

leads to her resignation from Boston Community Hospital and her return to her parents' home in Hopkinton, Mass. Bryant gets an unusual second chance when Dr. Alistair Finley hires her with DARPA (Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency) funds for an experimental program using DBS (deep brain stimulation) to treat vets with PTSD. Bryant performs two successful operations, but both patients develop serious and unusual complications. When Bryant discovers that the two have been discharged from the hospital against medical advice, she and investigative reporter David Hoffman begin a search for them. Bryant's conviction that something is wrong is strengthened when attempts are made on her life, and she and Hoffman take a desperate chance to gain evidence. Fairly wooden characters and a plot that never develops much steam may disappoint fans of both authors. *Agent: Meg Kuley, Jane Rososen Agency. (May)*

**The Albino's Treasure**

Stuart Douglas, Titan (TitanBooks.com), \$9.95 (224p) ISBN 978-1-783293-12-4  
An anarchist plot hatched by the Brotherhood of Ireland, an increasingly militant group dedicated to Home Rule,

**★ The Water Knife**

Paolo Bacigalupi, Knopf, \$25.95 (384p) ISBN 978-0-385-35287-1

**H**ugo Award-winner Bacigalupi (*The Windup Girl*) delivers an ambitious, genre-dissolving thriller and a timely cautionary tale. In an indeterminate near future, extreme water shortages have made the Southwestern United States a dystopia, with the privileged few living in elite "arcolgies" with self-generating water recycling systems. The depleted Colorado River has become one of the last lifelines and the object of armed conflict among the residents of Arizona, California, and Nevada. Angel Velasquez is a "water knife," a sort of mercenary factorum, whose job is to secure as much water as possible for his Las Vegas boss, arcology developer Catherine Case. Sent to investigate a possible water source near drought-stricken Phoenix, Angel soon crosses paths with an idealistic journalist, Lucy Monroe, whose underground dispatches put her in constant danger. As vigilante bloodshed and desperation threaten to consume Phoenix, whispers of a 150-year-old document surface that may settle the water rights dispute and bring life back to the desert metropolis. With elements of Philip K. Dick and Charles Bowden, this epic, visionary novel should appeal to a wide audience. *Seven-city author tour; 150,000-copy first printing. Agent: Russell Galen, Scott Galen Ghosh. (May)*

poses a threat to Queen Victoria in Douglas's first novel, a convincing Sherlock Holmes pastiche. Around five o'clock one morning, Inspector Lestrade calls on Holmes and Watson at their Baker Street rooms. A few hours before, someone slashed a portrait of a former prime minister at the National Portrait Gallery and dabbed the letters *BOI* in red paint on the wall next to it. Meanwhile, a foreign criminal known only as the Albino has arrived in London, reported to be on a quest for something called England's Treasure. Holmes infiltrates the Brotherhood, but the discovery that another vandalized painting was a fake takes the mystery in a different direction. Douglas does a good job of giving Watson opportunities to display his sense of humor, while preserving Holmes's sharper edges. Readers looking for a high-quality new adventure with Conan Doyle's beloved characters should be satisfied. *(May)*

**Ming Tea Murder: Tea Shop Mystery #16**

Laura Childs, Berkley Prime Crime, \$25.95 (336p) ISBN 978-0-425-28164-2  
Murder spoils the black-tie affair that opens bestselling Childs's soothing 16th mystery to feature Charleston, S.C., tea

shop owner Theodosia Brownling (after 2014's *Stepped in Earl*). The Gibbes Museum, of which Theodosia's boyfriend, Max Scofield, is the PR director, is celebrating its new Chinese tea house, bought and disassembled in Shanghai and now reconstructed inside the museum, with a gala party. For the occasion, Max has persuaded the Gibbes's director to install a photo booth, which proves quite popular with the guests, one of whom is major donor Edgar Webster, whose dead body Theodosia has the misfortune to find inside. When Max becomes a suspect in Webster's murder, Theodosia once again turns sleuth. Realistic and down-to-earth characters populate a cozy that tea lovers will relish and even coffee drinkers will enjoy. Childs rounds out the volume with a section of favorite recipes, tea-time tips, and a list of publications, websites, and blogs related to tea. *(May)*

**★ The House That Kills**

Noel Windy, trans. from the French by John Pugmire, Locked Room International (lockedroominternational.com), \$19.99 (152p) ISBN 978-1-507667-92-7  
Windy (1896-1974), a French master of the impossible crime novel, makes his English-language debut with his first book, originally published in 1932. Set in Aix-en-Provence in 1919, it introduces examining magistrate Allou. Right after Allou goes on vacation, leaving his less experienced and unnamed colleague in charge, the junior magistrate learns of odd doings at the remote house of the Lourer family. Pierre Lourer was almost home when he was confronted by a trap, whom he ended up shooting in self-defense. Oddly, the dead man was carrying a large amount of money. This killing proves to be but the prelude to a series of murders in the Lourer home itself, carried out under circumstances that render the crimes apparently impossible. The solution is perfectly logical, and Windy displays gifts for puzzle making and creating a creepy atmosphere that will resonate with fans of John Dickson Carr. *(May)*

**Come to Harm**

Catona McPherson, Midnight Ink (midnightinkbooks.com), \$14.99 (360p) ISBN 978-0-7387-4387-5