

Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 7 Issue 03 March , 2020

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Escape into a Good Book

Adams, Lyssa Kay. [Undercover Bromance](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Liv Papandreas has a dream job as a sous chef at Nashville's hottest restaurant. Too bad the celebrity chef owner is less than charming behind kitchen doors. After she catches him harassing a young hostess, Liv confronts him and gets fired. Liv vows revenge, but she'll need assistance to take on the powerful chef. Unfortunately, that means turning to Braden Mack. When Liv's blackballed from the restaurant scene, the charismatic nightclub entrepreneur offers to help expose her ex-boss, but she is suspicious of his motives. He'll need to call in reinforcements: the Bromance Book Club. The second in Adams' (*The Bromance Book Club*) is another clever celebration of the romance genre – in this case romantic suspense – as viewed through the lens of a men's only book club, who use romance novels as a means of improving their own romantic game.



Bauermeister, Erica. [The Scent Keeper](#)
(St Martins \$16.99)

Emmeline lives with her scientist father, who identifies and captures the scents of the natural world through a machine known as the "Nightingale," on an island off the west coast of Canada. But when Emmeline is forced off her island home and into the world at large, can she stay true to her father's advice "to follow her nose?"

Berne, Lisa. [Engaged to the Earl](#)
(Harper \$7.99)

Gwendolyn Penhallow can't believe she is engaged to the catch of the season: Julian, the all-too-perfect Earl of Westenbury, even if his kisses leave something to be desired. So, when Gwendolyn's old childhood friend Christopher Beck suddenly turns up in London after spending several years abroad, Gwendolyn can't help comparing him to Julian, especially since Christopher's kisses are nothing at all like her fiancé's. *PW* said "This expertly plotted love story is a must-read for Regency fans," and I couldn't agree more.

Beyda, Emily. [The Body Double](#)
(Doubleday \$26.95)

The heroine (who remains nameless) in Beyda's compelling debut is hired away from her job working in small town movie theater to be the body double for famous but troubled celebrity Rosanna Field, who is suffering from a nervous breakdown. Through a strict regime of diet and exercise (and some judicious plastic surgery), the heroine finds herself transformed into a doppelganger for the Hollywood star, only to begin wondering exactly what may have caused Rosanna's collapse. *PW* concluded their review with "this auspicious debut will get under the reader's skin and stay there."

Childs, Laura. [Lavender Blue Murder](#)
(Berkley \$26)

Attending a traditional English bird hunt at Creekmore Plantation, tea-maven Theodosia Browning and her sommelier, Drayton Conneley, stumble on the

wounded body of their host before suspicious accidents prompt the organization of a séance to expose the culprit in the 21st charmingly cozy installment of Child's popular Tea Shop mystery series.

Colgan, Jenny. [Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend](#) (Harper \$16.99)

Backed up her parent's money and her own popularity as London's "It Girl," Sophie Chesterton reigns supreme over British society until her father decides its time, she learn how to make her own way in the world. Now forced to eke out a meager living working as a lowly assistant to a glamour photographer, live in a flat with four smelly boys, and dine on baked beans from the can, Sophie will do anything to get her old life back.

Eyre Ward, Amanda. [The Jetsetters](#) (Ballantine \$28)

When seventy-year-old Charlotte Perkins submits a sexy essay to the Become a Jetsetter contest, she dreams of reuniting her estranged children: Lee, an almost-famous actress; Cord, a handsome Manhattan venture capitalist who can't seem to find a partner; and Regan, a harried mother who took it all wrong when Charlotte bought her a Weight Watchers gift certificate for her birthday (well, really who wouldn't take umbrage at this!). When Charlotte unexpectedly wins the contest, her family packs their bags for a glorious ten-day trip on the luxurious cruise ship the *Splendido Marveloso*. But will this trip also give the Perkins clan the chance to finally unpack all the emotional baggage that has kept them at odds over the years? This was just selected as the latest Reese Witherspoon book club pick.

Goodman, Carol. [The Sea of Lost Girls](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

Tess has worked hard to keep her past buried, where it belongs. Now Tess is the wife to a respected professor at Harwood, an elite boarding school on the coast of Maine, where she also teaches English. Everything seems to be going smoothly for Tess until early one morning, she receives a text from her son Rudy asking to be picked up. When Tess picks up Rudy, she finds him drenched and shivering with a dark stain on his sweatshirt. Four hours later, Tess gets a phone call from the school's headmistress informing her that Rudy's girlfriend Lila Zeller has been found dead on

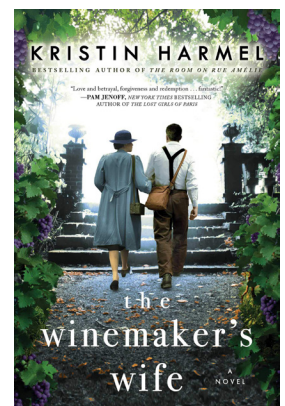
the beach, not far from where Tess picked up Rudy just hours ago. Mary Higgins Clark Award-winning Goodman puts her own spin on the currently popular unreliable narrator literary trend and in the process, delivers a crafty suspense novel that had *PW* saying "readers will have a hard time putting this one down thanks to Goodman's storytelling powers."

Hadlow, Janice. [The Other Bennet Sister](#) (Holt \$28)

What if Mary Bennet's life took a different path from that laid out for her in *Pride and Prejudice*? What if the frustrated intellectual of the Bennet family, the marginalized middle daughter, the plain girl who takes refuge in her books, eventually found the fulfillment enjoyed by her prettier, more confident sisters? This is the plot of Janice Hadlow's *The Other Bennet Sister*, a debut novel with exactly the affection and authority to satisfy Jane Austen fans. *Library Journal* concluded their rave review with "Readers with fond but not necessarily exhaustive memories of *Pride and Prejudice* will love this story, as will historical fiction readers looking for intelligent heroines with agency and heart who belong to their time and place without quite fitting in."

Harmel, Kristin. [The Winemaker's Wife](#) (Gallery \$16.99)

Inès has just married Michel, the owner of storied champagne house Maison Chauveau, when the Germans invade. As the danger mounts, Michel turns his back on his marriage to begin hiding munitions for the *Résistance*. Inès fears they'll be exposed, but for Céline, half-Jewish wife of Chauveau's *chef de cave*, the risk is even greater; rumors abound of Jews being shipped east to an unspeakable fate. When Céline recklessly follows her heart in one desperate bid for happiness, and Inès makes a dangerous mistake with a Nazi collaborator, they risk the lives of those they love; and the champagne house that ties them together. More than seventy years later, in New York, Liv Kent has just lost everything when her eccentric French grandmother shows up unannounced, insisting on a trip to France. But the older woman has an ulterior motive; and a tragic,



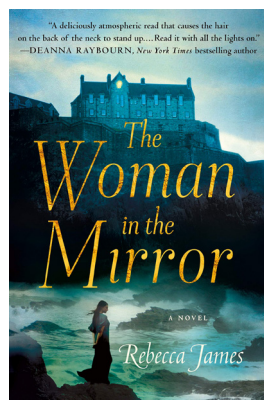
decades-old story to share. When past and present finally collide, Liv finds herself on a road to salvation that leads right to the caves of the *Maison Chauveau*.

Howard, Linda. [After Sundown](#)
(Harper \$27.99)

Sela Gordon, the shy owner of a Tennessee general store, finds safety in solitude. But if anyone can pierce her protective shell it's the handsome, mysterious ex-military man living alone in the wilds of Cove Mountain. For two years, he's kept his distance; until the day he appears to warn her that a catastrophic solar storm capable of taking down the power grid is coming. Now, Sela must find the courage to become the leader Wears Valley needs. Bitter experience has taught Ben Jernigan it's best to look out for number one. For two years the former soldier has lived in a self-imposed exile, using a top-notch security system to keep people away. But he had to let Sela know about the impending threat; and now the quiet and undeniably sexy woman is making it too easy for him to lower his guard. As panic spreads, Sela and Ben discover that in the dark, cut off from the outside world, there's no more playing it safe; in life or in love. Now might not exactly be the best time to read a thriller about a world gone wild, but if that is your literary cup of tea, this is definitely a page-turner.

James, Rebecca. [The Woman in the Mirror](#)
(St Martins \$26.99)

It has been two years since World War II has ended, and the British are still working to put the pieces of their lives back together. In London, Alice Miller is thrilled when she is accepted for the post as the new governess for Captain Jonathan de Grey's twin children: Constance and Edmund. Upon arriving at Winterbourne Hall high atop a cliff in Cornwall, Alice soon falls under the mysterious spell of Captain Jonathan and the secrets that shroud Winterbourne Hall. In present day New York, art gallery owner Rachel Wright, who was adopted as an infant, receives an unexpected legacy when lawyers inform her that she is a descendant of the de Greys and that the recently deceased Constance de Grey, the aunt Rachel never knew she had, has left her Winterbourne Hall. Rachel arrives



in Cornwall hoping to find answers to the questions she has about her own past but in the process, she discovers a tragic legacy that has cursed generations of de Greys. Ever since Daphne Du Maurier's *Rebecca* captured the fancy of readers in 1938 (and hasn't let go yet), the modern gothic romance has cast its own literary spell over readers. Gothics saw a mini-boom in the 1960s and 1970s with authors like Mary Stewart, Victoria Holt, Phyllis A. Whitney, and Barbara Michaels fashioning bewitching books that blended suspense, romance, and sometimes a dash of the supernatural into one captivating story. This haunting new novel by British author James ticks every box on a gothic reader's wish list including the quintessential Cornish setting, a spooky old house that is very much a character in and of itself, two spunky heroines fighting for love (and at some point their lives), and a whisper of danger that seems to lurk around every corner. A not-to-be-missed retro treat.

Janowitz, Brenda. [The Grace Kelly Dress](#)
(Graydon House \$16.99)

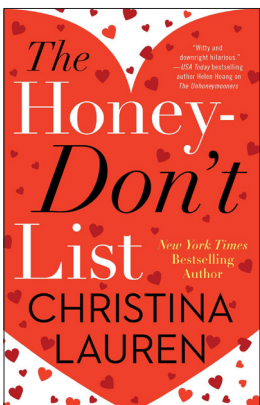
Paris, 1958: Rose, a seamstress at a fashionable atelier, has been entrusted with sewing a Grace Kelly look-alike gown for a wealthy bride-to-be. But when, against better judgment, she finds herself falling in love with the bride's handsome brother, Rose must make an impossible choice, one that could put all she's worked for at risk: love, security and of course, the dress. Sixty years later, tech CEO Rachel, who goes by the childhood nickname "Rocky" has inherited the dress for her upcoming wedding in New York City. But there's just one problem: Rocky doesn't want to wear it. A family heirloom dating back to the 1950s, the dress just isn't *her*. Rocky knows this admission will break her mother Joan's heart. But what she doesn't know is *why* Joan insists on the dress; or the heartbreaking secret that changed her mother's life decades before, as she herself prepared to wear it. As the lives of these three women come together in surprising ways, the revelation of the iconic dress's history collides with long-buried family heartaches. And in the lead-up to Rocky's wedding, they'll have to confront the past before they can embrace the beautiful possibilities of the future. Readers fascinated with Grace Kelly may also want to consider Kerri Maher's captivating new historical novel [The Girl in White Gloves](#) (Berkley \$26).

Lapierre, Alexandra. [The Woman of a Thousand Names](#) (Atria \$30)

Born into Russian aristocracy, wealth, and security, Moura never had any reason to worry. But in the upheaval of the Bolshevik Revolution, her entire world crumbles. As her family and friends are being persecuted by Vladimir Lenin's ruthless police, she falls into a passionate affair with British secret agent Sir Robert Bruce Lockhart. But when he's abruptly and mysteriously deported from Russia, Moura is left alone and vulnerable. Now, she must find new paths for her survival, even if it means shedding her past and taking on new identities. Some will praise her tenderness and undying loyalty. Others will denounce her lies. But all will agree on one point: Moura embodies Life. Life at all cost. Drawing upon letters, diaries, and other historical sources, the author based this sweeping historical drama on the true story of Maria Zakrevskaya, whose lovers included Maxim Gorky, author H.G. Wells, and British agent Robert Bruce Lockhart and who was known as the "Mata Hari of Russia."

Lauren, Christina. [The Honey Don't List](#) (Gallery \$16)

Carey Douglas has worked for home remodeling and design gurus Melissa and Rusty Tripp for nearly a decade. A country girl at heart, Carey started in their first store at sixteen, and; more than anyone would suspect; has helped them build an empire. With a new show and a book about to launch, the Tripps are on the verge of superstardom. There's only one problem: America's favorite couple can't stand each other. James McCann, MIT graduate and engineering genius, was originally hired as a structural engineer, but the job isn't all he thought it'd be. The last straw? Both he and Carey must go on book tour with the Tripps and keep the wheels from falling off the proverbial bus. The latest "breezy, tongue-in-cheek, rom-com (PW) from the writing duo of Lauren takes a playful look at the world of DIY TV.



MacColl, Mary-Rose. [Lost Autumn](#) (Putnam \$17)

Seventeen-year-old Maddie Bright embarks on the voyage of a lifetime in Australia in 1920 when she is chosen to serve on the cross-continent tour of His Royal Highness, the dashing Edward, Prince of Wales. Working on the royal train is a dream come true, and Maddie finds herself making friends with a number of good-hearted yet also glamorous people. But Maddie soon finds that a thin veneer of glamour can often hide a number of sins. More than fifty years later, Maddie is living alone in Brisbane when Victoria Byrd, a London journalist struggling with her own romantic entanglements, turns up asking questions about the reclusive author M.A. Bright. This takes Maddie back to the dazzling days of her "royal tour" and the secrets she has kept for so long.

Mackin, Jeanne. [The Last Collection](#) (Berkley \$16)

When Lily Sutter, a recently widowed young American teacher, visits her brother, Charlie, in Paris, he insists on buying her a couture dress—a Chanel. Lily, however, prefers a Schiaparelli. Charlie's beautiful and socially prominent girlfriend soon begins wearing Schiaparelli's designs as well, and much of Paris follows in her footsteps. Schiaparelli offers budding artist Lily a job at her store, and Lily finds herself increasingly involved with Schiaparelli and Chanel's personal war. Their fierce competition reaches new and dangerous heights as the Nazis and the looming threat of World War II bear down on Paris. Long before the term "frenemies" existed, there was the complicated relationship between designers Coco Chanel and Elsa Schiaparelli. In many ways the two were complete opposites: Chanel was a capitalist when it came to her business and how she ran it while Schiaparelli was a socialist, who believed her workers were the heart and soul of her fashion house. Chanel adapted a clean, classic approach to fashion design while Schiaparelli was wildly imaginative in an almost Salvadore Dali kind of style. Yet as much as the two women might fight each other over customers, they often had each other's back during the turbulent war years in Paris. Anyone interested in fashion or history or just a good, compelling story will find this mesmerizing.

McFarlane, Mhairi. [If I Never Met You](#) (Harper \$16.99)

Humiliated when her long-time boyfriend breaks up with her amid rumors of an illicit pregnancy, Laurie Watkinson agrees to pretend she is seriously dating Jamie Carter, the office playboy, who needs a steady girlfriend to protect his professional integrity. *PW* summed up this breezy read, which in many ways follows in the footsteps of its earlier literary predecessor *Bridget Jones's Diary*, with "McFarlane's arch humor and earnest characters make this familiar plot feel fresh, fun, and genuinely moving. This is a delightful rom-com full of sass, sparkle, and heart."

McMillan, Terry. [It's Not All Downhill from Here](#) (Ballantine \$28)

On the eve of her sixty-eighth birthday, Loretha Curry has a booming beauty-supply empire, a gaggle of lifelong friends, and a husband whose moves still surprise. True, she's carrying a few more pounds than she should be, but Loretha is not one of those women who think her best days are behind her; and she's determined to prove wrong her mother, her twin sister, and everyone else with that outdated view of aging wrong. It's *not* all downhill from here. But when an unexpected loss turns her world upside down, Loretha will have to summon all her strength, resourcefulness, and determination to keep on thriving, pursue joy, heal old wounds, and chart new paths. With a little help from her friends, of course. *PW* captured McMillan's clear-eyed literary gifts with their review which concluded with "McMillan writes with a staggering depth of feeling, credibly capturing the characters' emotions as she unpacks their personal conflicts. This delightful novel balances inspiration for renewal with the hard facts of aging."

Nesbit, TaraShea. [Beheld](#) (Bloomsbury \$26)

Ten years after the Mayflower pilgrims arrived on rocky, unfamiliar soil, Plymouth is not the land its residents had imagined. Seemingly established on a dream of religious freedom, in reality the town is led by fervent Puritans who prohibit the residents from living, trading, and worshipping as they choose. By the time an unfamiliar ship, bearing new colonists, appears on the horizon one summer morning, Anglican outsiders have had enough. Nesbit reframes the story of the Pilgrims through the viewpoints of

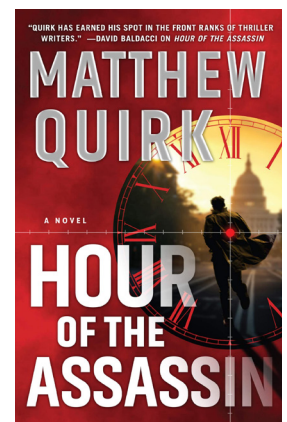
two different women set against the framework of a murder and the subsequent trial.

Pekkanen, Sarah and Greet Hendricks. [You Are Not Alone](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

The #1 *New York Times* bestselling authors of *An Anonymous Girl* and *The Wife Between Us* are back with another twisty tale of psychological suspense. Shay Miller has three strikes against her: no job, no apartment, and no man in her life. Shay's fears a life of ever downward spiraling depression are given a severe reality check when she witnesses a perfectly normal young woman commit suicide by jumping in front of an oncoming subway train. Observing this tragedy jolts Shay into accepting an invitation from sisters Cassandra and Jane Moore to join a special group of women, who all seem to be living life on their terms. But what price will Shay have to pay for her new and improved life?

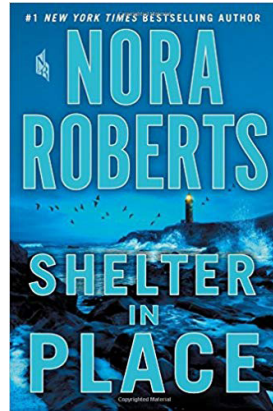
Quirk, Matthew. [Hour of the Assassin](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)

Nick Averose spent a decade serving as a Secret Service agent. Now Nick uses the skills he learned protecting the most powerful men and women in America working in the private sector as a "red teamer," a professional who tests the vulnerabilities of private security teams by trying to "assassinate" their clients before someone else does the same thing but for real. Nick's latest assignment is to slip past the defenses protecting the former CIA director at his home in DC, which he does without a single problem. Until Nick finds the man in his study and then someone kills his client for real. Pinning the blame on Nick is easy given how things look, but Nick isn't about to become the scapegoat for anyone. Finding the real killer takes time and some help from old friends, but now the real challenge is will anyone believe Nick? Edgar award-winning Quirk has a flair for crafting propulsively paced suspense novels, and his latest stay-up-late-to-finish thriller reminded me (in a very good way) of David Baldacci's debut book *Absolute Power*.



Roberts, Nora. [Shelter in Place](#)
(\$8.99)

It was the typical mall scene you could find anywhere in America, though in this case the setting was just outside Portland, Maine. Three teenage friends were waiting for their movie to start. A boy flirted with a girl selling sunglasses at a kiosk. Mothers scrambled to keep up with their children, and the manager at a video-games store waited on customers. Then the shooting started. It took eight minutes before the gunmen were taken down, but those were the longest eight minutes of the survivors' lives. After the shooting, one survivor would dedicate himself to a law enforcement career, another would pour the emotions she experienced into her art, and another would bid their time until they could finish the job, they set out to do. I really don't see how anyone after reading the opening scenes of the book could ever be against common-sense gun reform after reading the powerful and moving opening chapters of this intense romantic suspense novel by Roberts.



Scanlan, Patricia. [The Liberation of Brigid Dunne](#)
(Atria \$17)

After discovering her boyfriend (and business partner) is cheating on her, Marie-Claire packs her bags, leaves her apartment in Toronto, and heads home for the comfort of family. Marie-Claire arrives just in time to celebrate her beloved great-aunt Reverend Mother Brigid's combination eightieth birthday and retirement. However, what was supposed to be a long-awaited and touching reunion between three generations of Dunne women – Marie-Claire, her mother Keeling, and her grandmother Imelda – turns into something a bit different when Imelda makes a revelation at the party that forces them to all confront their pasts and face the truths that have shaped their lives. If you miss Maeve Binchy's books or love Patrick Taylor's Irish country doctor series, this will be a welcome new discovery for you.

Serle, Rebecca. [In Five Years](#)
(Atria \$27)

Where do you see yourself in five years? When Type-A Manhattan lawyer Dannie Cohan is asked this question at the most important interview of her career, she has a meticulously crafted answer at the ready. Later, after nailing her interview and accepting her boyfriend's marriage proposal, Dannie goes to sleep knowing she is right on track to achieve her five-year plan. But when she wakes up, she's suddenly in a different apartment, with a different ring on her finger, and beside a very different man. The television news is on in the background, and she can just make out the scrolling date. It's the same night; December 15th; but 2025, five years in the future. After a very intense, shocking hour, Dannie wakes again, at the brink of midnight, back in 2020. She can't shake what has happened. Determined to ignore the odd experience, Dannie files it away in the back of her mind. That is, until four-and-a-half years later, when by chance Dannie meets the very same man from her long-ago vision.

Silver, Josie. [The Two Lives of Lydia Bird](#)
(Ballantine \$26)

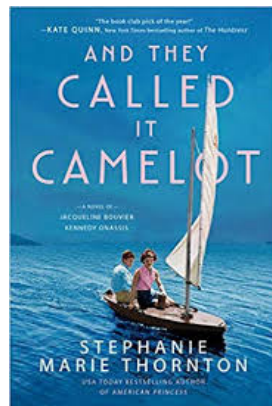
Lydia and Freddie. Freddie and Lydia. They'd been together for more than a decade and Lydia thought their love was indestructible. But she was wrong. On Lydia's twenty-eighth birthday, Freddie died in a car accident. So now it's just Lydia, and all she wants is to hide indoors and sob until her eyes fall out. But Lydia knows that Freddie would want her to try to live fully, happily, even without him. So, enlisting the help of his best friend, Jonah, and her sister, Elle, she takes her first tentative steps into the world, open to life; and perhaps even love; again. But then something inexplicable happens that gives her another chance at her old life with Freddie. A life where none of the tragic events of the past few months have happened. Lydia is pulled again and again through the doorway to her past, living two lives, impossibly, at once. But there's an emotional toll to returning to a world where Freddie, alive, still owns her heart. Because there's someone in her new life, her real life, who wants her to stay.

Thayne, Raeanne. [The Sea Glass Cottage](#)
(Houghton \$26.99)

The life Olivia Harper always dreamed of isn't so dreamy these days. The 16-hour work days are unfulfilling and so are things with her on-again, off-again boyfriend. But when she hears that her estranged mother, Juliet, has been seriously injured in a car accident, Liv has no choice but to pack up her life and head home to beautiful Cape Sanctuary on the Northern California coast. It's just for a few months; that's what Liv keeps telling herself. But the closer she gets to Cape Sanctuary, the painful memories start flooding back: Natalie, her vibrant, passionate older sister who downward-spiraled into addiction. The fights with her mother who enabled her sister at every turn. The overdose that took Natalie, leaving her now-teenaged daughter, Caitlin, an orphan. As Liv tries to balance her own needs with those of her injured mother and an obstinate, resentful fifteen-year-old, it becomes clear that all three Harper women have been keeping heart-breaking secrets from one another. And as those secrets are revealed, Liv, Juliet, and Caitlin will see that it's never too late; or too early; to heal family wounds and find forgiveness.

Thornton, Stephanie Marie. [And They Called it Camelot](#)
(Berkley \$17)

For Jacqueline Bouvier Kennedy, it seems she spent her entire life in the spotlight. Jackie used her effortless charm and keen intelligence to carve out a place for herself first as a senator's wife and a devoted mother, then the country's most elegant First Lady and the last word in sophisticated good taste. But the halcyon days of American Camelot came quickly to an end on that fateful day in Dallas when the nation lost its president and Jackie lost her *raison d'être*. Now, Jackie must reinvent herself and forge a new future for herself while also protecting the legacy of that "shining city on the hill, where valiant men danced with beautiful women, when hoped reigned, and good deeds were done." Thornton, whose previous historical novel featured Alice Roosevelt, had a specific goal in writing about Jackie (a nickname the



former First Lady hated); to show readers "just what a survivor Jackie was. No matter how much tragedy she endured – and there was plenty of it – she never gave up on love and she always managed to find the beauty in life."

Ward, JR. [The Sinner](#)
(Gallery \$28)

In the latest sexy installment in Ward's best-selling Black Dagger Brotherhood series, Mercenary Syn forges a passionate connection with a woman undergoing transition with no understanding of her nature, forging an unlikely alliance with Dhestroyer Butch O'Neal to stop a threat against the Omega. Fans of the series (and there are millions of them, trust me) will know what this means.

Waters, Candace. [For Love and Country](#)
(Atria \$16.99)

Fleeing her wedding and her privileged lifestyle, Lottie Palmer dumps her fiancé and runs away to join the Navy WAVES program. Under the ever-critical view of Captain Luke Woodward, Lottie trains as a mechanic in San Diego and becomes a top airplane mechanic only to find that later when she is assigned to Pearl Harbor, her new commander is none other than Captain Luke Woodward.

Wilde, Lori. [The Moonglow Sisters](#)
(Harper \$16.99).

Welcome to Moonglow Cove, Texas, a place where your neighbors know your name and the gentle waves of the Gulf of Mexico lap lazily against the sands. It's a magical spot, especially in the summertime. Once the town was the home of the Clark sisters; brought up by their grandmother at the Moonglow Inn. Nicknamed "The Moonglow Sisters," as children they were inseparable. Then, a wedding-day betrayal tore them apart and they scattered across the globe and away from each other. But the sisters have at last come home. There's Maddie: smart, sensible, and stubborn. Shelley, who ran off to find her bliss. And Gia, a free-spirit determined to keep the peace. It's her impending wedding that keeps them together; but Gia has a secret, and when her sisters find out all heck is going to break loose!

Nonfiction

Peiss, Kathy. [Information Hunters](#)
(Oxford \$27.50)

While armies have seized enemy records and rare texts as booty throughout history, it was only during World War II that an unlikely band of librarians, archivists, and scholars traveled abroad to collect books and documents to aid the military cause. Galvanized by the events of war into acquiring and preserving the written word, as well as providing critical information for intelligence purposes, these American civilians set off on missions to gather foreign publications and information across Europe. They journeyed to neutral cities in search of enemy texts, followed a step behind advancing armies to capture records, and seized Nazi works from bookstores and schools. When the war ended, they found looted collections hidden in cellars and caves. Their mission was to document, exploit, preserve, and restitute these works, and even, in the case of Nazi literature, to destroy them. In this fascinating account, cultural historian Kathy Peiss reveals how book and document collecting became part of the new apparatus of intelligence and national security, military planning, and postwar reconstruction. Focusing on the ordinary Americans who carried out these missions, she shows how they made decisions on the ground to acquire sources that would be useful in the war zone as well as on the home front.

Her Stories

In celebration of Women's History Month, here are just a sampling of the many new books that chronicle the amazing achievements and significant contributions made by women around the globe.

Cooney, Kara. [When Women Ruled the World](#)
(National Geographic \$16.99)

This fascinating survey by a professor of Egyptology at UCLA (who also moonlights as a lead expert for the Discovery Channel and a recurring team member on the History Channel) explores the lives of six remarkable female pharaohs, from Hatshepsut to Cleopatra--women who ruled with real power. What was so special about ancient Egypt that provided women this kind of access to the highest political office? What was it about these women that allowed them

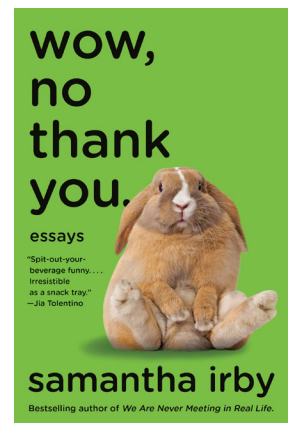
to transcend patriarchal obstacles? What did Egypt gain from its liberal reliance on female leadership, and could today's world learn from its example?" The answers to these and other questions you might have about ancient Egypt's female leaders are all contained within this intriguing book.

Doherty, Maggie. [The Equivalents](#)
(Kopf \$29.95)

In 1960, Harvard's sister college, Radcliffe, announced the founding of an Institute for Independent Study, a "messy experiment" in women's education that offered paid fellowships to those with a PhD or "the equivalent" in artistic achievement. Five of the women who received fellowships--poets Anne Sexton and Maxine Kumin, painter Barbara Swan, sculptor Mariana Pineda, and writer Tillie Olsen--quickly formed deep bonds with one another that would inspire and sustain their most ambitious work. They called themselves "the Equivalents." Drawing from notebooks, letters, recordings, journals, poetry, and prose, Maggie Doherty weaves a moving narrative of friendship and ambition, art and activism, love and heartbreak, and shows how the institute spoke to the condition of women on the cusp of liberation.

Irby, Samantha. [Wow, No Thank You](#)
(Vintage \$15.99)

Irby is forty, and increasingly uncomfortable in her own skin despite what Inspirational Instagram Infographics have promised her. She has left her job as a receptionist at a veterinary clinic, has published successful books and has been friend-zoned by Hollywood, left Chicago, and moved into a house with a garden that requires repairs and know-how with her wife in a Blue town in the middle of a Red state where she now hosts book clubs and makes mason jar salads. This is the bourgeois life of a Hallmark Channel dream, but why then does Irby feel like such a fraud? This third collection of essays by the comedian and author/blogger is everything her fans (new and old) could want or expect: hilarious, edgy, and unabashedly raunchy.



Kalb, Bess. [Nobody Will Tell You This But Me](#)
(Knopf \$25.95)

Bess Kalb, Emmy-nominated TV writer for Jimmy Kimmel Live and *New Yorker* contributor, saved every voicemail her grandmother Bobby Bell ever left her. Bobby was a force--irrepressible, glamorous, and unapologetically opinionated. Bobby doted on Bess; Bess adored Bobby. Then, at ninety, Bobby died. But in this debut memoir, Bobby is speaking to Bess once more, in a voice as passionate as it ever was in life. Recounting both family lore and family secrets, Bobby brings us four generations of indomitable women and the men who loved them. There's Bobby's mother, who traveled solo from Belarus to America in the 1880s to escape the pogroms, and Bess's mother, a 1970s rebel who always fought against convention. Then there's Bess, who grew up in New York and entered the rough-and-tumble world of L.A. television. Her grandma Bobby was with her all the way--she was the light of Bess's childhood and her fiercest supporter, giving Bess unequivocal love, even if sometimes of the toughest kind.

Mooallem, Jon. [This Is Chance](#)
(Random \$27.99)

In the spring of 1964, Anchorage, Alaska, was a modern-day frontier town yearning to be a metropolis; the largest, proudest city in a state that was still brand-new. But just before sundown on Good Friday, the community was jolted by the most powerful earthquake in American history, a catastrophic 9.2 on the Richter Scale. For four and a half minutes, the ground lurched and rolled. Streets cracked open and swallowed buildings whole. And once the shaking stopped, night fell and Anchorage went dark. The city was in disarray and sealed off from the outside world. Slowly, people switched on their transistor radios and heard a familiar woman's voice -- the voice of Genie Chance - explaining what had just happened and what to do next. Chance was a part-time radio reporter and working mother who would play an unlikely role in the wake of the disaster, helping to put her fractured community back together. Her tireless broadcasts over the next three days would

transform her into a legendary figure in Alaskan history. Drawing on thousands of pages of unpublished documents, interviews with survivors, and original broadcast recordings, *This Is Chance!* is the hopeful, gorgeously told story of a single catastrophic weekend and proof of our collective strength in a turbulent world.

Ross, Hannah. [Revolutions](#)
(Plume \$17)

More than a century after they first entered the mainstream, bicycles and the culture around them are as accessible as ever; but for women, that progress has always been a struggle to achieve, and even now the culture remains overwhelmingly male. In *Revolutions*, author Hannah Ross, a cyclist herself, highlights the stories of extraordinary women cyclists and all-female cycling groups over time and around the world, and demonstrates both the feminist power of cycling and its present-day issues.

