

## ★ Traitor's Gate

Charlie Newton. Amazon/Thomas & Mercer, \$14.95 trade paper (628p) ISBN 978-1-4778-4936-1

Hard-driving, vivid storytelling propels this historical thriller from Edgar-finalist Newton (*Calumet City*). During the decade leading up to WWII, governments and corporations fumble for profitable alliances, heedless of human suffering. Against this dark backdrop, two people develop an unlikely romance: Saba Hassouneh, an idealistic Palestinian who has been radicalized by brutal British soldiers and Haganah thugs, and Eddie Owen, a brilliant American chemical engineer forced to flee the States, who is now retooling oil refineries to produce 100-octane gas that every country's air force craves. Ruthless, suave Nazi Erich Schroeder, an officer in the Luftwaffe, plots to build a kingdom for himself in the Middle East, and to that end he tries to manipulate Saba and Eddie—but the young people are genuinely attracted to each other and begin groping toward a trusting relationship in the midst of tangled deception. Newton's prose is sometimes as frantic as James Elroy's, but the action feels more like an Indiana Jones adventure. *Agent: Simon Lipskar, Writers House. (May)*



the tools of his sadism. Blue-collar worker Cole Bennett, who was brutalized by his mother, takes a less methodical approach. Though some unnecessary hype lessens credibility (“Not since 9/11 had so many people suspended their lives to follow one event”), making Priya a Kali worshipper adds depth to the lead. Priya has a nicely developed tragic back story, and her characterization is the book's strongest element. (*BookLife*)

### A Deeper Cut

Sheri Wren Haymore. Wisdom House, \$12.99 trade paper (346p) ISBN 978-0-9891821-1-9

A killer terrorizes Beaufort, N.C., in Haymore's uneven debut. For spring break, college student Hunter Kittrell and his girlfriend, Miki Stone, visit Beaufort, Hunter's hometown, where they stay with his grandmother (“Granny Jen”). Meanwhile, a killer calling himself “The Cat” has plans for Hunter. The first murder on a moored yacht brings police chief Grayson Tucker on the job. A second murder quickly follows, and then a third. Handsome yacht owner Jack Franklin not only tries to lure Miki away from Hunter but is also eager to see Hunter implicated in the killings. Tucker thinks it's possible that Hunter's long-gone father, Rob Kittrell, may have returned to kill, and a report from the Feds indicates Rob may be in the area. Hunter's conflict with Franklin, his relationship with Miki and with long-time friend Amy Goodwin, and his ambivalent feelings about his father deepen his character, but the loose plot and unrealistic police work weaken the action. (*BookLife*)

died after an operation by Conrad, who is now in a mental health facility. Unpopular Jacob Casper, interim administrator, is pushing for a merger with New York Medical Center, which threatens staff positions. Ronald's bitter widow, Nancy, is one suspect, but there are plenty of others as Casey and the members of her super team uncover a wide range of rivalries and jealousies. Unfortunately, their efforts don't generate much heat. *Agents: Andrea Cirillo and Christina Hogrebe, Jane Rotrosen Agency. (May)*

### ★ Ruined Abbey

Anne Emery. ECW Press (Legato Publishers Group, U.S. dist.; Jaguar Book Group, Canadian dist.), \$24.95 (400p) ISBN 978-1-77041-167-8

This eighth book is a prequel for Emery's Collins-Burke mystery series (the first, *Sign of the Cross*, won an Arthur Ellis Award in 2007). It is a historical and political story that begins in April 1989, when Father Brennan Burke, a priest in New York City, rushes to London to deal with a crisis in his Irish family in England. When his cousin Conn is arrested for the murder of a policeman and is suspected of being part of a plot by the Irish Republican Army to blow up Westminster Abbey, Brennan, his sister

Molly, and his brother Terry try to find the truth to prove his innocence. Along the way, Emery offers views of the violent history between England and Ireland, and roots of the Troubles, as seen through the eyes of the republican Burke family and recounted in authentic dialogue laced with Gaelic. As the richly developed characters re-examine events from their own past, they discover IRA ties much closer than they knew. True to the Irish tradition of great storytelling, this is a mesmerizing tale full of twists that will keep readers riveted from the first page to the last. (*May*)

### He Drinks Poison

Laine Cunningham. Sun Dog Creations, \$5.99 e-book (336p) ISBN 978-0-9822399-4-0

Cunningham offers an unusual variation on the serial killer thriller, but the explicit sex and violence may be too much for some readers. Veteran FBI agent Priya Conlin-Kumar, who has just been reassigned to Wheeling, W.Va., expects her new posting to be dull, with its focus on suspected money laundering, but she soon finds herself on the trail of a serial killer. In the first major plot twist, two very different men are busy slaughtering women in the area. Quinn Lawrence, a successful businessman, is organized, hand-crafting

## SF/Fantasy/Horror

### Wolves

Simon Ings. Gollancz (Trafalgar Sq., dist.), \$14.95 trade paper (400p) ISBN 978-0-575-11987-1

The advent of augmented reality occurs amid doomsday preparation in British author Ings's dark near-future bildungsroman. In an unnamed European city, friends Conrad and Ralf design wearable technology that overlays 3-D images onto reality. Some decry this intrusion into public space, but others see it as the wave of the future, and wealthy investor Bryon Vaux