

# Midmonth BookNotes

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## It's Blooming Books!

### Cozy Corner

Adams, Ellery. [Paper Cuts](#) (Kensington \$27)  
After Kelly Walsh, the woman her ex-husband left her for is found murdered, bookstore owner and bibliotherapist Nora Pennington and The Secret, Book, and Scone Society seek justice for Kelly, despite all the gossip and rumors swirling around Nora. *Kirkus* ended their rave review of the latest in Adams' fun biblio-centric cozy series with "red herrings abound along with plenty of tips on choosing books."

Carlisle, Kate. [Dressed to Drill](#) (Berkley \$8.99)  
When a dead body halts her renovation of an old Victorian church, Shannon Hammer discovers the church is hiding a century of secrets and must figure out which one someone with a screw loose would kill to protect. "Mystery, romance, and a primer on churches combine in a charming page-turner." (*Kirkus*)

Connelly, Lucy. [An American in Scotland](#) (Crooked Lane #26.99)  
Leaving Seattle for a small-town doctor position in Scotland, Dr. Emilia McRoy finds herself

continually butting heads with the unhelpful local constable when she stumbles across a dead body, which goes missing before Emilia can even begin the autopsy. In this series debut, "stunning Scottish scenery provides the backdrop for an enjoyable mix of murder and romance." (*Kirkus*)

Elliott, Lauren. [Dedication to Murder](#) (Kensington \$8.99)

*Oh, bother!* A first edition set of *Winnie-the-Pooh* books throws Beyond the Page bookstore owner and rare books expert Addie Greybourne on an investigation into her family's past.

Erickson, Alex. [Death by Iced Coffee](#) (Kensington \$8.99)

Stumbling upon the dead body of a fellow marathoner - and serial cheater, both personally and professionally - bookstore-cafe owner Krissy Hancock, to help her best friend's boyfriend clear his name, races against time to find the killer before another Pine Hills resident gets iced.

Gerber, Daryl Wood. [A Flicker of a Doubt](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

Hired to create charming fairy gardens for a theater foundation event, Courtney Kelly locks horns with her besties' ex, hours before he turns up dead. "Plenty of suspects, gardening tips, and fairy lore combine for a sweet treat." (Kirkus)

Lynn, Sherry. [Digging Up Daisy](#) (Berkley \$17)

The owner of a successful Maine landscaping company, Kinsley Clark, is shocked when she uncovers a high-heeled shoe while working at her aunt's bed-and-breakfast and races to solve the crime before it affects business. Series launch to a fun new Maine-set cozy.

Quigley, Mindy. [Ashes to Ashes, Crust to Crust](#) (St. Martin's \$8.99)

Determined to win the hefty cash prize in the Geneva Bay's annual "Taste of Wisconsin" culinary contest, pizzeria owner Delilah O'Leary finds herself spread thin when one of her competition's customers is found dead, forcing her to act quickly before someone else bites the crust.

Shelton, Paige. [Fateful Words](#) (Minotaur \$26.99)

After leading a literary tour around Edinburgh, bookseller Delaney Nichols investigates when a local inn manager is killed and a tour group member disappears "This is armchair tourism at its best, with a dash of murder for spice. Bibliophiles and cozy fans alike will be enchanted." (PW)

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

Abe, Shana. [An American Beauty](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

Amidst the opulent glamour and vicious social circles of Gilded Age New York, this stunning biographical historical novel by the *New York*

*Times* bestselling author of *The Second Mrs. Astor* conjures the true rags-to-riches story of Arabella Huntington -- a woman whose great beauty was surpassed only by her exceptional business acumen, grit, and artistic eye, and who defied the constraints of her era to become the wealthiest self-made woman in America.

Allen, Jayne. [Black Girls Must Have It All](#) (Harper \$26.99)

Throwing herself into her work to maintain her position as the news station's weekend anchor, new mother Tabitha Walker, when her husband issues her an ultimatum, turns to her friends for support as she comes to terms with her new life and faces her biggest challenge yet -- choosing herself.

Bellefleur, Alexandria. [The Fiancée Farce](#) (Avon \$18.99)

Running her family's bookstore while fending off questions about her love life, Tansy Adams invents a girlfriend, Gemma, inspired by the cover model on a bestselling book, but when the real-life Gemma--who needs to marry in order to inherit her family's publishing company--discovers Tansy's charade, she takes things one step further and announces their engagement.

Berman, Ella. [Before We Were Innocent](#) (Berkley \$28)

Ten years after being cleared of any involvement in the death of their friend while summering in Greece, Bess must decide if she wants to continue to support Joni, who is again tangled up in an eerily similar crime."The suspense rises as Berman skillfully doles out long-held secrets that lead to the truth behind what happened 10 years earlier on Mykonos. This tale of how the emotional bonds forged in youth can define people's

lives long afterward will resonate with many.  
(PW)

Bose, Disha. [Dirty Laundry](#) (Ballantine \$27)  
A clique of mothers in a small Irish village react to the murder of their queen bee, whose picture-perfect life made easy money on Instagram and whose death provided each of them something to gain. Secrets, desires, blood....It all comes out in the wash. A deliciously scandalous page-turner about the dark side of suburbia.

Brashears, Monica. [House of Cotton](#) (Flatiron \$27.99)  
A broke and effectively orphaned nineteen-year-old, Magnolia Brown, accepts an offer from a mysterious, slick stranger for a lucrative "modeling" job at his family's funeral home and becomes concerned as the job requests become increasingly weird. A Southern gothic debut novel by a graduate of the Syracuse University MFA program, whose work has appeared in *Nashville Review*, *Appalachian Review*, and *The Masters Review* among other publications.

Clare, Jessica. [What the Hex](#) (Berkley \$17)  
Taking an unorthodox arrangement to apprentice under the table to a forbidden warlock, Penny Roundtree, a member of the Society of Familiars, clashes with the surly Prussian until their spell casting takes a dangerous turn, conjuring up an enemy — and a love — they never saw coming.

Clark, Mary Higgins and Alafair Burke. [Where Are the Children Now?](#) (Simon and Schuster \$27.99)  
A lawyer turned successful podcaster, Melissa has recently married a man whose first wife died tragically, leaving him and their young daughter, Riley, behind. While Melissa and her brother, Mike, help their mom, Nancy,

relocate from Cape Cod to the equally idyllic Hamptons, Melissa's new stepdaughter goes missing. Drawing on the experience of their own abduction, Melissa and Mike race to find Riley to save her from the trauma they still struggle with--or worse. The much-anticipated sequel to the iconic thriller *Where Are the Children?* which launched Mary Higgins Clark's writing career in 1975.

Cleeton, Chanel. [The Cuban Heiress](#) (Berkley \$17)

On a voyage from New York to Havana aboard the Morro Castle, the fates of heiress Catherine Dohan, a woman living a lie, and Elena Palacio, bent on revenge against those who wronged her, are intertwined as they risk everything to see justice served once and for all.

Dallas, Sandra. [Where Coyotes Howl](#) (St. Martin's \$27.99)

In 1916 Wallace, Wyoming, schoolteacher Ellen Webster finds purpose in her work as a rancher's wife and in her bonds with other women settled on the prairie as they look out for each other, share their secrets and help one another in times of need. "Well-rounded characters, convincing period details, and a sumptuous setting make this sing. Readers will be hooked." (PW)

Deveraux, Jude. [My Heart Will Find You](#) (MIRA \$30)

When the world is brought to a standstill in the early days of a global pandemic, Etta Wilmont finds herself suddenly stranded in Kansas City. Desperate to secure a roof over her head, Etta crosses paths with Henry Logan, a lonely older man in need of a caretaker. His invitation for Etta to stay with him seems to be the solution to both their problems--and maybe the spontaneous adventure Etta's life

has been missing. As Etta and Henry settle into a companionable living arrangement, Etta indulges in Henry's library. The compelling historical accounts of life in the Midwest soon inspire vivid dreams of Kansas City in the 1870s, dreams in which she's a mail-order bride, married to a handsome but guarded rancher named Maxwell Lawton. Fans of Deveraux's classic time travel romance *A Knight in Shining Armor*, will want to check out this.

Dimon, HelenKay. [Moorewood Family Rules](#) (Avon \$18.99)

*Knives Out* and *Ocean's 8* meets *The Nest* in this hilariously twisty novel by award-winning author HelenKay Dimon, about a woman who returns home from prison to her dysfunctional con artist family and tries to get them to go legit.

Eddings, Mazey. [The Plus One](#) (St. Martin's Griffin \$16.99)

Some facts are indisputable. The sun rises in the east, sets in the west. Gravity exists. Indira doesn't like Jude. Jude doesn't like Indira. But what happens when these childhood enemies find the only thing they can rely on is each other after they strike a bargain to be each other's fake dates to an upcoming wedding from hell?

Eding, Stephanie. [Said No One Ever](#) (Sourcebooks Casablanca \$16.99)

Ellie Reed has just about had enough of her family's constant criticism and attempts to control her life. But when she rents an Airbnb getaway on a gorgeous farm in Montana, she encounters a whole new set of family drama. Now she's the reluctant and borderline competent caretaker of a barn full of unruly farm animals, caught between two handsome men competing for control of the farm, and the sudden best friend of a spunky elderly widow whose outrageous ideas just might change her

destiny.

Fox, Hester. [The Last Heir to Blackwood Library](#) (Graydon House \$17.99)

With the stroke of a pen, twenty-three-year-old Ivy Radcliffe becomes Lady Hayworth, owner of a sprawling estate on the Yorkshire moors. Ivy has never heard of Blackwood Abbey, or of the ancient bloodline from which she's descended. With nothing to keep her in London since losing her brother in the Great War, she warily makes her way to her new home. The abbey is foreboding, the servants reserved and suspicious. But there is a treasure waiting behind locked doors: a magnificent library. Despite cryptic warnings from the staff, Ivy feels irresistibly drawn to its dusty shelves, where familiar works mingle with strange, esoteric texts. And she senses something else in the library too, a presence that seems to have a will of its own. "Immersive historical detail and a gripping, intricate plot combine to plunge readers headlong into a rags-to-riches tale laced with betrayal and intrigue. This is a treat for bibliophiles." (PW)

Gilmore, Lucy. [The Lonely Hearts Book Club](#) (Sourcebooks Casablanca \$16.99)

Sloane Parker lives a small, contained life as a librarian in her small, contained town. She never thinks of herself as lonely...but still she looks forward to that time every day when old curmudgeon Arthur McLachlan comes to browse the shelves and cheerfully insult her. Their sparring is such a highlight of Sloane's day that when Arthur doesn't show up one morning, she's instantly concerned. And then another day passes, and another. Anxious, Sloane tracks the old man down only to discover him all but bedridden...and desperately struggling to hide how happy he is to see her. Wanting to bring more cheer into Arthur's gloomy life, Sloane creates an impromptu book club. Slowly, the lonely misfits of their

sleepy town begin to find each other, and in their book club, find the joy of unlikely friendship.

Henry, Emily. [Happy Place](#) (Berkley \$27)  
Despite breaking up months earlier, picture-perfect couple Harriet and Wyn, who first met while they were both in college ten years ago, still haven't told anyone about the split. When they discover two of their fellow college friends are about to announce their own engagement, Wyn and Harriet attempt to pretend they are still together at an annual Maine getaway so as to not discourage the happy new couple in their midst. "A wistfully nostalgic look at endings, beginnings, and loving the people who will always have your back." (*Kirkus*)

Hoffs, Susanna. [This Bird Has Flown](#) (Little Brown \$29)  
Jane Start is thirty-three, broke, and recently single. Ten years prior, she had a hit song—written by world-famous superstar Jonesy—but Jane hasn't had a breakout since. Now she's living out of four garbage bags at her parents' house, reduced to performing to Karaoke tracks in Las Vegas. *Rock bottom*. But when her longtime manager Pippa sends Jane to London to regroup, she's seated next to an intriguing stranger on the flight—the *other* Tom Hardy, an elegantly handsome Oxford professor of literature. Jane is instantly smitten by Tom, and soon, truly inspired. But it's not Jane's past alone that haunts her second chance at stardom, and at love. Is Tom all that he seems? And can Jane emerge from the shadow of Jonesy's earlier hit, and into the light of her own? A novel about music, fate, redemption, and love, from a songwriter and the co-founder of The Bangles

Holton, India. [The Secret Service of Tea and Treason](#) (Berkley \$17)

A top operative within a secret government intelligence group, Alice, aka Agent A, must team up with her greatest rival, Agent B, to foil an assassination plot against the Queen, soon finding the growing attraction between them thwarting their attempts to remain professionals. "Holton's signature tongue-in-cheek style shines, pairing dry wit with ludicrous situations to excellent effect. Alice and Daniel's banter is a particular highlight, and their tender connection helps to ground all the action. This may be Holton's best yet." (*PW*)

Janowitz, Brenda. [The Audrey Hepburn Estate](#) (Graydon House \$18.99)

In a novel inspired by Audrey Hepburn's classic film *Sabrina*, caterer Emma Jansen returns to the grand Long Island estate—now set for demolition—where she grew up as the daughter of the house manager, and where a rekindled love triangle reveals bittersweet truths about her upbringing and a shattering secret about her family.

Kellogg, Camille. [Just As You Are](#) (Dial \$17)  
Liz Baker and her three roommates work at *The Nether Fields*, a queer magazine in New York that's on the verge of shutting down—until it's bought at the last minute by two wealthy lesbians. Even though Liz is eager to leave listicles behind for more meaningful writing, she knows that she's lucky to still have a paycheck. But it's hard to feel grateful with minority investor Daria Fitzgerald breathing down her neck. A *Pride and Prejudice*-inspired enemies-to-lovers romance.

Kelly, Martha Hall. [The Golden Doves](#) (Ballantine \$28.99)  
To finally secure justice and protect the ones they love, two former female spies, American Josie Anderson and Parisian Arlette LaRue, aka the Golden Doves, risk everything to hunt

down an infamous Nazi doctor in the aftermath of World War II. The latest WW II historical novel from the author of *Lilac Girls*, which has sold 1.8 million copies in the United States to date.

Kitt, Sandra. [The Time of Your Life](#) (Sourcebooks Casablanca \$15.99)

When Everett Nicholls died, he left his millions to the two people he cared about most—the young law student he was mentoring, and his beloved stepson. Eden Marsh and Beck Denison are instantly suspicious of each other. Suddenly, with all this money at their fingertips, family problems they've each been ignoring can no longer be swept under the rug. Beck and his mother have had a strained relationship since tragedy befell the family when he was a young teen, and Eden knows it's long past time to forge a new relationship with her demanding younger sister. As Eden and Beck begin to confide in each other—and to have fun together—their friendship is an anchor in a stormy new life.

Lalli, Sonya. [Jasmine and Jake Rock the Boat](#) (Berkley \$17)

Trapped on a 10-day seniors' cruise with her parents and family friends, Jasmine Randhawa is forced to spend time with her childhood acquaintance — and enemy — Jake Dhillon, but when she realizes they have much in common, she wonders if their newfound relationship is strong enough to last on land.

McAvoy, J.J. [Verity and the Forbidden Suitor](#) (Dell \$17)

While staying with her brother, the Duke of Everely, and his new wife, Verity Eagleman has a forbidden romance with Dr. Theodore Darrington, the estranged bastard son of the Marquess of Whitmear, and must decide if she is willing to risk everything to be with the man she now loves.

Mccooy, Taj. [Zora Books Her Happy Ever After](#) (MIRA \$15.99)

A heart-pounding, curvy romance about an indie bookstore owner who finds herself in a love triangle when she meets the author she's had a crush on for years...and his best friend.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Summer Reading](#) (Berkley \$17)

"You never get a second chance to make a good first impression." Sam Gale certainly hopes that this saying isn't true, because her first encounter with Ben Reynolds – a.k.a. "hot reading guy" – is a disaster culminating with Sam knocking the book Ben is reading into the ocean. A few days later when she is dropping her brother Tyler off at the library, Sam bumps into Ben again, who just happens to be the library's new interim director. But given the fact that Sam hates reading and Ben is a books are my jam kind of guy, is there really any hope for any kind of romantic relationship between them?

Meissner, Susan. [Only the Beautiful](#) (Berkley \$28)

In 1947, Helen Calvert, returning to her brother's vineyard in California's Napa Valley for good after witnessing firsthand Adolf Hitler's brutal pursuit of hereditary purity, is drawn into battle at home when she discovers what really happened to the vinedresser's pregnant daughter she had long ago befriended."Meissner seamlessly unites the two narratives, drawing striking parallels between Germany's forced euthanasia of disabled people and eugenics in the U.S. Readers will be riveted." (PW)

Morton, Kate. [Homecoming](#) (Mariner \$32)

Called home to care for her grandmother after a fall, Jess, a journalist, discovers a book chronicling the police investigation into an old unsolved murder that has a shocking connec-

tion to her family.” Jess’s gripping inquiry into what happened brings up staggering revelations. Along the way, there are beautiful descriptions of the region’s landscape and canny insights into the neighborhood’s tight-knit community. This is Morton’s best yet. (PW)

Novak, Brenda. [The Seaside Library](#) (MIRA \$30)

Mariners Island was Ivy, Ariana, and Cam’s whole world. But when a young girl goes missing, Cam becomes the prime suspect in the case. Ariana and Ivy know their best friend is incapable of hurting anyone, so they both lie to protect Cam. Haunted by the tragedy, Ariana leaves Mariners while Ivy remains behind tied to the old library that belongs to her family. Twenty years later, Ariana returns to Mariners just as new evidence on that old case of the missing teen emerges. Now over the course of one eventful summer, Ariana, Ivy, and Cam will discover the truth about their pasts, their futures, and the ties that still bind the three together. It wouldn’t be summer reading season without another of Novak’s seductive, intrigue-tinged novels of sun, sand, secrets, and scandal.

Roberts, Sheila. [Mermaid Beach](#) (MIRA \$9.99)

Bonnie Brinks and her all-woman band, *The Mermaids*, are the pride of Moonlight Harbor. They’re the house band at *The Drunken Sailor*, and that’s just the right amount of fame for Bonnie. A lifetime ago, she went to Nashville to make it big, but she returned home with a broken heart and broken dreams. Now she’s got a comfortable life and a brilliant daughter, Avril, who plays for *The Mermaids* alongside Bonnie and Bonnie’s mother, Loretta. But now Avril has dreams of her own, and a new owner of *The Drunken Sailor* is open to other musical groups replacing *The Mermaids*. Is Bonnie facing the end of her musical dreams once and for all? Or, is this the start of

something new and better?

Robson, Jennifer. [Coronation Year](#) (William Morrow \$19.99)

It is Coronation Year, 1953, and a new queen is about to be crowned. The people of London are in a mood to celebrate, none more so than the residents of the Blue Lion hotel. Edie Howard, owner and operator of the floundering Blue Lion, has found the miracle she needs: on Coronation Day, Queen Elizabeth in her gold coach will pass by the hotel’s front door, allowing Edie to charge a fortune for rooms and, barring disaster, save her beloved home from financial ruin.

Rosen, Renee. [Fifth Avenue Glamour Girl](#) (Berkley \$17)

It’s 1938, and a young woman selling face cream out of a New York City beauty parlor is determined to prove she can have it all. Her name is Estée Lauder, and she’s about to take the world by storm. The best-selling author of *Park Avenue Summer* re-imagines the life of Estée Lauder through the eyes of a fictional close friend and confidant whose job at a luxury department store helps open the doors for her bestie’s cosmetics ambitions.

Sittenfeld, Curtis. [Romantic Comedy](#) (Random \$28)

A sketch writer for a late-night comedy show, Sally Milz pokes fun at the phenomenon of talented but average men who’ve gotten romantically involved with beautiful women and how the reverse never happens until she meets a pop music sensation who flips the script on all her assumptions. If Sittenfeld’s fictional comedy show reminds readers of a certain popular television comedy sketch show with the initials SNL, you would not be wrong.

Sternbergh, Adam. [The Eden Test](#) (Flatiron \$27.99)

Signing them up for The Eden Test, a week-long getaway for couples in need of a fresh start, Daisy, a slyly talented actress with her own secrets, and her husband, Craig, as the lies and revelations pile up, are forced to go to the ultimate extreme to save their marriage — and themselves.

Strohmeyer, Sarah. [We Love to Entertain](#) (Harper \$21.99)

Holly and Robert Barron are attractive young real-estate investors and contestants in a competition run by *To the Manor Build*, the nation's most popular home renovation app. It's all camera-ready laughs and debates over herringbone tile at the Vermont home the couple are renovating, until Holly and Robert go missing hours after their picture-perfect wedding—leaving behind a bloody trail. Suspicion falls quickly on Erika Turnbull, the Barrons' twenty-something assistant—eager, efficient, and secretly in love with Robert. Did Erika let her misguided passion turn her into a murderer? So claim the townsfolk of Snowden, Vermont, who still haven't forgiven her for a tragic accident back in high school. But Erika's mother, Kim, is not about to let small-town gossip and a cop with an axe to grind destroy her daughter—again. With time running out and their own lives at risk, the mother-daughter duo set out to find what really happened to the Barrons. Strohmeyer's latest is both a deliciously twisty suspense novel that has fun taking a few shots at the popularity of home-renovation shows on channels like HGTV as well as a thoughtful exploration of the dynamics between a mother and daughter.

Waters, Martha. [To Swoon and to Spar](#) (Atria \$17.99)

Viscount Penvale has been working for years

to buy back his ancestral home, Trethwick Abbey, from his estranged uncle. And so he's thrilled when his uncle announces that he is ready to sell but with one major caveat—Penvale must marry his uncle's ward, Jane Spencer. When the two meet in London, neither is terribly impressed. Penvale finds Jane headstrong and sharp-tongued. Jane finds him cold and aloof. Nevertheless, they agree to a marriage in name only and return to the estate. There, Jane enlists her housekeeper for a scheme: to stage a haunting so that Penvale will return to London, leaving her to do as she pleases at Trethwick Abbey. Waters' latest sparkling Regency-set romance is a clever spin on Jane Austen's *Northanger Abbey*.

### Children's

Dyckman, Ame. [How Dinosaurs Went Extinct](#) (Little Brown \$17.99)

In this outrageously fun “safety guide,” a child in a museum asks their parents how the dinosaurs all became extinct. Well, their father has some theories. Gallimimus? Ran with scissors. Ankylosaurus? Tipped in their chair. Spinosaurus? Swam after eating. Tyrannosaurus rex? Didn't change their underwear. By the end of the story, the child vows to never do any of these “dangerous” things again. Those dinosaurs should have been more careful!

Tracy, Kristen. [Don't Trust the Cat](#) (Chronicle \$16.99)

Fifth-grader Poppy McBean likes rules and order. She's a follower, and she's totally okay with that. And if you judge her for that, she's okay with that too! But after falling prey to her friends' bullying one too many times, Poppy makes a wish to be happy—and it comes true in a very unexpected way: She wakes up in the body of her cat, Mitten Man. *Mean Girls* meets *Freaky Friday* in this laugh-out-loud story about self-acceptance, learning



who your friends are, and coming of age . . . as a cat.

## Teen

Durst, Sarah Beth. [The Lake House](#) (HarperTeen \$19.99)

Arriving at an off-the-grid summer camp with two other girls only to discover a blackened, burned husk of a lodge and a dead body in the woods, Claire soon realizes they are being hunted by something that refuses to let them leave.

Eves, Rosalyn. [An Improbable Season](#) (Farrar Straus & Giroux \$18.99)

While in Regency London for their first Season, Thalia, her sister Kalli and their cousin Charis find their big plans to discover their own happily-ever-afters thwarted by scandal, love and the expectations of high society. *Bridgerton* for the teen set.

Sedoti, Chelsea. [Tell Me What Really Happened](#) (Sourcebooks Fire \$18.99)

When their friend vanishes during a camping trip down by Salvation Creek, four friends have a very different story to tell about what happened that night, in this gripping mystery told entirely through first-person interviews.

## Food and Drink

Castelaz, Ryan. [The New Art of Coffee](#) (Universe \$30)

While the popularity of craft cocktails and home bartending have helped people create their own drink-driven memories, the possibilities for coffee have remained rather tame. Much more than a guide to beans or brewing, *The New Art of Coffee* shares how to create inspiring concoctions and flavor profiles from comforting and rejuvenating to celebratory and adventurous.

Donofrio, Jeanine. [Love and Lemons Simple Feel Good Food](#) (Avery \$35)

Offering visual guides to reusing, mixing and matching ingredients for fresh, must-eat vegetarian meals, the creator of the hugely popular Love & Lemons blog provides both make-now recipes made with minimal prep and ingredients and make-ahead recipes for full meals destined for the freezer.

Kimball, Christopher. [Milk Street Noodles](#) (Little Brown \$35)

In *Milk Street Noodles*, the Milk Street team shines a spotlight on the world's most beloved noodle dishes, from spaghetti to pad see ew, from ramen to spaetzle. This collection of 125 weeknight-ready dishes offer up world of flavor in a bowl--with recipes perfectly adapted to American home kitchens.

Muller, Eddie. [Eddie Muller's Noir Bar](#) (Running Press \$26)

Eddie Muller's *Noir Bar* pairs carefully curated classic cocktails and modern noir-inspired libations with behind-the-scenes anecdotes and insights on 50 film noir favorites. Some of the cocktails are drawn directly from the films: If you've seen *In a Lonely Place* and wondered what's in a "Horse's Neck"—now you'll know. If you're watching *Pickup on South Street* you'll find out what its director, Sam Fuller, actually drank off-screen. Didn't know that *Nightmare Alley*'s Joan Blondell inspired a cocktail? It may become a new favorite. Meanwhile, Rita Hayworth is toasted with a "Sailor Beware," an original concoction which, like the film that inspired it (*The Lady From Shanghai*), is unique, complex, and packs a wallop. In his day job, Muller hosts TCM's popular *Noir Alley*.

## Nonfiction

Balint, Benjamin. *Bruno Schulz*

With *Bruno Schulz*, the Sami Rohr Prize—winning Balint revisits the celebrated Polish Jewish author/artist, focusing on the rediscovery of murals Schulz was compelled to paint at an SS villa and the question raised when they were smuggled to Jerusalem: who can claim the legacy of those, like Schulz, who perished in the Holocaust?

Clark, Roy Peter. *Tell It Like It Is*

In *Tell It Like It Is*, bestselling author, writing coach, and teacher Roy Peter Clark offers a succinct and practical guide to writing with clarity, honesty, and conviction. By analyzing stellar writing samples from a diverse collection of public writers, Clark highlights and explains the tools journalists, scientists, economists, fact-checkers, even storytellers use to engage, inform, and hook readers, and how best to deploy them in a variety of contexts.

Cooper, Katie. *Queens of a Fallen World*

*Queens of a Fallen World* tells a story of betrayal, love, and ambition in the ancient world as seen through a woman's eyes. Historian Kate Cooper introduces us to four women whose hopes and plans collided in Saint Augustine's early adulthood: his mother, Monnica of Thagaste; his lover; his fiancée; and Justina, the troubled empress of ancient Rome. Drawing upon their depictions in the *Confessions*, Cooper skillfully reconstructs their lives against the backdrop of their fourth-century society. Though they came from different walks of life, each found her own way of prevailing in a world ruled by men.

Curry, Jack. *The 1998 Yankees*

The visiting clubhouse in San Diego was soggy, sweaty and sticky after the 1998 *Yankees*

swept the *Padres* in four games and celebrated winning their 24th World Series title. The players raised bottles of Champagne, sprayed the bubbly on each other and reveled in a baseball season that might have been more memorable than any in history. Jack Curry was part of that unforgettable scene as a reporter, navigating around the clubhouse to ask the same, pertinent question. After winning an unprecedented 125 games and pummeling teams along the way, were these *Yankees*, the *Yankees* of Jeter, Mariano, Posada, Pettitte, Bernie, O'Neill, Tino and so many other vital players, the best team ever?

De Courcy, Anne. *Magnificent Rebel*

Paris in the 1920s was bursting with talent in the worlds of art, design and literature. The city was at the forefront of everything new and exciting; there was no censorship; life and love were there for the taking. At its center was the gorgeous, seductive English socialite Nancy Cunard, scion of the famous shipping line. Her lovers were legion, but this book focuses on five of the most significant as well as a lifelong friendship.

Draycott, Jane. *Cleopatra's Daughter*

The first biography of one of the most fascinating yet long-neglected rulers of the ancient world: Cleopatra Selene, daughter of Antony and Cleopatra.

Durkee, Lee. *Stalking Shakespeare*

A darkly humorous and spellbinding detective story that chronicles one Mississippi man's relentless search for an authentic portrait of William Shakespeare.

Grann, David. *The Wager*

On January 28, 1742, a ramshackle vessel of patched-together wood and cloth washed up

on the coast of Brazil. Inside were thirty emaciated men, barely alive, and they had an extraordinary tale to tell. They were survivors of His Majesty's Ship the *Wager*, a British vessel that had left England in 1740 on a secret mission during an imperial war with Spain. While the *Wager* had been chasing a Spanish treasure-filled galleon known as "the prize of all the oceans," it had wrecked on a desolate island off the coast of Patagonia. The men, after being marooned for months and facing starvation, built the flimsy craft and sailed for more than a hundred days, traversing nearly 3,000 miles of storm-wracked seas. They were greeted as heroes. But then ... six months later, another, even more decrepit craft landed on the coast of Chile. This boat contained just three castaways, and they told a very different story. The thirty sailors who landed in Brazil were not heroes – they were mutineers.

Larman, Alexander. *The Windsors at War*  
At the beginning of 1937, the British monarchy was in a state of turmoil. The previous king, Edward VIII, had abdicated the throne, leaving his unprepared and terrified brother Bertie to become George VI, surrounded by a gaggle of courtiers and politicians who barely thought him up to the job. Meanwhile, as the now-Duke of Windsor awaited the decree that would allow him to marry his mistress Wallis Simpson, he took an increased interest in the expansionist plans of Adolf Hitler. He may even have gone so far as to betray his country in the process. And as double agents and Nazi spies thronged the corridors of Buckingham Palace, the only man the King could trust was his Prime Minister, Winston Churchill. But they faced a formidable, even unbeatable, adversary: his own brother

Schoenberger, Nancy. *Blanche*  
Ever since Jessica Tandy glided onto the stage in Tennessee Williams's *A Streetcar Named*

*Desire* at the Ethel Barrymore Theatre in 1947, Blanche DuBois has fascinated generations of audiences worldwide and secured a place in the history of literature, theater, and film. One of Williams's greatest creations, Blanche has bedazzled, amused, and broken the hearts of generations of audiences. Before the Covid pandemic, the stage classic was performed somewhere in the world every hour. It has been adapted into a ballet and an opera, and it was satirized in an episode of *The Simpsons*. The final twelve words Blanche utters at the play's end—"I have always depended on the kindness of strangers"—have taken on a life of their own. Endlessly fascinating, this indelible figment of one of America's greatest mid-century playwrights garners nearly universal interest—but why? In *Blanche*, Nancy Schoenberger searches for the answer.

Smith, Sally Bedell. *George VI and Elizabeth*  
A revelatory account of how the loving marriage of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth saved the monarchy during World War II, and how they raised their daughter to become Queen Elizabeth II, based on exclusive access to the Royal Archives—from the bestselling author of *Elizabeth the Queen and Prince Charles*

Wilson, Rainn. *Soul Boom*  
The trauma that our struggling species has experienced in recent years—because of both the pandemic and societal tensions that threaten to overwhelm us—is not going away anytime soon. Existing political and economic systems are not enough to bring the change that the world needs. In this book, Rainn Wilson explores the possibility and hope for a spiritual revolution, a "Soul Boom," to find a healing transformation on both a personal and global level.