

The following is a tentative list of new fiction releases for **MARCH, 2010**.
Most titles on this list are on order for the library and can be reserved, but will not be available until the release date.
Compiled by Judy Kamiat, West Boynton Branch Library

Jefferson Bass, **THE BONE THIEF: A Body Farm Novel**, (368 pgs) 3/23

Bill Brockton, the chair of the University of Tennessee's anthropology department and head of the human decomposition research facility known as the Body Farm, is still preoccupied with the fallout of the previous book's events, which left his emotions in turmoil and a close friend maimed. The woman Brockton had fallen for, who turned out to be the killer he was seeking, escaped after Brockton confronted her. The present book largely focuses on Brockton's efforts at undercover work after the Feds involve him in a case against an unscrupulous tissue bank.

William Bernhardt, **CAPITOL BETRAYAL**, (352 pgs) 3/16

Ben Kincaid has lost his bid to be elected to the U.S. Senate in Bernhardt's 18th thriller to feature the honorable Oklahoma lawyer (after *Capitol Offense*). Ben's wife, Christina McCall, also a practicing attorney, has moved the family law firm to Washington, D.C., and is in charge of operations, while Ben works on legal issues for the newly elected U.S. president, Roland Kyler. Ben is at the White House with the president, the vice president, and other cabinet members when they learn that the nation is under missile attack. Ben and the others rush to an underground shelter deep beneath the White House, where the vice president makes a bid to replace Kyler, who's been acting bizarrely. This results in a trial of sorts, with Ben defending the president.

Peter Bognanni, **THE HOUSE OF TOMORROW**, (368 pgs) 3/4

Sebastian Prendergast, the teenage narrator of Bognanni's debut, lives in Iowa's first geodesic dome with his grandmother, a devout follower of futurist philosopher Buckminster R. Fuller. But when Nana has a stroke, Sebastian is thrown together with Janice and Jared Whitcomb, who were touring the home when Nana was stricken. Soon, Sebastian and Jared form an unlikely bond via the great teenage tradition of punk rock, starting their own band despite the objections of everyone around them and Sebastian's lack of musical ability. And while Jared succeeds to some degree in socializing Sebastian—teaching him about music, smoking, and curse words—Sebastian ends up getting more than he bargained for when the two get caught up in Whitcomb family drama. The boys here don't come of age—girls are just beginning to exist and lifelong struggles are only taking root—but their connection is an honest, noisy, and raucous

look at friendship and how loud music can make almost everything better. "A funny and unique debut." ***Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)*** **FIRST NOVEL**

Alafair Burke, **212** (368 pgs) 3/23

When NYPD detective Ellie Hatcher (*Angel's Tip*) and her partner, J.J. Rogan, suspect a connection between the murder of a college co-ed who'd recently complained about an online stalking incident and the murder of a bodyguard employed by a wealthy and well-known real estate developer, the clues lead them into the darker side of the Internet—a world of anonymous online gossip and call-girl ads. Ellie soon finds herself juggling two active cases while sitting in the crosshairs of both office politics and high-powered persons of interest who don't like the police looking into their business. "Burke expertly weaves real-life headlines into her plot—particularly the Craig's List Killer and the slew of recent political scandals—without ever sacrificing originality." ***Publishers Weekly*** "A fast-paced thriller featuring an appealingly current angle, dynamic characters, and a spiderweb of possibilities she manages to leave tied up neatly." ***Library Journal***

Stephen J. Cannell, **THE PALLBEARERS**, (320 pgs) 3/16

Abandoned by his parents as an infant, Scully was reared in an orphanage, Huntington House. The only positive thing in his young life was the attention of the Home's director, Walter "Pop" Dix. Pop, an avid surfer, would take a small group of kids for early morning surfing. He was the father none of them ever had. That was thirty years ago. Now, Shane is forced to revisit these memories when Pop is found dead, the victim of an apparently self-inflicted shotgun blast. He leaves a message asking six specific people, all of whom attended Huntington House, to be his pallbearers, and Shane is one of the chosen. He and his fellow pallbearers don't believe it was a suicide. That leaves murder. But why, and by whom? Together, the pallbearers embark on a dangerous odyssey in pursuit of justice for Pop, and for retribution against those responsible for his death. Their journey takes them up against an unforeseen adversary whose power and influence far exceed anything they could have imagined.

Harlan Coben, **CAUGHT**, (400 pgs) 3/23

Frank Tremont, a world-weary, near-retirement investigator for New Jersey's Essex County, has to face his failure to solve his last case—the disappearance of a teenage girl. Meanwhile, Dan Mercer stands accused of being a sexual predator thanks to the ambush journalism of Wendy Tynes, a tabloid TV reporter, who must cope with her husband's death caused by a drunken driver as well as reckon with the possibility of

Mercer's innocence. When Tynes finds a link between a father of one of Mercer's alleged victims and others felled by scandal, she could become a killer's next victim. "A tightly choreographed dance of guilt and innocence, forgiveness and retribution..... Coben gives readers lots to think about when judging rights and wrongs." ***Publishers Weekly***

Jennifer Crusie & Bob Mayer, **WILD RIDE**, (368 pgs) 3/16

When Mary Alice Brannigan comes home to Ohio to restore the Dreamland amusement park, she doesn't expect to fall in love with a clown. Nor does she expect to find that she, the newest recruit in the Guardia, an elite team of demon fighters formed centuries before to guard the five Untouchables, the most powerful demons in the history of the world, now imprisoned right there in Dreamland. That would be bad enough, but there's that clown she's falling hard for, and there's something about him that's not quite right... Then there's Ethan Wayne, a former Green Beret who's come home to Dreamland to die. Ethan has his own problems including a bullet in his chest inching closer to his heart, a true love who shoots him on sight, and a mother who drags him into the Guardia. Between ducking his mother, attempts to reform him and dodging the bullets of a secret government agent he's pretty sure is his soulmate, Ethan really doesn't have time for demons, touchable or not. But rocky romances and demented demons aren't Mab and Ethan's only problems, and they're about to find out what everybody who's ever been to an amusement park knows: the end of the ride is the wildest.

Clive Cussler, **THE SILENT SEA**, (416 pgs) 3/9

Juan Cabrillo, the heroic skipper of the Oregon, a state-of-the-art warship disguised as a tramp steamer, faces a multitude of difficulties and challenges. A fabulous pirate treasure may lie at the bottom of a deep well on Pine Island in Washington State. In Argentina, a junta of generals has seized power and turned the country into a police state with designs on the rest of South America. The discovery of the remains of a WWII-era blimp in the Argentine jungle ups the ante. At the bottom of the sea off Antarctica, where the Argentines have opened a secret oil field, lies a huge, ancient Chinese vessel, which could help the Chinese, who are in league with the Argentines, in any legal claim to Antarctic territory. "The action seesaws from subtropical jungles to the bitter cold of the Antarctic as Juan leads his band of intrepid scientist warriors into battle against a host of nefarious enemies. A cliffhanger ending will leave fans panting for more." ***Publishers Weekly***

Linda Fairstein, **HELL GATE**, (400 pgs) 3/9

New York City politics have always been filled with intrigue and behind-the-scenes deals. In Hell Gate, Alexandra Cooper finds her attention torn

between investigating a shipwreck that has contraband cargo-human cargo-and the political sex scandal of a promising New York congressman now fallen from grace. When Alex discovers that a woman from the wreck and the congressman's lover have the same rose tattoo-the brand of a "snakehead", a master of a human trafficking operation-it dawns on her that these cases aren't as unrelated as they seem and that the entire political landscape of New York City could hang in the balance of her investigation. As Alex looks on at the nameless victims in the morgue, she realizes she's looking at the present-day face of New York's long, dark tradition of human trafficking-a tradition that began hundreds of years ago with slave trade from Africa, now a multimillion-dollar industry that will stop at no cost, even if that cost is Alex's life. "Readers seeking a realistic depiction of law-enforcement work will be more than satisfied."
Publishers Weekly

Sebastian Faulks, **A WEEK IN DECEMBER**, (400 pgs) 3/9

London: the week before Christmas, 2007. Over seven days we follow the lives of seven major characters: a hedge fund manager trying to bring off the biggest trade of his career; a professional footballer recently arrived from Poland; a young lawyer with little work and too much time to speculate; a student who has been led astray by Islamist theory; a hack book reviewer; a schoolboy hooked on reality TV and genetically altered pot; and a Tube train driver whose Circle Line train joins these and countless other lives together in a daily loop. "Faulks retains control of his material as he shows us a world in which money rules, tunnel vision destroys and love remains the touchstone and redeemer." ***Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review)***

Katie Fforde, **WEDDING SEASON**, (432 pgs) 3/16

Sarah is a powerhouse wedding planner, though cynical to the core about love after her first serious boyfriend hurt her, and she refuses to yield to her obvious attraction to Hugo, photographer extraordinaire. Elsa is a dressmaker soon enlisted as part of Sarah's planning team, along with Bron, a hairstylist and budding cake maker. Each woman comes to the new friendship with romantic woes to sort through and a new life to create. Caught in a frenzy between arranging a celebrity wedding (recommended by the mysterious Hugo, thus throwing them together for greater amounts of time) and her own pregnant sister's on the same day, Sarah needs to learn to rely on others for help and to let down her guard. "Solidly written for its genre, this light, amusing happily-ever-after will appeal to fans of Bridget Jones's Diary and other British chick lit."
Library Journal

Conor Fitzgerald, **THE DOGS OF ROME: A Commissario Alec Blume Novel**, (400 pgs) 3/2

Fitzgerald's debut, the first in a projected contemporary crime series, introduces police chief commissioner Alec Blume, an American expatriate who's been living in Rome for the last 22 years. Since losing both his parents—art historians who were shot and killed during a bank robbery on Via Cristoforo Colombo—as a teenager, Blume has been a loner of sorts, the proverbial outsider. When someone brutally murders Arturo Clemente, a prominent politician's husband and an animal rights activist who recently exposed a dog-fighting ring, in Clemente's apartment, the flawed but endearing Blume uses his unique perspective to negotiate his way through a labyrinthine minefield that includes crooked cops, unscrupulous politicians, and an ancient city whose very history is steeped in the corruption associated with organized crime. "Those who like gritty crime thrillers with a European flair will be well rewarded....impressively plotted." ***Publishers Weekly* FIRST NOVEL**

Jennifer Gilmore, **SOMETHING RED**, (320 pgs) 3/30

World and family politics at the end of the Cold War provide the backdrop of Gilmore's second novel (after *Golden Country*). When their oldest child, Ben, leaves for college, Dennis and Sharon Goldstein—onetime young idealists who became a bureaucrat and a society caterer, respectively—begin to discover their family's secrets. Not only is Sharon having an affair but daughter Vanessa is anorexic. Indeed, it's soon evident that the family secrets transcend generations. The story is told in chapters from the point of view of each family member, detailing Dennis's travel for the U.S. Department of Agriculture and recollections of when his children were young, Sharon's extramarital affair and her relationship with Vanessa, Ben's college experimentation and activism, and Vanessa's high school relationships and eating disorder. "An extended documentary look at divided loyalties within a suburban Washington, D.C., family caught in the cultural and political mayhem of late-1970s America." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Readers nostalgic for the early 1980s in America will find evocative references to pop culture, music, and the politics of the time." ***Library Journal***

Shilpi Somaya Gowda, **SECRET DAUGHTER**, (352 pgs) 3/9

Gowda's debut novel opens in a small Indian village with a young woman giving birth to a baby girl. The father intends to kill the baby (the fate of her sister born before her) but the mother, Kavita, has her spirited away to a Mumbai orphanage. Meanwhile, in San Francisco, Somer, a doctor who can't bear children, is persuaded by her Indian husband, Krishnan, to adopt a child from India. Somer reluctantly agrees and they go to India where they coincidentally adopt Kavita's daughter, Asha. Somer is

overwhelmed by the unfamiliar country and concerned that the child will only bond with her husband because "Asha and Krishnan will look alike, they will have their ancestry in common." Kavita, still mourning her baby girl, gives birth to a son. Asha grows up in California, feeling isolated from her heritage until at college she finds a way to visit her birth country. "First novelist Gowda offers especially vivid descriptions of the contrasts and contradictions of modern India... Rife with themes that lend themselves to discussion, such as cultural identity, adoption, and women's roles, this will appeal to the book club crowd." *Library Journal* "Fiction with a conscience, as two couples worlds apart are linked by an adopted child....A lightweight fable of family division and reconciliation, gaining intensity and depth from the author's sharp social observations." *Kirkus Reviews* **FIRST NOVEL**

Gardiner Harris, **HAZARD**, (368 pgs) 3/16

At the start of journalist Harris's fiction debut, coal miner Amos Blevins scrambles to rescue co-workers from a sudden, unexpected flood deep in the Blue Gem mine in Hazard, Ky. Despite Blevins's efforts, nine men perish before help can arrive from above. Will Murphy, a federal Mine Safety and Health Administration inspector, looks into what everyone assumes is a tragic, if not unusual, accident. No one expects any complications; particularly since the man who runs the mine is Will's older brother, Paul. But with bad blood between the brothers, Will decides for a variety of reasons to do a real investigation, which turns up anomalies pointing to malfeasance that goes far beyond simple negligence. "The reader comes to care about a wide cast of characters, mostly hardscrabble Appalachian men and women, as Harris carefully unspools the many plot threads. Pitch-perfect dialogue and an authentic view of the nuts and bolts of mining help make this an engrossing mystery thriller." *Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)* "The quiet authority of Harris' prose and his singular knowledge of an esoteric subject make this a suspenseful and informative debut." *Kirkus Reviews* **FIRST NOVEL**

Ellen Horan, **31 BOND STREET**, (368 pgs) 3/30

A real-life New York City murder case provides the basis for Horan's fiction. In 1857, Manhattan is horrified and fascinated by a grisly crime—the murder of dentist Harvey Burdell, found on his office floor stabbed more than a dozen times and with his throat cut. The ambitious district attorney, Oakey Hall, who's linked with the Tammany Hall political machine, quickly focuses on Emma Cunningham as the prime suspect. Cunningham, the victim's housekeeper, claims that she and Burdell were secretly married. Her sole hope for avoiding conviction for murder is crusading defense attorney Henry Clinton. "Horan alternates deftly between the present and flashbacks to Cunningham's past, capturing

both the complex inner lives of her characters and the feel of the times. She also creates exciting courtroom scenes." ***Publishers Weekly* FIRST NOVEL**

Thomas Kaufman, **DRINK THE TEA**, (304 pgs) 3/2

Kaufman, the winner of the PWA Best First Private Eye Novel Competition, introduces an unusual PI, a former foster child, in his debut. Too often in mystery fiction a character's difficult upbringing is tacked on, but Willis Gidney bears emotional scars from being abandoned that are both convincing and relevant to the story line. Jazz great Steps Jackson, a friend of the D.C. gumshoe, hires Gidney to locate his long-lost daughter. Gidney, who normally serves subpoenas, attracts the interest of a creepy private security firm and an ambitious right-wing politician. After a lead takes him to Colette Andrews, the wife of the former Virginia state attorney general, Colette turns up shot to death, and the police suspect Gidney of having pulled the trigger. "Kaufman, a director and cameraman who twice won the Gordon Parks Award for cinematography, pulls off a taut, compelling tale of violence and corruption." ***Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)*** "Kaufman ties together DC's jazz scene, cut-throat big business, and the destructiveness of reckless ambition. This series debut is worth a look." ***Library Journal* FIRST NOVEL**

Jonathan Kellerman, **DECEPTION**, (352 pgs) 3/30

Deputy Chief Weinberg assigns LAPD Lt. Milo Sturgis a particularly sensitive murder case at the outset of bestseller Kellerman's 25th Alex Delaware novel. Elise Freeman, a teacher and tutor at exclusive Windsor Preparatory Academy in Brentwood, is found dead in her Studio City apartment in a bathtub full of dry ice. Despite Elise's having left a DVD accusing three fellow teachers at the academy of repeated sexual harassment, Weinberg wants (for personal reasons) the investigation to involve the school as little as possible. As usual, psychologist Alex Delaware takes an active role in the investigation, which finds the victim had lots to hide. A boyfriend, students, teachers, and administrators are all anxious to keep those secrets hidden—and at least one of them is willing to kill again. "Milo and Alex form an odd but effective duo as they trade banter and insights while sorting out the lies and deceptions." ***Publishers Weekly***

Simon Lelic, **A THOUSAND CUTS**, (304 pgs) 3/4

It should be an open-and-shut case. Samuel Szajkowski, a recently hired history teacher, walked into a school assembly with a gun and murdered three students and a colleague before turning the weapon on himself. It was a tragedy that could not have been predicted. Szajkowski, it seems

clear, was a psychopath beyond help. Yet as Detective Inspector Lucia May- the only woman in her high-testosterone office in the Criminal Investigations Department-begins to piece together the testimonies of the various witnesses, an uglier and more complex picture emerges, calling into question the innocence of others. But no one, including Lucia's boss, is interested. As the pressure to close the case builds and her colleagues' sexism takes a sinister turn, Lucia begins to realize that she has more in common with the killer than she could have imagined, and she becomes determined to expose the truth. "Lelic manages to make the murderer sympathetic as he sensitively explores the varying degrees of responsibility for the tragedy borne by others whose response to bullying was inadequate. This deeply human and moving book heralds a bright new talent." *Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)* **FIRST NOVEL**

Carol McCleary, **THE ALCHEMY OF MURDER**, (368 pgs) 3/16

The world's most famous reporter, the intrepid Nellie Bly, teams up with science fiction genius Jules Verne, the notorious wit and outrageous rogue Oscar Wilde, and the greatest microbe-hunter in history, Louis Pasteur. Together, they must solve the crime of the century. They are all in Paris—the capital of Europe and center of world culture—for the 1889 World's Fair. A spectacular extravaganza dedicated to new industries, scientific discoveries, and global exploration, its gateway is the soaring Eiffel Tower. But an enigmatic killer stalks the streets and a virulent plague is striking down Parisians by the thousands. Convinced that the killings are connected to the pandemic, Nellie is determined to stop them both... no matter what the risks. **FIRST NOVEL**

Anchee Min, **PEARL OF CHINA**, (288 pgs) 3/30

As a girl in Maoist China, Min (*Red Azalea*) was ordered to denounce Pearl S. Buck; now she offers a sketch of the Nobel laureate's life from the point of view of fictional Willow Yee, a fiercely loyal friend. A lifelong friendship begins in Chin-kiang when Willow meets Pearl, whose missionary father converts Willow's educated but impoverished father. Under threat from hostilities toward foreigners, Pearl departs for the safety of Shanghai, and, later, to America for college, but she returns for her wedding to find that Willow is the satisfied founder of a newspaper and a very unhappy wife. While a changing China swirls around them, their friendship is tested as they both fall in love with the same poet. As the 1949 revolution looms, Pearl flees China, and Willow's husband becomes Mao's right-hand man, leading to a fateful showdown with Madam Mao when Willow refuses to denounce her lifelong friend. "Ardently detailed, dramatic, and encompassing, Min's fresh and penetrating interpretation of Pearl S. Buck's extraordinary life delivers profound psychological, spiritual, and historical insights within an

unforgettable cross-cultural story of a quest for veracity, compassion, and justice." ***Booklist (Starred Review)***

Denise Mina, **STILL MIDNIGHT**, (352 pgs) 3/22

At the outset of Mina's first in a new series, two men in army fatigues, Pat and Eddy, break into the suburban Glasgow house of the Anwars, a Muslim family, demanding to speak to a man none of the family has ever heard of. The pair abduct the father, Aamir, after Pat shoots Aamir's attractive teenage daughter in the hand. Det. Sgt. Alex Morrow wonders if religious bigotry prompted the crime, but she soon realizes that money is the key when Pat and Eddy demand a £2 million ransom, an exorbitant sum for a family of modest means. As Morrow and her partner, Det. Sgt. Grant Bannerman, dig deeper into the lives of the Anwars, particularly middle child Omar, they begin to untangle a complex web of intrigue. Meanwhile, the frantic kidnappers realize too late they're out of their depth. "Mina laces this potent crime thriller with colorful Scottish slang and delivers a sucker-punch climax." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Mina is adept at capturing the rhythms of life in Glasgow among the down-and-out. She vividly portrays the squalor of the underworld while depicting even her bad guys in all of their human complexity, which gives her novels a rare grace. Recommended to fans of Ian Rankin and anyone who enjoys a good police procedural." ***Library Journal***

Christopher Moore, **BITE ME**, (320 pgs) 3/23

The undead rise again in *Bite Me*, the third book in bestselling author Christopher Moore's twisted vampire saga. A vampire cat is stalking San Francisco and the only humans who can take him down are goth girl Abby Normal and her brainiac boyfriend, Stephen "Foo Dog" Wong. They, in turn, call upon Abby's masters, vampiric lovers Jody and Tommy, who were on the verge of breaking up until Abby decided to bronze them posed as Rodin's *The Kiss*. Also in pursuit of the vampire cat and his minions are the Animals, the night stock crew at the Marina Safeway who hunt vampires in their spare time; a lunatic homeless man who calls himself the "Emperor of San Francisco"; a Japanese printmaker who wields a mean sword; and homicide detectives Rivera and Cavuto. Things become even more complicated with the arrival of three ancient vampires intent on getting some payback. "Low horror and high camp." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Moore's most hysterical 'love story' to date." ***Booklist***

Anne Perry, **THE SHEEN ON THE SILK**, (528 pgs) 3/23

In the 13th century, one city stood between the Holy Roman Empire and the Holy Land: Constantinople. Anna, a young physician, comes to the city disguised as a eunuch to learn the truth behind the exile of her twin

brother, who was implicated in a murder. No simple task, it takes years for her to work her way up through the many layers of Byzantine society until she is in a position to gain the truth. As her story unfolds, Constantinople struggles against internal and external forces in order to remain true to the Orthodox faith that set it at odds with Rome, all the while preparing for the next crusade. "In a switch from her Victorian mysteries, Perry weaves a complex and richly layered tale against this exotic backdrop." *Library Journal* "Perry conveys an earnest message about obsession, sacrifice, and faith at a dazzling crossroads of East and West civilizations." *Publishers Weekly* "Perry has chosen her period (1273-82) with a canny eye for drama and makes this complex historical background both vivid and clear." *Kirkus Reviews*

Jodie Picoult, **HOUSE RULES**, (544 pgs) 3/2

Eighteen-year old Jacob Hunt has Asperger's syndrome, and his devoted single mother, Emma, has built their family's life around Jacob's needs, sacrificing her career to act as his caregiver and all but ignoring a younger son, Theo. But when Jacob is accused of murder, that carefully crafted life comes apart, and all of the hallmarks of Jacob's diagnosis begin to make him look guilty. Emma hires a young attorney whose attachment to Jacob brings him close to the family as he struggles to mount a defense for Jacob, whose inability to read social cues makes him less than an ideal client. "Picoult's research is impeccable and she deals intelligently with charged questions about autism and Asperger's" *Publishers Weekly*

Karen Robards, **SHATTERED**, (400 pgs) 3/23

After Lisa Grant loses her job at a Lexington, Ky., law firm, she heads home to Grayson Springs, a once thriving Kentucky horse farm, owned by her mother, who's dying from ALS. Lisa becomes a research assistant for former crush Scott Buchanan, the Lexington-Fayette County DA. While she initially finds Scott's grumpy personality unappealing, she begins to feel differently after looking into a cold case: the inexplicable disappearance of Michael and Angela Garcia and their two children, Tony and Marisa, in 1981. Astonishingly, Lisa discovers that both a treasured childhood doll and herself as a young girl resemble Marisa. Lisa's informal investigation leads to dangerous repercussions, including an act of arson at Grayson Springs, in which she and her mother almost perish. "A seductive romantic thriller." *Publishers Weekly* "Robards proves once again to be a master of romantic suspense, creating likable characters and an intriguing, well-paced, and nail-biting plot." *Booklist*

David Rosenfelt, **DOWN TO THE WIRE**, (304 pgs) 3/16

Near the start of Rosenfelt's second stand-alone after 2008's *Don't Tell a Soul*, reporter Chris Turley from the Bergen News, is about to meet an anonymous tipster at a Teaneck, N.J., park to discuss "corruption by a high-level government official" when an explosion rips through an office building opposite the park. Chris makes headline news by saving five people from the wreckage. Chris's source, who calls himself "P.T.," soon starts to brag about a killing spree (using remotely detonated bombs and poison darts), which won't end unless Chris kills himself. Aided by his entertainment editor girlfriend, an FBI agent, and a homicide detective, Chris embarks on a wild hunt for the slippery psycho. Might P.T. be embittered Peter Randolph, who blames Chris's late father, a famed journalist, for his own father's suicide? "Rosenfelt's sly humor, breathless pacing, and terrific plot twists keep the pages spinning toward the showdown on New Year's Eve in Times Square." ***Publishers Weekly***

Lisa Scottoline, **THINK TWICE**, (384 pgs) 3/16

Scottoline (*Look Again*) takes us back to Bennie Rosato's all-female law firm and the warm, witty women who work there. Bennie's twin sister, Alice, shows up, and if we weren't sure she was evil before, now we know: Alice drugs Bennie, buries her alive, then impersonates her sister in a scheme to steal her money. She almost gets away with it, running the show at the law firm while the wheels turn to make Bennie's money offshore. In the interim, Mary is house-hunting with Anthony, creating additional stress for their relationship, and Mary's parents are having their own relationship troubles. Bennie finds herself in a nightmare that brings out a side of her she never knew she had, and the tension keeps ratcheting up until the very end. "Readers who enjoy warm, believable characters, a touch of romance with their suspense and a bit of humor will be delighted with the gang at Rosato's. Scottoline's intricate plot will keep thriller fans turning those pages." ***Library Journal***

Lionel Shriver, **SO MUCH FOR THAT**, (448 pgs) 3/9

Shep Knacker believes in the "Afterlife" and has spent every moment of his adult life planning for it. But he's not a born-again Christian. Shep's version involves a hammock on a sandy beach in a Third World country where he and his wife, Glynis, can retire and live like royalty for dollars a day. Poised to set his dreams in motion, Shep learns that Glynis has cancer. Now every penny must go to medical expenses not covered by an inadequate health insurance policy. "Shriver's latest novel is both a realistic portrait of a family dealing with terminal illness and a thorough critique of the American health-care system." ***Library Journal*** "A risk taker with a protean imagination, Shriver has produced another dazzling, provocative novel, a witty and timely exploration of the failure of our

health-care system. . . . Shriver twists the plot to raise suspense until the heart-lifting denouement." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Exceptionally timely. . . . exposing the many deficiencies in the American health-care system."
Booklist

Helen Simonson, **MAJOR PETTIGREW'S LAST STAND**, (368 pgs) 3/2

Sixty-eight-year-old Maj. Ernest Pettigrew has settled into a genteel life of quiet retirement in his beloved village of Edgecombe St. Mary. Refined, gentlemanly, unwaveringly proper in his sense of right vs. wrong, and bemused by most things modern, he has little interest in cavalier relationship mores, the Internet, and crass developments and is gently smitten by the widowed Mrs. Ali, the lovely Pakistani owner of the local shop where he buys his tea. After the unsettling death of his brother, Bertie, the Major finds his careful efforts to court Mrs. Ali (who shares his love of literature) constantly nudged off-course by his callow son, Roger; a handful of socialite ladies planning a dinner/dance at the Major's club; and the not-so-subtle racist attitudes his interest in Mrs. Ali engender. "The author's dense, descriptive prose wraps around the reader like a comforting cloak, eventually taking on true page-turner urgency. This is a vastly enjoyable traipse through the English countryside and the long-held traditions of the British." ***Publishers Weekly*** "This irresistibly delightful, thoughtful, and utterly charming and surprising novel reads like the work of a seasoned pro. In fact, it is Simonson's debut. One cannot wait to see what she does next." ***Library Journal*** "Unexpectedly entertaining, with a stiff-upper-lip hero who transcends stereotype, this good-hearted debut doesn't shy away from modern cultural and religious issues." ***Kirkus Reviews*** **FIRST NOVEL**

Erica Spindler, **BLOOD VINES**, (352 pgs) 3/2

Alexandra Clarkson, a doctoral student finishing her thesis in human belief systems was raised in San Francisco by her unstable mother, Patsy, not knowing who her father was. When Patsy is found dead, Alexandra questions whether it was by her own hand or if it's linked to a years-old crime in nearby Sonoma County—the apparent kidnapping of baby Dylan Sommer, the son of Harlan Sommer, of the Sommer family wine dynasty, and, as Alex discovers, Harlan's then wife, her mother, Patsy. Keen to find out her father's identity, Alex relocates to wine country, where she learns about the repressed first five years of her own life. Despite the happy family reunion, not everyone is pleased with Alex's return to the area.

Keith Thomson, **ONCE A SPY**, (336 pgs) 3/9

Huffington Post columnist Thomson's debut features an unlikely, if endearing father-son spy duo: retired appliance salesman Drummond

Clark, who at age 64 suffers from Alzheimer's disease, and Charlie Clark, a down-on-his-luck gambler who owes \$23,000 to Russian loan sharks. Soon after Charlie rescues Drummond from the Brooklyn streets, where he'd been wandering, the older man's house blows up and the two barely escape with their lives. Clark and son begin an adrenaline-fueled cross-country flight in which they must evade ruthless CIA assassins long enough to understand why they're being targeted. During rare moments of lucidity, Drummond hotwires a car and effortlessly kills multiple assailants, suggesting to Charlie he was once much more than just a washing machine salesman. "A wildly original debut...poignant themes of love and redemption underpin an action-packed story line that includes exotic locales, high-tech gadgetry, and international intrigue." **Publishers Weekly** "First-novelist Thomson has his tongue firmly in cheek in this clever, engaging, and frenetic tale... His knowledge of spook's tools, techniques, and mind-sets builds verisimilitude... a terrifically entertaining thriller." **Booklist** "A breakneck thriller... Thomson's sharp humor, swift pacing and surprising twists are refreshing antidotes to the sober, overcooked, underwritten thrillers crowding the market." **Kirkus Reviews** **FIRST NOVEL**

Kate White, **HUSH**, (352 pgs) 3/2

Recently separated and finally finding her emotional footing, Lake Warren has been hired as a marketing consultant for a Park Avenue fertility clinic and has even started a flirtation with a handsome doctor. But then she's hit by a double whammy. Her soon-to-be-ex is seeking full custody of their two children, and the doctor has been murdered (hours after Lake slept with him). Afraid that the police will suspect her and that her husband will use this against her in their custody battle, Lake keeps quiet about her hookup. Now she is faced with scary late-night calls, an attack on the family pet, a husband looking to trip her up, and the police just this close to coming after her for murder. "In her first stand-alone thriller, White (known for her Bailey Weggins series, most recently *Lethally Blonde*) effectively blends mommy-lit issues with murder and suspense. The mix of family pressures and murderous suspense makes this a page-turner." **Library Journal** "A stand-alone thriller that generates a real sense of jeopardy while avoiding clichés. . . . A subplot about the clinic's questionable practices adds to the tension, but doesn't detract from the main plot with its myriad twists." **Publishers Weekly**

Randy Wayne White, **DEEP SHADOW**, (368 pgs) 3/9

At the start of bestseller White's 17th Doc Ford thriller (after *Dead Silence*), two low-life ex-cons, King and Perry, are on the lam after killing a family of five in a burglary. They end up in Doc's neck of the woods, or rather his neck of the swamp, in central Florida. Doc; his boat-bum

hipster pal, Tomlinson; troubled Indian teen Will Chaser, who played a key role in *Dead Silence*; and Arlis Futch, a crusty old fisherman, have arrived at a small lake, which they intend to search for Batista's treasure plane, which disappeared in 1958 while flying the ex-dictator's looted booty out of Cuba during the Castro takeover. King and Perry, who are as bad as they come, quickly take control of the others, forcing Doc and friends to continue diving in the lake, after which the pair plan to kill them all. "A nail-biter that's virtually impossible to put down." ***Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)***

Kim Wright Wiley, **LOVE IN MID AIR**, (320 pgs) 3/29

A chance encounter with a stranger in an airplane sends Elyse Bearden into an emotional tailspin. Suddenly, Elyse is willing to risk everything: her safe but stale marriage, her seemingly perfect life in an affluent Southern suburb, and her position in the church. As Elyse embarks on a risky affair, her longtime friend Kelly and the other women in their book club begin to question their own decisions about love, sex, marriage, and freedom. In the end it will take an extraordinary leap of faith for Elyse to find—and follow—her own path to happiness. "Wright hits it out of the park in her debut. Though this story is one that readers may have seen many times before, Wright delivers fresh perspective and sympathetic characters few writers can match." ***Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)*** "Sharply written and emotionally accessible, Wright's debut offers a clear-eyed taste of hope without letting anyone, especially Elyse, off the hook... a modern take on adultery that does not shy away from the costs--and benefits--of a post-marriage life." ***Kirkus Reviews FIRST NOVEL***