

Midmonth BookNotes

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Balasubramanyam, Rajeev. [Professor Chandra Follows His Bliss](#) (Random \$27)

In the moments after being hit by a bicycle, Professor Chandra, a famous British economist and divorced father of three, doesn't see his life flash before his eyes but his life's work. He's just narrowly missed the Nobel Prize (again), and even though he knows he should get straight back to his pie charts, his doctor has other ideas. The doctor's prescription for Professor Chandra is to follow his bliss. What begins as a way to appease his doctor soon turns into the journey of the lifetime as Professor Chandra unexpectedly reconnects with family and friends all along the way discovering the true meaning of bliss. Balasubramanyam, whose credits include winning the Betty Trask Prize and being long-listed for the Guardian Fiction Prize, gifts readers with an uplifting and empowering novel that will definitely charm fans of books such as *A Man Called Ove*.

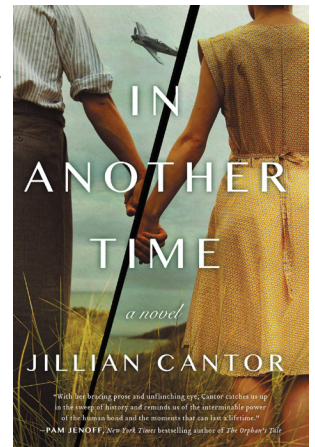
Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries Delivers the Goods](#) (Berkley \$16)

Mrs. Jeffries and company once again find themselves helping out Inspector Witherspoon, when he is assigned to investigation the murder of Stephen Bremmer, who is poisoned while attending the Lighterman's Ball and Dinner at the Wrexley Hotel. Since Bremmer was a boor at best and a complete cad at worst, there are plenty of suspects for the unofficial detectives to pursue. Brightwell's long-running series, of which this is number 37, continues to deliver satisfying results for historical mystery fans while at the same time providing an intriguing glimpse of life upstairs and downstairs during the Victorian era.

Cantor, Jillian. [In Another Time](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

When violinist Hanna Ginsberg wakes up in a field outside Berlin in 1946, she is shocked to discover

that she can't remember anything that happened to her since 1936. The last memory Hanna has is of being with her friend and lover Max Beissinger in his bookshop in Berlin, but now Max seems to have vanished off the face of the earth. As Hanna tries to piece together the fragments of her past, she moves to London and begins pursuing a career as a violinist, but she never forgets the one man she truly loved and can never forget. Arizona author Cantor skillfully alternates viewpoints and time frames in her latest compelling historical novel with Max writing about the couple's life in Berlin during the early 1930s as Hitler begins his rise to power while Hannah provides the narration for the years after World War II as she struggles to remember what happened. Whether you admire the plot twist Cantor devises that provides the *raison d'être* for Hanna's memory loss or find it somewhat contrived (let's just say it has to do with Albert Einstein and one of his theories) in no way diminishes the passion with which Cantor writes about the importance of books and music in our lives. This is a quietly powerful novel that will resonate with you long after you have turned the last page. The Poisoned Pen is fortunate to have a few copies signed by the author while supplies last.



Enoch, Suzanne. [It's Getting Scot in Here](#) (Saint Martin's \$7.99)

In order to keep the family estate, Niall MacTaggart's eldest brother must marry, and their mother has selected London socialite Amelia-Rose Baxter as his future bride. Unfortunately, Amelia-Rose insists that she will only wed a man, who not only appreciates her for her body but her sharp mind as well. And if

that isn't enough, Amelia-Rose really wants to marry a man, who will treat her like an equal, and who is willing to spend as much time in London as he does in the Scottish highlands. Given all of Amelia-Rose's marital stipulations, Niall's brother is more than happy to give wedding her a pass, but Niall is positive he can find a way to soften Amelia-Rose's bold personality. Spending so much time with Amelia-Rose does have one unintended consequence for Niall, though, when he discovers he is the MacTaggart brother who is falling in love with her!

Giordano, Mario. [*Aunt Poldi and the Vineyards of Etna*](#) (HMH \$26)

"Like love and public transportation, criminology subsists on compromises. And although Poldi had never in her life had any truck with compromises, she was no stranger to the power of intuition". This quote from the second mystery featuring the divine Auntie Poldi gives you an idea of the flavor of the author's writing and the outlook of his protagonist, an earthy Bavarian widow transplanted to Sicily. Giordano introduced Auntie Poldi in last year's *Auntie Poldi and the Sicilian Lions*, which became an international best-seller (the books are originally written in German and now translated into English) for a good reason: they are tremendous fun. Raised in German, a widowed Auntie Poldi moves to Sicily ostensibly to slowly drink herself into the grave, but instead she discovers a new lust for life and a talent for detection. In *Auntie Poldi and the Vineyards of Etna*, Poldi, fresh off the success of her first case as an amateur sleuth, tackles the mysterious death of one of Sicily's most famous psychics, who is found dead in a vineyard on the slopes of Mount Etna as well trying to discover who is behind turning off her neighborhood's water supply as well as poisoning one of her neighbor's dogs. While juggling all these cases, Poldi also tries to juggle her on-again, off-again romance with sexy Chief Inspector Montana. Treat yourself to a memorable trip to Sicily with both of these zesty mysteries.

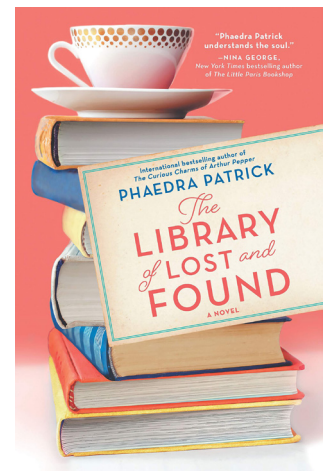
Novak, Brenda. [*Unforgettable You Signed*](#) (Mira \$7.99)

Jada Brooks couldn't have known how her life would change when she fell for bad boy Maddox Richardson back in high school. She couldn't have known his troubled brother would leave hers forever crippled. Or that she'd be forced to shun Maddox completely—only to discover she was carrying his child. Although

Maddox was devastated by the events that transpired that fateful night, losing Jada was the worst of it. He's back in Silver Springs, ready to make amends and provide the kind of youth outreach that once saved him. If he'd known Jada was in town, too, he would never have come. Novak excels at creating realistically flawed characters and her brand of compelling; emotionally intense contemporary romances are tailor made for readers who like their protagonists to have to really work for a happily-ever-after.

Patrick, Phaedra. [*The Library of Lost and Found*](#) (Park Row \$24.99)

Librarian Martha Storm has always found it easier to connect with books than people—though not for lack of trying. She keeps careful lists of how to help others in her superhero-themed notebook. And yet, sometimes it feels like she's invisible. All of that changes when a book of fairy tales arrives on her doorstep. Inside, Martha finds a dedication written to her by her best friend—her grandmother Zelda—who died under mysterious circumstances years earlier. When Martha discovers a clue within the book that her grandmother may still be alive, she becomes determined to discover the truth. Tired of the cold, contentious, and cranky world we all seem to be living in today? Curl up with a cup of tea and a copy of this nurturing and nourishing novel by the author of *The Curious Charms of Arthur Pepper*.



Perkins, S.C. [*Murder Once Removed*](#) (St. Martin's \$26.99)

While doing some genealogical research for Texas billionaire Gus Halloran, Lucy Lancaster discovers photographic proof that Gus's great great grandfather Seth Halloran's death in 1849 was no accident. Now Lucy not only finds herself smack dab in the middle of a cold-case investigation but also front and center in the middle of a current murder case when it turns out someone will do anything to ensure that past secrets stay buried. It is easy to see how Perkins won the Malice Domestic Best First Tradition Mystery Novel award for *Murder Once Removed*. Not only

does the author deliver a tightly plotted mystery that is peppered with plenty of fascinating details about genealogy and Texas history, Perkins' writing is spiked with an entertainingly dry sense of humor. Throw in a well-realized setting and an engaging cast of characters, and you have all the makings of terrific launch to Perkins' Ancestry Detective series.

Reid, Taylor Jenkins. [Daisy Jones and the Six](#) (Random \$27)

Sex, drugs, and rock 'n' roll provide the key ingredients in Reid's latest engaging novel. The daughter of a famous artist and a French model, Daisy Jones grows up in 1960s L.A. partaking of the seemingly never ending supply of recreational drugs available while crashing the clubs on Sunset Strip. The sex and drugs are thrilling, but it's the rock 'n' roll she loves most. By the time Daisy's twenty, her voice is getting noticed, and she has the kind of heedless beauty that makes people do crazy things. When a producer pairs up Daisy with Billy Dunne, the leader of The Six, a new band making waves, musical magic happens, and they go on to become one of the biggest bands of the 1970s. Reid uses the device of an oral history/celebrity memoir told in the voice of an unnamed narrator, whose identity is only revealed at the book's conclusion, to tell this stunning tale. *PW's* review, which is just one of the raves, ended with "The book's prose is propulsive, original, and often raw. Readers will accept and appreciate why and when the narrator's identity is finally revealed. Reid's gift for creating imperfect characters and taut plots courses throughout this addictive novel."

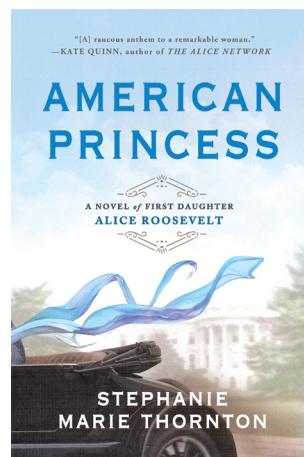
Shortall, Eithne. [Grace After Henry](#) (Putnam \$16)

When her fiancé, Henry Walsh, is killed in a freak biking accident, Grace feels like she's lost her own shadow. For five years, they'd been inseparable: five years of the most rollicking, soul-finding love Grace thought any two people could share. In his absence, Grace picks up the pieces of her life: She moves into the dream house they bought together, she returns to work as a chef, she watches TV with her nosy elderly neighbor, but through it all she's ever aware of the Henry-shaped hole in her life. Until his long-lost twin brother Andy knocks on her door. Andy is Henry, and yet he's not quite. Newly arrived in Dublin on his own search for answers, he makes Grace's loss feel both greater and smaller. Soon Grace isn't sure

if she's learning to let go or becoming desperate to hold on. This debut by an Irish writer walks the line between love and loss with the same sense of sure sense of finesse found in Jo Jo Moyes *Me Before You* and Cecilia Ahern's *P.S. I Love You*.

Thornton, Steph. [American Princess](#) (Berkley \$16)

Alice may be the president's daughter, but she's nobody's darling. As bold as her signature color Alice Blue, the gum-chewing, cigarette-smoking, poker-playing First Daughter discovers that the only way for a woman to stand out in Washington is to make waves--oceans of them. With the canny sophistication of the savviest politician on the Hill, Alice uses her celebrity to her advantage, testing the limits of her power and the seductive thrill of political entanglements. But Washington, DC is rife with heartaches and betrayals, and when Alice falls hard for a smooth-talking congressman it will take everything this rebel has to emerge triumphant and claim her place as an American icon. As Alice soldiers through the devastation of two world wars and brazens out a cutting feud with her famous Roosevelt cousins, it's no wonder everyone in the capital refers to her as the Other Washington Monument--and Alice intends to outlast them all. I became fascinated with Alice Roosevelt after discovering she is the one who said "If you can't say something good about someone, sit right here by me," and this marvelous debut brilliantly captures the complex and sometimes contradictory nature of Alice, who could be incredibly kind and incredibly cutting at the same time (and sometimes to the same person).



Trentham, Laura. [The Military Wife](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Ever since her husband, Noah Wilcox's death, nearly five years earlier, Harper Lee Wilcox is basically just marking time in her life living at home with her mother and her young son Ben. So, when Harper's best friend, Allison Teague needs help dealing with her husband, a former SEAL who served with Noah, and was injured while deployed and

has come home physically healed but fighting PTSD, Harper sees an opportunity to help not only Allison but herself. Upon arriving at Fort Bragg, Harper is inspired by a meeting with an on-base support group to come up with a business project that would help out military spouses. In her pursuit of her dream, Harper crosses paths with Bennett Caldwell, Noah's best friend and SEAL brother. A man who has a promise to keep, entangling their lives in ways neither of them can foresee. As her business grows so does an unexpected relationship with Bennett. Can Harper let go of her grief and build a future with Bennett? In this superbly written novel, Trentham deals with a number of serious topics such as PTSD and survivor's guilt in a very thoughtful and heartfelt way.

Winston, Lolly. [Me for You](#)
(Touchstone \$26)

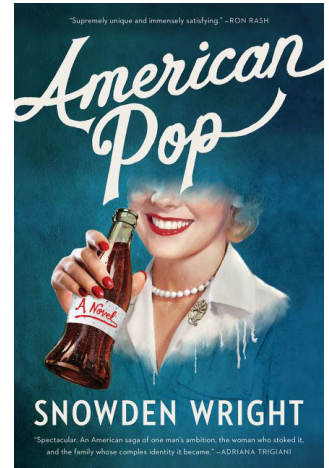
How soon is too soon to fall in love again? That is the premise behind the latest poignant novel by Winston, who knows a thing or two about dealing with grief as evidenced by her terrific debut novel *Good Grief*. The last thing Rudy expected was to wake up one Saturday morning, a widow at fifty-four years old. Now, ten months after the untimely death of his beloved wife, he's still not sure how to move on from the defining tragedy of his life—but his new job is helping. After being downsized from his finance position, Rudy turned to his first love: the piano. Some people might be embarrassed to work as the piano player at Nordstrom, but for Rudy, there's joy in bringing a little music into the world. And it doesn't hurt that Sasha, the Hungarian men's watch clerk who is finally divorcing her no-good husband, finds time to join him at the bench every now and then. Just when Rudy and Sasha's relationship begins to deepen, the police come to the store with an update about Rudy's wife's untimely death—a coworker has confessed to her murder—but Rudy's actions are suspicious enough to warrant a second look at him, too. With Sasha's husband suddenly reappearing, and Rudy's daughter confronting her own marital problems, suddenly life becomes more complicated than Rudy and Sasha could have imagined.

Wright, Snowden. [American Pop](#)
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

The child of immigrants, Houghton Forster has always wanted more—from his time as a young boy in Mississippi, working twelve-hour days at his father's

drugstore; to the moment he first laid eyes on his future wife, Annabelle Teague, a true Southern belle of aristocratic lineage; to his invention of the delicious fizzy drink that would transform him from tiller boy into the founder of an empire, the Panola Cola Company. Houghton and Annabelle raise their four children with the expectation they'll one day become world leaders. The burden of greatness falls early on eldest son Montgomery, a handsome and successful politician who has never recovered from the horrors and heartbreak of the Great War. His younger siblings

Ramsey and Lance, known as the "infernal twins," are rivals not only in wit and beauty, but in their utter carelessness with the lives and hearts of others. Their brother Harold, as gentle and caring as the twins can be cruel, is slowed by a mental disability—and later generations seem equally plagued by misfortune, forcing Houghton to seriously consider who should control the company after he's gone. Wright manages to blend a fizzy mix of fact and fiction into this entertaining, occasionally sprawling, family saga through the inspired use of real and imaginary citations and the intriguing idea that Panola Cola might really be a clever way of looking at another famous cola company with a secret ingredient recipe.



The Suspense Is Killing Me

Coben, Harlan. [Run Away](#)
(Grand Central \$29)

After discovering his drug-addicted daughter Paige, who he has not seen in six months, panhandling in Central Park, Wall Street financial advisor Simon Greene is determined to do whatever he must to pull her out of the dark world into which Paige has fallen. However, Paige is resistant to Simon's efforts to help, and Simon winds up getting into a fight with Paige's junkie boyfriend Aaron while Paige runs away. So, when Aaron suddenly turns up dead, the police are more than a little bit interested in Simon's whereabouts at the time of the murder. A roller-coaster plot jam-packed with enough twists and turns for three suspense novels means that once

you pick up Coben's latest, plan on blocking out your entire evening to finish it.

Downing, Samantha. [My Lovely Wife](#)
(Penguin \$26)

The couple that slays together stays together in this twisted debut from Downing. On the surface a 39 year-old tennis instructor and his real estate agent wife Millicent seem to have the quintessential perfect marriage right down to two teenage children and a nice home in the suburbs. However, what the rest of the neighborhood doesn't know is that this couple has a little game they like to play together to keep their marriage on course. First they pick a young woman. Then the husband initiates contact by posing as a deaf man. Once they have their target, they lure her away from her home, kill her, and dispose of the body. Everything is going like clockwork until the body of one of their victims turns up a year later. Suddenly, the husband begins to wonder if his wife is keeping a few secrets from him. This is getting a big push from the publisher – who bills it as *Dexter* meets *Mr. and Mrs. Smith* – and I can't deny that the story does suck you right in. However, for me there was absolutely no character in the story that was remotely likeable or relatable – even one of the teenage kids is a real brat. But if you read more for plot twists *a la* *Gone Girl*, this may fit the bill.

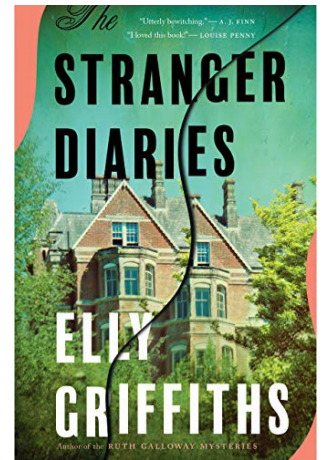
Goodman, Carol. [The Night Visitors](#)
(Morrow \$15.99)

In the middle of a snowstorm in the small town of Delphi, N.Y. Alice gets off a bus with ten-year-old Oren. Alice is fleeing Davis, Oren's father and Alice's lover, who has threatened to kill her and take his son back. Desperate to protect Oren, Alice accepts some help from social worker Mattie, who brings them to her own ramshackle house in the woods. What Alice doesn't know is that Oren reminds Mattie of her own little brother, whom she lost 30 years ago. Goodman won the Mary Higgins Clark award for *Widow's House*, and she definitely knows a thing or two about how to creep a reader out.

Griffiths, Elly. [The Stranger Diaries](#)
(HMH \$25)

Clare Cassidy is no stranger to murder. A high school English teacher specializing in the Gothic writer R. M. Holland, she teaches a course on it every year. But when one of Clare's colleagues and closest friends

is found dead, with a line from R. M. Holland's most famous story, "The Stranger," left by her body, Clare is horrified to see her life collide with the storylines of her favorite literature. To make matters worse, the police suspect the killer is someone Clare knows. Unsure whom to trust, she turns to her closest confidant, her diary, the only outlet she has for her darkest suspicions and fears about the case. Then one day she notices something odd. Writing that isn't hers, left on the page of an old diary: *Hallo Clare. You don't know me*. Clare becomes more certain than ever: "The Stranger" has come to terrifying life. But can the ending be rewritten in time? In this superbly written standalone, Griffiths, author of the Ruth Galloway and Magic Men mystery series, pays clever homage to both classic gothic novels like Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White* as well as spooky old British ghost stories (R.M. Holland in the novel surely must have been inspired by author M. R. James, whose ghost stories – including "Whistle and I'll Will Come to You" – will scare you silly). Between the alternating narrative voices and the eerie snippets from Holland's "The Stranger" sprinkled through the story, Griffiths will have you wondering if something wicked this way comes.



Savage, Vanessa. [The Woman in the Dark](#)
(Grand Central \$27)

After her mother's death, Sarah spirals into depression and overdoses on sleeping pills. Sarah claims it was an accident, but her husband Patrick and their two teenage children aren't convinced. Patrick is positive that a fresh start in the form of buying his old family home, which has just come up for sale, will be just the ticket to helping Sarah return to normal. Of course the reason they are getting such a great deal on the house is because fifteen years ago, a family was slaughtered within its walls. Patrick firmly believes that if they just slap a new coat of paint on the house and buy some new curtains, things will be just dandy. Then Sarah learns that the killer responsible for stabbing the family who died in her new home is now out on parole. Then there is the strange writing Sarah finds on the walls when she is trying to refurbish her family's new home, and the creepy

little gifts someone is leaving on the doorstep. Sarah can't shake the feeling that something just isn't right. Not with the house, not with the town, or even with her own, loving husband -- whose stories about his perfect childhood suddenly aren't adding up. Can Sarah uncover the secrets of the Murder House before another family is destroyed? Once you get past the idea that anyone would actually buy a house dubbed "Murder House," this is actually a lot of fun. Savage is aces at teasing out the suspense and generating a wonderfully nerve-wracking sense of suspense. Just don't start this right before bedtime!

Swanson, Peter. [Before She Knew Him](#) (HarperCollins \$26.99)

After a bit of a rocky patch, Henrietta "Hen" Mazur has finally found the right combination of drugs to control her bi-polar disorder, and she and her husband Lloyd have moved into a nice new home outside of Boston. While visiting their new neighbors Mira and Matt Dolamore, Hen notices a fencing trophy on the mantel in Matt's study. Upon closer observation, Hen is positive the trophy belonged to Dustin Miller, a college student found murdered two years ago. The funny thing is that Dustin attended the same high school where Matt currently teaches history. When Hen begins questioning Matt about the trophy, it suddenly disappears. Because Hen has a past history of obsessing about the Dustin Miller murder as well as accusing people of the crime who later proved to be innocent, everyone thinks she is crazy. Well, everyone except for Matt. Think of a Swanson as kind of a modern-day Patricia Highsmith.

Ward, Annie. [Beautiful Bad](#) (Park Row \$26.99)

Ward's unsettling novel of domestic suspense opens up with Maddie Wilson wondering if she should see a therapist before immediately shifting gears as the reader follows an officer from the Meadowlark, Kansas police force responding to a frantic, aborted 911 call at the home of Ian and Maddie Wilson. The first thing the officer discovers is a blood-splattered kitchen and a trail of crimson that leads to what becomes known as The Day of Killing. The story then picks up in the years and weeks before the event as the author introduces us to travel writer Maddie who meets Ian while she is visiting her best friend Jo in Eastern Europe. Now almost two decades later, married with a beautiful son, Charlie, Maddie and Ian are living the

perfect suburban life in Middle America. But when a camping accident leaves Maddie badly scarred, she begins attending writing therapy, where she gradually reveals her fears about Ian; her concerns for the safety of their young son; and the couple's tangled and tumultuous past with Jo. This suspense novel is getting lots of critical buzz including one review which had this to say "evocative descriptions and strong senses of time and place complement the intricate, intelligent plot, which shocks and chills while thoughtfully examining trauma's toll on people and their relationships." I was less enthralled with the story, in part because I found the constantly shifting narrative timeline kept pulling me out of the plot, but your reader mileage may vary greatly.

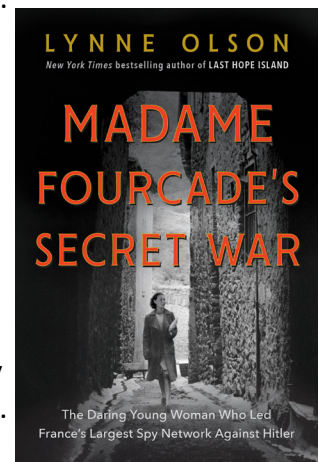
Nonfiction

Gillies, Isabel. [Cozy: The Art of Arranging Yourself in the World](#) (HarperCollins \$22.99)

Simple choices can make a hectic life or an uncomfortable situation just a little more comfortable—you just have to know what to do. Just as Marie Kondo offered a philosophy for how to tidy, Gillies offers a new way of occupying the spaces we live in. Starting with yourself, then broadening to your home, your community, and the world at large, *Cozy* will show you how to bring the truth of who you are into any situation, easy or challenging. As Gillies says, "Cozy isn't something that just exists. You have to make cozy happen." "To thy own self be true." This could very well be the mantra of Gillies' book, which aims to help people become more comfortable in the world and in their own skin.

Olson, Lynne. [Madame Fourcade's Secret War](#) (Random \$30)

The *New York Times* best-selling author of *Citizens of London* and *Last Hope Island* tells the true story of the woman who headed the largest spy network in occupied France during World War II and who was captured twice by the Nazis and managed to escape both times while keeping her network intact. In 1941



a thirty-one-year-old Frenchwoman, a young mother born to privilege and known for her beauty and glamour, became the leader of a vast intelligence organization—the only woman to serve as a *chef de résistance* during the war. Strong-willed, independent, and a lifelong rebel against her country's conservative, patriarchal society, Marie-Madeleine Fourcade was temperamentally made for the job. Her group's name was Alliance, but the Gestapo dubbed it Noah's Ark because its agents used the names of animals as their aliases. The name Marie-Madeleine chose for herself was Hedgehog: a tough little animal, unthreatening in appearance, that, as a colleague of hers put it, "even a lion would hesitate to bite." A dramatic and riveting account of an amazing woman, whose bravery and sacrifices helped the Allies win World War II.

O'Meara, Mallory. [The Lady from the Black Lagoon](#) (Hanover Square \$26.99)

As a teenager, Mallory O'Meara was thrilled to discover that one of her favorite movies, *Creature from the Black Lagoon*, featured a monster designed by a woman, Milicent Patrick. But for someone who should have been hailed as a pioneer in the genre, there was little information available. For, as O'Meara soon discovered, Patrick's contribution had been claimed by a jealous male colleague, her career had been cut short and she soon after had disappeared from film history. No one even knew if she was still alive. As a young woman working in the horror film industry, O'Meara set out to right the wrong, and in the process discovered the full, fascinating story of an ambitious, artistic woman ahead of her time.

Riskin, Victoria. [Fay Wray and Robert Riskin](#) (Pantheon \$30)

Best known as the woman who won King Kong's heart, Fay Wray actually starred in more than 120 pictures opposite Hollywood's biggest stars including Spencer Tracy, Gary Cooper, and Clark Gable. She was directed by the masters of the age, from Frank Capra to Vincente Minnelli. Robert Riskin was an Academy Award-winning writer (nominated for five), producer, ten-year-long collaborator with Frank Capra on such pictures as *American Madness*, *It Happened One Night*, *Mr. Deeds Goes to Town*, *Lost Horizon*, and *Meet John Doe*, and hailed by many, among them F. Scott Fitzgerald, as "among the best screenwriters in the business." Now Wray and Riskin's daughter details their lives before and after their Hollywood fairytale marriage.

Stratton, W. K. [The Wild Bunch](#) (Bloomsbury \$28)

To celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the making of Sam Peckinpah's classic western, Stratton chronicles the story of a movie about a gang of outlaws who are one big steal from retirement. When their attempted train robbery goes awry, the gang flees to Mexico and falls in with a brutal general of the Mexican Revolution, who offers them the job of a lifetime. Conceived by a stuntman, directed by a blacklisted director, and shot in the sand and heat of the Mexican desert, the movie seemed doomed. Instead, it became an instant classic with a dark, violent take on the Western movie tradition.

Cooking

America's Test Kitchen. [Vegetables Illustrated](#) (America's Test Kitchens \$40)

Looking for an easy way to add more vegetables to your diet? Then you need the latest cookbook from the culinary wizards at America's Test Kitchens. Included are more than 700 recipes including nearly 40 ways to cook potatoes and 30 ways with broccoli, America's favorite veggies. But you'll also learn how to make a salad with roasted radishes and their peppery leaves; how to char avocados in a skillet to use in Crispy Skillet Turkey Burgers; and how to turn sunchokes into a chowder and kale into a Super Slaw for Salmon Tacos. Every chapter, from Artichokes to Zucchini, includes shopping, storage, seasonality, and prep pointers and techniques, including hundreds of step-by-step photographs and illustrations.

Dickerman, Sara. [Secrets of Great Second Meals](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

Is your refrigerator filled with dubs and dabs of leftovers? Then you really should take a look at this inventive cookbook written by James Beard Award-winner Sara Dickerman that offers more than 100 recipes for great meals that also provide some added value in that they contain the building blocks for another great meal to follow.

Halpern, Daniel et al. [The Good Food: A Cookbook of Soups, Stews, and Pastas](#) (HarperCollins \$19).

When it was first published in 1985, *The Good Food* was one of the first cookbooks devoted to the cele-

bration of the best-loved and most satisfying essentials of casual cuisine and, more than thirty years later, it has remained a classic in its genre. The book draws upon the diverse cooking traditions of the Americas, Italy, France, India, Morocco, and the Middle East, in the form of almost two hundred recipes, including not only the quintessential examples of each cuisine, but also unusual dishes that provide surprising gastronomic rewards. The book features international staples such as Gazpacho and Jambalaya, as well as unexpected delights—Bobotie; Lamb Stew with Eggplant, Saffron, and Ginger; and Penne with Black Olive Puree and Ricotta.

Hood, Ann. [Kitchen Yarns](#)
(WW Norton \$24.95)

In a series of twenty-seven essays, Hood, author of eight previous books including the perennial book club favorite *The Book that Matters Most*, traces her own life's journey as seen through the prism of food. Chapters cover such topics as her grandmother's Italian classics, the best ways to fry chicken, dinner parties circa 1959, and five ways of looking at a tomato, with each chapter including at least one or more recipes. Writing with her signature humor and tenderness, Hood spills tales of loss and starting from scratch, family love and feasts with friends, and how the perfect meal is one that tastes like home. If you loved M.F. K. Fisher's writing about food or Laurie Colwin's culinary literary musings, you will love Hood's equally marvelous book. The Poisoned Pen was fortunate to have secured a few signed copies of this marvelous book while they last.

Oliver, Jamie. [5 Ingredients: Quick & Easy Food](#)
(Flatiron \$35)

Jamie Oliver—one of the bestselling cookbook authors of all time—is back with a bang in his 20th guide to cooking for the clueless. Focusing on incredible combinations of just five ingredients, he's created 130 brand-new recipes that you can cook up at home, any day of the week. From salads, pasta, chicken, and fish to exciting ways with vegetables, rice and noodles, beef, pork, and lamb, plus a bonus chapter of sweet treats, Jamie's got all the bases covered. This is about maximum flavor with minimum fuss, lots of nutritious options, and loads of inspiration.

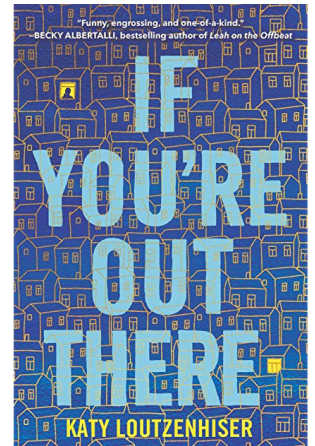
Childrens and Teen Books

Lafevers, Robin. [Courting Darkness](#)
(HMH \$17.99)

When Sybella discovers there is another trained assassin from St. Mortain's convent deep undercover in the French court, she must use every skill in her arsenal to navigate the deadly royal politics and find her sister-in-arms before her time—and that of the newly crowned queen—runs out. Lots of starred reviews for this, the first in a duet of novels from the author, including *PW* which ended with "LaFevers's blood-soaked, machination-riddled tale captivates as its fierce, passionate, intelligent female characters examine issues of agency and empowerment, freedom, and sisterhood."

Loutzenhiser, Katy. [If You're Out There](#)
(HarperCollins \$17.99)

After Zan's best friend moves to California, she is baffled and crushed when Priya suddenly ghosts. Worse, Priya's social media has turned into a stream of ungrammatical posts chronicling a sunny, vapid new life that doesn't sound like her at all. Everyone tells Zan not to be an idiot: Let Priya do her reinvention thing and move on. But until Zan hears Priya say it, she won't be able to admit that their friendship is finished. It's only when she meets Logan, the compelling new guy in Spanish class that Zan begins to open up about her sadness, her insecurity, her sense of total betrayal. And he's just as willing as she is to throw himself into the investigation when everyone else thinks her suspicions are crazy. This debut has been racking up raves including this one from *Kirkus* "A light, charming mystery and a heartfelt ode to female friendship."



Poston, Ashley. [The Princess and the Fangirl](#)
(Quirk Books \$18.99)

In this modern makeover of *The Prince and the Pauper*, Poston, author of the hit novel *Geekerella*, traces the efforts of fangirl Imogen Lovelade, who wants to save her look-alike television character from being killed off of her favorite TV franchise, and Jessica Stone, the actress who desperately

wants to leave the spotlight, as they switch places in order to catch a bad guy who leaks the script of a much-anticipated sequel.

Prahn, Andrew. [Elbert, The Curious Clock Tower Bear](#) (Penguin \$17.99)

Elbert isn't like the other mechanical bears in his village's clock tower. While those bears remain solely focused on doing their job, Elbert can't help but notice all the marvelous things around him like falling snow and fireworks in the night sky. However, when Elbert's growing curiosity threatens to disrupt the clock-like precision with which the other bears do their jobs, they all decide that Elbert must go. But what's a small bear with a big sense of curiosity to do? Explore the outside world of course!

Reynolds, Joshua. [Opposite of Always](#) (HarperCollins \$17.99)

Romeo and Juliet meets *Groundhog Day* meets *Love Story* in this emotionally wrenching debut. Falling hard for a popular and charismatic girl who suddenly passes away, a grieving Jack finds himself traveling back in time to when they first met, only to find his efforts to prevent her death triggering unanticipated consequences.

Scholte, Astrid. [Four Dead Queens](#) (Penguin \$17.99)

Seventeen-year-old Keralie Corrington may seem harmless, but she's, in fact, one of Quadara's most skilled thieves and a liar. Varin, on the other hand, is an honest, upstanding citizen of Quadara's most enlightened region, Eonia. He runs afoul of Keralie when she steals a package from him, putting his life in danger. When Varin attempts to retrieve the package, he and Keralie both find themselves entangled in a conspiracy that leaves all four of Quadara's queens dead. With no other choices and on the run from Keralie's former employer, the two decide to join forces, endeavoring to discover who has killed the queens and save their own lives in the process.

Thorne, Jenn Marie. [Night Music](#) (Dial Books \$17.99)

Ruby has always been Ruby *Chertok*: future classical pianist and daughter of renowned composer Martin Chertok. But after her horrendous audition for the prestigious music school where her father is on faculty, it's clear that music has publicly dumped her.

Oscar is a wunderkind, a musical genius. Just ask any of the 1.8 million people who've watched him conduct on YouTube--or hey, just ask Oscar. But while he might be the type who'd name *himself* when asked about his favorite composer and somehow make you love him more for it, Oscar is *not* the type to jeopardize his chance to study under the great Martin Chertok--not for a crush. But as the New York City summer heats up, so does the spark between Ruby and Oscar. Soon their connection crackles with the same alive, uncontrollable energy as the city itself. Can two people still figuring themselves out figure out how to be together? Or will the world make the choice for them? *PW* was just one of the review sources that loved this saying "At heart, though, this is a timely and romantic story about teens who feel like fish out of water finding the person who understands them."

Trelease, Gita. [Enchantée](#) (Flatiron \$18.99)

When smallpox kills her parents, Camille Durbonne must find a way to provide for her younger sister while managing her volatile brother. Despite the danger, Camille uses her gift for *la magie ordinaire* to painstakingly transform scraps of metal into money to buy food and medicine they need. But when the coins won't hold their shape and her brother disappears with the family's savings, Camille pursues a richer, more dangerous mark: the glittering court of Louis XVI and Marie Antoinette. Using dark magic, her mother's enchanted dress, and a few drops of blood, Camille transforms herself into Baroness Cecile Descharlots and is swept up into life at the Palace of Versailles, where aristocrats both fear and hunger for magic. As she struggles to reconcile her resentment of the rich with the allure of glamour and excess, Camille meets a handsome young inventor, and begins to believe that love and liberty may both be possible. But magic has its costs, and soon Camille loses control of her secrets. And when revolution erupts, Camille must choose—love or loyalty, democracy or aristocracy, reality of magic—before Paris burns. Historical romance and historical fantasy fans will definitely want to check out this stunning debut.

