

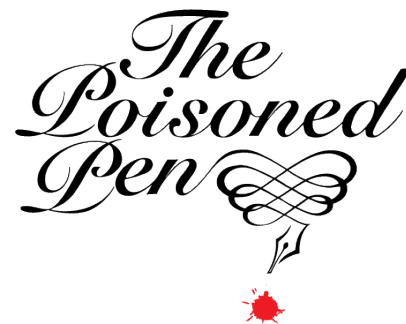
Midmonth BookNotes

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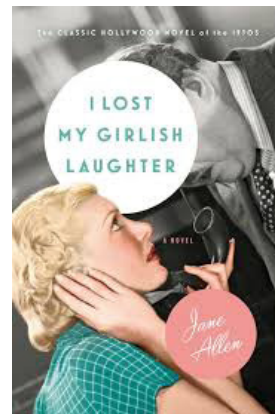
Adams, Lyssa Kay. [The Bromance Book Club](#)
(Berkley \$15).

Nashville Legends second baseman Gavin Scott's marriage is in major league trouble. He's recently discovered a humiliating secret: his wife Thea has always faked the Big O. When he loses his cool at the revelation, it's the final straw on their already strained relationship. Thea asks for a divorce, and Gavin realizes he's let his pride and fear get the better of him. Distraught and desperate, Gavin finds help from an unlikely source: a secret romance book club made up of Nashville's top alpha men. A senior publicist at Berkley had this to say "*The Bromance Book Club* will crack your heart open one page at a time. Bypassing the initial newly-in-love phase puts you right into the emotional thick of it – juggling kids, careers, family, all of it, making this story supremely grounded and just one of the reasons that this book is utterly exceptional." I couldn't agree more about this humorous, heartfelt, and hot literary treat.

Allen, Jane. [I Lost My Girlish Laughter](#)
(Vintage \$16)

Madge Lawrence, fresh from New York City, lands a job as the personal secretary to the powerful Hollywood producer Sidney Brand (based on the legendary David O. Selznick). In a series of letters home, Western Union telegrams, office memos, Hollywood gossip newspaper items, and personal

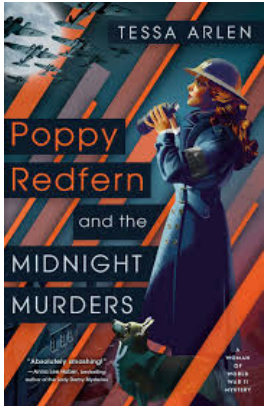
journal entries, we get served up the inside scoop on all the shenanigans, romances, backroom deals, and betrayals that go into making a movie. Jane Allen is the pseudonym for Silvia Schulman Lardner and Jane Shore. The novel is based on Silvia's experiences in Hollywood, where after graduating from Hunter College, Silvia worked for RKO Studios and then for MGM and Selznick International ending up as David O. Selznick's personal secretary. This new edition of the quintessential Hollywood tell-all novel, which had been out of print for the last sixty years, includes an informative introduction by film scholar J.E.



Smyth, who asserts that "without Schulman, Selznick arguably would not have bought Margaret Mitchell's novel *Gone with the Wind* or acquired his respectable reputation as an innovative producer of women's pictures." Smyth goes on to say "Like many secretaries, Schulman had a sharp gift for satire honed over many hectic years in the business; she knew where all the bodies were buried – or bedded. But rather unusually, she was also a gifted writer." This great fun for fans of classic movies (who will enjoy guessing exactly whom the authors are skewering) as well as being recommended by the husband and wife mystery writing duo know as Rene Patrick, both of whom also know a thing or two about Golden Age Hollywood as evidenced by their marvelous historical mysteries featuring Edith Head.

Arlen, Tessa. [Poppy Redfern and the Midnight Murders](#) (Berkley \$16)

After receiving her training as an Air Raid Warden in London, Poppy Redfern returns home to Little Buffenden to do her part for the war effort only to find that things are not exactly the same in the quiet village ever since the brash Americans arrived. Things get even more testy between the residents of Little Buffenden and the American airmen currently living



and working on the airfield outside the village when two Englishwomen who had been dating Yanks are murdered. Now in order to preserve their version of the trans-Atlantic alliance, Poppy must team up with an annoyingly handsome American pilot, Lt. Griff O'Neal, in order to catch the killer. Arlen deftly illuminates the

real sacrifices made and courage displayed by regular English residents during World War II while at the same time gifting readers with an irrepressibly plucky sleuth cut from the same cloth as Susan Elia MacNeal's Maggie Hope and Jaqueline Winspear's Maisie Dobbs. The Poisoned Pen was fortunate to host Tessa Arlen this month for an event so we still have a few signed copies of this terrific debut.

Ashley, Jennifer. [A Mackenzie Clan Christmas](#) (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.

Balogh, Mary. [Someone to Remember](#) (Penguin \$5.99).

Matilda Westcott has spent her life tending to the needs of her mother, the Dowager Countess of

Riverdale, never questioning the web of solitude she has spun herself. To Matilda, who considers herself an aging spinster daughter, marriage is laughable—love is a game for the young, after all. But her quiet, ordered life unravels when a dashing gentleman from her past, Charles Sawyer, reappears, threatening to charm his way into her heart yet again. The latest in Balogh's impeccably written and beautifully subtle Regency-set Westcott novels proves that love and romance do not have a sell-by date.

Barry, Tamara. [Potions are for Pushovers](#) (Kensington \$26)

Selling mystical elixirs and tantalizing tonics is a pretty good way for a fake medium to earn a living. Or at least it's Ellie Wilde's main source of income—until a villager turns up dead. The cause? Murder by poisoning. And though Ellie's concoctions don't include anything worthy of skull and crossbones, suddenly she's the prime suspect. Her only recourse is to find the culprit who *did* do away with Sarah Blackthorne. No one liked the mean old battle-axe. But did anyone hate her enough to kill her? Barry mixes in a generous dollop of dry humor, a dash of romance, and a bit of woo-woo into her new series giving it the flavor of those old gothic-style romantic suspense novels by Barbara Michaels/Elizabeth Peters. Begin with [Seances are for Suckers](#) (Kensington \$15.95).

Berg, Elizabeth. [The Confession Club](#) (Random \$26).

When a group of friends in Mason, Missouri, decide to start a monthly supper club, they get more than they bargained for. The plan for congenial evenings—talking, laughing, and sharing recipes, homemade food, and wine—abruptly changes course one night when one of the women reveals something startlingly intimate. The supper club then becomes Confession Club, and the women gather weekly to share not only dinners but embarrassing misdeeds, deep insecurities, and long-held regrets. They invite Iris Winters and Maddy Harris to join, and their timing couldn't be better. Iris is conflicted about her feelings for a charming but troubled man, and Maddy has come back home from New York to escape a problem too big to handle alone. The club offers exactly the kind of support they need to help them make some difficult decisions. Berg has been an Oprah Club pick before, and her latest is a heartwarming and heartfelt

tale that may be just the kind of literary tonic readers need in these turbulent times.

Blalock, Georgie. [The Other Windsor Girl](#) (Harper \$16.99).

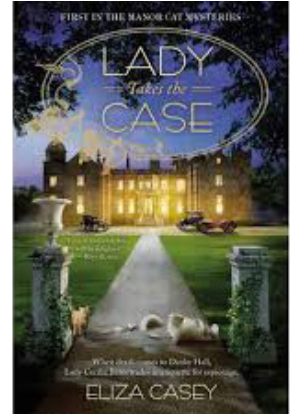
In dreary, post-war Britain, Princess Margaret captivates everyone with her cutting-edge fashion sense and biting quips. The royal socialite, cigarette holder in one hand, cocktail in the other, sparkles in the company of her glittering entourage of wealthy young aristocrats known as the Margaret Set, but her outrageous lifestyle conflicts with her place as Queen Elizabeth's younger sister. Can she be a dutiful princess while still dazzling the world on her own terms?

Blalock considers Princess Margaret to have been the Princess Diana of her era in that the public was consumed with knowing everything about Margaret, and this made it difficult for Margaret to find friends and confidants in whom she could trust. As a means of providing an outsider's view of Margaret's life via entry into the group known as the "Margaret Set," Blalock invented her fictional protagonist of Vera Strathmore, whose family may be part of the titled set but who are clinging by their fingertips financially to what little they have left. When Margaret discovers that Vera pseudonymously authors a popular series of romance novels (imagine a sexier version of Barbara Cartland's books), the Princess invites Vera into her circle and her life. Anyone hooked on Netflix's *The Crown* series or who loved *The Other Boleyn Girl* by Philippa Gregory will be equally captivated by this fascinating historical novel.

Casey, Eliza. [Lady Takes the Case](#) (Berkley \$16)

Danby Hall is the only home Lady Cecilia Bates has ever known, but the financial depression sweeping through England threatens the future of Danby Hall and its residents. Fortunately, Cecilia's mother Lady Avebury has a plan for this: marry her botany-obsessed son Patrick off to wealthy American heiress Annabel Clarke. To help promote the idea of a matrimonial alliance, the Earl and Countess of Avebury have arranged a house party to welcome Annabel to England (and hopefully into their family). However, when another house guest dies at dinner after sipping from a glass meant for Anabel, it's soon clear the Bates family have a more poisonous problem on

their hands than the lack of chemistry between Annabel and Patrick. In order to prevent a scandal from derailing the upcoming engagement between her brother and Annabel, Cecilia, with some assistance from Annabel's new American maid Jane and Jane's curiously clever cat Jack, sets out to unmask the murderer. The usually cranky review journal *Kirkus* called this historical mystery series debut by an award-winning writer of other romance and mysteries "Agatha Christie meets Jane Austen." Written very much in the style and manner of the Daisy Dalrymple mysteries by Carola Dunn or those old Iris Cooper mysteries by K.K. Beck, this is great fun for fans of fun and frothy historical mysteries or anyone who loves *Downton Abbey* (both for the Edwardian setting as well as some intentional tip of the hat plot points).



Christopher, Andie J. [Not the Girl You Marry](#) (Berkley \$15).

Jack Nolan's viral success as a journalist for an internet media company has pigeon-holed him as the how-to guy for a buzzy, bait-click listicles instead of the hard-hitting political writer he wants to be. Fed up with his fluffy articles and the app-based dating scene as well, Jack strikes a deal with his boss to write a final piece de resistance: *How to Lose a Girl*. Of course, this is easier said than done when the girl Jack meets is Hannah Mayfield, and he's not sure he wants her to dump him. If you loved the rom-com *How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days*, this will be right up your reading alley as the author cleverly flips the gender switch on that classic film.

Curtis, Rosie. [We Met in December](#) (Harper \$15.99)

Twenty-nine-year-old Jess is following her dream and moving to London. It's December, and she's taking a room in a crumbling, but grand, Notting Hill house-share with four virtual strangers. The one rule that all the roommates agree to is that dating anyone living in the flat is off limits. Then Jess meets Alex, the guy sharing her floor, at a Christmas dinner hosted by her landlord. They don't kiss, but as far as Jess is con-

cerned the connection is clear. She starts planning how they will knock down the wall between them to spend more time together. But when Jess returns from a two-week Christmas holiday, she finds Alex has started dating someone else—beautiful Emma, who lives on the floor above them. Now can Jess really keep living where she is when the guy of her dreams is dating someone else?

Dicks, Matthew. [Twenty-One Truths About Love:](#) (St Martins \$26.99)

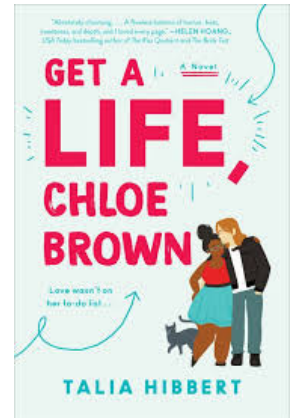
Dan Mayrock is in trouble. He quit his job as a teacher to open an independent bookstore. Business has never been great at the bookshop, and it keeps getting worse. Meanwhile Dan's wife Jill announces she is pregnant. Dan hasn't told Jill about their money problems, and now with a child on the way, Dan doesn't see a "good" time to fill Jill in on their possible financial ruin, especially since Jill's deceased first husband Peter was such a stellar spouse. While searching for ways to now supplement his income (what exactly does it take to become a successful robber?), Dan finds himself grappling with the possibility of reconciling with his own father, who abandoned Dan and his mother when Dan was only nine, and forging an unexpected friendship with a 70 something Vietnam veteran, who lost his own family to crime and illness. Dicks' (author of *Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend*) latest impossibly quirky and irresistibly original latest novel about a man who will do anything to save his family and his business is told entirely in the form of lists that the protagonist makes in his journal.

Dodd, Christina. [Strangers She Knows](#) (HQN \$27.99)

In a desperate attempt to escape from Mara Philippi, the fiendishly clever serial killer who has targeted her and her family, Kellen Adams, her husband Max Di Luca, and their young daughter Rae escape to the Di Luca family's private island off the coast of Northern California. Once there the family must not only solve the mystery that haunts the spooky old family mansion they are now staying in, but also find a way to deal with Mara once and for all when she finds her way onto the island. Dodd's latest Cape Charade suspense novel is another white-knuckle read that is guaranteed to keep you up way past your regularly scheduled bedtime.

Hibbert, Talia. [Get a Life, Chloe Brown](#) (Harper \$14.99).

Chronically ill computer geek Chloe Brown almost – but not quite – died. Now she has come up with her own personal list of seven directives to help her "Get a Life." First on Chloe's list is to move out of her family's mansion. Once this is completed, all Chloe is ready to move onto the next items on her list ending with do something "bad." But it's not easy being bad, even when you've written step-by-step guidelines on how to do it correctly. What Chloe needs is a teacher, and she knows just the man for the job.



Redford 'Red' Morgan is a handyman with tattoos, a motorcycle, and more sex appeal than ten-thousand Hollywood heartthrobs. But is Red really the bad boy Chloe thinks he may be? Hibbert's rom-com has been getting major positive press including from *PW* which said the book "stands out for its high stakes, distinctive heroine, and scorching hot romance." A truly original and truly unforgettable read.

Long, Julie Ann. [Angel in a Devil's Arms](#) (Harper \$7.99).

After being presumed dead for ten years (being thrown into the Thames will cause people to think that), Lucien Durand returns to London with a plan to reclaim his true birthright. However, after Lucien takes a room at The Grand Palace on the Thames – a boarding house owned by Angelique Breedlove and her friend Delilah Hardy – Lucien finds his concentrated focus on vengeance being constantly interrupted by the other inhabitants of the boarding house and most especially by the lovely Angelique. The latest exquisitely written addition to RITA award-winning Long's Palace of Rogues series is another triumph of wit and sensuality.

McKinlay, Jenn. [The Christmas Keeper](#) (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.



Racculia, Kate. [Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts](#) (HMH \$26)

Tuesday Mooney is a loner. She keeps to herself, begrudgingly socializes, and spends much of her time watching old *Twin Peaks* and *X-Files* DVDs. *But when Vincent Pryce, Boston's most eccentric billionaire, dies—leaving behind an epic treasure hunt through the city, with clues inspired by his hero, Edgar Allan Poe—Tuesday's adventure finally begins.* Joined by a ragtag crew that includes a wisecracking friend, an adoring teen neighbor, and a handsome, cagey young heir, Tuesday faces off against other teams from the around the city for the promised prize – a share of Pryce's incredible wealth. A deliciously funny ode to imagination, overflowing with love letters to art, from *The Westing Game* to Madonna to the Knights of the Round Table, *Tuesday Mooney Talks to Ghosts is the perfect read for thrill seekers, wanderers, word lovers, and anyone looking for an escape to the extraordinary.* This is a fabulously fun, genre-blending treat that is written with a terrific sense of dry wit and nuanced emotions. *Kirkus* concluded their rave of Racculia's latest by saying "The result is thrilling, romantic, and charming as all get out, a love letter to former witchy girls and compulsive dreamers that will make readers reassess what – and who – they value. Spooky, witty, and observant, Racculia's novel of friendship and bigger-than-life aspirations is a treasure."

Scott, Caroline. [The Poppy Wife](#) (Harper \$16.99).

While many have been reunited with their loved ones who fought in World War I, Edie Blythe's husband Francis has not come home. Francis is pre-

sumed to have been killed in action, but Edie believes he might still be alive. Harry, Francis's brother, was there the day Francis was wounded. He was certain it was a fatal wound—that he saw his brother die—but as time passes, Harry begins questioning his memory of what happened. When Edie receives a mysterious photograph of Francis four years after the war has ended, she becomes even more convinced than ever that her husband might still be alive. With the help of her brother-in-law Harry, who now travels through battle-scarred France and Belgium photographing graves for British wives and mothers desperate for confirmation of the status of their loved ones, Edie embarks on a journey to find out the truth. This remarkable debut by British historian Scott thoughtfully explores the impact that the tremendous loss of men who fought in battle had on those left back home.

Simpson, Rosemary. [Death Brings a Shadow](#) (Kensington \$26)

Partners in detection Prudence MacKenzie and ex-Pinkerton Geoffrey Hunter's latest case takes them from New York City to Bradford Island, off the coast of Georgia, where Prudence's friend Eleanor Dickson is to be married. However, when Eleanor is found drowned, Prudence and Geoffrey switch gears from wedding guests to professional investigators in order to find out who murdered the heiress. *Kirkus* had this to say about the fourth sterling entry in this Gilded Age set series "Simpson neatly exploits the gothic possibilities of her isolated setting and delivers a nuanced look at an America struggling to adjust to transformative change. This entry should win the series new fans."

Shelton, Paige. [Thin Ice](#) (St. Martin's \$26.99)

On the run from an obsessed fan, Beth Rivers (a.k.a. thriller writer Elizabeth Fairchild) heads to cold and remote Alaska, where she immediately fits in with the residents of Benedict since everyone there seems to be running or hiding from something. However, when as part of her new job working for the local paper Beth looks into the suspected murder of another resident, Linda Rafferty, Beth finds herself in a professional and personal dilemma. Beth suspects that Linda's death may be connected to the same obsessed fan that kidnapped and terrorized her, but if Beth continues to meddle in the investigation, she

risks having her own past secrets spill out into public view. Shelton is the author of a number of different popular cozy mystery series – including the Scottish Bookshop series – and now she takes a slightly different literary tack with a new series that is a bit darker and edgier but no less entertaining. Shelton will be appearing in December at the Poisoned Pen, so now is your chance to reserve a signed copy of this terrific book.

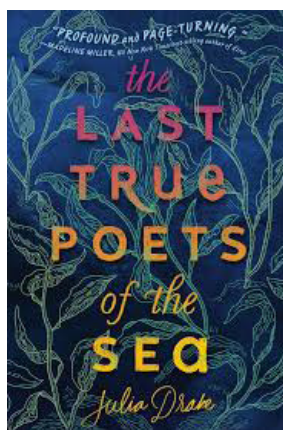
TEEN FICTION

Asebedo, Miranda. [A Constellation of Roses](#)
(HarperCollins \$17.99)

Ever since her troubled mother abandoned her, Trix McCabe has preferred to stay on the move. But when she lands with her long-lost relatives, she finds out that the McCabe women have talents like her own that defy explanation: pies that cure all ills, palm-reading that never misses the mark, knowledge of secrets that have never been told. Before long, Trix feels like she might finally have found somewhere she belongs. But when her past comes back to haunt her, she'll have to decide whether to take a chance on this new life . . . or keep running from the one she's always known.

Bennett, Jenn. [The Lady Rogue](#)
(Simon Pulse \$18.99)

Traveling with her treasure-hunting father has always been a dream for Theodora. She's read every book in his library, has an impressive knowledge of the world's most sought-after relics, and has all the ambition in the world. What she doesn't have is her father's permission. That honor goes to her father's nineteen-year-old protégé—and once-upon-a-time love of Theodora's life—Huck Gallagher, while Theodora is left to sit alone in her hotel in Istanbul. Until Huck arrives from an expedition without her father and enlists Theodora's help in rescuing him. Armed with her father's travel journal, the reluctant duo learns that her father had been digging up information on a legendary and magical ring that once belonged to Vlad the Impaler—more widely known as Dracula—and that it just might be the key to find-



ing him. The publisher describes this as a mash-up of *The Last Magician* meets *A Gentleman's Guide to Vice and Virtue*.

Drake, Julia. [The Last True Poets of the Sea](#)
(Disney-Hyperion \$17.99)

This remarkable teen novel is inspired loosely by Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night*. In the book teenaged Violet is shipped off to Maine after her brother's hospitalization, where she searches for the lost shipwreck that her great-great grandmother survived and for answers about her family's long struggle with mental illness, all while falling in love. Here is how Laura Schreiber, senior editor at Hyperion, describes it. "A lost shipwreck. A family searching for their missing piece. A town called Lyric, Maine. A tender, exhilarating, sea-splitting first kiss. A cynical amateur historian and an eco-conscious eyebrow god. A struggling aquarium, a lobster named Louise, an original musical called *Cousteau!* (jazz hands required). Countless aquatic puns and made-up songs that get stuck in your head for days (i.e. Blue Lobster sung to the tune of "Moon River"). It's deeply sad and deeply silly. It's sweepingly romantic and raw and kind and snort-laugh funny."

Ernshaw, Shea. [Winterwood](#)
(Simon Pulse \$18.99)

Rumored to be a witch, only Nora Walker knows the truth. She and the Walker women before her have always shared a special connection with the woods. And it's this special connection that leads Nora to Oliver Huntsman—the same boy who disappeared from the Camp for Wayward Boys weeks ago—and in the middle of the worst snowstorm in years. He should be dead, but here he is alive, and left in the woods with no memory of the time he'd been missing. But Nora can feel an uneasy shift in the woods at Oliver's presence. And it's not too long after that Nora realizes she has no choice but to unearth the truth behind how the boy she has come to care so deeply about survived his time in the forest, and what led him there in the first place.

Garrett, Kelly. [The Last to Die](#)
(Sourcebooks \$10.99)

"Maybe Gin was right; we'd gone too far. Maybe we were beginning to ruin things – ruin lives. Maybe this isn't a game anymore." Thrill-seeking Harper Jacobs

and her friends make a pact to engage in a series of break-ins from all their homes, but when Alex, looking to up the ante, suggests they break into the home of a classmate, one of the group winds up dead. Now Harper needs to figure out what is happening fast...or else she might be next.”

Roberts, Lisa Brown. [The Bookworm Crush](#)
(Entangled \$9.99)

Shy bookworm Amy McIntyre is about to compete for the chance to interview her favorite author, who hasn't spoken to the press in years. The only way to win is to step out of the shadows and into the spotlight, but that level of confidence has never come easy for Amy. The solution? A competition coach. The problem? The best person for the job is the guy Amy's secretly crushing on...local surfer celebrity Toff Nichols.

FOOD AND DRINK

America's Test Kitchen. [How to Cocktail](#)
(America's Test Kitchen \$24.99)

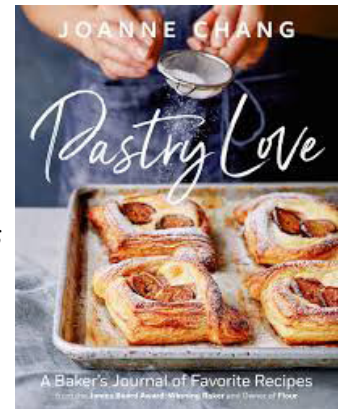
Cocktail making is part art and part science--just like cooking. The first-ever cocktail book from America's Test Kitchen brings our objective, kitchen-tested and -perfected approach to the craft of making cocktails. You always want your cocktail to be something special--whether you're in the mood for a simple Negroni, a properly muddled Caipirinha, or a big batch of Margaritas or Bloody Marys to share with friends.

Becker, John et. al. [The Joy of Cooking](#)
(Scribner \$40)

This culinary classic has been revised on the average once every decade since it first appeared in print 88 years ago in 1931. The latest edition is the work of John Becker (great-grandson of *Joy of Cooking's* original creator Irma Rombauer, who originally self-published the cookbook before selling it to Bobbs-Merrill in 1936)) and his wife Megan Scott. This update includes 600 new recipes as well as additional pages dedicated to exploring ingredients like mushrooms and culinary techniques like *sous-vide* as well as the new authors' take on classic dishes like *Pommes Anna*, which has appeared in each edition.

Chang, Joanne. [Pastry Love](#)
(HMH \$40)

James Beard award-winning baker Joanne Chang is best known around the country for her eight acclaimed Flour bakeries in Boston. Chang has published two books based on the offerings at Flour, such as her famous sticky buns, but *Pastry Love* is her most personal and comprehensive book yet. It includes 125 dessert recipes for such treats as Strawberry Slab Pie, Mocha Chip Cookies, and Malted Chocolate Cake. The book also includes master lessons and essential techniques for making pastry cream, lemon curd, puff pastry, and more, all of which make this book a must-have for beginners and expert home bakers alike. This was named one of *Booklist's* Top Ten Cookbooks for 2019.



Gerard, Tieghan. [Half Baked Harvest Super Simple](#)
(Potter \$29.99)

On her blog and in her debut cookbook, Tieghan is beloved for her freshly sourced, comfort-food-forward recipes that taste even better than they look. *Half Baked Harvest Super Simple* takes what fans loved most about *Half Baked Harvest Cookbook* and distills it into quicker, more manageable dishes, including options for one-pot meals, night-before meal prep, and even some Instant Pot® or slow cooker recipes. Using the most important cooking basics, you'll whip up every day dishes like Cardamom Apple Fritters, Spinach and Artichoke Mac and Cheese, and Lobster Tacos to share with your family, or plan stress-free dinner parties with options like Slow Roasted Moroccan Salmon and Fresh Corn and Zucchini Summer Lasagna.

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

Originally published as a two-volume, signed edition and limited to only 11,000 print copies, this revised edition of *Eleven Madison Park: The Next Chapter* refashions the deluxe slipcase edition into one high-quality, single volume. Of the 80 recipes and stories, more than 30 of the recipes are brand new and

reflect the dishes being served at the restaurant now. Along with 30 brand-new food photos, there are also nearly 15 new watercolors and stories discussing the restaurant's recent renovation, among other topics.

Johnson, Alex. [Menus that Made History](#)
(Octopus \$19.99)

Delve into this captivating collection of the world's 100 most iconic menus which reveal not just the story of food but periods of history, famous works of literature, notable events, and celebrity figures from prehistoric times up to the modern day. Each menu provides an insight into its particular historical moment - from the typical food on offer in a nineteenth-century workhouse to the opulence of George IV's gargantuan coronation dinner. Some menus are linked with a specific and unforgettable event such as The Hindenburg's last flight menu or the variety of meals on offer for First, Second and Third Class passengers on board RMS Titanic, while others give an insight into sport, such as the 1963 FA Cup Final Dinner or transport and travel with the luxury lunch on board the Orient Express. Also included are literary occasions like Charles' Dickens 1868 dinner at Delmonicos in New York as well as the purely fictional and fantastical fare of Ratty's picnic in *The Wind in the Willows*.

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, like: Charred Broccoli with Japanese-Style Toasted Sesame Sauce (Rule No. 9: Beat Bitterness by Charring) and Soft-Cooked Eggs with Coconut, Tomatoes, and Fresh Sage (Rule No. 39: Steam, Don't Boil, Your Eggs).

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

Real French home cooking is easier than you think! Leave haute cuisine to fussy restaurants, and dive into these uncomplicated classics from Audrey Le Goff, founder of the blog *Pardon Your French*. Drawing inspiration from her childhood in the north of

France, Audrey shares simple fare, full of the rich, complex flavors French cuisine is known for. From quiche to crêpes, these homey dishes are anything but humble. Explore France's distinct regions and delve into the culture behind each recipe. Hearty cold-weather favorites from the north, like Alsatian Pork and Sauerkraut Stew and the supremely flakey Thin-Crusted Onion, Bacon and Cream Tart are quick and comforting. With friendly instructions and easy-to-find ingredients, you'll soon feel right at home with French cooking

Lopez, Michelle. [Weeknight Baking](#)
(Simon and Schuster \$35)

If anyone knows how to balance a baking obsession with a demanding schedule, it's Michelle Lopez. Over the past several years that she's been running her blog *Hummingbird High*, Lopez has kept a crucial aspect of her life hidden from her readers: she has a full-time, extremely demanding job in the tech world. But she's figured out how to have her cake and eat it too. In *Weeknight Baking*, Lopez shares recipes for drool-worthy confections, along with charming stories and time-saving tips and tricks. From everyday favorites like "Almost No Mess Shortbread" and "Better-Than-Supernatural Fudge Brownies" to showstoppers like "a Modern Red Velvet Cake" and "Peanut Butter Pretzel Pie" (it's vegan!), she reveals the secrets to baking on a schedule.



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

The editors of Martha Stewart Living present a new, fun source for anyone looking to make their go-to cookies even better and bolder. These recipes make ordinary cookies absolutely extraordinary--all the familiar favorites you love, but taken up a notch in variety, flavor, and creativity. Classic recipes discover new life with unexpected twists such as Brown-Butter Crinkle Cookies and Carrot Cake Thumbprint Cookies. Go over-the-top in super-sized fashion with Chocolate-Chocolate Chip Skillet Cookies; get inspired by cultures around the globe with Brazilian Wedding Cookies and Stroopwafels; and celebrate with beau-

tifully decorated holiday treats, such as Easter Egg Puzzle Cookies and Snowball Truffles. Whether for a special celebration or a sweet anytime-treat, you'll be sure to find inspiration to trade in your everyday cookies for versions far more special—and especially delicious.

Ray, Rachael. [Rachael Ray 50](#)

(Ballantine \$32)

As her fiftieth birthday approached, Ray, the Emmy Award-winning woman who taught America how to get dinner on the table, fast, started thinking not just about what to cook that night, but how her passion for food and feeding people had developed over her first fifty years. The result is this very personal look back at her life that is filled with twenty-five thoughtful essays and 125 delicious recipes, *Rachael Ray 50 reads like a memoir and a cookbook at once. Captured here are the moments and dishes Rachael finds most special, the ones she makes in her own home and that you won't find on her television shows or in her magazine.*

Seneviratne, Samantha. [The Joys of Baking](#)

(Running Press \$30)

Author Samantha Seneviratne believes that every baking project begins with a spark—a desire, a craving, a memory, or a feeling—and through baking that spark is made real. Inspired by the gumption and charm of the classic, bestselling cookbook *The Joy of Cooking*, this cookbook focuses on the joys that make up everyday life and 75 ways to bake yourself back up when you feel like you've hit the bottom. Each chapter explores one of five themes and provides recipes including those for Strawberry Rhubarb Cake with Bay and Orange and Coffee Crème Bundt Cake.

Vongerichten, Jean-Georges. [JGV: A Life in 12 Recipes](#) (WW Norton \$26.95)

From his first apprenticeship in France to his Michelin-starred restaurant empire, Jean-Georges Vongerichten's cuisine is inspired by the freshest ingredients, the simplest techniques, and the drive to make the ordinary perfect. It all started at home. Jean-Georges was born in Alsace in eastern France to a family in the coal business. He spent his childhood watching, mesmerized, as his mother produced elaborate lunches each day at 12:30 p.m. sharp and exquisite dinners at exactly 7:30 p.m. Served rich goose

stew and tender roasted local vegetables, Vongerichten's palate was forever transformed, and such were the origins of his culinary genius. Anchoring this remarkable memoir are twelve recipes that have defined Jean-Georges's career: an egg caviar still on his menu forty years after his mentor taught him the simple preparation; shrimp satay with a wine-oyster reduction from his landmark Lafayette restaurant; a pea guacamole that had President Obama tweeting; and more

Sever, Shauna. [Midwest Made](#)

(Running Press \$30)

When it comes to defining what we know as all-American baking, everything from Bundt cakes to brownies have roots that can be traced to the great Midwest. German, Scandinavian, Polish, French, and Italian immigrant families baked their way to the American Midwest, instilling in it pies, breads, cookies, and pastries that manage to feel distinctly home-grown. This collection of 125 recipes for new treats and refreshed favorites includes everything from Ohio Shaker Lemon Pie to Five Spice Cinnamon Rolls and has been recommended by The Pioneer Woman.



NONFICTION

Brands, H.W. [Dreams of El Dorado](#)

(Basic \$32)

From John Jacob Astor's fur trading outpost in Oregon to the Texas Revolution, from the California gold rush to the Oklahoma land rush, Brands tells the thrilling, panoramic story of the American West. Brands shows how the migrants' dreams drove them to feats of courage and perseverance that put their stay-at-home cousins to shame—and how those same dreams also drove them to outrageous acts of violence against indigenous peoples and one another. Balanced, authoritative, and masterfully told, *Dreams of El Dorado* sets a new standard for histories of the American West.

Flinders, Matthew et. al. [Trim, The Cartographer's Cat](#) (Bloomsbury \$18)

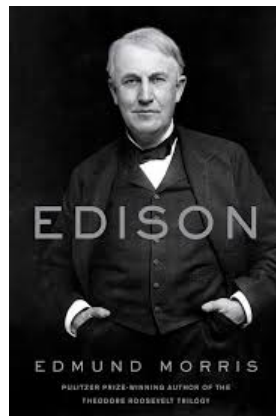
Trim was the ship's cat who accompanied Matthew Flinders on his voyages to circumnavigate and map the coastline of Australia from 1801 to 1803. The first part of the book reproduces Flinders' own whimsical tribute to Trim, written while in captivity in the early 1800s, with added "friendly footnotes" to provide some background to Flinders' numerous literary allusions and nautical terms. Next the book discusses where Flinders was when he wrote his tribute and why, and what his letters and journals from that time tell us about his "sporting, affectionate and useful companion." Finally, we learn what Trim's views on all of this might have been, in a fun and fanciful observation on his premature epitaph. A great gift for both history mavens and feline fans alike.

Jones, Dan. [Crusaders](#) (Penguin \$30)

In this accessible yet thoroughly researched book, the *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Templars* presents a wide-ranging, narrative history of the Crusades that begins with the state of Christian and Muslim relations in the 700s AD and then progressively follows the action as the diverse groups of European leaders and soldiers attempted to wrest control of Jerusalem out of the hands of the Muslims and put it back under the auspices of the Roman Catholic Church and the eventual decline of the Crusader's influence in the Middle East with the fall of the last Crusader stronghold at Acre in 1298 AD.

Morris, Edmund. [Edison](#) (Random House \$38)

Pulitzer Prize-winning author Morris abandons the traditional chronological approach to biography and instead chronicles Edison's life backward by decade in "chapters" titled after his subject's passions such as "Magnetism," "Light," and "Sound." An exhaustive and fascinating look at the prolific American inventor-genius, whose fields of interest included botany, naval strategy, mining, chemistry, and physics.



Russell, Gareth. [The Ship of Dreams](#) (Atria \$30)

Russell uses the sinking of the *Titanic* in 1921 as a way of examining the Edwardian era writ large by focusing on six notable passengers, who were among those privileged to experience the height of luxury—first class passage on "the ship of dreams." The passengers include Lucy Leslie, Countess of Rothes; son of the British Empire, Tommy Andrews; American captain of industry John Thayer and his son Jack; Jewish-American immigrant Ida Straus; and American model and movie star Dorothy Gibson. Gareth Russell peers through the portholes of these first-class travelers to immerse us in a time of unprecedented change in British and American history. Through their intertwining lives, he examines social, technological, political, and economic forces such as the nuances of the British class system, the explosion of competition in the shipping trade, the birth of the movie industry, the Irish Home Rule Crisis, and the Jewish-American immigrant experience while also recounting their intimate stories of bravery, tragedy, and selflessness.

Weir, Laura. [Cosy](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Weir, a lifestyle journalist and editor-in-chief of *London Evening Standards* weekly *ES* magazine, celebrates the art of British coziness and encourages readers to seek comfort in troubled times through cozy food (apple crumble, anyone?), cozy crafts (knitting, nautch), entertainment (watching cozy movies of course), and drinking plenty of tea. *PW* concluded their review with "Weir's winsome, particularly British riff on the hygge craze will aid readers wishing to bring more comfort into their lives and homes." Pair this up with a British cozy mystery or two for the perfect holiday gift for the M.C. Beaton/Nancy Atherton/ Maeve Binchy/Rosamunde Pilcher readers in your life.