

Midmonth BookNotes

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A Bounty of Books

Cozy Corner

Bessette, Alicia. [Murder on Mustang Beach](#) (Penguin \$27)

Cattail Island in the Outer Banks is a popular destination for honeymooners and nature lovers alike. So it is a huge blow when the murder of a newlywed grinds the pre-summer season to a screeching halt. Bookseller Callie Padget launches her own investigation, after mysterious customer Geri-Lynn Humfeld, caretaker of the island's protected wild horses, brings in an irresistible piece of information. Bessette delivers a terrific follow-up to her wonderful debut [Smile Beach Murder](#) (Penguin \$17).

Duncan, Emmeline. [Flat White Fatality](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

To top off her coffee business, Sage Caplin is now helping out with her boyfriend Bax's gaming company. Conveniently for Sage, it's located next door to her Ground Rules Roastery. That makes it easy for her to pitch in with Bax's employee team-building event. The plan

is to boost morale with a scavenger hunt. And it seems to be going well—until Robbie, a programmer known for being a prankster, turns up dead in Sage's roastery .

Matthews, Olivia. [Hard Dough Homicide](#) (St. Martin's \$8.99)

After local high school Principal Emily Smith dies during her retirement dinner, which was catered by Spice Isle Bakery, owner Lyndsay Murray, to save her business, investigates to find out who in Brooklyn's Little Caribbean neighborhood has an appetite for murder.

Page, Katherine Hall. [The Body in the Web](#) (HarperCollins \$29.99)

In the 26th book in the award-winning Faith Fairchild Mysteries series, Katherine Hall Page's beloved amateur detective is hunkered down with her family during the pandemic when a Zoom-bombing scandal sends the community into a tailspin ... and a dead body is discovered.

Polito, Fran Anthony. [Rehearsed to Death](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

Peter Penwell's first play is having its world

premiere at Pleasant Woods's community theater. His handsome one and only, JP Broadway, has the lead. Rehearsals have begun. And New York City's award-winning, hotshot Xander Sherwood Deva, is directing. Unfortunately the controlling, arrogant, poison-barbed, egomaniacal diva has everyone on edge until someone in the cast or crew takes matters into their own hands and strangles Xander to death in the same extra-long, imported cashmere scarf he's been brandishing like a boa ever since he arrived.

Saunders, Angela M. [Witch upon a Star](#) (Kensington \$8.99)

When murder attends the grand reopening of Darla's Café, and her sister receives the killer's chilling calling card, librarian and witch-in-training Josie Way must conjure up the clues with the help of the library's spellbound books to stop a homicidal maniac in his tracks.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Adams, Sarah. [Practice Makes Perfect](#) (Random \$17)

When she overhears her latest date say she is boring, Annie Walker, on a quest to find her perfect match, turns to emotionally unavailable Will Griffin for tutoring lessons in how to become flirtatious and fun. But as the lines of their friendship become blurred, Annie begins to wonder if her dream guy may be right in front of her.

Adler, Sarah. [Mrs. Nash's Ashes](#) (Penguin \$17) Reluctant travel companions, starry-eyed romantic Millicent Watts-Cohen and cynical writer Hollis Hollenbeck take the road trip of a lifetime to deliver the ashes of Millicent's elderly best friend to the woman she fell in love with nearly 80 years ago. "Debut author Adler combines heat and sweet in this charmingly

offbeat rom-com." (PW)

Barry, Amy. [Marrying McBride](#) (Penguin \$17)

Answering a mail-order bride advertisement to escape spinsterhood, Epiphany Hopgood, too tall, too loud and too opinionated, arrives in Buck's Creek only to discover the man in question, Morgan McBride, doesn't want to a bride. So, Epiphany decides to convince him otherwise.

Bauermeister, Erica. [No Two Persons](#) (St. Martin's \$28)

When a devastating event breaks her heart open, aspiring writer Alice creates a stunning debut novel in which her words find their way to readers, from a teenager hiding her homelessness to a widower rent by grief, all of whom now, due to Alice's book, find new paths forward in life.

Bellezza, Audrey. [Emma of 83rd Street](#) (Gallery \$17.99)

In this witty and romantic debut novel, Jane Austen's *Emma* meets the misadventures of Manhattan's modern dating scene as two lifelong friends – Emma Woodhouse and George Knightley - discover that, in the search for love, you sometimes don't have to look any further than your own backyard. PW said "readers will fall in love with Emma Woodhouse all over again" in this remake by authors Bellezza and Harding.

Birchall, Katy. [The Last Word](#) (St. Martin's \$17)

The celebrity editor at a newspaper's glossy weekend magazine, Harper Jenkins loves her job until her boss hires her enemy, reporter Ryan, who betrayed her years ago. Now, as they go head-to-head in the newsroom, long-buried feelings resurface and their chemistry comes to a head.

Bostwick, Marie. [Esme Cahill Fails Spectacularly](#) (HarperCollins \$17.99)

Failed writer Esme Cahill returns to Ashville to discover her family's once-charming lakeside retreat is falling into ruin and while trying to renovate, discovers museum-worthy quilts in the attic that reveal her grandmother's story and a forgotten chapter in history.

Bowen, Kelly. [The Garden of Lost Secrets](#) (Grand Central \$16.99)

When Isabelle purchases a crumbling chateau in Rouen, it's not just a renovation project—it's a chance to reconnect with her sister, Emilie, the only family she has left. What she uncovers instead is an intriguing mystery. As the siblings piece together the incredible truth behind the fairytale books written by their great-grandmother Stasia, they discover an exciting story of courage in the face of treachery and an explosive secret that will change everything they believed about their family.

Callaway, Joy. [All the Pretty Places](#) (Harper \$17.99)

Sadie Fremd's dreams hinge on her family's nursery, which has been the supplier of choice for respected landscape architects on the East Coast for decades. Now her small town is in a panic as the economy plummets into a depression after the Stock Market crash of 1929, and Sadie's father is pressuring her to secure her future by marrying a wealthy man among her peerage—but Sadie has never been one to play it safe. Joy Callaway illuminates the life of her great-great-grandmother in this captivating story about a daring woman following her passion and finding her voice, while exploring natural beauty and its effect in the lives of those who need it most.

Cervantes, J.C. [The Enchanted Hacienda](#) (Park Row \$29.99)

Harlow Estrada returns to the enchanted Ha-

cienda Estrada, a family farm in Mexico where her mother, sisters, aunt and cousins harness the magic of charmed flowers, but when she's chosen to watch over the farm, she panics since she, herself, is magic-less, until she opens her heart to love and creativity.

Chu, Lily. [The Comeback](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

So what if everything in Ariadne Hui's life is planned down to the minute: that's the way she likes it. If she's going to make partner in Toronto's most prestigious law firm, she needs to stay focused at all times. But when she comes home after yet another soul-sucking day to find an unfamiliar, *gorgeous* man camped out in her living room, focus is the last thing on her mind. Especially when her roommate explains this is Choi Jihoon, her cousin freshly arrived from Seoul to mend a broken heart. He just needs a few weeks to rest and heal; Ari will barely even know he's there. (*Yeah, right.*)

Crochiere, Nancy. [Graceland](#) (HarperCollins \$17.99)

Hope Robinson, the quiet, introverted daughter of a flamboyant soap-star agrees to take her Elvis-obsessed mother to Graceland one last time before she dies despite leaving Memphis with a secret and a signed agreement never to return.

Dugan, Jennifer. [Love at First Set](#) (HarperCollins \$16.99)

Agreeing to accompany her best friend, who is also her boss's son, to his sister Cara's wedding, Lizzie gives a drunken pep talk to a hot stranger, convincing her to ditch her fiancé, only to discover it was Cara. Oops! An adult rom-com debut by a popular YA writer.

Goldis, Jaclyn. [The Chateau](#) (Atria \$27.99)

Invited to Provence to visit the Lady of the Chateau, Séraphine Demargelasse, Darcy,

S raphine’s granddaughter, and her three friends, returning the estate after 20 years, are plunged into a nightmare when S raphine is brutally murdered and they are stalked by a faceless killer who pits them against each other.

“A messy extramarital affair, a missing Van Gogh painting, and a Holocaust-era betrayal spin the plot toward shocking revelations that do not stop until the very last page. Sex, lies, and secrets turn deadly in this modern-day tale built on classic plot devices.” (*Kirkus*)

Goodman, Alison. [The Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies](#) (Penguin \$17)

After rescuing their friend’s goddaughter from her violent husband, Lady Augusta Colebrook and her twin sister Julia return to London, where they set out to prove the innocence of an old acquaintance, who was falsely accused of murder. Along the way, the two then decide to expand their efforts to secretly help others in need by forming the Benevolent Society of Ill-Mannered Ladies.

Greco, Stephen. [Such Good Friends](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

The housekeeper for princess and sister of Jackie Kennedy, Her Serene Highness Lee Radziwill, Marlene meets celebrated author Truman Capote, and when he takes her under his wing as a writer, she sees his darker side – especially his penchant for mining his friends’ private lives for material.

Henry, Patti Callahan. [The Secret Book of Flora Lee](#) (Atria \$28.99)

When she receives a rare book linked to the disappearance of her sister, Flora, in 1939, Hazel, believing this is a sign Flora is still alive after all these years, embarks on a feverish quest, revisiting long-dormant relationships and bravely reopening wounds from the past to find the truth.

Heron, Farah. [Jana Goes Wild](#) (Forever \$16.99)
Jana Suleiman has never really fit in—everyone always sees her as too aloof, too cool, too perfect. The one time she stepped out of her comfort zone she ended up with a broken heart and a baby on the way. Now while attending a destination wedding in Serengeti National Park as a bridesmaid, Jana discovers her gorgeous-but-not-to-be-trusted ex Anil Malek is also on the guest list. Determined to show he has no effect on her whatsoever, Jana and the other bridesmaids concoct a go-wild list to get Jana through the week. But the more she lets down her guard, the less protection she has against her attraction to Anil. And Jana soon realizes it’s one thing to walk on the wild side . . . and quite another to fall for her ex all over again.

Hoffman, Michelle. [The Second Ending](#) (Random \$18)

Prudence Child, a former prodigy who refuses to believe her best years are behind her, and Alexei Petrov, a young virtuoso searching for his passion, both get an unlikely shot at their dreams when they compete on a wildly popular dueling pianos TV show in this sparkling debut about second chances, unexpected joys, and the miraculous power of music.

Kay, Laura. [Wild Things](#) (Knopf \$17)

Giving up their big city apartments and moving out to a ramshackle house on the edge of an English country village, El, her best friend Ray and their two other closest friends transform the newly named Lavender House into a queer commune that forces El to confront her feelings for Ray.

Lane, Byron. [Big Gay Wedding](#) (Henry Holt \$26.99)

Barnett Durang has a secret. No, not THAT secret. His widowed mother has long known

he's gay. The secret is Barnett is getting married. At his mother's farm. In their small Louisiana town. She just doesn't know it yet. It'll be an intimate affair. Just two hundred or so of the most fabulous folks Barnett is shipping in from the "heathen coasts," as Mom likes to call them, turning her quiet rescue farm for misfit animals into a most unlikely wedding venue. But there are forces, both within this modern new family and in the town itself, that really don't want to see this handsome couple march down the aisle. It'll be the biggest, gayest event in the town's history if they can pull it off, and after a glitter-filled week, nothing will ever be the same.

Lauren, Christina. [The True Love Experiment](#) (Gallery \$27.99)

Bestselling romance novelist who doesn't practice what she preaches, Felicity "Fizzy" Chen agrees to star in a reality TV show to find her perfect match if documentary filmmaker and single father Connor Prince meets her list of demands. However, Fizzy soon discovers the person with whom she will share a happily-ever-after may not be in front of the camera with her, but rather directing things behind the camera.

Legrand, Claire. [A Crown of Ivy and Glass](#) (Sourcebooks \$25.99)

Every year on St. Walpurga's Eve, Caldella's Witch Queen lures a boy back to her palace. An innocent life to be sacrificed on the full moon to keep the island city from sinking. Lina Kirk is convinced her brother is going to be taken this year. To save him, she enlists the help of the mysterious Thomas Lin, the boy she secretly loves, and the only person to ever escape from the palace. Working together they save her brother, but they draw the queen's attention, and Thomas is then chosen as the sacrifice. *New York Times* bestselling author of *Furyborn*, Claire Legrand, makes her

stunning adult debut with a lush, sweeping, steamy fantasy romance series starter that's perfect for fans of *Bridgerton* and *A Court of Thorns and Roses*.

McKinnon, Hannah. [The Darlings](#) (Atria \$17.99)

Tish Darling, the matriarch and protector of what's left of the family fortune, returns to Riptide, a decades-old beach house on Cape Cod, for her granddaughter's wedding where she reveals an old secret, kept with the best of intentions, that throws both the wedding and the family off course.

McNamara, Luna. [Psyche and Eros](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

Enlisted by Aphrodite to deliver a cruel curse to Psyche, princess of Mycenae, Eros, god of desire, accidentally pricks himself with the arrow intended for Psyche and is doomed to yearn for a woman who will be torn from him the moment their eyes meet.

Micciche, KJ. [The Book Proposal](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Forging an unlikely friendship with her long ago high-school crush, romance writer Gracie Landing uses his tales of his break-up as a source of material for her current work-in-progress, risking her career and chance at happiness when chaos inevitably ensues.

Miller, Kristyn J. [Seven Rules for Breaking Hearts](#) (St. Martin's \$17.00)

To appease her disappointed listeners, perpetually single podcaster Margo Anderson must break her own dating rules to prove relationships are a bad idea and finds the ideal candidate in Declan Walsh. But the more they spend time together, the more Margo feels her romantically cynical social media persona slipping away as she discovers how much she enjoys being with Declan.

Murray, Amita. [Unladylike Lessons in Love](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Shunned from “polite” society, Lila Marleigh, the eldest daughter of an English earl and his Indian mistress, becomes hostess of an exclusive gaming club where she meets and convinces Ivor Tristram to help her solve a violent crime, igniting a passion that shakes them both to the core.

Noble, Shelley. [The Tiffany Girls](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

In 1899 Manhattan, three “Tiffany Girls,” women responsible for much of the design and construction of Tiffany’s extraordinary glassworks, are brought together by chance, driven by their desire to be artists in one of the only ways acceptable for women in their time.

Paul. Crystal Smith. [Did You Hear about Kitty Karr](#) (Henry Holt \$27.99)

When Kitty Karr Tate, a White icon of the silver screen, dies and bequeaths her multimillion-dollar estate to the St. John sisters, three young, wealthy Black women, it prompts questions. Lots of questions. A celebrity in her own right, Elise St. John would rather focus on sorting out Kitty’s affairs than deal with the press. But what she discovers in one of Kitty’s journals rocks her world harder than any other brewing scandal could—and between a cheating fiancé and the fallout from a controversial social media post, there are plenty. The truth behind Kitty’s ascent to stardom from her beginnings in the segregated South threatens to expose a web of unexpected family ties, debts owed, and debatable crimes that could, with one pull, unravel the all-American fabric of the St. John sisters and those closest to them.”With a plot worthy of a miniseries, an extensive cast, and a historical sweep, Paul succeeds in entertaining as well as enlightening.” (*Kirkus*)

Roberts, Nora. [Identity](#) (St. Martin’s \$30)

Several weeks after meeting a charming con-artist at the bar where she works, Morgan Albright returns home one evening to find her apartment broken into and her roommate dead. Turns out the con-artist is a serial killer with a certain type, and it is Morgan’s bad luck to fit into that box. With 230 and counting books to her credit, Roberts knows a thing or two about how to keep readers on the edge of their seats.

Rosenblum, Emma. [Bad Summer People](#) (Flatiron \$28.99)

Jen Weinstein and Lauren Parker rule the town of Salcombe, Fire Island every summer. They hold sway on the beach and the tennis court, and are adept at manipulating people to get what they want. Their husbands, Sam and Jason, have summered together on the island since childhood. The two women are friends despite lifelong grudges and numerous secrets. Their one single friend, Rachel Woolf, is looking to meet her match, whether he’s the tennis pro—or someone else’s husband. But even with plenty to gossip about, this season starts out as quietly as any other until the women discover a body face down off the side of the boardwalk. *Kirkus* called this literary equivalent of *Desperate Housewives* a “heck of a beach read.”

Rowley, Steven. [The Celebrants](#) (Penguin \$28)

Reuniting in Big Sur to honor a decades-old pact to throw each other living “funerals,” celebrations to remind themselves life is worth living - and living well - five friends find their pact upended when one of them reveals a shocking secret.

The author’s publisher bills this as *A Big Chill* for our times.

Saint, Jennifer. [Atalanta](#) (Flatiron \$28.99)

From the beloved, bestselling author of *Elek-*

tra and *Ariadne*, a reimagining of the myth of Atalanta, a fierce huntress raised by bears and the only woman in the world's most famous band of heroes, the Argonauts. "Readers familiar with the original will appreciate Saint's thoughtful creation of an inner life for her protagonist, who struggles to reconcile her chaste upbringing with the passions Meleager inspires. For readers who can't get enough of feminist retellings, this will more than do the trick." (PW)

Sereno, Annie. [Leave It to the March Sisters](#) (Forever \$16.99)

When it comes to disastrous relationships, English professor Amy Marsden has pretty much seen *everything*. For Amy, it has been an endless adventure of oddballs, jerks, and some terrible lapses in judgment. Which is exactly how Amy ends up living in a house with the guy she's been half in love with since she was a kid. Theo Sinclair has been her sister Jo's best friend—and a commitment phobe—for as long as Amy can remember. And aside from one hot and heavy make-out session, she's managed to ignore her feelings for Theo and successfully avoid adding another entry in her *What-was-I-thinking* list. Yet now that they're living under the same roof, Amy and Theo are sharing everything from Cheetos and smoothies to their family drama, past trauma, and an attraction that Amy begins to think might not be one-sided. Could Theo really have feelings for her—or is Amy just setting herself up for another disaster? A fun and funny modern take on *Little Women*.

Shaffer, Meg. [The Wishing Game](#) (Random \$28)

Lucy Hart knows better than anyone what it's like to grow up without parents who loved her. In a childhood marked by neglect and loneliness, Lucy found her solace in books, namely the Clock Island series by Jack Master-

son. Now a twenty-six-year-old teacher's aide, she is able to share her love of reading with bright, young students, especially seven-year-old Christopher Lamb, who was left orphaned after the tragic death of his parents. Lucy would give anything to adopt Christopher, but even the idea of becoming a family seems like an impossible dream without proper funds and stability. Just when Lucy is about to give up, Jack Masterson announces he's finally written a new book. Even better, he's holding a contest at his home on the real Clock Island, and Lucy is one of the four lucky contestants chosen to compete to win the one and only copy. For Lucy, the chance of winning the most sought-after book in the world means everything to her and Christopher. But first she must contend with ruthless book collectors, wily opponents, and the distractingly handsome (and grumpy) Hugo Reese, the illustrator of the Clock Island books. Meanwhile, Jack "the Mastermind" Masterson is plotting the ultimate twist ending that could change all their lives forever.

Sharma, Annika. [Sugar, Spice, and Can't Play Nice](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

To save her family's fortune, Payal Mehra agrees to marry fellow Londoner and serial dater Ayaan Malhotra, who will do anything for his parents' respect, and as they race toward an impending engagement ceremony date, they realize that maybe they aren't just in this for business.

Steiner, Logan. [After Anne](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

As a young woman, Maud had dreams bigger than the whole of Prince Edward Island. Her exuberant spirit had always drawn frowns from her grandmother and their neighbors, but she knew she was meant to *create*, to capture and share the way she saw the world.

And the young girl in Maud's mind became more and more persistent: *Here is my story, she said. Here is how my name should be spelled—Anne with an “e.”* But the day Maud writes the first lines of *Anne of Green Gables*, she gets a visit from the handsome new minister in town, and soon faces a decision: forge her own path as a spinster authoress, or live as a rural minister's wife. The choice she makes alters the course of her life.

Sussman, Elissa. [Once More with Feeling](#) (Random \$17)

Leaving her pop star image in the past after one unforgettable night blows up her whole life, Katee Rose, when Cal Kirby, who destroyed her career, offers her the opportunity of her dreams nearly ten years later, reluctantly agrees to star in his musical and finds their still-smoldering attraction taking center stage.

Tubati-Alexander, Neely. [Love Buzz](#) (Harper-Collins \$17.99)

After sparks fly with a handsome stranger, who is also from Seattle, during Mardi Gras in New Orleans, straight-laced Serena Kahn returns home. But now Serena must decide if scouring the city to find him in pursuit of real passion is worth upending the life she's already built for herself.

Turnbull, Bryn. [The Paris Deception](#) (MIRA \$18.99)

While working at the *Jeu de Paume* Museum, Sophie Dix, who fled Germany after witnessing the government-sanctioned burning of modern, “degenerate” art, steals looted masterpieces from the Nazis, replacing them with forgeries with the help of her sister-in-law, risking more than her life to keep these paintings safe.

Weir, Alison. [The King's Pleasure](#) (Random \$30)

Painting a stunning portrait of the idealistic monarch who expanded Parliament, founded the Royal Navy, modernized medical training and patronized the arts, this historical novel also explores the private side of King Henry VIII, a passionate man whose search for true love would not end happily for Henry or many of his wives.

Winstead, Ashley. [The Boyfriend Candidate](#) (Graydon House \$18.99)

After a freak lightning storm interrupts her first one-night stand, shy librarian Alexis Stone is thrust into the spotlight when photographers catch her in the arms of the hotshot candidate Logan Arthur, who is running for governor of Texas. Now to squelch rumors, Logan demands Alexis pretend to be his girlfriend until election day, but after the last vote is counted, all bets are off when it comes to their fauxmance.

Teen Fiction

Heard, Wendy. [We'll Never Tell](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)

While investigating an infamous Hollywood murder mystery for the final episode of their YouTube show, four teenagers visit the scene of the crime, but one does not come out alive, leaving the others to solve crimes old and new--or die trying.

Kulper, Kendall. [A Starlet's Secret to a Sensational Afterlife](#) (Holiday House \$19.99)

In 1934 Los Angeles, aspiring actress Henrietta, who can talk to ghosts, and her brooding co-star Declan, who is immune to injury, go from bitter enemies to friends to possibly something more when they get tangled up in the disappearance of a beautiful young starlet.” Kulper delivers an action-packed mystery

replete with witty dialogue and buoyed by an ardent, slow-burn romance that enthralls while spotlighting Hollywood's long history of abusing, commodifying, and discarding women." (PW)

McCauley, Kyrie. [All the Dead Lie Down](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Newly orphaned seventeen-year old Marin accepts a nanny position for an acclaimed horror writer and her mother's childhood friend, but she soon realizes all is not well at Lovelace House. Now Marin must unravel its secrets before they consume her.

Parra, Jessica. [Rubi Ramos's Recipe for Success](#) (St. Martin's \$20)

Waitlisted at her college of choice, Rubi Ramos competes in the First Annual Bake Off while dealing with her crush on her cute surfer-slash-math-tutor and finds her life going in a different direction than she imagined.

Wilde, Jen. [This Is the Way the World Ends](#) (St. Martin's \$20)

Wealthy, popular Webber Academy senior, Caroline, permits her new friend and classmate Waverly, an autistic, gay, scholarship student, to attend the annual Masquerade Ball disguised as her; but the evening becomes a nightmare when there is a global blackout, and Waverly and her friends discover what the school's dean and top donors really have planned.

True Crime

Belkin, Lisa. [Genealogy of a Murder](#) (WW Norton \$29.95)

Independence Day weekend, 1960: a young cop is murdered, shocking his close-knit community in Stamford, Connecticut. The killer remains at large, his identity still unknown. But on a beach not far away, a young Army doctor, on vacation from his post at a research lab in

a maximum-security prison, faces a chilling realization. He knows who the shooter is. A multigenerational tale of three families whose paths collide one summer night in 1960 with the murder of a police officer.

Finkel, Michael. [The Art Thief](#) (Knopf \$28)

This riveting true story of art, crime, love and an insatiable hunger to possess beauty at any cost draws us into the strange and fascinating world of prolific art thief, Stéphane Breitwieser, who stole and kept more than 300 objects until one final act of hubris brought everything crashing down.

Johnson, Scott C. [The Con Queen of Hollywood](#) (HarperCollins \$32)

Blending years of deep reporting with distinctive, powerful prose, this unique true crime narrative recounts the exploits of a psychopathic con artist and gender-bending criminal mastermind known as the Con Queen, who swept through the entertainment industry, stealing dozens of identities and millions of dollars while exploiting the dreams of artist around the world.

Nonfiction

Anthony, Carl Sferrazza. [Camera Girl](#) (Gallery \$29.99)

An illuminating new biography of the young Jackie Bouvier Kennedy that covers her formative adventures abroad in Paris; her life as a writer and photographer at a Washington, DC, newspaper; and her romance with a dashing, charismatic Massachusetts congressman who shared her intellectual passion.

Cargill-Martin, Honor. [Messalina](#) (Pegasus \$32)

In her new life of Messalina, the classicist Honor Cargill-Martin reappraises one of the most slandered and underestimated female figures of ancient history. Looking beyond the salacious anecdotes, she finds a woman bat-

ting to assert her position in the overwhelmingly male world of imperial Roman politics – and succeeding.

Chrisinger, David. [The Soldier's Truth](#) (Penguin \$30)

Drawing on access to all of Pyle's personal correspondences, an acclaimed writer paints a vivid portrait of the life and world of legendary journalist Ernie Pyle, an ordinary American hero who gave WWII a human face for millions of Americans, and interweaves his own travels searching for the landmarks Pyle wrote about.

Donati, Alba. [Diary of a Tuscan Bookshop](#) (Scribner \$17.99)

Alba Donati was used to her hectic life working as a book publicist in Italy—a life that made her happy and allowed her to meet prominent international authors—but she was ready to make a change. One day she decided to return to Lucignana, the small village in the Tuscan hills where she was born. There she opened a tiny but enchanting bookshop in a lovely little cottage on a hill, surrounded by gardens filled with roses and peonies. With fewer than 200 year-round residents, Alba's shop seemed unlikely to succeed, but it soon sparked the enthusiasm of book lovers both nearby and across Italy. And in short time it has become a literary destination, with many devoted readers coming from afar to browse, enjoy a cup of tea, and find comfort in the knowledge that Alba will find the perfect read for them.

Gwynne, S. C. [His Majesty's Airship](#) (Scriber \$32)

The tragic story of the British airship R101—which went down in a spectacular hydrogen-fueled fireball in 1930, killing more people than died in the *Hindenburg* disaster seven years later—has been largely forgotten. In *His*

Majesty's Airship, historian S.C. Gwynne resurrects it in vivid detail, telling the epic story of great ambition gone terribly wrong.

Kroeger, Brooke. [Undaunted](#) (Knopf \$35)
Chronicling the lives of journalists and newsroom leaders in every medium, this essential history of American women in journalism, including Margaret Fuller, Ida B. Wells, Joan Didion and Cokie Roberts, discusses the huge and singular impact they have had on a vital profession still dominated by men.

Nelson, Craig. [V is for Victory](#) (Scriber \$32)
A *New York Times* bestselling historian, in this fascinating and meticulously researched account, chronicles how, under Franklin D. Roosevelt's resolute leadership, America's top industrialists and the American people joined in the war effort, building "the arsenal of democracy" that won World War II.

Schmidt, Shannon McKenna. [The First Lady of World War II](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)

On August 27, 1943, news broke in the United States that First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt was on the other side of the world. A closely guarded secret, she had left San Francisco aboard a military transport plane headed for the South Pacific to support and report the troops on WW2's front lines. Americans had believed she was secluded at home. As Allied forces battled the Japanese for control of the region, Eleanor was there on the frontlines, spending five weeks traveling, on a mission as First Lady of the United States to experience what our servicemen were experiencing... and report back home.

Steinberg, Jonny. [Winnie and Nelson](#) (Knopf \$35)

From one of South Africa's foremost nonfiction writers, a deeply researched, shattering new account of Nelson Mandela's relationship

with Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. Drawing on never-before-seen material, Steinberg reveals the fractures and stubborn bonds at the heart of a volatile and ground-breaking union, a very modern political marriage which was performed on the world stage.

Strathern, Paul. [The Other Renaissance](#) (Pegasus \$29.95)

It is generally accepted that the European Renaissance began in Italy. However, a historical transformation of similar magnitude also took place in northern Europe at the same time. This "Other Renaissance" was initially centered on the city of Bruges in Flanders (modern Belgium), but its influence was soon being felt in France, the German states, London, and even in Italy itself. Following a sequence of major figures, including Copernicus, Gutenberg, Luther, Catherine de' Medici, Rabelais, van Eyck, and Shakespeare, Paul Strathern tells the fascinating story of how this "Other Renaissance" played as significant a role as the Italian renaissance in bringing our modern world into being.

Weber, Gregor J.M. [Vermeer](#) (WW Norton \$65)

Johannes Vermeer's intensely quiet and enigmatic paintings invite the viewer into a private world, often prompting more questions than answers. Who is being portrayed? Are his subjects real or imagined? And how did he create such an unrivaled sense of intimacy? Bringing together diverse strands of the Dutch master's professional and private worlds, this is the first major authoritative study of Vermeer's life and work for many years shedding light on all thirty-seven of his paintings.

Wimmer, Chris. [The Summer of 1876](#) (St. Martin's \$30)

The summer of 1876 was a key time period in the development of the mythology of the Old

West. Many individuals who are considered legends by modern readers were involved in events that began their notoriety or turned out to be the most famous - or infamous - moments of their lives. Those individuals were Lieutenant Colonel George Armstrong Custer, Sitting Bull, Crazy Horse, Wyatt Earp, Bat Masterson, Wild Bill Hickok, and Jesse James. The Summer of 1876 weaves together the timelines of the events that made these men legends to demonstrate the overlapping context of their stories and to illustrate the historical importance of that summer, all layered with highlights of significant milestones in 1876: the inaugural baseball season of the National League; the final year of President Ulysses S. Grant's embattled administration; the debut of an invention called the telephone by Alexander Graham Bell; the release of Mark Twain's novel "The Adventures of Tom Sawyer;" and many more.