

prostitute whose often abusive clients are GIs. After Whitaker arrives in-country, he, like nearly every GI he meets, spends his free time getting drunk or stoned and looking for sex, which is how he runs into Lan. Rabe presents Lan with some caution—her interiority is murkier than Whitaker's—as her feelings about Whitaker evolve and, in a haunting bit of foreshadowing, she's visited by her uncle, who wants a photo of her to put on the family altar. How that photo falls into Whitaker's hands, and what he does with it, is the plot's cruel point of convergence. Although Rabe doesn't add much to our understanding of Vietnam, this novel amply demonstrates the war's relentlessly dehumanizing power. (June)

**Silencing Sam**

Julie Kramer. Atria, \$23.99 (352p) ISBN 978-1-391-7799-0

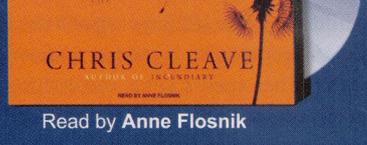
Cartoonish characters and thin prose mark Kramer's third media-savvy thriller featuring Minneapolis, Minn., TV reporter Riley Spartz (after *Missing Mark*). When someone shoots to death newspaper gossip columnist Sam Pierce, who recently raised questions in his column about Riley's relationship with a former cop, Nick Garnett, so soon after her husband's death, Riley becomes a murder suspect. Another thorn in Riley's side is showboating Texan Clay Burrell, a fellow Channel 3 investigative journalist, who will stop at nothing to bury the competition, including Riley, with stories about such topics as a decapitated female corpse, Sam's murder, and the hijinks surrounding a wind turbine farm disrupted by explosive protests. Clay's corny, over-the-top John Wayne manner and an unconvincing subplot about Sam's personal life weigh down the action, though Kramer registers some sharp observations regarding the changes rocking the journalism industry. (June)

the killer was conducting Satanic rituals. When Adam and his partner, Carl Landauer, question the prime suspect, Jason Moncrief, a college friend of Erin's, Jason chants the name of the demon Choronzon, then assaults Carl. Despite what appears to be an open-and-shut case, Adam can't discount the claim that Jason is innocent made by Tanith Cabarrus, an attractive witch who comes to police headquarters to report that she dreamed of other murders—and who believes that supernatural forces are behind the slaughter. As usual, Sokoloff (*The Unseen*) does a good job keeping the reader guessing whether a supernatural agency is really at work. (June)

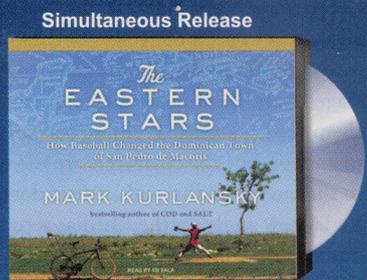
**★ Agents of Treachery: Breathtaking, Never Before Published Spy Fiction from Today's Most Exciting Writers**

Edited by Otto Penzler. Vintage/Black Lizard, \$15.95 paper (448p) ISBN 978-0-307-47751-4

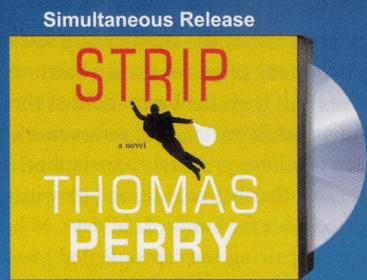
Astonishingly, as mystery maestro Penzler points out in his cogent introduction, "there has never been, until now, a collection of original stories devoted" to spy fiction. Penzler has assembled 14 of the biggest names in the thriller genre—such as Lee Child, Joseph Finder, Stephen Hunter, Gayle Lynds, and David Morrell—who all rise to the challenge of writing a short story set in the complex world of international espionage. This unique anthology's best entry, Charles McCarry's "The End of the String," which depicts an intelligence officer's role in a planned coup aimed at a despotic African president-for-life, will evoke comparisons with John le Carré and Graham Greene. The superlative writing is matched by the variety, which ranges from tales with clever twists to straightforward ones, some contemporary, others with historical settings. (June)



Read by Anne Flosnik

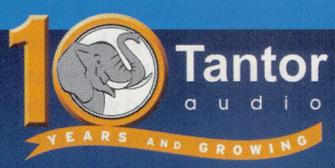


Read by Ed Sala



Read by Michael Kramer

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