

The following is a tentative list of new fiction releases for **SEPTEMBER, 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*

Jeffrey Archer, **AND THEREBY HANGS A TALE**, (320 pgs) 9/14

International bestselling author Jeffrey Archer has spent the last five years gathering stories from around the globe. These fifteen brand new tales showcase Archer's talent for capturing an unforgettable moment in time, whether tragic, comic, or outrageous. "Archer's writing exudes a certain charm and is mostly satisfying. His trademark twists--sometimes a surprise to the reader, sometimes not--and genial tone will endear these mostly cozy stories to his many fans." ***Publishers Weekly***

Toby Ball, **THE VAULTS**, (320 pgs) 9/14

Set in the mid-1930s, at the height of the most corrupt administration ever known in "The City" the novel opens with a mysterious duplicate file discovered deep in the Vaults—a cavernous hall containing all of the municipal criminal justice records of the last seventy years. From here, the story follows: Arthur Puskis, the Vault's sole, hermit-like archivist, who brings an almost mystical faith to a system he believes must cohere; Frank Frings, a high-profile investigative journalist with a self-medicating reefer habit; and Ethan Poole, a socialist private eye with a penchant for blackmail. All three independently uncover evidence of something called "The Navajo Project." But the mayor, his violent henchmen, and the group of wealthy businessmen who form the mayor's inner circle might have a problem with this discovery. "Ball's "City," in which despair and graft are almost palpable, is an imaginative achievement...an impressive debut thriller." ***Publishers Weekly FIRST NOVEL***

Matt Burgess, **DOGFIGHT: A Love Story**, (304 pgs) 9/21

Alfredo Batista has some worries. Okay, a lot of worries. His older brother, Jose—sorry, Tariq—is returning from a stretch in prison after an unsuccessful robbery, a burglary that Alfredo was supposed to be part of. So now everyone thinks Alfredo snitched on his brother, which may have something to do with the fact that Alfredo is now dating Tariq's ex-girlfriend, Isabel, who is eight months pregnant. Tariq's violent streak is probably #1 worry on Alfredo's list. Also, he needs to steal a pit bull- for the homecoming dogfight. "Burgess's high-octane debut is a post-9/11 shout-out to the borough of Queens, with its roiling mix of cultures...a gritty, punchy narrative, propelled by fresh gusts of language." ***Publishers Weekly FIRST NOVEL***

Richard Castle, **NAKED HEAT**, (304 pgs) 9/28

Nikki Heat and Jameson Rook are together again in Richard Castle's follow-up to his bestseller, *Heat Wave*. When New York's most vicious gossip columnist, Cassidy Towne, is found dead, Heat uncovers a gallery of high profile suspects, all with compelling motives for killing the most feared muckraker in Manhattan. Heat's murder investigation is complicated by her surprise reunion with superstar magazine journalist Jameson Rook. In the wake of their recent breakup, Nikki would rather not deal with their raw emotional baggage. But the handsome, wise-cracking Pulitzer Prize-winning writer's personal involvement in the case forces her to team up with Rook anyway. The residue of their unresolved romantic conflict and crackling sexual tension fills the air as Heat and Rook embark on a search for a killer among celebrities and mobsters, singers and hookers, pro athletes and shamed politicians.

Joelle Charbonneau, **SKATING AROUND THE LAW**, (288 pgs) 9/28

Rebecca Robbins is a woman on a mission---to sell the roller rink she inherited from her mother and get back to Chicago. Fast. However, when she discovers the dead body of the town's handyman headfirst in a rink toilet, potential buyers are scared off. Now Rebecca is stuck in a small town where her former neighbors think she doesn't belong, living with her scarily frisky grandfather, Pop, and relying on a police department that's better at gardening than solving crimes. Eager to move forward with her life, Rebecca begins investigating the murder herself, reluctantly accepting help from Pop and his extensive social network, which includes a handsome veterinarian and a former circus camel named Elwood. Nevertheless, someone isn't happy she's looking into the case, and their threats will have her questioning whether playing sleuth was such a good idea after all. **FIRST NOVEL**

Ben Coes, **POWER DOWN**, (464 pgs) 9/28

A major North American hydroelectric dam is blown up and the largest off-shore oil field in this hemisphere is destroyed in a brutal, coordinated terrorist attack. But there was one factor that the terrorists didn't take into account when they struck the Capitana platform off the coast of Colombia—slaughtering much of the crew and blowing up the platform—and that was the Capitana crew chief Dewey Andreas. Dewey, former Army Ranger and Delta, survives the attack, rescuing as many of his men as possible. But the battle has just begun. While the intelligence and law enforcement agencies scramble to untangle these events and find the people responsible, the mysterious figure of Alexander Fortuna—an agent embedded into the highest levels of American society and business—sets

into play the second stage of these long-planned attacks. The only fly in the ointment is Dewey Andreas—who is using all his long-dormant skills to fight his way off the platform, then out of Colombia and back to the U.S. “Coes pumps new heat, blood, and flat-out action into a well-worn premise--terrorists are out to break America by attacking its energy resources--in his frighteningly plausible thriller debut. Readers will eagerly await Coes's next effort and hope for Dewey Andreas's return.” ***Publishers Weekly*** “This well-written thriller will appeal to fans of Vince Flynn and Brad Thor.” ***Library Journal*** **FIRST NOVEL**

Hilary Davidson, **THE DAMAGE DONE**, (352 pgs) 9/28

Lily Moore, a successful travel writer, fled to Spain to get away from her troubled, drug-addicted younger sister, Claudia. But when Claudia is found dead in a bathtub on the anniversary of their mother's suicide, Lily must return to New York to deal with the aftermath. The situation shifts from tragic to baffling when the body at the morgue turns out to be a stranger's. The dead woman had been using Claudia's identity for months. The real Claudia had vanished, reappearing briefly on the day her impostor died. As Claudia transforms from victim to suspect in the eyes of the police, Lily becomes determined to find her before they do. Is Claudia actually missing, or is she playing an elaborate con game? And who's responsible for the body that was found in the bathtub? As Lily searches for answers, a shadowy figure stalks her and the danger to her grows. Determined to learn the truth at any cost, she is unprepared for the terrible toll it will take on her and those she loves. “Davidson, herself a travel journalist, offers a great portrait of sisterly love, despite a dysfunctional past, as well as a highly satisfying mystery...a razor sharp mystery debut.” ***Publishers Weekly*** **FIRST NOVEL**

Tatiana De Rosnay, **A SECRET KEPT**, (320 pgs) 9/14

Parisian architect Antoine Rey and his sister, Mélanie, celebrate her 40th birthday on the island where they vacationed as children with their mother, until she died there in 1974. Upon returning, Mélanie is gripped by a shocking repressed memory and loses control of the car. After a brief spell of amnesia, she tells her brother what it was she remembered: their mother had been in love with a woman. As a skeptical Antoine investigates this twist in their mother's past, an upsetting chain of events unfurls: his daughter's best friend drops dead of a heart condition at only 14 years of age; his teenage son is arrested; and he learns that his father is dying of cancer. Antoine gets support in his quest from a new lover, a Harley-riding mortician who teaches him how respecting death helps one to embrace life. “The long-delayed resolution of a French family's mystery electrifies de Rosnay's (*Sarah's Key*) glimpse at the crushing cost of keeping secrets. This perceptive portrait of a middle-aged man's delayed

coming-of-age rates as a seductive, suspenseful, and très formidable keeper." *Publishers Weekly* "De Rosnay's writing is eloquent and beautiful, and her characterizations are both honest and dead-on." *Kirkus Reviews*

Jason Elliot, **THE NETWORK**, (352 pgs) 9/14

In the months before 9/11, former army officer Anthony Taverner is leading a quiet life in the English countryside. But his recruitment for a dangerous mission to Afghanistan by the British Secret Intelligence Service—better known as MI6—shatters his fragile peace and plunges him into the kaleidoscopic world of spying. Under the expert guidance of an old-school hero and veteran of the elite British Special Air Service, Taverner prepares to enter Taliban-controlled Afghanistan to destroy a cache of the CIA's precious Stinger missiles before they can fall into the hands of al-Qaeda. In Britain and America, the intelligence community is poised for a catastrophe that must be kept secret from the public, one that Taverner must attempt to avert—all without exposing a dangerous secret all his own. "Acclaimed British travel writer Elliot's debut novel is a spy thriller based on real events and real characters, featuring apparently authentic tradecraft, betrayals requisite in this genre, cliff-hanging suspense, and splendid depiction of locations. The complex plot with a world-saving objective, complete with a side-trip romance and lots of derring-do, will appeal to fans of literate spy fiction." *Library Journal*  
**FIRST NOVEL**

Janet Evanovich, **WICKED APPETITE**, (320 pgs) 9/14

Life in Marblehead has had a pleasant predictability, until Diesel arrives. Rumor has it that a collection of priceless ancient relics representing the Seven Deadly Sins have made their way to Boston's North Shore. Partnered with pastry chef Lizzie Tucker, Diesel bullies and charms his way through historic Salem to track them down—and his criminal mastermind cousin Gerewulf Grimorie. The black-haired, black-hearted Wulf is on the hunt for the relic representing gluttony. Caught in a race against time, Diesel and Lizzie soon find out that more isn't always better, as they battle Wulf and the first of the deadly sins.

Ken Follett, **FALL OF GIANTS**, (1,008 pgs) 9/28

This first in a century-spanning trilogy from bestseller Follett makes effective and economical use of its lead characters, despite its scope and bulk. From a huge cast, eight figures emerge to play multiple roles that illustrate and often illuminate the major events, trends, and issues of the years leading up to and immediately beyond WWI: American diplomat Gus Dewar; Earl Fitzherbert, a wealthy Englishman; Fitz's sister, Lady Maud; German military attaché Walter von Ulrich; Russian brothers

Grigori and Lev Peshkov; Welsh collier Billy Williams and his sister, Ethel, whom Fitz hires as a housemaid. "Ingenious plotting allows Follett to explore such salient developments of the era as coal mine safety in Wales, women's suffrage, the diplomatic blundering that led to war, the horrors of trench warfare, and the triumph of the Bolsheviks. It is a remarkable and wonderfully readable synthesis of fact and fiction."  
***Publishers Weekly***

Stephen Frey, **HEAVEN'S FURY**, (320 pgs) 9/21

Bruner, Wisconsin, is really two different towns. On one side are the magnificent summer estates of wealthy families who value their privacy and privilege above all else. A few miles away, but worlds apart, are the homes of the working men and women who cook, clean, and tend to the needs of the summer visitors. It's a place of staggering natural beauty, but where death can come unexpectedly and with no regard for a person's bank account or family tree. This is the place where Sheriff Paul Summers finds himself grasping for answers when the wild, unpredictable woman who captured his heart years ago is discovered brutally and spectacularly murdered inside her family's snowbound estate. As the last person to see her alive, and given his complicated history with the victim, Paul is not only lead investigator on the case but, in the eyes of many in Bruner, the prime suspect in her killing. Battling rumors of an evil cult's being formed just outside of town, the disappearance of another citizen, and a wife whose grasp of reality is quickly slipping away, Paul must race to find the true guilty party before a massive winter storm leaves them all cut off from the outside world and at the mercy of a remorseless killer.

Julia Glass, **THE WIDOWER'S TALE**, (416 pgs) 9/7

In a quirky farmhouse outside Boston, seventy-year-old Percy Darling enjoys a vigorous but mostly solitary life—until, in a complex scheme to help his oldest daughter through a crisis, he allows a progressive preschool to move into his barn. The abrupt transformation of Percy's rural refuge into a lively, youthful community compels him to reexamine the choices he's made since his wife's death, three decades ago, in a senseless accident that haunts him still. No longer can he remain aloof from his neighbors, his two grown daughters, or, to his shock, the precarious joy of falling in love. Meanwhile, Percy's beloved grandson Robert, a premed student at Harvard, joins his visionary roommate in a series of environmental "actions" targeting the well-to-do; they begin as pranks but escalate insidiously, with dire consequences for Robert's family and the people around them, including a Guatemalan gardener and a gay preschool teacher, whose lives intersect fatefully with those of the Darlings. "Glass spins a beautifully paced, keenly observed story in which certainties give way to surprising reversals of fortune. She handles the

coalescing plot elements with astute insights into the complexity of family relationships, the gulf between social classes, and our modern culture of excess to create a dramatic, thought-provoking, and immensely satisfying novel." ***Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)*** "Elaborately plotted and luxuriously paced, Glass' inquisitive, compassionate, funny, and suspenseful saga addresses significant and thorny social issues with emotional veracity and artistic nuance." ***Booklist (Starred Review)***

Sara Gruen, **APE HOUSE**, (320 pgs) 9/7

Sam, Bonzi, Lola, Mbongo, Jelani, and Makena are no ordinary apes. These bonobos, like others of their species, are capable of reason and carrying on deep relationships—but unlike most bonobos, they also know American Sign Language. Isabel Duncan, a scientist at the Great Ape Language Lab, doesn't understand people, but animals she gets—especially the bonobos. Isabel feels more comfortable in their world than she's ever felt among humans . . . until she meets John Thigpen, a very married reporter who braves the ever-present animal rights protesters outside the lab to see what's really going on inside. When an explosion rocks the lab, severely injuring Isabel and "liberating" the apes, John's human interest piece turns into the story of a lifetime, one he'll risk his career and his marriage to follow. Then a reality TV show featuring the missing apes debuts under mysterious circumstances, and it immediately becomes the biggest—and unlikeliest—phenomenon in the history of modern media. Now, to save her family of apes from this parody of human life, Isabel must connect with her own kind, including John, a green-haired vegan, and a retired porn star with her own agenda. "Gruen's (*Water for Elephants*) achievement is significant not only in illuminating the darkest corners of animal research but also in showing the depth of human-animal relationships. A perfectly plotted good read." ***Library Journal***

D.E. Johnson, **THE DETROIT ELECTRIC SCHEME**, (320 pgs) 9/14

When Will Anderson, who works for his father's electric car company, finds the body of John Cooper, who's engaged to Elizabeth, Will's former love, crushed by a hydraulic press in the factory's machining room one night, he flees in panic. Will realizes the circumstantial evidence, including blood on his clothes, is against him, and the cops would be happy to beat a confession out of a likely suspect. Will alerts Elizabeth that John has been murdered and she's in danger, but she spurns his offer of help. Beneath the veneer of neat, progressive Detroit, Will discovers corruption and brutality. Meanwhile, Will's own alcoholism doesn't make it easy for him to think through his difficulties. "The surprise ending leaves you gasping and shaking your head at Johnson's masterful plotting and the menacing tension that forces otherwise good characters to behave

despicably. This gem of a debut showcases an author to watch very closely." **Booklist (Starred Review)** "An empathetic hero and an abundance of interesting historical detail should keep readers engaged." **Kirkus Reviews** "Real-life automotive pioneers like chirpy Edsel Ford and the bullying Dodge brothers provide lively walk-ons." **Publishers Weekly**  
**FIRST NOVEL**

Terry Kelhawk, **THE TOPKAPI SECRET**, (425 pgs) 9/14

On display within the Topkapi Palace Museum in Istanbul lies the Topkapi Codex--an ancient manuscript of the Koran involved in the murder that split Shiite from Sunni. What's the truth about the Topkapi Codex? Is there blood on it? Are its contents the same as the modern Koran's? No one knows because the Topkapi Codex is off limits to research. Mohammed Atareek is obsessed with getting his hands on this mysterious manuscript. His research has convinced him that the Koran has been changed many times, and the text of the famous codex could prove it. But other scholars are turning up dead Angela, a UC Berkeley English professor, married money and kept it; but lost the marriage, most of her family, and a friend under traumatic circumstances. On top of that, she makes a career move that puts her in the Middle East and in Mohammed's path. His overconfident, witty, and impulsive personality is both puzzling and refreshing to Angela. But when Mohammed tries to engage her in his quest, he finds she has an agenda of her own. **FIRST NOVEL**

Sophie Kinsella, **MINI-SHOPAHOLIC**, (432 pgs) 9/21

Nothing comes between Becky Brandon and her bargains. Neither act of God nor budget crunch can shatter her dreams of wall-to-wall Prada. Every milestone in her well-shopped life inspires new vistas to explore in the name of retail therapy. But now she faces her greatest little challenge yet: Becky's two-year-old daughter, Minnie. While motherhood has been everything Becky dreamed it would be--Baby Dior, Little Marc Jacobs, and Dolce & Gabbana for toddlers--adorable Minnie is wreaking havoc everywhere she goes, from Harrods to her own christening. Her favorite word is "MINE!" and her penchant for Balenciaga bags, Chanel sunglasses, and online purchases have no rival under age five. Becky is at her wits end. On top of this, she and her husband Luke are still living with her parents. Thankfully it appears house buying attempt number four is a go until a huge financial crisis causes panic everywhere, and nobody wants to shop--not Becky's personal shopping clientele, not her friends, nobody. And with Luke in the doldrums, it's time for Becky to step in--with a party: A surprise birthday party for Luke (on a budget) is the perfect antidote to everyone's woes. "Series fans know what to expect and will get it by the Birkin-load." **Publishers Weekly**

Jeff Lindsay, **DEXTER IS DELICIOUS**, (368 pgs) 9/7

Dexter, a blood splatter analyst for the Miami-Dade PD, seriously considers giving up his secret life as a killer of serial killers after the birth of his first child, Lily Anne. Then Dexter's police sergeant sister, Deborah, calls him to the scene of a possible kidnapping, the bedroom of 18-year-old Samantha Aldovar, a student at a fancy private school. The quantity of fresh blood in the room, "like a large animal had exploded," suggests that the missing Samantha must already be dead, but it's Samantha's friend and classmate, Tyler Spanos, who turns up a cannibalized corpse. When it appears that one of those responsible for Tyler's horrible end will evade justice, Dexter finds it harder to turn over a new leaf. "Lindsay's fifth thriller featuring Dexter Morgan (after *Dexter by Design*) brilliantly combines suspense and gallows humor. Readers will look forward to seeing the further impact of fatherhood on Lindsay's highly original protagonist in the next installment." *Publishers Weekly* "more human and prevents the book from being weighed down or dull. VERDICT With the Showtime series continuing to receive rave reviews, more readers than ever will be drawn to this series. And with this one they will not be disappointed." *Library Journal*

Terry McMillan, **GETTING TO HAPPY**, (400 pgs) 9/7

Fifteen years after *Waiting to Exhale*, McMillan brings back Savannah, Gloria, Bernadine, and Robin--now in their 50s. Each is at her own midlife crossroads: Savannah has awakened to the fact that she's made too many concessions in her marriage, and decides to face life single again-at fifty-one. Bernadine has watched her mega divorce settlement dwindle, been swindled by her husband number two, and conned herself into thinking that a few pills will help distract her from her pain. Robin has an all-American case of shopaholism, while the big dream of her life-to wear a wedding dress- has gone unrealized. And for years, Gloria has taken happiness and security for granted. But being at the wrong place at the wrong time can change everything.

Fern Michaels, **DÉJÀ VU: Sisterhood Series #19**, 9/27

Thanks to a presidential pardon, the Sisterhood can put their fugitive days behind them and resume their lives in peace. Still, all the women admit that lately things are a little too calm and peaceful. Meeting up for the first time in months to celebrate Kathryn's birthday in the City of Sin, no less seems like the perfect antidote. But before they can kick up their heels something too big to pass up is dropped into their laps. The time has come to deal with Enemy #1, a/k/a Hank Jellicoe. Wanted by the FBI, the CIA, and Homeland Security for starters, President Connor, herself, has run out of patience with their lack of results. Only the Sisterhood,

with their special blend of guts, imagination, and friends in all places are capable of pulling off the impossible of hunting down this monster and taking him out once and for all.

James Patterson & Howard Roughan, **DON'T BLINK**, (384 pgs) 9/27

New York's Lombardo's Steak House is famous for three reasons--the menu, the clientele, and now, the gruesome murder of an infamous mob lawyer. Effortlessly, the assassin slips through the police's fingers, and his absence sparks a blaze of accusations about who ordered the hit. Seated at a nearby table, reporter Nick Daniels is conducting a once-in-a-lifetime interview with a legendary baseball bad-boy. Shocked and shaken, he doesn't realize that he's accidentally captured a key piece of evidence. Ensnared in the city's most sensational crime in years, Nick investigates for a story of his own. Back off--*or die*--is the clear message as he closes in on the facts.

Leif Persson & Paul R. Nolan, **BETWEEN SUMMER'S LONGING AND WINTER'S END: The Story of a Crime**, (560 pgs) 9/14

The apparent suicide of an American journalist in 1970s Stockholm propels Persson's English debut, the first of a trilogy. The victim, John Krassner, was working on a book detailing the exploits of his uncle, Col. John Buchanan, an OSS agent in the years following WWII and Buchanan's ties to a now high-ranking Swedish politician known by the code name "Pilgrim." The Swedish secret police, who were hearing chatter concerning threats to the Swedish prime minister, had been keeping an eye on Krassner at the time of his death. Curious about Krassner after discovering a personal connection to the case, police superintendent Lars Johansson begins his own inquiry and unearths more than he bargained for, including disparate pieces of a vast political conspiracy. "Laced with irony and satire. . . Persson does a fine job of pitting one desperate soul against another in a philosophically charged tale worthy of Ingmar Bergman—but with lots more guns." ***Kirkus Reviews (Starred Review)***

Ruth Rendell, **PORTOBELLO**, (304 pgs) 9/7

Walking to the shops one day, fifty-year-old Eugene Wren discovers an envelope on the street bulging with cash. A man plagued by a shameful addiction—and his own good intentions—Wren hatches a plan to find the money's rightful owner. Instead of going to the police, or taking the cash for himself, he prints a notice and posts it around Portobello Road. This ill-conceived act creates a chain of events that links Wren to other Londoners—people afflicted with their own obsessions and despairs. As these volatile characters come into Wren's life—and the life of his trusting fiancée—the consequences will change them all. "A superlative suspense

novel, which features a cast of colorful characters from varied classes and walks of life. Rendell is particularly adept at portraying young people just a dole check away from homelessness as well as the carelessness and callousness of the book's upper-middle-class characters. Her style has become ever more spare while retaining its subtle psychology and vivid sense of place." ***Publishers Weekly (Starred Review)***

Nancy Taylor Rosenberg, **MY LOST DAUGHTER**, (448 pgs) 9/14

In Rosenberg's fourth entry in her suspense series featuring Ventura County, Calif., judge Lily Forrester, a direct sequel to 2009's *The Cheater*, flashbacks allow readers unfamiliar with the previous book to easily follow the action. Several years earlier, Lily and her daughter, Shana, were raped and their attacker eluded capture. This and subsequent traumas have left Shana in a precarious emotional state. When Shana has a meltdown after her boyfriend dumps her, Lily picks Whitehall, a private psychiatric hospital outside San Francisco, out of a phone book. Without referrals or further investigation, Lily takes her daughter to Whitehall, where Shana voluntarily commits herself. Unfortunately, Whitehall is ruled by a rich, handsome inmate, who's a sociopathic killer, and a greedy doctor who'll do anything to land an insured patient.

S.J. Rozan, **ON THE LINE: Lydia Chin & Bill Smith Series**, (336 pgs) 9/28

P.I. Bill Smith is sent on a high stakes chase when an electronically modified voice on his cell phone informs him that Lydia Chin, his occasional partner, has been kidnapped. Now if Bill wants to keep Lydia alive, he'll have to play an elaborate game of the kidnapper's devising. The first move sends him to an abandoned building where Bill finds the corpse of a small Chinese woman dressed like Lydia and the building being rapidly surrounded by police. Now Bill is on the run from the cops and in the worst trouble of his very troubled life. With the help of Lydia's hacker cousin Linus, and Linus's cohort Trella, Bill has to not only stay one step ahead of the cops, he has to uncover the secret behind the kidnapper's identity and the reason he's come after Bill, if he's to reach Lydia before it's too late. "Some neat twists keep the reader guessing to the surprise kick ending." ***Publishers Weekly***

John Sandford, **BAD BLOOD: A Virgil Flowers Novel**, (400 pgs) 9/21

When 19-year-old Bob Tripp hits farmer Jacob Flood in the head with a T-ball bat at the outset of Sandford's fourth thriller to feature Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension agent Virgil Flowers (after *Rough Country*), Tripp's subsequent attempt to make murder look like an accident fails. The morning after Tripp's arrest, he's found hanging in his cell. Warren County sheriff Lee Coakley seeks Flowers's help to investigate what role, if any, Deputy Jim Crocker, the officer on duty at

the jail at the time, played in Tripp's death. A link to the earlier murder of a young woman leads Flowers and Coakley to members of a small church with strange ways. As the pair become aware of the magnitude of the unspeakable crimes (rape, child abuse, incest) behind the deaths, they search desperately for a lever to pry open what turns out to be Flowers's biggest, if perhaps most unlikely, case to date.

T.M. Shine, **NOTHING HAPPENS UNTIL IT HAPPENS TO YOU**, (364 pgs)  
9/7

Middle-aged Jeffrey Reiner has a tough time adjusting to the unemployed life in Shine's competent if pat debut. When Jeffrey, a calendar editor at a Florida newspaper, gets pink-slipped, his blandly ordered life unravels. "One second I'm elated about going on to do other things in life," he says, "...and the next I want to puke." With little support from his wife and kids, Jeffrey befriends a 20-something female neighbor and makes halfhearted attempts at active unemployment, like drinking during the day with the other jobless and doing odd jobs. As his life spins out of control and the prospect of finding another job becomes more daunting, Jeffrey stumbles through a series of trials and exploits that give his life new meaning. **FIRST NOVEL**

Haywood Smith, **WAKING UP IN DIXIE**, (384 pgs) 9/14

When Elizabeth Mooney escaped the shame of her "white trash" family to marry the crown prince of her small town, Howell Whittington, she never dreamed that thirty years later, she'd end up trapped in a loveless marriage to the cruel banker who's foreclosing on all her friends. Then Howe has a stroke sitting up in church, and when he wakes up, he's at the mercy of all his appetites and emotions. Transformed, Howe wants to be a real husband, which scares proper, repressed Elizabeth to death, and setting out to right past wrongs, he blackmails the town's baddies into doing the right thing by threatening to foreclose on their mortgages. The ensuing rollercoaster ride wakes up not only Elizabeth and their marriage, but the whole town and its hidebound institutions. "Elizabeth's struggles feel real and the way Smith (*The Red Hat Club*) leaves Elizabeth to pursue or abandon her marriage on her own terms is a refreshing departure from convention." ***Publishers Weekly***

Nicholas Sparks, **SAFE HAVEN**, (352 pgs) 9/14

When a mysterious young woman named Katie appears in the small North Carolina town of Southport, her sudden arrival raises questions about her past. Beautiful yet self-effacing, Katie seems determined to avoid forming personal ties until a series of events draws her into two reluctant relationships: one with Alex, a widowed store owner with a kind heart and two young children; and another with her plainspoken single

neighbor, Jo. Despite her reservations, Katie slowly begins to let down her guard, putting down roots in the close-knit community and becoming increasingly attached to Alex and his family. But even as Katie begins to fall in love, she struggles with the dark secret that still haunts and terrifies her . . . a past that set her on a fearful, shattering journey across the country, to the sheltered oasis of Southport. With Jo's empathic and stubborn support, Katie eventually realizes that she must choose between a life of transient safety and one of riskier rewards . . . and that in the darkest hour, love is the only true safe haven.

Danielle Steel, **LEGACY**, (336 pgs) 9/28

After Brigitte Nicholson loses her archeologist boyfriend and her university admissions office job in the span of two days, she agrees to help her mother do some research for a family history project. Brigitte becomes hooked after she discovers a mystery in their family's past: how did a Dakota Sioux princess end up buried in Brittany as a noblewoman alongside a distant relative? Brigitte's quest to learn the story of the Marquise de Margerac (née Wachiwi) takes her from Salt Lake City to Sioux Falls, S.D., and eventually to Paris, where she meets Marc Henri, a fetching Sorbonne literature professor. "Steel rebounds from a string of less than stellar books with this inspiring story about a frustrated woman who rediscovers her passion for life during a genealogical quest. She splices in passages from Wachiwi's life--abduction by a Crow war party, traveling to France, surviving the French Revolution--to create a doubly absorbing romantic adventure." *Publishers Weekly*

Curt Weeden & Richard Marek, **BOOK OF NATHAN**, (272 pgs) 8/8

Rick Bullock takes the road less traveled when he quits his job as an advertising executive to become director of a homeless shelter. When Zeus, a mentally challenged gentle giant and longtime shelter resident, is arrested for murdering evangelist Benjamin Kurios, Rick wants answers. Convinced Zeus is incapable of such a horrific act, Rick, along with a colorful cadre of characters, sets off on a journey to keep an innocent man off death row. The trip takes a disturbing detour when the bizarre group stumbles upon a transcript of the Book of Nathan and the discovery attracts the sinister attentions of a Jersey mobster, pro-life and pro-choice groups, and a billionaire used to getting his way. Rick knows how to save a life, but this time, his life may be the one at stake. "This collaborative effort by former corporate exec Weeden and publishing veteran Marek is a wild ride. Mystery fans who crave fast-paced narratives and surprises at every turn will get a kick out of this ambitious collaboration." *Publishers Weekly* "This is a very funny mystery with a clever story. Lighthearted and snappy, it's sure to be a hit with comedy-mystery fans." *Booklist* **FIRST NOVEL**

Stuart Woods, **SANTA FE EDGE**, (304 pgs) 9/21

Ed Eagle continues to contend with his ex-wife, Barbara Eagle Keeler, in Woods's fourth thriller to feature the Santa Fe lawyer (after Santa Fe Dead). Keeler, who's incarcerated in Mexico's El Diablo Prison for Women, contrives to escape and return to the U.S. to finish off Eagle. Meanwhile, CIA agent Holly Barker, another Woods series lead, goes after renegade CIA agent Teddy Fay. Fay, who escaped Barker in Hothouse Orchid, wants to stay in Santa Fe, and figures that Todd Bacon, the young CIA agent dispatched to trace him, isn't a serious problem. In a third plot line, Eagle manages to free client Tip Hanks, a pro golfer suspected of murdering his wife, but Hanks will soon face other problems. With the bad guys at least as clever as the good guys and often more ruthless, the outcome is uncertain.