



THE BOOK NOOK

More serious books in our library collection next time around, but surely summer is for recreation, books which play a part in everybody's lifelong love of reading and of beach-chair exploration, whether at pool-, ocean-, or lakeside, started long ago. Fun of sorts, and enrichment in lots of intangible ways. Travel to various far-away places without having to buy tickets or to stand in passport lines.

Tova Mirvis, *Visible City* (hb fiction) - New York City

"An intimate and provocative novel about three couples whose paths intersect in their New York City neighborhood, forcing them all to weigh the comfort of stability against the costs of change. Nina is a harried young mother who spends her evenings spying on the older couple across the street through her son's Fisher-Price binoculars. She is drawn to their quiet contentment—reading on the couch, massaging each other's feet—so unlike her own lonely, chaotic world of nursing and soothing and simply getting by. One night, through that same window, she spies a young couple in the throes of passion. Who are these people, and what happened to her symbol of domestic bliss? In the coming weeks, Nina encounters the older couple, Leon and Claudia, their daughter Emma and her fiancé, and many others on the streets of her Upper West Side neighborhood, eroding the safe distance of her secret vigils. Soon anonymity gives way to different—and sometimes dangerous—forms of intimacy, and Nina and her neighbors each begin to question their own paths.

With enormous empathy and a keen observational eye, Tova Mirvis introduces a constellation of characters we all know: twenty-somethings unsure about commitments they haven't yet made; thirty-somethings unsure about the ones they have; and sixty-somethings whose empty nest causes all sorts of doubt. *Visible City* invites us to examine those all-important forks in the road, and the conflict between desire and loyalty."

Kate Morton, *The Distant Hours* (hb fiction) - Kent, England

"A haunting tale of long-buried secrets and the twists of fate that can alter lives forever."

"This enthralling romantic thriller pays homage to the classics of gothic fiction, spinning a rich and intricate web of mystery, suspense, and lost love.

It starts with a letter, lost for half a century and unexpectedly delivered to Edie's mother on a Sunday afternoon. The letter leads Edie to Milderhurst Castle, where the eccentric Blythe spinsters live and where, she discovers, her mother was billeted during World War II. The elder Blythe sisters are twins and have spent most of their lives caring for their younger sister, Juniper, who hasn't been the same since her fiancé jilted her in 1941. Inside the decaying castle, Edie searches for her mother's past but soon learns there are other secrets hidden in its walls. The truth of what happened in 'the distant hours' has been waiting a long time for someone to find it."

Jojo Moyes, *The Horse Dancer* (hb fiction) - London, England and Saumur, France

A novel about a lost girl and her horse, the enduring strength of friendship, and how even the smallest choices can change everything.

"When Sarah's grandfather gives her a beautiful horse named Boo—hoping that one day she'll follow in his footsteps to join an elite French riding school, away from their gritty London neighborhood—she quietly trains in the city's parks and alleys. But then her grandfather falls ill, and Sarah must juggle horsemanship with school and hospital visits.

Natasha, a young lawyer, is reeling after her failed marriage: her professional judgment is being questioned, her new boyfriend is a let-down, and she's forced to share her house with her charismatic ex-husband. Yet when the willful fourteen-year-old Sarah lands in her path, Natasha decides to take the girl under her wing.

But Sarah is keeping a secret—a secret that will change the lives of everyone involved forever."

Kate Atkinson, *A God in Ruins* (hb fiction) - England, during & after WWII

This stunning companion to Kate Atkinson's #1 bestseller *Life After Life*, "one of the best novels I've read this century" (Gillian Flynn), follows Ursula's brother Teddy as he navigates an unknown future after a perilous war.

"He had been reconciled to death during the war and then suddenly the war was over and there was a next day and a next day. Part of him never adjusted to having a future."

"Kate Atkinson's dazzling *Life After Life* explored the possibility of infinite chances and the power of choices, following Ursula Todd as she lived through the turbulent events of the last century over and over again. *A God in Ruins* tells the dramatic story of the 20th Century through Ursula's beloved younger brother Teddy—would-be poet, heroic pilot, husband, father, and grandfather—as he navigates the perils and progress of a rapidly changing world.

After all that Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge is living in a future he never expected to have. An ingenious and moving exploration of one ordinary man's path through extraordinary times, *A God in Ruins* proves once again that Kate Atkinson is one of the finest novelists of our age."

Jussi Adler-Olsen, *The Absent One* (hb mystery/thriller) - Copenhagen, Denmark

Copenhagen's Detective Carl Mørck is back and ready for action in the second Department Q novel from the "new 'it' boy of Nordic Noir" (*The Times*, London).

"Carl Mørck has settled into Department Q and is ready to take on another cold case. This time, it's the brutal double-murder of a brother and sister two decades earlier. One of the suspects confessed and is serving time, but it's clear to Mørck that all is not what it seems. Kimmie, a homeless woman with secrets involving certain powerful individuals, could hold the key—if Mørck can track her down before they do . . ."

Emily Arsinault, *The Broken Teaglass* (hb mystery/thriller) - Claxton, Massachusetts

"The dusty files of a venerable dictionary publisher . . . a hidden cache of coded clues . . . a story written by a phantom author . . . an unsolved murder in a gritty urban park—all

collide memorably in Emily Arsenault's magnificent debut, at once a teasing literary puzzle, an ingenious suspense novel, and an exploration of definitions: of words, of who we are, and of the stories we choose to define us.

In the maze of cubicles at Samuelson Company, editors toil away in silence, studying the English language, poring over new expressions and freshly coined words—all in preparation for the next new edition of the Samuelson Dictionary. Among them is editorial assistant Billy Webb, just out of college, struggling to stay awake and appear competent. But there are a few distractions. His intriguing coworker Mona Minot may or may not be flirting with him. And he's starting to sense something suspicious going on beneath this company's academic facade.

Mona has just made a startling discovery: a trove of puzzling citations, all taken from the same book, *The Broken Teaglass*. Billy and Mona soon learn that no such book exists. And the quotations from it are far too long, twisting, and bizarre for any dictionary. They read like a confessional, coyly hinting at a hidden identity, a secret liaison, a crime. As Billy and Mona ransack the office files, a chilling story begins to emerge: a story about a lonely young woman, a long-unsolved mystery, a moment of shattering violence. And as they piece together its fragments, the puzzle begins to take on bigger personal meaning for both of them, compelling them to redefine their notions of themselves and each other.

Charged with wit and intelligence, set against a sweetly cautious love story, this is a tale that will delight lovers of words, lovers of mysteries, and fans of smart, funny, brilliantly inventive fiction."

Kate Atkinson, *Started Early, Took My Dog* (hb mystery/thriller) - Yorkshire, England
(fourth of five in Jackson Brodie series)

"Tracy Waterhouse leads a quiet, ordered life as a retired police detective—a life that takes a surprising turn when she encounters Kelly Cross, a habitual offender, dragging a young child through town. Both appear miserable and better off without each other—or so decides Tracy, in a snap decision that surprises herself as much as Kelly. Suddenly burdened with a small child, Tracy soon learns her parental inexperience is actually the least of her problems, as much larger ones loom for her and her young charge. Meanwhile, Jackson Brodie, the beloved detective of novels such as *Case Histories*, is embarking on a different sort of rescue: that of an abused dog. Dog in tow, Jackson is about to learn, along with Tracy, that no good deed goes unpunished.

As the novel opens, Jackson is searching not only for the 'lost pastoral England that was lodged in his head and his heart,' but for the 'fake wife' who absconded with his fortune and the real parents of his current client, adoptee Hope McMaster, who appears to have sprung from nowhere. This quest leads him on a pleasurable travelogue around Yorkshire's ruined abbeys and genteel tea shops, and thence to Leeds. Jackson's investigations—and other investigations he doesn't know about yet—disturb a long-buried crime from the 1970s: a murdered prostitute, a missing child, a police cover-up.

"Also in Jackson and Tracy's orbit is ageing actress Tilly, who with her slipping wig and handbag full of knives and forks is beginning to lose herself to dementia and, worst of all, to lose language ('all her words turning into mush . . .'). The book's scheme folds past and present together with Atkinson's customary flair, while in Tilly's mind the two

coalesce, her memories running into the present like ink. Senility is a remembering as well as a forgetting—a career's worth of lines, fragments of poetry and prose, rising unbidden in her brain.”

Jean-Luc Bannalec - Brittany, France

“Francophiles and art lovers will welcome Bannalec’s good old-fashioned detective stories set in Brittany ... Bannelec excels at plotting and pacing, as well as vivid descriptions of the Finistère countryside.” —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

Jean-Luc Bannalec, *Death in Brittany* (pbk mystery/thriller)

(first in series of nine)

“A delectable read, Jean-Luc Bannalec's *Death in Brittany* transports readers to the French coast, where you can practically smell the sea air and taste the perfectly cooked *steak frites* in an expertly crafted, page-turning mystery. The local village of Pont-Aven—a sleepy community by the sea where everyone knows one other and nothing much seems to happen—is in shock. The legendary ninety-one-year-old hotelier Pierre-Louis Pennec, owner of the Central Hotel, has been found dead. A picture-perfect seaside village that played host to Gauguin in the nineteenth century, Pont-Aven is at the height of its tourist season and is immediately thrown into uproar. As Dupin delves into the lives of the victim and the suspects, he uncovers a web of secrecy and silence that belies the village's quaint image.”

Jean-Luc Bannalec, *The Fleur-de-Sel Murders* (pbk mystery/thriller)

(third in series of nine)

“The old salt farmers have always said that the violet scent of the Fleur de Sel at harvest time on the salt marshes of the Guerande Peninsula has been known to cause hallucinations. Commissaire Dupin also starts to believe this when he's attacked out of the blue in the salt works. He had actually been looking forward to escaping his endless paperwork and taking a trip to the ‘white country’ between the raging Atlantic Ocean and idyllic rivers. But when he starts snooping around mysterious barrels on behalf of Lilou Breval, a journalist friend, he finds himself unexpectedly under attack. The offender remains a mystery, and a short time later, Breval disappears without a trace. It is thanks to his secretary Nolwenn and the ambition of the prefect that Dupin is assigned to the case. But he won't be working alone, because Sylvaine Rose is the investigator responsible for the department—and she lives up to her name. . . . What's going on in the salt works? Dupin and Rose search feverishly for clues and stumble upon false alibis, massive conflicts of interest, personal feuds—and ancient Breton legends.”

(continued)

Jean-Luc Bannalec, *The Granite Coast Murders* (hb mystery/thriller)

(sixth in series of nine)

"Commissaire Dupin returns to investigate a murder at a gorgeous Brittany beach resort.

Inspector Dupin and Claire are on a two-week vacation, but while Claire seems to enjoy the quiet of the beach, Commissaire Dupin takes every opportunity to leave the beach towel. The fabulous dinners on the hotel patio and the rumors about a stolen statue of a saint are the few interesting moments of his days on vacation. But then a tourist vanishes without trace, and there's an attack on a deputy to the local assembly, who is involved in confrontations with local farmers. Shortly after that, the Brittany beach resort is shocked by the discovery of a corpse. Dupin clandestinely begins to investigate with the help of the local villagers, something he must keep a secret from Claire and his colleagues in Concarneau. Between bewitched valleys and beautiful beaches, an unfathomable case develops."

Jean-Luc Bannalec, *The King Arthur Case* (hb mystery/thriller)

(seventh in series of nine)

"The forest of Broceliande, with its picturesque lakes and castles, is the last remnant of the fairy kingdom, if Breton lore is to be believed. Innumerable legends spanning thousands of years are set here, including the tale of King Arthur and the Round Table.

It seems to be an appropriate destination for Commissaire Dupin and his team to take a late summer field trip. But when the body of a historian turns up, Dupin is called upon to investigate in the brutal murder case. Before too long, there are more victims. What knowledge do the assembled scientists have about the most recent archaeological digs in the area? Where do they stand on the controversial decision to turn parts of the forest into an amusement park? And why is no one willing to talk? Even Nolwenn, Dupin's unshakeable assistant, is concerned. And that means trouble.

Mysterious, ingenious, and suspenseful: Dupin's seventh case takes him and his team into the very heart of Brittany."

Zoe Ferraris, *Finding Nouf* (hb mystery/thriller) - Saudi Arabia

"Fast-paced and utterly transporting, *Finding Nouf* is a riveting literary mystery and an unprecedented window into the lives of men and women in Saudi Arabia.

When sixteen-year-old Nouf goes missing, her prominent family calls on Nayir al-Sharqi, a pious desert guide, to lead the search party. Ten days later, just as Nayir is about to give up in frustration, her body is discovered by anonymous desert travelers. But when the coroner's office determines that Nouf died not of dehydration but from drowning, and her family seems suspiciously uninterested in getting at the truth, Nayir takes it upon himself to find out what really happened. He quickly realizes that if he wants to gain access to the hidden world of women, he will have to join forces with Katya Hijazi, a lab worker at the coroner's office who is bold enough to bare her face and to work in public. Their partnership challenges Nayir and forces him to reconcile his desire for female companionship within the parameters imposed by his beliefs."

Keigo Higashino, *A Death in Tokyo* (hb mystery/thriller) - Tokyo, Japan

(The Kyoichiro Kaga Series, Book 3)

"In the Nihonbashi district of Tokyo an unusual statue of a Japanese mythic beast—a *kirin*—stands guard over the district from the classic Nihonbashi bridge. In the evening, a man who appears to be very drunk staggers onto the bridge and collapses right under the statue of the winged beast. The patrolman who sees this scene unfold, goes to rouse the man, only to discover that the man was not passed out, he was dead; that he was not drunk, he was stabbed in the chest. However, where he died was not where the crime was committed—the key to solving the crime is to find out where he was attacked and why he made such a super human effort to carry himself to the Nihonbashi Bridge. That same night, a young man named Yashima is injured in a car accident while attempting to flee from the police. Found on him is the wallet of the murdered man.

Tokyo Police Detective Kyoichiro Kaga is assigned to the team investigating the murder—and must bring his skills to bear to uncover what actually happened that night on the Nihonbashi bridge. What, if any, connection is there between the murdered man and Yashima, the young man caught with his wallet? Kaga's investigation takes him down dark roads and into the unknown past to uncover what really happened and why."

Reginald Hill - Yorkshire, England

"One of England's most innovative and erudite mystery writers. . . . When it comes to challenging the mind, a Hill novel is better than Sudoku." —*Orlando Sentinel*

"Few writers in the genre today have Hill's gifts: formidable intelligence, quick humor, compassion, and a prose style that blends elegance and grace." —Donna Leon

Reginald Hill, *The Price of Butcher's Meat* (hb mystery/thriller)

(Daziel & Pascoe series, twenty-first of twenty-two)

"Reginald Hill, the most playful of genre authors, fancies himself a latter-day Jane Austen in *The Price of Butcher's Meat*. . . . Hill pulls off the clever literary jest of projecting Austen's unfinished novel *Sandition* into modern times. . . . [He] proves himself brilliant at recycling 19th-century characters and conventions...while gleefully adding macabre genre touches." — *New York Times Book Review*

"A bomb couldn't kill Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel—but his convalescence at the Avalon Clinic in the quaint seaside resort of Sandytown ('Home of the Healthy Holiday') just might. Sneaking out to the local pub provides Fat Andy with a bit of necessary diversion, allowing him a pint or two on the sly, plus an update on the world of trouble outside the clinic—including the very different plans of a pair of powerful landowners for putting Sandytown more prominently on the map. But when a rather macabre murder calls Chief Inspector Peter Pascoe onto the scene, Fat Andy realizes that Avalon itself is no sanctuary from the lethal secrets of the local elite—or from the death tide that now, suddenly, is rising quite rapidly."

Reginald Hill, *Death Comes for the Fat Man* (hb mystery/thriller)

(Daziel & Pascoe series, twenty-second of twenty-two)

A "chilling, frightening, page-turning tale" featuring Yorkshire coppers Andy Dalziel and Peter Pascoe, "that won't let you go, even when you finally put it down." (*Providence Journal*).

"Caught in the blast of a huge explosion, Detective Superintendent Andy Dalziel lies on a hospital bed, with only a life support system and his indomitable will between him and the Great Beyond. Meanwhile, his colleague, Chief Inspector Peter Pascoe, is determined to find those responsible.

Ignoring his own injuries, the advice of his friends, and the pleas of his wife, Pascoe follows a winding trail to the Templars, a mysterious group that believes the only way to fight terrorism is through terror. Where the arm of the law cannot reach, their work begins. Soon Pascoe comes to suspect that they may have support and sympathy in high places, from men ready to accept the death of a policeman or of any other innocent bystander as regrettable but unavoidable collateral damage.

From the streets of Manchester to the Yorkshire countryside, Pascoe searches for the truth. And above it all, like a huge zeppelin threatening to break from its moorings, hovers the disembodied spirit of Andy Dalziel."

M.M. Kaye, *Death in Cyprus* (hb mystery/thriller) - Cyprus, the Mediterranean

"M.M. Kaye has a marvelous touch with atmosphere, place, and time." —*Houston Chronicle*

"An old-fashioned mystery and romance set in an exotic locale, rich and evocative of another time and place."

"Twenty-year-old Amanda Derrington is on an extended cruise with her uncle when she decides to make a short trip to the sun-washed island of Cyprus. But even before the ship arrives in the port, there is a suspicious death. Once the passengers reach the island, it soon becomes clear that the death was in fact an act of murder. What Amanda had meant to be a pleasant excursion quickly takes a turn for the worse in M. M. Kaye's *Death in Cyprus*, a classic novel of suspense and romance by one of our most celebrated writers.

Lisbeth Salander/Millennium Series

"THE INTERNATIONALLY BESTSELLING SENSATION. In these page-turning thrillers, a crusading journalist and a cyberpunk hacker team up to drag Sweden's darkest secrets into the light: family scandals, political corruption, sex crimes, and murder. Experience the series that introduced the world to one of the most original, unforgettable characters in crime fiction: Lisbeth Salander, the girl with the dragon tattoo and a quest for revenge."

Stieg Larsson, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* (hb mystery/thriller) - Sweden

(first of eight)

"So much more than a thriller, *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* is a dazzling novel of big ideas. It tackles issues of power, corruption, justice, and innocence—all the while drawing you into the twists and turns of a frighteningly suspenseful mystery." —Harlan Coben

"A spellbinding amalgam of murder mystery, family saga, love story, and financial intrigue.... It's about the disappearance 40 years ago of Harriet Vanger, a young scion of one of the wealthiest families in Sweden...and about her octogenarian uncle, determined to know the truth about what he believes was her murder.

It's about Mikael Blomkvist, a crusading journalist recently at the wrong end of a libel case, hired to get to the bottom of Harriet's disappearance...and about Lisbeth Salander, a 24-year-old, pierced and tattooed genius hacker possessed of the hard-earned wisdom of someone twice her age, who assists Blomkvist with the investigation.

This unlikely team discovers a vein of nearly unfathomable iniquity running through the Vanger family, astonishing corruption in the highest echelons of Swedish industrialism—and an unexpected connection between themselves."

Stieg Larsson, *The Girl Who Played with Fire* ((hb mystery/thriller) - Sweden and Grenada

(second of eight)

"Fantastic ... Like all the great stories of just avengers that populate literature, this trilogy is secretly comforting, making us think that maybe all is not lost in this imperfect and deceitful world of ours.... Welcome to the immortality of fiction, Lisbeth Salander!"—Mario Vargas Llosa, *El País*

In this next installment of the Millennium series, "Mikael Blomkvist, crusading publisher of the magazine Millennium, has decided to run a story that will expose an extensive sex trafficking operation. On the eve of its publication, the two reporters responsible for the article are murdered, and the fingerprints found on the murder weapon belong to his friend, the troubled genius hacker Lisbeth Salander. Blomkvist, convinced of Salander's innocence, plunges into an investigation. Meanwhile, Salander herself is drawn into a murderous game of cat and mouse, which forces her to face her dark past."

Stieg Larsson, *The Girl Who Kicked the Hornet's Nest* (hb mystery/thriller) - Sweden, Gibraltar, Paris

(third of eight)

"Fully lives up to the excellence of the previous two and ... brings the saga to a satisfactory conclusion.... A modern masterpiece." —*The Washington Post Book World*

"In this 'thoroughly gripping' (*New York Times*) continuation of the *Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* series, Lisbeth Salander lies in critical condition in a Swedish hospital, a bullet in her head. But she's fighting for her life in more ways than one: if and when she recovers, she'll stand trial for three murders.

With the help of Mikael Blomkvist, Salander will need to identify those in authority who have allowed the vulnerable, like herself, to suffer abuse and violence. And, on her

own, she'll seek revenge—against the man who tried to kill her and against the corrupt government institutions that nearly destroyed her life."

David Lagercrantz, *The Girl Who Lived Twice* (hb mystery/thriller) - Stockholm, Sweden, and Moscow, Russia (and also Mount Everest)

(sixth of eight)

Lisbeth Salander must face the most important battle of her life, and will finally put her past to rest in this thriller that will "leave Salander's legion of followers clamoring for more" (*The Wall Street Journal*).

"Mikael Blomkvist is trying to reach Lisbeth Salander—the fierce, unstoppable girl with the dragon tattoo. He needs her help unraveling the identity of a man who died with Blomkvist's phone number in his pocket—a man who does not exist in any official records and whose garbled last words hinted at knowledge that would be dangerous to important people. But Lisbeth has disappeared. She's sold her apartment in Stockholm. She's gone dark. She's told no one where she is. And no one is aware that at long last she's got her primal enemy, her twin sister, Camilla, squarely in her sights."

Catriona McPherson, *Dandy Gilver and a Bothersome Number of Corpses* (hb mystery/thriller) - Portpatrick, Scotland

"A British cozy set in the Thirties and told with tongue-in-cheek humor along the lines of John Mortimer or PG Wodehouse...written for readers who enjoy light, humorous, cozy mysteries with a healthy bit of family drama." (Historical Novel Society)

"In this historical cozy mystery set in 1920s Scotland, an upper-class sleuth goes undercover to find a killer at an all-girls school.

Bored with her wealthy life after the Great War, aristocratic wife and mother Dandy Gilver decides to become a private investigator. Her current case has her traveling to an all-girls school in the Scottish seaside town of Portpatrick where a childhood friend has disappeared. Soon, Dandy discovers that her missing chum, now a teacher, is not the only thing that's off in Portpatrick. Other teachers have been vanishing as well . . . at an alarming rate. To find some answers, Dandy must go undercover as a new member of the staff, but one misstep could have her dismissed permanently . . ."

"Fans of historical mysteries and old-fashioned whodunits will enjoy *Dandy Gilver and a Bothersome Number of Corpses*. . . . A very satisfying whodunit that was both intriguing and creepy." —*Gumshoe Review*

Alex Pavesi, *The Eighth Detective* (hb mystery/thriller) - an unidentified Mediterranean island

(A *New York Times* Top Ten Thriller of the Year)

"One of the most innovative mysteries in recent memory." - *The Wall Street Journal*

"Alex Pavesi's *The Eighth Detective* is a love letter to classic detective stories with a modern twist, where nothing is as it seems, and proof that the best mysteries break all the rules.

There are rules for murder mysteries. There must be a victim. A suspect. A detective. Grant McAllister, a professor of mathematics, once sat down and worked all the

rules out—and wrote seven perfect detective stories to demonstrate. But that was thirty years ago. Now Grant lives in seclusion on a remote Mediterranean island, counting the rest of his days.

Until Julia Hart, a brilliant, ambitious editor knocks on his door. Julia wishes to republish his book, and together they must revisit those old stories: an author hiding from his past and an editor keen to understand it.

But there are things in the stories that don't add up. Inconsistencies left by Grant that a sharp-eyed editor begins to suspect are more than mistakes. They may be clues, and Julia finds herself with a mystery of her own to solve."

"Dizzying, dazzling... When did you last read a genuinely original thriller? The wait is over."—A.J. Finn, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Woman in the Window*

Bernard Cornwell, *Sharpe's Siege: Richard Sharpe and the Winter Campaign, 1814* (pbk mystery/thriller)

(book twenty of twenty-four)

"Sharpe is a series of historical fiction stories by Bernard Cornwell centred on the character of English soldier Richard Sharpe—the most brilliant – but the most wayward – soldier in the British army. The stories formed the basis for an ITV television series featuring Sean Bean in the title role.

In this installment, Sharpe's mission has seemed simple: capture a small unguarded French coastal fort, cripple Napoleon's supply lines, and retreat across the sea. But behind the lines, Sharpe's old enemy, Pierre Ducos, awaits Sharpe's arrival with a battalion of French soldiers and a vicious commanding general who keeps the scalps of his dead enemies as trophies.

Outmaneuvered by Ducos's treachery and abandoned by his own navy, Sharpe has only two choices: to escape with the aid of the charming, unscrupulous American mercenary, Cornelius Killick, or die.

Michael Dibden

Michael Dibden, *Ratking* (pbk mystery/thriller) - Perugia, Italy

(Aurelio Zen mystery series, first of eleven)

"Police Commissioner Aurelio Zen had crossed swords with the establishment before—and lost. But from the depths of a mundane desk job in Rome he is unexpectedly transferred to Perugia to take over an explosive kidnapping case involving one of Italy's most powerful families.

In this masterpiece of psychological suspense, Italian Police Commissioner Aurelio Zen is dispatched to investigate the kidnapping of Ruggiero Miletti, a powerful Perugian industrialist. But nobody much wants Zen to succeed: not the local authorities, who view him as an interloper, and certainly not Miletti's children, who seem content to let the head of the family languish in the hands of his abductors—if he's still alive.

Was Miletti truly the victim of professionals? Or might his kidnapper be someone

closer to home: his preening son Daniele, with his million-lire wardrobe and his profitable drug business? His daughter, Cinzia, whose vapid beauty conceals a devastating secret? The perverse Silvio, or the eldest son Pietro, the unscrupulous fixer who manipulates the plots of others for his own ends? As Zen tries to unravel this rat's nest of family intrigue and official complicity, Michael Dibdin gives us one of his most accomplished thrillers, a chilling masterpiece of police procedure and psychological suspense."

Michael Dibden, *Cabal* (pbk mystery/thriller) - the Vatican and Milan, Italy

(third of eleven)

"In *Cabal*, master crime writer Michael Dibdin plunges us into a murky world of church spies, secret societies, cover-ups, and mistaken identities.

An apparent suicide in the Vatican may in fact have been a murder conducted by a centuries-old cabal within The Knights of Columbus. A discovery among the medieval manuscripts of the Vatican Library leads to a second death, Zen travels to Milan, where he faces a final, dramatic showdown. Meanwhile, Zen's lover, the tantalizing Tania, is conducting her own covert operations—which could well jeopardize everything Zen has worked for. Richly textured, wickedly entertaining, *Cabal* taps the mysterious beauty of Italy in a thriller that challenges our beliefs about love, allegiance, history, and power—and the lengths to which we will go to protect them against the truth."

Michael Dibden, *Dead Lagoon* (pbk mystery/thriller) - Venice, Italy

(fourth of eleven)

"Among the emerging generation of crime writers, none is as stylish and intelligent as Michael Dibdin, who, in *Dead Lagoon*, gives us a deliciously creepy new novel featuring the urbane and skeptical Aurelio Zen, a detective whose unenviable task it is to combat crime in a country where today's superiors may be tomorrow's defendants.

Zen returns to his native Venice. He is searching for the ghostly tormentors of a half-demented *contessa* and a vanished American millionaire whose family is paying Zen under the table to determine his whereabouts—dead or alive. But he keeps stumbling over corpses that are distressingly concrete: from the crooked cop found drowned in one of the city's noisome 'black wells' to a brand-new skeleton that surfaces on the Isle of the Dead. The result is a mystery rich in character and deduction, and intensely informed about the history, politics, and manners of its Venetian setting."

Michael Dibden, *Così Fan Tutti* ((pbk mystery/thriller) - Naples, Italy

(fifth of eleven)

"Assigned to Naples, policeman Aurelio Zen takes time to assist a local wealthy widow: he refuses to let her daughters marry their supposedly Mafia-connected fiancés. Soon involved in a case of murder and mistaken for Mafia himself, Zen plays out Dibdin's version of a darkly comic opera."

"Aurelio Zen's newest adventure is a delirious combination of the deadly serious and the seriously comic. Here is Mozart's opera turned on its head to test the faithfulness of men and the stamina of Michael Dibdin's unusually serious-minded police officer, as he

becomes the unwitting stage manager for this masterful interpretation of murder, mayhem, and the mysteries of love."

"The career of Italian policeman Aurelio Zen has certainly had its operatic ups and downs: as a nasty colleague points out, 'In Milan, you wrongfully arrest a man for the Tondelli murder, and 20 years later he tries to kill you after his release from prison. In Rome, you single-handedly "solve" the Moro kidnapping, unfortunately too late to save the victim.' So it's fitting that Michael Dibdin has used a real comic opera by Mozart and Lorenzo Daponte as the frame for his latest Zen outing. A Northern fish in Naples's polluted waters, Venetian-born Zen seems to have found the perfect job to make himself invisible, as head of the harbor police. But several tangled plots—including one that deftly turns the Daponte stew of unsuitable suitors and fake Albanians on its head—conspire to bring Aurelio into the spotlight one more time."

Michael Dibdin, *And Then You Die* (pbk mystery/thriller) - Tuscan beach resort, Italy
(eighth of eleven)

"*And Then You Die* has an abundance of food, wit and action, with enough mistaken victims falling dead around Zen to put him up there with Peter Sellers in his Pink Panther days." —*Chicago Tribune*

"Having survived an explosive assassination attempt, Italian police detective Aurelio Zen finds himself convalescing at a Tuscan seaside resort town, where he is under orders to lie low until he is to testify at a much-anticipated Mafia trial. The quiet—and the boredom are relieved by the pleasant distraction of the beautiful Gemma, but just when he feels he is getting somewhere with her, a the discovery of corpse in his usual lounge chair brings his holiday to an abrupt end. Convinced that the Mafia has finally located him, the police put Zen on the move again, in startling directions.

Michael Dibdin's latest installment in the Aurelio Zen series is a wicked, twisting tale that pits Zen against invisible assassins and the possibility of forced retirement. As the plot unfolds, and Zen ponders his uncertain future, bodies are stacking up around him. Another exceptionally surprising, consistently funny triumph from a master of the genre."

Francis Durbridge, Paul Temple: *East of Algiers* (pbk mystery/thriller) - Tunis, Paris, etc.

"In 1938, Durbridge created the character Paul Temple, a crime novelist and detective. With Steve Trent, a Fleet Street journalist and later his wife, Temple solved numerous crimes in the glamorous world of the leisured middle classes, first on radio, then in films and, from 1969 to 1971, in a television series."

"A classy period piece, all clipped accents, glamour and a smoking and drinking count to rival *Mad Men*. Great fun and surprisingly gripping." —*The Guardian*

"When Judy Wincott asks Paul Temple to take a pair of spectacles with him to Tunis, he could never have guessed that such an innocent request could lead to so much trouble. He certainly could not have predicted it as a prelude to a body in a Paris rubbish bin and a trigger for police enquiries. Soon the novelist-detective and his wife Steve are crossing Europe and North Africa, trailing a series of murders somehow connected to a Dr. David Foster and the tortoiseshell spectacles."

Warren C. Easley, *Matters of Doubt* (pbk mystery/thriller) - Oregon wine country (Willamette Valley)

(first of ten Cal Claxton mysteries)

"Warren Easley has created a character you can root for—a man who has experienced loss but still believes in a better future, a lawyer who vigorously pursues justice for the most vulnerable clients. *Matters of Doubt* proves that legal thrillers can indeed be thrilling. "

—Alafair Burke, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Former LA prosecutor Cal Claxton has escaped to the Oregon wine country after his wife's suicide, determined to live a less-harried life. He's gotten a dog for company and takes pleasure in simple things like hiking, fishing, and crafting gourmet meals from the area's bounty, which he enjoys with local wines. He has no career ambitions, other than to sustain a small practice that will allow him to pay his bills. Then he's approached by a homeless street artist from Portland who wants him to take on the cold case investigation of his mother's murder. The young man believes his mother's boyfriend killed her eight years earlier, but the police were never able to solve the case. Cal turns him away. But his conscience won't let him rest...

Cal takes on the case against his better judgment. Soon, however, the street artist is charged with the boyfriend's murder, and Cal has to battle bias from the press, police, and public, along with his own doubts about his client in order to determine who has committed both crimes—and why."

Judith Kelman, *Summer of Storms* (pbk mystery/thriller) - New York City

"Set in a shadowy and sinister New York City, this taut and assured suspense thriller by Kelman (*After the Fall*, etc.) chronicles the rekindling of a long-dormant murder investigation and the return of a ruthless killer. Thirty years after her young sister's death, Anna Jameson is haunted by memories of what was dubbed the Sleeping Beauty Murder. On a stormy summer night, five-year-old Julie Jameson was killed in her bedroom while her family slept. Following this horror, her anguished parents fled Manhattan with three-year-old Anna and moved to South Carolina, where they never quite recovered from the shock. Fast-forward to Anna, now 33 and an aspiring photographer, who returns to New York to work as a photojournalist for a high-powered media conglomerate and to confront family demons. Armed with her camera, she becomes acclimated to the perils of the city: she captures a drug deal on film, escapes a would-be rapist, and shoots a newspaper exposé of her neighborhood's prostitution ring. Meanwhile, Arcanum, an elite volunteer group of colorful forensic experts devoted to investigating unsolved homicides, receives an anonymous phone call from a woman who warns that Julie's killer may strike again. The group takes on the case privately, inevitably colliding with Anna in its researches. The body count rises as a spooky electrician, a fugitive serial killer, a heroic cop and assorted others cloud the picture. Swift pacing and well-drawn supplementary characters--like the bombastic media mogul Stewart Burlingame and Dixon Drake, a reporter who takes Anna under his wing—come together in this smooth page-turner that's sure to have fans reading into the wee hours of the night."