

NEWS

MYSTERY LOVERS BOOKSHOP

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February-March 2006

Hours: 10 to 5 Monday to Saturday, Noon to 4 Sunday



Lisa Scottoline Monday, March 20

MLB and national best seller Lisa Scottoline will visit on Monday, March 20 at 7 pm for a talk and signing. If you've been to one of Lisa's previous appearances you know to expect: a completely entertaining evening.

Dirty Blonde is the book and the central character is a judge with secrets. Buy two copies, one for a friend, and get a roomy tote bag as a special gift from Lisa. Please call if you can join us.

**Festival of
Mystery
April 24.
See the back
cover for a
preview**



David Liss Thursday, April 6

David Liss will be appearing at Animal Friends on Camp Horne Road on Thursday, April 6 at 2 and 7:30 pm. All proceeds benefit Animal Friends and we'll be doing book sales of *The Ethical Assassin*, his new book. Please call Animal Friends at (412) 847-7055 for details.

Marty Smith & Pat Kiger Friday, April 7 at 6 pm

Pittsburgh's own Marty Smith and Pat Kiger have a delightful new book, *Oops: 20 Life Lessons from the Fiascos That Shaped America* and they'll be celebrating publication on Friday, April 7 at 6 pm. All are welcome to the party.



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Just Published...

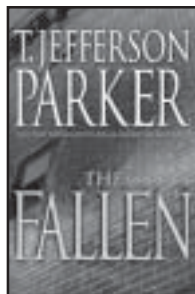
Lisa Scottoline's latest, *Dirty Blonde* (Harper, \$25.95) is a terrific turn from the thriller with lawyers to a sexy female federal judge with a dirty little secret. This one's got it all—murder, suicide, tabloids,



wit and a riveting plot that peaks in the burning remains of Centralia, Pennsylvania, the birthplace of the Honorable Cate Fante. Here's one smart cookie you will grow to love. Meet Lisa, hear the thrilling

backstory on *Dirty Blonde* and get a hug on Monday, March 20 at 7 pm in the store or order your signed copy now.

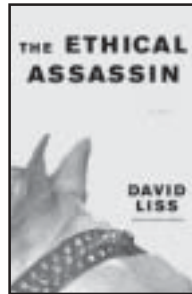
Another extraordinary novel from T. Jefferson Parker in *The Fallen* (Morrow, \$24.95) which follows the investigation of San Diego homicide cop Robbie Brownlaw into the killing of an ex-cop who was an investigator for the city's Ethic Authority. Brownlaw suffers from synesthesia, a result of a dramatic fall from a third story window described in the book's opening pages, and now sees spoken words as colored shapes associated with the speaker's emotional state—a bit of a primitive lie detector. All of Parker's strengths as a writer are on display: a complex plot, a sympathetic protagonist dealing with issues beyond the investigation and a clear-eyed view of the southern California landscape that Parker has made his own.



David Liss moves from historical thriller right into Carl Hiaasen territory with *The Ethical Assassin* (Ballantine, \$24.95). Young encyclopedia salesman Lem Altick witnesses the murder of two prospective customers by a killer who then moves on to a bit of eco-terrorism and other wild escapades in a book that will

keep you entertained while raising important issues regarding animal cruelty. David Liss will be appearing at a fundraiser for Animal Friends at their new facility on Camp Horne Road on Thursday, April 6 at 2 and 7:30. We'll be doing the book sales.

For further information call Animal Friends at (412) 847-7055.



Suspense at its best

William Bernhardt returns with the 14th installment in the always fascinating and instructive series of legal thrillers starring Tulsa attorney Ben Kinkaid. In *Capitol Murder* (Ballantine, \$25.95), Kinkaid experiences a radical change of venue as he heads to Washington, D.C. and its attendant morass of political corruption and intrigue. If you haven't gotten enough of Washington scandal from your daily newspaper, the politically astute *Capitol Murder* will bridge the gap. [LM]

What if you could opt out of a slow painful death or buy insurance to protect yourself from a life confined to a bed.

What if you could hire somebody to kill you to avoid a life not worthy living? What if you changed your mind? Stephen White's new thriller, *Kill Me* (Dutton, \$25.95), kept me up all night to find out. This book goes beyond the engaging page turner and looks hard at one man's evolving realization of a life well-lived. Smart, tight writing with dry humor, this book should be on your list. [JW]



Newcomer Joshua Spanogle puts his

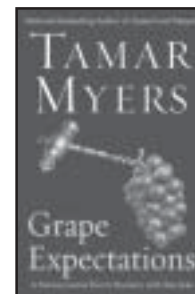
medical training to use in the fast-paced and authentic medical thriller *Isolation Ward* (Delacorte, \$22). Three patients afflicted with an unknown virus present a puzzle for CDC investigator Nathaniel McCormick but politically motivated hindrances to his work create a potentially deadly situation. A fast moving and enjoyable debut.

Quick takes

James Patterson's Women's Murder Club moves on to *The 5th Horseman* (Little, Brown, \$27.95).

A new resident of Hamish Macbeth's highland village is the victim in M.C. Beaton's *Death of a Dreamer* (Mysterious, \$23.95).

Police chief Jesse Stone gets the case of his career in Robert B. Parker's *Sea Change* (Putnam, \$24.95) when a wealthy heiress is murdered aboard a sailboat in his little Massachusetts town.



Magdalena Yoder and the eccentric populace of Hernia, Pennsylvania are at it again in *Grape Expectations* (NAL, \$19.95) the latest comic caper from Tamar Myers.

J.D. Robb sheds a bit of light on Eve Dallas's past in *Memory in Death* (Putnam, \$24.95); a great winter read.

Lisa Gardner gets the heart rate elevated in the suspenser *Gone* (Bantam, \$25) with kidnapping and more on the agenda.

Crozet, Virginia feuds about wine in Rita Mae Brown's *Sour Puss* (Bantam, \$25) with Mrs. Murphy et al on the case.

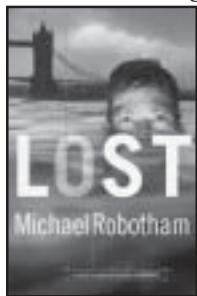
Cops & robbers

In *The Dead Yard: A Novel* (Scribner, \$24), Adrian McKinty continues in the tradition of Ken Bruen, delivering another quick-paced, yet elegant, thriller featuring

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Michael Forsythe, who made his first appearance in the acclaimed *Dead I May Well Be*. In this witty novel characterized by brusque, powerful dialogue, Michael must assist the FBI by infiltrating an IRA terrorist cell in the U.S., a task which turns out to be even more dangerous than it initially seems. Born in Northern Ireland and educated at Oxford, McKinty capitalizes on his background in crafting *The Dead Yard*, a novel sure to keep you reading late into the night. And the next morning you will want to check out Adrian McKinty's backlist titles, including the eloquent *Hidden River*. [LM]

Peter Blauner's *Slipping Into Darkness* (Little, Brown, \$24.95) runs on parallel tracks as we follow NYPD cop Francis Loughlin as he reinvestigate a twenty year old homicide and simultaneously we follow Julian Vega, the man he jailed for the murder, who has been released on procedural issues possibly to face retrial. Blauner imbues both characters with extraordinary vividness as Loughlin begins to face up to two decades of doubts about his original investigation and as Julian struggles with the anger of false imprisonment and his utter unpreparedness for life on the outside. A striking novel.



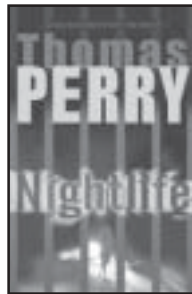
Michael Robotham's excellent *Lost* (Doubleday, \$24.95) brings back psychologist Joe O'Laughlin from his earlier *Suspect* but the protagonist is cop Vincent Ruiz, also from the earlier book. We open on Ruiz

clinging to a buoy in the Thames, nearly dead from exposure and a gunshot wound with no recollection of how he got there. The rest of the book is Ruiz's painful, sometimes dangerous, attempt to disentangle himself from the mess that he evidently got himself into when he doesn't even remember if he was a good guy or bad. Suspenseful to the very last page.

The Two Minute Rule (S&S, \$24.95) is an absorbing standalone novel by Robert Crais that begins with Max Holman's release from prison after a ten year stretch for bank robbery. Reformed and looking to connect with his son, who is now an LA

police officer, he finds that the son has been gunned down, along with three other officers, the very day of his release. What follows is a wonderful character study combined with an investigation into the young man's death that will keep you riveted. A fine and complex book.

The latest Thomas Perry, *Nightlife* (Random, \$24.95), brings back memories of the earlier Jane Whitfield books with a young woman who sheds identities as easily as clothes and creates new ones in a moment. Unfortunately, she's also a cold-blooded killer with a Portland detective, Catherine Hobbes, and an LA PI, Joe Pitt, hot on her trail. With alternating points of view Perry builds a suspenseful narrative as we compare what the police think they know with what is actually happening. Gripping from page one.



Pure thrills

In *The Prayers for the Assassin* (Scribner, \$24.95) Robert Ferrigno brilliantly evokes a possible future in which most of the US becomes an Islamic republic. The year is 2040 and the southern states remain a holdout of Christian dogmatism, Las Vegas is a free city and New York and Washington lie in ruins from a nuclear attack perpetrated by Israel who attempted to make it appear the work of Islamic terrorists. The truth of that Zionist attack provides the spring for the plot but the real interest lies in Ferrigno's well thought out depiction of how life would evolve under such circumstances. An absorbing and thought-provoking thriller.

Pure thrills

In the aftermath of a really awesome hurricane, Doc Ford and his friends must rebuild their homes and jobs as well as deal with shady developers and a mysterious and romantic woman in Randy Wayne White's *Dark Light* (Putnam, \$24.95). Ford and Tomlinson fall for the same woman who needs them the investigate a sunken 1944 ship that may contain the answers to a mystery related to Nazi's and spies in their South Florida

home. Multiple murders and shady characters abound (as usual). This book is totally up to White's standards, which are high. The South Florida location is quite a draw at this time of year. [JW]

A cracking good yarn is what they would have called John Gardner's *Troubled Midnight* (St. Martin's, \$23.95) as Detective Sergeant Suzie Mountford investigates the double murder of the commander of a glider regiment and his married lover in December 1944. The looming invasion of Europe provides the heart of the plot as Gardner devises a clever twist on the "stealing the D-Day secrets" plot. Completely enjoyable.

The very same secret figures in the plot of Robert J. Mrazek's *The Deadly Embrace* (Viking, \$24.95) which finds a brilliant forensic pathologist and her boss, a NY cop, in London tracking a killer who has a preference for young girls with access to the secrets of Operation Overlord.

Britain and beyond

At the opening of *Old Wine Shades* (Viking, \$25.95), the splendid twentieth in Martha Grimes' series, Richard Jury is on suspension as a result of events in the previous book. With time on his hands he happens on a fellow at the pub of the title and proceeds to become involved in a bizarre missing persons case involving a mother, her autistic son and their dog. The reappearance of the dog nine months after the disappearance is only one of the mysteries that Jury will probe in this thoroughly enjoyable combination of mystery, suspense and humor.

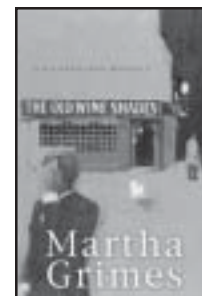
A wonderful new psychological thriller by Ruth Rendell writing as Barbara Vine in *The Minotaur* (Crown, \$25). At the center of the plot is John Cosway, a mathematical prodigy labeled by his mother and four sisters as a schizophrenic. The narrator is a Swedish nurse hired to care for him and she gradually comes to believe that he is

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Please see *Just Published*, page 4

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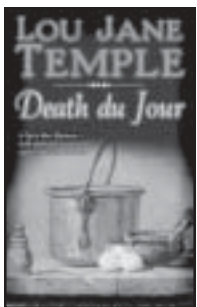
being kept in a drugged state so that the family can keep control of the estate. There is a murder but Vine's evocation of the family and the family home and village are really at the forefront of this novel.

Author Hakan Nesser has been a top selling author in Europe for years and he finally comes to the US with *Borkmann's Point* (Pantheon, \$22.95); a police procedural with a human twist. Chief Inspector Van Veeteeren has been called out of the big city to a small town in Sweden to assist the locals in the apprehension of a serial axe-murder. This is nothing like the American or even British counterparts - the link between the murders, the relationship between the officers involved make this a character driven story. You will fall for the Chief Inspector as I did and wait impatiently for the next installment. [JW]

Fans of Scandinavian mystery will enjoy Kjell Eriksson's *The Princess of Burundi* (St. Martin's, \$23.95) as Inspector Ann Lindell investigates the death of the town troublemaker who is also an expert in tropical fish—thus the title. A character-driven mystery and a good bet for Henning Mankell fans.

History with mystery

History with mystery doesn't get much better than in Lou Jane Temple's latest Spice Box Mystery, *Death du Jour* (Berkley,



\$23.95). It is the summer of 1730 and Paris is in the heat of revolution which complicates things for a young chef who works for a wealthy family and finds her first love. Whether larceny or leadership dwells in their hearts,

many folks mean danger for some of the grandest homes and inhabitants. A brilliant plot and comprehensive research bring readers along for the trip when the bright Fanny Delarue tries to avoid her own demise and track down a killer. A fabulous trip!

The Empress of India (St. Martin's,

\$24.95) is another of Michael Kurland's unique Sherlock Holmes pastiches with a difference. The difference is that Moriarity, rather than being the Napoleon of crime as supposed by Holmes, is simply a brilliant mathematician and scholar who is ceaselessly hounded by an obsessed Holmes. A shipment of gold from India is the focus of evil intent by several people in this cleverly plotted period mystery that takes us from London to Bombay and points in between. A rip-roaring adventure.



Steve Hockensmith introduces his cowboy sleuths, Old Red and Big Red in the delightful *Holmes on the Range* (St. Martin's, \$22.95). In Montana in 1839 the two cowboy

Amlingmeyer brothers

attempt to solve two murders on the range using the guiding principles of their hero Sherlock Holmes. One of the corpses has been trampled unrecognizably by cattle and the other is found murdered in the outhouse. Are they related or is the first murder an accident? This is an amusing and at the same time compelling story. It is definitely quirky and action packed. [JW]

A psychoanalyst and a police detective team up to solve an impossible murder in Frank Tallis's clever and atmospheric *A Death in Vienna* (Grove, \$22). It's the turn of the century and Vienna is full of intellectual ferment—not least, the insights of Freud—as Max Lieberman is recruited by his friend Detective Oscar Werner to investigate the murder of a medium found in a locked room, dead of a gunshot wound with no gun and no bullet in the body. A colorful and puzzling mystery.

Templar redux

Whatever obscurity the Knights Templar might have fallen into after their violent dissolution by King Philip in 1307 has surely been remedied by Dan Brown and his followers.

Raymond Khoury's *The Last Templar* (Dutton, \$24.95) starts with a bang as four horsemen, dressed as Templars, burst into the Metropolitan Museum and make off with a pile of Vatican loot including a mysterious device. A breathless chase then ensues involving an attractive archaeologist and a hunky FBI agent who pursue the bad guy across several continents in search of Templar treasure and secrets of the Catholic Church. Very entertaining with some interesting history thrown in.

Meanwhile, Steve Berry moves onto the legend of the Knights Templar in *The Templar Legacy* (Ballantine, \$24.95) after taking on the Romanovs and the Fatima prophecy in earlier books. Berry has, in a short period, become one of my favorites in the school of historical conspiracy thriller and he keeps it up in this latest that takes on the Templars. Ex-Department of Justice agent Cotton Malone is the protagonist who witnesses a purse snatcher who kills himself rather than be captured. Intrigued, he follows up and becomes enmeshed in a hunt for the storied treasures of the Knights Templar. Tremendously entertaining with plenty of puzzles and secret codes along with gun battles and romance.

In a related theme Javier Sierra's *The Secret Supper* (Atria, \$25.95) takes a look at secrets in DaVinci's Last Supper as a papal inquisitor is sent to Milan to determine if the famous painting (not a fresco) contains



hidden messages. Plenty of absorbing history and papal intrigue in this international best seller now available in the US.

The search for the Holy Grail is at the center of Kate Mosse's *The Labyrinth* (Putnam, \$25.95) that follows a modern-day archaeologist as she discovers clues in a French cave and a young woman in 13th century Carcassone who is entrusted with secrets of the grail as her Cathar Christian sect is wiped out. Wholly entertaining with some good historical background.

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

- Adam, Paul; *The Rainaldi Quartet* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); the murder of an elderly violin maker kicks off a search for a missing Stradivarius
- Allen, Conrad; *Murder on the Oceanic* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); ship's detectives George Porter Dillman and Genevieve Masefield take a cruise with J.P. Morgan
- Alleyn, Susanne; *Game of Patience* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); investigator tracks murderer in post-revolutionary Paris
- Apodaca, Jennifer; *Thrilled to Death* (Kensington, \$22); dating service owner Samantha Shaw
- Archer, Jeffrey; *False Impression* (St. Martin's, \$27.95); the murder of an aristocratic and old lady and the theft of a Van Gogh is the start of this satisfying thriller
- Bass, Jefferson; *Carved in Stone* (Morrow, \$24.95); forensic anthropologist Bill Brockton, a stand-in for the author who founded the famous Body Farm
- Berenson, Laurien; *Dog Eat Dog* (Kensington, \$6.99); Melanie Travers, reissue
- Bernhardt, William; *Dark Eye* (Fawcett, \$7.50); standalone pits disgraced Las Vegas cop with unlikely partner against psychotic killer with an Edgar Allan Poe fixation
- Black, Cara; *Murder in Montmartre* (Soho, \$23); Parisian PI Aimee LeDuc
- Born, James O.; *Escape Clause* (Putnam, \$25.95) and *Shock Wave* (Berkley, \$7.99); Florida state cop Bill Tasker
- Bowen, Peter; *Nails* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); cattle brand inspector Gabriel Du Pre
- Brandon, Jay; *Grudge Match* (Forge, \$7.99); DA Chris Sinclair
- Bruen, Ken; *The Dramatist* (St. Martin's, \$22.95); Galway ex-cop Jack Taylor
- Christie, Agatha; *Masterpieces of Mystery and the Unknown* (SMP, \$15.95); classics including "Witness for the Prosecution"
- Crais, Robert; *The Forgotten Man* (Ballantine, \$7.99); Elvis Cole re-discovers his father
- *Death Called to the Bar* (C&G, \$25); aristocratic Edwardian sleuth Sir Francis Powerscourt
- Donohue, John; *Deshi* (Onyx, \$7.99); martial arts student Connor Burke
- Dugoni, Robert; *The Jury Master* (Warner, \$24.95); recurring nightmare brings lawyer, CIA agent and cop into exposing conspiracy
- Eversz, Robert; *Zero to the Bone* (Scribner, \$23); tabloid photographer Nina Zero
- Farmer, Jerrilyn; *Desperately Seeking Sushi* (Harper, \$23.95); event planner Madelyn Bean
- Finder, Joseph; *Company Man* (SMP, \$7.99); CEO enmeshed in criminal case
- Francis, Dick; *Knockdown and Straight* (both Berkley, \$7.99); reissues
- Garcia-Roza, Alfredo; *Pursuit* (Holt, \$23); Rio de Janeiro cop Inspector Espinosa
- Garwood, Julie; *Slow Burn* (Ballantine, \$7.99); woman stalked by mad bomber
- Glass, Leslie; *For Love and Money* (Ballantine, \$6.99); stockbroker caught up in family crisis and stolen bonds
- Grange, Jean-Christophe *The Empire of the Wolves* (Harper, \$13.95); riveting thriller set in Paris
- Green, Tim; *Exact Revenge* (Warner, \$6.99); political candidate framed for murder
- Greenberg, Martin H., editor; *The Ghosts of Baker Street* (C&G, \$16.95); Holmes tales with a supernatural twist
- Hackman, Gene and Daniel Lenihan; *Justice for None* (SMP, \$6.99); crime novel set in 1929
- Hall, Oakley; *Ambrose Bierce and the Ace of Shoots* (Penguin, \$14); Ambrose Bierce sleuth
- Hamilton, Denise; *Savage Garden* (Pocket, \$7.99); LA Times reporter finds death at the theater
- Handler, David; *Sweet Golden Parachute* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); film critic Mitch Berger and cop Desiree Mitry
- Havill, Steven F.; *Statue of Limitations* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman
- Henry, Sue; *Murder at Five Finger Light* (Onyx, \$6.99); Alaska mystery with Jessie Arnold
- Housewright, David; *A Hard Ticket Home* (Leisure, \$6.99); Edgar-winner launches a new series with Minnesota PI Mac McKenzie
- Hughes, Declan; *The Wrong Kind of Blood* (Harper, \$23.95); expat Dublin PI returns home searches for missing husband
- Jefferson, Roland S.; *Damaged Goods* (Atria, \$13); bank robber released from prison to catch one of his own
- Joe, Yolanda; *Video Cowboys* (Pocket, \$6.99); Chicago reporter Georgia Barnett
- Johnson, Craig; *Death Without Company* (Viking, \$23.95); Sheriff Walt Longmire from *The Cold Dish* returns
- Kaminsky, Stuart M.; *Terror Town* (Forge, \$23.95); Chicago cop Abe Lieberman
- Kava, Alex; *Necessary Evil* (Mira, \$21.95); profiler Maggie O'Dell
- Khadra, Yasmina; *Autumn of the Phantoms* (Toby, \$9.95); ends the trilogy of Algerian police inspector Brahim Llob
- Kurland, Michael, editor; *Sherlock Holmes: The Hidden Years* (SMP, \$14.95); anthology covers years after Holmes "death"
- Lawton, John; *A Little White Death* (Grove, \$23) and *Flesh Wounds* (Grove, \$12); Chief Inspector Freddie Troy, '50s London
- McCarry, Charles; *The Last Supper* (Overlook, \$24.95); CIA agent Paul Christopher, reissue

Please see Also Noted, page 10

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

New Arrivals in Paperback

Best sellers

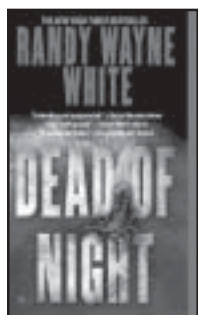
A new Matt Scudder book from Lawrence Sanders is always welcome and *All the Flowers Are Dying* (Harper, \$7.99) doesn't disappoint in a complex tale of a death row inmate who claims innocence.

Michael Connelly brings Harry Bosch back to the LAPD in the compelling *The Closers* (Warner, \$7.99) where he joins the elite cold case squad.

The basement of a newly renovated Edinburgh bar yields the bones of a woman and child in Ian Rankin's *Fleshmarket Alley* (LB, \$6.99), a dynamic entry in the John Rebus series.

Cold Service (Berkley, \$7.99) finds Boston PI Spencer defending and revenging his best pal Hawk in Robert B. Parker's latest for this fast-paced series.

DA Alexandra Cooper has a case with echoes of Poe in Linda Fairstein's *Entombed* (Pocket, \$9.99).

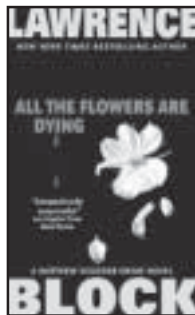


Doc Ford stumbles into the murder of an old friend's brother in Randy Wayne White's *Dead of Night* (Berkley, \$7.99).

Gabriel Allon returns in Daniel Silva's *Prince of Fire* (Signet, \$7.99). Plenty of action plus back-

ground on the history of Palestinian-Israeli relations add up to a satisfying read.

Thomas Lynley and Barbara Havers are on the case along Winston Nkanta in Elizabeth George's eagerly awaited *With No One as Witness* (Harper, \$7.99).



A woman is forced to return to the childhood home she would rather forget in Mary Higgins Clark's latest: *No Place Like Home* (Pocket, \$9.95).

Leaphorn and Chee are on the case as a stolen diamond from a fifty year old robbery surfaces in Tony Hillerman's *Skeleton Man* (Harper, \$7.99).

Further exploits for Precious Ramotswe and the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency in Alexander McCall Smith's *In the Company of Cheerful Ladies* (Anchor, \$12.95).

Tough guys & gals

John Connolly's outstanding crime novels flirt with the edge of horror fiction and nowhere more so than in *Black Angel* (Pocket, \$7.99) where Charlie Parker battles mysterious forces seek to reassemble a map that will lead them to a fallen angel—or so they believe. Heart-stopping action, achingly beautiful writing and a classically flawed hero.

Scott Frost's *Run the Risk* (Berkley, \$7.99) snagged an Edgar nomination and you'll see why in this exciting tale of Pasadena cop Alex Delillo who is chasing a serial killer-bomber. Interplay between single-mom Delillo and her partner add interest to a compelling tale with a clever villain who is way ahead of the cops and stays ahead of the reader as well.

Ridley Pearson puts out a thrilling and satisfying standalone featuring a US Marshal and a woman in the witness protection program in *Cut and Run* (Hyperion, \$7.99). The pace never lets up as the marshal races the clock with a hitman on the trail of the missing woman. Splendid action, great characters and a



knockout conclusion.

Not heard from since 1998, Kim Wozencraft put her time to good use in *Wanted* (SMP, \$6.99), an adrenaline rush thriller with two terrific women protagonists: a disgraced cop and a released bank robber who make a break to prove what really happened all those years ago.

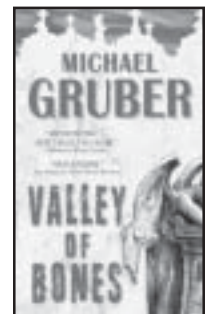
Ken Bruen's hard-edged series featuring ex-Galway cop Jack Taylor continues with *The Magdalen Martyrs* (SMP, \$12.95) who finds that returning a favor to an old friend leads to the wrong side of the law. A terrific series for Ian Rankin fans.

Superior Thrillers

David Ellis, who I've admired since his Edgar-winning *Line of Vision*, breaks all the rules in *In the Company of Liars* (Berkley, \$7.99) a knockout thriller written in reverse chronological sequence. A fascinating gimmick with which Ellis generates remarkable suspense as we try to figure out not what happens next but rather what happened before.

Tami Hoag pulls off another intriguing thriller in *Kill the Messenger* (Bantam, \$7.99) a tale of a bike messenger, attacked while delivering a package for a sleazy lawyer, who returns to the lawyer's office only to find him dead. Naturally, he's the prime suspect. An exciting ride.

Michael Gruber more than meets the promise of his debut *Tropic of Night* in the second Jimmy Paz book: *Valley of Bones* (Harper, \$7.99). A man is conked on the head and tossed off the balcony of his hotel room. Upstairs Miami homicide detective Paz finds Emmylou Dideroff, her prints on the bloody blunt instrument. A "grunder" is



Looking for a British publication? Ask us.

what Paz thinks but the woman's confession, really her autobiography; prove that this is anything but a simple case. Religious mania is the least of Paz's problems as he struggles to decide if Emmylou is nuts or possessed and, if the latter, by the God or the devil. Totally original and endlessly absorbing.

Steve Berry continues his string of entertaining thrillers based on historical facts with *The Third Secret* (Ballantine, \$7.99), which any Catholic school girl will immediately recognize as a reference to the Virgin Mary's apparition at Fatima. A fast-paced Vatican thriller that centers on a papal election that will determine the future of the Church.

Mystery so historic



Death at Blenheim Palace (Berkley, \$6.99) is the latest installment in Robin Paige's unfailingly entertaining Edwardian-set series featuring Kate and Charles Sheridan. A nice slice of history served up with style and wit.

Alas, what sweet sorrow: the last Bruce Alexander book. *Rules of Engagement* (Berkley, \$6.99) will have to suffice as the end of the story for Sir John Fielding and his protégé Jeremy. The suicide of a prominent aristocrat and the involvement of Dr. Mesmer picque Fielding's curiosity. A wonderful mystery set among the teeming streets of Georgian London.

Carrie Bebris continues her delightful Jane Austen add-on series with *Suspense and Sensibility* (Forge, \$6.99) the continued sleuthing adventures of Mr. and Mrs. Darcy. The search is on for a suitable husband for Elizabeth's sister but suspicious circumstances surrounding a potential groom may lead to murder. Start with *Pride and Prescience*.

Karen Harper's careful plotting and keen eye for Elizabethan historical detail render *Fyre Mirror* (SMP, \$6.99) a true delight to read. Best of all, though, is Harper's characterization of Elizabeth and her detecting acumen. [LM]

That endearing Roman sleuth returns

in *The Princess and the Pirates* (SMP, \$12.95) by John Maddox Roberts, a spirited rendering of ancient history that finds Falco out to clean the Med of pirates while protecting himself against the wiles of Cleopatra.

A police inspector in post-WW I Berlin investigates serial murders that include Rosa Luxembourg as a victim in Jonathan Rabb's *Rosa* (Three Rivers, \$14); a remarkable picture of Germany at a transitional moment.

Queen's man Justin de Quincy goes to Paris where King John asks for his help in Sharon Kay Penman's *Prince of Darkness* (Berkley, \$14). Wonderful color and setting, meticulous research and a good mystery; just what we expect from Penman.

It's an exciting return to feudal Japan in I.J. Parker's *Rashomon Gate* (Penguin, \$13), the book that introduced impoverished nobleman Sugawara Akitada. Full of the color and drama of the era, Parker does a fine job of keeping us entertained and informed.

Cozy favorites

Till the End of Tom (Fawcett, \$6.99) by Gillian Roberts finds Amanda Pepper on the eve of her wedding to C.K. Mackenzie but, of course, there's also the quite dead body.

Scandals and miracles rock the tiny town of Crozet, Virginia in Rita Mae Brown's *Cat's Eyewitness* (Bantam, \$7.50) another appearance for Mrs. Murphy and the rest of the crew.

Joanne Fluke's bakery owner Hanna Swenson is back to crime fighting in *Peach Cobbler Murder* (Kensington, \$6.99), another in this always entertaining series. The first, *Chocolate Chip Cookie Murder*, (Kensington, \$6.99) has just been reissued.

Don't miss the latest for tea shop owner Theodosia Browning in *Chamomile Mourning* (Berkley, \$6.99).

Lori Shepard is involved in investigating the death of a retired legal secretary in Nancy Atherton's *Aunt Dimity and the Next of King* (Penguin, \$7.99)

Round up the usual suspects as Max and Annie travel to a private island to investigate murder in Carolyn Hart's *Death of the Party* (Avon, \$6.99). A delightful whodunit in the Christie tradition.

Occupational sleuths

Lake of Sorrows (Pocket, \$7.50) is a fabulous follow-up to Erin Hart's debut *Haunted Ground* that brings back the duo of American pathologist Nora Gavin and Irish archaeologist Cormac Maguire. Although the mystery is first-rate, readers will be enthralled by the array of characters and Hart's



exploration of the intersections of modern Ireland with its long, sometimes bloody, history. First rate.

Park ranger Anna Pigeon and disabled climber Heath Jarrod make a fascinating pair at the center of Nevada Barr's absorbing and complex *Hard Truth* (Berkley, \$7.99). A case of missing teens in Rocky Mountain National Park provides this plot in this fascinating character study.

In Aaron Elkins' *Where There's a Will* (Berkley, \$6.99) "Skeleton Doctor" Gideon Oliver travels to Hawaii and an old crime. Loads of local color plus well-researched detail give readers a classic mystery experience with a clever sleuth and puzzling crime.

Susan Cummins Miller adds some geologic sleuthing to well-developed characters and a dramatic sense of place in *Detachment Fault* (Berkley, \$6.99) with Tucson geologist Frankie MacFarlane. A rich mystery well worth a read.

Welcome returns

A couple more titles from Felony & Mayhem that you may want to check out. *Dupe* (F&M, \$14.95) by Liza Cody which introduced London PI Anna Lee, one of the earliest female PI characters and delightfully irreverent.

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

Angie Amalfi heads to Jackpot, Arizona in her 13th adventure from Joanne Pence, *Red Hot Murder* (Avon, \$6.99), but where she and the handsome homicide detective



Paavo go, trouble soon follows. This delightful culinary series is a feast for mystery lovers and the trip to the tiny town that figures in Paavo's past turns out to be murder.

Dead Men Don't Lye (Berkley, \$6.99) by Tim Myers is the start of an all-new series introducing specialty soap store owner Benjamin Perkins, who runs the family business while keeping his quirky clan in line. Benjamin also learns that, when it comes to murder, there's no such thing as a clean getaway. Includes soapmaking tips.

Smoky Mountain Tracks (Signet, \$6.99) by Donna Ball brings rescuer Raine Stockton and her Golden Retriever Cisco back into the business when a mom and 6 year old daughter are kidnapped and taken into the forest. Smart debut.

Patricia Sprinkle's very Southern mysteries return with *Did You Declare the Corpse?* (Signet, \$6.99). Georgia magistrate MacLaren Yarbrough's on an ancestral tour to Scotland with a group of colorful characters when coffins pop up and put the southern sleuth to work.

Paul Levine returns with *The Deep Blue Alibi* (Bantam, \$6.99), a second Solomon vs. Lord mystery for all the fans he picked up the first time. Wonderfully entertaining (Think TV's "Moonlighting") the blue blood lawyer from Miami and the Coconut Grove beach bum attack each case with vigor and wit. Don't miss this series.

Murder Through the Ages (iBooks, \$13.95) is a winning anthology of historical mystery edited by Maxim Jakubowski including stories by Peter Tremayne, Kate Ellis, Lindsay Davis and others.

If you're looking for the roots of

detective fiction then *The Mammoth Book of Vintage Whodunnits* (C&G, \$13.95) is for you with Wilkie Collins, Edgar Allan Poe, E.W. Hornung and host of other early greats.

Jake Jakeman continues her fine series with Lord Ambrose Malfine in *Fool's Gold* (Berkley, \$13). He pines for a down-on-her-luck governess but she spurns him only to seek his help when the family doctor of her employer is poisoned in a murder made to look like suicide.

Political consultant Kate Boothe is hired by a shadowy organization in Michele Mitchell's *Our Girl in Washington* (Plume, \$14) and promptly runs into a murder in this fast-paced thriller informed by the author's spot at senior political commentator for CNN.

Lois Greman's got it. With *Unplugged* (Dell, \$6.99) L.A. psychologist Chrissy McMullen is back to prove that boobs, brass and brains make for one heck of a good time while hunting the lost geek proves wrought with peril. It's the laugh out loud funny inner life of this



sassy single and clever writing that will make you disappointed when it ends.

Good for you

Chocolate Dipped Death (Berkley, \$6.99) by Sammi Carter is a second sweet outing for Divinity's owner and candy maker Savannah Horne in Paradise, Colorado. Poisoned bonbons end the life of the town trouble maker and a sticky case begins.

Loon Lake angler Doc Osborne gets hooked on a triple homicide with a notorious local and two exotic dancers in *Dead Boogie* (Berkley, \$6.99) by Victoria Houston.

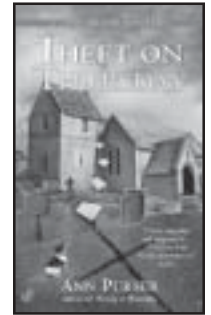
TV writer Lee Goldberg proves that blackmail can be deadly in the new

Diagnosis Murder mystery *The Dead Letter* (Signet, \$6.99).

The fifth and final mystery featuring LPGA golfer Cassie Burdette getting into condition for the big one—US Women's Open on the Mount Holyoke campus. High stakes and high danger in Roberta Isleib's excellent *Golf Lover's* mystery, *Final Fore* (Berkley, \$6.99).

Lois Meade is a contemporary mom from the city and a clever cleaner in the village of Long Farden in this charming series by Ann Purser. *Theft on Thursday* (Berkley, \$6.99) finds C I Cowgill seeking her sleuthing help in the case of the dead choirmaster. Love this one!

Queen sized PI Desiree Shapiro is on the trail of the killer of her new client's aunt in *Murder Can Run Your Stockings* (Signet, \$6.99). Selma Eichler cooks up a stew of motives and suspects for this feisty PI to savor in the 13th always entertaining series.



Up all night with these

Carla Neggers, the bestselling romantic suspense writer is back with *Breakwater* (Mira, \$7.99). This latest intrigue has conspiracy, vigilantes, murder and menace all on the steps of the idyllic cottage of former Justice Department employee and, perhaps, a new bodyguard. Good stuff.

Laurie Breton, another bestselling mistress of romantic suspense struts her stuff in *Criminal Intent* (Mira, \$6.99). When Robin Spinney confides in a friend the evidence that her deputy sheriff husband's death was no accident, he's found dead of an apparent suicide. She and her daughter are now in danger and she flees to a new identity in Serenity, Maine—which is anything but.

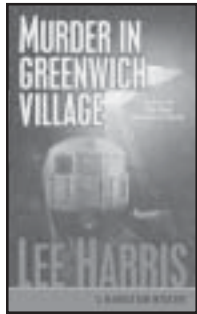
Baltimore cop Kay Delaney goes to a

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high school where they have made a grisly discovery in Ilona Haus' *Blue Valor* (Pocket, \$6.99), a sequel to *Blue Mercy*.

Allison Brennan wraps up the exciting trilogy begun in *The Prey* with *The Hunt* and *The Kill* (both Ballantine, \$6.99).

Lee Harris returns with NYPD cold case detective Jane Bauer and *Murder in Greenwich Village* (Fawcett, \$6.99), a third in this terrific series. Above and below ground, this writer knows the intrigues and menace that make New York such a rich crime scene to probe. This time a 10 year old cop



killing starts to action.

Linda Ladd's paperback debut is *Head to Head* (Pinnacle, \$6.99), an edgy thriller in the Lake of the Ozarks, Missouri. Homicide detective Claire Morgan investigates a grisly murder of celebrity from a wellness resort and the plot thickens.

Airlines industry PI Alex Shanahan returns in another thrill-a-minute episode in Lynne Heitman's *The Pandora Key* (Pocket, \$6.99). Embezzlement and an old

highjacking case collide in this exciting thriller full of insider info on airports and airlines.

Thriller writer Rebecca Forster proves her best-seller title in *Privileged Witness* (Signet \$7.99). A swift and sure third outing for the smart attorney Josie Baylor-Bates out to prove the innocence in the world of privilege.

An Unquiet Grave (Pinnacle, \$6.99) by P.J. Parrish unearths the secrets hidden in the ruins of a Michigan asylum and its graveyard.

Marcos M. Villatoro's Latina detective Romilia Chacon returns in *A Venom Beneath the Skin* (Dell, \$6.99). This fascinating hero is in a new FBI job and on the trail of a FBI agent's killer and legendary drug dealer from her past. Provocative page-turner you must try.

Celebrations to die for

Another wedding planner and amateur sleuth Carnegie Kincaid is awash in relatives and deadly doings on San Juan Island in *You May Now Kill the Bride* (Dell, \$5.99), Deborah Donnelly's latest cozy adventure for the witty Seattle magnet for murder.

Manor of Death (Dell, \$6.99) by Leslie Caine is a blueprint for murder as the

third Domestic Bliss mystery unfolds. Redecorating a haunted mansion uncovers layers of intrigue for the clever Interior Designer Erin Gilbert. Tips abound in this delightful package.

Thanksgiving dinner turns deadly when recovering attorney and clairvoyant Cally Lazar's Aunt Daphne keels over after the turkey dinner. *Final Intuition* (Berkley, \$6.99) by Claire Daniels uses every sense in finding the person who poisoned her aunt.

Fair Game (Jove, \$7.99) by Evan McNamara is an outdoor thriller set in the Colorado wilderness. Hunting accident or murder?



The fourth in Mark Schweizer's hilarious series, *The Soprano Wore Falsettos* (St. James, \$12.95), is hot off the press. Hayden Konig, sheriff of St. Germaine, North

Carolina; part time choir master and frustrated hard boiled novelist has it pretty good and figures that owning Raymond Chandler's typewriter is just what he needs to launch his writing career. Unfortunately a murder intervenes and he'll have to deal with that first. This latest in a wonderfully

Just Published...continued from page 4

Finally, Matilde Asensi takes on the location of the missing piece of the Cross in *The Last Cato* (Rayo, \$24.95) where a researcher finds clues in the Vatican that take her on a hunt guided by Dante's "The Divine Comedy" that will lead her to a secret brotherhood dedicated to concealing the relic.

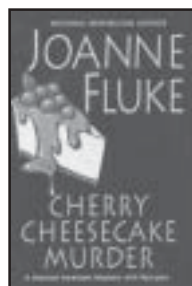
Meanwhile, still no news of a new Dan Brown.

Gentler kind of crime

Snappy dialogue, a likeable protagonist and mouth-watering recipes; all this and more is delivered in Susan Conant's *Steamed* (Berkley, \$22.95), a brand-new series written with her daughter Jessica. Chloe Carter is a twenty-something gourmet who thinks she's met the right guy online but on their first date he

turns out to be a jerk plus he gets killed sometime after dessert. Pure fun, with recipes.

Joanne Fluke scores with the latest tasty treat, *Cherry Cheesecake Murder* (Kensington, \$22.). Hannah's still balancing two proposals when an old friend comes to town with a movie and Lake Eden goes from cozy to cinematic and The Cookie Jar's business turns brisk with a daily order of the title for the lecherous director. Chock a block with recipes for sweet treats, especially the clever Mini Cherry Cheesecakes, this is the usual smart and



snappy mystery that is impossible to resist.

Meet Bo Tilley, the sheriff of Blight County, Idaho and the protagonist of Patrick McManus' debut *The Blight Way* (Scribner, \$24) a delightful tale full of sly humor, small town eccentrics—not least Bo's dad, the former sheriff—and a good mystery to boot. What an LA mobster was doing in Blight County and how he ended up hanging over a fence, dead, is only one of the questions you'll find answered in this terrific small-town mystery.

Quite Honestly (Viking, \$24.95) is a gently humorous sort-of crime novel by John Mortimer that pairs a naïve bishop's daughter and would-be do-gooder with her client, a pretty hardened

Please see Just Published, page 10

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

Also Noted continued from page 5

- Montanari, Richard; *The Rosary Girls* (Ballantine, \$7.99); serial killer targets Catholic school girls
- Montanari, Richard; *The Skin Gods* (Ballantine, \$24.95); killer recreating cinematic murder scenes
- Morgan, Jill editor; *Creature Cozies* (Berkley, \$6.99); pet-centric anthology by Carole Nelson Douglas, J.A. Jance and others
- Mountain, Fiona; *Bloodline* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); genealogy detective Natasha Blake
- Nelscott, Kris; *Days of Rage* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); Chicago PI Smokey Dalton
- O'Shaughnessy, Perri; *Sinister Shorts* (Delacorte, \$21); short story collection
- Paige, Robin; *Death on the Lizard* (Berkley, \$24.95); Edwardian sleuths Kate and Charles Sheridan
- Parker, Barbara; *Suspicion of Rage* (Signet, \$7.99); Miami lawyers Gail Connor and Anthony Quintana
- Parry, Owen; *Rebels of Babylon* (Harper, \$7.99); Civil War detective Abel Jones arrives in New Orleans
- Pawel, Rebecca; *The Summer Snow* (Soho, \$23); Spanish cop Carlos Tejada
- Pronzini, Bill; *Mourners* (Forge, \$24.95); Nameless detective
- Rankin, Ian; *Blood Hunt* (Little, Brown, \$24.95); reissue of a thriller written as Jack Early
- Riehl, Gene; *Sleeper* (SMP, \$6.99); FBI agent Puller Monk
- Riordan, Rick; *Mission Road* (Bantam, \$6.99); San Antonio PI Tres Navarre
- Robb, J.D.; *Origin in Death* (Berkley, \$7.99); futuristic cop Eve Dallas
- Roberts, Gillian; *A Hole in Juan* (Ballantine, \$23.95); Philadelphia prep school teacher Amanda Pepper
- Satterthwait, Walter; *Perfection* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); Sarasota cops hunt serial killer who targets the obese
- Schechter, Harold; *The Tell-Tale Corpse* (Ballantine, \$24.95); Edgar Allan Poe travels to Massachusetts and teams up with Louisa May Alcott
- Seymour, Gerald; *Unknown Soldier* (Overlook, \$15.95); intelligence agents track Al Queda operative
- Starling, Boris; *Vodka* (Onyx, \$7.99); disappointing, leaden crime novel set in Russia in 1991
- Swift, Virginia; *Hello, Stranger* (Harper, \$24.95); college prof Mustang Sally Adler
- Thurlo, Aimee and David; *White Thunder* (Forge, \$6.99); Navajo cop Ella Clah
- Tishy, Cecelia; *All In One Piece* (Mysterious, \$24.95); Reggie Cutter, Boston based psychic consultant to the cops
- Walsh, Marcie and Michael Malone; *The Killing Club* (Hyperion, \$6.99); I'm not sure I totally understand this but evidently this book was written by a character in a soap opera who isn't really a police receptionist
- White, Stephen; *Missing Persons* (Signet, \$9.99); Boulder psychologist Alan Gregory
- Willeford, Charles; *Wild Wives* (Vintage, \$12.95); fine noir action, reissue
- Wood, William P.; *Broken Trust* (Leisure, \$6.99); judge finds himself threatened as he pursues corrupt judges
- Woods, Paula L.; *Strange Bedfellows* (Ballantine, \$23.95); LAPD homicide detective Charlotte Justice
- Zigal, Thomas; *Into Thin Air* (Toby, \$9.95); first for Aspen Sheriff Kurt Miller, reissue

Just Published...continued from page 9

young man just out of prison who doesn't really want reforming. Alternating chapters from each characters point of view provide a humorous counterpoint of mutual misunderstanding.

PI's on the move

Former journalist Benjamin Justice leaves his West Hollywood environs for a trip to a movie shoot in the California desert in John Morgan Wilson's *Rhapsody in Blood* (St. Martin's, \$24.95). A complex mystery reveals itself with the murder of a gossip columnist that traces back to two earlier murders and the lynching in the '50s of the assumed murderer. A finely textured mystery

whose desert air invigorates this latest in a fine series.

More than enough excitement on tap in J.D. Rhoades' *Good Day in Hell* (St. Martin's, \$23.95) as bounty hunter Jack Keller teams up with deputy Marie Jones in pursuit of a media-savvy trio out to spread mayhem throughout North Carolina. A helluva a good series beginning with *The Devil's Right Hand*.

John Lescroart introduces a new character in *The Hunt Club* (Dutton, \$26.95) with child protective services investigator turned PI Wyatt Hunt. The murder of a federal judge and his rather young girlfriend triggers the action in this fast moving thriller that follows

several parallel tracks of investigation that will converge in a dramatic climax. Excellent reading and sure to please Lescroart fans and well as new readers.

Sorrow's Anthem (St. Martin's, \$22.95) by Michael Koryta is a second outstanding entry in this top notch series as Lincoln Perry returns to his old neighborhood when a childhood friend is accused of murder. Before he can even get involved the friend is killed before his eyes. We get some good backstory on Perry's earlier career as a cop and the difficulties it's caused him with the folks from the working class section he grew up in along with a nicely complicated case in the present. Excellent work.

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What's New in British Mystery?

Bad Moon Rising (Arrow, \$7.95) is a follow-up to Sheila Quigley's MLB best seller *Run for Home*.

This time out the resourceful Detective Inspector Lorraine Hunt has her hands full with three women dead, by the same killer, and all of this in the midst of Feast Week in Houghton-le-Spring which

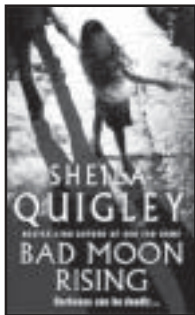
brings numerous visitors and other craziness that only makes her job more difficult. An excellent series with a gritty, realistic backdrop amidst the working class in North East England.

A groom buried alive as a prank, his friends killed in a car crash; such is the start of Peter James' excellent *Dead Simple* (Pan, \$13.95) featuring Inspector Roy Grace of the Bath Police. Grace is still coping with the unexplained disappearance of wife some years earlier so the case of the missing groom has particular resonance as he investigates both the bride and the groom's business partner and friend. Excellent British style mystery with good character development.

If you're a fan of Swedish cop Kurt Wallender you can fill in a gap with the fourth in the series by Henning Mankell, *The Man Who Smiled* (Arrow, \$13.95), finally available in English translation.

Missing (Canongate, \$13.95) is a completely refreshing take on the crime novel from

Swedish author Karin Alvtegen. Although homeless, Sybilla Forsenstrom is well-dressed and well-mannered and gets by by charming men into paying for her room and board. She's forced on the run when one of these men is found murdered—and then another the same

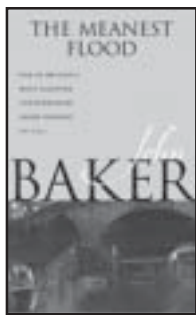


way. Alvtegen uses a stunningly direct prose, rich and insightful, in a plot which has tremendous pace and verve.

Peak District detectives Ben Cooper and Diane Fry match wits with a killer in Stephen Booth's *The Dead Place* (Harper, \$13.95). Booth makes good use of the network of caverns that are a major feature of this part of England in this tense story of a fugitive killer whose conviction seems increasingly unjustified as Cooper and Fry look into his original case.

Classic suspense

Sam Turner is doing his best to bury his past, but it's hard when his mistakes keep coming back to haunt him in *The Meanest Flood* (Orion, \$9.99) by John Baker. First his ex-wife is brutally murdered in her own home. Then, when another of Sam's exes



is murdered, the police are convinced they need look no further to solve the crime. Sam goes on the run, dodging not only the police, but the real killer, and finds himself embroiled in a terrifying mystery where he's both fugitive and detective. To protect the women who used to love him, he must anticipate the moves of a murderer—and the killer shows no sign of being satisfied. A perfect sort of British mystery with dry humor and a good plot.

Thorn (Headline, \$8.99) by Vena Cork is the first in a compelling new series. A tragedy has changed Rosa Thorn's life forever. Now she's taken the post of drama teacher at the local school that her teenage son and daughter attend. But something strange is going on... When a growing sense of unease turns into sudden violence, Rosa fears for her safety and, even more so, that of her children. For her daughter is the object of someone's demented infatuation. But

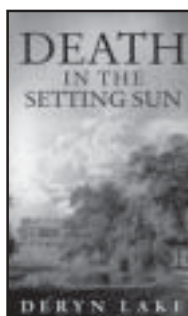
like a diseased animal, the real threat stalks the shadows, in the night-black recesses of the undergrowth—not just of the city, but of the human mind.

A journalist investigates the background of artist whose twin sister disappeared years earlier in this complex, psychological suspense novel by Sarah Rayne, *A Dark Dividing* (Pocket, \$7.99). His inquiries lead him to a small village and the mystery of two other twins involved in a disappearance a hundred year earlier. Fine suspense from the author of *Tower of Silence*.

Historical sleuths

Sir Francis Powerscourt returns to England after a year-long assignment in South Africa in David Dickinson's *Death of a Chancellor* (Robinson, \$13.95) the fourth in this excellent series set at the turn of the century. He's hired by the sister of a cathedral chancellor who allegedly died of a heart attack but she is suspicious. A fascinating look at schisms in the Anglican church of that period is at the heart of this absorbing historical thriller.

Eighteenth century apothecary John Rawlings faces perhaps his most difficult



case—one in which he is the prime suspect in Deryn Lake's *Death in the Setting Sun* (A&B, \$13.95). Attending an amateur theatrical performance featuring his wife, Rawlings stumbles across a body and is assumed to be the murderer. Forced into hiding he must discover the truth to save his own neck. Filled with fascinating historical lore, including some commentary on changing men's fashions, this is another in a terrific series which will certainly appeal to Bruce Alexander fans.

Open every Sunday from noon to 4

New Paperbacks continued from page 7

Peter Wilson's *Landscape of Lies* (F&M, \$14.95), a terrific mix of art history and action as an art expert and a young woman race to decipher the clues in a 16th century painting that is really a treasure map. Full of fascinating detail and narrow escapes.

James Lee Burkes early crime novel *The Lost Get Back Boogie* (Pocket, \$7.99) is back as a treat for fans.

Hard Case Crime rescues two more early pulp writers from obscurity

A Touch of Death by Charles Williams and *Say It With Bullets* (both \$6.99) by Richard Powell.

The very first of M.C. Beaton's Agatha Raisin books is once again available although retitled *The Quiche of Death*

(SMP, \$6.99). A terrific series set in the Cotswolds with an irascible heroine.

Two outstanding Thomas Perry crime novels are back with *Pursuit* and *Dead Aim* (both Random, \$13.95).

Robert Goddard is a fine British author not seen on these shores lately, a situation remedied by the reissue of *Borrowed Time* and *Into the Blue* (both Delta, \$12).

Finally, I want to mention the third of Joseph Telushkin's fine trilogy featuring Rabbi Daniel Winter, *An Eye for an Eye* (Toby, \$9.95).



Beginning with *The Unorthodox Murder of Rabbi Wahl*, Telushkin—an authority on Jewish law, penned three books that combined entertainment with lore about the

Talmud, Jewish practices and ethics.

Foreign Climes

Alfredo Garcia-Roza's *A Window in Copacabana* (Picador, \$14) is a police procedural with a tropical twist. Rio de Janeiro Inspector Espinosa investigates

the death's of three policemen and the woman connected to all three. A good read, reminiscent of Michael Dibdin. [JA]

In *Before the Frost* (Vintage, \$13)

Henning Mankell moves beyond his Kurt Wallender

character to launch a new series with the Swedish cop's daughter Linda, just graduated from the Police Academy. An excellent series infused with atmosphere of Swedish small-town life.

Watcher in the Pine (Soho, \$12) is the third in Rebecca Pawel's atmospheric series of novels set in post Civil War Spain with Guardia Lieutenant Carlos Tejada as the primary character. Pawel provides an illuminating look at modern Spanish history not well understood by most Americans along with a gripping story.

Golden Age mystery

Yes, it's a delightful return to the country home of the Earl of Burford in James Anderson's latest homage to the detective story of the golden age *The Affair of the 39 Cufflinks* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95). All the characters are present: Lavinia, the Duke's wife, Gerry, the irrepresible daughter and of course Chief Inspector Wilkins. A delightful and droll mystery.

It's a delight to have any of Kerry Greenwood's Phyrne (rhymes with briny) Fisher books in paperback even if you have to start in the middle of the series with *Murder in Montparnasse* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95). A sexy, independent heroine who puts a new spin in the Golden Age mystery.

Lighter side

Dock Bass, disillusioned with his life as a realtor, dumps his job and his social climbing wife for a mysterious inheritance in Gettysburg in Brad Smith's humorous *Busted Flush* (SMP, \$14). This is a funny, engaging story of an honest

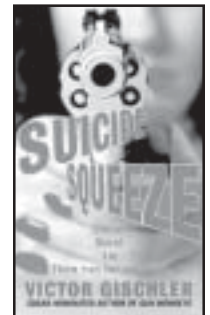


man trying to do the right thing. [JW]

Dortmunder, the amiable thief, and his crew return in Donald Westlake's *Watch Your Back* (Warner, \$7.50) where the lure of a fat haul from a Manhattan penthouse is put on hold while matters are sorted out at the O.J. Bar & Grill where the mob seems to have taken over. Made me remember everything I love about Westlake's novels.

Cecelia Tishy launches a new series in *Now You See Her* (Warner, \$6.99) featuring Boston psychic Reggie Cutter. Cut loose by her husband in favor of a younger woman, she inherits her aunt's house in Barlow Square and with it her aunt's psychic abilities. Entertaining with the psychic aspect well-integrated into the plot.

Suicide Squeeze (Dell, \$6.99) is another delightful comic crime caper from Victor Gischler featuring a scruffy repo man who learns that a priceless baseball card is hidden aboard the yacht he's been sent to repossess.



Quite different

Speak Softly, She Can Hear (S&S, \$14) by Pam Lewis is an enthralling crossover mystery that explores serious themes, even as it sustains genuine suspense as a kind of coming-of-age novel, with a lurid twist. A woman's death upends the protagonist's life but she cannot escape the past in this compelling novel. [LM]

Richard Rayner's *The Devil's Wind* (Harper, \$13.95) is a fascinating novel of early Las Vegas involving an architect and a mysterious woman. Architect Maurice Valentine, a rags to riches story, finds his little house of cards is about to collapse with the entry of a mysterious woman on a collision course with a powerful mobster and his ambitious son. A fascinating look at a Las Vegas that was.

In Claire Davis's *Season of the Snake* (SMP, \$14) we meet Nance Able, a
Please see New Arrivals in Paper, page 13

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

Festival Preview continued from page back cover

of characters people this five ticket ride.

Molly Murphy is at it again just in time for St. Patrick's Day in Rhys Bowen's *Oh Danny Boy* (St. Martin's, \$23.95). Molly is thinking of leaving New York until a plea for help from NYPD captain Daniel Sullivan holds her back—he's been accused of accepting bribes and thrown in the Tombs. An exciting chapter in the life of this spunky immigrant.

Very original Festival visitors

Witty, clever, entertaining and literate, *Hung Out to Die* (Avon, \$6.99) by Sharon Short, chronicles the further exploits of Josie Toadfern, Ohio laundromat owner and stain-busting expert. Reunited by happenstance with her dysfunctional family, Josie takes on the challenge of proving her long-estranged father's innocence by establishing the actual identity of her uncle's killer. This series is a winner! [LM]



Blondes Have More Fun (Berkley, \$6.99) by Alesia Holliday is a fresh new series that is sure to pick up many mystery lovers. Attorney December Vaughn is kick-starting her life with a new small practice in sunny Florida. When

an insulin liability case comes her way there's danger, new friends of all ages and shapes and a sexy PI to help on the case. A winner with pitch perfect dialogue.

Judith Skillings returns with a third lap for Rebecca Moore, classic car restorer, at

the Indianapolis Motor Speedway. *Driven to Murder* (Avon, \$7.99) finds this tough car specialist in a pit crew when she just dodges a bullet.

Quite a ride! Susan McBride's Debutant Dropout mysteries zing and turning over the action to mom in *The Lone Star Lonely Hearts Club* (Avon, \$6.99) is double trouble. A posh retirement community and a dating service seem like safe places for the Texas widow, but the trouble starts when she takes over the investigating and goes undercover in a tacky disguise.

Laura Durham's wedding planner Annabelle Archer returns for another affair in *For Better or Hearse* (Avon, \$6.99). A cranky chef turns up impaled on an ice sculpture and Annabelle's best friend is the suspect. The games afoot with more chef deaths to follow. Witty and delicious.

Festival favorite Chassie West is one of the four canine crime writers in *Bark M for Murder* (Avon, \$6.99). Her suspenser features a life-saving German Shepherd and an old crime.

Now in paper

The Heartbreak Lounge (SMP, \$6.99), a strong follow-up to Wallace Stroby's debut, *The Barbed Wire Kiss*, finds Harry working as a PI of sorts for an ex-cop friend. Some really fine bad guys populate this fast-moving novel with plenty of action along with some character development on Harry's part. A well done classic PI novel with some modern twists.

Pittsburgher Nancy Martin's smart Blackbird Sisters Mystery series makes a splash with this fourth adventure for the cash-depleted bluebloods on

Philadelphia's mainline in *Cross Your Heart and Hope to Die* (Signet, \$6.99). At the unveiling of a fabulous new bra, while Nora's draped in a fabulous vintage chinchilla, sister Emma appears AWOL from rehab. A total delight—witty and well done.



Greeting card designer Wollie Shelley lands in the middle of an FBI investigation in Harley Jane Kozak's second madcap mystery *Dating is Murder* (Broadway, \$12.95), a sequel to *Dating Dead*

Men. Looking for her friend Annika she finds an LA cop more interested in dating her than finding her friend and soon is hip deep in Feds, drug lords and TV game show contestants. A blast.

Bubbles Betrothed (Signet, \$6.99) is a slam bang fun mystery from start to finish and the gifted Sarah Strohmeyer will have you laughing out loud. From the Lehigh Valley Girl's first day on the job as reporter, through jail, murder, Thanksgiving dinner, kidnapping and those steamy clinches with the hot Stiletto, she does it all. Yes, there is a big rock from Harry Winston in the mix, too.

Meg Langslow and fiancé Michael throw a gigantic yard sale in *Owls Well That Ends Well* (SMP, \$6.99) but the dead body in the barn throws them off. From owls in the barn, buyers in bizarre costume and clever sleuthing, this latest in Andrew's award-winning series will delight fans.

New Paperbacks continued from page 12

likeable herpetologist whose real problems center around a snake of another sort—her second husband, Ned, a high-school principal. As time progresses, Nance is compelled to acknowledge that Ned is not the person she thought him to be. In fact, he has a murderous dark side that she must curb. [LM]

In Jane Haddam's *The Headmaster's Wife* (SMP, \$6.99) Gregor Demarkian, retired FBI profiler, investigates murder at the prep school he rediscovers his own passion for uncovering the truth. One of the best yet. [JA]

A lawyer released from prison finds redemption in Michael Baron's *The Mourning Sexton* (Jove, \$7.99). Working

as a sexton for his synagogue he becomes involved in a complex product liability case—more dangerous than it seems in this much more than legal thriller novel. [JW]

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.

I don't know how to categorize Gregory



Galloway's *As Simple As Snow* (Berkley, \$14) except as one fascinating novel. Narrated by a high school student, it describes an evolving relationship between the narrator and a mysterious young woman who hangs with the Goths

but isn't one; who busies herself writing fictional obituaries for everyone in town and who ultimately disappears under mysterious circumstances. His search for her provides the bittersweet resolution to the affecting novel which works for mature teens as well as adults.

Any reader of British mystery will surely like a copy of *Bum Bags and Fanny Packs* (C&G, \$14.95) by Jeremy Smith. This fascinating little guide to the language that divides us covers everything from gobsmacked and marmite to gormless and knacker and plenty in between to help in interpreting the idiom in that mystery. An American to British section will also come in handy for a visit

to the UK.

Looking for a St. Patrick's Day treat? Andrew Greeley's *Irish Crystal* (Forge, \$24.95) is just out, the latest in his Irish-American family epic centered around Nuala Anne McGrail. The earlier *Irish Cream* (Forge, \$6.99) is now in paper.

Sharyn McCrumb departs from the mystery genre, in fact pretty much every genre, in *St. Dale* (Kensington, \$7.99) which takes place on a bus tour of NASCAR races with each traveler, much like *Canterbury Tales*, having their own story. The Dale of the title is, of course, Earnhardt.

Ayelet Waldman's *Love and Other Impossible Pursuits* (Doubleday, \$23.95) is a powerful, often humorous, novel about the bonds between mothers and children. You'll never see parenthood quite the same way.

History comes alive

Lisa See exchanges mystery for fiction in *Snow Flower and the Secret Fan* (Random, \$13.95), an absolutely fascinating novel of life in 19th century China told through the story of two girls, paired as

lifelong friends (lao tang) when they are young. As they grow up See uses their lives to examine a wealth of fascinating cultural history including foot-binding, nu shu—a secret, phonetic language used only by women, arranged marriage and myriad rituals of rural Chinese life. Suspenseful, informative and poignant.

In the Company of the Courtesan



(Random, \$23.95) is a second splendid historical novel from Sarah Dunant. Set in Renaissance Italy, this follow-up to Dunant's *The Birth of Venus* recounts the fantastic escapades of Bucino Teodoldo, a wily dwarf, and his mistress, celebrated

courtesan Fiammetta Bianchini, who escape to Venice where intrigue awaits.

Michelle Lovric's fine new historical, *The Remedy* (Regan, \$25.95) moves between 18th century Venice and London in a tale of medical quackery, love and murder—a splendid tour of a colorful era.

Kids books at MLB

As a gentle reminder of the offerings of our children's book department, we will feature a different children's book in each issue of the MLB News. The reviews by our daughter Alison Babusci, storyteller and kindergarten teacher, will appeal to parents, kids and collectors of children's books. Do call us at (412) 828-4877 first for new baby, parent or grandparent, birthday and teacher gift ideas from the hundreds of books for young readers books in our store.



Vherse: A Celebration of Outstanding Women by J. Patrick Lewis is a unique family-friendly reference book disguised as a picture book. Each page features an original poem about an outstanding woman – and I agree with the picks... Rachel Carson, Ella Fitzgerald,

Georgia O'Keefe and Venus and Serena Williams, to name a few. There are also unique portraits of each woman created by illustrator Mark Summers; you may recognize his work from the literary figure portraits used by a certain nameless chain bookstore. In smaller print is a bio of each woman too, a well-written, brief wrap-up of her

outstanding accomplishments. This book isn't necessarily a fun read for bedtime, but more of a historical exploration or jumping off point for discussion. A nice reference book or tool to help our sisters and daughters strive for greatness and celebrate a diverse group of phenomenal women.

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Coming Events

- Monday, March 20 7 PM **Lisa Scottoline** visits MLB with her fabulous new legal thriller *Dirty Blonde*. Don't miss it or her, call for reservations now.
- Thursday, April 6 2 PM AND 7:30 PM **David Liss** lecture and signing to benefit Animal Friends at their new facility on Camp Horne Rd. Call them at (412) 847-7055 for details.
- Friday, April 7 6 PM Former Pittsburghers **Marty Smith** and **Pat Kiger** celebrate publication of *Oops!* their witty book of classic fiascos.
- Monday, April 10 7 PM **Sue Monk Kidd** at the Drue Heinz Lectures at Carnegie Music Hall. We'll be doing book sales. Call (412) 622-8866 for more info.
- Wednesday, April 19 1:30 PM **Susan Wittig Albert** comes by for tea and talk about the latest China Bayles mystery, *Bleeding Hearts*. Please call if you can join us.
- Monday, April 24 5 PM **Festival of Mystery** is back with a new date, new authors and a new location but same old fun. Details in the next News.
- Saturday, May 6 10 AM **Elaine Viets** brings her hardcover debut, *Murder Unleashed*, to Coffee & Crime. Cost is \$5, reservations necessary.

Festival of Mystery Preview

Monday, April 24: New location, more authors, be there!

Our little Festival of Mystery has grown so large that we've had to move—to the Greek Orthodox Church at 12 Washington Ave., Oakmont about five blocks from the store. The date is a little earlier, too, Monday, April 24 but we'll have a much larger space for authors and fans and the same great mix-and-mingle atmosphere. More details in the April-May MLB News but here's a preview of some authors you'll meet.

Just published

How does a loan officer from Corning, New York rather suddenly find himself on

a secret mission in India. Easy, he just has to be the protagonist of Charles Benoit's latest comic caper, *Out of Order* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95). Jason Talley is soon rescued from his tour group by a mad young woman who becomes his companion in this colorful, unpredictable trip through the back roads of India. Huge fun.

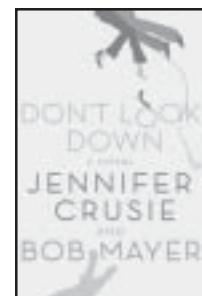
Benoit's rollicking, debut novel, *Relative Danger* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95), is now in paperback.

In a fresh and hilarious approach to mystery writing, sexy Jennifer Crusie and macho Bob Mayer have written *Don't Look Down* (St Martin's, 24.95). Be it the camo

cover or the one with the red heels, this one's a whirlwind ride, with alternating points of view, that takes a sub-director with a few issues of her own and a covert op advisor

through a perilous movie making project in Savannah. Wonder Woman Pepper, a Gator named Moot and a wild assortment

Please see Festival Preview, page 12



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