

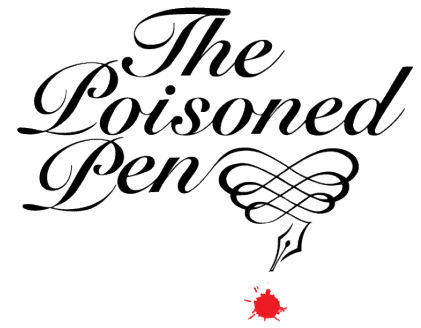
# Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 7 Issue 06 June, 2020

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## Summertime and the Reading Is Easy

### Cozy Corner

**Carlisle, Kate.** [The Grim Reader](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

A murderer makes a big splash at Dharma's first Book Festival in the 14<sup>th</sup> charmingly addition to Kate Carlisle's *New York Times* best-selling Bibliophile series. San Francisco-based book restorer Brooklyn Wainwright is more than happy to help out her mom Becky, who is on planning committee for Dharma's first book festival, by doing some rare book appraisals and whatever else she might need done. But when one of the festival committee members is found dead, and the festival's funds go missing, Brooklyn and her husband Derek Stone must take on the added volunteer duty of amateur detectives in order to put the festival back on track. Cozy mystery readers can always count on Carlisle to deliver everything they crave, and her latest addictively readable Brooklyn Wainwright book is a perfectly calibrated blend of endearingly quirky characters, an inviting small town setting, engaging writing seasoned with just the right dash of dry wit, and some fascinating tidbits about books and the book world.

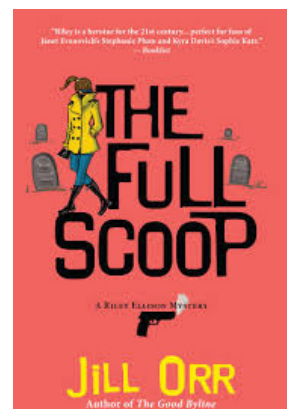
**Casey, Eliza.** [Lady Rights a Wrong](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

Lady Cecilia of Danby Hall feels adrift. She couldn't be less interested in helping to plan the church's upcoming bazaar. Instead, what excites her most is the Woman's Suffrage Union meeting she has just attended. Inspired by the famous and charismatic leader of the group, Mrs. Amelia Price, Cecilia is eager to join the Union; if she can hide it from her parents, that is. But when Mrs. Price is found dead at the foot of

the stairs of her home, her Votes for Women sash torn away, Cecilia knows she must attend to a more urgent matter: finding the killer. With the help of her lady's maid Jane and intelligent cat Jack, she hopes to play her part in earning women's equality by stopping the Union's dangerous foe. The pseudonymous Casey first introduced Lady Cecilia and her partner in detection Jane (as well as feline sleuth Jack) in the first Manor Cat Mystery [Lady Takes a Case](#) (Berkley \$16). If you loved *Downton Abbey* or enjoyed Tessa Arlen's Lady Montfort mysteries, you will want to give this charming new series a try. As *Kirkus* says "Something for everyone: activists, romantics, mystery lovers, and feline fanciers."

**Orr, Jill.** [The Full Scoop](#)  
(Prospect Park \$25.95)

Reeling after tragedy hits close to home, young journalist Riley Ellison becomes obsessed with uncovering the secret that led to her grandfather's murder years before and that just took another life in Tuttle Corner. Her desperate search for answers leads her down a dark path, both personally and professionally, as she struggles with how far she's willing to go to get answers. Just as she finally discovers the truth, she's forced to choose between exacting justice and protecting the people she loves most. With pressure coming in from all sides, Riley has to look deep within to decide if she can let go of the past in order to hold on to the future. If



you are new to the series start with [The Good Byline](#) (Prospect Park \$16), but whatever you do, don't miss this delightfully witty newish mystery series that I am calling "cozy-adjacent."

**Ross, Barbara.** [Jane Darrowfield, Professional Busy-body](#) (Kensington \$7.99)

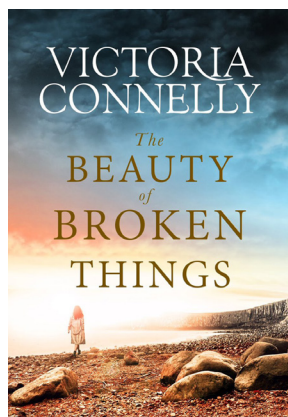
After recently retired Jane Darrowfield helps a friend with a sticky personal problem, word starts to spread around her bridge club; and then around all of West Cambridge, Massachusetts; that Jane is now the go-to girl for situations that need discreet fixing. Before she knows it, Jane has her first paid assignment: the director of a 55-and-over condo community needs her to de-escalate hostilities among the residents. As Jane discovers after moving in for her undercover assignment, the mature set can be as immature as any high schoolers, and war is breaking out between cliques. It seems she might make some progress; until one of the aging "popular kids" is bludgeoned to death with a golf club. And though the automatic sprinklers may have washed away much of the evidence, Jane's on course to find out whodunit. Think of Jane as the charming amateur sleuth equivalent of Dorothy Gilman's Mrs. Pollifax.

## Feel Good Fiction

During times like these, we can all use a book like those below that will help buoy our spirits and restore our faith in the world.

**Connelly, Victoria.** [The Beauty of Broken Things](#) (Lake Union \$14.95)

After the tragic loss of his wife, Helen, Luke Hansard is desperate to keep her memory alive. In an effort to stay close to her, he reaches out to an online friend Helen often mentioned Orla Kendrick: a reclusive photographer with a curious interest in beautiful but broken objects. But first he must find Orla, and she doesn't want to be found. Orla Kendrick lives alone in the ruins of a remote Suffolk castle, hiding from the haunting past that has left her physically and emotionally scarred. In her fortress, she can keep a safe distance from prying eyes, sur-



rounded by her broken treasures and insulated from the world outside. When Luke tracks Orla down, he is determined to help her in the way Helen wanted to: by encouraging her out of her isolation and back into the world. But Orla has never seen her refuge as a prison and, when painful secrets and dangerous threats begin to resurface, Luke's good deed is turned on its head.

As they work through their grief for Helen in very different ways, will these two broken souls be able to heal? British best-selling Connelly's latest emotionally rich novel may remind readers in a very good way of those marvelous old books by Rosamunde Pilcher.

**Dell'Antonia, K.J.** [The Chicken Sisters](#) (Putnam \$16)

In tiny Merinac, Kansas, Chicken Mimi's and Chicken Frannie's have spent a century vying to serve up the best fried chicken in the state--and the legendary feud between their respective owners, the Moores and the Pogociellos, has lasted just as long. No one feels the impact more than thirty-five-year-old widow Amanda Moore, who grew up working for her mom at Mimi's before scandalously marrying Frank Pogociello and changing sides to work at Frannie's. Tired of being caught in the middle, Amanda sends an SOS to *Food Wars*, the reality TV restaurant competition that promises \$100,000 to the winner. But in doing so, she launches both families out of the frying pan and directly into the fire. The last thing Brooklyn-based organizational guru Mae Moore, Amanda's sister, wants is to go home to Kansas. But when her career implodes, helping the fading Mimi's look good on *Food Wars* becomes Mae's best chance to reclaim the limelight--even if doing so pits her against Amanda and Frannie's. Yet when family secrets become public knowledge, the sisters must choose: Will they fight with each other, or for their heritage? This fresh and funny read is just the ticket for summer reading. Or, as *Kirkus* put it in their review "Dell'Antonia writes convincingly and sympathetically about complicated family relationships, giving Mae and Amanda each relatable flaws. The *Food Wars* scenes are a fun peek behind the curtain of the reality TV world, and the small-town warmth of Merinac is comfortingly quirky. A charming and satisfying story about family bonds that will make meat eaters everywhere crave fried chicken."

**Fader, Molly.** [The Bitter and Sweet of Cherry Season](#) (Graydon House \$17.99)

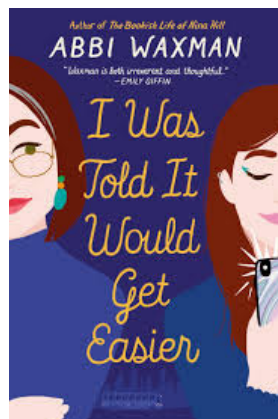
Everything Hope knows about the Orchard House is from the stories of her late mother. So when she arrives at the northern Michigan family estate late one night with a terrible secret and her ten-year-old daughter in tow, Hope is not sure if she'll be welcomed or turned away by the aunt she has never met. Hope's aunt Peg has lived in Orchard House all her life, and now Peg agrees to take Hope in, if in exchange, Hope helps with the upcoming cherry harvest. While Hope has never harvested a cherry in her life, it isn't as if she has a lot of options. As Hope works the orchard alongside her aunt, her daughter, and a kind man Hope finds increasingly difficult to ignore, a new life begins to blossom for her.

**Prior, Hazel.** [How the Penguins Saved Veronica](#) (Berkley \$16)

Eighty-five-year-old Veronica McCreedy is estranged from her family and wants to find a worthwhile cause to leave her fortune to. When she sees a documentary about penguins being studied in Antarctica, she tells the scientists she's coming to visit and won't take no for an answer. Shortly after arriving, she convinces the reluctant team to rescue an orphaned baby penguin. He becomes part of life at the base, and Veronica's closed heart starts to open. Her grandson, Patrick, comes to Antarctica to make one last attempt to get to know his grandmother. Together, Veronica, Patrick, and even the scientists learn what family, love, and connection are all about.

**Waxman, Abbi.** [I Was Told It Would Get Easier](#) (Berkley \$16)

Jessica and Emily Burnstein have very different ideas of how their upcoming college tour should go. For Emily, it's a preview of freedom, exploring the possibility of her new and more exciting future. Not that she's sure she even wants to go to college, but let's ignore that for now. And maybe the other kids on the tour will like her more than the ones at school. They have to, right? For Jessica, it's a chance to bond with the daughter she seems to have lost. They used to be so close, but then Goldfish



crackers and Play-Doh were no longer enough of a draw. She isn't even sure if Emily likes her anymore. To be honest, Jessica isn't sure she likes herself. Together with a dozen strangers--and two familiar frenemies--Jessica and Emily travel the East Coast, meeting up with family and old friends along the way. Surprises and secrets threaten their relationship and, in the end, change it forever. Waxman is the author of Poisoned Pen favorite *The Bookish Life of Nina Hill*, and is equally on point with this heart-warming and hilarious take on mother/daughter relationships. Or as *PW* put it in their review "This sweet treat doesn't require a college-bound child to enjoy, though anyone who has helped their offspring weather the admissions process will definitely appreciate this sharp send-up."

**Zimmerman, Vicky.** [Miss Cecily's Recipes for Exceptional Ladies](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

When her life falls apart on the eve of her 40th birthday, Kate Parker finds herself volunteering at the Lauderdale House for Exceptional Ladies. There she meets 97-year-old Cecily Finn. Cecily's tongue is as sharp as her mind, but she's fed up with pretty much everything. Having no patience with Kate, Cecily prescribes her a self-help book with a difference. *Food for Thought*: a charming 1950s cookbook high on enthusiasm, featuring menus for anything life can throw at the "easily dismayed." So begins an unlikely friendship between two lonely and stubborn souls—one at the end of her life, one stuck in the middle—who discover one big life lesson: never be ashamed to ask for more. This charming debut is a real treat garnering a number of rave reviews including one from *LJ* which went on to say "this is a fast and fabulous third-person read about life, loneliness, love, and the power of good food and friends. Zimmerman keeps things realistic, including Kate's modern relationship troubles (e.g., ghosting and a noncommittal boyfriend who constantly lets her down), frustrated friends, and an irritating mother. But Cecily, a mentor Kate meets by chance, is the real star, with her jaw-dropping insults, fascinating life story, and brusque but well-meaning advice."



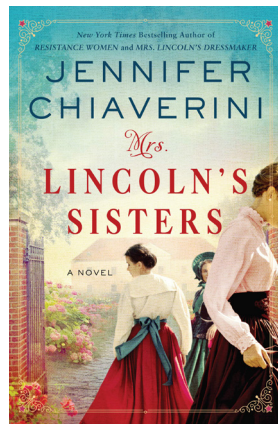
## Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, and More

**Albert, Annabeth.** [Conventionally Yours](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$14.99)

Charming, charismatic, and effortlessly popular, Conrad Stewart seems to have it all...but in reality, he's scrambling to keep his life from tumbling out of control. Brilliant, guarded, and endlessly driven, Alden Roth may as well be the poster boy for perfection... but even he can't help but feel a little broken inside. When these mortal enemies are stuck together on a cross-country road trip to the biggest fan convention of their lives, their infamous rivalry takes a backseat as an unexpected connection is forged. Yet each has a reason why they have to win the upcoming Odyssey gaming tournament and neither is willing to let emotion get in the way—even if it means giving up their one chance at something truly magical.

**Chiaverini, Jennifer.** [Mrs. Lincoln's Sisters](#)  
(HarperCollins \$28.99)

Maternal Elizabeth, peacemaker Frances, envious Ann, and much adored Emilie had always turned to one another in times of joy and heartache, first as children, and later as young wives and mothers. But when the Civil War erupted, the conflict that divided a nation shattered their family. The Todd sisters' fates were bound to their husbands' choices as some joined the Lincoln administration, others the Confederate Army. Now, though discord and tragedy have strained their bonds, Elizabeth knows they must come together as sisters to help Mary in her most desperate hour. Kirkus concluded their review of Chiaverini's (*Mrs. Lincoln's Dressmaker*) latest with "An engaging glimpse of women's privilege and anguish during the Civil War era."



**Cleaton, Chanel.** [The Last Train to Key West](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

Three different women's lives intersect in Key West in 1935 just as one of the most powerful hurricanes in history is heading towards the Florida Keys. Key West native Helen Berner, pregnant with her first child, lives each day in the hopes that her abusive husband

will not return home from the sea thus leaving Helen free to live her life in peace. The recent Cuban revolution of 1933 has left Mirta Perez's family in a precarious status – both financially and politically – so marrying a notorious American seems to be Mirta's best hope for the future, but Mirta never expected she would fall for her new husband while honeymooning in Key West. New York socialite Elizabeth Preston's family lost everything in the Wall Street Crash of 1929, and now she is in Key West hoping to find the one man who can help her out, only to instead find her path tangled up with an unlikely ally on a dangerous hunt of his own.

**Cocks, Heather and Jessica Morgan.** [The Heir Affair](#)  
(Grand Central \$27.99)

After a scandalous secret turns their fairy-tale wedding into a nightmare, Rebecca "Bex" Porter and her husband Prince Nicholas are in self-imposed exile. The public is angry. The Queen is even angrier. And the press is salivating. Cutting themselves off from friends and family, and escaping the world's judgmental eyes, feels like the best way to protect their fragile, all-consuming romance. But when a crisis forces the new Duke and Duchess back to London, the Band-Aid they'd placed over their problems starts to peel at the edges. Now, as old family secrets and new ones threaten to derail her new royal life, Bex has to face the emotional wreckage she and Nick left behind: with the Queen, with the world, and with Nick's brother Freddie, whose sins may not be so easily forgotten -- nor forgiven. This follow-up to *The Royal We* seems all the timelier given Prince Harry's and Princess Meghan's recent *kerfuffle* with the Queen.

**Colgan, Jenny.** [500 Miles From You](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Always terribly competent and good at keeping it all together, London-based nurse Lissa's been suffering with PTSD after helping to save the victim of a shocking crime. Her supervisor quietly arranges for Lissa to spend a few months doing a much less demanding job in the little town of Kirrinfeif in the Scottish Highlands, hoping that the change of scenery will help her heal. Lissa will be swapping places with Cormack, an Army veteran who's Kirrinfeif's easygoing nurse/paramedic/all-purpose medical man. Lissa's never experienced small-town life, and Cormack's never spent more than a day in a big city, but it seems like a swap that would do them both some good. But what will happen when Lissa and Cormack finally meet?

**DeRoux, Margaux.** [The Lost Diary of Venice](#)  
(Ballantine \$27)

In the wake of her father's death, Rose Newlin finds solace in her work as a book restorer. Then, one rainy Connecticut afternoon, a struggling painter appears at her door. William Lomazzo brings with him a sixteenth-century treatise on art, which Rose quickly identifies as a palimpsest: a document written over a hidden diary that had purposely been scraped away. Yet the restoration sparks an unforeseen challenge when William, a married man, and Rose experience an instant, unspoken attraction. Five centuries earlier, Renaissance-era Venetians find themselves at the mercy of an encroaching Ottoman fleet preparing for a bloody war. Giovanni Lomazzo, a portrait artist grappling with tragedy, discovers that his vision is fading with each passing day. Facing the possibility of a completely dark world, Gio begins to document his every encounter, including what may be his final artistic feat: a commission to paint the enchanting courtesan of one of Venice's most powerful military commanders. Soon, however, Gio finds himself enraptured by a magnificent forbidden love. Spellbound by Gio's revelations, Rose and William are soon forced to confront the reality of their own mystifying connection.

**Desai, Sara.** [The Marriage Game](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

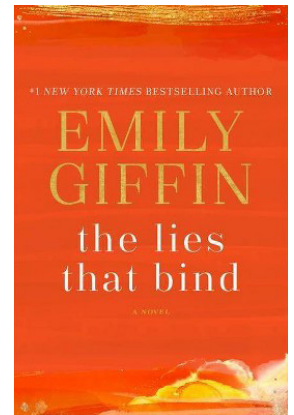
After her life falls apart, recruitment consultant Layla Patel returns home to her family in San Francisco. Layla's father, a Michelin starred chef, would do anything to see her smile again. With the best intentions in mind, he offers her the office upstairs to start her new business and creates a profile on an online dating site to find her a man. She doesn't know he's arranged a series of blind dates until the first one comes knocking on her door. As CEO of a corporate downsizing company Sam Mehta is more used to conflict than calm. In search of a quiet new office, he finds the perfect space above a cozy Indian restaurant that smells like home. But when communication goes awry, he's forced to share his space with the owner's beautiful yet infuriating daughter Layla, her crazy family, and a parade of hopeful suitors, all of whom threaten to disrupt his carefully ordered life. As they face off in close quarters, the sarcasm and sparks fly. But when the battle for the office becomes a battle of the heart, Sam and Layla have to decide if this is love or just a game.

**Feldman, Ellen.** [Paris Never Leaves You](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

Hiding her fateful past with a German officer during World War II, Parisian bookstore clerk Charlotte Foret builds a new life for herself and her daughter Vivi in the clubby, eccentric world of Manhattan publishing, only to find her new life threatening to fall apart when Vivi begins asking dangerous questions about her mother's life in Paris. *LJ* ended their review of this quietly enthralling novel with "Things are seldom as they seem in this engrossing tale of identity, survival, loyalty, and love. Recommended with enthusiasm to anyone with an interest in Paris at war and the much broader themes noted above."

**Giffin, Emily.** [The Lies that Bind](#)  
(Random House \$27.99)

It's 2 A.M. on a Saturday night in the spring of 2001, and twenty-eight-year-old Cecily Gardner sits alone in a dive bar in New York's East Village, questioning her life. Feeling lonesome and homesick for the Midwest, she wonders if she'll ever make it as a reporter in the big city, and whether she made a terrible mistake in breaking up with her longtime boyfriend, Matthew. As Cecily reaches for the phone to call him, she hears a guy on the barstool next to her say, "Don't do it; you'll regret it." Something tells her to listen, and over the next several hours and shots of tequila, the two forge an unlikely connection. That should be it, they both decide the next morning, as Cecily reminds herself of the perils of a rebound relationship. Moreover, their timing couldn't be worse; Grant is preparing to quit his job and move overseas. Yet despite all their obstacles, they can't seem to say goodbye, and for the first time in her carefully constructed life, Cecily follows her heart instead of her head. Then Grant disappears in the chaos of 9/11. Fearing the worst, Cecily spots his face on a missing-person poster, and realizes she is not the only one searching for him. Her investigative reporting instincts kick into action as she vows to discover the truth. But the questions pile up fast: How well did she really know Grant? Did he ever really love her? And is it possible to love a man who wasn't who he seemed to be?



**Guillory, Jasmine.** [Party of Two](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

Dating is the last thing on Olivia Monroe's mind when she moves to LA to start her own law firm. But when she meets a gorgeous man at a hotel bar and they spend the entire night flirting, she discovers too late that he is none other than hotshot junior senator Max Powell. Olivia has zero interest in dating a politician, but when a cake arrives at her office with the cutest message, she can't resist; it *is* chocolate cake, after all. Olivia is surprised to find that Max is sweet, funny, and noble; not just some privileged white politician she assumed him to be. Because of Max's high-profile job, they start seeing each other secretly, which leads to clandestine dates and silly disguises. But when they finally go public, the intense media scrutiny means people are now digging up her rocky past and criticizing her job, even her suitability as a trophy girlfriend. Olivia knows what she has with Max is something special, but is it strong enough to survive the heat of the spotlight?

**Harrison, Nicola.** [Montauk](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

*Montauk, Long Island, 1938.* For three months, this humble fishing village will serve as the playground for New York City's wealthy elite. Beatrice Bordeaux was looking forward to a summer of reigniting the passion between her and her husband, Harry. Instead, tasked with furthering his investment interest in Montauk as a resort destination, she learns she'll be spending twelve weeks sequestered with the high society wives at The Montauk Manor—a two-hundred room seaside hotel—while Harry pursues other interests in the city. College educated, but raised a modest country girl in Pennsylvania, Bea has never felt fully comfortable among these privileged women, whose days are devoted not to their children but to leisure activities and charities that seemingly benefit no one but themselves. She longs to be a mother herself, as well as a loving wife, but after five years of marriage she remains childless while Harry is increasingly remote and distracted. Despite lavish parties at the Manor and the Yacht Club, Bea is lost and lonely and befriends the manor's laundress whose work ethic and family life stir memories of who she once was. Distancing herself from her unfaithful spouse and her fellow society wives at seaside Montauk Manor, Bea is drawn by the village's natural beauty and community spirit before falling for a man who is nothing

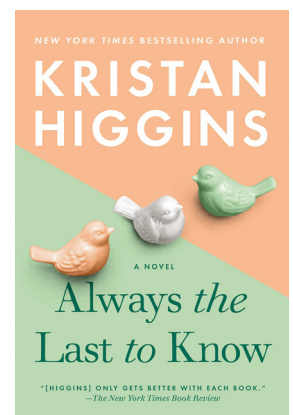
like her husband. Fans of Beatriz Williams' brand of mesmerizing historical fiction will want to give this debut a try.

**Hibbert, Talia.** [Take a Hint, Dani Brown](#)  
(Avon \$15.99)

Danika Brown knows what she wants: professional success, academic renown, and an occasional roll in the hay to relieve all that career-driven tension. But romance? Been there, done that, burned the T-shirt. Romantic partners, whatever their gender, are a distraction at best and a drain at worst. So Dani asks the universe for the perfect friend-with benefits; someone who knows the score *and* knows their way around the bedroom. When big, brooding security guard Zafir Ansari rescues Dani from a workplace fire drill gone wrong, it's an obvious sign: PhD student Dani and former rugby player Zaf are destined to sleep together. But before she can explain that fact to him, a video of the heroic rescue goes viral. Suddenly, half the internet is shipping #DrRugbae, and Zaf is begging Dani to play along. Turns out his sports charity for kids could really use the publicity. Lying to help *children*? Who on earth would refuse? Dani's plan is simple: fake a relationship in public, seduce Zaf behind the scenes. The trouble is, grumpy Zaf is secretly a hopeless romantic; and he's determined to corrupt Dani's stone-cold realism. Has her wish backfired? Is her focus being tested? Or is the universe just waiting for her to take a hint?

**Higgins, Kristan.** [Always the Last to Know](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

After almost fifty years of being married to her husband John, Barb Frost decided it was time they finally parted ways. However, before Barb can follow through with her plans for a divorce, John suffers a stroke, and loses his ability to speak. Now all bets are off for the Frost family as Barb re-evaluates her decision to end her marriage, and the couple's daughters – perfect wife and mother Juliet and artistic wild child Sadie – also find their own lives changing as each of the Frost women plays her own part in helping John navigate the road to recovery. *New York Times* best-selling Kristan Higgins





writes with great heart as well as a generous measure of deliciously snarky wit about family, friendship, love, and loss. Told from the viewpoints of each of the Frost women (with occasional insights from John Frost), *Always the Last to Know* is a masterclass in characterization as Higgins deftly demonstrates just how little we really know about those closest to us.

**Ho, Lauren.** [Last Tang Standing](#)  
(Putnam \$16)

At thirty-three, Andrea Tang is living the dream: She has a successful career as a lawyer, a posh condo, and a clutch of fun-loving friends who are always in the know about Singapore's hottest clubs. All she has to do is make law partner, and her life will be perfect, even if she's about to become the lone unmarried member of her generation in the Tang clan--a disappointment her meddling Chinese-Malaysian family won't let her forget. Yet when a chance encounter with charming, wealthy entrepreneur Eric Deng offers her a glimpse of an exciting, limitless future, Andrea decides to give Mr. Right-for-her-family a chance. Too bad Suresh Aditparan, her office rival and the last man her family would approve of, keeps throwing a wrench in her plans. Now Andrea can't help but wonder: In the endless tug-of-war between pleasing others and pleasing herself, is there room for everyone to win? This slyly witty debut has been billed as *Crazy Rich Asians* meets *Bridget Jones's Diary*, and for once I think the publishers are spot-on.

**Kay, Elizabeth.** [Seven Lies](#)  
(Penguin \$26)

Growing up, Jane and Marnie shared everything. They knew the other's deepest secrets. They wouldn't have had it any other way. But when Marnie falls in love, things begin to change. Because Jane has a secret: she loathes Marnie's wealthy, priggish husband. So when Marnie asks if she likes him, Jane tells her first lie. After all, even best friends keep some things to themselves. If she had been honest, then perhaps her best friend's husband might still be alive today. For, of course, it's not the last lie. In fact, it's only the beginning. Kay's debut has been getting a lot of review buzz including *PW* which said "There are unreliable narrators and then there's Jane Baxter, the self-proclaimed prevaricator who anchors the pseudonymous Kay's debut, an electrifying psychological thriller. Even readers who suspect where the story is heading should brace themselves for a wild

and surprising ride. Kay, a British publishing professional, is off to an impressive start." Personally, I abandoned ship after reading 1/3 of the book, so your reading mileage may vary.

**Lewis, Kristyn Kusek.** [Perfect Happiness](#)  
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

Charlotte McGanley always pictured her career beginning and ending in the halls of academia, but now she's become a bit of a self-help guru with the unexpected success of her book *Perfect Happiness*, which relayed how Charlotte used her no-nonsense positive psychology research to brighten her own life. No one is more surprised by this than Charlotte herself, who has secretly never been more miserable. Though her husband of many years, Jason, is her partner in all things, she finds more gratification most evenings in a glass (or three) of Chardonnay or another scroll through her Instagram feed. Meanwhile, their daughter, Birdie, is feeling the pressure of being her high school's star tennis player, keeping up her GPA, and having her first boyfriend—and Charlotte, despite all her expertise, has no idea how to help her. As Charlotte preaches the gospel of happiness to her undergraduate students, audiences across the country, and her own online followers, she's faced with some tough questions: What is happiness when the family you've nurtured starts to fall apart in front of your eyes?



**Lozada, Eveyln and Holly Lorincz.** [The Wrong Mr. Darcy](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Hara Isari has big ambitions and they won't be side-tracked by her mother's insisting that she settle down soon. She dreams of leaving her small-town newspaper behind, as well as her felon father, and building a career as a sports writer, so when she is chosen to exclusively interview a basketball superstar, she jumps at the chance. It's time to show the bigwigs what she's truly made of. At the same time, she meets a rookie on the rise, Derek Darcy. Darcy is incredibly handsome, obnoxiously proud, and has a major chip on his shoulder. Hara can't think of a man more arrogant and infuriating. However, fate keeps bringing them together—from locker rooms to elegant par-

ties, to the storm of the century—and what begins as a clash might just be more complicated than Hara anticipated. When she begins to see Darcy in a new light, Hara is not quite sure if she should drop the ball or play the love game. While Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice* served as inspiration – slim at best according to most reviews - for this collaboration by Lozada and her co-author Lorincz, the book works better as a sports romance (not surprising given Lozada's day job as a star on the reality TV show *Basketball Wives*).

**Mallery, Susan.** [The Friendship List](#)  
(HQ \$26.99) – Note this will publish in August.

Ellen Fox needs to convince her college-bound son Coop that she is perfectly fine living on her own. Unity Leandre is tired of everyone around her telling her it's time to move on after her husband Stuart's death three years ago. So, Unity comes up with the friendship list: a series of personal challenges designed to push each woman out of their comfort zone and show the world the two best friends are going to be A-OK. Once again, Mallery works her own easy, breezy brand of literary magic delivering a heartwarming, uplifting, often humorous tale of two women facing life's challenges – both large and small – head on while at the same time effectively underscoring the true importance of friendship in our lives.

**Meacham, Leila.** [Dragonfly](#)  
(Grand Central \$16.99)

At the height of World War II, a handful of idealistic young Americans receive a mysterious letter from the government, asking them if they are willing to fight for their country. The men and women from very different backgrounds -- a Texan athlete with German roots, an upper-crust son of a French mother and a wealthy businessman, a dirt-poor Midwestern fly fisherman, an orphaned fashion designer, and a ravishingly beautiful female fencer -- all answer the call of duty, but each for a secret reason of her or his own. They bond immediately, in a group code-named Dragonfly, whose mission is to infiltrate Nazi ranks in occupied Paris.

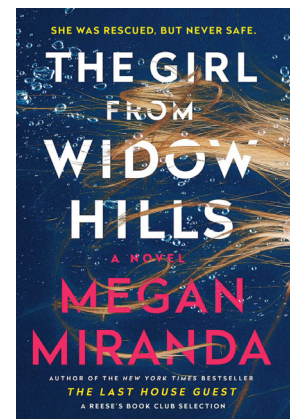
**Miller, Holly.** [The Sight of You](#)  
(Putnam \$26)

Joel has sworn off falling in love. But when he meets Callie, he can't help being drawn to her. In Callie, he sees a second chance at life. And in Joel, Callie discovers the kind of love she'd always hoped was real.

They challenge each other to take chances, to laugh, and to trust that no matter how hard each falls, the other will be there to catch them. But Joel has a secret. He dreams about the people he loves, and these dreams always come true. One night, Joel has the dream of Callie he's feared the most, and each must decide: Can Callie stay, knowing her fate? And if her days must be numbered, is there a life she is meant to live? *PW* gave this the review version of thumbs up saying "Miller debuts with a stunning and gracefully written tearjerker about destiny, dreams, and selfless love." I would add be sure you have enough Kleenex on hand before starting this, which is definitely in the style of Jo Jo Moyes' *Me Before You*.

**Miranda, Megan.** [The Girl from Widow Hills](#)  
(Simon & Schuster \$26.99)

Arden Maynor was just a child when she was swept away while sleepwalking during a terrifying rainstorm and went missing for days. Strangers and friends, neighbors and rescue workers, set up search parties and held vigils, praying for her safe return. Against all odds, she was found, alive, clinging to a storm drain. The girl from Widow Hills was a living miracle. Arden's mother wrote a book. Fame followed. Fans and fan letters, creeps, and stalkers. And every year, the anniversary. It all became too much. As soon as she was old enough, Arden changed her name and disappeared from the public eye. Now a young woman living hundreds of miles away, Arden goes by Olivia. She's managed to stay off the radar for the last few years. But with the twentieth anniversary of her rescue approaching, the media will inevitably renew its interest in Arden. Where is she now? Soon Olivia feels like she's being watched and begins sleepwalking again, like she did long ago, even waking outside her home. Until late one night she jolts awake in her yard. At her feet is the corpse of a man, and now, the girl from Widow Hills is about to become the center of the story, once again. Ever since *Gone Girl* and *The Girl on the Train* shot onto the best-seller lists and refused to budge for months, publishers have been searching for the next great suspense novel that would follow in those two books' tracks. Miranda's latest is definitely in the running. Filled with some neat twists and unexpected





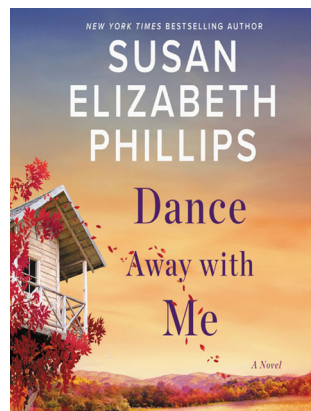
turns, this is the kind of suspense novel that will keep you up way past your bedtime. Or, as *Kirkus* put it in their review *"Miranda nimbly mines underexplored terrain: the long-term aftermath of dramatic, highly publicized rescues. Olivia's desire to live a life undefined by that one event is relatable, and her amnesia about those three days lets Miranda flaunt her considerable talent for jaw-dropping, yet believable, twists. Even jaded readers might not see this one coming. An unusual heroine anchors this creepy, fast-paced chiller. This is Miranda's best book yet."*

**Parry, H.G.** [A Declaration of the Rights of Magicians](#) (Orbit \$27.99)

It is the Age of Enlightenment -- of new and magical political movements, from the necromancer Robespierre calling for revolution in France, to the weather mage Toussaint L'Ouverture leading the slaves of Haiti in their fight for freedom, to the bold new Prime Minister William Pitt weighing the legalization of magic amongst commoners in Britain and abolition throughout its colonies overseas. But amidst all of the upheaval of the early modern world, there is an unknown force inciting all of human civilization into violent conflict. And it will require the combined efforts of revolutionaries, magicians, and abolitionists to unmask this hidden enemy before the whole world falls to darkness and chaos. Parry's previous book *The Unlikely Escape of Uriah Heep* was a favorite at the Poisoned Pen, and her latest was called a "knockout" by *PW*.

**Phillips, Susan Elizabeth.** [Dance Away with Me](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)

Nurse midwife Tess Hartsong runs away from the world to Runaway Mountain, where Tess hopes to come to terms with her grief over the death of her beloved husband Travis. However, instead of the solitude and peace she desperately seeks, Tess is almost immediately descended upon by the quirky residents of the small Tennessee town of Tempest, including Tess's cranky neighbor Ian North, a famous street artist not-so-silently suffering from creative block. No one has quite the same graceful flair for blending moments of heartbreak, hope, and hu-



mor as *New York Times* best-selling and RWA Hall of Fame award winning Susan Elizabeth Phillips, and her latest long-awaited, brilliantly constructed and flawlessly written novel is exactly the kind of thoughtful, tender, and life-affirming book readers so desperately need in times like this.

**Purcell, Laura.** [The House of Whispers](#) (Penguin \$17)

Purcell (*The Poison Thread*) tantalizes with a skillful juxtaposition of nascent science and entrenched folk belief in this brooding period gothic (*PW*). Consumption has ravaged Louise Pinecroft's family, leaving her and her father alone and heartbroken. But Dr. Pinecroft has plans for a revolutionary experiment: convinced that sea air will prove to be the cure his wife and children needed, he arranges to house a group of prisoners suffering from the disease in the caves beneath his new Cornish home. While he devotes himself to his controversial medical trials, Louise finds herself increasingly discomfited by the strange tales her new maid tells of the fairies that hunt the land, searching for those they can steal away to their realm. Forty years later, Hester arrives at Morvoren House to take up a position as nurse to the now partially paralyzed and mute Miss Pinecroft. Hester has fled to Cornwall to try to escape her past, but surrounded by superstitious staff enacting bizarre rituals, she soon discovers her new home may be just as dangerous as her last.

**Reizon, P.Z.** [Ask Me Anything](#) (Grand Central \$27.99)

Think about it. Who really knows you best today? It is all your "smart" appliances. Your smart refrigerator not only knows when you are out of milk, it knows exactly what you are really eating (frozen pizza and not fresh salads like you tell your friends). Your smart TV can list every show you binge watch (*Tiger King*) as opposed to the television shows you claim are your "favorites" (*Masterpiece Theater*). So, isn't it only logical that these machines should be the ones playing matchmaker in your life? That is the premise of this dryly witty novel by Reizon, in which Daisy Parsloe's appliances not only team up behind her back to help Daisy find her Mr. Right, but they also work together to help Daisy's mom Chloe keep being able to live independently at home.

**Robards, Karen.** [The Black Swan of Paris](#)  
(MIRA \$27.99)

Celebrated singer Genevieve Dumont is both a star and a smokescreen. An unwilling darling of the Nazis, the chanteuse's position of privilege allows her to go undetected as an ally to the resistance. When her estranged mother, Lillian de Rocheford, is captured by Nazis, Genevieve knows it won't be long before the Gestapo succeeds in torturing information out of Lillian that will derail the upcoming allied invasion. The resistance movement is tasked with silencing her by any means necessary; including assassination. But Genevieve refuses to let her mother become yet one more victim of the war. Reuniting with her long-lost sister, she must find a way to navigate the perilous cross-currents of Occupied France undetected and in time to save Lillian's life. Best known today for her novels of romantic suspense, Robards actually got her start writing historical romance, and now she returns to her literary roots with this thrilling novel of which *PW* said "Historical fiction fans will be enthralled with this richly hewn novel and the romance and danger lurking around its every corner."

**Rockaway, Kristin.** [She's Faking It](#)  
(Graydon House \$15.99)

Bree Bozeman isn't exactly pursuing the life of her dreams. Then again, she isn't too sure what those dreams are. After dropping out of college, she's living a pretty chill life in the surf community of Pacific Beach, San Diego; if "chill" means delivering food as a GrubGetter, and if it means "uneventful." But when Bree starts a new Instagram account & @breebythesea & one of her posts gets a signal boost from none other than wildly popular self-help guru Demi DiPalma, owner of a lifestyle brand empire. Suddenly, Bree just might be a rising star in the world of Instagram influencing. Is this the direction her life has been lacking?

**Rochon, Farrah.** [The Boyfriend Project](#)  
(Grand Central \$14.99)

Samiah Brooks never thought she would be "that" girl. But a live tweet of a horrific date just revealed the painful truth: she's been catfished by a three-timing jerk of a boyfriend. Suddenly Samiah-along with his two other "girlfriends," London and Taylor-have gone viral online. Now the three new besties are making a pact to spend the next six months investing in themselves. No men and no dating. For once

Samiah is putting herself first, and that includes finally developing the app she's always dreamed of creating. Which is the exact moment she meets the deliciously sexy Daniel Collins at work. *What are the chances?* But is Daniel really boyfriend material or is he maybe just a little too good to be true?

**Rosen, Jane L.** [Eliza Starts a Rumor](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

It wasn't supposed to happen this way. When Eliza Hunt created The Hudson Valley Ladies' Bulletin Board fifteen years ago she was happily entrenched in her picture-perfect suburban life with her husband and twin preschoolers. Now, with an empty nest and a crippling case of agoraphobia, the once-fun hobby has become her lifeline. So when a rival parenting forum threatens the site's existence, she doesn't think twice before fabricating a salacious rumor to spark things up a bit. It doesn't take long before that spark becomes a flame. Across town, new mom and site devotee Olivia York is thrown into a tailspin by what she reads on the Bulletin Board. Allison Le is making cyber friends with a woman who isn't quite who she says she is. And Amanda Cole, Eliza's childhood friend, may just hold the key to unearthing why Eliza can't step out of her front door. In all this chaos, one thing is for sure; Hudson Valley will never be the same.

**Sager, Riley.** [Home Before Dark](#)  
(Penguin \$27)

"Every house has a story, but the story Maggie Holt's father told about Baneberry Hall was a lie." Twenty-five years ago, Maggie Holt and her parents, Ewan and Jess, moved into Baneberry Hall, a down-at-the-heels Victorian estate in the Vermont woods. Three weeks later, the family fled for the lives in the dead of night. Ewan Holt would later go on to recount their story of terror in a book called *House of Horrors*, which went on to become a bestseller and spark heated controversy as to the veracity of its contents. Now after the recent death of her father, Maggie, now an interior designer and home flipper, has returned to Baneberry Hall ostensibly to renovate and sell her new inheritance. However, what Maggie



is really hoping to find is the answers to some questions of her own as to whether her father really made up everything about Baneberry. Or was the place really haunted by malevolent ghosts, or are there more earthbound – and dangerous- secrets hidden within its walls? The pseudonymous Sager has quickly built a reputation for crafting marvelously spooky tales of suspense to which I am addicted. What I especially love – being a chicken-at-heart kind of reader – is how successfully Sager send shivers down your spine without resorting to excessive amounts of graphic gore. With *Home Before Dark*, Sager cleverly riffs on the classic “true” account that made the bestseller lists decades ago *The Amityville Horror* while incorporating some deviously clever twists of his own. When the temperatures start to climb into the triple digits, this deliciously fun book is guaranteed to drop the temperature down in a room by at least ten degrees!

**Schnall, Susie Orman.** [We Came Here To Shine](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

Gorgeous Vivi is the star of the Aquacade synchronized swimming spectacular and plucky Max is a journalist for the fair's daily paper. Both are striving to make their way in a world where men try to control their actions and where secrets are closely kept. But when Vivi and Max become friends and their personal and professional prospects are put in jeopardy, they team up to help each other succeed and to realize their dreams during the most meaningful summer of their lives. Set at the iconic 1939 New York World's Fair, *We Came Here to Shine* is a story of ambition, friendship, and persistence.

**St. John, Katherine.** [The Lion's Den](#)  
(Grand Central \$28)

Belle likes to think herself immune to the dizzying effects of fabulous wealth. But when her best friend, Summer, invites her on a glamorous getaway to the Mediterranean aboard her billionaire boyfriend's yacht, the only sensible answer is yes. Belle hopes the trip will be a much-needed break from her stalled acting career and uniquely humiliating waitressing job, but once she's aboard the luxurious *Lion's Den*, it soon becomes clear this jet-setting holiday is not as advertised. Belle's dream vacation quickly devolves into a nightmare as she and the handful of other girls Summer invited are treated more like prisoners than guests by their controlling host-and in one terrifying moment, Belle comes to see Summer for who she

truly is: a vicious gold digger who will stop at nothing to get what she wants. If you are looking for something that is the very definition of “beach read,” i.e. marvelously entertaining fiction with absolutely no literary nutritional value whatsoever, this deliciously fun debut but St. John is it. In many ways this reminded me of those fabulously fun novels of the 1980s and 1990s by Sidney Sheldon, Shirley Conran, and Judith Krantz. Or as *PW* puts it in their review “St. John dishes up a diverting pool-side-ready page-turner.”

**Stein, Leigh.** [Self Care](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

Maren Gelb is on a company-imposed digital detox. She tweeted something terrible about the President's daughter, and as the COO of Richual -the most inclusive online community platform for women to cultivate the practice of self-care and change the world by changing ourselves – and it's a PR nightmare. Not only is CEO Devin Avery counting on Maren to be fully present for their next round of funding, but indispensable employee Khadijah Walker has been keeping a secret that will reveal just how feminist Richual's values actually are and former Bachelorette contestant and Richual board member Evan Wiley is about to be embroiled in a sexual misconduct scandal that could destroy the company forever. This acerbic look at the “wellness” industry was named a *Publishers Weekly* Best Book of Summer 2020 as well as being one of *Cosmopolitan's* 12 Books You'll Be Dying to Read This Summer (you may have missed it since it was right next to *Cosmopolitan's* 12 Dynamite Ways to Break Up with a Guy).



**Sullivan, J. Courtney.** [Friends and Strangers](#)  
(Knopf \$27.95)

Elisabeth, an accomplished journalist and new mother, is struggling to adjust to life in a small town after nearly twenty years in New York City. Alone in the house with her infant son all day (and awake with him much of the night), she feels uneasy, adrift. She neglects her work, losing untold hours to her Brooklyn moms' Facebook group, her “influencer” sister's Instagram feed, and text messages with the best



friend she never sees anymore. Enter Sam, a senior at the local women's college, whom Elisabeth hires to babysit. Sam is struggling to decide between the path she's always planned on and a romantic entanglement that threatens her ambition. She's worried about student loan debt and what the future holds. In short order, they grow close. But when Sam finds an unlikely kindred spirit in Elisabeth's father-in-law, the true differences between the women's lives become starkly revealed and a betrayal has devastating consequences.

**Wiggs, Susan.** [The Oysterville Sewing Circle](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

First fashion designer Caroline Shelby faces a scandal that effectively shreds her hopes of a career in New York City. Then Caroline's best friend unexpectedly dies leaving her two children Flick and Addie in Caroline's care. With nothing to keep her in New York, Caroline heads home to Oysterville, Washington with her new charges. Once back in Oysterville, Caroline slowly begins to rebuild her life while bonding with a circle of fellow seamstresses before an unexpected challenge tests her courage and heart. The author of more than fifty best-selling books, Wiggs has the gift for touching readers' hearts, and her latest is no exception. Or as *Bookpage* puts it "While Wiggs doesn't shy away from address abuse in its myriad forms through the stories of the women in the sewing circle, a central theme of the novel is the healing power of family and community, and especially women supporting one another."

**Williams, Beatrix.** [Her Last Flight](#)  
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

In 1947, photographer and war correspondent Janey Everett arrives at a remote surfing village on the Hawaiian island of Kauai to research a planned biography of forgotten aviation pioneer Sam Mallory, who joined the loyalist forces in the Spanish Civil War and never returned. Obsessed with Sam's fate, Janey has tracked down Irene Lindquist, the owner of a local island-hopping airline, whom she believes might actually be the legendary Irene Foster, Mallory's one-time student and flying partner. Foster's disappearance during a round-the-world flight in 1937 remains one of the world's greatest unsolved mysteries. At first, the flinty Mrs. Lindquist denies any connection to Foster. But Janey informs her that the wreck of Sam Mallory's airplane has recently been discovered

in a Spanish desert, and piece by piece, the details of Foster's extraordinary life emerge. Williams' books are the gold standard of historical fiction, and her latest enthralling tale, with the author's signature dual timeline, is no exception.

**Willig, Lauren.** [The Summer Country](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

In 1854, Emily Dawson inherits a Barbados sugar plantation known as Peverills from her late grandfather. After arriving there with her cousin and his wife, Emily finds the plantation in a state of disrepair. As Emily struggles to bring the place back to prosperity, she uncovers secrets about her family's past that could change everything even as her new neighbors scheme to acquire Peverills for themselves. *PW* concluded their review with "The physical and emotional passions of the characters keep the stakes high and the pages turning, making this a powerful exploration of slavery and reformation on Barbados."

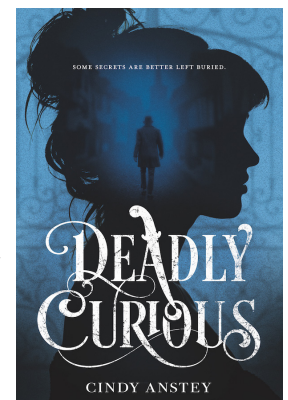
## Teen Fiction

**Angeles, Janella.** [Where Dreams Descend](#)  
(St. Martin's \$18.99)

In a city covered in ice and ruin, a group of magicians face off in a daring game of magical feats to find the next headliner of the Conquering Circus, only to find themselves under the threat of an unseen danger striking behind the scenes. As each act becomes more and more risky and the number of missing magicians piles up, three magicians are forced to reckon with their secrets before the darkness comes for them next.

**Anstey, Cindy.** [Deadly Curious](#)  
(Feiwe! & Friends \$18.99)

Sophia Thompson wants nothing more than to be one of the famed Bow Street Runners, London's most elite corps of detectives. Never mind that a woman has never before joined their ranks—and certainly never mind that her reclusive family has forbidden her from pursuing such an *unladylike* goal. She gets the chance to prove her capabilities when an urgent letter arrives from



her frantic cousin Daphne, begging Sophia to come look into the suspicious death of Daphne's brother. As Sophia begins to unravel the tangled threads of the case—with the help of a charming young policeman—she soon realizes that the murderer may be even closer to her family than she ever suspected.

**Cotugno, Katie.** [You Say It First](#)  
(HarperCollins \$18.99)

Meg has her entire life set up perfectly: she and her best friend, Emily, plan to head to Cornell together in the fall. But everything changes when one of the calls Meg receives while working at a voter registration call center in a Philadelphia suburb connects her to a stranger from small-town Ohio. Colby is stuck in a rut, reeling from a family tragedy and working a dead-end job. The last thing he has time for is some privileged rich girl preaching the sanctity of the political process. So, he says the worst thing he can think of and hangs up. But things don't end there. That night on the phone winds up being the first in a series of candid, sometimes heated, always surprising conversations that lead to a long-distance friendship and then, slowly, to something more. Across state lines and phone lines, Meg and Colby form a once-in-a-lifetime connection. But in the end, are they just too different to make it work?

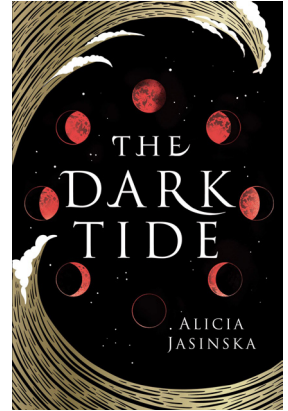
**Cruz, Melissa de la and Margaret Stohl.** [Jo & Laurie](#)  
(G.P. Putnam's \$18.99)

After the publication of her first novel, Jo March is shocked to discover her book of scribbles has become a bestseller, and her publisher and fans demand a sequel. While pressured into coming up with a story, she goes to New York with her dear friend Laurie for a week of inspiration--museums, operas, and even a once-in-a-lifetime reading by Charles Dickens himself! But Laurie has romance on his mind, and despite her growing feelings, Jo's desire to remain independent leads her to turn down his heartfelt marriage proposal and sends the poor boy off to college heartbroken. When Laurie returns to Concord with a sophisticated new girlfriend, will Jo finally communicate her true heart's desire or lose the love of her life forever?

An intriguing re-imagination of the classic novel by Louisa May Alcott.

**Jasinska, Alicia.** [The Dark Tide](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$17.99)

Every year on St. Walpurga's Eve, Caldella's Witch Queen lures a boy back to her palace. An innocent life to be sacrificed on the full moon to keep the island city from sinking. Lina Kirk is convinced her brother is going to be taken this year. To save him, she enlists the help of Thomas Lin, the boy she secretly loves, and the only person to ever escape from the palace. But they draw the queen's attention, and Thomas is chosen as the sacrifice. Queen Eva watched her sister die to save the boy she loved. Now as queen, she won't make the same mistake. She's willing to sacrifice anyone if it means saving herself and her city. When Lina offers herself to the queen in exchange for Thomas's freedom, the two girls await the full moon together. But Lina is not at all what Eva expected, and the queen is nothing like Lina envisioned. Against their will, they find themselves falling for each other. As water floods Caldella's streets and the dark tide demands its sacrifice, they must choose who to save: themselves, each other, or the island city relying on them both.



**Walther, K.L.** [If We Were Us](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$17.99)

Everyone at the prestigious Bexley School believes that Sage Morgan and Charlie Carmichael are meant to be. Even though Charlie seems to have a new girlfriend every month, and Sage has never had a real relationship, their friends and family all know it's just a matter of time until they realize that they are actually in love. When Luke Morrissey shows up on the Bexley campus his presence immediately shakes things up. Charlie and Luke are drawn to each other the moment they meet, giving Sage the opportunity to steal away to spend time with Charlie's twin brother, Nick. But Charlie is afraid of what others will think if he accepts that he has much more than a friendship with Luke, that he's never felt this way before. And Sage fears that if she lets things with Nick get too serious too quickly, they won't be able to last as a couple outside of high school and miss their chance at forever. The duo will need to rely on each other

and their lifelong friendship to figure things out with the boys they love.

## Nonfiction

**Barzilai, Nir.** [Age Later](#)  
(St. Martin's \$28.99)

How do some people avoid the slowing down, deteriorating, and weakening that plagues many of their peers decades earlier? Are they just lucky? Or do they know something the rest of us don't? Is it possible to grow older without getting sicker? What if you could look and feel fifty through your eighties and nineties? Founder of the Institute for Aging Research at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine and one of the leading pioneers of longevity research, Dr. Nir Barzilai has spent his professional life tackling the challenges of aging to delay and prevent the onset of all age-related diseases including "the big four": diabetes, cancer, heart disease, and Alzheimer's, and now Dr. Barzilai reveals the secrets his team has unlocked about SuperAgers and the scientific discoveries that show we can mimic some of their natural resistance to the aging process.

**Holmes, Jamie.** [12 Seconds of Silence](#)  
(HMH \$27.99)

*12 Seconds of Silence* is the remarkable, lost story of how a ragtag group of American scientists overcame one of the toughest problems of World War II: shooting things out of the sky. Working in a secretive organization known as Section T, a team of physicists, engineers, and everyday Joes and Janes took on a devilish challenge. To help the Allies knock airplanes out of the air, they created one of the world's first "smart weapons." Against overwhelming odds and in a race against time, mustering every scrap of resource, ingenuity, and insight, the scientists of Section T would eventually save countless lives, rescue the city of London from the onslaught of a Nazi super-weapon, and help bring about the Axis defeat. For fans of Erik Larson and Ben Macintyre.

**Starobin, Paul.** [A Most Wicked Conspiracy](#)  
(Public Affairs \$27.99)

In the feverish, money-making age of railroad barons, political machines, and gold rushes, corruption was the rule, not the exception. Yet the Republican mogul "Big Alex" McKenzie defied even the era's standard

for avarice. Charismatic and shameless, he arrived in the new Alaskan territory intent on controlling gold mines and draining them of their ore. Miners who had rushed to the frozen tundra to strike gold were appalled at his unabashed deviousness.

*A Most Wicked Conspiracy* recounts McKenzie's plot to rob the gold fields. It's a story of how America's political and economic life was in the grip of domineering, self-dealing, seemingly-untouchable party bosses in cahoots with robber barons, Senators and even Presidents. Yet it is also the tale of a righteous resistance of working-class miners, muckraking journalists, and courageous judges who fought to expose a conspiracy and reassert the rule of law.

