

# Midmonth BookNotes

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## It's Blooming Books!

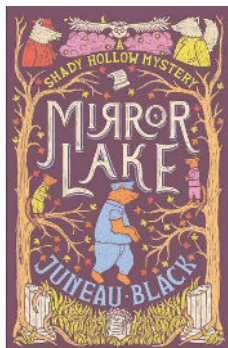
### Cozy Corner

**Adams, Ellery.** [The Vanishing Type](#)  
(Kensington \$26)

In the latest addition to Adams' "Secret, Book, and Scone Society" series, book store owner Nora Pennington helps Deputy Andrews plan a wedding proposal for his intended bride, Hester, and then suddenly notices that all her shop's copies of *The Scarlet Letter* have been vandalized. Coincidence? I think not. "Readers will cheer as Nora, an endearingly imperfect protagonist, and her group of dedicated literary friends, each with their own complicated backstories, search for answers. Bibliophilic cozy fans will be in heaven." (PW)

**Black, Juneau.** [Mirror Lake](#)  
(Knopf \$16)

Change is afoot in Shady Hollow, with an unusually tense election shaping up between long-serving Chief of Police Theodore Meade and Vera's beau, Deputy Orville Braun. But the political tension takes a back seat when resident eccentric Dorothy Springfield becomes convinced her beloved husband, Edward, is dead, and that the rat claiming to be him is actually a fraud.



While most of the town dismisses Dorothy's rants as nothing more than a delusion, reporter Vera Vixen has her doubts.

**Cahoon, Lynn.** [Three Tainted Teas](#)  
(Kensington \$8.99)

Taking on her toughest gig yet as a last-minute wedding planner, aspiring witch and culinary entrepreneur Mia Malone, when she finds the couple's previous wedding planner murdered in an apparent attempt to stop the union, becomes prime suspect and now must save the wedding, her professional reputation—and maybe even her life!

**Esden, Trish.** [The Art of the Decoy](#)  
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

In this debut to Esden's "Scandal Mountain Antiques" series, when a waterfowl decoy collection goes missing after her appraisal, fine art and antiques expert Edie Brown is accused of the crime and must race against time to expose the real culprits before the FBI's Art Crime Team or the ruthless thieves catch up with her. "An amusing purveyor of gossip, an exciting chase, a rich historical and cultural background, and a complex relationship between Edie and her former probation officer add interest and depth. Readers will look forward to further antique hunts with the stubborn, courageous Edie and her team." (PW)

**Duncan, Emmeline.** [Double Shot Death](#)  
(Kensington \$15.95)

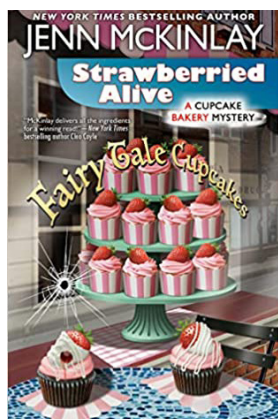
Sage Caplin, co-owner of Ground Rules, brings her Portland coffee cart to an annual, eco-friendly music festival only to end up investigating the murder of one of the performers in the second of Duncan's fresh and fun new take on cozies that began with [Fresh Brewed Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95). Here is *PW's* take "Solid prose, a well-crafted plot, and plenty of coffee lore draw the reader in," while *Kirkus* ended their rave review of this with "a clever sleuth, music trivia, and plenty of West Coast vibes add up to an enjoyable read."

**Harris, Sherry.** [Three Shots to the Wind](#)  
(Kensington \$8.99)

Saloon owner Chloe Jackson appears to have a secret admirer. She immediately rules out Rip Barnett. They are in the early stages of dating. Sure enough, her ex-fiancé from Chicago has flown down to Florida for an accountants' convention. Unfortunately, he's not in a hotel conference room, he's floating face down in the lake next to her house, clutching a photo of Chloe. "An enjoyable cozy read with plenty of suspects, romance, and a beachy vibe." (*PW*)

**McKinlay, Jenn.** [Strawberried Alive](#)  
(Penguin \$8.99)

Life is smooth as buttercream at the Fairy Tale Cupcakes bakery, and newlyweds Mel and Joe are stopping to smell the flours. But things start to crumble one night when an unknown gunman takes a shot at Mel. Though the bullets miss their mark, the cupcake crew goes on high alert to figure out who would want to kill a small-town baker, and why. When more business owners are attacked, things turn fatal, and locals begin to wonder if the killer could be one of their own. Every shop owner in town starts to fear it's only a matter of time before they too become victims of the mystery murderer. Despite the cupcake crew's superb baking skills, it will be anything but a piece of cake to catch the killer, as they try to prevent anyone else from being berried



**Perry, Carol J.** ['Til Death](#)  
(Kensington \$8.99)

Finally tying the knot in their hometown of Salem, Massachusetts, psychic sleuth Lee Barrett and Detective Sergeant Pete Mondello find their romantic honeymoon in Maine interrupted by Lee's past as she tries to wrap up crimes both past and present.

## Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

**Adams, Sarah.** [The Cheat Sheet](#)  
(Random \$17)

The friend zone is *not* the end zone for Bree Camden, who is helplessly in love with her longtime best friend and extremely hot NFL legend, Nathan Donelson. The only problem is that she can't admit her true feelings, because he clearly sees her as a best friend with no romantic potential, and the last thing Bree wants is to ruin their relationship. But those abs. Is it ever too late to leave the friend zone?

**Aguirre, Ann.** [Boss Witch](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$15.99)

Clementine Waterhouse is a perfectly logical witch, and she carefully weighs the pros and cons before deciding if a romantic relationship is worth pursuing. At least that's always been her *modus operandi* until the witch hunter comes to town. Gavin Rhys hates being a witch hunter, but his family honor is on the line, and he needs to prove he's nothing like his grandfather, a traitor who let everyone down. But things in St. Claire aren't what they seem, and Gavin is distracted from the job immediately by a bewitching brunette with a sexy smile and haunting secrets in her eyes. Can the bossiest witch in town find a happy ending with the last person she should ever love?

**Bestor-Siegal, Amanda.** [The Caretakers](#)  
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

In 2015 Paris, a young *au pair* is arrested after the sudden death of her young charge and finds herself caught in the middle of turbulent dynamics of her host family's household, in this novel told from six women's point of view--all of whom know the truth. "A well-paced narrative that moves through time and multiple perspectives with deft precision, this is a heart-wrenching exploration of who counts as family and how dangerous it can be to let someone in. A

novel about the “people who aren’t completely part of the family” and the true cost of belonging.” (*Kirkus*)

**Bird, Sarah.** [Last Dance on the Starlight Pier](#)  
(St. Martin’s \$28.99)

In 1932 Galveston, Evie Grace Devlin, escaping a dark past in vaudeville and in the process of becoming a good person, is swept up into the alien world of dance marathons, which thrusts her into the spotlight where the promise of a family, a purpose and even love wait in the wing.

**Blackwell, Juliet.** [The Paris Showroom](#)  
(Berkley \$17)

Capucine Benoit works alongside her father to produce fans of rare feathers, beads, and intricate pleating for the haute couture fashion houses. But after the Germans invade Paris in June 1940, Capucine saves herself from deportation to Auschwitz by highlighting her connections to Parisian design houses, and she is sent to a little-known prison camp located in the heart of Paris, within the Léviton department store. Capucine’s estranged daughter, Mathilde, remains in the care of her conservative paternal grandparents, who are prospering under the Nazi occupation. But after her mother is arrested and then a childhood friend goes missing, the usually obedient Mathilde finds herself drawn into the shadowy world of Paris’s *Resistance* fighters.

**Bond, Gwenda.** [The Date from Hell](#)  
(St. Martin’s \$16.99)

In this funny, romantic sequel [Not Your Average Hot Guy](#) (St. Martin’s \$16.99) Callie and Luke, the Prince of Hell, find their romantic getaway taking an unexpected turn when Lucifer tasks them with chasing a wayward soul, who is on a quest to find the Holy Grail, around the world.

**Bowery, Liz.** [Love, Hate & Click bait](#)  
(MIRA \$15.99)

Cutthroat political consultant Thom Morgan is thriving, working on the governor of California’s presidential campaign. If only he didn’t have to deal with Clay Parker, the infuriatingly smug data analyst who gets under Thom’s skin like it’s his job. In the midst of one of their heated and very public arguments, a journalist snaps a photo, but the image makes it look like they’re kissing. As if that weren’t already worst-night-

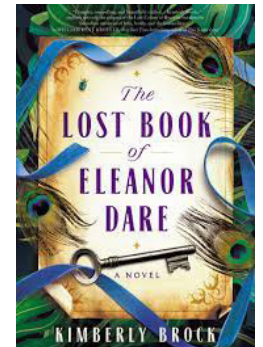
mare territory, the photo goes viral—and in a bid to secure the liberal vote, the governor asks them to lean into it. Soon Clay’s and Thom’s fake relationship is hurtling toward something very real, which could derail the campaign and cost them both their jobs... and their hearts.

**Brennan, Allison.** [The Wrong Victim](#)  
(MIRA \$26.99)

When a charter boat holding nine people explodes near the San Juan Islands, FBI Special Agent in Charge Matt Costa, LAPD officer Kara Quinn (who’s on loan to the FBI) and Costa’s Mobile Response Team must discover which one of the dead was the target—and who committed the largest act of murder in San Juan Islands history.

**Brock, Kimberly.** [The Lost Book of Eleanor Dare](#)  
(Harper \$26.99)

In the waning days of World War II, Alice returns to Savannah with her 13-year-old daughter, Penn, to sell her abandoned family home until Penn’s curiosity unveils secrets and the discovery of a long-lost family book, forcing Alice to reckon with the sacrifices made for love and her family’s true inheritance. Brock was inspired by the story of Eleanor Dare White and the Lost Colony of Roanoke when she began writing this saying “Between the day I first read Eleanor’s message left on a slab of rock and the day I sat down to write this novel, I was haunted by the idea of what is lost when we don’t tell our stories.”



**Brown, Janelle.** [I’ll Be You](#)  
(Random \$28)

As children, Sam and Elli were gorgeous identical twins whose parents sometimes couldn’t even tell them apart. Once Hollywood discovered them, they became B-list child TV stars, often inhabiting the same role. But as adults their lives have splintered. After leaving acting, Elli reinvented herself as the perfect suburban wife. Meanwhile, Sam has never recovered from her failed Hollywood career, or from her addiction to the pills and booze that have propped her up for the last fifteen years. Sam hasn’t spoken to her sister in a year when their father calls out of

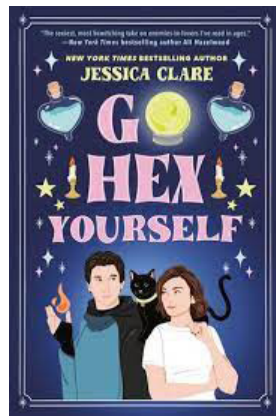
the blue. Unbeknownst to Sam, Elli's life lately has been in turmoil: Her husband moved out, and Elli just adopted a two-year-old girl. Now she's checked in to a mysterious spa in Ojai, and has stopped answering her phone. As Sam works to connect the dots left by Elli's baffling disappearance, she realizes that the bond between her and her sister is more complicated than she ever knew.

**Carr, Robyn.** [A Family Affair](#)  
(MIRA \$17.99)

Anna McNichol knows how to take charge. Raised by a single mother, she's worked to ensure her three children have every advantage she didn't. And while her marriage has its problems, she values commitment and believes in "till death do us part." Now an empty nester, she's at the peak of her career and ready to seize the opportunity to focus on her future. But life can change in an instant, and when her husband dies suddenly, Anna's carefully constructed world falls apart. The mysterious young woman at the memorial service confirms her husband had been keeping secrets, and Anna is determined to get to the truth.

**Clare, Jessica.** [Go Hex Yourself](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

When Reggie Johnson answers a job ad in the paper, she's astonished to find that she's not applying to work at her favorite card game, Spellcraft: The Magicking. Instead, she's applying to be an actual familiar for an actual witch. As in, real magic. The new job has a few perks - great room and board, excellent pay, and she's apprenticing to a powerful witch. Sure, the witch is a bit eccentric. And sure, there was that issue with the black cat Reggie would prefer to forget about. The biggest problem, however, with Reggie's new job is warlock Ben Magnus, her employer's nephew and the most arrogant, insufferable, maddening man to ever cast a spell.



**Cooney, C. S. E.** [Saint Death's Daughter](#)  
(Solaris \$27.99)

Lanie Stones, the daughter of the Royal Assassin and Chief Executioner of Liriat, has never led a normal

life. Born with a gift for necromancy and a literal allergy to violence, she was raised in isolation in the family's crumbling mansion by her oldest friend, the ancient revenant Goody Graves. When her parents are murdered, it falls on Lanie and her cheerfully psychotic sister Nita to settle their extensive debts or lose their ancestral home—and Goody with it.

**Cooper, Sharon C.** [Business Not As Usual](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

So, what if she lives in a seedy part of Los Angeles in a house that's one earthquake away from crumbling, or works an unfulfilling secretarial job while struggling to finish her bachelor's degree? All Dreamy Daniels needs to do is win the lottery, which she's been entering in as a weekly tradition with her grandfather. When she catches the attention of her boss's potential investor, Dreamy has to remind herself to focus on her career goals so she can be her own boss. Growing up with a father who is an A-list actor and a socialite mother, venture capitalist Karter Redford lives in the world of the rich and famous. Instead of attending movie premieres, however, he prefers spending his time helping the less fortunate, backing start-up companies and investing in cutting edge ideas. Karter is used to his life revolving around work, but when he decides he wants someone to share it with, he falls for someone his mother would never approve of: hilarious, quirky Dreamy.

**Croucher, Lex.** [Reputation](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

When she meets a wealthy member of the in-crowd, bookish and sheltered Georgina Ellers is introduced to the upper levels of Regency aristocracy where she begins to wonder if she'll ever fit in – or if the price of entry into this glittering world is higher than she's willing to pay. Croucher's publisher is billing this as *Bridgerton* meets *Gossip Girl* with a dash of Jane Austen.

**Dallas, Sandra.** [Little Souls](#)  
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

In 1918 Colorado, as the Spanish Influenza runs rampant, sisters Helen and Lutie, after their tenant dies, must care for her daughter, which leads to murder, placing them both in danger from the ensuing investigation and the flu. "The novel is seeded throughout with tragedy, but the overriding

message is hope, and the overarching adversary is not human but a virus. Vivid scenes from America's forgotten pandemic." (*Kirkus*)

**Garmus, Bonnie.** [Lessons in Chemistry](#) (Knopf \$29)

In the early 1960s, chemist and single mother Elizabeth Zott, the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show – *Supper at Six* - due to her revolutionary chemist's skills in the kitchen, uses this opportunity to dare women to change the status quo. Garmus' debut sold to over 34 different countries and is already a *New York Times* Book Club pick.

**Gibson, Rachel.** [Drop Dead Gorgeous](#) (Gallery \$17.99)

On her way from singing in church to hooking up with a Tinder date, Brittany Lynn Snider crashes her momma's minivan, and her life is changed forever. One moment she's texting HotGuyNate, and in the next she's at a hospital in El Paso watching doctors operate on her near-lifeless body. If that wasn't bad enough, she finds herself trapped in the Limbo Lounge where patients await their fate, playing cards and watching reruns of *7th Heaven* and *Heaven Help Us*. When a shimmering portal appears, it pulls Brittany upward toward heaven—until the lounge's resident bully, a wealthy socialite named Edie, leaps through first and steals Brittany's place. Brittany now has a second chance at life on Earth, but with a catch: she must inhabit Edie's body.

**Graham, Genevieve.** [Bluebird](#) (Simon and Schuster \$17.99)

Cassie Simmons, a museum curator, is enthusiastic about solving mysteries from the past. So, when a cache of whisky labeled Bailey Brothers' Best is unearthed, Cassie hopes to find the answers she's been searching for about the legendary family of bootleggers. Corporal Jeremiah Bailey finds himself in a Belgium field hospital under the care of Adele Savard. By the war's end Jeremiah and Adele return home to Windsor, scarred by the horrors of what they endured overseas. But the city is in the grip of Prohibition,



which brings exciting opportunities as well as new dangerous conflicts.

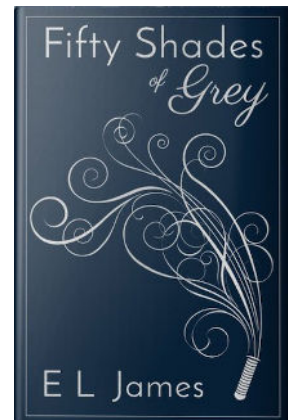
**Heath, Lorraine.** [Girls of Flight City](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

Jessie, Lovelace, a talented female pilot in 1941 Texas discovers that her small-town, civilian flight school is secretly training British pilots for the RAF and fights to become an instructor.

"Heath offers a crackerjack story inspired by a woman pilot from Texas who helped train RAF cadets for WWII. Heath's magnetic narrative pulls readers in with its depiction of Jessie's complicated love life and determination to overcome the limitations placed on her gender. With this riveting story, Heath makes a successful pivot from romance to historical fiction." (*Kirkus*)

**James, E.L.** [Fifty Shades of Grey 10th Anniversary Edition](#) (Sourcebooks \$31.99)

When literature student Anastasia Steele goes to interview young entrepreneur Christian Grey, she encounters a man who is beautiful, brilliant, and intimidating. The unworried, innocent Ana is startled to realize she wants this man and, despite his enigmatic reserve, finds she is desperate to get close to him. Unable to resist Ana's quiet beauty, wit, and independent spirit, Grey admits he wants her, too—but on his own terms. A special edition hardcover with a foreword from the author.



**Jimenez, Abby.** [Part of Your World](#) (Grand Central \$15.99)

ER doctor Alexis Montgomery's world is turned upside down by a ridiculously hot carpenter who's 10 years younger, and as their short-term flings turns into a relationship, she must choose between her ultra-wealthy parents and true love.

**Kann, Claire.** [The Romantic Agenda](#) (Penguin \$16)

Thirty, flirty, and asexual Joy is secretly in love with her best friend Malcolm, but she's never been brave enough to say so. When he unexpectedly announc-

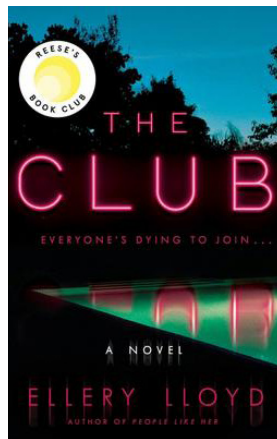
es that he's met the love of his life—and no, it's not Joy—she's heartbroken. Malcolm invites her on a weekend getaway, and Joy decides it's her last chance to show him exactly what he's overlooking. But maybe Joy is the one missing something...or someone... and his name is Fo

**Knight, Eliza.** [The Mayfair Bookshop](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Starting her dream job at the legendary Heywood Hill Bookshop in London, book curator Lucy St. Clair discovers that her history is intertwined with that of Nancy Mitford and finds her life forever changed by this little bookshop just as Nancy did all those years ago.

**Lloyd, Ellery.** [The Club](#)  
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

The Home Group is a glamorous collection of celebrity members' clubs dotted across the globe. The most spectacular of all is Island Home. But behind the scenes, tensions are at breaking point: the ambitious and expensive project has pushed the Home Group's CEO and his long-suffering team to their absolute limits...tempers fray and behavior worsens, as things get more sinister by the hour and the body count piles up. This effort by a London husband and wife writing duo hit the *NYT* list, so I checked it out – and really enjoyed it. Very much in the current literary suspense vein of trapped in an isolated locale with a murderer (think Lucy Foley, etc.). But I thought it had some really terrific twists and a welcome snarky sense of humor.



**Lovell, Posy.** [The Kew Garden Girls at War](#)  
(Putnam \$16)

When Daisy Cooper's new husband joins the RAF to fight the Battle of Britain, she's terrified she's going to lose him. So when her mother Ivy suggests she join the gardeners at Kew to keep busy, Daisy's intrigued. After all, Ivy worked at Kew during the last great war and made lifelong friends along the way. Louisa Armitage, not ready to hang up her gardening gloves just yet, and Beth Sanderson, an aspiring doctor looking to make a difference, decide to enlist as well. When tragedy strikes, the women are forced

to come together to support one other during their darkest hours.

**MacGregor, Janna.** [Rules for Engaging the Earl](#)  
(St. Martin's \$8.99)

In desperate need of a husband, young widow Constance Lysander, about to give birth to her late husband's child, offers the Earl of Sykeston, a war hero—and her childhood best friend—a marriage of convenience that becomes so much more than a bargain.

**McMahon, Jennifer.** [The Children on the Hill](#)  
(Gallery \$27)

When Lizzy Shelley, the host of the popular podcast *Monsters Among Us*, arrives in Vermont, where a kidnapping and monster sighting has sent the town into a frenzy, she is determined to hunt it down because it could be her very own sister. “McMahon succeeds admirably in building real chills and a surprising twist, offering a satisfying addition to the Frankenstein-inspired oeuvre. Mary Shelley would give it two thumbs up.” (*Kirkus*)

**Morgan, Phoebe.** [The Wild Girls](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

When their best friend, Felicity, invites them on a weekend of a lifetime—a birthday bash in Botswana—Grace, Alice and Hannah arrive at the luxury safari lodge where they discover they are utterly on their own as things start to go very, very wrong. Don't you just hate it when this happens?

**Morrey, Beth.** [Delphine Jones Takes a Chance](#)  
(Penguin \$27)

Delphine Jones, a single mother and high school dropout, has an opportunity to graduate and rediscovers her life with an Oscar-winning actress turned teacher, an Eritrean couple running a jazz club, a lonely, elderly French widow and a handsome musician. “Author Morrey's second foray into fiction is an uplifting, earnest book with layered, complicated characters. A cozy story that accepts people for who they are, warts and all, and celebrates the hard work that true change requires.” (*Kirkus*)

**O’Leary, Beth.** [The No-Show](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

Siobhan is a quick-tempered life coach with way too much on her plate. Miranda is a tree surgeon used to being treated as just one of the guys on the job. Jane is a soft-spoken volunteer for the local charity shop with zero sense of self-worth. These three women are strangers who have only one thing in common: they’ve all been stood up on the same day, the very worst day to be stood up—Valentine’s Day. And, unbeknownst to them, they’ve all been stood up by the same man. Once they’ve each forgiven him for standing them up, they are all in serious danger of falling in love with a man who may have not just one or two but three women on the go....Is there more to him than meets the eye? Where was he on Valentine’s Day? And will they each untangle the truth before they all get their hearts broken?

**Pinborough, Sarah.** [Insomnia](#)  
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

With her 40th birthday approaching—the same time her mother went insane—Emma Averell is unable to sleep, and loses time during the day, symptoms her mother showed, leading her to wonder if the madness is in her blood or is she slowly beginning to lose her mind.

**Rigetti, Susan.** [Cover Story](#)  
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

After a rough year at NYU, aspiring writer Lora Ricci is thrilled to land a summer internship at ELLE magazine where she meets Cat Wolff, contributing editor and enigmatic daughter of a clean-energy mogul. Cat takes Lora under her wing, soliciting her help with side projects and encouraging her writing. As a friendship emerges between the two women, Lora opens up to Cat about her desperate struggles and lost scholarship. Cat’s solution: Drop out of NYU and become her ghostwriter. Lora agrees and, when the internship ends, she moves into Cat’s suite at the opulent Plaza Hotel. Writing during the day and accompanying Cat to extravagant parties at night, Lora’s life quickly shifts from looming nightmare to



dream-come-true. But as Lora is drawn into Cat’s glamorous lifestyle, Cat’s perfect exterior cracks, exposing an illicit, shady world. Rigetti’s publisher bills this as *Inventing Anna* and *The Dropout* meets *Catch Me If You Can*.

**Roberts, Sheila.** [Sand Dollar Lane](#)  
(MIRA \$9.99)

Brody Green is done with love. First a divorce, then a broken engagement. From now on he’s keeping things light, no commitments. Luckily Brody’s business is booming. Beach Dreams Realty is the best real estate company in town. And the only one. Until... Lucy Holmes needs a new start. In business, in love, in...everything. If ever there was a cliché, it was her life back in Seattle. She was a real estate broker working with her husband until she caught him trying out the walk-in shower in a luxury condo—with another agent. Moonlight Harbor is a charming town and it has only one real estate agency. Surely there’s room for a little competition.

**Roe, Lisa.** [Welcome to the Neighborhood](#)  
(Sourcebooks \$15.99)

What lengths will a mother go to protect what’s most important? Ginny Miller’s re-marriage is a great opportunity to move with her quirky eleven-year-old daughter to an upscale New Jersey suburb—but reality in the *Real Housewives of NJ* town isn’t everything she hoped it would be.

**Simon, Christine.** [The Patron Saint of Second Chances](#) (Atria \$27)

To fix the town’s pipes, vacuum repairman and self-appointed mayor Signor Speranza must come up with 70,000 euros, and, to boost revenue, spreads a harmless rumor that Dante Rinaldi, a famous actor, will be filming his new movie on location in their little town. *PW* called this feel-good, funny book a “sparkling, hilarious debut,” in which “Simon’s wit pervades every page with colorful portrayals of Speranza and the town’s quirky inhabitants. This triumphant farce is a gem.”

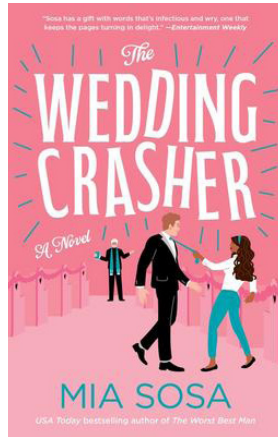
**Singh, Sonya.** [Sari, Not Sari](#)  
(Simon and Schuster \$17.99)

The beautiful young CEO of Breakup, a highly successful company helping people manage their relationship breakups, Manny Dogra has an identity crisis

and makes a deal with an irritating client who agrees to give her a crash course in being “Indian.” “Singh sensitively probes misunderstandings about cultural identities with gentle humor. Chock-full of breakups and makeups, this energetic love story marks Singh as a writer to watch.” (PW)

**Sosa, Mia.** [The Wedding Crasher](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Just weeks away from ditching DC for greener pastures, Solange Pereira is roped into helping her wedding planner cousin on a random couple’s big day. It’s an easy gig... until Solange stumbles upon a situation that convinces her the pair isn’t meant to be. What’s a true-blue romantic to do? Crash the wedding, of course. And ensure the unsuspecting groom – Dean Chapman – doesn’t make the biggest mistake of his life.



**Sorell, Gina.** [The Wise Women](#)  
(HarperCollins \$26.99)

A popular advice columnist for 40 years, Wendy Wise decides to meddle in her own troubled daughters’ lives even though they are holding on some resentments from childhood, while her daughters discover that Wendy has been hiding more than a few problems of her own.

**Sussman, Elissa.** [Funny You Should Ask](#)  
(Random \$17)

*Then.* Twenty-something writer Chani Horowitz is stuck. While her former MFA classmates are nabbing high-profile book deals, all she does is churn out puff pieces. Then she’s hired to write a profile of movie star Gabe Parker: her number one celebrity crush and the latest James Bond. All Chani wants to do is keep her cool and nail the piece. But what comes next proves to be life changing in ways she never saw coming, as the interview turns into a whirlwind weekend that has the tabloids buzzing—and Chani getting closer to Gabe than she had planned. *Now.* Ten years later, after a brutal divorce and a healthy dose of therapy, Chani is back in Los Angeles as a successful writer with the career of her dreams. Except that no matter what new essay collection or online editorial

she’s promoting, someone always asks about The Profile. It always comes back to Gabe. So when his PR team requests that they reunite for a second interview, she wants to say no. She wants to pretend that she’s forgotten about the time they spent together. But the truth is that Chani wants to know if those seventy-two hours were as memorable to Gabe as they were to her. And so . . . she says yes.

**Vaishnavi, Patel.** [Kaikeyi](#)  
(Orbit \$28)

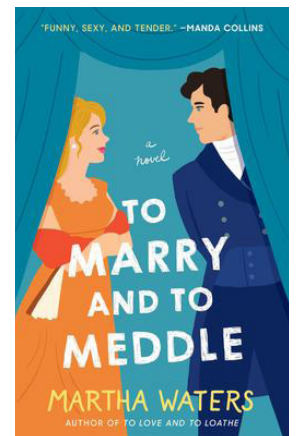
The only princess of the kingdom of Kekaya discovers she possesses magic when she revisits the ancient texts she used to read with her banished mother and transforms herself into a warrior to make a better world for other women. “Patel’s mesmerizing debut shines a brilliant light on the vilified queen from the *Ramayana*. Readers familiar with the source text will be wowed by Patel’s re-imagining, while those new to the story will be won over by its powerful, multilayered heroine and epic scope. This easily earns its place on shelves alongside Madeline Miller’s *Circe*. (PW)

**Ward, Amanda Eyre.** [The Lifeguards](#)  
(Random \$28)

Three mothers, who have raised their kids together for 15 years, Whitney, Annette and Liza find the perfect world they have so painstakingly created shattered by the unthinkable when a secret their three boys—all lifeguards—have been keeping is revealed.

**Waters, Martha.** [To Marry and to Meddle](#)  
(Atria \$16.99)

Agreeing to a mutually beneficial marriage of convenience to Lord Julian Belfry, a rakish actor and theater owner, Lady Emily Turner, free from her father’s unsavory associates, has very inconvenient feelings toward her new husband as they work closely together to carve out their places in society. “Waters’ latest is awash with light, witty banter, unadulterated confessions of love, and plenty of steamy, corset-unraveling sex scenes. Emily’s happy ending mercifully involves a lot less plotting than those of Waters’





previous heroines, and all the feline hijinks brought about by Cecil Lucifer Beelzebub Turner-Belfry adds to the sweet, cozy feelings you can't help but revel in while reading this book. A charming London romp perfect for theater nerds, cat lovers, and hopeless romantics." (*Kirkus*)

**Wilde, Jo.** [Just the Two of Us](#)

(Grand Central \$15.99)

Julie and Michael Marshall have stayed together through thick and thin, through better and worse -- and, for the last few years, it has mostly been worse. As their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary approaches, Julie realizes something: she doesn't want to pretend anymore. Divorce papers at the ready, she's just about to have The Talk with Michael when everything changes. Lockdown begins and Julie and Michael face the greatest terror they can imagine: uninterrupted time with each other. But, when stripped of all distraction and forced to meet eyes across the dinner table, could it be that Julie and Michael might find a way back to where they first began?

**Wilson, Carter.** [The New Neighbor](#)

(Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Aidan Marlowe is the superstitious type—he's been playing the same lottery numbers for fifteen years, never hitting the jackpot. Until now. On the day of his wife's funeral.

Aidan struggles to cope with these two sudden extremes: instant wealth beyond his imagination, and the loss of the only woman he's ever loved, the mother of his twin children. But the money gives him and his kids options they didn't have before. They can leave everything behind. They can start a new life in a new town. So, they do. But a huge new house and all the money in the world can't replace what they've lost, and it's not long before Aidan realizes he's merely trading old demons for new ones. Because someone is watching him and his family very closely. Someone who knows exactly who they are, where they've come from, and what they're trying to hide. Someone who will stop at nothing to get what they want.

**Winstead, Ashley.** [Fool Me Once](#)

(Graydon House \$16.99)

Old sparks rekindle when Lee Stone, a communications director at a women-run electric car company,

discovers she must work with her ex, Ben Laderman, a policy expert with the Texas governor's office, on a new clean energy bill. Winstead makes a literary move from psychological suspense (*In My Dreams I Hold a Knife*) to rom-coms.

## Teen

**Cottingham, Kayla.** [My Dearest Darkest](#)

(Sourcebooks \$10.99)

When transfer student Finch Chamberlin and popular senior Selena St. Clair accidentally wake something terrifying and ancient in the depths of their school, they must work together to stop the horror they unleashed before it consumes the town.

**Couch, Robbie.** [Blaine for the Win](#)

(Simon and Schuster \$19.99)

After his boyfriend Joey breaks up with him to pursue more "serious" guys, Blaine decides to run for senior class president as Joey's successor to prove his worth--but is Blaine willing to sacrifice everything about himself to do it?

**Frick, Kit.** [Very Bad People](#)

(Margaret K. McElderry \$19.99)

Sixteen-year-old Calliope Bolan joins a powerful secret society at her new boarding school, hoping to find answers about her mother's death, but she becomes involved in a dangerous campaign for revenge that threatens her new friendships.



**Ichaso, Chelsea.** [Dead Girls Can't Tell Secrets](#)

(Sourcebooks \$10.99)

Piper Sullivan was in a strange hiking accident last month and has been in a coma ever since. Her older sister, Savannah, can't pretend to be optimistic about it; things look bad. Piper will likely never wake up, and Savannah will never get any answers about what exactly happened.

But then Savannah finds a note in Piper's locker, inviting Piper to a meeting of their school's wilderness club...at the very place and on the very day that she

fell. Which means there was a chance that Piper wasn't alone. Someone might've seen something. Worse, someone might've done something. But who would want to hurt the perfect Piper Sullivan...and why?

**Lippincott, Rachael and Alyson Derrick.** [She Gets the Girl](#) (Simon and Schuster \$18.99)

When shy, awkward Molly Parker and outspoken Alex Blackwood devise a five-step plan to get the girls they like to fall for them, they both begin to wonder if maybe they're the ones falling... for each other.

**McCullough, Joy with Caroline Tung Richmond, Tess Sharpe, and Jessica Spotswood.** [Great or Nothing](#) (Random \$18.99)

This reimagining of *Little Women* set in 1942 is told from each March sister's point of view as, after Beth's death and under the strain of their grief, they each go their own way as they become embroiled in WWII.



**Pan, Emily X.R.** [An Arrow to the Moon](#) (Little, Brown \$18.99)

Navigating their families' enmity and secrets, Hunter and Luna find everything falling apart around them and must rely on their love to see them through, in this powerful story about the magic and mystery of the moon that connects us all.

**Price, Tirzah.** [Sense and Second-Degree Murder](#) (HarperCollins \$17.99)

Thrown out of their house after the death of their father, aspiring scientist Elinor Dashwood and her budding-detective sister Marianne make a startling discovery that points to murder—and the killer might be family in this witty teen take on Austen's classic *Sense and Sensibility*.

## Nonfiction

**Fischer, Paul.** [The Man Who Invented Motion Pictures](#) (Simon and Schuster \$28.99)

The year is 1888 and Louis Le Prince is finally testing his "taker" or "receiver" device for his family on their front lawn. The device is meant to capture ten to twelve images per second on film, creating a reproduction of reality that can be replayed as many times as desired. In 1890, Le Prince was granted patents in four countries ahead of other inventors who were rushing to accomplish the same task. But just weeks before unveiling his invention to the world, he mysteriously disappeared and was never seen or heard from again. Three and a half years later, Thomas Edison, Le Prince's rival, made the device public, claiming to have invented it himself. And the man who had dedicated his life to preserving memories was himself lost to history—until now.

**Horowitz, Helen Lefkowitz.** [Warming Up Julia Child](#) (Pegasus \$27.95)

Julia Child's monumental *Mastering the Art of French Cooking* and iconic television show *The French Chef* required a team of innovators to bring out her unique presence and personality.

In this fascinating book, Julia is the central subject, but Helen Horowitz has her share the stage with those who aided her work. She reveals that the most important element in Julia Child's ultimate success was her unusual capacity for forming fruitful alliances, whether it was Paul Child, Simone Beck, Avis DeVoto, Judith Jones and William Koshland (at Knopf), and Ruth Lockwood (at WGBH). Without the contribution of these six collaborators Julia could never have accomplished what she did.

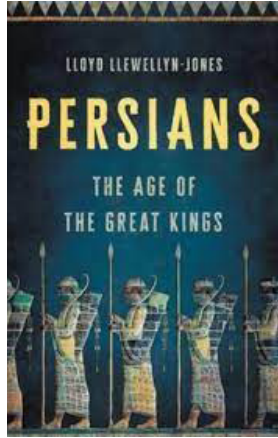
**Lewis, Damien.** [Agent Josephine](#) (Public Affairs \$32)

Singer. Actress. Beauty. Spy. During WW2, Josephine Baker, the world's richest and most glamorous entertainer, was an Allied spy in Occupied France. This is the story of her heroic personal resistance to Nazi Germany. Drawing on a plethora of new historical material and rigorous research, including previously undisclosed letters and journals, Lewis upends the conventional story of Josephine Baker, revealing that her mark on history went far beyond the confines of the stage.

**Llewellyn-Jones, Lloyd.** [Persians](#)

(Basic \$35)

Drawing on Iranian inscriptions, cuneiform tablets, art and archaeology, a noted historian shows how the Achaemenid Persian Empire was the world's first superpower, in this enthralling book that completely reshapes our understanding of the ancient world.



**Maurer, Kevin.** [Damn Lucky](#)

(St. Martin's \$29.99)

The page-turning story of a young American B-17 Flying Fortress pilot John “Lucky” Luckadoo, who survived 25 of the deadliest bombing missions as part of the Eighth Air Force’s 100th Bomb Group during World War II.

**Richardson, Edmund.** [The King's Shadow](#)

(St. Martin's \$29.99)

Recounting one of history's most extraordinary stories, this book transports readers back to 19th-century India and Afghanistan where Charles Masson—deserter, pilgrim, doctor, archaeologist, spy and one of the most respected scholars in Asia—searched for the Lost City of Alexandria during the age of empires, kings and spies

