

Midmonth BookNotes

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4014 N. Goldwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(888) 560-9919 • (480) 947-2974

poisonedpen.com • sales@poisonedpen.com

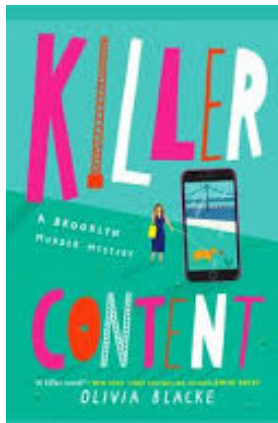


Fall in Love with a Good Book

Cozy Corner

Blacke, Olivia. [Killer Content](#)
(Penguin \$16)

Bayou transplant Odessa Dean has a lot to learn about life in Brooklyn. So far she's scored a rent free apartment in one of the nicest neighborhoods around by cat-sitting, and has a new job working at Untapped Books & Café. Hand-selling books and craft beers is easy for Odessa, but things turn more sour than an IPA when the death of a fellow waitress goes viral, caught on camera in the background of a couple's flash-mob proposal video. Nothing about Bethany's death feels right to Odessa--neither her sudden departure mid-shift nor the clues that only Odessa seems to catch. As an up-and-coming YouTube star, Bethany had more than one viewer waiting for her to fall from grace. Determined to prove there's a killer on the loose, Odessa takes matters into her own hands. But can she pin down Bethany's killer before they take Odessa offline for good? *Kirkus* gave this a rave saying "Blacke's quirky characters and offbeat plot twists allow her debut to work some pleasing variations on the theme. Refreshing fare."



Flower, Amanda. [Farm to Trouble](#)
(Sourcebooks \$8.99)

Shiloh Bellamy cashed in her big city job and 401K to return home to Michigan to save the family farm,

but turning Bellamy Farms into a sustainable, organic operation—complete with a farm-to-table café—is no small feat. Especially when her new investor is found dead among the flowers just hours after the contract is signed. Everyone knows her father had a grudge against the investor, and word travels fast in a small town. Now, Shiloh must clear her family's name and track down the real killer before her organic farm dreams wilt before her very eyes. *PW* ended their review of this start to a charming new series saying "With a full complement of insecurities, along with a nice sense of humor, Shiloh is a winning lead. Flower ticks all the requisite boxes: a good man, a bad man, a mean woman, a small town, and family conflict. Cozy fans will be enchanted."

Hannah, Darci. [Murder at the Beacon Bakeshop](#)
(Kensington \$8.99)

After Lindsey Bakesell catches her celebrity chef fiancé in the arms of another woman, she dumps the cheating chump and leaves Wall Street to pursue her dreams of becoming a pastry chef in the small town of Beacon Harbor, Michigan. Once there, Lindsey sets about creating a new home for herself and her Newfoundland dog, Wellington while converting an old, run-down lighthouse into a bakery/café. But not everyone in town has a sweet tooth. The preservation society won't have the lighthouse's history sugar coated by lattes and cakes--and a protest group crashes Lindsey's Memorial Day opening. Then her ex-fiancé Jeffrey Plank and his girlfriend Mia Wong arrive to trash the place. In the ensuing chaos Mia chokes on a donut and dies. An autopsy reveals cyanide in Mia's bloodstream and Lindsey is the police's prime suspect. To clear her name, she's going to need to combine ingredients found in the town's checkered past to uncover the identity of a desperate killer. I love the

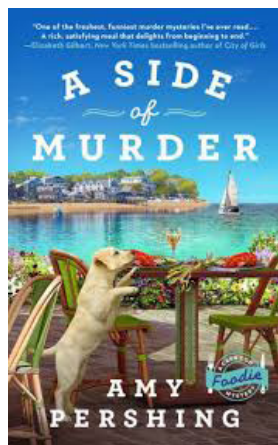
way *Kirkus* summed up the appeal of this deliciously fun cozy “Red herrings, romance, and yummy recipes combine in this charming new series debut.”

Maxwell, Alyssa. [A Sinister Service](#)
(Kensington \$26)

To celebrate their grandparents’ wedding anniversary, Lady Phoebe Renshaw and her siblings travel to Staffordshire to commission a china service bearing the Wroxly coat of arms from the venerated Crown Lily Potteries, a favorite of Queen Mary. The two leading designers at the illustrious china manufacturer offer competing patterns. But when one of them is found dead—his body crushed in a grinding pan and his design pattern book missing—his rival is immediately suspected. The police are also suspicious of the dead designer’s resentful young son, a schoolmate of Phoebe’s fifteen-year-old brother Fox. When Fox gets involved to help his friend, Phoebe begins to investigate the rival artist, and at the same time, Phoebe’s maid Eva goes undercover at the works so she can gain the confidence of the female employees, who are only allowed to paint, not design, which may have led to a grudge against the victim. Pursuing a killer who has no compunction about using a kiln as a coffin, Phoebe and Eva take their lives into their hands to discover the shattering truth. Fans of 1920s-set cozy mysteries who are unfamiliar with Maxwell’s “A Lady and a Lady’s Maid” series, will definitely want to add the author’s latest, which offers a truly fascinating look at the pottery and porcelain manufacturing business, to their reading lists.

Pershing, Amy. [A Side of Murder](#)
(Berkley \$7.99)

Samantha Barnes was always a foodie. So when the CIA (that’s the Culinary Institute of America) came calling, she happily traded in Cape Cod for the Big Apple. Soon the young chef is a rising star in the city’s food scene; until a feud with another chef (her ex) boils over and goes viral. So when Sam inherits her Great-Aunt Ida’s house on the Cape and lands a job writing restaurant reviews, it seems like the perfect pairing. What could go wrong? Well, as it turns out, a lot. The dilapidated



house comes with an enormous puppy. Her new boss is, well, bossy. And the town’s new harbormaster is none other than her first love. Nonetheless, Sam’s looking forward to testing her inner food critic at the Bayview Grille; and indeed the seafood chowder is divine. But the body floating in the pond outside the eatery was not on the menu. Though the drowning is called an accident, Sam is certain it’s murder. And as she begins to stir the pot, it becomes terrifyingly clear that she may be writing the recipe for her own untimely demise. Here is *Kirkus*’s take “Cape Cod provides a stunning background for a debut that offers the ideal combination of mystery, romance, and recipes.” So, something for everyone, then.

Classics Redux

Is one of your 2021 New Year’s resolutions “to read more classics?” Well now you can with these lovely new hardcover editions from Penguin Vitea series.

Alcott, Louisa May. [Little Women](#)
(Penguin \$30)

Meg - the sweet-tempered one. Jo - the smart one. Beth - the shy one. Amy - the sassy one. Together they’re the March sisters. Their father is away at war and times are difficult, but the bond between the sisters is strong. Through sisterly squabbles, happy times and sad, their four lives follow different paths, and that discover the growing up is sometimes very hard to do. . .

Alcott’s beloved classic, which chronicles the joys and sorrows of the four March sisters as they grow into young ladies in nineteenth-century New England, comes with an introduction by National Book Award-winning author and musician Patti Smith.

Arenas, Reinaldo. [Before Night Falls](#)
(Penguin \$28)

This memoir about being free—sexually, politically and artistically—chronicles the tumultuous yet luminary life of the author, from his poverty-stricken childhood in rural Cuba to his imprisonment as a homosexual to the events leading to his death in New York.

Hughes, Langston. [Not Without Laughter](#)
(Penguin \$25)

When first published in 1930, *Not Without Laughter* established Langston Hughes as not only a brilliant poet and leading light of the Harlem Renaissance but also a gifted novelist. In telling the story of Sandy Rogers, a young African American boy in small-town Kansas, and of his family: his mother, Annjee, a housekeeper for a wealthy white family; his irresponsible father, Jimboy, who plays the guitar and travels the country in search of employment; his strong-willed grandmother Hager, who clings to her faith; his Aunt Temy, who marries a rich man; and his Aunt Harriet, who struggles to make it as a blues singer; Hughes gives the longings and lineaments of black life in the early twentieth century an important place in the history of our country. Includes an introduction by National Book Award finalist Angela Flournoy.

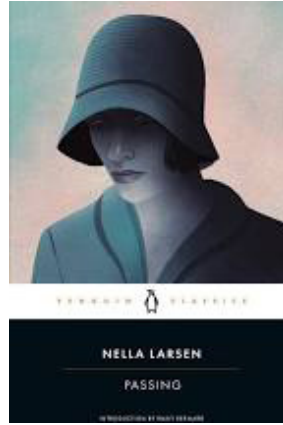
Jackson, Shirley. [We Have Always Lived in the Castle](#)
(Penguin \$26)

Merricat Blackwood lives on the family estate with her sister Constance and her uncle Julian. Not long ago there were seven Blackwoods—until a fatal dose of arsenic found its way into the sugar bowl one terrible night. Acquitted of the murders, Constance has returned home, where Merricat protects her from the curiosity and hostility of the villagers. Their days pass in happy isolation until cousin Charles appears. Only Merricat can see the danger, and she must act swiftly to keep Constance from his grasp. Taking readers deep into a labyrinth of dark neurosis, *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* is perhaps the crowning achievement of Shirley Jackson's brilliant career, and it is now available with an introduction by Jonathan Lethem, author of *Motherless Brooklyn* among other novels.

Kang, Younghill. [East Goes West](#)
(Penguin \$28)

Having fled Japanese-occupied Korea for the gleaming promise of the United States with nothing but four dollars and a suitcase full of Shakespeare to his name, the young, idealistic Chungpa Han arrives in a New York teeming with expatriates, businessmen, students, scholars, and indigents. Part picaresque adventure, part shrewd social commentary, *East Goes West* casts a sharply satirical eye on the demands and perils of assimilation.

Larsen, Nella. [Passing](#)
(Penguin \$24)



Clare Kendry, a beautiful light-skinned African American woman married to a white man who is unaware of her heritage, has a reunion with a childhood friend, which forces her to confront her lies about her past. This powerful and tragic tale about the fluidity of racial identity includes an introduction by Emily Bernard.

Lorde, Audre. [Sister Outsider](#)
(Penguin \$26)

This collection of the essential writings of black lesbian poet and feminist writer Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider* celebrates an influential voice in twentieth-century literature, with a foreword by Mahogany L. Browne.

Welch, James. [Winter in the Blood](#)
(Penguin \$24)

During his life, James Welch came to be regarded as a master of American prose, and his first novel, *Winter in the Blood*, is one of his most enduring works. The narrator of this beautiful, often disquieting novel is a young Native American man living on the Fort Belknap Reservation in Montana. Sensitive and self-destructive, he searches for something that will bind him to the lands of his ancestors but is haunted by personal tragedy, the dissolution of his once proud heritage, and Montana's vast emptiness.

Wharton, Edith. [The Age of Innocence](#)
(Penguin \$28)

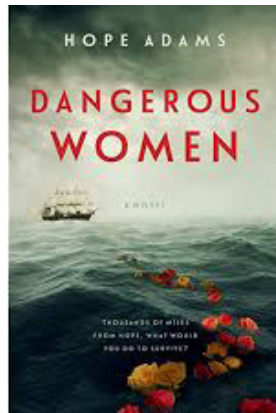
Winner of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize, *The Age of Innocence* is Edith Wharton's masterful portrait of desire and betrayal during the sumptuous Golden Age of Old New York, a time when society people "dreaded scandal more than disease." This is Newland Archer's world as he prepares to marry the beautiful but conventional May Welland. But when the mysterious Countess Ellen Olenska returns to New York after a disastrous marriage, Archer falls deeply in love with her. Torn between duty and passion, Archer strug-

gles to make a decision that will either courageously define his life—or mercilessly destroy it. This edition includes an introduction by Elif Bateman, Pulitzer Prize finalist and National Book Award winning-author and critic.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Adams, Hope. [Dangerous Women](#)
(Berkley \$26)

One day in 1841, one hundred eighty Englishwomen file aboard the *Rajah*, embarking on a three-month voyage from London to the other side of the world. They're daughters, sisters, mothers—and convicts being transported for their petty crimes. Except one of them has a deadly secret, and will do anything to flee justice. As the *Rajah* sails farther from land, the women forge a tenuous kinship. Until, in the middle of the cold and unforgiving sea, a young mother is mortally wounded, and the hunt is on for the assailant before he or she strikes again.



Each woman called in for question has something to fear: Will she be attacked next? Will she be believed? Because far from land, there is nowhere to flee, and how can you prove innocence when you've already been found guilty? Of this debut, *PW* said “readers who like their historical mysteries well-grounded in real history will be rewarded.

Alexander, Kianna. [Never Let Me Go](#)
(Sourcebooks \$8.99)

Architect Maxwell Devers is laser-focused on winning the contract to build a new cultural arts center—his biggest project yet. But as a single dad of a beautiful baby girl, he has to find some help if he's going to stay on track. Yvonne Markham is thrilled to get her first nanny assignment. She knows the high-paying job will speed her progress toward owning a child care center of her own. Maxwell's daughter is a delight, and she quickly comes to love the bouncing baby girl. Falling for her handsome new boss, however, was not part of the plan.

Alexander, V.S. [The Sculptress](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

The elegant streets of Boston in May of 1917 are thousands of miles away from the carnage of the Western Front. Yet even here, amid the clatter of horse-drawn carriages and automobiles, it is impossible to ignore the war raging across Europe. Emma Lewis Swan's husband, Tom, has gone to France, eager to do his duty as a surgeon. Emma, a sculptress, has stayed behind, pursuing her art despite being dismissed by male critics. On the bustling sidewalk she spies a returned soldier. His brutally scarred face inspires first pity, and then something more—a determination to use her skill to make masks for disfigured soldiers. Once Emma arrives in Paris, she begins crafting intricate, lifelike masks to restore these wounded men to the world. But in the course of her new career she will encounter one man who compels her to confront the secret she's never revealed, not even to her husband Tom.

Andersen, Susan. [The Ballad of Hattie Taylor](#)
(Berkley \$16)

In the small, bustling town of Mattawa, Oregon, the turn of the century offers a new kind of frontier for women: a vast and exciting range of possibilities—to a point. It's a time for change, and no one is more eager to embrace new paths than free-spirited outsider Hattie Taylor. If only she could embrace Jake Murdock too. Jake can't remember a time he was so confused. Hattie is off-limits. The provoking spitfire is under his mother's protection—his protection—and he has always belonged to another. But now, with the passing of his wife, Jake feels something shift between them. *PW* gave this a star saying “Andersen loads this addictive historical romance with charismatic characters and well-handled drama.”

Christian, Claire. [It's Been a Pleasure, Noni Blake](#)
(MIRA \$16.99)

Of all the women and men Noni Blake has pleased in her life, there's one she's often overlooked: herself. After the end of a decade-long relationship, Noni decides it's time for that to change. She's finally going to prioritize her wants and desires and only do things (and people) that feel good in the moment. As Noni Blake embarks on a pleasure-seeking quest that takes her halfway around the world, she discovers that maybe she can have everything, and everyone, she's

ever wanted. This “vibrant story of self-discovery” is “both a celebration of pleasure and a dissection of the restrictions people place on their own lives.” (PW)

Cosimano, Elle. [Finlay Donovan is Killing It](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

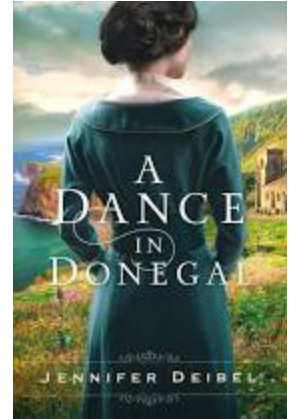
Finlay Donovan is not killing it. Her ex-husband Steve is playing financial hardball with Finlay ever since she dumped him for cheating on her with a bimbo real estate agent. Finlay's two preschool children are a handful at the best of times, but now without her kids' nanny Veronica (who was just dismissed by Steve in a cost-cutting move); Finlay is at her wit's end. So, is it any surprise that Finlay is weeks (okay, months) behind turning in her latest romantic suspense manuscript to her editor? However, when a woman later overhears Finlay talking plot to her editor at a lunch meeting and believes Finlay may be the solution to her own marital problems, things really get interesting. Not since Evelyn E. Smith created genteel, lady hit man Susan Melville with her book *Miss Melville Regrets* has there been such a clever use of the premise of an accidental hit man as a protagonist. Writing with a deliciously acerbic sense of wit and the perfect sense for the ridiculous in life, YA novelist Cosimano, whose teen suspense book *Nearly Gone* was an Edgar nominee, hits all the marks with this fun and funny series debut that is wonderfully reminiscent of Susan Isaacs at her best (think *Compromising Positions*).

Curtis, Melinda. [Dream a Little Dream](#)
(Forever \$8.99)

Darcy Jones Harper is thrilled to have finally shed her reputation as the girl from the wrong side of the tracks. The people of Sunshine Valley have to respect her now that she's the town's new temporary judge. But when Jason Petrie, the bad boy who broke her heart back in high school, shows up in her courtroom, she realizes maybe things haven't changed so much after all . . . because her pulse still races at the sight of him. Jason Petrie wants to make amends for the mistakes of his youth; starting with the woman he never stopped loving. Darcy may not believe that he really intends to quit the bull riding circuit and stick around this time but Jason vows with the help of the matchmaking Widows Club, to pull out all the stops to convince her that they both deserve a second chance.

Deibel, Jennifer. [A Dance in Donegal](#)
(Revell \$15.99)

All of her life, Irish-American Moira Doherty has relished her Irish mother's descriptions of her homeland. When her mother dies unexpectedly in the summer of 1920, Moira accepts the challenge to fulfill her mother's wish that she become the teacher in Ballymann, the village in Donegal, Ireland, where her mother grew up. After an arduous voyage, Moira arrives to a new home and a new job in an ancient country. Though a few locals offer a warm welcome, others seem more distant. Rumors about Moira's mother are unspoken in her presence, but threaten to derail everything she's journeyed to Ballymann to do. Moira must rely on the kindness of a handful of friends—and the strength of an unsettlingly handsome thatcher who keeps popping up unannounced. While Moira learns to trust Sean and his intentions, she struggles to navigate a life she'd never dreamed of . . . but perhaps was meant to live.



Edmondson, Lauren. [Ladies of the House](#)
(Graydon \$16.99)

When it's revealed in dramatic fashion that Daisy Richardson's esteemed father, a successful U.S. senator, had been involved in a public scandal before his untimely death, Daisy's life becomes complicated. For one thing, the Richardsons must now sell the family home in Georgetown they can no longer afford. Daisy's younger sister, Wallis, is ready to move on to bigger and better things but then falls fast and hard for the most inconvenient person possible. And then there's Atlas, Daisy's best friend. She's always wished they could spend more time together, but now Atlas is writing an exposé on the one subject Daisy's been desperate to avoid: her father. Daisy's plan is to maintain a low profile as she works to keep her family intact amid social exile, public shaming, and quickly dwindling savings. But the spotlight always seems to find the Richardsons, and when another twist in the scandal comes to light, Daisy must confront the consequences of her continued silence and summon the courage to stand up and accept the power of her own voice. Edmondson's charming and witty debut

transports Jane Austen's *Sense and Sensibility* to contemporary Washington, D.C.

Ellis, Bella. [The Diabolical Bones](#)
(Berkley \$16)

It's been six months since the "case of the vanished bride," and the Brontë sisters- Anne, Emily, and Charlotte-have received a steady dribble of inquiries made to Bell Brothers and Company solicitors, but nothing to really thrill them. Having found a publisher for their poems, they turn their attention toward writing a full-length novel, deciding to put their covert careers as detectors behind them. But on a bitterly cold February evening their housekeeper Tabby tells them of a grim discovery at Scar Top House, an old farmhouse belonging to the Bradshaw family, positioned at the very top of the moor. The old home is being enlarged to meet the newly enriched family's elevated status and a set of bones has been found bricked up in a chimney breast. Bella Ellis, a pseudonym for acclaimed author Rowan Coleman, launched her new series featuring the sleuthing Brontë sisters with [The Vanished Bride](#) (Berkley \$16)

Everett, Elizabeth. [A Lady's Formula for Love](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Lady Violet is keeping secrets. First, she founded a clandestine sanctuary for England's most brilliant female scientists. Second, she is using her genius on a confidential mission for the Crown. But the biggest secret of all? Her feelings for protection officer Arthur Kneland. Solitary and reserved, Arthur learned the hard way to put duty first. But the more time he spends in the company of Violet and the eccentric club members, the more his best intentions go up in flames. Literally. When a shadowy threat infiltrates Violet's laboratories, endangering her life and her work, scientist and bodyguard will find all their theories put to the test--and learn that the most important discoveries are those of the heart. Fans of Deanna Raybourn's Veronica Speedwell books or Lauren Willig's Pink Carnation series will want to check out this fun new series debut.

Gailey, Sarah. [The Echo Wife](#)
(Tor \$24.99)

Evelyn Caldwell's husband Nathan has been having an affair - with Evelyn Caldwell. Or, to be exact, with a genetically cloned replica. After a morning that

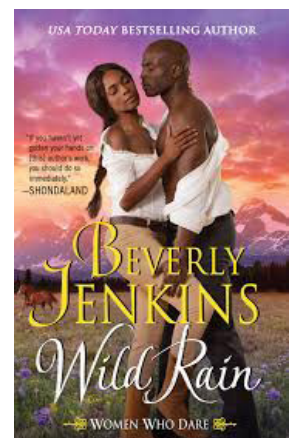
begins with a confrontation and ends with Nathan's body bleeding out on the kitchen floor, the two Caldwell wives will have to think fast-before sharing everything includes sharing a jail cell. Gailey's "story unspools as a series of dark reveals that leave both the characters and the audience reeling. Readers won't want to put this one down." (PW)

Grass, Tom. [Twist](#)
(Pegasus \$25.95)

Eighteen-year-old Twist doesn't have much. No money, no home and no family. All he has is his reputation as one of the most daring street artists in London, whose unique skills are matched only by his infamous talent as an urban climber. But when he finds himself on the run from the police, he knows that he could be about to lose the last thing he has left: his freedom. Until he is saved by the mysterious Dodge. When Dodge introduces him to con artist and "art collector" Cornelius Faginescu, Twist realizes that he finally has the chance to be part of something. All he has to do is put aside his moral objections and learn how to steal. PW had this to say "Charles Dickens meets Guy Ritchie in Grass's fast-paced debut set in contemporary London, a reimagining of *Oliver Twist* as a caper novel."

Jenkins, Beverly. [Wild Rain](#)
(Avon \$7.99)

Banished by her grandfather at the age of eighteen, Spring Lee has survived scandal to claim her own little slice of Paradise, Wyoming. She's proud of working her ranch alone and unwilling to share it with a stranger; especially one like Garrett McCray, who makes her second-guess her resolve to avoid men. Garrett escaped slavery years ago and is now a reporter in Washington. He's traveled west to interview Dr. Colton Lee for an article, yet it's Lee's fearless sister, Spring, who captures his interest. Clad in denim and buckskins instead of dresses, she's the most fascinating woman he's ever met. And he's certain she also feels the connection that sizzles between them. But when a shadow from Spring's past returns, all is on the line: her ranch, her safety,



and this wild, fierce love. *PW* concluded their starred review (just one of many) of Jenkins' latest in her *Women Who Dare* series with "Jenkins has a sure touch with the racism of the era, not letting it derail the escapist romance but also not shying away from harsh realities. Jenkins once again proves why she's a giant of the genre."

Johnson, Nancy. [The Kindest Lie](#)
(William Morrow \$27.99)

Needing to reconnect with the baby she gave up for adoption years earlier, Ruth, an Ivy League-educated Black engineer, uncovers devastating family secrets before her bond with a young white misfit scandalizes her racially torn community. It took award-winning television journalist Nancy Johnson six years to write her debut novel, which is set against the backdrop of President Barack Obama's 2008 presidential election.

Lalli, Sonya. [Serena Singh Flips the Script](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Serena Singh is tired of everyone telling her what she should want-and she is ready to prove to her mother, her sister, and the aunties in her community that a woman does not need domestic bliss to have a happy life. Smart, confident, and with a kick-ass new job at a top advertising firm in Washington, D.C., everything is going according to her plan when Serena realizes that she has been so focused on career success that she has let all of her hobbies and close friendships fall by the wayside. As Serena reconnects with her family and friends-including her ex-boyfriend-she learns letting people in to her life can make her happier than standing all on her own.

Mallery, Susan. [The Vineyard at Painted Moon](#)
(HQN \$27.99)

Mackenzie Dienes seems to have it all: a beautiful home, close friends and a successful career as an elite winemaker with the family winery. There's just one problem: everything in her life is tied to husband: his mother is the closest thing to a mom that she's ever had, their home is on the family compound, his sister is her best friend. So when she and her husband admit their marriage is over, her pain goes beyond heartbreak. Mackenzie is on the brink of losing everything. Her job, her home, her friends and, worst of all, her family. Staying is an option. She can continue to work at the winery, be friends with

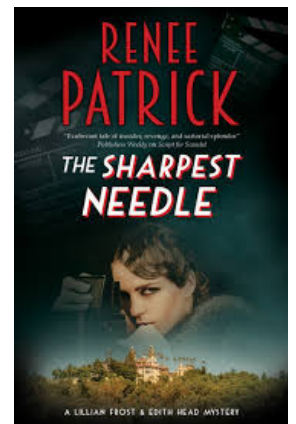
her mother-in-law, hug her nieces and nephews, but as an employee, nothing more. Or she can surrender every piece of her heart in order to build a legacy of her own. If she can dare to let go of the life she thought she wanted, she might discover something even more beautiful waiting for her beneath a painted moon.

Memon, Lily. [Make Up Break Up](#)
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

Love, romance, second chances, fairy-tale endings... these are the things Annika Dev believes in. Her app, *Make Up*, has been called the "Google Translate for failing relationships." High efficiency break-ups, flashy start-ups, penthouses, fast cars...these are the things Hudson Craft believes in. His app, *Break Up*, is known as the "Uber for break-ups." It's wildly successful—and anathema to Annika's life philosophy. Which wouldn't be a problem if they'd gone their separate ways after that summer fling in Las Vegas, never to see each other again. Unfortunately for Annika, Hudson's moving not just into her office building, but into the office right next to hers. *And* he'll be competing at the prestigious EPIC investment pitch contest: A contest Annika needs to win if she wants to keep *Make Up* afloat.

Patrick, Renee. [The Sharpest Needle](#)
(Severn House \$28.99)

The fourth superb addition to Renee Patrick's Lillian Frost and Edith Head series is another corking good read. No one conjures up the magic and glamour of Golden Age Hollywood quite like the husband and wife writing team known as Renee Patrick, and their latest stellar effort is an entertaining tale of poisoned pen letters that lead to murder. Once again, the authors' commendable attention to detail and the effortless manner in which they incorporate historical tidbits and movie gossip into the storyline pays off in a fascinating plot that will make you want to learn more about Marion Davies, W.R. Hearst, and plan a trip to San Simeon whenever that is next possible. Mix in their delightfully dry sense of wit, and you have a mystery that for me was practically perfect in every way.



Pearse, Sarah. [The Sanatorium](#)
(Viking \$27)

Half-hidden by forest and overshadowed by threatening peaks, *Le Sommet* has always been a sinister place. Once a sanatorium treating tuberculosis patients, it was abandoned years ago and had fallen into disrepair. Long plagued by troubling rumors, it has recently been renovated into a lavish hotel. An imposing, isolated getaway spot high up in the Swiss Alps is the last place detective Elin Warner wants to be. But Elin's on a career break, scarred by a particularly brutal case she just can't shake. So when her estranged brother, Isaac, and his fiancée, Laure, invite her to celebrate their engagement at the hotel, Elin really has no reason not to accept. But when Elin wakes the following morning to discover Laure is missing, Elin must trust her instincts if they hope to find her. And she soon realizes that Laure is not the first person to have vanished mysteriously from the old sanatorium. Pearse delivers a marvelously creepy sense of atmosphere and a killer ending twist in her addictively readable debut. If you can't get enough of those "small group of people trapped in an isolated location with a killer (i.e. Agatha Christie's *And Then There Were None*, Ruth Ware's *One by One*, Lucy Foley's *The Guest List*, etc.)," you can't afford to miss this.

Rai, Alisha. [First Comes Like](#)
(Avon \$15.99)

Beauty expert and influencer Jia Ahmed has her eye on the prize: conquering the internet today, the entire makeup industry tomorrow, and finally, finally proving herself to her big opinionated family. She has little time for love, and even less time for the men in her private messages, until the day a certain international superstar slides into her DMs, and she falls hard and fast. There's just one wrinkle: he has no idea who she is. The son of a powerful Bollywood family, soap opera star Dev Dixit is used to drama, but a strange woman who accuses him of wooing her online, well, that's a new one. As much as he'd like to focus on his Hollywood fresh start, he can't get Jia out of his head. Especially once he starts to suspect who might have used his famous name to catfish her. When paparazzi blast their private business into the public eye, Dev is happy to engage in some friendly fake dating to calm the gossips and to dazzle her family. But as the whole world swoons over their relationship, Jia can't help but wonder: Can an online

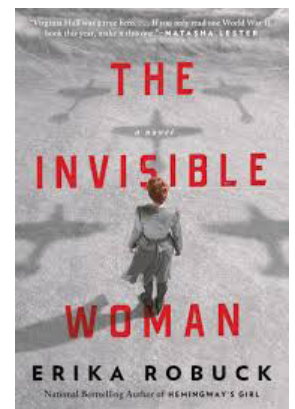
romance-turned-offline-fauxmance ever become love in real life?

Richardson, Evelyn. [Mistress of Fashion: Juliette](#)
(Epicenter \$15.95)

Juliette de Flournoy refuses to be imprisoned by her past — the French Revolution that robbed her family of their heritage, and the rape that left her homeless — comforting herself with her dreams of becoming London's premier *modiste*, and by her friendship with the enterprising ladies off Mrs. Gerrard's, London's most exclusive seraglio. Then she meets Major Lord Adrian Claverton — the hero of her dreams, if she allowed herself to have them. Mrs. Gerrard's ladies do not believe in love, but Juliette is not so sure. Will pride and her stubborn refusal to let anyone take care of her rob her of a chance to find out?

Robuck, Erika. [The Invisible Woman](#)
(Berkley \$16)

France, March 1944. Virginia Hall wasn't like the other young society women back home in Baltimore; she never wanted the debutante ball or silk gloves. Instead, she traded a safe life for adventure in Europe, and when her beloved second home is thrust into the dark days of war, she leaps in headfirst. Once she's recruited as an Allied spy, subverting the Nazis becomes her calling. But even the most cunning agent can be bested, and in wartime trusting the wrong person can prove fatal. Virginia is haunted every day by the betrayal that ravaged her first operation, and will do everything in her power to avenge the brave people she lost.



Russo, Kate. [Super Host](#)
(Putnam \$27)

Bennett Driscoll is a Turner Prize-nominated artist who was once a rising star. Now, at age fifty-five, his wife has left him, he hasn't sold a painting in two years, and his gallery wants to stop selling his work, claiming they'll have more value retrospectively... when he's dead. So, left with a large West London home and no income, he's forced to move into his

artist's studio in the back garden and list his house on the popular vacation rental site, AirBed. A stranger now in his own home, with his daughter, Mia, off at art school, and any new relationships fizzling out at best, Bennett struggles to find purpose in his day-to-day. That all changes when three different guests--lonely American Alicia; tortured artist Emma; and cautiously optimistic divorcée Kirstie--unwittingly unlock the pieces of himself that have been lost to him for too long.

Ryan, Jennifer. [The Kitchen Front](#)
(Ballantine \$28)

Two years into World War II, Britain is feeling her losses: The Nazis have won battles, the Blitz has destroyed cities, and U-boats have cut off the supply of food. In an effort to help housewives with food rationing, a BBC radio program called "The Kitchen Front" is holding a cooking contest; and the grand prize is a job as the program's first-ever female co-host. For four very different women – a young widow, a kitchen maid, a lady of the manor, and a trained chef - winning the contest would present a crucial chance to change their lives. The latest warm and wonderful novel from Ryan includes a smattering of period recipes, and is "certain to delight lovers of historical fiction and TV cooking competitions." (*Kirkus*). I think *Booklist* captured the flavor of this best with its review which concluded "A positively uplifting read that is as soothing as a warm cup of Earl Grey on a gloomy morning. The perfect book for fans of *The Great British Baking Show*."



Simmons, Pat. [Here for You](#)
(Sourcebooks \$12.99)

Rachel Knicely's life has been on hold for six months while she takes care of her great aunt, who has Alzheimer's. Putting her aunt first was an easy decision—accepting that Aunt Tweet is nearing the end of her battle is far more difficult. Nicholas Adams's ministry is bringing comfort to those who are sick and homebound. He responds to a request for help for an ailing woman but when he meets the Knicelys, he realizes Rachel is the one who needs support the most.

Young, Samantha. [Much Ado About You](#)
(Berkley \$16)

At thirty-three-years old Evangeline Starling's life in Chicago is missing that special something. And when she's passed over for promotion at work, Evie realizes she needs to make a change. In a burst of impulsivity, she plans a holiday in a quaint English village. The holiday package comes with a temporary position at Much Ado About Books, the bookstore located beneath her rental apartment. There's no better dream vacation for the bookish Evie, a life-long Shakespeare lover. Not only is Evie swept up in running the delightful store as soon as she arrives, she's drawn into the lives, loves and drama of the friendly villagers. Including Roane Robson, the charismatic and sexy farmer who tempts Evie every day with his friendly flirtations.

Teen Fiction

Boyce, Kristy. [Hot British Boyfriend](#)
(HarperTeen \$11.99)

After a horrifying public rejection by her crush, Ellie Nichols does what any girl would do: she flees the country. To be more precise, she joins her high school's study abroad trip to England. While most of her classmates are there to take honors courses and pad their college applications, Ellie is on a quest to rebuild her reputation and self-confidence. And nothing is more of a confidence booster than getting a hot British boyfriend. When Ellie meets Will, a gorgeous and charming Brit, she vows to avoid making the same mistakes she did with the last guy she liked. Which is why she strikes up a bargain with Dev, an overachieving classmate who she's never clicked with, but who does seem to know a lot about the things Will is interested in: If he helps her win over her crush, then she'll help him win over his. But even as Ellie embarks on a whirlwind romance, she still needs to figure out if this is actually the answer to all her problems . . . and whether the perfect boyfriend is actually the perfect boy for her.

Le, Loan. [A Pho Love Story](#)
(Simon and Schuster \$19.99)

If Bao Nguyen had to describe himself, he'd say he was a rock. Steady and strong, but not particularly interesting. His grades are average, his social status

unremarkable. He works at his parents' pho restaurant, and even there, he is his parents' *fifth* favorite employee. Not ideal. If Linh Mai had to describe herself, she'd say she was a firecracker. Stable when unlit, but full of potential for joy and fire. She loves art and dreams pursuing a career in it. The only problem? Her parents rely on her in ways they're not willing to admit, including working practically full-time at her family's pho restaurant. For years, the Mais and the Nguyens have been at odds, having owned competing, neighboring pho restaurants. But now can Linh and Bao find love in the midst of feuding families and complicated histories?

McGinnis, Mindy. [The Initial Insult](#)
(Katherine Tegen \$17.99)

Ostracized by the elite community of Amontillado, Ohio, after the disappearance of her parents, Tress organizes a Halloween costume party at an abandoned house, where she launches a macabre plan to force a popular former friend to confess what she knows. McGinnis draws inspiration from Edgar Allen Poe for this dark, propulsive mystery that is the first in a YA dualogy. Perfect for fans of *One of Us Is Lying* and *Truly Devious*,

Stamper, Phil. [As Far As You'll Take Me](#)
(Bloomsbury YA \$17.99)

Marty arrives in London with nothing but his oboe and some savings from his summer job, but he's excited to start his new life—where he's no longer the closeted, shy kid who slips under the radar and is free to explore his sexuality without his parents' disapproval. From the outside, Marty's life looks like a perfect fantasy: in the span of a few weeks, he's made new friends, he's getting closer with his first ever boyfriend, and he's even traveling around Europe. But Marty knows he can't keep up the facade. Will Marty be able to find a place that feels like home?



Sutanto, Jesse. [The Obsession](#)
(Sourcebooks Fire \$10.99)

After freeing her mother from an abusive relationship, Delilah Wong refuses to play a part in Logan's delusional romance—but how can she convince him to let her go? Consider this a teen spin on Caroline Kepnes *You*.

Trelease, Gita. [Everything That Burns](#)
(Flatiron Books \$18.99)

As the French revolution ignites Paris, Camille Durbois secretly uses magic to help girls living in society's margins. But when all magicians are declared traitors to France, Camille must decide who she is and what she believes in this sequel to [All That Glitters](#) (Flatiron Books \$11.99)

Watson, Renee. [Love Is a Revolution](#)
(Bloomsbury YA \$18.99)

When Nala Robertson reluctantly agrees to attend an open mic night for her cousin-sister-friend Imani's birthday, she finds herself falling in instant love with Tye Brown, the MC. He's perfect, except . . . Tye is an activist and is spending the summer putting on events for the community when Nala would rather watch movies and try out the new seasonal flavors at the local creamery. In order to impress Tye, Nala tells a few tiny lies to have enough in common with him. As they spend more time together, sharing more of themselves, some of those lies get harder to keep up. As Nala falls deeper into keeping up her lies and into love, she'll learn all the ways love is hard, and how self-love is revolutionary.

Nonfiction

Aaker, Jennifer and Naomi Bagdonas. [Humor, Seriously](#) (Crown \$28)

There exists a mistaken belief in today's corporate world: that we have to be serious all the time in order to be taken seriously. But the research tells a different story: that humor can be one of the most powerful tools we have for accomplishing serious things. Studies show that humor makes us appear more competent and confident, strengthens relationships, unlocks creativity, and boosts our resilience during difficult times. Plus, it fends off a permanent and unsightly frown known as "resting boss face."

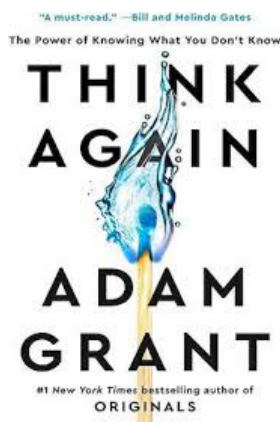
That's why Jennifer Aaker and Naomi Bagdonas teach the popular course *Humor: Serious Business* at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where they help some of the world's most hard-driving, blazer-wearing business minds build levity into their organizations and lives. In *Humor, Seriously*, they draw on findings by behavioral scientists, world-class comedians, and inspiring business leaders to reveal how humor works and—more important—how you can use more of it, better.

Gates, Bill. [How To Avoid Climate Disaster](#)
(Knopf \$26.95)

The technologist, business leader and philanthropist who founded Microsoft draws on the input of experts in physics, chemistry, biology, engineering, political science and finance to create an accessible, concrete plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and avoid certain environmental disaster.

Grant, Adam. [Think Again](#)
(Viking \$28)

The Wharton organizational psychologist and best-selling author of *Originals* examines the critical art of rethinking, explaining how questioning one's opinions and opening the minds of others can promote personal and professional excellence.



Heinecke, Liz. [Radiant](#)
(Grand Central \$28)

At the turn of the century, Paris was a hotbed of creativity. Technology boomed, delivering to the world electric light, the automobile, and new ways to treat disease, while imagination blossomed, creating Art Nouveau, motion pictures, and modernist literature. A pivotal figure during this time, yet largely forgotten today, Loie Fuller was an American performance artist who became a living symbol of the Art Nouveau movement with her hypnotic dances and stunning theatrical effects. Credited today as the pioneer of modern dance, she was perennially broke, never took no for an answer, spent most of her life with a female partner, and never questioned her drive. She was a visionary, a renegade, and a loyal friend. In the early 1900s, she heard about Marie Curie's discovery of a

glowing blue element and dreamed of using it to dazzle audiences on stage. While Loie's dream wouldn't be realized, her connection with Marie and their shared fascination with radium endured. *Radiant* is the true story of Marie Curie and Loie Fuller, two revolutionary women drawn together at the dawn of a new era by a singular discovery, and the lifelong friendship that grew out of their shared passion for enlightenment.

Kross, Ethan. [Chatter](#)
(Crown \$28)

In Buddhism it's referred to as "monkey mind"—that cascade of often critical and judgmental self-talk that runs in a ceaseless loop in our heads. In *Chatter: The Voice in Our Head, Why It Matters, and How to Harness It*, experimental psychologist and neuroscientist Ethan Kross provides a useful introduction to some of the intriguing research on this phenomenon and offers a toolbox full of constructive techniques for quieting our persistent inner voice or, better yet, turning it in a positive direction.