

NEWS

MYSTERY LOVERS BOOKSHOP

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

June-July 2007

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

Summer Coffee & Crime

We've got two popular and dynamic authors for our Summer Coffee & Crime author breakfasts. Each Saturday morning event begins at 10 am and includes a continental breakfast and author talk and signing. Cost is \$5 each, early reservations essential.

Sarah Strohmeyer

June 23 at 10 am



Summer Coffee & Crime starts off right with Sarah Strohmeyer and her funny and wise novel *The Sleeping Beauty Proposal*.

You're sure to enjoy Sarah's talk, call now to sign up.

Alafair Burke

August 4 at 10 am



Alafair Burke moves her setting from Portland to New York in the tense standalone novel *Dead Connection*. Internet dating is at the center of this thriller about identify theft and a ruthless killer.

Kathryn Miller Haines

June 22 at 7 pm

Please come and celebrate with us on Friday, June 22 at 7 pm at a launch party for Pittsburgh author Kathryn Miller

Haines and her debut mystery *The War Against Miss Winter*. Kathy puts her theater background to good use in this tale of an actress turned PI in New York during WW II. Dead on mystery.



Alex Kava

June 27 at 6:30 pm

The talented Alex Kava joins us for a book club dinner on Wednesday, June 27 at 6:30 with her smashing new standalone thriller *Whitewash*.

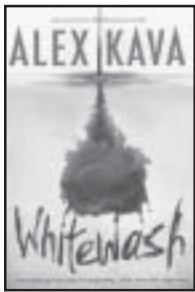
We'll be serving a delicious meal from Girasole; cost is \$20 including drinks and dessert. Reservations are essential for this tasty and unique event.



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Just Published..

As a political thriller with a dash of terrorism and trash, author Alex Kava will keep your lights burning until the last



page, indeed the last words, of **Whitewash** (Mira, \$24.95). A toxic puzzle, full color characters and Beltway intrigues mark this thriller from one of the best of today's writers. This one's a keeper. Join us, and

Alex, for a book club dinner on Wednesday, June 27.

Dead Connection (Holt, \$19.95) by Alafair Burke shivers with virtual danger when rookie detective Ellie Hatcher goes undercover on the internet dating scene. Elegant plotting and on the money details will envelop you in this thriller perfect for a hot summer night. Please join us on August 4 for a Coffee & Crime breakfast with this gifted mystery writer and listen to the tales of stolen identities and a killing spree in NYC from her latest book. Awesome.



Quick takes

Stephanie Plum finds herself in a dangerous and hilarious chase in Janet Evanovich's **Lean Mean Thirteen** (St. Martin's, \$26.95).

The almost-too-prolific-to-be-believed James Patterson teams up for a second time with Michael Ledwidge in the sexy, fast-paced thriller, **The Quickie** (Little, Brown, \$27.99).

Victoria Thompson mines some eye-opening history in her latest tale for New York City mid-wife Sarah Brandt in **Murder in Chinatown** (Berkley, \$23.95). We have signed copies.

Dave Robicheaux returns to a post-

Katrina New Orleans in James Lee Burke's **Tin Roof Blowdown** (S&S, \$26).

Judge Deborah Knott barely has time to settle into married life before she's involved in a deadly case in Margaret Maron's **Hard Row** (Warner, \$24.99). [JA]

An ordinary guy is mistaken for a hit man in Dean Koontz's **The Good Guy** (Bantam, \$27), a thriller so compelling you'll read it in one sitting.

Forensic anthropologist Gideon Oliver takes a trip up the Amazon in **Little Tiny Teeth** (Berkley, \$23.95).

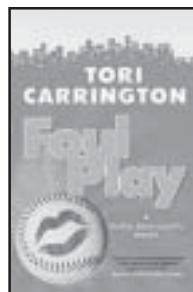
Miami reporter Britt Montero joins forces with the Cold Case Squad in Edna Buchanan's riveting **Love Kills** (S&S, \$25).

Bounty hunter Jack Keller finds the case of a missing girl more complicated than he expected in J.D. Rhoades' action packed **Safe and Sound** (St. Martin's, \$23.95)

Private school consultant Thea Kozak delves into a stalking case in Kate Flora's **Stalking Death** (Mystery Co., \$25).

A property dispute takes a detour into murder in Philip R. Craig's **Vineyard Stalker** (Scribner, \$24) as J.W. Jackson investigates.

The delightful Greek-American PI Sophie Metropolis takes on the case of a major league pitcher who may have a wayward eye for the ladies in Tori Carrington's **Foul Play** (Forge, \$23.95).



Not-so-retired Israeli spy Gabriel Allon is sent to Amsterdam in Daniel Silva's thrilling **The Secret Servant** (Putnam, \$25.95).

An Idaho sheriff is all that stands between a clever and ruthless assassin and a Presidential candidate in Ridley Pearson's **Killer Weekend** (Putnam, \$24.95).

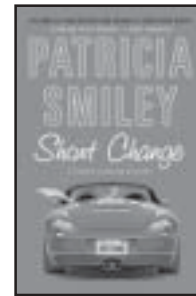
Trouble is brewing in Mr. Monk's carefully ordered household as Sharona

returns to reclaim her job in Lee Goldberg's **Mr. Monk and the Two Assistants** (NAL, \$19.95).

Robert B. Parker's **Spare Change** (Putnam, \$24.95), a terrific entry in the Sunny Randall series finds the Boston PI working with her dad, a retired cop, on a serial killer case that he never solved.

Cozier

Kathleen Delaney's **And Murder for Dessert** (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95) is a welcome entrée to the cozy scene, as Realtor Ellen McKenzie attends a Harvest Festival dinner with her fiancé, the chief of



police, but there is more on her plate than she anticipated. The death of a temperamental is the dish de jour. Just des(s)erts, indeed! [LM]

Freelance writer Jaine Austen takes a job writing for a

stand-up comic in **Death by Pantyhose** (Kensington, \$22) by Laura Levine, only to find her client the prime suspect in the murder of a rival comedian. A comic romp, in more ways than one, in this latest in this hot series.

In **A Widow's Curse** (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$23.95), Phillip DePoy has written another fascinating mystery featuring folklorist Fever Devilin. In his latest cleverly constructed novel, Fever is on a mission in the Georgia Appalachians to discover the origin of a medallion. The murder of it's owner pushes Fever to investigate—wonderful stuff. [LM]

Rick Copp launches a charming new series with **Fingerprints and Facelifts** (Kensington, \$23) in which the three protagonists, Claire, Tess and Dani, who ran a PI agency 25 years ago in Hollywood, find themselves back in business—older, wiser and not quite so physically fit.

Patricia Smiley's Tucker Sinclair may be

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a business consultant but **Short Change** (NAL, \$23.95) begins like a classic PI tale with a lying client. Eve Lawson is the client and the PI is Tucker's own client Charlie Tate and pretty soon Eve has disappeared and a body has appeared dragging Tucker deeper and deeper into the puzzle. Sprightly humor, most of it at the expense of the foibles of Angelenos, and a plucky heroine round out the picture in this delightful adventure.

With the U.S. Open coming to Oakmont on June 11, **Amen Corner** (Poisoned Pen Press, \$22.95), Rick Shefchik's eminently readable first book, will hit the spot with a tale of murder at Augusta—the victim is a female journalist promoting women's membership in the club. [LM]

Britain and Ireland

Leonie Swann's **Three Bags Full** (Flying Dolphin, \$22.95) is a sparkling and original debut in which a flock of sheep investigate the murder of their beloved shepherd George. Yep, you're going to have to buy



into talking sheep but after all, George *did* read to them every night. Once you make that leap you're in for a treat as each sheep, led by Miss Maple—the wisest of them—makes a contribution to solving the puzzle.

Swann's cleverness in translating the nature of sheep into their behavior as sleuths is a marvel and I was truly sorry to come to the end of this totally captivating book.

If it's a locked room murder it must be Bryant and May of the Peculiar Crimes Unit and indeed, it is in Christopher Fowler's **White Corridor** (Bantam, \$24) where the fair play puzzle will delight fans even if the sleuthing duo solve it by cell phone.

For the year's best literary suspense novel thus far, try **Raven Black** (St.

Martin's, \$24.95) by Ann Cleeves, an extraordinarily talented veteran writer from the U.K. This engrossing psychological police procedural masterfully recreates the atmosphere of a small town in Scotland's Shetland Isles, where Jimmy Perez, the principal detective on the case, must penetrate small town secrets to solve the crime. Don't miss it! [LM]

Tana French's debut **In the Woods**



(Viking, \$24.95) is a compelling blend of police procedural and psychological suspense as Detective Rob Ryan and his partner investigate the death of a young girl found in the

woods outside of Dublin. Similarities in the case resonate with Ryan's recollections of similar murders 20 years earlier involving his childhood friends. A page turner with a real wallop in the end.

Suzette Hill's **A Load of Old Bones** (C&G, \$24.95) is a classic English village mystery, set in the '50s, with a full cast of eccentric characters including Francis Oughterd, the village vicar and amateur sleuth.

Michael Robotham continues his string of superior British police procedurals with **Night Ferry** (Doubleday, \$24.95). Policewoman Ali Barba, who played a supporting role in the earlier *Lost*, takes center stage as she receives a cryptic note from an old school chum she hasn't seen in years. That night, the woman is killed in a road accident and her supposed pregnancy is revealed as a fake. Ali hooks up with her former boss Vincent Ruiz to investigate while reflecting on her career in the police as well as her role in her Sikh family.

Exotic settings

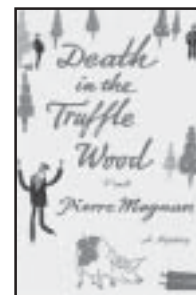
In **Ice Moon** (Harcourt, \$25.00), John Costin Wagner's fine novel, Finland is the perfect backdrop for its bleak subject

matter as Detective Kimmo Joentaa, grieving after the recent death of his wife, immerses himself in his work. The Finnish detective grapples with his personal grief, even as he tracks a deadly serial killer. Here's hoping that this is only the beginning of what promises to be another excellent Scandinavian series. [LM]

Peter Temple, the winner of multiple Ned Kelly awards—Australia's Edgar—is little known here but that shouldn't keep you from the immense pleasure of **The Broken Shore** (FSG, \$25). A Melbourne cop recuperating in his rural hometown involves himself in a murder where three aboriginal boys are suspected. The case allows Temple to explore issues of racism and economics while keeping up a tense plot. Recommended to fans of Rankin or Connelly.

Canadian author David Waltner-Toews, who has singular qualifications as epidemiologist, veterinarian, poet and fiction writer, successfully tries his hand at the mystery genre in **Fear of Landing** (Poisoned Pen, \$22.95). Waltner-Toews interweaves medicine, history and politics to yield an intriguing exploration of Indonesian culture. For a read that is truly *sui generis*, check this one out. [LM]

An instructive trip to Provence is in store with Pierre Magnan's **Death in the**



Truffle Wood (St. Martin's, \$23.95) where Commissaire LaViolette will be your guide to a remote village where truffles are big business. A series of deaths will require all of the Commissaire's skill to

unravel this complex mystery.

An employee of the Paris morgue is spirited off to Mont St. Michel in Maxim Chattam's absorbing and unusual **The Cairo Diary** (St. Martin's, \$24.95). Her life in danger since her discovery of explosive political secrets, she is hidden by the

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Just Published...continued from page 3

religious community there and passes her time reading a diary she has discovered relating a horrific series of murders in Cairo in 1928. Chattam moves between two eras in relating both past and present stories that will keep you guessing as to their outcome and relationship.

Brent Ghelfi's *Volk's Game* (Holt, \$23) is a lightning-paced thriller in which black market economics and subversive politics converge as Volk, an amoral war veteran hardened in the Chechnyan strife, joins in a plot to steal a recently rediscovered DaVinci painting. You have to experience this book: words can't begin to characterize its full-force impact. [LM]

A welcome return for Timothy Hallinan in the compelling and original *A Nail Through the Heart* (Morrow, \$24.95). Poke Rafferty is a travel writer living in Bangkok who has fallen in love with a former bar girl and is in the process of adopting a street kid he's rescued. This odd but endearing family is threatened when Poke takes on the search for an Australian woman's missing uncle. Hallinan's presentation of the teeming world of Bangkok is spot-on and his affection for the characters shines through every page; an oddly hopeful book despite the background of child exploitation that drives the plot.

Arkady Renko is back in Moscow, dealing with contemporary post-Cold War issues, in *Stalin's Ghost* (S&S, \$26.95), Martin Cruz Smith's sixth with the Russian detective. Renko's current challenge is to investigate reports that, improbably,

Joseph Stalin's ghost is riding the subways. The Renko novels are always chilling—and not only because of the frigid Russian climate. Like the other Renko novels, *Stalin's Ghost* will scare you awake. [LM]

Beneath the sweltering streets of Rome, a young boy vanishes into the labyrinth of the catacombs, never to be found. David Hewson's *The Seventh Sacrament* (Delacorte, \$22) is every bit as convoluted

and awe-inspiring as the Catacombs themselves. Fourteen years later Detective Nic Costa and his fellow investigators search through layers of their city's history—for a killer leaving a trail of bodies, lust, and revenge. [JA]

Thrills

It's no surprise that Stella Rimmingon is so skillful at creating riveting topical suspense in a realistic setting in *Secret Asset* (Knopf, \$24.95) since she's a former head of MI5. You will be glued to the pages of this high-class suspense novel as agent Liz



Carlyle triumphs in the exceedingly risky business of espionage. [LM]

An unexpected opportunity for recruitment into MI6, the Secret Intelligence Service, launches Alec Milius, an aimless young man, into a seamy world of industrial espionage in Charles Cumming's subtle and absorbing *A Spy by Nature* (St. Martin's, \$24.95). Closer to LeCarre than Ludlum, Cummings focuses on the human side of espionage as Alec gradually loses sight of his own identity or the purpose of his deception.

Barry Eisler returns with *Requiem for an Assassin* (Putnam's, \$24.95), the electric sixth entry in his series featuring John Rain, a uniquely complicated assassin-for-hire whose exploits are always riveting. Rain runs up against enemy mercenaries who kidnap his friend Dox, and our anti-hero inevitably gets drawn once again into plying his trade. As always, Eisler keeps the plot moving with his inside knowledge of espionage gleaned from his experience as a CIA agent. A great beach read! [LM]

Alan Elsner's *The Nazi Hunter* (Arcade, \$26) is an unusual debut thriller, set in 1994, in which a woman comes to the office of Marek Cain—an investigator in the Department of Justice's Office of Special Investigations. She turns up dead the next day but clues lead Cain to Argentina in search of an infamous

concentration camp commandant where he discovers a far-reaching plot.

Aboard the world's most luxurious cruise liner, Atlanta attorney Katherine Adams is enjoying a much needed breather from the pressures at work. But the trip quickly becomes a nightmare when she witnesses an argument between two men and one of them, a molecular geneticist, turns up dead. Katherine quickly becomes a target for a hit man in Mitchell Graham's debut thriller, *Majestic Descending* (Forge, \$24), which offers a one-two punch ending and a splash of romance thrown in.

[MBN]

Six years ago Jack Till helped Wendy Harper disappear. Now a man has been charged with her murder and Jack's got to find her and doesn't know where to start looking. Thomas Perry's *Silence* (Harcourt, \$25) enralls and entertains as Jack discovers that he prepared Wendy too well and a husband and wife team of assassins get ever closer to their target—Wendy.

Outside the law

The Price of Silence (Soho, \$22) by Camilla Trinchieri (known to mystery lovers as Camilla Crespi) is a riveting summer read for the top of your list. In a tightly plotted and spare style that will remind you of Chinese brush paintings, she



brings you the death of a young Chinese artist and the trial of a woman accused of her murder. It is in the telling that the artistry shines. A must.

David Dante Troutt, a Harvard Law grad and current law professor at Rutgers, gives us something completely different in *The Importance of Being Dangerous* (Amistad, \$24.95). Troutt revisits the '90s, replete with swashbuckling business deals and instant Internet wealth. This takes a turn for the macabre, though, when three Harlem friends form a business partnership and end up careening outside the

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

- Abbott, Megan; *Queenpin* (S&S, \$13); unusual noir crime novel with female protagonist by Edgar nominated author
- Adam, Paul; *Oracle Lake* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); journalist risks everything for the story of the century, the search for the Dalai Lama's successor
- Andrews, Mary Kay; *Savannah Blues* (Avon, \$7.99); Andrews' first comic novel, now in mass market
- Baantjer, DeKok and *Murder on Blood Mountain* (Speck, \$14); Amsterdam cop DeKok
- Babson, Marian; *Only the Cat Knows* (St. Martin's, \$22.95); man goes undercover as his sister to find her killer
- Barclay, Alex; *Dark House* (Delacorte, \$23); NYPD cop finds that violent crime has followed him to Ireland
- Battles, Brett; *The Cleaner* (Delacorte, \$22); spy thriller about the title character who cleans up after intelligence operations that have gone wrong
- Billingham, Mark; *Buried* (Harper, \$24.95); London cop Tom Thorne
- Blanc, Nero; *Death on the Diagonal* (Berkley, \$7.99); puzzle editor Belle Graham, now in mass market
- Block, Lawrence; *Hit Parade* (Harper, \$7.99); after a five year hiatus, hit man Keller is back
- Bond, Stephanie; *Body Movers* (Mira, \$6.99); debut for Carlotta Wren, now in mass market
- Boyd, William; *Restless* (Bloomsbury, \$14.95); woman discovers truth about her mother's life before and during WW II
- Brett, Simon; *Stabbing in the Stables* (Berkley, \$7.99); Jude and Carole Seddon get up to a bit of horseplay in Fethering
- Burdett, John; *Bangkok Haunts* (Knopf, \$24.95); Bangkok policeman Sonchai Jitpleecheep
- Burke, James Lee; *Jesus Out to Sea* (S&S, \$14); non-mystery short stories, some inspired by the Katrina disaster
- Cannell, Stephen; *White Sister* (SMP, \$7.99); LAPD cop Shane Scully
- Carter, Stephen L.; *New England White* (Knopf, \$26.95); a sequel, of sorts, to *The Emperor of Ocean Park*
- Disher, Garry; *Chain of Evidence* (Soho, \$23) and *Snapshot* (Soho, \$12); Australian cop Hal Challis
- Ellroy, James; *Hollywood Nocturnes* (Vintage, \$12.95); LA noir crime tale
- Evans, Jon; *Invisible Armies* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); woman caught up in intrigue between corporations and anti-pollution activists
- Finder, Joseph; *Killer Instinct* (SMP, \$7.99); corporate exec finds that good things happen to him as bad things happen to his rivals
- Fossum, Karin; *The Indian Bride* (Harcourt, \$23); Inspector Sejer, originally titled *Calling Out for You*
- Fossum, Karin; *When the Devil Holds the Candle* (Harcourt, \$14); a hit mystery now in US edition
- Frey, Stephen; *The Fourth Order* (Ballantine, \$24.95); financial thriller
- Goddard, Robert ; *In Pale Battalions* (Delta, \$12); secrets come to light after man's death, reissue
- Goldstein, Paul; *Errors and Omissions* (Anchor, \$13.95); intellectual property attorney pulled into deadly case that traces back to McCarthy era
- Granger, Ann; *The Companion* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); young woman takes job as companion in Victorian London and investigates fate of her predecessor. Originally titled *A Rare Interest in Corpses*
- Greenwood, Kerry; *Blood and Circuses* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95); saucy Australian sleuth Phyrne Fisher
- Greenwood, Kerry; *Earthly Delights* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95); author of the Phyrne Fisher books launches new series with Melbourne baker Corinna Chapman
- Grippando, James; *Lying with Strangers* (Harper, \$24.95); woman pursued by psycho
- Haines, Carolyn; *Ham Bones* (Kensington, \$22); Southern belle PI Sara Booth Delaney
- Hamilton, Laurel K.; *The Harlequin* (Berkley, \$25.95); vampire hunter Anita Blake
- Havill, Stephen; *Final Payment* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); Posadas County Undersheriff Estelle Reyes-Guzman
- Hawks, John Twelve; *The Dark River* (Doubleday, \$24.95); sequel to *The Traveler*
- Hitchcock, Jane Stanton; *One Dangerous Lady* (Warner, \$6.99); the return of Jo Slater from *Social Crimes*
- Hosp, David; *The Betrayed* (Warner, \$7.50); woman returns to Washington to investigate sister's murder
- Hunsicker, Harry; *Next Time You Die* (SMP, \$6.99); Dallas PI Lee Henry Oswald
- Hurwitz, Gregg; *The Crime Writer* (Viking, \$24.95); writer acquitted of murder sets out to find real killer
- Hynes, Charles; *Triple Homicide* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); cop accused of murder leads to uncovering widespread police corruption
- Johnston, Paul; *Death List* (Mira, \$24.95); writer finds that killer is implicating him in his crime scenes
- Konrath, J.A.; *Dirty Martini* (Hyperion, \$23.95) and *Rusty Nail* (Hyperion, \$7.99); Chicago cop Jacqueline "Jack" Daniels
- Lashner, William; *Marked Man* (Harper, \$7.99); Philadelphia attorney Victor Carl
- Lawson, Dorie McCullough; *Along Comes a Stranger* (Harper, \$24.95); housewife befriends man who could be escaped fugitive murderer
- Lehane, Con; *Death at the Old Hotel* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); New York city bartender Brian McNulty
- Lovesey, Peter; *The Secret Hangman* (Soho, \$23); Peter Diamond is pursued by a secret admirer while he pursues a serial killer

Please see Also Noted, page 13

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

New Arrivals in Paperback

The Rough Guide to Crime Fiction

(\$12.99) is a well-rounded introduction to the entire field of mystery and crime writing with recommendation of over 200 classic novels as well as films and coverage of all the various sub-genres of the field. But for the real low-down on crime just call us at 888-800-6078.



Quick takes

Beach Road (Warner, \$9.99) by James Patterson with Pter de Jonge, is a perfect beach read, set in the Hamptons.

Boston PI Sunny Randall is the star in Robert B. Parker's **Blue Screen** (Berkley, \$9.99) but Jesse Stone gets a supporting role in this thriller.

Donna Leon's **Quietly in Their Sleep** (Penguin, \$7.99) marks the US publication of this Guido Brunetti novel previously available as *Death of Faith*.

Always room for dessert and Diane Mott Davidson's **Dark Tort** (Avon, \$7.99) is no exception as Goldie digs into the death of a paralegal. Rockin' recipes!

Two brutal crimes keep Joanna Brady busy in J.A. Jance's **Dead Wrong** (Harper, \$9.99).

Stephanie Plum has a stalker on her tail in Janet Evanovich's **Twelve Sharp** (SMP, \$7.99)

Isabel Dalhousie returns to unravel more Edinburgh mysteries in **The Right Attitude to Rain** (Anchor, \$12.95) by Alexander McCall Smith.

Kay Hooper wraps up the Fear trilogy with **Sleeping with Fear** (Bantam, \$7.50)

Stephen King gives us a good old-fashioned ghost tale in **Lisey's Story** (, \$9.99).

Daniel Silva's art restorer and retired

spy Gabriel Allon races to stop a terrorist plot in **The Messenger** (Signet, \$9.99).

Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child follow up *Dance of Death* with **The Book of the Dead** (Warner, \$7.99).

MLB favorites

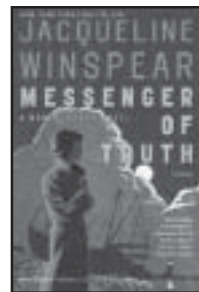
Victoria Thompson's Gaslight Mystery series set in turn-of-the-century New York reaches number eight with **Murder in Little Italy** (Berkley, \$7.99).

Lovers of needlecraft will snap up **Sins and Needles** (Berkley, \$6.99), Monica Ferris's latest where an embroidered pillow is a clue for Betsy Devonshire.

Meg Lanslow discovers "extreme croquet" in **No Nest for the Wicket** (SMP, \$6.99) by Donna Andrews.

Southern belle turned PI Sara Booth Delaney is on the case in Carolyn Haines' **Bones to Pick** (Kensington, \$6.99). A delightful series.

Maisie Dobbs is back in **Messenger of Truth** (Picador, \$14) by Jacqueline



Winspear. Fresh and fabulous, this one's a series you don't want to miss.

Always a pleasure to have a Nameless novel from Bill Pronzini; latest in this classic PI series is **Mourners** (Forge,

\$6.99).

Reissues

Lawrence Block introduced insomniac Evan Tanner in **The Thief Who Couldn't Sleep** (Harper, \$7.99). A delightful and unique series and a pleasure to have the books available once again. Also available, **The Cancelled Czech** (Harper, \$7.99).

Two more of Kerry Greenwood's sexy and satisfying Phyrne Fisher mysteries are available: **The Green Mill Murder** and

Flying Too High, second in the series (both *Poisoned Pen*, \$14.95).

Along with Chandler and Hammett, Ross Macdonald was one of the towering figures in creating the PI novel. His Lew Archer novels are more psychologically centered but were key in developing the genre. Just reissued, **The Way Some People Die** and **The Ivory Grin** (both Vintage, \$12.95).

Award winners and nominees

In **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. A pitch-perfect rendition of life in a small town under the strain of events kept hidden for years. An Agatha winner and Edgar nominee. Don't miss it.

In Jason Goodwin's Edgar-winning **The Janissary Tree** (Picador, \$14), a series of what first seems to be unrelated murders, leads investigator (and gourmet cook) Yashim Togonalu through the bazaars and narrow streets of 19th century Istanbul tracking down Janissaries, once members of the sultan's elite fighting force, now all too powerful terrorists. [MBN]

Olen Steinhauer's Edgar-nominated **Liberation Movements** (SMP, \$13.95) is a scintillating thriller from a true master of the genre. Part espionage novel, part police procedural and part history of post-War Eastern Europe, Steinhauer's en-

Looking for a British publication? Ask us.

semble series has reached 1975 and the age of terrorist highjackings. Investigators probe the far-reaching significance of these events in this spare, stark novel that perfectly reconstructs the Cold War climate. [LM]

Louis Bayard, a polished writer of literary fiction, once again exercises his wildly imaginative historical vision in *The Pale Blue Eye* (Harper, \$14.95) as he introduces retired New York City police detective Augustus Landor, who investigates a murder and mutilation case at West Point in 1830 and gets some help from the young Edgar Allan Poe. [LM]

More than mystery

Married to a railroad worker, former socialite Maddie Dare lives a humdrum life as a part-time journalist in Syracuse, New York, the center of New York's rust belt. But life for this tougher than nails ex-deb is



about to get interesting when her family name is linked to clues found at an old murder site, and Maddie finds herself neck deep in family secrets. *A Field of Darkness* (Warner, \$12.99) is Cornelia Read's debut. [MBN]

Karen Shepard's *Don't I Know You?* (Harper, \$13.95) is an elegant novel that tells the story of a Manhattan murder from three points of view over a twelve year period. With distinct and intelligent narrative, the victim's son and two women examine their hearts and minds as the story unfolds for the reader. A unique and breathtaking talent exposed along with a puzzle that is intricate and far reaching.

Don't begin reading Elisabeth Hyde's gripping crossover novel *The Abortionist's Daughter* (Vintage, \$13.95) right before bedtime—this book is so compelling that it will keep you reading long into the night. *The Abortionist's Daughter* reminds us that even tiny missteps can undermine our best-laid plans for an ordered life—a lesson that bears remembering. [LM]

If you haven't yet encountered Jennifer Egan's lovely prose, you would certainly

not go astray in reading *The Keep* (Anchor, \$13.95), her foray into the gothic genre, with psychological suspense abounding. Eastern European castles, secrets extending far into the past, bloody crimes, and twisted characters all populate the pages of this literary tour de force. [LM]

Best of Britain

Lifeless (Harper, \$7.99), Mark Billingham's fifth crime novel featuring London DI Tom Thorne is perhaps the deepest and most powerful of this extraordinary series. Thorne goes undercover with the London homeless seeking a killer in an outstanding chapter in the series that will certainly appeal to fans of Ian Rankin.

Martin Edwards continues his fine DCI Hannah Scarlet series with *The Arsenic Labyrinth* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95). A complex mystery is tied to the fascinating history of the arsenic mines of the title and the involvement of John Ruskin in their creation. A delight for any fan of the subtle, British mystery.

A Fete Worse Than Death (C&G, \$14.95) by Dolores Gordon-Smith is an excellent Golden Age-set mystery in which



Jack Haldean, crime writer and former RAF pilot, finds the village fete interrupted by murder. His investigation leads him back to events from WW I and the Battle of the Somme.

Investigating the bludgeoning death of a young unmarried mother, Chief Inspector Wexford returns to the perennial question "Who profits from this murder?" in Ruth Rendell's *End in Tears* (Vintage, \$13). The first in the series, *From Doon with Death* (Ballantine, \$12.95), has just been re-issued.

If you like Michelle Spring or Veronica Stallwood you'll love *Hot Pursuit* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95), Nora Kelly's fifth book featuring Professor Gillian Adams. Uprooted and newly moved to London, Gillian contacts her long time friend, Charlotte who has become a reclusive

alcoholic. Shortly after their visit Gillian returns and finds her friend dead from an apparent fall down the steps. Finely written prose, great character development and deftly woven plots are the hallmarks of Kelly's books. Start with *In the Shadow of King's*. [JA]

Frank Elder is once again drawn out of retirement in John Harvey's outstanding *Darkness & Light* (Harcourt, \$14) by a request from his ex-wife to look into the disappearance of Claire, her friend's older, widowed sister. When Claire is found dead at home—unmarked and carefully dressed—Elder is surprised by the similarities to an old case. A subtle and rewarding British mystery series.

Amateur sleuths rule

I stayed up late to read Ayelet Waldman's newest Mommy-Track mystery, *Bye-Bye Black Sheep* (Berkley, \$7.99). It was extraordinary—the best yet. I think the focus, the plotting and detail as the investigation into a hooker's death unfolds is compelling. And still the charming characters and the gradual growing of the children's characters were subtle gifts. Good job, Ayelet!

In *Antiques Roadkill* (Kensington, \$6.99) Barbara Allan, actually Barbara and Max Allan Collins, fires up a new series that finds newly divorced Brandy Borne and her shih tzu, Sushi, returning to her hometown to live with her manic depressive mom, Vivian. Soon the three find themselves targets of a murderer as they investigate the demise of a local antiques dealer who scammed Vivian. Hilarious characters and antiques tidbits make for a fun read. [MN]

Tucker Sinclair has another run-in with murder in Patricia Smiley's *Cover Your Assets* (Warner, \$6.99) when the death of a Hollywood producer sends his widow, Tucker's ex-best friend, to her in search of help with the police. A smart and funny mystery by this recent Festival of Mystery visitor.

The latest of Sister Carol Anne O'Marie's clerical cozies, *Murder at the Monk's Table* (SMP, \$6.99), finds the clever Sister Mary Helen in the Irish pub of the title and tripping over a body in *Please see New Arrivals in Paper, page 10*

Looking for a mystery dinner party game? Call us

Very Original

Reviews of books published for the first time as paperbacks

Pittsburgh actor, award-winning playwright and now mystery writer Kathryn Miller Haines hits all the right



notes with her terrific debut, **The War Against Miss Winter** (Harper, \$13.95). In 1943 Rosie Winter's life in New York is turned upside down when her boyfriend enlists and doesn't write, her acting career

takes an off off part, her detective boss is dead and life becomes complicated. Dead-on dialogue and period detail are the stuff that good historical mysteries are made of and this writer delivers with a bang. Please join us for Kathy's publication party on June 22 and pick up an extra copy for a Pittsburgh library.

Winning debuts...

Maiden's Bay is a small, scenic town on the Oregon Coast where citizens get their number fix thanks to Sudoku Maven Liza Kelly. In Morgan Kaye's **Death by Sudoku** (Berkley, \$6.99), Liza enters a tournament in which her old friend and competitor turns up dead. Now, she must think outside the boxes to find a murderer.

Dog sleuths start getting equal billing with the cats in **A Dog About Town** (Dell, \$6.99) by J.F. Englert as we meet Randolph the Lab who needs to give his distraught owner Harry a little help in solving a murder among an occult group that Harry has joined.

A new noir star has arrived on the scene, and his name is Raymond Miller—or at least that's his nom de plume. In **The Scent of Blood** (Toby, \$14.95), Miller presents PI Nathan Singer, a poet manqué whose talents tend more to detection than to shaping language as he investigates a suspicious hit-and-run death. [LM]

Someone is killing off the competition in the world of chick lit, and would-be author Lola wants to find the killer—and hopefully a book deal will follow. But as

Lola digs deeper, the stakes get higher in Lynn Harris's hilarious look at the cut-throat world of publishing: **Death by Chick Lit** (Berkley, \$14).

Cady Kalian's **As Dead as It Gets** (Forge, \$6.99) is a funny and frenetic debut that introduces would-be screenwriter Maggie Mars in a Hollywood-set mystery with equal billing given to celebrity drop-ins and an eccentric cast.

Sky Taylor, creative cleaning columnist for a small town paper, is the sleuth in Suzanne Price's **Scene of the Grime** (Signet, \$6.99). She's left the big city for Pigeon Cove, Massachusetts but finds that murder can strike anywhere in this series debut that cleans up.

And Successful sequels



Worth the wait for Mary Kruger's **Knit Fast, Die Young** (Pocket, \$6.99) a sequel to *Died in the Wool* and featuring knitting shop owner Ariadne Evans. She's up to her needles in trouble, again, as the unpopular editor of a

knitting magazine is found dead at a crafts fair.

Cyndy Salzmänn offers a second entry in her Friday Afternoon Club mysteries with **Crime and Clutter** (Howard Books, \$13). The middle-aged moms who comprise the club vow to help their friend Mary Alice discover the mystery behind her father's legacy: a 1963 VW minibus brimming with memorabilia. Enjoy! [LM]

Stage manager Nicky D'Amico makes a return engagement in Chuck Zito's **Ice in His Veins** (Midnight Ink, \$14.95) where he rejoins his college friends to stage an all-male production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which, predictably, turns into a midsummer night's nightmare. A hilarious venture into the alternate universe of the theater. [LM]

In **Murder on the Menu** (Berkley,

\$6.99) by Miranda Bliss, Annie and Eve, introduced in *Cooking Up Murder*, have opened a restaurant but things are going badly awry with a series of suspicious accidents—and then murder. Recipes for a multi-course gourmet meal included.

Bookmobile librarian Israel Armstrong makes a delightful return trip in Ian Sansom's **Mr. Dixon Disappears** (Harper, \$12.95), a sequel to *The Case of the Missing Books*. Mr. Dixon is a magician and he's disappeared and he's taken 100 thousand pounds in cash with him. Israel can't help getting involved and loses his job and becomes a prime suspect all at the same time. Not to worry—all will come out right in the end in this humorous and bookish mystery.

Kathryn Fox turns in a second outstanding novel with London forensic pathologist Anya Crichton in **Without Consent** (Harper, \$7.99). A case of serial rape has an obvious culprit—an ex-con—but Anya begins to doubt his original conviction in this carefully plotted mystery with plenty of scientific background.

Amateur sleuths



Collector Bradley Lyon finds murder at a teddy bear show when a designer is accused of stealing someone else's ideas and then turns up dead in **The False-Hearted Teddy** (Berkley, \$6.99) by John J. Lamb.

A charity event goes awry in the late Barbara Burnett Smith's **Beads of Doubt** (Berkley, \$6.99) as Austin, Texas beader Kitzi Camden races to uncover a murderer before it's too late. Beading pattern included.

Insurance investigator Pauline Sokol takes to the air as she goes undercover in an air ambulance service in Laurie Avocato's **Dead on Arrival** (Avon, \$6.99), a delightful fifth in this unusual series with a

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nurse-turned-investigator sleuth.

Quarter horse trainer and breeder Michaela Bancroft has trouble aplenty in Michele Scott's **Death Reins In** (Berkley, \$6.99) when a woman she's just bought some horses from is found strangled in Michaela's barn. The well-researched horse breeding background lends spice to this second in the series.



Senior sleuth Kate Kennedy comes to her granddaughter's rescue in Nora Charles' **Death Rides the Surf** (Berkley, \$6.99) when the death of a surfer casts suspicion on Kate's relative.

It's 1964 and "Bond, James Bond" is

all the rage in Rosemary Martin's retro delight **Secret Agent Girl** (Signet, \$6.99). Secretary Bebe Bennett has decided to emulate Sean Connery and put her spying skills to use in unraveling the murder of a clown.

One of our favorite sleuths, Clare Cosi, manager of a Greenwich Village coffee-house, returns in **Decaffeinated Corpse** (Berkley, \$6.99) by Cleo Coyle. A naturally grown decaf coffee bean provides the spark for murder in this latest coffee caper.

Annie Kincaid has given up her dangerous career of art forgery for the mundane world of faux finishing when she discovers a Raphael that might be the real thing. In Hailey Lind's newest, **Brush with Death** (Signet, \$6.99), the laughs are nonstop, the characters outrageous and the art tidbits most interesting. [JA]

Ophelia Jensen is beginning to accept her destiny as a witch in Shirley Damsgaard's paranormal cozy **Witch Hunt** (Avon, \$6.99) when a brutal murder sends her off to defend her cousin who is accused of the crime.

Fashionista sleuth Lacey Smithsonian is back in Ellen Byerrum's **Grave Apparel** (Signet, \$6.99) in the case of a food editor who may have given her holiday sweater-hating coworker her just desserts.

Kennel owner Jack Field and his medical examiner wife are drawn into a twenty year old mystery when remains are

found of a woman who supposedly ran off decades ago in Lee Charles Kelley's **Like a Dog with a Bone** (Avon, \$6.99).

Paul Levine's romantically entangled law partners Steve Solomon and Victoria Lord find themselves on opposite sides of an eco-terrorism case in the amusing **Trial & Error** (Bantam, \$6.99)

Thrills ahead

Ah, the pleasure of the Vatican thriller never fades as shown in A.J. Hartley's **The Fifth Day** (Berkley, \$7.99) where a priest's death arouses his brother's suspicions leading to a chase to follow the clues to a secret that some will kill to protect.

Rembrandt's Ghost (Signet, \$7.99) by Paul Christopher is an entertaining thriller about a young woman who inherits a fake Rembrandt containing clues to a fantastic treasure.

Taffy Cannon presents her second enticing Roxanne Prescott mystery in **Blood Matters** (Perseverance, \$14.95) where the San Diego homicide detective confronts a tough case when Sam Brennan, a local adoption leader and noted collector, is brutally slain. [LM]

Historically alluring

Will Thomas' **The Hellfire Conspiracy** (Touchstone, \$14) is the fourth Cyrus Barker book, and a fine one it is. Barker, a private investigator in Victorian England, along with his sidekick Llewellyn, embarks upon an investigation of the disappearance of an East End girl, but the inquiry rapidly uncovers a series of murders. [LM]



Anthony Flacco's **The Last Nightingale** (Ballantine, \$12.95) is a nicely turned out historical mystery set in the aftermath of the San Francisco earthquake. Amidst the chaos, Sgt. Randall Blackburn seeks a serial killer who works the Barbary Coast neighborhood that is Randall's beat.

Carlo Lucarelli continues his smashing trilogy set in post-Mussolini Italy with **The Damned Season** (Europa, \$14.95). In this sequel to *Carte Blanche*, Commisario De Luca is in hiding when a partisan

police commander him into investigating a triple homicide with political implications. Lucarelli starkly presents the conflicts facing Italians in the period just following the war as notions of guilt and innocence are called into question by the complicity of so many in Mussolini's regime.

Up-all-night suspense

P.J. Parrish's Louis Kincaid series returns to a Michigan setting in **A Thousand Bones** (Pocket, \$7.99) Louis's girlfriend Joe Frye tells the story of her

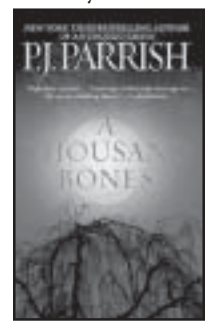
rookie year in a small northern Michigan town thirteen years earlier. A gruesome yet spell-binding tale unfolds as bones are found in the woods and Frye, with an ensemble cast follow the clues to a monster. A subtle read that keeps the plot humming but doesn't shortchange on psychological insight or character development.

A woman wins millions in a lottery with her co-workers in Susan Kearney's **Kiss Me Deadly** (Tor, \$6.99) but when the ticket is stolen, her fellow winners start dying one by one.

A woman returns to her West Virginia hometown in Carlene Thompson's heart-stopping **Last Seen Alive** (SMP, \$6.99). She's come for her mother's funeral but finds her self drawn to investigate the disappearance of her childhood best friend.

A suspenseful new trilogy from Mariah Stewart begins with the gripping **Last Look** (Ballantine, \$6.99). When the body of a recently murdered prostitute is identified as a woman believed murdered 24 years ago, two FBI agents must capture a cunning killer. The action continues with **Last Words** (Ballantine, \$6.99) and wraps up in August with **Last Breath** (Ballantine, \$19.95).

A woman returns home determined to solve the mystery of her childhood friend's disappearance 19 years earlier in Vicki Lane's **Old Wounds** (Dell, \$6.99).



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

New Paperbacks continued from page 7

the Ladies.

Susan Kandel's Cece Caruso takes on Dashiell Hammett in **Shamus in the Green Room** (Harper, \$6.99), latest in this unique series in which the sleuth is a writer of biographies of mystery authors. Kandel cleverly blends background about the writers with a modern-day mystery that involves their history.

Gideon Oliver journeys to the Isle of Scilly at the invitation of a wealthy Russian expatriate and finds new bones among the Neolithic remains in Aaron Elkins' **Unnatural Selection** (Berkley, \$7.99).

First-time mystery author Jackie Lynn makes a splash in this intriguing Shady Grove mystery, **Down by the Riverside** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95). Shady Grove is a campground in North Carolina, and it becomes the temporary residence of Rose Franklin, the novel's main character, who is rapidly immersed in a mystery when her car breaks down in its vicinity. [LM]

Action on tap

Jonathon King's **Eye of Vengeance** (Signet, \$7.99) is a fine crime novel by that starts with a convict shot by a sniper outside of the jail in Ft. Lauderdale. Crime reporter Nick Mullins finds he's

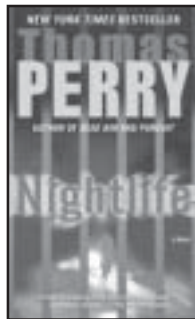


actually part of the story as this tense plot unfolds with plenty of newsroom authenticity. Sharply drawn characters, particularly Nick himself who has suffered his own tragedy, make this a standout.

Popular Seattle writer G.M. Ford pulls out all the stops in **Blown Away** (Harper, \$7.99) a gripping saga modeled after a real-life crime perpetrated in Erie, Pennsylvania, of all places. Remember the bizarre instance in which a robber with a bomb wired around his neck was blown to smithereens? Ford uses this as the trigger for his latest explosive Frank Corso novel—it will definitely blow you away.

[LM]

More than enough excitement on tap **Good Day in Hell** (SMP, \$6.99) by J.D. Rhoades 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*.

Thomas Perry's latest, **Nightlife** (Ballantine, \$7.99) 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 and an LA PI, hot on her trail. Gripping from page one.

A one night stand leads to dire consequences in John Katzenbach's **The Wrong Man** (Ballantine, \$7.99). Although the plot of the clever psycho who gradually takes over someone's life is not new, Katzenbach is so skilled that he moves this book way beyond cliché to an ingeniously plotted thriller with multiple points of view.

Nothing like a good suspenser for vacation and none better than Patricia MacDonald's latest, **Married to a Stranger** (Pocket, \$7.99) where a young woman's husband disappears on their honeymoon and she finds that she doesn't really know the man she married.

Those who enjoyed *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* will like Jeff Povey's debut **The Serial Killers Club** (Warner, \$6.99) in which a man stumbles into the club of the title and determines to turn the tables on the killers.

Learning to Kill (Harcourt, \$14) is a rare treat: a collection of 25 stories written by Evan Hunter before he became Ed McBain, most originally published in the magazine *Manhunt*.

The John Rain books by Barry Eisler are a fascinating exercise in keeping the reader's sympathy for a protagonist who

kills people for a living. In **The Last Assassin** (Onyx, \$7.99) he attempts reconciliation with the mother of his son but leads all of them into danger.

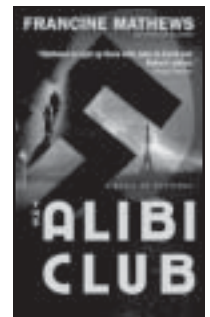
Foreign intrigue

David Hewson brings Roman detective Nic Costa back in **The Lizard's Bite** (Dell, \$6.99) but this time Costa has been exiled to Venice where he and his partner are assigned to investigate the murder of two family members in a Murano glass factory. You can almost smell the Venetian canals and feel the heat of the glass furnaces, making for a can't-put-down-read. [MN]

The Foreign Correspondent (Random, \$13.95) by Alan Furst is a subtle espionage novel that digs into an obscure yet fascinating corner of WW II-era history: the Italian anti-Fascist movement in Paris before the war. Compelling reading.

Dan Fesperman's **The Prisoner of Guantanamo** (Vintage, \$13.95) is a novel that takes us to the front lines of the war on terror as interrogator Revere Falk tries to do his job while walking through a minefield of conflicting agencies and agendas. Telling detail based on Fesperman's work as a reporter, combined with an intricate plot give this one real punch.

Francine Mathews can hold her own against any of the male writers in the old boys' club of espionage fiction as demonstrated by **The Alibi Club** (Bantam, \$7.99); a potent period piece featuring World War II Paris and the colorful expatriates gathered there. [LM]



Archaeologist Lily Sampson is summoned to Morocco amidst the intrigues of World War II in Aileen Baron's fascinating **The Torch of Tangier** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95). She gets drafted into the American war effort, using her skills to unravel code—and *Please see New Arrivals in Paper, page 11*

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

What's New in British Mystery?



Gracie Smith, the PI in Liz Evans' humorous series set in a seedy seaside town, is so lacking in clients she takes a job for the tourist board dressing as a rabbit in **Cue the Easter Bunny** (Orion, \$8.99). The results are pretty funny although things turn serious

when a client does arrive who has been receiving threatening letters.

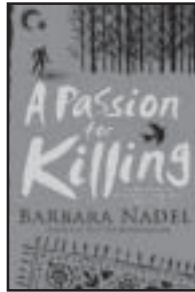
Fans of Cynthia Harrod-Eagles splendid series with London cop Bill Slider will want to pick up the **Third Bill Slider Omnibus** (Warner, \$14.95) with the seventh and eighth books: *Shallow Graves* and *Blood Sinister*.

Andrew Nugent launches a new Irish-set police procedural series with **The Four Courts Murder** (Headline, \$13.95) where Dublin detectives Jim Quilligan and Molly Powers investigate the death of a judge who might have been involved in stolen paintings. A nice dose of humor lightens this mystery with plenty of Irish charm.

When a young homeless girl dies in an arson attack on an empty building on Edinburgh's famous Princes Street, forensic scientist Rhona MacLeod is called in in Lin Anderson's **Torch** (Hodder, \$13.95), a sequel to *Driftnet*.

Hearing that her sister has disappeared Abby McCall flies from England to the frozen wastes of Alaska in Caroline Carver's exciting thriller **Beneath the Snow** (Orion, \$9.99). The missing

woman was a brilliant researcher who seems to have come across a discovery that will shake-up the oil dominated energy business. Now Abby must find her before her enemies—or the brutal cold—get to her.



Turkish policeman Cetik Ikmen is on the case of a murdered carpet dealer in **A Passion for Killing** (Hodder, \$14.95) by Barbara Nadel while a serial killer strikes again. Ikmen must determine if the two

cases are related in the latest of these unusual and atmospheric mysteries.

Traditional: new and old

I'm so happy to see a beautiful reissue of one of my favorite Golden Age mysteries, **The Moving Toyshop** (Vintage, \$14.95) by Edmund Crispin. A visitor to Cambridge discovers a body in a toyshop at which point he's knocked cold only to awaken and find the toyshop has vanished and been replaced by a greengrocer. Only the clever Gervase Fen could unravel this puzzle. Also available, **Love Lies Bleeding** (Vintage, \$14.95).

Once again, Libby Sarjeant finds herself involved in a mystery in the village Steeple Martin, this time because of the death of her friend Fran's Aunt Eleanor. In Lesley Cookman's **Murder at the Laurels** (Accent, \$13.95), echoes of the past clash with very 21st century motives, and once again, the Steeple Martin posse are on hand to give

encouragement and advice.

Murder on the Eiffel Tower (Gallic, \$14.95) by Claude Izner is a sprightly historic mystery set at the turn of the century and introducing bookseller Victor Legris who is determined to find out what happened to a woman who has died on the just-completed tower of the title, supposedly from a bee sting.

We're hoping to see the balance of Izner's books in this series translated in the future.

In **The Noble Outlaw** (S&S, \$24.95), John de Wolfe, the crowner or coroner in Bernard Knight's fascinating medieval series has a puzzling case on his hands when the partly mummified body is found during renovations of a building. The victim was treasurer of a local guild and a Welsh outlaw is the likely killer although John has his doubts.

The Tainted Relic (S&S, \$9.99) by The Medieval Murderers is a delightful collaborative novel of historical mystery written by some of the foremost practitioners including Michael Jecks, Susanna Gregory, Bernard Knight and others and using each of their series characters in the tale.

A broken engagement spells trouble in a small village but Miss Silver will figure it out in Patricia Wentworth's **Miss Silver Comes to Stay** (Coronet, \$13.95), the latest re-issue in this charming traditional series.

New Paperbacks continued from page 10

solve murders. Check out this clever and highly instructive historical series that will keep you reading long into the night. [LM]

A plot to assassinate Roosevelt is the subject of David L. Robbins' compelling and thought-provoking **The Assassins**

Gallery (Dell, \$7.50). Robbins knows the WW II era well and his knowledge adds punch to this well-researched thriller.

Deep in the Maryland woods is a CIA facility housing "retired" government assassins kept docile by their meds. Suddenly, all five are forced to flee when

their psychiatrist is murdered and they are the prime suspects. James Grady, author of *Six Days of the Condor*, turns in a brilliantly original, often funny thriller in **Mad Dogs** (Forge, \$7.99).

I get a big kick out of Joe DeMarco,

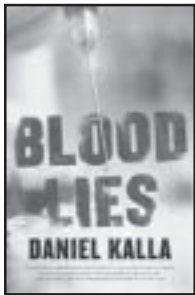
Please see New Arrivals in Paper, page 14

Make Friday the 13th your lucky day on July 13

Just Published...continued from page 4

boundaries of the law. Ingenious plotting and dead-on dialogue make this one impossible to put down. [LM]

Echoes of Scott Turow's *Presumed*



Innocent in Daniel Kalla's excellent **Blood Lies** (Forge, \$24.95) which finds a young ER doc and crime scene consultant enmeshed in a murder investigation where his relationship to the victim and the

presence of his rare blood type make him the perfect suspect. Excellent summer entertainment.

Best-selling author David Hosp delivers another winner in **Innocence** (Warner, \$24.95), a legal thriller involving Scott Finn, a refugee from a prestigious Boston law firm, and renegade detective Tom Kozlowski, who join forces to investigate a case in which a female police officer, attacked and left for dead, identifies a dangerous Salvadoran immigrant gangster as her attacker. There's just one problem: the criminal may not be guilty of this particular crime. It remains for Finn and Kozlowski, whose very lives are jeopardized by the investigation, to uphold justice by establishing innocence. [LM]

Fifteen years ago Paul Riley made his reputation by successfully prosecuting a serial killer but now the murders have begun again. Robert Ellis' **Eye of the Beholder** (Putnam, \$24.95) will keep you riveted as the murderer draws closer to Riley who has become both an aide to the police as well as a suspect. Nothing is as it seems in this tense thriller.

Ever wonder what it's really like to work in the television news industry? Apparently, it's murder! Mary Jane Clark reveals all in **When Day Breaks** (William Morrow, \$24.95), the first in her new Sunrise Suspense Society mystery series. When a morning news star seeks to jump ship to another network, she is murdered. Fortunately, four of her coworkers doggedly pursue the truth about her murder, unwilling to let their friend's

death go unavenged. *When Day Breaks* is definitely one story that will never be killed. [LM]

In her debut mystery, **Slipknot** (Hyperion, \$24.95), bestselling author of *The Lobster Chronicles*, Linda Greenlaw introduces the indefatigable Jane Bunker. A Dade County detective turned marine investigator, Jane has returned to her native Maine hoping for a less hectic life. What she finds is a body washed ashore near the local fish packing plant and plenty of suspects. Oozing "downeast" charm, with riveting storm scenes and loads of quirky Mainers, this fast paced read is a winner! [MBN]

Lure of history

Fans of P.G. Wodehouse and Ann Perry will enjoy **A Beautiful Blue Death** St. Martin's, \$24.95) by Charles Finch. When Victorian gentleman Charles Lenox is asked by his dear friend, Lady Jane Grey to investigate the poisoning of her former lady's maid now in the service of the director of the Royal Mint, he reluctantly agrees. With the help of friend and loyal butler, Graham, the two unearth loads of suspects and motives and eventually craft a very satisfying solution. [MBN]

Fans of the historical mystery will be delighted by **Justice for the Damned** (Poisoned Pen Press, \$24.95), the fourth series entry featuring Priscilla Royal's 13th Century heroine-detective, Prioress Eleanor. For elegant historicals, you can't do better than this. [LM]



Rhys Bowen breathes new life into the aristocratic sleuth with her delightful and satisfying **Her Royal Spyness** (Berkley, \$23.95) which introduces Lady Victoria in this 1930's romp. Victoria may be the daughter of a duke and 34th in the line of succession but she's flat broke and has few marketable skills after her brother cuts her off. Not to worry, soon enough she

has a variety of short-lived jobs including solving the murder of an arrogant French aristocrat. Don't miss this one.

Archaeologist Aileen Baron's **The Gold of Thrace** (Poisoned Pen, \$22.95) provides an intriguing look into the black market in Roman antiquities when a mosaic floor is stolen from a dig in Turkey and a colleague of archaeologist Tamar Saticoy is killed in the robbery. On the trail of the mosaic and the killer she finds charming antiquities dealers who are not what they seem, forgeries and more dead bodies. Baron uses her expertise to provide interesting glimpses into the world of Roman antiquities trading. [MBN]

Hard-boiled

No matter how many times I read a Marcia Muller mystery featuring PI Sharon McCone, I am always impressed at the fresh plots and fine skills that keep this character growing wiser and more skilled at even the most complex

cases. Each book can be read as one of a kind and I encourage you to pick up **The Ever-Running Man** (Warner, \$24.95) for a contemporary plot full of strained emotional ties, fire power and global security interests.

Charles Manson has escaped from prison! Well, not really Charles Manson but Jeffery Deaver's **The Sleeping Doll** (S&S, \$26.95) is about a very similar murderer and his escape while being interrogated by Kathryn Dance—introduced in *The Cold Moon*. Kathryn enlists the help of the three women who lived with the self-styled Manson double, Daniel Pell as well as the help of the young girl known as The Sleeping Doll, the only survivor of Pell's vicious slaughter of her family. [JA]

Ex-con Dick Miller is really trying to go straight in Patrick Quinlan's **The Takedown** (St. Martin's, \$21.95) but the

Please see Just Published, page 13

Open every Sunday from noon to 4

Also Noted continued from page 5

- Lynn, Jackie; *Jacob's Ladder* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); Shady Grove campsite sleuth Rose Franklin
- McCrumb, Sharyn; *Once Around the Track* (Kensington, \$25); tale of all-female NASCAR race team
- Norman, Michael; *The Commission* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); Utah cop investigates politically motivated murder
- O'Brien, Charles; *Black Gold* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); actress Anne Cartier in Bath, 1787
- P'Neil, Vincent H.; *Reduced Circumstances* (St. Martin's, \$22.95); Frank Cole is on the trail of con men in this comic Florida crime novel
- Patterson, James, editor; *Thriller* (Mira, \$9.99); anthology includes John Lescroart, Alex Kava and others
- Pronzini, Bill; *Savages* (Forge, \$24.95); Nameless is hired by a woman who thinks her sister was murdered
- Reeves, Sam; *Dooley's Back* (C&G, \$14.95); disgraced cop returns to Chicago
- Rendell, Ruth; *The Water's Lovely* (Crown, \$25.95); dysfunctional family enlivened by murder
- Ross, Joel N.; *White Flag Down* (Doubleday, \$24.95); WW II action aplenty as a US pilot, a Russian soldier and a Swiss journalist collaborate to foil an elaborate plot
- Rubinfeld, Jed; *The Interpretation of Murder* (Picador, \$14); Freud involved in murder investigation in 1909 New York
- Seymour, Gerald; *Harry's Game* (Overlook, \$14.95); cold war thriller
- Shelby, Jeff; *Wicked Break* (Onyx, \$6.99); San Diego PI and surfer Noah Braddock
- Sierra, Javier; *The Lady in Blue* (Atria, \$25.95); paranormal puzzler with religious overtones from the author of *The Secret Supper*
- Simenon, Georges; *The Friend of Madame Maigret and The Madman of Bergerac* (both Penguin, \$12); Inspector Maigret in Paris
- Starr, Jason; *Lights Out* (SMP, \$13.95); love triangle splits up former buddies
- Tallman, Shirley; *The Cliff House Strangler* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); 1880's San Francisco attorney Sarah Woolson
- Tanenbaum, Robert K.; *Counterplay* (Pocket, \$9.99); DA Butch Karp
- Thurlo, Aimee and David; *False Witness* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); New Mexico's Sister Agatha
- Tracy, P.J.; *Snow Blind* (Onyx, \$7.99); Minneapolis cops Rolseth and Magozzi and the Monkeewrench gang
- Van Lustbader, Eric; *The Bourne Betrayal* (Warner, \$25.99); new author picks up the mantle
- Wall, Kathryn R.; *Bishop's Reach* (SMP, \$6.99); Hilton Head investigator Bay Tanner gets her first real case
- Wall, Kathryn R.; *Sanctuary Hill* (St. Martin's, \$23.95); South Carolina PI Bay Tanner
- Wells, Shirley; *Into the Shadows* (C&G, \$24.95); forensic psychologist Jill Kennedy, Pennines England
- Welsh, Louise; *The Bullet Trick* (Cannongate, \$13); kinky Berlin cabaret scene in all its sordid fascination
- Whyte, Jack; *Knights of the Black and White* (Jove, \$9.99); first in a Crusades-set trilogy
- Wimberley, Darryl; *Pepperfish Keys* (St. Martin's, \$24.95); Florida cop Barrett Raines
- Young, Robyn; *Crusade* (Dutton, \$25.95); second volume of the Brotherhood trilogy

Just Published.. continued from page 12

body of his boss and sometime lover in his trunk and the fact that he can't remember anything that happened last night is proving to be a bit of a problem. A crazy cast of characters, most of whom want to kill Dick and/or get hold of millions in cash in the Bahamas, keep the pot boiling in this fast-paced, often humorous crime novel.

Anthony Gagliano's *Straits of Fortune* (Morrow, \$23.95) is a notable debut for fans of the PI novel, although ex-cop Jack Vaughn has left New York and come to Miami to find work as a personal trainer or gym rat for hire as he puts it. The action starts when an ex-client offers Jack \$100K to sink a yacht containing a

dead body and what ensues is some classic hardboiled action with a good dose of humor. The glitzy Miami background doesn't hurt either in this well told tale.

Thunder Bay (Atria, \$24), the superb seventh novel in William Kent Krueger's Cork O'Connor series, outdoes all of the previous entries, and that's saying something! Cork, now a PI, has returned to his home in Aurora, Minnesota. *Thunder Bay* fascinates, as it takes a tour through the violent Canadian history of the 1920's. This eloquent mystery will definitely leave you hungry for more of William Kent Krueger's award-winning work. [LM]

Wry humor and a fair bit of violence are the ingredients in Allan Guthrie's *Hard Man* (Harcourt, \$23) in which Edinburgh ex-con Pearce is finagled into a family feud that involves a pregnant 16 year old and her psychopathic ex-husband.

Edgar-nominee Michael Koryta keeps his reputation intact in *A Welcome Grave* (St. Martin's, \$23.95), a superb chapter in the life of Cleveland PI Lincoln Perry. Lincoln's in a heap of trouble when a lawyer he'd tussled with before turns up dead and his widow asks Perry to find their son, who has gone missing. Fine writing in the best hard-boiled tradition.

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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.

Sarah Strohmeyer is back and she hits one out of the park with **The Sleeping Beauty Proposal** (Dutton, \$24.95). If you don't laugh out loud, you need medical attention. Seriously. Fans of *The Cinderella Pact* or the *Bubbles* series will be thrilled with her latest. It's about a woman, and the wrong man, and the right man, and the best friend who outshines them all. It's about finding yourself while you're trying to find your prince. This is THE book for women and the people who



love them. The men who have read the ARC agree—love and laughter have a new champion, and it's Sarah. [KS]

The Cinderella Pact (NAL, \$14) by Sarah Strohmeyer is a treat for readers of all sizes and just in time for summer. Three friends make a pact to diet and turn themselves into the glamorous women who live inside each of them. This plan leads to love, pride and new attitudes for the three and the folks around them. Led by Nola Devlin, *Sass!* magazine editor by day and British advice diva by night, there are many spot-on moments in the process and the deft storytelling skills of this queen of the funny to savor. *Bubbles*

would be proud.

Henning Mankell takes us far from Sweden in **The Chronicler of the Winds** (Vintage, \$13.95), the tale of a young boy, orphaned by rebel forces in an African country who becomes a leader of street kids in an unnamed port city. An affecting novel of the effects of violence and political extremism.

Philip Beard's **Lost in the Garden** (Plume, \$14) is a humorous novel of suburban life gone awry by the Pittsburgh author of *Dear Zoe*.

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New Paperbacks continued from page 11

one of the more unusual characters in thriller fiction in his second appearance in **The Second Perimeter** (Anchor, \$7.99) by Mike Lawson. DeMarco works as an unofficial fixer for the Speaker of the House and the books uniquely combines thrills, humor and politics.

Charms of the past

With Paul Malmont's **Chinatown Death Cloud Peril** (S&S, \$14) you can return to the exciting days of pulp fiction when the writers behind *Doc Savage* and *The Shadow* team up with a young L. Ron Hubbard to defeat an evil mastermind intent on world domination. A whole lot of fun and full of the lore of this style of fiction.

Fans of Sharon Kay Penman's historicals will thrill to Priscilla Royal's **Sorrow Without End** (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95), her third medieval mystery featuring Eleanor, prioress of Tyndal. Read this fascinating novel to see how faith and justice triumph over the evil perpetrated by a medieval serial killer. [LM]

A death at the local telegraph station sparks the action in Robin Paige's **Death on the Lizard** (Berkley, \$7.99) as Lord

and Lady Sheridan pursue the clues. An entertaining Edwardian series that always includes a bit of technology in the plot.

Lady Rose Summer, a wayward Edwardian debutante, finds herself a key murder suspect after she is found standing over the dead body of her fiancé's seductive new client in Marion Chesney's **Our Lady of Pain** (SMP, \$6.99), a delightful addition to her Harry Cartwright series.

Matthew Pearl's **The Poe Shadow** (Random, \$13.95) is a wonderfully atmospheric mystery set in Baltimore of 1849 at the time of Edgar Allan Poe's death. A successful lawyer and admirer of Poe tells the tale of his increasingly obsessive search for the truth about Poe's death—even at the risk of his personal and professional life.

Cops and robbers

With **The Art of Detection** (Bantam, \$6.99) Laurie King may finally have found a way to bring her Mary Russell and Kate Martinelli fans together in this new mystery that features a manuscript supposedly written by Holmes himself. Naturally, the manuscript figures in a murder that Martinelli is investigating in

present day San Francisco.

In **Heart of the World** (SMP, \$6.99) by Linda Barnes, Carlotta Carlyle races from Boston to Miami and Bogota in search of Paolina, the girl she has mentored for years. A gripping book in which Carlotta's desperate search echoes her own doubts about the child she gave up for adoption years earlier.

Marcia Muller's new Sharon McCone, **Vanishing Point** (Mysterious, \$6.99) opens with a party following the Las Vegas wedding of Sharon and Hy but soon enough Sharon is busy on a big case involving a woman who went missing 22 years earlier. I was up until dawn with the crisp plot and dialogue from this pro.

In **Crime Beat** (Back Bay, \$14.99) Michael Connelly returns to his reportorial roots where he recalls a decade of covering crime and cops in LA including many of the true stories behind the Harry Bosch novels.

The mismatched but successful combo of Jersey cops, Danny Boyle and John Ceepak, return in Chris Grabenstein's **Mad Mouse** (C&G, \$14.95); another wild ride of humor and suspense "down the shore" as they say.

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Coming Events

- Monday, June 18 7 PM **Donna Leon** makes her first Pittsburgh appearance with *Suffer the Little Children*, her new Guido Brunetti book. Tickets on sale now.
- Friday, June 22 7 PM Pittsburgh author **Kathryn Miller Haines** debuts her WW II-era mystery, *The War Against Miss Winter* at a publication party. Please join us.
- Saturday, June 23 10 AM **Sarah Strohmeier** kicks off Summer Coffee & Crime with an author breakfast for *The Sleeping Beauty Proposal*. 5\$, call for a rez.
- Wednesday, June 27 6:30 PM **Alex Kava** joins us for a book club dinner with her gripping thriller *Whitewash*. Dinner from Girasole 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 13 **Friday the Thirteenth Sale**. Call us, stop in or send us a web order on Friday the Thirteenth and we'll take 13% off your sale.
- Friday, July 20 MIDNIGHT **Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** goes on sale at midnight. We'll have a big party, a movie and more.
- Saturday, August 4 10 AM **Summer Coffee & Crime** continues as we welcome back **Alafair Burke** and her terrific standalone novel *Dead Connection*.
- Sunday, August 26 2 PM **Jennifer Crusie** and **Bob Mayer** join us for a talk and signing of their latest comic thriller *Agnes and the Hitman*.

Celebrate Harry on July 20



The seventh and final book, *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows* goes on sale at midnight, Saturday July 21.

Friday July 20 we'll have a gathering of fans on hand to snatch up copies as soon as the clock strikes twelve. We've also arranged a special showing of a Harry Potter movie at the Oaks Theater at 9 pm. Plans aren't final but we may have *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*. Admission will be \$5. At the store we'll have giveaways and treats, including butter beer, and you're encouraged to come in costume if you wish.

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