

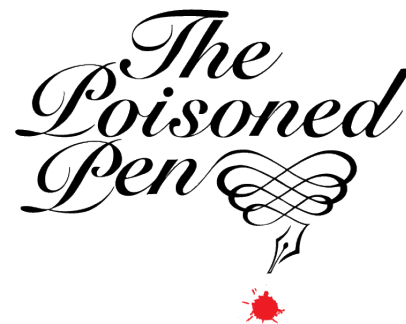
Midmonth BookNotes

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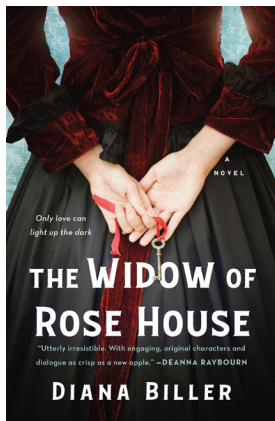
Tales both scary and sweet

Got Gothic?

Billier, Diane. [The Widow of Rose House](#)

(St. Martin's \$16.99)

Given her notoriety, Alva Webster is used to propositions from men, but she never received one like that from Professor Sam Moore. Sam is convinced he can find scientific proof of ghosts in *Liefdehuis*, the dilapidated Hyde Park mansion Alva is renovating and redecorating, but Sam quickly discovers the even bigger mystery he wants to unlock is that of Alva herself. In Diana Billier's mesmerizing debut, the author gifts readers with a remarkable heroine in the person of Alva Webster, whose attempts to escape her past notoriety lead her straight into the arms of engineering professor and inventor Sam Moore. Billier expertly mixes history (including her impeccably evoked Gilded Age



setting), mystery, and a swoon-worthy romance with just the right dash of the supernatural in the process casting her own entrancing literary spell over readers. If you loved those marvelous old books by Barbara Michaels like *The Wizard's Daughter* or *Ammie, Come Home* you will not want to miss this superbly crafted book.

Cockram, Jane. [The House of Brides](#)

(HarperCollins \$27.99)

Miranda's life and career has been a roller-coaster ride. Her successful rise to the top of the booming lifestyle industry as a social media influencer led to

a humiliating fall after a controversial product she endorsed flopped. Desperate to get away from the hate-spewing trolls shaming her on the internet, she receives a mysterious letter addressed to her mother, Tessa Summers, from a young cousin in England that sends Miranda to Barnsley House, which was made famous by Miranda's mother, whose book *The House of Brides* was a best-selling account of the generations of women who married into the infamous Summers family. Posing as a nanny answering a job advertisement posted by her Uncle Max, Miranda arrives at Barnsley only to find Max's wife Daphne, a famous chef, is missing. What has Miranda now gotten herself into? This debut by Australian author Cockram received a 100,000 first printing, which just goes to show you how much the publisher believes in the book, and in my opinion, they were not wrong. From the novel's atmospheric opening chapter, which gracefully plays homage to Daphne Du Maurier's classic novel *Rebecca* to the spellbinding mix of suspense and romance that is expertly entwined in the plot, this is a rare treat.

Gerritsen, Tess. [The Shape of Night](#)

(Random \$28)

Fleeing from an unspeakable tragedy in Boston, Ava Collette arrives remote village in Maine, where she rents an old house named Brodie's Watch hoping that she can now finish the cookbook she's been working on. In that isolated seaside mansion, Ava finally feels at peace . . . until she glimpses the long-dead sea captain, Jeremiah Brodie, who still resides there. Rumor has it that Captain Jeremiah Brodie has haunted the house for more than a century. Now Ava's hard-won peace is being shaken up by a ghost who seems

all too much like a real man as well as a series of accidental deaths nearby that just do not add up. In a recent interview, Gerritsen said “The gothic novel has always been one of my favorite genres. Who doesn’t love Bronte’s *Jane Eyre* and Du Maurier’s *Rebecca*? I wanted to explore the genre, but give it a radical twist. The gothic novel traditionally features an innocent heroine, a brooding hero, and a house with threatening secrets. In *Shape of Night*, the threatening house is there, but the heroine is not an innocent and the brooding hero happens to be a ghost.” I fell for this mesmerizing and haunting book hook, line, and sinker, but if you need additional raves, a veritable phalanx of authors have praised Gerritsen’s latest including Jayne Ann Krentz (who knows a thing or two about romantic suspense), said “With a twisty mix of dangerous passion, obsession, and suspense, Tess Gerritsen reinvents the Gothic novel, giving it a razor-sharp, modern edge. And then there is Sandra Brown, who provided this critique “Reminiscent of the best of du Maurier, this modern gothic is eerie, tantalizing, spine-tingling, and sensual.”

HOLIDAY READING

Now that the temperatures in AZ are finally dropping below triple digits, it is possible to think about the upcoming holidays. Here is an eclectic assortment of books to help you find your own holiday spirit.

Alexander, Ellie. [A Cup of Holiday Fear](#) (SMP \$7.99)

The halls are decked, stockings hung, and eyes are all aglow—mostly thanks to the buttered rum. Jules Capshaw and her staff at Torte are busier than ever. . . still, even the town’s most in-demand bakers need to take a break. So, Jules invites everyone to celebrate at the local Winchester Inn’s Dickens Feast, a six-course extravaganza with Yorkshire Pudding, Christmas goose, and all the trimmings. But as the weather outside becomes frightful, things inside turn less delightful when one of the guests ends up as dead as Scrooge’s doornail.

Andrews, Donna. [Owl Be Home for Christmas](#) (St Martins \$24.99).

Snowed in at the Caerphilly Inn during a scientific conference dedicated to owls with assorted family members and a flock of owl watchers, Meg Langslow

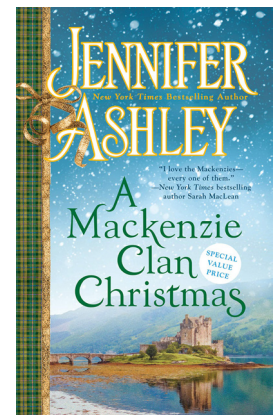
assists Chief Burke in identifying which of the guests is responsible for the murder of a visiting ornithologist, Oliver Frogmore. One of the biggest hurdles Meg faces is that it seems almost everyone staying at the hotel had a reason for wanting to get rid of Frogmore. The 26th sterling addition to award-winning Andrews’ Meg Langslow series is another cozy triumph that effectively employs the old Golden Age trope of a locked room murder and a group of strangers stranded together by the weather. *PW* had this to say “As always, spending time with Meg and her wonderful family is a delight. Andrews reinforces her place at the top of the cozy subgenre.”

Ashley, Jennifer. [A Mackenzie Clan Christmas Signed](#) (Berkley \$5.99).

The latest tartan-wrapped literary treat from Ashley contains one new holiday novella “A Mackenzie Yuletide,” in which Mac Mackenzie tracks a ghost he believes is haunting the family attics while Ian Macakenzie finally locates the perfect Hogmanay gift for Beth only to find he has some competition for the item. Also included is Ashley’s classic “A Mackenzie Clan Gathering,” in which Ian Mackenzie and his brothers try to track down the thief who has stolen Hart’s prized paintings while Ian is tempted with an offer someone, who claims to be able to cure Ian of his “madness.” Ashley will be appearing at the Poisoned Pen on Saturday November 23 to sign this for us.

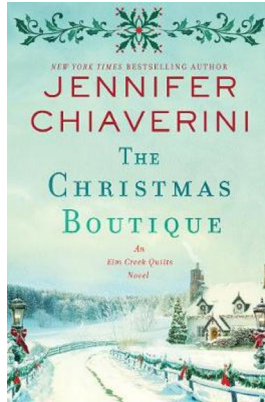
Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries and the Alms of the Angel](#) (Berkley \$26)

Mrs. Jeffries and Inspector Witherspoon investigate the murder of the seemingly well-liked, church-going Margaret Starling, a well-to-do widow, who always seemed to be willing to help those in need. In the 38th! installment in Brightwell’s long-running Victorian-set series, Inspector Gerald Witherspoon, unbeknownst to himself, once again is supported in his investigatory efforts by his housekeeper Mrs. Jeffries and her “crew” of household help. Think of Brightwell’s Mrs. Jeffries mysteries as a lighter counterpart to Anne Perry’s mysteries.



Chiaverini, Jennifer. [Christmas Boutique](#) (Harper \$19.99).

When severe wintry weather damages a church hosting the annual Christmas boutique, Sylvia Bergstrom and Andrew Compson offer space at Elm Creek Manor to host the popular fundraiser, but before Emily's fellow Elm Creek quilters can help out, they must first sort out some problems of their own. It has been 20 years since the last installment in Chiaverini's popular Elm Creek Quilters series, and having a new story about these beloved characters and their charming small town is definitely a holiday treat!



Colgan, Jenny. [Christmas at Rosie Hopkins' Sweetshop](#) (Harper \$26.99).

Also in paperback: [Christmas at Rosie Hopkins Sweetshop](#) (\$14.99).

Rosie Hopkins can't wait for Christmas to come! Her boyfriend Stephen is starting his new job as a teacher in the village school. Her quaint Sweetshop and Confectionery has been restored to its former glory, and Rosie has a loveable mop of a new puppy named Mr. Dog. Most joyous of all, Rosie and Stephen's relatives will finally be gathering together in Lipton for what is sure to be a merry feast. But when a devastating tragedy strikes at the heart of the close-knit town, plans for a cozy Christmas are suddenly in danger of melting away. It's going to take Rosie's indomitable spirit, the embrace of family and friends, and the resilient good will of a community to turn it all around and make this a holiday to be thankful for. Think of Colgan as the British literary equivalent of Debbie Macomber.

Cox, Natalie. [Mutts and Mistletoe](#) (Putnam \$13).

Her boyfriend has left her for his personal trainer, her mother has absconded with her latest husband for the holidays, and--adding insult to (literal) injury--her London apartment has just been destroyed by a gas leak. Single, mildly concussed and temporarily homeless, Charlie realizes there's only one place to go: Cozy Canine Cottages, where she'll spend the season

looking after her cousin Jez's doggy day care center in the heart of Devon. And if she's not exactly a dog person, well, no one has to know.

Dare, Tessa. [How the Dukes Stole Christmas](#): (Harper \$7.99).

This splendid historical holiday anthology includes four novellas. "Meet Me in Mayfair" by Tessa Dare in which Lousia Ward finds herself battling her affections for Scrooge wanna-be the Duke of Thorndale. "The Duke of Christmas Present" by Sarah MacLean in which the rich and ruthless Duke of Allryd finds his holiday plans of solitary sulking interrupted by Lady Jacqueline Mosby. "Heiress Alone" by Sophie Jordan in which a holiday snowstorm leaves Annis Bannister stranded in the highlands and forced to rely for help on a surly hermit Duke. And "Christmas in Central Park" by Joanna Shupe a Gilded Age take on the classic movie *A Christmas in Connecticut*.

Guillory, Jasmine. [Royal Holiday](#) (Berkley \$20).

Vivian Forest has been out of the country a grand total of one time, so when she gets the chance to tag along on her daughter Maddie's work trip to England to style a royal family member, she can't refuse. She's excited to spend the holidays taking in the magnificent British sights, but what she doesn't expect is to become instantly attracted to a certain private secretary named Malcom Hudson, his charming accent, and unyielding formality. This is the hardcover debut for *New York Times* best-selling Guillory

Hayes-McCoy, Fe. [The Mistletoe Matchmaker](#) (Harper \$15.99).

The days are turning colder, preparations are under way for the Winter Fest, and everyone is hoping for a little holiday magic on the Finfarran peninsula. And as Cassie Fitzgerald, fresh from Toronto, is about to discover, there's more to the holidays on the west coast of Ireland than mistletoe and mince pies. If you enjoy Patrick Taylor's Irish novels, Hayes-McCoy's books are equally delightful.

Kingsbury, Kate. [A Merry Murder](#) (Berkley \$16)

Cecily Sinclair Baxter, the owner with her husband of the Pennyfoot Hotel, soon discovers that the hotel's Christmas curse has struck again when a guest turns

up dead in the hotel's laundry room with a note from one of the hotel's maids in his pocket. Now Cecily must catch the killer before Police Constable Northcott arrests an innocent young woman for the crime. It has been six years since the last Pennyfoot mystery, but author Kate Kingsbury discovered her characters were not ready to retire quite yet. So now readers have another Edwardian-set holiday mystery to enjoy just as the new *Downton Abbey* movie hits the theaters.

Kinsella, Sophie. [Christmas Shopaholic](#)
(Random \$27).

Agreeing to host her family's Christmas celebration, Becky Brandon (nee Bloomwood) finds her efforts complicated by her parents' alternate plans, her friend Jess' vegan turkey, her husband Luke's lack of enthusiasm for the holidays, her young daughter Minnie's request for a hard-to-find gift and the reappearance of a rock-star ex, who appears to be willing to pick up things romantically with Becky where they left off earlier. Kinsella delivers the same kind of deliciously dry British sense of humor found in the Bridget Jones books.

Longworth, M.L. [A Noel Killing](#)
(Penguin \$16)

Examining magistrate Antoine Verlaque and his wife Marie Bonnet are celebrating the Christmas season in Aix-en-Provence by attending the city's annual holiday fair, but their *Joyeaux Noel* plans are quickly interrupted when local businessman Cole Hainsby is found murdered after the city's traditional communal holiday meal.

Macomber, Debbie. [A Mrs. Miracle Christmas](#)
(Ballantine \$20).

Struggling with her grandmother Helen's failing health and her inability to have a child, Laurel McCullough receives unexpected help from a kindhearted stranger named Mrs. Miracle at the same time her dreams begin coming true. Macomber's sweet holiday tale will definitely chase away any Grinchy feelings readers might harbor.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Christmas Keeper Signed](#)
(Berkley \$7.99).

Who doesn't love Christmas? Apparently, Savannah Wilson from what Joaquin "Quino" Solis can see.

Despite his best efforts to engage with Savannah and share a bit of holiday cheer, all Quino keeps getting from Savannah is the proverbial cold shoulder. Well, there is nothing Quino likes better than a challenge, and convincing Savannah to drop her bah, humbug act and embrace the spirit of the holiday season has just become the number one thing to check off on Quino's holiday list. McKinlay will be at the Poisoned Pen on November 23 to sign the latest fun and funny addition to her Happily Ever After series.



Naigle, Nancy. [Christmas Angels](#)
(St Martins \$15.99).

Liz Westmoreland always dreamed of taking over her grandparent's inn located in the small mountain town of Antler Creek but the property was sold long before she ever got the chance. Now while browsing the internet, Liz stumbles upon a listing for what looks to be the picturesque inn. Unfortunately, after placing the winning bid, Liz arrives at the inn only to find the property in significant disrepair. However, with some help from her hunky new neighbor and old childhood friend Matt Hardy and a collection of angels left behind by her grandmother, Liz just might have a chance of seeing her dream come true. If watching holiday movies on the Hallmark Channel is a Christmas tradition with you, this sweet contemporary romance by Naigle will be right up your reading alley.

Noblin, Annie E. [Pupcakes: A Christmas Novel](#)
(Harper \$7.99).

There he stood in the doorway: overweight, depressed and nearly homeless—a pug named Teddy Roosevelt. Teddy was Brydie Benson's latest problem, arriving on top of her messy divorce and sudden move. Brydie needed a place to start over, so this rent-free home seemed a great idea. She just never counted on Teddy, or his owner, the Germantown Retirement Village's toughest customer, Pauline Neumann. And because rent-free doesn't mean bills-free, Brydie gets a night-shift job at a big-box grocery. Whoever guessed there were so many people who wanted baked goods after midnight? Then, she gets an idea—why not combine her baking skills with her

new-found dog knowledge? The perfect holiday read about dogs, romance, and starting over in life.

Novak, Brenda. [Christmas in Silver Springs](#) (Mira \$7.99).

After being ditched by her rising rock star husband, Elle Devlin dries her tears and takes her two daughters home to Silver Springs for the holidays, where she unexpectedly encounters a second chance at love with Tobias Richardson, who is keeping a secret of his own that could jeopardize any romantic chance he might have with Elle.

Putney, Mary Jo. [Seduction on a Snowy Night](#) (Kensington \$15.95).

Three *New York Times* best-selling historical romance writers come together to celebrate the holidays in a collection of superbly crafted novellas that is guaranteed to be the perfect reading gift for Regency historical fans. In Hunter's emotionally compelling "A Christmas Abduction," Caroline Dunham's carefully calibrated plans to abduct Adam Prescott, Baron Thornhill, take an unexpected turn when the notorious rake turns out to be quite the gentleman. Jeffries skillfully cooks up plenty of sexy chemistry between heiress Cassandra Isles and Colonel Lord Heywood, who insists he isn't kidnapping Cassandra from a winter ball but instead "rescuing" her from a coldly calculating fortune-hunter in "A Perfect Match." And after spending seven years in India, Lady Diana Lawrence returns home to England to be with her niece and her family only to be unexpectedly reunited at a masked ball with the man she once loved and let go: Anthony Raines, Duke of Castleton in Putney's impeccably written "One Wicked Winter Night."

Roberts, Sheila. [Christmas From the Heart](#) (MIRA \$16.99)

How many times does he have to say no? That is the question on Hightower Enterprises CFO Guy Hightower when he gets yet another missive from Olivia Berg begging for a corporate contribution to her charity Christmas from the Heart. However, when Guy's fancy sports car breaks down on the way Pine River, Olivia's hometown, and he is rescued by Olivia, who then offers him a place to stay while his car is being repaired, Guy figures it might be better if he introduces himself as "Joe Ford." While staying with Olivia and her family, Guy discovers just how much Olivia's charity means

to the residents of Pine River, and just how much he is missing out on by not opening his heart to giving. No one is better at expertly fusing small-town charm and holiday cheer quite like Roberts.

Schaler, Karen. [Christmas Camp](#) (Harper \$14.99).

Just as brand strategist Haley Hanson is poised to secure the promotion she has coveted for years at the Boston advertising firm where she works, Haley's boss throws her a curve ball. In order to land a new account from a Christmas toy company, Haley, who everyone admits could give the Grinch lessons in how to ruin Christmas, first needs to attend Christmas Camp at Holly Peak Inn to help her find her own Christmas spirt. Arriving at the charming mountainside inn, Haley meets the owner's handsome son, Jeff, and feels an instant spark, but resists the attraction, refusing to be distracted from her goal of doing all the required Christmas tasks as fast as possible so she can get back to work. Emmy award-winning Schaler's screenwriting credits include the Netflix sensation *A Christmas Prince* as well as penning the script for the Hallmark Channel's rendition of her *Christmas Camp*.



Schaler's latest Christmas sparkler is [Finding Christmas](#) (Harper \$14.99)

Emmie Sanders thought she had devised the perfect way to get her Scrooge-wannabe boyfriend Grant in the Christmas spirit by devising a special holiday-themed scavenger hunt for him. But because of a mix-up, mystery writer Sam Riley winds up following Emmie's clues all the way to the town of Christmas Point, where Emmie is waiting. As the two enjoy a variety of holiday activities, Emmie realizes that she is having far more fun celebrating the holidays with Sam than she might have had with her boyfriend Grant.

White, Karen. [The Christmas Spirits on Tradd Street](#) (Berkley \$26)

Melanie Trenholm should be anticipating Christmas with nothing but joy—after all, it's only the second

Christmas she and her husband, Jack, will celebrate with their twin toddlers. But the ongoing excavation of the centuries-old cistern in the garden of her historic Tradd Street home has been a huge millstone, both financially and aesthetically. Local students are thrilled by the possibility of unearthing more Colonial-era artifacts at the cistern, but Melanie is concerned by the ghosts connected to it that have suddenly invaded her life and her house—and at least one of them is definitely not filled with holiday cheer.

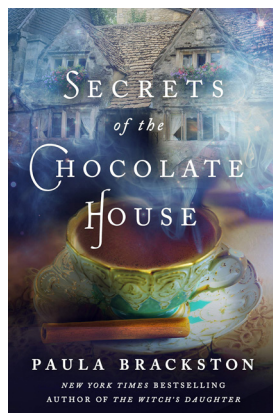
Wilde, Lori. [The Christmas Dare](#) (Harper \$7.99).

After her fiancé dumps her at the altar and runs off with his best man, Kelsey James decides she is tired of playing it safe in life. Egged on by her best friend Tasha, Kelsey vows that she is going to spend the rest of Christmas daring herself to say “yes,” to what she wants in life. But is what Kelsey wants right now really a chance to re-connect with her old high-school sweetheart and former NBA star Noah MacGregor? Wilde has the gift for delivering just the right mix of sexy and sweet in her holiday romances.

Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Brackston, Paula. [Secrets of the Chocolate House](#) (St Martins \$27.99).

After her adventures in the seventeenth century chronicled in Brackston’s previous book, *The Little Shop of Found Things* (see below), Xanthe does her best to settle back into the rhythm of life in Marlborough. She tells herself she must forget about Samuel Appleby and leave him in the past where he belongs. With the help of her new friends, Xanthe does her best to move on, focusing instead on the success of her and her mother Flora’s antique shop. But there are still things waiting to be found, still injustices needing to be put right, still voices whispering to Xanthe from long ago about secrets wanting to be shared. While looking for new stock for the shop, Xanthe hears the song of a copper chocolate pot. Soon after, she has an upsetting vision of Samuel in great danger, compelling her to make another jour-



ney to the past to save the man she loves. Patiently waiting for the next installment in Diana Gabaldon’s best-selling series featuring Claire and Jaime Fraser? Then you might want to explore Brackston’s new series, of which *Women’s World Magazine* says “fans of *Outlander* will rejoice”.

New in paperback: [The Little Shop of Found Things](#) (\$17.99).

Xanthe and her mother Flora leave London behind for a fresh start, taking over an antique shop in the historic town of Marlborough. Xanthe has always had an affinity with some of the antiques she finds. When she touches them, she can sense something of the past they come from and the stories they hold. When she has an intense connection to a beautiful silver chatelaine she has to know more. It is while she’s examining the chatelaine that Xanthe is transported back to the seventeenth century where she discovers there is an injustice in history, and a dreamy architect named Samuel Appleby, who may be the person who can help her succeed. He may also be the reason she can’t bring herself to leave.

Butland, Stephanie. [The Curious Heart of Ailsa Rae](#) (St Martins \$17.99).

It has only been a few months after her successful heart transplant, and Ailsa Rae is beginning to learn how to live again by doing the things any normal twenty-eight-year old might. But this doesn’t mean Ailsa doesn’t have a few old obstacles to overcome. Ailsa’s relationship with her mother is at a breaking point and she wants to find her father. Then there’s Lennox, whom Ailsa loved and lost. Will she ever find love with Lennox again?

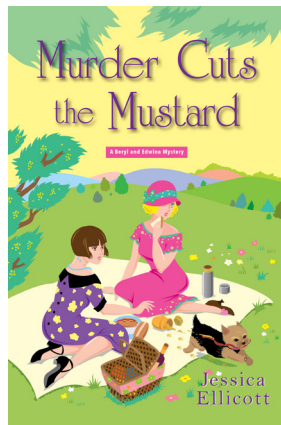
Eason, K. [How Rory Thorne Destroyed the Multiverse](#) (Daw \$26)

In this feminist re-imagining of familiar fairytale tropes, Rory Thorne is a princess with thirteen fairy blessings, the most important of which is to see through flattery and platitudes. As the eldest daughter, she always imagined she’d inherit her father’s throne and govern the interplanetary Thorne Consortium. Then her father is assassinated, her mother gives birth to a son, and Rory is betrothed to the prince of a distant world. When Rory arrives in her new home, she uncovers a treacherous plot to unseat her newly betrothed and usurp his throne.

An unscrupulous minister has conspired to name himself Regent to the minor (and somewhat foolish) prince. With only her wits and a small team of allies, Rory must outmaneuver the Regent and rescue the prince. *Kirkus*, among other review sources, gave this a coveted star saying “Told with just enough editorializing from a Dickensian narrator, this story delights from cover to cover. The political intrigue never fails to surprise, each character is layered and compelling, and there’s a perfect balance between science-fiction action and fairy-tale fantasy. Do not, under any circumstances, miss out on this.”

Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder Cuts the Mustard](#) (Kensington \$26)

In the third charming addition to Ellicott’s 1920s-set series, proper Brit Edwina Davenport and brash American Beryl Helliwell investigate the murder of their elderly gardener Albert Simpkin’s brother-in-law Hector Lomax in the quaint village of Walmsley Parva, discovering a valuable ring and a second homicide along the way. Fans of the Daisy Dalrymple mysteries by Carola Dunn will want to check out this equally entertaining new series.



PW concluded their rave of this with “Witty prose, distinctive characters, and an enchanting setting all make for a winner.” Start with [Murder in an English Village](#) (Kensington \$15.95) and then progress to [Murder Flies the Coop](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

Feret-Fleury, Christine. [The Girl Who Reads on the Metro](#) (Flatiron \$22.99).

Juliette leads a perfectly ordinary life in Paris, working a boring office job, dating a string of not-quite-right men, and fighting off melancholy. The only bright spots in her day are her metro rides across the city, and the stories Juliette dreams up about the strangers reading books across from her. One morning, while avoiding work as long as she can, Juliette finds herself on a new block, in front of a rusty gate wedged open with a book. Unable to resist, Juliette walks through the gate and into the quirky lives of Soliman and his young daughter Zaide. *Kirkus* concluded their rave of this little gem of a book, the first

of the author’s to be translated into English, saying “With a cast of characters reminiscent of the French film *Amelie*, Feret-Fleury creates a world that is delightful and enchanting.” Perfect for anyone who fell in love with *The Little Paris Bookshop* or *Paris by the Book*.

Fowler, Therese. [A Well-Behaved Woman](#) (\$16.99).

Marrying into the newly rich but socially scorned Vanderbilt clan, Alva Smith navigates society snubs and dark undercurrents in the lives of her in-laws and friends while testing the limits of her ambitious rule-breaking. Fowler is also the author of the *New York Times* bestselling *Z: A Novel of Zelda Fitzgerald*.

Higginbotham, S. [The First Lady and the Rebel](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99).

As the Civil War cracks the country in two, Mary Lincoln stands beside her husband praying for a swift Northern victory. But as the body count rises, Mary can’t help but fear each bloody gain. Because her beloved sister Emily is across party lines, fighting for the South, and Mary is at risk of losing both her country and her family in the tides of a brutal war. Emily Todd Helm has married the love of her life. But when her husband’s southern ties pull them into a war neither want to join, she must make a choice. Abandon the family she has built in the South or fight against the sister she has always loved best. *PW* summed up this fascinating duel protagonist historical novel by saying “Higginbotham does a great job portraying her characters with complexity and nuance, while also illuminating the circumstances of a war that tore families apart.”

Hilderbrand, Elin. [Winter in Paradise](#) (\$16.99).

When Irene Steele discovers that her husband is dead, she is shocked to find out he died on the white, sandy beaches of St. John where he kept a secret, second family. If your idea of a great Christmas is lots of sun and sand, Hilderbrand is your gal.

Krentz, Jayne Ann. [Untouchable](#) (\$7.99).

FBI consultant Jack Lancaster’s almost preternatural ability to get inside the killer’s head has garnered him a reputation in some circles--and complicated his personal life. The more cases Jack solves, the closer

he slips into the darkness. His only solace is Winter Meadows, a meditation therapist, who is teaching him deep meditation therapy as a means of dealing with his nightmares. However, one cold case in which Jack has a very personal connection has now come back to haunt him, and Jack will need all of Winter's help in order to successfully put the past to rest.

Lauren, Christina. [Twice in a Blue Moon](#) (Gallery \$28).

Also in paperback: [Twice in a Blue Moon](#) (\$16).

During a whirlwind two-week vacation abroad to London, Sam Brandis and Tate Jones fell for each other in only the way that first loves do: sharing all of their hopes, dreams, and deepest secrets along the way. Sam was the first, and only, person that Tate—the long-lost daughter of one of the world's biggest film stars—ever revealed her identity to. After events come to prove her trust in Sam was misplaced, Tate's world is shattered for good. Fourteen years later, Tate, now an up-and-coming actress, only thinks about her first love every once in a blue moon. So, when Tate steps onto the set of her first big break, Sam is the last person she expects to see.

Morgan, Sarah. [A Wedding in December](#) (Harlequin \$27.99).

In the snowy perfection of Aspen, the White family gathers for youngest daughter Rosie's whirlwind Christmas wedding. First to arrive are the bride's parents, Maggie and Nick. Their daughter's marriage is a milestone they are determined to celebrate wholeheartedly, but they are hiding a huge secret of their own: they are on the brink of divorce. Rosie's older sister, Katie, is also dreading the wedding. Worried that impulsive, sweet-hearted Rosie is making a mistake, Katie is determined to save her sister from herself! If only the irritatingly good-looking best man, Jordan, would stop interfering with her plans. Bride-to-be Rosie loves her fiancé but is having serious second thoughts. Except everyone has arrived—how can she tell them she's not sure?

Moriarty, Liane. [Nine Perfect Strangers](#) (\$17.99).

At a remote health resort, nine strangers and their enigmatic host become subjects of interest to former

best-selling novelist Frances Welty, who develops uncomfortable doubts about the resort's real agenda. Moriarty knows a thing or two herself about being a best-selling author since her book *Big Little Lies* not only was a No. 1 *New York Times* bestseller but also has been turned into a hit HBO series.

Moyes, Jojo. [The Giver of Stars](#) (Viking \$27).

Alice Wright marries handsome American Bennett Van Cleve hoping to escape her stifling life in England. But small-town Kentucky quickly proves equally claustrophobic, especially living alongside her overbearing father-in-law. So, when a call goes out for a team of women to deliver books as part of Eleanor Roosevelt's new traveling library, Alice signs on enthusiastically. The leader, and soon Alice's greatest ally, is Margery, a smart-talking, self-sufficient woman who's never asked a



man's permission for anything. They will be joined by three other singular women who become known as the Horseback Librarians of Kentucky. Set in Depression-era America, the latest from Moyes (best known for her book *Me Before You*) based her latest enthralling novel about women's friendship, true love, and the power of books and reading, on a true story rooted in America's past.

Scott, Regina. [A Distance Too Grand](#) (Fleming \$15.99).

If Meg Pero has to tell one more man that women can be photographers, someone is going to get the wrong end of camera tripod across their backside! As far as Meg is concerned the United States Army contracted with one M. Pero to be the official photographer for the 1871 survey crew of the Grand Canyon's North Rim. It is not Meg's fault that Army Captain Ben Coleridge thought that her late father Matthew Pero would be the one fulfilling the contract. Meg is just as competent a photographer and she can do the job. Of course, the fact the Meg turned down a marriage proposal from Ben several years earlier, might make things a bit interesting on the expedition! What better way to celebrate the Grand Canyon National

Park's 100th anniversary than by reading this marvelously entertaining (and informative) novel.

Shipman, Viola. [The Recipe Box](#) (\$17.99).

When her efforts to pursue a professional culinary life in New York City away from her family's northern Michigan orchard end in disappointment, Sam spends a summer working for the family pie shop and begins to learn about and understand the women in her life, her family's history and her passion for food as she prepares beloved ancestral recipes. This charming and heartfelt women's fiction tale includes a smattering of yummy apple recipes culled from the files of Sam's family.

Smith, Sarah. [Faker](#) (Berkley \$16).

Emmie Echavarre is a professional faker. She has to be to survive as one of the few female employees at Nuts & Bolts, a power tool company staffed predominantly by gruff, burly men.

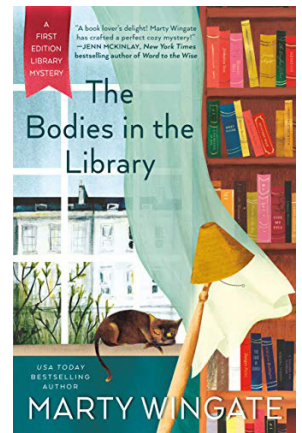
One thing Emmie doesn't have to fake? Her disdain for coworker Tate Rasmussen. Tate has been hostile to her since the day they met. Emmie's friendly greetings and repeated attempts to get to know him failed to garner anything more than scowls and terse one-word answers. Too bad she can't stop staring at his Thor-like biceps. When Emmie and Tate are forced to work together on a charity construction project, things get...heated. Emmie's beginning to see that beneath Tate's chiseled exterior lies a soft heart, but it will take more than a few kind words to erase the past and convince her that what they have is real. If you love office enemies to lovers rom coms like *The Hating Game* by Sally Thorne, you will not want to miss this laugh-out-loud, sexy debut.

Tilly, Meg. [Hidden Cove](#) (Berkley \$16).

When a close friend dies from a suspicious overdose, Solace Island gallery owner Zelia Thompson teams up with a reclusive crime fiction novelist to uncover the truth, placing her own life at risk along the way. Academy award-winning actress Tilly continues to deliver the goods with her latest thrilling novel of romantic suspense.

Wingate, Marty. [The Bodies in the Library](#) (Berkley \$26)

"So what we've got is a body in the library at a society that specializes in murder mysteries. Doesn't that just take the biscuit?" This is the first comment from one of the detectives when the police arrive at Middlebank House in Bath, the home of Lady Georgiana Fowling's First Edition Library, a collection dedicated to mysteries from the Golden Age. Despite her own lack of familiarity with the classics of mystery fiction, Hayley Burke, who has recently landed the job of curator of the collection, can also see the irony of the situation, especially since the murder victim was the group leader of a writer's group dedicated to turning out fan fiction based on Agatha Christie's mysteries. Now if Hayley wants to save her job, she will have to take a crash course in detection in order to catch the killer and save the library. *The Bodies in the Library* launches a delightful new series by Marty Wingate, who when not killing people in fiction, writes gardening guides for the Pacific Northwest and leads garden tours through England, Scotland, and Ireland. Fans of witty cozies and those who cherish Golden Age classic mysteries can't afford to miss this marvelously entertaining mystery.



Nonfiction

Beauty, Bling and Fashion

Brickell, Francesca Cartier. [The Cartiers](#) (Random \$35)

Published in the two-hundredth anniversary year of the birth of the dynasty's founder, Louis-François Cartier, *Cartiers* is the revealing tale of a jewelry dynasty—four generations, from revolutionary France to the 1960s. At its heart are the three Cartier brothers whose motto was "Never copy, only create" and who made their family firm internationally famous in the early days of the twentieth century, thanks to their unique and complementary talents: Louis, the visionary designer who created the first

men's wristwatch to help an aviator friend tell the time without taking his hands off the controls of his flying machine; Pierre, the master dealmaker who bought the New York headquarters on Fifth Avenue for a double-stranded natural pearl necklace; and Jacques, the globe-trotting gemstone expert whose travels to India gave Cartier access to the world's best rubies, emeralds, and sapphires, which served as the source of inspiration for some of the firm's most iconic pieces of jewelry sold to customers ranging from Indian maharajas and Russian grand duchesses to Wallis Simpson, Coco Chanel, and Elizabeth Taylor.

Fitoussi, Michele et. al. [Helena Rubinstein](#)
(Flammarion \$40)

Helena Rubinstein was the first to establish the link between beauty and science, at a time when makeup was worn only by actresses and prostitutes. Progressive and a feminist, she made beauty accessible, using cosmetics as a means of emancipation. A daring pioneer, she founded a world-famous cosmetics empire with intelligence, courage, intuition, and business acumen. Her visionary marketing and publicity campaigns secured her brand's success, and she left behind one hundred branches in forty countries and 30,000 employees. Until the end of her life, the world's richest woman remained faithful to her humble Polish-Jewish roots and proud of her Yiddish accent. This illustrated biography recounts Rubinstein's life and legacy--the path to building her empire, her extensive art collection, her fascination with fashion and jewelry, and her groundbreaking achievements in launching the modern beauty revolution.



Ottaviano, Chiara. [Bulgari](#)
(Rizzoli \$65)

Designed to accompany a major exhibit surveying the history of this iconic company, this catalog looks at over 350 pieces of jewelry designed and created by the company. Each piece of jewelry is matched with haute couture garments of the same time period from the most illustrious fashion houses, including Chanel, Dior, Prada, Versace, Fendi, Pucci, Balenciaga,

Yves Saint Laurent, Valentino, and more. The volume also includes exclusive essays by industry experts and noted historians that explore the history of the Bulgari family starting with the founder, Sotirio Bulgari, who immigrated to Italy from the Balkans in the late nineteenth century.

Spencer, Cal. [Dressing Barbie](#)
(HarperCollins \$35)

Over the course of her 35-year career at Mattel, Spencer created thousands of ensembles for America's most-loved doll, Barbie, and now she chooses a little more than 100 of her favorites to share. Interspersed among the outfits are tales of Spencer's time working with Ruth Hander, creator of Barbie, and the doll's original designer Charlotte Johnson. Published in commemoration of Barbie's sixtieth anniversary, this includes many never-before-seen images of rare and one-of-a-kind Barbie couture pieces from the early 1960s to the 1990s. Essential for collectors and anyone with fond memories of their own favorite childhood toy.

Stanley, Leonard et al. [Adrian](#)
(Rizzoli \$65)

Adrian, (1903-1959) is perhaps best-known today for being the creator of the famous ruby slippers worn by Dorothy in classic 1939 movie *The Wizard of Oz*. However, Adrian also designed costumes for over 150 Hollywood films including fabulous gowns worn by such celebrated actresses as Greta Garbo, Norma Shearer, Joan Crawford, and Katharine Hepburn. Adrian went on to found one of the most influential fashion labels of the mid-twentieth century, Adrian, Ltd. as well as being the first American designer to be honored with a retrospective exhibition at the Smithsonian Institution. This is the first book on the famed Hollywood designer to be published with the cooperation of his family and includes a treasure trove of never-before-seen images and anecdotes taken from Adrian's unpublished memoir.

Movie Magic

Brew, Simon. [The Secret Life of Movies](#)
(Octopus \$19.99)

From the small references and inspirations, through to clues, hidden meanings and moments in frame that you may have simply missed, this indispensable

guide is both a love letter to cinema and a jam-packed treasure trove that no film fan will want to miss out on. Think of this as a kind of “Where’s Waldo” type seek and find for movie geeks.

Kurtti, Jeff et al. [The Art of Disney Costuming](#)
(Disney \$45)

The collection begins with a summation of the costumes created for Disney animation, early live action, and television, along with show wardrobes sported at the Disney Parks by Audio-Animatronics figures and Cast Members. The next section details a timeless case study: Cinderella’s ball gown. A diverse group of designers has been called upon over the years to address and improvise the creative and practical needs each time the fairy tale *Cinderella* has been reimagined. And last, the full galleries (organized by the character archetypes of heroes and villains, and those complex, always interesting, “spaces between”) showcase costumes across more than thirty Disney films. At each turn, this volume offers a one-of-a-kind backstage view of remarkable works of art, and it inspires a true appreciation for the highly skilled and talented costumers who created them.

De Forest, Sloan. [Dynamic Dames](#)
(Running Press \$23)

From Scarlett O’Hara to Thelma and Louise to Wonder Woman, strong women have not only lit up the screen, they’ve inspired and fired our imaginations. Some dynamic women are naughty and some are nice, but all of them buck the narrow confines of their expected gender role -- whether by taking small steps or revolutionary strides. Through engaging profiles and more than 100 photographs, *Dynamic Dames* looks at fifty of the most inspiring female roles in film from the 1920s to today. The characters are discussed along with the exciting off-screen personalities and achievements of the actresses and, on occasion, female writers and directors, who brought them to life.

Oppenheim, Chad ed. [Lair](#)
(Tra Pub \$75)

From futuristic fantasies to deathtrap-laden hives, from dwellings in space to those under the sea, pop culture and architecture join forces in these outlandish, primarily modern homes in *Lair*, which features buildings from fifteen films, including: *The*

Spy Who Loved Me, *The Incredibles*, and *North by Northwest*. Edited by acclaimed architect Chad Oppenheim with Andrea Gollin, *Lair* includes interviews with production designers and other industry professionals such as Ralph Eggleston, Richard Donner, Roger Christian, David Scheunemann, Gregg Henry, and Mark Digby. Contributors include director Michael Mann, cultural critic Christopher Frayling, museum director Joseph Rosa, and architect Amy Murphy. Architectural illustrations and renderings by Carlos Fuego provide multiple in-depth views of these spaces.

Rotten Tomatoes. [Rotten Movies We Love](#)
(Running Press \$23.99)

Ever been crushed to learn your favorite movie -- or a new one you’re dying to see -- has been given the big green splat from Rotten Tomatoes’ infamous Tomatometer? The site’s editors stand by their critics and scores, but they also feel your pain: Fresh films shouldn’t get all the glory! In *Rotten Movies We Love*, the RT team celebrates 101 Rotten movies that can’t be missed, including: *Space Jam*, *Maleficent*, *Willow*, *The Craft*, *Jurassic Park III*, and *Rocky IV*. Featuring 16 essays from some of the world’s most well-known film critics -- Leonard Maltin, Terri White, Amy Nicholson, David Fear, K. Austin Collins, and more -- and punctuated with black-and-white film stills and punchy graphics, it’s a fun romp through the quirkier corners of film history, sure to delight any cinephile or pop-culture fan.

Schroeder, Wallace ed. [The New York Times Book of Movies](#) (Universe \$45)

This collection includes reviews for the 1,000 most important, popular, and influential movies of all time (well, at least according to the critics at *The New York Times*). In addition to the curated collection of reviews by films from directors such as Steven Spielberg, Alfred Hitchcock, and Orson Wells, special lists of best films by category and year, as well as unique recommendations and sidebars for the modern viewer are included.