

Crime Chronicle

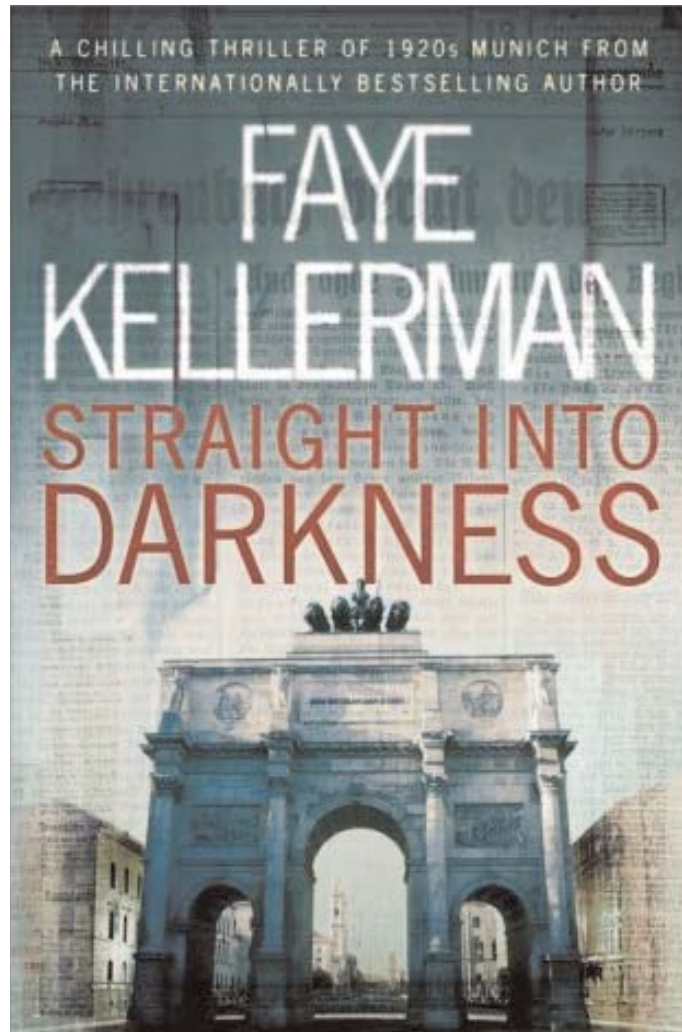
"where a good crime can be had by all"

Issue #235 August 2005

AUTHOR OF THE MONTH FAYE KELLERMAN

"Kellerman is one of the finest sisters in crime."
- *Los Angeles Times*

"No one working in the crime genre is better."
- *Baltimore Sun*



"No doubt about it, Faye Kellerman writes a neat story - sharp dialogue, nice way of dealing with the characters"
- *Weekend Australian*

Straight into Darkness Tp 32.95

Faye Kellerman's powerful new novel brilliantly evokes the dangerous world of 1920s Munich, where a series of brutal murders brings a talented detective into dangerous confrontation with the increasingly powerful National Socialists. Homicide detective Axel Berg is called to the scene of a grisly murder, the victim a young and pretty society wife. A second body is soon uncovered. The discovery of a third indicates that Berg is dealing with a killer who has no fear of being caught. In the Germany of this time, no investigation on this scale can be straightforward. Hitler's power is growing and the Nazis are a strong civic force in the city of Munich. Berg has always considered himself apolitical and, as an outsider living a routine life, he has been of no interest to those with power. But this high-profile case changes all that, as senior officers work to their own agendas and one theory is that the killings are part of a fascist conspiracy. Berg is alone as never before, with the imminent threat at all times of making a mistake with deadly consequences.

I have just finished reading an advance copy of this book and it had me hooked from the very beginning. This is quite different from Kellerman's Pete and Cindy Decker books and I heartily recommend it. *due September*

Other titles by Faye Kellerman include: **Day of Atonement, False Prophet, The Forgotten, Jupiter's Bones, Justice, Moon Music, Prayers for the Dead, Ritual Bath, Sacred and Profane, Sanctuary, Serpent's Tooth, Stalker, Stone Kiss** (all Pb 18.95), **Street Dreams** (Pb 19.95) and her historical mystery set in Elizabethan London, **Quality of Mercy** (Pb 18.95).

- Peter



Modern Crime

Elizabeth ADLER

Invitation to Provence
340pp Pb 19.95

Nothing ever changes much in the village of Marten-de-Provence, until Rafaella Marten decides she has lived alone in the Chateau des Roses Sauvages for too long; at last the time has come to bring youth and energy, love and laughter back to the old house. Franny Marten, hard-working California veterinary surgeon, accepts the invitation from a relative she has never heard of at a moment when her life is at rock bottom. Jake Bronson cannot resist either; he is still a tiny bit in love with the charming woman who was once his father's glamorous lover. And two more unexpected guests arrive: Rafaella's long-lost son and a terrified little girl from Shanghai with the Marten blue eyes. Soon the sleepy French village is alive with more romance and danger than Rafaella ever dreamed of. (American)



Reed ARVIN

The Last Goodbye
386pp Pb 18.95

Sleeping with a client's gorgeous girlfriend may have been the gutsiest move in Jack Hammond's formerly booming law career, but it wasn't the smartest. Booted from his elite law firm, he now scrapes by as a court-appointed attorney, his client list a revolving door of small-time drug offenders and petty thieves. When his friend, a computer whiz and former addict who had brought his life back from the brink, is found dead in his apartment with a syringe stuck in his arm, Jack knows something is very wrong. (American)

Cynthia BAXTER

Lead a Horse to Murder
333pp Pb 16.95

Reigning Cats and Dogs mystery #3. Murder gallops after part-time sleuth Jessie when an emergency call sends the travelling vet to a posh Long Island estate with her one-eyed Dalmatian Lou and her tailless Westie, Max. A prized Arabian steed needs minor medical care, but it is the rider who grabs Jessie's attention. The handsome young horseman exudes plenty of animal magnetism as he canters across the field, then takes an inexplicable, fatal fall... (American)

M C BEATON

Death of an Outsider
194pp Pb 16.95

A Hamish Macbeth mystery. Nobody in the Scottish town of Cnothan had liked the abrasive Englishman and now that he has been murdered, nobody much minds. Hamish Macbeth's hard luck is that he happened to be on temporary duty in this cloistered village when the killer struck. (British)

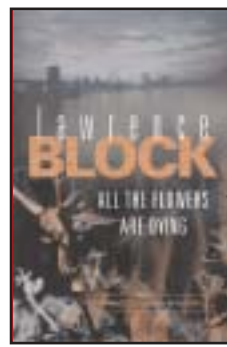
Nero BLANC

Another Word for Murder
306pp Tp 29.95

A Crossword mystery #10. Crossword editor Belle Graham's new friend, Karen Tacete, is in trouble. Her dentist husband has been kidnapped without a trace and her daughter is the victim of strange verbal threats that mirror a series of nursery rhyme themed crosswords being sent to Belle. When Karen's husband turns up dead, Belle's PI hubby Roscoe investigates, and learns that the dead man had a dark side. Now, even as Karen's own past is revealed, Belle must wonder: just who are the Tacetes and who wants them dead? (American)

Lawrence BLOCK

All the Flowers are Dying
288pp Tp 29.95



A Matt Scudder mystery. Former cop and alcoholic, Matt has had enough. He plans to wind up his investigations to concentrate on his AA meetings and his lovely wife Elaine. But he agrees to take one last case, which soon leads to the murder of Elaine's friend Monica. Matt is convinced that the killer is stalking Elaine and he is determined to protect her. It soon emerges that Monica's murderer is a highly practised serial killer. The story builds to an explosive and dramatic finish that sees Matt and Elaine pitched against a madman who is determined to destroy them both. (American)

Gerry BOYLE

Home Body
394pp Pb 16.95

A Jack McMorrow mystery. A runaway teen breaks into reporter McMorrow's isolated cabin looking for safe haven, only to vanish when his parents come looking for him. His trail leads Jack straight into the heart of a world where truth is only a lie well told. (American)

Kathy BRANDT

Dangerous Depths
262pp Pb 16.95

An Underwater Investigation #3. Trying to save an endangered species does not normally make one a target for extinction. But police diver Hannah Sampson has her doubts when she pulls her friend Elyse out of the sea, barely alive. Although the police chief believes it was an accident, Hannah knows Elyse is a staunch environmentalist who never hesitated to harass anyone threatening her beloved natural habitat. Hannah is sure this is attempted murder. (American)

Dale BROWN

Plan of Attack
508pp Pb 18.95

US Air Force aerial warfare expert Major General Patrick McLanahan has been demoted and moved back to a desk job. But while keeping a keen eye on what is going on with old enemies, he notices that Russia's heavy bomber and tactical bomber bases are busier than ever. He tries to get his superiors to pay attention, but is ignored. Then Russian President General Anatoliy Gryzlov launches an all-out sneak attack on America, unlike anything ever believed possible, and devastates US strategic air bases... (American)

KEY

academic



banking



canine detectives



clerical



cosy/malice domestic



culinary/food



fbi



feline detectives



forensic



horse racing mystery



medical



military



native american



police procedural



political/legal



psychological



private eye



romantic suspense



sport



spy



suspense/thriller



AUTHOR'S NATIONALITY AT END OF BLURB

**D W BUFFA****Breach of Trust****434pp Pb 18.95**

When Joseph Antonelli attends a Harvard reunion, it brings back memories of a tragedy that still shadows him and his friends. Years ago, a young woman fell to her death from a hotel window. Now the case is being reopened and so is the sordid past of the star witness, the Vice President of the United States. (American)

D W BUFFA**Trial by Fire 291pp Tp 29.95**

Joseph Antonelli has never lost a case that he should have won... until now. Julian Sinclair is a brilliant young man, already a respected scholar and law professor at Berkeley. Bored with academic life, he joins the famed defence attorney Joseph Antonelli in private practice. When the beautiful Daphne McMillan is murdered, Sinclair is accused of killing her in a fit of jealous rage. Antonelli believes beyond a doubt that this is simply impossible. Yet Daphne's widowed husband, a man of wealth and privilege and a master of manipulation, thinks he can sink both this idealistic defendant and the cool Antonelli with one fell swoop. (American)

W J BURLEY**Wycliffe and Death in a Salubrious Place (1973)****222pp Pb 18.95**

There was no doubt at all that the girl was dead. The front of her skull and her facial bones had been splintered like the cracked shell of an egg. What made it even more shocking was the setting of the murder - an idyllic corner of the Scilly Isles where violent crime was almost unknown. Angry and distressed, the villagers instinctively turn against the only stranger in their midst, the famous pop star and teenage idol, Vince Peters. But Superintendent Wycliffe is not so sure. (British)

Leslie CAINE**False Premises 325pp Pb 16.95**

A Domestic Bliss mystery. Interior designer Erin Gilbert was dazzled by her beautiful, free-spending client and new friend, Laura Smith. Dazzled, that is, until she visits Laura's magnificent house and finds that the priceless antiques she painstakingly acquired at Laura's behest have been completely replaced with fakes! As fate would have it, Erin has uncovered the same world-class scam artist who all but destroyed her handsome-but-embittered archrival, Steve Sullivan. While Sullivan aches for revenge, Erin wants answers. It is bad enough that bodies are being strewn in all the wrong places but even worse is one suspect perfectly fits each crime: Sullivan himself! (American)

Laura CALDWELL**Look Closely 379pp Pb 16.95**

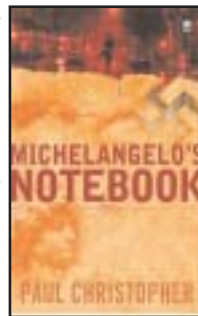
"Look closely". That's all the anonymous letter said, but attorney Hailey Sutter understands the meaning behind the well-chosen words. Someone wants her to investigate what happened to her mother, who died when Hailey was only seven. Desperate to remember that fatal night, she seeks out the brother and sister who left home after their mother's death. But they have disappeared. It is soon clear to Hailey that the answer is right in front of her; all she has to do is find the courage to look closely! (American)

Charlotte CARTER**Trip Wire 175pp Tp 29.00**

A Cook County mystery. Chicago, 1968. Summer-of-Love idealism has disintegrated into suspicion and disillusion. On the city's North Side, 20-ish Cassandra Perry longs to be independent. She leaves the overprotective embrace of her grand uncle and aunt, Woody and Ivy Lisle, and moves into a multi-racial commune dedicated to brotherhood and just causes. But her search for identity plunges her into the dark side of peace, love and unlimited freedom, even before she discovers the brutally violated bodies of the commune's most charismatic activist couple. (American)

Paul CHRISTOPHER**Michelangelo's Notebook****355pp Pb 18.95**

While studying art history at NYU, Finn Ryan makes a startling discovery: a *Michelangelo* drawing of a dissected corpse, supposedly from the artist's near-mythical notebook. But that very night, someone breaks into her apartment, murdering her boyfriend and stealing the sketches she made of the drawing. Fleeing for her life, she heads to the address her mother gave her for emergencies, where she finds the enigmatic antiquarian book dealer, Michael Valentine. Together they embark on a desperate race through the city - and through the pages of history itself - to expose an electrifying secret from the final days of WWII, a secret that lies in the dark, labyrinthine heart of the Vatican. (American)

**Tim COCKEY****Backstabber 355pp Pb 16.95**

A Hitchcock Sewell mystery #5. He is suave, sexy and cool. And he is an undertaker! Hitchcock Sewell is back in one of the funniest and most fast-paced novels yet in Tim Cockey's celebrated award-winning series. A man has been murdered in his kitchen and the apparent killer wants Hitch to scoop up the body and take it away before the police arrive. Meanwhile, across town, Hitch smells a rat in the nursing home where an old friend has taken up residence. With his matchless wit and uncommon ability to dig out the truth, he is once again up to his old tricks. (American)

Mark COHEN**Fractal Murders 351pp Pb 16.95**

A Pepper Keane mystery. Follow Pepper Keane in a fast-paced adventure that traverses mathematics, economics and philosophy. Sometimes violent, sometimes hilarious, this novel is an original mystery with an ending that sneaks up from behind and grabs you by the throat. (American)

Patricia CORNWELL**Trace 405pp Tp 29.95**

Against her better judgement, and the advice of Benton Wesley and her niece Lucy, Scarpetta agrees to return to Virginia as a consultant pathologist on a case involving the death of a 14-year-old girl. Accompanied by Pete Marino, she finds the once familiar territory of her morgue and her department much changed, and the new Chief Medical Examiner treats her with disdain, despite the obvious fact that he is in desperate need of her expertise. (American)

Michael CRAFT**Bitch Slap 243pp Tp 29.95**

A Mark Manning mystery #7. Journalist Mark Manning has been successfully running his family's newspaper, *The Dumont Daily Register*, for several years. He also sits on the board of two local companies, Quatro Press and Ashton Mills. So when the respective CEOs of these companies discuss a merger, it is only natural that Manning is interested in proceedings. What is more, Manning's architect lover, Neil, is designing a new house for Ashton's CEO, Gillian Reece. The discovery of her body is greeted with great surprise, but perhaps not much regret on the part of most who knew her. Still, with Manning's friend and employee Glee Savage as the obvious and primary suspect, he cannot resist wading into this most unsound of business dealings. (American)

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**Philip CRAIG****Murder at a Vineyard Mansion**
272pp Pb 16.95

A *Martha's Vineyard mystery* It is particularly quiet on Martha's Vineyard this summer, since a shadowy figure called The Silencer began his covert campaign of destruction: disabling audio systems in the homes and vehicles of selfish, music-blasting islanders. Fishing enthusiast, former cop and sometime investigator J W Jackson thinks this is just fine, until a gargantuan new Chappaquiddick mansion is vandalised and a night watchman is thrown to his death off a nearby cliff. (American)

Jasmine CRESSWELL**Final Justice** 392pp Pb 16.95

As an operative with the covert government group Unit One, Melody Beechan has made her share of enemies. Her would-be assassin could be any number of criminals she has put behind bars. But when the evidence points to someone who has no knowledge of her connection to Unit One, the pool of suspects suddenly expands to include almost every person she has ever met. And Melody's partner, Nick Anwar, is not about to let the woman he loves become the victim of a stone-cold killer. (American)

Diana DIAMOND**The First Wife** 343pp Pb 16.95

For fans of Olivia Goldsmith and Mary Jane Clark comes a dramatic and sensational thriller with twists and turns at every corner and a chilling shock-surprise of an ending. Jane Warren is doing what she swore she would never do again: marching down the aisle, promising to have, hold, serve and protect, til death do them part. But why does Andrew seem so obsessed with his dead wife? And why do the children seem to hate Jane so passionately? (American)

Pete EARLEY**The Big Secret** 356pp Pb 18.95

Federal Chief Investigator Nick LeRue is an expert on unravelling a crime; he has brought down some of the smoothest operators on Capitol Hill and uncovered dangerous secrets



in politicians' pasts. But with word that his ex-girlfriend, investigative journalist Heather Cole, is missing, Nick is about to learn that nothing is ever what it seems. Nick follows her trail to Pushmataha, Mississippi, where it seems Heather may have been close to uncovering the town's darkest and bloodiest secret. (American)

Robert EDRIC**Cradle Song** 523pp Pb 22.95

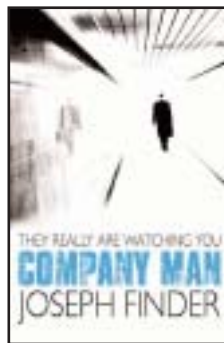
An imprisoned child murderer unexpectedly appeals his conviction. In return for a reduced sentence, he offers to provide evidence of police corruption and to reveal where the corpses of several teenage girls are buried. Distressed at what may come to light, yet desperate to locate the body of his missing child, a father approaches PI Leo Rivers with a plea for help. Rivers' enquiries stir cold and bitter memories and long-dead enmities flare suddenly into violence and a succession of new killings. (British)

Janet EVANOVICH**Ten Big Ones** 374pp Pb 19.95

Stephanie Plum and her partner Lula are clearly in the wrong place at the wrong time. A robbery leads to an explosion, which leads to the destruction of yet another car. Now Stephanie becomes the target of both a gang and of an even scarier, more dangerous force that comes to Trenton. With super bounty hunter Ranger acting more mysteriously than ever (and the tension with vice cop Joe Morelli getting hotter), Stephanie is racing against the clock in her most suspenseful novel yet. Also available: **Eleven on Top** (Tp 32.95). (American)

Joseph FINDER**Company Man** 520pp Tp 29.95

Nick Conover is the CEO of a major corporation. When a faceless stalker menaces his family, Nick, a single father of two since the recent death of his wife, finds that the gated community they live in is no protection at all. When he decides to



take action, a tragedy ensues and immediately his life spirals out of control. At work, Nick begins to uncover a conspiracy against him, involving some of his closest colleagues. Meanwhile, his actions are being probed by a homicide detective named Audrey Rhimes, a relentless investigator with a strong sense of morality and her own, very personal reason for pursuing Nick Conover. Mesmerising and psychologically astute, this is Joseph Finder's most compelling and original novel yet. (American)

Anne FRASIER**Before I Wake** 373pp Pb 18.95

This story is about a one-time criminal profiler who will risk everything - even her own sanity - to lure out of hiding the madman who murdered her family, even if it means becoming the number-one suspect. (American)

Ed GAFFNEY**Premeditated Murder**
323pp Pb 16.95

In a New England courtroom, two young DA's face a trial they cannot win. For lawyers Zack Wilson and Terry Tallach, partners and best friends, it seems an open-and-shut case. Their client confessed to horrific multiple homicides and their only hope is to spare him the death penalty. Even that's a long shot, until the case takes a sudden, strange turn. They may have stumbled on a loophole: their client had a secret motive for his indefensible act, a motive that might free him if Zack and Terry can pull off an ingenious defence. But a surprise witness shocks even the media... (American)

Leslie GLASS**A Clean Kill** 357pp Pb 18.95

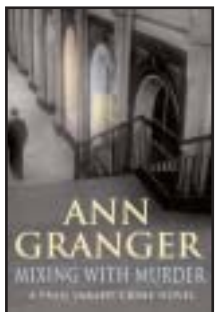
Manhattan's Upper East Side is not a neighbourhood that NYPD detective April Woo and Precinct Captain Mike Sanchez associate with grisly crimes, until the wife of a celebrity chef is slashed to death in her fashionable townhouse. The obvious suspect is her long-time nanny. (American)

Jane GOODALL**The Visitor** 377pp Tp 32.95

September, 1974. Briony Williams has moved to Oxford. As the story begins, she is speeding across the city at dawn to the murder site where Sylvie Bec has been found dead, killed by a single blow that crushed her skull. There are no signs of sexual interference and the forensic pathologist says he has never seen anything like it. So begins the next novel from our new queen of crime, Jane R Goodall. Fascinated by all things terrifying, Jane takes readers into the dark, drug-filled world of 1970s Oxford. (Australian)


Ann GRANGER**Mixing with Murder**
281pp Tp 32.95

A *Fran Varady crime novel* #6. Fran Varady is not keen to help seedy nightclub owner Mickey Allerton track down Lisa, a dancer who has done a bunk. But since Mickey is holding Fran's dog hostage until the job





is done, she doesn't have much choice. She quickly locates Lisa and they arrange to meet. When Fran gets there early, the first thing she sees is a body floating in the river - one of Mickey's nastier bouncers. If Lisa was not terrified already, she is when she gets this news, and Fran finds herself torn between helping the frightened girl and doing Mickey's bidding. (British)


**Lois GREIMAN**

 **Unzipped** 336pp Pb 16.95
 "This is an amazingly good book with tons of twists and turns. And it's funny. Chrissy's internal thoughts are hilarious, as are the situations she gets herself into. Plus, the sexual tension between Chrissy and Rivera spices things up, but never detracts from the pacing. Greiman has put out a winner that will hopefully become a series." -*Romantic Times*. (American)



Kevin GUILFOILE

 **Wicker** 319pp Tp 29.95
 Justin Finn, at age three, looks like any other child. But his face, one day, will be the exact match of the cold-blooded killer of whom he is a perfect genetic replica. At age 15, has developed an unhealthy obsession with the Wicker Man, a notorious serial killer who prowls the streets of Chicago. Do not miss this original and breathtaking novel that will unsettle you and compel you in equal measure. (American)



Steve HAMILTON

 **Ice Run** 306pp Pb 18.95
 It is February in Paradise, Michigan. For the first time since moving there, Alex is taking a hard look at his life. This is what happens when a middle-aged solitary guy falls in love. The woman is Natalie Reynaud, an officer from the Ontario Provincial Police, whose partner has recently been killed. As far as the OPP are concerned, Natalie is responsible for her partner's death. She needs a break from the past, as well as the present. Alex and Natalie spend a romantic weekend together, but just as everything seems to be going so well, they are disturbed by someone who knows all about Natalie, and about a dark episode buried in her family's past that still drives men to violence. (American)



**Erin HART**

 **Lake of Sorrows** 434pp Pb 19.95
 When workers at a vast peat extraction site in the tortured landscape of the Irish midlands uncover a long-buried, badly damaged corpse, they call in pathologist Nora Gavin. The body has apparently been strangled, slashed and drowned, the ritual 'triple death' of Ireland's blood-soaked pagan past. But moments after Nora arrives, a much more recent victim is discovered. Like the ancient body, this new corpse seems to have suffered the triple death... Nora and her lover, archaeologist Cormac Maguire, must team up professionally once more. Soon they are enmeshed in a web of tangled desires and terrible secrets. The danger mounts, fuelled by rumours of ancient gold, illicit liaisons and long-delayed revenge. Though they don't realise it, Nora and Cormac have come far too close to the truth, placing them in ever-greater danger of becoming a ruthless killer's next victims. (British)



**Patricia HIGSMITH**

 **Tales of Natural and Unnatural**
 **Catastrophes (1987)** 189pp Pb 18.95
 In this eerily up-to-date collection, Highsmith's incisive prose chronicles a world gone slightly mad, its catastrophes precipitated by human folly and excess. From the White House under siege by the homeless, to a dimly glowing 190-year-old woman perpetually near death, each tale unfolds the illogical extremes of humanity in the late 20th century. Highsmith transmogrifies the face of daily existence to lay bare its manifold dark motives. (American)



Tami HOAG

 **Kill the Messenger** 423pp Pb 18.95
 At the end of a long day battling street traffic, bike messenger Jace Damon has one last drop to make. But en route to delivering a package for one of LA's sleaziest DA's, he is nearly run down by a car, chased through back alleys and shot at. Only the instincts acquired while growing up on the streets of LA allow him to escape with his life and with the package someone wants badly enough to kill for. (American)



**Kay HOOPER**

 **Hunting Fear** 350pp Pb 18.95
 *A Bishop/Special Crimes Unit novel #1.* Lucas Jordan has an extraordinary psychic skill that police all over find invaluable: he locates missing people. And since being recruited by Noah Bishop for his FBI Special Crimes Unit, Lucas has learned to hone his remarkable ability so that what he does seems little short of miraculous. Called in on a series of kidnappings-for-ransom, Lucas realizes the situation is more deadly than anything he has ever faced before. Because a brilliant, twisted madman is out to win a sick game, matching his wits against the best hunter he can find: Lucas. (American)



Christopher HYDE

 **An American Spy** 390pp Pb 18.95
 The WWII espionage thrillers of Christopher Hyde have earned him international acclaim. In this novel he is at the top of his game as intrepid war correspondent Jane Todd explores a royal scandal, a Nazi conspiracy and the lure of treason in a world at war. (American)

Joseph KANON

 **Alibi** 410pp Tp 32.95
 It is 1946 and a stunned Europe is beginning its slow recovery from the ravages of WWII. Adam Miller has come to Venice to visit his widowed mother and try to forget the horrors he witnessed as a US Army war crimes investigator in Germany. Nothing has changed in Venice; untouched by bombs, the shifting waters still seem a dream. But when Adam falls in love with Claudia, a Jewish woman scarred by her devastating experiences during the war, he is forced to confront another Venice, a city still at war with itself, haunted by atrocities it would rather forget. Everyone, he discovers, has been compromised by the Occupation. Using the piazzas and canals of Venice as an enthralling but sinister backdrop, Kanon has again written a gripping historical thriller. It is at once a murder mystery, a love story and a superbly crafted novel about the nature of moral responsibility. (American)

**Jack KERLEY**

 **The Hundredth Man** 518pp Pb 18.95
 Bizarre messages carved into the flesh of two corpses in Mobile, Alabama, launch a special unit devoted to solving psychotic crimes. They are also launching Detective Carson Ryder into a nightmare with only one weapon - his own terrifying past. (American)

PARKING

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Sun	
(& any day after 5pm)	\$12 flat



Gene KERRIGAN

Little Criminals 329pp Pb 23.95

Two worlds are about to collide. Justin and Angela Kennedy are doing fine. In fact, better than fine - they have wealth, position, love, children and a limitless future. Into their lives comes Frankie Crowe, an ambitious criminal tired of risking his life for small change. Together with a crew of singularly dangerous men, Frankie decides that kidnapping could be the first step on his climb to a better life. As his plan plays out, author Kerrigan throws a harsh light on modern Ireland, where the agenda is no longer set by Catholic bishops or masked paramilitaries, but by the drive for wealth and success. This is a story of violence and suspense. It is also about what happens to the fragile things - friendship, love, compassion - when all hell breaks loose. (British)

Dean KOONTZ

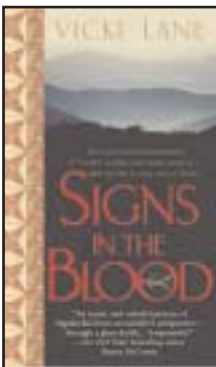
The Taking 410pp Pb 18.95

Molly and Neil Sloan awaken to the drumbeat of rain. It has haunted their dreams through the night and now they find an eerily luminous and silver downpour that drenches their small Californian mountain town. As the hours pass, they hear news of extreme weather phenomena across the globe. By evening, the town has lost all communication with the outside world. Within the misty gloom, a small band of their neighbours will encounter something that reveals in a terrifying instant what is hunting them with ruthless efficiency. Epic in scope, searingly intimate and immediate in its perspective, this is a story of a strangely changed world as apocalypse comes to Main Street. (American)

Vicki LANE

Signs in the Blood 370pp Pb 16.95

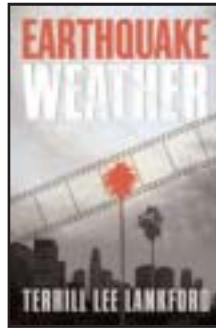
Elizabeth Goodweather and her husband built a rewarding life in their adopted Appalachian home. But now Elizabeth is alone, her husband tragically killed, her children grown and the land around her filled with customs and beliefs that she cannot share. It is still a good life, tending the small herb and flower business, but Elizabeth's fragile peace is about to be shattered. While hunting ginseng in the hills, Cletus Gentry vanished, and his mother is sure the child-like man was murdered. (American)



Terrill Lee LANKFORD

Earthquake Weather 303pp Pb 16.95

Hollywood - the land of dreams and schemes. Mark Hayes has a dream to make movies, but years of frustrating career moves have yielded little progress and he now finds himself in a deadend job as a creative executive for the loathsome producer, Dexter Morton, at Prescient Pictures, the hottest new production company in town. A job like this could lead to big things, but Morton has no interest in promoting Mark's ambitions. Then a major earthquake rocks LA and all deals are off. When Mark finds a body floating in Dexter's pool, he goes from D-Boy to murder suspect before he can say "three-picture-deal". (American)



William LASHNER

Past Due 563pp Pb 18.95

Lashner crafts dark, witty, engrossing tales of suspense involving one of the most intriguing characters of modern popular fiction: Victor Carl. A DA who lives his life in shades of grey, Carl fights all the right fights for all the wrong reasons. With a failing legal practice, a dead-end love life, a pile of unpaid traffic tickets and a talent for mixing it up in tough working-class bars and sparring with obstinate cops, he skates on the razor's edge of legal ethics in search of the easy buck. But the one absolute in his life is loyalty, especially to a client, even if he happens to be dead - like Joey Cheaps, a no-account who is knifed in the throat down on the waterfront, but not before he shares with his lawyer his part in a terrible crime... (American)

Victoria LAURIE

Better Read than Dead 296pp Pb 16.95

A *Psychic Eye* mystery. Word of Abby's talent for reading tarot cards has reached a mob boss who wants her help in some business matters. And he doesn't take no for an answer. When the police seek out her psychic intuition to shed light on a masked man who has been attacking women, Abby finds herself working both sides of the law on her own, leading her to wonder: why didn't I see this coming? (American)



Patricia LEWIN

Out of Reach 262pp Pb 19.95

A rising star in the CIA, Erin Baker is driven by a tragedy from her past. Her life takes an unexpected turn when she spots an ice cream vendor performing magic tricks for kids. She has seen this man before, the day her sister disappeared. Having obtained access to records that few are allowed to see, she re-opens her sister's cold case, hoping to finally bring a criminal to justice with her arsenal of data banks and espionage techniques. With its deeply drawn characters, relentless pace and powerful depiction of human courage in the face of danger, this is a gritty, terrifying novel of a nerve-wracking race against time. (American)

Robert LEWIS

The Last Llanelli Train 216pp Pb 22.95

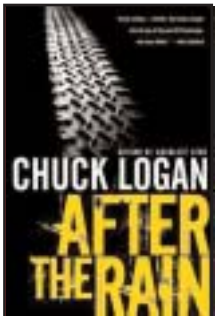
Robin Llewellyn is a private eye. More or less. Part-time really, while he gets on with the full-time job of drinking himself to death on the mean streets of Bristol. He is one step away from the gutter when he gets one last case. It smells of money. A woman wants to set her husband up for blackmail. All Robin has to do is find a hooker to do the job, then collect his money. If only life was that simple. Dragging the private eye novel into the 21st century by mixing purest noir with some very black comedy, this book offers an unforgettable portrait of a man at the very end of his tether. (British)



Chuck LOGAN


After the Rain 413pp Pb 18.95

Nina Pryce and her husband Phil Broker could not have more opposite views of the military. Broker's loyalty to the men he served with in Vietnam is matched only by his certainty that they should not have been there in the first place. Nina is a new breed, a decorated and ambitious vet of the first Gulf War. Incommunicado for months as part of a top secret Delta anti-terrorist operation, she suddenly emerges in a town in the heart of the old Minuteman II missile belt. When Broker arrives, he immediately discovers that the legacy of those warheads casts a sinister shadow across the desolate north border country in the person of a damaged psychopath. (American)

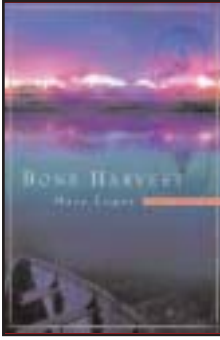




Mary LOGUE

Bone Harvest 257pp Pb 16.95 A *Claire Watkins* mystery.

When a quantity of dangerous pesticides is stolen from the local cop, Deputy Sheriff Claire Watkins is called in to investigate. The thief has left one bizarre clue: the finger bone of a child, long dead. The pesticides soon reappear with devastating effect: in flowerbeds, in animal feed and in a fatal concoction at a 4th of July picnic. Each time, a tiny human bone is left at the scene. Claire desperately races against time to find the madman. (American)



Merline LOVELACE

 **The Last Bullet** 379pp Pb 14.95

The Cleo North trilogy #3. Cleo thought she had sworn off bureaucracy forever, but the Air Force Office of Special Investigation has other ideas. They need her expertise and are willing to pay her extravagant fee. The case? An off-duty US fighter pilot recently took a bullet under suspicious circumstances and wound up dead. It doesn't take long before Cleo and Major Jack Donovan from the OSI, along with some help from British Intelligence, discover the pilot was involved in some questionable activities. But why was he so interested in a US Army Corps C-46 that went down in the English Channel in 1943? When another murder links this far-fetched story of wartime international intrigue to millions of dollars in gold, only one question remains: who is behind the ultimate cover-up? (American)

Merline LOVELACE

 **The Middle Sin** 377pp Pb 16.95

The Cleo North trilogy #2. When a young woman vanishes without a trace, Cleo North is hired to find her. But cold trail after cold trail lead to nowhere, until Major Jack Donovan joins the case. Soon they are trying to determine why a lowly employee had access to engineering schematics of a ship carrying dangerous cargo. When the evidence leads them to Malta, they uncover a massive threat with international consequences. Absolutely nothing is as it seems and time is running out for them to find the key to a terrorist's deeply hidden sins. **The First Mistake** (Pb 16.95) is #1 in this series. (American)



Elizabeth LOWELL

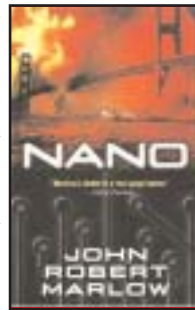
 **Always Time to Die** 334pp Tp 27.95

Researching personal histories is not just Carly May's profession, it is her passion. When the governor's eccentric Aunt Winifred invites Carly into the Quintrells' private Taos compound to compile a genealogical record of the illustrious residents, she can hardly believe her good luck. But digging into the past is raising troubling questions about the would-be president's private life, his late father and catatonic mother, and the grisly street crime that left his notorious drug-addicted sister dead. Carly will need an ally to survive the terrible secrets a father carried to the grave and an even more devastating evil that lurks among the living because following the bloodlines of the wealthy and power-hungry can be a bloody business ... (American)

John Robert MARLOW

 **Nano** 381pp Pb 16.95

Mitchell Swain is the richest man in the world, until he announces the ultimate technological breakthrough. The world stops for the press conference and sees him assassinated. No one knows what he was going to say. Almost no one. Jennifer Rayne intends to find out. A leading journalist covering high-tech, she was scheduled to interview Swain after the press conference. Instead, she investigates his murder. What she finds is a bizarre technology which promises invincibility, immortality and the ability to destroy any enemy or the earth itself. Mankind has entered the final arms race. As this breathlessly fast-paced nano thriller unfolds, readers are taken on a stunning tour de force of nano technology's promises and perils until the fate of Earth itself hangs in the balance. (American)



Sarah MASON

 **Society Girls** 352pp Tp 29.00

Clemmie Colshannon, a London art appraiser who is framed (pun intended) by her boyfriend and subsequently fired, retreats to the bosom of her eccentric family in Cornwall to recover. But no sooner has she unpacked her bags than her sister, Holly, an energetic reporter who lives to scoop, enlists Clemmie's derring-do on a juicy story. It seems that Emma McKellan, who writes the society pages for the *Bristol Gazette*, has disappeared days before her lavish wedding. As Holly and Clemmie search for clues (relishing the prospect of delicious scandal), the whole family is soon fleeing to the south of France with an ex-convict in hot pursuit. (American)

Claire MATTURRO

 **Skinny Dipping** 369pp Pb 16.95

"I, Lilly Rose Cleary, have a nearly endless capacity for driving myself crazy." And who knows a woman better than herself? Especially a woman like Lilly, a tough-as-nails partner working in a Sarasota, Florida, law firm representing fat-cat physicians in malpractice cases. Lilly is also an obsessive-compulsive health nut who has a bad habit of tripping over dead bodies. (American)

V L McDERMID

 **Booked for Murder #5 (1996)** 327pp Pb 18.95


Lindsay Gordon investigates the murder of a bestselling author and discovers that, beneath the glittering facade, the London publishing world is a hotbed of seething rivalries, soured relationships and desperate power plays. While hobnobbing with industry notables, Lindsay needs to find out who, amongst this sordid group, wanted Penny Varnavides dead? (British)

Leslie MEIER

 **Star Spangled Murder** 283pp Pb 16.95

A Lucy Stone mystery #11. Lucy Stone is in the doghouse with her next-door neighbour, Mrs Prudence Pratt. It seems that Kudo, the Stones' misbehaving mutt, has developed a taste for Mrs Pratt's blue-ribbon winning chickens, as well an escape artist's talent for sneaking out. With the Fourth of July coming up, Lucy does not want to set off any more fireworks with the crabby Prudence. (American)

John Ramsey MILLER

 **Inside Out** 434pp Pb 16.95


The Justice Department is hunting Sam Manelli, the godfather of one of America's biggest crime families, when an execution gone badly hands the government the ammunition they need. But they cannot do it without Dylan Devlin, the sociopathic hit man whose testimony will put Manelli away for good. US Marshal Winter Massey, haunted by the crash that killed his wife and blinded his son, is hired to keep Devlin and his wife alive at any cost. (American)

John Ramsey MILLER


 **Upside Down** 337pp Pb 16.95

In the rain-slick streets of New Orleans, a 12-year-old girl is running out of time. Hours before, Faith Ann Porter hid under a desk while her attorney mother was murdered for photographs that could rock the city. Because she has the negatives of the photos her mother died for, Faith Ann has only hours to live and only one person who can save her. Now ex-US marshal Winter Massey is drawn by a horrifying cycle of murder and the plea of one terrified young girl. (American)



**Barbara NADEL**

 **Deadly Web #7 417pp Pb 18.95**
A naked teenage girl is found dead near the beautiful Byzantine Yoros Castle in Turkey. She has stabbed herself through the heart, but there is evidence of bizarre sexual practice. In another part of Istanbul, a young boy seems to have committed suicide in similar circumstances. Inspectors Cetin Ikmen and Mehmet Suleyman follow an internet trail that leads them to an underworld of Goth nightclubs and satanic worship. But even those murky shadows hide more than they reveal and the answers to an ever-increasing number of suspicious deaths is more shocking and terrible than they could ever imagine. (British)


David OSBORN

 **The Last Pope 313pp Pb 19.95**
This evocative and moving novel takes the reader deep inside the inner world of the Vatican and the American branch of the Holy See to dramatise the great moral issues that are eviscerating the church. The story begins with the passing of Gregory XVIII, a humble and beloved pope. For Father Ignatius Heriot, an American cardinal and a man of decency, everything changes when he fulfills a promise to the dying pope to meet Father John Zacharias, a charismatic priest who has attracted hundreds of thousands of followers as he preaches for the reforms the church has so bitterly rejected. (American)


George PELECANOS

 **Drama City 291pp Tp 29.95**

Lorenzo Brown just wants to stay straight. After eight years in prison on a drug charge, he has had enough of the life. Now he has a job as a Humane Society officer, policing animal abusers and protecting the abused. In the dangerous streets that he used to menace, he plays a part in maintaining order, a role reversal that some of his former friends do not appreciate. Rachel Lopez, Lorenzo's parole officer, tries to help him, even as she battles her own demons and excesses. It looks like they both might make it, until a malevolent young killer, working for the powerful local drug boss, changes everything with one violent act. Now Lorenzo finds himself caught between the light and dark sides of the street, struggling to stay legit... or throw everything away to exact revenge. (American)


Kate PEPPER

 **Seven Minutes to Noon 307pp Pb 16.95**
In a comfortable Brooklyn neighbourhood, Alice Halpern waits for her best friend Lauren at the local playground. But when Lauren doesn't show up, then also fails to pick up her son from school, Alice watches her own life turn into a nightmare. As the police desperately search for the heavily pregnant Lauren, Alice, herself pregnant with twins, realises she is being followed and has the creeping fear that she will be next. (American)



Carly PHILLIPS

 **Under the Boardwalk 289pp Pb 16.95**
Ariana Costas has always been the outsider in her huge, crazy Greek family. She also has a twin sister. While Ariana has always been known as the good girl, Zoe has relished her role as the troublemaker. Now, perhaps due to one of her shady schemes, she has gone missing. But when Ariana is mistaken for her twin and rescued from a bullet by handsome stranger Quinn Donovan, her life flips upside down. Quinn is keeping secrets of his own that are destined to complicate both of their lives. Through Ariana, the quintessential loner discovers the importance of family and love. But can Ariana trust herself enough to win Quinn's heart? (American)


Malcolm PRYCE

 **The Unbearable Lightness of Being in Aberystwyth 259pp Tp 29.95**
A Louie Knight mystery. There was nothing unusual about the barrel-organ man who walked into Louie Knight's office... apart from the fact that his monkey was a former astronaut on the Welsh Space Programme, he had lost his memory and he wanted a murder investigated that took place 100 years ago. Louie was too smart to take a case like that, but also too broke to turn it down. Soon he is lost in a labyrinth of intrigue and terror, tormented at every turn by a gallery of mad nuns, gangsters and waifs and haunted by the loss of his girlfriend, who disappeared one day after being fed drugged raspberry ripple. (British)

Thom RACINA

 **Deep Freeze 366pp Pb 18.95**
 Sub-zero temperatures slice across the beaches of Santa Monica. A blinding blizzard whips through Hollywood. Swimming pools turn to solid blocks of ice. Roads are impassable. Cars have been abandoned. And as night falls, so does hope... (American)


Zane RADCLIFFE

 **The Killer's Guide to Iceland 441pp Pb 23.95**
Callum Pope cannot escape the horrors of his past. He has fled his native Glasgow to make a fresh start in Iceland with Birna Sveinsdottir, the pretty glaciologist who is slowly thawing his heart. He has moved in with Birna, her indomitable mother and her 11-year-old daughter. He tries hard to adjust to this new life among three generations of singular females, however the dark secret Callum is hiding is about to raise its malign head, threatening not only to destroy his relationship but also the life of a young girl... (British)


Kathy REICHS

 **Cross Bones 351pp Tp 32.95**
The victim's relatives are adamant in their rejection of suicide as an explanation. Discovered in a closet, a full week after death, the body is barely recognisable. Extreme heat has accelerated decomposition and Dr Temperance Brennan's forensic expertise is required. Detective Andrew Ryan is also on the case and, as his relationship with Tempe heats up, together they follow the trail of clues all the way to Israel. In the Holy Land, with the help of Jacob Drum, a biblical archaeologist and old friend, Tempe becomes involved in an international mystery as old as Jesus, a mystery that could rewrite 2,000 years of religious history. (Canadian)


Ruth RENDELL

 **Thirteen Steps Down 387pp Pb 19.95**
A classic Rendellian loner, Mix Cellini is superstitious about the number 13. Living in a decaying house in Notting Hill, Mix is obsessed with 10 Rillington Place, where the notorious John Christie committed a series of foul murders. Mix's landlady, Gwendolen Chawcer is equally reclusive, living her life through her library of books. Both landlady and lodger inhabit weird worlds of their own. But when reality intrudes into Mix's life, a long pent-up violence explodes. (British)


James ROLLINS

 **Sandstorm 587pp Pb 18.95**
An inexplicable explosion rocks the antiquities collection of a London museum. It is a devastating blast that sets off alarms in clandestine organisations around the world, as the race begins to determine how it happened, why it happened and what it means. New evidence exposed by the tragedy suggests that Ubar, a lost city buried beneath the Arabian Desert, is more than mere legend and that something astonishing is waiting there for Lady Kara Kensington and her curatorial friend Safia al-Maaz. This book has a novelty 'holographic' cover. (American)


**Chris RYAN**

 **Blackout** 346pp Tp 32.95
London. Paris. New York. Three cities all lose power, but no one claims responsibility. Fears of a terrorist strike are imminent. Josh Harding is a tough SAS soldier. His determination to discover who he is, and what he was doing there leads him into an explosive web of corporate blackmail, deceit and greed, where the stakes are high and where no-one can be trusted. (British)


Chris RYAN

 **The Increment** 440pp Pb 19.95
The Increment is the elite assassination unit of the SAS. Suddenly ex-SAS Matt Browning is thrust into the centre of a deadly mystery. As the answers start to unravel, Matt becomes the only man in possession of a terrifying secret. Alone and on the run he is up against the most ruthless, lethal killing machine on earth. (British)


John SANDFORD

 **Hidden Prey** 393pp Pb 18.95
Six months ago, Lucas Davenport tackled his first case as a state-wide trouble-shooter and he reckoned that was plenty strange enough. That was before the Russian got killed. On the shore of Lake Superior, a man named Vladimir Orslov is found dead. When it turns out Orslov had very high government connections, a female Russian cop flies in from Moscow while law enforcement and press types swarm the scene. In the middle of it all, there is another murder. Are the two connected? Why was the man shot with 50-year-old bullets? (British)

Maggie SEFTON

 **Knit One, Kill Two** 280pp Pb 16.95
A Knitting mystery #1. Kelly Flynn had never picked up a pair of knitting needles she liked until she strolled into House of Lambspun. Now, in the first in a brand-new series, she learns how to knit one, purl two and untangle the mystery behind her aunt's murder. (American)


Jenny SILER

 **Flashback** 328pp Pb 18.95
The nuns called her Eve when they found her lying unconscious in a Burgundy field. She had no possessions apart from a Tangier ferry ticket; not even her memory, though her accent suggests she is American. The convent has been her home since then - a simple, tranquil life. Then one night, while she is away, a dozen camouflaged men make their way through the convent, murdering the sisters in cold blood. (American)


**Veronica STALLWOOD**

 **Oxford Remains** 313pp Pb 19.95
Tensions are running high at Bartlemas College, Oxford. Daisy Tompkins, a bright, attractive student has put in a formal complaint about her tutor, the odd and unpopular Joseph Fechan. Faith Beeton, the Dean of Women Students, is asked to investigate but, for all his oddities, Joseph is a friend of hers, so she turns to her friend, novelist Kate Ivory, for an impartial opinion. Kate is reluctant to become involved in yet another battle in the political war raging at Bartlemas. But then Daisy is murdered. Although Fechan is the obvious suspect, Faith still believes he is innocent and, once again, Kate is drawn unwillingly into the search for the truth. (British)


**Jason STARR**

 **Twisted City** 319pp Pb 19.95
Times are tough for David Miller, a journalist for a second rate financial magazine who hates his boss, is tired of supporting his girlfriend's partying lifestyle, and recently lost his sister to cancer. But things are about to get much worse. When he loses his wallet in a neighbourhood bar, he finds himself being blackmailed by junkies, lying to his family and friends, and stumbling into a crime that may cost him his life. (American)


Paul SUSSMAN

 **The Last Secret of the Temple** 555pp Tp 32.95
An Inspector Khalifa mystery #1. Reopening a cold case after the murder of a hotel owner, Inspector Yusuf Khalifa finds he is obliged to team up with bigoted, hard-drinking Israeli detective Arie Ben-Roi. Meanwhile, in Jerusalem, Palestinian journalist Layla al-Madani is offered the greatest scoop of her career. Their investigations take them from ancient Jerusalem, the Crusades and the Cathar Heresy to Vichy France and the Nazi Holocaust. Forced to confront their own prejudices and demons, they unearth the existence of an ancient artefact of such symbolic power that, were it to fall into the wrong hands, it would plunge the Middle East into all-out war. Caught in a desperate race to recover the object before Jewish or Muslim extremist groups claim it as their own, the trail leads Khalifa, Layla and Ben Roi to a hidden cache of looted Nazi treasure. (British)


**Aline TEMPLETON**

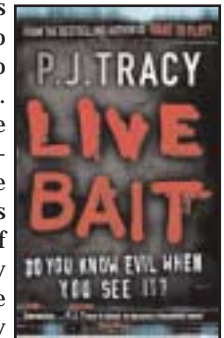
 **Cold in the Earth** 358pp Tp 32.95
As a catastrophic virus devastates the Scottish countryside, killing cattle and destroying lives, DI Marjory Fleming finds herself at the stormy heart of a troubled, trapped community. Pyres are built, infected animals are burnt, farmland is dug up as burial ground. A dead body, a missing girl and a mysterious family's dangerous obsession with bull-running provide a sinister backdrop to DI Fleming's first murder investigation. (British)


Emily TOLL

 **Keys to Death** 311pp Pb 16.95
A Booked-for-Travel mystery. While visiting a friend's newly opened resort in the Florida Keys, travel agent/sleuth Lynne Montgomery runs afoul of a killer who may make her vacation a permanent one. (American)

P J TRACY

 **Live Bait** 459pp Pb 19.95
Minneapolis detectives Leo Magozzi and Gino Rolseth are bored. The Twin Cities have been in a murder-free dry spell but the crime drought ends with the death of elderly Morey Gilbert. And the detectives are ready for some help from Grace McBride and her offbeat crew at a little software company called Monkeewrench. (American)

**Bruce VENABLES**

 **A Necessary Evil (1995)** 467pp Pb 21.95
1956. Sydney's youth flocked to the local dance halls. Juvenile crime rocketed out of control. Teenage gangs like the Overlords ruled the streets, forcing the NSW Police Commissioner to form 33 Division, an elite group of plainclothes cops presided over by George Arthur Everard, known to all as The Prince of Darlinghurst. Within a year, the problem was solved. As a reward, 33 Division was placed in charge of State Gaming and Vice. Corrupted from within, the cops of the Dirty Tree, as the division became known, created the biggest crime syndicate Sydney had ever seen. Bruce Venables traces the lives of three generations of policemen, from George the uncompromising grandfather; to Harold, the weak, psychotic father; to Shayne, the new breed of cop. (Australian)

**Bruce VENABLES****The Time of the Dragons**
534pp Pb 21.95

For the first time in 3,000 years, no emperor sits on the Dragon Throne. Like Hong Kong itself, idealistic young Englishman Inspector Richard Brewster struggles to survive in the maelstrom of war and political upheaval of China in the 1920s and 1930s. Pirates and triad societies risk the wrath of the Kuo Min Tang army in a murderous hunt for a fabled treasure. Within the very ranks of the Hong Kong Police Force itself, desperate young men form a triad for their mutual protection. The illegal secret society becomes a malevolent dragon, spreading its wings to cast a shadow of evil across half the world. From the pirate enclaves of the South China Sea to the opulent mansions of Victoria Peak; from the Japanese invasion of Shanghai to the vicious aerial combat of the Battle of Britain; Richard Brewster's life spins out of control in a world of passion, corruption and intrigue. Between the world wars was a time of great social change; it was a time of violence and political upheaval; it was the Time of the Dragons. (Australian)

**Elaine VIETS****Just Murdered** 280pp Pb 16.95

A Dead End Job mysteries #4. Helen Hawthorne's new job at a bridal salon becomes downright funereal when a bride-to-be's mother is murdered. Helen must find the killer before this turns into another dead-end position for her, literally! (American)

Martyn WAITES**The White Room** 389pp Pb 19.95

Newcastle, 1946. 19-year-old Jack Smeaton returns from the trenches, his hair turned white by the trauma of WWII. He seeks solace in socialism, falling under the spell of the young Dan Smith, visionary future leader of the city council, architect of tower blocks and sculpted concrete. Meanwhile, the future of Monica Blacklock, victim of childhood abuse, seems unremittingly bleak. Handsome, psychopathic Brian Mooney has plans for Monica. A masterfully contrived fusion of fiction and real life crime, this is a gripping tale of passion and violence, desire and revenge, spanning four tumultuous decades. (British)

**Kathryn WALL****Judas Island** 321pp Pb 16.95

After an abruptly-ended stay in Paris, Bay Tanner is more than happy to return home to South Carolina and immerse herself in small-town gossip, tranquil scenery and the affection of numerous concerned friends. But her peaceful return is short-lived when her fledgling detective agency gets a new client. Gray Palmer is an archaeologist friend of Bay's sleuthing partner Erik Whiteside. While digging around one of the isolated coastal islands, Gray discovered a far-from-ancient body and wants help in identifying it. But it is not long before Gray turns up dead in a freak boating accident. (American)

Joe WEBER**Assured Response**

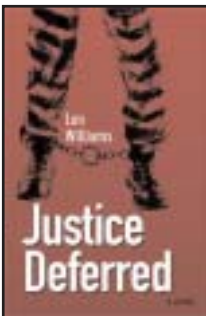
372pp Pb 18.95

The time is the near future. Osama Bin Laden has been succeeded by a generation of even deadlier terrorists who will stop at nothing in their fanatical quest to destroy the USA. Conventional security is no longer enough. Former military pilots Scott Dalton and Jackie Sullivan are the government's newest weapons; operatives so secret that their very existence is denied by the officials who hired them. Armed with the most up-to-date technology and equipment, their mission is to prevent a plan of nuclear holocaust that will begin at the Canadian border and explode in the centres of American power. (American)

**Len WILLIAMS****Justice Deferred**

326pp Pb 18.95

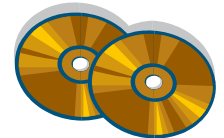
A small-time thief with three felony convictions, Billy Ray Billings finds himself behind bars for life when overzealous Alabama cops unfairly book him for a fourth. At first paralysed by his fate, Billy Ray slowly becomes the model prisoner, taking classes and finding God, all the while orchestrating an improbable escape. What follows next is sweet freedom, a new identity and a daring strategy to seek vengeance on the corrupt system that almost stole his life. Based on the bizarre events surrounding the disappearance of the author's own son, this unforgettable page-turner will take readers on a wild ride they will not forget... (American)

**Laura WILSON****The Lover** 359pp Pb 18.95

Autumn, 1940. London is in the grip of the Blitz. Rene is a Soho prostitute with a young son to support. She has learnt to cope with the air-raids, but each night on the streets is a terrifying ordeal as a killer begins to pick off her friends. Lucy is a young, middle-class office worker living with her family in Clapham, struggling to make sense of things as her peaceful suburban life degenerates into chaos. Jim is a fighter pilot, handsome and much admired for his heroism in battle. The killer instinct makes him perfectly suited to the daily challenge he faces in the skies of southern England, but the strain is beginning to tell. In ordinary circumstances, their paths might never have crossed, but in war-torn London, anything can happen. One night a bomb falls, with terrifying consequences for them all... (British)

Brian WIPRUD**Stuffed** 354pp Pb 16.95

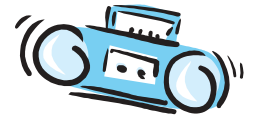
Leaping fishes. Prowling bobcats. Frosty penguins and mute moose heads. These are the things that fill Garth Carson's life as he buys, sells and rents exotic taxidermy from his funky New York City storefront. But now Garth and his gal Angie have acquired the most sinister stuffed critter in the world: a certain white crow in a bell jar that Angie swoons over and that other people are dying to get their hands on. (American)

CRIME DVDS**Agatha Christie**

4.50 from Paddington
A Murder is Announced
Murder at the Vicarage
The Body in the Library

DVD 1.5hrs 19.95

Celebrated actress Geraldine McEwan takes on the role of Agatha Christie's shrewd and inquisitive Miss Jane Marple in these classic murder mysteries. (British)

CRIME AUDIO**Reginald HILL**

Dalzeil and Pascoe: Secrets of the Dead 2 CDs 1.5hrs 29.95

Warren Clarke and Colin Buchanan star in an original, full-cast TV episode specially adapted for audio. (British)

James PATTERSON

4th of July 6 CDs 6hrs 49.95
Abridged, featuring Lorelei King. (American)

**James PATTERSON****Honeymoon 6 CDs 6hrs 49.95**

Abridged, featuring William Hootkins and Lorelei King. (American)

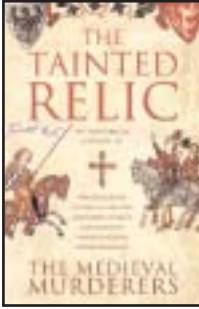
Dorothy L SAYERS**Gaudy Night 2 CDs 2hrs 29.95**

Full cast dramatisation starring Ian Carmichael. (American)

HISTORICAL CRIME

**Simon BEAUFORT, Michael JECKS
et al****The Tainted Relic 502pp Tp 29.95**

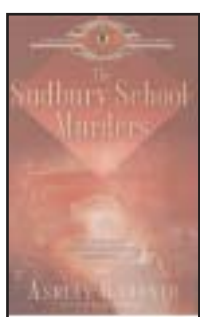
An historical mystery by the Medieval Murderers. Jerusalem, 1100. This is a collaborative novel by a collective of writers including Susanna Gregory, Bernard Knight, Ian Morson and Philip Gooden. The relic in question



is (allegedly) a piece of the true cross taken from Jerusalem after the Second Crusade took the city in July 1100. This relic is said to be cursed: anyone who touches it will meet an untimely and gruesome end as soon as it leaves their possession. Each writer adds a chapter to this intriguing mystery. (Various)

Lindsey DAVIS**See Delphi and Die 301pp Tp 32.95**

The Falco series #17. Roman Province of Achaia, 76 CE. Falco's brother-in-law Aulus has been diverted from his route to Athens University by a man whose newly married daughter and her husband have disappeared while visiting the Olympic Games. Suspecting a classic cover-up, Aulus enrolls Falco's help in solving the case. Joining the rest of the married couple's tour group on the remains of their Grand Tour, Falco seizes the opportunity to interview the owner/manager of Seven Sights Travel, as well as the other guests. (British)

Ashley GARDNER**The Sudbury School Murders****295pp Pb 16.95**

A Regency England mystery #4. Captain Lacey accepts a position at the Sudbury School to find the person behind a series of malicious pranks. But when the mischief takes a deadly turn, the honourable Lacey must teach a murderer a lesson. (American)

A Regency England mystery #4. Captain Lacey accepts a position at the Sudbury School to find the person behind a series of malicious pranks. But when the mischief takes a deadly turn, the honourable Lacey must teach a murderer a lesson. (American)

Janet GLEESON**The Thief Taker 363pp Pb 23.95**

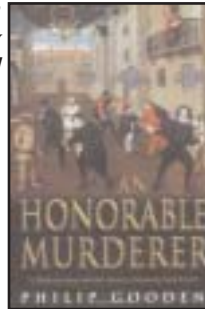
A novel of Crime, Chicanery and Cookery. London, 1750. Agnes Meadows' quiet world of culinary activity as cook to the Blanchard family is a happy refuge from the bustle of city life. But a single night is about to change all



that. The Blanchards are renowned silversmiths and, when their most prestigious and expensive commission - a giant, silver wine cooler destined for Sir Bartholomew Grey - is stolen, a sinister chain of events is set in motion. That same night, an apprentice is murdered and a young maid disappears. Called upon by her master to investigate below stairs, Agnes enters an arena full of secrets, jealousy and murderous intent. Forced to play cat and mouse with the infamous Thief Taker, she is drawn into London's murky criminal underworld where it seems the truth (like the expensive delicacies that Agnes keeps under lock and key) comes at a price. (British)

Philip GOODEN**An Honourable Murderer****282pp Hb 49.95**

A Shakespearean murder mystery featuring Nick Revill #6. London, 1604. The Spanish are in town. Many years after the ill-fated Armada, they are negotiating a peace treaty with the English. Nick Revill's acting company is given a ceremonial role at the celebrations. But not everybody welcomes this outbreak of peace. In the shifting world of the court, there are factions. In the Tower of London sits that implacable enemy of the Spanish, Sir Walter Raleigh, and he has friends on the outside who may try to sabotage the negotiations. Meanwhile, Nick is trying to get on with his playing. Invited by Shakespeare's rival, Ben Jonson, to take part in a masque at Somerset House where the Spanish are lodged, Nick is caught up in a conspiracy. During a rehearsal, the courtier Sir Philip Blake dies an apparently accidental death when he tumbles from a *deus ex machina* chair while being lowered to the stage - the first of a series of deaths. (American)



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Tom HARPER**The Mosaic of Shadows****467pp Pb 22.95**

An Epic Tale of Murder and Betrayal in the Crusades #1. Byzantium, 1096. With the Turks rampant across Asia, the emperor has sent to the west for mercenaries to reinforce his position. But he gets more than he bargained for when a great army - tens of thousands strong - appears before the gates. The first crusaders have arrived, intent on making their fortunes in war, and they have no allegiance to an empire they eye with jealousy and suspicion. As the armies of east and west confront each other and the assassin creeps ever closer to his prey, Demetrios must untangle the golden web of intrigue that surrounds the emperor before the city is drowned in blood. (British)

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Elizabeth PETERS

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Victoria THOMPSON

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**CRIME
NON-FICTION**



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Esther McKAY

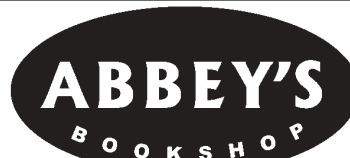
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Crime Chronicle is compiled and edited
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