the assistance of his ex-girlfriend, Det. Sgt. Jessica Navarro. The underwhelming mystery and the somewhat clichéd climax don't do justice to the interesting main character. Agent: Nicola Barr, Greene & Heaton (U.K.). (July)

## The Insect Farm

Stuart Prebble. Little, Brown/Mulholland, \$26 (320p) ISBN 978-0-316-33736-6

Prebble, the CEO of the U.K. television network ITV, makes his U.S. debut with a creepy and effective modern gothic. Unprepossessing Englishman Jonathan Macguire has a mentally handicapped older brother, Roger, whose great obsession in life is his "insect farm"-an enormous living collection of bugs that he grows and feeds in various troughs, jars, and buckets in a garden shed. Jonathan is also deeply in love with his musically talented and pretty girlfriend, Harriet, and struggles with jealousy when another musician develops a crush on her. While Jonathan is away at school in Newcastle, his parents die in a fire, with Roger safe working at his insect farm. Jonathan returns home to care for his brother and is soon drawn into Roger's strange world When calamity strikes, the insect farm seems a perfect solution for each brother's problems. Prebble maintains a consistent, aura of dread throughout, but overwriting bogs down a tale that would probably have worked better at short story length. Agent: Deborah Schneider, Gelfman Schneider/ICM. (July)

★ The Decagon House Murders Yukito Ayatsuji, trans. from the Japanese by Ho-Ling Wong. Locked Room International (lockedroominternational.com), \$19.99 trade paper (230p) ISBN 978-1-508503-73-6

First published in 1987, Ayatsuji's brilliant and richly atmospheric puzzle will appeal to fans of golden age whodunits. Six months after the bodies of architect Nakamura Seiji, his wife, and two servants were found in the burnt remains of a house on isolated Tsunojima, a small island off the coast of Japan, seven members of the Kyoto University Mystery Club decide to visit Tsunojima. They are to reside for a week in the bizarrely constructed Decagon House, where everything seems to have 10 sides and where they soon learn that a killer is targeting

them. The tension in this sophisticated homage to Agatha Christie's And Then There Were None is expertly heightened by a parallel plot set on the mainland, where two other members of the Kyoto society have received threatening letters, ostensibly from the dead Seiji. As in the best fair-play mysteries, every word counts, leading up to a jaw-dropping but logical reveal. (July)

## Hair of the Dog: **A Dan Mahoney Mystery**

Susan Slater. Poisoned Pen, \$24.95 (238p) ISBN 978-1-4642-0418-0; \$14.95 trade paper ISBN 978-1-4642-0420-3

Weak, inconsistent characterization mars Slater's third Dan Mahoney mystery (after 2014's Rollover), which takes the insurance investigator to Daytona Beach, Fla., after a racetrack fire leaves a man and five valuable greyhounds dead. When one of the allegedly dead dogs later wins a Miami race, Dan suspects fraud by the track's co-owner, a high-powered woman whose deceased husband had Mafia ties. Meanwhile, Dan's fiancée, Elaine Linden, decides to train as a PI. Her first client is Dan's mother, who's thinking of moving to Florida with a new flame, but wants the man checked out first. Elaine unearths a possible Mafia connection, while her new boss, an ex-FBI agent, investigates a mob

money-laundering scheme. T and Dan's converge in an unl tion hinging on a series of im coincidences and problemati The dogs add an endearing e ever, and readers will enjoy t the-scenes look at greyhound retired-greyhound adoption

From Bruges with Love A Pieter Van In Myster Pieter Aspe, trans. from the Du Doyle. Open Road, \$15.99 trac (336p) ISBN 978-1-4976-7889-7

The skeleton unearthed b Vermast outside her family? house plunges Asst. Commi Van In into what proves to old cesspool of prostitution ruption, and worse in Belgi Aspe's suspenseful but dist the third in the series to be English. Ironically, the star tigation finds the acerbic al better form than his previo (2013's The Midas Murders) mellowing in conjugal blis soming and pregnant bride cutor Hannelore Martens. either of them to preserve t moon glow when the not-s leads to a fresh corpse, ther puts one of Van In's police

## **★** Signal

Patrick Lee. Minotaur, \$25.99 (320p) ISBN 978-1-250-03078-8

estseller Lee mixes high-concept technology and adventure in his exciting second novel featuring former Delta Ranger Sam Dryden (after 2014's Runner). Sam's off-the-grid life buying and selling houses he rehabs is interrupted when he receives a latenight call from former colleague Claire Dunham, who needs his immediate help on a secret mission. The two rescue four kidnapped girls held in a shack in California's Sierra Nevada foothills; yet the police and FBI earlier found the girls and their abduc Claire has been working security for a firm that has built a machine th future, giving those who own it a chance to change events—a power t to those who want world domination. Sam and Claire team with skept agent Marine Calvert, but those behind the machine predict their ever trained assassin with a double life, a presidential candidate, and shado up the ante. A credible hero and a plot filled with nonstop cinematic leave thriller fans eager for the next installment. Announced first printing 100,000 copies. Agent: Janet Reid, FinePrint Literary Management. (July)