The Nature of the Beast

A Chief Inspector Gamache Novel

Louise Penny

"Penny has been compared to Agatha Christie [but] it sells her short. Her characters are too rich, her grasp of nuance and human psychology too firm...." --Booklist (starred review)

Hardly a day goes by when nine year old Laurent Lepage doesn't cry wolf. From alien invasions, to walking trees, to winged beasts in the woods, to dinosaurs spotted in the village of Three Pines, his tales are so extraordinary no one can possibly believe him. Including Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache, who now live in the little Quebec village.

But when the boy disappears, the villagers are faced with the possibility that one of his tall tales might have been true.

And so begins a frantic search for the boy and the truth. What they uncover deep in the forest sets off a sequence of events that leads to murder, leads to an old crime, leads to an old betrayal. Leads right to the door of an old poet.

And now it is now, writes Ruth Zardo. And the dark thing is here.

PRAISE

Praise for the #1 New York Times Best Seller The Long Way Home

"Splendid....Ms. Penny's books mix some classic elements of the police procedural with a deep-delving psychology, as well as a sorrowful sense of the precarious nature of human goodness, and the persistence of its opposite, even in rural Edens like Three Pines." - The New York Times

"[A] work of art... that transcends genre, engages heart and mind and, like all of Penny's work, leaves the reader awestruck by the depth of her skills and the decency of her spirit." -Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Another gem from the endlessly astonishing Penny." -Booklist (starred review)

LOUISE PENNY is the #1 New York Times and Globe and Mail bestselling author of ten previous Chief Inspector Armand Gamache novels. She has won numerous awards, including a CWA Dagger
The Year of Fear

Machine Gun Kelly and the Manhunt That Changed the Nation

Joe Urschel

"Machine Gun" Kelly, a kidnapping, and the cross-country, back-roads chase through Depression-era America that turned Kelly and J. Edgar Hoover into legends.

It's 1933 and Prohibition has given rise to the American gangster. Bank robberies at gunpoint are commonplace and kidnapping for ransom is the scourge of a lawless nation. With local cops unauthorized to cross state lines in pursuit and no national police force, safety for kidnappers is just a short trip on back roads they know well from their bootlegging days. George "Machine Gun" Kelly and his wife, Kathryn, are some of the most celebrated gangsters of their era. With gin-running operations facing extinction and bank vaults with dwindling stores of cash, Kelly sets his sights on the easy-money racket of kidnapping. His target: rich oilman, Charles Urschel.

Enter J. Edgar Hoover, a desperate Justice Department bureaucrat who badly needs a successful prosecution to impress the new administration and save his job. Hoover's agents are given the sole authority to chase kidnappers across state lines and when Kelly bungles the snatch job, Hoover senses his big opportunity. What follows is a thrilling 20,000 mile chase over the back roads of Depression-era America, crossing 16 state lines, and generating headlines across America along the way.

The Year of Fear is a thrilling true story of gangsters and lawmen and how an obscure federal bureaucrat used this now legendary kidnapping case to launch the FBI.

PRAISE

"Double the trouble, twice the action, and quadruple the enjoyment of a novel, this stuff is real. Gangsters, G-men, and the 1930s --- but it's not what you think. Instead, this little-known tale from history is better." -Steve Berry, New York Times bestselling author

"A notorious gangster, a dramatic kidnapping and a splashy, page-one trial. In Joseph Urschel's hands it adds up to a gripping, fast-paced portrait of America at the crossroads of a lawless 'year of fear'." -Daniel Stashower, New York Times bestselling author of The Hour of Peril: The Secret Plot to Murder Lincoln Before the Civil War

JOE URSCHEL is Executive Director of the National Law Enforcement Museum in Washington, DC. Urschel is a former managing editor of USA TODAY where he also served as a senior correspondent and columnist and has worked for the Detroit Free Press as a reporter, critic and editor. His journalism honors include awards from the National Association of Newspaper Columnists, the National Association of Sunday and Feature Editors and an Emmy. He lives in Virginia.
Dishing the Dirt

An Agatha Raisin Mystery

M. C. Beaton

New York Times bestseller M. C. Beaton's beloved Agatha Raisin is back and finds that she must prove her own innocence when a local therapist turns up dead

When therapist Jill Davent moved to the village of Carsely, Agatha Raisin was not a fan. Not only was this therapist romancing Agatha's ex-husband, but she dug up details of Agatha's not-too-glamorous origins. Jill also counsels a woman, Gwen Simple, that Agatha firmly believes assisted her son in some grisly murders, although there is no proof. Not one to keep her feelings to herself, Agatha tells anyone that would listen that Jill is a charlatan and better off dead. Agatha could only sigh with relief when the therapist took an office in Mircester.

When Agatha learns that Jill had hired a private detective to investigate her background, she barges into Jill's office and gives her a piece of her mind, yelling "I could kill you!" So when Jill is found strangled to death in her office two days later, Agatha becomes the prime suspect. But Agatha, along with her team of private detectives, is determined to prove her innocence and find the real culprit. This time Agatha must use her skills to save her own skin.

With Dishing the Dirt, MC Beaton proves that "once you meet Agatha Raisin, you'll keep coming back." (New York Journal of Books)

PRAISE

"Delightfully wicked . . . and entertaining." -RT Book Reviews on The Blood of an Englishman

"[The Blood of an Englishman] is another rollicking mixture of clever mystery-making and love gone wrong." -Kirkus Reviews

"Beaton has a winner in the irrepressible, romance-hungry Agatha." -Chicago Sun-Times

"M. C. Beaton has a foolproof plot for the village mystery." -The New York Times Book Review

M. C. BEATON, who was the British guest of honor at Bouchercon 2006, has been hailed as the "Queen of Crime" (The Globe and Mail). In addition to her New York Times and USA Today bestselling Agatha Raisin novels, Beaton is the author of the Hamish Macbeth series and four Edwardian mysteries. Born in Scotland, she currently divides her time between the English Cotswolds and Paris.
In Elsa Hart's stunning debut, an exiled librarian traveling through the 18th-century Chinese/Tibetan borderlands must learn the truth about a Jesuit priest's death before the Emperor arrives.

On the mountainous border of China and Tibet in 1708, a detective must learn what a killer already knows: that empires rise and fall on the strength of the stories they tell.

Li Du was an imperial librarian. Now he is an exile. Arriving in Dayan, the last Chinese town before the Tibetan border, he is surprised to find it teeming with travelers, soldiers, and merchants. All have come for a spectacle unprecedented in this remote province: an eclipse of the sun commanded by the Emperor himself.

When a Jesuit astronomer is found murdered in the home of the local magistrate, blame is hastily placed on Tibetan bandits. But Li Du suspects this was no random killing. Everyone has secrets: the ambitious magistrate, the powerful consort, the bitter servant, the irrefutable secretary, the East India Company merchant, the nervous missionary, and the traveling storyteller who can't keep his own story straight.

Beyond the sloping roofs and festival banners, Li Du can see the mountain pass that will take him out of China forever. He must choose whether to leave, and embrace his exile, or to stay, and investigate a murder that the town of Dayan seems all too willing to forget.

PRAISE

"This debut historical mystery deftly combines ingenious plotting and suspense with a subtle understanding of China, its culture, and its people. The protagonist, Li Du, a librarian and intellectual, is well worth keeping an eye on." - Donna Leon

ELSA HART was born in Rome, Italy, but her earliest memories are of Moscow, where her family lived until 1991. Since then she has lived in the Czech Republic, the U.S.A., and China. She earned a B.A. from Swarthmore College and a J.D. from Washington University in St. Louis School of Law. She wrote Jade Dragon Mountain in Lijiang, the city formerly known as Dayan. It is her first novel.
The Slaughter Man

Tony Parsons

British police officer and single father Max Wolfe returns in international bestseller Tony Parsons' next stunning crime novel

Max Wolfe is back—the two-fisted homicide detective with a small daughter and dog waiting for him at home and a crazed serial killer waiting for him somewhere out in the pitiless London streets.

On New Year's Day, a wealthy family is found slaughtered inside their exclusive gated community, their youngest child stolen away. The murder weapon—a gun used to stun cattle before they are butchered—leads Max to a dusty corner of Scotland Yard's Black Museum devoted to a mass murderer who, 30 years ago, was known as The Slaughter Man. But The Slaughter Man has done his time and is now dying of terminal cancer. Is he really back in the killing game? And was the slaughter of a happy family a mindless killing spree, or a grotesque homage by a copycat killer, or a contract hit designed to frame a dying man? Max desperately needs to find the missing child and stop the killer before he destroys another innocent family—or finds his way to Detective Wolfe's own front door.

A murdered family. A dying serial killer. An abducted child. And a young detective consumed by obsession who must learn that even the happiest of families have black, twisted secrets that someone is ready to kill for…

PRAISE

"Spectacular—tense but human, fast but authentic—maybe this is what Tony Parsons should have been doing all along."—Lee Child

"Sometimes, rarely, you know from the first chapter or so of a novel that you're in the hands of a master storyteller. In the case of Tony Parsons' brilliant new thriller, The Murder Man, we know this within the first few pages. A relentless plot, evocative prose and compelling (and wrenching) portraits of the characters, good and evil, conspire to make this a must-read. And I have two words for hero Max Wolfe: More. Soon."—Jeffery Deaver

TONY PARSONS is an award winning journalist and the international bestselling author of more than ten novels, including Man and Boy, winner of the Book of the Year prize, One For My Baby, and Man and Wife, among others. He lives in London.
Come Hell or Highball

Maia Chance

In this Prohibition-era caper, society matron Lola Woodby agrees to recover a stolen film reel for its rightful owner, but before she can retrieve it, the man in possession of the reel is killed.

31-year-old society matron Lola Woodby has survived her loveless marriage with an unholy mixture of highballs, detective novels, and chocolate layer cake, until her husband dies suddenly, leaving her his fortune...or so Lola thought. As it turns out, all she inherits from Alfie is a big pile of debt. Pretty soon, Lola and her stalwart Swedish cook, Berta, are reduced to hiding out in the secret love nest Alfie kept in New York City. But when rent comes due, Lola and Berta have no choice but to accept an offer made by one of Alfie's girls-on-the-side at his funeral: in exchange for a handsome sum of money, the girl wants Lola to retrieve a mysterious reel of film for her. It sounds like an easy enough way to earn the rent money. But Lola and Berta realize they're in way over their heads when, before they can retrieve it, the man currently in possession of the film reel is murdered, and the reel disappears. On a quest to retrieve the reel and solve the murder before the killer comes after them next, Lola and Berta find themselves navigating one wacky situation after another in high style and low company.

Charming, witty, often laugh-out-loud funny, Maia Chance's *Come Hell or Highball* introduces a sparkling new voice in crime fiction.

PRAISE

"Whatever Lola wants, Lola gets—and has a high old time doing it! So will you."—Ann B. Ross

"Maia Chance's novel is an absolutely delightful read. It's a wonderful period piece with a strong, sassy and smart heroine that will keep the reader turning the pages till the very end."—Emily Brightwell

"Maia Chance brings the Roaring Twenties to vibrant life in this delightful series debut. Intrepid heroine Lola Woodby will lead you on a thrilling adventure as she tries to solve a murder with the help of her Swedish cook and a very sexy private investigator while dodging bill collectors and well-meaning family members."—Victoria Thompson

MAIA CHANCE was a finalist for the 2004 Romance Writers of America Golden Heart Award and is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Washington. She is writing her dissertation on nineteenth-century American literature.
A Killing in Zion

A Mystery

Andrew Hunt

A Salt Lake City deputy sheriff investigates a polygamist sect only to get caught up in the murder of its leader, a self-proclaimed Mormon prophet.

After a high-profile case thrusts deputy Art Oveson into the spotlight, Salt Lake City's mayor taps him to head the city's Anti-Polygamy Squad. As a Mormon ashamed that his own ancestors played a part in the church's polygamist past, Art's eager to do his part to remove the extremists still practicing plural marriage. But after one of the polygamist patriarchs is murdered and a shell-shocked young woman found at the scene of the crime, Art finds himself drawn further into this society of extremists than he ever expected.

Historian and Hillerman award-winner Andrew Hunt returns to 1930s Salt Lake City in a mystery that shows a city and religion struggling to grow and shake off a notorious history that has not yet become a thing of the past.

PRAISE

Praise for City of Saints

"This engrossing historical debut is set in 1930 Salt Lake City and based on a true case....the procedural steadily builds up steam and explodes in all the right places."-Library Journal (starred review)

"Hunt's triumphant mystery debut introduces Salt Lake County deputy Art Oveson, a loving family man and committed Mormon....this hard-edged whodunit with echoes of James Ellroy warrants a sequel."-Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"Mixing in a terrifically paced plot and a memorable policeman hero....City of Saints is full of juicy twists that go deep into Mormon doctrine and travel as far as Hollywood."-Sarah Weinman

ANDREW HUNT is a professor of history in Waterloo, Ontario. His areas of study include post-1945 U.S. History, the Civil Rights Movement, the Vietnam War, and the American West. He has written reviews for The Globe and Mail and The National Post, two works of nonfiction, The Turning and David Dellinger, and is coauthor of The 1980s. His first novel in the Art Oveson series, City of Saints, was the winner of the Hillerman Prize in 2011. He grew up in Salt Lake City and currently lives in Canada.
Move Your Blooming Corpse

An Eliza Doolittle & Henry Higgins Mystery

D. E. Ireland

Amateur detectives Eliza Doolittle and Professor Henry Higgins are off to the races in the latest in this charming mystery series featuring characters from George Bernard Shaw's Pygmalion

In the second book from talented writing team D.E. Ireland, famous literary characters Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins once again come to life as a hilarious investigative team. Move Your Blooming Corpse explores the Edwardian racing world and the fascinating characters who people it, from jockeys to duchesses, in this delightful traditional mystery that will appeal to fans of British mysteries.

Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins are at the posh Royal Ascot, the biggest horse racing event of the season. Eliza's father is the new co-owner of a champion racehorse, and Eliza and Henry are excited to cheer the Donegal Dancer on to victory. However, their idyllic outing takes a serious turn when a victim is trampled during the Gold Cup race and someone is found murdered in the stables.

With time running out before the upcoming Eclipse Stakes, she and Higgins investigate jealous spouses, suffragettes and the colorful co-owners of the Donegal Dancer. But can they outtrace the murderer, or will there be another blooming corpse at the finish line?

PRAISE

Praise for Wouldn't It Be Deadly:

"This debut novel is adorable and should appeal to fans of the characters as well as those who appreciate a fun-filled romp through early 20th century London...this is an enjoyable read with great series potential."—RT Book Reviews (four stars)

"A madcap, intricate mystery combines with rich historical detail, a hilarious ending, and, most of all, the author's fine re-creation of the delightful cast from My Fair Lady. Broadway fans looking for something new will enjoy this treat."—Booklist

D. E. IRELAND is a writing team of two Michigan authors who met as undergraduates in an anthropology class and have remained friends ever since. Both are married to computer geeks, and each has one beautiful and brilliant daughter. Lifelong book lovers and history buffs, they have authored several novels on their own.

ALSO AVAILABLE

Wouldn't It Be Deadly: An Eliza Doolittle and Henry Higgins Mystery
9/2014 | 9781250049353
The Second Life of Nick Mason

A Novel

Steve Hamilton

The first book in a remarkable new series from the two-time Edgar Award-winning author of The Lock Artist and the New York Times bestselling Alex McKnight series.

Nick Mason is out of prison. After five years inside, he has just been given the one thing a man facing 25-to-life never gets, a second chance. But it comes at a terrible price.

Nick Mason is out of prison, but he's not free. Whenever his cell phone rings, day or night, he must answer it and follow whatever order he is given. It's the deal he made with Darius Cole, a criminal kingpin serving a double-life term who still runs an empire from his prison cell.

Forced to commit increasingly more dangerous crimes, hunted by the relentless detective who put him behind bars, and desperate to go straight and rebuild his life with his daughter and ex-wife, Nick will ultimately have to risk everything—his family, his sanity, and even his life—to finally break free.

PRAISE

Praise for The Second Life of Nick Mason

"Stunning. A gripping non-stop thriller. An engrossing read from page one. Steve Hamilton has delivered a fascinating new character. A flat out terrific read. I could not put this book down." -Don Winslow, author of Savages

"Whatever he writes, I'll read. Steve Hamilton's that good." -Lee Child

"Steve Hamilton amazes me. Every time I think he's going to zig he zags. As original as any writer I've ever read, Hamilton once again reinvents himself and the genre with another wonderful character and story. Get in on the ground floor with The Second Life of Nick Mason. It's a great read." -Michael Connelly

"Read..."

STEVE HAMILTON's debut, A Cold Day in Paradise, won the PWA/SMP Best First Private Eye Novel Contest before winning both an Edgar and a Shamus Award for Best First Novel. His standalone novel The Lock Artist was named a New York Times Notable Crime Book, received an Alex Award, and went on to win the Edgar Award for Best Novel. He attended the University of Michigan, where he won the prestigious Hopwood Award for writing, and now lives in Cottekill, NY, with his wife and their two children.
The Adventuress

A Lady Emily Mystery

Tasha Alexander

In this newest entry in the New York Times bestselling series by Tasha Alexander, Lady Emily Hargreaves travels to the south of France where an apparent suicide may be something far more sinister.

Emily and husband Colin have come to the French Riviera for what should be a joyous occasion - the engagement party of her lifelong friend Jeremy, Duke of Bainbridge, and Miss Amity Wells, an American heiress. But the merrymaking is cut short with the apparent poisoning of one of Jeremy's oldest friends. Especially puzzling is that the body was found in Jeremy's hotel suite, prompting the question of who the victim was supposed to be - Jeremy or his friend?

While Emily puts the pieces of this puzzle together, odd incidents begin to plague both her and Jeremy. Are they just harmless pranks, or is something malevolent afoot? Emily will need all of her investigative skills to discover the truth and avert another tragedy.

PRAISE

"The Lady Emily mysteries have only strengthened as the series continues, combining fascinating historical details with vivid descriptions bringing the Victorian period to life." —RT Book Reviews on The Counterfeit Heiress

"One of Lady Emily's most interesting cases. The Victorian detail enhances the difficulties of proving someone dead or alive and discovering a killer with none of the usual motives for murder." —Kirkus Reviews on The Counterfeit Heiress

"Tasha Alexander has created Victorian London's most colorful and delightfully eccentric sleuth." —Jacqueline Winspear, New York Times bestselling author of the Maisie Dobbs Series

TASHA ALEXANDER attended the University of Notre Dame, where she signed on as an English major in order to have a legitimate excuse for spending all her time reading. She and her husband, novelist Andrew Grant, divide their time between Chicago and the UK.
Wrath of the Furies

A Novel of the Ancient World

Steven Saylor

To rescue an old friend, Gordianus must go behind enemy lines, facing unspeakable danger in the greatest war of the ancient world

In 88 B.C., it seems as if the entire ancient world is at war. In the west, the Italian states are rebelling against Rome; in the east, Mithridates is marching through and conquering the Roman Asian provinces. Even in the relatively calm Alexandria, a coup has brought a new Pharaoh to power and chaos to the streets. The young Gordianus has been waiting out the chaos in Alexandria, with Bethesda, when he gets a cryptic message from his former tutor and friend, Antipater. Now in Ephesus, as part of Mithridates' entourage, Antipater seems to think that his life is in imminent danger.

To rescue him, Gordianus concocts a daring, even foolhardy, scheme to go "behind enemy lines" and bring Antipater to safety. But there are powerful, and deadly forces, at work here, which have their own plans for Gordianus. Not entirely sure whether he's a player or a pawn, Gordianus must unravel the mystery behind the message if he's to save himself and the people he holds most dear.

PRAISE

"Steven Saylor's engaging series of popular novels center around Gordianus the Finder-a kind of Roman Sherlock Holmes." -Wall Street Journal

"Saylor puts such great detail and tumultuous life into his scenes that the sensation of rubbing elbows with the ancients is quite uncanny." -New York Times Book Review

"Saylor has acquired the information of a historian but he enjoys the gifts of a born novelist." -Boston Globe

STEVEN SAYLOR is the author of acclaimed historical mystery novels featuring Gordianus the Finder, including Raiders of the Nile, as well as the internationally bestselling historical novels Empire and Roma. He has appeared on the History Channel as an expert on Roman politics and life. He divides his time between Berkeley, California, and Austin, Texas.
Death Wears a Mask
A Mystery
Ashley Weaver

Amory Ames and her rakish husband Milo take on a murder at a masked ball in this Christie-esque traditional mystery set in 1930s England

Ashley Weaver established herself as a bright new voice in the tradition of Deanna Raybourn and Tasha Alexander with the first in her witty and stylish Amory and Milo Ames mystery series, Murder at the Brightwell.

Following the murderous events at the Brightwell Hotel, Amory Ames is looking forward to a tranquil period of reconnecting with reformed playboy husband Milo. Amory hopes a quiet stay at their London flat will help mend their dysfunctional relationship after their unexpected reconciliation. However, she soon finds herself drawn into another investigation when Serena Barrington asks her to look into the disappearance of valuable jewelry snatched at a dinner party.

Amory agrees to help lay a trap to catch the culprit at a lavish masked ball hosted by the notorious Viscount Dunmore. But when one of the illustrious party guests is murdered, Amory is pulled back into the world of detection, enlisted by old ally Detective Inspector Jones. As she works through the suspect list, she struggles to fend off the advances of the very persistent viscount even as rumors swirl about Milo and a French film star.

Once again, Amory and Milo must work together to solve a mystery where nothing is as it seems, set in the heart of 1930s society London.

PRAISE

Praise for Murder at the Brightwell:

"It's all very Downton Abbey.... Weaver lays the foundation for a solid series in her first novel as she channels the ambience and spirit of British society during the post-World War I years."-Associated Press

"This debut novel by a librarian lays the foundation for a stylish series with Milo and Amory channeling Nick and Nora Charles."-Booklist

"Fans of plucky female amateur sleuths will welcome Amory Ames, the heroine of Weaver's pleasing debut... the affable Amory could carry a series."-Publishers Weekly

ASHLEY WEAVER is the Technical Services Coordinator at the Allen Parish Libraries in Oberlin, Louisiana. Weaver has worked in libraries since she was 14; she was a page and then a clerk before obtaining her MLIS from Louisiana State University. Weaver lives in Oakdale, Louisiana.
The Haunted Season

A Max Tudor Mystery

G. M. Malliet

Max Tudor must contend with his new role as a father as well as a murder all too close to home in Nether Monkslip in the next installment in G. M. Malliet's wildly popular series

Agatha Award-winning author G. M. Malliet has charmed mystery lovers, cozy fans, and Agatha Christie devotees everywhere with Wicked Autumn, A Fatal Winter, Pagan Spring, and Demon Summer, the critically acclaimed mysteries featuring handsome former-spy-turned-cleric Father Max Tudor. Hailed as "wittier than Louise Penny, lighter than Tana French, smarter than Deborah Crombie" (Cleveland Plain Dealer), Malliet is a top-notch writer whose work gets better with each book.

Something sinister is stirring at Totleigh Hall, the showcase of the English village of Nether Monkslip. Usually, the Lord and Lady of the manor are absent—high tax rates, it is murmured with more than a trace of envy, force them to live on the continent for most of the year. But Lord and Lady Baaden-Boomethistle have been in residence for some weeks now, and the villagers are hoping for a return to the good old days, when the lord of the manor sprinkled benefits across the village like fairy dust. Father Max Tudor's invitation to dinner at the Hall comes as a welcome novelty; it will be his first time meeting the famous family that once held sway in the area. But before he has time to starch his clerical collar and organize a babysitter, a sudden and suspicious death intervenes, and the handsome vicar's talent for sorting through clues to a murder is once again called into play in this charming and clever novel.

PRAISE

"Highly entertaining... Each visit to Nether Monkslip has been a delight. A Demon Summer pays tribute to the village mystery while showing its relevance to modern times." --Associated Press

"Wittier than Louise Penny, lighter than Tana French, smarter than Deborah Crombie, G.M. Malliet has made a name for herself with her cozy-but-cutting English mysteries. A Demon Summer makes the case that she may be the best mystery author writing in English at the moment." --Cleveland Plain Dealer

G. M. MALLIET won the Agatha Award for best first novel for Death of a Cozy Writer, which initially won the Malice Domestic Grant, was nominated for both a Macavity and an Anthony Award, and was chosen as one of the Best Books of 2008 by Kirkus Reviews. Malliet's first three books in the Max Tudor series—Wicked Autumn, Fatal Winter, and Pagan Spring—were all nominated for the Agatha Award as well. She lives in the Washington, D.C., area.
The Company She Kept

A Joe Gunther Novel

Archer Mayor

"Over 26 years and 25 books, Joe Gunther has... grown in stature, and so has the series." —Publishers Weekly (starred review)

During the height of a particularly brutal Vermont winter, one morning a woman's body is found hanging high above the interstate. The woman, found with the word "dyke" carved on her chest is quickly determined to be the victim of a brutal murder. That alone is enough to bring in Joe Gunther and his VBI (Vermont Bureau of Investigation) team. But when the victim is identified not only as a state senator, but as an intimate friend of the governor's, it unleashes a publicity maelstrom that makes the investigation make a difficult investigation more challenging. While the anti-lesbian message is an obvious feint meant to mislead investigators, it does reveal that the governor is gay, and forces her to publicly acknowledge that fact.

In the meantime, while the publicity rages on to even greater heights, the police begin to focus intensely on the dead senator's life. One thing they uncover is that she had a fondness for recreational marijuana. In Vermont, however, neither lesbianism nor marijuana use are the stuff of murder. It's up to Gunther and his team to cut through this particular stack of weed to find out not just who, but why?

PRAISE

"I once asked my wife who her favorite mystery author was and she said Archer Mayor... I'm not sure our marriage has recovered." —Craig Johnson

"Archer writes books with strong female characters, plots to keep you up all night, and a good-looking, kind cop who's single. What's not to love? And with 25 in this irresistible series, satisfaction guaranteed." —Lisa Scottoline

"When readers ask me who I read, who I admire, who I try to pattern myself after as a writer, I point to Archer Mayor. His Joe Gunther novels use wrenchingly perfect police procedurals to chronicle contemporary small town life in all its beauty and decay." —Julia Spencer-Fleming

ARCHER MAYOR, in addition to writing the New York Times bestselling Joe Gunther series, is an investigator for the sheriff's department, the state medical examiner, and has twenty-five years of experience as a firefighter/EMT. He lives near Brattleboro, Vermont.
The Circle

Bernard Minier

From the internationally acclaimed author of The Frozen Dead comes a chilling murder mystery set during the World Cup in the south of France.

They find the boy by the swimming pool, dolls floating on its surface.

Inside the house, his teacher lies dead.

But he claims to remember nothing...

June 2010. In the middle of a World Cup match, Martin Servaz receives a call from a long-lost lover. A few miles away in the town of Marsac, Classics professor Claire Diemar has been brutally murdered.

As if that weren't disturbing enough, Servaz receives a cryptic e-mail indicating that Julian Hirtmann, the most twisted of all serial killers, is back…and hitting a little too close to home. With death and chaos surrounding the small university town in Southern France where he was once a student and where his daughter is now enrolled, Servaz must act quickly.

With the help of detectives Irene Ziegler and Esperandieu, Servaz will have to uncover a world of betrayal and depravity to connect the dots between these gruesome murders that keep re-opening wounds from his past. After the success of The Frozen Dead, Bernard Minier plunges readers once again into a perfectly constructed, dark and oppressive atmosphere, driven forward by a gripping plot, pushing the limits of the genre.

PRAISE

Praise for The Frozen Dead:

"The pervasiveness of evil in this tense and disturbing novel makes for very compelling reading, with the suspense bordering on horror."—Booklist (starred review)

"Combines a genuinely creepy series of crimes, a literally chilling atmosphere, and a dogged detective. Minier's execution equals his...cleverness.—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

"Minier...exploits the unusual setting exceptionally well...an absorbing effort.... A high-altitude thriller, this novel is a great summer read for more than the usual reasons."— Kirkus Reviews

BERNARD MINIER grew up in the foothills of the French Pyrenees. He had a career as a customs
Dark Reservations

A Mystery

John Fortunato

The newest winner of the Tony Hillerman Prize for best debut mystery set in the Southwest.

Bureau of Indian Affairs Special Agent Joe Evers still mourns the death of his wife and, after a bungled investigation, faces a forced early retirement. What he needs is a new career, not another case. But when Congressman Arlen Edgerton's bullet-riddled Lincoln turns up on the Navajo Reservation—twenty years after he had disappeared during a corruption probe—Joe must resurrect his failing career to solve the mysterious cold case.

Partnering with Navajo Tribal Officer Randall Bluehorse, his investigation antagonizes potential suspects, including a wealthy art collector, a former president of the Navajo Nation, a powerful U.S. senator, and Edgerton's widow, who is now the front runner in the New Mexico governor's race. An unexpected romance further complicates both the investigation and Joe's troubled relationship with his daughter, forcing him to confront his emotional demons while on the trail of a ruthless killer.

Joe uncovers a murderous conspiracy that leads him from Ancient Anasazi burial grounds on the Navajo Nation to backroom deals in Washington D.C. Along the way, he delves into the dangerous world of black market trade in Native-American artifacts. Can he unravel the mystery and bring the true criminal to justice, or will he become another silenced victim?

PRAISE

"Fortunato knows law enforcement, the Southwest, and how to spin a great yarn. But put that all on the back burner. Read this book for the writing; the characters, the sentences, every morsel. Fortunato knows a lot, but what he knows best, and practices best, is writing." -Thomas Lipinski, Shamus Award-winning author of Death in the Steel City

"John Fortunato makes a stunning debut. I couldn't put it down until I'd turned the very last page. Reminiscent of Tony Hillerman, Fortunato uses the Southwest setting to maximum effect in this twisty tale of murder and redemption." -Victoria Thompson, bestselling author of Murder in Murray Hill

JOHN FORTUNATO was a Captain in the U.S. Army, Military Intelligence, who served at the Pentagon during the early part of the Global War on Terrorism. He is now a Special Agent with the FBI and has earned an MFA in Writing Popular Fiction from Seton Hill University. A native of Philadelphia, he currently lives in Michigan with his wife and three daughters. This is his first novel.
In Bitter Chill
Sarah Ward

A story of loss, family secrets, and how the darkest truths are often hidden nearest to you, this page-turning debut is perfect for fans of Sharon Bolton and Deborah Crombie

The deepest secrets are the ones we keep from ourselves in this richly atmospheric, compellingly written, and expertly constructed crime debut from an emerging talent.

Derbyshire, 1978: a small town in the idyllic English countryside is traumatized by the kidnapping of two young schoolgirls, Rachel Jones and Sophie Jenkins. Within hours, Rachel is found wandering alone near the roadside, unharmed yet unable to remember anything, except that her abductor was a woman. No trace of Sophie is ever discovered.

Present day: over thirty years later, Sophie's mother commits suicide. Detective inspector Francis Sadler and detective constable Connie Childs are assigned to look at the kidnapping again to see if modern police methods can discover something that the original team missed. Rachel, with the help of her formidable mother and grandmother, recovered from the kidnapping and has become a family genealogist. She wants nothing more than to continue living quietly beneath the radar, but the discovery of the strangled body of one of her former teachers days after the suicide brings the national media back to her doorstep. Desperate to stop a modern killer from striking again, Rachel and the police must unpick the clues to uncover what really happened all those years ago as the past threatens to engulf the present.

PRAISE
"Relentless, compelling, and meticulously suspenseful. Fans of Ian Rankin and Elizabeth George will rejoice at this atmospheric and authentic debut, expertly told, where modern-day police struggle to untangle disturbing secrets of the past. Terrific." -- Hank Phillippi Ryan, Agatha, Anthony and Mary Higgins Clark award winning author of Truth Be Told

"In Bitter Chill deserves to be one of the stand out debuts of 2015. A tense, page-turning mystery that grips readers from the first. I’m looking forward to more from Sarah Ward." --William Ryan, author of The Holy Thief

SARAH WARD is an online book reviewer whose blog, Crimepieces, reviews the best of current crime fiction published around the world. She has also reviewed for the Eurocrime and Crimesquad websites and is a judge for the Petrona Award for Scandinavian translated crime novels. Sarah lives in rural Derbyshire in England where her debut novel, In Bitter Chill, is set.
The Grave Soul
Ellen Hart

In the next riveting, insightful Jane Lawless mystery from award-winning Ellen Hart, Jane searches for the truth behind the death of Kira Adler's mother, which has haunted Kira for many years.

When Guthrie Hewitt calls on restaurateur and private investigator Jane Lawless, he doesn't know where else he can turn. Guthrie has fallen for a girl—Kira Adler. In fact, he was planning to propose to her on Christmas Eve. But his trip home with Kira over Thanksgiving made him uneasy. All her life, Kira has been haunted by a dream—a nightmare, really. In the dream, she witnesses her father murder her mother. She knows it can't be true because the dream doesn't line up with the facts of her mother's death. But after visiting Kira's home for the first time, and receiving a disturbing anonymous package in the mail, Guthrie starts to wonder if Kira's dream might hold more truth than she knows. When Kira's called home again for a family meeting, Guthrie knows he needs Jane's help to figure out the truth, before the web of secrets Kira's family has been keeping all these years ensnares Kira too. And Jane's investigation will carry her deep into the center of a close-knit family that is not only fraying at the edges, but about to burst apart.

PRAISE

"Engrossing."—Publishers Weekly on The Old Deep and Dark

"The Old Deep and Dark does not disappoint: readers will be kept guessing and turning the pages until the very end."—GLBT Reviews

"A good mystery engages our moral imaginations. Hart always has done this well through the diverse mix of gay and non-gay characters that populate her fictional world and the meaningful contemporary themes they confront...Taken by the Wind is an engrossing mystery with captivating characters."—Minneapolis Star-Tribune

ELLEN HART, "a top novelist in the cultishly popular gay mystery genre" (Entertainment Weekly), is also a Lambda and Minnesota Book Award winner. The author of more than twenty previous mysteries featuring Jane Lawless, she lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota.
American Blood

A Novel

Ben Sanders

A former undercover cop now in witness protection finds himself pulled into the search for a missing woman; film rights sold to Warner Bros with Bradley Cooper attached to star and produce.

After a botched undercover operation, ex-NYPD officer Marshall Grade is living in witness protection in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Marshall's instructions are to keep a low profile: the mob wants him dead, and a contract killer known as the Dallas Man has been hired to track him down. Racked with guilt over wrongs committed during his undercover work, and seeking atonement, Marshall investigates the disappearance of a local woman named Alyce Ray.

Members of a drug ring seem to hold clues to Ray's whereabouts, but hunting traffickers is no quiet task. Word of Marshall's efforts spreads, and soon the worst elements of his former life, including the Dallas Man, are coming for him.

Written by a rising New Zealand star who has been described as "first rate," this American debut drops a Jack Reacher-like hero into the landscape of No Country for Old Men. With film rights sold to Warner Bros, and Bradley Cooper attached to play tortured hero Marshall Grade, American Blood is sure to follow in their award-winning, blockbuster success.

PRAISE

"This novel has it all—great characters that are all too-real, switch-blade sharp writing, dialogue that would bring a smile to Elmore Leonard's face and a plot that grabs a reader by the collar, squeezes hard and never lets go. American Blood is a first-rate, first-class, top-tier thriller and Ben Sanders hits it far and deep." —Lorenzo Carcaterra, New York Times bestselling author of Sleepers and The Wolf

"American Blood is a lean, mean power-packed novel. A hardboiled bolt of lightning to the crime genre. Ben Sanders has set the new standard for gritty, action packed thrillers.” —Victor Gischler, Edgar Award nominated author of Gun Monkeys

BEN SANDERS is the author of three previous novels: The Fallen (2010), By Any Means (2011), and Only the Dead (2013), all of which were New Zealand Fiction Bestsellers. Sanders's first three novels were written while he was studying at university; he graduated in 2012 with a Bachelor of Engineering, and now writes full-time. American Blood is his first novel in the U.S., and has been optioned by Warner Bros. for a major motion picture. He lives in Auckland, New Zealand.
Home by Nightfall

A Charles Lenox Mystery

Charles Finch

A death in the family brings gentleman sleuth Charles Lenox back to the country house where he grew up — just in time to confront an odd, unsettling crime in a nearby village.

It's London in 1876, and the whole city is abuzz with the enigmatic disappearance of a famous foreign pianist. Lenox has an eye on the matter — as a partner in a now-thriving detective agency, he's a natural choice to investigate. Just when he's tempted to turn his focus to it entirely, however, his grieving brother asks him to come down to Sussex, and Lenox leaves the metropolis behind for the quieter country life of his boyhood. Or so he thinks. In fact, something strange is afoot in Markethouse: small thefts, books, blankets, animals, and more alarmingly a break-in at the house of a local insurance agent. As he and his brother to investigate this small accumulation of mysteries, Lenox realizes that something very strange and serious indeed may be happening, more than just local mischief. Soon, he's racing to solve two cases at once, one in London and one in the country, before either turns deadly. Blending Charles Finch's trademark wit, elegance, and depth of research, this new mystery, equal parts Jane Austen and Charles Dickens, may be the finest in the series.

PRAISE

"The upper-class amateur sleuth, an endangered species even in historical mysteries, is very much alive in Charles Finch's charming Victorian whodunits." — The New York Times Book Review

"Superb . . . Boasting one of Finch's tightest and trickiest plots, this installment further establishes Lenox as a worthy heir to the aristocratic mantle of Lord Peter Wimsey." — Publishers Weekly (starred) on A Death in the Small Hours

"The sixth in Finch's steadily improving series develops the congenial continuing characters further while providing quite a decent mystery."—Kirkus Reviews on A Death in the Small Hours

CHARLES FINCH is a graduate of Yale and Oxford. He is the author of the Charles Lenox mysteries, including The Fleet Street Murders, The September Society, A Stranger in Mayfair, A Burial at Sea, A Death in the Small Hours, and An Old Betrayal. His first novel, A Beautiful Blue Death, was nominated for an Agatha Award and was named one of Library Journal's Best Books of 2007, one of only five mystery novels on the list. He lives in New York City.
Away in a Manger

Rhys Bowen

In this Christmas installment of Rhys Bowen's New York Times bestselling historical mystery series, Molly Murphy Sullivan's generosity to a beggar draws her into a dangerous investigation.

It's Christmastime in 1905 New York City, and for once, Molly Murphy Sullivan is looking forward to the approaching holidays. She has a family of her own now. She and Daniel have a baby son and 12-year-old Bridie is living with them as their ward. As Molly and the children listen to carolers in the street, they hear a lovely little voice and see a beggar girl, huddled in a doorway singing Away in a Manger. Bridie is touched by the girl's ragged clothes and wants to help her out if they can. They give her a quarter, only to watch a bigger boy take it from her. But it turns out he is the girl's brother, and they've come from England and are living with an aunt who mistreats them terribly. When the young boy is accused of stealing a purse, Molly intervenes on his behalf.

These children are clearly not the usual city waifs. They are well-spoken and used to better things. So who are they? And what has happened to their mother? As Molly looks for the answers to these questions, she gets drawn into an investigation that will take her up to the highest levels of New York society.

PRAISE

"Once again Rhys Bowen proves why she's one of the great mystery writers working today. She never, ever falls into formula...Atmospheric, tightly plotted, heart pounding, this is Bowen at her best." — Louise Penny

"If you are one of the few on the planet yet to discover Molly Murphy, created by Rhys Bowen, now is the time to take the plunge. Molly is sassy, saucy, brave and smart." — The Huffington Post

"Filled with intriguing characters, especially Molly herself...Bowen sets the stage with background information and hisotrical detail while she keeps the story moving." — RT Book Reviews (4 stars)

RHYS BOWEN is the author of the Anthony and Agatha Award–winning Molly Murphy mysteries, the Edgar Award-nominated Evan Evans series, and the Royal Spyness series. Born in England, she lives in San Rafael, California.
In Nancy Martin's delightful series debut, Sunny McKillip lands in Texas-sized trouble caring for Miss Ruffles, the small dog who inherited a large fortune when her owner was murdered.

Sunny McKillip moved to the small town of Mule Stop, Texas, to take a position as a professor's assistant at the local university. Shortly after she arrives, however, the professor is fired, leaving Sunny desperate for work. Still, she's not quite prepared for the odd job she winds up taking: personal assistant to Honeybelle Hensley, Mule Stop's wealthy, elderly matriarch. Sunny isn't quite sure what her job description is, but a lot of it seems to involve taking care of Miss Ruffles, Honeybelle's incorrigible dog, who'd just as soon eat your shoes as look at them. But Sunny's job becomes even stranger when Honeybelle dies and leaves all her worldly fortune to Miss Ruffles...and leaves Miss Ruffles in Sunny's care.

Sunny is rightfully concerned for Miss Ruffles' safety, but as she learns more about Honeybelle's last days, Sunny also begins to wonder if there was more to Honeybelle's death than meets the eye. Sunny quickly finds herself deeply embroiled in the politics of a small town and its ruling family, with a cowboy lawyer scrutinizing her every move and a killer on the loose...a killer who might be coming after Sunny next.

PRAISE

"As Texas true as Tanya Tucker and boot-scootin' fun. Miss Ruffles will capture hearts. I LOVE this book." -Carolyn Hart

"Guaranteed to delight tough girls and tough-girl fans everywhere." - Kirkus Reviews (starred review) on Sticky Fingers

"Martin's wacky second Roxy Abruzzo mystery improves on the excellent first entry." - Publishers Weekly (starred review) on Sticky Fingers

"A hilarious combination of Janet Evanovich's Stephanie Plum and Lisa Scottoline's Bennie Rosato" - Times-Picayune on Foxy Roxy

NANCY MARTIN, winner of the Lifetime Achievement Award for mystery writing from RT Book Reviews, is the author of Foxy Roxy, Sticky Fingers, and the bestselling Blackbird Sisters mysteries. She lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.
Crucifixion Creek

Barry Maitland

The first in a new series from the author of the beloved Brock and Kolla mysteries

A meth-addicted biker shoots a woman during a police siege. An elderly couple commit suicide on the terrace of their favorite café. An unidentified white male is stabbed to death in the street.

For Sydney homicide detective Harry Belltree, not long out of the military and a grueling tour of Afghanistan, these three deaths appear to be just another day at the office. Until, that is, he identifies the stabbing victim as his own brother-in-law Greg, and journalist Kelly Pool suggests there's a link between the three incidents. It seems Greg and the old couple had ties to the same man, a corrupt money man with a murky past and friends in both high places and low.

Harry Belltree can't get officially involved in Greg's murder, but he's not going to leave it in the hands of others. That's when he goes off-grid to investigate the links between these deaths. That's when things start to get dangerous.

PRAISE

"Maitland's ability to...spring surprises that seem as inevitable as they are unexpected make for another deeply satisfying case."—Kirkus Reviews on Chelsea Mansions

"Brock and Kolla's meticulous, psychologically astute sleuthing fascinates."—Entertainment Weekly on No Trace

"Maitland fills his latest novel with more than one explosion that will leave the reader marveling at his ability to spin a chilling yarn. Frightening and timely, The Raven's Eye displays him at his spellbinding best."—Richmond Times-Dispatch

BARRY MAITLAND is the award-winning author of several previous novels featuring DCI David Brock and DI Kathy Kolla, most recently The Raven's Eye, which was a Library Reads selection. Born in Scotland and raised in London, Maitland lives in Australia.
A Death in the Family

A Detective Kubu Mystery

Michael Stanley


A Carrion Death, the first book in the Detective Kubu Mystery series, was shortlisted for best debut mystery novel for the Barry, Macavity, and Strand Magazine Critics' awards. It was also shortlisted for the UK's Crime Writers Association Debut Dagger award, and for the Minnesota Book Awards Genre Fiction.

Death of the Mantis, the third book in the series, was shortlisted for the Anthony and Edgar awards and won the Barry Award for best paperback original mystery.

A Death in the Family is the fifth book in this exceptional series and begins with a bang when Kubu's elderly father is murdered. Kubu is ordered away from the case, but as usual, he has trouble following orders.

Meanwhile, in the small town of Shoshong, the local Chinese-owned mine wants to take over part of the village. A week later, a senior official in the Department of Mines is found dead. Kubu becomes convinced that the official was murdered.

As always, Michael Stanley creates a seamless and complex mystery with a fascinating look at modern-day Africa.

PRAISE

Praise for Death of the Mantis:

"[Kubu is] the African Columbo." —Entertainment Weekly

"Readers may be lured to Africa by the landscape, but it takes a great character like Kubu to win our loyalty." —New York Times Book Review

"A serious novel with a mystery at its core. I loved this book." —Timothy Hallinan, author of The Queen of Patpong


MICHAEL STANLEY is the writing team of Michael Sears and Stanley Trollip. Sears was born in
Yappy Hour

Diana Orgain

A rollicking start to a new cozy series featuring a loveable heroine and a colorful band of dog lovers who gather regularly with their pets at their local watering hole

With side-splitting humor, an irresistible cast of characters—both human and canine—and an intimate small town setting, Yappy Hour is sure to delight fans of Rita Mae Brown and Diane Kelly. Every Friday night in the idyllic seaside town of Pacific Cove, CA, the Roundup Crew, a group of dog-loving friends, meet at a neighborhood wine bar for Yappy Hour. When Rachel, the owner, mysteriously leaves town and asks her sister, Maggie (who is neither pet friendly nor business savvy), to run the bar in her absence, things get complicated fast. Maggie arrives to open up and finds a body sprawled on the floor, and even worse, an incriminating letter with Rachel's name on it nearby. On impulse, she hides the letter from the hunky detective, Officer Brad Brooks, who's dispatched to the scene.

When Rachel is declared the top suspect by the police, Maggie decides to investigate on her own. She reopens the bar and gets to know the members of the Roundup Crew, including chief organizer Yolanda, who never goes anywhere without her signature strappy stilettos or her Yorkie Beepo. Maggie juggles searching for clues, trying to locate Rachel, and serving up Doggie Daiquiris, Muttguaritas and homemade Arf D'Oeuvres—until another body turns up. The Roundup Crew must step in and save the bar, and it seems the only way to do that will be to solve the mystery and turn Maggie into a dog-lover in this charming, light-hearted cozy.

PRAISE

"It may be a dog eat dog world, but Orgain will have you laughing out loud, even as you puzzle over whodunit and race to the finish in time for the Tails and Tiaras fundraiser. Pull up a chair, put your barking dogs on ice and enjoy Yappy Hour, the first in a hilarious new series." -Kate Carlisle, New York Times bestselling author of This Old Homicide

"With its entertaining mystery, touches of romance, and quirky human and canine characters, Yappy Hour is the perfect cocktail to quench your thirst for a good story. More fun than a basket of puppies!" -Diane Kelly, author of Laying Down the Paw

DIANA ORGAIN is the author of the Maternal Instincts mystery series, and the co-author of Gilt Trip in the New York Times Bestselling Scrapbooking Mystery Series by Laura Childs. She holds a B.A and M.F.A. in Creative Writing from San Francisco State University. She lives in San Francisco, CA, with her husband and three children.
South of Nowhere

A Mystery

Minerva Koenig

The action-packed follow up to Minerva Koenig's original and thrilling debut, featuring an intriguing mystery set in Texas and Mexico, and a gutsy heroine mystery fans will love

Reformed criminal Julia Kalas travels from small-town Texas to Mexico on the trail of a missing persons case in the second installment in this atmospheric, critically-acclaimed series featuring a heroine likened to Sue Grafton's Kinsey Millhone, Nevada Barr's Anna Pigeon and Becky Masterman's Brigid Quinn.

After being forced to relocate by the Aryan Brotherhood and witness protection, Julia is working on getting her budding construction business off the ground. But when a dead body is found stuffed in the upstairs closet of her latest remodeling project, Julia takes private detective John Maines up on an offer of employment working a missing persons case at the Texas-Mexico border. The fat check he dangles in front of her as payment will be enough to set her up in comfortable retirement far away from the tiny Texas backwater, which suits Julia just fine.

However, fate, as usual, has other plans for her. In South Texas, Julia learns that the dead man in her closet has been identified and that a warrant has been issued for her arrest. As she tangles with Mexican drug lords, shady surgeons, and a gang of Native American women with an axe to grind, she can't ignore the sinking feeling that things are about to get a hell of a lot worse before they get better.

PRAISE

Praise for Nine Days:

"Small-town Texas is vividly brought to life in this atmospheric and entertaining debut that also introduces a memorable and unusual protagonist. It's bound to delight fans of Tricia Fields, Lori G. Armstrong, or James Lee Burke's 'Hackberry Holland' books."—Library Journal (starred review and Mystery Debut of the Month)

"Complex and intriguing...Fans of distinctive female characters like Nevada Barr's Anna Pigeon and Becky Masterman's Brigid Quinn will be thrilled to add Koenig to their ranks."—Publishers Weekly (starred review)

MINERVA KOENIG is a licensed architect running her own one-woman practice. When not architecting or writing, she likes to sew, read, play chess, do yoga, dance, wrangle cats, and fight the patriarchy. Koenig lives in Austin, Texas.
In the next thrilling standalone from David Rosenfelt, policeman Doug Brock races against the clock to recover his memory after a gunshot to the head before a terror plot can be put into action.

New Jersey state policeman, Doug Brock just called off his engagement to fellow police officer Stephanie Wallace, and he's throwing himself into his work to distract himself. Following up on a tip, Doug heads to a motel room on the outskirts of town. What he finds inside stuns him: evidence of a horrifying plot orchestrated by Richard Ferdowsi, an American living in Pakistan and reportedly working for a terrorist organization. Before he can make it out of the motel, Doug is shot in the head.

Doug survives, but when he wakes up in the hospital, he's lost all memory for the last three months. As far as Doug remembers, he's still engaged to Stephanie, and he certainly doesn't know anything about Ferdowsi's terror plot. But when his doctors tell him the best way to recover memory during retrograde amnesia is to exposure himself to the memories he's lost, Doug is back on the case. And what he starts to discover is more frightening than he could possibly have imagined.

PRAISE

Praise for Without Warning

"Riveting standalone…[a] suspenseful page-turner."—Publishers Weekly

"Spooky. Creepy. Edgy. Shuddery. What more could anyone want?...Highly recommended for readers craving that elusive "something different.""—Booklist

"[Rosenfelt] excels at creating fascinating plots and telling his stories with crisp writing that's a pleasure to read. The plot of his new book has a relentless sense of urgency that captures readers' attention early on and never lets go."—RT Book Reviews (4 stars)

David Rosenfelt is the Edgar and Shamus Award-nominated author of six stand-alones and twelve previous Andy Carpenter novels, most recently Hounded. After years living in California, he and his wife recently moved to Maine with the twenty-five golden retrievers that they've rescued. Rosenfelt's hilarious account of this cross-country move, Dogtripping, is available from St. Martin's Press.
The shouts and laughter of Christmas revelers break the muffled silence as Detective Joe Ashworth and his daughter Jessie are swept along onto the Metro.

But when the train is stopped due to the bad weather, Jessie notices that one lady hasn't left the train: Margaret Krukowski has been fatally stabbed. Why would anyone want to harm this reserved, elegant lady?

Arriving at the scene, DI Vera Stanhope is relieved to have an excuse to escape the holiday festivities. Soon Vera and Joe are on their way to where Margaret lived to begin their inquiry.

Then, just days later, a second woman is murdered. Vera finds herself searching deep into the hidden past led by clues that keep revolving around one street . . .

Why are the residents of Harbour Street so reluctant to speak?

PRAISE

"It's easy to admire Vera's brainpower…her adventures have been a hit on British television, and readers devoted to Cleeves' tales of Jimmy Perez will want to give Vera a try." — Kirkus Reviews

"A nice mixture, in the British tradition, of social comedy and detective work. More Vera, please." — Booklist (starred review)

"Excellent . . . Intricate plotting makes for a compulsive read." — The Independent (UK)

"Detective Vera Stanhope is a remarkable creation." — Bookseller (UK)

"Cleeves has hit the big time . . . This is going to be a winner!" — BBC Front Row (UK)
Time of Departure
Douglas Schofield

A debut mystery with a surprising twist, featuring a young state prosecutor investigating a series of murders dating back to the 1970s, and a mysterious ex cop who knows way too much about her.

Florida state prosecutor Claire Talbot is as tough as they come, and not everyone loves her for it. Newly promoted Felony Division Chief, Claire has about as many jealous detractors as she does supporters. Some colleagues are openly skeptical about her youth, her abilities, and even her gender. When a highway project construction crew unearths two skeletons in a common grave, Claire reopens an investigation into a string of abductions that took place before she was born. While researching the file, she meets retired cop Marc Hastings, who once worked on the case. He maneuvers his way into the investigation-and into Claire's life. Marc has an uncanny familiarity with Claire's habits, and she begins to realize that not all is as it seems. The detective urges Claire on, mysteriously convinced that only she can solve the case. Together, they unearth more graves. But then, disaster strikes ... and Claire finally discovers what Hastings knew all along. It's a secret almost too shocking for a sane mind to grasp. The key to the killings may lie deep in Claire's own past. But what if Claire's past lies in her future?

Full of spellbinding twists, Time of Departure will appeal not only to thriller aficionados, but to readers who appreciate a strong female lead and a compelling love story. A page-turner that will keep readers on the edge of their seats, Time of Departure heralds the arrival of an immensely talented new crime novelist.

PRAISE

"If Michael Connelly and Audrey Niffenegger collaborated on a story and then sent it into the past to be edited by Rod Serling, that novel would be Time of Departure. A hard-boiled detective thriller with a dash of fantasy, Time of Departure is a clever read. Daring, even. It risks angering readers who thought they knew what they were in for, only to be derailed at the turn. But the brave souls who venture on will not be disappointed. I read the last 100 pages in a blur of words just to find out how it all came together and then reread the beginning to see what I’d missed."

-James Renner, author of The Man From Primrose Lane and It Came From...
Desperate Measures

A Mystery

Jo Bannister

The third novel in Bannister's brilliant new crime series set in a small British town features young policewoman Hazel Best and her friend Gabriel Ash

When Gabrielle Ash's wife and kids were kidnapped four years ago by Somali pirates, his life spiraled out of control. He left his job working for the British government and moved to a small town where he descended into near madness. But with the help of his dog, Patience, and his friendship with young police officer Hazel Best, his focus returned. So when he discovers that his wife is still alive, Ash is once again filled with hope and fear. Hope that he has another chance to find her and their two young sons; fear that, in trying, he may bring about their deaths.

Hazel is deeply worried for Ash. But even she is unprepared for what Ash seems willing to do to secure the safety of his wife and children. In fact, nothing is as it seems and loyalty, friendship, and family bonds will be called into question. When Ash learns who was behind the events that wrecked his life and his sanity, even the resourceful Hazel might not be able to keep him from getting hurt. How much is Ash willing to sacrifice in order to bring his family home and bring justice to those responsible?

Jo Bannister's police procedurals are widely praised for outstanding plotting and suspense, and their brilliant and compelling characterization. Buying Freedom, the third novel in the series following Deadly Virtues and Perfect Sins, is an engrossing novel from "one of the unsung treasures of the mystery genre." — The Chicago Tribune

PRAISE

"Readers will look forward to seeing more of Bannister's finely drawn leads, . . . especially after the shocking cliffhanger ending." — Publishers Weekly on Perfect Sins

"The kind of classic detective work that's always welcome in a mad, mad world." — The New York Times Book Review on Deadly Virtues

"Another stunning, paranoia-doused psychological suspense novel guaranteed to keep readers glued to their seats." — Library Journal (starred) on Deadly Virtues

JO BANNISTER began her career as a journalist after leaving school at sixteen to work on a weekly newspaper. She was shortlisted for several prestigious awards and worked as an editor for some years before leaving to pursue her writing full time. She lives in Northern Ireland and spends most her spare time with her horse and dog, or clambering over archaeological sites.
Cinnamon Toasted
A Spice Shop Mystery

Gail Oust

Murder comes well-seasoned in spunky amateur sleuth Piper Prescott's newest case in the charming, "must-read" (Publishers Weekly) Spice Shop mystery series

Who says you can't teach an old dog new tricks? Case in point: Piper Prescott's former mother-in-law Melly. Beneath her twin sets and pearls beats the heart of a geek—a geek whose programming changes for the point-of-sale software in Piper's shop have the owners of the program ready to make her an offer she can't refuse. "Trusty" Rusty Tulley and Chip Balboa swing by Brandywine Creek—just in time for the town's annual Oktoberfest, which has cinnamon, cloves, and cardamom flying off Piper's shelves in record numbers. News spreads faster than a text message, and Melly is the toast of the town.

But it isn't long before Melly's status changes to public enemy number one when Chip's body is found at the foot of her basement stairs. Questions start to pile up when handsome police chief Wyatt McBride arrives on the scene and the coroner sets the time of death for the previous evening. McBride wants to know why it took Melly so long to report the incident—especially after she admits to arguing with Chip about the contract he wanted her to sign. Piper knows Melly would never hurt a fly, so she enlists the help of her BFF Reba Mae to clear her name—but can they find the real killer before Melly gets sent away for good? A mouth-watering entry in Gail Oust's delicious Spice Shop series, Cinnamon Toasted is sure to delight cozy fans of all stripes.

PRAISE

Praise for Kill 'Em with Cayenne:
"Tasty... Plenty of spice lore adds flavor to this amiable mystery." —Publishers Weekly

Praise for Rosemary and Crime:
"[A] quality first in a Southern cozy series... This is a must-read for fans of Carolyn Hart's Death on Demand series, as well as those who like culinary mysteries." —Publishers Weekly

"Highly recommended!" —Donna Andrews, New York Times bestselling author of Lord of the Wings

GAIL OUST is often accused of flunking retirement. Hearing the words "maybe it's a dead body" while golfing fired her imagination for writing a cozy. Ever since then, she has spent more time on a computer than at a golf course. She lives with her husband in McCormick, South Carolina.
Dark Tides

A Thriller

Chris Ewan

When another Halloween brings another death, a young police officer on the Isle of Man suspects they are connected to dark secrets in her own past

When Claire Cooper was eight years old her mother mysteriously vanished during Hop-tu-naa, Halloween on the Isle of Man. At fourteen, Claire is still struggling to come to terms with her disappearance when she's befriended by a group of five teenagers who mark every Halloween by performing dares. But Claire's arrival begins to alter the group's dynamic until one year a prank goes terribly wrong, changing all their futures and tearing the friends apart.

Six years later, one of the friends is killed on Halloween in an apparent accident. But Claire, now a police officer, has her doubts. Is a single footprint found near the body a deliberate taunt? As another Halloween dawns, bringing with it another death and another footprint, Claire becomes convinced that somebody is seeking vengeance. But who? And which of the friends might be next? If she is going to stop a killer and unlock the dark secrets of her past, Claire must confront her deepest fears, before it's too late.

Chris Ewan, author of the stand alone thrillers Safe House and Dead Line, returns to the Isle of Man with a thriller that will keep you up all night.

PRAISE

"A truly chilling and thoroughly enjoyable read." — The Guardian on Dark Tides

"Clever and well executed . . . [Ewan's] portrayal of the island is duly atmospheric." — The Times (UK) on Dark Tides

"[An] adrenaline-fueled thriller, with Daniel Trent a driven protagonist in the Jack Reacher mold....full of twists and turns." — Booklist (starred review) on Dead Line

"Beautifully plotted." — Publishers Weekly (starred, Pick of the Week) on Safe House

"A tightly focused story about love and corruption, about rural character versus big-city arrogance, and a rollicking adventure scaled down for your above-average plumber." — The Boston Globe on Safe House

CHRIS EWAN lives on the Isle of Man and was voted one of America's favorite British authors in a Huffington Post poll. He is the author of five Good Thief titles and as well as the stand-alone thrillers, Safe House, a #1 bestseller in the UK, and Dead Line.
The Man on the Washing Machine

Susan Cox

In MB/MWA First Crime Novel Award-winner Susan Cox's debut, Theo Bogart is hiding in San Francisco to escape a family scandal, but her new life is threatened when she witnesses a murder.

Former party girl Theophania Bogart is hiding in San Francisco to escape a family scandal, but her carefully-constructed new life is threatened when she sees Tim Callahan fall from a window. The police don't believe his death was an accident, and they seem to think Theo had sufficient motive to wish him dead. And when Theo's friend and business partner is also murdered mere days later, the police start digging even deeper into the secrets Theo's been running from.

Theo soon realizes the only way to prove her innocence will be to find the real killer herself. Along the way, Theo has to navigate her best friend, who is one of her prime suspects; her young protégé, who may or may not have a juvie record; her stern and unyielding grandfather, who exposes an unexpected soft center; and the man she found standing on her washing machine one evening, who isn't quite what he appears, either.

Susan Cox's Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award-winning novel is a charming debut with wacky, colorful characters and a delightfully twisted mystery.

PRAISE

"I adored this book. With an Englishwoman's wit, and a San Franciscan's grit, Theo plunges through more murderous turns and twists than San Francisco's famed Lombard Street." - Louise Ure

"Intriguing characters. Snappy writing. A San Francisco setting to die for. Reading The Man on the Washing Machine is like having a spa day with the wittiest woman in town." - Susan Dunlap

"Perfect for anyone who loves a mystery with a twist of wry, an engaging, witty sleuth with a dark secret, an unusual setting and yes indeed, a man on the washing machine!" - Gillian Roberts

SUSAN COX has worked as a journalist, the marketing and public relations director for a safari park, a fundraiser for schools and non-profit associations, and the president of the Palm Beach County Attractions Association. She was born in England and now lives in San Francisco. Her first novel, The Man on the Washing Machine, won the 2014 Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Competition.
Ornaments of Death

A Josie Prescott Antiques Mystery

Jane K. Cleland

The tenth book in Jane K. Cleland's mystery series featuring an amateur sleuth/antiques appraiser in New Hampshire

Christmas lights twinkle throughout the cozy coastal town of Rocky Point, New Hampshire, and Prescott's Antiques auction venue has been transformed into a winter wonderland for Josie Prescott's annual holiday party. Josie is especially excited this year—Ian Bennington, a recently discovered distant relative, will be joining the fun. Both Ian and Josie are, it seems, descended from Arabella Churchill, a 17th century royal mistress. The party is a success and Ian is a hit. It gives Josie an unexpected thrill to have family—and unexpected dread when he vanishes.

Ian doesn't keep his dinner date with Josie's good friend, Lavinia, or his lunch date with her. Surely, he would have done so—if he could. Ian has given his daughter two priceless 17th century watercolor miniature portraits, one of Arabella and one of her lover, King James II, and they've gone missing, too. Knowing that after her nasty divorce, Lavinia is facing financial ruin, Josie can't help wondering if her friend is behind the theft—and Ian's disappearance.

Determined to find Ian, Josie uses her knowledge of antiques to track the miniatures. In doing so, she learns the true meaning of Christmas—and the true meaning of family.

PRAISE

Praise for Blood Rubies
"Jane Cleland is at the height of her storytelling prowess here. . .Blood Rubies ranks among the very best in this series." —Hartford Book Examiner

"The addition of a Faberge egg adds to the glamour and excitement. The mystery is strong with twists and turns right to the end." —RT Book Reviews

"The best part of this cozy is the knowledgeable discussion of antiques. . .Cleland has a knack for explaining things clearly without coming across as pedantic. Feline aficionados will enjoy Josie's conversations with her cat." —Publishers Weekly

JANE K. CLELAND once owned a New Hampshire-based antiques and rare books business. She is the author of nine previous Josie Prescott Antiques and has been a finalist for the Macavity, Anthony, and Agatha awards and has twice won the David Award for Best Novel. Jane is the former president of the New York chapter of the Mystery Writers of America and chairs the Wolfe Pack's Black Orchid Novella Award. She is part of the English faculty at Lehman College and lives in New York City.
Web of Deceit

An Ella Marconi Mystery

Katherine Howell

Often compared to Karin Slaughter and Patricia Cornwell, prize-winning author Katherine Howell thrills readers in this gripping novel about a suspicious suicide turned gruesome murder.

When paramedics Jane and Alex encounter a man refusing to get out of his crashed car, with bystanders saying he deliberately drove into a pole, it looks like a cry for help. His claim that someone is out to get him raises further questions about his mental stability.

Later that day he is found dead under a train in what might be a suicide, but Jane is no longer so sure, she remembers the terror in his eyes. Detective Ella Marconi shares Jane's doubts, which are only compounded when the case becomes increasingly tangled.

Ella is at a loss to uncover how all these clues add up. And then, a shocking turn of events puts even more people in danger.

PRAISE

Praise for The Ella Marconi Mystery series

"This was one of my favorite books of the year. A real winner." —Tess Gerritsen

"A murder, a secret and a detective who won't let go—pace, precision, and a wonderful sense of place." —Michael Robotham

"Howell pays lovely attention to detail, and writes with a good deal of psychological insight...The detective is a complex and appealing character whose passion for crime solving is both endearing and compelling and keeps the pace of the book racing." —Sunday Telegraph

KATHERINE HOWELL’S books are published in multiple countries, languages, and formats, and have been likened to the work of Karin Slaughter and Patricia Cornwell. Katherine teaches writing and editing, and she lives in Queensland with her partner, who owns a bookshop.
The Red Storm

A Mystery

Grant Bywaters

Winner of the Minotaur Books/PWA Best First Private Eye Novel Competition introducing a black ex-boxer P.I. working in 1930s New Orleans

The Red Storm is the first novel from licensed private investigator-turned-novelist Grant Bywaters, sure to appeal to fans of fellow competition winners Steve Hamilton and Michael Koryta, and lovers of P.I. novels and historical mysteries.

Newly-minted private investigator William Fletcher is having trouble finding clientele. He's not the only man out of work, but his past as a former heavyweight contender with a few shady connections—not to mention the color of his skin in race-obsessed New Orleans—isn't helping lure clients to his door. Stuck without any viable alternative, he takes a case from an old criminal acquaintance, Storm. His only client assures him that the job is simple—locate his missing estranged daughter, Zella, no questions asked.

But when Fletcher starts knocking on doors, he sets off a catastrophic chain of events that turns the city into a bloody battleground between two rival syndicates. Then Storm is murdered and Fletcher finds himself caught between the police and dangerous mobsters. With Zella's safety in the balance, the unlikely private detective finds himself saddled with a lot more than he bargained for.

GRANT BYWATERS has worked as a licensed private investigator. He now works security at the Portland Airport and is currently finishing his Bachelor's degree in psychology at Portland State University. Bywaters lives outside of Portland, Oregon. The Red Storm is his first novel.
You Are Dead

Peter James

The next thrilling installment in the international bestselling Roy Grace series

The last words Nick Walton hears from his fiancee, Logan Somervile, are in a terrified mobile phone call from her. She has just driven into the underground car park beneath the apartment block where they live in Brighton, and saw a man acting strangely. Then she screams and the phone goes dead. The police are on the scene within minutes, but Logan has vanished, leaving behind her neatly parked car and telephone.

That same afternoon, workmen digging up an old asphalt path in a park in another part of the city, unearth the remains of a young woman in her early twenties, who has been dead for 30 years.

At first, to Detective Superintendent Roy Grace and his Major Crime Team, these two events seem totally unconnected. But then another young woman in Brighton goes missing and another body from the past surfaces. At the same time a strange man visits an eminent London psychiatrist, claiming to have a piece of information on the missing woman, Logan, that turns out, at first, to be wrong—or so it seems. It is only later Roy Grace makes the chilling realization that this one thing is the key to both the past and the present—and now, beyond any doubt, he knows that Brighton has its first ever serial killer.

PRAISE

Praise for Want You Dead:
"An adroit study of obsession and revenge." —Publishers Weekly

Praise for Dead Man’s Time:
"Few authors can dish out thrills and suspense as readily as James, and his ninth DS Roy Grace procedural is heady proof. Nonstop action . . . perfect for Gangs of New York fans." —Library Journal

"Increasingly deserves to be measured against the best in the genre." —Kirkus

Praise for Dead Like You:
"A remarkably inventive story of sexual obsession, possibly the most engrossing thriller since Thomas Harris's The Silence of the Lambs." —The Washington Post

PETER JAMES is the #1 international bestselling author of the Roy Grace series, with more than 15 million copies sold all over the world. His novels have been translated into thirty-six languages; three have been filmed and three are currently in development. All of his novels reflect his deep interest in the world of the police, with whom he does in-depth research. He lives in England.
Riot Most Uncouth

A Lord Byron Mystery

Daniel Friedman

Daniel Friedman departs from his critically acclaimed Buck Schatz series in this funny and bawdy mystery featuring Lord Byron as the sleuth.

The year is 1807, and Byron is living large as a student at Trinity College in Cambridge, England. He has successfully skirted the college’s rule against keeping dogs in the dorm by rooming with a rather large bear named "the Professor." When a young woman is found murdered in a local boarding house, Byron can't pass up the opportunity to prove his immeasurable genius by solving the case. In a time where there are no police investigators, only expensive private eyes, it's up to Byron to bring her killer to justice while finding time for his normal pursuits of excessive drinking, bedding married women, and generally causing trouble wherever he goes. This is a serio-comic mystery by an enormously talented young writer that combines social satire and a brilliant detective plot.

PRAISE

Praise for Daniel Friedman's Novels:

"Excellent...Wickedly funny dialogue." —Publishers Weekly (starred)

"A knockout." —Booklist (starred)

"Evokes Elmore Leonard." —Library Journal (starred)

"A funny and fast-paced tale of revenge as a dish best served ice-cold.... Dan Friedman, mazel tov on putting the noir in senior!" —AARP Magazine

"A pitch-perfect debut novel, expertly balancing comedy, gritty crime drama, absurdity, and genuine poignancy . . . Highly recommended" —Mystery Scene

"If you don't like this book, there's something wrong with you." —Douglas Lord, Library Journal

DANIEL FRIEDMAN is a graduate of the University of Maryland and NYU School of Law. He lives in New York City.
Louise Penny takes us back to the deceptively peaceful village of Three Pines in the brilliant new novel in her award-winning, New York Times bestselling series featuring Chief Inspector Armand G...

Hardly a day goes by when nine year old Laurent Lepage doesn't cry wolf. From alien invasions, to walking trees, to winged beasts in the woods, to dinosaurs spotted in the village of Three Pines, his tales are so extraordinary no one can possibly believe him. Including Armand and Reine-Marie Gamache, who now live in the little Quebec village.

But when the boy disappears, the villagers are faced with the possibility that one of his tall tales might have been true.

And so begins a frantic search for the boy and the truth. What they uncover deep in the forest sets off a sequence of events that leads to murder, leads to an old crime, leads to an old betrayal. Leads right to the door of an old poet.

And now it is now, writes Ruth Zardo. And the dark thing is here.

A monster once visited Three Pines. And put down deep roots. And now, Ruth knows, it is back.

Armand Gamache, the former head of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec, must face the possibility that, in not believing the boy, he himself played a terrible part in what happens next.

PRAISE
Praise for the #1 New York Times Best Seller The Long Way Home

"Splendid....Ms. Penny's books mix some classic elements of the police procedural with a deep-delving psychology, as well as a sorrowful sense of the precarious nature of human goodness, and the persistence of its opposite, even in rural Edens like Three Pines." - The New York Times

"[A] work of art... that transcends genre, engages heart and mind and, like all of Penny's work, leaves the reader awestruck by the depth of her skills and the decency of her spirit." - Richmond Times-Dispatch

"Another gem from the endlessly astonishing Penny." - Booklist (starred review)

LOUISE PENNY is the #1 New York Times and Globe and Mail bestselling author of ten previous Chief Inspector Armand Gamache novels. She has won numerous awards, including a CWA Dagger and the Agatha Award (five times) and was a finalist for the Edgar Award for Best Novel. She lives in a small village south of Montréal.
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