eons ago? Can it be decoded? Ambergris's protégé, Christian Madison, and his assistant, Grace Nguyen, must follow the serpentine trail to uncover a global conspiracy of silence, secrecy, and murder that spans the breadth of human history. A shadowy group known only as the Order, guards the ancient secret enciphered in the mythologies and architecture of Earth's oldest civilization and encoded into the very fabric of human DNA.

**FRANCIS, DICK** DEAD HEAT (\$34) (Michael Joseph) Co-written by Felix Francis. The night before the 2,000 Guineas at Newmarket, a grand and gala black-tie dinner is held with top chef Max Moreton cooking the evening's meal. When his food is suspected of putting twenty-four of the dinner guests in hospital and his Michelin-starred restaurant closed, his reputation teeters on the brink of ruin.

But Max soon finds himself fighting for more than just his livelihood. **FRASER, GEORGE MACDONALD** REAVERS (34.95) (Harper Collins, UK) "A hilarious borders burlesque." Per the blurb. To fully understand how hilarious this book sounds we would have to reprint the entire jacket blurb here and that would take up too much space. In a nutshell: Spoiled, arrogant, filthy rich and breathtakingly beautiful, the young Lady Godiva Dacre is exiled from the court of Queen Bess to her lonely estate near the Scottish border. She has no one to rely on but her half-witted blond school chum, a rugged English superman with a knack for disaster, and a dashing highwayman who looks like Errol Flynn but has a Kelvinside Glasgow accent. To say nothing of warlocks, impersonators, taxi-drivers riding brooms, burlesque artists, the drunkest man in Scotland and several quite normal characters.

**FREEMAN, BRIAN** STALKED (#3) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95

trade paperback) (Headline) Lieutenant Jonathan Stride knows his partner Maggie Bei is in trouble when she reports a deadly crime on a bitter winter night. She is obviously hiding a deadly secret. "I want to read this but haven't had the time in the last couple of weeks." says Marian, "I absolutely loved the first two in the series, Immoral and Stripped (\$10.99 each).

**GERRITSEN, TESS** BONE GARDEN (\$34) (Ballantine) Set in present day Boston with links to Boston of the 1830s. Julia has made a horrifying discovery in her new home in rural Massachusetts: a human skull buried in rocky soil scarred with the unmistakable marks of murder. In the story set in the 1830s, Norris Marshall, a talented but penniless student at Boston Medical College, has joined the ranks of local resurrectionists in order to pay for his education. Resurrectionists are people who plunder graveyards and harvest the dead for sale on the black market. When a nurse and a doctor are found murdered on the university hospital grounds, Norris finds that trafficking in the illicit cadaver trade has made him a prime suspect.

**GRACE, TOM** SECRET CARDINAL (\$30)

**GRAY, CLIO** ROARING OF THE LABYRINTH (\$34.95) (Headline) A valuable exhibit is stolen from Astonishment Hall, a country estate in the Pennines, and the owner calls on Whilbert Stroop to sort through the strange happenings. A bell tower is burnt to the ground, thefts plague the valley and a man is violently murdered. Sequel to Guardians of the Key (\$10.99). Set in the early 1800s.

**GREEN, CHRISTINE kinsella** DEADLY RETREAT (#7) (\$34.95) (Severn House) After the death of her policeman boyfriend, David, in a recent case, private investigator Kate Kinsella goes away to a rural retreat for some rest. While there she meets a strange bunch of characters including Fran who has been to prison for murdering her baby son. But there is more to Fran's story than meets the eye.

**GRISHAM, JOHN** PLAYING FOR PIZZA (\$26.95) (Doubleday) This sounds like a fun story and nothing like his usual legal fare. Rick Dockery was the third string quarterback for Cleveland but blew a game with minutes to go and got sacked. He insists his agent find a team that needs him and, against all odds, the agent does. In fact, Rick can be starting quarterback for the Panthers of Parma, Italy. He reluctantly agrees and heads off to Italy even though he doesn't understand or speak a word of Italian.

**HALL, PARNELL** HITMAN (#16) (\$30) (Pegasus) Martin Kessler is a contract killer who wants out of the game. So he hires New York City private eye Stanley Hastings to watch his back in the event that someone of a similar professional skill is shadowing him. Someone is, in fact, only Stanley fails to spot him and dead bodies are soon piling up.

**HAMILTON, STEVE** NIGHT WORK (\$28.95) (Thomas Dunne) Joe Turnbull is a juvenile probation officer in Kingston, NY. It's been two years of grief and loneliness since his fiancée was brutally murdered but now he is finally going out on his first date. But this evening marks the beginnings of another nightmare. From the author of the Alex McKnight novels, the first of which, Cold Day in Paradise (\$9.99) won the Edgar for Best First, in these many years ago.

**HART, JOHN** DOWN RIVER (\$28.95) (Thomas Dunne) Adam Chase has a violent streak, and not without reason; as a boy in Rowan County, he saw things that no child should see. After being narrowly acquitted of a murder charge, Adam is hounded out of the only home he has known. Now, five years later, he has returned. Within hours of his return he is accosted and beaten, confronted by his family and the woman he still holds dear. When bodies start turning up, the small town rises against him and Adam must again prove his innocence.

**HARVEY, MICHAEL** CHICAGO WAY (\$29.95) Reviews range from outstanding to ordinary. I'm going to read it for myself and see. I'll report back in the next issue.

**HAWKSLEY, HUMPHREY** HISTORY BOOK (\$28.99) (Warner) When Kathleen "Kat" Polinski, an undercover agent for the US Gov-

ernment, carries out a routine break-in at the Kazakh embassy, she finds the staff massacred. Hours later Kat learns that her own sister, Suzy, has been murdered in a lonely spot outside London. What was Suzy doing there? Is there a connection with the embassy killings? Are both related to Project Peace, an impending international security agreement that threatens freedom in the name of stability? All the answers lie in a hidden computer file Suzy called The History Book. See *Cottage Lady's Picks*.

**HELEY, VERONICA** quicke MURDER OF IDENTITY (#8) (\$34.99) An Ellie Quicke novel.

**HOUGH, ROBERT** CULPRITS (\$34.95) (Random House, Canada) After Hank Wallins narrowly misses death after being pushed in front of a subway train, he vows to change his life. On a Russian website he meets Anya and soon sends her a plane ticket to Toronto. When a troubling letter from St. Petersburg arrives on their doorstep, Hank unwittingly, and out of love for Anya, finds himself funding a terrorist scheme.

**HOWLEY, BRENDAN** WITNESS TREE (\$34.95)

**HUNTER, STEPHEN** 47TH SAMURAI (\$32) (Simon & Schuster) Bob Lee Swagger and Philip Yano are bound together by a single moment at Iwo Jima, 1945, when their fathers, two brave fighters on opposite sides, met in bloody battle for the island. Only Earl Swagger survived. More than sixty years later, Yano comes to America to honour the legacy of his heroic father by recovering the sword he used in the battle. His search leads him to Crazy Horse, Idaho, where Bob Lee, ex-marine and Vietnam veteran, pledges to help him. Bob Lee finds the sword and delivers it to Yano in Tokyo. On inspection, they discover that it is not a standard WWII blade, but a legendary shinshinto katana, an artifact of the nation, priceless and worth killing for.

**JAMES, BILL harpur & iles** GIRLS (\$54) An expensive British import and a special order.

**JUNGSTEDT, MARI knutas** UNSPOKEN (#2) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) A young girl is found strangled on the island of Gotland, just off the coast of Sweden, and all evidence points to one of her co-workers at the local riding stable. Is it possible her death is related to the murder of alcoholic photographer Henry Dahlstrom? The police found explicit photographs of the girl with a stranger in Dahlstrom's darkroom. While Inspector Anders Knutas waits for the co-worker, who has left the country for a short vacation, to return, he takes a well deserved weekend off. The first in the series is Unseen (\$31.95).

**KAPLOW, ROBERT** WHO'S KILLING THE GREAT WRITERS OF AMERICA (\$25.95) (Phoenix Books) Sue Grafton, Danielle Steel and Tom Clancy have all been murdered in a manner both gruesome and appropriate to their style. Now, an extremely paranoid Stephen King is convinced that he will be next. With great trepidation, he leaves his heavily-barricaded fortress in Bangor, Maine to discover who's killing the great writers of America. A satire.

**KELLY, SUSAN** MURDER ON THE DANCE FLOOR (\$35) (Allison & Busby) Superintendent Gregory Summers doesn't get the connection between two drug related deaths at the Kismet Klub in Newbury until it's too late. As the Superintendent and his team delve into the deaths, due, it seems, to a new lethal drug called nicknamed Entry, he finds himself involved in the most unnerving cases of his career. And whatever the outcome, the life of one member of Newbury CID will never be the same.

**KRESS, ADRIENNE** ALEX AND THE IRONIC GENTLEMAN (\$19.95) (Weinstein Books) Alex is an inquisitive girl of ten-and-a-half who attends Wigpowder Academy. Unfortunately, though she loves to learn, Alex can't enjoy her classes. Her teachers are too old and smelly and they know nothing about anything that has happened in the world in the past thirty years. But the new school year brings an exciting new teacher. Mr. Underwood makes lessons fun and teaches her how to fence. But he has a mysterious family secret, the swashbuckling-and-buried-treasure kind. When the infamous pirates

of a ship called the Ironic Gentleman kidnap Mr. Underwood, Alex sets off on a journey to rescue him. Meant as a young adult book (maybe ages 12 or 13) but a fun read for adults also.

**LASHNER, WILLIAM** KILLER'S KISS (#7) (\$29.95) (Morrow) Once, Victor Carl was engaged to a woman named Julia. She was beautiful and elegant and not the kind of woman to end up with a second-rate lawyer on the edge of insolvency. Victor always assumed she'd burn him, and she did. Now she's back. Her husband has been murdered, her fingerprints are all over the crime scene and \$1.7 million in cash is missing. Julia is suddenly in need of a fall guy. And Victor is still a sucker for Julia.

**LAWTON, JOHN** SECOND VIOLIN (#6) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) What could be better than this fine writer weaving a tale which spans the years 1938 to 1940, a prequel to his other Troy novels, featuring Frederick Troy and his brother Rod? A terrific storyteller. And, helpfully, the author lists his Troy novels in chronological order: Second Violin, Riptide (\$21 expensive British import at the moment and most likely out of print soon), Black Out (\$10.99) Old Flames (\$10.99) Blue Rondo (\$14.95) and A Little White Death (\$13.50).

**LIEBMAN, RON** DEATH BY RODRIGO (\$28.99) (Simon & Schuster) Two Camden, New Jersey, lawyers are hired by El Salvadoran crime boss Rodrigo Gonzalez, when he is arrested for high-volume drug trafficking. All he wants the two lawyers to do is get him out on bond so he can jump bail and escape back to the comforts of El Salvador. Problem is, the judge denies bail. The first in a new humorous series which shows us the seamy side of criminal law. J.D. says that much as he'd like to sell you this book, it just didn't strike his funny bone. Wait for the paperback.

**LINDSAY, JEFF** DEXTER IN THE DARK (#3) (\$29.95) (Doubleday) J.D. picked this in the September 2007 newsletter saying it was elegant, witty and fun. Others have found it less than special; Dexter without his Dark Passenger just didn't cut it. Others, including himself, found watching Dexter flounder rather entertaining. Serial killer Dexter, who works as a blood splatter expert for the Miami police department, is about to get married. He feels that the respectability of a married man is the perfect disguise for his serial killings. The first two in the series are Darkly Dreaming Dexter and Dearly Devoted Dexter (\$16.95 trade paperbacks).

**LOOMIS, JON** HIGH SEASON (\$27.95)

**LYCETT, ANDREW** CONAN DOYLE: THE MAN WHO CREATED SHERLOCK HOLMES (\$39.95) (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) See annotation under **DOYLE** above.

**MCCAMMON, ROBERT** QUEEN OF BEDLAM (\$29.99 hardcover, \$18.99 trade paperback) (Simon & Schuster) The unsolved murder of a respected doctor has sent ripples of fear through New York City of the early 1700s. Hardworking young law clerk Matthew Corbett is lured into a maze of forensic clues and heart-pounding investigation that will test his penchant for detection and inflame his desire for justice. This has the feel of **CALEB CARR**'s The Alienist (\$21 trade paperback). See *Lecanne's Picks*.

**MCDOWALL, IAIN** CUT HER DEAD (#5) (\$46.95) (Piatkus) Four bright, young twenty-somethings fight their perpetual apathy with an interesting hobby: they kidnap young women and bury them alive and call it "art". Except now they have moved their creative base of operations to Crowby. And unless DCI Frank Jacobson and DS Ian Kerr can crack the case in time, the four may soon graduate to murder. A terrific series which is, unfortunately, mostly out of print.

**MCINTOSH, PAT** cunningham ST. MUNGO'S ROBIN (#4) (\$30.95) (Carroll & Graf) Tracing the warden of St. Serf's last movements between the cathedral precinct and the shores of the Clyde, Gil Cunningham is alternately helped and hindered by his two sisters who are in Glasgow for his wedding to Alys. Set in medieval Glasgow. Sequel to The Harper's Quince (seems to be out of print), The Nicholas

Feast (\$18.50) and The Merchant's Mark (\$32.50).

**MAITLAND, BARRY** SPIDER TRAP (#9) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) When human bones are discovered in a poor area of inner London, DCI Brock and DS Kolla are called in to investigate. It seems that the victim died more than twenty years ago during the Brixton riots and that information leads the two of them on a dangerous journey into the heart of the West Indian community. And to make matters worse, formidable old antagonist, Spider Roach, returns.

**MANKELL, HENNING** KENNEDY'S BRAIN (\$32) (Knopf, Canada) When archaeologist Louise Cantor's son, Henrik, is found dead in his flat, she refuses to believe it was suicide. While looking through his bundles of papers, she discovers he was obsessed with the conspiracy theory that John F. Kennedy's brain disappeared prior to the autopsy, along with vital evidence regarding the bullet wounds. The only lead is a letter and a photograph from Henrik's girlfriend in Mozambique. Louise's quest to unravel the mystery of her son's death takes her to Africa.

**MARON, MARGARET** HARD ROW (#13) (\$28.99) (Warner) As Judge Deborah Knott presides over a case involving a barroom brawl, it becomes clear that deep resentments over race, class, and illegal immigration are simmering just below the surface.

**MARSH, NGAIO** ARTISTS IN CRIME (\$20) Hard cover edition.

**MARSTON, EDWARD** IRON HORSE (#4) (\$32.95) (Allison & Busby) A disembodied head is discovered on a passenger train at Crewe and Det. Insp. Robert Colbeck and his assistant are assigned to the case. It's Derby Day at Epsom Downs and a hotbed for crime and crooks of all kinds. Sequel to The Railway Detective (\$12.95), The Excursion Train (\$16.95) and The Railway Viaduct (\$12.95).

**MEYER, STEPHENIE** ECLIPSE (#3) (\$21.99) This is a young adult series that Marian has taken a fancy to. See *Marian's Picks*. The first two in the series are Twilight (\$11.99 paperback, \$21.99 hardcover) and New Moon (\$21.99). Terrific stuff.

**MINA, DENISE** meehan LAST BREATH (#3) (\$34.95) (Bantam, UK) Glasgow, 1990. Paddy Meehan is surprised when the police come to tell her that someone close to her is dead. Terry Patterson has been found naked in a ditch, executed with a shot through his temple. Although the two had broken up months ago, Paddy was still named as his next of kin. He also left her everything in his will: a house in Ayrshire, boxes of notebooks and a folder. What was Terry trying to tell her? As Paddy begins her investigation she realizes that if the secret he was about to expose was worth killing for, then she and those closest to her, are in terrible danger. The first two in the series are The Field of Blood (\$11.99) and The Dead Hour (\$10.99). A terrific series. From the author of the Garnethill trilogy.

**MONING, KAREN MARIE** BLOODFEVER (#2) (\$28) (Delacorte) When MacKayla Lane learns that her sister was murdered in an alley in Dublin she flies over from Ashford, Georgia, to try and find some answers. While there, she discovered she could see the Fae (Darkfever (\$9.99)). In her fight to stay alive and to prevent the dark powers from overtaking Dublin, she must locate a million-year-old book of the blackest magic imaginable. She finds herself torn between two deadly and irresistible men: V'lane, the insatiable Fae who can turn sensual arousal into an obsession for any woman, and the ever-inscrutable Jericho Barrons, a man as alluring as he is mysterious. (And he owns a bookstore). "Yummy" says Marian.

**NASAW, JONATHAN** pender WHEN SHE WAS BAD (#4) (\$29.99) (Atria) Lily DeVries and Ulysses Maxwell have quite a few things in common. Both were horribly abused as children, both diagnosed with multiple personality disorders and both incarcerated in the same Oregon mental institution. These two hot lovers are also cold-blooded killers. After their escape from the mental institution E.L. Pender and Dr. Irene Cogan are the only two who can stop them. The others in the series are The Girls He Adored (\$9.99), Fear Itself (\$11.99) and Twenty-seven Bones (\$10.99).

**OCEAN, T LYNN jersey barn SOUTHERN FATALITY (#1)** (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) Jersey Barnes has retired from a risk-filled career as a private security specialist and when her boyfriend asks her for a simple favour, she can't turn him down. What should have been a routine surveillance job lands Jersey right in the middle of a high-stakes cover-up, a double kidnapping and a scheme that may steal millions of dollars from hardworking Americans. Touted as "...the South's answer to Janet Evanovich." The first with this character.

**PATTERSON, JAMES YOU'VE BEEN WARNED (\$32.50)** (Little Brown) Struggling to make a go of her photographic career, Kristin Burns works full-time as a nanny for the fabulously wealthy Turnbull family. When her photos are considered by an elite Manhattan art gallery, it seems she might finally get the chance that will start her career. But Kristin has a major distraction: forbidden love. The man of her dreams is almost hers for keeps but she ignores all signs of a catastrophe brewing.

**PATTON, CHRISTOPHER JACK PINE (\$18.95)** A lovely kids book which we sold out of before we could annotate.

**PENNY, LOUISE CRUELLEST MONTH (#3)** (\$37.95 signed hard covers, \$24.95 unsigned trade paperbacks) Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec is back at Three Pines investigating another death. **Autographed copies** available while supplies last. See *Marian's Picks*. An excellent addition to an excellent series.

**PEPPER, ANDREW REVENGE OF CAPTAIN PAINE (#2)** (\$37.95) (Weidenfeld & Nicolson) It is 1835 and if Pyke thought leaving the Bow Street Runners would give him a life of peace and quiet, he was mistaken. When he is asked unofficially by Sir Robert Peel to investigate a decapitation in Cambridgeshire, and to discover more about the radical unrest brewing between the striking railway workers and the townspeople, he cannot resist the chance to resuscitate the old skills he learned on the streets. The first in the series is The Last Days of Newgate (\$14.95 trade paperback).

**PRESTON & CHILD pendergas WHEEL OF DARKNESS (#8)** (\$29.99) (Warner) A luxury ocean liner on its maiden voyage across the North Atlantic is awash in wealth and decadence. An ancient Tibetan box, its contents unknown, is sealed with a terrifying warning. An FBI agent is destined to confront what he fears most: himself. How does all this tie together?

**RANKIN, IAN rebus EXIT MUSIC (#17)** (Orion) Is this the end of Rebus? See *J.D.'s Picks* and *Marian's Picks*.

**RIMINGTON, STELLA ILLEGAL ACTION (#3)** (\$34.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperbacks) (Hutchinson) Liz Carlyle is searching for a Russian assassin believed to be in London. See *Marian's Picks*.

**ROBB, CANDACE archer GUILT OF INNOCENTS (#9)** (\$57 hardcover reprints, \$30 trade paperbacks) (Heinemann, reprints) A man has drowned on the River Ouse and one-eyed spy Owen Archer, Captain of Archbishop Thoresby's guard, investigates. Torn between solving the crime and looking after his wife, Lucie, who is expecting their long-awaited third child, Owen is soon taken away from home. Both expensive British imports.

**ROBINSON, PETER FRIEND OF THE DEVIL (#17)** (\$34.99) (McClelland & Stewart) The amazing **Peter Robinson** just keeps getting better. On a windy, desolate cliff overlooking the North Sea someone murders a quadriplegic woman, a woman who could not possibly be a threat to anyone, in the condition that she is. Miles away, in Eastvale, Yorkshire, a young woman, in the prime of her life, is murdered. DCI Alan Rebus and DI Annie Cabbot work the separate cases. Annie Cabbot is having a hard time keeping her mind on the job; first she's got to figure out how she ended up in the bed of a man much younger. See *J.D.'s Picks* and *Marian's Picks*.

**ROBOTHAM, MICHAEL NIGHT FERRY (\$25)** (Sphere) Injured on the job when a murder suspect broke her back, Alisha Barba's dreams of becoming a detective ended. Now healed, she receives a

call from Cate, an old school friend. On the night they arrange to meet, Cate and her husband are mown down by a car and the husband dies. As paramedics fight to save her life, they uncover a series of deceptions that send Alisha on a dangerous quest from the East End of London to Amsterdam's red-light district and into the murky underworld of sex trafficking, slavery and exploitation.

**ROLLINS, DAVID vin cooper DEATH TRUST (#1)** (\$30) (Bantam) Major Vin Cooper of Air Force Special Investigations is the kind of loose cannon that no commanding officer can control and is perfect for investigating the deaths of a decorated four star general and his soldier son. Reluctantly paired with Special Agent Anna Masters, Cooper begins his search at the scene of a suspicious crash at Ramstein Air Base in Germany. There, they uncover a trail of inexplicable "accidental" deaths that lead from the war-torn streets of Baghdad to sex slavery in Latvia and a marriage that began in the White House Rose Garden and disintegrated into bitterness and infidelity. This book was a finalist for the Ned Kelly Award for best Novel by the Crime Writers Association of Australia.

**ROSE, M J REINCARNATIONIST (\$29.95)**

**RUCKA, GREG PATRIOT ACTS (#5)** (\$32)

**SANDFORD, JOHN virgil DARK OF THE MOON (#1)** (\$32.50)

The first is a new series featuring Virgil Flowers.

**SCARROW, ALEX LAST LIGHT (\$37.95)** (Orion) When a series of events around the world brings a temporary halt to global oil production, the repercussions are instant and cataclysmic. Andy Sutherland, a civilian engineer, is stranded in Iraq with a company of soldiers when the British Army is forced to pull out. Desperate to find a way back to London, he is trapped as transport links and the very infrastructure of daily life around him collapse. Andy's wife and children are marooned on their own as food riots, looting, rape, and worse transform London into a lawless and chaotic city.

**SCHATZING, FRANK DEATH AND THE DEVIL (\$32.95)**

(Morrow) In the year 1260, under the supervision of architect Gerhard Morart, the most ambitious ecclesiastical building in all of Christendom, the great cathedral, is rising above the merchant city of Cologne, Germany. But there is a bitter struggle going on between the ruling merchant families and the Archbishop to control the immense wealth of this prosperous commercial centre, a struggle that quickly becomes deadly. Morart is the first of many victims, pushed to his death from the cathedral scaffolding by a huge man with long hair, all clad in black. But hiding in the branches of the archbishop's apple orchard is a witness: a red-haired petty thief called Jacob the Fox, street-smart, cunning and yet naïve in the way of the political world. Out of his depth, he soon finds himself engaged in a desperate battle with some very powerful forces.

**SHARP, ZOE fox SECOND SHOT (#6)** (\$27.95) (Thomas Dunne) Ex-Special Forces soldier-turned-bodyguard Charlie Fox is helping lottery millionaire, Simone Kerse, find her father. Simone's father has secrets in his past that are about to come back and haunt him, and the arrival of his long-lost daughter may be the catalyst that blows his whole world apart. At the time of writing the newsletter we also have two UK first editions available at \$57 each.

**SHAW, CATHERINE RIDDLE OF THE RIVER (\$39.95)**

(Allison & Busby) Set in 1898. Vanessa Weatherburn goes undercover to find out the identity of a woman found floating in the River Cam and also the identity of the murderer. She is helped in these endeavours by the cream of Cambridge's academic community. Sequel to The Three Body Problem (\$12.95), Flowers Stained With Moonlight (\$12.95) and The Library Paradox (\$11.95).

**SIGURDARDOTTIR, YRSA LAST RITUALS (\$27.95)** (Morrow)

When the body of a young German student, with his eyes cut out and strange symbols carved into his chest, is discovered at a university in Reykjavik, the police waste no time in making an arrest. But the victim's family isn't convinced they have the right man so they hire

Thora Gudmundsdottir, attorney and single mother of two, to investigate. It's not long before Thora discovers that the student had been obsessed with the country's grisly history of torture, execution and witch hunts. Unlike witch hunts in other countries, those in Iceland targeted men, not women. Translated from Icelandic.

**SIMMS, CHRIS jon spicer** SAVAGE MOON (#3) (\$37.95 hard cover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Orion) The body of a woman with her throat ripped out is found on Saddleworth Moor, near Manchester. Analysis shows that hairs caught under the dead woman's nails are those of a panther. But then a man DI Jon Spicer is investigating as part of another case is murdered in exactly the same way, only this time the body turns up in a secluded car park. Sequel to Killing the Beast (\$12.99) and Shifting Skin (\$14.95).

**SMITH, ALEXANDER MCCALL** DREAM ANGUS (\$25) (Knopf, Canada) A slim little book containing five fables of modern dreamers that follow Dream Angus, the Celtic God of Dreams, on his search for the beautiful Caer, swan maiden of his own dreams.

**STEINHAUER, OLEN** VICTORY SQUARE (#5) (\$28.95) (St. Martin's) It's 1989 and Emil Brod is now the chief of the People's Militia in a fictionalized Eastern European country. One of the earliest cases of the People's Militia reemerges to torment all the inspectors, especially Brod, who was the original detective on the case. His arrest of one of the country's revolutionary leaders in the late 1940s resulted in the politician's conviction and imprisonment. Sequel to Bridge of Sighs (\$19.95), Confessions (\$19.95), 36 Yalta Boulevard (\$18.95) and Liberation Movement (\$16.95).

**SWAIN, JAMES** MIDNIGHT RAMBLER (\$32) (Ballantine) Jack Carpenter is infamous in South Florida. He's the cop who busted the notorious serial killer Simon Skell, aka the Midnight Rambler, and sacrificed his badge and marriage in the process. He now works as an abduction specialist in Fort Lauderdale reuniting families with their missing children. But the body of one of the Midnight Rambler's victims has just been uncovered and forensic evidence suggests Carpenter jailed the wrong man. With Skell just days away from release, the tarnished hero must reopen the case that shattered his life and the lives of eight murdered women.

**TAPPLY, WILLIAM G brady** ONE WAY TICKET (#24) (\$27.95) (St. Martin's) Boston attorney Brady Coyne receives a frantic phone call from Robert, the son of his friend and client Dalton Lancaster. Dalt is in hospital, having been severely beaten by a group of thugs who warned him that he has a week to pay off his debt. Turns out it is Robert's debt. When Brady tries to intercede, Paulie Russo, the head of the Boston mob, lets him know he is holding Brady responsible for his client's obligation.

**TODD, MARILYN** BLIND EYE (\$34.95) A new series set in Ancient Greece, 466 BC. Blackmailed into spying for Sparta's hated secret police, High Priestess Iliona's is sent to Sicily to investigate threats to the nation. But her investigations keep turning up the same stories of a one-eyed giant that lives in the hills above Sicily: the legendary Cyclops. But soon Iliona comes to realize that the threat to her country doesn't come from the so-called Cyclops, or even their arch-enemy, Athens, but from deep within Sparta itself. . . From the author of the Claudia series set in Rome around 14 BC.

**TREMAYNE, PETER** DANCING WITH DEMONS (#16) (\$37.95) (Headline) Sister Fidelma and Brother Eadulf are asked by Chief Brehon of Ireland to investigate the murder of Sechnussach, high King of Ireland.

**TURNBULL, PETER** FIRE BURN (#9) (\$34.95) This is the ninth in the Hennessey and Yellich series which we seemed to have never ordered. Number ten, Chelsea Smile (\$35.95), arrived in June 2007, so check your collection to make sure you did not miss this one.

**VACHSS, ANDREW burke** TERMINAL (#17) (\$32) (Pantheon) Terminally ill, an ex-con needs major cash to gamble on a cure that's available only in Switzerland. The one card he has to play is access to

evidence that three rich men tortured, raped and murdered a thirteen-year-old girl thirty years ago. But such a complicated extortion scheme needs the hand of a specialist crew, so Burke is offered a piece of the action. If he and his family can pull this off, Burke gets what he lives for: money and revenge.

**VAUGHAN-HUGHES, PIP** VAULT OF BONES (#2) (\$37.95 hardcover, \$24.95 trade paperback) (Orion) Petroc of Auneford is devastated by an event I don't want to tell you about as it will spoil the story. But it is the catalyst that pits him against those who want to possess the greatest relics in 13<sup>th</sup> century Christendom: the crown of thorns, the spear that pierced Jesus's side and the shroud bearing the imprint of Christ. Sequel to Relics (\$14.95).

**WALTERS, MINETTE** CHAMELEON'S SHADOW (\$36.95 hardcover, \$22.95 trade paperback) (Macmillan) When Lieutenant Charles Acland is flown home from Iraq with serious head injuries, he faces not only permanent disfigurement but also an apparent change to his previously outgoing personality. Out of control and only prevented from killing a patron at a local pub by the intercession of a 250-pound female weightlifter, he attracts the attention of the police who are investigating three gay murders in the area. **WALTNER-TOEWS, DAVID** FEAR OF LANDING (\$29.95) It is early 1980s. Western governments are pouring millions of dollars into development schemes on the island of Java and Bali. For Canadian veterinarian Abner Dueck, the Spice Islands form an exotic locale for the seemingly mundane work of examining dead cows. But his life changes abruptly when some cows die under mysterious circumstances and he meets a mysterious Chinese woman. Soon after, two of his friends, one Canadian, one Indonesian, are murdered. A debut.

**WALTON, JO** HA'PENNY (\$29.95) (Tor) A story about a world that could have been. In 1949, eight years after "Peace with Honor" was negotiated between Great Britain and Nazi Germany by the Farthing Set, England has completed its slide into fascist dictatorship. When the vile Mark Normandy takes advantage of a political murder in order to arrange his election as Prime Minister, and promptly enacts draconian measures, the last hope of democracy seems extinguished. Then a bomb explodes in a London suburb. The brilliant but politically compromised Inspector Carmichael of Scotland Yard is assigned the case. What he finds leads him to a conspiracy of peers and communists, of staunch king-and-country patriots and hardened IRA gunmen, to murder Normandy and his new ally, Adolf Hitler. Sequel to Farthing (\$8.99).

**WATSON, LARRY** SUNDOWN, YELLOW MOON (\$34) (Random House) On an icy day in January 1961, in Bismarck, North Dakota, a sixteen-year-old boy walks home from high school with his best friend, Gene. The sudden sound of police sirens startles and excites them. But they soon learn that Gene's father, Raymond Stoddard, had walked calmly into the state capitol and shot a charismatic state senator, then drove home and hanged himself in his garage. The truth behind the day's events died with the two men. Forty years later, Gene's friend, now a writer, revisits the tragedy and tries to unravel the mystery behind one man's inexplicable actions.

**WHITE, MICHAEL C** SOUL CATCHER (\$31.50) (Morrow) Augustus Cain is a man haunted by a terrible skill: the ability to track people. Rosetta is a runaway slave who bears the scars, inside and out, of a life lived in servitude to a cruel and unforgiving master. Her flight is her one shot to freedom and she would rather die than return to the living hell that she has left behind. In the perilous years before the US Civil War, the fates of these two remarkable people will intertwine in an extraordinary adventure.

**WHYTE, JACK templar** STANDARD OF HONOUR (#2) (\$36) The second in his new Knights Templar series, sequel to Knights of the Black and White (\$13.50).

## Paperbacks

**AARON, RELENTLESS** TO LIVE AND DIE IN HARLEM (\$8.99)

**ACEVEDO, MARIO** NYMPHOS OF ROCKEY FLATS (\$16.50)

See *J.D.'s Picks*.

**ARGULA, ANNE quinn** WALLA WALLA SUITE (#2) (\$16.95)

Quinn, newly divorced, and newly ex-cop, but not ex-wild hot flashes, (read Homicide My Own (\$19) for more details and one of *J.D.'s Picks* in an earlier newsletter), is now trying her hand as a private investigator. When a young secretary named Eileen vanishes, Quinn is hired to track her down. What looks like a missing person case turns out to be anything but. Funny, funny, funny. A woman going through menopause...

**ASH, MAUREEN templar** ALEHOUSE MURDERS (#1) (\$9.99)

After eight years of captivity in the Holy Land, Templar Bascot de Marins escapes with injuries to his body and soul. "Hopefully the start of a long series" says Marian. See *Marian's Picks*.

**ATKINSON, KATE brodie** ONE GOOD TURN (#2) (\$21) Two years after the events in Case Histories (\$19.95 trade paperback, extraordinary!, extraordinary!, extraordinary!) left him a millionaire, former detective Jackson Brodie is in Edinburgh with his occasional girlfriend, Julia. After watching a man being brutally attacked, the apparent victim of an extreme case of road rage, a chain of events is set in motion that will pull the wife of an unscrupulous real estate tycoon, a mild-mannered-but-successful crime novelist, and a hard-headed female police detective into Brodie's orbit.

**BAKER, DEB dolls** GOODBYE DOLLY (#2) (\$9.99) Sequel to Dolled Up for Murder (\$9.99).

**BALL, JESSE** SAMEDI THE DEAFNESS (\$16.95) Dream like spy novel set in an asylum for liars...

**BAXTER, CYNTHIA** WHO'S KITTEN WHO (#6) (\$9.99), Veterinarian Dr. Jessica Popper, vet-turned-sleuth, in her sixth outing...

**BEARD, G S** MR. MIDSHIPMAN FURY (#1) (\$21.95) The first in a new naval series set in the 1790s and featuring John Fury.

**BELL, TED** HAWKE (#1) (\$12.99) As a child Alex Hawke witnessed the brutal murder of his parents by three modern-day pirates. Now, fully grown, he's back in the same waters on a secret mission for the American government: find a Soviet stealth submarine, which might have fallen into dangerous hands. He's using the opportunity to hunt down the killers of his parents...

**BENSON, ANN** PHYSICIAN'S TALE (\$9.99) In the near future, in the hills of the American Northwest, a group of men, women, and children band together for survival against nature, human enemies, and the second coming of the plague. Among these is Janie Crowe, a physician whose son is her greatest hope and deepest secret. Etched into Janie's memory is the ancient journal of a Jewish man of medicine, a man who fought for survival in his own age of plague. Two story lines, six hundred years apart, how do they intersect? Sequel to The Plague Tales (\$10.99) and Burning Road (\$9.99).

**BISHOP, MORRIS** WIDENING STAIN (\$18) (Rue Morgue Press) Originally published in 1942. Tall, blond and handsome, Professor Parry's only flaw is an urge to inject original limericks into every conversation. When a black-haired, black-eyed professor of French is found dead in the college library, Parry has personal reason to look into her death. According to our good friends at the Rue Morgue Press this book was set in a thinly disguised version of Cornell University and written by a Cornell professor of romance literature, later to become its provost. He frequently contributed short humour pieces to The New Yorker, Saturday Evening Post and Life. This was his only mystery.

**BLOCK, LAWRENCE tanner** ME TANNER YOU JANE (#7) (\$10.99) and TANNER ON ICE (#8) (\$10.99). Reprints.

**BLOOM, ELIZABETH** MORTICIAN'S DAUGHTER (\$9.99)

Ginny Lavoie's life is in shambles. Evicted from her apartment, suspended by the NYPD, betrayed by her lover, the disgraced cop thinks she can't sink any lower. Then she gets a call from her childhood friend saying her friend's son has been murdered. Returning to the scruffy New England mill town she left more than ten years ago, she searches for a killer. An earlier novel is See Isabelle Run (\$9.99). AKA Beth Saulnier.

**BOOTH, STEPHEN** CLAWS (\$9.99) A tiny expensive British import, 96 pages. But it has French flaps and is a perfect little book, a pleasure to hold. In the wild crags of the Dark Peak moorland a ruthless conflict has been raging for years. The discovery of an illegal haul from the bedroom of a terraced house is a clue to what might be at stake, perhaps the entire future of the most prized landscape in the Peak District National Park. For young Derbyshire police detective DC Ben Cooper, an assignment to the Rural Crime Team means stepping into the middle of the conflict.

**BOYD, DONNA** PASSION and PROMISE (\$10.99 ea.) Marian says: I was pleased and delighted to learn that this writer, the author of Smokey Mountain Tracks, Rapid Fire, and Gun Shy (\$9.99 each), the series featuring Raine Stockton and her golden retrievers that I so adore, had written all sorts of other novels. Including two werewolf novels and, so, I immediately ordered them. The main characters are good werewolves—that's a must of course—who are filthy rich and try to protect humans and others from all those nasty, bad werewolves. I just loved these and have been recommending them to all lovers of paranormal type novels.

**BRETT, SIMON** CAST IN ORDER OF DISAPPEARANCE (#1) (\$22.95), SO MUCH BLOOD (#2) (\$20.95), STAR TRAP (#3) (\$20.95), AMATEUR CORPSE (#4) (\$20.95), COMEDIAN DIES (#5) (\$19.95), DEAD SIDE OF THE MIKE (#6) (\$19.95), SITUATION TRAGEDY (#7) (\$19.95), MURDER UNPROMPTED (#8) (\$19.95), MURDER IN THE TITLE (#9) (\$20.95), NOT DEAD ONLY RESTING (#10) (\$20.95), DEAD GIVEAWAY (#11) (\$20.95), WHAT BLOODY MAN IS THAT? (#12) (\$20.95), SERIES OF MURDERS (#13) (\$20.95) Charles Paris is a rogue but a somewhat likeable one and, as the saying goes, he's our rogue and we're keeping him. The first thirteen in the series are now available, and where we probably won't keep too many copies of each on hand, space and money issues, we will get them as you need them. Just call. Take about a week or so to order them...such fun.

**BROWN, RITA MAE foxhunting** HOUNDS AND THE FURY (#5) (\$17.95) Millions of dollars seem to be missing after a long overdue audit of the local aluminum plant reveals a major accounting discrepancy. The bookkeeper can't explain it. When the math includes a body count, the figures can not be ignored. Venerable master of the Jefferson Hunt Club, Jane Arnold, relies on her keen horse and hound sense to follow the trail of murder and cover-up.

**BRUEN, KEN & JASON STARR** SLIDE (\$8.99) The latest Hard Case Crime. Only so-so, a few customers have reported.

**BURKE, JAN** KIDNAPPED (#10) (\$9.99) When Irene Kelly's articles profiling missing children run in the Las Piernas Express, she doesn't expect the murderous chain reaction. One of the more tragic disappearances was that of four-year-old Jenny Fletcher. Her father was found bludgeoned to death and Jenny had disappeared. Hours later Jenny's stepbrother Mason was found with the murder weapon and bloody clothes. Caleb, a graduate student studying with forensic anthropologist Ben Sheridan, works on cases for the police department, doesn't believe she is dead or that Mason killed their father.

**CAINE, RACHEL vampires** MIDNIGHT ALLEY (#3) (\$8.99) From the author of the Weather Warden series, her vampire series. Claire Danvers learned that her college town was run by vampires so

she applied for a transfer. That didn't work, so now she is a vampire killer. Sequel to Glass Houses and The Dead Girl's Dance (\$8.99 ea). **CAMERON, LINDY** kit BLOOD GUILT, BLEEDING HEARTS and THICKER THAN WATER (\$16.95 ea) Three novels featuring Kit O'malley, PI, set in Melbourne.

**CAROFIGLIO, GIANRICO** REASONABLE DOUBTS (\$18) Translated from the Italian. Guido Guerrieri, an anti-Mafia prosecutor in southern Italy, is asked to handle the appeal of Fabio Paolicelli, who has been sentenced to sixteen-years for drug smuggling. The odds are stacked against the accused and it is only the intervention of his beautiful half-Japanese wife that finally overcomes Guerrieri's reluctance. Matters are further complicated when Guerrieri ends up in bed with her. Sequel to Involuntary Witness (\$17.95) and A Walk in the Dark (\$19.99).

**CHANCE, JACKIE** CASHED IN (#2) (\$9.99) Amateur Texas Hold'Em champ Belinda Cooley has a free buy in on a high-profile poker cruise aboard the Sea Gambler. There is no place to hide on the ship from fans seeking poker tips, from her manager, who is also her twin brother, and her parents. When fellow poker players start disappearing, it seems there is a killer on board. Sequel to Death on the Flop (\$9.99).

**CHILDS, LAURA** scrapbook MOTIF FOR MURDER (#4) (\$9.99) In the terrible wake of Hurricane Katrina, Carmela Bertrand has her hands full getting her scrap-booking shop, Memory Mine, back in business and her relationship with her ex-husband, Shamus, back on its feet. But then Shamus is kidnapped and his Uncle Henry is found shot. Sequel to Keepsake Crimes, Photo Finished (\$9.99 each) and Bound for Murder (\$8.99).

**CHURCH, JAMES** insp o CORPSE IN THE KORYO (#1) (\$16.25) Sit on a quiet hillside at dawn and take a picture of a car coming up from the South. Simple orders for Inspector O, until he realizes they have led him far off his department's turf and into a maelstrom of betrayal and death. North Korea's leaders are desperate to hunt down and eliminate anyone who knows too much about a series of decades-old kidnappings and murders. Inspector O discovers too late he has been sent into the chaos. This book has garnered some wonderful reviews. The sequel, Hidden Moon (\$27.95), is due soon.

**CLEVERLY, BARBARA** TOMB OF ZEUS (\$15.50) A new series set in 1928 introducing Laetitia Talbot, an aspiring archaeologist. Born into a background of British privilege, she has been raised to believe there is no field in which she cannot excel. Choosing a career in the male-dominated world of archaeology, she's off to Crete on her first assignment to dig up the fabled tomb of the King of the Gods. Colourful characters, interesting setting and an intriguing plot combine to make this an enjoyable read. By the author of the Joe Sandilands mysteries.

**COEL, MARGARET** DROWNING MAN (#12) (\$10.99) An ancient petroglyph, worth a quarter of a million dollars to the thieves who took it, is priceless to the Arapahos who believed it was carved by spirits. The theft is nearly identical to an unsolved seven-year-old case involving another stolen petroglyph and manslaughter. A suspect from the old case is again suspected in the new theft so Arapaho attorney Vicky Holden joins Father John to piece together the events of the past seven years.

**COHEN, JEFFREY** SOME LIKE IT HOT-BUTTERED (#1) (\$9.99) Elliot Freed, recovering writer, put all his savings into the Comedy Tonight movie theatre never suspecting it would become a crime scene. Death by poisoned popcorn was the cause. Some great jacket blurbs from **Lee Child**, **Meg Crittenden** and **Tim Cockey**.

**CONNOLLY, JOHN** BOOK OF LOST THINGS (\$17.50) Wendy says: This book is a departure from the Charlie Parker series and the standalone, Bad Men, and it is a gem, one of the best books that I've read in a good while. David, twelve years old, has lost his mother and he takes refuge from his grief in the books that he and his mother

loved. The real world and the fantasy world begin to blend and bad things start to happen. Then the Crooked Man appears. David is transported into a land of heroes, wolves and monsters and he must find The Book of Lost Things in order to return home. A book about imagination, loss, grief, fairy tales with a twist, death and growing up. I laughed, I cried, I cringed. I wish that I had the words to properly describe the wonderfulness of this book but I don't so I will quote from the UK book jacket: "An imaginative tribute to the journey that we must all make through the loss of innocence into adulthood. **John Connolly's** latest novel is a book for every adult who can recall the moment when childhood began to fade, and for every child about to face that moment. It is a story of hope for all who have lost and all who have yet to lose. It is an exhilarating tale of grief and loss, loyalty and love, and, most poignantly, the enduring power of stories in our lives." Great writing, great story telling, just what I've come to expect from this very talented writer.

**COOK, TROY** ONE MINUTE ASSASSIN (\$19.95) (Capital Crime Press) During the strangest and wildest election in California history, one candidate for governor tries to kill his way to the top. Making matters worse the culprit can hide among more than a hundred highly unusual candidates, all of whom are now suspects. Toss in amateur assassins, a spicy hot reporter and the Russian mob and that's where private investigator John Black comes in. Things get personal when his sister becomes a prime target. The sub-text, I'm reliably told, is the practices of the pharmaceutical industry, a topic near and dear to the author's heart. Mr. Cook's first book, 47 Rules of Highly Effective Bank Robbers (\$19.95), received lots of acclaim and won lots of awards. One of *J.D.'s Picks* awhile ago.

**CORNWELL, BERNARD** viking SWORD SONG (#4) (\$22.95) See annotation in hardcover section.

**CULLEN, ROBERT** COVER STORY (\$18) (Felony & Mayhem) Originally published in 1994. Journalist Colin Burke has been asked by his bosses at the magazine in Washington to write a feel-good piece about Moscow's Jewish community. What he discovers at a run-down synagogue is the possibility that Russia's nuclear scientists are now making bombs for Syria. Sequel to Soviet Sources (\$18).

**DALMEIDA, SARAH** MUSKETEER'S APPRENTICE (#3) (\$9.99) When a young nobleman proclaims Porthos to be the best fighter and sword master in all of Paris, the Musketeer agrees to become his fencing teacher. But when his young apprentice is late for a lesson, Porthos suspects something is wrong. Searching through the streets of the city, he finds him near death. When the boy dies, the victim of poison, Porthos rallies his friends to discover who is responsible. Sequel to Death of a Musketeer and The Musketeer's Seamstress (\$9.99 each).

**DALY, ELIZABETH** gamadge EVIDENCE OF THINGS SEEN (#5) (\$18.50) (Felony and Mayhem) Originally published in 1943. In the sticky summer of 1943, with her husband out of town on war business, Clara Gamadge rents a cottage in the Berkshires. The resident ghost, a slender woman in a sunbonnet, merely adds to the local colour, even with the news that the woman only died one year ago. Then, the woman's sister is strangled while Clara dozes in a chair by her bed. Thankfully, Henry Gamadge arrives to solve the puzzle.

**DANIELS, CASEY** TOMBS OF ENDEARMENT (#3) (\$9.99) Pepper Martin, the tour guide in the local cemetery, can see dead people so she tries to help them pass on by finding out who killed them. Sequel to Don of the Dead and Chick and the Dead (\$9.99 each).

**DEAN, S F X** SUCH PRETTY TOYS (\$18) (Felony and Mayhem) Originally published in 1982. Having solved the murder of his vibrant young fiancée in By Frequent Anguish (\$18), New England college professor Neil Kelly is preparing to leave for a desperately needed sabbatical, with plans to bury himself in the work of John Donne. But his plans are cut short by a terrible attack on two of his oldest friends. Nearly as shocking as the attack is the information that his friends had

spent years working for the CIA. Nor is the CIA the only outfit trying to find the attackers. Once again, Kelly becomes involved.

**DIBDIN, MICHAEL** LONG FINISH (#6) (\$17.95) Aurelio Zen is told to secure the release of the son of a Piedmontese wine-making family, the young man having been jailed for killing his father, as a certain well-connected wine connoisseur wants to make sure this year's vintage goes to harvest. Zen is getting just a little tired of trying to enforce the law in a society where the law is constantly being bent.

**DOSS, JAMES D** moon STONE BUTTERFLY (#11) (\$8.99)

**DU BRUL, JACK B** HAVOC (\$10.99)

**DUNN, CAROLA** GUNPOWDER PLOT (\$9.99) Daisy Dalrymple Fletcher, six months pregnant, is delighted to visit Edge Manor, home of her old school friend Gwen Tyndall, to research one of her articles. During the festivities celebrating the defeat of Guy Fawkes' plot against the monarchy, Gwen's father and a visiting Australian friend are found dead. It seems Sir Harold turned the gun on himself after shooting his guest. Daisy, along side her husband, DCI Alec Fletcher of Scotland Yard, investigate.

**DWYER, LIAM** MUSKOKA DEATH AND DIAMONDS

(\$14.95) Ian Murdoch is summoned to help a beautiful friend he thought he had lost and may lose again if the past is any indication. With his Ontario Provincial Police boss preoccupied by his wife's illness and old cases coming back to haunt him, Murdoch discovers there is a price to be paid for everything. The first three in the series are Murder in Muskoka, Gold & Greed and Muskoka Cross & Double Cross (\$14.95 each, trade paperback).

**ELIOT, T S** MURDER IN THE CATHEDRAL (\$12.99) Why not? It's got murder in the title. And it "...remains one of the great plays of the century."

**ELLORY, ROGER JON** QUIET BELIEF IN ANGELS (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**EUBANKS, STEVE** redball DOWNFORCE (#2) (\$9.99) Rich kid eco-terrorist Stanford Lichwich planned to blow up Mississippi's biggest, newest bridge connecting to an island which would house a casino, a golf course, the History of Auto Racing Museum and a state-of-the-art race track currently under construction. But Stan was blown up instead. Robert "Redball" Redding, a former stock car racing superstar who now prosecutes bad guys, sees all the cash being poured into this tiny piece of real estate and he suspects the dealings are less than honest. The first in the series is Hot Laps (\$9.99), which, according to a customer who works the NASCAR circuit, is a highly accurate depiction of the race car world.

**FLEMING, IAN** JAMES BOND DEATH WING (\$24.95) a graphic novel.

**FLETCHER & BAIN** MURDER SHE WROTE: THREE STRIKES AND YOU'RE DEAD (\$9.99) Visiting old friends Judge Jack and Meg Duffy in Arizona, Jessica watches their foster son, Ty Ramos, hit the winning run in an AA league playoff game. She and the Duffys are thrilled, but the team owner and his son, Junior, are not. When Junior is found dead with his head caved in by a baseball bat, Ty becomes the prime suspect.

**FORBES, COLIN** SAVAGE GORGE (\$10.99) Mr. Forbes died three weeks after handing in this manuscript so this may well be his last Tweed novel. Tweed and Paula Grey of the SIS are heading up the investigation into the murder of two young women. They find themselves drawn to a remote area of the countryside, ruthlessly controlled by a man known as Pit Bull. The local village is rife with gossip about his family. More murders occur but Tweed doesn't think they are being committed by a serial killer.

**FORBES, ELENA** DIE WITH ME (\$21.95) (House of Anansi Press) We told you about this book in the September newsletter where both Marian and Wendy chose it for a Pick. It is now available in trade paperback. When fourteen-year-old Gemma Kramer's body is found on the floor of St. Sebastian's Church in a quiet London sub-

urb, the official ruling is that she jumped to her death from the organ gallery. But DI Mark Tartaglia and his team turn up three more suspicious deaths, all originally ruled suicides, involving vulnerable young women falling from high places. Great characters, great plot, this book left Marian and Wendy wanting more. A great idea for a gift for the British police procedural reader on your Christmas list.

**FORREST, ELIZABETH** AT TWILIGHT'S FALL (\$18.50) Omnibus edition containing two novels, Death Watch and Killjoy.

**FRADKIN, BARBARA** DREAM CHASERS (#6) (\$15.95) A seventeen-year-old sets out to meet her secret lover by an Ottawa waterfall. Three days later, her body washes up in the shallows. The public fears a sexual predator is on the loose, but Inspector Green suspects a more personal connection. His search for answers draws him into the world of elite young athletes, drugs and teenage sexuality. Then a social worker who knows too much disappears, and blood is found in the house of a star with NHL prospects. Unless Green can unravel the truth, how many others will pay the ultimate price for a young man's dreams? **Barbara Fradkin and Mary Jane Maffini will be at Sleuth on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.** Please drop by on your way home from work to meet these fine Canadian writers.

**FREEMAN, BRIAN** stride STALKED (#3) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**GARDINER, MEG** KILL CHAIN (#5) (\$10.99) In an earlier newsletter Wendy said: "Evan's father Phil has disappeared and the FBI believes that he has left the country to avoid prosecution. Evan thinks otherwise and becomes the target of several attempts on her life. She goes on the run, to clear her name and find information to save her father. Jesse meanwhile is trying to stop Evan without giving up information that he received from Phil. This is a fast moving read with an evil mother and son team, assassins, double crosses and surprises that don't let up until the very end. I found myself reading until late into the night - couldn't put it down. The ending has me wanting the next book NOW!" Sequel to China Lake (\$9.99) Mission Canyon, Jericho Point and Crosscut (\$10.99 each).

**GATISS, MARK** DEVIL IN AMBER (#2) (\$14.99) Lucifer Box, His Majesty's most daring secret agent, is back, this time facing treachery within his own service and a fascist messiah with a particularly Satanic design. Sequel to The Vesuvius Club (\$10.99).

**GILBERT, MICHAEL** DANGER WITHIN (\$18) (Rue Morgue Press) British prisoners of war in Italian Campo 127 are concerned when they learn that it is only a matter of time before the Germans seize control of their camp and so escape plans are escalated. But it appears there may be a spy in the camp and when a man turns up dead under odd circumstances in an escape tunnel, the prisoners have even more to worry about. Based in part on Mr. Gilbert's own experiences as a POW during WWII.

**GILL, ANTON** CITY OF THE DEAD (\$18.50) (Felony and Mayhem) Originally published in 1993. Huy the Scribe is hired to find out exactly how Tutankhamen died. Includes some brief, but interesting, notes about the historical background of Egypt at the time. Sequel to City of the Horizon and City of Dreams (\$19.95 each).

**GINSBERG, DEBRA** BLIND SUBMISSION (\$18) As the assistant to the world renowned literary agent Lucy Fiamma, Angel Robinson is an expert at juggling her boss's prima donna demands and the strange quirks of her authors. When a mysterious manuscript arrives at the office one day, Angel is assigned to read it and is immediately pulled in by the plot. As the story unfolds, with chapters e-mailed one by one, it becomes clear that the anonymous author is writing the story of Angel's own life, including secrets she thought were deeply hidden. USA Today says: "A cleverly told genre-bending tale that combines intrigue, romance and a touch of mystery".

**GOLDBERG, LEE** MR. MONK GOES TO THE FIRE HOUSE (\$9.99) The death of a dog at the local firehouse, on the same night as

a fatal fire, has led Adrian Monk into a puzzling mystery. The character and book are based on the TV series created by Andy Breckman.

**GRAY, ALEX lorimer** RIVERMAN (#4) (\$33) (An expensive British import) The riverman's job is to navigate the swirling currents of the Clyde, pulling detritus from Glasgow's great river. The lifeless body of a middle-aged man that he pulls from the river one day looks like a case of accidental death but DCI William Lorimer of the Glasgow Police is not convinced. As he digs deeper he begins to suspect that the death is part of a sinister chain of events. Sequel to Never Somewhere Else (\$21.00 expensive British import), A Small Weeping (\$12.95) and Shadows of Sounds (\$12.95).

**GREEN, SIMON** nightside SOMETHING FROM THE NIGHTSIDE (#1), AGENTS OF LIGHT AND DARKNESS (#2), NIGHTINGALE'S LAMENT (#3), HEX & THE CITY (#4), PATHS NOT TAKEN (#5), SHARPER THAN A SERPENTS (#6) and HELL TO PAY (#7) (\$9.99 each) A customer requested these saying she thought the series was even better than the Dresden Files written by **JIM BUTCHER**. This series is set in a very different part of London and features a PI with unusual, paranormal talents.

**HAGBERG, DAVID macgarvey** ALLAH'S SCORPION (\$10.99)  
**HANNAH, SOPHIE** LITTLE FACE (\$10.99) Her husband David was supposed to be looking after their two-week-old daughter. But when Alice Fancourt walks into the nursery she insists the baby in the cot is a stranger she's never seen before. With an increasingly hostile and menacing David swearing she must be either mad or lying, how can Alice make the police believe her before it's too late?

**HARRIS, CHARLAINE connell** GRAVE SURPRISE (#2) (\$10.99) At the request of anthropology professor Clyde Nunley, Harper Connelly and her stepbrother Tolliver have come to Memphis to demonstrate Harper's unique talent. She can find dead people. As she stands on the grave in an old cemetery she can tell there are two bodies buried there: one of an old man centuries dead and the other a young girl, recently deceased. Sequel to Grave Sight (\$10.99).

**HARVEY, JOHN** TROUBLE IN MIND (\$9.99) (Another tiny expensive British import. See notation under Stephen Booth) Jack Kiley, a professional footballer turned private investigator, is hired to track down a soldier who has gone missing while on leave from Iraq. His search leads him to Nottingham, where he teams up with DI Charlie Resnick. 80 pages.

**HAUS, ILLONA** BLUE JUSTICE (#3) (\$7.99)

**HELLER, MANDASUE** SHAFTED (\$24.95) Larry Logan's TV show is axed and the only work he can get is fronting a fake game show, which is actually an undercover police sting to snare criminals. But the show takes off. And when lovely, shy Stephanie enters his life he thinks he finally has it made. Then it all goes to hell in a hand basket. Who has he ticked off?

**HERKERT, GABRIELLA** (\$9.99) Legal investigator Sara Townley is not feeling too good about her recent Vegas wedding to a Navy SEAL she barely knows and her recent assignment to the case of a missing cat. The cat has inherited multi-millions of dollars but where is it? See *Marian's Picks*.

**HICKS, RANDALL** BABY CRIMES (\$19.95) Toby Dillon is hired by a wealthy and powerful couple being blackmailed over the illegal adoption of their daughter sixteen years ago. No one, not even the daughter who happens to be Toby's star tennis student, knows the truth. Except the birth mother. Toby's search for her leads him only to dead bodies.

**HOLMS, JOYCE fizz buchanan** PAYMENT DEFERRED (#1) (\$16.95) A reprint of the first Fizz and Buchanan series now published by the Bloody Brits Press. About time.

**HUGHES, MARY ELLEN craft** STRING OF LIES (#2) (\$9.99) Jo's Craft Corner is finally in the black and owner Jo McAllister is happy. But when developer Parker Holt has designs on the small businesses in town, Jo wonders if hers will be next. When Holt turns up

dead and Jo's friend Dan is suspected, she investigates with the help of her fellow crafters. Sequel to Wreath of Deception (\$9.99).

**HUNTER, MADDY** NORWAY TO HIDE (\$7.99) Emily Andrews is leading a Scandinavian tour but fellow travelers don't have kind words for her ex-husband's newly published novel. Jackie Thum is Emily's transgendered ex-husband and he doesn't like the criticism. When Jackie's most outspoken critic ends up dead suspicion falls on Jackie but he/she has an airtight alibi. When a second traveler dies Emily realizes there is a killer in their group. A fun series.

**HYDE, CHRISTOPHER** GATHERING OF SAINTS (\$18.50) A new edition of a book first published in 1996.

**IGGULDEN, CONN** WOLF OF THE PLAINS (\$10.99)

**ILES, GREG** TRUE EVIL (\$12.99) Alex Morse, an FBI agent working undercover, has come to Dr. Shepard's office to catch a killer. A local divorce attorney has a cluster of clients whose spouses have all died under suspicious circumstances. Dr. Shepard's wife visited this lawyer one week ago. Is the good doctor next?

**INDRIDASON, ARNALDUR** DRAINING LAKE (#4) (\$25) Following an earthquake, the water level of an Icelandic lake suddenly falls, revealing a skeleton half buried in its sandy bed. It has clearly been there many years. There is a hole in the skull and it was weighted down by a heavy radio device bearing Russian inscriptions. The police are called in and Erlendur, Elinborg and Sigurdur Oli's investigation takes them back to the Cold War era.

**INDRIDASON, ARNALDUR** VOICES (#3) (\$11.99) The third Det. Erlendur Reykjavik murder mystery. At a grand Reykjavik hotel the doorman has been repeatedly stabbed in the dingy basement room he called home, a few days before Christmas.

**JARDINE, QUINTIN** DEAD AND BURIED (#16) (\$10.99) Deputy Chief Constable Bob Skinner and his team have four crimes to solve while he is dealing with a failed marriage and a daughter who is being harassed by a stalker.

**JOHNSTON, LINDA O** FRIGHT OF THE IGUANA (#5) (\$9.99) Pet sitter Kendra Ballantyne arrives at the home of a very wealthy client to check on his beloved pup and iguana, only to find them both missing and a ransom note on the iguana's cage. Through her Southern California pet-sitting club, she learns that other four-legged clients have been kidnapped too.

**KENT, GORDON** SPOILS OF WAR (\$10.99) When an illegal dig in Gaza uncovers an artifact that challenges the historical foundations of the state of Israel, some of the deadliest workers in the field of espionage immediately try to claim it.

**KING, LAURIE R russell** BEEKEEPER'S APPRENTICE (#1) and MONSTROUS REGIMENT OF WOMEN (#2) (\$16.25 ea.) The first two in the Mary Russell/Sherlock Holmes series, reprinted in trade paperback.

**KIRTON, BILL cairnburgh** MATERIAL EVIDENCE (#1) (\$16.95)

**KNIGHT, BERNARD** NOBLE OUTLAW (#11) (\$11.99) Along with the very engrossing story, the maps, glossary and author's note are excellent bonuses. Exeter, 1195. Renovations at the new school in Smythen Street are disrupted by the shocking discovery of a partially mummified corpse hidden in the rafters. Sir John de Wolfe, the county coroner, investigates.

**KOTZWINKLE, WILLIAM** GAME OF THIRTY (\$18.50) (Felony & Mayhem) Originally published in 1994. Streetwise PI Jimmy McShane has never seen anything like the murder of Tommy Rensseler. A wealthy antiques dealer with a passion for Egyptian artifacts, Rensseler was killed by an injection of cobra venom and ritually disemboweled. When McShane is hired by the dead man's daughter, he finds that she is obsessed with the Game of Thirty, a centuries-old form of chess that, perhaps, foretells the future.

**KUMPFMULLER, MICHAEL** ADVENTURES OF A BED SALESMAN (\$21) A special order. In Germany of the 1950s

Heinrich Hampel charms his way into the hearts, beds and purses of his female customers. His creed is ‘There are bed salesmen who succeed because they understand beds, and there are bed salesmen who succeed because they understand women. Wonder who sells more beds? What could possibly go wrong?’

**KUZNESKI, CHRIS** SWORD OF GOD (\$10.99) Off the coast of South Korea, a young boy discovers a cave soaked in human blood. Less than a week later, everyone in his village disappears. In Saudi Arabia, a female archaeologist unearths an artifact that threatens the very foundations of Islam. To some, it is a discovery that must be silenced at all costs. Two American ex-commanders spearhead the investigation into the murder of an ex-member of the MANIAC Special Forces (whatever that is).

**LAURIE, VICTORIA** psychic CRIME SEEN (#5) (\$9.99) As psychic Abby Cooper recuperates from gunshot wound, her FBI agent boyfriend Dutch Rivers asks her to look at some cold case files. She accidentally comes across a closed file that she feels is all wrong; the wrong man has been convicted of a murder. To gather some evidence she goes to work undercover at the real murderer’s shady mortgage firm. Sequel to Abby Cooper, Private Eye, Better Read than Dead, Vision of Murder and Killer Insight (\$9.99 each). “All wonderful” says Marian.

**LAWTON, JOHN troy** SECOND VIOLIN (#6) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**LE CARRE, JOHN** MISSION SONG (\$13.50) Bruno Salvador is a top interpreter of Swahili and other lesser known but widely spoken languages of the Eastern Congo. Consequently, he is much in demand from London corporations, hospitals, law courts, immigration services and British Intelligence. Dispatched to a no-name island in the North Sea to attend a top-secret meeting between Western financiers and East Congolese warlords, Salvo is obliged to interpret matters never intended for his reawakened African conscience.

**LEVINE, KAREN** HANA’S SUITCASE (\$24.95) A special order.

**LILLEY, KATHRYN kate** DYING TO BE THIN (#1) (\$9.99) Marian says: I wish I had the willpower of journalist Kate Gallagher. Kate goes to a residential clinic where people lose weight to write a piece on its success rate. I can’t remember how many pounds she lost in her week there, but it had to be something like ten. I guess when the people around you are dying you don’t feel like eating.

**LUDLUM, ROBERT/COBB, JAMES** ARCTIC EVENT covert-one novel (\$18.50) On a remote island in the Canadian Arctic, researchers discover the wreckage of a mysterious WWII-era aircraft. The unmarked plane is a Soviet bomber that disappeared with its crew more than fifty years ago while carrying two metric tons of weaponized anthrax. The US government dispatches a Covert-One team led by Lieutenant Colonel Jon Smith to the crash site. But others have reached the frigid island first. (I don’t understand how it is an island in the Canadian Arctic but the US president is looking after the problem? Mind you, I have not read the book so maybe that explains why).

**LYNCH, SCOTT** LIES OF LOCKE LAMORA (#1) (\$12.99)

**MCCAMMON, ROBERT** QUEEN OF BEDLAM (\$18.99) See the hardcover section for an annotation. See *Leanne’s Picks*.

**MACDONALD, ROSS** ARCHER FILES (\$32.50) (Crippen & Landru) A collection of all the short Archer fiction. Includes the stories from the 1955 paperback original The Name is Archer, the additional stories in the Otto Penzler edited 1977 volume Lew Archer: Private Investigator and the three novellas in Crippen & Landru’s 2001 book Strangers In Town.

**MCDUGALL, SOPHIA** ROME BURNING (\$24.95) The Roman Empire has survived to the present day and encompasses half the world. But it is an unstable time and a massacre in the shadow of the Great Wall of Terranova brings the world to the brink of global

war. Three years after a conspiracy against his life forced him into hiding, the young heir to the throne, Marcus Novius, must take command of the greatest power on Earth. But his ambitious cousin, Drusus, threatens this last chance to avoid a world conflict. The first in this trilogy is Romanitas (\$12.99).

**MACGREGOR, T J** KILL TIME (\$9.99) Nora McKee has never forgotten the terrible day her mother was abducted by government agents and “disappeared”. Now, it’s happening again. In a crowded café, they’ve come for her husband, Jake, a man who knows too much. And the last thing he says to Nora before he vanishes is a chilling warning: Run, Nora, run. Now they are after Nora.

**MACINERNEY, KAREN** MURDER ON THE ROCKS (#1) (\$15.95) and DEAD AND BERRIED (#2) (\$14.50) The first two in a wonderful series featuring Natalie Barnes and her Gray Whale Inn on Cranberry Island, Maine. In the first book a developer wants to buy a part of the island which is home to an endangered species of birds. In the second, there are more ruthless developers, annoying guests and a ghost.

**MAFFINI, MARY JANE** TOO HOT TO HANDLE (\$15.95)

Poor Fiona Silk is broke again. Her romance writing career is tanking, and her tiny house in the lovely community of St. Aubaine may be sold for unpaid taxes. But Fiona’s new agent has a plan—Fiona can write an erotic cookbook. This project would be easier if Fiona had a sex life or a working oven. Soon bad things start to happen to people, but, oddly, only when Fiona is nearby. Before long, her tiny home is in flames and the body count is rising. Will Canada’s most reluctant sleuth stop a killer before her own goose is cooked? **Mary Jane Maffini and Barbara Fradkin will be at Sleuth on Wednesday, November 14, 2007 from 6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.** Please drop by on your way home from work to meet these fine Canadian writers.

**MAGUIRE, GREGORY** WICKED LIFE AND TIMES OF THE WICKED WITCH OF THE WEST (\$10.99) Terrific says Leanne and also one of *Wendy’s Picks* awhile ago. So much happened before Dorothy dropped in... This is the novel on which the theatrical production that played recently in Toronto is based.

**MALEENY, TIM** STEALING THE DRAGON (#1) (\$16.95) and BEATING THE BABUSHKA (#2) (\$16.95). The two books in the Cape Weathers Private Investigation series.

**MANKELL, HENNING** WHEN THE SNOW FELL (\$11.95) Joel is growing up and he has made three New Year’s resolutions: 1) to see a naked lady, 2) to toughen himself up so he can live to be a hundred and 3) to see the sea. They all look pretty impossible for a motherless boy in Northern Sweden. And then he saves old Simon from death in the icy woods and he becomes a local hero.

**MANKELL, HENNING kurt** MAN WHO SMILED (#4) (\$21) The fourth in the Kurt Wallander series. After killing a man in the line of duty, Wallander resolves to quit the force but a bizarre case gets under his skin.

**MAYOR, ARCHER** SECOND MOUSE (#16) (\$8.50) On the edge of the blue-collar town of Bennington, Joe Gunther encounters the lifeless body of Michelle Fisher. There are no clues as to why she died and although suicide is suspected, Gunther feels that foul play is more likely.

**MEIER, LESLIE lucy stone** MISTLETOE MURDER (#1) (\$8.99) Originally published in 1991, under the title Mail Order Murder, this is the first Lucy Stone mystery.

**MICHAELS, KASEY** HIGH HEELS AND HOLIDAYS (\$9.99) All mystery author Maggie Kelly wants for Christmas is to snuggle under the mistletoe with her fictional Regency era creation, Alexandre Blake, the Viscount Saint Just, who has miraculously come to life (in book one that is, unfortunately, out of print). When she receives an overnight package with a not-so-merry present, it seems she has become the next victim to be crossed off some maniac’s list.

Sequel to Maggie Needs an Alibi (out of print), Maggie by the Book (\$9.99), Maggie Without a Clue (\$9.99), High Heels and Homicide (\$9.99), High Heels and Holidays (\$9.99) and the new title: Bowled Over (\$17.50 trade paperback). This author has also written quite a few historical romance novels which we can special order for you. Just let us know what you want.

**MITCHELL, GLADYS** COME AWAY DEATH (\$17) (Rue Morgue) Originally published in 1937. Sir Rudri Hopkinson, a slightly eccentric Englishman with a penchant for history, is determined to reenact the ancient rituals at the temple of Eleusis in hopes of summoning the goddess Demeter. Thirteen people are gathered together for the experiment but when one of them goes missing and a severed head turns up in a box of snakes, it's time for criminal psychologist Beatrice Bradley to investigate.

**MOORE, LINDA** FOUL DEEDS (\$17.95) Professional criminologist Rosalind works with a cranky private investigator, McBride, in Halifax. Her passionate escape is the theatre and her latest adventure is working with a company of out-of-work actors putting on an independent production of Hamlet. When Peter King, a respected environmentalist lawyer working to keep water in the public domain, dies suddenly, murder is suspected. Rosalind and McBride investigate.

**MOREAU, RANDOLPH** GRANNY'S CHIPS (\$34.95) A special order.

**MORGAN, RICHARD** BLACK MAN (\$24.95) We got the hardcover of this title last June. Now we have the trade paperback. Sevgi Ertekin, an ex-NYPD homicide detective turned security executive, is no stranger to the issues surrounding human variants. But when a Variant 13, a genetically engineered hyper-male cultured to fight the century's last conflicts, survives a mysterious crash landing in mid-ocean and a series of brutal slayings erupts across America, she discovers that sometimes you can only fight fire with fire.

**MORTIMER, JOHN CLIFFORD** SUMMER'S LEASE (\$16.95) A reissue.

**MOYES, JOJO** PEACOCK EMPORIUM (\$10.99) Athene Forster embraced the Sixties like few others. She was spoilt, beautiful and out of control. Thirty-five years later, Suzanna Peacock finds refuge from her mother's shameful legacy in her shop, the Peacock Emporium. Within its magical walls she discovers not just friendship and an escape from her troubled marriage, but the first real passion of her life. This was a special order.

**MOYES, JOJO** WINDFALLEN (\$9.99) A special order.

**NAVARRO, JULIA** BROTHERHOOD OF THE HOLY SHROUD (\$10.99) Translated from the Spanish. A fire at the Turin Cathedral and the discovery of a mutilated corpse are the latest in a series of events surrounding the mysterious Holy Shroud of Turin millions believe to be the authentic burial shroud of Jesus Christ. Marian says "I had forgotten I'd read this book. It was a fast paced story full of secrets and secret societies. The story combines fact and fiction. According to a blurb, this book toppled **DAN BROWN's** Da Vinci Code from the top of the Spanish bestseller lists. I'm looking forward to reading her next one".

**NEEL, JANET** DEATH'S BRIGHT ANGEL (#1) (\$18) (Felony & Mayhem) A reprint of the first Francesca Wilson story. This won Best First Crime Novel of the year in England when it was originally published in 1988. A great series, but all of the books, except this, are out of print.

**NESBO, JO** REDBREAST (#2) (\$11.99) Down on his luck, Detective Harry Hole is having a rough time. Reassigned, having caused a high-profile embarrassment (The Devil's Star, \$11.99), he finds himself lumbered with surveillance duties. But working alone is just the way Harry likes it and it's not long before he discovers that a rare, high-calibre rifle, a type favoured by assassins, has been

smuggled into the country. When a former WWII Nazi sympathiser is found with his throat slit, Harry suspects a connection. Translated from the Norwegian.

**NOVIK, NAOMI** EMPIRE OF IVORY (#4) (\$10.99) Tragedy has struck His Majesty's Aerial Corps, whose magnificent fleet of fighting dragons and their human captains defend England's shores against the armies of Napoleon Bonaparte. An epidemic of unknown origin and no known cure is decimating the dragon's ranks, forcing the stricken into quarantine. Only Temeraire and a pack of newly recruited dragons remain uninfected. Temeraire and his captain, Will Laurence, head to Africa where they hope to find a cure. What a brilliant series, full of action, adventure and, of course, dragons! Sequel to His Majesty's Dragon (\$9.99), Throne of Jade (\$10.99) and Black Powder War (\$9.99). What fun.

**O'CONNELL, CAROL** MALLORY FIND ME (#9) (\$13.50) Marian says: I was reluctant to read Find Me as a couple of her recent stories had disappointed me. But I'm glad I read this one. I loved Mallory. I found her a little more vulnerable in this than in earlier stories (I won't say too much because it will spoil the plot) and I loved the descriptions of Route 66, the old highway route from Chicago to Los Angeles. It made me want to travel that old route and see the USA as it was years ago. Riker and Charles Butler also travel the highway although not always with Mallory. A convoy of parents is looking for their missing children and the old highway plays a big part in the story. If it's been a while since you've read a Mallory then give this one a shot. If, somehow, you have never read one then try Mallory's Oracle (\$10.99), the first in the series with this very tough female New York City cop.

**O'DONNELL, PETER** COBRA TRAP (#12) (\$20) A collection of three novellas and the last book in the series. Marian says: Modesty Blaise is a female James Bond, only smarter, more able, cuter, and lots more fun. I'm sure many of you share my joy in this series. It's been a while since I read any of the Modesty and Willie stories and I'd love to drop everything and re-read them, except there is so much else to read. Willie, by the way, is her partner and his knife skills are to die for (literally in some cases). This book was first published in 2001 and it has taken some six years for a paperback edition. Don't wait, who knows how long stock will last.

**O'HEHIR, DIANA** ERASED FROM MEMORY (#2) (\$10.99) Sequel to Murder Never Forgets (\$9.99).

**OWAD, STEVEN** BROTHER'S KEEPER (\$14.95) Vince Maguire's life as a journalist in Warsaw is shattered when the dark world of his estranged brother suddenly intrudes. Teddy's in trouble and the answer appears to lie not in the streets of Warsaw but in the new oil fields of Alberta. Sequel to Bodycheck (\$13.95). **Steven Owad and Jon Redfern will be at Sleuth on Friday, November 23, 2007 from 6 pm to 7 pm.** Please drop by on your way home from work to meet these fine Canadian writers.

**PAGE, KATHERINE HALL** BODY IN THE IVY (\$10.99) Faith Fairchild is asked to cater a very small, very private college reunion on an isolated New England island. Thirty-years-ago, best-selling suspense writer Barbara Bishop lost her twin sister, Helene, in a fall deemed to be a suicide. But Barbara is convinced that her sister did not die by her own hand. She has gathered Helene's former classmates together at her home where there are no phone lines, no cell reception and no means of escape. And then there were none.

**PARKER, ROBERT B** SPENSER HUNDRED DOLLAR BABY (#34) (\$13.50) Once again, April Kyle comes and asks Spenser for help. She claims to be in the dark about who is trying to take over her upscale call-girl operation but Spenser and Hawk find ties to organized crime and local kingpin Tony Marcus, as well as a scheme to franchise the operation across the country. April first appeared in Ceremony and then in Taming a Sea-Horse (\$11.99 each).

**PARETSKY, SARA** editor SISTERS ON THE CASE (\$10.99) A 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary anthology for Sisters in Crime including both new and classic stories. Contributors include: Sue Henry, Sara Paretsky, Charlotte MacLeod, Annette Meyers, Margaret Maron, Nancy Pickard, Medora Sale, Carolyn Hart...

**PATTERSON, JAMES** cross CROSS (#12) (\$11.99) Alex Cross was a rising star in the Washington, D.C., police department when an unknown man gunned down his wife. He put his need for vengeance on hold as he raised his children himself. Years later, his former partner calls on him for help in tracking a serial killer. When the case triggers a connection to his wife's death, Alex may finally catch the murderer.

**PEARS, IAIN** argyll RAPHAEL AFFAIR (#1), TITIAN COMMITTEE (#2), BERNINI BUST (#3) and LAST JUDGEMENT (#4) (\$15.95 each) All reprinted in handsome trade paperback editions.

**PENNAC, DANIEL** DICTATOR AND THE HAMMOCK (\$21.95)

**PENNEY, STEF** TENDERNESS OF WOLVES (\$20) As winter tightens its grip on the isolated settlement of Canada's Dove River in 1867, a man is brutally murdered and a seventeen-year-old boy disappears. Tracks leaving the dead man's cabin head north toward the forest and the tundra beyond. In the wake of such violence, people are drawn to the township: journalists, Hudson Bay Company men, trappers, traders. But do they want to solve the crime or exploit it?

**PENNY, LOUISE** CRUELLEST MONTH (#3) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation. See *Marian's Picks*.

**PENNY, LOUISE** DEAD COLD (#2) (\$10.99) Once again Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Sûreté du Québec is the hero. Set in the Eastern Townships in a small, fictional village called Three Pines, a woman is electrocuted at the annual Boxing Day curling match. The characters are charming, the location is quaint, and the murder is nasty. Reading this makes me want to sit at the village café, drinking café lattes (*she's back to coffee, thank you Lord—J.D.*), eating croissants and watching the goings on. A wonderful writer and a great storyteller. One of Marian's favourites.

**PEPPER, ANDREW** REVENGE OF CAPTAIN PAINE (#2) (\$24.95) See the annotation in the hardcover section.

**PERRY, THOMAS** PURSUIT (\$21) A superb story of a killer tracking down another killer. This writer is good. Try him, try anything he's written. Reprint, first published in 2001.

**PHILLIPS, EDWARD** NO EARLY BIRDS (\$17.99) When recently widowed Diana Hamilton sells her home, cousin Louise Bingham flies to Montreal from Victoria for one last visit to the large Westmount house. But what was intended as a time to catch up and reminisce turns into a frantic preparation for a massive garage sale. Not a mystery.

**PIRIE, DAVID** PATIENT'S EYES (#1) (\$18) The dark beginnings of Sherlock Holmes. In his first medical practice young Doyle faces a number of puzzling incidents that are beyond his comprehension; thus he is forced to call on his mentor Dr. Bell for assistance. A reprint of the first in the series.

**PRESTON, ALISON** SUNNY DREAMS (\$16.95) On a spring morning in 1925 Sunny Palmer is kidnapped in broad daylight from her baby carriage in Picardy's restaurant in downtown Winnipeg. Despite a police dragnet and a handsome reward, months pass with no word and eventually the search is called off. But eleven years later, the appearance of two drifters suddenly reopens the case.

**RANKIN, IAN** rebus active EXIT MUSIC (#17) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation. See *J.D.'s Picks and Marian's Picks*.

**REDFERN, JON** TRUMPETS SOUND NO MORE (\$20.95) In 1840, the theatre world in London is shocked by the brutal killing

of one of its youngest and most successful entrepreneurs, bludgeoned in his house. The discovery of a contentious theatre contract, a collection of promissory notes and a walking stick, its bloodied ivory head in the shape of a dog, are the only leads. Inspector Owen Endersby, of the recently formed London Detective Police Force, is called upon to apprehend the culprit before Christmas Eve. The inspector has six days to chart the "by-ways of the Criminal Mentality." The case soon involves street vendors, downstairs servants, money lenders and the greatest performers of the stage. Who had motive to batter the young man to death? Without the techniques of the modern-day detective, Inspector Endersby must root out the villain any way he can—by disguise, break-and-enter, bribery, mail tampering and physical force. **Jon Redfern and Steven Owad will be at Sleuth on Friday, November 23, 2007 from 6 pm to 7 pm.** Please drop by on your way home from work to meet these fine Canadian writers.

**REHNER, JAN** ON PAIN OF DEATH (#2) (\$18.95) (Sumach Press) Juliette Benoit is a Canadian student at the Sorbonne, trapped in Paris during the German occupation of WWII. Never more than one step ahead of the Gestapo, Juliette joins an escape network and undertakes a dangerous flight across France to bring a young Jewish orphan to safety. Meanwhile, in the village of St. Leger, Gabrielle Aubin vows to uncover a murderer. Her task seems hopeless, yet Juliette and Gabrielle discover a common link in their past, a secret that leads to a shocking revelation. Ms. Rehner's first novel, Just Murder (\$16.95), won the Arthur Ellis Award for Best First Novel. **RIMINGTON, STELLA** carlyle ILLEGAL ACTION (#3) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation. See *Marian's Picks*.

**RIZER, FRAN** calamie parri A TISKET, A TASKET A FANCY STOLEN CASKET (#1) (\$9.99) When the body of up-and-coming car dealer Bobby Saxon comes into the Middleton Mortuary with a hypodermic needle hidden in his neck, mortuary cosmetologist Callie Parrish realizes there's a killer on the loose. With a list of suspects that include Bobby's dueling ex-wives, rival car dealers and even her own boss, Callie must unearth the culprit.

**ROBB, CANDACE** archer GUILT OF INNOCENTS (#9) (\$33) (Expensive British import) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**ROBERTS, NATALIE** partridg TAPPED OUT (#2) (\$9.99) Sequel to Tutu Deadly (\$9.99). Featuring Jenny Partridge, Utah dance instructor.

**ROLLINS, JAMES** AMAZONIA, DEEP FATHOM, EXCAVATION and SUBTERRANEAN (\$10.99 each). More novels that were special ordered by a customer after reading The Black Order (\$10.99).

**ROWE, ROSEMARY** COIN FOR THE FERRYMAN (#9) (\$10.99) Roman Britain AD 189. Former slave turned pavement-maker Libertus is about to give his long time slave, Junio, his freedom. Just before the ceremony a body is discovered, buried in a shallow grave, and Libertus and Junio try to piece together the puzzle.

**ROWLAND, LAURA** JOH RED CHRYSANTHEMUM (#11) (\$8.99) July 1698. Sano Ichiro, the samurai detective who has risen to become the shogun's second-in-command, is investigating rumours of a plot to overthrow the ruling regime. But if Sano can't convince the shogun that he and his pregnant wife, Reiko, are not part of the plot, they will both be executed.

**RUSCH, SHELDON** hewitt BOY WITH PERFECT HANDS (#2) (\$10.99) Illinois State Special Agents Elizabeth Taylor Hewitt and Brady Richter, partners and lovers, have more questions than answers when looking for a killer who kills with lethal injections and leaves their bodies displayed like perfect sleeping beauties. Sequel to For Edgar (\$10.99).

**SAINTCROW, LILITH** DEVILS RIGHT HAND (#3) (\$9.99)

Sequel to Working for the Devil (\$9.99) and Dead Man Rising (\$8.99). More fantasy, dark horror...

**SANDFORD, JOHN davenport** EYES OF PREY (#3) (\$10.99)

Reprint. First published in the early 1990s.

**SCARROW, ALEX** LAST LIGHT (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**SCHOONOVER, JASON** MANILA GALLEON (\$28) A special order.

**SETTERFIELD, DIANE** THIRTEENTH TALE (\$22) The enigmatic, reclusive author Vida Winter has spent six decades creating various outlandish life histories for herself, all of them inventions that have brought her fame and fortune but have kept her violent and tragic past a secret. Now old and ailing, she wants to tell the truth so she summons Margaret Lea, a biographer, who is struck by the parallel between Miss Winter's story and her own.

**SHAW, TERRY** THE WAY LIFE SHOULD BE (\$16) Newspaper editor John Quinn and his wife have returned to his home town to raise their son, but real estate prices have soared and natives are being pushed out. Then a popular politician and family man is murdered at a well-known gay pickup spot. The victim was Quinn's childhood friend, Paul Stanwood. Quinn insists that Paul was only investigating a crackdown at the park, but the chief of police and others seem to ignore and downplay obvious clues.

**SHOLES, LYNN and JOE MOORE** HADES PROJECT (\$18.95) Forces of Evil are searching for the Spear of Destiny, forged from the Tree of Life, and used to pierce the side of Jesus Christ at the Crucifixion. They want it to launch the Hades Project and unless Cotton Stone can stop them, her mortal enemies will unleash unprecedented global anarchy. Sequel to The Last Secret (\$18.50) and The Grail Conspiracy (\$19.95).

**SHUMAN, GEORGE moore** LAST BREATH (#2) (\$19.99) A ruthless serial killer with an unthinkable MO has left a trail of tortured, murdered women in western Maryland. With no leads, investigators call on the now-famous blind psychic, Sherry Moore. When put in contact with the hand of a dead body, she relives the memory of the departed's final experience. However, because the killer is aware of her methods, he keeps his identity just beyond her reach until she resolves to put herself directly in harm's way. Sequel to 18 Seconds (\$9.99).

**SIEGEL, JAMES** DECEIT (\$9.50) It looks like just another car crash on a lonely stretch of desert highway until local newspaperman Tom Valle starts to investigate. As he starts checking facts, and unveiling lie after lie, he finds himself completely alone and negotiating a dark trail of corruption, cover-ups, fraud and murder that stretches back for decades. By the author of Epitaph (\$19.95 trade paperback), Derailed and Detour (\$9.99 each).

**SIMMS, CHRIS jon spicer** SAVAGE MOON (#3) (\$24.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**SIMMS, CHRIS jon spicer** SHIFTING SKIN (#2) (\$14.95) DI Jon Spicer and his new partner Rick Saville are waiting for a breakthrough in the case involving a serial killer who skins his victims. When a woman claims she heard "The Butcher" slaughter his third victim in a run down motel, the only evidence she can produce is a card from a local escort agency with the name 'Alexia' scrawled on the back. Sequel to Killing the Beast (\$12.95)

**SMITH, SCOTT** SIMPLE PLAN (\$10.99) A terrific read and basis of the movie of the same name. Reprint. First published in 1993.

**SPRINKLE, PATRICIA** SINS OF THE FATHER (#2) (\$9.99) Katherine Murray has made her way to Bayard Island, off the coast of Georgia, with Dr. Flo Gadney, to help stop a greedy landowner from building large houses up and down the island over graves that may belong to Dr. Flo's ancestors. Sequel to Death on the Family

Tree (\$9.99)

**STACEY, LYNDON** MURDER IN MIND (\$24.95) Sophie Bradford was pretty, blonde and an accomplished flirt. When she is found dead on a lonely West Country road, her boyfriend Jamie Mullin is the prime suspect. Jamie protests his innocence but soon spirals into a breakdown fuelled by frustration, self-pity and drink and it is left to his friend, Matt Shepherd, to fight his corner.

**STASHOWER, DANIEL** ELEPHANTS IN THE DISTANCE (\$18.50) (Felony & Mayhem) Originally published in 1989. Paul Galliard is a magician by training and heredity: his father died performing the Bullet Catch, an infamous trick that over the centuries has claimed more than a dozen magicians. A producer wants to do a show highlighting his father's old cronies and Paul would love to give them a chance at one last shot at the limelight. But the show will only go on if Paul does the Bullet Catch. And once you have finished this one, go on to Bullet Trick by **Louise Welsh** (\$19.95). It deals with the magic and magicians, as well, and is terrific.

**STELLA, CHARLIE** SHAKEDOWN (\$18)

**STOCKWIN, JULIAN** KYDD: THE ADMIRAL'S DAUGHTER (#8) (\$24.95) With tensions escalating again between England and Napoleon's France, the Royal Navy launches reconnaissance and rescue missions on the continent. Meanwhile, Kydd is diverted by another distraction. The beautiful and determined admiral's daughter could be the key to realizing all his dreams of ambition and love.

**TAYLOR, ANDREW dougal** WAITING FOR THE END OF THE WORLD (#2) (\$14.95) A touch of blackmail has persuaded Cambridge post-grad student William Dougal into doing a job for his old adversary, James Hanbury. All he has to do is keep an eye on the leader of a lunatic fringe survival group, The Sealed Servants of the Apocalypse. But he has hardly started when the barman who tries to warn him off is murdered. Sequel to Caroline Miniscule (\$14.95).

Both titles were originally published in the early 1980s and it's great to see both of them available again. Terrific stuff.

**TAYLOR, ANDREW lydmouth** NAKED TO THE HANGMAN (#8) (\$10.99) When a retired colleague is found dead in the ruins of Lydmouth Castle, the past comes back to haunt Detective Chief Inspector Thornhill. He finds himself under suspicion.

**TERRALL, ROBERT** KILL NOW, PAY LATER (\$8.99) Originally published in 1960. When Ben Gates took the job guarding the presents at a ritzy wedding, he thought it would be a simple assignment. But that was before someone put sleeping pills in his coffee and a bizarre robbery attempt left two people dead.

**TERRY, MARK** DIRTY DEEDS: A MEG MALLOY MYSTERY (\$17.95) and SERPENT'S KISS: A DEREK STILLWATER MYSTERY (\$15.50) Two special orders.

**THOMPSON, LAURA** AGATHA CHRISTIE AN ENGLISH MYSTERY (\$24.95) A biography. See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**TRUMAN, MARGARET** MURDER AT THE OPERA (\$10.50) Mac Smith and his wife, Annabel, are being pressured by a panicked theatre board to unmask the killer of a soprano stabbed in the heart backstage during rehearsals. They uncover a complex case reaching far beyond Washington, to the dark world of informers and terror alerts in Iraq, and climaxing in a fateful night at the opera attended by the US president.

**VARGAS, FRED adamsberg** WASH THIS BLOOD CLEAN FROM MY HAND (#3) (\$17 US edition) Three wounds in a perfectly straight line was the bloody signature that marked victims from every corner of France who had been murdered at regular intervals over the course of thirty years. Commissaire Jean-Baptiste Adamsberg, the chief of police in Paris's 7<sup>th</sup> Arrondissement, is very familiar with the case. Though others were framed and convicted for these crimes, including his own brother, the Commissaire knows the

true identity of the killer, and knows that the murderer died in 1987. All the more disturbing is Adamsberg's discovery of a fresh murder with exactly the same profile. Translated from the French. The first two Adamsberg novels are Have Mercy On Us All (\$19.95 trade paperback) and Seeking Whom He May Devour (\$10.99). Very good, this series.

**[VARIOUS]SOLES, CARO ED BLOOD ON THE HOLLY** (\$16.95) (Baskerville Books) A collection of Christmas themed short stories from Peter Robinson, Maureen Jennings, Dennis Richard Murphy, Madeline Harris-Callway, Jane Burfield, Mary Keenan, Peter Sellers, Lyn Hamilton, Rosemary Aubert, Linwood Barclay, Sylvia Maultash Walsh, Ed Hoch, Mary Jane Maffini, D.J. McIntosh and many others

**[VARIOUS]GREENWOOD & DOHERTY MYSTERY INK** (\$25.95) (Ginger Press) Eighteen short stories by Ontario mystery writers with a forward by Edward L. Greenspan. Contributors include Eric Wright, Leslie Watts, Mary Jane Maffini, Dennis Richard Murphy and others.

**[VARIOUS]MEDIEVAL MURDERER HOUSE OF SHADOWS** (\$22) Bernard Knight, Ian Morrison, Michael Jecks, Philip Gooden and Susanna Gregory have pooled their historical expertise to create five interlinked mysteries which start in 1114 at the Bermondsey Priory. A young chaplain succumbs to the temptations of the flesh and suffers a gruesome fate. From that moment, the monastery is cursed and over the next five hundred years murder and treachery abound within its hallowed walls.

**[VARIOUS]MEDIEVAL MURDERER SWORD OF SHAME** (\$11.99) Same band of authors as in the annotation above. As a sword is passed from owner to owner in this series of interlinked mysteries, ill fortune and disgrace befall all who wield its glittering but deadly blade. The sword was lovingly crafted by a Saxon swordsmith shortly before the Norman invasion.

**WALSH, JILL PATON imogen BAD QUARTO (#4)** (\$14.95) Imogen Quay, nurse at St. Agatha's College in Cambridge, wonders if and how her three mysteries are interconnected. English lecturer John Tallentire falls to his death in the notorious leap, called Harding Folly, a Cambridge tradition which has claimed many lives over the centuries. Can his death be connected to a chaotic amateur production of an obscure version of Hamlet? Or to the disappearance of an unhappy young scholarship student? Sequel to The Wyndham Case, A Piece of Justice, and Debts of Dishonour (\$14.95 ea., trade).

**WALTERS, MINETTE CHAMELEONS SHADOW** (\$22.95) See the hardcover section for an annotation.

**WALTON, JO KING'S PEACE** (\$10.99) and **TOOTH AND CLAW** (\$9.99) A special order. By the author of Farthing (\$8.99) and Ha'penny (\$29.95).

**WAMBAUGH, JOSEPH HOLLYWOOD STATION** (\$9.50) The robbery of a jewelry store, complete with masks and a hand grenade, quickly connects to a Russian nightclub and an undercover operation gone bloodily wrong. It's left to the sergeant they call the Oracle and his squad of street cops to put the pieces together.

**WARD, J R LOVER UNBOUND (#5)** (\$10.99) Another one of Marian's vampire series. The first, Dark Lover (#1) (\$9.99), introduces the Black Dagger Brotherhood, a group of good vampires who try to protect humans and others from bad vampires. Full of action, a bit of erotica, good vampires, bad vampires, good cops turned friend of the vampires... Do start with Dark Lover, as each of the subsequent books features one of the vampires that you'll have met there. The others Lover Eternal (#2) (\$10.99), Lover Awakened (#3) (\$9.99) and Lover Revealed (#4) (\$10.99).

**WARD, ROBERT FOUR KINDS OF RAIN** (\$16.25) Broke, recently divorced, down-on-his-luck Baltimore psychiatrist Bob Wells is tired of always being the good guy. When helping a patient who

believes someone is trying to steal the legendary Mask of Utu, worth millions, something inside Bob snaps and what he decides to do comes as a shock to him. He proceeds down a dark path from which there is no return. Much as J.D. had enjoyed the author's Red Baker (\$17.95)—it was one his *Picks* in the previous newsletter—this one was kinds so-so. Perhaps a longer fallow period might have reset his palate and allowed him to judge this one on its own merits.

**WASHBURN, LIVIA MURDER BY THE SLICE (#2)** (\$9.99) Sequel to Peach of a Murder (\$9.99), both featuring Phyllis Newson, normally sweet as pie, just don't get in the way of her spicy peach cobbler. Which, of course, makes me wonder how one word, cobbler, can come to mean two such different things: a shoe mender and a baked dessert.

**WESTLAKE, DONALD FOURTH DIMENSION IS DEATH** (\$18) (Felony & Mayhem) Originally published in 1989. He's got tons of money and two gorgeous girlfriends but Sam Holt is no longer playing Packard, the TV detective who made him famous. When a look-a-like starts playing Packard in commercials, Holt is a little peeved. But the look-a-like is murdered just outside Holt's door and it seems that Holt was the real target. Talk about luck.

**WHITE, DAVE WHEN ONE MAN DIES** (\$17.95)

**WHITE, RANDY WAYNE dusky DEADLIER SEX (#4)** (\$9.99) The fourth Dusky MacMorgan adventure, written originally in the early 1980s under the name Randy Striker.

**WILCOX, JOHN LAST STAND AT MAJUBA HILL (#4)** (\$10.99) ) It is 1881, and General George Pomeroy-Colley, commander of the British forces in Natal, is planning to stamp out a rebellion. He is convinced the Boers can pose no serious threat but Captain Fonthill knows the Boers should not be underestimated.

**WINSLOW, DON CALIFORNIA FIRE AND LIFE and WINTER OF FRANKIE MACHINE** (\$17.95 each trade paperback) Reprints of two earlier novels. Neither of them are Neil Carey stories. But both are excellent.

**WISHART, DAVID IN AT THE DEATH** (\$10.99) There is no love lost between Marcus Corvinus and Natalis, faction-master of Rome's premier chariot-racing team, so Corvinus is surprised when Natalis asks him to investigate a suicide. He's also surprised at the fee, a hefty fifty thousand sesterces. The young man in question had no apparent reason to end his life and as Corvinus does the rounds of family and friends, he becomes increasingly convinced the death is a suspicious one.

**WOODS, STUART barrington FRESH DISASTERS (#12)** (\$13.50) A chance encounter with the wrong man sends Stone Barrington into the heart of New York's Mafia underworld.

**WOZENCRAFT, KIM DEVIL'S BACKBONE** (\$8.99)

**WRIGHT, ERIC FINDING HOME** (\$22.95) (Cormorant) The week after his wife asks him for a divorce, Will Prentice returns to England from where he had emigrated thirty years earlier. He returns to attend his mother's funeral but while there embarks on a driving tour of the English countryside, in part to unravel a secret from his mother's past, in part to see how much of England he remembers and, maybe, try to figure out where he belongs. His driving companion is his uncle's grandson, Fred, a recent Cambridge graduate.

**XIAOLONG, QIU CASE OF TWO CITIES (#4)** (\$16.25) ) When a major new anti-corruption campaign is announced, Chief Inspector Chen Cao is charged with investigating Xing Xing, a principal figure, and his connections and partners. This entails travels to the US and a reunion with his colleague and counterpart from the U.S. Marshall's Service, Inspector Catherine Rhon. The first three novel in this award-winning series are Death of Red Heroine (\$20.95), A Loyal Character Dancer (\$18.95), and When Red is Black (\$17.95).