

Midmonth BookNotes

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Escape into a Cool Book

Cozy Corner

Alexander, Ellie. [Mocha, She Wrote](#)
(St. Martin's \$8.99)

During the prestigious West Coast Barista Cup, Jules Capshaw cheers on her star barista Andy, who has been selected to compete, until one of the judges is found dead clutching Andy's creamy latte and she must clear his name.

Andrews, Donna. [Murder Most Fowl](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

When a filmmaker takes footage of *Macbeth*, which her husband is producing, that reveals dark secrets about the major players, Meg Langslow, with the filmmaker's electronic devices destroyed, must uncover the darkest secret of all to expose a killer.

Blake, Elizabeth. [Death & Sensibility](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Bookstore owner Erin Coleridge investigates after the keynote speaker at the Jane Austin Society conference she's been helping with turns up dead of a suspicious heart attack. Agatha Christie meets Jane Austen in the second sparkling addition of this terrific new series following [Pride, Prejudice and Poison](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Burdette, Lucy. [Scone of Contention](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

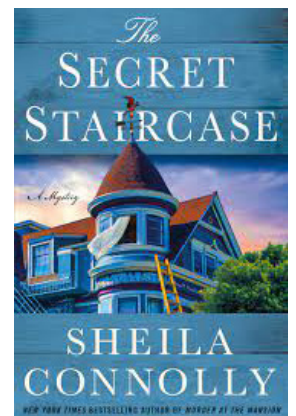
While on their honeymoon in Scotland, Key Zest food critic Hayley Snow and police detective Nathan Bransford investigate when a man falls from the famous Falkirk Wheel.

Byron, Ellen. [Cajun Kiss of Death](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

After arrogant, celebrity chef Phillippe Chanson, owner of Chanson's Cajun Kitchen, is murdered, bed and breakfast owner Maggie Crozat-Duran, manager of the Crozat Plantation, steps in to help the prime suspect, her friend JJ, proprietor of Junie's Oyster Bar and Dance Hall clear his name.

Connolly, Sheila.
[The Secret Staircase](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

After a body is discovered in a hidden staircase at Barton Mansion during renovations, Kate Hamilton works hard to identify this man who was murdered in 1880 only to discover that digging up the past can be deadly when a second body is found.



Conte, Cate. [Claws for Alarm](#)
(St. Martin's \$7.99)

With her cat café, the House of Purrs, gaining national attention, Maddie James finds the fur flying after her celebrity endorser is murdered, leaving Maddie and her rescue pals with a lot of questions to answer.

Dennison, Hannah. [Danger at the Cove](#)
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

While renovating their Tregarrick Rock Hotel, sisters Evie Mead and Margot Chandler find themselves short on time, funds and staff after two of their em-

employees turn up dead in the sequel to [Death at High Tide](#) (St. Martin's \$7.99)

Dunnett, Kaitlyn. [Murder, She Edited](#)
(Kensington \$26)

When Mikki Lincoln inherits a nearby farm from a woman she hasn't seen in two decades, the unexpected windfall comes with a caveat. Mikki must find a trove of forgotten diaries hidden somewhere in the farmhouse, edit them, and then post the diaries online – all within a month, or the deal is void. However, when Mikki discovers the old farm was the scene of an unsolved homicide, she now finds herself trying to solve a cold case before time runs out.

Hawkins, Jennifer. [Murder Always Barks Twice](#)
(Berkley \$7.99)

When the literary festival organizer is found dead and foul play is suspected, tea shop owner Emma Reed and her talking Corgi Oliver must sniff out the clues and collar a killer whose bite is worse than their bark. Start this charming series with [To Fetch a Felon](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

Hechtmon, Betty. [One for the Hooks](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

When Sloan Renner, the woman helping her friend Miami clean her house, is found dead under a pile of smelly seafood, Molly Pink, a member of the Tarzana Hookers crochet club, must unravel the clues to prove that the Sloan's death was no accident.

Keown, Audrey. [Dust to Dust](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99).

Ivy Nichols, a clerk at a historic Beaux Arts Hotel 1911, investigates after a guest attending a conference for the Pittsburgh chapter of the Association for Gravestone Studies is murdered.

Sanders, Angela M. [Seven-Year Witch](#)
(Kensington \$8.99)

When FBI agent Sam Wilfred's soon-to-be ex-wife goes missing and a local architect working at a cursed location is murdered, Josie enlists her witchy insight to clear Sam's name and discover who is drawing up some killer plans.

Fiction, Historical Novels, Mysteries, Romance and More

Abe, Shana. [The Second Mrs. Astor](#)
(Kensington \$16.95).

He was American royalty, the richest man in the country and Fifth Avenue scion of the Gilded Age. She was a vivacious teenage socialite suddenly and unexpectedly thrust into fame simply for falling in love with famous man nearly three decades her senior. *New York Times* best-selling Abe brings to life the love story between Jack Astor and Madeline Force from scandalous courtship to tragic honeymoon aboard the Titanic, which made them the most famous couple of their time.

Adams, Sara Nisha. [The Reading List](#)
(William Morrow \$27.99)

While working at the local library for the summer, Aleisha discovers a crumpled list of novels in the back of a copy of *To Kill a Mockingbird*. Bored by her new job, Aleisha decides to read every book on a secret list she found, which book-by-book helps transport her from the painful realities she's facing at home. When lonely widower Mukesh arrives at the library in a last, desperate effort to forge a connection with his book-worm granddaughter, Aleisha passes the reading list along to him...hoping it will be a lifeline for him too. Written by a former book editor who attributes her own passion for reading to the bonding over books she experienced with her grandfather, this is an "uplifting and tenderhearted celebration of libraries and the transformative power of books."



Adkins, Mary. [Palm Beach](#)
(Harper \$26.99)

When her husband Mickey, a Broadway actor whose career is sidelined by a medical condition affecting his singing, accepts a job working as a house manager for billionaire in Palm Beach, Rebecca does her best to be a supportive spouse. However, after working as a journalist specializing in wealth inequality, Rebecca is prepared to be appalled by the lavish

lifestyles of the one-percenters living in Palm Beach. Right off the bat, the couple learn just how much “money talks,” when Mickey is poached away by another local billionaire, Cecil Stone, to come and work for him when he offers to double Mickey’s current annual salary. Much to her surprise, Rebecca also agrees to work for the Stones when she accepts an offer to help Mrs. Stone write her memoirs. Even more surprising for Rebecca is how quickly she begins to bond with Mrs. Stone and how easy it becomes to rationalize the Stone’s fabulous lifestyle. If you didn’t know the rich are different by now, you certainly will after reading this quietly compelling novel. But *Palm Beach* isn’t just a glitzy look at people who spend \$30,000.00 on a bottle of wine for dinner. Adkins also effectively engages readers by exploring the moral and financial compromises anyone might make if it can help a person they love.



Adlakha, Sarah. [She Wouldn't Change a Thing](#)
(Forge \$25.99)

When 39-year-old psychiatrist, wife and mother Maria Forssmann wakes up in her 17-year-old body, she desperately tries to get back to her home and life, and wonders if she can change time and still keep what it’s given her. *Sliding Doors* meets *Life After Life* in this romantic novel.

Aksel, Amanda. [Delia Suits Up](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Frustrated by the big banks who won’t give her career a chance, Delia Reese commiserates with her roommates and drunkenly wishes she was a man, only to wake up as one and become determined to upend society’s double standards. Think of this as a career-focused variation on *Thirteen Going on Thirty*.

Alderson, Kaia. [Sisters in Arms](#)
(William Morrow \$16.99)

The first Black women allowed to serve in the army, Grace Steele and Eliza Jones, helped form the 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion, navigated their way through the segregated ranks, before finally

making it overseas where they did their parts for the country they love. Alderson’s powerful and poignant debut novel “celebrates the accomplishments of the Six Triple Eight Battalion through the lives and achievements of two bold women.

Alexander, Jenet. [I Kissed a Girl](#)
(Sourcebooks Casablanca \$14.99)

Lilah Silver is an up-and-coming actress who longs to break out from the B-rate horror flicks she’s known for. When she gets the chance to star in her first lead role, she’ll need some major help from makeup artist and special effects guru Noa Birnbaum to shine brighter than all the rest. But can the major chemistry brewing over long hours spent together ever hope to survive the bright shine of the spotlight? You have to love an author who comes up with the title of *Scareodactyl* for a movie!

Allain, Suzanne. [Miss Lattimore’s Letter](#)
(Berkley \$16)

When she becomes sought after for her “expert” matchmaking skills, Sophronia Lattimore is tasked by the eligible and attractive Sir Edmund Winslow to find him a wife. But Sophronia wishes that she could recommend herself as his bride, which of course leads to romantic disaster.

Barker, Pat. [The Women of Troy](#)
(Doubleday \$27.95)

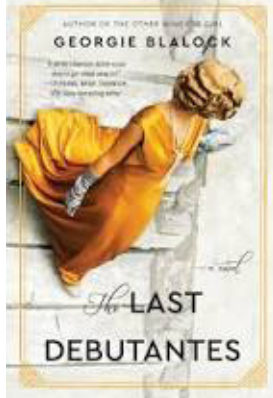
Held captive by the victorious Greeks, one time Trojan queen Briseis, formerly Achilles slave, forges alliances when she can with Priam’s aged wife, the defiant Hecuba and the disgraced soothsayer Calchas, all the while shrewdly seeking her path to revenge.

Bell, Marcellia. [The Wildest Ride](#)
(HQN \$16.99)

To save her family’s ranch, Lillian Sorrow Island, determined to win the Closed-Circuit rodeo tour with a million-dollar prize, goes up against an undefeated rodeo champion AJ Garza, who is her biggest rival onscreen, but offscreen it is a whole different story. “The result is thoroughly charming, with strong cowboy flavor, fascinating family histories, and female empowerment front and center. True to its title, this wild ride is sure to sweep readers away.” (PW)

Blalock, Georgie. [The Last Debutantes](#)
(William Morrow \$16.99)

When Valerie de Vere Cole, the niece of Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain, makes her deep curtsey to the King and Queen of England, she senses she is part of a world that is about to end. The daughter of a debt-ridden father and a neglectful mother, Valerie sees firsthand that war is imminent. Nevertheless, Valerie reinvents herself as a carefree young society woman, be-friending other debutantes from England's aristocracy as well as the vivacious Eunice Kennedy, daughter of the U.S. Ambassador. But how long can Valerie navigate her glittering new life when everything in her past has taught her that happiness and stability are as fragile as the peaceful state currently in place between Great Britain and Germany?



Georgie and Bronwyn attend a celebration of her life at Kanu Cove and discover danger lurking in the water and beyond. A compulsive page-turner in the style of Lucy Foley and Ruth Ware.

Ellis, Courtney. [At Summer's End](#)
(Berkley \$17)

After accepting a commission from Julian, the Earl of Wakeford, to summer at his country home Braemore, ambitious artist Alberta "Bertie" Preston arrives at the estate and begins painting. While Bertie is quickly introduced to the earl's younger brother and sister, she soon discovers Julian prefers to keep his distance due to the injuries he sustained in the Great War. In this engaging debut, "Ellis's lyrical, emotional writing brings the beauty of Braemore alive while revealing the complexity of her richly drawn characters as Bertie pursues artistic recognition alongside her emotionally charged love affair with Julian." (PW)

Feito, Virginia. [Mrs. March](#)
(WW Norton \$26)

When someone suggests that the protagonist in her husband's latest book is based on her, Mrs. March questions everything she believes about her husband as she embarks on a harrowing journey that builds to near psychosis – one that may uncover a killer and the long-buried secrets of her past. One review called this a mashup of *Madame Bovary* and Patricia Highsmith while another called it the "love child of Patricia Highsmith and Shirley Jackson. In many ways it reminded me of another critically acclaimed debut *Darling Rose Gold* by Stephanie Wrobel. All of this should give you some idea of the literary flavor of this much buzzed about debut, which is already on its way to the big screen in a production in which Elizabeth Moss will play the title role. This is the kind of book, you will either love or hate.

Fielding, Joy. [Cul-de-sac](#)
(Ballantine \$28)

Five families on a quiet, suburban cul-de-sac deal with the shooting of one of their own and the secrets they each harbor, including newlyweds whose marriage is already on the rocks and a family who fled to Florida from California.

Brown, Emily Belding. [Emily's House](#)
(Berkley \$17)

Accepting a temporary position with the Dickinson family in Amherst in 1869, Maggie Maher forms a life-changing friendship with the brilliant Miss Emily instead. "At once an outsider and a woman intimately immersed in the Dickinson household, Margaret paints a shrewd picture of the family's personalities, customs, and complexities. Brown once again shows a gift for shedding light on historical women." (PW)

Collins, Megan. [The Family Plot](#)
(Atria \$27)

When her twin brother's body is found in the family plot, 26-year-old Delilah returns home to her true crime-obsessed family where she, grappling with her own grief and horror, realizes that her eccentric family and their mansion itself may hold the key to the truth. "Plausible suspects and complex characters match the well-crafted plot. This is an entertaining as well as chilling tale of family secrets, lies, and primordial fears." (PW)

Elliott, Lexie. [How to Kill Your Best Friend](#)
(Berkley \$27)

When their close friend and former swim teammate, Lissa, drowns while on vacation with her husband,

Gable, Michelle. [The Bookseller's Secret](#)
(Graydon House \$16.99)

In 1942, London, Nancy Mitford is worried about more than air raids and German spies. Still recovering from a devastating loss, the once sparkling Bright Young Thing is estranged from her husband, her allowance has been cut, and she's given up her writing career. On top of this, her five beautiful but infamous sisters continue making headlines with their controversial politics. Eager for distraction and desperate for income, Nancy jumps at the chance to manage the Heywood Hill bookshop while the owner is away at war. Between the shop's brisk business and the literary salons she hosts for her eccentric friends, Nancy's life seems on the upswing. But when a mysterious French officer insists that she has a story to tell, Nancy must decide if picking up the pen again and revealing all is worth the price she might be forced to pay. Eighty years later, Heywood Hill is abuzz with the hunt for a lost wartime manuscript written by Nancy Mitford. For one woman desperately in need of a change, the search will reveal not only a new side to Nancy, but an even more surprising link between the past and present.

Grant, Rachel. [Dangerous Ground](#)
(Montlake \$12.95)

After an emergency evacuation cut her first expedition to the Aleutian Islands short, archaeologist Fiona Carver is finally back. But time is not on her side as she races to finish documenting the remnants of a prehistoric village, recover missing artifacts, and track down missing volcanologist Dylan Slater. Having bluffed his way onto Fiona's team with fake credentials, wildlife photographer Dean Slater is willing to risk more than federal prison to find his missing brother, but he needs Fiona's help. When the two set out together on a perilous journey, it becomes more than a recovery mission when they discover someone is hunting *them*.

Halle, Karina. [The Royals Next Door](#)
(Berkley \$16)

When elementary school teacher Piper Evans, who leads a quiet, reclusive life, finds herself in the middle of a royal scandal that rocks her tight-knit community, she must decide what she is willing to give up to have her own happily ever after.

Harrison, Nicola. [The Show Girl](#)
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

In 1927, Olive McCormick, a star in the Ziegfeld Follies, accepts a marriage proposal that forces her to decide if she is willing to reveal a devastating secret and sacrifice the life she loves for the man she loves.

Hoang, Helen. [The Heart Principle](#)
(Berkley \$16)

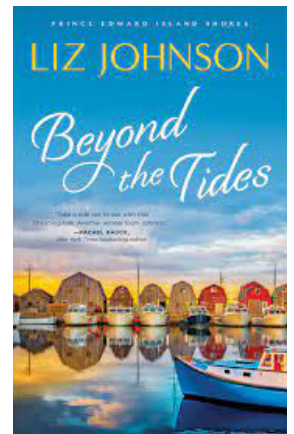
When she suddenly loses her ability to play the violin due to burnout, Anna Sun must learn to listen to her heart. However, when Anna falls in love with a man her parents disapprove of, she is forced to choose between meeting family expectations and her own happiness. *PW* summed the latest from romance superstar Hoang with "readers shouldn't expect a typical rom-com, but many will swoon for this sensitive love story."

Johnson, Alaya Dawn. [Trouble the Saints](#)
(Tor \$17.99)

Forced to give up her identity and the man she loves after a decade in the glittering underworld of Manhattan, Harlem assassin Phyllis LeBlank fights the ghosts of her past while the country edges into World War II.

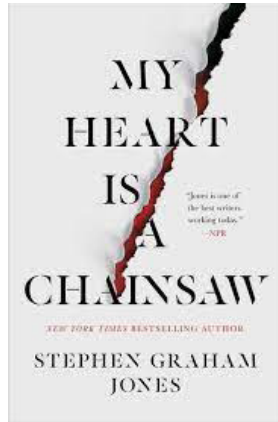
Johnson, Liz. [Beyond the Tides](#)
(Revell \$15.99)

When Meg Whitaker's father decides to sell the family's lobster fishing business to her high school nemesis, Oliver Ross, she sets out to prove she should take it over instead. Oliver isn't proud of what he did back in high school to Meg, but owning a respected fishing fleet on Prince Edward Island is the opportunity of a lifetime, as well as a way to provide for his mother, and he's not about to walk away just because Meg wants him to. Meg's father has the perfect solution: Oliver and Meg will work the business together, and at the end of the season, he'll decide who gets it. Along the way, they may discover that their stories are more similar than they thought . . . and their dreams aren't what they expected. *PW* gave this series start a rare star saying "Meg and Oliver's attraction rings true, and the ending is especially clever."



Jones, Stephen Graham. [My Heart Is a Chainsaw](#)
(Gallery \$26.99)

Protected by horror movies—especially the ones where the masked killer seeks revenge on a world that wronged them—Jade Daniels, an angry, half-Indi-an outcast, pulls us into her dark mind when blood actually starts to spill into the waters of Indian lake. Here is *PW*'s take “Jones weaves an astonishing amount of slasher film lore into his novel, punctuating the text with short term papers written by Jade on the history and functions of the genre. Meanwhile, the tension builds to a graphic finale perfectly appropriate for the novel’s cinematic scope.”



Lange, Tracey. [We Are the Brennans](#)
(Celadon \$26.99)

Returning to the east coast to recover from a drunk driving accident she caused, 29-year-old Sunday Brennan must protect her family from a man from her past who brings her family’s pub business to the brink of financial ruin.

Larkin, Allison. [The People We Keep](#)
(Gallery \$27)

Chronicling her life in the songs she writes, April Sawicki, after leaving home for good, finds her way to Ithaca, New York where she finally finds a sense of belonging but cannot shake the feeling that she’ll hurt her new friends the way she’s been hurt in the past.

Lee, Jayci. [The Dating Dare](#)
(St. Martin’s \$16.99)

No serious relationships. This is the one rule Tara Park made for herself and it has been working swimmingly, thank you very much. But when Seth Kim, temptation personified and her best friend’s new brother-in-law walks into her life, Tara might be willing to bend her golden rule...but only for four dates—the four dates she agreed to after a few good rounds of beer and a game of truth or dare. It’ll be fun. *No biggie.* Seth Kim can’t believe Tara agreed to his dating dare. He’s leaving for a new job in Paris in a month and a no-strings attached fling seemed like a nice little distraction for

both... But their secret dates, while sweet and sexy, always hit roadblocks straight out of a romantic comedy. Thankfully, their non-dates and chance meetings are smoother, frequent, and heated. However, the more Seth sees of Tara, the less willing he is to let her go—and what was supposed to be a fun little game turns into something that neither of them are ready for.

Lester, Natasha. [The Riviera House](#)
(Forever \$16.99)

When she mysteriously inherits a home on the Riviera, Remy Lang, while working on her vintage fashion business, finds a catalog of the artworks stolen during World War II and makes a shocking discovery that leads her on an extraordinary journey to the past.

MacLean, Sarah. [Bombshell](#)
(Avon \$8.99)

No stranger to scandal, Lady Sesity Talbot embraces her bad reputation and continues luring men from Mayfair ballrooms for late night escapades but finds herself pining for what she can’t seem to have--her brother’s best friend.

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

When she falls in love with her employer, Evan Rochester, accused of murdering his glamorous and troubled wife, tutor Jane cannot let go of the dark suspicions aroused when a ghostly presence repeatedly appears in the night’s mist that puts Evan’s innocence in question.

Moreno-Garcia, Silvia. [Velvet Was the Night](#)
(Del Rey \$28)

In 1970s Mexico City, Maite, a secretary with a penchant for romance novels, searches for her missing neighbor, Leonora, a beautiful art student, which leads her to an eccentric gangster who longs to escape his own life, and together, they set out to discover the dangerous truth.

Moyes, Jojo. [Night Music](#)
(Penguin \$17)

After her husband dies, leaving her with a mountain of debt, classical violinist Isabel Delancey and her children are forced to move to a now- dilapidated manor she inherited in the English countryside where she fights to make her house a home as passions

and lives collide. Originally published in Great Britain more than a decade ago, *Night Music* is making its American debut.

Murphy, Julie. [If the Shoe Fits](#)
(Hyperion \$26.99)

In this modern-retelling of Cinderella, plus-size Cindy dreams of becoming a shoe designer. But when a spot opens up on her stepmother's famous reality dating TV Competition, Cindy is thrust into the spotlight in ways she never thought possible.

Park, Suzanne. [So We Meet Again](#)
(Avon \$15.99)

When her cooking channel becomes an actual media company with the help of the Daniel Choi, an M&A lawyer and successful video game streamer, Jess Kim falls in love with the man who happens to work for the company she just recently quit in a spectacular fashion.

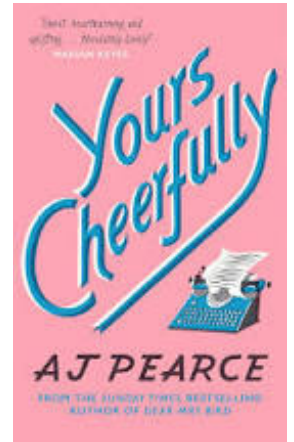
Parker, Lucy. [Battle Royal](#)
(Avon \$15.99)

After being kicked off Operation Cake, a wildly popular British baking competition show, by judge Dominic De Vere, successful London baker Sylvie Fairchild, returns to the show as a judge, setting off an intense rivalry and maybe a bit of romance. Parker's latest brilliantly conceived rom-com is brimming with "irresistible banter and even more irresistible chemistry. Add in a host of lovable secondary characters and a fierce competition for a contract baking a cake for an upcoming royal wedding, and it's a recipe for delight." (*PW*)

Pearce, A.J. [Yours. Cheerfully](#)
(Scribner \$26)

Following the departure of the formidable Henrietta Bird from *Woman's Friend* magazine, things are looking up for Emmeline Lake as she takes on the challenge of becoming a young wartime advice columnist. Her relationship with boyfriend Charles (now stationed back in the UK) is blossoming, while Emmy's best friend Bunty, still reeling from the very worst of the Blitz, is bravely looking to the future. Together, the friends are determined to Make a Go of It. When the Ministry of Information calls on Britain's women's magazines to help recruit desperately needed female workers to the war effort,

Emmy is thrilled to be asked to step up and help. But when she and Bunty meet a young woman who shows them the very real challenges that women war workers face, Emmy must tackle a life-changing dilemma between doing her duty and standing by her friends. Pearce's latest sweetly funny, heartwarming, and touching historical novel is every bit as good as *Dear Mrs. Bird*. This is a wonderful celebration of friendship, and a testament to the strength of women and the importance of lifting each other up even in the most challenging times.



Pomare, J.P. [The Last Guests](#)
(Mulholland \$28)

When they decide to rent out their lakefront property, newlyweds Lina and Cain play a dangerous game by keeping secrets, which takes a deadly turn when someone out there knows something they shouldn't. Fans of Lucy Foley and Ruth Ware may wish to take note of Pomare's winning entry in the "trapped with a killer" subgenre.

Reece, Willa. [Wildwood Whispers](#)
(Redhook \$28)

Fulfilling a final promise to her best friend Sarah, Mel Smith travels to a small Appalachian mountain town where she finds connection to the land and traditions but also to something—or someone—that may have had something to do with Sarah's untimely death. Appalachian gothic? *PW* said "This works both as a contemporary fairy tale and a slow-burning romance—and fans of both genres will appreciate this walk through the wild woods."

Rochon, Fara. [The Dating Playbook](#)
(Forever \$15.99)

Taking on a former footballer who wants back in the NFL, personal trainer Taylor Powell finds her game plan turned completely upside down when they're accidentally outed as a couple. "This football romance is a total knockout: funny, sexy, and full of heart." (*Kirkus*)

Sampson, Freya. [The Last Chance Library](#)
(Berkley \$26)

When her library is threatened with closure, June Hones, to save the place and the books that mean so much to her, must make some changes to her solitary life by opening her heart to the world around her and fighting for what she believes in.

Schaffert, Timothy. [The Perfume Thief](#)
(Doubleday \$27.95)

In 1941 Paris, 80-something Clementine, a reformed con artist who bottles her favorite extracts for the ladies of cabarets, is recruited to steal the recipe book of a now-missing famous Parisian perfumer that has fallen into the hands of a Francophile Nazi bureaucrat. "Schaffert's evocation of Paris and its wartime demimonde is sensual and alluring, but the heart of his novel is Clementine's demonstration through her own adventures of how every life is its own heady perfume, distilled from the personal experiences of the individual. This is a rich and rewarding tale, as original and unique as the handiwork of its eponymous character." (PW)

Skilton, Tash. [Hollywood Ending](#)
(Kensington \$15.95)

Nina and Sebastian, superfans who bonded over their favorite television show until both the show and their friendship was abruptly canceled, drift apart but meet five years later on the set of the show's reboot in Hollywood

Tilly, Meg. [The Runaway Heiress](#)
(Berkley \$7.99)

With a new name and fake ID papers, Sarah Patterson, on the run from her violent estranged husband — a police lieutenant — takes a job working with Hollywood's golden boy director who, as their bond deepens, attempts to keep Sarah out of harm's way. "Tilly makes it easy to root for these strong, focused characters, neither of whom has ever been in love before, adding an endearing, first love twist to their romance. The well-developed protagonists and intriguing suspense plot are sure to keep the pages turning." (PW)

Children's Books and Teen Fiction

Angeles, Janella. [When Night Breaks](#)
(Wednesday Books \$18.99)

After the Spectaculore ends in disaster, Kallia finds herself on the Other Side—a dazzling world where mirrors show memories, illusions shadow every corner, and a powerful Ringmaster demands Kallia perform one final, dangerous trick.

Fuston, Margie. [Vampires, Hearts & Other Dead Things](#) (Margaret K. McElderry \$18.99)

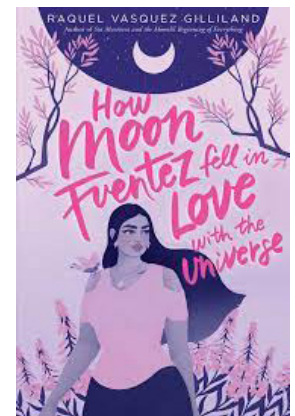
Vowing to find a vampire so she can become one and then save her father, who has terminal cancer, Victoria travels to New Orleans where she meets a mysterious young man who just might be her salvation.

Garrity, Shaenon K. [The Dire Days of Willowweep Manor](#) (Margaret K. McElderry \$14.99)

After rescuing a stranger, Haley wakes up in Willowweep, the setting of her favorite Gothic romance novel, where she discovers that she must save this universe from an all-consuming evil waiting to return home.

Gilliland, Raquel Vasquez. [How Moon Fuentez Fell In Love with the Universe](#) (Simon and Schuster \$19.99)

When seven-teen-year-old Star Fuentez reaches social media stardom, her polar-opposite twin, Moon, becomes "merch girl" on a tour bus full of beautiful influencers and the grumpy but attractive Santiago Philips.



Murray, Lily and Becky Cameron. [Monet's Cat](#)
(Random House \$28.99)

Inspired by the actual porcelain cat that was prominently displayed in Monet's studio, this beautiful picture book teaches children about Monet's art and his most famous paintings.

Scheier, Leah. [The Last Words We Said](#) (Simon and Schuster \$18.99)

All the Bright Places meets *If I Stay* in this heart-wrenching, romantic novel about a tight-knit group of teen girls coping with a devastating loss and what happens when your best friend is also your first love and your first heartbreak.

Smith, Sasha Peyton. [The Witch Haven](#) (Simon and Schuster \$19.99)

In 1911 New York City, 17-year-old seamstress France Hollowell discovers that she is a witch and must choose between justice for her murdered brother or the safety of her city and fellow witches.

Snicket, Lemony. [Poison for Breakfast](#) (Liveright \$17.95)

Lemony Snicket investigates his own possible murder after receiving a note under his door one morning informing him that his breakfast has been poisoned.

Stephens, Ann Marie and Jenn Harney. [Catastrophe](#) (Boyd's Mills \$17.99)

When a group of cats set out to go fishing, Captain Cat, the feline in charge, calls it a CATastrophe! The group has no concept of patterns. Just look at how they line up with no regard for the color of their jackets! Fortunately, Captain Cat is able to teach his crew about the importance of patterns in life, and after a few mishaps, by the end of the day, all the kitties are warm and dry and full of fish. *Kirkus* called this "a must read for fans of cats or calculations." Count me in!

Nonfiction

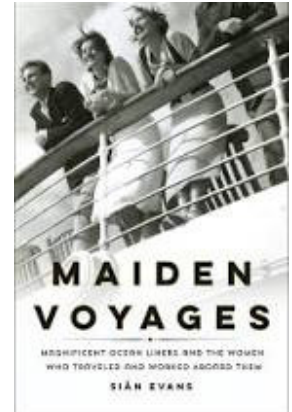
Eder, Mari. [The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)

The Girls Who Stepped Out of Line takes you inside the lives and experiences of 15 unknown women heroes from the Greatest Generation, the women who served, fought, struggled, and made things happen during WWII-in and out of uniform. Among the women profiled are Liane B. Russell, who fled Austria with nothing and later became a renowned U.S. scientist whose research on the effects of radiation on embryos made a difference to thousands of lives. Gena Turgel was a prisoner who worked in the hospital at Bergen-Belsen and cared for the young Anne Frank, who was dying of typhus. Gena survived and went on

to write a memoir and spent her life educating children about the Holocaust. Ida and Louise Cook were British sisters, who repeatedly smuggled out jewelry and furs and served as sponsors for refugees, and they also established temporary housing for immigrant families in London.

Evans, Sian. [Maiden Voyages](#) (St. Martin's \$28.99)

Maiden Voyages is a fascinating portrait of an extraordinary range of women, who crossed the Atlantic on ocean liners. These ships were a microcosm of contemporary society, divided by class: from the luxury of the upper deck, playground for the rich and famous, to the cramped conditions of steerage or third-class travel. In first class you'll meet A-listers like Marlene Dietrich, Wallis Simpson, and Josephine Baker; the second class carried a new generation of professional and independent women, like pioneering interior designer Sibyl Colefax. Down in steerage, you'll follow the journey of émigré Maria Riffelmacher as she escapes poverty in Europe. Bustling between decks is a crew of female workers, including Violet "The Unsinkable Stewardess" Jessop, who survived the Titanic disaster. *Maiden Voyages* chronicles the extraordinary undertaking made by many women, whose lives were changed forever by their journeys between the Old World and the New.



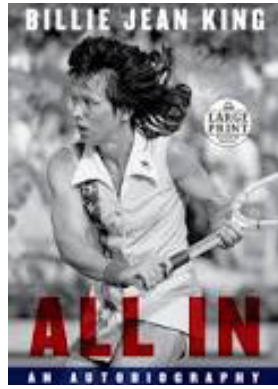
Hall, Marshall. [Blimey, I'm Knackered](#) (Imbrifex Books \$24)

Blimey, I'm Knackered! is the perfect companion for anyone desiring to bridge the gap between US and UK English or who simply enjoys the evolution of language and culture. American scholar and longtime UK resident Marshall Hall has organized his insightful definitions and explanations of British idioms, colloquialisms, abbreviations, acronyms, and slang into nineteen entertaining and revealing chapters covering everything from transportation and food to politics, education, and wardrobe. Making the book truly comprehensive are sections on pejoratives and "naughty bits." Hall's often amusing explanations

make the book an engaging read for language lovers and travelers alike.

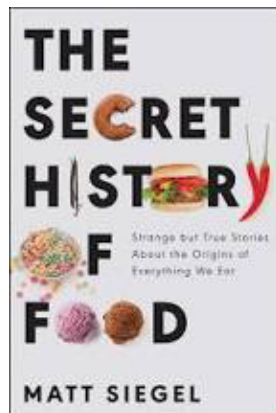
King, Billie Jean. [All In](#)
(Knopf \$30)

In this spirited account, Billie Jean King details her life's journey to find her true self. She recounts her groundbreaking tennis career—six years as the top-ranked woman in the world, twenty Wimbledon championships, thirty-nine grand-slam titles, and her watershed defeat of Bobby Riggs in the famous “Battle of the Sexes.” She poignantly recalls the cultural backdrop of those years and the profound impact on her worldview from the women’s movement, the assassinations and anti-war protests of the 1960s, the civil rights movement, and, eventually, the LGBTQ+ rights movement



Siegel, Matt. [The Secret History of Food](#)
(Ecco \$27.99)

Is Italian olive oil *really* Italian, or are we dipping our bread in lamp oil? Why are we masochistically drawn to foods that can hurt us, like hot peppers? Far from being a classic American dish, is apple pie actually . . . English? As a species, we’re hardwired to obsess over food, Matt Siegel explains as he sets out to uncover the hidden side of everything we put in our mouths. Siegel also probes subjects ranging from the myths - and realities - of food as aphrodisiac, to how one of the rarest and most exotic spices in all the world (*vanilla*) became a synonym for uninspired sexual proclivities, to the role of food in fairy- and morality tales. He even makes a well-argued case for how ice cream helped defeat the Nazis.



The Secret History of Food is a rich and satisfying exploration of the historical, cultural, scientific, sexual, and, yes, culinary subcultures of this most essential realm.