

Jacob's Oath

Martin Fletcher. St. Martin's/Dunne, \$25.99 (304p) ISBN 978-1-250-02761-0

As he did in his first novel, *The List*, NBC news correspondent and National Jewish Book Award-winner Fletcher explores the experiences of Jews in the immediate aftermath of the Holocaust in this engrossing, if unsettling, thriller. Jacob Klein survives the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, but was unable to save his younger brother, Maxie, from death at the hands of an SS guard, Hans Seeler. At a medical facility where Jacob is being treated after his liberation in April 1945, he's dumbfounded to see Seeler, who gets away. Sustained by his desire for revenge, Jacob joins a group of Jews who are also seeking Nazis to execute. Their quest alternates with the story of Sarah Kaufman, who survived the war in Berlin (and whose sister was a schoolmate of Jacob's sister), but finds that she still must struggle to stay alive after a Russian soldier brutalizes her. The taut prose and multidimensional protagonists help make this a page-turner. *Agent: Carol Mann, Carol Mann Agency. (Oct.)*

The Alligator Man

James Sheehan. Center Street, \$23 (352p) ISBN 978-1-4555-0864-8

In this straightforward, character-driven stand-alone, Sheehan (*The Lawyer's Lawyer* and two other Jack Tobin legal thrillers) clearly distinguishes between heroes and villains. Wealthy Roy Johnson has retired to Gladestown, Fla., after escaping with a golden parachute from his company, Dynatron, whose collapse destroyed the jobs, health insurance, and pensions of 20,000 employees. When Roy is reported missing one morning, some people at first presume that an alligator snatched him on his nightly drunken walk. Then a local teen comes forward to report a hit-and-run, followed by a witness's report of a man leaving a bar in a nearby town on that night, muttering about killing someone. Police quickly identify the man as former Dynatron employee Billy Fuller. Enter Kevin Wylie, an unemployed defense lawyer visiting his dying father in Billy's hometown. Sheehan paints a sympathetic portrait of Kevin, Billy, and others on the side of the law, while crafting an ending that will

satisfy readers who like to see justice prevail. *(Oct.)*

★ **Killer's Art**

Mari Jungstedt, trans. from the Swedish by Tiina Nunnally. Stockholm Text (www.stockholmtext.com), \$14.95 trade paper (352p) ISBN 978-91-87173-45-5

The foggy island of Gotland provides the eerie, atmospheric setting for Jungstedt's beautifully written fourth novel featuring Det. Supt. Anders Knutas (after 2008's *The Inner Circle*). Before respected art dealer Egon Wallin can make some drastic personal and professional changes, he's murdered, his body left to hang from the top of the Dalman Gate in the medieval town of Visby. Knutas and his assistant, Det. Insp. Karin Jacobsson, get on the trail of a deranged and vengeful killer in a case that attracts nationwide attention. The seductive tale of *The Dying Dandy*, a legendary Swedish painting whose theft is linked to Wallin's death, adds depth. Knutas, a decent man, deplores the growing tastelessness of Swedish media as much as Jungstedt's other protagonist, ethical journalist Johan Berg, in a noir novel that exposes the vicissitudes of a society in which cheating the system has become the norm. *Agent: Niclas Salomonsson, Salomonsson Agency (Sweden). (Oct.)*

The Bride Wore Size 12

Meg Cabot. Morrow, \$14.99 trade paper (400p) ISBN 978-0-0617-3479-3

Bestseller Cabot neatly blends crime, humor, and a touch of romance in her fifth Heather Wells whodunit (after 2012's *Size 12 and Ready to Rock*). While handling the demands of freshmen orientation at Manhattan's New York College, Heather also listens to parental complaints about room assignments at Fischer Hall, the student residence where she works as a supervisor. Recently popularized by the arrival of Crown Prince Rashid, Fischer Hall is also the site of the untimely death of a new resident adviser, Jasmine Albright. Heather works to fit together the pieces of the puzzle in Jasmine's demise even as she continues to plan for her upcoming wedding to her dreamy fiancé, Cooper Cartwright. Multidimensional characters, from the dorm handyman to the arrogant yet elu-

sive prince, are a plus, but it's the simmering mystery behind the suspicious death that propels this installment to its surprising conclusion. *Agent: Laura Langlie, Laura Langlie Agency. (Oct.)*

Now You See It: A Grace Street Mystery

Jane Tesh. Poisoned Pen, \$24.95 (240p) ISBN 978-1-4642-0196-7; \$14.95 trade paper ISBN 978-1-4642-0198-1

In Tesh's pleasantly diverting third mystery featuring the housemates who live with laid-back clairvoyant "Cam" Camden in Parkland, N.C. (after 2012's *Mixed Signals*), Lucas Finch—a member of a brotherhood of magicians called Wizards of Wow—hires PI David Randall to find a stolen box that supposedly once belonged to the great Houdini. Might a rival group, Wizards and Amazing Mages, be involved? Things become more serious when the body of Lucas's twin brother, Taft, is discovered folded inside a trunk backstage at the Magic Club, a nightclub downtown. Randall's investigations turn up some amusing characters among the flamboyant magicians and stagestruck wannabes, and the Grace Street residents contribute their share of quirkiness to the proceedings. Readers shouldn't expect a lot of tension—the major conflict is whether Camden's girlfriend can prevent a talentless, domineering harpy from taking over the Psychic Service Network. *(Oct.)*

The Chocolate Book Bandit: A Chocoholic Mystery

JoAnna Carl. NAL/Obsidian, \$22.95 (240p) ISBN 978-0-451-23954-9

Lee Woodyard, the business manager of TenHuis Chocolate, her aunt's sweet shop in Warner Pier, Mich., has an important choice to make in Carl's appealing 13th chocoholic mystery (after 2012's *The Chocolate Moose Motive*). Does she join the library board or the chamber of commerce's tourism committee? She's too busy to take on two new jobs. Before committing herself, Lee decides to attend the library board's next meeting, the first for the library's handsome new director, Henry "Butch" Cassidy. At the meeting, just as Butch raises the issue of Sunday hours, a scream from another part of the building interrupts the proceedings.