

CRIME CHRONICLE

“WHERE A GOOD CRIME CAN BE HAD BY ALL”

ISSUE #248 SEPTEMBER 2006

WRITERS OF THE MONTH

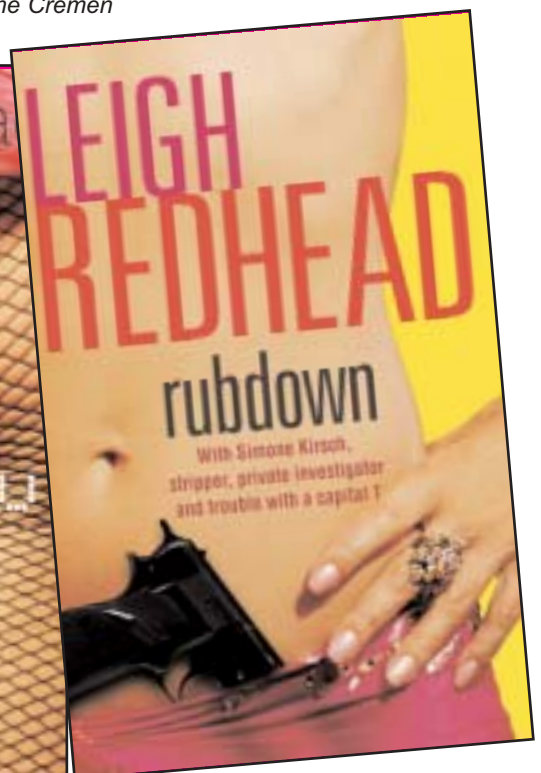
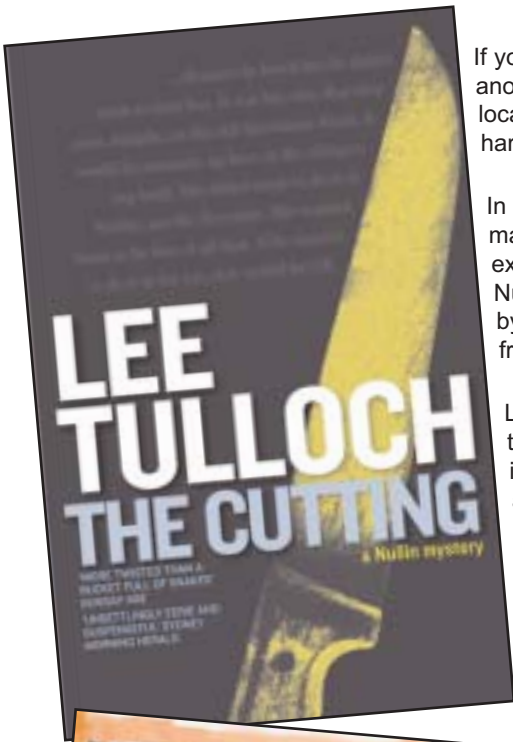
If you're not particularly fond of 'cosy' mysteries, but you don't want to take yet another trip down the ubiquitous 'mean streets', you might like to look at some new local female crime writers who are proving that you can write tough, without being hard-boiled.

In Lee Tulloch's **The Cutting** (Pb \$22), Heidi Go and her husband leave Sydney to make a new life in the NSW coastal town of Nullin, but they don't get the seachange experience they were hoping for. Quite apart from the grisly murders occurring there, Nullin is a nicely nasty place populated by sinister hippie ferals and a clan who live by selling the hides of road-kill, and who sportingly give Heidi a head start away from their noisome homestead after they threaten to rape and kill her.

Like Tulloch, Marion Halligan is a writer of literary fiction who recently decided to turn to crime. Although **The Apricot Colonel** (Pb \$19.95) contains the sort of ingredients more commonly found in cosies – there's a lot about food and frocks, and a cat plays a cameo role – Halligan has actually written a chilling and perceptive 'woman in peril' thriller that deals with the darker side of life as a singleton.

Leigh Redhead has been compared to American crime writer Janet Evanovich, but so far her novels, **Peepshow** (Pb \$21.95) and **Rubdown** (Tp \$29.95), show no sign of degenerating into the same relentless wackiness exhibited in Evanovich's novels, instead maintaining a fine balance between darkness and humour. This young writer has personal experience of the strip clubs and massage parlours in which her mysteries are set, so she provides us with an authentic entry into a world most of us will never know, but in which we can absolutely believe.

- Christine Cremen





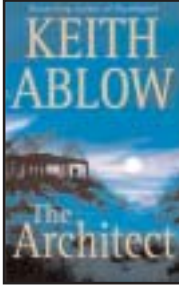
MODERN CRIME

Keith ABLOW

 **The Architect**

333pp Pb \$18.95

West Crosse is a genius at creating spaces uniquely fitting the people who will inhabit them. The catch: he works under a shroud of secrecy, charges his clients a fortune, and then sometimes, in the most skilful and horrifying ways, he kills them... West has the best of reasons. He's designing lives as well as homes, obliterating everything that is ugly, accidental, or ill-conceived. And with each meticulous murder he commits, he's getting better - leaving behind carved bodies that make a bone chilling statement of their own... (American)



Cherry ADAIR

 **Edge of Danger**

305pp Pb \$16.95

#1. As an anti-terrorism operative in T-FLAC's classified paranormal unit, the intrepid, ruggedly handsome Gabriel Edge protects the world from the forces of evil. So when an ingenious and extremely volatile invention is stolen from a covert lab in Arizona, Gabriel zeroes in on the brilliant young scientist who helped to create the device, Eden Cahill. Using a mysterious telepathic power as ancient as his Scottish heritage, as well as his seductive physical charms, Gabriel must infiltrate Eden's mind to uncover the secrets she so desperately protects. (American)

Susan Wittig ALBERT

 **The Tale of Holly How**

303pp Pb \$16.95

Cottage Tales of Beatrix Potter #2. By now, Beatrix Potter, the beloved children's author, has won over human and animal hearts alike in her new home, the sleepy village of Sawrey. Miss Potter sets out to solve a case that will affect all creatures, great and small, when a gentle shepherd is found murdered. (American)

Eric AMBLER

 **The Light of Day** 287pp Pb \$19.95

Arthur Simpson, petty thief and con man, is caught between a rock and a hard place. Discovered stealing traveller's cheques from a hotel room, he is blackmailed by his 'victim' into smuggling arms across the border into Turkey for use in a major jewel heist. 1972 (English)

Reed ARVIN

 **Blood of Angels**

384pp Pb \$18.95

An honest and dedicated public servant, Thomas Dennehy helplessly let the pressures of his job destroy his marriage and separate him from his adored young daughter. Now he's shattered by the revelation that, as a result of a case he prosecuted, and innocent man may have been executed. (American)

Ray BANKS

 **Saturday's Child**

311pp Pb \$19.95

Cal Innes is fresh out of Strangeways, playing PI and running from a past muddied with ties to local gang lord 'Uncle' Morris Tiernan. When Tiernan tells him to track down a rogue casino dealer who's absconded with a hefty chunk of cash, Innes is thrust into a cat-and-mouse game with Tiernan's psychotic son. Finding the thief proves potentially fatal as the case points north to Newcastle and the sordid truth threatens to put blood on his hands. (English)



Beverly BARTON

 **Close Enough to Kill**

437pp Pb \$16.95

New York Times bestselling author Beverly Barton delivers a sizzling novel of suspense about a small town sheriff on a desperate hunt for a twisted serial killer that takes her to the edge of danger and desire. (American)

M C BEATON

 **The Perfect Paragon**

248pp Pb \$16.95

Agatha Raisin Mystery #16. After nearly being killed by both a hired hit man and her former secretary, Agatha could use some low-key cases. So when Robert Smedley walks through the door, determined to prove that his wife is cheating, Raisin Investigations immediately offers to help. (Scottish)

Ted BELL

 **Pirate**

605pp Pb \$22.95

Axel Hawke #3. In Bell's scorching follow-up to *Assassin* (Pb \$18.95), intrepid intelligence operative Alex Hawke must thwart a secret, deadly alliance between China and France before they annihilate everything and everyone in their headlong rush toward world domination. (American)

Carol BENJAMIN

 **Without a Word** 308pp Pb \$16.95

Rachael Alexander Mystery. Reluctantly agreeing to track down a distraught man's wife who went missing five years earlier, private investigator Rachel Alexander finds the case further complicated by the woman's traumatized daughter, who has been wrongfully accused of a stabbing murder. Reprint. (American)

Laurie BERENSON

 **Watchdog**

314pp Pb \$16.95

Melanie Travis Mystery. Series sleuth Melanie Travis, who enters her standard poodle in dog shows, "rescues" her entrepreneurial brother when police accuse him of murdering his business partner. A heady mix of canine pulchritude and bloody murder. (American)

Ethan BLACK

 **At Hell's Gate** 387pp Pb \$18.95

Detective Voort and his beautiful fiancée, Camilla, are kayaking New York City's Hell's Gate, a treacherous section of the East River and graveyard for several centuries' worth of ships, when they spot a body floating in the water. The death seems related to a tragedy that happened here over 200 years ago. But could it also involve something more modern, menacing, and international in scope? With the help of TV producer Camilla and his partner, Mickie, Voort pursues the clues. But something doesn't feel right about the trail the dead man left behind. (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

**Nero BLANC****Another Word for Murder**

297pp Pb \$18.95

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. (American)

**Death on the Diagonal**

269pp Tp \$29.95

Crossword Mystery #11. Belle hears that the devastating fire at the Collins family stables may have been a torch job. (American)

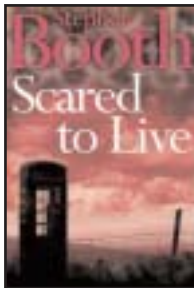
Jay BONANSINGA**Twisted**

347pp Pb \$16.95

"Publishing a novel about a giant hurricane hitting New Orleans eleven months after the very real Hurricane Katrina is a dicey undertaking. But Bonansinga pulls it off with grace and reverence for the Crescent City - especially since he turned in the first draft one month before Katrina hit." *Publishers Weekly* (American)

Stephen BOOTH**Scared to Live** 472pp Tp \$33.00

It was an ordinary house fire with tragic consequences: a wife and two children dead. But then for DS Diane Fry and DC Ben Cooper, the ordinary always means trouble - like a bereaved family living in fear, like the shocking assassination of an elderly woman living alone in a quiet Peak District village. What could be the motive for inflicting such violence on harmless victims? (English)

**Rhys BOWEN****Evan Blessed** 298pp Pb \$16.95

Constable Evans Mystery #9. When Constable Evan Evans investigates the disappearance of a woman who vanished on Mt Snowdon, his search uncovers a strange bunker with handcuffs and chains, but the case takes a bizarre turn when Evans's own fiancé disappears. (American)

Elizabeth BRIGHT**Deadly Greetings**

243pp Pb \$16.95

Card-Making Mystery #2. Underwater investigator Hannah Sampson and her partner are suiting up for underwater training in the British Virgin Islands when a plane nosedives into the water and disappears. They save eight people and lose four. Hannah plunges into an investigation to see if one of the passengers was a target and who would be desperate enough to kill all those people. (American)

Kirsty BROOKS**The Lady Splash**

286pp Tp \$32.95

When amateur sleuth Cassidy Blair is given the task of trying out a beauty salon for the dancers at The Pussycat Club, it's difficult to explain why she finds herself waking up the next morning on a local beach, at sunrise, naked apart from some awkward sunburn. She is too busy trying to squeeze herself into a tiny dress, caring for her new dog, Hellhound, not to mention helping her friend Neil with his new drug-free lifestyle to notice that she's caught the attention of some very unsavoury characters. (Australian)

Dan BROWN**Illustrated Angels and Demons**

498pp Lp \$45.00

This Special Illustrated Edition, features 150 images of the architectural highlights, religious symbols, paintings, maps, sculptures, and locations found in this contemporary classic. (American)

Ellen BYERRUM**Raiders of the Lost Corset**

281pp Pb \$16.95

Crime of Fashion Mystery. Bursting at the seams with excitement to be in France, *Crimes of Fashion* columnist Lacy Smithsonian is dishing the dirt on haute couture, only to find herself up to her stilettos in mystery - when the supposed Rousseau family lost treasure, a jeweled corset, brings about the death of a corset designer. (American)

Andrea CAMILLERI**Rounding the Mark**

264pp Tp \$29.00

Inspector Montalbano Mystery #10. Two seemingly unrelated murders draw Sicilian sleuth Inspector Montalbano into a dangerous world of illicit trafficking in human lives and test both his personal endurance and his loyalty to the institution he serves. (Italian)

Agatha CHRISTIE**Nemesis** 256pp Hb \$30.00

Facsimile first edition featuring Miss Marple. 1971 (English)

Mary Jane CLARK**Dancing in the Dark**

338pp Pb \$18.95

Trying to mix business with pleasure, Key News correspondent Diane Mayfield has brought her children and her sister to the New Jersey Shore town of Ocean Grove to investigate a story on "girls who cry wolf". Diane lands an exclusive interview with a troubled young woman whose tale of being abducted and held against her will for three terrifying days had been disbelieved by the authorities. Until it happened again... (American)

Paul CLEAVE**The Cleaner** 373pp Tp \$29.95

Meet Joe. He's a nice guy out to catch a copycat killer. The one copying himself. (New Zealander)

Susan CONANT**Scratch the Surface**

279pp Pb \$16.95

Cat Lovers Mystery. A new series (and a new species) for the award-winning author of the *Dog Lover's Mysteries*, featuring sleuth Felicity Pride, (herself an author of a series of popular cat mysteries). Now Felicity's facing a real mystery when she finds a cat - and a corpse - on her doorstep. Who was he? Who killed him? And what publicity value could it all have for her newest novel? (American)

Michael CONNELLY**Lincoln Lawyer**

447pp Pb \$19.95

Mickey Haller is a Lincoln Lawyer, a criminal defence pro who operates out of the backseat of his Lincoln Town Car, to defend the clients at the bottom of the legal food chain. But when a Beverly Hills rich boy is arrested for brutally beating a woman, Haller has his first high-paying client in years. But an investigator is murdered for getting too close to the truth and Haller quickly discovers that his search for innocence has taken him face-to-face with a kind of evil as pure as a flame. (American)

Rose CONNORS**False Testimony**

301pp Pb \$16.95

Marty Nickerson and her partner in love and law, Harry Madigan, don't know how they got themselves mixed up with the two crazy cases they face in their latest outing. In one, a young man barely out of juvenile hall is facing a murder rap and decides to defend himself. And then there's Charles Kendrick, a US Senator from Massachusetts, who some believe may have been involved in the disappearance of a young office worker. Something seems amiss with both of these clients' stories, and Marty and Harry feel like they're grasping at straws with two defendants who are opposite in social status but equally stubborn. (American)

Patricia CORNWELL**Predator** 374pp Tp \$32.95

Investigating the disappearance of two sisters in Florida, Dr Kay Scarpetta follows clues that twist and turn, leading her into the psychopathic depths of a jailed serial killer's mind. (American)

Philip CRAIG**Vineyard Prey** 239pp Pb \$16.95

Martha's Vineyard Mystery. Spending the winter at Martha's Vineyard with his family, retired cop J W Jackson is asked to help an old friend sneak back into his Vineyard home and discovers that the friend has been targeted for a past involvement in a dangerous mission. (American)

**Casey DANIELS****Don of the Dead**

324pp Pb \$16.95

Pepper Martin #1. Beautiful, smart, and chic, Pepper Martin never had to work a day in her life - until her surgeon daddy was convicted of fraud, her wealthy fiancé took a powder, and the family fortune ran bone dry. But when she takes the only job she could get - a tour guide in a cemetery - she discovers an unwanted ability to communicate with the disgruntled deceased. Now Pepper has a whacked Mafia don demanding that she hunt down his killers - and threatening to haunt her until she does. (American)

Jeffrey DEAVER**The Cold Moon**

398pp Tp \$32.95

Lincoln Rhyme #7. It's the night of the full Cold Moon - the month of December according to the lunar calendar. A young man is found dead in lower Manhattan, the first in a series of victims of a man calling himself the Watchmaker. Lincoln Rhyme, Amelia Sachs and the rest of the crew are tapped to handle the case and stop the Watchmaker and his partner, Vincent Reynolds, a repulsive character with a special interest in the female victims of the killer. (American)

Jo DERESKE**Bookmarked to Die**

335pp Pb \$16.95

Miss Zukas Mystery. Librarian extraordinaire Miss Wilhelmina "Helma" Zukas wakes up on the morning of her 42nd birthday in the throes of more than one midlife crisis. Her championing a collection of local authors' works ignites a dangerous firestorm of jealousy and anger in tiny Bellehaven. She's blackmailed by her conniving boss, library director May Apple Moon, into attending group counselling sessions - and two of the participants turn up dead... (American)

Michael DIBDIN**Back to Bologna**

263pp Pb \$19.95

Aurelio Zen #10. Zen, the neurotic ace detective, investigates the murder of Bologna millionaire entrepreneur Lorenzo Curti, who was found in his Audi impaled on a Parmesan cheese knife. (English)

Adrian D'HAGE**The Omega Scroll**

463pp Pb \$19.95

When the Dead Sea Scrolls were found in a desert cave, they threw new light on the scriptures of the Christian Church. But in this novel, the Omega Scroll mysteriously disappears and the knowledge it contains is lost to humankind. Legend has it that those who come into contact with the scroll never see daylight again. (Australian)

Ake EDWARDSON**Sun and Shadow**

504pp Pb \$21.95

Det Eric Winter #1. Erik Winter is the youngest chief inspector in Sweden; he wears sharp suits, cooks gourmet meals, has a penchant for jazz, and is about to become a father. But he has his share of troubles too; a bloody double murder on his doorstep is only the beginning. (Swedish)

**Never End 328pp Hb \$35.00**

Det Eric Winter #2. Winter returns in a hard-boiled murder mystery about the dark and dirty underside of upstanding family life. (Swedish)

Barry EISLER**One Last Kill**

(US Title: Killing Rain)

337pp Tp \$29.95

John Rain #4. Rain has a new employer, Israeli intelligence organisation the Mossad, which wants him to fix a problem in Manila; and a new partner, Dox, whose good-ol' boy persona masks a sniper as deadly as Rain himself. He also has a new hope: that by using his talents in the service of something good, he might atone for all the lives he has almost taken. (American)

Janet EVANOVICH**Twelve Sharp 277pp Tp \$32.95**

Welcome to Trenton, New Jersey, where bounty hunter Stephanie Plum's life is about to implode in Janet Evanovich's wildest, hottest novel yet! (American)

Jimmie Ruth EVANS**Murder Over Easy**

292pp Pb \$16.95

Trailer Park Mystery #2. Melvin Arbuckle, Wanda Nell's boss at the Kountry Kitchen, has been arrested for killing a waitress with an unsavory reputation. Convinced of Melvin's innocence, Wanda Nell puts herself on the trail of a ruthless killer-and almost gets her goose cooked. (American)

Jon EVANS**Invisible Armies 375pp Tp \$32.95**

In a world where companies are more powerful than governments and security cameras can track your every move, if you can manipulate the web you can change the world. You can also get away with murder over and over again... Debut (Canadian)

John FASMAN**The Geographer's Library**

546pp Pb \$19.95

In a sleepy New England town a history professor dies suddenly. So unravels a story of murder, theft and magic that stretches back a thousand years and may hold the secret of eternal life. Debut (American)

Seth GARNER**Blood Partnership**

223pp Hb \$45.00

Ben Spencer is the ambitious young owner of The Blood Partnership, an online property marketing company. Over the past few months, he has become heavily involved with every member of the wealthy property-developing Westlake family - including becoming engaged to beautiful young Caitlin Westlake - and now he's beginning to regret it. Things go from bad to worse when Ben's own family are targeted by the Westlakes. Now, he must choose a side and it seems the only way out is death - but whose will it be? (English)

P L GAUS**A Prayer for the Night**

210pp Tp \$29.00

Ohio Amish Mystery. Amid a whirlwind of drugs, sex, and other temptations of the "English" world, a group of Amish teenagers on their Rumschpringe test the limits of their parents' religion to the breaking point. The murder of one and the abduction of another challenge Professor Michael Branden as he confronts the communal fear that the young people can never be brought home safely. (American)

David GIBBINS**Crusader Gold 338pp Tp \$32.95**

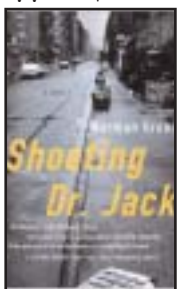
The elusive Crusader Gold is the greatest prize missing from the final bloody conflict of the Crusades. Some Jewish activists think it survived and is concealed in the Vatican - Jack Howard is the only man who can find out. The quest takes him from the fall of the Roman Empire to the last days of Nazi power and uncovers a potentially devastating trail... (English)

Danielle GIRARD**Rookie Club 307pp Pb \$16.95**

A seasoned inspector in the Sex Crimes department, Jamie Vail is on a terrifying case: female officers brutalised by a stranger who leaves no clues to his identity and whose sick game is turning into a deadly vendetta. As she hunts a killer, who could be one of their own, Jamie's time is running out - because she's the killer's ultimate prize. (American)

Norman GREEN**Shooting Dr Jack 303pp Pb \$18.95**

Three men - Fat Tommy Roselli, Stoney, and Tuco - work out their various aggressions and redemptions on the unforgiving street. "Norman Green writes with a voice that bites like razor wire. A gritty, dark and totally original debut." - Harlan Coben (American)



**Veronica HELEY** **Murder by Committee**

252pp Tp \$27.95

It seemed an innocent request: would widowed Ellie Quicke visit a man whose dog died in an accident? The dog's master - a powerful but unpleasant businessman - believes he was the intended target, and that an old enemy is responsible. (English)

Mandasue HELLER **The Charmer 392pp Pb \$19.95**

Maria Price has inherited a big house in the best part of Manchester and more money than she ever dreamed of. Then she meets Joel Parry - handsome, considerate, and charming - and he just happens to need a place to stay. But Joel's terrifying past is about to catch up with him - and the naïve girl who trusts him. (English)

Georgette HEYER **Behold, Here's Poison**

311pp Pb \$22.95

When Gregory Matthews, patriarch of the Poplars is found dead one morning, imperious Aunt Harriet blames it on the roast duck he ate for supper, after all, she had warned him about his blood pressure. But a post-mortem determines that the cause of death is much more sinister. 1936 (English)

**Jack HIGGINS** **Bormann Testament**

291pp Pb \$18.95

Out of print for 20 years, and originally published under the title **The Testament of Caspar Schultz**, this is a Jack Higgins classic reborn! Special Agent Paul Chavasse knows that if he's being called into action, the job is going bad-and is about to get worse. For a manuscript that exposes former Nazis now in hiding is up for grabs, and Paul must retrieve it before they destroy it - and him. (English)

Susan HILL **Pure in Heart 503pp Pb \$21.95**

Simon Serrallier #2. A little boy is kidnapped as he stands with his satchel at the gate of his home, waiting for his lift to school. An ex-con finds it impossible to stay straight. A severely handicapped young woman dies in the night - has someone who loves her helped her out of this world? (English)

 **The Risk of Darkness**

374pp Tp \$32.95

Simon Serrallier #3 Hill's third crime novel follows up the child abduction and explores the crazy grief of a widowed husband, a derangement, which turns to obsession and threats, violence and terror. Meanwhile, handsome, introverted Simon Serrallier is in love at last. (English)

Kay HOOPER **Chill of Fear 338pp Pb \$18.95**

Haunted by a 20-year-old unsolved crime, FBI agent Quentin Hayes attempts to put the mystery to rest and is joined by Diana Brisco, a woman struggling to unlock the meaning of her nightmares about a long-vanished child. (American)

Linda HOWARD **Cover of Night 290pp Tp \$32.95**


The owner of a struggling B&B in a picturesque Idaho town, Cate Nightingale, a young widow and mother, is forced to turn for help to her mysterious handyman, Calvin Harris, when a trio of vicious thugs threatens her and the entire town. (American)

Harry HUNSICKER **Still River 276pp Pb \$16.95**

Lee Henry Oswald Mystery #1. In a stark and haunting debut novel, Hunsicker introduces Dallas PI Lee Henry Oswald, a Special Forces veteran of the Gulf War whose work begins where legal options end. Fortunately being named Oswald in Dallas makes a man tough enough to get the job done, no matter what side of the law he's forced to walk... (American)

Adrian HYLAND **Diamond Dove 322pp Pb \$22.95**

Emily Tempest has been away from Central Australia for a long time. Uni, travel and dead end jobs, but now she's back in the community where she grew up, half in the Aboriginal world, half in the white. (Australian)

Max JAKUBOWSKI **The Mammoth Book of Historical** **Whodunnits 566pp Pb \$24.95**

Drawn exclusively from those earliest days of mystery fiction (1850-1905), this revealing anthology includes a surprising number of authors not commonly associated today with crime fiction: Alexander Dumas, Alexander Pushkin, Charles Dickens, Robert Louis Stephenson, Arnold Bennett, Mark Twain and Rudyard Kipling. (English)

Bill JAMES **Easy Streets 191pp Tp \$32.95**

A Harpur & Iles Mystery. For years Colin Harpur's dubious boss, Assistant Chief Constable Desmond Iles, ran a questionable but practical arrangement with Mansel Shale and Panicking Ralph Ember, owner of the Monty Club: Iles would protect their businesses if they ensured peace on the streets. But the arrangement fails when violence erupts. (Welsh)

The Girl With the Long Black Hair


239pp Tp \$32.95

A Harpur & Iles Mystery. With the rumoured transfer of Chief of Police Mark Lane, London's competitive drug lords are on edge. In the past, Desmond Iles has managed to maintain the peace on the streets in an old-fashioned system of give a little, take a little. But with a dangerous mix of greed and fear, the looming threat of a stricter police force, and three sudden deaths, all sides are preparing themselves for a full-scale battle of the ugliest kind. (Welsh)

Dean JAMES **Baked to Death**

298pp Pb \$16.95

Simon Kirby-Jones Mystery #4. Writer, vampire, and sleuth extraordinaire Kirby-Jones becomes immersed in medieval mayhem when a renaissance fair comes to town bringing with it Tristan Lovelace, the man who made him a vampire, and murderer. (American)

Quintin JARDINE **For the Death of Me**

404pp Pb \$19.95


Oz Blackstone #9. It's summertime in Monaco. Oz Blackstone, now an international film star, is sitting on the veranda of his opulent villa - one of three homes - idly gazing at Roman Abramovitch's luxury yacht as it slips into the harbour. Life doesn't get much better than this. But somebody knows where Oz lives... (Scottish)

RECOMMENDED READING**Wayne GROGAN****Vale Byron Bay 312pp Pb \$26.95**


The way Grogan puts a page together is in itself a treat for the interested reader. He layers the descriptive passages as a painter would prepare a canvas: the effect is unsettling. Layer upon layer of observation creates a north coast landscape in which the characters devolve rather than evolve: Starting with beautiful ideals the plot loosens to end with brutal realities. The road to Byron may be studded with the stars of the Milky Way but by the end of this book paradise is lost not found. The book opens on the crooked skyline of the Gold Coast where widow Margaret Mackerras is called down to Byron Bay to bail her son out of gaol. Slapped in there by the local burly, red-faced copper, surfer Christain and his girlfriend happily let mum Margaret take their place overnight in the clink because the corrupt officer won't accept a cheque. Gasping with disbelief at the way this incident unfolds, it certainly sets the pace for the steady flow of plot developments and their consequential explosive letdowns. - Shelley Kay (Australian)





**T M JENKINS**

 **The Waking** 370pp Tp \$32.95
 Doctor Nathaniel Sheehan is shot on the streets of Los Angeles. His wife Mary Sheehan is part of the small but fanatical cryonics movement. She decides in the heat of the moment to preserve her husband's head, the only part of him that hasn't been damaged by the shooting. She hopes one day to be reunited with him, but the technology doesn't become available until 60 years later, when a group of scientists in Phoenix attach the head to a donor body. (American)


Chris JORDAN

 **Taken** 317pp Tp \$29.95
 No parent believes it can happen to them - their child taken from a suburban schoolyard in the gentle hours of dusk. But as widowed mother Kate Bickford discovers, everything can change in the blink of an eye. One minute Tommy is begging for ice cream. Then in a terrible instant, he's gone. Opening the door to her Connecticut home, hoping to find her son, Kate comes face-to-face with her son's abductor. He wants money. All she has. And if she doesn't follow something he calls "The Method", the consequences will be gruesome. (American)


Graham JOYCE

 **Requiem** 308pp Pb \$18.95
 After the sudden death of his wife, Tom Webster travels to Jerusalem in search of a friend from his college days. The haunted city, divided by warring religious factions, offers him no refuge from his guilt and grief. As he is wandering through the streets and the archaeological sites, a mysterious old woman appears to Tom and delivers messages that seem beyond his comprehension. But a fragment of the Dead Sea Scrolls that had been kept hidden by an old Jewish innkeeper appears to offer the key to understanding the apparition. (American)


Faye & Jesse KELLERMAN

 **The Garden of Eden and Other Criminal Delights** 339pp Tp \$32.95
 14 short crime tales feature the partnership of Peter Decker and Rina Lazarus and include three previously unpublished works, as well as two essays drawn from the author's personal life. (American)



**Lee Charles KELLEY**

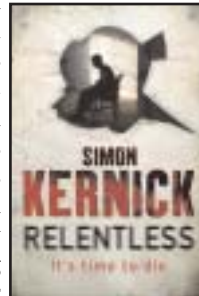
 **Dogged Pursuit** 300pp Pb \$16.95
 Jack Field thinks that nothing can dampen his spirits this beautiful Maine October, what with his wedding to smart and sexy state medical examiner Dr Jamie Cutter only weeks away. But when he hears about a young woman's body found in a nearby lake - a body that could be that of Jack's young runaway employee who's been fleeing a stalker she claimed murdered her mother - the ex-cop kennel owner is chilled to the bone. (American)


Gordon KENT

 **The Spoils of War** 458pp Pb \$33.00
 An exhilarating new tale of modern espionage and adventure featuring US Navy intelligence officer Alan Craik. (American)



Simon KERNICK

 **Relentless** 331pp Tp \$32.95
 Tom Meron, a happily married father of two who's never been in trouble, receives a phone call that will change his life for ever - his friend Jack Calley, a high-flying City lawyer, is screaming down the phone for help. As Meron listens, Calley is murdered. His last words, spoken to his killer, are the first two lines of Meron's address. (English)



**Dean KOONTZ**

 **The Husband** 400pp Tp \$33.00
 Mitch Rafferty has just 60 hours to save his wife. What would you do for love? Would you die? Would you kill? (American)


William KRUGER

 **Mercy Falls** 434pp Pb \$18.95
 *Cork O'Connor #5.* A stunning new suspense novel in Krueger's prize-winning Corcoran O'Connor series finds the charismatic detective steeped in his most dangerous case to date. (American)



Vicki LANE

 **Art's Blood** 418pp Pb \$16.95
 North Carolina's hills are a crazy quilt of old farmsteads and new beginnings, of locals, strangers, artists and new age wanderers. Elizabeth Goodweather, a still-young widow, moves easily between the gentrified world of Asheville and old-timers in their hollows. But when a flamboyant performance artist is murdered, and Elizabeth learns the amazing history of a magnificent piece of folk art, she gets caught in the middle of an agonising mystery. (American)



Michael LAWSON

 **The Inside Ring** 304pp Pb \$16.95
 Joe De Marco is running out of time. Someone has made an attempt on the president's life, but the wrong man is dead. How could this happen when the president and those nearest to him are protected by a group of men known as The Inside Ring? Joe's search for the answers takes him from the corridors of power to the swamps of the southern states, where one lie will need to another until finally the shocking truth will emerge in an orgy of violence. Debut (American)



Jeffrey LEE

 **The Butterfly Man** 457pp Tp \$32.95
 On an island off the coast of Mexico, former soldier of fortune Burr Whitman lives alone, studying butterflies. He hopes he has left behind a violent past, but the mysterious disappearance of a friend, and a lucrative new mission combine to lure him back into a world of intrigue and bloodshed. (English)


Chuck LOGAN

 **Homefront** 407pp Pb \$18.95
 Ex-cop Phil Broker and his army wife Nina Pryce are still recovering from their life-and-death struggle with a demented terrorist when a school-yard bully picks a fight with the wrong third-grade girl - their daughter, Kit. Suddenly they are facing a family of no-good drug dealers, who will stop at nothing to get revenge. (American)


Richard Le NORMAND

 **Escape to Death** 243pp Pb \$24.95
 In 1947 Marcel, Peter and Gerda, working for a special branch of the secret service, run an escape route from Germany through France and Spain to their castle on the Portuguese coast. The clients re minor ware criminals; each one carries a case of gold, stolen from their concentration camp victims. (English)

Killer at Large 207pp Pb \$24.95

 A 16-year old boy is brutally raped by German soliders and deported to France where he escapes, and becomes obsessed with revenge. After joining the French Resistance he is chosen for a covert British Special Services operation. (English)

Holly LISLE

 **I See You** 311pp Pb \$16.95
 For paramedic Dia Courvant, each day brings the possibility of facing blood and death. But nothing matched the horror of the day she was dispatched to the scene of a terrible car accident and rescued the sole survivor-only to find her own husband dead in the wreckage. Now, four years later, a series of deadly car crashes has brought handsome detective Brig Hafferty into Dia's life. She's drawn to Brig, but can she trust him enough to tell him of the terror that stalks her? (American)

**Sergei LUKYANENKO****The Night Watch** 489pp Tp \$32.95

Walking the streets of Moscow, indistinguishable from the rest of its population, are the Others. Magicians, possessors of supernatural powers and capable of entering the Twilight, a shadowy world that exists in parallel to our own, each Other owes allegiance either to the Dark or the Light. (Russian)

Barry MAITLAND**Spider Trap** 369pp Tp \$29.95

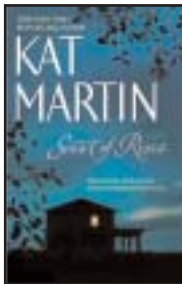
#9. London, and DCI David Brock and DS Kathy Kolla of Scotland Yard's Serious Crimes Branch are called in to investigate. The discovery that the victims died on the day of the Brixton riots, over 20 years before, lead Brock and Kolla on a dark and dangerous journey into the heart of the West Indian community in London - in which past and present come together in an intricate web of deception and intrigue, as Brock re-discovers the hand of a formidable old antagonist, Spider Roach. (Australian)

Phillip MARGOLIN**Lost Lake** 435pp Pb \$22.95

Vanessa Kohler is a tabloid reporter living and working in Washington DC. She writes fantastic stories about a vast government conspiracy to cover up a secret military unit headed by General Wingate, a popular presidential candidate. Most dismiss her as a paranoid crackpot using sensationalism to sell papers. But a few powerful men know better, and they've gone to great lengths to discredit her. (American)

Kat MARTIN**Scent of Roses** 412pp Pb \$18.95

Family counsellor Elizabeth Conner isn't sure what to think when Maria Santiago comes to her for help. Pregnant and terrified, Maria claims to be visited each night by the ghost of a little girl, warning her to flee. Her husband, Miguel, a migrant worker at Harcourt Farms, dismisses her fears as hormonal changes, but Elizabeth agrees to help by contacting Miguel's employers who own the cottage where the young couple lives. Elizabeth knows something terrible has happened here before, something that has its roots in murder... (American)

**Steve MARTINI****Double Tap** 502pp Pb \$19.95

Paul Madriani's defence of a soldier on trial for murder - and the explosive government secrets it could reveal - propel Martini's latest thriller. (American)

Francine MATTHEWS**Blown** 378pp Pb \$18.95

"Mathews, a former CIA intelligence analyst, dexterously serves up strong suspense and crisp espionage manoeuvres. With Caroline Carmichael at the wheel, it's a riveting, wild ride right to the nail-biting conclusion." - *Publishers Weekly* (American)

Ed McBAIN (ed)**Transgressions Vol 1** 290pp Pb \$22.95

This collection showcases some of the best crime writers in the business with original stories from Jeffery Deaver, Ed McBain and Joyce Carol Oates. (American)

Brett McBEAN**Mother** 396pp Pb \$19.95

Hitchhiking along the Hume Highway, a woman hunts for her daughter's killer. Her only clue is that the man has a tattoo on his left arm "Die Mother". Each driver she meets could be the killer, each lift could be her last. (Australian)

Clinton McKINZIE**Badwater** 367pp Pb \$16.95

"A breath of bracing mountain air... As Nevada Barr does with her national park settings, McKinzie makes Burns's love of rock climbing an important part of his hero's life - without allowing this passion to overshadow his exciting stories." - *Publishers Weekly*. The spellbinding story of a cop drawn to danger, a community steeped in hatred, and an explosive mix of opportunists, idealists, and a few very bad men, this is a taut, thunderous novel - McKinzie at his electrifying best. (American)

Marcia MULLER**Cape Perdido** 306pp Pb \$18.95

When plans to pump the Perdido River in Soledad County, California, through an aqueduct system to North Carolina are revealed, the residents protest. It's not long before discussion turns deadly. Dick Hill and Joyce Bean narrate Muller's ecological thriller, rife with old secrets and new violence. (American)

Warren MURPHY**Destroyer #144: Holy Mother** 347pp Pb \$16.95

An ancient goddess reclaims her power on earth - using Remo as her enforcer. (American)

Tim MYERS**A Flicker of Doubt** 224pp Pb \$16.95

Candlemaking Mystery #4. After his ex-girlfriend is found dead, Harrison Black, owner of At Wick's End, finds out just how hot old flames-and a ruthless killer-can burn. (American)

Reggie NADELSON**Fresh Kills** 343pp Tp \$32.95

Artie Cohen #7. With his wife Maxine out of town, Artie Cohen is alone in Manhattan when his nephew Billy Farone is released for a couple of weeks from the young offenders' institution where he has been since he stabbed Heshey Shank to death. Artie is the one Billy wants to come home to - the only person Billy cares about, the man he wants to be... (American)

**Sam NORTH****The Velvet Rooms** 285pp Tp \$29.95

Please select the room you wish to enter. Velvet Ballroom, Velvet Sanctuary, Velvet Shore, Velvet Dungeon... That's how it starts, for Call Girl, Thruster, Fat Armed Wife and all the rest of them. The Velvet Rooms allow them to act out their fantasies. Why not? Nothing can go wrong. But the real world breaks in and what was a cruel flirtation, a joke, turns into murderous reality. (American)

Joyce Carol OATES**The Female of the Species** 275pp Tp \$29.95

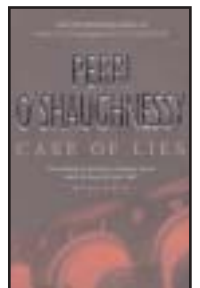
In these gripping and disturbing tales, women are confronted by the evil around them and surprised by the evil they find within themselves. With wicked insight, Oates demonstrates why the females of the species - be they six-year-old girls, seemingly devoted wives, or aging mothers - are by nature more deadly than the males. (American)

Neil OLSON**The Icon** 353pp Pb \$18.95

Olson's debut novel begins slowly and then picks up the pace dramatically. In the style of *The Da Vinci Code*, the story concerns Nazis and Greeks and an icon known as the Holy Mother of Katarini, which allegedly contains pieces of the blood-stained robe of Jesus. (American)

Perri O'SHAUGHNESSY**Case of Lies** 388pp Pb \$19.95

Nina Reilly #11. For Nina Reilly, the mountain town of Lake Tahoe is home. It's where she forged a successful career as a tough, resourceful attorney and raised her teenage son, Bob, alone. Back from a stint in Monterey, where her love life took a tumble, Nina has returned to her Tahoe law office with her old friends Sandy Whitefeather and Sandy's son, Wish. It isn't long before she has a new client whose wife was shot and killed during a casino-district robbery two years before. (American)



**Katherine Hall PAGE****Body in the Snowdrift**

323pp Pb \$16.95

Faith Fairchild #15. Caterer Faith Fairchild has a bad feeling about her father-in-law's decision to celebrate his 70th birthday with a family reunion ski week at the Pine Slopes resort in Vermont. At first her unease seems unfounded - until Faith comes across a corpse on one of the cross-country trails, the apparent victim of a heart attack. (American)

Robert B PARKER**Appaloosa 290pp Pb \$18.95**

Taking a break from his long-running series of Spenser novels, Parker moseys back to the Old West. He's eyed this back-acre before in *Gunman's Rhapsody*, a fictionalisation of the Wyatt Earp story, but as this original plot gallops to a perfect, almost mythical ending, it's clear that Parker can swap genres and not lose a step. (American)

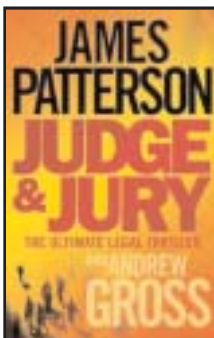
Robert B PARKER**Sea Change 295pp Tp \$29.95**

Jesse Stone #5. When a woman's partially decomposed body washes ashore in Paradise, Massachusetts, police chief Jesse Stone is forced into a case far more difficult than it initially appears. (American)

James PATTERSON**Judge and Jury**

341pp Tp \$32.95

It's the trial of the decade - Dominick Cavallo, the modern-day Godfather, has finally been put in the dock, and there's enough evidence to make it certain he'll be convicted. Heavy security surrounds the courtroom, and Nick Pellisante, the FBI agent who helped to nail Cavallo, keeps a close eye on proceedings. But things quickly start to go wrong. (American)

**James PHELAN****Fox Hunt 348pp Tp \$32.95**

When the world faces a deadly threat from a lost weapon, Lachlan Fox, disillusioned ex-navy operative is forced back into action. (Australian)

Manjiri PRABHU**Astral Alibi 371pp Pb \$16.95**

If you like your crime in a foreign clime, join Sonia Samarth and her Stellar Investigations Detective Agency as they confront a rash of baffling misdeeds plaguing the city of Pune, India - and solve them as only they can, with a unique combination of traditional Indian wisdom, modern-day detection, and ancient astrology. (Indian)

Kathy REICHS**Break No Bones**

337pp Tp \$32.95

It's the second-to-last day of archaeological field school. Dr Temperance Brennan's students are working on a site of prehistoric graves on Dewees, a barrier island north of Charleston, South Carolina, when a decomposing body is uncovered in a shallow grave off a lonely beach... (American)

Stella RIMMINGTON**Secret Asset 345pp Tp \$32.95**

#2. The second thriller from the former head of MI5, featuring MI5 officer Liz Carlyle. (English)

Nora ROBERTS**Angels Fall 480pp Tp \$32.95**

Seeking refuge from her past in Angel's Fist, Wyoming, Reece Gilmore witnesses a possible murder, but when all evidence of the crime vanishes, no one seems to believe her, except for Brody, a gruff loner who becomes her only hope of escaping a killer. (American)

Patrick ROBINSON**Ghost Force 367pp Tp \$32.95**

America, Britain, and Russia are drawn into a battle for a gigantic oil strike on the desolate Falkland Islands in Patrick Robinson's newest international thriller. (English)

Michael ROOTHAM**Lost 465pp Pb \$19.95**

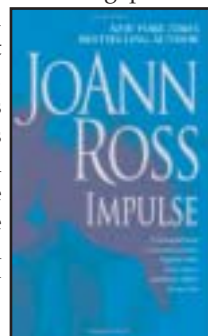
Everyone knows that Mickey Carlyle is dead and a man is in prison for her murder. Everyone, that is, except DI Vincent Ruiz who cannot stop searching and hoping... (Australian)

Andrew ROSENHEIM**Keeping Secrets 339pp Tp \$32.95**

A young boy is hiding for his life, having witnessed a brutal murder. He knows that even if he survives, his days on his uncle's California apple farm are gone for ever... (American)

Joann ROSS**Impulse 354pp Pb \$18.95**

Hazard, Wyoming, is a usually a quiet mountain town, but when Sheriff Will Bridger sees the murdered teenage girl, it's the worst scene he's ever witnessed. But there's worse to come. While the nights grow longer and the winter snow gets deeper, the violence intensifies. As does the blazing passion between Will and late-night radio-host Faith Prescott. Harboring secrets as potentially dangerous as his own, Faith knows all too well the dark side of the human heart. She can help Will. If he'll only let her. (American)

**Joel ROSS****Double Cross Blind**

435pp Pb \$19.95

December 1941 - Tom Wall, an American soldier wounded while fighting with the Allies in Crete, wakes up in a London hospital. Suffering from combat fatigue, Tom is aware only of a burning need to find his brother. But British Intelligence has other ideas. They want Wall to help secure a national asset - the Double Cross System, an intelligence operation now at risk from a German masterspy. Meanwhile a Japanese war fleet is steaming towards Pearl Harbour... Debut (American)

Greg RUCKA**Private Wars 503pp Pb \$16.95**

Only Greg Rucka, the thriller genre's most fearless writer, would dare create a spy so edgy, so explosive, and so extreme, she should be rated X. Tara Chace was once the most dangerous woman alive. And now that the international spy network thinks she's as good as dead, she's even more dangerous than ever. (American)

John SANDFORD**Dead Watch 373pp Tp \$29.95**

Jake Winter #1. Early morning, Virginia, and a woman is on the run. Her husband, a former US Senator, has been missing for days. Kidnapped? Murdered? She doesn't know, but she thinks she knows who's involved, and why. And that she's next. Hours later Jake Winter's mobile phone rings. An Army Intelligence veteran, Winter knows how to move quickly and decisively, but he's never faced a problem like this. (American)

Sandra SCOPPETTONE**This Dame for Hire**

290pp Pb \$16.95

New York, 1943. Almost anything in pants has gone to serve Uncle Sam in the war - including Woody Mason, the head of a detective agency in midtown Manhattan. Left to run the show is his secretary, Faye Quick, who signed on to be a steno, not a shamus. At 26 and five foot four, there's not much to Faye, but she's got moxie - which she'll need when she stumbles over a dead girl in the street and takes on her first murder case. (American)

**Michele SCOTT****Murder by the Glass**

244pp Pb \$16.95

Wine Lover's Mystery #2. The poisoning of a Napa Valley bride has oenophile Nikki Sands researching what may have been a killer bottle of wine. (American)

**James SHEEHAN** **The Mayor of Lexington Avenue** 421pp Tp \$32.95

In a thrilling debut, Sheehan - a Florida trial lawyer for 28 years - tells a story of enduring friendships, love and loss, promises kept and loyalties fulfilled, all against a backdrop that sweeps from the streets of New York City to the bayous and barrios of Florida. (American)

Jeff SHELBY **Killer Swell** 310pp Pb \$16.95

A Noah Braddock Mystery. Surfing and murder come together in this dazzling debut mystery series featuring San Diego private investigator Noah Braddock. (American)

John P SHERIFF **A Bewilderment of Cooks** 222pp Hb \$45.00

On a rainy night in a Liverpool suburb, glass shatters as a thief breaks into a private garage, steals the stereo from a Mercedes and makes his escape. When a neighbour runs out to apprehend the thief, he is stabbed to death. A random killing or so private eye Jack Scott believes before he interviews the dead man's widow. (English)

Karin SLAUGHTER **Faithless** 530pp Pb \$19.95

Georgia medical examiner Sara Linton returns in Slaughter's Grant County crime thriller series, and this time she's hot on the trail of a demented killer who buries teenage girls alive...

 **Triptych** 392pp Tp \$32.95

Troubled by a rocky marriage and the recent loss of his partner, Atlanta detective Michael Ormewood launches an investigation into the savage murder of a local woman, and ex-con John Shelley may be the key to solving the case. (American)

Steven SMITH **Stranger** 249pp Pb \$23.95

Gav's a dope-grower - the best gear in Sydney - and he's connected to the local kingpin, Biggsy. But it's a world that's starting to bore him stupid. Then he gets a hysterical call from Julie, his girlfriend, saying his best friend Wayne has her at knifepoint and is threatening to rape her if he doesn't come round with \$10,000... (Australian)

Sally SPENCER **Stone Killer** 217pp Tp \$27.95

Chief Inspector Woodend #15. Never before has DCI Woodend had to work under such terrible and terrifying pressure. He has just a few days, at the most, to find a flaw in the weighty evidence which led to Judith Maitland's conviction as a stone-cold killer - a few days to produce the real murderer. (English)

Julia SPENCER-FLEMING **To Darkness and to Death** 364pp Pb \$16.95

Rev Clare Fergusson Mystery #4. Millicent van der Hoeven has decided to sell her family's Adirondack estate to a nature conservancy. But on the day of the land transfer, her brother frantically calls the police. Millie has disappeared in the cold November forest... Reverend Clare Fergusson gets an early morning phone call to join the search and rescue operation. The search operation will link her up with Russ Van Alstyne, the very married local police chief who is her greatest temptation. Now, as Clare and Russ race time to find Millie, they soon discover the secrets of someone who is desperate to stop the sale... (American)

**Domenic STANSBERRY** **Chasing the Dragon** 223pp Hb \$45.00


Dante Marcuso leads a double life working for The Company, a nebulous security organisation operating just this side of the law. He wants out, but it's a hard life to leave behind. His latest assignment sends him back to his old neighbourhood in San Francisco. But here he is pursued by Frank Ying, a Chinese detective eager to know the secrets Dante hides. (American)

Jason STARR **Lights Out** 296pp Tp \$29.95

The people of Brooklyn are getting ready to party. Millionaire baseball star Jake Thomas is coming home to announce his engagement to his high school sweetheart, Christina. He may have spent the last few years playing the field - in every sense - but Jake knows it's time to settle down. And a big news story might help mask the sex scandal lurking in his past... (American)

Chris STEWART **The Fourth War** 392pp Pb \$16.95

Along the Afghanistan border, a CIA agent meets secretly with a distraught Arab girl. She passes him a coded message before killing herself. But before the message can be deciphered, the world spins toward war: Within hours, the president of Pakistan is assassinated, and the country's nuclear warheads go missing. Al Qaeda streams into northern Pakistan. Israel puts her combat forces on hair-trigger alert. CIA paramilitary agent Peter Zembeic is given the impossible task of finding and destroying the missing warheads. (American)

Paul SUSSMAN **The Last Secret of the Temple** 694pp Pb \$21.95


Jerusalem, 70 AD. As the legions of Rome besiege the Holy Temple, a boy is given a secret that he must guard with his life... Germany, December 1944. Six emaciated prisoners drag a mysterious crate deep into a disused mine. They are murdered by their Nazi guards... Egypt, Valley of the Kings, the present day. A body is found amongst some ruins, but the more Inspector Yusuf Khalifa of the Luxor police uncovers about the dead man, the more uneasy he becomes. (English)

Leonie SWANN **Three Bags Full** 351pp Hb \$35.00

A detective story with a difference - the detectives are all crime-busting sheep... "Refreshingly, joyously different... A witty, perceptive tale." Sunday Telegraph (German)

Peter TEMPLE **The Broken Shore** 345pp Pb \$22.95

Broken by his last case, homicide detective Joe Cashin has fled the city and voluntarily exiled himself to a small coastal town in Australia, where he soon gets dragged into a vortex of cases which confront him with local racism, greed and his own past. (Australian)

Ayelet WALDMAN **Cradle Robbers** 276pp Pb \$18.95

Mommy Track Mystery. Waldman returns with her one-of-a kind sleuth. Private eye-cum-super-mum Juliet Applebaum tracks the mysterious whereabouts of a missing infant through the dark maze of a widespread conspiracy. (American)

Kathryn WALL **Resurrection Road** 336pp Pb \$16.95

Bay Tanner Mystery #3. In the South, the past can never be forgotten... or forgiven. When Alain Damay suddenly reappears on Hilton Head, Bay Tanner believes she and her former lover can finally settle into something resembling a normal life. But her tenuous peace is shattered by an innocent-looking boy with cold blue eyes who will force her to relive the nightmare of her husband's murder... (American)

Kate WESTBROOK**The Moneyppenny Diaries #1: Guardian Angel** 310pp Pb \$23.00

The first diary fills in the gaps between a number of agent 007's missions including the period between *On Her Majesty's Secret Service* and *You Only Live Twice*, but also includes an entire back story for Moneyppenny. For the first time since Fleming introduced the character alongside Bond in *Casino Royale*, Moneyppenny is given a first name: Jane. (English)

**Donald WESTLAKE****Lemons Never Lie**

221pp Pb \$16.95

When theatre owner and professional thief Alan Grofield refuses to help Andrew Myers knock over a brewery, he must protect his family from this angry criminal who vows to get revenge. 1971 (American)

Stephen WHITE**Kill Me**

400pp Tp \$32.95

We've all been there. A loved one or a dear friend becomes desperately ill or is tragically injured. Someone - maybe even you - says, "If that ever happens to me, I wish someone would just kill me." What if you could choose when to die? But once you decide, you can't change your mind. Ever. (American)

F Paul WILSON**Crisscross**

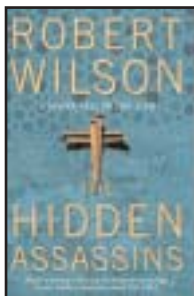
499pp Pb \$18.95

Repairman Jack #8. Repairman Jack is back! An anonymous mercenary, with no last name and no social security number, Jack has thrilled a veritable army of readers ever since his bestselling debut in *The Tomb* (Pb \$18.95). Jack can fix any problem, supernatural or otherwise, for a price. Now, in his latest gripping adventure, he takes on two cases at once.

Robert WILSON**Hidden Assassins**

453pp Tp \$33.00

As Inspector Jefe Javier Falcón investigates a faceless, mutilated corpse, the beautiful city of Seville is rocked by a massive explosion. The discovery of a mosque in the basement of a devastated apartment building confirms everybody's terrorist fears. Just as Falcón comes close to cracking the conspiracy, he makes the most terrifying discovery of all and the race is on to prevent a catastrophe far beyond Spain's borders. (English)

**Brian WIPRUD****Crooked**

285pp Pb \$16.95

Hired by an insurance company to find a recently stolen painting called *Trampoline Nude, 1972*, hustler Nicholas Palihnic follows a trail that leads to a hoard of treasure buried beneath Manhattan, a murdered art thief, and Beatrice Belarus, a ruthless Manhattan art dealer. (American)

Qiu XIALONG**A Loyal Character Dancer**

351pp Pb \$22.00



Inspector Chen of the Shanghai police tries to figure out the fate of a missing woman, a former Red Guard member who may be in trouble with her husband's criminal colleagues. (Chinese)

CRIME AUDIO**Agatha CHRISTIE****Cards on the Table**

2 CDs \$29.95

A BBC Radio 4 full-cast dramatisation starring John Moffatt as Hercule Poirot. Mr Shaitana was famous as a flamboyant party host. Nevertheless he was a man of whom everybody was a little afraid. So, when he boasted to Poirot that he considered murder an art form, the detective had some reservations about accepting a party invitation to view Shaitana's private collection. (English)

Cody McFADYEN**Shadow Man**

2 Cassettes \$24.00

This is just plain terrifying. If you've never read McFadyen's chilling first novel, you're in for a treat - and if you enjoyed the book, you'll also love Megan Dodd's breathy, sinister delivery as she takes long-suffering heroine Smoky Barratt into some very disturbing places indeed. (English)

Peter ROBINSON**Piece of my Heart**

3 CDs \$29.95

2 Cassettes \$24.00

Neal Pearson turns out another cracking Inspector Banks performance in this taut thriller spanning the 60s to the present, this time with Hugh Ross providing an extra dimension as Banks' determined 1960s counterpart. (Canadian)

HISTORICAL CRIME**Boris AKUNIN****Pelagia and the White Bulldog**

295pp Tp \$29.95

Sister Pelagia #1. Pelagia - bespectacled, freckled, red-haired and extraordinarily clumsy - teaches gymnastics and literature, and in her spare time solves crimes. The murder of a white bulldog soon descends into something far more dastardly involving stolen gold, betrayed women and ritualistic murders. (Russian)

David ASHTON**The Shadow of the Serpent**

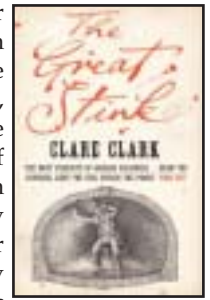
247pp Pb \$19.95

Inspector McLevy #1. Election fever is gripping the city, yet Inspector James McLevy watches the electoral frenzy with a jaundiced eye. He believes in justice, and justice and politics rarely go hand in hand. A series of unsavoury events begins to unfold; a prostitute is murdered, her rib-cage split open with a single blow, bringing back unpleasant memories of a similar series of murders 30 years previously. Dangerously compelled to pursue the killer, McLevy becomes embroiled in the dark underbelly of Victorian Edinburgh. (English)

Clare CLARK**The Great Stink**

356pp Pb \$24.95

When engineer William May, an emotionally fragile Crimean War veteran, descends into the noxious sewers of mid-Victorian London to assess the feasibility of the massive sewer repairs prompted by the cholera epidemic



of 1855, he experiences a measure of psychological relief after he begins cutting himself in the putrid privacy of the dangerously crumbling sewage tunnels. As his tenuous mental equilibrium begins to slip, he is framed for a brutal underground murder and eventually begins to doubt his own innocence. Debut (English)

Lindsey DAVIS**See Delphi and Die**

#17. Marcus Didius Falco takes his deductive powers to Greece, where two young women tourists have died under mysterious circumstances. Accompanied by a large entourage, including his independent and sharp-witted wife, Helena, Falco soon finds that one tour, promoted by the shady Seven Sights Travel outfit, has a suspiciously high mortality rate. (English)

Ashley GARDNER**A Covent Garden Mystery**

282pp Pb \$18.95

Regency England Mystery #6. Lacey's 17-year-old daughter, recently returned to London with his estranged wife, has disappeared, as have many street girls in Covent Garden. Desperately hunting for her, Lacey uncovers secrets about his wife's past-and his own life-that he must face before he can stop a killer. (American)

Clio GRAY**Guardians of the Key**

308pp Tp \$32.95

Napoleon and his armies are at the gate of the ancient walled city of Lucca, Italy. In one last desperate attempt to preserve their proud heritage, the Lucchese Council despatch a secret message to their compatriots in England. Unknown to them, ruthless conspirators have got there first. But neither they nor the Council know quite what they are looking for, and the one man who could have told them has just entered a church near the prosperous Italian silk community on the London borders, and slit his own throat. Witness to this gruesome death is Mabel Flinchurst. When her good friend, a vagrant boy called Toby, is kidnapped, she is caught up in a conspiracy beyond her understanding. (English)

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In 1999, schoolgirl Keyra Steinhardt was bashed, raped and murdered in a brazen daylight attack as she walked home from school in Rockhampton. The disappearance of Keyra made international headlines as the law officers and community hunted for the nine-year-old. Leonard Fraser, led them to her body two weeks later. (Australian)

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He was a captain in the US Air Force. She was a psychologist in Fayetteville, North Carolina. For a man serving his country she was the perfect wife - until she turned to murder. (American)

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Late on a chilly July night, residents of a quiet Sydney suburb were roused by Sef Gonzales, the son of their new neighbours, yelling that someone had murdered his family. The brutal triple slaying inside 6 Collins Street shocked even the police. The 21-year-old orphaned son Sef quickly became the prime suspect, and after an 11-month investigation he was arrested and eventually sentenced to three terms of life imprisonment. Through exclusive access to key members of Sef's extended family, Lawrence probes the Gonzales' history to ask: what would lead a young man from a wealthy and apparently stable home to commit the unspeakable crime of slaughtering his own family? (Australian)

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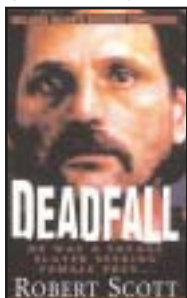
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Liz PORTER

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Robert SCOTT

Deadfall

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John Annibel, 40, was the bad half of a set of twins. On Thanksgiving weekend, 1998, Debbie Sloan, 42, sat down next to a stranger in a bar. She wound up gasping her life away, slowly strangled to death by Annibel. He then dumped her nude body in a ravine in North California's secluded redwood forests. In September, 1999, thanks to the efforts of Mendocino County investigators, Annibel was convicted of Debbie Sloan's murder. But what of his other alleged crimes? (American)

John SUTER-LINTON

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The story behind the investigation into the murder of Ulrike 'Ricky' Conway. (Australian)

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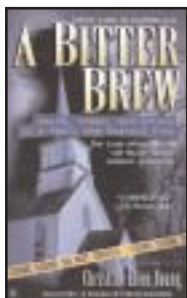
The 35 most famous trials of the 20th century, as recorded by the people who were there including Truman Capote, Norman Mailer, Brian Masters, Damon Runyon and other star turns in true crime writing. (English)

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357pp Tp \$29.95

Wolfe's extensive research, based on the evidence he discovered in the recently opened Los Angeles District Attorney files on the murder, make this the authoritative work on the mystery that has drawn endless scrutiny but remained unsolved - until now. (American)



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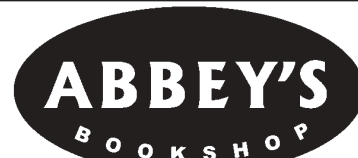
A Bitter Brew: Faith, Power and Poison in a Small New England Town

234pp Pb \$18.95

On April 27, 2003, in the hamlet of New Sweden, Maine, Walter Morrill was sipping coffee in the fellowship hall of the Gustaf Adolph Lutheran Church. Within 12 hours, the kindly old man was dead. 15 other members of the congregation fell gravely ill. Ruled a homicide, the largest criminal arsenic poisoning in US history spread whispers of fear through this peaceful town. (American)



Crime Chronicle is compiled and edited by Peter Milne and Ann Leahy



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