

Midmonth BookNotes

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A Bountiful Harvest of Good Reading

Holiday Gift Ideas

Still haven't found that perfect gift for the special reader in your life? Consider one (or more) of these suggestions:

For the classic movie fan (you know the one person who has TCM on their list of favorite TV channels) give film historian and *NYT* best-selling biographer Scott Eyman's definitive look at one of the Golden Age of movies most iconic leading men: [Cary Grant: A Brilliant Disguise](#) (Simon and Schuster \$35). Pair this with award-winning Renee Patrick's latest wickedly witty 1930s Hollywood-set series featuring sleuths Lillian Frost and Academy Award winning costume designer Edith Head [Script for Scandal](#) (Seven House \$28.99) for a doubly good literary double feature.

For the reader who can quote whole passages from movies like *My Big Fat Greek Wedding*, *Always a Bridesmaid*, and *Bride Wars* give a copy of Mia Sosa's [The Worst Best Man](#) (Avon \$15.99) in which wedding planner Carolina Santos' chances at a plum new job rest on her ability to work with marketing expert Max Hartley, who also just happens to be responsible for his brother dumping Carolina at the altar three years ago.

Readers who love classic crime novels would be delighted with a copy of Peter Swanson's [Eight Perfect Murders](#) (William Morrow \$27.99) in which bookseller Malcolm Kershaw's list of eight mysteries in which perfect murders (i.e. undetectable) are committed is now seemingly being used as a blueprint by a clever killer for his or her own murders.

For the reader who is anxiously awaiting the next James Bond movie (next year, hopefully) give a copy of David Ricciardi's [Black Flag](#) (Berkley \$27) in which CIA operative Jake Keller battles pirates on the high seas off the coast of Africa (trust me, Jake is as good as Bond when it comes to taking a licking and still keep on ticking).

For readers who don't think they will ever find a suspense novel as good as *Gone Girl*, suggest Janelle Brown's twisty [Pretty Things](#) (Random \$28) in which two damaged women try and survive a fiendishly clever game of deception or Megan Miranda's white knuckle inducing [The Girl From Widow Hills](#) (Simon and Schuster \$26.99) in which Arden Maynor's past as the infamous "girl from Widow Hills" comes back to haunt her twenty years later.

Readers who are also fashionistas will adore Alexandra Joel's stylish debut [The Paris Model](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99), in which Australian Grace Woods leaves her family's sheep ranch in order to become a model for Paris couture's new emperor of fashion Christian Dior. Or gift them with Jeanne Mackin's [The Last Collection](#) (Berkley \$16) whose protagonist, recently widowed American Lily Sutter, comes to Paris and finds her new life entangled with that of legendary designers Coco Chanel and Elsa Schiaparelli.

For readers who are also serious foodies give them a copy of legendary restaurateur Thomas Keller's [The French Laundry, Per Se](#) (Artisan \$75) or John Birdsall's [The Man Who Ate Too Much](#) (WW Norton \$35) a fascinating biography of the man who helped change America's culinary landscape. Throw in a copy of Julia Child's collection of memorable quotes [People Who](#)

[Love to Eat Are Always the Best People](#) (Knopf \$18.95) as a tasty literary *amuse bouche*.

For the Janeite in your circle, consider a copy of Natalie Jenner's [The Jane Austen Society](#) (St. Martin's \$26.99), in which right after World War II a group of disparate bibliophiles bands together in the small English village of Chawton in the hope of restoring the final home of Jane Austen, or Janice Hadlow's [The Other Bennet Sister](#) (Henry Holt \$28) which imagines what might happen if Mary Bennet's life took a different turn than that narrated in *Pride and Prejudice* or Gill Hornby's [Miss Austen](#) (Flatiron \$26.99) in which Cassandra Austen hunts down a trove of letters written by her deceased sister, Jane, and confronts the buried secrets they hold, secrets not only about Jane but also about Cassandra herself.

Finally, for the reader who desperately still wants to believe in love's power to redeem a person, a family, or even a community give a copy of Susan Elizabeth Phillips' unforgettable [Dance Away with Me](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99) or Kristan Higgins' wonderfully humorous and heartfelt [Always the Last to Know](#) (Penguin \$16).

Cozy Corner

Chow, Jennifer J. [Mimi Lee Reads Between the Lines](#) (Berkley \$16)

Mimi Lee is on top of the world. She has a thriving pet grooming business, the sweetest boyfriend, and a talking cat to boot (honestly, who wouldn't want a talking cat?). When she arrives at the elementary school where her sister Alice works, she's expecting a fun girls' night out—but instead finds a teacher slumped over in her car, dead. Unfortunately for Alice, she was the last one to see Helen Reed, which instantly marks her as the prime suspect. Cozy fans who miss Lillian Jackson Braun's "Cat Who" mysteries will love this equally feline fun series by Chow of which *PW* said "this is catnip for fans of talking cat cozies."



Ellicott, Jessica. [Murder Comes to Call](#) (Kensington \$26)

When a judge who recently ruled on her reckless motoring case is found dead in what appears to be a burglary gone wrong, glamorous American adventuress Beryl Helliwell and her British friend and no-nonsense partner, Edwina Davenport, search for clues to prove a gardener's innocence. This is the fourth in Ellicott's diverting series set in the village of Walmsley Parva and featuring the "disparate yet complementary" sleuthing team of Beryl and Edwina.

Lillard, Amy. [A Murder Between the Pages](#) (Sourcebooks \$7.99)

It was only a few months ago that the ladies of Arlo's Friday Night Book Club-Fern, Camille, and Helen-solved the murder of the renowned author, Wally Harrison. So when they select Wally's best-seller, *Missing Girl*, for their next discussion, Arlo is hopeful it will mark the end of their mystery hunt. But the women are convinced *Missing Girl* was inspired by a 50-year-old cold case from their own Sugar Springs, Mississippi-the disappearance of Mary Kennedy-and Arlo can do little to stop the book club ladies from investigating.

Classic Crime and Suspense Books Back in Print

Carnac, Carol. [Crossed Skis](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99)

In Bloomsbury, London, Inspector Brook of Scotland Yard looks down at a dismal scene. The victim of a ruthless murder lies burnt beyond recognition, his possessions and papers destroyed by fire. But there is one strange, yet promising, lead—a lead which suggests the involvement of a skier. Meanwhile, piercing sunshine beams down on the sparkling snow of the Austrian Alps, where a merry group of holidaymakers are heading towards Lech am Arlberg. Eight men and eight women take to the slopes, but, as the C.I.D. scrambles to crack the perplexing case in Britain, the ski party are soon to become sixteen suspects.

Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

MacLean, Alistair. [Athabasca](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

On the oil rich tar sands of Athabasca along Alaska's Arctic shore, a group of shrewd – an on occasion ruthlessly cold-blooded – men make plans to hold the entire oil producing industry hostage.

MacLean, Alistair. [Breakheart Pass](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

A group of people traveling by train through the Rocky Mountains in the 1870's, are plunged into a nightmare of terror during a vicious snowstorm. Like many of MacLean's novels, this was turned into a popular movie.

MacLean, Alistair. [The Golden Gate](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

An ingenious, puzzlingly motivated megalomaniac and his hand-chosen, professional cohorts hold the President of the United States, two Arab potentates, and a motorcade of reporters in the middle of San Francisco's Golden Gate Bridge, demanding an exorbitant ransom.

MacLean, Alistair. [Goodbye California](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

When his wife is taken hostage as a result of a well-planned heist of a California nuclear-power plant, Detective Sergeant Ryder, aided by his policeman son, launches an unofficial investigation and learns that a fanatical religious terrorist group is at the center of the plot.

Queen, Ellery. [The Egyptian Cross Mystery](#)
(WW Norton \$15.95)

On Christmas Eve, an eccentric schoolmaster in the little town of Arroyo, West Virginia was brutally murdered. Over the next year, three other men were found with their heads cut off, crucified likewise in the form of a T. Ellery Queen has the feeling that there was only one clue he didn't possess and that clue soon came to him with the fourth murder.

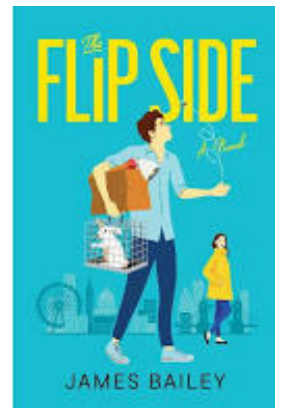
Adams, Michelle. [Little Wishes](#)
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

On her favorite day of the year, Elizabeth Davenport awakens in her cottage on the wild and windy Cornish coast, opens her front door, and discovers a precious gift: the small blue crocus and a note that begins *I Wish . . .* They are not signed, but she knows they've been left by her first and truest love, Tom Hale. Each of these precious missives convey a simple wish for something they had missed, and the life they might have shared. She has kept them all.

But on this day, what should have been the fiftieth anniversary of their falling in love, the gift fails to arrive. Could something have happened to Tom?

Bailey, James. [The Flip Side](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

To coin a phrase, Josh is suffering a quarter-life crisis. He just broke up with his long-term girlfriend, lost his job, and moved back home with his parents (shudder). Welcome to rock bottom in Bristol. As Josh starts questioning all his life choices, he has a mad thought: Maybe he would just be better flipping a coin. After all, careful planning has landed him homeless, jobless, and single. What starts as a joke soon becomes serious and Josh decides to start putting his faith in the capriciousness of currency. After all, what does he have to lose? But when the chance of a lifetime and the girl of his dreams are on the line, will the coin guide him to a rich love life or leave him flat broke? Bridget Jones and her diary have nothing on this sweet and funny British debut rom com.



Bellefleur, Alexandria. [Written in the Stars](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

After a disastrous blind date, Darcy Lowell is desperate to stop her well-meaning brother from playing matchmaker ever again. So, she fibs and says her

latest set up was a success. Elle Jones, one of the astrologers behind the popular Twitter account Oh My Stars, dreams of finding her soul mate. But after one disastrous date, she knows it is most assuredly *not* Darcy... However, when Darcy's brother - and Elle's new business partner - expresses how happy he is that they hit it off, Elle is baffled. Was Darcy on the same date? Darcy begs Elle to play along and she agrees to pretend they're dating. But with a few conditions: Darcy must help Elle navigate her own overbearing family during the holidays and their arrangement expires on New Year's Eve. The last thing they expect is to develop real feelings during a faux relationship. But maybe opposites can attract when true love is written in the stars? Bellefleur gives her own nod to *Pride and Prejudice* in this delightful debut romance, which has been racking up its share of starred reviews including one from *Kirkus*, which said "The stars align in this charming queer rom-com."

Bourne, Holly. [Pretending](#)
(MIRA \$17.99)

April is kind, pretty and relatively normal; yet she can't seem to get past date five. Every time she thinks she's found someone to trust, they reveal themselves to be awful, leaving her heartbroken. And angry. Until she realizes that men aren't looking for real women: they're looking for Gretel. Gretel is perfect: beautiful but low-maintenance, sweet but never clingy, sexy but not too easy. She's your regular, everyday Manic-Pixie-Dream-Girl-Next-Door with no problems. When April starts pretending to be Gretel, dating becomes much more fun; especially once she reels in the unsuspecting Joshua. Finally, April is the one in control. It's refreshing. Exhilarating, even. But as she and Joshua grow closer, and the pressure of keeping her painful past a secret begins to build, how long will she be able to keep on pretending?

Brooks, Karen. [The Lady Brewer of London](#)
(HarperCollins \$17.99)

The daughter of a wealthy merchant, Anneke Shel-drake suddenly finds her family bankrupted when her father's ship is swept away at sea. Forced to find a way to provide for herself and her siblings, Anneke rejects an offer of marriage from a despised cousin and instead turns to her late mother's family business: brewing ale. Armed with her mother's recipes,

she then makes a bold deal with her father's aristocratic employer, putting her home and family at risk. Thanks to her fierce determination, Anneke's brew wins a following and begins to turn a profit. But her rise threatens some in her community and those closest to her are left to pay the price. As Anneke slowly pieces her life together again, she finds an unlikely ally in a London brothel owner. Determined not only to reclaim her livelihood and her family, Anneke vows not to let anyone stand in the way of her forging her own destiny. *PW* concluded their rave review of Brooks's latest with "Brooks's attention to historical detail instills the novel with authenticity by including many historical figures and events, while Anneke's lively voice keeps a strong grip on the reader as she works to overcome societal prohibitions against women in business and find happiness and contentment. Brooks's immersive page-turner does not disappoint."

Collins, Manda. [A Lady's Guide to Mischief and Mayhem](#) (Forever \$14.99)

Newspaper columnist Lady Katherine Bascomb finds herself the subject of speculation when her latest article leads to an arrest in a series of murders currently plaguing London. The English believe women ought not to write about such vulgar things as crime, and a particularly attractive detective inspector is incensed that she's interfered with his investigation. To escape her sudden notoriety, Katherine heads to the country - only to witness a murder upon her arrival. Detective



Inspector Andrew Eversham is appalled when Lady Katherine entangles herself in one of his cases - again. Her sensationalist reporting already nearly got him kicked off the police force, and he'll be damned if he permits her to meddle a second time. Yet, her questions are awfully insightful, and he can't deny his attraction to both her beauty and brains. As the clues point to a dangerous criminal, the two soon realize their best option is working together. *PW* said (and I agree wholeheartedly) "Both romance and mystery fans will find this a treat"

Cornick, Nicola. [The Forgotten Sister](#)
(Graydon \$17.99)

Amy Robsart is trapped in a loveless marriage to Robert Dudley, a member of the court of Queen Elizabeth I. Surrounded by enemies and with nowhere left to turn, Amy hatches a desperate scheme to escape; one with devastating consequences that will echo through the centuries. More than four centuries later when Lizzie Kingdom is forced to withdraw from the public eye in a blaze of scandal, it seems her life is over. But she's about to encounter a young man, Johnny Robsart, whose fate will interlace with hers in the most unexpected of ways. For Johnny is certain that Lizzie is linked to a terrible secret dating back to Tudor times. If Lizzie is brave enough to go in search of the truth, then what she discovers will change the course of their lives forever.

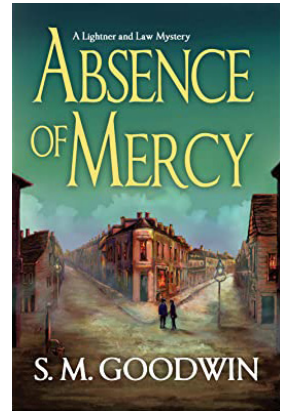
Cox, Susan. [The Man in n the Microwave Oven](#)
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

Fleeing from a murder and family tragedy in her native England, where she was the scandal *du jour* for the tabloid press, Theo Bogart changed her name and built an undercover life in a close-knit San Francisco neighborhood. She didn't expect to find love and friendship there, and now she doesn't know how—or if—to reveal the truth. After a confrontation with a difficult neighbor, Theo fears her secrets are about to be uncovered after all. When the woman who threatened to expose her is murdered, Theo is embroiled in the kind of jeopardy she crossed an ocean to escape. Worse yet, dangerous family secrets have followed her. "Fans of Donna Andrews will appreciate Cox's zany style (*PW*)."

Goodwin. S.M. [Absence of Mercy](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Given the choice between dealing with his father, the Duke of Kersey, on a daily basis or heading to New York City to train the local police in current investigative techniques, decorated Crimean War hero and current London Metropolitan Police inspector Jasper Lightner opts to put the Atlantic Ocean between himself and his disapproving father. Once Jasper arrives in New York, he quickly finds himself involved in one brutal murder that soon proves to be connected

to two other almost identical killings that had been investigated by discredited New York police detective Hieronymus "Hy" Law. Now the two detectives find they must team up if they are to have any hope of bringing the killer to justice. This series launch by Goodwin is absolutely engrossing with what I thought was a fiendishly clever final plot twist. *PW* concluded "Goodwin does a fine job balancing plot and period detail, as well as exploiting Lightner's cognitive challenges. Fans of gritty historicals will be eager for more." I would add that fans of "historical noir" crime series like that of the equally brilliant Rosemary Simpson (see below for her latest) should not miss this.



Hayes-McCoy, Felicity. [The Transatlantic Book Club](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Eager to cheer up her recently widowed gran, Cassie Fitzgerald, visiting from Canada, persuades Lissbeg Library to set up a Skype book club, linking readers on Ireland's Finfarran Peninsula with the US town of Resolve, home to generations of Finfarran emigrants. But when the club decides to read a detective novel, old conflicts on both sides of the ocean are exposed and hidden love affairs come to light. As secrets emerge, Cassie fears she may have done more harm than good. Will the truths she uncovers about her granny Pat's marriage affect her own hopes of finding love? Is Pat, who's still struggling with the death of her husband, about to fall out with her oldest friend, Mary? Or could the book club itself hold the key to a triumphant transatlantic happy ending?

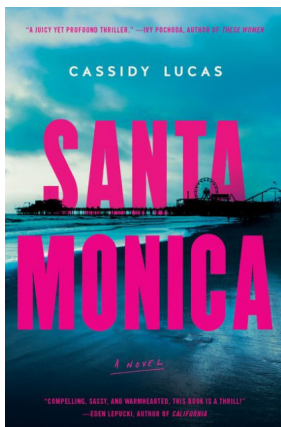
Joyce, Rachel. [Miss Benson's Beetle](#)
(Random House \$18)

It is 1950. London is still reeling from World War II, and Margery Benson, a schoolteacher and spinster, is trying to get through life, surviving on scraps. One day, she reaches her breaking point, abandoning her job and small existence to set out on an expedition to the other side of the world in search of her childhood obsession: an insect that may or may not exist—the

golden beetle of New Caledonia. When she advertises for an assistant to accompany her, the woman she ends up with is the last person she had in mind. Fun-loving Enid Pretty in her tight-fitting pink suit and pom-pom sandals seems to attract trouble wherever she goes. But together these two British women find themselves drawn into a cross-ocean adventure that exceeds all expectations and delivers something neither of them expected to find: the transformative power of friendship. Joyce's sparkling latest (after *The Music Shop*) pops with grit, resilience, and the power of friendship (*PW*)."

Lucas, Cassidy. [Santa Monica](#)
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

On the western edge of Los Angeles is the gorgeous beachside city of Santa Monica, where the sun-



kissed, wealthy residents seem to inhabit real-life California dreams. When movie-star-handsome heart-throb fitness coach Zack Doheny, is found dead on the floor of his gym, the tragedy shocks the elite community, especially those who'd spent many hours each week exercising with the charismatic trainer. As the narra-

tive flashes back to the months leading up to Zack's death, it quickly becomes clear that things in this coastal paradise are not as glittering as they seem. The publisher bills this debut novel by the writing team of Julia Fierro and Caeli Wolfson Widger as in the library vein of Liane Moriarty. I would add that it is the equivalent of literary catnip for anyone who loved watching the weekly antics of those desperate housewives on Wisteria Lane.

March, Nev. [Murder in Old Bombay](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

Investigating the double murder of two women in 1892 Bombay, Anglo-Indian army captain Jim Agnihotri is confronted by suspicion on both sides of a divided land before his investigation triggers unexpected consequences in this superbly crafted, marvelously evocative debut that won the most recent

Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award.

Marsh, Nicola. [The Boy Toy](#)
(Penguin \$16)

Aussie stuntman, Rory Radcliffe, has been hiding his stutter for years by avoiding speaking roles. When a job as a reality show host comes up, Rory can't refuse. But he knows he will need some help for the audition in the person of a speech coach. But Rory really finds himself at a loss for words when he discovers the person he hires, Samira Broderick, just happens to be the same woman with whom he just had an unforgettable one-night stand.

Preston, Marcia. [The Spiderling](#)
(Road Runner Press \$24)

Libby's soldier husband rescued her from a hopeless life. When he is killed in Iraq, Libby falls back into her old destructive patterns of changing men and living places. Libby's eleven-year-old daughter Kiwi has already lost her father, and now she is terrified of losing her mom as well. Out of self preservation, Kiwi commits an act of violence that shatters their fragile familial bond and sends them on the run. Even though Kiwi believes her mother can no longer love her, she struggles to practice what her father taught her: do the right thing. Even when no one is watching. Mary Higgins Clark award-winning Preston returns with an engrossing novel of which *PW* says "Readers looking for an affecting tale of overcoming – or at least coming to terms with – personal tragedy will be more than satisfied."

Quick, Amanda. [Close Up](#)
(Berkley \$17)

Vivian Brazier never thought life as an art photographer would include nightly wake-up calls to snap photos of grisly crime scenes or headshots for aspiring male actors. Although she is set on a career of transforming photography into a new art form, she knows her current work is what's paying the bills. However, when Vivian's photographer's eye spots something in some recent crime scene photos that could lead the police the murderer, she discovers she may need some help from reclusive private investi-

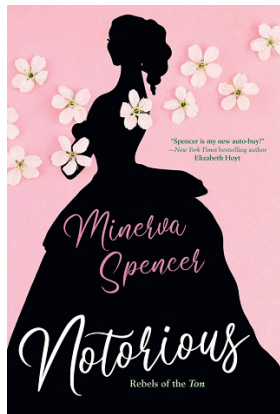
gator Nick Sundridge if she wants to avoid becoming the killer's next victim.

Simpson, Rosemary. [Death, Diamonds, and Deception](#) (Kensington \$26)

When her sharp-eyed aunt declares a spectacular Marie Antoinette heirloom necklace a counterfeit, Prudence MacKenzie and her partner in detection Geoffrey Hunter, trace the necklace's stolen diamonds to a jeweler's murder and a banking family's dangerous secrets in the fifth sterling installment in Simpson's "Gilded Age" mystery series.

Spencer, Minerva. [Notorious](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

Drusilla Clare is full of opinions about why a woman shouldn't marry. But that doesn't stop the rush of desire she feels each time her best friend's brother, notorious rake Gabriel Marlinton, crosses her path. So imagine her dismay when she finds herself in the clutches of a scoundrel, only to be rescued by Gabriel himself. And when Gabriel's heartless--and heart-pounding--proposal comes, it's enough to make Dru's formidable resolve crumb. She's sharp-tongued, exasperating--and due to one careless moment--about to become his wife. Still, something about Drusilla has Gabriel intrigued. First there's the delicious flush of her skin every time she delivers a barb--and then the surprisingly sensual feel of her in his arms. Gabriel even finds himself challenged by her unusual philosophies. And when he discovers a clandestine rival for Dru's affection, his temperature flares even hotter. But the real threat to their happiness is one neither of the newlyweds sees coming. If they're to save their future--and their very lives--they'll need to trust in each other and their growing love.



Turano, Jen. [To Steal a Heart](#) (Bethany House \$15.99)

Gabriella Goodhue had put her past as a thief behind her, until a woman in her boardinghouse is unjustly accused and she is caught gathering evidence by Nicholas Quinn, a fellow street urchin against whom she holds a grudge. Nicholas refuses to lose her twice and insists they join forces--but their feelings are tested when danger follows their every step. Turano opens her Gilded Age set Bleecker Street Inquiry Agency series on a high note. "Readers will laugh out loud at the witty dialogue and cheer when justice gets smartly served. This is Turano's best yet (PW)."

Walter, Jess. [The Cold Millions](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)

The Dolans live by their wits, jumping freight trains and lining up for day work at crooked job agencies. While sixteen-year-old Rye yearns for a steady job and a home, his older brother, Gig, dreams of a better world, fighting alongside other union men for fair pay and decent treatment. Enter Ursula the Great, a vaudeville singer who performs with a live cougar and introduces the brothers to a far more dangerous creature: a mining magnate determined to keep his wealth and his hold on Ursula. Dubious of Gig's idealism, Rye finds himself drawn to a fearless nineteen-year-old activist and feminist named Elizabeth Gurley Flynn. But a storm is coming, threatening to overwhelm them all, and Rye will be forced to decide where he stands. Is it enough to win the occasional battle, even if you cannot win the war? It has been eight years since Walter's last NYT best-selling novel *Beautiful Ruins*, and his latest seem on track to achieve equal success. The Wall Street Journal was just one review source raving about this "sprawling" brilliant book saying "Mr. Walter's style of historical fiction owes something to exciting midcult yarns by Kenneth Roberts, Herman Wouk, and Howard Fast -- tellers of big stories about the past (*Northwest Passage, The Winds of War, Spartacus*) who wanted to honor the forgotten foot soldiers of history."

Webb, Wendy. [The Haunting of Brynn Wilder](#) (Lake Union \$14.95)

After a devastating loss, Brynn Wilder escapes to Wharton, a tourist town on Lake Superior, to re-

set. Checking into a quaint boardinghouse for the summer, she hopes to put her life into perspective. In her fellow lodgers, she finds a friendly company of strangers: the frail Alice, cared for by a married couple with a heartbreaking story of their own; LuAnn, the eccentric and lovable owner of the inn; and Dominic, an unsettlingly handsome man inked from head to toe in mesmerizing tattoos. But in this inviting refuge, where a century of souls has passed, a mystery begins to swirl.

Teen

Black, Holly. [How the King of Elfhome Learned to Hate Stories](#) (Little Brown \$17.99)

Before he was a cruel prince or a wicked king, Cardan Greenbriar was a faerie child with a heart of stone. Now *New York Times* bestselling author, Holly Black reveals a deeper look into the dramatic life of Elfhome's enigmatic high king, including delicious details of his as well as familiar moments from *The Folk of the Air* trilogy, told wholly from Cardan's perspective. Each chapter is paired with lavish and luminous full-color art, making this the perfect collector's item to be enjoyed by both new audiences and old.

Bourne, Holly. [It Only Happens in the Movies](#) (HMH \$17.99)

Turning cynical about love in the face of her parents' acrimonious divorce, her own shifting relationships and the fictional portrayals of love in movies, Audrey bonds with a flirtatious co-worker, Harry, who encourages her to take a chance in the real world.

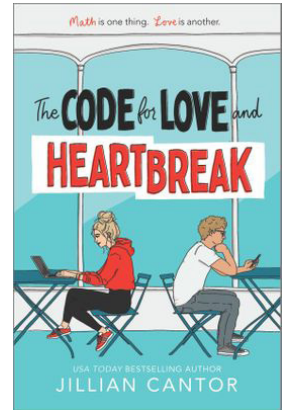
Cantor, Jill. [The Code for Love and Heartbreak](#) (Inkyard Press \$18.99)

When math genius Emma and her coding club co-president, George, are tasked with brainstorming a new project, *The Code for Love* is born. George disapproves of Emma's idea of creating a matchmaking app, accusing her of meddling in people's lives. But all the happy new couples at school are proof that the app works. At least at first. Emma's code is flawless. So why is it that perfectly matched couples start breaking up, the wrong people keep falling for each other, and Emma's own feelings defy any algorithm?

Arizona author Cantor comes up with her own clever and cute take on Jane Austen's *Emma*.

Gong, Chloe. [These Violent Delights](#) (Margaret K. McElderry \$19.99)

The year is 1926, and Shanghai hums to the tune of debauchery. A blood feud between two gangs runs the streets red, leaving the city helpless in the grip of chaos. At the heart of it all is eighteen-year-old Juliette Cai, a former flapper who has returned to assume her role as the proud heir of the Scarlet Gang: a network of criminals far above the law. Their only rivals in power are the White Flowers, who have fought the Scarlets for generations. And behind every move is their heir, Roma Montagov, Juliette's first love and first betrayal. But when gangsters on both sides show signs of instability culminating in clawing their own throats out, the people start to whisper. Of a contagion, a madness. Of a monster in the shadows. As the deaths stack up, Juliette and Roma must set their guns - and grudges - aside and work together, for if they can't stop this mayhem, then there will be no city left for either to rule. This was one of this year's most anticipated YA debuts, and with good reason. Here is *PW's* take on this re-working of *Romeo and Juliet*: "A lush, wholly original debut that will satiate Shakespeare aficionados and draw those seeking an engrossing, multifaceted historical fantasy."



Joelson, Penny. [The Girl Who Wasn't There](#) (Sourcebooks \$10.99)

Nothing ever happens on Kasia's street. And Kasia would know, because her chronic illness keeps her stuck at home, watching the outside world from her bedroom window. So when she witnesses what looks like a kidnapping, she's not sure whether she can believe her own eyes...

There had been a girl in the window across the street who must have seen something too. But when Kasia ventures out to find her, she is told the most shocking

thing of all: There is no girl. Think of this as the teen spin on *The Woman in the Window*.

McCraughrean, Geraldine. [Where the World Ends](#) (Flatiron \$18.99)

Every summer Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stack to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home. Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they've been abandoned—cold, starving and clinging to life, in the grip of a murderous ocean. How will they survive such a forsaken place of stone and sea? Carnegie Medal winner McCraughrean turns a small piece of actual 18th century history into “an epic, nearly mythical tale.”

Nonfiction

Bloom, Harold. [The Bright Book of Life](#) (Knopf \$35)

Perhaps no other literary critic but Harold Bloom could—or would—undertake a project of this immensity. And certainly no other critic could bring to it the extraordinary knowledge, understanding, and insight that are the hallmark of Bloom's every book. Ranging across centuries and continents, this final book of his career, gives us the inimitable critic on *Don Quixote* and *Book of Numbers*; *Wuthering Heights* and *Absalom, Absalom*; *Les Misérables* and *Blood Meridian*; *Vanity Fair* and *Invisible Man*; *The Captain's Daughter* and *The Reef*. He writes about works by Austen, Balzac, Dickens, Tolstoy, James, Conrad, Lawrence, Wolff, Le Guin, Sebald, and many more. Whether you have already read these books, or intend to, or simply care about the importance and power of fiction, Harold Bloom serves as an unparalleled guide through the pages of these 52 masterpieces of the genre.

Caesar, Ed. [The Moth and the Mountain](#) (Avid Reader Press \$28)

In the 1930s, as official government expeditions set their sights on conquering Mount Everest, a little-known World War I veteran named Maurice Wilson conceives his own crazy, beautiful plan: he will

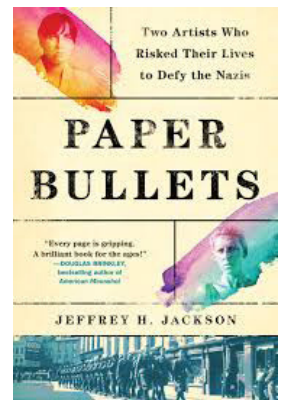
fly a plane from England to Everest, crash-land on its lower slopes, then become the first person to reach its summit. Wilson doesn't know how to climb. He barely knows how to fly. But he has the right plane, the right equipment, and a deep yearning to achieve his goal. In 1933, he takes off from London in a Gipsy Moth biplane with his course set for the highest mountain on earth. Wilson's eleven-month journey to Everest is wild: full of twists, turns, and daring. Eventually, in disguise, he sneaks into Tibet. His icy ordeal is just beginning.

Child, Julia. [People Who Love To Eat Are Always the Best People](#) (Knopf \$18.95)

“If you're afraid of butter, use cream.” So decrees Julia Child, the legendary culinary authority and cookbook author who taught America how to cook—and how to eat. This delightful volume of quotations compiles some of Julia's most memorable lines on eating—“The only time to eat diet food is while you're waiting for the steak to cook”—on drinking, on life—“I think every woman should have a blowtorch”—on love, travel, France, and much more. Perfect for Julia fans, home cooks, and anyone who simply loves to eat and drink.

Jackson, Jeffrey H. [Paper Bullets](#) (Algonquin \$27.95)

The true story of an audacious resistance campaign undertaken by an unlikely pair: two French women -- Lucy Schwob and Suzanne Malherbe -- who drew on their skills as Parisian avant-garde artists to write and distribute wicked insults against Hitler and calls to desert, a PSYOPs tactic known as “paper bullets,” designed to demoralize Nazi troops occupying their adopted home of Jersey in the British Channel Islands.



Kiernan, Denise. [We Gather Together](#) (Dutton \$25)

From the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Last Castle* and *The Girls of Atomic City* comes the

fascinating story of America's national day of thanks and of the tenacious and inspiring Sarah Josepha Hale, a nineteenth-century woman who made establishing this holiday her life's mission—one brought to fruition by the wise support of Abraham Lincoln

Koudounaris, Paul. [A Cat's Tale](#)
(Henry Holt \$29.99)

Since the dawn of civilization, felines have prowled alongside mankind as they expanded their territory and spread the myth of human greatness. And today, cats are peddled on social media as silly creatures here to amuse humans with their antics. But this is an absurd, self-centered fantasy. The true history of felines is one of heroism, love, tragedy, sacrifice, and gravitas. Not entirely convinced? Well, get ready, because Baba the Cat (a social media sensation herself!) is here to set the record straight.

McNear, Claire. [Answers in the Form of Questions](#)
(Grand Central \$28)

For 36 years, *Jeopardy!* has been a TV mainstay. In that time, it has become a deeply entrenched American tradition and the sort of cross-generational touchstone the likes of which are few and far between in modern television -- a show beloved by everyone from Solange Knowles to George Clooney to the Auburn Tigers. This is the book about *Jeopardy!*: its history and how it comes together how the most successful players use strategy to dominate the man-myth-legend that is host Alex Trebek what life looks like after winning big on *Jeopardy!* the Saturday Night Live spoofs that time the Clue Crew almost slid off a glacier -- and everything in between.

Read, Simon. [The Iron Sea](#)
(Hachette \$30)

Scharnhorst, *Gneisenau*, *Tirpitz*, and *Bismarck*, the largest warship on the ocean -- roamed the wind-swept waves, threatening the Allied war effort and sending thousands of men to the icy depths of the North Atlantic. Bristling with guns and steeled in heavy armor, these reapers of the sea could outrun and outgun any battleship in the Allied arsenal. The deadly menace kept Winston Churchill awake at night; he deemed them "targets of supreme conse-

quence. The campaign against Hitler's surface fleet would continue into the dying days of World War II and involve everything from massive warships engaged in bloody, fire-drenched battle to daring commando raids in German occupied harbors. This is the fast-paced story of the Allied bomber crews, brave sailors, and bold commandoes who "sunk the *Bismarck*" and won a hard-fought victory over Hitler's iron sea.

Wilson, Ben. [Metropolis](#)
(Knopf \$32.50)

In the two hundred millennia of our existence, nothing has shaped us more profoundly than the city. Historian Ben Wilson, author of bestselling and award-winning books on British history, now tells the grand, glorious story of how city living has allowed human culture to flourish. Beginning with Uruk, the world's first city, dating to 5000 BC and memorably portrayed in the *Epic of Gilgamesh* and ending up in the eco-re-imagined twenty-first century Shanghai, he shows us that cities were never a necessity but that once they existed their density created such a blossoming of human endeavor--producing new professions, forms of art, worship, and trade--that they kick-started nothing less than civilization.

