

Midmonth BookNotes

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All Treats No Tricks Books

Cozy Corner

Bruns, Catherine. [A Doomful of Sugar](#) (Sourcebooks \$8.99)

Leila Khoury has always believed that everyone loved her father as much as they loved his artisanal maple syrup. But when he's killed, and she returns to Sugar Ridge, Vermont to take over his business, she starts to realize how much of his life she's left untapped. With her brother under suspicion, her mother just barely holding it together, and police not producing any leads, Leila will have to investigate herself if she wants answers about her father's sticky end.

Golden, S.K. [The Socialite's Guide to Murder](#) (Crooked Lane \$28.99)

It's 1958 and Evelyn Elizabeth Grace Murphy has not left the Pinnacle Hotel in fourteen months. She suffers from agoraphobia, and what's more, it's her father's hotel, and everything she needs is there. Evelyn's always been good at finding things ever since she

discovered her mother dead in a Manhattan alleyway fifteen years earlier. Now she's finding trouble inside her sanctuary. At a party for artist Billie Bell, his newest work is stolen, and Evelyn's fake boyfriend (and real best friend), movie star Henry Fox, is accused of the theft. But just as Evelyn sets out to prove Henry's innocence, she finds Billie Bell dead. *Kirkus* called this "" A catty yet decorous whodunit festooned with period trappings."

Latimer, Rupert. [Murder After Christmas](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99)

Good old Uncle Willie—known for an insatiable sweet tooth and being an epic pain in the rear—has come to stay with the Redpaths for the holidays. As luck would have it, he's found dead in the snow, in a Santa suit on Boxing Day. It seems as though someone may have poisoned his chocolate...or was it the mince pie? As the police flock to the house, Willie's descendants, past lovers and distant relatives are drawn into a perplexing investigation to find out how the old man met his fate, and who stands to gain by such an unseasonable

crime. First published in 1944, *Murder After Christmas* is a lively riot of murder, holiday desserts, and misdirection, cleverly twisting the tropes of Golden Age detective fiction to create a pacey, light-hearted package admirably suited for the holiday season.

Manansala, Mia P. [Blackmail and Bibingka](#) (Berkley \$17)

It's Christmastime in Shady Palms, but things are far from jolly for Lila Macapagal. Sure, her new business, the Brew-ha Cafe, is looking to turn a profit in its first year. And yes, she's taken the first step in a new romance with her good friend Jae Park. But her cousin Ronnie is back in town after ghosting the family fifteen years ago, claiming that his recent purchase of a local winery shows that he's back on his feet and ready to contribute to the Shady Palms community. Tita Rosie is thrilled with the return of her prodigal son, but Lila knows that wherever Ronnie goes, trouble follows. *Kirkus* had this to say about the latest in Manansala's culinary cozy series "Hands down the tastiest whodunit you'll consume this year."

McKinlay, Jenn. [The Plot and the Pendulum](#) (Berkley \$27)

When library director Lindsey Norris arrives at the Dorchester family's estate to collect books left to the library, she instead finds a skeleton linked to a missing person's case from 1989, and sets out to solve this mystery and throw the book at a killer who thought they got away with murder. The latest fun entry in McKinlay's Library Lover's series is a "bibliocentric mystery with a spooky touch that keeps you guessing." (*Kirkus*)

Perry, Carol J. [High Spirits](#) (Kensington \$15.95)

Christmas lights on palm trees and Santa hats

on plastic pink flamingos are far from the snowy landscape Maureen and her beloved golden retriever, Finn, are used to. But Maureen is determined to make this a holiday to remember—which means finding a way to promote Haven House on a shoestring. Fortunately, Haven's vintage movie theater, the Paramount, has come up with a great "Twelve Days of Christmas" idea. They'll feature an impressive list of the best classic Christmas movies ever made—shown by one-time movie actor-turned-projectionist Decklin Monroe. But nobody bothered to tell Maureen that the Paramount is haunted by the ghost of a man who was murdered a few years back. Haven's top cop Frank Hubbard doesn't believe in ghosts but, believing that Decklin Monroe was somehow involved, he needs a reluctant Maureen's help.

Classics repackaged and revisited

Albanese, Laurie Lico. [Hester](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

Arriving in Salem from Scotland in the early 1800s, Isobel, left penniless and alone by her husband in a strange country, is instantly drawn to Nathaniel Hawthorne, and as they grow closer and closer, they are a muse and a dark storyteller, the enchanter and the enchanted. In this vivid reimagining of the woman who inspired Hester Prynne, the tragic heroine of Nathaniel Hawthorne's *The Scarlet Letter* "even those unfamiliar with the classic will be hooked by this account of a capable woman standing up to the sexist and racial prejudices of her time." (*PW*)

Alcott, Louisa May. [Little Women](#) (Andrews McMeel \$45)

The 1860s, the turbulent days of the American Civil War, and four sisters as different as they could be: Meg, who likes to approach everything rationally and reasonably; Jo, a nonconformist with literary ambitions; tender Beth, who tries to keep the peace; and Amy, the baby of the family who tends to take herself and her position in society a little too seriously. While their father is off fighting the war, the four girls must learn to get by with just their mother while realizing that it isn't easy for young women to establish their place in the world. Anyone needing a new edition of this classic (or thinking of giving it as a gift) will want to seriously consider the latest luxuriously illustrated special edition of a classic by Marjolein Bastin.

Miller, Sarah. [Marmee](#) (William Morrow \$27.99)

In 1861, Margaret March, with her husband serving as an army chaplain, finds the comfort and security of her four daughters resting on her shoulders alone as she faces financial hardships, secrets and tragedy, in this revealing retelling of *Little Women* from the perspective of the beloved matriarch known as Marmee. Pair this with the above new edition of *Little Women* for a very special holiday gift! Miller's previous novel *Caroline* was her telling of the story of Caroline Ingalls or "Ma" in Laura Ingalls Wilder's beloved Little House books.

Tamaki, Mariko. [Anne of Greenville](#) (Disney-Hyperion \$18.99)

In this contemporary retelling of *Anne of Green Gables*, Anne Shirley, a queer, half-Japanese disco superfan, moves to a town that seems too small for her big personality and where she becomes embroiled in a series of

dramatic and unfortunate events.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Aguirre, Ann. [Extra Witchy](#) (Sourcebooks \$15.99)

After two failed marriages, Leanne Vanderpol is here for a good time, not for a long time. She only loves the witches in her coven, and she cares more about her career than happily ever after. A difficult past makes her skittish, and she doesn't trust relationships to stick. But when she decides to run for city council instead of wasting her talents cleaning up messes for the mayor's office, she fears her past could be used against her. Unless she can find the right husband to shore up her political career. Could that man be the currently jobless, dateless, and hopeless Trevor Montgomery?

Barry, Ava. [Double Exposure](#) (Pegasus \$25.95)

Four years ago, a beautiful young heiress survived an attack that claimed the lives of both of her parents. Melia van Aust fled the city soon after the murders – which were never solved – but her brother Jasper has not been seen since. After a childhood spent in the shadow of her famous parents, Rainey Hall understands the dynamics of a dysfunctional family. She still hasn't recovered from a tragedy that tore her own family apart six years before. It's part of the reason why she started her own private investigation agency—to aid victims of crimes that might otherwise go unsolved. When Melia returns to Los Angeles and moves back into her family home, someone begins sending her increas-

ingly violent messages that allude to the killing of her parents. She hires Rainey to track down the culprit and find her missing brother. The latest sleekly plotted suspense tale from a new master of Neo Noir.

Benson, Raymond. [The Mad Mad Murders of Marigold Way](#) (Beaufort \$24.95)

For Scott Hatcher, a former television writer turned struggling novelist with a failing marriage to boot, social-distancing and mask-wearing feel like fitting additions to his already surreal life. When his wife Marie and neighbor John Bergman disappear in the middle of the raging COVID-19 pandemic, Scott is naturally mystified and disturbed, but he is also about to learn that his picturesque neighborhood hides more than just the mundane routines of suburban life. Benson is best known for his contributions to the James Bond *oeuvre* post Ian Fleming, but now he makes a sharp turn into suburban sleuthing.

Cambridge, Colleen. [A Trace of Poison](#) (Kensington \$26)

In England's stately manor houses, murder is not generally a topic for polite conversation. Mallowan Hall, home to Agatha Christie and her husband, Max, is the exception. And housekeeper Phyllida Bright delights in discussing gory plot details with her friend and employer. The neighboring village of Listleigh has also become a hub of grisly goings-on, thanks to a Murder Fête organized to benefit a local orphanage. Members of The Detection Club—a group of celebrated authors such as G.K. Chesterton, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Agatha herself—will congregate for charitable events, including a writing contest for aspiring authors. The winner gets an international publishing contract, and entrants have gathered for a cocktail party—managed by the

inimitable Phyllida—when murder strikes too close even for her comfort. “Fans of traditional mysteries will appreciate the author’s sometimes tongue-in-cheek adherence to the conventions of the genre, particularly the denouement where all is revealed. Dame Agatha would be proud.” (PW)

Carr, Robyn. [Holidays in Virgin River](#) (MIRA \$19.99)

Celebrate the holidays with this special edition containing 2 fan-favorite stories “Under the Christmas Tree” and “Midnight Confessions” from the Virgin River series. Includes exclusive recipes inspired by the Virgin River characters.

Denton, Lauren K. [A Place to Land](#) (Harper \$27.99)

Violet and Trudy Figg, two sisters living in Sugar Bend for over 40 years, have their lives turned upside down when a young woman, fresh out of the foster care system, shows up at their art shop and brings old secrets to light.

Duke, Gloria. [When Life Gives You Vampires](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.50)

Lily Baines is a plus size girl trying to deal with internalized sizeism, a well-meaning but critical mother, and a world determined not to take fat people seriously. She figures things can't get any harder...until she's turned into a vampire. Now she's left to grapple with a whole new crop of problems, including the fact that the body she's in (the body she has such complicated feelings about) is hers, unchanging, forever more. The publisher bills this as *Dumplin* meets *True Blood* or *Bridget Jones* for the vampire-obsessed.

Firkins, Jacqueline. [Marlowe Banks. Redesign](#) (St. Martins \$16.99)

Marlowe Banks' life has come apart at the seams. Her engagement ended abruptly. Her latest costume design was shredded by critics. Her student loans are overdue. Her parents have never been more disappointed. Desperate to hide from her failures, Marlowe flees New York City to embrace invisibility in Los Angeles as a menial Production Assistant on a popular TV show. When a costume mix-up requires Marlowe to step into a scene, the camera catches a heated look between her and Angus Gordon, the show's arrogant bad boy, thrusting Marlowe into the spotlight. As the pair is forced together on set, Marlowe learns she's not the only one hiding. Walls come down for both of them, revealing a life Marlowe isn't sure she's ready for, and when her past comes calling, she has to decide if she's going to stay invisible or if it's time for a redesign

Gardner, Erle Stanley. [The Bigger They Come](#) (WW Norton \$15.95)

Bertha Cool is the gruff, tough-talking, full-sized head of her private detective agency, opened after the death of her husband; Donald Lam is her meek, slight, and nervy new hire, who makes up for a lack of boldness with brilliant deductive work. The duo couldn't be any more dissimilar but, with their skills combined, they are an unstoppable force when it comes to solving crimes. In this, their first outing, Donald Lam is tasked with delivering divorce papers to a man who reportedly made a fortune in rigged slot machines. The only problem is that nobody—not even the police—can find him.

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

Kara Ingalls, a veterinarian with a floundering cat adoption café, accepts an offer from annoyingly smart and frustratingly bossy marketing guru Ben Reese to help promote her business Meow and Furrever Cat Café. But can Ben find a way to put the café in the “green” before Christmas while at the same time the two try to keep things strictly business between themselves? Christmas, coffee, and cats. What more can a romance reader need?

Gibson, S. T. [A Dowry of Blood](#) (Redhook \$27)

Saved from the brink of death by a mysterious stranger, Constanta is transformed from a medieval peasant into a bride fit for an undying king. But when Dracula draws a cunning aristocrat and a starving artist into his web of passion and deceit, Constanta realizes that her beloved is capable of terrible things. Finding comfort in the arms of her rival consorts, she begins to unravel their husband's dark secrets. With the lives of everyone she loves on the line, Constanta will have to choose between her own freedom and her love for her husband. But bonds forged by blood can only be broken by death. A lush, darkly sensual re-imagining of *Dracula*.

Greer, Helena. [Season of Love](#) (Forever \$15.99)

When she inherits half of her great-aunt's Jewish-run Christmas tree farm, Miriam Blum, while sitting Shiva and avoiding her parents, must save the business from going under with the help of the farm's grumpy manager, Noelle Northwood, who wants her gone until love enters the picture. “A warm, queer romance with holiday cheer and emotional depth.” (*Kirkus*)

Hahn, Erin. [Built to Last](#) (St. Martins \$16.99)

Shelby Springfield has spent the last ten years trying to overcome her past, sanding it away like the rough spots on the vintage furniture she makes over. But as a former child star, it's hard to forget a widely documented meltdown and huge public break up with her former co-star Lyle Jessup. It's also hard to forget her other co-star and childhood sweetheart, Cameron Riggs—the one who got away. Anytime Shelby has called, Cameron has come running... And then he runs right off again to chase stories around the world by making documentaries, too scared to admit what he really wants. But when Lyle stirs the pot, getting the two back in the spotlight with a home renovation show, Cameron can't help but get on board.

Hall, Alexis. [Paris Dailencourt Is about to Crumble](#) (Forever \$15.99)

When his roommate enters him in the nation's favorite baking show, Paris Dailencourt finds love with a fellow contestant until his fear of failure spoils his happiness, forcing him to face his past, his future and his constant self-doubt to embrace the sweet things in life. A thoughtful, sweet (in many ways) love story (though one character does swear like the proverbial sailor) that not only deals sensitively with mental health issues, but also embraces the true joy British baking competition shows can offer.

Harbison, Beth. [Confessions of the Other Sister](#) (William Morrow \$17.99)

Frances Turner has a confession to make: her sister, Crosby, who has built her life on good luck and good looks, drives her crazy. Crosby Turner has a confession as well: Frances locks herself in a miserable little box and Crosby

can't understand it. Then fate intervenes, throwing these incompatible siblings together in this sometimes funny, sometimes heart-breaking novel of sisterhood, grown-ups who need to grow up, and the realization that no one in a family is invisible.

Haw, Penny. [The Invincible Miss Cust](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Born in Ireland in 1868 to an aristocratic English family, Aleen Cust knows she is destined to work with animals, even if her family is appalled by the idea of a woman pursuing a veterinary career. Going against their wishes but with the encouragement of the guardian assigned to her upon her father's death, Aleen attends the New Veterinary College in Edinburgh, enrolling as A. I. Custance to spare her family the humiliation they fear. At last, she is on her way to becoming a veterinary surgeon! Little does she know her biggest obstacles lie ahead. *The Invincible Miss Cust* is based on the real life of Aleen Isabel Cust, who defied her family and society to become Britain and Ireland's first woman veterinary surgeon.

Hogle, Sarah. [Just Like Magic](#) (G.P. Putnam \$17)

Boasting about her extravagant lifestyle on social media, but actually broke and squatting in Colorado, Bettie Hughes contemplates Christmas with her family and accidentally conjures up Hall, the Holiday Spirit, who can make all her wishes come true.

Holiday, Jenny. [So This Is Christmas](#) (Avon \$16.99)

In Eldovia to help clean up the king's financial affairs, American Cara Delaney finds herself at odds with Matteo Benz, the straitlaced royal advisor, until they are forced to work together to return the country to its former glory. But

will the couple now give into the Christmas magic and the love in their hearts? “Witty banter and sizzling love scenes played out against the backdrop of a dazzling winter wonderland make Holiday’s latest sparkle. (PW)

Janovsky, Timothy. [You’re a Mean One, Matthew Prince](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.50)

Matthew Prince is young, rich, and thoroughly spoiled. So what if his parents barely remember he exists and the press is totally obsessed with him? He’s on top of the world. But one major PR misstep later, and Matthew is cut off and shipped away to spend the holidays in his grandparents’ charming small town hellscape. What’s even worse that he has to share space with Hector Martinez, an obnoxiously attractive local who’s unimpressed with anything and everything Matthew does. Just when it looks like the holiday season is bringing nothing but heated squabbles, the charity gala loses its coordinator and Matthew steps in as a saintly act to get home early on good behavior...with Hector as his maddening plus-one. But even a Grinch can’t resist the unexpected joy of found family, and in the end, the forced proximity and infectious holiday cheer might be enough to make a lonely Prince’s heart grow three sizes this year.

Johnson, Jane. [The White Hare](#) (Simon & Schuster \$17.99)

In the far west of Cornwall lies the White Valley. The valley has a long and bloody history, laced with folklore, and in it sits a house above the beach that has lain neglected since the war. It comes with a reputation and a strange atmosphere, which is why mother and daughter Magdalena and Mila manage to acquire it so cheaply in the fateful summer of 1954. Magda has grand plans to restore the house to its former glory as a venue for glit-

tering parties, where the rich and celebrated gathered for cocktails and for bracing walks along the coast. Her grown daughter, Mila, just wants to escape the scandal in her past and make a safe and happy home for her little girl, Janey, a solitary, precocious child blessed with a vivid imagination, much of which she pours into stories about her magical plush toy, Rabbit. But Janey’s rabbit isn’t the only magical being around. Legend has it that an enchanted white hare may be seen running through the woods. Is it an ill omen or a blessing?

Lau, Jackie. [The Stand-Up Groomsman](#) (Berkeley \$17)

United in their goal to see their best friends’ wedding go off without a hitch, polar opposites actor/comedian Melvin Lee and artist Vivian Liao put their differences aside, realizing that they may have misjudged each other – and that they may have their own happily ever after.

Lawhorn, Ariel. Kristina McMorris and Susan Meissner. [When We Had Wings](#) (Harper Muse \$27.99)

When U.S. Navy nurse Eleanor Lindstrom, U.S. Army nurse Penny Franklin, and Filipina nurse Lita Capel forge a friendship at the Army Navy Club in Manila in 1941, the women can’t help thinking they have scored an assignment in paradise. All three are seeking a way to escape their pasts, but soon the beauty and promise of their surroundings give way to their heavy mantle of war. Caught in the crosshairs of a fight between the U.S. military and the Imperial Japanese Army for control of the Philippine Islands, the nurses are forced to serve under combat conditions and, ultimately, endure captivity as the first female prisoners of the Second World War. This gripping histor-

ical novel is based on the true experiences of nurses dubbed “the Angels of Bataan.”

Lux, Claudia. [Sign Here](#) (Berkley \$27)

To get one last member of the Harrison family to sell their soul so he can finally get a big promotion, Peyote Trip, who literally works in Hell, sets a plan in motion, but soon discovers that things aren't always as they seem, and everyone must face the consequences of their choices. “Lux brilliantly combines satire, suspense, and pathos in her remarkably assured debut. Readers of paranormal crime series such as Jim Butcher’s Dresden Files will be eager to see what Lux has up her sleeve next.” (PW)

Matthews, Mimi. [The Belle of Belgrave Square](#) (Berkley \$17)

Cursed with a crippling social anxiety, heiress Julia Wychwood, to escape the *ton*, proposes to notorious Captain Jasper Blunt, offering her dowry in exchange for the freedom to do as she pleases, which gets her into trouble when her curiosity about this mysterious man gets the better of her. “A grand cross-class romance, a twisty mystery, and emotional internal struggles combine to excellent effect in Matthews’s effervescent second Belles of London romance.” (PW)

McAuley, Brian. [Curse of the Reaper](#) (Talos \$26.99)

Decades after playing the titular killer in the 80s horror franchise *Night of the Reaper*, Howard Browning has been reduced to signing autographs for his dwindling fanbase at genre conventions. When the studio announces a series reboot, the aging thespian is crushed to learn he’s being replaced in the iconic role by heartthrob Trevor Mane, a former sitcom child-star who’s fresh out of rehab. Trevor

is determined to stay sober and revamp his image while Howard refuses to let go of the character he created, setting the stage for a cross-generational clash over the soul of a monster. But as Howard fights to reclaim his legacy, the sinister alter ego consumes his unraveling mind, pushing him to the brink of violence. The publisher bills this as *Scream* meets *The Shining*. So, perfect Halloween reading then.

McGeorge, Chris. [A Murder at Balmoral](#) (G.P. Putnam \$17)

With the whole royal family gathered at their Scottish retreat, King Eric is poisoned while making a toast to announce his successor, leaving his beloved head chef, Jonathan, playing detective in order to expose the truth.” - Classic elements of a cozy British murder mystery reappear in an updated and timely royal romp.” (PW)

McQuiston, Casey. [Red White & Royal Blue](#) (St. Martin’s \$29.99)

When his mother became President, Alex Claremont-Diaz was promptly cast as the American equivalent of a young royal. Handsome, charismatic, genius—his image is pure millennial-marketing gold for the White House. There’s only one problem: Alex has a beef with an actual prince, Henry, across the pond. And when the tabloids get hold of a photo involving an Alex-Henry altercation, U.S./British relations take a turn for the worse. Heads of family, state, and other handlers devise a plan for damage control: staging a truce between the two rivals. What at first begins as a fake, Instagramable friendship grows deeper, and more dangerous, than either Alex or Henry could have imagined. The publisher is now offering a special hardcover Collector’s Edition of this beloved *New York Times* bestseller that

also includes illustrated endpapers and an all new Henry POV chapter.

Morris, Wanda. [Anywhere You Run](#) (William Morrow \$17.99)

From the award-winning author of *All Her Little Secrets* comes yet another gripping, suspenseful novel where, after the murder of a white man in Jim Crow Mississippi, two Black sisters run away to different parts of the country . . . but can they escape the secrets they left behind?" Beautifully rendered prose written in the vernacular of a small Mississippi town will immerse readers in the lives of two sisters trying to survive. (PW)

Rai, Alisha. [Partners in Crime](#) (Avon \$16.99)

While settling her aunt's affairs with the help of Naveen - a lawyer who also happens to be a man she rejected after a one-night stand - Mira finds she is soon caught up in a mad dash through Las Vegas with Naveen as they follow clues to untangle the mess her family left behind, a mess that could put both their future and their lives in danger.

Reichert, Amy E. [Once Upon a December](#) (Berkley \$17)

When Astra Noel Snow and Jack Clausen meet at a one-of-kind Christmas market, they fall in love, but they must soon decide if their new-found romantic relationship can weather all seasons, or if what they're experiencing is just yuletide magic.

Rosen, Lev AC. [Lavender House](#) (Forge \$26.99)

Lavender House is the family seat of recently deceased matriarch Irene Lamontaine, head of the famous Lamontaine soap empire. Irene's recipes for her signature scents are a well guarded secret—but it's not the only one behind these gates. This estate offers a unique

freedom, where none of the residents or staff hide who they are. But to keep their secret, they've needed to keep others out. And now they're worried they're keeping a murderer in. Irene's widow hires Evander Mills to uncover the truth behind her mysterious death. Andy, recently fired from the San Francisco police after being caught in a raid on a gay bar, is happy to accept—his calendar is wide open. And his secret is the kind of secret the Lamontaines understand. Andy had never imagined a world like Lavender House. He's seduced by the safety and freedom found behind its gates, where a queer family lives honestly and openly. But that honesty doesn't extend to everything, and he quickly finds himself a pawn in a family game of old money, subterfuge, and jealousy—and Irene's death is only the beginning.

Shepherd, Megan. [Malice House](#) (Hyperion \$26.99)

Deciding to illustrate a disturbing, secret handwritten manuscript from her late Pulitzer Prize-winning father, aspiring artist Haven Marbury is plunged into a nightmarish world when a monstrous creature appears, forcing her to uncover dark, otherworldly family secrets in order to rewrite everything she thought she knew about herself.

Stone, Emily. [One Last Gift](#) (Dell \$17)

When she discovers the first clue in a Christmas scavenger hunt left by her late brother, Cassie is led on a heart-wrenching and beautiful journey during which she reconnects with old friends, rekindles a lost love, and most importantly, rediscovers herself. "Stone's masterful tale does not shy away from the messiness of grief, resulting in a complex and emotional story that tugs on every heartstring. Readers should have tissues at the ready." (PW)

Ward, Catriona. [Little Eve](#) (TOR \$27.99)

When Chief Inspector Black arrives on the wind-battered isle of Altnaharra, off the coast of Scotland, to investigate a brutal murder, interrupting their sacred ceremony, young Eve and her clan, preparing to bring about the end of the world, are faced with a reckoning beyond their imagination."Ward works in so many motifs—Bible resonances, colonialism, science versus faith, and the pall of war, to name just a few—that the play of imagery is as engrossing as the plot twists, making this a rewarding outing from any angle. Horror fans won't want to miss this." (PW)

Wells, Christine. [One Woman's War](#) (William Morrow \$17.99)

World War II British Naval Intelligence officer Victoire Patricia Evelyn Bennett's – aka Paddy's- mission to deceive the Germans about Allied Invasion plans is jeopardized by a beautiful Austrian double agent Friedl Stottinger, who is determined to survive in wartime England, and who must now choose whether to remain loyal to the British or betray thousands of men to their deaths. Ever wonder what the real Miss Moneypenny of James Bond fame might have like? Wells gives readers a few clues in this historical thriller that explores the Allied deception that would become Operation Mincemeat.

Young, Samantha. [A Cosmic Kind of Love](#) (Berkley \$17)

While sifting through inspirational material from one of her clients, event planner Hallie Goodman discovers videos from Christopher Ortiz, a former astronaut on the International Space Station, and begins a correspondence with him that leads to romance. One could say this romance is out of this world.

Teen

Azad, Nafiza. [Road of the Lost](#) (Margaret K McElderry \$19.99)

Croi is compelled by a summoning spell leave her home in the Wilde Forest and travel into the Otherworld, where the enchantment that made her into a brownie begins to break, revealing her true identity, her hidden magick, and her forgotten heritage.

Cornwell, Betsy. [Reader, I Murdered Him](#) (Clarion \$17.99)

Attending boarding school in London, Adele enters the glittering world of society girls and their wealthy suitors until a violent assault leads her to a roguish young con woman, and together, they become vigilantes who mete out justice in this re-imagining of the story of Adèle Varens of *Jane Eyre* fame as a queer feminist vigilante.

Lesperance, Nicole. [The Depths](#) (Razorbill \$18.99)

After suffering a near-fatal freediving accident, seventeen-year-old Addie Spencer tags along on her mother's honeymoon to a private island where she unearths dark secrets--a child ghost, moody flowers, and a deep pool where no one feels pain--before realizing the island might not be willing to let her go.

Silvera, Adam. [The First to Die at the End](#) (Quill Tree \$19.99)

With society divided by a new technology claiming to alert people on the day of their death, thousands sign up, and on day one, dozens receive their calls, including two boys destined for love until one receives the first End Day call.

Wilde, Rhiannon. [Henry Hamlet's Heart](#) (Charlesbridge \$18.99)

Henry Hamlet doesn't know what he wants after school ends. It's his last semester of high school, and all he's sure of is his uncanny ability to make situations awkward. Luckily, he can always hide behind his enigmatic best friend, Len. They've been friends since forever, but Len is mysterious and Henry is clumsy, and Len is a heartthrob and Henry is a neurotic mess. Somehow it's always worked. That is, until Henry falls in love. Hard. How do you date your best friend?

Food

Chester, Molly et al. [The Apricot Lane Farms Cookbook](#) (Avery \$45)

Seasonally-inspired food, with more than 130 recipes, from Molly Chester co-founder and farmer of Apricot Lane Farms, a 234-acre biodynamic farming project in Moorpark, CA. Prior to farming, Molly was a private chef in Los Angeles who specialized in healing the gut through nutrient-dense culinary techniques such as soaking, sprouting and fermenting.

Fleming, Claudia. [Delectable: Sweet and Savory Baking](#)(Random \$40)

A pastry chef, restaurateur and author explores her own family traditions and shares over 140 sweet and savory recipes including Blueberry Muffins, Rhubarb Scones, Cider Doughnuts, Devil's Food with Earl Grey Cream, Eggplant Caponata Tart and Chickpea Crackers. Fleming had me at Rhubarb Scones.

Garten, Ina. [Go-To Dinners](#) (Clarkson Potter \$35)

In *Go-To Dinners*, Ina shares her strategies for making her most satisfying and uncomplicated dinners. Many, like Overnight Mac & Cheese, you can make ahead and throw in the oven right before dinner. Light dinners like Tuscan White Bean Soup can be prepped ahead and assembled at the last minute. Go-to family meals like Chicken in a Pot with Orzo and Hasselback Kielbasa will feed a crowd with very little effort. And who doesn't want to eat Breakfast For Dinner? Who indeed?

Kanell, John. [Preppy Kitchen](#) (Simon & Schuster \$32.50)

A cooking and baking expert, and founder of Preppy Kitchen, serves up his fan-favorite recipes and baked goods that can be made at home, along with inspirational crafts, from making flower arrangements and wreaths to pickling vegetables, and stunning photographs that bring these mouthwatering dishes to life.

Kimber, Edd. [Small Batch Bakes](#) (Kyle \$22.99)

Baking recipes typically serve large groups of people, perfect for a party, a celebration, a crowd. But what about when you just want one cookie and you don't want to spend the money on making a big batch, or don't have the people to share them with? Enter *Small Batch Bakes*, great for singles, small households, students or anyone who likes to bake a lot. The recipes serve one, two, four or six and are predominately sweet but also include some savory varieties that would be perfect for a lunch or impromptu picnic.

[King Arthur Baking School](#) (Countryman Press \$45)

The King Arthur Baking School has welcomed thousands of students through its doors. The curriculum has evolved over the years, but many of the original instructors remain, becoming experts not just at baking, but at teaching baking. Now they've brought those lessons to these pages, illustrated throughout with stunning color photography. The chapters in *The Baking School Cookbook* are organized to flow best through lessons and techniques, from Yeast Breads to Sourdough; Laminated Pastries to Pies & Tarts; Cookies to Cake.

McDowell, Erin Jeanne. [Savory Baking](#) (Harvest \$35)

Savory Baking is the next best thing to a private baking and pastry class from star food stylist and baking expert Erin Jeanne McDowell, given in her signature fun and reassuring style. Not only are each of her recipes intensely crave-able, they also offer inventive inspirations and variations for endless, out-of-the-box customizations and more flexibility.

Murad, Noor and Yotam Ottolenghi. [Ottolenghi Test Kitchen](#) (Clarkson Potter \$32)

From the *New York Times* bestselling author and his superteam of chefs, this is Ottolenghi, unplugged: 86 irresistible recipes for relaxed, flexible home cooking that will bring the love to every shelf in your pantry, fridge, and freezer. "Common fridge finds beget kale pesto strata with gruyere and mustard, and "magical chicken" and parmesan soup, while appetizing freezer creations include curried cauliflower cheese filo pie and buckwheat-battered fish with toum and pickled chiles. Chock-full of tasty ideas, this lets readers reap the rewards of being resourceful." (*PW*)

Wise, Stephanie. [Comfort Baking](#) (Herald \$34.99)

Baking has become more than a hobby or a means to a delicious end. Now more than ever, it has also become a source of solace, relief, and relaxation. *Comfort Baking* focuses on easy-to-follow recipes that make people feel good from the inside out. For anyone who is looking for a moment in the kitchen as a time to create, worship, relax, or prepare a recipe for a friend in need, this is your guidebook. In addition to over 100 recipes that exude comfort from beginning to end, baker Stephanie Wise of *Girl vs. Dough* includes plenty of helpful tips along the way to make the process as simple and enjoyable as possible.

Nonfiction

Andersen, Jens. [The Lego Story](#) (Mariner \$32.50)

Through interviews with the founding family that still owns the company – and with access to the vast LEGO archive - this definitive story behind one of the most beloved brands on the planet doubles as a cultural history of changing generations' view of childhood and the importance of play.

Christiansen, Rupert. [Diaghilev's Empire](#) (Farrar Straus Giroux \$35)

Serge Diaghilev, the Russian impresario and founder of the *Ballets Russes*, is often said to have invented modern ballet. An art critic and connoisseur, Diaghilev had no training in dance or choreography, but he had a dream of bringing Russian art, music, design, and expression to the West and a mission to drive a cultural and artistic revolution. Bringing

together such legendary talents as Vaslav Nijinsky, Anna Pavlova, Igor Stravinsky, Pablo Picasso, and Henri Matisse, this complex and visionary genius created a new form of ballet defined by artistic integrity, creative freedom, and an all-encompassing experience of art, movement, and music.

[Great Novels](#) (DK \$35)

From medieval romances and tales of chivalry through the realist novels of the 19th century to experimental modernist works and today's explorations of the self, *Great Novels* explores the finest novels from around the world and through time. Tilt at windmills with Don Quixote, experience heartbreak with Tolstoy, discover the society in which Jane Austen lived, and delve into the complex rites of passage experienced by characters in modern novels. Find out what inspired writers to create their masterpieces, what their aims were, and how they set about writing them.

King, Greg and Penny Wilson. [Nothing But the Night](#) (St. Martin's \$29.99)

Using 21st-century investigative tools, forensics and a modern understanding of the psychology of infamous killers Leopold and Loeb, this riveting new exploration of nearly 100-year-old case involving two well-to-do Jewish scions who murdered a 14-year-old boy just for the thrill of it turns history on its head.

Lewis, C.S. [On Writing \(and Writers\)](#) (HarperOne \$23.99)

Featuring over one hundred excerpts—some short and some essay length—drawn from his wide body of letters, books, and essays, *On Writing (and Writers)* brings together C. S. Lewis's reflections on the power, importance,

and joy of a life dedicated to writing.

Livingstone, Natalie. [The Women of Rothschild](#) (St. Martin's \$39.99)

Follows the extraordinary lives of the Rothschild women from the dawn of the 19th century to the early years of the 21st as they forged their own dynasty in a deeply patriarchal family, giving voice to these complicated, privileged and gifted women whose vision and tenacity shaped history.

Meacham, Jon. [And There Was Light](#) (Random \$40)

The Pulitzer Prize-winning biographer examines life and moral evolution of Abraham Lincoln and how he navigated the crises of slavery, secession and war by both marshaling the power of the presidency while recognizing its limitations.

Moorehead, Caroline. [Mussolini's Daughter](#) (Harper \$32.50)

Drawing on archival material, some newly released, along with memoirs and personal papers, this incredible story recounts the life of Mussolini's daughter Edda, a proponent of fascism who played a key role in one of the most terrifying and violent periods in human history.

Paul, Joel Richard. [Indivisible](#) (Riverhead \$30)

A historian and law professor examines how Daniel Webster rose to national prominence by planting the seeds of American nationalism and arguing that Constitution was an agreement made by the states but an expression of the will of all Americans.

Pueblo, Yung. [Lighter](#) (Harmony \$24)

In *Lighter*, Yung Pueblo demonstrates how we can all move forward in our healing, from

learning self-compassion to letting go to becoming emotionally mature. As the heaviness falls away, our minds will finally stop feeling overburdened with tension and we'll be able to reconnect with the present. And the world around us will hopefully become more inviting in crisp and newly vibrant ways.

Sassoon, Joseph. [The Sassoons](#) (Pantheon \$35)

Chronicling the making of a dynasty, one of the great untold sagas of a gilded Jewish Baghdadi family who started from nothing, this riveting story shows how they built a vast empire through finance and trade that reached across three continents, and ultimately changed the destinies of nations.

Schiff, Stacy. [The Revolutionary](#) (Little Brown \$35)

Thomas Jefferson once asserted that “for depth of purpose, zeal, and sagacity, no man in Congress exceeded, if any equaled, Sam Adams.” John Adams called him “the most elegant writer, the most sagacious politician, and celebrated patriot perhaps of all.” But in spite of his celebrated status among America’s founding fathers as a revolutionary leader, Samuel Adams’ life and achievements have been largely overshadowed in the history books. Now, Stacy Schiff brings her masterful skill as historian and storyteller to the life of Samuel Adams, examining his transformation from the listless, failing son of a wealthy family into the tireless, silver-tongued revolutionary who rallied the likes of John Hancock and John Adams behind him.

Setiya, Kieran. [Life Is Hard](#) (Riverhead \$27)

There is no cure for the human condition: life is hard. But Kieran Setiya believes philosophy can help. He offers us a map for navigating

rough terrain, from personal trauma to the injustice and absurdity of the world. In this profound and personal book, Setiya shows how the tools of philosophy can help us find our way. Drawing on ancient and modern philosophy as well as fiction, history, memoir, film, comedy, social science, and stories from Setiya’s own experience, *Life Is Hard* is a book for this moment—a work of solace and compassion.

Vallejo, Irene. [Papyrus](#) (Knopf \$35)

Weaving together interpretations of the classics, moving personal anecdotes of the author’s own encounters with the written word and fascinating historical stories, this rich exploration of the book’s journey from oral tradition to scrolls to codices illuminates how ancient ideas about education, censorship, authority and identity still resonate today.

Wallen and Emil Wilson. [How to Write a Novel in 20 Pies](#) (Andrews McMeel \$19.99)

Providing comfort food and inspiration for the aspiring novelist, *How To Write a Novel in 20 Pies* offers novelist and writing coach Amy Wallen’s insider secrets on living the writing life. Filled with chapters about writing, revising, submitting to an agent, and book promotion, this book combines Wallen’s experienced writing advice with the brilliant illustrations of Emil Wilson, including recipes for literary success and the full recipes for 20 sweet and savory pies.

Walsh, Stephen. [The Beloved Vision](#) (Pegasus \$29.95)

When one thinks of “great” classical music—music with the most emotional resonance and timelessness—we harken back to the nineteenth century and the Romantic tradition. We recall the sweet melody of a Schubert

song, the heroine dying for love in an Italian opera, the swooning orchestration of a Tchaikovsky symphony. With authority, insight, and passion, *The Beloved Vision*, links the music history of this singular epoch to the ideas that lay behind Romanticism in all its manifestations. In this complete, entertaining, and singularly readable account, we come to understand the entire phase in music history that has become the mainstay of the twentieth and twenty-first century concert and operatic repertoire. We also come to understand Beethoven, Mahler, Schubert, Chopin, and Wagner anew.