

I LOVE A MYSTERY®

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Upcoming Author Appearances

September 30th, 7:00 p.m.: Eleanor Sullivan Discussion/Signing

St. Louis author **Eleanor Sullivan**—who is the former dean of the K.U. School of Nursing—will discuss *Deadly Diversion*, her second medical mystery. *Deadly Diversion* and its predecessor, *Twice Dead*, feature Monika Everhardt, head nurse in the Intensive Care Unit at the fictitious St. Teresa's hospital in St. Louis.

“Eleanor Sullivan has constructed a medical mystery that rings with authenticity...However, this is not a book you want to read before going in for a hospital stay...but if you must go to a hospital, my advise is to stay the heck away from St. Teresa's!”—Edgar award-winning author, Aaron Elkins.

October 3rd, 2:00 p.m.: The Return of the Deadly Divas aka “Nice Women Who Write about Murder” Panel discussion/signing

Divas **Letha Albright**, **S. W. Hubbard**, **Susan McBride**, **Marcia Talley** and **Denise Swanson** are back for a return engagement, this time at the Central Resource Library, 9875 W. 87th Street. (**Lisa Kleinholz** is otherwise engaged on important diva business). Those of you who saw the Deadly Divas when they last honored us with their presence (divas can be so fickle) know that hilarity is the order of the day when these lovely ladies get together. Tiaras & boas optional.

October 4th, 7:00 p.m.: Margaret Maron Discussion/Signing

Margaret Maron is the author of ten Deborah Knott mysteries and eight Sigrid Harald books, as well as the recent standalone, *The Last Lessons of Summer* (Warner Brothers Publications, \$7.50). Her books have been nominated for every major award in the American mystery field. *Bootlegger's Daughter* (Mysterious Press, \$6.99), the first book to feature judge Deborah Knott, won the Edgar, the Anthony, the Agatha and the Macavity awards—making Maron the first author to win all four awards for a single book. In 2001, she won an unprecedented fourth Agatha Award for *Storm Track* (Warner Books, \$6.99). *High Country Fall* (Mysterious Press, \$24.00) is the most recent book in the Deborah Knott series.

Our Mission: We do our best to meet each customer's needs

Please let us know how we can best meet yours.

Mark Your Calendars

We're looking forward to visits from several other authors who will not be doing formal signings.
Call (913) 432-2583 for more information

October 5th, **Patricia Sprinkle** will drop by to sign her latest book, *When Will the Dead Lady Sing (Thoroughly Southern Mystery Series)* (Signet Book, \$5.99). Noonish.

October 17th, **Larry Karp** is coming by to sign *First, Do No Harm* (Poisoned Pen Press, \$24.95) (see Karen's staff picks). Also noonish; since this is a Sunday and the store won't actually be open, call ahead to let us know if you plan to stop by and meet Mr. Karp,

November 18th, 7:00 p.m., Kansas City author **Sally Goldenbaum** will be meeting with the 100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century Reading Group to discuss *Murders on Elderberry Road: A Queen Bees Quilt Mystery* (Kansas City Star Books, \$14.95) and her new book, *A Murder of Taste* (Kansas City Star Books).

New Signed Hardcover

On hand now:

Robert Andrews, **A Murder of Justice** (Putnam, \$24.95)
James Born, **Walking Money** (Putnam, \$23.95)*
C. J. Box, **Trophy Hunt** (Putnam, \$24.95)
G. W. Buffa, **Breach of Trust** (Putnam, \$24.95)
Barry Eisler, **Rain Storm** (Putnam, \$24.95)
Jasper Fforde, **Something Rotten** (Viking, \$24.95)
Carl Hiaasen, **Skinny Dip** (Knopf, \$24.95)
J. A. Jance, **Day of the Dead** (Wm. Morrow, \$23.95)
Chuck Logan, **After the Rain** (Harper Collins, \$24.95)
Amanda Quick, **The Paid Companion** (Putnam, \$24.95)
J.D. Robb, **Visions in Death** (Putnam, \$21.95)
Sarah Strohmeyer, **Bubbles A Broad** (Dutton, \$23.95)
Lono Waiwaiole, **Wiley's Lament** (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95)*
Lono Waiwaiole, **Wiley's Shuffle** (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$23.95)
Randy Wayne White, **Tampa Burn** (Putnam, \$24.95)
Brian Wiprud, **Pipsqueak** (Dell, \$6.99) (signed bookplate)

*First book

Reading Group News

New members welcome in all groups, but please call (913) 432-2583 to confirm date, time and scheduled book (in other words, everything's subject to change).

- **100 Favorite Mysteries of the Century Reading Group –October 21st & November 18th at 7 p.m. (third Thursday)**

Books scheduled for discussion: October—*One Corpse Too Many*, by Ellis Peters; November—Kansas City author Sally Goldenbaum will visit the group to discuss *Murders on Elderberry Road: A Queen Bees Quilt Mystery* (Kansas City Star Books, \$14.95) and her new book, *A Murder of Taste*.

- **Agatha Christie Reading Group**—usually meets on the fourth Monday of the month at 7:00. Call or ask at the store for details.

Notes and News

- ★ PBS Mystery series is currently showing new episodes of the Inspector Lynley Mysteries (based on the books by Elizabeth George).

- ★ Our customers sometimes ask about about interactive mystery experiences available in the area. Here's one that takes place aboard the **Midland Railway Mystery Train**. The Baldwin City Community Theatre and the Midland Railway present *The Curse of the Hopeless Diamond*. The dates are Friday – Sunday, September 24, 25 & 26, and October 1, 2 & 3, at 7:30 p.m. The cost is \$15 per passenger and advance reservations are advised. Trains depart from the Sante Fe Depot, 1515 W. High Street, Baldwin City, KS. For more info: (785) 594-7440, www.baldwintheater.com or www.midland-ry.org.

- ★ **NEW ENGLAND CRIME BAKE 2004**, Mystery Writers & Readers Conference, November 13 & 14, 2004. Holiday Inn, Tewksbury, Mass. Guest Speaker: Robert B. Parker; Toastmistress: Susan Conant. Opportunities for writers to have 5 minute, one-on-one meetings with editors and agents (first-come-first-served). For details and registration: www.crimebake.org or write to : NE Crimebake, P.O. Box 762, Foxboro, MA 02035.

- ★ **THE GREAT MANHATTAN MYSTERY CONCLAVE: A Golden Celebration of the “Small Town” Mystery**, October 1-3, 2004 in Manhattan, Kansas. Authors in include Jeanne Dams, Margaret Maron, Carolyn Wheat, Nancy Pickard, The Deadly Divas (Letha Albright, S.W. Hubbard, Susan McBride, and Denise Swanson). Cost: \$165.00. www.manhattanmysteries.com

- ★ **BOUCHERCON 2004**, Toronto, Ontario, Oct 7 - 10, 2004. Guests of Honor: Lindsey Davis, Jeremiah Healy, Peter Robinson. Toastmistress: Natasha Cooper. Fan Guest of Honor: Gary Warren Niebuhr. Registration: \$175. www.bouchercon2004.com

Did you pick up this Newsletter at the Store?

You can subscribe to the newsletter by email: send your request to news@iloveamystery.net. Or, join our Gold Dagger Club and have the newsletter delivered to your home. Get details at the store.

YOU (or your cat) COULD WIN!



Cold Case Files

You could win a trip to England!

In connection with the publication of *The Science of the Cold Case Files* (Berkley, \$14.00), the official guide to the A&E Network series, *Cold Case Files*, Berkley is partnering with A&E and Booksense on this exciting contest. The grand prize winner will receive a 7 day/6 night trip for two to the Harrogate Crime Writing Festival in Harrogate, England (held July 19-25, 2005). First and second prize winners will receive copies of the *Cold Case Files* PC CD-ROM game or the book, *The Science of the Cold Case Files*.

To enter, simply complete the online entry form at www.shopaetv.com/coldcase by October 6, 2004. No purchase necessary. One entry per person per email address per day. See official rules at the store or on the website.

Your Cat Could Win

This just in from HarperCollins Publishers:

IS YOUR CAT A CHARACTER? MAKE HIM A PART OF THE NEXT JOE GREY MYSTERY!

Joe Grey, Dulcie, and Kit have graced the pages of Shirley Rousseau Murphy's Joe Grey series for years. Would your cat like to join them? There will be three guest appearances for three readers' cats in Joe Grey's next adventure! If you would like to see your cat make a guest appearance, please send a one-page description of your cat, including his or her name, features, and personality to mystery@harpercollins.com. Three cats will be drawn at random, from all entries to make "cameo" appearances in *CAT BREAKING FREE*, coming in hardcover in Winter 2006. All entries must be received by March 1, 2005. Cat owner must be 18 or over. All winners will be notified by e-mail. No purchase necessary. (By sending in your entry to HarperCollins you agree that your name will be added to the mailing list for the monthly "Scene of the Crime" newsletter. Your email address WILL NOT be used for any other purposes.)

Mud Pies & Sweet Dreams

Music for Kids of All Ages

In the last newsletter, we recommended the **Philadelphia Chickens** CD; this time we're raving about Christy Simpson's **Mud Pies & Sweet Dreams: Music for Kids of All Ages** (\$12.95). I don't know what this says about our maturity level at the store, except that we love these CDs with their clever lyrics, snappy tunes and engaging performances. Some favorite tracks from **Mud Pies & Sweet Dreams**: "They've Put a Brassiere on the Camel", "Waltzing with Bears" and "Magic Muffin Dance". Christy has generously agreed to donate all proceeds from the sale of her CD to **Turning Point: the Center for Hope and Healing**, a nonprofit devoted to educational, psychological, social and emotional support for individuals with cancer or other serious diseases.

**Do you have family and friends across the country?
BOOK SENSE GIFT CARDS MAKE GREAT GIFTS.
They're honored at independent bookstores across America!**

Staff Picks

Karen's Staff Picks—

★ *Darkly Dreaming Dexter*, by Jeff Lindsay (Doubleday, \$22.95). *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* is a dark, delicious, dream of a black comedy. And who could help but love Dexter Morgan-- he's handsome, he's witty, he looks out for his cop sister, he does his best to live up to his late father's expectations that he only kill bad people... The oxymoronic Dexter is that rarest of fictional criminals, a lovable serial killer. So--if you like serial killer thrillers, you'll love Dexter. If you don't like serial killer characters (which I generally don't), trust me, Dexter is different. (Just don't let the first chapter scare you away.) If, however, you only read cozies, you may not like this book. By the way, our staff all loved Dexter.

★ *A Question of Blood*, by Ian Rankin (Little Brown, \$22.95). Edinburg policeman John Rebus returns in the 14th mystery by the #1 bestselling mystery writer in the UK. This time, Rebus is himself under suspicion of murder; after a petty criminal who has been stalking Rebus' partner dies in a suspicious house fire, the cantankerous Detective Inspector turns up with serious burns on both hands. Even while suspended from duty, Rebus manages to help a fellow officer investigate an apparent open-and-shut case. There's no question about who shot two students in an exclusive Edinburgh school; after all, the gunman—a reclusive former soldier—ultimately turned the gun

on himself. The mystery that Rebus can't ignore is why he did it. *A Question of Blood* is another satisfying entry in this excellent series (sure to appeal to fans of Colin Dexter and Reginald Hill).

★ *Backstabber*, by Tim Cockey (Hyperion, \$21.95). Can we say, “implausible coincidences”? You betcha. Do we care? Nope. The plot is not what draws me to Tim Cockey's series about an endearing Baltimore undertaker. I mean, while we're talking implausible, Hitchcock Sewell is an undertaker who solves murders, right? What does make me love these light, funny mysteries is the intelligent writing, the witty banter between Hitch and his beautiful ex-wife Julia (does Tim Cockey really talk that way?) and the truly nice main characters with their obvious affection and respect for each other (besides Hitch and Julia, there's Hitch's aunt and business partner, Billie).

★ *The Blackbird Papers*, by Ian Smith (Doubleday, \$24.95). When the body of renowned Dartmouth professor Wilson Bledsoe is discovered with a racial epithet carved in his chest, local authorities are ready to classify the case as a hate crime. However, the victim's brother, FBI agent Sterling Bledsoe, is convinced that the motive for Wilson's murder is tied to his research on the mysterious death of hundreds of local blackbirds. In spite of some plot problems, this intelligently written debut novel grabbed my attention at the beginning and never let up.

I'll be looking forward to more from Ian Smith.

★ *Pipsqueak*, by Brian Wiprud (Dell, \$6.99). Wiprud's second book is an outlandish tale about a taxidermist on the trail of his own personal holy grail: the original Pipsqueak the Nutty Nut, a stuffed-squirrel puppet, and star of his favorite 1950s kiddie TV show. Throw in a couple of murders and some zoot-suiters involved in a goofy retro conspiracy plot, and you've got a wacky, hilarious mystery. *Pipsqueak* is nutty good fun.

★ *The Surrogate Thief*, by Archer Mayor (Mysterious Press, \$24.95). **OCTOBER RELEASE.** Veteran Vermont cop Joe Gunther returns in the 16th book in this classic crime series. When the gun used in a deadly standoff turns out to be the missing murder weapon from a thirty year old cold case, Gunther is forced to revisit his own past and re-open some old wounds. As a young detective, he had been assigned to investigate the beating and robbery of Klaus Oberfeldt, an unpopular local grocery store owner. When Oberfeldt died six months later, never having regained consciousness, no one except his wife really mourned his passing. Distracted by his own wife's losing battle with cancer, Gunther never solved the case. Now Gunther's desire to seek justice for the Oberfeldts is tempered by his reluctance to relive the devastating death of his young wife.

Staff Picks (cont'd)

★ *Good Morning, Midnight*, by Reginald Hill (Harper Collins, \$24.95). **OCTOBER RELEASE.** For those literary snobs who disdain detective fiction, I quote Reginald Hill's fictional Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel, "Don't by daft!" Deservedly called the "sorcerer of style" by the New York Times Book Review, Hill writes with an intelligence and wit that make him, in my opinion, possibly the best crime writer of our day. Only fellow British author Jill McGown comes close to Reginald Hill's ability to keep a series fresh by varying the plot structure with each book. *Good Morning, Midnight* is based on the classic locked-room mystery convention, with a twist. D. I. Peter Pascoe finds himself investigating the apparent suicide of Pal McGiver, found dead in a locked room in his family's Yorkshire estate. The death is an exact re-enactment of the suicide of Pal's father, the elder Pal McGiver, ten years before, right down to the book of Emily Dickinson poems found at the scene. Can there be any doubt that the gunshot wound was self-inflicted? Superintendent Dalziel, who investigated the earlier death, is satisfied. Pascoe, however, is concerned about his superior officer's objectivity, especially given the cozy relationship that Dalziel seems to enjoy with the elder Pal's widow.

★ *First, Do No Harm*, by Larry Karp (Poisoned Pen Press, \$24.95). **OCTOBER RELEASE.** When Martin Firestone decides to go to medical school, he can't understand why his famous father, painter Leo Firestone, is so violently opposed to the idea. In a last-ditch effort to make Martin change his mind, Leo decides to tell the story of the

summer of 1943, the year that he worked as extern for his own father, Dr. Samuel Firestone. Dr. Firestone was idolized in his small city of Hobart, NJ, but his son Leo sees the dark side of his practice: illegal abortions, illegal drugs, illegal adoptions. When Leo has finished recounting the tragic events of that summer, which culminated with a murder, Martin is certain that there are some dark secrets that have yet to be uncovered. More coming-of-age story than traditional mystery, this is a gripping story of a father and his adult son who reach a new level of understanding.

★ Karen's Quick Picks ★

★ *The First Cut*, by Peter Robinson (Harper Collins, \$13.95). Although this stand-alone was first published in Canada in 1990 under the name *Caedmon's Song*, this trade paperback edition is the book's first U.S. appearance. I initially resisted reading this psychological thriller when I realized that it didn't feature Robinson's series character, Alan Banks. I needn't have worried, though; *The First Cut*, although very different from the Banks books, is nevertheless just as compelling and well-written

I also enjoyed—

Skinny Dip, by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf, \$24.95)—see Maggie's staff pick; *Just One Look*, by Harlan Coben (Dutton Books, \$25.95); *Darkness Falls*, by Margaret Murphy (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95); *The Coffin Trail*, by Martin Edwards (Poisoned Pen Press, \$24.95); *While I Disappear*, by Edward Wright, (G.P. Putnam's Sons, \$24.95); *Pale as the Dead*, by Fiona Mountain (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$24.95); *Full Dark*

House, by Christopher Fowler (Bantam Books, \$24.00); *The Sterling Inheritance*, by Mike Silverling (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$23.95); *Wiley's Shuffle* (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$23.95); *The Armada Boy*, by Kate Ellis (St. Martin's Minotaur, \$22.95)

Linda's Staff Picks—

★ *The Voice of the Violin*, by Andrea Camilleri (Penguin Books, \$11.00). Camilleri is a popular Italian writer whose books featuring Inspector Salvo Montalbano have recently been translated into English. Welcome to sunny Sicily! With Camilleri, you can taste the great food and hear the ocean. The Inspector is in charge of a police station full of great characters, all fearlessly fumbling after their leader. In *Voice of the Violin*, a very beautiful woman is found murdered in the house she was renovating, and Montalbano winds his way among admirers, lovers and an indifferent husband as he solves the case. This is the fourth book in a series featuring the Inspector, who made his first appearance in *The Snack Thief*. This series is a wonderful trip to Italy,

Maggie's Staff Picks—

By A Spider's Thread, by Laura Lippman (William Morrow, \$24.95). This book is set in Baltimore and is the latest in a series involving a female P.I., Tess Monaghan. I had been taking a break from female P.I.s (except for Evanovich's Stephanie Plum, of course) but gave it a shot anyway. I was pleasantly surprised. Although it started out slowly, the story picked up quickly and kept a fast pace right to the end. It involves a man whose wife and three children disappear, apparently

Staff Picks (cont'd)

voluntarily, leaving him with no idea how or why they left. In fact, it's not a typical mystery in that it involves "why" more than "who." The characters are interesting and the dialogue is believable. Lippman has a real talent for suspense. It's not too bloody or too tame for my taste, just a really good read. Fans of Sue Grafton, Edna Buchanan, Sara Paretsky and even Janet Evanovich would like Laura Lippman.

★ *Darkly Dreaming Dexter* by Jeff Lindsay (Doubleday, \$22.95). This book is about a serial killer and since I had little desire to read a humorous mystery about a serial killer, I almost passed it by. Karen talked me into it, and I'm glad she did. This is a terrific story and Dexter is one funny guy. He has some bad habits, like killing people, but somehow that's okay. And Jeff Lindsey is as good at creating suspense as he is at humor. The short but eventful chapters, combined with interesting characters and clever dialogue, make it difficult to find a stopping point in this book. So I didn't. I ended up reading it all in one sitting. It's a fun book and a wonderful first effort. Don't let the serial killer idea put you off or you will be missing a good thing. Readers who like Donald Westlake, Lawrence Sanders, Tim Dorsey, and/or Carl Hiaasen will like Jeff Lindsey.

★ *Skinny Dip*, by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf, \$24.95). This book is hilarious! I had not yet read Hiaasen's books and probably wouldn't have read this one had it not received so many rave reviews. The dialogue and characters in *Skinny Dip* grabbed me from the first page, after which I rarely put it

down until I finished it. The story line involves a man who gives his wife a Caribbean cruise for their second wedding anniversary, then murders her by tossing her overboard on the last day of the cruise. As you may have guessed, the murder didn't exactly go as planned and it just keeps getting funnier as the plot evolves. Now I have to go back and read the whole Hiassen backlist... If you like Elmore Leonard, Tim Dorsey or even Janet Evanovich, you should enjoy *Skinny Dip*.

Becci's Staff Picks—

★ *High Country Fall*, by Margaret Maron (Mysterious Press, \$24.00). When Judge Deborah Knott agrees to fill in for a vacationing judge in Cedar Gap, she becomes embroiled in several murder cases. The mountains are beautiful with the fall foliage, but the beauty is overshadowed by the two murders in town. Deborah begins asking questions and is quickly in the mist of the investigations. This was a very enjoyable read with interesting characters and a very appealing location.

★ *Shoulder the Sky* by Anne Perry (Ballantine, \$25.95) (DUE SEPTEMBER 28TH). This is the second book in Anne Perry's World War I series (a departure from her better known Monk and Pitt characters). I admit to ignorance about the war, but I felt this book was not only a good story but a little history lesson told from the British perspective. This was a grisly time in warfare and I think Anne Perry was able to write the feel, the smell and the sounds into the story. She wrote her views about war very eloquently. When a rogue reporter is found dead in "no man's land" between the trenches,

the search begins to find the killer. Is it one of the Englishmen or one of the enemy?

★ *Blood Is the Sky* by Steve Hamilton (St. Martin's, \$6.99). The Alex McKnight stories are one of my favorite mystery series. Alex McKnight is a good man trying to re-enter the world after being shot years ago while working as a policeman. He now runs a small motel which offers cabins to north woods hunters. In this book, Alex's good friend Vinnie lends his identification to his ex-con brother. This allows the Ojibwa Indian to cross the border, taking a group of hunters into the Canadian backwoods on a lucrative scouting/hunting job. When the party is late returning from Canada, Alex and Vinnie set out to find them. Families, friendships and location all play an important part in this story.

★ Becci's Quick Picks ★

★ *Skinny Dip*, by Carl Hiaasen (Knopf, \$24.95). What could I say about this book that hasn't already been said? A man throws his wife off the back of a cruise ship on their second anniversary. She survives and the story begins. This is my first Hiassen book but I plan to go back and read the others. I enjoyed every page of this book.

Janis's Staff Picks—

★ *Ten Big Ones*, by Janet Evanovich (St. Martin's Press, \$25.95). The tenth book in this series finds bounty hunter Stephanie Plum and her ex-hooker buddy Lula--as usual--in the wrong place at the wrong time. After they witness a robbery which leads to an explosion, Stephanie is forced to go on the run.. Ranger is still as mysterious as ever (maybe even

Staff Picks (cont'd)

more so), there's big-time tension with Joe Morelli, and not surprisingly, yet another car is destroyed. *Ten Big Ones* is as humorous and as much fun as previous Stephanie Plum books; it will keep you laughing and wanting more.

★ *Deception on all Accounts* by Sara Sue Hoklotubbe, (University of Arizona Press, \$14.95). Sadie Walela's life is turned upside down when she unlocks the door and enters the Mercury Savings bank where she works. A robber, who has been waiting for her, steals money and then kills a coworker. A series of events throws suspicion on Sadie, so she sets out to clear her name. Sadie is part Cherokee trying to adapt to the white man's world. This is a suspenseful mystery with interesting facts about the Cherokee culture in Oklahoma. A great read!

★ *Pasta Imperfect*, by Maddy Hunter (Pocket, \$6.50). Emily Andrew (tour guide) is off on another trip with the seniors from her hometown in Iowa; this time they're booked for their tour of Italy with a group of wannabe authors of romance novels. Of course Emily's luggage is lost, their first hotel burns to the ground, and several fatal accidents happen to the group, but hey, this is a resourceful group from Iowa. This book is as funny and endearing as Maddy Hunter's first two books: *Alpine for You* and *Top O' the Mournin'*. All three books will make you smile for weeks, so don't miss a single one!

★ *Department Thirty*, by David Kent (Pocket Star, \$6.99). College student Ryan Elder's life falls apart when his parents commit double suicide. For the next seven years,

their strange behavior before the suicide haunts him—until one day when he receives an envelope in the mail, written in his mother's hand. It contains a only phone number and the words "Department Thirty". Elder goes back to his boyhood home in Oklahoma City to try to unravel the mystery of the message and the reason for his parents' suicide. Along the way, he becomes involved in betrayals, mysterious government agencies, deception and terror. This debut conspiracy thriller by David Kent grabs you and holds on until the very end. You won't want to put it down!

★ Janis's Quick Picks ★

★ *White Russian*, by Tom Bradby (Doubleday, \$25.00). This fascinating story takes place in 1917, when Sandro Ruzsky, the city's chief police investigator, returns to St. Petersburg from exile in Siberia and is assigned the case of the murder of a young couple found on the ice of the frozen river just outside the Tsar's Winter Palace. An excellent read!

★ *Shakespeare's Trollop*, by Charlaine Harris (Prime Crime, \$5.99). Lily Bard moves to Shakespeare, Arkansas to try and forget her past but when she accidentally keeps discovering dead bodies, she resolves to try to find out why.

★ *The Cat Who Brought Down the House*, by Lilian Jackson Braun. (Jove Books, \$6.99). Eccentric Thelma Thackeray returns to Moose County after having lived in Hollywood for 55 years, which gives local residents lots of reason to speculate about why she moved back. Of course a murder takes place, and Quill and

his two cats are on the case. A fun cozy.

★ *Perhaps She'll Die*, by M. K. Preston. (Intrigue Press, \$13.00). This first book in the series finds Chantalene Morrell returning to her childhood home to investigate why her father was hanged 12 years earlier and to find out who was responsible. Haunting memories return as she searches for answers. Super read!

Caitlin's Staff Picks—

Hissy Fit, by Mary Kay Andrews (HarperCollins, \$24.95). In this delightful novel of scandal and secrets, Mary Kay Andrews spins her tale of soon-to-be-wed interior designer Keeley Murdock. When Keeley discovers her fiancé and her best friend in a compromising position at the country club rehearsal dinner, she naturally throws a huge hissy fit in front of all of the guests and calls the wedding off. Soon, Keeley is facing financial disaster as a result of pressure from her former fiancé's family. To save her failing business, Keeley accepts a crazy commission from newcomer Will Mahoney. Keeley's assignment: decorate Will's newly acquired antebellum mansion, so the woman he loves—whom he has never met—will fall in love with him. Along the way, Keeley discovers secrets about the mother who left when she was a child, as well as secrets about plenty of other people in Madison, Georgia. This is a wonderful story that will keep you turning the pages, with plenty of humor and just the right amount of romance. (Mary Kay Andrews is the pseudonym of Kathy Trocheck, author of the Callahan Garrity mystery series.)

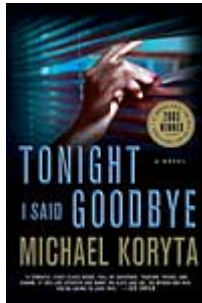
Our Customers Recommend

Oops—no recommendations for this issue. Won't you help?

We're always looking for customer recommendations that we can use in our newsletter and on our web-site. Each month, we will give away a free \$10.00 **I LOVE A MYSTERY**[®] gift certificate to one of the customers who submits a recommendation. Here are the rules: the books you recommend must be in print and the recommendations must be on the form we provide, which can be obtained at the store or by emailing news@iloveamystery.net.

Minotaur First Edition Selections from St. Martin's Press

Tonight I Said Goodbye, by Michael Koryta (\$21.95)



Investigator Wayne Weston is found dead in his upscale Cleveland home, an apparent suicide, and his wife and six-year-old daughter are missing. But Weston's elderly father knows something is wrong with this scenario. He insists that P.I. Lincoln Perry and his partner, Joe Pritchard, take the case to exonerate his son and find his granddaughter and daughter-in-law. Soon Perry finds himself warned off the investigation by a millionaire real estate tycoon as well as the FBI. That's when he finds the little girl's diary, with its enigmatic last line: "Tonight I said goodby."

Michael Koryta lives in Bloomington, Indiana. While in high school he began to work both for a private investigator and for the local newspaper, and he still has those jobs. He hopes to complete his degree at Indiana University in 2005. Michael Koryta is the winner of the 2003 St. Martin's Press/Private Eye Writers of America Prize for Best First Private Eye Novel. He is twenty-one years old.

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Skin River, by Steven Sidor (\$23.95)

Skin River is the story of Buddy Bayes, a man with a shadowy past trying desperately for a second chance at a peaceful life as a tavern owner in small-town Gunnar, Wisconsin. Buddy has traded his connections in the Chicago underworld for the loose friendship of an assortment of locals who frequent his bar. Before long, with the help of a young single mother who works for him as a waitress, Buddy starts to trust that he's lost himself in exactly the kind of new life he'd imagined.



His hopes for a clean start are shattered, however, when he finds the severed hand of a missing college student and falls headlong into a harrowing situation which has Buddy convinced that his past has come back to haunt him.

Steven Sidor lives near Chicago, Illinois, with his wife and two young children. ***Skin River*** is his first novel.

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Minotaur First Edition Selections (cont'd.)

Bahamarama, by Bob Morris (\$21.95).



Two years in a Florida federal prison on bogus charges has made former Miami Dolphins linebacker Zack Chasteen stir crazy. The first step toward getting his life back together is meeting up with his beautiful magazine mogul girlfriend, Barbara, on Harbor Island in the Bahamas. But making it out of Florida proves to be more trouble than a gator with a toothache--and even deadlier. Zack barely leaves the state alive before he discovers Barbara's been kidnapped and her ex-lover, a photographer, murdered.

Once again trouble has come knocking on Zack's door. But this time he's fighting back, with the help of a Royal Bahamian police superintendent, his trusted mystical Taino Indian friend Boggy, and a cast of the most colorful characters ever to step into the Bahama sun.

Bob Morris is well known throughout Florida and the Southeast through his work in newspapers, magazines and television. He is currently at work on his next novel, *Jamaica Me Dead*. He lives in Winter Park, Florida.

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Scared Money, by James Hime (\$22.95)



On the same day that ex-Texas Ranger Jeremiah Spur reluctantly agrees to do the CIA a favor on a missing persons case, Deputy Sheriff Clyde Thomas begins investigating the shooting deaths of a Texas drug dealer and his girlfriend. It seems unlikely that Captain Spur's case—a city slicker accountant gone missing with \$10 million of his boss's money—and Deputy Thomas's case—a likely drug gang territory battle—are related. But in all things criminal, even in a sleepy place like Washington County, Texas, things are rarely what they seem.

Scared Money is the second book to feature Jeremiah and Clyde, after James Hime's acclaimed first novel, *The Night of the Dance*, which was a finalist for the Edgar Award for best first novel of the year.

Born in Arkansas, **James Hime** lives in Houston, Texas, where he and his wife raised two sons and now live with their golden retriever.

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