

NEWS

MYSTERY LOVERS BOOKSHOP

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Alexander McCall Smith-Nov. 7



Alexander McCall Smith will be speaking at the Drue Heinz Lectures on Monday, November 7 at 7 pm at Carnegie Music Hall. MLB customers have a unique chance to buy a lecture ticket and book package for \$31.95 which includes the talk plus a copy of *Friends, Lovers, Chocolate*, his sequel to *Sunday Philosophy Club*. Please call for information or tickets.

HALLOWEEN BIRTHDAY BASH

Monday, October 31

10 am to midnight

Please join us in celebrating fifteen years with the greatest customers that any bookseller could wish for. Free cappuccino all day. Ten cent book sale starts at 8 pm.

As a special Halloween Treat for our 15th, you're invited to pick the hardcover book of your choice for \$15. Call, email or drop by all day and celebrate with us.



Jonathan Santlofer, Nov. 12

Artist and novelist Jonathan Santlofer, shown with painting that are clues in *The Kill Artist*, will join us for Coffee & Crime on Saturday, November 12 at 10 am. This unique mystery is reviewed on page 2. Please join us for a special event with a talented artist and writer. Cost is \$5; reservations essential.

Nero Blanc, Nov. 19

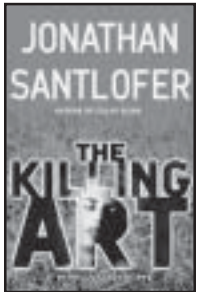
Nero Blanc, revealed here as husband and wife Cordelia Biddle and Steve Zettler, bring their crossword mysteries to MLB with *A Crossworder's Delight* on Saturday, Nov. 19 at 10 am. They're bringing a special Coffee & Crime crossword to get you going before breakfast. Cost is \$5; reservations essential.



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Just Published..

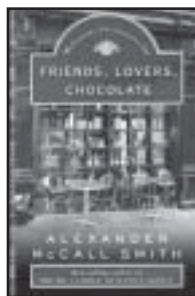
The slashing of a Willem de Kooning painting brings cop turned art historian Kate McKinnon straight into the action in Jonathan Santlofer's *The Killing Art*



(Morrow, \$24.95), best yet of his three books. The next painting mutilated, a Franz Kline, is accompanied by the murder of the owner as well leading Kate to look for clues among the New York School of painters which included those

two as well as Robert Motherwell, Mark Rothko and others. Santlofer skillfully weaves the art history into the plot along with clue paintings which Santlofer, himself an artist, painted and which are reproduced in the book. A consistently interesting read. Please join us on Saturday, November 12 for Coffee & Crime with Jonathan, including a display of some of the paintings from the book.

Isabel Dalhousie returns in book two of Alexander McCall Smith's delightfully cozy series, the Sunday Philosophy Club. In *Friends, Lovers, Chocolate* (Pantheon, \$21.95) we get a good sampling of new and old friends, possible and improbable lovers, and the moral dilemma of chocolate and other indulgences. While helping out at her niece's gourmet food shop, Isabel meets Ian, a new transplant survivor. His story intrigues her and leads her through the scenic streets of Edinburgh on a heartfelt voyage of discovery. Affairs of the heart abound in this gently told story. Don't miss Alexander McCall Smith's appearance at the Pittsburgh Arts and Lectures series on Monday, November 7. A special ticket and book package is available only at MLB.



A Crossworder's Delight (Berkley, \$10.95) by Nero Blanc is the 11th in this hit series featuring Crossword mysteries. This time, the holiday fuss and New England's snowy days turn the Paul Revere Inn into a bustle of activity and the scene of the crime for amateur sleuth and crossword puzzle editor Belle Graham and her PI pal Roscoe Polycrates. Sweet treats, canny puzzles and a missing poem add to the mix for a complete holiday treat. Come and meet the husband and wife team behind Nero Blanc at a Coffee & Crime on Saturday, November 19. Or, you can order a signed copy or two for puzzle lovers on your list.



Historical record

In Tasha Alexander's Victorian-set suspense, *And Only to Deceive* (Morrow, \$23.95), young Emily badly needs to escape her overbearing mother. Marriage is the most logical choice and so she accepts the first eligible suitor. When her husband of a few weeks dies while on safari in Africa, Emily is left the widow of a man she barely knew. Who was the real Lord Ashton and how to explain the house full of priceless Greek antiques which are now hers but are a supposed to be in the British Museum. If you like Ann Perry's Charlotte you will be at home with Emily in this enjoyable yarn [JW].

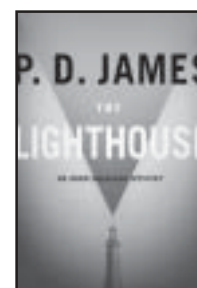
One of my all-time favorite Victorian-era mysteries has a fine sequel in John MacLachlan Gray's *A White Stone Day* (St. Martin's, \$24.95) featuring down-at-the-heels tabloid writer Edmund Whitty, last seen in *The Fiend in Human*. His investigation of a quack psychic takes him to Oxford where he comes across a whimsical mathematician who will later come to be forever associated with a little girl named

Alice. A delightful, if often seedy, look at Victorian times.

Seymour of the Special Branch returns in Michael Pearce's *Dead Man in Istanbul* (C&G, \$25), a sequel to Seymour's adventures last year in Trieste. He's called in when an embassy official is killed while trying to swim the Dardanelles and Pearce makes the most of the exotic setting at a pivotal time, 1908, when the Ottoman Empire was crumbling and WW I was on the horizon.

Following *Five for Silver*, Mary Reed and Eric Mayer offer a rousing sixth installment in *Six for Gold* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95), featuring John the Eunuch, Lord Chamberlain to Emperor Justinian. In this gripping foray into classical antiquity, John must travel to Egypt to determine why sheep in a rural village are slitting their own throats. As always, political intrigue insinuates itself, as John must navigate a treacherous path among a cast of devious characters. And what about those suicidal sheep? Read *Six for Gold* for the solution. [LM]

Quick Takes



Adam Dalgleish is back in P.D. James' *The Lighthouse* (Knopf, \$25.95) where he investigates murder at an elite resort off the Cornish coast.

Puzzle Lady Cora Felton's every move is followed by an obsessed fan in Parnell

Hall's *Stalking the Puzzle Lady* (Bantam, \$24), latest in this lively series featuring crossword puzzles.

Kay Scarpetta is on the case in Patricia Cornwell's *Predator* (Putnam, \$26.95) in a case that reaches from Florida to Boston.

The murder of two reporters sparks the action in Margaret Truman's *Murder at the Washington Tribune* (Ballantine, \$24.95),

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latest of her Capital Crimes.

The Knight brothers are back in the investigating business in Ralph McInerny's *Irish Gilt* (St. Martin's, \$23.95), latest of these classy, Notre Dame-set mysteries.

Alex Cross is back in James Patterson's *Mary, Mary* (Little, Brown, \$27.95) on the trail of a serial killer in Hollywood.

A homeless man witnesses a murder in David Baldacci's *The Camel Club* (Warner, \$26.95) and steals evidence from the scene that links the club of the title to the crime.

Sequels

Attorney Avery Andrews, last seen in Cathy Pickens' debut *Southern Fried*, makes a welcome reappearance in *Done Gone Wrong* (St. Martin's, \$23.95). Still uncertain of continuing life in her hometown she's



lured to Charleston, South Carolina by a headline grabbing case involving a drug company. The death of a potential witness and a shooting spree by a suicidal gunman cause her to rethink her decision in this fast-paced Southern

mystery with plenty of grit and humor.

Oh joy! A new Jane Langton book, *Steeplechase* (St. Martin's, \$24.95) brings back Homer Kelly and wife Mary in a past and present adventure about Homer's new book, the Steeplechase of the title, and a pair of 19th century clergyman in conflict over a chestnut tree. Langton's whimsical line drawings enliven the text as always in this delightful 18th in the series.

In *The Green Room* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95), Deborah Turrell Atkinson's breathtaking sequel to *Primitive Secrets*, series heroine attorney Storm Kayama becomes entangled in Hawaiian surfing culture run amuck. When star surfers begin dying mysteriously before major meets, Storm suspects foul play, and her worst fears are confirmed as she becomes

personally involved through a client who has hired her to execute a divorce from her nasty husband, match promoter. *The*



Green Room fascinates with its inside scoop on surfing and Hawaiian folklore. Who knew there was a seamy underside to the sport immortalized by those sunny naifs, *The Beach Boys*? Check out *The Green Room* for the

shocking details. [LM]

Sixtyish Maddy Sprowls is a "Morgue Mama" - responsible for the newspaper morgue in her small Ohio city - (think Akron). In this second of C.R. Corwin's books *Dig* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95), Maddy reads an obituary of her old friend Gordon "Sweet Gordon" Sweet - archeology professor at her home town college. Maddy's curiosity gets the better of her once again. Her investigation digs up all kinds of dirt on her fellow classmates from the "beat generation" and their association with a fifty year old unsolved murder. Looks for Maddy's first appearance in *Morgue Mama*. [JW]

Just when you thought things were settling down for Rei Shimura along comes a powerful act of nature. *The Typhoon Lover* (Harper, \$23.95) sees Rei going back to Japan looking for an ancient Middle Eastern pitcher and finding her ex-boyfriend, murder

and a bit of bad weather to say the least. It's a witty addition to a great series. [JA]

British beat

The *London Times* deems Morag Joss' *Half Broken Things* (Delacorte, \$22) "a work of fiction that sets its author on the

path to greatness," an assessment with which I heartily concur. Joss joins the league of major authors Ruth Rendell and Minette Walters in this elegant, beautifully written and marvelously plotted novel about three British misfits who find one another and subsequently form their own imaginary family. Interweaving first and third person narratives while moving among different points of view, Joss initiates her readers into the quite credible motivations that can compel essentially good, albeit psychically damaged, people to commit dastardly deeds. *Half Broken Things* should be a breakout book for Joss, whose three superb earlier novels, all featuring cellist Sara Selkirk will generate new enthusiasm for her work. [LM]

Ruth Rendell produces another of her marvelous and chilling tales in *13 Steps Down* (Crown, \$25) a story of young man obsessed with a serial killer and the house he used to occupy who now plans his own series of killings in the boarding house he occupies. Tremendous suspense in this powerful character study that is fittingly dedicated to P.D. James.



Catherine Sampson's *Out of Mind* (Mysterious, \$23.95) is a sparkling second chapter in the story of TV journalist Robin Ballantyne who finds herself obsessed by a photographer colleague who simply disappeared while on a training course. Robin's investigation takes her further and further afield and into conflict with the gigantic news organization that employ both her and the missing woman. A smart, complex mystery that nicely blends Robin's personal life with her investigation.

Guillermo Martinez's *The Oxford Murders* (MacAdam, \$23) is a beguiling tale of an Argentine grad student whose

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summer in Oxford is interrupted by the murder of his landlady. A note relating to the murder bears a circle and the words: "first in the series." The student finds himself teamed up with mathematics legend Arthur Seldom, who received the note and knew the victim, in trying to understand this bizarre clue. Martinez cleverly mixes a variety of mathematical theories into a plot that continues through subsequent murders, each with further symbols in the series. A delightful academic mystery.



For a completely captivating read, check out Martin Edwards' *The Cipher Garden* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95), set in England's picturesque Lake District, the idyllic pastoral scene made famous in

Wordsworth's poetry. What transpires in this novel, though, is far from poetic, as old, cold crimes resurface to haunt a village, and DCI Hannah Scarlett, head of the Cold Case Review Team, is charged with solving the mystery. Other villagers contribute their own expertise, as this intricate, elegantly plotted mystery draws to an utterly satisfying conclusion. Readers of *The Coffin Trail*, Edwards' previous novel featuring DCI Hannah Scarlett, will find *The Cipher Garden* to be every bit as captivating as its predecessor. [LM]

Books that deal with the human psyche are always twisted tales and this stand alone novel from Reginald Hill is no exception. *The Strange House* (Harper, \$24.95,) is anything but straightforward. Unknown to each other, two young people, Samantha Flood and Miguel Madero, arrive in the small idyllic Cumbrian town of Illthwaite. They are separately searching for possible connections with the town to their own families. What they find is an unexpected wall of deceit and violence. Fast paced, intricate and always riveting. [JA]

Fans of the chick-lit mystery, rejoice—Hope McIntyre's juicy *How to Seduce a Ghost* (Mysterious, \$24.95) has arrived

and should advance immediately to the top of your reading lists. This one has it all—sex, romance, murder and mayhem—presented in a well-written, cleverly plotted narrative told from the perspective of Lee Bartholomew, Notting Hill-based ghost writer. When Lee agrees to ghost the autobiography of a British soap opera star, she unwittingly enters the dangerous world of partner abuse. Domestic violence and murder by arson encroach upon Lee's carefully defended life, as she vacillates between safe and exciting men. From its first page to its satisfying close, *How to Seduce a Ghost* will seduce you. [LM]

Start something new

Chris Grabenstein gives us a nice debut in *Tilt-a-Whirl* (C&G, \$23.95) with an unlikely pair of cops: one a veteran of Iraq the other a young summer cop, in a seaside town in, one thinks, New Jersey. The title refers to a ride at the rather seedy amusement park in town and the scene of the murder. The victim being a Donald Trump-like real estate mogul. The atmosphere of the Jersey shore is nicely evoked with some funny dialogue moving the plot along in this unusual cop drama.

Nancy Bush gives us a humorous debut in *Candy Apple Red* (Kensington, \$19.95) introducing Lake Chinook, Oregon



process server Jane Kelly who is on a missing persons case although, in this case, the missing person was believed to have killed his family before disappearing. At least, that's what everyone thinks except his best

friend who happens to be Jane's ex-boyfriend. Lots of a humor with a feisty heroine and a bit of romance thrown in.

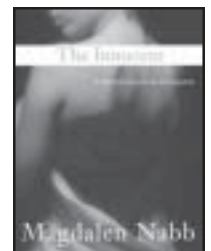
Charlaine Harris launches a unique series with *Grave Sight* (Berkley, \$23.95) featuring Harper Connelly who has the ability to sense the location of people who have died and to share their final moments. Traveling with his step-brother Tolliver, who acts as her bodyguard, she arrives in a small Arkansas town where her

discovery of the resting place of a missing teen is only the start of the problem as it becomes evident that certain people have a great deal to lose based on what Harper knows.

Detroit and noir—the perfect pairing—especially when Mitchell Bartoy couples them in *The Devil's Own Rag Doll* (St. Martin's, \$23.95), his darkly intriguing, deeply disturbing first mystery featuring Detective Pete Caudill, a man damaged physically and psychologically by his nasty encounter with an elusive foe. Blind in one eye and short a few fingers on a hand, Caudill succumbs to the inertia of depression as he stumbles through life without caring about much. Only when a resurgent crime wave, predicated upon racial injustice and a corrupt upper class, destroys his partner and a young girl and threatens to sweep up his widowed sister-in-law and nephew, does Caudill make a stand in his effort to become a good man. For a deadly dose of 1940's Detroit and its murky underpinnings, pick up a copy of this initial novel in a series that is certain to have staying power. [LM]

Book a trip

Magdalen Nabb always sets a great scene but look at the town she's working with, Florence. Her descriptions of the Oltrarno are so real and breathtaking. You can smell the bistecca Fiorentina grilling and underlying decay of a city baking in the summer sun. Another thing Nabb does so well is write a subtle, intricate tale of mystery. *The Innocent* (Soho, \$22) her newest in the Marshal Guarnaccia series doesn't disappoint. This time the body of a young woman is found in a fish pond high up in the Boboli Gardens. Who is she? How did she end up in the pond? Why did no one report her missing? The Marshall must travel to Rome in the mid-July heat to find the answers. [JA] Don't miss the reissue of *Death in Springtime* (Soho, \$10), third in this delightful series.



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Also Noted:

A listing, by author, of new books not reviewed elsewhere in the News

- Andrews, Donna; *Access Denied* (Berkley, \$6.99); AI sleuth Turing Hopper
- Andrews, Donna; *Delete All Suspects* (Berkley, \$23.95); AI sleuth Turing Hopper is on the trail of computer crooks
- Andrews, Sarah; *Dead Dry* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); geologist and investigator Em Hansen
- Atkins, Charles; *The Cadaver's Ball* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); mentor devises cruel revenge on psychiatrist protégé
- Atkinson, Deborah; *Primitive Secrets* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); Hawaiian attorney Storm Kayama, reissue
- Aubert, Brigitte; *Death From the Woods* (Berkley, \$6.99); suspenseful thriller set in France
- Block, Lawrence; *The Burglar Who Traded Ted Williams* (Harper, \$7.50); Bernie Rhodenbarr, reissue
- Brandon, Jay; *Running with the Dead* (Forge, \$24.95); San Antonio DA Chris Sinclair
- Buckley, William F.; *A Very Private Plot* (Cumberland, \$9.95); Blackford Oakes and a plot to assassinate Gorbachev
- Collins, Michael; *Lost Souls* (Penguin, \$14); town covers up hit and run by local football hero with disastrous consequences
- Copp, Rick; *The Actor's Guide to Greed* (Kensington, \$23); former child actor Jarrod Jarvis
- Corcoran, Tom; *Air Dance Iguana* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); Key West photographer Alex Rutledge
- Cornwell, Bernard; *The Archer's Tale* (Harper, \$13.95); first in the Thomas of Hookton trilogy, reissue
- Corwin, C.R.; *Morgue Mama* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); newspaper archivist Dolly Sprowls, reissue
- Coughlin, William J.; *Shadow of a Doubt* (SMP, \$6.99); burnt out attorney Charlie Sloan finds redemption in murder case
- Davies, Frida; *Flawed Scales* (C&G, \$25); Gloucestershire DI Keith Tyrell
- Donaldson, Stephen R.; *The Man Who Tried to Get Away* (Tor, \$7.99); PI Mick Axbrewder
- Doss, James D.; *Shadow Man* (St. Martin's, \$23.95) and *Witch's Tongue* (SMP, \$6.99); Ute tribal investigator Charlie Moon
- Druett, Joan; *Shark Island* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); further adventures of Wiki Coffin on the US Exploridng Expedition of 1838
- Ellroy, James; *Because the Night* (Vintage, \$12.95); second of the Lloyd Hopkins books, reissue
- Evanovich, Janet; *Metro Girl* (Harper, \$7.99); Evanovich launches new series
- Fletcher, Jessica and Donald Bain; *Murder She Wrote: Margaritas and Murder* (NAL, \$19.95); Jessica in Mexico
- Follett, Ken; *Whiteout* (Signet, \$7.99); drugs stolen from pharmaceutical company threaten bio-terrorism
- Francis, Dick; *Reflex and Second Wind* (both Berkley, \$7.99); reissues
- Francome, John; *Dead Weight* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); jump jockey investigates attack on friend
- Garber, Joseph; *Whirlwind* (Harper, \$7.50); pretty good thriller of agent called from retirement; *Vertical Run* was better
- Giminez, Mark; *The Color of Law* (Doubleday, \$24.95); influential lawyer defends prostitute accused of killing prominent politician
- Goodger, John; *The Druperman Tapes* (Leisure, \$6.99); gang extorts Las Vegas casinos with threats of disaster
- Grabien, Deborah; *Matty Groves* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); folksinger Ringan Laine
- Greeley, Andrew M.; *The Bishop in the Old Neighborhood* (Forge, \$24.95); Bishop Blackie Ryan
- Greer, Robert; *Resurrecting Langston Blue* (North Atlantic, \$23.95); Denver bail bondsman C.J. Floyd
- Grippando, James; *Hear No Evil* (Harper, \$7.99); Miami attorney Jack Swytek takes on a murder case at Guantamo Bay, Cuba
- Grossman, Gary; *Executive Actions* (ibooks, 7.99); assassin kills presidential candidate's wife
- Huston, Charlie; *Already Dead* (Del Rey, \$12.95); vampire PI seeks missing woman
- Jones, Solomon; *Ride or Die* (St. Martin's, \$13.95); tale of crime and love in the Philly projects
- Kalian, Cady; *As Dead as it Gets* (Forge, \$23.95); veteran screenwriter pens mystery of same
- Kernick, Simon; *The Business of Dying* (SMP, \$12.95); London cop moonlights as hitman
- Kilmer, Nicholas; *Lazarus Arise* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); art-historical mystery with Fred Taylor
- Kisor, Henry; *A Venture Into Murder* (Forge, \$23.95); Steve Martinez, deputy in a small town in Michigan's U.P.
- Klensch, Elsa; *Shooting Script* (Forge, \$23.95); fashionista moves on to Hawaii
- Kling, Christine; *Bitter End* (Ballantine, \$24.95); Florida salvage operator Seychelle Sullivan
- Krentz, Jayne Ann; *Falling Awake* (Jove, \$7.99); dream researcher meets up with government agent
- Krieg, Joyce; *Riding Gain* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); radio talk show host Shauna J. Bogart
- Latour, Jose; *Comrades in Miami* (Atlantic, \$23); tale of Cuban spies in Miami from the author of *Outcast*
- Marshal, Evan; *Crushing Crystal* (Kensington, \$5.99); literary agent Jane Stuart and Winky
- Martin, David; *Facing Rushmore* (S&S, \$23); FBI agent hunts plot against Mount Rushmore
- Mayor, Archer; *St. Albans Fire* (Mysterious, \$24.95); Joe Gunther and his team investigate serial arsons
- Mayor, Archer; *The Surrogate Thief* (Warner, \$6.99); Vermont cop Joe Gunther

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More books, more reviews: it's all at mysterylovers.com

New Arrivals in Paperback

Color Blind is the second of Jonathan Santlofer's art-infused series featuring cop turned art historian Kate McKinnon. She's reluctantly drawn into a case of a would-be artist who has turned to killing in a series of murders that finally strike very close to home for Kate. An exciting thriller filled with insight into the art world from the author, a noted painter. Join us on Saturday, November 12 for Coffee & Crime with Jonathan Santlofer.

Heroines of detection

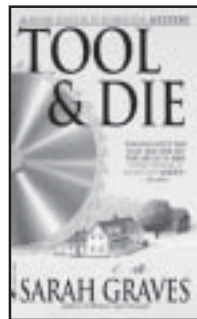
Ft. Lauderdale salvage tug owner Seychelle Sullivan returns in Christine Kling's *Cross Current* (Ballantine, \$6.99) where she encounters a swamped fishing boat containing a murdered woman and a traumatized Haitian refugee. Compelled to investigate, Seychelle turns to the Haitian community to uncover secrets that concern a number of earlier murders. A wonderfully atmospheric Florida-set series with a terrific female protagonist who works in a very male dominated business.

On the eve of her wedding to Zack, the rabbi, Molly Blume is asked to identify a locket found on the body of drug overdose victim in Rochelle Krich's *Grave Endings* (Ballantine, \$6.99). The locket was one Molly had given to her best friend Aggie, killed six years earlier—a homicide still unsolved. Much of the lure of this book rests in Krich's

exploration of the role of Rachel, Jacob's wife, in contemporary Jewish thought. The locket in the story contains a red thread, a good luck charm, that Molly had bought at Rachel's Tomb in Bethlehem and her friend had been a social worker at Rachel's

Tent, a shelter for abused women. Krich excels at this marriage of orthodox Jewish heritage with the most contemporary of Los Angeles life.

Sarah Graves is in top form as she presents *Tool & Die* (Bantam, \$6.99) the eighth installment in her "Home Repair is Homicide" series featuring Jacobia "Jake" Tiptree, Wall Street executive turned old house renovator. Jake is busier than usual, trying to get her house into shape for an



onslaught of out-of-town relatives, when, in attempting to assist her manic housekeeper who has been receiving threatening notes, she discovers the corpse of the housekeeper's husband. Being the irrepresible Jake, she is determined to answer all of the unresolved questions. As always, Graves' trademark home repair tips add utility to fun. [LM]

Back again

Reissue of Aaron Elkins' wonderful Gideon Oliver series continues with the third, *Murder in the Queen's Arms* (Berkley, \$6.99). A body turns up at a dig on the coast of England involving skeleton doctor Oliver in another caper.

If you like old-fashioned pulp mystery you'll welcome the reissue of Lawrence Block's *The Girl with the Long Green Heart* (Hard Case, \$6.99) as two con men recruit the girl of the title in a scheme to bamboozle her boss—who is also the cad who promised to marry her but didn't. A classic.

Finally—the first of Charlaire Harris' splendid Lily Bard series is back. *Shakespeare's Landlord* (Berkley, \$6.99) introduced Lily, a woman with a past, who

starts life over as a cleaning woman in the small town of Shakespear, Arkansas. A fine beginning to a consistently interesting series.

The Devil's Red Nickel (North Atlantic, \$13.95) is the second in Robert Greer's intriguing series with Denver bail bondman C.J. Floyd. It's available now along with the first in the series, *The Devil's Hatband*.

You may remember her only as blond bombshell Ann Francis in the TV show but Honey West was the creation of a husband and wife writing team, G.G. Fickling, and *This Girl for Hire* (Overlook, \$13.95) has been reissued in all its '50 cheesy and cheesecake glory.

Looking to the past

Jane Austen is back in Stephanie Barron's *Jane and His Lordship's Legacy* (Bantam, \$6.99). In shifting household to Chawton Cottage, Jane immediately has occasion to exercise her second area of expertise, sleuthing, as she discovers a body in the basement of her new residence. Moreover, when a thief makes off with an ornate chest filled with letters, a



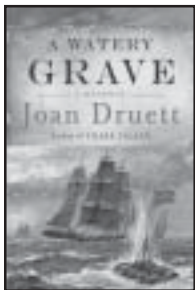
legacy to Jane from her beloved Rogue, Lord Harold Trowbridge, she cannot rest until she has retrieved it. Village politics and the avarice of greedy heirs take center stage, as more people die before Jane pieces

together the truth and puts an end to the destruction. An elegant series. [LM]

Peter Ackroyd brings 14th century London pungently alive in *The Clerkenwell Tales* (Anchor, \$13.95), a story of a nun whose predictions prove startlingly correct when a series of explosions rip through

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London. Ackroyd's clever use of characters from Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales* including the Prioress and the Wife of Bath add a piquant appeal to this historical.



With *A Watery Grave* (SMP, \$12.95) Joan Druett, debuts a mystery series with a unique setting: the United States Exploring Expedition of 1838 that sent seven ships filled with scientists around the world. The protagon-

ist is Wiki Coffin, half Maori, half American and the expedition's linguist although his other mission is to track a murderer thought to be onboard. Druett provides a colorful picture of nautical life in this era, plenty of sea-going adventure and exotic locales and a well constructed mystery. I look forward to a sequel.

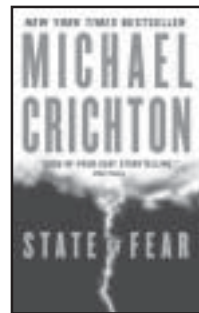
Thrillers

Nelson DeMille's *Night Fall* (Warner, \$7.99) brings back NYPD homicide detective John Corey, last seen in Plum Island, retired, married to FBI agent Kate Mayfield and working as a contract employee for the Anti-Terrorism Task Force. It's 2001 and Corey attends a memorial service for the victims of Pan Am flight 800 that took off in June 1996 and exploded minutes later over Long Island. At Kate's urging, Corey becomes involved in investigating a mysterious "streak of light" reported by hundreds of eyewitnesses—perhaps a missile—that the official explanation of mechanical failure ignored. DeMille has done extensive research and wraps it in a fast-paced detective story narrated in Corey's wise-ass NY cop voice. A thoroughly satisfying thriller with a point. As you race to the finale you will realize the point to which DeMille has been leading you through the

book. A knockout but uncomfortable reading in its conclusion.

Top-notch crime thriller action is on tap with Andrew Klavan's *Shotgun Alley* (Forge, \$6.99), a sequel to *Dynamite Road*. PI's Scott Weiss and Jim Bishop are hired to recover the daughter of a Senate candidate who has run off with a drug-dealing biker named Cobra. But Cobra turns out to be more than a crank-addled psycho but rather a clever opponent that Weiss and Bishop will be hard-pressed to beat.

There aren't many thrillers that include charts, graphs, footnotes, two appendices and a bibliography but that's Michael Crichton for you in *State of Fear* (Avon,



\$7.99). Wrapped into an eco-terrorist thriller plot are all of Crichton's doubts about the science behind the global warming crisis, abrupt climate change and the culture of fear that afflicts developed societies. A thought-

provoking book that might have been more effective if he'd just left the plot out of it—but then who would have read it?

Sports writer Mike Lupica turns again to fiction in *Too Far* (Berkley, \$7.99) where a would-be sportswriter teams with a city reporter to uncover the truth behind the death of the manager of a winning high school basketball team.

The traditional PI novel lives on in Michael Koryta's splendid debut, *Tonight I Said Goodbye* (SMP, \$6.99) with a pair of Cleveland shamuses: Lincoln Perry and Joe Pritchard, hired to investigate the suicide of a cop and the disappearance of his wife and child. The pair faces any number of obstacles including Russian gangsters and the FBI in this tightly

written novel that won the St. Martin's/PWA prize for best first.

Quick takes

Alex Cross is back facing the Wolf, from earlier books, in *London Bridges* (Warner, \$7.99) by James Patterson.

Richard Jury follows the trail of a victim in London to a missing girl in Devon in Martha Grimes' *The Winds of Change* (Signet, \$7.99).

Richard North Patterson takes on the capital punishment controversy in the fast-paced *Conviction* (Ballantine, \$7.99).

Detroit PI Amos Walker takes on a simple case of delivering a mother's ashes to her son in Loren Estleman's *Retro* (Forge, \$5.99); a new classic by a master of the genre.

Donna Leon's *Dressed for Death* (Penguin, \$7.99) is now in a US edition. Note that this is the same book as *Anonymous Venetian*.

Comic crime

Looking for a fresh, irreverent narrator who isn't Stephanie Plum? Look no further than Charley van Leeuwen, heroine of Margaret Dumas' hilarious first book *Speak Now* (Signet, \$6.99),



runner-up for the British Crime Writers' Association Debut Dagger competition. Fabulously wealthy Charley, patron of a San Francisco theater company, returns from London with her knockout husband Jack, only to

find a body in the bathtub of their hotel suite—and that's just the beginning.

Charley succeeds in finding the murderer, with the assistance of Jack, who
Please see New Arrivals in Paper, page 12

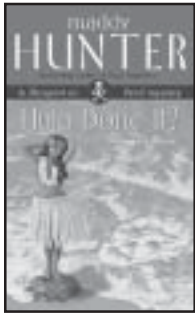
Looking for a mystery dinner party game? Call us

Very Original

Reviews of books published for the first time as paperbacks

Cozy corner

Hula Done It? (Pocket, \$6.99) by Maddy Hunter is the latest in the hilarious adventures of Emily Andrew, the travel escort from Iowa, on an Hawaiian cruise with her Nana and a colorful variety of friends and neighbors. This time one falls overboard by accident or murder? A land and sea adventure ensues until the real truth is found. Full tilt fun.



Molly Doyle's eye for the rare antique over the junk is what brings her to La Casa to examine the contents in *Deadly Collection* (Avon, \$6.99), the third rare find from Elaine Flinn. When she eyes a mummified body, the danger and past secrets pile up before this clever puzzle is resolved.

Tim Myers has a new candle-making mystery with *Death Waxed Over* (Berkley, \$6.99). A Founder's Day celebration turns deadly and the suspect is the owner of At Wick's End.

Emancipation, a stuck voodoo doll and a very dead husband land Penny Francisco the title of suspect in the romantic mystery gumbo *In Deep Voodoo* (Avon, \$6.99) by Stephanie Bond. A little romance and detecting bring this one to a boil.

In Lori Avocato's new mystery, *One Dead Under the Cookoo's Nest* (Avon, \$6.99), sexy nurse-turned-investigator Pauline Sokol is mistakenly committed to a mental institution, she finds herself stuck in the middle of a bizarre murder investigation and on the run from a killer who's roaming among the patients.

Solace Glen Honeymoon (Berkley, \$6.99) by Susan S. James is the third in a gentle southern series featuring small town cleaning lady with a big business on the honeymoon from, you know.

Another wedding is in the works for Josie Pigeon, Valerie Wolzein's contractor

sleuth who happens upon the dead bodies in her restoration work. In *Death at a Premium* (Fawcett, \$6.99), a slew of suspects, a ghost or not and the pre wedding tension all make for another winner.

Dead Giveaway (Signet, \$6.99) by Leann Sweeney brings Texas PI Abby Rose another adoption case with possible posh and deadly folks. Third in the entertaining Yellow Rose mystery series.

Murder on Black Friday (Berkley, \$6.99) by P.B. Ryan is the fourth in the Gilded Age mystery series with Boston governess Nell Sweeney. Suicide or murder brings death on Wall Street in the Gold Market crash. This is one smart and crafty sleuth you will want to follow through the years.

Mystery Lovers fave Elaine Viets again hits the mark with her beguiling debut, *Dying in Style* (Signet, \$6.99). Mystery Shopper Josie Marcus shares tips and troubles when her report on a chichi boutique ends up with murder. Clever plotting and charming characters like the daughter and mom will leave you wanting more of this sharp series.



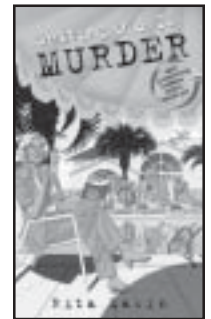
If Miss Marple were solving village mysteries today her name would be Mrs. Mallory. In the 16th of the cozy series, *Mrs. Mallory and No Cure for Death* (Signet, \$6.99), Hazel Holt's spunky amateur detective solves a surprising murder case featuring Taviscombe's doctor.

Delightful debuts

Scent to Her Grave (Berkley \$6.99) is the debut Bath and Body mystery by India Ink. Just sit back and relax in the mystery spa and the wonderfully colorful characters that work at Venus Envy, the Washington SPA and smart murder scene for this charming visit. Y'all come back again?

The first mystery featuring Gladdy Gold, Florida's Oldest Private Eye and her "Girls" from Lanai Gardens retirement community Phase Three is here with *Getting Old Is Murder* (Dell, 6.99) by Rita Lakin. As the Golden Girls play Nancy Drew in their own funny and creative ways, this entertaining debut will charm.

There is a character list, map and Yiddish glossary to help you, in this photogenic amateur caper by a television and theatrical writer. Colorful and meshugeneh, this is one group of new old adults who will always get the murderer in their own way. Enjoy.



The murder of a top winemaker sours Nikki Sands's new job on a Napa Valley vineyard in Michele Scott's *Murder Uncorked* (Berkley, \$6.99). Now wouldn't this be the perfect host/hostess gift.

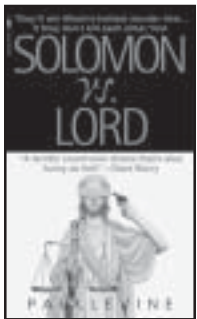
Suspenseful

The forth Molly Blume mystery brings the true crime writer and new rabbi's wife into the seductive world of internet stalking and chatting when she takes a case to find a daughter of a rabbi who has run away with a man she met on the internet. *Now You See Me* (Ballantine, \$13.95) is an elegantly twisting chain of events that keeps you riveted until the last page. If you have an online account in your house, this is a must read.

The talented John Lutz knows how to keep the pages turning in *Fear the Night* (Pinnacle, \$6.99) where a veteran cop is pulled out of retirement for a cat-and-mouse game with a ruthless killer known as the Night Sniper. The killer thinks its his game but he doesn't realize he's playing by the cop's rules now. Also available, at a nice price, a reissue of Lutz's nail biting thriller *The Ex* (Pinnacle, \$4.99). Deadly obsession.

Order online right from the [MLB News.Online](http://MLBNewsOnline.com)

Sure to spark a few life/art discussions is T.J. MacGregor's latest Florida thriller, *Category Five* (Pinnacle, \$6.99). As we all now know, this is a hurricane drama with escaped convicts and a psychic hostage in the mix.



As the old adage claims "opposites attract" and Paul Levine's funny and quick-moving courtroom mystery *Solomon vs. Lord* (Bantam, \$5.99) proves that it makes for good reading, too. Lawyers from very

different sides of the track, Victoria Lord and Steve Solomon, team up to prove that the death of a rich elderly husband was an accident and not murder by the hand of his beautiful young wife. Tempers, clothes and indictments fly in this South Florida setting. The writing makes me think of Janet Evanovich out to dinner with John Grisham. [JW]

Who'd a thunk it? Stephen King in the pages of our very own Very Original. Original certainly applies to King's *The Colorado Kid* (Hard Case, \$5.99), a completely straightforward mystery wherein two crusty, old Maine newspapermen spin a tale of a 25 year old mystery to a young journalism intern. Plenty of Maine flavor, characters to care about and a plot that keeps you turning the pages. A delight.

Mariah Stewart wraps up her trilogy begun with *Cold Truth* with *Hard Truth* and *Dark Truth* (all Ballantine, \$6.99)

Stephen Woodworth continues his unique series with Natalie Lindstrom, a woman who can speak for the dead—like other "violets" in the world that Woodworth creates. In *Golden Blood* (Dell, \$6.99) finds Natalie in Peru using her powers to help an archaeological dig rather to solve crimes but the outside world will catch up in this fascinating

third in the series.

Foreign climes

Jurisprudence-Italian style! Now available here in translation is the Italian bestseller, *Involuntary Witness* (Bitter Lemon, \$13.95) by Gianrico Carofiglio, a real life anti-Mafia judge. Set in Bari, a port on the coast of Puglia, the story opens with the discovery of a nine-year-old boy's body. The discovery and subsequent arrest of a suspect tears open the popular beach resort exposing the small-town racism. The suspect the police have arrested is a Senegalese peddler. There are witnesses. Photos of the victim are found in the accused's room. It's a hopeless case for defense avvocato, Guido Guerrieri. All together a fascinating trip through the Italian Halls of Justice. [JA]

Andrea Camilleri's wonderful Sicilian-set series with Inspector Montalbano continues with *The Smell of the Night* (Penguin, \$12) where the food-loving cop pursues a financial conman who has



ripped off half the retirees in the little village of Vigata. A colorful series with a protagonist who never fails to entertain.

The Best Thing That Can Happen to a Croissant (Canongate, \$14) by Pablo Tusset is a delightful little

almost mystery about an almost detective, Pablo Miralles, the younger black sheep son of a wealthy Barcelona family, who is recruited to find his older brother who runs the family banking empire. Full of dead pan humor this is quite an enjoyable read.

Plenty of action

Sea-going action in Steven Wilson's *Between the Hunters and the Hunted* (Pinnacle, \$6.99) as Winston Churchill travels to Newfoundland for a meeting

with FDR in 1940. The Germans are on to the trip and are determined to send the indomitable Prime Minister to the bottom of the sea.

An NYPD cop investigates a bizarre series of murders in Robert J. Randisi's *Cold Blooded* (Leisure, \$6.99). Although each killed in a different way all are found frozen solid in this cleverly plotted cop drama from a master of the genre.

Daniel Shaw has been practicing law for only four months but he's already burnt out in Ron Faust's *Blood Red Sea* (Bantam, \$6.99). Leaving it all behind he sets out in a small sailboat, destination unknown, until he rescues a young woman who claims her husband threw her overboard. From there you might expect love in bloom followed by revenge



on the husband but you'll get anything but in this book that delivers nothing but the unexpected in its relentless path from Florida to Virginia to the Dominican Republic. Packs a wallop emotionally with a diverse cast of characters. Shaw's first appearance in *Dead Men Rise Up Never* was an Edgar nominee.

Further adventures of NYPD cop Thorn Savage in John Mackie's hard-hitting *West Side* (Onyx, \$7.99) where two guys have come up with the perfect million dollar scam. The only problem: they've got to kill somebody to cash in.

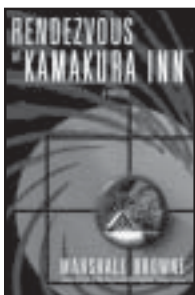
A man-on-the-run thriller with wry humor provided by protagonist Paul Woods in Jon Evans' *The Blood Price* (Dark Alley, \$13.95). Stumbling across a people-smuggling ring in Sarajevo, Woods is pursued by various bad guys from there to Latin America and Nevada.

See what we're reading at www.mysterylovers.com/staff

Also Noted continued from page 5

- McNaught, Judith; *Every Breath You Take* (Ballantine, \$25.95); romantic encounter in the Caribbean entangles woman in murder case
- Morris, Bob; *Jamaica Me Dead* (St. Martin's, \$22.95); further adventures of Zack Chasteen
- Murphy, Warren and Molly Cochran; *Grandmaster* (Forge, \$14.95); reissue of their Edgar winner
- O'Marie, Sister Carol Anne; *Requiem at the Refuge* (SMP, \$6.99); Sister Mary Helen goes to work at a women's shelter, reissue
- Parker, Robert B.; *Melancholy Baby* (Berkley, \$7.99); Boston PI Sunny Randall
- Rice, Anne; *Christ the Lord: Out of Egypt* (Knopf, \$25.95); story of Jesus' early life
- Sloan, Susan R.; *Behind Closed Doors* (Warner, \$7.99); woman suffers in abusive marriage
- Smiley, Patricia; *Cover Your Assets* (Mysterious, \$23.95); Tucker Sinclair in a sequel to *False Profits*
- Sprague, Gretchen; *Death by Thunder* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); woman seeks to prove uncle's death was murder
- Strieber, Anne; *Little Town Lies* (Forge, \$23.95); mystery and murder in small Texas town
- Swierczynski, Duane; *The Wheelman* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); getaway driver betrayed by gang seeks revenge
- Thomas-Graham, Pamela; *Orange Crushed* (Pocket, \$13); Nikki Chase investigates the murder of a Princeton black studies professor
- Thurlo, David and Aimee; *Pale Death* (Forge, \$23.95); Navajo vampire and cop Lee Nez
- Tremayne, Peter; *Badger's Moon* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); *Sister Fidelma*, now in US edition
- Truman, Margaret; *Murder at Union Station* (Ballantine, \$6.99); mobster turned witness is killed at station of the title
- Vargas, Fred; *Have Mercy On Us All* (S&S, \$14); *Paris Inspector Adamsberg*, now in US edition
- Wesley, Valerie Wilson; *Dying in the Dark* (One World, \$12.95); Newark PI Tamara Hayle
- Wilhelm, Barbara; *The Price of Silence* (Mira, \$23.95); town centennial uncovers secrets related to "missing" girls
- Wilhelm, Kate; *The Unbidden Truth* (Mira, \$6.99); attorney Barbara Holloway
- Wood, Lee; *Kingdom of Lies* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); Leeds Inspector Keen Dunliffe investigates the death of an American tourist on the grounds of a Royal estate
- Woods, Stuart; *Iron Orchid* (Putnam, \$25.95); cop turned CIA agent Holly Barker
- Woods, Stuart; *Two-Dollar Bill* (Signet, \$9.99); Stone Barrington

Just Published... continued from page 5



The talented Marshal Browne takes on a Japanese setting for his latest mystery, *Rendezvous at Kamakura Inn* (St. Martin's, \$23.95). The title refers to a mountainside retreat where Tokyo detective Aoki goes on vacation. Instead he finds a hotbed of suspense with each guest harboring secrets connected to an unsolved disappearance years earlier. An intelligent thriller with an unusual setting.

Jar City (St. Martin's, \$21.95) by Arnaldur Indridason will introduce mystery readers to the unique culture of Iceland in this thriller set in Reykjavik with Inspector Erlendur Sveinsson who leads an investigation into a man found

murdered—itself a rare event in largely crime free Iceland.

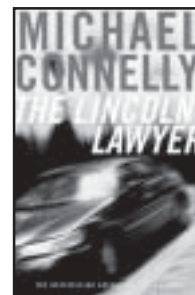
Thrills

Last year Washington insider Richard A. Clarke, adviser to three presidents, created a stir with his non-fiction bestseller *Against All Enemies*, and this October he capitalizes upon his political expertise in counterterrorism as he crafts his top-notch geopolitical thriller, *The Scorpion's Gate* (Putnam, \$24.95). Exotic venues from Bahrain to Foggy Bottom abound, as Clarke extrapolates a not-so-distant future set in 2010, where current conflicts explode in chilling logical extension of today's policies and practices. Welcome to the brave new world where oil reigns supreme, and political upheaval in Saudi Arabia and Iran wreak havoc upon the world. If you enjoy the subtle political intrigue of John Le Carre,

Tom Clancy or Graham Greene, you'll love *The Scorpion's Gate*, which is certain to be the blockbuster thriller of the season. [LM]

Michael Connelly leaves his Harry Bosch character for *The Lincoln Lawyer* (Little, Brown, \$26.95), a standalone about a bottom-feeding criminal lawyer who gets the case of a lifetime—and his client may actually be innocent.

The title refers to lawyers like "Mickie" Haller who operates out of the back of his Lincoln town car. Haller is defending a wealthy Beverly Hills real estate developer and doesn't really care about innocence but his growing belief that his



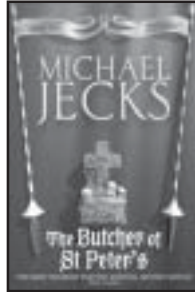
Please see *Just Published*, page 14

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What's New in British Mystery?

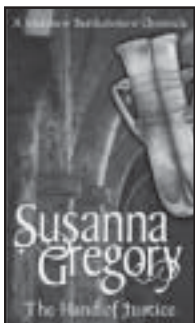
Reliable entertainment in the medieval historical mystery is always on tap with Michael Jecks.

The latest, *The Butcher of St. Peter's* (Headline, \$9.99) is an intricate story of tangled motives as the city of Exeter is gripped by fear when a child disappears. A local constable, who's own child disappeared years earlier thinks he's got the right man but Sir Baldwin Furnhill is not so sure.



It's AD 188, and the wild, forested outskirts of the Empire is the last place Libertus, freedman and pavement-maker, wants to visit in Rosemary Rowe's latest: *Enemies of the Empire* (Headline, \$9.99). But he'd rather face a wolf or bear than an angry patron, so he agrees to accompany Marcus Septimus to the garrison town of Isca (now Caerleon in South Wales). Pausing at Venta, the two men realise they've stepped into a simmering cauldron of unrest seething under Roman occupation. When Libertus spots a familiar figure, who seems desperate not to be recognized, curiosity gets the better of him. His pursuit leads him down a dangerous path and into a murky world of treason and murder.

In Cambridge 1355 the colleges of the fledgling university are as much at odds with each other as they are with the ordinary townfolk as we see in Susanna Gregory's *The Hand of Justice* (Warner, \$7.99); latest for physician Matthew Bartholomew. This tension has recently been heightened by the return of two well-born murderers after receiving the King's pardon, showing no remorse but ready to confront those who helped convict them. And in the midst of this Bartholomew is



called to the local mill to examine two corpses. Although relieved to turn his back on the fractious town, as always in Cambridge nothing is unconnected. An excellent series informed by the author's historical and forensic expertise.

Victorian and more

Alanna Knight gives us Victorian-era mystery with a terrific protagonist in *The Inspector's Daughter* (A&B, \$13.95). The title refers to Rose McQuinn the daughter of the Inspector Faro of Knight's earlier books. Rose has returned to Edinburgh from the American West still recovering from the deaths of her husband and son. She throws herself into an investigation of the strange behavior of man now married to Rose's childhood friend Alice. A splendid evocation of Victorian Edinburgh with an excellent guide in Rose.

The More Deceived (Constable, \$13.95) is the latest in David Roberts' period mystery with the sleuthing pair of Lord Edward Corinth and journalist Verity Browne. It's 1937 and Lord Edward is called in by Churchill to investigate leaks of government secrets and soon uncovers the murder of a Foreign Office official

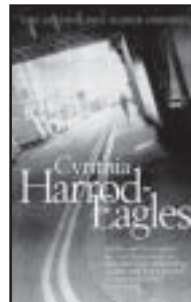


involved. Meanwhile, Verity is in Spain reporting on the siege of Guernica where Edward soon arrives on the trail of his murderer. A wonderful combination of period mystery with the history of the times woven into the plot. Start with *Sweet Poison*.

In Lee Jackson's splendid second mystery for Decimus Webb, *Welfare of the Dead* (Arrow, \$13.95), the Victorian London detective tries to connect the dots in a series of murders that seem to tie back to a mysterious theft from a cemetery. Jackson, a student of the era, brings a wealth of research to these novels each with a focus on a particular

aspect of Victorian life. In the current book it is the odd, to us, fascination with death while in the earlier *The Metropolitan Murders* (Arrow, \$13.95) it is the newly opened underground railway with a body found in the carriage as it pulls into Baker Street station. Jackson brings to life the sights, sounds and smells of Victorian London in these suspenseful novels.

Up-to-date



Fans who came late to the Bill Slider series by Cynthia Harrod-Eagles will relish the *Second Bill Slider Omnibus* (Warner, \$15) containing the fourth, fifth and sixth in this outstanding series

featuring the London cop and his ensemble team. *Dead End* brings slider into the case of a murdered conductor; in *Blood Lines* the suicide of a music critic seems more like murder and in *Killing Time*, one of the best of the series, a Slider recovering from grievous wounds, begins work from his hospital bed.

With *Smile of a Ghost* (Macmillan, \$25) Phil Rickman takes his Episcopal priest character Merrily Watkins into a complex case that begins with a teen's death: accident or suicide? The boy's grandmother claims to still see him alive while his uncle, recently retired DS Andy Mumford, consults with Merrily about the nature of the boy's death. An absorbing entry in this series.

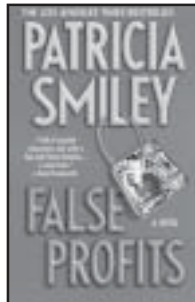
Two more of the wonderfully readable Wycliffe novels of W.J. Burley have been reissued: *Wycliffe and the Dead Flautist* and *Wycliffe's Wild Goose Chase* (both Orion, \$7.99). This brings to fifteen the reissues so far of this classic British series featuring Cornwall's own Inspector (later Chief Superintendent) Charles Wycliffe. A treat for fans of the traditional mystery to read in any order.

Open every Sunday from noon to 4

New Paperbacks continued from page 7

has a mysterious, but conveniently useful, past. In the meantime, she hangs out with her very appealing friends, who fit nicely into the chick-lit genre. Don't miss this sassy new voice in what's sure to become a strong series. [LM]

Patricia Smiley's *False Profits* (Warner, \$6.99) is both humorous and suspenseful, and an auspicious debut. Tucker Sinclair is forced to move in with her mother after her divorce but at least she still has her job as a management consultant. That is until a series of odd events finds her facing accusations of fraud, a missing client, missing files and a dead body at Venice Beach. I'll look forward to Tucker's next appearance.



Having spent several brisk and stormy January days in Carmel-by-the-Sea I was transported in Shirley Rousseau Murphy's latest Joe Grey mystery, *Cat Cross Their Grave* (Harper, \$6.99). Not your average cozy cat mystery, this compelling series has just a touch of the tough and the supernatural...cats talking to humans. The murder of a '40s film star owner of a local Inn and the uncovering of the graves of children will come together in a craftily woven whole in this tenth of the series. Enjoyable and real. Start with *Cat on the Edge*.

Hair shop rivalry feeds the plot in Nancy J. Cohen's *Died Blonde* (Kensington, \$5.99) when spunky Florida hairstylist Marla Shore finds the body of her competitor. Explore Delray Beach and cheer the blossoming romance in this latest entry on the Bad Hair Day Mystery parade. A sure and fun ride for all with a psychic on board to spur the action.

Bob Morris finds good use for his years of experience writing about Florida in his first novel *Bahamarama* (SMP, \$6.99), a funny, fast-moving crime novel that starts in Florida and ends up in the Bahamas. Former Dolphin Zack

Chasteen has just been released after two years in a federal prison when two goons try to kidnap him. A limo ride ends with his being stranded in the middle of nowhere and that's just the first couple of chapters. Great fun and an Edgar nominee, too.

Malice domestic

Move over, Jane and Louisa, here comes Beatrix. Susan Wittig Albert's first in a new series, *The Tale of Hill Top Farm* (Berkley, \$6.99) is an engaging portrayal of Beatrix Potter, England's famed Lake District, a quiet little village, and lots of animals all add up to a gentle story set in 1905. An unexpected death and items gone missing make village life less restful than supposed, but Beatrix is up to the challenges. What can I say - I have a soft spot for storyteller and naturalist Potter; this is a sweet story, especially for those who enjoy the historical cozys. [KO]

Jane Jeffrey and neighbor Shelly are on the track of a killer stalking the college theatre production in Jill Churchill's *A Midsummer's Night Scream* (Avon, \$6.99). In between mystery writing, needlepoint lessons and monitoring the caterers, these suburban moms finally get the bad guys after a thoroughly charming series of adventures.



Sharon Fiffer carries on the Jane Wheel series in fine style with *Buried Stuff* (SMP, \$6.99) where Jane returns to her hometown at the request of her mother because a neighbor has found mysterious fragments of bone buried on his property. Archaeology soon mixes with real estate development and then murder in this funny addition to a series filled with facts about collectibles.

David Handler mixes elements of the classic mystery with contemporary characters in *The Burnt Orange Sunrise* (SMP, \$6.99), the latest in the series with the unlikely duo of film critic Mitch

Berger and Connecticut State Trooper Desiree Mitry. An ice storm traps them, along with other guests, in a local knock-off castle where the murder victim appears to have died in a locked room. As further guests begin dying, Berger and Mitry face the deadliest challenge of their lives.



The settings the thing

Kirk Mitchell's *Dance of the Thunder Dogs* (Berkley, \$7.99) focuses on Emmett Parker, half of the usual duo in his fine series. Parker, badly wounded, has finally returned to his home in Oklahoma but among his Comanche brethren he finds discord related to a class action suit and a fight over oil revenue. Surprisingly, Parker soon finds himself the subject of a manhunt and a murder charge—all the result of his trying to help an old friend. An outstanding novel, especially for those who enjoy Indian lore mixed with their mystery.

For *The Warlord's Son* (Vintage, \$13.95) Dan Fesperman switches locales to Afghanistan in this vibrant, wholly authentic novel. Burnt-out newsman Skelly returns to war zone reporting searching for a story in Peshawar and hooking up with a young Afghan who serves as his translator and guide or "fixer." The young man's family and history are on a collision course with Skelly's story in this novel that will teach you more about Afghanistan and its intractable problems in 322 pages than weeks of watching CNN.

I discovered Siri Paiboun, the 72 year old National Coroner of Laos, in Colin Cotterill's second book but you can start at the beginning with *The Coroner's Lunch* (Soho, \$11). It's 1972 and the Pathet Lao have taken over and appointed Siri to his position for which he has no training—he's just the only doctor around who hasn't fled. Much
Please see New Arrivals in Paper, page 13

Need a book? Not a mystery? Not a problem, we'll order it

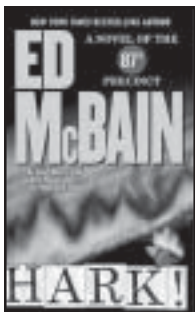
New Paperbacks continued from page 12

like Alexander McCall Smith's Precious Ramotswe, Siri confronts a variety of cases while helping the reader understand Laotian society while he meanders towards a solution to the various mysteries which he arrives at almost accidentally. Completely charming.

Hard boiled crime

With *Twisted* (Ballantine, \$7.99) Jonathan Kellerman returns to the Petra Connor character introduced in *Billy Straight* in this fast-moving tale of serial murder. One unusual aspect is that the murders take place on the same date, a year apart, and there have been six so far. Assisted by a whiz-kid intern with dual degrees in epidemiology and biostatistics, Connor penetrates the heart of a dark mystery. A nice change of pace.

Robert Reuland's *Semiautomatic* (Ballantine, \$13.95) is the hard-hitting sequel to *Hollowpoint* with wise-cracking Brooklyn DA Andrew Giobberti rescued from exile in the Appeals Bureau to prosecute the accused killer of a local grocer. Reuland's own background as a DA informs his books with raw authenticity and his writing is colorful and evocative.



Can it be? The Deaf Man returns in Ed McBain's *Hark* (Pocket, \$7.99), the newest 87th Precinct novel and vengeance is the name of the game this time. And just to play with your mind, the Deaf Man has anagrams, palindromes and other word games. For those of you who like a little humor with your gritty crime, you can't beat McBain.

In Stephanie Kane's powerful *Seeds of Doubt* (Pocket, \$7.99) a six-year-old is missing and the city goes on high alert. When his body is found at a local park, suspicion falls on a woman with a notorious past: Rachel Boyd, who was recently paroled after serving thirty years for the murder of a young playmate. Jackie Flowers does more than take

Rachel's case; she brings Rachel into her home. As history threatens to repeat itself, Jackie is forced to confront whether anyone can truly be redeemed.



richer than he should be, in a case with ties to the father that Spur hasn't seen since he was eleven years old. A well-written, exciting sequel.

Karen Slaughter's books just keep getting better. In *Indelible* (Harper, \$7.99) Sara Linton, small town pediatrician and coroner, and ex-husband Chief of Police Jeffrey Tolliver are held in a tense and violent hostage situation. The history of their relationship becomes a focus to the resolution of events. Slaughter maintains the pace of the plot while allowing for the continued development of her ensemble of characters.

Best of British

David Lawrence's outstanding debut, *Circle of the Dead* (Leisure, \$6.99), is now available in the US allowing readers to enjoy the first of the DS Stella Mooney series. Four bodies found in an apartment—three poisoned, one stabbed—seems like the start to a clever puzzle mystery of the old school but you'll soon find yourself in the midst of the seediest parts of London's public housing as the investigation proceeds. DS Stella Mooney, who has never quite shaken off her background in the council flats, is the central character in this excellent police procedural that covers quite a bit of ground from drugs to prostitution. Original title was *The Dead Sit Round in a Ring*.

In Martin Edwards' compelling debut, *The Coffin Trail* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95), Oxford historian Daniel Kind moves to a

cottage in England's Lake District to build a new life with a new love. But the cottage, once home to an autistic youth suspected of a brutal murder, and its surroundings have a part in Daniel's past as well. While researching the area's darker history Daniel cannot help but stir up the more recent past as well, initiating a cold case investigation by the local DCI Hannah Scarlet, and lots of local resentment. I'm looking forward to more in this series. [LM]

Ruth Rendell's *The Rottweiler* (Vintage, \$13) is a chilling novel of suspense that begins with a series of murders centered around the Lisson Grove section of London. Suspicion falls on an antiques shop where items taken from the victims begin to turn up. As we follow various characters who pass through the store we realize that one of them is likely the next victim. Classic Rendell, totally satisfying.

Classic English country house murder is on the agenda with Carola Dunn's charming *A Mourning Wedding* (Kensington, \$6.50). Daisy Dalrymple and spouse Alec Fletcher are attending a friend's country house wedding when an elderly relative is found strangled. Daisy and Alec will sort out a dizzying array of suspects and motives in this beautifully done mystery in the traditional mode.



Fans of John Mortimer's irascible and talented Horace Rumpole (of the Bailey) will be thrilled to finally get the lowdown on his most celebrated case. Yes, *Rumpole and the Penge Bungalow Murders* (Penguin, \$14) will take us back to those post-war days when Rumpole was a "white wig" and had yet to marry She Who Must Be Obeyed. A delightful novel in which Rumpole defends a young man accused of double murder and wins the hand of the fair Hilda. A treat.

It's no mystery...

An assortment of interesting books that, although not mysteries, we thought would appeal to our customers. Remember, when it comes to books, MLB can get it for you. We're more than happy to order any book you want, mystery or not.

As a long time fan of the writing of E L Doctorow, I took a vacation from mystery reading to savor the latest, *The March* (Random House, \$25.95). This narrative of Sherman's march through Georgia and the Carolinas that ended the Confederate rebellion is brilliant. Through the eyes and ears of the fragments of souls affected, Doctorow again gives voice to a powerful historical event.

Joseph J. Ellis, author of *Founding Brothers*, has written a compelling and landmark biography of our first president in *His Excellency: George Washington* (Random, \$15). Drawing upon newly released papers from the University of Virginia, Ellis takes us from the young and ambitious Washington eager to advance in

the ranks of the British Army through his career as a plantation owner and on to his victories in the Revolutionary War, his presidency that knit the states into a nation and his retirement. A sweeping, startling and thoroughly readable biography.

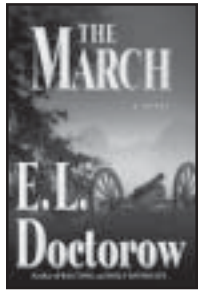
Non-fiction but it's a mystery nonetheless. Jonathan Harr writes the exciting tale of a real life adventure of Francesca Cappelletti, a young Italian graduate student and her discovery of an obscure reference to a long lost painting known as the Taking of Christ by Caravaggio. Harr details the spellbinding tale of Francesca's determination and hard work that take us on voyage of discovery in *The Lost Painting* (Random House, \$24.95) [JA]

The Plot Against America (Vintage, \$14.95) is Philip Roth's startling rewrite of American history beginning with the election of Lindbergh as president in 1940

and the signing of a non-aggression pact with Hitler. Narrated by a young boy not unlike Roth, we see an America transformed by the goal of making Jews into "good Americans." An astonishing work of imagination, suspenseful as any thriller yet filled with Roth's unique viewpoint.

The Secret Lives of Fortunate Wives (Dutton, \$23.95) is Sarah Strohmeyer's suburban shocker that preceded the popular *Desperate Housewives*. Hunting Hills, Ohio is the privileged community pilloried with the wit of this talented author of the Bubbles Yablonsky mystery series. When scandal rocks their world, we see who is fragile and

who has the real strength to weather the storm.



Just Published...continued from page 10

client has been framed makes Haller reconsider his professional life in disturbing ways. A classic Connelly full of wonderful writing, fascinating bad guys and a smooth-running plot.

Just like an episode of *Law & Order*,



Brian Freeman's debut *Immoral* (St. Martin's, \$22.95) is neatly divided into the investigation of a missing teen, Rachel Deese, and the trial of her stepfather for her murder. Jonathon Stride is the Duluth

cop who ties these halves together. Freeman neatly describes the investigative process as Stride and his partner Maggie Bei try to unravel the various secrets in Rachel's life as well as those of mother and stepfather as well as various

classmates. Everyone has guilty secrets but not all of them bear on the disappearance. An excellent first book—I'll be looking for Jonathan Stride's next appearance.

Nicholas Kilmer's art world mysteries have been a major source of enjoyment for many for years. In *Madonna of the Apes* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95) Kilmer pulls a fast one and "introduces" his investigator of long-standing, Fred Taylor. As a veteran of unmentionable clandestine acts in service to our country, Fred is more than a little eccentric and is therefore totally suited to looking out for - protecting - his unworldly employer - Reed. When Reed acquires a heretofore unknown painting by Leonardo da Vinci - of questionable provenance - Fred has his work cut out for him. He must protect Reed from the shady sellers and help obtain a verifiable history or the

ownership of the painting - without letting the bad guys getting hold of the painting once more. The earlier *Lazarus Arise* is just out in paper. [JW]

Sam Russell awakens with his car in a ditch, a woman's shoe in the trunk, blood under his fingernails and no recollection of what happened in Jonnie



Jacob's excellent standalone suspenser *The Only Suspect* (Kensington, \$23). With his wife missing, Sam is an obvious suspect for detective Hannah Montgomery who can't quite get a

handle on Sam or his missing wife who he doesn't seem to know much about. Absorbing reading with an interesting pair of characters.

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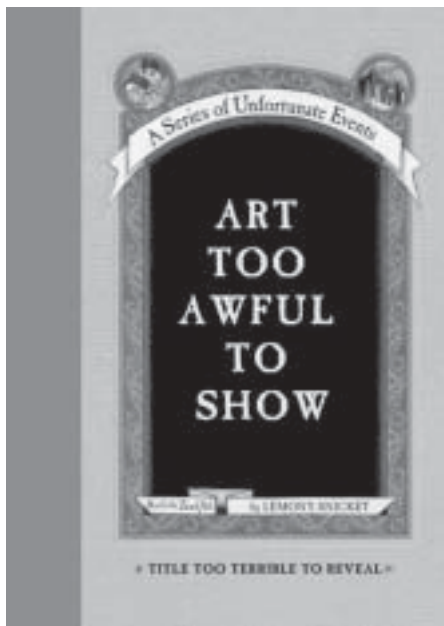
Coming Events

- Monday, October 31 9 PM TO MIDNIGHT **Fifteenth Halloween Birthday** for MLB. Join us for ten cent book sale, free cappuccino and the hardcover of your choice for \$15.
- Monday, November 7 7:30 PM **Alexander McCall Smith** at Pittsburgh Arts & Lectures. We have a special package available with lecture and book at \$31.95.
- Saturday, November 12 10 AM **Jonathan Santlofer** is our guest for a Coffee & Crime breakfast with his art-themed mystery *The Killing Art*. Reservation needed, \$5.
- Saturday, November 19 10 AM Cordelia Biddle & Steve Zettler who write as **Nero Blanc** join us with *A Crossworder's Delight*, latest of their puzzle-themed mysteries.
- Thursday, November 24 ALL DAY **Turkey Day**. Enjoy your bird. Friday, November 25 we'll be open regular hours ready to kick off the holiday season.
- Monday, December 6 **Holiday Hours** start, Monday to Friday 'til 8 pm until Friday, December 23. Christmas Eve, December 24, we'll close at 3 pm.
- Sunday, December 25 ALL DAY **Christmas Day** and **First Night of Hanukkah**. Yep, it's true, same day so we'll actually be closed twice on that day. Enjoy your holiday(s).

October 18: A day to forget

I'm sorry to have to tell you that October 18, a day in which it would be better if you stayed home; or better yet, didn't get out of bed at all, will be the on-sale date for the twelfth in Lemony Snicket's hard to bear Series of Unfortunate Events.

The new book is so awful, so full of horrific events that we hesitate to even tell you about it. If you insist, we'll sell it to you. The title? Three words beginning with "The."



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