

# Midmonth BookNotes

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## Spring into Good Reading

### Cozy Corner

**Chien, Vivien.** [Fatal Fried Rice](#)

(St. Martin's \$7.99)

When her cooking instructor is found murdered after class, Lana Lee falls under suspicion and launches her own investigation that results in odd, threatening packages sent to Ho-Lee Noodle House from the killer. Fans of this fun and dryly funny series will gobble up the latest tasty installment.

**Childs, Laura.** [Haunted Hibiscus](#)

(Berkley \$26)

After their literary haunted house costume party is disrupted by an untimely double attack, Indigo Tea Shop proprietress Theodosia Browning and her sommelier, Drayton, investigate suspects including a man with a claim to the Bouchard Mansion property. *Kirkus* concluded with "Historic Charleston and a gaggle of interesting helpers make this another winner in this long-running series."

**Collette, Abby.** [A Game of Cones](#)

(Berkley \$16)

Bronwyn Crewse is delighted that Crewse Creamery, the ice cream shop her family has owned for decades, is back in business serving sweet frozen treats to happy customers in the picturesque small town of Chagrin Falls, Ohio. But when a big city developer comes to town intent on building a mall, a killer with a frozen heart takes him out, and now one of Win's closest friends is the prime suspect. Culinary cozy fans will love this new series, which launched last year with [A Deadly Inside Scoop](#) (Berkley \$16).

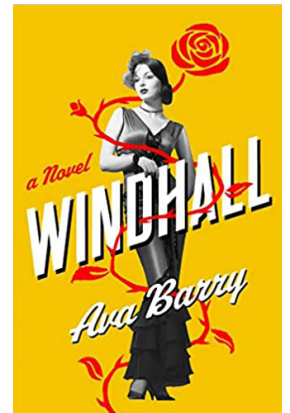
### Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

**Barry, Ava.** [Windhall](#)

(Pegasus \$25.95)

1940s Hollywood was an era of decadence and director Theodore Langley was its king. Paired with Eleanor Hayes as his lead actress, Theo ruled the Golden Age of Hollywood. That ended when Eleanor's mangled body was discovered in Theo's rose garden and he was charged with her murder. The case was thrown out before it went to trial and Theo fled L.A., leaving his crawling estate, Windhall, to fall into ruin. Decades later, investigative journalist Max Hailey, raised by his gran on stories of old Hollywood, is sure that if he could meet Theo, he could prove once and for all that the famed director killed his leading lady.

When a copycat murder takes place near Windhall, the long reclusive Theo returns to L.A., and it seems Hailey finally has his chance. This debut has been collecting starred reviews aplenty including one from *PW* which said "Vibrant characters match the intricate plot. This thrilling mystery is essential reading for fans of Hollywood's golden age." *Booklist's* starred review concluded with "Barry parallels the cutthroat natures of journalism and film, skillfully blending a nuanced millennial perspective with noir shadings and haunted-house atmosphere."



**Blackwell, Juliet.** [Off the Wild Coast of Brittany](#)  
(Berkley \$17)

Natalie Morgen's first book about finding love and food in France (think *Under the Tuscan Sun* but with a French accent) was a best-seller, but now Natalie is struggling with writer's block. Hoping that a change of scenery will provide some much-needed inspiration, Natalie moves into a guesthouse in a small fishing village in Brittany. However, when the love-of-her-life not only ditches Natalie but takes a good chunk of her money with him, any hope of writing something similarly romantic seems impossible. Then Natalie's older sister Alex unexpectedly turns up, and Natalie finds herself forging an unlikely partnership with her estranged sister when the two discover a cookbook hidden in the guesthouse that contains some remarkable details about the region's World War II history.

**Bostwick, Marie.** [The Restoration of Celia Fairchild](#)  
(William Morrow \$16.99)

After her marriage ends, Celia Fairchild – a.k.a. advice columnist “Dear Calpurnia” – thinks her chances of having a family of her own are gone forever. So, when Celia receives an unexpected letter sent to Calpurnia from a woman looking for a good home for her soon-to-be-born baby, she throws herself into proving she's a perfect adoptive mother material with a stable home and income, only to lose her job. Now her one remaining chance to demonstrate her financial viability as a potential parent is to sell the Charleston house left to her by her recently departed, estranged Aunt Calpurnia. However, after arriving in Charleston, Celia learns that Calpurnia had become a hoarder, the house is a wreck, and selling it will require a drastic, rapid makeover. The task of renovation seems overwhelming and risky. But with the help of new neighbors, old friends, and an unlikely sisterhood of strong, creative women who need her as much as she needs them, Celia knits together the truth about her estranged family and about herself.

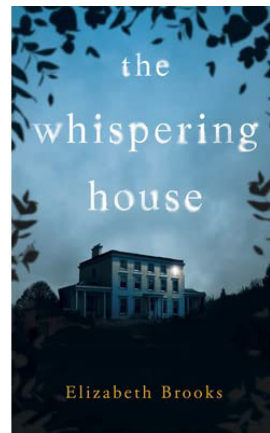
**Brennan, Allison.** [Tell No Lies](#)  
(MIRA \$27.99)

Something mysterious is killing the wildlife in the mountains just south of Tucson. When a college intern turned activist sets out to collect her own evidence, she, too, ends up dead. Local law enforcement is slow to get involved. That's when the mobile

FBI unit goes undercover to infiltrate the town and its copper refinery in search of possible leads. Edgy detective Kara Quinn and loner FBI agent Matt Costa find themselves scouring the desolate landscape, which keeps revealing clues to something much darker: greed, child trafficking and more death. As the body count adds up, it's clear they have stumbled onto much more than they bargained for. Now they must figure out who is at the heart of this mayhem and stop them before more innocent lives are lost.

**Brooks, Elizabeth.** [The Whispering House](#)  
(Tin House Books \$16.95)

Freya Lyell is struggling to move on from her sister Stella's death five years ago. Visiting the bewitching Byrne Hall, only a few miles from the scene of the tragedy, she discovers a portrait of Stella—a portrait



she had no idea existed, in a house Stella never set foot in. Or so she thought. Driven to find out more about her sister's secrets, Freya is drawn into the world of Byrne Hall and its owners: charismatic artist Cory and his sinister, watchful mother. But as Freya lingers in this mysterious, centuries-old house, her relationship with Cory crosses

the line into obsession and the darkness behind the locked doors of the estate threatens to spill out. In this bewitching gothic story, “Brook's lean prose never gets in the way of the plot. This is an exquisite creepy page-turner.” (PW)

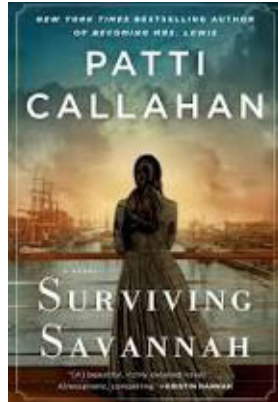
**Bryce, Denny S.** [Wild Women and the Blues](#)  
(Kensington \$15.95)

In this debut novel, Honoree Dalcour, a sharecropper's daughter navigates celebrity encounters, bootlegging and gangster activities in Jazz Age Chicago before sharing her story nearly a century later with Sawyer Hayes, a grieving film student who is desperately trying to finish his doctoral thesis on filmmaker Oscar Micheaux. Filled with cameo appearances from historical figures like Micheaux, Louis Armstrong, and Charlie Chaplin, this is “perfect for fans of light historical fiction led by a complex heroine.” (Kirkus)

**Callahan, Patti.** [Surviving Savannah](#)

(Berkley \$26)

When Savannah history professor Everly Winthrop is asked to guest-curate a new museum collection focusing on artifacts recovered from the steamship *Pulaski*, she can't resist the opportunity to try and solve some of the mysteries surrounding the devastating shipwreck, which occurred when the ship sank after a boiler explosion in 1838. Everly's research leads her to the astounding history of a family of eleven who boarded the *Pulaski* together, and the extraordinary stories of two women from this family: a known survivor, Augusta Longstreet, and her niece, Lilly Forsyth, who, along with her child, was never found. These aristocratic women were part of Savannah's society, but when the ship exploded, each was faced with difficult and heartbreaking decisions. Callahan, author of *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*, based her latest compelling historical novel on the real life sinking of *Pulaski*, called "The *Titanic* of the South," which went down in 1838 with a good number of Savannah's elite members of society on board.



**Cantor, Jillian.** [Half Life](#)

(William Morrow \$26.99)

AZ author Cantor reimagines the life of Marie Curie as told through two parallel timelines, including one that reflects her real-world achievements and another that explores how the world might be different had she made other choices. *PW* had this to say "Cantor's vivid historic background features the first Tour de France and Marie's mobile X-ray units on the WWI front, and her fundraising visit to the U.S. adds enriching historical details. Strong secondary characters contribute to the lively story lines." While *Kirkus* concluded with "Thought-provoking, skillfully written, and hard to put down."

**Colgan, Jenny.** [The Good, the Bad, and the Dumped](#)

(William Morrow \$16.99)

Posy Fairweather is over the moon when her boyfriend Matt proposes in what is probably the most

romantic way possible: on top of a mountain, in a thunderstorm, like something from a Nicholas Sparks novel. But a few days later he dumps her. Crushed and humiliated, Posy wonders why all her romances have always been such train wrecks. Determined to gain some insight, Posy resolves to get online, track down her exes, and *ask* them. Which doors from Posy's past should stay closed? Which might open? Can she learn from past mistakes? And what if she has let Mr. Right slip through her fingers along the way? Miss Helen Fielding and her Bridget Jones books? Then Colgan, with her dry sense of British wit, is your new literary gal-pal.

**Desai, Sara.** [The Dating Plan](#)

(Berkley \$16)

Daisy Patel is a software engineer who understands lists and logic better than bosses and boyfriends. With her life all planned out, and no interest in love, the one thing she can't give her family is the marriage they expect. Left with few options, she asks her childhood crush to be her decoy fiancé. Liam Murphy is a venture capitalist with something to prove. When he learns that his inheritance is contingent on being married, he realizes his best friend's little sister has the perfect solution to his problem. A marriage of convenience will get Daisy's matchmaking relatives off her back and fulfill the terms of his late grandfather's will. However, very real romantic sparks begin to fly when Daisy and Liam go on a series of dates to legitimize their fake relationship.

**Dollar, Trish.** [Float Plan](#)

(St. Martin's \$16.99)

After a reminder goes off for the Caribbean sailing trip Anna was supposed to take with her late fiancé, she impulsively goes to sea in the sailboat he left her, intending to complete the voyage alone. But after a treacherous night's sail, she realizes she can't do it by herself and hires Keane, a professional sailor, to help. Much like Anna, Keane is struggling with a very different future than the one he had planned. As romance rises with the tide, they discover that it's never too late to chart a new course. YA author Dollar makes her adult debut in which her "expert balance of the sweet and serious makes this touching romance a sure success." (*PW*)

**Dray, Stephanie.** [The Women of Chateau Lafayette](#) (Berkley \$27)

In 1774, gently-bred noblewoman Adrienne Lafayette becomes her husband, the Marquis de Lafayette's political partner in the fight for American independence. But when their idealism sparks revolution in France and the guillotine threatens everything she holds dear, Adrienne must renounce the complicated man she loves, or risk her life for a legacy that will inspire generations to come. In 1914, glittering New York socialite Beatrice Chanler is a force of nature, daunted by nothing—not her humble beginnings, her crumbling marriage, or the outbreak of war. But after witnessing the devastation in France firsthand, Beatrice takes on the challenge of a lifetime: convincing America to fight for what's right. In 1940, French school-teacher and aspiring artist Marthe Simone has an orphan's self-reliance and wants nothing to do with war. But as the realities of Nazi occupation transform her life in the isolated castle where she came of age, she makes a discovery that calls into question who she is, and more importantly, who she is willing to become. Three women's lives are entwined around a historic estate in Dray's latest compelling novel.

**Dupee, Jennifer.** [The Little French Bridal Shop](#) (St. Martin's \$26.99)

When Larisa Pearl returns to her small seaside hometown in Massachusetts to manage her beloved great aunt's estate, she's a bit of an emotional mess. She's just lost her job and her boyfriend and she's struggling to cope with her mother's failing health. When she passes by the window of The Little French Bridal Shop, a beautiful ivory satin wedding gown catches her eye. After trying on the gown, Larisa, to the delight of everyone in town, is suddenly planning her wedding. She has her dress, made floral arrangements, and set the date. The only thing missing is the groom. Now tangled up in a web of her own lies, Larisa must first face some difficult truths, including her mother's fragile future, before she can embrace her family, straighten out her life, and open her heart to finding love.

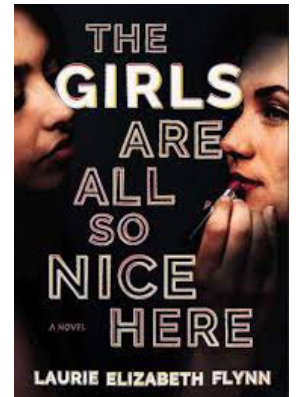
**Ellison, J.T.** [Her Dark Lies](#) (MIRA \$28.99)

Jutting from sparkling turquoise waters off the Italian coast, Isle Isola is an idyllic setting for a wedding.

In the majestic cliff-top villa owned by the wealthy Compton family, up-and-coming artist Claire Hunter will marry handsome, charming Jack Compton, surrounded by close family, intimate friends, and a host of dark secrets. From the moment Claire sets foot on the island, however, something seems amiss. Skeletal remains have just been found. There are other, newer disturbances, too. Menacing texts. A ruined wedding dress. And one troubling shadow hanging over Claire's otherwise blissful relationship: the strange mystery surrounding Jack's first wife. Then a raging storm descends, the power goes out, and the real terror begins. Ellison channels the current literary craving for gothic-style suspense with this devilishly clever story that gives a nice tip of the hat to Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca*, the book that started it all.

**Flynn, Laurie Elizabeth.** [The Girls Are All So Nice Here](#) (Simon and Schuster \$27)

Attend her ten-year college reunion? As, if. The last place on earth that Ambrosia Wellington would like to revisit is Wesleyan; especially after what happened fourteen years earlier. However, Amb receives more than just the official email invitation from the reunion committee. Someone else sends her a special invitation that says "we need to talk about what we did that night." So, it looks like opting out of the reunion is no longer a choice for good, old Amb. Oh, snap! The world of psychological suspense has a new player in YA novelist Flynn, and she is definitely in it to win it. Flynn's adult debut is a mesmerizing literary cocktail composed of a dash of *The Secret History*, a jigger of *Mean Girls*, and a generous shot of the frank sexuality and unabashed language of *Cruel Intentions*. A thrilling, plot-twist rich novel that also offers an incisive take on the price some women are forced to pay in order to "win" in life.



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

Things can get a bit tricky between an ex-wife and her replacement; especially, when the new wife is a clone. When Evelyn Caldwell discovers her ex-hus-

band Nathan has made a genetically perfect – if a bit more docile – version of her, Evelyn could kill him. Turns out, someone has beaten Evelyn to the punch. Now Evelyn and her “replacement” Martine must find a way to work together in order to keep Nathan’s death from becoming a bigger problem than it already is. From the madly inventive plot to the incisive characterization, Gailey gives Ira Levin and his modern classic *The Stepford Wives* a definite run for the money. This deliciously twisty and twisted novel of suspense should come with its own warning label: Don’t start this book unless you are prepared to stay up way past your regularly scheduled bedtime

**Glover, Nicole.** [The Conductors](#)  
(HMH \$15.99)

In the heart of Philadelphia’s Seventh Ward, everyone knows that when there’s a strange death or magical curses causing trouble, Hetty Rhodes and her husband Benjy, both of whom once used their special powers as Conductors on the Underground Railroad, are the only ones that can solve the case. But when an old friend is murdered, their investigation stirs up a wasp nest of intrigue, lies, and long-buried secrets—and a mystery unlike anything they handled before. With a clever, cold-blooded killer on the prowl testing their magic and placing their lives at risk, Hetty and Benjy will discover how little they really know about their neighbors . . . and themselves. Glover based her characters’ celestial magic powers on her own interest in astronomy and astrology.

**Heron, Farah.** [Accidentally Engaged](#)  
(Forever \$15.99)

Determined to marry for love in spite of her parents’ interfering matchmaking schemes, aspiring baker Reena Manji pretends to be engaged to Nadim Remtulla, a neighbor in her father’s employ, in the hopes of winning a couples’ cooking competition, whose first prize is a scholarship to the Institute of Culinary Arts. *PW* summed up this tasty romantic treat thusly “Heron enhances the love story with mouthwatering descriptions of Indian cuisine and a rich glimpse into Toronto’s Indian Muslim community and Reena’s family culture. Equally sweet and spicy, this is sure to leave readers smiling.”

**Hibbert, Talia.** [Act Your Age, Eve Brown](#)  
(Avon \$15.99)

Eve Brown is a certified hot mess. No matter how hard she strives to do right, her life always goes horribly wrong. So she’s given up trying. But when her personal brand of chaos ruins an expensive wedding (*someone* had to liberate those poor doves), her parents draw the line. It’s time for Eve to grow up. Jacob Wayne is in control. Always. The bed and breakfast owner’s on a mission to dominate the hospitality industry and he expects nothing less than perfection. So when a purple-haired tornado of a woman named Eve Brown turns up out of the blue to interview for his open chef position, he tells her the brutal truth: not a chance in hell. Then she hits him with her car, *supposedly* by accident. Yeah, right. Now his arm is broken, his B&B is understaffed, and the dangerously unpredictable Eve is fluttering around, trying to *help*. Before long, she’s infiltrated his work, his kitchen, and his spare bedroom. Jacob hates everything about it. Or rather, he should. Sunny, chaotic Eve is his natural-born nemesis, but the longer these two enemies spend in close quarters, the more their animosity turns into something else. “Hibbert has a gift for writing truly funny dialogue and genuinely tender emotional moments.” (*Kirkus*)

**Hubscher, Libby.** [Meet Me in Paradise](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

Ever since her journalist mother died on assignment, Marin Cole has played it safe, refusing to set foot outside the state of Tennessee. Her wild-child younger sister, Sadie, has trotted the globe as a photographer, living off of art and adrenaline. When Sadie returns from a tough assignment abroad and looks a little worse for wear, Marin reluctantly agrees to a sisters’ spa weekend on the tropical island of Saba. But her lifelong fear of travel is affirmed when Sadie misses the flight, Marin’s luggage gets mixed up with another passenger’s, and an episode of turbulence sends her hurtling into the lap of Lucas Tsai, the handsome stranger who stole her sister’s seat. For the first time in a long time, Marin has to step outside of her comfort zone as she explores the island with Lucas and learns what she’s been missing out on.

**Ishiguro, Kazuo.** [Klara and the Sun](#)  
(Knopf \$28)

The first novel by Kazuo Ishiguro since he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature, tells the story of Klara, an Artificial Friend with outstanding observational qualities, who, from her place in the store, watches carefully the behavior of those who come in to browse, and of those who pass on the street outside. She remains hopeful that a customer will soon choose her.

**James, Rebecca.** [The Woman in the Mirror](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

Investigating her birth family upon inheriting a centuries-old English manor, an adopted art gallery curator uncovers the story of a mid-20th-century governess who was cruelly treated by the curator's unknown ancestors. If you missed this mesmerizing tale last year in hardcover, now is your chance to indulge in a story that evokes Barbara Michaels at her bookish best.

**Kaplan, Mitchell James.** [Rhapsody](#)  
(Gallery \$27)

One evening in 1924, Katharine "Kay" Swift, the restless but loyal society wife of wealthy banker James Warburg and a serious pianist who longs for recognition, attends a concert. The piece performed that evening: *Rhapsody in Blue*. The composer: a brilliant, elusive young musical genius named George Gershwin. Kay is transfixed, helpless to resist the magnetic pull of George's talent, charm, and swagger. Their ten-year love affair, complicated by her conflicted loyalty to her husband and the twists and turns of her own musical career, ends only with George's death from a brain tumor at the age of thirty-eight.

**Kelly, Martha Hall.** [The Sunflower Sisters](#)  
(Ballantine \$28)

*Lilac Girls*, the bestselling novel by Martha Hall Kelly, introduced readers to Caroline Ferriday, an American philanthropist who helped young girls released from Ravensbruck concentration camp. Now, in *Sunflower Sisters*, Kelly tells the story of Caroline's ancestor Georgeanna Woolsey, a Union nurse who joins the war effort during the Civil War, and how her calling leads her to cross paths with Jemma, a young enslaved girl who is sold off and conscripted into the

army, and Ann-May Wilson, a southern plantation mistress whose husband enlists.

**Martin, Madeline.** [The Last Bookshop in London](#)  
(Hanover Square \$16.99)

London prepares for war as Hitler's forces sweep across Europe. Grace Bennett has always dreamed of moving to the city, but the bunkers and blackout curtains that she finds on her arrival were not what she expected. And she certainly never imagined she'd wind up working at Primrose Hill, a dusty old bookshop nestled in the heart of London.

Through blackouts and air raids as the Blitz intensifies, Grace discovers the power of books to unite her community in ways she never dreamed; a bright force that triumphs over even the darkest nights of the war. This terrific book, which is based on a true story, is the equivalent of a literary love letter to the power of books and reading, and how they can help hold the world together when it's falling apart around our ears.



**Morrey, Beth.** [The Love Story of Missy Carmichael](#)  
(G.P. Putnam \$17)

Though quick to admit that she often found her roles as a housewife and mother less than satisfying, Millicent "Missy" Carmichael once led a bustling life driven by two children, an accomplished and celebrated husband, and a Classics degree from Cambridge. Now her husband is gone, her daughter is estranged after a shattering argument, and her son has moved to his wife's native Australia, taking Missy's beloved only grandchild half-a-world away. Missy spends her days sipping sherry, avoiding people, and rattling around in her oversized, under-decorated house waiting for... what exactly? The last thing Missy expects is for two perfect strangers and one spirited dog named Bob to break through her prickly exterior and show Missy just how much love she still has to give. In short order, Missy finds herself in the jarring embrace of an eclectic community that simply won't take no for an answer--including a rambunctious mutt-on-loan whose unconditional love gives Missy a reason to re-enter the world one muddy paw print at a time.

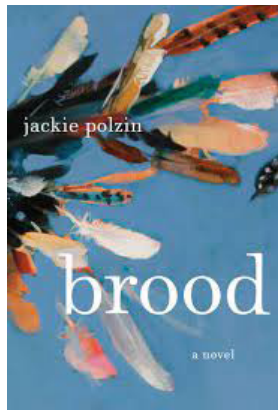
Fresh in paperback is this completely endearing tale that reminds us all that it's never too late to forgive yourself and, just as important, it's never too late to love.

**Polzin, Jackie.** [Brood](#)  
(Knopf \$24)

Over the course of a single year, our nameless narrator heroically tries to keep her small brood of four chickens alive despite the seemingly endless challenges that caring for another creature entails. From the forty-below nights of a brutal Minnesota winter to a sweltering summer which brings a surprise tornado, she battles predators, bad luck, and the uncertainty of a future that may not look anything like the one she always imagined.

This debut was the subject of an eight-way bidding war between publishers, and has since racked up a number of starred reviews including one from *Kirkus* which concluded "In Polzin's deft hands, the mundane is an endless source of wonder.

A moving meditation on loss, solitude, and the hope that can rise from both" and *PW* which said "Told in short vignettes studded with breath-catching wisdom, this novel feels both delicate and sustaining from beginning to end."



**Quinn, Kate.** [The Rose Code](#)  
(William Morrow \$17.99)

As England prepares to fight the Nazis, three very different women answer the call by showing up at Bletchley Park, where the best minds in Britain train to break German military codes. Vivacious debutante Osla is the girl who has everything: beauty, wealth, and the dashing Prince Philip of Greece sending her roses; but she burns to prove herself as more than a society girl, and puts her fluent German to use as a translator of decoded enemy secrets. Imperious self-made Mab, product of east-end London poverty, works the legendary codebreaking machines as she conceals old wounds and looks for a socially advantageous husband. Both Osla and Mab are quick to see the potential in local village spinster Beth, whose shyness conceals a brilliant facility with puzzles, and soon Beth spreads her wings as one of the Park's few

female cryptanalysts. But war, loss, and the impossible pressure of secrecy will tear the three apart.

Now as the royal wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip whips post-war Britain into a fever, these three friends-turned-enemies are reunited by a mysterious encrypted letter--the key to which lies buried in the long-ago betrayal that destroyed their friendship and left one of them confined to an asylum. A mysterious traitor has emerged from the shadows of their Bletchley Park past, and now Osla, Mab, and Beth must resurrect their old alliance and crack one last code together.

**Santopolo, Jill.** [Everything After](#)  
(Putnam \$26)

Emily has come a long way since she lost her two passions in life fifteen years ago: music, and Rob. Emily is now a psychologist at NYU who helps troubled college students like the one she once was. Together with her caring doctor husband, Ezra, she has a beautiful life. They're happy. They hope to start a family. But when a tragic event in Emily's present too closely echoes her past, and parts of her story that she'd hoped never to share come to light, her perfect life is suddenly upturned. Then Emily hears a song on the radio about the woman who got away. The melody and voice are hauntingly familiar. Could it be? As Emily's past passions come roaring back into her life, she'll find herself asking: Who is she meant to be? Who is she meant to love?

Sayers, Constance. [The Ladies of the Secret Circus](#)  
(Redhook \$28)

To enter the Secret Circus in Paris of 1925, is to enter a world of wonder: a world where women weave illusions of magnificent beasts, carousels take you back in time, and trapeze artists float across the sky. Bound to her family's circus, it's the only world Cecile Cabot knows until she meets a charismatic young painter and embarks on a passionate affair that could cost her everything. Lara Barnes is on top of the world, until her fiancé disappears on their wedding day in 2004. When her desperate search for answers unexpectedly leads to her great-grandmother's journals, Lara is swept into a story of a dark circus and ill-fated love. Soon secrets about Lara's family history begin to come to light, revealing a curse that has been claiming payment from the women in her family for generations. A curse that might be tied to her

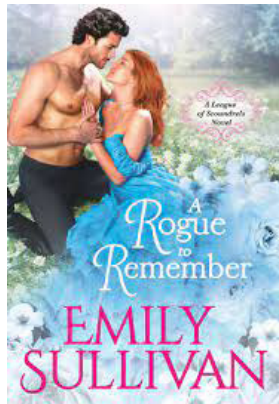
fiancé's mysterious disappearance. Fans of Erin Morgenstern's *The Night Circus* will love this page-turning story of dark magic, star-crossed love, and familial sacrifice." (*PW*)

**Slatter, A. G.** [All the Murmuring Bones](#)  
(Titan 415.95)

In this dark, gothic fairy tale of a story, Miren O'Malley, the daughter of a witch, embarks on a perilous journey to Blackwater where she finds a stranger in charge of her parents' old estate who forces her to question everything she thought she knew about her parents and her own past. *PW* raved about this saying "Anyone who likes gutsy heroines, beautiful language, and well-wrought worlds won't want to miss this."

**Sullivan, Emily.** [A Rogue to Remember](#)  
(Forever \$8.99)

After enduring five interminable seasons, Lottie Carlisle has had enough of shallow London society, her boring little life, and her uncle Alfred's matrimonial meddling. So, when her uncle demands she accept a proposal by the end of next season or else he will choose a husband for her, Lottie devises a plan: create a scandal shocking enough to make her unmarriageable and spend her spinsterhood far enough away in the countryside where no one will ever recognize her. Alec Gresham hasn't seen Lottie since he left his childhood friend without a word five years ago. So he's not surprised to find her furious when he appears on the doorstep.



Especially bearing the news he brings: her uncle is dying, her blasted reputation is still intact, and Lottie must return home. As they make the journey back from Italy to her family's estate in England, it becomes increasingly clear that the last five years hasn't erased their history, nor their explosive chemistry. This superb debut delivers a bounty of delights to historical romance fans, including a beautifully realized Italian setting.

**Wallace, Kali.** [Dead Space](#)  
(Berkley \$17)

Hester Marley used to have a plan for her life. But when a catastrophic attack left her injured, indebted, and stranded far from home, she was forced to take a dead-end security job with a powerful mining company in the asteroid belt. One day Hester is surprised to hear from an old friend and fellow victim of the terrorist attack that ruined her life—and that surprise quickly turns to suspicion when he claims to have discovered something shocking about their shared history and the tragedy that neither of them can leave behind. Before Hester can learn more, her friend is violently murdered at a remote asteroid mine. Hester joins the investigation to find the truth, both about her friend's death and the information he believed he had uncovered. "A gripping, cinematic sci-fi thriller that readers won't want to put down." (*PW*)

**Willig, Lauren.** [Band of Sisters](#)  
(William Morrow \$27.99)

Smith College graduate Kate Moran is persuaded by Emmeline Van Alden, Kate's old friend from Smith College, to leave her job teaching French and join Emmie and fifteen other Smithies, including two female doctors, on a volunteer expedition to France. Once there, the ladies, under the leadership of alumnae Betsy Rutherford, set up camp in a ruined chateau and try their best to help the French civilians, whose lives have been destroyed by the war. Inspired by the real-life accounts of Smith College alumnae, who volunteered in France during World War I, Willig's latest emotionally engaging historical novel immerses readers in world where the courage and sacrifices of a plucky band of women shine brightly as they try their very best to bring hope and compassion to people, who have lost everything. Fans of Willig's books (and, really who isn't a fan of this amazing author) will especially enjoy the clever little literary grace notes she slips into the story, including the deft nod to Elizabeth Peters' (one of Willig's own favorite authors) most well-known series protagonist. This is a moving and poignant reflection on love, war, and above all the power of friendship.



## Children's and Teen Fiction

**Boulley, Angeline.** [Firekeeper's Daughter](#)  
(Henry Holt \$18.99)

Treated like an outsider in both her hometown and on the Ojibwe reservation, a half-Native American science geek and star hockey player places her dreams on hold in the wake of a family tragedy. *Book-Page* had this to say "Though *Firekeeper's Daughter* contains gripping action sequences and gasp-inducing twists, it's Daunis' mission of self-discovery, which begins as a low and steady growl and grows to a fierce, proud roar that has the most impact. Her introspective revelation of self-worth acts like a healing salve for the novel's violence and darkness. Though it both shocks and thrills, in the end, what leaves you breathless is *Firekeeper's Daughter's* blazing heart." This unforgettable YA novel is soon to be turned into a Netflix series.

**Gonzales, Sophie.** [Perfect on Paper](#)  
(St. Martin's \$18.99)

Darcy Phillips can give you the solution to any of your relationship woes – for a fee. Darcy really cannot stand Alexander Brougham, and she doesn't appreciate being blackmailed. But that is exactly what happens when Alexander catches Darcy in the act of collecting letters from locker 89 – out of which she's been running her questionably legal, anonymous relationship advice business. So now, in exchange for his keeping her secret, Darcy begrudgingly agrees to become Alexander's personal dating coach. All Darcy has to do is help an entitled, bratty, (annoyingly hot) guy win over a girl who's already fallen for him once? What could go wrong?

**Morrill, Lauren.** [It's Kind of a Cheesy Love Story](#)  
(Farrar, Straus, and Giroux \$18.99)

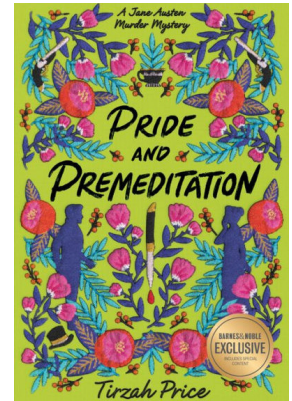
After her mother gave birth to her in the bathroom of a local pizzeria, Beck has been given the dubious privilege of having minor fame, free pizza for life, and a guaranteed job when she turns sixteen—a job she unfortunately can't afford to turn down. Now she's stuck with her geeky co-workers instead of taking Instagram-ready shots with her best friends (and her epic crush). But maybe the pizza people aren't all bad. Maybe that pizza delivery guy is kind of cute. And maybe there's a way to make this Bath-

room Baby thing work for her. Because when disaster strikes the beloved pizza place that's started to feel like home, she's going to need a miracle—one that might even mean bringing her two worlds together.

**Price, Tirzah.** [Pride and Premeditation](#)  
(HarperTeen \$17.99)

When a scandalous murder shocks London high society, seventeen-year-old aspiring lawyer Lizzie Bennet seizes the opportunity to prove herself as a professional, despite the interference of Mr. Fitzwilliam Darcy, the stern young heir to the prestigious firm Pemberley Associates.

Convinced the authorities have imprisoned the wrong person, Lizzie vows to solve the murder on her own. But as the case - and her feelings for Darcy - become more complicated, Lizzie discovers that her dream job could make her happy, but it might also get her killed.



**Soft, Allison.** [Down Comes the Night](#)  
(St, Martin's \$18.99)

Wren Southerland's reckless use of magic has cost her everything: she's been dismissed from the Queen's Guard and separated from her best friend—the girl she loves. So when a letter arrives from a reclusive lord, asking Wren to come to his estate, Colwick Hall, to cure his servant from a mysterious illness, she seizes her chance to redeem herself. The mansion is crumbling, icy winds haunt the caved-in halls, and her eccentric host forbids her from leaving her room after dark. Worse, Wren's patient isn't a servant at all but Hal Cavendish, the infamous Reaper of Vesria and her kingdom's sworn enemy. Hal also came to Colwick Hall for redemption, but the secrets in the estate may lead to both of their deaths. With sinister forces at work, Wren and Hal realize they'll have to join together if they have any hope of saving their kingdoms. But as Wren circles closer to the nefarious truth behind Hal's illness, they realize they have no escape from the monsters within the mansion. All they have is each other, and a startling desire that could be their downfall.

**Schlitz, Laura Amy.** [Amber & Clay](#)  
(Candlewick \$22.99)

Welcome to ancient Greece as only genius storyteller and Newbery Medal award winner Laura Amy Schlitz can conjure it. In a warlike land of wind and sunlight - ringed by a restless sea - live Rhaskos and Melisto, spiritual twins with little in common beyond the violent and mysterious forces that dictate their lives. A Thracian slave in a Greek household, Rhaskos is as common as clay, a stable boy worth less than a donkey, much less a horse. Wrenched from his mother at a tender age, he nurtures in secret, aided by Socrates, his passions for art and philosophy. Melisto is a spoiled aristocrat, a girl as precious as amber but willful and wild. She'll marry and be tamed- the curse of all highborn girls- but risk her life for a season first to serve Artemis, goddess of the hunt. Schlitz blends verse and prose and includes drawings and illustrations of ancient artifacts to create a powerful ode to friendship. A challenging read but well worth it!

## March Is Women's History Month

### You Go Girl!

**Angela, Alberto.** [Cleopatra](#)  
(HarperVia \$28.99)

The host of *Meraviglie* reconstructs the extraordinary life of Cleopatra at the height of her power, discussing such topics as the assassination of Julius Caesar, Egypt's exotic port of Alexandria and Cleopatra's suicide with Mark Antony in a book that was first published in the author's home country of Italy in 2018.

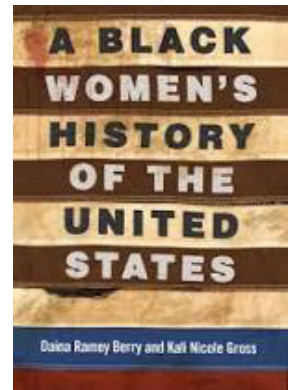
**Becker, Elizabeth.** [You Don't Belong Here](#)  
(PublicAffairs \$28)

Kate Webb, an Australian iconoclast, Catherine Leroy, a French daredevil photographer, and Frances Fitzgerald, a blue-blood American intellectual, arrived in Vietnam with starkly different life experiences but one shared purpose: to report on the most consequential story of the decade. At a time when women were considered unfit to be foreign reporters, Frankie, Catherine, and Kate challenged the rules imposed on them by the military, ignored the belittlement of their male peers, and ultimately altered the craft of war reportage for generations. Now award-winning journalist Becker, drawing on interviews, personal

letters, and other sources tells the compelling story of these female journalists forging their own place in the war-torn landscape of Vietnam.

**Berry, Daina Ramey and Kali Nicole Gross.** [A Black Women's History of the United States](#)  
(Beacon Press \$16)

Two award-winning history professors and authors focus on the stories of African-American women slaves, civilians, religious leaders, artists, queer icons, activists and criminals in a celebration of black womanhood that demonstrates its indelible role in shaping America. From Isabel de Olvera, who became one of the first black women to set food on what is now American soil, to Shirley Chisholm, who became the first black female member of the United States Congress, readers will learn about the many contributions made to our country by these courageous and inspiring women.



**Bren, Paulina.** [The Barbizon](#)  
(Simon and Schuster \$27)

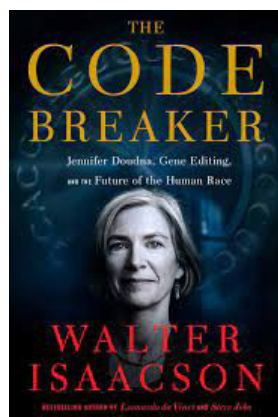
Built in 1927 at the height of the Roaring Twenties, the Barbizon Hotel was intended as a safe haven for the "Modern Woman" seeking a career in the arts. It became the place to stay for any ambitious young woman hoping for fame and fortune. Sylvia Plath fictionalized her time there in *The Bell Jar*, and, over the years, its almost 700 tiny rooms with matching floral curtains and bedspreads housed Titanic survivor Molly Brown; actresses Grace Kelly, Liza Minnelli, Ali MacGraw, Jaclyn Smith, Phylicia Rashad, and Cybill Shepherd; writers Joan Didion, Diane Johnson, Gael Greene, and Meg Wolitzer; and many more. *Made-moiselle* magazine boarded its summer interns there, as did Katharine Gibbs Secretarial School its students and the Ford Modeling Agency its young models. But before this hotel's residents were household names, they were young women arriving at the Barbizon with a suitcase and a dream.

**Cooke, Julia.** [Come Fly the World](#)  
(HMH \$28)

Required to have a college education, speak two languages, and possess the political savvy of a Foreign Service officer, a jet-age stewardess serving on iconic Pan Am between 1966 and 1975 also had to be between 5'3" and 5'9", between 105 and 140 pounds, and under 26 years of age at the time of hire. Cooke's intimate storytelling weaves together the real-life stories of a memorable cast of characters, from small-town girl Lynne Totten, a science major who decided life in a lab was not for her, to Hazel Bowie, one of the relatively few Black stewardesses of the era, as they embraced the liberation of their new jet-set life. Cooke also brings to light the story of Pan Am stewardesses' role in the Vietnam War, as the airline added runs from Saigon to Hong Kong for planeloads of weary young soldiers straight from the battlefields, who were off for five days of R&R, and then flown back to war, and with Operation Babylift: the dramatic evacuation of 2,000 children during the fall of Saigon.

**Isaacson, Walter.** [The Code Breaker](#)  
(Simon and Schuster \$35)

When Jennifer Doudna was in sixth grade, she came home one day to find that her dad had left a paperback titled *The Double Helix* on her bed. She put it aside, thinking it was one of those detective tales she loved. When she read it on a rainy Saturday, she discovered she was right, in a way. As she sped through the pages, she became enthralled by the intense drama behind the competition to discover the code of life. Even though her high school counselor told her girls didn't become scientists, she decided she would. Driven by a passion to understand how nature works and to turn discoveries into inventions, she would help to make what the book's author, James Watson, told her was the most important biological advance since his co-discovery of the structure of DNA. She and her collaborators turned a curiosity of nature into an invention that will transform the human race: an easy-to-use



tool that can edit DNA. Known as CRISPR, it opened a brave new world of medical miracles and moral questions.

**Loftis, Larry.** [The Princess Spy](#)  
(Atria \$28)

When Aline Griffith was born in a quiet suburban New York hamlet, no one had any idea that she would go on to live a life of glamour and danger that Ingrid Bergman only played at in *Notorious*. As the US enters the Second World War, Aline, now a young college graduate, is desperate to aid in the war effort, but no one is interested in a bright-eyed young woman whose only career experience is modeling clothes. Aline's life changes when, at a dinner party, she meets a man named Frank Ryan and reveals how desperately she wants to do her part for her country. Within a few weeks, he helps her join the Office of Strategic Services: forerunner of the CIA. With a code name and expert training under her belt, she is sent to Spain to be a coder, but is soon given the additional assignment of infiltrating the upper echelons of society, mingling with high-ranking officials, diplomats, and titled Europeans, any of whom could be an enemy agent.

**Morton, Andrew.** [Elizabeth & Margaret](#)  
(Grand Central \$28)

Morton, celebrated biographer of the rich and famous, delivers an account of Queen Elizabeth II and her sister Margaret that examines their early idyllic youth as the closest of sisters as well as their often fraught relationship after their father's death and Elizabeth's ascension to the throne. *Kirkus* summed this up nicely saying "At the risk of stating the obvious, fans of the Netflix series *The Crown* will be keen to devour Morton's latest portrait of the royal family, following his 2018 book *Meghan: A Hollywood Princess*." (Which I am sure is going to need some updating now!)

**Sweig, Julia.** [Lady Bird Johnson](#)  
(Random House \$32)

Perhaps the most underestimated First Lady of the twentieth century, Lady Bird Johnson was also one of the most accomplished and often her husband's secret political weapon. Managing the White House in years of national upheaval, through the civil rights

movement and the escalation of the Vietnam War, Lady Bird projected a sense of calm and, following the glamorous and modern Jackie Kennedy, an old-fashioned image of a First Lady. In truth, she was anything but. As the first First Lady to run the East Wing like a professional office, she took on her own policy initiatives, including the most ambitious national environmental effort since Teddy Roosevelt. Occupying the White House during the beginning of the women's liberation movement, she hosted professional women from all walks of life in the White House, including urban planning and environmental pioneers like Jane Jacobs and Barbara Ward, encouraging women everywhere to pursue their own careers, even if her own style of leadership and official role was to lead by supporting others.

**Wickenden, Dorothy.** [The Agitators](#) (Scribner \$30)

The best-selling author of *Nothing Daunted* chronicles the revolutionary activities of Harriet Tubman, Frances Seward and Martha Wright, discussing their vital role in the Underground Railroad, abolition and the early women's rights movement. "Through extensive research and fluid writing, Wickenden rescues Wright and Seward from obscurity and provides a new perspective on Tubman's life and work. This is an essential addition to the history of American progressivism." (*PW*)

**Zanglein, Jayne.** [The Girl Explorers](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99)

In 1932, Roy Chapman Andrews, president of the men-only Explorers Club, boldly stated to hundreds of female students at Barnard College that "women are not adapted to exploration," and that women and exploration do not mix. He obviously didn't know a thing about either...

*The Girl Explorers* is the inspirational and untold story of the founding of the Society of Women Geographers—an organization of adventurous female world explorers—and how key members served as early advocates for human rights and paved the way for today's women scientists by scaling mountains, exploring the high seas, flying across the Atlantic, and recording the world through film, sculpture, and literature.

## Nonfiction

**Bergreen, Laurence.** [In Search of a Kingdom](#) (HarperCollins \$29.99)

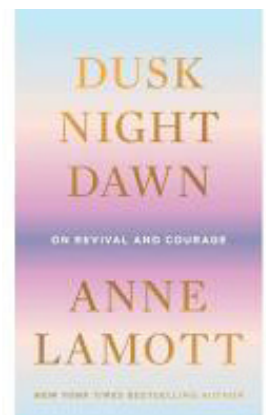
In this grand and thrilling narrative, the acclaimed biographer of Magellan, Columbus, and Marco Polo brings alive the singular life and adventures of Sir Francis Drake, the pirate/explorer/admiral whose mastery of the seas during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I changed the course of history. *Kirkus* summed this up with "The narrative is long but never boring, as Bergreen masterly portrays the principal characters in this drama: the relentless, arrogant Drake; the cautious, cunning Elizabeth; and the mortified Spanish king, Philip II, and his spy in London, Bernardino de Mendoza, who informed his liege of Drake's every outrageous move. A smooth, dramatic, and well-fleshed world history."

**Duffy, James P.** [Return to Victory](#) (Hachette \$31)

The story of General Douglas MacArthur's epic bloody year-long campaign to liberate the 7,000 islands of the Philippines from a quarter million Japanese troops and finally take down the Japanese imperial empire.

**Lamott, Anne.** [Dusk Night Dawn](#) (Riverhead \$20)

In *Dusk Night Dawn*, Anne Lamott explores the tough questions that many of us grapple with. How can we recapture the confidence we once had as we stumble through the dark times that seem increasingly bleak? As bad news piles up - from climate crises to daily assaults on civility - how can we cope? Where, she asks, do we start to our world and joy and hope and our faith in life itself back . . . with our sore feet, hearing loss, stiff fingers, poor digestion, stunned minds, broken hearts? We begin, Lamott says, by accepting our flaws and embracing our humanity. Drawing from her own experiences, Lamott shows us the intimate and human ways we can adopt to move



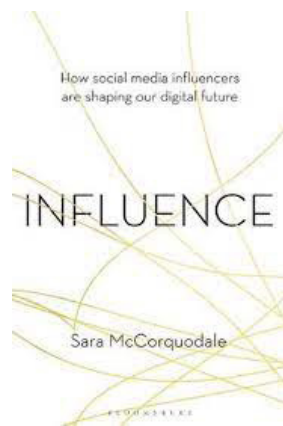
through life's dark places and toward the light of hope that still burns ahead for all of us.

**Lloyd, Nick.** [The Western Front](#)  
(WW Norton \$35)

In this first volume in a groundbreaking trilogy on the Great War, acclaimed military historian Nick Lloyd captures the horrific fighting on the Western Front beginning with the surprise German invasion of Belgium in August 1914 and taking us to the Armistice of November 1918. Drawing on French, British, German, and American sources, Lloyd weaves a kaleidoscopic chronicle of the Marne, Passchendaele, the Meuse-Argonne, and other critical battles, which reverberated across Europe and the wider war.

**McCorquodale, Sara.** [Influence](#)  
(Bloomsbury \$15)

Digital influencing is one of the most exciting and disruptive new industries, forecast to be worth billions by 2020, but those charged with making this an effective part of their digital strategy rarely understand how this emergent industry works. When it comes to online growth, digital influencers are now consistently outperforming traditional media and brand advertising, even if much of what they do remains a mystery to many people. Sara McCorquodale is the UK's leading authority on the influencer space, and this new book demystifies exactly how digital influence works, interrogates the phenomenon, analyzes its problems, and forecasts its future. A compelling and deeply insightful book, this will be a must-read for anyone whose business success is dependent on prospering online.



**Richardson, Patric.** [Laundry Love](#)  
(Flatiron \$25.99)

Doing laundry is rarely anyone's favorite task. But to Patric Richardson, laundry isn't just fun—it's a way of life. After years of running Laundry Camp at the Mall of America for thousands of eager learners, he's ready to share his tips, tricks, and hacks—bringing

surprise and delight to this commonly dreaded chore. Sorting your laundry? It's not all about whites and darks. Pondering the wash cycles? Every load, even your delicates, should be washed using express or quick-wash on warm. Facing expensive dry cleaning bills? You'll learn how to wash everything—yes everything—at home. And those basically clean but smelly clothes? Richardson has a secret for freshening those too (hint: it involves vodka, not soap). Changing your relationship with laundry can also change your life. Richardson's handy advice shows us how to save time and money (and the planet!) with our laundry—and he intersperses it all with a healthy dose of humor, real-life laundry stories, and lessons from his Appalachian upbringing and career in fashion. *Laundry Love* will make you wonder why you ever stressed about ironing, dry cleaning, or (god forbid) red wine spills on your new couch. No matter the issue, Richardson is here to help you make laundry miracles happen—wrinkles and stains be damned.

**Stout, Glenn.** [Tiger Girl and the Candy Kid](#)  
(HMH \$27).

Before Bonnie and Clyde there were Tiger Girl and the Candy Kid. In the wake of world war, a pandemic, and an economic depression, Margaret and Richard Whittemore, two love-struck working-class kids from Baltimore, reached for the dream of a better life. The couple headed up a gang that in less than a year stole over one million dollars' worth of diamonds and precious gems; over ten million dollars today. Margaret was a chic flapper, the archetypal gun moll, partner to her husband's crimes. Richard was the quintessential bad boy, whose cunning and violent ambition allowed the Whittemores to live the kind of lives they'd only seen in the movies. Along the way he killed at least three men, until prosecutors managed a conviction. As tabloids across the country exclaimed the details of the couple's star-crossed romance, they became heroes to a new generation of young Americans who sought their own version of freedom.