

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery Catalogue March 2022

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All the books in this catalogue are new books due for release in **March 2022**.

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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

Renegade

Anonymous Justice series

Allen, Nancy

Assistant DA Kate Stone has just suffered the biggest loss of her career. She'd worked so hard to prosecute a serial assaulter of women, and it was a case she should have won. But a corrupt judge allowed Max James to walk free. When he confronts her outside the courthouse, she punches James, and he goes down hard. After the footage is plastered across every TV screen, Kate's boss demands that she either attend anger management meetings or give up the job she lives for. Begrudgingly, Kate attends her first meeting. Inside is a group of people all failed by the justice system. Their mission: to do everything in their power to help right wrongs, even if outside the law. Unsure who to trust among this unlikely team of renegades, Kate begins to dig into Max James' secret life and her explosive discoveries will lead to a stunning new twist in the case. And turn her into the prime suspect.

Mystery/suspense TP \$39.95

Who is Maud Dixon?

Andrews, Alexandra

Florence Darrow has always felt she was destined for greatness, but after a disastrous affair with her married boss, she starts to doubt herself. All that changes when she sets off for Morocco with her new boss, the celebrated but reclusive author Maud Dixon. Amidst the colourful streets of Marrakesh and the windswept beaches of the coast, Florence begins to feel she's leading the sort of interesting, cosmopolitan life she deserves. But when she wakes up in the hospital after a terrible car accident, with no memory of the previous night – and no sign of Maud – a dangerous idea begins to take form...

Thriller PBK \$22.99

A Murder Yule Regret

Bread Shop mysteries

Archer, Winnie

A holiday costume party in the sleepy coastal town of Santa Sofia could be just the boost Ivy needs for her fledgling photography business. At the party, Ivy enters a Victorian fantasy come to life, all courtesy of the fabulous Ms Fox. Ivy gets to play shutterbug while hanging with Scrooge, Marley, the Cratchits, and more classic Dickens' characters. But what begins as the best of times turns out to be the very worst for one of the party guests – a tabloid journalist with more enemies than Ebenezer, himself. When the man's body is found sprawled across the jagged rocks below the house, the fingers begin pointing at Eliza. Meanwhile, Ivy gets roped into helping prove the starlet's innocence. Her festive photos are now official evidence – and the Ghosts of Christmas Present could mean the party for Eliza is over, once and for all.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

The Sculptor

Aronovitz, Michael

At age seven, Michael Leonard Robinson commits his first murder, turning tragedy into an aesthetic. By the time he turns 18, he has become an expert with computers, gaming systems, and the art of video imaging. And, now, in his 40s – fully realised – he has long erased his digital footprint. He is 30 years ahead of our most advanced scientists, military ops tacticians, and elite information tech specialists. He is a master of disguise. He can invent projected realities. Of course, Michael Leonard Robinson could work his dark vision on a global scale, yet he doesn't need 'the world' for a fetishistic thrill, just a police captain, his receptionist, a detective, a rookie junior officer, his sister and mother, and a lot of dark theatre. Robinson appears to these characters in disguise, film clips, and flashes as he torments them. Their multiple viewpoints are puzzle pieces. When they fuse to finish the puzzle, the final sculpture becomes clear.

Thriller TP \$27.99

Follow Me to the Edge

Ashkanani, Tariq

Even for the sleazy backwater of Cooper, Nebraska, the multiple murder of an entire family, brutally bludgeoned to death in their beds, is big news. Detective Joe Finch, raw with guilt over his partner's traumatic shooting during a routine traffic stop, hopes the case will at least focus his mind. But then he discovers that the crime scene is the house he grew up in, and the ghosts of his own tragic childhood come rushing back to confront him. As Finch dredges the corrupt and criminal mires of Cooper in a desperate search for the truth, the only certainty is that everyone there is lying. Caught between greedy politicians, a violent cartel boss, an ambitious reporter and a sinister cult lurking in the cornfields on the outskirts of town, Finch is soon out of his depth. In a town where the law exists only to be bent or broken, can Finch steel himself against entrenched evil and the haunting spectre of his past – and live to serve justice in Cooper?

Thriller TP \$35.95

Pleading the Fish

Seaside Café mysteries

Baker, Bree

Café owner and amateur sleuth Everly Swan, like every Swan woman before her, is cursed in love. The only problem? Her fiancé Detective Grady Hayes has something to say about it – he doesn't believe in magic and is determined to prove the curse wrong so they can spend their lives together. Everly wishes it could be so simple! It feels like a sign when a historian looking into Swan history is found dead in an antique wishing well, and Everly fears the curse is spreading. Grady takes the case, looking to find justice and prove the curse wrong, while Everly does

a bit of investigating on her own. Big change is coming for Everly and her friends, but with mysterious strangers lurking about and someone leaving increasingly threatening messages for the happy couple, Everly's not sure she'll get her Happily Ever After!

Mystery PBK \$19.99

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? 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 TP \$39.95

Woman on Fire

Barr, Lisa

After talking her way into a job with Dan Mansfield, the leading investigative reporter in Chicago, rising young journalist Jules Roth is given an unusual – and very secret – assignment. Dan needs her to locate a painting stolen by the Nazis more than 75 years earlier: legendary Expressionist artist Ernst Engel's most famous work, *Woman on Fire*. World-renowned shoe designer Ellis Baum wants this portrait of a beautiful, mysterious woman for deeply personal reasons, and has enlisted Dan's help to find it. But Jules doesn't have much time; the famous designer is dying. Meanwhile, in Europe, provocative and powerful Margaux de Laurent also searches for the painting. Heir to her art collector family's millions, Margaux is a cunning gallerist who gets everything she wants. The only thing standing in her way is Jules. Yet, the passionate and determined Jules has unexpected resources of her own, including Adam Baum, Ellis' grandson. A recovering addict and brilliant artist in his own right, Adam was once in Margaux's clutches. He knows how ruthless she is, and he'll do anything to help Jules locate the painting before Margaux gets to it first.

Suspense TP \$37.95

Jane and the Year Without a Summer

Jane Austen mysteries

Barron, Stephanie

May 1816: Jane Austen is feeling unwell, with an uneasy stomach, constant fatigue,

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rashes, fevers, and aches. She attributes her poor condition to the stress of family burdens, which even the drafting of her latest manuscript – about a baronet's daughter nursing a broken heart for a daring naval captain – cannot alleviate. Her apothecary recommends a trial of the curative waters at Cheltenham Spa, in Gloucestershire. Jane decides to use some of the profits earned from her last novel, *Emma*, and treat herself to a period of rest and reflection at the spa, in the company of her sister, Cassandra. Cheltenham Spa hardly turns out to be the relaxing sojourn Jane and Cassandra envisaged, however. It is immediately obvious that other boarders at the guest house where the Misses Austen are staying have come to Cheltenham with stresses of their own – some of them deadly. But, perhaps, with Jane's interference a terrible crime might be prevented. Set during the Year without a Summer, when the eruption of Mount Tambora in the South Pacific caused a volcanic winter that shrouded the entire planet for sixteen months.

Historical mystery HC \$49.99

Dismal Harvest

Marketplace mysteries

Bateman, Daisy

Witty and down-to-earth Claudia Simcoe is sure that the gourmet harvest dinner being held at her artisan marketplace will wipe away any memories of the unpleasantness last summer. Not to mention give her a chance to figure out the bewildering relationship budding with her craft-beer-brewing neighbour, Nathan. But rather than dealing with carefully-curated food and cautious flirting, Claudia finds herself thrown into the centre of a murder investigation when a secret compartment in her market is tied to the death of a local lawyer. At least, this time, she isn't the prime suspect. Instead, it's one of Claudia's marketplace tenants who is wanted by the police: the locally-famed cheesemaker, Julie Muller. Determined to help clear her friend's name – and to discover the history connecting her market to the murder victim – Claudia is forced to test her mettle as a detective once more. As she starts digging into San Elmo's long-buried past, she is confronted with Prohibition-era mysteries, shady land deals, and a small town bursting with motives to kill the crooked lawyer. But just as she thinks she's getting a handle on this investigating thing, another gruesome death brings Claudia dangerously close to the killer.

Mystery TP \$39.95

A Highland Christmas

Hamish Macbeth mysteries

Beaton, M C

In dark, wintry Lochdubh, Christmas Cheer is about as welcome as a flat tyre on a deserted road. The Calvinist element in town has always resisted what they view as secular frivolity, so for most of the townsfolk there'll be no carols, feasting, gifts – or even whisky on Christmas Day! And for PC Hamish Macbeth there's no holiday from crime – he finds himself hunting for a missing cat belonging to a lonely spinster. Curt and unfriendly, the woman is convinced her pet has been stolen but once behind her heavily-bolted door, Hamish can spot her true problem – she lives in fear, though of

who or what he cannot guess. Then someone steals a Christmas tree and lights from the nearby village of Cnothan. So, it is up to Hamish to sort all these problems out – and he had better do it quickly, for the church bells will soon peal on the eve of Christmas. This reissue of a one-off standalone story is a special Christmas treat for all fans of Hamish Macbeth and can be read at any point in the series.

Mystery (reissue) HC \$45.00

All I Want Bell, Darcey

When Emma's husband, Ben, falls in love with a large Victorian mansion for sale in upstate New York, he swears to her the fixer upper will be worth the risk. With a baby on the way, Emma would like to live in a charming, safe community, after all – and in a space larger than a one-bedroom New York City apartment. On impulse, she agrees to Ben's plan, and they put in an offer on the house. Sure, the mansion has a somewhat creepy back story and is a bit dilapidated, but Emma and Ben are in this together, aren't they? When strange things start happening, Emma begins to experience a little buyer's remorse. What's the real history of this house? Is its dark history repeating itself? Why does her husband suddenly seem so distant? Is she in danger? Is her baby?

Thriller TP \$27.99

The Kaiser's Web

Cotton Malone series

Berry, Steve

Two candidates are vying to become Chancellor of Germany. One is a patriot having served for the past sixteen years, the other a usurper, stoking the flames of nationalistic hate. Both harbour secrets, but only one knows the truth about the other. They are on a collision course, all turning on the events of one fateful day – April 30, 1945 – and what happened deep beneath Berlin in the *Fürherbunker*. Did Adolph Hitler and Eva Braun die there? Did Martin Bormann, Hitler's close confidant, manage to escape? And, even more important, where did billions in Nazi wealth disappear to in the waning days of World War II? The answers to these questions will determine who becomes the next Chancellor of Germany. From the mysterious Chilean lake district, to the dangerous mesas of South Africa, and finally into the secret vaults of Switzerland, former Justice Department agent Cotton Malone discovers the truth about the fates of Hitler, Braun, and Bormann. Revelations that could not only transform Europe, but finally expose a mystery known as the Kaiser's web.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Darkest Sin

Cesare Aldo mysteries

Bishop, D V

Florence, Spring, 1537. When Cesare Aldo investigates a report of intruders at a convent in the Renaissance city's northern quarter, he enters a community divided by bitter rivalries and harbouring dark secrets. His case becomes far more complicated when a naked man's body is found deep inside the convent, stabbed more than two dozen times. Unthinkable as it seems, all the evidence suggests one of the nuns must be the killer. Meanwhile, Constable Carlo

Strocchi finds human remains pulled from the Arno that belong to an officer of the law missing since winter. The dead man had many enemies, but who would dare kill an official of the city's most feared criminal court? As Aldo and Strocchi close in on the truth, identifying the killers will prove more treacherous than either of them could ever have imagined... The sequel to *City of Vengeance* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Murder at the Porte de Versailles

Aimée Leduc Investigations

Black, Cara

November 2001: in the wake of 9/11, Paris is living in a state of fear. For Aimée Leduc, November is bittersweet: the anniversary of her father's death and her daughter's third birthday fall on the same day. A gathering for family and friends is disrupted, when a bomb goes off at the police laboratory – and Boris Viard, the partner of Aimée's friend Michou, is found unconscious at the scene of the crime with traces of explosives under his fingernails. Aimée doesn't believe Boris set the bomb. In an effort to prove this, she battles the police and his own lab colleagues, collecting conflicting eyewitness reports. When a member of the French secret service drafts Aimée to help investigate possible links to an Iranian Revolutionary guard and fugitive radicals who bombed Interpol in the 1980s, Aimée uncovers ties to a cold case of her father's. As Aimée scours the streets of the 15th *arrondissement* trying to learn the truth, she has to ask herself if she should succumb to pressure from Chloe's biological father and move them out to his farm in Brittany. But could Aimée Leduc ever leave Paris?

Mystery HC \$49.99

A Harmless Lie Blaedel, Sara

Detective Louise Rick is on a beach in Thailand when the panicked call from her father comes through. Louise's beloved brother, Mikkel, has attempted suicide. His wife, Trine, left him days earlier, walking out the door one day with no warning and leaving Mikkel devastated. Louise rushes home to Osted, the small, insular Danish town where she grew up and where Mikkel still lives. But the more Louise learns about Trine – a devoted wife and the mother of two young children – and her state of mind in the days before she left Mikkel, the more Louise begins to wonder whether Trine really meant to leave him. Or whether something much darker may have taken place. As the local police begin to suspect that Mikkel may have had a hand in Trine's disappearance, Louise struggles to clear his name but is forced to confront some hard truths: Small towns always hide secrets. The past always comes back to haunt you. And lies are never harmless.

Mystery/suspense TP \$27.99

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 TP \$39.95

Brunswick Street Blues Bothroyd, Sally

Brick Brown has problems: she hates her day job, and her beloved Uncle Baz has gone missing. Although a bartender by trade, Brick Brown has finagled herself a job on the city council to investigate a complaint that threatens to close her uncle's well-loved blues club in the heart of Melbourne. Brick suspects something strange is going on, but when her amateur sleuthing uncovers the mayor's dead body in a locked room, she's dragged into the dangerous world of dodgy developers with the reluctant help of Mitch Mitchell, a prickly war correspondent turned investigative journalist. Relying on her street smarts and an unlikely band of allies, Brick and Mitchell unearth corruption that runs deeper than just local government, and the stakes are higher than they banked on. And when Brick also discovers some terrifying information about her past, the stakes turn deadly... A fun and distinctively Australian debut mystery, perfect for readers of *The Thursday Murder Club* and Janet Evanovich.

Mystery TP \$29.99

48 Hours to Kill Bourelle, Andrew

Serving a 10-year sentence in a Nevada prison for armed robbery, Ethan Lockhart hopes that he can one day become a productive, law-abiding member of society. But society has other plans for Ethan. When he's given a 48-hour furlough to attend his sister Abby's funeral, he learns that her body was never found – just enough blood to declare her dead instead of missing – and he begins to suspect that there's more to her death than was reported. Ethan decides to use his 48-hour window to find out what happened. But to get to the bottom of the mystery, he'll have to return to his unsavoury past. Ethan teams up with his sister's best friend Whitney in a search for the truth. United in their shared grief, their chemistry – both emotional and physical – also begins to heat up. But romance goes on hold, as the suspects mount. Ethan's old boss, Shark, a mid-level loan shark now heads a criminal empire. As Ethan and Whitney uncover more clues, they become convinced that Shark is responsible for the murder, but they have no proof. If Ethan is going to solve his sister's murder in 48 hours, he will have to become the criminal he swore he'd never be again.

Thriller HC \$47.99

Wild Irish Rose

Molly Murphy mysteries

Bowen, Rhys & Broyles, Clare

New York, 1907: Now that she's no longer a private detective – at least, not officially – Molly Murphy Sullivan is looking forward to

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a time of settled tranquillity with friends and family. Back in New York, where her own story began, Molly decides to accompany some friends to Ellis Island to help distribute clothing to those in need. This journey quickly stirs up memories for Molly. When you're far from home and see people from your country, every face looks like a family member. That evening, Molly's policeman husband, Daniel, is late returning home. He comes with a tale to tell: there was a murder on Ellis Island that day, and the main suspect is the spitting image of Molly. The circumstances are eerily similar to when Molly herself arrived on Ellis Island, and she can't help but feel a sense of fate. Molly was meant to be there that day so that she can clear this woman's name. *We expect to be able to offer you this same edition (\$44.99) from the publisher's Australian supplier in June.*

Historical mystery HC \$55.00

A Plus One for Murder

Friend for Hire mysteries

Bradford, Laura

Emma Westlake has always wanted to be her own boss. But after sinking all her cash into a business that went belly up, Emma finds herself in a penniless pickle. Dottie Adler, Emma's elderly teatime companion, suggests she try to get paid for doing something she's really good at – being a friend. Emma thinks it's a crazy idea until requests start pouring in. Big Max, an eccentric local, wants her to act as his wing-woman at the local senior centre's upcoming dance, nurse practitioner Stephanie needs a workout partner, and writer Brian Hill asks Emma to be his cheering section at an open-mic night. Brian will be reading from his latest work and wants to know someone will clap for him when he's done. He tells Emma that the room will be filled with people he's invited – four of whom would like to kill him. Emma is confident he's joking, but when Brian steps up to the mic and promptly drops dead, she's not so sure anymore. As one of the last people to see him alive, Emma finds herself on a handsome cop's radar. Now she'll have to cosy up to a killer to save her skin and her brand-new career. The first in a series.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Tell No Lies

Quinn & Costa series

Brennan, Allison

Something mysterious is killing the wildlife in the mountains just south of Tucson. When a college intern turned activist sets out to collect her own evidence, she, too, ends up dead. Local law enforcement is slow to get involved. That's when the mobile FBI unit goes undercover to infiltrate the town and its copper refinery in search of possible leads. Quinn and Costa find themselves scouring the desolate landscape, which keeps revealing clues to something much darker – greed, child trafficking and more death. As the body count adds up, it's clear they have stumbled onto much more than they bargained for. Now, they must figure out who is at the heart of this mayhem and stop them before more innocent lives are lost.

Mystery/suspense PBK \$24.95

Death in the Sunshine

Retired Detectives Club series

Broadribb, Steph

After a long career as a police officer, Moira hopes a move to a luxury retirement community will mean she can finally leave the detective work to the youngsters and focus on a quieter life. But it turns out the Homestead is far from paradise. When she discovers the body of a young woman floating in one of the pools, surrounded by thousands of dollar bills, her crime-fighting instinct kicks back in and she joins up with fellow ex-cops – and new neighbours – Philip, Lizzie, and Rick to investigate the murder. With the case officers dropping ball after ball, Moira and the gang take matters into their own hands, turning into undercover homicide investigators. But the killer is desperate to destroy all the evidence and Moira, Philip, Lizzie, and Rick soon find themselves getting in the way – of the murderer and the police. Just when they think they can finally relax, they discover that someone has infiltrated their 'safe' community. Can they hunt down the murderer and get back to retiring in peace? And after all the excitement, will they want to?

Mystery/suspense TP \$35.95

A Galway Epiphany

Jack Taylor mysteries

Bruen, Ken

Jack Taylor has finally traded in his violent life in Galway for a quiet retirement in the country. But on a day trip back into the city, Jack is hit by a truck and left in a coma, mysteriously without a scratch on him. When he awakens weeks later, he finds Ireland in a frenzy over the so-called 'Miracle of Galway'. People have become convinced that the two children who tended to him are saintly, and the site of the accident sacred. The Catholic Church isn't so sure, and Jack is commissioned to help find the children to verify the miracle or expose the stunt. But Jack isn't the only one looking for these children, and he'll need all the help he can get – and a stiff drink of Jameson – once he finds them.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Forest of Secrets

Ursula Blanchard mysteries

Buckley, Fiona

May, 1586. Ursula and her retinue return home from a lengthy trip to discover she has an unexpected visitor. Etheldreda Hope is a simple countrywoman who has come to Ursula with disturbing tales of strange goings on, in her rural village. Fearing that Etheldreda's reports of mysterious forest rites indicate a possible conspiracy to overthrow Queen Elizabeth in favour of her cousin, Mary Stuart, the queen's spymaster, Sir Francis Walsingham, orders Ursula to travel to Etheldreda's home to find out what's really going on. On reaching Chenston village, deep in the New Forest, Ursula discovers an isolated, suspicious community; the locals deeply in thrall to the old pagan traditions and beliefs. But are these ancient customs harmless – or are they part of a genuine conspiracy against the queen? And, if so, who is behind it? It's not until the night of Halloween that Ursula will discover the shocking truth.

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

Killer Words

Mystery Bookshop mysteries

Burns, V M

Sam and Nana Jo are back in sleepy North Harbour, Michigan, where Sam is eagerly awaiting the publication of her first book. In search of more immediate excitement, Nana Jo hits the casino with her fellow Shady Acres Retirement Village gal pals – but they get more than they bargained for when they witness Detective Bradley Pitt decking mayoral candidate John Cloverton. As Sam well knows, mystery novels are full of brilliant detectives, genius sleuths, and hero cops. Detective Bradley Pitt – aka 'Stinky Pitt' – is another story. In the past, the dull-witted detective has mistakenly accused members of Sam's family for crimes they didn't commit. Now, it's his turn: when Cloverton turns up dead, he's arrested. With his predilection for polyester, Pitt has been wanted by the fashion police for years, but Nana Jo knows her former elementary school math student would never commit murder – it doesn't add up. Somebody's framed the flatfoot to take a fall, and Sam and Nana Jo must step in to restore the reputation and good name of Detective Pitt.

Mystery TP \$26.99

Isabel Puddles Investigates

Mitten State mysteries

Byrne, M V

Isabel is living life on her terms as summer stirs the peaceful shores of Lake Michigan. Only slowing down to meet her oldest friend for daily coffee, the newly-licensed PI has found herself chipping away at the college degree she never completed – and, to her surprise, eagerly awaiting letters from her pen pal, an admired British mystery writer. But when her latest client turns out to be an extravagant recluse who's rich both in secrets and money, Isabel becomes embroiled in the strange world of Rust Belt royalty and the Memorial Day Weekend disappearance of a handsome young heir. Beyond the famous family name and ugly rumours surrounding her, Abigail Bachmeier is an enigma. With one great nephew presumed dead after vanishing off the side of a ferry, Abigail makes the strange request to locate another missing relative. As Isabel investigates and gets closer to revealing at least one more possible murder, she begins to suspect yet another life could soon be in terrible danger – her own.

Mystery TP \$26.99

Wedding Bell Blues

Tourist Trap mysteries

Cahoon, Lynn

In the California coastal town of South Cove, Jill Gardner, owner of Coffee, Books, and More, becomes more engaged in sleuthing than wedding preparations, when there's a murder in a dress shop... Jill couldn't love police chief Greg King more – so, why does that engagement ring still feel funny on her finger? At least she'll have a chance to show it off this Saturday at their engagement party. Just in time for the event, a new dress shop has opened in town, Exquisite Gowns for You, specialising in designer wedding gowns and other custom-fit dresses. But Jill's excitement turns to shock when she comes by to pick up her dress for the party and discovers a dead body in the shop. New owner Harper Sanchez

is behaving strangely and becoming more mysterious than anyone expected. Despite Greg's warnings to leave the case to him, Jill can't help looking into the murder. Somebody in South Cove is dressed to kill – and if Jill's not careful, she may not live to wear her wedding gown...

Mystery TP \$37.95

Absence of Mallets

Fixer-Upper mysteries

Carlisle, Kate

Shannon could not be happier that her hunky thriller-writing boyfriend, Mac, has moved in, and it is a good thing they are living together because they are both busier than ever. Mac is hosting writing retreats at his now-vacant lighthouse mansion, while Shannon and her crew build Homefront, a quaint Victorian village of tiny homes for veterans in need. Mac's latest guests are proving to be a handful though, and Shannon has heard some grumbling from the luminaries of Lighthouse Cove about her latest passion project. But nothing can throw a wrench in their plans except a malicious murder. When one of Shannon's new friends is found brutally bludgeoned with a mallet near the lighthouse on Mac's property, the couple hammers out a suspect list and searches for a motive. As they drill deeper for clues, more violence strikes and a new victim winds up in a coma. The pressure is on, and Shannon and Mac will have to move fast to find an unhinged killer dead set on demolishing anyone who gets in their way...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

The Mother

Caro, Jane

Just like the garden, the fuse box, the bills, bin night and blown light bulbs, this was just something else she'd now have to take care of herself. Recently widowed, Miriam Duffy is a respectable North Shore real estate agent and devoted mother and grandmother. She was thrilled when her younger daughter Ally married her true love, but as time goes by Miriam wonders whether all is well with Ally, as she moves to the country and gradually withdraws, finding excuses every time Miriam offers to visit. Their relationship has always had its ups and downs, and Miriam tries to give her daughter the distance she so clearly wants. But is all as it seems? When the truth of her daughter's situation is revealed, Miriam watches in disbelief as Ally and her children find themselves increasingly vulnerable and cut off from the world. As the situation escalates and the law proves incapable of protecting them, Miriam is faced with an unthinkable decision. But she will do anything for the people she loves most in the world. Wouldn't you? From the Walkley Award-winning journalist, social commentator, and author comes a gripping domestic thriller with a moral dilemma at its core.

Thriller TP \$32.99

The Devil's Hand

Terminal List series

Garr, Jack

It's been twenty years since 9/11. Two decades since the United States was attacked on home soil and embarked on twenty years of war. The enemy has been patient, learning, and adapting. And the enemy is ready to

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strike again. A new president offers hope to a country weary of conflict. He's a young, popular, self-made visionary... but he's also a man with a secret. Halfway across the globe a regional superpower struggles with sanctions imposed by the Great Satan and her European allies, a country whose ancient religion spawned a group of ruthless assassins.

Faced with internal dissent and extrajudicial targeted killings by the United States and Israel, the Supreme Leader puts a plan in motion to defeat the most powerful nation on earth. Meanwhile, a young PhD student has gained access to a bioweapon thought to be confined to a classified military laboratory known only to a select number of officials. A second-generation agent, he has been assigned a mission that will bring his adopted homeland to its knees.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

Even the Darkest Night

Terra Alta Investigations

Gercas, Javier

When Melchor goes to investigate the horrific double murder of a rich printer and his wife, in rural Catalunya, nothing quite adds up. The young cop from the big city, hero of a foiled terrorist attack, has been sent to Terra Alta 'til things quieten down. Observant, streetwise and circumspect, Melchor is an also an outsider. The son of a Barcelona prostitute who never knew his father, Melchor rapidly fell into trouble and was jailed at 19, convicted of driving for a Colombian drug cartel. While he was behind bars, he read Hugo's *Les Misérables*, and then his mother was murdered. Admiring of both Jean Valjean and Javert – but mostly the relentless Javert – he decided to become a policeman. Now, he is out for revenge, but he can wait, and meanwhile he has discovered happiness with his wife, the local librarian, and their daughter – who is, of course, called Cosette. Slowly at first, and then more rapidly once ordered to abandon the case, he tracks the clues that will reveal the larger truth behind what appears at first to be a cold-blooded, professional killing. Winner of Spain's biggest literary prize – the *Premio Planeta*.

Mystery TP \$32.99

The Rebel Nun

Charlier, Marj

Based on the true story of Clotild, the daughter of a sixth-century king and his concubine, who leads a rebellion of nuns against the rising misogyny and patriarchy of the medieval church. At that time, women are afforded few choices in life: prostitution, motherhood, or the cloister. Only the latter offers them any kind of independence. By the end of the sixth century, even this is eroding as the church begins to eject women from the clergy and declares them too unclean to touch sacramental objects, or even their priest-husbands. Craving the legitimacy thwarted by her bastard status, Clotild seeks to become the next abbess of the female Monastery of the Holy Cross, the most famous of the women's cloisters of the early Middle Ages. When the bishop of Poitiers blocks her appointment and seeks to control the nunnery himself, Clotild masterminds an escape, leading a group of nuns on a dangerous pilgrimage to beg her royal relatives to intercede on their behalf.

But the bishop refuses to back down, and a bloody battle ensues. Will Clotild and her sisters succeed with their quest, or will they face excommunication, possibly even death?

Historical mystery TP \$43.95

Haunted Hibiscus

Tea Shop mysteries

Childs, 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 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 PBK \$19.99

Mimi Lee Cracks the Code

Sassy Cat mysteries

Chow, Jennifer J

Mimi Lee just found an extra perk to being a pet groomer at Hollywoof (other than cuddling animals all day long, that is). Pixie St James, one of Mimi's clients and the investor behind Hollywoof, has offered her and her boyfriend, Josh, a getaway at her vacation home, nestled on beautiful Catalina Island. With the island just outside of Los Angeles but still far enough from the hustle and bustle, Mimi, Josh, and their cat Marshmallow (who, of course, wouldn't be caught dead in a dingy pet hotel) are excited for their relaxing stay. That is, until Pixie's last renter, Davis D Argo, turns up dead. Mimi and Josh's romantic getaway immediately turns into an enormous buzzkill, especially when Pixie asks Mimi for help. The police suspect Pixie, and Mimi knows a thing or two about wrongful allegations. Mimi figures it couldn't hurt to snoop a little, since she's already there; and soon discovers that a valuable item is missing. Except Pixie isn't the only one in the neighbourhood who has been robbed. There is something strange happening on the island, and Mimi won't stop until she finds out what it is.

Mystery TP \$27.99

Burial of Ghosts

Cleeves, Ann

For Lizzie Bartholomew, a holiday in Morocco will change her life forever. But not in the way that she had hoped... Twenty-five-year-old Lizzie Bartholomew has had more than her fair share of troubles. Abandoned as a baby, she spent her childhood moving between foster homes. Now, she is running away from her past... For Lizzie, a holiday in Morocco seems to be the perfect escape. Especially when she meets Philip, a fellow tourist who is also travelling to fulfil his dreams. After a brief affair, Lizzie returns to England, distracted by thoughts of her mysterious lover. Then, suddenly, she receives a letter from a firm of solicitors. Philip Samson has died. In his will, he has left Lizzie a gift of £15,000. But there are conditions attached to this unexpected legacy that will soon force Lizzie to confront terrifying ghosts from her own past...

Mystery (reissue) TP \$29.99

The Sleeping and the Dead

Cleeves, Ann

A diving instructor makes a gruesome discovery in Cranwell Lake – the body of a teenager who has clearly been in the water for many years. Detective Peter Porteous is called to the scene, and deduces from missing persons files that the corpse is Michael Grey, an enigmatic and secretive young man who was reported missing by his foster parents in 1972. As the police investigation gets under way in Cranwell, on the other side of the country prison officer Hannah Morton is about to get the shock of her life. For Michael was her boyfriend, and she was with him the night he disappeared. The news report that a body has been found brings back dreaded and long buried memories from her past...

A reissue. Mystery (reissue) TP \$29.99

The Man in the Bunker

Tom Wilde series

Clements, Rory

Germany, late summer 1945. The war is over, but the country is in ruins. Millions of refugees and holocaust survivors strive to rebuild their lives in displaced persons camps. Millions of German soldiers and SS men are held captive in primitive conditions in open-air detention centres. Everywhere, civilians are desperate for food and shelter. No one admits to having voted Nazi, yet many are unrepentant. Adolf Hitler is said to have killed himself in his Berlin bunker. But no body was found – and many people believe he is alive. Newspapers are full of stories reporting sightings and theories. Even Stalin, whose own troops captured the bunker, has told President Truman he believes the former Fuhrer is not dead. Day by day, American and British intelligence officers subject senior members of the Nazi regime to gruelling interrogation in their quest for their truth. Enter Tom Wilde – the Cambridge professor and spy sent in to find out the truth... Dramatic, intelligent, and brilliantly compelling, this fantastic WWII-set series begins with *Corpus* (PBK, \$19.99). Recommended.

Suspense TP \$29.99

Stay Close

film tie-in edition

Goben, Harlan

A suburban wife and mother of two – with a dark and dangerous past. A promising photographer who now panders to celebrity-obsessed rich kids. A detective who can't let go of a cold case... Three ordinary people, who discover that when the past refuses to stay buried, the American dream can be a nightmare... Now a major Netflix show.

Mystery/suspense PBK \$22.99

Matter of Hive and Death

Oregon Honeycomb mysteries

Coco, Nancy

For the picturesque town of Oceanview on the Oregon Coast, May brings blossoming fruit trees and the annual UFO festival. As Aunt Eloise tries out alien costumes on their Havana brown cat Everett, Wren is off to meet with a bee wrangler, her go-to guy for local fruit tree honey. But when she arrives, Elias Brentwood is lying on the ground amidst destroyed hives and a swarm of angry bees. The bees didn't kill him, a blow to the head did. As blue-eyed Officer Jim Hampton investigates and the town is invaded by its own swarm of conspiracy theorists and crackpots, Wren and Aunt Eloise decide the only way to catch the bee wrangler's killer is to set up a sting...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

When No One is Watching

Gole, Alyssa

Sydney Green is Brooklyn born and raised, but her beloved neighbourhood seems to change every time she blinks. Condos are sprouting like weeds, *For Sale* signs are popping up overnight, and the neighbours she's known all her life are disappearing. To hold onto her community's past and present, Sydney channels her frustration into a walking tour and finds an unlikely and unwanted assistant in one of the new arrivals to the block – her neighbour Theo. But Sydney and Theo's deep dive into history quickly becomes a dizzying descent into paranoia and fear. Their neighbours may not have moved to the suburbs after all, and the push to revitalise the community may be more deadly than advertised. When does coincidence become conspiracy? Where do people go when gentrification pushes them out? Can Sydney and Theo trust each other – or themselves – long enough to find out before they too disappear?

Thriller PBK \$22.99

Big Trouble in

Little Greektown

Goddess of Greene St mysteries

Gollins, Kate

Athena has invited Case Donnelly, recently relocated from Pittsburgh and awaiting his PI license, to accompany her to a Save Our Dunes fundraiser and art festival. And her date proves helpful when the body of a disgraced photographer turns up during a nature walk. The crime – and the photos taken by the dead man – raise a lot of questions about local politics, environmental battles, and the victim's womanising ways. As Athena's endearing Greek-American

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family strives to solve a mystery of their own (uncovering the identity of Athena's anonymous blog), she and Casey try to find the tangled roots of this murder and make sure there's no sanctuary for a killer...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Tough Tender

Hard Case Crime

Collins, Max Allan

Every professional thief knows you never return to the scene of a crime. But what if you're forced to? In this intense heist story – appearing in bookshops for the first time in three decades – MWA Grandmaster Max Allan Collins brings veteran thief Nolan and his young partner in crime Jon back to rob the same bank they targeted in their debut novel, *Two For the Money* (PBK, \$19.99) at the behest of an embezzling executive and a femme fatale with dollar signs where her soul should be. And those aren't the only figures resurfacing from the past either – the ruthless Comfort clan is back to even old scores, and some members of the Outfit are packing bullets with Nolan's name on them. With all these forces marshalled against him, can even the toughest professional hardcase come out on top?

Hardboiled PBK \$19.99

The Family Plot

Collins, Megan

At 26, Dahlia Lighthouse is haunted by her upbringing. Raised in a secluded island mansion deep in the woods and kept isolated by her true crime-obsessed parents, she is unable to move beyond the disappearance of her twin brother, Andy, when they were sixteen. After several years away, and following her father's death, Dahlia returns to the house, where the family makes a gruesome discovery: buried in their father's plot is another body – Andy's, his skull split open with an axe. Dahlia is quick to blame Andy's murder on the serial killer who terrorised the island for decades, while the rest of her family reacts to the revelation in unsettling ways. Her brother, Charlie, pours his energy into creating a family memorial museum, highlighting their research into the lives of famous murder victims; her sister, Tate, forges ahead with her popular dioramas portraying crime scenes; and their mother affects a cheerfully domestic facade, becoming unrecognisable as the woman who performed murder re-enactments for her children. As Dahlia grapples with her own grief and horror, she realises that her eccentric family, and the mansion itself, may hold the answers to what happened to her twin.

Thriller TP \$37.95

Nameless Ones

Charlie Parker 19

Connolly, John

In Amsterdam, three people are butchered in a canal house, their remains arranged around the crucified form of their patriarch, De Jaager: fixer, go between, and confidante of the assassin named Louis. The men responsible for the murders are Serbian war criminals. They believe they can escape retribution by retreating to their homeland. They are wrong. For Louis has come to Europe to hunt them down: five killers to be

found and punished before they can vanish into the east. There is only one problem.

The sixth.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Downstairs Neighbour Gooper, Helen

From her downstairs apartment in suburban London, Emma has often overheard the everyday life of the seemingly perfect family upstairs – Steph, Paul and teenage daughter Freya – but has never got to know them. Until, one day, she hears something that seizes her attention: Freya has vanished, and the police are questioning Steph and Paul about their life. Do either of you have any enemies? Anyone who might want to harm or threaten you? The effects of Freya's disappearance ripple outward, affecting not just her parents, but everyone who lives in the building, including Emma and local driving instructor Chris, who was the last person to see the teenager before she went missing. Each character's life is thrown into sharp focus as devastating mistakes and long-held secrets are picked apart and other crimes come to light – including a child gone missing 25 years earlier, and a shocking murder – that make clear that the past never stays where we leave it, and that homes can be built on foundations of lies.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Bath Conspiracy

Dorothy Martin mysteries

Dams, Jeanne M

Retired chief constable Alan Nesbit and his wife Dorothy Martin are in the beautiful historic city of Bath to celebrate Dorothy's birthday, enjoying the city's elegant surroundings, sightseeing, shopping – and champagne. But the celebrations are curtailed when they discover a curious assortment of loot in their car boot during a trip to Stonehenge – from precious artefacts to cheap jumble sale trinkets. The stolen items are linked to various historic sites in Bath, but how did they end up in the Martins' car? As Dorothy and Alan seek to prove their innocence and catch a thief, they are soon swept into a conspiracy that runs much deeper and darker...

Mystery TP \$39.95

Long Overdue at the Lakeside Library

Lakeside Library mysteries

Danvers, Holly

A glowing wood stove, a cosy log cabin, and shelves full of books are all Rain Wilmot needs to ride out the Wisconsin winter, now that she's made her family's Lofty Pines library her year-round home. But the warm-hearted librarian's blood runs cold when local man, Wallace Benson, is found dead during the annual Ice Fishing Jamboree. After Benson's body is found in his ice shanty, Rain recalls that she recently saw the victim in her library, borrowing a few cookbooks to prepare for the fishing tournament's communal 'chilli dump'. She later finds these same books returned to the library's drop box, with an enigmatic note from Benson to Rain. As Rain seeks to understand the message, the prime suspect becomes Rain's friend Nick, who was the last person to see Wallace alive and who returned

to the Jamboree with a nasty cut on his hand. The knife found in his tackle box only makes Nick's troubles worse. But Rain keeps fishing for other suspects. Was the killer Danny, who lost his arm to a logging accident involving Wallace? Or Danny's bitter father, whose dreams of retirement were dashed by his son's accident? With the help of her friends Julia and Jace, Rain sets out to hook the real culprit and clear Nick's name. But can her sleuthing skills protect her from a killer who'd like to take her out of circulation?

Mystery HC \$49.99

Batter Off Dead

Country Store mysteries

Day, Maddie

Robbie and her new husband Abe O'Neill are enjoying a summer evening in the park with fellow townfolk excited for some Friday night fireworks. In attendance are senior residents from Jupiter Springs Assisted Living including Grant Bird, father to South Lick's very own Police Lieutenant Buck Bird. Despite his blindness, Grant is a member of his group home's knitting circle, spending quality time with some lovely ladies. But when the light show ends, one of the knitters who sat with Grant is found dead, a puncture wound in her neck. The poor woman's death echoes that of Buck's mother and Grant's wife – an unsolved homicide. To help find the killer, Robbie's going to have to untangle the knotty relationships deep in the victim's past...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Murder at the Lobstah Shack

Cosy Capers Book Group mysteries

Day, Maddie

From clam chowdahs to oysters on the half shell, Tulia Peters' Lobstah Shack offers locals and tourists in Westham, Massachusetts, some of Cape Cod's most amazing cuisine. But when the body of Annette DiCicero is discovered in the kitchen's walk-in freezer – with a custom-made claw-handled lobster pick lodged in her neck – spoiled appetites are the least of Tulia's worries. After a heated public argument with Annette, Tulia is a person of interest in the police's homicide investigation. To clear Tulia's name, Mac and the Cosy Capers Book Group snoop into Annette's personal life. Between her temperamental husband, his shady business partner, and two women tied to Annette's past life as 'Miss New Bedford', there are now several suspects and multiple motives. And they're getting crabby about Mac intruding on their affairs...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

A Curious Incident

Sherlock Holmes Bookshop mysteries

Delany, Vicki

I am not a Consulting Detective, Gemma Doyle reluctantly tells 10-year-old Lauren Tierney, when the little girl comes to the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium to beg Gemma to find her missing cat, Snowball. Gemma might not be able to follow the clues to find the cat, but her dog Violet follows her nose to locate the missing kitten in a neighbour's garden shed. Gemma and Violet proudly return Snowball to her grateful owner, and Gemma basks in praise for a

job well done. But a few days later, Lauren is back with ten dollars in hand, wanting to once again hire a consulting detective, and this time for a far bigger job: Her mother has been accused of murdering her garden club rival, Sheila Tierney's garden, which everyone said was the one to beat for the West London Garden Club trophy, had been vandalised the night before the club's early summer tour. Sheila confronted her former friend and gardening partner Anna Wentworth in a towering rage, and the women nearly came to blows. Later that night, after having won the trophy for best garden, Anna is found murdered and Sheila Tierney is the police's prime suspect. Despite herself, and despite the disapproval of her police detective boyfriend Ryan Ashburton, the game is once again afoot, and Gemma finds herself and Jayne Wilson using their powers of deduction to ponder yet another curious incident...

Mystery TP \$29.99

Deadly Director's Gut

Catskill Summer Resort mysteries

Delany, Vicki

Famous director Elias Theropodous has chosen Haggerman's Catskills Resort as a shooting location for his next film. It sounds glamorous to much of the staff, but resort manager Elizabeth Grady is less satisfied. Dealing with the ridiculous demands of the antagonistic director is bad enough, and his attempts to walk all over Elizabeth are making her feel like her position at the resort has been changed into a bit part. But when Elias is poisoned during a dinner at the resort, the future of the film and the resort itself are on the line. Between an aging movie star, a harried producer, and former victims of the deceased director's wrath, Elizabeth has a full cast of suspects to examine, and she'll need to investigate every lead to catch a killer.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Who Took Eden Mulligan?

Dempsey, Sharon

'They're dead. They're all dead. It's my fault. I killed them.' Those are the words of Iona Gardener, who stands bloodied and staring as she confesses to the murder of four people in a rundown cottage outside of Belfast. Outside the cottage, five old dolls are hanging from a tree. Inside the cottage, the words *'Who Took Eden Mulligan?'* are graffitied on the wall, connecting the murder scene with the famous cold case of Eden Mulligan – a mother of five, who went missing during the Troubles. But this case is different. Right from the start. Because no one in the community is willing to tell the truth, and the only thing DI Danny Stowe and forensic psychologist Rose Lainey can be certain of is that Iona Gardener's confession is false...

Mystery TP \$19.99

Mother Midnight

Hugh Corbett mysteries

Doherty, Paul

1312. Sir Hugh Corbett, Keeper of the Secret Seal, has returned from the West Country to find Westminster in chaos. Edward II has fled, in an attempt to protect his favourite from the wrath of his noblemen; and a royal clerk has been found dead, poisoned in a locked chamber. Drawn into a maze of murder both at Westminster and at the Convent

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of Saint Sulpice, where young novices have started to disappear, Corbett quickly establishes a connection between the two mysteries. As other killings follow, Corbett's investigation leads him to a high-class brothel and its sinister owner, Mother Midnight. Challenged to a duel and hunted by a guild of ruthless assassins, Corbett and his loyal henchmen, Ranulf and Chanson, face a sea of troubles. And Corbett must call upon his wit and ingenuity to halt the tide of disaster that threatens to engulf him...

Historical mystery PBK \$22.99

Summit Lake Donlea, Charlie

Some places seem too beautiful to be touched by horror. Summit Lake, nestled in North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains, is that kind of place. But two weeks ago, Becca Eckersley, a first-year law student and daughter of a powerful attorney, was brutally murdered there. Now the town is reeling with grief, and the police are baffled. At first, investigative reporter Kelsey Castle thinks of the assignment as a fluff piece. But the savagery of the crime, and the efforts to keep it quiet, hint at something far more sinister than a random attack by a stranger. As Kelsey digs deeper, despite danger and warnings, she feels a growing connection to the dead girl. And the more she learns about Becca's friendships, her love life – and her secrets – the more convinced she becomes that walking in Becca's footsteps could lead her out of her own dark past...

Mystery/suspense TP \$26.99

Death Under the Perseids

Havana mysteries

Dovalpage, Teresa

Cuban-born Mercedes Spivey and her American husband, Nolan, win a five-day cruise to Cuba. Although the circumstances surrounding the prize seem a little suspicious to Mercedes, Nolan's current unemployment and their need to spice up their marriage make the decision a no brainer. Once aboard, Mercedes is surprised to see two people she met through her ex-boyfriend Lorenzo: former University of Havana professor Selfa Segarra and down-on-his-luck Spanish writer Javier Jurado. Even stranger: they also received a free cruise. When Selfa disappears on their first day at sea, Mercedes and Javier begin to wonder if their presence, on the cruise, is more than coincidence. Mercedes confides her worries to her husband, but he convinces her that it's all in her head. However, when Javier dies under mysterious circumstances after disembarking in Havana, and Nolan is nowhere to be found, Mercedes scrambles through the city looking for him, fearing her suspicions were correct, all along.

Mystery HC \$47.99

Under Pressure

FBI K-9 series

Driscoll, Sara

Diamonds are no one's best friend, when the jewels in question are smuggled conflict gems. Meg Jennings and her Labrador, Hawk, have undertaken many search-and-rescue missions, but this case has an unusual twist. A Philadelphia syndicate is importing diamonds from war-torn African nations and selling them with fake certificates to

Stateside dealers. Agent Finn Pierce of the Organised Crime Program is embedded with the syndicate, but being caught with a wire or tracking device would mean instant execution. If Meg, her partner Brian Foster, and their dogs can track Pierce to a deal location, they can break the smuggling chain while maintaining Pierce's cover. With the syndicate monitoring every move, it's a risky operation with more players than Meg and Brian first assumed – on both sides of the law. And when one of their own gets caught in the line of fire, the team embarks on a desperate rescue mission, knowing that mere seconds are all that separate life and death...

Mystery/suspense HC \$43.99

When a Stranger Comes to Town:

Collection of Stories from Crime Fiction's Top Authors, anthology

It's been said that all great literature boils down to one of two stories – a person takes a journey, or a stranger comes to town. The newest collection of stories by Mystery Writers of America explores the eerie feeling that comes when a stranger enters our midst; featuring stories by prolific mystery writers, including: S A Cosby, Amanda Witt, Alafair Burke, Smita Harish Jain, Michael Connelly, Jacqueline Freimor, Joe R Lansdale, Emily Naymark, Lisa Unger, Bryon Quattermous, Tilia Klebenov Jacobs, Lori Roy, Paul A Barra, Michael Koryta, Elaine Togneri, Jonathan Stone, Steve Hamilton, Tina deBellegarde, Joe Hill.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Death of a Knit Wit

Knit & Nibble mysteries

Ehrhart, Peggy

Pamela has organised a weekend-long knitting bee as part of a conference on fibre arts and crafts at Wendelstaff College. But when pompous Professor Robert Greer-Gordon Critter, the keynote speaker at the conference, crashes the bee, he seems more interested in flirting than knitting. The man's reputation as a philanderer supersedes his academic reputation. After coffee and cookies are served, the professor suddenly collapses, seemingly poisoned – but how? Everyone had the coffee and cookies. Joined by her bestie Bettina and the Knit and Nibble ladies, Pamela sorts through everything from red socks to red herrings to unravel the means and motives of a killer dead set on teaching the professor a lesson...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

100 Proof Murder

Bourbon Tour mysteries

Ellis, Mary

Travel writer Jill Curtis is in Louisville, Kentucky, on the next stop of her bourbon tour assignment, and is looking forward to exploring the distilleries on the state's tour circuit with her videographer, Michael Erickson – especially since her new beau, Detective Nick Atkins, lives in the city. But the night before Jill's first tour at Parker's Distillery, she is shocked to learn that the master distiller, William Scott, has died suddenly of a heart attack – and even more shocked when she discovers William's daughter, Alexis, suspects foul play. Is there more to William's death than meets the eye?

Jill is soon drawn into a deadly blend of rivalry, jealousy, and cold-blooded murder as she attempts to uncover the truth behind William's unexpected demise.

Mystery TP \$39.95

Truth, Lies, and Mr Grey Ellis, Shelly

Diamond, Noelle. Vanessa. As Cyrus Grey recovers from a near-fatal shooting, the women who each thought they were his only wife are fighting hard to make new dreams – even if it means going one dangerous step too far... On trial for Cyrus' shooting, Diamond is determined to clear her name – and get back the husband she still loves. But uncovering the truth will reveal more secrets than she ever imagined. And unexpected desire is bringing them all too close to home... Beautiful Noelle has found happiness with new love Tariq. But Cyrus' scheming confronts her with an unthinkable conspiracy – and an impossible choice to save all she hopes for... As seemingly sweet suburban wife Vanessa helps Cyrus recover, she's about to finish him off for good – and keep the expensive lifestyle she earned. But her manipulations will push her up against two relentless – and all-too-intimate – enemies... Now, with lethal agendas clashing, passions high, and everyone's future on the line, which rules will each woman break to finally end the past – and who will survive to secure everything?

Thriller TP \$27.99

The Recovery Agent

Gabriela Rose series

Evanovich, Janet

Lost something? Gabriela Rose knows how to get it back. As a recovery agent, she's hired by individuals and companies seeking lost treasures, stolen heirlooms, or missing assets of any kind. She's reliable, cool under pressure, and well trained in weapons of all types. But Gabriela's latest job isn't for some bamboozled billionaire, it's for her own family, whose home is going to be wiped off the map, if they can't come up with a lot of money fast. Inspired by an old family legend, Gabriela sets off for the jungles of Peru in pursuit of the Ring of Solomon and the lost treasure of Lima. But this particular job comes with a huge problem attached to it – Gabriela's ex-husband, Rafer. It's Rafer who has the map that possibly points the way to the treasure, and he's not about to let Gabriela find it without him. Rafer is as relaxed as Gabriela is driven, and he has a lifetime's experience getting under his ex-wife's skin. But when they aren't bickering about old times the two make a formidable team, and it's going to take a team to defeat the vicious drug lord who has also been searching for the fabled ring. A drug lord who doesn't mind leaving a large body count behind him to get it. The first in a new series.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

The Conjure-Man Dies

Library of Congress Crime Classics

Fisher, Rudolph

When the body of N'Gana Frimbo, the African conjure-man, is discovered in his consultation room, Perry Dart, one of Harlem's ten Black police detectives, is called in to investigate. Together with Dr Archer,

a physician from across the street, Dart is determined to solve the baffling mystery, helped and hindered by Bubber Brown and Jinx Jenkins, local boys keen to clear themselves of suspicion of murder and undertake their own investigations. This ground-breaking mystery is the first ever to feature a Black detective and all Black characters, written by Black author Rudolph Fisher, who was a principal writer of the Harlem Renaissance.

Classic mystery TP \$24.99

Frozen Detective

Piper & Porter mysteries

Flower, Amanda

A wealthy doctor invites many of his associates to spend a week at a giant, luxurious ski villa. Darby Piper, a seasoned private eye, and Tate Porter, her new partner at the detective agency, are among the guests, going undercover as a romantic couple. They were hired by the doctor's much-younger wife to investigate anonymous threats against her husband's life. But before long, Darby and Tate are investigating a murder instead. As they dig up buried grudges, Darby's jealous ex-boyfriend on the police force thinks they're wasting their time. Will Darby and Tate figure out who the killer is... or will it become another cold case?

Mystery TP \$35.95

Marriage Can Be Mischief

Amish Matchmaker mysteries

Flower, Amanda

Millie is happy that her childhood friend, Uriah Schrock, has returned to Harvest after decades away. He was sweet on Millie in their school days, but she only had eyes for her future husband. Now, there's a new spark between them, so Millie is concerned when Uriah doesn't show up at the Harvest concert series – or for his job as the Village square's groundskeeper. Perhaps, Millie has been involved in too many murder investigations, but she has a sinking feeling. And when she and her best friend, Lois, find Uriah with the police, it seems she's right... A film crew is in Harvest to make a movie about a 40-year-old unsolved murder. A skeleton has been found at the bottom of a ravine – and Uriah is certain it's his sister, Galilee. Right before Uriah left Ohio, she disappeared, and her harsh husband, Samuel, was found fatally stabbed with a knitting needle. The sheriff declared that Galilee killed him and ran away. Uriah never believed the theory, and he's come back to Harvest hoping, Gott willing, Millie will help him stitch together the truth...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Verse and Vengeance

Magical Bookshop mysteries

Flower, Amanda

A bicycle race is not Charming Books proprietor Violet Waverly's idea of a pleasant pastime. But police chief David Rainwater wheeler wants them to enter the Tour de Cascade as a couple, so she reluctantly consents. The Tour de Cascade is the brainchild of Violet's Grandma Daisy. The race is a fundraiser to build the Cascade Springs Underground Railroad Museum. But not everyone in this Niagara Region village supports the race. As if the bike

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race weren't tiring enough, pesky private investigator Joel Redding is snooping around Charming Books. It takes all of Violet's and Grandma Daisy's ingenuity to keep Redding from discovering the shop's magical essence – which communicates with Violet through books. When Redding perishes in an accident during the race, David discovers that the brake line of the private eye's bike was cut. Worse, Violet tops his list of suspects. As Emerson the tuxedo cat and resident crowd Faulkner look on, Charming Books steers Violet to the works of Walt Whitman to solve the crime. But no other names ring a bell as culprits, and as David's investigation picks up speed, Violet will have to get in gear to clear her name.

Mystery TP \$29.99

Caramel Pecan Roll Murder

Hannah Swensen mysteries

Fluke, Joanne

Embracing a sweet escape from her usual routine at The Cookie Jar, Hannah gets asked for her help in baking pastries at the local inn for a flashy fishing competition with big prizes and even bigger names. But the fun stops when she spots a runaway boat on the water and, on board, the lifeless body of the event's renowned celebrity spokesperson... Famed TV show host Sonny Bowman wasn't humble about his ability to reel in winning catches, and no one knew that better than his tragically overworked sidekick, Joey. Did Joey finally take bloody revenge on his pompous boss – or was Sonny killed by a jealous contestant? With goodies to bake and a mess of fresh challenges mixed into her personal life, it's either sink or swim as Hannah joins forces with her sister, Andrea, to catch a clever culprit before another unsuspecting victim goes belly up...

Mystery HC \$47.99

The Girls are All

So Nice Here

Flynn, Laurie Elizabeth

A lot has changed in years since Ambrosia Wellington graduated from college, and she's worked hard to create a new life for herself. But then an invitation to her 10-year reunion arrives in the mail, along with an anonymous note that reads, 'We need to talk about what we did that night.' It seems that the secrets of Ambrosia's past – and the people she thought she'd left there – aren't as buried as she believed. Amb can't stop fixating on what she did or who she did it with: larger-than-life Sloane 'Sully' Sullivan, Amb's former best friend, who could make anyone do anything. At the reunion, Amb and Sully receive increasingly menacing messages, and it becomes clear that they're being pursued by someone who wants more than just the truth of what happened that first semester. This person wants revenge for what they did and the damage they caused – the extent of which Amb is only now fully understanding. And it was all because of the game they played to get a boy who belonged to someone else and the girl who paid the price.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

The Paris Apartment

Foley, Lucy

Welcome to No 12 rue des Amants... A beautiful old apartment block, far from the glittering lights of the Eiffel Tower and the

bustling banks of the Seine. Where nothing goes unseen, and everyone has a story to unlock. The watchful concierge. The scorned lover. The prying journalist. The naïve student. The unwanted guest. There was a murder here, last night. A mystery lies behind the door of apartment three. Who holds the key? 'Gloriously escapist thrills from an Agatha Christie for the Instagram age' – *Guardian*.

Mystery TP \$29.99

They Did Bad Things Forry, Lauren A

In 1995, six university students moved into the house at 215 Caldwell Street. Months later, one of them was found dead on the sofa the morning after their end-of-year party. His death was ruled an accident by the police. The remaining five all knew it wasn't, and though they went on with their lives, the truth of what happened to their sixth housemate couldn't stay buried forever. Twenty years later, all five of them arrive – lured separately under various pretences – at Wolfheather House, a crumbling, secluded mansion on the Scottish isle of Doon. Trapped inside with no way out and no signal to the outside world, the now 40-somethings fight each other – and the unknown mastermind behind their gathering – as they confront the role they played in their housemate's death. They are given one choice: confess to their crimes or die.

Thriller TP \$37.95

Booth

Fowler, Karen Joy

The infamous, ill-fated Booth family. Charmers, liars, drinkers and dreamers, they will change history forever... Junius is the patriarch, a celebrated Shakespearean actor who fled bigamy charges in England, both a mesmerising talent and a man of terrifying instability. As his children grow up in a remote farmstead in 1830s rural Baltimore, the country draws ever closer to the boiling point of secession and civil war. Of the six Booth siblings who survive to adulthood, each has their own dreams they must fight to realise – but it is Johnny who makes the terrible decision that will change the course of history – the assassination of Abraham Lincoln.

Historical thriller TP \$32.99

Claret and Present Danger

Literary Pub mysteries

Fox, Sarah

The Trueheart Renaissance Faire and Circus has rolled into town, attracting locals who can't wait to spend a few summer days lost in a whimsical world of all-knowing fortune tellers and daring acrobats. Well-read pub owner Sadie Coleman is swept up in the magic herself when she serves drinks to the faire's resident wizard, the shamelessly brazen illusionist Ozzie Stone, and scores two tickets to his opening performance. Sadie has no complaints about indulging in a free show with her new beau, craft brewery owner Grayson Blake. But while Ozzie is an instant crowd pleaser, the real surprise comes when he collapses in the middle of his set. It's not part of the act – Ozzie is dead, seemingly poisoned by someone who wasn't clowning around about writing the roguish showman's final chapter. The terrifying situation intensifies when the police eye one of Sadie's

employees, last seen caught in a suspicious fist fight at the fairground. With so much at stake, Sadie must strain through a suspect list longer than her cocktail menu to find the real knave of a killer. But when another performer is murdered, it becomes clear that bringing the mixed-up murderer to justice will be about as dangerous as walking the high wire after happy hour...

Mystery HC \$43.99

Shadowman:

an Elusive Psycho Killer and the Birth of FBI Profiling

Franscell, Ron

On June 25, 1973, a seven-year-old girl went missing from the Montana campground where her family was vacationing. Somebody had slit open the back of their tent and snatched her from under their noses. None of them saw or heard anything. Susie Jaeger had vanished into thin air, plucked by a shadow. The largest manhunt in Montana's history ensued, led by the FBI. As days stretched into weeks, and weeks into months, Special Agent Pete Dunbar attended a workshop at FBI Headquarters in Quantico, Virginia, led by two agents who had hatched a radical new idea: What if criminals left a psychological trail that would lead us to them? Patrick Mullany, a trained psychologist, and Howard Teten, a veteran criminologist, had created the Behavioural Science Unit to explore this new voodoo they called 'criminal profiling'. At Dunbar's request, Mullany and Teten built the FBI's first profile of an unknown subject: the UnSub who had snatched Susie Jaeger and, a few months later, a 19-year-old waitress. When a suspect was finally arrested, the profile fit him to a T...

True crime HC \$49.99

The Ties That Bind

Fraser, Anthea

The Tempest family and friends are gathering for Cassie's eighteenth birthday party. But as they come together, a series of explosive events will threaten everything they hold dear. Cassie's sister Jess is about to fly to Italy on holiday, but can she forget the horror of what she saw in her flat that afternoon? Family friend Jenny Barlow has been keeping a devastating secret for years... but for how much longer? And does the discovery of a dead body on the beach spell danger for one of the Tempests? Grief, fear, desire and deception all collide as the ties that bind the family are strained like never before. Can they withstand the ultimate stress test?

Mystery TP \$39.95

Death of a Showman

Jane Prescott series

Fredericks, Michael

It is the summer of 1914 and lady's maid Jane Prescott is back in New York with the Tylers, after a glittering society wedding in Europe. On their return, Jane learns another wedding has taken place. Her old dancing partner, Leo Hirschfeld, has married a chorus girl in his new Broadway musical. Jane and Louise Tyler are pulled into the sparkling and scandalous world of Broadway, as a starstruck Louise invests in Leo's show, and Jane chaperones her at rehearsals. But behind the glittering facade of the theatre, there are rivalries, secret romances, and some very dodgy business practices. When the show's abusive producer,

Sidney Warburton, is murdered, the list of suspects is long. Was it the comedic star or her gambler boyfriend? The disgruntled costume designer? The beautiful, blond dancer, her jealous husband? Or was it Leo himself, who had more reason than anyone to hate Sidney Warburton? As the Great War looms in the distance, Jane and tabloid reporter Michael Behan must strip back the masks of these consummate performers before one of them kills again.

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

The Unheard

French, Nicci

Maybe, Tess is overprotective, but passing her daughter off to her ex and his new young wife fills her with a sense of dread. It's not that Jason is a bad father – it just hurts to see him enjoying married life with someone else. Still, she owes it to her daughter Poppy to make this arrangement work. But Poppy returns from the weekend tired and withdrawn. And when she shows Tess a crayon drawing – an image so simple and violent that Tess can hardly make sense of it – Poppy can only explain with the words, 'He did kill her'. Something is horribly wrong. Tess is certain Poppy saw something – or something happened to her – that she's too young to understand. Jason insists the weekend went off without a hitch. Doctors advise that Poppy may be reacting to her parents' separation. And as the days go on, even Poppy's disturbing memory seems to fade. But a mother knows her daughter, and Tess is determined to discover the truth. Her search will set off an explosive tempest of dark secrets and buried crimes – and more than one life may be at stake.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

Portrait of

an Unknown Lady

Gainza, Maria

In the Buenos Aires art world, a master forger has achieved legendary status. Rumoured to be a woman, she specialises in canvases by the painter Mariette Lydis, a portraitist of Argentinean high society. But who is this absurdly gifted creator of counterfeits? What motivates her? And what is her link to the community of artists who congregate, night after night, in a strange establishment called the Hotel Melancólico? On the trail of this mysterious forger is our narrator, an art critic and auction house employee through whose hands counterfeit works have passed. As she begins to take on the role of art-world detective, adopting her own methods of deception and manipulation, she warns us 'not to proceed in expectation of names, numbers or dates... My techniques are those of the impressionist'.

Mystery TP \$32.99

Renewed for Murder

Blue Ridge Library mysteries

Gilbert, Victoria

August in Taylorsford, Virginia finds library director Amy Webber and her new husband, dancer Richard Muir, settling into married life – and a new project. Richard and his dance partner, Karla, are choreographing a suite based on folk music and folk tales, while Amy scours the library's resources to supply background information on the dance's source material. But the mellifluous music comes

Pulp Fiction

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to a jarring halt when an unknown woman's body turns up in Zelda Shoemaker's backyard gazebo. Chief Deputy Brad Tucker puts Zelda at the top of his suspect list, thanks to a blackmail letter he finds in the dead woman's pocket. Zelda's best friend, Amy's aunt Lydia Talbot, begs Amy to use her research skills to clear Zelda's name. But the task is confounded by Zelda's very out-of-character refusal to reveal why the victim might have blackmailed her. Complicating matters further, Amy unearths records of a long-ago tragedy that casts doubt on Zelda's innocence. She enlists hubby Richard, Aunt Lydia, art dealer Kurt Kendrick, Mayor Sunny Fields, and sundry other quirky townsfolk in a quest to exonerate Zelda. But will revealing the truth end up forcing Zelda to spend the rest of her life behind bars? Meanwhile, the killer is still out there. Amy had better be fleet on her feet, because death is on her dance card, and her number may be up.

Mystery HC \$47.99

Crimson 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 PBK \$19.99

Twelve Secrets

Gold, Robert

The day his older brother was murdered was the day Ben Harper's life changed forever. In one of the most shocking crimes in national history, Nick and his friend were stabbed to death by two girls their own age. Police called the killings random, a senseless tragedy. Twenty years on Ben is one of the best true crime journalists in the country. He has left the past behind, thanks to the support of his close-knit hometown community. But when he learns about a fresh murder case with links to his brother's death, Ben's life is turned upside down once more. He soon finds himself caught in a web of lies, one that implicates everyone around him. And on his quest for answers, Ben discovers one very important truth: Everyone has secrets. But some secrets are deadlier than others.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Island of Thieves

Hamilton, Glen Erik

Van Shaw is hired to evaluate the safeguards for the art collection of eccentric business magnate Sebastien Rohner. Then Rohner reveals to Van the real reason he's been

recruited: to prevent another professional burglar from stealing the art. Rohner wants to set a thief to catch a thief. While questioning the bizarre nature of the job, Van accepts the lucrative offer and arrives at the island estate during an international summit that Rohner is hosting. Shortly after beginning his surveillance of Rohner's highly secure gallery wing, Van stumbles across the murdered body of one of the honoured guests along the rocky shore. Wary of Rohner's true intentions, Van knows the homicide detectives on the case – and perhaps Rohner as well – think he's the prime suspect and will turn his life upside down in their search for proof. Van begins to hunt for the killer himself, but scrutiny only digs his hole deeper, as one of Rohner's own executives is then killed and the Seattle police find concrete evidence placing Van at the scene. With no other options, he goes on the run, alone and unaided. He's hunted by the cops, the enraged Rohner, and a pair of psychopathic hitmen who chase Van from one coast to the next. To clear his name, Van Shaw will have to uncover the hidden motive of corporate espionage at a global level, even with a band of killers on his tail who are determined to add Van to their growing list of victims.

Thriller PBK \$24.95

The Lady in the Silver Cloud

Stewart Hoag mysteries

Handler, David

A 1955 Rolls-Royce Silver Cloud is a fantastically expensive car, especially in the pristine condition of the one owned by Muriel Cantrell. Living in a luxury apartment building on Central Park West, the delicate, sweet 75-year-old woman is a neighbour of Merilee Nash, the beautiful movie star, and Stuart Hoag, whose first book was a sensation but whose career crashed when he became involved with drugs and alcohol. Divorced, 10 years earlier, Hoag has been welcomed back into Merilee's life and apartment. Apparently universally beloved in her building, residents are shocked when Muriel is murdered after a Halloween party. No one takes it harder than her long-time chauffeur, Bullets Durmond, whose previous job was as an enforcer for the mob. Who in the world would want to harm the silver-haired lady whose major vices were buying shoes and Chanel suits (always in cash), and watching day-time soap operas? Lieutenant Romaine Very of the NYPD is called to investigate and again seeks help from his friend Hoagy who, along with his basset hound Lulu, has been an invaluable aide in the past. The investigation leads to the unexpected source of Muriel's wealth, the history of her early years as a hatchback girl at the Copacabana, how her chauffeur came to be called Bullets, her desperate meth-head nephew, and her wealthy neighbours, who have secrets of their own.

Mystery HC \$49.95

What the Devil Knows

Sebastian St Cyr mysteries

Harris, C S

It's October 1814. The war with France is finally over and Europe's diplomats are convening in Vienna for a conference that will put their world back together. With peace finally at hand, London suddenly finds itself in the grip of a series of heinous murders eerily similar to the Ratcliffe Highway

murders of three years before. In 1811, two entire families were viciously murdered in their homes. A suspect – a young seaman named John Williams – was arrested. But before he could be brought to trial, Williams hanged himself in his cell. The murders ceased, and London slowly began to breathe easier. But when the lead investigator, Sir Edwin Pym, is killed in the same brutal way three years later and others possibly connected to the original case meet violent ends, the city is paralysed with terror, once more. Was the wrong man arrested for the murders? Bow Street magistrate Sir Henry Lovejoy turns to his friend Sebastian St Cyr, Viscount Devlin, for assistance. Pym's colleagues are convinced his manner of death is a coincidence, but Sebastian has his doubts. The more he looks into the three-year-old murders, the more certain he becomes that the hapless John Williams was not the real killer. Which begs the question – who was and why are they dead set on killing again?

Historical mystery TP \$29.99

When Blood Lies

Sebastian St Cyr mysteries

Harris, C S

March, 1815. The Bourbon King Louis XVIII has been restored to the throne of France, Napoleon is in exile on the isle of Elba, and Sebastian St Cyr, Viscount Devlin, and his wife, Hero, have travelled to Paris in hopes of tracing his long-lost mother, Sophie, the errant Countess of Hendon. But his search ends in tragedy, when he comes upon the dying Countess in the wasteland at the tip of the Île de la Cité. Stabbed – apparently, with a stiletto – and thrown from the bastions of the island's ancient stone bridge, Sophie dies without naming her murderer. Sophie had been living in Paris under an assumed name as the mistress of Maréchal Alexandre McClellan, the scion of a noble Scottish Jacobite family that took refuge in France after the Forty-Five Rebellion. Once one of Napoleon's most trusted and successful generals, McClellan has now sworn allegiance to the Bourbons and is serving in the delegation negotiating on behalf of France at the Congress of Vienna. It doesn't take Sebastian long to realise that the French authorities have no interest in involving themselves in the murder of a notorious Englishwoman at such a delicate time. And, so, grieving and shattered by his mother's death, Sebastian takes it upon himself to hunt down her killer. But what he learns will not only shock him but could upend a hard-won world peace.

Historical mystery HC \$55.00

Three Shots to the Wind

Chloe Jackson Sea Glass Saloon mysteries

Harris, Sherry

Saloon owner Chloe Jackson appears to have a secret admirer. She's pouring drinks at the Sea Glass Saloon in Emerald Cove, when an airplane flies by above the beach with a banner reading: *I Love You Chloe Jackson*. She immediately rules out Rip Barnett. They are in the early stages of dating and no one has said the L word. Then a bouquet of lilacs – her favourite flower – is delivered to the bar, followed by an expensive bottle of her favourite sparkling wine. It couldn't be... Sure enough, her ex-fiancé from Chicago has flown down to Florida for an

accountants' convention. But is he trying to mix business with pleasure and win her back? Unfortunately he's not in a hotel conference room, he's floating, face down, in the lake next to her house, clutching a photo of Chloe. Who murders an accountant on a business trip – it just doesn't add up. When Rip becomes the prime suspect, Chloe is determined to find the secret murderer. But if she isn't careful, it may be closing time and lights out for her...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Ghost Blows a Kiss

Bailey Ruth Ghost mysteries

Hart, Carolyn

The late – as in Dearly Departed – Bailey Ruth Raeburn is delighted when she's assigned a new mission by Heaven's Department of Good Intentions, even if she is no good at following the rules for Earthly Visitations. This time she's determined to be the perfect unseen emissary, no matter what it takes. Arriving late in the evening in her old hometown of Adelaide, Oklahoma to find a woman drowning in a pond, Bailey Ruth carries out a daring rescue with textbook invisible effort. But Bailey Ruth soon realises there's more to Fran's accident than a late-night walk gone wrong. The young widow was running away – but what from? Soon, Bailey Ruth finds herself caught up in a complex web of family secrets, loyalties and lies – and if she doesn't act fast, an innocent will be locked up for a very long time...

Mystery TP \$39.95

Or Else

Hart, Joe

When novelist Andy Drake returns to his hometown to care for his ailing father, a reconnection with his childhood friend Rachel escalates into a secret love affair. For Rachel, struggling to maintain the facade of a picture-perfect life, it's an escape from an emotionally abusive marriage. Then Andy receives an anonymous note warning him to end the affair. Or else. Whoever's been watching is going to make Andy pay. Weeks later, Rachel's husband, David, is shot to death. Rachel and her two young sons vanish without a trace. One misstep, one careless reveal, and Andy could look as guilty as sin. Clue by clue, as his investigation into the mystery unfolds, Andy discovers that he and Rachel weren't the only ones keeping secrets. Nothing in this quiet neighbourhood is as it seems. No one peeking from behind the curtains of their homes can be trusted. And the worst is yet to come. Because David isn't the only one who will die.

Thriller TP \$35.95

Slow Horses

Slough House series, TV tie-in edition

Herron, Mick

Slough House is a dumping ground for members of the intelligence service who've screwed up: left a service file on a train, say, blown a surveillance, or become drunkenly unreliable. They're the service's poor relations – the slow horses – and most bitter among them is River Cartwright, whose days are spent transcribing mobile phone conversations. But when a young man is abducted, and his kidnapers threaten to behead him live on the internet, River sees an opportunity to redeem himself. But is the victim who he first appears to be? And

Pulp Fiction

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what's the kidnappers' connection with a disgraced journalist? As the clock ticks on the execution, River finds that everyone involved has their own agenda... Shortlisted for the CWA Ian Fleming Steel Dagger Award. The critically-acclaimed first book in Mick Herron's bestselling Slough House series is now a major Apple TV series starring Gary Oldman and Kristen Scott Thomas. We love this series! – and are very much looking forward to seeing Gary Oldman as Jackson Lamb.

Suspense PBK \$22.99

Watch Her

Hester Thursby mysteries

Hill, Edwin

While attending a gala at Prescott University's lavish new campus, Hester Thursby and fellow guest, Detective Angela White, are called to the home of the college's owners, Tucker and Jennifer Matson. Jennifer claims that someone broke into Pinebank, their secluded mansion on the banks of Jamaica Pond. The more Hester and Angela investigate, the less they believe Jennifer's story, leaving Hester to wonder why she would lie. When Hester is asked by the college's general manager to locate some missing alumni, she employs her research skills on the family and their for-profit university. Between financial transgressions, a long-ago tragedy, and rumours of infidelity, it's clear that the Matsons aren't immune to scandal or mishap. But when one of the missing students turns up dead, the mystery takes on new urgency. Hester is edging closer to the truth, but as a decades-old secret collides with new lies, and a powerful Boston family grows more desperate to keep their darkest deeds from coming to light, a killer is more determined to keep the past buried with the dead...

Mystery/suspense PBK \$19.99

Stargazer

Leaphorn, Chee & Manuelito

Hillerman, Anne

What begins as a typical day for Officer Bernadette Manuelito – serving a bench warrant, dealing with a herd of cattle obstructing traffic, and stumbling across a crime scene – takes an unexpected twist when she's called to help find an old friend. Years ago, Bernie and Maya were roommates, but time and Maya's struggles with addiction drove them apart. Now, Maya's brother asks Bernie to find out what happened to his sister. Tracing Maya's whereabouts, Bernie learns that her old friend had confessed to the murder of her estranged husband, a prominent astronomer. But the details don't align. Suspicious, Bernie takes a closer look at the case only to find that nothing is as it seems. Uncovering new information about the astronomer's work leads Bernie to a remote spot on the Navajo Nation and a calculating killer. The investigation causes an unexpected rift with her husband and new acting boss, Jim Chee, who's sure Bernie's headed for trouble. While she's caught between present and past, Chee is at a crossroads of his own. Burdened with new responsibilities he didn't ask for and doesn't want, he must decide what the future holds for him and act accordingly. Can their mentor Joe Leaphorn – a man also looking at the past for answers to the future

– provide the guidance both Bernie and Chee need? And will the Navajo heroes that stud the starry sky help them find justice – and the truth they seek?

Mystery PBK \$19.99

The Unkindness of Ravens

Greer Hogan mysteries

Hilliard, M E

Greer Hogan is a librarian and an avid reader of murder mysteries. She also has a habit of stumbling upon murdered bodies. The first was her husband's, and the tragic loss led Greer to leave New York behind for a new start in the Village of Raven Hill. But her new home becomes less idyllic when she discovers her best friend sprawled dead on the floor of the library. Was her friend's demise related to two other deaths that the police deemed accidental? Do the residents of this insular village hold dark secrets about another murder, decades ago? Does a serial killer haunt Raven Hill? As the body count rises, Greer's anxious musings take a darker turn when she uncovers unexpected and distressing information about her own husband's death... and the man who went to prison for his murder. She is wracked with guilt at the possibility that her testimony may have helped to convict an innocent man. Though, Greer admires the masters of deduction she reads about in books, she never expected to have to solve a mystery herself. Fortunately, she possesses a quick wit and a librarian's natural resourcefulness. But will that be enough to protect her from a brilliant, diabolical murderer? And even if Greer manages to catch the Raven Hill killer, will living with her conscience prove a fate worse than death?

Mystery TP \$29.99

Blood Kin

Grey & Villere series

Hilton, Matt

When Nicolas 'Po' Villere runs into Elspeth Fuchs, an old flame, he's surprised to find who's by her side. It's her son, Jacob, and he's a dead ringer for when Po was a child. His age lines up with when Po last saw Elspeth, before she left him for Caleb Moorcock and a life in a secluded community. Elspeth and Jacob are now running for their lives from the abusive Caleb. Po and his partner, Private Investigator Tess Grey, offer shelter. But before Po can dive into the boy's parentage, Caleb snatches the absconded pair and drags them back to their fortified commune. Has Po dodged a bullet? Maybe it's best for them all if he never learns whether he's Jacob's father. Who's he kidding? Po resolves to rescue Elspeth and discover the truth about Jacob, no matter what...

Mystery/suspense TP \$39.95

Murder at the Bake Sale

Maya & Sandra mysteries

Hollis, Lee

While private investigator Maya Kendrick is still mentoring her new partner, PTA president Sandra Wallace, in the detective game, the two women don't need incredible powers of deduction to know their marriages are on the rocks. With Maya's ex-cop husband in prison and Sandra's senator spouse separated from her, both find themselves investigating the dating scene. Until Diego

Sanchez turns up dead. The flirtatious high school Spanish teacher who had eyes for Maya was poisoned by cookies from a bake sale fundraiser for a Portland High school class trip to Spain. Hired by the students to find out who killed their popular and beloved teacher – including their own children – Maya and Sandra get a real education in parenting, relationships, and murder as their search for whodunit leads them deep into the unpleasant realities found in the small town politics and gossip of their Maine community...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Poppy Harmon and the Pillow Talk Killer

Desert Flowers mysteries

Hollis, Lee

Cast in her first role since the 1980s, Poppy has never been more rattled or unprepared on a film set. It's an embarrassing but necessary cover to keep an eye on client Danika Delgado, a rising starlet and social media influencer with a large following – including a dangerous stalker who won't disappear. Unfortunately for Poppy, there's more to fear than flubbed lines. When she finds Danika smothered to death in her trailer at Joshua Tree National Park, the horrifying crime stirs up memories of a man known as the Pillow Talk Killer during her time as a young actress. A trail of clues urges Poppy, hunky sidekick Matt Flowers, and the rest of the Desert Flowers Detective Agency gang on a frantic chase after Danika's crazed #1 fan. But as co-stars and production crew members start looking equally suspicious, Poppy must expose a slew of insidious industry secrets before a murderer rolls out the red carpet for someone else...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Bullet Train

Isaka, Kotaro

Satoshi – The Prince – looks like an innocent schoolboy but is really a stylish and devious assassin. Risk fuels him, as does a good philosophical debate, such as questioning: Is killing really wrong? Kimura's young son is in a coma thanks to The Prince, and Kimura has tracked him onto a bullet train heading from Tokyo to Morioka, to exact his revenge. But Kimura soon discovers that they are not the only dangerous passengers on board. Nanao, also nicknamed Ladybug, the self-proclaimed 'unluckiest assassin in the world', is put on the bullet train by his boss, a mysterious young woman called Maria, to steal a suitcase full of money and get off at the first stop. The lethal duo of Tangerine and Lemon are also travelling to Morioka, and the suitcase leads others to show their hands. Why are they all on the same train, and who will make it off alive? A bestseller in Japan, *Bullet Train* is soon to be a major film starring Brad Pitt.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

Mother May I Jackson, Joshilyn

Growing up poor in rural Georgia, Bree Cabbat was warned that the world was a dark and scary place. Bree rejected that fearful outlook, and life has proved her right. Having married into a family with wealth, power, and connections, Bree now has all a woman could ever dream of. Until the day she awakens

and sees someone peering into her bedroom window – an old grey-haired woman dressed all in black who vanishes as quickly as she appears. It must be a play of the early morning light or the remnant of a waking dream, Bree tells herself, shaking off the bad feeling that overcomes her. Later that day, though, she spies the old woman again, in the parking lot of her daughters' private school... just minutes before Bree's infant son, asleep in his car seat only a few feet away, vanishes. It happened so quickly – Bree looked away only for a second. There is a note left in his place, warning her that she is being watched; if she wants her baby back, she must not call the police or deviate in any way from the instructions that will follow. The mysterious woman makes contact, and Bree learns she, too, is a mother. Why would another mother do this? What does she want? And why has she targeted Bree? Of course, Bree will pay anything, do anything. It's her child. To get her baby back, Bree must complete one small – but critical – task. It seems harmless enough, but her action comes with a devastating price. Bree will do whatever it takes to protect her family – but what if the cost tears their world apart?

Thriller PBK \$19.99

The Sleeping Car Murders Japrisot, Sébastien

When the night train pulled into Paris, she was dead. And the riddle began... A beautiful young woman lies sprawled on her berth in the sleeping car of the night train from Marseille to Paris. She is not in the embrace of sleep, or even in the arms of one of her many lovers. She is dead. And the unpleasant task of finding her killer is handed to overworked, crime-weary police detective Pierre 'Grazzi' Grazziano, who would rather play hide and seek with his little son, than cat and mouse with a diabolically cunning, savage murderer. With corpses turning up everywhere, the question becomes not only who is the killer, but who will be the next victim...

Mystery TP \$27.99

Deceptive Justice

Victoria Justice series

Johnson, Andrea J

When Victoria Justice finds herself on the phone with a mad bomber, she doesn't think twice about springing into action to diffuse the situation. After all, the Bickerton Superior Courthouse is no stranger to all manner of crimes. However, a mysterious package found in the lobby a few minutes later leads to a building evacuation that has everyone pointing fingers, that is, until a car explodes in the parking lot killing a government official. Authorities search the area for clues and determine a recently vindicated arsonist is to blame, but the arrest sparks an alternate theory for Victoria who believes the real culprit is still at large and that she may have been the true target. With no leads but a manuscript of the initial bomb threat and a faint audio recording of the caller's scrambled voice, Victoria recruits former State Trooper Ashton North and local newsmen Mike Slocum to help her weather the firestorm of community outrage. But can the two men refrain from killing each other long enough to keep Victoria alive and capture the murderer?

Mystery TP \$29.99

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery March 2022 (continued)

The Red Canoe Johnson, Wayne

Buck – government name Michael Fineday, Ojibwe name Miskwa' doden (Red Deer) – is on the brink of suicide. He has just been served divorce papers by his wife Naomi, who is fed up with his saviour complex and the danger it often attracts to their door. Living on the border of Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community reservation, Buck makes a living as a boat builder and carpenter. He spends his days alone, trying to win the trust of a feral cat... until a semi-feral girl shows up, fascinated by the canoe Buck is building. Lucy – Ojibwe name Gage' bineh (Everlasting Bird) – lives in a trailer alone with her father, a local policeman struggling with PTSD which is compounded by the loss of Lucy's mother. Just barely fifteen she has lived with a lifetime of abuse, while knowing that if she ever spoke out, her father would bear the consequences. Buck senses Lucy is in trouble and doesn't hesitate to come to her defence. On the foundation of their shared Ojibwe heritage, they trace Lucy's abuse to a ring that extends farther than either of them ever imagined, while building a bond even sturdier than Buck's canoe.

Thriller TP \$29.99

Lean on Me Joncour, Serge

When a flock of crows invades their shared apartment block, farmer-turned-debt collector Ludovic and fashion designer Aurore speak for the first time. With nothing but the birds in common, the two are destined for separate lives, yet are drawn inexplicably together. Though their story is set in Paris, the tale of Ludovic and Aurore is far from an idyllic romance. With one trapped in an unhappy marriage and the other lost in grief, the city of love has brought each of them only isolation and pain. As Aurore faces losing her business and Ludovic questions the ethics of his job, they begin a passionate affair. Love between such different people seems doomed to failure, but for these two unhappy souls trapped in ruthless worlds, perhaps loving one another is the greatest form of resistance.

Noir TP \$29.99

CREAM

CREAM series

Jones, Solomon

Karima Cream Thomas is an ex-convict from an upper-crust family whose only crime was falling for a drug dealer and refusing to testify against him. Sexy, intelligent, street smart, and determined to change after serving time in the municipal prison system, Karima returns to find that her ex, Duane Faison, wants her back. And for one passion-filled night, she considers it. But with dawn comes common sense and the realisation that she must make a clean break from her past. To do that, she'll need something she's never had to ask for: help. And she knows only one person with the power to give it. Marilyn Johnson has fought to make it in the rough-and-tumble world of Philadelphia politics. After ten years on the City Council, she's finally made it to the president's seat, but she's had to forge some questionable alliances to make it there, including her long-running affair with the married mayor. When Karima asks for help in finding a job, Marilyn is caught off guard.

Her niece's criminal record is one of the many secrets she has hidden from the public, but seeing an opportunity, crafty Marilyn hatches a plan to get rid of Karima once and for all. The mayor is murdered in cold blood and Marilyn is sworn into office, bringing Karima's criminal past to light. She is quickly the prime suspect in the murder investigation, and in order to save her own name and get to the bottom of the story, Karima must return to the streets.

Mystery TP \$26.95

Payback: the Return of CREAM

CREAM series

Jones, Solomon

Karima Cream Thomas, who has been held as an accomplice in the murders of two drug dealers, is acquitted based on the deathbed confession of her lover, Duane Faison. But triumph soon turns to tragedy when Karima's mother is found dead of an apparent suicide. Karima refuses to believe that things are as they seem. She believes that her mother was murdered, and when the police won't listen, she takes matters into her own hands. She soon finds that her mother's death is just the first indication of a scandal that could rock the very halls of power. Captain Kevin Lynch joins Karima in the search for the truth, despite his family and career on the line.

Mystery TP \$26.95

Dead of Winter

August Snow series

Jones, Stephen Mack

Authentico Foods Inc. has been a part of Detroit's Mexicantown for over thirty years, grown from a home kitchen business to a city block-long facility that supplies Mexican tortillas to restaurants throughout the Midwest. Detroit ex-cop and Mexicantown native August Snow has been invited for a business meeting at Authentico Foods. Its owner, Ronaldo Ochoa, is dying, and is being blackmailed into selling the company to an anonymous entity. Worried about his employees, Ochoa wants August to buy it. August has no interest in running a tortilla empire, but he does want to know who's threatening his neighbourhood. Quickly, his investigation takes a devastating turn and he and his loved ones find themselves ensnared in a dangerous net of ruthless billionaire developers. August Snow must fight, not only for his life, but for the soul of Mexicantown, itself.

Mystery/suspense TP \$29.99

They Can't Take Your Name Justice, Robert

What happens to a deferred dream – especially when an innocent man's life hangs in the balance? Langston Brown is running out of time and options for clearing his name and escaping death row. Wrongfully convicted of the gruesome Mother's Day Massacre, he prepares to face his death. His final hope for salvation lies with his daughter, Liza, an artist who dreamed of a life of music and song but left the prestigious Juilliard School to pursue a law degree with the intention of clearing her father's name. Just as she nears success, it's announced that Langston will be put to death in thirty days. In a desperate bid to find freedom for her

father, Liza enlists the help of Eli Stone, a jazz club owner she met at the classic Five Points venue, The Roz. Devastated by the tragic loss of his wife, Eli is trying to find solace by reviving the club... while also wrestling with the longing to join her in death. Everyone has a dream that might come true – but as the dark shadows of the past converge, could Langston, Eli, and Liza be facing a danger that could shatter those dreams forever?

Mystery/suspense HC \$47.99

The Perfect Crime:

22 Crime Stories from Diverse Cultures Around the World, anthology

Khan, Vaseem & Jakubowski, Maxim (editors)

Around the world, in 22 murders... Murder. Blackmail. Revenge. From Lagos to Mexico City, Australia to the Caribbean, Toronto to Los Angeles, Darjeeling to rural New Zealand, London to New York – 22 bestselling crime writers from diverse cultures come together from across the world in a razor-sharp and deliciously-sinister collection of crime stories. Featuring Oyinkan Braithwaite, Abir Mukherjee, S A Cosby, Silvia Moreno-Garcia, J P Pomare, Sheena Kamal, Vaseem Khan, Sulari Gentill, Nelson George, Rachel Howzell Hall, John Vercher, Sanjida Kay, Amer Anwar, Henry Chang, Nadine Matheson, Mike Phillips, Ausma Zehanat Khan, Felicia Yap, Thomas King, Imran Mahmood, David Heska Wanbli Weiden, and Walter Mosley.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

The Graphic Canon of Crime and Mystery

volume 02

Kick, Russ (editor)

Here are Teddy Goldenberg's dense, murky treatment of Dashiell Hammett's 'The Road Home', often considered the first hardboiled detective story ever published. Shawn Cheng renders the first serial-killer story, the so-called fairy tale 'Bluebeard' by Charles Perrault. Landis Blair re-imagines *The Trial* as a choose-your-own-adventure story that you cannot win. Plus, 23 other contributors using a wide range of illustrative styles. As with previous volumes in the Graphic Canon series, the illustrations run the full gamut of media and techniques, and artistic interpretations range from verbatim literalism to metaphorical extensions to surrealism and abstraction. The common theme, tracing the origins and standout texts of the morbid and mysterious, unites these multifarious partners in crime.

Mystery reference TP \$52.99

Castle Shade

Mary Russell mysteries

King, Laurie R

Queen Marie of Roumania, granddaughter to both Victoria, Empress of the British Empire, and Alexander II, Tsar of Russia, is in need of Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes' services. The queen – a famous beauty, who has single-handedly transformed Roumania from a backwater into a force to be reckoned with – invites the pair to Bran castle. The ancient fortress sits on the border with the newly-regained territory of Transylvania, and was a gift to Queen Marie from her people. The threat the queen fears is somewhat dubious:

shadowy figures, vague whispers, dangers that may only be accidents. But a young girl is involved. So, putting aside their doubts, Russell and Holmes set out to investigate the mystery in a land of long memory and hidden corners – a land that had known Vlad the Impaler. A land from whose churchyards the shades creep. Leanne adores these Holmesian pastiches, set in the 1920s; if you haven't tried them, start with *The Beekeeper's Apprentice* (PBK, \$19.99).

Sherlockiana PBK \$19.99

Antique Auctions are Murder

Poppy McAllister mysteries

Klein, Libby

It's peak summer season at the Butterfly House Bed and Breakfast in Cape May, with tourists fluttering in and out and wreaking enough havoc to rival a Jersey Shore hurricane. Also back in town is Courtney Whipple and his family of antique dealers for the annual Cold Spring Village antique show. Courtney's son Auggie has a unique piece he believes will fetch them a fortune if he can get it authenticated in time – a piece rival dealer Grover Prickle insists was stolen from his store. Poppy and her Aunt Ginny attend the auction, hoping to bid on an armoire for the B&B, and discover a veritable armoury for sale – everything from ancient blades and nineteenth century guns to such potential killing devices as knitting needles and a blacksmith hammer. Strangely, they don't see either Auggie or Grover – or the mysterious item they both claim to own. Then during the auction, a body falls out of the very armoire Poppy was hoping to acquire, stabbed through the heart. Now, surrounded by competitive dealers and makeshift weapons, she must find out who turned the auction house into a slaughterhouse...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

A Dash of Death

Cocktails & Catering mysteries

Klump, Michelle Hillen

Bad news for Samantha Warren: The plucky Houston, Texas, reporter lost her job and her fiancé in rapid succession. But Sam has a way of making lemonade out of the bitterest of lemons. At a meeting of the local historical-homes council, she serves up the homemade bitters that she made as gifts for her wedding party. She intends to use that as her 'in' to become an in-demand party mixologist. But the party's over for one of the council members, who keels over dead soon after he sips the bereft bride's bitter brew. It turns out that the victim, Mark, was poisoned – his drink spiked with oleander. Since Sam mixed the drink that Mark imbibed right before his demise, she finds herself at the front of the suspect line. Now, she'll have to use all of her reporter's wisdom and wiles to clear her name. Who could have wanted Mark dead? His wife, Gabby? His girlfriend, Darcy? Someone who wanted his seat on the council? Or another citizen of this sweet Texas town that holds some seedy secrets? Job hunting, building her mixology business, and fending off late-night phone calls from her nearly betrothed don't leave much time for sleuthing. But if Sam can't 'pour' over the clues to find the killer, it may soon be last call for her.

Mystery HC \$49.99

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery March 2022 (continued)

Live, Local, and Dead

Vermont Radio mysteries

Knight, Nikki

In a fit of anger, radio DJ Jaye Jordan blows a snowman's head off with a Revolutionary War-style musket. But the corpse that tumbles out is all too human. Jaye thought life would be quieter when she left New York City and bought a tiny Vermont radio station. But now, Edwin Anger – the ranting and raving radio talk show host who Jaye recently fired – lies dead in the snow. And the Edwin Anger fans who protested his dismissal are sure she killed him. To clear her name, Jaye must find the real killer, as if she doesn't have her hands full running the radio station, DJing her all-request love song show, and shuttling tween daughter Ryan to and from school. It doesn't make matters easier that the governor – Jaye's old crush – arrived on the scene before the musket smoke cleared. Fortunately, Jaye has allies... if you count the flatulent neopete that lives in the transmitter shack, and Neptune, the giant grey cat that lives at the station. If Jaye can turn the tables on the devious killer, she and the governor may get to make some sweet, sweet music together. But if she can't, she'll be off the air... permanently.

Mystery HC \$49.99

How to Book a Murder

Starlit Bookshop mysteries

Kuhn, Cynthia

To help save her family's floundering Colorado bookstore, Starlit Bookshop, newly-minted PhD Emma Starrs agrees to plan a mystery-themed dinner party for her wealthy, well-connected high school classmate Tabitha Baxter. It's a delightful evening of cocktails and conjecture until Tabitha's husband, Tip – hosting the affair in the guise of Edgar Allan Poe's detective C Auguste Dupin – winds up murdered. In a heartbeat, Emma and her aunt Nora, a famous mystery writer, become suspects. Emma is sure the party's over for Starlit events, until celebrated author Calliope Nightfall, whose gothic sensibilities are intrigued by the circumstances, implores the bookseller to create a Poe-themed launch event for her latest tome. Throwing a bash to die for while searching for additional clues is already enough to drive Emma stark raven mad, but another shocking crime soon reveals that Silvercrest has not yet reached the final chapter of the puzzling case. Someone in this charming artistic community has murder on the mind, and if Emma cannot outwit the killer, she and her beloved aunt will land behind bars, to walk free nevermore.

Mystery HC \$47.99

Born for Trouble: Further Adventures of Hap & Leonard

collection

Lansdale, Joe R

When you meet him, Hap Collins seems like just a good ol' boy. But even in his misspent youth, his best pal was Leonard Pine: black, gay, and the ultimate outsider. Together, they have sort of found their way as partners in crime solving – and at least as often, as hired muscle. As Hap wrestles with his new identity as a husband and father, and Leonard finds love in a long-term relationship, the boys continue their crime-solving shenanigans. They grapple with a stolen stuffed dog, uncover the sordid secret of a missing

bookmobile, compete in a warped version of the Most Dangerous Game, regroup after Hap's visit to the psychologist goes terribly awry, and much more.

Noir TP \$37.95

Headed for a Hearse

American Mystery Classics

Latimer, Jonathan

Robert Westland's date with the executioner is just around the corner when he finally decides to fight the murder rap sending him to the electric chair. Framed for his wife's grisly demise, Westland is in a bind, and his last hope is Bill Crane, a booze-soaked detective who's as ruthless with a quip as he is when trawling the streets for Chicago's most brutal criminal element. Crane's got just six days to suss out the real killer – he sets his sights on a cast of oddball characters, aided by a lime squeezer, a quart of whiskey, a monkey wrench, a taxicab, a stopwatch, and a deep sea diver... but in 1930s Chicago, everyone's got a secret, and the pressure is on for Crane to separate the dangerous from the truly homicidal before it's too late. Chicago crime beat journalist-turned-novelist Jonathan Latimer blends hardboiled detective fiction with a shot of screwball comedy in the fast-moving, realistic 1935 baffle *Headed for a Hearse*, an exciting combination of the macabre and the humorous.

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

Cleopatra's Dagger Lawrence, Carole

New York, 1880. Elizabeth van den Broek is the only female reporter at the Herald, the city's most popular newspaper. Then she and her bohemian friend Carlotta Ackerman find a woman's body wrapped like a mummy in a freshly dug hole in Central Park – the intended site of an obelisk called Cleopatra's Needle. The macabre discovery takes Elizabeth away from the society pages to follow an investigation into New York City's darkest shadows. When more bodies turn up, each tied to Egyptian lore, Elizabeth is onto a headline-making scoop more sinister than she could have imagined. Her reporting has readers spellbound, and each new clue implicates New York's richest and most powerful citizens. And a serial killer is watching every headline. Now, a madman with an indecipherable motive is coming after Elizabeth and everyone she loves. She wants a good story? She may have to die to get it.

Historical mystery/suspense TP \$35.95

The King Falls

Bridge to Death mysteries

Lee, R J

King Kohl, scion of the Kohl and Son real estate firm, has a reputation for loving three things: the ladies, closing on properties, and playing bridge. Still, when he invites Wendy, the president of the Rosalie, Mississippi, Country Club Bridge Bunch, to a small, exclusive bridge party, her investigative instincts as a reporter for the Rosalie Citizen are on the alert. In fact, King means to use the occasion to make a surprising announcement to his selected guests. But before he can lay his cards on the table, tragedy strikes. After receiving a mysterious message to hurry to King's home, Wendy almost collides with the man's real-estate rival, running out the front door insisting he

found King dead when he arrived. Not just dead, it turns out, but murdered – crowned with one of his own award plaques. Is the rival as guilty as he looks? Was it a crime of passion by one of Kohl's scorned lovers?

With her detective husband Ross and her father Bax Winchester, the chief of police, Wendy is determined to find the offender who dropped the unguarded King...

Mystery TP \$29.99

Peril on the Page

Open Book mysteries

Loudon, Margaret

Penelope Parish is ready to close the book on her amateur sleuthing – from now on, the Open Book's writer-in-residence will be sticking to villains of the fictional variety while she puts the final touches on her new novel. But when an author is murdered inside the bookshop, all of Upper Chumley-on-Stoke goes on high alert. Now, it's up to Pen and the quirky citizens of Chumley to stop a killer and protect the charming British town she's begun to call home.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Hideout

Alice Vega series

Luna, Louisa

Alice Vega has made a career of finding the missing and vulnerable against a ticking clock, but she's never had a case like that of Zeb Williams, missing for thirty years. It was 1984, and the big Cal-Stanford football game was tied with seconds left on the clock. Zeb Williams grabbed the ball and ran the wrong way, through the marching band, off the field, and out of the stadium. He disappeared into legend, replete with Elvis-like sightings and a cult following. Zeb's cold trail leads Vega to southern Oregon, where she discovers an anxious community living under siege by a local hate group, called the Liberty Boys. As Vega starts digging into the past, the mystery around Zeb's disappearance grows deeper, and the reach of the Liberty Boys grows more disturbing. Everyone has something to hide, and no one can cut to the truth like Alice Vega. But this time, her partner Max Caplan has his own problems at home, and the trouble Vega finds might be too much for her to handle.

Mystery/suspense TP \$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 badder 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 PBK \$22.99

Gold Brew Corpse

Coffee Shop mysteries

Lush, Tara

It's a steamy September, and business is brisk at Perkatory, the hottest coffee shop in Devil's Beach, FL. Much of the clientele pours in from Dante's Inferno, the hot yoga studio next door. But the bright, sunny Gulf Coast days turn decidedly dark roast, when the body of the studio's owner turns up in a nearby swamp. Between running Perkatory and training Stanley, her golden Shih Tzu puppy, reporter-turned-barista Lana Lewis is too busy to go sleuthing. But when the editor of the local paper asks her to write about the murder, Lana's dreams of getting back into journalism start to percolate. Lana discovers that the yogi has a nefarious past and her share of mug shots, so grinding her way through the suspect list is a large task. She learns that the victim was fatally beamed by an SUV before she was dumped in the swamp. But was the killer one of her students? An envious yoga teacher? Or a local photographer who seems to know too much? But no one tells Lana Lewis what to do. Hunting the caf-fiend who killed the yogi puts Lana and Chief Noah's relationship – and Lana's life – in very hot coffee.

Mystery HC \$47.99

The Three Locks

Sherlock Holmes Adventures

MacBird, Bonnie

A heatwave melts London... 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.

Sherlockiana PBK \$19.99

Murder at Mabel's Motel

Granny Reid mysteries

McKevett, G A

As quirky as McGill's residents can be, they usually welcome society's oddballs and outcasts into the community with open arms. But the three members of the Lone White Wolf Pack are a different story. Townsfolk aren't feeling the least bit neighbourly toward the gang widely believed to have orchestrated several hate crimes in the area. When the group's leader Billy Ray Sonner is found dead in an abandoned motel, most assume it was the result of an accidental overdose. An unfortunate yet predictable end for a man who lived the way Billy did. Only Stella and the sheriff have witnessed the crime scene

Pulp Fiction

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in person, and suspect something more disturbing happened in that ramshackle room... While Stella wades through a flood of potential culprits, one thing becomes clear – this wasn't an impulsive act of revenge. There's a sophisticated killer on the loose, and Stella must expose deep-rooted fears and dark pasts if she wants to crack a carefully planned murder and stop McGill from descending into chaos.

Mystery TP \$26.99

Gingerbread House **McPherson, Gatriona**

When shy, lonely Ivy meets a woman who claims to be her long-lost sister, she knows it's too good to be true. She decides to trust Kate anyway. She wants a family. She wants someone to love. She's making a mistake. Ivy enters Kate's fairy-tale cottage, deep in the heart of Scotland... and she doesn't come out. She's the first to go missing. She won't be the last. Meanwhile, in another part of the forest, Tash's journey is just beginning...

Mystery/suspense TP \$39.95

Argyles and Arsenic

Highland Bookshop mysteries

MacRae, Molly

After 93 well-lived years, Violet MacAskill is ready to simplify her life. Her eccentric solution? She'll throw a decanting and decluttering party at her family home – a Scottish Baronial manor near the seaside town of Inversgail, Scotland. Violet sets aside everything she wants or needs, then she invites her many friends in to sip sherry and help themselves to whatever they want from all that's left. Janet Marsh and Christine Robertson, two of the women who own Yon Bonnie Books in Inversgail, enjoy themselves at the party. Not everyone who attends has a good time, though. Wendy Erskine, director of the Inversgail museum, is found dead, and rumours swirl about food poisoning from a local food truck. Then Violet tells Constable Hobbs that a tin of rat poison is missing. And when Hobbs' own grandmother comes under suspicion for murder, he enlists the women from Yon Bonnie Books, and the race is on to find the murderer. But where do they begin? Are there clues in the 'Shocking Stockings' exhibit at the museum? Will the antique scrapbook pasted full of trivia about arsenic and bygone poisoners offer a solution? Or does the answer lie closer to home – is one of Violet's friends truly toxic? Poisonous games are afoot in Inversgail and the women of Yon Bonnie Books are playing to win.

Mystery HC \$55.00

Bear a Wee Grudge

Teddy Bear mysteries

Macy, Meg

It's springtime in Silver Hollow, Michigan, and Sasha is looking forward to the village's inaugural Highland Fling weekend. Plans are underway for a Kilted 5K, athletic competitions, dancing, live music, and even a Hurl-the-Haggis contest. Meanwhile, Sasha's staff is busy crafting custom teddy bears in kilts for the Silver Bear Shop's vendor booth. But trouble's brewing behind the scenes, as the obnoxious Teddy Hartman, former owner of a rival teddy bear company, sows seeds of

discord about town, targeting Sasha's family and their business. Things go from plaid to worse when – just a week before the festival kicks off – the disgruntled gossip is found murdered with an axe buried in his back. Sasha's dad is arrested, since he's a champion axe thrower. But she doesn't give a damn what it looks like – Sasha knows that despite the old business rivalry with Hartman, her father is innocent. So, with a spot of help from her friends, Sasha must bag the real killer before her first Fling also becomes her last.

Mystery TP \$26.99

Homicide and Halo-Halo

Tita Rosie's Kitchen mysteries

Manansala, Mia P

Things are heating up for Lila Macapagal. Not in her love life, which she insists on keeping nonexistent despite the attention of two very eligible bachelors. Or her professional life, since she can't bring herself to open her new café after the unpleasantness that occurred a few months ago at her aunt's Filipino restaurant, Tita Rosie's Kitchen. No, things are heating up quite literally, since summer, her least favourite season, has just started. To add to her feelings of sticky unease, Lila's little town of Shady Palms has resurrected the Miss Teen Shady Palms Beauty Pageant, which she won many years ago – a fact that serves as a wedge between Lila and her cousin slash rival, Bernadette. But when the head judge of the pageant is murdered and Bernadette becomes the main suspect, the two must put aside their differences and solve the case – because it looks like one of them might be next.

Mystery TP \$27.99

Palace of the Drowned **Mangan, Christine**

In Venice, Frances Croy is working to leave the previous year behind: another novel published to little success, a scathing review she can't quite manage to forget, and, most of all, the real reason behind her self-imposed exile from London: the incident at the Savoy. Sequestered within an aging palazzo, Frankie finds comfort in the emptiness of Venice in winter, in the absence of others. And then Gilly appears. A young woman claiming a connection from back home, one that Frankie can't quite seem to recall, Gilly seems determined for the two women to become fast friends. But there's something about her that continues to give Frankie pause, that makes her wonder just how much of what Gilly tells her is actually the truth. Those around Frankie are quick to dismiss her concerns, citing what took place that night at the Savoy. So too do they dismiss Frankie's claims that someone is occupying the other half of the palazzo, which has supposedly stood empty since after the war. But Frankie has seen the lights across the way, has heard the footsteps too – and what's more, knows she isn't mad. Set in the days before and after the 1966 flood – the worst ever experienced by the city of Venice – the trajectory of the disaster that forever altered the city mirrors Frankie's own inner turmoil as she struggles to make sense of what is and is not the truth, ultimately culminating in a tragedy that leaves her questioning her own role and responsibility – as well as her sanity.

Thriller PBK \$22.99

Tragedy on the Branch Line

Railway Detective mysteries

Marston, Edward

When Bernard Pomeroy finds a letter slipped under his door in the early hours, he flies into a panic. After dashing off a short note to his friend, he hands it to the porter at Corpus Christi College before hastening on to the railway station and boarding a train leaving Cambridge. However, shortly after disembarking at his destination, the undergraduate lies dead on the platform. Inspector Colbeck and Sergeant Leeming are summoned by the Master of the college to investigate Pomeroy's untimely demise. With the Boat Race on the horizon, the president of the Cambridge Boat Club believes their Oxford rivals responsible for the death of their cox, who had been heralded in the press for his talent. Yet it seems Pomeroy had ruffled many feathers during his short time at the university. With academic disputes, sporting rivalry and a clandestine romance in play, the Railway Detective will have to disentangle the many threads of Pomeroy's life, in order to answer the truth about his death.

Historical mystery PBK \$19.99

The Subsequent Wife

Masters, Priscilla

Jennifer Lomax is 21, but she's already taken some hard knocks in life. So, when older, reserved and enigmatic widower Steven Taverner asks her to marry him, she's desperate to believe she's found true love. That her lifelong dream could finally become a reality. But Jennifer also knows there's something not right about Steven. What secrets is he hiding about his dead wife, Margaret, and why does he refuse to talk about her? Jennifer decides to uncover the truth about Margaret. She soon wishes she hadn't. Is she about to make a devastating mistake?

Thriller TP \$39.95

Sea Storm

Underwater Investigation Unit series

Mayne, Andrew

A distress call draws rescuers Sloan McPherson and the Underwater Investigation Unit to a cruise ship off the coast of Fort Lauderdale that's sinking from a mysterious explosion. When it appears to be the work of an ecoterrorist and other ships are threatened, it becomes a race against time. More clues are discovered, and evidence is in danger of being washed away by a coming tropical storm. Sloan grows concerned that key details are being ignored, and a strange lack of urgency by authorities sets off alarms. As the troubling questions compound, Sloan is determined to chase down every lead she has. Her persistence is getting her closer to the truth: that there's something far more troubling at play than the official explanation. It's also putting Sloan on a collision course with an enemy more powerful than she realises, in a case so complex and deadly it may be impossible to prove. Now, cracking the case is a matter of staying one step ahead of someone with every resource imaginable to bury Sloan and everything she knows.

Mystery/suspense TP \$35.95

The Mystic's Accomplice

Mystic's Accomplice mysteries

Miley, Mary

It's 1924, and Maddie Pastore has it made. A nice house, a loving husband with a steady job – even if it is connected to Chicago's violent Torrio-Capone gang – and a baby on the way. But then Tommy is shot dead, and she learns her husband had a secret that turns her life upside down. Penniless and grieving, Maddie is only sure of two things: that she will survive for the sake of her baby, and that she'll never turn to the mob for help. So, when she's invited to assist a well-meaning but fraudulent medium, she seizes the chance. She's not proud of her work investigating Madam Carlotta's clients, but she's proud of how well she does it. When Maddie unearths potential evidence of a dark crime, however, she faces a terrible dilemma: keep quiet and let a murderer go unpunished, or follow the trail and put herself and her baby in mortal danger...

Historical mystery TP \$39.95

Say Her Name

Mitchell, Dreda Say & Carter, Ryan

It's 20 years since Eva, a biracial woman, was adopted as an eight year old, and Cherry and Carlton 'Sugar' McNeil have always been the only parents she's wanted or needed. But when she's dealt the double blow of Cherry's death and her own suspension from work, Eva decides it's time to discover who she was before she was theirs. Against Sugar's advice, Eva joins a DNA database, desperate for a match that will unlock her identity. And when a positive hit comes, she's excited to learn there are relations out there who might hold the key. But the closer Eva gets to uncovering her past, the more it appears someone is trying to stop her finally finding the truth... As she continues to dig, Eva is drawn into a dark and merciless underside to society, where black women disappear without a word. Names erased from history, no search parties, no desperate pleas for their return. Once, someone tried to save Eva from all this. Someone wanted a better life for her. But now that she's torn down the facade of her life, has she come too far to be spared again?

Thriller TP \$35.95

The Twelve Even Stranger **Days of Christmas**

Essex Witch Museum mysteries collection

Moore, Syd

With a tale for each day of Christmas, these spooky stories are the perfect companion for long, dark winter nights. So, wrap up warm and let yourself get lost in the world of the strange, the scary and the supernatural...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Cheddar Off Dead

Cheese Shop mysteries

Moss, Korina

Cheesemonger Willa Bauer is proving that sweet dreams are made of cheese. She's opened her very own French-inspired cheese shop, Curds & Whey, in the heart of the Sonoma Valley. The small town of Yarrow Glen is Willa's fresh start, and she's determined to make it a success – starting with a visit from the local food critic. What

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery March 2022 (continued)

Willa didn't know that this guy never gives a good review, and when he shows up nothing goes according to plan. She doesn't think the night can get any worse... until she finds the critic's dead body, stabbed with one of her shop's cheese knives. Now a prime suspect, Willa has always believed life's problems can be solved with cheese, but she's never tried to apply it to murder... The first in a series.

Mystery PBK \$24.95

Ice and Stone

Sharon McCone mysteries

Muller, Marcia

When the bodies of two Indigenous women are found in the wilderness of northern California, it is only the latest horrific development in a string of similar crimes in the area. Despite all evidence to the contrary, officials rule the deaths isolated incidents, which soon join the ranks of countless other unsolved cases quickly dismissed by law enforcement. In a town, where too many injustices are tolerated or brushed under the rug, only a few people remain who refuse to let a killer walk free. But Private Investigator Sharon McCone is one of those few. She is hired by an organisation called Crimes against Indigenous Sisters to go undercover in Meruk County – a community rife with secrets, lies, and corruption – to expose the truth. In an isolated cabin in the freezing, treacherous woods, McCone must work quickly to unravel a mystery that is rooted in profound evil – before she becomes the killer's next target.

Mystery/suspense PBK \$24.95

Behind the Lie

Naymark, Emily

A transplant to the upstate New York hamlet of Sylvan, all Laney wants is a peaceful life for herself and her son. But things rarely remain calm in Laney's life – and when her neighbourhood summer block party explodes in shocking violence and ends with the disappearance of her friend and another woman, she'll need all her skills as a PI to solve a mystery that reaches far beyond her small town. As people closest to Laney fall under suspicion, the local authorities and even her colleagues question her own complicity. And then there's 15-year-old Alfie, her complicated and enigmatic son, obviously hiding something. Even as Laney struggles to bury evidence of her boy's involvement, his cagey behaviour rings every maternal alarm. Laney's personal life unravels as she's drawn into her missing friend's dark secrets and she realises she and Alfie are in danger. With treachery blazing hot as the searing summer sun, Laney fights to save lives, her family's included.

Mystery HC \$49.99

The Bone Cay

Nellums, Eliza

Magda Trudell is the present-day caretaker of Whimbrel Estate, the Key West home of the famous poet Isobel Reyes. Isobel's suicide at the residence, in 1918, has nearly overshadowed her creative legacy – but Magda, a botanist and avid historian, is determined to protect it. Over the past decade, Magda has lovingly restored the house to the exact condition Isobel would have known. And even though a fierce October hurricane

is headed straight for the Keys, she isn't about to abandon her life's work to evacuate. As the mighty storm makes landfall, the dangers mount. First, a fire and flood threaten to destroy the house. Then the storm claims most of Magda's supplies. When part of the house collapses, she unearths an old steamer trunk in the rubble that contains a woman's remains. Is there more to Isobel's story than Magda knows? The unexpected appearance of a teenage girl and her father seeking shelter from the storm poses unnerving new questions. Are they really who they seem? And could they have a connection to the house's shadowy past? As the storm rages, Magda desperately tries to solve the real mystery of Isobel's death – and keep the living in one piece.

Mystery/suspense HC \$47.99

Murder at Wedgefield Manor

Jane Wunderly mysteries

Neubauer, Erica Ruth

England, 1926. Wedgefield Manor, deep in the tranquil Essex countryside, provides a welcome rest stop for Jane and her matchmaking Aunt Millie before their return to America. While Millie spends time with her long-lost daughter, Lillian, and their host, Lord Hughes, Jane fills the hours devouring mystery novels and taking flying lessons – much to Millie's disapproval. But any danger in the air is eclipsed by tragedy on the ground when one of the estate's mechanics, Air Force veteran Simon Marshall, is killed in a motorcar collision. The sliced brake cables prove this was no accident, yet was the intended victim someone other than Simon? The house is full of suspects – visiting relations, secretive servants, strangers prowling the grounds at night – and also full of targets. The enigmatic Mr Redvers, who helped Jane solve a murder in Egypt, arrives on the scene to, once more, offer his assistance. It seems that everyone at Wedgefield wants Jane to help protect the Hughes family. But while she searches for answers, is she overlooking a killer hiding in plain sight?

Historical mystery TP \$27.99

Murder on an Irish Farm

Irish Village mysteries

O'Connor, Carlene

If only her mother could be here! The entire O'Sullivan brood – not to mention the regulars from Naomi's Bistro – have gathered at St Mary's Church for the wedding of Siobhán and Macdara. It's not every day you see two *garda* marrying each other. Only Siobhán's brother James is missing. They can't start without him. But when James finally comes racing in, he's covered in dirt and babbling he's found a human skeleton in the old slurry pit at the farmhouse. What farmhouse? Macdara sheepishly admits he was saving it as a wedding surprise: he purchased an abandoned dairy farm. Duty calls, so the engaged *garda* decide to put the wedding on hold to investigate. James leads them to a skeleton clothed in rags that resemble a tattered tuxedo. As an elderly neighbour approaches, she cries out that these must be the remains of her one true love who never showed up on their wedding day, fifty years ago. The *garda* have a cold case on their hands, which heats up the following day

when a fresh corpse appears on top of the bridegroom's bones. With a killer at large, they need to watch their backs – or the nearly wedded couple may be parted by death before they've even taken their vows...

Mystery HC \$44.99

Pride, Prejudice, and Peril

Jane Austen Tea Society mysteries

Oliver, Katie

Phaedra Brighton is perfectly content with her life of lecturing college students, gossiping with her best friends, and dreaming of Mr Darcy. As a young, respected (if somewhat peculiar) English professor, her expertise lies in all things Jane Austen – but she knows that the closest she'll ever get to being a real-life Elizabeth Bennet is in her dreams. When *Who Wants to Marry Mr Darcy*, a new reality TV show, starts filming at her best friend Charlene's estate, Phaedra is intrigued. And when the producer asks her to lend her Austenian knowledge as a consultant on the show, she's over the moon. But on the first day of filming, when Charlene's new husband is found electrocuted, and Charlene herself is accused of the crime, Phaedra comes crashing back to reality. With murder on the syllabus and her best friend in dire straits, there's no Mr Darcy around to help Phaedra – she'll have to get to the bottom of this mystery, herself. The first in a series.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Water's Edge

Olsen, Gregg

When the body of Leann Truitt is found in a secluded cove in Mystery Bay, Detective Megan Carpenter is one of the first on the scene. The victim has telltale marks on her wrists, ankles, and neck where she has been bound. But that's not all. Next to Leann's body lies a puzzling clue – an unusual symbol scratched into a rock. With rookie Deputy Ronnie Marsh under her wing and the investigation underway, Megan starts to receive disturbing messages. Someone knows about her traumatic past. They know what she did. Determined to stay focused, Megan soon makes a chilling link between Leann's brutal killing and the unsolved murder cases of two other women – all redheads with the same marks on their bodies, the same symbol carvings found at the crime scenes, and most shockingly, all had been pregnant. The killer stalks his prey, kidnapping and torturing them in a very exact and methodical pattern. And he is not finished, yet... When the body of another woman is found bearing a striking resemblance to the other victims, Megan must crack the clues fast if she is to catch the twisted soul before they strike again. Megan might be closing in on the killer, but someone is watching her every move. Can Megan hide the secrets of her past threatening to destroy her future? And can she protect herself and Ronnie before they both find themselves in terrible danger?

Mystery/suspense TP \$28.95

Damaged Intentions

Abby Mullen series

Omer, Mike

As a child, Abby Mullen escaped the insidious Wilcox cult when it literally went down in flames. Years later, she's the NYPD's best hostage negotiator and a mother. She

thought the worst part of her life was behind her. Until now. Armed conspiracy theorists called the Watchers have attacked the local high school – and taken her daughter hostage. With the delusional Watchers holding her child at gunpoint, the unflappable Abby might be at her breaking point. But the clock is ticking on her daughter's life, and she has no choice but to negotiate with the paranoid group and discover their leader's secret before it's too late. As Abby peels back the layers of mystery surrounding the Watchers, there's always another puzzle underneath. And it seems to be leading back to the dark past, she's spent her whole life trying to forget.

Mystery/suspense TP \$35.95

Devil's Chew Toy

Osler, Rob

Seattle teacher and part-time blogger Hayden McCall wakes sporting one hell of a shiner, with the police knocking at his door. It seems that his new crush, dancer Camilo Rodríguez, has gone missing and they suspect foul play. What happened the night before? And where is Camilo? Determined to find answers, pint-sized, good-hearted Hayden seeks out two of Camilo's friends – Hollister and Burley – both lesbians and both fiercely devoted to their friend. From them, Hayden learns that Camilo is a 'Dreamer' whose parents had been deported years earlier, and whose sister, Daniela, is presumed to have returned to Venezuela with them. Convinced that the cops won't take a brown boy's disappearance seriously, the girls join Hayden's hunt for Camilo. The first clues turn up at Barkingham Palace, a pet store where Camilo had taken a part-time job. The store's owner, Della Rupert, claims ignorance, but Hayden knows something is up. And then there's Camilo's ex-boyfriend, Ryan, who's suddenly grown inexplicably wealthy. When Hayden and Hollister follow Ryan to a secure airport warehouse, they make a shocking connection between him and Della – and uncover the twisted scheme that's made both of them rich. The trail of clues leads them to the grounds of a magnificent estate on an island in Puget Sound, where they'll finally learn the truth about Camilo's disappearance – and the fate of his family.

Mystery/suspense HC \$47.99

All That Lives

Inspector McLean series

Oswald, James

An archaeological dig at the old South Leith parish kirkyard has turned up a mysterious body dating from around 700 years ago. The experts wonder if she wasn't murdered and dumped, but some suspect that this gruesome discovery is a sacrifice, placed there for a specific purpose. Then a second body is unearthed. This victim went missing only thirty years ago – but the similarities between her death and the ancient body's suggest something even more disturbing. Drawn into the investigation, McLean finds himself torn between a worrying trend of violent drug-related deaths and uncovering what truly connects these bodies. When a third body is discovered, and too close for comfort, he begins to suspect dark purpose at play – and that whoever put them there is far from finished.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery March 2022 (continued)

The Dead of Winter

Giordano Bruno mysteries, novella collection

Parris, S J

The Secret Dead: Summer, 1556. A girl's body is found in a Neapolitan monastery. Novice monk Giordano Bruno is determined to uncover what happened, but his investigation could deliver him into the hands of the Inquisition.

The Academy of Secrets: Autumn, 1568. An invitation arrives for Giordano Bruno from a secret society of philosophers. Bruno is delighted, but keeping their heretical secrets soon becomes a matter of life or death.

A Christmas Requiem: Winter, 1569. Giordano Bruno is summoned by the Pope, who is intrigued by his talent for memory games. But Rome is a den of iniquity, and Bruno will be lucky to escape the Eternal City alive.

Historical mystery PBK \$19.99

21st Birthday

Women's Murder Club series

Patterson, James & Paetro, Maxine

When young wife and mother Tara Burke goes missing with her baby girl, all eyes are on her husband, Lucas. He paints her, not as a missing person but a wayward wife – until a gruesome piece of evidence turns the investigation criminal. While *Chronicle* reporter Cindy Thomas pursues the story and ME Claire Washburn harbours theories that run counter to the SFPD's, ADA Yuki Castellano sizes Lucas up as a textbook domestic offender... who suddenly puts forward an unexpected suspect. If what Lucas tells law enforcement has even a grain of truth, there isn't a woman in the state of California who's safe from the reach of an unspeakable threat.

Thriller PBK \$19.99

The Heretic's Mark

Nicholas Shelby mysteries

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? The first in this compelling Tudor mystery series is *The Angel's Mark* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery PBK \$19.99

Knit or Dye Trying

Riverbank Knitting mysteries

Pleiter, Allie

As spring comes to Collinstown, the village launches a food festival to draw a new group of tourists. Libby, proud owner of YARN, has planned a yarn event to provide an alternative option to a foodie weekend. Artisan fibre dyer Julie Wilson – known for her work with animal-friendly, plant-based knitting fibres such as bamboo and hemp as well as her brilliant use of colour – will hopefully draw a crowd with a special dyeing workshop. The festival begins, but it draws more than crowds. First a flock of sheep parades down the street, herded by farmers protesting Julie's anti-wool stance. Then Julie's celebrity chef sister appears, and the siblings resume a long-standing rivalry. Despite all this, Julie's workshop has sold out. Libby is thrilled, and they're preparing for a full house. But the night before the event, Julie is found alone in the warehouse event space – dead. The witty 'Watch Julie Wilson Dye' workshop title now has a terrible new meaning – and it's up to Libby to catch a crafty killer.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

Cain's Jawbone

Powys Mathers, Edward

Six murders. One hundred pages. Millions of possible combinations... but only one is correct. Can you solve Torquemada's murder mystery? In 1934, the *Observer's* cryptic crossword compiler, Edward Powys Mathers (*aka* Torquemada), released a novel that was simultaneously a murder mystery and the most fiendishly difficult literary puzzle ever written. The pages have been printed in an entirely haphazard order, but it is possible – through logic and intelligent reading – to sort the pages into the only correct order, revealing six murder victims and their respective murderers. Only three puzzlers have ever solved the mystery of *Cain's Jawbone*: do you have what it takes to join their ranks? *Please note*: this puzzle is extremely difficult and not for the faint hearted.

Mystery PBK \$19.99

An Impossible Impostor

Veronica Speedwell mysteries

Raybourn, Deanna

London, 1889. Veronica Speedwell and her natural historian beau Stoker are summoned by Sir Hugo Montgomerie, head of Special Branch. He has a personal request on behalf of his goddaughter, Euphemia Hathaway. After years of travelling the world, her eldest brother, Jonathan, heir to Hathaway Hall, was believed to have been killed in the catastrophic eruption of Krakatoa a few years before. But, now, a man matching Jonathan's description and carrying his possessions has arrived at Hathaway Hall with no memory of his identity or where he has been. Could this man truly be Jonathan, back from the dead? Or is he a devious impostor, determined to gain ownership over the family's most valuable possessions – a legendary parure of priceless Rajasthani jewels? It's a delicate situation, and Veronica is Sir Hugo's only hope. Veronica and Stoker agree to go to Hathaway Hall to covertly investigate the mysterious amnesiac. Veronica is soon shocked to find herself face to face with

a ghost, from her past. To help Sir Hugo discover the truth, she must open doors to her own history that she long believed to be shut for good.

Historical mystery HC \$44.99

The Parting Glass

Cold Case Investigations

Redmond, Lissa Marie

An old wound forces Cold Case Detective Lauren Riley onto Injured on Duty leave. Unless she rests, she faces the threat of early retirement. However, dreading the prospect of doing nothing for six months, Lauren renews her private investigator license. She's soon contacted by Sharon Whitney, the ex-wife of wealthy Buffalo resident – and suspected mob boss – Howard Whitney. During their bitter divorce twenty years earlier a Picasso painting was stolen from their home and never recovered. After the main suspect passes away from ill health in Ireland, Sharon hires Lauren to locate the painting – before her ex-husband does. Lauren expects a low-stress, fact-finding trip yet arrives in Ireland to discover suspicions around the suspect's death and his home ransacked. With the clock ticking, uncovering the truth behind the painting's disappearance may be far more dangerous than Lauren imagined.

Mystery TP \$39.95

The Palace

Simon Riske series

Reich, Christopher

Life is good for Rafael de Bourbon.

The 40-year-old Spaniard recently married to a wealthy English beauty, and is days away from opening a luxury boutique hotel off the southern coast of Thailand. But when the Royal Thai Police storm the hotel and arrest him for blackmail and extortion, 'Rafa' is thrown into Bangkok's most notorious jail. In desperation, he reaches out to the one man who can prove his innocence. Simon Riske, ex-con and now 'private spy', owes Rafa his life. Once, he and de Bourbon were the closest of friends, until a woman came between them. Riske rushes to Bangkok to secure his friend's release and overnight, finds himself caught up in a web of intrigue larger and more dangerous than he could imagine. In hours, it is Riske who finds himself the wanted man. On the run in a foreign country, pursued by powerful unseen forces who will stop at nothing until he is killed, Riske must stay alive long enough to uncover the truth behind an international conspiracy that threatens to wreak carnage across the glittering capitals of Europe. From Bangkok to Singapore and ultimately to Cannes, Riske enlists the help of a daring investigative reporter, a rogue Mossad agent, and his own band of home-grown specialists, to thwart the cabal behind the plot, only to learn its very origins are frighteningly close to his past.

Suspense TP \$37.95

Girl Gone Missing

Cash Blackbear mysteries

Rendon, Marcie R

1970s, Fargo-Moorhead: it's the tail end of the age of peace and love, but Cash Blackbear isn't feeling it. Bored by her freshman classes at Moorhead State College, Cash just wants to play pool, learn judo, chain smoke, and be left alone. But when one of Cash's classmates

vanishes without a trace, Cash, whose dreams have revealed dangerous realities in the past, can't stop envisioning terrified girls begging for help. Things become even more intense, when an unexpected houseguest starts crashing in her living room: a brother she didn't even know was alive, from whom she was separated when they were taken from the Ojibwe White Earth Reservation as children and forced into foster care. When Sheriff Wheaton, her guardian and friend, asks for Cash's help with the case of the missing girl, she must override her apprehension about leaving her hometown – and her rule to never get in somebody else's car – in order to discover the truth about the girl's whereabouts. Can she get to her before it's too late? The follow-up to *Murder on the Red River* (PBK, \$19.99).

Noir TP \$29.99

Murder on the Red River

Cash Blackbear mysteries

Rendon, Marcie R

1970s, Red River Valley between North Dakota and Minnesota: Renee 'Cash' Blackbear is 19 years old and tough as nails. She lives in Fargo, North Dakota, where she drives truck for local farmers, drinks beer, plays pool, and helps solve criminal investigations through the power of her visions. She has one friend, Sheriff Wheaton, her guardian, who helped her out of the broken foster care system. One Saturday morning, Sheriff Wheaton is called to investigate a pile of rags in a field and finds the body of an Indian man. When Cash dreams about the dead man's weathered house on the Red Lake Reservation, she knows that's the place to start looking for answers. Together, Cash and Wheaton work to solve a murder that stretches across cultures in a rural community traumatised by racism, genocide, and oppression. The first in a series.

Noir PBK \$19.99

Christmas Candy Corpse

Courtney Archer mysteries

Ross, Rosemarie

Six ambitious bakers are competing for glory and a grand prize, showcasing their most delicious candies, cookies, and desserts. Courtney detects some on-set grinchiness from her co-workers, especially judge Shannon Collins, but she's hoping the sweet treats will restore everyone's festive spirits. That Christmas wish swiftly fizzles when assistant director Kinzy Hummel is found strangled – with an apron from Shannon's new product line... Shannon insists she's innocent. Meanwhile, Kinzy had been under pressure from a disgruntled attorney to settle her late grandfather's estate. But could that be a motive for murder? The show must go on even as Courtney sifts through competitors and crew for likely suspects. But unless she can quickly get to the truth, there'll be another helping of homicide amid the pinwheel cookies and fruitcakes...

Mystery PBK \$19.99

A Deadly Bone to Pick

Rothschild, Peggy

Ex-police officer and former PI Molly Madison is starting over. After the death of her husband, she and her golden retriever, Harlow, move cross-country to California.

Pulp Fiction

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But as charming and peaceful as the beachside town seems, she soon learns its tranquil tides hold dark secrets. On her first day in the new house, a large, slobbering Saint Berdoodle wanders in. Molly winds up taking on the responsibility of training Noodle since his owner is too busy to do the job. On one of their daily beachside walks, Noodle digs up a severed hand. Once Molly alerts the police and they run a background check on her, an incident from her past makes her an immediate suspect – after all, Noodle’s testimony to clear her name won’t hold much water in court. To prove her innocence, Molly must rely on instincts keener than a canine’s, to sniff out the real killer. But when Molly’s life is put in danger, will her two very loyal pups be able to rescue her?

Mystery HC \$44.99

Comes the War

Eddie Harkins series

Ruggero, Ed

April 1944, the 55th month of the war in Europe. The entire island of Britain fairly buzzes with the coiled energy of a million men poised to leap the Channel to France, the first, riskiest step in the Allies’ long slog to the heart of Germany and the end of the war. Lieutenant Eddie Harkins is tasked to investigate the murder of Helen Batcheller, an OSS analyst. Harkins is assigned a British driver, Private Pamela Lowell, to aid in his investigation. Lowell is smart, brave, and resourceful; like Harkins, she is prone to speak her mind even when it doesn’t help her. Soon, a suspect is arrested and Harkins is ordered to stop digging. Suspicious, he continues his investigation only to find himself trapped in a web of Soviet secrets. As bombs fall, Harkins must solve the murder and reveal the spies before it is too late.

Mystery/suspense TP \$45.95

Gat’s Paw

American Mystery Classics

Scarlett, Roger

Martin Greenough’s walled-off mansion is the last remaining holdout in the Boston parkland known as the Fenway – and the fact that it eluded condemnation by the city is a testament to the elderly bachelor’s great wealth. Childless and nearing the end of his life, he surrounds himself with only his cat, his servants, and a friend, Mrs Warden – to say nothing of the circle of extended family members whose lives he both subsidises and rules from afar, the nieces and nephews who all seem to be fonder of Uncle Mart’s money than they are of his character. On the eve of his birthday, Greenough requests the presence of his heirs at his home, insisting that he has something important to discuss. Before that discussion can take place, though, the man is murdered in his study. In one way or another nearly everyone there would benefit by his death, and none gathered seem terribly upset by it, so finding the culprit is no easy task for Inspector Kane of the Boston PD. But as he untangles the threads and unburies dark family secrets, the discovery of a bizarre clue might hold the key to solving the crime. A classical ‘closed circle’ mystery featuring a colourful cast of characters, *Cat’s Paw* exemplifies the puzzling, house-bound tales for which Roger Scarlett is remembered today.

It is sure to delight any fan of pure, Golden Age detective stories – especially those with a love of architecturally-focused plots.

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

The Darkest Game

LAPD Detective Tully Jarsdel mysteries

Schneider, Joseph

Bad things happen every day. No one knows this better than LAPD Detective Tully Jarsdel. He also knows that bad things often go unpunished – all it takes is a glance at his dusty stack of cold cases to see that time is kind to sinners. A museum curator is found shot, point blank; his home torn apart. It’s the sort of random crime destined to fester in an evidence locker. But it’s a case tailor made for the academic turned detective – he can’t leave any question unanswered. In pursuit of an untouchable killer, Jarsdel soon uncovers a web of fraud and corruption that leads him to sunny Catalina Island, Hollywood’s bygone playground. There, nothing is as it should be: the past is ever present, and Jarsdel unwittingly finds himself embroiled in a widespread conspiracy. While reckoning with a dark legacy, he’ll exhume long-buried secrets of LA’s troubled past and with it, deadly consequences.

Mystery/suspense TP \$37.95

Tower of Babel

Sears, Michael

Queens, New York – the most diverse place on earth. Native son Ted Molloy knows these streets like the back of his hand. Ted was once a high-powered Manhattan lawyer, but after a spectacular fall from grace, he has found himself back on his home turf, scraping by as a foreclosure profiteer. It’s a grubby business, but a safe one – until Ted’s case sourcer, a mostly reformed small-time conman named Richie Rubiano, turns up murdered shortly after tipping Ted off to an improbably lucrative lead. With Richie’s widow on his back and shadows of the past popping up at every turn, Ted realises he’s gotten himself embroiled in a murder investigation. His quest for the truth will take him all over Queens, plunging him into the machinations of greedy developers, mobsters, enraged activists, old litigator foes, and old-school New York City operators.

Mystery TP \$37.95

One Last Chance

CI Andreas Kaldis mysteries

Siger, Jeffrey

When Chief Inspector Andreas Kaldis’ long-time assistant, Maggie, returns to her ancestral home on Ikaria for her 104-year-old grandmother’s funeral, she quickly realises not only was Yiayia likely murdered, but that a series of other long-lived Ikariots had recently died under the same suspicious circumstances. Back in Athens, Andreas and his chief detective Yianni pursue a smuggling and protection ring embedded in the Greek DEA, and its possible involvement in the assassination of an undercover cop. But then Maggie and Yianni uncover a connection between their respective leads in the elder killings on Ikaria and the DEA corruption case, and they realise that there are international intrigues far more dangerous at play than anyone had imagined.

Mystery/suspense TP \$27.99

The Dead Gry Justice

Gilded Age mysteries

Simpson, Rosemary

May 1890: As NYU Law School finally agrees to admit female law students, Judge MacKenzie’s daughter Prudence weighs her choices carefully. Chief among her concerns is how her decision would affect the Hunter and MacKenzie Investigative Law agency and her professional and personal relationship with the partner who is currently recuperating from a near fatal shooting. But an even more pressing issue presents itself in the form of a street urchin, whose act of petty theft inadvertently leads Prudence to a badly beaten girl he is protecting. Fearing for the girl’s life, Prudence rushes her to the Friends Refuge for the Sick Poor, run by the compassionate Charity Sloan. When the boy and girl slip out of their care and run away, Prudence suspects they are fleeing a dangerous predator and is desperate to find them. Aided by the photographer and social reformer Jacob Riis and the famous journalist Nellie Bly, Prudence and Geoffrey scour the tenements and brothels of Five Points. Their only clue is a mysterious doll with an odd resemblance to the missing girl. But as the destitute orphans they encounter whisper the nickname of the killer who stalks them – *Il diavolo* – Prudence and Geoffrey must race against time to find the missing children before their merciless enemies do...

Historical mystery HC \$43.99

At the End of the World,

Turn Left

Slor, Zhanna

Masha remembers her childhood in the former USSR, but found her life and heart in Israel. Anna was just an infant when her family fled, but yearns to find her roots. College student Anna feels stuck in Milwaukee, with no real connections and parents who stifle her artistic talents. She is eager to have a life beyond the heartland. When she’s contacted online by a stranger from their homeland – a girl claiming to be her long-lost sister – Anna suspects a ruse or an attempt at extortion. But her desperate need to connect with her homeland convinces her to pursue the connection. At the same time, a handsome grifter comes into her life, luring her with the prospect of a nomadic lifestyle. Masha lives in Israel, where she went on Birthright and unexpectedly found home. When Anna disappears without a trace, Masha’s father calls her back to Milwaukee to help find Anna. In her former home, Masha immerses herself in her sister’s life – which forces her to recall the life she, too, had left behind, and to confront her own demons. What she finds in her search for Anna will change her life, and her family, forever.

Thriller TP \$29.99

Disappearance of a Scribe

Eye of Isis mysteries

Stabenow, Dana

Two Alexandrian fishermen come across a horrifying sight – the body of a skeleton floating upright at the bottom of the sea, anchored in place by a cement weight around his feet. In Alexandria’s rough-and-tumble construction trade, they call that ‘being fitted

with a pair of Rhakotis sandals’ and what’s worse, he’s the second such victim in two years. Queen Cleopatra is busy rebuilding her city after the Alexandrian War and these murders are not to be allowed to interfere with this primary task, so she charges Tetisheri, her new Eye of Isis, with the task of finding out who these men were, when they were murdered, and, above all, why. The sequel to *Death of an Eye* (PBK, \$19.99).

Historical mystery TP \$29.99

A Great Hope

Stanley, Jessica

John Clare was a titan in Australian politics. The head of a powerful union and a key player in the election of Kevin Rudd as prime minister in 2007, he had long been tipped as a future leader himself. Supporting him in his push for power were his elegant wife Grace, his troubled children Sophie and Toby, and Tessa, the mistress he thought would stay secret. But now John has fallen, brutally, to his death. A terrible accident – or was it? In the wake of losing John, his inner circle mourn and rage, remembering and trying to forget the many ways he’d loved and disappointed them. An adoring and unreliable father; a grateful and selfish husband; a besotted and absent lover; an authoritative and compassionate leader; a failed politician in an era when party politics failed a nation. As those around him reassess everything they knew of and felt for John, a new idea of what love and power really mean begins to emerge – as does the true cause of his death. Gripping, propulsive and ambitious, *A Great Hope* untangles the mystery of John’s fall through the eyes of those who knew him best – or thought they did. Deftly displaying the clash of the political and the personal, this is a novel for our times, from a brilliant and forceful new Australian writer. ‘Just pages into this book, I felt the electric jolt that accompanies the discovery of a serious new talent. *A Great Hope* is a genuine literary page turner that satisfies until the last paragraph.’ – *Annabel Crabb*.

Mystery/suspense TP \$32.99

Animals

Staples, Will

When rhino poachers kill two of his fellow rangers in Kruger Park, South African Defence Force veteran Cobus Venter reaches his breaking point. Quitting his job, he embarks on a vigilante mission to take down the animal-trafficking syndicate from the inside. Meanwhile, in Florida, insurance investigator Randall Knight is called to a private roadside zoo, where a new tiger cub of suspect lineage brought a virus that wiped out all the zoo’s tigers. The disease is just one species jump away from erupting into a deadly global human pandemic. What starts as a simple insurance claim leads Knight to discover a shocking new evolution in the business of illicit animal trafficking. Both men’s journeys take them from the darkest corners of Southeast Asia to the VIP gambling rooms of Macau, where they must stay alive long enough to stop a vicious international triad from ending wildlife as we know it.

Thriller TP \$43.95

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery March 2022 (continued)

The Imitator

Starford, Rebecca

Out of place at boarding school, scholarship girl Evelyn Varley realises that the only way for her to fit in is to be like everyone else. She hides her true self and what she really thinks behind the manners and attitudes of those around her. By the time she graduates from Oxford University in 1939, ambitious and brilliant Evelyn has perfected her performance. War is looming. Evelyn soon finds herself recruited to MI5, and the elite counterintelligence department of Bennett White, the enigmatic spy runner. Recognising Evelyn's mercurial potential, White schools her in observation and subterfuge and assigns her the dangerous task of infiltrating an underground group of Nazi sympathisers working to form an alliance with Germany. But befriending people to betray them isn't easy, no matter how dark their intent. Evelyn is drawn deeper into a duplicity of her own making, where truth and lies intertwine, and her increasing distrust of everyone, including herself, begins to test her better judgement. When a close friend becomes dangerously ensnared in her mission, Evelyn's loyalty is pushed to breaking point, forcing her to make an impossible decision. A page-turning World War Two spy thriller, based on true events.

Suspense PBK \$22.99

The Constant Man

Willi Geismeier series

Steiner, Peter

Former Munich detective Willi Geimeiser is a wanted man. He sacrificed his career and put his life on the line by exposing a high-ranking Nazi official as a murderer, and is now in hiding in a cabin deep in the Bavarian forest. But when his friend, Lola, is savagely attacked, Willi returns to Munich in disguise and under a new identity – Karl Juncker – determined to find the perpetrator. Meanwhile, the discovery of the body of a woman in the River Isar leads Willi's old colleague and friend, Detective Hans Bergemann, to uncover similar disturbing murders stretching back years. A serial killer who preys on young women is running loose on Munich's streets. Could they be responsible for the attack on Lola, and can Willi catch a deranged murderer before the Gestapo catches him?

Historical mystery/suspense TP \$39.95

So Far and Good

Cecil Younger Investigations

Straley, John

The verdict from the three-judge panel is in. Cecil Younger, bumbling criminal defence investigator and totally embarrassing father, has been sentenced to seven and a half years in prison, for his involvement in... well, a number of things, ranging from destruction of private property to killing a guy. But compared to the original 25-year sentence, it's not so bad. His success with getting his sentence reduced has attracted the attention of his fellow inmates, and one man, Fourth Street, reaches out for advice for his upcoming parole hearing in exchange for protection and companionship. When he isn't reading Adrienne Rich or James Baldwin with Fourth Street, Cecil spends his time filling up large yellow legal pads. He writes, mostly, about his teenage daughter, Blossom, who is on a Nancy Drew-like quest

to help her friend, George, discover the truth about her biological parents, which turns out to be complicated. Shortly after submitting a mail-in genetics test, George learns she is the infamous Baby Jane Doe who was kidnapped from her Native mother shortly after she was born. A media and legal circus quickly ensues, and George's reunion with her birth family isn't the heart-warming story the journalists hoped it would be. There is an even darker secret about the baby-snatching case, a secret threatens to destroy not just George's family – but Cecil's as well.

Mystery HC \$47.99

Evil in Emerald

Harriet Gordon mysteries

Stuart, A M

Between working at her brother's school and typing up Inspector Robert Curran's police reports, Harriet Gordon has little time for personal pursuits. She has been enjoying the rehearsals for her role in the Singapore Amateur Dramatic and Musical Society's latest production – *Pirates of Penzance*. But Harriet quickly discovers tensions run deep within the theatre company and when the leading man is found murdered, suspicions abound, exposing scandalous behaviour as well as some insidious crimes. Inspector Curran, once again, turns to Harriet for help with this difficult case, but his own life begins to unravel as a mysterious man turns up on his doorstep claiming to know more about Curran's painful past than he himself does. And after the one person he has always counted on delivers him some devastating news, the line between his personal and professional life begins to blur. Now, more than ever, Curran needs Harriet's steadfast assistance, and when another cast member meets a violent end, Curran and Harriet will have to close in on a killer determined to make this case their final curtain call. The first of the Harriet Gordon mysteries is Singapore Sapphire (TP, \$29.99).

Historical mystery TP \$29.99

Four Aunties and a Wedding

Aunties mysteries

Sutanto, Jesse

After getting away with literal murder, Meddy can't wait to settle down and marry the love of her life, Nathan. She's found the dress, got the dream venue at Christ Church College, Oxford, plus having a destination wedding comes with the added bonus of not having to invite her very large extended family... But is it even a wedding, if nobody gets killed? Although when her meddling aunties get involved, Meddy knows her wedding is going to be anything but quiet. Even though there's no dead body hidden in the freezer this time, for better or worse, it's certainly going to be a day she's never going to forget... The sequel to *Dial A For Aunties* (PBK, \$19.99), winner of the Comedy Women in Print Prize 2021.

Mystery TP \$29.99

Firewall

Tom Clancy's Splinter Cell

Swallow, James

Veteran Fourth Echelon agent Sam Fisher has a new mission recruiting and training the next generation of Splinter Cell operatives for the NSA's covert action division, including his daughter Sarah. But when a lethal assassin from Fisher's past returns from the dead on

a mission of murder, father and daughter are thrust into a race against time as a sinister threat to global security is revealed. A dangerous cyberwarfare technology known as Gordian Sword – capable of crashing airliners, destroying computer networks and plunging entire cities into darkness – is being auctioned off to whichever rogue state makes the highest bid. Sam and Sarah must call on their very singular set of skills to neutralise Gordian Sword and stop the weapon falling into the wrong hands – at any cost...

Thriller TP \$37.95

Lady Joker

Takamura, Kaoru

Tokyo, 1995. Five men meet at the racetrack every Sunday to bet on horses. They have little in common except a deep disaffection with their lives, but together they represent the social struggles and griefs of post-war Japan: a poorly socialised genius stuck working as a welder; a demoted detective with a chip on his shoulder; a Zainichi Korean banker sick of being ostracised for his ethnicity; a struggling single dad of a teenage girl with Down syndrome. The fifth man bringing them all together is an elderly drugstore owner grieving his grandson, who has died suspiciously. Intent on revenge against a society that values corporate behemoths more than human life, the five conspirators decide to carry out a heist: kidnap the CEO of Japan's largest beer conglomerate and extract blood money from the company's corrupt financiers. Inspired by the unsolved true-crime kidnapping case perpetrated by 'the Monster with 21 Faces', *Lady Joker* has become a cultural touchstone since its 1997 publication, acknowledged as the magnum opus by one of Japan's literary masters, twice adapted for film and TV, and often taught in high school and college classrooms.

Mystery/suspense TP \$34.99

City of Shadows

Counterfeit Lady mysteries

Thompson, Victoria

Elizabeth Miles Bates has returned from her honeymoon with Gideon and is taking great pride in having completely forsaken her disreputable past. Then her friend Anna Vanderslice begs her to use her talents to save her widowed mother from an unscrupulous medium. Since the war and the flu epidemic left so many families in mourning, séances have come back into vogue as desperate families long to communicate with their loved ones. Anna's mother has been attending séances in hopes of connecting with her son, David, who died of influenza. Anna had thought it a heartbreaking but harmless activity, but she's just learned that Mrs Vanderslice is paying the medium ever-increasing sums of money in her eagerness to make contact. Since David's death has already caused Anna and her mother financial hardship, Mrs Vanderslice's obsession is in danger of ruining them. Madame Ophelia is working with a group of con artists to fleece as many grieving New Yorkers as possible before moving on to another city. Several of Mrs Vanderslice's friends, as well as some of Gideon's clients, have already been victims. Elizabeth knows that simply exposing the medium as a fraud will not be enough to recoup the stolen money; the only way is to

con the medium and her cohorts. But will Elizabeth's family help her when it means betraying other con artists? Elizabeth recruits Gideon, her aunt Cybil, and her partner, Zelda, to lend a hand. Can Elizabeth and her gang of amateurs fool the professionals? Or will speaking to the dead lead to deadly consequences?

Historical mystery HC \$43.99

Murder on Wall Street

Gaslight mysteries

Thompson, Victoria

Reformed gangster Jack Robinson is working hard to bolster his image in Gilded Age New York City society as he prepares to become a new father. But when Hayden Norcross, the man who nearly ruined his wife, is shot in cold blood, Jack knows the police will soon come knocking on his door. Frank Malloy has to agree – things don't look good for Jack. But surely a man as unlikeable, as Hayden, had more than a few enemies. And it's soon clear that plenty of the upper echelon as well as the denizens of the most squalid areas of the city seem to have hated him. Sarah and Frank have their work cut out for them. As the daughter of the elite Decker family, Sarah has access to the social circles Hayden frequented, and the more she learns about his horrific treatment of women, the more disturbed she becomes. And as Frank investigates, he finds that Hayden had a host of unsavoury habits that may have hastened his demise. But who finally killed him? Sarah and Frank must put the pieces together quickly before time runs out and Jack's hard-won new life and family are ripped apart.

Historical mystery PBK \$19.99

Those Who Perish

Caleb Zelic series

Viskic, Emma

A remote island. An isolated community. A killer picking them off, one by one... Deaf PI Caleb Zelic has always been an outsider, estranged from family and friends. But when he receives a message that his brother, Anton, is in danger, Caleb sees it as a chance at redemption. He tracks Anton down to a small, wind-punished island, where secrets run deep and resentments deeper. When a sniper starts terrorising the isolated community, the brothers must rely on each other like never before. But trust comes at a deadly price... The first in the series is *Resurrection Bay* (PBK, \$19.99).

Thriller TP \$29.99

The Goldest Case

Bruno, Chief of Police mysteries

Walker, Martin

Bruno Courrages is Chief of Police of the lovely town of St Denis in the Dordogne. His main wish is to keep the local people safe and his town free from crime. But crime has a way of finding its way to him. For thirty years, Bruno's boss, Chief of Detectives Jalipeau, known as J-J, has been obsessed with his first case. It was never solved and Bruno knows that this failure continues to haunt J-J. A young male body was found in the woods near St Denis and never identified. For all these years, J-J has kept the skull as a reminder. He calls him 'Oscar'. Visiting the famous prehistory museum in nearby Les Eyzies, Bruno sees some amazingly lifelike heads expertly reconstructed from

Pulp Fiction

Crime & Mystery March 2022 (continued)

ancient skulls. He suggests performing a similar reconstruction on Oscar as a first step towards at last identifying him. An expert is hired to start the reconstruction and the search for Oscar's killer begins again, in earnest. The latest in this wonderful series (another of Ron's faves!), set in the Dordogne. *Death in the Dordogne (aka Bruno, Chief of Police)* is the first in the series (PBK, \$19.99).
Mystery PBK \$22.99

When the Grow's Away

Evenfall Witches B&B mysteries

Wallace, Auralee

After spending months unable to use her powers, Brynn Warren is once again using her gift and working at her family's B&B. Her heart is full, and although one of her aunts wonders if it might be a little fuller – with a bit of romance in her life, Brynn is certain that finding love again is not in her future. In fact, she can't imagine anyone being more certain of anything... except for, maybe, the recently-deceased Mortimer Sweete. He's certain he's been murdered, and he wants Brynn's help to bring his killer to justice. Mort is positive he knows who killed him: his business partner's wife, Cookie, who had been trying to get them to sell the candy shop for months. But Brynn doesn't share his conviction. After all, the coroner ruled his death natural causes, and Mort did have health problems in life. But with Cookie putting up a *For Sale* sign for the shop already, Brynn knows she can't just let it go. Trying to solve a might-be murder while attempting to stop her aunt from meddling in her personal life seems like a recipe for disaster. If Brynn wants to bring Mort's spirit peace, she'll have to rely on all her skills – both magical and mundane – to uncover the truth.
Mystery PBK \$19.99

Night of the Were-Cat

Cat Groomer mysteries

Watkins, Eileen

To an animal lover like Cassie, all cats are beautiful... though, some may be more photogenic than others. When a customer brings in Quentin, a Maine Coon who looks more wolf than feline, it gives Cassie an idea. The owner of Chadwick's retro movie theatre wants to promote an upcoming werewolf movie marathon – how about a werewolf look-alike contest for pets? Things are getting hairy around Chadwick in other ways too. A thief targets the clinic where Cassie's veterinarian boyfriend Mark works, making off with anaesthetics. Soon after, a young woman dies in a related drug incident. Wanting to help the police, Cassie and her good friend, Dawn, go undercover on the singles scene to investigate a suspected 'party drug' ring, getting Mark's protective hackles up. But the villain may be a wolf in sheep's clothing – someone Cassie knows and trusts. And if her sleuthing skills aren't up to scratch, the culprit may slink away to kill again...
Mystery TP \$27.99

The Second Cut

Rilke series

Welsh, Louise

Auctioneer Rilke has been trying to stay out of trouble, keeping his life – more or less – respectable. Business has been slow at Bowery Auctions; so, when an old friend, Jojo, gives Rilke a tip off for a house clearance, life seems to be looking up. The next day, Jojo washes up dead. Jojo liked Grindr hook ups and recreational drugs – is that the reason the police won't investigate? And if Rilke doesn't find out what happened to Jojo, who will? Twenty years on from his appearance in *The Cutting Room* (PBK, \$19.99), Rilke is still walking a moral tightrope between good and bad, saint and sinner.
Thriller TP \$29.99

The Cutting Room

Rilke series

Welsh, Louise

When Rilke, a dissolute auctioneer, comes upon a hidden collection of violent and highly disturbing photographs, he feels compelled to discover more about the deceased owner who coveted them. Soon, he finds himself sucked into an underworld of crime, depravity and secret desire, fighting for his life. A reissue, highly recommended!
Thriller PBK \$19.99

A Fatal Glow

Odesa Jones mysteries

Wesley, Valerie Wilson

Recently-widowed Odesa Jones is sure the exclusive catering job she's scored from wealthy businessman Casey Osborne will propel her catering career into the big leagues. So, when Dess's pesky second sight warns her that Osborne is bad news, she ignores it. She wishes she hadn't when he drops dead at his brunch after sampling her homemade preserves. Osborne's death is declared a homicide. Dess and the friends who helped her cook are considered suspects... To clear her name and find the truth, Dess delves into Casey Osborne's life. Everyone from his sinister business partner to his tormented ex-wife has reason to kill him – and the opportunity to do it. With the help of her spirited aunt, loyal co-workers, and mischievous cat Juniper, she desperately searches for answers. Until a second murder leads Dess down a frightening path filled with insidious hidden agendas – and someone poised to change her life forever.
Mystery TP \$27.99

The Patient's Secret

White, Loreth Anne

Lily Bradley is a respected psychotherapist married to a distinguished professor. They live in a dream house with their two children in close-knit Story Cove. Lily lives a well-ordered life. Or so it seems. As a therapist, she knows everyone keeps things hidden. Even her. Then sensual and free-spirited Arwen Harper rolls into town in her hand-painted VW van, her 16-year-old son riding shotgun. Overnight, Story Cove's secrets are no longer safe. Because Arwen might know her new neighbours better than they know themselves. Now, someone is

dead, and it looks like murder. Brutal and personal. The death invites the shrewd eye of Detective Rue Duval. Rue's job is to expose secrets. But she's also an expert at keeping them. As the lives of three women become inexorably entwined, one thing is clear: when it comes to survival, ordinary people can do the most terrible things.

Thriller

PBK

\$22.99

A Counterfeit Suitor

Rosalind Thorne mysteries

Wilde, Darcie

It is every mama's dearest wish that her daughter marries well. But how to ensure that a seemingly earnest suitor is not merely a fortune hunter? Rosalind is involved in just such a case, discreetly investigating a client's prospective son-in-law, when she is drawn into another predicament shockingly close to home. Rosalind's estranged father, Sir Reginald Thorne – a drunkard and forger – has fallen into the hands of the vicious scoundrel Russell Fullerton. Angered by her interference in his blackmail schemes, Fullerton intends to unleash Sir Reginald on society and ruin Rosalind. Before Rosalind's enemy can act, Sir Reginald is found murdered – and Fullerton is arrested for the crime. He protests his innocence, and Rosalind reluctantly agrees to uncover the truth, suspecting that this mystery may be linked to her other, ongoing cases. Aided by her sister, Charlotte, and sundry friends and associates – including handsome Bow Street Runner Adam Harkness – Rosalind sets to work. But with political espionage and Napoleon loyalists in the mix, there may be more sinister motives, and far higher stakes, than she ever imagined...
Historical mystery HC \$43.99

Measure for Murder

Inspector Harry Charlton mysteries

Witting, Clifford

It is 1940 and Mrs Mudge, the cleaning lady, is busy tidying the Little Theatre in Lulverton, which is run by the local amateur dramatics' society. But she is in for a surprise when she finds a corpse in the ticket office, stabbed with a dagger – a prop from the society's latest play, *Measure for Measure*. The novel is in two sections. In the first, the narrator, Vaughn Tudor, describes the formation of the small amateur theatre group, in a sleepy village on the South Coast in the period leading up to the Second World War. But then in the second half, after the revelation of the identity of the victim and the calling in of Witting's series detective Inspector Charlton to investigate, the reader finds out that there were rather a lot of people, who had cause to visit that little theatre on the night of the murder... But can the police disentangle the complicated relationships to discover the real killer? A reissue, first published in 1941
Classic mystery (reissue) TP \$33.95

Murder in Blue

Inspector Harry Charlton mysteries

Witting, Clifford

John Rutherford, bookseller and sometime fiction writer, discovers the bludgeoned corpse of a policeman one evening, while taking a stroll in a rainstorm. The policeman's

overturned bicycle is what first catches Rutherford's eye. Then he sees Officer Johnson's body sprawled on the sodden ground of Phantom Coppice. Rutherford takes Johnson's bike and pedals to rural Paulsfield police station, two miles away, to report the crime. There, he finds Sgt Martin who initiates calls to a doctor, a photographer, and Inspector Charlton. But it is not these two lead detectives who are the most interesting characters of the book. That honour goes to 19-year-old George Stubbings, assistant at Voslivres, the bookshop Rutherford owns. George is a detective story addict and he is keen on solving the various mysteries surrounding Johnson's violent death. He is both ingenious in dealing with Rutherford and ingenious in his precocious observations about the apparent murder. A reissue, first published in 1937.
Classic mystery (reissue) TP \$33.95

Life For a Life

Detective Kate Young 03

Wyer, Garol

When a young man is found lying on a station platform with a hole in his head, DI Kate Young is called in to investigate the grisly murder. But the killing is no one off. As bodies start to pile up, she is faced with what might be an impossible task – to hunt down a ruthless killer on a seemingly random rampage. Meanwhile, Kate has her own demons to battle as she struggles to come to terms with her husband's death. And she is hell-bent on exposing corruption within the force and bringing Superintendent John Dickson to justice. But with the trail of deception running deeper – and closer to home – than she could ever have imagined, she no longer knows who she can trust. With her grip on reality slipping, Kate realises that maybe she and the killer are not so different after all. But time is running out and Kate is low on options. Can she catch the killer before she loses everything?
Mystery/suspense TP \$35.95

Family Money

Zunker, Chad

Alex Mahan is married to his high school sweetheart, Taylor. They have two daughters and a beautiful home, and Alex's start-up business is about to explode thanks to massive private funding from his compassionate and supportive father-in-law, Joe. With millions more to come, all is perfect – until Joe is abducted and murdered during a family trip in Mexico. Alex's world is about to be turned upside down. He can't bear to tell his grieving wife why. The man they've both idolised has been keeping secrets. The pledged millions are nowhere to be found. The source of the original investment is a mystery, even to Joe's financial adviser. No one, it seems, has any idea who the man they knew, loved, and trusted really was. As Alex digs deeper into Joe's shadowy life, the most shocking surprises are yet to come. Deadly ones, too, because every lie that Alex uncovers in Joe's dark past puts his family in more danger.
Thriller TP \$35.95