

NEWS

MYSTERY LOVERS BOOKSHOP

514 Allegheny River Boulevard • Oakmont, Pennsylvania 15139 • (412) 828-4877

April-May 2007

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

FESTIVAL OF MYSTERY

Twelfth Annual
May 7
4 to 9 pm

Western Pennsylvania's premier mystery event is back, this year raising funds for Beginning With Books with media sponsorship by WDUQ. See the Festival insert for all the details.



Donna Leon



Monday, June 18 at 7 pm

Donna Leon has captured the hearts of our customers with her Venetian mysteries featuring Guido Brunetti. Now you can have a chance to meet Donna at on her rare US appearances on Monday, June 18 at 7 pm. The talk and signing will be at St. Irenaeus Church Hall, around the corner from the store. Tickets are \$30 and include a copy of *Suffer the Little Children* and admission for two people.



Heather Terrell

Friday, May 18 at 6 pm

Please join us on Friday, May 18 at 6 pm for a party to celebrate publication of Pittsburgh author Heather

Terrell's debut novel, *Chrysalis*. This intriguing thriller combines art and history in the story a painting spanning centuries.

Lindsey Davis

Sunday, May 20 at 2 pm

Lindsey Davis, author of a string of best-selling Roman mysteries makes a rare US visit on Sunday, May 20 at 2 pm. She'll be at MLB with the 18th of her Marcus Didius Falco series.

Please call if you can join us.

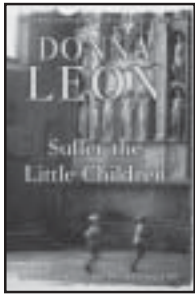


Yarns & Yarns with Debbie Macomber
Thursday, May 17 at 7 pm - see page 3 for details

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Just Published..

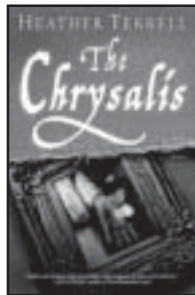
Commisario Guido Brunetti faces a baffling case in Donna Leon's **Suffer the Little Children** (Grove, \$24). Rivalry



between Brunetti and his Venetian police and the national police, the carabinieri, come to a head in an illegal adoption case that leads to a deeper political conspiracy. Sharp writing and a clear view of the

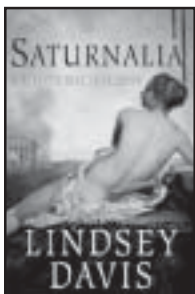
absurdities of Italian life provide another excellent read. Don't miss Donna's first ever Pittsburgh appearance on June 18.

The Chrysalis (Ballantine, \$21.95) by Pittsburgh lawyer Heather Terrell expertly weaves Nazi wartime thefts and expert legal twists into a suspense that is elegant. The 17th century artist, the collector and the brilliant New York lawyer, educated in Medieval history, archetypes and symbols, Mara Coyne



are all actors on different stages in this historical thriller that will leave you breathless at the fine work of this new voice on the scene. Come celebrate with Heather at her publication party at MLB on Friday, May 18 at 6 pm.

In **Saturnalia** (St. Martin's, \$23.95) Lindsey Davis takes the Roman holiday where anything goes as a metaphor for a



plot in which Falco's brother-in-law is on the lam with his former lover who has escaped from prison leaving a corpse behind. A well-rounded exploration of Roman life during the holiday carousing

adds zip to Falco's search for the missing

couple. Don't miss Lindsey Davis at MLB on Sunday, May 20 at 2 pm.

Festival folks

In **Disturbing the Dead** (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95), an engaging novel replete with engaging local color, Sandra Parshall follows up on her promising debut novel, *The Heat of the Moon*. Parshall's protagonist, veterinarian Rachel Goddard, confronts the daunting task of making sense of her own past. Reminiscent of the best of Sharon



McCrum, this is a worthy anthropological exploration as well as a compelling murder mystery. [LM]

In Cynthia Riggs' **Shooting Star** (St. Martin's, \$23.95), ninety-two-year-old poet Victoria Trumbull becomes embroiled in controversy at the community theater on Martha's Vineyard. A revisionist version of "Frankenstein" is at the heart of the plot as it appears that a killer is following Shelly's original story.

Maggie Sefton's knitting mysteries move into hardcover with **A Killer Stitch** (Berkley, \$21.95), fourth in this charming series. Kelly Flynn is drawn into investigating the death of a rancher and womanizer when a friend becomes a suspect. As always, the camaraderie of Kelly's gang at the House of Lambspun is a highlight.

With Elaine Viets' **Murder with Reservations** (NAL, \$21.95), Helen is back in the Dead-End Job series, and I started laughing on the very first page. This time, she's working as a hotel maid, and the antics of the guests provide great enter-



tainment—until one of her co-workers ends up dead. You're not going to want to miss this one! [KS]

Josie Prescott sponsors a benefit gala in Jane K. Cleland's superior sequel **Deadly Appraisal** (St. Martin's, \$23.95) only to have a guest drop dead of cyanide poisoning. Cleland skillfully weaves her antiques knowledge into a clever plot that also develops the characters, including Josie, in a way that compels the reader's attention.

Quick takes

Sookie Stackhouse defends the queen of the vampires against accusations of murder in Charlaine Harris' **All Together Dead** (Ace, \$24.95), latest in the funny and unique series.

An obituary is mailed to Emma Lord, by the murder victim himself in Mary Daheim's **The Alpine Scandal** (Ballantine, \$23.95).

Lara McClintock is targeted by ruthless criminals while trying to recover an eighteenth-century Tang Dynasty silver box in Lyn Hamilton's **The Chinese Alchemist** (Berkley, \$23.95).

Precious Ramotswe is hard at work in the No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency in Alexander McCall Smith's **The Good Husband of Zebra Drive** (Pantheon, \$21.95).

China Bayles' half-brother wants to investigate their father's death in Susan Wittig Albert's **Spanish Dagger** (Berkley, \$23.95).

Hapless thief Dortmund is off on another complicated heist in Donald Westlake's **What's So Funny?** (Warner, \$24.99).

Benni Harper investigates the death of a socialite in Earlene Fowler's delightful **Tumbling Blocks** (Berkley, \$24.95).

Maxie McNabb abandons her RV and flies to Hawaii in Sue Henry's **The Refuge** (NAL, \$23.95)—a third adventure for this feisty sleuth.

Gregor Demarkian's on the case in **Glass Houses** (St. Martin's, \$24.95) by Jane

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Haddam.

Best Sellers

A member of the Women's Murder Club is on the brink of death in James Patterson's *The 6th Target* (Little, Brown, \$27.99).

Tami Hoag brings back Florida horse trainer Elena Estes in *Alibi Man* (Bantam, \$26), a sequel to *Dark Horse*.

Carl Webster from *The Hot Kid* returns in Elmore Leonard's *Up in Honey's Room* (Morrow, \$25.95), a crime novel set during WW II.

Ian Rankin's *Naming of the Dead* (Little, Brown, \$24.99) is now in a US edition.

Shades of *Rebecca* as a young woman, newly married to a wealthy man, begins to have doubts about the death of his first wife in Mary Higgins Clark's *I Heard That*



Song Before (S&S, \$25.95). Meanwhile daughter Carole Higgins Clark pitches in with a new Regan Reilly, *Laced* (Scribner, \$24).

Psychologist Alex Delaware goes to the aid of a former patient

in Jonathan Kellerman's *Obsession* (Ballantine, \$26.95).

Lucas Davenport juggles two cases that unexpectedly collide in John Sanford's *Invisible Prey* (Putnam, \$26.95).

Harry Bosch takes on his first case since joining the Homicide Special squad in Michael Connelly's *The Overlook* (Little, Brown, \$21.99).

Former Secret Service agents Sean King and Michelle Maxwell, last seen in *The Hour Game*, return in David Baldacci's *Simple Genius* (Warner, \$26.99).

A body turns up that casts doubt on the official version of a twenty-year old crime in Harlan Coben's *The Woods* (Dutton, \$26.95).

Debbie Macomber

Thursday, May 17 at 7 pm



Please join us for a unique event with best selling author Debbie Macomber on Thursday, May 17 at 7 pm. She'll join us, in conjunction with Yarns by Design, a local knitting shop, for an evening of yarns and yarns.

Debbie will be here with *Back on Blossom Street* (Mira, \$24.95), the third of her inspirational novels featuring knitting store owner Lydia Goetz, her family, friends and neighbors on Blossom Street that have featured in two earlier novels.

Debbie is not only a successful novelist but a skilled knitter as well as we'll be carrying her knitting project books tied to the novels. Yarns by Design owner Sandra Donatelli will join us with a display of yarns and knitting accessories.

Please call if you can join us for a fun evening of yarns and yarns.

Cozy gems

Jane Thistle is not your average elderly grandmother-type in Marcy Saum's captivating *Thistle and Twig* (St. Martin's, \$23.95). She's the English-born widow of a career military officer and she has had training and experience way beyond the norm. Her new neighbor, 67 year old Phoebe Twig is wild in her own way. Together they stumble on to a dead body in the woods and a mystery surrounding an old recluse. The excitement in Tallulah, Alabama is a great joy and a mystery. Think Mrs. Pollifax with a sidekick. [JW]

Damsels in Distress (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95), the latest installment in Joan Hess' clever and entertaining Claire Malloy series, meets the high standards set by its fifteen series predecessors. Claire encounters more than her share of murder, especially considering that she is a bookseller by profession, a trade not usually associated with high drama. Nonetheless, she is perfectly equipped to puzzle out a solution when a charred body is discovered during a Renaissance Fair in Farberville, Arkansas.

This fabulous series just keeps getting better! [LM]

The world of mystery is not immune to the attraction of those fiendish numerical puzzles as we see in Shelly Freydon't's *The Sudoku Murder* (C&G, \$24.95) which introduces mathematician and puzzle-solver Katie McDonald. An unfinished puzzle on the desk of the murdered proprietor of the Avondale Puzzle Museum provides crucial clues to Katie in this cleverly plotted mystery that will appeal to readers who like a mental challenge.

I'm always delighted by a new arrival from Carolyn Hart, whose Henry O. series is a particular favorite of mine. In *Set Sail for Murder* (Morrow, \$23.95), Henry O. signs on for a cruise at the behest of her former lover, whose wife suspects that she is being targeted for harm. Even Henry O. is not quick enough to prevent her demise, but she is savvy in the arts of detection and unpacks the mystery. An afternoon with Henry O. is almost as relaxing as an afternoon on a cruise ship. [LM]

A return to the entertaining world of

Please see *Just Published*, page 4

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Just Published...continued from page 3

Ellie Haskell in *Withering Heights* (St. Martin's, \$22.95) where Ellie is drawn to Yorkshire by her niece whose parents have bought an Elizabethan house which she's named *Withering Heights*. A bit of investigating ensues in this romp that also includes Ellie's oddball housekeeper Mrs. Malloy. A fit addition to a series that we've loved ever since *The Thin Woman*.

Out of the past

Police detective Porfiry Petrovich, last seen in Dostoevsky's *Crime and Punishment*, investigates a new murder in R.N. Morris' well-researched and atmospheric *The Gentle Axe* (Penguin, \$24.95). A murder-suicide just before Christmas 1866 in Petrovsky Park soon begins to seem a double murder as Petrovich delves more deeply into the case in an investigation that takes him on an exploration of Russian life and character. A dense and satisfying novel.

C.J. Sansom, British author of the Matthew Shardlake mysteries, resurrects his lawyer-detective in *Sovereign* (Viking, \$25.95), an impressively plotted and meticulously executed historical set in



1541 England, when Henry VIII is monarch, and political intrigue is rife. After conspirators against the crown are discovered, Matthew and his assistant are drawn into action complicated by murders

implicating the royals themselves. To avert imprisonment in the Tower of London, Matthew must put his detecting skills to work, which he does to astonishing effect. [LM]

Those who yearn for the delights of the Victorian Gothic novel with young heiresses imprisoned in gloomy country estates and dark doings on the fens will find just their cup of tea in D.J. Taylor's *Kept* (Harper, \$24.95). A captivating recreation of the era with a complex plot involving the aforesaid heiress plus a dramatic train robbery and a shady debt collection agency in the London slums.

A Cambridge historian is found drowned in the opening of Rebecca Stott's stunning debut novel *Ghostwalk* (Speigel,



\$24.95). Her son asks Lydia Brooke to complete the controversial biography that his mother was working on before her death—a biography that explores the role of alchemy and the supernatural in the life

of Isaac Newton. Lydia soon finds herself tracking down clues in a series of murders in the 17th century as well as present day crimes that have an eerie connection. A clever whodunit that is also an excellent historical novel that explores unexpected connections between two eras.

The disappearance of the queen starts the action in Nick Drake's *Nefertiti* (Harper, \$24.95), a well-researched historical mystery set during the turning-point reign of Akhenaten and particularly the power struggle set off by his establishment of a new religion worshipping Aten. Rai Rahotep is the police detective tapped to find *Nefertiti* and he applies classic techniques of detection in a novel full of historical detail.

Tasha Alexander follows her debut *And Only to Deceive* with *A Poisoned Season* (Morrow, \$23.95), another elegant historical novel set in Victorian London. High society, with its attendant gossip, turns nasty as a cat burglar steals possessions once owned by Marie Antoinette. Series star Lady Emily Ashton takes on crime and scandal as she gets to the bottom of matters. This appealing series has real staying power. Check it out! [LM]

When Adam Banting's Cambridge don encourages him to write a monograph on the Docci Gardens outside of Florence, little does Adam know that murders, past and present are linked to this historical garden. As Adam delves into the garden's secrets in Mark Mills' *Savage Garden* (Penguin, \$24.95), he uncovers layers of evil that rise from the past to threaten the present Docci family's future. [MN]

Espionage alert

Fans of the WW II thriller will certainly enjoy Mark Frost's *The Second Objective* (Hyperion, \$24.95) in which a tough New York cop turned MP races to put the pieces together quickly enough to prevent a stroke that could turn the tide of *The Battle of the Bulge* and the entire war.

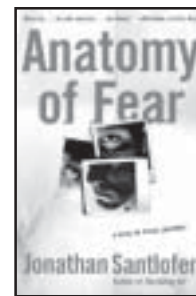
Zoo Station (Soho, \$23) by David Downing is a finely crafted, low-key thriller set in Berlin in 1939. He draws a chilling picture of Germany on the brink of war and effectively draws the reader into a journalist's plight as he tries to extricate himself from a web of espionage entrapments by the Russians, the British and the Germans.

David Ignatius brings the WW II Man Who Never Was gambit up-to-date in a timely and exciting thriller, *Body of Lies* (Norton, \$24.95). An idealistic CIA agent undertakes a complex gambit to trap a terrorist planner but has no idea of the double and triple-crosses he is involved in.

Mitch Silver spins an entertaining tale with *In Secret Service* (Touchstone, \$25) that ties together the abdication of Edward VII and the death of Princess Diana with an unpublished Ian Fleming manuscript.

Cops & PI's

Jonathan Santlofer combines his considerable talents as an artist with his mystery writing to produce the unique *Anatomy of Fear* (Morrow, \$24.95) featuring police sketch artist Nate Rodriguez. A serial killer is at work leaving drawings



of his crime scenes pinned to the victims and both these drawings, as well as Nate's sketches as he draws ever closer to the killer, are reproduced throughout the text. An exciting suspenser with the atmosphere heightened by the illustrations.

Amos Walker, the Detroit PI featured in Loren Estleman's aptly titled *American Detective* (Forge, \$24.95), certainly belongs in the gumshoe pantheon along-

Please see Just Published, page 10

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

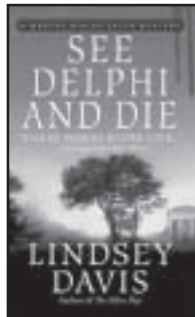
- Alleyn, Susanne; *A Treasury of Regret* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); police spy Aristide Ravel in post-revolutionary Paris
- Andrews, Lori; *The Silent Assassin* (St. Martin's, \$23.95) and *Sequence* (SMP, \$6.99); Army geneticist Dr. Alexandra Blake
- Asensi, Matilde; *The Last Cato* (Harper, \$13.95); search for missing pieces of the True Cross with clues found in Dante's *Divine Comedy*
- Atkins, Ace; *White Shadow* (Berkley, \$7.99); thriller based on actual events tells the story of the murder of criminal kingpin in 1955 Tampa
- Barnard, Robert; *A Fall From Grace* (Scribner, \$24); Charlie Peace
- Booth, Stephen; *The Dead Place* (Bantam, \$25); Ben Cooper and Diane Fry, now in US edition
- Box, C.J.; *Free Fire* (Putnam, \$24.95) and *In Plain Sight* (Berkley, \$7.99); game warden Joe Pickett
- Butler, Gwendoline; *Dread Murder* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); historical mystery in time of King George IV
- Cappellani, Ottavio; *Who Is Lou Sciortino?* (FSG, \$13); comic tale of the inept young gangster of the title
- Carcaterra, Lorenzo; *Chasers* (Ballantine, \$24.95); renegade NYPD cops against drug lords
- Case, John; *Ghost Dancer* (Ballantine, \$7.99); madman builds unique terror weapon
- Collins, Max Allan; *A Killing in Comics* (Berkley, \$14); comic book publisher is the victim in this salute to the post-war golden age of superheroes, illustrated throughout
- De Castrique, Mark; *Final Undertaking* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95); cop turned undertaker Barry Clayton
- Dean, S.F.X.; *Such Pretty Toys* (Felony & Mayhem, \$14.95); English prof Neal Kelly
- Dorsey, Tim; *The Big Bamboo* (Harper, \$7.99); folklorist and serial killer Serge Storms is off to Hollywood
- Douglas, Carole Nelson; *Cat in a Red Hot Rage* (Forge, \$24.95) and *Cat in a Quicksilver Caper* (Forge, \$6.99); *Midnight Louie*
- Edwards, Ruth Dudley; *Murdering Americans* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95); Baroness Troutbeck travels to America and finds, to her dismay, that liberalism reigns
- Eglin, Anthony; *The Water Lily Cross* (St. Martin's, \$23.95) retired botanist and garden authority Lawrence Kingston
- Evanovich, Janet and Leanne Banks; *Hot Stuff* (SMP, \$7.99); romance, start of the "Hot" series
- Fielding, Joy; *Heartstopper* (Atria, \$24.95); betrayal, suspense and murder in a small town
- Gabbay, Tom; *The Lisbon Crossing* (Morrow, \$24.95); spy vs. spy in the early days of WW II
- Galant, Debra; *Rattled* (St. Martin's, \$21.95); satirical mystery pits McMansion owners against old-time residents
- Gomez-Jurado, Juan; *God's Spy* (Dutton, \$24.95); serial killer stalks cardinals voting on new Pope
- Gordon, Alan R.; *The Lark's Lament* (St. Martin's, \$24.95) and *Death in the Venetian Quarter* (SMP, \$13.95); medieval mystery with Feste the Fool
- Green, Tim; *American Outrage* (Warner, \$24.99); tabloid TV reporter seeks adopted son's biological mother, stirs up hornets nest
- Greenwood, Kerry; *The Green Mill Murder* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95); Phyrne Fisher
- Griffith, Nicola; *Always* (Riverhead, \$26); ex-cop Aud Torvingen
- Gross, Andrew; *The Blue Zone* (Morrow, \$25.95); Patterson collaborator strikes out on his own with tale of woman who finds her father is involved with criminal elements
- Harrison, Colin; *Afterburn* (Picador, \$14); lives of tycoon and parolee intersect with fatal consequences
- Hess, Joan; *Poisoned Pins* (SMP, \$6.99); Claire Malloy, reissue
- Higgins, Jack; *A Fine Night for Dying* (Berkley, \$9.99); FBI agent uncovers world-wide conspiracy
- Hill, A.W.; *Last Days of Madame Rey* (C&G, \$24.95); a metaphysical mystery
- Housewright, David; *Dead Boyfriends* (St. Martin's, \$23.95) and *Pretty Girl Gone* (Leisure, \$6.99); Minneapolis PI "Mac" McKenzie
- Iggulden, Conn; *Emperor: The Gods of War* (Bantam, \$6.99); wrap-up to this four part epic of Julius Caesar
- Kalla, Daniel; *Rage Therapy* (Forge, \$7.99); Seattle profiler uncovers secrets in life of murdered psychiatrist
- Khadra, Yasmina; *The Sirens of Baghdad* (Talese, \$19.95); chilling tale told through the eyes of a would-be terrorist
- Koontz, Dean; *The Husband* (Bantam, \$7.99); man has 72 hours to find \$2 million to ransom his wife
- Kulhken, Ken; *The Venus Deal* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); Tom Hickey
- Levine, Laura; *The PMS Murder* (Kensington, \$6.99); freelance writer Jane Austen joins a women's support group
- Lindquist, Mark; *The King of Methelam* (S&S, \$23); Tacoma cop battles meth gang
- Locks, Charles; *Greater Trouble in the Lesser Antilles* (Scarletta, \$14.95); murder and mayhem in the Caribbean in this humorous crime novel
- Lowell, Elizabeth; *The Wrong Hostage* (Avon, \$7.99); kidnap specialist goes to the aid of threatened federal judge
- Matturro, Claire; *Bone Valley* (Avon, \$6.99); Sarasota Lawyer Lilly Cleary takes on the case of a man accused of libeling oranges
- McCarry, Charles; *Christopher's Ghosts* (Overlook, \$25); a flashback to Paul Christopher in 1959 as he faces a nemesis from before the war
- McCarry, Charles; *Second Sight* (Overlook, \$25.95); Paul Christopher comes out of retirement

Please see Also Noted, page 13

More books, more reviews, more events: at mysterylovers.com

New Arrivals in Paperback

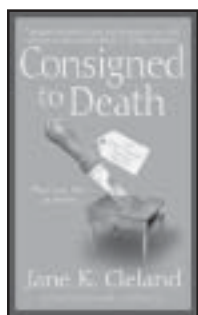
Falco is on the move again in Lindsey Davis' *See Delphi and Die* (SMP, \$6.99) and travel agents are no different in 76 A. D. After Helen and Didius join a tour in Delphi, tourists start dropping like flies. It will take a real oracle to solve this travel tale. Don't miss Lindsey Davis at MLB on Sunday, May 20.



In Donna Leon's *Through a Glass Darkly* (Penguin, \$7.99) a night watchman is found dead in front of a blazing glass furnace, his copy of Dante's *Inferno* by his side sending Guido Brunetti to investigate the small ultra-insular island where everyone not born there is a *stranieri* and not to be trusted. This is a side of Venice and Murano never seen by tourists. [JA] Donna will be at MLB on June 18.

Festival visitors

As someone who watches even reruns of Antiques Roadshow, Jane K. Cleland's debut *Consigned to Death* (SMP, \$6.99) was perfect. Josie Prescott leaves her big time New York auction house job for the coast of New Hampshire. The antiques business turns deadly however when a potential client is stabbed with no shortage of suspects. Cleland nicely integrates her knowledge of the business into a plot that keeps

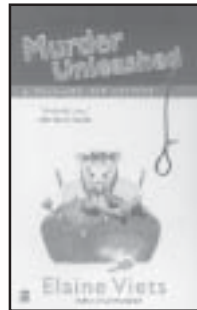


you guessing.

Dirty Laundry (Tor, \$6.99) by Tori Carrington is a followup to the debut novel that finds Sofie Metropolis, now an investigator, hot on the trail of a missing

dry cleaner who may have been laundering more than shirts.

MLB bestseller, Elaine Viets, has a new addition to the terrific dead-end job mystery series featuring Helen Hawthorne—*Murder Unleashed* (Signet, \$6.99). On the run from a philandering



husband, alimony bills and the fast-track career, Helen has found a non-traditional family and luscious love in South Florida. This fabulous fifth finds Helen working under the table in the Pampered Pet Boutique with a

colorful cast of characters both animal and human. This plot just sings.

Quick takes

Alex Delaware is in the middle of an investigation of a hoax abduction in Jonathan Kellerman's *Gone* (Ballantine, \$7.99).

Definitely Dead (Ace, \$7.99) by Charlaine Harris finds supernaturally gifted cocktail waitress Sookie Stackhouse in New Orleans.

It all starts with a kidnapping in Lee Child's *The Hard Way* (Dell, \$7.99), latest for Jack Reacher.

At Risk (Berkley, \$7.99) is a Patricia Cornwell forensic thriller without Kay Scarpetta.

Mystery book store owner Annie Darling comes to the rescue of husband Max in Carolyn Hart's *Dead Days of Summer* (Avon, \$6.99).

Egyptologist Amanda Peabody searches for the tomb of Tutankhamen in Elizabeth Peters' *Tomb of the Golden Bird* (Harper, \$9.99).

Eve Dallas has a grisly double homicide to solve in *Born in Death* (Berkley, \$7.99)

by J.D. Robb when two young lovers—both employees of the same prestigious accounting firm—are brutally killed on the same night.

Mary Higgins Clark entertains and enthralls with *Two Little Girls in Blue* (Pocket, \$7.99), a tale of kidnapped twins.

The Women's Murder Club is back in action in James Patterson's *The 5th Horseman* (Warner, \$14.99).

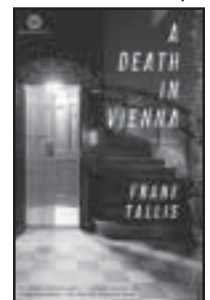
A two for one deal from Harlan Coben with *Promise Me* (Signet, \$9.99), an exciting thriller and the return of series character Myron Bolitar.

A superb read in Peter Robinson's stunning *Piece of My Heart* (Harper, \$7.99) with Inspector Alan Banks.

Historically speaking

With Pat McIntosh's *The Harper's Quine* (C&G, \$14.95) in paperback a wider audience will be able to enjoy this delightful and authentic series set in 15th century Glasgow and featuring lawyer and sleuth Gil Cunningham. An excellent series for fans of Susanna Gregory or Ellis Peters.

In Frank Tallis' *A Death in Vienna* (Random House, \$12.95) 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.



Plenty of Roman historical action to be found in John Maddox Roberts' *SPQR X: A Point of Law* (SMP, \$14.95) as Decius finds his election as praetor derailed by accusations of

Looking for a British publication? Ask us.

corruption. An outstanding series with loads of color and historical fact mixed into the plot.

Carrie Bebris' splendid series featuring Mr. & Mrs. Darcy continues with **North by Northanger** (Tor, \$6.99). First a mysterious letter is discovered, then a summons to Northanger Abbey involves the young couple in intrigues that may threaten Mr. Darcy's freedom.

Top thrills

In **Short Straw** (Signet, \$9.99) by Stuart Woods, Santa Fe lawyer Ed Eagle's wife Barbara has left him, cleaned out the bank accounts and fled. With her shady past Ed should have been better prepared for her hiring killers to do him in. Fast-paced, suspenseful and quirky. [JW]

Beginning with *Tropic of Night*, Michael Gruber has brought us into a different Miami. In this town there is magic Santeria and murders and happenings beyond our comprehension. In **Night of the Jaguar** (Harper, \$7.99), Cuban-American businessmen are found murdered by what seems to be a rather large Jaguar and detective Jimmy Paz's familiarity with the truly weird is needed by the police. [JW]

Lincoln Rhyme and Amelia Sachs face off against a killer obsessed with clocks in **Cold Moon** (Pocket, \$9.99) a novel with all the trademark twists and turns we expect from Jeffery Deaver. Thoroughly satisfying.

If serial killers are your thing Cody McFadyen's debut for FBI agent Smoky Barrett, **Shadow Man** (Bantam, \$6.99), will be right up your alley. Still recovering from her own tragedies, Smoky is pushed

into action by the murder of a old friend at the hands of a killer who styles himself a descendant of Jack the Ripper. Exciting, suspenseful and full of detail—an excellent debut.

Denise Hamilton delivers a stunning addition to the series in **Prisoner of Memory** (Pocket, \$7.99) where Eve is forced to probe the past of her own family, uncovering some uniquely unpleasant revelations. A powerfully gritty portrait of Los Angeles, seen and reported through the keen eyes of Eve Diamond. [LM]

Six Feet Under it isn't, but Mark de Castrique's gripping thriller **Foolish Undertaking** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) with undertaker Barry Clayton employs drama, rather than melodrama, to casts its spell, and in the end is more haunting than the television series featuring a family of undertakers. A body arrives tattooed with a cryptic message that traces back to Vietnam War era sinister doings and Barry must unravel these secrets in this compelling novel. [LM]

Reissues

Gil Brewer's **The Vengeful Virgin** (Hard Case, \$6.99) is available for the first time in more than 40 years, a classic tale of a gorgeous 18-year-old and her lover who conspire to murder her rich, ailing stepfather.

Fans of Dave Goodis won't want to miss **The Wounded and the Slain** (Hard Case, \$6.99), his last novel, unavailable for fifty years.

Finally, a New York literary agent in love with a Hollywood starlet risks his life to uncover the secret behind a Nobel Prize-winning author's lost final manu-

script in George Axelrod's **Blackmailer** (Hard Case, \$6.99).

Reissue of Randy Wayne White's series with ex-SEAL Dusky MacMorgan continues with **Cuban Death-Lift** (Signet, \$6.99) which takes Dusky to Mariel, Cuba.

Kudos to Felony & Mayhem for reissue of Elizabeth Daly's **Evidence of Things Seen** (\$14.95), part of her simply wonderful series from the '40s featuring Henry Gamadge a bibliophile and rare book expert, and his wife Clara.

Fans of traditional British mystery will want **Death in Disguise** (Felony & Mayhem, \$14.95), the third of Caroline Graham's fine Inspector Barnaby series.

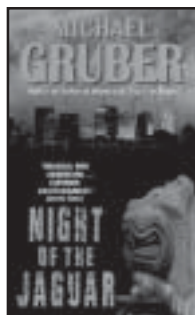
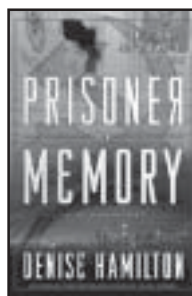
A welcome reissue of Peter Blauner's Edgar-winning debut **Slow Motion Riot** (Warner, \$7.99) about a probation officer caught in an urban jungle.

Goodnight Sweet Prince (C&G, \$14.95) the first of David Dickinson's thoroughly entertaining Victorian series featuring investigator Sir Frances Powerscourt, is once again available.

Maurice Leblanc's **Arsene Lupin, Gentleman Thief** (Penguin, \$14) is a collection of his charming tales of this early 19th century rogue who stole from the rich and usually kept the spoils. A classic.

Bertie, the Prince of Wales, is back to crime solving in Peter Lovesey's **Bertie and the Crime of Passion** (Felony & Mayhem, \$14.95). He's in Paris and asks Sarah Bernhardt and Toulouse Lautrec for their help in crime solving.

Delighted to see the very first Phyrne Fisher adventure, **Cocaine Blues** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) by Kerry Greenwood. This highly liberated sleuth of the 20's is a delight and, best of all, there are already five other books in paper, **Urn Burial** the most recent, with more to *Please see New Arrivals in Paper, page 12*



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Very Original

Reviews of books published for the first time as paperbacks

Festival

Mary Jane Maffini launches a sprightly new series with **Organize Your Corpses**

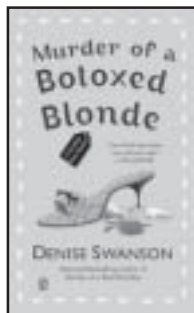


(Berkley, \$6.99) that introduces professional organizer Charlotte Adams. Digging through some debris for her latest client, a much-disliked teacher, she finds the client herself—dead—and must solve the crime to get herself off

the suspect hot-list. I think you'll like Charlotte's list-making style of sleuthing.

Garden makeover specialist Nina Quinn finds herself on a sleazy reality TV show—"Hitched or Ditched"—in Heather Webber's **Trouble in Bloom** (Avon, \$6.99). She's appearing with her beau Bobby McKenna but he's on a little undercover assignment of his own, until death intervenes.

Denise Swanson continues her Scumble River series with **Murder of a Botoxed Blonde** (Signet, \$6.99) where Skye Denison spends a reluctant weekend at a local spa and discovers that the treatments really are killers.



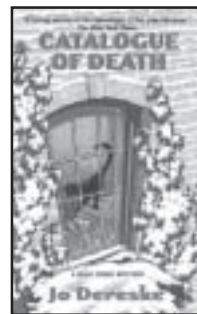
A double dose from veteran suspense writer Wendy Corsi Staub just in time for the Festival. **Don't Scream** (Zebra, \$6.99) is a taut thriller about four sorority sisters who share a deadly secret that's killing them one by one. In **Final Victim** (Zebra, \$6.99) we're transported to Savannah,

Georgia where a woman has just inherited a vast estate from her grandfather. Unfor-

tunately, someone is out for revenge and she and her family are the intended target.

Old favorites

Readers have been gobbling up Jo Dereske's sprightly mysteries with librarian Helma Zukas since she resumed the series last year with *Bookmarked to Die*. **Catalogue of Death** (Avon, \$6.99) will



certainly prove just as popular as Miss Zukas solves the murder of a billionaire who had planned to build a new library.

Lee Goldberg continues the sleuthing adventures of Dr. Mark Sloan in **Diagnosis Murder:**

The Last Word (Signet, \$6.99) where an outbreak of West Nile Fever threatens the hospital.

The murder of a soap-making diva in Ben Perkins shop is only the beginning in Tim Myers' **A Mold for Murder** (Berkley, \$6.99)—then he finds that his girlfriend has a history with victim making her the perfect suspect. A unique series that includes soap-making tips.

Inspector Witherspoon is lucky to have his housekeeper's help in **Mrs. Jeffries and the Best Laid Plans** (Berkley, \$6.99) by Emily Brightwell. The death of a friendless miser leaves him with a suspect list that includes just about everyone who knew the man.



MLB readers.

Andrea Camilleri's **The Patience of the Spider** (Penguin, \$13) finds Inspector

Montalbano recovering from the gunshot wound sustained in *Rounding the Mark*, but life—more specifically, crime—intervenes, thrusting the inspector back into action. The clever plot and deft translation from the Italian make this a must-read. Bravo, Camilleri! [LM]

New to you?

The arrival of Honor Hartman's **On the Slam** (Signet, \$6.99) might signal a revival of interest in bridge as the series features novice bridge player Emma Diamond who finds that being vulnerable might be deadly.

Three members of the Bargain Hunter's Network band together to solve the mystery of the murder of their fourth member in Sharon Dunn's **Death of a Garage Sale Newby** (Multnomah, \$12.99); a cozy mystery with a Christian tilt.

Ballerinas don't usually take center stage in mysteries, but in **Tutu Deadly** (Berkley Prime Crime, \$6.99), Natalie M. Roberts has choreographed a charming mystery with a Utah ballet school founder as protagonist. Meet Jenny T. Ogdan, who,



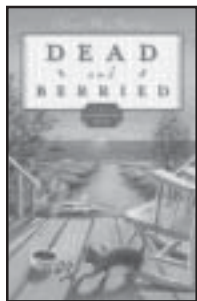
as a matter of course, deals with ambitious and obnoxious stage mothers. When one of these mothers is poisoned, Jenny discovers a new talent: detection. And we thought cheerleading was deadly! [LM]

Kathleen Bacus follows her humorous mystery debut *Calamity Jayne* with the wildly entertaining **Calamity Jayne Goes to College** (Dorchester, \$6.99). Tressa Jane Turner is a reporter with attitude. When she returns to college for the fourth time, she receives an unanticipated education in solving crimes. This campus romp is great fun, particularly if you enjoy Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum books.

Victoria Laurie's launches a brand-new series with **What's a Ghoul to Do?** (Signet, \$6.99) featuring ghost hunter and sleuth

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M.J. Holliday. She and her partner, Gilley, are hired by a handsome doctor who wants them to prove that his grandfather's death was foul play.



Natalie Barnes, owner of the Grey Whale Inn, returns in **Dead and Berried** (Midnight Ink, \$12.95), a delicious sequel to *Murder on the Rocks*. A developer wants to destroy a cranberry bog on the island but that's not

the only problem as a murderer strikes and Natalie's best friend becomes the prime suspect.

Aramis is accused of murder and it's up to the other Musketeers to come to his defense in Sarah D'Almeida's **The Musketeer's Seamstress** (Berkley, \$6.99)—an entertaining historical series.

Cozy treats

Rita Lakin's delightful series featuring senior sleuth Gladly Gold and her posse of kibitzing friends continues with **Getting Old Is Criminal** (Dell, \$6.99). The case of a retirement home Romeo who may have been responsible for the death of his paramour takes front and center in this latest book full of humor and heart.

I've been eagerly awaiting **Ghost of a Chance** (Midnight Ink, \$13.95), Amy Patricia Meade's sequel to *Million Dollar Baby* and it fully lives up to my expectations. This delightful period piece is wonderfully evocative of earlier times. Best of all, it offers romantic suspense in addition to historical exploration. I highly recommend this series to fans of historical cozies. Amy Patricia Meade is a real find.

Jessica Fletcher and Donald Bain return to paperback original with **Murder She Wrote: Coffee, Tea or Murder?** (Signet, \$6.99) as Jessica eagerly accepts a freebie trip to London but finds that murder intervenes.

Television soap opera writer Morgan Tyler finds life imitates art in Linda Palmer's **Kiss of Death** (Berkley, \$7.99) as she comes to the defense of a friend accused of murdering her boyfriend's ex.

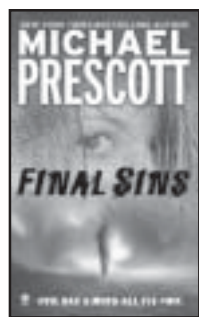
Flower shop owner Peggy Lee follows her nose—and some tips from an internet informant—to track down a killer in Joyce and Jim Lavene's **Poisoned Petals** (Berkley, \$6.99). Some good gardening tips here, just in time for spring.

Veterinarian Jessica Popper puts romance and business on the back burner to investigate the death of a reporter at her Hawaiian hotel in the latest entry of this fun and frisky series: **Right from the Gecko** (Bantam, \$6.99) by Cynthia Baxter.

Thrills

Ed Gaffney's **Diary of a Serial Killer** (Dell, \$6.99) starts off on page one with a heart-stopping scene of attorney Zach Wilson in a courtroom with a madman shooting into a crowd that includes Zach's son. The remainder of the book lives up to the opening as Zach and his partner Terry Tallach face the dilemma of a serial killer who has resurfaced bringing into question the original conviction of the man thought responsible.

Security consultant Abby Sinclair is hired by a murderer, acquitted by reason of insanity, who says he's being stalked in Michael Prescott's exciting **Final Sins** (Onyx, \$7.99). Soon enough her long time adversary, FBI agent Tess McCallum is also drawn into the case.



In **The Dying Game** (Zebra, \$6.99) by Beverly Barton a Chattanooga cop faces off against a ruthless serial killer who is targeting former beauty queens—leaving a single red rose by the bodies.

Geologist Frankie MacFarlane is drawn into a police investigation when the

remains of her former fiance are found in the desert in Susan Cummins Miller's **Quarry** (Berkley, \$7.99), second in this series with a great southwestern setting.

A clever blend of humor and suspense are the hallmark of Linwood Barclay's series with suburban dad Zack Walker and **Stone Rain** (Bantam, \$6.99) is no exception. Trixie, the neighborhood dominatrix, seeks Zack's help in killing a story about her business in the local paper. Next thing you know, the reporter is dead in Trixie's basement and she's disappeared. An exciting story told with humor and excellent dialogue.

Shadows in the White City (Harper, \$6.99), Robert W. Walker's second moody historical, set in late 19th century Chicago, is indeed a winner. Second in the series featuring Inspector Alastair Ransom, it brings alive the glorious Chicago of the World's Fair. Ransom shoulders the task of executing justice, at times skirting legality to do so. Good stuff, this. [LM]

Red-headed twins Kerry and Terry McAfee make a third zany appearance in Jennifer Colt's **Vampire of Venice Beach** (Broadway, \$11.95) as they track the killer of their friend Darby.

Kate Pepper's **Here She Lies** (Onyx, \$7.99) will keep you guessing to the very end in this tale of a woman who flees an unfaithful husband only to be arrested and then find that her daughter has disappeared—the daughter no one believes exists.

A woman returns to her hometown to unearth the truth about her family in Holly Lisle's well-plotted **Night Echoes** (Signet, \$6.99), a romantic suspenser with some good ghost story elements.



Also Noted continued from page 5

- McCarry, Charles; *The Tears of Autumn* (Overlook, \$13.95); Paul Christopher, reissue
- McGovern, Cammie; *Eye Contact* (Penguin, \$14); autistic child is witness to crime
- McKeveitt, G.A.; *Fat Free and Fatal* (Kensington, \$22); California PI Savannah Reid
- Meltzer, Brad; *The Book of Fate* (Warner, \$7.99); a dark conspiracy and a 200-year-old secret code created by Thomas Jefferson are the elements in this routine thriller.
- Mills, Wendy Howell; *Island Blues* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95); Comico Island, Florida sleuth Sabrina Dunsweeney
- Murray, Colin; *After a Dead Dog* (C&G, \$25.95); Scottish TV writer suddenly finds himself in the midst of a gangland battle for turf
- Packer, Vin; *Scott Free* (C&G, \$24.95); transgendered investigator looks into kidnapping in the Hamptons
- Perez-Reverte, Arturo; *Sun Over Breda* (Putnam, \$24.95); 17th century swordsman Alatrisme rejoins his old regiment for the siege of Breda
- Perry, Anne; *We Shall Not Sleep* (Ballantine, \$21.95); conclusion to the WW I saga of the Reavley family
- Phelan, Twist; *Heir Apparent* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); exciting legal thriller with a unique rodeo background, reissue
- Pomeroy, Julia; *The Dark End of Town* (C&G, \$14.95); woman returns to upstate NY hometown, finds murders to investigate
- Quinlan, Patrick; *Smoked* (Griffin, \$12.95); bomb maker on the run
- Rehder, Ben; *Gun Shy* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); game warden John Marlin finds himself in the middle of the gun control debate
- Roe, Graeme; *Dangerous Outsider* (C&G, \$24.95); a horse-racing mystery but Roe is no Dick Francis
- Rosenberg, Nancy Taylor; *Revenge of Innocents* (Kensington, \$24) and *Sullivan's Evidence* (Pinnacle, \$6.99); probation officer Carlyne Sullivan
- Rosenfelt, David; *Dead Center* (Warner, \$6.99); New Jersey attorney Andy Carpenter goes to the aid of an old girlfriend
- Rosett, Sara; *Staying Home Is a Killer* (Kensington, \$22); Ellie Avery, Air Force wife and frequent mover
- Sallis, James; *Cripple Creek* (Walker, \$12.95); Turner returns to Memphis in this sequel to *Cypress Grove*
- Sandford, John; *Dead Watch* (Berkley, \$9.99); a Washington thriller perfect for poolside.
- Seranella, Barbara; *Deadman's Switch* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); corporate crisis management consultant Charlotte Lyon
- Stansberry, Domenic; *The Big Boom* (SMP, \$13.95); San Francisco PI Dante Mancuso
- Straw, Tom; *The Trigger Episode* (C&G, \$24.95); photojournalist turned paparazzi hunts missing TV star
- Swift, Virginia; *Hello, Stranger* (Harper, \$6.99); Wyoming college prof Sally Adler
- Talton, Jon; *Cactus Heart* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95); David Mapstone, teacher turned deputy sheriff
- Tursten, Helene; *The Glass Devil* (Soho, \$24); Swedish police inspector Irene Huss
- White, Kate; *Lethally Blonde* (Warner, \$24.99) and *Over Her Dead Body* (Warner, \$6.99); reporter Bailey Weggins
- Zerries, A.J.; *The Lost Van Gogh* (Tor, \$7.99); painting stolen during the war re-surfaces in New York
- Zigal, Thomas; *Hardrock Stiff* (Toby, \$9.95); Aspen sheriff Karl Muller, reissue

Just Published... continued from page 4

side Marlowe, Spenser and Harper. The nineteenth of the series finds Walker hired by a retired Tigers pitcher who fears that her daughter is being swindled by her sleazy fiancé. A joy for fans of the classic hardboiled novel.

Cruel Stars of the Night (St. Martin's, \$23.95) is Kjell Eriksson's magnificent follow-up to the acclaimed *The Princess of Burundi* from a master of page-turning suspense that follows Swedish Police Inspector Ann Lindell as she and her colleagues realize a deranged killer may be closer than anyone thinks.

Avalanche (S&S, \$24) by Patrick McManus is the sequel to *Blight Way*, a

hilarious debut that introduced Sheriff Bo Tully of Blight County, Idaho. Bo is off to the mountains with his somewhat addled dad in pursuit of a missing man—the owner of luxury lodge. An avalanche that may have been deliberately triggered almost derails the hunt but you can be sure that Bo will get his man, or woman, and you'll be entertained by the banter between him and his dad, the former sheriff. A simply delightful yarn with a western flavor.

Play Dead (Warner, \$24.99) is David Rosenfelt's sixth superb mystery, succeeding last year's *Dead Center*. New Jersey attorney Andy Carpenter has a soft

spot for dogs, particularly golden retrievers, so it is no surprise that he passionately defends dogs, even when they are facing death sentences. The dog he saves is actually tied to an earlier homicide case that leads Andy into a desperate investigation aimed at freeing an innocent man. Dog lovers in particular will cheer for Andy in a series that virtually begs for more installments. This one is a real treat.

Ellah Clah, Navajo investigator, faces a ruthless serial killer in the excellent **The Turquoise Girl** (Forge, \$23.95) by Aimee and David Thurlo, a case which takes her

Please see Just Published, page 12

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What's New in British Mystery?

The death of a king's messenger sends Sir Baldwin and Simon Puttock investigating in Michael Jecks' *Malice of Unnatural Death* (Headline, \$24.95) where they uncover a plot by Roger Mortimer to assassinate the King.

Aztec investigator Yaotl returns in *City of Spies* (S&S, \$13.95), Simon Levack's third in this unique and fascinating historical series. Yaotl faces twin challenges: his boss wants him dead and his former lover stands accused of murder.

Restoration-era architect Christopher Redmayne is back to sleuthing in Edward Marston's *Parliament House* (A&B, \$9.95). Great characters and meticulous historical background.

A sinister figure stalks the grounds of Cremorne Gardens in *The Last Pleasure Garden* (Arrow, \$14.95) by Lee Jackson—his latest Victorian mystery with Inspector Webb. Webb dismisses the man, who simply snips locks of hair from unsuspecting woman, as a lunatic until the murders begin. Scrupulously researched and very atmospheric; each book focuses on a different aspect of Victorian life.



Nineteenth century Istanbul is the exotic setting for *The Sultan's Seal* (Orion, \$13.95) by Jenny White where magistrate Kamil Pasha faces the difficult investigation of the murder of young Englishwoman whose body washed up with a *tughra*, the seal of the Sultan's household, round her neck.

A treasure map seems to be behind brutal multiple murders in Paul Doherty's *The Waxman Murders* (Headline, \$13.95) but Hugh Corbett is ready to unravel the secrets of the Carta Mysteriosa and find the villains.

Traditional delights

Murder in Steeple Martin (Accent, \$13.95) by Lesley Cookson marks the

beginning of a wonderful new series set in the Kentish village of the title where an amateur theater company has been formed with middle-aged artist Libby Serjeant as one of its members. The expected squabbling develops with a well-drawn assortment of village characters as the production stirs up jealousy as well as the specter of old murders.



Gideon Blake, artist and animal behaviorist, is abducted from his home and inexplicably forced by his captors to catch a dangerous and highly-strung stallion in *Blindfold* (Arrow, \$13.95) by Lyndon Stacey. After his release he ignores his kidnapper's threats and resolves to find out who was behind this bizarre event.

Robert Barnard comes up with another really good reason not to attend school reunions in *Dying Flames* (A&B, \$13.95). When Graham Broadbent returns to his former school in Colchester a lovely nineteen year old girl announces that he is her father. Dubious of this announcement but intrigued with the girl, Graham becomes involved in a tale of compulsive lies, bizarre fantasies and the sudden disappearance of the girl's mother. A witty well-plotted whodunit. [JA]

Sheer Torture (A&B, \$13.95) is a welcome reissue of the first in Barnard's witty Perry Trethowan series, first published in 1981. Scotland Yard inspector Trethowan investigates the rather bizarre murder of his estranged father along with assorted other misfits and eccentrics in his blue-blooded family.

Preparations for a summer party are interrupted by murder in *The Beckoning Lady* (Vintage, \$13.95) an Albert Campion mystery by Margery Allingham. Campion also appears in *More Work for the Undertaker* (Vintage,

\$13.95) where the aristocratic sleuth deals with a disappearing coffin among other oddities.

Cops on the case

A wealthy property developer's death—thrown from his luxury penthouse—starts an inquiry that focuses on his lover, who has gone missing in John Connor's *A Child's Game* (Orion, \$13.95). Also missing is Detective Constable Karen Sharpe whose recent activities tie into the case in a suspicious way. This latest of Connor's gripping series will keep you up all night.

Popular Scottish travel writer Peter Kerr turns to mystery with the lively and humorous *The Mallorca Connection* (Accent, \$13.95). Bob Burns is a maverick detective and his bosses certainly aren't going to stand in the way of his investigating a bizarre murder that takes him from Scotland to Mallorca, assisted by an attractive forensic scientist and an eager young constable. Bob returns in a second comic adventure in *The Sporan Connection* (Accent, \$13.95).



Trust Nobody (Orion, \$13.95) is an unusual debut by June Hampson set in 1962 featuring Daisy Lane, the wife of a small-time crook in Gosport. With her husband in jail, Daisy is living over the family café with her brother-in-law Eddie and she has her hands full fending off his advances while watching out for the young girl who works in the café. A colorful and nostalgic crime novel with heart.

Chief Superintendent Frances Harmen has one tough case on her hands in Judith Cutler's *Life Sentence* (A&B, \$9.95), a victim in a coma two years after the beating that sent her to the hospital. With life support about to be removed the case is about to become a murder inquiry.

New Paperbacks continued from page 7

come.

Also a first, **Corridors of Death** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) by Ruth Dudley Edwards which introduced Robert Amiss in the case of the murdered Whitehall civil servant.

Softer side



Best known and loved for her wonderful Benni Harper mysteries, Earlene Fowler crosses over into literary fiction in **The Saddlemaker's Wife** (Berkley, \$7.99) as she relates the touching tale of Ruby McGavin and the

mystery surrounding her husband Cole, who died by apparent suicide a mere sixth months after their wedding. Traveling to Cole's hometown she discovers more than she ever wanted to know in this haunting novel of family secrets and connections. [LM]

Wartime PI Faye Quick returns in Sandra Scoppettone's **Too Darn Hot** (Ballantine, \$7.99). A record heat wave in 1943 and an AWOL private leads to New York high and low life, love and death for this original lady undaunted by the twists and turns in a scorching plot with dead-on dialogue.

With **Island Intrigue** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) Wendy Howell Mills introduces a fabulous new sleuth in Sabrina Dunsweeney, a middle-aged teacher from Cincinnati who is taking time to regroup from a cancer scare and her mother's death by vacationing on quaint Comico Island. The death of a recently returned islander pulls Sabrina into finding out what really goes on in this island paradise. [LM]

Judy Clemens returns with a highly entertaining entry in her Agatha and Anthony Award-nominated series featuring Pennsylvania dairy farmer Stella Crown. **To Thine Own Self Be True** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) is a true delight as Stella, who loves to ride her Harley, decides that she needs to get a

new tattoo. Thus begins her descent into the underworld of tattooing, where murder and violence abound. [LM]

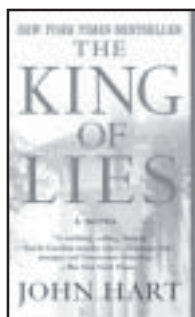
In **Alpine Recluse** (Ballantine, \$6.99) by Mary Daheim the little town of Alpine is shocked by a house fire that results in the death of a young husband and soon to be father. Emma Lord is soon on the case and discovers some motives for murder in the young man's life. Excellent characters and the well-realized small town atmosphere are the hallmarks of this entertaining series along with the feisty character of Emma herself.

Murder is on the menu when a renowned plastic surgeon goes missing from a local spa, and it's up to plus-sized P.I. Savannah Reid to stitch up a killer who cuts to the bone in G.A. McKeve'tt's **Corpse Suzette** (Kensington, \$6.99). A wonderful character in an entertaining Southern-style series.

Sue Henry, justly famous for her Alaska-based mysteries, has discovered the ideal getaway strategy: a new series starring Maxie McNabb, a sixty-plus woman who travels in her Winnebago, along with her dog, Stretch. In her new adventure, **The Tooth of Time** (Onyx, \$6.99) Winnie travels to Taos, New Mexico where she explores the art of weaving while solving a murder. [LM]

In **Bleeding Hearts** (Berkley, \$6.99) by Susan Wittig Albert, China Bayles is asked to undertake an investigation into anonymous accusations against a high school football coach in the latest in this excellent series.

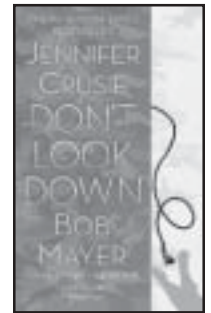
Don't miss reads



John Hart's **King of Lies** (SMP, \$6.99) is an extraordinary debut in this first-person narrative by young lawyer Work Pickens set in a small North Carolina city. As the novel opens the body of Work's father—a wealthy and powerful lawyer who dominated Work,

his sister and their mother—has just been found 18 months after he disappeared, the same night his wife fell down the stairs to her death. As Work becomes a suspect while he fears that his sister is the killer the suspense ratchets up at the same time that an intense family drama unfolds. Reminiscent of Scott Turow's early work.

In a fresh and hilarious approach to mystery writing, sexy Jennifer Crusie and macho Bob Mayer have written a book together: **Don't Look Down** (SMP, \$7.99). This one's a whirlwind ride, with alternating points of view in a perilous movie making project in Savannah. Wonder Woman Pepper, a Gator named Moot and a wild assortment of characters people this five ticket ride.



Still Life (SMP, \$6.99), a stunning debut police procedural by Canadian Louise Penny, introduces us to the appealing L'Inspecteur Gamache, a Montreal-based cop, sent to rural Quebec to investigate the death of a local artist. His keen observations of both his team and the village folk take us on an interesting tour of small town life and the many secrets it holds. I can't wait for more. [MBN]

Daniel Judson's Long Island, as found in **The Darkest Place** (SMP, \$6.99) is nothing like the Hamptons-set novels of the rich and idle and his new standalone delves into some dark corners as burned-out writer and college prof Deak Kane is dragged into the investigation of a series of drownings of young men—accidents that look increasingly like murder. A fine read.

In John Dunning's **The Bookwoman's Last Fling** (Pocket, \$9.99), Cliff Janeway is off to Idaho where a collection of first edition children's classics leaves him stunned—not least by the suspicious death of the owner.

Please see *New Arrivals in Paper*, page 14

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

Just Published... continued from page 10

back to her FBI days as well as pursuing links to her father—killed ten years earlier. A compelling mystery is deftly combined with an exploration of Navajo belief and Ella's own struggle to reconcile that tradition with the Christian faith of her father.

Armand Gamache, the brilliant Chief Inspector of the Surete de Quebec returns to the sleepy village of Small Pines when an unpopular resident is electrocuted. Suspects galore challenge Gamache's uncanny ability to get to the heart of small town matters, eventually unearthing the secrets behind the murder. **A Fatal Grace** (St. Martin's, \$23.95) is Louise Penney's second in this outstanding series. [MN]

With taut prose and snappy dialogue, veteran thriller-writer John Connolly is at the top of his game. In **The Unquiet** (Atria Books, \$25.95), featuring private investigator Charlie Parker, Connelly explores the nature of evil. This tightly plotted novel focuses upon Charlie's struggle to determine what really happened to a prominent psychiatrist who has disappeared. Confronting his own demons, along with those unleashed during the case, Charlie opts for unearthing the always inconvenient truth. A provocative, stylish mystery that lingers long beyond the final page. [LM]

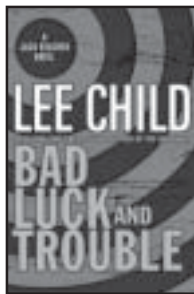
Engrossing reads

Veteran Jerry Kennealy starts a new series in **Jigsaw** (St. Martin's, \$24.95) featuring San Francisco newspaper critic Carroll Quint who investigates a series of murders that mimic Hitchcock movies. A zippy style carries this light-hearted book along as Quint puzzles out a mystery that is a delight to unravel.

In **A Stranger Lies There** (St. Martin's, \$24.95) by Stephen Santogrossi, Tim Ryder finds the body of a dead man with his morning coffee one hot southern California morning. Neither Tim, nor his

wife recognizes the person and links to Tim's shady past are muddying the waters. First time author Santogrossi has a skilled hand at capturing the social situations of the early seventies which formed the characters past life in this compelling novel. [JW]

Lee Child is back with another knockout Jack Reacher novel in **Bad Luck and Trouble** (Random, \$26.00). This time, loaner Reacher is reunited with his ex-military police unit when his buddies are brutally murdered one by one. The remaining members band together to get to the bottom of the conspiracy – providing non-stop action and the best escapist read around. [MN]



Don't be disturbed by the cover of Grace Brophy's solid debut **The Last Enemy** (Soho, \$23)—that hooded figure isn't a Klansman but rather a *penitente* in the annual Easter Week procession in Umbria, Italy. Brophy's tale of an Italian cop investigating a powerful family is colorful and compelling. A treat for Donna Leon fans.

Prolific Stuart Woods brings back series hero Stone Barrington in the engrossing, fast-paced **Fresh Disasters** (Putnam, \$25.95) where Stone comes to the alarming realization that it's easier to stumble upon the Mafia than it is to escape intact. Don't read this one immediately before retiring for the evening; it will make your heart race long into the night. [LM]

Neil McMahon liberates himself from the series format with **Lone Creek** (Harper, \$24.95) an absorbing tale of Hugh Davoren, a journalist who returns to Montana and takes up construction work at a ranch he knew from childhood. A beautiful rendering of Montana combines with some well-done action in this compelling novel.

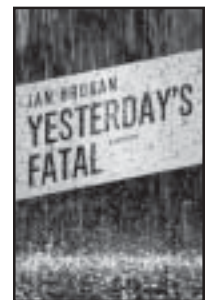
Patrick Culhane, actually Max Allan Collins, pulls off a thumping good

historical crime novel in **Black Hats** (Morrow, \$24.95) that brings together Wyatt Earp and Bat Masterson in '20s New York. It's a delight to see that maturity and wisdom, aided by Earp's .45, can triumph over tough guys with Tommy guns.

The hunt for a missing Shakespearean manuscript is always a good start for a thriller and Michael Gruber's **The Book of Air and Shadows** (Morrow, \$24.95) brings together a Manhattan attorney on the run from the Russian mob and an aspiring filmmaker who discovers a 17th century letter that points them to the heretofore unknown manuscript. Ingenious, fast-paced and full of historical detail.

Judith Kelm can certainly write suspense, and in **The First Stone** (Berkley, \$24.95) she proves it decisively. This first-rate thriller centers on a woman who hears ghastly noises emanating from the upstairs apartment rented by world-famous cardiac surgeon. Should she report the noises—and at what risk to herself? Read this one by daylight.

Providence reporter Hallie Ahearn returns in Jan Brogan's tightly plotted **Yesterday's Fatal** (St. Martin's, \$24.95) where she stumbles into an insurance scam after witnessing a late night auto accident that doesn't seem to make sense. A nice sequel to *Confidential Source*.



In Andrea Kane's nail-biting **Dark Room** (Morrow, \$23.95) Morgan Winter, still haunted by the murder of her parents seventeen years previously, confronts the shocking reality that the wrong person was convicted and that the actual killer is still loose. Morgan vows to bring the killer to justice. Her means of doing so will keep you riveted, guaranteed. [LM]

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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.

Michael Chabon switches from the Mysteries of Pittsburgh to the mysteries of Alaska in **The Yiddish Policeman's Union** (Harper, \$26.95), a homage to hard-boiled detective novels. Thing is, it's set in Sitka, Alaska which has become the post WW II home of displaced Jews rather than Israel. There's



quite a bit of humor in this tale of burnt-out cop Meyer Landsmann who awakes to find that his neighbor has been murdered along with some brilliant writing and terrific inventiveness as Chabon transposes the history of Israel to the frozen vastness of Alaska.

Tim Willocks' **The Religion** (FSG, \$26)

is a splendid historical novel as rich, vulgar, violent and complex as the 16th century setting at the siege of Malta. The title refers to the Knights of St. John and it is they who face tens of thousands of Turks who have invaded. Into this maelstrom heads Tannheuser—soldier, merchant, one-time Janissary, who has come to Malta with a young noblewoman to rescue the son that she has never seen. A delight to read combining full-bore action with plenty of historical fact. Best of all, it's the start of a trilogy.

From geology to canoes John McPhee has enthralled with his essays on almost any subject under the sun. **Uncommon Carriers** (FSG, \$14) is no exception as McPhee takes us on an 18 wheeler going cross country, into the UPS sorting facility, on a tow boat on the river and even to a training school for sea captains in the

middle of the Alps. What a trip!

If you're going to get advice about writing, get it from the best: Walter Mosley. **This Year You Write Your Novel** (Little, Brown, \$19.99) provides equal doses of inspiration and instruction to get your book done this year.



Suite Francaise (Vintage, \$14.95) by Irene Nemirovsky is an extraordinary novel of life under Nazi occupation—discovered and published 62 years after the author's tragic death at Auschwitz. Subtle,

often fiercely ironic, and deeply compassionate, it is both a piercing record of its time and a brilliant, profoundly moving work of art.

New Paperbacks continued from page 12

With **The Virgin of Small Plains** (Ballantine, \$13.95) Nancy Pickard sustains a crackling suspense from the opening truck crash to the stories of January 23, 1987 and the impact of those events on the tiny town's professional leaders and their families. In between the gorgeous country, a vicious tornado and lingering love are delivered with the sure grace of a gifted writer. An Edgar nominee and a winner in our book.

Michael Robotham's **Lost** (Vintage, \$13.95) 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. Suspenseful to the very last page.

Danger seems drawn to Swedish cop Irene Huss in **The Torso** (Soho, \$13), a superb sequel which finds her on her way to Denmark to consult on a case similar

to one of her own. When a third and fourth victim turn up with connections to Huss, she realizes that the killer may be closer than she thinks.

In John Talton's **Arizona Dreams** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95), David Mapstone, former history professor and present-day deputy is challenged to exercise his not inconsiderable ingenuity to solve a tough case involving old and new murders. Clever plotting, poignant characters and a powerful sense of humor contribute to the readability of this fine new novel. [LM]

Adventure tales

Kyle Mills' **The Second Horseman** (SMP, \$7.99) is an entertaining thriller about a thief blackmailed into highjacking a load of missiles from the terrorists but naturally, he's double-crossed by the scheming National Security Advisor.

Public Enemy (Harper, \$7.99) is Will

Staeger's second novel spotlighting W. Cooper, a beach bum who happens to be a secret agent, and his sidekick, Julie Laramie. This time the dynamic duo must put a powerful sleeper agent out of commission, and this is no easy task. [LM]

For the espionage novel there is no war like the Cold War and Henry Porter's **Brandenburg Gate** (Grove, \$13) fits the bill with a tale set in East Germany near the end of the fateful year 1989. A suitably complex plot, a good bit of action and the recreation of turning point moment come together nicely for a ripping read.

The secret of D-Day figures in the plot of Robert J. Mrazek's **The Deadly Embrace** (Penguin, \$13) that 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.

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Coming Events

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|-----------------------|----------|---|
| Monday,
May 7 | 4 PM | The 12th Annual Festival of Mystery promises to be even bigger and better. Details in the Festival insert or check mysterylovers.com . |
| Thursday,
May 17 | 7 PM | MLB and Yarns by Design welcome knitter and author Debbie Macomber for a night of yarns and yarns. Please call if you can come. |
| Friday,
May 18 | 6 PM | Pittsburgh writer Heather Terrell celebrates publication of her debut thriller <i>Chrysalis</i> with a party at MLB, please join us. |
| Sunday,
May 20 | 2 PM | Lindsey Davis makes a first ever visit with her latest Marcus Didius Falco mystery, <i>Saturnalia</i> . Join us for tea and talk, if you can. |
| Sunday,
May 13 | | Susan B. Komen Race for the Cure raises funds to fight breast cancer at every level. More info at www.pittsburghraceforthecure.org |
| Monday,
May 28 | ALL DAY | We'll be closed for Memorial Day . Enjoy the kick-off for summer; maybe with a good book. |
| Monday,
June 18 | 7 PM | Donna Leon makes her first Pittsburgh appearance with <i>Suffer the Little Children</i> , her new Guido Brunetti book. Tickets on sale now. |
| Friday,
June 22 | 6 PM | Pittsburgh author Kathryn Miller Haines debuts her WW II-era mystery, <i>The War Against Miss Winter</i> at a publication party. Please join us. |
| Wednesday,
June 27 | 6:30 PM | Alex Kava joins us for a book club dinner with her gripping thriller <i>Whitewash</i> . Dinner is \$20, reservations essential. |
| Wednesday,
July 4 | ALL DAY | We'll be eating hot dogs to celebrate Independence Day . MLB will be closed. |
| Friday,
July 20 | MIDNIGHT | Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows goes on sale at midnight. We'll have a big party and more--details in the next News. |

Best Books for Babies

Beginning with Books, a local literacy organization nationally recognized as an authority on early childhood reading, has announced it's 2007 list of **Best Books for Babies**. You'll find all 10 choices at MLB and online at www.mysterylovers.com/books/bwb.



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