

Midmonth BookNotes

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Fall Into a Good Book!

Cozy Corner

Bailey, Maggie. [Seams Deadly](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)
Lydia Barnes is excited for a fresh start when she moves to the quaint mountain town of Peridot, Georgia. Her friend, Fran, offers her a job at the Measure Twice fabric store and even sets her up on a date with the handsome Brandon Ivey, who also happens to be Lydia's new next-door neighbor. Finally, things are looking up. But after a disaster first date that ends with a fist bump instead of a kiss, Lydia doesn't think her night can get any worse. She's soon proven wrong when she later stumbles upon Brandon's dead body. Bailey launches a fun, crafty new series.

Bennett, S.J. [Murder Most Royal](#) (William Morrow \$27.99)

When the severed hand of a scion of the St Cyr family is found, Queen Elizabeth II is dragged into the matter and, with the help of her assistant private secretary, must separate fact from fiction surrounding this high-profile case when all clues point to someone in her close circle. "While the mystery is deftly plotted, its delights rest in the ways Bennett evokes character. Elizabeth has a sharply observant mind and an unflappable, stalwart demeanor, which is showcased wonderfully through interior and direct dialogue, as well as multiple interactions with a range of characters, from Philip to a stable hand, and, of course, with Rozie, who is new enough to be aware of royal life but

is also very much her own self." *Library Journal* went on to call this smart series "just on the other side of cozy."

Falco, Michael. [Murder in an Italian Village](#) (Kensington \$27)

For young widow Bria Bartolucci, running a B&B in the sun-soaked village of Positano, Italy, was supposed to be like going on a permanent vacation. But it's hardly *la bella vita* when her first guest is a dead body." A promising debut highlights the pleasures of the sunny Amalfi coast." (*Kirkus*)

Howell, Dorothy. [Hanging By a Thread](#) (Kensington \$27)

Some of the independent shops in this sleepy town are barely hanging on financially—and that includes Sarah's Sweets, Abbey Chandler's aunt's bakery. The shop's advantage—aside from the deliciousness of its products—is the fact that it's the only bakery in the area. But it looks like that's about to change. The second wife of a wealthy businessman wants her own bakery—and money is no object. When murder unravels the plans for the competing shop, Aunt Sarah is an immediate suspect.

Manansala, Mia P. [Murder and Mamon](#) (Penguin \$17)

When murder mars the grand opening for Lila Macapagal's aunties' new Laundromat, she will have to air out all the dirty laundry in Shady Palms to catch a killer. Here is how *Kirkus* sums up the latest in Man-

ansala's fun series: "sorry, other food cozies. You can't hold a candle to this mouthwatering franchise."

McKinlay, Jenn. [Sugar Plum Poisoned](#) (Berkley \$8.99) When up-and-coming singing sensation Shelby Vaughn arrives in town for two weeks of concert dates, she hires her old friend Angie Harper and the rest of the bakery crew to supply cupcakes for the VIP guest lounge every night. After overhearing Shelby in a heated argument with her manager, Mel DeLaura is concerned, but she and the crew decide to make the best of their time working with the star. Just as the bakers fall into the rhythm of the job, Shelby's manager is found dead, clutching a bit of fabric from a Santa suit and a cupcake. With the bakery crew and Shelby's backup dancers all dressed in similar Santa costumes, it's impossible to say who is the killer. When all suspicions lead back to Shelby, Mel and Angie stand up for their friend, determined to prove her innocence before she's frosted for a crime she didn't commit.

Rue, Gretchen. [Death by a Thousand Sips](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99) Phoebe Winchester is finally beginning to make the Victorian manor she inherited from her dear and adventurous Aunt Eudora feel more like home, successfully running the bookstore and tea shop, The Earl's Study, and learning to harness her recently discovered magical powers. But when she discovers a dead body at an estate sale, rumors of Phoebe's involvement force her to take action; she needs to find the killer and clear her own name, once again.

Old Literary Wine in New Casks

[Crime Novels: Five Classic Thrillers 1961-1964](#) (Library of America \$40)

This is the first of two volumes gathering the best American crime fiction of the 1960s. In *The Murderers* (1961) by Fredric Brown, an out-of-work actor, hanging out with Beat drifters on the fringes of Hollywood, concocts a murder scheme that devolves into nightmare. This late work by a master in many genres is one of his darkest and most ingenious. Dan J. Marlowe's *The Name of the Game Is Death* (1962) channels the inner life of a violent criminal who freely acknowledges the truth of a prison psychiatrist's diagnosis: "Your values are not civilized values." Written with unnerving emotional authenticity, the story hurtles toward an annihi-

lating climax. Charles Williams drew on his experience in the merchant marine for his thriller *Dead Calm* (1963). A newlywed couple alone on a small yacht find themselves at the mercy of the mysterious survivor they have rescued from a sinking ship, in a suspenseful story that chillingly evokes the perils of the open ocean. In the beautifully told and sharply observant *The Expendable Man* (1963), Dorothy B. Hughes's final masterpiece of suspense, a young man in the American Southwest runs afoul of racial assumptions after he picks up a hitchhiker who soon turns up dead. In twenty-four brilliantly constructed novels, Richard Stark (a pen name of Donald Westlake) charted the career of Parker, a hard-nosed professional thief, with rigorous clarity. *The Score* (1964), a stand-out in the series, finds Parker and his criminal associates hatching a plot to rob simultaneously all the jewelry stores, payroll offices, and banks in a remote Western mining town, only to come up against the human limits of even the most intricate planning.

[Crime Novels: Four Classic Thrillers 1964-1969](#) (Library of America \$40)

This is the second of two volumes gathering the best American crime fiction of the 1960s. In Margaret Millar's *The Fiend* (1964) a nine-year-old girl disappears and a local sex offender comes under suspicion. So begins a suspenseful investigation of an apparently tranquil California suburb which will expose a hidden tangle of fear and animosity, jealousy and desperation. Ed McBain (a pen name of Evan Hunter) pioneered the multi-protagonist police procedural in his long-running series of 87th Precinct novels, set in a parallel Manhattan called Isola. *Doll* (1965) opens at a pitch of extreme violence and careens with breakneck speed through a tale that mixes murder, drugs, the modeling business, and psychotherapy with the everyday professionalism of McBain's harried cops. The racial paranoia of a drunken police detective in *Run Man Run* (1966) leads to a double murder and the relentless pursuit of the young Black college student who witnessed it. In Chester Himes's breathless narrative, New York City is a place with no safe havens for a fugitive whom no one wants to believe. In Patricia Highsmith's *The Tremor of Forgery* (1969) a man whose personality is disintegrating is writing a book called *The Tremor of Forgery* about a man whose personality is disintegrating, "like a mountain collapsing from within." Stranded unexpectedly in Tunisia, Howard Ingham struggles to

hold on to himself in a strange locale, while a slightly damaged typewriter may be the only trace of a killing committed almost by accident.

Homer. [The Iliad](#) (WW Norton \$39.95)

When Emily Wilson's translation of *The Odyssey* appeared in 2017 – revealing the ancient poem in a contemporary idiom that was “fresh, unpretentious, and lean” (*Washington Post*) – critics lauded it as “a revelation.” (*New York Times*). Now Wilson has returned with an equally revelatory translation of Homer's other great epic – the most revered war poem of all time.

Wodehouse, P.G. [The Inimitable Jeeves](#) (Pushkin Press \$22)

Introducing two of the greatest characters created by the undisputed master of English comic prose, this is quite simply one of the funniest books ever written. Whether attempting to stay on the right side of his ghastly Aunt Agatha, evade the clutches of the forbidding Honoria Glossop, or simply having a punt on the length of local curates' sermons, Bertie Wooster can always rely on his gentleman's gentleman, Jeeves, for sound advice and an ingenious wheeze to get him out of a tight spot.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries. Romance and More

Awad, Mona. [Rouge](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28)

From the critically acclaimed author of *Bunny* comes a horror-tinted, gothic fairy tale about Mirabelle, a lonely dress shop clerk whose mother's unexpected death sends her down a treacherous path in pursuit of youth and beauty at La Maison de Meduse, a swanky, unnervingly cult like spa to which her mother was devoted. Can Mirabelle escape her mother's fate—and find a connection that is more than skin deep? “Mirabelle is a singularly unreliable narrator, but readers who stick with her throughout bouts of confusion and peril will be richly rewarded. This is the stuff of fairy tales—red shoes, ballrooms, mirrors, and thorns but also sincerity, poignancy, and terror.” (*Kirkus*)

Bayliss, Jenny. [A December to Remember](#) (Putnam \$18)

Wildly different half sisters Maggie, Simone, and Star have hardly seen one another since their sprightly summers at Rowan Thorp, their eccentric father Augustus's home. Known for his bustling approach to

the knick-knack shop he ran, Augustus was loved by all and known by none, not even his daughters. Now, years later, the three estranged women are called upon for the reading of Augustus's will and quickly realize he's orchestrated a series of hoops through which they must jump to unlock their inheritance—the last thing any of them want to do. But Maggie and Star desperately need the money. And who would Simone be to resist? Through hilarious goose chases, small-town mishaps, and one heart-warming winter solstice celebration, love is in the air, if only the three sisters can let themselves grasp it.

Bell, Alice. [Grave Expectations](#) (Vintage \$17)

Millennial almost-authentic medium Claire and her ghost best friend Sophie, who everyone thinks ran away at 17 but was really murdered, investigate which members of a posh English family have committed murder at a crumbling old manor in the countryside. “The adroit plotting, which cannily plays with mystery tropes, is amply leavened with humor.” (*PW*)

Burke, Andie. [Fly With Me](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Flying-phobic ER nurse Olive Murphy is still gripping the armrest from her first-ever take-off when the pilot announces an in-flight medical emergency. Olive leaps into action and saves a life, but ends up getting stuck in the airport hours away from the marathon she's running in honor of her brother. Luckily for her, Stella Soriano, the stunning type A copilot, offers to give her a ride. After the two spend a magical day together, Stella makes a surprising request: Will Olive be her fake girlfriend? A video of Olive saving a life has gone viral and started generating big sales for Stella's airline. Stella sees their union as the perfect opportunity to get to the boys' club executives at her company who keep overlooking her for a long-deserved promotion. As the two grow closer, what's supposed to be a ruse feels more and more real. Could this be the romantic ride of their lives, or an epic crash and burn?

Cabot, Meg. [Enchanted to Meet You](#) (Avon \$18.99)

In her teenage years, lovelorn Jessica Gold cast a spell that went disastrously wrong, and brought her all the wrong kind of attention—as well as a lifetime ban from the World Council of Witches. So no one is more surprised than Jess when, fifteen years later, tall, handsome WCW member Derrick Winters shows up in her quaint little village of West Harbor and claims that Jess is the Chosen One, who must now help save West Harbor itself.

Dell'Antonia, K.J. [Playing the Witch Card](#) (Putnam \$17)
Flair Hardwicke knows three things: magic is real, love isn't, and relying on either ends in disaster. So while she's grateful for the chance to take over her grandmother's Kansas bakery after she finally leaves her cheating husband, she won't be embracing Nana's fortune-telling side-hustle. Hers is a strictly no-magic operation—until the innocent batch of Tarot card cookies Flair bakes for the town's Halloween celebration unleashes the power of the family deck, luring Flair's unpredictable mother to town, tempting Flair's magic-obsessed daughter, and bringing back Flair's first love while ensnaring her ex in a curse she can't break. Dell'Antonia plays to her literary strengths with this wickedly funny tale about love and magic in a small town.

Enoch, Suzanne. [Every Duke Has His Day](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Michael Bromley, Duke of Woriton, has a passion, but it's not for chasing ladies or gambling till dawn. No, his is the far more dangerous pursuit of the science of chemistry. He may be a tad eccentric, but he can navigate a society ballroom, and manage a polite conversation—if he must. He's certainly capable of taking care of his aunt's perfectly behaved poodle, Lancelot, while she's on holiday. Elizabeth "Bitsy" Dockering, third daughter of a viscount, is enjoying her second, spectacular Season in London. She is a Diamond of the Season and is adored by all—and especially by her precious black poodle, Galahad. To everyone else, however, Galahad is a demon dog. So much so that Bitsy's most insistent beau and particular victim of Galahad's bad manners, has hired a thief to steal the dog, clearing the way for his suit. But none of them can plan for a chaotic encounter in the park, resulting in lost notes, a soaking in the Serpentine and an accidental dog swap...and Lancelot being kidnapped instead of Galahad! Imagine if Jane Austen had written *Bringing Up Baby*.

Fraser, Jackie. [The Beginning Everything](#) (Dell \$17)
Accidental roommates who are both recovering from bad breakups, Jess Cavendish and Gethin Thomas develop a close friendship that has the potential to turn into something more if they're both willing to let go of the past and risk loving again. "Fraser refreshingly highlights everyday pleasures and problems as she traces the romance between two lonely people who couldn't be more well matched. It's as believable as it

is heartwarming." (PW)

Fussner, Nora. [The Invisible World](#) (Vintage \$17)
When a "staged" paranormal investigations TV show encounters some very real activity, it's up to the show's producer to create order from the chaos as she struggles with her own skepticism while the show's teenage ghost hunter, believing she's glimpsing the "other side," puts the investigation, and herself, in jeopardy. "While bumps in the night do eventually manifest, the novel's primary concern is mapping these territories and their overlaps. The result is highly readable and never really scary, ideal for nonhorror fans who still want some spooky season reading." (PW)

Goldbeck, Kate. [You, Again](#) (Dial \$18)

Former enemies-turn-friends, Ari, a struggling comedian, and Josh, a chef planning to take the culinary world by storm, both reeling from ego-bruising breakups, find comfort in each other's company until one night, the unspoken boundaries of their platonic relationship begin to blur.

Harper, Molly. [Witches Get Stuff Done](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Juggling newfound witchy powers, a house full of ghosts and verbal battles with handsome local librarian Edison Held is almost too much for new witch Riley Everett to manage. But falling in love with said librarian really wasn't on her to-do list...

Gilliland, Raquel Vasquez. [Witch of Wild Things](#) (Berkeley \$17)

Sage Flores has been running from her family—and their "gifts"—ever since her younger sister Sky died. Eight years later, Sage reluctantly returns to her hometown. Like slipping into an old, comforting sweater, Sage takes back her job at Cranberry Rose Company and uses her ability to communicate with plants to discover unusual heritage specimens in the surrounding lands.

What should be a simple task is complicated by her partner in botany sleuthing: Tennessee Reyes. He broke her heart in high school, and she never fully recovered. Working together is reminding her of all their past tender, genuine moments—and new feelings for this mature sexy man are starting to take root in her heart.

Godfrey, Sierra. [The Second Chance Hotel](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Tricked into marrying a stranger and running a ramshackle hotel with him, Amelia Lang agrees to stay for the summer so not to cause the economic downfall of this Greek island's quirky but well-meaning residents. But when the hotel is threatened by a developer, she finally finds something worth fighting for.

Katz, Rachel Runya. [Thank You for Sharing](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Daniel Rosenberg and Liyah Cohen-Jackson's last conversation—fourteen years ago at summer camp—ended their friendship. Until they find themselves seated next to each other on a plane, and bitterly pick up right where they left off. At least they can go their separate ways again after landing. That is, until Daniel's marketing firm gets hired by the Chicago museum where Liyah works as a junior curator, and they're forced to collaborate with potential career changing promotions on the line.

Kelk, Lindsey. [Love Me Do](#) (HarperCollins \$17.99)

Greetings card copywriter Phoebe Chapman knows a good romantic line or two – and it makes her a fantastic Cupid. So when she lands in the Hollywood Hills – a place that proves film stars, golden beaches and secret waterfalls don't just exist in the movies – she can't resist playing matchmaker for her handsome neighbor, carpenter Ren. But you can't hide from love in La La Land. And isn't there something a little bit hot about Ren, her own leading man next door?

Kilmer, Maureen. [Hex Education](#) (Putnam \$17)

On the outside, luxury real estate agent Sarah Nelson looks like every other mom in the suburb. But she has an edge that others don't: She's a witch. And no one knows . . . except her estranged ex-coven and college friends, Katrina and Alicia. One terrible night during their freshman year, the trio accidentally burned down their dorm, and soon after they scattered. Their secret had been safe, until Sarah learns they've been invited back to commemorate the anniversary of the fire. Suddenly, the magic doesn't want to be controlled. Sarah's orange tabby cat, Katy Purry, now argues with her. Her broom has become self-brooming, and her fridge somehow restocks thirty pounds of sliced turkey for school lunches. As it grows increasingly difficult to hide the magic and the past, Sarah, Katrina, and Alicia must harness their power together . . . before they find out if polite society still burns

witches.

Lynn, Hannah. [Athena's Child](#) (Sourcebooks Landmark \$17.99)

Seeking sanctuary with Athena, the beautiful, young Medusa catches the eye of the lecherous Poseidon and must flee and hide when she is ultimately blamed for the resulting assault in this retelling of the classic monster story.

Maitlin, Lisa M. [The Stranger Upstairs](#) (Bantam \$28)

When bizarre accidents, threatening notes and unexplained footsteps in the attic confirm something is very wrong with her infamous house—the scene of a murder, Sarah finds her life—and sense of reality—spiraling out of control as she unearths the deadly legacy of Black Wood House.

Martin, Celestine. [Kiss and Spell](#) (Forever \$16.99)

While trying to get her magic back, self-proclaimed Jersey Shore witch Ursula Caraway agrees to help Prince Xavier Alder find The One before Midsummer and break the Faerie Queen's curse but finds their mutual (and inconvenient) attraction getting in the way.

Martin, Tori Anne. [This Spells Disaster](#) (Berkley \$17)

Fake dating gets a magical twist in this enchanting queer romantic comedy where a witch worries that the real feelings brewing between her and her crush were sparked by an accidental love potion, and the only way out of the disastrous spell is a healthy dose of the truth.

Morgan, Sarah. [The Book Club Hotel](#) (Canary Street \$17.99)

With its historic charm and picture-perfect library, the Maple Sugar Inn is considered *the* winter destination. As the holidays approach, the inn is fully booked with guests looking for their dream vacation. But widowed far too young, and exhausted from juggling the hotel with being a dedicated single mom, Hattie Coleman dreams only of making it through the festive season. But when Erica, Claudia and Anna—lifelong friends who seem to have it all—check in for a girlfriends' book club holiday, it changes everything. Their close friendship and shared love of books have carried them through life's ups and downs. But Hattie can see they're also packing some major emotional baggage, and *nothing* prepares her for how deeply her own story is about to become entwined in theirs.

Noble, Shelley. [Picture Perfect Autumn](#) (Avon \$18.99) Dani Campbell is the latest darling of the Manhattan art scene. As a self-taught photographer, Dani is loving every minute of her sudden popularity, but has no idea how she got there, or a clue as to how to stay. On a shoot at an antiques barn, she discovers an envelope of old photos and sees in them what her photos are missing. Her search for their source leads Dani to a small Rhode Island town, a dilapidated American Gothic beach house—and Lawrence Sinclair. Reclusive and bitter, the last thing eighty-year-old Lawrence wants to think about is photography—the thing that inadvertently led to his son’s death and tore his family apart. But Dani is determined and persuasive, and Lawrence can’t help but be intrigued by the girl with spiky hair who wants to learn from him, when almost everyone else just wants to relieve him of his substantial fortune. Dani and Lawrence’s mentorship blossoms unexpectedly, but everything is put in jeopardy by the appearance of Lawrence’s estranged grandson, Peter. Peter is determined to spend some time reconnecting with his grandfather and to get rid of the supposed fortune hunter after Lawrence’s money. But Dani is not what he was expecting, and he soon discovers that they have more things in common than not.

O’Leary, Beth. [The Wake-Up Call](#) (Berkley \$17) It’s the busiest season of the year, and Forest Manor Hotel is quite literally falling apart. So when Izzy and Lucas are given the same shift on the hotel’s front desk, they have no choice but to put their differences aside and see it through. The hotel won’t stay afloat beyond Christmas without some sort of miracle. But when Izzy returns a guest’s lost wedding ring, the reward convinces management that this might be the way to fix everything. With four rings still sitting in the lost & found, the race is on for Izzy and Lucas to save their beloved hotel—and their jobs.

Orlando, Carissa. [The September House](#) (Berkley \$27) When Margaret and her husband Hal bought the large Victorian house on Hawthorn Street—for sale at a surprisingly reasonable price—they couldn’t believe they finally had a home of their own. Then they discovered the hauntings. Every September, the walls drip blood. The ghosts of former inhabitants appear, and all of them are terrified of something that lurks in the basement. Most people would flee. Margaret is

not most people. Margaret is staying. It’s *her* house. But after four years Hal can’t take it anymore, and he leaves abruptly. Now, he’s not returning calls, and their daughter Katherine—who knows nothing about the hauntings—arrives, intent on looking for her missing father. To make things worse, September has just begun, and with every attempt Margaret and Katherine make at finding Hal, the hauntings grow more harrowing, because there are some secrets the house needs to keep. “If P.G. Wodehouse had written *The Amityville Horror*, the result might have approximated Orlando’s equally charming and spooky debut.” (PW)

Paul, Gill. [A beautiful Rival](#) (William Morrow \$18.99) They could have been allies: two self-made millionaires who invented a global industry, in an era when wife and mother were supposed to be the highest goals for their sex. Elizabeth Arden and Helena Rubinstein each founded empires built on grit and determination...and yet they became locked in a feud spanning three continents, two world wars, and the Great Depression.

Who would have guessed that the business of making women beautiful was so cutthroat?

Randall, Breanne. [The Unfortunate Side Effects of Heartbreak and Magic](#) (Alcove \$18.99)

Sadie Revelare has always believed that the curse of four heartbreaks that accompanies her magic would be worth the price. But when her grandmother is diagnosed with cancer with only weeks to live, and her first heartbreak, Jake McNealy, returns to town after a decade, her carefully structured life begins to unravel. With the news of their grandmother’s impending death, Sadie’s estranged twin brother Seth returns to town, bringing with him deeply buried family secrets that threaten to tear Sadie’s world apart. Their grandmother has been the backbone of the family for generations, and with her death, Sadie isn’t sure she’ll have the strength to keep the family, and her magic, together. As feelings for Jake begin to rekindle, and her grandmother growing sicker by the day, Sadie faces the last of her heartbreaks, and she has to decide: is love more important than magic?

Redmond, Heather. [Death and the Sisters](#) (Kensington \$27)

Before there was *Frankenstein*, a young Mary Shelley, her stepsister Jane “Claire” Clairmont, and poet Percy Bysshe Shelley are drawn into a shocking murder

investigation in this deliciously captivating new historical mystery revolving around the real-life trio who would later scandalize 19th century England even as they transformed the literary world. “Redmond’s rendition of the dynamics of this most unconventional family is lively and colorful. A promising series debut for historical mystery buffs.” (*Kirkus*)

Rogerson, Phoenicia. [Herc](#) (Hanover Square \$30)

This should be the story of Hercules: his twelve labours, his endless adventures... everyone’s favorite hero, right? Well, it’s not. This is the story of everyone else: Alcmene: Herc’s mother (She has knives everywhere), Hylas: Herc’s first friend (They were more than friends), Megara: Herc’s wife (She’ll tell you about their marriage), Eurystheus: Oversaw Herc’s labours (He never asked for the job). His friends, his enemies, his wives, his children, his lovers, his rivals, his gods, his victims. It’s time to hear their stories.

Shepherd-Robinson, Laura. [The Square of Sevens](#) (Atria \$29.99)

Cornwall, 1730: A young girl known only as Red travels with her father making a living predicting fortunes using the ancient Cornish method of the Square of Sevens. Shortly before he dies, her father entrusts Red’s care to a gentleman scholar, along with a document containing the secret of the Square of Sevens technique. Raised as a lady amidst the Georgian splendor of Bath, Red’s fortune-telling delights in high society. But she cannot ignore the questions that gnaw at her soul: who was her mother? How did she die? And who are the mysterious enemies her father was always terrified would find him? The pursuit of these mysteries takes her from Cornwall and Bath to London and Devon, from the rough ribaldry of the Bartholomew Fair to the grand houses of two of the most powerful families in England. And while Red’s quest brings her the possibility of great reward, it also leads to grave danger.

Snowe, Jacqueline. [Snowed in for Christmas](#) (Forever \$16.99)

Sorority mom Becca Fairfield is used to guys *not* taking her seriously. She’s too blond, too quirky, or *Just. Too. Much.* So she’s ditched dating to focus on her job and a sorority house filled with drama and *plenty* of tea. Now with the holidays and a major blizzard on her doorstep, Becca has everything she needs to survive the next two weeks on her own. Hot cocoa, plenty of books . . . and the memory of a

steamy kiss with a certain sexy, grumposaurus next-door neighbor to keep her warm. Only Becca’s seriously underestimated this Snowpocalypse. So when the power goes out and Harrison Cooper—football coach, master crank, and the guy who acted mega-awkward after said steamy kiss—offers her shelter, it only makes sense to accept. They’ll just be Blizzard Buddies. But are they keeping warm . . . or playing with fire?

Children’s Books

Aldridge, Ethan M. [Deephaven](#) (Quill Tree \$18.99)
Hoping for a fresh start at Deephaven Academy, Guinevere “Nev” Tallow instead finds something strange stalking its corridors and teams up with another first-year student to unravel the secrets of this exclusive boarding school and its forbidden east wing.

Boynton, Sandra. [Philadelphia Chickens](#) (Boynton Bookworks \$19.99)

From the one and only Sandra Boynton comes the tuneful, toe-tapping hardcover *Philadelphia Chickens*. Celebrating its 21st anniversary, this catchy and quirky musical-in-a-book has been completely redrawn and redesigned for the next generation of readers, singers, and musicians.

DiCamillo, Kate. [The Tale of Despereaux Anniversary Ed.](#) (Candlewick \$24.99)

This wonderful 20th anniversary edition of the Newbery Medal-winning book follows the adventures of a mouse who loves music, stories and a princess named Pea; a serving girl who harbors a simple, impossible wish; and a rat who lives in the darkness but covets the light. Includes a bonus original short story.

Diterlizzi, Angela and Tony Diterlizzi. [A Very Cranky Book](#) (Quill Tree \$19.99)

Are you ready to meet the world’s crankiest book? Cranky doesn’t want to be read. He just wants you to leave him alone. After all, there are so many other things you can do—ride a bike, play a game, or draw a picture. There’s no reason for you to be bothering him! But when other books show up for story time, will Cranky change his mind?

Haldar, Raj with Julia Patton. [This Book Is Banned](#) (Sourcebooks \$18.99)

This is a book about dinosaurs. *No it’s not. Dinosaurs are not allowed.* Oh. This is now a book about avoca-

dos! *Sorry. We deleted those too.* FINE. This book is about—*nope! Forbidden!*

Maybe you shouldn't even try reading this book...But what could possibly be inside?

Discover just what can happen when ideas are erased instead of expressed with this hilarious picture book romp that kids (and grown-ups) will want to read over and over again.

Haydu, Corey Ann. [The Widely Unknown Myth of Apple and Dorothy](#) (Katherine Tegen \$19.99)

Separated by two worlds, Dorothy, the daughter of the infamous Pandora, and Apple, the beloved descendant of Zeus and Hera, find their friendship tested when Apple makes a choice for the both of them that changes everything.

Hyman, Trina Schart. [Little Red Riding Hood 40th Anniversary Ed.](#) (Holiday House \$18.99)

When it was first published 40 years ago, Trina Schart Hyman's retelling of *Little Red Riding Hood* created a sensation for its cozily detailed, romantic, and mysterious illustrations of one of childhood's most popular stories. Since then, this Caldecott Honor book has become one of the best-loved editions of the tale, delighting generations with its wonderfully alive paintings. Jason Chin shares a heartfelt tribute to his mentor, Trina Schart Hyman, and her artistic legacy. Newly designed endpapers, foil stamped cover, and debossed case reminiscent of the original cloth cover makes this a treasured gift to share.

Light, Steve. [A Spider Named Etsy](#) (Candlewick \$18.99) Everyone knows the rhyme "The Itsy Bitsy Spider." We know about the climb up the waterspout, the wash-out, the return of the sun, and the determined climb back up the spout—again. Generations of children have sung this beloved verse and mastered its accompanying twisty finger play. But what sent the tiny spider on his upward trek to begin with? What happened along the way—and where is Itsy now?

Muller, Eddie. [Kitty Feral and the Case of the Marshmallow Monkey](#) (Running Press \$18.99)

From celebrated *Dark City* author, TCM host, and film noir expert Eddie Muller comes the tale of hardboiled cat detective Kitty Feral and the search for a candy-crusted chocolate confection—and a missing friend.

Schmidt, G.Z. [The Curious Vanishing of Beatrice Willoughby](#) (Holiday House \$17.99)

Thirteen years after the disappearance of 6-year-old Beatrice Willoughby, the Amadeus family, blamed for the crime, invites six households in town to a Halloween celebration during which they must all work together to identify the guilty party before midnight.

Standish, Ali. [The Improbable Tales of Baskerville Hall](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

While attending Baskerville Hall, a secret school for extraordinarily gifted children, Arthur Conan Doyle and his friends (and enemies) are invited into the Clover, an illustrious social club that requires them to pass three tests, an endeavor that leads them on a dangerous adventure.

Teen Fiction

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

In 1932 Shanghai, exposed national spy Rosalind Lang must rescue fellow spy, Orion, whose memories of Rosalind were wiped, and find a cure to a dangerous chemical weapon before it lands in the hand of foreign invaders.

Hollowell, Sarah. [What Stalks Among Us](#) (Clarion \$19.99)

In this spine-tingling, deliriously creepy YA speculative thriller, Sadie and Logan, two best friends, are trapped in a corn maze with corpses that look just like them.

Jensen, Gry Kappel. [Roses & Violets](#) (Arctis \$18)

Four girls from very different backgrounds are making their way to the mysterious Rosewood Boarding School from different corners of the country. The one thing they have in common is the strange offer they have received to apply for a place at what will turn out to be a school for magic, deeply embedded in Nordic mythology, nature magic and shamanism.

Josephson, Kalyn. [This Dark Descent](#) (Roaring Brook \$20.99)

Mikira, a seventeen-year-old daughter of a famous horse breeder, takes part in a magical horserace to save her family, and enlists the help of Arielle, a talented, black-market enchanter, and Damien, a young lord involved in a succession battle, who both have their own motives for helping her.

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

Enrolling in Radcliffe Prep, 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.

Namey, Laura Taylor. [A British Girl's Guide to Hurricanes and Heartbreak](#) (Atheneum \$18.99)

Feeling lost after her mother dies, Flora heads to Miami where she is drawn into the orbit of a Miami Cuban teen influencer who shares her love for photography but finds herself conflicted by unexpected feelings for her longtime friend back home in England.

Puride, Kathryn. [The Forest Grimm](#) (Wednesday \$20)

Despite the ominous warning of a fortune-telling grandmother, seventeen-year-old Clara ventures into the treacherous Forest Grimm to retrieve Sortes Fortuna, a magical book that can reverse a curse and save her village, facing deadly twists and defying fate alongside her friend Axel.

Reid, Ava. [A Study in Drowning](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Entering a contest to redesign late author Emrys Myrddin's estate, aspiring architect Effy Sayre arrives at Hiraeth Manor where she meets a stodgy young literature scholar who draws her into a battle against dark forces — both mortal and magical — that threatens to consume them both.

Sass, Adam. [Your Lonely Nights Are Over](#) (Viking \$19.99)

Scream meets *Clueless* in this YA horror from Adam Sass in which two gay teen BFFs, Dearie and Cole, find their friendship tested when a serial killer starts targeting their school's Queer Club.

Simmons, Kristen. [Find Him Where You Left Him Dead](#) (Tor \$18.99)

Summoned by the ghost of Ian, the friend they left for dead, Owen, Madeline, Emerson and Dax must restart the deadly game they never finished in order to bring Ian home, entering into a hell-scape of Japanese underworlds where they must make the ultimate sacrifice.

Wlosok, Victoria. [How to Find a Missing Girl](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)

Seventeen-year-old amateur sleuth Iris and her sap-

phic detective agency investigate the disappearance of Iris's cheerleader ex-girlfriend, who also happens to be the creator of a notorious true-crime podcast about Iris's missing older sister.

Nonfiction

Brunt, Douglas. [The Mysterious Case of Rudolf Diesel](#) (Atria \$28.99)

Brunt explores the hidden history of Rudolf Diesel, one of the world's greatest inventors, a man who disrupted the status quo and then disappeared into thin air on the eve of World War I.

Carlson, Hannah. [Pockets](#) (Algonquin \$35)

Carlson teaches dress history and material culture at the Rhode Island School of Design. After training as a conservator of costume and textiles at the Fashion Institute of Technology, she received a PhD in material culture from Boston University. In *Pockets*, Carlson looks at pockets and how we tuck gender politics, security, sexuality, and privilege inside them.

Cohen, Rich. [When the Game Was War](#) (Random \$28)

In this no-holds-barred account of the 1987 NBA season, a *New York Times* best-selling author, drawing on interviews with NBA insiders, tells the story of this thrilling year through the four teams and the four players who dominated it—Larry Bird, Magic Johnson, Isiah Thomas and Michael Jordan.

Goldsworthy, Adrian. [Rome and Persia](#) (Basic \$35)

Chronicling seven centuries of conflict between Rome and Persia—one of the greatest rivalries of world history, an acclaimed historian shows how these two great powers evolved together and how, despite their endless crashes, a mutual respect prevented them from permanently destroying the other.

Gupta, Suneel. [Everyday Dharma](#) (HarperOne \$27.99)

An expert on happiness and work, Suneel Gupta argues that for too long society has been fixated on the Future of Work and ignored the Future of Worth. We've compartmentalized work and well-being and ignored the fact that both are essential for sustained success. We've assumed that outer success leads to inner well-being—despite history showing us that this has never been the case. In *Everyday Dharma*, Suneel helps us break this negative cycle. A captivating storyteller, he weaves personal stories, history, science, Eastern philosophy, and Western modalities in this

engaging, enlightening, and prescriptive book.

McDowell, Marta. [Gardening Can Be Murder](#) (Timber \$29)

With their deadly plants, razor-sharp shears, shady corners, and ready-made burial sites, gardens make an ideal scene for the perfect murder. But the outsize influence that gardens and gardening have had on the mystery genre has been underappreciated. Now, Marta McDowell, a writer and gardener with a near-encyclopedic knowledge of the genre, illuminates the many ways in which our greatest mystery writers, from Edgar Allan Poe to authors on today's bestseller lists, have found inspiration in the sinister side of gardens. From the cozy to the hardboiled, the literary to the pulp, and the classic to the contemporary, *Gardening Can Be Murder* is the first book to explore the mystery genre's many surprising horticultural connections. Meet plant-obsessed detectives and spooky groundskeeper suspects, witness toxic teas served in foul play, and tour the gardens—both real and imagined—that have been the settings for fiction's ghastliest misdeeds.

Miles, Jonathan. [The Once Upon a Time World](#) (Pegasus \$35)

A mere handful of towns and resorts created by foreign visitors - notably English, Russian and American - attracted the talented, rich and famous as well as those who wanted to be. For nearly two centuries of creativity, luxury, excess, scandal, war and corruption, the dark and sparkling world of the Riviera was a temptation for everybody who was anybody. Often frivolous, it was also a potent cultural matrix that inspired the likes of Picasso, Matisse, Coco Chanel, Scott Fitzgerald, Cole Porter, James Baldwin, Catherine Mansfield, Sartre and Stravinsky. In *Once Upon a Time World*, Jonathan Miles presents the remarkable story of the small strip of French coast that lured the world to its shores. It is a wild and unforgettable tale that follows the Riviera's transformation from paradise and wilderness to a pollution imperiled concrete jungle.

Moss, Stephen. [Ten Birds that Changed the World](#) (Basic \$30)

Award-winning wildlife television producer for the BBC Natural History Unit, Moss tells the history of humankind through our long relationship with birds, a leading naturalist discusses key species from all seven of the world's continents, from Odin's faithful raven companions to Darwin's finches, and from the wild turkey of the Americas to the emperor penguin as a powerful symbol of the climate crisis.

Posnanski, Joe. [Why We Love Baseball](#) (Dutton \$29)
Posnanski writes of major moments that created legends, and of forgotten moments almost lost to time. It's Willie Mays's catch, Babe Ruth's called shot, and Kirk Gibson's limping home run; the slickest steals; the biggest bombs; and the most triumphant no-hitters. But these are also moments raw with the humanity of the game, the unheralded heroes, the mesmerizing mistakes drenched in pine tar, and every story, from the immortal to the obscure, is told from a unique perspective. Whether of a real fan who witnessed it, or the pitcher who gave up the home run, the umpire, the coach, the opposing player—these are fresh takes on moments so powerful they almost feel like myth.

Food

Akunowicz, Karen. [Crave](#) (Countryman Press \$35)

As a chef with experience cooking many different cuisines—Italian, Middle Eastern, Chinese, Taiwanese, and Southeast Asian—Akunowicz has a unique take on cooking. Her recipes, organized by flavor and texture cravings, from Crispy & Crunchy or Hearty & Homey to Sweet & Luscious, include Tomato Salad with Toasted Sesame Vinaigrette, Chicken Cacciatore, Ginger Scallion Lobster, Smoky Eggplant Dip, and more.

America's Test Kitchen. [Gatherings](#) (America's Test Kitchen \$35)

It's time to get excited about entertaining again. The cooks of America's Test Kitchen are shaking up the notion of what a dinner party is all about, stepping away from the test kitchen to reveal their favorite ways to entertain friends and family and sharing an all-new collection of personal recipes. After all, professional cooks want to chill out when hosting at home, just like everyone else.

Bahen, Melissa. [Scandinavian Gatherings](#) (Sasquatch Books \$24.95)

Organized around seasonal festivities including Lucia Day and Christmas Eve Dinner, as well as everyday gatherings like Afternoon Fika, this book includes simple recipes, handmade decorations, and tips for entertaining.

Boue, Vincent. [The Complete Book of French Cooking](#) (Flammarion \$45)

Traditional French cuisine can seem daunting, but it's one of life's great pleasures. This comprehensive,

illustrated guide to classic French cooking techniques and recipes, with detailed explanations from culinary school instructors, is an essential reference for the home cook that includes one hundred sixty-five classic recipes—onion soup, quiche Lorraine, boeuf bourguignon, tarte Tatin—graded with a three-star rating so the home chef can gauge the complexity and gradually expand their cooking ability.

Darlington, Tenaya. [Madame Fromage's Adventures in Cheese](#) (Workman \$30)

Meet Madame Fromage, aka Tenaya Darlington. A charming, witty, deeply knowledgeable and, above all, passionate caseophile—a fancy way of saying cheese lover—she's here to teach us pretty much everything we need to know about choosing cheese, tasting it, pairing it, and sharing it. Structured around the concept of eight tasting journeys, Madame Fromage takes us on tours through the cheese world. We skydive into fresh cheeses, like chevres, ricotta, and buffalo mozzarella. Trek through the Alpines, with its Emmentalers and Gruyeres. Go spelunking into stinky cheeses like Taleggio, Pont-l'Evêque, and the rank Langres. And take a geological adventure with aged cheeses, including Parmigiano Reggiano and Manchego,

Pepin, Jacques. [Jacques Pepin: Cooking My Way](#) (harvest \$37.50)

Providing more than 150 recipes along with an illustrated menu for each season, the legendary master chef and cooking instructor offers practical techniques for saving money, time and cleanup effort without sacrificing taste.

Wilson, Bee. [The Secret of Cooking](#) (WW Norton \$40) Do you wish you could cook more, but don't know where to start? Bee Wilson has spent years collecting cooking "secrets": ways of speeding cooking up or slowing it down, strategies for days when you are stretched for time, and other ideas for when you can luxuriate in kitchen therapy. Bee holds out a hand to anyone who wants doable, delicious recipes, the kind of unfussy food that makes every day taste better: quick feasts from a can of beans; fast, medium, and slow ragus; and seven ways to cook a carrot. Alongside thoughts on how to cook when you're alone, with children, or just plain tired, Bee offers 140 recipes including: the simplest chicken stew even the pickiest of eaters (aka children) will love.

All About Agatha

Mullaney, Colleen. [Agatha Whiskey](#) (Skyhorse \$19.99) Dame Agatha Christie is perhaps the world's most famous mystery writer with over a billion copies of her books sold. *Agatha Whiskey* takes clues from Agatha's most pivotal works of fiction and honors her most popular detectives. There's a plot twist for everyone with fifty thrilling drinks such as a pocket full of rosé, orient espresso martini, and daiquiri on the Nile. There are also detective drinking games to get the whole party on the right track, perhaps sipping until there were none, and mocktails for those who choose to forgo an endless night.

Hafdahl, Meg. [The Science of Agatha Christie](#) (Skyhorse \$14.99)

Gothic media moguls Meg Hafdahl and Kelly Florence, authors of *The Science of Stephen King* and co-hosts of the Horror Rewind podcast present a guide to the Agatha Christie stories and supersleuths we all know and love. Through interviews, literary and film analysis, and bone-chilling discoveries, *The Science of Agatha Christie* uncovers the science behind the sixty-six detective novels and fourteen short story collections that have become an integral part of the modern murder mystery, answering such questions as: What is the science behind the poisons used to commit murders in Agatha Christie's stories? When did crime investigation become more common as seen in *Murder on the Orient Express*? Has science made it possible to uncover the truth behind the investigative powers of Hercule Poirot and Miss Marple? How did Agatha Christie use isolated settings to best explore the psychology of her characters?

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.