



BOOKSELLERS

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Hours

Monday - Wednesday:

10:30 am - 5:30 pm

Thursday & Friday:

10:30 am - 8 pm

Saturday:

10:30 am - 6 pm



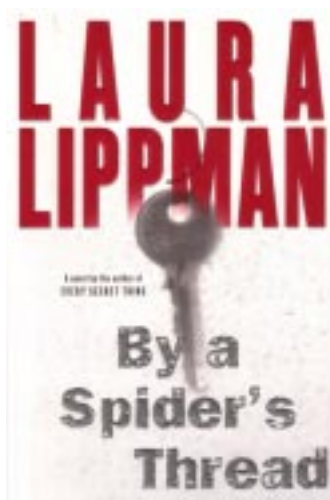
s e n s e™
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Laura Lippman, winner of every major mystery award, visits Saturday, August 7

The Anthony Award nomination announced last week for Laura Lippman's 2003 novel *Every Secret Thing* is only the latest accolade for a writer who has already won an Edgar and a Shamus for *Charm City* (1997), an Agatha and an Anthony for *Butchers Hill* (1998), and an Anthony and a Shamus for *In Big Trouble* (1999). Lippman's series about Baltimore private eye Tess Monaghan is among the most likable in the genre — engaging, fast-paced and marked by a strong sense of place. Monaghan and Lippman love their city, and when we read these books we fall in love too.

Laura Lippman will visit The Mystery Company on Saturday, August 7, at 2 pm to talk about and sign copies of her books.

Lippman's new novel is *By a Spider's Thread* (Morrow, \$24.95), which is well-described in *continued inside* ➤



Calendar

Saturday, August 7, 2 pm

Laura Lippman visits to talk about and sign copies of her books, including her latest Tess Monaghan mystery, *By a Spider's Thread*.

Sunday, August 22, 2 pm

Carrie Bebris visits to talk about and sign copies of *Pride and Prescience*, first in her series based on Jane Austen. We'll have an Austen quote contest for all you Janeites out there.

Wednesday, August 25, 7 pm. Discussion: *The Concrete Blonde* by Michael Connelly

Thursday, August 26, noon. Discussion: *Concrete Blonde* by Connelly

Thursday, September 16, 7 pm

Indiana writer **Michael Koryta** visits to talk about and sign copies of *Tonight I Said Goodbye*, his first novel and winner of the St. Martin's Press/Private Eye Writers of America Best First Private Eye Novel contest.

Saturday, September 18, 2 pm

Indiana writer **Larry D. Sweazy** visits to talk about and sign copies of his first short story, "The Promotion," published in a new anthology entitled *Texas Rangers*.

Sunday, September 19, 2 pm

Three Chicago writers — **Barbara D'Amato**, **Michael Allen Dymmo** and **Libby Fischer Hellman** — visit to talk about and sign copies of their books.

Wednesday, September 22, 7 pm. Discussion: *The Daughter of Time* by Josephine Tey

Thursday, September 23, noon. Discussion: *Daughter of Time* by Tey

Publishers Weekly's review:

"Tess Monaghan is back. After last year's haunting standalone novel *Every Secret Thing*, Lippman returns with her eighth installment in an award-winning crime series. This time out the determined reporter-turned-private detective agrees to help a handsome but off-puttingly rigid Orthodox Jewish furrier Mark Ruben find his missing wife and children. Monaghan was recommended to the uptight furrier by her Jewish uncle, who spent years working with Ruben in a volunteer program that instructed Jewish prisoners in Jewish rituals and traditions. Ruben makes Monaghan feel as if she knows nothing about being Jewish, even though her mother's family is Jewish. He also makes her feel as if she knows nothing about commitment. About the only thing that makes her like Ruben is the cash he's willing to pay her up front. As weeks go by, Monaghan uncovers a tangle of lies and dark plans that reveal that Ruben's gorgeous young Russian Jewish bride is anything but innocent. Yet much to Monaghan's amazement, nothing seems to dim Ruben's faith in his own

tradition or to rock his sense of his role and responsibilities as a husband and a father. Lippman delivers a smart, fast-paced, nuanced story that features a well-drawn supporting cast, including the endearing if dangerous city of Baltimore itself. Lippman's bad guys never become as interesting as her good guys, but there are some captivating touches here, including a criminal who studies the plots of crime novels in prison. Lippman's many fans will be thrilled."

I agree with everything that PW said, but the thing that really struck me about the book is something PW doesn't mention: how realistic it is. It's usually pretty silly to talk about realism in mysteries — we know that the real world isn't like fiction. But Lippman has done an exceptional job of making Tess' work plausible, especially in the way she uses an internet-based network of fellow private eyes for support, for ideas and for legwork. I recommend this book, and the whole series — which begins with *Baltimore Blues*, and I hope you'll join us in welcoming Lippman to Indiana.

— Jim

NEW & NOTEWORTHY

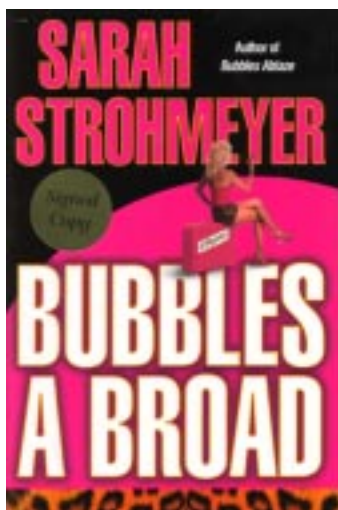
Bubbles A Broad by Sarah Strohmeyer

Dutton, \$23.95

In this fourth book in the Bubbles Yablonsky series, we find the intrepid hairdresser turned reporter with only a week to earn a permanent job as a reporter on the *Lehigh News-Times*.

As she's about to head out the door to report on the local Historical Society brunch, she comes face-to-face with Carol Weaver, immaculately decked out in cashmere and pearls and newly escaped from the State Correctional Institution. Carol had pleaded guilty to a lesser charge in the murder of her husband, a Steel executive. Now, someone is trying to kill her with poison cookies in her prison care package. She thinks it's the same person who framed her for the murder and is hiding a secret at Steel, the same secret for which her husband was murdered. She wants Bubbles to prove her innocence. This could be the story that Bubbles needs to cement her position with the paper and get off the garden-club-society-brunch beat.

Back again is the usual cast of wild and wacky characters, who alternately hinder and help Bubbles in her pursuit of the truth: the hunky Mel Gibson-look-alike, Stiletto, her mom Lulu and her mom's militia-inclined friend Genevieve, her daughter Jane and Jane's clueless boyfriend, and her ex-husband, Dan "call me Chip."



As with the previous Bubbles books, be prepared to laugh out loud as Bubbles follows an often-twisted path to solve the crime. Does Bubbles keep her job? Does she finally hit the sack with Stiletto? Does she remember to call her husband Chip? Read the book and find out. The road to the answers is most enjoyable.

Signed copies available at 20% off.

— Moni

Dissolution by C.J. Sansom

Penguin, \$14.00

Matthew Shardlake is Lord Cromwell's man, or at least he is for the time being. He has been sent to Scarnsea Monastery to investigate the murder of the previous Commissioner that Cromwell had sent to dissolve the monastery. If Matthew solves the murder, brings the miscreant to justice and manages to get the monks to cede the monastery without a fight, then he just might stay Cromwell's man. To fail is to commit social and career suicide.

C.J. Sansom writes an extremely intelligent and atmospheric mystery. It's all there: clues, red herrings, motives and more than enough suspects in the cloistered world of the monks. At the same time, he masterfully interweaves the uncertainty of the times: Henry the VII has declared Catholicism the devil's own religion. Through men like Lord Cromwell, he is wresting the Catholic Church's lands away for his own use and dispersal under the guise of cleaning up the foul acts committed in the monks' world, bringing religion to the common people and sharing the wealth. Or so it seems. But as history has written, and as Matthew discovers in his quest to find a killer, the King and his Lord Cromwell are no better than the Catholicism they seek to destroy.

A must read for anyone who loves historical mysteries.

— Moni

Murder on Nob Hill by Shirley Tallman

St. Martin's, \$23.95

Much of what publishers tell us when they describe their new offerings to entice us to buy them for the store is pretty goofy. *Murder on Nob Hill*, first in a historical mystery series by a writer who's published romances under the name Erin Ross, came billed as having "all the charm of a 19th century *Legally Blonde*." I thought this was just a line, but it's surprisingly apt.

In San Francisco in 1880, 27-year-old Sarah Woolson decides that she wants to work as a lawyer. She finagles an interview, and before long she's commandeered a client and a difficult case: proving that a woman did not murder her husband. Woolson is up to the challenge. She's confident and assertive, while at the same time being plucky and likable; you can easily picture Reese Witherspoon in the role.

Tallman glosses over some of the nitty-gritty details that would have been nice to see, especially in how Woolson adapts to her work and, occasionally, how Woolson gets from one step in the mystery to the next. And the romance between Woolson and fellow attorney Robert Campbell is all too predictable. But the book is nevertheless a lot of fun.

— Jim

Our bestselling title year-to-date:

The Executioner's Mask by Dick Cady

M. Evans, \$19.95

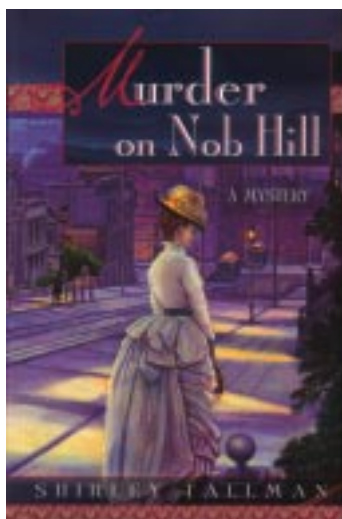
Set in Indianapolis, *The Executioner's Mask* is a first rate mystery with definite Hoosier overtones. Sonny Ritter, a down on his luck lawyer, is asked by Kit Lake, an up and coming attorney in the law firm Sonny left under a cloud, to assist her in a last ditch effort to stop the execution of a killer. As with capital murder cases leading to execution, this one is many years old, so Sonny sets out to sift through old dirt. He soon hits pay dirt, if the threats he receives are any indication. These threats run the gamut from false arrest to a car chase through a corn field. The characters are very well drawn, the mystery believable and intricate, and the setting true Indiana. Even if you're not a Hoosier, you'll feel at home reading it.

Signed copies available.

— Sherry

Friends & Neighbors

Company Members can get an early look at forthcoming books through our Friends & Neighbors program. We offer a selection of advance reading copies of new mysteries. You may



borrow one ARC at a time without charge. All we ask is that you return the ARC with your comments about the book and that you allow us to use your comments in the store, on the web and in our newsletter.

This review is by Jennifer Rhamy:

The Madman's Tale by John Katzenbach

Ballantine, \$24.95

John Katzenbach's books typically challenge us to look at more than just a crime, but the mysteries of the soul that lies beneath it. His new book, *The Madman's Tale*, is no exception. Francis Petrel, known as C-Bird, narrates the story through the distorted lens of schizophrenia. Determining what is real, and what is not, becomes the thread that keeps pulling you through this excellent story. We care about the characters, as flawed as they are. We learn who to trust and who not to trust through their instincts. When the denouement arrives, the physical reality of the killer is less important than his psychological reality. Not your everyday read, Katzenbach will hold your interest until the end of this tortured quest.



LOOKING AHEAD

October 22-24 in Muncie, Indiana

Magna Cum Murder

A weekend-long festival for mystery fans. Guest of honor the year is Alexander McCall Smith; over 50 other writers will also be there. The weekend is filled with panels, discussions, author signings, and more. Edna and I will be there, participating in the program and selling books in the exhibitors' room.

For more information, visit the festival website at: www.magnacummurder.com, or stop by the store to pick up a brochure. Registration for the weekend is \$185, which includes three meals on Saturday and two on Sunday. New this year is a single-day registration that includes all Saturday daytime activities and meals (but not the evening banquet) for \$95.

October 25, at 7 pm at the Glendale Library "Murder, You Write" with Michael Lewin

Michael Lewin visits the Glendale Branch of the Indianapolis-Marion County Public Library for an interactive program entitled "Murder, You Write." It's your chance to go through a short story step by step, to talk about how you feel about the characters and plot, and then write an ending of your own. I'll be on hand to help judge the endings and to sell books.



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ADDRESS CORRECTION REQUESTED

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August 7!**

Testing a new service: mystery.booksense.com

In conjunction with the American Booksellers Association's Booksense program, we are testing out a new internet service that gives you access to about 2,000,000 titles in all different fields — not just mysteries. (As a practical matter, there are only a few hundred thousand that you can actually order on any given day.) You can order these books through a new website: <http://mystery.booksense.com/>

During this trial period, you can order books through this website at 10% off (discount applies to most everything, though there are some books which are not discounted — you'll have to spot these one by one, unfortunately). And we're also offering free shipping on orders of \$25 or more.

We know that you're sometimes looking for books beyond what we normally stock, and we know that you are sometimes using one or the other of the major online bookstores to get these books. The booksellers' association hopes that this service will give you access to everything you want, that it's as convenient as dealing with the other online booksellers and that this service will still support our local store in this community. Most books that you order through this service will be shipped directly from a wholesaler's warehouse and most orders should arrive very quickly. You should get books delivered to you within just a few days of your order. (You'll also have the option of asking to pick up books in our store,

which will take a little longer.)

We hope that you'll give this new service a try. We're going to be running this trial through the end of September. If you're finding it useful, if it works as well as we think it's going to, and if it's generating orders, then we'll stick with it. It's a pricey system — so we're really going to need to see your orders to make it worthwhile to continue — but we think it holds a lot of promise. We hope you'll agree.

In-store promotions:

Mystery Money

It's no secret how to get **Mystery Money**. All you have to do is get a friend to sign up for a Mystery Company membership, and you will get to draw a card to uncover your reward. Rewards include free books and dollars (\$3 to \$15) off your purchase. And your friends will save too: 6% off purchases right away and 10% off after they've spent \$300.

Bring in your friends now through September 15 to take advantage of this special offer.

Used books: buy 1 get 1 free!

Now through August 14, our used books are buy one get one free. This offer applies to both hardcovers and paperbacks — anything in the store that's used (excluding Mystery Mike books). Lots of "new" used books are out on our shelves now!