

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Catalogue May 2021

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All the books in this catalogue are new books due for release in **May 2021**.

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Until next time, good reading!
Ron and Leanne

Abbreviations used in this catalogue:

PBK = 'A' & 'B' format (standard size) paperback
TP = 'B+' & 'C' format (oversize) paperback
HC = Hardcover or cloth binding

Fatal Isles

Doggerland trilogy

Adolfsson, Maria

In the middle of the North Sea, between the UK and Denmark, lies the beautiful and rugged island nation of Doggerland. Detective Inspector Karen Eiken Hornby has returned to the main island, Heimö, after many years in London and has worked hard to become one of the few female police officers in Doggerland. So, when she wakes up in a hotel room next to her boss, Jounas Smeed, she knows she's made a big mistake. But things are about to get worse: later that day, Jounas' ex-wife is found brutally murdered. And Karen is the only one who can give him an alibi. The news sends shockwaves through the tight-knit island community, and with no leads and no obvious motive for the murder, Karen struggles to find the killer in a race against time. Soon, she starts to suspect that the truth might lie in Doggerland's history. And the deeper she digs, the clearer it becomes that even small islands can hide deadly secrets...

Noir PBK \$19.99

The Dark Heart of Florence

Lady Emily mysteries

Alexander, Tasha

In 1903, tensions between Britain and Germany are starting to loom over Europe, something that has not gone unnoticed by Lady Emily and her husband, Colin Hargreaves. An agent of the Crown, Colin carries the weight of the Empire; but his focus is drawn to Italy by a series of burglaries at his daughter's palazzo in Florence – burglaries that might have international ramifications. He and Emily travel to Tuscany; where, soon after their arrival, a stranger is thrown to his death from the roof onto the marble palazzo floor. Colin's trusted colleague and fellow agent, Darius Benton-Stone, arrives to assist Colin, who insists their mission must remain top secret. Finding herself excluded from the investigation, Emily secretly launches her own clandestine inquiry into the murder, aided by her spirited and witty friend, Cécile. They soon discover that the palazzo may contain a hidden treasure dating back to the days of the Medici, and the violent reign of the fanatic monk, Savonarola – days that resonate in the troubled early twentieth century, an uneasy time full of intrigue, duplicity, and warring ideologies. Emily and Cécile race to untangle the cryptic clues leading them through the Renaissance city, but an unimagined danger follows closely behind. And when another violent death puts Emily directly in the path of a killer, there's much more than treasure at stake...

Historical mystery HC \$49.99

The Ice Hotel

Allen, Hanja

A seasonal hotel where murder can be made to disappear with the sun... Maggie Stewart travels with friends Liz and Harry to the

Ice Hotel, a surreal building in Swedish Lapland constructed from ice cut from the nearby river. During the day, it is a museum housing ice sculptures, but at night it becomes a novelty hotel. Shortly after their arrival, the holiday turns into a nightmare. A near-miss snowmobile accident is followed by the discovery of the frozen body of one of the hotel's American guests. Maggie is shocked to learn that this was no accident: the American was drugged and pushed out of his sleeping bag to freeze to death in the room. As the body count rises and Maggie finds herself in mortal danger, she realises that the only person she can trust is Thomas Hallengren, the detective leading the case. But can he uncover the killer's identity before the Ice Hotel and other buildings – the Ice Chapel and Ice Theatre – melt back into the river, taking the clues with them?

Noir TP \$32.99

The Silence

Allott, Susan

A missing woman... 30 years ago, in the suffocating heat of a Sydney summer, the Greens' next-door neighbour Mandy disappeared without a trace. A cold case reopened... In 1997, in a basement flat in Hackney, Isla Green is awakened by a call in the middle of the night: her father is under suspicion of Mandy's murder. A devastating secret... How well does Isla know her father? Is he capable of doing something terrible? And is there another secret in their community – a conspiracy of silence which stretches deep into Australia's past? 'Allott uses the scandal of Australia's stolen children to devastating effect in this memorable debut' – *Sunday Times*.

Mystery/suspense PBK \$22.99

The Revelators

Quinn Colson series

Atkins, Ace

Shot up and left for dead, Sheriff Quinn Colson has revenge on his mind. With the help of his new wife Maggie, rehabilitation, and sheer force of will, he's walking again, eager to resume his work as a southern lawman and track down those responsible for his attempted murder. But someone is standing in his way: an interim sheriff, appointed by the newly elected Governor Vardaman, the man who Quinn knows ordered his murder. Vardaman sits at the top of the state's power structure – both legal and criminal – and little does he know Quinn is still alive. And coming for him. Quinn will enlist the help of his most trusted friends, including federal agent Jon Holliday, US Marshal Lillie Virgil, and Donnie Varner, a childhood buddy now working for the Feds as an informant. Since Quinn's been gone, the criminal element in north Mississippi has flourished, with queen-pin Fannie Hathcock enjoying unbridled freedom. As an ice storm bears down on north Mississippi and Memphis, and Tibbehawh County is isolated

from the outside world, the killers will return to finish the job. But this time, Quinn Colson and company will be waiting, ready to bust apart a criminal empire running on a rigged system for far too long. This is the battle of Jericho, the epic showdown that's been years in the making. In the end, the war will end – for better or worse.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Prophet

Tabitha Hart mysteries

Bailey, Martine

Cheshire, May Day, 1753. Tabitha De Vallory believes her life is perfect: she has an imposing home with all the comforts she has ever desired, and is expecting her first child with doting husband Nathaniel De Vallory. But Tabitha's happiness is shaken when a girl is slaughtered beneath the Mondrem Oak on the family's forest estate. Recognising the victim from her former scandalous life, Tabitha vows to find the killer. Nearby, enigmatic Baptist Gunn and his followers are convinced that a second messiah will be born, amid blood and strife, close to the oak on Midsummer's Day. Could the girl's murder be linked to Gunn's cryptic prophecy? Do his wild claims of a second saviour spell danger for Tabitha and her unborn child? As Midsummer's Day draws closer, Tabitha soon learns the destiny that threatens her and those she holds most dear...

Historical mystery HC \$62.95

Death of a Bean Counter

Maggy Thorsen mysteries

Balzo, Sandra

Maggy Thorsen's head is spinning thanks to partner Sarah Kingston's latest idea – selling luxe espresso machines in their Wisconsin coffeehouse, Uncommon Grounds. But Maggy soon faces a far bigger problem when her fiancé, sheriff Jake Pavlik, makes an official call on the coffee house's star barista, Amy Caprese. Amy's wealthy new beau, investment adviser Kip Fargo, has been shot dead in his bed – and Amy is the last known person to see him alive. Kip had just proposed to Amy, but she turned him down, triggering a terrible argument and making Amy the prime suspect. Determined to prove her barista's innocence, Maggy soon makes a number of disturbing discoveries. Can she untangle lies, jealousy and Kip's shady dealings in time to avert the disaster that's brewing?

Mystery TP \$39.95

Flat White

Maggy Thorsen mysteries

Balzo, Sandra

Maggy Thorsen and her business partner Sarah Kingston have taken on a new barista at their Wisconsin coffee house, Uncommon Grounds, to fill Amy Caprese's boots while she takes a much-needed vacation. Unfortunately, Christy Wrigley's barista skills are as underwhelming as her love life, but is her luck about to change with her new beau?

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

Christy gushes about her long distance, online relationship with Barry Margraves from Denver, leading Maggy to urge caution. When the new love of her life turns up unexpectedly on the coffee shop's doorstep on a snowy winter morning, Christy is shocked – but what follows next is even more staggering, and Maggy is soon drawn into a deadly blend of betrayal, deception and lies.

Mystery HC \$62.95

Dangerous Pursuits

Hazel Best & Gabriel Ash mysteries

Bannister, Jo

Rachel Somers, running... Something appalling happened in the wood. When Gabriel Ash and his dog come to her aid, she thinks she's safe. But this is Norbold, where things aren't always as they seem. Detective Chief Inspector Gorman thinks this is his worst nightmare: a predatory paedophile who's prepared to kill rather than be taken. Constable Hazel Best thinks she's helping both the Somers family and her friend Ash, but her tendency to follow her heart rather than her orders is about to get her into trouble again. And the people of Norbold have noticed that descriptions of the attacker, sketchy as they are, fit Ash better than they fit anyone else. With panic stalking the town, DCI Gorman needs to make an arrest before more young girls are attacked, before someone else dies, before the vigilantes who burned Ash's shop decide to burn him too. But the parameters keep shifting, and almost none of the facts, he's relying on, will turn out to be true. The solution to the mystery is more shocking, and more tragic, than even these three could have imagined.

Mystery TP \$39.95

The Outside Man

Matt Drake series

Bentley, Don

Broad daylight on an Austin, Texas, street and DIA operative Matt Drake is fighting for his life against a highly trained team of assassins. Who are they? Why do they want him dead? How will he protect those closest to him? The answers will take him into some of the most dangerous spots in the Middle East and will put him in the clutches of an old foe, known simply as the Devil. It's a world of double crosses, with no boundaries between the guilty and the innocent. It will take all of Drake's wiles to get out alive.

Suspense HC \$42.99

The Hunted

Bergmoser, Gabriel

Frank is a service station owner on a little-used highway, who just wants a quiet life. His granddaughter has been sent to stay with him to fix her attitude, but they don't talk a lot. When a badly-injured young woman arrives at Frank's service station with several cars in pursuit, Frank and a handful of unsuspecting customers are thrust into a life-or-death standoff. But who are this group of men and women who will go to any lengths for revenge? And what do they want? Other than no survivors...? 'An audacious walk on the wildest side of outback noir... a vivid thriller.' – *Sydney Morning Herald*. A new Australian thriller, at a fantastic price!

Thriller PBK \$9.99

Furbidden Fatality

Catskills Pet Rescue mysteries 01

Blake, Deborah

Kari Stuart's life is going nowhere – until she unexpectedly wins the lottery. The twenty-nine-year-old instant multimillionaire is still mulling plans for her winnings when rescuing a bossy black kitten leads her to a semi-abandoned animal shelter. They need the cash – Kari needs a purpose. But the dilapidated rescue is literally going to the dogs with a pending lawsuit, hard to adopt animals, and too much unwanted attention from the town's dog warden. When the warden turns up dead outside the shelter's dog kennels, Kari finds herself up a creek without a pooper-scooper. With the help of some dedicated volunteers, a cute vet, and a kitten who mysteriously shows up just when she needs it, Kari must prove her innocence all while trying to save a dog on death row. Now, she just needs to hope that her string of unexpected luck isn't about to run out. The first in a new series.

Mystery PBK \$18.99

Secret Mischief

Cragg & Fidelis mysteries

Blake, Robin

April, 1746. When County Coroner Titus Cragg is called to examine a body found shot to death at a local farm, he finds himself drawn into a bizarre and complex case where nothing is as it first appears. As he questions those who knew the victim, it becomes clear that not everyone is telling him the whole truth. Could the motive for the murder lie in a dangerous contract the dead man had signed more than twenty years before, a so-called tontine agreement? Just what does the victim's enigmatic lawyer, Ambrose Parr, know that he's not revealing? As he and Dr Luke Fidelis attempt to track down the six other signatories to the contract, Titus realises that if they do not find answers – and fast – more violent deaths will surely follow.

Historical mystery HC \$62.95

Before You Knew My Name

Bublitz, Jacqueline

When she arrived in New York on her 18th birthday carrying nothing but \$600 cash and a stolen camera, Alice Lee was looking for a fresh start. Now, just one month later, she is the city's latest Jane Doe, an unidentified murder victim. Ruby Jones is also trying to start over; she travelled halfway around the world only to find herself lonelier than ever. Until she finds Alice's body by the Hudson River. From this first, devastating encounter, the two women form an unbreakable bond. Alice is sure that Ruby is the key to solving the mystery of her life – and death. And Ruby – struggling to forget what she saw that morning – finds herself unable to let Alice go. Not, until she is given the ending she deserves.

Mystery/suspense TP \$29.99

The Scent of Danger

Ursula Blanchard mysteries

Buckley, Fiona

February, 1586. When the queen's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham, learns that Ursula is to visit her relatives in Devon, he asks her to find out what has happened to two of his local agents, who have been strangely silent recently. On arrival in the small Devon village

of Zeal Aquatico, Ursula discovers that both spies in question have met with mysterious – and fatal – accidents. Or is there more to it than that? What did the two spies find out that got them killed? Is there any truth to the rumours that King Philip of Spain, in league with the queen's cousin, Mary Stuart, intends to launch an invasion from the south coast? As Ursula pursues her investigations, it becomes clear that someone in Zeal Aquatico is determined to stop her finding out the truth... whatever it takes.

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

A Tale of Two Cookies

Cookie House mysteries 03

Calder, Eve

Pastry chef Kate McGuire is loving life on the laidback island of Coral Cay, Florida. As junior partner in a bakery renowned for luscious desserts – especially her cookies – life is pretty sweet. So, when an old friend arrives and announces a spur-of-the-moment beach wedding, that's just the icing on the wedding cake. But the groom vanishes, right as a television crew descends on the town to film a hot, new reality show. Is there a connection? Is her friend Desiree somehow involved? Or did groom Judson simply get cold feet? The bride and groom were paired better than warm cookies and cold milk, so Kate doesn't buy it. As the show's cast runs amok on the island and the investigation into Judson's disappearance heats up, Kate and her pal Maxi, along with town dog Oliver, will brave the rambunctious world of reality TV and a wedding weekend gone awry, in an all-out effort to find the missing groom.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Excursion to Tindari

Inspector Montalbano series

Gamilleri, Andrea

A young Don Juan is found murdered in front of his apartment building early one morning, and an elderly couple is reported missing after an excursion to the ancient site of Tindari – two seemingly unrelated cases for Inspector Montalbano to solve amid the daily complications of life at Vigata police headquarters. But when Montalbano discovers that the couple and the murdered young man lived in the same building, his investigation stumbles onto Sicily's brutal 'New Mafia', which leads him down a path more evil, and more far reaching, than any he has been down before. A reissue of the fifth novel in Andrea Camilleri's wryly-humorous Inspector Montalbano series.

Mystery (reissue) PBK \$18.99

The Scent of the Night

Inspector Montalbano series

Gamilleri, Andrea

When an angry octogenarian holds a terrified and lovelorn secretary at gunpoint, Inspector Montalbano is reluctantly drawn into the case. The secretary's boss, a financial advisor, has vanished along with several billion lire entrusted to him by the good citizens of Vigata. Also missing is the advisor's young colleague, whose uncle just happens to be building a house on the site of Inspector Montalbano's very favourite olive tree... Aply abetted by his loyal and eccentric team, Montalbano, the food-loving, commitment-phobic inspector, returns for another delicious

investigation served up in vintage Camilleri style. A reissue of the sixth novel in Andrea Camilleri's wryly-humorous Inspector Montalbano series.

Mystery (reissue) PBK \$18.99

Rounding the Mark

Inspector Montalbano series

Gamilleri, Andrea

Increasingly disillusioned with his government and the world in general, Inspector Montalbano is considering retirement. He is starting to feel his age, and even his favourite restaurant has closed. But when he bumps into a dead body during a bracing swim, his detective instincts are aroused once more. Particularly when the most likely identity of the victim is a man already long buried... A reissue of the seventh novel in Andrea Camilleri's wryly-humorous Inspector Montalbano series.

Mystery (reissue) PBK \$18.99

The Patience of the Spider

Inspector Montalbano series

Gamilleri, Andrea

'A brother,' he said. Jesus Christ! Now, where'd this brother come from? Whose brother? Montalbano had known from the start that between all the brothers, uncles, in-laws, nephews and nieces, this case was going to drive him crazy. Chief Inspector Montalbano is on enforced sick leave. But when a local girl goes mysteriously missing, the whole community takes an interest in the case. Why are the kidnappers so sure that the girl's impoverished father and dying mother will be able to find a fortune? The ever-inquisitive Montalbano steps in, to get to the heart of the matter in his own inimitable style. A reissue of the eighth novel in Andrea Camilleri's wryly-humorous Inspector Montalbano series.

Mystery (reissue) PBK \$18.99

Haunted Hibiscus

Tea Shop mysteries 22

Ghilds, Laura

It is the week before Halloween and Theodosia Browning, proprietor of the Indigo Tea Shop, and her tea sommelier, Drayton, are ghosting through the dusk of a cool Charleston evening on their way to the old Bouchard Mansion. Known as the Gray Ghost, this dilapidated place was recently bequeathed to the Heritage Society, and tonight heralds the grand opening of their literary and historical themed haunted house. Though Timothy Neville, the patriarch of the Heritage Society, is not thrilled with the fundraising idea, it is the perfect venue for his grandniece, Willow French, to sign copies of her new book, *Carolina Crimes & Creepers*. But amid a parade of characters dressed as Edgar Allan Poe, Lady Macbeth, and the Headless Horseman, Willow's body is suddenly tossed from the third-floor tower room and left to dangle at the end of a rope. Police come screaming in and Theodosia's boyfriend, Detective Pete Riley, is sent to Willow's apartment to investigate. But minutes later, he is shot and wounded by a shadowy intruder. Timothy begs Theodosia to investigate, and shaken by Riley's assault, she readily agrees. Now, she questions members of the Heritage Society and a man who claims the mansion is rightfully his, as well

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

as Willow's book publisher and her fiancé, all while hosting a Sherlock Holmes tea and catering several others. But the Gray Ghost holds many secrets, as do several other key suspects, while this murder mystery plays out on the eve of Halloween.

Mystery HC \$42.99

The Dancing Girls

Detective Jo Fournier series

Chouinard, M M

When loving wife Jeanine Hammond is found dead in a small leafy town in Massachusetts, newly promoted Detective Jo Fournier is shocked to her core. Why leave her body posed like a ballerina? Why steal her wedding band and nothing else? Hungry for answers, Jo questions Jeanine's husband, but the heartbreaking pain written on his face threatens to tear open Jo's old wounds. It's the same pain she felt, when her boyfriend was cruelly shot dead by a gang in their hometown of New Orleans. She couldn't get justice for him, but she's determined to get justice for Jeanine's devastated family. But before Jo can get answers, another woman is found, wedding ring stolen, body posed in the same ritualistic way. Digging through old files, Jo makes a terrifying link to a series of cold cases. She knows a serial killer is on the loose, but nobody will listen to the truth – not her bosses, nor the FBI. Still, Jo won't let her superiors keep her from stopping the murderer in his tracks, even if it means the end of her career. Just as she is beginning to lose hope, she finds messages on the victims' computers that feel like the crucial missing link. But she knows the murderer is moments away from selecting his next victim. Will she be able to take down the most twisted killer of her career before another innocent life is lost?

Mystery/suspense TP \$28.95

Without Remorse

John Clark, movie tie-in

Clancy, Tom

His code name is Mr Clark. His work for the CIA is brilliant, cold-blooded and efficient... But who is he really? In a harrowing *tour de force*, Tom Clancy shows how an ordinary man named John Kelly crossed the lines of justice and morality to become the CIA legend, Mr Clark. It is an unforgettable journey into the heart of darkness. Without mercy. Without guilt. Without remorse. Now a major motion picture, starring Michael B Jordan.

Thriller PBK \$26.95

City of Pearl

Aelf Fen mysteries

Clare, Alys

October, 1093. At her mentor's urgent request, Lassair is accompanying Gurdyman across the sea to Spain. But why is he so insistent on embarking on this difficult and dangerous journey just as winter approaches? And why does he seem so afraid? Could there be any connection to the vagrant found lying dead outside his home, a single pearl clutched in his outstretched hand? As the pair reach the remote mountainous regions of northern Spain, Lassair will be tested as never before. Hot on her trail is Jack Chevrestier, the young lawman who loves her. But who is it who's trying to kill him... and why? This richly detailed medieval mystery will appeal to fans of Ellis Peters and Susanna Gregory.

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

The Last Flight

Clark, Julie

Claire Cook has a perfect life. Married to the scion of a political dynasty, with a Manhattan townhouse and a staff of ten, her surroundings are elegant, her days flawlessly choreographed, and her future auspicious. But behind closed doors, nothing is quite as it seems. That perfect husband has a temper that burns bright and he's not above using his staff to track Claire's every move. What he doesn't know is that Claire has worked for months on a plan to vanish. A plan that takes her to the airport, poised to run from it all. But a chance meeting in the airport bar brings her together with a woman whose circumstances seem equally dire. Together they make a last-minute decision. The two women switch tickets, with Claire taking Eva's flight to Oakland, and Eva travelling to Puerto Rico as Claire. They believe the swap will give each of them the head start they need to begin again somewhere far away. But when the flight to Puerto Rico crashes, Claire realises it's no longer a head start but a new life. Cut off, out of options, with the news of her death about to explode in the media, Claire will assume Eva's identity, and along with it, the secrets Eva fought so hard to keep hidden.

Thriller TP \$37.95

Two Little Girls in Blue

Clark, Mary Higgins

Hours after throwing a third birthday party for their twins Kathy and Kelly in their Connecticut home, Margaret and Steve Frawley return home from a dinner in New York to discover the police in the house, their daughters missing, and an eight-million-dollar ransom note. The Frawleys meet the kidnapper's demands, but the abandoned car they're led to contains only Kelly, the body of the driver, and a suicide note, saying he had inadvertently killed Kathy and dumped her body in the ocean. At the private memorial Mass for Kathy, Kelly tugs Margaret's arm and says that her sister Kathy 'wants to come home right now'. More unexplainable occurrences indicate that Kelly is in touch with Kathy, but no one except Margaret believes that Kathy is still alive. As Kelly's warnings become increasingly specific and alarming, however, FBI agents set out on a search for the kidnappers as Kathy's life hangs by a thread. A reissue.

Thriller (reissue) PBK \$26.95

Call Me Elizabeth Lark

Colasanti, Melissa

Twenty years ago, Myra Barkley's daughter disappeared from the rocky beach across from the family inn, off the Oregon coast. Ever since, Myra has waited at the front desk for her child to come home. One rainy afternoon, the miracle happens – her missing daughter, now twenty-eight years old with a child of her own, walks in the door. Elizabeth Lark is on the run with her son. She's just killed her abusive husband and needs a place to hide. Against her better judgment, she heads to her hometown and stops at the Barkley Inn. When the innkeeper insists that Elizabeth is her long-lost daughter, the opportunity for a new life, and more importantly, the safety of her child, is too much for Elizabeth to pass up. But she knows that she isn't the Barkleys' daughter, and the more deeply intertwined she becomes with the family, the harder it becomes to confess

the truth. Except the Barkley girl didn't just disappear on her own. As the news spreads across the small town that the Barkley girl has returned, Elizabeth suddenly comes into the limelight in a dangerous way, and the culprit behind the disappearance those twenty years ago is back to finish the job.

Mystery/suspense HC \$44.99

A Game of Cones

Ice Cream Parlor mysteries 02

Collette, Abby

Bronwyn Crewse is delighted that Crewse Creamery, the ice cream shop her family has owned for decades, is restored to its former glory and serving sweet frozen treats to happy customers in the picturesque small town of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. But when a big city developer comes to town intent on building a mall, a killer with a frozen heart takes him out. After literally stumbling across the body, one of Win's closest friends becomes the prime suspect, and to make things worse, Win's aunt has come to town with the intention of taking command of Crewse Creamery. Even though Win has a rocky road ahead to help her friend and keep her ice cream shop, it'll take more than a sprinkle of murder to stop her from solving the crime and saving the day.

Mystery TP \$24.99

Before She Was Helen

Cooney, Caroline

When Clemmie goes next door to check on her difficult and unlikeable neighbour Dom, he isn't there. But something else is. Something stunning, beautiful and inexplicable. Clemmie photographs the wondrous object on her cell phone and makes the irrevocable error of forwarding it. As the picture swirls over the internet, Clemmie tries desperately to keep a grip on her own personal network of secrets. Can fifty years of careful hiding under names not her own be ruined by one careless picture? And although what Clemmie finds is a work of art, what the police find is a body... and she was the last person at the crime scene, where she left her fingerprints. Suddenly thrown into the heart of a twisted investigation, Clemmie finds herself the uncomfortable subject of intense scrutiny. And the bland, quiet life Clemmie has built for herself in her sleepy South Carolina retirement community comes crashing down as her dark past surges into the present.

Mystery TP \$35.95

The Showstone

Cal Donovan series

Cooper, Glenn

Iraq, 1989. During an archaeological excavation Hiram Donovan uncovers a piece of meticulously knapped obsidian. Instinct tells him to hide it, so he sends it back to his wife in America, but days later Hiram is murdered. Decades later, his son Cal Donovan finds the parcel still unopened and sets out to discover the truth behind the mystical stone...

Thriller TP \$39.95

Devil in the Detail

Will Traynor Forensic mysteries

Cross, A J

The emergency call comes in the early hours of the morning. A man and a woman found in a car in a rundown part of the city,

both of them critically injured. A random, opportune attack by a stranger? Or were the pair deliberately targeted? Is there a connection to series of car-jackings which has been plaguing the area? Nothing about this case seems to add up. As each theory as to what might have happened leads to yet more questions, DI Bernard Watts decides to call on the help of criminologist Dr Will Traynor. Traynor knows that it's the small, easily missed details that will crack the case, but not even he could suspect just where those seemingly insignificant details will lead...

Mystery HC \$62.95

The Dance of the Serpents

Frey & McGray mysteries

de Muriel, Oscar

December, 1889. There have been many bad days in Edinburgh police's secret subdivision 'The Commission for the Elucidation of Unsolved Cases Presumably Related to the Odd and Ghostly'. But today is surely the worst. Because the exiled English Inspector Ian Frey, and his Scottish boss 'Nine-Nails' McGray are summoned to a meeting in the middle of the night with the Prime Minister himself. And he tells them that Queen Victoria – the most powerful person in the world – wants them both dead. To be pardoned they must embark on a mission so dangerous that they might be saving Her Majesty the job of executing them. Because this case ties together the dark history of the Pendle witches, with the tragic case of McGray own sister, to a conspiracy within the highest office in the land...

Historical mystery PBK \$22.99

The Final Twist

Colter Shaw series

Deaver, Jeffery

Colter Shaw finds himself in San Francisco, where he has taken on the mission his father began years ago: finding a missing courier bag containing evidence that will bring down a corporate espionage firm responsible for hundreds, perhaps thousands, of deaths. Following the enigmatic clues his father left behind, Shaw plays cat and mouse with the company's sadistic enforcers, as he speeds from one gritty neighbourhood in the City by the Bay to another. Suddenly, the job takes on a frightening urgency: Only by finding the courier bag can he expose the company and stop the murder of an entire family – slated to die in forty-eight hours. With the help of an unexpected figure from his past, and with the enforcers closing the net, Shaw narrows in on the truth – and learns that the courier bag contains something unexpected: a secret that could only be described as catastrophic.

Thriller TP \$29.99

Death at High Tide

Island Sisters mysteries

Dennison, Hannah

When Evie Mead's husband, Robert, suddenly drops dead of a heart attack, a mysterious note is found among his possessions. It indicates that Evie may own the rights to an old hotel on Tregarrick Rock, one of the Isles of Scilly. Still grieving, Evie is inclined to leave the matter to the accountant to sort out. Her sister Margot, however, flown in from her glamorous career in LA, has other plans. Envisioning a luxurious weekend getaway, she goes right ahead and buys two tickets – one way – to Tregarrick. Once at the hotel –

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

used in its heyday to house detective novelists, and more fixer-upper than spa resort, after all – Evie and Margot attempt to get to the bottom of things. But the foul-tempered hotel owner claims he's never met the late Robert, even after Evie finds framed photos of them – alongside Robert's first wife – in his office. The rest of the island inhabitants, ranging from an ex-con receptionist to a vicar who communicates with cats, aren't any easier to read. But when a murder occurs at the hotel, and then another soon follows, frustration turns to desperation. There's no getting off the island at high tide. And Evie and Margot, the only current visitors to Tregarrick, are suspects one and two. It falls to them to unravel secrets spanning generations – and several of their own – if they want to make it back alive. The first in a new series.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Long Island Iced Tina

Catering Hall mysteries 02

Dirico, Maria

Mia's newly-pregnant friend Nicole plans to hold a shower at Belle View – but Nicole also has to attend one that her competitive (and mysteriously rich) stepmother, Tina, is throwing at the fanciest place in Queens. It's a good chance for Mia to snoop on a competitor, especially since doing a search for 'how to run a catering hall' can get you only so far. Mia tags along at the lavish party, but the ambience suffers at Nicole's Belle View shower when a fight breaks out – and then, oddly, a long-missing and valuable stolen painting is unwrapped by the mom-to-be. Tina is clearly shocked to see it. But not as shocked as Mia is when, soon afterward, she spots the lifeless body of a party guest floating in the marina...

Mystery PBK \$18.99

The Adventures of

Sherlock Holmes

Seasons editions: Spring

Doyle, Arthur Conan

It was a perfect day, with a bright sun and few fleecy clouds in the heavens. The trees and wayside hedges were just throwing out their first green shoots, and the air was full of the pleasant smell of the moist earth. To me, at least, there was a strange contrast between the sweet promise of the spring and this sinister quest upon which we were engaged. A fine exclusive edition of one of literature's most beloved stories. Featuring a laser-cut jacket on a textured book with foil stamping, all titles in this series will be numbered first editions. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* is a collection of twelve stories written by Arthur Conan Doyle, featuring his iconic detective. Venture back in time to Victorian London, to join literature's greatest detective team – the brilliant Sherlock Holmes and his devoted assistant, Dr Watson – as they investigate a dozen of their best-known cases. Originally published in 1892, featured tales include several of the author's personal favourites: 'A Scandal in Bohemia' – in which a king is blackmailed by a former lover and Holmes matches wits with the only woman to attract his open admiration – plus 'The Speckled Band', 'The Red-Headed League', and 'The Five Orange Pips'. Additional mysteries include 'The Blue Carbuncle', 'The Engineer's

Thumb', 'The Beryl Coronet', 'The Copper Beeches', and others.

Sherlockiana HC \$54.99

Death on Bull Path

Hamptons Murder mysteries 04

Doyle, Carrie

Antonia Bingham, chef and proprietor of the Windmill Inn, is looking forward to baking goodies for her customers and relaxing after a busy summer. But when a Labor Day visit by two slick Wall Streeters ends with their gruesome deaths in a summer rental house, Antonia gets pulled into the murder investigation! Soon, she's wading through social media, the local nightclub scene, and other unfamiliar haunts of the young and glamorous, all while managing her inn and restaurant. And the timing couldn't be worse: Nick Darrow, Antonia's movie star crush, is back in town and ready for a commitment... while the arrival of Antonia's sinister ex-husband threatens to bring everything crashing down.

Mystery PBK \$18.99

Hope to Survive

Hope Stapleford mysteries

Dunford, Caroline

It is 1939 – war has been declared and spy-master Fitzroy wastes no time in preparing his goddaughter, Hope, for a secret mission. As Euphemia Martins' daughter, Hope has the potential to be one of British Intelligence's greatest agents, but when she is ousted from an all-male think tank and relegated to the typing pool, even she starts to doubt herself. Meanwhile, Hope's rebellious friend, Bernie, announces her engagement to a man Hope does not trust; Harvey, Hope's only asset, has vanished; and, most awful of all, Hope fears that her father is dying. Then comes Dunkirk and the threat of invasion intensifies. To her surprise, Hope is sent to a secret base, where she joins a group of auxiliary units that are expected to fight to the death should invasion occur. Fearing for her life, she must confront Nazi sympathisers among the country's elite secret service before she can learn who to trust... The follow-up to the first in Dunford's new series, *Hope for the Innocent* (PBK, \$22.99) – which our regulars absolutely loved!

Historical mystery/suspense PBK \$22.99

Death in Bloom

Flower House mysteries 01

Dylan, Jess

At the Flower House, every rose has its thorn... Sierra Ravenswood is the new part-time employee of the Flower House, a flower shop in Aerieville, Tennessee. It's true she didn't expect to be back in her hometown at twenty-eight-years-old, but after her dream of making it as a singer in Nashville crashed and burned, she's just grateful to have found a soft place to land. Because, after all, Sierra believes in being optimistic and positive about life, so she's sure she won't have to work at the Flower House forever. But things take a decidedly negative turn when a customer drops dead in the middle of her new bouquet-arranging workshop at the store. When it's discovered he was poisoned by a snack at the event, everyone at the workshop, including Sierra, is on the suspect list. To make matters worse, her boss has gone AWOL and left the

store to her for the cost of one dollar, leaving Sierra in charge of both his store and his high-energy Corgi puppy, Gus. The town is on edge, and Sierra knows that murder is something that an upbeat attitude and a bouquet of sweet-smelling roses can't fix. She's determined to figure out whodunit, before anyone else in town meets an untimely reason for needing funeral flowers. The first in a series of cosy mysteries.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Fortune and Glory

Stephanie Plum series

Evanovich, Janet

When Stephanie's beloved Grandma Mazur's new husband died on their wedding night, the only thing he left her was a beat-up old easy chair... and the keys to a lifechanging fortune. But as Stephanie and Grandma Mazur search for Jimmy Rosolli's treasure, they discover that they're not the only ones on the hunt. Two dangerous enemies from the past stand in their way – along with a new adversary who's even more formidable: Gabriela Rose, a dark-eyed beauty from Little Havana with a taste for designer clothes. She's also a soldier of fortune, a gourmet cook, an expert in firearms and mixed martial arts – and someone who's about to give Stephanie a real run for her money. Stephanie may be in over her head, but she's got two things that Gabriela doesn't: an unbreakable bond with her family and a stubborn streak that will never let her quit. She'll need both to survive because this search for 'fortune and glory' will turn into a desperate race against time with more on the line than ever before. Because even as she searches for the treasure and fights to protect her Grandma Mazur, her own deepest feelings will be tested – as Stephanie could, finally, be forced to choose between Joe Morelli and Ranger.

Mystery PBK \$22.99

Forced Confessions

Benson & de Vere series

Fairfax, John

William Benson. Criminal barrister.

Convicted murderer... Convicted of murder sixteen years ago, William Benson is ostracised by the establishment and his family. Supported by a close-knit group including solicitor Tess de Vere, he's defied them all, and opened his own Chambers. Now, he faces the case of his life – and the terminal illness of Helen Camberley who helped him leave his prison life behind. Jorge Menderez, a doctor from Spain, has been found dead in a deserted warehouse in East London. A troubled man, he'd turned to counsellor Karen Lynwood, seeking help. Now, Karen's husband, John, is accused of his murder. Who is Menderez, and why did he come to London? Benson is defending the couple against seemingly impossible odds, while secrets from his own past threaten to overwhelm him... We've had some great customer feedback on this series of suspenseful legal mysteries. The first is *Summary Justice* (PBK, \$22.99).

Mystery/suspense PBK \$22.99

Whispers and Lies

Fielding, Joy

Terry Painter enjoys her quiet life in Delray, Florida, living alone in the house she

inherited from her mother. When young, vibrant Alison Simms rents the cottage on her property, the two women strike up a fast friendship – and Terry is swept into a fantastic new life: dinners out, shopping, makeovers, and even potentially dating a handsome young man. But nothing about her newfound companion is as it appears and, soon, Terry is in a race against time to reclaim her own life back.

Thriller PBK \$26.95

An Extravagant Death

Charles Lenox mysteries

Finch, Charles

London, 1878. With faith in Scotland Yard shattered after a damning corruption investigation, Charles Lenox's detective agency is rapidly expanding. The gentleman sleuth has all the work he can handle, two children, and an intriguing new murder case. But when Prime Minister Benjamin Disraeli offers him the opportunity to undertake a diplomatic mission for the Queen, Lenox welcomes the chance to satisfy an unfulfilled yearning: to travel to America. Arriving in New York, he begins to receive introductions into both its old Knickerbocker society and its new robber baron splendour. Then, a shock: the death of the season's most beautiful debutante, who appears to have thrown herself from a cliff. Or was it murder? Lenox's reputation has preceded him to the States, and he is summoned to a magnificent Newport mansion to investigate the mysterious death. What ensues is a fiendish game of cat and mouse.

Historical mystery HC \$49.99

The Girl Remains

Finckin, Katherine

On the evening of September 22, 1998, three teenage girls venture out for a night of mischief in the coastal town of Blairgowrie. But only two return... For over twenty years the disappearance of fifteen-year-old Cecilia May remains a baffling cold case – until human bones are discovered on an isolated beach. Now, it's up to Detective Emmett Corban and his team to dig up decades of trauma, and find the missing piece of an investigation that's as complex as it is tragic. Does the answer lie with the only suspect, a registered sex offender who confessed, then immediately provided a rock-solid alibi? Or with the two teen survivors – neither of whom can keep their story straight? But the police aren't the only ones hunting for the truth: someone else has arrived in the seaside town. And she's prepared to do whatever it takes, to find her own version of justice...

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Triple Chocolate

Cheesecake Murder

Hannah Swensen mysteries 24

Fluke, Joanne

Hannah's up to her ears with Easter orders rushing in at The Cookie Jar, plus a festive meal to prepare for a dinner party at her mother's penthouse. But everything comes crashing to a halt when Hannah receives a panicked call from her sister Andrea – Mayor Richard Bascomb has been murdered... and Andrea is the prime suspect. Even with his reputation for being a bully, Mayor Bascomb had been unusually

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

testy in the days leading up to his death, leaving Hannah to wonder if he knew he was in danger. There are plenty of suspects to sift through for sure. And as orders pile up at The Cookie Jar – and children line up for Easter egg hunts – Hannah must spring into investigation mode and identify the real killer... before another murder happens!

Mystery HC \$42.99

You Don't Know Me

Foster, Sara

Lizzie Burdett was eighteen when she vanished, and Noah Carruso has never forgotten her. She was his first crush, his unrequited love. She was also his brother's girlfriend. Tom Carruso hasn't been home in over a decade. He left soon after Lizzie disappeared under a darkening cloud of suspicion, and now he's back for the inquest into Lizzie's disappearance – intent on telling his side of the story. As the inquest looms, Noah meets Alice Pryce on holiday. They fall for each other fast and hard, but Noah can't bear to tell Alice his deepest fears. And Alice is equally stricken – she carries a terrible secret of her own. Is the truth worth telling, if it will destroy everything?

Thriller TP \$37.95

Until I Find You

Frey, Rea

Two floors. Fifty-five steps to go up. Forty more to the crib. Since Rebecca Gray was diagnosed with a degenerative eye disease, everything in her life consists of numbers. Each day her world grows a little darker and each step becomes a little more dangerous. Following days of feeling like someone's watching her, Rebecca awakes at home to the cries of her son in his nursery. When it's clear he's not going to settle, Rebecca goes to check on him. She reaches in. Picks him up. But he's not her son. And no one believes her. In a world where seeing is believing, Rebecca must rely on her own conviction, and a mother's instinct, to uncover the truth about what happened to her baby and bring him home for good.

Thriller PBK \$24.95

Death Rattle

Gilly, Alex

When Carmen Vega's boyfriend tries to kill her, she hands over all her savings to a smuggler and sets out from Tijuana in a small, leaky boat. Within sight of the California coast, the boat starts to sink, and its passengers are rescued by border patrol. Soon, Carmen turns up dead in a privately-operated Migrant Detention Centre. Neither Nick Finn, the officer who saved Carmen from drowning, nor his wife, human rights lawyer Mona Jimenez, are satisfied with the prison's account of what happened to Carmen. Trouble is, the company that runs the prison is on the verge of signing a billion-dollar procurement contract with Homeland Security. And there are people in this world for whom a billion dollars is worth a lot more than one human life. Or even three.

Thriller PBK \$26.95

Grimson Phoenix

Victoria Emerson series

Gilstrap, John

West Virginia Congresswoman Victoria Emerson has always put the needs of her community before the power games of Washington DC. Then an Army officer appears on her doorstep, deploying the code words 'Crimson Phoenix' – meaning this is not a drill. The United States is on the brink of nuclear disaster. The major will escort her to a secure bunker. She cannot bring her family. A single mother, Victoria refuses to abandon her teenage sons. Denied entry to the bunker, the family somehow survives the unthinkable. In the aftermath, the nation is in chaos. The grid is gone. Food is scarce. Civility gives way to desperate survival. Against this total collapse, Victoria creates a new home in a small Appalachian mountain town. The community she builds around her shines like a beacon in a dark wasteland. Now, she must defend it with her life – to give hope to a new America.

Thriller HC \$42.99

The House Uptown

Ginsburg, Melissa

Ava, fourteen years old and totally on her own, has still not fully processed her mother's death when she finds herself on a train heading to New Orleans, to stay with Lane, the grandmother she barely remembers. Lane is a well-known artist in the New Orleans art scene. She spends most of her days in a pot-smoke haze, sipping iced coffee, and painting, which has been her singular focus for years. Her grip on reality is shaky at best, but her work provides a comfort. Ava's arrival unsettles Lane. The girl bears an uncanny resemblance to her daughter – from whom she was estranged, before her death. Now, her presence is dredging up painful and disturbing memories, which forces Lane to retreat even further into her own mind. As Ava and Lane attempt to find their way and form a bond, the oppressive heat and history of New Orleans bears down on them, forcing a reckoning neither of them are ready for.

Mystery/suspense TP \$29.99

The Art of Deception

Daughter of Sherlock Holmes mysteries

Goldberg, Leonard

In the west end of London, an apparently crazed individual is on the loose, breaking into art galleries and private homes to slash valuable paintings of women. Despite Scotland Yard's best efforts, the criminal remains at large and continues on his destructive path. When Joanna and the Watsons are called in to solve the mystery, they soon discover that although the canvases have been slashed, their backings remain pristine, with no cuts or scratches. The criminal, it seems, is no mere vandal – he's searching for something hidden behind the portraits. Suspicion soon falls on two skilled art restorers who previously worked at the gallery where all the vandalised art was purchased. When Joanna finds the body of one in a bricked off fireplace at the gallery, the other is left as the prime suspect. But then he's discovered dead as well. Luckily, Joanna has a plan for ensnaring the criminal, once and for all. But it must not fail, or more paintings – and lives – will be lost.

Sherlockiana TP \$39.95

Five Ways to Disappear

BC Blues Crime series

Greenaway, R M

North Vancouver RCMP officers Leith and Dion have a gruesome new mystery lying at their feet. Up in the breezy heights of Paradise Road, a craftsman has been spiked to his lawn by his own artwork. Was it an aesthetics-fuelled feud with the neighbours? An enemy from the past? Or the most challenging of crimes to solve: a random attack? Drawn into an offside mystery of his own, Dion befriends a young magician, who then seems to make herself disappear. But with the team closing in on the Paradise Road killer, he must put aside his personal dilemmas to take on the lead role in setting a trap for their volatile suspect. It's a foolproof setup, but even the best laid plans can go awry, and this one leads him straight into a fight for his life.

Noir TP \$37.95

Whole Latte Murder

All-Day Breakfast Café mysteries 05

Gregory, Lena

Summer in Boggy Creek has arrived, and Gia's best friend, successful real estate agent Savannah, is getting hitched. Now, she's enlisted Gia's sleuthing talents in a desperate search for the perfect wedding dress. But when Savannah mysteriously vanishes after showing a mansion to a bigwig client, Gia investigates the house Savannah was trying to sell. The first clue she finds is Savannah's car in the driveway. Inside the house, they stumble on Savannah's potential buyer – dead. Someone had apparently closed the deal – with a two by four, full of nails, to the client's head. Soon afterward, a woman's body is fished from the lake near the same house. The townsfolk are now sweating bullets over the murders, and the heat comes down on poor Gia to find her missing friend, and track down the killer...

Mystery TP \$37.95

Hop 'til You Drop

Jules & Bun mysteries 03

Griffin, J M

Juliette 'Jules' Bridge is devoted to rabbit rescue and rehabilitation on her beloved Fur Bridge Farm in rural New Hampshire, but she also likes to do volunteer work, wherever and whenever she can. This spring she's offered to help hide painted eggs at the Hop 'til You Drop Easter egg hunt – and of course she's bringing along her black-and-white rabbit, Bun. In fact, he insists on it. Jules knows, because Bun communicates with her telepathically... But their egg hiding is disrupted by a hare-raising scene: their unpleasant supervisor, Della Meany, lies peacefully on the grass with stems of Lily of the Valley on her chest, surrounded by garishly decorated Easter eggs. Is someone sending a message by staging the corpse? As they begin to examine the crime scene, Jules spots a tall, two-legged rabbit fleeing into the woods. Perhaps, late for an important date? If their prime suspect is a person in an Easter Bunny costume, it seems a safe bet the killer is a real basket case. Jules and Bun will need to put their heads together – because the hunt is on...

Mystery PBK \$18.99

The Devil's Bones

Sarah Booth Delaney mysteries 21

Haines, Carolyn

As Sarah Booth sees it, Easter weekend is a time to celebrate life in all its many forms. So, when the newly-pregnant Tinkie invites her and Cece on a girls' trip to Lucedale, Mississippi to celebrate that spring has officially sprung, Sarah Booth can't resist. Plans include facials, food, and a trip to the incredible Garden of Bones – a miniature Holy Land with recreations of all parts of the Middle East – for their Sunrise Easter Services led by biblical scholar, gardener, and creator of the Gardens Daniel Reynolds. Unfortunately for Sarah Booth and the gang, someone doesn't seem appreciate this season of new life. Easter morning has just dawned when the trio find themselves at the Mount of Olives – with a dead body at their feet. Reynolds identifies the dead man as local lawyer Perry Slay, who was well known for his sly and underhanded dealings. Perry had rubbed plenty of people the wrong way, and now it looks like someone has rubbed him out... Because being a PI apparently means never being on vacation, Sarah Booth and her friends must now find a way to resurrect the truth from a list of suspects, as long as the River Jordan; reveal the devil in disguise; and – if they're lucky – find a moment to enjoy a few chocolate bunnies before more bodies pile up like pillars of salt.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Independent Bones

Sarah Booth Delaney mysteries 23

Haines, Carolyn

When Dr Alala Diakos, a visiting professor of Greek literature, comes to teach at Ole Miss in Oxford, Mississippi, it doesn't take long for controversy to follow. With her fervent feminist ideals and revolutionary leanings, she quickly earns the admiration of many – and the ire of others. During a speech in the park, in which Alala tries to organise the women of Zinnia to demand equal pay, the crowd gets unruly, with men heckling the professor. And when PI Sarah Booth Delaney finds a sniper rifle and scope in the bushes, she begins to worry that there are more than fighting words at stake. Sarah Booth calls her boyfriend, Sheriff Coleman Peters, who offers the protection of the Zinnia police department, but Alala rejects him, saying she has no use for the law or men. And when a notorious domestic abuser is found dead the next day, suspicions turn to Alala herself, who was overheard bragging that she would take him down. Tensions deepen when connections are drawn between Alala and two similar, previous deaths. But Sarah Booth doesn't want to believe Alala is a murderer, and when the professor shows up at Sarah Booth's doorstep, asking her to find the real criminal, Sarah Booth embarks on a case stretching across the Delta. Yet, Alala remains at the centre of it all, and Sarah Booth can't help but wonder if the killer has been with her all along...

Mystery HC \$55.00

The Paris Collaborator

Hammond, A W

August, 1944. In German-occupied Paris, former schoolteacher Auguste Duchene has stumbled upon an unusual way to survive: he finds missing people. When he's

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

approached by the French Resistance to locate a missing priest – and a cache of stolen weapons – Duchene initially refuses. But the Resistance offer him no choice. Within hours, he's also blackmailed by a powerful Nazi into searching for a German soldier who's suspected of deserting. To fail at either task will have deadly consequences for Duchene – and for his daughter Marianne. So begins a frantic race against time. As forces close in on Paris, Duchene has only 48 hours to locate the missing priest and soldier, or lose the only person he loves...

Mystery/suspense TP \$29.99

The Man Who Wasn't All There

Stewart Hoag mysteries

Handler, David

After six glorious weeks of hard work on his long-overdue second novel, celebrity-ghost-writer Stewart 'Hoagy' Hoag has hit a crossroads in his plot. He thinks a change of scenery will do him good – and he knows just the place. His ex-wife, the actress Merilee Nash, has offered him the use of her idyllic Connecticut farmhouse, while she's away shooting a movie in Budapest. Hoagy and his beloved basset hound Lulu settle in for a few days' rest and relaxation. Hoagy expects fall splendour, long walks and crisp night air. He doesn't expect Merilee's eccentric, unwelcoming neighbour. Austin Talmadge warns Hoagy not to get on his bad side, but what harm can a country oddball like Austin do? Quite a lot, it turns out. All Hoagy wants to do is relax and clear his head, but soon he's caught up in a strange, complex mystery – and he'll need all his wits about him, and Lulu's unerring nose, if he's to come out of this one alive...

Mystery HC \$62.95

Season of Darkness

Gaslight mysteries

Harrison, Gora

When Inspector Field shows his friend Charles Dickens the body of a young woman dragged from the River Thames, he cannot have foreseen that the famous author would immediately recognise the victim as Isabella Gordon, a housemaid he had tried to help through his charity. Nor that Dickens and his fellow writer Wilkie Collins would determine to find out who killed her. Who was Isabella blackmailing, and why? Led on by fragments of a journal discovered by Isabella's friend Sesina, the two men track the murdered girl's journeys from Greenwich to Snow Hill, from Smithfield Market to St Bartholomew's, and put their wits to work on uncovering her past. But what does Sesina know that she's choosing not to tell them? And is she doomed to follow in the footsteps of the unfortunate Isabella...? Introducing Charles Dickens and Wilkie Collins as an unusual detective duo, in the first of a brand-new Victorian mystery series.

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

Blood Runs Thicker

Bradecote & Catchpoll 08

Hawkswood, Sarah

August 1144. Osbern de Lench is known far and wide as a hard master, whose temper is perpetually frayed. After his daily ride to survey his land, his horse returns to the hall

riders, and the lifeless body of the lord is found soon after. Was it the work of thieves, or something closer to home? With an heir who is cast in the same hot-tempered mould, sworn enemies for neighbours and something amiss in the relationship between Osbern and his wife, undersheriff Hugh Bradecote, the wily Serjeant Catchpoll, and apprentice Walkelin have suspects aplenty. The first of these fine mediaeval mysteries is *Servant of Death* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery PBK \$19.99

Murder for Good

Ellie Quicke mysteries

Heley, Veronica

Ellie's husband Thomas, a retired minister, is suspicious when he receives not one but five letters advising him that he has been bequeathed money by five different people in their wills. He barely knew three of his benefactors, and what could possibly connect him to the other two strangers? Sensing something isn't right, and with Thomas' reputation at stake, Ellie investigates but is soon distracted, not only by the problem of trying to ease Hetty, a difficult woman who's recently taken refuge with them, out of their house, but also by her daughter, Diana, who's in trouble again. As Ellie finally starts to make progress with her enquiries, she is about to uncover some disturbing truths – and in doing so, find herself in great danger...

Mystery/suspense TP \$39.95

Squeeze Me

Hiaasen, Carl

It's the height of the Palm Beach charity ball season: for every good cause, there's a reason for the local luminaries to eat (minimally), drink (maximally), and be seen. But when prominent high-society dowager Kiki Pew suddenly vanishes during a swanky gala, and is later found dead, panic and chaos erupt. Kiki was an ardent fan of the Winter White House resident just down the road, and a founding member of the POTUSSIES, a group of women dedicated to supporting their President – who immediately declares that Kiki was the victim of rampaging immigrant hordes. This, it turns out, is far from the truth. The truth might just lie in the middle of the highway, where a bizarre discovery brings the First Lady's motorcade to a grinding halt. Enter Angie Armstrong, wildlife wrangler extraordinaire, who is summoned to the posh island to deal with a mysterious and impolite influx of huge, hungry pythons...

Caper PBK \$22.99

Little Secrets

Hillier, Jennifer

Marin had the perfect life. Married to her college sweetheart, she owns a chain of upscale hair salons, and Derek runs his own company. They're admired in their community and are a loving family – until their world falls apart the day their son Sebastian is taken. A year later, Marin is a shadow of herself. The FBI search has gone cold. The publicity has faded. She and her husband rarely speak. She hires a PI, to pick up where the police left off, but instead of finding Sebastian, she learns that Derek is having an affair with a younger woman. This discovery sparks Marin back to life. She's lost her son; she's not about to lose

her husband, too. Kenzie is an enemy with a face, which means this is a problem Marin can fix. Permanently.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

Poppy Harmon and the Hung Jury

Desert Flowers mysteries 02

Hollis, Lee

If Poppy didn't believe she was in too deep as the only female juror in a high-profile assault case involving an infamously hot-tempered crooner, she's sure of it upon meeting blast-from-her-past Rod Harper. A former TV co-star from her short-lived acting days, Rod is as dashing as ever, and now he wants to partner again – this time to locate his missing daughter... Returning a pampered songstress with a penchant for running away back home unscathed shouldn't be too challenging. But Rod's charms while on the job is another story – and so is finding a dead body! When Poppy discovers a fellow juror face down in a swimming pool, she's unwittingly thrust into a murder investigation with sinister parallels to the troubled chanteuse's disappearance. As Poppy struggles to survive a steamy love triangle while deciphering the connection between two seemingly unrelated cases, the Desert Flowers Agency must outsmart a ruthless killer who will do anything to keep hideous secrets hidden away... including ensuring Poppy becomes the next forgotten ex-actress to bite the dust...

Mystery PBK \$18.99

The Dockland Murder

Blitz Detective mysteries

Hollow, Mike

November 1940. Darkness descends and another anxious night begins for those tasked with guarding the industrial heartland of London from enemy attack. As a policeman patrols the Royal Albert Dock, something catches his eye – a man is sprawled awkwardly across a nearby barge, a dagger lodged in his back. Detective Inspector John Jago of West Ham CID discovers the victim was a dock worker by day, and a Home Guard volunteer by night – and there are things even his wife doesn't know about his past. As the investigation unfolds, Jago uncovers a widening circle of secrets ranging across family tensions, the last war and a far-flung corner of the British Empire. These extremely-popular wartime mysteries begin with *Blitz Detective* (PBK, \$19.99).

Mystery HC \$39.99

Moonflower Murders

Maggie Murders series

Horowitz, Anthony

Retired publisher Susan Ryeland is running a small hotel on a Greek island with her long-term boyfriend. But life isn't as idyllic, as it should be: exhausted by the responsibility of making everything work on an island, where nothing ever does; Susan is beginning to miss her literary life in London – even though her publishing career once entangled her in a lethal literary murder plot. So, when an English couple come to visit with tales of a murder that took place in a hotel, the same day their daughter Cecily was married there – Susan can't help but find herself fascinated. And when

they tell her that Cecily has gone missing a few short hours after reading *Atticus Pund Takes the Case*, a crime novel Susan edited some years previously, Susan knows she must return to London to find out what has happened. The clues to the murder and to Cecily's disappearance must lie within the pages of this novel. But to save Cecily, Susan must place her own life in mortal danger... The follow-up to the fantastic *Maggie Murders* (PBK, \$19.99). Recommended.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Off Script

Enora Andressen series

Hurley, Graham

Carrie Tollman awakes in the middle of the night with an intruder gazing down at her. He's young. He seems crazy. He tells her he's killed before and he'll kill again. One word about what's happened, and he'll be back. Carrie is one of two carers looking after Enora Andressen's favourite scriptwriter. But Pavel is now paralysed, as well as blind, and it falls to Enora to track down this terrifying presence at Carrie's bedside. Enora's journey takes her deep into the netherworld of homelessness, neglect, and the unaddressed torments of people – young and old – failing to cope with their demons. Nothing has ever prepared her for this...

Thriller TP \$39.95

The Paladin: A Spy Novel Ignatius, David

CIA operations officer Michael Dunne is tasked with infiltrating an Italian news organisation that smells like a front for an enemy intelligence service. Headed by an American journalist, the self-styled bandits run a cyber operation unlike anything the CIA has seen before. Fast, slick, and indiscriminate, the group steals secrets from everywhere and anyone, and exploits them in ways the CIA can neither understand nor stop. Dunne knows it's illegal to run a covert op on an American citizen or journalist, but he has never refused an assignment and his boss has assured his protection. Soon, after Dunne infiltrates the organisation, however, his cover disintegrates. When news of the operation breaks and someone leaks that Dunne had an extramarital affair while on the job, the CIA leaves him to take the fall. Now, a year later, fresh out of jail, Dunne sets out to hunt down and take vengeance on the people who destroyed his life.

Suspense TP \$35.95

The Resident

Jackson, David

Thomas Brogan is a serial killer. With a trail of bodies in his wake and the police hot on his heels, it seems like Thomas has nowhere left to hide. That is until he breaks into an abandoned house at the end of a terrace on a quiet street. And when he climbs up into the loft, he realises that he can drop down into all the other houses through the shared attic space. That's when the real fun begins. Because the one thing that Thomas enjoys even more than killing is playing games with his victims – the lonely old woman, the bickering couple, the tempting young newlyweds. And his new neighbours have more than enough dark secrets to make this game his best one yet...

Thriller PBK \$19.99

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

Cat Me If You Can

Cat in the Stacks mysteries 13

James, Miranda

Charlie and Diesel – along with Charlie's fiancée, Helen Louise Brady – are heading to Asheville, North Carolina to spend a week at a boutique hotel, and participate in a gathering of a mystery reader's club composed of patrons of the Athena Public Library. In addition to seeing the local sights, the members will take turns giving talks on their favourite authors. The always spry Ducote sisters, friends of the hotel's owners, are helping underwrite the expenses, and they've insisted that Charlie, Helen, and Diesel join them. Anxious to get Helen Louise away from her bistro for a vacation, Charlie readily agrees. While Charlie is looking forward to relaxing with Helen Louise and Diesel, other members of the group have ulterior motives including a long-standing score to settle. When an intrusive, uninvited guest turns up dead, only one mystery club member with a connection to the deceased appears to have a motive to kill. But could the answer really be that simple? Charlie and Diesel, along with the detecting Ducote sisters, know that every murder plot has an unexpected twist. A cosy recommendation!

Mystery PBK \$18.99

Left You Dead

Roy Grace series

James, Peter

Is this Roy Grace's most challenging case yet? A mystery that is leaving him totally confounded for the first time in his career. Most Sundays, Niall and Eden Paternoster like to go for a drive and visit country houses. She likes to look at them, he likes to dream that one day... However, most weeks, they also end up bickering about something or other. This particular Sunday, he wants to get back to catch the start of the French Grand Prix, but she insists they stop somewhere to buy cat litter. Reluctantly, he pulls into the car park of a large supermarket and waits while she dashes in. He waits. And waits. But Eden doesn't come back out, she's gone. When he gets home, she's not there either, and none of their friends or family have heard from her. A few days later, Niall is arrested on suspicion of her murder despite vigorously protesting his innocence. But as Roy Grace is called in to investigate the disappearance of Eden Paternoster, it soon transpires that nothing is as it seems...

Mystery TP \$32.99

The Girl Who Died **Jonasson, Ragnar**

Una is devastated after the suicide of her father. So, when she sees an advert seeking a teacher for two girls in Skálar on the storm-battered north coast of the island, she sees it as a chance to escape. But once she arrives, Una quickly realises nothing in city life has prepared her for this. The villagers are unfriendly. The weather is bleak. And, from the creaky attic bedroom in the old house she's living, she's convinced she hears the ghostly sound of singing. Una worries that she's losing her mind. And then, just before Christmas, there's a murder... A reissue of Jonasson's debut novel.

Noir TP \$32.99

Red Flags

Jurjevics, Juris

Viet Nam, 1966: A dead body in a combat zone barely merits a second glance. The perfect place to commit a murder. Army cop Erik Rider is content to fight his war in the sophisticated streets of Saigon, so he's less than thrilled at being sent to a tiny American outpost in the remote wilderness of the Central Highlands. Sitting perilously close to a North Vietnamese infiltration route, Cheo Reo is rife with intrigue and betrayal: American supplies are being siphoned off by South Vietnamese corruption, the Montagnards are ready to start a bloody rebellion to regain their ancestral homeland, and Communists are harvesting opium to finance their war effort. Rider's been sent to take down the opium operation, but soon finds himself entangled with a local CIA man and an alluring doctor serving the indigenous tribes. As he closes in on the opium fields, he learns that not all enemies are beyond the perimeter. Someone in Cheo Reo wants him dead. A reissue.

Suspense (reissue) TP \$27.99

The Boys' Club

Katz, Erica

Alex Vogel has always been a high achiever, who lived her life by the book – star student and athlete in high school, prelaw whiz in college, Harvard Law School degree. Accepting a dream offer at the prestigious Manhattan law firm of Klasko & Fitch, she promises her sweet and supportive long-time boyfriend that the job won't change her. Yet, Alex is seduced by the firm's money and energy... and by her cocksure male colleagues, who quickly take notice of the new girl. She's never felt so confident and powerful – even the innuendo-laced banter with clients feels fun. In the firm's most profitable and competitive division, Mergers and Acquisitions, Alex works around the clock, racking up billable hours and entertaining clients late into the evening. While the job is punishing, it has its perks, like a weekend trip to Miami, a ride in a client's private jet, and more expense-account meals than she can count. But as her clients' expectations and demands on her increase, and Alex finds herself magnetically drawn to a handsome co-worker despite her loving relationship at home, she begins to question everything – including herself. She knows the corporate world isn't black and white, and that to reach the top means playing by different rules. But who made those rules? And what if the system rigged so that women can't win, anyway? When something happens that reveals the dark reality of the firm, Alex comes to understand the ways women like her are told – explicitly and implicitly – how they need to behave to succeed in the workplace. Now, she can no longer stand by silently – even if doing what's right means putting everything on the line to expose the shocking truth.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Odor of Violets

Duncan Maclain mysteries

American Mystery Classics

Kendrick, Baynard

Meet Captain Duncan Maclain. Blinded during his service in the first World War, Maclain made up for his lack of vision by

sharpening his other senses, achieving a mastery of the subtle unseen clues often missed by those who see only with their eyes. Aided by his dogs Schnucke and Driest, the Captain puts the intelligence-gathering techniques he learned in the Army to work, making a name for himself as New York City's most sought-after private detective. Now, it's 1940, there's a second World War breaking out, and Maclain is pulled into a case unlike any he's investigated before. The murder of an actor in his Greenwich Village apartment would cause a stir, no matter the circumstances; but, when the actor happens to possess secret government plans, and when those plans go missing along with the young woman with whom he was last seen, it's sensational enough to interest not only the local police, but the American government as well. Maclain suspects a German spy plot at work and, in a world where treasonous men and patriots are indistinguishable to the naked eye, it will take his special skills to sniff out the solution. Reissued for the first time in over a half century, *Odor of Violets* is the most well-known instalment in the long-running Duncan Maclain series, which featured one of crime fiction's earliest disabled detectives. The novel, filmed in 1942 as *Eyes in the Night*, is a classic hybrid of mystery and espionage fiction.

Classic mystery TP/HC \$26.95/\$49.95

The Watcher Girl

Kent, Minka

Eight years ago, Grace McMullen broke Sutton Whitlock's heart, when she walked away. But it was only to save him from the baggage of her own troubled past. Now, all she wants is to make sure he's okay. Only everything she learns about him online says otherwise. According to his social media accounts, he placed roots in her hometown, married a look-alike, and even named his daughter Grace. He clearly hasn't moved on. In fact, it's creepy. So, Grace does what any concerned ex-girlfriend would do: she moves home... and watches him. But when Grace crosses paths with Sutton's wife, Campbell, an unexpected friendship develops. Campbell has no idea whom she's inviting into her life. As the women grow closer, it becomes clear to Grace that Sutton is not the sentimental man she once knew. He seems controlling, unstable, and threatening. And what a broken man like Sutton is capable of, Grace can only imagine. It's up to her to save Campbell and her baby now – but while she's been watching them, who's been watching her?

Thriller TP \$35.95

Research

Kerr, Philip

If you want to write a murder mystery, you have to do some research... or pay someone else, to do it for you. In a luxury flat in Monaco, John Houston's supermodel wife lies in bed, a bullet in her skull. Houston is the world's most successful thriller writer, the playboy head of a literary empire that produces far more books than he could ever actually write. Now, the man who has invented hundreds of bestselling killings is wanted for a real murder and on the run from the police, his life transformed into something out of one of his books. And, in London, the ghost-writer who is really behind those books

has some questions for him too... A reissue of Philip Kerr's a fiendishly-clever thriller about the backstabbing literary world, set in the South of France. Like all of Kerr's books... we recommend this highly!

Mystery/suspense (reissue) PBK \$22.99

Thief of Souls

Inspector Lu Fei mysteries

Klingborg, Brian

Lu Fei is a graduate of China's top police college, but he's been assigned to a sleepy backwater town in northern China, where almost nothing happens; and the theft of a few chickens represents a major crime wave. That is until a young woman is found dead, her organs removed, and joss paper stuffed in her mouth. The CID in Beijing – headed by a rising political star – is on the case but in an increasingly authoritarian China, prosperity and political stability are far more important than solving the murder of an insignificant village girl. As such, the CID head is interested in pinning the crime on the first available suspect rather than wading into uncomfortable truths, leaving Lu Fei on his own. As Lu digs deeper into the gruesome murder, he finds himself facing old enemies and creating new ones in the form of local Communist Party bosses and corrupt business interests. Despite these rising obstacles, Lu remains determined to find the real killer, especially after he links the murder to other unsolved homicides. But the closer he gets to the heart of the mystery, the more he puts himself and his loved ones in danger.

Mystery HC \$57.95

Skystorm

Ryan Decker series

Konkoly, Steven

After covert investigators Ryan Decker and Harlow Mackenzie demolished APEX, a billion-dollar criminal enterprise, a tenuous truce between the two factions suggested the battle was over. But not for Decker's director, Senator Margaret Steele. She's uncovered an even deadlier operation – code name Skystorm. Skystorm violates every international arms-trafficking law imaginable. And for the senator, exposing the plot may be a gamble too far. APEX has caught wind of the investigation, and they've gone on the offensive. Steele's warning to Decker and Harlow: we're all in a no-holds-barred fight for our lives. With APEX's scorched-earth tactics now unmistakable, Decker and Harlow pull the trigger on their worst-case-scenario plan and move to turn the tables on their ruthless adversary. With a shadowy mercenary team, Decker and Harlow embark for a war – one that Skystorm's influential DC backers have no intention of losing. To safeguard their treasonous secret, they aim to bury it, along with Decker and everyone he loves.

Thriller TP \$35.95

The Disappearance of **Lydia Harvey: One Trial,** **Six Lives and the Dawn of** **the Twentieth Century** **Laité, Julia**

Lydia Harvey was meant to disappear. She was young and working class; she'd walked the streets, worked in brothels, and had no money of her own. In 1910, politicians, pimps,

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

policemen and moral reformers saw her as just one of many 'girls who disappeared'. But when she took the stand to give testimony at the trial of her traffickers, she ensured she'd never be forgotten. Historian Julia Laite traces Lydia's extraordinary life from her home in New Zealand to the streets of Buenos Aires and safe houses of London. She also reveals the lives of international traffickers Antonio Carvelli and his mysterious wife Marie, the policemen who tracked them down, the journalists who stoked the scandal, and Eilidh MacDougall, who made it her life's mission to help women who'd been abused and disbelieved. Together, they tell an immersive story of crime, travel and sexual exploitation, of lives long overlooked and forgotten by history, and of a world transforming into the 20th century.

True crime HC \$34.99

A Deadly Chapter

Castle Bookshop mysteries 03

Lang, Essie

Wake up on a houseboat, moored in scenic Alexandria Bay, New York. Ride the gentle waves to work at quaint Bayside Books, where you spend your days supplying literature and conversation to the charming locals and seasonal tourists. Sounds pleasant, doesn't it? Except bookseller Shelby Cox has already sleuthed two murders from Bayside Books' home base on Blye Island, one of New York State's famed Thousand Islands. And this time, mayhem knocks right on Shelby's waterside door when she finds a body lodged between the side of her houseboat and the dock, his skull shattered. The victim is no local, but Shelby can't shake the feeling she's seen him before. Twice, in fact – that's how many times he's dropped into Bayside Books asking about an enigmatic woman who lived on Blye Island many years before. The last time? The day before he was found. But the poor man obviously was killed elsewhere, so who brought him down to the bay, and why? When the victim's daughter hits town demanding answers, Shelby takes the case, despite Police Chief Tekla Stone's usual reservations. But she uncovers more suspects than there are pages in War and Peace, and Shelby can expect no peace – except the peace of the grave – unless she can turn the page on this grisly mystery.

Mystery HC \$44.99

More Better Deals

Lansdale, Joe R

Ed Edwards works in the dirty, tough world of used car sales, but feels sure he is destined for more in life. Dreaming of a brighter future for himself and his plucky little sister, Ed wants to get out of the game. And when Dave, his lazy, grease-stained boss, sends him to repossess a Cadillac, the better deal Ed has been searching for suddenly seems in reach. The Cadillac in question belongs to Frank Craig and his beautiful wife Nancy, owners of a local drive-in and pet cemetery. Ed knows Nancy well – too well. In the throes of their salacious affair, Nancy has suggested they kill Frank and claim his insurance policy. It is a tantalising offer: Ed could finally say goodbye to cars and maybe even send his sister to college. But does he have what it takes to seal the deal?

Thriller PBK \$22.99

A Pairing to Die For

Colorado Wine mysteries 02

Lansing, Kate

It's fall in Boulder, Colorado, and the leaves aren't the only things changing. Parker Valentine, owner of Vino Valentine, is finally settling in... to her winery and her new relationship with Reid Wallace, a local chef. But their delicate pairing is endangered when Reid's estranged family comes into town to celebrate the opening of his new restaurant. Reid and his family are immediately at loggerheads, given their often acidic temperaments, but Parker still wants to make a good first impression. However, her efforts might be in vain when Reid's sous chef is found dead in the alley behind the restaurant, and Reid is implicated in the murder. In order to save Reid, Parker will have to find the real killer, even if the truth is difficult to swallow.

Mystery PBK \$18.99

In the Shadow of the Fire le Corre, Hervé

The Paris Commune's 'bloody week' sees the climax of the savagery of the clashes between the Communards and the French Armed Forces loyal to Versailles. Amid the shrapnel and the chaos, while the entire west side of Paris is a field of ruins, a photographer fascinated by the suffering of young women takes 'suggestive' photos to sell to a particular clientele. Young women begin disappearing, and when Caroline, a seamstress who volunteers at a first aid station, is counted among the missing, her fiancé Nicolas, a member of the Commune's National Guard, and Communal security officer Antoine, sets off independently in search of her. Their race against the clock to find her takes them through the shell-shocked streets of Paris, and introduces them to a cast of fascinating characters.

Historical mystery HC \$34.99

The Best Stories of Arsène Lupin LeBlanc, Maurice

In the early 20th century, esteemed writer Maurice Leblanc created Arsène Lupin, a French Sherlock Holmes-type, who became known as the gentleman thief. Lupin's exploits, in pursuit of the rich, have been documented in more than twenty stories and books, as well as in film. In January 2021, Netflix released a major hit in the entertaining Lupin mystery-comedy series based on the stories. *The Best Stories of Arsène Lupin* is a collection of the most engaging of Leblanc's writing about Lupin; with a special foreword by West Point associate professor of English and writer Matthew Carey Salyer.

Historical caper TP \$39.95

Gold Reading Murder

Bridge to Death mysteries 03

Lee, R J

Bridge expert and investigative reporter Wendy Winchester knows a thing or two about navigating life along the Mississippi River, but murder isn't something she foresees... Who could have predicted it? The daughter of Police Chief Bax Winchester married to a cop – Detective Ross Rierson. It's a beautiful wedding, and the newlyweds are in bliss – even if they do have to postpone their Hawaiian honeymoon for now. In the

meantime, Wendy is teaching a group of newbies the game of bridge so they can join the Rosalie Country Club Bridge Bunch. One of the newcomers, flamboyant psychic Aurelia Spangler, invites the group to meet at her new home. The historic Overview mansion sits atop the High Bluff overlooking the Mississippi River, and the local lore is that it's possibly haunted, definitely cursed by the original builder, who fell down the stairs to his death. Unfortunately, the house is about to claim another life. Following a night of bridge practice and cold readings by their clairvoyant host, Aurelia is found dead in her home by Wendy, a suicide note and cocaine residue by her corpse. But Wendy, an investigative reporter for the Rosalie Citizen, doesn't buy it. The scene seems phonier than Aurelia's act, and now Wendy needs to call the bluff of a cold-blooded killer playing a psychic bid...

Mystery TP \$25.99

Transient Desires

Commissario Brunetti series

Leon, Donna

In his many years as a *commissario*, Guido Brunetti has seen all manner of crime and known intuitively how to navigate the various pathways in his native city, Venice, to discover the person responsible. Now, he faces a heinous crime committed outside his jurisdiction. He is drawn in, innocently enough: two young American women have been severely injured in a boating accident, joy riding in the Laguna with two young Italians. However, Brunetti's curiosity is aroused by the behaviour of the young men, who abandoned the victims after taking them to the hospital. If the injuries were the result of an accident, why did they want to avoid association with it? As Brunetti and his colleague, Claudia Griffoni, investigate the incident, they discover that one of the young men works for a man rumoured to be involved in more sinister night-time activities in the Laguna. To get to the bottom of what proves to be a gut-wrenching case, Brunetti needs to enlist the help of both the Carabinieri and the Guardia di Costiera. Determining how much trust he and Griffoni can put in these unfamiliar colleagues adds to the difficulty of solving a peculiarly horrible crime whose perpetrators are technologically brilliant and ruthlessly organised. 'Donna Leon's thirtieth Brunetti novel is as powerful as any she has written, testing Brunetti to his limits, forcing him to listen very carefully for the truth...' – *publisher's blurb*. Recommended! Armchair travel to Venice (we have no other choice about it, just now, as things stand!).

Mystery TP \$32.99

Lady in the Lake Lippman, Laura

In 1966, Baltimore is a city of secrets that everyone seems to know – everyone, that is, except Madeline 'Maddie' Schwartz. Last year, she was a happy, even pampered housewife. This year, she's bolted from her marriage of almost twenty years, determined to make good on her youthful ambitions to live a passionate, meaningful life. Maddie wants to matter, to leave her mark on a swiftly changing world. Drawing on her own secrets, she helps Baltimore police find a murdered girl – assistance that leads to a job at the city's afternoon newspaper, the *Star*. Working at the newspaper offers Maddie the opportunity

to make her name, and she has found just the story to do it: Cleo Sherwood, a missing woman whose body was discovered in the fountain of a city park lake. If Cleo were white, every reporter in Baltimore would be clamouring to tell her story. Instead, her mysterious death receives only cursory mention in the daily newspapers, and no one cares when Maddie starts poking around in a young Black woman's life – except for Cleo's ghost, who is determined to keep her secrets and her dignity. Cleo scolds the ambitious Maddie: *You're interested in my death, not my life*. They're not the same thing. Maddie's investigation brings her into contact with people that used to be on the periphery of her life – a jewellery store clerk, a waitress, a rising star on the Baltimore Orioles, a patrol cop, a hardened female reporter, a lonely man in a movie theatre. But for all her ambition and drive, Maddie often fails to see the people right in front of her. Her inability to look beyond her own needs will lead to tragedy and turmoil for all sorts of people – including Ferdie, the man who shares her bed, a police officer who is risking far more than Maddie can understand.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

A Trail of Lies

Jazz Ramsey mysteries 03

Logan, Kylie

Jazz Ramsey is just getting used to the idea that her on-again, off-again beau, Nick, might actually be a permanent fixture, when she gets an alarming call in the middle of the night from his mother, Kim: there's a dead man in her backyard. Kim has a long history of drinking and a vivid imagination, so when Jazz's human remains detection dog, Wally, finds no evidence of a body, Jazz thinks she can breathe easy. But when the body of a middle-aged man, Dan Mansfield, is discovered in a nearby park, and a photo of Nick and his mom is found in his pocket, Jazz has to admit that something isn't adding up. Kim claims not to know who Dan is, but the cops find out soon enough: he's a recently paroled convict who served thirty years for murder. And when Jazz traces his crime back to a bar fight with an antiques dealer, she ends up with more questions than answers. Meanwhile, no one wants her poking around – not Nick's mom, nor the Motorcycle-riding ex-con she connects to Dan, nor Nick himself, who seems worried about Jazz's safety, but also about what she might find. But Jazz has never been one to take no for an answer, and she won't give up now – even if it means risking her own life.

Mystery HC \$55.00

Sherlock Holmes and the Beast of the Stapletons Lovegrove, James

1894. The monstrous Hound of the Baskervilles has been dead for five years, along with its no less monstrous owner, the naturalist Jack Stapleton. Sir Henry Baskerville is living contentedly at Baskerville Hall with his new wife Audrey and their three-year-old son Harry. Until, that is, Audrey's lifeless body is found on the moors, drained of blood. It would appear some fiendish creature is once more at large on Dartmoor and has, like its predecessor, targeted the unfortunate Baskerville family. Sherlock Holmes and Dr Watson

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

are summoned to Sir Henry's aid, and our heroes must face a marauding beast that is the very stuff of nightmares. It seems that Stapleton may not have perished in the Great Grimpen Mire, after all – as Holmes believed – and is hell-bent on revenge...

Sherlockiana HC \$32.99

Robert B Parker's Payback

Sunny Randall series

Lupica, Mike

PI Sunny Randall has often relied on the help of her best friend Spike in times of need. When Spike's restaurant is taken over under a predatory loan agreement, Sunny has a chance to return the favour. She begins digging into the life of the hedge fund manager who screwed Spike over – surely a guy that smarmy has a skeleton or two in his closet – and soon finds this new enemy may have the backing of even worse criminals. At the same time, Sunny's cop contact Lee Farrell asks her to intervene with his niece, a college student who reported being the victim of a crime but seems to know more than she's telling police. As the uncooperative young woman becomes outright hostile, Sunny runs up against a wall that she's only more determined to scale. Then, what appear to be two disparate cases are united by a common factor, and the picture becomes even more muddled. But one thing is clear: Sunny has been poking a hornet's nest from two sides, and all hell is about to break loose.

Hardboiled HC \$57.95

Hold Back the Night

Lynch, Sean

It begins with a spark. A simple act of carelessness that ignites the autumn grass of the Sierra Nevadas. In minutes, the flames spread. A raging wildfire sweeps down the mountain, engulfing a van from the local prison – giving two chained convicts a chance to escape... In Farnham County live three quite different women. Marjorie Guthrie, a wealthy suburban housewife fleeing an abusive marriage; Mary Hernandez, her troubled, rebellious sister; and Leanne Strayer, a young SWAT deputy with a dark past. All three share one thing in common: they are in the wrong place at the wrong time... Today, their worst fears come true. Tonight, the nightmares come home.

Thriller PBK \$24.95

The Three Locks

Sherlock Holmes adventures

MacBird, Bonnie

In Whitechapel, a renowned Italian escape artist dies spectacularly on stage during a performance – immolated in a gleaming copper cauldron of his wife's design. In Cambridge, the runaway daughter of a famous don drowns, her long blonde hair tangled in the Jesus Lock on the River Cam. And in Baker Street, a malevolent locksmith exacts an unusual price to open a small silver box sent to Watson. From the glow of the London stage to the buzzing Cavendish Laboratory in Cambridge, where physicists explore the edges of new science of electricity, Holmes and Watson race between the two cities to solve the murders, encountering prevaricating prestidigitators, philandering physicists and murderous mentalists, all the while unlocking

secrets which may be best left undisclosed. And one, in particular, lands very close to home. MacBird's Holmes is wonderful; the first of these pastiches is *Art in the Blood* (PBK, \$19.99).

Sherlockiana TP \$32.99

A Murder in Time

Kendra Donovan mysteries

McElwain, Julie

Beautiful and brilliant, Kendra Donovan is a rising star at the FBI. Yet, her path to professional success hits a speed bump during a disastrous raid where half her team is murdered, a mole in the FBI is uncovered, and she herself is severely wounded. As soon as she recovers, she goes rogue and travels to England to hunt down the man responsible for the deaths of her teammates. While fleeing from an unexpected assassin, Kendra runs into a stairwell that promises an escape from her pursuer, but when she stumbles out again, she is in the same place – Aldrich Castle – but in a different time: 1815, to be exact. Mistaken for a lady's maid hired to help with the weekend guests, Kendra is forced to quickly adapt to the time period – until she can figure out how she got there; and, more importantly, how to get back home. However, after the body of a young girl is found on the extensive grounds of the country estate, she starts to feel there's some purpose to her bizarre circumstances. Stripped of her twenty-first century tools, Kendra must use her wits alone, in order to unmask a cunning killer. The second in the series, *A Twist in Time* (PBK, \$26.95), has been reissued as the same time.

Historical mystery (reissue) PBK \$19.99

High Treason

Tom Locke series

McFate, Sean

En route to the National Prayer Breakfast, the US vice president's motorcade is hit in a vicious, expertly planned attack that throws Washington DC, into chaos. Everyone assumes it's terrorists – everyone, but young FBI agent Jennifer Lin. She is certain that the easy answers, here, are not the likely ones... Half a world away, former military contractor Tom Locke has his own doubts about what happened – and who did it. He suspects his former employer, Apollo Outcomes. But why would the global private military corporation orchestrate such a brutal strike on US soil? Returning to DC, Locke teams with Lin and discovers that a civil war is secretly brewing in the military-contracting world. A division of one company has gone rogue, led by a power-hungry former colleague of Locke's who may have planned the attack on the vice president himself. But this man couldn't have pulled it off without help from inside the government. The VP's itinerary and route were confidential – which means there must be a traitor high up in either the White House or the NSA who is leaking information. But why? And who could be pulling the strings? Radical Islamic terrorists? Or is this a new ploy by Putin to subvert American leadership? Or is someone else behind the attack? Only Locke can get to the bottom of the conspiracy – and blow it apart with one bold strike before it's too late.

Suspense PBK \$26.95

For Batter or Worse

Cupcake Bakery mysteries 13

McKinlay, Jenn

Life is sweet and business is booming at the Fairy Tale Cupcakes bakery – and the fact that Mel and Joe are getting married is the icing on the cake. Their reception will be held at the swanky resort where Oz works as the pastry chef. The wedding planning is all fun-fetti and games, until Mel and Joe meet the head chef at the resort who has been making Oz's life miserable. When the eccentric chef insults Mel's bakery, Oz gets into a blowout argument with the culinary prima donna. Things turn extra sour when the chef is murdered, and Oz is the police's main suspect. As the countdown to the wedding day begins, Mel, Joe, and the rest of the Fairy Tale Cupcake crew must sift through clues to catch the real killer and clear Oz's name – before their wedding plans are totally battered and baked.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

You Will Remember Me

McKinnon, Hannah Mary

He wakes up on a deserted beach, in Maryland, with a gash on his head and wearing only swim trunks. He can't remember who he is. Everything – his identity, his life, his loved ones – has been replaced by a dizzying fog of uncertainty. But returning to his Maine hometown in search of the truth uncovers more questions than answers. Lily Reid thinks she knows her boyfriend, Jack. Until he goes missing one night, and her frantic search reveals that he's been lying to her since they met, desperate to escape a dark past he'd purposely left behind. Maya Scott has been trying to find her estranged stepbrother, Asher, since he disappeared without a trace. Having him back, missing memory and all, feels like a miracle. But with a mutual history full of devastating secrets, how far will Maya go to ensure she alone takes them to the grave?

Thriller TP \$37.95

The Thin Place

Major, G D

When journalist Ava Brent decides to investigate the dark mystery of Overtoun Estate – a 'thin place', steeped in myth – she has no idea how dangerous this story will be for her. Overtoun looms over the town, watching, waiting: the locals fearful of the strange building and the secrets it keeps. When Ava starts to ask questions, the warm welcome she first receives turns to a cold shoulder. And before she knows it, Ava is caught in the house's grasp too. After she discovers the history of a sick young girl who lived there, she starts to understand the sadness that shrouds it. But when she finds an ominous old message etched into a window sill, she is forced to wonder – what horrors is the house protecting? And what will it cost her to find out? With her own first child on the way, Ava knows she should stay away. But even as her life starts to unravel, and she receives chilling threats, the house and the bridge keep pulling her back...

Thriller TP \$29.99

Arsenic and Adobo

Tita Rosie's Kitchen mysteries 01

Manansala, Mia P

When Lila Macapagal moves back home to recover from a horrible breakup, her life seems to be following all the typical rom-com tropes. She's tasked with saving her Tita Rosie's failing restaurant, and she has to deal with a group of matchmaking aunts who shower her with love and judgment. But when a notoriously nasty food critic (who happens to be her ex-boyfriend) drops dead, moments after a confrontation with Lila... her life quickly swerves from a Nora Ephron romp to an Agatha Christie case. With the cops treating her like she's the one and only suspect, and the shady landlord looking to finally kick the Macapagal family out and resell the storefront, Lila's left with no choice but to conduct her own investigation. Armed with the nosy auntie network, her barista best bud, and her trusted Dachshund, Longanisa, Lila takes on this tasty, twisted case and soon finds her own neck on the chopping block... The first in a culinary cosy series.

Mystery TP \$35.95

The Glass Hotel

Mandel, Emily St John

Vincent is the beautiful bartender at the Hotel Calette, a five-star glass-and-cedar palace on the northernmost tip of Vancouver Island. New York financier Jonathan Alkaidis owns the hotel. When he passes Vincent his card with a tip, it's the beginning of their life together. That same day, a hooded figure scrawls a note on the windowed wall of the hotel: 'Why don't you swallow broken glass'. Leon Prevant, a shipping executive for a company called Neptune-Avramidis, sees the note from the hotel bar and is shaken to his core. Thirteen years later Vincent mysteriously disappears from the deck of a Neptune-Avramidis ship. Weaving together the lives of these characters, *The Glass Hotel* moves between the ship, the towers of Manhattan, and the wilderness of remote British Columbia, painting a breathtaking picture of greed and guilt, fantasy and delusion, art and the ghosts of our pasts. The extraordinary novel from the bestselling, award-winning author of *Station Eleven* – one of Barack Obama's favourite books of 2020.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

The Lewis Man

Lewis trilogy

May, Peter

An unidentified corpse is recovered from a Lewis peat bog; the only clue to its identity being a DNA sibling match to a local farmer. But this islander, Tormod Macdonald – now, an elderly man suffering from dementia – has always claimed to be an only child. When Tormod's family approach Fin Macleod for help, Fin feels duty bound to solve the mystery. A reissue of the second instalment in the Lewis trilogy.

Mystery (reissue) PBK \$22.99

Lifeline

Village mysteries

Mayhew, Margaret

Following the untimely death of her mother, Ursula Swynford, Ruth Harvey has taken over the manor in Frog End, where she runs a successful plant-selling business and provides

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

gardening therapy for an increasing number of her husband Dr Tom Harvey's troubled patients: embittered Lawrence Deacon, lonely Joyce Reed, widowed Tanya Carberry and wheelchair-bound Johnny Turner, the young victim of a horrific motorbike crash. Gardening at the manor quickly becomes a much-needed lifeline for the group, and all seems to be going well – until the major stumbles across a body among the tomato plants in one of the greenhouses. Once again, the manor is the scene of a brutal murder – and, once again, the Colonel reluctantly finds himself drawn into solving the mystery.

Mystery TP \$39.95

The Curse of the Cherry Pie

Tish Tarragon mysteries 04

Meade, Amy Patricia

When literary caterer Letitia 'Tish' Tarragon's friend and star baker at Cookin' the Books café, Celestine Rufus, pulls out of the prestigious Virginia Commonwealth Bake-Off, an anxious Tish reluctantly takes her place. Will her signature bake, a frangipane cherry pie, be up to the grade? As the bake-off gets underway, Tish's worries increase when she learns that two contestants from the previous two competitions also had cherry pies on their menus... and both women died suddenly before making their bakes. Amid bitter rivalries, simmering jealousy and the bakers' insatiable appetite for winning, is the curse of the cherry pie about to strike again?

Mystery HC \$62.95

When They Find Her

Middleton, Lia

Naomi always wanted to be a mother. But a year ago, she made a dreadful mistake, and lost custody of her only child. Now, her daughter has come to stay, and Naomi knows it's her one chance to rebuild her family. But the night ends in a terrible accident. And Naomi tells a lie she can never take back: She reports her daughter missing. Within hours, her home is invaded. Journalists crowd the driveway. Police search the woods at the foot of the garden. Her ex-husband paces the hall. And Naomi can't look away. Because the only thing worse than the lie she's told is the truth: Naomi has no memory of what really happened that night... A haunting, emotional and nerve-shredding debut about a desperate mother, a tragic accident, and a terrible lie which spirals out of control.

Thriller TP \$32.99

The Khan

Mir, Saima

Successful London lawyer Jia Khan is a long way from the grubby Northern streets she knew as a child, where her father, Akbar Khan, led the Pakistani community and ran the local organised crime syndicate. Often his Jirga rule – the old way – was violent and bloody, but it was always justice of a kind. Now, with her father murdered, Jia must return to take his place. The police have always relied on the Khan to maintain the fragile order of the streets. But a bloody power struggle has broken out among warring communities, and nobody is safe. Justice needs to be restored, and Jia is about to discover that justice always comes at a cost.

Mystery/suspense TP \$29.99

Midnight Atlanta

Darktown series

Mullen, Thomas

Atlanta, 1956. When Arthur Bishop, editor of Atlanta's leading black newspaper, is killed in his office, cop-turned-journalist Tommy Smith finds himself in the crosshairs of the racist cops he's been trying to avoid. To clear his name, he needs to learn more about the dangerous story Bishop had been working on. Meanwhile, Smith's ex-partner Lucius Boggs and white sergeant Joe McInnis – the only white cop in the black precinct – find themselves caught between meddling federal agents, racist detectives, and Communist activists as they try to solve the murder. With a young Rev Martin Luther King Jr making headlines of his own, and tensions in the city growing, Boggs and Smith find themselves back on the same side in a hunt for the truth that will put them both at risk. The first in this series is *Darktown* (PBK, \$22.99).

Noir PBK \$22.99

Mean and Shellfish

Pennsylvania-Dutch mysteries 22

Myers, Tamar

When Magdalena Yoder had the brainwave for the annual Billy Goat Gruff Festival four years ago, little did she expect it to become the highlight of Hernia's social calendar. Unfortunately, the festivities are soon derailed by a series of bizarre pranks and a gruesome discovery. But is the festival really the target, or is it Magdalena, herself?

Mystery HC \$62.95

The Kingdom

Nesbo, Jo

Two brothers. bound by blood... and a lifetime of secrets. When Roy and Carl's parents die suddenly, sixteen-year-old Roy is left as protector to his impulsive younger brother. But when Carl decides to travel the world in search of his fortune, Roy stays behind in their sleepy village, satisfied with his peaceful life as a mechanic. Some years later, Carl returns with his charismatic new wife, Shannon – an architect. They are full of exciting plans to build a spa hotel on their family land. Carl wants not only to make the brothers rich but the rest of the village, too. It's only a matter of time before what begins as a jubilant homecoming sparks off a series of events that threaten to derail everything Roy holds dear, as long-buried family secrets begin to rise to the surface...

Thriller PBK \$19.99

Murder at the Mena House

Jane Wunderly mysteries

Neubauer, Erica Ruth

Well-heeled travellers from around the world flock to the Mena House Hotel – an exotic gem in the heart of Cairo where cocktails flow, adventure dispels the aftershocks of World War I, and deadly dangers wait in the shadows... *Egypt, 1926*. Fiercely independent American Jane Wunderly has made up her mind: she won't be swept off her feet on a trip abroad. Despite her Aunt Millie's best efforts at meddling with her love life, the young widow would rather gaze at the Great Pyramids of Giza than into the eyes of a dashing stranger. Yet, Jane's plans to remain cool and indifferent between ancient history in the company of Mr Redvers, a roguish banker she can't quite figure out... While the Mena

House has its share of charming guests, Anna Stainton isn't one of them. The beautiful socialite makes it clear that she won't share the spotlight with anyone – especially Jane. But Jane soon becomes the centre of attention when she's the one standing over her unintentional rival's dead body. Now, with her innocence at stake in a foreign country, Jane must determine who can be trusted, and who had motive to commit a brutal murder. Between Aunt Millie's unusual new acquaintances, a smarmy playboy with an off-putting smile, and the enigmatic Mr Redvers, someone has too many secrets. Can Jane excavate the horrible truth before her future falls to ruin in Cairo... and the body count rises like the desert heat?

Historical mystery TP \$25.99

The Leaden Heart

Tom Harper mysteries

Nickson, Chris

Leeds, England. July, 1899. The hot summer has been fairly quiet for Detective Superintendent Tom Harper and his squad, until a daring burglary occurs at an expensive Leeds address. Then his friend and former colleague, Inspector Billy Reed, asks for his help. Billy's brother, Charlie, a shopkeeper, has committed suicide. Going through Charlie's papers, Billy discovers crippling rent rises demanded by his new landlord. Could these have driven him to his death? As Harper investigates, he uncovers a web of intimidation and corruption that leads back to the mysterious North Leeds Company. Who is pulling the strings behind the scenes and bringing a new kind of misery and violence to the people of Leeds? Harper is determined to unmask the culprits, but how much blood will be shed as he tries?

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

Where Ravens Roost

Detective Kjeld Nygaard series

Nordin, Karin

In a small town full of secrets, anyone could be a killer. Detective Kjeld Nygaard wants nothing more than to forget his family and Varsund, the small mining town he once called home, even exist. But while on suspension after his last case went disastrously wrong, his estranged father Stenar leaves a message on Kjeld's phone claiming he's seen a murder. But with no evidence and Stenar suffering from Alzheimer's, the local police think he must have imagined it. Kjeld can't stop himself from investigating what actually happened, and soon discovers a body. But when the police start to suspect Stenar, it's a race against time to discover the truth before it's lost forever. But will uncovering the truth expose family secrets that are best left buried?

Noir PBK \$19.99

The Glass Kingdom

Osborne, Lawrence

Escaping New York for the anonymity of Bangkok, Sarah Mullins arrives in Thailand on the lam, with nothing more than a suitcase of pilfered money. Her plan is to lie low and map out her next move in a high-end apartment complex called the Kingdom, whose glass-fronted façade boasts views of the bustling city and glimpses into the vast honeycomb of lives within. It is not long before she meets the alluring Mali doing

laps in the apartment pool, a fellow tenant determined to bring the quiet American out of her shell. An invitation to Mali's weekly poker nights follows, and – fuelled by shots of *yadong*, good food, and gossip – Sarah soon falls in with the Kingdom's glamorous circle of ex-pat women. But as political chaos erupts on the streets below and attempted uprisings wrack the city, tensions tighten within the gilded compound. When the violence outside begins to invade the Kingdom in a series of strange disappearances, the residents are thrown into suspicion: both of the world beyond their windows and of one another. And under the constant surveillance of the building's watchful inhabitants, Sarah's safe haven begins to feel like a snare.

Thriller TP \$32.99

The Thursday Murder Club

Osman, Richard

Four septuagenarians, with a few tricks up their sleeves... A female cop with her first big case... A brutal murder... Welcome to... the Thursday Murder Club. In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the Thursday Murder Club. When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the Thursday Murder Club suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case. As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late? We've had a great deal of customer love for Osman's mystery debut. Recommended.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Hard Cash Valley

Bull Mountain series

Panowich, Brian

Dane Kirby is a broken man and no stranger to tragedy. As a lifelong resident and ex-arson investigator for McFalls County, Dane has lived his life in one of the most chaotic and crime-ridden regions of the south. When he gets called in to consult on a brutal murder in a Jacksonville, Florida, motel room, he and his FBI counterpart, Special Agent Roselita Velasquez, begin an investigation that leads them back to the criminal circles of his own backyard. Arnie Blackwell's murder in Jacksonville is only the beginning – and Dane and Roselita seem to be one step behind. For someone is hacking a bloody trail throughout the Southeast, looking for Arnie's younger brother, a boy with Asperger's Syndrome who possesses an unusual skill with numbers that could make a lot of money and that has already gotten a lot of people killed – and has even more of the deadliest people alive willing to do anything it takes to exploit him. As Dane joins in the hunt to find the boy, it swiftly becomes a race against the clock that has Dane entangled in a web of secrets involving everyone from the Filipino Mafia to distrustful federal agents to some of the hardest southern outlaws he's ever known.

Mystery/suspense TP \$39.95

The April Dead

Harry McCoy series

Parks, Alan

In a grimy flat in Glasgow, a homemade bomb explodes, leaving few remains to identify its maker. Detective Harry McCoy

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

knows in his gut that there'll be more to follow. The hunt for a missing sailor from the local US naval base leads him to the secretive group behind the bomb, and their disturbing, dominating leader. On top of that, McCoy thinks he's doing an old friend a favour when he passes on a warning, but instead he's pulled into a vicious gang feud. And in the meantime, there's word another bigger explosion is coming Glasgow's way – so, if the city is to survive, it'll take everything McCoy's got... Harry McCoy's Glaswegian investigations begin with *Bloody January* (PBK, \$19.99).

Noir HC \$29.99

Little Crew of Butchers Pascal, Francine

'A free license given to all acts of inhumanity and lust... this execrable crew of butchers' – *Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift. Lucas Baird never got much of a break when he was a child, but by his early twenties, his good looks and easy manner allow him to skate through life without having to put in much effort. On the cusp of manhood in years yet still a boy – what Anthony Trollope called a hobbledehoy – charming Luke has enjoyed his extended adolescence of drinking and small-time cons. But when a freak accident compels him to leave LA – and leave, fast – he finds himself in New York, in the seemingly idyllic Long Island beach town of Shorelane, where through a drunken mistake, he becomes trapped in a life-or-death ordeal. Luke's only potential saviours are a group of local children, who are themselves lost and destined for paths much the same as Luke's – if not worse – and a young woman, equally lost. For Luke to finally cross into manhood, he will have to come to terms with his own poor judgment and mortality, and find the courage to stay sane in the face of irrational actors.

Mystery/suspense TP \$37.95

The Queen's Fortune Pataki, Allison

As the French revolution ravages the country, Desiree Clary is faced with the life-altering truth that the world she has known and loved is gone and it's fallen on her to save her family from the guillotine. A chance encounter with Napoleon Bonaparte, the ambitious and charismatic young military prodigy, provides her answer. When her beloved sister Julie marries his brother Joseph, Desiree and Napoleon's futures become irrevocably linked. Quickly entering into their own passionate, dizzying courtship that leads to a secret engagement, they vow to meet in the capital once his career has been secured. But her newly laid plans with Napoleon turn to sudden heartbreak, thanks to the rising star of Parisian society, Josephine de Beauharnais. Once again, Desiree's life is turned on its head. Swept to the glittering halls of the French capital, Desiree is plunged into the inner circle of the new ruling class, becoming further entangled with Napoleon, his family, and the new Empress. But her fortunes shift once again when she meets Napoleon's confidant and star general, the indomitable Jean-Baptiste Bernadotte. As the two men in Desiree's life become political rivals and military foes, the question that arises is: must she choose between the love

of her new husband and the love of her nation and its Emperor?

Historical fiction TP \$27.99

The Midwife Murders Patterson, James & DiLallo, Richard

A missing patient is a hospital ward's worst nightmare – until even more people disappear... Senior Midwife Lucy Ryan is used to guiding expectant mothers through pregnancy. But when two kidnappings and a vicious stabbing happen on her watch, her focus abruptly changes. Something has to be done, and Lucy is fearless enough to try. As rumours and accusations fly around Manhattan, Lucy teams up with a sceptical NYPD detective to solve the case. But the truth is far more twisted than either of them could ever have imagined.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

The Summer House Patterson, James & DuBois, Brendan

For seven unsuspecting victims, death comes in the dark... Once a luxurious getaway for a wealthy Southern family, the Summer House has long since fallen into disrepair. Its fall from grace is complete when it becomes the scene of a horrific mass murder. Shocking evidence points to four Army Rangers recently returned from Afghanistan. The Army sends Major Jeremiah Cook, a war veteran and former NYPD cop, to investigate. As Cook and his team struggle to put together pieces of evidence that just won't fit, powerful forces rally against them to try to ensure that damning secrets are buried along with the victims.

Thriller TP \$37.95

Little Bones Peacock, N V

I have three names: I was born Leigh-Ann. I became Cherrie. When I was a child, they called me Little Bones... My father was Mr Bones – the notorious serial killer of 25 years ago. As a child I witnessed his crimes. Everything is different now. I have a new identity. I'm a mother. I am finally free. Until that podcast. I should never have listened. They're linking a recent disappearance to the crimes of the past. They know who I am. They're calling me Little Bones again. They say I'm a villain but I'm not. I'm a victim. You believe me, don't you?

Thriller TP \$19.99

Stranger Perry, Karen

Abi Holland considers herself lucky. She's happily married, and her oldest daughter, Eva, is all set for a place at a top university. She just can't help but worry about Beth. So, when foreign exchange student Corinne comes to stay, it's a relief her lonely younger daughter finally has someone to talk to. It's only when Beth starts to misbehave, that Abi begins to wonder how much they really know about their guest. Because the Holland family have lots of secrets, and Corinne is quietly listening to them all. And once they come out, there's no going back...

Thriller TP \$32.99

The Heretic's Mark

Nicholas Shelby series

Perry, S W

The Elizabethan world is in flux. Radical new ideas are challenging the old. But the quest for knowledge can lead down dangerous paths... *London, 1594*. The Queen's physician has been executed for treason, and conspiracy theories flood the streets. When Nicholas Shelby, unorthodox physician and unwilling associate of spymaster Robert Cecil, is accused of being part of the plot, he and his new wife Bianca must flee for their lives. With agents of the Crown on their tail, they make for Padua, following the ancient pilgrimage route, the Via Francigena. But the pursuing English aren't the only threat Nicholas and Bianca face. Hella, a strange and fervently religious young woman, has joined them on their journey. When the trio finally reach relative safety, they become embroiled in a radical and dangerous scheme to shatter the old world's limits of knowledge. But Hella's dire predictions of an impending apocalypse, and the brutal murder of a friend of Bianca's forces them to wonder: who is this troublingly pious woman? And what does she want?

Historical mystery HC \$29.99

A Side of Murder

Cape Cod Foodie mysteries 01

Pershing, Amy

Samantha Barnes was always a foodie. And when the CIA (that's the Culinary Institute of America) came calling, she happily traded in Cape Cod for the Big Apple. But then the rising young chef's clash with another chef (her ex!) boils over and goes viral. So, when Sam inherits a house on the Cape and lands a job writing restaurant reviews, it seems like the perfect pairing. What could go wrong? Well, as it turns out, a lot. The dilapidated house comes with an enormous puppy. Her new boss is, well, bossy. And the town's harbor master is none other than her first love. Nonetheless, Sam's looking forward to reviewing the Bayview Grill – and indeed the seafood chowder is divine. But the body in the pond outside the eatery was not on the menu. Sam is certain this is murder. But as she begins to stir the pot, is she creating a recipe for her own untimely demise?

Mystery PBK \$18.99

Blowback

Task Force Epsilon series

Pessin, Al

The Defence Intelligence Agency's Bridget Davenport was in the strike zone when the terrorists attacked. Claiming responsibility is Al-Souri, a jihadist who has consolidated multiple extremist cells in Syria. He plans to establish his own rule and wage all-out war against the West. For Blowback to succeed, Bridget needs a covert operative to infiltrate Al-Souri's forces. US Army Lieutenant Faraz Abdallah is still recovering from his last mission. But both he and Bridget know he's the only man for the job. Faraz must re-enter the terrorists' deadly world – before America's enemies launch their next offensive.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

Jungle Up

Thomas Prescott series

Pirog, Nick

Two years ago, Dr Gina Brady broke Thomas Prescott's heart, but now her panic-stricken satellite phone call starts it beating again with a fury. Thugs kidnapped the good doctor from the remote jungle village where she was working, and now the retired homicide detective's expert skills are desperately needed to save her. Led by a colourful, but perhaps untrustworthy local guide, Prescott journeys deep into the Bolivian Amazon, plunging into a world where the only thing more dangerous than the gun-toting drug traffickers and the ruthless tribesmen, is the jungle itself. When Gina's trail leads to a chance encounter with an archaeological expedition, the search for the missing doctor takes on even deadlier consequences. But Prescott will not relent in this punishing quest until, once again, he holds Gina in his arms.

Thriller TP \$33.95

The Corpse in the Garden of Perfect Brightness

Case Files of Jack Wenlock,

Railway Detective

Pryce, Malcolm

It's the winter of 1948. The four great railway companies have just been nationalised and Jack Wenlock the last of a fabled cadre of railway detectives is thrown out onto the street. Penniless, with new bride Jenny to support, and hiding from a murderous organisation called Room 42, Jack's prospects look bleak. But then a letter arrives from a mysterious Cornish Countess revealing that Jack's mother long believed to be dead may have survived a shipwreck off the coast of Java. Seizing the opportunity to track down his only remaining family member, Jack and Jenny board a boat heading East. The trail takes them to a run-down Siamese hotel where a motley assortment of drifters was washed up. Here a spy, an assassin, a deserter, an old soldier and a fading Hollywood movie star all await the arrival of a missing part for a flying boat and a journey that will take them into the realm of myth. But if Jack is ever to see his mother again, he has to stop them...

The follow-up to *The Case of the 'Hail Mary'* Celeste (PBK, \$18.99).

Mystery PBK \$19.99

No Going Back

Sawyer Brooks series

Ragan, T R

Some call it murder. Others, karma. The female vigilantes dubbed The Black Wigs call it justice. The victims? Sexual predators who never paid for their sins. For three months, The Black Wigs by-line has belonged to Sawyer Brooks, a crime reporter still struggling with her own demons. But for Sawyer, there's suddenly more to the story than just catching the dark web avengers. Copycat vigilantes are cornering the unchecked abusers of Sacramento and uploading the men's abject fear to social media. The trending insanity isn't making Sawyer's job any easier. Neither is a new murder – another predator, but one who doesn't fit so neatly into The Black Wigs' agenda. Something even more sinister is at play. As she follows every lead, someone

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

with the answer is following *her*, determined to bring Sawyer to her knees. Because soon enough, for both Sawyer and a killer, the truth she's been looking for will be a punishing revelation.

Mystery/suspense TP \$35.95

How to Kidnap the Rich Raina, Rahul

Brilliant yet poor, Ramesh Kumar grew up working at his father's tea stall in the Old City of Delhi. Now, he makes a lucrative living taking tests for the sons of India's elite – a situation that becomes complicated when one of his clients, the sweet but hapless eighteen-year-old Rudi Saxena, places first in the All Indias, the national university entrance exams, thanks to him. Ramesh sees an opportunity – perhaps even an obligation – to cash in on Rudi's newfound celebrity, not knowing that Rudi's role on a game show will lead to unexpected love, followed by wild trouble when both young men are kidnapped. But Ramesh outwits the criminals who've abducted them, turning the tables and becoming a kidnapper, himself. As he leads Rudi through a maze of crimes both large and small, their dizzying journey reveals an India in all its complexity, beauty, and squalor, moving from the bottom rungs to the circles inhabited by the ultra-rich and everywhere, in between.

Capser TP \$32.99

An Unexpected Peril

Veronica Speedwell mysteries

Raybourn, Deanna

January 1889. As the newest member of the Curiosity Club – an elite society of brilliant, intrepid women – Veronica Speedwell is excited to put her many skills to good use. As she assembles a memorial exhibition for pioneering mountain climber Alice Baker-Greene, Veronica discovers evidence that the recent death was not a tragic climbing accident but murder.

Veronica and her natural historian beau, Stoker, tell the patron of the exhibit, Princess Gisela of Alpenwald, of their findings.

With Europe on the verge of war, Gisela's chancellor, Count von Rechstein, does not want to make waves – and before Veronica and Stoker can figure out their next move, the princess disappears. Having noted Veronica's resemblance to the princess, von Rechstein begs her to pose as Gisela, for the sake of the peace treaty that brought the princess to England. Veronica reluctantly agrees to the scheme. She and Stoker must work together to keep the treaty intact while navigating unwelcome advances, assassination attempts, and Veronica's own family – the royalty, who has never claimed her.

Historical mystery HC \$42.99

A Full Cold Moon

Cold Case Investigations

Redmond, Lissa Marie

Since her partner on the Cold Case team has been out of action after being shot in the line of duty, Lauren Riley has been working Homicide. Her latest case involves an Icelandic man murdered on the streets of Buffalo mere feet from his hotel. The brutality of the case hits Lauren hard. When she realises the murder was committed on the night of a Full Cold Moon, it triggers memories of the first cold case she

investigated that she's been unable to solve. Lauren is determined not to fail again but when she is involved in a shooting with a suspect, she finds the case may be taken out of her hands... especially when it gains attention from the Icelandic government.

Mystery TP \$39.95

The Wall

American Mystery Classics

Rinehart, Mary Roberts

Marcia Lloyd and her brother Arthur have spent every summer of their lives exploring the grand halls and seaside grounds of their family's idyllic vacation home, a gorgeous old mansion called Sunset House built by their grandfather. But when Arthur's ex-wife Juliette arrives at Sunset to demand alimony from him, things take a dark turn and Juliette disappears – her body found a week later. What sordid secrets lie within the creaky old manor? Marcia and the local sheriff Russell Shand must work against the clock to find the murderer in this seemingly utopian upper-class hamlet. From 'the American Agatha Christie' Mary Roberts Rinehart comes a Golden Age murder mystery, inspired by her own hauntingly beautiful coastal north-eastern home in Bar Harbor; *The Wall* is both a love letter to quiet waterfront towns, as well as a subtle indictment of a wealthy Old New York family attempting to preserve a bourgeois veneer in the shadow of the Great Depression. But beneath all that lies a timeless tale of a family whose conflicts and passions, long masked by efforts toward respectability, finally rise to the surface with violent results. Originally serialised in *The Saturday Evening Post* and published in 1938, this classic small-town cosy was among Rinehart's most popular titles in her day; reprinted for the first time in over twenty years, its atmospheric setting and memorable characters continue to distinguish it, to this day.

Classic mystery TP/HC \$26.95/\$49.95

Hideaway

Roberts, Nora

Caitlyn Sullivan had come from a long line of Hollywood royalty, stretching back to her Irish immigrant great-grandfather. At nine, she was already a star – yet, still an innocent child who loved to play hide and seek with her cousins at the family home in Big Sur. It was during one of those games that she disappeared. Some may have considered her a pampered princess, but Cate was in fact a smart, scrappy fighter, and she managed to escape her abductors. Dillon Cooper was shocked to find the bloodied, exhausted girl huddled in his house – but when the teenager and his family heard her story, they provided refuge, reuniting her with her loved ones. Cate's ordeal, though, was far from over. First came the discovery of a shocking betrayal that would send someone she'd trusted to prison. Then there were years spent away in western Ireland, peaceful and protected but with restlessness growing in her soul. Finally, she would return to Los Angeles, gathering the courage to act again and get past the trauma that had derailed her life. What she didn't yet know was that two seeds had been planted that long-ago night – one of a great love, and one of a terrible vengeance...

Thriller PBK \$19.99

The K Team

K Team mysteries 01

Rosenfelt, David

Corey Douglas and his K-9 partner, Simon Garfunkel, have recently retired from the police force. Not ready to give up the life yet, they come up with a proposal for fellow former cop, Laurie Carpenter, and her investigating partner, Marcus. Laurie and Marcus – who help out Laurie's lawyer husband Andy on cases – have been chafing to jump back into investigating on their own, so they are in. They call themselves the K Team, in honour of Simon. Their first job, as private investigators, comes to them from Judge Henry Henderson, who's known as a very tough but fair judge, and they've all come up against him in court at one time or another. Though it's hard to believe, Judge Henderson is being blackmailed and extorted, and he doesn't want to involve the police – he needs the K Team to figure out why.

Mystery TP \$29.99

Shucked Apart

Maine Clambake mysteries 09

Ross, Barbara

When oyster farmer Andie Greatorex is robbed of a bucket of oyster seed worth \$35,000, she comes to Julia Snowden for help. Who wants to sink Andie's successful business? Is it a rival oyster farmer, an ex-employee, a neighbour who objects to the oyster cages floating on the beautiful Damariscotta River, a lobsterman who feels pushed out by the farm leases, or someone from Andie's personal life? Then Andie turns up dead, floating by her dock in the SCUBA gear she wears when harvesting her oysters. Julia's head start puts her in a perfect position to help her friends in the Maine State police major crimes unit with the investigation. But can Julia make sure the right suspect gets sent up the river before she ends up in a watery grave?

Mystery PBK \$18.99

Hyde

Russell, Craig

Victorian Edinburgh. Captain Edward Henry Hyde is chief detective for the City of Edinburgh Police; as such, he is responsible for investigating all murders and serious crimes in the city. Hyde is a striking but severe-looking man who provokes unease, and often fear, in those who encounter him. Nevertheless, Edward Hyde is truly a good man... though he wrestles fiercely with his own unique demons. When Hyde finds himself at the scene of a heinous murder, with no idea of how he got there or the events leading up to the discovery, his alarm is triggered on two levels. First, the crime scene is brutal and involves the Threefold Death, an ancient Celtic rite of sacrifice entangled with dark Scottish spiritual mythology. Second, Hyde's inability to remember any detail of his arrival at the crime scene makes him immediately fret about the secret he keeps from all but his physician: He suffers from a rare form of epilepsy that causes him to lose time – amnesiac absences where he cannot account for his actions – and nocturnal seizures that manifest themselves as vivid and lucid dreams. As Hyde begins his investigation of the murder in a city on edge, he finds himself not only searching for real world clues, but trying to unravel the

significance of the imagery in the otherworld of his dreaming. His investigation leads to the very places he fears, but has never fully imagined. A stunning reimagining of the Jekyll and Hyde story.

Gothic mystery TP \$32.99

The Water Rituals

White City

Sáenz, Eva Garcia

A pregnant woman has been murdered in a brutal, ritualistic way: burned, hung, and then placed upside down in a Bronze Age cauldron. When Unai 'Kraken' Lopez de Ayala discovers the victim is his first love, Ana Belén Liaño, memories of their time together come flooding back, and with them reminders of a dark secret long buried. Then the killer strikes again, enacting the same ritual against a second expectant parent. Kraken knows he must confront his past, in order to unmask this fiend. And there's no time to waste, because Deputy Superintendent Díaz de Salviatierra has just found out she's carrying a child. And the father could very well be Kraken, himself... The sequel to *The Silence of the White City* (TP, \$37.99).

Mystery/suspense TP \$29.99

Ocean Prey

Lucas Davenport series

Sandford, John

An off-duty Coast Guardsman is fishing with his family when he calls in some suspicious behaviour from a nearby boat. It's a snazzy craft, slick and outfitted with extra horsepower, and is zipping along until it slows to pick up a surfaced diver... a diver who was apparently alone, without his own boat, in the middle of the ocean. None of it makes sense unless there's something hinky going on, and his hunch is proved right when all three Guardsmen who come out to investigate are shot and killed. They're federal officers killed on the job, which means the case is the FBI's turf. When the FBI's investigation stalls out, they call in Lucas Davenport.

And when his case turns lethal, Davenport will need to bring in every asset he can claim, including a detective with a fundamentally criminal mind: Virgil Flowers.

Thriller TP \$32.99

A Deadly Twist

Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis mysteries

Siger, Jeffrey

When Athens journalist Nikoletta Elia disappears while on assignment on the island of Naxos, her editor calls on Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis to investigate. Sent to report on the conflict between preservationists and advocates for expanded tourism, Nikoletta is approached by a fan who takes credit for several suspicious deaths she'd reported on in the past. The assassin claims to have abandoned that life, and convinces the reporter to write about him and his murderous exploits for hire. Kaldis sends his deputy, Yianni, to look into her disappearance when an unidentified body is found at the base of a cliff. Who is the mysterious corpse, and where is Nikoletta? Leads turn into more dead bodies in this twisting tale of greed, corruption, and murder that puts Kaldis, his family, and members of his team in the path of a ruthless killer who will stop at nothing to keep dark secrets buried – forever.

Mystery TP \$27.99

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

Take Me Apart **Sligar, Sara**

When the famed photographer Miranda Brand died mysteriously at the height of her career, it sent shock waves through Callinas, California. Decades later, old wounds are reopened when her son Theo hires the ex-journalist Kate Aitken to archive his mother's work and personal effects. As Kate sorts through the vast maze of material and contends with the vicious rumours and shocking details of Miranda's private life, she pieces together a portrait of a vibrant artist buckling under the pressures of ambition, motherhood, and marriage. But Kate has secrets of her own, including a growing attraction to the enigmatic Theo, and when she stumbles across Miranda's diary, her curiosity spirals into a dangerous obsession.

Thriller TP \$32.99

The Man with the Silver Saab

Detective Varg series

Smith, Alexander McCall

Perplexing, unfathomable, and perhaps unimportant – the cases that Malmo's Department of Sensitive Crimes take on, will test them to their limits. Life – and crime – is not always as it seems for Ulf Varg and the other fearless detectives in Malmo's Department of Sensitive Crimes. There are always surprising new cases to take on, and the latest batch is no exception. And that's not to mention Ulf's struggle to contain his feelings for his colleague Anna Bengsdotter. All in all, things are distinctly difficult in Malmo, and it seems up to Ulf and the Department to set them right. Alexander McCall Smith's Scandi *blanc* series begins with *The Department of Sensitive Crimes* (PBK, \$19.99).

Scandi blonde TP \$29.99

The Perfect Lie **Spain, Jo**

He jumped to his death in front of witnesses. Now, his wife is charged with murder. Five years ago, Erin Kennedy moved to New York following a family tragedy. She now lives happily with her detective husband in the scenic seaside town of Newport, Long Island. When Erin answers the door to Danny's police colleagues, one morning, it's the start of an ordinary day. But behind her, Danny walks to the window of their fourth-floor apartment and jumps to his death. Eighteen months later, Erin is in court, charged with her husband's murder. Over that year and a half, Erin has learned things about Danny she could never have imagined. She thought he was perfect. She thought their life was perfect. But it was all built on the perfect lie.

Thriller TP \$32.99

The Kidnap Years:

The Astonishing True History of the Forgotten Epidemic That Shook Depression-Era America

Stout, David

The Great Depression was a time of desperation in America – parents struggled to feed their children and unemployment was at a record high. Adding to the lawlessness of the decade, thugs with submachine guns and corrupt law-enforcement officers ran rampant. But amidst this panic, there was one sure-fire way to make money, one used by criminals

and resourceful civilians alike: kidnapping. Jump into this forgotten history with Edgar Award-winning author David Stout as he explores the reports of missing people that inundated newspapers at the time. Learn the horrifying details of these abduction cases, from the methods used and the investigative processes to the personal histories of the culprits and victims. All of this culminates with the most infamous kidnapping in American history, the one that targeted an international celebrity and changed legislation forever: the Lindbergh kidnapping.

True crime TP \$37.95

City on the Edge **Swinson, David**

In the wake of a baffling tragedy, 13-year-old Graham moves with his family to Beirut, Lebanon, a city on the edge of the sea and cataclysmic violence. Inquisitive and restless by nature, Graham suspects his State Department father is a CIA operative, and that their family's fragile domesticity is merely a front for American efforts along the nearby Israeli border. Over the course of one year, 1972, Graham's life will utterly change. Two men are murdered, his parent's marriage disintegrates, and Graham, along with his two ex-pat friends, run afoul of forces they cannot understand.

Noir HC \$57.95

The Last Protector

Ashes of London series

Taylor, Andrew

A dangerous secret lies beneath Whitehall Palace... Brother against brother. Father against son. Friends turned into enemies. No one, in England, wants a return to the bloody days of the Civil War. But Oliver Cromwell's son, Richard, has abandoned his exile and slipped back into England. The consequences could be catastrophic. James Marwood, a traitor's son turned government agent, is tasked with uncovering Cromwell's motives. But his assignment is complicated by his friend – the regicide's daughter, Cat Lovett – who knew the Cromwells, as a child, and who now seems to be hiding a secret of her own about the family. Both Marwood and Cat know they are putting themselves in great danger. And when they find themselves on a top-secret mission in the Palace of Whitehall, they realise they are risking their lives... and could even be sent to the block for treason. This Restoration mystery series begins with *The Ashes of London* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery PBK \$19.99

Her Last Holiday

Taylor, G L

Two years ago, Fran's sister Jenna disappeared on a wellness retreat in the Mediterranean that went terribly wrong. Tom Wade, the now infamous man behind Soul Shrink Retreats, has just been released from prison after serving his sentence for the deaths of two people. But he has never let on what happened to the third victim: Jenna. Determined to find out the truth, Fran books herself onto his upcoming retreat – the first since his release – and finds herself face to face with the man who might hold the key to her sister's disappearance. The only question is, will she escape the retreat alive? Or does someone, out there, want Jenna's secrets to stay hidden?

Mystery/suspense TP \$24.99

Nighthawking

DS Adam Tyler series

Thomas, Russ

You are a trespasser. You are a thief. You are a Nighthawker. Under the dark cover of night, a figure climbs over the wall of the Botanical Garden with a bag and a metal detector. It's a dicey location in the populous city centre, but they're on the hunt – and while most of what they find will be worthless, it takes only one big reward to justify the risk. Only this time, the nighthawker unearths a body... Detective Sergeant Adam Tyler and his newly promoted protégé, Detective Constable Amina Rabbani, are officially in charge of Cold Case Reviews. But with shrinking budgets and manpower in the department, both are shunted onto the murder investigation – and when the victim is identified as a Chinese national from a wealthy family, in the UK on a student visa, the case takes on new urgency to prevent an international incident. As Tyler and Rabbani dig further into the victim's life, it's becomes clear there's more to her studies and relationships than meets the eye, and that the original investigation into her disappearance was shoddy at best. Meanwhile, someone else is watching these events... someone who knew the victim, and might hold the key to what happened the night she vanished. The follow-up to *Firewatching* (PBK, \$19.99).

Thriller TP \$29.99

Oligarchy

Thomas, Scarlett

It's already the second week of term when Natasha, the daughter of a Russian oligarch, arrives at a vast English country house for her first day of boarding school. She soon discovers that the headmaster gives special treatment to the skinniest girls, and Tash finds herself thrown into the school's unfamiliar, moneyed world of fierce pecking orders, eating disorders, and Instagram angst. The halls echo with the story of Princess Augusta, the White Lady; whose portraits – featuring a hypnotising black diamond – hang everywhere and whose ghost is said to haunt the dorms. It's said that she fell in love with a commoner and drowned herself in the lake. But the girls don't really know anything about the woman she was, much less anything about one another. When Tash's friend Bianca mysteriously vanishes, the routines of the school seem darker and more alien than ever before. Tash must try to stay alive – and sane – while she uncovers what's really going on.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Praying for Time

Thompson, Carlene

Vanessa Everly is a successful actress in Los Angeles, but she's still traumatised by the night that ripped her world apart. Eight years ago, Vanessa and her younger sister Roxanne were attacked on the beach in their hometown in Oregon – and Roxanne was kidnapped. Devastated, Vanessa ended her relationship with handsome medical student Christian Montgomery, whose troubled brother Brody was the police's prime suspect. Now, Vanessa receives the news she never thought she'd hear: Roxanne is alive. Arriving back in Everly Cliffs, Vanessa is reunited with her sister – and with Christian. Roxanne can't remember what happened that night, but someone else can... Who's making threatening phone calls to Vanessa, and why

has Brody suddenly gone missing? Vanessa's torment should be over, but it's about to get much darker...

Thriller TP \$39.95

Murder on Pleasant Avenue

Gaslight mysteries 23

Thompson, Victoria

A young woman is missing in the upper Manhattan neighbourhood called Italian Harlem, and everyone knows who's responsible – the Black Hand, a notorious group known for terrorising their own community with violence and kidnappings. Gino and Frank set out to learn more about the disreputable gang and soon find a lead: a saloon-owning gangster named Nunzio Esposito. Gino hates that a fellow immigrant would stoop so low and decides to confront his wayward countryman. But he quickly discovers the man can't be reasoned with – because he's been murdered. The police have only one suspect: Gino Donatelli. Frank and Sarah know Gino is no killer, but someone has pulled out all the stops to make it look like he is guilty. They also must now face the Black Hand, who are honour bound to avenge the death of one of their own. With evidence mounting against their friend and a group of bad guys out for blood, Sarah and Frank race to unravel a treacherous plot before Gino's time runs out...

Historical mystery PBK \$18.99

Distant Dead

Detective's Daughter series

Thomson, Lesley

London, 1940. A woman lies dead in a bombed-out house. It looks like she's another tragic casualty of the Blitz, until police pathologist Aleck Northcote proves she was strangled and placed at the scene. But Northcote himself has something to hide. And when his past catches up with him, he too is murdered. *Tewkesbury, 2020.* Beneath the vast stone arches of Tewkesbury Abbey, a man has been fatally stabbed. He is Roddy March, an investigative journalist for a podcast series uncovering miscarriages of justice. He was looking into the murder of police pathologist Dr Aleck Northcote – and was certain he had uncovered Northcote's real killer. Stella Darnell used to run a detective agency, alongside her cleaning business. She's moved to Tewkesbury to escape from death, not to court it – but Roddy died in her arms, and Stella is someone impelled to root out evil when she finds it. Now, she is determined to hunt down Roddy's killer – but then she finds another body...

Mystery TP \$32.99

A Fatal Lie

Inspector Ian Rutledge mysteries

Todd, Charles

A peaceful Welsh village is thrown into turmoil when a terrified boy stumbles on a body in a nearby river. The man appears to have fallen from the canal aqueduct spanning the valley. But there is no identification on the body, he isn't a local, and no one will admit to having seen him before. With little to go on, the village police turn to Scotland Yard for help. When Inspector Ian Rutledge is sent from London to find answers, he is given few clues – a faded military tattoo on the victim's arm and an unusual label in the collar of his shirt. They eventually lead him to the victim's

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery May 2021 (continued)

identity: Sam Milford. By all accounts, he was a good man and well respected. Then, why is his death so mysterious? Looking for the truth, Rutledge uncovers a web of lies swirling around a suicidal woman, a child's tragic fate, another woman bent on protecting her past. But where among all the lies is the motive for murder? To track a killer, Rutledge must retrace Milford's last journey. Yet, death seems to stalk his every move, and the truth seems to shift at every turn. Man or woman, this murderer stays in the shadows, and it will take desperate measures to lure him – or her – into the light.

Historical mystery HC \$49.99

The Black Hills

Grand & Batchelor Victorian mysteries

Trow, M J

March, 1875. Although he has never had much time for George Custer, hero of the American Civil War and Commander of the 7th Cavalry, Matthew Grand feels duty bound to respond to a call for help from his West Point contemporary. Arriving at Fort Abraham Lincoln, deep in Dakota territory, private enquiry agents Grand and Batchelor discover the fort to be a powder keg of rumour and suspicion, petty rivalries, resentments – and closely-guarded secrets. When a body is discovered during a routine scouting patrol, some of those secrets rise uncomfortably close to the surface. Are the Lakota Sioux responsible? Or does the killer lie closer to home? Could it have been a case of mistaken identity – and was Custer himself the real target? The General has made many enemies – but does someone have a good enough reason to kill him?

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

Seven Demons

Truhen, Aidan

Meet Jack Price and the Seven Demons: Doc, the evil mad scientist presently using Jack for sex; Rex, an explosives expert who doesn't ask too many questions so long as something goes boom; Volodya, a Ukrainian assassin who may or may not be a cannibal; Charlie, a comic book artist with computer skills and an anarchist bent; Lucille, whose speciality is razor-edged hugs; and Jack's predecessor, Fred, who doesn't contribute a whole lot owing to being a severed head on a stick. Finally, there's Jack himself, former coffee magnate turned cocaine dealer turned First Demon, but basically just a guy trying to get along. Jack has a problem. The Seven Demons don't have a contract, and there's nothing more volatile than a gang of deadly killers with nothing to do. Luckily, a shadowy Eurotrash businessman wants them to pull off the heist of a lifetime, breaking into a bank that makes Fort Knox look like the corner candy store. Jack thinks this will be a nice little diversion for his crew... until a rosy-cheeked, lederhosen-wearing little psychopath named Evil Hansel stabs him with an oyster

knife, and the whole situation goes completely to hell. Someone isn't playing straight, and in a game of double crosses, Jack Price will do anything – literally, anything – to come out on top.

Noir TP \$37.95

The Nemesis Manifesto

Evan Ryder series

van Lustbader, Eric

Evan Ryder is a lone wolf, a field agent for a black-ops arm of the DOD, who has survived unspeakable tragedy and dedicated her life to protecting her country. When her fellow agents begin to be systematically eliminated, Evan must unravel the thread that ties them all together... and before her name comes up on the kill list. The list belongs to a mysterious cabal known only as Nemesis, a hostile entity hell-bent on tearing the United States apart. As Evan tracks them from Washington DC to the Caucasus Mountains, from Austria to a fortress in Germany where her own demons reside, she unearths a network of conspirators far more complex than anyone could have imagined. Can Evan uproot them before Nemesis forces bring democracy to its knees?

Thriller PBK \$19.99

A Peculiar Combination

Electra McDonnell mysteries

Weaver, Ashley

Electra McDonnell has always known that the way she and her family earn their living is slightly outside of the law. Breaking into the homes of the rich and picking the locks on their safes may not be condoned by British law enforcement, but World War II is in full swing, Ellie's cousins Colm and Toby are off fighting against Hitler, and Uncle Mick's more honourable business as a locksmith can't pay the bills, any more. So, when Uncle Mick receives a tip about a safe full of jewels in the empty house of a wealthy family, he and Ellie can't resist. All goes as planned – until the pair are caught, red handed. Ellie expects them to be taken straight to prison, but instead they are delivered to a large townhouse, where government official Major Ramsey is waiting with an offer: either Ellie agrees to help him break into a safe and retrieve blueprints that will be critical to the British war effort, before they can be delivered to a German spy, or he turns her over to the police. Ellie doesn't care for the Major's imperious manner, but she has no choice, and besides, she's eager to do her bit for king and country. She may be a thief, but she's no coward. When she and the Major break into the house in question, they find instead the purported German spy dead on the floor, the safe already open and empty. Soon, Ellie and Major Ramsey are forced to put aside their differences to unmask the double agent, as they try to stop allied plans falling into German hands. The first in a new series by the Edgar-nominated author of the Amory Ames books.

Historical mystery HC \$55.00

Gone Too Far

Devlin & Falco series

Webb, Debra

As veteran detectives of the Birmingham Police Department, Kerri Devlin and Luke Falco have seen it all. So, when the city's new hotshot deputy district attorney turns up dead as part of a double homicide, the partners immediately get to work. But this is no ordinary case. Devlin and Falco quickly link the murdered DDA to one of their own: former BPD detective Sadie Cross. But Sadie's fractured memory is yet another puzzle to decipher, as she only recalls bits and pieces of her violent past... a past that may hold clues to the motive behind the murders. As the group slowly begins to unearth the truth, they soon discover that the more secrets are revealed, the more fatal the consequences.

Mystery/suspense TP \$35.95

Sword of Shadows

Crispin Guest mysteries

Westerson, Jeri

London, 1396. A trip to the swordsmith shop for Crispin Guest, Tracker of London, and his apprentice Jack Tucker takes an unexpected turn when Crispin crosses paths with Carantok Teague, a Cornish treasure hunter. Carantok has a map he is convinced will lead him to the sword of Excalibur – a magnificent relic dating back to King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table – and he wants Crispin to help him find it. Travelling to Tintagel Castle in Cornwall with Carantok and Jack, Crispin is soon reunited with an old flame as he attempts to locate the legendary sword. But does Excalibur really exist, or is he on an impossible quest? When a body is discovered, Crispin's search for treasure suddenly turns into a hunt for a dangerous killer.

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

The Consequences of Fear

Maisie Dobbs mysteries

Winspear, Jacqueline

October 1941. While on a delivery, young Freddie Hackett, a message runner for a government office, witnesses an argument that ends in murder. Crouching in the doorway of a bombed-out house, Freddie waits until the coast is clear. But when he arrives at the delivery address, he's shocked to come face to face with the killer. Dismissed by the police when he attempts to report the crime, Freddie goes in search of a woman he once met when delivering a message: Maisie Dobbs. While Maisie believes the boy and wants to help, she must maintain extreme caution: she's working secretly for the Special Operations Executive, assessing candidates for crucial work with the French resistance. Her two worlds collide

when she spots the killer in a place she least expects. She soon realises she's been pulled into the orbit of a man who has his own reasons to kill – reasons that go back to the last war. As Maisie becomes entangled in a power struggle between Britain's intelligence efforts in France and the work of Free French agents operating across Europe, she must also contend with the lingering effect of Freddie Hackett's state of mind. What she uncovers could hold disastrous consequences for all involved. If you haven't tried this series before, it begins with *Maisie Dobbs* (PBK, \$23.99).

Historical mystery/suspense HC \$39.99

The Quiet Boy

Winters, Ben H

In 2008, a cheerful ambulance-chasing lawyer named Jay Shenk persuades the grieving Keener family to sue a private LA hospital. Their son Wesley has been transformed by a routine surgery into a kind of golem, absent all normal functioning or personality, walking in endless empty circles around his hospital room. In 2019, Shenk – still in practice but a shell of his former self – is hired to defend Wesley Keener's father when he is charged with murder... the murder, as it turns out, of the expert witness from the 2008 hospital case. Shenk's adopted son, a fragile teenager in 2008, is a wayward adult, though he may find his purpose when he investigates what really happened to the murdered witness. Two thrilling trials braid together, medical malpractice and murder, jostling us back and forth in time.

Mystery/suspense HC \$57.95

Swanson and the Identity

of Jack the Ripper

Wood, Adam

Donald Sutherland Swanson was born in the far north of Scotland, leaving for London in 1867. The following year he joined the Metropolitan Police and began patrolling the streets of the capital as a uniformed constable. When he retired 35 years later, in 1903, he had risen to the rank of Superintendent of the CID at Scotland Yard, the top detective in the country. On 15 September 1888, Swanson was hand picked, by Commissioner Sir Charles Warren, to lead the investigation into the Whitechapel murders by the so-called Jack the Ripper, as a result learning more about the case than any other officer as he read every report, statement, letter and telegram. Although the mystery was never officially solved, more than 50 years after Donald Swanson's death his grandson discovered private handwritten notes which seemed to finally explain what happened to the murderer – and to name him, at last.

True crime TP \$43.95