

Midmonth BookNotes

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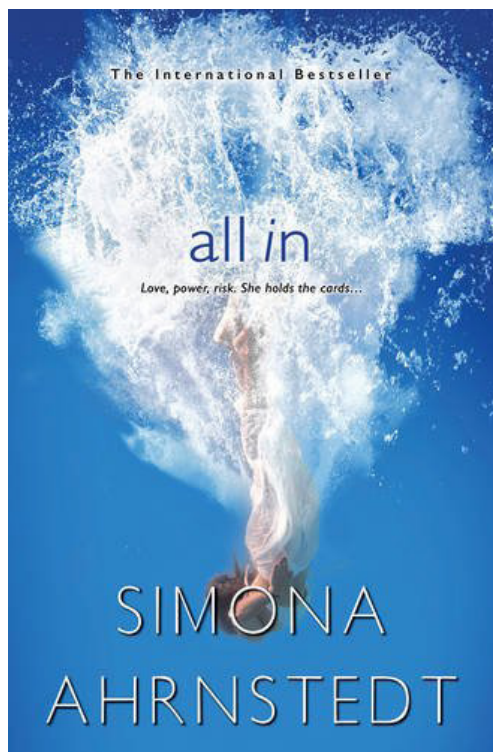
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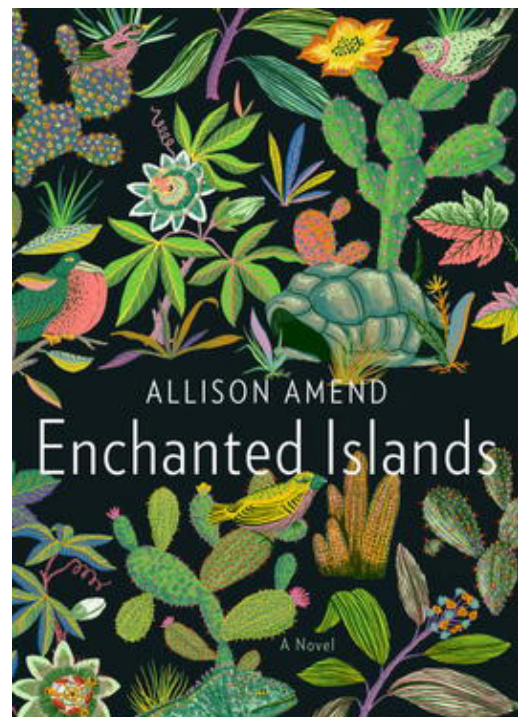


Ahrnstedt, Simona. [All In](#)

(Kensington \$25)

Swedish venture capitalist David Hammar has one goal in life: to get revenge on the De la Grip family. In order to complete his plan, David plans on taking over Investum – the family's company and one of Sweden's oldest and biggest financial corporations. However, David's scheme to seduce Natalie De la Grip over to the dark side in order to gain control of the Investum board begins to quickly unravel when he finds himself falling in love with her. Ahrnstedt is a big best-seller in Europe and her publisher is giving this book a major push by promoting it at the first modern Swedish women's fiction novel to

be translated into English. The book itself is a fun summertime mix of glitz and glam elements including the one percent lifestyle most of us only read about in the papers, plenty of corporate intrigue and financial skullduggery, scandalous family secrets, and a generous dollop of steamy sex. Think *Dynasty* but with Swedish accents.



Amend, Allison. [Enchanted Islands](#)

(Doubleday \$26.95)

Frances Frankowski and Rosalie Mendel are best friends growing up in Duluth in the 1880s. So when the girls are teens and Rosalie suggests to Frances that they run away together to Chicago to experience the bright lights of the big city, Frances, of course, says yes. But the friendship

between the two girls cracks and breaks when Rosalie betrays Frances forcing her to set out on her own. Decades later, Frances is working in San Francisco as a secretary for the Office of Naval Intelligence when she meets Ainslie Conway, a younger operative for the department. A marriage is arranged between the two of them so that the new couple can travel to the Galapagos Islands, where they are to do some reconnaissance for any spies there working there for the German government. Day-to-day life on the islands is a struggle for Frances, but she is in for an even bigger shock when she discovers her new husband has a few secrets of his own he has failed to share with her. For most readers the way the author tells a story (sometimes this is called their "voice") is what ultimately determines whether the reader is going to like a book or not. I really wanted to like *Enchanted Islands* more since the author based her novel on the real-life Frances Conway's memoirs and the combination of the exotic setting and espionage seemed intriguing, but there was just something about the author's writing style that didn't click with me, and I couldn't get through the book. However, both *Publishers Weekly* and *Kirkus Reviews* loved *Enchanted Islands*, so your own reading experience might be different!

Ayres, DD. [*Rival Forces*](#)

(St Martins \$7.99)

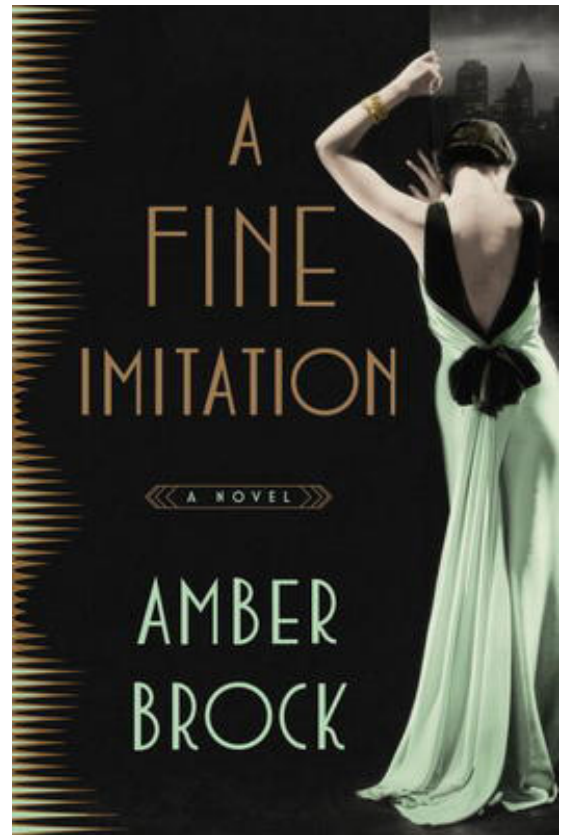
When her fiancé goes missing during a dangerous overseas mission, Yardley Summers, the owner of a K-9 training facility, heads out to find him only to the only man to ever break her heart, Kyle McGarren, is part of the rescue team. The latest thrilling addition to Ayres' K-9 rescue series is a great read for anyone who enjoys fast-paced, sexy romantic suspense novels and who has a soft spot for canines.

Bradford, Barbara. [*Cavendon Luck*](#)

(St Martins \$27.99)

Nine years after the events in *The Cavendon Women*, and Miles and Cecily Ingham have led the family in bringing the Cavendon estate back from the brink of disaster. But now, with the arrival of World War II, Cavendon Hall will face its biggest challenge yet. It is a challenge that will push the Inghams and Swanns into an alliance to protect

each other and the villagers, and it will also reveal their true capacity for survival and re-birth. Miss *Downton Abbey* on PBS? Bradford's Cavendon series delivers the same kind of upper-crust, British-flavored family saga feel.



Brock, Amber. [*A Fine Imitation*](#)

(Crown \$26)

Vera Bellington thought she married a man who loved her, but instead Vera discovers her husband Arthur really only loved what her family's name could do for his career. Now after nearly a decade of being married to Arthur, Vera is desperately lonely. So when the residents of the Angelus – the exclusive apartment building in Manhattan where the Bellingtons live - propose the idea that they hire an artist to create a mural for their pool room, Vera figures that at least it might do something to break up the monotonous rounds or parties and dinners she must attend. Emil Hallan – the sexy French artist they eventually hire – not only winds up charming everyone in the building, he awakens in Vera desires she never thought she could have. But there is something very enigmatic about Emil, who refuses to talk about himself or his past. And when Vera finally discovers the truth about what he is hiding, it will force her to choose between the life she

has now and the one that she has only dreamed of. I gobbled up this debut novel that vividly recreates the glittering world of New York City in the 1920s and then paired this with some beautifully nuanced characters. If you enjoyed Suzanne Rindell's *The Other Typist* or love Beatriz Williams equally smartly crafted historical novels, Brock is a terrific new find.



Brockmole, Jess. [*At the Edge of Summer*](#) (Ballantine \$26)

After her father's death (and with her mother long out of the family picture), a teenage Claire Ross is taken in by an old friend of her mother's, Madame Crepet. While staying at the family's ramshackle chateau, Claire becomes friends with Madame's son Luc, who is studying to be an artist. Before the summer is over, however, Claire finds herself whisked back home to Scotland by her grandfather. Over the next few years, Claire and Luc stay in touch via letters, but when Claire finally returns to France after World War I has ended and reconnects with Luc, she discovers both of them have changed greatly. Can the two now recapture the love they once had for each other? Brockmole's debut novel *Letters from Skye* was named one of the best books of the year by *Publishers Weekly* when it was published a few years ago. The author's latest novel proves she

hasn't lost her touch when it comes to fashioning a wonderfully engaging, beautifully poignant historical novel that is sweetened with just the right dash of romance. *At the Edge of Summer* is certain to delight anyone who fell for Helen Simonson's *The Summer before the War*, or who loves the historical novels of Natasha Solomons or Jennifer Robson.

Callaway, Joy. [*The Fifth Avenue Artists Society*](#)

(Harper \$15.99)

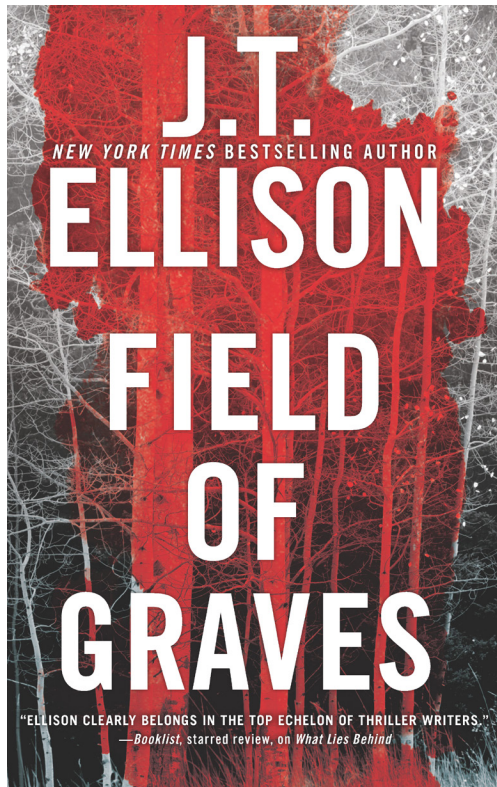
Aspiring author Virginia Loftin has two goals in life: marry her best friend Charlie and become a famous author. However, when Charlie proposed to an heiress instead of her that leaves Virginia to focus on her writing career. When Virginia attends a literary salon hosted by John Hopper, a friend of her brother's, she not only gains an entrée into the circle of writers, artists, and performers whose work is sought by high society, she finds a new romantic interest in John. Then Charlie walks back into Virginia's life and she finds herself forced to choose between two very different men. Gilded Age New York is the setting for Callaway's captivating debut that deftly explores one woman's struggles to reconcile her pursuit of art with her desire for love.

Cameron, Stella. [*Melody of Murder*](#) (Severn \$29.95).

Ordered Only Upon Request.

Alex Duggins, the owner of the Black Dog Pub, is enchanted by the lovely sounds of a woman singing the blues inside St. Anselm's church. When the singing ends, Alex's plans to ask the singer to continue prove to be impossible when she stumbles across the woman's dead body. The subsequent police investigation reveals that singer to have been Laura Quillam, the stepsister of young piano prodigy Elyan Quillam, who is staying in Folly-on-Weir for the summer with his family and professional entourage. Now it seems the Quillams may have brought a murderer along with them to the idyllic Cotswold village of Folly-on-Weir, and Alex will have to once again team up with her friend/lover Tony Harrison if they want to keep the clever killer from an encore performance. This is the third in Camer

on's traditional British mystery series featuring Alex Duggin. If you miss Caroline Graham's Inspector Barnaby's mysteries or you enjoy Peter Robinson's Inspector Banks books, you might want to give Cameron's series a try.



Ellison, J.T. [Field of Graves](#)
(MIRA \$26.99)

Having a serial killer targeting your female students is not exactly the kind of publicity Vanderbilt University needs. So, of course, when the first body of a pretty, blond coed is found on the steps of the Parthenon, Taylor Jackson, a Homicide Lieutenant with the Nashville Metro Criminal Investigation Unit, knows she has a limited amount of time to find murderer before all political hell breaks loose. Fortunately, Taylor knows she has a crack team – including her best friend medical examiner Dr. Samantha Owens – backing her up on the case. Unfortunately, Taylor's boss wants her to add another member to the group: FBI profiler Dr. John Baldwin. On leave from his position in DC, Baldwin has been hitting the bottle pretty hard to battle the guilt that haunts him from his last case. While Taylor isn't thrilled with the idea of working with Baldwin, she does know a thing or two about tackling personal demons, so she decides to

can use every bit of help she can get if she wants to catch this clever killer. Ellison won an International Thriller Writers award in 2010 and she currently co-authors the "Brit in the FBI" series with Catherine Coulter. *Field of Graves* is chockfull of suspenseful plot twists, realistically flawed characters, and plenty of fascinating procedural and forensic details. Since the book is actually a prequel to Ellison's "Taylor Jackson" series so it also provides an excellent opportunity for readers, who are fans of Tess Gerritsen, Karin Slaughter, and Kathy Reichs, to get on board with this thrilling series

Frank, Dorothea. [All Summer Long](#)
(Harper \$26.99)

New York couple Olivia Ritchie, a prominent interior designer, and her English professor husband, Nick Seymour, spend the summer traveling with Olivia's billionaire clients while pondering their plans to retire to Charleston, South Carolina in Frank's latest beachy summer-time read.

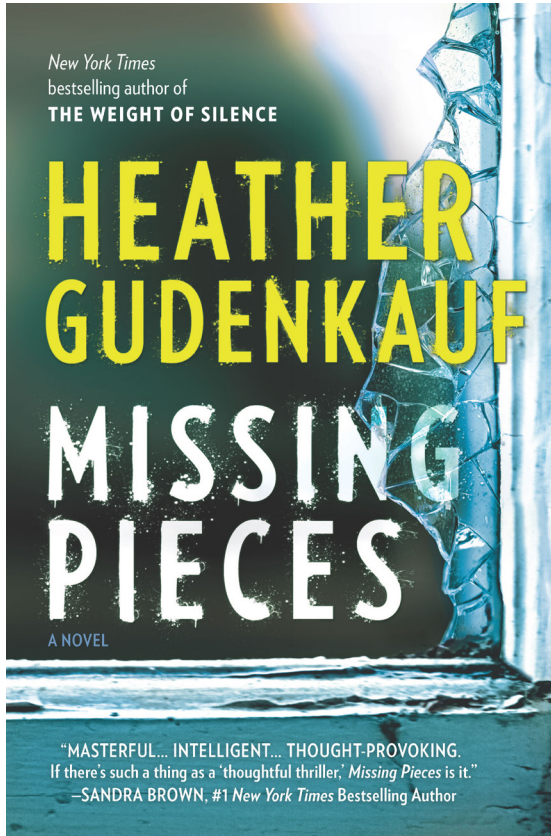
Freydant, Shelley. [A Golden Cage](#)
(Berkley \$16)

With her mother away in Switzerland with her sister, Deanna Randolph is revealing in the temporary freedom she is experiencing back in Newport by taking up bicycling and even sea bathing! Deanna is staying with the Ballards, who are acting as her chaperones for the summer. However, when one of the actors who performed at a special birthday fete organized by the Ballards winds up dead on the floor of their conservatory, the resulting scandal may be great enough to cause Deanna's mother to pack her bags and head back home unless Deanna, with a little help from her maid Elspeth and her ex-beau Joe Ballard, can identify the killer before he or she strikes again. Love Tasha Alexander's historical mysteries? Then you just might want to give Freydont's Gilded Age series a try.

Gortner, CW. [Marlene](#)
(Harper \$26.99)

Gortner, author of *Mademoiselle Chanel*, finds inspiration for his latest historical novel in the life of the legendary Marlene Dietrich. Gortner traces Dietrich's path to stardom from her early days as

Maria Magdalena when she trained as a classical violinist to the time she spent honing her singing and acting chops in the seedy cabarets of Weimar Berlin to her years as one of Hollywood's most sought-after and talked about stars. Gortner is very good at detailing all of Dietrich's accomplishments (as well as her many tempestuous affairs), but he also doesn't gloss over any of Dietrich's flaws either. The end result is a nuanced fictional biography of one of the 20th century's most fascinating women.



Gudenkauf, Heather. [Missing Pieces](#) (MIRA \$26.99)

How much did Sarah Quinlan's husband Jack really love her if he never told her the truth about her past? After his aunt Julia takes a nasty tumble down a staircase and lands in the hospital, Sarah travels with Jack back to his hometown of Penny Gate. Jack always told Sarah that his parents had been killed in an automobile accident, but once Sarah arrives in the small town in Iowa, she soon discovers Jack's mother was murdered. Much to Sarah's shock, this isn't the first lie Jack has told to her, and as she tries to put the missing pieces of his life together, Sarah begins to wonder exactly what kind of a man she married. Gudenkauf's first book, *The Weight of Silence*,

was an Edgar nominee when it first came out a few years back, and her latest spine-tingling novel of suspense is equally good. *Missing Pieces* is expertly plotted, skillfully paced, and the icing on the cake is the beautifully rendered bucolic setting, which only makes the omnipresent air of danger that pervades the story all the more chilling. If you miss those wonderful early novels of domestic suspense by Mary Higgins Clark like *A Cry in the Night*, *When the Bough Breaks*, and *A Stranger is Watching*, Gudenkauf delivers exactly those same kind of nerve-jangling thrills in a flawlessly executed story.

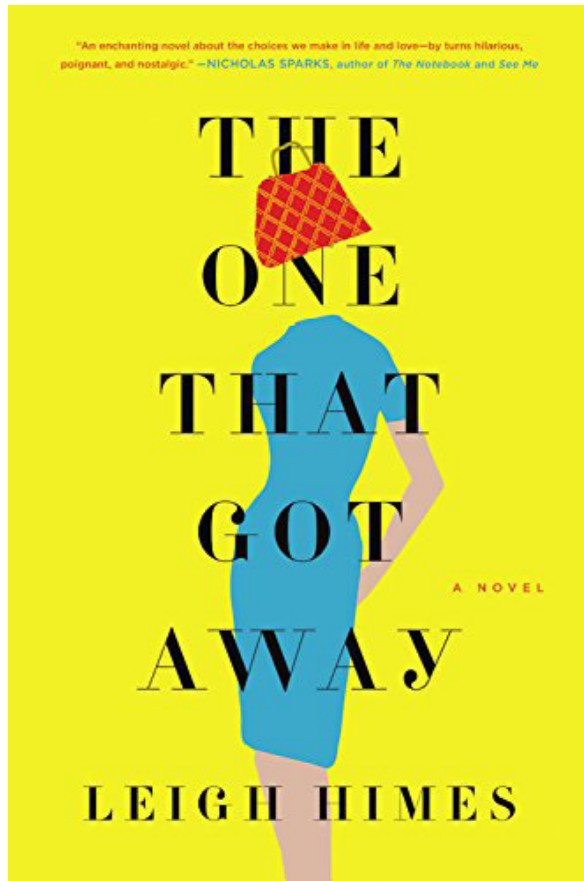
Higgins, Kristan. [If You Only Knew](#) (\$7.99)

Wedding dress designer Jenny Tate wants to hate her ex-husband Owen and his new wife Ana-Sofia, but darn it, they are just too nice. However, their idea that the three of them can be best friends is asking a bit much, which is why Jenny decides to leave Manhattan and open her own bridal shop in Cambry-on-Hudson. One of the advantages to moving back to her old hometown is that Jenny's sister Rachel and her husband and three daughters live there too, which will give Jenny the chance to spend even more time with Rachel, who, as far as Jenny can tell, has the perfect life. However, soon after Jenny moves back to Cambry-on-Hudson, Rachel discovers her perfect husband Adam has been sexting a colleague at work. As Jenny works on building her business and explores the possibility of a new relationship with Leo, the sexy superintendent of her apartment building, Rachel must decide whether she wants to try to patch up the holes in her marriage or end things with Adam permanently. Higgins has built a reputation for her sweet and funny contemporary romances. With *If You Only Knew*, she is moving into women's fiction territory with a novel that perfectly blends love, laughter and a few tears into an emotionally compelling story the deftly celebrates the bonds between sisters.

Hilderbrand, Elin. [Here's to Us](#) (Little-Brown \$28)

When celebrity chef Deacon Thorpe unexpectedly commits suicide, his wives (yes, Deacon was a bit of lad with the ladies) and his children gather

together at a ramshackle Nantucket cottage to say farewell. Of course, it isn't a completely peaceful wake since old secrets and long simmering resentments quickly bubble back up to the surface as everyone tries to cope with the new absence of Deacon in their lives. Hilderbrand has built a successful literary brand for herself with her Nantucket-set women's fiction, and her latest delivers all memorable island scenery and compelling emotional drama her readers have come to expect as well as a selection of summery recipes.



Himes, Leigh. [The One That Got Away](#) (LittleBrown \$26)

After an accidental tumble down the escalator at Nordstrom's, Abbey Lahey wakes up to discover she is no longer an overworked mother of two kids and married to Jimmy, a struggling landscaper, but is now the spoiled wife Alexander Collier van Holt, a Philly blue blood, who asked her out on a date years ago. Now Abbey is about to find out how one small action (saying yes to a date) really can change a person's life. But is it really a change for the better? Think of this as another take on the *Sliding Doors* concept that life may have multiple endings depending on which choices you make.

Kelly, Brynn. [Deception Island](#) (Harlequin \$26.99)

Rogue French Foreign Legion officer Rafe Angelito would do anything to get his son back safely, and if that means kidnapping American heiress Laura Hyland, then that is exactly what he will do. However, the woman Rafe snatches is not Laura but her body double: Holly Ryan. Now on a secluded tropical island off the coast of Indonesia, the two find themselves forced to become unlikely allies – and lovers – in a deadly battle against 21st century pirates and slave traders. Kelly's debut novel is jam-packed with plenty of nonstop thrills and sexy action making this a terrific choice for fans of romantic suspense by authors like Linda Howard or Elizabeth Lowell.

Kiely, Tracy. [Killer Cocktail](#) (Midnight Ink \$14.99)

With their Hollywood connections and new Bullmastiff puppy Skippy, Nic and Nigel Martini are used to getting attention from the press but when they discover some old family films containing behind the scenes footage of the filming of *A Winter's Night* while they are renovating the home owned by the former director of the movie, the two really draw the spotlight. Ever since the star of *A Winter's Night*, Melanie Summers, was found dead on the set of the film twenty years earlier, there have been rumors about her untimely demise. When someone tries to steal the films and badly injures one of their employees in the process, the cute-as-a-button couple decides they will definitely have to put down their martinis and do some investigating if they ever want to feel safe in their new home. With a plethora of lively banter and clever quips, Nic and Nigel definitely come across as a modern day version of Nick and Nora Charles. I loved the first in the series, *Murder with a Twist*, and the latest book is just as much fun for anyone who likes their mysteries on the lighter side (which means you will probably never see Patrick reading these books).

Killoren Bensim. [A Dangerous Age](#) (Gallery \$26)

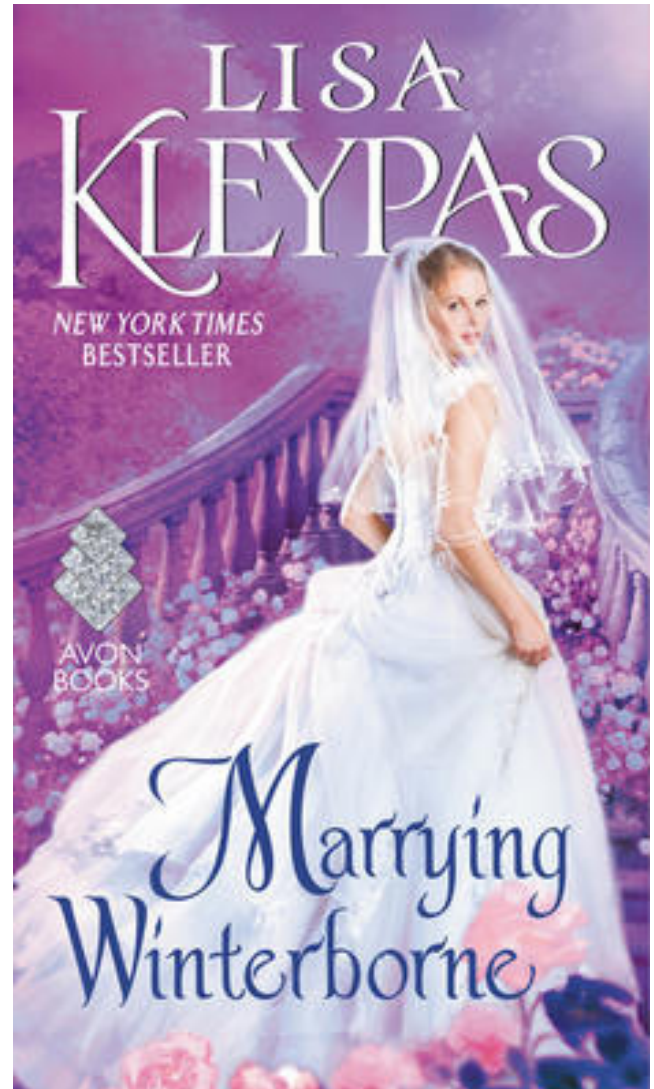
Fasten your seatbelts readers; it's going to be a bumpy summer for four female friends in

Manhattan. Ex-model turned journalist Lucy is frantically trying to keep her marriage to older artist Titus from coming apart at the seams. Billy is doing everything she can to turn her passion for food and wine into a viable career (or at least a job that can pay the rent). Socialite Sarah desperately wants to break into the next new “Housewives” type reality show franchise and will sacrifice anything (even her friends?) to achieve that goal. And gorgeous Swedish art dealer Lotta continues to make the same bad choices when it comes to men, alcohol, and nonprescription drugs that she made twenty years earlier. Throw in Lucy’s frantic attempts to uncover the identity of a mysterious blogger known only as Odin and you have some idea of the gossamer like plot of Bensimon’s (a former ex-model and editor of *Elle Accessories*) debut novel. While *A Dangerous Age* is definitely more Candice Bushnell’s *Sex in the City* than Edith Wharton’s *The Age of Innocence*, Bensimon does have her own distinctive literary sense of style and a surprisingly sharp sense of wit. With the shameless name dropping of the Big Apple’s most famous residents (who knew Uma Thurman’s younger brother was a celebrity yoga instructor?) and abundant mention of luxury goods (is Louis Vuitton paying for all of this product placement?), *A Dangerous Age* is perfect beach reading for anyone with a subscription to *Vogue* or *Vanity Fair*.

Klaussmann, Liz. [Villa America](#)
(\$15.99)

In the 1920s, ex-pat Americans Gerald Murphy and his wife Sara built a fabulous new life for themselves on the coast of Antibes. Their home – Villa America – became a Mecca for members of the Lost Generation including Hemingway, Picasso, and the Fitzgeralds. However, when young American aviator Owen Chambers find himself in the south of France, he is slowly drawn into the household at Villa America, and the Murphys quickly discover their marriage as well as their lives will never be the same again. The real life Murphys served as the source of literary inspiration for F. Scott Fitzgerald’s novel *Tender Is the Night*, and Klaussmann’s second evocative novel is tailor-made for fans of historical fiction

written by authors such as Paula McLain, Melanie Benjamin, and Beatriz Williams.



Kleypas, Lisa. [Marrying Winterborne](#)
(Harper \$7.99)

Through hard work and sheer grit, Rhys Winterborne has built a retail empire for himself in London, but he knows there has to be more to life than just success in business. When Rhys meets aristocratic Lady Helen Ravenel, he immediately falls for her and vows that she will be his wife. As Rhys begins his personal campaign of seduction, he is determined to overcome any and all obstacles in order to win Helen’s heart. Kleypas continues her Victorian-set Ravenel series (*Cold-Hearted Rake*) with another sumptuously written and elegantly sensual historical that beautifully showcases the author’s flair for creating complicated, richly nuanced characters.

Laurens, Stephanie. [A Buccaneer at Heart](#)

(Mira \$7.99)

After more than a decade of leading covert missions for the Crown, Captain Robert Frobisher is finally ready to settle down and find a wife. But before he begins considering suitable matrimonial candidates, he agrees to take on one last mission, which takes him to West Africa and right into the path of Aileen Hopkins, who is determined to find her brother Will, a British Naval Lieutenant, who has mysteriously disappeared. Lauren's latest series reads like a sexy update of all those classic Tyrone Powers movies, but it ends on a cliffhanger, which the author will wrap up in the last book in the quartet when it publishes this winter.

Long, Julie Ann. [Hot in Hellcat Canyon](#)

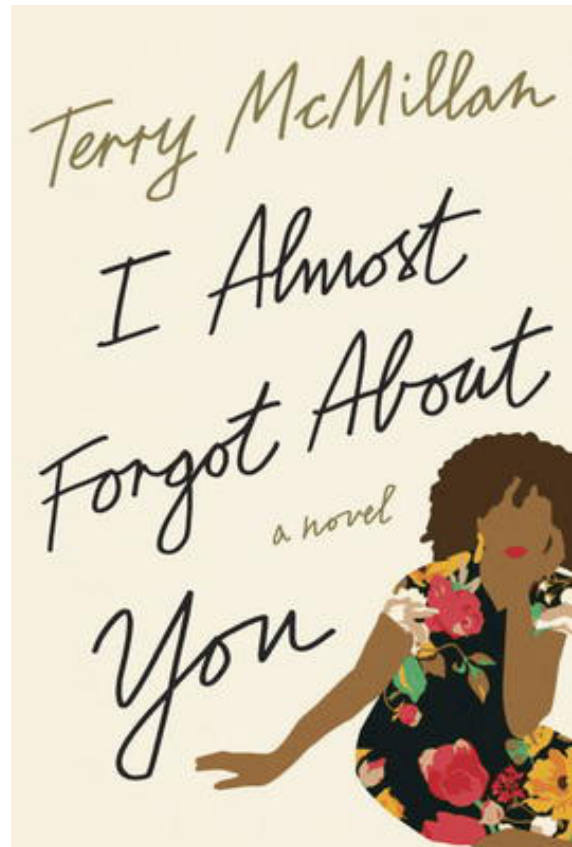
(Harper \$7.99)

Long's first contemporary romance is a small town love story done exactly right. When mega television star John Tennessee McCord's truck breaks down in Hellcat Canyon, he figures it will give him the opportunity to really explore the California Gold Rush area where his next television show is set. However those plans are immediately thrown up in the air when J.T. meets Britt Langley, the sharp-tongued waitress at the Misty Cat café. J.T. falls fast and hard for Britt, but Britt, who is just putting the pieces of her life back together after an abusive marriage and acrimonious divorce, is equally determined to keep her heart safe from some sexy, smooth-talking stranger.

Mcelwain, Julie. [Murder in Time](#) (Norton \$25.95)

Genetically raised to excel, Kendra Donovan is the FBI's hottest new profiler, but her career takes an unexpected turn when the raid she is leading on a suspected terrorist ends in disaster with half her team killed. The minute she is able to leave the hospital, Kendra sets out to avenge her teammate's deaths by assassinating the Englishman she believes is responsible for the failed mission. When she arrives at Aldrich Castle, Kendra's plans take an unexpected turn when she enters a hidden staircase and then exits it only to find herself still at Aldrich Castle

but now it is 1815. Trying to adapt to her new life as a servant while finding a way back to the present is difficult enough for Kendra, but when the mutilated body of a young woman is discovered on the estate's grounds, Kendra can't help but use her professional training to try and stop the killer. While Mcelwain's debut wasn't a hit with everyone (*PW* gave it a particularly snarky review), I liked it a lot. I thought the protagonist was engaging and her efforts to reconcile her professional skill set from the future with her present day circumstances rang true.



McMillan, Terry. [I Almost Forgot About You](#)

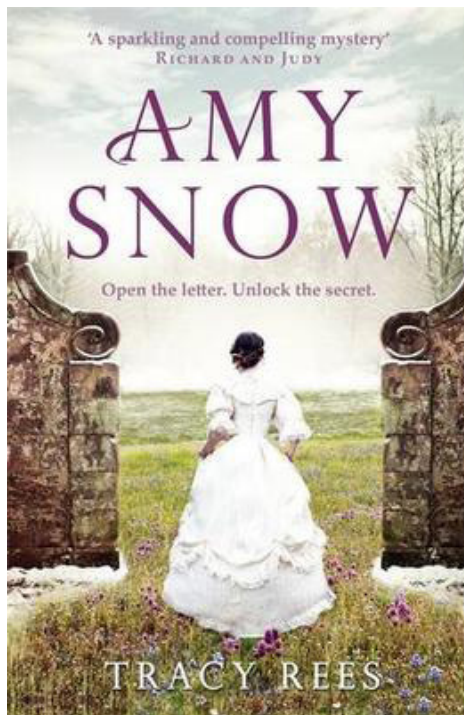
(Crown \$27)

At first glance, Georgia Young seems to have it all: a successful career as an optometrist, two adult daughters who are building lives for themselves, a lovely home in San Francisco, and a core group of friends, who have supported her through good times and bad. However, when Georgia learns that her college crush, Raymond Strawberry has unexpectedly died, it throws her for a loop. Suddenly, everything Georgia has achieved in life doesn't seem to be what she really wanted out of life. Now, in addition to selling her home and giving up her optometry

practice, Georgia decides to track down five of her old lovers and let them know exactly what they meant to her. What Georgia never planned on was that her attempt to chart a new course in life could not only bring her the personal fulfillment she desperately craves, but it may also put her back on the path to a new romance.

Novak, Brenda. [Discovering You](#) (Mira \$7.99)

Once upon a time India Sommers had a thing for bad boys. Then India fall in love with an actual good guy, but her perfect marriage ended tragically when one of India's old boyfriends showed up late one night and shot her husband. Now India is starting a new life in Whiskey Creek with her little girl, when she finds herself falling for her neighbor, Rod Amos, the handsome "bad boy" type. However, the last thing India needs is to become tangled up in a romance, especially since the man who murdered her husband is getting out of jail and is determined to find India and prove to her that they belong together. Making a heroine like India relatable to readers isn't any easy task, but Novak exactly knows how to write the kind of realistically flawed characters with whom readers can relate.



Rees, Tracy. [Amy Snow](#) (SimonSchuster \$15.99)

When eight-year old Aurelia Vennaway discovers an abandoned baby hidden in a snow bank

on her family's estate, she insists her parents allow her to keep the girl. Aurelia names the baby Amy (the name of Aurelia's favorite doll) and Snow (for obvious reasons). As the two girls grow up together, Amy works her way up the servant ladder and eventually becomes Amy's companion and beloved friend. However, when Aurelia unexpectedly passes away seventeen years later, Amy finds herself cast out into the cold, cruel world by Aurelia's parents. Fortunately, Amy discovers that Aurelia has left her an unexpected inheritance. Aurelia loved to create treasure hunts for her friend Amy, and before her death she came up with one last puzzle. Given a sum of money and a letter, Amy must journey to London, where a series of successive letters from Aurelia will help Amy uncover a secret her friend has been keeping. Rees' engaging debut novel won the U.K.'s Richard and Judy Search for a Bestseller Competition (think Oprah's Book Club but with a British commercial fiction slant), and it is a wonderful mélange of history, adventure, and mystery seasoned with a generous dollop of romance as well as being a thoughtful literary mediation on the importance of friendship in our lives. This is really a terrifically fun read for the summer!

Roberts, Nora. [The Collector](#) (\$7.99)

Roberts plays with the *Rear Window* premise in this thrilling tale in which professional house-sitter/YA writer Lila Emerson is recruited by the alleged perpetrator's brother, talented artist Ashton Archer, to help uncover what really happened after Lila witnesses an apparent murder/suicide while house-sitting in a swanky New York City apartment.

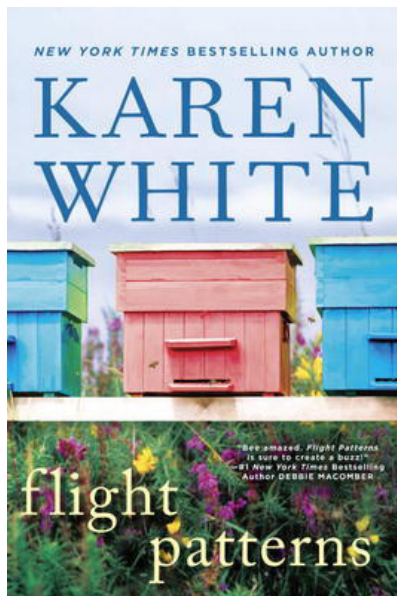
Simmes, Mary. [The Rules of Love & Grammar](#) (LittleBrown \$26)

Grace Hammond is not having a good day. Grace just lost her job as a copy editor, her boyfriend dumped her, and the roof in her Manhattan apartment is leaking buckets of water. While her apartment is being repaired, Grace returns home to stay with her family in Connecticut. As luck would have it, Grace's old high school sweetheart Peter is also back in town directing a major feature film. Getting back together with Peter would seem to be the answer all Grace's

romantic problems, but is he really the one for her? Or could it be the annoyingly irresistible Mitch who works at the bike shop where Grace has found a new temporary job? Simses' latest is a sweet summertime read.

Thynne, Jane. [The Pursuit of Pearls](#) (Random \$16)

The author introduced her series protagonist Clara Vine in *The Scent of Secrets* in which the German actress was recruited by British intelligence with the task of getting close to Eva Braun in order to glean as much information as she can about Hitler's plans. Now it's 1939 and Clara continues to pass on what information she can to the British while trying to find out more about her missing English lover Leo Quinn, but she finds herself dangerously mixed up in a murder investigation when Lottie Franke, an aspiring costume designer and a "student" at the Faith and Beauty finishing school (an institution that trains young women in the art of becoming the perfect wives for the Nazi elite) is found dead in the Grunewald forest. Plenty of fascinating historical details and cameo turns from famous figures like Leni Riefenstahl enliven the plot of this compelling series, which has all the necessary literary elements required to delight fans of Susan Elia MacNeal's equally appealing Maggie Hope series.



White, Karen. [Flight Patterns](#) (NAL \$26)

After leaving Apalachicola thirteen years ago, Georgia Chambers swore she would never

return. But now work is forcing Georgia to go back home again when James Graf shows up at the Big Easy Auction Gallery, where Georgia is employed as a china expert, with an old piece of Limoges porcelain from his grandmother's estate. Georgia is positive she has seen the unusual bee pattern on the cup once before in her own family home, but in order to retrieve the piece, Georgia must go back to Apalachicola and see her estranged mother and her half-sister Maisy. Once there, Georgia will have to dig deep for the courage she needs to face her past and heal the family rifts that have kept her from living the life she truly deserves. White was one of the co-authors of *The Forgotten Room* (along with Beatriz Williams and Lauren Willig), and her latest women's fiction novel is beautifully written with a wonderfully realized southern setting and a plot that includes some fascinating information about porcelain and bees and beekeeping.

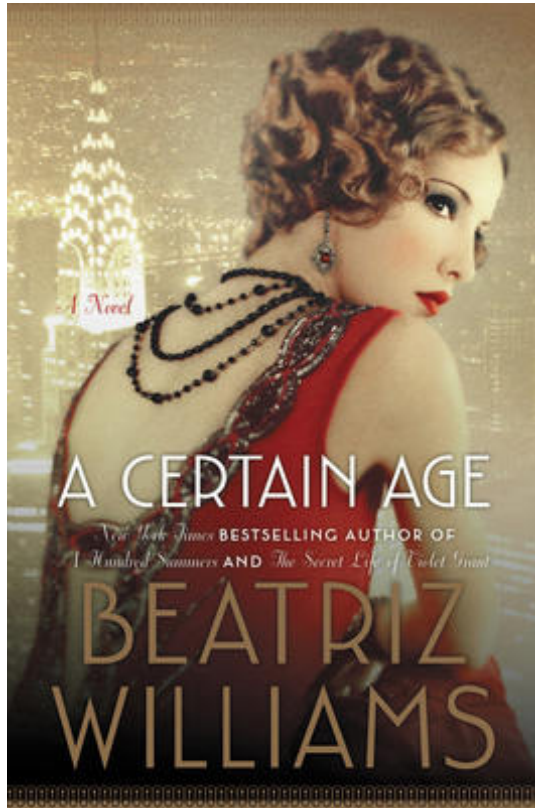
Wickham, Madeleine. [Wedding Cocktails](#) (Forge \$15.99)

This new trade paperback reprint brings together two previously published novels by Wickham, who also writes the popular "Shopaholic" series as Sophie Kinsella. In *Cocktails for Three*, the lives of three staff writers and friends at the glam magazine *The Londoner* are irrevocably changed when a girl from one of their past's turns up and reveals secrets that have repercussions for them all. Secrets from the past also play a pivotal role in *The Wedding Girl*, in which Milly's big wedding to Simon may end in tears if a past indiscretion comes to light just days before the ceremony.

Wiggs, Susan. [The Beekeeper's Ball](#) (Mira \$15.99)

While transforming Bella Vista, her childhood home, into a destination cooking school, celebrated chef Isabel Johansen finds her plans interrupted by war-torn journalist Cormac O'Neill who has arrived to dig up old history. The second in Wigg's emotionally satisfying "Bella Vista Chronicles" series is another intriguing mix of modern day domestic drama and events from the past (the fight by Danes to save the Jews in their country during World War II) that have repercussions for the present day. Wiggs will be

doing a special program for the Scottsdale Public Library and the Poisoned Pen on Sunday August 14th at 2 PM at the Civic Center Branch to celebrate the publication of her next women's fiction title *Family Tree*.



Williams, Beatriz. [A Certain Age Signed](#) (Harper \$26.99)

Inspired by Richard Strauss' *Der Rosenkavalier*, Williams cleverly constructs a beguiling novel about the very wealthy and very married Theresa Marshall, who falls in love with the much younger Captain Octavian Rofrano, a former aviator in World War I and now a junior bond salesman on Wall Street. Of course, divorce is out of the question for Theresa despite the fact that Octavian (or "The Boy" as she likes to call him) desperately wants to marry her. But the two muddle along with their affair until Theresa's bachelor brother Ox asks her a favor. Family tradition dictates Ox needs a cavalier to present his offer of marriage (and the family diamond ring) to his prospective fiancée Miss Sophie Fortescue. Theresa enlists Boy in the role of cavalier, but when he meets Sophie, Octavian immediately falls for the unconventional ingénue. Now what is a lady to do when her lover falls for her soon-to-be sister-in-law? Williams effortlessly and artfully transposes Strauss's tale to the glittering

setting of New York City in the 1920s, and the result is a stellar tale of romance, passion, secrets, and scandal with a nice tie-in to the author's Schuyler family characters. Williams will be here at the bookstore on Saturday July 2nd at 2 PM so mark your calendars for what promises to be a delightful afternoon with an always entertaining author.

YA Lit and Children's Fiction

Anstey, Cindy. [Love, Lies, and Spies](#) (Feiwell \$10.99)

Juliana Telford would definitely rather spend time out in the field researching ladybugs (her latest scientific passion) rather than frittering away her life worrying about who she might have to marry or what dress is in fashion. So when her father sends her to London for a season, Juliana is determined to skip as many of the balls and soirees as she can and instead use her time in the city more productively by getting her research published. To all appearances, Spencer Northam might seem like the perfect young man-about-town just looking a good time, but the reality is that Spencer is a newly minted agent for the War Office. So when Spencer's first mission sends him careening right into the path of Juliana, the romantic sparks begin to fly. Fans of Lauren Willig's "Pink Carnation" series may also want to give this charming YA romance a try.

Bond, Gwenda. [Double Down](#) (Capstone \$16.95)

As a newbie reporter for the *Daily Planet*, Lois Lane hit the jackpot with her first story (*Fallout*), but now she needs a new subject if she wants to keep her byline. Fortunately, three different potential storylines all land in her lap. First of all, the son of Metropolis' former mayor wants Lois to help him prove that his father was innocent of the charges that sent the mayor to jail. Secondly, after her friend Maddy's twin sister suddenly collapses in one of the city's grittier corners, Lois discovers a number of people involved in a test for a new drug are experiencing some strange

side effects. And lastly, someone on the forum where Lois and her SmallvilleGuy hangout is threatening to reveal SmallvilleGuy's real identity. The second in Bond's new series is great fun for both teen and adult fans who enjoying learning more about the Man of Steel's sleuthing sidekick and future romantic partner.

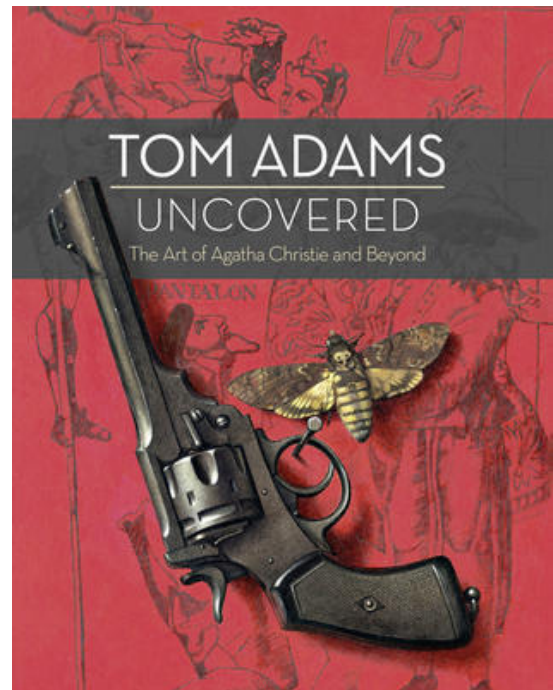
Fitzgerald, Lau. [The Gallery](#)
(Delacorte \$16.99)

After being expelled from her Brooklyn parochial school for her cheeky attitude, twelve-year-old Martha O'Doyle lands a job working as a kitchen maid in the New York City mansion of the wealthy Sewell family. The *Pater familias* – J. Archer Sewell – is a newspaper titan (think Hearst) with his invalid wife Rose, who remains locked in her room along with her fabulous art collection. Everyone else in the mansion insists Rose is mad crazy, but Martha isn't convinced and she sets out to find the truth by trying to decode the messages Rose may be hiding in the paintings she sends down to the mansion's gallery. Fitzgerald's latest YA historical not only delivers a completely satisfying mystery but is also filled with fascinating tidbits about 1920s New York.

Jones, Carrie. [Time Stoppers](#)
(Bloomsbury \$16.99)

Annie Nobody thought she was, well, nobody, living in a nowhere town where nothing goes her way. Day 1 at her newest foster home proves to be dreadful, too... and things get even worse when she's chased by something big and scary that definitely wants to eat her. Luckily for Annie, not everything is what it seems, and she gets swept up-literally-by a sassy dwarf on a hovercraft snowmobile and taken to Aurora, a hidden, magical town on the coast of Maine. There, she finds a new best friend in Jamie Hephastion Alexander--who thought he was a normal kid (but just might be a troll)-and Annie discovers that she's not exactly who she thought she was, either. She's a Time Stopper, meant to protect the enchanted. Jones begins a new series that is perfect for younger fans of the Harry Potter books.

Nonfiction



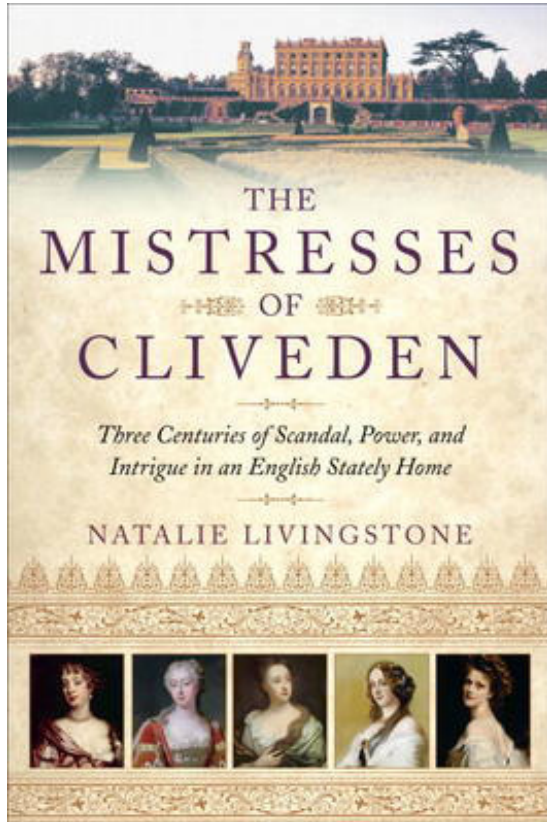
Adams, Tom. [Tom Adams Uncovered](#)
(Harper \$34.99)

Adams was born in Providence, Rhode Island, attended art school in London, and spent more than fifty years creating advertising art, movie posters, album covers, and portraits. In addition to all this, Adams was a prolific book cover artists best known for the iconic book jackets he created for Agatha Christie's books. Beginning with *A Murder Is Announced* in 1962, Adams was commissioned by Christie's British and American publishers to produce jacket covers for her books and his work totaled 150 different paintings over the next two decades concluding with 1979's *Miss Marple's Final Cases*. Adams often hid his own clues about the plot of his latest Christie commission within his artwork, and his work soon became much sought after by collectors. This lavishly illustrated book includes captions by Adams, commentary by Christie scholar John Curran, as well as some unpublished Agatha Christie artwork.

Jenkyns, Richard. [Classical Literature](#)
(Basic Books \$27.99)

Looking for a good, basic introduction to classical Greek and Roman literature? Jenkyn's accessible survey just might fit the bill. Beginning with Homer and ending with *The Golden Ass*, Jenkyns

offers insight into the big names of classical literature as well as some of its lesser-known literary lights. Jenkyns, who is an emeritus professor of the classical tradition at Oxford, isn't afraid to take his own stand on an author's place in the canon (let's just say he isn't Ovid's number one fan) so don't expect the usual laudatory take on every star in the classical literary firmament, but Jenkyns does an excellent job at explaining the contribution each of these classical authors made to those western writers who followed in their footsteps.



Livingstone, Natalie.
The Mistresses of Cliveden, Three Centuries

(Ballantine \$32)

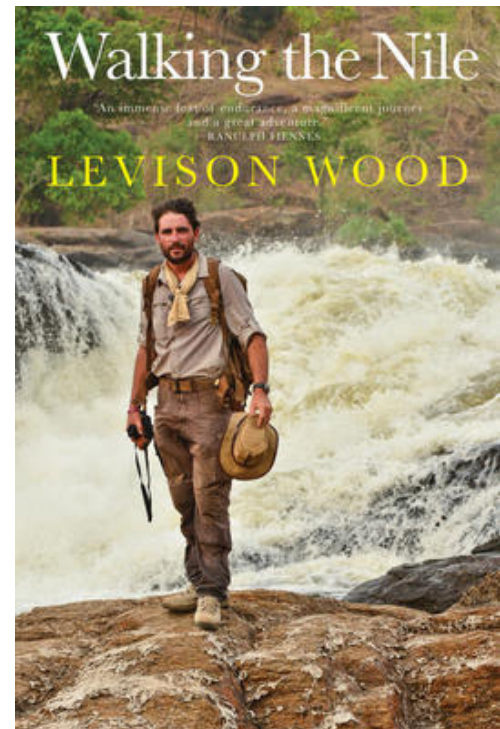
Need a break from watching all those reality shows about loud housewives with more money than common sense, then this deliciously gossipy account of an old English estate and the women who ruled over it, just might be the ticket. Cliveden was originally built by the Duke of Buckingham during the reign of Charles II, as a place where he could "meet" with first mistress Anna Maria, the Countess of Shrewsbury. Of course when Anna Maria's husband found out about their affair, he was a bit miffed to say the least, but Buckingham took care of things by

killing the man in a duel and then installing Anna Maria permanently at the estate. Over the next 300 years, Anna Maria was succeeded by a number of different women who served as mistress of Cliveden, including Queen Victoria's best friend and Nancy Astor, the first female member of parliament.

Pierpont, Claudia Roth.
American Rhapsody

(Farrar \$26)

Pierpont, a writer for the *New Yorker* and author of *Passionate Minds* and *Roth Unbound*, delivers a series of sharp, entertaining vignettes of 11 people (including Edith Wharton, Dashiell Hammett, George Gershwin, and Katherine Hepburn) as well as one building (the Chrysler Building) who helped shape popular culture in America in the 20th century.



Wood, Levison. *Walking the Nile*
(Grove \$26)

The Nile has long cast a seductive spell over explorers. Wood, a former British paratrooper and photographer, is the latest thrill-seeker testing his personal mettle against the river by becoming the first person to walk the 4,250 mile length of the Nile from its beginnings in the mountains of Rwanda to the place where it merges with the Mediterranean Sea. Accompanied by a camera crew who recorded his exploits for a television

series, Wood's attempt to complete this journey began in November 2013 and lasted nine months. In the process, Wood would encounter savage sandstorms, floods, minefields, civil wars, killer crocodiles, cranky hippos, and twenty foot pythons (oh my!) as well as having to take detours that could threaten his chance to claim to be the first man to have "walked the Nile." This is a gripping tale of survival and willpower that will definitely keep armchair adventurers (or anyone who lives for the BBC re-runs of Bear Grylls' *Man vs. Wild*) happy for hours.

Return of a Classic

Ball, John. [In the Heat of the Night](#)

(Penguin \$15)

When *In the Heat of the Night* was published in 1965, author John Ball's debut novel gave readers one of the first fully realized African American detectives in the mystery genre. *In the Heat of the Night* is set in the small South Carolina town of Wells, which is all set to kick off a music festival in the hopes of bringing in some tourists. However, after the conductor hired to lead the festival is found dead on the highway outside of the town, Wells' new police chief recruits the help of African American Pasadena homicide detective Virgil Tibbs, who is passing through on his way back to California, in solving the crime. *In the Heat of the Night* went on to win the Edgar Award in 1965 for Best First Mystery. Six more Virgil Tibbs mysteries would follow as well as an Oscar winning 1967 film starring Sidney Poitier, who uttered the famous line "They call me Mr. Tibbs." The books would later inspire a long-running television series starring Carol O'Connor. Now with the recent release of a special 50th anniversary trade paperback edition of the book by Penguin, readers have the opportunity to either reacquaint themselves with this powerful crime classic or discover it for the very first time.

