

Midmonth BookNotes

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Escape Into A Cool Book!

Cozy Corner

Alexander, Ellie. [Catch Me If You Candy](#) (Minotaur \$8.99)

When a murder occurs on All Hallow's Eve—one predicted by her mother's Mahjong partner, bakeshop owner Jules Capshaw must sift through the clues to catch a killer before she suffers the same fate.

Allen, Amanda. [Death Comes to Santa Fe](#) (Severn House \$31.99)

Madeline Vaughn-Alwin fled her New York society background after the death of her husband in World War I and became an artist in Santa Fe. Now a fixture in the 1920s art scene, she's developed a warm relationship with handsome British doctor David Cole and a formidable reputation as an amateur sleuth. Her current project is painting a portrait of Catalina Montoya, whose husband, wealthy businessman Ricardo, comes from an old Santa Fe family. The morning after Maddie attends a party at the home of a fellow artist, where a Zozobra statue with everyone's woes written inside is set aflame, a finger and other

human artifacts are discovered in the remains of the fire. As she and David are walking along an arroyo soon thereafter, they come upon the rest of the body, which Maddie is sure is that of Ricardo Montoya.

Andrews, Donna. [Birder, She Wrote](#) (Minotaur \$28)

Drafted by the mayor to run interference when rich newcomers complain about living next to working farms, Meg Langslow also finds herself drafted by her grandmother to help her and a Baptist church deacon find a Black cemetery. Instead, they stumble upon a fresh corpse dashing Meg's hopes for a relaxing, detection-free summer.

Brecher, Christin. [Mugshots of Manhattan](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

Landing a photography assignment with Grammy Award-winning pop star, Bisa, Liv Spyers, drawn into Bisa's inner circle, goes into detective mode when Bisa's estranged sister is murdered and she must expose the truth in this glossy, star-studded world where nothing is what it seems.

Brightwell, Emily. [Mrs. Jeffries Aims to Win](#) (Berkley \$17)

When successful businessman Jeremy Marks is murdered during an archery competition, Inspector Witherspoon discovers the man amassed his wealth by harming those who trusted him, while Mrs. Jefferies, the Inspector's household and their friends sort out fact from fiction in order to target a killer.

Childs, Laura. [Honey Drop Dead](#) (Berkley \$28)

Theodosia Browning's Honey Bee Tea was an elegant affair set in Charleston's new Petigru Park amid newly planted native grasses and a community beekeeping project. But when a phony beekeeper shows up and sprays toxic smoke at the guests, the party erupts in chaos. Worse yet, a shot rings out and Osgood Claxton III, candidate for state legislature, falls to the ground—dead. Childs' latest is a sweet treat for cozy fans.

Llyod, Catherine. [Miss Morton and the Spirits of the Underworld](#) (Kensington \$27)

While trying to discern whether a spiritualist's powers are real, Lady Caroline Morton is drawn into a much darker mystery when Madam Lavinia is found dead with a note addressed to Caroline, begging her to find her murderer in a world of deception and aggrieved aristocrats.

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at the Elms](#) (Kensington \$27)

While at coal baron Edward Berwind's fete, Emma and Derrick Andrews discover murder is in attendance when a chambermaid is found dead in the coal tunnel, and, when then asked to assist in this investigation involving a stolen diamond necklace, discover dark deeds that must be brought into the light.

Waddell, Mark. [The Body in the Back Garden](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

After inheriting his aunt's seaside cottage and the antiques shop she ran in Crescent Cove for forty years, Luke Tremblay plans on selling everything as quickly as he can and heading back to Toronto. But when a stranger who has been making spurious claims about his late aunt winds up dead in the back garden of Luke's new cottage, Luke must employ all of his investigative journalistic skills to uncover the real killer before the local officer leading the investigation, a handsome Mountie with a chip on his shoulder, tries to make him the culprit. A debut cozy.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Anderson, Rebecca. [The Art of Love and Lies](#) (Shadow Mountain \$16.99)

In 1857 Manchester, England, artist Rosanna Hawkins, who reproduces "parlor versions" of classic masterpieces with near-perfect precision for the upper class, teams up with a handsome detective to prove her innocence when someone steals a priceless Michelangelo painting, replacing it with her reproduction.

Avery, Lara. [The Year of Second Chances](#) (William Morrow \$30)

When she discovers her late husband enrolled her in a dating service, which he set up to go into effect a year after his death, Robin Lindstrom puts herself out there and finds herself meeting new people, trying new things and getting a second chance at love—and loving life.

Barnard, Megan. [Jezebel](#) (Penguin \$17)

With her initiatives ushering in an era of pros-

perity for Israel, beloved Queen Jezebel finds her people turning on her when a jilted lover, the prophet of Yahweh, speaks out against her, forcing her to decide how far she's willing to go to protect her family, her throne and her name. With a bold voice reminiscent of Madeline Miller's *Circe*, this is a stunning reimagining of the story of a fierce princess from Tyre and her infamous legacy.

Bear, Lauren A.J. [Medusa's Sisters](#) (Ace \$28)
Even before they were transformed into Gorgons, Medusa, Stheno, and Euryale were unique among their immortal family. Curious about mortals and their lives, Medusa and her sisters entered the human world in search of a place to belong, yet quickly found themselves at the perilous center of a dangerous Olympian rivalry and learned—too late—that a god's love is a violent one. "Bear offers an enticing plunge into the legends of ancient Greece. Mythology buffs will gobble this up." (PW)

Black, Regina. [The Art of Scandal](#) (Grand Central \$28)
After discovering her husband is having an affair, Rachel Abbott agrees to keep playing the ideal Black trophy wife until after his reelection campaign but finds it hard to keep her side of the bargain when she falls in love with an artist whose secrets blow everything wide open. "A sexy, elegantly crafted debut." (Kirkus)

Clarke, Lucy. [The Hike](#) (Putnam \$28)
When she and her three best friends go hiking in the stunning mountains of Norway, Liz, as they venture deeper into the wilderness, discovers this remote place hides secrets darker than they could've ever imagined and, if they aren't careful, not all of them will make it out alive. "The strengths of the novel lie in the knife-sharp tension of the first half as well as the beautifully nuanced friendship of the

four main characters. While there is danger and tragedy aplenty, hope and loyalty also abound." (Kirkus)

Crooks, Noelle. [Under the Influence](#) (Gallery \$27.99)

The newest member of self-help guru and social media influencer Charlotte Green's team, Harper Cruz, moving to Nashville, loves working in such an inspirational environment until the deeper she's pulled into Charlotte's world, the more she realizes that having it all and being it all comes with a price. "The plot has plenty of momentum, and Crooks lays bare Harper's desperation to succeed. Readers will gobble up this intelligent update on *The Devil Wears Prada* for the digital age." (PW)

Durrant, Saine. [Sun Damage](#) (Harper \$18.99)
In a tiny village in Provence, nine guests arrive at a luxury holiday home. The visitors know each other well, or at least they think they do. The only stranger among them is Lulu, the young woman catering their stay. But Lulu is not *exactly* the woman on the video the guests thought they'd hired. Turns out Lulu has plenty to hide—and nowhere to run as the heat rises. In this seemingly idyllic getaway, under the scorching sun, loyalties will be tested, secrets exposed, and tensions pushed to the brink. "Ali's keenly observant narration ("It's not true you can't con an honest person, but it's easier emotionally when they're not") keeps the plot moving briskly along its circuitous route, and Durrant takes witty jabs at the behavior of wealthy vacationers. This is good, Patricia Highsmith-style fun." (PW)

Forsythe, Lauren. [Dealbreakers](#) (Putnam \$18)
Frustrated by the online dating world, coder Marina Spicer created *Dealbreakers*, an anonymous app where women review how men stack up to their internet profiles. Her high

standards have served her well at work, so why not in love?

Enter Lucas Kennedy. A charming Irish content writer, he's the only one standing between Marina and her long-deserved promotion. Much to Marina's chagrin, the two are paired on a project to test out date ideas, ultimately determining which of them will run the department. Taking a peek at *Dealbreakers* hoping to learn some dirt about her rival, she finds he's the worst-rated man on the entire app. As Lucas and Marina argue their way through mixing cocktails, salsa dancing, and throwing axes, Marina finds herself having more fun than she's had in years. So when temptation becomes too strong to resist, Marina allows herself to break some of her own rules. After all, if the *Dealbreakers* say he's Mr. Wrong, he can't possibly be Mr. Right . . . can he?

Hare, Louise. [Harlem After Midnight](#) (Berkeley \$28)

Leaving London for New York to follow a dream of finding her extended family, Lena Aldridge meets handsome musician Will Goodman who offers her a place to stay. But when a woman falls to her death from a New York City apartment window, and is then found by Harlem patrolman James Freeman to be clutching Lena's passport, Lena must put aside her plans for a family reunion and temporarily take up detection to find the killer.

Hawkins, Karen. [The Secret Recipe of Ella Dove](#) (Gallery \$17.99)

Coming home to Dove Pond, Ella Dove, a nomadic baker whose desserts spark vivid, cherished memories in those who taste them, sets out to make amends with her mentor and the man whose heart she broke, learning that love can, and will, always find a way.

Hughes, Lorena. [The Queen of the Valley](#) (Kensington \$16.95)

Driven and recklessly daring, Martin Sabater follows his lifelong dream of owning a cacao plantation in Valle del Cauca. But on the night of a spectacular gala, he disappears—and is never seen again. Now his hacienda is a budding Catholic hospital saving lives during an emerging epidemic. And novice nun "Sor Puri" is there to uncover the truth behind Martin's disappearance. But her real identity—and her past with the heartbreakingly charismatic Martin—will put far more than her perilous search at risk.

Jackson, Danielle. [Accidentally, In Love](#) (Berkeley \$17)

Samantha Sawyer, the office manager of a mobile pinup photography studio, repeatedly butts heads with Russell Montgomery, the owner of a food truck on the summer festival circuit only to find that the Chicago heat is no match for the fire building between them.

Johnson, Liz. [Summer in the Spotlight](#) (Revell \$16.99)

After a devastating hurricane on Prince Edward Island, Kelsey Ahern sets out to save her beloved community theater—and her job. As she draws her friend, Levi Ross, into her plans for a benefit show, she discovers there's more to him than she expected, and that God's plans for their future are so much more important than the struggles of their pasts.

Levine, Jenna. [My Roommate Is a Vampire](#) (Berkeley \$17)

Moving into a too-good-to-be-true apartment, artist Cassie Greenberg, wondering what the catch is, discovers her gorgeous new roommate is a vampire—and he has a proposition for her in this completely charming debut romantic comedy.

London, Stefanie. [Confessions of a Canine Drama Queen](#) (Canary Street \$18.99)

August Merriweather has always been good with animals. In fact, she's known as Manhattan's Dog Whisperer. Men, on the other hand? Not so much. She's been falling for the wrong guys ever since her regrettable crush on Keaton Sax, older brother of her best friend, Leah, and the biggest jerkface this side of the Hudson. Now an emotionally closed off widower, Keaton has become one of the most formidable men on Wall Street, but August knows his secret. He's not driven by sales targets and bonus checks—Keaton just wants to give his family the security they never had. So when Leah asks Keaton to wrangle her over-the-top, dramatic husky at a weekend talent competition, Keaton says yes...and begs August to help him win the event for Leah.

Mangan, Christine. [The Continental Affair](#) (Flatiron \$27.99)

On the run from Henri, who has been sent to collect the money she has stolen, Louise, traveling on a train from Belgrade to Istanbul in the 1960s, must decide what the future will hold, while Henri, desperate to leave behind his own troubles, soon realizes Louise is no ordinary mark."For fans of spy thrillers and literary romances alike. A cat-and-mouse caper with the usual stock characters replaced by complex human beings." (*Kirkus*)

Martin, Madeline. [The Keeper of Hidden Books](#) (Hanover Square \$18.99)

As bombs rain down on Warsaw and Hitler's forces surround the city, childhood friends Zofia and Janina join the war effort using one of the only weapons that still feel safe to them: literature, fighting to preserve their culture and community and finding hope in each other in order to survive. Salvaging books from bombed-out buildings, Zofia and Janina build an underground library in German-occupied

Warsaw, leaning on literature in hard times. It gets harder still when Janina is confined to the ghetto. Inspired by a true story, this work follows the *New York Times* best-selling *The Last Bookshop in London*.

McFarlane, Mhairi. [Between Us](#) (Avon \$18.99)

When Roisin and Joe join their friends for a weekend at a country house, it's a triple celebration—a birthday, an engagement, and the launch of Joe's shiny new TV show. But as the weekend unfolds, tensions come to light in the group and Roisin begins to question her own relationship. And as they watch the first episode of Joe's drama, she realizes that the private things she told him—which should have stayed between them—are right there on the screen. With her friend group in chaos and her messy love life on display for the whole world to see, Roisin returns home to avoid the unwanted attention and help run her family's pub. But drama still follows, in the form of her dysfunctional family and the looming question: what *other* parts of her now-ex's show are inspired by real events? Every week, as a new episode airs, she wonders what other secrets will be revealed. Yet the most unexpected twist of all is an old friend, who is suddenly there for Roisin in ways she never knew she needed...

Meltzer, Jean. [Kissing Kosher](#) (MIRA \$18.99)

Going undercover at a family-owned Jewish bakery to steal their world-famous Pumpkin Spiced Babka recipe, Ethan Lippman, the heir to a kosher baked-goods empire, finds himself distracted from his mission by Avital Cohen, the woman working the counter and soon discovers the best recipes in life are the ones you bake yourself.

Moher, Laura. [Curves for Days](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

A plus-size woman has a disastrous meet-

ing with the gruff contractor working on her home, but the more time they spend together, the more they appreciate one another and their friendship blooms into a beautiful, small-town romance.

Morelli, Laura. [The Last Masterpiece](#) (William Morrow \$18.99)

Called to Nazi-occupied Italy in 1943, Eva Brunner, a German photographer, and Josephine Evans, an American stenographer, hunt for priceless masterpieces before they are destroyed by Hitler, in this pulse-pounding adventure inspired by the incredible true story of the Monuments Women, the Fifth Army WACs.

Newton, Dylan. [Change of Plans](#) (Forever \$16.99)

After becoming guardian of her three young nieces, struggling chef Bryce Weatherford meets Ryker Matthews, a hero Marine still haunted by the loss of a limb, and despite the obvious attraction, they must weigh the risk of additional heartbreak versus forever happiness. “Newton handles heavy topics—including PTSD, death, and grief—with grace, and readers will be utterly sucked in by her lovable and believably flawed leads. This deeply felt love story proves irresistible.” (*PW*)

North, Claire. [House of Odysseus](#) (Redhook \$29)

With her husband, Odysseus, failing to return from war in Troy, the delicate peace queen Penelope maintains is shattered when Orestes, King of Mycenae returns with his sister Elektra in the sequel to *Ithaca*.

Pearce, A.J. [Mrs. Porter Calling](#) (Scribner \$28) In London during World War II, Emmy Lake, now in charge of “Yours Cheerfully”—a huge popular advice column in *Woman’s Friend* magazine, finds her world turned upside down

by the magazine’s new publisher, a glamorous socialite who announces she’s cutting the column, forcing Emmy and her friends to take action. I feel in love as a reader with A.J. Pearce beginning with her debut book [Dear Mrs. Bird](#) (Scribner \$17), which introduces readers to Emmy and her gang. Pearce continued things with [Yours, Cheerfully](#) (Scribner \$16.99), and now we have another marvelous addition to plucky Emmy’s story. All three books embody the keep calm and carry on spirit so many Londoners had to adopt during World War II, but Pearce also writes with a droll sense of wit and an abundance of empathy about love, life, and friendship. Heartwarming and occasionally heartbreaking, these are too good to miss.

Runyan, Aimie K. [A Bakery in Paris](#) (William Morrow \$18.99)

Runyan deftly deploys a dual timeline plot to convey the fate and fortunes of two different generations of women from the same French family. In 1870s Paris, Lisette Vigneau finds herself rebelling against the arranged marriage her parents have planned for her. But is throwing her lot in with revolutionary National Guardsman Theodore Fournier the right solution to her problem? In post World War II Paris, Micheline Chartier is doing everything she can to keep herself and her two younger sisters together as a family after their mother disappeared one day during the war. When the restaurant owners below their apartment move out, can the solution to Micheline’s financial woes come in the form of a bakery? Fascinating details about the Franco-Prussian War and the siege of Paris add color to the storyline as does some intriguing old recipes for classic French baked goods.

Sutanto, Jesse Q. [I’m Not Done With You Yet](#) (Berkley \$28)

Jane is unhappy. A struggling midlist writer whose novels barely command four figures,

she feels trapped in an underwhelming marriage, just scraping by to pay a crippling Bay Area mortgage for a house—a life—she’s never really wanted. There’s only ever been one person she cared about, one person who truly understood her: Thalia. Jane’s best and only friend nearly a decade ago during their Creative Writing days at Oxford. It was the only good year of Jane’s life—cobblestones and books and damp English air, heady wine and sweet cider and Thalia, endless Thalia. But then one night ruined everything. The blood-soaked night that should have bound Thalia to Jane forever but instead made her lose her completely. Thalia disappeared without a trace, and Jane has been unable to find her since. Until now. Because there she is, her name at the top of the *New York Times* best-seller list: *A Most Pleasant Death* by Thalia Ashcroft. When she discovers a post from Thalia on her website about attending a book convention in New York City in a week—“*Can’t wait to see you there!*”—Jane can’t wait either. She’ll go to New York City, too, credit card bill be damned. And this time, she will do things right. Jane won’t lose Thalia again. The author of *Dial A for Aunties* takes a darker literary turn with this addictive suspense novel.

Thompson, Alicia. [With Love, From Cold World](#) (Berkley \$18)

A bookkeeper for Cold World, a tourist destination in Florida that’s always a winter wonderland, Lauren Fox, when the owner needs revenue-generating ideas, competes against her coworker Asa Williamson to come up with the best one, but discovers working together with her polar opposite could save the day.

Weiner, Jennifer. [The Breakaway](#) (Atria \$28.99)
While leading a group bike trip from NYC to Niagara Falls, 34-year-old Abby Stern, newly engaged, encounters Sebastian, the one-night stand she never thought she’d see again, and, determined to keep him at arm’s length over the next two weeks, finds her certainties about herself and the nature of love challenged.

White, Kiersten. [Mister Magic](#) (Del Rey \$28)
Reuniting 30 years after a tragic accident ended their show *Mister Magic*, the five surviving cast members, who hold the secret of their close circle, the mystery of the beloved magical host and what really happened on that deadly last day, soon wonder if they’ve been lured into a trap. The author of the popular spooky children’s *Sinister Summer* series makes her adult fiction debut with a nerve-jangling novel that if you can get past the gore factor, PW called both “eerie and heartwarming.”

Williams, Synithia. [The Secret to a Southern Wedding](#) (Canary Street \$18.99)

When her mom announces she’s marrying a man she only just met on a dating app, OB-GYN Dr. Imani Kemp is determined to stop the wedding but meets with resistance from her potential stepfather’s handsome son to whom she is irresistibly drawn, changing everything.

Wood, Tracey Emerson. [The President’s Wife](#) (Sourcebooks \$27.99)

When her husband, President Woodrow Wilson, starts losing concentration and becomes confused, Edith Bolling, unwilling to let his presidency fail, steps in behind the scenes, supporting him in every way while concealing his true condition. “Wood strikes on a potent irony in her telling of the Wilson presidency, by imagining the immense power wrought by a first lady in an era where women could

neither vote nor hold office.” (PW)

Children’s Fiction

Messner, Kate. [The Scariest Kitten in the World](#) (Farrar Straus Giroux \$18.99)

This laugh-out-loud picture book takes readers to a just-PURR-fect haunted house where they’ll meet a not-so-scary kitten and a collection of the cutest little critters anyone has ever seen. “Diverting feline fun for Halloween” (or any time of year).

Parnum, Laura. [The Peril at Price Manor](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Fans of *Ghost Squad* will love this lightly scary creature feature standalone novel about a tween aspiring horror movie actress who pairs up with the twin children of her favorite director to defeat zombifying octopus-like creatures!

Stead, Rebecca and Wendy Mass. [The Lost Library](#) (Feiwel and Friends \$17.99)

When a mysterious Little Free Library guarded by a large orange cat appears overnight, eleven-year-old Evan plucks two weathered books from its shelves, never suspecting that his life is about to change.

Sterer, Gideon. [I Will Read to You](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)

A young boy heads into the woods to read bedtime stories to vampires, witches, skeletons, and other kinds of monsters who have no one to help them to sleep.

Young Adult Fiction

Eddings, Mazey. [Tilly in Technicolor](#) (Wednesday Books \$24)

When eighteen-year-old Tilly goes to London to intern for her sister’s company, she begins to unmask her ADHD and connects with Oliver, another neurodivergent intern.

Frick, Kit. [The Reunion](#) (Margaret K. McElderry \$19.99)

In Cancâun, Mexico, the Mayweather family gathers for a family reunion to bring them all together, but each brings their own agenda, old grudges, and dangerous secrets that ultimately lead to murder. Think *Knives Out* for the teen set.

Grace, Adalyn. [Foxglove](#) (Little Brown \$19.99)
Navigating their futures in high society, Signa and her cousin Blythe are forced to entertain Fate, who is determined to have Signa for himself, and the two must play Fate’s unexpected games with their destinies hanging in the balance.

Hoy-Kenny, Marie. [The Girls from Hush Cabin](#) (Blackstone \$18.99)

Calista, Zoe, Holly, and Denise were inseparable best friends when they spent their summers together at sleep away camp. But after an unexplained tragedy forced the camp to close, the girls drifted apart. Years later, reunited at their beloved camp counselor Violet’s funeral, the four former best friends quickly realize how much they’ve changed over the years. But despite their differences, they agree on one thing—Violet’s so-called accidental death was actually murder.

Kenwood, Nina. [Unnecessary Drama](#) (Flatiron \$12.99)

A deliciously entertaining enemies-to-lovers romantic comedy finds 18-year-old Brooke sharing a house with her high school nemesis, Jesse, during their first year of college and soon discovers it’s not so easy follow the “no drama” house rules, especially the one forbidding romance between roommates.

Lippincott, Rachael. [Pride and Prejudice and Pittsburgh](#) (Simon & Schuster \$19.99)

When disheartened Pittsburgh teen Audrey

transports back to 1812 England, she expects to find love as a Regency romance heroine, but surprisingly sparks fly when she meets Lucy Sinclair.

Moore, Rachel. [The Library of Shadows](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Enrolling in the third most haunted school in the country in the hope of finding her dead father, Este Logano instead finds Mateo, an annoying real ghost, and soon discovers that following her father's footsteps might be more dangerous than she ever anticipated.

Quain, Amanda. [Ghosted](#) (St. Martin's \$20)
Partnered with new student Kit for an investigative project on Northanger Abbey's paranormal activity, Hattie soon realizes he might be the kind of person who makes her want to believe in something — and someone — for the first time.

Nonfiction

Blais, Madeleine. [Queen of the Court](#) (Atlantic \$30)

A Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist presents the dramatic and untold story of legendary tennis star and one of America's greatest female athletes Alice Marble, a glamorous worldwide celebrity known for best for helping break tennis's color barrier, who had previously remained largely forgotten until now. "Blais is excellent when describing what could be viewed as Marble's greatest contribution, the 1950 editorial that appeared in the influential journal *American Lawn Tennis*, which was instrumental in the integration of U.S. women's tennis and helped pave the way for the ascendance of Althea Gibson. The high level of detailed research and compelling writing show why tennis player Hazel Wightman described Marble as "the first girl who became sensational. "An engagingly thorough

biography of a dazzling woman." (*Kirkus*)

Chang, Leah Redmond. [Young Queens](#) (Farrar Straus Giroux \$35)

This dramatic intertwined story of Catherine de' Medici, Elisabeth de Valois and Mary Queen of Scots, who lived through the changes that transformed sixteenth-century Europe, shows how they learned that to rule as queen was to wage a constant war against the deeply entrenched misogyny of their time. "Chang vividly captures the importance of religion and war, both of which had profound effects on the decision-making of all three women and everyone within the royal orbit. In addition, the author delineates many intriguing details about extravagant weddings, celebrations, and other courtly matters, ably balancing the personal and the universal. A delightful historical study of women coming to the forefront in a world dominated by men." (*Kirkus*)

Eder, Mari. [The Girls Who Fought Crime](#) (Sourcebooks \$26.99)

Mary "Mae" Foley was a force to be reckoned with. On one hip she held her makeup compact, on the other, her NYPD badge. When women were fighting for the vote, Mae was fighting crime in the heart of New York City — taking down rapists, boot-leggers, Nazis, and serial killers. One of the first women to be sworn into the police force, Mae not only fought crime in the city that never sleeps, but also did something much bigger — challenged the patriarchal systems that continually tried to shut her and other women down. The result of her efforts? A long career that helped over 2,000 women join her auxiliary police force, the 'Masher Squad.' Mae Foley is proof that women can do anything men can do, all while wearing corsets and the perfect shade of rouge.

Garrity, Shaenon K. [What Would Velma Do?](#) (Running Press \$18)

A clever illustrated ode to the breakout star of *Scooby-Doo*, exploring the life lessons this iconic nerd girl teaches us and why we should all aim to be the Velma of our friend group.

Huang, Yunte. [Daughter of the Dragon](#) (Norton \$30)

The story of Anna May Wong, who fought virulent anti-Chinese xenophobia, unabashed sexism, cinematic exploitation and ageism that defined American culture in the 20th century to become Hollywood's first Chinese American film star. "Huang's sympathetic treatment brings out the nuances of Wong's story, highlighting how she by turns acceded to and bristled against the stereotypes Hollywood asked her to play, a dynamic captured in Wong's sardonic practice of signing publicity photos "Orientially yours." It's a fascinating—and long overdue—close-up of a Hollywood trailblazer." (PW) Readers may want to also check out Gail Tsukiyama's recently published [The Brightest Star](#) (HarperVia \$32) a fictional account of the groundbreaking actress.

Jacobs, Sally H. [Althea](#) (St. Martin's \$32) In *Althea*, prize-winning former *Boston Globe* reporter Sally H. Jacobs tells the heart-rending story of this pioneer, a remarkable woman who was a trailblazer, a champion, and one of the most remarkable Americans of the twentieth century. Althea Gibson. "Jacobs emphasizes the difficulties Gibson faced during and after her tennis career, including discrimination from the tennis establishment (many speculated the decision to leave her off the 1956 American Whiteman Cup team was driven by racism) and constant financial struggles—because women's tennis had not yet become lucrative, for the first eight years of Gibson's career she "earned so little money that she had never once had to

file a tax return." Thoroughly researched and movingly told, this warts-and-all portrayal of Gibson's life is a winner." (PW)

Pierce, Karen. [Recipes for Murder](#) (Countryman Press \$19.95)

Poisons, knives, and bullets riddle the stories of Agatha Christie, but so does food, which she uses to invoke settings, to develop characters, and, of course, to commit murder. This to-die-for cookbook offers recipes written by the author for one accessible, easy-to-follow dish or drink for each of Christie's 66 mysteries. Recipes include Fish and Chips at the Seven Dials Club, Literary Luncheon Meringues, Oysters Rockefeller on the *Orient Express*, Sixpence Blackbird Pie, Orange Marmalade from Gossington Hall, and more. Framing these dishes are insightful essays and head notes that detail the history of the recipes, their context in Christie's life and times, and the roles they play in the source works.

Stark, Peter. [Gallop Toward the Sun](#) (Random \$28.99)

The *New York Times* best-selling author of *Astoria* tells the story of fierce rivalry between future president William Henry Harrison and the Shawnee chief Tecumseh who fought against westward expansion.