

Cozy up on the couch with these suspenseful reads

# WINTER THRILLS & CHILLS

New York Post, Sunday, February 12, 2023  
nypost.com

## The House in the Pines

**Ana Reyes**  
(Dutton, out now)  
High school senior Maya worried that her boyfriend, Frank, really had the hots for her best friend, Aubrey. But when Aubrey drops dead in mid-conversation with Frank, Maya's convinced that's his ulterior motive: not to mack on Aubrey but to murder her. Years later, Maya stumbles upon a YouTube video of a second girl suspiciously dying while chatting up Frank, so she knows what she has to do: track down Frank without losing her own life.



## The Blackhouse

**Carole Johnstone**  
(Scribner, out now)  
After being released from a London psychiatric hospital, Maggie McKay heads to the Scottish island of Kilmerey. She's never been before but quickly announces she'd previously lived and died there as a man named Andrew MacNeil. It might've seemed the ramblings of a madwoman, but the icy reception Maggie receives from the Scottish natives implies there may be truth to her wild claims — and that the islanders have no intentions of giving their secrets up.



## By TODD FARLEY

### Watch Me Disappear

**Ross Armstrong**  
(MIRA, out now)  
When thwarted London police constable Tom Mondrian — he's a traffic cop — is shot in the head, he can no longer recognize faces or make sense of words. A new loss of impulse control means Mondrian might say anything, but Tom has begun to see what others can't. When local girls begin to go missing one, two, three, his new perspective means maybe only Mondrian knows what's going on.



### A Small Affair

**Fiona Collins**  
(Mira, out now)  
In an altogether unsurprising twist, the "separated" cad Vera MacDonal meets on an exclusive dating app turns out to be a creep. The short-lived affair might've been forgotten if — just a few days later — the man and his wife weren't both found dead. Vera's name is ruined when she's outed as a suspect, but it's not long before she learns the real guilty parties are tech 1-percenters who will do anything to save their own reputations.



### Hard to Break: A Michael Gannon Thriller

**Michael Ledwidge**  
(Hanover Square Press, out now)  
Having always wanted to visit Alaska, Michael Gannon attacks the opportunity when he has a chance to go hunt grizzlies. But Gannon quickly realizes the other sportsmen on the trip aren't after bears. Finding himself kidnapped and on a plane jetting to an unknown destination, Mike knows he was the one being hunted. His abductors only mistake: They forgot some men are never prey.



### Just the Nicest Couple

**Mary Kubicka**  
(Park Row, out now)  
Jake is a ner-do-well philanderer of a husband, so when he vanishes one night, his wife Nina figures he's off on another tryst. But as the days pass and Jake is still gone, Nina begins to have her doubts. Is he on a sex romp, or missing? When Nina and Jake's closest friends Lily and Christian realize they know something about the disappearance they can never share with Nina, all their relationships — and lives — hang in the balance.





**Everyone in My Family Has Killed Someone**  
*Benjamin Stevenson (Maverick Books, out now)*

Not only has everyone in his family killed someone, narrator Ernie Cunningham explains, but "Some of us, the high achievers, have killed more than once." 3 years after Ernie's brother asked him to buy a corpse that was really a living, breathing human being, the Cunningham clan comes together for an ill-fated family reunion. When a stranger ends up dead amongst that mass of murderers, it's impossible to say "who-dun-it." It could've been anyone — any Cunningham at all.



**All the Dangerous Things**  
*Stacy Willingham (Walden Books, out now)*

Since her toddler son was kidnapped from his bed the year before, Isabelle Drake cannot sleep. Other than sudden blackouts or brief naps, she is wide-eyed with worry about a case gone cold. Hoping to stir up clues, she agrees to an interview with a true crime podcaster who's disturbingly interested in the abduction. Does the podcaster know what happened to young Mason? Do his troll listeners? Isabelle won't rest until she knows.



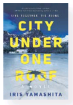
**You Must Remember This**  
*Kat Rosenfeld (William Morris, out now)*

On a lavish Bar Harbor estate built on boot-legging bucks, octogenarian Miriam is rich but addled. When she falls through the ice and drowns on a cold New England night, the question is accident or crime? Suspects are myriad, from the grandchild who inherited all of Miriam's riches to the children who expected to. Millions hang in the balance of this Maine mystery.



**City Under One Roof**  
*Iris Yamashita (Berkeley, out now)*

The only way into Point Mettler, Alaska is through an underground passage. The only place to live is in its single high-rise. When local teenagers innocently sharing a joint find a severed hand and foot, tensions rise. They escalate when a mother and sons disappear. The Anchorage detective investigating is stymied by locals as cold as the region's sub-zero temperatures, making the frozen town a bit like Las Vegas. What happens in Point Mettler, stays in Point Mettler.



TURN THE PAGE FOR MORE WINTER THRILLERS!

**The 12th Commandment**  
*Daniel Torday (St. Martin's Press, out now)*  
If the Dönme — ultra-orthodox Islamic Jews living in Ohio — are a cult, they're certainly not boring: They enjoy cannabis and assault weapons, regularly partaking in a smorgasbord of kosher edibles and wildly unleashing bullets into the air. But after following their charismatic leader, Natan of Flatbush, from Brooklyn to the middle of nowhere, the Dönme are rocked by the murder of his teenage son. Who did it? No one knows.



**The Cabinet of Dr. Leng: A Pendergast Novel**  
*Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child (Grand Central Publishing, out now)*  
FBI Agent Pendergast is back, but his paramour isn't. Constance Green has time-travelled to 1880s New York City to thwart notorious serial killer Dr. Enoch Leng, in the 19th century. Leng made Constance immortal via magic potion, but she can't show him mercy now. Constance needs to eliminate Leng before he dispatches her siblings, while modern-day Pendergast tinkers with his own time-machine to go into the past and rescue his one true love.



**Liar, Dreamer, Thief**  
*Maria Dong (Grand Central Publishing, out now)*  
Katrina Kim thought herself invisible in the eyes of work colleague Kurt Smith. But when Kurt purposefully plummets to his death off the Cayatoga Bridge, Katrina is horrified to learn he's pointing the finger at her. Smith blames his suicide on Kim. For three years, Katrina had been surreptitiously surveilling Kurt — not stalking him, she insists — but his posthumous accusation begs the question: who was watching whom?



# POSTSCRIPT Books

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**More Than Meets the Eye**  
*Iris Johansen and Roy Johansen (Grand Central Publishing, out now)*  
In the newest of the Kendra Michaels series, convicted serial killer James Maduel Barrett leads authorities to his latest victim's burial site. But it's a bomb they find in it, not a body. Barrett and officials are blown to bits. Even with the mass murderer obliterated, corpses continue to accrue in a manner identical to his m.o. Is it a copycat, or had Barrett been following orders from a murderous mastermind? Kendra Michaels is on the case.



**What Lies in the Woods**  
*Kate Alice Marshall (Flatiron Books, out now)*

After 11-year-old Naomi Shaw was brutally attacked in a Washington forest, she shook off her 17 stab wounds and valiantly put her assailant away. Shaw's testimony doomed the suspected serial killer to life in prison. But two decades later she gets no closure when he dies in jail, especially after another cadaver shows up near the site of her attack.



**I Have Some Questions For You**  
*Rebecca Makkai (Viking, February 21st)*

Bodie Kane dealt with the triple traumas of adolescence — family tragedy, a wretched years at a New Hampshire boarding school, and the brutal killing of classmate Thalia Keith — like any good New Englander: through repression and avoidance, burying those bad memories deep. But returning years later to her Granite State alma mater, Bodie learns Keith's long-solved murder might not be solved, the killer is likely still out there, and the key to the case could be hidden within her very own psyche.



**Paris Requiem**

*Chris Lloyd (Pegasus Crime, February 21st)*  
Wise-cracking French police detective Eddie Giral is back in this second installment of "The Occupation" series, with World War II Paris overrun by Nazis. Giral despises the city's invaders but bows to them, needing to work. When a convict Eddie thought was incarcerated ends up dead in a Paris jazz club, with limbs bound and lips sewn shut, Giral searches for the culprits. Eddie refuses to let the case go, but if the Gestapo is the guilty party, what's a glib French policeman to do?



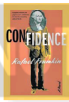
**The Secrets of Hartwood Hall**  
*Katie Lumsden (Dutton, February 28th)*

In 1852, a mysterious past leads widow Margaret Lennox to a job as nanny at a country house in England's west. She ignores the warnings of local villagers that the property is cursed and her new employer no good, but dark figures in the night, inexplicable noises, and a murdered intruder convince Lennox not all is okay at Hartwood Hall. Surprisingly investigating Hartwood's forbidden east wing, Margaret discovers it's not ghosts or poltergeists that haunt the home — but something much more titillating.



**Confidence**

*Rafael Franklin (Simon & Schuster, March 7th)*  
Ezra Green and Orson Ortman are a pair of juvenile delinquents who join forces and turn into full-grown con men. They begin by hustling rich old ladies and soon pull the wool over the American consumer's eyes, making millions by starting a wellness company that promises good health by wearing magnets. The men's good fortune survives their failed romantic relationship, but when a dogged investigator begins looking in their books, the Ponzi scheme that is Ezra and Orson's life teeters on the brink.



**I Love It When You Lie**

*Kristen Bird (Mira, March 14th)*  
The men in their lives irk all 3 William sisters. Tara wishes her pastor husband wouldn't bug her about embezzling church funds, June's hubby refuses to knock her up, and Clementine is having an illicit affair with a fellow she thinks might be mad. So when the sisters return with their guys to their Appalachian hometown to bury the family matriarch, who can be surprised "Grian" isn't the only one who ends up deceased?



**Vera Wong's Unsolicited Advice for Murderers**

*Jesse Q. Sutouto (Berkley, March 14th)*  
Vera Wong is a nosy old lady in San Francisco's Chinatown, so when a corpse is discovered in her very own tea shop she has no intention of letting it go. She calls the police about the body only after prying a flash drive from its cold, dead hands. When Wong's unofficial investigation raises suspicions about many of her shop's cheerful regulars, the lonely Vera has to choose between catching a killer and protecting her friends.



**I Will Find You**

*Harlan Coben (Grand Central Publishing, March 14th)*  
David Burroughs loses the will to live when his son, Matthew, is murdered in his bed one night. Accused and convicted of the crime, a despondent and dejected Burroughs goes to jail without a fight. It's only when his sister-in-law makes a surprise prison visit with a mysterious photograph that David knows what he has to do: break out and solve the crime.



**The Schoolhouse**

*Sophie Ward (Vintage, March 14th)*  
Librarian Isobel Williams doesn't like to think of her rigorous education at The Schoolhouse, an institution where the students ran free. When a local girl goes missing and a mysterious letter from a former teacher arrives, Isobel remembers what it is she's trying to forget.



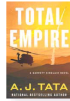
**How I'll Kill You**

*Ren DeStefano (Berkley, March 21st)*  
25-year-old, orphaned triplets Sissy, Moody, and Iris aren't the greatest girlfriends — not if their beaux hope to survive. Experts at covering their tracks, the three girls enjoy a long career of meeting a man and then murdering him. Things go awry only when Sissy dates a church-going widower and discovers she, gasp, likes the man. It's an affection that will turn the twisted sisters' world upside-down.



**Total Empire: A Garrett Sinclair Novel**

*A. J. Tata (St. Martin's Press, March 21st)*  
When General Garret Sinclair's friend, Sergeant "Sly" Morgan, dies on a secret military operation, the general thinks he's just a sad casualty of war. But when Morgan's daughter — Sinclair's god-daughter — suddenly goes missing, the general knows what he had to do. Sinclair leads his Dazer Team into the Sahara desert on an unauthorized mission to save the girl, juggling that search with the rather pressing need to also save America from an imminent nuclear attack.



**A Flaw in the Design**

*Nathan Oates (Random House, March 21st)*  
When Gil's sister and brother-in-law die in an automobile accident, what can he do but take in his orphaned, oddball nephew? But when the boy begins handing in assignments in Gil's writing workshop that implicate himself in his parent's death, Gil is unnerved. When subsequent stories seem to threaten Gil's immediate family itself, he's frightened.



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