

**From the Stacks**  
**By Julie Orf**  
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Reading is voluntarily checking yourself into a fictional asylum where the padded walls are made of rich lore and the other inmates are your beloved characters. With each new installment, you are not just reading a book; you are re-entering a fictional world, a place you know so well you could probably offer tours. You are deeply invested in these characters. Their growth and eventual triumph over challenges feel like your personal victory, probably deserving of a small parade. Following a series is a long-distance relationship with the author. You are both committed: you to the anticipation of the next novel, and the author to a brutal deadline. Yet, this bond goes a duo to a fandom or a book community cheering on this author and characters.

Janet Evanovich has created new characters for a laugh aloud, action packed mystery that is certain to keep readers anxious for the next novel. *The King's Ransom* is the second installment in her new series. Recovery agent extraordinaire Gabriela Rose can find anything except a way to lose her gorgeous ex-husband, Rafer Jones. Now, Rafer needs her help. His cousin, bank president Harley, is facing jail time after priceless artifacts he insured vanished, with no paper trail to protect him. To save Harley and his bank, Gabriela must reluctantly travel the world with Rafer to recover the artwork. They will face corruption, murder, and a global conspiracy driven by a nefarious villain bent on destroying the world's wealth.

In this 30th adventure, *Exit Strategy*, Jack Reacher is untangling strange doings at the port of Baltimore. While in Baltimore, Reacher receives a desperate note from Nathan Gilmour, a former military intelligence officer caught in a blackmail scheme. Gilmour was forced to feed port shipment information to criminals to pay off gambling debts. Reacher initially refuses to get involved until Gilmour reveals the conspirators have threatened his young nephew. Teaming up with Gilmour and a suspicious port authority employee, Sabrina Patten, Reacher investigates the shadowy organization led by Morgan Strickland, whose diabolical plan involves profiting from armed conflict between Turkey and Armenia. This novel is co-authored by Lee Child and his brother, Andrew Child.

Another related pair writing together are Jonathan and Jesse Kellerman, father and son, and *Coyote Hills* is the sixth novel in this suspense series. PI and former coroner Clay Edison and his sharp-witted partner Regina Klein take on the cold case of Adam Valois, whose death was dismissed as an accidental overdose a year earlier. Despite police warnings that they are wasting their time, the duo digs deeper, connecting Adam's case

to other bodies washing ashore. Using cutting-edge analysis of drug profiles and tidal currents, Clay and Regina prove they are dealing with a string of homicides. The investigation, which places Adam's successful sister among the suspects, highlights the strong partnership between the PIs as Clay balances the grim realities of his work with his fulfilling family life.

In this sequel to Louise Penny's *The Grey Wolf* that begins with the earlier novel's last line: "We have a problem." What a problem it is! will be discovered in *The Black Wolf*. Chief Inspector Armand Gamache and his allies are denied rest after saving Canada's water supply. Don Joseph Moretti, head of the Sixth Family, continues his criminal plots, but Gamache cannot trust the inspector investigating him. Reviewing a biologist's notebook, Gamache uncovers a monstrous plot suggesting Canada or the U.S. is preparing to attack the other. The threats escalate, leaving Gamache uncertain if the ultimate evil power, the "Black Wolf," is Moretti, a disgraced former Deputy Prime Minister, or someone even higher up.