

Midmonth BookNotes

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4014 N. Goldwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(888) 560-9919 • (480) 947-2974

poisonedpen.com • sales@poisonedpen.com



Great Reads, Great Mother's Day Gifts, and More

Bocci, Nina. [The Ingredients of You and Me](#) (Gallery \$16.99).

After selling her famous bakery back in New York, Parker Adams visits Hope Lake, Pennsylvania, hoping to get a fresh start in life. As Parker struggles to get her mojo back, she finds a new support group in the form of the “Golden Girls” and her ex-sweetheart Nick Arthur. While there is no denying the chemistry that still exists between Parker and Nick, Parker knows that Nick is off the romance menu. Or is he? This delicious romantic comedy is all about having your cake and eating too, making it the perfect choice for fans of Amy E. Reichert’s and Jenny Colgan’s equally scrumptious contemporary love stories.



Carr, Robyn. [Sunrise on Half Moon Bay](#) (Mira \$16.99).

Born twenty years apart, Justine was already an adult when Addie was just a baby. The two sisters love each other, but they don’t really know each other. Addie originally had great plans for her own future, but she dropped out of university to care for their ailing parents. Now that their parents are gone, Addie doesn’t know what to do with herself. Meanwhile Justine built a successful career for herself as a lawyer, but that success has come at a price. Justine’s marriage is falling apart despite her best efforts. Neither woman knows how to start life over, but both realize they can and must support each other the way only sisters can. Together they find the strength

to accept their failures and overcome their challenges. Happiness is within reach, if only they have the courage to fight for it.

Chow, Jennifer. [Mimi Lee Gets a Clue](#) (Berkley \$16).

Mimi Lee hoped to give Los Angeles animal lovers something to talk about with her pet grooming shop, Hollywoof. She never imagined that Marshmallow, the first cat Mimi said hello to, would talk back or be quite so, well, catty. So, when Marshmallow exposes local breeder Russ Nolan for mistreating Chihuahuas, Mimi steals some of her cat’s attitude to tell Russ off. The next day the police show up at Hollywoof. Russ has been found dead, and Mimi’s shouting match with him has secured her top billing as the main suspect. Think of this charming new series debut as a delightful mashup of Lillian Jackson Braun’s The Cat Who series and the current spate of rom coms that have become the publishing world’s literary flavor du jour.

Christopher, Andie J. [Not That Kind of Guy](#) (Berkley \$16).

State attorney Bridget Nolan is successful in all aspects of her life; except romance. After breaking up with her longtime boyfriend, Bridget has more important things to do like putting bad guys behind bars than exploring the singles’ scene. But with her brother’s wedding right around the corner, she suddenly needs a date and fast. Lucky for Bridget, her legal intern is almost done with his program. Matt Kido is dumbstruck by Bridget; total love at first sight; but there’s one problem. She’s totally off-limits while she’s his boss. But the moment he no longer reports

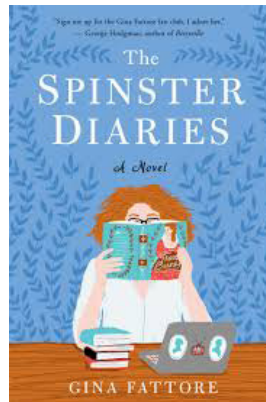
to her, Matt decides to take a chance. An impulsive decision takes them to Las Vegas where, as the saying goes, what happens in Vegas, stays in Vegas.

Dolan, Lian. [The Sweeney Sisters](#) (Harper \$26.99).

Maggie, Eliza, and Tricia Sweeney grew up as a happy threesome in the idyllic seaside town of Southport, Connecticut. But their mother's death from cancer fifteen years ago tarnished their golden-hued memories, and the sisters drifted apart. Their one touchstone is their father, Bill Sweeney, an internationally famous literary lion and college professor universally adored by critics, publishers, and book lovers. When Bill dies unexpectedly one cool June night, his shell-shocked daughters return to their childhood home. They aren't quite sure what the future holds without their larger-than-life father, but they do know how to throw an Irish wake to honor a man of his stature. But as guests pay their respects and reminisce, one stranger, emboldened by whiskey, has crashed the party. It turns out that she too is a Sweeney sister. By turns revealing, insightful, and uproarious, this "endearing story of sisterhood delivers on its promise (*PW*)."

Fattore, Gina. [The Spinster Diaries](#) (Prospect \$16).

"It's a truth universally acknowledged that no one really wants to be at the brain surgeon's on Valentine's Day." Fortunately for the heroine of Gina Fattore's wickedly funny debut, her brain tumor is diagnosed as "mild," giving her options for its treatment. Still, the last thing this gal needs is one more thing to worry about, "especially since she is already currently Journaling for Anxiety and using her bipolar, heroin-addicted high school friend Hildy as her emergency contact person." Fortunately, our heroine, a moderately successful TV writer in L.A. has her goal of writing a block-buster Hollywood rom-com to keep her busy. However, unlike the hordes of writers before her who relied upon Jane Austen for inspiration, our gal believes Miss Frances Burney is the true literary source for every chick lit novel ever written. As the protagonist of this book reveals the significance of Miss Burney's life and her contribu-



tions to literature (and rom com lovers), she also humorously details her own efforts to pen her cinematic masterpiece, cope with working as a writer on a wildly popular television show known for its brilliant writing (hint: the show's initials are GG and its super sweetness – some might say tweeness – are legendary), and finally prove that opting for the "spinster" life is not end of the world for a woman (even one living in L.A.). I loved Fattore's brilliantly conceived and masterfully executed comic masterpiece. It has the flavor of *Bridget Jones' Diary* but with an extra helping of snarky wit and a heroine who isn't afraid to face life on her own.

Fossey, Brooke. [The Big Finish](#) (Penguin \$26).

For Duffy Sinclair, life boils down to one simple thing: maintaining his residence at the idyllic Centennial Assisted Living. Without it, he's destined for the roach-infested nursing home down the road; and after wasting the first eighty-eight years of his life, he refuses to waste away for the rest. So, he keeps his shenanigans to the bare minimum with the help of his straight-laced best friend and roommate, Carl Upton. But when Carl's granddaughter Josie climbs through their bedroom window with booze on her breath and a black eye, Duffy's faced with trouble that's sticking around and hard to hide from Centennial's management *and* Josie's toxic boyfriend. Before he knows it, Duffy's running a covert operation that includes hitchhiking and barhopping. Fossey's debut, of which *Kirkus* said "Fossey manages to depict the struggles of the elderly, whose concerns aren't often examined in fiction, in a way that's both respectful and entertaining. A moving, funny, and ultimately hopeful look at what makes life meaningful, "will definitely find a readership with those who fell in love with *A Man Called Ove*."

Hill, Melissa. [The Summer Villa](#) (Mira \$16.99).

Villa Dolce Vita, a rambling stone house on the Amalfi Coast, sits high above the Gulf of Naples amid dappled lemon groves and fragrant, tumbling bougainvillea. Kim, Colette and Annie all came to the villa in need of escape and in the process forged an unlikely friendship. Now, years later, Kim has transformed the crumbling house into a luxury retreat and has invited her friends back for the summer to celebrate. But

as friendships are rekindled under the Italian sun, secrets buried in the past will come to light, and not everyone is happy that the three friends are reuniting. Each woman will have things to face up to if they are all to find true happiness and fully embrace the sweet life.

Hogan, Ruth. [Queenie Malone's Paradise Hotel](#)

(Harper \$16.99).

Tilly was a bright, outgoing little girl who loved fizzy drinks, naughty words, and liked playing with ghosts and matches. When her beloved father suddenly disappeared, she and her fragile, difficult mother moved into Queenie Malone's magnificent Paradise Hotel in Brighton, with its endearing and loving family of misfits; including the exuberant and compassionate Queenie herself. But then Tilly was dealt another shattering blow when her mother sent her off to boarding school with little explanation and no warning, and she lost her beloved chosen family.

Now an adult, Tilda has grown into an independent woman still damaged by her mother's unaccountable cruelty. Wary of people, her only true friend is her dog, Eli. When her estranged mother dies, Tilda returns to Brighton and the home she loved best. With the help of the still-dazzling Queenie, she sets about unraveling the mystery of her exile from The Paradise Hotel, only to discover that her mother was not the woman she thought she knew at all; and that it's never too late to write your own happy ending.

Hogle, Sarah. [You Deserve Each Other](#)

(Putnam \$16).

Naomi Westfield has the perfect fiancé: Nicholas Rose holds doors open for her, remembers her restaurant orders, and comes from the kind of upstanding society family any bride would love to be a part of. They never fight. They're preparing for their lavish wedding that's three months away. And she is miserably and utterly sick of him. Naomi wants out, but there's a catch: whoever ends the engagement will have to foot the nonrefundable wedding bill. When Naomi discovers that Nicholas, too, has been feigning contentment, the two of them go head-to-head in



a battle of pranks, sabotage, and all-out emotional warfare. But with the countdown looming to the wedding that may or may not come to pass, Naomi finds her resolve slipping. Because now that they have nothing to lose, they're finally being themselves--and having fun with the last person they expect: each other. Chances are you will either love or hate this debut, which may remind some reviewers of a pre-wedding version of *The War of the Roses*. *PW* ended their review with "this rom-com is not for the faint of heart."

Hornby, Gill. [Miss Austen](#)

(Flatiron \$26.99).

Two decades after the death of her beloved sister, Jane, Cassandra Austen returns to the village of Kintbury and the home of her family friends, the Fowles. In a dusty corner of the vicarage, there is a cache of Jane's letters that Cassandra is desperate to find. Dodging her hostess and a meddlesome housemaid, Cassandra eventually hunts down the letters and confronts the secrets they hold, secrets not only about Jane but about Cassandra herself. Will Cassandra bare the most private details of her life to the world, or commit her sister's legacy to the flames?

Moving back and forth between the vicarage and Cassandra's vibrant memories of her years with Jane, *Miss Austen* is the untold story of the most important person in Jane's life: her sister Cassandra.

Jimenez, Abby. [The Happy Ever After Playlist](#)

(Grand Central \$15.99).

Two years after losing her fiancé, Sloan Monroe still can't seem to get her life back on track. But one trouble-making pup with a "take me home" look in his eyes is about to change everything. With her new pet by her side, Sloan finally starts to feel more like herself. Then, after weeks of unanswered texts, Tucker's owner reaches out. He's a musician on tour in Australia. And bottom line: He wants Tucker back. Well, Sloan's not about to give up her dog without a fight. But what if this Jason guy really loves Tucker? As their flirty texts turn into long calls, Sloan can't deny a connection. Jason is hot and nice and funny. There's no telling what could happen when they meet in person. The question is: With his music career on the rise, how long will Jason really stick around? And is it possible for Sloan to survive another heartbreak?

Kane, Jessica Francis. [Rules for Visiting](#) (Penguin \$17).

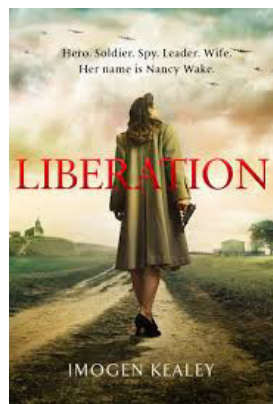
University gardener May Attaway is more at home with plants than people. Over the years, she's turned inward, finding pleasure in language, her work as a gardener, and keeping her neighbors at arm's length while keenly observing them. But when she is unexpectedly granted some leave from her job, May is inspired to reconnect with four once close friends over the course of a year. She knows they will never have a proper reunion, so she goes, one-by-one, to each of them. A student of the classics, May considers her journey a female *Odyssey*. What might the world have had if, instead of waiting, Penelope had set out on an adventure of her own? Kane's heartfelt and humorous novel thoughtfully explores the important role real-life friendship plays in the digital age.

I Spy

In one of those weird coinky dinks that seem to crop up in publishing, two different novels have come out that explore the life and legacy of legendary socialite spy – and one of the most decorated agents that operated during World War II - Nancy Wake.

Kealey, Imogen. [Liberation](#) (Grand Central \$27).

To the Allies, she was a fearless freedom fighter, a special operations legend, a woman ahead of her time. To the Gestapo, she was a ghost, a shadow, the most wanted person in the world. But at first, Nancy Wake was just another young woman living in Marseilles and recently engaged to a man she loved. Then France fell to the Nazi blitzkrieg. With her appetite for danger, Nancy quickly finds herself drawn into the underground Resistance standing up to Nazi rule. Gaining notoriety as the White Mouse, with a 5-million-franc bounty hanging over her head, Wake rises to the top of the Nazi's Most Wanted list -- only to find her husband arrested for treasonous activity under suspicion of being the White Mouse himself. Narrowly escaping to Britain, Wake joins the Special Operations



Executive (SOE) and parachutes into the Auvergne, where she must fight for the respect of some of the toughest Resistance fighters in France. As she and her maquisards battle the Nazis, their every engagement brings the end of the war closer -- but also places her husband in deeper peril.

Lawhon, Ariel. [Code Name Helene](#) (Doubleday \$27.95).

It is 1936 and Nancy Wake is an intrepid Australian expat living in Paris who has bluffed her way into a reporting job for Hearst newspaper when she meets the wealthy French industrialist Henri Fiocca. No sooner does Henri sweep Nancy off her feet and convince her to become Mrs. Fiocca than the Germans invade France and she takes yet another name: a code name.

As LUCIENNE CARLIER Nancy smuggles people and documents across the border and earns a new nickname from the Gestapo for her remarkable ability to evade capture: THE WHITE MOUSE. With a five million franc bounty on her head, Nancy is forced to escape France and leave Henri behind. When she enters training with the Special Operations Executives in Britain, she is told to use the name HÉLÈNE with her comrades. And finally, with mission in hand, Nancy is airdropped back into France as the deadly MADAM ANDRÉE, where she claims her place as one of the most powerful leaders in the French Resistance, known for her ferocious wit, her signature red lipstick, and her ability to summon weapons straight from the Allied Forces. But no one can protect Nancy if the enemy finds out these four women are one and the same, and the closer to liberation France gets, the more exposed she--and the people she loves--will become.

Kelly, Martha Hall. [Lost Roses](#) (Ballantine \$17).

Kelly introduced readers to heroine Caroline Ferriday in her *New York Times* best-selling novel *Lilac Girls*. Now it is generation earlier, and Kelly focuses on Caroline's mother Eliza as well as three equally indomitable women as they travel from St. Petersburg to Paris while the world awaits the devastation of World War I.

Kidd, Sue Monk. [The Book of Longings](#) (Viking \$28).

Raised in a wealthy family with ties to the ruler of Galilee, Ana is rebellious and ambitious, with a brilliant mind and a daring spirit. She engages in furtive scholarly pursuits and writes narratives about neglected and silenced women. Ana is expected to marry an older widower, a prospect that horrifies her. An encounter with eighteen-year-old Jesus changes everything. Their marriage evolves with love and conflict, humor and pathos in Nazareth, where Ana makes a home with Jesus, his brothers, and their mother, Mary. Ana's pent-up longings intensify amid the turbulent resistance to Rome's occupation of Israel, partially led by her brother, Judas. She is sustained by her fearless aunt Yaltha, who harbors a compelling secret. When Ana commits a brazen act that puts her in peril, she flees to Alexandria, where startling revelations and greater dangers unfold, and she finds refuge in unexpected surroundings. Ana determines her fate during a stunning convergence of events considered among the most impactful in human history. Kidd, best known for her beloved novel *The Secret Life of Bees*, delivers an unforgettable account of one woman's bold struggle to realize the passion and potential inside her, while living in a time, place and culture devised to silence her.

Lowry, Mary Pauline. [The Roxy Letters](#) (Simon Schuster \$26).

Bridget Jones penned a diary; Roxy writes letters. Specifically: she writes letters to her hapless, rent-avoidant ex-boyfriend; and current roommate; Everett. This charming and funny twenty-something is under-employed (and under-romanced), and she's decidedly fed up with the indignities she endures as a deli maid at Whole Foods (the original), and the dismaying speed at which her beloved Austin is becoming corporatized. When a new Lululemon pops up at the intersection of Sixth and Lamar where the old Waterloo Video used to be, Roxy can stay silent no longer. As her letters to Everett become less about overdue rent and more about the state of her life, Roxy realizes she's ready to be the heroine of her own story. *PW* called this a "fizzy epistolary novel" and *Kirkus* proclaimed "it bursts with quirky spirit and gleeful comic energy." I couldn't agree more with their assessments of this hilarious novel, though in fair warning, those readers with delicate sensibilities

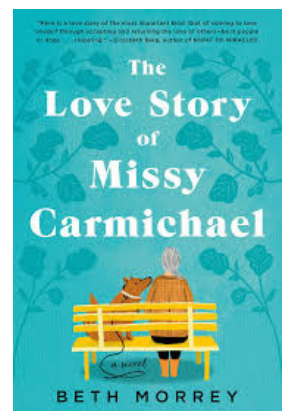
may find themselves blushing furiously at the bold and audacious bawdiness of Lowry's book.

Miller, Kristin. [In Her Shadow](#) (Ballantine \$16).

When secretary Colleen Roper becomes pregnant by her boss, Michael, he whisks her away to Ravenwood, his opulent estate. Abruptly thrust into a life of luxury she's never known, Colleen finds the immense house suffused with the memory of Michael's first wife, the unforgettably beautiful Joanna, who left months ago but whose memory still haunts Ravenwood. Sound familiar? Given the recent popularity of gothics, is it any wonder that Miller went back to the grand gothic of them all – Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* – for the inspiration for her own chilling story of one woman's desperate desire to be loved and the ghosts of the past that threaten to get in her way.

Morrey, Beth. [The Love Story of Missy Carmichael](#) (Putnam \$26).

Seventy-nine-year old Millicent "Missy" Carmichael once led a bustling life driven by two children, an accomplished and celebrated husband, and a career as a librarian with a Classics degree from Cambridge. Now her husband is gone, her daughter is estranged after a shattering argument, and her son has moved to his wife's native Australia, taking Missy's beloved only grandchild half-a-world away. Missy spends her days sipping sherry, avoiding people, and rattling around in her oversized, under-decorated house waiting for...what exactly? The last thing Missy expects is for two perfect strangers and one spirited dog named Bob to break through her prickly exterior and show Missy just how much love she still has to give. The ancient Greeks had a word, *oikos*, which can be translated as family, but it really means so much more: house, home, hearth, or in other words, the rock upon which a family is built. This is a sweet and charming story about one woman and her *oikos*: the old family composed of her late husband and their children and the new one that she creates from the world around her. While I might quibble just a bit with one plot point late in the story (I understand why the author



chose to do it; I just wish she hadn't) this is a lovely coming-of-old story that deftly demonstrates it's never too late to forgive yourself for past mistakes, and more importantly, it is never too late for new loves, including those that come with four paws.

Neuberger, Emily. [A Tender Thing](#) (G.P. Putnam's \$26).

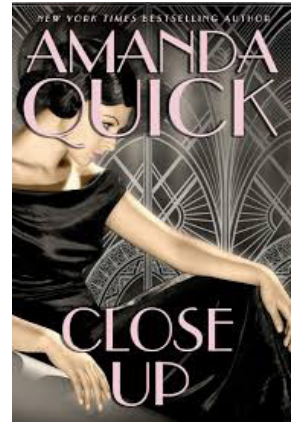
"Eleanor's love of theater was a flame inside her – she guarded it, and no matter who was cruel to her, no matter how dull her life, the music and lyrics brought her joy." Growing up in rural Wisconsin, Eleanor O'Hanlon always felt different. In love with musical theater from a young age, she memorized every show album she could get her hands on. So when she discovers that her favorite composer in the world – Don Mannheim - has issued an open call for the lead actress in his upcoming Broadway musical *Charades*, Eleanor leaves behind everything she knows to run off to New York City to audition. Raw and untrained, she catches the eye Mannheim, who catapults her into the leading role of his new work, "*A Tender Thing*," a provocative love story between a white woman and black man, one never before seen on a Broadway stage. Neuberger's lively and heartfelt love letter to musical theater has been garnering a number of raves including Poisoned Pen favorite Beatriz Williams, who said "*A Tender Thing* is that rare book that is written from the heart, and still has something important to say about the human condition." The usually cranky *Kirkus* also gave this marvelous debut *bravos* saying "Smart, savvy, atmospheric work from a promising new talent."

Novak, Brenda. [One Perfect Summer](#) (Mira \$16.99).

When Serenity Alston swabbed her cheek for 23andMe, she joked about uncovering some dark ancestral scandal. The last thing she expected was to discover that she had two half-sisters she never knew existed. Suddenly, everything about Serenity's loving family is drawn into question. And meeting these newfound sisters might be the only way to get answers. Serenity and her sisters Reagan and Lorelie decide to meet at the family cabin in Lake Tahoe, where before the summer is over, they'll have to confront their past and determine how to move forward with their lives. Fans of Robyn Carr who have yet to discover Brenda Novak will find she crafts equally emotion-packed and intensely compelling women's fiction.

Quick, Amanda. [Close Up](#) (Berkley \$27).

Vivian Brazier never thought life as an art photographer would include nightly wake-up calls to snap photos of grisly crime scenes or headshots for aspiring male actors. Although she is set on a career of transforming photography into a new art form, she knows her current work is what's paying the bills. However, when Vivian notices a detail in photo of the latest victim of the Dagger Killer that could help the police crack that case, she finds herself now in the sights of a very determined murderer. Fortunately for Vivian, private investigator Nick Sundridge has just turned up, and he is more than willing to help Vivian out.



Close Up, the latest addictively readable entry in Quick's (a.k.a Jayne Ann Krentz's) 1930's set Burning Cove series is another perfectly polished synthesis of high-stakes suspense and sophisticated romance. While the Poisoned Pen was looking forward to welcoming Krentz back for her latest, things have changed as you all know now. Fortunately, the author is more than happy to sign copies of *Close Up* for the Poisoned Pen. In addition to signed copies of *Close Up*, we will be offering an selective number of [Close Up Special Reader Boxes](#) for reserving. Each box will include a signed copy of *Close Up*, and a hard-cover copy of *The Woman in the Mirror* by Rebecca James, a marvelous new gothic suspense novel about two different women who become entangled in the secrets that shroud Winterbourne Hall. This addictively readable novel has become a favorite of Poisoned Pen staff as well as Ms. Quick, whose blurb of the book says "Haunting, unnerving, infused with atmosphere, dread, and secrets...the perfect Gothic thriller." The special price for both books plus shipping (and a personal note from Amanda Quick as well as a treat or two from the Poisoned Pen) is \$55.00. But don't delay because we have a limited number of these available.

Rai, Alisha. [Girl Gone Viral](#) (Harper \$15.99).

One minute, Katrina King's enjoying an innocent conversation with a random guy at a coffee shop; the next, a stranger has live-tweeted the entire encounter with a romantic meet-cute spin and #CafeBae has the world swooning. Going viral isn't easy for anyone, but Katrina has painstakingly built a private world for herself, far from her traumatic past. Besides, everyone has it all wrong...that #CafeBae bro? He isn't the man she's hungry for. With the internet on the hunt for the identity of #CuteCafeGirl, Jas Singh, bodyguard and possessor of the most beautiful eyebrows Katrina's ever seen, offers his family's farm as a refuge. Alone with her unrequited crush feels like a recipe for hopeless longing, but Katrina craves the escape. She's resigned to being just friends with Jas--until they share a single electrifying kiss. Now she can't help but wonder if her crush may not be so unrequited after all?

Roberts, Sheila. [Beachside Beginnings](#) (Mira \$27.99).

Roberts, Sheila. [Beachside Beginnings: Moonlight Harbor](#) (\$9.99).

Hair stylist Moira Wellman flees her abusive boyfriend, ending up in the beachside town of Moonlight Harbor where she helps the town women find new confidence in their looks while finding herself drawn to a handsome police officer. Roberts' Moonlight Harbor books offer the perfect mix of small-town charm and sweet romance. Or, the perfect literary antidote to the turbulent times in which we all find ourselves now.

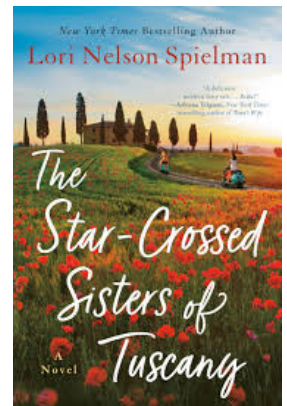
Rodale, Maya. [An Heiress to Remember](#) (Harper \$7.99).

Beatrice Goodwin left Manhattan a duchess and has returned a divorcée, ready to seize control of her fate *and* the family business. However, not only has Goodwin's Department Store, once the pinnacle of fashion, fallen from favor thanks to Dalton's, its glamorous competitor across the street, the family business is about to go under unless Beatrice does something. For Wes Dalton, Beatrice has always been the one; the one who broke his young heart by marrying a duke, and now, the one whose cherished store he plans to buy, just so he can destroy it. It's the perfect

revenge against a family who believed he'd never be good enough for their daughter; until Beatrice's return complicates everything. The third sparkling entry in Rodale's Gilded Age Girl's Club series is pure fun. The author lightly sifts in plenty of fascinating historical facts about the mercantile business in the late 19th century into the storyline (who knew that photographs of cats dressed up in baby clothes were a popular display idea back then too?) while never losing control of her fun and funny business rivals to lovers plot. If you loved the PBS series Mr. Selfridge, think of this as romance fiction's version of that.

Spielman, Lori Nelson. [The Star-Crossed Sisters of Tuscany](#) (Berkley \$16).

Since the day Filomena Fontana cast a curse upon her sister more than two hundred years ago, not one second-born Fontana daughter has found lasting love. Some, like second-born Emilia, the happily-single baker at her grandfather's Brooklyn deli, claim it's an odd coincidence. Others, like her sexy, desperate-for-love cousin Lucy, insist it's a true hex. But both are bewildered when their great-aunt calls with an astounding proposition: If they accompany her to her homeland of Italy, Aunt Poppy vows she'll meet the love of her life on the steps of the Ravello Cathedral on her eightieth birthday, and break the Fontana Second-Daughter Curse once and for all. Against the backdrop of wandering Venetian canals, rolling Tuscan fields, and enchanting Amalfi Coast villages, romance blooms, destinies are found, and family secrets are unearthed; secrets that could threaten the family far more than a centuries-old curse.



Stevermer, Caroline. [The Glass Magician](#) (Tom Doherty \$26.99).

New York 1905—The Vanderbilts. The Astors. The Morgans. They are the cream of society—and they own the nation on the cusp of a new century. Thalia Cutler doesn't have any of those family connections. What she does know is stage magic and she dazzles audiences with an act that takes your breath away. That is, until one night when a trick goes horribly awry. In surviving she discovers that she can shape-shift, and has the potential to take her place among

the rich and powerful. But first, she'll have to learn to control that power...before the real monsters descend to feast.

Tanabe, Karin. [A Hundred Suns](#) (St Martin's \$27.99).

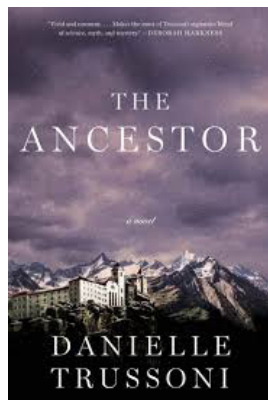
This evocative historical novel set in 1930's Indochina, stars Jessie Lesage, the American wife of a Michelin heir Victor, who journeys to the French colony in the name of family fortune, and the glamorous, tumultuous world she finds herself in—and the truth she may be running from. *Kirkus* ended their review of this mesmerizing historical novel that “reveals secrets in exquisitely paced steps—just when the reader thinks she knows who can be trusted, Tanabe's tale twists into another back alley, exposing another unexpected skeleton in a closet. With doubt clouding every corner, Tanabe ratchets up the tension as Marcelle seeks political and personal vengeance, and Jessie increasingly cannot tell reality from imagination. A smart, riveting psychological thriller.”

Thompson, Victoria. [Murder on Pleasant Avenue](#) (Berkley \$26).

In the latest Gaslight mystery from Thompson, detective Frank Malloy and his midwife spouse Sarah once again find themselves investigating a murder when a saloon-owning gangster named Nunzio Esposito (rumored to be the head of the notorious Black Hand) is found dead, and Frank's friend and new partner Gino Donatelli becomes the police's number one suspect.

Trussoni, Danielle. [The Ancestor](#) (Harper \$27.99).

It feels like a fairy tale when Alberta “Bert” Monte receives a letter addressed to “Countess Alberta Montebianco” at her Hudson Valley, New York, home that claims Bert's inherited a noble title, money, and a castle in Italy. While Bert is more than a little skeptical, the chance to escape her stressful life for a luxury holiday in Italy, is too good to pass up. At first, her inheritance seems like a dream come true: a champagne-drenched trip on a private jet to Turin, Italy; lawyers with lists of artwork and jewels bequeathed to Bert; a helicopter ride to



an ancestral castle nestled in the Italian Alps below Mont Blanc; a portrait gallery of ancestors Bert never knew existed; and a cellar of expensive vintage wine for Bert to drink. But her ancestry has a dark side, and Bert soon learns that her family history is particularly complicated. As Bert begins to unravel the Montebianco secrets, she begins to realize her true inheritance lies not in a legacy of ancestral treasures, but in her very genes. Trussoni, who reviews horror fiction for *The New York Times Book Review*, was inspired to write after she took a DNA test and had the surprise of her life. Trussoni had always believed she was Italian American to her core but “the test revealed that she was exactly 1.7 percent Italian. This surprise made Trussoni realize how powerful our ancestral stories are in our lives and made her wonder: what could be the most shocking revelation one might discover in one's ancestral pedigree?” Lots of spooky (but never gory) fun from Trussoni, whom *PW* says “plausibly and expertly combines an intense, darkly gothic narrative with elements of mystery, the paranormal, and legendary tales.” Fans of Douglas Preston and Lincoln Child's books may want to check this out.

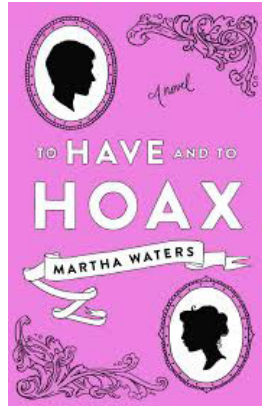
Van Praag, Menna. [The Sisters Grimm](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99).

As children, Goldie, Liyana, Scarlet, and Bea dreamed of a strange otherworld: a nightscape of mists and fog, perpetually falling leaves and hungry ivy, lit by an unwavering moon. Here, in this shadowland of Everwhere, the four girls, half-sisters connected by blood and magic, began to nurture their elemental powers together. But at thirteen, the sisters were ripped from Everwhere and separated. Now, five years later, they search for one another and yearn to rediscover their unique and supernatural strengths. To realize their full potential, the blood sisters must return to the land of their childhood dreams, where the choice of kill or be killed will need to be made. This ‘bewitching fantasy with a dark edge’ is tailor-made for fans of V.E. Schwab and Neil Gaiman.

Waters, Martha. [To Have and to Hoax](#) (Atria \$17).

Five years ago, Lady Violet Grey and Lord James Audley met, fell in love, and got married. Four years ago, they had a fight to end all fights, and have barely spoken since. Their once-passionate love match has

been reduced to one of cold, detached politeness. But when Violet receives a letter that James has been thrown from his horse and rendered unconscious at their country estate, she races to be by his side; only to discover him alive and well at a tavern, and completely unaware of her concern. Wanting to teach her estranged husband a lesson, Violet decides to feign an illness of her own. James quickly sees through it, but he decides to play along in an ever-escalating game of manipulation, featuring actors masquerading as doctors, threats of Swiss sanitariums, faux mistresses; and a lot of flirtation between a husband and wife who might not hate each other as much as they thought. Will the two be able to overcome four years of hurt or will they continue to deny the spark between them? Waters' splendidly entertaining debut will delight historical Regency fans in search of a love story that perfectly balances dry wit and fizzy sexual chemistry. Or to quote author (and esteemed friend of the Poisoned Pen bookstore) Lauren Willig "A laugh-out-loud Regency romp – if you loved the *Bridgertons*, you'll adore *To Have and To Hoax*."



Wood, Tracey Enerson. [The Engineer's Wife](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99).

When Emily Warren Roebling marries Captain Washington 'Wash' Roebling-the handsome, charming soldier of her dreams, and her brother's dear friend and aide during the Civil War-a lifetime of family fun and happiness seems within her grasp. But then Wash accepts the position as Chief Engineer on his father's magnum opus, the Brooklyn Bridge, and it changes both of their lives forever. In Brooklyn, the happy home they'd dreamed of warps around the bridge. Incapacitated from working in the high-pressure tanks at the bridge's foundations, Wash convinces Emily to be his messenger to the site. Little by little, Emily finds herself taking over the project-with no formal training or education in math and science. Emily throws herself into building the bridge but faces suspicion and disparagement at every turn as she supervises dangerous construction sites and argues for the safety of the bridge amongst Manhattan's male elite. Spanning the years 1864-1884, readers of this superbly crafted debut "will appreciate the

nuanced depiction of Emily's struggles to overcome male resistance and balance her own needs with her partner's. Wood's satisfying historical feels true to its era yet powerfully relevant to women's lives today (*PW*)."

Teen Fiction

Ahmed, Samira. [Mad, Bad & Dangerous to Know](#) (Soho Teen \$18.99).

It's August in Paris, but 17-year-old Khayyam-American, Desi, Muslim, the only child of Chicago-based academics with a summer apartment on the Ile de la Cite-is at a crossroads. Uncertain of her relationship with Zaid, the boy back home, she can't hold on to the past. Desi's future plans to attend a prestigious French art school are jeopardized when a noted art critic pokes holes in Desi's theory that a painting of an enslaved harem girl named Leila link novelist Alexandre Dumas and artist Eugene Delacroix. However, when Desi meets Alexandre Dumas, the sixth great grandson of the celebrated French author, the two join forces to locate the missing painting.

Brown, Savannah. [The Truth about Keeping Secrets](#) (Sourcebooks Fire \$10.99).

Sydney's dad is the only psychiatrist for miles in their small Ohio town. He knows everybody's secrets. Which is why it's so shocking when he's killed in an accident. Grief-stricken Sydney can't understand why the police have no explanation for what happened the night of her dad's car crash. And when June Copeland, the homecoming queen whose life seems perfect, shows up at the funeral, Sydney's confusion grows. Sydney and June grow closer in the wake of the accident, but it's clear that not everyone is happy about their new friendship. What is picture-perfect June hiding? And does Sydney even want to know?

Chupeco, Rin. [Wicked as You Wish](#) (Sourcebooks Fire \$17.99).

Prince Alexei, the sole survivor of the Avalon royal family, is hiding in a town in Arizona so boring, magic doesn't even work there. Few know his secret identity, but his friend Tala is one of them. A new hope for their abandoned homeland reignites when a famous creature of legend, the Firebird, appears for the first time in decades. Alex and Tala must unite

with a ragtag group of new friends to journey back to Avalon for a showdown that will change the world as they know it. This inventive launch to a new series combines legends, myths, fairy tales, and classic children's literature from Oz to Neverland to create a wildly original debut.

Lu, Marie. [The Kingdom of Back](#)

(G. P. Putnam's \$18.99).

Born with a gift for music, Nannerl Mozart has just one wish--to be remembered forever. But even as she delights audiences with her masterful playing, she has little hope she'll ever become the acclaimed composer she longs to be. She is a young woman in 18th century Europe, and that means composing is forbidden to her. She will perform only until she reaches a marriageable age--her tyrannical father has made that much clear. And as Nannerl's hope grows dimmer with each passing year, the talents of her beloved younger brother, Wolfgang, only seem to shine brighter. His brilliance begins to eclipse her own, until one day a mysterious stranger from a magical land appears with an irresistible offer. He has the power to make her wish come true--but his help may cost her everything.

Miller, Samuel. [Redemption Prep](#)

(HarperCollins \$17.99).

Everyone knows Emma. Neesha's her best friend, Aiden's her basketball star boyfriend, and Evan's her shadow, following Emma's every move. Emma stands out, which is hard to do at Redemption Prep, a school where every student has been handpicked to attend its remote campus in the forest of Utah. So when she goes missing in plain sight during mass, everyone notices. And everyone becomes a suspect, especially at a school with so many rules: Don't skip mass. Don't break curfew. Don't go into the woods. Emma's disappearance ignites an investigation, and Neesha, Aiden, and Evan all want to find her for different reasons. But they each have their own secrets to hide, and not everyone wants Emma to be found. Twin Peaks meets Riverdale in this twisty new YA mystery.

Rhodes, Jewell Parker. [Black Brother, Black Brother](#)

(Little, Brown \$16.99).

Suspended unjustly from elite Middlefield Prep, Donte Ellison studies fencing with a former cham-

panion, hoping to put the racist fencing team captain in his place in the latest YA novel from award-winning and bestselling author, Jewell Parker Rhodes that delivers a powerful coming-of-age story about two brothers, one who presents as white, the other as black, and the complex ways in which they are forced to navigate the world, all while training for a fencing competition

Food

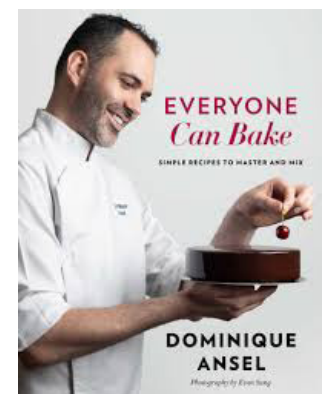
America's Test Kitchen. [The Complete Summer Cookbook](#) (America's Test Kitchen \$32.99).

When fresh produce beckons but you haven't much energy to respond since you are busy trying to beat the heat, these recipes help you settle into a more relaxed kind of cooking designed to keep you and your kitchen cool. Untether yourself from the oven with make-ahead meals best served cold (or at room temp), like Poached Salmon with Cucumber and Tomato salad and Tzatziki. Fix-and-forget recipes like North Carolina-Style Pulled Pork made in the electric pressure cooker won't steam up the kitchen. Equally easy are dinner salads; we've got enough to keep them interesting and varied, from Shrimp and White Bean Salad with Garlic Toasts to Grilled Caesar Salad. Barely more effort are fresh summer recipes requiring the briefest stint in a pan, such as Beet and Carrot Noodle Salad with Chicken or Braised Striped Bass with Zucchini and Tomatoes.

Ansel, Dominique. [Everyone Can Bake](#)

(Simon and Schuster \$37.50).

Dominique Ansel is the creator of beautiful, innovative, and delicious desserts, from the Frozen S'mores to the Cronut®, the croissant-doughnut hybrid that took the world by storm. He has been called the world's best pastry chef. But this wasn't always the case. Raised in a large, working-class family in rural France, Ansel could not afford college and instead began work as a baker's apprentice at age sixteen. There, he learned the basics; how to make tender chocolate cakes, silky custards,



buttery shortbread, and more. Ansel shares these essential, go-to recipes for the first time. With easy-to-follow instructions and kitchen tips, home cooks can master the building-blocks of desserts. These crucial components can be mixed in a variety of ways, and Ansel will show you how. For example, his vanilla tart shell can be rolled out and stamped into cookies; shaped and filled with lemon curd; or even crumbled into a topping for ice cream.

Baldwin, Ned. [How to Dress an Egg](#) (HMH \$30).

Ned Baldwin, a home cook who taught himself to be an excellent chef, sees no reason why anyone else can't do the same. By showcasing one ingredient per method, Baldwin introduces all the skills a cook will ever need to prepare endless pleasurable meals. Get a big, beefy hit from a hanger steak by cooking it in the oven; master salad-making with leafy greens; grill fillets of sea bass for crispy skin and moist flesh; roast an explosively juicy chicken (the secret is to cook it on the floor of the oven); bake leeks to soft perfection; and more. Each dish is elaborated on in different ways to expand the technique into unlikely, inventive recipes that are jumping-off points for endless creativity.

Clark, Melissa. [Dinner in French](#) (Potter \$37.50).

Now, as one of the nation's favorite cookbook authors and food writers, James Beard Award-winning and *New York Times* food writer Melissa updates classic French techniques and dishes to reflect how we cook, shop, and eat today. With 150 recipes such as Salade Nicoise with Haricot Vert, Cornmeal and Harissa Soufflé, Scalloped Potato Gratin, Lamb Shank Cassoulet, Ratatouille Sheet-Pan Chicken, Campari Olive Oil Cake, and Apricot Tarte Tatin (to name a few), *Dinner in French* will quickly become a go-to resource and endure as an indispensable classic.

Heatter, Maida. [Chocolate Is Forever](#) (Little, Brown \$27.99).

Throughout Maida's nearly 50-year career as a "genius" of baking (*New York Times*), one thing was constant: her passion for chocolate. She created hundreds of recipes for chocolate cakes, puddings, pies, cookies, and more. Now, *Chocolate Is Forever* collects

her 100 very best, most irresistibly chocolatey delights—including The World's Best Hot Fudge Sauce.

Heatter, Maida. [Cookies are Magic](#) (Little, Brown \$27.99).

Maida knew that cookies are the key to happiness, and she always kept them nearby: a fudgy, minty Palm Beach Brownie in her purse, neatly wrapped in cellophane, a batch of Absolutely-the-Positively-Best Chocolate Chip Cookies in the freezer, or a box of delicate brandy snaps ready for an elegant gift. Now, *Cookies Are Magic* collects nearly 100 of Maida's very best recipes from her «legendary» (*New York Times*) 50-year career—her crispiest, crunchiest, and most ooey-goey cookies, bars, and more.

Silverton, Nancy. [Chi Spacca](#) (Knopf \$35).

In her first meat-centric cookbook, Nancy Silverton (star of Netflix's *Chef's Table* and "Queen of L.A.'s restaurant scene" --*Los Angeles Times*), shares the secrets of cooking like an Italian butcher with recipes for meats, fish, and vegetables that capture the spirit of Italy. Drawing on her years living and cooking in Umbria, Italy, and from the menu of her revered steakhouse, Chi Spacca (hailed as a "meat speakeasy" by *Food & Wine*), Silverton, and Chi Spacca's executive chef Ryan DeNicola, present their take on such mouth-watering dishes as Beef Cheek and Bone Marrow Pie; Coffee-Rubbed Tri-Tip; Fried Whole Branzino with Pickled Peppers and Charred Scallions; and Moroccan Braised Lamb Shanks. And vegetable dishes are given just as much attention, from fire-kissed Whole Roasted Cauliflower with Green Garlic Crème Fraîche; Charred Sugar Snap Peas with Yogurt, Guanciale, and Lemon Zest; Little Gems with Herb Breadcrumbs, Bacon Vinaigrette, and Grated Egg; Roasted Beets with Chicories, Yogurt, and Lemon Zest. Also included are Silverton's own spins on steakhouse classics such as Caesar salad, creamed corn, and mashed potatoes, as well as desserts, including, of course, her beloved butterscotch budino.

Writing

George, Elizabeth. [Mastering the Process](#) (Viking \$28).

Drawing from her personal photos, early notes, character analyses, and rough drafts, award-winning and New York Times best-selling George shows us every stage of how she wrote her novel *Careless in Red*, from researching location to imagining plot to creating characters to the actual writing and revision processes themselves. George offers us an intimate look at the procedures she follows, while also providing invaluable advice for writers about what has worked for her—and what hasn't. *Mastering the Process* gives writers practical, prescriptive, and achievable tools for creating a novel, editing a novel, and problem solving when in the midst of a novel, from a master storyteller writing at the top of her game.

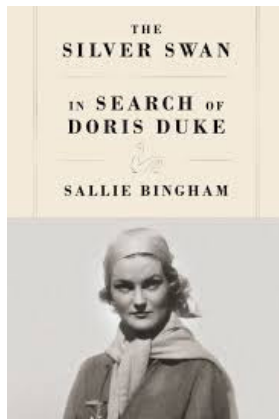
Larimer, Kevin. [The Poet's & Writer's Complete Guide to Being a Writer](#) (Avid Readers Press \$29.99).

Written by Kevin Larimer and Mary Gannon, the two most recent editors of *Poets & Writers Magazine*, this book brings an unrivaled understanding of the areas in which writers seek guidance and support. Filled with insider information on topics like sample query letters, pitch letters, lists of resources, and worksheets for calculating freelance rates, tracking submissions, and managing your taxes, the guide does more than demystify the writing life; it also provides an array of powerful tools for building a sustainable career as a writer.

Nonfiction

Bingham, Sally. [The Silver Swan](#) (FSG \$30).

"Don't touch that girl, she'll burn your fingers," FBI director J. Edgar Hoover once said about Doris Duke, the inheritor of James Buchanan Duke's billion-dollar tobacco fortune. During her lifetime, she would be blamed for scorching many, including her mother and various ex-lovers. She estab-



lished her first foundation when she was twenty-one; cultivated friendships with the likes of Jackie Kennedy, Imelda Marcos, and Michael Jackson; flaunted interracial relationships; and adopted a thirty-two year-old woman she believed to be the reincarnation of her deceased daughter. This is also the story of the great houses she inhabited, including the classically proportioned limestone mansion on Fifth Avenue, the sprawling Duke Farms in New Jersey, the Gilded Age mansion Rough Point in Newport, Shangri La in Honolulu, and Falcon's Lair overlooking Beverly Hills.

King, Greg. [The Last Voyage of the Andrea Doria](#) (St. Martin's \$29.99).

In 1956, a stunned world watched as the famous Italian ocean liner *Andrea Doria* sank after being struck by a Swedish vessel off the coast of Nantucket. Unlike the tragedy of the *Titanic*, this sinking played out in real time across radios and televisions, the first disaster of the modern age. Audiences witnessed everything that ensued after the unthinkable collision of two modern vessels equipped with radar: perilous hours of uncertainty; the heroic rescue of passengers; and the final gasp as the pride of the Italian fleet slipped beneath the Atlantic, taking some fifty lives with her. Her loss signaled the end of the golden age of ocean liner travel. Now, Greg King and Penny Wilson offer a fresh look at this legendary liner and her tragic fate.

Poumpouras, Eve. [Becoming Bulletproof](#) (Atria \$27).

Former Secret Service agent and star of Bravo's *Spy Games* **Evy Poumpouras** (one of only five women to receive the Medal of Valor) shares lessons learned from protecting presidents, as well insights and skills from the oldest and most elite security force in the world to help you prepare for stressful situations, instantly read people, influence how you are perceived, and live a more fearless life.

Raphel, Adrienne. [Thinking Inside the Box](#) (Penguin \$27).

Almost as soon as it appeared, the crossword puzzle had already become indispensable to our lives. Invented practically by accident in 1913, when a newspaper editor at the *New York World* was casting around for something to fill empty column space, it became a roaring commercial success practically

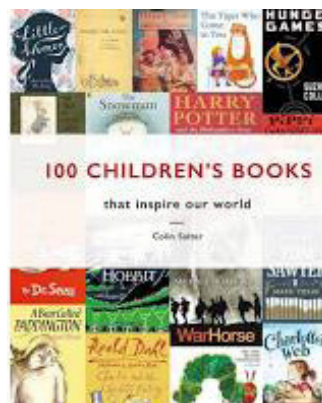
overnight. Ever since then, the humble puzzle--consisting of a grid of blank squares in which solvers write answers in response to clues--has been an essential ingredient of any newspaper worth its salt. The puzzle's daily devotees include everyone from subway riders looking to pass the time to cultural icons such as Martha Stewart, Bill Clinton, and Yo-Yo Ma. Today, its popularity is greater than ever, even as the media world has undergone a perilous digital transformation. But why, exactly, are the crossword's satisfactions so sweet that it is a fixture of breakfast tables, nightstands, and commutes, and has even given rise to competitive crossword tournaments? There are mysteries beyond the clues. Blending first-person reporting from the world of crosswords with a delightful telling of its rich literary history, Adrienne Raphel dives into the secrets of this classic pastime. A treat for die-hard cruciverbalists and first-time solvers alike.

Rose, Alexander. [Empires of the Sky](#) (Random House \$32).

At the dawn of the twentieth century, when human flight was still considered an impossibility, Germany's Count Ferdinand von Zeppelin vied with the Wright Brothers to build the world's first successful flying machine. As the Wrights labored to invent the airplane, Zeppelin fathered the remarkable airship, sparking a bitter rivalry between the two types of aircraft and their innovators that would last for decades, in the quest to control one of humanity's most inspiring achievements.

Salter, Colin. [100 Children's Books that Inspire Our World](#) (Rizzoli \$29.95).

Salter, a history and science writer as well as coauthor of *100 Books that Changed the World*, now tackles children's literature in his latest survey. Starting with *Mother Goose* (1697) and extending to current times with *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness (2007), Salter offers a lively description of each title selected. A fascinating look at how the books we read as children and those kids read now have changed over the decades.



Samuels, Maurice. [The Betrayal of the Duchess](#) (Basic Books \$32).

The year was 1832 and the French royal family was in exile, driven out by yet another revolution. From a drafty Scottish castle, the duchesse de Berry -- the mother of the eleven-year-old heir to the throne -- hatched a plot to restore the Bourbon dynasty. For months, she commanded a guerilla army and evaded capture by disguising herself as a man. But soon she was betrayed by her trusted advisor, Simon Deutz, the son of France's Chief Rabbi. The betrayal became a cause célèbre for Bourbon loyalists and ignited a firestorm of hate against France's Jews. By blaming an entire people for the actions of a single man, the duchess's supporters set the terms for the century of anti-Semitism that followed. Brimming with intrigue and lush detail, *The Betrayal of the Duchess* is the riveting story of a high-spirited woman, the charming but volatile young man who double-crossed her, and the birth of one of the modern world's most deadly forms of hatred.

Whipple, Chris. [The Spymasters](#) (Scribner \$30).

Only eleven men and one woman are alive today who have made the life-and-death decisions that come with running the world's most powerful and influential intelligence service. With unprecedented, deep access to nearly all these individuals plus several of their predecessors, Chris Whipple tells the story of an agency that answers to the United States president alone, but whose activities - spying, espionage, and covert action - take place on every continent.