

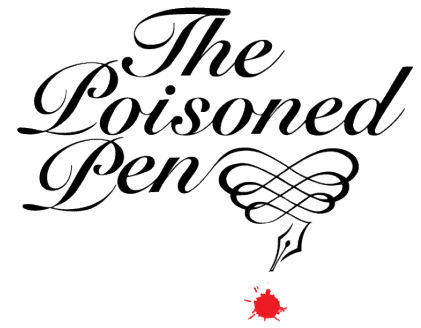
Midmonth BookNotes

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Cool Reading for Hot Times

Something Wicked This Way Comes

Given the recent spike in our temperatures, it is always a pleasure to find a book that can send icy chills down your spine. This trio of novels is guaranteed to give you the literary shivers without resorting to an excess of gore!

Rutger, Michael. [The Possession](#)

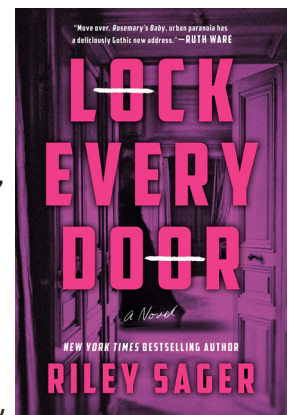
(Grand Central \$27)

Still recovering from the shocking revelations they uncovered deep in uncharted territory in the Grand Canyon, American myth and legend investigator Nolan Moore and his team take on a new mission, investigating a series of low, spiraling walls that were constructed more than a hundred years ago (if not longer) in the woods outside the small town of Birchlake, California. At the same time Nolan's ex-wife Kristy also happens to be in Birchlake investigating the recent disappearance of high school student Alaina Hixon. As Nolan and company investigate the walls and Kristy tries to find out what might have happened to Alaina, Nolan discovers the walls and Alaina's disappearance may be connected in ways no one ever suspected. Last year Rutger made a big splash with his novel *The Anomaly*, which introduced his series character Nolan Moore, and now he is back with another sharply plotted story (think hints of *The Blair Witch Project*) that deftly mingles suspense and a hint of horror with a welcome dash of deliciously acerbic humor much in the manner of the Pendergast books by Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child or James Rollins'

Sager, Riley. [Lock Every Door](#)

(Dutton \$28)

Jules Larsen should have listened to her best friend name: when she said that if a job sounds too good to be true, there has to be something wrong with it. The problem is that after recently being laid off from work and then going home that afternoon to discover her longtime boyfriend "entertaining" another woman in their apartment, Jules desperately needs a place to live and a visible source of income. So, the advertisement for a job at the Bartholomew – one of Manhattan's most exclusive and high-profile apartment buildings – seemed like the answer to all Jules' prayers. All Jules had to do was housesit an empty apartment for three months for a grand total of \$12,000.00. Sure, there were a few rules like no visitors, no nights spent away from the apartment, and no interactions with any of the other residents (all incredibly rich or famous people who naturally valued their privacy). At first Jules' new job is like a dream come true, but then it gradually turns into a nightmare from which Jules may end up losing her life in an attempt to escape. In the dedication to what I think is one of the year's best suspense novels, Sager credits Edgar winner Ira Levin's *Rosemary's Baby* as providing just the inspiration needed for his own deliciously twisted tale. Brimming with



plenty of gothic atmosphere and spine-tingling spooky thrills, this deliciously fun novel will have you wondering exactly what those odd little noises in your own home might be when you hear them late at night.

Ware, Ruth. [Turn of the Key](#)

(Gallery \$27.99) also a few signed British firsts.

When Rowan Caine stumbles across the online job posting for a live-in nanny position with a family in the Scottish Highlands, she should have ignored it. But the money is insanely good, and the family seems perfectly charming (and to be honest, Rowan is not exactly thrilled with her present day underpaid and underappreciated job working in a daycare facility in the city). However, the moment Rowan arrives at Heatherbrea House and begins hearing rumors that the place is haunted, she begins to rethink accepting the position. Then there is the matter of the oddly large number of women who had taken the job before Rowan only to leave under mysterious circumstances. Add into this the warning from one of her new charges that “they won’t like her,” and the house itself, which is a fascinating mix of high-tech luxury (security cameras everywhere!) and old-fashioned spookiness (right down to the creepy hidden garden filled with poisonous plants), all of this adds up to a recipe for disaster for Rowan. I absolutely adored Ware’s last novel, *The Death of Mrs. Westaway*, with its clever take on classic Agatha Christie style mysteries, and I found Ware’s new book to be equally enthralling. Inspired by Henry James’ classic *The Turn of the Screw*, Ware puts her own inventive, ingenious spin on the gothic ghost story with absolutely stunning results. Not to be missed!

More New Historical Fiction, Mysteries and Romance

Archer, Sarah. [Plus One](#)

(Penguin \$16)

What is a brilliant but socially reclusive robotics engineer to do when she needs a date for her perfect sister’s wedding? Build one, of course. That is exactly what Kelly does when all her efforts to find an escort for her sister’s upcoming nuptial ceremony fail miserably. Fortunately, Kelly’s creation – Ethan – is perfect: gorgeous, attentive, and smart--all topped off by a mechanical heart endlessly devoted to her. Not to

mention he’s good with her mother. When she’s with him, Kelly discovers a more confident, spontaneous version of herself--the person she’d always dreamed she could be. But as the struggle to keep Ethan’s identity secret threatens to detonate her career, Kelly knows she has to kiss her perfect man good-bye.

Balogh, Mary. [Someone to Honor](#)

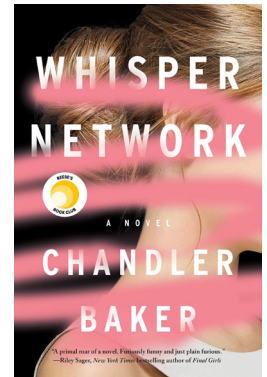
(Berkley \$7.99)

In the latest superbly written addition to award-winning and best-selling Balogh’s Westcott family series, Abigail Westcott must contend with the infuriating charms of Gilbert Bennington, the officer who has escorted her wounded brother, Harry, home from the Napoleonic wars.

Baker, Chandler. [Whisper Network](#)

(Flatiron \$26.99).

Sloane, Ardie, Grace, and Rosalita have worked at Truviv, Inc. a Dallas sportswear company, for years. The sudden death of Truviv’s CEO means their boss, Ames, will likely take over the entire company. Each of the women has a different relationship with Ames, who has always been surrounded by whispers about how he treats women. Those whispers have been ignored, swept under the rug, hidden away by those in charge. But the world has changed, and the women are watching this promotion differently. This time, when they find out Ames is making an inappropriate move on a colleague, they aren’t willing to let it go. This time, they’ve decided enough is enough. Baker is the author of the best-selling young adult *High School Horror* series, and she now makes her adult fiction debut with an insightful, mesmerizing novel that explores the games women are forced to play in the workplace just to survive not to mention the everyday hurdles they must clear at home as well. *Kirkus* called this a “feminist thriller for the #MeToo era.” I call it compelling women’s fiction with a really surprising end twist.



Bobotis, Andrea. [The Last List of Miss Judith Kratt](#)
(Sourcebooks \$15.99)

As the last surviving member of the Kratt family, Miss Judith has inherited everything – the pie safe, the copper clock, the gun involved with her brother Quincy’s murder on evening in 1929 that no one talks about – that the Kratts have collected over the years they have spent living in the small town of Bound, South Carolina. However, when Judith’s wayward sister, who fled home the night Quincy was killed, unexpectedly returns home, all of the family secrets that Judith thought she would take to the grave suddenly begin coming to light.

Brockman, Cambria. [Tell Me Everything](#)
(Ballantine \$27)

In her first weeks at Hawthorne, an exclusive New England college, Malin Ahlberg is swept up into a tight-knit circle that will stick together through all four years. There’s Gemma, an insecure theater major from London; John, a tall, handsome, and wealthy New Englander; Max, John’s cousin and a shy pre-med major; Khaled, a wise-cracking prince from Abu Dhabi; and Ruby, a beautiful art history major. But Malin isn’t quite like the rest of her friends. She’s an expert at hiding her troubling past. She acts as if she is concerned with the preoccupations of those around her--boys, partying--all while using her extraordinary insight to detect their deepest vulnerabilities and weaknesses. By Senior Day, on the cusp of graduation, Malin’s secrets--and those of her friends-- are revealed. While she scrambles to maintain her artfully curated image, her missteps set in motion a devastating chain of events that ends in a murder. Fans of psychological suspense novels in the style of Patricia Highsmith and Donna Tartt will want to put this subtle, intense debut on their reading radar of which *PW* said “A truly chilling thriller with a twist so quiet, you never hear it coming.”

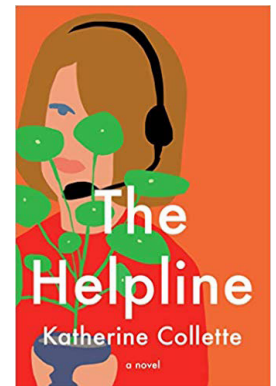
Calder, Eve. [And Then There Were Crumbs](#)
(St. Martin’s \$7.99)

After losing both her restaurant job and her fiancé in short order, Kate McGuire ditches Manhattan in order to start over from scratch in the island town of Coral Cay, Florida. It has everything she’s looking for: sunny beaches, friendly locals, and a Help Wanted

sign in the bakery shop window. Once she convinces the shop’s crusty owner Sam Hepplewhite to hire her, Kate can’t tie on her apron fast enough. Little does she know that trouble, like warm dough, is on the rise when wealthy and obnoxious real estate developer Stewart Lord winds up dead soon after he tries to strong-arm Sam into selling him the bakery. When the police arrest Sam for murder, Kate must somehow prove that her curmudgeonly boss is innocent. Enlisting the help of a team of lovable locals, Kate sets out to catch the real culprit with his hand in the cookie jar...before someone else gets burned.

Collette, Kathe. [Helpline](#)
(Atria \$26)

Germaine Johnson doesn’t need friends. She has her work and her Sudoku puzzles. Until, that is, an incident at her insurance company leaves her jobless--and it turns out that there are very few openings these days for senior mathematicians with zero people skills. Soon enough though, Germaine manages to secure a position at City Hall answering calls on the Senior Citizens Helpline. But the mayor has something else in mind for Germaine: a secret project involving the troublemakers at the senior citizens center and their feud with the neighboring golf club--which happens to be run by the dashing yet disgraced national Sudoku champion, Don Thomas. Collette’s feel-good, heartwarming novel may just be the literary antidote we all desperately need in these nerve-wracking times.



Davis, Fiona. [Masterpiece](#)
(\$16)

If you missed this in hardcover last year, now is your chance to read Davis’s latest impeccably crafted historical novel. *The Masterpiece* centers on a recently divorced information-booth worker, who stumbles on an abandoned art school within a crumbling Grand Central Terminal before learning the story of a talented woman artist who went missing 50 years earlier.

De Pontes Peebles, France. [Air You Breathe](#)
(Riverhead \$16)

In 1930s Brazil, an orphaned kitchen maid Dores and Graca, the reckless, privileged daughter of a sugar baron, bond over their shared passion for music and embark on a volatile friendship marked by their ambitions to escape, their changing fortunes, and unexpected fame. A decade after her award-winning and best-selling novel *The Seamstress* was first published, De Pontes is back with another cinematic and sweeping tale that celebrates the power of friendship while at the same time exploring the fascinating story of the origins of the samba.

Dickson, Allison. [The Other Mrs. Miller](#)
(Putnam \$26)

Phoebe Miller isn't sure when the rusty car started showing up in the cul-de-sac she calls home, or why its driver would be spying on her. What could be interesting about an unhappy, housewife who drowns her sorrows in ice cream and wine and barely leaves her house? When a new family moves in across the street--the exuberant Vicki, who just might become the gossip best friend Phoebe's always wanted, and her handsome college-bound son, Jake, who offers companionship of a different variety--Phoebe finds her dull routine infused with the excitement she's been missing. But with her head turned she's no longer focused on the woman in the car. And she really should be. Another entry in the unreliable narrator domestic suspense subgenre that has become the bread and butter of the book world ever since *Gone Girl* hit the literary jackpot.

Dolan-Leach, Caite. [We Went to the Woods](#)
(Random House \$27)

Convinced that society is on the brink of economic and environmental collapse, five disillusioned twenty-somethings – upper-crust Louisa; charismatic, sleep-around Beau; charming musician Chloe; Jack, the smartest in the group; and Mack, an aspiring writer with the goal of chronicling their stories - cre-

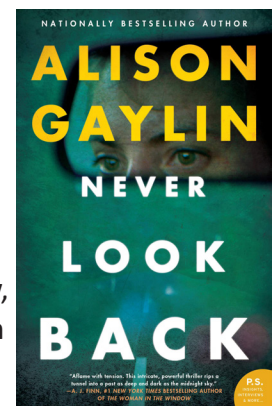
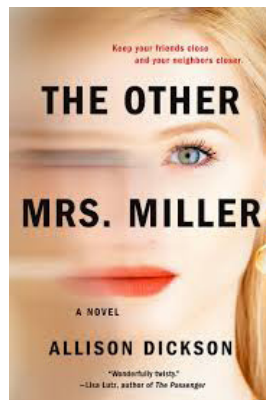
ate a self-sustaining socialist commune in upstate New York, before their utopian vision is marred by desire, suspicion, and betrayal. Dolan-Leach's superbly written debut *Dead Letters* garnered a number of starred reviews, and Kirkus aptly summed her latest saying "Equal parts slow-burning thriller and intelligent analysis of the pros and cons of intentional communities, the novel will appeal to those who would rather read about such endeavors from a safe distance than be immersed in their messy reality."

Estep, Jennifer. [Protect the Prince](#)
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Everleigh Blair might be the new Winter Queen of Bellona, but her problems are far from over. First, Evie has to deal with a court full of arrogant, demanding nobles, all of whom want to get their greedy hands on her crown. As if that wasn't bad enough, an assassin tries to kill Evie in her own throne room. Despite the dangers, Evie goes ahead with a scheduled trip to the neighboring kingdom of Andvari in order to secure a desperately needed alliance. But complicating matters is the stubborn Andvarian king, who wants to punish Evie for the deaths of his countrymen during the Seven Spire massacre. Estep follows up *Kill the Queen*, the first in her Crown of Shards trilogy, with another fast-paced tale of magic, murder, adventure, and romance.

Fader, Molly. [Mcavoy Sisters Book of Secrets](#)
(Grand Central \$16.99)

It's been seventeen years since the tragic summer the McAvoy sisters fell apart. Lindy, the wild one, left home, carved out a new life in the city and never looked back. Delia, the sister who stayed, became a mother herself, raising her daughters and running the family shop in their small Ohio hometown on the shores of Lake Erie. But now, with their mother's ailing health and a rebellious teenager to rein in, Delia has no choice but to welcome Lindy home. As the two sisters try to put their family back in order, they finally have the chance to reclaim what's been lost over the years,



Gaylin, Alison. [Never Look Back](#)

(HarperCollins \$26.99)

As the co-producer and host of the true-crime podcast *Closure*, Quentin Garrison had long given up any hope of achieving some measure of closure when it comes to his own connection to murder: The Inland Empire Killers, a series of murders committed in the 1970s by a teen couple April Cooper and Gabriel Le Roy, who both perished in a fire after killing a dozen victims. However, a recent tip to the podcast leads Quentin to believe that April might have survived, and that New York City film critic Robin Diamond might be the key he needs to locating April. Shamus and Edgar award-winning Gaylin based the Inland Empire killings in her latest thrilling and chilling suspense novel on a real case from the 1950s: that of Charles Starkweather and Caril Ann Fugate, both of whom went on a killing spree in Nebraska and Wyoming. *Never Look Back* is told from the viewpoints of Quentin and Robin (as well as from April via the pages of a journal she keeps). Packed with enough twists and turns for at least a dozen suspense novels, Gaylin deftly keeps the story moving even as readers find themselves wondering exactly how this is going to end up for the three characters.

Gaynor, Hazel. [Meet Me in Monaco](#)

(Harper \$16.99)

Movie stars and paparazzi flock to Cannes for the glamorous film festival, but Grace Kelly, the biggest star of all, wants only to escape from the flash-bulbs. When struggling perfumer Sophie Duval shelters Miss Kelly in her boutique to fend off a persistent British press photographer, James Henderson, a bond is forged between the two women and sets in motion a chain of events that stretches across thirty years of friendship, love, and tragedy. This second superbly entertaining literary collaboration between Gaynor and Heather Webb is tailor made for fans of Beatriz Williams' equally impeccably crafted romantic historical novels.

Gerard, Anna. [Peach Clobbered](#)

(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Awarded a tidy sum in her divorce, Nina Fleet retired at 41 to a historic Queen Anne house in quaint

Cymbeline, GA. But Nina's barely settled into her new B&B-to-be when a penguin shows up on her porch. Or, at least, a man wearing a penguin suit. Harry Westcott is making ends meet as an ice cream shop's mascot and has a letter from his great-aunt, pledging to leave him the house. Too bad that's not what her will says. Meanwhile, the Sisters of Perpetual Poverty have lost their lease. Real estate developer Gregory Bainbridge intends to turn the convent into a golfing community, so Cymbeline's mayor persuades Nina to take in the elderly nuns. And then Nina finds the "penguin" again, this time lying in an alley with a kitchen knife in his chest. A peek under the beak tells Nina it's not Harry inside the costume, but Bainbridge. What was he doing in Harry's penguin suit? Readers who enjoy their cozy mysteries served up with a generous dash of humor and set in a small town filled with "quirky" characters will love Anna Gerard's charming first Georgia B&B mystery.

Guillory, Jasmine. [Wedding Party](#)

(Berkley \$15)

Maddie and Theo have two things in common: 1. Alexa is their best friend 2. They hate each other. Unfortunately, with Alexa's wedding rapidly approaching, Maddie and Theo both share bridal party responsibilities that require more interaction with each other than they're comfortable with. What neither Maddie or Theo is willing to admit is that underneath the sharp barbs they toss at each other is a simmering attraction that won't fade. It builds until they find themselves sneaking off together to release some tension when Alexa isn't looking with the agreement that their "relationship" will end once the wedding is done. So why are Maddie and Theo so upset when the wedding date is pushed up?



Hawkins, Karen. [The Book Charmer](#)

(Gallery \$28)

Sarah Dove is no ordinary bookworm. To her, books have always been more than just objects: they live, they breathe, and sometimes they even speak. When Sarah grows up to become the librarian in her

quaint Southern town of Dove Pond, her gift helps place every book in the hands of the perfect reader. Recently, however, the books have been whispering about something out of the ordinary: the arrival of a displaced city girl named Grace Wheeler. If the books are right, Grace could be the savior that Dove Pond desperately needs. The problem is, Grace wants little to do with the town or its quirky residents—Sarah chief among them. It takes a bit of urging, and the help of an especially wise book, but Grace ultimately embraces the challenge to rescue her charmed new community. In her quest, she discovers the tantalizing promise of new love, the deep strength that comes from having a true friend, and the power of finding just the right book.

Heacock, Summer. [Crashing the a-List](#)
(Mira \$15.99)

Unemployed former book editor Clara Montgomery is officially stuck—stuck sleeping on her little brother’s ugly couch in Queens, stuck scrolling through job listings in search of a new editorial position...and just desperate enough to take on a temporary gig clearing out abandoned storage units. If nothing else, she’s determined to keep her rapidly dwindling savings account intact. Unfortunately, she is in no way prepared for stumbling upon dead snakes or dealing with glass jars that she’s convinced are full of pickled eyeballs. And why does everything seem to smell like beetles? Then Clara comes across a unit that was once owned by an escort service and finds the brothel “résumé” of a younger Caspian Tiddleswich, an astonishingly famous British actor. Clara has no intention of cashing in on her discovery, but her awkward attempts to reassure Caspian that his secret is safe go awry. Now Caspian is convinced that Clara is a blackmailer, the tabloids have her pegged as Caspian’s newest girlfriend...and Clara begins to find the A-lister’s charms more irresistible than she expected.

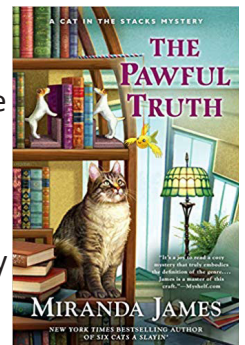
Hlad, Alan. [The Long Flight Home](#)
(Kensington \$26)

After losing her parents to influenza as a child, Susan Shepherd finds comfort in raising homing pigeons with her grandfather Bertie on their farm in Epping. All her birds are extraordinary to Susan—loyal, intelligent, beautiful—but none more so than Duchess.

Thousands of miles away in Buxton, Maine, a young crop-duster pilot named Ollie Evans has decided to travel to Britain to join the Royal Air Force. His quest brings him to Epping and to the National Pigeon Service, where Susan is involved in a new, covert assignment. Codenamed Source Columba, the mission aims to air-drop hundreds of homing pigeons in German-occupied France. World War II has become a hot setting for historical novels ever since Kristin Hannah’s *The Nightingale* spent over a year on the *NYT* best-seller list, but this debut puts a new twist on things by using a real-life (if not well-known) intelligence operation (those wanting more information will want to read the recently released *Operation Columbia: The Secret Pigeon Service*) as the foundation for a fascinating story that deftly combines history, suspense, and romance. *PW* concluded their rave review with “This story will speak not only to romance readers and WWII buffs but also to animal advocates and anyone who enjoys discovering quirky details that are hidden in history.”

James, Miranda. [The Pawful Truth](#)
(Berkley \$26)

Enrolling in a medieval history course, Athena, Mississippi librarian Charlie Harris bonds with fellow adult student Dixie Bell, who is found dead days later from a fatal fall in the aftermath of an angry exchange with the class’s charismatic professor. The 11th addition in James’ *Cats in the Stacks* mysteries serves up plenty of quirky characters, culinary asides, southern charm, and cute cats prompting *PW* to state in their review “This entry reinforces James’s place in the front rank of cozy authors.”



Lippman, Laura. [Lady in the Lake](#)
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

Madeline Schwartz, a divorced reporter in racially torn 1966 Baltimore, triggers unanticipated consequences for vulnerable community members while investigating the death of an African-American party girl Cleo Sherwood, whose body turned up in the Druid Hill Park fountain, but whose murder has otherwise been ignored by the media.

Macomber, Debbie. [Window on the Bay](#)
(Ballantine \$27)

Jenna Boltz's life is at a crossroads. After a messy divorce nearly twenty years ago, she raised her two children on her own, juggling motherhood with her beloved job as a Seattle intensive care nurse. Now that Paul and Allie have gone to college and moved out, Jenna can't help but wonder what her future holds. Her best friend, Maureen, is excited for Jenna's newfound independence. Now is the perfect time to finally book the trip to Paris they've been dreaming of since their college days. But when it comes to life's other great adventure--dating--Jenna still isn't sure she's ready to let love in . . . until an unexpected encounter begins to change her mind. Macomber's latest heartwarming novel is all about embracing the future – and love – and taking chances no matter what stage you might be at in life.

Miller, Louise. [Late Bloomers Club](#)
(Penguin \$16)

Nora, the owner of the Miss Guthrie Diner, is perfectly happy serving up apple cider donuts, coffee, and eggs-any-way-you-like-em to her regulars, and she takes great pleasure in knowing exactly what's "the usual." But her life is soon shaken when she discovers she and her free-spirited, younger sister Kit stand to inherit the home and land of the town's beloved cake lady, Peggy Johnson.

Miranda, Megan. [The Last House Guest](#)
(Simon and Schuster \$26.99)

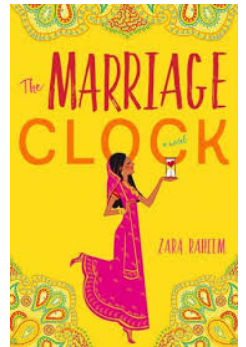
When her longtime best friend Sadie Loman is found dead during an annual party popular with the local 20-somethings, Avery Greer, in order to clear her own name of suspicion, sifts through her idyllic Maine tourist community of Littleport in search of answers and uncovers plenty of secrets that could lead to the real killer. If you enjoy suspense novels in the style of Mary Higgins Clark, you will want to give Miranda's novels a whirl, especially her latest of which *PW* says "Sharply drawn characters both ground and elevate the bombshell-laden plot, while evocative prose heightens tension and conjures place. Miranda delivers a clever, stylish mystery that will seize readers like a riptide."

Morton, Kate. [The Clockmaker's Daughter](#)
(\$17)

In 1862, Edward Radcliffe and a group of artists descend on Birchwood Manor for an artist's retreat, but the retreat ends in murder and theft, and over a century later a young archivist from London tries to discover the manor's secrets.

Raheem, Zara. [The Marriage Clock](#)
(Harper \$15.99)

To Leila Abid's traditional Indian parents, finding a husband is as easy as *match, meet, marry*. Yes, she wants to marry, but after 26 years of singledom, even Leila is starting to get nervous. And to make matters worse, her parents are panicking, the neighbors are talking, and she's wondering, are her expectations just too high? But for Leila, a marriage of arrangement clashes with her lifelong dreams of a Bollywood romance, where real love happens *before* marriage, not the other way around. But after a series of speed dates, blind dates, online dates and even ambush dates, the sparks just don't fly! Now, with the marriage clock ticking, and her 3-month deadline looming in the horizon, Leila must face the consequences of what might happen if she doesn't find "the one?" Raheem's lovely and lyrical novel was named one of *Pop Sugar's* "Best Books to Put in your Beach bag this summer."



Rai, Alisha. [Right Swipe](#)
(Harper \$14.99)

Cynical dating app creator Rhiannon Hunter must decide whether or not to give former pro-football player Samson Lima, who wooed her during one magical night and then disappeared, a second chance despite the fact that his in league with Rhiannon's chief business rival.

Richell, Hannah. [The Peacock Summer](#)
(Harper \$16.99)

1955: At twenty-six-years old, Lillian Oberon is young, beautiful, and married to the wealthy and handsome Charles Oberon. She is also the mistress of Cloude-

sley, a lavish estate. But not long after her nuptials, she begins to feel her marriage is a sham. With a sister and young stepson in her care, Lillian has made peace with her unfulfilling marriage and fate—until a charismatic artist visits for the summer and makes Lillian re-examine the choices she’s made. The present day: Having abruptly broken off her engagement, Maggie Oberon escapes to Australia, hoping that the distance will make her forget the mess she’s made of her life. But when her beloved grandmother, Lillian, becomes ill, she must return to England and confront the past she ran away from. When she arrives at Cloudesley, she is dismayed to find the once opulent estate crumbling into decay. As Maggie scrambles to find a way to save the old property, she is unprepared to learn the secrets that have remained hidden behind the dark halls of Cloudesley.

Roberts, Nora. [Under Currents](#)
(SimonSchuster \$28.99)

Returning to his hometown of Lakeview where his father’s abuse made his childhood a nightmare, Zane Bigelow begins a relationship with Darby McCray, a landscape designer, but his dark past comes back to haunt Zane and threatens their happiness. Master storyteller Roberts’ latest is an intense (and at times brutal) look at the toll physical and verbal abuse can take, but no one is better at deftly mingling suspense and romance than Roberts.

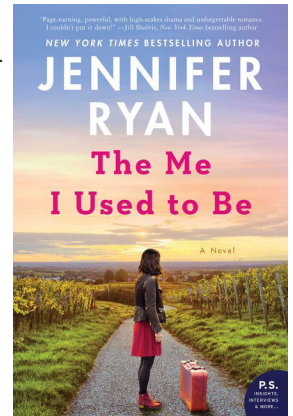
Rockaway, Kristin. [How to Hack a Heartbreak](#)
(Grand Central \$15.99)

By day, Mel Strickland is an underemployed helpdesk tech at a startup incubator, Hatch, where she helps entitled programmers--“Hatchlings”--who can’t even fix their own laptops, but are apparently the next wave of startup geniuses. And by night, she goes on bad dates with misbehaving dudes she’s matched with on the ubiquitous dating app, Fluttr. But after one dick pic too many, Mel has had it. Using her brilliant coding skills, she designs an app of her own, one that allows users to log harassers and abusers in online dating space. It’s called JerkAlert, and it goes viral overnight. Mel is suddenly in way over her head. Worse still, her almost-boyfriend, the dreamy Alex Hernandez--the only non-douchey guy at Hatch--has no idea she’s the brains behind the app. Soon, Mel is

faced with a terrible choice: one that could destroy her career, love life, and friendships, or change her life forever.

Ryan, Jennifer. [The Me I Used To Be](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

After serving time for a crime she didn’t commit, Evangeline returns home to discover her father left her solely responsible for the family’s failing ranch, her mother blames her for her father’s death, and her brothers want her out of their way. With her family’s future squarely on her shoulders, she desperately searches for ways to save their home—before they lose everything. Her only ally, Chris Chambers. The cop who sent her away is positive she took the fall for someone else. And if she helps him track down the real criminals, he’ll clear her record. But the closer Evangeline and Chris get to exposing the truth—and to each other—the deeper Evangeline is drawn into a dangerous sting that will finally bring her justice and pave the way for a bright future.



Salazar, Noelle. [The Flight Girls](#)
(MIRA \$26.99)

Signing up to train military pilots in Hawaii when World War II breaks out in Europe, Audrey Coltrain joins the Women Airforce Service Pilots program after the bombing of Pearl Harbor and bonds with her fellow pilots to find hope and strength in the face of war. In this entertaining debut, Salazar draws upon the relatively unknown story of the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASP), whose job during World War II was to ferry planes around the U.S. thus freeing up male pilots for combat.

Sullivan, Laura. [Milady](#)
(Penguin \$16).

Our July History Paperback Book of the Month.

I’ve gone by many names, though you most likely know me as Milady de Winter: Villainess. Seductress. A secondary player in someone else’s tale. It’s finally

time I tell my own story. The truth isn't tidy or convenient, but it's certainly more interesting. Before you cast judgment, let me start at the beginning, and you shall learn how an innocent girl from the countryside became the most feared woman in all of Europe. Re-reading *The Three Musketeers* by Alexandre Dumas inspired Sullivan to write this thrilling historical novel, because as Sullivan quickly discovers history is all too often written by men, and they so often get things wrong. What if Milady de Winter wasn't really the scheming, heartless fiend Dumas made her out to be? What if the musketeers were really just "drunken brawlers, heartless seducers, and completely ignoble" men? This shift in viewpoint prompted Sullivan to approach *Milady* not as an apologia but rather "a celebration of a woman who crafted her own life, and her legacy, every precisely."

Thayer, Nancy. [*Surfside Sisters*](#)
(Ballantine \$27)

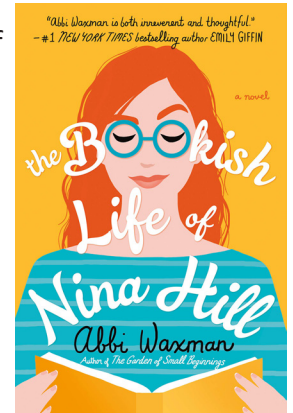
Growing up, Keely Green and her best friend, Isabelle Maxwell, were inseparable. Nothing could come between them—except, as it turned out, Keely's high school boyfriend, Tommy. Now returning home to Nantucket years later as a best-selling author whose personal and professional life are in shambles, Keely must face Isabelle's bitter betrayal and seeing for herself the family Tommy and Isabelle have created, the life that might have been Keely's. But when Keely's mother falls into a deep depression, Keely knows what she must do, even though she is reluctant to face her estranged friend. And encountering Isabelle's older brother, Sebastian—Keely's longtime crush—only complicates things.

Trentham, Laura. [*A Highlander Walks into a Bar*](#)
(St. Martin's \$7.99)

Isabel "Izzy" Buchanan thought her mother might bring back a souvenir or two when she returned home from her trip to Scotland, but she never expected that souvenir would be a six-foot-tall, very handsome gentleman. To make matters even worse, Izzy's mother is so infatuated by the fellow that Izzy has to plan their annual Highland Games all by herself. Well, not completely by herself. The Highlander's strapping young nephew, Alasdair Blackmoor, has come looking for his uncle.

Waxman, Abbi. [*The Bookish Life of Nina Hill*](#)
(Berkley \$16)

The only child of a single mother, Nina has her life just as she wants it: a job in a bookstore, a kick-butt trivia team, a world-class planner and a cat named Phil. If she sometimes suspects there might be more to life than reading, she just shrugs and picks up a new book. When the father Nina never knew existed suddenly dies, leaving behind innumerable sisters, brothers, nieces, and nephews, Nina is horrified. They all live close by! They're all—or mostly all—excited to meet her! She'll have to Speak. To. Strangers. It's a disaster! And as if that wasn't enough, Tom, her trivia nemesis, has turned out to be cute, funny, and deeply interested in getting to know her. Doesn't he realize what a terrible idea that is? In the currently vernacular, this sweetly charming love story that also has a wonderfully acerbic and witty edge is tots adorbs.



Webber, Heather. [*Midnight at the Blackbird Cafe*](#)
(Forge \$24.99)

It was supposed to be a quick trip to the little town of Wicklow to close the café and settle her beloved grandmother's estate, but despite her best intentions to avoid forming ties or even getting to know her father's side of the family, Anna Kate finds herself inexplicably drawn to the quirky Southern town her mother ran away from so many years ago, and the mysterious blackbird pie everybody can't stop talking about.

Williams, Beatriz. [*The Golden Hour*](#)
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

In World War II Nassau to investigate the Duke and Duchess of Windsor for *Metropolitan*, a New York gossip magazine, Lenora "Lulu" Randolph falls for Benedict Thorpe, a scientist who disappears without a trace, sending Lulu on a journey to unravel his complicated family history. In her usual inimitable manner, Williams weaves in a secondary storyline set in 1900 involving young German baroness Elfriede

de von Kleist, who is banished to a Swiss sanatorium after suffering about of post-partum depression where she meets and falls in love with English patient William Thorpe.

Wilson, Carter. [The Dead Girl in 2A](#)
(Sourcebooks \$15.99)

Jake Buchanan is a successful ghostwriter with an eight-year-old daughter Em and a marriage that has imploded after Jake is responsible for an automobile accident that seriously injured Em. Now given the rapidly rising medical costs associated with taking care of Em, Jake is more than happy to accept a new assignment writing the memoir of a mysterious – and apparently quite wealthy given the amount of money he is willing to pay – Colorado businessman. However, when Jake gets on his flight to Denver, he can't help but think he somehow recognizes his seatmate in 2A, Clara Stowe, even though the two can find no connection between them. However, even though

Jake can't pin down exactly how he might know Clara, when she confesses that she's going to Colorado to kill herself, Jake searches frantically for a way to convince her not to go through with her plan. Think Alfred Hitchcock's *Spellbound* blended with one of Stephen King's novels to get an idea of the literary flavor of this unique suspense novel. *Kirkus* caught the appeal neatly with their review which included this snippet "Wilson (*Mr. Tender's Girl*, 2018, etc.) explores how good intentions and hubris can lead down dark paths while tackling themes of sorrow, guilt, and the intoxicating power of memory and human connection with equal aplomb. He even throws in a murder mystery for good measure and delivers a denouement that is both strangely sad and exceedingly creepy."

