

# BOOKAHOLIC

## For the Mystery Addict

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### WHAT I'VE BEEN READING

**SANCTUARY, Ken Bruen, Minotaur Books. \$24.95**

This brings to an end the story arc that began with *The Dramatist* and continued with *Priest* and *Cross*. At the center of these stories is the nightmare that Jack Taylor has to endure. Since I can't discuss that in deference to those of you who haven't come that far in the story, I'll just say this: Ken Bruen continues to be an extraordinary force in hard-boiled prose. If you haven't discovered him yet, I envy you. There's a lot of excellent reading ahead of you.

**THE LOVERS, John Connolly, Atria Books. \$26.00**

Connolly continues to turn out extraordinary novels, most of them featuring his troubled private eye, Charlie Parker. Here, Charlie, without his license while he is under investigation, is on a quest to find out the truth about his father who took his own life after gunning down two unarmed teenagers. Try putting this one down!

**THE STRAIN: BOOK 1 of THE STRAIN TRILOGY, Guillermo Del Toro and Chuck Hogan, Wm. Morrow. \$26.99**

Bound to be one of the bestsellers of the summer and bound for the big screen, this excellent thriller is a wonderful antidote to the insipid romanticism of *The Twilight* series. A plane lands at JFK and immediately the lights on board go out and all contact is lost with the pilots. Cell phones are silent and the ground crew and airport personnel call for help. This very long sequence is breathtaking and I can hardly wait for the film starring Tom Cruise as Dr. Ephraim Goodweather of the CDC and Michael Caine as Abraham Setrakian, a former college professor and survivor of the Holocaust. I'm making that up of course, but you'll be casting it too. Something is on board that plane and it gets out. Vampires are now here in New York and they work fast. It will take very little time for humanity to be wiped out in the city, then the state, then the country. Unless these creatures are stopped. This is only Book 1, but my guess is that our intrepid band of vampire hunters will be going national. I'm also casting Lev Schreiber as the tunnel rat who has been working beneath the ruins of the World Trade Center as rebuilding begins. That's where vampires like to hide out during the day, you know. So to all you *Twilight* series lovers I say – get real! This is what vampires are like! They'll urinate and defecate on you even as they tear your face off! Do you love him now? Sorry. Got a bit carried away there. But enjoy this book; you'll get carried away too.

**DARK PLACES, Gillian Flynn, Shaye Areheart. \$24.00**

When Libby Day was seven, her mother and two sisters were murdered. Libby survived and was able to give testimony that put away the butcher who killed her family. That would be her beloved 15-year-old brother, Ben. Now, twenty-five years later, the internet has spawned groups

that obsess about notorious crimes. And one of those groups believes that Ben Day is not guilty of the crime. They locate Libby, who sees a way to profit from her tragic history. Did I mention that Libby is not a really admirable person? Libby begins to half-heartedly look again at what happened and the narrative flashes back to the events of that day as seen through the eyes of Libby's doomed family members. I'm a Gillian Flynn fan, but I did think that her denouement is a bit contrived and was disappointed with that ending.

***DELICATE EDIBLE BIRDS*, Lauren Groff, Voice. \$23.95**

Groff's second book, after *The Monsters of Templeton*, guarantees her a place near the top of the list of very young and very talented authors. These nine stories are about women: they write poetry; they twirl batons; they are married to men in whose shadow they appear to hide; they commit crimes and they have crimes committed against them. In every story this young writer displays a mastery of her subject and her language that is truly awe-inspiring.

## ON MY RADAR

***GONE TOMORROW*, Lee Child, Delacorte. \$27.00**

Thirteenth Jack Reacher novel is set in New York City. True first is the UK, for some strange reason.

***THE SCARECROW*, Michael Connelly, Little Brown. \$27.99**

Newspaperman Jack McEvoy (introduced in *The Poet*) is tracking a killer who seems to operate below police radar, but who has perfect knowledge of any move against him – including Jack's.

***THE LAST CHILD*, John Hart, Minotaur Books. \$24.95**

A young boy hunts for his missing sister, presumed dead, in his North Carolina hometown. This is Edgar award-winner Hart's third book.

***THE LANGUAGE OF BEES*, Laurie R. King, Bantam. \$25.00**

Mary Russell and Sherlock Holmes return home to England to find that Holmes's bees are dying.

***ROAD DOGS*, Elmore Leonard, Wm. Morrow. \$26.95**

Leonard brings back two of his favorite characters, Cundo Rey (*LaBrava*) and Jack Foley (*Out of Sight*), in his latest.

***THE STALIN EPIGRAM*, Robert Littell, Simon & Schuster. \$26.00**

Based on fact, this is a fictionalized retelling of the life of Russian poet, Osip Mandelstam, who was declared war on by Stalin. Well, anything by Littell.

***BRIMSTONE*, Robert B. Parker, Putnam. \$25.95**

Virgil Cole and Everett Hitch are featured once again in this tale of the Old West.

***CHASING THE BEAR*, Robert B. Parker, Philomel. \$14.99**

A young-adult novel featuring a young Spenser.

***THE WAY HOME*, George Pelecanos, Little Brown. \$24.99**

Drama between father and son plays out on the streets of DC.

***INHERENT VICE*, Thomas Pynchon, Penguin Press. \$27.95**

It's been awhile since private eye, Doc Sportello, has seen his ex-girlfriend. Suddenly, out of nowhere, she shows up with a story about a plot to kidnap a billionaire land developer, with whom she just happens to be in love. Set in the 1960s.

***WICKED PREY*, John Sandford, Putnam. \$26.95**

Danger once again stalks Lucas Davenport.

***THE SECRET SPEECH*, Tom Rob Smith, Grand Central. \$24.99**

Leo Demidov is back. The daughter of a man Leo sent to the gulag is out for revenge.

***THE LITTLE STRANGER*, Sarah Waters, Riverhead Books. \$26.95**

It is post-war England and Dr. Faraday is called to a patient at Hundreds Hall, Warwickshire, the home of the Ayres family. Is this family haunted by something more ominous than a dying way of life? Dr. Faraday is about to find out how terrifying their story is, and how it is going to become entwined with his. A ghost story.

## FIRST MYSTERIES

***THE COLD LIGHT OF MOURNING*, Elizabeth J. Duncan, Minotaur Books. \$24.95**

The market town of Llanelen in North Wales is shocked when Meg Wynne Thompson goes missing on her wedding day. The last person to see her was manicurist Penny Brannigan, but when she sees a photograph of Meg, she realizes that the woman who was in her salon was an imposter.

***WHERE IT LIES*, K.J. Egan, Minotaur Books. \$24.95**

Introducing Jenny Chase, assistant pro at the Harbor Terrace Country Club. She loves her job, but her idyllic life is threatened when she discovers the body of a greens keeper hanging from a rafter in the cart barn.

***FATHER'S DAY*, Keith Gilman, Minotaur Books. \$24.95**

P.I. Louis Kline, ex-cop, gets a job from a woman who wants him to find her missing daughter. The case leads to Philadelphia, where Kline finds himself in the middle of a Chinese drug operation.

***IN THE SHADOW OF GOTHAM*, Stefanie Pintoff, Minotaur Books. \$24.95**

Detective Simon Ziele lost his fiancée in the wreck of the *General Slocum*. He leaves turn-of-the-century New York and moves to Westchester, but he cannot escape murder. His investigation into a brutal homicide leads him to Columbia University's noted criminologist, Alistair Sinclair, and one of his subjects, Michael Fromley, who has a history of violent behavior and brutal fantasies. Is Michael behind the murder or is somebody copying?

**DOPE THIEF, Dennis Tafoya, Minotaur Books. \$24.95**

Ray and Manny are two friends who have a great scam going. Posing as federal agents, they target small-time drug dealers and confiscate money and drugs. But something as good as this can't last forever, and when they run into a guy who is willing to kill to get his money back, Ray wants out. But it won't be that easy.

**NEWS FROM THE U.K.****LIBRARY OF SHADOWS, Mikkel Birekegaard, Bantam Press.**

When Luca Campelli dies, his son Jon inherits his antiquarian bookshop. Unbeknownst to Jon, the bookshop has been hiding a remarkable secret for years. A must for bibliophiles.

**OSCAR WILDE & THE DEAD MAN'S SMILE, Gyles Brandreth. John Murray.**

Oscar Wilde is in Paris to rekindle his friendship with the divine Sarah Bernhardt. He also discovers murder at the La Grange Company run by Paris's most celebrated actor/manager, Edmond La Grange.

**THE SCARECROW, Michael Connelly, Orion.**

Yes! There is a U.K. edition. And it precedes the U.S.

**THE CASE OF THE MISSING SERVANT, Tarquin Hall, Hutchinson.**

Introduces Vish Puri, India's "most private investigator." This is bound to be compared with Alexander McCall Smith's Precious Ramotswe series.

**FAR CRY, John Harvey, Heinemann.**

A desperate phone call launches D.I. Will Grayson and D.S. Helen Walker into an investigation that will test their professional and emotional resources.

**MIDNIGHT FUGUE, Reginald Hill. HarperCollins.**

Dalziel and Pascoe investigate four different cases – and they have twenty-four hours to do so.

**BOOKS OF THE MONTH**

**Barnard, Robert, *The Killings on Jubilee Terrace*, Scribner. \$24.00.** A who-dunnit set in the world of long-running soap operas.

**Beckett, Simon, *Whispers of the Dead*, Delacorte. \$24.00.** A field of corpses laid out in a macabre display confounds forensic anthropologist David Hunter.

**Berry, Linda, *Death and the Crossed Wires*, Five Star. \$27.95.** A pastor is electrocuted at a baptism in a small town in Georgia.

**Bourne, Sam, *The Lost Testament*, Harper. \$25.95.** Someone is killing archaeologists and historians in a mystery rooted in the last unsolved riddle of the Bible.

**Cameron, Kenneth, *The Frightened Man*, Minotaur Books. \$24.95.** Successful writer Denton can't find anonymity even in the teeming London of 1900. When a terrified man tells him that

he's being pursued by long-gone Jack the Ripper, Denton dismisses him as one more lunatic. Then the mutilated body of a teenage prostitute is found.

**Cantrell, Rebecca, *A Trace of Smoke***, Forge. \$24.95. In the final days of Weimar Berlin, a female crime reporter searches for her cross-dressing brother's murderer.

**Clements, Rory, *Martyr***, Bantam. \$24.00. Introduces John Shakespeare, Elizabethan England's sleuth extraordinaire.

**Coelho, Paulo, *The Winner Stands Alone***, Harper. \$25.95. A Russian entrepreneur is driven to dark lengths to reclaim his love – now a star at the Cannes Film Festival.

**Davis, Lindsey, *Alexandria***, Minotaur Books. \$24.95. Marcus Didio Falco is vacationing in Alexandria when the librarian of the great library there is found dead. Set in the first century A.D.

**Depoy, Philip, *The King James Conspiracy***, St. Martin's Press. \$25.95. In 1605, a conspiracy of silence surrounding the Bible is revealed, as an unknown killer stalks the scholars working on the English translation for King James.

**Estleman, Loren D., *The Branch and the Scaffold***, Forge. \$24.95. A legal thriller frontier-style, featuring the notorious "hanging judge" Isaac C. Parker.

**Grippando, James, *Intent to Kill***, Harper. \$25.95. A former baseball star turned Boston radio sports personality must outwit a killer caller.

**Gouillou, Jan, *The Road to Jerusalem***, Harper. \$25.95. First in the Crusades Trilogy.

**Housewright, David, *Jelly's Gold***, Minotaur Books. \$24.95. Retired St. Paul policeman Rushmore McKenzie finds himself on a treasure hunt when he hears the story of missing stolen gold from the '30s.

**Johnson, Craig, *The Dark Horse***, Viking. \$24.95. Sheriff Walt Longmire investigates when his instincts tell him something isn't right about a prisoner accused of killing her husband.

**Khoury, Raymond, *The Sign***, Dutton. \$26.95. International mysterious occurrences seemingly caused by God himself.

**Leroy, Margaret, *Yes, My Darling Daughter***, Farrar, Straus, Giroux. \$25.00. A gothic thriller in which a young mother suspects that her daughter may be the reincarnation of a disturbed woman.

**Loomis, Jon, *Mating Season***, Minotaur Books. \$24.95. Frank Coffin, Provincetown detective, returns to investigate the stabbing of an heiress.

**Morris, Mary McGarry, *The Last Secret***, Shaye Areheart. \$25.00. A successful woman's life unravels when she discovers her husband's long-time affair.

**Palahniuk, Chuck, *Pygmy***. Doubleday. \$24.95. A group of teenage terrorists disguised as foreign-exchange students plot "Operation Havoc."

**Riggs, Cynthia, *Death and Honesty***, Minotaur Books. \$23.95. Victoria Trumbull of Martha's Vineyard discovers a neighbor's body in the home of one of the three town assessors.

**Wall, Kathryn R., *Covenant Hall***, Minotaur Books. \$24.95. P.I. Bay Tanner is hired by a young mother desperate to locate her estranged family. The ninth in this series set in South Carolina's Low country.

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