

# Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 9 Issue 09 September, 2022

4014 N. Goldwater Blvd., Scottsdale, AZ 85251

(888) 560-9919 • (480) 947-2974

poisonedpen.com • sales@poisonedpen.com



## Fall into a Good Book

### Cozy Corner

Adams, Ellery. [Murder on the Poet's Walk](#) (Kensington \$8.99).

When corpses clutching poems begin turning up around Storyton Hall, resort manager Jane Steward is on the trail of someone exercising poetic license to kill.

Crane, Frances. [The Turquoise Shop](#) (WW Norton \$15.95).

After a corpse is discovered in the nearby desert that may or may not be Mona Brandon's husband, the rumors about her secret and suspicious past go into overdrive. From the counter at her local jewelry and art shop, Jean Holly has a front row seat for all this gossip and more. But with detective Pat Abbott's deductive reasoning and her local knowledge combined, they have everything they need to discover whodunnit. With characters and a setting inspired by Mabel Dodge Luhan and the Taos art colony, *The Turquoise Shop* is a delightful Golden Age mystery adorned with Southwestern historical detail. It is the first novel in the popular and long-running Pat

and Jean Abbott series, which charmed mid-century mystery reading audiences.

Davis, Krista. [A Colorful Scheme](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

Coloring book creator and Washington, DC bookstore owner Florrie Fox is attending the wedding of her wealthy boss and a famous romance author, who are taking their vows—for the second time—on the grounds of the gorgeous Maxwell mansion. But it soon becomes clear that the soothing vibe of coloring books is very different from the stress and backstabbing in some corners of the literary world when a body turns up at the wedding festivities.

Howell, Dorothy. [Seams Like Murder](#) (Kensington \$26)

Abbey Chandler has barely arrived in the quaint, quiet town of Hideaway Grove before things turn from blissful to bloody when the town's new librarian is mowed down by a car. The only witness on the scene isn't much help, aside from handing Abbey the bag of books dropped by the victim. Even worse, the

sheriff's office seizes Abbey's car because of a suspicious dent in the right front fender. But through it all, Abbey keeps looking for patterns and possible conflicts in the late librarian's personal, professional, and romantic life. Then a shocking discovery sends Abbey in a new direction, and as the truth begins to unspool, she's got a notion about who's guilty.

Moss, Korina. [Gone for Gouda: A Cheese Shop Mystery](#) (St Martins \$8.99).

Yarrow Glen's newest cheese shop, Curds & Whey, has a lot on its plate, but cheese monger Willa Bauer relishes a challenge. There's a float to build for the fall festival, plus the French-inspired cheese shop is playing host to celebrity vegan chef Phoebe Winston. But when photos surface that prove this vegan influencer is, in fact, a carnivore, someone takes this very personally and Phoebe is murdered.

Rue, Gretchen. [Steeped to Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$28.99)

Inheriting her beloved aunt Eudora's Victorian mansion, her bookshop/tea store and a very chubby orange cat named Bob; Phoebe Winchester also inherits a dead body. As she digs into the underbelly of Raven Creek to learn the truth about Eudora, Phoebe discovers her own unique and unexpected gifts. "A lovable cat, plenty of tea, enticing recipes, and more are sure to please cozy fans. Rue is off to a good start." (PW)

### **Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, and More**

Adams, Sarah. [When in Rome](#) (Dell \$17)  
Inspired by her favorite Audrey Hepburn film, *Roman Holiday*, burned-out pop star Amelia Rose – aka Rae Rose - drives off in the middle of the night for a break in Rome . . . Rome, Kentucky, that is. When Noah Walker finds Amelia on his front lawn in her bro-

ken-down car, he makes it clear he doesn't have the time or patience for celebrity problems. He's too busy running the pie shop his grandmother left him and reminding his nosy but lovable neighbors to mind their own damn business. Despite his better judgment, he lets her stay in his guest room--but only until her car is fixed--then she's on her own. At least that was Noah's initial plan.

Alderman, Naomi et al. [Marple: Twelve New Mysteries](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)

Jane Marple is an elderly lady from St Mary Mead who possesses an uncanny knack for solving even the most perplexing puzzles. Now, for the first time in 45 years, Agatha Christie's beloved character returns to the page for a globe-trotting tour of crime and detection. Join Miss Marple as she travels through her sleepy English village and around the world as twelve esteemed writers do their literary best to capture the sharp wit and unique perspective of the deceptively demure Miss Marple.

Anthony, Gretchen. [The Book Haters Book Club](#) (Park Row \$17.99)

All it takes is the right book to turn a book hater into a book lover. That was what Elliot--the beloved co-owner of Over the Rainbow Bookshop--believed before his untimely passing. Now his grief-ridden business partner, Irma, has agreed to sell the cozy Over the Rainbow to condo developers. But others won't give up the bookshop without a fight. When Irma breaks the news to her daughters, Bree and Laney, and Elliot's romantic partner, Thom, they are aghast. Over the Rainbow has been Bree and Laney's sanctuary since childhood, and Thom would do anything to preserve Elliot's legacy. Together they conspire to save the bookshop, even if it takes some snooping, gossip and some digging into the bookshop's past in order to do so. MN YA author Anthony

makes her adult fiction debut with a completely charming novel that celebrates the power of books and love in our lives. Realistically quirky characters, literary shout-outs to favorite books, and moments of deliciously snarky humor add to the fun, in what is one of the best books I've had the luck to read this year.

Armas, Elena. [The American Roommate Experiment](#) (Atria \$18)

Rosie Graham has just quit her well paid job to focus on her secret career as a romance writer. She hasn't told her family and now has terrible writer's block. Then, the ceiling of her New York apartment literally crumbles on her. Luckily she has her best friend Lina's spare key while she's out of town. But Rosie doesn't know that Lina has already lent her apartment to her cousin Lucas, who offers to let Rosie stay with him, at least until she can find some affordable temporary housing. And then he proposes an outrageous experiment to bring back her literary muse and meet her deadline: He'll take her on a series of experimental dates meant to jump-start her romantic inspiration.

Atkinson, Kate. [Shrines of Gaiety](#) (Knopf \$29)  
1926, and in a country still recovering from the Great War, London has become the focus for a delirious new nightlife. In the clubs of Soho, peers of the realm rub shoulders with starlets, foreign dignitaries with gangsters, and girls sell dances for a shilling a time. The notorious queen of this glittering world is Nellie Coker, ruthless but also ambitious to advance her six children, including the enigmatic eldest, Niven, whose character has been forged in the crucible of the Somme. But success breeds enemies, and Nellie's empire faces threats from without and within.

Bayliss, Jenny. [Meet Me Under the Mistletoe](#) (Putnam \$17)

Journeying to the English countryside for the wedding of her two oldest friends from school, London bookseller Elinor Noel finds her visit marred by the arrival of her childhood enemy, Isaac, until they are thrown together by wedding activities that may lead to their own happily ever after.

Blalock, Georgie. [An Indiscreet Princess](#) (William Morrow \$17.99)

As the fourth daughter of the perpetually in-mourning Queen Victoria, Princess Louise's life is more a gilded prison than a fairy tale. Expected to sit quietly next to her mother with down-cast eyes, Louise vows to escape the stultifying royal court. Blessed with beauty, artistic talent, and a common touch, she creates a life outside the walled-in existence of the palace grounds by attending the National Art Training School--where she shockingly falls passionately in love with famed sculptor Joseph Edgar Boehm. But when a near fatal accident forces Louise back under her mother's iron rule, she realizes she must choose: give in to the grief of lost love or find the strength to fight for her unconventional life.

Brooks, Elizabeth. [The House in the Orchard](#) (Tin House \$27.95)

World War II widow Peggy is grateful to have inherited Orchard House from her husband's Aunt Maude; she looks forward to making a fresh start in rural Cambridgeshire with her young son. The moment she sets eyes on the rambling property, however, doubt sets in. From the bricked up cellar to the scent of violets and rotting fruit, the place seems shrouded in dark mysteries. When Peggy discovers Maude's teenage diary gathering dust she begins to read, searching for answers.

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

Even a successful matchmaker can't find someone for everyone, and Ravenna Chastain considers Ethan Sweetwater her first professional failure. After nine failed dates, Ravenna knows it's time to cut Ethan loose. But Ethan refuses to be fired as a client--he needs one final date to a business function. Since Ravenna needs a date herself to a family event, they agree to a deal: she will be his (business) date if he will be her (fake) date to her grandparents' anniversary celebration. What Ethan fails to mention is that attending the business function is a cover for some industrial espionage that he's doing as a favor to the new Illusion Town Guild boss. Ravenna is happy to help, but their relationship gets even more complicated when the danger that's stalking Ravenna draws even closer.

Colgan, Jenny. [Christmas at the Cupcake Cafe](#) (Avon \$16.99)

Taught how to bake by her beloved late grandfather, Issy Randall is proudly carrying on the family tradition with her London eatery. Not only is business thriving, the icing on the cupcake is that she also happens to be head over heels in love. Plus she's surrounded and supported by close friends, even if her cupcake colleagues Pearl and Caroline don't seem quite as upbeat about the upcoming season of snow and merriment. But when her boyfriend Austin is scouted for a possible move to New York, Issy is forced to contemplate the prospect of a long-distance romance. And when the Christmas rush at the cafe--with its increased demand for her delectable creations--begins to take its toll, Issy has to decide what she holds most dear.

Eddings, Mazey. [Lizzie Blake's Best Mistake](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Lizzie has made endless mistakes. Kitchen

fires, pyramid schemes, bangs (of the hair and human variety), you name it; she's done it... and made a mess of it too. One mistake she's never made is letting anyone get closer to her than a single hook-up. But after losing yet another bakery job due to her uncontrolled ADHD, she breaks her cardinal rule and has a two-night-stand with Rake that changes everything.

Ennes, Hiron. [Leech](#) (Tor \$27.99)

In an isolated chateau, as far north as north goes, the baron's doctor has died. The doctor's replacement has a mystery to solve: discovering how the Institute lost track of one of its many bodies. For hundreds of years the Interprovincial Medical Institute has grown by taking root in young minds and shaping them into doctors, replacing every human practitioner of medicine. The Institute is here to help humanity, to cure and to cut, to cradle and protect the species from the apocalyptic horrors their ancestors unleashed. In the frozen north, the Institute's body will discover a competitor for its rung at the top of the evolutionary ladder. A parasite is spreading through the baron's castle, already a dark pit of secrets, lies, violence, and fear. The two will make war on the battlefield of the body. Whichever wins, humanity will lose again. A horrifying debut that blends science fiction with gothic elements.

Enoch, Suzanne. [Something in the Heir](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Smart, capable heiress Emmeline Pershing will do anything to keep her beloved home; and all it takes is an arranged marriage and a teeny white lie to fulfill her family's silly inheritance rules! But now her little fib means that she and her completely unsuspecting new husband are going to inherit big - and very messy trouble!

Flower, Amanda. [Because I Could Not Stop for Death](#) (Berkley \$17)

When she arrives late, disheveled with her skirts sodden and filthy, Willa Noble loses all hope of being hired for the maid's position at the Dickinson home in Amherst, Massachusetts. As the housekeeper politely told her they'd be in touch, Willa started toward the door of the stately home only to be called back by the soft but strong voice of Emily Dickinson. What begins as tenuous employment turns to friendship as the reclusive poet takes Willa under her wing. Tragedy soon strikes and Willa's beloved brother, Henry, is killed in an accident at the town stables. With no other family and nowhere else to turn, Willa tells Emily about her brother's death and why she believes it was murder. Viewing it first as a puzzle to piece together, Emily offers to help, only to realize that she and Willa are caught in a deadly game of cat and mouse that reveals corruption in Amherst that is generations deep.

Friedland, Elyssa. [The Most Likely Club](#) (Berkley \$17)

In 1997, grunge is king, *Titanic* is a blockbuster (and Blockbuster still exists), and Thursday nights are for *Friends*. In Bellport, Connecticut, four best friends and high school seniors Melissa Levin, Priya Chowdhury, Tara Taylor, and Suki Hammer are ready to light the world on fire. Fast forward twenty-five years and nothing has gone according to plan as the women regroup at their dreaded high school reunion. When a forgotten classmate emerges at the reunion with a surprising announcement, the friends dig out the yearbook and rethink their younger selves. Is it too late to make their dreams come true? Fueled by nostalgia and one too many drinks, they form a pact to push through their middle-aged angst to bring their teenage aspirations to fruition,

dubbing themselves the "Most Likely Girls."

Gagnon, Jilly. [All Dressed Up](#) (Bantam \$17)  
The weekend getaway at a gorgeous hotel should have been perfect. But Becca is smarting from her husband Blake's betrayal and knows that the trip is just an expensive apology attempt. Still, the drinks are strong, and the weekend has an elaborate 1920s murder mystery theme. She decides to get into the spirit and dives into the world of pun-heavy clues, hammy acting, and secret passages, hoping to take her mind off her marital troubles. Then, the morning after they arrive, the actress playing a maid fails to reappear for her role. Everyone assumes she flaked out on the job, but when snooping for clues, Becca finds evidence that the young woman may not have left of her own free will. The publisher is billing this "classic Agatha Christie goes meta" as *Knives Out* dolled up as *The Great Gatsby*.

Gary, Codi. [A Cat Cafe Christmas](#) (Forever \$15.99)

Kara Ingalls has come to California for a fresh start. Along with her friend Charity, she opens The Meow and Furever Cat Cafe. With Charity in charge of the baking and Kara caring for the rescues, they've got this! Except that Kara's dream job isn't as easy as it seems when the rent comes due and the special needs cats stay too long. Enter Ben Reese. As a dog lover, he doesn't seem qualified to help, but as a marketing professional, he's just what Kara can't afford to ignore. Now Ben has implemented a plan to find homes for all the felines in twenty-five days, and he's even doing his part by fostering a tiny kitten with a huge personality. Can a dog person be converted to a cat lover and save the cat cafe by Christmas?

Gortner, C. W. [The American Adventuress](#) (William Morrow \$16.99)

A big, juicy biopic novel by the author of *Ma-*

*demoiselle Chanel* about the scandalous life of Jennie Jerome Churchill, mother of Winston, an heiress from New York who married into one of England's most storied families but who always lived life on her own terms, as a royal mistress with a series of younger husbands and a son whose political rise she happily stage-managed.

Hall, Codi. [There's Something about Merry](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

Fun, festive sexy romance, in which the Christmas magic brings a second chance at love for Clark Griffin and Merry Winters. Merry and Clark are determined to be friends and nothing more. But they've been anonymously flirting with each other online, and this might just be the year that Christmas wishes come true.

Howe, Jenny L. [The Make-Up Test](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

*One to Watch* meets *Beach Read* in this smart, swoony, romantic comedy, in which two college exes - Allison Avery and Colin Benjamin - find themselves battling against each other--and their unresolved feelings--for a spot in a prestigious literature Ph.D. program.

Huber, Anna Lee. [A Certain Darkness](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

Former British Intelligence agent Verity Kent investigates the murder of a Belgian lawyer who possessed papers detailing the sinking of a treasure-laden German ship during the Great War. "As Verity and Sidney face danger together, their deepening relationship will please cozy fans. WWI buffs will love the in-depth historical detail." (PW)

Huynh, Carolyn. [The Fortunes of Jaded Women](#) (Atria \$27)

*Everyone in Orange County's Little Saigon knew that the Duong sisters were cursed.* It started with their ancestor, Oanh, who dared

to leave her marriage for true love--so a fearsome Vietnamese witch cursed Oanh and her descendants so that they would never find love or happiness, and the Duong women would give birth to daughters, never sons. Oanh's current descendant Mai Nguyen knows this curse well. She's divorced, and after an explosive disagreement a decade ago, she's estranged from her younger sisters, Minh Pham (the middle and the mediator) and Khuyen Lam (the youngest who swears she just runs humble coffee shops and nail salons, not Little Saigon's underground). Though Mai's three adult daughters, Priscilla, Thuy, and Thao, are successful in their careers, the same can't be said for their love lives. Mai is convinced they might drive her to an early grave. Desperate for guidance, she consults Auntie Hua, her trusted psychic in Hawaii, who delivers an unexpected prediction: this year, her family will witness a marriage, a funeral, and the birth of a son. This prophecy will reunite estranged mothers, daughters, aunts, and cousins--for better or for worse.

Igharo, Jane. [Where We End & Begin](#) (Berkley \$17)

Dunni hasn't seen her high school boyfriend, Obinna, since she left Nigeria to attend college in America. Before their devastating separation, they vowed to find their way back to each other one day. Twelve years later, and their vow is a thing of the past. Dunni works as a geneticist in Seattle and is engaged to a man she doesn't love but one her parents approve of. Her future is laid out for her, and everything is going according to plan until she returns to Nigeria for a friend's wedding and runs into Obinna.

Jacobs, R.J. [Always the First to Die](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

For fans of Riley Sager with a classic slasher twist, *Always the First to Die* follows a for-

mer horror movie actress as she returns to Pinecrest Estate on the Florida Keys, the set of her most iconic film, only to find that the strange circumstances begin to resemble the plot of her most famous film.

Jayatissa, Amanda. [You're Invited](#) (Berkley \$27)

When Amaya is invited to Kaavi's over-the-top wedding in Sri Lanka, Amaya is surprised and a little hurt to hear from her former best friend after so many years of radio silence. But when Amaya learns that the groom is her very own ex-boyfriend, she is consumed by a single thought: She must stop the wedding from happening, no matter the cost. But Amaya might not be the only one with a plan to keep the bride from getting her happily ever after.

LaQuette. [Vanessa Jared's Got A Man](#) 9St. Martin's \$16.99)

Vanessa Jared, a 40-something divorcee, decided that the best way to pull herself out of their post-divorce slump was to form The Savvy, Sexy, Singles Club and start the Do Me portion of her and her friends' lives. But on the two-year anniversary, a sexy sheriff shows up on Vanessa's doorstep wanting her to help him keep his little sister from marrying her no-good ex. Vanessa is not down for this at all. She wants nothing to do with her ex...until she spots a photo of her ex's new fiancée wearing her grandmother's ring--which he clearly stole from her. So now it's on. Vanessa is ready to take this trifling (fill-in-the-blank) down. What she does not expect is to fall in love along the way.

Loigman, Lynda Cohen. [The Matchmaker's Gift](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Even as a child in 1910, Sara Glikman knows her gift: she is a maker of matches and a seeker of soulmates. But among the pushcart-crowded streets of New York's Lower East

Side, Sara's vocation is dominated by devout older men--men who see a talented female matchmaker as a dangerous threat to their traditions and livelihood. After making matches in secret for more than a decade, Sara must fight to take her rightful place among her peers, and to demand the recognition she deserves. Two generations later, Sara's granddaughter, Abby, is a successful Manhattan divorce attorney, representing the city's wealthiest clients. When her beloved Grandma Sara dies, Abby inherits her collection of handwritten journals recording the details of Sara's matches. But among the faded volumes, Abby finds more questions than answers. Why did Abby's grandmother leave this library to her and what did she hope Abby would discover within its pages?

Lovett, Charlie. [The Enigma Affair](#) (Blackstone \$26.99)

When small-town librarian Patton Harcourt comes under fire one morning while making profiteroles, she has no choice but to trust the mysterious assassin, Nemo, who shows up in her kitchen. Fleeing a pair of German thugs, the two form an unlikely alliance as they try to decipher a seventy-five-year-old message encoded by Nazis on an Enigma machine. Traveling to Bletchley Park in England, they enlist the aid of Patton's old flame, Ruthie Drinkwater, an expert on Enigma. The trio soon finds themselves on the run, pursued by both the police and Ingrid Weiss, a white supremacist trying to unlock the secret of Heinrich Himmler's research into alchemy. If Patton, Nemo, and their cohorts can survive a host of dangers--from trained killers to explosions to imprisonment--they might be able to prevent Weiss from acquiring untold wealth to promote her racist agenda.

Mah, Ann. [Jacqueline in Paris](#) (Mariner \$27.99)

Before relenting to family pressure that she make a brilliant match, Jacqueline Bouvier has one year to herself far away from sleepy Vas-sar College and the rigid social circles of New York, a year to explore and absorb the lumi-nous beauty of the City of Light. Jacqueline is immediately catapulted into an intoxicating new world of champagne and châteaux, art and avant-garde theater, cafés and jazz clubs. She strikes up a romance with a talented young writer who shares her love of litera-ture and passion for culture - even though her mother would think him most unsuitable. But beneath the glitter and rush, France is a fragile place still haunted by the Occupation. Jacqueline lives in a rambling apartment with a widowed countess and her daughters, all of whom suffered as part of the French Re-sistance just a few years before. In the af-termath of World War II, Paris has become a nest of spies, and suspicion, deception, and betrayal lurk around every corner. Jacqueline is stunned to watch the rise of communism - anathema in America, but an active move-ment in France - never guessing she is wit-nessing the beginning of the political environ-ment that will shape the rest of her life--and that of her future husband.

Mesa, Desideria. [Bindle Punk Bruja](#) (Harper Voyager \$17.99)

*Boardwalk Empire* meets *The Vanishing Half* with a touch of earth magic in this sexy and action-packed historical fantasy set in the luminous Golden Twenties in which a part-time reporter and club owner takes on crook-ed city councilmen, mysterious and deadly mobsters, and society's deeply rooted sexism and racism, all while keeping her true identity and magical abilities hidden.

Murphy, Julie and Sierra Simone. [A Merry Lit-tle Meet Cute](#) (Avon \$21.99)

Bee Hobbes (aka Bianca Von Honey) has a successful career as a plus-size adult film star. With a huge following and two supportive moms, Bee couldn't ask for more. But when Bee's favorite producer casts her to star in a Christmas movie he's making for the squeaky-clean Hope Channel, Bee's career is about to take a more family-friendly direction. Forced to keep her work as Bianca under wraps, Bee quickly learns this is a task a lot easier said than done. Especially when she discovers her co-star is none other than childhood crush Nolan Shaw, an ex-boy band member in des-perate need of career rehab himself.

Noblin, Annie England. [Christmas in Blue Dog Valley](#) (Avon \$16.99)

When Goldie McKenzie, DVM, vet to the L.A. pet stars, arrives from Los Angeles to Blue Dog Valley she realizes three things. Never agree to upend your life when you're hungover. Pot-belly pigs are not true farm animals. She's going to need a warmer coat. At first Goldie is nothing more than a fish out of water, but she gradually begins earning the trust and goodwill of her fellow Blue Dog Valley citizens. Her clientele grows to include the many farm animals in the town, and Goldie is having the best time a vet can have. . . aside from the annoying attractive town grump, Cohen, who seems intent on making sure she always feels like an outsider. With her newfound goodwill, Goldie comes up with an idea to reinvigorate the once flourishing Blue Dog Valley: a Christ-mas carnival. Will Christmas be enough to sal-vage this dying town--and be enough to bring Goldie closer to a certain grumpy man?

North, Claire. [Ithaca](#) (Redhook \$28)

Seventeen years ago, King Odysseus sailed to war with Troy, taking with him every man of fighting age from the island of Ithaca. None of



them has returned, and the women of Ithaca have been left behind to run the kingdom. Penelope was barely into womanhood when she wed Odysseus. While he lived, her position was secure. But now, years on, speculation is mounting that her husband is dead, and suitors are beginning to knock at her door. No one man is strong enough to claim Odysseus' empty throne--not yet. But everyone waits for the balance of power to tip, and Penelope knows that any choice she makes could plunge Ithaca into bloody civil war. Only through cunning, wit, and her trusted circle of maids, can she maintain the tenuous peace needed for the kingdom to survive. Fans of Madeline Miller's *Circe* and other myth inspired historical fiction will not want to miss this.

Parker, Liz. [In the Shadow Garden](#) (Forever \$15.99)

There's something magical about Yarrow, Kentucky. The three empathic witches of the Haywood family are known for their shadow garden--from strawberries that taste like chocolate to cherry tomatoes imbued with the flavors of basil and oregano. Their magic can cure any heartache, and the fruits of their garden bring a special quality to the local bourbon distillery. On one day every year, a shot of Bonner bourbon will make your worst memory disappear. But the Haywoods will never forget the Bonners' bitter betrayal. Twenty years ago, the town gave up more than one memory; they forgot an entire summer. One person died. One person disappeared. And no one has any recollection of either. As events from that fateful summer start to come to light, there must be a reckoning between the rival Haywood and Bonner families. But untangling the deep roots of this town's terrible secrets will expose more than they could ever anticipate about love, treachery, and the true nature of their power.

Parrish, Roan. [The Holiday Trap](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

Greta Russakoff needs some space from her overbearing family. Truman Belvedere needs a place to heal after a devastating heartbreak. The solution is obvious: Truman and Greta decide to swap houses for the month of December. Can a change of scenery be the start of something new?

Penrose, Andrea. [Murder at the Serpentine Bridge](#) (Kensington \$27)

When the Earl of Wrexford discovers the body of an engineering genius, his wife Charlotte must not only help him retrieve a top-secret weapon before it falls into the wrong hands but also bring a killer to justice. In the process, the couple become drawn into a world of international intrigue where the stakes are impossibly high: stop a war from being ignited. *Kirkus* called the latest entertaining entry in Penrose's Wrexford & Sloane series "a charming, action-packed mix of historical mystery and Regency romance." Which is not surprising since Penrose got her start in publishing writing traditional Regencies for Signet as Andrea Pickens.

Rea, Kerry. [Lucy on the Wild Side](#) (Berkley \$17)

Lucy Rourke has two great loves in her life: the gorilla troop she cares for as a primatologist and the laundry list of reality TV shows she watches to escape the fact that her actual love life doesn't exist. And like a reality contestant gunning for the final rose, Lucy is laser-focused on one thing: getting promoted to senior keeper. So when a wildlife docuseries hosted by hotshot TV personality Kai Bridges chooses her zoo as its summer filming location, she sees an opportunity to showcase her beloved gorillas to the world and land a starring role in her department. When Kai and his film crew arrive, however, it's obvious to Lucy that Kai cares more about sky-high ratings

than the gorillas, and that he considers her a camera-averse know-it-all whose wardrobe consists entirely of khaki. But she's surprised to discover there's more to him than his rugged good looks and cheesy catchphrases . . . and that maybe a promotion isn't the only thing she wants.

Riley, Vanessa. [Murder in Westminster](#) (Kensington \$26)

When she stumbles upon the body of her neighbor Stapleton Henderson's wife, Lady Abigail Worthing expects to be under suspicion due to her skin color and her mother's notorious past. So, Abigail teams up with Henderson and together they dive into the treacherous waters of London's high society to find the truth about who really killed his wife.

Robert, Katee. [Court of the Vampire Queen](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Half human, half vampire, Mina lived eternally torn between two worlds, never fully experiencing the pleasures of either--until her father chose her as the pawn in his latest political move, gifting her to the darkly powerful and dangerously seductive vampire Malachi Zion. Malachi rules with an iron fist and has a reputation for the darkest of sins. But the longer Mina spends with him, the more she realizes he's not the monster she first thought.

Roberts, Sheila. [The Road to Christmas](#) (MIRA \$16.99)

Michelle and Max are not planning on a happy holiday. Their marriage is in shambles and the *D* word has entered their vocabulary. But now their youngest daughter, Julia, wants everyone to come to her new house in Idaho for Christmas, and she's got the guest room all ready for Mom and Dad. Oh, joy. Surprises lie in store for all three sets of intrepid travelers as they set out on three very different adventures, all leading to one memorable family

Christmas.

Ryan, Annelise. [A Death in Door County](#) (Berkley \$27)

Morgan Carter, owner of the Odds and Ends bookstore in Door County, Wisconsin, has a hobby. When she's not tending the store, she's hunting cryptids--creatures whose existence is rumored but never proven to be real. It's a hobby that cost her parents their lives but one she'll never give up on. So when a number of bodies turn up on the shores of Lake Michigan with injuries that look like bites from a giant unknown animal, police chief Jon Flanders turns to Morgan for help. She and her beloved rescue dog Newt journey to the strait known as Death's Door to hunt for a homicidal monster in the lake, but if they're not careful, Morgan just might be its next victim.

Smith, Sarah Echavarre. [The Boy with the Bookstore](#) (Berkley \$17)

When she first learned about the massive renovation to the building they share, Joelle Prima imagined that temporarily combining her Filipino bakery with Max Boyson's neighboring bookstore would be the perfect opening chapter to their happily ever after. In her fantasies they fed each other bibingka and pandesal while discussing Jane Austen and cooing over her pet hamster, Pumpkin. The reality, however...is quite different. Her gallant prince turns out to be a stubborn toad who snaps at her in front of customers, dries his wet clothes in her oven, and helps himself to the yummy pastries in her display case without asking. But beneath Max's grumpy glares, Joelle senses a rising heat-and a softening heart. And when they discover the real reason for the renovation, they'll have to put both their business senses and their feelings for each other to the test,

Sterling, Erin. [The Kiss Curse](#) (Avon \$16.99)  
Gwyn Jones is perfectly happy with her life in Graves Glen. She, her mom, and her cousin have formed a new and powerful coven; she's running a successful witchcraft shop, *Something Wicked*; and she's started mentoring some of the younger witches in town. As Halloween approaches, there's only one problem--Llewellyn "Wells" Penhallow. Wells has come to Graves Glen to re-establish his family's connection to the town they founded as well as to make a new life for himself after years of being the dutiful son in Wales. When he opens up a shop of his own, Penhallow's, just across the street from *Something Wicked*, he quickly learns he's gotten more than he bargained for in going up against Gwyn.

Thorne, Sally. [Angelika Frankenstein Makes Her Match](#) (Avon \$17.99)

For generations, every Frankenstein has found their true love and equal, unlocking lifetimes of blissful wedded adventure. But clever, pretty (and odd) Angelika Frankenstein has run out of suitors and fears she may become the exception to this family rule. When assisting in her brother Victor's ground-breaking experiment to bring a reassembled man back to life, she realizes that having an agreeable gentleman convalescing in the guest suite might be a chance to let a man get to know the real her. For the first time, Angelika embarks upon a project that is all her own. Thorne made a splash with her debut rom-com *The Hating Game* (truly one of the funniest and sexiest of-fice romances ever), and now she is deploying her sharp sense of wit in a clever mashup of historical romance and rom-com.

West, Catherine Adel. [The Two Lives of Sara](#) (Park Row \$27.99)

Sara King has nothing, save for her secrets and the baby in her belly, as she boards the bus to Memphis, hoping to outrun her past in

Chicago. She is welcomed with open arms by Mama Sugar, a kindly matriarch and owner of the popular boardinghouse The Scarlet Poplar. Like many cities in early 1960s America, Memphis is still segregated, but change is in the air. News spreads of the Freedom Riders. Across the country, people like Martin Luther King Jr. are leading the fight for equal rights. Black literature and music provide the stories and soundtrack for these turbulent and hopeful times, and Sara finds herself drawn in by conversations of education, politics and a brighter tomorrow with Jonas, a local schoolteacher. Romance blooms between them, but secrets from Mama Sugar's past threaten their newfound happiness and lead Sara to make decisions that will reshape the rest of their lives.

### Children's Fiction

Applegate, Katherine. [Odder](#) (Feiwel & Friends \$16.99)

Odder spends her days off the coast of central California, practicing her underwater acrobatics and spinning the quirky stories for which she's known. She's a fearless daredevil, curious to a fault. But when Odder comes face-to-face with a hungry great white shark, her life takes a dramatic turn, one that will challenge everything she believes about herself--and about the humans who hope to save her. Inspired by the true story of a Monterey Bay Aquarium program that pairs orphaned otter pups with surrogate mothers, this poignant and humorous tale told in free verse examines bravery and healing through the eyes of one of nature's most beloved and charming animals

Harvey, Jeanne W. [Dressing Up the Stars](#) (Beach Lane Books \$18.99)

As a child in the small mining town of Searchlight, Nevada, Edith Head had few friends and spent most of her time dressing up her toys

and pets and even wild animals using fabric scraps. She always knew she wanted to move somewhere full of people and excitement. She set her sights on Hollywood and talked her way into a job sketching costumes for a movie studio. Did she know how to draw or sew costumes? No. But that didn't stop her! Edith taught herself and tirelessly worked her way up until she was dressing some of the biggest stars of the day, from Audrey Hepburn to Grace Kelly to Ginger Rogers. She became the first woman to head a major Hollywood movie studio costume department and went on to win eight Academy Awards for best costume design.

Idle, Molly. [Witch Hazel](#) (Little, Brown \$18.99) Something magical happens when Hazel and Hilda are together. As the seasons pass, Hazel's broom whisks the dust off many years of joyful memories, and young Hilda watches them come to life. But is it magic making memories...or are memories making magic? This poignant tale and artistic *tour de force* from Caldecott Honoree Molly Idle gently explores the passage of time and the transcendent power of sharing our stories.

Teague, Mark. [King Kong's Cousin](#) (Beach Lane Books \$18.99)

Junior wants to be as big and as strong and as special as his cousin, Kong, but he always seems to come up short. Kong climbs skyscrapers; Junior is afraid of heights. Kong does whatever he wants; Junior does chores. When Junior's beloved cat gets stuck in a tree, will this be his chance to save the day?

### Teen Fiction

Aiden, Thomas. [The Sunbearer Trials](#) (Feiwel & Friends \$18.99)

Transgender demigod Teo is unexpectedly selected for the Sunbearer Trials, a fierce com-

petition among demigod heroes where the winner sacrifices the loser to Sol, their blood fueling the Sun Stones that protect Reino del Sol.

Berwah, Tanvi. [Monsters Born and Made](#) (Sourcebooks \$18.99)

In an oceanic world swarming with vicious beasts, the Landers--the ruling elite, have indentured Koral's family to provide the maristags for the Glory Race, a deadly chariot tournament reserved for the upper class. The winning contender receives gold and glory. The others--if they're lucky--survive. When the last maristag of the year escapes and Koral has no new maristag to sell, her family's financial situation takes a turn for the worse and they can't afford medicine for her chronically ill little sister. Koral's only choice is to do what no one in the world has ever dared: cheat her way into the Glory Race.

Garber, Stephanie. [The Ballad of Never After](#) (Flatiron \$19.99)

After Jacks, the Prince of Hearts, betrays her, Evangeline Fox swears she'll never trust him again. Now that she's discovered her own magic, Evangeline believes she can use it to restore the chance at happily ever after that Jacks stole away. But when a new terrifying curse is revealed, Evangeline finds herself entering into a tenuous partnership with the Prince of Hearts again. Only this time, the rules have changed. Jacks isn't the only force Evangeline needs to be wary of. In fact, he might be the only one she can trust, despite her desire to despise him.

Gong, Chloe. [Foul Lady Fortune](#) (Margaret K. McElderry \$21.99)

It's 1931 in Shanghai, and the stage is set for a new decade of intrigue. Four years ago, Rosalind Lang was brought back from the brink of death, but the strange experiment that saved

her also stopped her from sleeping and aging--and allows her to heal from any wound. In short, Rosalind cannot die. Now, desperate for redemption for her traitorous past, she uses her abilities as an assassin for her country. Code name: Fortune.

Marney, Ellie. [The Killing Code](#) (Little Brown \$17.99)

Kit Sutherland moves to Washington, DC to work as a codebreaker at Arlington Hall, but when she stumbles onto a bloody homicide scene, she joins forces with other girl codebreakers to find the man killing Government girls.

Rochon, Farrah. [Almost There](#) (Disney-Hyperion \$18.99)

A year after Tiana makes a deal with Dr. Facilier, she has her restaurant, her friends are safe, and her father is still alive, but soon shadows begin to gather and Tiana must work with Naveen and Charlotte to set things right or risk losing her soul.

Sass, Adam. [The 99 Boyfriends of Micah Summers](#) (Viking \$18.99)

Micah Summers runs a popular Instagram full of drawings of his numerous imaginary boyfriends (ninety-nine so far)--though he's never had a real boyfriend before. But when a meet-cute with Boy 100 goes wrong, Micah embarks on a Prince Charming-like quest throughout Chicago to find true love--for real this time.

Summers, Courtney. [I'm the Girl](#) (Wednesday Books \$18.99)

All sixteen-year-old Georgia Avis wants is everything, but the poverty and hardship that defines her life has kept her from the beautiful and special things she knows she deserves. When she stumbles upon the dead body of thirteen-year-old Ashley James, Georgia teams

up with Ashley's older sister Nora, to find the killer before he strikes again, and their investigation throws Georgia into a glittering world of unimaginable privilege and wealth--and all she's ever dreamed. But behind every dream lurks a nightmare, and Georgia must reconcile her heart's desires with what it really takes to survive.

Yu, Catherine. [Direwood](#) (Page Street \$18.99) In this velvet-clad 1990s gothic horror, Aja encounters a charming vampire who wants to lure her into the woods--just like her missing sister.

## Food

America's Test Kitchen. [Desserts Illustrated](#) (America's Test Kitchen \$45)

Part cookbook, part handbook, *Desserts Illustrated* is the last word on the last (but definitely not least) course. In it, America's Test Kitchen far expands on previous explorations of the world of sweets, teaching all types of candies, custards, frozen treats, and fruit desserts in addition to a bounty of baked goods, and upping the ante on flavor. With 500+ recipes, you'll find modern desserts for bakers and nonbakers like Pear Crisp with Miso and Almonds and Ginger-Turmeric Frozen Yogurt living next to the classics like Shortbread and Sour Cream Coffee Cake.

Clark, Melissa. [Dinner in One](#) (Clarkson Potter \$29.99)

Melissa Clark brings her home cook's expertise and no-fuss approach to the world of one-pot/pan cooking. With nearly all of the recipes, which include everything from Cheesy Meatball Parm with Spinach to Riotta-Olive Oil Pound Cake, being made in under one hour, the streamlined steps ensure you are in and out of the kitchen without dirtying a multi-

tude of pans or spending more time than you need to on dinner.

Hazan, Marcella. [Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking](#) (Knopf \$40)

A special 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary edition of the go-to Italian cookbook for students, newlyweds, and master chefs, alike. Beautifully illustrated with line drawings throughout, Essentials of Classic Italian Cooking brings together nearly five hundred of the most delicious recipes from the Italian repertoire in one indispensable volume.

Miglore, Kristen et al. [Food52 Simply Genius](#) (Ten Speed \$35)

There's no better way to learn how to make great food than to stand at the elbow of a skilled cook, ask questions, and watch their every move. In Simply Genius, Food52 founding editor and Genius Recipes columnist Kristen Miglore gives you access to genius cooks like Samin Nosrat (Buttermilk-Marinated Roast Chicken), Dr. Jessica B. Harris (Mayonnaise d'Avocat), Yotam Ottolenghi and Sami Tamimi (Roasted Butternut Squash & Red Onion with Tahini & Za'atar) and others as they share their brilliant cooking tips through a collection of more than 150 essential recipes.

Yeh, Molly. [Home Is Where the Eggs Are](#) (William Morrow \$32.50)

From the host of Food Network's Girl Meets Farm and bestselling author of the IACP award-winning Molly on the Range, a collection of cozy recipes that feel like celebrations. The flavors in this book draw inspiration from a distinctive blend of Molly's experiences--her Chinese and Jewish heritage, her time living in New York, her husband's Scandinavian heritage, and their farm in the upper Midwest.

## Nonfiction

Bissinger, Buzz. [The Mosquito Bowl](#) (Harper \$32.50)

When the Japanese attacked Pearl Harbor, college football was at the height of its popularity. As the nation geared up for total war, one branch of the service dominated the aspirations of college football stars: the United States Marine Corps. Which is why, on Christmas Eve of 1944, when the 4th and 29th Marine regiments found themselves in the middle of the Pacific Ocean training for what would be the bloodiest battle of the war - the invasion of Okinawa--their ranks included one of the greatest pools of football talent ever assembled: Former All Americans, captains from Wisconsin and Brown and Notre Dame, and nearly twenty men who were either drafted or would ultimately play in the NFL. When the trash-talking between the 4th and 29th over who had the better football team reached a fever pitch, it was decided: The two regiments would play each other in a football game as close to the real thing as you could get in the dirt and coral of Guadalcanal. The bruising and bloody game that followed became known as "The Mosquito Bowl."

Corbin, Keith with Kevin Alexander. [California Soul](#) (Random \$28.99)

Before becoming executive chef and part owner of the California soul food restaurant Alta Adams in West LA, Keith Corbin had spent a quarter of his life in prison. Renowned as the best cook of crack cocaine in Los Angeles, Corbin more or less raised himself on the streets of Watts, learning to cook crack when he was only thirteen. He knew he was doing it right if it had the consistency of the roux his granny made for her gumbo. It was a violent business-one that eventually landed Corbin in

prison, where his skills at the stove gained him a reputation for making good food out of the normally unbearable prison diet. When after his release he takes a job as a line cook in a famous chef's new restaurant, Corbin is ready to lay low and leave gang life behind. Little did he know, his skill at the stove coupled with his determination to escape a life in the streets would eventually catapult him into the kitchens of some of the most acclaimed restaurants around the country, cooking food by day, crack by night just to get by.

Darman, Jonathan. [Becoming FDR](#) (Random \$32)

In popular memory, Franklin Delano Roosevelt was the quintessential political "natural." Born in 1882 to a wealthy, influential family and blessed with an abundance of charm and charisma, he seemed destined for high office. Yet for all his gifts, the young Roosevelt nonetheless lacked depth, empathy, and an ability to think strategically. Those qualities, so essential to his success as president, were skills he acquired during his seven-year journey through illness and recovery. *Becoming FDR* traces the riveting story of the struggle that forged Roosevelt's character and political ascent.

Figes, Orlando. [The Story of Russia](#) (Metropolitan Books \$29.99)

From the founding of Kievan Rus in the first millennium to Putin's war against Ukraine, Orlando Figes explores the ideas that have guided Russia's actions throughout its long and troubled existence. Whether he's describing the crowning of Ivan the Terrible in a candlelit cathedral or the dramatic upheaval of the peasant revolution, he reveals the impulses, often unappreciated or misunderstood by foreigners, that have driven Russian history: the medieval myth of Mother Russia's holy

mission to the world; the imperial tendency toward autocratic rule; the popular belief in a paternal tsar dispensing truth and justice; the cult of sacrifice rooted in the idea of the "Russian soul"; and always, the nationalist myth of Russia's unjust treatment by the West.

Fisher, Max. [The Chaos Machine](#) (Little Brown \$29)

We all have a vague sense that social media is bad for our minds, for our children, and for our democracies. But the truth is that its reach and impact run far deeper than we have understood. Building on years of international reporting, Max Fisher tells the gripping and galling inside story of how Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and other social networks, in their pursuit of unfettered profits, preyed on psychological frailties to create the algorithms that drive everyday users to extreme opinions and, increasingly, extreme actions. As Fisher demonstrates, the companies' founding tenets, combined with a blinkered focus maximizing engagement, have led to a destabilized world for everyone. His narrative is about more than the villains, however. Fisher also weaves together the stories of the heroic outsiders and Silicon Valley defectors who raised the alarm and revealed what was happening behind the closed doors of Big Tech. Both panoramic and intimate, *The Chaos Machine* is the definitive account of the meteoric rise and troubled legacy of the tech titans, as well as a rousing and hopeful call to arrest the havoc wreaked on our minds and our world before it's too late

Foster, Thomas C. [How to Write Like a Writer](#) (Harper \$17.99)

Combing anecdotes and hard-won lessons from decades of teaching and writing--and invoking everyone from Hemingway to your third-grade teacher--retired professor Thomas C. Foster guides you through the basics of

writing. With *How to Write Like a Writer* you'll learn how to organize your thoughts, construct first drafts, and (not incidentally) keep you in your chair so that inspiration can come to visit.

Horowitz, Sarah. [The Red Widow](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)

A rollicking historical account of Marguerite Steinheil ("the Red Widow"), a real-life French femme fatale who used her influence to arrange governmental appointments, blackmailed her opponents, and may have even attempted to poison those who got in the way of her agenda--and also mysteriously survived a home invasion that left her husband and mother dead, leaving the police with more questions than answers.

Holt, Nathalia. [Wise Gals](#) (Putnam \$28)  
From the New York Times bestselling author of *Rise of the Rocket Girls* comes the never-before-told story of a small cadre of influential female spies in the precarious early days of the CIA--women who helped create the template for cutting-edge espionage (and blazed new paths for equality in the workplace) in the treacherous post-WWII era.

Macintyre, Ben. [Prisoners of the Castle](#) (Crown \$28.99)

During World War II, the German army used the towering Colditz Castle to hold the most defiant Allied prisoners. For four years, these prisoners of the castle tested its walls and its guards with ingenious escape attempts that would become legend. But as Macintyre shows, the story of Colditz was about much more than escape. Its population represented a society in miniature, full of heroes and traitors, class conflicts and secret alliances, and the full range of human joy and despair.

Reyes, Luis J. [Viva Hollywood](#) (Running Press \$35)

Overcoming obstacles of prejudice, ignorance, and stereotyping, Hispanic actors and actresses have given the world some of its most beloved stars including Rita Hayworth, Raquel Welch, Anthony Quinn, and Andy Garcia and told some of its most indelible stories. *Viva Hollywood* examines the stars in front of the screen as well as the people behind-the-scenes who have created a rich legacy across more than 100 years.

Stanley, Bob. [Let's Do It](#) (Pegasus \$35)

Pop music didn't begin with the Beatles in 1963, or with Elvis in 1956, or even with the first seven-inch singles in 1949. There was a pre-history that went back to the first recorded music, right back to the turn of the century. Who were these earliest record stars--and were they in any meaningful way "pop stars"? Who was George Gershwin writing songs for? Why did swing, the hit sound for a decade or more, become almost invisible after World War II? The prequel to Bob Stanley's celebrated *Yeah! Yeah! Yeah!*, this new volume is the first book to tell the definitive story of the birth of pop, from the invention of the 78 rpm record at the end of the nineteenth century to the beginnings of rock and the modern pop age.

Stashower, Daniel. [American Demon](#) (Mino-taur \$29.99)

Boston had its Strangler. California had the Zodiac Killer. And in the depths of the Great Depression, Cleveland had the Mad Butcher of Kingsbury Run. On September 5th, 1934, a young beachcomber made a gruesome discovery on the shores of Cleveland's Lake Erie: the lower half of a female torso, neatly severed at the waist. The victim, dubbed "The Lady of the Lake," was only the first of a butcher's dozen. Over the next four years, twelve



more bodies would be scattered across the city. Terror gripped the city. Amid the growing uproar, Cleveland's besieged mayor turned to his newly-appointed director of public safety: Eliot Ness. Ness had come to Cleveland fresh from his headline-grabbing exploits in Chicago, where he and his band of "Untouchables" led the frontline assault on Al Capone's bootlegging empire. Now he would confront a case that would redefine his storied career.

Vincent, Isabel. [Overture of Hope](#) (Regnery \$27.99)

Two British sisters, one a dowdy typist, the other a soon-to-be famous romance novelist. One shared passion for opera. With prospects for marriage and families of their own cut down by the scythe of World War I, the Cook sisters have thrown themselves into their love of music, with frequent pilgrimages to Germany and Austria to see their favorite opera stars perform. But now with war clouds gathering and harassment increasing, the stars of Continental opera, many of whom are Jewish, face dark futures under the boot heel of the Nazis. What can two middle-aged British spinsters do about such matters? They can form a secret cabal right under Hitler's nose and get to work saving lives. Along with Austrian conductor Clemens Krauss (a favorite of Hitler, but quietly working with the Cooks) the sisters conspire to bring together worldwide opera aficionados and insiders in an international operation to rescue Jews in the opera from the horrific fate that everyone intuitively is coming.

Worsley, Lucy. [Agatha Christie](#) (Pegasus \$29.99)

Why did Agatha Christie spend her career pretending that she was "just" an ordinary housewife, when clearly she wasn't? Her life is fascinating for its mysteries and its passions and, as Lucy Worsley says, "She was thrillingly, scintillatingly modern." She went surfing

in Hawaii, she loved fast cars, and she was intrigued by the new science of psychology, which helped her through devastating mental illness. So why--despite all the evidence to the contrary--did Agatha present herself as a retiring Edwardian lady of leisure? With access to personal letters and papers that have rarely been seen, Lucy Worsley's biography is both authoritative and entertaining and makes us realize what an extraordinary pioneer Agatha Christie was--truly a woman who wrote the twentieth century