

The Mysterious Messenger

Volume 2, February 2020

www.mysterylovers.com

Welcome to the second issue of the mid-month Mysterious Messenger newsletter. We forgot to mention in last month's newsletter, but this is the year of our 30th birthday! Did you know that the NY Times Best Sellers of February 1990 were [The Dark Half by Stephen King](#), [The Bad Place by Dean Koontz](#) and [Devices and Desires by P.D. James](#)?

Is it February already, or should we say...finally? Who else thought January felt extra long and dreary this year? We are already half-way through February, and because we are sending this on Valentine's Day, we want to this issue to reflect love. XOXO

If you are still looking for that last minute gift, we have a wonderful assortment of books for children & adults and can help you find the perfect gift for the ones you love. All hardcover books, stationery, and children's Valentine Books are 15% off in-store through Monday. [Gift Certificates](#) are always a great gift idea as well!

[Treat yourself to a gift with 15% off online purchases through Monday!](#)



FEATURED EVENT



We are so excited that we will be hosting both Annette Dashofy & Liz Milliron on February 22nd at 2pm for the launch of their new books!

Liz is launch '[The Enemy We Don't Know](#)', A Homefront Mystery #1. This is the first installment of Liz's new Homefront Mystery Series. "A lively, richly atmospheric novel, set in the defense plants and ethnic neighborhoods of World War II Buffalo, NY, The Enemy You Don't Know is "Rosie the Riveter Meets Sam Spade." With fresh, idiosyncratic dialogue from a charismatic narrator, Liz Milliron delivers a compelling, crackerjack of a novel." – James W. Ziskin, author of the Anthony and Macavity award-winning Ellie Stone mysteries

Annette is launching '[Under The Radar](#)' (Zoe Chambers Mystery #9). Paramedic and deputy coroner Zoe Chambers responds to a shooting and discovers her longtime friend, Horace Pavelka, has gunned down a man who'd bullied him mercilessly for decades. Ruled self-defense, no charges are filed. When another of his tormentors turns up dead in Horace's kitchen, Police Chief Pete Adams questions the man's innocence in both cases...especially after Horace and his girlfriend go into hiding.

We can't forget to congratulate Annette on her 2019 Agatha Nomination for Best Contemporary Novel. Let's wish her the best of luck!!

To keep with the theme of love this month, we asked both Liz and Annette the following question: ***Have either of you ever aspired to be a romance writer written any romance stories or books? This can go back your earliest days of writing, and if so - who or what was your inspiration?***

Liz Milliron answered: "I tried to write a romance. Once. I was attempting to spread my wings and grow as a writer. I had the story critiqued by a friend who is a successful romance writer. "Nothing happens," she said. I guess going on a series of dates wasn't enough. I tried to think of what they could "do," but every scenario involved a dead body and an investigation. It was then I decided that I'd better stick to mysteries."

Annette Dashofy answered: "I tried to write romantic suspense, like Liz, *ONCE*. I love reading that genre, especially Carla Neggers, so I thought it should come naturally. It didn't. In fact, it was horrible. I quickly learned that I was better at killing people--fictionally, of course--and creating the puzzle surrounding efforts to solve the mystery. "

[Come see both ladies at their launch party on February 22nd at 2:00pm! We look forward to seeing you there!](#)

MLB In The News!

Tiger Scouts Book Drive at MLB

Last month we hosted the Oakmont Tiger Scouts pack 137 for a book drive to support [Literacy Pittsburgh](#). The Scouts hosted a free hot chocolate bar, complete with marshmallows, chocolate chips, and whipped cream for all to enjoy. Literacy Pittsburgh joined the event and discussed their mission. The scouts purchased 30 books for the drive and combined their donation with our holiday book drive, bringing our donation to over 80 books! You can read more about the event here: <https://triblive.com/local/valley-news-dispatch/oakmont-tiger-scouts-learn-about-literacy-and-helping-others-through-book-donations/>



(photo by Michael DiVittorio Tribune Review)

The Perfect Crime: A Thriller Panel

Thank you to everyone who attended The Perfect Crime! It was a great success with over 70 attendees. We might be a bit biased in our opinion, but the evening was the perfect blend of personalities, literary discussion, and superb entertainment! Beth Mellor, the Director of the Oakmont Carnegie Library, did a fantastic job at moderating the event. You read about the event authors in the articles below. We also included a few pictures for those who missed the event.

You can still purchase signed copies of the author's books online. Mention 'signed edition' in your order comments and we will send you your copy!

- [Into The Fire - signed](#)
- [The Murder List - signed](#)
- [Just Between Us - signed](#)

<https://www.post-gazette.com/ae/books/2020/02/04/Greg-Hurwitz-Orphan-X-Mystery-Lovers-Bookshop-event-Pittsburgh-Hank-Phillipi-Ryan-Rebecca-Drake/stories/202002040009>



The panel discussion led by library director, Beth Mellor.



What Our Book Clubs are Reading this Month

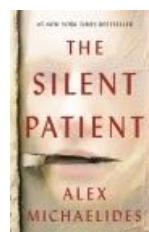
Do you need some reading inspiration or have you been thinking about joining a book club? We have six book clubs that meet in-store on a monthly basis. They read everything from mysteries to historical fiction. You can find more information on our website by selecting the menu, '[Book Clubs](#)' or by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

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



Mr. Churchill's Secretary: A Maggie Hope Mystery by Susan Elia MacNeal (Bantam, \$16.00)

London, 1940. Winston Churchill has just been sworn in, war rages across the Channel, and the threat of a Blitz looms larger by the day. But none of this deters Maggie Hope. She graduated at the top of her college class and possesses all the skills of the finest minds in British intelligence, but her gender qualifies her only to be the newest typist at No. 10 Downing Street. Her indefatigable spirit and remarkable gifts for codebreaking, though, rival those of even the highest men in government, and Maggie finds that working for the prime minister affords her a level of clearance she could never have imagined—and opportunities she will not let pass. In troubled, deadly times, with air-raid sirens sending multitudes underground, access to the War Rooms also exposes Maggie to the machinations of a menacing faction determined to do whatever it takes to change the course of history.



The Silent Patient by Alex Michaelides (Celadon Books, \$16.99)

Alicia Berenson's life is seemingly perfect. A famous painter married to an in-demand fashion photographer, she lives in a grand house with big windows overlooking a park in one of London's most desirable areas. One evening her husband Gabriel returns home late from a fashion shoot, and Alicia shoots him five times in the face, and then never speaks another word.

Alicia's refusal to talk, or give any kind of explanation, turns a domestic tragedy into something far grander, a mystery that captures the public imagination and casts Alicia into notoriety. The price of her art skyrockets, and she, the silent patient, is hidden away from the tabloids and spotlight at the Grove, a secure forensic unit in North London.

Theo Faber is a criminal psychotherapist who has waited a long time for the opportunity to work with Alicia. His determination to get her to talk and unravel the mystery of why she shot her husband takes him down a twisting path into his own motivations—a search for the truth that threatens to consume him....



Snowblind by Ragnar Jonasson (A Thomas Dunne Book for St. Martin's Griffin, \$9.99)

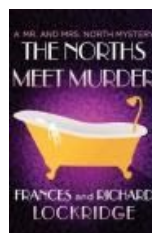
Where: A quiet fishing village in northern Iceland, where no one locks their doors. It is accessible only via a small mountain tunnel.

Who: Ari Thor is a rookie policeman on his first posting, far from his girlfriend in Reykjavik. He has a past that he's unable to leave behind.

What: A young woman is found lying half-naked in the snow, bleeding and unconscious, and a highly esteemed elderly writer falls to his death. Ari is dragged straight into the heart of a community where he can trust no one, and secrets and lies are a way of life.

Past plays tag with the present and the claustrophobic tension mounts, while Ari is thrust ever deeper into his own darkness—blinded by snow and with a killer on the loose.

Taut and terrifying, *Snowblind* is a startling debut from Ragnar Jonasson, an extraordinary new talent.



The Norths Meet Murder by Frances & Richard Lockridge

(Mysteriouspress.Com/Open Road, \$13.99)

Jerry and Pamela North's upstairs apartment has been empty as long as they can remember. It's an ordinary Greenwich Village abode, and the Norths are ordinary Villagers—which means they can't bear to go more than a few days between cocktail parties. So when Pamela decides to stage a soiree in the empty apartment, Jerry goes along begrudgingly. But what seems inconvenient becomes felonious the moment they find a dead man in the tub. He has been bludgeoned, stripped naked, and left to rot. The party is most certainly off.

Which neighbor was rude enough to leave a body in the upstairs tub? Though they should know better, Mr. and Mrs. North can't resist getting involved. Before they know it, they're right in the thick of a manhunt, and Greenwich Village will never be the same.

The Norths Meet Murder is the 1st book in the Mr. and Mrs. North Mysteries, but you may enjoy reading the series in any order.

Featured Children's Book



[Dear Mrs. Bird by AJ Pearce](#)

(Scribner, \$17.00)

Emmeline Lake and her best friend Bunty are doing their bit for the war effort and trying to stay cheerful, despite the German planes making their nightly raids. Emmy dreams of becoming a Lady War Correspondent, and when she spots a

job advertisement in the newspaper she seizes her chance; but after a rather unfortunate misunderstanding, she finds herself typing letters for the formidable Henrietta Bird, renowned advice columnist of Woman's Friend magazine.

Mrs. Bird is very clear: letters containing any Unpleasantness must go straight into the bin. But as Emmy reads the desperate pleas from women who many have Gone Too Far with the wrong man, or can't bear to let their children be evacuated, she begins to secretly write back to the readers who have poured out their troubles.



[The Magnificent Monsters of Cedar Street by Lauren Oliver](#)

(Harper Collins, \$17.99)

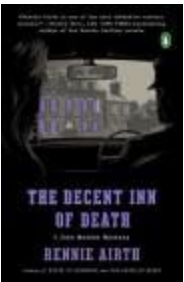
Cordelia Clay loves the work she and her father do together: saving and healing the remarkable creatures around Boston at the end of the nineteenth century. Their home on Cedar Street is full to the brim with dragons, squelches, and diggles, and

Cordelia loves every one of them.

But their work must be kept secret—others aren't welcoming to outsiders and immigrants, so what would the people of Boston do to the creatures they call "monsters"? One morning, Cordelia awakens to discover that her father has disappeared—along with nearly all the monsters. With only a handful of clues and a cryptic note to guide her, Cordelia must set off to find out what happened to her father, with the help of her new friend Gregory, Iggy the farting filch, a baby dragon, and a small zuppy (zombie puppy, that is).

February Staff Pick

This month Buff selected the staff pick, choosing [The Decent Inn of Death: A John Madden Mystery](#) (Penguin, \$16.00)



Retired Chief Inspector Angus Sinclair follows his nose and still sharp instincts when a chance visit to friends reveals the puzzling death of their church organist. He quickly finds himself in over his head in a Cotswolds blizzard and unknowingly catching up to a serial killer whose crimes cover decades and continents. Forced to ride out the

storm at the stately home of Julia Lesage, more clues lead Sinclair to realize it may not be the safe refuge that it seems. Also-retired Inspector John Madden must play catch up in the worried pursuit of his friend and former boss, but he'll have some help from their colleagues still at Scotland Yard. With one of the most spine tingling prologues I've read in years, Airth weaves together multiple lines of investigation and details of post WWII England, along with a generous handful of red herrings to keep you jumping from suspect to suspect in this 6th book in the John Madden series. Part police procedural, part English manor house, with a dash of locked room mystery for good measure, the cast of well drawn characters in this twisty tale kept me entertained to the end.

Community Event Spotlight

We are excited to announce that we will be hosting a [2nd annual STEAM & Children's author fair!](#) Last year's event was such a fun event that we knew we would host a second event this year. The event will be held on March 29th from 10am-2pm and will feature three children's authors whose books include STEAM topics. Our good friend and maze master extraordinaire, [Joe Wos](#), will be joining us and live drawing a maze that is 6 feet long. He will also host an illustrated story time. If you saw him perform at the Fall Festival, you know what a talented artist and story teller he is!

Pittsburgh children's author, Elizabeth Pagel Hogan will also join us featuring her book, [Gadget Disasters: Learning from Bad Ideas](#).

Joining us from New York is Tracey Hecht, author of the young reader and middle grade series, [The Nocturnals](#). 'In the first book of the critically acclaimed middle grade chapter book series *The Nocturnals*, we meet three unlikely friends--Dawn, a serious fox, Tobin, a sweet pangolin, and Bismark, the pint sized sugar glider. Discover the friendships, teamwork, and humor, as the Nocturnal Brigade solves the unpredictable mysteries of the night.'

The STEAM & Author Fair is FREE for all to attend. It will feature 12 interactive activity stations and the opportunity to meet the authors, ask questions and have them sign your books! Keep your eye on this event on our [Facebook](#) and [event page on our website](#) for more information!

A Look Ahead!

Eeeeeek! There are some really exciting books being released in February and March! Keep your eye out for these titles to be available in-store and online! PS - pre-order a book with us before the release date for 15% off the cover price.

[The Splendid and the Vile by Erik Larson](#) (Crown, \$32.00) Coming February 25th

The #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Devil in the White City* and *Dead Wake* delivers a fresh and compelling portrait of Winston Churchill and London during the Blitz

NAMED ONE OF THE MOST ANTICIPATED BOOKS OF 2020 BY *The Washington Post* • *HuffPost* • *The Seattle Times* • *Lit Hub* • *The Week* • *PopSugar*

[The Other Mrs. by Mary Kubica](#) (Park Row, \$26.99) Coming February 18th

"Altogether unpredictable." --Karin Slaughter, *New York Times* bestselling author

Propulsive and addictive, and perfect for fans of "You," *The Other Mrs.* is the twisty new psychological thriller from Mary Kubica, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Good Girl*

[Apierogon by Colum McCann](#) (Random House, \$26.99) Coming February 25th

"Staggering . . . Writing at the top of his game, Colum McCann brings us a book that we sorely need."—Elizabeth Strout

[My Dark Vanessa by Kate Elizabeth Russell](#) (William Morrow, \$27.99) Coming March 10th

ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY'S BREAKOUT AUTHOR TO WATCH IN 2020

"A well-constructed package of dynamite." – STEPHEN KING

A most anticipated book by *The New York Times* • *USA Today* • *Entertainment Weekly* • *Marie Claire* • *Elle* • *Harper's Bazaar* • *Bustle* • *Newsweek* • *New York Post* • *Esquire* • *Real Simple* • *The Sunday Times* • *The Guardian*

[You Are Not Alone by Greer Hendricks & Sarah Pekannen](#) (St. Martin's, \$27.99) Coming March 3rd

**One of *Newsweek's* Most Anticipated Books of 2020
One of *SheReads* Most Anticipated Books of 2020
One of *PopSugar's* Most Anticipated Books of 2020
One of *HelloGiggles'* Most Anticipated Books of 2020**

**One of *Marie Claire's* Best Fiction by Women in 2020
One of *Woman's Day's* Best Fiction Books Coming Out in 2020**

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[Purchase online here!](#)