

Midmonth BookNotes

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Summertime and the Reading is Easy

Cozy

Berenson, Laurien. [Peg and Rose Play the Ponies](#) (Kensington \$27)

While in Kentucky to sell her Thoroughbred broodmare's offspring at a high-stakes yearling sale, rival sisters-in-law Peg and Rose discover something seems off about Six Oaks farm, and when the yearling manager with serious anger issues is murdered, the ladies enter the ring to expose the culprit.

Douglas, Stuart. [Death at the Dress Rehearsal](#) (Titan \$17.99)

In 1970, on the set of down-market sitcom 'Floggit and Leggit', leading man Edward Lowe stumbles across the body of a woman, apparently the victim of a tragic drowning accident. But there's something about her that rings the faintest of bells in Edward's head and, convinced the woman has been murdered, he enlists the help of his co-star John le Breton to investigate further.

Freeman, Dianne. [An Art Lover's Guide to Paris and Murder](#) (Kensington \$27) SIGNED

Frances Wynn, the American-born Countess of Harleigh, and her husband, George, have two points of interest in Paris. One is an impromptu holiday to visit the Paris Exposition. The other is personal. George's Aunt Julia has requested her nephew's help in looking into the suspicious death of renowned artist Paul Ducasse. At the exposition, swarming with tourists, tragedy casts a pall on the festivities. A footbridge collapses. Julia is among the casualties. However, she was not just another fateful victim. Julia was stabbed to death amid the chaos. With an official investigation at a standstill, George and Frances realize that to solve the case they must dig into Julia's life—as well as Paul's—and question everything and everyone in Julia's coterie of artists and secrets.

Levine, Laura. [Murder Buys a One-Way Ticket](#) (Kensington \$27)

After finding the body of her client Chip Miller, a wealthy gym chain owner who was a tyrant and a bully with an ego as big as his

muscles, while on a private railway trip with him and his family, Hollywood-writer-for-hire Jane Austen becomes the prime suspect in the murder and must now track down the real killer.

McKinlay, Jenn. [Fondant Fumble](#) (Berkley \$9.99)

Helping professional football players Keogh and Tyler open a Fairy Tale Cupcakes Bakery franchise, Mel, when the two athletes are accused of murdering the owner of their team, must prove their innocence before it's game-over for the new bakers.

Historical Fiction. Mysteries, Romance and More

Andrews, Ilona. [White Hot](#) (Avon \$18.99)
Nevada Baylor has a unique and secret skill—she *knows* when people are lying—and she's used that magic (along with plain, hard work) to keep her colorful and close-knit family's detective agency afloat. But her new case pits her against the shadowy forces that almost destroyed the city of Houston once before, bringing Nevada back into contact with billionaire Prime – the highest rank of magic user - Connor "Mad" Rogan.

Bank, Melissa. [The Girl's Guide to Hunting and Fishing](#) (Penguin \$18)

The novel that launched a thousand rom-coms celebrates its 25th anniversary with a special edition. Generous-hearted and wickedly insightful, *The Girls' Guide to Hunting and Fishing* maps the progress of Jane Rosenal as she sets out on a personal and spirited expedition through the perilous terrain of sex, love, relationships, and the treacherous waters of the workplace. With an unforgettable comic

touch, Bank skillfully teases out universal issues, puts a clever new spin on the mating dance, and captures in perfect pitch what it's like to come of age as a young woman.

Bonham-Young, Hannah. [Out on a Limb](#) (Dell \$17)

Winnifred "Win" McNulty has always been wildly independent and not one to be coddled for her limb difference. With some minor adjustments, she's done just fine. Hooking up at a costume party with the incredibly charming Bo changes everything. Win finds herself pregnant—and decides to keep the baby. While Bo is surprisingly elated to step up to the plate, Win is unsure of whether she can handle this new challenge. Together, Win and Bo decide to get to know one another as friends and nothing more while they embark on this parenting journey together. But, as they both should know by now, life rarely goes according to plan.

Cartmel, Andrew. [Ashram Assassin](#) (Titan \$17.99)

When a set of rare, impossible-to-find yoga books are stolen from a West London ashram, Cordelia, the morally relaxed paperback sleuth, is hired to recover them, but what begins as a hunt for missing paperbacks soon becomes a murder investigation and she must take some deep breaths to expose a killer.

Center, Katherine. [The Rom-Commers](#) (St. Martins \$29)

Hired to write a rom-com screenplay with her hero, movie-writing legend Charlie Yates, Emma Wheeler, arriving in LA, discovers he's a jerk and doesn't even believe in love. However, Emma refuses to go down without a fight, and she decides to write her dreams into reality whether Charlie likes it or not.

Chalsen, Becky. [Serendipity](#) (Dutton \$18)

Returning home from LA after five years away, former Hollywood screenwriter Maggie James hopes to repair friendships during a weekend at the group's Fire Island share house, named Serendipity, where the old hurts of her departure have left deep scars.

Condie, Ally. [The Unwedding](#) (Grand Central \$29)

Recent divorcee Ellery Wainwright, while staying at the luxurious Resort at Broken Point in Big Sur, finds the place beautiful, yet unsettling, especially when a mudslide traps her and the other guests with a murderer who has something horrific in store for them all. Best-selling YA author Condie makes her adult fiction debut.

Constantine, Liv. [The Next Mrs. Parrish](#) (Bantam \$30)

Daphne and Amber Parrish are thrust back into one another's lives upon the resurgence of a long-forgotten threat, forcing a vicious game of cat and mouse where everything is on the line, in this thrilling sequel to the million-copy-bestselling Reese's Book Club Pick *The Last Mrs. Parrish*. "Constantine lays the glamour and nastiness on thick, resulting in an acidic thriller that delights with every twist of the knife. Fans of the first book will eat this up." (PW)

Copenhaver, John. [Hall of Mirrors](#) (Pegasus \$27.95)

In May 1954, Lionel Kane witnesses his apartment engulfed in flames with his lover and writing partner, Roger Raymond, inside. Police declare it a suicide due to gas ignition, but Lionel refuses to believe Roger was suicidal. A month earlier, Judy Nightingale and Philippa Watson attend a lecture by their favorite mystery author Ray Kane (a pseudonym used by Lionel and Roger for their books) and, being

eager fans, befriend Roger, who is the public face of the writing duo. But Judy and Philippa have another reason for befriending Ray Kane; they hope to convince the Roger and Lionel to help them with their efforts to track down and stop a vicious serial killer. Begin with *The Savage Kind*, which introduces readers to Philippa and Judy, and then continue on with this compelling, beautifully written historical mystery that makes the most of its McCarthy-era setting.

Daverley, Claire. [Talking at Night](#) (Penguin \$18)

This is the story of Will and Rosie. The two are opposites in every way and yet they fall for each other as teenagers; nineties music, sideways glances, sunsets and bonfires and talking late into the night. It's palpable, inevitable: they're on the precipice of starting something wonderful. Until one day, tragedy strikes, and any possibility of being together seems to shatter. But time and again, Rosie and Will find their way back to each other.

De la Rosa, Liana. [Isabel and the Rogue](#) (Berkeley \$19)

Sent to London to uncover British intelligence that might aid Mexico during the French Occupation, Isabel Luna Valdés meets her match in a rakish English captain Sirius Dawson. A fascinating historical romance that brings in some interesting details about Mexico's efforts to free itself of foreign powers in the 19th century.

Devon, Jen. [Right Where We Left Us](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

When a wedding at Brady's winery lands her there for the summer, TJ is in close proximity with Duncan, whom she shares awkward small talk and the occasional messy hookup, and finds buried tensions resurfacing, old wounds reopening and a second chance at a once in-a-lifetime love.

Dodd, Christina. [A Daughter of Fair Verona](#) (Kensington \$28)

Dodd's publisher bills this as *Knives Out* meets *Bridgerton* in fair Verona. Dodd inventively builds on the premise that Romeo and Juliet did not die (as they do in Shakespeare's play) but instead go on to live full, rich lives in Verona. Their daughter Rosie Montague narrates the witty tale as she desperately tries to avoid being matched up by her parents. However, when her latest suitor, the odious Duke Leir Stephano, winds up murdered in the Montague garden during an engagement party, Rosie doesn't have to worry about marrying him anymore. Now Rosie needs to worry about being the number one suspect for his murder!

Dubb, Sarah T. [Birding with Benefits](#) (Gallery \$18.99)

Newly-divorced, almost-empty-nester Celeste is finally ready to put herself first and explore every opportunity in life that presents itself. So when a friend asks Celeste to "partner" with his buddy John for an event, Celeste throws herself into the role of his temporary girlfriend. But quiet cinnamon roll John isn't looking for love, just birds—he needs a partner for Tucson's biggest bird-watching contest if he's ever going to launch his own guiding business. By the time they untangle their crossed signals, they've become teammates... and thanks to his meddling friends, a fake couple. A wonderful debut from an AZ author.

Dumond, Susie. [Looking for a Sign](#) (Dial \$18)

Reeling from a breakup with her long-term partner, Gray—an optimistic lesbian Aries—relocates to New Orleans for a new job. Gray wants to meet someone, settle down, and build the loving, accepting family she's always wanted, but having been out of the dating scene for a decade, she has no idea where to start. After visiting an iconic astrologer, Gray

and her best friend, Cherry, draw up a dramatic scheme: Gray will go on a date with someone of each zodiac sign to test their compatibility and get a jump start on creating the queer family of her dreams—all before her twenty-ninth birthday! Of course, the stars may have a different future in store for Gray.

Foley, Lucy. [The Midnight Feast](#) (William Morrow \$30)

It's the opening night of The Manor, and no expense, small or large, has been spared. The infinity pool sparkles; crystal pouches for guests' healing have been placed in the Seaside Cottages and Woodland Hutches; the "Manor Mule" cocktail (grapefruit, ginger, vodka, and a dash of CBD oil) is being poured with a heavy hand. Everyone is wearing linen. But under the burning midsummer sun, darkness stirs. Old friends and enemies circulate among the guests. Just outside the Manor's immaculately kept grounds, an ancient forest bristles with secrets. And the Sunday morning of opening weekend, the local police are called. Something's not right with the guests. There's been a fire. A body's been discovered.

Grant, Kimi Cunningham. [The Nature of Disappearing](#) (Minotaur \$28)

Emlyn doesn't let herself think about the past. How she and her best friend, Janessa, barely speak anymore. How Tyler, the love of her life, left her half dead on the side of the road three years ago. But when Tyler shows up with the news that Janessa is missing, Emlyn is propelled back into the world she worked so hard to forget. Janessa has become a social media star, documenting her #vanlife adventures with her rugged boyfriend. She hasn't posted lately, though, and when Emlyn realizes the most recent photo doesn't match up with its caption, she reluctantly joins Tyler to find her old friend. As the two trace Janessa's path through miles of wild country, Emlyn can't

deny the chemistry still crackling between them. But the deeper they press into the wilderness, the more she begins to suspect that a darker truth lies in the woods—and that Janessa isn't the only one in danger.

Greenwald, Carlyn. [Director's Cut](#) (Vintage \$18)

At twenty-nine, Valeria Sullivan is a celebrated, award-winning actress. But when her acting options start to decline and her attempt to transition to directing is complicated by a bad interview on a late night show, Val decides she's had enough of Hollywood. Intent on pursuing a neglected passion, she pours herself into a guest professorship at USC, hoping to transition to academia full-time. Standing in her way is her co-professor, Maeve Arko, whose brilliance and beauty is matched only by her contempt for Val. As Val rises to the challenges that teaching throws at her, though, Maeve starts to soften, and soon sparks are flying.

Hamilton, Emily. [The Stars Too Fondly](#) (Harper \$18.99)

When they accidentally steal a spaceship, Cleo and her friends are soon en route to Proxima Centauri, and as they go deeper into space, the laws of physics start twisting, old mysteries come back to life and Cleo's battle with the hologram of the ship's missing captain turns into something desperate. In Hamilton's engaging debut, "love finds you in the least expected places, even in other galaxies." (*Kirkus*)

Hart, Matthew. [The Lucifer Cut](#) (Pegasus \$27.95)

When a mysterious gem--the Lucifer Cut--goes missing, U.S. Treasury agent Alex Turner and his lover, a billionaire Russian diamond thief, must find this jewel that holds a secret so lethal, it threatens both the world diamond trade and the national security of the U.S.

before it falls into the wrong hands.

Hegde, Sati. [Match Me If You Can](#) (Dell \$18)
While writing for Mumbai's top women's magazine, fashionista Jia Deshpande works to get a greenlight for her new matchmaking column, but when her attempts at office matchmaking go awry, risking her friendships and her relationship with a close family friend, she must reevaluate her own thoughts on love.

Hogan, Ruth. [The Phoenix Ballroom](#) (William Morrow \$18.99)

Wealthy widow, 74-year-old Venetia Hargreaves declares her independence, first with a makeover, then by adopting a dog and then by buying the Phoenix Ballroom to revive one meaningful thing from her past. In the process, Venetia finds a supportive and loving community of lost souls who become a multi-generational family-by-choice.

Huber, Anna Lee. [A Deceptive Composition](#) (Berkley \$18)

Lady Kiera Darby is enjoying the slower pace of the English countryside. She, Sebastian, and their infant daughter have accompanied her father-in-law, Lord Gage, home so that he can recuperate from the injuries he sustained in a failed attempt on his life. But as the chill of autumn sweeps across the land, they receive a summons from an unexpected quarter. Lord Gage's estranged uncle--a member of the notorious Roscarrock family--has been murdered, and his family is desperate for answers. Despite Lord Gage's protests, Kiera and Sebastian press on to Cornwall to assist. It isn't long before they discover that almost nothing is as it seems among the Roscarrocks, and they've been lured to their isolated cove under false pretenses.

James, Kelsey. [Secrets of Rose Briar Hall](#) (Kensington \$17.95)

In this Gilded Age gothic homage to *Gaslight* starring Ingrid Bergman, Millie Turner, a wealthy young newlywed in early 20th century New York, is isolated within her opulent, yet ominously empty mansion by the charismatic and controlling new husband plotting to undermine her sanity. A grand gothic in the manner of Victoria Holt and Phyllis A. Whitney.

Kelley, Pamela M. [The Seaside Sisters](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Retreating to her aunt's oceanfront house in Chatham, Cape Cod, for the summer to get her creative juices flowing, best-selling author Hannah and her sister Sara spend the summer making friends, rekindling romance and opening themselves up to the magic of books and the beach.

Knight, Eliza. [The Queen's Faithful Companion](#) (William Morrow \$18.99)

Told from the unique multi-narrative viewpoints of a young Queen Elizabeth; Hanna Penwyck, the fictionalized Keeper of the Queen's dogs; and Susan, the Queen's Corgi, this endearing novel follows Elizabeth's accession to the throne as everything changes for Elizabeth except her unconditional love of her Corgis.

Lowell, Joanna. [A Shore Thing](#) (Berkley \$19)

A former painter and unreformed rake Kit Griffith is working in bicycle sales in Victorian Cornwall when he accepts an illustration commission from a feisty botanist and New York bound Muriel Pendrake, who enlists his help in convincing a local, all-male cycling club to allow women to join.

Marvel, Mae. [Everyone I Kissed Since You Got Famous](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Returning home to small-town Wisconsin for Christmas, A-list actress Katie Price reconnects with her high school crush Wil after a decade apart, but old flames and new challenges test their rekindled romance.

McAlister, Jodi. [Not Here To Make Friends](#) (Atria \$18.99)

Murray O'Connell is standing on the greatest precipice of his career. As showrunner of the reality dating show *Marry Me, Juliet*, Murray is determined to make this season a success. Nothing and nobody will stand in his way. Except perhaps Lily Fireball, the network's choice for this season's villain. Lily has classic reality TV appeal: She's feisty, dramatic, and never backs down from a fight. She also happens to be Murray's estranged best friend and former co-showrunner.

What was once a perfectly planned season turns to chaos as the two battle for control. Working in reality television, they're used to drama, secrets, and romance. But what happens when suddenly they're at the center of the storyline?

Miller, Kirsten. [Lula Dean's Little Library of Banned Books](#) (William Morrow \$30)

When Lula Dean, trying to rid public libraries of "pornographic" books, starts her own lending library in front of her home, Lindsay, the daughter of Lula's arch nemesis, sneaks in nightly, secretly filling it with banned books wrapped in "wholesome" dust jackets, changing the lives of those who borrow them in unexpected ways.

Morris, Wanda. [What You Leave Behind](#) (William Morrow \$18.99)

Returning to her childhood home in Georgia, Deena Wood, when a landowner fighting to keep his family's land, dating back to the Civil

War, disappears, and his property is quickly put up for sale, exposes a deadly scheme of illegal land grabs and property redevelopment that threatens her community and family.

Murali, Ram. [Death in the Air](#) (Harper \$30)
Disgraced after being forced out of a high-profile job under mysterious circumstances, lawyer Ro Krishna seeks rejuvenation at a luxurious Indian spa, only to become entangled in a series of murders among the elite guests. A fabulously fun locked-room mystery debut set in the Indian Himalayas.

North, Maggie. [Rules for Second Chances](#) (St. Martin's \$18)
Tired of going unnoticed, socially awkward Liz Lewis takes a crash course in confidence via an improv comedy class and finds the only person willing to practice with her is a certain extroverted wilderness guide who seems dead set on saving their marriage one bonkers improv scenario at a time.

Palombo, Alyssa. [The Assassin of Venice](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99)
One of Venice's famous courtesans, Valentina, beautiful, cultured, deadly, seduces and kills men the Council of Ten orders her to, but when she's ordered to kill a fellow assassin--and the man she loves, she must uncover the Council of Ten's dark agenda, with the help of her fellow courtesans, to save him.

Pooley, Claire. [How to Age Disgracefully](#) (Pamela Dorman \$29)
When Lydia takes a job running the Senior Citizens' Social Club three afternoons a week, she assumes she'll be spending her time drinking tea and playing gentle games of cards. The members of the Social Club, however, are not at all what Lydia was expecting. From Art, a failed actor turned kleptomaniac to Daphne, who has been hiding from her

dark past for decades to Ruby, a Banksy-style knitter who gets revenge in yarn, these seniors look deceptively benign. However, when the city council threatens to sell the doomed community center building, the members of the Social Club join forces with their tiny friends in the daycare next door—as well as the teenaged father of one of the toddlers and a geriatric dog—to save the building.

Poston, Ashley. [A Novel Love Story](#) (Berkley \$19)
Eileen Merriweather loves to get lost in a good happily-ever-after. The fictional kind, anyway. Because at least imaginary men don't leave you at the altar. Which might be why she's so set on going her annual book club retreat this year—she needs good friends, cheap wine, and grand romantic gestures—no matter what. But when her car unexpectedly breaks down on the way, she finds herself stranded in a quaint town that feels like it's right out of a novel... Because it *is*. It's perfect—and perfectly frozen, trapped in the late author's last unfinished story.

Elsy is sure that's why she must be here: to help bring the town to its storybook ending. Except there is a character in Eloraton that she can't place—a grumpy bookstore owner with mint-green eyes, an irritatingly sexy mouth and impeccable taste in novels. And he does *not* want her finishing this book. Which is a problem because Elsy is beginning to think the town's happily-ever-after might just be intertwined with her own.

Robuck, Erika. [The Last Twelve Miles](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)
During the Prohibition Rum Wars, which created a booming smuggling economy, two women masterminds—Elizbeth Friedman, the inventor of cryptanalysis working for the government, and Marie Waite, on the rise to rumrunner royalty to save her family—will go

to any lengths to rule the Gulf Coast.

Rochon, Farrah. [Pardon My Frenchie](#) (Forever \$16.99)

Ashanti Wright is managing her successful doggie daycare Barkingham Palace, taking care of her teen twin sisters and blowing things up on social media with her dog Duchess. However, when canine-averse ex-marine Thad Sims shows up to claim his grandmother's poodle Puddin, who happens to be Duchess's canine co-star on social media, Ashanti finds everything she's worked for hanging in the balance. Can Ashanti find a way to play nice with the infuriating Tad and keep her business from going to the dogs?

Schellman, Katherine. [The Last Note of Warning](#) (Minotaur \$29)

Prohibition is a dangerous time to be a working-class woman in New York City, but Vivian Kelly has finally found some measure of stability and freedom. By day, she's a respectable shop assistant, delivering luxurious dresses to the city's wealthy and elite. At night, she joins the madcap revelry of New York's underworld, serving illegal drinks and dancing into the morning at a secretive, back-alley speakeasy known as the Nightingale. She's found, if not love, then something like it with her bootlegger sweetheart, Leo, even if she can't quite forget the allure of the Nightingale's sultry owner, Honor Huxley. Then the husband of a wealthy client is discovered dead in his study, and Vivian was the last known person to see him alive. With the police and the press both eager to name a culprit in the high-profile case, Vivian finds herself the primary murder suspect.

Sweeney, Melanie. [Take Me Home](#) (G. P. Putnam \$19)

Forced to return home for her father's wedding, Hazel agrees to take her frenemy, Ash,

with her when his car breaks down, and as they endure bad music, inclement weather and B&Bs with only one bed, Hazel, when they finally arrive home, realizes, for the first time, she's found a reason to stay.

Thomas, Sherry. [A Ruse of Shadows](#) (Berkley \$18)

Charlotte Holmes agrees to help Lord Bancroft Ashburton, disgraced and imprisoned due to one of her prior investigations, locate one of his most loyal henchmen. However, when Bancroft turns up dead and all the evidence points to her as the murderer, Charlotte must find out who is trying to frame her before she winds up permanently behind bars. The latest sterling addition to a superbly inventive series.

Thompson, Alicia. [The Art of Catching Feelings](#) (Berkley \$19)

Heckling baseball player Chris Kepler, who proves there actually is crying in baseball, Daphne, to apologize, reaches out to him on social media, but forgets to identify herself as the heckler, and as they form a friendship that leads to more, she wonders if she'll strike out when she tells him the truth.

Tripp, Dawn. [Jackie](#) (Random \$30)

Jackie is the story of a woman—deeply private with a nuanced, formidable intellect—who forged a legacy out of grief and shaped history even as she was living it. It is the story of a love affair, a complicated marriage, and the fracturing of identity that comes in the wake of unthinkable violence. A novelization of the life of Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis by the author of *Georgia* (a novel about Georgia O'Keeffe).

Vaughan, M. C. [Romancing Miss Stone](#) (Harlequin \$12.99)

Securing tour guide Alexandra Stone to lead him into an unmapped jungle in Belize to win

back his fiancée, uptight computer nerd Bo Ferguson has the most exciting time of his life, which forces him to confront his past and decide if he wants this adventure to end.

Williams, Beatriz. [Husbands & Lovers](#) (Ballantine \$30)

Mallory Dunne has spent her life trying to be a good mother to her son, Sam. Raising him alone is hard, even with the help of her sister. Two years ago, Sam ingested a toxic mushroom and fell into a coma. Now recovered, he needs a new kidney to live a normal life, forcing Mallory to track down his father in the hope that they're a match. Her journey to find him again transports her back to the summer they spent on the paradise of Winthrop Island - a time of music, porch cocktails, young love, and the site of a terrible event that drove Mallory from his arms. Hannah Ainsworth cannot escape the war that destroyed her life, her first love - and her hope for a brighter future. A Hungarian émigré married to a hapless Britishman working for the Foreign Office, Hannah is thrown into the parched but bustling desert landscape of 1950s Egypt, now convulsing with revolution. Looking for passion, she begins a dangerous affair with an enigmatic hotel manager who shows her the majesty of the pyramids and his nation. But their newfound romance has perilous consequences, and Hannah must decide how much she's willing to risk for the pursuit of love. Mallory's moving journey to protect her son intertwines with Hannah's explosive affair in surprising, illuminating ways.

Yoon, Nicola. [One of Our Kind](#) (Knopf \$28) Moving their family to the planned Black utopia of Liberty, California, hope to find a community of like-minded people, Jasmyn, perplexed and frustrated by most residents' outlook, discovers a terrible secret about Liberty and its founders and must save her loved

ones from embracing the Liberty way of life.

Zanetti, Rebecca. [One Cursed Rose](#) (Kensington \$32)

They christened me Alana—and while the name means beauty, beneath that surface is a depth I allow very few to see. I'm sole heir to Aquarius Social, a media giant about to succumb to an unseen enemy. My father's solution is to marry me off to the son of a competing family. My reaction? Not a chance. Now I have just a week before the wedding to change my fate. Who knew the unforeseen twist would be an assassination attempt on me and an unwanted rescue by Thorn Beathach, the head of the rival social media empire driving Aquarius under? The richest, most ruthless of them all, the Beast protects his realm with an iron rule: no one sees his face. When he shows himself to me, I know he'll never let me go.

Thorn may think he can lock me in his enchanted castle forever, but I'm not the docile Beauty he expects. If the Beast wants to tie me up, I'm going to take pleasure from every minute of it . . . and we'll just see who ends up shackled. A sexy modern take on *Beauty and the Beast*.

Teen

Cobell, K.A. [Looking for Smoke](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

When a classmate is murdered during a traditional Blackfeet giveaway, Mara, Loren, Brody and Eli, the last people to see her alive, must take matters into their own hands and clear their names- even though one of them may be the killer.

Ruhlman, Michael. [If You Can't Take the Heat](#) (Penguin \$19.99)

After breaking his leg and having his summer plans and college dreams dashed, high school football star Theo Claverback finds a new purpose and relationship while working as a prep cook in a high-end French restaurant, but soon discovers the harsh realities of the culinary world and the risks of crossing the wrong people.

Wibberley, Emily. [Heiress Takes All](#) (Little, Brown \$18.99)

The Inheritance Games meets *Ocean's 11* in this thrilling YA adventure about a vengeful daughter determined to pull off the perfect heist in the midst of her father's wedding.

Winans, Justine Pucella. [One Killer Problem](#) (HarperTeen \$19.99)

When she finds her favorite teacher lying in a pool of blood, Gigi calls on her high school's "mystery club" to help her solve the murder, resulting in a cat-and-mouse game with the killer, continual flare-ups of her IBS and her archnemesis turning flirtatious.

Nonfiction

Courogen, Carrie. [Miss May Does Not Exist](#) (St. Martin's \$30)

After performing their Broadway smash *An Evening with Mike Nichols and Elaine May*, Elaine set out on her own. She toiled unsuccessfully on Broadway for a while, but then headed to Hollywood where she became the director of *A New Leaf*, *The Heartbreak Kid*, *Mikey and Nicky*, and the legendary *Ishtar*. She was hired as a script doctor on countless films like *Heaven Can Wait*, *Reds*, *Tootsie*, and *The Birdcage*. In 2019, she returned to

Broadway where she won the Tony Award for Best Leading Actress in *The Waverly Gallery*. Besides her considerable talent, May is well known for her reclusiveness. On one of the albums she made with Mike Nichols, her bio is this: "Miss May does not exist." Until now. Carrie Courogen has uncovered the Elaine May who does exist. Conducting countless interviews, she has filled in the blanks May has forcibly kept blank for years, creating a fascinating portrait of the way women were mistreated and held back in Hollywood.

Di Robliant, Andrea. [The Earthly Globe](#) (Knopf \$30)

In the autumn of 1550, a thick volume containing a wealth of geographical information new to Europeans, with startling wood-cut maps of Africa, India and Indonesia, was published in Venice under the title *Navigazioni et Viaggi (Journeys and Navigations)*. The editor of this remarkable collection of travelogues, journals and classified government reports remained anonymous. Two additional volumes delivered the most accurate information on Asia and the "New World" available at the time. The three volumes together constituted an unparalleled release of geographical data into the public domain. It was, Andrea di Robilant writes, the biggest Wikileaks of the Renaissance. In *This Earthly Globe*, di Robilant brings to life the palace intrigues, editorial wheedling, delicate alliances and vibrant curiosity that resulted in this coup by the editor Giovambattista Ramusio.

Jobb, Dean. [A Gentleman and a Thief](#) (Algonquin \$32.50)

A captivating true-crime caper about Arthur Barry, a jewel thief who charmed celebrities and millionaires, stole from Rockefellers and royalty, and pulled off the most audacious and lucrative heists of the Jazz Age.

Sparrow, Paul M. [Awakening the Spirit of America](#) (Pegasus \$29.95)

Franklin Roosevelt awoke at 2:50 a.m. on September 1, 1939 to the news that Germany had invaded Poland, signaling the start of World War II. The president had warned for years that Hitler's fascist regime posed an existential threat to democracy, but the American public remained stubbornly isolationist as fascist sympathizing groups, egged on by right wing media stars promoting anti-Semitic conspiracy theories, plotted to overthrow the president. The situation was dire, and Roosevelt quickly found himself facing an unexpected adversary: Charles Lindbergh. Wildly popular, the famed aviator's youthful charm, plainspoken rhetoric, and media magnetism earned him a massive following as he led an aggressive attack on FDR's policies. Millions listened to Lindbergh's radio broadcasts and attended his rallies. Powerful individuals including William Randolph Hearst, Henry Ford, and members of Congress supported him. The German government provided secret funds to Lindbergh's Nazi followers as he led the radical America First Committee in an effort to prevent Roosevelt from aiding England's survival—and the world's. *Awakening the Spirit of America* brilliantly shows how Roosevelt overcame the forces aligned against him in a war against fascism.

Satow, Julie. [When Women Ran Fifth Avenue](#) (Doubleday \$32.50)

Rich with personal drama and trade secrets, an award-winning journalist takes us back to the golden age of American department stores and the three visionary women—Hortense Odium of Bonwit Teller; Dorothy Shaver of Lord & Taylor; and Geraldine Stutz of Henri Bendel—who led them.

Weiner, Eric. [Ben & Me](#) (Simon & Schuster \$29.99)

Not a conventional biography, *Ben & Me* is a guide to living and thinking well, as Ben Franklin did. It is also about curiosity, diligence, and, most of all, the elusive goal of self-improvement. As Weiner follows Franklin from Philadelphia to Paris, Boston to London, he attempts to uncover Ben's life lessons, large and small. We learn how to improve a relationship with someone by inducing them to do a favor for you—a psychological phenomenon now known as The Ben Franklin Effect. We learn about the printing press (the Internet of its day), early medicine, diplomatic intrigue and, of course, electricity. And we learn about ethics, persuasion, humor, regret, appetite, and so much more.

Woods, Randall. [John Quincy Adams](#) (Dutton \$45)

Deeply researched and brilliantly written, this masterful biography of John Quincy Adams reveals a rich and complicated family saga and a political legacy that transformed the American Republic, including his post-presidency rebirth in Congress as the chamber's most vocal opponent of slavery.