**Mystery & Thrillers**

**Publishers Weekly**

*The Black Eyed Blonde: a Philip Marlowe Novel* – Benjamin Black

In the process of recreating the distinctive narrative voice of Raymond Chandler’s world-weary private eye Philip Marlowe, Black (aka John Banville) elevates this crime novel beyond mere thoughtful homage, injecting emotion into his wounded lead. (MYS)

*Desperate* – Daniel Palmer

In this steel-trap-plotted suspense novel set in the Boston area, Gage Decker and his wife, who are eager for a child, take in a troubled pregnant woman, Lily, who promises to let them adopt her baby. Lily’s offer is both complex and logical, and Gage Decker’s travels almost too painful to read about.

*The Farm* – Tom Rob Smith

The narrator of this superior psychological thriller, a Londoner known only as Daniel, doesn’t know whether to believe his father or his mother when his parents, who have retired to Sweden, tell him conflicting stories about his mother’s hospitalization and subsequent escape from the Swedish hospital to England.

*The Forgers* – Bradford Morrow

The macabre mutilation-murder of a rare book dealer at his beachfront Montauk, Long Island, cottage kicks off this sly, artfully limned crime novel. The suspense grows as the shady past of the unreliable narrator, the boyfriend of the victim’s sister and a rare book aficionado who once forged literary artifacts, threatens to catch up with him.

*The Good Girl* – Mary Kubica

Free-spirited, 24-year-old art teacher Mia Dennett, a member of a well-connected Chicago family, goes missing at the start of Kubica’s debut, reminiscent of *Gone Girl*, but this Girl has heart—which makes it all the more devastating when the author breaks it.

*The Martian* – Andy Weir

Engineering geeks will relish this SF thriller in which astronaut Mark Watney gets stranded on Mars with limited supplies and is presumed dead. Debut author Weir avoids the problem of the Robinson Crusoe tale that bogs down in repetitive behaviors by making Watney a good-humored, proactive hero who’s constantly testing new ideas to survive.

*The Sweetness of Life* – Paulus Hochgatterer

Hochgatterer, a child psychiatrist based in Vienna, makes his U.S. debut with this suspenseful and insightful thriller in which a child psychiatrist treats a little girl traumatised by the discovery of her grandfather’s faceless corpse in the snow outside a fairy tale Austrian town.

**Library Journal**

*Murder in the Afternoon* – Frances Brody

Only PI Kate Shackleton takes a child’s observation seriously in this deftly plotted village mystery that tackles both women’s rights and union activism. The superb series, set in the 1920s, is perfect for fans of traditional British fare. (MYS)

*The Lewis Man* – Peter May

Det. Fin Macleod’s return to Scotland’s Lewis Island turns dark when a murder victim is unearthed from the peat and his identity reveals secrets someone wants desperately to suppress. A stunning follow-up to May’s Barry Award–winning *The Blackhouse*. (MYS)

*Kirkus*

*The Bones Beneath* – Mark Billingham

Thorne’s 12th is a tour de force of suspense that dares you to guess the secrets of a magician who’s made his intentions perfectly clear from the very beginning. (MYS)

*Broodchuch* – Erin Kelly

Kelly folds a loving portrait of rural Dorset and a well-made whodunit into a painstaking account of the grief and unimaginable pain that follow in the wake of one child’s murder.

*Broken Monsters* – Lauren Beukes

A genuinely unsettling—in all the best ways—blend of suspense and the supernatural makes this a serial-killer tale like you’ve never seen. (MYS)

*Children of the Revolution* – Peter Robinson

Robinson has won many awards for his Detective Banks novels and with this latest, he demonstrates his mastery of the craft. (MYS)

*The Killer Next Door* – Alex Marwood

Marwood’s second novel tells a taut, fascinating tale that’s not for the weak of stomach. (MYS)

*The Long Way Home* – Louise Penny

Armand Gamache, former chief inspector of homicide for the Sûreté du Québec, is settling into retirement in the idyllic village of Three Pines—but Gamache understands better than most that danger never strays far from home. (MYS)

*One Kick* – Chelsea Cain

Abducted by a child pornography ring when she was 6 and held captive for five years, Kick Lannigan, 21, has turned herself into a lean, mean fighting machine. When a boy named Adam is reported missing, she springs into action to save him.

*Reckless Disregard* – Robert Rotstein

Endless novels, endless twists, endless complications, endless surprises in and out of the courtroom. Whatever you read legal drama for, it’s here, along with a whole lot of other stuff you never thought to ask for.

*The Red Road* – Denise Mina

In addition to the usual indelible character studies, Mina provides the most compelling plot of Alex’s four cases to date, with a new round of revelations that makes the Glasgow cops the most corrupt since Philip Marlowe looked under all those rocks in Bay City, Calif. (MYS)

*The Secret Place* – Tana French

A hint of the supernatural spices the latest from a mystery master as two detectives try to probe the secrets teenage girls keep—and the lies they tell—after murder at a posh boarding school.

*The Silkworm* – Robert Galbraith

Rowling proves once again that she’s a master of plotting over the course of a series; you can see her planting seeds, especially when it comes to Robin, which can be expected to bear narrative fruit down the line. It will be a pleasure to watch what happens. (MYS)

*The Son* – Jo Nesbo

A deftly plotted novel that probes the deepest mysteries: sin, redemption, love, evil, the human condition.
**Those Who Wish Me Dead** – Michael Koryta
Hiding a teenage murder witness among a bunch of delinquent kids in a survival-training program in Montana seemed like a good idea. But when two coldblooded killers track him there from Indiana, everyone's life is at grave risk.

*Whiskey Tango Foxtrot* – David Shafer
A droll, all-too-plausible contemporary thriller pulls a mismatched trio of stressed-out 30-somethings into underground guerilla warfare against a sinister conspiracy to own the information superhighway.

The Wall Street Journal

**After I’m Gone** – Laura Lippman
This emotionally rich, quietly stunning novel moves back and forth in time, uncovering long-kept secrets. Many characters in this story of a long-on-the-lam felon have turned situational ethics into a defense mechanism.

Elizabeth Is Missing – Emma Healey
Maud, the 82-year-old heroine/narrator of Emma Healey’s tour de force debut, often forgets things: where she’s going, who her own daughter is. One thing she’s certain of is that something has happened to her friend Elizabeth.

An Officer and a Spy – Robert Harris
Politics could prove fatal in 19th-century France. In Robert Harris’s swift-paced novel of the Dreyfus affair, the narrator, a witty and cultured army major, goes against superiors’ orders in aiding Dreyfus and helping unmask the real traitor.

One Night in Winter – Simon Sebag Montefiore
There were several first-class novels of historical intrigue in 2014; this finely written chronicle of privileged adults and children afraid for their lives in the treacherous upper reaches of Stalin’s Russia in 1945 is in a league of its own.

Strange Bodies – Marcel Theroux
As much science-fiction thriller as mystery, this is the tale of a literary scholar needy for love and lucre who gets involved with a Silicon Valley tycoon and makes the acquaintance of a man who seems to be Samuel Johnson.

**The Fever** – Megan Abbott
The Fever loosely takes its jumping-off point from real life: the mysterious illness that struck girls in Le Roy, N.Y., causing them to twitch and spasm uncontrollably. Combining vaccination anxieties, teenage jealousies and an overall sense of something really bad happening, this is the kind of book you can start on takeoff and not put down until you absolutely have to.

Perfidia – James Ellroy
James Ellroy is back in 1940s Los Angeles with Perfidia, the first book in a new series. It covers just a few weeks around the bombing of Pearl Harbor, when all of America (and LA in particular) is descending into madness and xenophobic fury.

Life Drawing – Robin Black
Five years ago, Gus (short for Augusta) had an affair. Her husband, Owen, knows about it and hasn’t moved on. The couple moves to a farmhouse in the country hoping to escape their past, but once there Gus finds she can't avoid her betrayal and Owen can't shake his resentment. Eventually, a new neighbor moves in next door, disrupting that solitude and transforming Life Drawing from an honest portrait of a marriage into a thriller.

**The Girl Next Door** – Ruth Rendell
As with so much of Rendell's work, what matters is the psychological tangle underneath the surface. In this case, it's a group of men and women who, as children, played together in the fields of a London neighborhood where the tin was buried during World War II.

The Distance – Helen Giltrow
Society woman Charlotte Alton has a secret life — as Karla, someone who helps criminals “disappear” into new identities. But when Simon Johanssen, an ex-military sniper turned gun for hire, re-enters her life and asks for her help, danger and complications follow, not least because Simon is the one person who knows Karla's real identity. To say any more would be a crime: This occasionally violent, page-turning novel gives the term thriller a good name.

These titles were chosen by, Kirkus Reviews, Library Journal, NPR, Publishers Weekly, and The Wall Street Journal (*Designates books found on “best books” lists of more than one publication*)

(Annotations taken from publications)