

# Midmonth BookNotes

## Volume 6 Issue 04 April

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### Upcoming Multi-Author Events

#### Cozy Con 2019

Saturday May 11, 2019

2:00 PM

**Guest authors: Jessica Ellicott, Jenn McKinlay, Jill Orr, Paige Shelton, and Jane Willan.**

Join a stellar lineup of cozy mystery authors for an afternoon of mayhem, mirth, and munchies!

#### Afternoon Tea with

**Amanda Quick, Meg Tilly, and Sujata Massey**

Saturday May 25, 2019

2:00 PM

Meet *New York Times* best-selling authors Amanda Quick (Jayne Ann Krentz), Meg Tilly, and Sujata Massey for a fun afternoon of tea, talk, and some tempting treats.

### SIGNED FOR MOTHER'S DAY AND MAY

**Ellicott, Jessica.** [Murder Flies the Coop](#)

(Kensington \$26)

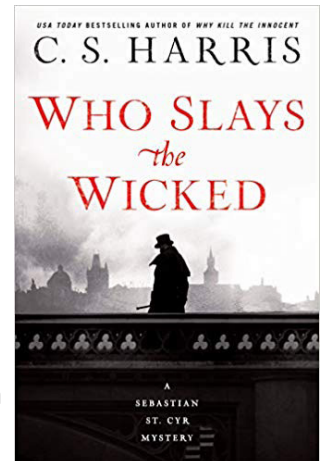
In Ellicott's captivating second mystery set in post-WWI England, adventure-seeking American Beryl Helliwell and her old English school chum, Edwina Davenport, who share a household in the hamlet of Walmsley Parva, set up their own informal private investigation business. Their first client, Vicar Wilfred Lowethorpe, calls on them for help in a matter that requires sensitivity and discretion. One of the vicar's parishioners, Lionel Cunningham, who's treasurer of the local pigeon racing club, has gone missing with

all the club's funds and some prize birds belonging to other members. Fans of early Maisie Dobbs books will want to checkout Ellicott's new series.

**Harris, CS.** [Who Slays the Wicked](#)

(Berkley \$26)

Assisting Bow Street magistrate Sir Henry Lovejoy when the dissolute Lord Ashworth is brutally murdered, Sebastian St. Cyr scrambles to find the killer to exonerate his wrongly implicated niece, who recently married Ashworth despite St. Cyr's objections. The 14<sup>th</sup> stunning addition to Harris's Sebastian St. Cyr series is another addictive blend of an impeccable researched historical setting, cleverly constructed plotting, and memorable characters



**Huber, Anna.** [An Artless Demise](#)

(Berkley \$16)

After returning to London with her new husband, Sebastian Gage, Lady Keira Darby finds her honeymoon might be over when she is blackmailed over information, she has concerning her late anatomist husband and his connection with local body snatchers.

**Massey, Sujata.** [The Satapur Moonstone](#)

(Soho \$26.95)

**The sequel to** [The Widows of Malabar Hill](#)

(\$15.95)

Massey introduced her new series character of Perveen Mistry, Bombay's only female lawyer in *The Widows of Malabar Hill*. In her first case Perveen feels compelled to look into the estate of the late Mr. Omar Farid since she believes one of his three wid-

ows was coerced into signing over her portion of the inheritance to a suspicious charity. Now Perveen is back in *The Satapur Moonstone* when the two maharanis, the dowager queen and her daughter-in-law, of the princely state of Satapur require some legal counsel as to exactly how the young prince will be educated. Edgar finalist and Agatha award-winning Massey's new 1920s India-set series is marvelously exotic and wonderfully evocative of the times.

**McKinlay, Jenn.** [Dying for Devil's Food](#)  
(Berkley \$7.99)

When she is accused of murdering resident mean girl and her high school nemesis at their 15-year reunion, cupcake store owner Mel Cooper must quickly find out who iced Cassidy Havers. The latest in McKinlay's Cupcake Bakery series is as much fun as plate of gourmet cupcakes but without all those pesky calories.

**Kelly, Martha Hall.** [Lost Roses](#)  
(Ballantine \$28)

Kelly's debut novel *Lilac Girls* sold over a million copies around the country. Now the author delivers a prequel of sorts to that best-seller by taking Eliza Ferriday, the mother of Lilac's Caroline Ferriday, and pairing her up with her old school friend Sofya Streshnayva, a cousin of the Romanovs, and a peasant girl, Varinka, who is hired to take care of Sofya's young son, but who, unbeknownst to her employer, has ties to the revolutionaries pushing for change in Russia.

**Orr, Jill.** [The Ugly Truth](#)  
(Prospect Park \$25.95 or \$16)

As Riley Ellison covers a shocking double murder in her hometown, she's confronted with things that are not what they seem to be. . . and people who aren't, either. Orr continues to nail her small-town Southern setting, and the series ongoing cast of quirky characters – including Regina H. (Riley's online personal romance concierge) - add a generous dash of humor to the author's already deliciously dry sense of wit.

**Quick, Amanda.** [Tightrope](#)  
(Berkley \$27)

Amalie Vaughn is used to taking chances. After all, when she was an aerialist in the circus, she regularly worked without a net. But now Amalie may be facing the biggest risk of her life when she uses all of her savings to buy a reportedly "cursed" mansion in Burn-

ing Cove in order to turn it into a bed and breakfast. Of course, having her first guest be murdered doesn't help with future bookings, nor does having private investigator Matthias Jones becoming a permanent fixture in her life with his persistent questions about the incident. In her third Burning Cove set book,

Quick (pseudonym for *New York Times* best-selling Jayne Ann Krentz) once again stylishly fuses an intriguing 1930s, Hollywood kissed setting with a quicksilver paced plot and then wraps the whole thing up in writing richly imbued with her deliciously tart sense of humor.

**Shelton, Paige.** [The Loch Ness Papers](#)  
(St Martins \$26.99)

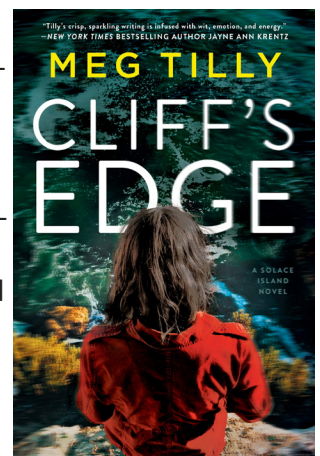
Scrambling to find a last-minute pastor for her wedding, bookseller Delaney Nichols befriends an elderly Loch Ness monster enthusiast whose influence she staunchly defends and investigates when he is wrongly accused of murdering his own nephew. *The Loch Ness Papers*, the latest in Shelton's charming Scottish Bookshop series, was chosen as one of *Bookpage's* Top Picks in Cozy mysteries!

**Thompson, Victoria.** [Murder on Trinity Place](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

Horried when a neighbor they spotted behaving in uncharacteristic ways is found murdered during the 1900 New Year celebrations at Trinity Church, Frank and Sarah Malloy are prompted by scandal-fearing relatives to search for answers in the victim's past. Calling all Anne Perry fans. Thompson's equally richly detailed and impeccably crafted series will be right up your reading alley.

**Tilly, Meg.** [Cliff's Edge](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

Baker Eve Harris is all set to house sit for her honeymooning sister Maggie when she discovers someone else is already made themselves at home. Movie star Rhys Thomas is looking for a quiet place to unwind, so when his friend Luke offers him the use of his home on Solace Island, Rhys jumps at the chance. As Eve and Rhys settle their new liv-



ing arrangements, however, a new danger threatens to destroy the couple's fledgling romance. Tilly may be best known for her acclaimed Golden Globe-winning performance in *Agnes of God*, as well as her work in *The Big Chill*, *Valmont*, and other movies, but her latest Solace Island novel proves she is equally talented at crafting a suspenseful, sexy, superbly entertaining romantic thriller.

**Willan, Jane.** [The Hour of Death](#)

(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Sister Agatha and Father Selwyn make sleuthing a work of art. But will they paint themselves into a corner when they investigate the Village Art Society president's death? The second warm and wonderful entry in Willan's new series earned a number of review raves including this from PW "Willan's loving and witty portrayal of convent life in rural Wales will delight lovers of village mysteries. Besides, who doesn't enjoy reading about a busload of nuns riding to the rescue on Christmas Eve?" If you enjoy M.C. Beaton's Hamish MacBeth series, Willan's books may prove equally entertaining.

### Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, and More

**Archer, K.C.** [The Astral Traveler's Daughter](#)

(Simon and Schuster \$16)

In this exciting follow-up to *School for Psychics*, ex-cardsharp Teddy Cannon, who has since learned she is psychic, is entering her second year at the well-hidden Whitfield Institute, a secret government training facility where students master telepathy, telekinesis, investigative techniques, and SWAT tactics for covert roles in the US government. But Teddy puts everyone she cares about in danger when an unexpected assignment leads her to the answers she's chased for so long and reveal a clue about her own past.

**Boyce, Erica.** [The Fifteen Wonders of Daniel Green](#)

(Sourcebooks \$15.99)

As a member of a secret organization of circlers (those who create crop circles), Daniel Green travels across the country creating strange works of art that leave communities mystified. Most recently, Daniel has been hired by dying farmer Sam and his

wife Molly, who hopes the publicity surrounding the circles Daniel will create will help restore life to their small Vermont hometown of Munsen. However, it isn't long before Daniel finds he is drawn into a family struggling to stitch itself back together, and the consequences will change his life forever. One review called Boyce's debut a "dexterous blend of love, loss, work, and fortitude," which neatly sums up the appeal of this marvelous example of feel-good fiction in the manner of *A Man Called Ove*.

**Cole, Alyssa.** [A Prince on Paper](#)

(Avon \$7.99)

Nya Jerami, who wants to escape her sheltered life, reluctantly enters into a pretend engagement with celebrity prince Johan von Braustein, whom she loves to hate, only to start falling for the playboy prince for real. This is the third in Cole's endlessly entertaining and deeply satisfying Reluctant Royals series.

**Colgan, Jenny.** [My Very '90's Romance](#)

(Harpercollins \$15.99)

Fleeing a roommate situation from hell, down-on-her-luck florist Holly moves in with a motley crew of friends—Josh, a sexually confused merchant banker; Kate, a high-flying legal eagle with talons to match; and Addison, a gorgeous computer geek who spends his days communicating with his online girlfriend and anyone who worships at the altar of Jean-Luc Picard. From the moment Holly catches a rare glimpse of Addison, she's smitten. The only problem is how to get him to swivel his chair from the computer screen to her adoring gaze. Colgan has built up a mega-readership on both sides of the Atlantic with her charmingly sweet Little Beach and Cupcake Bakery series, and now her publisher is bringing back a repackaged edition of one of her earlier titles.

**Collins, Bridget.** [The Binding](#)

(HarperCollins \$26.99)

In a magical world with echoes of 19<sup>th</sup> century England, books are repositories of individual lives. In order to banish painful memories from their past, individuals visit bookbinders, who bind these memories between the pages of a book, thus leaving the individual with a clean memory slate. Working as a bookbinder's apprentice, Emmett Farmer crafts elegant memory volumes to help troubled customers before discovering that others in his profession use their skills for dark ends. YA novelist Collins makes her adult debut with

this mesmerizing novel that beautifully pays homage to the power of books in our lives.

**Duncan, Emily.** [Wicked Saints](#)  
(St. Martin's \$18.99)

A girl who can speak to gods, a prince who must learn whom to trust, and a boy with a monstrous secret seek to assassinate the king and stop a centuries-long war in this sunning debut novel inspired by the Joan of Arc legend.

**Durst, Sarah Beth.** [The Deepest Blue](#)  
(HarperCollins \$21.99)

After she saves her island nation of Belene when it is threatened by a spirit-driven storm, Mayara is forced to reveal that she has the power to control the spirits and is sent to an island of bloodthirsty spirits as punishment, but if she survives, she will become an heir to the queen. Durst is the author of the popular Queens of Renthia series, and her publisher has been billing this standalone (with a slight connection to the Renthia books) as “the natural magic of the classic *The Island of the Blue Dolphins* meets the danger and courage of *The Hunger Games*.”

**Elliott, Lexie.** [The Missing Years](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

Ailsa Calder has inherited half of a house. The other half belongs to her father, who disappeared without a trace twenty-seven years ago. Leaving London behind to settle the inheritance from her mother's estate, Ailsa returns to her childhood home, nestled among the craggy peaks of the Scottish Highlands, only to find that she is joined by the half-sister who's almost a stranger to her. Ailsa can't escape the claustrophobic feeling that the house itself is watching her. She also can't ignore how the neighborhood animals refuse to set foot within the gates of the garden. When the first nighttime intruder shows up, Ailsa fears that the manor's careless rugged beauty could cost her everything. Elliott wowed readers last year with her spectacular debut *The French Girl*, and her sophomore literary effort is every bit as good. *The Missing Years*



is a spooky suspense novel with tons of atmosphere. Just don't start reading this one late at night!

**Epstein, Jennifer Cody.** [Wunderland](#)  
(Crown \$27)

Things had never been easy between Ava Fisher and her estranged mother Ilse. Too many questions hovered between them: Who was Ava's father? Where had Ilse been during the war? Why had she left her only child in a German orphanage during the war's final months? But now Ilse's ashes have arrived from Germany, and with them, a trove of unsent letters addressed to someone else unknown to Ava: Renate Bauer, a childhood friend. As her mother's letters unfurl a dark past, Ava spirals deep into the shocking history of a woman she never truly knew. Epstein's poignant and powerful novel unfolds along two different time tracks. One takes place in the 1930s and follows the friendship that blooms between Ilse and Renate in Germany, and how the two find themselves on different paths as Hitler consolidates his hold on their country. The other follows Ilse's daughter Ava as she reflects back to 1946 when Ilse leaves her in a German orphanage and how she came to be a single mother now living in New York City. A powerful exploration of cowardice and courage and betrayal and forgiveness that will resonate with readers, who loved *Lilac Girls* or *The Nightingale*.

**Fay, Juliette.** [City of Flickering Light](#)  
(Gallery \$16.99)

Its July 1921, “flickers” are all the rage, and Irene Van Beck has just declared her own independence by jumping off a moving train to escape her fate in a traveling burlesque show. When her friends, fellow dancer Millie Martin and comedian Henry Weiss, leap after her, the trio finds their way to the bright lights of Hollywood with hopes of making it big in the burgeoning silent film industry. At first glance, Hollywood in the 1920s is like no other place on earth—iridescent, scandalous, and utterly exhilarating—and the three friends yearn for a life they could only have dreamed of before. But despite the glamour and seduction of Tinseltown, success doesn't come easy, and nothing can prepare Irene, Millie, and Henry for the poverty, temptation, and heartbreak that lie ahead.

**Gibson, Claire.** [Beyond the Point](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

*Duty. Honor. Country.* That's West Point's motto, and every cadet who passes through its stone gates vows to live it. But on the eve of 9/11, as Dani, Hannah and Avery face four grueling years ahead, they realize they'll only survive if they do it together. Upon graduation, the world—of business, of love, and of war—awaits Dani, Hannah, and Avery beyond the gates of West Point. These three women know that what doesn't kill you makes you stronger. But soon, that adage no longer rings true—for their future, or their friendship. As they're pulled in different directions, will their hard-forged bond prevail or shatter? This remarkable debut not only chronicles the experiences women encountered while at West Point, but is also a thoughtful meditation on the role friendship plays in our lives.

**Graham, Genevieve.** [At the Mountain's Edge](#)  
(Simon and Schuster \$17)

For Liza Peterson and her family, the gold rush is a chance for them to make a fortune by moving their general store business from Vancouver to Dawson City, the only established town in the Yukon. For Constable Ben Turner, a recent recruit of the North-West Mounted Police, upholding the law in a place overrun with guns, liquor, prostitutes, and thieves is an opportunity to escape a dark past and become the man of integrity he has always wanted to be. But the long, difficult journey over icy mountain passes and white-water rapids is much more treacherous than Liza or Ben imagined, and neither is completely prepared for the forbidding north.

**Graves, Tracey Garvis.** [The Girl He Used to Know](#)  
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

The tumultuous yet tender college love affair between shy, brilliant Annika Rose and Jonathan Hoffman lasted a year before it ended when an unforeseen tragedy forced them apart. Now a decade after Jonathan fell in love with Annika, she walks back into his life. The attraction and feelings they once shared are instantly rekindled, but until they finally confront the fears and anxieties that pushed them apart years ago, any hope the couple has for a second chance at love will end before it truly begins. Lots of pre-publication buzz and some rave reviews for this love story that is being compared to *The Rosie Project* by Graeme Simsion.

**Gudenauf, Heather.** [Before She Was Found](#)  
(Park Row \$16.99)

For twelve-year-old Cora Landry and her friends Violet and Jordyn, it was supposed to be an ordinary sleepover—movies and Ouija and talking about boys. But when they decide to sneak out to go to the abandoned rail yard on the outskirts of town, little do they know that their innocent games will have dangerous consequences. Later that night, Cora Landry is discovered on the tracks, bloody and clinging to life, her friends nowhere to be found. Soon their small rural town is thrust into a maelstrom. Who would want to hurt a young girl like Cora—and why? In an investigation that leaves no stone unturned, everyone is a suspect and no one can be trusted—not even those closest to Cora.

**Harper, Molly.** [Gimme Some Sugar](#)  
(Gallery \$16)

When her husband suffers a fatal accident while fixing his own truck, Lucy Brewer suddenly finds herself in need of a fresh start. Lucy asks Duffy McCready, her old childhood friend, to put his cabinet-building skills to use, transforming the town's meat shop into a bake shop. As the bakery takes shape, Lucy and Duffy rediscover the spark that pulled them together so many years ago. Could this finally be the second chance he's always hoped for? The third in Harper's Southern Eclectic series is another winner for contemporary romance fans who like their love stories served up with a generous helping of sassy, Southern wit.

**Herbert, A.L.** [Murder with Collard Greens and Hot Sauce](#) (Kensington \$26)

After pop culture icon Monique Dupree is shot to death during a hair convention, Malia Watkins, who owns a soul food restaurant, and her cousin Wavonne decide to investigate and discover that bitter feuds and rivalries exist in Monique's vanity empire. This is the third in the endlessly entertaining Mahalia Watkins Soul Food mysteries.

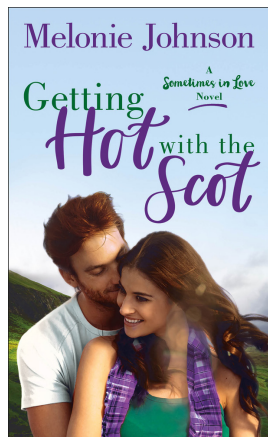
**Hunting, Helana.** [Meet Cute](#)  
(Grand Central \$16)

On her first day of law school, Kailyn ran - quite literally - into the actor she crushed on as a teenager, ending with him sprawled on top of her. Mortified to discover the Daxton Hughes was also a student in her class, her embarrassment over their meet-cute

quickly turned into a friendship she never expected. Of course, she never saw his betrayal coming either... Now, eight years later, Dax is in her office asking for legal advice. Despite her anger, Kailyn can't help feeling sorry for the devastated man who just became sole guardian to his thirteen-year-old sister. But when her boss gets wind of Kailyn's new celebrity client, there's even more at stake than Dax's custody issues. Fans of Rom-Coms will not want to miss Hunting's latest, which manages to deftly interject some serious issues into the novel's laughter-laced plot.

**Johnson, Melanie.** [Getting Hot with the Scot](#)  
(St. Martin's \$7.99)

Cassie Crow thought she was getting directions to the castle's library. Instead, Cassie finds herself wandering down a dark corridor and straight into the arms of a sexy man in a kilt, who looks like he stepped off the cover one of Cassie's favorite Celtic time-travel romances. It only takes one kiss, however, before Cassie realizes her hunky Highlander is no visitor from the past in search of his true love, but is instead Logan Reid, host of the popular internet sensation *Shenanigans*. Now Reid has the audacity to ask Cassie to sign a waiver so that he can use his latest taped prank to secure a deal for a television show. Well, Reid has another thing coming. Unless, of course, he can persuade Cassie to change her mind with something more than just a kiss. With her flawlessly crafted debut, RWA Golden Heart finalist Johnson serves up an addictive mix of compellingly etched characters, writing imbued with a delightfully saucy sense of wit, and enough off-the-charts sexual chemistry and boldly sensual love scenes to warm up the coldest of Scottish nights.



**Kalpakian, Laura.** [The Great Pretenders](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

After a falling-out with her grandfather, who founded Empire Pictures, Roxanne Granville strikes out on her own becoming a low-budget agent for hungry young screenwriters. When an old family friend, who has been blacklisted by Hollywood for being a Communist sympathizer, begs for help with selling his screenplay, Roxanne has a professional epiphany: she will sell his

script – and the scripts of anyone else unfairly cast aside by the studios – under someone else's name. Before Roxanne knows it, business is booming, but when her new found financial freedom leads her into a passionate affair with Terrence Dexter, an African-American journalist, it could destroy everything Roxanne has carefully built. Fans of Melanie Benjamin and Fiona Davis will want to add this superbly entertaining historical novel to their must-read lists.

**McMahon, Jennifer.** [The Invited](#)  
(Knopf \$24.95)

When an inspired effort to build her dream home is overshadowed by discoveries about her rural property's violent past, former history teacher Helen Wetherell becomes obsessed with the stories of three generations of local Breckenridge women who died under suspicious circumstances. *LJ's* review captured the flavor of this spine-tingling novel saying "the latest from McMahon is like a nesting doll – a thriller inside a murder mystery inside a ghost story – and will chill readers with every sideways glimpse of a passing shadow."

**Morgan, Sarah.** [One Summer in Paris](#)  
(HQN \$26.99)

Embarking on a solo Paris vacation after being dumped by her husband of 25 years, cautious Grace unexpectedly bonds with a rebellious London teen who helps her forge new understandings of family, love and self-confidence. Can't afford a trip to Paris this summer? Morgan's latest heartfelt and heart-warming novel is the next best thing.

**Moyes, Jojo.** [The Peacock Emporium](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

Athene Forster embraced the Sixties like few others. Nicknamed the Last Deb, she was spoiled, beautiful, and out of control. And within two years of her marriage, the rumors had begun again. Thirty-five years on, Suzanna Peacock finds refuge from her mother's shameful legacy in her shop, the Peacock Emporium. Within its magical walls she discovers not just friendship, and an escape from her troubled marriage, but the first real passion of her life. But the spectra of her mother still haunts Suzanna, setting in place a series of dramatic events. Only by confronting the past will she finally be able to face the future. This early work by Moyes was originally published in the U.K. in 2005 but is finally making its American debut.

**Roberts, Sheila.** [The Summer Retreat](#)  
(MIRA \$7.99)

Dumped by her boyfriend, Celeste Jones heads to Moonlight Harbor where she, while staying with her sister, Jenna, and working at the Driftwood Inn, is determined to find Mr. Right with Jenna's help. Roberts' bright and breezy new women's fiction series is perfect beach reading for fans of Debbie Macomber and Robyn Carr.

**Rosen, Renee.** [Park Avenue Summer](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

New York City is filled with opportunities for single girls like Alice Weiss, who leaves her small midwestern town to chase her big-city dreams and unexpectedly lands the job of a lifetime working for the first female editor-in-chief of *Cosmopolitan* magazine, Helen Gurley Brown.

Nothing could have prepared Alice for the world she enters as editors and writers resign on the spot, refusing to work for the woman who wrote the scandalous bestseller *Sex and the Single Girl*, and confidential memos, article ideas, and cover designs keep finding their way into the wrong hands. When someone tries to pull Alice into a scheme to sabotage her boss, she is more determined than ever to help Helen succeed. The publisher has been promoting this terrific historical women's fiction novel as *Mad Men* meets *The Devil Wears Prada*, which I think truly does capture its literary appeal.

**Rowley, Steven.** [The Editor](#)  
(Putnam \$27)

Most aspiring writers would be thrilled just to learn that their book has been sold. James Smale is doubly thrilled since not only has his novel been bought by a major New York publishing company, but his new editor is none other than Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis or Mrs. Onassis as she's known in the office. Mrs. Onassis has fallen in love with James' candidly autobiographical novel about his dysfunctional family, but she wants him to dig deeper into his past and put more of himself into the story. However, when word gets out to James's family about the upcoming publication of



his novel, it threatens to unravel the already frayed relationship James has with his mother. I fell hard for Rowley's debut novel *Lily and the Octopus* (a remarkable story about a man and his dog, but keep a box of Kleenex handy for all the tears), and his second book is equally engaging. I especially enjoyed the snippets about Jackie's time as an editor at Doubleday that Smale wove into the story.

**Shipman, Viola.** [The Summer Cottage](#)  
(Graydon House \$16.99)

When she discovers a time capsule from 1893 in her family's cottage on the shores of Lake Michigan, Adie Lou reads through the letters of the daughter of the first cottage owner and is surprised and inspired by the feelings and frustrations she shares with this young girl who also dreamed of becoming an unconventional woman. More feel-good, soothing fiction from Shipman at a time when we can all use it.

**Starling, Caitlin.** [The Luminous Dead](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Lying her way into an expedition with a big payout, caver Gyre Price, while on a foreign planet, must embark on a terrifying psychological and emotional journey into the darkness and unknown in order to survive. Fans of Andy Weir's *The Martian* will find they get sucked right into this hypnotic debut.

**White, Karen.** [Dreams of Falling](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

Larkin Lanier returns to her hometown after learning that her mother has disappeared, but when her mother is found badly injured and unconscious Larkin searches for answers and uncovers secrets from the past.

## Her Story

**Ellis, Helen.** [Southern Lady Code](#)  
(Doubleday \$22)

Helen Ellis has a mantra: "If you don't have something nice to say, say something not-so-nice in a nice way." Say "weathered" instead of "she looks like a cake left out in the rain." Say "early-developed" instead of "brace face and B cups." And for the love of Coke Salad, always say "Sorry you saw something

that offended you” instead of “Get that stick out of your butt, Miss Prissy Pants.” In these twenty-three raucous essays Ellis transforms herself into a dominatrix Donna Reed to save her marriage, inadvertently steals a \$795 Burberry trench coat, witnesses a man fake his own death at a party, avoids a neck lift, and finds a black-tie gown that gives her the confidence of a drag queen. While she may have left her home in Alabama, married a New Yorker, forgotten how to drive, and abandoned the puffy headbands of her youth, Helen Ellis is clinging to her Southern accent like mayonnaise to white bread, and offering readers a hilarious, completely singular view on womanhood for both sides of the Mason-Dixon.

**Guisewite, Cathy.** [Fifty Things That Aren't My Fault](#) (Putnam \$27)

“I stare back at the untouched six-step care system. Step 4 isn't there because I tossed it in the bottom of my purse to use as hand lotion a while back. It's lid promptly popped off, and my wallet, keys, and a month of loose receipts and coupons got treated with \$15.00 per ounce cell-regenerating bio-peptides.” This quote from Guisewite's book gives you a taste of this legendary cartoonist's dryly ironic sense of wit and an idea of just how much fun this collection of 50 essays is. Guisewite spent almost 35 years distilling the experiences of single women in America into her chuckle-rich comic strip *Cathy*, which appeared in 1,400 newspapers (remember those?) around the country. The protagonist's battles with her boyfriend, her boss, her family, and the temptation to dive into the ice cream hidden in her freezer provided many readers with a laugh. Now Guisewite looks at the lives of “the sandwich generation,” (which Guisewite calls the “panini generation”) who find themselves taking on the challenges of caring for aging parents while still dealing with the demands of their growing children all while trying not to lose themselves in the process. The publisher calls this collection “in the spirit of Nora Ephron and Erma Bombeck” and for once they are right on the money.

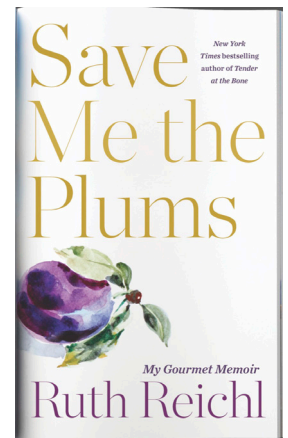
**Purnell, Sonia.** [A Woman of No Importance](#) (Viking \$28)

In 1942, the Gestapo sent out an urgent transmission: “She is the most dangerous of all Allied spies. We must find and destroy her.” The target in their sights was Virginia Hall, a Baltimore socialite who talked her way into Special Operations Executive, the

spy organization dubbed Winston Churchill's “Ministry of Ungentlemanly Warfare.” She became the first Allied woman deployed behind enemy lines and—despite her prosthetic leg—helped to light the flame of the French Resistance, revolutionizing secret warfare as we know it. Based on new and extensive research, Sonia Purnell has for the first time uncovered the full secret life of Virginia Hall—an astounding and inspiring story of heroism, spy craft, resistance, and personal triumph over shocking adversity. *A Woman of No Importance* is the breathtaking story of how one woman's fierce persistence helped win the war.

**Reichl, Ruth.** [Save Me the Plums](#) (Random House \$27)

For more than fifty years, *Gourmet* had been the culinary bible of cooks across the country. So, when *Gourmet* ceased publication in 2009, it came as a shock to everyone. As it turns out as evidenced by Reichl's latest elegantly written autobiographical account, it came as a shock to her as well. In her latest food-infused memoir, Reichl chronicles the years she spent at *Gourmet* learning the magazine biz. It is the story of the moment restaurants became an important part of popular culture, a time when the rise of the farm-to-table movement changed, forever, the way we eat. Readers will meet legendary chefs like David Chang and Eric Ripert, idiosyncratic writers like David Foster Wallace, and a colorful group of editors and art directors who, under Reichl's leadership, transformed stately *Gourmet* into a cutting-edge publication. This was the golden age of print media—the last spendthrift gasp before the Internet turned the magazine world upside down.



## Cookbooks

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

Almost everyone is looking for ways to get those five servings of fruits and vegetables into their daily diet. Now the culinary wizards at America's Test

Kitchens have come up with more than 700 kitchen-tested recipes that hit that mark. Sure, you'll learn 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, gorgeous watercolor illustrations, and full-color recipe photography.

**Berry, Mary.** [Fast Cakes](#)  
(Quercus \$35)

*Fast Cakes* is a definitive baking book from the queen of baking, Mary Berry. Mary has incorporated her all-in-one method of preparation into as many recipes as possible, so her recipes are now faster to make than ever--nearly 100 of the bakes take only ten minutes to make. There are scones, buns, cookies, bars, and breads perfect for any school or family party and, of course, fool-proof cakes for any occasion, from Honey & Almond Cake to Mary's First-Rate Chocolate Cake. *Fast Cakes* also includes many recipes perfect to make with kids, including Happy Face Cookies, Traffic Lights, and Jammy Buns. If you miss Mary's wisdom and inspiration from *The Great British Baking Show*, or simply want a brand-new companion to *Mary Berry's Baking Bible*, this is the cookbook for you, with more than 150 easy recipes to make with confidence.

DiLonardo, Marcella. [Bake the Seasons](#)  
(Penguin \$24)

DiLonardo has always loved baking throughout the year with the wide range of fruits and vegetables that accompany the changing seasons. Now with a few quality pantry essentials as well as some of the seasonal bounty from the garden, Marcella offers cooks over 100 recipes for both sweet and savory treats including indulgent Smoked Gorgonzola and Winter Pear Pizza, Jalapeno Cheddar Cornbread, and a range of beautiful holiday cakes.

**Larruvee, Ricardo.** [Vegetables First](#)  
(Random House \$28)

The 120 fresh and favorable recipes in Larruvee's cookbook put vegetables front and center with recipes like tomato and ricotta tartlets and squash and roasted vegetable lasagna. Even drinks can showcase vegetables as Larruvee's recipe for Beauty and the Beet cocktail demonstrates.

**Lewis, Edna.** [In Pursuit of Flavor](#)  
(Knopf \$26.95)

Decades before cornbread, shrimp and grits, and peach cobbler were mainstays on menus everywhere, Edna Lewis was pioneering the celebration of seasonal food as a distinctly American cuisine. In this new edition of the James Beard Foundation Cookbook Hall of Fame-inducted cookbook, Miss Lewis (as she was almost universally known) shares the recipes of her childhood, spent in a Virginia farming community founded by her grandfather and his friends after emancipation, as well as those that made her one of the most revered American chefs of all time. Interspersed throughout are personal anecdotes, cooking insights, notes on important Southern ingredients, and personally developed techniques for maximizing flavor.

**Tila, Jet.** [101 Epic Dishes](#)  
(Page Street \$21.99)

Jet Tila knows a thing or two about authentic Asian cuisine. From a kid growing up in LA in a Thai and Chinese family to a prominent chef, restaurant owner and judge on *Cutthroat Kitchen*, he brings his years of experience and hard-earned knowledge together in this breakthrough book. Step inside Jet's kitchen and learn the secrets to making your favorite Asian dishes – like Korean BBQ Short Ribs on Coke, Beef Pho, and Vietnamese Banh Mi Sandwiches - taste better than takeout. This was named one of the Top 10 Cookbooks of 2017 by the *LA Times*.

## Nonfiction

**Benaïm, Laurence.** [Yves Saint Laurent](#)  
(Rizzoli \$45)

Yves Saint Laurent's impact on fashion is legendary. He took over creative control at the House of Dior at the age of twenty-one. He created the Mondrian-print shift dress as well as Le Smoking trouser suit. He partied with Warhol in New York and relaxed with the jet set in his Marrakesh hideaway. Yet he remains an enigmatic and compelling figure. Tracing the development of Saint Laurent's visionary work through his charmed yet tumultuous life, respected fashion writer Laurence Benaïm's newly translated and updated biography of the famed designer explores how this unassuming prodigy became a legendary, celebrated public icon who changed the face of fashion, style, and celebrity.

**Burke, Carolyn.** [Foursome](#)  
(Knopf \$30)

Burke, the author of *No Regrets*, paints a captivating, spirited account of the intense relationship among four artists – Alfred Stieglitz, Georgia O'Keeffe, Paul Strand, and Rebecca Salsbury – whose strong personalities, passionate feelings, and aesthetic ideals drew them together, pulled them apart, and profoundly influenced the very shape of twentieth-century art.

**Cohen, Jared.** [Accidental Presidents](#)  
(Simon and Schuster \$30)

Eight men have succeeded to the presidency when the incumbent died in office. In one way or another they vastly changed our history. Only Theodore Roosevelt would have been elected in his own right. Only TR, Truman, Coolidge, and LBJ were re-elected. Cohen covers these eight presidents – John Tyler, Millard Fillmore, Andrew Johnson, Chester Arther, Theodore Roosevelt, Calvin Coolidge, Harry S. Truman, and Lydon B. Johnson – and the role they played in American history.

**Miller, Lucasta.** [L.E.L.](#)  
(Knopf \$30)

"None among us dares to say / What none will choose to hear"--L.E.L., "Lines of Life" Letitia Elizabeth Landon--pen name L.E.L.--dared to say it and made sure she was heard. Hers was a life lived in a blaze of

scandal and worship, one of the most famous women of her time, the Romantic Age in London's 1820s, her life and writing on the ascendancy as Byron's came to an end. Lucasta Miller tells Landon's full story and re-creates the literary London of her time.

**Morrison, Robert.** [The Regency Years](#)  
(WW Norton \$29.95)

The Regency (1811–1820) era began when the profligate Prince of Wales—the future king George IV—replaced his insane father, George III, as Britain's ruler. Around the regent surged a society steeped in contrasts: evangelicalism and hedonism, elegance and brutality, exuberance and despair. The arts flourished at this time with a showcase of extraordinary writers and painters such as Jane Austen, Lord Byron, the Shelleys, John Constable, and J. M. W. Turner. Science burgeoned during this decade, too, giving us the steam locomotive and the blueprint for the modern computer. Yet the dark side of the era was visible in poverty, slavery, pornography, opium, and the gothic imaginings that birthed the novel *Frankenstein*. With the British military in foreign lands, fighting the Napoleonic Wars in Europe and the War of 1812 in the United States, the desire for empire and an expanding colonial enterprise gained unstoppable momentum. Exploring these crosscurrents, Robert Morrison illuminates the profound ways this period shaped and indelibly marked the modern world.

**Ratliff, Evan.** [The Mastermind](#)  
(Random House \$27.99)

The award-winning journalist and co-author of *Safe* chronicles the decade-long quest to capture Paul Le Roux, who used 21st-century technology to create a massive online drug cartel before he struck a deal to turn in his own people.

**Synnott, Mark.** [The Impossible Climb](#)  
(Dutton \$27.99)

"One slip, one false move, one missed toehold, and you're dead. Alex Honnold, the #1 free solo climber in the world, chose the route known as Freerider on Yosemite's El Capitan, a series of pitches so hard that it's newsworthy when someone free climbs it with a rope. No one had ever 'free soloed' it before; only a few people have ever even contemplated it. That four-hour climb on June 3, 2017, was, simply, one of the boldest feats in human history. At the same time, it was almost unbearable to watch--as Mark Synnott did"