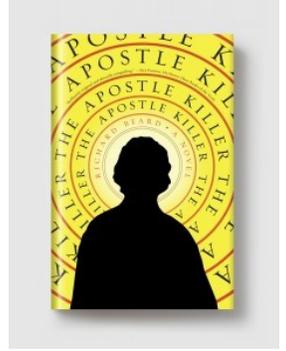


Adult Buzz—Heartland 2016

***Apostle Killer* by Richard Beard**

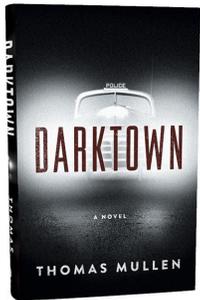
Melville House \$25.99 978-1-60219-579-7

Did Jesus *really* die on the cross? Investigator Cassius Gallio isn't buying it. There has to be some conspiracy, some medical trickery, some sneaky thing going on. Trouble is, the CCTV cameras show nothing terribly suspicious. Disoriented? Don't worry, it doesn't last long. Beard drops readers into a world that's simultaneously ancient and modern, and guess what? You totally fall into it: A present-day police procedural about the cult of Jesus. Pontius Pilate is the corrupt boss, Judas a Confidential Informant, and this new "religion" possibly a terrorist cell headed by the Apostles. Then these twelve men start dying in horrible ways and Cassius must race to save the next one before this martyrdom thing gets out of hand. Sales of t-shirts and touristy trinkets are skyrocketing. It's a P.R. nightmare, and the internet isn't making his job any easier.



Obviously this isn't for everyone, but it is genius—the perfect gift for someone who likes “weird edgy stuff.” What begins as a clever twist on an timeless tale actually turns into a contemplation of faith and the role of our media, a thriller that dares to speculate how the modern world might react to something as miraculous as a resurrection.

For fans of: Well, Melville House type books—odd, intellectual, entertaining.



***Darktown* by Thomas Mullen**

Simon & Schuster \$26.99 978-1-5011-3386-2

This is one of my go-to mysteries right now. It will appeal to those who like their murder on the literary side,, those who like historical tales, and those who like things a little dark. Set in the South during the late forties, this novel is about the first black police officers in Atlanta, GA. As you can imagine, not everyone is happy about this. It interrupts the status quo, and these men—some WWII veterans—have steep uphill battle ahead of them. Restricted to the “dark” side of town, given badges but not guns or cars, they are virtually powerless, hamstrung from the ingrained racism of the times. So what happens when they suspect the white cops of corruption and murder? How do they prove their case? It's a infuriating, suspenseful, and tense ride.

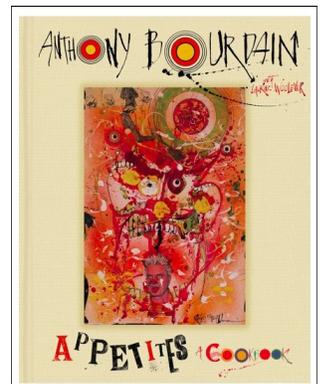
For fans of: *The Far Empty* by J. Todd Scott (in mood), *Gods of Gotham* by Lindsay Faye (in subject)

***Appetites: A Cookbook* by Anthony Bourdain (cover art by Ralph Steadman)**

Harper Collins \$37.50 978-0-06-240995-9

This is a no-brainer, really. I mean, we all know it's going to be HUGE. So why mention it? We've all got it on order. I dunno. I just liked it.

It is not a beautiful cookbook. There is no delicacy, no froufy garnishes. C'mon, it's AB. He's an opinionated dude who likes to eat, and some recipes are little more than rants with a few instructions thrown in. And he doesn't shy away from low-brow ingredients (Spam, anyone?). These are recipes he makes at home for his daughter and her friends. Basic stuff from around the world. So, no, this isn't a beautiful cookbook. But it is a fun one. And if you're a fan of AB, it's a must-have. He scolds, he swears, he shames, he encourages, and he orders (his opinion of Thanksgiving sweet potatoes? “Put those goddamn marshmallows away”). And my favorite piece of advice? “Get the best ingredients. Try not to fuck them up.” It's a blast. He's a wonderful writer, and the photos are often hilarious. Will this become my “go-to” cookbook? No. but it's entertaining as hell, and with it, Bourdain claims his transformation into “a psychotic, anally retentive, bad-tempered Ina Garten” is complete.



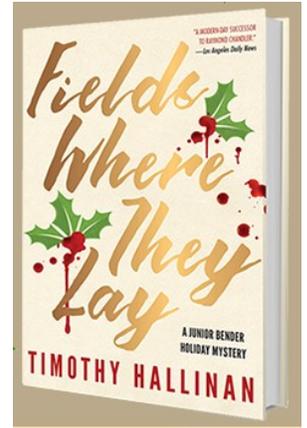
Recommendations from Dana Schulz (soon to be Welshans) of
SNOWBOUND BOOKS in Marquette, MI
snowboundbooks@live.com | 906-228-4448

Adult Buzz—Heartland 2016

***Fields Where They Lay* by Timothy Hallinan**

Soho Crime \$25.95 978-1-61695-746-9

This is technically my only “holiday” themed book on this list. And I’m really recommending anything and everything by Hallinan rather than this single title. This is the latest in his Junior Bender mysteries, a quirky L.A. series starring Junior Bender, a professional thief who moonlights as a kind of P.I. for other criminals. He’s a good guy, despite his occupation, with his own moral code. His solutions to some cases aren’t exactly what the client asked for, especially if that client is particularly slimy. In this installment, the guy who hires him is a Russian Mobster trying to go legit and he wants to know why shoplifting at his shopping mall is on the rise. Junior has until Christmas Eve—three days away—to figure it out, a most literal “dead”line. Chaos ensues, and then the lightbulb goes off. Another case solved. Smart, funny mysteries.

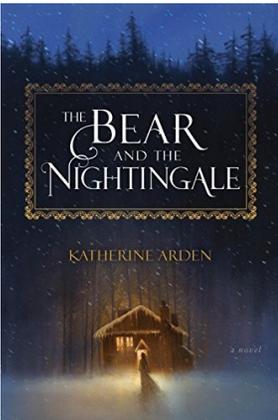


For fans of:: Joe Lansdale’s *Hap & Leonard* series, Dennis Lehane’s *Kenzie & Gennaro* series, Charlie Huston’s trilogy starting with *Caught Stealing*.

(His Poke Rafferty thrillers, set in Bangkok, are a little darker, but sooo good—very twisty and tense. Better than John Burdett’s books. Really. I have a “Hooked on Hallinan” sign on his shelf. I keep waiting for him to hit the big time & do my best to nudge that along.)

***Bear and the Nightingale* by Katherine Arden**

Penguin Random House \$27.00 978-1-101-88593-2 (due January 1)



This debut novel is going to be a big post-holiday seller—the type of book folks’ll use their gift certificates on.

The timing of this book is wonderful. It comes out in early January, just when we all feel the need to cuddle up on the couch and escape into another world to recover from December. And what a world we step into: medieval northern Russia, where the wind howls and the snow blows more often than not, where people are religious, but continue to leave offerings for the old gods, just in case.

The fairy tails Vasilisa grows up listening to teach her that there are spirits everywhere protecting your home, your animals, your land. To others, these sprites are nothing more than folklore. Vasilisa knows better. They are very real. But while she finds comfort in these friends, her new city-bred stepmother Anna is driven mad by these things that simply cannot be. Her church says so. The new priest backs her up. The old gods are banned as conversation topics, and certainly from action. As they starve out, their protection fails, and true hardship descends on the village. Vasilisa can help them, even if it means bringing out a side of herself she has always kept hidden. I’m not going to give anything else away. This enchanting novel has all the elements of a good fairy tale—the wicked stepmom, the wonderful father, a talisman, and a strong young woman who faces down a supernatural force. It is compelling reading—once you start it, don’t plan on getting anything else done.

For fans of: *American Gods*, *Night Circus*, *Snow Child*, and author Catherine Valente



Recommendations from Dana Schulz (soon to be Welshans) of
SNOWBOUND BOOKS in Marquette, MI
snowboundbooks@live.com | 906-228-4448