

# Midmonth BookNotes

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## Spring Into Reading

### Cozy Corner

Childs, Laura. [Murder in the Tea Leaves](#) (Berkeley \$28)

After she reads the tea leaves on the set of the movie, *Dark Fortunes*, which results in the film's director murder, Theodosia Browning starts her own shadow investigation, and just when she's about to solve the case, another murder occurs, sending her back to square one.

Flower, Amanda. [To Slip the Bonds of Earth](#) (Kensington \$27)

The sister of Wilbur and Orville Wright, Katharine looks for a new challenge and finds it in the form of sleuthing when someone steals Wilbur's as-yet-unpatented flyer plans, which leads to murder. Now Katharine must keep her feet on the ground and find the killer to make sure her brothers are free to fly another day. Flower will be at the Poisoned Pen in May as part of Cozypalooza and can sign copies of this new series launch then.

George, Nicholas. [A Deadly Walk in Devon](#) (Kensington \$27)

After a long career as a detective in San Diego, Rick "Chase" Chasen has traded in his badge for a change of scenery in the coastal comforts of Devon, England, until a local murder takes him on a deadly detour. A debut novel and the first in a series set in England. George will be at the Poisoned Pen in May as part of Cozypalooza and can sign copies then.

Leigh, Sydney. [Peril in Pink](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

It's the grand opening of The Pearl B&B in Hudson Valley, and owner Jess Byrne has prepared the ultimate, Insta-worthy welcome, complete with her ex-boyfriend—reality singing sensation Lars Armstrong—performing live. As guests check in and mimosas are poured, Lars arrives with his stepdad-turned-manager Bob in tow. But things go south when Bob is found dead, and Lars is the prime suspect. The publisher is billing this debut as *Schitt's Creek* meets *Only Murders in the Building*.

Pandian, Gigi. [A Midnight Puzzle](#) (Minotaur \$28)

When Julian Rhodes fails to kill his wife as planned, he blames her so-called accident on faulty construction by the Secret Staircase Construction, Tempest Raj's family business. Desperate to save the business, Tempest agrees to meet with Julian after a frantic midnight call—and finds him dead. "Pandian continues to channel golden age masters including John Dickson Carr and Clayton Rawson with this fiendishly clever, intricately constructed whodunit. It's another home run from a major talent." (PW)

Smith, Karen Rose. [Murder Marks the Page](#) (Kensington \$27)

The owner of Tomes & Tea, a book and tea shop, Jazzie Swanson, when her friend Brie, who recently made contact with her biological father—and is looking for a husband—is murdered, Jazzie, playing detective, is faced with a list of suspects ranging from jealous half-siblings to unsuitable suitors. The first in a new series that is spun off from the author's Daisy Tea Garden Mysteries.

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

Adams, Jenny. [A Deadly Endeavor](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

When Edie Shippen returns home to Philadelphia after spending years in California recovering from Influenza, she's shocked to discover that her childhood sweetheart is engaged to her twin sister. Heartbroken and adrift, Edie vows to begin living her life as a modern woman—and to hell with anyone who gets in her way. But as young women start to disappear from the city, her newfound independence

begins to feel dangerous. Gilbert Lawless returned home from the Great War a shell of his former self. He hides away in the office of Philadelphia's Coroner, content to keep to himself until a gruesome series of corpses come into the morgue. And when his sister, Lizzie, goes missing, he risks his career to beg help from the one person Lizzie seemed to trust: her employer, Edie Shippen.

Adams, Luci. [It Must Be True Then](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Daisy Peterson has realized you really can hit rock bottom when you lose your job, your boyfriend, and are estranged from your sister all at once. Seeking to claw her way out from the very definition of a bad year, Daisy's plan is to start by simply looking like she's clawing her way out of rock bottom. On Instagram. Obviously. But when she takes a stopgap job as a nanny to help a single father with his two young girls, being immersed in a close-knit, loving family starts to poke holes in her plan.

Alden, K. D. [Lady Codebreaker](#) (Grand Central \$19.99)

Grace Smith has never been one to conform to society's expectations. She flees small-town Indiana to seek adventure—and finds more than she bargained for when she's hired by an eccentric millionaire to learn codebreaking. Soon she's using those skills to help head the government's fledgling cryptanalysis unit. During Prohibition, Grace takes up the fight against rumrunners—not to mention Al Capone himself. And as the country careens from one Great War to another, it's Grace who must crack the secrets of foreign governments, catch spies, and derail saboteurs . . . before it's too late. Based on the true story of a woman, who used her codebreaking skills to bring down Prohibition gangsters and WWII Nazis.

Ashley, Jennifer. [Speculations in Sin](#) (Penguin \$18)

When the husband of the woman who looks after her daughter is accused of embezzling funds from the bank where he works, full-time cook and part-time amateur sleuth Kat Halloway, vowing to uncover the truth, works to expose the unseemly financial dealings of prominent aristocrats and government officials to save an innocent man's life

Bartels, Erin. [The Lady with the Dark Hair](#) (Baker \$17.99)

Esther's family has always believed they were descended from a great, though scandalously underappreciated Impressionist-era artist. But when questions arise about her ancestor's greatest work--The Lady with the Dark Hair--her once-solid family history rests on shaky ground as a search for the truth begins. A fascinating dual time line novel about the ongoing battle for women to be recognized as artists.

Collins, Manda. [A Governess's Guide to Passion and Peril](#) (Grand Central \$16.99)

Jane Halliwell once dreamed of a home of her own—but those dreams (and her dowry) died with her father. Now, she works as a governess, preparing her charge for a future no longer within her reach. When her employer is murdered during a house party, however, Jane is forced back into the world of the *ton*. But stepping in as hostess – and finding a ruthless killer - will require working with Lord Adrian Fielding, the same man who once broke her girlish heart.

Dray, Stephanie. [Becoming Madam Secretary](#) (Penguin \$29)

Dray tells how Frances Perkins met a young lawyer named Franklin Delano Roosevelt in turn-of-the-century New York and, despite

initially not getting along; the pair formed a historic partnership that led them both to the White House.

Estes, Christina. [Off the Air](#) (Minotaur \$28)  
SIGNED

Jolene Garcia is a local TV reporter in Phoenix, Arizona, splitting her time between covering general assignments--anything from a monsoon storm to a newborn giraffe at the zoo--and special projects. Stories that take more time to research and produce. Stories that Jolene wants to tell. When word gets out about a death at a radio station, Jolene and other journalists swarm the scene, intent on reporting the facts first. The body is soon identified as Larry Lemmon, a controversial talk show host, who died under suspicious circumstances. Jolene conducted his final interview, giving her and her station an advantage. But not for long. As the story heats up, so does the competition. Jolene is determined to solve this murder. It's an investigation that could make or break her career--if it doesn't break her first. Debut mystery by local author

Everett, Elizabeth. [The Love Remedy](#) (Berkley \$18)

When her recently perfected formula for a salve to treat croup is stolen, Lucinda Peterson hires PI Jonathan Thorne to investigate, and as they work closely together to expose her scientific saboteur, the cure to their problems is clear: they must face the future together. "With sharp wit and a keen eye for matters of social justice, Everett brings the period to life while making clear just how far women's rights have come—and how far they have left to go. This frank, flirty outing will have readers hooked." (PW)

Goodhand, James. [The Day Tripper](#) (MIRA \$28.99)

After an altercation with a former childhood

bully leaves him bruised, bloody and almost drowning in the Thames, 20-something Alex Dean wakes up each day in a different year and must piece together what happens in his life after that fateful night to save himself and the people he loves most.

Graves, Tracey Gravis. [The Trail of Lost Hearts](#) (St. Martin's \$29)

Thirty-four-year-old Wren Waters believes that if you pay attention, the universe will send you exactly what you need. But her worldview shatters when the universe delivers two life-altering blows she didn't see coming, and all she wants to do is put the whole heart-breaking mess behind her. No one is more surprised than Wren when she discovers that geocaching—the outdoor activity of using GPS to look for hidden objects—is the only thing getting her out of bed and out of her head. She decides that a weeklong solo quest geocaching in Oregon is exactly what she needs to take back control of her life. Enter Marshall Hendricks, a psychologist searching for distraction as he struggles with a life-altering blow of his own. Wren's no longer quite so trusting of the universe—or men in general—but her inner circle might argue that a smart, charismatic psychologist isn't the worst thing the universe could place in her path.

Kiley, Alexandria. [Kilt Trip](#) (Harlequin \$18.99) As a travel consultant, Addie Macrae jet sets around the world—anywhere but Scotland. But when she's sent on assignment to help a struggling family-run tour company in the Highlands—and save her own job—Addie packs away her emotional baggage and turns on the professional charm. Rugged as the land he loves, Logan Sutherland's greatest joy is sharing the beauty of Scotland's hidden gems...even if it means a wee bit of red ink on the company's bottom line. The last thing Logan wants is some American “expert”

pushing tourist traps and perpetuating myths about the Loch Ness Monster. As they wage an office war, Logan discovers Addie's secret connection to Scotland: a handful of faded Polaroids of her late mother. Hoping for a truce, he creates a private tour to the places in the pictures to help Addie find closure and appreciate the enchantment in less-traveled destinations.

Knight, Eliza and Denny S. Bryce. [Can't We Be Friends](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

In Hollywood of the 1950s, two icons, Marilyn Monroe and Ella Fitzgerald, defy expectations and find solace in an unlikely friendship forged on their shared strength and vulnerability transcending both race and fame.

Labuskes, Brianna. [The Lost Book of Bonn](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

In 1946 Germany, librarian Emmy Clarke, while cataloging literature plundered by the Nazis, finds a poetry collection which leads her to two sisters, a horrific betrayal and an extraordinary protest of hundreds of brave women who did what so few others dared to do under the Third Reich—they stood up against the Nazis and said no.

Lepe, Jessica. [Flirty Little Secret](#) (Grand Central \$16.99)

Shy, struggling school guidance counselor Lucy Galindo finds her footing as a wildly popular, and anonymous, social-media advice personality until one of her coworkers, Aldrich Fletcher whom she has a crush on, begins relying on her service. Billed as *You've Got Mail meets Abbott Elementary*.

Mcavoy, J.J. [Hathor and the Prince](#) (Random \$18)

As the London season comes to a close, Hathor Du Bell, when the queen presents her

nephew, a prince, during the weeklong society event at her family's estate, finds a flirtatious rivalry sparking a genuine romance as she fights to make a name of her own despite society's expectations of her.

McHugh, Clare. [The Romanov Brides](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Despite Queen Victoria's dire warnings, princesses Alix and Ella fall in love with Russia and the Romanovs as Ella weds the tsar's brother and Alix marries the heir apparent to the Russian throne, leading to tragic consequences for themselves, their families and for millions in Russia and around the world.

McNeal, Laura. [The Swan's Nest](#) (Algonquin \$29)

In 1845, when Elizabeth Barrett, a poet confined to her room for four years by recurrent illness, begins corresponding with Robert Browning, they fall in love with each other's words and shock her conservative, close-knit family and the literary world."This insightful novel is a must for devotees of the romantics." (PW)

Neely, Tubati-Alexander. [In a Not So Perfect World](#) (HarperCollins \$17.99)

The author of *Love Buzz* follows her acclaimed first novel with a delightful Caribbean-set romp about Sloane Cooper, an ambitious designer of apocalyptic video games with a strategy for (almost) everything who discovers what happens when her best-laid plans go off course.

Painter, Lynn. [Happily Never After](#) (Penguin \$18)

When Sophie Steinbeck finds out just before her nuptials that her fiancé has cheated yet again, she desperately wants to call it off. But because her future father-in-law is her dad's cutthroat boss, *she* doesn't want to be the

one to do it. Her savior comes in the form of a professional objector, whose purpose is to show up at weddings and proclaim the words no couple (usually) wants to hear at their ceremony: "I object!" During anti-wedding festivities that night, Sophie learns more about Max the Objector's job. It makes perfect sense to her: he saves people from wasting their lives, from hurting each other. He's a modern-day hero. And Sophie wants in.

Pataki, Allison. [Finding Margaret Fuller](#) (Random \$30)

The story of how Margaret Fuller became the beating heart of the Transcendentalists, becoming a role model to Louisa May Alcott, an inspiration to Nathaniel Hawthorne and a muse to Henry David Thoreau as he headed into the woods. "Pataki's star-studded and gripping account is full of lush details about the life of an overlooked contributor to Transcendentalism and women's rights. This is one to savor." (PW)

Posteguillo, Santiago. [I Am Rome](#) (Random \$31)

Posteguillo, a bestseller of crime and historical fiction in Spain, makes his English-language debut with the story of a young roman lawyer named Gaius Julius Caesar, who accepted a job as prosecutor to defend the people of the city against Gnaeus Cornelius Dolabella, governor of Macedonia, who has been charged with corruption.

Ruffin, Maurice Carlos. [The American Daughters](#) (Random \$28) SIGNED

Enslaved to a businessman in the French Quarter of New Orleans, Ady, when she's separated from her mother, meets Lenore, a free black woman who invites her to join a clandestine society of spies called the Daughters, setting her on a journey toward liberation and

a new future.

Ryan, Jennifer. [The Underground Library](#) (Random \$28.99)

When the Blitz destroys Bethnal Green Library in London, librarian Juliet Lansdown, along with two other women, relocates the stacks to the local Underground station where the city's residents shelter nightly, determined to lend out stories that will keep spirits up, but soon tragedy after tragedy threatens to destroy what they've built.

Ryan, Kennedy. [This Could Be Us](#) (Grand Central \$17.99)

When her life explodes in a cloud of betrayal and disillusion, Soledad Barnes, while working to support her daughters, rediscovers herself, but when a man she shouldn't want but can't resist enters the picture, she wonders if she can be brave enough to make room for what could be.

Score, Lucy. [The Dead Guy Next Door](#) (Sourcebooks \$18.99)

The prime suspect in the murder of her neighbor, Riley Thorn, possibly clairvoyant, teams up with PI Nick Santiago to figure out who pulled the trigger, while keeping the detectives at bay and dealing with a stranger claiming he has been sent to help her hone her psychic gifts.

Scotch, Allison Winn. [Take Two, Birdie Maxwell](#) (Penguin \$18)

Hiding in her hometown after an on-set feud goes viral, A-list actor Birdie Robinson, hoping a public reunion with an ex-boyfriend could fix her damaged reputation, searches for her long-ago ex with reporter Elliot O'Brien.

Serle, Rebecca. [Expiration Dates](#) (Atria \$27)

Every time she meets a new man, Daphne Bell receives a slip of paper with his name and a number on it—the exact amount of time they

will be together; usually she is right, but when she meets Jake, her whole system is thrown for a loop.

Stimpson, Michelle. [Sisters with a Side of Greens](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Rose Tillman and her sister Marvina Nash haven't spoken in decades—not since Rose sent Marvina \$40 to register their business, and Marvina used that money for her own personal purposes. Now retired, Rose wants to open the restaurant they'd once dreamed of. But, to her horror, Rose realizes she's forgotten their mother's secret spice mix recipe, known to only one other person in the world: Marvina.

Sutanto, Jesse Q. [The Good, the Bad, and the Aunties](#) (Penguin \$18)

While in Jakarta to spend Chinese New Year with her family, newlywed Meddy Chan, when a former beau of Second Aunt crashes the party, is unwittingly drawn into a decades-long war between Jakarta's most powerful business factions, along with her Aunties, and must come with a plan to save them all.

Swinarski, Claire. [The Funeral Ladies of Ellerie County](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Esther Larson has been cooking for funerals in the Northwoods of Wisconsin for seventy years. Known locally as the "funeral ladies," she and her cohort have worked hard to keep the mourners of Ellerie County fed—it is her firm belief that there is very little a warm casserole and a piece of cherry pie can't fix. But, after falling for an internet scam that puts her home at risk, the proud Larson family matriarch is the one in need of help these days. Now armed with a Crock-Pot and a handful of recipes, and with the help of Iris, her whip-smart Gen Z granddaughter, and Cooper Welsh, who is dealing some family problems of his own, Esther sets out to put her life – and her community – back together.

Tintera, Amy. [Listen for the Lie](#) (Celadon \$26.99)

What would you do if you thought you murdered your best friend? And if everyone else thinks so too? What if the truth doesn't matter? As Lucy Chase's Texas hometown begins to tell versions of what happened and who Lucy is to a nationwide, true crime obsessed audience, at the bequest of her grandmother, she returns to the place she vowed never to set foot in again to solve her friend's murder, even if she is the one that did it.

Wan, Sophie. [Women of Good Fortune](#) (Graydon House \$28.99)

In this high-society Shanghai wedding, Lulu, the bride-to-be, is not in love with her fiancé, and her future wealthy in-laws are unkind, but family pressure is pushing her to go through with the ceremony. Her friends Jane and Riva are also unhappy, and the three hatch a plot to steal the wedding gift money and start their lives over. Think *Crazy Rich Asians* meets *Ocean's Eight*.

Yablon, Hillary. [Sylvia's Second Act](#) (Penguin \$29)

Divorcing her cheating husband, 63-year-old Sylvia and her best friend, Evie, a glamorous older widow, set up a new life in Manhattan, pawning jewelry and roughing it in tiny apartments, until Sylvia revives her decades-old wedding-planning business and realizes her entire second act is right in front of her.

Yuzuki, Asako. [Butter](#) (HarperCollins \$30)  
After asking for a beef stew recipe, a solitary Tokyo journalist begins a correspondence with a gourmet cook convicted of killing multiple lonely businessmen and notices herself slowly beginning to change after each meal she eats. "Yuzuki takes a thrilling look into female relationships, revealing the complex nature of modern-day social conventions pertaining to

a woman's appearance and her place in the home, and enriching the proceedings with mouthwatering descriptions of food. Like the meals Yuzuki describes, this leaves the reader satiated." (PW) A 2017 best seller in Japan, this is the first of the author's books to be translated into English.

## Teen

Ancrum, K. [Icarus](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

A thief who steals priceless art and replaces it with his father's impeccable forgeries while targeting Mr. Black, the man responsible for his mother's death, Icarus Gallagher is torn between family loyalty, revenge, escape and Mr. Black's son — the boy he's come to love.

Baptiste, Bethany. [The Poisons We Drink](#) (Sourcebooks \$18.99)

When her mother is murdered, Venus, who brews illegal love potions to support her family, is offered the chance to punish her mother's killer in exchange for brewing poisonous potions to enslave D.C.'s most influential politicians and soon finds the line between magic and power blurring.

Black, Holly. [The Prisoner's Throne](#) (Little Brown \$20.99)

Imprisoned in the icy north and bound to the will of a monstrous new queen, Prince Oak must decide whether to attempt to regain the trust of the girl he's always loved or remain loyal to Elfame and hand over the means to end her reign — even if it means ending Wren, too.

Bright, Anna. [The Hedgewitch of Foxhall](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

In need of power beyond her wildest dreams to get back what she's lost, hedgewitch Ffion agrees to help Prince Taliesin while secretly

striking a bargain with his brother Dafydd, and soon the fate of Wales depends on their quest — and so might the fate of her heart.

Gonzales, Sophie. [The Perfect Guy Doesn't Exist](#) (St. Martin's \$20)

Ivy Winslow has the house to herself for a week and her only plans are to binge-watch her favorite fantasy TV show, H-MAD, hang out with her best friend, Henry, and avoid her *former* best friend-turned enemy (and neighbor), Mack. But things go awry when Ivy wakes up one morning to find Weston, the gorgeous and *very fictional* main character of H-MAD, in her bedroom, claiming to be her soul mate.

Hodge, Rosamund. [What Monstrous Gods](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

After killing Ruven, a heretic sorcerer, and waking the royal family from an enchanted sleep, Lia, born with a miraculous gift, must marry Prince Araunn and forge a pact with a god — or die, discovering the boy she killed may be her only hope of survival.

Mabry, Samantha. [Clever Creatures of the Night](#) (Workman \$18.99)

When Case arrives at her best friend Drea's isolated West Texas home and finds her missing, she embarks on a search for clues about Drea's disappearance while facing the unsettling, cult-like and possibly murderous behavior of Drea's roommates.

Randall, Christen. [The No-Girlfriend Rule](#) (Atheneum \$19.99)

When her boyfriend excludes her from participating in a role-playing game, high school senior Hollie joins an all-girls group where an in-game romance has the potential to be more than just pretend.

Schreiber, Gretchen. [Ellie Haycock Is Totally Normal](#) (St. Martin's \$20)

Forced to return to the hospital while trying to balance her illness with the pressures of high school, Ellie Haycock finds this stay different when she becomes close with a group of friends, including optimistic Ryan, who, despite their differences, she can't stop thinking about.

## Food

Allen, Darina. [Grow, Cook, Nourish](#) (Octopus \$49.99)

Growing your own food is exciting but, when it comes to knowing how to make the most of your produce, it can be daunting. In *Grow, Cook, Nourish*, bestselling author Darina Allen draws on more than 30 years of experience gardening at Ballymaloe to take you through an extensive list of vegetables, herbs and fruits. Each entry includes explanations of different varieties, practical information on cultivation, growing and maintenance, plus instructions for the best ways to cook produce as well as preserve and utilize a glut. With more than 500 recipes, including dishes for every ingredient, Darina shows how to use your harvest to its full potential.

Davis, Hillary. [French from the Market](#) (Gibbs Smith \$35)

Hillary Davis shows us in *French from the Market* that French food isn't always haute cuisine. Traditional, daily French cooking is provincial and farm-driven. It is also an art that uses the freshest and finest ingredients available from gardens, markets, and local vendors to put nourishing meals on the table. And, as Davis points out, French home cooking is not hard. The 100 plus recipes for starters, soups, salads, fish, poultry, meats, vegetables, and desserts in this cookbook, along with detailed



instructions and tips, prove her right.

Heuck, Lidey. [Cooking in Real Life](#) (Simon and Schuster \$35)

From the rising star who learned to cook when she worked for Ina Garten and inherited the Barefoot Contessa's intuition for what people want to cook comes a collection of 100 recipes that are cook-pleasing and crowd-pleasing and written with the shopper, chopper and dish-doer in mind.

Kang, Mingoo. [Jang](#) (Artisan \$35)

In the first book on the subject in English, South Korea's best chef shows readers how to cook with jangs—the sauces that are the essential building blocks of all Korean cuisine. In the 60 home-cook-friendly dishes, he demystifies jangs while showing how they can be used to make both Korean and Western dishes more delicious.

Strobel, Maela. [Princess Pamela's Soul Food Cookbook](#) (Rizzoli \$12.98)

When it comes to soul food, there is an elite pantheon of grand dame authors: Patti Labelle, Sylvia Woods, and Edna Lewis. For their fans, who crave authentic African-American recipes, this publication marks a major rediscovery: the original soul diva, Princess Pamela, who paved the way for all the others with this 1969 cult classic. This lost classic cookbook was treasured by past generations as a bible of soul cooking and is now back in print after more than a quarter century

## Nonfiction

Curzan, Anne. [Says Who?](#) (Crown \$29)

A kinder, *funner* usage guide to the ever-changing English language and a useful tool for both the grammar stickler and the more

colloquial user of English, from linguist and veteran professor Anne Curzan.

Dykstra, Natalie. [Chasing Beauty](#) (HarperCollins \$37.50)

The vivid and masterful story of Isabella Stewart Gardner—creator of one of America's most stunning museums—an American original whose own life was remade by art. "Dykstra deals with Gardner's reticence—her diaries do not reveal her innermost feelings—with intelligent conjectures. "It is said that no more self-contained woman ever lived," the Boston Journal noted in a profile. Ultimately, the author captures the sweep and energy of her life, and the book includes photographs and artwork. A richly detailed biographical portrait." (*Kirkus*)

Kalayjian, Wayne. [Saving Michelangelo's Dome](#) (Pegasus \$29.95)

In 1742, when the legendary dome atop St. Peter's Basilica—designed by Michelangelo—cracks and threatens to collapse, Pope Benedict XIV summons three mathematicians whose groundbreaking ideas spark a revolution in the world of architecture.

O'Neill, Therese. [Unbecoming a Lady](#) (Simon and Schuster \$24.99)

With laugh-out-loud impertinence and tongue-in-cheek humor, a *New York Times* best-selling author profiles the unforgettable, impressive 19th- and early 20th-century women—unjustly called sluts, shrews, sinners and scolds—who refused to conform to social standards and who were collectively unbecoming as women, but forever changed what women can become.

Reames, Robin. [The Ancient Art of Thinking for Yourself](#) (Basic \$30)

In this book, renowned rhetorical scholar Robin Reames argues that, in today's polarized

political climate, we should all care deeply about learning rhetoric. Drawing on examples ranging from the destructive ancient Greek demagogue Alcibiades to modern-day conspiracists like Alex Jones, Reames breaks down the major techniques of rhetoric, pulling back the curtain on how politicians, journalists, and “journalists” convince us to believe what we believe—and to talk, vote, and act accordingly. Understanding these techniques helps us avoid being manipulated by authority figures who don’t have our best interests at heart.

Salisbury, Latoe Gee. [Not Your China Doll](#) (Penguin \$32)

Set against the glittering backdrop of Los Angeles during the gin-soaked Jazz Age and the rise of Hollywood, this debut book celebrates Anna May Wong, the first Asian American movie star, to bring an unsung heroine to light and reclaim her place in cinema history.

Shakespeare, [Ian Fleming](#) (HarperCollins \$45)

Ian Fleming’s greatest creation, James Bond, has had an enormous and ongoing impact on our culture. What Bond represents about ideas of masculinity, the British national psyche and global politics has shifted over time, as has the interpretation of the life of his author. But Fleming himself was more mysterious and subtle than anything he wrote. A fresh portrait of the man behind James Bond, and his enduring impact, by an award-winning biographer with unprecedented access to the Fleming family papers.

Silver, Alain and James Ursini. [From the Moment They Met It Was Murder](#) (Running Press \$30)

The behind-the-scenes story of the quintessential film noir and cult classic, Billy Wilder’s *Double Indemnity*—its true crime origins and crucial impact on film history—is told for the first time in this riveting narrative pub-

lished for the film’s 80th anniversary.

Targoff, Ramie. [Shakespeare’s Sisters](#) (Knopf \$33)

Shedding new light on the Renaissance by offering a much-needed female perspective on everyday life in Shakespeare’s England, this remarkable work introduces four extraordinary women, who despite little support for their art, defined themselves as writers against all odds.