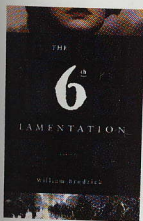


modern life. "The greatest danger in a world dependent on machines is that large sections of our country, world, can be paralyzed by such events—even by the act of terrorism," he says. "The average American has no idea of the degree to which his life is manipulated by machines."

Still, these concerns don't prevent him from enjoying the benefits of modern success, which have enabled him to return to his first love. These days the forty-three-year-old father of two is playing music again, and he recently joined the Rock Bottom Remainders, a literary rock collective composed of superstar authors, including Stephen King, Amy Tan and Scott Turow. Something of a ringer in the group, Iles earns kudos for both his musical and literary chops, though such praise doesn't come without an appropriate hint of danger: "Greg is not just a terrific writer; he's also a very good guitar player," says bandmate and co-lead guitarist Dave Barry. "So I will have to have him killed."

—Kelli Daley

## All Friared Up



At the beginning of the British writer **William Brodrick's** debut literary thriller, *The 6th Lamentation*, an old man thought to be a former S.S. officer claims sanctuary at

Larkwood Priory. His arrival sends Father Anselm, the priory's barrister-turned-monk, on a mission of discovery and redemption. Memories and half-remembered lies about the Holocaust and the French resistance surface as Anselm's painful investigation pulls three families into its wake.

Brodrick's own story is an inversion of that of his dogged monk. Once an Augustinian friar, Brodrick left the church for personal-injury law. "I wanted to belong to the ordinary world of marriage and mortgage, of dinner parties and hangovers," he writes of his career change. Brodrick, whose mother was in the French resistance, says he's found secular life spiritually satisfying, though the mortgage "has turned out to be a dead end."

July/Aug 2003  
Book



## International Menu of Mystery

Some of the most exciting new stories of suspense are currently being cooked up outside of the United States. Tempt your palate with these exotic treats—now available in translation.

### *Ring* by Koji Suzuki

Beloved in Japan, Suzuki has recently exploded on the American scene, thanks in large part to the 2002 movie *The Ring*, based on his novel. In Suzuki's original version, a male reporter connects the death of his niece to a videotape that kills viewers exactly seven days after they watch it.

### *The Shape of Water, The Terra-Cotta Dog and The Snack Thief* by Andrea Camilleri

Italian Camilleri has long been a staple of European bestseller lists, and his stories amble through murder and political duplicity with a laconic noir sensibility. The hero, Inspector Montalbano, lives and works in a small Sicilian town where food, and the sumptuous Italian atmosphere, are just as exciting as cracking a case.

### *Out* by Natsuo Kirino

In the first of Kirino's award-winning thrillers to be published in English, a group of young female factory workers conspires to conceal a murder. At the same time, the ringleader, melancholy Masako, searches for an exit from her dead-end existence. Dark, seductive and occasionally brutal, *Out* explores the lower classes of Japanese society with a distinctive gallows humor.

### *The Winter Queen* by Boris Akunin

Russian writer Akunin has found fans in writers as diverse as Anne Perry and Alan Furst, and no wonder. His historical thriller, set in Czarist Russia, stars Erast Fandorin, an aristocratic sleuth one reviewer has called "the James Bond of the nineteenth century." When the young son of a captain of industry commits suicide, Fandorin is put on the case.

### *The White Lioness, Firewall and The Dogs of Riga* by Henning Mankell

In nine different novels, the introspective small-town Swedish detective Kurt Wallander investigates crimes in a world that, in his words, has "both shrunk and expanded at the same time." Mankell's lyrical tales of intrigue never lose the awareness of a society in which the violence of city life has penetrated even the coziest of country villages.

### *Little Indiscretions* by Carmen Posadas

Spanish by way of Latin America, Posadas' tale of a deadly weekend party on the Costa del Sol, in which a chef who knows too much is entombed alive in a walk-in freezer, charms and intrigues in the style of Agatha Christie. Each member of the eccentric cast of characters has a secret to keep, and must hope that it will stay frozen on the dead chef's lips.