

Midmonth BookNotes

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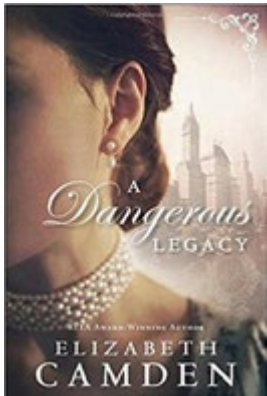
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Literary Treats (with No Tricks)

Historical Fiction, Romance, and More



Camden, Elizabeth. [A Dangerous Legacy](#)

(Bethany House \$15.99)

Telegraph operator Lucy Drake is a master of Morse code, but the presence of Sir Colin Beckwith at a rival news agency puts her livelihood at risk. When Colin's reputation is jeopardized, Lucy agrees to help in exchange for his assistance in recovering her family's stolen fortune. However, the web of treachery they're diving into is more dangerous than they know. Camden was inspired to write her latest sweet historical after reading *The Victorian Internet* by Tom Standage, which chronicled how news agencies used the telegraph to send stories around the globe. Here is a snippet from what Camden wrote in an essay for Bookpage "Standage's book describes how news agencies telegraphed stories all over the world, and how the telegraph operators who staffed these machines around the clock often got bored and began chatting with

one another during slow times. They also eavesdropped on one another. I immediately knew this would provide a great setting for a novel. Although we tend to think of online friendships and internet hacking as very 21st century, all of this was occurring during my 1903 timeframe. All the other storylines grew out of that initial inspiration."

Carr, Robyn. [The Summer That Made Us](#)

(Mira \$15.99)

Summer might be winding down (despite the temperatures), but it isn't too late to experience it again in the pages of RITA award-winning Carr's latest deeply satisfying novel of women's fiction. After being fired for bad ratings, television talk show host Charley Hempstead returns to her childhood summer home in Lake Waseka, MN in order to help plan a family reunion for her sister Meg, who is suffering from stage 4 breast cancer. However, the first thing Charley has to do is to find a way to convince their mother Louise let them use their summer place again which has been closed up ever since a tragic accident cost the life of their sister Bunny. No one writes with such sensitivity and insight about female friendships and the bonds that connect sisters as well as daughters and mothers quite Carr.

Chamberlain, Diane. [The Stolen Marriage](#)

(St Martins \$26.99)

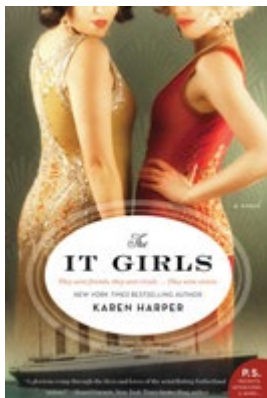
Impulsively ending her engagement to another man to marry a mysterious stranger from a small North Carolina community in 1944, Tess DeMello rapidly discovers that she is trapped in

a loveless relationship and is treated with suspicion by secretive neighbors before discovering her talents as a nurse during a devastating polio outbreak. Chamberlain's latest is an intriguing mix of expertly crafted historical fiction with a generous pinch of Southern gothic thrown into the mix.

Cornick, Nicola. [The House of Shadows](#)

(Graydon House \$15.99)

Holly Ansell can't believe her brother Ben would just disappear like this. Yet, that is exactly what seems to have happened when Holly responds to a panicked call from her young niece Flo asking her to come to Ashdown because her daddy is missing. When Holly arrives, she discovers Ben seems to have just vanished in the middle of the night. Holly soon learns that Ben had been doing some family genealogical research right before he disappeared, and that he had been scheduled to meet with an elusive, wealthy, private collector of antiquities. As Holly tries desperately to find Ben, she discovers his disappearance may be connected to two priceless artifacts - a pearl and a small bejeweled mirror, both of which once belonged to Elizabeth Stuart, the Winter Queen, and her husband Frederick - both of which are rumored to possess mystical powers. Cornick expertly entwines three different timelines - 17th century Europe, 19th Century England, and the present day - into a winning tale about the legacy of the Winter Queen that is tailor-made for fans of Kate Morton's historical novels or for readers of the deliciously genre-blurred books of Susanna Kearsley.



Harper, Karen. [The It Girls](#) (HarperCollins \$14.99)
Elinor and Lucy Sutherland were not just sisters;

they were best friends as well. Even though they were as different as night and day, both girls had big dreams for their futures. Elinor hopes to become a best-selling author while Lucy's one goal in life is to design gowns that every woman would want to wear. Over the course of their lives, both women would achieve their greatest hopes and dreams while also scandalizing society in different ways. The best historical fiction effortlessly transports readers to another time and place by not only introducing readers to a wide range of real-life characters but by also illuminating the events - both large and small - that shaped those same characters lives. The It Girls is exactly that type of exquisitely rendered historical novel. Harper deftly chronicles the careers of both Sutherland sisters as Elinor gradually builds a literary career that explodes when her novel Three Weeks shocks readers and rocks the best-seller lists with its sensual storyline. Harper skillfully alternates Elinor's fascinating life story with the equally entertaining tale of her sister Lucy, who establishes a name in design with her fashion house Lucile Ltd., and whose innovations included the Merry Widow hat and the Peter Pan collar and whose clients would include British royalty.

Harrison, Lisi. [The Dirty Book Club](#)

(Gallery \$25.99)

When editor M.J. Stark doesn't receive the job promotion she expected at the NYC magazine where she works, she decides a complete change in her life is in order. So she accepts her boyfriend Dan's offer to move in with him at his home in the small town of Pearl Beach, California. Desperate for company, M.J. befriends her elderly new next door neighbor Gloria. When Gloria's husband dies, she and three of her other elderly friends head for Paris to honor a fifty-year old pact leaving behind an invitation for M.J. to join a secret club - one that reads "dirty" books. Curious, M.J. accepts and meets the three other hand-selected club members. As they bond over naughty bestsellers and the shocking letters they inherited from the original club members, the four strangers start to divulge the intimate details of their own lives... and as they open up, they learn that friendship might just be the key to rewriting their own stories.

Hilderbrand, Elin. [Winter Solstice](#) (LittleBrown \$26)
Preparing for a particularly joyful holiday season after Bart's safe return from Afghanistan, the Quinn family members count their blessings, from Kevin's marriage to Patrick's rehabilitation, only to encounter unexpected challenges. In [Winter Storms](#) (\$15.99), Hilderbrand delivers another warm and fuzzy family drama as the Quinn family find themselves facing a powerful blizzard, holiday drama, and an emotional reunion while they prepare for Kevin and Isabelle's wedding.

Hornak, Francesca. [Seven Days of Us](#) (Berkley \$26)
Spending the holidays with your family is bad enough, but what if you were literally stuck in the same house with your closest relatives for an entire week? Looking forward to a Christmas family reunion for the first time in years, the Birch family is upended by the news that their physician-activist daughter has been exposed to a foreign virus that forces the entire family into quarantine for a week; a week which is also shaped by respective anxieties, past glory and a shocking secret. This debut wasn't really quite my cup of literary tea, but it did garner a number of rave reviews including this one from Kirkus, which concluded with "Hornak skillfully juggles each character's distinct point of view and creates a family that readers will grow to love. This holiday read is perfect for fans of cozy Christmas films like *Love Actually* and *The Family Stone*. An emotional but ultimately uplifting holiday story."

Happy Book Birthday Iris Johansen!

Johansen, Iris. [Mind Game](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Scotland holds a treasure that Jane MacGuire has been hunting for years. But as she scours the highlands in search of it, she's plagued by dreams of a girl in danger—dreams she can't ignore no matter how hard she tries. Who is this girl, and what is she trying to tell Jane? And will Jane figure it out before it's too late—for her and the mysterious young woman? New York Times best-selling author Iris Johansen began her writing career in the 1980s writing romance novels for Loveswept and other publishers. In the mid

1990s, Johansen branched out into suspense with books like her novel *The Ugly Duckling* and *Long After Midnight*. Johansen is also the author several series including the Eve Duncan books, of which *Mind Game* is book #23. *Mind Game* is also the 100th book written by Johansen, and we are delighted to acknowledge this literary milestone by wishing her a "very happy book birthday!"

Kalogridis, Jeanne. [The Orphan of Florence](#) (St. Martin's \$15.99)

Raised in Florence's famous Ospedale degli Innocenti, fifteen year old orphan Guilia has been given the choice between becoming a nun or being married off to a man she didn't love. Instead, Guilia decides to choose door number three. Now, after spending two years as a successful pickpocket, an old man catches her about to make off with his purse, and rather than having her carted off to prison he offers Guilia a business proposition. The man claims to be a cabalist, a student of Jewish mysticism and ritual magic, who works for the most powerful families in Florence. But his identity is secret—he is known only as "the Magician of Florence"—and he is in need of an assistant.

Krentz, Jayne A. [When All the Girls Have Gone](#) (\$7.99)

Teaming up with struggling private investigator Max to track down her missing stepsister, Charlotte falls in love with Max and survives a near-fatal attack before making a chilling discovery about her sister's past. In the mood for fast-paced romantic suspense leavened with a generous dollop of dry wit? Then Jayne Ann Krentz definitely delivers!

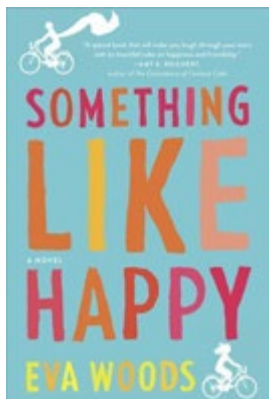
Montefiore, Santa. [The Daughters of Ireland](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

In the green hills of West Cork, Ireland, Castle Deverill has burned to the ground. But young Celia Deverill is determined to see her ruined ancestral home restored to its former glory — to the years when Celia ran through its vast halls with her cousin Kitty and their childhood friend Bridie Doyle. Kitty herself is raising a young family, but she longs for Jack O'Leary — the long-ago sweetheart she cannot have. And soon Kitty

must make a heartbreaking decision, one that could destroy everything she holds dear. Bridie, once a cook's daughter in Castle Deverill, is now a well-heeled New York City socialite. Yet her celebrity can't erase a past act that haunts her still. Nor can it keep her from seeking revenge upon the woman who wronged her all those years ago. Think *Downton Abbey* but with Irish accents.

Sloan, Robin. [Sourdough](#) (Farrar \$26)

Looking for something a bit offbeat? Then Sloan, author of the debut novel *Mr. Penumbra's 24-Hour Bookstore*, is definitely the author for you. In Sloan's latest quirkily charming book, Lois Clary, a software engineer working for San Francisco robotics company General Dexterity, has a life-changing moment when she comes home from work one day and discovers a take-out menu from a new restaurant in her neighborhood stuck to her apartment door. The spicy soup and sourdough bread that Lois orders from the two brothers who run the sub rosa restaurant are the best things she has ever eaten in her life. However, just when Lois has gotten into a routine of having her daily delivery of home-cooked goodness, the culinary brothers inform her they are leaving town due to some problems with their visas. However, before they go, they bequest their sourdough starter to their number one eater: Lois. Now if Lois, who has never cooked a meal in her life, ever wants to taste another bit of her beloved sourdough bread, she is going to have to figure out how to bake a loaf herself.



Woods, Eva. [Something Like Happy](#)

(Graydon House \$26.99)

Annie Hebdon has absolutely no reason in the world to be happy. After a bitter divorce, Annie

lives in a dingy flat with a messy and clueless roommate. Annie dreads going to work every day because her job is a mindless, joyless series of routine tasks, and her co-workers couldn't be more irritating if they tried. If that wasn't enough to cope with, Annie's mother has been hospitalized and is now being treated for early dementia. So when Annie bumps into zany, bubbly, friendly Polly Leonard at the hospital, her first inclination is to run the other way. After discovering that Polly has been diagnosed with a brain tumor and has just months left to live, Annie can't figure out why she is so outrageously cheerful. But Polly is determined to show Annie that life is worth living, by convincing Annie to join her as she tackles a popular new trend known as the one hundred days project. Each day they will do something like having lunch outdoors in the park or bringing in donuts to work in an effort to make themselves or someone else happy. One hundred days, one hundred different ways to find the sunny side of life. But what happens when Annie discovers her new friend may not live to see the completion of their joint project? Woods (a pseudonym for crime writer Claire McGowan) has written a marvelously moving novel. If you are open to the idea that doing small things can make a difference, Woods' latest has the potential to change your life (well, unless you the most hard-hearted of cynics). If you loved *Jo Jo Moyes Me Before You*, don't miss this uplifting, funny, teary, heart-felt, remarkable novel

Woods, Sherryl. [Lilac Lane](#) (Mira \$26.99)

Single mom Kiera Malone struggled for years to raise her three children in a small town on the coast of Ireland. Just when she's let down her guard and allowed herself to love again, her fiancé suffers a fatal heart attack and leaves her alone yet again. Overwhelmed by her loss, she's persuaded to visit her father, Dillon O'Malley, and her daughter, Moira O'Brien, in Chesapeake Shores. With the promise of family ties and a job at O'Brien's, her son-in-law's Irish pub, she takes what seems like the biggest risk of her life. If you are a fan of Debbie Macomber's sweet love stories, Woods' Chesapeake Shores books (which have recently begun turning up on the Hallmark Channel) are equally endearing.

Cozy Crimes

Alexander, Ellie. [Death on Tap](#) (Minotaur \$25.99)
After catching her husband cheating on her, craft brew expert Sloan Krause leaves the family business to work for a hip, new nano-brewery, only to discover a competitor dead in the fermenting tub, clutching a secret recipe. Alexander, who is also the author the Bakeshop mysteries, launches her new series on a high note with a wonderfully realized setting, and engaging cast of secondary characters, plenty of chemistry between Sloan and the sexy owner of a local microbrewery, and lots of fascinating details about the art and craft of brewing beer.



Chance, Maia. [Gin and Panic](#) (Minotaur \$25.99)
Lola Woodby and Berta Lundgren, partners in the Discreet Retrieval Agency, seem to have landed their easiest case yet when Lord Eustace Sudley hires them to “retrieve” a stuffed and mounted rhinoceros head from the Connecticut estate of his friend and hunting partner Rudy Montgomery. With her beloved Pomeranian Cedric in tow, Lola along with Berta drive up to Montgomery Hall but before they can put their hands on the rhino head, they become involved in yet another murder investigation when Rudy Montgomery is shot and killed. The third sparkling installment in Chance’s series featuring former socialite turned detective Lola Woodby is another triumph of fizzy wit and madcap hijinks. If you are a fan of Carola Dunn’s Daisy Dalrymple mysteries or Rhys Bowen’s Royal Spyness series featuring Lady Georgiana Rannoch, don’t miss Chance’s equally entertaining new historical series.

Hart, Carolyn. [Ghost on the Case](#) (Penguin \$26)
Do-gooder ghost Bailey Ruth Raeburn’s latest case takes her to Adelaide, Oklahoma, where she must find a way to help Susan Gilbert, whose younger sister has just been kidnapped. The criminals want Susan to steal \$100,000.00 from her boss, and use it as the ransom. Since the fact the Susan’s boss keeps a safe stuffed with cold hard currency is no secret – he actually showed a group of luncheon guests this just a week earlier, Bailey Ruth is positive one of those luncheon guests is the mastermind behind the kidnapping. Now all she has to do is figure out who is pulling the strings before Susan steals the money and breaks the law herself. Agatha award-winning Hart is a legend in the mystery genre, and now she gifts readers with the 8th endearing addition to her Bailey Ruth Raeburn series.

Morton, Mandy. [Cat Among the Pumpkins](#) (Minotaur \$24.99)

As All Hallows’ Eve approaches, Hettie Bagshot of The No. 2 Feline Detective Agency has more than just a ghost and warlock tart on her plate. Along with her faithful sidekick, Tilly, the tabby duo set out to investigate an old crime and a spate of new murders. Why is Mavis Spitforce dressed as a pumpkin? Can Irene Peggledrip really talk to cats from the spirit world? Did Milky Myers murder his family on Halloween, longer ago than anyone can remember? All questions the pair must answer before the case can be solved. I found The No. 2 Feline Detective Agency, the first in British author Morton’s series, to be an absolutely endearing, and equally adored the her latest, which is sort of like a literary cross between Beatrix Potter’s classic children’s books and Rita Mae Brown’s Mrs. Murphy’s mysteries. PW says this series has a “peculiar English charm,” but some readers might find the combination of a town filled with talking cats, who dress like humans not to mention drive cars, a bit to twee for their tastes.

Nonfiction

Chernow, Ron. [Grant](#) (Penguin \$40)
Ulysses S. Grant’s life has typically been misunderstood. All too often he is caricatured as a

chronic loser and an inept businessman, or as the triumphant but brutal Union general of the Civil War. But these stereotypes don't come close to capturing him, as Pulitzer Prize winning Chernow (whose biography of Alexander Hamilton inspired the crazy popular Broadway musical) shows in his masterful new nonfiction work, the first to provide a complete understanding of the general and president, whose fortunes rose and fell with dizzying speed and frequency.

Galloway, Scott. [The Four](#) (Portfolio \$28)

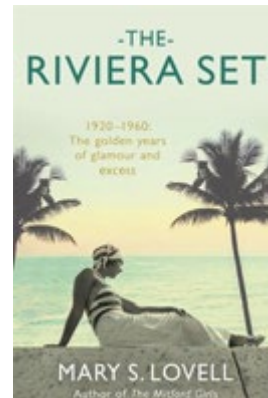
Of the top five most valuable businesses in the United States, four are tech companies: Apple, Alphabet (parent company of Google), Facebook, and Amazon. By early 2017, their aggregate market capitalization value was \$1.3 trillion dollars, which translates into the GDP of Russia (take that, Putin!). Now Galloway, an acclaimed NYU business professor, examines the rise and influence of technology titans Apple, Amazon, Google and Facebook to reveal how they became successful by adapting the ideas of others in ways that not only reflect the evolutionary psychology of these companies, but outline the likely path of a next possible major contender.

Isaacson, Walter. [Leonardo da Vinci](#) (Simon and Schuster \$35)

Leonardo da Vinci created two of the most famous paintings in the world: the Mona Lisa and The Last Supper. He studied botany, mathematics, geology, and anatomy. He created designs for flying machines, weapons of war, and theatrical pageants. His curiosity was insatiable, and his creativity was boundless. In many ways, da Vinci was a true Renaissance man. Now, the best-selling author of biographies about Benjamin Franklin, Steve Jobs, and Albert Einstein draws on da Vinci's remarkable notebooks as well as new discoveries about his life and work in a narrative portrait that connects the master's art to his science, demonstrating how da Vinci's genius was based on such skills and characteristics like curiosity and observation as well as imagination and fantasy.

Kilmeade, Don Yaeger. [Andrew Jackson and the Miracle of New Orleans](#) (Sentinel \$28)
The best-selling author of George Washington's

Secret Six delivers a riveting portrait of the seventh American president which focuses on his formative military prowess during the War of 1812 and his pivotal contributions to the capturing of New Orleans from the British.



Lovell, Mary S. [The Riviera Set](#) (Pegasus \$27.95)

The author of the bestselling *The Sisters: The Saga of the Mitford Family* brings her trademark literary brio and biting relish while tracing the four-decade story of the dynamic people who lived, loved, partied and politicked at the Château de l'Horizon near Cannes. At the heart of the story is Maxine Elliott, the daughter of a fisherman from Connecticut, who built the beautiful art deco chateau and who brought together the likes of Somerset Maugham, Noel Coward, the Aga Khan, and the Duke of Duchess of Windsor as well as two noted courtesans: Doris Castlerosse and Daisy Fellowes. Lovell's latest is gossipy fun for fans of 20th century history.

Merry, Robert W. [President McKinley](#) (Simon and Schuster \$35)

Acclaimed historian Robert Merry attempts to resurrect the presidential reputation of William McKinley, which often loses out to the brilliant and flamboyant Theodore Roosevelt who succeeded him after his assassination, by aptly enumerating his many accomplishments including settling decades of monetary controversy by taking the country to a strict gold standard; acquiring Hawaii and the Philippines through war and diplomacy; developing the doctrine of "fair trade"; forcing the "Open Door" to China; and forging our "special relationship" with Great Britain. In short, he established the non-colonial imperialism that took America into global preeminence. Merry also writes movingly about

McKinley's admirable personal life, from his simple Midwestern upbringing to his Civil War heroism to his brave comportment just moments before his death by assassination (it was only six months into his second term when he was shot). Lively, definitive, and eye-opening, President McKinley resurrects this overlooked president and places him squarely on the list of one of the most important.

Mundy, Liza. [Code Girls](#) (Hachette \$28)

Recruited by the U.S. Army and Navy from small towns and elite colleges, more than ten thousand women served as code-breakers during World War II. While their brothers and boyfriends took up arms, these women moved to Washington and learned the meticulous work of code-breaking. Their efforts shortened the war, saved countless lives, and gave them access to careers previously denied to them. A strict vow of secrecy nearly erased their efforts from history; now, through dazzling research and interviews with surviving code girls, bestselling author Liza Mundy brings to life this riveting and vital story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment. Fans of Susan Elia MacNeal's historical mysteries will also find this fascinating.

Steven, Ross. [Hitler in Los Angeles](#)

(Bloomsbury \$30)

No American city was more important to the Nazis than Los Angeles, home to Hollywood, the greatest propaganda machine in the world. The Nazis plotted to kill the city's Jews and to sabotage the nation's military installations: plans existed for hanging twenty prominent Hollywood figures such as Al Jolson, Charlie Chaplin, and Samuel Goldwyn; for driving through Boyle Heights and machine-gunning as many Jews as possible; and for blowing up defense installations and seizing munitions from National Guard armories along the Pacific Coast. Unfortunately, U.S. law enforcement agencies were not paying close attention to the German's interest in L.A. --preferring to monitor Reds rather than Nazis--and only Leon Lewis and his daring ring of spies stood in the way. From 1933 until the end of World War II, attorney Leon Lewis, the man Nazis would come to call "the most dan-

gerous Jew in Los Angeles," ran a spy operation comprised of military veterans and their wives who infiltrated every Nazi and fascist group in Los Angeles. Often rising to leadership positions, this daring ring of spies uncovered and foiled the Nazi's disturbing plans for death and destruction.

Whyte, Kenneth. [Hoover](#) (Knopf \$35)

Canadian magazine editor and author Whyte offers an exhaustive account of the sometimes contradictory life and times of Herbert Hoover - the man many blamed failing to resolve America's Great Depression - in an attempt to revise public opinion on the nation's 31st president. Whyte chronicles Hoover's life from penniless child to globe-trotting mining executive, who built a personal fortune from his geological knowledge. Whyte dedicates special mention to Hoover's philanthropic volunteer work which began during World War I, when he used his business skills to organize a successful food relief effort that helped save the lives of thousands of starving Belgians. Hoover would later go onto help victims of the 1927 Mississippi flooding, and served as Truman's emissary helping European refugees after World War II.

Wood, Gordon S. [Friends Divided](#) (Penguin \$35)

Wood, winner of the Pulitzer Prize for *Empire of Liberty*, offers a dual portrait of the second and third presidents of the United States of America. Thomas Jefferson and John Adams could not have been more different in temperament or background, yet they worked closely in the crucible of revolution, crafting the Declaration of Independence and leading, with Franklin, the diplomatic effort that brought France into the fight. But ultimately, their profound differences would lead to a fundamental crisis, in their friendship and in the nation writ large, as they became the figureheads of two entirely new forces, the first American political parties. It was a bitter breach, lasting through the presidential administrations of both men, and beyond. But late in life, something remarkable happened: these two men were nudged into reconciliation. What started as a grudging trickle of correspondence became a great flood, and a friendship was

rekindled, over the course of hundreds of letters. In a time of bitter partisan politics, it is remarkably refreshing to read about two politicians who could work together for the betterment of their country despite their own philosophical beliefs.

Books for Cooks

Brioza, Stuart with Nicole Krasinski and J.J.

[State Bird Provisions](#) (Ten Speed \$40)

Few restaurants have taken the nation by storm in the way that State Bird Provisions has. Inspired by their years catering parties, chefs Stuart Brioza and Nicole Krasinski use dim sum style carts to offer their guests small but finely crafted dishes. Now the chefs and owners behind this popular San Francisco restaurant (voted best new restaurant in the U.S. by Bon Appetite) share their recipes for their most popular dishes including Potato Chips with Crème Fraiche and Cured Trout Roe, Black Butter-Balsamic Figs with Wagon Wheel Cheese Fondue and their famous savory pancakes.

Clark, Melissa. [Dinner in an Instant](#) (potter \$22)

The New York Times food columnist and James Beard Award-winning chef presents a collection of 75 flavor-forward recipes that help you get dinner to table quickly by using your slow cooker, pressure cooker and other Instant Pot® appliances without sacrificing flavor. Recipes include fresh coconut yogurt, osso buco, and lemon verbena crème brûlée.

Collingham, Liz. [The Taste of Empire](#) (Basic Books \$32)

In *The Taste of Empire*, acclaimed historian Lizzie Collingham tells the story of how the British Empire's quest for food shaped the modern world. Told through twenty meals over the course of 450 years, from the Far East to the New World, Collingham explains how Africans taught Americans how to grow rice, how the East India Company turned opium into tea, and how Americans became the best-fed people in the world. A fascinating look at how food and cooking can influence historical events.

Guarnaschelli, Alex. [The Home Cook](#) (Potter \$35)

For Alex Guarnaschelli—whose mother edited the seminal 1997 edition of *The Joy of Cooking*, which defined the food of the late twentieth century—a life in food and cookbooks was almost predestined. Now an accomplished chef and author in her own right (and mom to a young daughter), Alex pens a cookbook for the way we eat today. For generations raised on vibrant, international flavors and supermarkets stocked with miso paste, harissa, and other bold condiments and ingredients, here are 300 recipes to replace their parents' Chicken Marbella, including Glazed Five-Spice Ribs, Roasted Eggplant Dip with Garlic Butter Naan, Roasted Beef Brisket with Pastrami Rub, Fennel and Orange Salad with Walnut Pesto, Quinoa Allspice Oatmeal Cookies, and Dark Chocolate Rum Pie.

Kimball, Christopher. [Christopher Kimball's Milk Street](#) (Little Brown \$40)

For more than twenty-five years, Christopher Kimball has promised home cooks that his recipes would work. In 2015, Kimball had a messy breakup with America's Test Kitchen (you can go online for all the juicy details). Now, with his team of cooks and editors at Milk Street, he promises that a new approach in the kitchen can elevate the quality of your cooking far beyond anything you thought possible. Christopher Kimball's *Milk Street* delivers more than 125 new recipes arranged by type of dish: from grains and salads, to a new way to scramble eggs, to simple dinners and twenty-first-century desserts.

Marshall, Sarah. [Preservation](#) (Regan Arts \$24.95)

When Sarah Marshall started her hot sauce business, Marshall's Haute Sauce, she noticed that too much of her produce was getting thrown away, so she decided to make it her mission to learn creative uses for food parts that have normally been tossed aside. Through simple, approachable steps, readers will be guided through the process of canning and preserving produce and using parts like carrot and strawberry tops, fennel fronds, beet stems, onion skins, apple cores, Brussels sprout stalks, lemon rinds, and more to make 100+ unique and delicious recipes.

McDowell, Erin Jeanne. [The Fearless Baker](#)

(Houghton \$30)

With the assurance born out of years of experience, McDowell, one of Food52's most popular columnists, shares insider tips and techniques that make desserts taste as good as they look. With recipes from flourless cocoa cookies and strawberry-filled popovers (easy), through apple cider pie and black-bottom crème brûlée (medium), to a statuesque layer cake crowned with caramelized popcorn (difficult), and "Why It Works," "Pro Tip," and make-ahead sidebars with each recipe, this exciting, carefully curated collection will appeal to beginning and experienced bakers alike.

Nunn, Emily. [The Comfort Food Diaries](#)

Comfort Food Diaries

A former New Yorker editor chronicles her quest to overcome the convergence of the sudden loss of her brother, being dumped by her fiancé, and being evicted from her apartment by cooking her way across the country while staying with friends and family.

Ottolenghi, Yotam and Helen Goh. [Sweet](#)

(Potter \$35)

Yotam Ottolenghi is widely beloved in the food world for his beautiful, inspirational, and award-winning cookbooks, as well as his London delis and fine dining restaurant. And while he's known for his savory and vegetarian dishes, he actually started out his cooking career as a pastry chef. Sweet is entirely filled with delicious baked goods, desserts, and confections starring Ottolenghi's signature flavor profiles and ingredients including fig, rose petal, saffron, orange blossom, star anise, pistachio, almond, cardamom, and cinnamon.

Perleman, Deb. [Smitten Kitchen Every Day](#)

(Knopf \$35)

The award-winning blogger and best-selling author of The Smitten Kitchen Cookbook (one of Poisoned Pen staff member Susan's favorite cookbooks) reveals the de-stressing and transformative qualities of cooking good food and shares recipes from Grandma-style Chicken Noodle Soup to Three Cheese Pasta Bake that are specifically designed for taking indulgent culinary breaks.

Spring, Justin. [The Gourmand's Way](#) (FSG \$30)

During the thirty-year boom in France following World War II—les Trente Glorieuses—Paris was not only the world's most stylish tourist destination, it was also the world capital of gastronomic genius. In *The Gourmand's Way*, Justin Spring tells the story of six American writer-adventurers - A. J. Liebling, Alice B. Toklas, M.F.K. Fisher, Julia Child, Alexis Lichine, and Richard Olney—having the time of their lives in the City of Light during this period and, in doing so, transforming the way Americans talk and think about food—and the way they eat.

Tanis, David. [Market Cooking](#) (Artisan \$40)

A masterwork of recipes, approach, technique, and philosophy, David Tanis *Market Cooking* is as inspiring as it is essential. This is how to become a more intuitive and spontaneous cook. This is how to be more discerning in the market and freer in the kitchen. This is how to transform the freshest ingredients into one perfectly delicious dish after another, guided by the core beliefs that have shaped David Tanis's incomparable career: Food doesn't have to be fussy to be satisfying. Seasonal vegetables should be central to a meal. Working with food is a joy, not a chore. More than 200 recipes for vegetable-based dishes such as Indian Pan-fried Cauliflower are included.

Thelin, Emily Kaiser et al. [Unforgettable](#)

(Grand Central \$35)

Unforgettable tells the story of culinary legend and author of nine award-winning cookbooks, Paula Wolfert. The gripping narrative traces the arc of Wolfert's career, from her Brooklyn childhood to her adventures in the farthest corners of the Mediterranean: from nights spent with Beat Generation icons like Allen Ginsberg, to working with the great James Beard; from living in Morocco at a time when it really was like a fourteenth century culture, to bringing international food to America's kitchens through magazines and cookbooks.

Yosses, Bill and Peter Kaminsky. [The Sweet Spot](#)

(Avery \$35)

Treat sugar like salt. This is the mantra of Bill

Yosses, a former White House pastry chef, and his secret to baking indulgent yet wholesome desserts that truly satisfy. After being tasked by First Lady Michelle Obama to create healthier treats for her family, he discovered that when he dialed back the sugar in his recipes, his desserts were not only healthier on paper, but they actually tasted better too. In *The Sweet Spot*, Bill upends the notion of “healthy” desserts and shares an inspiring collection of delectable sweets that reveal the magic that happens when you bake with less sugar.

YA Fiction and Children’s Lit

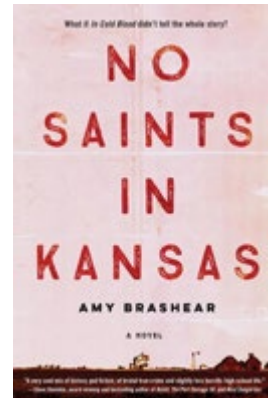
Applegate, Katherine. [Wishtree](#) (Feiwel \$16.99)

Red is the neighborhood “wishtree” — people write their wishes on pieces of cloth and tie them to Red’s branches. Along with her crow friend Bongo and other animals who seek refuge in Red’s hollows, this “wishtree” watches over the neighborhood. You might say Red has seen it all. Until a new family moves in. Not everyone is welcoming, and Red’s experiences as a wish-tree are more important than ever. This superbly written book by Newberry award-winner Applegate has gotten raves from every major review source including PW, which concluded with “Red’s openhearted voice and generosity of spirit bring perspective gained over centuries of observation. It’s a distinctive call for kindness, delivered by an unforgettable narrator.”

Bashardoust, Melissa. [Girls Made of Snow and Glass](#) (Flatiron \$18.99)

At sixteen, Mina’s mother is dead, her magician father is vicious, and her silent heart has never beat with love for anyone. She never guessed the reason why is that her father cut out her heart and replaced it with one of glass. When she moves to Whitespring Castle and sees its king for the first time, Mina forms a plan: win the king’s heart with her beauty, become queen, and finally know love. The only catch is that she’ll have to become a stepmother. Fifteen-year-old Lynet looks just like her late mother, and one day she discovers why: a magician created her out of snow in the dead queen’s image, at her father’s order. But despite being the dead queen made flesh, Lynet

would rather be like her fierce and regal stepmother, Mina. She gets her wish when her father makes Lynet queen of the southern territories, displacing Mina. Now Mina is starting to look at Lynet with something like hatred, and Lynet must decide what to do—and who to be—to win back the only mother she’s ever known...or else defeat her once and for all. Fans of 3



Brashear, Amy. [No Saints in Kansas](#) (Soho \$18.99)

This quietly stunning debut re-imagines the events from Truman Capote’s book *In Cold Blood* as seen through the viewpoint of a teenage girl, who was the “friend” of one of the victims. November is usually quiet in Holcomb, Kansas, but in 1959, the town is shattered by the quadruple murder of the Clutter family. Suspicion falls on Nancy Clutter’s boyfriend, Bobby Rupp, the last one to see them alive. New Yorker Carly Fleming, new to the small Midwestern town, is an outsider. She tutored Nancy, and (in private, at least) they were close. Carly and Bobby were the only ones who saw that Nancy was always performing, and that she was cracking under the pressure of being Holcomb’s golden girl. This secret connected Carly and Bobby. Now that Bobby is an outsider, too, they’re bound closer than ever. Determined to clear Bobby’s name, Carly dives into the murder investigation and ends up in trouble with the local authorities. But that’s nothing compared to the wrath she faces from Holcomb once the real perpetrators are caught. When her father is appointed to defend the killers of the Clutter family, the entire town labels the Flemings as traitors. Now Carly must fight for what she knows is right. Some critics had issues with the idea that the author did not include any endnotes as to what was fact and

what was fiction in her story, but I think this was actually a smart move on Brashear's part since *In Cold Blood* employed this same technique, thus earning Capote's novel the descriptor "faction" (i.e. a blend of fact and fiction). Whatever you might want to label it, *No Saints in Kansas* is a powerful story with a richly realized setting and multilayered characters.

Cowell, Cressida. [The Wizards of Once](#)

(Little Brown \$17.99)

The author of the best-selling (and source of the popular animated film series) *How to Train Your Dragon* returns with another enchanting tale, in which the magically inept son of a wizard king and the magic-possessing daughter of a warrior queen meet on the wildwood trail of a deadly witch before embarking on an adventure that changes the fabric of their worlds.

Green, John. [Turtles All the Way Down](#)

(Dutton \$19.99)

Green's last solo novel *The Fault in Our Stars* was published six years ago, Now he returns with the tale of sixteen-year-old Aza Holmes, a high school student with OCD, who teams up with her best friend Daisy to find locate fugitive billionaire Russell Pickett in order to claim the hundred-thousand-dollar reward at stake. Other details about the book have been scarce, but in a short piece for his publisher Penguin, Green said Aza's story was based in part on his own experiences "This is my first attempt to write directly about the kind of mental illness that has affected my life since childhood, so while the story is fictional, it is also quite personal."

Katz, Gwen C. [Among the Red Stars](#)

(HarperCollins \$17.99)

World War II has erupted in Valka's homeland of Russia, and Valka is determined to help the effort. She's a pilot—and a good one—so she eagerly joins an all-female bomber regiment. Flying has always meant freedom and exhilaration for Valka, but dropping bombs on German targets is something else entirely. The raids are dangerous, but as Valka watches her fellow pilots putting everything on the line in the face of treachery, she learns the true meaning of bravery. As the war intensifies, though, and those

around her fall, Valka must decide how much she is willing to risk to defend the skies she once called home. This debut is based on the real-life group of WW II squadrons of Soviet airwomen known as the "Night Witches."

Lancaster, Jen. [The Gatekeepers](#) (Harlequin \$18.99)

At the elite North Shore High School in Illinois, the pressure to excel is intense. So intense, that it is not uncommon for a student to take his or her own life. Now with the death of yet another supposedly "perfect" student, a group of different teens - Simone, the bohemian transfer student from London; Mallory, the hypercompetitive queen bee; Owen who, opts out competing at high school altogether, Stephen, the first-generation genius who struggles with crippling self-doubt, and Kent his friend- must find a way to save themselves before it is too late.

Meloy, Colin with Carson Ellis. [The Whiz Mob and the Grenadine Kid](#) (HarperCollins \$17.99)

The authors of the New York Times best-selling *Wildwood Chronicles* begin a new series that is being called *The Invention of Hugo Cabret* meets *Oliver Twist*. When Charlie Fisher, the young son of an American diplomat, is targeted by pickpockets in Marseille, he turns the tables on Amir, the boy, who steals his pen, by agreeing to not involve the police if Amir teaches him the tricks of the trade. However, when Charlie is invited to join the Whiz Mob, an international group of child thieves, he finds himself tangled up in something more dangerous than he ever could have imagined.

Pullman, Philip. [The Book of Dust](#) (Random \$22.99)

Pullman sets his latest fantasy novel ten years before the events in *The Golden Compass*, and it is expected to be the first in a new trilogy. The author is calling *The Book of Dust* an "equal" since it is not really a sequel or a prequel but instead relates the story of how Lyra Belacqua and her daemon Pantalaimon came to be living at Jordan College.

Townsend, Jessica. [Nevermoor: The Trials of Morrigan Crow](#) (Little Brown \$17.99)

Born on the unluckiest day of the year and blamed for all misfortunes that occur in her

community, Morrigan Crow is doomed to die at midnight on her 11th birthday only to be unexpectedly whisked away by a stranger on horseback who brings her to a magical city, where she learns she has been chosen to compete for a position with an organization comprised of highly talented individuals. This debut by an Australian author has been getting rave reviews including one from PW, which concluded with "Whimsical world-building, humorous dialogue, and colorful supporting characters complement an adventurous, magic-filled plot that champions bravery, self-confidence, and hope."