

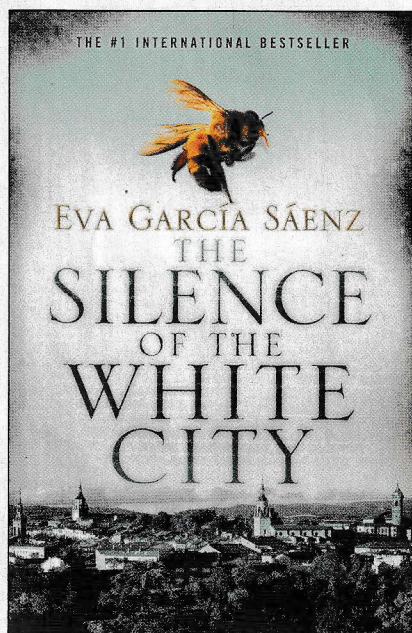
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received an anonymous letter stating “I have what Talbot found in Corfu” and that there will be a price for returning “them” to Alice, Philip’s mother. Iris and Gwen agree to investigate so that Lady Matheson can assess whether the prince is a suitable mate for the princess. Montclair successfully combines the insightful characterizations of Jacqueline Winspear with the witty banter of Hammett’s Nick and Nora Charles. Fans of the British royal family will have fun.

The Silence of the White City
Eva García Sáenz, trans. from the Spanish by Nick Caistor (Vintage Crime/Black Lizard)

ISBN 978-1-9848-9859-3, \$16.95

■ In the stunning first in Sáenz’s White City trilogy, a mélange of offbeat police procedural, Basque legends, and world mythology, Insp. Unai López de Ayala investigates a series of ritualistic murders in Vitoria, Spain, that eerily resemble the sensational crimes that were committed in the area 20 years earlier, all at prehistoric sites. A prominent archaeologist, Tasio Ortiz de Zárate, was arrested at the time and convicted of the crimes. Since Tasio has been in prison ever since, Unai has to wonder whether Tasio



was innocent or had an accomplice. Unai embarks on what becomes a self-sacrificing quest to prevent evil from destroying innocence. Fascinating local color, a handsomely crafted plot, and exquisite characterization make this a standout. Readers will eagerly await the next volume in the series.

Take It Back

Kia Abdullah (St. Martin’s)

ISBN 978-1-250-27301-7, \$27.99

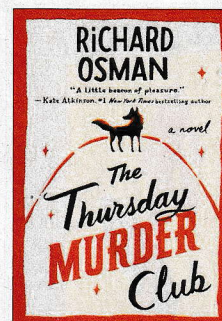
■ Barrister Zara Kaleel, the heroine of this riveting, thought-provoking legal thriller from British author Abdullah, is a rising star in a prominent London law firm, until she decides to do something more meaningful: become an advocate for sexual abuse victims. Her first case in this new role involves four teenage boys, all English Muslims from East London, accused by their classmate Jodie Wolfe, a 16-year-old disabled white girl, of rape. That Zara is an English Muslim herself advocating against Muslim boys guarantees front-page attention. Zara is torn by her family’s dismay over her role and her firm belief in Jodie, even though Jodie’s alcoholic mother and best friend don’t believe the girl. Readers may find themselves believing one side, then the other, up until the shocking ending. Abdullah is definitely a writer to watch.

The Thursday Murder Club

Richard Osman (Viking/Dorland)

ISBN 978-1-984-88096-3, \$26

■ British TV celebrity Osman mixes mirth and murder in his exceptional debut, a series launch featuring the four members of the Thursday Murder Club, residents of a retirement village. Despite their different backgrounds, Elizabeth, Ibrahim, Joyce, and Ron share an interest in solving mysteries. When 26-year-old Donna De Freitas, a police constable who dreams of pursuing serial killers, visits the home to talk to the pensioners about “Practical Tips for Home Security,” the club members arrange



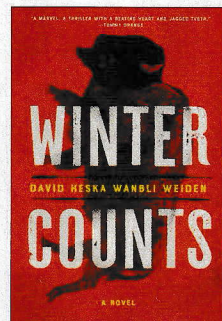
for Donna to be assigned to a homicide case they have a connection to by manipulating her boss. That way they can take a crack at solving the bludgeoning murder of drug dealer Tony Curran, who operated a building business as a front, and whose killer left a photo of three men, one of whom is Ron’s son, near Curran’s corpse. Osman’s wit is a highlight. Fans of Lynne Truss’s Constable Twitten mysteries will be tickled.

Winter Counts

David Heska Wanbli Weiden. (Ecco)

ISBN 978-0-06-296894-4, \$27.99

■ Virgil Wounded Horse, the half Lakota, half white narrator of Weiden’s gorgeous debut, serves as a fists-for-hire enforcer on South Dakota’s Rosebud Indian Reservation. Ever since Virgil’s sister died in a car



accident three years earlier, her son, Nathan, has been living with him. Back when Virgil was an alcoholic, his erratic behavior drove away

the love of his life, Marie Short Bear, but now he’s sober, and after Nathan ends up in the hospital from a heroin overdose, Marie returns to help Virgil take on the bad guys responsible for bringing heroin to the reservation. The novel twists delicately around various personal conflicts while artfully addressing issues related to the politics of the reservation. Weiden combines funny, complex, and unforgettable characters with strong, poetic prose. This is crime fiction at its best.