

The following is a tentative list of new fiction releases for **OCTOBER, 2009**.
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

David Baldacci, **TRUE BLUE**, (464 pgs) 10/27

Mason "Mace" Perry was a firebrand cop on the D.C. police force until she was kidnapped and framed for a crime. She lost everything-her badge, her career, her freedom-and spent two years in prison. Now she's back on the outside and focused on one mission: to be a cop once more. Her only shot to be a true blue again is to solve a major case on her own, and prove she has the right to wear the uniform. But even with her police chief sister on her side, she has to work in the shadows: A vindictive U.S. attorney is looking for any reason to send Mace back behind bars. Then Roy Kingman enters her life. Roy is a young lawyer who aided the poor until he took a high-paying job at a law firm in Washington. Mace and Roy meet after he discovers the dead body of a female partner at the firm. As they investigate the death, they start uncovering surprising secrets from both the private and public world of the nation's capital. Soon, what began as a fairly routine homicide takes a terrifying and unexpected turn-into something complex, diabolical, and possibly lethal.

Mark Billingham, **DEATH MESSAGE**, (464 pgs) 10/6

When Det. Insp. Thorne receives an anonymous text message with a blurry photograph of a dead man, Thorne wonders if someone is playing a macabre trick in Billingham's seventh novel to feature the London policeman. But when another, similar photo arrives, Thorne knows it's something much worse. Both victims are identified as members of the Black Dogs, a notorious biker gang, and fingerprints point to Marcus Brooks, recently paroled after serving time for allegedly killing the Black Dogs' leader. Brooks claims he was framed for the gang leader's murder; a few weeks before his release, Brooks's girlfriend and son are killed in a suspicious hit-and-run. Now Thorne fears that Brooks is out for revenge, targeting both the gang that landed him in prison and the bent coppers who may be behind it all. "Billingham continues to enrich Thorne's world by introducing new villains and by highlighting connections to old cases and older wounds." ***Publishers Weekly***

Barbara Taylor Bradford, **BREAKING THE RULES**, (432 pgs) 10/13

Following a terrifying encounter in the quiet English countryside, a young woman flees to New York in search of a new life. Adopting the initial M as her name, and reinventing herself, she embarks on a journey that will lead

her to the catwalks of Paris, where she becomes the muse and star model to France's iconic designer Jean-Louis Tremont. When M meets the charming and handsome actor, Larry Vaughan in New York they fall instantly in love and marry. Soon, they become the most desired couple on the international scene. With a successful career and a happy marriage, M believes she has truly put the demons of her past behind her. But M's fortunes are about to take another dramatic twist. "Devoted Bradford readers will be pleased to find a connection with her long-running Harte family saga and all will be happy to dwell in the glamorous world of her sophisticated characters." **Booklist**

A.S. Byatt, **THE CHILDREN'S BOOK**, (688 pgs) 10/6

When Olive Wellwood's oldest son discovers a runaway named Philip sketching in the basement of the new Victoria and Albert Museum—a talented working-class boy who could be a character out of one of Olive's magical tales—she takes him into the storybook world of her family and friends. But the joyful bacchanals Olive hosts at her rambling country house—and the separate, private books she writes for each of her seven children—conceal more treachery and darkness than Philip has ever imagined. As these lives—of adults and children alike—unfold, lies are revealed, hearts are broken, and the damaging truth about the Wellwoods slowly emerges. But their personal struggles, their hidden desires, will soon be eclipsed by far greater forces, as the tides turn across Europe and a golden era comes to an end. "Pitch perfect, stately, told with breathtakingly matter-of-fact acuteness, this is another winner for Byatt." **Library Journal (Starred Review)** "Ambitious, accomplished and intelligent in the author's vintage manner." **Kirkus Reviews**

Philip Caputo, **CROSSERS**, (464 pgs) 10/6

Having lost his wife—and himself—on 9/11, Gil Castle finally leaves his high-power job, sells his home, and heads across country to stay on the Arizona ranch of relatives he hardly knows. Soon after rescuing a Mexican man who wanted only to get to America but got trapped in a nasty drug deal, Gil is forced to consider the moral issues surrounding the border crossing of both drug runners and desperate illegals. What he doesn't know will soon hurt him: a woman who masterminds a drug cartel across the border is planning to wreak vengeance on his family for a past offense. Woven into Gil's story is an intriguing account of his grandfather, a real rough rider of a man who killed a horse thief at 13, fought with the revolutionaries in Mexico's civil war, and represents the complex mix of all that's strong-minded and maybe dangerous in the American spirit. "Readers of Caputo's Acts of Faith will be hoping for the same measured, masterly storytelling, informed by sociopolitical concerns, and they won't be disappointed." **Library Journal** "A masterful tale about what comes of

"trying to escape history"-from which, the author gives us to understand, there is no safe place to hide." *Kirkus Reviews*

Eoin Colfer, **AND ANOTHER THING...**, (288 pgs) 10/12

Arthur Dent's accidental association with that wholly remarkable book, *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, has not been entirely without incident. Arthur has traveled the length breadth and depth of known, and unknown, space. He has stumbled forwards and backwards through time. He has been blown up, reassembled, cruelly imprisoned, horribly released, and colorfully insulted more than is strictly necessary. And of course Arthur Dent has comprehensively failed to grasp the meaning of life, the universe and everthing. Arthur has finally made it home to Earth, but that does not mean he has escaped his fate. Arthur's chances of getting his hands on a decent cuppa have evaporated rapidly along with all the world's oceans. For no sooner has he touched down on the planet Earth than he finds out that it is about to be blown up....again.

Michael Connelly, **9 DRAGONS**, (384 pgs) 10/13

Harry Bosch is assigned a homicide call in South L.A. that takes him to Fortune Liquors, where the Chinese owner has been shot to death behind the counter in an apparent robbery. Joined by members of the department's Asian Crime Unit, Bosch relentlessly investigates the killing and soon identifies a suspect, a Los Angeles member of a Hong Kong triad. But before Harry can close in, he gets the word that his young daughter Maddie, who lives in Hong Kong with her mother, is missing. Bosch drops everything to journey across the Pacific to find his daughter. Could her disappearance and the case be connected? With the stakes of the investigation so high and so personal, Bosch is up against the clock in a new city, where nothing is at it seems.

John Connolly, **THE GATES**, (304 pgs) 10/6

In this fantasy thriller 11-year-old Samuel Johnson witnesses an inadvertent intersection of science and the supernatural while trick-or-treating at the Abernathy household in Biddlecombe, England. Something nasty reaches through an atomically engineered portal to Hades and possesses four suburban sorcerers. From that point on, Samuel finds himself battling hordes of invading demons and desperately trying to convince disbelieving adults that the impending end of the world is not a fancy of his overactive imagination. "Connolly plays this potentially spooky scenario strictly for laughs, larding the narrative with droll jokes, humorous asides and the slapstick pratfalls of Nurd, an amusingly incompetent subdemon whom Samuel ultimately befriends....divertingly whimsical." *Publishers Weekly*

Patricia Cornwall, **THE SCARPETTA FACTOR**, (512 pgs) 10/20

A tanking economy has prompted Dr. Kay Scarpetta – despite her busy schedule and her continuing work as the senior forensic analyst for CNN – to offer her services pro bono to New York City's Office of the Chief Medical Examiner. In no time, she's caught up in a string of unexpected and unsettling events, including a threat on her life, the disappearance of a millionaire, and a famous actor accused of a sex crime. Scarpetta's CNN producer wants her to launch a TV show called *The Scarpetta Factor*. Given the bizarre events already in play, she fears that her growing fame will generate the illusion that she has a "special factor," a mythical ability to solve all her cases. She wonders if she will end up like other TV personalities: her own stereotype.

Deborah Crombie, **NECESSARY AS BLOOD**, (384 pgs) 10/6

Romance dominates Crombie's 13th contemporary procedural featuring Scotland Yarders Gemma James and Duncan Kincaid, who are on the verge of getting married (after 2008's *Where Memories Lie*). The how, where and when of their wedding proves a considerable source of stress to both, overshadowing the murder investigation of Naz Malik, a solicitor suspected in the disappearance of his wife, Sandra Gilles, an artist specializing in textile collage. Malik was found suffocated in Bethnal Green, with traces of an animal tranquilizer in his system. Meanwhile, James's mother is seriously ill, placing James in the impossible position of trying to fulfill both her familial and work responsibilities. In addition, James must fight to keep Malik's now parentless young daughter from falling into the custody of Sandra's unsavory relatives.

Vince Flynn, **PURSUIT OF HONOR**, (448 pgs) 10/13

The action begins six days after a series of explosions devastated Washington, D.C., targeting the National Counterterrorism Center and killing 185 people, including public officials and CIA employees. It was a bizarre act of extreme violence that called for extreme measures on the part of elite counterterrorism operative Mitch Rapp and his trusted team member, Mike Nash. Now that the initial shock of the catastrophe is over, key Washington officials are up in arms over whether to make friends or foes of the agents who stepped between the enemy's bullets and countless American lives regardless of the legal consequences. Not for the first time, Rapp finds himself in the frustrating position of having to illustrate the realities of national security to politicians whose view from the sidelines is inevitably obstructed.

Allan Folsom, **THE HADRIAN MEMORANDUM**, (448 pgs) 10/13

John Barron was once a top detective in the Los Angeles Police Department's elite 5-2 Squad. A deadly shootout with fellow officers

changed his world forever. Taking a new identity, he fled the country he loved and as Nicholas Marten became a landscape architect in the north of England. Then suddenly he found himself in Spain ensnared in a massive global conspiracy where he saved the life of John Henry Harris, the president of the United States. Not long afterward the president came calling again. Sent to the West African country of Equatorial Guinea to gain information on alleged collusion between a U.S. oil company and mercenaries hired to protect its workers, Marten is caught up in a bloody civil war between rebellious tribesmen and a merciless dictator. Soon he meets a priest who has clandestine photographs that show the mercenaries supplying arms to the rebels. In a blink the priest is captured by army troops and Marten flees for his life, determined to find the photographs and turn them over to the president before they are made public and ignite a global firestorm of protest and propaganda.

Joshua Gaylord, **HUMMINGBIRDS**, (352 pgs) 10/6

The Carmine-Casey prep school girls flutter through Gaylord's debut, but they're not alone; their teachers are insecure flirts and cheats. One such teacher is Leo Binhammer, whose wife had a brief affair two years ago with Carmine-Casey's newest teacher, the charismatic Ted Hughes. When Binhammer realizes the connection, he keeps it to himself, and before long, Ted, a reckless romantic, charms Binhammer into an unusual friendship. Meanwhile, student Dixie Doyle and her peers lounge outside the school emanating Lolita-like accidental sexuality. Binhammer, who is unapologetic about his attraction to the students, tries to connect with Liz Warren, the playwright in his class, before Ted charms her. Similarly competitive, Liz and Dixie vie for attention from the few adult men around the school, and the complicated web of loyalties, attraction, competition and camaraderie provides much tension as things play out—but not in an expected way. "Gaylord's tale of overeducated men and the teenage students who exhibit the finesse and understanding their teachers lack hits all the right notes." *Publishers Weekly* "Gaylord has delivered a story that's ripe with acute and wry observations on men and women, competition, sexuality, and secrets." *Library Journal* "A winning debut . . . Lush language . . . A very grown-up novel about adolescence and the folly of adults, by an impressive new voice in American fiction." *Kirkus Reviews (Starred Reviews)*

FIRST NOVEL

Eileen Goudge, **ONCE IN A BLUE MOON**, (336 pgs) 10/6

As children, sisters Lindsay and Kerri Ann are shunted into the foster care system after their mother is arrested for selling drugs. Lindsay is fortunate enough to be adopted by a loving family, while younger Kerri Ann bounces from family to family, becoming a teenage runaway, getting into drugs and eventually losing custody of her own daughter. Thirty years after they last

saw each other, Kerri Ann shows up on Lindsay's doorstep in a last ditch effort to save herself. Lindsay, of course, has troubles of her own, and her nearly unrecognizable sister turning up is the last thing she needs. "A touching story with wide appeal, Goudge's novel is a sharp example of dysfunctional family fiction." ***Publishers Weekly***

Charlaine Harris, **GRAVE SECRET**, (320 pgs) 10/27

Harper Connelly, who can not only locate bodies but also deduce the cause of death, and her stepbrother, Tolliver Lang, are summoned to Texas by members of the wealthy Joyce family, who are looking for answers behind the death of their patriarch, Rich. But when an act of violence threatens the pair, Harper realizes that the circumstances behind Rich's death may have ties to her own troubled childhood in nearby Texarkana. Further complicating matters, Tolliver and his drug addict father, who's recently been paroled, have an uneasy reunion that stirs up long-buried memories about the unsolved disappearance eight years earlier of Harper's older sister, Cameron. "Harper and Tolliver's relationship, which blossomed into romance in *Ice Cold*, is the beating heart of the story." ***Publishers Weekly***

E. Lynn Harris, **MAMA DEAREST**, (400 pgs) 9/22

Yancey Harrington Braxton returns in bestseller E. Lynn Harris's sadly last novel (the author died in July) for another sex and betrayal-filled romp. Diva Yancey, fast fading into Z-list territory, is nearly broke and acting in a traveling production of *Dreamgirls*, reprising her role in the original theater production with a bunch of hacks. Then she meets and is immediately impressed by wealthy S. Marcus Pinkston, who wants to produce a reality TV show he claims will rejuvenate her career. Simultaneously, Yancey's mother, Ava, is released from prison with a devious plan for revenge. And when Ava's on the scene, it means deception, trickery and the revelation of Yancey's innermost secrets. "Harris offers something for everyone: mystery, romance, betrayal, intrigue, and revenge." ***Library Journal*** "This sequel to *Not a Day Goes By* (2000) delivers plenty of catty dish with a dash of sentimentality. Fans of Harris, who died in July, will lap it up." ***Kirkus Reviews***

John Irving, **LAST NIGHT IN TWISTED RIVER**, (576 pgs) 10/27

In a story spanning five decades, Irving's new novel depicts the recent half-century in the United States as a "living replica of Coos County, where lethal hatreds were generally permitted to run their course. In 1954, an anxious boy, 12, mistakes the local constable's girlfriend for a bear. Both the boy and his father become fugitives, forced to run from Coos County, pursued by the implacable constable. Their lone protector is a fiercely libertarian logger who befriends them.

Iris Johansen **BLOOD GAME**, (352 pgs) 10/20

Eve Duncan returns in a thriller that pits her against the most evil mind she has ever encountered: a ruthless killer who taunts her with his every move...and who has a special affinity for blood. When a Georgia senator's daughter is found murdered, and her body drained of blood, Eve Duncan is drawn into the web of Kevin Jelak—a serial murderer who is on Eve's short list of killers who might know something about her missing daughter Bonnie. When a goblet of blood is found in Eve's refrigerator, she knows the taunting is over...and the games have begun. As Eve and Jelak engage in a dance of death, Eve must call upon those she loves and trusts the most...even if it means bringing them into the game as well.

Alex Kava, **BLACK FRIDAY**, (304 pgs) 10/1

Bestseller Kava's thriller features a particularly memorable villain, the Project Manager (aka Robert Asante), the third party behind 1995's horrifying Oklahoma City bombing, along with real-life terrorists Timothy McVeigh and Terry Nichols. Now Asante has directed an attack on Minnesota's Mall of America during Black Friday, the big retailing day after Thanksgiving that kills 32 people, including two students who were duped into carrying devices that they believed would just create an electronic blackout. FBI profiler Maggie O'Dell, still recovering from the death of her boss, must work with her new superior, hypercritical Raymond Kunze, as well as her ex-boyfriend, security consultant Nick Morrelli, to prevent a second major terrorist outrage Asante has planned to follow shortly after the first. "Kava peppers the breathless action with enough intel to make the premise scarily real." *Publishers Weekly*

Jonathan Kellerman, **EVIDENCE**, (368 pgs) 10/6

In the half-built skeleton of a monstrously vulgar mansion in one of L.A.'s toniest neighborhoods, a watchman stumbles on the bodies of a young couple—murdered in flagrante and left in a gruesome postmortem embrace. Though he's cracked some of the city's worst slayings, veteran homicide cop Milo Sturgis is still shocked at the grisly sight: a twisted crime that only Milo's killer instincts—and psychologist Alex Delaware's keen insights—can hope to solve. While the female victim's identity remains a question mark, her companion is ID'd as eco-friendly architect Desmond Backer, who disdains the sort of grandiose superstructure he's found dead in. And the late Mr. Backer, it's revealed was also notorious for his power to seduce women. The rare exception is his ex-boss, Helga Gemein, who's as indifferent to Desmond's death as she apparently was to his advances. Though Milo and Alex place her on their short list of suspects, the deeper they dig for clues the longer the list grows. "A nerve-tingling thriller." *Publishers Weekly*

Jonathan Lethem, **CHRONIC CITY**, (480 pgs) 10/13

"Behind the illusion there's nothing" spills forth from the ramblings of Perkus Tooth—Lethem's latest in a line of colorful characters—and succinctly captures the essence of the author's eighth novel. Set in Manhattan, the story focuses on an unusual friendship between Perkus, a wayward cultural critic with a penchant for marijuana and conspiracies, and former child actor Chase Insteadman. Holed up in Perkus's clapboard apartment, the duo tries to weave together the chaotic events occurring in the city by way of virtual worlds, ghostwriters, and Marlon Brando. The stunning and unexpected conclusion calls into question whether the two are casual observers of the elaborate ruse or its central characters. "Though *Chronic City* at times requires patience, it is a luxuriously stylized paean to Gotham City's great fountain of culture that is slowly drying up." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Fans of Lethem's work will be rewarded for their patience with insight into the truthfulness of reality." ***Library Journal*** "Lethem's most ambitious work to date, and his best since *Motherless Brooklyn*." ***Kirkus Reviews***

Luke Lively, **A QUESTIONABLE LIFE**, (432 pgs) 10/1

Hard-charging Philadelphia banker Jack Oliver has always made tough choices and sacrifices to achieve success, but when his mid-sized banking group is bought out by a mega-chain, Jack finds himself knocked from the top rung to the bottom of the ladder. When the stress of the merger lands him in the hospital, he realizes that his wife and kids hate him and his mistress is only interested in the number of zeros in his paycheck. When Jack is approached by Benny, the old-fashioned president of a small Virginia bank, he doubts he could ever work for such a small town guy after his cut-throat career. Left without the success he once craved and the family he undervalued, Jack may discover how to reclaim what he had taken for granted. **FIRST NOVEL**

Penelope Lively, **FAMILY ALBUM**, (240 pgs) 10/29

All Alison ever wanted was a blissful childhood for her six children, with summers at the beach and birthday parties on the lawn at their family home. Together with Ingrid, the family au pair, she has worked hard to create a real "old-fashioned family life." But beneath its postcard sheen, the picture is clouded by a distant father, Alison's inexplicable emotional outbursts, and long-repressed secrets that no one dares mention. For years, Alison's adult children have protected her illusion of domestic perfection—but as each child confronts the effects of past choices on their current adult lives, it becomes evident that each must face the truth. "Employing her trademark skill at honing detail and dialogue, Lively delivers a vigorous new novel revolving around a house outside of London,

the sprawling Edwardian homestead of Allersmead, and the family of six children who grew up there...her vivisection of a nuclear family displays polished writing and fine character delineation." *Publishers Weekly*

Marcia Muller, **LOCKED IN**, (288 pgs) 10/15

Returning to her office at night to retrieve her forgotten cell phone, PI Sharon McCone is shot by an intruder, the bullet lodging near her brain stem. Totally immobile but fully cognizant, she's diagnosed with Locked-In Syndrome and given an uncertain prognosis. Trying to find the assailant, the staff at McCone Investigations reviews current cases, working with McCone's husband, Hy Ripinsky, and with McCone herself, as she communicates with blinks of her eyes. As several cases become intertwined, a portrait of abuse, prostitution, blackmail, and betrayal involving San Francisco city officials is revealed, resulting in multiple murders and suicide. McCone is buoyed by being involved with her agency's work until her condition suddenly worsens and she's whisked into surgery. "Muller has ample opportunity to showcase her strength at characterization." *Publishers Weekly* "Top-notch mystery and more from one of the genre's Grand Masters." *Library Journal* "After all these years, Muller's series remains a gold standard for female detective stories." *Kirkus Reviews*

Robert Parker, **THE PROFESSIONAL**, (304 pgs) 10/5

A knock on Spenser's office door can only mean one thing: a new case. This time the visitor is a local lawyer with an interesting story. Elizabeth Shaw specializes in wills and trusts at the Boston law firm of Shaw & Cartwright, and over the years she's developed a friendship with wives of very wealthy men. However, these rich wives have a mutual secret: they've all had an affair with a man named Gary Eisenhower— and now he's blackmailing them for money. Shaw hires Spenser to make Eisenhower "cease and desist," so to speak, but when women start turning up dead, Spenser's assignment goes from blackmail to murder. "Parker makes producing snappy banter look easy." *Publishers Weekly*

Anne Perry, **THE CHRISTMAS PROMISE**, (208 pgs) 10/27

Three days before Christmas, in the freezing slums of London's East End, thirteen-year-old Gracie Phipps encounters Minnie Maude Mudway, who is only eight, alone, and determined to find her friend Charlie. However Charlie is no ordinary companion: He is a donkey who belonged to Minnie Maude's Uncle Alf. Gracie is shocked to learn that only the day before, someone brutally murdered Uncle Alf and made off with his rag-and-bones cart and the beloved beast that pulled it. Minnie Maude means to rescue Charlie—and Gracie decides to help. But the path that Uncle Alf had taken to his death was not his regular route, and in his cart were not just the

usual bits of worn silver and china but also, the children are told, a dazzling golden box. What its contents may have been no one can say, for, like Charlie and the cart, it too has vanished. "Perry does a highly credible job of evoking Dickens." *Publishers Weekly*

Ruth Rendell, **MONSTER IN THE BOX**, (304 pgs) 10/13

In Edgar-winner Rendell's 22nd Inspector Wexford novel, the British police detective confronts a man from his past, Eric Targo, who he suspects is guilty of multiple murders. Years earlier, Targo stalked and taunted Wexford, daring him to press charges. A squat, creepy bully with a purple birthmark disfiguring his neck, Targo has graduated from smalltime thug to prosperous businessman, ensconced in a nouveau-riche spread complete with private zoo and lion in Kingsmarkham. When Targo apparently commits a murder affecting Wexford's own family, the inspector must re-examine how Targo consistently outsmarts the law. "Rendell easily outdistances most mystery writers with her complex characters and her poetic yet astringent style." *Publishers Weekly*

Anne Rice, **ANGEL TIME: The Songs of the Seraphim**, (288 pgs) 10/27

The novel opens in the present. At its center: Toby O'Dare—a contract killer of underground fame on assignment to kill once again. A soulless soul, a dead man walking, he lives under a series of aliases. Into O'Dare's nightmarish world of lone and lethal missions comes a mysterious stranger, a seraph, who offers him a chance to save rather than destroy lives. O'Dare, who long ago dreamt of being a priest but instead came to embody danger and violence, seizes his chance. He is carried back through the ages to thirteenth-century England, to dark realms where accusations of ritual murder have been made against Jews, where children suddenly die or disappear . . . In this primitive setting, O'Dare begins his perilous quest for salvation, a journey of danger and flight, loyalty and betrayal, selflessness and love. "Readers will revel in Rice's colorful recreation of the historical past and in her moving depiction of characters struggling to reconcile matters of the heart with their personal sense of faith." *Publishers Weekly* "Angelically inspiring. Devilishly clever." *Kirkus Reviews*

Harold Robbins & Junius Podrug, **THE SHROUD**, (336 pgs) 10/13

Madison Dupre, disgraced antiquities expert, is scratching out a living in New York City when Henri Lipton, the hated associate who she thought had been killed in an earlier adventure, offers her much-needed cash to help him track down a religious artifact—a supposed painting of Jesus that was buried in His tomb after the crucifixion. Lipton intends to sell the painting to a Russian holy man, Boris Alexandrovich Nevsky. Maddy survives several attempts on her life and has numerous sexual encounters as she races from city to city in an effort to locate the artifact. "Podrug employs

the Robbins fundamentals—sex, action and exotic locals while venturing into religious thriller territory." *Publishers Weekly*

John Saul, **HOUSE OF RECKONING**, (304 pgs) 10/13

Six months after 14-year-old Sarah Crane's mother dies from cancer, Sarah's father, Ed, accidentally kills a man in a fight. On top of that, a drunken Ed hits Sarah with his truck while he's behind the wheel. After Ed goes to prison for manslaughter, Sarah, whose leg was badly injured in the truck accident, is placed with a foster family. Mitch and Angie Garvey and their two teenage children treat Sarah like Cinderella, expecting her to serve meals and do all the chores. Meanwhile, word of Sarah's circumstances makes her an outcast at her new school. Only two people reach out to her: Bettina Philips, an art teacher labeled a witch, and fellow student Nick Dunnigan, who's also isolated by his peers and prone to scary visions. Needless to say, the mystical abilities Sarah discovers she possesses come in handy in turning the tables.

Harry Sidebottom, **FIRE IN THE EAST**, (432 pgs) 10/1

In this blood and guts tale of ancient warfare, Oxford lecturer Sidebottom introduces readers to Marcus Clodius Bastilla, a third-century warrior who has risen through the ranks of the Roman army to achieve citizenship. Charged by the emperors Valerian and Gallienus with the responsibility of defending the empire's eastern borders, Bastilla says good-bye to his new wife and sets sail for the East. Once he arrives at the Syrian city of Arete on the banks of the Euphrates, Bastilla organizes his legionaries to defend against the besieging Sassanid Persian army and hold out until reinforcements can arrive. In addition to having his hands full with the invading army, Bastilla must also deal with traitors, saboteurs, assassins and patrician officers who resent obeying the orders of a low-born superior. "An action-packed and detail-rich narrative." *Publishers Weekly* **FIRST NOVEL**

Danielle Steel, **SOUTHERN LIGHTS**, (336 pgs) 10/20

Assistant D.A. and single mom Alexa Hamilton has just been handed the kind of case that makes careers: the trial of serial killer Luke Quentin. Sifting through the mountain of forensic evidence, enduring Quentin's cold, suggestive stares in the courthouse, Alexa relentlessly builds her case and prepares for a high stakes trial –until threatening letters addressed to her seventeen year old daughter Savannah throw her life into turmoil.

Dacre Stoker & Ian Holt, **DRACULA: The Un-Dead**, (432 pgs) 10/13

Dracula The Un-Dead begins in 1912, twenty-five years after Dracula "crumbled into dust." Van Helsing's protégé, Dr. Jack Seward, is now a disgraced morphine addict obsessed with stamping out evil across Europe.

Meanwhile, an unknowing Quincey Harker, the grown son of Jonathan and Mina, leaves law school for the London stage, only to stumble upon the troubled production of "Dracula," directed and produced by Bram Stoker himself. The play plunges Quincey into the world of his parents' terrible secrets, but before he can confront them he experiences evil in a way he had never imagined. One by one, the band of heroes that defeated Dracula a quarter-century ago is being hunted down. Could it be that Dracula somehow survived their attack and is seeking revenge? Or is there another force at work whose relentless purpose is to destroy anything and anyone associated with Dracula? "Energetically paced and packed with outrageously entertaining action, this supernatural thriller is a well-needed shot of fresh blood for the Dracula mythos." *Publishers Weekly* "The authors (Stoker is the great-grandnephew of Bram Stoker) and Holt is a noted Dracula historian) skillfully explore the nature of evil while weaving together several complex plotlines throughout this mesmerizing story. Readers who enjoy dark fantasy with fast-paced action will plow through this book, not wanting to stop." *Library Journal* "Big, messy, lots of fun-and not Stephanie Meyer." *Kirkus Reviews* **FIRST NOVEL**

Sarah Jane Stratford, **THE MIDNIGHT GUARDIAN**, (304 pgs) 10/13

It's 1938, and the tentacles of Hitler's terrifying Third Reich have commenced their stranglehold on Europe. The Nazi empire will soon be clean of all bloodlines deemed tainted or undesirable...including vampires. London's ancient tribunal of vampires is aghast at the destruction taking place on the Continent. Though vampires try not to interfere with human politics, Hitler's terrible plans force them into action. They resolve to send five of their most formidable vampires to Berlin—millennials that have lived over 1000 years and whose age and wisdom make them close to invulnerable—to infiltrate, disrupt, and destroy the growing Nazi war machine. But as the millennials attempt to penetrate and sabotage Hitler's armies, they discover that the Nazis are more capable than any human force they've yet encountered and more monstrous than they'd ever imagined. "A ripping adventure, a thrilling chase, not too much blood and gore, and well-realized characters make for an impressive first novel." *Booklist* **FIRST NOVEL**

Penny Vincenzi, **WINDFALL**, (624 pgs) 10/1

The novel is set in 1930s London, where the very rich drink champagne with Edward VIII and the Mountbattens, while the poor have too many babies, nonexistent health care and can only afford to follow the antics of their royal family on the radio. Cassia Tallow, trained as a doctor but playing wife and mother when we first meet her, inherits a fortune from her glamorous godmother. The windfall thrusts Cassia back into a world of high society, high fashion and old lovers. It also gives her the opportunity

to go back to practicing medicine and ministering to working-class women, which her husband has prevented her from doing. But when Cassia begins to suspect that the money may not be rightfully hers, she goes to dangerous lengths to find the truth. "Fast-paced, well-written and full of sex....Vincenzi delivers grade-A entertainment." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Another stirring novel with an ensemble cast from the prolific and entertaining Vincenzi." ***Booklist***

Jeannette Walls, **HALF-BROKE HORSES: A True-Life Novel**, (288 pgs) 10/6
 Walls (*The Glass Castle*) novelizes the life of her grandmother, giving herself just the latitude she needs to create a great story. Lily Casey Smith is one astonishing woman, tough enough to trot her pony across several hundred miles of desert to her first job when she's only a teenager. After a brief stint in Chicago and marriage to a flim-flam man, she's back in the West, teaching again and eventually remarrying, helping her fine new husband at the gas station, raising her children, and running hootch if she must to make ends meet during the Depression. Her story is at once simple and utterly remarkable, for this is one remarkable woman. "A heartwarming story about an indomitable woman." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Told in a natural, offhand voice that is utterly enthralling, this is essential reading for anyone who loves good fiction—or any work about the American West." ***Library Journal*** "Like her grandmother, Walls knows how to tell a story with love and grit. ***Kirkus Reviews*** "Walls does her grandmother proud in this historically revealing and triumphant novel of a fearless, progressive woman who will not be corralled." ***Booklist (Starred Review)***

Therese Walsh, **THE LAST WILL OF MOIRA LEAHY**, (304 pgs) 10/13
 Although Maeve Leahy, 24, is an accomplished professor of languages, she lives a guarded life estranged from her family and hasn't felt passion in years. On a whim one day she visits an auction house where she buys an antique dagger. Returning home with her purchase, memories of her now dead twin sister return as she is shaken by strange dreams, music in the air and cryptic notes mailed to her office. Traveling to Rome, she traces the dagger's legendary powers and discovers the dangers of owning it. "A pleasing blend of mystery, romance and the supernatural." ***Publishers Weekly*** "Walsh's debut is a magical, involving journey, one that mixes a compelling mystery from the past with a suspenseful search in the present." ***Booklist FIRST NOVEL***

