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Extenuating Circumstances

“Few writers better illuminate the mind’s most disturbing corners.”

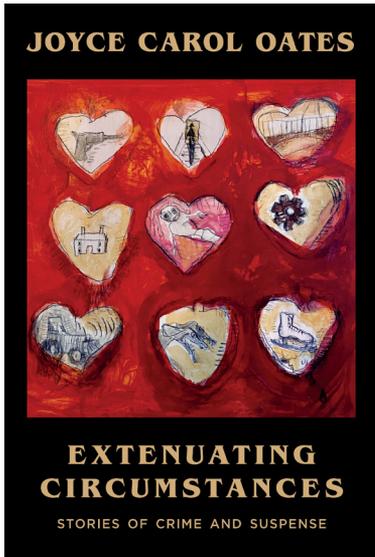
—*Seattle Times*

Twenty-two disturbing tales of crime and suspense from “America’s preeminent fiction writer” (New Yorker)

Two hitmen in a depressed rust belt town struggle with a job gone wrong. A girl witnesses a horrifying accident and carries it with her for the rest of her life. Medical students bring a severed foot to a college party. Joyce Carol Oates has made a career of exploring the forbidden corners of human experience, and the stories collected here, spanning her first three decades as a writer, are among her most unsettling and unforgettable works to date.

These tales have not appeared in any form this century—until now; they show a writer engaging with disturbing truths and terrifying possibilities, and deconstructing the form of the short story as she does so. But beyond their stylistic ingenuity, these are suspenseful stories that cut straight to the bone; their darkness lingers long after the final page is turned.

A must-read for long-time fans of Joyce Carol Oates and an excellent introduction for the uninitiated, the twenty-two tales included in *Extenuating Circumstances* exemplify the author’s idiosyncratic spookiness.



HARDCOVER

SUSPENSE MAY

6 X 9 512 PP

ISBN 9781613163153

20 CQ TERRITORY A

\$30

MYSTERIOUS PRESS

MARKETING INFO

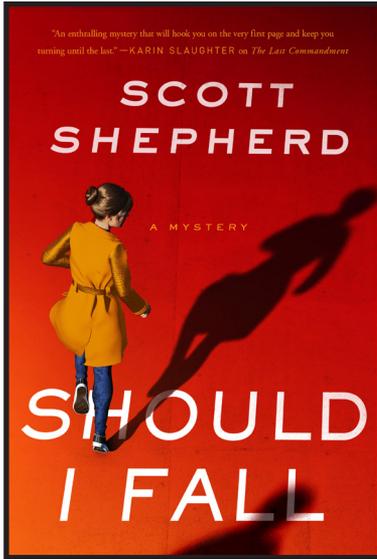
- Prepublication reading copies
- Major review coverage
- Goodreads giveaways
- Book influencer buzz campaign
- Mystery and thriller advertising
- Library marketing

JOYCE CAROL OATES is the author of more than 70 books, including novels, short story collections, poetry volumes, plays, essays, and criticism, including the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvaneys* and *Blonde*. Among her many honors are the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction and the National Book Award.



Scott Shepherd

Should I Fall



“Enthralling . . . will hook you on the very first page and keep you turning until the last.”—**Karin Slaughter** on *The Last Commandment*

“Scott Shepherd is a marvelous storyteller”
—**Michael Koryta**

A retired Scotland Yard Inspector races to prove the innocence of his daughter's fiancée in this fast-paced whodunnit

When John Frankel's ex-wife is discovered murdered on the floor of his Manhattan studio, the NYPD Detective becomes the prime suspect. Then more information surfaces, a motive is discovered, and Frankel flees the city, all of which further convinces his colleagues of his guilt. In spite of the mounting evidence, Frankel's bride-to-be, Rachel Grant, and her father, Austin Grant (formerly of Scotland Yard) are certain of his innocence. But with the police under orders to use whatever force necessary to stop him, the duo will have to act fast, before the manhunt goes violently wrong.

The investigation and relentless chase after Frankel takes them across the country, from Hawaii to Maine. And as that game of cat-and-mouse unfurls, so too does a complex murder plot with multiple victims.

The second mystery from Scott Shepherd, and the follow-up to *The Last Commandment*, *Should I Fall* is a fast-paced and twisty whodunnit that is as puzzling as it is entertaining.

HARDCOVER

MYSTERY JUNE

6 X 9 312 PP

ISBN 9781613163122

20 CQ TERRITORY A

\$25.95

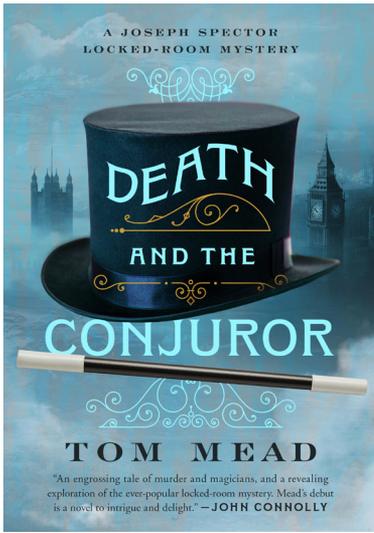
MYSTERIOUS PRESS

MARKETING INFO

- Prepublication reading copies
- Major review coverage
- Goodreads giveaways
- Book influencer buzz campaign
- Mystery and thriller advertising
- Library marketing

SCOTT SHEPHERD is a veteran writer/producer/show-runner with years of experience running network series; his production and screenwriting credits include *The Equalizer*, *Miami Vice*, *The Outer Limits*, *Haven*, and *Quantum Leap*. He was born in New York and raised in Los Angeles, where he lives today.





HARDCOVER

MYSTERY JULY

5.25 X 8.5 288 PP

ISBN 9781613163184

20 CQ TERRITORY A

\$25.95

MYSTERIOUS PRESS

MARKETING INFO

- Publishers Lunch “Buzz Book”
- WI galley room feature
- Major review coverage
- Goodreads giveaways
- Book influencer buzz campaign
- Mystery and thriller advertising

Death and the Conjuror

“An engrossing tale of murder and magicians, and a revealing exploration of the ever-popular locked-room mystery, Mead’s debut is a novel to intrigue and delight.”

—John Connolly

A magician-turned-sleuth in pre-war London solves three impossible crimes

In 1930s London, celebrity psychiatrist Anselm Rees is discovered dead in his locked study. There are no clues, no witnesses, and no evidence of the murder weapon. Stumped by the confounding scene, the Scotland Yard detective on the case calls on retired stage magician-turned-part-time sleuth Joseph Spector. For who better to make sense of the impossible than one who traffics in illusions?

The ensuing investigation uncovers no shortage of dark secrets—or motives for murder. The magician and the inspector also discover an apparently-impossible theft, possibly related, and when a second murder occurs, this time in an impenetrable elevator, they realize that the crime wave will become even more deadly unless they can catch the culprit soon.

A tribute to the golden-age whodunnit, *Death and the Conjuror* joins its macabre atmosphere, period detail, and vividly-drawn characters with a meticulously-constructed fair play puzzle. Its baffling story will enthrall readers of icons like Agatha Christie, modern masters like Anthony Horowitz, or any fan of a complex mystery plot.

TOM MEAD is a UK-based author specializing in crime fiction. His stories have appeared in *Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine*, *Alfred Hitchcock Mystery Magazine*, *Litro Online*, *Lighthouse*, *Mystery Scene* and *Mystery Weekly* (among others). Several of his pieces have also been anthologized, most recently “Heatwave” in *The Mysterious Bookshop Presents the Best Mystery Stories of the Year 2021*.



Night, Neon

“A perfect recipe for nine sleepless nights.”
—*Kirkus*

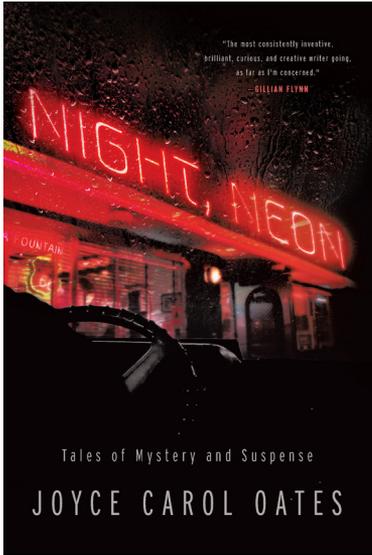
“The erudite, inventive Oates is always worth reading.”—*Publishers Weekly*

A new collection of dark, chilling tales from the #1 New York Times Bestselling author

From literary icon Joyce Carol Oates comes a brand new collection of haunting and, at times, darkly humorous mystery and suspense stories. These are tales of psyches pushed to their limits by the expectations of everyday life—from a woman who gets lost on her drive home and ends up breaking into a stranger’s house, to a first-person account of a cloned 1950s magazine pinup girl being sold at auction.

Taken as a whole, the collection forms a poignant tapestry of regular people searching for their place in a social hierarchy, often with devastating and disastrous results. Rendered with stylish, fresh writing from an author who continues to push the envelope, the stories deftly weave in and out of a stream-of-consciousness to reflect the ways we process traumatic experiences and impart that uncertainty and uneasiness to the reader.

Originally appearing in publications as disparate as *Harper’s*, *Vice*, and *Conjunctions*, the stories comprising *Night, Neon* showcase Oates’ mastery of the suspense story.



PAPERBACK

MYSTERY MAY

5.25 X 8 312 PP

ISBN 9781613163115

24 CQ TERRITORY A

\$16.95

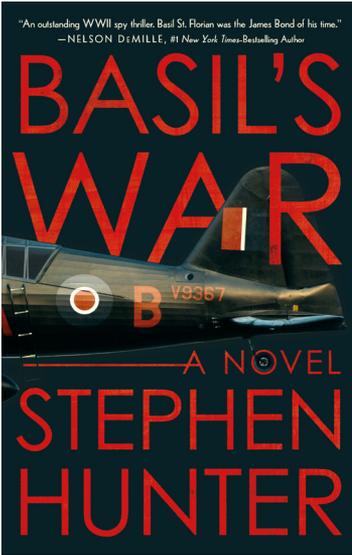
MYSTERIOUS PRESS

*New
In
Paperback*

JOYCE CAROL OATES is the author of more than 70 books, including novels, short story collections, poetry volumes, plays, essays, and criticism, including the national bestsellers *We Were the Mulvanays* and *Blonde*. Among her many honors are the PEN/Malamud Award for Excellence in Short Fiction and the National Book Award.



Basil's War



“Utterly charming.”

—**Booklist (Starred Review)**

“Terrific.”

—**Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)**

A British spy goes behind enemy lines to crack a secret code in this “highly entertaining World War II espionage thriller” (Seattle Times).

Basil St. Florian is an accomplished agent in the British Army, tasked with dozens of dangerous missions for crown and country across the globe. But his current mission, going undercover in Nazi-occupied France during World War II, might be his toughest assignment yet. He will be searching for an ecclesiastic manuscript that doesn't officially exist, one that genius professor Alan Turing believes may hold the key to a code that could prevent the death of millions and possibly even end the war.

St. Florian isn't the classic British special agent with a stiff upper lip—he is a swashbuckling, whisky-drinking cynic and thrill-seeker who resents having to leave his lover's bed to set out on his crucial mission. But Basil's army superiors know he's the best man for the job, with enough charm and quick wit to make any of his subjects lower their guards.

Action-packed and bursting with WWII-era intrigue, *Basil's War* is a classic espionage thriller from Pulitzer Prize-winning critic, essayist, and bestselling novelist Stephen Hunter.

PAPERBACK

ESPIONAGE MAY

5.25 X 8 288 PP

ISBN 9781613163092

28 CQ TERRITORY A

\$16.95

MYSTERIOUS PRESS

New
In
Paperback

STEPHEN HUNTER won the 2003 Pulitzer Prize for Criticism as well as the 1998 American Society of Newspaper Editors Award for Distinguished Writing in Criticism for his work as film critic at *The Washington Post*. He is the author of several *New York Times* bestsellers, including *Havana*, *Pale Horse Coming*, and *Point of Impact* (filmed as *Shooter*). He lives in Baltimore.



The Last Commandment

“A fast-paced tale that weds its golden-age homage to some serious violence.”

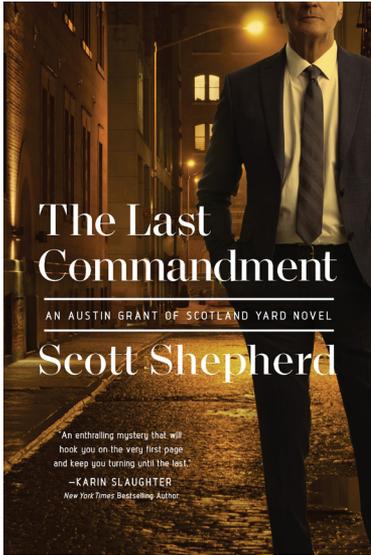
—*Kirkus*

A Scotland Yard detective tracks a serial killer from London to New York City

Christmastime in London. When three seemingly unconnected victims are murdered with matching sequential Roman numerals carved into their foreheads, Scotland Yard Commander Austin Grant finds his answer in one of the last places he'd expect: the Holy Bible. Each of the deaths correspond to a transgression of one of the Ten Commandments, and Grant must find the killer before the remaining Commandments are commemorated with homicides.

The next victim turns up not in London, but across the pond at the iconic St. Patrick's Cathedral in New York City, turning this English murder case into a transatlantic manhunt spanning two global metropolises. Commander Grant must team up with NYPD detective John Frankel, as well as his own estranged daughter Rachel—a cunning investigative reporter with conflicting feelings about her father.

Fast-paced, unpredictable, and fun, *The Last Commandment* is the first mystery and “a gem of a thriller” (Michael Koryta) by acclaimed screenwriter and producer Scott Shepherd.



PAPERBACK

MYSTERY MAY

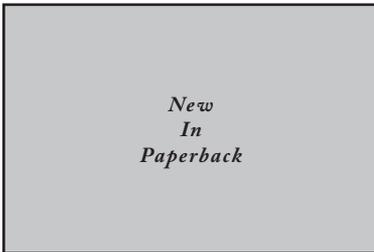
5.25 X 8 336 PP

ISBN 9781613163047

24 CQ TERRITORY A

\$16.95

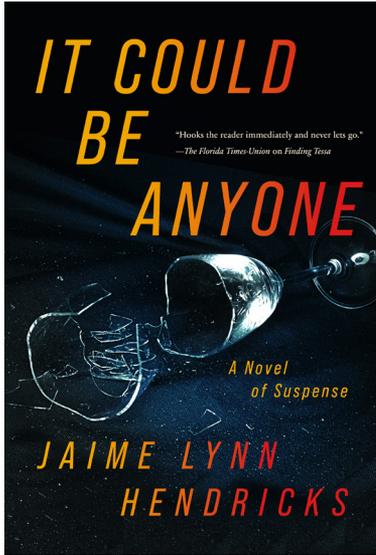
MYSTERIOUS PRESS



SCOTT SHEPHERD is a veteran writer/producer/show-runner with years of experience running network series; his production and screenwriting credits include *The Equalizer*, *Miami Vice*, *The Outer Limits*, *Haven*, and *Quantum Leap*. He was born in New York and raised in Los Angeles, where he lives today.



It Could Be Anyone



“Hendricks excels at sharp twists and dangerous turns that domestic suspense readers will devour.”—**Vanessa Lillie**

Murder motives abound when the groom dies at a destination wedding

To anyone on their flight out of New York, they appear to be five best friends excited for a destination wedding in Miami. No one would guess that each of them has a reason to want the groom dead.

Trevor Vaughn, the groom in question, wooed his bride-to-be by digging up all of the five’s darkest, most dangerous secrets and blackmailing them into convincing Fiona to say “I do.” The friends were forced to convince a doubting Fiona to go through with the wedding, no matter what, and now the charade is set to continue all the way to the altar. Trevor has his own reasons for wanting to marry into Fiona’s family, and he’ll stop at nothing to make his plan a reality. But when he dies of an apparent allergic reaction at the wedding, surrounded by such close enemies, the possibility of murder isn’t far behind. And for the authorities investigating the case, anyone present could be a suspect...

A suspenseful tale of a deadly destination wedding, *It Could Be Anyone* is a twisty domestic thriller that will appeal to readers of Liane Moriarty, May Cobb, and Lisa Jewell.

HARDCOVER

SUSPENSE MAY

6 X 9 312 PP

ISBN 9781613162996

20 CQ TERRITORY A

\$25.95

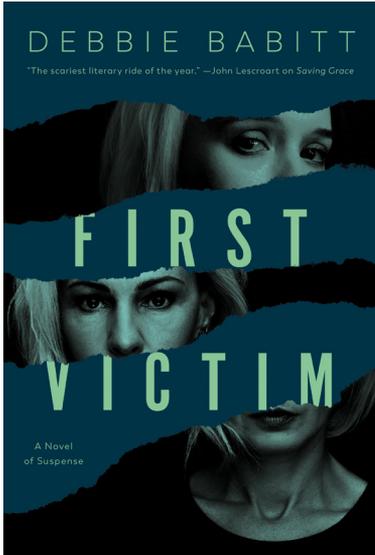
SCARLET

MARKETING INFO

- Prepublication reading copies
- Major review coverage
- Goodreads giveaways
- Book influencer buzz campaign
- Mystery and thriller advertising
- Library marketing

JAIME LYNN HENDRICKS is an author with nearly 20 years experience in print media and marketing. Her debut, *Finding Tessa*, was praised by *Publishers Weekly* as an “anxiety-fueled ride rife with unexpected left turns.” She lives with her husband in New Jersey. *It Could Be Anyone* is her second novel.





HARDCOVER

SUSPENSE JUNE

6 X 9 312 PP

ISBN 9781613163023

20 CQ TERRITORY W

\$25.95

SCARLET

MARKETING INFO

- Prepublication reading copies
- Publishers Lunch “Buzz Book”
- WI galley room feature
- Book influencer buzz campaign
- Mystery and thriller advertising
- Goodreads giveaways

First Victim

“A taut, visceral thriller . . . Buckle up for a wild ride.”—**Lisa Gardner**

“Setting the standard for top-notch thrillers, *First Victim* is smart, compelling and filled with utterly real characters.”

—**Jeffery Deaver**

The line between justice and revenge blurs when a judge takes the law into her own hands.

Judge Alice D. McKerry’s life is thrown into chaos when she presides over a murder trial that echoes a traumatic event from her past. Problems at home add to her mounting feelings of panic and fear, as does the secret she’s harboring that, if exposed, could have far-reaching ramifications both personally and professionally. And now, unbeknownst to Alice, her daughter has begun a search for her biological father.

As the trial progresses, so do Alice’s troubles. Nightmares she suffered as a girl return with a vengeance, and phantom sightings torment her. Then a shocking discovery sends her on a collision course with her past and a terrifying night in the woods in Upstate New York. Confronted with the unspeakable, she must face a decades-buried truth that forces her to question everything she ever believed about herself . . . and tests her limits as a woman, a judge, and a mother.

Narrated from the perspectives of three women—Alice, her daughter, and Alice’s girlhood friend—*First Victim* is a suspenseful tale of guilt, justice, and long-awaited retribution.

DEBBIE BABITT was Copy Director for two major Manhattan publishing companies. She has worked as an actress, playwright, and drama critic. Debbie is the daughter of a former federal judge and is married to a criminal defense attorney. She and her husband divide their time between New York and Florida.



Vicious Creatures

“A fantastic debut, full of tense domestic anger and the highest of stakes. It is un-putdownable in the best way.”

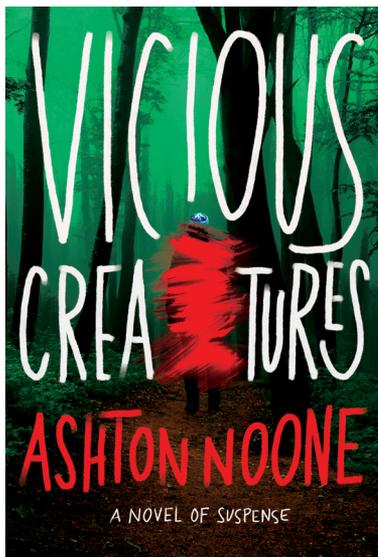
—Lyndsay Faye

In this haunting psychological thriller, a mother and daughter face a deadly secret lurking in the wilds of the Pacific Northwest

Ava Montgomery never wanted to return home. She fled Wildwood fourteen years ago after the discovery of Adam Albright’s body in the forest shattered her young life. But when a violent divorce sends her running back to her parents’ house with her troubled daughter Marjorie in tow, Ava discovers that not much has changed in the small Oregon town where she grew up.

It doesn’t take long for Ava to fall back in with her old crowd, most of whom stayed in town after high school—including Victoria Gallagher, Ava’s high school best friend and ex-lover. Meanwhile, Ava’s daughter becomes intrigued by the forest, fascinated by an urban legend about its secret power—and her questions bring Ava’s memories of Adam’s death back to the fore. And then, when the body of a missing child is found in those same woods, that dark past begins to repeat itself.

A suspenseful tale of teenage cruelty and tree-covered terror, this debut thriller will appeal to fans of *Riverdale* or *The Whisper Man*.



HARDCOVER

SUSPENSE JULY

6 X 9 312 PP

ISBN 9781613163382

20 CQ TERRITORY W

\$25.95

SCARLET

MARKETING INFO

- Prepublication reading copies
- Major review coverage
- Goodreads giveaways
- Book influencer buzz campaign
- Mystery and thriller advertising
- Library marketing

ASHTON NOONE’s short fiction has been longlisted for the 2019 CBC Short Story Prize, has been a finalist in the In Places Between: The Robyn Herrington Memorial Short Story contest and has been published in *Across the Margin*, *Bosic Magazine*, and *Poydras Review*. *Vicious Creatures* is her first novel. She lives in Calgary, AB.



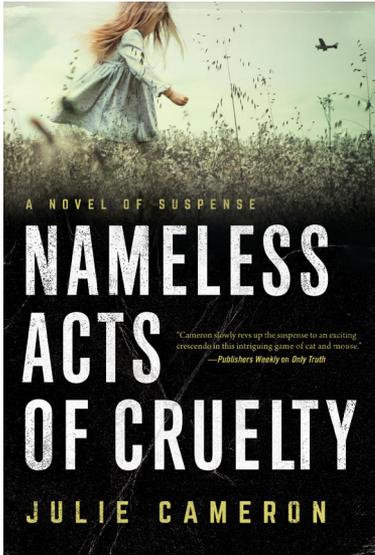
Nameless Acts of Cruelty

“For all her mastery of the spooky trap-pings of suspense, Cameron also respects another, more fundamental element of the form—plotting.”—**Marilyn Stasio**, *The New York Times*

Decades after the loss of his younger sister, a man haunted by horrific memories returns to the sleepy English village where she died

Jeremy Horton is a man denying his past, haunted by a dysfunctional childhood full of dark secrets—including the suspicious death of his younger sister. Now, married to lawyer Sarah and with children of his own, Jeremy keeps his eyes firmly focused on the present, never daring to glance in the rear-view mirror for fear of what he might see there. But when a chance encounter awakens the memories he’s fought so hard to suppress, and the death of his estranged mother takes Jeremy back to his sleepy hometown and the scene of the family tragedy, he determines to finally uncover the truth behind his sister’s death.

Villages hold long memories, and Jeremy’s presence quickly becomes an unwelcome reminder of nameless cruelties and shameful secrets. The more he learns, the more the stories from his past take on a sinister significance, leading him to question his own innocence. Meanwhile, someone desperately wants him gone, and their efforts to drive him out escalate as Jeremy’s anxiety spirals out of control. Do they fear him for what he knows—or for what he’s done?



HARDCOVER

SUSPENSE AUGUST

6 X 9 312 PP

ISBN 9781613163047

20 CQ TERRITORY W

\$25.95

SCARLET

MARKETING INFO

- Prepublication reading copies
- Major review coverage
- Goodreads giveaways
- Book influencer buzz campaign
- Mystery and thriller advertising
- Library marketing

JULIE CAMERON was born and grew up in England. She studied Clinical Sciences at university and, after a short spell in industry, has worked as both a clinician and a manager in the National Health Service. Her debut thriller, *Only Truth*, was published in 2020 to wide acclaim. Julie has one daughter and lives in a small village in the Berkshire countryside.



Finding Tessa

“An anxiety-fueled ride rife with unexpected left turns. Psychological suspense fans will look forward to her next.”

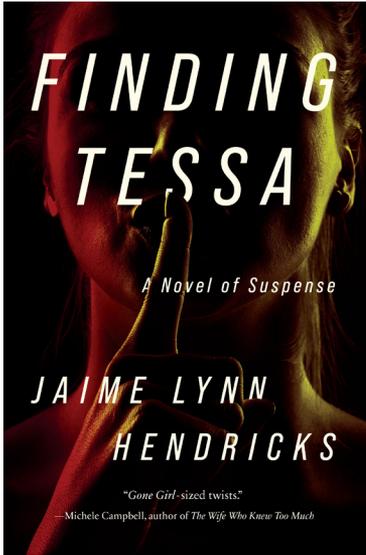
—*Publishers Weekly*

In this “sharp and deftly constructed suspense thriller” (Florida Times-Union), a woman struggles to create a new life as her husband takes the fall for her murder

When Jace Montgomery comes home late from entertaining clients, he discovers that his wife Tessa is missing. The cops in their small New Jersey town have him pegged as a suspect, especially after he explodes at a reporter during a press conference, but Jace maintains his innocence despite the mounting evidence against him. Then a coworker he’s accused of having an affair with also disappears and a search warrant turns up an illegal gun in Jace’s home, and all signs point to him as the culprit.

Meanwhile, Tessa finally feels safe, having set up her husband to take the fall for her disappearance. Breaking her lifelong pattern of bad men is only one hurdle she has to overcome. The other is outrunning her secret past while trying to stay alive, especially when those in her new life aren’t who they appear to be...

Fresh, fast-paced, and unpredictable, *Finding Tessa* is a smart domestic thriller where nothing can be taken at face value, and where every twist reveals a deadlier secret than the one before.



PAPERBACK

SUSPENSE MAY

5.25 X 8 312 PP

ISBN 9781613163078

24 CQ TERRITORY A

\$16.95

SCARLET

*New
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JAIME LYNN HENDRICKS is an author with nearly 20 years experience in print media and marketing. Her debut, *Finding Tessa*, was praised by *Publishers Weekly* as an “anxiety-fueled ride rife with unexpected left turns.” She lives with her husband in New Jersey. *It Could Be Anyone* is her second novel.



Black Ice

A Publishers Weekly Best Book of 2021

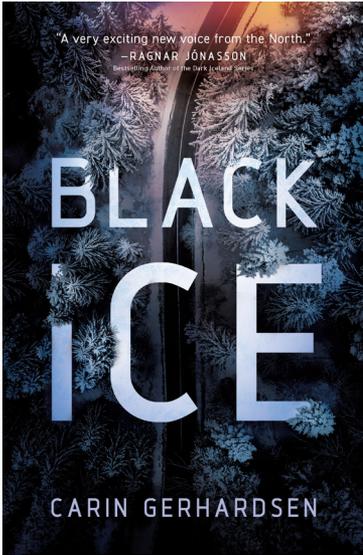
“I was all-in from the first page”
—Sara Blaedel

A twisty thriller by “a very exciting new voice from the North” (Ragnar Jónasson, bestselling author of the Dark Iceland series)

January in Gotland. The days are short, the air is cold, and all the roads are covered in snow. On a deserted, icy backroad, these wintery conditions bring together a group of strangers with a force devastating enough to change their lives forever when, in the midst of a brief period, a deadly accident and two separate crimes leave victims in their wake. For Sandra it started as an unremarkable wintery day of shopping followed by a kind gesture from a stranger. For Jeanette it began with the thrill of an illicit rendezvous with her lover.

Both women had driven past the same icy ravine, but only one was in the car that caused a deadly crash, and only one left a man to die alone in the snow. Four years later, a single phone call is all it takes to bring back the terror of that day and set in motion a deadly plot for revenge...

Chilling and atmospheric, *Black Ice* is a gripping standalone novel of suspense from the author of the internationally-bestselling Hammarby series.



PAPERBACK

SUSPENSE MAY

5.25 X 8 336 PP

ISBN 9781613163085

24 CQ TERRITORY A

\$16.95

SCARLET

*New
In
Paperback*

CARIN GERHARDSEN is a mathematician who made her literary debut in 1992. She is most well-known for her bestselling Hammarby series. She lives in Stockholm.

Translated by IAN GILES



Saving Grace

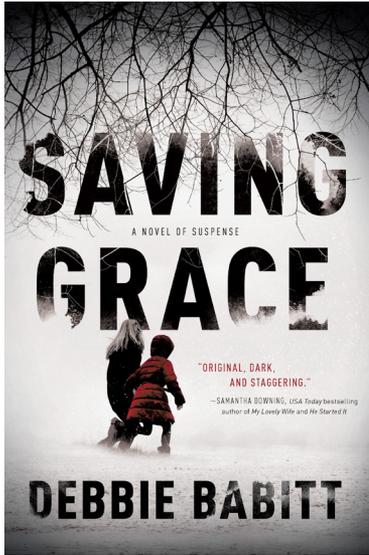
“A Southern gothic that will cling like cobwebs, and encourage you to read on long past your bedtime.”—*Criminal Element*

In this gripping suspense debut, the first female sheriff of a small mountain village investigates a disappearance that echoes the crimes that shattered her town decades before.

For twenty-four years, Mary Grace Dobbs has been searching for salvation. Orphaned at eleven, she was forced to go live with her Bible salesman uncle, wheelchair-bound aunt, and a cruel cousin. At school, a bully made her life a nightmare. Everything changed when a newcomer to town became her only best friend, and changed a second time when that friend and another classmate vanished two months later, never to be seen again.

Today, Mary Grace is the first female sheriff of her rural town, a position that doesn't sit well with some of the locals. Keeping order and her demons at bay becomes an impossible task when the Black drifter suspected in the earlier disappearances returns to Repentance . . . and another sixth grader vanishes.

With old prejudices and new secrets spilling out into the open, the modern world soon illuminates the village's darkest corners. Soon, Mary Grace must confront an unspeakable truth—and face a decision no parent should ever have to make.



PAPERBACK

SUSPENSE MAY

5.25 X 8 312 PP

ISBN 9781613163061

24 CQ TERRITORY W

\$16.95

SCARLET

*New
In
Paperback*

DEBBIE BABITT was Copy Director for two major Manhattan publishing companies. She has worked as an actress, playwright, and drama critic. Debbie is the daughter of a former federal judge and is married to a criminal defense attorney. She and her husband divide their time between New York and Florida.



The Cape Cod Mystery

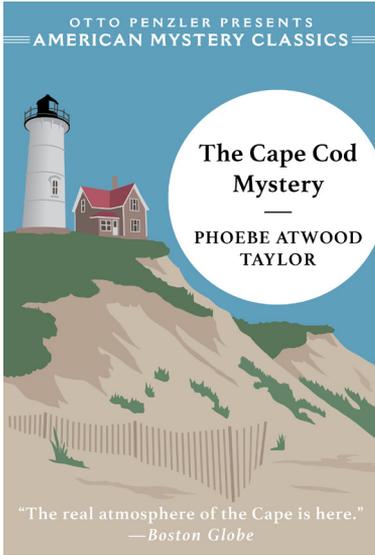
“Asey Mayo possesses more common sense and personal charm than any other detective in fiction.”—*Times Literary Supplement*

The “Codfish Sherlock Holmes” solves a whodunnit in 1930s Cape Cod

Meet Asey Mayo, Cape Cod’s answer to Sherlock Holmes. Settled down from his former life as a seafaring adventurer, Asey is a Jack-of-all-trades who uses his worldly knowledge, folksy wisdom, and plain common sense to solve the most puzzling crimes to strike the peninsula. And in this, his first case, Asey finds himself embroiled in a scandal that will push his deductive powers to their limits.

A massive heatwave is scorching the Northeast and vacationers from New York and Boston flock to Cape Cod for breezy, cool respite. Then a journalist is found murdered in the cabin he’s rented for the season, and the summer holiday becomes a nightmare for the local authorities. There are abundant suspects among the out-of-towners flooding the area, but the police fix their sights on beloved local businessman Bill Porter as the murderer—unless Asey Mayo can prove him innocent and find the true killer.

A light whodunnit with an unforgettable amateur sleuth at its center, *The Cape Cod Mystery* is the first novel from one of the most beloved authors of the American Golden Age mystery.



PAPERBACK

MYSTERY MAY

5.25 X 8 264 PP

ISBN 9781613163238

24 CQ TERRITORY A

\$15.95

AMERICAN MYSTERY CLASSICS

Introduction By
OTTO PENZLER

Also Available in Hardcover
\$25.95; ISBN 9781613163245

PHOEBE ATWOOD TAYLOR (1909-1976) was one of the most beloved and most successful mystery authors of the 1930s and 1940s. Her Asey Mayo character, first introduced in *The Cape Cod Mystery*, went on to star in 24 novels in a series informed by the author’s generations-long family history in Cape Cod.



Deadline at Dawn

“One of the great masters.”
—**Ellery Queen**

Also Available:

Waltz into Darkness
(Introduction by
Wallace Stroby)

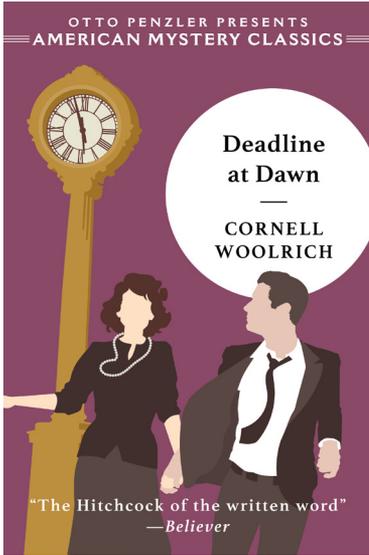
The Bride Wore Black
(Introduction by
Eddie Muller)

In this thrilling mystery from “the Hitchcock of the written word,” two lovers rush to solve a murder before the end of a New York night (Believer)

When Quinn first meets Bricky, she’s working as a dancer-for-hire at a dancehall and he’s struggling to shake the anxiety of his guilty conscience. Earlier that day, the young man took advantage of a found key and used it to rob a stranger’s home. Now, with the purloined money in his pocket, Quinn is unable to escape the memory of his wrongdoing—and not even a night spent dancing is enough to silence his nagging thoughts.

When the dancehall closes, he and Bricky return to the scene of the crime intending to restore the stolen fortune and begin a new life together, only to discover, upon arrival, that the owner of the property has been murdered and Quinn expects that, as soon as day breaks and the authorities learn of the gruesome scene, he will be arrested straight away. Which means that he and Bricky have only a few hours to find the true killer and clear his name for good.

What begins as a romance soon turns into a nightmare, as this young couple trek through the dark underbelly of old New York.



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CORNELL WOOLRICH (1903–1968) is one of America’s best crime and noir writers who sometimes wrote under the pseudonyms William Irish and George Hopley. His works inspired more films noir than those of any other writer, as well as classic suspense pictures including *Rear Window*, *The Bride Wore Black*, and *Mississippi Mermaid*.



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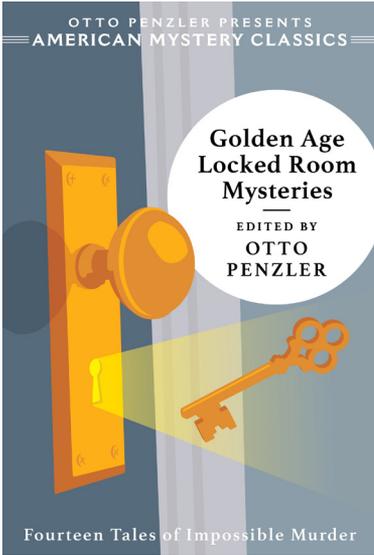
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Among the Americans, some of these authors are still household names, inextricably linked to the locked room mystery: John Dickson Carr, Ellery Queen, Clayton Rawson, Stuart Palmer. Others, known for different kinds of writing, also produced great works—authors including Fredric Brown, MacKinlay Kantor, Craig Rice, and Cornell Woolrich.

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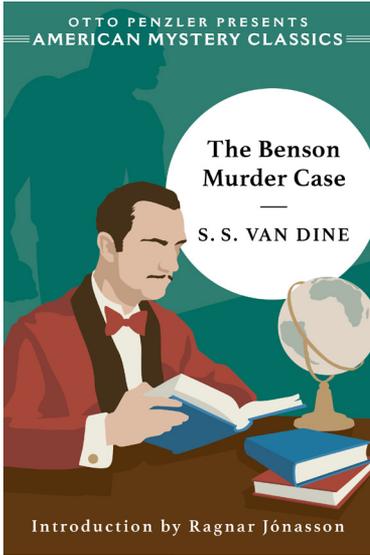
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OTTO PENZLER, the creator of American Mystery Classics, is also the founder of the Mysterious Press (1975); Mysterious Press.com (2011), an electronic-book publishing company; and New York City’s Mysterious Bookshop (1979). He has won numerous awards, including two Edgars, has edited more than 70 anthologies and has written extensively about mystery fiction.



The Benson Murder Case

“The perfect sleuth for the Jazz Age”
—*CrimeReads*



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Brilliant amateur sleuth Philo Vance solves a puzzling murder in one of the most influential detective novels of the twentieth century

All of Manhattan high society is abuzz after play-boy stockbroker Alvin Benson is discovered dead in his brownstone mansion. The man’s body is found in a room locked from the inside, and not even the NYPD’s top brass can solve the puzzling crime. Luckily, they don’t have to: New York’s leading flaneur and art connoisseur, Philo Vance, is on the case, and he’s got the brainy expertise needed to interpret the clues and determine whodunnit.

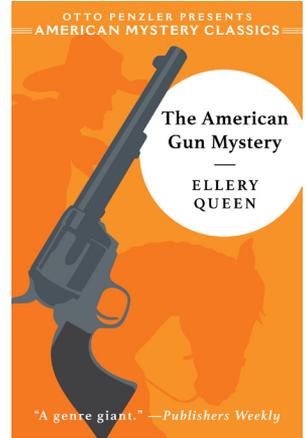
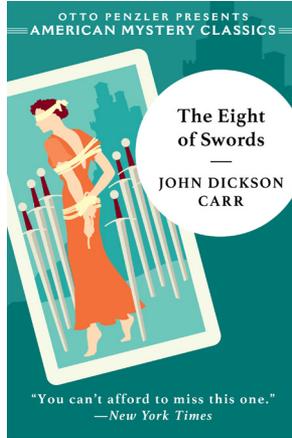
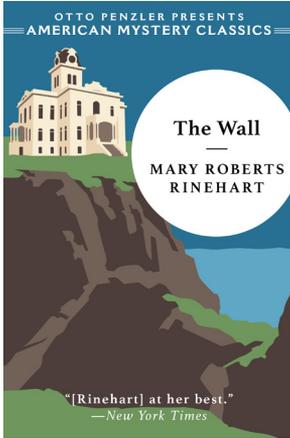
By carefully examining the crime scene and reconstructing the deadly shooting, Vance discovers plenty about the murderer, including his or her height—and this is only the first of many deductive feats that he will pull off before the investigation ends. But will he be able to pierce the alibi of the true killer and prove their guilt beyond a reasonable doubt?

The first novel in one of the most influential detective series of the early twentieth century, *The Benson Murder Case* introduced iconic sleuth Philo Vance with a devilishly complicated puzzle plot and an aristocratic New York setting.

S. S. VAN DINE is a pseudonym of American art critic Willard Huntington Wright (1888–1939), an important figure in avant-garde cultural circles in pre-World War I New York. He created the immensely popular Philo Vance character, one of the most influential detectives in American mystery fiction and, in turn, in film and radio as well.



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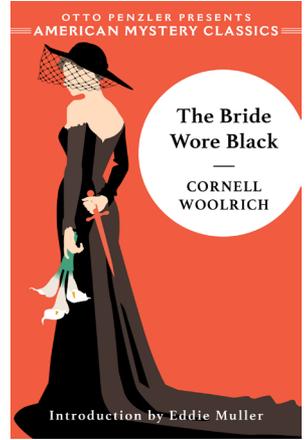
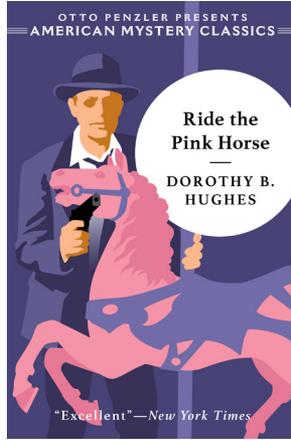
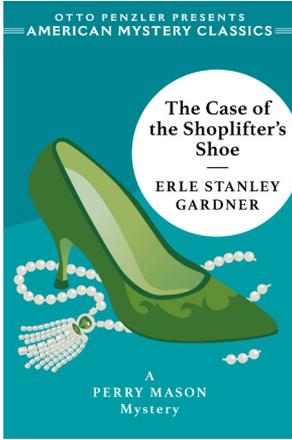
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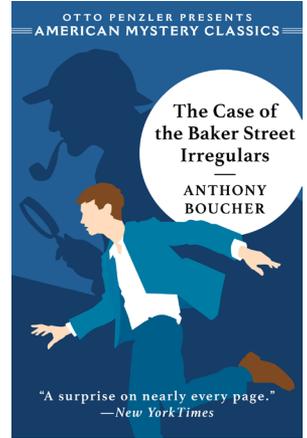
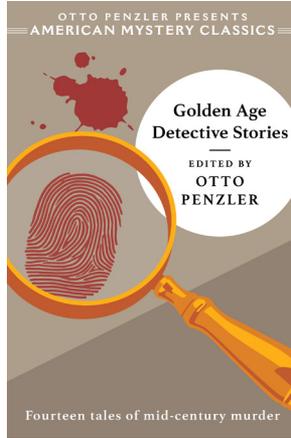
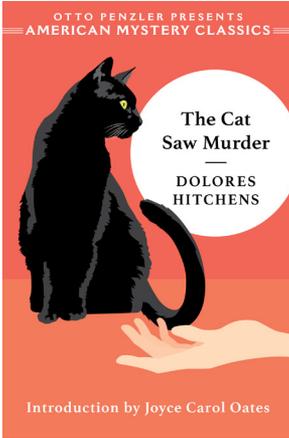
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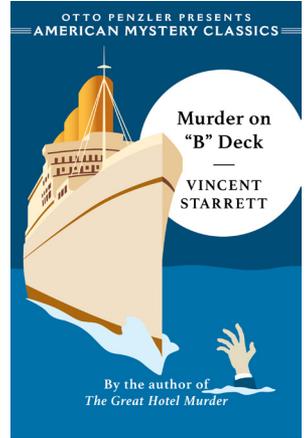
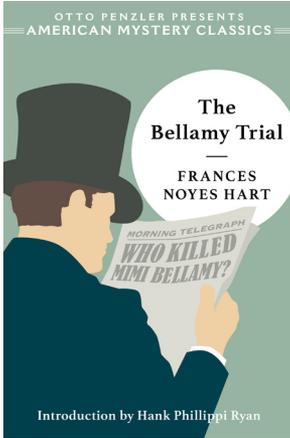
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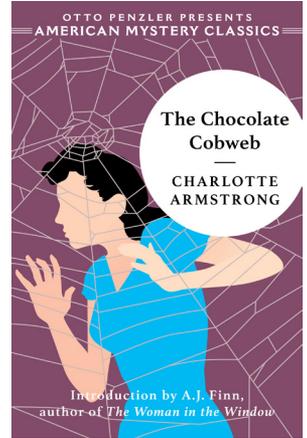
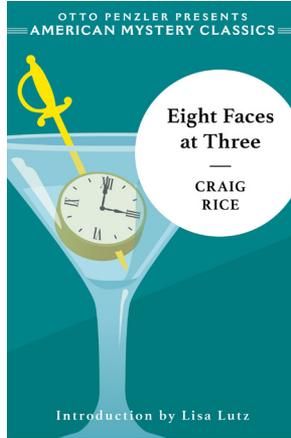
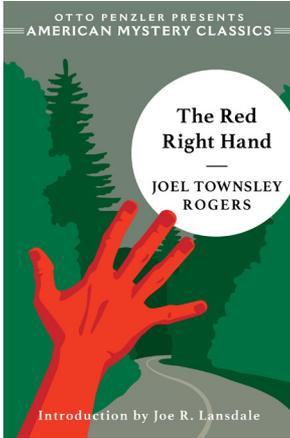
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