

Mukherjee, who was applying for medical school. Kavita is somewhat estranged from her parents because they want her to agree to an arranged marriage she wants no part of. The case dredges up painful memories for Tracy of her sister's abduction more than 20 years earlier. The stakes rise when another team member, Vic Fazzio, is framed for a key witness's murder in the Rodgers case. Complicating things further, Tracy is pregnant and fearful that a new hire, Andrea Gonzalez, is being groomed to take her place. Fully developed characters and a fast-moving plot that builds to a shocker of an ending distinguish this crime novel. *Agent: Meg Ruley, Jane Rotrosen Agency. (June)*

What Happened That Night

Sandra Block. Sourcebooks Landmark, \$15.99 trade paper (352p) ISBN 978-1-4926-6029-3

Dahlia, the heroine of this propulsive tale of revenge from Thriller Award–finalist Block (*The Secret Room*), was a Harvard student and aspiring lawyer until she attended a finals party and was sexually assaulted. Five years later, Dahlia, now a Beretta-carrying, tattooed paralegal living in Boston, still doesn't remember what happened that night. Suffering from PTSD and stress-related-seizures, she seeks solace with her cat and her best friend, Eli, who like her attempted to commit suicide. When a video of the fateful party surfaces online, Dahlia sees her attackers for the first time and decides to take matters into her own hands. She teams up with James, a quirky IT geek she meets through a suicide survivors support group, and together they hatch a plan to uncover the truth and execute their own version of justice. Dahlia thinks she has everything figured out, but there's another secret—a shocking betrayal that turns her world upside down again. Only the draggy ending, in which Block ties up loose ends, disappoints. Until then, this is a satisfying page-turner. *Agent: Rachel Ekstrom, Irene Goodman Literary Agency. (June)*

The Spook in the Stacks: A Lighthouse Library Mystery

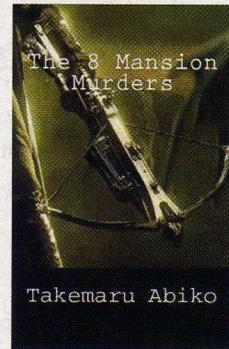
Eva Gates. Crooked Lane, \$26.99 (320p) ISBN 978-1-68331-580-3

Gates (a pen name for Vicki Delaney) graduates from mass market to hardcover

★ The 8 Mansion Murders

Takemaru Abiko, trans. from the Japanese by Ho-Ling Wong. Locked Room International, \$19.99 trade paper (180p) ISBN 978-1-986036-06-1

First published in Japan in 1989, Abiko's outstanding impossible crime novel combines laugh-out-loud humor with an ingenious murder plot. Insp. Kyozo Hayami, of the Metropolitan PD, Division I, lands a head-scratcher after Kikuichiro Hachisuka, the vice-president of his father's construction company, is killed by a crossbow bolt in the unusual figure eight–shaped house that he shared with his parents and two siblings. Kikuichiro's mute sister Yukie and her sign language teacher witness the murder. Their testimony implicates Yusako Yano, the son of the household's servants, from whose room the arrow was fired, but he claims that he was sleeping at the time, alone, and his door was locked. A second murder seems to have been committed by a crossbow that seemed to hover in the air. Kyozo's accident-prone sidekick provides comic relief, and John Dickson Carr fans will appreciate the summation made by Kyozo's younger brother, a devoted mystery fan, of the various possible ways a murder can be committed in a locked room. This is one of the funniest and cleverest novels of its type to hit the English-language market in years. *(June)*



with her lively fourth Lighthouse Library mystery (after 2016's *Reading Up a Storm*). A few days before Halloween, recently retired multimillionaire Jay Ruddle and his grown granddaughter, Julia, visit the Bodie Island Lighthouse Library in Nags Head, N.C. Jay, an Outer Banks native, is considering giving the library his extensive collection of 16th- to 18th-century documents regarding North Carolina's nautical history. When he is found strangled in the rare book room a few days later, the police suspect Julia, who wanted to keep the collection in the family and recently quarreled with her grandfather about its disposition. Theodore Kowalski, a rare-book collector who has taken a shine to Julia, begs assistant librarian Lucy Richardson to investigate. Book lovers will envy Lucy's dream of a life, working in a wonderful library, surrounded by amusing friends, not to mention a fine feline companion and a handsome suitor. Cozy fans will look forward to her further adventures. *Agent: Kim Lionetti, BookEnds Literary Agency. (June)*

★ In Wolves' Clothing

Greg Levin. White Rock, \$13.95 trade paper (272p) ISBN 978-0-9904029-4-7

Levin movingly conveys the stomach-churning horrors of child sex trafficking

in this effective thriller. Zero Slade works for Operation Emancipation, a globe-trotting group of operatives with intelligence backgrounds, who pose as prospective clients as a way to bust the traffickers and liberate their young captives. After one such mission, while waiting for a flight from Guadalajara, Mexico, to L.A., Zero muses: "Before I joined Operation Emancipation, I was just like the dozens of people fuming at Gate A-11 right now. Flight delays would ruin my day.... Now I can smile and whistle while walking through a pediatric cancer ward." Zero feels deep empathy for the helpless victims he labors to save at great personal risk. The conflict between a facade of professionalism and heartfelt involvement with the suffering he witnesses reaches a head after he bonds with Sung, a five-year-old girl he rescues in Cambodia. Zero does his best to keep Sung safe, but more perils for the girl lie ahead. Levin provides a window into one of the world's darkest underbellies, while somehow managing to insert appropriate lighter moments, as when Zero meets a new recruit to OE, a Buddhist former FBI agent. This author deserves a wide audience. *(BookLife)*