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News & Reviews by Roz Weedman  
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## What's new in March? It's thrilling

We never tire of thrillers, mysteries, and who-dunnits. Certainly, I don't. But then, love is also thrilling.

**When You Read This** by Mary Adkins is being billed as, "If you liked **Where'd You Go, Bernadette**, you'll like this." I liked *Bernadette*, and Adkins' book does look promising. It is the contemporary version on an epistolary novel, meaning a novel written in letters. History is rich with epistolary novels. In fact, the first novel in English (arguably) is Samuel Richardson's **Pamela**, an epistolary book. Adkins updates the format using blog posts, emails, memos, and every sort of letter-like communication to construct her book. A publisher has to track down the sister of a woman who died leaving instructions for her blog posts to be published as a book. Let's say, someone is lost and found, and love happens.

More in the usual application of the word thriller, **Never Tell** by Lisa Gardner, starts with a murder. Gardner fans have already developed a relationship with characters D.D. Warren and Flora Dane who are faced with a deceptively complicated case. But you have to love that the victim is a man shot three times while his computer was shot twelve. There's something oddly satisfying in that. Although the victim's wife was found holding the smoking gun over both carcasses, you'll have to read the book to discover the rest.

**The Silent Patient** by Alex Michaelides was an instant New York Times bestseller. (Stay tuned in two more weeks for a column on how that happens.) This novel is said to combine "Hitchcockian suspense, Agatha Christie plotting, and Greek tragedy," not to mention a London setting. Although I'm not completely convinced all these elements should go together, surely one of them would appeal to most readers. But we have a short trend going here of bad news for husbands. In this story, Alice shoots her husband, Gabriel, five times in the face, and then refuses to speak. I don't mean she won't speak to the police or even her lawyer. She quits speaking altogether. Her criminal psychotherapist becomes a central figure in this book.

James Patterson has a new book out (I know; you're shocked; me, too) called **The Chef**. Caleb Rooney is "a celebrity food truck chef by night and a police detective by day." He is also the principal suspect in an on-the-job murder. Patterson is popular and therefore his new book is worth a mention. I read a lot of reviews of this book, and they are predictably mixed. Since Patterson works with many co-authors all the time these days, he is prolific but inconsistent in

style and, fair to say, quality. It just depends on which Patterson you enjoy whether you'll appreciate this book. But many people do approve of it.

Two recent thrillers that I finished reading are Kate Atkinson's **Transcription** and Lauren Wilkinson's **American Spy**. Both books are spy novels, and both have their inspiration in John LeCarre's work – which is a good thing in a spy book. Wilkinson, a debut novelist, openly tips her hat to LeCarre. I recommend both books, but especially the polished and sophisticated Atkinson book. She never disappoints. Both books have that ethical ambiguity and slow burn plotting of the best spy novels.

We have plenty more new books available. Stop in and we'll help you find something you'll love.

See you at the Library!

**Upcoming Events:** Wed. March 6 Part 3 of The Nature Series **Hummingbirds – Nature's Jewels** at 6:30; Tues. March 12 at 12:30 **Books for Lunch**; Tues. March 12 at 3:15 – **Choices for teens grades 7 – 12** presented by Sgt. Lisa Hill of the Frankenmuth Police Dept.; Wed. March 13 **Songs and Stories of the Irish Tradition** at 6:30. This is an over 21 event only (beer will be served); Fri. March 15 **Tween March Madness** at 6:30. Follow our website calendar so you don't miss anything. April 17 at 6:30 p.m. is the **Spring Gardening Workshop**.