

BOOKNEWS from

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BOOKS FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Alexander, Elie. [A Cup of Holiday Fear](#) (St Martins \$7.99). Ashland, Oregon, looks as pretty as a postcard this holiday season. 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 in this Bakeshop Cozy Mystery.

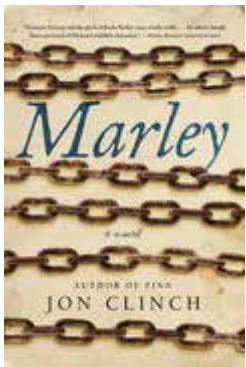
Andrews, Mary Kay. [Blue Christmas](#) (\$15.99). A reissue from 2006 highlights Savannah for Christmas. T'is the week before, and antiques dealer Weezie Foley is in a frenzy to do up her shop right for the Savannah historical district decorating contest, which she fully intends to win. Her motif is Graceland Blue Christmas, with lots of tinsel, an aluminum tree, and enough tacky retro doodads to fill the Grand Ole Opry. But no sooner is she certain

she's one-upped the trendy shop around the corner when Weezie notices things going strangely missing from her display. Despite the petty burglaries of her mysterious midnight visitor, Weezie has high hopes this holiday will be magical...and it almost is.

Ashley, Jennifer. [A McKenzie Clan Christmas](#) (Berkley \$5.99 Signed). The Mackenzie clan has gathered for Hart's birthday at the sprawling family estate in Scotland. But before the festivities can start, the house is robbed, and thieves make off with an untold fortune in rare art. Ian Mackenzie and his brothers must do what they can to retrieve the family treasure, but Ian is distracted by a family friend who claims he might have the power to "cure" Ian of his madness forever. The book includes a never before published Mackenzie Christmas novella and, at this low price, is a perfect stocking stuffer.

Axelrod, Steven. [Nantucket Red Tickets](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). A fast-paced, well plotted Nantucket version of *A Christmas Carol*—with crimes, some of them not what you might think. Police Chief Henry Kennis is not Bob Cratchit but he conducts his investigations in much the same spirit. "But with the help of Kennis—the shrewd, street-wise cop who writes poetry on the side and is willing to break the rules to get the best results for the most people—fans can keep wishing for an outcome worthy of Dickens and the holiday season. In the fourth installment of this seabound series, Axelrod and his protagonist bring an amused, judicious, and ultimately tolerant eye to the foibles large and small of a mixed Santa's bag of characters."—*Kirkus Reviews*

*Clinch, John. [Marley](#) (Atria \$27) is not a traditional holiday read. It offers a clever and atmospheric imagining of the events that might have brought Scrooge to *A Christmas Carol*. Marley was dead: to begin with," as Charles Dickens wrote in the opening line of *A Christmas Carol*, but as a matter of logic there must have been a time in Scrooge's life when he was not. In *Marley*, Jon Clinch imagines a hostile partnership, one that makes Scrooge's fortune and forges the chains that bound the first ghost who visited him in the classic story. From the time they meet in



school, Marley shows a talent for persuasion and deception while Scrooge's gifts lie with managing the financial books. Their shipping company prospers while they skirt legality, but Scrooge's beloved Belle Fairchild, a member of a family of dedicated abolitionists, will not marry him so long as Scrooge and Marley deal in the slave trade. Even as the date for the trade to be outlawed in England approaches and eventually passes, Marley resists giving up the business, and he and Scrooge enter a shadow war to ruin the other while protecting their own assets.

"Clinch's prose, both accessible and old fashioned, delights with sentences such as "The deliveryman has a wooden leg that belongs to him, and a horse and wagon that don't." Readers will be enchanted by the Dickensian atmosphere and style, whether it be a foreboding description of a sordid corner of London or understanding a character in a moment thanks to an aptly chosen name. This novel's humor, warmth and charm demonstrate Clinch's right to build on Dickens's legacy."—Kristen Allen-Vogel

Delany, Vicki. [Silent Night, Deadly Night](#) (Berkley \$7.99). It's the week before Thanksgiving, and Merry Wilkinson, owner of Mrs. Claus's Treasures, is preparing for a weekend reunion of her mother's college friends. Instead the women prove to be a group of grinch-hitting Rudolph, the year-round Christmas town.

Evans, Richard. [Noel Street](#) (Gallery \$21.99). Elle Savas, a waitress at the Noel Street Diner, isn't sure what to make of Emerson Stone when his sudden appearance creates a small stir in the town of Garland, Utah. As their lives unexpectedly entwine, Elle learns that Emerson, a decorated Vietnam POW, is not only fighting demons, but may also have the answer to her own past pain, leading to a remarkable act of forgiveness.

Fluke, Joanne. [Christmas Sweets](#) (Kensington \$12.95). Fluke, Laura Levine, and Leslie Meier each contribute a Yuletide tale of mystery, murder, and romance featuring their respective sleuths Hannah Swensen, Jaime Austen, and Elizabeth Stone. And Fluke offers [Christmas Cake Murder](#) (\$7.99) with Hannah as well.

Gott, Robert. [The Holiday Murders](#) (Scribe \$26.95). On Christmas Eve, 1943, the newly formed but undermanned Homicide division of the Melbourne police force is called to investigate the vicious double murder of a father and son. When Military Intelligence becomes involved, Homicide's Inspector Titus Lambert must unravel the personal from the political. If only the killings had stopped at two. The police are desperate to come to grips with an extraordinary and disquieting upsurge of violence. For Constable Helen Lord, it is an opportunity to make her mark in a male-dominated world where she is patronized as a novelty. For Detective Joe Sable, the investigation forces a reassessment of his indifference to his Jewish heritage.

*Guillory, Jasmine. [Royal Holiday](#) (Berkley \$20). Popular stylist Maddie Forest, heroine of [The Wedding Party](#) (\$15), is heading to England to work with a duchess for Christmas, and she talks her mother, Vivian, into coming along. That way Vivian can leave the country for only the second time in her 50-something years. Much to Vivian's surprise, she loves Sandringham, the royal estate where the duchess is staying for Christmas. And she's even more attracted to Malcolm Hudson, a member of the royal staff, who is tall, handsome and has a fantastic accent. Malcolm, the first black private secretary to the queen, is drawn out of his typical reserve and into conversation with the beautiful, lively Vivian. Sweet and sexy, *Royal Holiday* is a charmingly festive romance, full of vivid details of London tourist spots like Westminster Abbey and the Victoria and Albert Museum. It's refreshing to read a romance novel with a strong, older woman at its center, and readers are sure to fall for Malcolm's charm as easily as Vivian does. With lovely descriptions of the frigid English countryside and the delicious meals that Vivian and Malcolm share, *Royal Holiday* is the perfect tale of courtship to cozy up to with cup of tea."—Jessica Howard

Harnetiaux, Trish. [White Elephant](#) (SimonSchuster \$25 Signed). For the season, what more fun than a Christmas office party that goes horribly wrong? In snowy Aspen, Colorado, where the high-end real estate market is cutthroat and a White Elephant gift exchange can turn competitive rather than congenial in a heartbeat—especially at Calhoun + Calhoun, Claudine and Henry's agency. Claudine is staging this year's party at Montague

House, a listing that could signal a new beginning, or at least enable C+C to hang on. And how fortuitous that pop star Zara, wounded by a spectacular break up, is on her way to Aspen shopping for a vacation home. That's the set up for a debut that begins to slide off the expected track when a strange gift, an antique cowboy statue, appears in the White Elephant exchange, a gift with special meaning to Henry and to Claudine and to no one else. As a major snowstorm maroons the party guests and keeps the law from the scene—so Agatha Christie!—a crazy

night plays out. This debut is our **December First Mystery Book of the Month**.

Hazelwood, Ann. [The Christmas Wish Quilt](#) (American Quilters' Society \$14.95). Lily Rosenthal starts her holidays with a Thanksgiving Pie Party, but the holiday season truly comes alive during the Christmas Walk in her town of Augusta, Missouri. A jolly, perfect Santa Claus occupies Doc's office on her property during the event and offers children one wish for Christmas. This inspires Lily to make a Christmas Wish quilt for her newly discovered half-sister. Wishes abound throughout the holiday season until a wish to find out more about Doc, Lily's unsettled spirit, turns quite interesting in this 4th entry in the Wine Country Quilts Series.

Hallinan, Timothy. [Fields Where They Lay](#) (\$15.95). The halls are decked, the deck is stacked, and here comes that jolly old elf. Junior Bender, divorced father of one and burglar extraordinaire, finds himself stuck inside the Edgerton Mall, and not just as a last-minute shopper (though he is that too). Edgerton isn't exactly the epicenter of holiday cheer, despite its two Santas, canned Christmas music, chintzy bows, and festive lights. The mall is a fossil of an industry in decline; many of its stores are closed, and to make matters worse, there is a rampant shoplifting problem. The murderous Russian mobster who owns the place has decided it takes a thief to catch a thief and hires Junior—under threat—to solve the shoplifting problem for him. But Junior's surveillance operation doesn't go well. It's three days until Christmas and Junior, Hollywood's fast talking fixer for the felonious, is up to his ears in shopping mall Santas, Russian mobsters, desperate holiday shoppers, and (*'tis the season) murder.

King, Laurie R. [Mary Russell's War](#) (Poisoned Pen \$15.95). Following an "Appreciation" by noted Sherlockian Leslie S. Klinger, King blends vivid historical settings with narrative sleight-of-hand, from a novella composed of Mary Russell's teenage diaries to the story of how, in her nineties, Miss Russell came to send her Memoirs to Laurie R. King, and from Mrs. Hudson's own investigation to a tale of young Russell's beloved Uncle Jake—and, a Christmas investigation by Sherlock Holmes and his very young assistant. And two key reasons to grab this: 1. The Marriage of Mary Russell, never before recounted. 2. "Stately Holmes," a title I have pressed King to use for over 20 years! And here applied to the story of a Christmas conundrum.

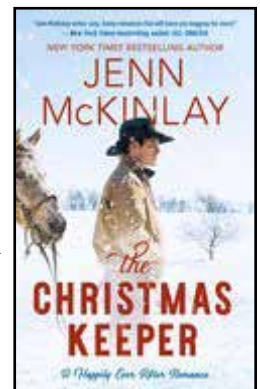
Kingsbury, Kate. [A Merry Murder](#) (Berkley \$16). It is an Edwardian Christmas, and the Pennyfoot Hotel is all dressed up.

But when one of the guests turns up dead, owner Cecily Sinclair Baxter realizes it is not only the Pennyfoot that is back in business—the hotel's Christmas curse is, too... Her chief housemaid Gertie McBride has found a man's body in the hotel laundry room—with a woman's scarf wrapped around his neck and a note in his pocket from the hotel's new maid. Cecily is determined to track down the culprit, but with multiple suspects icing her out of crucial clues, she realizes this killer may be more slippery than most.

Longworth, M L. [A Noel Killing](#) (Penguin \$16). It's a lovely season in the South of France replete with the usual complex family dynamics. Examining magistrate Antoine Verlaque, married at last, and happily, to advocate Marie Bonnet, is resolved to make this a Noel they can both enjoy, even attending the annual packed carol sing at the Cathedral Saint-Sauveur. Then the poisoning of a young man sends the Aix community into a tailspin and creates a list of suspects almost as packed as the carol service....

Lovegrove, James. [Sherlock Holmes and the Christmas Demon](#) (Titan \$19.99). It is 1890, and in the days before Christmas Sherlock Holmes and Dr John Watson are visited at Baker Street by a new client. Eve Allerthorpe, eldest daughter of a grand but somewhat eccentric Yorkshire-based dynasty, is greatly distressed, as she believes she is being haunted by a demonic Christmas spirit. Her late mother told her terrifying tales of the sinister Black Thurrick, and Eve is sure that she has seen the creature from her bedroom window. What is more, she has begun to receive mysterious parcels of birch twigs, the Black Thurrick's calling card... Eve stands to inherit a fortune if she is sound in mind, but it seems that something—or someone—is threatening her sanity. Holmes and Watson travel to the Allerthorpe family seat at Fellscar Keep to investigate, but soon discover that there is more to the case....

McKinlay, Jenn. [The Christmas Keeper](#) (Berkley \$7.99 Signed). A North Carolina bookstore is the setting for this Christmas romance featuring a lovesick cowboy and the New York City publicist who resists his charms. Their sexual attraction is instant, but as Quino's cheesy sweaters and ever ready mistletoe wear her down, Savy begins to appreciate more than his biceps. "McKinlay once again serves up her signature literary cocktail of sassy humor and sexy romance expertly spiked with a surfeit of small-town charm and holiday cheer."—*Booklist* Starred Review

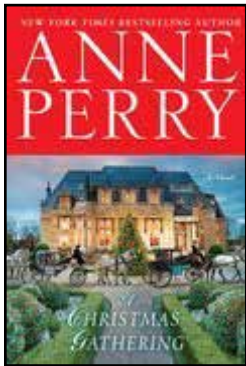


Meier, Leslie. [Mistletoe Murder](#) (Kensington \$7.99). Reissue of Lucy Stone #1. While moonlighting during the Christmas rush for a trendy mail-order house, Lucy Stone stumbles upon the body of the company's founder and turns sleuth to find a killer in the small town of Tinker's Cove, Maine.

Novak, Brenda. [Christmas in Silver Springs](#) (\$7.99). When Harper Devlin's rock star husband ditches her on his way to the top, she takes her two daughters to her sister's place in Silver Springs for the holidays, hoping family can heal her broken heart. But comfort comes in unexpected places when she crosses

paths with local Tobias Richardson. Fearing her reaction, Tobias doesn't reveal his checkered past. He's falling hard, and if Harper finds out, he'll lose her for good, especially because her famous ex is now trying to win her back. Secrets have a way of coming out, but maybe this Christmas will bring Tobias the forgiveness—and the love—he deserves.

O'Connor Carlene. [The Christmas Cocoa Murder](#) (Kensington \$21.95). Siobhán O'Sullivan's hopes for a quiet Irish Christmas are dashed when the local Santa turns up dead in a carnival dunk tank of hot cocoa. Now instead of hunting down holiday gifts, she's pursuing a heartless killer. Seems the dead Santa was no angel either, stealing neighborhood dogs to guide his sleigh. But was it his holiday antics—or worse—that led to his death by chocolate? Two other novellas, one by Maddie Day, the other by Alex Erickson, round out this holiday-themed volume.



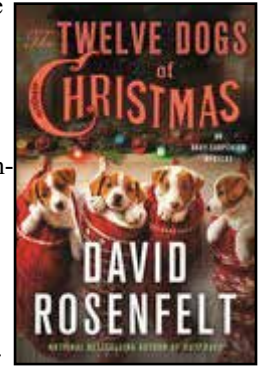
Perry, Anne. [A Christmas Gathering](#) (Ballantine \$20 Signed). Victor Narraway, from the author's Thomas and Charlotte Pitt series, who has stepped down as the head of Special Branch, travels with his wife from London to the country estate of the Cavendishes, where they are to spend Christmas. Narraway is on a secret mission to take custody of "submarine blueprints, discreetly doctored," so as to be unusable in actually developing such a vessel. Narraway is to pass the fakes on through British spy networks to Germany,

in order to out a suspected traitor in the intelligence services. Twenty years earlier, Narraway had a similar assignment in Normandy that ended with the death of a young female Special Branch agent. History seems to repeat itself when someone attacks Iris Watson-Watt, a fellow guest at Cavendish Manor, after she passes the blueprints to him, leading Narraway to play sleuth to identify her assailant.

Perry, Leigh. [The Skeleton Stuff's a Stocking](#) (\$15.95). Mirth and murder blend in a cozy featuring Sid, a skeleton who can move around, talk, and search the internet for clues. Georgia Thackery, who has known Sid since she was a child, is spending a year as an adjunct English professor at New England's Bostock College. She enlists Sid's help after a femur is uncovered by her dog, which leads to the discovery of the skeleton of an unidentified woman who was probably strangled about a decade earlier... Cozy fans who enjoy their mysteries leavened with humor will find their funny bones tickled.

Rosenfelt, David. [Dachshund through the Snow](#) (St Martins \$26 Signed). Paterson, NJ, lawyer Andy Carpenter and his wife, Laurie, have started a new Christmas tradition. Their local pet store has a Christmas tree, where instead of ornaments there are wishes from those in need. One poignant wish leads Andy to a child named Danny, whose selfless plea strikes a chord. Danny asked Santa for a coat for his mother, a sweater for his dachshund, Murphy, and for the safe return of his missing father. But Danny's father doesn't want to be found, he's on the run after just being arrested for a murder that took place fourteen years ago – a murder that Danny's mother swears he didn't commit.

Also by Rosenfelt: [The Twelve Dogs of Christmas](#) (\$15.99). Rosenfelt saddles Andy with a client who's got only six months to brighten her Paterson, NJ, neighborhood—if a guilty verdict doesn't remove her from her home first. Despite all Andy's coaching and beseeching, irrepressible Martha Boyer, universally known as Pups, is already on record as having threatened Randy Hennessey, the neighbor who filed a legal complaint against her houseful of two dozen rescue dogs, in open court. Andy gets the case dismissed, but before he can begin to gloat properly, Hennessey is dismissed, too—by a handgun that turns up in Pups' basement shortly after a neighbor sees her leaving his house...Rosenfelt's canine-loving hero is always good company—especially when he deals with someone who's gone to the dogs even more completely than him."—*Kirkus*



Soho Crime. [The Usual Santas](#) (Soho \$19.95) With a foreword by Peter Lovesey, this festive anthology contains holiday tales with settings ranging from a Korean War POW camp to a Copenhagen refugee squat, from a palatial hotel in 1920s Bombay to a crumbling mansion in Havana by authors including James R. Benn, Cara Black, Timothy Hallinan, Martin Limon, Ed Lin, Sujata Massey, Stuart Neville, and Mick Herron.

White, Karen. [The Christmas Spirit 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...And these relics aren't the only precious artifacts for which people are searching. A past adversary is convinced there is a long-lost Revolutionary War treasure buried somewhere on the property Melanie inherited—untold riches rumored to have been brought over from France by the Marquis de Lafayette.

NOTE: While this is a holiday season book, White can sign copies on January 14 when she appears at The Pen with Lauren Willig and Beatriz Williams.

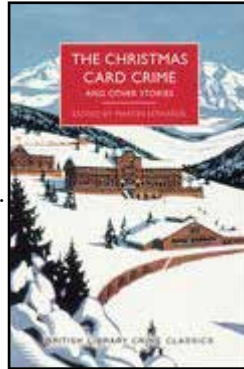
CLASSICS FOR CHRISTMAS

UK publisher Collins used to go with "A Christie for Christmas" as its holiday slogan. Dame Agatha is no longer writing one a year, but the Golden Age is still with us, an excellent way to introduce new readers to mystery or to refresh your own. And to start our list, a Christie:

Christie, Agatha. [Murder, She Wrote](#) (Harper \$16.99). The razor-sharp mind of Miss Jane Marple is brilliantly revealed in this anthology of Miss Marple insights and bon mots, curated from Agatha Christie's classic novels featuring the delightful amateur detective.

Duncan, Francis. [Murder for Christmas](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99). A 1930s Christmas country house party mystery. Written then when it was not an historical but contemporary to the author. It is definitely a period piece and should be read that way. John Charles adds, When the party guests of Benedict Grame discover a body, that bears a striking resemblance to Father Christmas, under the tree, it is up to Mordecai Tremaine to find the culprit before another death occurs. Originally published in the U.K. in 1949, this Golden Age mystery introduces amateur sleuth and former tobacconist Mordecai Tremaine and will definitely appeal to fans of Ngaio Marsh and Agatha Christie.

Edwards, Martin. [The Christmas Card Crime and Other Stories](#) (Poisoned Pen \$14.99). The Starred Review: “Edwards’ outstanding third winter-themed anthology showcases 11 uniformly clever and entertaining stories, mostly from lesser known authors, providing further evidence of the editor’s expertise. The title tale by Donald Stuart is one of the most memorable, featuring multiple murders in snowbound conditions. Passengers traveling to Cornwall find their trip disrupted by a heavy snowfall that blocks their train, forcing them to make their way to the nearest lodging, a seedy inn, where one of their number is fatally stabbed in the chest with half of a Christmas card grasped in his hand. Writing as Carter Dickson, John Dickson Carr is at his creepiest in a story in which a couple arrives at a country house for a Christmas celebration and are bewildered to find it abandoned apart from an odd woman. The woman explains that there is a tradition to leave the home for an hour on Christmas Eve, derived from an unsolved impossible murder years earlier. This entry in the British Crime Classics series will be a welcome holiday gift for fans of the golden age of detection.”



Edwards, Martin. [Crimson Snow: Winter Mysteries](#) (\$12.95). “In this imaginative anthology, Edwards president of Britain’s Detection Club has gathered together overlooked criminous gems by such old pros as Edgar Wallace, Margery Allingham, Julian Symons and Michael Gilbert, to name only the most famous. Fans of the world’s first consulting detective won’t want to miss ‘Christmas Eve,’ a short play by S.C. Roberts in which the winsome Violet de Vinne consults Holmes and a smitten Watson about the theft of Lady Barton’s pearls.” –Michael Dirda, *Washington Post*.

Also edited by Edwards in the BLCC series, an earlier Christmas tales collection: [Silent Nights](#) (\$12.95). Plus [Miraculous Mysteries](#) (\$12.95), some locked room classics with an element again that fits this time of year.

Farjeon, JJ. [Mystery in White](#) (\$12.95). A UK bestseller on its rerelease and now available in the US is a classic Christmas mystery akin to the murderous house party of Agatha Christie’s *Hercule Poirot’s Christmas*. On Christmas Eve, heavy snowfall brings a train to a halt near the village of Hemmersby. Several passengers take shelter in a deserted country house, where the fire has been lit and the table laid for tea – but no one is at home. Trapped together for Christmas, the passengers are seeking to unravel the secrets of the empty house when a murderer strikes in

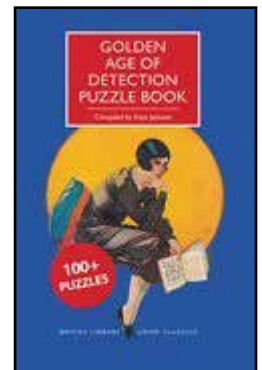
their midst. Farjeon’s classic is now republished for the first time since the 1930s with an Introduction by Martin Edwards.

Hay, Mavis Doriel. [The Santa Klaus Murder](#) (\$12.95). Aunt Mildred declared that no good could come of the Melbury family Christmas gatherings at their country residence Flaxmere. So when Sir Osmond Melbury, the family patriarch, is discovered—by a guest dressed as Santa Klaus—with a bullet in his head on Christmas Day, the festivities are plunged into chaos. Nearly every member of the party stands to reap some sort of benefit from Sir Osmond’s death, but Santa Klaus, the one person who seems to have every opportunity to fire the shot, has no apparent motive.... ‘This extremely clever country-house murder mystery is the perfect holiday gift for the avid cozy crime fan. It has an aristocratic setting, a dead earl, and a major suspect ... There are loads of clues, red herrings, and twists in a truly classic Christmas mystery with all the golden age patina.’ –*Toronto Globe and Mail*

James, PD. [The Mistletoe Murder and Other Stories](#) (\$15). Dana Stabenow writes “Four short stories, two featuring Adam Dalgliesh, and the first and last country house murders in the very best tradition of Golden Age British mysteries. ‘The Boxdale Inheritance’ is a perfectly lovely little piece of bait-and-switch with the only sympathetic portrayal of a blackmailer I have ever read, and in ‘The Twelve Clues of Christmas’ James and Dalgliesh both have their tongues firmly in their cheeks throughout. An excellent stocking stuffer for the lover of classic crime.”

PUZZLES FOR READERS

Jackson, Kate. [The Golden Age of Detection Puzzle Book](#) (Poisoned Pen \$12.95). This is the perfect stocking stuffer, bright, colorful, challenging, pocket sized. Take it along anywhere and while away idle moments. The puzzles cover a wide range and are great fun. This is in fact a British Library Crime Classic release with all the style the series commands.



Roy, Ron. [A to Z Mysteries](#) for ages 6-9 on a variety of topics. A great stocking stuffer. Most are \$5.99.

Somerville, Neil. [The Literary Pocket Puzzle Book](#) (Skyhorse \$9.99) offers puzzles of varying difficulty levels and literary themes that will amuse, excite, and inform. This handy, portable pocket-sized book features 120 craft conundrums that will keep you scratching your head over famous author pen names and obscure literary terms as you exercise your knowledge on Shakespeare, Mark Twain, Marcel Proust, Henry James, and James Joyce. These puzzles include: • Anagrams and cryptograms; Crosswords and word searches; Riddles and quizzes; Sudoku; and many more!

We also have a large collection of jigsaw puzzles, challenging and fun for non readers too

[Gibbs Smith Puzzles](#). Search our inventory for a variety of them.

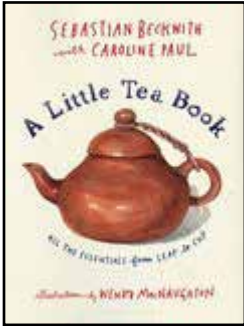
[New York Puzzle Company](#). The descriptions are meager but you will see a helpful title. Feel free to call us at 888 560 9919 for more information

BOOKS AND BEVERAGES

See the end of this issue for a list of new cookbooks

Authors. [A Literary Cocktail Party: Favorite Drinks from Favorite Writers](#) (\$16.99). James Patterson, Emma Strauss...and many more. Only 5 copies left of an out of print book.

Beckwith, Sebastian. [A Little Tea Book](#) (Skyhorse \$20). Tea, the most popular beverage in the world after water, has brought nations to war, defined cultures, bankrupted coffers, and toppled kings. And yet in many ways this fragrantly comforting and storied brew remains elusive. From tea guru Sebastian Beckwith and New York Times bestsellers Caroline Paul and Wendy MacNaughton comes the essential guide to exploring and enjoying the vast world of tea. Pair this with one of Laura Childs' [Tea Shop Mysteries](#) or Lisa See's [The Tea Girl of Hummingbird Lane](#) (\$16.99) for a tasty package.



Bonné, Jon. [The New Wine Rules](#) (Ten Speed Press \$14.99). This is a zingy little stocking stuffer for the wine lover, or for someone interested in exploring wine with food. It's a small size hardcover so portable, as in taking it to a restaurant, too. "Now, becoming a happier, more confident wine drinker is easy. The first step is to forget all the useless, needlessly complicated stuff the "experts" have been telling you. In *The New Wine Rules*, acclaimed wine writer Jon Bonné explains everything you need to know in simple, beautifully illustrated, easy-to-digest tidbits. And the news is good! For example: A wine's price rarely reflects its quality. You can drink rosé any time of year. Don't save a great bottle for anything more than a rainy day." I like this wisdom: no two bottles of wine are alike, not even two of the same wine.

Downtown Abbey. [The Official Downton Abbey Cocktail Book](#) (Weldon \$25). Cocktails were introduced in the drawing rooms of Downton Abbey in the 1920s, when US prohibition inspired the insurgence and popularity of American-style bars and bartenders in Britain. This well-curated selection of recipes is organized by the rooms in the Abbey in which the drinks were served and spans everyday sips to party drinks plus hangover helpers and more. In addition to classic concoctions like a Mint Julep, Prince of Wales Punch, and Ginger Beer, this collection features character-specific variations such as Downton Heir, Turkish Attaché, The Valet, and The Chauffeur. The recipes reflect drinks concocted and served upstairs and down, as well as libations from village fairs, cocktail parties, and restaurant menus typical of the time.

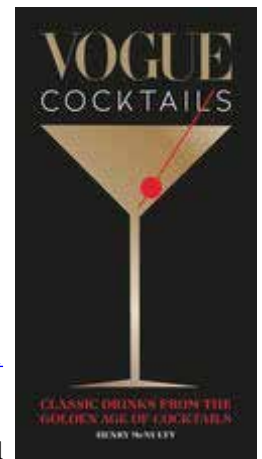
Lovell, Henrietta. [Infused: Adventures in Tea](#) (Faber \$26.95). Finish off all these great meals with tea. Lovell wants to change the way we drink tea, and explains how to make a perfect cup, with specifics about different types of leaves. "The good stuff is loose and lovely and will flood your life with happiness."

McInerney, Jay. [Wine Reads](#) (Grove \$27). The acclaimed wine columnist for *Town & Country*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *House and Garden* selects over twenty pieces of memorable fiction and

nonfiction about the making, selling, and of course, drinking of fine wine. One of my favorite crime writers, the late Michael Dibdin and his sleuth Aurelio Zen, are included for Barolo, Barbaresco, and Brunello vintages. In real life, and over half a century ago, Jewish-Czech writer and gourmet Joseph Wechsberg visits the medieval Chateau d'Yquem to sample different years of the "roi des vins" alongside a French connoisseur who had his first taste of wine at age four. Enjoy over twenty pieces of memorable fiction and nonfiction about the making, selling, and of course, drinking of fine wine. Pair it with a bottle of something you love. And sip a vintage of your own while wrapping this or reading it.

Note: You could also pair it with a delightful mystery by Warren Easley set in Oregon's wine country, a Signed First Edition yours for a special low price: [Blood for Wine](#) (\$12), a 2018 Nero Wolfe Award finalist.

McNulty, Henry. [Vogue Cocktails](#) (Octopus \$12.99) takes inspiration from the Prohibition Era's need to improve the harsh flavor of homemade liquor. Our modern Cocktail Age is presented with 150 recipes organized by base spirit— Champagne, Gin, Vodka, Whisky, Rum and Brandies & Other Spirits—to ensure a drink for every palate. *Vogue Cocktails* also contains essential information on stocking your bar and mixing drinks, with 48 jazz-age-inspired illustrations peppered throughout. This stylish guide will become the go-to cocktail handbook for any aspiring mixologist, whether mixing up a classic Negroni or Martini, or a more unusual creation.



Puckette, Madeline. [Wine Folly: Magnum Edition](#) (Penguin \$35). This James Beard Award winner is the must-have book for the millions of fans of WineFolly.com and for any budding oenophile who wants to boost his or her wine knowledge in a practical and fun way. It's the ultimate gift for any wine lover and a very handsome presentation.

Risen, Clay. [Single Malt](#) (Quercus \$29.99). Risen pleases with this introduction to the long history, fascinating science, and incredible diversity of malted whisky, as well as a practical drinker's guide to buying and enjoying hundreds of the greatest examples of the distiller's tradition. With maps of essential whisky regions of Scotland, profiles of each of the makers, and photographs of the bottles and tasting notes for each of the most widely available expressions—compiled from tasting sessions conducted by a panel of leading whisky experts—readers will discover a rich vein of knowledge about one of the world's most storied beverages. Selected from more than one hundred active distilleries in Scotland, the 330 expressions featured in this book provide a curated yet comprehensive primer of the single-malt whiskies.

Wisniewski, Ian. [The Whisky Dictionary](#) (Octopus \$20). An A to Z guide to every aspect of whisky, from Scotch to Japanese, rye to bourbon and beyond. With hundreds of entries covering everything from history, ingredients and distilling techniques to flavor notes, cocktails and the many varieties of whisky from all around

the world, renowned whisky expert Ian Wisniewski explores and unlocks the wonderful world of a drink like no other.

THE BEST AMERICAN WRITING 2019

Adams, John Joseph. [The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy Writing](#) (\$15.99). This omnivorous selection of stories chosen by series editor John Joseph Adams and World Fantasy Award finalist Carmen Maria Machado is a display of the most boundary-pushing, genre-blurring, stylistically singular science fiction and fantasy stories published in the last year. By sending us to alternate universes and chronicling ordinary magic, introducing us to mythical beasts and talking animals, and engaging with a wide spectrum of emotion from tenderness to fear, each of these stories challenge the way we see our place in the cosmos. Here is represented a wide range of the most accomplished voices working in science fiction and fantasy, in fiction, today.

Doerr, Anthony. [The Best American Short Stories](#) (\$28). Doerr collects a diverse, addictive group exploring everything from America's rich rural culture to its online teen culture to the fragile nature of the therapist-client relationship. This astonishing collection brings together the realistic and dystopic, humor and terror. For Doerr, "with every new artist, we simultaneously refine and expand our understanding of what the form can be." Includes Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, Jamel Brinkley, Jeffrey Eugenides, Ursula K. Le Guin, Manuel Muñoz, Sigrid Nunez, Saïd Sayrafiezadeh, Jim Shepherd, Weike Wang, and others.

Fuller, Alexandra/Jason Wilson. [The Best American Travel Writing](#) (\$15.99). A satisfyingly varied medley of perspectives, all exploring what it means to travel somewhere new...with or without leaving home.

Lethem, Jonathan. [The Best American Mystery Stories](#) (\$15.99). Editor Lethem writes, "Crime stories are deep species gossip." He writes in his introduction that "they're fundamentally stories of power, of its exercise, both spontaneous and conspiratorial; stories of impulse and desire, and of the turning of tables." The Best American Mystery Stories 2019 has its full share of salacious intrigue, guilt, and retribution. The twists and bad decisions pile up when a thief picks the wrong target or a simple scavenger hunt takes a terrible turn. What happens when you befriend a death row inmate, or just how does writing Internet clickbait become a decidedly dangerous occupation? "How can we not hang on their outcomes?" asks Lethem. "Are we innocent ourselves, or complicit?" Read on to find out.

Montgomery, Sy. [The Best American Science and Nature Writing](#) (\$15.99). "Science and nature writing are how we share the truth about the universe with the people of the world." And collected here are truths about nearly every corner of the universe.

Nosrat, Samin. [The Best American Food Writing](#) (\$15.95). Good food writing evokes the senses," writes Nosrat, best-selling author of [Salt, Fat, Acid, Heat](#) and star of the Netflix adaptation of the book. "It makes us consider divergent viewpoints. It makes us hungry and motivates us to go out into the world in search of new experiences. It charms and angers us, breaks our hearts, and gives us hope. And perhaps most importantly, it creates empathy within us." The pieces will inspire you to pick up a knife and start chopping, but also to think critically about what you're eating

and how it came to your plate, while still leaving you clamoring for seconds. Ruth Reichl edited the [2018 volume](#) (\$15.99).

Pierce, Charles. [The Best American Sports Writing](#) (\$15.99) showcases the greatest sports journalism of the previous year, culled from hundreds of national, regional, and specialty print and digital publications. Each piece reflects a passion for journalism and for sport.

Tamaki, Jillian. [The Best American Comics](#) (\$25). Showcases the work of established and up-and-coming artists, collecting work found in the pages of graphic novels, comic books, periodicals, zines, online, in galleries, and more, highlighting the kaleidoscopic diversity of the comics form today. Featuring Vera Brosgol, Eleanor Davis, Nick Drnaso, Margot Ferrick, Ben Passmore, John Porcellino, Joe Sacco, Lauren Weinstein, Lale Westvind, and others.

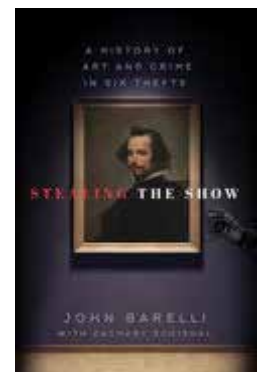
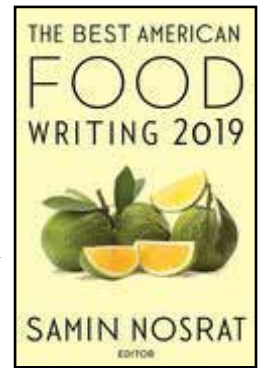
SHOWCASE A CITY THROUGH THE URBAN NOIR SERIES

Publisher Akashic Press had a good idea and made it great. Search our inventory for a city that matches someone on your gift list, or where someone would like to go. The series has grown to be international in scope: [Akashic Noirs](#) (\$15.95 each as a rule).

GIFT BOOK IDEAS

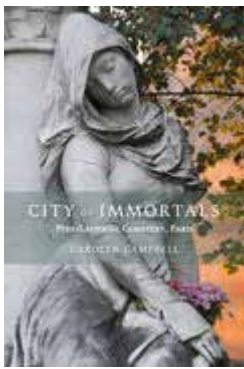
Bannerjee, Abhijit V./Esther Duffo. [Good Economics for Hard Times](#) (Public Affairs \$30). The winners of the 2019 Nobel Prize show how economics, when done right, can help us solve the thorniest social and political problems of our day. They apply pragmatic, real world-tested economic ideas to such issues as global trade, immigration, prejudice, income inequality, and the feasibility of a universal basic income in this lucid and frequently surprising account.

Barelli, John. [Stealing the Show](#) (Rowan \$27.95). When he retired as the chief security officer of New York City's Metropolitan Museum of Art, John Barelli had spent the better part of forty years responsible not only for one of the richest treasure troves on the planet, but the museum's staff, the millions of visitors, as well as American presidents, royalty, and heads of state from around the world. For the first time, John Barelli shares his experiences of the crimes that occurred on his watch: two teens who swiped a Ramses VI gold ring from the Egyptian galleries; a pair of ivory pistols belonging to Catherine the Great. Whether at the Met or elsewhere, he lets us know there are professional opportunists; internal opportunists (insiders like the man who stole the Mona Lisa from the Louvre); outside opportunists who grab; and worst, government opportunists like the Nazis. Art theft is the stuff of many a crime novel.



Bryson, Bill. [The Body](#) (Doubleday \$30). Bryson once again proves himself to be an incomparable companion as he guides us through the human body--how it functions, its remarkable ability to heal itself, and (unfortunately) the ways it can fail. Full of extraordinary facts (your body made a million red blood cells since you started reading this) and irresistible Bryson-esque anecdotes, *The Body* will lead you to a deeper understanding of the miracle that is life in general and you in particular. As Bryson writes, “We pass our existence within this wobble of flesh and yet take it almost entirely for granted.

Campbell, Carolyn. [City of Immortals: A Guide to Père Lachaise Cemetery, Paris](#) (ORO Books \$24.95). This big paperback is gorgeous! Its first-person account of a legendary necropolis will delight Francophiles, tourists and armchair travelers, while enriching the experience of taphophiles (cemetery lovers) and aficionados of art and architecture, mystery and romance. Carolyn Campbell’s evocative images are complemented by those of renowned landscape photographer Joe Cornish. “City of Immortals” celebrates the novelty and eccentricity of Père-Lachaise Cemetery through the engrossing story of the history of the site established by Napoleonic decree along with portraits of the last moments of the cultural icons buried within its walls. In addition to several “conversations” with some of the high-profile residents, three guided tours are provided along with an illustrated pull-out map featuring the grave sites of eighty-four architects, artists, writers, musicians, dancers, filmmakers and actors, including Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison of the Doors. Frédéric Chopin, Georges Bizet, Edith Piaf, Maria Callas, Isadora Duncan, Eugène Delacroix, Gertrude Stein, Amedeo Modigliani, Sarah Bernhardt, Simone Signoret, Colette and Marcel Proust. Needless to say I’ve ordered one for myself.



ing Oscar Wilde, Jim Morrison of the Doors. Frédéric Chopin, Georges Bizet, Edith Piaf, Maria Callas, Isadora Duncan, Eugène Delacroix, Gertrude Stein, Amedeo Modigliani, Sarah Bernhardt, Simone Signoret, Colette and Marcel Proust. Needless to say I’ve ordered one for myself.

Carrión, Jose. [Bookshops: A Cultural History](#) (Biblioasis \$24.95). This is the perfect book for those who feel compelled to visit every bookstore they see. This is the perfect book for those who feel compelled to visit every bookstore they see. “Spanish novelist and travel writer Carrión’s English-language debut explores the place of bookshops (and books) in Western intellectual and consumer history. He weaves together an investigation of the different social functions of bookshops and libraries, a travelogue of bookshops he has visited, and a philosophical inquiry into the role of literature in the world. For Carrión, contemporary readers find in bookshops “the remains of cultural gods that have replaced the religious sort.” He is alive to the contradictions inherent in reading and book collecting, activities that are simultaneously consumerist and spiritual. The idea of books and bookshops as sites of resistance to totalitarianism is discussed but not blindly romanticized; he notes that Hitler was a bestselling writer and Mao an erudite reader. Discussing destination bookshops, including Shakespeare and Company in Paris, the oldest bookshops in the world, and several that claim to be the biggest, Carrión explores the fine lines between pilgrimage destination, touristy gimmick, and decent bookshop.”—*PW* Starred Review

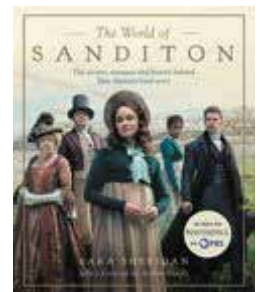
Cep, Casey. [Furious Hours](#) (Knopf \$26.95). Sitting in the audience during the trial the relative who slew a preacher accused of murdering his family for insurance money was Harper Lee, who had traveled from New York City to her native Alabama with the idea of writing her own *In Cold Blood*, the true-crime classic she had helped her friend Truman Capote research seventeen years earlier. Lee spent a year in town reporting, and many more years working on her own version of the case. “Compelling... at once a true-crime thriller, courtroom drama, and miniature biography of Harper Lee. If *To Kill a Mockingbird* was one of your favorite books growing up, you should add *Furious Hours* to your reading list today.” —*Southern Living*

Conroy, James B. [Jefferson’s White House](#) (Rowan & Littlefield \$27). As the first president to occupy the White House for an entire term, Thomas Jefferson shaped the president’s residence, literally and figuratively, more than any of its other occupants. Remarkably enough, however, though many books have immortalized Jefferson’s Monticello, none has been devoted to the vibrant look, feel, and energy of his still more famous and consequential home from 1801 to 1809. In “Monticello on the Potomac,” Conroy, author of the award-winning *Lincoln’s White House* offers a vivid, highly readable account of how life was lived in Jefferson’s White House and the young nation’s rural Virginia capital

Cussler, Clive. [Mayday](#) (Cahill \$20). A special hardcover edition of the first Dirk Pitt adventure, *The Mediterranean Caper*, which was a paperback original. Signed by Clive.

Davidson, Hilary. [Dress in the Age of Jane Austen: Regency Fashion](#) (Yale University \$40). With this debut, Davidson, a dress and textile historian, has done a superb job of placing clothing in Jane Austen’s fiction and in her journals and letters within the larger context of Regency fashion and its reflection of a rapidly changing, and globalizing, society. As Davidson emphasizes, mentions of clothing in Austen, be it Fanny arriving at Mansfield Park with only two sashes or Miss Bates’ unfashionable wardrobe in Emma, always carry social significance. A particularly strong aspect of the book is its placement of the Austen family’s own clothing use in a wide context, including through Austen’s brothers’ naval travels, family members making and procuring clothing and textiles for each other, and the Austens’ access to the global textile market. This extensively researched and beautifully illustrated book is fascinating to read, fills a gap in Austen scholarship, and makes an impressive contribution to Austen studies.

Note: Andrew Davies, [The World of Sanditon](#) (Grand Central \$40). *Sanditon*, the novel Austen was working on before her death, has been given an “exciting conclusion,” and will be brought to a primetime television audience on *PBS/Masterpiece* for the very first time by Emmy and BAFTA Award winning screenwriter Andrew Davies (*War & Peace*, *Mr. Selfridge*, *Les Misérables*, *Pride and Prejudice*). This is the official companion to the *Masterpiece* series. However you feel about “adapting” Austen, this offers a



preview and insights. Basically what we have here is a Regency-era real estate scam.

Day, David. [The Illustrated World of Tolkien](#) (Thunder Bay Press \$24.99). An unauthorized but fun guide to Middle-earth and the Undying Lands. Vivid descriptions of all Tolkien's beasts, monsters, races, nations, deities, and the flora and fauna of the territory are contained herein. Full-color pages with stunning illustrations create an enchanting source for information on all the fantastical places and creatures that sprung from Tolkien's mind. Special features include a detailed map, a chronology of all ages, a general index, and a special index that will refer you to Tolkien's original works for each entry.

DK. [Remarkable Books](#) (DK \$30). A beautifully illustrated guide to more than 75 of the world's most celebrated, rare, and seminal books and handwritten manuscripts ever produced, with discussions of their purpose, features, and creators. From ancient masterpieces such as *The Art of War*, written on the leaves of bamboo, to the stunningly illustrated *Birds of America*, to Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book*, *Remarkable Books* delves into the stories behind the most incredible tomes ever produced, offering an insight into their wider social and cultural context, and is chronologically ordered to demonstrate the synergies between the growth in human knowledge and the bookmaking process. Alongside breathtaking images of the books and manuscripts themselves, close-up views draw out interesting features, which are discussed in greater detail, while biographies tell the lives of the people who produced them. This coffee table-worthy book is wrapped in a textured jacket with gold foil, making it a great gift

DK. [World War II Map by Map](#) (\$40). Written by a team of historians in consultation with Richard Overly, this stunning visual history book, custom maps tell the story of the Second World War from the rise of the Axis powers to the dropping of the atom bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Each map is rich with detail and graphics, helping you to chart the progress of key events of World War II on land, sea, and air, such as the Dunkirk evacuation, the attack on Pearl Harbor, the D-Day landings, and the siege of Stalingrad. Historical maps from both Allied and Axis countries also offer unique insights into the events. There are timelines to help you follow the story as it unfolds, while narrative overviews explain the social, economic, political, and technical developments at the time. Fascinating, large-scale pictures introduce topics such as the Holocaust, blitzkrieg, kamikaze warfare, and code-breaking.

Edwards, Martin. [The Story of Classic Crimes in 100 Books](#) (\$12 Signed). Sssh... I'll let you in on a little secret. Count the books as you read your way right through this charmer which looks at books published during the first half of the 20th Century. Here's a spot-on review from a reader: "This book is a discussion of crime fiction published during the first half of the twentieth century in 100 books. I've become very interested in the history of the genre in which I write over the past couple of years, and this book is very illuminating, especially when discussing the origins of the Golden Age, the Great Detectives and some more obscure titles that until more recently (thanks to the efforts of the author and the

British Library) were forgotten about along the way. Entertaining and informative, this book has me adding lots of titles to my toppling TBR list." See some of the republished Golden Age fiction in Classic Crimes above.

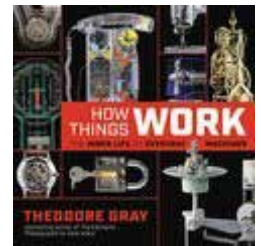
Fowler, Christopher. [The Book of Forgotten Authors](#) (Quercus \$15.99). The marvelous author of the quirky Bryant & May mystery series offers an entertaining and well-researched examination of once-popular authors who have been all but forgotten. He has turned his own life-long love of books into a literary monument to forgotten authors. Though his focus is limited mostly to white British and American writers, he addresses minority authors (along with a plea for greater diversity in publishing) and a historical lack of non-English translations in his notes on the choices he made. Fowler's literary guidebook covers 100 individual authors across a broad spectrum of genres and includes 14 additional essays, such as "The Forgotten Rivals of Holmes, Bond and Miss Marple," which are delightful dissections of why some authors succeeded while others have vanished. Bibliophiles wishing to discover "new" authors will appreciate the easily digestible sections and conversational tone.

Gabaldon, Diana. [The Official Outlander 2020 Wall Calendar](#) (\$14.99).

Garfield, Simon. [Just My Type](#) (\$17). This is one of my very favorite books. It ranges far afield over aspects of life you might not even consider in terms of type and icons, which grow ever more important in an age of global travel. Garfield's discussion of selecting the right type for the London underground is brilliant. A capsule summary: Fonts surround us every day, on street signs and buildings, on movie posters and books, and on just about every product that we buy. But where do fonts come from and why do we need so many? Who is behind the businesslike subtlety of Times New Roman, the cool detachment of Arial, or the maddening lightness of Comic Sans (and the movement to ban it)? Garfield is on a mission to answer these questions and more, and reveal what may be the very best and worst fonts in the world

Gray, Theodore. [How Things Work: The Inner Life of Everyday Machines](#) (Running Press \$29.99).

Million-copy seller Gray has become a household name among fans, both young and old, of popular science and mechanics. Here he applies his trademark mix of engaging stories, real-time experiments, and stunning photography to the inner workings of machines, big and small. He's an incorrigible tinkerer with a constant curiosity for how things work. Gray's readers love how he always brings the perfect combination of know-how, humor, and daring-do to every project or demonstration, be it scientific or mechanical. Filled with stunning original photographs in Gray's inimitable style.



Kerouac, Jack. [On the Road The Original Scroll Edition](#) (Penguin Classics 18). In 3 weeks in April, 1951, Kerouac wrote his first full draft of *On the Road*—typed as a single-spaced paragraph on eight long sheets of tracing paper, which he later taped together to form a 120-foot scroll. A major literary event when it was published in Viking hardcover in 2007, this is the uncut version

of an American classic—rougher, wilder, and more provocative than the official work that appeared, heavily edited, in 1957. This version, capturing a moment in creative history, represents the first full expression of Kerouac's revolutionary aesthetic.

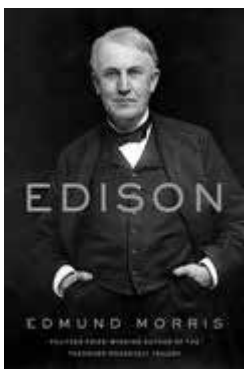
Klinger, Leslie. [Classic American Crime Fiction](#) (Norton \$39.95). Classic American Crime Writing of the 1920s—including *House Without a Key*, *The Benson Murder Case*, *The Roman Hat Mystery*, *Red Harvest*, and *Little Caesar*—offers some of the very best of that decade's writing. Earl Derr Biggers wrote about Charlie Chan, a Chinese-American detective, at a time when racism was rampant. S. S. Van Dine invented Philo Vance, an effete, rich amateur psychologist who flourished while America danced and the stock market rose. The quintessential American detective Elery Queen leapt onto the stage, to remain popular for fifty years. Dashiell Hammett brings readers another mystery narrated by the Continental Op. W. R. Burnett, created the indelible character of Rico, the first gangster antihero. Each of the five novels included is presented in its original published form, with extensive historical and cultural annotations and illustrations added by Edgar-winning editor Klinger.

McDougall, Christopher. [Running with Sherman: The Donkey with the Heart of a Hero](#) (Knopf \$27.95). We all need heroes just now. Why not a donkey? Here's the Indie Next Pick: "*Running with Sherman* is one of those special books that just makes you happy. Sherman, an abused donkey adopted by Christopher McDougall and family, needs a task, and that task turns out to be joining the World Championship of burro running in Colorado. In his inimitably engaging style, McDougall has taken the best of his two previous books—the personal stories of *Born to Run* and the history from *Natural Born Heroes*—and created the most enjoyable book I've read this year. I laughed, I got teary, I smiled a lot. Sherman is my new hero!"

Magnusson, Roine. [Close to Birds](#) (Shambala \$39.95). A stunning celebration of birds and why we love them. Gorgeous, close-up photographs highlight the magic in every feather, with enchanting essays about how birds touch our lives. The stunning and intimate photographs capture the beauty and detail of each bird's form, as well as their unique character and personality. The accompanying short essays share charming and often-hidden details from birds' lives. Discover why robins sing so early in the morning and learn the science behind the almost magical iridescence of mallard feathers. Fabulous photos.

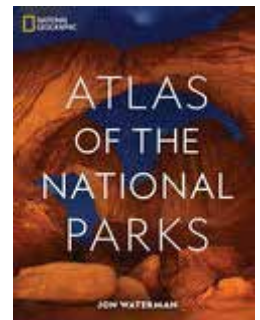
Morris, Edmund. [Edison](#) (Random 38). The *NY Times* review of this magisterial last work by Morris is called "Lighting the Way." It begins, "A figure of astonishing brilliance and manic productiv-

ity, he cared so little for the feelings of other people (save the big investors who bankrolled his ventures) that he say no reason to keep anything bottled up inside. His archive runs to 5 million pages including his pocket notebooks." In an age of tech giants, not to mention politicians, of similar personalities this is an excellent work to dive into. And at 783 pages, it's a deep dive. Morris, who died in May 2019, clearly admired his subject, but this is no hagiography. Regarded by some as



"half genius, half fool," Edison was often in dire financial straits, tussled with partners and competitors, and failed often; his family long suffered from his workaholicism. But he was also charming, affable and blessed with a boundless curiosity that allowed his genius to flourish, for which the world would never be the same.

National Geographic. [NG Atlas of the National Parks](#) (NG \$65). The first book of its kind, this stunning atlas showcases America's spectacular park system from coast to coast, richly illustrated with an inspiring and informative collection of maps, graphics, and photographs.



National Geographic. [NG Epic Journeys: 225 Life Changing Adventures](#) (NG \$40). From navigating the class-five rapids of the Colorado River through the Grand Canyon to sandboarding the slopes of a volcano in Nicaragua to dogsledding in the Arctic, this beautiful and comprehensive book offers trips of a lifetime for explorers and adrenaline junkies alike. Filled with more than 300 vivid photographs, this inspirational guide reveals over 225 of the planet's best destinations for hikers, skiers, divers, rafters, and more. You'll also find everything you need to know for the ultimate epic journey: what to see, when to go, and what to do. Combines adventure with cultural experiences.

National Geographic. [The NG Backyard Guide to the Birds of North America](#) (NG \$21.99).

Naylor, Roger. [Arizona State Parks](#) (University of NM \$21.95). Naylor calls it "A Guide to Amazing Places in the Grand Canyon State"—and it is. Browse more of our selection of books on the Southwest when you visit The Pen.

Paul, Pamela. [How to Raise a Reader](#) (Workman \$19.95). Do you remember your first visit to where the wild things are? How about curling up for hours on end to discover the secret of the Sorcerer's Stone? Combining clear, practical advice with inspiration, wisdom, tips, and curated reading lists, *How to Raise a Reader* shows you how to instill the joy and time-stopping pleasure of reading. Divided into four sections, from baby through teen, and each illustrated by a different artist, this book offers something useful on every page, whether it's how to develop rituals around reading or build a family library, or ways to engage a reluctant reader. A fifth section, "More Books to Love: By Theme and Reading Level," is chockfull of expert recommendations. Throughout, the authors debunk common myths and assuage parental fears.

Penzler, Otto, ed. [The Big Book of Reel Murders](#) (Vintage \$28.95 paper). At 1200 pages, this is no stocking stuffer. The treats however lie in the stories that became films on the silver screen all the way from "Witness for the Prosecution" to "Murder on the Waterfront" that inspired Brando. A winner for crime story buffs and for movie buffs and a real trawl through 20th Century history and through Hollywood.

Price, Leah. [What We Talk About When We Talk About Books](#) (Basic \$28). Do you worry that you've lost patience for anything longer than a tweet? If so, you're not alone. Digital-age pundits

warn that as our appetite for books dwindles, so too do the virtues in which printed, bound objects once trained us: the willpower

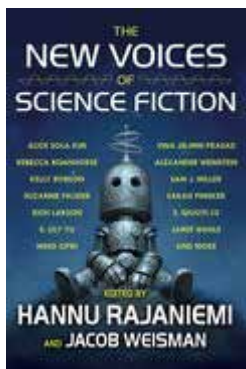


to focus on a sustained argument, the curiosity to look beyond the day's news, the willingness to be alone. The shelves of the world's great libraries, though, tell a more complicated story. Examining the wear and tear on the books that they contain, English professor Leah Price finds scant evidence that a golden age of reading ever existed. From the dawn of mass literacy to the invention of the paperback, most readers already skimmed and multitasked. Print-era doctors even

forbade the very same silent absorption now recommended as a cure for electronic addictions. The evidence that books are dying proves even scarcer. In encounters with librarians, booksellers and activists who are reinventing old ways of reading, Price offers fresh hope to bibliophiles and literature lovers.

Rafanelli, Bryan. [A Great Party](#) (Rizzoli \$55). In his first book, renowned wedding designer Rafanelli shares his philosophy for creating artful celebrations that convey beauty and elegance while telling a story unique to its hosts. From a seaside destination wedding to a stylish masquerade fete, Rafanelli's work is marked by stunning statements and clever everyday details. takes readers behind the scenes in sections such as Weddings, showcasing both the main event and the welcome and after parties; Charity Events, highlighting what makes one unique and successful; and the White House, featuring state dinners and holiday decor.

Rajaniemi, Hannu/Jacob Weisman. [The New Voices of Science Fiction](#) (Tachyon \$16.95). In the introduction to this superlative anthology, Weisman declares the future of science fiction resides in the sure hands of the authors of these 20 recent award-winning or award-nominated stories. Rajaniemi, a mathematical physicist and author (*The Quantum Thief*), adds that their various perspectives create "a tonal freshness" in the genre. Most of the included works extrapolate contemporary technological and social changes into near-future nightmares. Add a copy of Peter S. Beagle, ed., [The New Voices of](#)



[Fantasy](#) (\$16.95

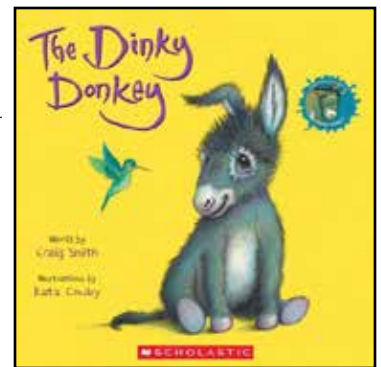
Rankin, Ian. [Rebus' Scotland](#) (Orion \$15 Signed). Rankin uncovers the Scotland that the tourist never sees as he guides you to the places in Scotland that have provided inspiration for his bestselling Inspector Rebus novels. 'His novels are playing a significant part in redefining Scotland's image of itself in literature.' There is no US edition of the book.

Reichl, Ruth. [Save Me the Plums](#) (Random \$27). A memoir by the food critic and editor of *Gourmet* until it was shut down in a move I never forgave Si Newhouse for making. How I miss *Gourmet*.

Sciolino. [The Seine: The River That Made Paris](#) (Norton \$26.95) is the story of that river from its source on a remote plateau of

Burgundy to the wide estuary where its waters meet the sea, and the cities, tributaries, islands, ports, and bridges in between. Sciolino explores the Seine through its rich history and lively characters: a barge woman, a riverbank bookseller, a houseboat dweller, a famous cinematographer known for capturing the river's light. She discovers the story of Sequana—the Gallo-Roman healing goddess who gave the Seine its name—and follows the river through Paris, where it determined the city's destiny and now snakes through all aspects of daily life. She patrols with river police, rows with a restorer of antique boats, sips champagne at a vineyard along the river, and even dares to go for a swim. She finds the Seine in art, literature, music, and movies from Renoir and *Les Misérables* to Puccini and *La La Land*. Along the way, she reveals how the river that created Paris has touched her own life. A powerful afterword tells the dramatic story of how water from the depths of the Seine saved Notre-Dame from destruction during the devastating fire in April 2019.

Smith, Craig. [The Dinky Donkey](#) (Scholastic \$7.99). "Wonky Donkey had a child, it was a little girl. Hee Haw!" The laugh-out-loud follow-up to the viral sensation [The Wonky Donkey](#) (\$7.99) is finally here! Featuring playful verses by Craig Smith and charming illustrations by Katz Cowley—such a great stocking stuffer! Plus fans can expect to read more of eccentric donkey family members in subsequent read-aloud picture books.



St Clair, Kassia. [The Golden Thread: How Fabric Changed History](#) (Liveright \$27.95). This fascinating selection of "13 very different stories" about textiles "help illustrate the vastness of their significance," restoring them to their rightful place as a central human technology. Fashion writer St. Clair (*The Secret Lives of Color*) writes that "technologies using perishable materials... may have been more pivotal in the daily lives of the people who lived through them, but evidence of their existence has... been absorbed back into the earth." She takes readers across the globe, following discoveries of ancient fabric from the Caucasus Mountains (some of them 23,000 years old) to Egypt (where, St. Clair explains, the language contained many words for fabric and wrapping) and then on to China (where silk was used for clothing but also embroidered poetry) and Viking lands (St. Clair highlights the English preoccupation with wool). Textiles went hand in hand with human evolution as Homo sapiens moved from warm climates to cold ones, advanced from sewing pelts to weaving fabrics and from spinning silk to spinning wool. Chapters on more modern textiles include thoughtful disquisitions on space suits, sweatshops, and blue jeans (and the denim tuxedo jacket Levi's made for Bing Crosby after a hotel ejected him for wearing jeans). Written in elegant prose, this tour of textile history will draw in readers interested in human evolution and culture.

Stocklassa, Jan. [The Man Who Played with Fire](#) (amazon \$24.95). When Stieg Larsson died, the author of *The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo* had been working on a true mystery that out-twisted his Millennium novels: the assassination on February 28,

1986, of Olof Palme, the Swedish prime minister. It was the first time in history that a head of state had been murdered without a clue who'd done it—and on a Stockholm street at point-blank range. Internationally known for his fictional villains, Larsson was well acquainted with their real-life counterparts and documented extremist activities throughout the world. For years he'd been amassing evidence that linked their terrorist acts to what he called “one of the most astounding murder cases” he'd ever covered. Larsson's archive was forgotten until journalist Jan Stocklassa was given exclusive access to the author's



secret project. Stocklassa collects the pieces of Larsson's true-crime puzzle to follow the trail of intrigue, espionage, and conspiracy begun by one of the world's most famous thriller writers. Together they set out to solve a mystery that no one else could.

Story Orchestra. [Swan Lake](#) (\$24.99). This tale of a prince, a beautiful swan princess and an evil sorcerer begins in a woodland clearing far, far away. It is Prince Siegfried's 21st birthday. He is playing games with his friends when his mother, the Queen, arrives to tell him he needs to stop having fun and start looking after the kingdom. Prince Siegfried dreams of running away. He follows an enchanting flock of swans to a clearing by a lake, where four of the little cygnets begin to dance. The most beautiful swan transforms into the Princess Odette, who tells him that she has been cursed to turn into a swan by day and return to her natural form at night by the evil sorcerer Von Rothbart. The story follows Prince Siegfried as he attends his birthday party, is tricked into proposing to Von Rothbart's daughter Odile and returns to the lake to battle the evil sorcerer. Will the prince be reunited with his swan princess? As you and your little one journey through the magical scenes, you will press the buttons to hear 10 excerpts from the ballet's music. At the back of the book, find a short biography of the composer, Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky, with details about his composition of *Swan Lake*. Next to this, you can replay the musical excerpts and, for each of them, read a discussion of the instruments, rhythms and musical techniques that make them so powerful. A glossary defines musical terms.

Tolkien, JRR. [The Illustrated Hobbit](#) (Houghton \$30). “A glorious account of a magnificent adventure, filled with suspense and seasoned with a quiet humor that is irresistible . . . All those, young or old, who love a fine adventurous tale, beautifully told, will take *The Hobbit* to their hearts.” —*New York Times Book Review*. Ages 12+

Trimble, Marshall. [Arizona Oddities](#) (History Press \$23.99). What fun, an eccentric collection assembled by Trimble. Arizona has stories as peculiar as its stunning landscapes. The Lost Dutchman's rumored cache of gold sparked a legendary feud. Kidnapping victim Larcena Pennington Page survived two weeks alone in the wilderness, and her first request upon rescue was for a chaw of tobacco. Discover how the town of Why got its name, how the government built a lake that needed mowing and how wild camels ended up in North America. Author Marshall Trimble unearths these and other amusing anomalies, outstanding obscurities and compelling curiosities in the state's history. A fun stocking stuffer, no?

FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD

Drummond, Ree. [The Pioneer Woman Cooks](#) (Harper \$29.95). The #1 *New York Times* bestselling author and Food Network favorite The Pioneer Woman cooks up exciting new favorites from her life on the ranch in this glorious full-color cookbook that showcases home cooking at its most delicious (and most fun! 112 brand new step-by-step recipes that bring fresh, exciting elements into your everyday meals. From super-scrumptious breakfasts, to satisfying soups and sandwiches, to deliciously doable suppers and sides—and, of course, a collection of irresistible sweets you'll want to make immediately!—these pages will deliver a big list of fabulous new dishes for you to add to your repertoire. A wife of a cowboy, mother of growing kids, and a businesswoman with a packed work schedule, Ree knows exactly what it means to juggle life's numerous demands simultaneously. The recipes in this book use everything from a skillet to a Dutch oven to an Instant Pot, so you'll have a mix of options to suit your own timeframe.



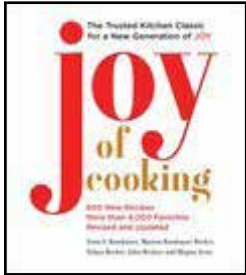
Garrett, Natalie Eve, ed. [Eat Joy: Stories & Comfort Food From 31 Celebrated Writers](#) (Black Balloon Publishing \$22). “The visceral quality of food as it relates to memory is unparalleled—sometimes we eat our favorite foods as comfort during grief, or a dish prepared by a friend becomes healing food from then on. *Eat Joy* is a lively collection of autobiographical stories in which food plays a starring role (recipes included—and they are lovely!). A diverse selection of celebrated authors tells their stories of growth, loss, healing, and homecoming, and the resulting collection is nothing short of magical.”

Hay, Donna. [Christmas Feasts and Treats](#) (Harper \$29.95). Australian trusted home cook and international food-publishing marvel Donna Hay takes the fuss out of Christmas cooking, baking and entertaining. This beautifully photographed and inviting collection pairs traditional recipes alongside others spun with modern styling techniques and time-saving tricks. The Feasts section includes step-by-step guides for inventively cooking all types of protein—turkey, pork, fish, lobster—quick-fix nibbles and sides, including dressed up veggies, savory tarts, crackers and biscuits. The Treats half of the book highlights cakes, puddings and pies; shortbreads and gingerbreads; and an array of sweet, edible decorations including nougats, candy canes and cookies. Show-stoppers like a Chocolate-Hazelnut Pavlova with Marinated Raspberries and several riffs on Trifle (such as the alluring Brandy Eggnog Panettone Trifle) will round off any holiday feast with a rich, delicious wow!

Kimball, Christopher. [Milk Street: The New Rules](#) (Little Brown \$35). This revelatory new book from James Beard Award-winning author Christopher Kimball defines 75 new rules of cooking that will dramatically simplify your time in the kitchen and improve your results. These powerful principles appear in more than 200 recipes that teach you how to make your food more delicious and interesting. Kimball presents 75 such “rules,” along with more than 200 creative recipes, applying them to delicious dishes from around the globe, like Brazilian Fish Stew, Oaxacan Refried

Black Beans, Turkish Poached Eggs, Malaysian-Style Noodles and West African-inspired Black-Eyed Pea Fritters. A founder of both America's Test Kitchen and Milk Street, Kimball offers precise instructions with vibrant photography. Even seasoned home cooks will likely pick up tips--increase lift in a frittata with baking powder!--and Kimball's recipes will surely delight carnivores and vegetarians, casual chefs and home cooking pros.

Rombauer, Irma S. et al. [Joy of Cooking](#) (Scribner \$40). In 1931, after losing her husband to suicide the previous year, Irma S.



Rombauer self-published 3,000 copies of *The Joy of Cooking: A Compilation of Reliable Recipes with a Casual Culinary Chat* (the printer, A.C. Clayton, had only ever printed shoe and mouthwash labels before). All of those copies had sold by 1936, when Rombauer found a real publisher, the Bobbs-Merrill Company, to release a new version. Unfortunately for Rombauer, she acted as her own

agent during negotiations and signed away the copyright for this new edition and her 1931 work, which caused problems in decades to come. By the fifth edition in 1964, Rombauer's daughter, Marion Rombauer Becker, was in charge of editing the book, which had expanded from 500 recipes in the original to more than 4,000. The last version Becker edited was the sixth in 1975, which sold six million copies and can still be found in many kitchens. Rombauer's grandson, Ethan Becker, has overseen editing since then. Here is the ninth edition of *The Joy of Cooking*, featuring 600 new recipes and 4,000 updated ones. Rombauer's great-grandson, John Becker, and wife Megan Scott have expanded the cookbook's vegetarian and gluten substitute options while exploring new cooking techniques such as *sous vide*, fermentation and pressure cookers. 1,200 pages.

And here is a list of cookbooks and their ilk that have published or will publish from September to December.

Acheson, Hugh. [Sous Vide: Better Home Cooking](#) (Potter \$35)

Andres, Jose. [We Fed an Island: The True Story](#) (Harper \$17.99)

Bell, Annie. [Annie Bell's Baking Bible: Ove](#) (Octopus \$29.99)

Buettner, Dan. [Blue Zones Kitchen: 100 Recipes to Live to 100](#) (National Geographic \$30)

Byrn, Anne. [Skillet Love: From Steak to Ca](#) (Grand Central \$30)

De Las Casas, E. [Teen Chef Cooks: 80 Scrumptious Recipes](#) (Potter \$19.99)

Ferrell, John. [Mary Mac's Tea Room 75th Anniv](#) (Anchor \$27.99)

Fleming, Claudia. [The Last Course: A Cookbook](#) (Random \$40)

Gerard, Tieghan. [Half Baked Harvest](#) (Octopus\$29.99)

Holmes, Emilie. [Good & Proper Tea: How to Make, Drink and Cook with Tea](#) (Octopus \$19.99)

Humm, Daniel. [Eleven Madison Park: The Next Chapter](#) (Potter \$75)

Keller, Jenny. [Cookie Class: 120 Irresistible](#) (Harper \$24.99)

Kimball, Christ. [Milk Street: The New Rules](#) (LittleBrown \$35)

Krieger, Ellie. [Whole in One: Complete, Health](#) (Grove \$30)

Le Goff, Audrey. [Rustic French Cooking Made Easy](#) (Oxford \$25)

Lopez, Michelle. [Weeknight Baking: Time-Saving](#) (SimonSchuster \$35)

Liu, Betty. [My Shanghai](#) (Harper \$35)

Norman, David. [Bread on the Table: Recipes](#) (Potter \$35)

Owens, Sarah. [Heirloom: Time-Honored Techniques](#) (Shambala \$35)

Pessin, Caroline. [Cook When You Can, Eat When You Want](#) (Running Press \$24.99)

Ray, Rachael. [Rachael Ray 50: Memories and Meals](#) (Ballantine \$32)

Seneviratne, Sa. [The Joys of Baking: Recipes and Stories](#) (Running Press \$30)

Stewart, Martha. [Martha Stewart's Cookie Perfection](#) (Potter \$26)

Sussman, Adeena. [Sababa: Fresh, Sunny Flavors from my Israel Kitchen](#) (Avery \$35)

Tomlan, Kristen. [Hello, Cookie Dough: 98 Doughlicious Confections](#) (Grand Central \$28)

Voulgaris, Nick. [Kerber's Farm Cookbook](#) (Riverhead \$37.5)

Younkin, Mary. [Weeknight Dessert Cookbook](#) (Oxford \$21.99)

Happy Holidays

The Poisoned Pen