

BOOKAHOLIC

For the Mystery Addict

June 2004

Vol. 2, No. 7

The day after the Edgar Awards I sent a complete list of winners to those of you who were not there and who have computers. If you did not receive that list and would like a copy, please let me know. I'll be happy to send you one.

I'm back from vacation which I spent the way I spend many vacations: reading and drinking wine. In my non-vacation life, I find it very difficult to give the amount of time I'd like to reading, so it was a pleasure to be able to read a book a day. Immersing myself in a beautifully written, tantalizing story – that's my idea of paradise.

Sally Owen

WHAT I'VE BEEN READING

MIDDLESEX, Jeffrey Eugenides, Picador paperback, \$15.00

This delightful story tells of three generations of a Greek family from their journey to Detroit, Michigan, to the present. It's wryly narrated by a young man, who – thanks to a chromosomal anomaly – was mistakenly raised as a daughter until his testosterone asserted itself in adolescence. It is a story of the immigrant experience, family, and sexual politics and is gorgeously written. The book won the Pulitzer Prize, so putting it on your reading list is really a no-brainer. I'm adding this, even though it isn't a mystery, just to prove that I read books about subjects other than serial killers, snipers, and terrorists.

FULL DARK HOUSE, Christopher Fowler, Bantam, \$24.00

This story introduces detectives Arthur Bryant and John May. They are Britain's oldest detectives, partnered in the London Police Department's Peculiar Crimes Unit for over sixty years. I'm not giving anything away when I tell you that in the first chapter octogenarian Arthur Bryant is blown up by a bomb planted in his office. The action then flashes back to Bryant and May's first case during the Blitz when the death of a dancer in the theater where she was rehearsing brought together this odd couple of crime-fighting. This is a tremendously appealing story. Bryant and May are wonderful and the portrait of theater life during the Blitz is beautifully realized.

***THE HUNDREDTH MAN*, Jack Kerley, Dutton, \$23.95**

Set in Mobile, Alabama, this first mystery introduces Carson Ryder and his partner Harry Nautilus. They make up the newly created Psychopathological and Sociopathological Investigative Team, or PSIT as their colleagues are so fond of saying. They are called in when a decapitated body is found in a local park. What is immediately apparent is that there are turf issues within the police department and Carson and Harry find themselves struggling with their superiors to carry out their investigation. To complicate life further, Carson is attracted to Dr. Ava Davenelle of the Medical Examiner's office who has problems of her own. This is an excellent debut – the writing is brisk, the characters well-rounded, and the story has one of the best boffo openings I have read in a while.

***THE DEFECTION OF A.J. LEWINTER*, Robert Littell,**

Written in 1974 and set in the Cold War, this is the story, not of A.J. Lewinter, a mild-mannered academic who knows a secret or two, but of the reaction to his defection by the United States and the Soviet Union. It is witty and has the ring of truth to it and I could not put it down. Brilliant, just brilliant! This is Littell's first novel and netted him a very well deserved Edgar Award. There are several editions available. The first edition is pretty expensive but Overlook Press has reissued the book in hardcover and there is a paperback from Penguin. Highly recommended.

***OLD BOYS*, Charles McCarry, Overlook Press, \$25.95**

I'm obviously nostalgic for the Cold War these days. As is Charles McCarry. He brings back his character Paul Christopher, the intelligence agent who is as skilled at picking wines as he is at running down the bad guys. At the beginning of the novel, Paul is dining with his cousin Horace, also an agent. The next day Paul vanishes and months later the Chinese deliver his ashes to the American consulate in Beijing. But Horace is still not convinced that Paul is dead and gathers together his colleagues from the old days – the "old boys" - and together they travel the world in search of their former colleague using the only methods they know to gather information, methods that are sometimes sadly out of date. This is a terrific story told by a master storyteller.

***BLACK*, Christopher Whitcomb, Little Brown, \$24.95**

Don't let the rather unattractive dustjacket stop you from picking this up. It's a rip roaring tale set in the here and now and told by a former FBI sniper. Several tales in fact: that of Special Agent Jeremy Waller, a member of the FBI's elite Hostage Rescue Team; United States Senator Elizabeth Beechum, a presidential hopeful whose career suddenly seems to be falling apart; and Sirad Malneaux, vice president of the Atlanta office of one the country's foremost technological corporations who has come to New York where her path will cross that of CEO Jordan Mitchell. How these stories connect will not become clear until almost the end of the book, but I just kept turning the pages.

ON MY READING LIST

***LAZY BONES*, Mark Billingham, Wm. Morrow, \$24.95**

Someone is writing to convicted rapists in prison, befriending them, and then brutally killing them when they are released. Say no more. It lands on my list for that alone. But for those of you whose knees jerk less than mine, know that Detective Inspector Tom Thorne believes there's a link between these killings and a murder/suicide that took place 25 years before. Billingham's stories can be tough – it's hard to believe he's a stand-up comic when he's not writing – but his books featuring Tom Thorne are of a consistent high standard. True first is the UK edition.

***THE DEAD*, Ingrid Black, St. Martin's Press, \$23.95**

Five years ago Ed Fagan, a serial killer known as the Night Hunter, disappeared. Now a Dublin newspaper has received a letter claiming to be from Fagan with a chilling message: he's going to kill again. When a prostitute is murdered the police contact Saxon, an ex-pat and former FBI agent, who was writing a book about Fagan when he disappeared. Saxon is certain that the killer is someone else and must convince the police to look beyond the obvious. The buzz is consistently good about this first novel and I was unable to get either a reading copy or a UK edition (it was published there last year) in time to review for this issue, so I can give you no more information. I just have a feeling....

***IN THE MOON OF RED PONIES*, James Lee Burke, Simon & Schuster, \$24.95**

Attorney-turned-crime fighter Billy Bob Holland has moved his family from Texas to Missoula, Montana. But Wyatt Dixon, who Holland helped put away, is freed due to a breach of procedure and once again menaces Holland and those he loves. Although this series has not yet received the acclaim of the Dave Robicheaux books, it is still Burke and it is wonderful.

***THE ENEMY*, Lee Child, Delacorte, \$25.00**

Before Jack Reacher was the loner we know from Child's previous novels, he was an elite military cop. Child turns back the clock to the turning point Reacher's career when one case made Reacher a renegade and made him question words like honor, valor, and duty.

***TEN BIG ONES*, Janet Evanovich, St. Martin's Press, \$26.95**

If it's June it must be time for another Stephanie Plum mystery. New Jersey's irresistible bounty hunter is living with a vice cop, she's partnered with a retired hooker, her mother is hitting the sauce, her grandmother is a swinging senior, and she's tracking a woman who hijacked a Frito-Lay truck and ate the evidence. And that's only the beginning. This will no doubt be on millions of reading lists – not mine – and I once again bow to popular opinion.

ICE RUN, Steve Hamilton, St. Martin's Press, \$21.95

It is March in Paradise, Michigan, and Alex McKnight is happier than he's been for a long time. He and Natalie Reynaud are on a romantic weekend at an old luxury hotel but there they find an ominous message in their hotel room. Alex and Natalie must now face a terrible Reynaud family secret, a secret that has driven men to kill for decades. Hamilton has won an Edgar, and Anthony Award, and a Shamus for this terrific series featuring PI Alex McKnight.

SMALL g, Patricia Highsmith, W.W. Norton, \$24.95

The story opens in Zurich with the brutal murder of Petey Ritter. Six months later, Petey's lover Rickie is recovering slowly at Jakob's, a bar known for its mixture of gay, straight and bisexual clientele. Despite the murder, this does not seem to qualify as a mystery but as an important addition for Highsmith fans. She completed this just months before her death in 1995 and it is, at last, available. This is not the first time Highsmith has explored sexuality and jealousy. As **Clare Morgan** she wrote the classic *Price of Salt* back in the 50s.

THE DARK TOWER VI: Song of Susannah, Donald M. Grant/Scribner, \$30

The continuing story of the gunslinger Roland and his friends has reached the penultimate volume. The final volume will be published this September, and then at last we'll know! Know what? There are so many cliffhangers here that if you haven't been keeping up with this series, it may be time to go back to the beginning and start over.

THE DEBRIEFING, Robert Littell, Overlook Press, \$24.95

Stone, first name unknown, is the Head of Task Force 753 – an elite arm of the Joint Chiefs of Staff – and a master of the sophisticated art of debriefing. When Oleg Kulakov defects on a mission from Russia, handcuffed to a sealed diplomatic pouch, he is brought to the US and it is Stone's job to find out if he is genuine. This is a perfect companion to *The Defection of A.J. Lewinter* and I just can't get enough of this excellent author.

TWENTY-SEVEN BONES, Jonathan Nasaw, Atria Books, \$25.00

Even though he's retired, former FBI Special Agent E.L. Pender still has friends in high places. So when a friend, the Police Chief in the US Virgin Islands, needs help solving a particularly gruesome crime, Pender jumps at the chance. When he arrives, Pender discovers that there's a serial killer, or killers in this case, on the loose. We know that the murderers are a husband-and-wife team of archeologists who believe that if they breathe in their victim's last breath they will live forever. But Pender is going to have a hard time capturing these savvy, diabolical opponents. Nasaw has managed to keep me up nights with his two previous books.

THE QUEEN OF THE SOUTH, Arturo Perez-Reverte, Putnam, \$25.95

Teresa Mendoza's boyfriend is one of the top drug smugglers in Mexico and he knows life can be short. That's why he gives her a special cell phone with the warning that if the phone rings, it means he's dead, and they're coming for her next. When that call comes, Teresa says goodbye to her old self and becomes a woman she never knew existed - a

ruthless drug dealer who comes to be known as the Queen of the South. Those of you who know Perez-Reverte's work have no doubt already reserved your copy. Those of you who haven't read him yet, start now. This will be a US first.

***MONDAY MOURNING*, Kathy Reichs, Scribner, \$25.00**

Temperance Brennan, forensic anthropologist for both North Carolina and Quebec, has come to Montreal to testify as an expert witness at a murder trial. She finds herself in the basement of a pizza parlor helping recover three skeletons from shallow graves. Who are they? How did they die? And when? This is a solid, well done series.

***ANGELS CREST*, Leslie Schwartz, Doubleday, \$23.95**

Ethan Denton and his young son Nate set off together to discover the beauties of the forest. As he parks the truck, Ethan spots a pair of magnificent bucks, and eager to take a closer look, leaves Nathan asleep in the car seat. Minutes later when he returns, he discover the door of the truck is open and Nate is nowhere to be seen. Ethan and other members of the community must search for the missing three-year-old as an unexpected blizzard blankets the woods. Schwartz is the author of *Jumping the Green*, which won the James Jones Literary Society Award for Best First Novel.

***BIRDS OF A FEATHER*, Jacqueline Winspear, Soho, \$25.00**

Winspear continues the story of Maisie Dobbs who, a decade after the Great War, becomes a "Psychologist and Investigator" in London. Maisie is hired by a wealthy industrialist to find his daughter, Charlotte who is missing. With the help of her assistant, Billy Beale, Maisie tracks down three of Charlotte's friends only to find that they have been murdered. At each crime scene is a white feather. I thought the first in this series, Maisie Dobbs, was one of the very best debuts of last year, and I'm hearing that this follow-up is as good, if not better.

FIRST MYSTERIES

***BAD MOVE*, Linwood Barclay, Bantam, \$22.00**

Zack Walker is a science fiction author who has just moved to the suburbs but life in the model community is turning disastrous. Jack must make the connection between a dead petition-toting environmentalist, the contents of a stolen purse, overzealous real estate developers, and the thugs who do their bidding. And all before his wife gets home from work.

***THE DOCTOR'S WIFE*, Elizabeth Brundage, Viking, \$24.95**

Michael Knowles is a rising OB/GYN at a prominent private practice and his wife Annie teaches at a local college. They have what appears to be a perfect marriage but there are cracks. These cracks widen when anonymous threats arrive at their home. The reason for the intimidation is not clear – both Michael and Annie have enemies – and there are others with dark secrets. The story is told from four viewpoints.

***I DREAMED I MARRIED PERRY MASON*, Susan Kandel, Wm. Morrow, \$23.95**

Cece Caruso is a former beauty queen from Jersey who is writing a biography of Erle Stanley Gardner. When she interviews a prison inmate who knew Gardner, Cece finds herself smack in the middle of a case worthy of Perry Mason himself. Cece will have to channel the inner sleuth she never realized she possessed to find a killer who is very real – and very close.

***WHISKEY SOUR*, J.A. Konrath, Hyperion, \$21.94**

Introduces Lieutenant Jacqueline “Jack” Daniels who is dealing with chronic insomnia, a boyfriend who dumped her, and maxed-out credit cards. As if that isn’t enough there’s a killer who calls himself “The Gingerbread Man” dumping mutilated bodies in her district. While that’s not funny, everything else about this debut apparently is. Konrath is being compared to Janet Evanovich.

***THE BLACKBIRD PAPERS*, Ian Smith, Doubleday, \$24.95**

Professor Wilson Bledsoe is found dead with a vicious racist epithet carved into his chest. This leads to the quick arrest of two white supremacists, but Wilson’s brother Sterling, an FBI agent in New York City, thinks this solution is too pat. Sterling’s search for answers takes a dangerous turn when a security tape sent to Quantico for enhancement incriminates him.

***MURDER ON NOB HILL*, Shirley Tallman, St. Martin’s Press, \$23.95**

Sarah Woolson has always dreamed of becoming a lawyer, but in 1880 San Francisco that is not easy for a woman. Sarah uses her brains and a little subterfuge to finagle her way into a prestigious law firm where her first client is a young society matron accused of stabbing to death her wealthy but abusive husband. Sarah is sure of her client’s innocence but the revelation of the woman’s secret lover may make that impossible to prove. First in a series.

***SOME DANGER INVOLVED*, Will Thomas, Touchstone, \$22.95**

When a student bearing a striking resemblance to some artists’ renderings of Jesus Christ is found murdered – by crucifixion – in London’s Jewish ghetto, nineteenth-century private detective Cyrus Barker must hire an assistant to help him solve the sinister case. This new series featuring Cyrus Barker and his apprentice Thomas Llewelyn might take the place, vacated apparently, of Caleb Carr’s series in which new methods of detective work vie with a dark, teeming underworld.

NON-MYSTERIES OF NOTE

***THE DOG FIGHTER*, Marc Bojanowski, Wm. Morrow, \$23.95**

This is a first novel which is receiving some hype from both the publisher and reviewers. The anonymous narrator tells the story of his life roaming the border between the U.S.

and Mexico during the 1940s. He settles in a Baja town and, in order to make money, fights dogs in a makeshift ring. (oh dear, hurt animal alert!). He finds friendship with a revolutionary poet and love with a young girl and must make a devastating choice that could cost him everything. There are references in the reviews to “Faulkner’s Mississippi” and “McCarthy’s Mexico.”

***A COYOTE’S IN THE HOUSE*, Elmore Leonard, Harper Entertainment, \$15.95**

This is Elmore Leonard’s first children’s book, and it is the story of three dogs and their new friend who is passing himself off as a dog. For completists and the inner child in all of us.

***STRANGER THAN FICTION*, Chuck Palahniuk, Doubleday, \$23.95**

This is what I heard: Earlier this year Palahniuk was giving a reading at That Bookstore That Shall Not Be Named and read a couple of pieces from this book of non-fiction as a work in progress. Two members of the audience upchucked in their seats. I’m repeating what I heard. I’ll read this book even if it doesn’t make me sick.

NEWS FROM THE UK

***ONE LAST BREATH*, Stephen Booth, HarperCollins**

I have no information but this is, I hope, part of Booth’s excellent series set in the Peak District of Derbyshire.

***THE GARDENS OF THE DEAD*, William Brodrick, Little Brown**

Second novel from the author of *The Sixth Lamentation*.

***SCANDAL TAKES A HOLIDAY*, Lindsay Davis, Century**

Falco seems to be enjoying a holiday in the wealthy town of Ostia, but his real reason for being there is to investigate the disappearance of “infamia” the scribe who writes the gossip column for the Daily Gazette.

***THE SPIDER’S HOUSE*, Sarah Diamond, Orion**

No information.

***THE VARIOUS HAUNTS OF MEN*, Susan Hill, Chatto & Windus**

This is a first novel.

***THE CRIME TRADE*, Simon Kernick, Bantam**

This author should be catching on here soon.

***SILENT SLEEP OF THE DYING*, Keith McCarthy, Constable.**

Second novel by the author of *Feast of Carrion*.

THE LOVER, Laura Wilson, Orion

Known as the “Blackout Ripper,” Gordon Cummings was a 28-year-old airman who murdered four women in the West End of London during the War. This novel is based on that little-known case.

THIS AND THAT**More Awards****The Dilys Award**

This is awarded by the Independent Mystery Booksellers to the book they most enjoyed selling:

Lost in A Good Book – Jasper Fforde

Agatha Awards

Announced at the Malice Domestic Convention May 2, 2004:

Best Novel

Letter From Home – Carolyn Hart

Best First Novel

Maisie Dobbs – Jacqueline Winspear

Best Non-Fiction Work

Amelia Peabody’s Egypt: A Compendium – Elizabeth Peters, Ed.

Best Short Story

No Man’s Land – Elizabeth Foxwell (from *Blood on Their Hands*)

Hammett Prize Nominees

The Delicate Storm – Giles Blunt

The Seduction of Water – Carol Goodman

Tropic of Night – Michael Gruber

Shutter Island – Dennis Lehane

Every Secret Thing – Laura Lippman

COLLECTING

Arturo Perez-Reverte came to our attention in this country when Harcourt Brace published *The Flanders Panel*. No two of his books are alike. They are set in different time periods and have no connecting characters. What I particularly like about his novels is the well-researched subject matter. Whether he’s writing about the finer points of

fencing or the structure of the Catholic church, he manages to immerse the reader in his chosen subject. True first editions are in Spanish. Here is a list of his books in the order of publication in English:

The Flanders Panel

A 15th century painting of a game of chess sparks intrigue and murder.

First Edition: UK, Harvill Press, 1994

First US Edition: Harcourt Brace, 1994

The Dumas Club (published as ***The Club Dumas*** in the US)

A man is killed and a manuscript chapter of “The Three Musketeers” and three rare books that might summon the Devil, all draw rare book dealer Corso into mystery and murder. Forget the rather poor movie based on this novel (*The Ninth Gate* directed by Roman Polanski and starring Johnny Depp), this is arguably the author’s best work.

First Edition: UK, Harvill Press, 1996

First US Edition: Harcourt Brace, 1997

The Seville Communion

A hacker cracks Vatican security and sends a message directly to the Pope asking him to save a little church in Seville which is slated for demolition.

First Edition: UK, Harvill Press, 1998

First US Edition: Harcourt Brace, 1998

The Fencing Master

This is actually Perez-Reverte’s first novel. It is set in Madrid in 1868 and tells of how a beautiful woman embroils a fencing master in intrigue and murder at the beginning of the September Revolution.

First Edition: UK, Scorpion Press Limited Edition, 1999

First Trade Edition: UK, Harvill Press, 1999

First US Edition: Harcourt Brace, 1999

The Nautical Chart

Coy, a sailor, meets Tanya Soto and together they search for treasure on a Jesuit ship, sunk by pirates in the 17th Century.

First Edition: Harcourt Brace, 2001

First UK Edition: Picador, 2002

Queen of the South

First Edition: Putnam, 2004

BOOKS OF THE MONTH

Buchanan, Edna, *Cold Case Squad*, Simon & Schuster, \$22.95. This is a new crime series from Miami crime reporter and Pulitzer Prize winner Buchanan. She also wrote a marvelous fictionalized account of the crimes of Aileen Wournos in her book *Garden of Evil*.

Coulter, Catherine, *Blowout*, Putnam, \$25.95. Married FBI agents Dillon Savich and Lacey Sherock are summoned back to Washington from their secluded cabin in Pennsylvania. A nightmare awaits them.

Craig, Philip R., *Murder at a Vineyard Mansion*, Scribner, \$24.00. Loved by many and hated by some, The Silencer, as he is known on the Vineyard, is destroying the audio systems in music-blasting houses and open-windowed vehicles. The fun stops when somebody is killed.

Cutler, Judith, *Staying Power*, St. Martin's Press, \$23.95. Detective Sergeant Kate Power is tied to a homicide victim in the second installment of this Birmingham police procedural series.

D'Amato, Barbara, *Death of a Thousand Cuts*, Forge, \$24.95. This stand-alone is set in Chicago during the heat wave of 1995. Hawthorne House, once a school for autistic children is the setting for a reunion, after the school closes. The ex-Director of the school is found murdered.

Dezenhall, Eric, *Shakedown Beach*, St. Martin's Press, \$24.95. Jonah Eastman, maverick political strategist, knows only one thing can save the congenitally deceitful governor of New Jersey. A whopping, heartfelt lie. Second in the Crisis Management series.

Diamond, Diana, *The First Wife*, St. Martin's Press, \$24.95. Jane Warren swore she'd never marry again. Until she met William Andrews. Now she has to deal with the mysterious death of his first wife.

Green, Norman, *Way Past Legal*, HarperCollins, \$24.95. Manny's latest score left him with more money than he's ever dreamed of, but his partner Rosie might get greedy, and the Russian mobsters they stole it from might come after them.

Guest, Judith, *The Tarnished Eye*, Scribner, \$24.00. When a family is brutally murdered in Blessed, Michigan, Sheriff Hugh DeWitt must find answers to a string of very troubling questions.

Lehrer, Jim, *Flying Crows*, Random House, \$23.95. An old man and a young man met in the Missouri state insane asylum, each with a secret reason for being there. And each chapter of this story takes a step toward revealing what those secrets were.

Logue, Mary, *Bone Harvest*, Ballantine, \$23.95. An entire family was slaughtered in Fort St. Antoine, Wisconsin, fifty years ago, and the murderer was never discovered. Now an element of that same crime resurfaces and deputy sheriff Claire Watkins collaborates with forensics experts to solve the murders – both current and past.

Lowell, Elizabeth, *The Color of Death*, Wm. Morrow, \$24.95. Katherine Jessica Chandler, jewel cutter, has the chance of a lifetime when she's asked to cut seven rare sapphires worth millions. Her half-brother is murdered transporting the gems to her studio.

Lustbader, Eric Van, *The Bourne Legacy*, St. Martin's Press, \$25.95. Looks like we have an author who will pick up where **Robert Ludlum** left off and continue with the very popular Jason Bourne series. You can't keep a good man down!

Murphy, Margaret, *Darkness Falls*, St. Martin's Press, \$24.95. Clara Pascal, attorney and devoted mother, is kidnapped by an assailant who may have a link to her past. Clara lies chained in a cellar, the prisoner of a man who won't talk to her, not even to tell her what he wants.

Reuland, Robert, *Semiautomatic*, Random House, \$24.95. Wisecracking assistant district attorney Andrew Giobberti is now in the Appeals Bureau but the powers-that-be want him back in the courtroom. They are counting on him to ensure a guilty verdict for murder suspect Haskin Pool. Second in the series.

Ridgway, Keith, *The Parts*, St. Martin's Press, \$26.95. This story is set in present-day Dublin and interweaves six lives and six narratives. This is Ridgway's second novel.

Riggs, Cynthia, *Jack in the Pulpit*, St. Martin's Press, \$22.95. This is the fourth in the Victoria Trumbull series and tells of this feisty ninety-two-year-old's first case.

Saylor, Steven, *The Judgment of Caesar*, St. Martin's Press, \$24.95. Gordianus the Finder and his wife Bethesda travel to Egypt in search of a cure for her mysterious illness. Gordianus immediately finds himself thrust into the middle of the struggle between Ptolemy and his sister Cleopatra.

Scottoline, Lisa, *Killer Smile*, HarperCollins, \$25.95. Lawyer Mary DiNunzio gets a terrifying telephone call while she's working late, then goes home to find a threatening note in her apartment. When another lawyer turns up dead, Mary begins to suspect that the case she's working on may have something to do with these troubling events.

Sherrill, Steven, *Visits From the Drowned Girl*, Random House, \$24.95. Benny Poteat is replacing a lightbulb several hundred feet up a radio tower when he sees a woman below set up a video camera, disrobe, and walk into the river. Benny hurries down and finds a great deal more than he can handle.

Stroud, Carsten, *Cobrville*, Simon & Schuster, \$24.95. This action-packed thriller follows the fortunes of a CIA unit sent to the Philippines on a perilous mission.

Swain, James, *Loaded Dice*, Ballantine, \$22.95. Ex-copy Tony Valentine goes after his missing son and arrives in Las Vegas. Once there, he finds himself in a treacherous game with higher stakes than he has ever encountered.

Thomas-Graham, Pamela, *Orange Crushed*, Simon & Schuster, \$24.00. An Ivy League mystery featuring Harvard economics professor Nikki Chase.

Title, Elise, *Conviction*, St. Martin's Press, \$24.95. A beautiful Boston socialite is murdered. When it is discovered that she was part of a kinky, secretive, and very chic call girl service, corrections officer Natalie Price goes undercover.

Waiwaiolo, Lono, *Wiley's Shuffle*, St. Martin's Press, \$23.95. When a friend gets attached to the wrong guy, Wiley starts looking for a way to shake her loose but the guy is a sociopathic pimp who is starting to feel invincible. Second in this hard-boiled series.

Wilson, Derek, *Tripletree*, St. Martin's Press, \$23.95. In order to solve a chilling mystery in the present, investigator Nathaniel Gye must first look into the past.

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