

OUR 2007 HOLIDAY SHOPPING GUIDE  
Newsletter #37 • December 11, 2007



## BOOKSELLERS

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### Hours

Monday through Saturday  
10:30 am - 5:30 pm  
Wednesday evenings to 8 pm  
Sundays, Noon to 4 pm



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What a year it's been! We can't believe that we're just two weeks away from Christmas. So much has happened, beginning with the move into our new quarters in January, a dazzling variety of successful events throughout this year, lots of great conversation, winning the Anthony and Macavity Awards for our latest book, *Mystery Muses: 100 Classics That Inspire Today's Mystery Writers*, and, of course, the opportunity to discover and rediscover fabulous mysteries. In this newsletter, we'll recap a just a few of this year's highlights — books we don't want you to miss and that you might think about for gifts. We find our bestsellers list especially interesting, full of titles and authors who you won't necessarily hear about elsewhere. Please ask about any you're not familiar with!

We wish you a safe and happy holiday season, and look forward to a great 2008 and 2009. We're excited about the events that we've already been able to book for '08 and we're really excited about bringing Bouchercon, the World Mystery Convention, here to Indianapolis in 2009, with your help.

Thanks for your support!

## STOCKING STUFFERS

Among the new books we've been talking all year, these paperbacks are especially good stocking stuffers:

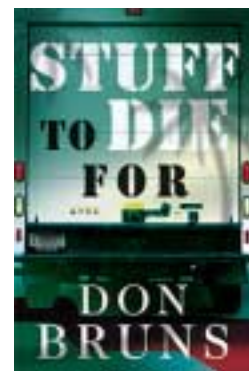
- **Louise Penny's *Still Life*** (St. Martin's, \$6.99) is a traditional village mystery set in a small town in Quebec. It's so well-observed and so beautifully written that even folks who don't normally read village mysteries have been enjoying it. First in a series; we have signed copies of books two and three in stock in hardcover.
- **Zöe Sharp's *First Drop*** (St. Martin's \$6.99) is the US debut of of Charlie Fox, a

*continued inside* ➔

## Don Bruns and Judy Clemens visit Saturday, December 15 at 2 pm!

This Saturday, December 15, at 2 pm, we welcome back Judy Clemens and Don Bruns, who will talk about and sign copies of their books. Though their books are set against very different backdrops — south Florida and rural Pennsylvania — what they have in common are colorful, eccentric and loveable characters.

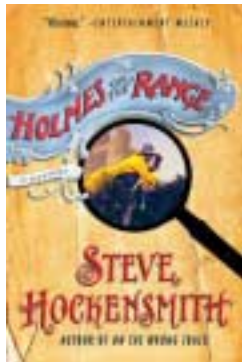
Don's latest novel is *Stuff To Die For* (Oceanview, \$24.95), first in a new series that's inspired by the boy detective series of our youth — such as the Hardy Boys. Two high-school pals in Florida buy a box truck and set up a hauling business. On the job, they find a severed finger. Booklist commends Bruns' "lovable freaks and oddballs; this batch will remind the reader of Tim Dorsey's cast of whacked-out characters but with the narrative voice and feel of Mark Twain's Huck Finn.... The plot involves the staples of South Florida fiction: anti-Castro elements and involvement by possible sinister government agencies. But the fun is in the characters." Don's website: [www.donbrunsbooks.com](http://www.donbrunsbooks.com)



Judy's latest is *The Day Will Come* (Poisoned Pen, \$24.95), fourth in her series featuring dairy farmer Stella Crown. Sarah Weinman writes: "she owns a Harley and goes to see rock music as often as she can. The latter interest forms the backbone of her fourth appearance, equal parts traditional mystery and nuanced portrayal of the power of love and friendship to elevate and destroy." Stella gets involved in the case when her friend, a band's sound man is accused in the murder of the band's lead singer. Judy will talk about her books, and also about her work with Sisters in Crime, including coordinating SinC's book review monitoring project, which is at the heart of the organization's mission. Judy's website: [www.judyclemens.com](http://www.judyclemens.com)

bodyguard from England assigned to protect a surly teenage boy in Florida. Bullets start flying on page one, and the action never lets up. A sequel is already out, and we have signed copies of *Second Shot* (\$23.95) in stock.

- **Racing Can Be Murder** (Cardinal, \$12.95) is an anthology of stories with an Indianapolis 500 theme, put together by Indiana's chapter of Sisters in Crime. It's a nice tribute to a local institution, and it's fun to read about all the familiar places.
- **Mark of the Lion by Suzanne Arruda** (Berkley, \$14.00) is the first in a series of adventure novels set in Africa after World War I, featuring spunky Jade del Cameron. Suzanne will be here on January 9 to talk about and sign copies of her books. *The Serpent's Daughter*, third in the series is due soon.
- **Holmes on the Range by Steve Hockensmith** (St. Martin's, \$12.95). Cowboys in Montana in 1892 are inspired by Sherlock Holmes to do some "deducifying" when the general manager of their ranch is murdered. One thing I've observed about everyone who's read this book: invariably, folks have a smile on their face when they're talking about it. The book is great fun. This will be our January discussion group title. *The Black Dove*, third in the series, is due in February.



## SERIES FAVORITES

A few highlights among the many series we recommend:

- **Sarah Stewart Taylor's** protagonist is a Harvard prof with an unusual specialty: Sweeney St. George studies funeral art — tombstones, cemetery statuary, etc. Taylor artfully blends the past and present into compelling mysteries that make great use of their New England settings. Four in the series so far; first is *O' Artful Death* (\$6.99), latest is *Still As Death* (\$6.99).
- I've been a big fan of **Archer Mayor's** Joe Gunther series ever since *Open Season* (\$14.95), first in the series, was originally published in 1988. Mayor's grasp of police procedure is fascinating, he writes great action scenes (his chases really get your heart racing), and his protagonist is blessedly free of the angst that weighs down so many detectives. Joe Gunther is a total Boy Scout, and yet he's still a compelling figure. The first twelve books in this series have just been reprinted in attractive paperback editions. The 18th in this durable series is *Chat* (Grand Central, \$24.99), just out in hardcover.
- Chocolate and mystery — is there a more irresistible combination? The Chocoholic series by **JoAnna Carl** — seven

books beginning with *The Chocolate Cat Caper* (\$6.99) — is set in a family-run chocolate shop in a small town on the coast of Lake Michigan. This cozy series is great for readers of all ages. They're the first adult mysteries that my middle-school daughter has read; she's really enjoyed them.

• Mark Schweizer's Liturgical Mysteries also take place in a small town, this one in North Carolina where Hayden Konig is chief of police, choir director



and aspiring hardboiled novelist. Schweizer does a great job writing about the church and the town's colorful characters. This is another irresistible series that will put a smile on your face. First is *The Alto Wore Tweed* (\$12.95); the latest is *The Bass Wore Scales* (\$12.95), fifth in the series.

- I talk endlessly about **Alan Gordon's** Fools' Guild series, but I'm still enthusiastic about these unique and fabulous books. Set among jesters in the middle ages, the six books in this series are ingenious and full of humor — verbal and physical. First in the series is *Thirteenth Night* (\$14) (a sequel of sorts to Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*). We've scrounged up some fine used and/or remaindered copies of the out of print entries, so we're now able to offer the complete series to you. This year's entry, *The Lark's Lament* (St. Martin's, \$24.95), takes the series in a new direction, to the south of France, and there's the promise of a seventh book in 2008.
- **Michael Buckley's** books are fairy tales with a twist: the pigs are evil, the wolf is good. Little Red Hood is evildest of all. Familiar fairy tale characters get mixed-up in crimes, and Daphne and Sabrina — the Sisters Grimm — are on the case, with help from the trickster fairy Puck. Published for middle-grade kids, but these are really for readers of all ages. We stock all five books in this series — the first is *The Fairy-Tale Detectives* (\$14.95) and the latest is *Magic and Other Misdemeanors* (\$14.95) — in their very attractive original hardcover editions. The first three are also available in paperback at \$5.95 each.



## STILL THE BEST BOOK I'VE READ THIS YEAR

### **What the Dead Know by Laura Lippman**

William Morrow, \$24.95

There aren't a heck of a lot of perfect novels; Lippman's latest, *What the Dead Know* may be one. I've liked her work for years — and she's already been nominated for and won scads of awards in this genre: Edgars, Anthonys, Shamuses, Agathas, Macavities, etc. Even this stellar track record doesn't prepare us for the excellence of *What the Dead Know*, an intricate, beautifully crafted and utterly engrossing standalone mystery novel. The book starts from a premise that's both simple and utterly baffling: the apparent reappearance in Baltimore of the victim of a 30-year-old kidnapping. A woman is picked up by police for fleeing the scene of a car accident. She's guarded about every aspect of her life except one: she insists that she's one of the two sisters who never returned from a Saturday afternoon shopping trip on Easter weekend in 1975.

That's all we know. Lippman keeps us guessing about everything else. Is the woman really Heather Bethany or is she an imposter? What happened to her sister, Sunny? Why is the woman so reticent with details about her whereabouts since the disappearance?

Question after question, built on detail and nuance both small and large. Lippman doles out information in tantalizing bits, taking us effortlessly through 30 years of the lives of her characters, each



one of whom is vividly drawn. The answers, when they come, are both surprising and inevitable.

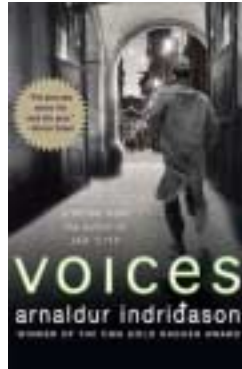
Lippman has done a masterful job in crafting a great suspense novel that will appeal to all readers.

## NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

### **Voices by Arnaldur Indridason**

St. Martin's, \$23.95 - SIGNED COPIES AVAILABLE

Arnaldur Indridason's three Icelandic police novels are standouts among the many Scandinavians who are being published here today. Indridason is an artful author in four respects: he is exceptional in portraying personalities and their interpersonal relationships, and in developing deep, long term backgrounds for current events; he sets complex and believable crime scenes in singular circumstances; he describes accurately the parallel and incremental steps that would be undertaken by police crime investigators; and he provides a mystical aura that comes from the setting of his stories in the unique civilization of Iceland. Several personalities in *Voices* have especially significant and difficult relationships with their own brothers, and the changing conceptions that each of these persons has with regard to his or her brother adds to the richness of this work. The first two books in this series are also available in paperback.

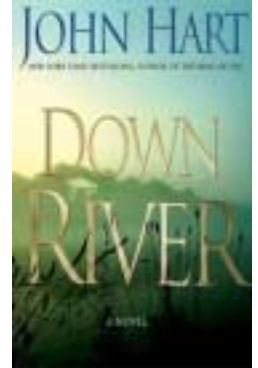


### **Down River by John Hart**

St. Martin's, \$24.95 - SIGNED COPIES AVAILABLE

We reviewed Hart's unforgettable debut novel, *The King of Lies*, in this newsletter a year ago when it was new in hardcover. *Lies*, now available in paperback (St. Martin's, \$6.99), is an emotional look at lawyer Work Perkins, a man who never loved his father even after he was murdered. Perkins sees how his life and others around him were ruined by this man. Things don't get better when he becomes the lead suspect in the killing.

Our high expectations have been met in Hart's second novel, *Down River*. Once again, he delves deep into the repercussions of murder on innocent lives. Adam Chase spent the last five years in New York City, trying to escape accusations of murder. Even though he was acquitted in the death of another teenager, folks in his North Carolina hometown still believe in his guilt. A phone call from his best friend brings him back to North Carolina, where he is met with hostility. When people start turning up dead, Adam becomes the prime suspect.



These are just a few of the thousands of great books we'd love to tell you more about. Stop in and see us, or give us a call, and we'll tell you why you'll want to read John J. Lamb, Mary Anna Evans, Chris Grabenstein, David Rosenfelt, Sarah Caudwell, Jasper Fforde, *Shadow of the Wind*, *Inkheart*, *Doomsday Book* ...

## 2007 YTD bestsellers at The Mystery Company

### TITLES

- 1 Racing Can Be Murder by Sisters in Crime Indiana (\$12.95)
- 2 Prime Time by Hank Phillippi Ryan (\$5.50)
- 3 Crane: Five Ancestors #4 by Jeff Stone (\$15.99)
- 4 Tiger: Five Ancestors #1 by Jeff Stone (\$5.99)
- 5 Sisters on the Case edited by Sara Paretsky (\$7.99)
- 6 Still Life by Louise Penny (\$6.99)
- 7 Monkey: Five Ancestors #2 by Jeff Stone (\$5.99)
- 8 Mystery Muses edited by Jim Huang & Austin Lugar (\$15)
- tie Harry Potter & the Deathly Hallows by J.K. Rowling (\$35)
- 10 Welcome Grave by Michael Koryta (\$23.95)
- 11 What the Dead Know by Laura Lippman (\$24.95)
- 12 Sorrow's Anthem by Michael Koryta (\$6.99)
- 13 Thirteenth Night by Alan Gordon (\$14)
- 14 Tonight I Said Goodbye by Michael Koryta (\$6.99)
- tie Tiger: Five Ancestors #1 by Jeff Stone (\$15.95)
- 16 Snake: Five Ancestors #3 by Jeff Stone (\$15.95)
- 17 Lark's Lament by Alan Gordon (\$24.95)
- 18 First Drop by Zoe Sharp (\$6.99)
- 19 Iron Lake by William Kent Krueger (\$7.99)
- 20 Grounds for Murder by Sandra Balzo (\$27.95)
- 21 Fatal Revenge by Phil Dunlap (\$21.95)
- 22 Requiem for an Assassin by Barry Eisler (\$24.95)
- tie Guilt of Innocents by Candace Robb (\$30)
- 24 Body in the Transept by Jeanne M. Dams (\$5.99)
- 25 Death in the Venetian Quarter by Alan Gordon (\$13.95)

### AUTHORS (THREE OR MORE TITLES)

- 1 Jeff Stone
- 2 Michael Koryta
- 3 Louise Penny
- 4 Alan Gordon
- 5 William Kent Krueger
- 6 Lindsey Davis
- 7 J.K. Rowling
- 8 Barry Eisler
- 9 Candace Robb
- 10 Brandt Dodson
- 11 Margaret Frazer
- 12 Zöe Sharp
- 13 Phil Dunlap
- 14 Donna Leon
- 15 Terence Faherty
- tie Laura Lippman
- 17 Ruth Dudley Edwards
- 18 M.C. Beaton
- 19 Harlan Coben
- 20 Aaron Elkins
- 21 Bill Fitzhugh
- 22 Peter Robinson
- 23 Sharan Newman
- 24 Mark Schweizer
- tie Peter Tremayne

Annotated versions of these lists will be posted on our website at: [www.themystreycountry.com/bestsellers.htm](http://www.themystreycountry.com/bestsellers.htm)

## Calendar

**Saturday, December 15, 2 pm**  
**Judy Clemens** and **Don Bruns** visit to talk about their books.

**Tuesday, December 18, 7 pm and Thursday, December 20, noon**  
Discussion: Food mysteries

**Saturday, Dec, 22, 3:00 - 5:30 pm**  
**Holiday Open House:** discounts, refreshments, word games and more.

**Monday, December 24**  
Closing at 2:30 for Christmas Eve.

**Monday, December 31**  
Closing at 4:00 for New Year's Eve.

**Wednesday, January 9, 7 pm**  
**Suzanne Arruda** returns to talk about and sign copies of *The Serpent's Daughter*, third in her Jade del Cameron series set in Africa.

For more details and events out into February, visit our website at:  
[www.themysterycompany.com](http://www.themysterycompany.com)



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IF THE LABEL BELOW IS YELLOW, IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP! (See below for details.)

## Holiday shopping at The Mystery Company

### Convenience

We make it easy for you to shop with us by:

- Offering **free standard shipping on every new book order every day**. That's not just a holiday gimmick; it's an offer we've extended to you since day one. Whether we're shipping across town or across the country, we're happy to get books out to you.

- Being open seven days a week, with evening hours on Wednesdays. Can't make it during our regular hours? **Make an appointment to shop with us at any time between 6 am and midnight, any day from now through December 23**. You tell us when you want to shop, and we'll open the store for you.

- Getting you in and out quickly or taking all the time you need to find the right gifts for everyone on your list — and for you too.

### Special offers

**Free with any purchase of \$5 or more:** *Sisters on the Case*, the brand new anthology that celebrates the 20th anniversary of Sisters in Crime. This book is filled with terrific stories by some of the top women in the genre today. We've ended up with a few extra copies of this book. While these extras last, they're free with any purchase of \$5 or more — in store, by mail or by phone. Just ask for yours! This offer is good only while these extras last.

**Leslie S. Klinger's three volume *Annotated Sherlock Holmes*** is the current, definitive edition of the classic original Holmes stories. We're offering the set of three volumes at 25% off — in store or even by mail (and, yes, the free standard shipping offer

applies on this special). This offer is good while supplies last.

We've just received a new supply of **Mystery Company T-Shirts and Sweatshirts**, featuring our logo in red on ash gray. Take 20% off shirts and sweatshirts, now through Christmas eve.

Save 50% on **Dick Francis'** new novel, *Dead Heat* — originally \$25.95, now \$12.97. Also, save 40% on the deluxe boxed *Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows*. These offers good by mail too, as long as current stock lasts

**Jeff Stone's Five Ancestors books in hardcover.** We have all of the first four titles — *Tiger*, *Monkey*, *Snake* and *Crane* — in stock in hardcover. But it looks like this is the last Christmas season we'll be able to offer the whole set in hardcover as the publisher has let *Tiger* go out of stock indefinitely. Buy any two of these four titles in hardcover and we'll give you 10% off. Buy three or all four hardcovers and we'll give you 20% off. Buy **any** of Jeff's books in hardcover before Christmas, and we'll give you a coupon for \$5 off book #5, *Eagle*, which will be available in April.

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