

Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 3 Issue 5 May BookNotes 2017

Contact:

email: sales@poisonedpen.com

phone: (888) 560-9919

(480) 947-2974

<https://poisonedpen.com>

4014 N Goldwater Blvd. #101

Scottsdale, AZ 85251



It's Blooming Books!



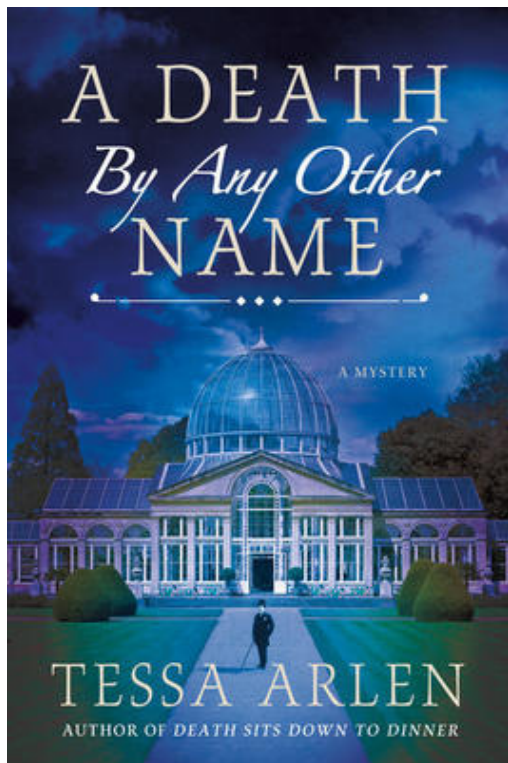
Adair, Cherry. [Hurricane](#)

(St Martins \$7.99)

After his ex-wife left him — taking Rydell Case's brand-new mega-yacht, *Tesoro Mio* with her — she sailed off with a royal billionaire and out of his life forever. Now Ry spends his days searching for treasure, but with the prospect of his salvage business tanking, he needs both the ship back. When Addison D'Marco boards *Tesoro Mio* to find her ex-husband in her cabin, she's furious. Addy can't believe he has the nerve to demand the ship back after the way he broke her heart. With her fiancé about to board, she doesn't want Ry back in her life to ignite painful memories and never-forgotten desires. But could it be that, amid troubled waters, Addy and Ry can salvage what they once had and have a second chance at love. . . or does fate have something else in store? If you like your contemporary romances served up with plenty of action, adventure, and steamy sex, Adair delivers all three and plenty more.

Andrews, Sally. [The Satanic Mechanic](#)
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

Tannie Maria, recipe writer turned amateur sleuth, writes the love advice and recipe column for the *Klein Karoo Gazette*: words of wisdom for the lovelorn, along with a recipe for something helpful and delicious. But Maria has a problem of her own. Her relationship with the rugged detective Henk Kannemeyer is still haunted by the memory of her abusive late husband, so she decides to check out a counseling group run by a man they call the Satanic Mechanic. Then a local land-rights activist is murdered — poisoned before her eyes — and Tannie Maria's quest for healing takes a more investigative turn. Which means her relationship with Henk is about to get professional. And more important, very complicated. I absolutely adored Andrew's first book featuring the redoubtable Tannie Maria [Recipes for Love and Murder](#), and the second book in the series was every bit as good. Tannie Marie is such a warm and endearing person, and Andrews brilliantly brings her South African setting vividly to life. The descriptions (recipes included!) of the mouthwatering dishes Tannie Maria prepares are just the icing on the cake of this charming series that will restore your faith in humankind. If you read mysteries in order to be transported to another part of the world or love Alexander McCall Smith's No. 1 Ladies Club series, you can't afford to miss either one of Andrew's mysteries.



Arlen, Tessa. [A Death by Any Other Name](#)

(Minotaur \$25.99)

Everything is not coming up roses in the third perfectly executed installment in Arlen's Edwardian set series featuring Clementine Talbot, Countess of Montfort, and her redoubtable housekeeper Mrs. Edith Jackson. After Beryl Armitage, the cook at neighboring Hyde Castle, is accused of accidentally poisoning one of her employer's guests with some bad kedgeree, she appeals for help to Mrs. Jackson since the housekeeper and her employer have a certain reputation for "discreet inquiries." The Countess finagles an invitation from Maude Haldane, the wife of the owner of Hyde Castle, under the guise of bringing noted rosarian Gertrude Jekyll along with her to lecture to the members of the Hyde Rose Society. Once Lady Montfort and Mrs. Jackson, who much to her chagrin is traveling as her employer's companion rather than the servant she truly is, arrive at Hyde Castle, they discover something fishy truly is going on among the rose fanciers. I loved the cameo appearance from Miss Jekyll as well as the entertaining snippets of information about rose growing and breeding Arlen cleverly weaves into the third beguiling installment in her impeccably crafted, dryly witty historical series. If you miss *Downton Abbey*, this is the next best thing.

Berne, Lisa. [You May Kiss the Bride](#)

(Harper \$7.99)

Searching for a biddable bride who can produce an heir and then live separate lives as generations before him, wealthy and arrogant Gabriel Penhallow sets his sights on Livia Stuart who, after provoking him into a kiss, challenges him at every turn and refuses to become his wife. I loved this debut romance that is perfect for fans of Mary Balogh's equally impeccably crafted Regency historical.

Bijan, Donia. [Last Days of Café Leila](#) (Algonquin \$25.95)

When Noor returns to her native Iran for the first time in thirty years, so much about her homeland is different. But Café Leila--the restaurant Noor's family has run for three generations--hasn't changed. Zed, Noor's father, is still at the café's helm, a much-loved patriarch offering laughter, solace, and nourishment to the makeshift family of regulars and waiters who call Café Leila home. With her discontented, very American teenage daughter, Lily, reluctantly at her side, Noor struggles to maintain a semblance of family life. But Tehran is a place of contradictions, where grace and brutal violence both have a foothold, and it's not long before rebellious Lily is caught up in both. Bijan's lyrically written novel is a lovely paean to the important role both family and food play in our lives.

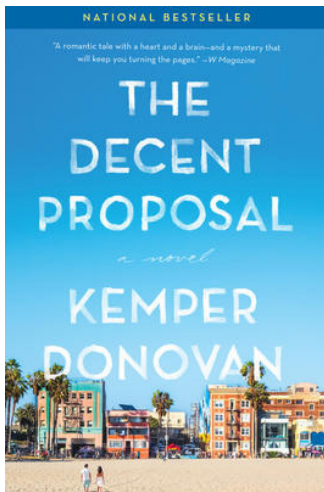
Carr, Robyn. [Any Day Now](#) (Mira \$26.99)

Recovering alcoholic Sierra Jones seeks a second chance in Sullivan's Crossing and quickly becomes enamored with Conrad Boyle, but when her past catches up with her, she'll have to find the strength to fight for a better future. Award-winning Carr continues her Sullivan's Crossing series with another poignant, emotionally engaging tale about redemption and the power of love to change our lives.

Carr, Viola. [Dastardly Miss Lizzie](#) (Harper \$15.99)

Being two people in one body isn't easy. Metropolitan Police crime scene physician Eliza Jekyll is trying to maintain a semblance of control, even as her rebellious second self, Lizzie, grows increasingly wild--threatening the respectable

Eliza's reputation and her marriage to Remy Lafayette, the Royal Society investigator and occasional lycanthrope. With England on the brink of war, Remy's away in sorcery-riddled Paris on a secretive mission that grows ever more sinister. Has he been an enemy agent all along? Or is coping with her secret divided self finally driving Eliza mad? Eliza needs her mind clear and sharp if she's to catch an evil genius who is killing eminent scientists. The chase uncovers a murky world of forbidden books, secret laboratories, and a cabal of fanatical inventors whose work could change the world—or destroy it—and who may hold answers to Eliza's mysterious past. Carr continues to find new and fun ways to play off Stevenson's classic *Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*.



Donovan, Kemper. [*Decent Proposal*](#) (Harper \$15.99)

When attorney Elizabeth Santiago first hears about the proposal, she immediately thinks it sounds too good to be true. An anonymous benefactor promises to pay Elizabeth a half a million dollars if she agrees to spend at least two hours a week for one year meeting and just talking with a man she has never met before: Hollywood film producer Richard Baumbach. However, since Elizabeth pretty much lives for work (they don't call her *La Maquina* at her law firm for nothing), the idea of doing something that is not directly connected to billable hours is not without its own appeal. Richard, who has yet to carve out a name for himself in the movie business, doesn't care if the deal sounds crazy, he can definitely use \$500,000.00 himself. So, Elizabeth and Richard agree to meet, but as the weeks go by, the two discover some unexpected side effects of their new "business arrangement."

Giffin, Emily. [*Where We Belong*](#) (\$7.99)

When her carefully constructed life thrown into turmoil by the appearance of an 18-year-old girl with ties to her past, New York City television producer Marian Caldwell is swept up in a maelstrom of personal discovery that changes both of their perceptions about family.

Goodman, Joanna. [*Finishing School*](#) (Harper \$15.99)

When she is invited as a guest to her former finishing school, Lycee International Suisse, best-selling writer Kersti Kuusk—who is determined to, once and for all, find the truth surrounding her best friend Cressida's death long ago—probes the cover-up, unearthing a frightening underbelly of lies and abuse at the prestigious establishment. I can't resist including the final line of *Kirkus's* review of this since it perfectly captures the appeal of the novel "If your guilty-pleasure reads include elite boarding schools, secret societies, murder, and scandal, this one's for you."



Guhrke, Laura L. [*Truth About Love and Dukes*](#) (Harper \$7.99)

Henry, Duke of Torquil, wouldn't be caught *reading* the wildly popular "Dear Lady Truelove" column, but when its advice causes his mother to embark on a scandalous elopement, an outraged Henry decides the author of this tripe must be stopped before she can ruin any more lives. Though Lady Truelove's identity is a closely

guarded secret, Henry has reason to suspect the publisher of the notorious column, beautiful and provoking Irene Deverill, is also its author. For Irene, it's easy to advise others to surrender to passion, but when she meets the Duke of Torquil, she soon learns that passion comes at a price. When one impulsive, spur-of-the-moment kiss pulls her into a scorching affair with Henry, it could destroy her beloved newspaper, her career, and her independence. Guhrke has racked up a number of RITA wins (the romance writing equivalent of the Edgars) for her richly emotional historical romances.

Holleman, Emily. [The Drowning King](#) (LittleBrown \$26)

Holleman continues the story of Egyptian princess Arsinoe (daughter of Ptolemy the Piper and sister of Cleopatra) who now finds herself trapped as Cleopatra and her younger brother Ptolemy (yes, since the names can get a bit confusing) as the two now battle it out for control of the throne. At first, Arsinoe intends on remaining loyal to Cleopatra, but once she hears word that her sister has embraced Julius Caesar (literally and politically) in order to edge out their brother, Arsinoe is left with the difficult choice of whom she will back and more importantly will they have her back as well? Holleman writes marvelously entertaining historical fiction that will definitely please fans of Steven Saylor or Colleen McCullough.

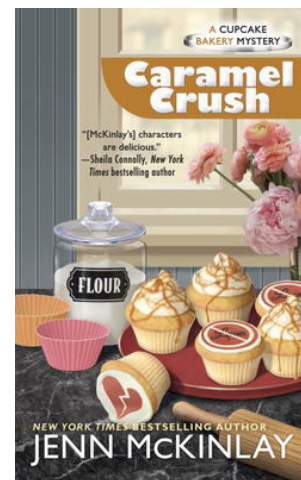
Jewell, Lisa. [I Found You](#) (Atria \$26)

A lonely single mom who offers shelter to an amnesiac man and a young bride who is told that her missing husband never existed struggle to make sense of their transforming worlds and connection to a sister and brother whose lives were shattered by secrets more than two decades earlier.

Kelly, Martha H. [Lilac Girls](#) (\$17)

Kelly uses three different narrators to tell this remarkable tale that was inspired by a real-life World War II heroine. The first protagonist is American socialite Caroline Ferriday, who works for the French consulate in New York City trying to help displaced refugees as well as coordinating war relief efforts sent back to France. The second narrator is Polish teenager Kasia Kuzmerick, who joins the Polish Resistance after the

Germans brutally crush her hometown. Herta Oberheuser, a German medical student finishing up her studies in Berlin, is the third narrator, and she can't understand why her father and others might find Hitler's new regime a tragedy of epic proportions. Eventually Herta and Kasia meet up at the notorious concentration camp Ravensbrück, where Herta is in charge of the terrible medical experiments being done on prisoners. Meanwhile back in New York, Caroline deals with a painful love affair with a married Frenchman while being assigned the duty of keeping track of those being held in German concentration camps. World War II continues to be in vogue with historical fiction writers, but Kelly puts her own strong stamp on this trend with a compelling, at times heart-breaking, story. *Lilac Girls* is not always an easy read since it doesn't play down the horrors those trapped in German concentration camps endured, but it also highlights the considerable acts of bravery and heroism that ordinary people displayed during the war.



McKinlay, Jenn. [Caramel Crush](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Wedding bells are ringing in the latest deliciously entertaining installment in McKinlay's popular Cupcake Bakery series as Angie prepares for her wedding, but co-owner, Mel, is preparing for a breakup. Her old friend, Diane Earnest, is dumping her fiancé after discovering he's only marrying her for her money. She wants Mel to personally deliver a batch of caramel breakup cupcakes to the louse and give her a play-by-play of his reaction. When Mel finally tracks the man down, the look on his face isn't the reaction she was expecting: he's dead. After the police

arrive and see the incriminating cupcakes, Diane becomes their prime suspect. If she hopes to taste freedom again, Mel and Angie must make sure the real killer gets their just desserts.

Norwich, William. [My Mrs. Brown](#) (Simon & Schuster \$14)

If you missed this marvelous book last year when it came out in hardcover, now is your chance to read it in trade paperback. It was the most beautiful dress Emilia Brown had ever seen. While helping inventory the estate of the recently deceased Mrs. Groton, the town of Asheville's much beloved grand dame, Emilia discovers the perfect little black dress hanging in one of Mrs. Groton's closets. Emilia has spent all of her life living within her modest means, but she just knows if she had a dress like this one, it would mean the world to her. How Emilia Brown goes about achieving her dream is the subject of Norwich's heart-warming debut novel. The real brilliance of this book is how it celebrates the real worth all of those women of a certain age, who have quietly gone about their way doing their jobs and fulfilling their societal duties, and how truly important what they do can be to other people. And in a time when it seems that unreliable, unlikeable protagonists are all the literary rage, I can't tell you how refreshing to read about a character who is genuinely kind and who achieves her heart's desire without having to stomp all over someone else's dreams in order to do so. With *My Mrs. Brown*, Norwich also pays homage to an earlier book by Paul Gallico called *Mrs. 'Arris Goes to Paris* about a London charwoman who wins the lottery and buys a Dior gown. Like Gallico's book, *My Mrs. Brown* also explores the transformative powers of fashion, and how sometimes a dress can be something more than just a garment to wear. Upon hearing about Mrs. Brown's plans, one of her neighbors thinks to herself "even if it was just a dress and jacket, it was a beginning. How people endure the complexities of their lives with faith and cheer, finding their own measure of hope, is one of the constant miracles, and often surprises, of life." This quote perfectly sums up the charm of this modest and unassuming novel, which is an old-fashioned joy in every sense of these words.



Orr, Jill. [The Good Byline](#) (Prospect Park Books \$16)

Tired of being called "Riley Bless-Her-Heart Ellison by the residents of Tuttle Corner, Riley decides it is time to take charge of her life. Her long-time boyfriend Ryan Sanford may have dumped her and Riley may be stuck in a career-killing job at the local library, but that doesn't mean she wants to forever be the subject of the town's pity (or gossip). As part of her new campaign to transform her life, Riley signs up for an online dating service and decides to reconnect with her childhood friend Jordan only to discover that Jordan James, now a reporter at the local paper, had just committed suicide. Since her grandfather was an award-winning obituary writer, Jordan's mom asks Riley if she will write up an obituary for Jordan. However, as Riley digs deeper into Jordan's life, she begins to question whether or not her old friend really did commit suicide or was murdered. Interjecting humor into a mystery is not easy, but Orr proves herself to be a pro at mixing mirth and murder in her terrific debut. Written with a wonderfully dry sense of wit and populated with a marvelously entertaining cast of characters – including a sarcasm-impaired reporter – this is a real treat for any reader who likes their cozy mysteries served up with plenty of breezy humor and a generous dash of light romance.

Patrick, Renee. [Dangerous to Know](#) (Tor \$25.99)

Having firmly given up on a career in the movies, Lillian Frost is settling into her new job as a social secretary for movie-mad millionaire Addison Rice when she gets a phone call from Edith Head, now the head of costume design at Paramount Pictures. Edith would like Lillian to undertake a little task for Marlene Dietrich. Jens Lohse, an émigré composer friend of Marlene's, has disappeared, and the German movie star would like Lillian to see if she can find him. At the same time, Hollywood is being shaken up by the Albert Chaperau affair. An American "diplomat" to one of those unimportant South American countries, Chaperau has been accused of using his diplomatic pouch to smuggle in jewels and haute couture for "friends" including Jack Benny and George Burns. Can Lillian find the missing composer and will the bright stars of the big screen avoid being nabbed by the U.S. government for customs evasion? But even more importantly, whom will David Selznick choose to pay Scarlett O'Hara? The fun never stops for Golden Age film fans or anyone who enjoys an impeccably written, beautifully researched historical in the second dazzling mystery by the husband and wife team of writers known as Renee Patrick. I especially enjoyed learning how many émigrés from Germany to the U.S. had to go to Mexico to get Visas in order to remain in the country.

Quick, Amanda. [Til Death Do Us Part](#) (\$7.99)

Operating an exclusive matchmaking service for nobles in Victorian London, Calista Langley is stalked by a dangerously obsessed individual and turns to reclusive author Trent Hastings, who is fighting mysterious demons from his past, for help.

Quick, Amanda. [The Girl Who Knew Too Much](#) (Penguin \$27 Signed)

The Poisoned Pen is delighted to have *New York Times* best-selling Amanda Quick (the pseudonym author Jayne Ann Krentz uses for her historical books) coming to visit for afternoon tea on Saturday May 16th at 2 PM for *The Girl Who Knew Too Much*, her latest historical mystery/ro-

mance. Here is what I had to say about Quick's forthcoming novel in a starred review for *Booklist*: "The message Anna Harris's employer Helen Spencer left for her was short, simple, and written in Helen's blood: run. So, run is exactly what Anna did. Upon arriving in California, Anna reinvents herself as Irene Glasson, but now just when Irene is settling into her life as Hollywood gossip rag *Whispers* newest rookie reporter, Irene finds herself tangled up in another murder when she agrees to meet movie actress Gloria Maitland at the Burning Cove Hotel and discovers Gloria's body at the bottom of the hotel's spa pool. Determined to get to the bottom of Gloria's murder, Irene finds herself forced into a reluctant investigative partnership with Oliver Ward, a former world-class magician and now owner of the Burning Cove Hotel. All of the key ingredients – wit-infused writing, sharply etched characters, and plenty of simmering sexual chemistry – that readers have come to expect from Quick come into perfect alignment in this stellar novel. Put this together with a plot that neatly marries high-stakes suspense and a glamorous, old Hollywood setting and you have blockbuster book that will not only delight historical romance readers but have historical mystery fans eager to join in on the fun.

Rosett, Sara. [Mothers Day, Muffins, and Murder](#)

(Kensington \$25)

Forced to team up with her rival after a dead body is discovered inside the school's supply closet during the annual Mother's Day breakfast, professional organizer Ellie Avery leaves no desk unturned to protect her kids and expose a clever killer before another victim is fatally expelled. If you enjoy domestically themed cozies by authors such as Leslie Meier or Jill Churchill's try this gently humorous amateur sleuth series.

Shelton, Paige. [Of Books and Bagpipes](#) (Minotaur \$25.99)

Kansas born Delaney Nichols is settling into her new life in Edinburgh as part of the staff of the Cracked Spine, a Scottish bookshop that specializes in rare manuscripts and other historic objects when she finds herself tangled up in another murder investigation when her boss,

Edwin MacAilster, sends her to Castle Doune to meet with someone and pick up a copy of a hard-to-find old Scottish comic called "Oor Wullie." However, before Delaney can make the transaction, she discovers the courier dead on the castle ramparts. But who would kill someone over an old comic book? That is the question to which Delaney must find an answer if she is to keep a clever murderer from getting off scot free.

Staub, Wendi Corsi. Bone White (HarperCollins \$7.99)

Traveling to her ancestral hometown of Mundy's Landing after she discovers a cryptic phrase in a centuries-old letter, Emerson Mundy unearths blood-drenched secrets that bring former NYPD Detective Sullivan Leary out of retirement to stop a killer from wiping out her whole family. *Blue Moon*, the previous book in Staub's chilling new trilogy, is a finalist for the Edgar this year, and each one of the books is perfect reading for fans of Mary Higgins Clark's brand of subtle suspense.

Stewart, Mariah. Last Chance Matinee (Gallery \$28)

When celebrated and respected agent Fritz Hudson passes away, he leaves a trail of Hollywood glory in his wake—and two separate families who never knew the other existed. Allie and Des Hudson are products of Fritz's first marriage to Honora, a beautiful but troubled starlet whose life ended in a tragic overdose. Meanwhile, Fritz was falling in love on the Delaware Bay with New Age hippie Susa Pratt—they had a daughter together, Cara, and while Fritz loved Susa with everything he had, he never quite managed to tell her or Cara about his West Coast family. Now Fritz is gone, and the three sisters are brought together under strange circumstances: there's a large inheritance to be had that could save Allie from her ever-deepening debt following a disastrous divorce, allow Des to open a rescue shelter for abused and wounded animals, and give Cara a fresh start after her husband left her for her best friend—but only if the sisters upend their lives and work together to restore an old, decrepit theater that was Fritz's obsession growing up in his small hometown in Pennsylvania's Pocono Mountains.

Strawser, Jessica. Almost Missed You (SimonSchuster \$25.99)

A seemingly loving husband abruptly walks out on his wife, taking their baby with him, and turns up at the home of his best friend, who faces an impossible choice between calling the police and allowing him to stay when he threatens to expose a terrible secret. Finished everything by Liane Moriarty? Then this debut novel just may hit the reading spot.



Torjussen, Mary. Gone Without a Trace (Penguin \$16)

Hannah Monroe's boyfriend, Matt, is gone. His belongings have disappeared from their house. Every call she ever made to him, every text she ever sent, every photo of him has been wiped from her phone. His social media accounts have vanished. It's as though their last four years together never happened. There had been no warning signs, not a one. And as Hannah struggles to get through the next few days, with humiliation and recriminations whirring through her head, she knows that she'll do whatever it takes to find him again and get answers. Then the messages start—cryptic and creepy texts and videos—and Hannah realizes that someone is watching her every move. And there are signs that someone has been in her house. Step by suspenseful step, Hannah is being led into a maze of madness and obsession—and her only way out is to come face to face with the shocking truth. Even if you think you have had your fill of "Gone Girl" type psychological suspense novels with unreliable narrators, you may want to give this one a whirl. Torjussen writes with a subtle sense of menace that perfectly fits this unsettling novel.

Children's Lit and Teen Fic

Anstey, Cindy. [Duels & Deception](#)

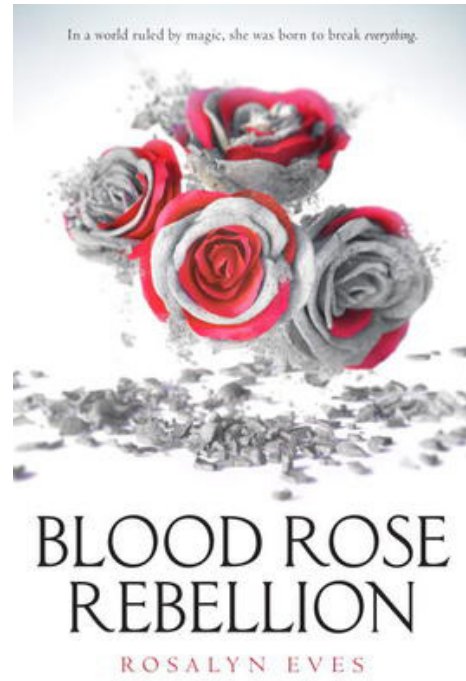
(Feiwel and Friends \$10.99)

Miss Lydia Whitfield, heiress to the family fortune, has her future entirely planned out. She will run the family estate until she marries the man of her late father's choosing, and then she will spend the rest of her days as a devoted wife. Confident in those arrangements, Lydia has tasked her young law clerk, Mr. Robert Newton, to begin drawing up the marriage contracts. Everything is going according to plan. Until the day Lydia is kidnapped—and Robert along with her. Someone is after her fortune and won't hesitate to destroy her reputation to get it. With Robert's help, Lydia strives to keep her family's good name unsullied and expose whoever is behind this devious plot. But as their investigation delves deeper and their affections for each other grow, Lydia starts to wonder whether her carefully planned future is in fact what she truly wants. Antsey's first book was the frothy *Love, Lies, and Spies*, and her sweet Regency-set historical romances are great fun.

Biren, Sara. [The Last Thing You Said](#)

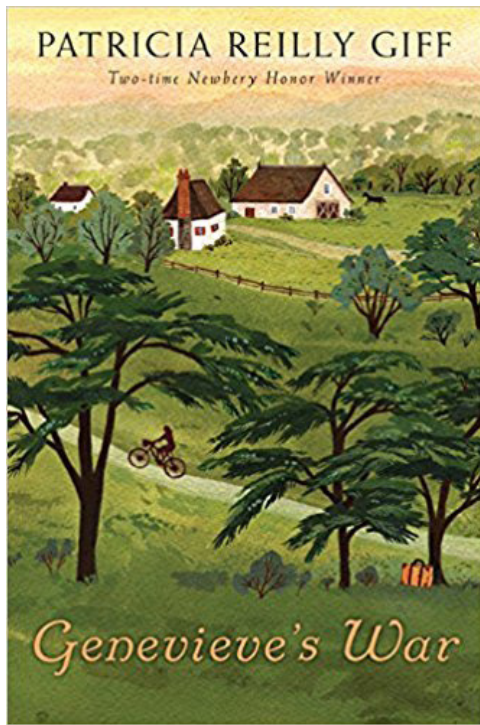
(Abrams \$17.95)

One moment, Lucy and Ben were shyly flirting on a lake raft, finally about to admit their feelings to each other after years of yearning. In the next, Trixie—Lucy's best friend and Ben's sister—was gone, her heart giving out during a routine swim. And just like that, the idyllic world they knew turned upside down, and the would-be couple drifted apart, swallowed up by their grief. Now it's a year later in their small lake town, and as the anniversary of Trixie's death looms, Lucy and Ben's undeniable connection pulls them back together. They can't change what happened the day they lost Trixie, but the summer might finally bring them closer to healing—and to each other. If you cried your eyes out reading *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green, this will be worth another box of Kleenex or two.



Eves, Rosalyn. [Blood Rose Rebellion](#) (Random \$17.99)

Sixteen-year-old Anna Arden is barred from society by a defect of blood. Though her family is part of the Luminare, powerful users of magic, she is Barren, unable to perform the simplest spells. Anna would do anything to belong. But her fate takes another course when, after inadvertently breaking her sister's debutante spell—an important chance for a highborn young woman to show her prowess with magic—Anna finds herself banished to stay with some poor relatives in Hungary. Once Anna arrives there, she discovers that nothing is quite as it seems. Not the people around her, from her aloof cousin Noémi to the fierce and handsome gypsy Gábor. Not the society she's known all her life, for discontent with the Luminare is sweeping the land. And not her lack of magic. Isolated from the only world she cares about, Anna still can't seem to stop herself from breaking spells. As rebellion spreads across the region, Anna's unique ability becomes the catalyst everyone is seeking. In the company of nobles, revolutionaries, and gypsies, Anna must choose: deny her unique power and cling to the life she's always wanted, or embrace her ability and change that world forever. This is a remarkable debut in which the author brilliantly seasons her impeccably executed historical setting with lots of fascinating details about the Magyar culture and life in 19th Eastern Europe.



Giff, Patricia Reilly. [Genevieve's War](#) (Holiday House \$16.95)

After spending the summer of 1939 with her cranky grandmother Meme, thirteen-year-old American Genevieve is more than ready to leave Alsace and return home to New York, but just as Genevieve is about to board the train, she realizes Meme has injured her foot. With no one else around to help her grandmother run the family farm, Genevieve does something she never expected: she decides to stay in France. Unfortunately, this proves to be a dangerous choice for Genevieve since the Nazis have just begun their invasion of France. Giff's earlier children's novel *Lily's Crossing*, the story of how World War II affects a young girl in New York, was a Newbery Honor book, and *Genevieve's War* is equally compelling. The author never downplays the very real danger Genevieve, her grandmother, and the other residents of their village face from the Nazis, but the book is also an inspiring story about the courage and resilience these same people displayed.

Mac, Carrie. [10 Things I Can See From Here](#) (Knopf \$17.99)

Think positively! Be happy! Maeve has heard it all before. She's been struggling with severe anxiety for a long time, and as much as she wishes it was something she could just talk herself out of, it's not. She constantly imagines the worst,

composes obituaries in her head, and is always ready for things to fall apart. To add to her troubles, her mom—the only one who really gets what Maeve goes through—is leaving for six months, so Maeve will be sent to live with her dad in Vancouver. Vancouver brings a slew of new worries, but Maeve finds brief moments of calm (as well as even more worries) with Salix, a local girl who doesn't seem to worry about *anything*. Between her dad's wavering sobriety, her very pregnant stepmom insisting on a home birth, and her bumbling courtship with Salix, this summer brings more catastrophes than even Maeve could have foreseen. Will she be able to navigate through all the chaos to be there for the people she loves?

Neumeier, Rachel. [The White Road of the Moon](#) (Random \$17.99)

Imagine you live with your aunt, who hates you so much she's going to sell you into a dreadful apprenticeship. Imagine you run away before that can happen. Imagine that you can see ghosts—and talk with the dead. People like you are feared, even shunned. Now imagine . . . the first people you encounter after your escape are a mysterious stranger and a ghost boy, who seem to need you desperately—though you don't understand who they are or exactly what they want you to do. So you set off on a treacherous journey, with only a ghost dog for company. And you find that what lies before you is a task so monumental that it could change the world.



Poston, Ashley. [Geekerella](#) (Quirk \$18.99)
Geek girl Elle Wittimer lives and breathes *Starf*

ield, the classic sci-fi series she grew up watching with her late father. So when she sees a cosplay contest for a new *Starfield* movie, she has to enter. The prize? An invitation to the Excelsi-Con Cosplay Ball, and a meet-and-greet with the actor slated to play Federation Prince Carmin-dor in the reboot. With savings from her gig at the Magic Pumpkin food truck (and her dad's old costume), Elle's determined to win...unless her stepsisters get there first. Teen actor Darien Freeman used to live for cons—before he was famous. Now they're nothing but autographs and awkward meet-and-greets. Playing Carmin-dor is all he's ever wanted, but *Starfield* fandom has written him off as just another dumb heart-throb. As ExcelsiCon draws near, Darien feels more and more like a fake—until he meets a girl who shows him otherwise. But when she disappears at midnight, will he ever be able to find her again? Cinderella gets a pop culture makeover in this fun and sweet novel.

Rubin, Lance. [Denton Little's Still Not Dead](#) (Random \$17.99)

The good news: Denton Little has lived through his deathdate. Yay! The bad news: He's being chased by the DIA (Death Investigation Agency), he can never see his family again, and he may now die any time. Huh. Cheating death isn't quite as awesome as Denton would have thought *Denton Little's Still Not Dead* can be read as a standalone book but why would you want to deprive yourself of this this wildly entertaining series that is chockfull of humor, madcap plotting, and quirky characters. Start with [Denton Little's Deathdate](#) for a true appreciation of the comic genius of this series.

Nonfiction

De Rosnay, Tatiana. [Manderley Forever: A Biography of Daphne DuMaurier](#) (St Martins \$27.99)

As a bilingual bestselling novelist with a mixed Franco-British bloodline and a host of eminent forebears, Tatiana de Rosnay (*Sarah's Key*) is the perfect candidate to write a biography of Daphne du Maurier. As a thirteen-year-old de Rosnay read and reread *Rebecca*, becoming a lifelong

devotee of Du Maurier's fiction. Now de Rosnay pays homage to the writer who influenced her so deeply, following Du Maurier from a shy seven-year-old, a rebellious sixteen-year-old, a twenty-something newlywed, and finally a cantankerous old woman. With a rhythm and intimacy to its prose characteristic of all de Rosnay's works, *Manderley Forever* is a vividly compelling portrait and celebration of an intriguing, hugely popular and (at the time) critically underrated writer.

Don't forget about DuMaurier's own classic [Rebecca](#), which was chosen this year to be included in Knopf's prestigious "Everyman's Library" classics series and is now available in a lovely hardcover edition with a fascinating introduction by Lucy Hughes-Hallett.

Nichols, David A. [Ike and McCarthy](#) (Simon and Schuster \$27.95)

Behind the scenes, Eisenhower loathed McCarthy, the powerful Republican senator notorious for his anti-Communist witch hunt. In spite of a public perception that Eisenhower was unwilling to challenge McCarthy, Ike believed that directly confronting the senator would diminish the presidency. Therefore, the president operated with a "hidden hand," refusing even to mention the Senator's name. In *Ike and McCarthy*, David A Nichols shows how the tension between the two men escalated. In a direct challenge to Eisenhower, McCarthy alleged that the US Army was harboring communists and launched an investigation. But the senator had unwittingly signed his own political death warrant. The White House employed surrogates to conduct a clandestine campaign against McCarthy and was not above using information about the private lives of McCarthy's aides as ammunition in an effort to stop the senator in his tracks.

