

From the Stacks
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Bound together by themes of resilience, hidden motives, and the courage it takes to refuse to let the past or outside forces define you, these four novels deliver rich suspense and unforgettable characters that linger long after the final page. With settings from the sun-drenched, illusion-filled film sets of 1970s Hollywood to the quiet, storied halls of 1990s Paris, these stories prove that the truth is often buried beneath layers of deception.

Originally written in 1973 by Michael Crichton, this newly recovered Hollywood mystery thriller plunges readers into the glitz and decadence of the 1970s film industry. The suspicious death of a screenwriter in his motel bathtub threatens to derail *Bloodrock*, a highly anticipated Western blockbuster. As publicist Harvey Jason frantically attempts to keep the production on track, brilliant and ruthless investigator Harlow Perkins steps in to hunt the killer. The investigation spans scorching desert film sets and seedy motel bars, exposing the cast and crew's darkest secrets. With everyone harboring hidden motives, the case quickly spirals into a dizzying maze of deception and false leads. Ultimately, *A Murder in Hollywood*, a fast-paced thriller keeps readers guessing until the very end, questioning whether the killer's identity is just another Hollywood illusion.

When a worker is found dead in a tiger enclosure, autopsy results reveal she was poisoned by a tranquilizer, making Sanctuary co-owner Blake Lawson the prime murder suspect. As Blake fights to clear his name and rescue the business's failing finances, a rare earth soil test hints that someone may be sabotaging the Sanctuary to seize its land. Meanwhile, wildlife vet Paradise Alden is targeted with missing DNA results and a home break-in while desperately searching for her long-lost brother. Determined to find answers, she refuses to back down despite the growing danger. Amidst the chaos and mounting threats, Blake and Paradise rely on each other, longing for a future together even as forces align to pull them apart. *Prowl* by Colleen Coble is a gripping suspense novel with some romance, and it has a theme of not allowing the past to define a person.

The Calamity Club, the long-awaited second novel from Kathryn Stockett who wrote *The Help*, will immerse the reader in Southern culture during the Depression with resilient women. Abandoned on Christmas Eve, eleven-year-old Meg Lefleur fights to keep her spirit alive as an "unadoptable" older girl in a Mississippi orphan asylum. Desperate to help her struggling family during the Great Depression, the outspoken Birdie Calhoun travels to Oxford, only to find her socialite sister's charmed life is built on

lies. There, Birdie meets Charlie, a down-on-her-luck woman with nothing left to lose. When the three women's paths converge, Charlie proposes an audacious plan for them to finally take control of their own destinies. However, in a society rife with hypocrisy and limited freedom for women, their bold defiance quickly brings dangerous consequences.

Janet Skeslien Charles' third novel, *The Parisian Chapter*, about libraries returns to Paris with all the people who worked or volunteered there. Five years after moving from Montana to Paris to pursue her dreams as a novelist, Lily Jacobsen is left adrift when her best friend abruptly moves out. Needing a way to support herself, she takes a job as the programs manager at the American Library in Paris, navigating a demanding boss and a colorful cast of eccentric patrons and staff. However, Lily soon discovers that personal dramas are the least of her worries when the historic library falls into severe financial jeopardy. Setting her own troubles aside, she must fight to save the beloved institution and protect the legacy it holds.