

Midmonth BookNotes

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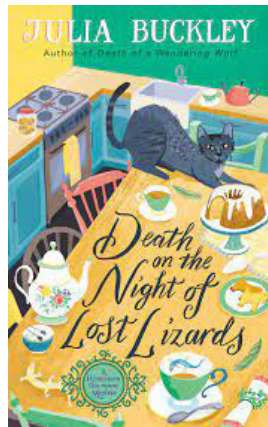


It's Blooming Books!

Cozy Corner

Buckley, Julia. [Death on the Night of Lost Lizards](#)
(Berkley \$7.99)

Hana Keller is getting ready for a lovely holiday season by hosting a tea at her apartment for her closest friends. During the cozy get-together, one of Hana's friends gets a call that a murderer is on the loose and that the women should be careful. Hana soon learns that Sandor Balog, a professor of Hungarian Studies at the local college, has been viciously killed. Then Hana gets one of her visions that she is going to be pulled into the professor's death somehow. When Erik, her handsome detective boyfriend, finds several suspects at the Tea House, Hana knows she must now investigate.



Dylan, Jess. [Death in Bloom](#)
(St. Martins \$7.99)

Sierra Ravenswood didn't expect to be back in her hometown at twenty-eight-years-old, but after her dream of making it as a singer in Nashville crashed and burned, she's just grateful to have found a soft place to land. Because, after all, Sierra firmly believes in being optimistic and positive about life, so she's sure she won't have to work at the Flower House forever. But things take a decidedly negative turn when a customer drops dead in the middle of her new bouquet-arranging workshop at the store. When it's discovered he was poisoned by a snack at the

event, everyone at the workshop, including Sierra, is on the suspect list. To make matters worse, her boss has gone AWOL and left the store to her for the cost of one dollar, leaving Sierra in charge of both his store and his high-energy Corgi puppy, Gus. The town is on edge, and Sierra knows that murder is something that an upbeat attitude and a bouquet of sweet-smelling roses can't fix. She's determined to figure out whodunit, before anyone else in town meets an untimely reason for needing funeral flowers.

Kalb, Kathleen Marple. [A Fatal First Night](#)
(Kensington \$26)

Coloratura mezzo Ella Shane has always known opening night to be a mess of missed cues and jittery nerves, especially when the cast is unveiling a new opera. However, the new production of *The Princes in the Tower*, based on the mysterious disappearance of Edward IV's two sons during the Wars of the Roses in England, is definitely off to a rocky start when basso Albert

Reuter is found lurching over a bloody body in his dressing room. Ella Shane took her first bow as amateur sleuth in [A Fatal Finale](#) (Kensington \$15.95).

McKinlay, Jenn. [For Batter or Worse](#)
(Berkley \$7.99)

When their friend Oz is accused of murdering the head chef at the resort where their wedding is to be held, Fairy Tale Cupcakes bakery owner Mel and her fiancé Joe must race against time to catch the real killer as their wedding day quickly approaches.

Metink, Dana. [Pint of No Return](#)

(Sourcebooks \$8.99)

Opening the Shimmy and Shake Shop in Upper Sprocket, Oregon after divorcing a thrice-married embezzler, Trinidad Jones and her dog Noodles come to the rescue of one of Trinidad's fellow ex-wives who is accused of murdering Kevin Heartly, the Popcorn King. This charmingly sweet cozy launches a new series by Metink.

Pleiter, Allie. [On Skein of Death](#)

(Berkley \$7.99)

Opening a yarn shop – aptly named Y.A.R.N. (for You're Absolutely Ready Now) along the Chester River, Libby Beckett lands famous Norwegian Knitting celebrity Perle Langager to host a knitting tutorial but when Perle is found dead in the back of her shop, Libby must find the truth before her new life unravels. This is the debut for Pleiter's new Riverbank Knitting series.

Back in Print

O'Brian, Patrick. [Master and Commander](#)

(W.W. Norton \$15.95)

It is the dawn of the nineteenth century; Britain is at war with Napoleon's France. Jack Aubrey, a young lieutenant in Nelson's navy, is promoted to command of *H.M.S. Sophie*, an old, slow brig unlikely to make his fortune. But Captain Aubrey is a brave and gifted seaman, his thirst for adventure and victory immense. With the aid of his friend Stephen Maturin, ship's surgeon and secret intelligence agent, Aubrey and his crew engage in one thrilling battle after another, their journey culminating in a stunning clash with a mighty Spanish frigate against whose guns and manpower the *Sophie* is hopelessly outmatched. The first in the splendid Jack Aubrey series is being re-printed in these snazzy new editions by W.W. Norton.

Rawlings, Marjorie Kinnan. [The Yearling](#)

(Scribner \$30)

Set in the 1870s, this classic story of the Baxter family and their wild, hard, and satisfying life in remote central Florida has been beloved by readers of all ages for the last eighty years. After Jody's pa kills a deer, Jody convinces his father they should bring the

doe's fawn home. Jody and his fawn are inseparable, but the day comes when Jody must choose between his deer and the family's survival. Winner of the Pulitzer Prize and a #1 bestseller for 23 consecutive weeks when it was first published, this special new edition of *The Yearling* perfectly captures the essence of childhood.

Rinehart, Mary Roberts. [The Wall](#)

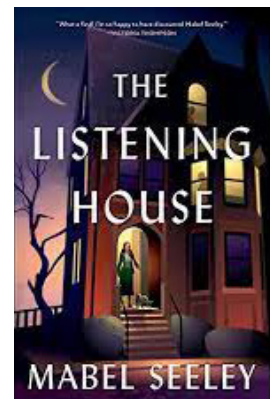
(Penzler \$15.95)

Marcia Lloyd and her brother Arthur have spent every summer of their lives exploring the grand halls and seaside grounds of their family's idyllic vacation home, a gorgeous old mansion called Sunset House built by their grandfather. But when Arthur's ex-wife Juliette arrives at Sunset to demand alimony from him, things take a dark turn and Juliette disappears—her body found a week later. What sordid secrets lie within the creaky old manor? Marcia and the local sheriff Russell Shand must work against the clock to find the murderer in this seemingly utopian upper-class hamlet.

Seeley, Mabel. [The Listening House](#)

(Berkley \$16)

After losing her copywriting job, young Gwynne Dacres seeks a place to live when she stumbles upon Mrs. Garr's old boarding-house. Despite the gruff landlady and an assortment of shifty tenants, Gwynne rents a room for herself. She spends her first few nights at 593 Trent Street tensely awake, the house creaking and groaning as if listening to everything that happens behind its closed doors. A chain of chilling events leads to the gruesome discovery of a mutilated body in the basement kitchen, dead of unknown circumstances. Was it an accident or murder? Under the red-black brick facade of the old house on Trent Street, Gwynne uncovers a myriad of secrets, blackmail, corruption, and clues of a wicked past. As she closes in on the truth, the cold, pale hands of death reach for Gwynne in the night.



Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Abrams, Stacey. [While Justice Sleeps](#)
(Doubleday \$28)

Plunged into an explosive role she never anticipated, Avery Keene, now the legal guardian of power of attorney for the legendary Justice Howard Wynn, must unravel the clues he left behind in regards to a dangerous conspiracy that has infiltrated the highest power corridors of Washington

Ashley, Kristen. [Dream Spinner](#)
(Forever \$8.99)

When a stalker begins terrorizing aspiring ballerina Hattie Yates, former soldier Axl Pantera uses this opportunity to show her just how much she means to him as he tries to keep her safe from harm. "Ashley delivers a sexy, high-octane thriller, the third in her Dream Team series." (PW)

Bellefleur, Alexandria. [Hang the Moon](#)
(Avon \$15.99)

When his sister's best friend, Annie Kyriakos, on whom he has had a crush for years, comes to Seattle, dating app creator Brendon Lowell, taking cues from his favorite rom-coms, plans to woo her until he discovers that real love doesn't need to be as perfect as the movies. Bellefleur builds on the success of her first superb contemporary romance, [Written in the Stars](#) (Avon \$15.99) with this enchanting love story of which *Kirkus* said "The rom-com re-creations give the plot some structure. Tropes including "there's only one bed" and embarrassing moments like falling into a lake in formal clothes are used to great result, but the author doesn't let the gimmick overtake strong character development, and the writing feels fresh, never derivative. Smart, sexy, and sweet. Readers will be over the moon for this rom-com."



Birchall, Katy. [The Secret Bridesmaid](#)
(St. Martins Griffin \$16.99)

As a professional bridesmaid, Sophie Breeze is hired by London brides to be their right-hand woman, posing as a friend but working behind the scenes to help plan the perfect wedding and ensure their big day goes off without a hitch. When she's hired by Lady Victoria Swann—a former model and "It Girl" of 1970's London; now the Marchioness of Meade—for *the* society wedding of the year, it should be a chance for Sophie to prove just how talented she is. Of course, it's not ideal that the bride, Lady Victoria's daughter, Cordelia, is an absolute diva and determined to make Sophie's life a nightmare. It's also a bit inconvenient that Sophie finds herself drawn to Cordelia's posh older brother, who is *absolutely* off limits. But when a rival society wedding is announced for the very same day, things start to get...well, complicated.

Bromley, Kate. [Talk Bookish to Me](#)
(Graydon House \$15.99)

As a bestselling romance novelist and influential bookstagrammer, Kara Sullivan is fine with getting her happily-ever-after fix between the covers of a book. But right now? Not only is Kara's best friend getting married next week - which means big wedding stress - but the deadline for her next novel is looming, and she hasn't written a single word. The last thing she needs is for her infuriating first love, Ryan Thompson, to suddenly appear in the wedding party. But Ryan's unexpected arrival sparks a creative awakening in Kara that inspires the steamy historical romance she desperately needs to deliver.

Caritj, Anna. [Leda and the Swan](#)
(Riverhead \$28)

It's Halloween, Saturday night, on a pastoral East Coast college campus. Scantly costumed students ride the fine line between adolescence and adulthood as they prepare for a night of debauchery. Alcohol is flowing. Sex is in the air. Expectations are high as Leda flirts with her thrilling new crush, Ian, and he flirts back. But by the end of the night, things will have taken a turn. When Leda later wakes up in Ian's room, she is unsure exactly what happened between them. Meanwhile, Charlotte, the young woman that

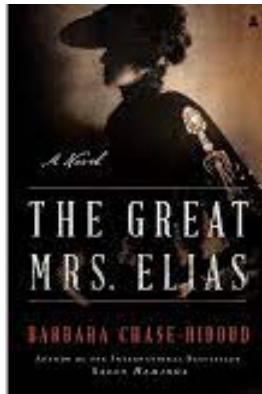
Leda last spoke to upon leaving the party, is now missing. As the campus rouses itself to respond to Charlotte's disappearance, rumors swirl, suspicious facts pile up, and Leda's obsession with her missing classmate grows. Is it just a coincidence that Leda's slightly scary new boyfriend and the missing woman used to be a couple? Is Leda herself in danger? Or only in danger of falling in love?

Clark, Georgia. [It Had to Be You](#)
(Atria \$17)

When her late husband Eliot leaves his half of their wedding planning business to Savannah Shipley, his current girlfriend, Liv Goldenhorn, who never saw this coming, finds herself shackled to her polar opposite in every way. But Savannah's inexperience may be just what the company needs to bring the company back to life. This charming novel, which *PW* called *The First Wives Club* meets *Love, Actually*, has been gathering a veritable galaxy of starred reviews.

Chase-Riboud, Barbara. [The Great Mrs. Elias](#)
(Amistad \$26.99)

Born in Philadelphia in the late 1800s, Hannah Elias has done things she's not proud of to survive. Shedding her past, Hannah slips on a new identity before relocating to New York City to become as rich as a robber baron. Hannah quietly invests in the stock market, growing her fortune with the help of businessmen. As the money pours in, Hannah hides her millions across 29 banks. Finally attaining the life she's always dreamed, Hannah buys a mansion on the Upper West Side and decorates it in gold and first-rate décor, inspired by her idol Cleopatra. But now an unsolved murder and a case of mistaken identity bring the police to Hannah threatening to destroy everything she's worked so hard to build.



Cleeton, Chanel. [The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba](#)
(Berkley \$17)

At the end of the 19th century, reporter Grace Harrington and Marina Perez, a courier secretly working

for Cuban revolutionaries in Havana, free Evangelina Cisneros, "The Most Beautiful Girl in Cuba," who has been unjustly imprisoned — a mission that now forces them all to fight for their freedom as war looms on the horizon. Cleeton skillfully brings off the three strong women's heartbreaking stories with intriguing twists and turns and a delightful finale. With impeccable research and perfect pacing, Cleeton makes the most of her subject." (*PW*)

Dave, Laura. [The Last Thing He Told Me](#)
(Simon and Schuster \$27)

After her husband disappears, Hannah Hall quickly realizes he isn't who he said he was and that his 16-year-old daughter, who wants nothing to do with her, may hold the key to figuring out his true identity. Here is how *Kirkus* summed up the latest Reese Witherspoon Book club pick "Hannah's narrative alternates past and present, detailing her early days with Owen alongside her current hunt for him, and author Dave throws a touch of danger and a few surprises. But what really drives the story is the evolving nature of Hannah and Bailey's relationship, which is by turns poignant and frustrating but always realistic."

Dent, Lizzy. [The Summer Job](#)
(Putnam \$16)

When Heather, her world class wine expert best friend, ditches a summer job at a highland Scottish hotel, Birdy wonders if she can survive the summer pretending to be her, especially when she falls in love with a man who thinks she is someone else. But will taking this summer job ruin Birdy's life or be the best decision she ever makes? The publisher of this laugh-out-loud and ultimately heartwarming debut calls it *Beach Read* meets *Sweetbitter*.

Dorn, L.R. [The Anatomy of Desire](#)
(William Morrow \$27.99)

Arriving in Los Angeles flat broke, Claire Griffith has risen to become a popular fitness coach and social media influencer. Having rebranded herself as Cleo Ray, she stands at the threshold of realizing her biggest dreams. One summer day, Cleo and a woman named Beck Alden set off in a canoe on a serene mountain lake. An hour later, Beck is found dead in the water and Cleo is missing. Authorities suspect

foul play, and news of Cleo's involvement goes viral. Who was Beck? An infatuated follower? Were she and Cleo friends or lovers? Was Beck's death an accident . . . or murder? Told in the form of an immersive investigative docuseries, L. R. Dorn's brilliant reimagining of Theodore Dreiser's classic crime drama, *An American Tragedy*, captures the urgency and poignance of the original and rekindles it as a very contemporary and utterly mesmerizing page-turner.

Fraser, Jackie. [The Bookshop of Second Chances](#) (Ballantine \$17)

Inheriting a quaint cottage and a hefty antique book collection in Scotland, Thea Mottram falls in love with her new surroundings and a gruff bookshop owner, soon realizing that her new life may quickly become just as complicated as the one she was running from. "Humor and charm abound in Frasier's slow-burning debut." (PW)

Freeman, John, ed. [The Penguin Book of the Modern American Short Story](#) (Penguin \$28)

A curated collection of the best and most representative contemporary American short fiction from 1970 to 2020, including such authors as Ursula K. LeGuin, Toni Cade Bambara, Jhumpa Lahiri, Sandra Cisneros, and Ted Chiang, hand-selected by celebrated editor and anthologist John Freeman.

Friedland, Elyssa. [Last Summer at the Golden Hotel](#) (Berkley \$16)

In its heyday, The Golden Hotel was the crown jewel of the hotter-than-hot Catskills vacation scene. For more than sixty years, the Goldman and Weingold families – best friends and business partners – have presided over this glamorous resort, which served as a second home for well-heeled guests and celebrities. But now the Catskills are not what they used to be, and neither is the relationship between the Goldmans and the Weingolds. As the facilities begin to fall apart and cracks begin appearing in the management, a tempt-



ing offer to sell forces the two families together again to make a heart-wrenching decision. Can they save their beloved Golden or is it too late? Think of this charming novel as a clever mashup of *Dirty Dancing* and *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

Hall, Alexis. [Rosaline Palmer Takes the Cake](#) (Forever \$15.99)

With a paycheck as useful as greaseproof paper and a house crumbling faster than biscuits in tea, Rosaline Palmer is teetering on the edge of financial disaster. But where there's a whisk there's a way . . . and Rosaline has just landed a spot on the nation's most beloved baking show.

Winning the prize money would give her daughter Amelia the life she deserves, and Rosaline is determined to wind up the last baker standing. However, more than collapsing trifles stand between Rosaline and sweet, sweet victory. Suave, well-educated, and parent-approved Alain Pope knows all the right moves to sweep her off her feet, but it's shy electrician Harry Dobson who makes Rosaline question her long-held beliefs: about herself, her family, and her desires.

Rosaline fears falling for Harry is a guaranteed recipe for disaster. Yet as the competition heats up, Rosaline starts to realize the most delicious bakes come from the heart.

Handler, David. [The Man Who Wasn't All There](#) (Severn House \$28.99)

Celebrity-ghostwriter Stewart "Hoagy" Hoag hopes a stay at his ex-wife's idyllic farmhouse will give him inspiration for his new novel - but when oddball neighbor Austin threatens him, he and his basset hound Lulu will need their wits about them, if they're to stay alive. This is the latest installment of David Handler's Edgar Award-winning Stewart Hoag mystery series, which is set in 1990s' New York and features the snarky ghostwriter-sleuth and his faithful basset hound Lulu.

Hankin, Laura. [A Special Place for Women](#) (Berkley \$26)

A failing journalist seeking a scoop attempts to break into a secret, exclusive, women-only social club in

New York where billionaire “girl bosses” mingle with the astrology-obsessed and perform outlandish rituals aimed to bring success.

Harwood, J.J.A. [The Shadow in the Glass](#)
(HarperVoyager \$2699)

When a fairy godmother makes her an offer that will change her life--seven wishes, hers to make as she pleases--lowly maid Ella soon discovers that each wish comes with a high price and must decide whether it's one she is willing to pay. A deliciously eerie story of wishes and curses, this dark fairy tale of novel is deftly set against a Victorian backdrop full of lace and smoke.

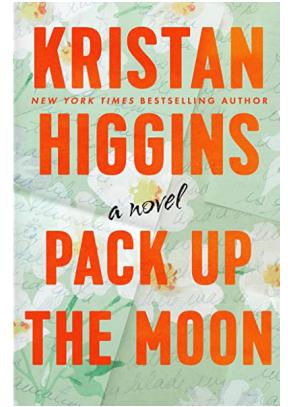
Henry, Emily. [People We Meet on Vacation](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Poppy and Alex. Alex and Poppy. They have nothing in common, and yet somehow, ever since a fateful car share home from college many years ago, they are the very best of friends. For most of the year they live far apart – she's in New York City, and he's in their small hometown - but every summer, for a decade, they have taken one glorious week of vacation together. Until two years ago, when they ruined everything. They haven't spoken since. Now when someone asks when Poppy when she was last truly happy, she knows, without a doubt, it was on that ill-fated, final trip with Alex. And so, she decides to convince her best friend to take one more vacation together. *Kirkus* called the latest from Henry (who hit the *NYT* best-seller list last summer with her deliciously fun *Beach Read*) as “a warm and winning *When Harry Met Sally* update that hits all the perfect notes.

Higgins, Kristan. [Pack Up the Moon](#)
(Berkley \$27)

Do you really want to read a book that will make you cry? The answer is yes, if that book is Kristan Higgins latest superbly poignant, aching real novel *Pack Up the Moon*. The book centers on Joshua Park, a medical device engineer, whose wife Lauren has just passed away from IPF (Idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis). Lauren has left twelve letters for her husband with her best friend Sarah to be delivered, one a month, the year after her death. In each letter, Lauren will ask Joshua to do one thing that may help him deal with

his grief over her death. The plot alternates between flashbacks that illuminate the love between Joshua and Lauren that was the foundation of their marriage to scenes set in the present day as Joshua tackles the varying tasks given by Lauren for him to do. Love, loss, family, friends, all are important ingredients deftly integrated into the plot of *Pack Up the Moon*, and while there are definite moments in the book that will have you reaching for a box of Kleenex, there are also some truly funny scenes that help to underscore for readers how life truly is made of laughter and tears, heartbreak and hope.



Houghton, Emily. [Before I Saw You](#)
(Gallery \$16.99)

Two long-term patients in the same hospital ward, Alice Gunnersley and Alfie Mack, help each other recover from traumatic injuries with friendship that turns into something more, despite not being able to see each other's faces. “Houghton creates a unique meet cute in this debut contemporary romance brimming with heart.” (*PW*)

Hourican, Emily. [The Glorious Guinness Girls](#)
(Grand Central \$16.99)

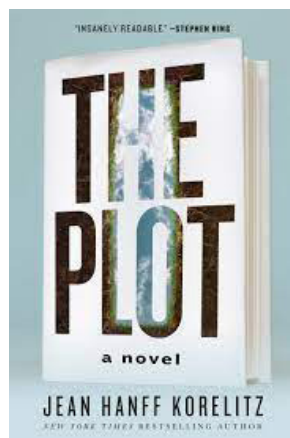
Aileen. Maureen. Oonagh. The private lives of the Glorious Guinness Girls fascinated a nation. But privilege always has its price... Granddaughters of the first Earl of Iveagh, the three daughters of Ernest Guinness are glamorous society girls, the toast of Dublin and London. Darlings of the press, with not a care in the world. But what beautiful ruins lie behind the glass of their privileged worlds? Inspired by fascinating real events and a remarkable true story, this fascinating novel takes readers from the turmoil of Ireland's War of Independence to the brittle glamour of 1920s London.

Kantra, Virginia. [Beth and Amy](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Amy March is more like her older sister Jo than she'd like to admit. An up-and-coming designer in New York's competitive fashion industry, ambitious Amy is determined to get out of her sisters' shadows and keep her distance from their North Carolina hometown. But when Jo's wedding forces Amy home, she must face what she really wants...and confront the One Big Mistake that could upend her life and forever change her relationship with Jo. Gentle, unassuming Beth grew up as the good girl of the family. A talented singer-songwriter, she's overcome her painful anxiety to tour with country superstar Colt Henderson. But life on the road has taken its toll on her health and their relationship. Maybe a break to attend her sister's wedding will get her out of her funk. But Beth realizes that what she's looking for and what she needs are two very different things. After wow-ing readers with [Meg and Jo](#) (Berkley \$16), her first modern take on Alcott's classic *Little Women*, Kantra delivers another winner.

Korelitz, Jean Hanff. [The Plot](#)
(Celadon Books \$28)

Jacob Finch Bonner was once a promising young novelist with a respectably published first book. Today, he's teaching in a third-rate MFA program and struggling to maintain what's left of his self-respect; he hasn't written—let alone published—anything decent in years. When Evan Parker, his most arrogant student, announces he doesn't need Jake's help because the plot of his book in progress is a sure thing, Jake is prepared to dismiss the boast as typical amateur narcissism. But then . . . he hears the plot. This brilliantly clever suspense novel has all the emotional punch of *Gone Girl*. Or as *Kirkus* says "in the best tradition of Patricia Highsmith and other chroniclers of the human psyche's darkest depths. Gripping and thoroughly unsettling: This one will be flying off the shelves."



Lam, Thien-Kim. [Happy Endings](#)
(Avon \$15.99)

Trixie Nguyen is determined to make her sex toy business a success, proving to her traditional Vietnamese parents that she can succeed in a nontraditional career. She's made a fresh start in Washington DC, and her first pop-up event is going well; until she runs into the ex who dumped her. With a Post-it note. The last person Andre Walker expected to see in his soul food restaurant was the woman he left behind in New Orleans. Their chemistry is still scorching, but he's desperately trying to save his family restaurant from gentrifying developers. The solution? Partnering with his ex to turn Mama Hazel's into a vibrator pop-up shop for hungry and horny clients. Thanks to their steamy truce, both businesses start to sizzle and their red-hot desire soon reignites deeper feelings. But when Trixie receives an incredible career opportunity, will pride ruin their second chance at happiness?

Lauren, Christina. [The Soulmate Equation](#)
(Gallery Books \$26)

Perfect for fans of *The Rosie Project* and *One Plus One*, this entertaining novel follows single mom and data and statistics wizard Jess Davis as she, using a revolutionary new scientific dating app, is matched with the app's arrogant creator River Pena, who is not what he seems. Lauren's early rom-com *Roomies* is the latest romance to be scooped up for production by Netflix.

McElroy, Alex. [The Atmospherians](#)
(Atria \$27)

When her oldest childhood friend hatches a plan for her to restore her reputation, hilarity ensues as former social media sensation Sasha Marcus becomes the resident female leader of a group of washed up, desperate men who need to be rid of their toxic masculinity. "McElroy's debut is as uncomfortable as it is thought-provoking. It takes on toxic masculinity, eating disorders, influencer culture, and the violence inherent in power dynamics without dragging or overreaching. Edgy, addictive, gruesome, and smart." (*Kirkus*)

McFarlane, Mhairi. [Just Last Night](#)

(William Morrow \$15.99)

Eve, Justin, Susie, and Ed have been friends since they were teenagers. Now in their thirties, the four are as close as ever, Thursday night bar trivia is sacred, and Eve is still secretly in love with Ed. Maybe she should have moved on by now, but she can't stop thinking about what could have been. And she knows Ed still thinks about it, too. But then, in an instant, their lives are changed forever. In the aftermath, Eve's world is upended. As stunning secrets are revealed, she begins to wonder if she really knew her friends as well as she thought. And when someone from the past comes back into her life, Eve's future veers in a surprising new direction...

They say every love story starts with a single moment. What if it was just last night?

Montgomery, Erika. [A Summer to Remember](#)

(St, Martin's \$27.99)

For thirty-year-old Frankie Simon, selling movie memorabilia in the shop she opened with her late mother on Hollywood Boulevard is more than just her livelihood—it's an enduring connection to the only family she has ever known. But when a mysterious package arrives containing a photograph of her mother and famous movie stars Glory Cartwright and her husband at a coastal film festival the year before Frankie's birth, her life begins to unravel in ways unimaginable. What begins is a journey along a path revealing buried family secrets, betrayals between lovers, bonds between friends. And for Frankie, as the past unlocks the present, the chance to learn that memories define who we are, and that they can show us the meaning of home and the magic of true love.

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. [The Beautiful Ones](#)

(Tor \$17,99)

They are the Beautiful Ones, Loisail's most notable socialites, and this spring is Nina's chance to join their ranks, courtesy of her well-connected cousin and his calculating wife. But the Grand Season has just begun, and already Nina's debut has gone disastrously awry. She has always struggled to control her telekinesis—neighbors call her the Witch of Oldhouse—and the haphazard manifestations of her

powers make her the subject of malicious gossip. When entertainer Hector Auvray arrives to town, Nina is dazzled. A telekinetic like her, he has traveled the world performing his talents for admiring audiences. He sees Nina not as a witch, but ripe with potential to master her power under his tutelage. With Hector's help, Nina's talent blossoms, as does her love for him. But great romances are for fairytales, and Hector is hiding a truth from Nina—and himself—that threatens to end their courtship before it truly begins.

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. [Certain Dark Things](#)

(Tor \$17,99)

Welcome to Mexico City, an oasis in a sea of vampires. Domingo, a lonely garbage-collecting street kid, is just trying to survive its heavily policed streets when a jaded vampire on the run swoops into his life. Atl, the descendant of Aztec blood drinkers, is smart, beautiful, and dangerous. Domingo is mesmerized. Atl needs to quickly escape the city, far from the rival narco-vampire clan relentlessly pursuing her. Her plan doesn't include Domingo, but little by little, Atl finds herself warming up to the scrappy young man and his undeniable charm. As the trail of corpses stretches behind her, local cops and crime bosses both start closing in. Vampires, humans, cops, and criminals collide in the dark streets of Mexico City. Do Atl and Domingo even stand a chance of making it out alive? Or will the city devour them all?



Morgan, Sarah. [The Summer Seekers](#)

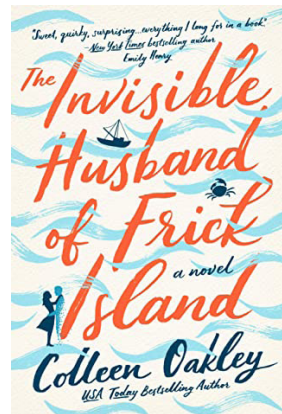
(HQN \$15.99)

Kathleen is eighty years old. After she has a run-in with an intruder, her daughter wants her to move into a residential home. But she's not having any of it. What she craves - what she *needs* - is adventure. Liza is drowning in the daily stress of family life. The last thing *she* needs is her mother jetting off on a wild holiday, making Liza long for a solo summer of her own. Martha is having a quarter-life crisis. Unemployed, unloved and uninspired, she just can't get

her life together. But she knows something has to change. When Martha sees Kathleen's advertisement for a driver and companion to share an epic road trip across America with, she decides this job might be the answer to her prayers. She's not the world's best driver, but anything has to be better than living with her parents. Anyway, how much trouble can one eighty-year-old woman be? As these women embark on the journey of a lifetime, they all discover it's never too late to start over.

Oakley, Colleen. [The Invisible Husband of Frick Island](#) (Berkley \$17)

Piper Parrish's life on Frick Island—a tiny, remote town smack in the middle of the Chesapeake Bay—is nearly perfect. Well, aside from one pesky detail: Her darling husband, Tom, is dead. When Tom's crab boat capsized and his body wasn't recovered, Piper, rocked to the core, did a most peculiar thing: carried on as if her husband was not only still alive, but right there beside her, cooking him breakfast, walking him to the docks each morning, meeting him for their standard Friday night dinner date at the One-Eyed Crab. And what were the townspeople to do but go along with their beloved widowed Piper?



Anders Caldwell's career is not going well. A young ambitious journalist, he'd rather hoped he'd be a national award-winning podcaster by now, rather than writing fluff pieces for a small-town newspaper. But when he gets an assignment to travel to the remote Frick Island and cover their boring annual Cake Walk fundraiser, he stumbles upon a much more fascinating tale: an entire town pretending to see and interact with a man who does not actually exist.

Reid, Taylor Jenkins. [Malibu Rising](#) (Ballantine \$28)

It's the day of Nina Riva's annual end-of-summer party, and anticipation is at a fever pitch. Everyone wants to be around the famous Rivas: Nina, the talented surfer and supermodel; brothers Jay and Hud, one a championship surfer, the other a renowned

photographer; and their adored baby sister, Kit. Together the siblings are a source of fascination in Malibu and the world over; especially as the offspring of the legendary singer Mick Riva. The only person not looking forward to the party of the year is Nina herself, who never wanted to be the center of attention, and who has also just been very publicly abandoned by her pro tennis player husband. Oh, and maybe Hud; because it is long past time for him to confess something to the brother from whom he's been inseparable since birth. Jay, on the other hand, is counting the minutes until nightfall, when the girl he can't stop thinking about promised she'll be there. And Kit has a couple secrets of her own; including a guest she invited without consulting anyone.

Ricciardi, David. [Shadow Target](#) (Berkley \$27)

Being a CIA field agent is a dangerous job at the best of times, but lately the death rate has soared. Agents are dying under mysterious circumstances. Jake Keller is the latest almost victim. When his small plane crashes in the Alps, he is the only survivor. Soon, a rescue helicopter arrives, but the men inside are not there to save anyone. They are there to complete the murderous job they started.

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.

Roberts, Nora. [Legacy](#) (St. Martin's \$28.99)

After launching her own line of yoga and workout videos, Adrian Rizzo, who was very nearly murdered by her own father when she was just a child, begins receiving death threats, which lead her back home to Maryland, where she, with the help of her childhood

crush, must find the truth when the threats escalate to murder.

Rowley, Steven. [The Guncle](#)
(Putnam \$27)

Patrick, or Gay Uncle Patrick (GUP, for short), has always loved his niece, Maisie, and nephew, Grant. That is, he loves spending time with them when they come out to Palm Springs for weeklong visits, or when he heads home to Connecticut for the holidays. But in terms of caretaking and relating to two children, no matter how adorable, Patrick is honestly a bit out of his league. So, when tragedy strikes and Maisie and Grant lose their mother and Patrick's brother has a health crisis of his own, Patrick finds himself suddenly taking on the role of primary guardian. Despite having a set of "Guncle Rules" ready to go, Patrick has no idea what to expect, having spent years barely holding on after the loss of his great love, a somewhat-stalled career, and a lifestyle not-so-suited to a six- and a nine-year-old. Quickly realizing that parenting--even if temporary--isn't solved with treats and jokes, Patrick's eyes are opened to a new sense of responsibility, and the realization that, sometimes, even being larger than life means you're unflinchingly human.

Rudnick, Paul. [Playing the Palace](#)
(Berkley \$16)

After having his heart trampled on by his cheating ex, Carter Ogden has basically given up on romance until he meets Crown Prince Edgar of England by chance at the United Nations. Much to Carter's surprise, the chemistry he feels for Edgar is mutual. But their unlikely but meant-to-be romance sets off media fireworks on both sides of the Atlantic as the new couple face a series of obstacles – including a very cranky Queen of England - as they fight for their very own happily-ever-after ending.

Rutherford, Edward. [China](#)
(Doubleday \$35)

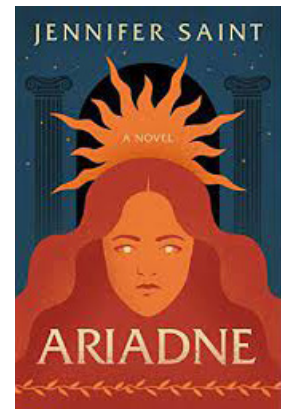
This sweeping, old-fashioned novel chronicles the rising and falling fortunes of members of Chinese, British, and American families from 1839 and the dawn of the First Opium War through Mao's Cultural Revolution up to the present day as they negotiate

the tides of history. If you miss the kind of doorstep historical fiction turned out by James Michener (and bonus points for those readers who even know who Michener was), Rutherford has been crowned his literary heir.

Saint, Jennifer. [Ariadne](#)

(Flatiron Books \$26.99)

Ariadne, Princess of Crete, grows up greeting the dawn from her beautiful dancing floor and listening to her nursemaid's stories of gods and heroes. But beneath her golden palace echo the ever-present hoofbeats of her brother, the Minotaur, a monster who demands blood sacrifice.



When Theseus, Prince of Athens, arrives to vanquish the beast, Ariadne sees in his green eyes not a threat but an escape. Defying the gods, betraying her family and country, and risking everything for love, Ariadne helps Theseus kill the Minotaur. But will Ariadne's decision ensure her happy ending? And what of Phaedra, the beloved younger sister she leaves behind?

Silva, Samantha. [Love and Fury](#)
(Flatiron Books \$26.99)

In August of 1797, as her midwife struggles to keep her and her fragile daughter alive, Mary Wollstonecraft, the mother of famous novelist Mary Shelley, recounts the life she dared to live amidst the impossible constraints and prejudices of the late 18th century.

Simone, Naiama. [The Road to Rose Bend](#)
(HQN \$9.99)

Sydney Collins left the small Berkshires town of Rose Bend eight years ago, grieving her sister's death and heartbroken over her parents' rejection. But now the rebel is back - newly divorced and pregnant - ready to face her fears and make a home for her child in the caring community she once knew. The last thing she needs is trouble. But trouble just set her body on

fire with one hot, hot smile. Widower and Rose Bend mayor Coltrane Dennison hasn't smiled in ages. Until a chance run-in with Sydney Collins, who's all grown-up and making him want what he knows he can't have. Grief is his only connection to the wife and son he lost, and he won't give it up. Not for Sydney, not for her child, not for his heart. But when Sydney's ex threatens to upend everything she's rebuilt in Rose Bend, Cole and Sydney may find that a little trouble will take them where they never expected to go.

St. John, Katherine. [The Siren](#)
(Grand Central \$28)

In the midst of a sizzling hot summer, some of Hollywood's most notorious faces are assembled on the idyllic Caribbean island of St. Genesius to film *The Siren*, starring dangerously handsome megastar Cole Power playing opposite his ex-wife, Stella Rivers. The surefire blockbuster promises to entice audiences with its sultry storyline and intimately connected cast. Three very different women arrive on set, each with her own motive. Stella, an infamously unstable actress, is struggling to reclaim the career she lost in the wake of multiple, very public breakdowns. Taylor, a fledgling producer, is anxious to work on a film she hopes will turn her career around after her last job ended in scandal. And Felicity, Stella's mysterious new assistant, harbors designs of her own that threaten to upend everyone's plans. With a hurricane brewing offshore, each woman finds herself trapped on the island, united against a common enemy. But as deceptions come to light, misplaced trust may prove more perilous than the storm itself. Miss those marvelous old glitzy and glamorous novels by Judith Krantz and Jackie Collins? This deliciously fun, addictively readable new book by St. John is destined to be this year's quintessential beach read.



Stratman, Liv. [Cheat Day](#)
(Scribner \$26)

Hungry in more ways than one, Kit, while on a 75-day cleanse, falls into a passionate affair with a carpenter,

and to suppress the guilt of betraying her husband, adheres more and more strictly to the Radiant Regimen, pushing the diet, and her infidelity, to greater extremes. Here is how *PW* summed up this delightfully different novel "The uneasy relationship Kit has with her various appetite is at the heart of things, and the narrative's success rests on her wry, insightful narration, which expounds on the inanities of the daily calculus of diet planning with hilariously cringy detail. This is a treat."

Swann, Stacey. [Olympus, Texas](#)
(Doubleday \$26.95)

Weaving elements of classical mythology into a thoroughly modern family drama, this novel follows the Briscoe family as prodigal son March returns home and with his arrival, marriages are upended and even the strongest of alliances are shattered. "Swann's debut is rich in Texas flavor and full of nods to classical mythology including quotes from Ovid, twins human and canine, and the kind of relentless bad luck that usually means you've offended a deity. A total page-turner." (*Kirkus*)

Wax, Wendy. [The Break-Up Book Club](#)
(Berkley \$17)

On paper, Jazmine, Judith, Erin and Sara have little in common – they're very different people leading very different lives. And yet at book club meetings in an historic carriage house turned bookstore, they bond over a shared love of reading (and more than a little wine) as well as the growing realization that their lives are not turning out like they expected. Former tennis star Jazmine is a top sports agent balancing a career and single motherhood. Judith is an empty nester questioning her marriage and the supporting role she chose. Erin's high school sweetheart and fiancé develops a bad case of cold feet, and Sara's husband takes a job out of town saddling Sara with a difficult mother-in-law who believes her son could have done better – not exactly the roommate most women dream of. With the help of books, laughter, and the joy of ever evolving friendships, Jazmine, Judith, Erin and Sara find the courage to navigate new and surprising chapters of their lives as they seek their own versions of happily-ever-after.

Weaver, Ashley. [A Peculiar Combination](#)

(St. Martin's \$28.99)

Set in England during World War II, this delightful mystery follows thief Electra McDonnell, whose specialty is opening locked boxes that do not belong to her, as she, caught red-handed, is forced to help a government official break into a safe and retrieve blueprints that will be critical to the British war effort before they fall into the wrong hands. Edgar award-winner Weaver launches a new series that will be the literary equivalent of catnip for fans of Susan Elia MacNeal's brilliant Maggie Hope mysteries.

Weir, Alison. [Katharine Parr](#)

(Ballantine \$28.99)

Having sent his much-beloved but deceitful young wife Katheryn Howard to her beheading, King Henry fixes his lonely eyes on a more mature woman, thirty-year-old, twice-widowed Katharine Parr. She, however, is in love with Sir Thomas Seymour, brother to the late Queen Jane. Aware of his rival, Henry sends him abroad, leaving Katharine no choice but to become Henry's sixth queen in 1543. Four years into the marriage, Henry dies, leaving England's throne to nine-year-old Edward--a puppet in the hands of ruthlessly ambitious royal courtiers--and Katharine's life takes a more complicated turn. Thrilled at this renewed opportunity to wed her first love, Katharine doesn't realize that Sir Thomas now sees her as a mere stepping stone to the throne, his eye actually set on bedding and wedding fourteen-year-old Elizabeth. The princess is innocently flattered by his attentions, allowing him into her bedroom, to the shock of her household. The result is a tangled tale of love and a struggle for power, bringing to a close the dramatic and violent reign of Henry VIII.



Wilson, Carter. [The Dead Husband](#)

(Poisoned Pen Press \$15.99)

Twenty years ago, an unspeakable tragedy rocked Rose Yates's small, affluent hometown... and only Rose and her family know the truth about what

happened. Haunted by guilt, Rose escaped into a new life. Now she seems to have it all: a marriage, a son, a career. And then her husband is found dead. As far as Detective Colin Pearson is concerned, Rose is guilty. Her marriage wasn't as happy as she'd led everyone to believe, and worse, she's connected to a twenty-year-old cold case. She can play the part of the victim, but he won't let her or her family escape justice this time around. Grieving her husband and struggling to make ends meet, Rose returns home, hoping to finally confront her domineering father and unstable sister. But memories of a horrific crime echo through the house, and Rose soon learns that she can't trust anyone, especially not the people closest to her.

Teen Fiction

Jordan, Sophie. [Sixteen Scandals](#)

(HMH Books \$17.99)

The youngest of four daughters, Primrose Ainsworth is used to getting lost in the shuffle. But when her parents decide to delay her debut into English society, Prim hatches a plan to go rogue on the night of her sixteenth birthday. Donning a mask, Prim escapes to the infamous Vauxhall Gardens for one wild night. When her cover is nearly blown, a mysterious stranger intercedes, and Prim finds an unexpected partner in mischief . . . and romance. But when it's revealed her new ally isn't who he says he is, her one night of fun may last past dawn. *Kirkus* calls this *Bridgerton* for the teen set romance "*Cinderella meets Pride and Prejudice.*"

Murphy, Julie. [Pumpkin](#)

(Balzer + Bray \$17.99)

Waylon Russell Brewer is a fat, openly gay boy stuck in the small West Texas town of Clover City. His plan is to bide his time until he can graduate, move to Austin with his twin sister, Clementine, and finally go Full Waylon so that he can live his Julie-the-hills-are-alive-with-the-sound-of-music-Andrews truth. So, when Clementine deviates from their master plan right after Waylon gets dumped, he throws caution to the wind and creates an audition tape for his favorite TV drag show, *Fiercest of Them All*. What he doesn't count on is the tape getting accidentally shared with the entire school. As a result, Waylon is nominated

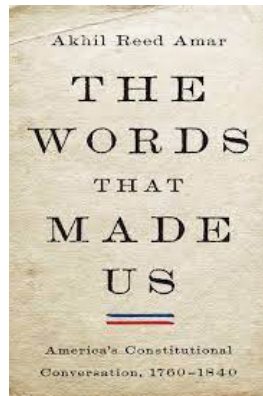
for prom queen as a joke. Clem's girlfriend, Hannah Perez, also receives a joke nomination for prom king.

Waylon and Hannah decide there's only one thing to do: run: and leave high school with a bang. A very glittery bang. Along the way, Waylon discovers that there is a lot more to running for prom court than campaign posters and plastic crowns, especially when he has to spend so much time with the very cute and infuriating prom king nominee Tucker Watson.

Nonfiction

Amar, Akhil Reed. [The Words that Made Us](#)
(Basic Books \$40)

When the US Constitution won popular approval in 1788, it was the culmination of thirty years of passionate argument over the nature of government. But ratification hardly ended the conversation. For the next half century, ordinary Americans and statesmen alike continued to wrestle with weighty questions in the halls of government and in the pages of newspapers. Should the nation's borders be expanded? Should America allow slavery to spread westward? What rights should Indian nations hold? What was the proper role of the judicial branch?



In *The Words that Made Us*, Akhil Reed Amar unites history and law in a vivid narrative of the biggest constitutional questions early Americans confronted, and he expertly assesses the answers they offered. His account of the document's origins and consolidation is a guide for anyone seeking to properly understand America's Constitution today.

Bascomb, Neal. [Faster](#)
(Mariner Books \$16.99)

As Nazi Germany launched its campaign of racial terror and pushed the world toward war, three unlikely heroes - a driver banned from the best European teams because of his Jewish heritage, the owner of a faltering automaker company, and the adventurous

daughter of an American multimillionaire - banded together to challenge Hitler's dominance at the Grand Prix, the apex of motorsport. Bringing to life this glamorous era and the sport that defined it, *Faster* chronicles one of the most inspiring, death-defying upsets of all time: a symbolic blow against the Nazis during history's darkest hour.

Brown, Daniel James. [Facing the Mountain](#)
(Viking \$30)

Based on extensive interviews with four families whose sons fought with the highly decorated Japanese American 442nd Regimental Combat Team as well as deep archival research, the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Boys in the Boat* chronicles how that decorated unit fought for their country which that at the same time was putting their friends and relatives in concentration camps at home.

Ducharme, Jamie. [Big Vape](#)
(Henry Holt \$29.99)

It began with a smoke break. James Monsees and Adam Bowen were two ambitious graduate students at Stanford, and in between puffs after class they dreamed of a way to quit smoking. Their solution became the Juul, a sleek, modern device that could vaporize nicotine into a conveniently potent dosage. The company they built around that device, Juul Labs, would go on to become a \$38 billion dollar company and draw blame for addicting a whole new generation of underage tobacco users. *Time* magazine reporter Jamie Ducharme follows Monsees and Bowen as they create Juul and, in the process, go from public health visionaries and Silicon Valley wunderkinds to two of the most controversial businessmen in the country.

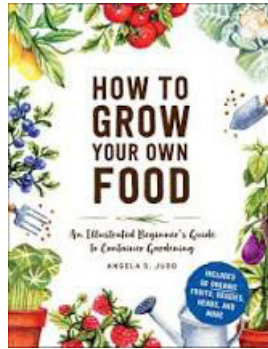
Guinn, Jeff. [War on the Border](#)
(Simon and Schuster \$28)

A riveting account of the "Punitive Expedition" of 1916 between Pancho Villa and Gen. John J. Pershing and how this violent conflict still reverberates in the Southwestern US to this day as the US-Mexico border remains as vexed and volatile as ever.

Judd, Angela S. [How to Grow Your Own Food](#)

(Adams Media \$17.99)

Did you know you could grow vegetables, fruits, and herbs in containers? Well, now you can take your houseplants to the next level by growing home-grown produce and seasoning that will taste delicious in all of your favorite dishes. *How to Grow Your Own Food* identifies 50 common, easy-to-grow edible plants from herbs to vegetables, along with detailed care instructions and beautiful illustrations of each plant.



Kahneman, Daniel with Olivier Sibony and Cass R Sunstein. [Noise](#) (Little Brown \$32)

From the Nobel Prize-winning author of *Thinking, Fast and Slow*, coauthor of *Nudge* and author of *You Are About to Make a Terrible Mistake!* comes an exploration of why people make bad judgments. The authors discuss why people make bad judgements and how to make better ones by reducing the influence of “noise”--variables that can cause bias in decision making--and draws on examples in many fields, including medicine, law, economic forecasting, forensic science, strategy, and personnel selection.

