

Midmonth BookNotes

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New Year, New Books!

Cozy Corner

Charles, Paula. [Hammers and Homicide](#)
(Crooked Lane \$29.99)

While running the hardware store she owned with her husband, recently widowed sexagenarian Dawna Carpenter discovers the body of a land developer in her shop's bathroom and works with her adult daughter and a neighboring shop owner to uncover the murderer. The debut of the Hometown Hardware series.

Connelly, Lucy. [Death at a Scottish Wedding](#)
(Crooked Lane \$29.99) Invited to a Scottish wedding at Murrigan's Castle, American doctor Emilia McRoy is forced to investigate after discovering a dead man in one of the turrets, in the second novel of the series following *An American in Scotland*.

Hannah, Darci. [Murder at the Blarney Bash](#)
(Kensington \$8.99)

While baking up a storm for the grand opening of the Irish import gift shop owned by her boyfriend's eccentric uncle, Finnigan O'Connor, Lindsey Bakewell needs the luck of the Irish when Finn is arrested for bludgeoning a

man dressed as a leprechaun.

Krotow, Geri. [The Pierogi Peril](#) (Severn House \$29.99)

Lydia Wienewski's dream has finally come true as her cafe selling delicious Polish-American fare is now open and her fortunes are looking up. Even her old nemesis and tutor, Madame Delphine, has made time to sample Lydia's delectable pierogi. But when Lydia later finds Madame Delphine dead in the water, her lakeside dream turns into a nightmare! A deliciously fun follow up to *The Kielbasa Killer*. [The Kielbasa Killer](#) (Severn House \$29.99)

Lush, Tara. [A Bean to Die For](#) (Crooked Lane \$33.99)

While attempting to grow coffee in a community garden plot, Lana Lewis discovers the body of an environmental activist who was previously banned for arguing about organic produce,

Meier, Leslie et al. [Easter Basket Murder](#)
(Kensington \$27)

A collection of Easter-themed mysteries set in coastal Maine features sleuths from three

best-selling cozy mystery series: Lucy Stone, Hayley Powell and Julia Snowden, who investigate a deadly art theft and a body that mysteriously vanishes after being discovered.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Allain, Suzanne. [The Ladies Rewrite the Rules](#) (Penguin \$17)

Horrified to discover she's in the Bachelor's Directory, a list of rich, single women, Diana Boyle, a wealthy young widow, gathers the ladies in the directory together so they may thwart fortune hunters' efforts to trick them into marriage, and thus rewrite the rules of Regency England.

Balogh, Mary. [Always Remember](#) (Penguin \$29)

Left unable to walk by a childhood illness, Lady Jennifer Arden, sister of the Duke of Wilby, has grown up to make a life for herself when she meets Ben Ellis, who not only treats Jennifer like a real person but helps her regain some measure of independence in her life. Jennifer and Ben know that a match between them is out of the question. Yet, their hearts yearn for the impossible, and sometimes love can find a way.

Brunsvold, Sara. [The Divine Proverb of Streusel](#) (Baker \$16.99)

Shaken by her parents' divorce, Nikki Werner seeks solace at her uncle's farm, leaving her life and relationships behind. She discovers her great-grandmother's notebook full of German recipes and wise sayings. With each recipe she makes, Nikki not only discovers her heritage but also learns to reconnect with what has been scattered in her life. Family, food, faith, and friendship form the building blocks for this thoughtful book.

Burns, Amy Jo. [Mercury](#) (Celadon \$29)

Arriving in Mercury, Pennsylvania, in 1990, gorgeous teenager and perpetual loner Marley West marries one of the Joseph brothers and tries to lead this family of roofers to stability in this hardworking, blue-collar town by helping them escape their unwieldy father's shadow."Well-drawn, engaging characters and a vivid setting make this is a compelling study of family dynamics." (Kirkus)

Burton, Tara Isabella. [Here in Avalon](#) (Simon and Schuster \$28.99)

Rose investigates the disappearance of her irresponsible and impetuous sister who followed a cult-like cabaret troupe that only appears at night on a mysterious red boat that sails around New York and is blamed for several disappearances."Set in a New York by turns gritty and glittering, Burton's latest enthralls while exploring the frequently fraught nature of adult sibling relationships. At once spell-binding and sincere." (Kirkus)

Clayborn, Kate. [Luck of the Draw](#) (Kensington \$17.95)

Sure, winning the lottery allows Zoe Ferris to quit her job as a cutthroat corporate attorney, but no amount of cash will clear her conscience about the way her firm treated the O'Leary family in a wrongful death case. So she sets out to make things right, only to find gruff, grieving Aiden O'Leary doesn't need—or want—her apology. He does, however, need something else from her.

Cox, Mollie Ann. [The Lace Widow](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

In 1804 New York, Eliza Hamilton, the grieving widow of Alexander Hamilton, turns to selling her handmade lace, which draws her into a mysterious network of widow lacemakers who help her piece together the truth about her husband's political affairs as witnesses to his

deadly duel are being killed one by one.

Denker, Jayne. [Hedging Your Bets](#) (St, Martin's \$18)

When a gardening contest brings out the competition in neighbors Gillian Pritchard and Noah West, dueling plant arrangements and fiery banter ensues. But is it possible that beneath all their differences, they might just be perfect for each other?

Donovan, Kemper. [The Busy Body](#) (Kensington \$27 SIGNED)

After a very public defeat, former Senator Dorothy Gibson retreats to her home in rural Maine, inviting her new ghostwriter to join her, and soon the two women are drawn into a mystery when a neighbor dies under suspicious circumstances. Kemper makes his mystery debut (he is the author of a contemporary romantic comedy *A Decent Proposal*) with a clever conceived and masterfully written traditional puzzler. Given his role as the host of the popular *All about Agatha* podcast, it isn't a surprise that Kemper successfully channels his own inner Agatha Christie for this ingenious book.

Elston, Ashley. [First Lie Wins](#) (Penguin \$28)

A woman with many faces and identities, Evie Porter, covertly moves from job to job for her unknown employer until her latest mark, Ryan Summer gets under her skin and makes her envision a different sort of life."YA writer Elston's adult debut announces itself as a savvy thriller with intrigue and momentum from the first twist of *Lucca's* arrival right up until the final showdowns. Evie is a smart and engaging protagonist, and her time on the run is anything but predictable. A genuine page-turner."(Kirkus)

Fein, Louise. [The London Bookshop Affair](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

London, 1962: Celia Duchesne longs for a career, but with no means or qualifications, passes her time working at a dusty bookshop. The day a handsome American enters the shop, she thinks she might have found her way out of the monotony. Just as the excitement of a budding relationship engulfs her, a devastating secret draws her into the murky world of espionage. France, 1942: Nineteen-year-old Anya Moreau was dropped behind enemy lines to aid the resistance, sending messages back home to London via wireless transmitter. When she was cruelly betrayed, evidence of her legacy and the truth of her actions were buried by wartime injustices.

As Celia learns more about Anya—and her unexpected connection to the undercover agent—she becomes increasingly aware of furious efforts, both past and present, to protect state secrets. With her newly formed romance taking a surprising turn and the world on the verge of nuclear annihilation, Celia must risk everything she holds dear, in the name of justice.

Ford, Olivia. [Mrs.Quinn's Rise to Fame](#) (Penguin \$29)

A contestant on a British baking show, Jenny Quinn, who, after 59 years of marriage, has decided to do something for herself, delights in her new-found independence, but finds the show unearthing memories buried decades ago—and a secret that could be a recipe for disaster. This is a huge-hearted, redemptive coming-of-old-age tale, a love story, and an ode to good food that also shows that dreams have a place at every stage of our life's journey.

Galley, Kate. [The Golden Girl's Road Trip](#)

(Bloomsbury \$14.99)

Constance Fitzgerald may be approaching 70, but she's never been one for putting down roots. She's spent her life untethered and free, but when she finds herself newly engaged and a soon-to-be grandmother, Constance is forced to accept it may be time – perhaps – to settle down. Until a chance encounter throws open a window to her past, and Constance decides to head to the Highlands to find an old friend.

Garbera, Katherine. [The Bookbinder's Guide to Love](#) (Harlequin \$12.99)

As a lonely foster kid, Serafina Conte sought refuge in hand making journals—and writing her wishes within their pages. Now, in the quirky new age store she shares with her two best friends, Sera's intentions have paid off. Her journals are in the spotlight—and rumored to manifest great things. Whether it's witchy skills, real magic or not, Sera's finally ready to be the leading lady of her life story. Until her plot hits a twist. After the death of her mentor, Ford Sitwell, all the loneliness and insecurity of her past returns. The only balm is the box of antique books he left to her. But Ford's suspicious brooding grandson, Wes, is ready to think the worst of her—and get his grandfather's books back!

Gary, Codi. [Finding Mr. Purrfect](#) (Grand Central \$16.99)

Charity Simmons may have great taste in friends, felines, and fruit tarts, but if there's one thing the baker and co-owner of Meow and Furever Cat Café knows, it's that she has horrible taste in men. Case in point: Will Schwartz. He may be the best friend of her best friend's boyfriend, but after their one night together, Charity is positive Will's nothing but a womanizing charmer—despite his nice-guy persona and adorable, crooked

smile. So why then did she pick him to pretend date to get her parents off her back about being single?

Goodwin, Daisy. [Diva](#) (St. Martins \$29)

In the glittering and ruthlessly competitive world of opera, Maria Callas was known simply as la divina: the divine one. With her glorious voice, instinctive flair for the dramatic and striking beauty, she was the toast of the grandest opera houses in the world. But her fame was hard won: raised in Nazi-occupied Greece by a mother who mercilessly exploited her golden voice, she learned early in life to protect herself from those who would use her for their own ends. When she met the fabulously rich Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, for the first time in her life, she believed she'd found someone who saw the woman within the legendary soprano. She fell desperately in love. And then suddenly, it was over. The international press announced that Aristotle Onassis would marry the most famous woman in the world, former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, leaving Maria to pick up the pieces. A fascinating fictional account that is also firmly grounded in history of one of opera's greatest stars.

Hastings, Anastasia. [Of Hoaxes and Homicide](#) (Minotaur \$28)

At the behest of a heartbroken mother, sensible Violet Manville, aka Miss Hermoine, is drawn into a world of the Hermetic Order of the Children of Aed cult but soon finds herself faced with more intrigue than she can manage when she discovers murder is a member.

Hawkins, Rachel. [The Heiress](#) (St. Martin's \$29 SIGNED)

After North Carolina's richest—and most notorious—heiress dies, her adopted son, Camden, rejects his inheritance until 10 years later, when his uncle's death pulls him and his

wife back into the family fold at Ashby House where he realizes the bonds of family stretch far beyond the grave.

“Hawkins does an excellent job keeping readers off-balance throughout. Nonstop twists and surprises make this a true thrill ride.”
(PW)

Janovsky, Timothy. [The \(Fake\) Dating Game](#) (Harlequin \$12.99)

Holden James picked the worst time to have a meltdown. His chance to audition for his favorite game show, Madcap Market, should have been a moment of triumph—a glorious, loving homage to his adored mom, who died six years ago. Instead, he’s destroying the minibar in a grim Los Angeles hotel room... recently dumped, partnerless and sliding into misery. Then Holden gets the bright idea of asking the hotel’s sexy (smart-ass) concierge who arrives at the door with pizza, Monopoly and deliciously distracting forearms if he might like to be Holden’s partner in the game show. What could possibly go wrong?

Jessen, Lauren Kung. [Red String Theory](#) (Grand Central \$16.99)

Artist Rooney Gao, who believes in the Chinese legend that everyone is tied to their one true love by the red string of fate, meets Mr. Right in Jack Liu and must now convince this reluctant skeptic to embrace his destiny.

Keir, Linda. [The Royal Game](#) (Blackstone \$25.99)

Jennie Jensen is touring Europe...when Prince Hugh of Wales...appears at a gig and requests his favorite song. He’s already smitten, and soon so is she. After a secretive, whirlwind romance, Hugh proposes, and when Jennie accepts, her world changes overnight... She’s still learning to navigate the minefield of constant scrutiny...When Jennie receives a

threatening note, she can’t help but see the parallels between herself and another young woman who struggled to adjust to royal life: Hugh’s mother, Princess Penelope, who was killed in a mysterious plane crash...she digs into Penelope’s past, discovering a woman who also suspected someone in the palace was out to get her. Was Penelope murdered? And is Jennie next?”

Krentz, Jayne Ann. [The Night Island](#) (Penguin \$29 SIGNED)

Seven months ago, Talia March, Pallas Llewellyn, and Amelia Rivers were all victims in an experiment designed to “enhance” their psychic abilities. Now a mysterious informant named Phoebe Hatch contacts Talia hinting to her that a list of similar victims exists. But before Talia can get her hands on said list, Phoebe vanishes, forcing Talia to team up with Luke Rand, a hunted and haunted man chasing after the same information, when the two of them become the targets of a determined killer. Krentz’s latest ingeniously inventive paranormal-tinged suspense novel is an addictively readable combination of killer vegetation, killer vegetarian cooking, and a killer sense of wit making this a real treat for fans new and old of the consistently entertaining Krentz.

Kumar, Naina. [Say You’ll Be Mine](#) (Random \$18)

Theater teacher and playwright Meghna Rama, when Seth, her best friend and secret crush, gets engaged to another, agrees to let her parents introduce her to a potential match, engineer Karthik Murthy, who offers her a fake engagement to help her through Seth’s wedding. But what is going to happen to their fake relationship when both Meghna and Seth discover their feeling for each other are very real?

Linden, Rachel. [Recipe for a Charmed Life](#) (Penguin \$17)

When her culinary career in Paris ends in disaster, chef Georgia May Jackson flees to a small island near Seattle in hopes of reconnecting with her estranged mother and regain her spark in the kitchen but instead discovers a family legacy she never suspected." With delicate touches of magical realism and an abiding sense of comfort, Linden offers a gentle hug of a story. Suggest to fans of Sarah Addison Allen." (LJ)

Lovise, Lindsay. [Never Blow a Kiss](#) (Grand Central \$16.99)

Recruited by a secret network of governesses who spy on the ton, Emily Leverton, seeking redemption for her dark past, meets her match in an ex-soldier turned railroad magnate, but when their affair becomes intertwined with his hunt for a killer, her explosive secret could destroy them both.

Matthews, Mimi. [The Lily of Ludgate Hill](#) (Penguin \$17)

A confirmed spinster and equestrienne, Lady Anne Deveril, in exchange for a favor, agrees to attend a holiday house party with Felix Hartford during which their unrequited feelings are at last laid bare as she loosens the reins on her feelings and lets him take control.

Michaelides, Alex. [The Fury](#) (Celadon \$28.99)

Spending Easter with Lana Farrar, a reclusive ex-movie star and one of the most famous women in the world, on her idyllic private Greek island, her guests, concealing hatred and desire for revenge, become trapped when the night ends in violence and murder.

Miller, Vanessa. [The American Queen](#) (Thomas Nelson \$18.99)

Over the twenty-four years she was enslaved on the Montgomery Plantation, Louella

learned to feel one thing: hate. Hate for the man who sold her mother. Hate for the overseer who left her daddy to hang from a noose. Hate so powerful there's no room in her heart for love, not even for the honorable Reverend William, whom she likes and respects enough to marry. But when William finally listens to Louella's pleas and leads the formerly enslaved people off the plantation, Louella begins to replace her hate with hope. Hope that they will find a place where they can live free from fear. Hope that despite her many unanswered prayers, she can learn to trust for new miracles.

Morrey, Beth. [Clover Hendry's Day Off](#) (Penguin \$18)

Clover hasn't said "No" a day in her life. Until today. Normally a woman who tips her hairdresser even when the cut is hideous, is endlessly patient with her horrendous mother, and says yes every time her boss asks her to work late—today, things are going to be very different. Because Clover is taking the day off. Today, she's going to do and say whatever she likes, even if it means her whole life unravels.

Parekh, Nishita. [The Night of the Storm](#) (Penguin \$29)

Hunkering down with her sister in her fancy house in Sugar Land, along with her brother-in-law's family, as Hurricane Harvey bears down on Houston, single mom Jia Shah and her 12-year-old son, Ishaan, finds tensions escalating along with the storm, resulting in murder.

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. [Simply the Best](#) (HarperCollins \$30 SIGNED)

Sports agent Brett Rivers has never been involved in a negotiation that he hasn't won. That is until he crosses paths with aspiring artisanal chocolatier Rory Garrett. In order to prove her half-brother Chicago Stars quarter-

back Clint Garrett did not murder his ex-girlfriend Ashley, Rory needs some help from Brett. While Brett may think he can keep Rory from getting involved in a police investigation, it turns out he is defenseless when it comes to saying no to her. Phillips scores another touch-down with her latest, a winning combination of madcap mystery and delicious romance expertly infused with an abundance of wicked wit and some mouthwatering descriptions of chocolates.

Pook, Lizzie. [Maude Horton's Glorious Revenge](#) (Simon and Schuster \$27.99)

In Victorian London, when she discovers her sister's death aboard the *Makepeace* was no accident and that the ship's scientist Edison Stowe was responsible, Maude Horton, to find the truth, begins shadowing Edison, enacting the ultimate revenge to get justice for her sister. "Pook's masterful pacing and meticulous attention to historical detail make this sing." (PW)

Robert, Katee. [Midnight Ruin](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Falling in love with Charon Ariti, Hades's right-hand man, Eurydice Dimitriou, determined to give him her innocence, takes her place next to him until her ex, Orpheus Makos, arrives in the underworld, determined to do anything to get her back.

Ruiz, Sarah Grunder. [Last Call at the Local](#) (Penguin \$17)

When a careless mistake in Ireland leaves her unable to perform, Rainie Hart, a free-spirited American singer-songwriter living with ADHD, starts working at a local pub where she helps her charming OCD employer, Jack Dunne, reinvent his business, discovering a love to last a lifetime along the way.

Shalvis, Jill. [The Bright Spot](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

When the owner of Apple Ridge Farm passes away and his investment manager Jameson Hayes takes over control, Luna Wright, who runs a farm-to-table café now finds both her home and her business threatened. Since she owns one half of the farm and Jameson now owns the other, can the two find a way to work together to save Apple Ridge Farm?

Stevenson, Benjamin. [Everyone on This Train Is a Suspect](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

On a famous Australian train between Darwin and Adelaide for the Mystery Writers' Society one of the attendees is murdered for real. The remaining authors quickly turn into five detectives. Given what they do for a living – writing murder mysteries – the group should know to solve a crime. Of course, that same group of amateur sleuths also knows how to commit one.

Sullivan, Sophie. [Love, Naturally](#) (St. Martins \$18)

Taking a solo trip to the Get Lost Lodge after a bad breakup, hotelier Presley Ayers, who isn't a fan of hiking, fishing or nature in general, finds herself drawn to her polar opposite, wilderness guide Beckett Keller who opens her eyes to new experiences—and love.

Tanamachi, Cara. [The Takeover](#) (St. Martins \$18)

Making a wish on her 30th birthday to find her soulmate, Nami instead gets her hate mate, her old high school nemesis, Jae Lee, who is planning a hostile takeover of her start-up, and as they go head-to-head, she finds their rivalry not just endangering her business but her heart.

Tate, Reshona. [The Queen of Sugar Hill](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

The first African-American woman to win an Academy Award, Hattie McDaniel, when the Oscar curse sets in, is thrust in the middle of two worlds—black and white—and is not welcomed in either but, through it all, continued her fight to pave a path for other African-American actors.

Wray, C.J. [The Excitements](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Arriving in Paris to receive the Légion d'honneur for their part in the liberation of France, the 90-something Williamson sisters, Britain's most treasured World War II veterans, use this opportunity to settle scores, avenge lost friends and pull off one last, daring heist before their illustrious careers are over.

Teen

Avachat, Arushi. [Arya Khanna's Bollywood Moment](#) (St. Martins \$14)

Determined to keep the peace at home and at school, Arya discovers life doesn't always work out like her beloved Bollywood movies until the person she least expects gives her a glimpse of her dream sequence just when she needs it most.

Jones, Nashae. [Curtesy of Cupid](#) (Aladdin \$17.99)

When thirteen-year-old Erin discovers she is the daughter of the love god Cupid, she uses her newfound ability to sabotage her rival Trevor by making him fall in love with her, but she soon realizes love has a funny way of complicating things.

Lord, Emma. [The Getaway List](#) (St. Martins \$20)

Moving to NY for the summer, Riley reunites

with childhood best friend Tom, the co-creator of The Getaway List that enumerates all the adventures they've wanted to do together, and discovers the biggest adventure of all as they work their way through the list: love.

Nicholls, Sally. [Yours from the Tower](#) (Candlewick \$17.99)

In 1896, three best friends — Tirzah, Sophia and Polly — who are leading very different lives after boarding school share their dreams, hopes, frustrations and romances through a series of letters as they search for happiness and love.

Novoa, Gabe Cole. [Most Ardently](#) (Feiwel & Friends \$19.99)

While exploring the city dressed as a young gentleman in 1812 London, trans boy Oliver meets and falls in love with Darcy, forcing him to choose between a life of pretending to be something he's not or risking everything for a life that is truly his own.

Saft, Allison. [A Fragile Enchantment](#) (St. Martins \$20)

When eighteen-year-old magical dressmaker Niamh is commissioned for a royal wedding, she finds herself embroiled in scandal when a gossip columnist draws attention to her undeniable chemistry with the groom.

Transporting readers to a Regency England-inspired fantasy world, A Fragile Enchantment is a sweeping romance threaded with intrigue, unforgettable characters, and a love story for the ages.

Weston, Kate. [Diary of a Confused Feminist](#) (Simon and Schuster \$12.99)

British teen Kat Evens, determined to be a good feminist, stumbles through high school with all its bullies, parties, embarrassing moments and crippling self-doubt with the help of her best friends, her parents and her diary

as she figures out how to reach her goal.

Nonfiction

Anderson, Chris. [Infectious Generosity](#) (Crown \$30)

Recounting inspiring stories from the world's boldest thinkers, the bestselling author, media pioneer and curator of TED shows how generosity has the power to transform outrage back into optimism and offers a playbook for how to embark on our own generous acts.

Attenberg, Jami. [1000 Words](#) (Simon and Schuster \$24.99)

The book extension of the growing writer's movement and challenge to write 1,000 words a day helps readers and writers discover how to uncover their creative desires and stay motivated as well as offering advice from over 50 well-known writers.

Campbell, Caroline. [The Power of Art](#) (Pegasus \$39.95)

Taking readers from ancient Babylon to contemporary Pyongyang, the eminent curator Caroline Campbell explains art's power to illuminate our lives—and inspires us to benefit from its transformative and regenerative power. Unlike the majority of contemporary art history, this book is about much more than the cult of artists' personalities. Instead, each chapter is structured around a city at a particularly vibrant moment in its history, describing what propelled its creativity and innovation.

Issa, Islam. [Alexandria](#) (Pegasus \$35)

Combining rigorous research with myth and folklore, Alexandria is an authoritative history of a city that has shaped our modern world. Soon after being founded by Alexander the Great, Alexandria became the crucible of cultural exchange between East and West for millennia and the undisputed global capital of knowledge.

Kennedy, Kate. [One in a Millennial](#) (St. Martins \$30)

In this laugh-out-loud book filled with keen observations, a pop culture commentator and host of the millennial-focused podcast *Be There in Five* both celebrates and criticizes the culture that shaped her as a woman, tackling AOL Instant Messenger, American Girl Dolls, Spice Girl feminism, millennial motherhood and more.

Peacock, Francesca. [Pure Wit](#) (Pegasus \$29.95)

Shining a light on the remarkable—and in her time scandalous—17th century writer who pioneered the science fiction novel, this biography of the brilliant, courageous proto-feminist Margaret Cavendish largely forgotten by history chronicles her complex and controversial life. Peacock acknowledges the confusions and contradictions of much of Margaret's work, but she takes her seriously as a feminist thinker and natural philosopher, grappling with questions that occupied Descartes and Hobbes. Drawing on a wealth of sources, she counters the trivializing image of Cavendish as "some strange combination of a costumed actress, unreal goddess, and magical princess." A sensitive, nuanced biography of an idiosyncratic woman." (Kirkus)

Reynolds, David. [Mirrors of Greatness](#) (Basic \$32.50)

A prizewinning historian presents this new biography of Winston Churchill, a figure of world-historical importance, by viewing his life through the eyes of his allies and adversaries such as Hitler, Roosevelt, Stalin, Gandhi and Attlee, who shaped his triumphs and failures as a leader.

Tick, Judith. [Becoming Ella Fitzgerald](#) (WW Norton \$40)

Ella Fitzgerald (1917–1996) possessed one of the twentieth century's most astonishing

voices. In this first major biography since Fitzgerald's death, historian Judith Tick offers a sublime portrait of this ambitious risk-taker whose exceptional musical spontaneity made her a transformational artist.

White, Elizabeth B. and Joanna Sliwa. [The Counterfeit Countess](#) (Simon and Schuster \$28.99)

Drawing on the manuscript of Mehlberg's own unpublished memoir, supplemented with meticulous research, two historians and Holocaust experts tell the astonishing true story of Dr. Josephine Janina Mehlberg who saved thousands of lives in Nazi-occupied Poland by masquerading as a Polish aristocrat.