

Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 5 Issue 9 September BookNotes 2018

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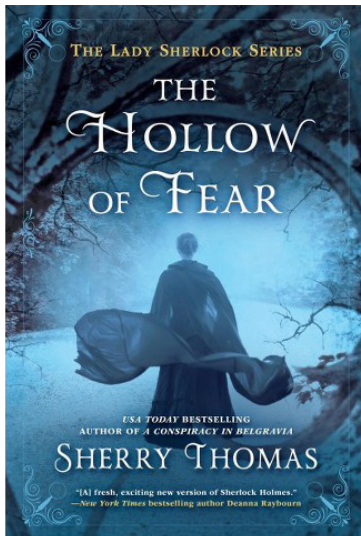
Fall into a Good Book

Authors Coming to the Poisoned Pen

Author Signing for Sherry Thomas

Saturday, October 6, 2018, 2:00 PM

Join best-selling author Sherry Thomas as she discusses and signs her newest book, *The Hollow of Fear*, the third thrilling addition to her Lady Sherlock series. In *The Hollow of Fear*, Charlotte Holmes finds herself involved in a number of different mysteries when first her half-brother Myron Finch disappears and then Lady Ingram, the estranged wife of Charlotte's close friend Lord Ingram, is found dead in the ice well on his estate. With Scotland Yard bound and determined to pin the crime on Lord Ingram, Charlotte must use every trick in her detective bag to prove he is innocent. Start with [A Study in Scarlet Women](#), then proceed on to [A Conspiracy in Belgravia](#), both of which were NPR Best Books of the Year, and then treat yourself to [The Hollow of Fear](#), which is bound to wrack up its own impressive list of awards.



Kensington Cozy Convention

Saturday, November 3, 2018, 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Join cozy mystery writers Carlene O'Conner, Cheryl Hollon, Diane Freeman, Lee Hollis, JC Eaton, JR Ripley,

and Rosemary Simpson for an afternoon of murder, mayhem, and mirth. Refreshments will be served and special raffle prizes will be offered! This will be the first time many of the authors attending will be at the Poisoned Pen, so join us and help make them feel welcome!

Fiction

Mysteries, Romances, and More

Bird, Sarah. [Daughter of a Daughter of a Queen](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Though born into bondage on a "miserable tobacco farm" in Little Dixie, Missouri, Cathy Williams was never allowed to consider herself a slave. According to her mother, she was a captive, destined by her noble warrior blood to escape the enemy. Her chance at freedom presents itself with the arrival of Union general Phillip Henry "Smash 'em Up" Sheridan, the outcast of West Point who takes the rawboned, prideful young woman into service. At war's end, having tasted freedom, Cathy refuses to return to servitude and makes the monumental decision to disguise herself as a man and join the Army's legendary Buffalo Soldiers. Bird originally wrote this as a screenplay, which in many ways helps explain the cinematic sweep of the storyline. Fans of American-set historical fiction and historical military fiction will definitely want to put this on their reading lists.

Blackwell, Juliet. [The Lost Carousel of Provence](#) (Penguin \$15)

In addition to her popular "Witchcraft" and "Haunted Home" mysteries, Blackwell has penned several

women's fiction titles including *The Paris Key* and *Letters from Paris* (both popular titles at the Poisoned Pen), so obviously, France holds a special place in her literary heart. In her latest compelling novel, American photographer Cady Drake shoots local merry-go-rounds, a hobby inspired by a carved wooden rabbit gifted to her following her troubled years in foster care. Now at a crisis point in her life, Cady can't refuse a freelance assignment documenting the antique carousels of Paris. While there, she hopes to track down the true origins of her rabbit, which she has always believed to be carved by French carousel maker Gustave Bayol. Cady's research leads her to Provence, where she unearths century-old photographs of an antique carousel and its creators, which may shed light on the past and help reunite a family torn apart. A bit of mystery, some history, a dash of family drama and a hint of romance all wrapped up in a thoroughly entertaining story.

Craig, Christie. [Don't Close Your Eyes](#)
(Forever \$7.99)

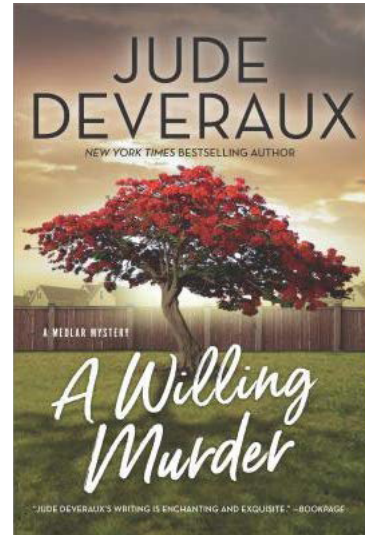
Annie Lakes has had the same recurring nightmare for years. Her heart pounding in her chest. A panicked voice, begging her to run faster. Her own bloodcurdling scream. But now Annie is starting to realize it's more than just a bad dream. She's starting to remember things about the night her cousin Jenny disappeared all those years ago. Things that make her believe her family was involved--and what they're hiding is much worse than she ever imagined. But she can't unravel this alone. She needs someone she can trust, someone like sexy Detective Mark Sutton. Christie launches her new Texas Justice series on a high note, making this thrilling novel of romantic suspense a must for fans of Sandra Brown, Allison Brennan, and Nora Roberts.

Dare, Tessa. [The Governess Game](#)
(Avon \$7.99)

When Alexandra Mountbatten, the governess he has hired to turn his wild, orphaned wards into proper young ladies, tries to reform him, infamous libertine Chase Reynaud decides to make her pay by teaching her a lesson in pleasure. No one is quite as good at choreographing the delicate dance of seduction quite like RITA award-winning dare, and her latest sublimely fun Regency historical is a perfect example of Dare's flair for combining scintillating wit and sophisticated sensuality.

Deveraux, Jude. [A Willing Murder](#)
(MIRA \$26.99)

After making it big as a best-selling author of romance novels, Sara Medlar decides to retire and moves back home to Lachlan, Florida with the intention of remodeling a historical mansion she had admired as a child growing up there. Of course, Sara will need some help with the restoration, so she hires Jackson Wyatt, the grandson of an old family friend, to help out. When Sara's niece Kate needs a place to stay after accepting a new job in Lachlan, Sara is more than happy to have her as another houseguest along with Jackson. Kate thinks Jackson is going out of his way to get on her nerves, and Jackson is equally convinced that Kate is doing the same thing to him. However, all this squabbling takes a back seat to investigative work when two skeletons are uncovered after being buried beneath a poinciana tree in Sara's yard. *New York Times* best-selling romance writer Deveraux has often added a dollop of suspense and intrigue into the plots of her previous novels, but her publisher is billing this as Deveraux's first true "mystery." Reviews, other than *PW* which found the end result "overwrought," for Deveraux's foray into mystery fiction, and reportedly the start of a new series, have generally been quite positive with *Kirkus* saying



"Fans of Deveraux and the cozy mystery genre will find common ground in this twisted tale of forgotten graves, small-town grudges, and new friends."

Estep, Jennifer. [Kill the Queen](#)
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

In a realm where one's magical power determines one's worth, Lady Everleigh's lack of obvious ability relegates her to the shadows of the royal court of Bellona, a kingdom steeped in gladiator tradition. Seventeenth in line for the throne, Evie is nothing more than a ceremonial fixture, overlooked and

mostly forgotten. However, when her cousin Vasil-ia, the crown princess, assassinates her mother the queen and takes the throne by force, Evie is also attacked. Luckily for Evie, her secret immunity to magic helps her escape the massacre.

Forced into hiding to survive, she falls in with a gladiator troupe. There Evie begins her training as a gladiator with the intention of one day killing the new queen to avenge her mother's death. Estep, author of the best-selling *Elemental Assassin* series, launches a new fantasy series that is being billed as *Game of Thrones* meets *Gladiator*.

Gower, Imogen Hermes. [The Mermaid and Mrs. Hancock](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)

On September evening in 1785, Jonah Hancock, a prosperous merchant with a fleet of ships, finds his quiet life upended when he unexpectedly opens the door to find one of his ship captains waiting to inform him that he has exchanged the ship he captained for something even better: a mermaid. At first Jonah is convinced the mermaid – a dead, brown, wizened creature with a torso that ends in tail, is the equivalent of a handful of magic beans. However, once the residents of London hear about Jonah's new possession, a steady stream of curious visitors beats a path to his door, Jonah's new fame provides him with an entrée into high society, where Jonah makes the acquaintance of coquettish Angelica Neal, the most desirable woman he has ever laid eyes on—and a shrewd courtesan of great accomplishment. This meeting sparks a perilous liaison that steers both their lives onto a dangerous new course as they come to realize that priceless things often come at the greatest cost. This debut by British author Gower, is generating a ton of buzz as well as being shortlisted for the Baileys Women's Prize for Fiction. Baily was inspired to write her dazzling historical novel by her experiences working as a gallery assistant in the British Museum in London. To pass the time while standing around, Gower liked to make up stories about some of the objects in the museum, and one of those objects just happened to be an 18th century "mermaid" from Japan, constructed from the mummified corpse of a monkey and a fish. Starred reviews for the novel abound including this snippet from *LJ*, which said "brilliantly written and redolent with evocative historical detail, this debut novel is as much a portrait of Georgian London as it is of the characters inhabiting it."

Guillory, Jasmine. [The Proposal](#) (Penguin \$15)

When freelance writer Nikole Paterson goes to a Dodgers game with her actor boyfriend, his man bun, and his bros, the last thing she expects is a scoreboard proposal. Saying no isn't the hard part—they've only been dating for five months, and he can't even spell her name correctly. The hard part is having to face a stadium full of disappointed fans. At the game with his sister, Carlos Ibarra comes to Nik's rescue and rushes her away from a camera crew. He's even there for her when the video goes viral and Nik's social media blows up—in a bad way. Nik knows that in the wilds of LA, a handsome doctor like Carlos can't be looking for anything serious, so she embarks on an epic rebound with him, filled with food, fun, and fantastic sex. But when their glorified hookups start breaking the rules, one of them has to be smart enough to put on the brakes.

Hayes-McCoy, Felicity. [Summer at the Garden Café](#) (HarperCollins \$26.99)

The Garden Café, next to Lissbeg library, is a place where plans are formed and secrets shared, and where, even in high tourist season, people are never too busy to stop for a sandwich and a cup of tea. But twenty-one-year-old Jazz—daughter of the town's librarian Hanna Casey—has a secret she can't share. Still recovering from a car accident, and reeling from her father's disclosures about his long-time affair, she's taken a job at The Old Forge guesthouse, and begun to develop feelings for a man who's strictly off-limits. Meanwhile, involved in her own new affair with architect Brian Morton, Hanna is unaware of the turmoil in Jazz's life—until her manipulative ex-husband, Malcom, reappears trying to mend his relationship with their daughter. Rebuffed at every turn, Malcolm must return to London, but his mother, Louisa, is on the case. Unbeknown to the rest of the family, she hatches a plan, finding an unlikely ally in Hanna's mother, the opinionated Mary Casey. This is the second in



Hayes-McCoye's Finfarran Peninsula series, the first of which *The Library at the Edge of the World* was a big success with Poisoned Pen readers. The leisurely pace and heartwarming small-town setting of the book are just two of its literary charms. If you miss the novels of Maeve Binchy or Rosamunde Pilcher this will be just your cup of literary tea.

Jenkins, Beverly. [Second Time Sweeter](#)
(HarperCollins \$14.99)

Malachi "Mal" July has run into trouble in the past. With a reputation as a player, he's now a recovering alcoholic and has made progress in redeeming himself in the eyes of his family and the citizens of Henry Adams, Kansas. He's not only turned his diner into a profitable business, but also mentors the town's foster kids. And he's even staying true to one woman—Bernadine Brown. But all it takes is a moment of pride to blind Mal to his blessings—a moment that makes him betray his friends and family, and lose Bernadine's trust and love. Will he ever be able to win her forgiveness?

Kelly, Sofie. [The Cats Came Back](#)
(Berkley \$24)

When a close friend—and look-alike of a popular cabaret singer set to perform at the Mayville Heights musical festival—is murdered, small-town librarian Kathleen Paulson and her magical cats Hercules and Owens must sniff out the truth in this case of possible mistaken identity. Fans of cozy mysteries who don't mind a bit of magic in their stories will want to consider Kelly's charming series. PW's review captured the appeal of these books quite nicely when it said "Kelly succeeds in making the adorable Owen and Hercules surprisingly believable, even to readers who aren't cat people."

Lauren, Chrstina. [Josh and Hazel's Guide to Not Dating](#)
(Gallery \$16)

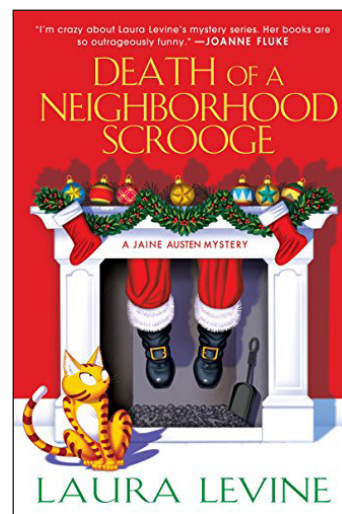
Hazel Camille Bradford knows she's a lot to take—and frankly, most men aren't up to the challenge. If her army of pets and thrill for the absurd don't send them running, her lack of filter means she'll say exactly the wrong thing in a delicate moment. Their loss. She's a good soul in search of honest fun. Josh Im has known Hazel since college, where her zany playfulness proved completely incompatible with his mellow restraint. From the first night they met—

when she gracelessly threw up on his shoes—to when she sent him an unintelligible email while in a post-surgical haze, Josh has always thought of Hazel more as a spectacle than a peer. But now, ten years later, after a cheating girlfriend has turned his life upside down, going out with Hazel is a breath of fresh air. Funny, sexy, and surprisingly sweet. That neatly sums up Lauren's delightful contemporary romances.

Levine, Laura. [Death of a Neighborhood Scrooge](#)
(Kensington \$26)

When her best friend Lance offers freelance writer Jaine (her mother loved literature but could never spell correctly) Austen the chance to stay with him while he housesits at a luxurious Bel Air mansion over the holidays, Jaine can't believe her good luck. However, that luck seems to be running out for Jaine when she discovers who the new neighbors are.

Scotty Parker is a former child star who once played Tiny Tim, but now all he is a grownup Scrooge. Everyone, including his current wife, his ex-wife, his fellow neighbors, and even his maid, can't stand Scotty. Jaine quickly understands why when Scotty coerces her into helping him edit the screenplay (*The Return of Tiny Tim: Vengeance Is Mine!*) he has been working on for years. So, of course, the only question Jaine really has when Scotty is found bludgeoned to death by a chocolate Yule log is: who wouldn't have wanted to murder him? Need a few laughs this holiday season? Levine's latest chuckle-rich cozy is just the ticket.



McKinlay, Jenn. [Hitting the Books](#)
(Penguin \$25)

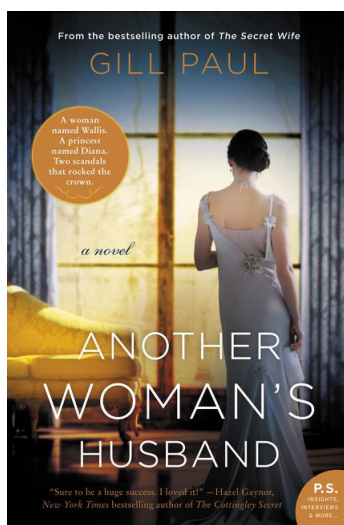
Dragged into a hit-and-run investigation after a stack of library materials is found at the scene, library director Lindsey Norris must piece together the clues to crack the case—especially once someone is murdered. How McKinlay can juggle several different cozy mystery series and still keep each book fresh and fun, really is a mystery, but she manages to do exactly this and more with the 9th sterling addition to her Library Lovers series.

Nixon, Rosie. [The Stylist](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Amber Green loves working at Smith's, London's ultra-exclusive boutique frequented by everyone who's anyone, including Mona Armstrong, *the* stylist to the stars. She is fierce, demanding, and can make or break a career with a snap of her manicured nails. When Mona's latest assistant walks out and with awards season arriving faster than you can say "Rodeo Drive", Amber finds herself agreeing to work for one of the most infamous—and volatile—women in Hollywood. British author Nixon spent a good chunk of her career working for women's magazines like *Look!* (think of it as the U.K. equivalent of *US* magazine) digging up the gossip on celebrities and what they wore. So, is it really surprising that her debut novel would be set in the same glamorous world? The good news is that *The Stylist* is a ton of fun for anyone who loved novels like *The Devil Wears Prada* or anyone who consumes *People* magazine cover to cover.

Paul, Gill. [Another Woman's Husband](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

British author Paul does the dual timeline thing that has become so popular of late in publishing by setting her latest book both in 1997 and in the 1910s-1940s. In the 1997 thread, Rachel and her fiancé Alex are in a cab in Paris when traffic unexpected comes to a complete stop when a car crashes in a tunnel ahead of them. Alex gets out and discovers that the car contains a badly injured Princess Diana. By the wreckage, Alex finds a heart pendant with an engraved letter "J" and Roman numerals XVII and gives it to Rachel to hold. Haunted by the crash and Diana's subsequent death, Rachel is intrigued when she discovers that Di had visited the last home of Wallis, the Duchess of Windsor, only hours before the accident. In 1911, a teenaged Mary Kirk meets Wallis Warfield at summer camp. The two strike up a fast friendship even though Mary's family isn't thrilled with her new best



friend. Over the years, Mary continues to stand by Wallis, whose scandalous behavior has caused her to become the subject of many a rumor. Especially, Wallis's new relationship with the Prince of Wales. However, when Wallis begins to question Mary's loyalty to her, their friendship will be put to the ultimate test. I was utterly spellbound by this fascinating book that explores the link between two women – Princess Diana and Wallis Warfield Simpson - who not only shared a love for fashion as well as bad luck when it came to picking romantic consorts, but who also threatened the stability of the British monarchy. I was pleased to see that even though Paul does provide a sympathetic window into the life of Wallis Warfield Simpson, she didn't sugarcoat Wallis's true character, which included her willingness to flirt with Nazis.

Pike, Signa. [The Lost Queen](#)
(Touchstone \$27.99)

The protagonist of Pike's compelling debut historical novel is Languoreth, a forgotten queen of six-century Scotland and twin sister of the man who inspired the legend of Merlin. In a land of mountains and mist, tradition and superstition, Languoreth and her brother Lailoken are raised in the Old Way of their ancestors. But in Scotland, a new religion is rising, one that brings disruption, bloodshed, and riot. And even as her family faces the burgeoning forces of Christianity, the Anglo-Saxons, bent on colonization, are encroaching from the east. When conflict brings the hero Emrys Pendragon to her father's door, Languoreth finds love with one of his warriors. Her deep connection to Maelgwn is forged by enchantment, but she is promised in marriage to Rhydderch, son of a Christian king. As Languoreth is catapulted into a world of violence and political intrigue, she must learn to adapt. Together with her brother—a warrior and druid known to history as Myrddin—Languoreth must assume her duty to fight for the preservation of the Old Way and the survival of her kingdom, or risk the loss of them both forever. Epic, sweeping, romantic, enthralling, these are just some of the words used to describe *The Lost Queen*, which has also been compared to other historical novels such as *The Mists of Avalon*, *The Other Boleyn Girl* and *The Clan of the Cave Bear*.

Serle, Rebecca. [The Dinner List](#)

(Flatiron Books \$27.99)

It is a question that is not only fun to ponder, but also quite revealing depending on your answer. Who would you invite – living or dead – to a dinner party? In Serle's new captivating novel, when Sabrina arrives at her thirtieth birthday dinner she finds at the table not just her best friend, but also three significant people from her past, and well, Audrey Hepburn. As the appetizers are served, wine poured, and dinner table conversation begins, it becomes clear that there's a reason these six people have been gathered together. *Kirkus* called this refreshingly different and charmingly quirky novel "a bittersweet tale of love, loss, and living with the memories."

Turton, Stuart. [The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle](#)

(Sourcebooks \$25.99)

When Aiden Bishop wakes up in the forest surrounding Blackheath estate, he is understandably frightened and confused. First of all, Aiden has no idea how he got there. Secondly, Aiden seems concerned about someone named Anna, even though he has no idea whom that be. Thirdly the sounds Aiden hears of a woman running through the forest are cut short by a gunshot. Fourthly, Aiden doesn't seem to recognize himself. When Aiden finally stumbles out of the forest and reaches the Blackheath mansion, he learns that there are certain "rules" to Blackheath. Those rules are that Evelyn Hardcastle will be murdered at 11:00 p.m. There are eight days, and eight witnesses, whose bodies Aiden will inhabit one at a time. Aiden will only be allowed to escape from Blackheath by detecting the identity of the murderer. The author of this inventive debut describes it as "an Agatha Christie mystery in a *Groundhog Day* Loop with a bit of *Quantum Leap* to it," and I think that perfectly describes the appeal of the book. There has been a good deal of preliminary buzz about *The 7 1/2 Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* even before it was published. However, the charms of this book may not appeal to everyone. Barbara thought it was a bore, but I found it to be delightfully different and a lot of fun.

Weaver, Ashley. [An Act of Villainy](#)

(St. Martin's \$27.99)

Walking through London's West End after a night at the theater, Amory Ames and her husband Milo run into wealthy investor and former actor Gerard Hollo-

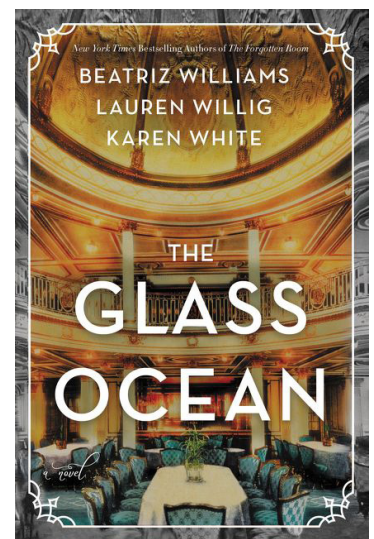
way. Holloway and his wife Georgina are old friends of theirs, and when Holloway invites them to the dress rehearsal of a new play he is directing, Amory readily accepts. However, Amory is shocked to learn that Holloway has cast his mistress, actress Flora Bell, in the lead role. Furthermore, the casual invitation is not what it seems—he admits to Amory and Milo that Flora has been receiving threatening letters, and he needs their help in finding the mysterious sender. Despite Amory's conflicting feelings—not only does she feel loyalty to Georgina, but the disintegration of the Holloways' perfect marriage seems to bode ill for her own sometimes delicate relationship—her curiosity gets the better of her, and she begins to make inquiries. Weaver won a well-deserved Edgar for title, the first in her Ames historical series. *An Act of Villainy*, the fifth in the series, is equally stellar. Fans of Ngaio Marsh's Golden Age theatrical detective stories as well as anyone who enjoys a well-crafted historical mystery like those turned out by Nicola Upson, will find this series to be a tasty literary treat.

Williams, Beatriz with Lauren Willig and Karen

White. [The Glass Ocean](#). (HarperCollins \$26.99)

The lives of three women across a century are linked to the doomed passenger liner, RMS Lusitania in this stunning novel. After one hit book more than a decade ago, author Sarah Blake is struggling to find an idea that will put her back on the best-seller lists. Desperate for a scrap of inspiration, Sarah breaks the one promise she made to her Alzheimer's stricken mother, and opens the old chest that belonged to her great-grandfather, who died while serving on the RMS *Lusitania* when it was struck by a German U-Boat in 1915.

What Sarah discovers within the chest sends her to England to search through the family archives of a recently disgraced Member of Parliament. Meanwhile back in 1915, Southern belle Caroline Telfair Hochstetter's marriage is in crisis. Her formerly attentive industrialist husband, Gilbert, has become remote, pre-occupied with business . . . and



something else that she can't quite put a finger on. She's hoping a trip to London in *Lusitania's* lavish first-class accommodations will help them reconnect—but she can't ignore the spark she feels for her old friend, Robert Langford, who turns out to be on the same voyage. Tessa Fairweather is also traveling on the *Lusitania* – but in second class – as she returns home to Devon. Or at least, that's her story. Tessa has never left the United States and her English accent is a hasty fake. She's really Tennessee Schaff, the daughter of a roving con man, and she can steal and forge just about anything. But she's had enough. Her partner has promised that if they can pull off this one last heist aboard the *Lusitania*, they'll finally leave the game behind. Tess desperately wants to believe that, but Tess has the uneasy feeling there's something about this job that isn't as it seems. Williams, Willig, and White first teamed up when they co-wrote their novel *The Forgotten Room*. Now they are back with another mesmerizing tale the deftly moves back and forth between the present day and early twentieth century. The Poisoned Pen still has a limited number of copies signed by all three co-authors while supplies last.

YA Fiction

Dabos, Christelle. [A Winter's Promise](#)
(Europa Editions \$19.95)

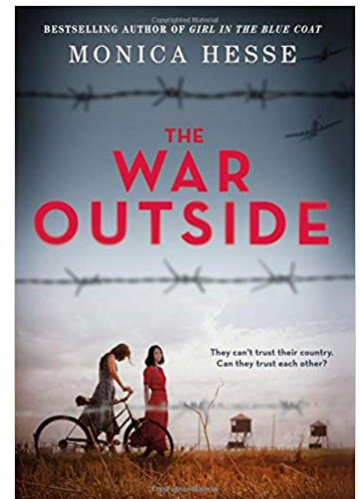
Plain-spoken, headstrong Ophelia cares little about appearances. Her ability to read the past of objects is unmatched in all of Anima and, what's more, she possesses the ability to travel through mirrors, a skill passed down to her from previous generations. Her idyllic life is disrupted, however, when she is promised in marriage to Thorn, a taciturn and influential member of a distant clan. Ophelia must leave all she knows behind and follow her fiancé to Citaceleste, the capital of a cold, icy ark known as the Pole, where danger lurks around every corner and nobody can be trusted. There, in the presence of her inscrutable future husband, Ophelia slowly realizes that she is a pawn in a political game that will have far-reaching ramifications not only for her but for her entire world.

Goodlett, Ellen. [Rule](#)
(Little Brown \$17.99)

The king is dying, his heir has just been murdered, and rebellion brews in the east. But the kingdom of Kolonya and the outer Reaches has one last option before it descends into leaderless chaos. Or rather, three unexpected options. The King's three illegitimate daughters – Zofi, Akeylah, and Ren – must now compete for the chance to rule. But someone in Kolonya knows their secrets, and that someone will stop at nothing to keep the sisters from their destiny... to rule.

Hesse, Monica. [The War Outside](#)
(Little Brown \$17.99)

Edgar award-winning Hesse is back with another intensely compelling tale of conviction, friendship, and betrayal set against the backdrop of World War II. Margot and Haruko both thought of themselves and their families as Americans. But in 1944, the two teenage girls discover that because of where their parents were born – Germany and Japan – they are now considered to not only be less than regular citizens of the United States but somehow a threat to national security. The teens meet when their families are relocated to Texas to Crystal City, a “family interment camp” for those accused of colluding with the enemy. With everything else in their lives now falling to pieces, the teens find some measure of solace in their secret friendship. But given the fact of how they are being treated and where they now must live, can Margot and Haruko really trust anyone – even each other?



Ness, Patrick. [And the Ocean Was Our Sky](#)
(HarperCollins \$19.99)

What would *Moby Dick* be like written from the perspective of a whale? That is the brilliantly imaginative premise behind Ness's novel. With harpoons strapped to their backs, the proud whales of Bathsheba's pod live for the hunt, fighting in the ongoing war against the world of men. When they attack a

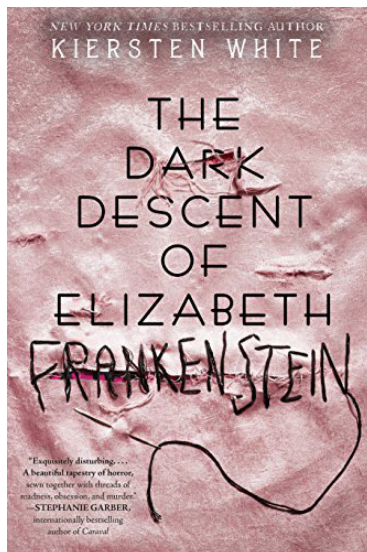
ship bobbing on the surface of the Abyss, they expect to find easy prey. Instead, they find the trail of a myth, a monster, perhaps the devil himself. As their relentless Captain leads the chase, they embark on a final, vengeful hunt, one that will forever change the worlds of both whales and men.

Schaeffer, Rebecca. [Not Even Bones](#) (HMH \$17.99)

Nita doesn't murder supernatural beings and sell their body parts on the internet—her mother does that. Nita just dissects the bodies after they've been "acquired." Until her mom brings home a live specimen and Nita decides she wants out; dissecting a scared teenage boy is a step too far. But when she decides to save her mother's victim, she ends up sold in his place—because Nita herself isn't exactly "human." She has the ability to alter her biology, a talent that is priceless on the black market. Now on the other side of the bars, if she wants to escape, Nita must ask herself if she's willing to become the worst kind of monster.

White, Kiersten. [The Dark Descent of Elizabeth Frankenstein](#) (Random House \$18.99)

Elizabeth Lavenza hasn't had a proper meal in weeks. Her thin arms are covered with bruises from her "caregiver," and she is on the verge of being thrown into the streets . . . until she is brought to the home of Victor Frankenstein, an unsmiling, solitary boy who has everything--except a friend. Victor is her escape from misery. Elizabeth does everything she can to make herself indispensable--and it works. She is taken in by the Frankenstein family and rewarded with a warm bed, delicious food, and dresses of the finest silk. Soon she and Victor are inseparable. But her new life comes at a price. As the years pass, Elizabeth's survival depends on managing Victor's dangerous temper and entertaining his every whim, no matter how depraved. Behind her blue eyes and sweet smile



lies the calculating heart of a girl determined to stay alive no matter the cost . . . as the world she knows is consumed by darkness.

Nonfiction

Brown, Craig. [Ninety-Nine Glimpses of Princess Margaret](#) (FSG \$27.99)

She made John Lennon blush and Marlon Brando tongue-tied. She iced out Princess Diana and humiliated Elizabeth Taylor. Andy Warhol photographed her. Jack Nicholson offered her cocaine. Gore Vidal revered her. Francis Bacon heckled her. Peter Sellers was madly in love with her. For Pablo Picasso, she was the object of sexual fantasy. Princess Margaret aroused passion and indignation in equal measures. To her friends, she was witty and regal. To her enemies, she was rude and demanding. In her 1950s heyday, she was seen as one of the most glamorous and desirable women in the world. By the time of her death in 2002, she had come to personify disappointment. One friend said he had never known an unhappier woman. The tale of Princess Margaret is Cinderella in reverse: hope dashed, happiness mislaid, life mishandled.

Such an enigmatic and divisive figure demands a reckoning that is far from the usual fare. Combining interviews, parodies, dreams, parallel lives, diaries, announcements, lists, catalogues, and essays, Craig Brown's *Ninety-Nine Glimpses of Princess Margaret* is a kaleidoscopic experiment in biography and a witty meditation on fame and art, snobbery and deference, bohemia and high society.

Bunker, Nick. [Young Benjamin Franklin](#) (Knopf \$30)

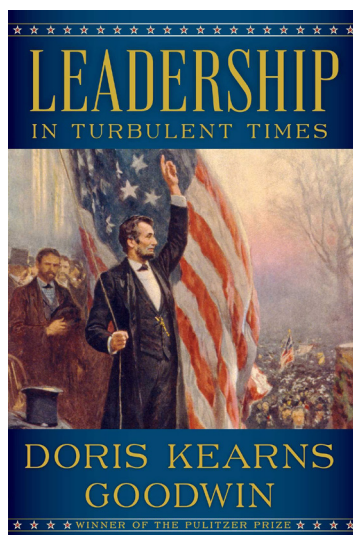
We all think we know everything there is to know about Benjamin Franklin. Started out as printer in Philadelphia. Flew that kite and "discovered" electricity. Helped write the U.S. Constitution. Went to France as an ambassador for the U.S. and became all the rage with the ladies. However, Pulitzer Prize finalist Nick Bunker has chosen to focus on Franklin's early years up to the age of forty-one, when he made that shocking discovery with a kite. In doing so, Bunker gives readers a fascinating glimpse of the real man -brilliant but flawed – behind the legend.

Eisen, Norman. [The Last Palace](#)
(Crown \$27.99)

When Norman Eisen moved into the US ambassador's residence in Prague, returning to the land his mother had fled after the Holocaust, he was startled to discover swastikas hidden beneath the furniture in his new home. These symbols of Nazi Germany were remnants of the residence's forgotten history, and evidence that we never live far from the past. From that discovery unspooled the twisting, captivating tale of four of the remarkable people who had called this palace home. Their story is Europe's, and *The Last Palace* chronicles the upheavals that transformed the continent over the past century. There was the optimistic Jewish financial baron, Otto Petschek, who built the palace after World War I as a statement of his faith in democracy, only to have that faith shattered; Rudolf Toussaint, the cultured, compromised German general who occupied the palace during World War II, ultimately putting his life at risk to save the house and Prague itself from destruction; Laurence Steinhardt, the first postwar US ambassador whose quixotic struggle to keep the palace out of Communist hands was paired with his pitched efforts to rescue the country from Soviet domination; and Shirley Temple Black, an eyewitness to the crushing of the 1968 Prague Spring by Soviet tanks, who determined to return to Prague and help end totalitarianism—and did just that as US ambassador in 1989.

Goodwin, Doris Kearns. [Leadership in Turbulent Times](#) (Simon and Schuster \$30)

In her latest book, Pulitzer Prize winning Kearns takes a look at what good leadership entails using the prism of four different American presidents. Kearns has already written separate books about Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Lyndon B. Johnson, but now she draws upon all the scholarship to tell the story of how these four men all collided with dramatic reversals that disrupted their lives and threatened to shatter forever their ambitions. Nonetheless,



they all emerged fitted to confront the contours and dilemmas of their times. Although widely diverse in terms of their backgrounds, abilities, and temperaments, these men shared a fierce ambition and a deep-seated resilience that enabled them to surmount uncommon hardships. At their best, all four were guided by a sense of moral purpose. At moments of great challenge, they were able to summon their talents to enlarge the opportunities and lives of others. Inspiring and hopeful history for our troubled political times.

MacIntyre, Ben. [The Spy and the Traitor](#)
(Crown \$27.99)

MacIntyre, the author of several intriguing thrillers, now turns to nonfiction for the story of Oleg Gordievsky, who became a double agent for the British government in the 1970s. Despite being the son of two KGB agents, Gordievsky quickly grew disillusioned with communism. Sent to London in 1968 to spy for the Russians, Gordievsky secretly began working for MI6, turning over vast amounts of important intel to the British government. Despite MI6's best efforts to protect his identity, Gordievsky's double identity was eventually – and ironically – sniffed out by CIA agent Aldrich Ames. Fans of John Le Carre and real-life spy stories will want to check this book out.

Mazzeo, Tilar J. [Eliza Hamilton](#)
(Gallery \$27)

Many people first heard about Eliza Hamilton while attending the record-breaking Broadway musical featuring her husband Alexander Hamilton. But the musical – phenomenal as it is in its own right – really doesn't give you the full picture of this multifaceted lady. In addition to being Alexander's "rock," Eliza was a strong woman in her own right, a loving sister, a caring mother, and in her later years a generous philanthropist. Featuring Mazzeo's "impeccable research and crafting" (*Library Journal*), and perfect for fans of the richly detailed historical books by Ron Chernow and Erik Larson, *Eliza Hamilton* is the captivating account of the woman behind the famous man.

PBS. [The Book of Books](#)
(Running Press \$29.99)

Illustrated with original-manuscript and first-edition covers, this companion to the PBS 2018 summer series reveals America's 100 best-loved novels, provides

fascinating profiles of each author on the list as well as the books' social relevance, media adaptations, rejections, and bannings. Not only is this reference work fun to browse through, it just may give you a few more titles to add to your own reading list.

