

Midmonth BookNotes

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Escape into a Cool Book!

Cozy Corner

Berenson, Laurien. [Peg and Rose Solve a Murder](#) (Kensington \$26)

Polar opposites and bridge partners, 60-something former nun Rose Donovan and her sister-in-law Peg Turnbull, who knows how to push all of Rose's buttons, are drawn into a mystery—one they must work together to solve—when the bridge club's most accomplished player is murdered, and they fall under suspicion. Berenson spins off some secondary characters from her popular Melanie Travis Canine Mysteries for a series of their own, which is billed as *Murder She Wrote* meets *The Odd Couple*. "If you love dogs and bridge, this character-driven mystery will be especially pleasing." (*Kirkus*)

Bissonnette, Zac. [A Killing in Costumes](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Jay Allan and Cindy Cooper, a once popular soap opera couple from the late '90s whose careers were derailed when the truth about their sexual orientations came to light, open a movie memorabilia store and then become prime suspects in a police investigation when the owner of a competing shop with ties to a mega-auction house turns up murdered, in the first novel of a new series.

Burns, Valeria. [Two Parts Sugar, One Part Murder](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

Receiving a surprise inheritance, social media expert Maddy Montgomery must live in her great-aunt Octavia's house in New Bison, Michigan, for a year, running her bakery and caring for a 250-pound English mastiff named Baby. Maddy doesn't bake, and her Louboutins aren't made for walking giant dogs around Lake Michigan, but the locals are friendly and the scenery is beautiful. With help from her aunt's loyal friends, aka the Baker Street Irregulars, Maddy feels ready to tackle any challenge, including Octavia's award-winning cake recipes. That is, until New Bison's mayor is fatally stabbed, and Maddy's fingerprints are found on the knife.

Quigley, Mindy. [Six Feet Deep Dish](#) (St. Martin's \$8.99)

Right before opening her new gourmet deep-dish pizzeria in Geneva Bay, Wisconsin, Delilah O'Leary is dumped by her fiancé and her aunt is accused of murder. Handsome local police detective Calvin Capone, great grandson of the legendary gangster, opens an investigation, threatening to sink Delilah's pie-in-the-sky ambitions before they can even get off the ground. Now to save her aunt and get her pizza place generating some dough, Delilah must deliver the real killer. The first in a deliciously entertaining new cozy series.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Ackerman, Sara. [The Codebreaker's Secret](#) (MIRA \$16.99)

This dual-timeline historical novel of code breaking, secrets, murder and romance, set in both 1943 Honolulu and 1965 Muana Kea Beach Hotel, follows two women— Isabel Cooper, a cryptanalyst working to defeat the Japanese Army, and Lu Freitas, a rookie journalist investigating the disappearance of a high-profile guest during the hotel's grand opening.

Allen, Sarah Addison. [Other Birds](#) (St, Martin's \$27.99)

Arriving on Mallow Island, right off the coast of South Carolina, to claim her late mother's apartment, Zoey meets her eccentric and secretive neighbors, including a girl on the run, a lonely chef, a legendary writer and three ghosts, each with their own stories whose endings haven't been written yet. "Allen skillfully weaves the various threads, as vignettes narrated by ghosts of former building residents provide further context as the plot unfurls, shedding light on the mysterious birds and absent figures such as Lizbeth's estranged son and her reclusive sister. This will move readers."(PW)

Armstrong, Addison. [The War Librarian](#) (Penguin \$17) Timid and shy Emmaline Balakin lives more in books than her own life. That is, until an envelope crosses her desk at the Dead Letter Office bearing a name from her past and Emmaline decides to finally embark on an adventure of her own—as a volunteer librarian on the frontlines in France in 1918. Kathleen Carre is eager to prove to herself and to her nana that she deserves her acceptance into the first coed class at the United States Naval Academy in 1976. But not everyone wants female midshipmen at the Academy, and after tragedy strikes close to home, Kathleen becomes a target. *Two women. One secret. A truth worth fighting for.*

Ashley, Jennifer. [The Secret of Bow Lane](#) (Penguin \$17)

When the legal wife of Joe Bristow, the man Kat Holloway once believed herself married to, makes her an offer she cannot refuse—a share of his fortune in exchange for the identity of his murderer - the amateur sleuth and cook races against time to solve this

case. The latest impeccably crafted entry in Ashley's superb, Victorian-set mystery series that makes the most of its Upstairs/Downstairs cast of regulars.

Atwater, Olivia. [Longshadow](#) (Orbit \$16.99)

The marriageable young ladies of London are dying mysteriously, and Abigail Wilder intends to discover why. Abigail's father, the Lord Sorcier of England, believes that a dark lord of faerie is involved. But while Abigail is willing to match her magic against Lord Longshadow, neither her father nor high society believes that she is capable of doing so. Thankfully, Abigail is not the only one investigating the terrible events. Mercy, a street rat and self-taught magician, insists on joining Abigail in unraveling the mystery. Mercy is unpredictable, and her magic is strange and foreboding—but the greatest danger she poses may well be to Abigail's heart.

Barry, Amy. [Kit McBride Gets a Wife](#) (Penguin \$17)

Kit McBride knows that Buck's Creek, Montana, is no place to find a wife. Between him and his three brothers—plus their little sister Junebug—they manage all right on their own, thank you very much. But unbeknownst to Kit, his sister is sick to death of cleaning, cooking, and mending for her big brothers, so she places an ad in *The Matrimonial News* to get them hitched. After Maddy Mooney emigrated from Ireland, she found employment with an eccentric but poor widow. When her mistress decides to answer an ad for a mail-order bride, Maddy is dragged along for the ride to Montana. But en route to the West, Maddy is suddenly abandoned and left to assume the widow's name, position, and matrimonial prospects. With no other recourse in the wilderness, Maddy must convince Kit she's the wife he never knew he needed.

Beck, Hazel. [Small Town, Big Magic](#) (Graydon House \$16.99)

Emerson Wilde has built the life of her dreams. Youngest Chamber of Commerce president in St. Cyprian history, successful indie bookstore owner, and lucky enough to have her best friends as found family? Done. But when Emerson is attacked by creatures that shouldn't be real, and kills them with what can only be called *magic*, Emerson finds that the past decade of her life has been...a lie. St. Cyprian isn't your average Midwestern river town—it's a haven for witches. When Emerson failed a power test years ago, she was stripped of her magical memories. Turns out,

Emerson's friends are all witches. And so is she. "Beck delivers a wonderfully realized heroine with a voice so clear readers will feel like one of her friends. This is sure to be a hit with any fan of paranormal romance." (PW)

Bentley, Cade. [Where Wild Peaches Grow](#) (Amazon \$14.95)

Nona "Peaches" Davenport, abandoned by the man she loved and betrayed by family, left her Natchez, Mississippi, home fifteen years ago and never looked back. She's forged a promising future in Chicago as a professor of African American Studies. Nona even finds her once-closed heart persuaded by a new love. But that's all shaken when her father's death forces her to return to everything she's tried to forget. Julia Curtis hasn't forgiven her sister for deserting the family. Just like their mother, Nona walked away from Julia when she needed her most. And Julia doesn't feel guilty for turning to Nona's old flame, Marcus, for comfort. He helped Julia build a new life. She has a child, a career, and a determination to move on from old family wounds. Upon Nona's return to Natchez, a cautious reunion unfolds, and everything Nona and Julia thought they knew—about themselves, each other, and those they loved—will be tested.

Burton, Jessie. [The House of Fortune](#) (Bloomsbury \$28)

In this spellbinding stand-alone companion novel to *The Miniaturist* set in 1705 Amsterdam, Thea Brandt, on her 18th birthday, which marks the day her mother died, receives a parcel containing a miniature figure of her secret lover, which changes her fate forever. "Vibrant period detail, the characters' vibrant inner lives, and Thea's fulfilling journey to maturity make for a winning combination. Readers will relish the return of Nella and her world." (PW)

Castle, Jayne. [Sweetwater & the Witch](#) (Penguin \$28)

After becoming a matchmaker, Ravenna Chastain, who has a very specialized skill set, considers Ethan Sweetwater her first professional failure until they make a deal that leads to a bit of industrial espionage and a chemistry between them as explosive as the danger that's stalking her. No one does high-stakes, paranormal-infused suspense quite like *New York Times* best-selling Jayne Ann Krentz, and the latest flawlessly written entry in her Harmony series, written under her literary alter ego Castle, delivers a propulsively paced thrill ride expertly spiced with plenty of

romantic sizzle and a generous measure of the author's distinctively dry sense of wit. And not to worry, there is another adorable dust bunny, whose antics lend another measure of humor to the story.

Coll, Susan J. [Bookish People](#) (Harper \$17.99)

Recently widowed independent bookstore owner Sophie Bernstein tries to cancel an appearance by a renowned poet who has gotten into some hot water, but her events coordinator can't pass up the opportunity to find out if he is her biological father. "The wacky world of books and the people who love them, as seen through a week in the life of a Washington, D.C., bookstore. Certain plotlines, such as one about Sophie building out a secret room in the bookstore so she will never have to go home to an empty house, don't seem to go anywhere, but, well, who wants to go anywhere? As much fun as Coll has with vacuum cleaners—a truly surprising amount—it's literary humor where she slays." (Kirkus)

Cooper, Tea. [The Fossil Hunter](#) (Harper \$17.99)

In 1919, Penelope Jane Martindale, arriving home from the battlefields of WWI, visits London's Natural History Museum where she finds a connection between a fossil and her brothers' favorite camping spot that yields some unexpected remains linked to the disappearance of six women 70 years ago. "Cooper's confident prose and deep empathy for her characters will keep readers hooked as she unspools her intrigue-filled mystery. Historical fans will want to dig this one up." (PW)

Darke, Minnie. [With Love from Wish & Co.](#) (Random \$17)

For years, Marnie Fairchild had her heart set on moving Wish & Co., a boutique store that offers a bespoke gift-buying service to wealthy clients, to the historic shop front once owned by her grandfather. When the chance to bid for the property unexpectedly arises, a distracted Marnie makes an uncharacteristic mistake and mixes up the anniversary gift Brian Charlesworth is giving to his wife Suzanne with the birthday present meant for his mistress Leona. Soon Brian is in a fight to rescue his marriage, and Marnie is scrambling to keep her business dreams alive. With the situation so complicated, the last thing Marnie needs is to fall for Brian and Suzanne's gorgeous son, Luke.

Devon, Jen. [Bend Toward the Sun](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Rowan McKinnon, a botanist who doesn't believe in love, takes on the restoration of an abandoned vineyard and tries to ignore her increasingly torrid thoughts about the property owner, obstetrician Harrison Brady, who is trying to recover from a tragedy. "Devon breaks hearts and puts them back together again in her tear-jerking debut." (PW) Sounds like this is tailor-made for fans of Colleen Hoover.

Ellis, Courtney. [The Forgotten Cottage](#) (Penguin \$17)

When she inherits her beloved grandmother's home in North Yorkshire, American nurse Audrey Collins begins to uncover what secrets her family has been keeping while struggling to find purpose, love and a place to call home as her grandmother did the same all those years ago. A dual time line novel in the literary vein of Kate Morton's books.

Ernst, Dee. [Lucy Checks In](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Two years after her life fell apart, 49-year-old Lucia Gianetti takes a job in Rennes, France, to manage the Hotel Paradis, and as she works to restore it to its former glory, she finds friendship, unexpected romance and a place to call home. "This funny, heartwarming story has all the charm of a small-town romance, with a delightful French twist. Add in large doses of self-discovery and romance, and the result is sure to please." (PW)

Feeney, Alice. [Daisy Darker](#) (Flatiron \$28.99)

After years of avoiding each other, Daisy Darker's entire family is assembling for Nana's 80th birthday party in Nana's crumbling gothic house on a tiny tidal island. Finally, back together one last time, when the tide comes in, they will be cut off from the rest of the world for eight hours. The family arrives, each of them harboring secrets. Then at the stroke of midnight, as a storm rages, Nana is found dead. And an hour later, the next family member follows. "Feeney elevates a familiar setup with evocative prose, fully realized characters, and an intimate, insightful first-person narrative. Flashbacks add depth while expanding the suspect list, and twists abound. Sarah Pinborough fans, take note." (PW)

Fielding, Joy. [The Housekeeper](#) (Random \$28)

Hiring a housekeeper named Elyse to help care for her father and his wife Audrey, who has Parkinson's, successful real estate agent Jodi Bishop soon discovers

that the attractive 60-something widow is attempting to take over their lives when Audrey's condition rapidly worsens.

Forsythe, Lauren. [The Fixer Upper](#) (Penguin \$17)

After realizing all her boyfriends have become better versions of themselves after dating her, Aly Aresti and her friends launch *Fixer Upper*, an exclusive, underground service for women that promises to subtly "fix" the men in their lives. But when a high-profile Instagram star hires them to upgrade her boyfriend, Aly comes face-to-face her past. "Walking the line between rom-com and tale of self-discovery, Forsythe's debut delights with sure-footed plotting and an endearing cast." (PW)

Gamarra, Katalina. [Ben and Beatriz](#) (Graydon House \$15.99)

Beatriz Herrera, a queer, biracial Harvard senior must put aside her dislike for rich, white playboy, Ben Montgomery, in order to save someone's life in this re-imagined version of Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*. "An opposites-attract romance grappling head-on with real-world issues while still offering indulgent escapism." (Kirkus)

Goldin, Megan. [Stay Awake](#) (St. Martins \$27.99)

After waking up holding a bloodstained knife, finding her hands covered in scribbled messages and realizing she remembers nothing from the last two years of her life, Liv Reese goes on the run for a crime she doesn't remember committing. But Liv is followed by someone, who will do anything up to and including murder to keep her from remembering what happened. "Shocking twists and resourceful, well-drawn female characters keep the pages turning as the clever mystery unfolds. Goldin reliably entertains." (PW)

Goodwin, Tracy. [With Neighbors Like This](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

After a brutal divorce, Amelia Marsh and her two young kids relocate to a northern suburb of Houston. All Amelia wants is a bit of normalcy for her children. The last thing she needs is to be the center of a disagreement with the HOA representative. Believe it or not, her children's garden gnome is accused of violating the association's rules. No way is Amelia backing down on this one even if HOA President Kyle Sanders is kind of a hottie.

Hall, Alexis. [Husband Material](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)
Feeling pressured by so many people around them getting married, Luc O'Donnell decides that it might be time to propose to his boyfriend Oliver Blackwood in the second novel of the series following *Boyfriend Material*. "Family drama adds serious layers and provides an opportunity for soul-searching, even as Hall's bouncy dialogue tumbles along through plenty of rom-com fun." (*Bookpage*)

Hazelwood, Ali. [Love on the Brain](#) (Penguin \$17)
While co-leading a NASA neuro-engineering project with her archenemy—Levi Ward, scientist Bee Königswasser meets her match in this brilliant man who suddenly turns into an ally when her career starts floundering, causing things to heat up between them and forcing her to make a difficult choice. "The snappy prose, engaging and twisty plot, and utterly endearing characters combine to create pure romance gold. This brainy offering should win Hazelwood even more fans." (PW)

Jean, Emiko. [Mika in Real Life](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99)
Getting to know Penny, the daughter she placed for adoption 16 years ago, 35-year-old Mika Suzuki finds unexpected love with Penny's widowed father and finally has a chance to have the life and family she's always wanted until her deceptions catch up with her.

Jenkins, Beverly. [To Catch a Raven](#) (HarperCollins \$8.99)
When the Declaration of Independence is stolen by a former Confederate official, fearless grifter Raven Moreaux, forced by the government to get it back, finds both her life and heart on the line when she falls for her partner who is posing as her husband. "Her characters are as compelling and richly detailed as always, and she tackles societal issues that are all too relevant today. A love story with insights about the economic and social realities for African Americans in the years after emancipation." (*Kirkus*)

Johnson, Liz. [The Last Way Home](#) (Revell \$15.99)
When Eli Ross left Prince Edward Island to join the NHL, he left a broken family behind. More than a decade later, he's headed home to an uncertain welcome. He wants to make things right with the family he wronged, but his mom's business partner isn't making it easy. For years, Violet Donaghy has put everything she had into making Eli's mom's ceramics shop a success, and she's not eager to forgive the man

who hurt the family that's taken her in as one of their own. But when the kiln at the shop starts a fire that nearly destroys the studio, she'll need all the help she can get to save the business and their summer income.

Kae, Courtney. [In the Event of Love](#) (Kensington \$15.95)
Returning home to Fern Falls after her event-planning career implodes, Morgan Ross decides to help her one-time-best-friend crush, Rachel Reed, save her struggling tree farm from corporate greed by planning her best fundraiser yet, bringing about unexpected—and much wanted—romance.

Lim, Roselle. [Sophie Go's Lonely Hearts Club](#) (Penguin \$17)
Revealed as a fraud, matchmaker Sophie Go, desperate for clients, convinces a secret club within her condo complex to hire her and finds her matchmaking skills put to the test as she learns the depths of loneliness, heartbreak and love by attempting to make the hardest matches of her life. "This engaging book takes a close look at love, friendship, sorrow, loss, and responsibilities to family—both the family members you are born with and the family members that you find. Personality quirks are embraced in this delightful story about seeking—and finding—love even if you need help along the way." (*Kirkus*)

Linden, Rachel. [The Magic of Lemon Drop Pie](#) (Penguin \$17)
Pining for all she's lost while whipping up her famous lemon meringue pie, Lolly Blanchard receives a magical gift for her thirty-third birthday that allows her to live a single day in a life that might have been hers, helping her let go of the past and embrace the present.

Marais, Bianca. [The Witches of Moonshyne Manor](#) (MIRA \$16.99)
To save Moonshyne Manor and Distillery from demolition, five octogenarian witches, having only nine days save their home, make a bargain with an evil far more powerful than anything they've ever faced, fracturing their sisterhood and leading to a fiery confrontation with their enemies. Sounds like *The Golden Girls* meets *The Witches of Eastwick*.

McAvoy, J.J. [Aphrodite and the Duke](#) (Random \$17)
Back in London for her sister's society debut, Aphrodite Du Bell is intent on avoiding Evander Eagleman, the man who jilted her and broke her heart by marrying someone else years ago, but who is now an unattached widower. Historical romance in the Bridgerton mode.

McMorris, Kristina. [The Ways We Hide](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99)

Though she performs onstage as the assistant to an unruly escape artist, behind the curtain Fenna Vos is the mastermind of their act. Ultimately, controlling her surroundings and eluding traps of every kind helps her keep a lingering trauma at bay. Yet for all her planning, Fenna doesn't foresee being called upon by British military intelligence. Tasked with designing escape aids to thwart the Germans, MI9 seeks those with specialized skills for a war nearing its breaking point. Fenna reluctantly joins the unconventional team as an inventor. But when a test of her loyalty draws her deep into the fray, she discovers no mission is more treacherous than escaping one's past. McMorris was inspired to write her latest vivid, richly embroidered historical novel by an article she read about how "Monopoly Helped Win World War II." You'll have to read *The Ways We Hide* to see how the author used this as a literary launching point for a fascinating story that combines a shrewd female protagonist, friendships fostered at an orphanage, and high-stakes adventures through wartime spy work while at the same time thoughtfully exploring love, loss, family, and redemption. Author Kristin Harmel called this *The Queen's Gambit* meets *The Alice Network*, which I think neatly sums it up.

Meltzer, Jean. [Mr. Perfect on Paper](#) (MIRA \$15.99)
As the creator and CEO of the popular Jewish dating app J-Mate, matchmaker Dara Rabinowitz knows the formula for lasting love—at least, for everyone else. When it comes to her own love life, she's been idling indefinitely. Until her beloved bubbe shares Dara's checklist for "The Perfect Jewish Husband" on national television and charming news anchor Chris Steadfast proposes they turn Dara's search into must-see TV.

Myers, B. R. [A Dreadful Splendor](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

In Victorian London, Genevieve Timmons poses as a spiritualist to swindle wealthy mourners—until one misstep lands her in a jail cell awaiting the noose. Then a stranger arrives to make her a peculiar offer. The lord he serves, Mr. Pemberton, has been inconsolable since the tragic death of his beautiful bride-to-be. If Genevieve can perform a séance persuasive enough to bring the young lord peace, she will win her freedom. Soothing a grieving nobleman should be easy for someone of Genevieve's skill, but when she arrives at the grand Somerset Park estate, Mr. Pemberton is not the heartbroken lover she expected. The surly—yet exceedingly handsome—gentleman is certain that his fiancée was murdered, even though there is no evidence. Only a confession can bring justice now, and Mr. Pemberton decides Genevieve will help him get it.

Parker, Miriam. [Room and Board](#) (Penguin \$17)

After her seemingly perfect career implodes, Gillian Brodie becomes a "dorm mom" at the prestigious Sonoma boarding school she once attended. Much to her surprise, Gillian finds herself enjoying her new life until a campus scandal threatens her job, her students and her new romance.

Paul, Gill. [The Manhattan Girls](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

In this 1920s spin on *Sex and the City*, while jazz music flows through the air and bathtub gin fills their glasses, Dorothy Parker and three other extraordinary women form a bridge group that grows into a firm friendship as they each help each other get over setbacks.

Roby, Kimberla Lawson. [Sister Friends Forever](#) (Grand Central \$29)

Serena, Michelle, Kenya, and Lynette have been best friends since they were small children. And as sister friends forever, they have always been there for one another, through good times and bad, no matter what. This year is a crucial turning point for each woman. Serena, still single, is questioning why love hasn't found her yet. Michelle is engaged and ready to walk down the aisle—until an old flame strolls back into her life. Kenya is happily married, but at the same time, her husband's ex-wife won't allow them or their family to live in peace. And Lynette's divorce from her cheating husband has her nervously dating for the first time in well over a decade. During this diffi-

cult period, their friendship will be tested like never before. Yet it is that sisterly love that they will need . . . more than ever.

Rose, Karen. [Quarter to Midnight](#) (Penguin \$27)
Joining a private investigative service for people who can't find justice elsewhere in the crime-ridden city of New Orleans, marine Molly Sutton takes the case of a hot young chef who wants to prove that his NOPD father didn't kill himself but was murdered. "Rose always constructs an appealing team to aid her main couple and further engage the reader's emotions; this time, the crew includes a brave young med student, a pair of canny brothers, and two witty and determined older women. It's a twisty, dangerous ride all the way to the end, with the French Quarter setting and descriptions of Gabe's food adding an extra *je ne sais quoi* to this entertaining read." (*Bookpage*)

Ruiz, Sarah Grunder. [Luck and Last Resorts](#) (Penguin \$17)

A chief stewardess on the super yacht *Serendipity*, commitment-phobic Nina Lejeune is content with her life until her ex-coworker and old flame, Irish chef Ollie Dunne, returns to the yacht with an ultimatum that draws them together amidst chaotic guests and crew drama.

Sampson, Freya. [The Lost Ticket](#) (Penguin \$17)
Arriving in London, brokenhearted Libby Nichols meets elderly Frank who has been riding the bus for 60 years, hoping to find a girl he met in 1962, and decides to help him search, finding her tightly controlled world expanding as she opens her heart to new friendships and romance. "This is an engaging read that touches on aging and the physical incapacities it brings, lost and misplaced love, the power of accepting people as they truly are, finding the reliance to build a life on one's own, and the family that can be forged in friendships. A warming story of love and happiness found despite hardships, difficulties, and the passage of time." (*Kirkus*)

Schellman, Katharine. [Death at the Manor](#) (Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Expecting a relaxing autumn in Hampshire with her friends, Regency widow Lily Adler becomes instantly intrigued by the tale of a new haunting at Belleford manor, but a planned visit to Belleford turns tragic when the family matriarch is found murdered." Schellman transports readers to Regency-era England and

tantalizes them with a traditional whodunit." (*Kirkus*)

Sivak, Zoe. [Mademoiselle Revolution](#) (Penguin \$27)
Fleeing from Haiti to Paris in 1791, Sylvie de Rosiers quickly becomes enamored with the aims of the Revolution, as well as with revolutionaries Robespierre and his mistress, Cornélie Duplay, and must decide whether to be an accomplice or risking losing her head as the Reign of Terror descends. "An incandescent tale of the French Revolution from the perspective of those history often renders invisible." (*Kirkus*)

Thompson, Alicia. [Love in the Time of Serial Killers](#) (Penguin \$16)

Obsessed with true crime, Phoebe Walsh, while spending the summer in Florida, is convinced her new neighbor Sam Dennings is a serial killer, but it's not long before she realizes he could be something scarier—a genuinely nice guy who can break down the walls around her heart.

Treger, Louisa. [Madwoman](#) (Bloomsbury \$27)

In 1887, young Nellie Bly sets out for New York and a career in journalism, determined to make her way as a serious reporter, whatever that may take. But life in the city is tougher than she imagined. Down to her last dime and desperate to prove her worth, she comes up with a dangerous plan: to fake insanity and have herself committed to the asylum on Blackwell's Island. There, she will work undercover to expose the asylum's wretched conditions

Whelan, Julia. [Thank You for Listening](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

After having a one-night stand with a handsome stranger in Las Vegas, former actress and current audio book narrator Sewanee Chester returns home to narrate a romance novel and forms a connection with the anonymous author, but when his identity is finally revealed, she must risk everything for desire. "Although the romance is a standout, Sewanee's journey of self-acceptance is the real star. A compulsively readable story about self-discovery with plenty of laughs and spice along the way." (*Kirkus*)

Winfrey, Kerry. [Just Another Love Song](#) (Penguin \$17)

When Hank Tillman, a now successful musician who left her behind, returns home, Sandy Macintosh wonders what might have been, especially when they keep getting thrown together to organize the town's annual street fair. "Hank's quaint country town

feels larger than life. A warm, heartfelt novel that'll get stuck in your head like your favorite love song." (Kirkus)

Teen

Adalyn, Grace. [Belladonna](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)
Nineteen-year-old orphan Signa Farrow confronts Death--and her own deathly powers--when she investigates the mysterious murder of a relative at the Thorn Grove estate.

Barnes, Jennifer Lynn. [The Final Gambit](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)

As the clock ticks down to the moment when Avery Kylie Grambs will become the richest teenager in the world, a visitor arrives at Hawthorne House who draws Avery into a dangerous game against an unknown and powerful player. Third and final installment in the *New York Times* best-selling series.

Cook, Harry. [Felix Silver, Teaspoons & Witches](#) (Chicago Review \$12.99)

Felix and his new friends, including his crush Aero, turn to Felix's Grandma Aggie and the witches of Dorset Harbor to help them find a group of missing teenagers and combat the dark magic that is creeping into town.

Feldman, Jody. [No Way Home](#) (Sourcebooks \$10.99)

While in Rome, taking part in an exchange program, Tess Morell is forced by her host family to commit a series of crimes and must find a way to outwit these criminals before she—and her family—end up dead

Fernandez, Cristina. [How to Date a Superhero \(And Not Die Trying\)](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Astrid's well-scheduled plan for college is clear—friends, classes, and extra-curriculars all carefully selected to get her into medical school. Until Max Martin, a nerdy boy from high school, crashes back into her life. Things with Max were never simple, and he doesn't keep to her schedule. He disappears in the middle of dates and cancels last-minute with stupid excuses. When a supervillain breaks into her bedroom one night, Astrid has to face the facts: Her boyfriend, Max Martin, is a superhero.

Marshall, Kate Alice. [These Fleeting Shadows](#) (Penguin \$18.99)

To claim her inheritance, Helen Vaughan must spend one year in her ancestral home, Harrowstone Hall, and with her life and sanity at stake, she must unravel Harrowstone's secrets, an endeavor that forces her to question everything she knows about her family and herself.

Moldavsky, Goldy. [Lord of the Fly Fest](#) (Henry Holt \$18.99)

At Fly Fest, true crime podcaster Rafi Francisco, hoping to score an interview with River Stone, a musician who rose to fame after the mysterious disappearance of his girlfriend, finds herself fighting for her life along with hundreds of other influencers. "While the central mystery is intriguing, it's the outlandish influencer cast and their *Lord of the Flies*-inspired antics that buoy this swiftly paced, darkly funny indictment of internet culture." (PW)

Ritter, William. [Bloody Fool for Love](#) (Disney-Hyperion \$18.99)

In this all-new series that explores prequel stories from favorite Buffy the Vampire Slayer characters, fearless slayer-killer Spike, to break his love Drusilla out of her melancholy, plans an epic heist against a ruthless gang of undead criminals.

St. Clair, Scarlett. [When Stars Come Out](#) (Sourcebooks \$11.99)

Sixteen-year-old Anora Silby hoped that moving schools and changing her identity would help her hide her ability to see the dead, but secrets have a way of getting out, and Anora finds herself the target of a group that not only threatens to expose her, but is also threatening her new friends.

Valentine, Danielle. [How to Survive Your Murder](#) (Penguin \$17.99)

Knocked out before she can testify against the man suspected of killing her sister Claire, Alice wakes up a year earlier, on the same day Claire was murdered, and has until midnight to save her sister and bring the real killer to justice.

Nonfiction

Jovin, Ellen. [Rebel with a Clause](#) (HarperCollins \$26.99)

Jovin traveled across the U.S. pre-pandemic as an itinerant grammarian to answer questions from students, retired editors and anyone else, for example, who isn't sure when to use who and when to use whom (sometimes it's who). The result is a fun look at the linguistic debates about the rules for using the English language that can occur anywhere from tiny towns to sprawling state capitals. Jovin's book is more fun than sophomore English class with the added benefit that you may actually learn something to boot.

Maraniss, David. [Path Lit by Lightning](#) (Simon and Schuster \$32.50)

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist presents a new biography of America's greatest all-around athlete and gold medal winner who survived racism, alcohol addiction, broken marriages and financial distress. "While much attention is given to the prejudices Thorpe faced—and, later, his struggles with alcoholism—Maraniss's work offers an equally fascinating look at his subject's outsize talent as a man who excelled in the realms of baseball, football, and athletics broadly, tacked onto a vivid backdrop of sports culture in the first half of the 20th century. This essential work restores a legendary figure to his rightful place in history." (*PW*)

Mctier, Moiya. [The Milky Way](#) (Grand Central \$27)

An astrophysicist and folklorist present an out-of-this-world autobiography of The Milky Way that recounts the history and future of the universe in accessible but scientific detail, detailing what humans have discovered about everything, from its formation to its eventual death.

Musemeche, Catherine. [Lethal Tides](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)

Weaving together science, biography and military history, this story of Mary Sears, the virtually unknown woman known as "the first oceanographer of the Navy" recounts how her groundbreaking research turned the tide of World War II. "Musemeche tells the story with a sense of restraint that fits the subject, and she notes that a few years after Sears died, the Navy named a new oceanographic survey ship the

USNS Mary Sears—a fitting tribute to someone who made a difference." (*Kirkus*)

Nevala-Lee, Alec. [Inventor of the Future](#) (HarperCollins \$35)

Drawing on in-depth research, interviews and unpublished documents, this first authorized biography of the celebrated inventor, pioneering architect and futurist covers all aspects of his career, his fraught relationships and his tumultuous private life."The author does a great job exploring the mythology that surrounded Fuller, as well as his creations (such as the architectural geodesic dome) and his anticipating such modern developments as the internet. The many celebrities, artists, politicians, and innovators Fuller crossed paths with make for rich fodder, too (he was friends with Hollywood director John Huston, and Albert Einstein allegedly told him at a party, "Young man, you amaze me"). The result is a fascinating portrait of a larger-than-life figure." (*PW*)

Rodgers, Mary. [Shy](#) (Farrar Straus and Giroux \$30)

"What am I, bologna?" Mary Rodgers (1931–2014) often said. She was referring to being stuck in the middle of a talent sandwich: the daughter of one composer and the mother of another. And not just any composers. Her father was Richard Rodgers, perhaps the greatest American melodist; her son, Adam Guettel, a worthy successor. What that leaves out is Mary herself, also a composer, whose musical *Once Upon a Mattress* remains one of the rare revivable Broadway hits written by a woman. *Shy* is the story of how it all happened: how Mary grew from an angry child, constrained by privilege and a parent's overwhelming gift, to become not just a theater figure in her own right but also a renowned author of books for young readers (including the classic *Freaky Friday*) and, in a final grand turn, a doyenne of philanthropy and the chairman of the Juilliard School.

Stone, Daniel. [Sinkable](#) (Penguin \$28)

Calling all Clive Cussler fans! In this fascinating work of personal journalism, the author discusses the *Titanic* as a shipwreck, exploring generations of eccentrics who attempted to raise it, and then turns inward to his own obsession with the *Titanic* and shipwrecks in general.