

Midmonth BookNotes

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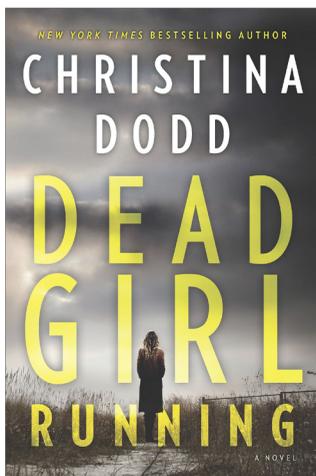
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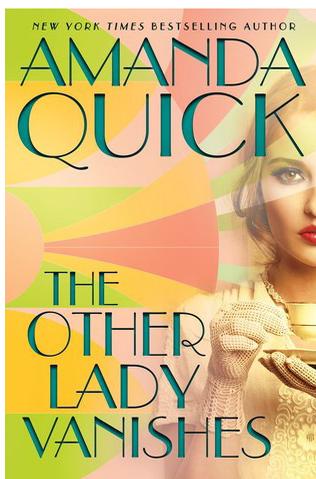


Appearing Soon at the Poisoned Pen!

Dodd, Christina. [Dead Girl Running](#) (HQN \$26.99)



Quick, Amanda. [The Other Lady Vanishes](#)
(Berkley \$27)



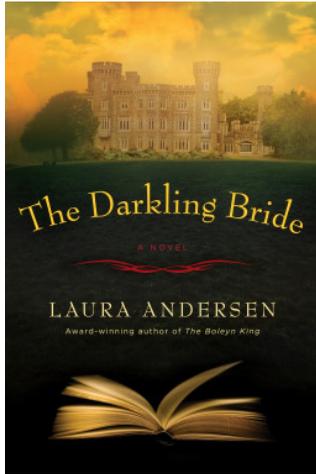
Join *New York Times* best-selling authors Christina Dodd and Amanda Quick for a very special afternoon tea celebrating the release of their latest novels on Saturday May 12th at 2 PM. In

Dodd's adrenaline-fueled *Dead Girl Running*, Kellen Adams, acting assistant manager at the Yearning Sands resort, finds herself juggling disgruntled employees, picky guests, and unreliable vendors, or in other words, a typical day at the Washington coast luxury resort. However, when the scavenger picked over bones of Priscilla Carter, the former assistant manager at the resort, turn up on the grounds, Kellen must not only clean up the mess but figure out exactly which one of her fellow employees (or even a guest) might be a deranged killer just waiting to strike again. Dodd once again mixes danger and desire into a potent literary cocktail of suspense that is guaranteed to keep you glued to your seat until you reach the novel's high-stakes conclusion. With *The Other Lady Vanishes*, Quick continues her fabulously fun 1930s set series, which began with *The Girl Who Knew Too Much*, and now she returns to the Hollywood adjacent Burning Cove, where after successfully escaping from the Rushbrook Sanitorium, Adeline Blake is trying to reinvent herself as tea shop waitress and specialty tea blender Adeline Brockton. Adeline's hopes of keeping a low profile are dashed, however, with the arrival of enigmatic businessman Jake Truett, who has become a regular customer at the tea shop and the unexpected murder of a celebrity psychic. Quick, one of Jayne Ann Krentz's pseudonyms, delivers another engaging mix of history, mystery, and romance set against a glamorous Golden Age Hollywood backdrop that is tailor made for the silver screen. Can't join us on May 12th? Call ahead to reserve your signed copy of either or both terrific books!

New Novels, Romances, Mysteries and More

Andersen, Laura. [The Darkling Bride](#)

(Ballantine \$27)



In 1883, the Lady Jenny Gallagher, age 23, died suddenly at her home of Deeprath Castle, deep in the Irish countryside. Though her death was ruled an accident, the precise circumstances are unknown. In 1992, Cillian Gallagher and his beautiful wife Lily were found dead within the castle walls. A suicide/murder? Or two murders? In 2015, Carragh Ryan is offered the job of taking an inventory of the vast library at Deeprath Castle. A great lover of books, Carragh can't resist the opportunity to gain access to the historic collection. But what she finds at the castle--and in its enigmatic heir, Aidan Gallagher--leads Carragh ever deeper into the heart of an ancient and sinister family secret. The latest novel from Andersen is a deliciously twisty and eerie spin on the classic gothic novel.

Ashley, Jennifer. [Midnight Wolf](#) (Berkley \$7.99). Forced to hunt down a fugitive Shifter woman for the Shifter Bureau, who is threatening his son, wolf Shifter Angus Murray traps his prey, only to discover an innocent woman with whom he forms a true connection—and whom he will protect with his life. No one writes sensually charged paranormal romances quite like Ashley.

Baxter, Cynthia. [Murder with a Cherry on Top](#) (Kensington \$25)

After moving back home to care for her ailing grandmother, Kate McKay opens an ice cream store in town, but she soon has to take on the added job of amateur sleuth after her childhood

frenemy turns up stabbed to death in her bakery down the street. Need something cool to read as the outside temperatures begin heating up? With recipes for ice cream included, this sweet cozy just might hit the spot. Baxter is also the author of the Jessica Popper and Mallory Marlowe series. This is the first in her Lickety Splits Ice Cream Shoppe series, and the author's sassy, humorous literary voice makes this a must-read for fans of Jenn McKinlay's Cupcake mysteries or Kate Carlisle's Bibliophile books.

Brown, Duffy. [Lethal in Old Lace](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99).

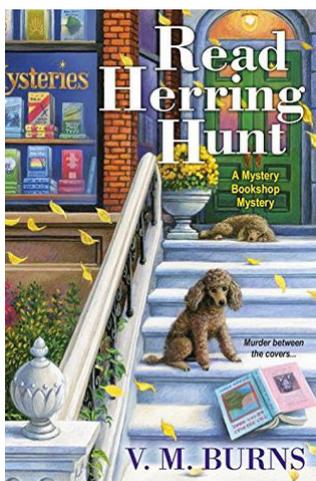
Consignment shop owner Reagan Summerside has just agreed to marry her hunky boyfriend Walker Boone when she finds herself putting her wedding plans on hold so that she can do a bit of sleuthing for some old friends. Sisters Annie Fritz and Elsie Abbot have done such a terrific job acting as professional mourners, that the Sleepy Pines Retirement Center has hired them as a part of their retirement package. But any celebration over the sisters' new business success is cut short when the residents at Pines suddenly begin dying at an alarming rate. And the sisters are the first suspects. If you miss the homespun humor of Anne George's cozy series featuring Southern sisters Patricia Anne and Mary Alice or Miranda James' Southern Ladies mysteries with sisters (yes, again with the sisters) An'gel and Dickce Ducote, Brown's books may prove to be equally entertaining.

Brown, Sandra. [Fat Tuesday](#) (\$8.99).

Having started her writing career back in the 1980s, Brown has pretty much perfected her brand of sultry romantic suspense. In this reprint of one of her more popular books Burke Basile is a cop with nothing left to lose. Haunted by his partner's death, his marriage and his career over, he focuses on his nemesis, Pinkie Duvall, a flamboyant attorney who helps killers evade justice. Burke's shocking revenge centers around kidnapping Remy, the lawyer's trophy wife. But Burke hasn't planned on the electric attraction he'll feel for this desperate woman, who rose from the slums of New Orleans to marry a man she can never love. Nor can he predict the fierce duel that will explode as the clock ticks toward

midnight on Fat Tuesday when all masks will be stripped away--and Burke must confront his own terrifying secret.

Burns, V M. [Read Herring Hunt](#) (Kensington \$15.95).



To Samantha Washington, owner of the Market Street Mysteries Bookstore, Michigan State University quarterback Dawson is more than a tenant—he’s like an adopted son. But to the police, he is their prime suspect after his ex-girlfriend is found murdered. While Sam’s lawyer sister Jenna rushes in to build Dawson’s defense, Sam and her lively grandmother, Nana Jo, huddle up to solve the mystery and blow the whistle on the real killer. With the tenacious members of the Sleuthing Senior Book Club eager to come off the sidelines, Sam and her team just might stop a killer from completing another deadly play. This is the second in the Mystery Bookshop series after *The Plot Is Murder*, and with both books the author alternates between a current day mystery in which Sam becomes involved, and a cozy 1930s era mystery featuring Lady Penelope Marsh that Sam is writing. So in one sense you are really getting two mysteries for the price of one.

Carr, Robyn [The Family Gathering](#) (Harper \$26.99). After leaving the military, Dakota Jones visits Sullivan’s Crossing to clear his head before moving on to his next adventure, but as he spends time with his siblings and becomes drawn to the simple way of life there, he finds the home and family he has always wanted. The latest in Carr’s Sullivan’s Crossing series once again delivers the best of both romance and women’s fiction with a compelling plot, whose multiple storylines

are neatly pulled together by the author and an engaging cast of relatable, realistically flawed characters.

Chapman, Julia [Date with Malice](#) (St Martins \$26.99).

When a pensioner turns up at the Dales Detective Agency and tells Samson O’Brien that someone in her old people’s home is trying to kill her, he dismisses her fears as the ramblings of a confused elderly lady. But after several disturbing incidents at Fellside Court, he begins to wonder if perhaps there is something malicious at the heart of the retirement community after all. Now Samson needs the help of the tempestuous Delilah Metcalfe in order to infiltrate the local community, which Samson turned his back on so long ago.

Chien, Vivien [Death by Dumpling](#) (St. Martin’s \$7.99)

After breaking up with her boyfriend and quitting her corporate job, Lana Lee has no other career options but to go back to waiting tables at her family’s restaurant: Ho-Lee Noodle House, which is located in a Cleveland area shopping center called Asia Village. So far, Lana’s days have been spent working in restaurant and avoiding any and all attempts on her mother’s part to set Lana up with a “good catch.” However, when the property manager for Asia Village, Mr. Feng, is found dead in his office soon after Lana delivered an order of shrimp dumplings from Ho-Lee Noodle House to him, Lana finds she must find room in her jam-packed daily schedule to add some sleuthing in order to find the real murderer. Looking for a charming new cozy series that delivers engaging characters, a cleverly conceived plot, and lively writing seasoned with just the right dash of dry humor? Then you really can’t afford to miss Chien’s fun – and funny- new debut.

Dray, Stephanie and Laura Kamoie [My Dear Hamilton](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

Coming of age on the perilous frontier of revolutionary New York, Elizabeth Schuyler champions the fight for independence. And when she meets Alexander Hamilton, Washington’s penniless but passionate aide-de-camp, she’s captivated by

the young officer's charisma and brilliance. They fall in love, despite Hamilton's bastard birth and the uncertainties of war. But the union they create—in their marriage and the new nation—is far from perfect. *Hamilton: An American Musical* keeps packing them in on Broadway, but what is the real story about the woman he married? Drawing upon the limited amount of primary source material on Eliza – Hamilton left behind thousands of letters while only a handful of Eliza's survived – Dray and Kamoie still manage to successfully create a rich and vibrant portrait of the life and times of the fascinating woman behind the famous man. If you enjoy books by authors like Jennifer Chiaverini and Paula McLain – historical novels that you can really sink your teeth into – *My Dear Hamilton* will be right up your reading alley.

Duncan, Elizabeth J. [The Marmalade Murders](#) (Minotaur \$26.99)

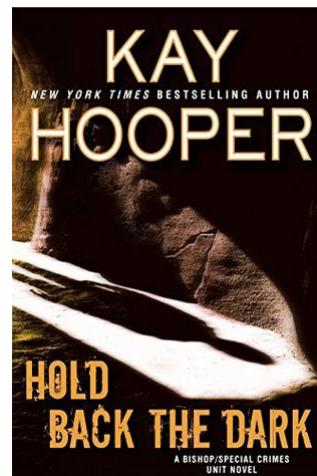
Who knew the competition to win a blue ribbon at the Llanelen agricultural show could be so cutthroat? Local spa owner Penny Brannigan certainly didn't or she never would have agreed to help out at the event. First there is a mix up with several entries in the baking and preserves categories. By the time Penny and her friend and co-worker Victoria Hopkirk, have sorted this out, the president of the Welsh Women's Guild seems to have wandered off, and a carrot cake entered in the competition is missing. Both soon turn up under the baked goods table, but the president probably won't be doing any more judging since she is now has a cake knife in her back. Duncan's award-winning series featuring Penny Brannigan are the quintessential cozy mysteries. The small Welsh village where Penny lives could easily double for St. Mary Mead, and Penny cleverly employs the same home-spun detective tactics that Miss Marple uses to solve her cases as well. Fans of M.C. Beaton's books, Sheila Connolly, and Katherine Hall Page, will want to add Duncan's equally charming books to their reading lists.

Harmel, Kristin. [The Room on Rue Amelie](#) (Gallery \$26)

When newlywed Ruby Henderson Benoit arrives in Paris in 1939 with her French husband Mar-

cel, she imagines strolling arm in arm along the grand boulevards, awash in the golden afternoon light. But war is looming on the horizon, and as France falls to the Nazis, her marriage begins to splinter, too. Charlotte Dacher is eleven when the Germans roll into the French capital, their sinister swastika flags snapping in the breeze. After the Jewish restrictions take effect and Jews are ordered to wear the yellow star, Charlotte can't imagine things getting much worse. But then the mass deportations begin, and her life is ripped forever apart. Thomas Clarke joins the British Royal Air Force to protect his country, but when his beloved mother dies in a German bombing during the waning days of the Blitz, he wonders if he's really making a difference. Then he finds himself in Paris, in the shadow of the Eiffel Tower, and he discovers a new reason to keep fighting—and an unexpected road home. When fate brings them together, Ruby, Charlotte, and Thomas must summon the courage to defy the Nazis—and to open their own broken hearts—as they fight to survive.

Hooper, Kay. [Hold Back the Dark](#) (Berkley \$27).



Called in to the small North Carolina mountain town of Prosperity, where residents are acting out their nightmares and waking up the next day with no memory of their horrific acts, the Special Crimes Unit uncovers a sinister pattern that pits their most advanced skills against an unprecedented darkness.

Isaac, Catherine. [You Me Everything](#) (Penguin \$26)
It was the most difficult thing Jess ever had to do, but she really had no choice but to cut her

boyfriend Adam completely out of her life. The straw that broke the camel's (Jess's) back was the night when Adam, reeking of cheap booze and some woman's cheap perfume, showed up late for the birth of their son William. From the point on Laura wanted nothing more to do with Adam. However, ten years later because of a request from her mother, who is slowly wasting away from Huntington's disease in a nursing home, Laura finds herself heading to France with William so that her son can spend the summer getting to know his father. Both heart-breaking and hopeful, this American debut by British women's fiction author Catherine Isaac will definitely remind readers – in a very good way – of the novels of Jo Jo Moyes.

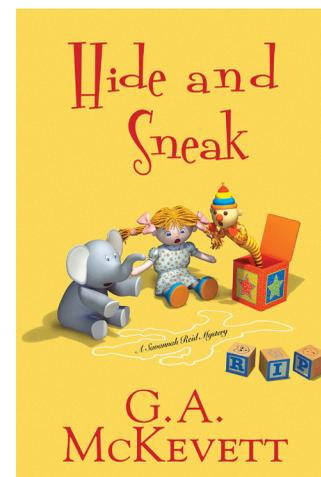
Mayes, Frances. [Women in Sunlight](#) (Crown \$27). Kit Raine, an American writer living in Tuscany, is working on a biography of her close friend, a complex woman who continues to cast a shadow on Kit's own life. Her work is waylaid by the arrival of three women—Julia, Camille, and Susan—all of whom have launched a recent and spontaneous friendship that will uproot them completely and redirect their lives. Susan, the most adventurous of the three, has enticed them to subvert expectations of staid retirement by taking a lease on a big, beautiful house in Tuscany. Though novices in a foreign culture, their renewed sense of adventure imbues each of them with a bright sense of bravery, a gusto for life, and a fierce determination to thrive. But how? With Kit's friendship and guidance, the three friends launch themselves into Italian life, pursuing passions long-forgotten—and with drastic and unforeseeable results. Mayes first gained literary notoriety with her book *Under the Tuscan Sun*, a nonfiction account of the author's adventures in life and love while living in Italy. So, if her latest work of fiction sounds a bit like that – or the movie based on the book – readers really shouldn't be a bit surprised.

Macallister, Gr. [Girl in Disguise](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

In the tumultuous years of the Civil War, the streets of Chicago offer a woman mostly danger and ruin—unless that woman is Kate Warne, the first female Pinkerton detective and a desperate

widow with a knack for manipulation. Descending into undercover operations, Kate is able to infiltrate the seedy side of the city in ways her fellow detectives can't. She's a seductress, an exotic foreign medium, a rich train passenger—all depending on the day and the robber, thief, or murderer she's been assigned to nab. But is the woman she's becoming—capable of lies, swapping identities like dresses—the true Kate? Or has the real disguise been the good girl she always thought she was? As the tensions between the north and south escalate, Kate takes on a job in which the stakes have never been higher. The nation's future is at risk, even as the lines between disguise and reality begin to blur.

McKevett, G.A. [Hide and Sneak](#) (Kensington \$26).



Savannah and her husband have settled back in San Carmelita, California, and life is slowly returning to normal—if “normal” means babysitting newlyweds Tammy and Waycross's incredibly fussy infant daughter. But soothing a squalling baby is kid's stuff compared to the Midnight Magnolia Detective Agency's latest case. Handsome up-and-coming actor Ethan Malloy has enlisted the help of Savannah and Co. in a desperate attempt to track down his missing wife and toddler, not long before the beloved family nanny gets murdered.

Orr, Jill. [Bad Break](#) (Prospect Park \$16)

Riley Ellison has no idea why her old co-worker Tabitha St. Simon would call her when Tabitha's future father-in-law, Dr. Arthur Davenport, unexpectedly dies. After all, it isn't as if she and Tabitha were friends. Frenemies maybe but

definitely not friends. Once Riley arrives at Dr. Davenport's residence, she quickly realizes why Tabitha was so desperate to have her come. It seems someone has murdered Dr. Davenport, and Tabitha is deathly afraid the police will think her fiancé Thad is responsible. Since Riley has had such success with her previous adventures in amateur detection (see Orr's debut mystery *The Good Byline*), Tabitha is positive Riley can solve this case too and preferably before it interferes with Tabitha's wedding plans! I adored Orr's first book *The Good Byline* and found Riley's second case equally entertaining. The author has a marvelously dry sense of humor, with which she liberally seasons her writing, and the small-town Virginia setting of Tuttle Corner is handled with just the right dash of realism and quirkiness.

Penrose, Andrea. [Murder at Half Moon Gate](#) (Kensington \$26)

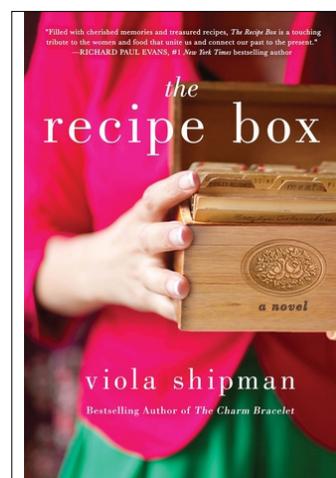
Drawn into the investigation surrounding the murder of a gifted inventor, Lord Wrexford and Charlotte Sloane combine their keen skills of detection to track down an elusive killer—a case that entwines them in a maze of secrets and lies that leads them down London's most dangerous stews and darkest alleyways. It really is no surprise that Penrose has such a deft touch with recreating Regency England since she wrote a number of top-notch traditional Regency and Regency historical romances before setting her sights on mysteries. The author's Wrexford and Sloane series is just the ticket for readers who devoured Stephanie Barron's Jane Austen mysteries or C.S. Harris's Sebastian St. Cyr books.

Roberts, Sheila. [Welcome to Moonlight Harbor](#) (Mira \$7.99).

Nearly 40 and newly divorced, single mother Jenna Jones, with her truculent teenager daughter in tow, arrives in Moonlight Harbor to help her aging Aunt Edie run The Driftwood Inn, and, with some help from new friends and a couple of handsome citizens, she works to restore the inn to its former glory—and to get her life back on track. Roberts' launches a terrific new feel-good series set in the small Pacific coast town of Moonlight Harbor. If life's woes and cares are starting to get you down, this may be just the ticket to restore your faith in the world.

Rose, M. J. [Library of Light and Shadow](#) (\$16). Sought by society patrons who admire her ability to create stunning "shadow portraits" revealing her subjects' most scandalous secrets, a mystical artist in 1925 Manhattan renounces her gift in the wake of a tragedy and flees to southern France, where she confronts toxic people from her past.

Shipman, Viola. [Recipe Box](#) (St. Martin's \$26.99).



"That is the thing about baking, she thought. You bake for someone because it is familiar and familiar, new yet ancestral, a way of connecting generations. You bake for someone because it is an act of love." Growing up in northern Michigan, Samantha "Sam" Mullins couldn't wait to escape and experience life outside her small hometown. Now after attending culinary school, Sam has landed a job working in a New York City bakery as a pastry sous chef for a reality television star, whose people skills and baking skills leave quite a lot to be desired. After one particularly bad day when Chef Dimples – yes, he insisted on being called that – embarrassed her for no good reason, Sam packs up her chef's knives and heads back home. Once there, Sam quickly falls back into the familiar routine of working in the family's bakery alongside her mother, Deana, and her grandmother, Willo. As Sam tries to figure exactly what her next steps in life are going to be, she unexpectedly discovers the answers the questions she has about life and love may ultimately reside in her treasured family recipe box and a man she left behind in New York City. Shipman is the pseudonym for award-winning memoirist Wade Rouse, and

her latest life-affirming women's fiction novel is a lovely paean to the power of baking, the importance of family, and the beauty of Michigan state.

Swanson, Denise. [Tart of Darkness](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99)

Right when Dani thinks she's hit a dead-end in her career, she unexpectedly inherits an enormous old house in a quaint college town. This gives her the perfect opportunity to pursue her true passion—cooking! So Dani opens Chef-to-Go, preparing delicious, ready-made meals for hungry students attending the nearby university, as well as providing personal chef services and catering events for the local community. To help support her new business, she opens her home to a few students, renting them rooms and becoming almost like a big sister figure in their lives. But just as Dani is relishing her sweet new life, the friend of one of her boarders is murdered, and Dani becomes one of the primary suspects! She'll have to scramble to clear her name and save her business before the killer reappears—perhaps to silence the new chef forever. Swanson is also the author of the popular and long-running Scumble River mysteries.

Todd, Anna. [Spring Girls](#) (Gallery \$16.99).

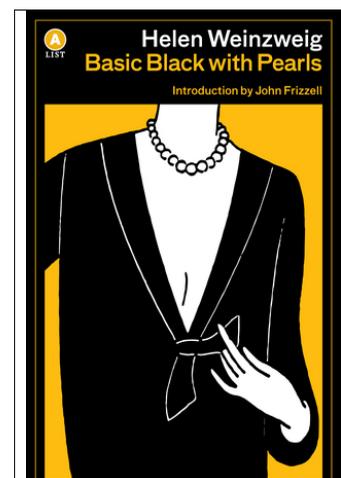
The Spring Girls—Meg, Jo, Beth, and Amy—are a force of nature on the New Orleans military base where they live. As different as they are, with their father on tour in Iraq and their mother hiding something, their fears are very much the same. Struggling to build lives they can be proud of and that will lift them out of their humble station in life, one year will determine all that their futures can become. The oldest, Meg, will be an officer's wife and enter military society like so many of the women she admires. If her passion—and her reputation—don't derail her. Beth, the workhorse of the family, is afraid to leave the house, is afraid she'll never figure out who she really is. Jo just wants out. Wishing she could skip to graduation, she dreams of a life in New York City and a career in journalism where she can impact the world. Nothing can stop her—not even love. And Amy, the youngest, is watching all her sisters, learning from how they handle themselves. For better or worse. Louisa May

Alcott's beloved novel *Little Women* has been a source of numerous cinematic interpretations, including a new version soon to be appearing on a PBS channel near you. Now Todd attempts to bring Alcott's story into the 21st century with an engaging and surprisingly moving account about the bonds of sisterhood.

Watkins, Eileen. [The Bengal Identity](#) (Kensington, \$15.99)

With no ID for his pet, an agitated young man shows up at Cassie's Comfy Cats claiming his house has burned down and he needs to board his big, brown cat, Ayesha. But after a bath washes dye out of the cat's coat and reveals beautiful spots, Cassie suspects the exotic-looking feline may in fact be a valuable Bengal show cat, possibly stolen. At the same time, there are rumored sightings of a "wild cat" in the hills of Chadwick, New Jersey. Could there be a connection? When Ayesha's alleged owner turns up dead, it looks like whoever wants the beautiful Bengal is not pussyfooting around. Working with the police, Cassie and her staff need to be careful not to reveal the purloined purebred's whereabouts while they discreetly make inquiries to cat breeders to find her real owners. But after a break-in attempt rattles Cassie's cage, it's clear someone let the cat out of the bag.

Weinzweig, Helen. [Basic Black with Pearls](#) (NAL \$14.95).



Shirley and Coenraad's affair has been going on for decades, but her longing for him is as desperate as ever. She is a Toronto housewife; he works for an international organization known

only as the Agency. Their rendezvous take place in Tangier, in Hong Kong, in Rome and are arranged by an intricate code based on notes slipped into issues of National Geographic. He recognizes her by her costume: a respectable black dress and string of pearls; his appearance, however, is changeable. But something has happened, the code has been discovered, and Coenraad sends Shirley (who prefers to be known as "Lola Montez") to Toronto, the last place she wants to go. There the trail leads her through the sites of her impoverished immigrant childhood and sends her, finally, to her own house, where she discards her pearls and trades in her basic black for a dress of vibrant multicolored silk. Helen Weinzwieg published her first novel when she was fifty-eight. *Basic Black with Pearls*, her second, won the Toronto Book Award and has since come to be recognized as a feminist landmark. Here Weinzwieg imbues the formal inventiveness of the nouveau roman with psychological poignancy and surprising humor to tell a story of simultaneous dissolution and discovery.

White, Karen. [The Night the Lights Went Out](#) (Berkley \$16)



Recently divorced, Merilee Talbot Dunlap moves with her two children to the Atlanta suburb of Sweet Apple, Georgia. It's not her first time starting over, but her efforts at a new beginning aren't helped by an anonymous local blog that dishes about the scandalous events that caused her marriage to fail. Merilee finds some measure of peace in the cottage she is renting from town matriarch Sugar Prescott. Though stubborn and irascible, Sugar sees something of herself in

Merilee--something that allows her to open up about her own colorful past. Sugar's stories give Merilee a different perspective on the town and its wealthy school moms in their tennis whites and shiny SUVs, and even on her new friendship with Heather Blackford. Merilee is charmed by the glamorous young mother's seemingly perfect life and finds herself drawn into Heather's world. In a town like Sweet Apple, where sins and secrets are as likely to be found behind the walls of gated mansions as in the dark woods surrounding Merilee's house, appearance is everything. But just how dangerous that deception can be will shock all three women.

Non-Fiction

Foster, Thomas C. [How To Read Poetry Like a Professor](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

Since April is National Poetry Month, it seems only apropos to include at least one title dedicated to verse. In this marvelously accessible guide, long-time English professor and literary critic Thomas C. Foster skillfully guides new readers through the vast literary terrain of poetry by covering basics such as meter and rhyme as well as types of poems including sonnets and odes. With examples from everyone from Chaucer to Billy Collins, this charming and accessible guide is a splendid introduction to the pleasures of poetry.

Purdum, Todd S. [Something Wonderful](#) (Henry Holt \$32)

Their names – Richard Rodgers and Oscar Hammerstein II – are synonymous with the concept of a blockbuster Broadway musical. Their collaborations included *Oklahoma*, *The King and I*, and *The Sound of Music*. Now journalist and critic Purdum looks at these two men and partners, who while different in personality and often emotionally distant from each other, presented an unbroken front to the world and forged much more than a songwriting team; their partnership was also one of the most profitable and powerful entertainment businesses of their era. In this superbly entertaining account of the two men's lives and work, Purdum not only gives readers a front row center seat to the stories behind Rodgers and Hammerstein's big

successes but also gives them an insightful look at their less popular ventures as well. Along with the men and women who worked behind the scenes with Rodgers and Hammerstein in each production, readers will also be treated to some wonderful anecdotes about the myriad stars – Yul Brynner, Mary Martin, and Julie Andrews among others – each of whom put their own distinctive stamps on these unforgettable musical masterpieces.