

NEWS

MYSTERY LOVERS BOOKSHOP

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

October-November 2011

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



Michael Sims (redux)

We're pleased to announce the (rescheduled) Coffee & Crime Breakfast for **Michael Sims** on Saturday, November 5 at 10 am. Michael will join us with *The Story of Charlotte's Web*, a fascinating book about E.B. White, his varied and eccentric career and the events that led to the creation of *Charlotte's Web*, one of the enduring classics of children's literature.

Cost is \$5, including talk and breakfast, reservations necessary.

Dennis Palumbo

Publication Party October 29

Pittsburgh native **Dennis Palumbo** returns to MLB on Saturday, October

29 at 11 am to celebrate publication of his second locally-set mystery, *Fever Dream*, featuring psychologist Daniel Rinaldi.

Please join us if you can.



Joe Katarincic

Publication Party November 5

Local attorney **Joseph A. Katarincic** celebrates publication of his debut legal thriller, *Too High a Price*, on Saturday, November 5 at 1 pm. Using his long experience in the legal field Katarincic reveals the shenanigans that undermine the aims of justice in court.



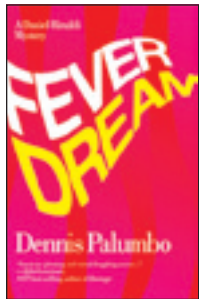
Halloween Birthday Bash Special Guest: **Les Roberts**

Wow! MLB is twenty-one on Halloween, Monday October 31. Come and join our Halloween Birthday Bash from 6 to 9 pm. At 7 pm we'll welcome special guest **Les Roberts**, here with his new novel, *The Strange Death of Father Candy*. At 8 pm, the Ten Cent Book Sale to benefit the Bookmobile. Free cappuccino all night.

New! eBooks at ebooks.mysterylovers.com

Just Published...

Pittsburgh psychologist Daniel Rinaldi is drawn into a strange and dangerous case in *Fever Dream* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95) by Dennis Palumbo. He's asked to inter-



view the sole survivor of a daring bank holdup that ended in the death of all the hostages but one. His involvement in investigating a simple robbery, however, soon leads to mistaken identity, murder and a climactic face-off at

a steel mill. Plenty of local color for fans in Palumbo's latest, also available in a paperback edition for \$14.95. Please join us for Dennis's publication party on Saturday, October 29.

Les Roberts departs from his Milan Jacovich series to pen *The Strange Death of Father Candy* (Minotaur, \$24.99), a powerful standalone set in 1980s Youngstown, Ohio. Vietnam vet Dominick Candiotti has returned home for the funeral of his brother Richard, the Father Candy of the title, a beloved priest. His death is ruled a suicide but Richard won't believe that and resolves to find the answer to the riddle of his brother's death.



Quick takes

Lee Child's *The Affair* (Delacorte, \$28) takes us back to 1997, a time when Jack Reacher was still a military cop.

Molly Pink and her crochet group, The Tarzana Hookers, get an education in show biz—and murder—in *Behind the Seams* (Berkley, \$24.95) by Betty Hechtman.

Iris Johansen brings her trilogy about Eve Duncan and her daughter to a riveting conclusion in *Bonnie* (St. Martin's Press, \$27.99).

Chocolate company exec Lee McKinney

Woodyard delves into a decades-old unsolved crime in *The Chocolate Castle Clue* (NAL, \$22.95) by Joanna Carl.



A couple of seedy attorneys stumble across a drug liability case that could make them millions—if they live to collect in John Grisham's newest legal romp *The Litigators* (Doubleday, \$28.95).

Stone Barrington must face up to his paternity in *Stuart Woods's Son of Stone* (Putnam, \$26.95).

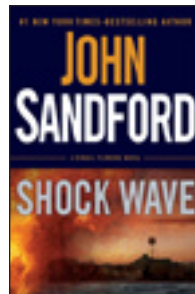
Jessica Fletcher is touring Italy but murder is not far behind in *Murder She Wrote: Fine Art of Murder* (NAL, \$23.95) by Donald Bain and Jessica Fletcher.

The reclusive Key Largo sleuth Thorn is pulled from his sanctuary by a ruthless killer in *Dead Last* (Minotaur, \$25.99) by James W. Hall.

The President's son and daughter are kidnapped and Alex Cross is on the case in *Kill Alex Cross* (Little, Brown, \$28.99) by James Patterson.

Murder Unleashed (Ballantine, \$25) is a second in Rita Mae Brown's new series featuring feisty Nevada rancher Jeep Reed, her niece Mags and assorted canine assistants.

A fight over a Walmart-type store coming into a small Minnesota town leads to murder in the latest Virgil Flowers mystery, *Shock Wave* (Putnam, \$27.95) by John Sandford.

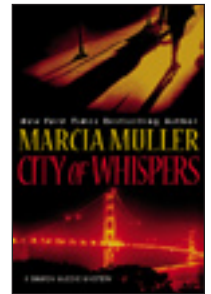


In *Stephen King's 11/22/63* (Scribner, \$35) a man travels back in time to prevent JFK's assassination.

An Army CID investigator is sent to a remote spot in West Virginia to investigate a crime in *David Baldacci's* new thriller *Zero Day* (Grand Central, \$27.99).

Great series

In *City of Whispers* (Grand Central, \$25.99) by Marcia Muller, San Francisco PI Sharon McCone receives an email asking for help from her emotionally disturbed half-brother, Darcy Blackhawk, but he fails to reply to her response. As her search widens, Sharon uncovers a connection to an unsolved murder of a young woman who was heiress to a multi-million-dollar fortune.



Colorado rancher and part-time deputy Charlie Moon pokes around in several different cases in *James D. Doss's* amusing sixteenth mystery, *Coffin Man* (Minotaur, \$25.99). Doss's work is a treat for any fan of Western mystery.

In *Double Dexter* (Doubleday, \$25.95) by Jeff Lindsay our sociopathic killer and nice guy Dexter is not pleased to discover that someone is shadowing him and copying his methods. Dexter is not one to tolerate displeasure . . . in fact, he has a knack for extricating himself from trouble in his own pleasurable way.

Lydia Chin takes the lead in *Ghost Hero* (Minotaur, \$25.99) by S.J. Rozan where she's hired to investigate rumors of new works of art by an artist who was killed in the Tiananmen Square uprising. Rozan works in quite a lot of fascinating info about contemporary Chinese art while keeping the plot boiling for Lydia and partner Bill Smith.



A burglar enters the homes of wealthy Brattleboro residents in *Tag Man* (Minotaur, \$25.99) by Archer Mayor. He seems to take nothing, eats some food and leaves a Post-it note bearing the single word

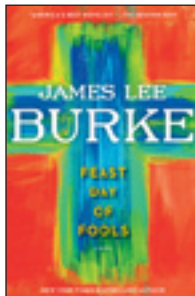
New: Free shipping on orders of \$10 or more

“tag.” Joe Gunther and his ensemble of cops enter the picture after this seemingly harmless series of pranks turns more violent with the death of a man who was evidently a hired killer. One of the best of Mayor’s fine series.

You gotta love **David Handler’s** mysteries, particularly if, like me, you’re a film buff. Film critic Mitch Berger and girlfriend Des Mitry (a state trooper) are dragged into more than one crime in *Blood Red Indian Summer* (Minotaur, \$24.99) beginning with the body of Berger’s sister-in-law washing up on

a beach. I love the interplay between the characters and I’m in awe of Berger’s ability to interpret all of life through movies.

You just cannot do better than a **James Lee Burke** book and *Feast Day of Fools* (S&S, \$26.99) is no exception in this sequel to *Rain Gods* featuring sheriff Hackberry Holland. A local man comes to Holland with a wild story of torture and murder which turns out to be completely true. Remarkably, Preacher Jack Collins from the earlier book is back and may even be on the right side this time. An uncanny sense of place and time pervades this book along with an unforgettable cast of characters. Signed copies available, order now.

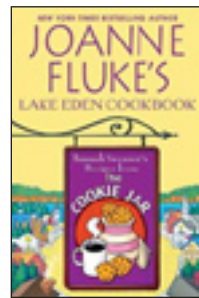


Cozy cats

Kathryn Dunnnett’s *Scotched* (Kensington, \$22) is one of my favorite sorts of mysteries—*i.e.*, a mystery featuring a convocation of mystery writers and the inevitable murder that intrudes upon the conference proceedings. This one features the First Annual Maine-ly Cozy-Con, a meeting held in central Maine. It goes

without saying that Cozy-Con becomes anything but, when a much-loathed critic meets an untimely demise and series heroine Liss MacCrimmon and her fiancé get to the bottom of things. Extra, extra! Read all about it! [LM]

Dog-walking San Francisco opera singer Max Bravo, introduced in *The Dog Park Club*, returns in **Cynthia Robinson’s** clever new mystery *The Barbary Dogs* (Minotaur, \$24.99). A friend has jumped to his death (Golden Gate, of course) but the more Max follows the clues in the fellow’s journal, the more he suspects murder.



A treat for any fan **Joanne Fluke’s** *Lake Eden Cookbook* (Kensington, \$18.95) contains mouthwatering recipes from the Hannah Swensen books plus new recipes along with vignettes featuring favorite characters from Lake Eden.

The last thing Carmela Bertrand and her friend Ava expected to bear witness to in St. Tristan’s Church was a crime. But now a beloved member of their scrapbooking circle lies lifeless next to a smashed statue of St. Sebastian—and a mysterious hooded figure has absconded with an antique crucifix. Chills aplenty in *Skeleton Letters* (Berkley, \$25.95) by **Laura Childs**.

Joelle Charbonneau hits all the right notes of humor, romance and skullduggery in *Skating Over the Line* (Minotaur, \$25.99) a second outing for Chicago native Rebecca Robbins who has become the reluctant owner of a skating rink in a small Indiana town. She’s lined up a buyer but one complication after another involves Rebecca in car thefts, exploding autos and, finally, murder.

British, Irish & Scottish

In Galway Jack Taylor’s life is slightly improved by a new love interest but that will soon give way to a series of horrific

events in *Headstone* (Mysterious, \$24) by **Ken Bruen**. The title refers to a psychopathic bunch by that name that target the weak but they’ve made a mistake in taking on Jack and those close to him. Incidentally, we’ll soon have copies of Bruen’s *Blitz*, the fourth DS Brant series, never published in the US.



Denise Mina is possibly the most overlooked writer on the Scottish crime scene and that means that a lot of readers are missing out on some great stuff. *The End of the Wasp Season* (Little, Brown, \$25.99) is the second in her

series with Glasgow Det. Sergeant Alex Morrow. She’s investigating the murder of a young woman in her home in a wealthy suburb. The presence of a huge pile of cash eliminates robbery and Alex’s guv has his own ideas about the perpetrator—ideas that Alex doesn’t go along with.

Moving on to Belfast we enter the territory of **Stuart Neville** and his superb thrillers featuring DI Jack Lennon. Lithuanian gangs that traffic in women are the heart of *Stolen Souls* (Soho, \$25) as Neville continues to chronicle the complex currents that pass for peace in Northern Ireland. Loyalist gangs are in league with these traffickers and one of their number has just been found dead.

Torrential rains have flooded the town of Lafferton and uncovered the remains of a teenager who disappeared 16 years earlier in **Susan Hill’s** complex new Simon Serailier novel *The Betrayal of Trust* (Overlook, \$24.95). As Serailier grinds through the cold-case investigation trying to locate witnesses Hill introduces other sub-plots that shed light on the decades-old crime.

Always one of my favorite series, Kathy Kolla and David Brock are very three-dimensional characters. **Barry Maitland** delivers again with *Chelsea Mansion*, (Mi-
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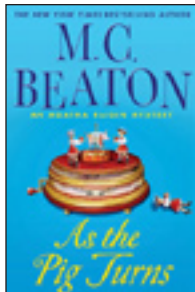
Just Published...continued from page 3

notaur, \$24.99). The scene of the crime is the annual Chelsea Flower Show and what seems the random killing of an unsuspecting tourist is anything but. In an apparently unrelated event, a wealthy Russian expat is found dead in a small park across the avenue from his palatial estate. The only link is the fact that the visitor's hotel is on the same street. In metropolitan London can this be a true coincidence?

Agatha shows her age in the title

of M.C. Beaton's newest Agatha Raisin novel, *As The Pig Turns*, (Minotaur, \$24.99) by referring in the title to a policeman, a flic, the fuzz, cops. A pig roast at the local Cotswold village square turns literal when the town's least-favorite lawman

shows up on the spit. When his ex-wife hires Agatha to investigate his death, she too is murdered. Is Agatha next? Always a delightful trip to cozy old England with booze accompaniment. [JA]



Foreign duty

Nurse Nina Borg is talked into doing a favor for a friend: picking up a package from a locker in the Copenhagen train station. In *The Boy in the Suitcase* (Soho, \$24) by Lene Kaaberbol and Agnete Friis the title describes exactly what she finds, three years old, drugged but alive, in that locker. An outstanding crime debut and an auspicious start to a new series.

Easy Money (Pantheon, \$26.95) isn't easy reading as Jens Lapidus, a successful criminal attorney in Sweden, pens this unflinching look at Sweden's underworld. Using a trio of crooks to illuminate the byways of criminality she intersperses the narrative with police reports and tabloid articles to provide counterpoint.

Arnaldur Indridason's name is not a household word but as more of his books are translated from his native Icelandic, his popularity has been growing. The best known of his books is *Jar City*. Now newly available is *Operation Napoleon* (Minotaur, \$24.99), a gripping tale of a major

US WWII secret frozen in the glacial ice. When a long-missing bomber is found, both German and American soldiers are on board. The attempts to both remove it and keep secret its very existence puts many lives at risk. A thriller! [JA]

Historically accurate

Following their recent intrigue at Highbury, Fitzwilliam and Elizabeth Darcy visit the seaside village of Lyme on holiday in Carrie Bebris's charming sixth mystery, *The Deception at Lyme* (Tor, \$22.99); a delight based on the setting and characters of Austen's *Persuasion*.

Readers who enjoy a bit of forensics in their Victorian mystery will enjoy *The Devil's Ribbon* (Minotaur, \$25.99) by D.E. Meredith in which pathologist Adolphus Hatton and his assistant Albert Roumande will tackle a series of murders where the only link between the victims is a Fenian green ribbon left on the corpse.



In *A Burial at Sea*, the fifth Charles Lenox mystery by Charles Finch (St. Martins, \$24.99), the retired amateur detective sets sail for Egypt, on a diplomatic/spy mission for the British government. Not long after the ship's departure, one of the ship's officer's is murdered. Lenox must use his talents as a detective to find the murderer. This book offers a fascinating glance into the world of the British Victorian Navy at a time when the diplomatic relations between France and England were strained. [MBN]

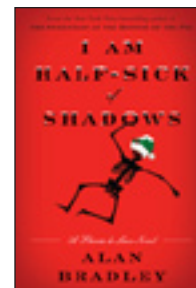
Gary Corby turns in another in his delightful series set in 5th century Athens with *The Ionia Sanction* (Minotaur, \$24.99). Our protagonist Nicolaos is still pursuing his dream of being an investigator and is sent to Ephesus by Pericles to recover important papers which, if revealed, would be damaging to Athens. Corby fills the book with interesting bits about ancient Greek life and culture while introducing a good bit of humor to keep the reading lively.

The title of *A Crimson Warning* (Minotaur, \$24.99), Tasha Alexander's latest for Victorian sleuth Lady Emily Hargreaves, refers to red paint splashed on the stoops of aristocratic homes. These warnings are then followed by public disclosure of embarrassing secrets; secrets that some would kill to protect.

Elementary

Sherlock Holmes fans will get a unique treat with *The House of Silk* (Mulholland, \$27.99), a Holmes story by Anthony Horowitz that is authorized by the estate of Arthur Conan Doyle. No word about the plot but Horowitz has certainly had his share of success with the Alex Rider series for kids as well as numerous TV productions including "Foyle's War."

On the other hand, if Sherlock Holmes were a precocious twelve-year-old girl he'd be Flavia de Luce, the irresistible heroine of Alan Bradley's unique series now with a fourth volume: *I Am Half-Sick of Shadows* (Delacorte, \$23). Flavia's focused on Christmas until a film company's arrival distracts her with their movie-making activities. Even better, a dead body turns up and Flavia's got her work cut out for her.



Laurie R. King has rounded up much more than the usual suspects in compiling *A Study in Sherlock: Stories Inspired by the Holmes Canon* (Bantam, \$15), a collection of 16 stories by such diverse writers as S.J. Rozan, Alan Bradley, Lee Child, Laura Lippman and Margaret Maron. King challenged them to come up with not only a pastiche but a twist on an original story and the results are brilliant.

More good stuff

With *L.A. Mental* (Harper, \$24.99), Neil McMahon pens an exciting thriller with a scientific twist reminiscent of the late Michael Crichton. We open with reports of a rash of bizarre events in LA follow-

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Looking for eBooks? ebooks.mysterylovers.com

Also Noted:

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

- Alexander, Tasha; *Dangerous to Know* (Minotaur, \$14.99); Lady Emily Ashton Hargreaves, Victorian sleuth
- Brockovich, Erin with C.J. Lyons; *Rock Bottom* (Vanguard, \$25.99); environmental activist pens novel of environmental activist
- Cohen, William S.; *Blink of an Eye* (Forge, \$24.99); thriller of nuclear attack on US by former Secretary of Defense
- Craig, James; *London Calling* (Constable, \$25); London cop uncovers scandal that threatens the government
- Crusie, Jennifer; *The Cinderella Deal* (Bantam, \$14); romance, reissued
- Delaney, Kathleen; *And Murder for Desert* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); celebrity chef killed at swank winery reception
- DePoy, Phillip; *A Corpse's Nightmare* (Minotaur, \$25.99); Georgia folklorist Fever Devlin
- Doss, James D.; *Dead Man's Tale* (Minotaur, \$7.99); Ute rancher and investigator Charlie Moon
- Gorman, Ed; *Bad Moon Rising* (Pegasus, \$25); '60s small-town lawyer Sam McCain
- Hart, Ellen; *The Lost Women of Lost Lake* (Minotaur, \$25.99); restaurateur Jane Lawless
- Haynes, Dana; *Breaking Point* (Minotaur, \$24.99) and *Crashers* (SMP, \$9.99); NTSB investigators uncover conspiracy
- Jagger, R.J.; *Lawyer Trap* (Pegasus, \$25); Denver homicide cop Nick Teffinger
- Jerkins, Grant; *At the End of the Road* (Berkley, \$15); creepy novel of suspense with 10 year old boy as protagonist
- Khoury, Raymond; *The Devil's Elixir* (Dutton, \$26.95); FBI agent Sean Reilly and his girlfriend Tess seek herb so mind-blowing it will shake the foundations of civilization. Actually, I knew guys looking for that in college.
- Mortimer, John; *Forever Rumpole* (Viking, \$30); fourteen of the best of the Rumpole stories
- Nisbet, Jim; *Ulysses' Dog* (Overlook, \$14); noir tale with PI Martin Windrow
- Parker, Ann; *Mercury's Rise* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); 1880s Leadville, Colorado saloon owner Inez Stannert
- Ritter, Todd; *Bad Moon* (Minotaur, \$25.99); small town police chief Kat Campbell
- Sierra, Javier; *The Lost Angel* (Atria, \$25.99); routine religious conspiracy thriller
- Stevens, Taylor; *The Informationist* (Broadway, \$14); information broker Vanessa "Michael" Monroe
- Tesh, Jane; *Stolen Hearts* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95); new series with psychic detective David Randall
- Thurlo, Aimee and David; *Black Thunder* (Forge, \$24.99) and *The Never Ending Snake* (Forge, \$14.99); Navajo tribal investigator Ella Clah
- Vachss, Andrew; *The Weight* (Vintage, \$15); thief does time for rape he didn't commit to avoid pinch for jewel heist
- Webb, Peggy; *Elvis and the Tropical Double Trouble* (Kensington, \$23); the Valentine clan on vacation
- Westerson, Jeri; *Troubled Bones* (Minotaur, \$25.99); disgraced 14th century knight Crispin Guest
- Woodrell, Daniel; *The Outlaw Album* (Little, Brown, \$24.99); 14 stories set in the Ozarks

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ing which protagonist Tom Crandall, a psychologist, receives a frantic call from his brother who then promptly throws himself off a cliff. Crandall's pursuit of the truth behind these events moves at a lightning pace leading to hours of pleasurable reading.

Comic crime in the vein of Elmore Leonard is on tap with Rick Gavin's hilarious, action-packed debut *Ranchero* (Minotaur, \$24.99). Repo man Nick Reid works in the Mississippi Delta and his current mission is to retrieve his landlady's classic Ford Ranchero (remember those?) stolen from him by one of his "clients." Highly recommended.

Chief of Police Josie Gray faces Mexican drug cartels who have turned her Texas border-town into a battlefield in *The Territory* (Minotaur, \$24.99) by Tricia Fields,

a compelling debut and the winner of the 2010 Hillerman Prize. Set in a desert landscape as beautiful as it is dangerous, *The Territory* captures the current border issues from the eyes of a tough, compelling heroine.

Umberto Eco delivers another wide-ranging literary historical thriller in *The Prague Cemetery* (HMH, \$27) a tale that starts with the origin of the infamous Protocol of the Elders of Zion—a much-discredited document purporting to prove a Jewish cabal. Fans of Eco's work will find all of the depth of storytelling filled with educated asides on every subject under the sun.

Originally published in 1977 and long out of print, this new edition of *An Autobiography* (Harper, \$29.99) by Agatha Christie includes a CD of the grand dame

of mystery authors expounding on her life as a writer, making it especially welcome as a holiday treat for all Christie fans.

Who better to edit *The Best American Noir of the Century* (Mariner, \$16.95) than Mr. Noir himself, James Ellroy, assisted by Otto Penzler. A treasure trove of 39 stories from the earlier noir of the twenties through masters like Evan Hunter, James Caan, Patricia Highsmith and Dennis Lehane.

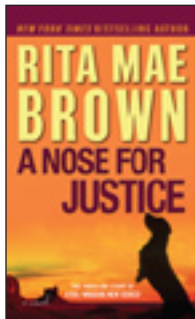
The year 1864 saw the first murder committed on a railway and Kate Colquhoun tells the exciting story in *Murder in the First Class Carriage* (Overlook, \$24.95), a tale that was followed breathlessly by the public on both sides of the Atlantic.

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

New Arrivals in Paperback

Quick takes

Rita Mae Brown introduces a new series in *A Nose for Justice* (Ballantine, \$7.99) featuring a city girl, Mags Rogers who seeks refuge on her great-aunt Jeep's ranch in Nevada.



Dirk Pitt looks for the common thread between a series of naval catastrophes centuries apart in *Crescent Dawn* (Berkley, \$9.99) by Clive Cussler.

Alex Cross's wedding is put on hold when he's called to the scene of a double homicide in *Cross Fire* (Vision, \$9.99) by James Patterson.

Virgil Flowers investigates a seemingly simple homicide in *Bad Blood* (Berkley, \$9.99) by John Sandford but the death by hanging of the prime suspect raises doubts.

Full Dark, No Stars (Pocket, \$9.99) is a new collection of four original never-before-published Stephen King stories, all linked by the common theme of retribution.



Village cleaning lady Lois Meade returns to investigating murder in *Threats at Three* (Berkley, \$7.99) by Ann Purser.

Isabel Dalhousie and the Sunday Philosophy Club are back in *The Charming Quirks of Others* (Anchor, \$14) by Alexander McCall Smith.

It's not John Rebus but it's still damned good—*The Complaints* (Little, Brown, \$14.99) by Ian Rankin introduces Malcolm Fox and his band of internal affairs cops.

Sicilian detective Inspector Montalbano

looks into several related cases in *The Potter's Field* (Penguin, \$15) by Andrea Camilleri.

With *Eve* (SMP, \$7.99) Iris Johansen begins a trilogy about forensic sculptor Eve Duncan that will delve into the story of Duncan's daughter Bonnie.

Halloween in New Orleans is a spooky treat with *Fiber & Brimstone* (Berkley, \$7.99) by Laura Childs and featuring Carmela Bertrand.

Heavenly sleuth Bailey Ruth Raeburn takes on a difficult case in *Ghost in Trouble* (Avon, \$7.99) by Carolyn Hart.



A documentary filmmaker finds herself in trouble with Somali pirates in *Djibouti* (Harper, \$14.99) by Elmore Leonard.

Surveillance in a seemingly simple medical malpractice case turns deadly for PI Sam Blackman in *The Sandburg Connection* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) by Mark DeCastrique.

Tom Clancy returns to print with a new thriller, *Dead or Alive* (Berkley, \$18), with a little help from co-author Grant Blackwood.

Chief Inspector Simon Serailier is called back from vacation—a double murder the cause—in *Shadows in the Street* (Overlook, \$15) by Susan Hill.

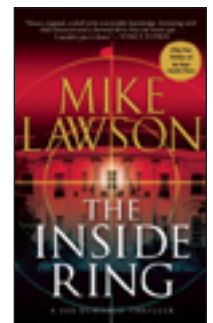
Reissues

With *Cargo of Eagles* (\$14.95) Felony & Mayhem completes reissue of all 19 of Margery Allingham's classic Albert Campion novels.

Louisa May Alcott as a sleuth was a hit with all mystery lovers with the debut *Louisa and the Missing Heiress*. With *Louisa and the Country Bachelor* (NAL, \$14) Anna Maclean returns with the charming young

woman who writes her "blood & thunder" books under a pen name and solves murder in her own life. In the wholesome New Hampshire countryside murder lurks and this is just the girl to solve the mystery.

In Mike Lawson's exciting Washington thriller *The Inside Ring* (Grove, \$7.99) we first meet Joe DeMarco, a rough-and-ready product of Brooklyn, son of a Mafia enforcer and law school grad and a delightful creation. Self-deprecating in his role as unacknowledged troubleshooter for the Speaker—modeled on the formidable Tip O'Neill, DeMarco freshens up the political thriller genre with humor and wit.



Miracle Cure (Signet, \$9.99) is a reissue of an early Harlan Coben book, circa 1991, a medical thriller about a plot to suppress a cure for AIDS.

Those with a taste for the grittier end of British police novels will definitely want to take a trip back to Margaret Thatcher's London with the reissue of Derek Raymond's first four novels in his Factory series featuring the unnamed DS in the Department of Unexplained Deaths. *He Died with His Eyes Open* (Melville, \$14.95) is the first.

In the early '80s John Gardner received the assignment to continue Ian Fleming's James Bond novels beginning with *License Renewed* (Pegasus, \$14.95) just reissued along with *Icebreaker* and *For Special Services*.

Ngaio Marsh's first Roderick Allyn mystery, *A Man Lay Dead* (F&M, \$14.95), was announced in the last News but it's now due on Nov. 16.

For a different twist on the serial killer genre check out Lisa Unger's two novels

Looking for a British publication? Ask us.

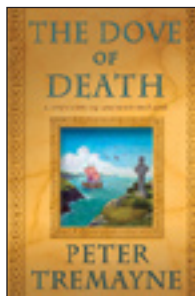
Angel Fire and *The Darkness Gathers* (both Broadway, \$15) originally published under the name Lisa Miscione. Both feature true crime writer Lydia Strong whose pursuit of killers is fueled by the murder of her own mother when Lydia was a child.

Very nice to see **Beth Groundwater's** new publisher, Midnight Ink, putting out paperbacks of her earlier series with gift basket maker Claire Hanover, starting with *A Real Basket Case* (\$14.95).

History's allure

Just when business, that's the informer/spy business, takes Falco far from home, a double personal tragedy pulls Falco back to Rome in *Nemesis* (Minotaur, \$14.99) by **Lindsey Davis**. Nemesis is the Roman goddess of retributive justice and one of the characters in this story says "When a man receives more from Fortune than he should, Nemesis will come along and right the balance." As in her other nineteen books in this series, Davis writes an intriguing detective story with humor and insight into the society and politics of first-century Rome. [JA]

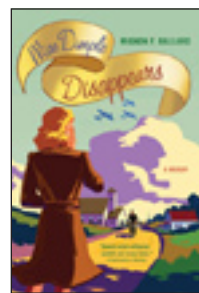
Peter Tremayne continues to develop his sophisticated "Mystery of Ireland" series in *Dove of Death* (Minotaur, \$14.99). Once again, the intrepid Sister Fidelma takes it upon herself to ensure that justice is done after a merchant ship in 670 A.D. is attacked and plundered. Even worse is the unholy massacre of the ship's captain and an Irish prince, both of whom had already surrendered to the marauders. Vowing to vindicate the murder of her cousin, the prince, Sister Fidelma, with the customary skilled assistance of Brother Eadulf, exercises her considerable sleuthing skills to



right heinous wrongs. This series just gets better and better, so you will want to read its seventeen predecessors, along with this stunning new series addition. [LM]

Fifth-century BC Athens springs to life in **Gary Corby's** sprightly debut *The Pericles Commission* (Minotaur, \$14.99) which introduces would-be investigator Nicolaus (older brother to Aristotle, would you believe) who is acting for up and coming politico Pericles.

Readers may recall Mozart's death only from the movie "Amadeus" but mystery novelist **Matt Rees** provides much more detail in his historical thriller *Mozart's Last Aria* (Harper, \$14.99). The central character is the composer's sister Maria who hurries to Vienna to find out for herself what has caused her brother's death and whether it is true that the freemasons are involved. A complex novel with plenty of interest for fans of music and conspiracy.



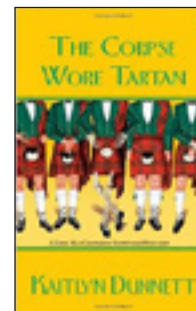
Mignon F. Ballard's *Miss Dimple Disappears* (Minotaur, \$14.99) is an engaging historical set in World War II Georgia. While the war rages overseas, Charlie Carr, a young teacher, encounters a sort of war on her own turf. Thus, when reliable Miss Dimple Kilpatrick, a veritable institution in the school disappears, Charlie knows that something is sorely amiss. Along with a friend, she searches for answers. This cozy features engrossing historical atmosphere, along with the timeless quest to solve disturbing conundrums. Perhaps the best quality of *Miss Dimple Disappears* is Charlie Carr's appearance, of which there should be many more. [LM]

Twelfth-century prioress Eleanor of Tyndale is drawn into a case of a family curse in *The Killing Season* (Poisoned Pen,

\$14.95) by **Priscilla Royal**. A local knight has returned from the Crusades only to face the mysterious deaths of his sons.

In fourteenth-century London, Crispin Guest, protagonist of *The Demon's Parchment* (Minotaur, \$14.99) by **Jeri Westerson**, is a disgraced knight convicted of treason and stripped of his land, title and his honor. He has become known as a man who can find anything—for a price. But this time, even Crispin is wary of taking on his most recent client. Jacob of Provencal is a Jewish physician at the King's court, even though all Jews were expelled from England nearly a century before. Jacob wants Crispin to find stolen parchments that might be behind the recent, ongoing, gruesome murders of young boys, parchments that someone might have used to bring forth a demon which now stalks the streets and alleys of London.

Cozy corner



After a body is discovered in the midst of a blizzard, Scottish-American sleuth Liss MacCrimmon has to sort out the facts before another body goes cold in *The Corpse Wore Tartan* (Kensington, \$7.99) by **Kaitlyn Dunnett**.

The bookstore where Molly Pink, a member of the crochet group the Tarzana Hookers, works is adding a yarn department and planning a huge launch party where the mysterious author of a popular series will reveal his or her true identity. But before the author appears, another person disappears in **Betty Hechtman's** entertaining *You Better Knot Die* (Berkley, \$7.99).

Cat in an Ultramarine Scheme (Forge,

Please see New Paperbacks, page 10

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Very Original

Reviews of books published for the first time as paperbacks

Cooking up a mystery

Mystery shopper Josie Marcus plans to savor sampling the local St. Louis cuisine for a City Eats food tour in *Death on a Platter* (Signet, \$7.99) by Elaine Viets. But her appetite is ruined at Tillie's Off the Hill Italian Restaurant when another customer is poisoned. Was the victim the real target—or is someone trying to ruin Tillie's reputation? It's up to Josie to find a killer who has no reservations about preparing a dish to die for.

Melanie and Angie are determined to win the Challenge to the Chef to promote their Fairy Tale Cupcakes bakery in *Death by the Dozen* (Berkley, \$6.99) by Jenn McKinlay. Mel's mentor from culinary school, Vic Mazzotta, may be one of the judges, but Mel and Angie will have to win fair and square. But, when Vic's dead body is found inside a freezer truck, Mel and Angie will need to use their best judgment to find the cold-blooded killer or they may lose more than the contest—they may lose their lives.

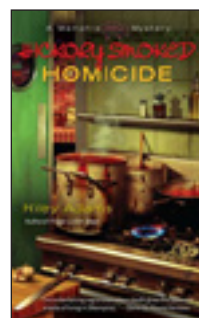
They say sugar is bad for your teeth, but can it actually kill you? The answer lies in *Killer Sweet Tooth* (Gallery, \$15) by Gayle Trent. The Brea Ridge police seem to think so when they find cake decorator Daphne Martin wielding an oversized plastic toothbrush over a dentist's dead body. Daphne moved back to her small Virginia hometown just months ago to open her Daphne's Delectable Cakes business and already she's been mixed up in murder. Now she's got to prove her sweet innocence again.

Reluctant deli owner Gwen Katz takes on the catering job from hell in *One Foot*

in the Gravy (Kensington, \$7.99) by Delia Rosen. The event is a murder mystery party but the murder is all too real. You may find it hard to believe but One Foot in the Gravy is also a rock group from Canberra. Google it if you don't believe me.

Party planner Presley Parker's new gig is the star-studded wrap party for a horror film in *How to Party with a Killer Vampire* (Signet, \$7.99) by Penny Warner. The location is a graveyard, conveniently, because the night of the bash, a tabloid journalist is murdered.

Liz Lipperman's amusing *Liver Let Die* (Berkley, \$7.99) introduces Jordan McAlister, a reporter who can't cook her way out of a macaroni & cheese box. That's why her assignment as a fill-in culinary reporter makes total sense. Her first assignment to review the new steakhouse in town is a disaster that ends with her waiter murdered outside her door—with her name and number in his pocket.



BBQ-joint owner Lulu Taylor knows pretty much everyone in Memphis who loves ribs but one person she'd rather not know is Tristan Pembroke, a snooty pageant coach with a mean streak.

In Riley Adams's *Hickory Smoked Homicide* (Berkley, \$7.99) Lulu finds Tristan's dead body stuffed in a closet at a party and the police are mighty suspicious. It's Thanksgiving in Weatherford, Texas, and Phyllis Newsome is taking her grandson, Bobby, to the first annual Harvest Festival with hopes of winning the baking contest. But when a decorative scarecrow turns out to be a dead body in disguise, Phyllis must dish out some justice in *The Pumpkin Muffin Murders* (Signet, \$7.99) by

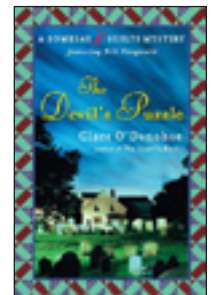
Livia J. Washburn.

Fabric and fashion

Rita Jewel, introduced in *Shoe Done It* (Berkley, \$6.99) by Grace Carroll, has a dream job selling fabulous clothes and accessories to the socialites of San Francisco at Dolce's Boutique. But when a pair of heels becomes a clue in a murder, Rita finds herself engaged in a high-end crime of fashion—and we don't mean wearing white after Labor Day.

In Elizabeth Lynn Casey's *Dangerous Alterations* (Berkley, \$7.99) Tori Sinclair's philandering ex turns up dead. The police chief believes it was murder—and that Tori may have been involved. Now, only the girls from the sewing circle will be able to help keep Tori's life from coming apart at the seams.

Nell Fitzgerald and the Someday Quilts ladies return to Archer's Rest from a retreat ready to celebrate the town's big anniversary in *The Devil's Puzzle* (Plume, \$14) by Clare Donohue but the festivities are derailed by the discovery of a body—in Nell's aunt's backyard.



History Mystery

When Queen Victoria attends a séance, the spirit of her departed husband, Prince Albert, insists she spend Christmas at their Scottish home in Balmoral. Prime Minister Disraeli suspects the Scottish nationalists plan to assassinate the Queen—and sends the ever resourceful India and the handsome British spy, French, to the Scottish highlands in *India Black and the Widow of Windsor* (Berkley, \$14) by Carol K. Carr.

Templar Bascot de Marins investigates murder in Maureen Ash's latest medieval mystery, *A Deadly Penance* (Berkley, \$14).

After an attempt on the life of her young nephew Horace, Abigail Adams,

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wife of attorney John Adams, travels to Harvard to investigate in *Sup with the Devil* (Berkley, \$14) by **Barbara Hamilton**.



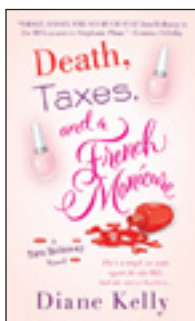
A mysterious woman hired Horace to translate some Arabic, then left him at the mercy of her henchmen. He survived—with a tale of pirate treasure. The Sons of Liberty are desperate to find the rumored gold, but Abigail wants the

truth.

A Double Death on the Black Isle (Atria, \$15) is a second novel by **A.D. Scott** set in the Scottish highlands in the '50s. As in *A Small Death in the Great Glen*, the action centers on Joanne Ross, a typist at the local paper who yearns to be a reporter. Two deaths on the same day might provide her big break—or be the death of her.

Popular series

Death, Taxes and a French Manicure (SMP, \$7.99) by **Diane Kelly** introduces IRS investigator Tara Holloway who is hot on the trail of an ice cream magnate whose illicit businesses are not reporting all their income. A funny, fast-paced novel with a fresh new heroine.



In the fifth of **Jennie Bentley's** home renovation mysteries *Flipped Out* (Berkley, \$7.99), Avery Baker and her hunky handyman boyfriend are renovating a house belonging to a local news anchor who's thrilled to be filmed as part of a home renovation show. But cable television fame proves fleeting when the man is murdered and Avery faces the task of nailing the killer behind the walls of a centuries-old house on an island that has more than its share of deadly secrets.

Linda O. Johnston follows up her debut

for animal shelter director Lauren Vancouver with *The More the Terrier* (Berkley, \$7.99). While helping to find new homes for victims of animal hoarding, Lauren must come to the aid of her boss, Mamie Spelling, after the CEO of a pet shelter, who threatened to expose Mamie's hoarding, is found dead.

Plans to build a country music theater in Scumble River fall flat when a female country singer is murdered, and the motives and suspects stretch back decades. **Denise Swanson's** *Murder of a Creped Suzette* (Berkley, \$7.99) has all the answers.

In *Angel Condemned* (Berkley, \$7.99) by **Mary Stanton** attorney and celestial advocate Brianna Winston-Beaufort is representing museum curator Prosper White, her Aunt Cissy's fiancé, in a case of fraud. She hopes to settle the matter out of court but when Prosper is murdered and Cissy's arrested for the crime, Bree will have to solve the mystery.



Clinical psychologist Liz Cooper, introduced in **Rochelle Staab's** *Who Do Voodoo?* (Berkley, \$7.99) doesn't believe in ghosts. But when her best friend finds a tarot card tacked to her front door—and is then accused of murder—Liz will have to find a way to embrace the occult if she wants to outwit the real killer. First in a new series.

Flower shop owner Abby Knight is aglow with happiness now that she's officially engaged to her longtime beau, Marco Salvare in *To Catch a Leaf* (Signet, \$7.99) by **Kate Collins**. Nothing can possibly dampen her joy—until wealthy dowager Virginia Newport is killed, and Abby's assistant Grace Bingham is the prime suspect.

Thrills aplenty

Hell to Pay (Avon, \$7.99) by **Wendy Corsi Staub** is the riveting conclusion of the trilogy that began with *Live to Tell* and

Scared to Death. Survivors of a serial killer who invaded their childhood, Lucy Walsh and Jeremy Cavalon are married now, replacing nightmares of their terrifying past with joyful dreams of the upcoming birth of their first child. Fiercely determined to protect the fragile balance of their lives, Lucy doesn't know that her new husband guards a deadly secret . . . or that an Act of God is about to unleash a vengeful fury.

Hurt Machine (Tyrus, \$15.95) is a razor-sharp PI novel by **Reed Farrel Coleman** featuring his series sleuth Moe Prager. Moe, a sometime PI, is asked by his ex-wife to look into the murder of her estranged sister; an investigation that will lead Moe into byways of municipal corruption and greed.

Ex-CIA assassin Court Gentry thought he could find refuge living in the Amazon rain forest. But his bloody past finds him when a vengeful Russian crime lord forces him to go on the run once again. **Mark Greaney** puts new life into thriller formula with *Ballistic* (Berkley, \$15). Greaney is the co-author of Tom Clancy's upcoming thriller.

Brilliant biochemist Emma Caldrige, caught in a drug cartel's deadly plot, must find a cure to an extremely virulent disease that is lethal nine days from exposure in **Jamie Freveletti's** *The Ninth Day* (Harper, \$9.99).

An attractive young woman comes to Joe Hunter for help in **Matt Hilton's** *Slash*



and Burn (Harper, \$9.99). How can he resist? Especially when she's the sister of one of Joe's former Special Forces colleagues. Her request will lead Joe into a deadly confrontation with a ruthless criminal who masquerades as a legit businessman.

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What's New in British Mystery?

The **Medieval Murderers** present their latest collection of linked stories in *The Sacred Stone* (S&S, \$9.99). A mysterious meteorite is the common thread in these tales by **Susanna Gregory**, **Simon Beaufort**, **Bernard Knight** and others.

Torn Apart (Allen & Unwin, \$12.95) by **Peter Corris** finds Australian PI Cliff Hardy semi-retired and de-licensed, but he's once again fighting for justice and tracking down evil when his cousin is brutally murdered--did the shotgun blast find its target, or was it meant for Hardy?

Death of a Radical (Quercus, \$12.95) by **Rebecca Jenkins** is the second entry in her Regency series featuring Raif Jarrett, a man who serves as the Duke of Penrith's agent in the town of Woolbridge in Durham. Labor strife and industrialization have come to the area and a conservative MP is setting up a confrontation with radicals supporting labor while Raif struggles with more personal issues such as protecting the secrets in his past and the apparently natural death of a guest at the inn.

Sure and Certain Death (Headline, \$14.95) is **Barbara Nadel's** fourth novel in her series set during the Blitz and featuring undertaker Francis Hancock as the protagonist. As one body after another is found rumors of a new Jack the Ripper

spread but Hancock is aware of a disturbing fact: all of the victims were acquaintances of his sister.



Early in the morning a woman is browsing a real estate website in *Lasting Damage* (Hodder, \$14.95) by **Sophie Hannah** when she is surprised to see a dead body in the webcam at one particular property. Waking her husband she tries to show him but, naturally, there is nothing there. A wonderfully complex mystery by this master of the modern suspense novel.

We are glad to say that we have finally obtained *Blitz* (Transworld, \$14.95) the fourth novel in **Ken Bruen's** South London based series featuring DS Brant. US publication has been announced and cancelled several times and we now have a UK edition—a tie-in to the movie with Jason Statham.

Outrage (Vintage, \$25.99) is the latest in Icelandic author **Arnaldur Indridason's** series with Inspector Sveinsson. The Inspector, however, is away during this novel so Detective Elinborg takes center stage in a tale of a man found dead with no sign of break-in and few clues. Her investigation of the victim's life soon turns up plenty of leads.

Thrones, Domination (New English Library, \$15.95) was a fragmentary last Peter

Wimsey novel left by **Dorothy L. Sayers**. Some years ago **Jill Paton Walsh** completed that novel which is now out of print in the US. We've brought in the UK version for fans of this excellent series from the Golden Age.

Amateur archaeologist and professional policeman Wesley Peterson is taken through his paces in both fields in *The Jackal Man* (Piatkus, \$12.95) by **Kate Ellis**. A serial killer with a jackal's head is terrorizing the town while Wesley's friend Neil has been commissioned to evaluate a collection of Egyptian antiquities that hides secrets of their own. Surely the two events are connected.

Although **Liza Marklund** is quite successful in her native Sweden she had less success here; several earlier publication in the US already out of print. After her successful collaboration with **James Patterson**



on *The Postcard Killers*, however, she got a new lease on life with publication of *Red Wolf*, part of her series with reporter Annika Bengtzon. We've got two earlier books in the series: *Exposed* (Transworld, \$13.95) and *Prime Time* (S&S,

\$14.95). Although written later the action in *Exposed* (originally published here as *Studio Sex*) takes place earlier than other books in the series.

New Paperbacks continued from page 7

\$7.99) is the 22nd book by **Carole Nelson Douglas** in this always entertaining series featuring Midnight Louie, a talented feline sleuth, and Temple Barr, his owner/partner in detection. In this wonderful addition to the series, the energetic Temple assumes the task of founding a mob museum and casino in Las Vegas. Perhaps, though, the Mob resents such commemoration and high visibility? Not to worry, though, because Midnight Louie and his cat colleagues are only too willing and able to solve any murder mystery that

comes their way, Mob-related or not—and that's not surprising, given the frequency of murder in close proximity to Louie no matter where he and Temple go. As always, Midnight Louie is a purrfect companion and an ingenious one. Curl up with him and see. [LM]

When Lee McKinney Woodyard and her husband Joe take their boat out on Lake Michigan in *The Chocolate Pirate Plot* (Signet, \$7.99) by **JoAnna Carl**, a mischievous band of pirates hops on board. Lee's is the first boat boarded that summer,

and the town couldn't be more amused. But when a body washes up on shore, the pirates' antics stop being so entertaining.

Mary Jane Clark's *To Have and to Kill* (Avon, \$7.99) is a delectable entree to a promising new mystery series. Poor Piper Donovan. She's down on her luck as her acting jobs and romance dry up, so at last she makes that most humiliating decision—to move from New York City back to her parents' place in New Jersey. Fortunately, Piper has a good relationship

Please see New Paperbacks, page 11

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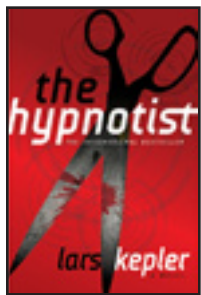
New Paperbacks continued from page 10

with her parents, and she also has the opportunity to assist her mother, who runs a highly successful bakery specializing in delicious and elaborate wedding cakes. Mysteries abound as Piper tries to discover what's eating her mother and to solve the murder of a celebrity guest who volunteers at a local charity auction. As the book's title none too subtly suggests, sometimes marriage can be a hazardous proposition. Nonetheless, I hope to follow Piper's exploits again and again in future installments of this engaging new series. [LM]

Foreign parts

Brazilian cop Mario Silva begins a politically sensitive investigation in *Every Bitter Thing* (Soho, \$14) by **Leighton Gage**. The victim is the son of a prominent government minister but Silva soon realizes this murder is part of a series and the only thing tying the victims together is that they were all on the same airline flight.

You may have heard of **Shamini Flint** and her amazing multicultural children's books but she also writes a mystery series featuring Inspector Singh. He is overweight, slightly disheveled and totally charming. *A Most Peculiar Malaysian Murder* opens (Felony & Mayhem, \$14.95) when the Inspector is sent off to Kuala Lumpur where no one really wants him to investigate the murder of the husband of a very famous beautiful model because she is in jail and the police want her to stay there. Case closed, right? Not for the good and susceptible Inspector. Chelsea Liew convinces him of her innocence and hires him privately to investigate. An action that could get him fired. A delightful and entertaining read. [JA]

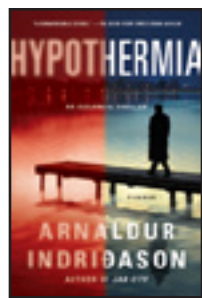


Tumba, Sweden, a place seldom visited by crime of any kind, a triple murder, all the same family. The killer is at large, and it

Lars Kepler is the pseudonym for a literary couple who live in Sweden with books already published in thirty-three countries and now the US debut of *The Hypnotist* (Picador, \$16) brings them to our shores. In

looks as if the oldest sister has escaped. But she is missing and it seems only a matter of time until she too is murdered. Detective Inspector Joonas Linna demands to investigate the grisly aftermath—against the wishes of the national police. Where can Linna begin? The only surviving witness is the boy, Josef, whose mother, father and little sister were killed before his eyes, and he's in shutdown, comatose with shock. Obsessed and desperate, Linna turns to disgraced specialist Erik Maria Bark. Well worth the read. [JA]

Meanwhile, in Iceland, Inspector Sveinsson takes an unofficial look at a death that seems a suicide in *Hypothermia* (Picador, \$15) by **Arnaldur Indridason**.



Red Wolf (Washington Square, \$15) represents the return of Annika Bengtzon, Liza Marklund's Swedish reporter and sleuth, to US publication. An exciting crime series that disappeared here, it's gotten a new lease on life no doubt due to Marklund's successful collaboration with **James Patterson** on *The Postcard Killers*. We've got several of the earlier books in UK editions.

Informative—and suspenseful, of course, this latest series novel fulfills all of my (high) expectations for a **Peter May** novel. *Chinese Whispers* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) is his fifth mystery in the series featuring Li Yan, head of Beijing's serious crimes unit, and Dr. Margaret Campbell, an American pathologist. Murder becomes personal when the Beijing Ripper, a serial killer reminiscent of Jack the Ripper, preys upon Beijing. When the killer threatens Li Yan himself, all stops are pulled out to terminate his reign of terror. Great stuff.

Feng shui master C.F. Wong has never been to the West, but he knows he doesn't like it. It is unquestionably full of West-erners, with their large noses and their disgusting food and their habit—he has seen it many times in movies—of fighting with each other on top of speeding trains. And yet, in *Feng Shui Detective Goes West* (F&M, \$14.95) by **Nury Vittachi**, C.F. is

going to England. The Family has been having a bad time. The Family needs a feng shui master. Only Wong can bring balance to Buckingham Palace.

Years of Red Dust (Griffin, \$14.99) by **Qiu Xiaolong** is a collection of linked short stories that covers the history of modern China through a single street in Beijing.

David Waltner-Towes's unique debut, *Fear of Landing* (Poison Pen, \$14.95), features an unusual setting, the repressive Indonesia of the early '80s, and even more unusual sleuth in Canadian vet Abner Dueck. He becomes involved in a case of suspicious death but asking questions in the Indonesia of Suharto can be a fatal occupation as Abner soon learns.

Irish & British beat

Award-winning author **Alan Bradley** returns with another beguiling novel starring the insidiously clever and unflappable eleven-year-old sleuth Flavia de Luce in *A Red Herring Without Mustard* (Bantam, \$15). The precocious chemist with a passion for poisons uncovers a fresh slew of misdeeds in the hamlet of Bishop's Lacey—mysteries involving a missing tot, a fortune-teller, and a corpse in Flavia's own backyard.



Inspector Alan Banks spends almost half of *Bad Boy* (Harper, \$7.99) offstage but that only ratchets up the tension as DI Annie Cabott takes over in a case that involves Banks's own daughter Tracy and her relationship with the very bad boy of the title. **Peter Robinson**, as expected, surpasses the usual police procedural in this tale that explores Tracy's relationship with a young man whom she shelters and hides from the police before coming to realize how dangerous he is.

An elderly woman is found dead in her bathroom in *Miss Minchin Dies* (Severn, \$15.95) by **Betty Rowlands**. Sukey Reynolds, a scene-of-crimes officer

Please see New Paperbacks, page 12

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New Paperbacks continued from page 11

agrees to poke around after the woman's GP contests the verdict of accidental death. Her efforts are diverted by a more obvious crime but soon enough the two cases seem linked.

It's nearly impossible to summarize the complex, coincidence-driven plots of a **Kate Atkinson** mystery and anyway the plot isn't the most important thing. So I'll just say that *Started Early, Took My Dog* (Little, Brown, \$14.99) is the fourth and possibly the best of her novels to feature Jackson Brodie. There is a dog but the title comes from Emily Dickinson whom Brodie is reading while he tours ruined abbeys in the north of England.

Newly promoted to Detective Inspector, Kathy Kolla is called in to investigate a student's poisoning in *Dark Mirror* (Minotaur, \$14.99) by **Barry Maitland**. As Kolla looks further into the case, it becomes increasingly clear that behind what really happened—and why—lies the most difficult-to-crack case the team has ever faced. Among the best in British police procedurals, particularly the relationship between Kolla and her boss David Brock.

Ex-Garda, failed PI, Galway's Jack Taylor has faced evil in many forms but in *The Devil* (Minotaur, \$14.99) by **Ken Bruen** he may finally be facing Satan himself in the elusive Mr. K who seems to dog Jack's footsteps and to be at the center of the death of a young student whose mother asked Jack to look into her disappearance.

When a woman's body is discovered at the renowned Fair Isles bird observatory, with feathers threaded through her hair, the local Shetland Islanders react with fear and anger in **Ann Cleeves's** *Blue Lightning* (Minotaur, \$14.99). With no

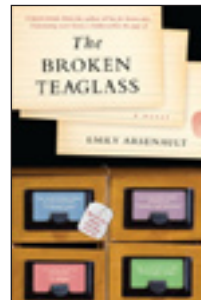


support from the mainland and only his fiancée to help him, Detective Jimmy Perez has to investigate the old-fashioned way.

RAF pilot turned sleuth Jack Haldean shows up in two absorbing mysteries set in 1920s England: *A Hundred Thousand Dragons* and *Off the Record* (both Severn, \$14.95) by **Dolores Gordon-Smith**.

Nigel and Reggie Heath, the brothers with offices at 221b Baker Street are back in *The Brothers of Baker Street* (Minotaur, \$14.99) by **Michael Robertson**. Bound by their lease to answer letters sent to Sherlock Holmes, they come across one supposedly by a descendant of the infamous Professor Moriarity.

A Dark and Stormy Night (Severn, \$15.95) is an unexpected 10th in **Jeanne M. Dams's** delightful series with expatriate American sleuth Dorothy Martin and her retired chief constable husband. You even get a mystery set at a country house weekend. Strictly for fans, though, no backlist available.



Fine reading

Emily Arsenault's *The Broken Teaglass* (Bantam, \$15) is one of the most charming, eccentric and captivating debuts I've read in a long time. Billy, an aimless slacker newly graduated from college, lands a job at

a hopelessly old-fashioned dictionary publisher where he stumbles across a murder mystery hidden in the citation files. Enlisting the aid of fellow worker Mona, the pair continues to unearth citations from a non-existent book which appear to be relating a story set at the very dictionary company where they work. A delight for any reader who loves words.

I kept counting the number of witnesses to find out who *The Fifth Witness* (Grand Central, \$14.99) would be. Good luck with that! **Michael Connelly's** compelling fourth book featuring Mickey Haller is fast-paced and tightly plotted. The California foreclosure market is beef for this legal thriller when his client Lisa Trammel is put on trial for the brutal bludgeoning of her foreclosure banker. But when the trial ends, it ain't over yet. [JA]

While you're waiting for a new Matt Scudder book you can keep yourself amused with **Lawrence Sanders's** *The Night and the Music* (\$16.95), a collection of 16 Scudder stories signed by the author.

Walter Mosley has written many fine

books in numerous genres, and *The Last Days of Ptolemy Grey* (Riverhead, \$15) is no exception. This literary mystery explores the process of aging and dying, as well as introducing a new raison d'être for 91-year-old Ptolemy Grey. I don't want to divulge too much about the plot of this extraordinary novel, but suffice it to say that Ptolemy Grey lives to see another day—and to solve a murder of yore. [LM]

When I began reading **John Lawton's** *A Lily of the Field* (Grove, \$14.95) I thought he had abandoned his wonderful aristocratic copper, Inspector Freddie Troy because the first half of the book reads more like a fascinating historical novel than a mystery, set in Vienna, prior to the Nazi takeover and stretching to London by way of Los Alamos. The seemingly disparate stories are, however, interwoven into a complex mystery in the second half as Troy looks into the murder of a Polish painter suspected of being a Russian sleeper agent. This will be a fascinating, unconventional read for those interested in the beginnings of the Cold War. [MBN]

Cops and more

Feisty former porn star Angel Dare



is back in **Christina Faust's** *Choke Hold* (Hard Case, \$9.95), a no-holds-barred crime novel with plenty of bullet dodging and a setting in the world of mixed martial arts.

Master storyteller **Stephen Cannell** brings us a new Scully

novel with *The Prostitutes' Ball* (SMP, \$9.99). Called to the Hollywood Hills Scully and his new partner "Hitch" investigate what looks like an open and shut case. Three people were shot during a lavish pool party at a deserted mansion. There is even security videotape of the suspect, an angry husband firing on all three victims. Except for one unaccounted shell casing, which leads this pair to a twenty-year-old, hijacking. As ever, a crisp, fast action thriller. [JA]

The Consummata (Hard Case, \$9.95)

Please see New Paperbacks, page 14

Have a question? Call us at 888-800-6078

Holiday Homicide

Your guide to Christmas mystery 2011

Get a head start on holiday reading



with Isis Crawford's *A Catered Thanksgiving* (Kensington, \$7.99) where catering sisters Bernie and Libby Simmons face a turkey dinner that's going to the dogs and a killer hiding a cornucopia of secrets.

Contemporary tales

There is something special about a Christmas mystery and by the hand of Margaret Maron it is a real gift. *Christmas Mourning* (Grand Central, \$7.99) brings Judge Deborah Knott and her sprawling Southern family together again, but the death of a young cheerleader in a car crash dims the lights. It was no accident and the answers can only be found after the teens and Aunt Deborah get together before the holiday and anniversary of the talented sleuth.

Being on the holiday house tour, hosting a Christmas Eve bridal shower and baking for a New Year's Eve wedding (our son and daughter-in-law are actually going to one of these) should have been enough for Phyllis Newsom in *The Gingerbread Bump-Off* (NAL, \$14) by Livia J. Washburn but no, she had to find her best friend half-dead on her front porch.

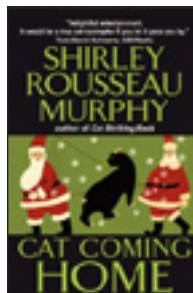


No mystery fan can resist a treat as delicious as *Gingerbread Cookie Murder* (Kensington, \$7.99) when Joanne Fluke, Laura Levine and Leslie Meier team up for a merry collection of holiday stories featuring gingerbread cookies—and murder.

What's better than a knitting mystery? A knitting mystery with a holiday setting like Sally Goldenbaum's *A Holiday Yarn*

(NAL, \$14). The Seaside Knitters come to the aid of one of their own when murder strikes a newly opened B&B.

Feline detective Joe Gray takes on another case with a holiday setting in Shirley Rousseau Murphy's *Cat Coming Home* (Avon, \$7.99). A series of assaults, a grandmother trying to make a happy holiday for her newly orphaned grandson and a new tomcat on the scene are just some of the challenges that Joe will need to set right this holiday.



British Isles



I don't think we could have dreamed up a more perfect Christmas mystery than *Twelve Drummers Drumming* (Delacorte, \$24) by C.C. Benison (remember her from the Jane Bee mysteries?). We've got the village of Thornford Regis, we've got a vicar and sleuth named Father Christmas who's a single parent with a nine year old daughter and we've got a murder victim—the daughter of the choir director. Just a perfect treat for the season.

Agatha Raisin figures out who killed the Grinch in *Busy Body* (Minotaur, \$7.99) by M.C. Beaton. Well, actually, who knocked off the Grinch-like health and safety inspector who was putting a crimp in the village's holiday festivities—until someone put a crimp in him.

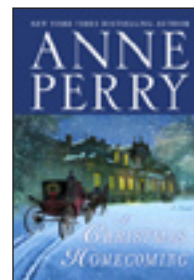
What's Christmas without Mrs. Jeffries? Fortunately we won't have to find out as Emily Brightwell is here with *Mrs. Jeffries and the Mistletoe Mixup* (Berkley, \$23.95). The inspector's only hope of solving the crime before the eggnog is ladled out lies with his savvy housekeeper Mrs. Jeffries.

A classic locked-room mystery with a Christmas-time setting in a country house. What could be a better holiday treat than Agatha Christie's *Hercule Poirot's Christmas* (Harper, \$12.99) in a lovely new edition? Virtually all of Dame Agatha's mysteries are being redone this year with beautiful new covers. How about a handful to introduce some teen reader to mystery?



Canadian expat Penny Brannigan is the sleuth in Elizabeth J. Duncan's *A Killer's Christmas in Wales* (Minotaur, \$24.99). A handsome stranger comes to town and cons a local woman out of her inheritance. When his body is found she's the likely suspect and Penny springs to her assistance.

One of the most popular traditions at MLB during the holiday is reading the latest seasonal mystery from Anne Perry featuring some of the secondary characters in her best-selling Pitt and Monk mystery books. This year it's Charlotte Pitt's mother Caroline who's at the center of the action in *A Christmas Homecoming* (Ballantine, \$18).



A Christmas Vigil (Ballantine, \$15) is a nice edition that combines two of Perry's earlier Christmas tales: *A Christmas Promise* and *A Christmas Odyssey*.

Cecily Sinclair Baxter already promised her husband that she'd take a hiatus from sleuthing. But in Kate Kingsbury's *Herald of Death* (Berkley, \$15) three killings have created a blizzard of bad publicity—and guests are canceling their reservations at the Pennyfoot Hotel. She will have to find

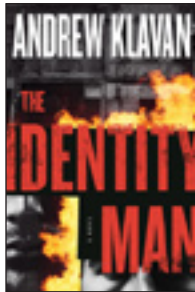
Please see Holiday Homicide, page 15

Free shipping on orders of \$10 or more: call right now

New Paperbacks continued from page 12

is Max Allan Collins's completion of an unfinished Mickey Spillane novel, a sequel to *The Delta Factor*.

A petty thief is on the run for a murder he didn't commit in **Andrew Klavan's** original and absorbing new novel *The Identity Man* (Mariner, \$14.95). He takes an offer of a new identity from an odd man with a foreign accent and soon finds himself in a new city trying to go straight. From there, things really veer off into unexpected and compelling directions.



With *Gideon's Sword* (Vision, \$7.99) authors **Douglas Preston** and **Lincoln Child** launch a new series introducing Gideon Crew, who as a child witnessed his father's murder. He vowed revenge, but now that the day has come, Gideon finds the act unexpectedly catapults him into a new life as a rogue operative with only one year to live.

Forget the need to read the whole series and just pick up **Marcia Muller's** 28th adventure for San Francisco PI Sharon



McCone, *Coming Back* (Grand Central, \$7.99). Recovering from the bullet to the brain that caused paralysis but an alert and conscious mind—Locked In Syndrome, the resilient detective gets pulled into activity when a pal

from physical therapy goes missing. The skills of Sharon, her husband, colleagues and friends all get to work untangling this elegant mystery. If you become a real fan, try www.mysterylovers.com for books in print or ebooks.[mysterylovers.com](http://www.mysterylovers.com) for the wider selection of Sharon's books in eBook form.

Statute of Limitations (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95), the thirteenth in **Steven F. Havill's** series with New Mexico undersheriff Bill Gastner and his protégé Estelle Guzman, was originally published in 2006 but only

now available in paper. Appropriate timing given the Christmas setting of the story including a woman about to give birth in a motel.

Secrets to the Grave (Signet, \$9.99) is another **Tami Hoag** nail-biter and the follow-up to *Deeper Than the Dead*, first in the series. California Sheriff Detective Tony Mendez must solve the mystery of a brutal murder. This killing is particularly heinous because it was apparently committed in the presence of the woman's daughter. Is this a case of domestic violence? And who, really, was the murdered woman, anyway? Hang onto your hat as Hoag takes you on the dizzying roller coaster ride of your life. No Fast Passes permitted. [LM]

Suspense and thrills

Film archivist Valentino is on the trail of a Greta Garbo letter in *Alone* (Forge, \$15.99) by **Loren D. Estleman**, second in this comedic series filled with film lore.



The Midnight Show Murders (Dell, \$7.99) is a second successful collaboration between weatherman **Al Roker** and mystery writer **Dick Lochte**. Celebrity chef Billy Blessing goes to LA to guest on a popular late night show and, of course, murder ensues.

A man who survived attack by a serial killer seems to be the only person who can discern the pattern when a new spate of killings begins in **R.J. Ellory's** *The Anniversary Man* (Overlook, \$14.95).

Great to see US publication of **Laura Wilson's** *The Lover* (Felony & Mayhem, \$14.95) a novel set during the Blitz and based on the true story of the Blackout Ripper who preyed on prostitutes during that period.

New York City's Chinatown is the fascinating setting for **Henry Chang's** series with Chinese-American detective Jack Yu. *Red Tide* (Soho, \$14) is the third.

A newlywed watches her husband of four days fall from a hot air balloon in *Five O'Clock Shadow* (Poisoned Pen, \$14.95) by **Susan Slater**. In the following days she'll

find that everything she thought she knew about her husband was a lie—and she aims to discover the truth.

When a student goes missing and a professor turns up dead Harvard grad student **Dulcie Schwartz** knows she is in for a bad semester in *Grey Zone* (Severn, \$15.95) by **Clea Simon**. Now if only she could find a way for her feline ghost Mr. Grey to lend a hand.

In *Speak No Evil* (Pegasus, \$14.95) by **Martyn Waites**, a woman returns to her hometown hoping to overcome the stigma attached to her having killed a playmate of hers forty years ago when both were eleven. Now a teenager on her housing estate has been murdered and she wakes up with blood on her hands and no memory of the previous evening.

Get some real-life spy vs. spy from *The Secret History of MI6* (Penguin, \$20) by **Keith Jeffery**. With unprecedented access to the archives Jeffery is able to tell a fascinating story beginning with the Service's earliest days before WW I all the way through the post-war period ending in 1949. A must for espionage addicts.

If you've got a younger reader you'd like to introduce to Sherlock Holmes then give a look to *Death Cloud* (Square Fish, \$9.99) by **Andrew Lane**, the first in a series featuring a teenage Sherlock Holmes.



Ed Gorman's *Ticket to Ride* (Pegasus, \$14.95) is a nostalgic trip, to 1965 in this case, with small-town lawyer Sam McCain. All is not sweetness, however, as the first

casualties of the Viet Nam War are arriving in McCain's small Iowa town. A Labor Day get-together leads to murder of two of Sam's oldest friends—a crime rooted in the past.

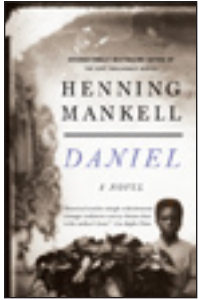
The earliest days of forensic science are the subject of *The Killer of Little Shepherds* (Vintage, \$16) by **Douglas Starr** which tells the story of the efforts of a pioneering French criminologist, Dr. Alexandre Lacasagne, who finally caught the serial killer Joseph Vacher who terrorized the French countryside for years.

Check for the latest new arrivals at www.mysterylovers.com

It's no mystery...

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

Henning Mankell uses his long experience in Africa for his historical novel *Daniel* (Vintage, \$15), an unusual tale of a Swedish entomologist who travels the Kalahari Desert in 1878 hoping to collect previously unknown insects. Instead he adopts the young boy of the title and takes him back to Sweden; putting both of them into a cultural divide almost too wide to bridge.



The Traitor's Wife (Little, Brown, \$14.99) is a prequel to **Kathleen Kent's** *The Heretic's Daughter* that tells the story of Martha Carrier, Kent's own ancestor, and her courtship of her future husband years before her involvement in the Salem Witch Trials. Originally published as *The Wolves of Andover*.

Isabel Wilkerson's *The Warmth of Other Suns* (Vintage, \$16.95) is a masterful work of popular history that provides insight into the great migration of African Americans from the South to the North from 1915 to 1970. Illuminated by the stories of individual families, Wilkerson's account is eye-opening as well as entertaining.

Reaching to an earlier period in our racial history **Eric Foner's** superb *The Fiery Trial* (Norton, \$18.95) traces the difficult evolution of Lincoln's beliefs and policies toward slavery from his earliest life in politics through the bloody events of the Civil War. An eye-opening portrait of a complex President's approach to an agonizing issue.

If one purpose of literature is to open your eyes to the lives of others then **Dinaw**

Mengestu's *How to Read the Air* (Riverhead, \$15) succeeds brilliantly. It's the tale of the adult son of Ethiopian immigrants who sets out to retrace his mother and father's history from war-torn Ethiopia to a fragile existence in America that has led their son to work at an immigration agency where he tells lies for a living—that is he embellishes the tales of his clients so they may qualify for asylum.

Freedom (Picador, \$16) is a darkly comedic novel about family. **Jonathan Franzen's** intensely realized characters struggle to learn how to live in an ever-confusing world—one with the temptations and burdens of liberty, the thrills of teenage lust, the shaken compromises of middle age, the wages of suburban sprawl, and the heavy weight of empire.

He led an extraordinary life filled with huge successes and equally momentous failures; a life that changed all of our lives in innumerable ways.



Steve Jobs (S&S, \$35) gets the biography he so richly deserved in **Walter Isaacson's** splendid new volume based on hours of interviews and unprecedented access to Jobs's life, his family and his colleagues.

For better or for worse, music is the language of memory in **Jodi Picoult's** *Sing You Home* (Atria, \$16). In the aftermath of a series of personal tragedies, Zoe Baxter throws herself into her career as a music therapist. When an unexpected friendship slowly blossoms into love, she makes plans for a new life, but to her shock and

inevitable rage, some people—even those she loves and trusts most—don't want that to happen.

From National Book Award-winner **Ron Chernow** comes a landmark biography of our first president in *Washington: A Life* (Penguin, \$20) of George Washington—a richly nuanced portrait of the father of the nation featuring a breadth and depth unmatched by any other narrative.

Lisa Scottoline and daughter **Francesca Scottoline Serritella** share the hilarious and touching content of the Philadelphia Inquirer "Chick Lit" column they write so brilliantly each week. Now those delights combine with new essays in *My Nest Isn't Empty, It Just Has More Closet Space* (Griffin, \$14.99), the perfect gift book that will bring warm tears and wild laughter over the ruminations of a smart twenty-something making her way in New York City and the witty mom on the farm.



Christopher Paolini wraps up his dragon-riding quartet with *Inheritance* (Knopf, \$27.99), on sale November 8.

Two heavyweights of historical fiction have new books this season. **Phillipa Gregory** continues her tale of the War of the Roses with *The Lady of the Rivers* (Touchstone, \$27.99), the story of the Duchess of Bedford, the mother of the White Queen. Meanwhile, **Sharon K. Penman's** *Lionheart* (Marian Woods, \$28.95) is, naturally, the story of Richard, son of Henry II and Eleanor of Aquitaine.

Holiday Homicide...continued from page 13

the angel of death before he strikes again, leaving murder under the tree.

Kate Kingsbury's earlier *Mistletoe and Mayhem* (Berkley, \$7.99) is now in mass market paperback.

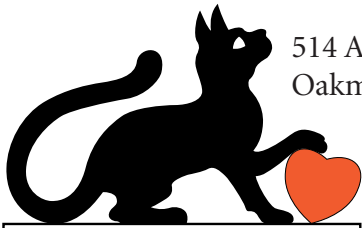
Looking for something with a harder

edge? The righteous serial killer Serge A. Storms and his drug-addled sidekick Coleman return to wreak havoc on Christmas in *When Elves Attack* (Morrow, \$16.99) from **Tim Dorsey**.

Christmas at the Mysterious Bookshop

(Vanguard, \$14.99) is a suspenseful and unique collection of Christmas stories edited by award-winner **Otto Penzler** that includes works by major bestselling authors **Mary Higgins Clark**, **Anne Perry**, and **Lawrence Sanders**.

Interested in a book club? See the website for details



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Coming Events

- | | | |
|--------------------------|-----------|---|
| Saturday,
October 29 | 11 AM | Dennis Palumbo celebrates publication of his second Pittsburgh-set mystery, <i>Fever Dream</i> , with a talk and signing. |
| Monday,
October 31 | 6-9 PM | MLB is all grown-up, we're 21 today. Come and join our Halloween Birthday Bash , 10 cent book sale, free cappuccino and more. |
| Monday,
October 31 | 7 PM | Les Roberts is our special guest at our 21st Halloween Birthday Bash. He'll be here with a new novel, <i>The Strange Death of Father Candy</i> . |
| Saturday,
November 5 | 10 AM | Michael Sims does <i>Coffee & Crime with The Story of Charlotte's Web</i> , a biography of E.B. White. Cost is \$5, reservations necessary. |
| Saturday,
November 5 | 1 PM | Pittsburgh attorney Joe Katarincic celebrates publication of his debut legal thriller <i>Too High a Price</i> . |
| Saturday,
November 19 | 6 TO 9 PM | It's the Christmas Celebration in Oakmont, the thing formerly known as turning-on-the-incandescent-devices-on-the-holiday-tree night. |
| Thursday,
November 24 | ALL DAY | Mystery Lovers Bookshop will be closed for Thanksgiving but we'll be open bright and early on Friday to kick off holiday shopping. |

Halloween Deal, 21% Off

Just to make things extra special for our 21st birthday on Halloween, Monday, October 31 we're offering you 21% off any one hardcover book of your choice. Future publications or British titles are not included. Your order must be placed on Monday, October 31 by web, fax, phone or in-person purchase

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