

THE BOOK NOOK

A few new books on the Recent Acquisitions shelf . . .

David Guterson, *The Final Case* (fiction)
"From the award-winning, bestselling author of *Snow Falling on Cedars*—a moving father-son story that is also a taut courtroom drama and a bold examination of privilege, power, and how to live a meaningful life."
"Ultimately, the mystery at the center of *The Final Case* is not about innocence or guilt, but about how one family's profound attachments can stand alongside breathtaking cruelty in another." (Scott Turow, *The New York Times Book Review*)
"A girl dies one late, rainy night a few feet from the back door of her home. The girl, Abeba, was born in Ethiopia. Her adoptive parents, Delvin and Betsy Harvey—conservative, white fundamentalist Christians—are charged with her murder. Royal, a Seattle criminal attorney in the last days of his long career, takes Betsy Harvey's case. An octogenarian without a driver's license, he leans on his son—the novel's narrator—as he prepares for trial.

So begins this bracing, astute, and deeply affecting examination of justice and injustice—and familial love. David Guterson's first courtroom drama since *Snow Falling on Cedars*, it is his most compelling and heartfelt novel to date."

Ian McEwan, *What We Can Know* (fiction)
"[A] powerful homage to a lost era … McEwan has achieved something spectacular and much needed, as he raises question about the climate crisis—future and present. Readers will also find in it meditations on the value of the humanities, the work of poets and biographers, the difference between knowledge of and poetical apotheosizing of nature, and a beautiful recognition of what it means to search for human bonds in words and on pages…. McEwan has crafted a story at once nostalgic and foreboding." (*Library Journal*, starred review)
"A bestselling masterpiece, a fictional tour de force, a love story about both people and the words they leave behind, a literary detective story which reclaims the present from our sense of looming catastrophe and imagines a future world where all is not quite lost. From the Booker prize–winning, bestselling author of *Atonement* and *Saturday*, a genre-bending new novel full of secrets and surprises; an immersive exploration, across time and history, of what can ever be truly known."
"2014: At a dinner for close friends and colleagues, renowned poet Francis Blundy honors his wife's birthday by reading aloud a new poem dedicated to her, 'A Corona for Vivien.' Much wine is drunk as the guests listen, and a delicious meal consumed. Little does anyone gathered around the candlelit table know that for generations to come people will speculate about the message of this poem, a copy of which has never been found, and which remains an enduring mystery.

2119: Just over one hundred years in the future, much of the western world has been submerged by rising seas following a catastrophic nuclear accident. Those who survive are haunted by the richness of the world that has been lost. In the water-logged south of what

used to be England, Thomas Metcalfe, a lonely scholar and researcher, longs for the early twenty-first century as he chases the ghost of one poem, 'A Corona for Vivian.' How wild and full of risk their lives were, thinks Thomas, as he pores over the archives of that distant era, captivated by the freedoms and possibilities of human life at its zenith. When he stumbles across a clue that may lead to the elusive poem's discovery, a story is revealed of entangled loves and a brutal crime that destroy his assumptions about people he thought he knew intimately well."

Anne Berest, *The Postcard* (historical fiction)
"Winner of the Choix Goncourt Prize, Anne Berest's *The Postcard* is a vivid portrait of twentieth-century Parisian intellectual and artistic life, an enthralling investigation into family secrets, a poignant tale of a Jewish family devastated by the Holocaust and partly restored through the power of storytelling."
"January, 2003. Together with the usual holiday cards, an anonymous postcard is delivered to the Berest family home. On the front, a photo of the Opéra Garnier in Paris. On the back, the names of Anne Berest's maternal great-grandparents, Ephraïm and Emma, and their children, Noémie and Jacques—all killed at Auschwitz.

Fifteen years after the postcard is delivered, Anne, the novel's heroine, is moved to discover who sent it and why. Aided by her chain-smoking mother, family members, friends, associates, a private detective, a graphologist, and many others, she embarks on a journey to discover the fate of the Rabinovitch family: their flight from Russia following the revolution, their journey to Latvia, Palestine, and Paris. What emerges is a moving saga that shatters long-held certainties about Anne's family, her country, and herself."

Ruth Hogan, *The Keeper of Lost Things* (fiction)
"A delightful blend of magical realism and romance - Full of character, wit, and wisdom"
"Anthony Peardew is the keeper of lost things. Forty years ago, he carelessly lost a keepsake from his beloved fiancée, Therese. That very same day, she died unexpectedly. Brokenhearted, Anthony sought consolation in rescuing lost objects—the things others have dropped, misplaced, or accidently left behind—and writing stories about them. Now, in the twilight of his life, Anthony worries that he has not fully discharged his duty to reconcile all the lost things with their owners. As the end nears, he bequeaths his secret life's mission to his unsuspecting assistant, Laura, leaving her his house and and all its lost treasures, including an irritable ghost.

Recovering from a bad divorce, Laura, in some ways, is one of Anthony's lost things. But when the lonely woman moves into his mansion, her life begins to change. She finds a new friend in the neighbor's quirky daughter, Sunshine, and a welcome distraction in Freddy, the rugged gardener. As the dark cloud engulfing her lifts, Laura, accompanied by her new companions, sets out to realize Anthony's last wish: reuniting his cherished lost objects with their owners. . . . Can she unlock the past and make the connections that will lay the [troubled] spirits to rest?

A charming, clever, and quietly moving novel of of endless possibilities and joyful discoveries that explores the promises we make and break, losing and finding ourselves, the objects that hold magic and meaning for our lives, and the surprising connections that bind us."

Andrea Camilleri, *The Age of Doubt* (Inspector Montalbano #14)
"With their dark sophistication and dry humor, Andrea Camilleri's hugely popular Sicilian crime novels continue to win more and more fans."
"The day after a storm, Inspector Montalbano encounters a strange woman who expresses interest in a certain yacht scheduled to dock that afternoon. Not long after she's gone, the yacht's crew reports finding a disfigured corpse. Also at anchor is a luxury vessel with a somewhat shady crew. Both boats will have to stay in Vigàta until the investigation is over and, based on information from the woman, Montalbano begins to think the occupants of the yacht might know more about the man's death than they're letting on."

Leonie Swann, *Agnes Sharp and the Trip of a Lifetime* (cozy mystery)
"This highly anticipated follow-up to *The Sunset Years of Agnes Sharp* finds Agnes and her octogenarian friends face-to-face with a killer after winning a trip to a beautiful hotel. Will it be an early checkout for anyone in the gang?

The year is rapidly drawing to an end, Hettie the tortoise is hibernating and Agnes, Charlie, Marshall, and the other elderly residents of Sunset Hall are going stir-crazy. They've had enough of the broken boiler, drafty bedrooms, and Christmas jingles on the radio. And to top it off, another series of murders is rocking the hamlet of Duck End. It seems like every villager and his dog is trying to make up for all of the thwarted murders of the past thirty years.

Most unpleasant! The residents of Sunset Hall don't want anything to do with the criminal activities. So when Edwina manages to sneak onto Marshall's computer and promptly wins a stay in an exclusive coastal hotel in Cornwall, the Sunset Hall crew doesn't waste any time in deciding to join her. After all, Edwina can't be left unsupervised.

But they've barely unpacked their bags when Agnes sees something unsettling: two figures in hoods walk away from the hotel along the cliffs, but only one returns. Worried she's witnessed a murder, Agnes tells the others. At first nobody really believes her—the crew has enough to do working their way through the incredible menu, exploring the hotel's wellness landscape, navigating old and new love affairs and adopting a boa constrictor. But when the hotel ends up isolated from the outside world after a storm, it becomes clear that a murderer really is on the loose—and they're trapped, just like the other guests!"

C.L. Miller, *The Antique Hunter's Guide to Murder* (book #1 of 3)
"In this 'irresistible, immersive, and completely unputdownable' (Ellery Lloyd, *New York Times* bestselling author) debut novel, a former antique hunter investigates a suspicious death at an isolated English manor, embroiling her in the high-stakes world of tracking stolen artifacts."
"Freya Lockwood is shocked when she learns that Arthur Crockleford, antiques dealer and her estranged mentor, has died under mysterious circumstances. She has spent the last twenty years avoiding her quaint English hometown, but when she receives a letter from Arthur asking her to investigate—sent just days before his death—Freya has no choice but to return to a life she had sworn to leave behind.

Joining forces with her eccentric Aunt Carole, Freya follows clues to an old manor house for an advertised antiques enthusiast's weekend. But nothing is as it seems. It's clear to Freya that the antiques are all just poor reproductions, and her fellow guests are secretive and

menacing. What is going on at this estate and how was Arthur involved? More importantly, can Freya and Carole discover the truth before the killer strikes again?"

Jacqueline Winspear, *Elegy for Eddie* (a Maisie Dobbs novel, #9 of 18)
New York Times bestseller
"An investigation into the killing of a local man from Maisie's childhood neighborhood leads the sleuth from her own doorstep to the halls of power in 1930s London.
In this latest entry in Jacqueline Winspear's acclaimed, bestselling mystery series—"less whodunits than why-dunits, more P.D. James than Agatha Christie" (USA Today)—private investigator Maisie Dobbs takes on her most personal case yet, a twisting investigation into the brutal killing of a street peddler that will take her from the working-class neighborhoods of her childhood into London's highest circles of power. Perfect for fans of *A Lesson in Secrets*, *The Mapping of Love and Death*, or other Maisie Dobbs mysteries—and an ideal place for new readers to enter the series—*Elegy for Eddie* is an incomparable work of intrigue and ingenuity, full of intimate descriptions and beautifully painted scenes from between the World Wars, from one of the most highly acclaimed masters of historical mystery, Jacqueline Winspear."

Rebecca Pawel, *Law of Ruturn* (Sergeant Tejada Investigations, #2 of 4)
"Spain, 1940: Lieutenant Carlos Tejada has been transferred to Salamanca, where he studied law before the Civil War. His new duties include monitoring parolees—former professors who were fired for protesting a Franco decree. Elena Fernandez, having lost her job because of her political leanings, has returned home to Salamanca from Madrid, where she and Tejada were first romantically involved. Her father, one of the parolees, was a distinguished professor of Classics. He has just received a letter from a Jewish friend, Professor Joseph Meyer, begging for help to cross into Spain from France before he is forcibly repatriated to Germany. Professor Fernandez cannot violate his parole by traveling to the border town of San Sebastian, so Elena goes in his stead. Tejada, tracing a missing parolee, also finds himself there, and their paths fatefully cross again."

Colin Cotterill, *I Shot the Buddha* (a Dr. Siri Paiboun mystery, #11 of 15)
"A fiendishly clever mystery in which Dr. Siri and his friends investigate three interlocking murders—and the ungodly motives behind them.

Laos, 1979: Retired coroner Siri Paiboun and his wife, Madame Daeng, have never been able to turn away a misfit. As a result, they share their small Vientiane house with an assortment of homeless people, mendicants, and oddballs. One of these oddballs is Noo, a Buddhist monk, who rides out on his bicycle one day and never comes back, leaving only a cryptic note in the refrigerator: a plea to help a fellow monk escape across the Mekhong River to Thailand.

Naturally, Siri can't turn down the adventure, and soon he and his friends find themselves running afoul of Lao secret service officers and famous spiritualists. Buddhism is a powerful influence on both morals and politics in Southeast Asia. In order to exonerate an innocent man, they will have to figure out who is cloaking terrible misdeeds in religiosity."