

Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 8 Issue 04 April, 2021

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It's Blooming Books!

Cozy Corner

Adams, Ellery. [Murder in the Cookbook Nook](#)
(Kensington \$8.99)

When murder is on the menu during the Bookish Cook-Off competition, a blend of the literary and culinary, Jane Steward, the owner of Storyton Hall, must page through the clues to catch a killer. "Love *Chopped* and mysteries? This delightful character-driven cozy is just the treat for you." (*Kirkus*)

Davis, Krista. [The Diva Spices It Up](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

When a celebrity ghostwriter dies on the job, it's up to Sophie Winston, Old Town, Virginia's favorite entertaining expert and sporadic sleuth, to whip up an impromptu investigation in the latest deliciously fun addition to the Domestic Diva series.

Duncan, Emmeline. [Fresh Brewed Murder](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

Portland is famous for its rain, hipsters, craft beers... and coffee. Sage Caplin has high hopes for her coffee truck, Ground Rules, which she runs with her business partner, Harley--a genius at roasting beans and devising new blends. However, business may grind to a halt when Sage finds the body of a customer in front of her truck, a fatal slash across his neck. Since a box cutter with Sage's fingerprints all over it is discovered to be the murder weapon, she needs to focus on finding the killer fast--before her business, and her life, come to a bitter end. Cozy fans who relish their mysteries served up with a strong sense of place and a distinctive voice will definitely savor this launch to a new series.

Hilliard, M.E. [The Unkindness of Ravens](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Greer Hogan is a librarian and an avid reader of murder mysteries. She also has a habit of stumbling upon murdered bodies. The first was her husband's, and the tragic loss led Greer to leave New York behind for a new start in the Village of Raven Hill. But her new home becomes less idyllic when she discovers her best friend sprawled dead on the floor of the library. Though Greer admires the masters of deduction she reads about in books, she never expected to have to solve a mystery herself. Fortunately, she possesses a quick wit and a librarian's natural resourcefulness. But will that be enough to protect her from a brilliant, diabolical murderer?

Hutton, Callie. [The Sign of Death](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

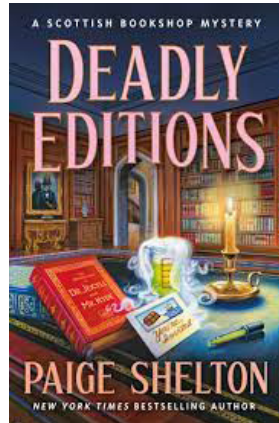
Mr. James Harding was a lot of things--businessman, well-to-do, probable scoundrel--but a drinker he most assuredly was not. So when Harding is believed to have drunkenly fallen to his death into the icy River Avon, Lord William Wethington is immediately suspicious. Finding Lord William's name on a letter in the victim's pocket, the local constabulary summons William to identify the victim. Police detectives learn that William had been one of Harding's business clients--and undoubtedly not the only client the dead man had cheated. William entreats Lady Amy Lovell, a fellow member of the Mystery



Book Club of Bath, to help him deduce what really happened to the late Mr. Harding. *Kirkus* summed up Lady Amy Lovell and her friend Lord William Wethington's second adventure in detection with "A delightful combination of mystery and romance with some unexpected twists."

Shelton, Paige. [Deadly Editions](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

Mysteriously invited to participate in an eccentric socialite's exclusive treasure hunt – the person who successfully finds a valuable copy of *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* gets the book and a sizeable amount of money to boot - bookseller Delaney Nichols investigates her hostess's dangerous past when a man connected to the competition is found murdered. "The amusing treasure hunt is filled with literary references that will tickle bibliophiles" in the sixth splendidly entertaining installment in local favorite author Shelton's Scottish Bookshop series.



Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Babalola, Bolu. [Love in Color](#)
(HarperCollins \$25.99)

Focusing on the magical folktales of West Africa, internationally acclaimed writer Bolu Babalola also re-imagines Greek myths, ancient legends from the Middle East, and stories from long-erased places in her debut collection of vibrantly detailed love stories.

Cherezinska, Elzbieta. [The Widow Queen](#)
(Forge \$25.99)

To her father, the great duke of Poland, Swietoslawa and her two sisters represent three chances for an alliance. Three marriages on which to build his empire. But Swietoslawa refuses to be simply a pawn in her father's schemes; she seeks a throne of her own, with no husband by her side. The gods may grant her wish, but Swietoslawa soon discovers that crowns sit heavy, and power is a sword that cuts both ways. Award-winning Polish author Cherezinska makes her English-lan-

guage debut with a fictionalized account of the late 900s – early 1000s Polish queen Swietoslawa.

Christy, Bryan. [In the Company of Killers](#)
(Putnam \$27)

Tom Klay is a celebrated investigative wildlife reporter for the esteemed magazine *The Sovereign*. But Klay is not just a journalist. His reporting is cover for an even more dangerous job: CIA agent. While on assignment in Kenya, Klay's closest friend is murdered and soon Klay's carefully constructed double life unravels as his ambition turns to revenge. This edge-of-your-seat debut thriller is by an author, who served as the former head of Special Investigations at National Geographic.

Cohen, Leslie. [My Ride or Die](#)
(William Morrow \$16.99)

Amanda is a lawyer who excels in her professional life but crumbles at the slightest sign of a common cold. Sophie is an aspiring artist who has lived all over the world and doesn't crumble, period. Together, they've been through it all. But when their romantic lives implode at the same time, the two women, who have been friends for more than a decade, decide it's time to flip the script. Why not spend their lives with each other and keep men on the side for fun, sex, and occasionally fixing things around the house? After all what could go wrong?

Colgan, Jenny. [The Sweetshop of Dreams](#)
(Sourcebooks \$16.99) reissue

Rosie Hopkins has gotten used to busy London life. It's...comfortable. And though she might like a more rewarding career, and her boyfriend's not exactly the king of romance, Rosie's not complaining. And when she visits her Aunt Lillian's small country village to help sort out her sweetshop, she expects it to be dull at best. Lillian Hopkins has spent her life running Lipton's sweetshop, through wartime and family feuds. When her great-niece Rosie arrives to help her with the shop, the last thing Lillian wants to slow down and wrestle with the secret history hidden behind the jars of beautifully colored sweets. But as



Rosie gets Lilian back on her feet, breathes a new life into the candy shop, and gets to know the mysterious and solitary Stephen—whose family seems to own the entire town—she starts to think that settling for what’s comfortable might not be so great after all. When it was first published, this won the 2013 RNA Romantic Novel of the Year Award.

Danan, Rosie. [The Intimacy Experiment](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Naomi Grant has built her life around going against the grain. After the sex-positive start-up she co-founded becomes an international sensation, she wants to extend her educational platform to live lecturing. Unfortunately, despite her long list of qualifications, higher ed won’t hire her. Ethan Cohen has recently received two honors: *LA Mag* named him one of the city’s hottest bachelors and he became rabbi of his own synagogue. Taking a gamble in an effort to attract more millennials to the faith, the executive board hired Ethan because of his nontraditional background. Unfortunately, his shul is low on both funds and congregants. The board gives him three months to turn things around or else they’ll close the doors of his synagogue for good.

Naomi and Ethan join forces to host a buzzy seminar series on Modern Intimacy, the perfect solution to their problems—until they discover a new one—their growing attraction to each other. They’ve built the syllabus for love’s latest experiment, but neither of them expected they’d be the ones putting it to the test.

Darznik, Jasmin. [The Bohemians](#)
(Ballantine \$28)

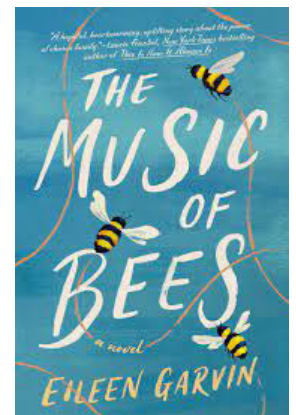
In 1918, Dorothea Lange leaves the East Coast for California, where a disaster kick-starts a new life. Her friendship with Caroline Lee, a vivacious, straight-talking woman with a complicated past, gives her entrée into Monkey Block, an artists’ colony and the bohemian heart of San Francisco. Dazzled by Caroline and her friends, Dorothea is catapulted into a heady new world of freedom, art, and politics. She also finds herself unexpectedly—and unwisely—falling in love with Maynard Dixon, a brilliant but troubled painter. Dorothea and Caroline eventually create a flourishing portrait studio, but a devastating betrayal pushes their friendship to the breaking point and alters the course of their lives.

Ernst, Dee. [Maggie Finds Her Muse](#)
(St. Martin’s \$16.99)

All Maggie Bliss needs to do is write. Forty-eight years old and newly single (again!), she ventures to Paris in a last-ditch effort to finish her manuscript. With a marvelous apartment at her fingertips and an elegant housekeeper to meet her every need, a finished book—and her dream of finally taking her career over the top—is surely within her grasp. After all, how could she find anything *except* inspiration in Paris, with its sophistication, food, and romance in the air? But the clock is running out, and between her charming ex-husband arriving in France for vacation and a handsome Frenchman appearing one morning in her bathtub, Maggie’s previously undisturbed peace goes by the wayside.

Gavin, Eileen. [The Music of Bees](#)
(Dutton \$26)

Forty-four-year-old Alice Holtzman is stuck in a dead-end job, bereft of family, and now reeling from the unexpected death of her husband. Alice has begun having panic attacks whenever she thinks about how her life hasn’t turned out the way she dreamed. Even the beloved honeybees she raises in her spare time aren’t helping her feel better these days. In the grip of a panic attack, she nearly collides with Jake—a troubled, paraplegic teenager with the tallest mohawk in Hood River County—while carrying 120,000 honeybees in the back of her pickup truck. Charmed by Jake’s sincere interest in her bees and seeking to rescue him from his toxic home life, Alice surprises herself by inviting Jake to her farm. And then there’s Harry, a twenty-four-year-old with debilitating social anxiety who is desperate for work. When he applies to Alice’s ad for part-time farm help, he’s shocked to find himself hired. As an unexpected friendship blossoms among Alice, Jake, and Harry, a nefarious pesticide company moves to town, threatening the local honeybee population and illuminating deep-seated corruption in the community. The unlikely trio must unite for the sake of the bees—and in the process, they just might forge a new future for themselves. Beautifully mov-



ing, warm, and uplifting, *The Music of Bees* is about the power of friendship, compassion in the face of loss, and finding the courage to start over (at any age) when things don't turn out the way you expect.

Healey, Jane. [The Secret Stealers](#)

(Lake Union \$14.95)

When she is recruited into the Office of Strategic Services by a family friend and legendary WWI hero, young widow and brilliant French teacher Anna Cavanaugh risks everything to help liberate France from the shadows of occupation and free herself from the shadows of her former life.

Hilderbrand, Elin et al. [Reunion Beach](#)

(William Morrow \$27.99)

A group of bestselling authors and writers – including Elin Hilderbrand, Adriana Trigiani, and Mary Alice Monroe – pay tribute to legendary, larger-than-life *New York Times* bestselling author Dorothea Benton Frank and her literary legacy, capturing her unforgettable spirit, joy, and humor in stories of reunions and love. Could there be a more perfect beach book?

Hogle, Sarah. [Twice Shy](#)

(Putnam \$16)

For Maybell Parrish, living life with her head in the clouds has always felt preferable to dealing with reality, whether it's managing her panic attacks, navigating the wild world of dating apps, or getting her coworkers to show her a little respect. So when Maybell inherits a stately old Tennessee manor from her eccentric Great Aunt Violet, she realizes it's the perfect opportunity to make a fresh start, and finally take control of the life that's making her increasingly unhappy.



But when she arrives at her new home, it seems her troubles have only just begun. Not only is the manor practically falling apart around her, but its handsome yet reclusive groundskeeper, Wesley Koehler, who lives in a cabin on the property, seems to want nothing to do with her. Worse still, Great Aunt Violet left Maybell a bucket list of tasks she has only six months to complete if she wants to retain control of the

estate--and Maybell won't be able to tick off all the items without Wesley's help.

Jalaluddin, Uzma. [Hana Khan Carries On](#)

(Berkley \$16)

Sales are slow at Three Sisters Biryani Poutine, the only halal restaurant in the close-knit Golden Crescent neighborhood of Toronto. Hana waitresses there part time, but what she really wants is to tell stories on the radio. If she can just outshine her fellow intern at the city radio station, she may have a chance at landing a job. In the meantime, Hana pours her thoughts and dreams into a podcast, where she forms a lively relationship with one of her listeners. But soon she'll need all the support she can get: a new competing restaurant, a more upscale halal place, is about to open in the Golden Crescent, threatening her mother's restaurant. When her mysterious aunt and her teenage cousin arrive from India for a surprise visit, they draw Hana into a long-buried family secret. A hate-motivated attack on their neighborhood complicates the situation further, as does Hana's growing attraction for Aydin, the young owner of the rival restaurant--who might not be a complete stranger after all. As life on the Golden Crescent unravels, Hana must learn to use her voice, draw on the strength of her community and decide what her future should be.

Jimenez, Abby. [Life's Too Short](#)

(Forever \$15.99)

When Vanessa Price quit her job to pursue her dream of traveling the globe, she wasn't expecting to gain millions of YouTube followers who shared her joy of seizing every moment. For her, living each day to its fullest isn't just a motto. Her mother and sister never saw the age of 30, and Vanessa doesn't want to take anything for granted. But after her half sister suddenly leaves Vanessa in custody of her baby daughter, life goes from "daily adventure" to "next-level bad" (now with bonus baby vomit in hair). The last person Vanessa expects to show up offering help is the hot lawyer next door, Adrian Copeland. After all, she barely knows him. No one warned her that he was the Secret Baby Tamer or that she'd be spending a whole lot of time with him and his geriatric Chihuahua. Now she's feeling things she's vowed not to feel. Because the only thing worse than falling for Adrian is finding a little hope for a future she may never see.

Kitt, Sandra. [Winner Takes All](#)

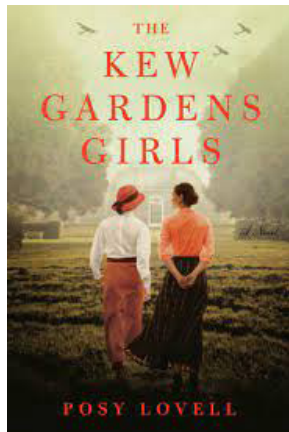
(Sourcebooks \$15.99)

Jean Travis has the job of announcing the latest lottery winner on TV and is stunned to find that Patrick Bennett, her teenage crush, is the top mega winner. They haven't seen each other in years, and Patrick is thrilled to renew their acquaintance. Jean, not so much. After all, a lot has changed since they used to study together and Jean worked so hard to hide her feelings. Now that he's won so much money, Patrick faces a whole new world of demands from family, friends, coworkers, and strangers. The only person he knows for sure he can trust is Jean. Kitt is a legend in the romance genre for good reason. She was the first African-American author to write for Harlequin, and now more than thirty years later, she continues to deliver exemplary contemporary love stories.

Lovell, Posy. [The Kew Gardens Girls](#)

(Putnam \$16)

It's 1916 and England is at war. Desperate to help in whatever way they can, Ivy and Louisa enlist as gardeners at Kew, the Royal Botanic Gardens, taking on the jobs of the men who have gone to fight. Under their care, the gardens begin to flourish and become a safe haven for those seeking solace--but not everyone wants women working at Kew. The pair begin to face challenges on the home front. When a tragedy overseas affects the people closest to them, can the women of Kew pull together to support themselves and their country through the darkest of times? "Lowell expertly instills the fictional narrative with details of the discord in the suffrage movement between pacifists and militants, and the ill-treatment of men who refused to fight. Historical fans will devour this down-to-earth page turner." (PW)



Lowell, Joanna. [The Duke Undone](#)

(Berkley \$16)

When Royal Academy painting student Lucy Coover trips over a naked man passed out in an East End alley, she does the decent thing. She covers him up and fetches help. Trouble is, she can't banish his

muscular form from her dreams as easily. She finds herself compelled to put every detail down on canvas. What she doesn't know is that she's painting the infamous Duke of Weston, and that her life will never be the same. A second son, Anthony Philby thought he could flee his brutal family legacy and become his own man. Forced back to London by his brother's death, he inherits a fortune... with strings attached. One scandal will sink his bid for independence. It's in his best interest to burn Lucy Coover's shocking painting and pretend he never met the bewitching young artist. Instead, he finds himself offering a devil's bargain. He'll save her aunt's dressmaking shop from ruin, if she'll seek out his missing sister, Effie. As they work together, an unexpected passion ignites between them. But the hunt for Effie leads to unexpected danger, and soon they find themselves risking everything... for a love that might destroy them both.

Marcelo, Tif. [In a Book Club Far Away](#)

(Gallery \$16)

Regina Castro, Adelaide Wilson-Chang, and Sophie Walden used to be best friends. As Army wives at Fort East, they bonded during their book club and soon became inseparable. But when an unimaginable betrayal happened amongst the group, the friendship abruptly ended, and they haven't spoken since. That's why, eight years later, Regina and Sophie are shocked when they get a call for help from Adelaide. Adelaide's husband is stationed abroad, and without any friends or family near her new home of Alexandria, Virginia, she has no one to help take care of her young daughter when she has to undergo emergency surgery. For the sake of an innocent child, Regina and Sophie reluctantly put their differences aside to help an old friend. As the three women reunite, they must overcome past hurts and see if there's any future for their friendship.

McMahon, Jennifer. [The Drowning Kind](#)

(Gallery \$27)

When social worker Jax receives nine missed calls from her older sister, Lexie, she assumes that it's just another one of her sister's episodes. Manic and increasingly out of touch with reality, Lexie has pushed Jax away for over a year. But the next day, Lexie is dead: drowned in the pool at their grandmother's estate. When Jax arrives at the house to go through her sister's things, she learns that Lexie was researching the history of their family and the property. And

as she dives deeper into the research herself, she discovers that the land holds a far darker past than she could have ever imagined. I love the way *Kirkus* summed this up “McMahon has a gift for creating creepy atmosphere and letting spooky suggestions linger in the mind. She’s also adept at weaving legends and stories into the fabric of what feels like real life because her characters are so believably vulnerable. For best results, read it on a dark and stormy night in a well-lit room, far away from the water.”

Novak, Brenda. [The Bookstore on the Beach](#)
(MIRA \$16.99)

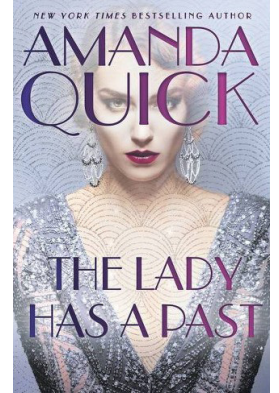
Eighteen months ago, Autumn Divac’s husband went missing. Her desperate search has yielded no answers, and she can’t imagine moving forward without him. But for the sake of their two teenage children, she has to try. Autumn takes her kids home for the summer to the charming beachside town where she was raised. She seeks comfort working alongside her mother and aunt at their bookshop, only to learn that her daughter is facing a huge life change and her mother has been hiding a terrible secret for years. And when she runs into the boy who stole her heart in high school, old feelings start to bubble up again. Is she free to love him, or should she hold out hope for her husband’s return? She can only trust her heart, and hope it won’t lead her astray. “Novak handles difficult topics with sensitivity, making for a heart-tugging romance. Readers are sure to be sucked in.” (PW)

Parish, Samara. [How to Survive a Scandal](#)
(Forever \$8.99)

Lady Amelia was raised to be the perfect duchess, accomplished in embroidery, floral arrangement, and managing a massive household. But when an innocent mistake forces her and the uncouth, untitled Benedict Asterly into a marriage of convenience, all her training appears to be for naught. Even worse, she finds herself inexplicably drawn to this man no finishing school could have prepared her for. Benedict Asterly never dreamed saving Amelia’s life would lead to him exchanging vows with the hoity society miss. Benedict was taught to distrust the aristocracy at a young age, so when news of his marriage endangers a business deal, Benedict is wary of Amelia’s offer to help. But his quick-witted, elegant bride defies all his expectations . . . and if he’s not careful, she’ll break down the walls around his guarded heart.

Quick, Amanda. [The Lady Has a Past](#)
(Berkley \$27)

Apprentice investigator Lyra Brazier is really only in charge of things at Kirk Investigations while her boss Raina Kirk takes care of a personal errand, but Lyra thinks her new “promotion” still says something about her abilities as a detective. However, Lyra soon has to draw upon her nascent deductive skills when she begins to suspect something has happened to Raina. After teaming up Simon Cage, an antiquarian book dealer with some unique skills of his own, Lyra and Simon set off to find her boss. Nick and Nora Charles have nothing on Lyra and Simon as the two find themselves trading quips and kisses while searching for a dangerous murderer at a toney desert resort/health spa, run by a woman, who could be Elizabeth Arden’s evil twin sister. *The Lady Has a Past*, the latest in Quick’s madly inventive 1930s-set Burning Cove books, is another triumph of snappy wit, spine-tingling suspense, and sophisticated romance. The Poisoned Pen will have a limited number of signed copies, while supplies last.



Reichert, Amy E. [The Kindred Spirits Supper Club](#)
(Berkley \$16)

For Sabrina Monroe, moving back home to the Wisconsin Dells--the self-described Waterpark Capital of the World--means returning to the Monroe family curse: the women in her family can see spirits who come to them for help with unfinished business. But Sabrina’s always redirected the needy spirits to her mom, who’s much better suited for the job. The one exception has always been Molly, a bubbly rom-com loving ghost, who stuck by Sabrina’s side all through her lonely childhood. Her personal life starts looking up when Ray, the new local restaurateur, invites Sabrina to his supper club, where he flirts with her over his famous Brandy Old-Fashioneds. He’s charming and handsome, but Sabrina tells herself she doesn’t have time for romance--she needs to focus on finding a job. Except the longer she’s in the Dells, the harder it is to resist her feelings for Ray. Who can turn down a cute guy with a fondness for rescue dogs and an obsession with perfecting his fried cheese curds recipe?

Riley, Vanessa. [An Earl, the Girl, and a Toddler](#)
(Zebra \$15.95)

Surviving a shipwreck en route to London from Jamaica was just the start of personal maid Jemina St. Maur's nightmare. Suffering from amnesia, she was separated from anyone who might know her and imprisoned in Bedlam. She was freed only because barrister Daniel Thackery, Lord Ashbrook, was convinced to betray the one thing he holds dear: the law. Desperate to unearth her true identity, Jemina's only option is to work outside the law--which means staying steps ahead of the formidable Daniel, no matter how strongly she is drawn to him. Married only by proxy, now widowed by shipwreck, Daniel is determined to protect his little stepdaughter, Charlotte, from his family's scandalous reputation. That's why he has dedicated himself not just to the law, but to remaining as proper and upstanding--and boring--as can be. But the closer he becomes to the mysterious, alluring Jemina, the more Daniel is tempted to break the very rules to which he's dedicated his life. As ruthless adversaries close in, will the truth require him and Jemina to sacrifice their one chance at happiness?

Roberts, Sheila. [Sunset on Moonlight Beach](#)
(MIRA \$9.99)

Jenna Jones has been standing on the shore of the Sea of Love for too long. Even with two good men interested in her, she's been afraid to wade in. According to her best friend, Courtney, she should. The water's fine. Life is great! Practically perfect, if you don't count Courtney's problems with her cranky ex-boss. Maybe Courtney's right. It's time to dive in. However, when tragedy strikes, everything changes and Jenna's more confused than ever. But this fresh heartache might help her figure out at last who she can turn to when times get tough. Fans of Debbie Macomber who have not yet discovered Sheila Robert's equally heart-warming books are in for a treat.

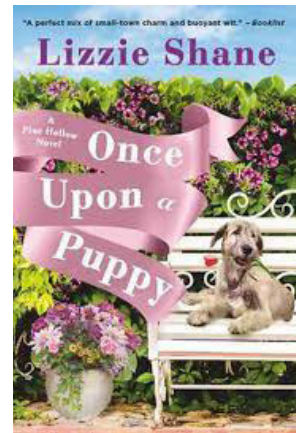
Rosen, Renee. [The Social Graces](#)
(Berkley \$17)

In the glittering world of Manhattan's upper crust, a woman's value comes from her pedigree, dowry, and most importantly, her connections. They have few rights and even less independence--what they do have is their place in society. The more celebrated the hostess, the more powerful the woman. And none is more powerful than Caroline Astor--*the Mrs.*

Astor. But times are changing. Alva Vanderbilt has recently married into one of America's richest families. But what good is dizzying wealth when society refuses to acknowledge you? Alva, who knows what it is to have nothing, will do whatever it takes to have everything. Sweeping three decades and based on true events, this is the mesmerizing story of two fascinating, complicated women going head to head, behaving badly, and discovering what's truly at stake. In this endlessly entertaining Gilded Age tale, "Rosen digs deep to reveal the humanity of these socialites as they cope with death, betrayal, and the ultimate shame: divorce." (PW)

Shane, Lizzie. [Once Upon a Puppy](#)
(Forever \$8.99)

Connor Wyeth has a plan for everything. But when he adopts Maximus, an unruly Irish wolfhound mix, he gets more than he bargained for. If he doesn't act fast, the big dopey mutt is going to destroy his house. The only person Max ever listens to is the volunteer who used to walk him at the shelter: a perennially upbeat woman whose day job is planning princess parties for little kids. Connor couldn't ever imagine that she'd be able to tame such a beast as Max, but he's desperate enough to try anything. Deenie Mitchell isn't looking forward to spending more time with uptight, rules-oriented Connor; no matter how attractive he is. But when her sister announces her engagement, Deenie realizes he's the perfect person to impress her type-A family. When she learns he needs a plus-one for his law firm's work events, an unlikely alliance is formed. But as they play the perfect couple, the friendship - and the feelings - that are forming start to feel all too real.



Sharratt, Mary. [Revelations](#)
(HMH \$26)

At the age of forty, Margery Kempe has nearly died giving birth to her fourteenth child. Fearing that another pregnancy might kill her, she makes a vow of celibacy, but she can't trust her husband to keep his end of the bargain. Desperate for counsel, she visits the famous anchoress Dame Julian of Norwich. Pour-

ing out her heart, Margery confesses that she has been haunted by visceral religious visions. Julian then offers up a confession of her own: she has written a secret, radical book about her own visions, *Revelations of Divine Love*. Nearing the end of her life and fearing Church authorities, Julian entrusts her precious book to Margery, who sets off the adventure of a lifetime to secretly spread Julian's words.

Shin, Ann. [The Last Exiles](#)

(Park Row \$27.99)

Jin and Suja meet and fall in love while studying at university in Pyongyang. She is a young journalist from a prominent family, while he is from a small village of little means. Outside the school, North Korea has fallen under great political upheaval, plunged into chaos and famine. When Jin returns home to find his family starving, their food rations all but gone, he makes a rash decision that will haunt him for the rest of his life. Meanwhile, miles away, Suja has begun to feel the tenuousness of her privilege when she learns that Jin has disappeared. Risking everything, and defying her family, Suja sets out to find him, embarking on a dangerous journey that leads her into a dark criminal underbelly and tests their love and will to survive. *PW* summed up this debut novel thusly "With taut pacing and rich prose, Shin provides a revelatory view on a system of underground brokers who aid defectors, but also fuel indentured servitude in China. The many layers make for a moving and powerful story."

Sutanto, Jesse. Q. [Dial A for Aunties](#)

(Berkley \$16)

Wildly wacky and weirdly wonderful is the best way I can find to describe this unforgettably fun novel. Meddelin Chan has given up on romance, every since she was forced to choose between the man she loved and her family back in college. Now Meddy's life consists of working with her mom and her four Aunties in the family's wedding planning business. When Meddy's mom fabricates an online dating profile for her and sets her up on a date, Meddy figures what does she have to lose by going out with the man? As it turns out, quite



a bit, when Meddy accidentally kills her date, and then must turn to her mother and her aunts for a bit of help in dealing with the body. Yes, the plot is completely bonkers, but Sutanto sells the story to readers willing suspend more than the usual modicum of disbelief with an infectiously engaging writing style that is deftly infused with just the right dash of dry humor. Suspense, romance, and a joyous celebration of family, it's all expertly entwined in this whimsically inventive, madly original book.

Sweeney-Baird, Christina. [The End of Men](#)

(G.P. Putnam's \$17)

The year is 2025, and a mysterious virus has broken out in Scotland--a lethal illness that seems to effect only men. When Dr. Amanda MacLean reports this phenomenon, she is dismissed as hysterical. By the time her warning is heeded, it is too late. The virus becomes a global pandemic--and a political one. The victims are all men. The world becomes alien--a women's world. What follows is the immersive account of the women who have been left to deal with the virus's consequences, told through first-person narratives. Dr. MacLean; Catherine, a social historian determined to document the human stories behind the "male plague"; intelligence analyst Dawn, tasked with helping the government forge a new society; and Elizabeth, one of many scientists desperately working to develop a vaccine. Through these women and others, we see the uncountable ways the absence of men has changed society, from the personal--the loss of husbands and sons--to the political--the changes in the workforce, fertility, and the meaning of family. As *Kirkus* put it about this debut "this may be just the novel you want to read right now or the last thing you'd ever want to pick up."

Thompson, Elizabeth. [Lost in Paris](#)

(Gallery \$16.99)

Hannah Bond has always been a bookworm, which is why she fled Florida - and her unstable, alcoholic mother - for a quiet life leading Jane Austen-themed tours through the British countryside. But on New Year's Eve, everything comes crashing down when she arrives back at her London flat to find her mother, Marla, waiting for her. Marla's brought two things with her: a black eye from her ex-boyfriend and an envelope. Its contents? The deed to an apartment in Paris, an old key, and newspaper clippings about the death of a famous writer named Andres Armand.

Hannah, wary of her mother's motives, reluctantly agrees to accompany her to Paris, where against all odds, they discover great-grandma Ivy's apartment frozen in 1940 and covered in dust. Inside the apartment, Hannah and Marla discover mysterious clues about Ivy's life; including a diary detailing evenings of drinking and dancing with Hemingway, the Fitzgeralds, and other iconic expats. Outside, they retrace her steps through the city in an attempt to understand why she went to such great lengths to hide her Paris identity from future generations

Thorne, Sally. [Second First Impressions](#)
(William Morrow \$15.99)

If Ruthie Midona can run the Providence Retirement Village's front office in her almost-retired bosses' absence, with no hijinks/hiccups, she has a shot at becoming the new manager. She might also be able to defend her safe little world from Prescott Development, the new buyer of the prime site. Maybe after *all* that, she can find a cute guy to date. All she needs to do is stay serious, and that's what she does best. Until, one day, someone dazzling blows in to town. Teddy Prescott devotes his life to sleeping, tattooing, and avoiding seriousness. When Teddy needs a place to crash, he makes a deal with his developer dad. Teddy can stay in one of Providence's on-site maintenance cottages - right next door to an unimpressed Ruthie - but only if he works there and starts to grow up. Landing a job as the wealthy and eccentric Parloni sisters' new assistant is the first step in Teddy's new employment plan. The salary is generous and the employers are 90 years old, so how hard could the job be?

Walter, Heather. [Malice](#)
(Del Rey \$27)

In this darkly magical retelling of *Sleeping Beauty*, Alyce, an evil sorceress, finds an ally in Princess Aurora and wonders if she can lift Aurora's curse so that together they can forge a new world.

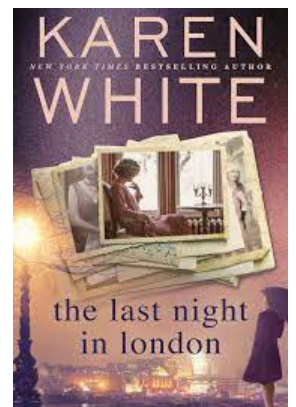
Waters, Martha. [To Love and to Loathe](#)
(Atria \$16.99)

When his skills in the bedroom are called into question by his latest mistress, Jeremy Overington, the Marquess of Willingham asks his old frenemy Diana Bourne, Lady Templeton, if she might be interested in a brief affair with him solely so that he can receive an honest critique of his amorous skill set. The widowed

Diana can then use the gossip about their affair to signal that she is open to romantic overtures from other gentlemen in the *ton*. However, what starts out as a no-strings romantic relationship between the two soon turns into something much more complicated when both Jeremy and Diana realize they actually have feelings for one another. Julia Quinn and her *Bridgerton* books have nothing on newcomer Waters when it comes to dishing up witty and sexy Regency-set romance.

White, Karen. [The Last Night in London](#)
(Berkley \$27)

Living in London on the brink of war, beautiful and ambitious Eva Harlow and her best friend, sweet Southerner Precious Dubose, are young models on the rise--and a duo as close as sisters. But when Eva falls in love with Graham St. John, an aristocrat and former pilot, she finds herself slipping into a web of intrigue, spies, and secrets. Her journey will test the limits of her friendship with Precious--and the mettle of all Britons as the Blitz devastates their world. Eighty years later, in 2019, journalist Maddie Warner, whose life has been marked by the tragic loss of her mother, comes to London to interview Precious. Maddie has been careful to close herself off to love, but in Precious she recognizes someone whose grief rivals her own--and whose wisdom may teach Maddie how to navigate her relationship with Colin, Precious's shy and handsome surrogate nephew. But first Maddie will have to unravel Precious's many secrets--the unre-membered acts of glory, love, and betrayal that have haunted her for more than fifty years



Williams, Pip. [The Dictionary of Lost Words](#)
(Ballantine \$28)

Esme is born into a world of words. Motherless and irrepressibly curious, she spends her childhood in the "Scriptorium," a garden shed in Oxford where her father and a team of dedicated lexicographers are collecting words for the very first *Oxford English Dictionary*. Young Esme's place is beneath the sorting table, unseen and unheard. One day a slip of paper containing the word "bondmaid" flutters to

the floor. She rescues the slip, and when she learns that the word means slave-girl, she withholds it from the *OED* and begins to collect other words that have been discarded or neglected by the dictionary men. As she grows up, Esme realizes that words and meanings relating to women's and common folks' experiences often go unrecorded. And so she begins in earnest to search out words for her own dictionary: *The Dictionary of Lost Words*. To do so she must leave the sheltered world of the university and venture out to meet the people whose words will fill those pages. *LJ* summed this up with "Enchanting, sorrowful, and wonderfully written, this book is a one-of-a-kind celebration of language and its importance in our lives."

Teen

Albertalli, Becky. [Kate in Waiting](#)
(Balzer + Bray \$18.99)

Contrary to popular belief, best friends Kate Garfield and Anderson Walker are *not* codependent. Carpooling to and from theater rehearsals? Environmentally sound and efficient. Consulting each other on every single life decision? Basic good judgment. Pining for the same guys from afar? Shared crushes are more fun anyway. But when Kate and Andy's latest long-distance crush shows up *at their school*, everything goes off-script. Matt Olsson is talented and sweet, and Kate likes him. She *really* likes him. The only problem? So does Anderson.

Turns out, communal crushes aren't so fun when real feelings are involved. This one might even bring the curtains down on Kate and Anderson's friendship.

Doyle, Carrie. [The Murder Game](#)
(Sourcebooks Fire \$10.99)

What if your best friend and roommate killed a teacher at your prep school? Or what if he didn't do it, but he's being framed, and you're the only person who can save him? What if you aren't sure which it is? Luke Chase didn't mean to get caught up solving the mystery of Mrs. Heckler's murder. He just wanted to meet up with the new British girl at their boarding school, and if that meant sneaking out to the woods after hours, then so be it. Little did he know someone would end up dead right next to their rendezvous spot, and his best friend and roommate Oscar Weymouth would go down for it. With suspects aplenty

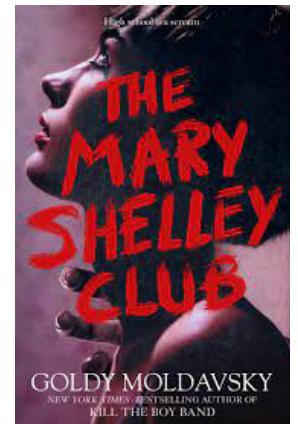
and a past that's anything but innocent, Luke Chase calls on his famous survival skills to solve the mystery and find the true killer. Doyle also writes the cozy Hampton Murder series.

Heinwein, Mercedes. [Slingshot](#)
(Wednesday Books \$18.99)

Defensively rebuffing the advances of her peers while attending a third-tier boarding school in the Florida swamps, loner Grace inadvertently rescues a bullied new kid who transforms her perspectives about friendship and perfection. *Kirkus* said this much-acclaimed new YA novel is "wildly real and bursting with all the romance and pain of coming into oneself."

Moldavsky, Goldy. [The Mary Shelley Club](#)
(Henry Holt \$18.99)

New girl Rachel Chavez turns to horror movies for comfort, preferring stabby serial killers and homicidal dolls to the bored rich kids of Manhattan Prep...and to certain memories she'd preferred to keep buried. Then Rachel is recruited by the Mary Shelley Club, a mysterious society of students who orchestrate Fear Tests, elaborate pranks inspired by urban legends and movie tropes. At first, Rachel embraces the power that comes with reckless pranking. But as the Fear Tests escalate, the competition turns deadly, and it's clear Rachel is playing a game she can't afford to lose. Consider this Riley Sager for the teen set.



Food

Bonneau, Anne-marie. [The Zero-waste Chef](#)
(Avery \$25)

In her debut book, Bonneau gives readers the facts to motivate them to do better, the simple (and usually free) fixes to ease them into wasting less--you can, for example, banish plastic wrap by simply inverting a plate over your leftovers--and, finally, the recipes and strategies to turn them into more sustainable, money-saving cooks. Rescue a loaf from the landfill by making Mexican Hot Chocolate Bread Pudding, or revive some sad greens to make a pesto. Save five

bucks (and the plastic tub) at the supermarket with Yes Whey, You Can Make Ricotta Cheese, then use the cheese in a galette and the leftover whey to make sourdough tortillas. With 75 vegan and vegetarian recipes for cooking with scraps, creating fermented staples, and using up all your groceries before they become waste—including end-of-recipe tips on what to do with your ingredients next—Bonneau lays out an attainable vision of a zero-waste kitchen.

Francois, Zoe. [Zoe Bakes Cakes](#)
(Ten Speed \$30)

An expert baker and the best-selling author of *Artisan Bread in Five Minutes a Day* offers 100 easy-to-follow cake recipes including Apple Cake with Honey-Bourbon Glaze (trust me, this one is an easy to make knockout), Lemon-Curd Pound Cake, Coconut-Candy Bar Cake, and Chocolate Devil's Food Cake.

Jones, Lee. [The Chef's Garden](#)
(Avery \$60)

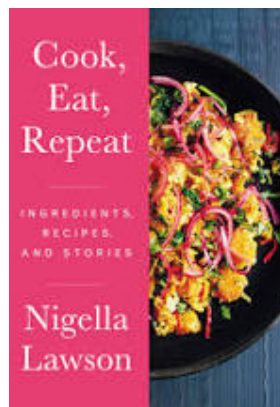
A family farm that became the most renowned specialty vegetable grower in America shares their knowledge on how to select, prepare and cook vegetables in over 500 entries from herbs to edible flowers and common and uncommon produce.

Lawson, Nigella. [Cook, Eat, Repeat](#)
(Ecco \$31.99)

Cook, Eat, Repeat is a delicious and delightful combination of recipes intertwined with narrative essays about food, all written in Nigella Lawson's engaging and insightful prose. Whether asking "what is a recipe?" or declaring death to the use of "guilty pleasure" when describing food,

Nigella brings her wisdom about cooking and life to the fore while sharing new recipes that readers will want to return to again and again. Within these chapters are more than a hundred new recipes for all seasons and tastes from Burnt Onion and Eggplant Dip to Chicken with Garlic Cream Sauce; from Beef Cheeks

with Port and Chestnuts to Ginger and Beetroot Yogurt Sauce. Those with a sweet tooth will delight in desserts including Rhubarb and Custard Trifle; Chocolate Peanut Butter Cake; and Cherry and Almond Crumble.



Pollack, Dana Loia. [Dana's Bakery](#)
(Page Street \$22.99)

As a trained pastry chef, Dana never fails to take classic, crave-able desserts to a whole new level—including her Mookies (a macaroon baked inside a cookie) that people line up to try. Now, you can make them—and 99 other incredible desserts from Dana's collection—in the comfort of your own kitchen. Organized by flavor, including Cookie Dough, Death by Chocolate and Taste the Rainbow, there's a dessert for every craving.

Ripert, Eric. [Vegetable Simple](#)
(Random House \$35)

Eric Ripert is the chef and co-owner of the New York restaurant Le Bernardin, which holds three Michelin stars and has maintained a four-star rating from *The New York Times* for more than two decades. In *Vegetable Simple*, Ripert turns his singular culinary imagination to vegetables: their beauty, their earthiness, their nourishing qualities, and the many ways they can be prepared. From vibrant Sweet Pea Soup to Fava Bean and Mint Salad, from warming Mushroom Bolognese to Roasted Carrots with Harissa, Eric Ripert articulates a vision for vegetables that are prepared simply, without complex steps or ingredients, allowing their essential qualities to shine and their color and flavor to remain uncompromised. Complete with gorgeous photos by renowned photographer Nigel Parry, this is a necessary guide for the way we eat today.

Ruhlman, Michael. [From Scratch](#)
(Abrams \$40)

From Scratch looks at 10 favorite meals, including roast chicken, the perfect omelet, and paella—and then, through 175 recipes, explores myriad alternate pathways that the kitchen invites. A delicious lasagna can be ready in about an hour, or you could turn it into a project: try making and adding some homemade sausage. Explore the limits of from-scratch cooking: make your own pasta, grow your own tomatoes, and make your own homemade mozzarella and ricotta. Ruhlman tells you how.

Wilkinson, Molly. [French Pastry Made Simple](#)
(Page Street \$22.99)

Beautiful, authentic French pastry is easier than it looks! Molly Wilkinson, a Texas transplant running

sold-out pastry workshops in Versailles, was trained at Le Cordon Bleu, but takes a refreshingly relaxed approach to pastry. Molly covers the basics, with time-saving recipes like her magically flakey 30-minute puff pastry and her perfect, fail-safe pastry cream, and then moves on to ganache, caramel, meringue and more. Readers can use their new skills to make classics like Eclairs, Mille Feuille and Tarte Tatin or try their hand at showstoppers like Mixed Berry Macaroon Cake and Bûche de Noël.

Nonfiction

Clavin, Tom. [Blood and Treasure](#)
(St. Martin's \$29.99)

This narrative account of the life of historical frontiersman Daniel Boone goes beyond pop-culture depictions to offer insight into his Revolutionary War heroism and nation-shaping achievements as witnessed by 18th-century colonists and Native Americans. "Clavin and Drury successfully separate fact from fiction while keeping the pages turning. History buffs will be entertained." (PW)

Harden, Blaine. [Murder at the Mission](#)
(Viking \$30)

In 1836, two missionaries and their wives were among the first Americans to cross the Rockies by covered wagon on what would become the Oregon Trail. Dr. Marcus Whitman and Reverend Henry Spalding were headed to present-day Washington state and Idaho, where they aimed to convert members of the Cayuse and Nez Perce tribes. Both would fail spectacularly as missionaries. But Spalding would succeed as a propagandist, inventing a story that recast his friend as a hero, and helped to fuel the massive westward migration that would eventually lead to the devastation of those they had purportedly set out to save. "Enriched by dramatic storytelling and candid interviews with contemporary Cayuses, this immersive account illuminates how the tragedies of the past inform the present." (PW)

Keefe, Patrick Radden. [Empire of Pain](#)
(Doubleday \$32.50)

The award-winning author of *Say Nothing* presents a narrative account of how three generations of the prominent wealthy Sackler family sponsored the creation and marketing of one of the most

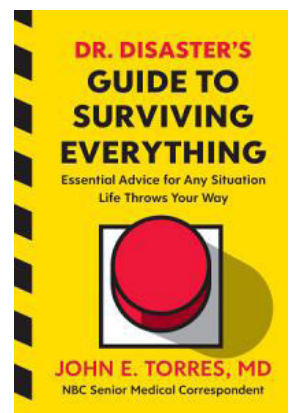
commonly prescribed and addictive painkillers of the opioid crisis.

Saltzman, Cynthia. [Plunder](#)
(FSG \$30)

Cynthia Saltzman's *Plunder* recounts the fate of Paolo Veronese's *Wedding Feast at Cana*, a vast, sublime canvas that the French, under the command of the young Napoleon Bonaparte, tore from a wall of the monastery of San Giorgio Maggiore, on an island in Venice, in 1797. Once pulled from the wall, the Venetian canvas crossed the Mediterranean rolled on a cylinder; soon after, artworks commandeered from Venice and Rome were triumphantly brought into Paris. In 1801, the Veronese went on exhibition at the Louvre, the new public art museum founded during the Revolution in the former palace of the French kings. As Saltzman tells the larger story of Napoleon's looting of Italian art and its role in the creation of the Louvre, she reveals the contradictions of his character: his thirst for greatness—to carry forward the finest aspects of civilization—and his ruthlessness in getting whatever he sought.

Torres, John. [Dr. Disaster's Guide to Surviving Everything](#) (HMH \$26)

In *Dr. Disaster's Guide to Surviving Everything*, Dr. Torres shares the essential advice you need to survive any worst-case scenario, from natural disasters like lightning strikes, hurricanes, and wildlife encounters, to human-made ones like terrorist attacks and active-shooter situations. As fun to read as it is informative, this book is full of hacks that could save your life, such as why you should never use a landline during a thunderstorm and the first thing you should do every time you enter a shopping mall.



White, Edward. [The Twelve Lives of Alfred Hitchcock](#)
(WW Norton \$28.95)

In *The Twelve Lives of Alfred Hitchcock*, Edward White explores the Hitchcock phenomenon—what defines it, how it was invented, what it reveals about the man at its core, and how its legacy continues to shape our cultural world. The book's twelve

chapters illuminate different aspects of Hitchcock's life and work: "The Boy Who Couldn't Grow Up"; "The Murderer"; "The Auteur"; "The Womanizer"; "The Fat Man"; "The Dandy"; "The Family Man"; "The Voyeur"; "The Entertainer"; "The Pioneer"; "The Londoner"; "The Man of God." Each of these angles reveals something fundamental about the man he was and the mythological creature he has become, presenting not just the life Hitchcock lived, but also the various versions of himself that he projected, and those projected on his behalf.