

# Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 8 Issue 10 October, 2021

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(888) 560-9919 • (480) 947-2974

poisonedpen.com • sales@poisonedpen.com



## All Treats and No Tricks Reading

### Cozy Corner

Holiday themed cozies are included in the Holiday Reading section that follows

**Black, Olivia.** [No Memes of Escape](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

When a girl's day out Escape Room adventure ends in murder, amateur sleuth Odessa Dean, while dealing with shifts at the café, social media and apartment hunting, must clear her and her friends' names before time runs out. Second in a fun new series that cleverly brings the cozy mystery into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Black introduced Odessa in [Killer Content](#) (Berkley \$16)



**Ellicott, Jessica.** [Murder in an English Glade](#)  
(Kensington \$26)

When an investigation at Maitland Park during an artist colony turns into a real murder case, friends and business partners Beryl Helliwell and Edwina Davenport now face a possible crime of passion that turned very deadly. "Shifting viewpoints move the plot briskly along right up to the surprising conclusion. Along the way, Ellicott does a good job

conveying the fluidity of the British social order after WWI and how the paucity of men opened many opportunities for women." (PW).

**Kelly, Diane.** [Getaway with Murder](#)  
(St. Martin's \$8.99)

When her lodge's opening weekend is marred by theft and murder, Misty Murphy, with her reputation hanging in the balance, must put her own crime-solving skills to the test before she loses everything. Set in a lodge in the Blue Ridge Mountains, this is the first in a new cozy series from Kelly.

**Kingsbury, Kate.** [In Hot Water](#)  
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

On the night before her quaint, English themed tea shop is set to open, Vivian Wainwright learns her assistant Jenna is the prime suspect in the death of her ex-husband, Dean Ramsey, who fell from a balcony. Now Vivian must clear Jenna's name if she is to have any hope of opening up her Willow Pattern Tearoom on time. A new series launch by the author of the long-running and popular Pennyfoot Hotel mysteries.

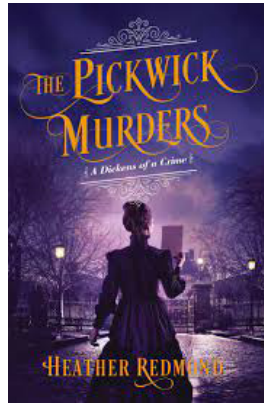
**Lansing, Kate.** [Mulled to Death](#)  
(Berkley \$8.99)

When murder gets in the way of her romantic ski trip and business plans, Parker Valentine, after a series of

unfortunate mishaps befall her, realizes that whoever killed the resort owner is now after her and must catch them first before she suffers a fatal “accident.”

**Redmond, Heather.** [The Pickwick Murders](#)  
(Kensington \$26)

When his initiation into the Lightning Club takes a murderous turn, Charles Dickens is accused of the crime and is locked away in Newgate Prison where he must rely on his fiancé Kate and her sleuthing skills to save him from the hangman’s noose. “Besides painting a finely detailed portrait of life in London and its social hierarchy, Redmond creates captivating sleuths in the young Charles and the valiant Kate with their sharp-eyed observations of British society and its individuals.” (PW)



## Holiday Reading

**Andreen, Tracy.** [So, This Is Christmas](#)  
(Viking \$18.99)

When her hot boarding school classmate Arthur, whom she tricked into believing that Christmas in her hometown was an idyllic holiday paradise, arrives on her grandmother’s doorstep with his Christmas-obsessed aunt, Finley Brown must make sure he gets the Christmas he was promised, and along the way finds something unexpected: love.

**Andrews, Donna.** [The Twelve Jays of Christmas](#)  
(St, Martin’s \$26.99)

When a blizzard traps her brother Rob and his fiancé Delaney’s guests inside during their Christmas party, Meg Langslow must help the snowbound would-be eloping couple thwart their mothers’ grandiose wedding plans AND solve a murder among the assembled friends and relatives.

**Andrews, Mary Kay.** [The Santa Suit](#)  
(St. Martin’s \$19.99)

After purchasing an old farmhouse, newly divorced Ivy Perkins discovers an old Santa suit with a note in the pocket, which sets her off on a mission that brings her into a welcoming community, where she finds more friendship than she ever thought possible.

**Bayliss, Jenny.** [A Season for Second Chances](#)  
(Putnam \$16)

With her children grown and her marriage over, chef Annie Sharpe accepts a position as a winter guardian in a historic seaside home in Willow Bay, but finds herself at odds with the homeowner’s grinchy nephew, architect John Granger. “The holiday season provides an enchanting backdrop to this late-coming-of-age tale, as Annie moves out of complacency and rejuvenates a wounded heart while developing lifelong friendships and love. Readers will be enchanted.” (PW)

**Bruns, Catherine.** [The Enemy You Gnocchi](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$8.99)

The owner of Anything’s Pastable, Tessa Esposito is doing her best to keep things merry, bright and delicious for everyone, but when her best friend Archie is accused of murdering his competition, Tessa must temporarily put aside her Santa’s hat and put on her sleuthing cap in order to find the real killer.

**Carr, Robyn.** [A Virgin River Christmas](#)  
(MIRA \$16.99)

Arriving in Virgin River to find the man who saved her husband’s life and gave her three more years to love him, widow Marcie Sullivan tracks down Ian Buchanan and pushes her way into his rugged and reclusive life during this season of miracles.

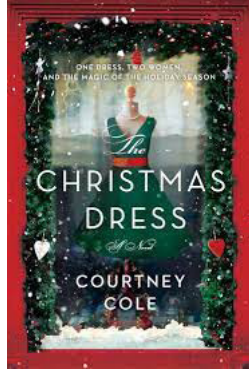
**Childs, Laura.** [Twisted Tea Christmas](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

While catering a Victorian Christmas party for Drucilla Heyward, one of the wealthiest women in town who is about to make a huge announcement, tea maven Theodosia Browning finds herself steeped in murder when she stumbles upon Drucilla’s dead

body. The latest in Childs' long-running and popular series is a "mystery overflowing with local color, holiday charm, appended recipes, and plans for themed parties." (*Kirkus*)

**Cole, Courtney.** [The Christmas Dress](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Returning to Chicago to manage her late father's apartment building, hopeful fashionista Meg Julliard forms an unlikely friendship with a long-time resident who gifts her a vintage, and enchanted, Christmas dress—an act of kindness that changes both of their lives forever.



**Colgan, Jenny.** [The Christmas Bookshop](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Out of a job with the holidays rapidly approaching on the horizon, Carmen, with little cash and few options, is forced to move in with her perfect sister and take a job at a book store that desperately needs her help—and helps her in return.

**Dirico, Maria.** [It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Murder](#)  
(Kensington \$8.99)

While dealing with a full schedule of events at the family business and her challenging personal life, amateur sleuth Mia Carina must find out who is trying to wreck her holidays when a body turns up in a Christmas-themed lawn display.

**Gray, Shelley Shepard.** [A Christmas Courtship](#)  
(Gallery \$16)

Bookmobile librarian Sarah Anne Miller encourages Atle Petersheim to learn about love through reading romance novels after he mentions his intention to court a local widow as Christmas approaches.

**Griffo, J. D.** [Murder at the Mistletoe Ball](#)  
(Kensington \$8.99)

When Alberta's 21-year-old grandson, Sergio, who has been missing for six months, shows up at the

Mistletoe Ball next to a dead body, she and her estranged daughter Lisa Marie must put their past behind them and work together to clear his name before Christmas.

**Holiday, Jenny.** [Duke, Actually](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Under pressure by his family to marry, Maximilian von Hansburg, Baron of Laudon and heir to the Duke of Aquilla, arrives in New York, where he quickly befriends no-nonsense, but single professor, Dani Martinez. Both Max and Dani are determined to keep their relationship in the "friend zone," but that becomes increasingly difficult when both of them find love entering the equation.

**Jackson, Brenda.** [One Christmas Wish](#)  
(HQN \$28.99)

Starting over in the only place she and her five-year-old daughter feel safe, Sierra Crane opens up a soup café in Catalina Cove where she has no time for love until she meets Vaughn Miller, who has returned home to pick up the pieces of his shattered life.

**James, Eloisa et al.** [Mistletoe Christmas](#)  
(HarperCollins \$9.99)

Four beloved and best-selling writers – Eloisa James, Christi Caldwell, Janna MacGregor, and Erica Ridley – gift Regency romance readers with a quartet of different yet equally enchanting love stories all set at the Duke of Greystoke's famous (or some might say, infamous) Christmas Revelry.

**Knox, Maggie.** [The Holiday Swap](#)  
(Penguin \$17)

After she loses her sense of taste and smell, chef Charlie Goodwin convinces her identical twin Cass, a bakery owner, to come to Los Angeles and take on her duties as cohost for an upcoming holiday baking television show while in turn Charlie will hold down the fort at Cass's bakery. *PW* called this "double the treats and double the trouble." So, in other words a charming mashup of *The Parent Trap* and the Food Channel's *Holiday Baking Championship*.

**Lalli, Sonya.** [A Holly, Jolly Diwali](#)  
(Berkley \$17)

A very practical, straightlaced twenty-eight-year-old, Niki Randhawa, attends a friend's wedding in India where she arrives in time to celebrate Diwali and meets a free-spirited London musician Sameer Mukherji, who helps her get in touch with her passionate and creative side.

**Macomber, Debbie.** [Dear Santa](#)  
(Ballantine \$21)

Feeling low after her boyfriend cheated on her, Lindy Carmichael heads home to Wenatchee, Washington for Christmas where her mother encourages her to write a grown-up letter to Santa which, much to Lindy's surprise, brings her hope and joy.

**Meltzer, Jean.** [The Matzah Ball](#)  
(MIRA \$15.99)

When her publisher insists that she write a Hanukkah romance, Rachel Rubenstein-Goldblatt, a Jewish woman with a secret career as a Christmas romance novelist, unexpectedly finds inspiration when she encounters an old childhood acquaintance at the Matzah Ball, a Jewish music celebration on the last night of Hanukkah. "This heartfelt rom-com should be unwrapped by people of all faiths this holiday season" (*PW*)

**Moncrieff, Ada.** [Murder Most Festive](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$14.99)

Christmas 1938. The Westbury family and assorted friends have gathered together for another legendary Christmas at their Sussex mansion. As family tensions simmer on Christmas Eve, the champagne flows, the silver sparkles and upstairs the bedrooms are made up ready for their occupants. But one bed will lie empty that night. Come Christmas morning, guest David Campbell-Scott is found lying dead in the snow, with only a hunting rifle lying beside him and one set of footprints leading to the body. But something doesn't seem right to amateur sleuth Hugh Gaveston. Fans of Golden Age mysteries will love finding this sprightly debut in their holiday stockings.

**Morgan, Sarah.** [The Christmas Escape](#)  
(HQN \$16.99)

Agreeing to take her best friend Christy's daughter to Lapland days before Christmas, marketing whiz Alix confronts her parenting fears—and finds love under the Northern Lights, while at the same time, Christy uses this opportunity to save her marriage.

**Novak, Brenda.** [Keep Me Warm at Christmas](#)  
(MIRA \$9.99)

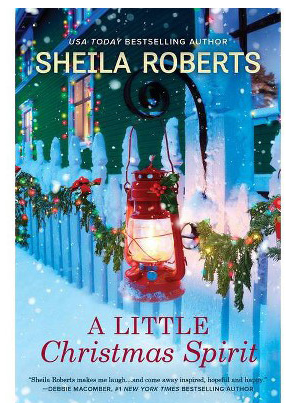
When a near-fatal accident leaves her with a debilitating facial scar, a once-promising Hollywood starlet retreats to her producer's Silver Springs estate to house sit where she discovers she has a handsome new roommate.

**Putney, Mary Jo et al.** [A Yuletide Kiss](#)  
(Kensington \$15.95)

Three best-selling authors of Regency-era romances – Mary Jo Putney, Madeline Hunter, and Sabrina Jeffries - join forces in three interconnected holiday romances that all take place at a snowbound inn while their characters, who include a famous playwright, his anonymous vocal critic, a sea captain and his estranged wife, discover the gift of love.

**Roberts, Sheila.** [A Little Christmas Spirit](#)  
(MIRA \$16.99)

Single mom Lexie Bell is trying to make their new home and Christmas special for her young son Brock while at the same time also trying to spread some holiday cheer to the grouchy, "Grinchy," reclusive widower living next door. Roberts puts her own clever and charming spin on that perennial holiday favorite *A Christmas Carol*, and the result is a sweet tale that will convince even the grinchiest among us to give the holidays a chance.



**Ryan, Anne Marie.** [Christmas By the Book](#)  
(Putnam \$16)

In small-town England, Nora and Simon, two book-sellers facing tough times, decide to spread some Christmas cheer through the magic of anonymous book deliveries to six residents in desperate need of some holiday hope and cheer in this uplifting holiday tale for book lovers everywhere by a Hachette Children's Books editor in the UK and the pseudonymous author of several children's books.

**Toffolo, Georgia.** [Meet Me in London](#)  
(HQN \$16.99)

Aspiring clothes designer Victoria Scott spends her days working in a bar in Chelsea and her evenings designing vintage clothes, dreaming of one day opening her own boutique. But these aspirations are under threat from the new department store opening at the end of her road. Oliver Russell's family's new London department store opening is behind schedule, and on top of that his interfering, if well-meaning, mother is pressing him to introduce his girlfriend to her over the holidays; a girlfriend who does not exist. When Oliver meets Victoria, he offers a proposition: pretend to be his girlfriend at the opening of his store and he will provide an opportunity for Victoria to showcase her designs. But what starts as a business arrangement soon becomes something more tempting as the fake relationship starts to feel very real.

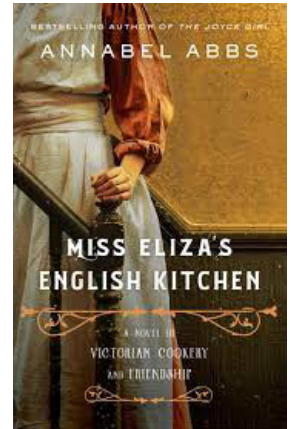
**Wilde, Lori.** [Second Chance Christmas](#)  
(HarperCollins \$9.99)

It's Christmastime in Twilight, TX. The lights are twinkling, carols are being sung, and the cookies are baking. And this year, best friends Joel and Jana discover a shocking surprise: as they are organizing the living Nativity, they find a sweet little baby in the manger with a note saying the mother will return... soon. Jana and Joel make the impulsive decision to take the baby home, but as the days pass, the pair not only begins to fall in love with the child, they are also forced to face facts: their relationship goes far deeper than friendship.

## Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, and More

**Abbs, Annabel.** [Miss Eliza's English Kitchen](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

When Eliza Acton is told by her publisher to write a cookery book instead of the poetry she loves, she refuses; until her bankrupt father is forced to flee the country. Although she's never set foot in a kitchen, Eliza begins collecting recipes and teaching herself to cook. Much to her surprise she discovers a talent - and a passion - for the culinary arts. Eliza hires young, destitute Ann Kirby to assist her. As they cook together, Ann learns about poetry, love



and ambition. The two develop a radical friendship, breaking the boundaries of class while creating new ways of writing recipes. But when Ann discovers a secret in Eliza's past, and finds a voice of her own, their friendship starts to fray. Based on the true story of the first modern cookery writer, *Miss Eliza's English Kitchen* is a spellbinding novel about female friendship, the struggle for independence, and the transcendent pleasures and solace of food.

**Beard, Janet.** [The Ballad of Laurel Springs](#)  
(Gallery \$27)

Ten-year-old Grace is in search of a subject for her fifth-grade history project when she learns that her four times-great grandfather once stabbed his lover to death. His grisly act was memorialized in a murder ballad, her aunt tells her, so it must be true. But the lessons of that revelation - to be careful of men, and desire - are not just Grace's to learn. Her family's tangled past is part of a dark legacy in which the lives of generations of women are affected by the violence immortalized in folksongs like "Knoxville Girl" and "Pretty Polly." Janet Beard's stirring novel, informed by her love of these haunting ballads, vividly imagines these women, defined by the secrets they keep, the surprises they uncover, and the lurking sense of menace that follows them throughout their lives.

**Billier, Diana.** [The Brightest Star in Paris](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

When her first love reappears and the ghosts of her past come back to haunt her, Amelie St. James, prima ballerina of the Paris Opera Ballet and the sweetheart of Paris, finds her safety threatened and agrees to a fake courtship that reignites old feelings. Gothic romance in the style of the late, great Victoria Holt.

**Bond, Gwenda.** [Not Your Average Hot Guy](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

When a Satanic cult takes a prop spell book from her family's escape room, claiming it's the real deal, and summon Luke Morningstar, Prince of Hell and the handsome son of the Devil himself, Callie finds herself drawn to this infuriating demon just as all hell's about to break loose. Even more surprising, is just how much Luke finds himself attracted to Callie and just how much he wants to help her save the world. An entertaining paranormal rom-com debut from a best-selling YA author.

**Cambridge, Colleen.** [Murder at Mallowan Hall](#)  
(Kensington \$26)

Phyllida Bright, former British Army nurse and now housekeeper for archaeologist Max Mallowan, and his famous wife, Agatha Christie, faces murder and mayhem during a weekend party at Mallowan Hall leaving her no choice but to assemble the household staff to find the killer among the Mallowan's guests.

**Castle, Jayne.** [Guild Boss](#)  
(Berkley \$27)

Lucy Bell knows she should be grateful to ghost hunter Gabriel Jones for helping her escape from a botched kidnapping attempt, but the resulting press – and rumors about exactly what kind of relationship she has with Gabriel – destroys Lucy's professional reputation as a weather channeler. Now, however, after two months spent working as a tour guide, Lucy is more than willing to put aside her anger against Gabri-



el, the new Guild Boss, and accept his offer to be his weather channeler on a new project. What neither Lucy nor Gabriel know is that the same person that tried to imprison Lucy in the tunnels under Illusion Town is just waiting to finish the job. After five years, Castle (pseudonym for *NYT* best-selling Jayne Ann Krentz) returns to her spellbinding world of Harmony, home of those adorable dust bunnies, with another expertly paced tale of dangerous intrigue and sexy romance. The Poisoned Pen was able to secure a **limited number** of signed copies from the author, so don't dawdle if you want one!

**Chambers, Clare.** [Small Pleasures](#)  
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

When Gretchen Tilbury claims that her daughter is the result of a virgin birth, Jean Swinney, a feature writer on a local paper, sets out to prove whether Gretchen is a miracle or a fraud—an investigation that sends dark ripples across all their lives with unimaginable consequences. *Kirkus* summed up this charmingly different novel with “In the spirit of Barbara Pym’s novels and the classic film *Brief Encounters*, Chambers provides an updated portrait of the vaunted British upper lip and its associated postwar values.”

**Cooke, C.J.** [The Lighthouse Witches](#)  
(Penguin \$17)

Two sisters go missing on a remote Scottish island. Twenty years later, one is found-but she's still the same age as when she disappeared. The secrets of witches have reached across the centuries in this chilling Gothic thriller from the author of the acclaimed *The Nesting*.

**Cornwall, Lecia.** [The Woman at the Front](#)  
(Berkley \$17)

When Eleanor Atherton graduates from medical school near the top of her class in 1917, she dreams of going overseas to help the wounded, but her ambition is thwarted at every turn. Nevertheless, Eleanor is determined to make more of a contribution than sitting at home knitting for the troops. When an unexpected twist of fate sends Eleanor to the battlefields of France as the private doctor of a British peer, she seizes the opportunity for what it is--the chance

to finally prove herself. “Cornwall’s realistic depiction of the battlefield horrors is enhanced by her magnetic, multidimensional characters. This emotionally charged novel delivers the goods.” (*PW*)

**Cross, Georgina.** [Nanny Needed](#)  
(Bantam \$17)

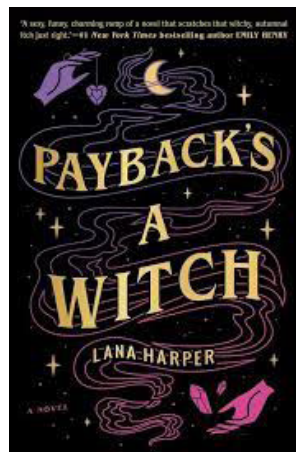
A young woman takes a job as a nanny for an impossibly wealthy family, thinking she’s found her entrée into a better life—only to discover instead she’s walked into a world of deception and dark secrets. Sounds like a case of the rich really are different.

**Dade, Olivia.** [All the Feels](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

As television’s most popular show *Gods of the Gates* enters into its final season, the show’s producers are concerned that Alexander Woodroe, who stars as Cupid on the show, is going to wreck everything with his increasingly out of control public behavior. Enter Lauren Clegg, the former ER therapist hired to keep him in line. Compared to her previous work, watching over handsome but impulsive Alex shouldn’t be especially difficult. But the more time they spend together, the harder it gets to keep her professional remove and her heart intact, especially when she discovers the reasons behind his recklessness.

**Harper, Lana.** [Payback’s a Witch](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

Returning home to the magical town of Thistle Grove after a self-imposed exile, witch Emmy Harlow runs into badass Talia Avramov, who just broke up with Emmy’s old crush Gareth, and now wants Emmy’s help as she plots her revenge against Gareth. Harper’s publisher calls this adult debut by the YA author, *The Witches of Eastwick* meets *The L Word*. *Kirkus* sums it up with “combining *John Tucker Must Die* with a helping of an adult *Harry Potter* and the *Goblet of Fire* and a dash of *Charmed*, this addictive concoction begs for adaptation.”



**Harrison, Rachel.** [Cackle](#)  
(Berkley \$27)

After being dumped and needing a new start, Annie accepts a job teaching in a picturesque town in Upstate New York, where she befriends the enchanting Sophie, who seems to frighten the townsfolk and just might be a witch.

**Harrow, Alix E.** [A Spindle Splintered](#)  
(Tom Doherty \$17.99)

Left with a rare condition caused by an industrial accident, Zinnia Gray celebrates her 21st, and possibly last, birthday and pricks her finger on a spinning wheel at a party, in a modern retelling of *Sleeping Beauty*.

**Igharo, Jane.** [The Sweetest Remedy](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

When Hannah Bailey travels to Nigeria to attend the funeral of the father she never knew, she meets an over-the-top family, a new love interest, and discovers parts of herself she didn’t know were missing in this engrossing novel from Jane Igharo, the acclaimed author of *Ties That Tether*.

**Kinsella, Sophie.** [The Party Crasher](#)  
(Random House \$27)

To retrieve a beloved childhood treasure hidden in her old home during a huge party, Effie breaks into Greenoaks, and, while sneaking around the house, hears conversations that make her see her family in a new light—and make wonder what she really came here to find.

**Lau, Jackie.** [Donut Fall in Love](#)  
(Berkley \$16)

Back in Toronto after a promotional tour for a bombing film, actor Ryan Kwok grieves the loss of his mother and bonds with innovative donut baker Lindsay McLeod, who agrees to teach him how to bake for an upcoming celebrity episode of a popular television baking show. “A warm treat with just enough spice and complexity to temper the sweetness.” (*Kirkus*)

**Little, Tess.** [The Last Guest](#)  
(Ballantine \$27)

Elsbeth Bell attends the 50th birthday party of her ex-husband Richard, a Hollywood director, that soon turns into a real-life murder mystery, where every guest is under suspicion in this dark, cinematic suspense debut reminiscent of an Agatha Christie page-turner crossed with and David Lynch's *Mulholland Drive*.

**Ridley, Erica.** [The Perks of Loving a Wallflower](#)  
(Grand Central \$8.99)

A master of disguise, Thomasina Wynchester finds more than her mission at stake when her new client turns out to be the highborn lady she's secretly smitten with. The author had me with "homing kittens," and *PW* calls the latest in Ridley's brilliant new Wild Wynchesters series "a feminist fairy tale readers will rejoice in."

**Rosenfield, Kat.** [No One Will Miss Her](#)  
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

When the town pariah Lizzie Oulette is found dead, with her husband missing, Detective Ian Bird discovers a link to a social media influencer and wife of a disgraced billionaire who had a relationship with Lizzie that cut across class boundaries--and ultimately became deadly. "The superb character-driven plot delivers an astonishing, believable jolt. Rosenfield shines a searing light on issues of classism, jealousy, and squandered potential." (*PW*)

**Scott, Regina.** [A View Most Glorious](#)  
(Revell \$16.99)

When her local suffragette group asks Coraline Baxter to climb Mount Rainier to raise awareness of their cause, she jumps at the chance, even though she has absolutely no climbing experience. After all, if she can do it, any woman can do it. And after her mother issues an ultimatum--that Cora marry the man of her mother's choosing if she fails--Cora *must* do



it. But she can't do it alone. Noted mountain guide Nathan Hardee initially refuses to help Cora but has a change of heart when he sees what is at stake. He knows enough about the man Cora's mother has chosen to know that the headstrong young woman should have nothing to do with him, much less marry him. Now these unlikely partners may just discover that only together is the view most glorious.

**Sharma, Annika.** [Love, Chai, and Other Four-Letter Words](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$14.99)

Kiran Mathur knows firsthand just how dangerous love can be. After all, her sister's marriage in India nearly destroyed Kiran's family. So she's decided to redeem romance herself--by not falling for anyone who might disappoint her parents. That is, until she meets her new neighbor Nash Hawthorne.

**Simon, Clea.** [Hold Me Down](#)  
(Polis \$26.99)

Back in Boston to play a memorial for her late drummer and best friend Aim, Gal Raver, a middle-aged musician, launches her own informal investigation after her friend's widower becomes the main suspect in the murder of an attendee.

**Starling, Caitlin.** [The Death of Jane Lawrence](#)  
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

Embarking on a marriage of convenience with bold, courageous surgeon Augustine Lawrence in post-war England, practical, unassuming Jane Shoringfield instead finds a terrified, paranoid man who cannot tell reality from a nightmare and realizes something is deeply wrong with this man she is now bound to. From the Bram Stoker-nominated author of *The Luminous Dead* comes a gothic fantasy horror. "Intense and amazing! It's like *Jonathan Strange and Mr. Norrell* meets *Mexican Gothic* meets *Crimson Peak*. I love how *Book Page* summed this at times gory tale up: *Scariest level: You'll need most of the lights in your room (and perhaps an extra night light in the bathroom).*



**Sterling, Erin.** [The Ex Hex](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Vivienne Jones must find a way to break her “Ex Hex” on Rhys Penhallow, while ignoring their off-the-charts chemistry, when the town falls under the attack of murderous wind-up toys, a pissed-off ghost and a talking cat with some interesting things to say. “Sterling’s novel is ultimately crisp and sweet, like biting into the perfect caramel apple, and makes for an equally delicious autumn treat that will sweep readers up into a world of whimsical magic. A wickedly funny rom-com about the power of second chances, family, and love.” (*Kirkus*)

**Verant, Samantha.** [Sophie Valroux’s Paris Stars](#)  
(Berkley \$17)

Losing her sense of smell and taste after agreeing to cook for the Parisian elite, grand chef Sophie Valroux, keeping the secret to herself, must fake it all for every meal to get through the event without missing a single step—if she can. “Vérant’s loving and luscious descriptions of delightful dishes will whet readers’ appetites, and her heroine’s spirit and pluck feel alive on the page.” (*PW*)

**Williams, Beatriz.** [The Wicked Widow](#)  
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

Audacious Appalachian flapper Geneva “Gin” Kelly prepares to trade her high-flying ways for respectable marriage to Oliver Anson Marshall, a steadfast Prohibition agent who happens to hail from one of New York’s most distinguished families. But just as wedding bells chime, the head of the notorious East Coast rum-running racket - and Anson’s mortal enemy - turns up murdered at a society funeral, and their short-lived honeymoon bliss goes up in a spectacular blaze that sends Anson back undercover. More than seventy years later, when Ella Dommerich’s ninety-something society queen aunt Julie ropes her into digging up dirt on Senator (and Presidential candidate) Franklin Hardcastle in order to settle old family scores, she couldn’t be less enthusiastic. But then the Hardcastle secrets lead to a web of shady dealings Ella’s uncovered in her job as a financial analyst, and the bodies start to tumble out of the venerable woodwork. With the help of her ex-husband and her mysterious connection to a certain redheaded

flapper, Ella digs up more than mere dirt; only to discover herself standing alone between a legendarily ruthless family and the prize it’s sought for generations. Williams once again dazzles readers with a dual-time line tale that delivers equal measures of danger, deception, and desire.

**Woodhouse, Kimberley.** [A Deep Divide](#)  
(Bethany House \$15.99)

When her father’s greedy corruption becomes impossible to ignore, heiress Emma Grace McMurray sneaks away to be a Harvey Girl at the El Tovar Grand Canyon Hotel. However, Emma’s plans to forge a new life for herself far away from her family take an unexpected detour when she uncovers mysteries, secrets, and a love beyond anything she could imagine while working as one of Harvey’s girls.

## Gift Ideas

(for you or someone else)

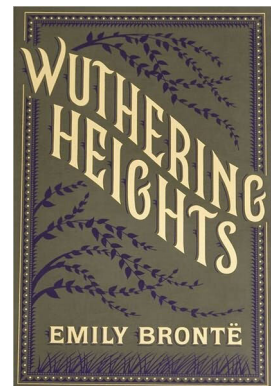
**Austen, Jane.** [Pride and Prejudice](#)  
(Andrews McMeel \$45)

**Austen, Jane.** [Sense and Sensibility](#)  
(Andrews McMeel \$45)

**Bronte, Emily.** [Jane Eyre](#)  
(Andrews McMeel \$45)

**Bronte, Emily.** [Wuthering Heights](#)  
(Andrews McMeel \$45)

The Marjolein Bastin Classics Series is a chance to rediscover some of literatures most beloved stories in collectible, luxuriously illustrated volumes. For the first time ever, the internationally celebrated artwork of Marjolein Bastin (who some may recall from her long association with Hallmark Cards), puts her own distinct stamp on these novels with elaborately designed ephemera, such as four-color maps, letters, family trees, and sheet music. The ideal gift for you or your favorite Austen or Bronte devotee.



**Maas, Sarah J.** [A Court of Thorns and Roses Hardcover Box Set](#) (Bloomsbury \$138)

Lose yourself in the seductive world of the Court of Thorns and Roses series by internationally best-selling author Sarah J. Maas with this stunning five-book hardcover box set.

**Rowell, Rainbow.** [Simon Snow Boxed Set](#) (St. Martin's \$59.97)

Diehard fans can now relive the emotional triumphs and heartaches of the series, and enjoy the complete journey of Simon and Baz as they save the world, fall in love, and find their way back home in all three books – *Carry On*, *Wayward Son*, and *Any Way the Wind Blows* – that are now available together in a matching hardcover boxed set featuring Kevin Wada's beautiful covers.

## Children's Books and Teen Fiction

**Bunce, Elizabeth C.** [Cold-Blooded Myrtle](#) (Algonquin \$17.95)

Twelve-year-old Young Lady of Quality and Victorian amateur detective Myrtle Hardcastle returns, and now she is on the trail of a serial killer in her hometown of Swinburne, in book three of this delightfully fun, Edgar Award-winning cozy mystery series that began with [Premeditated Myrtle](#) (\$17.95) and continued on with [How to Get Away with Myrtle](#) (\$17.95)

**Capin, Hannah.** [I Am Margaret Moore](#) (St. Martin's \$18.99)

As her friends vanish one by one during the summer at Marshall Naval School and a boy winds up dead, Margaret Moore, who has been held responsible, must wade through secrets and lies to discover the truth. Think of this as YA fiction's version of the popular Dark Academia subgenre currently hot in suspense fiction.

**Cohoe, Samantha.** [Bright Ruined Things](#) (St. Martin's \$18.99)

Growing up on an island where the powerful Prosper family controls both the magic and the spirits who inhibit it, eighteen-year-old Mae longs for magic of

her own to impress her best friend Coco and her crush Miles, but when the spirits start inexplicably dying, Mae and her friends must unravel the mysteries of the island and a secret from Mae's past in this intriguing teen novel set in the 1920s and loosely based on Shakespeare's *The Tempest*.

**Foulkes, Alexandra.** [Rules for Vampires](#) (Aladdin \$17.99)

To redeem herself in the eyes of her mother, vampire Eleonora must hunt down and kill her first prey but finds her plans going horribly wrong when she causes more death and destruction than she bargained for.



**Lackey, Mercedes.** [Briarheart](#) (Little, Brown \$18.99)

A fresh and feminist reinterpretation of *Sleeping Beauty* from a beloved fantasy author finds princess Aurora's older sister, Miriam, discovering that she possesses incredible powers that must be used to protect her little sister and combat the shadowy threats that are moving closer and closer to their kingdom.

**Moreno, Nina.** [Our Way Back to Always](#) (Little, Brown \$17.99)

When she discovers a bucket list, she and her former best friend Sam wrote together as kids, Lou sets out to finish the list and is unexpectedly reunited with Sam as they face their uncertain futures together.

**O'Neil, Carolyn Tara.** [Daughters of a Dead Empire](#) (Roaring Brook \$18.99)

Set during the height of the Russian Revolution and told in alternating voices, sixteen-year-old Evgenia--a peasant and proud member of the Bolshevik party--agrees to help a seventeen-year-old bourgeois Anna traverse the war-torn countryside in search of safety, but Anna is harboring a secret that could cost them their lives.

**Owen, Margaret.** [Little Thieves](#)  
(Henry Holt \$18.99)

Posing as a royal to rob the nobles blind, 17-year-old Vanja Schmidt is thrilled by her luck until she crosses the wrong god and is cursed to turn into the jewels she covets unless she can pay back her debts—quickly. *PW* called this an “epic fantasy rooted in Germanic myth and culture. Owen reimagines “The Goose Girl” as a magic-infused caper – part heist, part adventure, with a slow-burning romance at its heart.”

**Rex, Adam.** [Gladys the Magic Chicken](#)  
(G.P. Putnam’s \$18.99)

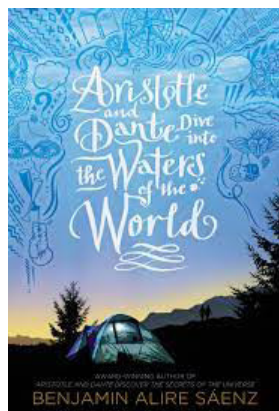
In Ancient Times, Gladys the dancing chicken goes on an epic adventure when she is mistaken for a magical chicken who grants wishes to those she encounters. “Flamboyant illustrations, unexpected adventures, and larger-than-life characters anchor this zany read-aloud.” (*Kirkus*)

**Riordan, Rick.** [Daughter of the Deep](#)  
(Disney-Hyperion \$19.99)

In this story inspired by Jules Verne’s *20,000 Leagues Under the Sea*, Ana Dakkar, a freshman at Harding-Pencroft Academy, a five-year high school that graduates the best marine scientists, naval warriors, navigators, and underwater explorers in the world, makes astounding discoveries about her heritage and puts her leadership skills to the test against deadly enemies from a rival school.

**Saenz, Benjamine Alire.** [Aristotle and Dante Dive Into the Waters of the World](#) (Simon and Schuster \$19.99)

In this sequel to the critically acclaimed *Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe*, Ari and Dante are determined to forge a path for themselves in a world that doesn’t understand them. “Saenz packs a whole lot into these pages, but it’s a testament to the characters that he’s created that it never feels like too much. There’s an unhurried quality to the author’s wistful, tender prose that



feels utterly intimate. Messily human and sincerely insightful.” (*Kirkus*)

**Tan, June C. L.** [Jade Fire Gold](#)  
(HarperCollins \$17.99)

When Ahn, with no past and no family, meets Altan, a lost heir, she sees him as a way to unlock her past and understand her arcane magical ability but the price may be too high to pay. “The worldbuilding is rich and layered, mixing Chinese culture and mythology with martial arts and fantastical magic. A magic-filled debut that will leave readers eager for more from this author.” (*Kirkus*)

**Ursu, Anne.** [The Troubled Girls of Dragomir Academy](#)  
(HarperCollins \$17.99)

Marya Lupu’s parents has always believed that her older brother Luka is destined to be a sorcerer and make the family’s fortune, so when the day he is tested turns into a disaster, and the Guild declares that he has no magical talent, they find it easier to blame Marya for upsetting the test than admit the truth, and she is sent to the Dragomir Academy, a school for wayward girls--but a school where she finds friendship and ultimately discovers her own magical talents.

## Food

**America’s Test Kitchen.** [The New Cooking School Cookbook](#) (America’s Test Kitchen \$45)

Providing more than 80 focused courses, each introduced by an ATK test cook, this all-new exploration of the fundamentals of cooking is perfect for all levels, taking readers far beyond recipes and ingredients.

**Bastianich, Lidia Matticchio and Tanya Bastianich Manuali.** [Lidia’s a Pot, a Pan, and a Bowl](#) (Knopf \$29.95)

With classic and new dishes alike, the beloved chef, PBS star, and best-selling author shares more than 100 easy-to-make recipes for flavorful, no-fuss Italian food that use just one (or two) pots or pans.

**Bitsoie, Freddie and James O. Fraioli.** [New Native Kitchen](#) (Abrams \$40)

From Freddie Bitsoie, the former executive chef at Mitsitam Native Foods Café at the Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian, and James Beard Award-winning author James O. Fraioli, *New Native Kitchen* is a celebration of Indigenous cuisine. Accompanied by original artwork by Gabriella Trujillo and offering delicious dishes like Cherrystone Clam Soup from the Northeastern Wampanoag and Spice-Rubbed Pork Tenderloin from the Pueblo peoples, Bitsoie showcases the variety of flavor and culinary history on offer from coast to coast, providing modern interpretations of 100 recipes that have long fed this country.

**Chang, David.** [Cooking at Home](#) (Potter \$35)

The globally renowned chef of Momofuku, star of Netflix's *Ugly Delicious*, and bestselling author of *Eat a Peach* now shares the kitchen hacks and culinary tricks he uses as a new home cook for a growing family--and shows the rest of us how to make the most of our cooking skills. Rather than outlining formal recipes, David talks through how he tackles a dish step by step, starting with a basic template and then turning to endless variations. You might start with chicken thighs cooked with onion and garlic, but from there you can make coconut chicken curry or gochujang chicken and potatoes. You'll get a lazier version of Momofuku's ginger-scallion noodles, but then see how David riffs on it with a pesto-ish ginger-basil sauce.

**Cho, Kristina.** [Mooncakes and Milk Bread](#) (Harper \$29.95)

A popular food blogger, focusing exclusively on Chinese bakeries and cafes, presents simple, easy-to-make interpretations of classic recipes for the modern baker, including sweet and savory baked buns, steamed buns, Chinese breads, unique cookies, juicy dumplings and more.

**Day, Cheryl.** [Cheryl Day's Treasury of Southern Baking](#) (Artisan \$40)

Combining her deep experience, the conversations she's had with family and her passion for collecting local cookbooks and handwritten recipes, one of the

South's most respected bakers presents more than 200 tried-and-true recipes that celebrate the craft of from-scratch Southern baking.

**Duckworth, Emma.** [Simply Sweet Nostalgic Bakes](#) (Page Street \$21.99)

If you dream about the sweets and treats of your childhood but want something a little more special than the standard chocolate chip cookie or vanilla ice cream, look no further than Emma Duckworth's collection of 55 scrumptious recipes. Each one has been carefully crafted to evoke the fond, comforting memories of days gone by while lending irresistible depths of flavor to even the most familiar desserts.

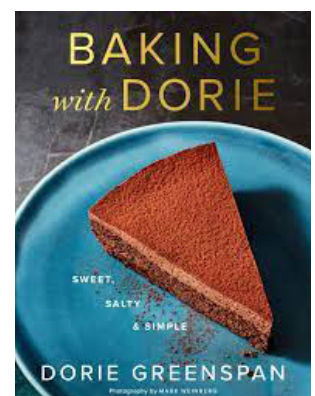
**Firth, Rebecca.** [The Cake Book](#) (Page Street \$22.99)

Rebecca Firth, best-selling author of *The Cookie Book*, is back with the cake party you've been looking for! Fulfill all of your cake needs for any occasion with breakfast cakes, petite cakes, Bundt cakes, snacking cakes and stunning layered cakes. There's something for everyone, including: Chocolate-Coconut Candy Bar Cake and Brown Butter Snickerdoodle Cake with Cinnamon Spice Frosting.

**Greenspan, Dorie.** [Baking with Dorie](#) (HMH \$35)

A James Beard Award-winning and *New York Times* best-selling cookbook author offers more than 150 new recipes with ingenious twists including Meringue Little Marvels, Double-Decker Caramel Cake, Coconut Milk Chocolate Marble Cake and Curd and Cream Shortcake.

Over the course of her culinary career, Greenspan has collaborated with a number of iconic chefs including Julia Child, so you know whatever she has now cooked up has to be good.

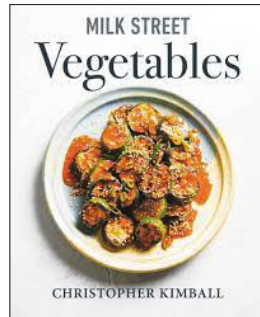


**Hesser, Amanda.** [The Essential New York Times Cookbook 10th Anniversary Ed.](#) (WW Norton \$55)

Newly revised and updated, this James Beard Award-winning *New York Times* bestselling compendium of the paper's best recipes has been reissued for a whole new generation of home cooks and includes 120 new, but instantly iconic, dishes.

**Kimball, Christopher.** [Milk Street Vegetables](#) (Little, Brown \$40)

Move vegetables into the center of your plate from the realm of sides and salads with this vegetable-cooking bible of more than 250 full-flavor recipes, from James Beard and IACP award winner Christopher Kimball's Milk Street.



**Laperruque, Emma.** [Food52 Big Little Recipes](#) (Potter \$24.99)

Inspired by Food52's award-winning column, this cookbook features 60 new recipes that highlight minimalism and deliciousness to make every cooking step count, including Fried Toast with Sugared Tomatoes, Burrata & Chiles and Sesame Chicken with Artichokes & Arugula.

**Murad, Noor.** [Ottolenghi Test Kitchen](#) (Clarkson Potter \$32)

The revered team of chefs at the Ottolenghi Test Kitchen serve up simple yet unique Middle Eastern-inspired recipes that make use of every shelf in the pantry, fridge and freezer to produce such tempting dishes as All-the-Herbs Dumplings with Caramelized Onions, Mac and Cheese with Za'atar Pesto, Cacio e Pepe Chickpeas, and Crispy Spaghetti and Chicken.

**Perry, Dawn.** [Ready, Set, Cook](#) (Simon and Schuster \$30)

In *Ready, Set, Cook* Dawn, former food director of *Real Simple*, shares her secrets for creating delicious meals in no time. It starts with a well-stocked pan-

try. Dawn shows you what simple staples - some store-bought, others homemade - to keep in your cupboard, refrigerator, and freezer. She then provides more than 125 fool-proof recipes, ideas, and tricks for creating good food with what you have on hand. A can of tomatoes transforms into Dawn's 15-Minute Marinara, which then can be used as the base for her cheesy, creamy Freestyle Baked Pasta or as the beginning of her Cheater's Tomato Soup (and a Special Grilled Cheese) or spooned onto her Crispy Chicken Cutlets and topped with a slice of mozzarella.

**Ray, Rachael.** [This Must Be the Place](#) (Ballantine \$32)

The multi-Emmy Award-winning syndicated TV star offers more than 125 recipes straight from her home in upstate New York that she created during the pandemic with personal stories on loss, gratitude and the special memories of what makes a house a home.

**Richer, Dan.** [The Joy of Pizza](#) (Little, Brown \$35)

Learn to make artisan pizza the American way in this ultimate guide to the perfect pie from the creator of "the best pizza in New York" (*New York Times*).

## Nonfiction

**Bradbury, Neil.** [A Taste for Poison](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Blending popular science, medical history and true crime, Physiology and Biophysics professor Bradbury explores, on a cellular level, the poisons used by spurned lovers, shady scientists, medical professionals and political assassins throughout history.

**Copperfield, David.** [David Copperfield's History of Magic](#) (Simon and Schuster \$35)

The legendary illusionist profiles twenty-eight of the world's most groundbreaking magicians, with over 100 never-before-seen photographs of artifacts from his Museum of Magic including Houdini's straight-jackets and handcuffs and Dante's sawing-in-half apparatus.

**Dolnick, Edward.** [The Writing of the Gods](#) (Scriber \$28)

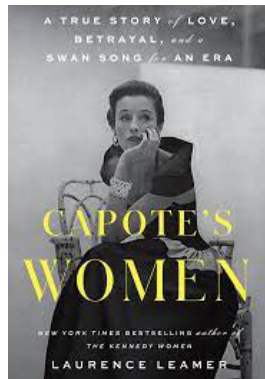
In this riveting true story, two rival geniuses—one English, one French—embarked on a high-stakes intellectual race to decipher the Rosetta Stone, which, once solved, would open a door to the ancient Egyptian civilization that had been locked for 2,000 years.

**Jacobsen, Rowan.** [Truffle Hound](#) (Bloomsbury \$28)

The scent of one freshly unearthed white truffle in Barolo was all it took to lead Rowan Jacobsen down a rabbit hole into a world of secretive hunts, misty woods, black-market deals, obsessive chefs, quixotic scientists, muddy dogs, maddening smells, and some of the most memorable meals ever created.

**Lerner, Laurence.** [Capote's Women](#) (Putnam \$28)

*New York Times* bestselling author Laurence Leamer reveals the complex web of relationships and scandalous true stories behind Truman Capote's never-published final novel, *Answered Prayers*--the dark secrets, tragic glamour, and Capote's ultimate betrayal of the group of female friends he called his "swans



**Levy, Daniel with Eugene Levy.** [Best Wishes, Warmest Regards](#) (Running Press \$40)

This beautifully produced, keepsake coffee-table book is the ultimate celebration of the series, the town, the characters, and the state of mind that is *Schitt's Creek*. Capturing the essence and alchemy of all six seasons of what is now considered to be one of the most groundbreaking comedy television series of the last decade, *Best Wishes, Warmest Regards* is a gift to fans everywhere who have made the show their own.

**Pearl, Matthew.** [The Taking of Jemima Boone](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)

In his first work of narrative nonfiction, Matthew Pearl, bestselling author of acclaimed novel *The Dante Club*, **explores the little-known true story of the kidnapping of legendary pioneer Daniel Boone's daughter and the dramatic aftermath that rippled across the nation.**

**Picardie, Justine.** [Miss Dior](#) (FSG \$40)

Drawing on the Dior archives and extensive research, this long-overdue restoration of the extraordinary life of Catherine Dior, the muse of Christian Dior, reveals a Resistance fighter, concentration camp survivor and a cultivator of rose gardens who also inspired Dior's most beloved fragrance, Miss Dior.

**Sanneh, Kelefa.** [Major Labels](#) (Penguin \$28)

The entire history of popular music over the past fifty years is refracted through the big genres that have defined and dominated it, including rock, country, punk, R&B, dance, and hip-hop, woven together into a fascinating account of music's evolution as a popular art form, as a huge cultural and economic force, and as an essential component to our individual identities.

**Seal, Mark.** [Leave the Gun, Take the Cannoli](#) (Gallery \$28.99)

Celebrates the fiftieth anniversary of the legendary film through interviews with director Francis Ford Coppola and actors including Al Pacino, James Caan and Talia Shire and details how real-life mafia members actually made the movie's production challenging.

**Sesay, Kadja.** [This Is the Canon](#) (Mobius \$26.99)

From literary giants such as Toni Morrison, Salman Rushdie, and Chinua Achebe to recent Man Booker Prize winners including Paul Beatty and Bernardine Evaristo, the novels recommended here are in turn haunting and lyrical, innovative and inspiring, edgy and poignant. They are books that reflect the wide

and diverse experiences of people from around the world, of all backgrounds and all races. They are books that represent voices that have for too long been silenced or side-lined.

**Shawcross, Edward.** [The Last Emperor of Mexico](#)

(Basic \$30)

In the 1860s, Napoleon III, intent on curbing the rise of American imperialism, persuaded a young Austrian archduke and a Belgian princess to leave Europe and become the emperor and empress of Mexico. They and their entourage arrived in a Mexico ruled by terror, where revolutionary fervor was barely suppressed by French troops. When the United States, now clear of its own Civil War, aided the rebels in pushing back Maximilian's imperial soldiers, the French army withdrew, abandoning the young couple. The regime fell apart. Maximilian was executed by a firing squad and Carlota, secluded in a Belgian castle, descended into madness.

**Wolk, Douglas.** [All the Marvels](#)

(Penguin \$28)

The Eisner Award–winning author of *Reading Comics* and podcast host of *Voice of Latveria* describes his endeavor to read all 27,000 plus comics that make up the Marvel Universe so far, from Alpha Flight to Omega the Unknown. Wolk “pulls off an extraordinary feat in this tour-de-force, distilling over 60 years of Marvel Comics stories into a fascinating guide that will resonate with true believers and neophytes alike.” (*PW*)