#### Midmonth BookNotes

#### Volume 8 Issue 11 November, 2021

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# A Cornucopía of Good Reading

#### **Cozy Corner**

**Berry, Tamara.** <u>Hypnosis Is for Hacks</u> (Kensington \$26)

Phony psychic Eleanor Wilde's summer trip to Brighton with her mother Vivian and her brother Liam takes an unexpected turn when they arrive at the regal Luxe Hotel and Ellie discovers her former partner-in-crime Armand Lamont turns up. If that isn't enough drama, Ellie and Liam witness a man being pushed from a boat by two shadowy figures, who then vanish into thin air. Now in order to get to the bottom of this crime — not to mention the string of thefts plaguing the Luxe Hotel — Ellie will need some help from her boyfriend Nicolas Hartford. Readers who like their cozy mysteries served up with a dash of the paranormal will definitely fall under the spell of Berry's enchanting series.

**Chow, Jennifer J.** Mimi Lee Cracks the Code (Berkley \$16)

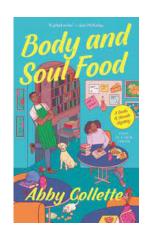
Mimi Lee just found an extra perk to being a pet groomer at Hollywoof (other than cuddling animals all day long, that is). Pixie St. James, one of Mimi's clients and also the investor behind Hollywoof, has offered her and her boyfriend, Josh, a weekend getaway at her vacation home, nestled on the beautiful Catalina Island. Just outside of Los Angeles but still far enough from the hustle and bustle, Mimi, Josh, and their cat

Marshmallow (who, of course, wouldn't be caught dead in a dingy pet hotel) are excited about their relaxing weekend at the island. That is, until Pixie's last renter, Davis D. Argo, turns up dead. *PW* had this to say about the latest fun installment in Chow's Mimi Lee mysteries "Chow offers original characters, clever banter, and a laid-back California vibe. This is perfect for lovers of crime-solving animal cozies."

**Collette, Abby.** Body and Soul Food (Berkley \$8.99)

When Koby Hill and Keaton Rutledge were orphaned at age two, they were separated, but their unbreak-

able connection lingered. Years later, they reunite and decide to make up for lost time and capitalize on their shared interests by opening up a well-stocked bookstore and cozy soul-food café in the quaint Pacific Northwest town of Timber Lake. But this new chapter of their lives could end on a cliffhanger after Koby's foster brother is found murdered. The mur-



der, which occurred in public between light-rail stops, seems impossible for the police to solve. But as Keaton and Koby know, two heads are always better than one, especially when it comes to mysteries.

Dylan, Jess. Petals and Poison

(St. Martin's \$7.99)

Sierra Ravenswood has embraced her role as owner of Flower House floral shop and companion to her former boss's pet, Gus the Corgi. Sierra's team is enjoying their new jobs too. At least until everyone realizes their lack of experience might be contributing to their lack of customers. Sierra decides they need a change in luck, so she creates a special window display featuring lucky bamboo and auspicious flowers. It seems the new arrangement has worked when the shop is flooded with customers the next day, including a van full of college students on a horticulture club field trip. Unfortunately, Sierra doesn't notice that the students' distracted professor has gone missing until Gus's urgent barking leads her to the storeroom – and the body of the unfortunate professor.

Murray, Amita. Arya Winters and the Tiramisu of Death (Polis \$16.95)

Arya Winters is your typical cozy heroine. She lives in a cottage in a small English village, and bakes for a living well, she specializes in macabre desserts. She has nosy neighbors, who she avoids ruthlessly due to her social anxiety. And she has a keen interest in all things sexy, especially Branwell Beam, the writer next door. When her neighbor Tobias Yards turns up dead after eating poisoned tiramisu (definitely not poisoned when she baked it), no one seems to connect it to Arya's Auntie Meera's recent death. Instead, they blame her excruciatingly average ex-boyfriend—and Tobias's nephew and so she takes matters into her own hands. Now all she has to do to uncover the truth and deliver the murderer to the police. "Full of original metaphors and pithily funny descriptions, this lively fair play mystery leaves readers with some serious food for thought. Murray turns the cozy genre on its head in this wryly witty and at times poignant outing." (PW)

# Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

**Balogh, Mary.** Someone Perfect (Berkley \$8.99)

As the current Earl of Brandon, Justin Wiley takes it as his responsibility to care for his half-sister Maria when her mother dies. He travels to her home to fetch her back to the family seat at Everleigh Park. However, although she once adored him, Maria now loathes Justin, and her friend Lady Estelle Lamar can see immediately how his very name distresses her. When Justin arrives and invites Estelle and her brother to accompany Maria to Everleigh Park to help with her distress, she begrudgingly agrees for Maria's sake. As family secrets unravel in Maria's homecoming, Justin, too, uncovers his desire for a countess. And, while he may believe he's found an obvious candidate in the beautiful 25-year-old Lady Estelle, she is most certain that they could never make a match. When it comes to impeccably crafted and perfectly romantic Regency romances, Balogh continues to be unrivaled.

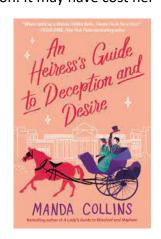
**Beharrie, Theres.** And They Lived Happily Ever After (Kensington \$15.95)

Romance novels have always been a part of Gaia Anders life ever since she started reading them as a preteen in foster care. Now an adult Gaia not only reads romance novels, she writes them too, but something strange is going on. Whatever Gaia dreams up and writes down during the day turns into a vivid dream Gaia experiences at night. The current star of Gaia's dreams is her best friend's younger brother Jacob Scott, but can the strong, passionate romantic connection they experience at night translate into a love that can survive the light of day?

**Collins, Manda.** An Heiress's Guide to Deception and Desire (Forever \$15.99)

As half of the writing duo behind England's most infamous crime column, Miss Caroline Hardcastle has quite the scandalous reputation. It may have cost her

a fiancé, but she would much rather bring attention to crimes against those ignored by society than worry about what the *ton* thinks of her. After Caro's dear friend is kidnapped, however, she has no choice but to work with Lord Valentine Thorn, the same man who once broke her heart if she is to have any hope of finding her friend.



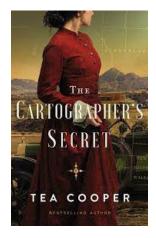
As they grow closer to unmasking the culprit, Val sees

an opportunity to show Caro he's a changed man. But can he convince her to give their love a second chance before death does them part? Here is how Kirkus summed up the latest in Collins' fun Victorian-set series "The mystery drives the action while the romance provides the heartbeat of the story, and the two weave together to create a well-plotted, entertaining tale for fans of both genres. Expectations and prejudice based on class and gender are scrutinized throughout, while the leads are witty, fierce, bighearted, and easy to love. A successful and thoroughly enjoyable mix of mystery and romance."

**Cooper, Tea.** <u>The Cartographer's Secret</u> (HarperMuse \$17.99)

Evie Ludgrove loves to chart the landscape around her home in the Hunter Valley, which is hardly

surprising given her father's obsession with the great Australian explorer Dr. Ludwig Leichhardt. So when an advertisement appears in *The Bulletin* magazine offering a thousand-pound reward for proof of where Leichhardt met his fate, Evie is determined to use her father's papers to unravel the secret. But when Evie sets out to prove her theo-



ry, she vanishes without a trace, leaving behind a mystery that haunts her family. Thirty years later, Letitia Rawlings arrives at the family estate in her Ford Model T to inform her great-aunt Olivia of a loss in their family. But Letitia is also escaping her own problems: her brother's sudden death, her mother's scheming, and her dissatisfaction with the life planned out for her. So when Letitia discovers a beautifully illustrated map that might hold a clue to the fate of her missing aunt, Evie Ludgrove, she sets out to discover the truth.

Fans of Kate Morton's engaging novels will definitely want to check out this stellar historical.

**Cornick, Nicola.** The Last Daughter of York (Graydon \$16.99)

When her twin sister Caitlin's bones are discovered interred in a vault that has not been opened since

the 18th century, Serena Warren uncovers a secret family history pointing to an impossible story that connects her to the 15th century mystery involving the young Duke of York. *LJ* ended their rave review of Cornick's latest with "likable characters and an intriguing supernatural element, this is an engaging, fast-paced read for fans of Philippa Gregory and of dual-timeline historical fiction."

Cousens, Sophie. <u>Just Haven't Met You Yet</u> (Putnam \$16)

Hopeless romantic and lifestyle reporter Laura's business trip to the Channel Islands isn't off to a great start. After an embarrassing encounter with the most attractive man she's ever seen in real life, she arrives at her hotel and realizes she's grabbed the wrong suitcase from the airport. Her only consolation is its irresistible contents, each of which intrigues her more and more. The owner of this suitcase is clearly Laura's dream man. Now, all she has to do is find him. Besides, what are the odds that she'd find The One on the same island where her parents first met and fell in love, especially as she sets out to write an article about their romance? Commissioning surly cab driver Ted to ferry her around seems like her best bet in both tracking down the mystery suitcase owner and retracing her parents' footsteps. But as Laura's mystery man proves difficult to find—and as she uncovers family secrets—she may have to reimagine the life, and love, she always thought she wanted.

**Desai, Sara.** The Singles Table (Berkley \$16)

After a devastating break-up, celebrity-obsessed lawyer Zara Patel puts her energy into building her career and helping her friends find their happily-ever-afters. She's never faced a guest at the singles table she couldn't match, until she crosses paths with the sinfully sexy Jay Dayal.

Former military security specialist Jay has no time for love. His life is about working hard, staying focused, and winning at all costs. When charismatic Zara crashes into his life, he's thrown into close contact with exactly the kind of chaos he wants to avoid. Worse, they're stuck together for the entire wedding season. So they make a deal. She'll find his special someone if he introduces her to his celebrity clients. But when their arrangement brings them together

in ways they never expected, they realize that the perfect match might just be their own.

Follett, Ken. Never (Penguin \$36)

Navigating terrorist attacks, illegal arms trading and smear campaigns, Pauline Green, the country's first women president, is caught in a complex web of alliances with the most powerful countries that are being orchestrated by the enemy, and only those with the most elite skills can stop the inevitable showdown. I love how Kirkus ended this "complex, scary thriller that feels too plausible for comfort. Follett could have cut back on the North African subplot and delivered a tighter yarn, but then you mightn't have learned that "a helicopter glides like a grand piano." Anyway, that's Follett: You'll be so absorbed in the story threads that you'll follow them anywhere—and you'll suddenly realize you've read hundreds of pages. On one level, it's great entertainment; on another, a window into a sobering possibility."

**Gaylin, Alison.** The Collective (HarperCollins \$27.99)

Camille Gardener is a grieving--and angry--mother who, five years after her daughter's death, is still obsessed with the privileged young man she believes

to be responsible. When her rash actions draw the attention of a secret group of women--the collective--Camille is drawn into a dark web where these mothers share their wildly different stories of loss as well as their desire for justice in a world where privilege denies accountability. Fueled by mutual rage, the collective



members devise and act out retribution fantasies via precise, anonymous, highly coordinated revenge killings. "Gaylin delivers a thought-provoking page-turner that grips and gratifies. An all-too-plausible tale of Highsmith-ian vengeance." (Kirkus)

**Gilmore, Lucy.** <u>I Hate You More</u> (Sourcebooks \$14.99)

Ruby Taylor thought her days of high-stakes competition were over, until she joins the dog show circuit to get lazy golden retriever Wheezy into shape... and falls head over heels for a handsome veterinarian who won't stop getting under her skin. Best in Show meets The Hating Game in this sweet, funny rom-com that takes the uber-competitiveness of dog show pageant moms (who knew this was a thing?) to a whole new level.

Glover, Nicole. <u>The Undertakers</u> (HMH \$15.99)

Magical practitioners and detectives living in post-Civil War Philadelphia, Hetty and Benjy Rhodes investigate the deaths of a father and son linked to the recent fires plaguing the city.

PW summed up their take on this mesmerizing mystery with "Layers of intrigue and tension build into a gripping whodunit, while drama within Hetty's group of friends and tender moments between Hetty and Benjy offer juicy character beats. The easy momentum will keep both new and returning readers racing along to the end. It's fun, twisty, and richly detailed." Glover introduced Hetty and her husband Benjy in *The Conductors*, the first in her Murder & Magic series.

**Graves, Tracey Garvis.** Heard It In a Love Song (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Struggling to break free from the past—her glory days as the lead singer in a band and a ten-year marriage to a man who never put her first—Layla Hilding's newly found independence feels a lot like loneliness. Then there's Josh, the single dad whose daughter attends the elementary school where Layla teaches music. Recently separated, he's still processing the end of his twenty-year marriage to his high school sweetheart. He chats with Layla every morning at school and finds himself thinking about her more and more. Equally cautious and confused about dating in a world that favors apps over meeting organically, Layla and Josh decide to be friends with the potential for something more. Sounds sensible and way too simple—but when two people are on the rebound, is it heartbreak or happiness that's a love song away?

# Hayes-McCoy, Felicity. <u>The Month of Borrowed</u> <u>Dreams</u> (HarperCollins \$16.99)

On the Finfarran Peninsula on Ireland's west coast, at the Lissbeg Library, a group of women gather together for the first book club of the summer, where they'll all face difficult choices that must be made if they are to have any hope of achieving the happy endings they all deserve. If you miss Maeve Binchy's magical novels, Hayes-McCoy's equally enchanting tales may be a terrific new reading discovery.

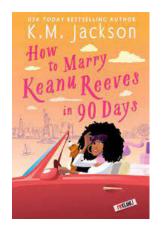
### **Heath, Virginia.** Never Fall for Your Fiancée (St. Martin's \$16.99)

The last thing Hugh Standish, Earl of Fareham, ever wants is a wife. Unfortunately for him, his mother is determined to find him one, even from across the other side of the ocean. So, Hugh invents a fake fiancée to keep his mother's matchmaking ways at bay. But when Hugh learns his interfering mother is on a ship bound for England, he realizes his complicated, convoluted but convenient ruse is about to implode. Until he encounters Minerva Merriwell, who might just be the miracle he needs. Minerva Merriwell has had to struggle to support herself and her two younger sisters ever since their feckless father abandoned them. Work as a woodcut engraver is few and far between, and the Merriwell sisters are nearly penniless. So when Hugh asks Minerva to pose as his fiancée while his mother is visiting, she knows that while the scheme sounds ludicrous, the offer is too good to pass up. Regency historical romance meets rom-com.

# Jackson, K.M. <u>How to Marry Keanu Reeves in 90 Days</u> (Forever \$15.99)

Bethany Lu Carlisle is devastated when the tabloids

report actor Keanu Reeves is about to tie the knot. What?! How could the world's perfect boyfriend and forever bachelor, Keanu not realize that making a move like this could potentially be devastating to the equilibrium of...well... everything! Not to mention, he's never come face



to face with the person who could potentially be his true soulmate—her. Desperate to convince Keanu to call off the wedding, Lu and her ride-or-die BFF Truman Erikson take a wild road trip to search for the elusive Keanu so that Lu can fulfill her dream of meeting her forever crush and confess her undying love. From New York to Los Angeles, Lu and True get into all sorts of sticky situations. Will Lu be able to find Keanu and convince him she's the one for him? Or maybe she'll discover true love has been by her side all along.

### Jaeger, Meredith. The Pilot's Daughter (Dutton \$17)

San Francisco newspaper secretary Ellie Morgan is determined to find out what happened to her missing pilot father. But when she discovers a stack of love letters among his possessions that were not written by Ellie's mom, it sends her to her aunt Iris's doorstep. Iris thought she had successfully hidden her former life as a Ziegfeld Follies showgirl in NYC in the 1920s from her family, but now Iris must revisit her past as she and Ellie head to the City That Never Sleeps in search of the truth. Jaeger was inspired by a true Jazz Age murder cold case that captivated the nation, as well as the fact that the whereabouts of more than 72,000 Americans from World War II still remain unaccounted.

### **Jago, Lucy.** A Net for Small Fishes (Flatiron \$26.99)

When Frances Howard, beautiful but unhappy wife of the Earl of Essex, meets the talented Anne Turner, the two strike up an unlikely, yet powerful, friendship. Frances makes Anne her confidante, sweeping her into a glamorous and extravagant world, riven with bitter rivalry.

As the women grow closer, each hopes to change her circumstances. Frances is trapped in a miserable marriage while loving another, and newly-widowed Anne struggles to keep herself and her six children alive as she waits for a promised proposal. A desperate plan to change their fortunes is hatched. But navigating the Jacobean court is a dangerous game and one misstep could cost them everything. Jago's publisher is billing this as *Wolf Hall* meets *The Favorite*.

### **King, Vanessa.** <u>A Certain Appeal</u> (Putnam \$16)

After a betrayal derailed her interior design career, Liz Bennet found a fresh start in New York. Now an executive assistant by day and stage kitten by night, she's discovered a second home with the performers at Meryton, Manhattan's top-tier burlesque venue. Love's the last thing on her mind when she locks eyes with Will Darcy across the crowded club, yet the spark between them is undeniable—that is, until she overhears the uptight wealth manager call her merely "tolerable." Bennet is determined to write Darcy off, but once their besties fall head-over-heels, they're thrown into each other's orbit again and again. Each encounter begins to feel more heated than the last, but is their chemistry enough to topple that terrible first impression? King sets her sparkling contemporary retelling of Pride and Prejudice in the fascinating world of New York City burlesque.

### Manning, Kirsty. The French Gift (HarperCollins \$16.99)

After learning the legacy of her late husband's greataunt, Evie Black arrives on the Côte d'Azur where she unravels the official story of this famous novelist, the truth of a murder a lifetime ago and the true story of the women enslaved by German forces in World War II. "Manning's multilayered story is both terrifying and triumphant. Her talent for a surprising twist makes this story a must for her fans." (PW)

### Morris, Wanda M. All Her Little Secrets (HarperCollins \$16.99)

Ellice Littlejohn seemingly has it all: an Ivy League law degree, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney...

and a relationship with a rich, charming executive, who just happens to be her married white boss. But everything changes...when Ellice arrives early one morning for a meeting in the executive suite and finds him dead with a gunshot to his head. Fearing that her relationship with Michael will now become common company gossip,



Ellice retreats to her own office to wait for someone else to discover the body. However, once the police arrive, what was initially thought to be a suicide becomes a murder investigation. Now unless Ellice wants to become the police's prime suspect, she will need to do some discreet investigating of her own. Reading this astonishing debut reminded me of when I discovered John Grisham via *The Firm* decades ago. As with that twisty thriller, I was completely hooked on Morris' addictively readable tale of murder and shady dealings at a high-end law firm told in Ellice's vibrant, compelling voice.

### **Morrissey, Hannah.** <u>Hello Transcriber</u> (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Every night, while the street lamps shed the only light on Wisconsin's most crime-ridden city, police transcriber Hazel Greenlee listens as detectives divulge Black Harbor's gruesome secrets. An aspiring novelist, Hazel believes that writing a book could be her only ticket out of this frozen hellscape, but her life isn't exactly brimming with inspiration. Until her neighbor confesses to hiding the corpse of an overdose victim. Through her transcription of lead detective Nikolai Kole's recounting of the investigation, Hazle learns that the suspicious death is linked to Candy Man—a drug dealer notorious for selling illegal substances to children—and when Kole invites her on a covert operation to help take the dealer down, the promise of a story calls to her. As the investigation unfolds, Hazel will discover just how far she will go for her story, even if it means destroying her marriage, her career, and any chance she has of getting out of Black Harbor alive.

# **Reay, Katherine.** <u>The London House</u> (Harper Muse \$17.99)

When Caroline Payne discovers that her British great-aunt might have been a traitor and Nazi collaborator, she, along with an old college friend and historian delve through the history of Britain's WWII spy network and glamorous 1930s Paris only to discover a tale of love, secrets, and heartbreak, and the events of one fateful evening in 1941 that changed everything.

**Ruiz, Sarah Grunder.** Love, Lists, and Fancy Ships (Berkley \$16)

After five years working as a yacht stewardess, Jo Walker wants more from life. So, she creates a 30-by-30 list for herself: a bucket list of 30 things Jo must complete before she turns 30. But the death of her young nephew Samson, has put a pause on Jo's 30 project. When her two nieces Mia and Kitty turn up to spend the summer, they push Jo to get back on track with checking off items on the list, including No. 5: kiss a stranger."Ruiz captures the complexities of grief and guilt through many different lenses—loss of a parent, loss of a child, loss of a sibling, abandonment through death but also by choice—and tackles them all with sensitivity and skill. Readers are sure to fall for this heartwarming and emotional novel." (*Kirkus*)

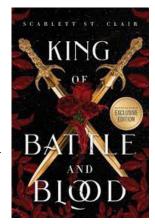
**Shane, Lizzie.** To All the Dogs I've Loved Before (Forever \$8.99)

With the help of her mischievous rescue dog Dory, an Australian shepherd with a gift for escaping, librarian Elinor Rodriguez gets a second chance with her first love, Levi Jackson – the quietly intense lawman, who ended their engagement years ago.

**St. Clair, Scarlett.** King of Battle and Blood (Sourcebooks \$25.99)

In order to end a years-long war between vampires and mortals, Isolde de Lara must wed vampire king

Adrian Aleksandr Vasiliev and then kill him. But surviving the vampire court doesn't prove to be nearly as difficult as resisting the intense attraction between her and Adrian. But her assassination attempt is thwarted, and Adrian threatens that if Isolde tries kill him again, he will raise her as the undead. Faced with the possibility of becoming



the thing she hates most, Isolde seeks other ways to defy him and survive the brutal vampire court. Except it isn't the court she fears most—it's Adrian. Despite their undeniable chemistry, she wonders why the

king—fierce, savage, merciless—chose her as consort. The answer will shatter her world.

**Strohmeyer.** <u>Do I Know You?</u> (HarperCollins \$16.99)

Jane Ellison is a "super recognizer" able to identify strangers by the slightest facial details – the curve of a head, the arch of an eyebrow. When she spies human rights activist and heiress Bella Valencia in a crowded Boston airport, Jane believes she has found the person responsible for her sister Kit's disappearance and presumed death eleven years earlier.

Vandiver, Abby L. Midnight Hour (Crooked Lane \$16.99)

Vandiver brings together a collection of 20 crime and suspense tales by and about people of color. Each story must include a key moment set at midnight. Along with Vandiver, other contributors include David Heska Wanblie Weiden, Callie Browning, and Jennifer Chow.

War, J.R. The Wolf (Gallery \$28)

Forced into bartering drug deals for the infamous Prison Colony, wolven Lucan finds things getting hot when he meets Rio, the second in command for the shadowy, Caldwell supplier who needs his protection – and his love.

Weiss, Elizabeth. The Sisters Sweet (Random \$27)

All Harriet Szasz has ever known is life onstage with her sister, Josie. As "The Sisters Sweet," they pose as conjoined twins in a vaudeville act conceived by their ambitious parents, who were once themselves theatrical stars. But after Josie exposes the family's fraud and runs away to Hollywood, Harriet must learn to live out of the spotlight – and her sister's shadow.

White, Karen. The Attic on Queen Street (Berkley \$27)

Determined to protect her house and its inhabitants from a longtime nemesis, who believes a priceless gem is hidden within its walls, Melanie Trenholm gets some supernatural assistance as she works with her husband to find answers before spirits from the past and present destroy everything they hold dear.

Williams, Denise. The Fastest Way to Fall (Berkley \$16)

Britta Colby works for a lifestyle website, and when tasked to write about her experience with a hot new body-positive fitness app that includes personal coaching, she knows it's a major opportunity to prove she should write for the site full-time. As CEO of the FitMi Fitness app, Wes Lawson finally has the financial security he grew up without, but despite his success, his floundering love life and complicated family situation leaves him feeling isolated and unfulfilled. He decides to get back to what he loves—coaching. Britta's his first new client and they click immediately. As weeks pass, she's surprised at how much she enjoys experimenting with her exercise routine. He's surprised at how much he looks forward to talking to her every day. They convince themselves their attraction is harmless, but when they start working out in person, Wes and Britta find it increasingly challenging to deny their chemistry and maintain a professional distance.

Williams, Laura Jane. The Lucky Escape (Avon \$15.99)

Left at the altar, Annie Wiig throws caution to the wind and decides to go on her honeymoon in Australia with her old childhood friend Patrick Hummingbird. "Williams keeps healing at the center of this heartwarming tale, balancing heavy emotions with far-flung adventures. It's a delightful armchair getaway." (Kirkus)

Winman, Sarah. Still Life (Penguin \$27)

In 1944 Tuscany, as Allied troops advance into Italy, young English soldier Ulysses Temper has a chance encounter with middle-age art historian Evelyn Skinner, who has come to Italy to salvage paintings from the ruins and salvage long-forgotten memories of her own youth. Meeting Evelyn not only introduces Ulysses to a kindred spirit, but also sets him off on a course of events that will shape his life for the next four decades. *PW* said "readers will enjoy this paean to the power of love and art," while *Kirkus* concluded their rave review with "an unexpected treatise on the

many forms love and beauty can take, set against the backdrop of Florence."

#### Old Wine in New Casks

Penguin's new Vitae series of classics brings readers deluxe hardcover editions of classic fiction and nonfiction titles, each of which includes an introduction from some of today's most acclaimed authors and critics.

Alvarez, Julia. <u>How the Garcia Girls Lost Their Accents</u> (Penguin \$27)

After the discovery of their father's role in the attempted overthrow of the brutal dictator Rafael Trujillo, the four Garcia sisters — Carla, Sandra, Yolanda, and Sofaia — must flee their home in the Dominican Republic with their parents for a new life in New York City.



Alvarez, Julia. <u>In the Time of Butterflies</u> (Penguin \$28)

Alvarez based this novel on actual events as she recounts the story of three sisters who die in a jeep "accident" during the horrors of the political reign of Dominican Republican dictator General Trujillo.

**Fitzgerald, F. Scott.** The Great Gatsby (Penguin \$26)

Jay Gatsby once loved beautiful, spoiled Daisy Buchanan, and then lost her affections to a rich boy. Now, mysteriously wealthy, Jay is ready to risk everything to woo Daisy back.

**Verne, Jules.** Around the World in Eighty Days (Penguin \$24)

One night in the reform club, Phileas Fogg bets his companions that he can travel across the globe in just eighty days. Breaking the well-established routine of his daily life, he immediately sets off for Dover with his astonished valet Passepartout. Passing

through exotic lands and dangerous locations, they seize whatever transportation is at hand - whether train or elephant - overcoming set-backs and always racing against the clock.

Virgil. The Aeneid (Penguin \$24)

Fleeing the ashes of Troy, Aeneas, Achilles' mighty foe in the *Iliad*, begins an incredible journey to fulfill his destiny as the founder of Rome. His voyage will take him through stormy seas, entangle him in a tragic love affair, and lure him into the world of the dead itself--all the way tormented by the vengeful Juno, Queen of the Gods.

#### Teen

**Blackwood, Lauren.** Within These Wicked Walls (St. Martin's \$18.99)

As a *debtera*, nineteen-year-old Andromeda performs exorcisms to cleanse households of the Evil Eye, but when she agrees to work for handsome young heir Magnus Rochester, her job truly becomes terrifying. Starred reviews abound for this Ethiopian-inspired fantasy retelling of *Jane Eyre*.

**Foody, Amanda and Christine Lynn Herman.** All of Us Villains (Tor \$18.99)

Every generation, seven families select a champion to compete in a tournament to the death for the control of high magick- the most powerful resource in the world – but this year, a salacious tell-all book draws reporters, tourists, and government agents to watch the bloody battle unfold. But what they don't know is that some of the champions are determined to thwart their destinies and rewrite their own life stories. "Nuanced, exceptionally well-drawn characters and a carefully considered mythology add dimension to the sturdy Hunger Games-meets-Harry Potter premise, while unexpected attractions and shifting alliances add drama." (PW)

**Mobley, Jeannie.** The Diamond Keeper (Viking \$18.99)

After the Army of the Republic destroys her town, Claudie Durand and her younger sister Mathilde

agree to a mission to deliver a valuable stolen jewel to the resistance's leader, but Claudia soon finds herself irresistibly drawn to the man and his cause, which is set during the early days of the French Revolution. In this "swoony if predictable romance, Mobley pairs heart-stopping danger and valiant heroism with a stark portrayal of war's far-reaching costs." (PW).

Namey, Laura Taylor. When We Were Them (Atheneum \$19.99)

After betraying her two best friends, eighteenyear-old Willa spends the week of her high school

graduation going through a memory box commemorating important moments of the three girls' friendship in order to try to save it." Female relationships take center stage in Namey's (A Cuban Girl's Guide to Tea and Tomorrow) narrative about growing up, growing together, and, sometimes, growing



apart, which will especially resonate with readers facing high school's end. "(PW)

Nix, Garth. <u>Terciel & Elinor</u> (HarperCollins \$19.99)

In this long-awaited prequel to his best-selling fantasy series, Nix returns to the Old Kingdom for the never-before-told love story of Sabriel's parents, Terciel and Elinor, and the charter magic that brought them together and now threatens to tear them apart.

**Pentecost, Kate.** That Dark Infinity (Little, Brown \$18.99)

Cursed with immortality, Ankou has become a monster-hunter, but when he meets Flora, the handmaiden who is prophesied to finally end his torment, he finds she has other priorities. Can he convince her to help him? Wells, Rebecca Kim. Briar Girls

(Simon and Schuster \$18.99)

Lena has a secret: the touch of her skin can kill. But after a devastating mistake, she and her father are forced to flee to a village near the Silence, a mysterious forest with a reputation for luring people into the trees, never to be seen again. Then one night, an enigmatic girl named Miranda stumbles out of the Silence. Miranda is on a quest to wake a sleeping princess believed to hold the key to liberating her country from its tyrannical ruler, and she offers Lena a bargain. If Lena assists her on her journey, Miranda will help break the curse.

Weymouth, Laura E. A Rush of Wings (Margaret K McElderry \$18.99)

When her mother is resurrected from the dead with a monstrous new nature and curses Rowen, her brothers and the boy she loves, Rowen must unlock the power that has evaded her for so long to save the people she loves most in this vibrant retelling of "The Wild Swans" that's rooted in Scottish history and folklore.

#### **Always in Fashion**

**Hoy, Abby.** Yes, You Can Wear That (Tiller Press \$24.99)

In *Yes, You Can Wear That,* body-positive content creator, Abby Hoy of @ThePennyDarling guides you

through what to wear by making it clear that you can (and should!) wear anything. Hoy helps you feel confident and find a wardrobe that's totally "YOU." In every situation and for any occasion—from first dates to weddings, from high-power job interviews to learning to love our jiggly tummies—you can dress and feel confident for every part of your life. Part style guide, part



body-positive manifesto, this book is an encouraging reminder that you can be beautiful, bold, and confident at any size

#### Vlastnik, Frank. The Art of Bob Mackie

(Simon and Schuster \$50)

The Art of Bob Mackie is the first-ever comprehensive and fully authorized book showcasing Mackie's work, from his early days as a sketch artist for the legendary Edith Head at Paramount to his current, cutting-edge costumes for pop stars and line of accessible, wearable clothing for QVC. In addition to hundreds of glorious photos and dozens of dishy recollections from Mackie and his many muses, this gorgeous volume features never-before-seen sketches from throughout his prolific career, from Marilyn Monroe's iconic "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" gown to Carol Burnett's "Went with the Wind" curtain-rod dress, to Cher's show-stopping 1986 Oscar look.

**Zakowska, Donna.** <u>Madly Marvelous</u> (Abrams \$50)

Madly Marvelous: The Costumes of The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel explores the inner workings of award-winning costume designer Donna Zakowska's process, as well as the many inspirations for the show's wardrobe, including period photography, American and European fashion trends, and various cultures and countercultures of late 1950's New York. A must have for fans of the show and fashionistas alike.

#### **Nonfiction**

**Applegate, Debby.** Madam (Doubleday \$32.50)

An historian and Pulitzer-Prize winning author brings to life the notorious madam Pearl "Polly" Adler (1900-1962) whose Manhattan brothels in the Roaring Twenties became gathering places where the cultural and celebrity elite mingled with high society and violent figures of the underworld.

Boessenecker, John. Wildcat (Hanover Square \$28.99)

Drawing on groundbreaking research into territorial records and genealogical data, this little-known story of Pearl Hart, the most famous female bandit in the

American West brings to life her epic life of crime and her legacy as a female trailblazer.

**Cost, Jay.** <u>James Madison</u> (Basic \$35)

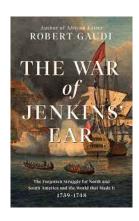
How do you solve a problem like James Madison? The fourth president is one of the most confounding figures in early American history; his political trajectory seems almost intentionally inconsistent. He was both for and against a strong federal government. He wrote about the dangers of political parties in the Federalist Papers and then helped to found the Republican Party just a few years later. This so-called Madison problem has occupied scholars for ages. As Jay Cost shows in this incisive new biography, the underlying logic of Madison's seemingly mixed record comes into focus only when we understand him primarily as a working politician. Whereas other founders split their time between politics and other vocations, Madison dedicated himself singularly to the work of politics and ultimately developed it into a distinctly American idiom. He was, in short, the first American politician.

**Hunt, Tristam.** The Radical Potter (Henry Holt \$28.99)

One of Britain's leading historians and the director of the Victoria & Albert Museum presents a fascinating biography of Josiah Wedgewood, the celebrated 18th-century potter, entrepreneur and abolitionist whose personal drive and creative gifts changed the way we work and live.

**Gaudi, Robert.** The War of Jenkins' Ear (Pegasus \$29.95)

In the early 18<sup>th</sup> century, the British and Spanish Empires were fighting for economic supremacy in the Americas. Tensions between the two superpowers were high, resulting in nearly a hundred years of wars from the War of the Spanish Succession (known as Queen Anne's War in the Americas) to the War of Jenkin's Ear, which



would lay the groundwork for the French and Indian

Wars, and eventually, the American Revolution.

Imperioli, Michael and Steve Schirripa. Woke Up This Morning (HarperCollins \$30)

Packed with untold stories from behind the scenes and on the set, and inspired by the wildly successful *Talking Sopranos* podcast, two *The Sopranos* stars will finally reveal all the Soprano family secrets in a surprising, funny and honest new book.

McKean, David. Watching Darkness Fall (St. Martin's \$29.99)

David McKean recounts the rise of the Third Reich in Germany and the road to war from the perspective of four American diplomats in Europe who witnessed it firsthand: Joseph Kennedy, William Dodd, Breckinridge Long, and William Bullitt, who all served in key Western European capitals—London, Berlin, Rome, Paris, and Moscow—in the years prior to World War II. In many ways they were America's first line of defense and they often communicated with the president directly, as Roosevelt's eyes and ears on the ground. Unfortunately, most of them underestimated the power and resolve of Adolf Hitler and Germany's Third Reich.

<u>The New York Times Book Review: 125 Years of Literary History</u> (Potter \$50)

Overflowing with remarkable reportage and images, including vintage photographs, the editors of the *New York Times Book Review* curates its dynamic 125-year history, collecting interesting reviews, anecdotes and essays from famous writers and more.

Ostler, Catherine. The Duchess Countess (Atria \$30)

Taking readers into the sumptuous Georgian era, this fascinating look at the scandalous Elizabeth Chudleigh, Duchess of Kingston, whose infamous bigamy trial was bigger news in British society than the American War of Independence, reveals a woman who defied society's expectations of her.

#### Pettegree, Andrew. The Library

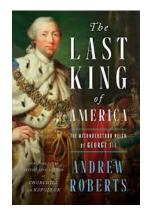
(Basic \$35)

In this meticulously written and deeply researched book, this history of the library, from the ancient world to the digital age, introduces readers to the antiquarians and the philanthropists who shaped the world's great collections.

### **Roberts, Andrew.** The Last King of America (Viking \$40)

Most Americans dismiss George III as a buffoon--a heartless and terrible monarch with few, if any,

redeeming qualities. The best-known modern interpretation of him is Jonathan Groff's preening, spitting, and pompous take in *Hamilton*, Lin-Manuel Miranda's Broadway masterpiece. But this deeply unflattering characterization is rooted in the prejudiced and brilliantly persuasive opinions of eighteenth-century revo-



lutionaries like Thomas Paine and Thomas Jefferson, who needed to make the king appear evil in order to achieve their own political aims. After combing through hundreds of thousands of pages of never-before-published correspondence, award-winning historian Andrew Roberts has uncovered the truth: George III was in fact a wise, humane, and even enlightened monarch who was beset by talented enemies, debilitating mental illness, incompetent ministers, and disastrous luck.

# **Sen, Mayukh.** <u>Taste Makers</u> (Norton \$26.95)

Who's really behind America's appetite for foods from around the globe? This group biography from James Beard Award-winning Sen honors seven extraordinary women, all immigrants, who left an indelible mark on the way Americans eat today. "Thoughtfully written, Sen's portrayals of his subjects reveal how rich and nuanced being "American" can truly be. Food lovers with a big appetite for knowledge will gobble this up." (*PW*)