

# Midmonth BookNotes

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## Cool Reading for Hot Times

### Cozy Corner

**Carlisle, Kate.** [The Paper Caper](#) (Penguin \$27)

Brooklyn Wainwright is excited to be included in the Covington Library's first annual Mark Twain Festival. She'll rebind a rare first edition of *The Prince and the Pauper* before an enthusiastic audience of book nerds--her favorite people. The centerpiece of the festival is a citywide contest based on *The Prince and the Pauper* in which one lucky look-alike will trade places with Joseph Cabot, the wealthy media mogul and book lover behind the festival, for a few days--with access to all his money and power. However, when someone is mysteriously poisoned right before Brooklyn's eyes, she and her husband Derek must frantically chase clues and suspects through the streets of San Francisco before another murder becomes front-page news.

**Chow, Jennifer.** [Death by Bubble Tea](#) (Penguin \$8.99)

Yale Lee hasn't cooked in years, but because she's just lost her job at her local bookstore, Yale feels she has no choice but to agree to run a food stall with her social media savvy cousin Celine at the Eastwood Village Night Market. Yale and Celine serve small dishes and refreshing drinks, and while business is slow, it eventually picks up thanks to Celine's surprisingly useful marketing ideas. Their bubble tea, in particular, is a surprising hit until one of their customers turns up dead.

**Delaney, Vicki.** [Murder Spills the Tea](#) (Kensington \$26)

The country's hottest TV cooking show is coming to Cape Cod. And against her better judgment, Lily Roberts is entering *America Bakes!* with her charming tearoom, Tea by the Sea. Filming is already proving disruptive, closing the tearoom during Lily's busiest season. But tensions really bubble over when infamous bad-boy chef and celebrity judge, Tommy Greene, loses his temper with Lily's staff, resulting in an on-camera blowup. Just as Lily thinks the competition can't get more bitter, Tommy is found dead in Tea by the Sea's kitchen . . . murdered with Lily's rolling pin.

**Hannah, Darci.** [Murder at the Blueberry Festival](#) (Kensington \$8.99)

After a career on Wall Street, Lindsey Bakewell is making a different kind of dough in a pretty lakeside village, and the upcoming blueberry festival--including the pie-eating contest her bakery is hosting--is the highlight of the summer. But soon Beacon Harbor runs into a patch of trouble. A local real estate agent gets pranked. A parade float gets pelted with water balloons. It's all laughed off until the stunts start escalating and a man--dressed up as a Viking--is found dead in a boat. Now it's no longer just mischief but murder.

**Hawkins, Jennifer.** [A Cold Nose for Murder](#) (Penguin \$8.99)

When Emma Reed moved to the Cornish village of Trevena, she was looking forward to making new friends, opening up a small tea shop, and taking plenty of brisk walks with her talking dog, Oliver. But when a valuable motorcycle and an old skeleton are found together under the local pub, Emma's antique dealing friends David and Charles become prime suspects in a forty year old mystery. Now in order to save their friends, Emma and Oliver will need to dig deep and find the real killer.

**Reilly, Linda.** [No Parm No Foul](#) (Sourcebooks \$8.99)

The upcoming Halloween food competition in Balsam Dell is the perfect way for Carly Hale to impress the locals with her gourmet grilled cheese sandwiches. But Ferris Menard, the owner of Sub-a-Dub-Sub, is nursing a serious grudge against Carly. So, when Menard's body is found in his kitchen the morning after the competition, a steak knife sticking out of his heart, guess who becomes the police's number one suspect?

**Sanders, Angela M.** [Witch and Famous](#) (Kensington \$8.99)

Josie and all of Wilfred are buzzing with excitement. A-list movie star Daphne Morris has chosen to interview Roz, assistant librarian and novelist, for her book club. However, at a party to celebrate the interview, Daphne's personal chef is found dead in a scene that all too closely echoes one in Roz's novel. It's clear to Josie that someone's idea of a happy ending means framing her friend. Now Josie will have to read between the lines with the help of the library's enchanted stacks, guidance from her magical grandmother's letters, and her cat familiar, Rodney, to solve this murder before someone decides to stage a deadly sequel.

## Old Wine in New Casks

This summer Vintage Crime/Black Lizard is treating a selection of crime fiction titles to the star treatment as part of their special new Anniversary Edition program. In addition to an elegant new look, each title also includes a special introduction by James Ellroy.

**Cain, James M.** [The Postman Always Rings Twice](#) (Vintage \$16)

When Frank, an amoral young drifter, gets thrown off a hay truck in the California desert, he ends up at a diner run by Cora and her inconvenient husband, Nick. This chance meeting puts them all on a sure path to perdition.

**Chandler, Raymond.** [The Big Sleep](#) (Vintage \$16)

A dying millionaire hires private eye Philip Marlowe to handle the blackmailer of one of his two troublesome daughters, and Marlowe finds himself involved with more than extortion.

**Hammett, Dashiell.** [The Maltese Falcon](#) (Vintage \$16)

A treasure worth killing for. Sam Spade, a slightly shopworn private eye with his own solitary code of ethics. A perfumed grafter named Joel Cairo, a fat man name Gutman, and Brigid O'Shaughnessy, a beautiful and treacherous woman whose loyalties shift at the drop of a dime. These are the ingredients of Dashiell Hammett's iconic, influential, and beloved *The Maltese Falcon*

**Himes, Chester.** [A Rage in Harlem](#) (Vintage \$16)

For love of fine, wily Imabelle, hapless Jackson surrenders his life savings to a con man who knows the secret of turning ten-dollar bills into hundreds--and then he steals from his boss, only to lose the stolen money at a craps table. Luckily for him, he can turn to his savvy twin brother, Goldy, who earns a living--disguised as a Sister of Mercy--by selling tickets to Heaven in Harlem. With Goldy on his side, Jackson is ready for payback

**Kirino, Natsuo.** [Out](#) (Vintage \$18)

A young mother who works the night shift making boxed lunches strangles her abusive husband and then seeks the help of her coworkers to dispose of the body and cover up her crime. The coolly intelligent Masako emerges as the plot's ringleader but quickly discovers that this killing is merely the beginning, as it leads to a terrifying foray into the violent underbelly of Japanese society.

**MacDonald, Ross.** [The Chill](#) (Vintage \$16)

A distraught young man hires private investigator Lew Archer to track down his runaway bride. But no sooner has he found Dolly Kincaid than Archer finds

himself entangled in two murders, one twenty years old, the other so recent that the blood is still wet.

**Nesbo, Jo.** [The Son](#) (Vintage \$18)

Sonny Lofthus has been in prison for almost half his life: serving time for crimes he didn't commit. In exchange, he gets an uninterrupted supply of heroin--and a stream of fellow prisoners seeking his Buddha-like absolution. Years earlier Sonny's father, a corrupt cop, took his own life rather than face exposure. When Sonny discovers a shocking truth about his father's suicide, he makes a brilliant escape and begins hunting down the people responsible.

**Rendell, Ruth.** [A Judgement in Stone](#) (Vintage \$16)

On Valentine's Day, four members of the Coverdale family were murdered in the space of fifteen minutes. Their housekeeper, Eunice Parchman, shot them one by one in the blue light of a televised performance of *Don Giovanni*. When the police arrest Miss Parchman two weeks later, they discover a second tragedy: the key to the Valentine's Day massacre, a private humiliation Eunice Parchman has guarded all her life.

## Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

**Aksel, Amanda.** [No Funny Business](#) (Penguin \$17)

Olivia Vincent dreams of stand-up comedy stardom. Determined to pursue her dreams, she snags an audition in Los Angeles for a coveted spot on late-night TV. But the only way to get there is to join Nick Leto, a seasoned stand-up, on a cross-country road tour. Olivia agrees to travel with Nick on one condition--no funny business!

**Alexander, Poppy.** [The Littlest Library](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

When her beloved grandmother passes away and she loses her job at the local library, Jess Metcalf's life is turned upside down. Determined to pick up the pieces, Jess decides it's time for a new beginning. Unable to part with her grandmother's cherished books, she packs them all up and moves to a tiny cottage in the English countryside. To her surprise, Jess discovers that she's now the owner of an old red phone box that was left on the property. Missing her job at the local library, Jess decides to give back to her new community--using her grandmother's collection to turn the ordinary phone box into the littlest library in

England.

**Arlen, Tessa.** [A Dress of Violet Taffeta](#) (Penguin \$17)

Forced to divorce her spendthrift, unfaithful husband Lucy Duff Gordon faces a bleak future with an aging mother and her five-year-old daughter to support. Desperate to survive financially, Lucy turns to her one true talent to make a living. As a little girl, the dresses she made for her dolls were the envy of her group of playmates. Now, she uses her creative designs and her remarkable eye for color to take her place in the fashion world. Historical mystery writer Arlen branched out into historical fiction last year with the marvelous *In Royal Service to the Queen*, and now she is back with another immersive, ingeniously crafted book that celebrates the life and art of the Edwardian couturier behind the wildly successful brand known as Lucile, Ltd. Anyone old enough to remember that marvelous old BBC series *The House of Worth* or those who miss *Downton Abbey* (yes, this year's movie was terrific) can't afford to pass on Arlen's latest impeccably crafted book.

**Babalola, Bolu.** [Honey and Spice](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)

As an expert in relationship-evasion and the host of the popular student radio show *Brown Sugar*, Kiki Banjo has made it her mission to make sure the women of the African-Caribbean Society at Whitewell University do not fall into the mess of 'situationships,' players, and heartbreak. But when the Queen of the Unbothered kisses Malakai Korede, the guy she just publicly denounced as The Wasteman of Whitewell, in front of every Blackwellian on campus, she finds her show on the brink. Now Kiki and Malakai find themselves embroiled in a fake relationship to try and salvage their reputations and save their futures.

**Buck, J.L.** [Dead Betray None](#) (Camel Press \$16.95)

Lucien, Viscount Ware, returns home to England after four years on the Continent as a spy for England, but boredom prompts Lucien to secretly return to work for the Crown. While attending a house party in the country, Lucien discovers that one of the items stolen in break-in is a French cipher, which could be the key to cracking Napoleon's war codes. As Lucien follows the trail left behind by the thieves, he finds his path crossing that of the lovely Lady Anne Ashburn, who may prove to be more help than hindrance to Lucien in his search for the French cipher.

**Burian, Nataalka.** [The Night Shift](#) (Park Row \$26.99)  
Hidden behind back doors of bars and restaurants and theaters and shops all over New York City are shortcuts--secret passageways that allow you to jump through time and space to emerge in different parts of the city. No one knows where they came from, but there are rules--you can only travel through them one way and only at night. When Jean's work friend Iggy introduces her to the shortcuts, it's to help shorten her commute between her night shifts bartending and her work at an upscale bakery. When Iggy goes missing, Jean believes it's related to the shortcuts and his growing obsession with them. But as she starts digging into their origins, she comes to find a strange connection between herself and the shortcuts.

**Byrd, Sandra.** [Heirlooms](#) (Tyndale \$15.99)  
After losing her mother, Cassidy Quinn spent her childhood summers with her gran, Helen, at her farmhouse. Nourished by her grandmother's love and encouragement, Cassidy discovers a passion that she hopes will bloom into a career. But after Helen passes, Cassidy learns that her home and garden have fallen into serious disrepair. Worse, a looming tax debt threatens her inheritance. Cassidy soon discovers that she has not only inherited the family home but a task from her grandmother that not only unearths a long-held family secret, but will reshape Cassidy's future as well.

**Cambron, Kristy.** [The Italian Ballerina](#) (Thomas Nelson \$16.99)  
With the fall of Italy's Fascist government and the Nazi regime occupying the streets of Rome, British ballerina Julia Bradbury is stranded and forced to take refuge at a hospital on Tiber Island. But when she learns of a deadly sickness sweeping through the quarantine wards--a fake disease known only as Syndrome K--she is drawn into one of the greatest cons in history. Delaney Coleman recently lost her grandfather--a beloved small-town doctor and World War II veteran, so she returns home to help her aging parents. When a mysterious Italian woman reaches out claiming to own one of the family's precious heirlooms, Delaney feels compelled to travel to Italy and uncover the truth of her grandfather's hidden past.

**Center, Katherine.** [The Bodyguard](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)  
Hannah Brooks looks more like a kindergarten teach-

er than somebody who could kill you with a wine bottle opener. Or a ballpoint pen. Or a dinner napkin. But the truth is, she's an Executive Protection Agent (aka bodyguard), and she just got hired to protect superstar actor Jack Stapleton. When Jack's mom gets sick, he comes home to the family's Texas ranch to help out. Only one catch: He doesn't want his family to know about his stalker. Or the bodyguard thing. And so Hannah--against her will *and* her better judgment--finds herself pretending to be Jack's girlfriend as a cover. What could possibly go wrong?

**Chase, Eva.** [The Birdcage](#) (Penguin \$27)  
When half-sisters Kat, Flora, and Lauren are unexpectedly summoned to Rock Point, their wild and remote Cornish summer home, it's not a welcome invitation. They haven't been back since that fateful summer twenty years ago--a summer they're desperate to forget. But when they arrive, it's clear they're not alone. Someone is lurking in the shadows, watching their every move. Someone who remembers exactly what they did.

**Chiaverini, Jennifer.** [Switchboard Soldiers](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)  
In June 1917, General John Pershing arrived in France to establish American forces in Europe. He immediately found himself unable to communicate with troops in the field. Pershing needed operators who could swiftly and accurately connect multiple calls, speak fluent French and English, remain steady under fire, and be utterly discreet, since the calls often conveyed classified information. At the time, nearly all well-trained American telephone operators were women--but women were not permitted to enlist, or even to vote in most states. Nevertheless, the U.S. Army Signal Corps promptly began recruiting them. Chiaverini tells the story of these brave women through the viewpoints of three different characters: Grace Banker of New Jersey, a switchboard instructor with AT&T and an alumna of Barnard College; Marie Miossec, a Frenchwoman and aspiring opera singer; and Valerie DeSmedt, a twenty-year-old Pacific Telephone operator from Los Angeles, determined to strike a blow for her native Belgium.

**Christie, Annette.** [The Rehearsals](#) (Little Brown \$16.99)  
Megan Givens and Tom Prescott are heading into what is supposed to be their magical wedding week-end on beautiful San Juan Island. But with two dif-

ficult families, ten years of history, and all too many secrets, things quickly go wrong. After a disastrous rehearsal dinner they vow to call the whole thing off--only to wake up the next morning stuck together in a time loop. Are they really destined to relive the worst day of their lives, over and over? And what happens if their wedding day *does* arrive? Think *Groundhog Day* meets *People We Meet on Vacation*.

**Dell'Antonia, KJ.** [In Her Boots](#) (Penguin \$17)

It turns out that Thomas Wolfe was wrong. You can go home again. Rhett Gallagher just isn't sure she wants to. After leaving nearly two decades ago, Rhett arrives back in Vermont to take over her family's farm after the death of beloved grandma only to find she now shares ownership of the Pioneer Hill with her estranged mother Margaret, who has already made plans to sell the farm. If that wasn't enough of a headache for Rhett, her mother has no idea that Rhett is also the real author of *The Modern Pioneer Girl's Guide to Life*, a best-selling memoir, whose espoused philosophy flies directly in the face of what Margaret, a no-nonsense university president, has been telling her students for years. Now, can Rhett, with some help from her best friend Jasmine, reach a détente with her mother vis a vis the future of Pioneer Hill? Or, is it every woman for herself? This witty, warm, and wise look at relationships – those between mothers and daughters, life-long friends, members of a community, and even first loves – will resonate with many readers.

**Fischer, Nan.** [Some of It Was Real](#) (Penguin \$17)

Psychic-medium Sylvie Young starts every show with her origin story, telling the audience how she discovered her abilities. But she leaves out a lot--the plane crash that killed her parents, an estranged adoptive family who tend orchards in rainy Oregon, and panic attacks. After a catastrophic reporting error, Thomas Holmes's next story at the *L.A. Times* may be his last, but he's got a great personal pitch. "Grief vampires" like Sylvie who prey upon the loved ones of the deceased. Thomas is certain this article will resurrect his career. However, when Sylvie and Thomas meet, a game of cat and mouse ensues, but the secrets they're keeping from each other are nothing compared to the mysteries and lies they unearth about Sylvie's past.

**Forsyth, Kate.** [The Crimson Thread](#) (Blackstone \$27.99)

In Crete during World War II, Alenka, a young woman who fights with the resistance against the brutal Nazi occupation, finds herself caught between her traitor of a brother and the man she loves, an undercover agent working for the Allies. As Crete suffers under the Nazi jackboot, Alenka must choose whom to trust and whom to love and, in the end, whom to save.

**Gailey, Sarah.** [Just Like Home](#) (Tom Doherty \$26.99)

"Come home." Vera's mother called and Vera obeyed. In spite of their long estrangement, in spite of the memories -- she's come back to the home of a serial killer. Back to face the love she had for her father and the bodies he buried there, beneath the house he'd built for his family. Coming home is hard enough for Vera, and to make things worse, she and her mother aren't alone. A parasitic artist has moved into the guest house out back and is slowly stripping Vera's childhood for spare parts. He insists that he isn't the one leaving notes around the house in her father's handwriting... but who else could it possibly be? Gailey latest ingeniously inventive, genre-blurred novel is perfect for fans of Netflix's *The Haunting of Hill House* as well as HBO's true crime masterpiece *I'll Be Gone in the Dark*.

**Gallico, Paul.** [Mrs. Harris Goes to Paris & Mrs. Harris Goes to New York](#) (Bloomsbury \$18)

Mrs. Harris is a salt-of-the-earth London charlady who cheerfully cleans the houses of the rich. One day, when tidying Lady Dant's wardrobe, she comes across the most beautiful thing she has ever seen in her life--a Dior dress. In all the years of her drab and humble existence, she's never seen anything as magical as the dress before her and she's never wanted anything as much before. Determined to make her dream come true, Mrs. Harris scrimps, saves and slaves away until one day, after three long, uncomplaining years, she finally has enough money to go to Paris. Gallico's charming, heart-warming classic novel is back in print – along with its follow-up in which Mrs. Harris travels to the Big Apple – as a tie-in the new motion picture starring Lesley Manville and Isabelle Huppert. Feel-good fiction of the finest caliber.

**Giglio, Juliet and Keith Giglio.** [The Summer of Christmas](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

Screenwriter Ivy Green can only watch as her life is

turned upside down. Her movie script, based on her love story with her high school sweetheart Nick, is being filmed in her hometown! Now back home, Ivy is forced to face Nick for the first time since he broke her heart. To complicate matters, Ivy isn't sure of her relationship with the producer, the town is overflowing with movie stars and adoring fans, and worst of all—the actress playing Ivy develops a crush on the real Nick! Now, with renewed and confusing feelings about Nick, Ivy is determined to see if there is anything left between them, but in the end, Ivy will need to re-write her life script to get back everything she thought she lost?

**Glass, Ava.** [Alias Emma](#) (Random House \$27)  
Nothing about Emma Makepeace is real. Not even her name. A newly-minted secret agent, Emma's barely graduated from basic training when she gets the call for her first major assignment. Emma must covertly travel across one of the world's most watched cities to bring the reluctant—and handsome—son of Russian dissidents into protective custody, so long as the assassins from the Motherland don't find him first.

**Goodman, Carol.** [The Disinvited Guest](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)  
Lucy Harper still has traumatic memories and lingering health problems from the 2020 pandemic. So, when a new virus surfaces years later, she and her husband, Reed, seek refuge on his family's private island off the coast of Maine. Ostensibly safely sequestered with their five closest friends and family, Lucy should feel at ease. So why does she feel the weight of the island's dark history pushing down on the group? Mary Higgins Clark award-winning Goodman puts her own eerie stamp on the currently popular trapped in an isolated location with a killer brand of suspense.

**Hare, Louise.** [Miss Aldridge Regrets](#) (Penguin \$27)  
The dazzling theatre career Lena Aldridge hoped for hasn't worked out. Instead, she's stuck singing in a sticky-floored basement club in Soho and her married lover has just dumped her. But Lena has always had a complicated life, one shrouded in mystery as a mixed-race girl passing for white, in a city unforgiving of her true racial heritage. She has nothing to look forward to—until a stranger offers her the chance of a lifetime: a starring role on Broadway and a first-class ticket on the Queen Mary bound for New York. After a murder

at the club, the timing couldn't be better, and Lena jumps at the chance to escape England. But death follows her onboard when an obscenely wealthy family draws her into their fold just as one among them is killed in a chillingly familiar way.

**Hart, Alison B.** [The Work Wife](#) (Graydon House \$27.99)  
Zanne Klein never planned to be a personal assistant to Hollywood royalty Ted and Holly Stabler. But a decade in at thirty-eight, that's exactly how she spends her days, earning six figures to make sure the movie mogul and his family have everything they could ever dream of and more. However, today is no ordinary day at the Stabler estate. Tonight, everyone who's anyone will be there for the Hollywood event of the season, and if the party's a success, that chief of staff job Zanne's been chasing may soon be hers. Nothing's going to get in Zanne's way—not disgruntled staff, not a nosy reporter, not even a runaway hostess. But when Ted's former business partner, Phoebe Lee, unexpectedly shows up right before go time, Zanne suddenly has a catastrophe unfolding before her—one with explosive consequences.

**Hayes-McCoy, Felicity.** [The Heart of Summer](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)  
On the Finfarran Peninsula, Hanna Casey is looking forward to al fresco lunches with friends and balmy evenings with her boyfriend Brian in their stunning new home in beautiful Hag's Glen. With a painful divorce behind her and family drama finally settled, Hanna begins to plan a romantic holiday getaway for the two of them. But life takes a turn when Brian's adult son suddenly moves in and Hanna unexpectedly runs into Amy, a former flatmate from Hanna's twenties in London. Reminded of her youth—and all the dreams and hopes she once had—Hanna begins to wonder if everything she now has is enough.

**Hockman, Angie.** [Dream On](#) (Gallery \$16.99)  
When law grad Cass Walker wakes up after surviving a car accident, she is flooded with memories of a man named Devin. The only problem? Devin—as confirmed by family, friends, and doctors—doesn't exist. So when she happens upon the *real* Devin a year later in a Cleveland flower shop, Cass is completely shocked. Even more surprising is that Devin actually believes her story, and despite his protective younger brother's doubts, they soon embark on a real-life romance. With her dream man by her side and a

new job at a prestigious law firm, Cass's future seems perfect. But fate might have other plans.

**Irwin, Sophie.** [A Lady's Guide to Fortune Hunting](#) (Penguin \$27)

Kitty Talbot needs a fortune. Or rather, she needs a husband who has a fortune. Left with her father's massive debts, she has only twelve weeks to save her family from ruin. Kitty has never been one to back down from a challenge, so she leaves home and heads toward the most dangerous battleground in all of England: the London season. Kitty may be neither accomplished nor especially genteel-but she is utterly single-minded; imbued with cunning and ingenuity, she knows that risk is just part of the game. The only thing she doesn't anticipate is Lord Radcliffe.

**Jackson, Danielle.** [The Accidental Pinup](#) (Penguin \$17)

Photographer Cassie Harris loves her job-her company, Buxom Boudoir, makes people look beautiful and feel empowered with her modern twist on classic pinup photography. Cassie's best friend, Dana, is about to launch her own lingerie line and wants Cassie to shoot and direct the career-changing national campaign. But company politics and Dana's complicated pregnancy interfere, and Cassie finds herself-a proud plus-size Black woman-not behind the camera but in front of it. Though she's never modeled herself, Cassie's pretty sure she can handle the sheer underwear and caution-tape bralettes. She's not sure she can work so intimately with the chosen photographer, her longtime competitor in the Chicago photography scene, Reid Montgomery.

**Jackson, Kwana.** [Knot Again](#) (Penguin \$17)

Hoping to attract more customers to his family's knitting shop, Lucas Strong participated in an FDNY charity calendar and accidentally became a local celebrity. Now the only place he can find solace is Scrubs-a 24/7 laundromat where he can disappear for a couple of hours. But Lucas's soapy sanctuary is shaken by an inquisitive little girl with a late-night interest in knitting whose mother is his old school crush: Sidney Harris-Hughes.

**Jackson-Brown, Angela.** [The Light Always Breaks](#) (Harper Muse \$17.99)

As 1947 opens, Eva Cardon is the twenty-four-year-old owner of Washington, D.C.'s, most famous Black-owned restaurant. However, when her path

crosses with Courtland, a handsome white senator from Georgia, both find themselves drawn to one another--but the danger of a relationship between a Black woman and a white man from the South could destroy them and everything they've worked for.

**James, Holly.** [Nothing but the Truth](#) (Penguin \$17)

It's the eve of Hollywood publicist Lucy Green's thirtieth birthday, a day she hopes will bring the promotion she deserves and a proposal from her boyfriend. But he stands her up for a date, not for the first time, leaving Lucy alone at the bar--or at least, alone with the handsome bartender on the other side of the counter--so she makes a rueful wish over her cocktail for a perfect birthday. But when Lucy's wish is granted in the most unexpected way, things go terribly awry, as things often do when wishes come true. Now Lucy can no longer lie to herself, she can't lie to anyone else, either.

**Johnson, Josephine.** [Now in November](#) (Scribner \$18)

Published when Josephine Johnson was only twenty-four years old, *Now in November* made Johnson the youngest ever winner of the Pulitzer Prize in 1935. Johnson's novel is a beautifully told account of one farming family's challenges to scrape by and earn a living from mortgaged land over the course of a single year, narrated by one of three sisters--the introspective and thoughtful Margaret. As the household is ravaged by Depression-era hardship and the environmental blights of the Dust Bowl, the family's unique vulnerabilities are pushed to a breaking point. *Now in November* is strikingly ahead of its time, grappling with questions of mental health, worker's rights, as well as gender, race, and class and is ready to be rediscovered by a new generation of readers.

**La Rosa, Erin.** [For Butter or Worse](#) (HQN \$15.99)

All chef Nina Lyon wants is to make a name for herself in the culinary world and inspire young women everywhere to do the same. Now, as co-host of the competitive reality TV series *The Next Cooking Champ!*, she finally has a real shot at being top tier in the foodie scene. Too bad her co-host happens to be Hollywood's sexiest jerk: restaurateur Leo O'Donnell.

**Lee, Jayci.** [Booked on a Feeling](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Lizzy "Overachiever" Chung, Esq. has her life mapped out neatly: \* Become a lawyer. Check. \* Join a pres-

tigious law firm. Check. \* Make partner. In progress. If all goes to plan, she will check off that last box in a couple years, make her parents proud, and live a successful, fulfilled life in L.A. What was not in her plans was passing out from a panic attack during a pivotal moment in her career. A few deep breaths and a four hour drive later, Lizzy is in Weldon for three weeks to shed the burnout and figure out what went wrong. And what better place to recharge than the small California town where she spent her childhood summers with her best friend, Jack Park. So, when Lizzy decides that the local bookstore needs a little revamp, of course, Jack is going to help her bring it back to life. But the more time they spend together, the harder it becomes to ignore there might be more than just friendship among the dusty shelves and books.

**Macomber, Debbie.** [The Best Is Yet to Come](#) (Random \$28)

A new beginning in charming Oceanside, Washington, is exactly what Hope Godwin needs after the death of her twin brother. However, after settling quickly into the community, Hope still feels something is still missing. That is, until her landlords convince her to volunteer at their animal shelter. There she meets Shadow, a rescue dog that everyone has given up on. But true to her name, Hope believes he's worth saving. Like Shadow, shelter volunteer Cade Lincoln Jr. is suffering with injuries most can't see. A wounded ex-marine, Cade identifies with Shadow, assuming they are both beyond help. Hope senses that what they each need is someone to believe in them, and she has a lot of love to give.

**Marra, Anthony.** [Mercury Pictures Presents](#) (Random \$28.99)

Born in Rome, where every Sunday her father took her to the cinema instead of church, Maria Lagana immigrates with her mother to Los Angeles after a childhood transgression leads to her father's arrest. Fifteen years later, on the eve of America's entry into World War II, Maria is an associate producer at Mercury Pictures, trying to keep her personal and professional lives from falling apart. Over the coming months, Mercury Pictures becomes a nexus of European émigrés: modernist poets trying their luck as B-movie screenwriters, once-celebrated architects becoming scale-model miniaturists, and refugee actors finding work playing the very villains they fled. While the world descends into war, Maria rises

through a maze of conflicting politics, divided loyalties, and jockeying ambitions. But when the arrival of a stranger from her father's past threatens Maria's carefully constructed facade, she must finally confront her father's fate--and her own.

**Martin, Madeline.** [The Librarian Spy](#) (Hanover Square \$16.99)

Ava thought her job as a librarian at the Library of Congress would mean a quiet, routine existence. But an unexpected offer from the US military has brought her to Lisbon with a new mission: posing as a librarian while working undercover as a spy gathering intelligence. Meanwhile, in occupied France, Elaine has begun an apprenticeship at a printing press run by members of the Resistance. It's a job usually reserved for men, but in the war, those rules have been forgotten. Yet she knows that the Nazis are searching for the press and its printer in order to silence them. As the battle in Europe rages, Ava and Elaine find themselves connecting through coded messages and discovering hope in the face of war. Martin's 2021 book [The Last Bookshop in London](#) (Hanover Square \$16.99) was one of the best things I have read in years. So, you can imagine how much I am anticipating her new historical novel.

**Mead, Tom.** [Death and the Conjuror](#) (WW Norton \$25.95)

In 1930s London, celebrity psychiatrist Anselm Rees is discovered dead in his locked study, and there seems to be no way that a killer could have escaped unseen. There are no clues, no witnesses, and no evidence of the murder weapon. Stumped by the confounding scene, the Scotland Yard detective on the case calls on retired stage magician-turned-part-time sleuth Joseph Spector. For who better to make sense of the impossible than one who traffics in illusions?

**Meadows, Foz.** [A Strange and Stubborn Endurance](#) (Tom Doherty \$27.99)

Velasin vin Aaro never planned to marry at all, let alone a girl from neighboring Tithena. When an ugly confrontation reveals his preference for men, Vel fears he's ruined the diplomatic union before it can even begin. But while his family is ready to disown him, the Tithenai envoy has a different solution: for Vel to marry his former intended's brother instead. Caethari Aeduria always knew he might end up in a political marriage, but his sudden betrothal to a man from Ralia, where such relationships are forbidden,



comes as a shock. With an unknown faction willing to kill to end their new alliance, Vel and Cae have no choice but to trust each other. Survival is one thing, but love--as both will learn--is quite another

**Mendez, Yamile Saied.** [Twice a Quinceanera](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

One month short of her wedding day--and her thirtieth birthday--Nadia Palacio finds herself standing up to her infuriating, cheating fiancé for the first time in . . . well, ever. But that same courage doesn't translate to breaking the news to her Argentinian family. She's hyperventilating before facing them when she glimpses a magazine piece about a Latina woman celebrating herself--with a second quinceañera, aka Sweet 15! And that gives Nadia a brilliant idea. With a wedding venue already paid for, and family from all over the world with plane tickets, Nadia is determined to create her own happily-ever-after.

**Miranda, Megan.** [The Last to Vanish](#) (Scribner \$26.99)

Ten years ago, Abigail Lovett fell into a job she loves, managing The Passage Inn, a cozy, upscale resort nestled in the North Carolina mountain town of Cutter's Pass. Cutter's Pass is best known for its outdoor offerings--rafting and hiking, with access to the Appalachian trail by way of a gorgeous waterfall--and its mysterious history. However, the string of unsolved disappearances that has haunted the town is once again thrust into the spotlight when journalist Landon West, who was staying at the inn to investigate the story of *the vanishing trail*, then disappears himself. When Landon's brother Trey shows up looking for answers, Abby is the one person willing to dig deeper into the dark secrets of the place she thinks of as home. Setting always plays a key role in Miranda's twisty, nerve-shredding brand of suspense, and her latest makes effective use of a seemingly cute and charming mountain town that successfully hides a deadly past.

**Monroe, Katrina.** [They Drown Our Daughters](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

They say Cape Disappointment is haunted. That's why tourists used to flock there in droves to visit the rocky shoreline and the creaky old lighthouse, fishing shells from the icy water as they pretended to spot dark shapes in the surf. But the tourists are gone now, and when Meredith Strand returns to her childhood home on the eve of her divorce, young

daughter in tow, the Cape seems more haunted by regret than any malevolent force. But her mother, suffering from Alzheimer's, is convinced the stories are real. Not only is there something in the water, but it's watching them. Waiting for them. Reaching out to Meredith's daughter the way it has to every woman in their line for generations--ready to reclaim what once was stolen.

**Montimore, Margarita.** [Acts of Violet](#) (Flatiron \$27.99)

Nearly a decade ago, iconic magician Violet Volk performed her greatest trick yet: vanishing mid-act. Though she hasn't been seen since, her hold on the public imagination is stronger than ever. While Violet sought out the spotlight, her sister Sasha always had to be the responsible one, taking over their mother's hair salon and building a quiet life for her beloved daughter, Quinn. But Sasha can never seem to escape her sister's orbit or her memories of their unresolved, tumultuous relationship. Then there's Cameron Frank, tapped to host a podcast devoted to all things Violet, who is determined to finally get his big break--even if he promised to land an exclusive interview with Sasha, the one person who definitely doesn't want to talk to him. As the ten-year anniversary approaches, the podcast picks up steam, and Cameron's pursuit of Sasha becomes increasingly intrusive. Pushed to her emotional limits, Sasha must finally confront the most painful truths about her sister, and herself, even at the risk of losing everything.

**O'Neal, Barbara.** [This Place of Wonder](#) (Amazon \$14.95)

When famous chef Augustus Beauvais dies suddenly, he leaves behind four women--an ex-wife, a girlfriend, an estranged daughter, and a stepdaughter--who must grapple with their feelings of anger and loss and find a way to move on with their lives.

**Pearse, Sarah.** [The Retreat](#) (Penguin \$27)

An idyllic wellness retreat has opened on an island off the English coast, promising rest and relaxation--but the island itself, known locally as Reaper's Rock, has a dark past. Once the playground of a serial killer, it's rumored to be cursed. When first one "accidental" death and then another occurs, Detective Elin Warner must find the killer--before the island's history starts to repeat itself.

**Poston, Ashley.** [The Dead Romantics](#) (Penguin \$17)  
Florence Day is the ghostwriter for one of the most prolific romance authors in the industry, and she has a problem: After a terrible breakup, she no longer believes in love. It's as good as dead. When her new editor won't give her an extension on her book deadline, Florence prepares to kiss her career goodbye. But then she gets a phone call she never wanted to receive, and she must return home for the first time in a decade to help her family bury her beloved father. Then Florence unexpectedly finds a ghost standing at the funeral parlor's front door, and he's just as confused about why he's there as she is. Romance is most certainly dead--but so is her new editor, and his unfinished business will have her second-guessing everything she's ever known about love stories

**Query, Matt and Harrison Query.** [Old Country](#) (Grand Central \$28)

Former marine Harry and his wife, Sasha, have packed up their life and their golden retriever, Dash, and fled the corporate rat race to live off the land in rural Idaho. Their breathtaking new home sits on more than forty acres of meadow, aspen trees, and Harry and Sasha couldn't be happier about the future they're building, all by their lonesome. That is, until their nearest neighbors, Dan and Lucy Steiner, come bearing more than housewarming gifts. Dan and Lucy warn Harry and Sasha of a malevolent spirit that lives in the valley, one that with every season will haunt them in fresh, ever-more-diabolical ways. At first, it seems like an old wives' tale. But when spring arrives, so does the first evil manifestation, challenging everything Harry and Sasha thought they knew about the world.

**Riley, Vanessa.** [Sister Mother Warrior](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)

Known for her marvelously diverse historical novels and historical romances, Vanessa Riley brings readers a vivid, sweeping novel of the Haitian Revolution based on the true-life stories of two extraordinary women: the first Empress of Haiti, Marie-Claire Bonheur, and Gran Toya, a West African-born warrior who helped lead the rebellion that drove out the French and freed the enslaved people of Haiti.

**Rose, Karen.** [Quarter to Midnight](#) (Penguin \$27)  
After completing her tours with the Marines in Iraq, Molly Sutton knew she could take down any bad guy she met. But when her law enforcement agency

in North Carolina turned against her, she joined up with her former CO Burke Broussard, who left New Orleans PD to set up a private investigative service for people who couldn't find justice elsewhere. Gabe Hebert saw the toll that working for the NOPD took on his dad and decided instead to make a name for himself as one of the best young chefs in the French Quarter. But when his father's death is ruled a suicide after a deliberately botched investigation by his former captain, Gabe knows his dad stumbled onto a truth that someone wants silenced. Gabe goes to his father's best friend, Burke, for help. Burke assigns the toughest member of his team, Molly, to the case.

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

Boxes packed and graduation gown on, Esme Nash is ready to sprint down the path to start her life: a move to New York City, an apartment with her loving college boyfriend, and a fancy job at an art gallery. But then tragedy strikes, and instead of heading to Manhattan, she returns home to care for her ailing father, leaving every bit of her dream behind. Seven years--and a lifetime--later, Esme is offered an opportunity to house-sit for a stranger while taking care of her dog and closetful of designer shoes in Greenwich Village for the month of August. She jumps at a second chance for the future that was meant to be hers. As Esme retraces the steps of her old life, one pair of borrowed shoes at a time, Esme must decide how much of the life she imagined still fits, and what--and who--is on the road ahead of her.

**Slaughter, Jodie.** [Bet on It](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

The first time Aja Owens encounters the man of her dreams, she's having a panic attack in the frozen foods section of the Piggly Wiggly. The second time, he's being introduced to her as her favorite bingo buddy's semi-estranged grandson Walker Abbot. From there, all it takes is one game for her to realize that he's definitely going to be a problem. And if there's anything she already has a surplus of, it's problems.

**Stanfill, Francesca.** [The Falcon's Eyes](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

Willful and outspoken, sixteen-year-old Isabelle yearns to escape her stifling life in provincial twelfth century France. The bane of her mother's existence, Isabelle admires the notorious queen most in her circle abhor: Eleanor of Aquitaine. Isabelle's arranged marriage to Gerard --- a rich, charismatic lord ob-

sessed with falcons --- seems, at first, to fulfill her longing for adventure. But as Gerard's controlling nature, and his consuming desire for a male heir, become more apparent, Isabelle, in the spirit of her royal heroine Eleanor, makes bold, often perilous, decisions which will forever affect her fate.

**Tieu, Julie.** [Circling Back to You](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)  
Cadence Lim has transformed from behind-the-scenes number cruncher to an integral part of the sales team at Prism Realty. But despite moving up the corporate ladder, her complicated relationship with her estranged elderly father weighs heavily and she can't seem to shake the desire for a new beginning. At least Cadence can always lean on her favorite co-worker and co-conspirator, Matt Escanilla. A top broker with an unsuccessful love life, the forever single Matt is constantly being nagged by his loving Filipino family to settle down. Their relationship takes a turn when a business trip lands them both in their hometown and Matt enlists Cadence as a pretend girlfriend for a family gathering.

**Tremblay, Paul.** [The Pallbearers Club](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)  
Art Barbara was so not cool. He was a seventeen-year-old high school loner in the late 1980s who listened to hair metal, had to wear a monstrous back-brace at night for his scoliosis, and started an extracurricular club for volunteer pallbearers at poorly attended funerals. But his new friend thought the Pallbearers Club was cool. And she brought along her Polaroid camera to take pictures of the corpses. Okay, that part was a little weird. So was her obsessive knowledge of a notorious bit of New England folklore that involved digging up the dead. And there were other strange things - terrifying things - that happened when she was around, usually at night. But she was his friend, so it was okay, right? Decades later, Art tries to make sense of it all by writing *The Pallbearers Club: A Memoir*. But somehow this friend got her hands on the manuscript and, well, she has some issues with it. And now she's making cuts. Here is what *Library Journal* says: "*The Pallbearer's Club* is Tremblay's take on the coming-of-age, small-town horror first made popular by Stephen King, but instead of doubling down on tradition, Tremblay has transformed this foundational trope into something so new and original that it elevates the entire genre."

**Van Dyken, Rachel.** [The Godparent Trap](#) (Grand Central \$15.99)

Colby's living her best life: as a popular food blogger, she gets to fulfill her dreams of exploring the globe. But her world comes crashing down when a tragic accident leaves her co-guardian of her best friend's two adorable children. Accountant-extraordinaire Rip values rules and plans. But when he loses his sister and his best friend and becomes an insta-guardian all in one night, Rip sees his organized life imploding. Rip doesn't trust Colby to take their new responsibilities seriously, while Colby can't believe Rip thinks children will thrive under his rigid control. Yet soon Rip and Colby discover they need each other more than they hate each other. Could it be possible that following their hearts is just what their new little family needs?

**Ware, Ruth.** *The* (Gallery \$28.99)

April Clarke-Cliveden was the first person Hannah Jones met at Oxford. Vivacious, bright, occasionally vicious, and the ultimate It girl, she quickly pulled Hannah into her dazzling orbit. Together, they developed a group of devoted and inseparable friends--Will, Hugh, Ryan, and Emily--during their first term. By the end of the year, April was dead. Now, a decade later, Hannah and Will are expecting their first child, and the man convicted of killing April, former Oxford porter John Neville, has died in prison. Relieved to have finally put the past behind her, Hannah's world is rocked when a young journalist comes knocking and presents new evidence that Neville may have been innocent. Ware delivers another Christie-worthy mystery complete with an Oxford setting Dorothy L. Sayers would applaud. Like Christie, Ware is a magician when it comes to slipping in seemingly innocuous little clues to the killer's identity all the while distracting readers with her literary sleight of hand. Don't take just my word on it. Ware's latest has racked up two starred reviews including one from *PW*, which concluded "Alternating past and present chapters build toward a gripping denouement as nicely chosen details bring each character vividly to life. This showcases Ware's gifts to the fullest."

**Webber, Heather.** [In the Middle of Hickory Lane](#) (Tom Doherty \$26.99)

Emme Wynn has wanted nothing more her whole life than to feel like part of a family. When her estranged grandmother tracks her down out of the blue and extends a job offer--helping to run her booth at

an open-air marketplace in small-town Sweetgrass, Alabama--Emme is hopeful that she'll finally be able to plant the roots she's always dreamed of. Cora Bee Hazelton has her hands full with volunteering, gardening, her job as a color consultant and designer, and just about anything she can do to keep her mind off her painful past, a past that has resulted in her holding most everyone at arm's length. In the magical neighborhood garden in the middle of Hickory Lane, Emme and Cora Bee learn some hard truths about the past and themselves, the value of friends, family, and community, and most importantly, that true growth starts from within.

**Wynne, Phoebe.** [The Ruins](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99) Ruby Ashby adores her parents' house in France, but this August, everything feels different. Unexpected guests have descended upon the chateau--friends of her parents, and their daughters--and they are keen to enjoy the hot, extravagant summer holiday to its fullest potential. But despite languid days spent poolside and long nights spent drinking, a simmering tension is growing between the families, and the sanctuary that Ruby cherishes soon starts to feel like a gilded cage. Over two decades later, a young widow has returned to France, wanting to purchase the chateau, despite her shocking memories of what transpired that fateful summer. But there is another person who is equally haunted by the chateau, and who also seeks to reclaim it. Who will set the chateau free--and who will become yet another of its victims?

## Teen Fiction

**Abe, Julie.** [The Charmed List](#) (St. Martin's \$18.99) Sixteen-year-old Ellie's summer plans to shed her wallflower persona are upended when she is forced to go on a road trip to the Magical Retailers' Convention with her former best friend Jack, but what starts out as a punishment turns into an opportunity to find forgiveness and possibly love.

**Ernshaw, Shea.** [Long Live the Pumpkin Queen](#) (Disney \$18.99) Sally Skellington is the official, newly-minted Pumpkin Queen of Halloween Town after a whirlwind courtship with her true love, Jack, who Sally adores with every inch of her fabric seams. Cast into the spotlight and tasked with all sorts of queenly duties, Sally can't help but wonder if all she's done is trade her captivity under Dr. Finkelstein for a different cage. But when Sally

and Zero accidentally uncover a long-hidden doorway to an ancient realm called Dream Town, she'll unknowingly set into motion a chain of sinister events that put her future as Pumpkin Queen, and the future of Halloween Town itself, into jeopardy.

**Goodman, Jessica.** [The Counselors](#) (Penguin \$17.99) After a traumatic school year, camp counselor Goldie Easton is excited to reunite with her two best friends at an elite summer camp, but when a local boy is found dead on the grounds, all three must reveal a dark secret to find the murderer. "A candid first-person narration alternates between past and present, interweaving summer hijinks with more serious fare, building a cast of intelligent, funny, young women and a setting that offers many pleasures of the camp-thriller subgenre." (*PW*) Who knew there was a camp-thriller subgenre?

**Harrison, Margot.** [We Made It All Up](#) (Little Brown \$17.99) Celeste is the talk of the town when she moves to Montana from Montreal, but the only friend she makes is Vivvy, the heir to the town's founder and a social pariah. Inspired by a passion-fueled school incident, they begin writing a love-story fanfic between the popular guy and the school stoner, one that gradually reveals Celeste's past. However, when the two finally try, one drunken night on a dark mountainside to turn their fanfic into reality, Celeste is the one who ends up kissing golden boy Joss. And then Joss ends up dead.

**Kaylor, Serena.** [Long Story Short](#) (St. Martin's \$18.99) Growing up homeschooled in Berkeley, California, Beatrice Quinn always thought the hardest part about enrolling at Oxford University would be getting in, not convincing her parents to let her go. But while math has always made sense to Beatrice, making friends is a problem she hasn't been able to solve. Before her parents will send her halfway across the world, she has to prove she won't spend the next four years hiding in the library. The compromise: the Connecticut Shakespearean Summer Academy and a detailed list of teenage milestones to check off. If Beatrice wants to live out her Oxford dream, she has to survive six weeks in the role of "normal teenager" first.

**Williams, Kate.** [Never Coming Home](#) Ten teen influencers arrive on Unknown Island expecting to find a tropical paradise, but instead they

discover a deserted resort, poisonous snakes, and secrets worth killing for. "Social media has never been this scary" in this teen makeover of Agatha Christie's fiendishly clever classic.

## Nonfiction

**Reginato, James.** [Growing Up Getty](#) (Gallery \$28)  
Oil magnate J. Paul Getty, once the richest man in the world, is the patriarch of an extraordinary cast of sons, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. While some have been brought low by mental illness, drug addiction, and one of the most sensational kidnapping cases of the 20th century, many of Getty's heirs have achieved great success. Now, across four continents, a new generation of lively, unique, and even outrageous Gettys are emerging, and not coasting on the dynasty's still-immense wealth. Through extensive research, including access to J. Paul Getty's diaries and love letters, and fresh interviews with family members and friends, *Growing Up Getty* offers an inside look into the benefits and burdens of being part of today's world of the ultra-wealthy.

**Risbridger, Ella.** [The Year of Miracles](#) (Bloomsbury \$30)  
In Ella Risbridger's first book *Midnight Chicken*, she showed readers how food can serve as a light in our darkest days. Now, in *The Year of Miracles*, Ella shares her story of recovering from loss with the help of good food and good friends. The book celebrates making a fancy dinner even if you're just eating it with a spoon in front of the tv; having people over to dinner without overthinking it; finding late night snacks to ease you to sleep; and having seconds--of everything. Above all, it a powerful testament to how cooking can help us get up and start again in the face of unimaginable hurt.

**Robb, Graham.** [France](#) (WW Norton \$32.50)  
Beginning with the Roman army's first recorded encounter with the Gauls and ending in the era of Emmanuel Macron, *France* takes readers on an endlessly entertaining journey through French history. Frequently hilarious, always surprising, Robb's own adventures and discoveries while living, working, and traveling in France connect his historical tour of *La Belle France* through space and time with his own on-the-ground experiences.

**Shaffer, Bill.** [The Scandalous Hamiltons](#) (Kensington \$26)

It's a story almost too tawdry to be true--a con woman prostitute who met the descendant of a Founding Father in a brothel, duped him into marriage using an infant purchased from a baby farm, then went to prison for stabbing the couple's baby nurse--all while in a common-law marriage with another man. The scandal surrounding Evangeline and Robert Ray Hamilton, though little known today, was one of the sensations of the Gilded Age, a sordid, gripping tale involving bigamy, bribery, sex, and violence. Through personal correspondence, court records, and sensational newspaper accounts, *The Scandalous Hamiltons* explores not only the full, riveting saga of ill-fated Ray and Eva, but the rise of tabloid journalism and celebrity in a story that is both a fascinating slice of pop culture history and a timeless tale of ambition, greed, and obsession.

**Sweet, John Wood.** [The Sewing Girl's Tale](#) (Henry Holt \$29.99)

On a moonless night in the summer of 1793 a crime was committed in the back room of a New York brothel--the kind of crime that even victims usually kept secret. Instead, seventeen-year-old seamstress Lanah Sawyer did what virtually no one in US history had done before: she charged a gentleman with rape. Her accusation sparked a raw courtroom drama and a relentless struggle for vindication that threatened both Lanah's and her assailant's lives. The trial exposed a predatory sexual underworld, sparked riots in the streets, and ignited a vigorous debate about class privilege and sexual double standards. The ongoing conflict attracted the nation's top lawyers, including Alexander Hamilton, and shaped the development of American law.