

Coming Soon

Nevada Barr

Burn

On administrative leave, National Park Service ranger Anna Pigeon goes to the Big Easy to relax. She isn't in town too long before she finds a ritualistically killed pigeon left for her, a symbol that she has become the target of a curse.

James Lee Burke

The Glass Rainbow

Dave Robicheaux is back in Louisiana's New Iberia Parish tracking a killer, when his best friend is charged with murder, and his daughter gets involved in some shady business.

Lorenzo Carcaterra

Midnight Angels

In Florence, American doctoral student Kate and her Italian friend discover three lost Michelangelo sculptures and are soon on the run from art thieves.

Robin Cook

Cure

Back at work after her son's near-fatal illness, New York City medical examiner Laurie Montgomery must investigate the death of CIA agent Kevin Markham. Alas, the toxicology report doesn't back up her suspicion that he's been poisoned.

Thomas H. Cook

The Last Talk with Lola Faye

Historian Lucas Page reluctantly agrees to meet up with Lola Faye Gilroy, the woman he blames for his father's murder. As they talk, Lucas wonders why Lola Faye has come and what she is after. Will he find out before it is too late?

Jude Deveraux

Scarlet Nights

After a handsome undercover cop tells Sara that her fiancé is using her for his next heist, a frightened Sara must pretend she still loves the man in order to help with the investigation.

Barry Eisler

Inside Out

Ben Treven is in a Manila jail after a bar brawl, and his boss will spring him only if he agrees to hunt down a black-mailer who has tapes revealing evidence of CIA water boarding.

Dan Fesperman

Layover in Dubai

Cautious corporate auditor Sam Keller takes a fancy vacation to Dubai. Soon after his arrival he is dragged into investigating a murder alongside offbeat detective Anwar Sharaf.

Frederick Forsyth

The Cobra

Retired from the CIA, the ruthless former director of Special Operations, Paul Devereaux, is called back into action in order to take down top drug cartels.

Dick Francis & Felix Francis

Crossfire

When he learns that his mother, a horse trainer, is being forced to fix races, disabled Afghanistan veteran Captain Tom Forsyth uses his finely honed military skills to root out the blackmailer.

Nancy Grace

Death on the D-List

Former felony prosecutor Hailey Dean moves to New York City and becomes a TV crime reporter. She soon realizes that her 'glamorous' new career in television is filled with the same dangerous elements she dealt with on the streets.

Phillippa Gregory

The Red Queen

Margaret Beaufort is determined to see her son Henry as King of England and lays the groundwork for a war between the houses of York and Lancaster.

W. E. B. Griffiths

The Vigilantes

Bad guys are being murdered in Philadelphia and vigilante groups are claiming responsibility. The police doubt their claims, and the violence is escalating.



Coming Soon

Brian Haig

The Capitol Game

A struggling company invents a polymer that makes everyday objects tougher than steel. Greedy Wall Street banker, Jack Wiley, plans a quick takeover of the company for a huge profit. Instead, he gets caught in a scandal involving big business and government.

Linda Howard

Veil of Night

Wedding planner Carrie Edwards gets some shocking news: the bride has been brutally dispatched, and Carrie is the main suspect. That's when the handsome detective enters the plot.

Peg Kingman

Original Sins: A Novel of Slavery and Freedom

A runaway slave who has flourished in the East Indies as a silk merchant risks all to return to 1840s America—supposedly to market a new kind of silk but in fact to track down a lost child.

Mary Robinette Kowal

Shades of Milk and Honey

When a dishonorable man attempts to take advantage of Melody's naivety, it is up to her sister Jane to protect her. Things aren't what they appear in this Jane Austen-inspired novel of society and manners.

Laura Lippman

I'd Know You Anywhere

Eliza was kept as a prisoner when she was just a teenager in 1985. Now well-adjusted, she is newly shattered when her captor contacts her from death row begging for forgiveness.

James Patterson & Liza Marklund

The Postcard Killers

Couples are being killed in Paris and Stockholm, and NYPD detective Jack Kanon's daughter and boyfriend were among the victims. To track down the killer, Kanon joins forces with a Swedish journalist.

Kathy Reichs

Spider Bones

When Temperance Brennan is asked to investigate a drowning death in Quebec, she discovers that the victim supposedly died in Vietnam in 1968. Whose body is in his grave, and why are his dog tags tangled up in yet another set of newly discovered remains?

Ridley Pearson

In Harm's Way

Sun Valley Sheriff Walt Fleming's new girlfriend Fiona Kenshaw is angry when he can't keep her picture out of the paper after she participated in a daring river rescue. Then a body is found, right after the Seattle police chief calls about a big-city murder that might have some Sun Valley resonance.

David Rosenfelt

Dog Tags

Andy Carpenter, lawyer and dog lover, gets involved in a high-profile case where a German Shepherd police dog is the only hope for his owner, an Iraq War vet and former cop who has been accused of murder.

Mona Simpson

My Hollywood

New to motherhood and L. A., composer Claire goes looking for a nanny and hires Lola, a young woman who is supporting five children back in the Philippines.

Karin Slaughter

Broken

The body of a young man, a suspected suicide, is pulled from the lake, but Detective Lena Adams believes foul play is at work and investigates with the help of Special Agent Will Trent.

Don Winslow

Savages

What happens when ex-mercenary Chon and environmentalist/philanthropist Ben, who run a small marijuana operation in Laguna Beach, come up against a big-time Mexican drug cartel? For one thing, their friend Ophelia gets kidnapped.

Rocky River Public Library

Reinvention, Chinese-Style

Isabelle Lee feels that she's always been a disappointment to her Chinese mother. She went to NYU instead of Harvard, works not as a lawyer or doctor, but as a lowly publishing assistant and loves cooking anything but Chinese food. She has never introduced her boyfriends to her mother because she knows her mother wouldn't approve and she only speaks kitchen Chinese, a few words she learned when her mother was preparing elaborate Chinese feasts. When she is fired from her job, however, she is forced to make a move and decides to forsake New York for the excitement of Beijing, moving in with her beautiful, successful sister, Claire. At first she feels like a fish out of water; she looks Chinese but feels American through and through. Eventually, though, she sheds her preconceptions and finds exactly what she needs.

In ***Kitchen Chinese: a Novel about Food, Family and Finding Yourself***, Ann Mah creates a tender but funny portrait of a young woman on the brink of a new life and a new self-image.

—Dori Olivos

Are You Ready to be Happy?

Once in a while a book will come along that can entertain, inform, and inspire, all at the same time. ***The Happiness Project*** by Gretchen Rubin turned out to be that sort of book for this reader. Ms. Rubin cleverly takes twelve big ideas and shares them as month long projects so that potentially overwhelming issues feel more manageable and then she bravely shared her own experiences in tackling her troubles, all with a sense of humor. But the best part might be the practical tips in the book, as well as the online Happiness Project Toolbox, to help readers take their own journey toward a happier, everyday life. No wonder this author and her book have such a strong following!

—Stacey Hayman

Still in Print

Many experts are predicting the demise of the newspaper industry, but these two new mysteries featuring reporters are definitely hot reads.

In ***Faces of the Gone*** by Brad Parks, investigative reporter Carter Ross is assigned to cover the shootings of four known drug dealers. The police think the shootings are linked to a robbery gone wrong, but Carter uses his local sources—including a gang called the Brick City Browns who wear Cleveland Browns' jerseys—to link the dealers to a shadowy drug czar. Ivy League Carter and his team are as big a bunch of misfits as you can imagine, but can they get the job done?

David Rosenfelt's latest stand-alone ***Down to the Wire*** features reporter Chris Turley who is waiting in the city park to meet an anonymous source when a nearby building explodes. He saves five people and becomes a national overnight celebrity. When Chris gets two more big scoops based on his source's tips, he begins to think his source has sinister motives and is manipulating his every move. Rosenfelt's ability to create suspense by portraying the ordinary person in extraordinary circumstances makes this thriller race to its shocking climax.

—Evelyn Janoch

The Devil You Know

Horns by Joe Hill is not for the faint of heart. Wrongly accused of his girlfriend's rape and murder, Ignatius William Perrish wakes up to discover he has grown horns on his head after a night of heavy drinking. If you can get past the many devil references, this horror story is really about trying to forgive people even after you have discovered the worst in them. Son of Stephen King, Hill has delivered another page-turner that will keep you guessing until the end.

—Jamie L. Mason

...20 Years and Counting!

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FICTION

Come Sunday

Isla Morley

Abbe Deighton's life is ripped apart by grief, and she struggles to stay afloat in the present while reflecting on her past as a child in South Africa.

A multi-layered novel: a family saga, the story of a mother's grief, and a book tuned to the rhythms of the religious year. Beautifully written, although hard to read at times. This first novel and the audiobook were nominated for an Audie.

One Good Dog

Susan Wilson

Adam March has it all. He's successful, wealthy, and has a beautiful wife and daughter. He loses everything the day he slaps his secretary. Adam spends time at a homeless shelter to fulfill his community service sentence. Chance is a pit bull bred to fight. The dog escapes his miserable environment and ends up in a local shelter where Chance and Adam connect. They need each other.

Don't miss this story of love, loyalty, and second chances for man and beast.

Major Pettigrew's Last Stand

Helen Simonson

Widower Major Ernest Pettigrew of Edgecombe St. Mary, England is living a quiet yet proper life six years after the loss of his wife. On the day the Major finds out that his brother Bertie has died, his chance encounter with Mrs. Jasmina Ali, a widowed Pakistani shopkeeper, sets the stage for this delightful story.

With excellent characterizations and interesting plot lines, this is a story to be savored.

MYSTERY

Still Midnight

Denise Mina

Alex Morrow, a detective in Glasgow, has a tough enough time on the job as a woman without her personal problems getting in the way. When a seemingly innocent, elderly shop owner is kidnapped, mistaken identity is assumed. The case is given to Alex's partner and rival, Grant Bannerman, a man who is eager to take credit without working for it.

Readers will look forward to more in this new series. Told from different perspectives, this gritty novel alternates between Alex's issues, the investigation of the kidnapping, the victim's family, the kidnappers, and victim himself. Great reading for fans of crime fiction.

Life Sentences

Laura Lippman

Author Cassandra Fallows has written two best-selling memoirs and one fiction flop. When she decides to write about Calliope Jenkins, a childhood friend who was jailed for seven years for refusing to divulge the whereabouts of her infant son, Cassandra reconnects with her other childhood friends Tisha, Donna, and Fatima. They all have strong feelings about how Cassandra portrayed them in her first two books.

This is a literary mystery that peels away past memories and perspective layer by layer until all that is left is the truth. Lippman writes so seamlessly that it would be easy to believe Cassandra's story is her own. She addresses the weighty issues of ego, racism, self-deception, memory, and perspective and weaves them into the story.

Invisible Boy

Cornelia Read

Madeline Dare and her husband have moved to New York City and are trying to make a go of it on limited incomes. When Madeline discovers the body of a young child in a family graveyard, she becomes deeply involved in the case to find the murderer.

Several subplots and sharp dialogue (albeit some of it quite potty mouthed) make this third Madeline Dare mystery a winner.

LITERARY FICTION

The Girl who fell from the Sky

Heidi Durrow

Young Rachel is the only survivor after a Danish woman and her biracial children fall from their Chicago apartment's rooftop. The whereabouts of Rachel's father, an African-American G.I., are unknown. Rachel, who has lived overseas for much of her life, now travels to Portland, Oregon to live with her grandmother, where she finds herself in a new role as a "black" girl. She also must come to terms with the terrible events that led to the death of her mother and siblings.

This heart-breaking, hard-to-put-down debut novel won the Bellwether Prize for best fiction manuscript that addresses issues of social justice. Through the wise-beyond-her-years character Rachel, Durrow eloquently explores issues of identity and race.

Shadow Tag

Louise Erdrich

The marriage of Gil and Irene, a Minnesota couple who are both Native Americans and alcoholics, is nearing its grisly end. Gil, a painter, has found success due to his series of provocative and often degrading portraits of his wife. Irene wants out, as Gil desperately clings to the life they've built. Although Irene fears for the emotional well-being of herself and their three children, with a sick sense of revenge and in order to enrage her husband, Irene writes fake entries in a diary that she knows Gil is reading.

A mesmerizing novel about love, possession, and revenge that will keep you engrossed.

Spooner

Pete Dexter

Warren Spooner's brother dies at birth; his father dies shortly thereafter, and his mother never recovers. Luckily she soon remarries a steadfast former naval officer named Calmer Ottossen. As Spooner makes his way through a life of heartbreak, loneliness, violence and eventually acceptance, Calmer is always by his side.

Partly autobiographical, Pete Dexter's novel is filled with detailed characters and episodes that are stories within a story. Dexter weaves together the lives of this father and son, creating a bursting at the seams tale that is hilarious and touching and that allows Dexter's storytelling to shine.

YOUNG ADULT

A Spy in the House: The Agency Book 1

Y. S. Lee

As a young girl, Mary Quinn is rescued from the gallows by the ladies at Miss Scrimshaw's Academy for Young Ladies. Six years later Mary learns that the school is a cover for a private investigation operation. At a time when women had few career choices, Mary is offered a chance of a lifetime, if she can complete her first assignment as a spy.

Mary Quinn is Victorian London's answer to Nancy Drew. The mystery is engaging, and Mary is charming and intriguing. Give this to any fan of a cozy mystery.

The Body Finder

Kimberly Derting

Violet Ambrose, a high school junior, has the ability to sense when someone or something has been killed. The dead leave behind an echo, and the killer carries an imprint of the dead. This ability usually just leads Violet to dead animals, but now a serial killer is terrorizing her small Washington town, and the police have turned to Violet for help. On top of all this, Violet has recently developed an enormous crush on her lifelong best friend, Jay, who doesn't seem to share her new feelings.

The perfect balance of mystery, suspense, paranormal activity, and romance. The mystery is creepy; the murders are scary without being graphic; the romance is sweet.

HISTORICAL FICTION

Hester

Paula Reed

At the end of Hawthorne's ***The Scarlet Letter***, Hester and her daughter Pearl travel to England, where this book begins. Pearl inherits a large sum of money from Roger Chillingworth, and Hester wants to use it to find Pearl a proper match for a husband. Consequently, Hester reunites with a friend who is a close ally of Oliver Cromwell, and she becomes deeply involved in the political intrigue of the times. Cromwell, the ultimate Puritan, is fascinated by Hester's ability to see the sins of others and uses her talents to find those plotting against him.

This is an interesting and imaginative historical novel. Although the book can stand alone, knowing at least the basic facts of the original makes it much more entertaining.

...20 Years and Counting!

Slight Chance of Sun

Meet Michael Beard, a British Noble Prize-winning physicist who has lost interest in his profession, but not in its financial benefits. He spends his time traveling the world speaking for enormous fees about global warming, at times “borrowing” his colleagues notes, even taking credit for their accomplishments, but hey, he’s a busy man. Busy saving his fifth marriage, keeping numerous affairs going, disposing of the dead body of his wife’s ex-lover and plotting revenge on his wife’s current lover. And he’s really busy eating and drinking. Michael is running through life avoiding responsibilities, relationships, reality.

In *Solar*, you’ll spend a lot of time inside Michael’s mind and be equally repulsed and fascinated. So what’s to become of this nasty man? One of his betrayed friends warns him, “You deserve almost everything that’s coming to you.” Delete “almost.” Ian McEwan’s superb writing made me read it.

—Chris Nowak

A Rollicking High Seas Adventure

Thirteen-year-old Mary Faber is an orphan in 18th-century London. She and her street gang beg, steal, and fight to survive. When their gang leader is killed, Mary decides to make some changes. She cuts off her hair and disguises herself as a boy. Calling herself “Jack,” she secures a position aboard a British warship. The HMS Dolphin is headed to sea in search of pirates. Life aboard the ship is better than living on the streets, but it is not safer. Jack lives in constant fear—fear of pirates, drowning, and most importantly, fear of being discovered as a girl. Jacky Faber is a survivor. Through cunning and bravery she makes a name for herself among the crew as a sailor, a tailor, a musician and a fighter. Jacky Faber is a hilarious and loveable heroine. *Bloody Jack: Being an Account of the Curious Adventures of Mary “Jacky” Faber, Ship’s Boy* by L. A. Meyer is just the beginning of her adventures and the eight-book series.

—Megan Alabaugh

The Lonely Polygamist

The Lonely Polygamist by Brady Udall is the story of forty-eight-year-old Golden Richards, his four demanding sister-wives, and their twenty-eight children living in three separate households. To avoid bankruptcy, Golden agrees to build a bordello in Nevada. He lies to his wives telling them he is building a senior center. At the construction site Golden becomes involved with another woman, a married woman.

The sister-wives hold weekly meetings to schedule Golden’s visits from wife to wife and house to house. At home when he feels the need to escape from everyone and everything, Golden retreats to a playhouse built for his handicapped daughter who died in a horrible accident, an accident Golden feels responsible for. Meanwhile, his eleven-year-old son, Rusty, nicknamed “The Terrorist,” is often ignored or punished at home. When his birthday celebration must be shared with his father, Rusty plots revenge and is tragically hurt. But life goes on and Golden eventually adds a fifth wife to the clan.

This recommended read is, at times, a laugh-out-loud story and at other times, it’s a very sad story of a lonely man and his dysfunctional families.

—Emma Dittmar

An Open Book

You don’t have to be a tennis fanatic to enjoy Andre Agassi’s compelling autobiography, *Open*. As the title suggests, the tennis great really tells it all. In addition to an on-the-court, play-by-play of some of his greatest victories and defeats, Agassi reveals details about his troubled childhood, celebrity romances and charitable works. Agassi is a keen observer of his life, and his storytelling skills entertain even when he is battling his biggest demon—the loss of his once-luxurious hair. Agassi’s life is an open book here, one you won’t want to miss reading.

—Carol O’Keefe

Rocky River Public Library

The Road to Death and Resurrection

Just when you thought that vampires might be a passing fad, a new kind of vampire emerges in the chilling new novel ***The Passage***, by Justin Cronin. The result of an Army experiment to discover the ultimate weapon, these vampires, or virals, are at first created by injecting a virus discovered in the jungle of Bolivia into death row inmates. Inevitably, they escape from their well-guarded compound only to reproduce and wreak destruction and death across America. Lone among the test subjects is one little girl, Amy, abandoned by her desperate mother and kidnapped by the Army in order to become a special test case. She, however, reacts differently to the virus; she is immortal and shares the thoughts of the virals, but does not share their blood thirst.



First Colony, in the San Jacinto Mountains, survives the disaster by banding together and protecting themselves with high walls, constant vigilance and battery powered lights that repel the virals. Amy discovers First Colony as their power begins to fail and their community to implode. Ultimately, a small, courageous group from the community decides they must venture into the outside world with Amy to seek a future for themselves and for humanity.

Told in almost 800 pages and spanning over 90 years, Cronin's latest is a fascinating, thought-provoking, epic thriller that has been compared to Stephen King's ***The Stand***. Fortunately, it's the first of a planned trilogy, because this is a book that will suck you in and leave you thirsting for more.

—Dori Olivos

Alice's Adventures Under Ground

With the release of Tim Burton's *Alice in Wonderland*, all of Alice's Wonderland friends and enemies have come to the forefront of our popular culture once again. Although based on facts, author Melanie Benjamin states that ***Alice I Have Been*** is a work of fiction. Her desire was to write a book from Alice's point of view. She succeeded.

Alice grew up in Oxford, England, in the late 1800s. She was the privileged daughter of Dean and Mrs. Liddell. For a time sisters Lorina, Alice, and Edith were the little princesses overseen by their teacher, Miss Prickett. Mr. Dodgson, a mathematics professor, would often take the three girls on a walk or a boat ride telling them stories much to their delight. One story was so pleasing that Alice begged Mr. Dodgson to write it down. He agreed but wrote under the pen name of Lewis Carroll.

Alice continues to narrate the rest of her life. There is an underlying story about a sudden break between Mr. Dodgson and the Liddell family. The break is based on something that happened between Mr. Dodgson and Alice. This undercurrent is the story just below the surface of the main narrative, and it takes away from the story of Alice's life. The author writes an intriguing and memorable story but it is not a happy one.

—Janet Sponseller

New York City, 1857

Ellen Horan's ***31 Bond Street*** opens in New York City in 1857, with the discovery of a murdered Dr. Harvey Burdell. The prime suspect is the beautiful widow, Emma Cunningham, Burdell's housekeeper and mistress. With everything to lose, defense attorney Henry Clinton goes up against an ambitious District Attorney and insists that Emma get a fair trial. What follows is a carefully-plotted, suspenseful and atmospheric mystery. Based on real events, this historical novel will be enjoyed by fans of legal thrillers.

—Carol O'Keefe

...20 Years and Counting!

Rocky River Public Library

Dark Secrets

After divorcing her high-powered attorney husband, Evie Carson moves back to her Georgia home to start a fashion boutique. As she walks the family farm reminiscing, she climbs up into her old tree house. From this vantage point, she sees Jake, a mentally-challenged childhood friend, carrying a naked body and a shovel. She watches in silent horror as he buries the body, which turns out to be her best friend, Denise, whom she hasn't seen in years.

Evie reports the crime, and when Jake is found dead the next day, everyone fears there is a serial killer on the loose. Now, Evie is being stalked by someone who can apparently enter her house at will. Does the killer think she knows too much? And, can she really trust Lyle, the handsome state trooper whose been assigned to protect her?

Dark Secrets of the Old Oak Tree by Dolores J. Wilson is a suspenseful story of small-town secrets and long-hidden memories that you won't want to put down.

—Evelyn Janoch

A Debut Civil War Novel

Robin Oliveira's well-researched first novel, ***My Name is Mary Sutter***, is a fascinating and captivating novel of love, family relationships, war and death during the time of the American Civil War. Mary Sutter is a young midwife determined to become a doctor but faces many prejudices and discrimination. When the Civil War begins, Mary goes to Washington, D.C. with hopes of learning more about medicine. She eventually is forced to perform limb amputations in surgery by herself. Through her eyes, the reader will witness the horrors of war and the atrocities in the surgical operating rooms. Fans of ***The March*** by E. L. Doctorow and ***The Widow of the South*** by Robert Hicks will not want to miss this engrossing read.

—Donna Zmrazek

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Richard Doetsch