



# mystery, suspense & thriller reviews

NEW BOOKS FOR APRIL

★★★★½ **GOLD PHENOMENAL** — In a Class by Itself. ★★★★★½ **FANTASTIC** — Keeper. ★★★★★ **COMPELLING** — Page-Turner.  
★★★ **ENJOYABLE** — Pleasant Read. ★★ **PROBLEMATIC** — May Struggle to Finish. ★ **SEVERELY FLAWED** — Pass on This One.

soned, she is forced to accept help from mysterious Seth Caleb. CIA operative Venable is extremely worried when Doane disappears off the radar. Then Eve is kidnapped and all hell breaks loose. Joe and Jane must save her. (ST. MARTIN'S, Apr., 352 pp., \$27.99)

Jill M. Smith

*Suspense*  
**CANDLEMOTH**  
R.J. Ellory  
★★★★

*Ellory's gritty yet lyrical prose takes readers on a tour of the South of the '60s, dredging up the dark times, texture and feel of a period in the country's history that was marked by dramatic changes. A man is plunged into self-awareness, then embroiled in a conspiracy that could cost him his life. Throughout, the narrator strays between reminiscences, both dark and sweet, in a voice that stays consistently direct and natural.*

**SUMMARY:** Daniel Ford, accused of the horrifying murder of his best friend Nathan, has run out of options after 12 years and waits through the last 30 days of his life before facing the long walk to the electric chair. Keeping him company is the vaguely mysterious Father John Rousseau. Rousseau encourages Daniel to talk about that period of time so long ago, when he first met Nathan nearly 30 years before, the tumultuous days of the 1960s and their flight from being drafted, which culminated in Nathan's death. (OVERLOOK, Apr., 352 pp., \$25.95)

Pat Cooper

*Thriller*  
**THERE WAS AN OLD WOMAN**  
Hallie Ephron  
★★★★

*This psychological thriller features two heroines, with the spunky elderly woman stealing the show. The sinister, menacing atmosphere ratchets the suspense up to super-decibel level, leaving you holding your breath as you turn the pages. Unfortunately the somewhat illogical and not fully explained "reveals" at the end cause this to miss being a truly spectacular story.*



**SUMMARY:** Evie returns to the old neighborhood when her mother goes to the hospital and is dismayed to find her mother's house in appalling condition. As Evie begins to clean and repair the house, she finds envelopes full of cash and other disturbing items. She reconnects with her elderly neighbor, Mina, and worries that Mina's nephew doesn't respect his aunt's wishes to remain at home rather than move to assisted living. After Mina finds things in odd places and a neighbor accuses her of trespassing, she begins keeping notes to try to ascertain what is going on, as Evie attempts to determine whether someone is trying to kill her mother. (MORROW, Apr., 304 pp., \$25.99)

Joyce Morgan

*Mystery, Amateur Sleuth, Paranormal, Series*  
**THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE WITCHY**  
Heather Blake  
★★★★

*Darcy Merriweather is back in the third installment of Blake's Wishcraft Mysteries, an exciting entry in a great series. With the assistance of her motley crew, including talking pet familiars, Darcy solves a case and grapples with her new powers.*

**SUMMARY:** Darcy is struggling with her newfound magic, when she stumbles across the body of a local young man. Then the spirit of the victim imprints itself on her and she's right in the middle of a murder investigation. Just as things start to heat up in her relationship with Enchanted Village police chief Nick Sawyer, he starts to back off due to her involvement in the case. The

clues lead Darcy to field of greenhouses where the victim worked on a top-secret project to magically develop a natural black rose. Only two people, the victim and Darcy, know the spell. Can she find the culprit before her time is up? (OBSIDIAN, Apr., 320 pp., \$7.99)

Jennifer Wilson

*Mystery, Amateur Sleuth, Series*  
**DEATH, TAXES AND PEACH SANGRIA**  
Diane Kelly  
★★★★

*Hang on to your seats as IRS special agent Tara Holloway rounds up a whole bevy of fraudulent tax preparers, from the Deduction Diva to Bulls Eye Taxidermy & Tax Processing. Her skills are tested when she's faced with a more serious case involving a terrorist group. Plenty of action and romantic drama round out this laugh-out-loud novel. Fans of Evanovich's Stephanie Plum series or Pollero's Finley Tanner series will enjoy the fast-paced antics and fruity cocktails of Tara Holloway.*

**SUMMARY:** Tara and her partner are working on taking down several fraudulent tax preparers as well as working on a case involving wire transfers that are funding a terrorist group. Meanwhile at work, everyone in the office is signing up for an online dating website, including Tara's crush, Special Agent Nick Pratt. Tara's chances might be over with Nick unless she decides to dump Brett and give Nick a chance. During all her relationship drama, Tara is still having trouble tracking down the location from which wire transfers are being sent to a terrorist group. After being followed and shot at, Tara realizes she is getting closer — and straight in the line of danger. (ST. MARTIN'S, Feb., 336 pp., \$7.99)

Sandra Martin

*Mystery, Hardboiled, Series*  
**JAMAICA PLAIN**  
Colin Campbell  
★★★★

*Campbell hits a high note with his gritty novel that catches the atmosphere of Jamaica Plain, Boston, and turns it into a compelling account of murder, sex and violence. From the Irish pubs to the gen-*