

The Mysterious Messenger

Volume 1, January 2020

www.mysterylovers.com

Welcome to the first issue of the mid-month Mysterious Messenger.

It's a New Year and we, like so many, are setting goals for the year ahead. After reviewing the last year and half, and listening to the great input we received from our loyal community, we're pleased to share that one of the most popular requests was a more comprehensive newsletter. We know you love the weekly new releases email, and that will continue. Beginning this month, we will send a mid-month newsletter to highlight in-store events, staff picks, book club selections for the month, and more!

FEATURED EVENT



Have you heard we are teaming up with the Oakmont Carnegie Library to host a panel of thriller writers? Join us on February 6th at 7:00 pm for "The Perfect Crime." This thriller writer panel features three best-selling authors: Gregg Hurwitz, Hank Phillippi Ryan, and Rebecca Drake. Beth Mellor, Oakmont Carnegie Library's director, will moderate the event.

To give you a sneak preview of the panel, we asked the authors the following question: We all have a secret reading indulgence, something outside of our typical genre that may be unexpected. For example, I love to indulge by reading *US Weekly*

cover to cover, every word. What is your guilty (or not so guilty) reading indulgence?

Rebecca Drake answered, "My guilty reading pleasure is reading anything and everything about the British royal family—ridiculous and banal, but I love it! I also love reading advice columns—any and all of them. At least I can count the latter as research!"

Hank Phillippi Ryan answered, "I have several guilty reading pleasures. I guess that means I am incredibly guilty. And even worse, I don't feel guilty about it. I avidly read the style section of the *Sunday New York Times*. It is glossy and flossy and hilariously au courant. I used to study Bill Cunningham's wonderful on the street fashion photographs. I love the ethics column. And every single wedding announcement is a short story! I even made the Vows section a clue in one of my novels.

I will also admit to grabbing *InStyle* magazine whenever I can. It's so much fun to see the wardrobe ideas. And if it counts as reading, I love the household hint hacks on YouTube. How to fold a fitted sheet, for instance, or organize T-shirts. The secret way to take the green things off the end of strawberries. Amazing."

If you want to know Gregg Hurwitz's answer, you will need to attend the event to find out. We cannot give away all the best indulgences here. We promise even more details on February 6th!

Don't forget, this event is a fundraiser for the Oakmont Carnegie Library. Please show your support for the library and your local indie bookstore by purchasing your books at the event. Tickets are \$30 and include your choice of a recent release from the panel authors.

[Tickets can be purchased at the Oakmont Carnegie Library, in-store, or online by clicking here.](#)

What Our Book Clubs are Reading this Month

Do you need some reading inspiration or have you been thinking about joining a book club? We have six book clubs that meet in-store on a monthly basis. They read everything from mysteries to historical fiction. You can find more information on our website by selecting the menu, '[Book Clubs](#)' or by clicking [here](#).

Here are the January book club selections, all books are available for purchase in-store, online, or as an audiobook from our partner [Libro.fm](#).

[The Bride Test by Helen Hoang](#)

Khai Diep has no feelings. Well, he feels irritation when people move his things or contentment when ledgers balance down to the penny, but not big, important emotions—like grief. And love. He thinks he's defective. His family knows better—that his autism means he just processes emotions differently.



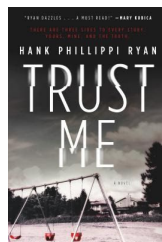
When he steadfastly avoids relationships, his mother takes matters into her own hands and returns to Vietnam to find him the perfect bride.

As a mixed-race girl living in the slums of Ho Chi Minh City, Esme Tran has always felt out of place. When the opportunity arises to come to America and meet a potential husband, she can't turn it down, thinking this could be the break her family needs. Seducing Khai, however, doesn't go as planned. Esme's lessons in love seem to be working...but only on herself. She's hopelessly smitten with a man who's convinced he can never return her affection.

With Esme's time in the United States dwindling, Khai is forced to understand he's been wrong all along. And there's more than one way to love.

[Trust Me by Hank Phillippi Ryan](#)

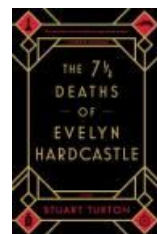
Trust Me is the chilling novel of psychological suspense and manipulation that award-winning author and renowned investigative reporter Hank Phillippi Ryan was born to write.



There are three sides to every story. Yours. Mine. And the truth. An accused killer insists she's innocent of a heinous murder. A grieving journalist surfaces from the wreckage of her shattered life. Their unlikely alliance leads to a dangerous cat and mouse game that will leave you breathless. *Who can you trust when you can't trust yourself?*

[The 7 & 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle by Stuart Turton](#)

Evelyn Hardcastle will be murdered at 11:00 p.m. There are eight days, and eight witnesses for you to inhabit.



We will only let you escape once you tell us the name of the killer. Understood? Then let's begin... Evelyn Hardcastle will die. Every day until Aiden Bishop can identify her killer and break the cycle. But every time the day begins again, Aiden wakes up in the body of a different guest. And some of his hosts are more helpful than others.

For fans of Claire North and Kate Atkinson, *The 7 & 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* is a breathlessly addictive novel that follows one man's race against time to find a killer—but an astonishing time-turning twist means that nothing and no one are quite what they seem.

Continued on next page

[Her Father's Secret \(The Family Secrets series #2\) by Sara Blaedel](#)



A woman's murder is only the beginning as a daughter races to unravel the maze of secrets her father left behind—before she becomes the next victim—in the latest emotionally gripping novel from Sara Blaedel, #1 internationally bestselling author with over 3 million copies sold worldwide.

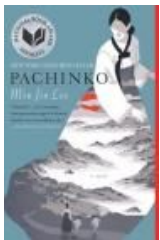
After suddenly inheriting a funeral home from her father—who she hadn't heard from in decades—Ilka Jensen has impulsively abandoned her quiet life in Denmark to visit the small town in rural Wisconsin where her father lived. There, she's devastated to discover her father's second family: a stepmother and two half sisters she never knew existed. And who aren't the least bit welcoming, despite Ilka's efforts to reach out.

Then a local woman is killed, seemingly the unfortunate victim of a home invasion turned violent. But when Ilka learns that the woman knew her father, it becomes increasingly clear that she may not have been a completely random victim after all.

The more Ilka digs into her father's past, the more deeply entangled she becomes in a family drama that has spanned decades and claimed more than one life—and she may be the next victim...

[Pachinko by Min Jin Lee](#)

"There could only be a few winners, and a lot of losers. And yet we played on, because we had hope that we might be the lucky ones."



In the early 1900s, teenaged Sunja, the adored daughter of a crippled fisherman, falls for a wealthy stranger at the seashore near her home in Korea. He promises her the world, but when she discovers she is pregnant—and that her lover is married—she refuses to be bought.

Instead, she accepts an offer of marriage from a gentle, sickly minister passing through on his way to Japan. But her decision to abandon her home, and to reject her son's powerful father, sets off a

dramatic saga that will echo down through the generations.

Richly told and profoundly moving, Pachinko is a story of love, sacrifice, ambition, and loyalty. From bustling street markets to the halls of Japan's finest universities to the pachinko parlors of the criminal underworld, Lee's complex and passionate characters—strong, stubborn women, devoted sisters and sons, fathers shaken by moral crisis—survive and thrive against the indifferent arc of history.

[January Staff Pick](#)

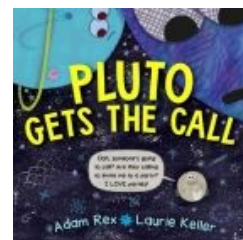
This month Kristy selected the staff pick, choosing [The Starless Sea by Erin Morgenstern](#).



"I didn't want this book to end. It is truly magical. If you read *The Night Circus*, Morgenstern's first book, you will not be disappointed. Her writing is so descriptive; you can hear every noise; smell every scent; feel the warmth of someone's touch; see the characters and the settings as if you were there and experiencing it yourself. She incorporates mystery with mysticism and a sweet and pure love story. I was sad when I read the last page, only because the story was over and I wasn't ready to leave." ~ Kristy, co-owner & bookseller

[Featured Children's Book of the Month](#)

[Pluto Gets the Call by Adam Rex](#)



Pluto *loves* being a planet. That is, until the day he gets a call from some Earth scientists telling him he isn't a planet anymore! You probably wanted to meet a *real* planet, huh?

So, Pluto takes the reader on a hilarious and informative journey through the solar system to in

introduce the other planets and commiserate about his situation along the way. Younger readers will be so busy laughing over Pluto's interactions with the other planets, asteroids, moons, and even the sun, they won't even realize just how much they're learning about our solar system!

Community Event Spotlight

Local Tiger Scouts Pack #137 will be hosting a book drive at our store January 24th from 6-7:30 pm to support [Literacy Pittsburgh](#). The Tigers will be working toward their Community Involvement badge by 1) making a box to collect book donations of new books purchased in-store to be donated; 2) starting the drive by purchasing and donating 20 children's books for donation; and 3) hosting a hot chocolate bar complete with sprinkles, marshmallows, and whipped cream for those who stop in to purchase a book for the drive.

You can still participate in the drive even if you can't attend in person.

- Purchase your favorite children's book online and mention in the order notes that it is for the donation.
- Call the store to place a phone purchase or donation.
- Come in before January 24th and purchase a book to donate.

You can learn more about this event on our [website](#) or by visiting our [Facebook](#) page.