

Mystery Book Discussion Group



January 8, 2002

Bones by Jan Burke

In order to escape the death penalty, a serial killer agrees to show authorities the grave of one of his victims in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Inveterate reporter Irene Kelly follows the taunting psychopathic killer into the wilderness. A traumatic reversal, however, turns journey into a lethal game of the hunter and hunted. Winner of the 2000 Edgar Allen Poe Award, best novel. – Novelist

February 5, 2002

California Fire and Life by Don Winslow

Arson adjuster Jack Wade understands the science of fire. However, the house-fire death of wealthy young mother Pamela Vale becomes extremely personal when Jack learns she is the half-sister of his former lover. This one is tough as nails and entertaining as hell. Shamus Award winner for the best P.I. novel – Novelist

March 5, 2002

Listen to the Silence by Marcia Muller

Muller's Sharon McCone has been solving crimes since 1971. Her new case turns out to be very personal. McCone's father has died and left instructions that only she may sort his personal property. What Sharon finds there leads to a search for her roots. Those encountering Muller's work for the first time will be inspired to read all 20 of the previous McCone books. –Novelist

April 2, 2002

Concrete Blonde by Michael Connelly

In this fiendishly plotted courtroom drama and police procedural, Connelly's LAPD detective Hieronymous "Harry" Bosch is up against the law as well as his superiors. Connelly, a Pulitzer Prize-winning crime reporter for the Los Angeles Times, adroitly laces the plot with twists and turns based on details drawn from Bosch's previous adventures. A fast-paced, classy mystery. – Booklist

May 7, 2002

L.A. Confidential by James Ellroy

Ellroy's ninth novel, set in 1950s Los Angeles merges raw-edged period detail with sleazy celluloid lore, pulling away occasionally for snippets of forensic reports, newspaper accounts, and showbiz gossip. The effect is dark and dazzling, the prose splattered with fifties idiom, the whole epic package easily justifying what would be a daunting length for most traditional crime tales. – Novelist

June 4, 2002

Blue by Abigail Padgett

Blue McCarron has a Ph.D. in social psychology. However, she's decidedly antisocial; her only companion is a Doberman named Bront. When the frozen body of a street hustler is discovered in a meat locker and an old woman confesses to his murder, Blue is asked to investigate. Blue is sassy, tough, scared, vulnerable, and funny--a great new character from Padgett, known for her Bo Bradley series. – Novelist

Tuesday, July 9, 2002

A Great Deliverance by Elizabeth George

In Elizabeth George's debut novel, Detective Sergeant Barbara Havers is getting a final chance for a promotion. Because of her abrasive personality, she's been unable to work with any of the detectives at Scotland Yard. With her partner, Thomas Lynley, Barbara investigates the murder of a man by his daughter who is found sitting by her decapitated father. The townspeople believe she is innocent, and Lynley and Havers learn to work together as they solve the case. Winner of the 1989 Agatha Award for best first novel. (Novelist)

Tuesday, August 6, 2002

Postmortem by Patricia Cornwell

Young women with little in common are being tortured and strangled in Richmond, Virginia. Medical examiner Kay Scarpetta struggles to find the killer, recover vital information stolen from her office computer, and deal with the cops' belief that her lover might be the murderer. Winner of the 1990 Anthony, Dagger, Edgar Allan Poe, and Macavity awards for best first novel. (Booklist)

Tuesday, September 10, 2002

Track of the Cat by Nevada Barr

The texture, scents and sounds of the West Texas wilderness permeate this forceful debut, in which the murder of a National Park Service ranger illuminates the conflicts between those who want to place our country's open spaces and wildlife under government protection and those who want to profit from them. Winner of the 1994 Agatha and Anthony Awards for best first novel. (Publishers Weekly)

Tuesday, October 1, 2002

Killing Floor by Lee Child

Former military policeman Jack Reacher is drifting through Margrave, Georgia, looking for the grave site of an old blues pioneer when he's arrested the murders of two men. He's cleared and ready to leave town when he learns that one of the dead men is his brother, Joe. This accomplished, mature first novel brings to mind the classic motion picture *Bad Day at Black Rock*, in which everyone in town is in on the dark secret except the good man in the middle. Winner of the 1998 Anthony Award for the best first novel. (Booklist)

Tuesday, November 5, 2002

Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley

Ezekiel "Easy" Rawlins, a young, tough black veteran living in 1948 Los Angeles, only wants respect and enough money to pay his mortgage. When fired from his factory job, he undertakes some paid errands for a shady white mobster. As Easy plumbs hangouts for clues, relays information to the mobster, runs afoul of the police, meets the mysterious woman, discovers a murder, then investigates in self-defense. Winner of the 1991 Shamus Award for the best first P.I. Novel and Dagger Award for the best First Crime Novel. (Library Journal)

Tuesday, January 7, 2003

Blood Shot by Sara Paretsky

Victoria (V. I.) Warshawski, lawyer/private detective, returns to describe mysterious circumstances arising from a seemingly insignificant case. A visit to Caroline, a childhood friend in South Chicago ends with Warshawski agreeing to look for the father Caroline never knew. Almost at once Caroline begs the detective to stop the search, but Warshawski won't stop the investigation. She suspects criminals have a bigger motive for killing than keeping the father's identity secret. Publishers Weekly

Tuesday, February 4, 2003

Burning Time by Leslie Glass

A young college girl is brutally burned, tortured, and left to die in the California desert. Beautiful actress Emma Chapman stars in a steamy art movie and suddenly begins receiving fan mail from someone who has an unnerving knowledge of her past. NYPD detective April Woo is assigned the case. Glass combines a high-intensity plot with an engaging, attractive heroine whose personal predicaments lend a bit of welcome relief to the relentlessness of the hunt for the psycho. Booklist

Tuesday, March 4, 2003

So Sure of Death by Dana Stabenow

On a sunny July day, Alaska state trooper Liam Campbell begins to investigate the murders of a family on a fishing boat and an archaeologist on a dig. Stabenow puts Liam through a few stunts worthy of an Indiana Jones movie, and she describes Alaskan communities with insight, vividly captures the Alaskan landscape, and constructs a challenging, compelling plot. Best of all, are the fully realized, multidimensional characters, whose stories comprise a sympathetic, convincingly real mix of humor, sadness, unrealized love, and frustrated ambition. Booklist

Tuesday, April 1, 2003

Suspicion of Deceit by Barbara Parker

Parker uses opera and Central America as effective counterpoints to the confrontation between Cuban and Yankee culture. To build business for her new solo practice, Gail Connor takes on the Miami Opera as a client, only to learn of a pending crisis: the rising young bass-baritone scheduled to play Don Giovanni in Mozart's opera sang recently in Castro's Cuba. The singer may be in danger, as may several of Gail's opera contacts who have puzzling ties to Anthony's past. Booklist

Tuesday, May 6, 2003

A Bitter Feast by S.J. Rozan

Working undercover as a dim sum waitress at the Dragon Garden, where four illegal aliens have disappeared, Lydia Chin calls upon her deep roots in New York's Chinatown to note and comment on subtle changes in the power structure as new Fukienese-speaking immigrants replace the old Cantonese. Publishers Weekly

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

The Coffin Dancer by Jeffery Deaver

After a suspicious bombing of a company aircraft, the New York metropolitan area becomes the stomping ground of the crafty hit-man-of-many-faces, The Coffin Dancer. He matches wits with dynamic duo of detective Lincoln Rhyme and the gutsy redhead Amelia Sachs as he comes ever closer to his next targets. Quick to the punch, The Coffin Dancer is diabolically packed with the good stuff: cover-ups, mystery, action. Library Journal

Tuesday July 1, 2003

The Judgment by D.W. Buffa

As in The Defense and The Prosecution, Buffa, a former defense attorney, focuses his third novel on the life and work of attorney Joseph Antonelli. First, an old nemesis of Antonelli's, a judge who once made his life a living hell, is murdered. A suspect is quickly apprehended and makes a full confession. Several months later, another judge is murdered in the same fashion, and Antonelli agrees to represent the man accused of the crime. The police seem certain that it is nothing more than a copycat killing, but Antonelli begins to think that something more sinister is afoot. Library Journal

Tuesday August 5, 2003

Tell No One by Harlan Coben

A young couple takes a moonlight swim at their family's lakeside property. The wife swims to the dock. The husband's reverie is broken by a scream and the sight of his wife struggling. The husband, once he flails to the dock, is knocked unconscious. His wife is viciously branded and murdered. Eight years later, Dr. David Beck, a walk-on in his own life, gets a call from the sheriff saying that two bodies have been found buried near the lake. Something buried with the bodies links them to Beck. And Beck receives an e-mail on his anniversary, directing him to a Web street camera. His wife appears, pleading with him to tell no one he's seen her again. Edgar winner Coben makes Beck (and the reader) walk a tightrope where one false move or word can spell doom. Booklist

Tuesday September 9, 2003

Money, Money, Money by Ed McBain –Cassandra Jean Ridley makes herself \$200,000 running drugs into Mexico. Then she moves to New York and is the victim of a simple burglary. When the thief spends some of Cassandra's stolen money, it's no longer simple. Quickly, the bodies start piling up, including Cassandra's, which is discovered in pieces in the lion's den at the zoo. That draws the attention of 87th Precinct detective Steve Carella and his partner, Fat Ollie Weeks. McBain, who has been writing 87th Precinct novels for nearly a half-century, virtually invented the modern police procedural, and his mastery of the genre continues apace. Each installment in this landmark series offers further evidence of how fully McBain understands the importance of understatement in creating character and developing plot. While they're savoring this one, the author's fans should start look forwarding to the next, which will feature Fat Ollie in a starring role. Booklist

Tuesday October 7, 2003

Silent Joe by T. Jefferson Parker

Joe, known as the "acid baby" after his natural father disfigured his face for life with battery acid, was rescued from an orphanage by Will Trona, a powerful and charismatic Orange County, CA, supervisor. Joe idolizes his adoptive father, follows his footsteps into law enforcement, and serves him faithfully until Will is gunned down in a dark alley one foggy night. Devastated, Joe vows to find the killer. But as Joe searches for clues, he discovers that Will kept many dark secrets, and if he pursues the truth he will be forced to confront his own troubled childhood. A

complex mix of seemingly unconnected plot lines, vivid characterization, and real mystery merge to form a truly satisfying thriller. Library Journal

Tuesday November 4, 2003

Pale Horse Coming by Stephen Hunter –

In a sequel of sorts to Hot Springs (2000), Hunter continues the story of Arkansas state cop Earl Swagger. It's 1951, and Swagger is once again called on to clean up an evil empire. Deep in the swamps of Thebes, Mississippi, a prison for black criminals run by a gang of redneck thugs harbors a sinister conspiracy. After rescuing his friend Sam Vincent from Thebes and narrowly escaping from the prison himself, Earl gathers a team of legendary gunfighters (including a WWII hero based on Audie Murphy) and sets out to liberate Thebes the only way he knows how--violently. The Magnificent Seven-like narrative keeps the pages turning, and the character of Earl Swagger, equal parts gristle and determination, remains compelling, both as archetype and as complex human being. Booklist

Tuesday January 6, 2004

Open Season by C.J. Box -

Young Joe is struggling to fill the shoes of his mentor, legendary Vern Dunnegan, as warden of Twelve Sleep County, and trying to support his wife and growing family on the meager salary he makes. The hours are long, the work hard but satisfying, and Joe's honesty and integrity would pay off if he could avoid "bonehead moves" like ticketing the governor of the state for fishing without a license or allowing a poacher to grab Joe's firearm from him. When that very same poacher turns up dead in Joe's woodpile with only a cooler containing unidentified animal scat, his life, livelihood and family will never be the same. - Publishers Weekly

Tuesday February 3, 2004

Mystic River by Dennis Lehane - In his fifth novel Lehane once again proves himself nonpareil in writing about the dark side of the human character. Sean Devine, Jimmy Marcus, and Dave Boyle are childhood friends until Dave's abduction by, and subsequent escape from, a couple of child molesters. Twenty-five years later, having grown apart, they are thrown together again by the murder of Jimmy's daughter, Katie. Jimmy is the grieving father out for vengeance, Sean the investigating officer, and Dave a possible suspect. The investigation forces each man to face his past and to examine the paths they have followed since the fateful day when Dave was abducted. - Library Journal

Tuesday March 2, 2004

Over Tumbled Ground by Jess Walter

Caroline Mabry is a Spokane, Washington, police detective who is contending with a serial killer, a dying mother, a much younger lover, and an unconsummated 10-year relationship with a married detective. Dead prostitutes are turning up regularly with a signature: two 20-dollar bills wrapped in their hands. Complicating the case is a neighborhood gentrification program that hinges in part on a cleanup of street life, meaning hookers and drug users. Crime exists as a vehicle for the core of the story: Mabry's struggle to find peace in a world filled with death, heartbreak, and greed. - Booklist

Tuesday April 6, 2004

No Show of Remorse by David J. Walker

A threatening letter featuring a squashed spider has a bracing effect on ex-lawyer, current Chicago private eye, and sometime jazz pianist Malachy Foley. Until the arachnid caught his eye, Foley was half-heartedly pursuing a renewal of his law license as a promise to his now-vanished lady love. But the spider and the threat move him to stay the course out of sheer

cussedness. As Foley proceeds, so do the threats, escalating to acts of vandalism and, finally, to murder. - Publishers Weekly

Tuesday May 4, 2004 – 6:30PM

Booked to Die by John Dunning

Bobby made a bad living tracking down rare books and selling them. He's discovered battered and dead in an alleyway. The problem is he isn't quite beaten enough to fit the psycho's m.o. The book trade lore works just great: signed Faulkners, first-edition Stephen Kings, all capable of raising several thousand, more than enough to get Bobby killed by a fellow bum. But was Bobby onto a discovery big enough to get him whacked by someone of more substance? "Booked to Die" joins the select ranks of specialist crime fiction that works on all levels, from insider stuff to killer stuff. - Booklist

Tuesday June 8, 2004 – 6:30PM

Cold Justice by Jonnie Jacobs - This latest in the author's Kali O'Brien series pits the San Francisco lawyer against a serial murderer with an agenda. He uses the MO of a serial killer who was recently executed—and his first victim happens to be Kali's best friend. Riveting suspense. - Library Journal

Tuesday July 6, 2004 – 6:30PM

The Poet by Michael Connelly

Crime reporter Jack McEvoy knows cops commit suicide, but he can't accept that his twin brother, Sean, the Denver police department's top homicide cop, would eat his gun—even if he was depressed and obsessed by a grisly unsolved murder. It's a great news story for Jack and offers a kind of vindication for Sean. It also gives Jack entree to a high-powered FBI manhunt for the killer dubbed "the Poet." - Booklist

Tuesday August 3, 2004 – 6:30PM

Every Secret Thing by Laura Lippman -

Seven years after Olivia Barnes, a black baby from a prominent family, dies at the hands of two 11-year-old white girls, children start disappearing for brief periods. Then a three-year-old is presumed kidnapped, with bloody evidence left behind. Suspicion points toward the two girls convicted of the earlier crime, now newly released from juvenile detention: Alice Manning, the "good girl" who claimed she was not there when Olivia died, and Ronnie Fuller, the "bad girl" and presumed murderer. - Library Journal

Tuesday September 7, 2004

Engaged to Die by Carolyn Hart

Everyone in the Low Country island of Broward's Rock, S.C., has been looking forward to the gala opening of a new art collection at the Neville Gallery, owned by heiress Virginia Neville, who intends to use the evening not only to dispel the foggy gloom of January on the island but also to announce her engagement to much younger artist Jake O'Neill. However, the party quickly ends when Jake turns up murdered. Max, deputized immediately to help, finds himself at cross-purposes with Annie, owner of the Death on Demand bookstore, who seeks to vindicate her friend who's the prime suspect. - Publishers Weekly

Tuesday October 5, 2004 – 6:30PM

Still Life with Crows by Douglas Preston

When the farm community of Medicine Creek, Kansas, is terrorized by a series of disturbing murders, FBI agent Pendergast discovers a link between a moonshine operation and an unsolved killing from more than 150 years earlier. - Novelist

Tuesday November 9, 2004

The Narrows by Michael Connelly

When an infamous serial killer known as the Poet reemerges, FBI agent Rachel Walling, long haunted by her unsuccessful efforts to bring him to justice, receives assistance from LAPD detective Harry Bosch. - Novelist

Tuesday, January 11, 2005

The Blue Hour by T. Jefferson Parker

Tim Hess retired from the Orange County Sheriff's Department a year ago, before they found the tumor and took out two-thirds of his right lung. Now he's back as a full-time consultant. He must find a serial killer dubbed the Purse Snatcher by the media. Hess is paired with Merci Rayborn, an ambitious second-generation cop. This mismatched pair have only the slightest bit of forensic evidence, so they turn to a former FBI profiler and even conduct an unsettling "background" interview with a sexual predator who may be able to offer insight into the motive of the killer. - Booklist

Tuesday, February 1, 2005

A Perfect Evil by Alex Kava

Little boys are being savagely murdered in a small Nebraska town, and playboy sheriff Nick Morelli is way out of his league dealing with a serial killer. To the rescue comes expert FBI profiler Maggie O Dell, who also happens to be young and drop-dead gorgeous. While investigating the murders (and trying to resist Nick's considerable charms), Maggie comes up with the profile of a killer who is a threat to the entire community. The heat rises as Nick's nephew disappears. Can Maggie and Nick gather enough evidence to stop the killer before it's too late? - Library Journal

Tuesday, March 1, 2005

Bootlegger's Daughter by Margaret Maron

Crimes and old criminals are the legacy of a small town in North Carolina. For lawyer and aspiring judge Deborah Knott, it is the reputation of her reprobate father that she must live down, and for Gayle Whitehead, it is the memory of her mother's unsolved murder 20 years ago that haunts the present (as an infant, she was the one who discovered the body). Whitehead chooses Knott for the investigation, and Knott, already battling a formidable battalion of good ol' boys in the upcoming election, reluctantly agrees to look into the old murder. - Booklist

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

North of Montana by April Smith

Success-hungry L.A.-based FBI agent Ana Grey is just waiting for the case that will catapult her from the humdrum Bank Robbery Squad into the exalted Kidnapping and Extortion Division. The hoped-for promotion is Ana's first step to her ultimate goal: a plum job as Special Agent in Charge. But department politics, a jealous supervisor, and Ana's abrasive impatience detour her to a case that's a real hot potato. Glamorous movie star Jayne Mason, past her prime but still adored by her fans, claims a local M.D. hooked her on painkillers. She wants his head on a platter courtesy of the FBI even though the doctor appears to be clean as a whistle. The case is a minefield waiting to explode Ana's ambitious life plan if she makes a single mistake. Will her usual cool competence prevail, or will the combination of professional pressure and personal crises in her life cause Ana to make a fatal misstep? - Booklist

Tuesday, May 3, 2005 –

A Trouble of Fools by Linda Barnes

While looking for a missing cab driver, Boston-based private eye Carlotta Carlyle stumbles upon some strange goings on at the taxi company. From the trashing of her client's house to a strange scam involving large sums of money, Carlyle moves through Boston until the threatening violence explodes when least expected. - Library Journal

Tuesday, June 7, 2005

Sugar Skull by Denise Hamilton

In the middle of a Los Angeles mayoral race and the celebration of the Day of the Dead, a distraught man charges into the newsroom of the Los Angeles Times and rants at crime reporter Eve Diamond about police apathy and the disappearance of his runaway daughter. Struggling with a deadline, Eve agrees to check out some of the local runaway haunts. But then she's pulled to cover a potentially explosive story involving a mayoral candidate whose wife has just been discovered floating dead and naked in their pool. - Library Journal

Tuesday July 5, 2005

The Blessing Way by Tony Hillerman

Witchcraft appears to be involved in the death of an Indian, whose body is found in Many Ruins Canyon, and Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn is charged with the task of solving the crime - Novelist

Tuesday August 2, 2005

Monkeys Raincoat by Robert Crais

Elvis Cole is an L.A.-based sleuth with a smart mouth, a flair for the martial arts, and a borderline sociopath for a partner. He's hired to find a missing husband, a failing Hollywood agent. Crais' characters command attention, and his dialogue is unerring. Cole is simply the most mesmerizing new PI in years. - Booklist

Tuesday September 6, 2005

Private Practices by Stephen White

A deranged husband pushes into Gregory's Boulder, Colo., office with a gun and a hostage, demanding to see his battered wife, Claire Draper, who's in session with Alan's partner, Diane Estevez. White weaves a near-flawless web of evil, and his prose is as smooth and fast as a downhill slalom, with enough twists and jumps to keep it interesting. - Publishers Weekly

Tuesday October 4, 2005

When the Bough Breaks by Jonathan Kellerman

A psychologist, Dr. Alex Delaware turns detective when he is called upon to interview a young girl who is the only living witness to a brutal dual murder. The psychologist is soon out of his professional depth in pursuing clues and leads, but he plods onward to solve the case, nearly at the expense of the girl's and his own life. - Booklist

Tuesday November 1, 2005

Contents Under Pressure by Edna Buchanan

Heroine, half-Cuban, overworked night owl Britt Montero, covers the crime beat for a big Miami paper. A black sports hero dying in a high-speed chase with some gung-ho, steroid-freak cops and no apparent motive for the chase. Outrage spreads through the black community, and once again real life seems to be hovering at the edges of the narrative. Contents under Pressure" revels in the small details that bring that weirdness alive: surly cops on a homicide gig grouching on Super Bowl day, multiple shoot-outs in taverns over jukebox disputes, a newspaper

colleague drifting out to sea on a raft. If these are not accounts of actual events, they certainly feel like they should be. - Booklist

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Tuesday January 3, 2006

Monkeewrench by P.J. Tracy

When people start dying in strange ways in Minneapolis, everyone wonders what the murderer will do next--everyone except the employees of Monkeewrench Software, who are all too aware that their new serial-killer computer game is the model for the crimes. The two teams of detectives--one from the big city and one from the small town but both with their own quirks, love interests, and insights--provide the sparkle in this engaging debut thriller by a mother-daughter writing team who lace their suspense with humor. - Booklist

Tuesday February 7, 2006

The Italian Secretary by Caleb Carr

Mycroft Holmes, an advisor to the ailing queen Victoria, summons his famous brother and Dr. Watson to Edinburgh to investigate the puzzling murders of two of the Queen's aides. Because the men had been working on the renovation of the royal palace of Holyrood, Sherlock recounts to Watson the story of David Rizzio, "the Italian secretary" who had been butchered by supporters of Queen Elizabeth in front of Mary, Queen of Scots, in Holyrood. Commissioned by and written with the approval of the estate of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle, Carr's return to historical fiction (after *Killing Time*) blends detailed history and thrilling suspense while giving perfect cadence to the verbal discourse between Holmes and Watson. - Library Journal

Tuesday March 7, 2006

Night Sins by Tami Hoag

Megan O'Malley, the first female field officer of the state's criminal investigation bureau, is forced into a close working relationship with Mitch Holt, the town's police chief, when a child goes missing. Against the background of a multijurisdictional criminal investigation, dialog and plot flow smoothly, and elements of romantic tension that serve to define the characters further are seamlessly inserted into the basic mystery/suspense theme. The investigatory techniques provide a strong framework for this gripping suspense tale. - Library Journal

Tuesday April 4, 2006

Devil's Corner by Lisa Scottoline

Assistant U.S. attorney Vicki Allegretti's meeting with a confidential informant goes terribly wrong when the routine appointment turns into a bloodbath, leaving Vicki's ATF partner, Morty, dead along with the informant and her unborn child. Vicki's bosses tell her to move on to her next case, but Vicki, determined to find the killer, launches her own investigation. - Booklist

Tuesday May 2, 2006

First Degree by David Rosenfelt

The \$22 million inherited by New Jersey defense attorney Andy Carpenter from his father has helped make him extremely selective in choosing his clients. Regardless, Andy comes to the defense of the man who has been arrested for the murder of a notoriously corrupt cop. Andy's present-tense narration, peppered with humor and cynicism, carries the story. - Booklist

Tuesday June 6, 2006

Without Due Process by J.A. Jance

The brutal murder of a black cop and his family tests the procedural skills of Seattle police detective J.P. Beaumont. Lean forward, grab on, and ride for adventure. - Library Journal

Tuesday July 11, 2006

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie

A murder in a small English village leads Hercule Poirot into a strange mystery involving a determined, curious spinster, the local doctor, and a wide range of suspects with possible motives and mysterious relationships. Novelist

Tuesday August 1, 2006

Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey

A 20th-century policeman sees a picture of Richard III and reinvestigates Richard's role in the murder of the princes in the Tower using all available information about Richard's time. Novelist

Tuesday September 5, 2006

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold by John LeCarre

Alec Leamas wants to stop being a spy but he agrees to take a final assignment in order to prove to the enemy that their leader is a double agent. Novelist

Tuesday October 3, 2006

The Chill by Ross Macdonald

Lew Archer's search for a missing bride turns into a complicated case involving a ten-year-old murder and cover-up, a rich woman with a strong hold on her son, and a dead blonde. Novelist

Tuesday November 14, 2006

The Last Good Kiss by James Crumley

C.W. Sughrue, a Montana private eye, is hired to track down a failing author and winds up searching for Betty Sue Flowers, a woman missing for ten years in Haight-Ashbury. Novelist

Monday January 8, 2007

The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler

Philip Marlowe, a private eye who operates in Los Angeles's seamy underside during the 1930s, takes on his first case, which involves a paralyzed California millionaire, two psychotic daughters, blackmail, and murder.

Monday February 5, 2007

Sleeping Dog by Dick Lochte

Private eye Leo G. Bloodworth and Serendipity Dahlquist, the daughter of a 1960s flower child, become caught up in a fast-paced tale of murder, blackmail, and dog napping under smoggy Southern California skies.

Monday March 5, 2007

Chinaman's Chance by Ross Thomas

Artie Wu and Quincy Durant, one of Southern California's unlikeliest pairs, find that the local mix-up they are looking into has suddenly expanded in space, from Vietnam to Washington, and in time, through twenty years of intrigue and deception.

Monday April 2, 2007

The Man who liked Slow Tomatoes by K.C. Constantine

The fiercely unpretentious Mario Balzic, always in absolute command, discovers that tomatoes curiously ripe out of season are the key to the mysterious death of Jimmy Romanelli.

Monday May 7, 2007

Time and Again by Jack Finney

Simon Morley moves into the Dakota apartments and returns to the year 1882 under hypnosis, where he falls in love and refuses to change records for the government agency controlling his experiment.

Monday June 4, 2007 at 6:30

The Maltese Falcon by Dashiell Hammett

A murder involves Sam Spade in a dangerous search for a valuable statue.

Monday July 2, 2007

The Coroner's Lunch by Colin Cotterill

Confronted by the poisoning of an important official's wife and the sudden appearance of three bodies that may create an international incident between Laos and Vietnam, 72-year-old state coroner Dr. Siri Paiboun keeps his cool in Cotterill's engaging whodunit, set in Laos a year after the 1975 Communist takeover - Novelist.

Monday August 6, 2007

Bangkok 8 by John Burdett

Bangkok policeman Sonchai Jitplecheep investigates the murder of an African American Marine sergeant and the subsequent death of his partner, making his way through a world of illicit drugs and corruption to find a vicious killer - Novelist.

Monday September 10, 2007 at 6:30 (Library closed September 3 for Labor Day)

Uniform Justice by Donna Leon

As Commissario Guido Brunetti pursues his investigation into the supposed suicide of a young cadet at Venice's elite military academy, he must confront the military's wall of silence, reluctant witnesses, and possibly conspiracy - Novelist.

Monday October 1, 2007

Naming of the Dead by Ian Rankin

Sent to man an abandoned police station during an international conference between the leaders of the free world, officer John Rebus investigates the suspicious falling death of a delegate at an Edinburgh banquet - Novelist.

Monday November 5, 2007

Snake Agent by Liz Williams

In late twenty-first-century Singapore, detective inspector Wei Chen is a snake agent, a detective whose beat reaches to the fringes of Heaven and Hell. Married to a demon wife and surrounded by wary colleagues, he is nevertheless bored with investigating routine exorcism scams and bogus feng shui licenses. Then the newly deceased ghost fails to make her appointed arrival in Heaven. The specter of a netherworldly soul-trafficking scheme teams Chen with an unlikely sidekick, Zhu Irzh, one of Hell's own vice detectives and a demon cursed with a conscience to solve the crime - **Booklist**.

Monday January 7, 2008

The Bottoms by Joe Landsdale

When young Harry Collins stumbles upon a body in the local river bottoms, the region becomes trapped in a nightmare, as a vicious killer stalks the town, a man is lynched, and local law enforcement races to find the murderer.

Monday February 4, 2008

Hollywood Station by Joseph Wambaugh

Under the leadership of their sergeant, known as "The Oracle," the crew of the LAPD's Hollywood Station take on their toughest case yet as they deal with the Russian mob, diamonds, counterfeiting, and grenades.

Monday March 3, 2008

Never Fear by Scott Frost

Seventeen years after an unidentified killer murdered three women in Los Angeles, detective Alex Delillo, whose own father had been the prime suspect, reopens the case as to solve the murder of the brother she never knew.

Monday April 7, 2008

Those Who Walk in Darkness by John Ridley

Officer Soledad "Bullet" O'Roark has become a legend for tracking and killing superheroes who have taken over San Francisco, but when she is accused of killing an angel, her toughest battle begins.

Monday May 5, 2008

Gun, with Occasional Music by Jonathan Lethem

In a bizarre, noir world shared by people and intelligent animals, Conrad Metcalf, a human private detective, finds one of his cases has drawn him into a conflict between gangsters and the Inquisitor's office

Monday June 2, 2008

Dating is Murder by Harley Jane Kozak

While reluctantly participating in a reality TV show, greeting card artist and amateur sleuth Wollie Shelley becomes concerned about the disappearance of her friend Annika.

Monday July 7, 2008 at 6:30

[Still Life](#) by Louise Penny

The residents of a tiny Canadian village are shocked when the body of Miss Jane Neal is found in the woods. At first, her death appears to be a tragic accident. But some folks are suspicious, and Chief Inspector Armand Gamache of the Montreal Surete is called in to investigate. - Booklist

Monday August 4, 2008 at 6:30

The Chameleon's Shadow by Minette Walters.

One look at Lt. Charles Acland's disfigured face and anyone can see that the Iraqi bomb that blew up two of his men has left him profoundly changed—but have his traumatic brain injuries altered the young British army officer's personality enough to make him a murderer? – Publishers Weekly

Monday September 8, 2008 at 6:30

Wicked City by Ace Atkins.

In 1955, Look magazine called Phenix City, Alabama "The Wickedest City in America," but even that may have been an understatement. It was a stew of organized crime and corruption, run by a machine that dealt with complaints forcefully and with dispatch. No one dared cross them-no one even tried. And then the machine killed the wrong man.

Monday October 6, 2008 at 6:30

Queenpin by Megan Abbott

A young woman hired to keep the books at a down-at-the-heels nightclub is taken under the wing of an infamous mob luminary. She shows her eager young protégée the ropes, ushering her into a glittering demimonde of late-night casinos, racetracks, betting parlors, inside heists, and big, big money. As the roulette wheel turns, both mentor and protégée scramble to stay one step ahead of their bosses and each other.

Monday November 3, 2008 at 6:30

Perfect Family by Pam Lewis

When 24-year-old Pony, the family's daredevil golden girl, drowns while skinny-dipping at their Vermont lake house, her death leaves her year-old son, Andrew, an orphan-as well as a hornet's nest of troubling questions. Why had Pony begged big brother William to meet her in Vermont that day? Did someone else show up after they quarreled and William stormed off? Who is Andrew's father? And was Pony's death really an accident? – Publishers Weekly

Monday January 5, 2009 at 6:30

The Art Thief by Noah Charney

When a priceless Caravaggio altarpiece disappears from Rome's Santa Giuliana church, the police call in renowned art historian Gabriel Coffin to investigate. As potential forgeries are uncovered and the thieves taunt those on the trail of the missing art with riddles and ransom demands, Coffin and his fellow art experts must race to recover the stolen masterpieces before they disappear forever. - **Publishers Weekly**

Monday February 2, 2009 at 6:30

Murder at the Gardner by Jane Langton

Strange and faintly ominous things are happening at Boston's Isabella Gardner Museum. Seemingly harmless pranks at first, hardly serious enough to worry the museum's seven trustees, they soon escalate into the murder of art patron Madeline Hepplewhite, who had apparently caught the perpetrator in an act of mischief. - **Kirkus Reviews**

Monday March 2, 2009 at 6:30

Sacred by Dennis Lehane

When detectives Patrick Kenzie and Angela Gennaro are kidnapped by a dying billionaire and forced to find his lost daughter, they become entwined in a vicious whodunit in which "up is down and north is south." - **Library Journal**

Monday April 6, 2009 at 6:30

Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier

A classic novel of romantic suspense finds the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter entering the home of her mysterious and enigmatic new husband and learning the story of the house's first mistress, to whom the sinister housekeeper is unnaturally devoted. – **Novelist**

Monday May 4, 2009 at 6:30

Leather Maiden by Joe Lansdale

Cason Statler, a Pulitzer Prize–nominated journalist with a checkered past, returns to his small hometown of Camp Rapture, Tex., to work as a columnist for the local newspaper. On the hunt for spicy material, Statler latches onto the story of a missing college student who disappeared under strange circumstances a year earlier. Almost immediately, Statler connects the case to a recent string of kinky, unsettling crimes throughout east Texas. - **Publishers Weekly**

Monday June 1, 2009 at 6:30

Faceless Killers by Henning Mankell

An elderly couple is murdered on an isolated farm after being brutally tortured. The woman's last word, "foreign," unleashes an onslaught of anti-refugee sentiment that Police Inspector Kurt Wallender tries to quell. Then the cold-blooded murder of a Somali refugee entangles the inspector further as he tries to solve that related crime as well. - **Library Journal**

Monday July 6, 2009 at 6:30

Gorky Park by Martin Cruz Smith

In contemporary Moscow, Chief Homicide Investigator Arkady Renko unravels the mystery of a triple murder complicated by the shadowy and uncooperative presence of the KGB and by his falling in love. – Novelist

Monday August 3, 2009 at 6:30

Unsuitable Job for a Woman by P.D. James

Left alone by her partner's suicide, Cordelia Gray struggles to manage the private detective agency they once shared. – Novelist

Monday September 14, 2009 at 6:30 (Closed September 7 for Labor Day)

Looking for Rachel Wallace by Robert B. Parker

Because the publication of the newest book by lesbian-feminist Rachel Wallace brings death threats, her publisher hires Spenser to protect her, but Rachel fires him and, unprotected, is kidnapped. – Novelist

Monday October 5, 2009 at 6:30

Fletch by Gregory McDonald

When a wealthy California industrialist tells apparent beach bum I.M. Fletcher that he wants to be murdered, the undercover journalist investigates the businessman's private life. – Novelist

Monday November 2, 2009 at 6:30

Rain Gods by James Lee Burke

When Hackberry Holland became sheriff of a tiny Texas town near the Mexican border, he'd hoped to leave certain things behind: his checkered reputation, his haunted dreams, and his obsessive memories of the good life with his late wife. But the discovery of the bodies of nine illegal aliens soon makes it clear that he won't escape so easily. – Amazon.com

Monday January 4, 2010 at 6:30

Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan-Doyle

When Sir Charles Baskerville is murdered, Sherlock Holmes and Dr. Watson investigate the eerie howling on the moor. - Novelist

Monday February 1, 2010 at 6:30

The Janissary Tree by Jason Goodwin

When the Ottoman Empire of 1836 is shattered by a wave of political murders that threatens to upset the balance of power, intelligence agent Yashim Togalu conducts an investigation into clues within the empire's once-elite military forces. – Novelist

Monday March 1, 2010 at 6:30

By a Spiders Thread by Laura Lippman

Private detective Tess Monaghan gets more than she had bargained for when she is hired by Mark Rubin, an Orthodox Jew, to find his missing wife and three children. – Novelist

Monday April 5, 2010 at 6:30

The Blue Door by David Fulmer

When Eddie Cero rescues private detective Sal Giambroni from two thugs, Giambroni gives him a part-time job that leads to the cold case of a missing soul singer, one that traps Eddie in a web of violence, betrayal, intrigue, and obsession. – Novelist

Monday May 3 at 6:30

The Faithful Spy by Alex Berenson

John Wells, an undercover operative who has infiltrated al Qaeda, is trapped between his terrorist associates and the CIA, which no longer trusts his loyalty, when he becomes a prime suspect in two bombings in Los Angeles. - Novelist

Monday June 7, 2010 at 6:30

The Yiddish Policeman's Union by Michael Chabon

In a world in which Alaska, rather than Israel, has become the homeland for the Jews following World War II, Detective Meyer Landsman and his half-Tlingit partner Berko investigate the death of a chess prodigy. – Novelist

Monday July 12, 2010

Devil in a Blue Dress by Walter Mosley

Easy Rawlins only wants respect and enough money to pay his mortgage. When fired from his factory job he undertakes some paid errands for a shady white mobster. As Easy plumbs his usual hangouts for clues, he relays information to the mobster, runs afoul of the police, meets the mysterious woman, discovers a murder, then investigates in self-defense. Library Journal

Monday August 2, 2010

The Last Child by John Hart

After his twin sister Alyssa disappears, thirteen year-old Johnny Merrimon is determined to find her. When a second girl disappears from his rural North Carolina town, Johnny makes a discovery that sends shock waves through the community in this multi-layered tale of broken families and deadly secrets. Booklist

Monday September 13, 2010

The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo by Steig Larsson

Forty years after the disappearance of Harriet Vanger from the secluded island owned and inhabited by the powerful Vanger family, her octogenarian uncle hires journalist Mikael Blomqvist and Lisbeth Salander, an unconventional young hacker, to investigate. Novelist

Monday October 4, 2010

In the Shadow of Gotham by Stefanie Pintoff

Detective Simon Ziele lost his fiancée in the wreck of the General Slocum and shortly thereafter headed to Westchester County to escape the violence of the city. But just a few months into his tenure, he catches the worst homicide of his career: a young woman is brutally murdered in her own bedroom in the middle of a winter afternoon. Novelist

Monday November 1, 2010

The Case of the Missing Servant by Tarquin Hall

India's Most Private Investigator uses stealth, cunning and above all discretion to turn the tables on a killer. Although he holds his 1999 Super Sleuth award from the World Federation of Detectives almost as dear as the greasy pakoras and chicken frankies his wife Rumpi begs him to stop eating, Vish Puri would readily admit that the vast majority of his clients come to him for the mundane purpose of domestic spying. So when noted Jaipur attorney Ajay Kasliwal hires Most Private Investigations, Ltd. to locate the missing housemaid he's suspected of killing, Puri is ecstatic at the chance for some real detection. What Cara Black does for Paris, Hall achieves for India in this lively and quick-paced series debut. Kirkus Reviews

Monday January 3, 2011

The Language of Bees by Laurie King

Returning home after seven months abroad, Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes are met with a problem concerning one of Holmes's beehives and the reappearance of his estranged son, Damien, who needs their help in finding his missing wife and daughter.

Monday February 7, 2011

Mystic Arts of Erasing All Signs of Death by Charlie Huston

Working on a crime-scene clean-up crew, disaffected slacker Web Goodhue is hired by the daughter of a Malibu suicide victim who enlists his help in getting her brother out of trouble, making him the target of some gun-toting L.A. cowboys who are out for blood. Novelist

Monday March 7, 2011

The Brutal Telling by Louise Penny

A stranger is found murdered in the village bistro and antiques store and all clues point to bistro owner Olivier being the killer. Once again, Chief Inspector Gamache and his team are called in to strip back layers of lies, exposing both treasures and rancid secrets long buried--but not forgotten. Novelist

Monday April 5, 2011

Murder Room by Mike Capuzzo

Here is the Pickwick Club for people who study psychopaths: once a month, several forensic experts gather in a posh Victorian brownstone in downtown Philadelphia, have a sumptuous lunch, and then consider cold cases brought to them by baffled detectives. Connie Fletcher, Booklist

Monday May 2, 2011

A Beautiful Place to Die by Malla Nunn

Jacob's Rest, a tiny town on the border between South Africa and Mozambique, 1952. An Afrikaner police officer is found dead. Detective Emmanuel Cooper begins investigating the murder following a trail of clues that lead him to uncover a shocking forbidden love and the imperfect life of one Captain Pretorius. Novelist

Monday June 6, 2011

Chasing the Devils Tail by David Fulmer

In New Orleans' red light district in the early twentieth century, politician Tom Anderson hires Creole detective Valentin St. Cyr to investigate the deaths of several prostitutes, each of whom is found with a black rose. Novelist

Monday February 6, 2012

Monster of Florence by Douglas Preston and Mario Spezi

United in their obsession with a grisly Italian serial murder case almost three decades old, thriller writer Preston (coauthor, Brimstone) and Italian crime reporter Spezi seek to uncover the identity of the killer in this chilling true crime saga – Publishers Weekly

Monday March 5, 2012

Bad Things Happen by Harry Dolan

In the aftermath of a magazine publisher's untimely murder, detective Elizabeth Waishkey wonders if David Loogan, a man with a violent past who was having an affair with the victim's wife, is responsible for the crime or a helpful ally. – Novelist

Monday April 2, 2012

A Game of Lies by Rebecca Cantrell

Set in 1936, German crime reporter Hannah Vogel has assumed the alias of Adelheid Zinsli, a Swiss reporter, to cover the Olympic Games while spying for the British. Vogel arranges to meet with her old mentor at the Berlin Olympic Stadium but he dies mysteriously. Her search for the truth, aided by an SS officer of uncertain trustworthiness, leads her to a deadly secret. – Publishers Weekly

March May 7, 2012

Crooked Letter, Crooked Letter by Tom Franklin

Larry Ott and Silas Jones were boyhood pals. Then Larry took a girl on a date to a drive-in movie, and she was never heard from again. More than twenty years have passed. Larry, a mechanic, lives a solitary existence, never able to rise above the whispers of suspicion. Silas has returned as a constable. Another girl disappears and Larry is blamed again. And now the two men who once called each other friend are forced to confront the past they've buried and ignored for decades. – Library of Congress

Monday June 4, 2012

The Serialist by David Gordon

Hired by a death-row inmate known as the Photo Killer to write the latter's memoir, self-deprecating author Harry Bloch is forced to play detective when three young women are murdered in the style of the convicted man, a case that renders him both a suspect and target. – Novelist

Monday July 2, 2012

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Monday August 6, 2012

Gone by Mo Hayder

Investigating a serial carjacker whose actual targets are young children in back seats, Jack Caffery teams up once again with police diver Sergeant Flea Marley, whose life is endangered by a discovery in an abandoned, half-submerged tunnel. – OCLC

Monday September 10, 2012

Wicked Autumn by G.M. Malliet

His tranquility as the established vicar of a New Age village shattered by the murder of an unpopular woman, former MI5 agent Max Tudor struggles with past demons while trying to identify a killer in his peaceful community. – OCLC

Monday October 1, 2012

The Real Macaw by Donna Andrews

When her home is turned into an impromptu animal rescue center by her father and grandfather after a local shelter repeals its no-kill policy, Meg is unwittingly embroiled in a murder case involving a volunteer animal caregiver. – OCLC

Monday November 5, 2012

The Devotion of Suspect X by Keigo Higashino

Yasuko Hanaoka thought she had escaped her abusive ex-husband Togashi. When he shows up one day, the situation quickly escalates and Togashi ends up dead. Yasuko's next-door-neighbor Ishigami offers his help, not only disposing of the body, but plotting the cover-up. – OCLC

Monday December 3, 2012

1222 by Anne Holt

Follows the experiences of travelers who are stranded by a blizzard in a decrepit hotel where one of their number begins killing off the rest. – Novelist

Monday February 4, 2013

L.A. Confidential by James Ellroy

Ellroy's ninth novel, set in 1950s Los Angeles merges raw-edged period detail with sleazy celluloid lore, pulling away occasionally for snippets of forensic reports, newspaper accounts, and showbiz gossip. The effect is dark and dazzling, the prose splattered with fifties idiom, the whole epic package easily justifying what would be a daunting length for most traditional crime tales. – Novelist

Monday March 4, 2013

The Cater Street Hangman by Anne Perry (Inspector Pitt #1)

Careless of both murder and manners, two determinedly unconventional young sisters ignore Victorian mores and actively join the police investigation into the murder of their servant girl. - Novelist

Monday April 1, 2013

Booked to Die by John Dunning

Denver cop and rare-book collector Cliff Janeway has a least favorite psychopath who likes to beat derelicts until they're dead. The trade lore works just great: signed Faulkners, first-edition Stephen Kings, all capable of raising several thousand, more than enough to get Bobby killed by a fellow bum. But was Bobby onto a discovery big enough to get him whacked by someone of

more substance? "Booked to Die" joins the select ranks of specialist crime fiction that works on all levels, from insider stuff to killer stuff. Winner of the 1993 Dilys Award. – Novelist

Monday May 6, 2013

To Love and be Wise by Josephine Tey

Detective-Sergeant Grant of Scotland Yard investigates the mysterious disappearance of Leslie Searle, an American photographer. Novelist

Monday June 3, 2013

Storm Front by Jim Butcher (Dresden Files #1)

A modern-day mage and consultant to the police finds his stale life suddenly enlivened by the presence of a rival in the black arts.

Monday July 1, 2013

Rebecca by Daphne DuMaurier

A classic novel of romantic suspense finds the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter entering the home of her mysterious and enigmatic new husband and learning the story of the house's first mistress, to whom the sinister housekeeper is unnaturally devoted. Novelist.

Monday August 5, 2013

Altered Carbon by Richard Morgan

In a twenty-fifth century world in which death is nearly obsolete, former UN envoy Takeshi Kovacs, re-sleeved into a new body after a brutal death, finds himself caught in the middle of a deadly far-reaching conspiracy. Novelist

Monday September 9, 2013

California Fire and Life by Don Winslow

Arson adjuster Jack Wade understands the science of fire. However, the house-fire death of wealthy young mother Pamela Vale becomes extremely personal when Jack learns she is the half-sister of his former lover. This one is tough as nails and entertaining as hell. Shamus Award winner for the best P.I. novel. Novelist.

Monday October 7, 2013

The Bottoms by Joe Landsdale

When young Harry Collins stumbles upon a body in the local river bottoms, the region becomes trapped in a nightmare, as a vicious killer stalks the town, a man is lynched, and local law enforcement races to find the murderer.

Monday November 4, 2013

The Spy Who Came in from the Cold by John LeCarre

Alec Leamas wants to stop being a spy but he agrees to take a final assignment in order to prove to the enemy that their leader is a double agent. Novelist

Monday December 2, 2013

The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler

Philip Marlowe, a private eye who operates in Los Angeles's seamy underside during the 1930s, takes on his first case, which involves a paralyzed California millionaire, two psychotic daughters, blackmail, and murder.

Monday February 3, 2014

Speaks the Nightbird by Robert McCammon

In the Carolinas of 1699, a traveling magistrate and his clerk, Matthew, arrive in Fount Royal to hold a trial for an accused witch, a beautiful young woman named Rachel Howarth, a trial that reveals that Fount Royal has become a battleground between good and evil and that not even the innocent are safe. Novelist

Monday March 3, 2014

Last Policeman by Ben Winters

When the Earth is doomed by an imminent and unavoidable asteroid collision, New Hampshire homicide detective Hank Palace considers the worth of his job in a world destined to end in six months and investigates a suspicious suicide that nobody else cares about. Novelist

Monday April 7, 2014

Day of the Jackal by Frederick Forsyth

There have been six known attempts to assassinate President Charles de Gualle. In this book, the seventh involved a professional killer-for-hire. His code name: Jackal. Novelist

Monday May 5, 2014

Automatic Detective by A. Lee Martinez

When his neighbors are kidnapped, robot Mack Megaton wanders the dark alleys and glittering high-rises of Empire City, taking on a talking gorilla, a clever dame, a mutant lowlife, a little green mob boss, and a dark conspiracy at the heart of the city to find the missing family. Novelist

Monday June 2, 2014

A Coffin for Dimitrios by Eric Ambler

While vacationing in Istanbul, an English novelist decides to investigate the intriguing past of one of Europe's most sinister criminals. Novelist

Monday July 7, 2014

The Big Over Easy by Jasper Fforde

Unconvinced that a former convict and millionaire philanthropist has been murdered by his suicide-victim ex-wife, detective inspector Jack Spratt and his assistant, Mary Mary, uncover a plot involving money laundering and asylum-seeking titans. Novelist

Monday August 4, 2014

The Nine Tailors by Dorothy Sayers

Tale of suspense in which the famous Lord Peter Wimsey is called upon to solve the murder of an unknown man in East Anglia. Novelist

Monday September 8, 2014

The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

In 1327, Franciscans in a wealthy Italian abbey are suspected of heresy, and Brother William of Bakersville arrives to investigate. His delicate mission is overshadowed by seven bizarre deaths that take place in the same number of days, and Brother William must turn detective to sort things out. Novelist

Monday October 6, 2014

Countdown City by Ben Winters

Set three months before a deadly asteroid is due to hit Earth, this Last Policeman sequel chronicles the further adventures of Hank Palace. The Concord Police Department is now operating under the auspices of the U.S. Justice Department, and Hank is out of a job-until he's hired by a business tycoon to help find the man's estranged son. It isn't long before Hank's missing-person case turns into a murder investigation. Novelist

Monday November 3, 2014

A Study in Scarlet by Arthur Conan Doyle

In the first of the Sherlock Holmes stories, Dr. Watson, discharged from military service after suffering wounds, is at loose ends until a chance encounter leads him to take rooms with Sherlock Holmes. When Watson is drawn into the investigation of a bizarre murder in which Holmes is involved, he is unaware that it is the beginning of the most famous partnership in the history of criminal detection. School Library Journal

Monday December 1, 2014

Snake Agent by Liz Williams

Detective Inspector Chen and the demon Seneschal Zhu Irzh have conflicting agendas when they both want to escort the soul of a dead prostitute to the afterlife--Chen, to heaven, and Irzh, to hell. Novelist

January 2015 – NO MEETING

Monday February 2, 2015

The Franchise Affair by Josephine Tey

Marion Sharpe and her mother seem an unlikely duo to be found on the wrong side of the law. Quiet and ordinary, they have led a peaceful and unremarkable life at their country home, The Franchise. Unremarkable that is, until the police turn up with a demure young woman on their doorstep. Novelist

Monday March 2, 2015

Joyland by Stephen King

Set in a small-town North Carolina amusement park in 1973, Joyland tells the story of the summer in which college student Devin Jones comes to work as a carnny and confronts the legacy of a vicious murder, the fate of a dying child, and the ways both will change his life forever. Novelist

Monday April 6, 2015

Turn of Mind by Alice LaPlante

Implicated in the murder of her best friend, Jennifer White, a brilliant retired surgeon with dementia, struggles with fractured memories of their complex relationship and wonders if she actually committed the crime. Novelist

Monday May 4, 2015

Seeker by Jack McDevitt

After the disappearance of an entire colony, antiquities dealer Alex Benedict finds a cup that appears to be from one of the colony's ships, and, in attempting to establish its provenance, follows a trail that leads to the ship. Novelist

Monday June 1, 2015

The Dark Place by Aaron Elkins

When bodies--killed by spears identical to those used by primitive hunters 10,000 years ago--appear in the primeval rain forests of Washington State, anthropologist Gideon Oliver must lure a terrifying predator out of his lair for a deadly final hunt. Novelist

Monday July 6, 2015

Laura by Vera Caspary

Three very different men--gossip columnist Waldo Lydecker, Laura's fiance Shelby Carpenter, and Detective Mark McPherson, whose job is to find her killer--recount the story of an enigmatic woman called Laura's life and murder. Novelist

Monday August 3, 2015

Murder on the Orient Express by Agatha Christie

On a three-day journey through the snowbound Balkan hills, Hercule Poirot must weed through an array of international suspects to find the passenger who murdered a gangster on the Orient Express. Novelist

Monday September 14, 2015

Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime by Mark Haddon

Despite his overwhelming fear of interacting with people, Christopher, a mathematically-gifted, autistic fifteen-year-old boy, decides to investigate the murder of a neighbor's dog and uncovers secret information about his mother. Novelist

Monday October 5, 2015

One Corpse too Many by Ellis Peters

When Shrewsbury Castle falls during a war between King Stephen and the Empress Maud, Brother Caedfael makes another grim discovery--a strangled corpse lying among the dead--and vows to find the murderer. Novelist

Monday November 2, 2015

The Bookman's Wake by John Dunning

Surprised by a visit from a difficult-to-manage former cop from his old precinct, bookstore owner Cliff Janeway is unable to resist Slater's invitation to help recover a stolen edition of a rare and valuable book. Novelist

Monday December 7, 2015

The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins

When Walter Hartwright encounters a solitary, terrified, beautiful woman dressed in white on a moonlit night in London, he feels impelled to solve the mystery of her distress. Novelist

Monday January 4, 2016

Caves of Steel by Isaac Asimov

Fearing a violent confrontation between Earthmen and Spacers, Detective Baley and his new partner, a robot, investigate the murder of a Spacetown scientist. Novelist

Monday February 1, 2016

Some Dead Genius by Lenny Kleinfeld

Author Lenny Kleinfeld brings together a smart cop, a sleazy art dealer, outlandish artists and a hilariously stupid knuckle-breaker in a rollicking caper that you constantly think you've got figured out until you don't. NPR

Monday March 7, 2016

Knots and Crosses by Ian Rankin

In Edinburgh, Detective Rebus must put together conflicting clues to find a psychopathic killer and finds his own life threatened.

Monday April 4, 2016

Bellfield Hall by Anna Dean

Visiting Bellfield Hall to comfort her niece, who has been seemingly abandoned by her wealthy fiance, Miss Dido Kent investigates the possibly related death of a young woman, a situation that is complicated by surprising secrets. Novelist

Monday May 2, 2016

Out by Natsuo Kirino

Kirino's searing novel tells a story of random violence in the staid Tokyo suburbs, as a young mother who works a night shift making boxed lunches brutally strangles her deadbeat husband and then seeks the help of her coworkers to dispose of the body and cover up her crime.

Amazon.com

Monday June 6, 2016

Death comes to Pemberley by P.D. James

P.D. James has based this novel on *Pride and prejudice*, written by Jane Austen, and upon the characters within it. Six years after her marriage, Elizabeth Darcy is happily living with her husband and two sons at Pemberley, when, after the end of their annual autumn ball, an uninvited guest arrives in a chaise from the woods surrounding the estate screaming that her husband has been murdered, thereby shattering Elizabeth's peaceful life. Novelist

Monday July 11, 2016

The Beach House by James Patterson

When his brother turns up drowned in the ocean off exclusive East Hampton, law student Jack Mullen sets out to unravel the truth about Peter's death. Novelist

Monday August 1, 2016

Boy's Life by Robert McCammon

Twelve-year-old Cory Mackenson's father finds a dead man handcuffed to a car's steering wheel that has plunged into Zephyr's Lake in 1964, and they realize that all is not as it seems in their quiet town. Novelist

Monday September 12, 2016

Old Bones by Aaron Elkins

When members of a prominent Breton family suddenly die, and the parts of a human skeleton are found dating back to 1940, anthropologist Gideon Oliver is called in to investigate. Novelist

Monday October 3, 2016

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

All her life, beautiful and privileged Cadence Sinclair Eastman has spent idyllic summers on her family's private island. But during her 15th summer, a mysterious accident that she cannot remember befell her, causing pain both physical and emotional. Now 17, Cadence returns to the island and struggles to piece together what has happened. NPR

Monday December 5, 2016

Club Dumas by Arturo Perez-Reverte

When a well-known bibliophile is found hanged, Lucas Corso is brought in to authenticate a fragment of a manuscript purported to be "The Three Musketeers." He is soon drawn into a swirling plot involving devil worship, occult practices, and a swashbuckling cast that bears a suspicious resemblance to those in the famous work.

Monday January 9, 2017

Devil's Detective by Simon Unsworth

Something is changing in Hell. A man is found dead, murdered in a horrific manner--even by Hell's standards--and he is merely the first of many. Unfortunately, these deaths coincide with a political visit from a Heavenly delegation, so the pressure is on Thomas Fool, an Information Man, to track down and identify the murderer. It's critical that Fool solves these crimes, but how can he find a killer in a place where murder is common currency?

Monday February 6, 2017

Brat Farrar by Josephine Tey

Brat Farrar has been carefully coached to assume the identity of Patrick Ashby, heir to the Ashby fortune who disappeared when he was 13. Just when it seems that Brat will pull off the deception, he discovers the truth about Patrick's disappearance, a dark secret that threatens to tear apart the family and jeopardize Brat's carefully laid plans. -- Amazon.com

Monday March 6, 2017

Rum Punch by Elmore Leonard

Ordell "Whitebread" Robbie makes a fine living selling illegal high-powered weaponry to the wrong people. Jackie Burke couriers Ordell's profits from Freeport to Miami. But the feds are on to Jackie—and now the aging but still hot flight attendant will have to do prison time or play ball, which makes her a prime "loose end" that Ordell needs to tie up permanently. Jackie, however, has other options. And with the help of Max Cherry—an honest but disgruntled bail bondsman looking to get out—she could even end up with a serious nest egg in the process, or dead.

Monday April 3, 2017

Cover Her Face by P.D. James

"Headstrong and beautiful, the young housemaid Sally Jupp is put rudely in her place, strangled in her bed behind a bolted door. Coolly brilliant policeman Adam Dalgliesh of Scotland Yard must find her killer among a houseful of suspects, most of whom had very good reason to wish her ill."--Amazon.com

Monday May 8, 2017

4:50 from Paddington Station by Agatha Christie

For an instant the two trains ran together, side by side. In that frozen moment, Elspeth witnessed a murder. Helplessly, she stared out of her carriage window as a man remorselessly tightened his grip around a woman's throat. The body crumpled. Then the other train drew away. But who, apart from Miss Marple, would take her story seriously? After all, there were no suspects, no other witnesses--and no corpse.

Monday June 5, 2017

Underground Airlines by Ben Winters

It is the present-day, and the world is as we know it: smartphones, social networking, Happy Meals. Save for one thing: the Civil War never occurred. A man calling himself Victor has struck a bargain with federal law enforcement, acting as a bounty hunter for the U.S. Marshals Service.

He's got plenty of work. In this version of America, slavery continues in four states, the Hard Four. On the trail of a runaway known as Jackdaw, Victor arrives in Indianapolis knowing that something isn't right--with the case file, with his work, and with the country

Monday July 10, 2017

Daughter of Time by Josephine Tey

Scotland Yard Inspector Alan Grant is intrigued by a portrait of Richard III. Could such a sensitive face actually belong to one of history's most heinous villains--a king who killed his brother's children to secure his crown? Grant determines to find out once and for all what kind of man Richard was and who in fact killed the princes in the tower - Ingram.

Monday August 7, 2017

The Godwulf Manuscript by Robert B. Parker

The first in the series featuring private detective Spenser, sees Spenser hired to return a rare stolen fourteenth-century manuscript to its rightful owners, a Boston university who has hired him. He tackles some very heavy homework and knows that if he doesn't finish his assignment soon, he could end up marked "D" for dead – Goodreads.

Monday September 11, 2017

Overture to Death by Ngaio Marsh

Who in the quiet village of Chipping would kill wealthy spinster Idris Campanula? Plenty of people, among them her fellow cast members from a troubled charity production. Inspector Roderick Alleyn quickly realizes that the murderer might have killed the wrong woman--and may soon stage a repeat performance – Novelist.

Monday October 2, 2017 -- 9780316261258

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Monday November 6, 2017

A Cloud of Witnesses by Dorothy Sayers

Rustic old Riddlesdale Lodge was a Wimsey family retreat with country pleasures and the thrill of the hunt--until the game turned up human and quite dead - Ingram.

Monday December 4, 2017

Sins of the Fathers by Lawrence Sanders

The pretty young prostitute is dead. Her alleged murderer--a minister's son--hanged himself in his jail cell. The case is closed. But the dead girl's father has come to Matthew Scudder for answers, sending the unlicensed private investigator in search of terrible truths about a life that was lived and lost in a sordid world of perversion and pleasures - Ingram.

Monday January 8, 2018

Six Wakes by Mur Lafferty

It was not common to awaken in a cloning vat streaked with drying blood. At least, Maria Arena had never experienced it. She had no memory of how she died. That was also new; before, when she had awakened as a new clone, her first memory was of how she died. Maria's vat was in the front of six vats, each one holding the clone of a crew member of the starship Dormire, each clone waiting for its previous incarnation to die so it could awaken. And Maria wasn't the only one to die recently...Amazon.com

Monday February 5, 2018 – 9780345513557

The Face of a Stranger by Anne Perry

His name, they tell him, is William Monk, and he is a London police detective. But the accident that felled him has left him with only half a life; his memory and his entire past have vanished. As he tries to hide the truth, Monk returns to work and is assigned to investigate the brutal murder of a Crimean War hero and man about town. Which makes Monk's efforts doubly difficult, since he's forgotten his professional skills along with everything else - Ingram.

Monday March 5, 2018

Monday March 5, 2018

Mystery Mile by Margery Allingham

Judge Crowdy Lobbett has found evidence pointing to the identity of the criminal mastermind behind the deadly Simister gang. After four attempts on his life, he ends up seeking the help of the enigmatic and unorthodox amateur sleuth, Albert Campion. It's a race against time for Campion to get the judge to safety.

Monday April 2, 2018 – 9781250145420

Midsummer's Equation by Keigo Higashino

Speaking at a conference in a once-grand summer resort town, Detective Galileo investigates a murder that might have been spurred by an ongoing, local development dispute - Novelist.

Monday May 7, 2018

Death at La Fenice by Donna Leon

There is little violent crime in Venice, a serenely beautiful floating city of mystery and magic, history and decay. But the evil that does occasionally rear its head is the jurisdiction of Guido Brunetti, the suave, urbane vice-commissario of police and a genius at detection. Now all of his admirable abilities must come into play in the deadly affair of Maestro Helmut Wellauer who died mysteriously during an intermission at La Fenice – Ingram.

Monday June 4, 2018

In the Woods by Tana French

Twenty years after witnessing the violent disappearances of two companions from their small Dublin suburb, detective Rob Ryan investigates a chillingly similar murder that takes place in the same wooded area, a case that forces him to piece together his traumatic memories – Novelist.

Monday July 9, 2018

A Fatal Grace by Louise Penny

When Chief Inspector Armand Gamache begins his investigation of the death of CC de Poitiers, he digs beneath the idyllic surface of village life to find long buried secrets, while his own enemies threaten to bring something even more chilling than the bitter winter winds to Three Pines – Novelist.

Monday August 6, 2018

Track of the Cat by Nevada Barr

Patrolling the remote West Texas backcountry, Anna Pigeon's first job as a national park ranger is marred by violence she thought she had left behind: the brutal death of a fellow ranger. When the cause of death is chalked up to a mountain lion attack it's up to her to save the protected cats from the politics and prejudices of the locals—and prove the kill was the work of a species far less rare – Amazon.com

Monday September 10, 2018

Gun, with Occasional Music by Jonathan Lethem

In a bizarre, noir world shared by people and intelligent animals, Conrad Metcalf, a human private detective, finds one of his cases has drawn him into a conflict between gangsters and the Inquisitor's office

Monday October 1, 2018

The Cuckoo's Calling by Robert Galbraith

Then John Bristow walks through his door with an amazing story: His sister, the legendary supermodel Lula Landry, known to her friends as the Cuckoo, famously fell to her death a few months earlier. The police ruled it a suicide, but John refuses to believe that. The case plunges Strike into the world of multimillionaire beauties, rock-star boyfriends, and desperate designers, and it introduces him to every variety of pleasure, enticement, seduction, and delusion known to man.

Monday November 5, 2018

The Keeper of Lost Causes by Jussi Adler-Olsen

Chief detective Carl Morck, recovering from what he thought was a career-destroying gunshot wound, is relegated to cold cases and becomes immersed in the five-year disappearance of a politician – Novelist.

Monday December 3, 2018

The Suspect by Michael Robotham

Joe O'Loughlin, a psychologist faced with a recent diagnosis of Parkinson's disease, confronts a conspiracy against him after he becomes the prime suspect in the brutal murder of a woman with whom he once had a relationship.

Monday January 7, 2019

The Girl on the Train by Paula Hawkins

Rachel is a washed-up thirty-something who creates a fantasy about the seemingly perfect couple she sees during her daily train ride into London. When the woman goes missing, Rachel manages to insert herself into the investigation of the woman's disappearance – Novelist.

Monday February 4, 2019

The Cold Dish by Craig Johnson

After decades of peace between the white and Native American communities of early American Wyoming, a young man who was once convicted for raping a Cheyenne girl is found dead, prompting sheriff Walt Longmire, his deputy Victoria Moretti, and friend Henry Standing Bear to investigate – Novelist.

Monday March 4, 2019

The Blessing Way by Tony Hillerman

Witchcraft appears to be involved in the death of an Indian, whose body is found in Many Ruins Canyon, and Lieutenant Joe Leaphorn is charged with the task of solving the crime – Novelist.

Monday April 1, 2019

Open Season by C.J. Box

As Wyoming game warden Joe Pickett races against time to save an endangered species, he finds himself plunged into a deadly mystery that soon threatens his family and the life he loves – Novelist.

Monday May 6, 2019

The Black Echo by Michael Connelly

A Vietnam veteran-turned-detective, Hieronymus "Harry" Bosch discovers the body of a former comrade-in-arms during an investigation and, with the help of an attractive FBI agent, hunts for the murderers on a trail leading back to Saigon – Novelist.

Monday June 3, 2019

The Ritual Bath by Faye Kellerman

A report of rape in a Los Angeles yeshiva brings police detective Peter Decker into an insular Orthodox Jewish community but the strict religious practices and customs of the community prevent him from following his standard investigative procedures.

Monday July 1, 2019

Broken Promise by Linwood Barclay

After his wife's death and the collapse of his newspaper, David Harwood has no choice but to uproot his nine-year-old son and move back into his childhood home in Promise Falls, New York. David believes his life is in free fall, and he can't find a way to stop his descent. Then he comes across a family secret of epic proportions – Novelist.

Monday August 5, 2019

Artemis by Andy Weir

Augmenting his limited income by smuggling contraband to survive on the moon's wealthy city of Artemis, Jazz agrees to commit what seems to be a perfect, lucrative crime, only to find herself embroiled in a conspiracy for control of the cit.– Novelist.

Monday September 9, 2019

Karolina's Twins by Ronald Balson

Lena Woodward, an 89-year-old Holocaust survivor, asks Catharine Lockhart, a Chicago attorney, and her husband, Liam, a private investigator, to find her best friend Karolina's twin daughters, who were lost in 1943 during their transport by the Germans to the Gross-Rosen concentration camp. Lena reveals a heartbreaking tale of a mother's love, friendship, and family in the face of increasingly brutal conditions and the constant threat of imminent death in Nazi-occupied Poland – Library Journal.

Monday October 7, 2019

Killers of the Flower Moon by David Grann

In the 1920s, members of Oklahoma's Osage Indian nation were the world's richest people per capita, for oil had been discovered beneath their land. Then they began dying mysteriously in what proved to be a test for the newly formed FBI – Library Journal.

Monday November 4, 2019

State of Wonder by Anne Patchett

Marina Singh, who's given up her medical practice for the relative quiet of pharmaceutical research, finds her world upturned when she's suddenly sent to the Amazon. A field team there, working on a new drug, has been unresponsive for two years, and Marina's colleague Anders, who has gone to investigate, is reported dead – Library Journal.

Monday December 2, 2019

The City & the City by China Miéville

Twin southern European cities Beszel and Ul Qoma coexist in the same physical location, separated by their citizens' determination to see only one city at a time. Inspector Tyador Borl of the Extreme Crime Squad roams through the intertwined but separate cultures as he investigates the murder of Mahalia Geary, who believed that a third city, Orciny, hides in the blind spots between Beszel and Ul Qoma. As Mahalia's friends disappear and revolution brews, Tyador is forced to consider the idea that someone in unseen Orciny is manipulating the other cities – Publishers Weekly.