

Midmonth BookNotes

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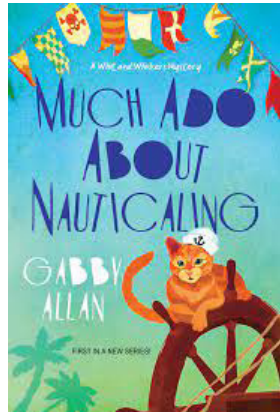


Cool Reading for Hot Times

Cozy Corner

Allan, Gabby. [Much Ado About Nauticaling](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

While piloting her family's glass bottom tourist boat, Whitney Dagner spots the dead body of Jules Tisdale, the self-proclaimed "Master of Santa Catalina Island" and the wealthy man who swindled her brother Nick out of a lot of money. Now, with Nick as the police's prime suspect, Whit will have to investigate Jules' shady associates and not exactly grief-stricken family members all while juggling the "help" of her ex-boyfriend, police diver Felix Ramirez. Allan truly makes the most of her setting – California's Santa Catalina Island – in this delightful debut of which *Kirkus* says "cozy fans will be charmed."



Allen, Meri. [The Rocky Road to Ruin](#)
(St. Martin's \$7.99)

When her best friend's brother is found dead after fighting about their late mother's ice cream shop, Riley Rhodes, a librarian at the CIA, searches for a killer while sharing yummy scoops of ice cream and settling back into a life she never knew she was missing. What could be more fun than reading a new series centered around yummy cold treats during these insanely hot summer months?

Bond, Veronica. [Death in Castle Dark](#)
(Berkley \$7.99)

Actress Nora Blake must figure out which one of her fellow actors has taken the role of a murderous villain too seriously when one of her castmates in the Dark Castle acting troop is found dead while working a mystery dinner party at a castle not far from Chicago. "A promising new series with a charming heroine, plenty of romance, and a generous portion of red herrings." (*Kirkus*).

Cahoon, Lynn. [Two Wicked Desserts](#)
(Kensington \$8.99)

When the daughter of a warlock, an actress looking for her big Hollywood break, plays with magic, she becomes the #1 suspect in a murder investigation, and caterer and cooking instructor Mia Malone must conjure up the real killer. This magically fun new cozy series debuted with [One Poison Pie](#) (Kensington \$8.99).

Danvers, Holly. [Murder at the Lakeside Library](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

While preparing to reopen her mother Willow's informal library, Rain Wilmot discovers the body of a real estate buyer Thornton Hughes on the premises. Since most of the residents of Lofty Pines believe Willow was having an affair with Thornton, Rain's mother is the number one suspect in his murder. Now in order to exonerate her mother, Rain must piece together the clues to solve this mystery before she ends up dead in the water. This is the first installment in Danver's new Lakeside Library series.

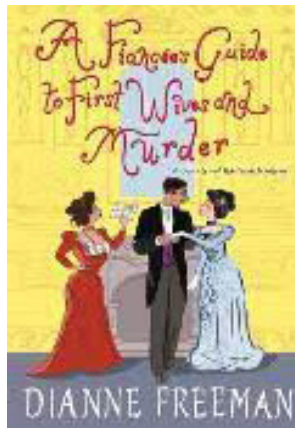
Delany, Vicki. [Murder in a Teacup](#)

(Kensington \$26)

When her tearoom becomes the site of a McHenry family feud that results in murder, Lily Roberts finds herself in hot water and now must, with the help of her friends, solve this case and bag the real killer. In the second deliciously fun addition to her “Tea by the Sea” series, which debuted with [Tea & Treachery](#) (Kensington \$15.95), “Delany expertly blends a cunning mystery plot with diverting characters and sparkling dialogue.” (*PW*)

Freeman, Dianne. [A Fiancée’s Guide to First Wives and Murder](#) (Kensington \$26)

Frances Wynn, Countess of Harleigh, is happily putting some last-minute touches on her upcoming wedding to her next-door neighbor and best friend, George Hazelton, when she discovers something that might put a damper on those plans. Police inspector Delaney unexpectedly turns up with a French woman named Irena Teskey, who not only claims to be George’s wife, but who also says that her life is in danger. Now getting to the bottom of these claims becomes Frances’ number one priority if she is to have any hope of actually marrying George. Agatha award-winning “Freeman delivers it all: clever plotting, charming characters, plausible suspects, and red herrings galore. This historical is pure unadulterated fun.” (*PW*)



Harris, Sherry. [A Time to Swill](#)

(Kensington \$8.99)

Sea Glass Saloon owner Chloe Jackson must help prove her friend Ralph’s innocence in his wife’s murder when her skeletal remains are found 12 years after she disappeared — a case that reveals some bone-chilling secrets.

Hart, Carolyn. [Ghost Blows a Kiss](#)

(Severn \$28.99)

The late - as in Dearly Departed - Bailey Ruth Raeburn is delighted when she’s assigned a new mission by Heaven’s Department of Good Intentions. It seems

a simple job: rescue a drowning woman. But the ghostly sleuth soon finds herself caught in a web of secrets, loyalties and lies, with an innocent young widow’s freedom at stake. “With the warmhearted and stubborn Bailey Ruth, Mystery Writers of America Grand Master Hart pleases longtime fans and should win new readers.” (*PW*)

Lindsey, Julie Anne. [The Cider Shop Rules](#)

(Kensington \$8.99)

With the Fall Festival in full swing, Winona Mae Montgomery must solve the murder of pumpkin farmer Jacob Potter, one of the town’s most popular citizens, all while under the watchful eye of a killer. “A down-home cozy with plenty of likeable characters, budding romance, and a clever mystery.” (*Kirkus*)

Perkins, S. C. [Fatal Family Ties](#)

(St. Martins \$26.99)

While trying to learn more about an ex-coworker’s ancestor, genealogist Lucy Lancaster investigates after a panel of a triptych goes missing at the Texas History Museum. “Perkins offers the perfect mix of mystery, family drama, art history, and romance to keep cozy readers eagerly turning pages. Anyone who has ever looked into their own family history will be fascinated by the intriguing details of Lucy’s genealogical research.” (*PW*). The first two in this stellar series are [Murder Once Removed](#) (St. Martin’s \$7.99) and [Lineage Most Lethal](#) (St. Martin’s \$7.99).

Scott, Laura. [Dogged by Death](#)

(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

After losing her fiancé, her clinic, and all her savings, veterinarian Ally Winter moves back to Willow Bluff, Wisconsin, only to become accidentally involved in a murder investigation when a sleazy lawyer is found dead in his home office with his Boxer as the only witness. *PW* loved this debut saying “Scott delivers distinctive characters, and appealing small-town setting, and a hint of romance. This cozy is perfect for animal lovers.”

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Ackerman, Sara. [Radar Girls](#)
(MIRA \$16.99)

Inspired by the real women of the Women's Air Raid Defense, this extraordinary novel follows Daisy Wilder as she, after the attack on Pearl Harbor, enlists in a top-secret program, which takes her to wartime Hawaii where she finds love, courage, strength and sisterhood.



Albert, Annabeth. [Out of Character](#)
(Sourcebooks \$14.99)

When Milo Lionetti loses his brother's prized deck of Odyssey cards, he'll do anything to replace them-including begging for help from his ex-best friend, Jasper Quigley. But Jasper's got bigger things to worry about than the boy who broke his young heart, and if Milo wants his help, he's going to have to join Jasper in making the children's hospital charity ball the best ever. But as the two boys don cosplay for the kids and hunt for rare cards, nostalgia for their lost friendship may turn into something even warmer.

Ashley, Jennifer. [Death at the Crystal Palace](#)
(Berkley \$17)

While visiting the Crystal Palace, young cook Kat Holloway is approached by an elderly woman in distress. Lady Covington is convinced that her entire family is trying to poison her. At first, Kat is inclined to think the wealthy widow might be imagining things, but when it quickly becomes apparent that the threat is all too real, Kat promises to look into things.

Bailey, Tessa. [It Happened One Summer](#)
(Avon \$15.99)

After being cut off by her wealthy step-father, a partying Hollywood "It Girl" experiences culture shock when she moves to Washington to learn some responsibility and help her sister run their late father's dive bar. *LJ* called this *Schitt's Creek* inspired rom-com a "fish-out-of-water story featuring quirky charac-

ters in a charming working-class small town, and a steamy, feel-good romances between opposites."

Bartz, Andrea. [We Were Never Here](#)
(Ballantine \$27)

After a backpacking trip in Chile with her best friend Kristen goes horribly wrong, Emily is forced to confront their violent past. But can Emily outrun the secrets she shares with Kristen or will they destroy her instead? I loved how *Kirkus* summed up this novel which is getting plenty of review buzz by saying "A slow-burn thriller that gradually suffocates both the protagonist and the reader in a good way."

Beecham, Caroline. [When We Meet Again](#)
(Putnam \$17)

This sweeping tale of love and mystery set in the publishing world of WW II London follows up-and-coming young editor Alice Cotton as she, after her mother Ruth sells her infant to "baby farmers," begins a desperate hunt to find the daughter she never planned for but suddenly deeply loves. "Beecham pulls off a thrilling conclusion and elevates the story with some well-researched context on the publishing industry during the war, when demand for books was high. Fans of sentimental WWII fiction will fly through this American debut" (*PW*) by British author Beecham.

Cameron, Lindsay. [Just One Look](#)
(Ballantine \$27)

After taking a thankless job as a temp at a law firm, Cassie Woodson begins reading the personal emails between a partner and his enchanting wife and becomes so obsessed with the pair, she plots to take her place. Even if you are sick to death of the unreliable narrator brand of psychological suspense, you may just want to give this ingenious novel a whirl. Not only does Cameron throw some neat twists in at the end of the story that many readers may not see coming, she also brilliantly illustrates just how vulnerable so many people are to being conned or worse by the amount of personal information they freely dispense about themselves on social media platforms (or surprisingly even in their emails).

Chiaverini, Jennifer. [The Women's March](#)
(HarperCollins \$28.99)

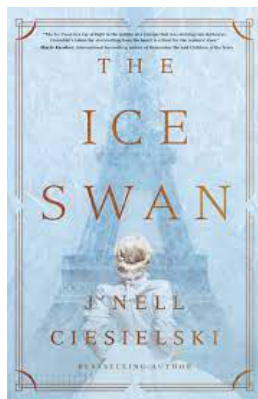
By 1912 nine states have already granted women voting rights in the US, but only a constitutional amendment will secure the vote for all. To inspire support for the campaign, Alice Paul organizes a magnificent procession down Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington, DC, the day before the inauguration of President-elect Woodrow Wilson, a firm antisuffragist. Joining the march is thirty-nine-year-old New Yorker Maud Malone, librarian and advocate for women's and workers' rights and civil rights activist and journalist Ida B. Wells-Barnett, who is resolved that women of color must also be included in the march and the proposed amendment. Chiaverini does a deep dive in the history of the fight for women's right to vote in her latest fascinating historical novel.

Christie, Annette. [The Rehearsals](#)
(Little, Brown \$28)

After a disastrous rehearsal dinner, Megan Givens and Tom Prescott vow to call their wedding off, until they wake up the next morning stuck together in a time loop, destined to relive the worst day of their lives. Christie delivers a wonderful rom com version of *Groundhog Day* in her fresh and funny debut.

Ciesielski, J'Nell. [The Ice Swan](#)
(Thomas Nelson \$16.99)

Fleeing the murderous flames of the Russian Revolution, Princess Svetlana Dalsky hopes to find safety in Paris with her mother and sister, but instead they are forced into hiding with little to their name but the jewels they sewed into their corsets before their terrifying escape. When surgeon Wynn MacCallan, the second son of a Scottish duke, treats Svetlana for a minor injury, he is pulled into a world of decaying imperial glitter. Intrigued by this mysterious, cold, and beautiful woman, Wynn follows Svetlana to an underground Russian club where drink, dance, and questionable dealings collide on bubbles of vodka. Out of money and options, Svetlana agrees to a marriage of convenience with the handsome and brilliant Wynn, who will protect her and pay off her



family's debts. It's the right thing for a good man to do, but Wynn cannot help hoping the marriage will turn into one of true affection.

Dev, Sonali. [Incense and Sensibility](#)
(William Morrow \$15.99)

Yash Raje, California's first Indian-American gubernatorial candidate, has always known exactly what he wants and how to use his privileged background to get it. But when a hate crime at a rally critically injures his friend, Yash's easy life suddenly feels like a lie, his control an illusion. When he tries to get back on the campaign trail, he blacks out with panic. Desperate to keep Yash's condition from leaking to the media, his family turns to the one person they trust: his sister's best friend, India Dashwood, California's foremost stress management coach. Devi puts her own clever, contemporary spin on another Jane Austen classic novel.

DeWylde, Saranna. [Men Are Frogs](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

When disgraced wedding planner Zuri Davis arrives in Ever After to work for Fairy Godmothers, Inc., B&B owner Phillip Charming, who has lived 300 years as a frog by day and himself by night, wonders if she is the one who can break his curse.

Gabhart, Ann H. [Along a Storied Trail](#)
(Revell \$15.99)

Tansy Calhoun doesn't mind the rough trails and long hours required by her job as a packhorse librarian because this same job allows Tansey to serve her friends and neighbors by bringing them good things to read. "Gabhart's skillful use of period details and the Appalachian landscape lend plenty of atmosphere to accompany the lessons of hope, compassion, and fortitude amid hardship. This is her best historical inspirational yet." (PW).

Gaynor, Hazel and Heather Webb. [Three Words for Goodbye](#) (William Morrow \$16.99)

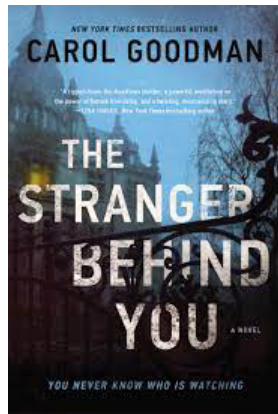
Estranged sisters Clara and Madeleine Sommers reunite to honor their grandmother Violet Bell's dying wish – to travel across Europe together in 1939 and deliver three farewell letters, a journey during which they are constantly at odds with each other until a shocking family secret brings them closer than ever before.

Goldsborough, Robert. [Trouble at the Brownstone](#)
(Open Road \$16.99)

It is fair to say that Archie Goodwin and Theodore Horstmann are not the best of friends. But as Nero Wolfe's loyal assistant, Archie will put his own animosity for Theodore aside when Wolfe's surly orchid-keeper stumbles through the front door of Wolfe's West Thirty-Fifth Street brownstone beaten within an inch of his life. While the gardener lies in a coma, Nero sends Archie to poke around Theo's life to see if he can uncover a reason why someone might want to deprive Nero of one of his best employees.

Goodman, Carol. [The Stranger Behind You](#)
(William Morrow \$16.99)

Joan Lurie spent three years writing about the best gourmet chocolates and hottest caterers for the style section of *Manhattan* all while she surreptitiously gathered the evidence, she needed for an explosive article that exposes newspaper tycoon Casper Os-good as a sexual predator. Returning home to her apartment after a party celebrating the publication of the article, Joan is attacked by a hooded stranger. Shaken by the attack, Joan moves into a highly secure new building called the Refuge, where she plans on expanding her article into a book. However, are the shadowy figures Joan thinks she sees following her a symptom of a possible concussion, or does someone really want to keep her from writing that book? Two-time Mary Higgins Clark award-winning Goodman deftly weaves a 1940s plot involving a neighbor of Joan's and her new apartment building's old history as a Catholic nun Magdalen Refuge into the present-day #MeToo storyline giving readers another spookily suspenseful treat.



Hartl, Sonia. [Heartbreak for Hire](#)
(Gallery \$16.99)

While working undercover at a business that specializes in avenging jilted lovers, frenemies and long-suffering coworkers, Brinkley Saunders is shocked when her boss hires a former target she was hired to take down.

Hawkins, Karen. [A Cup of Silver Linings](#)
(Gallery \$16.99)

Just as Ava Dove's fabulous new tearoom is about to open, her herbal teas have gone wonky. Suddenly, her sleep-inducing tea is startling her clients awake with vivid dreams, her romance-kindling tea is causing people to blurt out their darkest secrets, and her anti-anxiety tea is making them spend hours staring into mirrors. Ava is desperate for a remedy, but her search leads her into dangerous territory, as she is forced to face a dark secret she's been hiding for over a decade. Meanwhile, successful architect Ellen Foster has arrived in Dove Pond to attend the funeral of her estranged daughter, Julie. Grieving deeply, Ellen is determined to fix up her daughter's ramshackle house, sell it, and then sweep her sixteen-year-old granddaughter, Kristen, off to a saner, calmer life in Raleigh. But Kristen has other plans. Desperate to stay with her friends in Dove Pond, Kristen sets off on a quest she's avoided her whole life: to find her never-been-there father in the hopes of winning her freedom from the grandmother she barely knows.

Hendrix, Grady. [The Final Girl Support Group](#)
(Berkley \$26)

Lynette Tarkington is a real-life "final girl" - the one girl always left standing at the end of a horror movie - when she survived a massacre twenty-two years ago that left others dead. Now for the past decade, Lynette has worked to overcome her horrific past in a support group with five other final girls. The group's members think they might finally be putting their lives back together until one of the women misses a meeting, and Lynette's worst fears are realized - someone knows about the group and is about to take the final girls' lives apart again. "You have to give it to Hendrix, author of *The Southern Book Club's Guide to Slaying Vampires* (2020), for tapping into his deep knowledge of horror films and fiction to find a new angle on the tropes of terror with every outing." (Kirkus)

Johnson, Melonie. [Too Good to Be Real](#)
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

A writer for a popular website, love becomes the last thing on Julia's mind when impending layoffs threaten her job. As Julia searches for the ultimate pitch to impress her boss, she stumbles upon a resort offering guests a chance to live out their romantic comedy

dreams. Real life dating is so bleak, who wouldn't want to spend a week in a fantasy rom-com world with your best friends? At the resort, Julia literally falls into a not-quite-meet-cute involving an aggressive seagull and an adorably awkward guy named Luke who is also participating in the rom-com experience. Julia hides the fact she is there to do a story, but Luke harbors a few secrets of his own. Among further encounters with thieving seagulls, a gaggle of corgis, kisses in the rain, and even a karaoke serenade, their feelings deepen quickly. But could their love be real when they haven't been honest about their true identities?

Kleypas, Lisa. [Devil in Disguise](#)
(Avon \$8.99)

A strong-willed young widow running her late husband's shipping company, Lady Merritt Sterling avoids scandal until she meets rough-and-tumble Scottish whisky distiller Keir MacRae on the run from a very determined killer.

Leaman, Louisa. [The Lost and Found Necklace](#)
(Sourcebooks \$16.99)

After an accident leaves fiercely independent, adventure-seeking Jess Taylor badly injured, she thinks she's ready to settle down with kind, caring, easy-to-love Tim. But then her grandmother tasks her with retrieving a family heirloom from a local auction, and she finds herself face-to-face with a charming stranger, Guy. Known within the family as the "True Love Necklace," the bauble possesses a seemingly magical ability that helped four generations of Taylor women find their soul mates. Guy has already bought her grandmother's precious necklace, and while Jess desperately tries to buy it back from him, he somehow convinces her to go out on a date instead. But only to get the necklace back, right?

Lipman, Elinor. [Rachel to the Rescue](#)
(HMH \$15.99)

After being hit by a speeding car driven by what the press discreetly calls "a personal friend of the President," Rachel Klein finds her recovery eased by comically doting parents, matchmaking roommates and a new job as an aide to a journalist whose books aim to defame the President.

MacGregor, Janna. [A Duke in Time](#)
(St. Martin's \$8.99)

After her husband Meri's death, businesswoman Katherine Vareck discovers that he married two other women before proposing to her. Now Meri's entire business – along with the once-in-a-lifetime chance to become a royal supplier to the current monarch – is in jeopardy if anyone finds out. Meri's far more upstanding brother, Christian, the Duke of Randford, has no idea what to do to help Katherine. Christian spent the better part of his adult years avoiding his rackets family, but Christian can't deny the feelings he has for Katherine. So, when the opportunity to partner with her in a new business venture presents itself, who is Christian to say no?

MacNeal, Susan Elia. [The Hollywood Spy](#)
(Bantam \$27)

In 1943 Los Angeles, American-born secret agent and British spy Maggie Hope comes to the aid of her old flame after his fiancé is murdered, and soon discovers that things aren't always the way they appear in movies. The tenth superbly crafted entry in MacNeal's award-winning Maggie Hope series is another finely calibrated mix of fascinating historical details and a puzzling plot. Fans will gobble this up, but it also works perfectly as an introduction to MacNeal's books for newcomers.

Macomber, Debbie. [It's Better This Way](#)
(Ballantine \$27)

Embracing her new life after a messy divorce, former interior designer Julia Jones moves to a condominium complex where she finds unexpected friendship and then love with another new resident and fellow divorcé until a dramatic revelation threatens their happiness. "Macomber keeps her well-shaded, believable characters at the heart of this seamlessly plotted novel as she probes the nuances of familial relationships and the agelessness of romance. This deeply emotional tale proves it's never too late for love." PW

Marcott, Lindsay. [Mrs. Rochester's Ghost](#)
(Thomas & Mercer \$24.95)

Jane has lost everything: her job, her mother, her romantic relationship, and now even her home when a friend calls to offer her an unusual deal. If Jane is

willing to tutor Evan Rochester's teenage daughter, she can live in a cottage on the family's Big Sur estate. Once Jane arrives, however, she discovers nothing is quite as it seems. Evan Rochester insists his late wife drowned herself, but everyone else Jane encounters believes Evan murdered the glamorous but troubled woman. When Jane embarks on her own search for answers, she quickly realizes her determination to discover the truth about what happened that night could mean she will lose everything she now has including Evan's love. A modern take on the classic *Jane Eyre*.

Marsh, Nicola. [The Man Ban](#)
(Berkley \$16)

While in New Zealand, food stylist Harper Ryland considers lifting her man ban when the infuriating Dr. Manny Gomes, who has a way of getting under her skin, unexpectedly comes to her rescue.

McNaught, Judith. [Once and Always](#)
(Pocket \$9.99)

After suddenly being orphaned, free-spirited American beauty Victoria Seaton sets off for Great Britain to claim her long-lost heritage. Upon arriving at Wakefield, the sumptuous estate of her distant cousin Lord Jason Fielding, Victoria is overwhelmed by its astounding elegance and bewildered by Jason and his panther-like grace and hidden depths. Unable to resist her spitfire charm, Jason is enraptured by Victoria and is determined to have her. But will a marriage that begins in a flurry of desire end in tragedy once Victoria discovers the shocking treachery that lays at the heart of her new marriage. One of McNaught's classic, old school historical romances is now back in print.

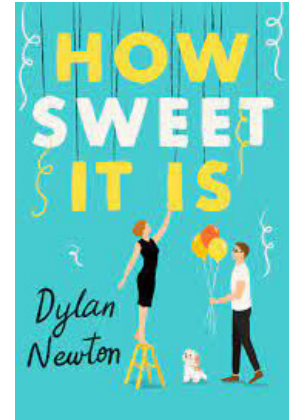
Miller, Kristin. [The Sinful Lives of Trophy Wives](#)
(Ballantine \$17)

In San Francisco's most exclusive — and most deadly — neighborhood, three trophy wives — mystery writer Brooke Davies, news anchor Erin King and Georgia St. Claire, aka the Black Widow — will do anything to protect their secrets. *PW* says "prepare to savor an escapist fantasy with sass to spare."

Newton, Dylan. [How Sweet It Is](#)
(Forever \$15.99)

When it comes to delivering the perfect wedding, event planner Kate Sweet has no peers. But now Kate has the opportunity to branch out from weddings

— and put herself in the running for the industry's coveted EVPLEX award — if she agrees to help out her BFF Imani Lewis, publicist for Cerulean Books, by coming up with a spook-tacular Halloween book launch for Drake Matthews, a.k.a. the Knight of Nightmares. However, after a couldn't-have-possibly-gone-worse first meeting with Drake, Kate isn't sure she has a hope in hell of continuing to work with him. But much to Kate's surprise, Drake is willing to entertain her ideas for his book launch if Kate will help him with his own new literary project. In her traditional print debut, Newton delivers a bliss-inducing contemporary romance that superbly showcases her considerable literary chops with a deftly realized cast of characters (including a delicious cinnamon roll hero), oodles of meltingly hot sexual chemistry, and writing infused with equal measures of wry wit and cheeky charm.



Parker-Chan, Shelley. [She Who Became the Sun](#)
(Tor \$27.99)

When the Zhu family's eighth-born son, Zhu Chongban, given the fate of greatness, dies during a brutal attack, his sister, escaping her own fated death, uses her brother's identity to claim another future altogether—her brother's abandoned greatness. The book's publisher is promoting this as *Mulan* meets *The Song of Achilles*.

Pilcher, Rosamunde. [A Place Like Home](#)
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

A Place Like Home is a spellbinding collection of short stories by internationally bestselling author Rosamunde Pilcher, whose novel *The Shell Seekers* became a surprise *New York Times* bestseller in the late 1980s. The collection contains fifteen stories, which range from *The Holiday*, in which a wife surprises her husband of twenty-five years with a holiday full of Mediterranean sunshine, red rocks and blue seas in an effort to rekindle the romance they had before children; *The Eye of Love*, which takes the reader to a village by the sea where old flames meet again; and *A Place Like Home*, where a lonely young woman goes to recuperate in the Scottish country-

side after a brief illness. While definitely a product of their time, these sweetly charming romantic tales offer a terrific way to escape into the past.

Quincy, Diana. [The Viscount Made Me Do It](#)
(Avon \$7.99)

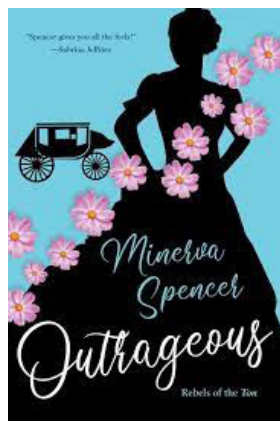
London's finest bonesetter, Hanna Zaydan, the daughter of foreign merchants, is slowly seduced by a new patient—a mysterious former soldier—who threatens to destroy everything she's worked so hard for.

Riley, Vanessa. [Island Queen](#)
(William Morrow \$27.99)

Born into slavery on the tiny Caribbean island of Montserrat, Doll bought her freedom -and that of her sister and her mother - from her Irish planter father and built a legacy of wealth and power as an entrepreneur, merchant, hotelier, and planter that extended from the marketplaces and sugar plantations of Dominica and Barbados to a glittering luxury hotel in Demerara on the South American continent. Based on the true-life story of Dorothy Kirwan Thomas, Vanessa Riley's novel brings Doll to vivid life as she rises above the harsh realities of slavery and colonialism by working the system and leveraging the competing attentions of the men in her life: a restless shipping merchant, Joseph Thomas; a wealthy planter hiding a secret, John Coseveldt Cells; and a roguish naval captain who will later become King William IV of England.

Spencer, Minerva. [Outrageous](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

Drusilla Clare is full of opinions about why a woman shouldn't have to get married. But that doesn't stop the rush of desire Drusilla experiences whenever her best friend's brother, notorious rake Gabriel Marlington, crosses her path. So, imagine Drusilla's dismay when she finds herself in the clutches of a scoundrel only to be rescued by Gabriel himself. She's sharp-tongued, exasperating, - and due to one careless moment - about to become his wife. Still, something about Drusilla has Gabriel intrigued, so much



so, that when Gabriel discovers he has a clandestine rival for Dru's affection, he becomes quite cranky. But the real threat to the newlywed's happiness is one neither of them see coming. Now if Dru and Gabriel are to have any hope of a happily-ever-after marriage, they will need to learn to trust on another and their growing love for each other. Looking for something fun to read after binging on Julia Quinn's Bridgerton series? Spencer's latest, the first in her new Rebels of the Ton series, is another fabulously fun mix of sparkling wit and sophisticated sensuality.

Tanabe, Karin. [A Woman of Intelligence](#)
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

Rina Edgeworth is a former French translator at the United Nations who has become a bored 1950s housewife when she is recruited by FBI agent Lee Coldwell for a mission in which she is uniquely qualified. Coldwell believes that Jacob Gornev, an old college love of Rina's, is now working as an agent for the KGB. Coldwell wants Rina to reacquaint herself with Jacob and intercept some stolen documents, but Rina's assignment hits a snag when her husband Tom thinks she is having an affair with Jacob. "In addition to spotlighting 1950s attitudes toward gender and efforts to bring forth racial equality, Tanabe injects plenty of credible period details such as John Foster Dulles frostily refusing to shake hands with Chou En-Lai in Geneva, and depicts the Communist characters with humanity against the chilling backdrop of mutually assured destruction." (PW) I would add that fans of Beatriz Williams' stellar historical novels, like her equally espionage flavored *Our Woman in Moscow*, will find Tanabe to be a welcome new literary discovery.

Ward, J.R. [Claimed](#)
(Pocket \$9.99)

Lydia Susi is passionate about protecting wolves in their natural habitat. When a hotel chain develops a tract of land next to the preserve, Lydia is one of the most vocal opponents of the project and becomes a target. One night, a shadowy figure threatens Lydia's life in the forest, and a new hire at the Wolf Study Project comes from out of nowhere to save her. Daniel Joseph is both mysterious, and someone she intrinsically wants to trust. But is he hiding something? As the stakes get higher, and one of Lydia's colleagues is murdered, she must decide how far she will go to protect the wolves. The start of an intense and sexy

new series by Ward that is set in her wildly popular Black Dagger Brotherhood world.

Weiss, Leah. [All the Little Hopes](#)
(Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Deep in the tobacco land of North Carolina, nothing's been the same since the boys shipped off to war and worry took their place. Thirteen-year-old Lucy Brown is precocious and itching for adventure. Then Allie Bert Tucker wanders into town, an outcast with a puzzling past, and Lucy figures the two of them can solve any curious crime they find—just like her hero, Nancy Drew. Their chance comes when a man goes missing, a woman stops speaking, and an eccentric gives the girls a mystery to solve that takes them beyond their ordinary day-to-day duties and puts them on a whole new track in life. "Weiss expertly highlights how Lucy's and Bert's innocence is altered by their experiences, with spot-on depictions of the rural Southern community. This is magnetic from the start." (*PW*)



Teen

Arsenault, Emily. [When All the Girls Are Sleeping](#)
(Delacorte \$17.99)

When a disturbing video of her late ex-best friend surfaces, making it look like she was murdered, Haley digs into what really happened and must solve this supernatural mystery before history has a chance to repeat itself. "Ghost story of mean girls running amok? Either way, still a page-turner." (*Kirkus*)

Bayron, Kalynn. [This Poison Heart](#)
(Bloomsbury \$18.99)

Teenaged Briseis, who possesses a supernatural power over plants, even poisonous ones, inherits a dilapidated estate in rural New York and must protect herself and her family from centuries-old secrets that threaten their lives. "Bayron weaves science and Greek mythology into a captivating lore that lends weight to this fantastical contemporary story.

She conjures entertaining and realistic dialogue and attentive characterization, while incisive descriptions and sumptuous prose evoke a wonderfully gothic atmosphere." (*PW*)

Thomas, Kara. [That Weekend](#)
(Delacorte \$18.99)

When Claire wakes up alone and bloodied on a hiking trail with no memory of the past 48 hours, and her best friends go missing, what was supposed to be the perfect prom weekend turns into something terrifying. "An edge-of-your-seat thriller replete with unexpected twists and moments of soapy melodrama." (*Kirkus*)

Nonfiction

Dreilinger, Danielle. [The Secret History of Home Economics](#) (WW Norton \$27.95)

The term "home economics" may conjure traumatic memories of lopsided hand-sewn pillows or sunken muffins. But this common perception actually obscures the story of the revolutionary science of better living. The field exploded opportunities for women in the twentieth century by reducing domestic work and providing jobs as professors, engineers, chemists, and businesspeople. And it has something to teach us today. Dreilinger brings forward the racism within the movement along with the strides taken by women of color who were influential leaders and innovators. She also looks at the personal lives of home economics' women, as they chose to be single, share lives with other women, or try for egalitarian marriages. This groundbreaking and engaging history restores a denigrated subject to its rightful importance, as it reminds us that everyone should learn how to cook a meal, balance their account, and fight for a better world.

Ellis, Helen. [Bring Your Baggage and Don't Pack Light](#)
(Doubleday \$23)

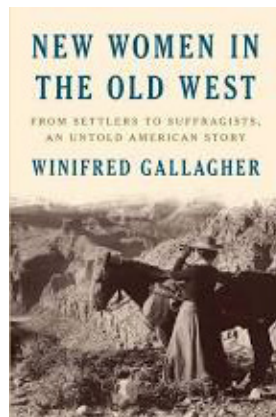
The bestselling author of *American Housewife* and *Southern Lady Code* returns with a collection of comic essays that reflect on the middle-aged experience of modern women, with characters such as fifty-year-old new moms and garage sale swindlers.

Frankel, Sheera and Cecilia King. [An Ugly Truth](#)
(Harper \$29.99)

Drawing on their unrivaled sources, award-winning New York Times reporters Frankel and King take readers inside the complex court politics, alliances, and rivalries that exist within the company while at the same time illuminating the fatal cracks that exist in the architecture of the tech behemoth.

Gallagher, Winifred. [New Women in the Old West](#)
(Penguin \$28)

Drawing on an extraordinary collection of research, Gallagher paints a vibrant picture of the little known and under-reported women who played monumental roles in the history of the Old West – and in the women’s rights movement, forever redefining the “American woman. Among the women spotlighted are Lozen, an Apache warrior who fought with Geronimo, Susan La Flesche Picotte, who trained to become the first female Native American physician, Willa Cather, whose novels captured the lives of the protean agrarian wives and mothers for readers back East, Mother Joseph, who established some thirty hospitals and schools in the Pacific Northwest region, and Jesus Maldonado de Mejia, who took advantage of the US homesteading laws to build her own ranching empire.



Hyman, Laurence. [The Letters of Shirley Jackson](#)
(Random \$35)

Written over the course of nearly three decades, from Jackson’s college years to three months before her premature death at the age of forty-eight, these letters become the autobiography Shirley Jackson, author of *The Lottery*, *The Haunting of Hill House*, and other chilling tales, never wrote, full of her subversive wit, vivid imagination, and gorgeous prose.

MacDougall, Kate. [London’s Number One Dog-walking Agency](#) (William Morrow \$27.99)

In 2006, Kate MacDougall was working a safe but dull job at the venerable auction house Sotheby’s in London. After a clumsy accident nearly destroyed a precious piece of art, she quit Sotheby’s and set up her own dog-walking company. Kate knew little about dogs and nothing about business, and no one thought being a professional dog walker was a good use of her university degree. Nevertheless, Kate embarked upon an entirely new and very much improvised career walking some of the city’s many pampered pooches, branding her company “London’s Number One Dog Walking Agency.” With sharp wit, delightful observations, and plenty of canine affection, Kate reveals her unique and unconventional coming-of-age story, as told through the dogs, and the London homes and neighborhoods they inhabit.

Sohn, Amy. [The Man Who Hated Women](#)
(FSG \$30)

New York Times best-selling author Sohn tells the overlooked story of eight extraordinary women who, between 1873 and 1915, attempted to fight Anthony Comstock, an anti-vice activist and U.S. postal inspector who penalized the mailing of contraception and obscenity with long sentences and steep fines.