

# Midmonth BookNotes

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4014 N. Goldwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(888) 560-9919 • (480) 947-2974

poisonedpen.com • sales@poisonedpen.com



## Summertime and the Reading Is Easy

### Cozy Corner

**Byron, Ellen.** [Bayou Book Thief](#) (Berkley \$8.99)

When widowed Miracle “Ricki” Fleur di Lis James-Diaz returns to New Orleans and opens a gift shop full of vintage cookbooks, her unexpected discovery of a body in a box of donated books leads her to investigate the murder.

**Davis, Krista.** [The Diva Says Cheesecake](#) (Kensington \$26)

Hired by Bobbie Sue Bodoïn, the Queen of Cheesecake, to organize a waterfront event for her employees, entertaining guru Sophie Winston gets more than she bargains when she ends up having to prove Bobbie’s innocence in the murder of her husband—and at the same time serve the real killer their just desserts.

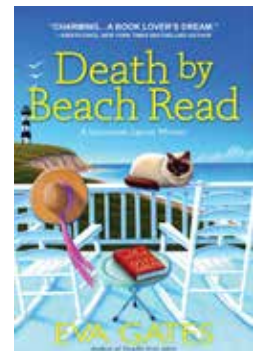
**Freeman, Dianne.** [A Bride’s Guide to Murder and Marriage](#) (Kensington \$26)

On the eve of her marriage to George Hazelton, Frances, Countess of Harleigh, has a great deal more on her mind than flowers and seating arrangements. The Connors and the Bainbridges, two families of American robber barons, have taken up residence in London, and their bitter rivalry is spilling over into the highest social circles. At the request of her brother, Alonzo, who is quite taken with Miss Madeline

Connor, Frances has invited the Connor family to her wedding. Meanwhile, Frances’s mother has invited Mr. Bainbridge, and now Frances fears the wedding may end up being newspaper-worthy for all the wrong reasons. Especially when Mr. Connor is later found murdered, and Alonzo is caught holding the murder weapon. “Clever plotting matches appealing characterizations. Freeman continues to delight.” (PW)

**Gates, Eva.** [Death by Beach Read](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

It’s spring in the Outer Banks of North Carolina, and librarian Lucy Richardson and her fiancé Connor MacNeil have moved into their new home at last, a historic cottage on the Nags Head Beach. Lucy is now happily immersed in her work at the Bodie Island Lighthouse Library, planning her wedding, and decorating the house. That is, until a dead body disrupts their peaceful new abode. “Sprightly prose matches distinctive characterizations. Cozy readers will enjoy spending time with book lover Lucy and her friends.” (PW)



**Gerber, Daryl Wood.** [A Hint of Mischief](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

Fairy-gardening tea shop owner Courtney Kelly investigates after a famous actress is murdered during a girl's weekend for an old sorority sister's fortieth birthday in Agatha award winner Gerber's latest captivating Fairy Garden mystery. "Gerber keeps her fanciful tale grounded in the connections between Courtney and the members of her close-knit community. Fairy-themed pastry recipes are a bonus. This delectable otherworldly whodunit is sure to please cozy fans." (*PW*)

**Gilbert, Victoria.** [A Fatal Booking](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

With a group of children's literature fans staying at her B&B, Charlotte Reed falls down a proverbial rabbit hole after a guest is poisoned at a Mad Hatter tea party, and must investigate a number of guests who all had a motive for disposing of the unfortunate victim.

**Lillard, Amy.** [Dairy, Dairy Quite Contrary](#) (Kensington \$8.99)

Returning home to Yoder, Kansas where she helps her aunt run the Sunflower Café, Sissy Yoder, who secretly writes an advice column as 70-year-old Bess, needs advice herself when she finds the milk deliveryman out behind the café with a knife in his back. "A promising new sleuth whose lovable dog and incipient love interest combine nicely with Lillard's trademark Amish lore." (*Kirkus*)

**Polito, Frank Anthony.** [Renovated to Death](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

Real-life domestic partners and stars of the new hit reality home renovation show *Domestic Partners*, bestselling mystery author Peter "PJ" Penwell and actor JP Broadway are enjoying work and life in their sleepy Detroit suburb of Pleasant Woods—until a suspicious death makes an unscripted appearance just as they are about to start filming the renovation of twin brothers Terry and Tom Cash's Tudor home. *HGTV* meets *Murder She Wrote* in this entertaining launch to a fun new cozy series.

## Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

**Afia, Nekesa.** [Harlem Sunset](#) (Penguin \$16)

Louise Lloyd is determined to prove her girlfriend's innocence in the murder of an acquaintance despite her waking up covered in blood with no memory of what happened in the second in Afia's Harlem Renaissance series which follows *Dead Bainbridge's Girls* and which "continues the personal stories of her compelling cast and deepens her atmospheric depiction of the Jazz Age in Harlem." (*Kirkus*)

**Barber, Lizzy.** [Out of Her Depth](#) (MIRA \$16.99)

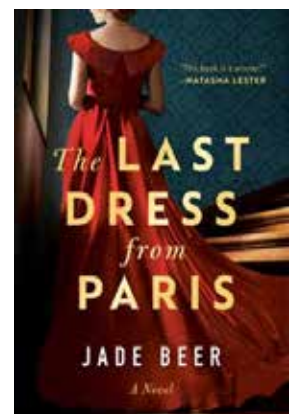
Rachel, a college student from an unfashionable London suburb, can't believe her luck in landing a summer job at Villa Medici, a beautiful *pensione* just outside Florence. Especially when she's drawn into a circle of privileged young sophisticates, including her glamorous coworker Diana, who promises to help Rachel win the affections of handsome, confident Sebastian. But as champagne flows and rivalries fester in the Tuscan countryside, Rachel realizes that Diana has motivations of her own.

**Barnett, David M.** [Same Time, Same Place](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Two museum security guards whose shifts overlap by 5 minutes, Daisy and Nate come together to investigate some strange occurrences happening around them and discover they have more in common than they realized as their search for the truth leads to true love.

**Beer, Jade.** [The Last Dress from Paris](#) (Penguin \$17)

There's no one Lucille loves more than her grandmother (not even her mother, she's ashamed to say). So when her beloved Granny Sylvie asks Lucille to help secure the return of something that is precious to her, she's happy to help. The next thing she knows, Lucille is on a train to Paris, tasked with retrieving a



priceless Dior dress. But not everything is as it seems, and what Lucille finds in a small Parisian apartment will have her scouring the city for answers to a question that leads her back in time to postwar Paris and the life of the glamorous and privileged wife of the British ambassador to France: Alice Ainsley.

**Belfer, Lauren.** [Ashton Hall](#) (Random \$28)

Manhattan art historian Hannah Larson, still reeling from her husband's betrayal, moves into Ashton Hall with her young son Nicky and tries to come up with answers after they discover the remains of a woman from the Elizabethan era walled into a forgotten part of the manor. "Without slipping into country house clichés or simplistic parallels, Belfer offers a nuanced exploration of the ways women's lives are constricted. Anglophiles and Tudor history buffs will enjoy this immersive tale." (PW)

**Brady, Ali.** [The Beach Trap](#) (Penguin \$17)

When twelve-year-old Kat Steiner and Blake O'Neill meet at Camp Chickawah they form an instant friendship. But that fledgling bond breaks when the two girls discover they share something else in common: a father. Now nearly two decades later, the two meet again when they are left a joint inheritance—a dilapidated beach



house in Destine, Florida, by their late father. As the two estranged half-sisters work together to renovate the house, their efforts not only bring about a new romance for each of them, but also teaches them just how important a sister can be in life. Brady's (a pseudonym for two best friend authors in real life) debut is fun twist on the classic Disney movie *The Parent Trap*.

**Brenner, Jamie.** [Gilt](#) (Penguin \$27)

As the first jewelers to sell diamond rings exclusively for proposals, the Pavlin family started a tradition that has defined engagements ever since. But when an ill-fated publicity stunt pits the three Pavlin sisters against one another for a famous family jewel, the Electric Rose diamond ring, their bond is broken. Now, over a decade later, Gemma Maybrook is still

reconciling the reality of her mother's death. Left orphaned and cast out by her family after the tragic incident, Gemma is ready to reclaim what should have been hers: the Electric Rose. And, as a budding jewelry designer in her own right, Gemma isn't just planning on recovering her mother's lost memento, she's coming back for everything. I adored Brenner's *Blush*, a fun retro return to those glitz and glam novels of the 1980s by authors like Judith Krantz and Shirley Conran. Beach reading at its best.

**Bromley, Kate.** [Here for the Drama](#) (Graydon \$15.99)

Working as an assistant for a celebrated, feminist playwright, an aspiring author, Winnie, is invited to London to help stage a play and finds herself falling for Liam, her boss's nephew. "Plays, plotting, and puppy love amount to a sweet production especially suited for theatre lovers" in the latest cute rom-com from Bromley. (PW)

**Chen, Kirstin.** [Counterfeit](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)

Ava Wong, a strait-laced Chinese American lawyer and her former college roommate from Mainland China, who dropped out under mysterious circumstances, join forces in an ingenious counterfeit operation selling replica luxury handbags. "As the story glides among San Francisco, Hong Kong, and China, Chen turns the stereotype of the docile Asian woman on its head. She also has great fun with status details, from collegiate Winnie's "pink T-shirt with the words cutie pie plastered across the front in multi-colored rhinestones" to the "rare crocodile Birkin 25, the color of merlot, of rubies, of blood...worth at least forty thousand dollars" that Ava receives during a classic over-the-top, all-night business deal. A delightfully different caper novel with a *Gone Girl*-style plot twist." (Kirkus)

**Christopher, Andie J.** [Thank You, Next](#) (Penguin \$16)

When Alex Turner, always the last one an ex-date before finding love, decides to interview all her exes to find out why, Will Harkness decide to tag along to discover what her exes did wrong so he can make sure he doesn't make the same mistake.

**Clark, Georgia.** [Island Time](#) (Atria \$17)

A messy, loud Australian family and an aloof, snob-by American family who have nothing in common except the marriage of their daughters are stuck for 6 weeks on a tropical island off Queensland when a nearby volcano erupts. “Clark’s vibrant descriptions of the fictional island create a great sense of place, and Amelia and Matty’s reckonings with family secrets and the challenges of career and maternity add some gravitas to the breezy proceedings. The result is a feel-good sapphic love story ideal for armchair travelers.” (PW)

**Clarke, Lucy.** [One of the Girls](#) (Penguin \$27)

While on a sun-soaked Greek island for a bachelorette party to celebrate Lexi’s upcoming wedding, six very different women discover that someone is determined to make sure Lexi’s marriage never happens—and that one of them won’t leave the island alive. A new *And Then There Were None* twisted thriller in the literary vein of Lucy Foley.

**Coleman, Ashley M.** [Good Morning, Love](#) (Simon and Schuster \$16.99)

Carlisa “Carli” Henton, an aspiring musician biding her time with a day job at a high-pressure media agency that represents musicians, has her carefully balanced life thrown into a tailspin after a chance meeting with a rising pop star who throws her reputation and songwriting career into question.



**Crosley, Sloane.** [Cult Classic](#) (Farrar \$27)

One night in New York City’s Chinatown, a woman is at a work reunion dinner with former colleagues when she excuses herself to buy a pack of cigarettes. On her way back, she runs into a former boyfriend. And then another. And . . . another. Nothing is quite what it seems as the city becomes awash with ghosts of heartbreaks past. What would normally pass for coincidence becomes something far stranger as the recently engaged Lola must contend not only with the viability of her current relationship but with the

fact that both her best friend and her former boss, a magazine editor turned mystical guru, might have an unhealthy investment in the outcome. Is it possible to have a happy ending in an age when the past is ever at your fingertips and sanity is for sale? I thought Crosby’s essay collections – *Look Alive Out There* and *I Was Told There’d Be Cake* – put her on par with Dorothy Parker for a wry, witty look at life and love. Here is how *Kirkus* summed up their review of her second novel: “The story is plenty engaging, but it’s Crosley’s analytical acumen and gift for the striking metaphor that really gives the book life. Thoughtfully and humanely acerbic.” (I love the “humanely acerbic!”)

**Deane, Maya.** [Wrath Goddess Sing](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)

Living among the transgender priestesses of Aphrodite, Achilles agrees to fight as a man in the war against the Hittites in return for the woman’s body she’s always longed for until the cruel, immortal Helen seeks to destroy everything Achilles cherishes in a battle to the death. “Deane’s narrative soars: epic in scope without ever growing tedious, with a huge supporting cast (including many wonderful LGBTQ characters) that readers will have no trouble keeping straight due to their beautifully shaded personalities. Add in massive battle scenes, meddling gods, and all the cultures of the ancient Mediterranean, and the result brings the familiar story to fresh, vivid, and unforgettable new life.” (PW)

**Dent, Lizzy.** [The Setup](#) (Penguin \$16)

While impersonating her fortune teller, 31-year-old Mara Williams, meeting the man of her dreams, tells him his destiny is a woman named Mara whom he will meet on the last Friday in August. Now can Mara turn herself into the kind of woman a man falls head-over-heels in love with in just three months?

**Dodd, Christina.** [Point Last Seen](#) (HQN \$28.99)

After Adam Ramsdell saves her life, Elle, with no memory of who she is, finds refuge in his home where she faces a terrible truth—buried in her mind lurks a dark secret that could get her killed by the one person she trusts. Dodd gives her own clever literary wink and nod to the current craze for gothic elements sweeping the suspense genre – the coastal California town where her characters live is actually



called Gothic – while at the same time devising a fiendishly clever, unputdownable plot with enough killer twists to keep even veteran suspense fans on edge (I know one plot turn left me gob smacked!).

**Gutierrez, Katie.** [More Than You'll Ever Know](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)

Told through alternating timelines, this gripping mystery and wrenching family drama follows struggling crime writer Cassie Brown as she becomes obsessed with a 1985 murder case involving Lore Rivera, who marries Andres Russo in Mexico City even though she is already married to Fabian Rivera in Laredo, Texas.

**Hahn, Taylor.** [The Lifestyle](#) (Knopf \$27)

Divorce is definitely not part of Georgina Wagman's 5-year plan, so when she catches her husband cheating, Georgina convinces him to become swingers to save their marriage—a foolproof plan ends up putting her own happiness at risk when she runs into a college ex at a swinger's party. It might not sound like it, but Hahn is channeling her inner Jane Austen with this modern take on *Emma*.

**Higgins, Kristan.** [Out of the Clear Blue Sky](#) (Penguin \$17)

Lillie Silva knew life as an empty nester would be hard after her only child left for college, but when her husband abruptly dumps her for another woman just as her son leaves, her world comes crashing down. Now, alone for the first time in her life, she finds herself going a little rogue. Is it over the top to crash her ex-husband's wedding dressed like the angel of death? Sure! Should she release a skunk into his perfect new home? Probably not! But it beats staying home and moping. Lillie finds an unexpected ally in her glamorous sister, with whom she's had a tense relationship all these years. And an unexpected babysitter in, of all people, Ben Hallowell, the driver in a car accident that nearly killed Lillie twenty years ago. And then there's Ophelia, her ex-husband's oddly lost niece, who could really use a friend. It's the end of Lillie's life as she knew it. But sometimes the perfect next chapter surprises you . . . out of the clear blue sky.

**Ho, Lauren.** [Lucie Yi Is Not a Romantic](#) (Penguin \$17)

When she meets Collin Read through a co-parenting website, management consultant Lucie Yi, hoping to soon becoming pregnant, returns to Singapore with Collin in tow, where she must juggle the demands of the people, she loves to pursue the life she really wants. “Ho delicately balances grief, romance, and humor. There are many laugh-out-loud lines (including Lucie's thoughts as her body changes during pregnancy), but Lucie's sorrow over what she lost—both a baby and her imagined future—always rings true. This is best shown in a particularly touching scene in which Lucie attends a support group for grieving parents. A beautiful exploration of both grief and romance starring a lovably hilarious heroine.” (*Kirkus*)



**Holmes, Linda.** [Flying Solo](#) (Random \$28)

Returning to her Maine hometown of Calcasset to handle her great-aunt Dot's estate, Laurie Sassalyn investigates a love letter and a mysterious wooden duck she found at the bottom of a cedar chest and is soon swept up in a journey of self-discovery and antiques. “Holmes displays a gift for warm, richly drawn characters and situations that are as cozy as a steaming cup of tea. Laurie is refreshing as a heroine who is entering her 40s, a size 18, and completely comfortable with her life as an unmarried, child-free woman. There are no dramatics or big fights between her and Nick—just a believable adult relationship with real-world obstacles. A charming and easygoing look at all kinds of love and the beauty of independence, featuring supremely likable characters.” (*Kirkus*)

**Huguley, Piper.** [By Her Own Design](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

Huguley provides a fascinating historical fiction account of the untold story of how Ann Lowe, a Black woman and granddaughter of slaves, rose above personal struggles and racial prejudice to design and create one of America's most famous wedding dresses of all time for Jackie Kennedy.

**Khavari, Kate.** [A Botanist's Guide to Parties and Poisons](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Attempting to blaze a new trail for women at the University College London in 1923, research assistant Saffron Everleigh becomes involved in solving the murder of a professor's wife who appeared to have been poisoned at a school dinner party. "An exciting debut with a determined protagonist whose future is sure to contain romance and mystery." (Kirkus)

**Libby, Gillian.** [Four Ways to Wear a Dress](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

After losing her job in New York, Millie Ward moves to California to become a social media influencer with the support of her best friends and the little black dress they all share to bring each wearer extra confidence. In her engaging debut, Lilly offers her own rom-com take on *The Sisterhood of the Traveling Pants*.

**Marie, Ashley.** [Off Script](#) (Wattpad \$16.99)

To save their careers after a confrontation goes viral, Hollywood actors Jada Berklee and Tristan Maxwell flip the script by becoming a couple, but when their fake relationship turns into something real, they must decide how they feel behind the scenes.

**Martin, Jessica.** [For the Love of the Bard](#) (Penguin \$16)

Hoping to finish her novel over the summer in Bard's Rest, writer Miranda Barnes returns home and gets swept up in her mother's planned production of *Twelfth Night* while at the same time hoping to avoid Adam Winters, the guy who broke her heart on prom night. How can you resist a rom-com debut where shops in the town include the Merry Wines of Windsor and Measure for Measure Hardware?

**Mayhew, Julie.** [Little Nothings](#) (Bloomsbury \$26)

When a new woman changes the dynamics of their little group, and not for the better, Liv Travers, scrambling to fit in with the people she could always be herself around, uses their girls' trip to Greece to do whatever it takes to get her friendships back. "Mayhew sets the bulk of her tale on Corfu, using frequent flashbacks to color in the cohort's shared history. Though the supporting cast feels hastily sketched, Liv

is a fully developed character whose palpable anxiety, desperation, and rage drive the diabolical plot to a calamitous conclusion. Lucy Foley fans, take note." (PW)

**Menon, Lily.** [The Sizzle Paradox](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Writing a doctoral thesis on sexual chemistry, grad student Lyric Bishop, who is unable to find the "sizzle" with someone, gets schooled on dating tactics by her roommate, Kian Montgomery, and soon discovers that he might be the solution to cracking the Sizzle Paradox.

**Monaghan, Annabel.** [Nora Goes Off Script](#) (Penguin \$27)

A romance channel screenwriter, turning her disastrous marriage into the best script of her life, is shocked when the leading man, after shooting wraps, asks to stay with her for 7 days, \$1,000 per day—just enough time to fall in love or just enough time to have her heart broken.



**Nicieza, Fabian.** [The Self-Made Widow](#) (Penguin \$27)

After mother of five and former FBI profiler Andie Stern solved a murder—and unraveled a decades-old conspiracy—in her New Jersey town, both her husband and the West Windsor police hoped that she would set aside crime-fighting and go back to car-pools, changing diapers, and lunches with her group of mom-friends, who she secretly calls The Cellulists. Even so, Andie can't help but get involved when the husband of Queen Bee Molly Goode is found dead. Though all signs point to natural causes, Andie begins to dig into the case and soon risks more than just the clique's wrath, because what she discovers might hit shockingly close to home.

**Obuobi, Shirlene.** [On Rotation](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)

With her life crashes down around her, Ghanaian-American med student Angie Appiah, who's spent her life being the Perfect Immigrant Daughter, questions everything—her career, her friendships and her taste in men—until she meets someone who changes everything.

**Orenstein, Hannah.** [Meant To Be Mine](#) (Atria \$16.99)

What if you knew exactly when you'd meet the love of your life? Edie Meyer knows. When her Grandma Gloria was a young woman, she had a vision of the exact day she would meet her soul mate—and then Grandpa Ray showed up.

Since then, Gloria has accurately predicted the day every single member of the family has met their match. Edie's day arrives on June 24, 2022, when she's twenty-nine years old. She has been waiting for it half her life. That morning, she boards an airplane to her twin sister's surprise engagement, and when a handsome musician sits beside her, she knows it's meant to be. But fate comes with more complications than Edie expected and she can't fight the nagging suspicion that her perfect guy doesn't have perfect timing. After a tragedy and a shocking revelation rock Edie's carefully constructed world, she's forced to consider whether love chooses us, as simple as destiny, or if we choose it ourselves.

**Patrick, Phaedra.** [The Messy Lives of Book People](#) (Park Row \$16.99)

Landing her personal hero and mega-best-selling author Essie Starling as a client, housecleaner Liv Green forms an unlikely friendship with this infamous recluse, but when Essie suddenly dies, leaving her an astonishing last wish, Liv discovers a connection between them that changes Liv's own life story forever.

**Pook, Lizzie.** [Moonlight and the Pearler's Daughter](#) (Simon and Schuster \$27.99)

To solve the mystery of her missing father, a pearl-diving boat captain, Eliza Brightwell, in 1896 Australia, must decide the price she is willing to pay to find the truth as she is submerged in a seedy underbelly of a town rife with corruption, prejudice and blackmail.

**Pooley, Clare.** [Iona Iverson's Rules for Commuting](#) (Penguin \$27)

Every day Iona, a larger-than-life magazine advice columnist, travels the ten stops from Hampton Court to Waterloo Station by train, accompanied by her dog, Lulu. Every day she sees the same people, whom she knows only by nickname: Impossibly-Pretty-Book-worm and Terribly-Lonely-Teenager. Of course, they

never speak. Seasoned commuters never do. Then one morning, the man she calls Smart-But-Sexist-Manspreader chokes on a grape right in front of her. He'd have died were it not for the timely intervention of Sanjay, a nurse, who gives him the Heimlich maneuver. This single event starts a chain reaction, and an eclectic group of people with almost nothing in common except their commute discover that a chance encounter can blossom into much more. It turns out that talking to strangers can teach you about the world around you--and even more about yourself.

**Reynolds, Allie.** [The Swell](#) (Penguin \$27)

A former surfer who hung up her surfboard after her boyfriend drowned, Kenna Ward must get back into the game when she, arriving on a remote Australian beach to meet her best friend's fiancé, is plunged into a world of murder, passion and obsession. Reynold's publisher is cleverly billing as *Point Break* meets *And Then There Were None*.

**Robert, Katee.** [Wicked Beauty](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

With the former war god Ares gone, the coveted role has opened to anyone with the strength to claim it, and Achilles and Patoclus team up to double their odds of winning, neither expecting the infamous beauty Helen Kasios to be part of the prize, which changes everything.

**Rosen, Jane L.** [A Shoe Story](#) (Penguin \$17)

Esme Nash is eager to leave her small town and begin her carefully planned post-grad life: a move to New York City, an apartment with her loving college boyfriend, and a fancy job at an art gallery. But when tragedy strikes, instead of heading to Manhattan, she returns home to care for her ailing father, leaving every bit of her dream behind. Seven trying years later, Esme is offered a dog-sitting job in Greenwich Village by a mysterious stranger, giving her access to all of her long-buried hopes and dreams—as well as to an epic collection of designer shoes. Esme jumps at a second chance to step into the future she's sure was meant to be hers. As she retraces her steps, one pair of borrowed shoes at a time, making new friends and reconnecting with her old love, Esme tries on versions of herself she didn't know existed. But the

hazy August days and warm summer nights pass too quickly, and Esme must decide how much of the life she imagined still fits, and what—and who—is on the road ahead of her.

**Sadowsky, Nina.** [Privacy](#) (Random \$17)

When her newfound success places a target not only on her back, but on the backs of her patients as they each receive unsettling gifts mocking their deepest fears, therapist Dr. Laina Landers enlists an investigative journalist to discover who wants to end her career—and possibly her life.

**Schellman, Katharine.** [Last Call at the Nightingale](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Vivian Kelly's days are filled with drudgery, from the tenement lodging she shares with her sister to the dress shop where she sews for hours every day. But at night, she escapes to The Nightingale, an underground dance hall where illegal liquor flows and the band plays the Charleston with reckless excitement. With a bartender willing to slip her a free glass of champagne and friends who know the owner, Vivian can lose herself in the music. No one asks where she came from or how much money she has. No one bats an eye if she flirts with men or women as long as she can keep up on the dance floor. At The Nightingale, Vivian forgets the dangers of Prohibition-era New York and finds a place that feels like home. But then she discovers a body behind the club, and those dangers come knocking.

**Sager, Riley.** [The House Across the Lake](#) (Penguin \$27)

Recently widowed actress Casey Fletcher retreats to her family's lake house in Vermont where she passes the time watching the glamorous couple across the lake until the wife disappears and she discovers that the most shocking of secrets can lurk beneath the most placid of surfaces. This is supernatural suspense star Sager's homage to *Rear Window*.

**Schorr, Meredith.** [As Seen on TV](#) (Grand Central \$15.99)

A young journalist in New York City, Adina Gellar, chases a big story about a real estate magnate who has targeted the tiny village of Pleasant Hollow for development and finds herself attracted to one of his

employees. "Die-hard Hallmark fans will appreciate mentions of Loveuary and Andrew Walker as well as some steamier moments in lieu of a pie-baking competition. Schorr adeptly portrays the problem of Adina's expectations versus reality while never belittling the perfectly predictable romances that Adina and so many others cherish." (*Kirkus*)

**Score, Lucy.** [Maggie Moves On](#) (Grand Central \$15.99)

While in Kinship, Idaho restoring a crumbling Victorian mansion, house-flipping star and YouTube sensation Maggie Nichols has a steamy affair with landscaper Silas Wright who, while breaking down her emotional walls also throws a wrench in her plans for moving on.

**Sebastian, Cat.** [The Perfect Crimes of Marian Hayes](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

Marian Hayes, the Duchess of Clare, just shot her husband. Of course, the evil, murderous man deserved what was coming to him, but now she must flee to the countryside. Unfortunately, the only person she can ask for help is the charismatic criminal who is blackmailing her—and who she may have left tied up a few hours before. A highwayman, con artist, and all-around cheerful villain, Rob Brooks is no stranger to the wrong side of the law or the right side of anybody's bed. He never meant to fall for the woman whose secrets he promised to keep for the low price of five hundred pounds, but how could he resist someone who led him on a merry chase all over London, left him tied up in a seedy inn, and then arrived covered in her husband's blood and in desperate need of his help? As they flee across the country—stopping to pick pockets, drink to excess, and rescue invalid cats—they discover more true joy and peace than either has felt in ages. But when the truth of Rob's past catches up to him, they must decide if they are willing to reshape their lives in order to forge a future together.

Slatter, A.G. [The Path of Thorns](#) (Titan \$15.95)

Plagued by dark and terrible secrets, governess for the mysterious Morwood family, Asher Todd, skilled in botany, herbcraft and perhaps more, is bent on revenge until she grows fond of her charges and the



people in their village. But can Asher now give up on her plans of retribution? A lush and twisted dark fairy tale suffused with witchcraft, dark secrets and bitter revenge that will have readers of Naomi Novik and Erin Morgenstern entranced.

**Wesely, Jamie.** [Fake It Till You Bake It](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Jada Townsend-Matthews is the most reviled woman in America after turning down a proposal on a reality dating show. When she comes home to lick her wounds, Jada finds herself working at San Diego's newest cupcake bakery, Sugar Blitz, alongside the uptight owner and professional football player Donovan Dell. When a reporter mistakenly believes Jada and Donovan are an item, they realize they can use the misunderstanding to their advantage to help the struggling bakery and rehabilitate Jada's image. Faking a relationship should be simple, but sometimes love is the most unexpected ingredient.



**Wilder, Ava.** [How to Fake It in Hollywood](#) (Random \$17)

When her long-running teen soap opera wraps, Grey Brooks enters into her publicist's scheme to begin a fake a love affair with a disgraced Hollywood heartthrob Ethan Atkins, who also could use the publicity, but is shocked when real feelings emerge.

Williams, Shanora. [The Wife Before](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

The second wife of renowned pro golfer Roland Graham, Samira discovers long-hidden journals belonging to his first wife who died in a tragic accident, making her realize that her perfect husband is not as perfect as she thought as the terrifying truth comes to light. Think 21st century *Rebecca*.

## Teen Fiction

**Albert, Melissa.** [Our Crooked Hearts](#) (Flatiron \$18.99)

When the appearance of a stranger sets off a disturbing chain of events, 17-year-old Ivy grapples with unnerving offerings, tarnished memories and the knowledge that there's more to her mother than meets the eye. "Riveting, creepy, and utterly bewitching; do not miss this one." (*Kirkus*)

**Barrow, Rebecca.** [Bad Things Happen Here](#) (Margaret K McElderry \$19.99)

Seventeen-year-old Luca lives on Parris, an idyllic but cursed island with a history of unsolved deaths, but when Luca's sister becomes the latest victim, she is determined to find the murderer and soon comes face to face with the curse she has been running from her whole life.

**Bayron, Kalynn.** [This Wicked Fate](#) (Bloomsbury \$18.99)

To bring her mother back to life, Briseis must find the last piece of the deadly Absyrtus Heart with the help of blood relatives she's never known while eluding those who want to use her in any way they can. Bestselling author Kalynn Bayron continues the story of Briseis and her family's unique magic in the sequel to *This Poison Heart*.

**Beaty, Erin.** [Blood and Moonlight](#) (Farrar \$19.99)

The orphan caretaker of the holy Sanctum who possesses unique skills, Catrin witnesses a murder that traps her between a killer and the brilliant detective investigating the case, forcing her to hide her own secret gifts, which could save her and those she loves from becoming the next victims. "Dark thrills for fans of psychology, magick, and murder." (*Kirkus*)

**deVos, Kelly.** [Go Hunt Me](#) (Penguin \$18.99)

For Dracula lovers and fans of Diana Urban's *All Your Twisted Secrets*, this spine-tingling thriller follows seven horror buffs as their dream trip to a remote Romanian castle turns into a nightmare when they begin to be killed one by one.

**Grey, Melissa.** [Valiant Ladies](#) (Feiwel & Friends \$18.99)

Two teen vigilantes set off on an action-packed investigation to expose corruption and deliver justice in this YA historical fiction novel inspired by real seventeenth century Latinx teenagers.

**Moke, Jenny.** [Rise of the Snake Goddess](#) (Disney-Hyperion \$17.99)

To get back at her misogynistic archaeology professor, Samantha Knox investigates the hidden meaning behind a symbol found inside a cave in Greece and makes the discovery of a lifetime that could be used to raise an ancient goddess from her slumber. (Don't you just hate it when this happens?)

**Szabo, Rose.** [We All Fall Down](#) (Farrar \$18.99)

In River City, where magic used to thrive and is now fading, four young queer people, unaware they have been selected to play in an age-old drama reviving the flow of magic through their world, are brought into each other's orbits as they uncover a deeper magical conspiracy.

**Stohl, Maragaret and Melissa de la Cruz.** [A Secret Princess](#) (Penguin \$18.99)

Best friends Mary Lennox, Sara Crewe, and Cedric Erroll flee their repressive boarding school, intending to start over in the theaters of Paris, but they instead find themselves at Cedric's estate in Yorkshire, where a hidden garden helps them realize their destiny. A surprising and romantic YA retelling-mashup of *A Little Princess* and *The Secret Garden*.

## Nonfiction

**Alexander, William.** [Ten Tomatoes that Changed the World](#) (Grand Central \$27)

This entertaining—and meticulously researched—micro-history of the most popular vegetable in America, which is now redefining the very nature of farming, is a fascinating story complete with heroes, con artists, conquistadors and the Mafia. However, *Ten Tomatoes* isn't just filled with tidbits that will help readers dominate pub trivia

night (especially if “pasta” or “ketchup” are categories). More broadly, the book proves that food history isn't a niche topic.” (*Bookpage*) See Joy Howard's book below for what to do with all these tomatoes in the kitchen.

**Bartlett, Jamie.** [The Missing Cryptoqueen](#) (Hachette \$29)

An acclaimed tech journalist, through a globe-crossing investigation into the criminal underworlds, corrupt governments and the super-rich, presents the inside story of the smartest and biggest cryptocurrency scam of the 21st century—and the genius behind it who is still on the run.

**Byrne, Paula.** [The Adventures of Miss Barbara Pym](#) (HarperCollins \$34.99).

Literary biographer Byrne recounts the lively life of Barbara Pym, whose novels some have compared to the work of Jane Austen. “Byrne is brilliant in her descriptions of Pym's relationships: with her sister Hilary, whom she predicted in her first novel she'd grow old with, and did; the Oxford friends and flames she kept all her life; and Philip Larkin, her greatest supporter, though they didn't meet in person for 15 years. Byrne's accounts of the novels will add to anyone's reading list, and longtime fans will want to revisit her oeuvre—as Larkin and other friends did, several times. Infused with the high spirit and humor of its subject, a gift to fans, novices, and aspiring writers. Pym would be thrilled.” (*Kirkus*)

**Doidge, Kristin Marguerite.** [Nora Ephron](#) (Chicago Review \$30)

Based on rare archival research and numerous interviews with some of Ephron's closest friends, collaborators, and award-winning colleagues including actors Tom Hanks and Caroline Aaron, comedian Martin Short, composer George Fenton, and lifelong friends from Wellesley to New York to Hollywood—as well as interviews Ephron herself gave throughout her career—award-winning journalist and cultural critic Doidge has written a captivating story of the life of a creative writer whose passion for the perfect one-liner and ferocious drive to succeed revolutionized journalism, comedy, and film.

**Forte, Tiago.** [Building a Second Brain](#) (Atria \$28)

For the first time in history, we have instantaneous access to the world's knowledge. Yet this very knowledge that was supposed to set us free has instead led to the paralyzing stress of believing we'll never know or remember enough. Now, this eye-opening and accessible guide shows how you can easily create your own personal system for knowledge management, otherwise known as a Second Brain. So, kind of like the book form of PrevaGen.



**Hollywood, Paul.** [Bake](#) (Bloomsbury \$40)

Hollywood, a professional chef and judge on the *Great British Baking Show* shares his favorite recipes for baking cakes, cookies and breads, each fully tested and tasted for at-home chefs who enjoy discovering new techniques, ingredients and influences.

**Howard, Joy.** [Tomato Love](#) (Storey \$14.95)

A mouthwatering collection of recipes for tomato lovers, featuring a combination of familiar favorites and new flavor combinations, with a photograph of every recipe and options for using either fresh-picked or canned tomatoes for year-long enjoyment.

**Mazzeo, Tilar J.** [Sisters in Resistance](#) (Grand Central \$30)

This real-life thriller, bringing to life a little-known moment in history, follows three daring women—a Fascist's daughter, a German spy and an American socialite—as they, in 1944, risked their lives to ensure one of the most important documents of WWII reached the allies.

**Padilla, Antonio.** [Fantastic Numbers and Where to Find Them](#) (Farrar \$30)

A leading theoretical physicist and cosmologist explores the most extraordinary numbers in physics and how they can help us better understand mind-boggling phenomena as black holes and relativity. Now that you have developed your Second Brain, see Forte's book above, you are ready to comprehend this.