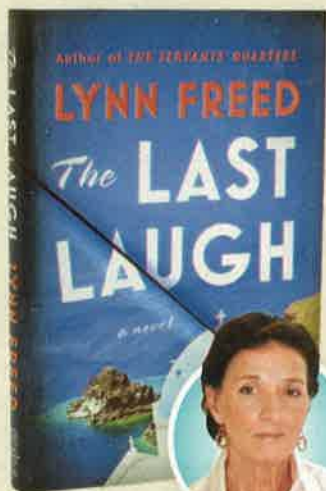


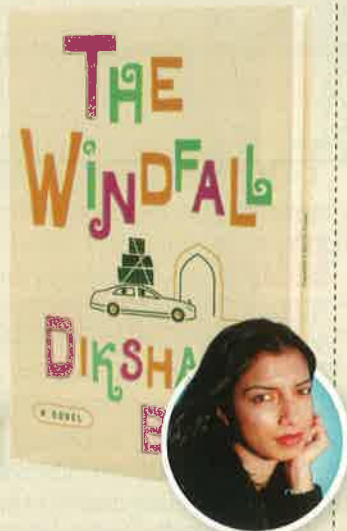
No. 12 The Best New Books

A detective fighting for her son, a family on the rise in Delhi and three women of a certain age on an Aegean adventure EDITED BY KIM HUBBARD



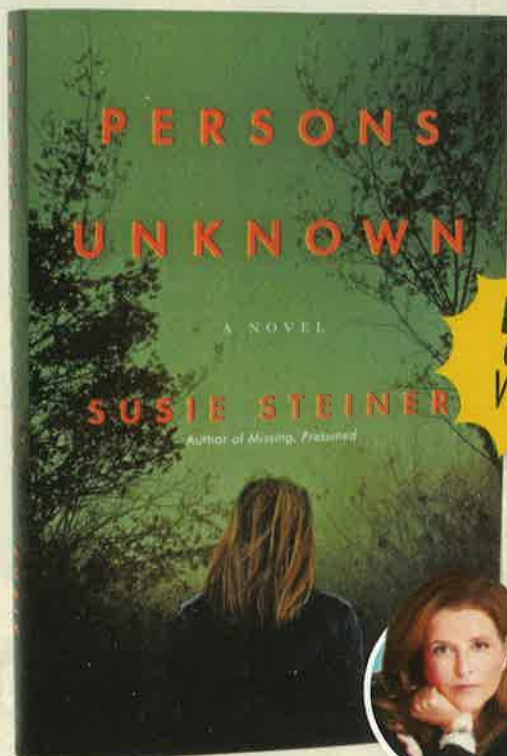
Lynn Freed *The Last Laugh*

NOVEL Three elderly women decide to ditch their families and other pesky annoyances and retreat to an idyllic Greek island together. It's a nice idea, but squabbles, betrayals and botched romances soon land these sharp-elbowed "old bags" in a heap of trouble. Fast-moving and laced with salty wit, this is a smart, funny summer read.



Diksha Basu *The Windfall*

NOVEL Mr. and Mrs. Jha are moving on up, from the east side of Delhi to affluent Gurgaon, and everyone has an opinion. This charming satire unfolds through their many viewpoints, including that of the Jhas' conflicted son, a failing M.B.A. student. What Kevin Kwan did for rich-people problems, Diksha Basu does for trying-to-be-rich-people problems.



Susie Steiner *Persons Unknown*

MYSTERY Very pregnant detective Manon Bradshaw is cooling her heels with boring cold cases when her sister's ex is murdered—and Manon's newly adopted 12-year-old son, the only black kid in their Cambridgeshire town, gets railroaded for the crime. Steiner (*Missing, Presumed*) populates this hot-button narrative with achingly human characters, but no one compares to the hormonal, mordantly funny mom-cop who will stop at nothing to save her son.

SUMMER THRILLERS

Karen Dionne *The Marsh King's Daughter*

Helena has found happiness in adulthood despite her fraught origins: She was born to a teenage girl and the man who'd abducted her. And now Dad is out of jail.... Spine-tingling.

Christopher Bollen *The Destroyers*

In this delicious literary thriller, Ian Bledsoe visits his old pal Charlie on the island of Patmos, hoping for some financial help. It's a rich kids' playground, but the fun ends when Charlie mysteriously disappears.

Dean Koontz *The Silent Corner*

Why did Jane Hawk's happy husband kill himself—and why has senseless suicide become an epidemic? Jane's focus on getting answers is matched only by her adversaries' will to stop her.

