

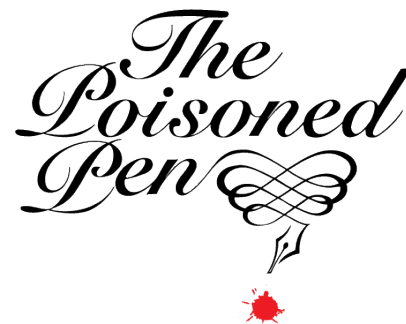
Midmonth BookNotes

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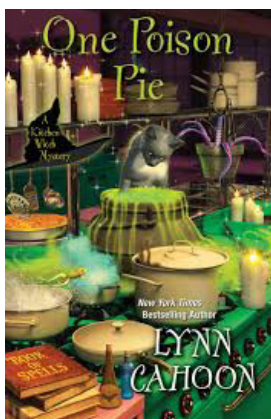
New Year, New Books for You!

Cozy Corner

Cahoon, Lynn. [One Poison Pie](#)

(Kensington \$8.99)

What's a kitchen witch to do when her almost-fiancé leaves her suddenly single and unemployed? For Mia Malone, the answer's simple: move to her grandmother's quirky Idaho hometown, where magic is an open secret and witches and warlocks are (mostly) welcome. With a new gourmet dinner delivery business--and a touch of magic in her recipes--Mia's hopes are high. But her first catering job takes a distasteful turn when her client's body is found, stabbed and stuffed under the head table. Mia's shocked to learn that she's a suspect--and even more so when she realizes she's next on a killer's list. *Kirkus* called this fun launch to a new series by Cahoon "a witchy cooking cozy for fans of the supernatural and good eating."



Cole, Stephanie. [Crime of the Ancient Marinara](#)

(Berkley \$7.99)

Nell Valenti is settling into her role of transforming the Villa Orlandini into a superb farm-to-table cooking school. But when Chef Orlandini prepares to reveal his top-secret marinara recipe for the first time to a group of American gastro-tourists, Nell realizes she might have bitten off more than she can chew. Nell begins to suspect that one of the tourists is

actually a private detective sent to spy on her by her overprotective father, and the fussy foodies are noisy and disrespectful from the very start of the Marinara Mysteriosa workshop. Even worse, when one visitor appears to be poisoned by the famous marinara recipe, Nell will have to work fast to uncover a killer and keep a lid on bad press before her fresh start is spoiled for good. Cole does an excellent job evoking the magic of Tuscany and its dishes. Start with the first in the series [Al Dente's Inferno](#) (Berkley \$7.99), and I guarantee you will be back for another helping by this talented author.

Lansing, Kate. [A Pairing to Die For](#)

(Berkley \$7.99)

Parker Valentine, owner of Vino Valentine, is finally settling in to her winery in Boulder and her new relationship with Reid Wallace, a local chef. But their delicate pairing is endangered when Reid's estranged family comes into town to celebrate the opening of his new restaurant.

Reid and his family are immediately at loggerheads, given their often acidic temperaments, but Parker still wants to make a good first impression. However, her efforts might be in vain when Reid's sous chef is found dead in the alley behind the restaurant, and Reid is implicated in the murder. In order to save Reid, Parker will have to find the real killer, even if the truth is difficult to swallow.

St. James, Dorothy. [The Broken Spine](#)

(Berkley \$26)

Trudell Becket, known to her friends as Tru, finds herself in a bind when her library in lovely Cypress, South Carolina, is turned into a state-of-the-art book-

less “technological center.” A library with no books breaks Tru’s book-loving heart so she decides to rescue hundreds of beloved tomes slated for the town dump. Under the cover of darkness, Tru, along with her best friends - coffee shop owner Tori Green and mysterious bestselling author Flossie Finnegan-Baker - set up a secret bookroom in the library’s basement and prepare to open it to their most loyal, trustworthy patrons. But as Tru and her crew are putting the finishing touches on their new book room, the town manager, who was behind the big push for the library’s transformation, is crushed by an overturned shelf of DVDs, and Tru becomes the prime suspect. Having spent more than 30 years working in public libraries, I can attest that the premise of this charming cozy is not so far out there.

Walker, Laura Jensen. [Hope, Faith & a Corpse](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Hope Taylor, Anglophile, reader, and fan of classic movies, can’t wait to start her new job as pastor of Faith Chapel Episcopal Church in the small northern California town of Apple Springs. However, things get off to a rocky start for Hope when Father Christopher, the kindly old rector who hired Hope, is nowhere to be found. What Hope does find is church elder Stanley King, who is dead set against a female pastor, dead in the church’s columbarium. Hope is a wonderful addition to the long line of religious sleuths that includes Harry Kemelman’s Rabbi Small, Ralph McInery’s Father Dowling, Carol Anne O’Marie’s Sister Helen, and more recently Jane Willan’s marvelous Sister Agatha and Father Selwyn. Don’t miss this terrific launch to a new series, which has everything – a charming small-town setting, an endearing cast of quirky characters, lots of tea, and a cute dog – a cozy reader could ever want.

Wesley, Valerie Wilson. [A Glimmer of Death](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

Until now, Odessa Jones’ inherited ability to read emotions and foretell danger has protected her. But second sight didn’t warn her she would soon be a widow--and about to lose her home and the catering business she’s worked so hard to build. The only things keeping Dessa going are her love for baking and her sometimes-mellow cat, Juniper. Unfortunately, putting her life back together means taking a gig at an all-kinds-of-shady real estate firm run by vola-

tile owner Charlie Risko. But when Charlie is brutally killed--and Dessa’s bullied co-worker is arrested for murder - Dessa can’t be sure who’s guilty. But it doesn’t take a psychic to discover that everyone from Charlie’s much-abused staff to his long-suffering younger wife had multiple reasons to want him dead. And as Dessa follows a trail of lies through blackmail, dead-end clues, and corruption, she needs to see the truth fast--or a killer will bury her deep down with it.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Ashcraft, Jenny. [Meet Me in Bombay](#)
(St. Martin’s \$26.99)

It’s New Year’s Eve in Bombay, 1913, and Madeline Bright, new to the sweltering heat of colonial India, is yearning for all she has left behind in England. Then, at the stroke of midnight, Maddy meets Luke Devereaux, and as the year changes so do both their lives. Bold and charismatic, Luke opens her eyes to the wonders of Bombay, while Maddy’s beauty and vivacity captures his heart. Only her mother disapproves, preferring the devoted Guy Bowen as a match for her daughter. But while Maddy and Luke are falling in love, the world is falling apart. World War I is on the horizon, and Luke will be given no choice but to fight. They will be continents apart, separated by danger and devastating loss, but bound by Luke’s promise that they will meet again in Bombay. Miss those marvelous old novels by M. M. Kaye? Then you may want to give Ashcraft’s equally beguiling book a try. *PW* called it “an irresistible romantic tour de force,” and concluded that Ashcraft “employs evocative prose and taut plotting, and the final twists will come as a surprise to those who think they have the story figured out.”

Baratz-Logsted, Lauren and Jackie Logsted.
[Joint Custody](#) (Berkley \$16)

The Man has custody Monday through Friday, The Woman has custody on the weekends. But that’s not enough for Gatz, who will do anything to bring them back together—even if it kills him. And it almost did. Of course, he knows chocolate is bad for him, especially two whole pounds of it, but it’s the risk he’s willing to take to get them back together. If you can’t tell by now, Gatz is a dog doing his doggone best to

bring his owners romantically back together. The publisher bills this laugh-out-loud rom-com by the mother-daughter writing duo of Baratz-Logsted and Logsted as *The Art of Racing in the Rain* meets *The Parent Trap*. PW says “this touching, hilarious outing is worthy of two paws up.”

Berne, Lisa. [The Worst Duke in the World](#)

(Avon \$7.99)

Life's no bowl of cherries for Anthony Farr, the Duke of Radcliffe. Duty demands he remarry to provide a spare to go along with the heir, and eligible ladies keep trying to finagle him into a proposal. All *he* wants is to be a good father to his 8-year-old son, see the Duchess (his truly terrific pig) win first prize at the harvest *fête*, and stay single. Even if that makes him a Bad Duke. Maybe the Worst Duke in the World. Then Miss Jane Kent, a long-lost relation of the illustrious Penhallow family, arrives in the neighborhood and is promptly befriended by the Duke's son. Jane, Anthony comes to realize, is smart and fun and also very kissable and dazzlingly desirable. Still, that's not enough to melt his resistance to marrying again. He made a stern promise to himself and promises must, of course, be kept. Berne's latest fun and frothy historical romance has just the right dash of fairy-tale like charm.



Bonidan, Cathy. [The Lost Manuscript](#)

(St. Martin's \$26.99)

When Anne-Lise Briard books a room at the Beau Rivage Hotel for her vacation on the Brittany coast, she has no idea this trip will start her on the path to unearthing a mystery. In search of something to read, she opens up her bedside table drawer in her hotel room, and inside she finds an abandoned manuscript. Halfway through the pages, an address is written. She sends pages to the address, in hopes of potentially hearing a response from the unknown author. But not before she reads the story and falls in love with it. The response, which she receives a few days later, astonishes her. Not only does the author write back, but he confesses that he lost the manu-

script 30 years prior on a flight to Montreal. And then he reveals something even more shocking—that he was not the author of the second half of the book. Anne-Lise can't rest until she discovers who this second mystery author is, and in doing so tracks down every person who has held this manuscript in their hands. Best-selling French author Bonidan makes her English-language debut with this charming epistolary novel that celebrates books and the magical ability they have to bring us together.

Bruce, Camilla. [In the Garden of Spite](#)

(Berkley \$26)

They whisper about her in Chicago. Men come to her with their hopes, their dreams--their fortunes. But no one sees them leave. No one sees them at all after they come to call on the Widow of La Porte. The good people of Indiana may have their suspicions, but if those fools knew what she'd given up, what was taken from her, how she'd suffered, surely, they'd understand. Belle Guinness learned a long time ago that a woman has to make her own way in this world. That's all it is. A bloody means to an end. A glorious enterprise meant to raise her from the bleak, colorless drudgery of her childhood to the life she deserves. This fictionalized account of real-life 19th century serial killer Belle Guinness is a chilling, compelling read. When the author was asked in an interview how Belle compared to other female serial killers, she replied “I think it is fair to say that she had loftier goals and more intricate schemes than most.”

Chance, Megan. [A Splendid Ruin](#)

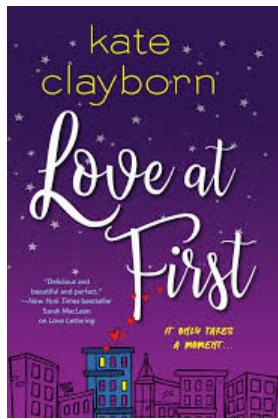
(Lake Union \$14.95)

After her mother's death, penniless May Kimble lives a lonely life until an aunt she didn't know existed summons her to San Francisco. There she's welcomed into the wealthy Sullivan family and their social circle. Initially overwhelmed by the opulence of her new life, May soon senses that dark mysteries lurk in the shadows of the Sullivan mansion. Her glamorous cousin often disappears in the night. Her aunt wanders about in a laudanum fog. And a maid keeps hinting that May is in danger. Trapped by betrayal, madness, and murder, May stands to lose everything, including her freedom, at the hands of those she trusts most. Then, on an early April morning in 1906, San Francisco comes tumbling down. Out of the smoldering ruins, May embarks

on a harrowing road to reclaim what is hers. This tragic twist of fate, along with the help of an intrepid and charismatic journalist, puts vengeance within May's reach. But will she take it? *New York Times* best-selling Jayne Ann Krentz, who knows a thing or two about crafting compelling romantic suspense stories, had this to say in *Bookbub* about Chance's latest "A Gothic vibe, an earthquake, a women's revenge and possibly the best last line I have ever enjoyed in a novel. (No fair peeking)."

Clayborn, Kate. [Love at First](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

Sixteen years ago, a teenaged Will Sterling saw - or rather, *heard* - the girl of his dreams. Standing beneath an apartment building balcony, he shared a perfect moment with a lovely, warm-voiced stranger. It's a memory that's never faded, though he's put so much of his past behind him. Now an unexpected inheritance has brought Will back to that same address, where he plans to offload his new property and get back to his regular life as an overworked doctor. Instead, he encounters a woman, two balconies above, who's uncannily familiar. No matter how surprised Nora Clarke is by her reaction to handsome, curious Will, or the whispered pre-dawn conversations they share, she won't let his plans to sell ruin her quirky, close-knit building. Bound by her loyalty to her adored grandmother, she sets out to foil his efforts with a little light sabotage. But beneath the surface of their feud is an undeniable connection. A balcony, a star-crossed couple, a fateful meeting; maybe it's the kind of story that can't work out in the end. Or maybe, it's the perfect second chance.



Colgan, Jenny. [West End Girls](#)
(William Morrow \$16.99)

They may be twins, but Lizzie and Penny Berry are complete opposites. Loud and outrageous Penny is the life of the party while quiet and thoughtful Lizzy is often left out of the crowd. The one thing the twins do have in common is the wish to do something special with their lives, and the best place to achieve that

goal is London. Fortunately, the twins' grandmother needs someone to house-sit her home located in a very posh London neighborhood, but when Penny and Lizzie arrive in London, will they find their new dreams are really within their grasp?

Dalton, Julie Carrick. [Waiting for the Night Song](#)
(Forge \$26.99)

Cadie Kessler has spent decades trying to cover up one truth. But deep down, didn't she always know her secret would surface? Now an urgent message from her long-estranged best friend Daniela Garcia brings Cadie, a forestry researcher, back to her childhood home. There, Cadie and Daniela are forced to face a dark secret that ended both their idyllic childhood bond and the magical summer that takes up more space in Cadie's memory than all her other years combined. *PW* had this to say about Dalton's stirring debut "contemporary ecological and immigration issues compound the well-paced mystery, making for a taut novel that builds suspense to the very end." Sounds like the perfect choice for a book club in need of a good mystery to discuss.

Dickerson, Melanie. [Court of Swans](#)
(Thomas Nelson \$18.99)

In medieval England, after her seven brothers are falsely accused of murder and treason, eighteen-year-old Delia flees their cruel stepmother and becomes a seamstress at Westminster Palace, hoping to gain their release, with Sir Geoffrey's assistance. In the first book in a new series, Dickerson offers her own inventive reimagining of the classic fairytale *The Wild Swans*.

Goldis, Jaclyn. [When We Were Young](#)
(Forever \$15.99)

To sixteen-year-old Sarah Batis, the Nazis are a distant danger; of far greater threat is the opposing needs of her heart and her people. Tradition demands that Sarah marry a Jewish man. Only Sarah has fallen in love with a fisherman outside their community. And when the Nazis invade, Sarah must watch from afar as her family is taken away. More than sixty years later, Sarah's daughter, Bea, has built a happy life with a steadfast husband and two independent daughters. Their summers on the Greek island with the Winn family appear idyllic, especially the love that blossoms between Bea's daughter Joey

and Leo Winn. But there is a secret threatening their beach paradise. Fifteen years later, Joey is only days away from marrying the nice Jewish man her family adores. The arrival of Leo, Joey's first love, sends her reeling. The attraction between them burns bright, but Leo isn't looking for a happy reunion. He's there to reveal why he really broke up with her during their last summer together. A multi-generational love story for fans of Barbara Taylor Bradford.

Greeley, Molly. [The Heiress](#)
(William Morrow \$25.99)

As a fussy baby, Anne de Bourgh's doctor prescribed laudanum to quiet her, and now the young woman must take the opium-heavy tincture every day. Growing up sheltered and confined, removed from sunshine and fresh air, the pale and overly slender Anne grew up with few companions except her cousins, including Fitzwilliam Darcy. Throughout their childhoods, it was understood that Darcy and Anne would marry and combine their vast estates of Pemberley and Rosings. But Darcy does not love Anne. After her father dies unexpectedly, leaving her his vast fortune, Anne has a moment of clarity: what if her life of fragility and illness isn't truly real? What if she could free herself from the medicine that clouds her sharp mind and leaves her body weak and lethargic? Might there be a better life without the medicine she has been told she cannot live without? In a frenzy of desperation, Anne discards her laudanum and flees to the London home of her cousin, Colonel John Fitzwilliam, who helps her through her painful recovery. Yet once she returns to health, new challenges await. This is Greeley's second effort after last year's *The Clergyman's Wife* at taking a secondary character from one of Jane Austen's novels and creating a new future for them.

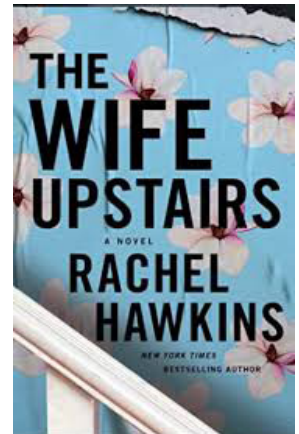
Grushin, Olga. [The Charmed Wife](#)
(Putnam \$27)

Cinderella married the man of her dreams--the perfect ending she deserved after diligently following all the fairy-tale rules. Yet now, two children and thirteen and a half years later, things have gone badly wrong and her life is far from perfect. One night, fed up, she sneaks out of the palace to get help from the Witch who, for a price, offers love potions to disgruntled housewives. But as the old hag flings the last ingredients into the cauldron, Cinderella doesn't

ask for a love spell to win back her Prince Charming. Instead, she wants him dead. Grushin, winner of the NYPL Young Lions Fiction Award and a *Granta's* Best of Young American Novelists honoree puts her own dark and clever spin on this classic fairytale.

Hawkins, Rachel. [The Wife Upstairs](#)
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

Newly arrived to Birmingham, Alabama, Jane is a broke dog-walker in Thornfield Estates—a gated community full of McMansions, shiny SUVs, and bored housewives. The kind of place where no one will notice if Jane lifts the discarded tchotchkes and jewelry off the side tables of her well-heeled clients. Where no one will think to ask if Jane is her real name. But her luck changes when she meets Eddie Rochester. Recently widowed, Eddie is Thornfield Estates' most mysterious resident. His wife, Bea, drowned in a boating accident with her best friend, their bodies lost to the deep. Jane can't help but see an opportunity in Eddie—not only is he rich, brooding, and handsome, he could also offer her the kind of protection she's always yearned for. Yet as Jane and Eddie fall for each other, Jane is increasingly haunted by the legend of Bea, an ambitious beauty with a rags-to-riches origin story, who launched a wildly successful southern lifestyle brand. How can she, plain Jane, ever measure up? And can she win Eddie's heart before her past—or his—catches up to her? Sound familiar? YA author Hawkins draws upon *Jane Eyre* (and a bit of *Rebecca* for good measure) for her first adult novel, and the result is clever neo-gothic that *PW* called a “suspenseful domestic thriller that will keep readers turning the pages.”



Hawks, Arlem. [Georgana's Secret](#)
(Shadow Mountain \$15.99)

As a young girl, Georgana Woodall dreamed of beautiful dresses, fancy balls, and falling in love. However, when her mother dies, she cannot face a future under the guardianship of her abusive grandmother and instead chooses to join her father on his ship disguised as his cabin boy, “George.” Lieutenant Domi-

nic Peyton has no time in his life for love, not with his dedication to His Majesty's Royal Navy claiming his full attention. Determined to prove himself to his new captain, he strives to be an exemplary officer and leader. When he sees the captain's cabin boy being harassed by the crew, he immediately puts a stop to it and takes the "boy" under his wing. After discovering a number of clues, Dominic deduces that George is really a woman. Knowing that revealing the cabin boy's secret would put her in serious danger from the rowdy crew, Dominic keeps silent and hides his growing affection for her. But how long can Dominic keep this up? This Regency-set historical has been garnering some great reviews including one from *PW*, which said "Hawks crafts a spellbinding tale featuring rich characters and raw emotions set against the atmospheric backdrop of sea life in all its danger and beauty. *Booklist* gave it a starred review concluding "Fans of sweet love stories as well as readers who fondly remember those marvelous old Signet traditional Regencies will quickly succumb to the siren song of Hawk's expertly crafted novel, which delivers the perfect blend of Jane Austen style romance and Patrick O'Brian flavored seafaring adventure."

Haynes, Natalie. [A Thousand Ships](#)
(Harper \$27.99)

In the middle of the night, a woman wakes to find her beloved city engulfed in flames. Ten seemingly endless years of conflict between the Greeks and the Trojans are over. Troy has fallen. From the Trojan women whose fates now lie in the hands of the Greeks, to the Amazon princess who fought Achilles on their behalf, to Penelope awaiting the return of Odysseus, to the three goddesses whose feud started it all, these are the stories of the women whose lives, loves, and rivalries were forever altered by this long and tragic war. Fans of Madeline Miller's *Circe* or Stephen Fry's *Mythos* will find this captivating take on the Trojan War by Haynes, who also authored the nonfiction book *The Ancient Guide to Modern Life*, to be simply bewitching.

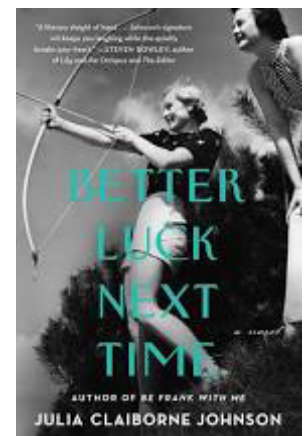
Hockman, Angie. [Shipped](#)
(Gallery \$16)

Between taking night classes for her MBA and her demanding day job at a cruise line, marketing manager Henley Evans barely has time for herself, let alone family, friends, or dating. But when she's

shortlisted for the promotion of her dreams, all her sacrifices finally seem worth it. The only problem? Graeme Crawford-Collins, the remote social media manager and the bane of her existence, is also up for the position. Although they've never met in person, their epic email battles are the stuff of office legend. Their boss tasks each of them with drafting a proposal on how to boost bookings in the Galápagos; best proposal wins the promotion. There's just one catch: they have to go on a company cruise to the Galápagos Islands...together. But when the two meet on the ship, Henley is shocked to discover that the real Graeme is nothing like she imagined. As they explore the Islands together, she soon finds the line between loathing and liking thinner than a postcard. All aboard for a delightful debut that delivers all the clever quips and unforgettable kisses a fan of rom-coms could ever want.

Johnson, Julia Claiborne. [Better Luck Next Time](#)
(Custom House \$28.99)

In 1938, women in search of a quick, no-questions split from their husbands have one option: head to the "divorce capital of the world," Reno, Nevada. However, in order for a divorce to stick, a woman must be a resident of Nevada, which means living in the state for a minimum of six weeks in order to qualify. For wealthy, soon-to-be divorcees, their new "home" in Reno is the Flying Leap, a dude ranch that caters to their every need. Twenty-four-year-old Ward spent one year at Yale before his family lost everything in the Great Depression, and now with his dashing good looks (think Cary Grant in cowboy boots) Ward has found himself a job as a ranch hand at the Flying Leap. Ward thinks he has the clients at the ranch all figured out until two new guests – Nina, a St. Louis heiress and amateur pilot who is back for her third divorce, and Emily, whose bravest moment in life so far has been to leave her cheating husband – check in and upend everything Ward thinks he knows about life....and women. It has been years since Johnson's debut novel *Be Frank with Me*, and now she is back in fine fettle with



a marvelously original novel about divorce, marriage, and everything that comes in between (money, class, ambition, and opportunity) that explores the ways friendship can save us, love can destroy us, and the family we create can be stronger than the family we come from. *PW's* starred review concluded with "This brims with clever banter and farcical situations of a classic Capra film, and is deepened by dramatic scenes and portrayals of hardworking ranchers. Johnson's novel soars."

Johnson, Sadeqa. [Yellow Wife](#)
(Simon and Schuster \$26)

Born on a plantation in Charles City, Virginia, Pheby Delores Brown has lived a relatively sheltered life. Shielded by her mother's position as the estate's medicine woman and cherished by the Master's sister, she is set apart from the others on the plantation, belonging to neither world. Pheby had been promised freedom on her eighteenth birthday, but instead of the idyllic life she imagined with her true love, Essex Henry, Pheby is forced to leave the only home she has ever known. She unexpectedly finds herself thrust into the bowels of slavery at the infamous Devil's Half Acre, a jail in Richmond, Virginia, where the enslaved are broken, tortured, and sold every day. There, Pheby is exposed not just to her jailer's cruelty but also to his contradictions. To survive, Pheby will have to outwit him, and she soon faces the ultimate sacrifice.

Kelly, Julia. [The Last Garden in England](#)
(Gallery \$28)

Emma Lovett has dedicated her career to breathing new life into long-neglected gardens, and she has just been given the opportunity of a lifetime: to restore the gardens of the famed Highbury House estate, designed in 1907 by her hero Venetia Smith. But as Emma dives deeper into the gardens' past, she begins to uncover secrets that have long lain hidden. A talented artist with a growing reputation for her ambitious work, Venetia Smith has carved out a niche for herself as a garden designer to industrialists, solicitors, and bankers looking to show off their wealth with sumptuous country houses. When she is hired to design the gardens of Highbury House, she is determined to make them a triumph, but the gardens - and the people she meets - promise to change her life forever. When land girl Beth Pedley arrives

at a farm on the outskirts of the village of Highbury, all she wants is to find a place she can call home.

Cook Stella Adderton, on the other hand, is desperate to leave Highbury House to pursue her own dreams. And widow Diana Symonds, the mistress of the grand house, is anxiously trying to cling to her pre-war life now that her home has been requisitioned and transformed into a convalescent hospital for wounded soldiers. But when war threatens Highbury

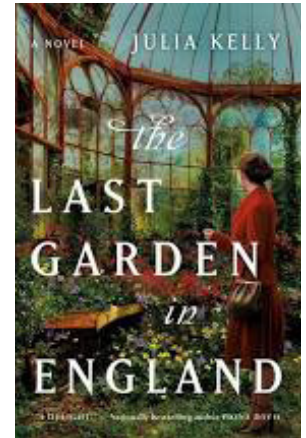
House's treasured gardens, these three very different women are drawn together by a secret that will last for decades. Kelly, author of *The Light Over London* and *The Whispers of War*, delivers a poignant and unforgettable tale of five women living in three different decades, whose lives are all connected to one very special place.

Lecoat, Jenny. [The Girl from the Channel Islands](#)
(Graydon House \$17.99)

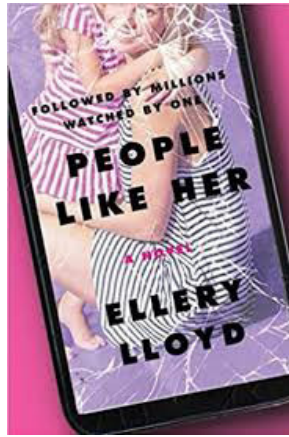
Hedy Bercu fled Vienna two years ago. Now she watches the skies over Jersey for German planes, convinced that an invasion is imminent. When it finally comes, there is no counterattack from Allied forces; the Channel Islands are simply not worth defending. Most islanders and occupying forces settle into an uneasy coexistence, but for Hedy, the situation is perilously different. For Hedy is Jewish; a fact that could mean deportation, or worse. With no means of escape, Hedy hides in plain sight, working as a translator for the Germans while silently working against them. She forges a tentative friendship with a sympathetic German officer who is likewise trapped by circumstance. But as the war intensifies, Hedy knows she is in greater danger each day. Soon, her survival will depend not just on her own courage but on the community she has come to cherish and a man who should be her enemy.

Lloyd, Ellery. [People Like Her](#)
(Harper \$26.99)

To her adoring fans, Emmy Jackson, aka @the_mamabare, is the honest "instamum," who always tells it like it is. To her skeptical husband, a washed-up



novelist who knows just how creative Emmy can be with the truth, she is a breadwinning powerhouse chillingly brilliant at monetizing the intimate details of their family life. To one of Emmy's dangerously obsessive followers, she's the woman that has everything, but deserves none of it. As Emmy's marriage begins to crack under the strain of her growing success and her moral compass veers wildly off course, the more vulnerable she becomes to a very real danger circling ever closer to her family. This debut suspense novel by the husband and wife writing team of Paul Vlitos and Collete Lyons is simply brilliant. What an inspired idea to use the world of social media – and in particular Instagram – as the backdrop for the now popular “unreliable narrator” storyline. After all, those carefully curated photographs and storylines that appear on Instagram are in essence works of fiction themselves. Can readers really trust what Emmy Jackson is telling them since they can also see how she has to work so hard to create the brand she is selling her millions of followers? Or, is Emmy's husband the one spinning readers a tale to make himself look good? What about Emmy's biggest fan? An addictively readable book of which *Kirkus* said “Silence your notifications and lock your doors, then indulge in this delightfully distasteful, cozily creepy thriller.”



Morgenthaler, Sarah. [Enjoy the View](#)
(Sourcebooks \$14.99)

Former Hollywood darling River Lane's acting career is tanking fast. Determined to start fresh behind the camera, she agrees to film a documentary about the picturesque small town of Moose Springs, Alaska. The assignment should have been easy, but the quirky locals want nothing to do with River. Well, too bad: River's going to make this film and prove herself, no matter what it takes. Or what (literal) mountain she has to climb. Easton Lockett may be a gentle giant, but he knows a thing or two about survival. If he can keep everyone in line, he should be able to get River and her crew up and down Mount Veil in one piece. Turns out that's a big if. The wildlife's wilder than usual, the

camera crew's determined to wander off a cliff, and the gorgeous actress is fearless. Falling for River only makes Easton's job tougher, but there's only so long he can hold out against her brilliant smile.

Murphy, Stacie. [A Deadly Fortune](#)
(Pegasus \$25.95)

Amelia Matthew has parleyed her modest psychic talent into a safe and comfortable life in Gilded Age New York City. But all that safety and comfort vanish when a head injury leaves Amelia with a dramatically-expanded gift, and Amelia publicly “channels” an angry spirit. Now imprisoned in the notorious insane asylum on Blackwell's Island, Amelia struggles to control her new abilities all while her foster brother Jonas seeks a way to free her. Andrew Cavanaugh has dedicated himself to the study and treatment of mental disease. For him, Amelia Matthew is just another patient, until she channels a spirit in front of him. However, when a distraught mother comes to Andrew searching for her daughter, whom she believes is hidden in the asylum, Andrew turns to Amelia for help. When the two uncover a deadly conspiracy, Amelia must quickly master her gift and use it to catch a killer or risk becoming a murder victim herself.

O'Connor, Nuala. [Nora](#)
(Harper \$16.99)

Dublin, 1904. Nora Joseph Barnacle is a twenty-year-old from Galway working as a maid at Finn's Hotel. She enjoys the liveliness of her adopted city and on June 16 “Bloomsday” her life is changed when she meets Dubliner James Joyce, a fateful encounter that turns into a lifelong love. Despite his hesitation to marry, Nora follows Joyce in pursuit of a life beyond Ireland, and they surround themselves with a buoyant group of friends that grows to include Samuel Beckett, Peggy Guggenheim, and Sylvia Beach.

As life unfolds and Jim writes, drinks, and gambles his way to literary acclaim, Nora continues to provide unflinching support and inspiration, but at what cost to her own happiness and that of their children?

O'Leary, Beth. [The Flatshare](#)
(Flatiron \$16.99)

Tiffany and Leon share an apartment. Tiffany and Leon have never met. After a bad breakup, Tiffany Moore needs a place to live. Fast. And cheap. But the apart-

ments in her budget have her wondering if astonishingly colored mold on the walls counts as art. Desperation makes her open minded, so she answers an ad for a flatshare. Leon, a night shift worker, will take the apartment during the day, and Tiffy can have it nights and weekends. He'll only ever be there when she's at the office. In fact, they'll never even have to meet. Then Tiffy and Leon start writing each other notes – first about what day is garbage day, and politely establishing what leftovers are up for grabs, and the evergreen question of whether the toilet seat should stay up or down. Even though they are opposites, they soon become friends. And then maybe more. But falling in love with your roommate is probably a terrible idea...especially if you've never met. This debut novel by O'Leary won the British equivalent of the Romance Writers of America's RITA award when it was published in hardcover a few years ago.

Probst, Jennifer. [Our Italian Summer](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Workaholic, career-obsessed Francesca is fiercely independent and successful in all areas of her life except one: family. She struggles to make time for her relationship with her teenage daughter, Allegra, and the two have become practically strangers to each other. When Allegra hangs out with a new crowd and is arrested for drug possession, Francesca gives in to her mother's wish that they take one epic summer vacation to trace their family roots in Italy. She just never expected to face a choice that might change the course of her life. Allegra wants to make her grandmother happy, but she hates the idea of forced time with her mother and vows to fight every step of the ridiculous tour, until a young man on the verge of priesthood begins to show her the power of acceptance, healing, and the heartbreaking complications of love. Sophia knows her girls are in trouble. A summer filled with the possibility for change is what they all desperately need. Among the ruins of ancient Rome, the small churches of Assisi, and the rolling hills of Tuscany, Sophia hopes to show her girls that the bonds of family are everything, and to remind them that they



can always lean on one another, before it's too late. Here is *PW's* takeaway “the novel is carried by the rich interactions between the women, as well as the lush Italian landscape, city descriptions, and culinary pleasures. Probst consistently charms.”

Robson, Jennifer. [Our Darkest Night](#)
(William Morrow \$17.99)

It is the autumn of 1943, and life is becoming increasingly perilous for Italian Jews like the Mazin family. With Nazi Germany now occupying most of her beloved homeland, and the threat of imprisonment and deportation growing ever more certain, Antonina Mazin has but one hope to survive: to leave Venice and her beloved parents and hide in the countryside with a man she has only just met. Nico Gerardi was studying for the priesthood until circumstances forced him to leave the seminary to run his family's farm. A moral and just man, he could not stand by when the fascists and Nazis began taking innocent lives. Rather than risk a perilous escape across the mountains, Nina will pose as his new bride. And to keep her safe and protect secrets of his own, Nico and Nina must convince prying eyes they are happily married and in love.

Smith, Michael Farris. [Nick](#)
(Little, Brown \$27)

Before Nick Carraway moved to West Egg and into Gatsby's periphery, he was at the center of a very different story—one taking place along the trenches and deep within the tunnels of World War I. An epic portrait of a truly singular era and a sweeping, romantic story of self-discovery, this rich and imaginative novel breathes new life into a character that many know but few have pondered deeply. Charged with enough alcohol, heartbreak, and profound yearning to paralyze even the heartiest of golden age scribes, *Nick* reveals the man behind the narrator who has captivated readers for decades.

Solomon, Rachel Lynn. [The Ex-Talk](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Shay Goldstein has been a producer at her Seattle public radio station for nearly a decade, and she can't imagine working anywhere else. But lately it's been a constant clash between her and her newest colleague, Dominic Yun, who's fresh off a journalism master's program and convinced he knows every-

thing about public radio. When the struggling station needs a new concept, Shay proposes a show that her boss green-lights with excitement. On *The Ex Talk*, two exes will deliver relationship advice live, on air. Their boss decides Shay and Dominic are the perfect co-hosts, given how much they already despise each other. While neither Shay nor Dominic is crazy about the idea, it's this or the unemployment line.

Sullivan, Sophie. [Ten Rules for Faking It](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

As birthdays go, this year's for radio producer Everly Dean hit rock-bottom. Worse than the "tonsillectomy birthday." Worse than the birthday her parents decided to split (the first time). But catching your boyfriend cheating on you with his assistant? Even clichés sting. But this is Everly's year! She won't let her anxiety hold her back. She'll pitch her podcast idea to her boss. There's just one problem. Her boss, Chris, is *very cute*. (Of course). Also, he's extremely distant (which means he hates her, right? Or is that the anxiety talking)? And, Stacey the DJ didn't mute the mic during Everly's rant about Simon the Snake (syn: *Cheating Ex*). That's three problems. Suddenly, people are lining up to date her, Bachelorette-style, fans are voting (*Reminder: never leave house again*), and her interest in Chris might be a two-way street. It's a lot for a woman who could gold medal in people-avoidance. She's going to have to fake it 'till she makes it to get through all of this.



Tschida, Sam. [Siri, Who Am I?](#) (Quirk \$15.99)

Mia might look like a Millennial but for all practical purposes, she was born yesterday. Emerging from a coma with short-term amnesia after an accident, Mia can't remember her own name until the Siri assistant on her iPhone provides it. Using Instagram and Uber, Mia retraces her steps after leaving the hospital and arrives at the pink duplex she calls home in her posts, where she finds Max, a cute, off-duty postdoc supplementing his income with a house-sitting gig. He tells her the house belongs to JP, a French billionaire with

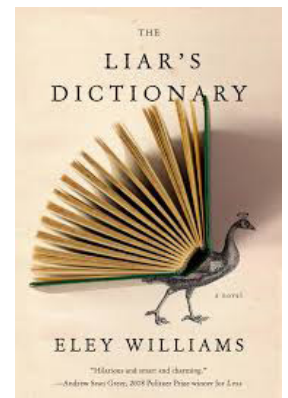
a chocolate empire. A few texts later, JP confirms her wildest dreams: they are in love, Mia is living the good life, and he'll be back that weekend. But as Mia and Max work backward through her Instagram and across Los Angeles to learn more about her, they discover an ugly truth behind her perfect Instagram feed, and evidence that her head wound was no accident. *Kirkus* summed up this clever suspense novel with "Tschida's a deft hand at characterization and dialogue; characters jump off the page and interact in interesting ways. The mystery isn't easily solved, and the journey to the solution is clever and enjoyable."

Walker, Anne Marie. [Happy Singles Day](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99)

As a Certified Professional Organizer, everything in Paige Parker's world is as it should be. Perfect apartment, perfect office, perfect life. And now, the perfect vacation planned to honor Singles Day. After all, what's better than celebrating her pride in being single? As the owner of a now-dormant bed & breakfast, Lucas Croft's life is simple and quiet. It's only him and his five-year-old daughter, which is just the way he likes it. Because who needs a woman anyway? No thanks. His life is fine just the way it is. But when Paige books a room that Lucas' well-intentioned sister listed without his knowledge, their two worlds collide. If they can survive the week together, they just might discover exactly what they've both been missing.

Williams, Eley. [The Liar's Dictionary](#) (Doubleday \$26.95)

Peter Winceworth, Victorian lexicographer, is toiling away at the letter *S* for *Swansby's* *multivolume Encyclopaedic Dictionary*. His disaffection compels him to insert unauthorized fictitious entries into the dictionary in an attempt to assert some sense of individual purpose and artistic freedom. In the present day, Mallory, a young intern employed by the publisher, is tasked with uncovering these *mountweazels before the work is digitized*. She also has to contend with *threatening phone calls from an anonymous caller*. *Is the change in the definition*



of marriage really that upsetting? And does the caller really intend for the Swansby's staff to <burn in hell>? As these two narratives combine, both Winceworth and Mallory discover how they might negotiate the complexities of the often nonsensical, relentless, untrustworthy, hoax-strewn, and undefinable path we call life. Award-winning short story writer Williams was inspired to write this fascinating story by the "idea of a lexicographer going rogue, even if in a very small way." William's debut novel, which has been called a "literary whodunit, a comedy of intentional errors, and a paean to romance and rebellion" has been getting a lot of critical play including from *BookPage*, which said it is a "smart, funny, passionate exploration of how language can serve, challenge or define us. It's also a testament to the power of speaking up and using our voices, whether on the page, in our own heads or out loud."

Wilson, Abigail. [The Vanishing at Loxby Manor](#) (Thomas Nelson \$16.99)

After five years abroad, Charity Halliwell finally returns to Loxby Manor, the home of dear friends, and her lost love. But instead of the healing and happiness she hopes to find, she encounters a darkness lurking in the shadows of the once-familiar house. When her friend, Seline, disappears the very night of her arrival, Charity is determined to uncover the truth.

Branded a coward, Piers Cavanaugh has lived the last five years as an outcast far from his family home. When his sister presumably elopes with a stable hand, Piers joins forces with an unlikely partner: Charity, the one woman he thought he'd never see again. Together they launch an investigation that leads to strange nightly meetings in the ruins of an old abbey and disturbing whispers of a secret organization. The more they learn, the more desperate the situation becomes. Miss those marvelous old gothics by Victoria Holt and Phyliss A, Whitney? Well, they're back.

Youngson, Anne. [The Narrowboat Summer](#) (Flatiron \$26.99)

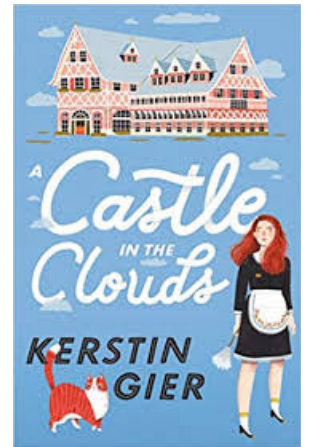
Meet Eve, who has left her thirty-year career to become a Free Spirit; Sally, who has waved goodbye to her indifferent husband and two grown-up children; and Anastasia, a defiantly independent narrowboat-dweller, who is suddenly landlocked and vulnerable. Before they quite know what they've done, Sally and Eve agree to drive Anastasia's narrowboat

on a journey through the canals of England, as she awaits a life-saving operation. As they glide gently – and not so gently – through the countryside, the eccentricities and challenges of narrowboat life draw them inexorably together, and a tender and unforgettable story unfolds.

Teen

Gier, Kerstin. [A Castle in the Clouds](#) (Henry Holt \$19.99)

Way up in the Swiss mountains, there's an old grand hotel steeped in tradition and faded splendor. Once a year, when the famous New Year's Eve Ball takes place and guests from all over the world arrive, excitement returns to the vast hallways. Sophie, who works at the hotel as an intern, is busy making sure that everything goes according to plan. But unexpected problems keep arising, and some of the guests are not who they pretend to be.



Very soon, Sophie finds herself right in the middle of a perilous adventure—and at risk of losing not only her job, but also her heart.

Lord, Emery. [The Map from Here to There](#) (Bloomsbury \$17.99)

It's senior year, and Paige Hancock is finally living her best life. She has a fun summer job, great friends, and a super charming boyfriend who totally gets her. But senior year also means big decisions. Weighing "the rest of her life," Paige feels her anxiety begin to pervade every decision she makes. Everything is exactly how she always wanted it to be—how can she leave it all behind next year? In her head, she knows there is so much more to experience after high school. But in her heart, is it so terrible to want everything to stay the same forever?

Paulsen, Gary. [Gone to the Woods](#) (FSG \$17.99)

His name is synonymous with high-stakes wilderness survival stories such as *Hatchet*. Now beloved author Gary Paulsen, a three-time Newberry Honor win-

ner, portrays a series of life-altering moments from his turbulent childhood as his own original survival story. If not for his summer escape from a shockingly neglectful Chicago upbringing to a North Woods homestead at age five, there never would have been a Hatchet. Without the encouragement of the librarian who handed him his first book at age thirteen, he may never have become a reader. And without his desperate teenage enlistment in the Army, he would not have discovered his true calling as a storyteller. A moving and enthralling story of grit and growing up.

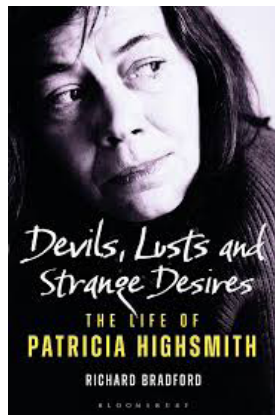
Sharpe, Tess. [The Girl's I've Been](#)
(Putnam \$18.99)

Nora O'Malley's been a lot of girls. As the daughter of a con-artist who targets criminal men, she grew up as her mother's protégé. But when mom fell for the mark instead of conning him, Nora pulled the ultimate con: escape. For five years now Nora's been playing at normal. But she needs to dust off the skills she ditched because she has three problems: #1: Her ex walked in on her with her girlfriend. Even though they're all friends, Wes didn't know about her and Iris. #2: The morning after Wes finds them kissing, they all have to meet to deposit the fundraiser money they raised at the bank. It's a nightmare that goes from awkward to deadly, because: #3: Right after they enter bank, two guys start robbing it. The bank robbers may be trouble, but Nora's something else entirely. They have no idea who they're really holding hostage.

Nonfiction

Bradford, Richard. [Devils, Lusts, and Strange Desires](#)
(Bloomsbury \$30)

Made famous by the great success of her psychological thrillers including *The Talented Mr. Ripley* and *Strangers on a Train*, Highsmith is lauded as one of the most influential and celebrated writers of suspense. However, there has never been a clear picture of the woman behind the books. In this new biography, which is being published to honor the 100th anniversary of Highsmith's birth, Bradford brings his sharp, incisive



storytelling style to tell the tale of one of the greatest and most controversial writers of the twentieth century.

Cameron, Julia. [The Listening Path](#)
(St. Martin's \$17.99)

The "Godmother" of creativity and best-selling author of forty books, including *The Artist's Way*, provides readers with a six-week plan and the tools they need to become better listeners, explaining how intentional listening can provide healing, insight and clarity and transform the creative process.

Clark, Roy Peter. [Murder Your Darlings](#)
(Little, Brown \$16.99)

With so many excellent writing guides lining bookstore shelves, it can be hard to know where to look for the best advice. Should you go with Natalie Goldberg or Anne Lamott? Maybe William Zinsser or Stephen King would be more appropriate. Then again, what about the classics -- Strunk and White, or even Aristotle himself? Thankfully, your search is over. In *Murder Your Darlings*, Roy Peter Clark, who has been a beloved and revered writing teacher to children and Pulitzer Prize winners alike for more than thirty years, has compiled a remarkable collection of more than 100 of the best writing tips from fifty of the best writing books of all time. With a chapter devoted to each key strategy, Clark expands and contextualizes the original author's suggestions and offers anecdotes about how each one helped him or other writers sharpen their skills. An invaluable resource for writers of all kinds, *Murder Your Darlings* is an inspiring and edifying ode to the craft of writing.

Duster, Michelle. [Ida B: The Queen](#)
(Atria \$27)

Ida B. the Queen tells the awe-inspiring story of a pioneering woman who was often overlooked and underestimated; a woman who refused to exit a train car meant for white passengers; a woman brought to light the horrors of lynching in America; a woman who cofounded the NAACP. Written by Wells's great-granddaughter Michelle Duster, this "warm remembrance of a civil rights icon" (*Kirkus Reviews*) is a unique visual celebration of Wells's life, and of the Black experience.

Stewart, Martha. [Martha Stewart's Very Good Things](#)
(HMH \$30)

The premier American lifestyle expert and television personality shares practical tips and clever solutions for making life easier and more delicious such as infusing vinegar with herb blossoms and using lip balm to free a stuck zipper.

Wilcox, Claire. [Patch Work](#)
(Bloomsbury \$26)

In *Patch Work*, Wilcox, who has worked as a curator in Fashion at the Victoria & Albert Museum, deftly stitches together her dedicated study of fashion with the story of her own life lived in and through clothes. From her mother's black wedding suit to the swirling patterns of her own silk kimono, her memoir unfolds in luminous prose the spellbinding power of the things we wear: their stories, their secrets, their power to transform and disguise and acts as portals to our pasts; the ways in which they measure out our lives, our gains and losses, and the ways we use them to write our stories.

Winchester, Simon. [Land](#)
(Harper \$29.99)

The author of *The Perfectionists* explores the concept of land ownership and how it has shaped history, examining how people fight over, steward and occasionally share land, and what humanity's proprietary relationship with land means for the future. The book is filled with fascinating facts such as that the top 100 land billionaires in the U.S. own the same amount of land that comprises the state of Florida. *PW* called Winchester's latest "entertaining and erudite" while *Kirkus* said "engaging revelations about land and property, often discouraging but never dull."

