

Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 7 Issue 10 October, 2020

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(888) 560-9919 • (480) 947-2974

poisonedpen.com • sales@poisonedpen.com

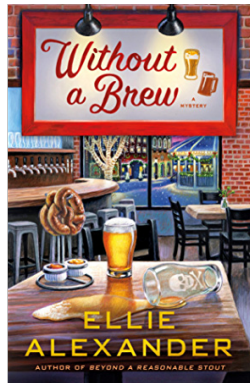


Stories both Sweet and Scary

Cozy Corner

Alexander, Ellie. [Without a Brew](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

While crafting regional beers for the winter season's annual IceFest, Nitro brewer and amateur sleuth Sloan Krause also winds up renting rooms to unexpected visitors, including a sanctuary-seeking guest who goes missing after a physical altercation. Sloan is convinced another mystery is brewing, and with many of the potential suspects hunkering down under Nitro's roof, she knows her co-workers and friends won't be safe until she serves up the killer a hoppy pint of justice. *Kirkus* concluded their rave of Alexander's latest with "A delight for foodies, craft beer fans, and lovers of twisty mysteries with a bit of humor."



Belli, Kate. [Deception by Gaslight](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

While tracking down a story about the elusive thief known as Robin Hood, reporter Genevieve Stewart is saved from a dangerous situation in one of the more sordid corners of the Lower East Side by a handsome stranger. A few days later at a ball, Genevieve gets quite a shock when she recognizes her rescuer as society scion Daniel McCaffrey, who just happens to be Genevieve's chief suspect for the Robin Hood robberies. However, when the mother of one of Daniel's friends is murdered, the reporter and the robber

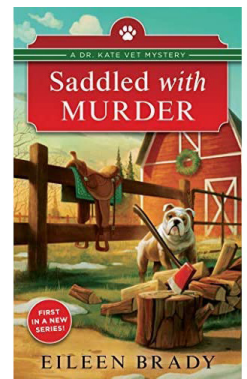
must team up to bring the killer to justice. This is the first in a new Gilded Age set series.

Blake, Bethany. [A Brushstroke with Death](#)
(Kensington \$7.99)

Near the creek that runs behind her Pennsylvania house, Willow Bellamy has converted an old barn into an art school--though the place does still have some animal inhabitants, including Rembrandt, the owl who lives up in the rafters. And while it's important for any artist to have a vision, Willow can sometimes see things others can't, just like her mother and grandmother before her. When despised restaurant owner Evangeline Fletcher is murdered, however, Willow must use all her "gifts" to find the killer, although it means teaming up with a handsome, mysterious detective whom Willow fears she may have accidentally conjured from a canvas.

Brady, Eileen. [Saddled with Murder](#)
(Sourcebooks \$7.99)

It's Christmas season and veterinarian Kate Turner is definitely not feeling jolly. She's overworked, unappreciated, dealing with two dissatisfied clients and a complicated personal life. Then, both dissatisfied clients pass away within two weeks of each other. Coincidence, right? But when Kate's ex-boyfriend, Jeremy, is mugged and robbed after they have a heated argument in the hospital parking lot, all the coincidences seem to point to something a little more sinister.



Gates, Eva. [A Death Long Overdue](#)

(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

It's summertime in the Outer Banks of North Carolina and Bertie James's college class is having their 40th anniversary reunion. The opening night reception is held at the Lighthouse Library and librarian Lucy Richardson and her colleagues have assembled an exhibit of library artifacts showing how libraries have changed over the years. After the reception, some of the women take a walk down the boardwalk to the pier, using flashlights to illuminate the dark path, but what's scarier than the dark is finding Helena Sanchez, the former director of the Lighthouse Library floating lifeless in the water.

Loudon, Margaret. [Murder in the Margins](#)

(Berkley \$7.99)

Penelope Parish has hit a streak of bad luck, including a severe case of writer's block that is threatening her sophomore book. Hoping a writer in residence position at The Open Book bookstore in Upper Chumley-on-Stoke, England, will shake the cobwebs loose, Pen, as she's affectionately known, packs her typewriter and heads across the pond. Unfortunately, life in Chumley is far from quiet and when bossy Regina Bosworth, the chairwoman of the local Worthington Fest, is found dead, fingers are pointed at Charlotte Davenport, an American romance novelist and the future Duchess of Worthington. Charlotte turns to the one person who might be her ally for help: fellow American Pen.

In the Holiday Spirit

Spooky Halloween might just be around the corner, but what is even scarier is the idea that the holidays are less than eight weeks away! Get into the spirit with these festive stories.

Andrews, Donna. [The Gift of the Magpie](#)

(St. Martin's \$25.99)

When the magpie, who has been bringing her bits of tinsel and costume jewelry, arrives with a gift that may be the clue to solving the murder of Harvey the Hoarder, Meg Langslowe finds her hopes for a relatively peaceful holiday season dashed. This is the seventh fun Christmas mystery (and the 28th! In the long-running series) featuring Meg and her quirky

family and friends. If you miss the whimsical mysteries penned by the late Charlotte MacLeod, you may want to give Andrews a try.

Bayliss, Jenny. [The Twelve Dates of Christmas](#)

(Penguin \$16)

When it comes to relationships, thirty-four-year-old Kate Turner is ready to say "Bah, humbug." The sleepy town of Blexford, England, isn't exactly brimming with prospects, and anyway, Kate's found fulfillment in her career as a designer, and in her delicious side job baking for her old friend Matt's neighborhood café. But then her best friend signs her up for a dating agency that promises to help singles find love before the holidays. Twenty-three days until Christmas. Twelve dates with twelve different men. The odds must finally be in her favor . . . right? Yet with each new date more disastrous than the one before--and the whole town keeping tabs on her misadventures--Kate must remind herself that sometimes love, like mistletoe, shows up where it's least expected. *PW* says "Bayliss delivers delightful holiday atmosphere and believable romantic tension in her cute and cozy debut. By turns tender and hilarious, this adorable rom-com is sure to satisfy."



Colgan, Jenny. [Christmas at the Island Hotel](#)

(William Morrow \$15.99)

On the tiny, beautiful, and remote island of Mure, halfway between Scotland and Norway, a new hotel opening is a big event. The hotel's impressive kitchens throw together two unlikely new friends. Isla Gregor, who has been a waitress in the island's café, now dreams of a bigger, better life after starting work at a proper fancy hotel. Konstantin Pederson is working his way up in the hotel's kitchens too, but he is also, secretly, the only son of the Duke of Utsire. As the island's residents and special VIP guests gather for the hotel's grand opening gala, the two new employees and friends discover that Christmas might not be the only thing definitely in the air.

Curtis, Melinda. [A Very Merry Match](#)

(Forever \$7.99)

This Christmas, all Mayor Kevin Hadley wants is to give his five-year-old son whatever his heart desires. Only Tad has fallen head over holly for his pretty, sweet-as-sugarplum teacher. When attraction sparks between Kevin and Mary Margaret, the single dad thinks she may be the answer to his and his son's dreams. Mary Margaret Sneed usually spends her holiday baking and caroling with her students. Yet this year, she's swapped shortbread and sleigh bells for a second job to pay off her late husband's debts. Mary Margaret would love to go tree trimming with Kevin and his son, but she won't risk his political future with her controversial side gig. Only the town's meddling matchmakers have determined there's nothing a little mistletoe can't fix . . .

Holiday, Jenny. [A Princess for Christmas](#)

(Avon \$15.99)

Between taking care of his little sister Gabby, driving a cab, and being the super of his apartment building in the Bronx, Leo Ricci has his hands full. But when Gabby spots a "princess" in a gown outside of the UN trying to hail a cab, she begs her brother to stop and help. Before he knows it, Leo's got a real-life damsel in distress in the backseat of his car. When Princess Marie of Eldovia asks Leo to be her driver for the rest of her stay in New York City, Leo agrees, thinking it will be an easy way to make some bucks. What Leo doesn't expect is that he might actually like his new royal employer. *Roman Holiday* meets *A Miracle on 34th Street* in this fun and flirty romance.

Ireland, Liz. [Mrs. Claus and the Santaland Slayings](#)

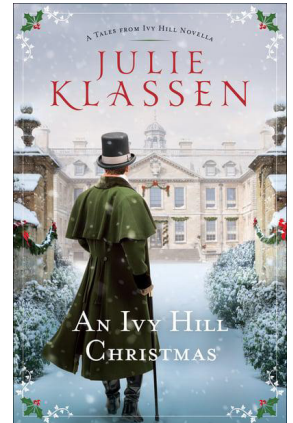
(Kensington \$15.95)

April Claus dearly loves her new husband, Nick Claus, but adjusting to life in the North Pole is not all sugarplums and candy canes. Especially when a cantankerous elf named Gible Hollyberry is killed shortly after publicly arguing with Nick. Christmastown is hardly a hotbed of crime, aside from mishaps caused by too much eggnog, but April disagrees with Constable Crinkle's verdict of accidental death. As April sets out to find the culprit, it'll mean putting the future of Christmas on the line, and hoping her own name isn't on a lethal naughty list.

Klassen, Julie. [An Ivy Hill Christmas](#)

(Bethany House \$19.99)

Haunted by an old secret and the shadows of his past, gentleman Richard Brockwell prefers to stay away from Ivy Hill--until his mother threatens to stop funding his carefree life unless he returns for Christmas. Will Christmastime in Ivy Hill, with all of its divine hope, unforeseen surprises, and unexpected romantic encounters, work its magic in his heart?



Lauren, Christina. [In a Holiday](#)

(Gallery Books \$16)

It's the most wonderful time of the year, but not for Maelyn Jones. She's living with her parents, hates her going-nowhere job, and has just made a romantic error of epic proportions.

Finding herself caught in a time loop that has her repeating the same disastrous family Christmas in a snowy Utah cabin, Mae endures one hilarious setback after another to break the cycle and find true love under the mistletoe. The publisher cleverly bills this sexy new holiday romance by the writing duo of Lauren as *Love Actually* meets *Groundhog Day*.

Macomber, Debbie. [Holiday Lights](#)

(MIRA \$16.99)

The latest charmingly cozy holiday treat from Macomber includes three stories. "The Forgetful Bride" features childhood friends Caitlin Marshall and Joe Rockwell, both of whom now wonder if their friendship can be turned into romance. "Sugar and Spice" focuses on librarian Jayne Gilbert, who uses the book *How to Pick Up a Man* as a way of finding a date for her high school reunion. And "Friends, and Then Some," in which Lily Morrissey asks her best friend Jake Carson to help her find a husband.

Mallery, Susan. [Happily This Christmas](#)

(HQN \$16.99)

Wynn Beauchene has a thriving business, a great kid and a mildly embarrassing crush on the guy next

door: local cop Garrick McCabe. So, when Garrick asks her for help, it seems like a dream come true. Garrick's pregnant daughter will be home for Christmas, and his house needs a woman's touch. Garrick and his little girl were tight once and he's hoping a small-town Christmas will bring her back to him. But thawing his daughter's frosty attitude will take more than a few twinkle lights. Maybe sharing the holiday with Wynn and her son will remind her of the joy of family. As the season works its magic, will Garrick allow Wynn to open the only gift she truly wants: his heart?

McKnanagh, Kristen. [Snowball's Christmas](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

Snowball - an aptly named bundle of feline fluff - is thankful to be spending her first Christmas in the comfort of Weber Haus, the Victorian B&B run by Miss Tilly. Emily Diemer, who cooks for the guests, dotes on Snowball, but she's not thrilled about another new arrival at the B&B: Miss Tilly's nephew, Lukas. Which is odd, because Snowball's feline instincts tell her that Lukas and Emily should *definitely* be friends. Snowball is certain that this B&B, and these people, are supposed to be her forever home. Somehow, she has to get these two stubborn humans to see things through the wisdom of a cat's eye and a kitten's loyal, loving heart.



Morgenthaler, Sarah. [Mistletoe and Mr. Right](#)
(Sourcebooks \$14.99)

Lana Montgomery is everything the quirky small town of Moose Springs, Alaska can't stand: a rich socialite with dreams of changing things for the better. But Lana's determined to prove that she belongs...even if it means trading her stilettos for snow boots and tracking one of the town's hairiest Christmas mysteries: the Santa Moose, an antlered Grinch hell-bent on destroying every bit of holiday cheer (and tinsel) it can sink its teeth into. The last few years have been tough on Rick Harding, and it's

not getting any easier now that his dream girl's back in town. When Lana accidentally tranquilizes him instead of the Santa Moose, it's clear she needs help, fast...and this could be his chance to finally catch her eye. It's an all-out Christmas war, but if they can nab that darn moose before it destroys the town, Rick and Lana might finally find a place where they both belong...together.

Naigle, Nancy. [A Heartfelt Christmas Promise](#)
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

Vanessa Larkin is sent to Fraser Hills, North Carolina—home of the Best Fruitcake in the USA—to convert her company's property into warehouse space and shut down Porter's, the fruitcake factory. For decades, the factory served as the lifeblood of the community until Mike Marshall's grandfather sold the business to a Chicago corporation. Now, news of the factory's closing means losing another piece of the town's legacy. However, when Mike offers to act as her guide around town, Vanessa finds herself falling for Fraser Hills and her new tour guide. But can Vanessa find a way to do her job and still deliver the Christmas miracle for which her newfound friends in Fraser Hills are wishing?

Novak, Brenda. [A California Christmas](#)
(MIRA \$9.99)

New opportunities lead to unexpected romance when a disgraced TV anchorwoman and a mountain climber with a troubled past, who prefers solitude to socializing, both seek a quiet Christmas in Silver Springs.

Redmond, Heather. [A Christmas Carol Murder](#)
(Kensington \$26)

Witnessing the falling death of neighbor Jacob Harley while caroling in 1835 London, young Charles Dickens and his fiancée, Kate, disagree about the case's chief suspect, Emmanuel Screws, an unpleasant counting-house codger with a rather colorful imagination. PW said "Redmond nicely blends period details into the storytelling. Cozy fans should enjoy this seasonal fare."

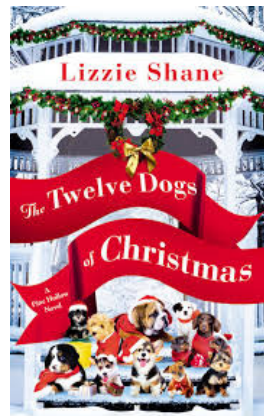
Roberts, Sheila. [One Charmed Christmas](#)
(MIRA \$15.99)

Catherine Pine is hoping her Christmas is a bit more jolly than last year's, and that seems a distinct possibility when her good friend Denise invites her on

a Christmas cruise in Europe to lift her spirits. Once the ship leaves port, Catherine finds herself making a bunch of new friends, including the lovable Sophie Miles. It's like a gift from Santa when Sophie and Catherine meet the charming Dr. Rudy Nichols, a perfect match for hypochondriac Sophie. But he comes with a two-legged lump of coal, his guard-dog daughter. And then there's chocolatier Trevor March, who's also interested in the scrumptious Sophie. Can he convince her that chocolate is the perfect cure for what ails her? Who knows what Santa has in store for these holiday travelers? *Booklist* had this to say "Family, friendship, love, and loss all play their part in the perfectly executed plot of this stellar standalone from Roberts, whose gift for distinctively bringing to life each character in her diverse cast is truly commendable. The tasty icing on Roberts' *wunderbar literary lebkuchen* are the picture postcard perfect glimpses of the Netherlands and Germany."

Shane, Lizzie. [The Twelve Dogs of Christmas](#) (Forever \$7.99)

Pine Hollow has everything Ally Gilmore could wish for in a holiday break: gently falling snow in a charming small town and time with her family. Then she learns some Grinch has pulled the funding for her grandmother's rescue shelter, and now she has only four weeks to find new homes for a dozen dogs! But when she confronts her Scroogeey councilman nemesis, Ben West, Ally finds he's far more reasonable -- and handsome -- than she ever expected. As the guardian of his dog-obsessed ten-year-old niece, Ben doesn't have time to build a cuddly reputation. But he does feel guilty about the shelter closing. So he proposes a truce with Ally, agreeing to help her adopt out the pups. As the two spend more time together, the town's gossip is spreading faster than Santa's sleigh on Christmas Eve. And soon Ben is hoping he can convince Ally that Pine Hollow is her home for the holidays. . . and the whole year through. Even feline lovers will fall for this deliciously humorous, totally charming canine-centered holiday romance.



Wilde, Lori. [The Christmas Backup Plan](#) (Avon \$9.99)

Wedding planner Aria Alzate has one goal: to give her best friend a perfect day. But after a bump on the head, she's under doctor's orders not to travel on her own. So, she's stuck on the road to Twilight with upright, uptight Remington Lockhart in the driver's seat. True, Remy is one long, tall, Texas male, but the ex-military man never saw a rule he didn't like, making this one long road trip. Remy has left the military, but the military lifestyle has not left him. The uncertainty this ex-paratrooper encountered during his tour of duty has convinced him that plans - combined with backup plans - will keep life under control. Aria is undeniably tempting, but her fly-by-the-seat of her pants attitude is never going to work. Then a sudden snowstorm strikes, and these opposites come together in a night of unexpected passion. And suddenly the magic of a Twilight, Texas, Christmas takes hold, proving that sometimes the best plan is to have no plan at all.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, and More

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

Rendered famous for sharing the story of her sexual harassment by a celebrity chef, activist café owner Alexis finds unexpected love when she asks Bromance Book Club hacker Noah to investigate a stranger claiming to be her long-lost sister.

Alpsten, Ellen. [Tsarina](#) (St. Martins \$27.99)

Peter the Great lies dying in his magnificent Winter Palace. The weakness and treachery of his only son has driven his father to an appalling act of cruelty and left the empire without an heir. Russia risks falling into chaos. Into the void steps the woman who has been by his side for decades: his second wife, Catherine Alexeyevna, as ambitious, ruthless and passionate as Peter himself. But now Catherine faces the ultimate test: can she keep the Tsar's death a secret as she plays a lethal game to destroy her enemies and take the Crown for herself? From the sensuous pleasures of a decadent aristocracy, to the

incense-filled rites of the Orthodox Church and the terror of Peter's torture chambers, the intoxicating and dangerous world of Imperial Russia is brought to vivid life, in this story of one remarkable woman whose bid for power would transform the Russian Empire. *PW* said this of Alpsten's remarkable debut "Lovers of Russian history, strong women protagonists, and sweeping historicals will savor this vivid portrait."

Carey, Edward. [The Swallowed Man](#)
(Riverhead \$26)

In the small Tuscan town of Collodi, a lonely wood-carver longs for the companionship of a son. One day, "as if the wood commanded me," Giuseppe—better known as Geppetto—carves for himself a pinewood boy, a marionette he hopes to take on tour worldwide. But when his handsome new creation comes magically to life, Geppetto screams . . . and the boy, Pinocchio, leaps from his arms and escapes into the night. Though he returns the next day, the wily boy torments his father, challenging his authority and making up stories—whereupon his nose, the very nose his father carved, grows before his eyes like an antler. When the boy disappears after one last fight, the father follows a rumor to the coast and out into the sea, where he is swallowed by a great fish—and consumed by guilt. He hunkers in the creature's belly awaiting the day when he will reconcile with the son he drove away. Carey reimagines the classic tale of *Pinocchio* in this fairytale inspired novel that is tailor-made for fans of Gregory Maguire and Neil Gaiman.

Carr, Robyn. [Return to Virgin River](#)
(MIRA \$27.99)

While mourning the recent death of her mother, Kaylee Sloan, a successful suspense novelist who is also suffering from writer's block, heads for the remote mountain town of Virgin River, where she finds unexpected yet welcome support from local residents willing to help a stranger in emotional need. "Fans and new readers alike will delight in visiting" the 21st stellar addition to Carr's beloved Virgin River series.

Clements, Oliver. [The Eyes of the Queen](#)
(Atria \$27)

Only one nation can fight the black shadow cast by Spain that threatens this new age of Enlightenment in Europe, and that is Britain, now ruled by a brilliant

young Queen Elizabeth I. But although she may be brave and headstrong, Elizabeth knows she cannot win this war simply by force of arms. Elizabeth needs a new kind of weapon forged to fight a new kind of war, in which stealth and secrecy, not bloodshed, are the means of warfare. In this tense situation, Her Majesty's Secret Service is born with the charismatic John Dee at its head. A scholar, a soldier, and an alchemist, Dee is loyal only to the truth and to his Queen. And for her, the woman he's forbidden from loving, he is prepared to risk his life. This is the first addition to Clement's new Agents of the Crown series.

Dade, Olivia. [Spoiler Alert](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Actor Marcus Caster-Rupp has a secret. The world may know him as Aeneas, star of the biggest show on television, but fanfiction readers call him something else: Book!AeneasWouldNever. Marcus gets out his frustrations with the show through anonymous stories about the internet's favorite couple, Aeneas and Lavinia. But if anyone discovered his online persona, he'd be finished in Hollywood. Geologist April Whittier has secrets of her own. A hardcore Lavinia fan, she's long hidden her fanfic and cosplay hobbies from her "real life" friends and co-workers, but not anymore. When she dares to post her latest costume creation on Twitter, her plus-size take goes viral. And when Marcus asks her out to spite her internet critics, truth officially becomes stranger than fanfiction. If part of the plot of this clever new contemporary romance sounds like it might be inspired by a recently popular fantasy television show that imploded in its last season, well what can I say? What I loved about this sexy yet sweet love story is the perfectly imperfect couple Dade creates as well as her zingy sense of wit (each chapter either contains snippets of fanfiction written by April or Marcus or scenes from some of Marcus' earlier, less than stellar movies). But don't take just my word for it. *PW* summed this "clever, creative love story that explodes preconceptions about what a modern romance heroine should look like" as "nuanced, unflinching, and deeply romantic."



Danforth, Emily M. [Plain Bad Heroines](#)
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

A century after the macabre deaths of several students at Brookhants School for Girls, a New England boarding school, the release of a sensational book on the school's history inspires a horror film adaptation that renews suspicions of a curse when the cast and crew arrive at the long-abandoned building.

Flagg, Fannie. [The Wonder Boy of Whistle Stop](#)
(Random \$28)

Taking a final visit to the ghost town where his mother Ruth's Whistle Stop Café made its famous fried green tomatoes, Bud Threadgoode discovers new friends and surprises about the community's women while triggering unexpected changes in his daughters' lives.

Gaynor, Hazel. [When We Were Young & Brave](#)
(HarperCollins \$17.99)

Enduring privation when Japan declares war on England, Elspeth Kent, a teacher at a British missionary school in China is sent to a distant internment camp, where she uses the Girl Guide patrol philosophy to provide support and instruction to incarcerated children taken from their parents.

Givney, Rachel. [Jane in Love](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

While walking in Bath one day in 1803 and searching for a radical solution to a lifetime of spinsterhood, Jane Austen is accidentally transported 200 years into the future onto a Hollywood film set of *Northanger Abbey*. There Jane lands a role in the production and makes a new friend in the person of the film's star Sofia Wentworth. However, when Jane finds herself falling for Sofia's handsome, kind, and clever brother Fred, does this mean Jane has finally secured the love she's written about and long dreamed? But is everything Jane finds in the present-day worth possibly losing her past legacy? This charming debut will be the literary equivalent of catnip for Janeites or anyone who loves a witty and winsome love story.



Harbison, Beth. [The Cookbook Club](#)
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Margo Everson sees the call out for the cookbook club and knows she's found her people. Recently dumped by her self-absorbed husband, who frankly isn't much of a loss, she has little to show for her marriage but his "parting gift:" a dilapidated old farm house and a collection of well-loved cookbooks. Aja Alexander just hopes her new-found friends won't notice that every time she looks at food, she gets queasy. It's hard hiding a pregnancy, especially one she can't bring herself to share the news with her wealthy boyfriend and his snooty mother. Trista Walker left the cutthroat world of the law behind and decided her fate was to open a restaurant, not the most *secure* choice ever. But there she could she indulge her passion for creating delectable meals and make money at the same time. The women bond immediately, but it's not all popovers with melted brie and blackberry jam. Margo's farm house is about to fall down around her ears; Trista's restaurant needs a makeover and rat-removal fast; and as for Aja, just how long can you hide a baby bump anyway? In this delightful novel, these women form bonds that go beyond a love grilled garlic and soy sauce shrimp. Because what is more important in life than friendship and food?

Kinsella, Sophie. [Love Your Life](#)
(Random \$28)

Discarding her dating app to enjoy a post-breakup anonymous writers' retreat in coastal Italy, Ava, an aspiring author and hopeless romantic, shares an idyllic love affair with Dutch, a fellow romantic. However, despite their promises to keep their affair going once they return home to London, once the new couple learn the truth about each other, it threatens to destroy their new found love. Fans of bright, bubbly, and British-flavored rom-coms will love Kinsella's (*Confessions of a Shopaholic*) latest charmer.

Maguire, Gregory. [A Wild Winter Swan](#)
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

The best-selling author of *Wicked* reimagines Hans Christian Andersen's "The Wild Swans" in the story of an Italian-American rebel who encounters a handsome swan boy during the Christmas season in 1960s New York.

Patrick, Jonelle. [The Last Tea Bowl Thief](#)
(Seventh Street \$15.95)

Robin Swann's life in Tokyo is grinding to a halt. She's stuck in a dead-end job testing antiquities for an auction house, but her true love is poetry, not pottery. Her stalled dissertation sits on her laptop, unopened in months, and she has no one to confide in but her goldfish. On the other side of town, Nori Okuda sells rice bowls and tea cups to Tokyo restaurants, as her family has done for generations. But with her grandmother in the hospital and the shop next door stealing their best customers, the family business is foundering. If her luck doesn't change, everything she's worked so hard to build will collapse around her ears. The two women have nothing in common, until they learn that both their futures depend on possessing a cultural treasure that went missing before they were born. The past sets the stage for the hunt, while the elusive tea bowl leads Nori and Robin to secrets that make them question everything they believe.



Rose, M.J. ed. [Stories from Suffragette City](#)
(Henry Holt \$25.99)

Stories from Suffragette City is a collection of short stories that all take place on a single day: October 23, 1915. It's the day when tens of thousands of women marched up Fifth Avenue, demanding the right to vote in New York City. Thirteen of today's bestselling authors – including Steve Berry, Fiona Davis, Paula McLain, and Lisa Wingate – have taken this moment as inspiration to raise the voices of history and breathe fresh life into their struggles and triumphs.

Schott, Ben. [Jeeves and the Leap of Faith](#)
(Little Brown \$28)

In his eagerly anticipated sequel to *Jeeves and the King of Clubs*, Ben Schott leads Jeeves and Wooster on another elegantly uproarious escapade involving chiseling painters and criminal bookies, eccentric philosophers and dodgy clairvoyants, appalling poets and pocket dictators, vexatious aunts and their vicious hounds. At times like this, can't we all use a

bit more Wodehousian humor in our lives? "Chosen by the Wodehouse estate to revive the characters, Schott's second foray in Wooster world is as dazzling as his first (*LJ*)."

Scott, Regina. [Nothing Short of Wondrous](#)
(Revell \$15.99)

When sassy widowed hotel owner Kate Tremaine partners with world-weary cavalry officer Lt. Will Prescott to defend the country's first national park and save the last wild buffalo herd in Yellowstone from poachers, they discover that two wounded hearts can lead to one powerful love. This is the second marvelous addition to Scott's American Wonders Collection, each of which is set in a different U.S. national park.

Smith, Sarah. [Simmer Down](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Nikki DiMarco knew life wouldn't be *all* sunshine and coconuts when she quit her dream job to help her mom serve up mouthwatering Filipino dishes to hungry beach goers, but she didn't expect the Maui food truck scene to be so eat-or-be-eaten; or the competition to be so smoking hot. But Tiva's Filipina Kusina has faced bigger road bumps than the arrival of Callum James. Nikki doesn't care how delectable the British food truck owner is. He's stealing her customers and fanning the flames of a public feud that makes her see sparks. The solution? Let the upcoming Maui Food Festival decide their fate. Winner keeps the spot. Loser pounds sand. But the longer their rivalry simmers, the more Nikki starts to see a different side of Callum.

Spotswood, Stephen. [Fortune Favors the Dead](#)
(Knopf \$26.95)

It's 1942 and Willowjean "Will" Parker is a scrappy circus runaway whose knife-throwing skills have just saved the life of New York's best, and most unorthodox, private investigator, Lillian Pentecost. When the dapper detective summons Will a few days later, she doesn't expect to be offered a life-changing proposition: Lillian's multiple sclerosis means she can't keep up with her old case load alone, so she wants to hire Will to be her right-hand woman. In return, Will is to receive a salary, room and board, and training in Lillian's very particular style of investigation. Three years later, Will and Lillian are on the Collins case:

Abigail Collins was found bludgeoned to death with a crystal ball following a big, boozy Halloween party at her home--her body slumped in the same chair where her steel magnate husband shot himself the year before. This exemplary debut evokes a bit of the spirit of Rex Stout's Nero Wolfe mysteries and has been garnering a number of starred reviews including one from *PW*, which said "The deep and sensitive characterization of the two protagonists, coupled with rich description and tonally spot-on humor, make this a novel to remember. Spotswood is definitely a writer to watch."

Thompson, Victoria. [City of Schemes](#)
(Berkley \$26)

The Great War is over, and Elizabeth and Gideon are busily planning their wedding and welcoming home old friends now discharged from the army. One of them, Captain Logan Carstens, the son and heir of a wealthy family, seems less than happy to be home and with good reason. While Logan was in France, he fell in love with a beautiful French woman named Noelle. He desperately wanted to propose, but he was already engaged and felt bound to honor his commitment. When Logan receives a letter supposedly from Noelle begging for money to help her flee the terrible conditions in France and come to America, Elizabeth is suspicious. There is no way to verify the letter is actually from Noelle, and she fears that a con man or woman might be trying to take advantage of Logan in his vulnerable state. But that is not all Elizabeth has to worry about.

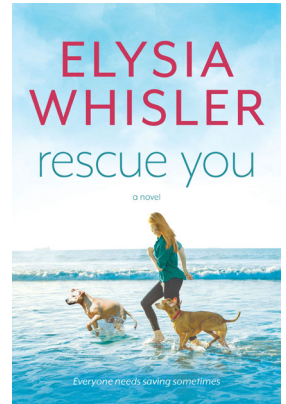
Turton, Stuart. [The Devil and the Dark Water](#)
(Sourcebooks \$26.99)

It's 1634 and Samuel Pippis, the world's greatest detective, is being transported to Amsterdam to be executed for a crime he may, or may not, have committed. Travelling with him is his loyal bodyguard, Arent Hayes, who is determined to prove his friend innocent. But no sooner are they out to sea than devilry begins to blight the voyage. A twice-dead leper stalks the decks. Strange symbols appear on the sails. Livestock is slaughtered. Anyone could be to blame. Even a demon. Turton, whose marvelously original first book *The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* was a best-seller, gives readers his clever take on the Sherlock/Watson style mystery of which *PW* said "he keeps readers in doubt as to whether a rational expla-

nation is possible. Fans of impossible crime fiction won't want to miss this one."

Whisler, Elysia. [Rescue You](#)
(MIRA \$16.99)

After a year of heartbreak and loss, the only thing keeping Constance afloat is the dog rescue she works at with her sister, Sunny. Desperate for a change, Constance impulsively joins a new gym, even though it seems impossibly hard, and despite the gym's prickly owner. Rhett Santos keeps his gym as a refuge for his former-military brothers and to sweat out his own issues. He's ready to let the funny redhead join, but unprepared for the way she wiggles past his hard-won defenses. When their dog rescue is threatened, the sisters fight to protect it. And they need all the help they can get. As Rhett and Constance slowly open up to each other, they'll find that no one is past rescuing.



Happy Bookaversary

Perkins, Stephanie. [Anna and the French Kiss](#)
(Dutton \$22.99)

Anna can't wait for her senior year in Atlanta. She has a great job, a loyal best friend, and a crush on the verge of becoming something more. So, of course Anna is less than thrilled when her father unexpectedly ships her off to a boarding school in Paris, until Anna meets Etienne St. Clair, the perfect boy. This is a special hard-cover edition of the best-selling, much-loved teen romance.

Rivers, Francine. [Redeeming Love](#)
(Multnomah \$25)

California's Gold Country, 1850. A time when men sold their souls for a bag of gold and women sold their bodies for a place to sleep. Angel expects nothing from men but betrayal. Sold into prostitution as a child, she survives by keeping her hatred alive. And what she hates most are the men who use her, leaving her empty and dead inside. Then she meets Michael Hosea, who obeys God's call to marry Angel

and love her unconditionally. Slowly, day by day, he defies Angel's every bitter expectation until, despite her resistance, her frozen heart begins to thaw. Francine Rivers was inspired by the biblical love story of Gomer and Hosea for her remarkable novel, which spent four years on the ECPA fiction best-seller list top ten and has sold more than 200,000 copies. This is a special hard-cover edition of what many consider to be the best inspirational romance ever written.

Teen Books and Children's Fiction

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. [The Inheritance Games](#) (Little Brown \$17.99)

Avery Grambs has a plan for a better future: survive high school, win a scholarship, and get out. But her fortunes change in an instant when billionaire Tobias Hawthorne dies and leaves Avery virtually his entire fortune. The catch? Avery has no idea why -- or even who Tobias Hawthorne is. To receive her inheritance, Avery must move into sprawling, secret passage-filled Hawthorne House, where every room bears the old man's touch -- and his love of puzzles, riddles, and codes. Unfortunately for Avery, Hawthorne House is also occupied by the family that Tobias Hawthorne just dispossessed. This includes the four Hawthorne grandsons: dangerous, magnetic, brilliant boys who grew up with every expectation that one day, they would inherit billions.

Berry, Julie. [Wishes and Wellingtons](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Maeve Merritt chafes at the rigid rules at her London boarding school for "Upright Young Ladies." When punishment forces her to sort through the trash, she finds a sardine tin that houses a foul-tempered djinni with no intention of submitting to a schoolgirl as his master.

Soon an orphan boy from the charitable home next door, a mysterious tall man in ginger whiskers, a disgruntled school worker, and a take-no-prisoners business tycoon are in hot pursuit of Maeve and her magical discovery. It'll take all of her quick thinking and sass to set matters right.

Cohoe, Samantha. [A Golden Fury](#) (St. Martin's \$18.99)

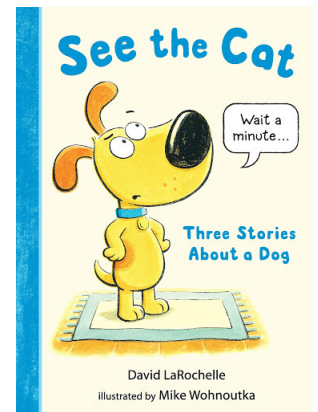
When her once-famous alchemist mother loses her sanity while attempting to create the legendary Philosopher's Stone, seventeen-year-old Thea Hope is sent to live in her estranged father's home in 18th-century Oxford. There Thea risks everything while trying to succeed where her mother failed by creating the Philosopher's Stone while still keeping those she loves safe from its curse.

LaRochelle, David. [See the Cat: Three Stories about a Dog](#) (Candlewick \$8.99)

See Max. Max is not a cat; Max is a dog. But much to Max's dismay, the book keeps instructing readers to "see the cat." How can

Max get through to the book that he is a *DOG*? In a trio of stories for beginning readers, author David LaRochelle introduces the excitable Max, who lets the book know in irresistibly emphatic dialogue that the text is not to his liking.

Illustrator Mike Wohnoutka hilariously depicts the pup's reactions to the narrator and to the wacky cast of characters who upend Max's - and readers' - expectations as the three stories build to an immensely satisfying conclusion. Hooray, Max, hooray!



Leno, Katrina. [Horrid](#) (Little Brown \$17.99)

Following her father's death, Jane North-Robinson and her mom move from sunny California to the dreary, dilapidated old house in Maine where her mother grew up. All they want is a fresh start, but behind North Manor's doors lurks a history that leaves them feeling more alone . . . and more tormented. Something really horrid.

Mabbitt, Will. [Embassy of the Dead](#) (Candlewick \$16.99)

Mistakenly accepting a package from the Embassy of the Dead, Jake Green, a boy with a knack for talking to ghosts, is transported to the Eternal Void, where he riotously teams up with a prankster poltergeist

and the spirit of an undertaker to reclaim his life. Hornbook said “The story is earnest, spooky, and cheerfully bleak. Those with a taste for dark tales will certainly enjoy following Jake on his gothic adventure.

Marney, Ellie. [None Shall Sleep](#)
(Little Brown \$17.99)

Eighteen-year-olds Emma Lewis and Travis Bell, recruited by the FBI to interview juvenile serial killers, must turn to a notorious teenage sociopath to help track down a new murderer. The publisher bills this psychological thriller as *The Silence of the Lambs* meets *Sadie* with a pinch of *Criminal Minds* thrown in for good measure.

Let's Get Cooking

Acheson, Hugh. [How to Cook](#)
(Potter \$19.99)

Acheson, an award-winning chef, restaurateur and judge on Bravo's *Top Chef*, breaks down the basics of cooking into twenty-five elementary building blocks and uses simple recipes to teach and reinforce these fundamental skills to learn how to cook.

Arefi, Yossy. [Snacking Cakes](#)
(Potter \$24)

With little time and effort, these single-layered cakes are made using only one bowl (no electric mixers needed) and utilize ingredients likely sitting in your cupboard. They're baked in the basic pans you already own and shine with only the most modest adornments: a dusting of powdered sugar, a drizzle of glaze, a dollop of whipped cream. From Nectarine and Cornmeal Upside-Down Cake and Gingery Sweet Potato Cake to Salty Caramel Peanut Butter Cake and Milk Chocolate Chip Hazelnut Cake, these humble, comforting treats couldn't be simpler to create.

Birdsall, John. [The Man Who Ate Too Much](#)
(WW Norton \$35)

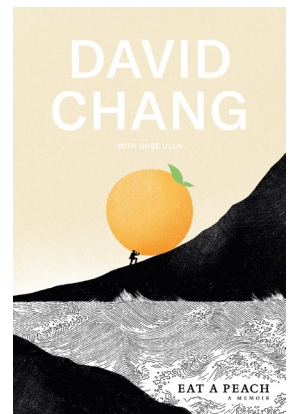
At a time when stuffy French restaurants and soulless Continental cuisine prevailed, Beard invented something strange and new: the notion of an American cuisine. Informed by previously overlooked correspondence, years of archival research, and a close reading of everything Beard wrote, this majestic

biography traces the emergence of personality in American food while reckoning with the outwardly gregarious Beard's own need for love and connection, arguing that Beard turned an unapologetic pursuit of pleasure into a new model for food authors and experts This fascinating biography, the first of Beard in 25 years, covers the

failed actor-turned-Manhattan canapé hawker-turned-author and cooking teacher, who hosted one of the first television cooking shows, and by flouting the rules of publishing would end up crafting some of the most expressive cookbooks of the twentieth century, with recipes and stories that laid the groundwork for how we cook and eat today.

Chang, David with Gabe Ulla. [Eat a Peach](#)
(Potter \$28)

Full of grace, candor, grit, and humor, *Eat a Peach* chronicles Chang's, the chef behind Momofuku and the star of Netflix' *Ugly Delicious*, switchback path. He lays bare his mistakes and wonders about his extraordinary luck as he recounts the improbable series of events that led him to the top of his profession. He wrestles with his lifelong feelings of otherness and inadequacy, explores the mental illness that almost killed him, and finds hope in the shared value of deliciousness. Along the way, Chang gives us a penetrating look at restaurant life, in which he balances his deep love for the kitchen with unflinching honesty about the industry's history of brutishness and its uncertain future.



Corriher, Shirley D. [Kitchenwise](#)
(Scribner \$26)

Want to cook fluffier scrambled eggs and more flavorful sauces, keep your greens brilliantly green, and make everything taste more delicious? *KitchenWise* combines beloved cooking expert Shirley Corriher's down-to-earth advice with scientific expertise to address everyday cooking issues. A gifted teacher with a degree in chemistry, Shirley takes readers through the hows and whys of what she does in the kitchen, explaining the science behind

common problems and offering solutions for how to fix them. (For example, salt has an amazing ability to suppress bitterness and allow other flavors to emerge.) Filled with more than 30 of Shirley's favorite time-tested recipes, in *KitchenWise* readers learn how to cook more successfully, why certain ingredients work well together, and what makes good food great

Fields, Kelly. [The Good Book of Southern Baking](#) (Potter \$35)

Fields, the James Beard Award-winning pastry chef and owner of the New Orleans bakery Willa Jean, combines sentimental storytelling with more than 100 beloved Southern baking recipes. From the best biscuits to the ultimate peach pie, this is the new bible of Southern baked goods.

FOOD52: [Your Do-Anything Kitchen](#) (Potter \$19.99)

If you're ready for a top-to-bottom kitchen revamp, this handbook's got you covered--but it's packed with small-but-mighty upgrades, too. Stick with us, and you'll get to know which cooking tools are must-haves, discover new pantry staples for on-a-whim meals, and learn tons of tips to make your fridge (freezer, too!) work even harder for you. You'll find strategies for tidying storage-container clutter and arranging all your cooking gadgets--and while you're at it, maximizing precious drawer and counter space. Once you've gotten your kitchen in order, you can start cooking with a new spring in your step, thanks to a handy how-to on knife skills and a mini-guide to mise en place.

Garten, Ina. [Modern Comfort Food](#) (Potter \$35)

In *Modern Comfort Food*, Ina Garten shares 85 new recipes that will feed your deepest cravings. Many of these dishes are inspired by childhood favorites, but with the volume turned way up, such as Cheddar and Chutney Grilled Cheese sandwiches (the perfect match for Ina's Creamy Tomato Bisque), Smashed Hamburgers with Caramelized Onions, and the crispiest hash browns that are actually made in a waffle iron!

Howard, Vivian. [This Will Make It Taste Good](#) (Little Brown \$35)

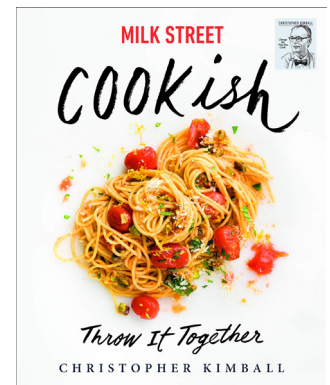
A four-time IACP award-winner (including Cookbook of the Year) and award-winning star of two PBS cook-

ing shows *Somewhere South* and *A Chef's Life*, Howard returns with an essential work of home-cooking genius that makes simple food exciting and accessible, no matter what your skill level in the kitchen. Each chapter is built around a flavor hero: a simple but powerful recipe like Howard's briny green sauce or spicy pickled tomatoes, that can help brighten, deepen, and define your dishes. Nothing is complicated, and more than half the dishes are vegetarian, gluten-free or both.

Kimball, Christopher. [Milk Street Cookish](#) (Little Brown \$35)

In *Cookish*, Christopher Kimball and his team of cooks and editors harness the most powerful cooking principles from around the world to create 200 of the simplest, most delicious recipes ever created.

These recipes, most with six or fewer ingredients (other than oil, salt, and pepper), make it easy to be a great cook -- the kind who can walk into a kitchen and throw together dinner in no time. In each of these recipes, big flavors and simple techniques transform pantry staples, common proteins, or centerpiece vegetables into a delicious meal. And each intuitive recipe is a road map for other mix-and-match meals, which can come together in minutes from whatever's in the fridge.



Kluger, Dan. [Chasing Flavor](#) (HMH \$35)

In his debut cookbook, James Beard Award winning chef Dan Kluger shares 190 recipes to help home cooks master flavor and technique. Each of the innovative, elegant recipes includes a valuable lesson that applies beyond the tasty dish. For example, master the art of mixing raw and cooked versions of the same ingredient while preparing a Sugar Snap Pea Salad with Manchego Vinaigrette. From homemade pantry items to vegetable mains, meats, and grains, this book is not just sophisticated recipes but a master class of lessons for more flexibility and innovation in the kitchen.

Lloyd, Bobbie. [The Magnolia Bakery Handbook](#)
(HarperCollins \$35)

Published to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the bakery, which quickly became a landmark and destination in New York City, this gorgeous book offers close to 150 recipes, along with tips, tools and techniques for the home baker.

[Martha Stewart's Cake Perfection](#)
(Potter \$28.99)

From everyday favorites to stunning showstoppers, Martha creates bold, modern flavors and striking decorations perfect for birthdays, celebrations, and big bakes for a crowd. Think comforting classics like Snickerdoodle Crumb Cake and Apricot Cheesecake and treats that take it up a notch like Strawberry Ombré Cake and Coconut Chiffon Cake, plus a whole chapter on cupcakes alone. With Martha's expert tips, even the most impressive, towering cakes will be in your reach.

McDowell, Erin Jeanne. [The Book on Pie](#)
(HMH \$35)

Erin Jeanne McDowell, *New York Times* contributing baker extraordinaire and top food stylist, starts with the basics, including ways to mix pie dough for extra flaky crusts, storage and freezing, recipe size conversions, and expert tips for decorating and styling, before diving into the recipes for all the different kinds of pies: fruit, custard, cream, chiffon, cold set, savory, and mini. Find everything from classics like Apple Pie and Pumpkin Pie, to more inspired recipes like Birthday-Cake Pie and Caramel Pork Pie with Chile and Scallions.

Myroie, Erin. [101 Greatest Cookies on the Planet](#)
(Page Street \$22.99)

This is the ultimate cookie book full of all the flavors you love! From New York City Giant Chocolate Chip Walnut Cookies to Nutella® Lava Cookies, Erin Renouf Myroie, author of *2-Ingredient Miracle Dough Cookbook*, has ranked 101 of her favorite cookies ever. With so many cookies to



choose from—and some brownies and bars, for good measure—you're sure to have the perfect treat to share no matter who you're baking for.

Oliver, Jamie. [7 Ways](#)
(Flatiron \$35)

Jamie will share 7 achievable, exciting and tasty ways to cook 18 of our favorite ingredients, and each recipe will include no more than 8 ingredients. Across the book, at least 70% of the recipes will be everyday options from both an ease and nutritional point of view, meaning you're covered for every day of the week. With everything from fakeaways and traybakes to family and freezer favorites, you'll find bags of inspiration to help you mix things up in the kitchen.

Ottolenghi, Yotam with Ixta Belfrage. [Ottolenghi Flavor](#) (Potter \$35)

The *Guardian* columnist and best-selling co-author of *Jerusalem* and an *Ottolenghi Test Kitchen* master chef provide 100 plant-based and vegan recipes that use strategic preparation techniques to maximize flavor, including Spicy Mushroom Lasagna, Vegetable Schnitzel and Stuffed Eggplant in Dal.

Pepin, Jacques. [Jacques Pepin Quick & Simple](#)

Just like the rest of us, Jacques Pepin doesn't always have as much time or energy as he'd like to put together a satisfying meal. So, he came up with *Jacques Pépin Quick & Simple*, a revised and updated version of *The Short-Cut Cook*, which includes 250 recipes for surprisingly achievable, impressive fare. Covering homemade staples and every course, with tips for kitchen tools and equipment, pantry staples, and techniques to simplify and improve every dish you make, this foundational, classic collection is essential for every busy home cook who refuses to eat poorly.

Polzine, Michelle. [Baking at the 20th Century Cafe](#)
(Artisan \$35)

The pastry chef owner of San Francisco's popular 20th Century Café shares 75 modern recipes based on the foundational desserts of numerous cultures, from pierogi and potato knishes to walnut hamantaschen, poppy-filled rugelach and vanilla cheesecake.

Saffitz, Claire. [Dessert Person](#)
(Potter \$35)

A first cookbook by the host of *Bon Appétit*'s Baking School shares professional tips and troubleshooting strategies for more than 100 recipes that feature Saffitz's signature twists, including Babkallah, Crispy Mushroom Galette and Malted Forever Brownies.

[Tasty Adulting](#)
(Potter \$21)

Tasty Adulting is made specifically for the young (and young at heart) cooks who are just getting their footing as grown-ups. First, this book walks you through the foundations of cooking and builds up your kitchen confidence and know-how. Then, 75 fun, quick, and totally doable recipes meet you exactly where you are, allowing you to make mistakes, encouraging you to try new techniques, and gearing you up to reign supreme at the dinner table.

Venier, Sabine. [The Chocolate Addict's Baking Book](#)
(Page Street \$22.99)

Calling all chocoholics—come satisfy your sweet tooth, indulge in your all-time favorites and discover new ways to get your fix with 75 diverse chocolate-based desserts – including Cherry Cheesecake Swirl Chocolate Brownies - from Sabine Venier, the founder of Also the Crumbs Please.

Weller, Melissa with Carolynn Carreno. [A Good Bake](#)
(Knopf \$40)

This detailed guide by the James Beard Award-nominated baker explains master techniques from some of the nation's most prestigious restaurants while sharing 120 scientifically grounded recipes for such options as Pumpkin Layer Cake, Chocolate Babka and Salted Caramel Sticky Buns.

Nonfiction

Brands, H.W. [The Zealot and the Emancipator](#)
(Doubleday \$30)

John Brown was a charismatic and deeply religious man who heard the God of the Old Testament speaking to him, telling him to destroy slavery by any means. When Congress opened Kansas territory to slavery in 1854, Brown raised a band of followers

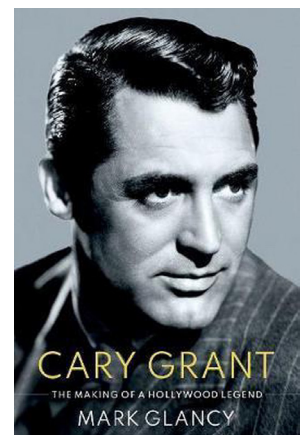
to wage war. His men tore pro-slavery settlers from their homes and hacked them to death with broadswords. Three years later, Brown and his men assaulted the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry, Virginia, hoping to arm slaves with weapons for a race war that would cleanse the nation of slavery. Brown's violence pointed ambitious Illinois lawyer and former officeholder Abraham Lincoln toward a different solution to slavery: politics. Lincoln spoke cautiously and dreamed big, plotting his path back to Washington and perhaps to the White House. Yet his caution could not protect him from the vortex of violence Brown had set in motion. After Brown's arrest, his righteous dignity on the way to the gallows led many in the North to see him as a martyr to liberty. Southerners responded with anger and horror to a terrorist being made into a saint. Lincoln shrewdly threaded the needle between the opposing voices of the fractured nation and won election as president. But the time for moderation had passed, and Lincoln's fervent belief that democracy could resolve its moral crises peacefully faced its ultimate test.

Erikson, Thomas. [Surrounded by Psychopaths](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

Charming, charismatic, and delightful or manipulative, self-serving, and cunning? Psychopaths are both and that's exactly what makes them dangerous. Best-selling author of the international phenomenon *Surrounded by Idiots*, Thomas Erikson reveals how to identify the psychopaths in your life and combat their efforts to control and manipulate.

Glancy, Mark. [Cary Grant: The Making of a Hollywood Legend](#) (Oxford University Press \$34.95)

Leaving no stone unturned, *Cary Grant* delves into all aspects of Grant's life, from the bitter realities of his impoverished childhood to his trailblazing role in Hollywood as a film star who defied the studio system and took control of his own career. Highlighting Grant's genius as an actor and a filmmaker, author Mark Glancy examines the crucial contributions Grant made to such classic films as *Bringing Up*



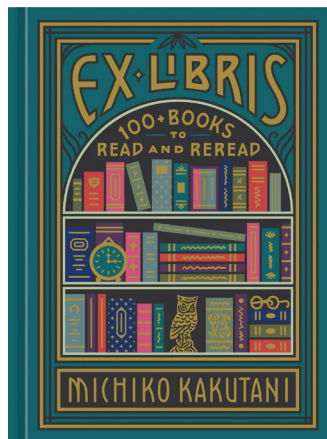
Baby (1938), *North by Northwest* (1959), *Charade* (1963) and others.

Holmes, Elizabeth. [HRH: So Many Thoughts on Royal Style](#) (Celadon \$35)

Veteran style journalist Elizabeth Holmes expands her popular Instagram series, *So Many Thoughts*, into a nuanced look at the fashion and branding of the four most influential members of the British Royal Family: Queen Elizabeth II; Diana, Princess of Wales; Catherine, The Duchess of Cambridge; and Meghan, The Duchess of Sussex.

Kakutani, Michiko. [Ex-Libris: 100 Books to Read and Reread](#)

In the introduction to her new collection of essays, *Ex Libris: 100+ Books to Read and Reread*, Michiko Kakutani writes: “In a world riven by political and social divisions, literature can connect people across time zones and zip codes, across cultures and religions, national boundaries and historical eras. It can give us an understanding of lives very different from our own, and a sense of the shared joys and losses of human experience.” Readers will discover novels and memoirs by some of the most gifted writers working today; favorite classics worth reading or rereading; and nonfiction works, both old and new, that illuminate our social and political landscape and some of today’s most pressing issues.



Logan, Smalley. [The Call Me Ishmael Phone Book](#) (Avid Reader \$20)

One night in 2014, two readers named Logan Smalley and Stephanie Kent discussed their favorite literary opening lines. “It was the best of times; it was the worst of times” one suggested. And then, one phrase came immediately to mind: “Call Me Ishmael.” As they talked more, the pair wondered what would happen if they invited readers to call a phone number and ask them to leave a voicemail about their most beloved books. But who would they be calling? Ishmael, of course. Soon, they had set up a

working phone number (a 774-area code, a nod to Ishmael’s journey from New Bedford, Massachusetts) and an answering machine greeting. The initial calls they received from family, friends, and coworkers were touching, compelling, and surprising, and the voicemail count grew as word spread. As it did, Logan and Steph decided to take things further: they built actual rotary phones, which could be placed in libraries, schools, and bookstores, allowing readers to customize and listen to pre-loaded voicemails. In the time since, they have received thousands of phone calls from readers, librarians, and students across the United States that share stories about the books that have changed their lives, from *The Catcher in the Rye* and *Beloved* to *The Sneetches* and *The House on Mango Street*. Now, in *The Call Me Ishmael Phone Book*, these messages are collected for book lovers everywhere. Designed in the style of the classic Yellow Pages, there is something exciting to discover on each page, from unique phone extensions that have been assigned to each voicemail, as well as transcripts of those calls, literary advertisements, bookstore checklists, bookish Easter eggs, all organized by category. It is a must-have for any bookshelf or nightstand.