

Midmonth BookNotes

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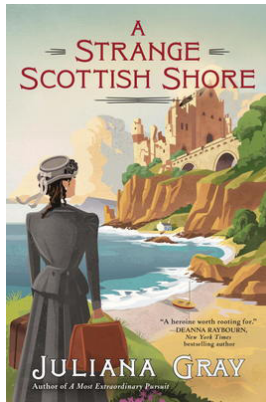
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Fall's Book Bounty

Authors appearing at the Pen



Gray, Juliana. [A Strange Scottish Shore](#) (Penguin \$16)

In the latest installment of Gray's delightfully entertaining new historical series, Maximilian Haywood, the new Duke of Olympia travels to the Orkney Islands with fellow researcher Emmeline Truelove to investigate the appearance of a suit of clothing that according to family legend once belonged to the selkie who swam out of the sea and married the castle's first laird. Of course, no expedition would be complete without an appearance from annoyingly sexy John Worthington, who seems determined to continue insert himself into Emmeline's life whether she wants him to or not. Gray first introduced her new sleuths, who focus on unraveling historical anachronisms, in [A Most Extraordinary Pursuit](#) (\$15) in which Emmeline Rose Truelove, the personal secretary to the eighth Duke of Olympia, is asked by the dowager Duchess of Olympia to travel to Crete to search for the heir to the title, archaeologist Arthur Maximilian Haywood, who was last seen digging at Knossos. Of course, the

Duchess wouldn't think of sending Emmeline on a mission like this all by herself, and so she tasks John Worthington, the Marquess of Silverton, with accompanying Emmeline despite the fact that Emmeline is perfectly happy working alone! Juliana will be appearing at the Poisoned Pen on Saturday September 23 at 2 PM with Charles Todd (see below).

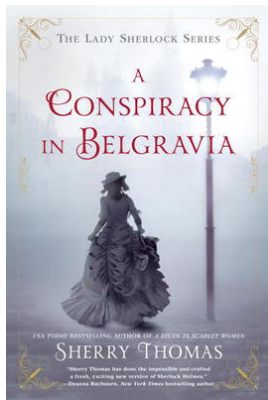
Perry, Anne. [An Echo of Murder](#) (Ballantine \$28)

Investigating the gruesome murder of a Hungarian warehouse owner, Thames River Police Commander Monk is challenged to rethink his crime-solving techniques in order to avoid being caught in the crosshairs of violence stemming from ethnic prejudice. 23rd William Monk mystery doesn't shy away from the darker side of Victorian life as *PW* says in their review which concluded with "Her gritty depictions of Victorian medicine at home and on the battlefield ground the story in wrenching realism." Ann will be at the bookstore on Tuesday September 19th at 7 PM.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Barking Up the Wrong Tree](#) (Penguin \$7.99)

Here is what I said for *Booklist* about Jenn's new contemporary romance "Thomas Wolfe is wrong. Carly DeCusati can go home again she just doesn't want to. However, after losing her job and her apartment in quick succession, Carly, accompanied by the foul-mouthed parrot and a vintage golden retriever she recently inherited from an elderly neighbor, really doesn't have any other choice but to return home to Bluff

Point, Maine. Fortunately, coming back home to live with her family (temporarily, if there is a God in heaven) does have one advantage since Carly now gets the chance to spend some quality time with her best friends. Then when one of them points out the town's sexy new physical therapist James Sinclair, Carly quickly discovers another really good thing about returning home. In the second irresistibly readable addition to her new Bluff Point series, McKinlay once again totally rocks contemporary romance by delivering to readers another smartly conceived love story powered by an abundance of combustible sexual chemistry and buoyed by a generous measure of her addictively sharp sense of humor." Jenn will be signing the second in new series on Saturday September 30th at 2 PM. Join her for an afternoon of love, laughter, and cupcakes.



Thomas, Sherry. [A Conspiracy in Belgravia](#) (Penguin \$15)

Last year RITA award-winning romance writer Sherry Thomas dazzled the mystery world [A Study in Scarlet Women](#) (\$16) That debut introduced readers to Charlotte Holmes, a young lady, who refused to accept the restrictions society and her family wanted to place on her and is now very happy with the life she has crafted for herself as the true brains behind "Sherlock Holmes" consulting detective. Now after successfully solving the Sackville murder case, Charlotte is ready for a new cerebral challenge and it arrives in the form of a request by Lady Ingram, who wants Sherlock to find out if her first true love is still alive. There are just two tiny complications in the case: Lady Ingram's husband is not only Charlotte's benefactor (and unrequited love), but it also turns out Charlotte has an unexpectedly personal connection to the

man who disappeared. Like the first in the series, *A Conspiracy in Belgravia* is an absolute delight. Thomas writes with a deliciously dry sense of wit, and she successfully rings her own clever changes on all of the major characters in the stories created by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. Fans of the Holmes literary canon will definitely want to give the Lady Sherlock series a whirl, and the books are also required reading for anyone who loves the historical mysteries of Deanna Raybourn, Tasha Alexander, and Elizabeth Peters Amelia Peabody books. Sherry will be at the Poisoned Pen on Saturday September 16th at 2 PM.

Todd, Charles. [A Casualty of War](#) (Harper \$26.99)

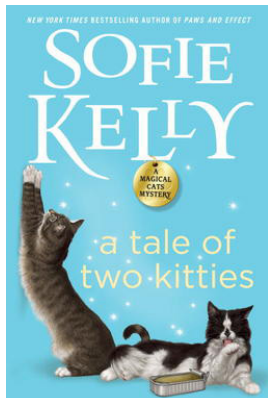
While waiting for transport back to her post, Bess Crawford meets Captain Alan Travis from the island of Barbados. Later, when he's brought into her forward aid station disoriented from a head wound, Bess is alarmed that he believes his distant English cousin, Lieutenant James Travis, shot him. Then the Captain is brought back to the aid station with a more severe wound, once more angrily denouncing the Lieutenant as a killer. But when it appears that James Travis couldn't have shot him, the Captain's sanity is questioned. Still, Bess wonders how such an experienced officer could be so wrong. Charles will be joining author Juliana Gray on Saturday September 23rd at 2 PM for an afternoon tea program at the Poisoned Pen.

Cozy Crimes

Copperman, E. J. [Dog Dish of Doom](#) (Minotaur \$24.99)

Theatrical agent Kay Powell has met some pushy stage parents in her time, but Trent Barclay takes the cake. Kay has found the perfect new replacement for Sandy in director Les McMaster's new Broadway production of *Annie* in the form of Bruno, an adorable mutt who takes direction like a pro, but Trent, Bruno's owner, has become such a pain in the posterior that Les refuses to hire Bruno unless Trent is banned from visiting the theater. Kay is trying to negotiate all of this into a contract when Trent is discovered dead in his apartment face down in Bruno's water dish with a knife in his back. NYPD detective Alana Rodriguez wants Kay to help her with the in-

vestigation by using her theatrical connections to snoop around, but all Kay wants to do is sign Bruno to a contract while trying to keep her own show biz parents from taking on the new role of amateur sleuths. Cooperman launches a delightful new cozy crime series that is served up with plenty of comic charm. Written with a deliciously dry sense of humor and featuring a well-realized New York City theatrical setting, *Dog Dish of Doom* is so much fun it will have mystery readers sitting up and begging for more.



Kelly, Sofie. [A Tale of Two Kitties](#). (Berkley \$23)

Maryville Heights Head Librarian Kathleen Paulson finds herself mixed up in another murder investigation when Leo Janes, the beloved grandfather of Kathleen's employee Mia, is found dead in his apartment. While the police initially suspect Simon Janes, Mia's father, Kathleen, as well as many other of the residents in the small Minnesota town, think Leo's black sheep brother Victor, who has just returned home, hoping for reconciliation with his family, makes a much better murderer. However, since Victor has an unshakeable alibi, he seems to be out of the picture leaving Kathleen to rely on some help from her sleuthing kitties Hercules and Owen, to help her find the real killer. In the 9th charming addition to her Magical Cats series, Kelly once again demonstrates her mastery of the cozy mystery by gifting readers with a cast of easily relatable characters, a marvelously realized small-town setting, and a cleverly concocted plot that is seasoned with a generous dollop of gentle humor that will certainly delight both longtime fans and new readers of the series alike.

Swanson, Denise. [Dead in the Water](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99)

After councilman Zeke Lyons appears to have died when a tornado hits her hometown of Scumble River, Sky Denison-Boyd becomes worried when her police chief husband is reported missing while investigating suspicious evidence involving Zeke's death. Are you sometimes tempted to start a new series only to discover the author is already working on the 15th book and then decide maybe not? Swanson completely understands your literary dilemma and now she gives her long-running Scumble River series (19 books and counting) a re-boot by moving up the action in the series to 2017 and re-branding the series as Welcome Back to Scumble River. I especially enjoyed the author's clever references to *The Wizard of Oz* that were incorporated into the story.

Weaver, Ashley. [The Essence of Malice](#) (Minotaur \$24.99)

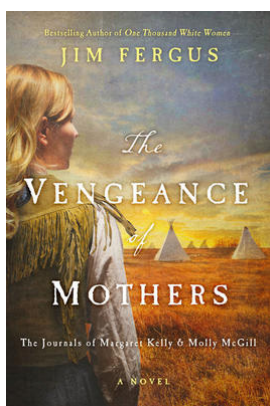
Amory Ames has always had the ability to sniff out trouble, and now she must put her highly sensitive nose for danger work once again when her husband Milo's old nanny, Madame Nanette, asks the couple to look into the death of her new employer, the famous French *par fumier* Helios Belanger, who was about to release a highly anticipated new fragrance and had been targeted by industry rivals and heirs vying for control of his empire. If historical mysteries with sleuthing married couples are your literary catnip, you will love Weaver's elegantly written, dryly witty books featuring Amory and Miles.

Historical Novels

Carter, Betsy. [We Were Strangers Once](#) (Grand Central \$26)

On the eve of World War II Egon Schneider--a gallant and successful Jewish doctor, son of two world-famous naturalists--escapes Germany to an uncertain future across the sea. Settling into the unfamiliar rhythms of upper Manhattan, he finds solace among a tight-knit group of fellow immigrants, tenacious men and women drawn together as much by their differences as by their

memories of the world they left behind. They each suffer degradations and triumphs large and small: Egon's terminally acerbic lifelong friend, bestselling author Meyer Leavitt, now wears a sandwich board on a New York street corner; Catrina Harty, the headstrong daughter of a dirt-poor Irish trolley driver, survives heartbreak and loss to forge an unlikely alliance; and Egon himself is forced to abandon his thriving medical practice to become the "Cheese Man" at a Washington Heights grocery. But their spirits remain unbroken, and when their little community is faced with an existential threat, these strangers rise up together in hopes of creating a permanent home.



Fergus, Jim. [The Vengeance of Mothers](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

"9 March 1876 My name is Meggie Kelly and I take up this pencil with my twin sister, Susie. We have nothing left, less than nothing. The village of our People has been destroyed. Empty of human feeling, half-dead ourselves, all that remains of us intact are hearts turned to stone. We curse the U.S. government, we curse the Army, we curse the savagery of mankind, white and Indian alike. We curse God in his heaven. Do not underestimate the power of a mother's vengeance . . ." So begins the journal of Margaret Kelly, a woman who participated in the government's "Brides for Indians" program in 1873, a program whose conceit was that the way to peace between the United States and the Cheyenne Nation was for One Thousand White Women to be given as brides in exchange for three hundred horses. Mostly fallen women, the brides themselves thought it was simply a chance at freedom. But many fell in love with the Cheyenne spouses and had children with them . . . and became Cheyenne themselves. Fergus' [One Thousand White](#)

[Women](#) (St. Martins \$15.99) which has just come out in a special 20th anniversary edition, won Best Book of the West as well selling over a million copies since it first debuted. It remains a perennial favorite with book discussion groups.

Ford, Jamie. [Love and Other Consolation Prizes](#)
(Ballantine \$27.99)

The 1909 Seattle world's fair - called the Alaska Yukon Pacific Expo - is a time when the magical wonders of technology on display at the expo future seems limitless. But for Ernest, a half-Chinese orphan who found his way to America through a last desperate act of his beloved mother, every door is closed. A charity student at a boarding school, he has never really had a place to call home. Then one day, his wealthy sponsor announces that if a home is what he wants, then that is what he will have: Ernest will be offered as a prize in the daily raffle at the fair, advertised as "Healthy boy to a good home for the winning ticket holder." The woman who "wins" him is the madam of a notorious brothel who was famous for educating her girls. He becomes a houseboy in her brothel and is befriended by the daughter of the madam, as well as a Japanese girl who works in the kitchen. The friendship and love between these three form the first real family Ernest has ever known. Ford, author of *The Hotel on the Corner of Bitter and Sweet*, based his latest emotionally engaging novel on a true story.

Madeleine, Laura. [The Confectioner's Tale](#)
(\$15.99)

At the famous Patisserie Clermont, a chance encounter with the owner's daughter has given one young man a glimpse into a life he never knew existed: of sweet cream and melted chocolate, golden caramel and powdered sugar, of pastry light as air. But it is not just the art of confectionery that holds him captive, and soon a forbidden love affair begins. Almost eighty years later, an academic discovers a hidden photograph of her grandfather as a young man with two people she has never seen before. Scrawled on the back of the picture are the words "Forgive me." Unable to resist the mystery behind it, she begins to unravel the story of two star-crossed lovers and one irrevocable betrayal.



Miller, Sarah. [Caroline: Little House Revisited](#)
(Harper \$25.99)

Wife to Charles and mother to Mary and Laura, Caroline Ingalls was the loving heart at the core of the Little House books by Laura Ingalls Wilder. Now in conjunction with the 150th anniversary of Laura Ingalls Wilder's birth, the Little House Heritage Trust has authorized Sarah Miller to write a new book about the family and their adventures. Told from Caroline's perspective, the book mirrors the action in that of *Little House on the Prairie* when in 1870, the Ingalls family leaves their comfortable home in Wisconsin for the Kansas Indian Territory. Fans of the books will enjoy seeing events in *Little House on the Prairie* from a different angle, and Miller does an excellent job detailing the tough time pioneer women had building a home for their families as well as describing the small joys that kept them going. This is a superbly crafted novel of historical fiction.

Ryan, Jennifer. [The Chilbury Ladies Choir](#) (\$16)

As England becomes enmeshed in the early days of World War II and the men are away fighting, the women of Chilbury village forge an uncommon bond. They defy the Vicar's stuffy edict to close the choir and instead "carry on singing," resurrecting themselves as the Chilbury Ladies' Choir. We come to know the home-front struggles of five unforgettable choir members: a timid widow devastated when her only son goes to fight; the older daughter of a local scion drawn to a mysterious artist; her younger sister pining over an impossible crush; a Jewish refugee from Czechoslovakia hiding a family secret; and a coniving midwife plotting to outrun her seedy past.

Scott, Susan Holloway. [I, Eliza Hamilton](#)
(Kensington \$15)

Alexander Hamilton's wife, Eliza, supports and assists her brilliant husband through the American Revolution and afterwards, when he becomes one of the new country's most important figures and even after his untimely death, ultimately forging her own extraordinary path. Discover more about the woman behind the man currently selling out Broadway in this terrific historical, of which *PW* said " handles the complex history and complicated romance, moving the personal and political plots briskly."

More Fiction

Angell, Kate. [The Cottage on Pumpkin and Vine](#)
(Kensington \$7.99)

It's time for the annual Halloween costume party at the cottage on Pumpkin and Vine, the perfect place to celebrate the pleasures of the season. Guests return to the picturesque B & B year after year to snuggle up in its cozy rooms, explore the quiet, tree-lined streets and enjoy all the spooky fun of the holiday. But local legend whispers that it's also a place where wishes have a strange way of coming true. For three unsuspecting revelers, it's going to be an enchanted weekend of candy corn kisses and midnight black kittens, along with some *real* Halloween surprises—the kind that make your heart skip a beat—for many more celebrations to come.

Karon, Jan. [To Be Where You Are](#) (Putnam \$28)

Father Tim Kavanagh struggles to find meaning in an unexpected new job, while newlyweds Dooley and Lace are stricken by a crisis that overshadows their happiness, and 4-year-old Jack Tyler looks forward to the biggest day of his young life in the latest installment in the Mitford series. Karon's Mitford series are the literary equivalent of a hot water bottle for the soul.

Levy, Marc. [PS from Paris](#) (Amazon \$14.95)

On the big screen, Mia plays a woman in love. But in real life, she's an actress in need of a break from her real-life philandering husband—the megastar who plays her romantic interest in the

movies. So she heads across the English Channel to hide in Paris behind a new haircut, fake eye-glasses, and a waitressing job at her best friend's restaurant. Paul is an American author hoping to recapture the fame of his first novel. When his best friend surreptitiously sets him up with Mia through a dating website, Paul and Mia's relationship status is "complicated."

Even though everything about Paris seems to be nudging them together, the two lonely ex-pats resist, concocting increasingly far-fetched strategies to stay "just friends." A feat easier said than done, as fate has other plans in store. Is true love waiting for them in a postscript?

Ronin, Isabelle. [Chasing Red](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

"Red is the new grey" is how the publisher is billing this contemporary romance. *Chasing Red* was Wattpad's most-read story of 2016 and has achieved over 150 million reads on the platform. The book revolves around cynical, straight-A college student Veronica Stafford, who when she gets kicked out of her apartment is not sure where to turn, and her dark past makes it difficult for her to trust anyone; so when notorious basketball player Caleb Lockhart offers her a place to stay, she reluctantly accepts.

The Suspense Is Killing Me

Cooper, Filey. [Final Girls](#) (Dutton \$26)

Ten years ago, college student Quincy Carpenter went on vacation with five friends and came back alone, the only survivor of a horror movie-scale massacre. In an instant, she became a member of a club no one wants to belong to—a group of similar survivors known in the press as the Final Girls, which includes Quincy, and Lisa, who lost nine sorority sisters to a college dropout's knife; and Sam, who went up against the Sack Man during her shift at the Nightlight Inn. The three girls are all attempting to put their nightmares behind them. That is, until Lisa, the first Final Girl, is found dead in her bathtub, wrists slit, and Sam, the second, appears on Quincy's doorstep. "Final Girl" is the name given to the heroine in a horror film (because, theoretically, she is the last girl left standing), and this scary

suspense novel definitely channels the feel of movies like *Halloween* and *Scream*. If you don't mind the occasional gory scene (which are probably run of the mill for die-hard horror film fans but might be a bit much for squeamish readers like me) there are plenty of clever plot twists in Cooper's thrilling novel.



Dodd, Christina. [The Woman Who Couldn't Scream](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

For nine years Helen Brassard dutifully (and silently) fulfilled her role as trophy wife to aging French billionaire Nauplius Brassard. However, when Nauplius unexpectedly dies while on a luxury cruise with her, Helen – along with the significant chunk of change Nauplius has set aside for her in his will – disappears. When Merida Falcon suddenly arrives in Virtue Falls, few people would ever connect her to Helen Brassard, which is exactly how Merida wants things. Because Merida is out for revenge and anyone who gets in her way - including her old lover Benedict Howard and her old friend Sheriff Kateri Kwinault - will suffer the consequences. Dodd continues her winning streak with another chilling novel of suspense that doesn't ignore character development at the expense of its adrenaline-paced plot.

Ellison, J. T. [Lie to Me](#) (Harlequin \$15.99)

When his wife, Sutton, disappears while they are having marital problems, leaving behind a note saying not to look for her, Ethan Montclair becomes the target of vicious gossip as friends, family, and the media speculate on what really happened to Sutton. Ellison is receiving critical raves for her latest standalone novel (well raves from everyone except the usual cranky Kirkus) including PW which said "Ellison keeps the sus-

pense high with chapters from the point of view of someone very evil. The person responsible for Sutton's disappearance remains a mystery right up to the surprising finale. This standalone may be Ellison's best work to date."

GudenKauf, Heather. [Not a Sound](#)
(Park Row \$15.99)

When a tragic accident leaves nurse Amelia Winn deaf, she spirals into a depression that ultimately causes her to lose everything that matters: her job, her husband, David, and her stepdaughter, Nora. Now, two years later and with the help of her hearing dog, Stitch, she is finally getting back on her feet. But when Nora discovers the body of a fellow nurse in the dense bush by the river, deep in the woods near her cabin, she is plunged into a disturbing mystery that could shatter the carefully reconstructed pieces of her life all over again. Edgar finalist Gudenkauf draws from her own experiences as a person suffering from hearing loss to give her latest gripping suspense novel a superb sense of realism.

Kubica, Mary. [Every Last Lie](#) (Park Row \$26.99)

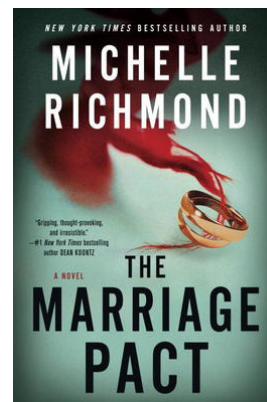
When her husband dies in a car crash that her daughter survived unharmed, Clara Solberg comes to suspect that his death wasn't an accident and begins an obsessive hunt for the truth in the latest thriller by the New York Times best-selling author of *The Good Girl*. Kubica puts her own spin on the ever popular unreliable narrator trope that still reigns supreme in the suspense genre.

Marshall, Laura. [Friend Request](#) (Grand Central \$26)

Louise just received a Facebook friend request from her old childhood friend Maria Weston. There is just one problem: Louise thought Maria died twenty-five years ago. Maria's sudden reappearance means Louise could lose everything that is important to her in life including her job, her son Henry, and even her freedom if the truth gets out about what happened that night so many years ago. Which leaves Louise with only one option: find out what exactly what did happen before Maria (or whoever is pretending to be her) reveals everything. Social media gone wild meets *Gone Girl* in this debut by a British author.

Paris, B.A. [The Breakdown](#) (St. Martin's \$25.99)

Unable to forget a murder she witnessed when she was where she was not supposed to be, Cass Anderson struggles with an increasingly compromised memory before she begins receiving silent, sinister phone calls. Paris' debut novel *Behind Closed Doors*, was a surprise best-seller (well, it wasn't a surprise to anyone to who read this clever take on the *Gone Girl* type of suspense novel), and her latest is another nail-biting tale revolving around the question of who can you really trust (and can you even really trust yourself)?



Richmond, Michelle. [The Marriage Pact](#)
(Bantam \$27)

Marriage is too important to be left to chance. At least, this is the theory behind "The Pact," as newlyweds Jake and Alice discover when they receive an invitation to join The Pact as a wedding gift. The Pact is an agreement you make with your spouse, and committing to the agreement makes you part of an exclusive group of like-minded individuals. Because every good marriage needs rules, The Pact provides them including when your spouse calls, you must always answer, exchange thoughtful gifts with each other every month, and never mention The Pact to anyone. Of course, breaking the rules would mean some kind of "punishment," and The Pact is well equipped with those as Jake and Alice soon discover. I haven't had this much fun with a suspense novel since John Grisham gave readers *The Firm* and Gillian Flynn rattled readers' cages with *Gone Girl*. Richmond's novel has the same addictively readable sense of pacing of both those novels along with the expertly manipulated sense of unease found in *The Stepford Wives* making *The Marriage Pact* to be the kind of

book that is bound to keep you up way past your regularly scheduled bedtime.

Robins, Jane. [White Bodies](#) (Touchstone \$24.99)

Wealthy financier Felix and up-and-coming starlet Tilda seem like the perfect couple to anyone who meets them. Tilda's twin sister Callie, however, thinks there is something dark and sinister going on beneath the façade of their marriage. Not only has Tilda stopped working in order to be the perfect wife to Felix, she never seems to eat a bite of food. And the couple's apartment is oddly, almost perfectly, tidy. Then there are the bruises Callie sees on Tilda's arms when she accidentally pushes up the sleeves of her blouse. But what can Callie do? Robins has written several nonfiction books, including *The Trial of Queen Caroline*, but this is her fiction debut and it is a doozy. Early on in the novel Tilda references Patricia Highsmith's *Strangers on a Train*, and there is definitely the same kind of cool, controlled literary flavor to Robins' novel.

Rouda, Kaira. [Best Day Ever](#) (Graydon House \$26.99)

As Paul and Mia Strom drive out of the city and toward the countryside, a spike of tension begins to wedge itself between them and doubts start to arise. How much do they trust each other? And how perfect is their marriage, or any marriage, really? This quietly intense novel features a protagonist, who could give Tom Ripley a run for his money, turned out to be a sleeper hit with readers as well as receiving starred reviews from all the major sources including *PW*, which ended their review with "A tensely written, shocking book that will hold readers on the edge of their seats to the very last page."

Nonfiction

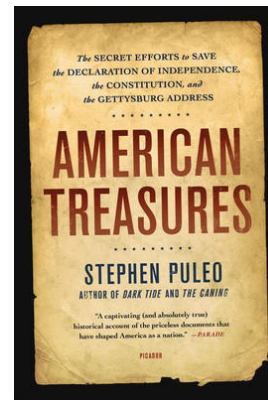
Gordon, Meryl. [Bunny Mellon](#) (Grand Central \$28)

A new biography of Bunny Mellon, the style icon and American aristocrat who designed the White House Rose Garden for her friend JFK and served as a living witness to 20th Century American history, operating in the high-level arenas of politics, diplomacy, art and fashion. Bunny Mellon, who died in 2014 at age 103, was pressy during her lifetime. With the co-operation

of Bunny Mellon's family, author Meryl Gordon received access to thousands of pages of her letters, diaries and appointment calendars and has interviewed more than 175 people to capture the spirit of this talented American original

MacNeal, David. [Bugged](#) (St. Martin's \$25.99)

Insects have been shaping our ecological world and plant life for over 400 million years. In fact, our world is essentially run by bugs—there are 1.4 billion for every human on the planet. In *Bugged*, journalist David MacNeal takes us on an off-beat scientific journey that weaves together history, travel, and culture in order to define our relationship with these mini-monsters. A fun and fascinating look at entomology although I did want to call the exterminator after reading this.



Puleo, Stephen. [American Treasures](#) (St. Martin's \$28.99)

On December 26, 1941, Secret Service Agent Harry E. Neal stood on a platform at Washington's Union Station, watching a train chug off into the dark and feeling at once relieved and inexorably anxious. These were dire times: as Hitler's armies plowed across Europe, seizing or destroying the Continent's historic artifacts at will, Japan bristled to the East. The Axis was rapidly closing in. So FDR set about hiding the country's valuables. On the train speeding away from Neal sat four plain-wrapped cases containing the documentary history of American democracy: the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution, the Gettysburg Address, and more, guarded by a battery of agents and bound for safekeeping in the nation's most impenetrable hiding place. *American Treasures* charts the little-known journeys of these American crown

jewels. If you can't get enough of Steve Berry's or Brad Meltzer's history-based suspense novels (or if you can quote whole lines of dialogue from the movie *National Treasure*), Puleo's book makes equally fascinating reading.



Sermak, Kathryn and Danelle Morton. [Miss D and Me](#) (Hachette \$27)

Miss D and Me is a story of two powerful women, one at the end of her life and the other at the beginning. As Bette Davis aged she was looking for an assistant, but she found something more than that in Kathryn: a loyal and loving buddy, a co-conspirator in her jokes and schemes, and a competent assistant whom she trained never to miss a detail. But Miss D had strict rules for Kathryn about everything from how to eat a salad to how to wear her hair...even the spelling of Kathryn's name was changed (adding the «y») per Miss D's request. Throughout their time together, the two grew incredibly close, and Kathryn had a front-row seat to the larger-than-life Davis's career renaissance in her later years, as well as to the humiliating public betrayal that nearly killed Miss D. The frame of this story is a four-day road trip Kathryn and Davis took from Biarritz to Paris, during which they disentangled their ferocious dependency. *Miss D and Me* is a window into the world of the unique and formidable Bette Davis, told by the person who perhaps knew her best of all. If you watched *Bette and Joan* this Spring on cable, you will definitely want to read this fascinating insider look at the incomparable Bette Davis.

Twenge, Jean M. [Igen](#) (Atria \$27)

The renowned psychologist and author of *Generation Me* analyzes how the young people born in

the mid-1990s and later significantly differ from those of previous generations, examining how social media and texting may be behind today's unprecedented levels of anxiety, depression and loneliness. But technology is not the only thing that makes iGen distinct from every generation before them; they are also different in how they spend their time, how they behave, and in their attitudes toward religion, sexuality, and politics. They socialize in completely new ways, reject once sacred social taboos, and want different things from their lives and careers. More than previous generations, they are obsessed with safety, focused on tolerance, and have no patience for inequality. iGen is also growing up more slowly than previous generations: eighteen-year-olds look and act like fifteen-year-olds used to. Drawing from four large, nationally representative surveys of 11 million Americans since the 1960s, Twenge identified ten important trends shaping iGen'ers and, ultimately, all of us: In No Hurry (the extension of childhood into adolescence), Internet (how much time they are really spending on their phones—and what that has replaced), In person no more (the decline in in-person social interaction), Insecure (the sharp rise in mental health issues), Irreligious (the decline in religion), Insulated but not intrinsic (the interest in safety and the decline in civic involvement), Income insecurity (new attitudes toward work), Indefinite (new attitudes toward sex, relationships, and children), Inclusive (acceptance, equality, and free speech debates), and Independent (their political views). *iGen* is the ideal place to look for trends that will shape our culture in the years to come, as its members are very young but still old enough to express their views and report on their experiences.

Waters, Alice. [Coming to My Senses](#) (Potter \$27)

When Alice Waters opened the doors of her "little French restaurant" in Berkeley, California in 1971 at the age of 27, no one ever anticipated the indelible mark it would leave on the culinary landscape—Alice least of all. Fueled in equal parts by naiveté and a relentless pursuit of beauty and pure flavor, she turned her passion project into an iconic institution that redefined American cuisine for generations of chefs and food lovers. In *Coming to My Senses* Alice retraces the

events that led her to 1517 Shattuck Avenue and the tumultuous times that emboldened her to find her own voice as a cook when the prevailing food culture was embracing convenience and uniformity.

White, Richard. [The Republic for Which It Stands](#) (Oxford \$35)

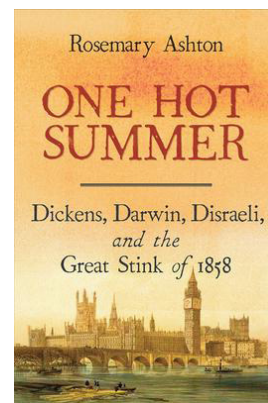
In the latest addition to the prestigious “History of the United States” series, Stanford professor White tackles the 30 years after the Civil War in the United States in which both challenges and changes ruled. At the end of the Civil War the leaders and citizens of the victorious North envisioned the country’s future as a free-labor republic, with a homogenous citizenry, both black and white. The South and West were to be reconstructed in the image of the North. Thirty years later Americans occupied an unimagined world. The unity that the Civil War supposedly secured had proved ephemeral. The country was larger, richer, and more extensive, but also more diverse. Life spans were shorter, and physical well-being had diminished, due to disease and hazardous working conditions. Independent producers had become wage earners. The country was Catholic and Jewish as well as Protestant, and increasingly urban and industrial. The “dangerous” classes of the very rich and poor expanded, and deep differences -- ethnic, racial, religious, economic, and political -- divided society. The corruption that gave the Gilded Age its name was pervasive. But this also prompted different activists - including women’s suffragists as well as prohibition advocates - to try and secure economic, moral, and cultural reforms.

Zomorodi, Manoush. [Bored and Brilliant](#) (St. Martin’s \$26.99)

Turn off your cell phone and become more creative. That is the thesis of this fascinating new book. In 2015 Manoush Zomorodi, host of WNYC’s popular podcast and radio show *Note to Self*, led tens of thousands of listeners through an experiment to help them unplug from their devices, get bored, jump-start their creativity, and change their lives. *Bored and Brilliant* builds on that experiment to show us how to rethink our gadget use to live better and smarter in this

new digital ecosystem. Manoush explains the connection between boredom and original thinking, exploring how we can harness boredom’s hidden benefits to become our most productive and creative selves without totally abandoning our gadgets in the process. Grounding the book in the neuroscience and cognitive psychology of “mind wandering” what our brains do when we’re doing nothing at all—Manoush includes practical steps you can take to ease the nonstop busyness and enhance your ability to dream, wonder, and gain clarity in your work and life.

London Calling



Ashton, Rosemary. [One Hot Summer](#) (Yale \$30)

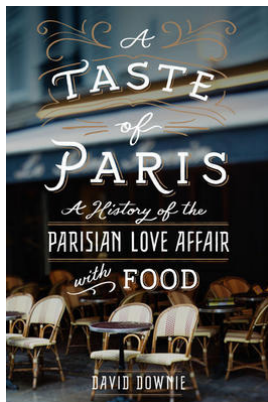
May to August of 1852 in London was known as the “Great Stink.” That summer was one of the hottest on record, and that combined with the untreated sewage that poured into the Thames created a miserable miasma that had everyone in the city seeking relief. The stench was so great that it finally prompted Parliament into taking action by passing The Thames Purification Bill. Of course there were also other kinds of “stinks” going on that summer including Charles Dickens public separation from his wife, and Edward Bulwer-Lytton’s (famous for his opening sentence “it was a dark and stormy night”) attempts to have his wife declared insane. Ashton’s latest is a treat for anyone interested in the history of Victorian London.

Dawson, Kate Winkler. [Death in the Air](#) (Hachette \$27)

“This is the parallel story of two killers. As different as these murderers were, their similarities were striking. Both strangled their victims. Both

eluded suspicion. And both nearly escaped justice. Each changed law in Britain, and, in many ways, around the world. One was a toxin that ignored race, wealth, and age – a mass murderer that asphyxiated thousands of Londoners and sickened hundreds of thousands. The other was a psychopath, a serial killer, who terrorized one of the world’s most important cities. There were miscarriages of justice with both. Yet only one of the two remains infamous – the other has been all but forgotten.” This paragraph from the book’s introduction explains the structure of Dawson’s mesmerizing account of London in the winter of 1952, when horrendous smog struck the city. Because of the number of coal-burning fireplaces – and the fact that the quality of coal used in the city was the lowest possible – a terrible smog blanketed the city blanketed the city for five days. Mass transit ground to a halt, criminals had free reign, and 12,000 people died. Meanwhile, at the same time John Reginald Christie roamed the city eventually murdering seven women.

I Heart Paris



Downie, David. [A Taste of Paris](#) (St. Martin’s \$26.99)

In his trademark witty and informative style, David Downie embarks on a quest to discover “What is it about the history of Paris that has made it a food lover’s paradise?” Long before Marie Antoinette said, “Let them eat cake!” (actually, it was brioche), the Romans of Paris devoured foie gras, and live oysters rushed in from the Atlantic; one Medieval cookbook describes a thirty-two part meal featuring hare stew, eel soup, and honeyed wine; during the last great banquet at Versailles a year before the Revolu-

tion the gourmand Louis XVI savored thirty-two main dishes and sixteen desserts; yet, in 1812, Grimod de la Reynière, the father of French gastronomy, regaled guests with fifty-two courses, fifteen wines, three types of coffee, and seventeen liqueurs. Following the contours of history and the geography of the city, Downie sweeps readers on an insider’s gourmet walking tour of Paris and its environs in *A Taste of Paris*, revealing the locations of Roman butcher shops, classic Belle Epoque bistros serving diners today and Marie Antoinette’s exquisite vegetable garden that still supplies produce, no longer to the unfortunate queen, but to the legendary Alain Ducasse and his stylish restaurant inside the palace of Versailles. Along the way, readers learn why the rich culinary heritage of France still makes Paris the ultimate arbiter in the world of food.

Steele, Valerie. [Paris Fashion](#) (Bloomsbury \$40)

Paris has been the international capital of fashion for more than 300 years. Even before the rise of *haute couture*, Parisians were notorious for their obsession with fashion, and foreigners eagerly followed their lead. From Charles Frederick Worth to Gabrielle “Coco” Chanel, Christian Dior, and Yves Saint Laurent, fashion history is dominated by the names of Parisian couturiers. But Valerie Steele’s *Paris Fashion* is much more than just a history of great designers. This fascinating book demonstrates that the success of Paris ultimately rests on the strength of its fashion culture – created by a host of fashion performers and spectators, including actresses, dandies, milliners, artists, and writers. First published in 1988 to great international acclaim, this pioneering book has now been completely revised and brought up to date. Lavishly illustrated, deeply learned, and elegantly written, Valerie Steele’s masterwork explores with brilliance and flair why Paris remains the capital of fashion.