

Midmonth BookNotes

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A Bounty of Books

Cozy Corner

Claire, Ann. [A Cyclist's Guide to Crime & Croissants](#) (Kensington \$27)

Nine months ago, Sadie Greene shocked friends and family by ditching her sensible office job in the Chicago suburbs and buying a sight-unseen French bicycling tour company, Oui Cycle. Now she's living the unconventional life of her dreams in the gorgeous village of Sans-Souci-sur-Mer when friends from her old hometown turn up. However, the special bike trip Sadie plans for them takes an unexpected turn when one of her guests winds up dead.

Davis, Krista. [The Diva Goes Overboard](#) (Kensington \$27)

When Natasha Smith's free-spirited mother's fiancé, a notoriously pompous antiques dealer, drops dead during their extravagant engagement party, entertaining guru Sophie Winston must pull out the stops to solve this case before murder becomes the town's new trend.

Erickson, Alex. [A Pose Before Dying](#) (Kensington \$17.95)

From the bestselling author of the Bookshop Cafe Mysteries, the first in an exciting new series featuring Ashley Branson, a young female entrepreneur who's just opened her dream business – a yoga studio filled with adorable, adoptable cats! If only helping humans find balance and felines find homes didn't also require she investigate the purrfect murder.

MCown, Marjorie. [Star Struck](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99)

Costumer Joey Jessop is working on a movie set in 1930s Hollywood and starring two of the world's biggest stars. The female lead, Gillian Best, is also known for her new lifestyle brand. After a hit-and-run accident occurs near the set, Joey realizes that the car involved belongs to Gillian, and she begins to wonder if the actress has more to hide than her Botox appointments. Her suspicions deepen when Gillian's personal assistant, Rita, who vowed to get revenge for Gillian replacing her, is

found dead shortly after.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Anthony, Gretchen. [Tired Ladies Take a Stand](#) (Park Row \$18.99)

Twenty years after making a pact to say “yes” to whatever life throws at them, which led to wonderful, life-changing results, four best friends, having reached their bandwidth of responsibilities, decide to reconnect to the passionate, fun and fulfilled people they were before, and so begins the “Year of No.”

Bailey, Lauren. [Summer After Summer](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

Olivia Taylor’s marriage is in a death spiral when she agrees to come home to the Hamptons to help her father and sisters pack up the family estate. If it looks like she’s running away from her soon-to-be ex, Wes, and New York City, well, she is. But someone has to take care of things and that’s always been Olivia’s role in the family. After years of financial trouble, someone’s finally bailing them out with a huge offer to buy their beachfront property, which is a good thing, although it means losing the home she grew up in, where her mother died, and where she first met Fred, the love of her life. It’s been five years since the last time things blew up between Olivia and Fred. This time, will things will be different? Maybe, just maybe, the fifth time’s the charm. A modern take on Jane Austen’s *Persuasion*.

Barr, Lisa. [The Goddess of Warsaw](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99) SIGNED

A legendary Hollywood screen goddess,

Lena Browning uses her power and fame to get revenge on the Nazis who escaped justice after the war, hoping to right the past’s wrongs. But when an old enemy resurfaces, Lena must use her skills to protect herself and those she loves, then and now.

Bowen, Kelly. [Tomorrow Is for the Brave](#) (Grand Central \$18.99)

In 1939 France, socialite Violet St. Croix, defying her parents’ wishes, joins the war effort, and as the Allies are thwarted at every turn and her commanding officer is murdered, she is the only one who can expose a traitor and save countless lives—if only she could find someone to trust.

Cain, Matt. [Becoming Ted](#) (Kensington \$27)

If Ted Ainsworth were to compare himself to one of the ice cream flavors made by his family’s company, famous throughout his sleepy Lancashire hometown, it might be vanilla—sweet, inoffensive, and pleasantly predictable. At forty-three, Ted is convinced there’s nothing remotely remarkable about him, except perhaps his luck in having landed handsome, charismatic Giles as a husband. Then Giles suddenly leaves him for another man, filling his social media feed with posts about #newlove and adventure. And Ted, who has spent nearly twenty years living with, and often for, another person, must re-imagine the future he has happily taken for granted.

Callahan, Michael. [The Lost Letters from Martha’s Vineyard](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

When TV producer Kit O’Neill discovers her late grandmother was Mercy Welles, an Oscar-nominated actress who disappeared just as her career was taking off,

she puts her investigative skills to good use, which leads her to Martha's Vineyard—the island that holds the key to the fateful summer that changed everything forever.

Chang, Abraham. [888 Love and the Divine Burden of Numbers](#) (Flatiron \$29.99)

Young Wang has received plenty of wisdom from his beloved uncle: don't take life too seriously, get out on the road when you can, and everyone gets just seven great loves in their life—so don't blow it. This last one sticks with Young as he is an obsessive cataloger of his life: movies watched, favorite albums . . . all filtered through Chinese numerology and superstition. He finds meaning in almost everything, for which his two best friends endlessly tease him. But then, at the end of 1995, when Young is at New York University, he meets Erena. She's brilliant, charismatic, quick-witted, and crassly funny. They fall in love and, for Young, it feels so real that he's thrilled and terrified. As Young and Erena's relationship blossoms, we get flashbacks to Young's first five loves. That means Erena is "number six." Was his uncle wrong—is she the one and only? Or are they fated for failure to make room for Young's final, seventh love?

Corrello, Betty. [Summertime Punchline](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

After landing a coveted spot at a huge comedy festival, up-and-coming comedian Delfina is forced to return to the home she swore off at 18 and now has 45 days to perfect a new comedy set and come to terms with everything she left behind 10 summers before.

DeWitt, Tarah. [Savor It](#) (9St. Martins \$18) Sent to Spunes, Oregon, for the summer to consult on a restaurant opening, former hotshot chef in NYC who lost his Michelin star along with his love of cooking, Fisher Lange, with the townspeople up in arms, strikes a deal with his beautiful new neighbor to turn things around.

Dyroff, Charlee. [Loneliness & Company](#) (Bloomsbury \$28.99)

Assigned to train an AI how to be a friend, Lee discovers this project is part of a classified government mission to solve loneliness—an emotion erased from society's lexicon decades ago. Now Lee must decide what she's willing to give up for success learning in the process what it means to be a true friend.

Ellis, Eliana ed. [Someplace Generous](#) (Row House \$18.99)

Featuring twenty-two stories by twenty-two authors, *Someplace Generous* presents voices largely new to the genre of romance-fiction, each bringing a fresh take on what it means to tell a love story.

Fortune, Carly. [This Summer Will Be Different](#) (Penguin \$19)

When her best friend flees Toronto a week before her wedding, Lucy follows her Prince Edward Island to help her through her crisis and resist the one man she's never been able to, but his flirty quips have been replaced with something new, making her wonder if her heart is still safe.

Harris, Terah Shelton. [Long After We Are Gone](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Told from alternating points of view from all four siblings, this emotional story about the power of family and letting go follows CeCe, Junior, Nance and Angeline, each

fighting their own personal battles, as they return home to save their ancestral land—and themselves—after the death of their father.

Henry, Christina. [The House that Horror Built](#) (Penguin \$18)

When single mother Harry Adams takes a job cleaning house for a reclusive horror director who values discretion, she keeps her head down until she starts hearing noises from behind a locked door and soon finds this forbidding house may be home to secrets she can't ignore.

Higgins, Kristan. [Look on the Bright Side](#) (Penguin \$30) SIGNED

When a solution to get her life back on track comes from foul-tempered and renowned surgeon Lorenzo Santini who needs a date for his sister's wedding, oncologist Lark Smith agrees to be his plus-one. However, after falling in love with Lorenzo and his big, warm-hearted family, Lark discovers the best things in life aren't planned at all.

Jenner, Natalie. [Every Time We Say Goodbye](#) (St. Martin's \$29)

In 1955, Vivien Lowry is facing the greatest challenge of her life. Her latest play, the only female-authored play on the London stage that season, has opened in the West End to rapturous applause from the audience. The reviewers, however, are not as impressed as the playgoers and their savage notices not only shut down the play but ruin Lowry's last chance for a dramatic career. With her future in London not looking bright, at the suggestion of her friend, Peggy Guggenheim, Vivien takes a job in as a script doctor on a major film shooting in Rome's Cinecitta Studios. There she finds a vibrant movie making

scene filled with rising stars, acclaimed directors, and famous actors in a country that is torn between its past and its potentially bright future. As Vivien tries to forge a new future for herself, she also must face the long-buried truth of the recent World War and the mystery of what really happened to her deceased fiancé.

Kann, Claire. [Looking for Love in All the Haunted Places](#) (Penguin \$18)

With a special affinity for the supernatural, Lucky Hart, in order to kick start her career, cons her way onto a show investigating the haunted Hennessee House and forms an instant connection with Maverick Phillips. But when their relationship meets a challenge—the house itself—Lucky realizes that if she wants it all, she will have to risk everything.

Lauren, Christina. [The Paradise Problem](#) (Gallery \$28.99)

When his 100-million-dollar inheritance comes with a catch—he must be happily married for five years, Liam Weston, the uptight heir of a grocery chain, turns to his secret not-so-ex-wife Anna Green, a feisty, foul-mouthed artist, to fake their relationship and convince his one-percenter parents they're in love.

London, Julia. [Nice Work, Nora November](#) (Harper Muse \$18.99)

Nora November is alive—but she wasn't always. She was once clinically dead, having spent several minutes under water after a terrible surfing accident she doesn't remember. Now that she's awake again her life has been cleaved in two. In the Before, Nora lived like a ghost, drowning under the weight of her parents' expectations. In the After, she's determined to accomplish the things she left undone before

she died. London serves up a thoughtful – and frequently funny – look about embracing new challenges and living life on one’s own terms.

MacNeal, Susan. [The Last Hope](#) (Random \$29) SIGNED

Ordered by British Intelligence to assassinate the physicist behind Nazi Germany’s nuclear program, Maggie Hope teams up with couturier and spy Coco Chanel, but as the war reaches a fever pitch and the stakes keep rising, the choices she makes will reverberate around the globe and touch everyone she loves.

Micciche, KJ. [A Storybook Wedding](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

When librarian Cecily Jane Allerton and hotshot struggling author Nate Ellis are caught in a compromising position during their MFA program, they decide to get married to keep the haters from destroying their careers. To the horror of Cecily’s family, which is a big fan of big white weddings, they elope to City Hall. Now they’re back on Block Island, pretending to be a real married couple, and finding that however fake the relationship may be, the mutual attraction is all too real.

Murray, Amita. [Unladylike Rules of Attraction](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

To claim a fortune left to her by Dowager Countess Budleigh, Anya Marleigh, a singer and sitar player in Queen Charlotte’s court, must marry before her next birthday, and with the Budleigh family out to destroy her, she must fight her attraction to the man who stands in her way.

Palmisano, Erin. [The Secrets of the Little Greek Taverna](#) (Grand Central \$18.99)

In a village on Naxos lies a gorgeous

guest house and taverna that never opened. Cressida’s husband died suddenly three years ago – the taverna was their dream – but she’s been too lost in grief to keep that dream alive.

Marjory “Jory” St. James, a young traveler who always feels more at home on the move, arrives on Naxos in the middle of the night as if summoned by the island. She quite unexpectedly becomes Cressida’s very first guest. Jory quickly discovers that this island vacation is more than just a sightseeing adventure as all of the women in town are more than what they seem. But when a hotel group offers to buy Cressida’s taverna, it’s going to take all of Jory and Cressida’s drive and expertise to keep that from happening. With a generous dash of romance, deliciously tempting Greek food, and a growing friendship, can these two women find a way to finally open the little Greek taverna?

Probst, Jennifer. [A Wedding in Lake Como](#) (Penguin \$18)

Best friends Ava, Madison, and Chelsea made a pact to reunite for each other’s weddings when their careers sent them in different directions. But after one of them makes a choice that tears the group apart, an upcoming wedding might be their last chance to heal old wounds.

Richards, Diane. [Ella](#) (HarperCollins \$28)

Richards, a former background vocalist for Whitney Houston, follows the life of legendary singer Ella Fitzgerald from her escape from an infamous training school/prison that forced her to dance on the street for money to her first amateur appearance at the Apollo Theatre in 1934.

Rindell, Suzanne. [Summer Fridays](#) (Penguin \$18)

During the summer of 1999, as her fiancé spends long hours at work with Kendra, an all-too-close female colleague, 20-something Sawyer becomes friends with Kendra's boyfriend, Nick, and together they spend Fridays exploring NYC together, and as real feelings develop, they wonder what will happen when summer is over.

Roberts, Nora. [Mind Games](#) (St. Martin's \$30)

With the ability to see into minds and souls, Thea, Fox who brought her parents' killer to justice years ago, discovers the inmate who shattered her childhood has the same ability when she can hear his twisted thoughts and witness his evil acts from miles away as he plots his revenge.

Rosen, Jessie. [The Heirloom](#) (Penguin \$18)

When her boyfriend proposes with an heirloom ring, Shea Anderson, remembering her beloved Nonna's warnings, sets out to find its previous owners to ensure the ring contains forever energy. Now with the help of her long-suffering sister and a nosy journalist, Shea embarks on the quest of a lifetime.

Simonson, Helen. [The Hazelbourne Ladies Motorcycle and Flying Club](#) (Random \$29)

In the summer of 1919, Constance Haverhill, sent as a lady's companion to Hazelbourne-on-Sea, is welcomed by Poppy Wirrall, a baronet's daughter who runs a ladies' motorcycle club, but as the country

prepares to celebrate its hard-won peace, the club realizes the freedoms they gained during the war are being revoked.

Sue, Natalie. [I Hope This Finds You Well](#) (HarperCollins \$28)

Trapped between petty revenge and a life-changing opportunity, Jolene navigates coworker drama, hidden secrets and forbidden feelings to save her job, risking exposure of an email vendetta and the walls she's built around her heart. Crackling with laugh-out-loud dialogue and relatable observations, *I Hope This Finds You Well* is a fresh and surprisingly tender comedy about loneliness and love beyond our computer screens.

Sykes, Plum. [Wives Like Us](#) (HarperCollins \$28)

In *The Bottoms*, tiny Cotswold villages on the English countryside, filthy rich Tata Hawkins is in a tizzy when her husband runs off with a bikini designer; her glamorous new neighbor, an American divorcée, refuses her overtures at friendship; and her two best friends are distracted by their own problems.

"Crazy Rich Brits may not have the amazing cuisine of their Asian counterparts, but they are just as scheming, fabulous, and fun to read about. If you like this sort of thing, you'll dive in and never look back." (Kirkus)

Walker, Megan. [Highcliffe House](#) (Shadow Mountain \$16.99)

When a romantic entanglement leaves her humiliated and reeling, Anna Lane wants nothing more than for her father to whisk her away from the gossip of the ton. Unfortunately, he has obligations elsewhere, leaving her stuck in London. Graham Everett's financial security depends on an

investment with Mr. Lane, his long-time friend and business partner. He'll do just about anything to secure it for his family, even if it means fighting spoiled, embittered Anna for her father's attention. Luckily, Mr. Lane concocts a plan that will give everyone what they want, with one stipulation: Anna must accompany Graham to Brighton in her father's stead and make a decision to invest—or not—based on a thorough report.

Watson, Renee. [skin & bones](#) (Little Brown \$30)

When a confession on her wedding day shifts her world, 40-year-old Lena, trying to teach her daughter self-love while struggling to do so herself, questions everything she's learned about dating, friendship and motherhood while working tirelessly to bring the oft-forgotten Black history of Oregon to the masses.

Wicks, Katie. [Chloe Baker's Lost Date](#) (Wattpad \$18.99)

Chloe Baker has a brand new life in New York City with a great job but zero dating life. When she agrees to go on a blind date, she's nervous but excited. But then, Jack is late. Ten minutes. Twenty. Thirty. Just when she's given up all hope, he shows up—and they spend a magical day together. Chloe's on cloud nine, and she can't wait to see Jack again. But when she texts to say thanks for the great date, she doesn't get the reply she's expecting. Suddenly, Jack's unfindable. And Chloe will go to any lengths to figure out what happened—because true love is worth blowing up your life for . . . or is it?"

Williams, Synthia. [Waiting for Friday Night](#) (Harlequin \$18.99)

When her daughter Shania does a DNA

test that identifies her coach, Quinton Evans, as her biological father, school principal Halle Parker, who did IVF with a donor, as they all get to know each other, wonders if fate played a part in them finding one another this way.

Children's and Teen Books

Diacon-Furtado, Quinn. [The Lilies](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Trapped in a mysterious time loop on the day after a member of the Lilies Society disappears, four Archwell Academy students discover they each hold a clue that will unlock the truth about the Lilies, but they're each harboring a secret they would do anything to hide.

Hesse, Monica. [The Brightwood Code](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)

Desperate to forget the circumstances that cut her time overseas short, former WWI switchboard operator Edda receives a panicked call from someone who utters the fateful code word "Brightwood" and must uncover what secrets may have followed her across the ocean.

Matson, Morgan. [The Ballad of Darcy and Russell](#) (Simon & Schuster \$19.99)

Eighteen-year-old Darcy, a firm believer in love at first sight, finds herself stranded at a bus station the night before leaving for college, until she meets Russell, sparking a whirlwind of unexpected adventures and heartfelt connections as they unravel the possibility of falling in love in just one day.

McGrath, Robynwith Liz Wong. [A Mind of Her Own](#) (Beach Lane \$18.99)

In this clue-filled picture book biography, readers will meet Agatha Christie, one of the greatest mystery writers of all time, and follow her on her journey to authorship as she showed everyone she had a mind of her own to follow her dreams.

Nonfiction

Alexander, Caroline. [Skies of Thunder](#) (Penguin \$32)

In April 1942, the Imperial Japanese Army steamrolled through Burma, capturing the only ground route from India to China. Supplies to this critical zone would now have to come from India by air—meaning across the Himalayas, on the most hazardous air route in the world. *Skies of Thunder* is a story of an epic human endeavor, in which Allied troops faced the monumental challenge of operating from airfields hacked from the jungle, and took on “the Hump,” the fearsome mountain barrier that defined the air route.

Dix, Andrew Graham. [Artists Who Changed History](#) (DK \$40)

In this guide, each artist is introduced with a realistic portrait and biographical entries that trace the friendships, loves, and rivalries that inspired and influenced them. Entries explore each individual’s key ideas and working methods and set their ideas in context, conveying a powerful sense of the place and the period of history in which they lived.

Firnhaber-Baker, Justine. [House of Lilies](#) (Basic \$35)

Tells the epic story of the Capetian dynasty of medieval France (reigning from A.D. 987 to 1328), showing how their ideas about power, religion and identity continue to shape European society and politics today.

Franklin, Sara B. [The Editor](#) (Atria \$29.99)

When twenty-five-year-old Judith Jones began working as a secretary at Doubleday’s Paris office in 1949, she spent most of her time wading through manuscripts in the slush pile and passing on projects—until one day, a book caught her eye. She read it in one sitting, then begged her boss to consider publishing it. A year later, *Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl* became a bestseller. It was the start of a culture-defining career in publishing. During her more than fifty years as an editor at Knopf, Jones nurtured the careers of literary icons such as Sylvia Plath, Anne Tyler, and John Updike, and helped launch new genres and trends in literature. At the forefront of the cookbook revolution, she published the who’s who of food writing: Edna Lewis, M.F.K. Fisher, Claudia Roden, Madhur Jaffrey, James Beard, and, most famously, Julia Child. Through her quiet and tenacious work behind the scenes, Jones helped turn these authors into household names, changing cultural mores and expectations along the way.

Hogeland, William. [The Hamilton Scheme](#) (Farrar Straus & Giroux \$35)

With an unforgettable cast of insiders and outsiders, backroom intrigues and literal street fights, this riveting book, sharply dissenting from recent biographies, brings to life Hamilton’s vision and his struggles

over democracy, wealth and the meaning of America that drove the nation's creation and hold enduring significance today.

Kaag, John. [American Bloods](#) (Farrar Straus & Giroux \$28)

The Bloods were one of America's first and most expansive pioneer families. They explored and laid claim to the frontiers—geographic, political, intellectual, and spiritual—that would become the very core of the United States. John Kaag's *American Bloods* is the account of this remarkable American family inspired by the discovery of a mysterious manuscript in an old Massachusetts farmhouse. Kaag follows eight members of this family from the British Civil Wars in the seventeenth century through the founding of the colonies, the American Revolution, transcendentalism, the Industrial Revolution, the Civil War, and the rise of first-wave feminism, all the way to the beginning of the twentieth century.

King, Michelle T. [Chop Watch Fry Learn](#) (WW Norton \$29.99)

In 1949, a young Chinese housewife arrived in Taiwan and transformed herself from a novice to a natural in the kitchen. She launched a career as a cookbook author and television cooking instructor that would last four decades. Years later, in America, flipping through her mother's copies of Fu Pei-mei's Chinese cookbooks, historian Michelle T. King discovered more than the recipes to meals of her childhood. She found, in Fu's story and in her food, a vivid portal to another time, when a generation of middle-class, female home cooks navigated the tremendous postwar transformations taking place across the world.

Llewellyn-Jones, Lloyd. [The Cleopatras](#) (Basic \$34)

Recapturing the lost world of Hellenistic Egypt and tracing the kingdom's final centuries before its fall to Rome, a noted historian tells the dramatic story of the seven Cleopatras who styled themselves as goddess-queens, ruling through the canny deployment of arcane rituals, opulent spectacles and unparalleled wealth.

Rapport, Mike. [City of Light, City of Shadows](#) (Basic \$35)

A top historian offers a new history of Paris's Belle Epoque, the luminous age of the Eiffel Tower and the Sacré-Coeur Basilica, but also of social unrest and violent clashes over what it meant to be French.

Roberts, Paul. [Ancient Rome in Fifty Monuments](#) (WW Norton \$39.95)

Roberts takes the reader on a historical tour of ancient Rome, from the luxurious bathhouses of Caracalla and Diocletian, the rowdy Circus Maximus, and the Coliseum to monuments such as the Column of Trajan that celebrated Rome's imperial project. Roberts expertly weaves together the latest archaeological research with social and cultural history, vividly evoking the story of a city always in some way rising, falling, and being rebuilt.

St. Clair, Kassia. [The Race to the Future](#) (WW Norton \$29.99)

The racers—an Italian prince and his chauffeur, a French racing driver, a con man, and several rival journalists—battle over steep inclines, through narrow mountain passages, and across the arid Gobi Desert. Competitors endure torrential rain and choking dust. There are barely any roads, and petrol is almost impossible to find. A global audience of millions follows

each twist and turn, devouring reports telegraphed from the course. More than its many adventures, the Peking-to-Paris Motor Challenge took place on the precipice of a new world.

Thomson, Keith. [Paradise of the Damned](#) (Little Brown \$34)

An ambitious courtier, confidant to Queen Elizabeth and El Dorado fanatic, Sir Walter Raleigh, released from the Tower of London, journeys across an ocean to find the fabled city, gambling his painstakingly acquired wealth, hard-won domestic bliss and his very life, while back home, his rivals plotted his demise.