

Midmonth BookNotes

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Escape into a COOL Book!

Cozy Corner

Alexander, Ellie. [Sticks and Scones](#) (Minotaur \$9.99)

When strange occurrences plague her friend Lance's play, a modern, gender-bending twist on *The Taming of the Shrew*, and result in the murder of the leading actor, baker Jules Capshaw must come up with the perfect recipe for solving this theatrical whodunit.

Andrews, Donna. [Between a Flock and a Hard Place](#) (Minotaur \$28)

The company renovating Meg Langslow's neighbors, the Smetkamps, old home is already several days into the makeover, and tensions are running high. Meg, who is trying to keep the peace and prevent the makeover crew from trampling on every clause of the county's building code, arrives at the Smetkamps to find that Caerphilly's resident flock of feral turkeys has moved into their yard--or been relocated there by someone who wants to cause trouble. Meg comes up with a plan to gather a group of turkey wranglers to snatch them early in the morning. But when they

arrive, they find the body of Mrs. Smetkamp in her backyard.

Bailey, Maggie. [Quilty As Charged](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99)

Lydia Barnes, the new owner of the Measure Twice fabric store, hosts a sewing retreat at her friend's Cherry Log mountain home where she soon discovers murder is in attendance, forcing her to unravel the hidden lives of the people she considered friends, especially when another body is found.

Kuhn, Cynthia. [In the Event of Murder](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99)

When party-planner-to-the-stars Lyra Wilton is found dead several days before the annual Sivercrest Library Gala, bookseller and literary event planner Emma Starrs is called into help. Now Emma must navigate some unexpected twists and turns that occur leading up to the glamorous affair before a killer walks the red carpet.

Mathews, Lisa Q. [The Jig Is Up](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

Kate Buckley, with her daughters in tow,

rushes to her Irish-themed hometown of Shamrock, Massachusetts, to help her sister, Colleen, when she becomes a person of interest in her best friend's murder. But now the question becomes whether Kate's investigation into the murder can clear Colleen's name before her sister's luck runs out.

Maxwell, Alyssa. [Murder at Vinland](#) (Kensington \$27)

In 1901 Newport, Rhode Island, reporter and sleuth Emma Cross Andrews, arriving for a luncheon for bird protection at Vinland, the Viking-themed seaside home of her relative, where the guest of honor is Edith Roosevelt, must find a way to clip the feathers of a bold poisoner targeting the society wives of the Four Hundred.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Alban, Emma R. [You're the Problem, It's You](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

James Demeroven, just come of age and into the Viscounty, knows that he's a disappointment. Keeping his head down and never raising anyone's expectations is how he's survived life with his stepfather. To quiet, careful James, Bobby Mason is a blazing comet in his endless night, even more alive than he was at Oxford when James crushed on him from afar. If only James could avoid Bobby entirely. Bad enough their (wonderful but determined) cousins Beth and Gwen keep conveniently setting up group outings. But when an extortionist starts targeting their families, threatening their reputations, Bobby and James must find a way to work together, without pushing each other's buttons (or tearing them off) in the process.

Alexander, Poppy. [Storybook Ending](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

From the author of *The Littlest Library* comes a heartwarming, charming novel about a widowed children's book author who moves into a cottage in the English countryside and finds herself face-to-face with the handsome and brooding blacksmith who lives next door.

Beaumont, Sophie. [The Paris Cooking School](#) (Crooked Lane \$32.99)

Kate is bruised from a heartbreaking betrayal. Artistic Gabi is struggling to overcome a crippling creative block. Learning how to make culinary magic at the celebrated Paris Cooking School is the perfect antidote. Taking the first flight out of Australia, both women find themselves in the city of lights and love. But for Sylvie, the school's owner, things are not looking so promising. She is under siege from a harassment campaign that threatens to destroy everything she has worked for while also juggling a commitment-shy lover, Claude. Each woman will be transformed by what unfolds that spring—and the course of their lives will be changed forever.

Bellezza, Audrey and Emily Harding. [Elizabeth of East Hampton](#) (Gallery \$18.99)

In a modern, beachy retelling of *Pride and Prejudice*, surfer Lizzy Bennet puts her own dreams of becoming a foreign affairs correspondent on hold to help save her family's floundering Hamptons bakery

Constable, Harriet. [The Instrumentalist](#) (Simon & Schuster \$28.99)

This debut novel of music, intoxication and betrayal is inspired by the true story of Anna Maria della Pietà, a Venetian orphan and violin prodigy who studied under Antonio Vivaldi and became his star musician—and biggest muse. "Constable richly portrays the city's opulence and its seedy underside, and she

charms in her portrayal of her fiery young protagonist. This will appeal to fans of historicals with strong female leads.” (PW)

Cooper, Tea. [The Naturalist's Daughter](#) (Harper \$18.99)

Two fearless women Rose Winton and Tamsin Alleyn--living a century apart--find themselves entangled in the mystery surrounding the biggest scientific controversy of the nineteenth century: the classification of the platypus. “Cooper shifts seamlessly from Tasmin and Shaw’s sleuthing to Rose’s ill-fated trip to England, where she uncovers family secrets and learns her life is at risk. The author keeps readers guessing as she connects the two plot strands, each of which abounds with exciting scenes, including a chase on a windswept moor that evokes *The Hound of the Baskervilles*. This is one not to miss.” (PW)

Cotugno, Katie. [Heavy Hitter](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Superstar musician Lacey Logan, dealing with her boyfriend’s cocaine habit and secret, pregnant girlfriend, finds unexpected romance with baseball player Jimmy Hodges, leading her to reconsider her controlled public image and embrace a more genuine connection.

De Robertis, Caro. [The Palace of Eros](#) (Atria \$28.99)

Perfect for fans of *Circe* and *Black Sun*, this bold and subversive feminist retelling of the Greek myth of Psyche and Eros explores the power of queer joy and freedom. “De Robertis especially shines in their depiction of Eros, who strikes an uneasy bargain with her mercurial and toxic grandfather Zeus. Admirers of Madeline Miller will be pleased.” (PW)

Fairbanks, Ivy. [Morbidly Yours](#) (Penguin \$19)

To inherit the family undertaking business, painfully shy Callum Flannelly must marry be-

fore his 35th birthday and gets help from his new neighbor, Texan animator, Lark Thompson, who has moved to Galway to start over. However, as the dating project progresses, the connection between Callum and Lark deepens in ways neither of them expected.

Gauntlett, A. E. [The Stranger at the Wedding](#) (Henry Holt \$28.99)

Annie never much believed in love. That is, until meeting Mark. After crossing paths on morning commutes, they connect at a group counseling session for trauma survivors. Each recognizes something in the other, though both hide their own troubled pasts. It’s a whirlwind romance that propels Annie through their courtship, all the way to her wedding day—a day she couldn’t have predicted for herself once upon a time yet now feels surer about than anything in her life. But as Annie stands at the altar, casting her eyes over the rows of well-wishers, she spots a stranger in the crowd, and she soon learns that her new life isn’t going to be the happily ever after that she had planned.

Godfrey, Rebecca. [Peggy](#) (Random \$29)

In 1958 Venice, Peggy Guggenheim, heiress and art collector, reflects on her nearly impossible journey from her old-fashioned Jewish family in New York to Italy, during which she navigated glamorous but sexist and anti-Semitic art worlds and met numerous men who loved her (and her money) while underestimating her intellect, talent and vision.” It’s a devoted, creative version of the life, often in romantic thrall to the mercurial, impulsive, insulated figure at its center. A vivid, indulgent imagining of the legendary collector.” (Kirkus)

Greer, Helen. [Hers for the Weekend](#) (Forever \$17.99)

Needing a fake girlfriend for her ex’s wedding,

lawyer Tara Sloane asks Holly, a waitress who secretly harbors deeper feelings for her, but the casual fling turns complicated as they both discover deeper feelings that challenge their life goals.

Grey, Iona. [The Housekeeper's Secret](#) (St. Martin's \$29)

Standing in the remote windswept moors of Northern England, Coldwell Hall is the perfect place to hide. For the past five years, Kate Furniss has maintained her professional mask so carefully that she almost believes she is the character she has created: Coldwell's respectable housekeeper. It is the summer of 1911 that brings new faces above and below the stairs of Coldwell Hall—including the handsome and mysterious new footman, Jem Arden. Just as the house's shuttered rooms open, so does Kate's guarded heart to a love affair that is as intense as it is forbidden. But Kate can feel her control slipping as Jem harbors secrets of his own. Told in alternating timelines from the last sun-drenched summer of the Edwardian Age to the mud-filled trenches of WWI, *The Housekeeper's Secret* opens its door to a world of romance, the truths we hold onto, and the past we must let go.

Gruender, Nataly. [Medusa](#) (Grand Central \$30) Medusa, transformed by Athena into a snake-haired monster whose gaze turns those who look upon her into stone, searches for a safe haven as Perseus, tasked to bring the king her head, closes in, forcing her to choose between becoming the monster everyone expects her to be or clinging to the last shred of her humanity.

"Gruender brings a truly new spin to Medusa's story, casting her as a tragic but resilient character who seeks to live on her own terms. In a saturated market for retellings of Greek myth,

this holds its own." (*PW*)

Halston, Sidney. Love [Love Lessons](#) (Harper-Collins \$18.99)

When a one-night stand with her rival kindergarten teacher—uptight, by-the-book Andrew Wexler—results in an unplanned pregnancy, quirky, free-spirited Valerie Marquez discovers their co-teaching isn't the hardest thing they'll have to overcome, trying not to fall in love is much harder.

Hamrick, Melanie. [The Unraveling](#) (Penguin \$19)

The fascinating story of a scrappy young ballerina from rural USA, who is catapulted into the tumultuous London ballet scene. Forced to make dubious decisions as a means of survival, she becomes consumed by the powerful rush of having everything she ever dreamed of professionally. But the higher she climbs, the greater the fall. Inspired by her experiences at the American Ballet Theatre, Hamrick showcases the complexities of life as dancer mingled with addictive relationships, restless drama, sexual tension, and the utter chaos happening behind the scenes.

Hawkins, Karen. [The Bookshop of Hidden Dreams](#) (Gallery \$18.99)

When an antique tin of love letters is found hidden in her family home, noted historian Tay Dove rushes home to Dove Pond to investigate. Tay is still reeling from a romantic betrayal, so she's relieved to refocus her energies on her latest project: a biography of her great-great-grandmother Sarafina, a star reporter who began her career in Dove Pond in the late 19th century before abruptly leaving town. Tay believes the letters could be the key in solving what happened, but they only add to her questions—especially when they reveal a forbidden love affair with William Day, a wild youth who took part in a notorious

train robbery. Some answers might be found in eighty-year-old Rose Day's bookshop, which doubles as a town archive, but Rose is curiously resistant to give Tay access. Just when Tay thinks she's reached a dead end, she finds an unlikely ally in Rose's grandson, Luke, a fellow puzzle lover. Together, they set out to uncover what really happened all those years ago...and find the truth behind a love story that could be more precious than gold.

Hopson, Carole. [A Pair of Wings](#) (Henry Holt \$29.99)

Airline captain Hopson crafts a riveting, adventurous debut novel inspired by the remarkable true life of pioneer aviatrix Bessie Coleman, a Black woman who learned to fly at the dawn of aviation and became the first Black American woman to earn her pilot's license in 1921, and found freedom in the air that was sorely lacking on land.

Khorram, Abid. [I'll Have What He's Having](#) (Forever \$17.99)

When it comes to love, substitute teacher Farzan Alavi is a disaster. Newly heartbroken—*again*—he's drowning his sorrows at Kansas City's newest wine bar. Only instead of being crowded between strangers, he's escorted to a VIP table for one. There, the hot sommelier does more than treat him to the meal of his life. The way he flirts with Farzan ignites instant sparks. There's just one problem: David Curtis thinks Farzan is Kansas City's most influential food critic. The truth only comes out after the two spend an unforgettably hot night together. Good news—both think the mix-up is hilarious. Bad news—David is studying to become a master sommelier and has no interest in a relationship.

Layne, Lauren. [Miranda in Retrograde](#) (Gallery \$17.99)

Planning her life with minute precision, young

physics professor Miranda Reed, after she's denied tenure and a promotion, turns to astrology, committing to a year of letting her horoscope guide her and navigating life with a new perspective."What begins as a bog-standard rom-com quickly develops subtleties and nuances as Miranda undergoes some serious personal growth. The result is a rich tale of self-discovery and empowerment, complete with a romance that readers will root for. (PW)

McQuiston, Casey. [The Pairing](#) (St. Martin's \$20)

When they accidentally book the same European food and wine tour, estranged exes Theo and Kit, trapped with each other for three weeks in the most romantic cities of France, Spain and Italy, challenge each other to a hookup competition to prove they're over each other. "McQuiston creates well-rounded characters in Kit and Theo, and, crucially, shows how they've changed since their initial romance to make the possibility of a second chance feel earned. The story is packed with enough detail to make readers feel like they, too, are on the tour—there are lengthy descriptions of the art Kit and Theo see, as well as the food they eat and the endless amounts of wine they drink. An evocative summer romance that will take readers on a journey filled with food, wine, and sex." (Kirkus)

Meltzer, Jean. [Magical Meet Cute](#) (MIRA \$18.99)

A potter in Woodstock, New York, Faye Kaplan, after her town is papered with anti-Semitic posters, drunkenly creates a golem protector, who happens to be her ideal man, and wonders if the sudden arrival of a mysterious—and gorgeous—stranger is anything but a coincidence.

Miller, Kristyn J. [Given Our History](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Assistant professor Clara Fernsby gets a second chance at love when her past flame, Theodore Harrison, returns as a visiting scholar forcing her to confront their shared history and the possibility of a new future together.

Morgan, Sophie H. [De-Witched](#) (Harlequin \$18.99)

After sneaking into a witch's masked ball, human Leah Turner falls for enigmatic warlock Gabriel Goodnight, who discovers he must live in the human world without his magic.

Nava, Danica. [The Truth According to Ember](#) (Penguin \$19)

Ember Lee Cardinal has not always been a liar—well, not for anything that counted at least. But her job search is not going well and when her résumé is rejected for the thirty-seventh time, she takes matters into her own hands and gets a bit creative. No one wanted Native American Ember, but white Ember has just landed her dream accounting job on Park Avenue (Oklahoma City, that is). Accountant Ember thrives in corporate life—and her love life seems to be looking up too: Danuwoa Colson, the IT guy and fellow Native who caught her eye on her first day, seems to actually be interested in her too. But when they're caught in a compromising position on a work trip, a scheming colleague blackmails Ember, threatening to expose their relationship. As the manipulation continues to grow, so do Ember's lies. She must make the hard decision to either stay silent or finally tell the truth, which could cost her everything.

Paul, Gill. [Scandalous Women](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Mad Men meets the world of publishing in international bestselling author Gill Paul's new novel about Jackie Collins and Jacqueline

Susann, two dynamic, groundbreaking writers renowned for their scandalous and controversial novels, and the beleaguered young editorial assistant who introduces them. "Fans of both authors will find much to enjoy in this overall historically accurate portrait of two women who wrote sexy, compulsively readable novels and were castigated by critics while appealing to millions of people who didn't previously buy or read books." (LJ)

Rickloff, Alix. [The Last Light Over Oslo](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Based on true events, this gripping historical novel set in Norway and Sweden in 1940, follows one of the first female US Ministers, Daisy Harriman, and her niece as the two are unexpectedly caught up in the German invasion of Norway.

Rivera, Lilliam. [Tiny Threads](#) (random \$28)

In this gorgeously sinister novel of supernatural suspense, a young woman gets her dream job working for a famous designer—and discovers the dark side of the glamorous world of fashion. *PW* calls this an haute couture thriller. Imagine *The Devil Wears Prada* if written by Riley Sager or Rachel Hawkins.

Shepperson, Laura. [The Heir of Venus](#) (Crooked Lane \$18.99)

Lavinia never asked to be fought over. But now her childhood sweetheart has waged a war that threatens to destroy everything she holds dear, all because Lavinia's father has promised her to somebody else—Aeneas. Aeneas, rumored to be the son of Venus, is famed for his bravery, cunning, and his vision for a new great Empire. He is also secretive, slippery, and Lavinia wonders why he will never discuss the past he left behind. So, when a stranger arrives in the camp with stories about Aeneas that suggest he is not what he seems, Lavinia realizes she has to take her future, and that of

her people, into her own hands.

Shore, Shelly Jay. [Rules for Ghosting](#) (Random \$18)

While helping save his family's funeral home from financial ruin, Ezra, who can see ghosts, is haunted by his crush Jonathan's gone-too-soon husband, and as he tries to keep his family together and from getting his heart broken, realizes there's more than one way to become a ghost.

Sutanto, Jesse Q. [You Will Never Be Me](#) (Penguin \$29)

Influencer Meredith Lee didn't teach Aspen Palmer how to blossom on social media just to be ditched as soon as Aspen became big. So can anyone really blame Mer for doing a little stalking? This quickly leads to Mer doing a bit of tweaking to Aspen's social media accounts, but Mer's only taking back what she deserves—what should have been *hers*. Meanwhile, Aspen doesn't understand why her perfectly filtered life is falling apart. Sponsors are dropping her, fellow influencers are ghosting her, and even her own husband seems to find her repulsive. If she doesn't find out who's behind everything, she might just lose it all.

Tschida, Sam. [Errands & Espionage](#) (Forever \$17.99)

Recently divorced Gabby Greene spends most of her days listening to self-help books while wrangling her loving yet erratic kids. During a decade of marriage, Gabby shoved aside her own career and ambitions to make room for mountains of laundry, running errands, and investigating the case of the missing socks. Her number one suspect: their Bichon Frise, Mr. Bubbles. All that changes when a secret government agency comes knocking on Gabby's door, asking her to go undercover. At first, she thinks some reality show is pranking her, but

apparently, she bears a striking resemblance to an agent recently murdered, and... well, desperate missions call for desperate measures. Soon Gabby is juggling motherhood and a crash course in Spying 101, led by a handsome James Bond-type who has secrets of his own. Readers of a certain vintage may think this sounds a bit like that old Kate Jackson television series *Scarecrow and Mrs. King*.

Wells, Christine. [The Paris Gown](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Three friends—Claire, Gina, and Margot—met in Paris in the 1950s and share custody of a fabulous Christian Dior gown. Gorgeous, perfectly fitted, lustrous, and luxurious, this Dior gown has the power to change their lives. But something happens that causes the women to part ways. Now, years later, the three women are reunited in Paris, but can they rebuild the friendship they once shared and cherished?

Teen

Dennings, Hayley. [This Ravenous Fate](#) (Sourcebooks \$18.99)

In 1926 Jazz Age Harlem, where reapers, once-human vampires with a terrifying affliction, stalk the streets, 18-year-old Elise Saint, heir to her family's reaper-hunting business, reunites with a friend-turned-enemy to investigate why some reapers are turning part-human again, leaving a wake of mysterious and brutal killings behind them.

Grace, Adalyn. [Wisteria](#) (Little, Brown \$19.99)

When headstrong Blythe Hawthorne finds herself bound to the insufferable deity Fate, she begins to uncover the truth about their connection and her own astonishing powers.

Johnson, Maureen. [Death at Morning House](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

From the bestselling author of the Truly Devi-

ous books, comes a new stand-alone YA about a teen who uncovers a mystery while working as a tour guide on an island and must solve it before history repeats itself

Nguyen, Trinity. [A Banh Mi for Two](#) (Henry Holt \$12.99)

Secretly studying abroad in Vietnam, Vietnamese American college student Viv Huynh meets Lan, the girl behind her favorite food blog A Banh Mi for Two, and the two of them, each searching for something, decide to help each other out.

Ralph, Vincent. [One House Left](#) (St. Martin's \$12)

Moving to a new town to outrun a curse once and for all, 16-year-old Nate Campbell finds things going well until he's drawn into his new friends' urban legend club where new ghost stories merge with old until there's nowhere left to run.

Stringfield, Ravynn K. [Love Requires Chocolate](#) (Random \$12.99)

Ready to have an epic semester abroad in Paris, theater nerd Whitney Curry anticipates a grand adventure but instead struggles with schoolwork, homesickness and mastering the French language until her cute tutor teaches her lessons about the real Paris - and love.

Strychacz, Isabel. [House of Thorns](#) (Simon & Schuster \$19.99)

Five years since fleeing the infamous Brier Hall, Lia Peartree must return to her ancestral home one last time when her sisters go missing, to finally uncover the truth of her past and face what now haunts her.

Wunder, Wendy. [Mysterious Ways](#) (St. Martin's \$20)

Seventeen-year-old Maya struggles with her omniscient abilities, but when she meets a cute guy at her new school, he helps her learn

how to cope with knowing too much.

Nonfiction

Dolnick, Edward. [Dinosaurs at the Dinner Party](#) (Scribner \$30)

The best-selling author of *The Clockwork Universe* presents the story of a group of eccentric 19th century Victorians who accidentally stumbled upon a huge tranche of dinosaur bones that changed our understanding of human history.

Lee, Heath Hardage. [The Mysterious Mrs. Nixon](#) (St. Martin's \$32)

Pat Nixon has long been perceived as America's most enigmatic First Lady. She was voted "Most Admired Woman in the World" in 1972 and made Gallup Poll's top ten list of most admired women fourteen times. She survived the turmoil of the Watergate scandal with her popularity and dignity intact. However, the real Pat Nixon was someone very different.

In *The Mysterious Mrs. Nixon*, Heath Hardage Lee presents readers with the essential nature of this First Lady, an empathetic, adventurous, self-made woman who wanted no power or influence, but who connected warmly with both ordinary Americans and people from different cultures she encountered world-wide

Lefevre, Noah. [Century of Song](#) (Page Street \$29.99)

Creator of Polyphonic, Lefevre explores how our favorite music does more than entertain. From Aretha Franklin carving out her own space in what had been considered a man's world by reworking the chauvinistic lyrics to the 1967's hit "Respect," to Doja Cat's successful backlash against toxic fans of the digital age; from a broken amplifier on "Rocket 88" ushering in the distorted sounds of rock n' roll, to Kendrick Lamar's release of "Alright," which became the unofficial anthem to the

BLM protests—each song mirrors the strife, change and progress of our country’s narrative. In this rich and engrossing guide for music lovers everywhere, you’ll discover how a single song can make history.

MacDonell, Nancy. [Empresses of Seventh Avenue](#) (St. Martin’s \$32)

Calvin Klein. Ralph Lauren. Donna Karan. Halston. Marc Jacobs. Tom Ford. Michael Kors. Tory Burch. Today, American designers are some of the biggest names in fashion, yet before World War II, they almost always worked anonymously. The industry, then centered on Seventh Avenue in Manhattan, had always looked overseas for “inspiration”—a polite phrase for what was often blatant copying—because style, as all the world knew, came from Paris. But when the Nazis invaded France in 1940, the capital of fashion was cut off from the rest of the world. The story of the chaos and tragedy that followed has been told many times—but how it directly affected American fashion is largely unknown. Defying the naysayers, New York-based designers, retailers, editors, and photographers met the moment, turning out clothes that were perfectly suited to the American way of life: sophisticated, modern, comfortable, and affordable. By the end of the war, “the American Look” had been firmly established as a fresh, easy elegance that combined function with style. But none of it would have happened without the influence and ingenuity of a small group of women who have largely been lost to history.

Peri, Camille. [A Wilder Shore](#) (Penguin \$35)
This story of the partnership between Robert Louis Stevenson and his wife and muse, Fanny Van de Grift, focuses on both the romantic and creative bond that helped fuel some of the most celebrated and enduring literary masterpieces.

Rooks, Noliwe. [A Passionate Mind in Relentless Pursuit](#) (Penguin \$28)

When Mary McLeod Bethune died, tributes in newspapers around the country said the same thing: she should be on the Mount Rushmore of Black American achievement. Indeed, Bethune is the only Black American whose statue stands in Statuary Hall in the US Capitol, and yet for most, she remains a marble figure from the dim past. Now, seventy years later, Noliwe Rooks turns Bethune from stone to flesh, showing her to have been a visionary leader with lessons to still teach us as we continue on our journey toward a freer and more just nation.