

Midmonth BookNotes

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FALL into a Good Book!

Cozy Corner

Byron, Ellen. [French Quarter Fright Night](#) (Severn House \$29.99)

It's Halloween in New Orleans, and the staff of Bon Vee Culinary House Museum is setting up a fantastic haunted house tour for their visitors. But when flashy movie star Blaine Taggart and his entourage move into the mansion next door, gift shop proprietor Ricki James-Diaz gets a fright of her own. While Ricki is excited about the potential business the tours will bring to her vintage cookbook shop, she's less thrilled by former friend Blaine's arrival in town. Then Bon Vee's prop tomb becomes a real tomb for Blaine's nasty assistant, and suddenly everyone at Bon Vee is a murder suspect.

Delany, Vicki. [A Slay Ride Together with You](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

Rudolph, New York shop owner Merry Wilkinson's best friend Vicky Casey is newly engaged to Chef Mark Grosse and is moving into the historic Cole House, but soon the murder of Jim Cole, who believes the home belongs to him, complicates things.

Falco, Michael. [Murder in an Italian Cafe](#) (Kensington \$27)

With her new B&B in the Italian village of Positano proving a success, young widow Bria Bar-

tolucci is enjoying her new life in paradise, but when a celebrity chef filming nearby suddenly dies, Bria has her hands full with an unsavory murder.

Howell, Dorothy. [Shear Terror](#) (Kensington \$27)
In small-town Hideaway Grove, California, newcomer Abbey Chandler's sewing prowess is inspiring her entrepreneurial spirit—but stumbling upon a murdered local with dressmaker shears impaled in her chest makes Abbey the prime suspect, Kirkus says the latest from Howell, delivers “all the cozy requirements of romance, plenty of suspects, and a warm small-town vibe.”

Rue, Gretchen. [The Grim Steeper](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99)

Amateur witch Phoebe Winchester is excited to host her first big author event at the Earl's Study, her book and tea store. The author, Sebastian Marlow, is a famous birder excited to put Raven Creek on the map for his rediscovery of a presumed-extinct bird. When Sebastian is found dead before his planned bird hike, where he expected to prove the existence of the bird to fellow birding enthusiasts, it's obvious someone wanted him to be extinct, too.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Alexander, Tasha. [Death by Misadventure](#) (Minotaur \$29) SIGNED

In the winter of 1906, Lady Emily and husband Colin are invited to the opulent home of Baroness Ursula von Duchtel in the Bavarian Alps. Outside is a mountainous winter wonderland with a view of Mad King Ludwig's fairy tale castle. Inside, the villa hosts a magnificent but eclectic art collection—as well as an equally eclectic collection of fellow guests, among them a musician, an art dealer, a coquette from the demi-monde, and Kaspar, the Baroness' boorish son-in-law, whom, it begins to appear, someone wants dead. The latest Lady Emily mystery offers readers a wonderfully realized Bavarian setting, a twisty mystery, and some fascinating historical details about Mad King Ludwig

Bickers, Tessa. [The Book Swap](#) (Graydon \$27.99) When she accidentally donates her favorite book containing a memento she can't be without to the community library, Erin Connolly, when the book turns up a week later with fresh notes in the margins, starts a life-changing conversation through an anonymous book exchange that leads to something unexpected."Bickers charms in her depiction of how James and Erin bond through literature, and how literature changes their lives. This will have bookworms swooning." (PW)

Bloom, Carly. [Hot Hex Boyfriend](#) (Grand Central \$17.99) Skeptical of magic, Delia Merriweather must embrace her witch heritage after accidentally restoring her family's powers, while her neighbor Max grapples with protecting them and his growing feelings for her, unsure if they're genuine or enchanted." Bloom creates a whimsical and enchanting world in Willow Root and conjures some real chemistry between her leads. Fans of Practical Magic and Sabrina, the Teenage Witch will be hooked." (PW)

Cardinal, Ann Davila. [We Need No Wings](#) (Sourcebooks Landmark \$16.99) Teresa Sanchez, a direct descendent of St. Teresa of Ávila, finds herself lost after her retirement ... until the day she begins to levitate. "Aided

by her vibrant characters' sense of humor, Cardinal thoroughly explores themes of mysticism and friendship. It's an enlivening tale of second chances." (PW)

Chamberlain, Sarah. [The Slowest Burn](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

A top ghostwriter for celebrity cookbooks, Ellie Wasserman was widowed three years ago and has no interest in taking chances—not on writing her own cookbook, not on telling her still-grieving in-laws she wants to move out, and certainly not on dating, which is about as intimidating as a recipe with fifty steps. Kieran O'Neill isn't known for being organized. An up-and-coming chef who scored big on a reality television competition, he's been the guy who cracks jokes and makes messes—something his chilly family has never let him forget. The only place he feels truly capable is at the stove. But when he's paired with an uptight ghostwriter with cool blue eyes and distracting curves to write his debut cookbook, she shreds his class clown act like a paring knife cuts an orange peel. As Ellie and Kieran are forced to work closely together in a hot kitchen for weeks on end, their sharp edges and harsh judgments slowly soften and sweeten into a wildly delicious attraction.

Chouinard, Michelle. [The Serial Killer Guide to San Francisco](#) (Minotaur \$18)

The chill of a San Francisco summer can be deadly. No one knows this better than Capri Sanzio, who makes her living giving serial killer tours of the city. Capri has been interested in the topic since she was a kid, when she discovered she's the granddaughter of serial killer William 'Overkill Bill' Sanzio. She's always believed in his innocence, though she's never taken the leap to fully dive into the case. But now an Overkill Bill copycat has struck in San Francisco. And Capri's former mother-in-law, Sylvia, just cut off Capri's daughter's tuition payments. Needing cash, Capri wonders if this is the time to exonerate her grandfather.

Gilmore, Olesya Salnikova. [The Haunting of Moscow House](#) (Berkley \$29)

In a gothic horror tale set in post-revolutionary Russia, Countess Irina Goliteva and her younger sister Countess Lili Goliteva race to uncover their

family's long-buried secrets, in a house haunted by a past that is dangerous—and deadly—to remember.

Harrison, Margot. [The Midnight Club](#) (Graydon \$28)
It's been twenty-five years since The Midnight Club last convened. A tight-knit group of college friends bonded by late nights at the campus literary magazine, they're also bonded by something darker: the death of their brilliant friend Jenet junior year. But now, decades later, a mysterious invitation has pulled them back to the pine-shrouded Vermont town where it all began. As the estranged friends gather for a weeklong campus reunion, they soon learn that their host has an ulterior motive: she wants them to uncover the truth about the night Jenet died, and she's provided them with an extraordinary method—a secret substance that helps them not only remember but *relive* the past.

Harrow, Jamie. [One on One](#) (Dutton \$18)
Working as a videographer for her alma mater's basketball team, Annie Radford, with layoffs looming, must outperform her college coworker Ben Callahan, who is holding a grudge against her, but when they strike up friendship that turns into something more, she must finally reveal why she left him the first time.

Harrison, Rachel. [So Thirsty](#) (Berkley \$29)
Sloane Parker is dreading her birthday. She doesn't need a reminder she's getting older, or that she's feeling indifferent about her own life. Her husband surprises her with a birthday-weekend getaway—not with him, but with Sloane's longtime best friend, troublemaker extraordinaire Naomi. Sloane anticipates a weekend of wine tastings and cozy robes and strategic avoidance of issues she'd rather not confront, like her husband's repeated infidelity. But when they arrive at their rental cottage, it becomes clear Naomi has something else in mind. She wants Sloane to stop letting things happen to her, for Sloane to really *live*. So Naomi orchestrates a wild night out with a group of mysterious strangers, only for it to take a horrifying turn that changes Sloane's and Naomi's lives literally forever.

Hewlett, Rosie. [The Witch of Colchis](#) (Sourcebooks Landmark \$16.99)

Medea, princess of Colchis, longs for a different life. Since childhood, she has been shunned from her family, tormented by her people, and treated with shame. All because of a unique and dangerous talent: witchcraft. But when a dashing young hero, Jason, arrives to claim the famed Golden Fleece, Medea sees her opportunity for escape. Her offer to help Jason sets in motion a journey that will test every ounce of strength, magic, and loyalty she has.

Huber, Anna Lee. [The Cold Light of Day](#) (Kensington \$17.95)

June 1920, Ireland: The streets of Dublin seethe with revolution as the Irish Republican Army clashes with British authorities. Roving assassination squads mean nowhere is truly safe, particularly for Verity Kent and her war hero husband, Sidney. Given their celebrity as society darlings and intrepid sleuths, they must tread carefully to go unnoticed—nearly impossible when they are called upon to search for Verity's fellow spy and friend. Captain Alec Xavier has seemingly vanished after traveling to Dublin to infiltrate the IRA at its highest levels. Doing her best to maintain a modicum of normalcy and stay under the radar of both the rebels and British Intelligence, Verity works undercover by day and waltzes through the city's elite social scene by night. Still, she fears the worst for Alec—until shocking evidence mounts that not only is he alive, but that he has switched sides.

Katz, Rachel Runya. [Whenever You're Ready](#) (St. Martin's \$18)

Nia and Jade had been inseparable ever since their best friend, Michal, introduced them at her tenth birthday party. But now it's been three years since Michal died of cancer—since the brutal fight Nia and Jade had in the weeks after—and they're barely on speaking terms. Until Nia reads a letter Michal wrote for her 29th birthday, asking her and Jade to go on the southern Jewish history road trip they'd planned before she died. To add to the complications, Michal's then-boyfriend and Jade's twin brother, Jonah, joins the trip. Despite the years apart and Jade and Jonah's strained relationship, any awkwardness quickly

disappears as it becomes clear how much Nia and Jade have missed each other. As the stops pass, tensions mount, running high until Nia and Jade are forced to confront what happened three years ago, their feelings for one another, and even their respective relationships with Jonah.

Kelk, Lindsey. [Love Story](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)
Sophie Taylor has a secret and Joe Walsh is the last person she'd tell. He's devilishly handsome, incredibly hot – and far too sure of himself. But Sophie desperately needs his help. Because she's not just hiding something small. She is Este Cox, the mysterious romance author the entire world is desperate to unmask. When a trip to the countryside means sharing a cottage with only one bed, it's a short step to sharing a whole lot more besides. Can Sophie trust Joe with the truth – and be herself?

Levine, Jenna. [My Vampire Plus-One](#) (Berkley \$19)
Convincing Reginald Cleaves, who is rude, arrogant and a total fashion disaster, to pose as her date for yet another family wedding, Amelia Collins, believing no one could want to marry him, soon discovers, as his centuries-old secrets come to light, that she sucks at first impressions. A humorous, paranormal-tinged romance that is perfect reading for the Halloween season.

Locke, Attica. [Guide Me Home](#) (Mulholland \$29)
In this stunning culmination of the award-winning Highway 59 trilogy, Detective Darren Mathews is pulled out of an early retirement to investigate the case of a missing black college student from an all-white sorority and soon finds a town that will stop at nothing to keep its secrets hidden.

McFarlane, Mhairi. [You Belong with Me](#) (Avon \$18.99)
Elliot Owen is handsome, charming and basically Hollywood royalty. And, he insists, madly in love with Edie Thompson: an ordinary citizen with tomato soup stains on her coat. It's going to be complicated. Edie will have to learn how to live in the limelight, but they're just too good together not to try. Edie discovers it's not easy when the press is the third person in your relationship, or when stories start leaking that force you to mistrust the motives of those around you. It's tricky when you're separated by an ocean and gorgeous co-stars and charismatic new colleagues

are closer by. It's harder still when your past is raked up by envious people determined to destroy your present.

Edie already knows how it feels to be infamous, now she's going to find out what it's like to be famous. Are she and Elliot a fairytale, or a cautionary fable about getting what you wish for?

Moriarty, Liane. [Here One Moment](#) (Crown \$30)
SIGNED

An ordinary flight becomes extraordinary when passengers learn of their predicted deaths from a mysterious woman known as "The Death Lady," leading to a race against time for some and a chance to redefine their time left for others." Does this novel support the idea that clairvoyance is real? Here is how *Kirkus* sums up Moriarty's latest: "Does it find a means to logically dismiss the whole thing? Or is it some complex amalgam of these possibilities? Sorry, you won't find that out here and in fact not until you've turned all 500-plus pages. The story is a brilliant, charming, and invigorating illustration of its closing quote from Elisabeth Kübler-Ross (we're not going to spill that either). A fresh, funny, ambitious, and nuanced take on some of our oldest existential questions."

Nguyen, Nora. [Adam & Evie's Matchmaking Tour](#) (Avon \$18.99)

Evie Lang, reeling from job loss and heartbreak, inherits her aunt's San Francisco home on the condition she joins a matchmaking tour in Vietnam, where she clashes, yet sparks, with a grumpy tour leader Adam Quyên.

Penrose, Andrea. [Murder at King's Crossing](#) (Kensington \$27)

Celebration is in the air at Wrexford and Charlotte's country estate as they host the nuptials of their friends, Christopher Sheffield and Lady Cordelia Mansfield. But on the afternoon of the wedding, the festivities are interrupted when the local authorities arrive with news that a murdered man has been discovered at the bridge over King's Crossing, his only identification an invitation to the wedding. Penrose's latest is "a complex and surprising mystery enhanced by historically accurate information about the science and society of the period." (*Kirkus*)

Riley, Vanessa. [Murder in Berkeley Square](#) (Kensington \$27)

After Lady Abigail Worthing and her neighbor, Stapleton Henderson, get snowed in at a dinner party held at the home of Lord Charles Duncan, one of London's most powerful magistrates, an evening of dinner and debates turns deadly. Riley puts her own clever spin on Agatha Christie's classic *And Then There Were None* with a Regency era poem called "The Rebel's Rhyme" providing a template for the murderer.

Snow, Jennifer. [All Signs Point to Malibu](#) (Canary Street \$18.99)

Aided by her sort-of psychic powers, Hailey is a successful life coach who finds herself embroiled in a disaster of her own making as she endeavors to stop her high school sweetheart from marrying the wrong woman, while falling for his best man (and her own erstwhile frenemy).

Turnbull, Bryn. [The Berlin Apartment](#) (MIRA \$18.99)
Berlin 1961: When Uli Neumann proposes to Lise Bauer, she has every reason to accept. He offers her love, respect, and a life beyond the strict bounds of the East German society in which she was raised — which she longs to leave more than anything. But only two short days after their engagement, Lise and Uli are torn violently apart when barbed wire is rolled across Berlin, splitting the city into two hostile halves: capitalist West Berlin, an island of western influence isolated far beyond the iron curtain; and the socialist East, a country determined to control its citizens by any means necessary. Soon, Uli and his friends in West Berlin hatch a plan to get Lise and her unborn child out of East Germany, but as distance and suspicion bleed into their lives and as weeks turn to months, how long can true love survive in the divided city?

What's Cooking

Alvarez, Ryan and Adam Merrin. [That Takes the Cookie](#) (Simon Element \$24.99)

Organized into seven scrumptious chapters with cookies for every craving, *That Takes the Cook-*

ie includes a collection of recipes from classics like Vanilla Bean Sugar Cookies and Chewy Oatmeal Raisin Cookies to decadent bars, no-bake treats, and frosted cookies in an assortment of flavors.

Guarneschelli, Alex. [Italian American Forever](#) (Clarkson Potter \$35)

These are the recipes from Food Network star Alex Guarneschelli that are favorites for so many of us, whether your family is from Italy or not. From Fettuccine Alfredo, Whole Chicken alla Diavola, and Carmella Soprano's Lasagna (yes, that Carmella Soprano) to Stuffed Artichokes so big and bursting that they're a main course unto themselves, these 120 recipes and 115 stunning photos are a celebration of garlic and tomatoes, Parmesan, pesto, and all the meatballs, sausages, and tiramisu in between.

Jaffrey, Madhur. [Indian Cookery](#) (Knopf \$35)

Originally published in 1982, this gorgeous edition, featuring new recipes and a new foreword by the author, shares timeless, authentic Indian cooking with a new generation, from dals, curries and chutneys, to breads, rich dishes and relishes, offering a sweeping survey of the countless dishes of the subcontinent.

Moore, Tom and Rebecca Wellman. [Crust](#) (Random \$32.50)

From the go-to boutique bakery in Victoria, BC, this cookbook—with over 85 recipes—satisfies every sweet, savory, and in-between craving you might have, all while making you a better baker.

Ottolenghi, Yotam. [Ottolenghi Comfort](#) (Ten Speed \$37.99)

Yotam Ottolenghi—the beloved chef who has captured the hearts of home cooks looking for inspiration and great-tasting cooking—is back. In *Ottolenghi Comfort*, he brings his inspiring, flavor-forward cooking to comfort dishes. For Ottolenghi, a bowl of pasta becomes Caramelized Onion Orecchiette with Hazelnuts & Crispy Sage, a warming soup is Cheesy Bread Soup with Savoy Cabbage & Cavolo Nero, and potatoes are transformed into Garlicky Aligot Potato with Leeks & Thyme. In *Comfort*, he tackles everything from crepes to hummus; lamb meatloaf to quick ramen; savory rugelach to chocolate

mousse.

Parton, Dolly and Rachel Parton George. [Good Lookin' Cookin'](#) (Ten Speed \$35)

Music legend Dolly Parton and her sister Rachel share their prized dishes and family stories in recipes sorted by months of the year including Barbecue Spare Ribs, Slaw of Many Colors, Watermelon Fruit Salad, Mac and Cheese and Strawberry Shortcake.

Sheehan, Jessie. [Salty, Cheesy, Herby, Crispy Snackable Bakes](#) (Countryman Press \$28)

Jessie Sheehan's lickety-split recipes, dynamic personality, and kitchen savvy advice have made her a beloved food personality on social media. In *Salty, Cheesy, Herby, Crispy*, she relies on the same assemble-in-minutes-with-everyday-ingredients mandate that has become her calling card, but now ventures into new flavor territory. Eschewing marshmallow creme in favor of pimiento cheese, Sheehan bakes up scrumptious, savory treats that are perfect for a snack board ("girl dinner," anyone?), offer sustenance for game night, and can easily stand in for lunch or grace the table at brunch. Think Hot Pepper Jelly and Cream Cheese Stuffed Muffins, Smash Burger Hand Pies with Cheese, Pepperoni Pizza Galette with Ricotta, or some Butter Crackers with Melty Cheese and Sour Pickles.

Solomonov, Michael and Steven Cook. [Zahav Home](#) (Harvest \$40)

The best-selling authors of the James Beard Award-winning *Zahav* invite readers to cook the way they do at home, with 125 new recipes for simple and achievable meals—including Matzo Ball Soup, Date-glazed Salmon Fillets, Baby Apple Cakes and more.

Turshen, Julie. [What Goes with What](#) (Flatiron \$34.99)

Now, in her latest book, Julia offers readers a new way to think about cooking, one that focuses on mastering the alchemy of a meal—and then offers endless iterations. Organized into six sections (salads and sandwiches; soups, stews and braises; rice, more grains, and pasta; vegetables; mains; and baked goods), Julia arms readers with 20 charts and 100 recipes that teach them how to build a successful dish, while making ample room for creativity and personal preference.

Teen Fiction

Buffini, Moira. [Songlight](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Hiding her gift of songlight, the forbidden ability to telepathically communicate, Elsa's grief draws her friend Nightingale to her, thrusting the two into the middle of a war that threatens their very existence.

Chambers, Veronica. [Ida, in Love and Trouble](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)

After the Civil War, Ida B. Wells, the first child of newly freed parents, tries to make friends in a society that has no place for a woman who speaks her own mind and find a love that will let her be the woman she dreams of becoming.

Craig, Erin A. [The Thirteenth Child](#) (Random \$20.99)

A healer, Hazel, a thirteenth child promised to one of the gods, discovers all gifts come with a price as she is forced to work with Death, but when she meets a rakish prince marked to die, she must choose between her heart and Death itself.

Isaacs, Cheryl. [The Unfinished](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

With the black water from a strange pond stalking her every move, Avery must connect to her Indigenous culture to save her best friend - and long-time crush - as well as the town when people there begin disappearing.

Jasinska, Alicia. [This Fatal Kiss](#) (Holiday House \$19.99)

Cursed to haunt the river where she drowned, Gisela, a water nymph longing for humanity, strikes a deal with Kazik, a spirit-hunter losing his magic, to help her gain a mortal's kiss, but complications arise when both fall for Aleksey, an enigmatic young man with ties to Gisela's past.

Moore, Rachel. [Us in Ruins](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Embarking on her school's archaeological trip to Pompeii while obsessed with finding the mythical Vase of Venus Aurelia, Margot uses a diary written a century before as her guide, which leads to a romance that defies time and could lead to her ruin.

Ponti, James. [The Sherlock Society](#) (Aladdin \$18.99)

Starting a detective agency instead of spending the summer babysitting, mowing lawns or cleaning, siblings Alex and Zoe Sherlock team up with

their retired reporter grandfather to solve cold cases, including a long-lost treasure supposedly hidden near the Everglades linked to famed gangster Al Capone.

Talley, Robin. [Everything Glittered](#) (Little Brown \$18.99)

In 1927 Washington, D.C., during prohibition, 17-year-old society girl Gertrude sneaks out of school to visit a speakeasy and returns to discover her controversial young headmistress, Mrs. Rose, has been murdered, prompting Gertrude to set about clearing Mrs. Rose's reputation while trying to keep hers intact.

Thao, Dustin. [When Haru Was Here](#) (St. Martin's \$20)
Eric, a lonely nineteen-year-old grappling with the loss of his best friend, retreats into his imagination and finds solace in a memory of a day spent with a boy named Haru, but Eric's imagination and reality blur together when he walks into a coffee shop and sees Haru.

Vishny, A. R. [Night Owls](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)
Owl-shifting female vampires from Jewish tradition, sisters Clara and Molly, who work their historic movie theater by day and feed on men in secret at night, must enter New York's monstrous underworld to save Molly's girlfriend, breaking all their rules of love, of life and of death itself.

Weston, Kate. [Murder on a Summer Break](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Known as the Tampon Two after catching the menstrual murderer, amateur sleuths and wannabe influencers Kerry and Annie are back in action when a famous prankster is found dead, hoping to prove they have what it takes while dodging a murderer determined to create some truly killer content.

Nonfiction

Brands, H.W. [America First](#) (Knopf \$35)
Bestselling historian and Pulitzer Prize finalist H. W. Brands narrates the fierce debate over America's role in the world in the run-up to World War II through its two most important figures: President

Franklin D. Roosevelt, who advocated intervention, and his isolationist nemesis, aviator and popular hero Charles Lindbergh.

Cordery, Stacy A. [Becoming Elizabeth Arden](#) (Penguin \$35)

Acclaimed biographer Stacy Cordery does full justice to one of America's greatest entrepreneurs. Canadian-born Florence Nightingale Graham turned herself into Elizabeth Arden, using her uncanny sense of the possible to take full advantage of everything New York City offered, building her company and becoming one with her brand. In an astounding rags-to-riches tale, Elizabeth Arden came to personify sophistication and refinement. Her hard work and innovation made makeup, fitness, and style not only acceptable but de rigueur.

Gordon, Bruce. [The Bible](#) (Basic \$35)

In *The Bible*, Bruce Gordon tells the astounding story of the Bible's journey around the globe and across more than two thousand years, showing how it has shaped and been shaped by changing beliefs and believers' radically different needs.

Graham, Elyse. [Book and Dagger](#) (HarperCollins \$35)
At the start of WWII, the U.S. found itself in desperate need of an intelligence agency. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS), a precursor to today's CIA, was quickly formed—and, in an effort to fill its ranks with experts, the OSS turned to academia for recruits. Suddenly, literature professors, librarians, and historians were training to perform undercover operations and investigative work—and these surprising spies would go on to profoundly shape both the course of the war and our cultural institutions with their efforts. In *Book and Dagger*, Elyse Graham draws on personal histories, letters, and declassified OSS files to tell the story of a small but connected group of humanities scholars turned spies.

Purnell, Sonia. [Kingmaker](#) (Penguin \$35)

When Pamela Churchill Harriman died in 1997, the obituaries that followed were predictably scathing – and many were downright sexist. Written off as a mere courtesan and social climber, her true legacy was overshadowed by a glamorous social life and her infamous erotic adventures. Much of what she did behind the scenes

– on both sides of the Atlantic - remained invisible and secret. That is, until now: with a wealth of fresh research, interviews and newly discovered sources, Sonia Purnell unveils for the first time the full, spectacular story of how she left an indelible mark on the world today.

Milton, Giles. [The Stalin Affair](#) (Henry Holt \$29.99)
In the summer of 1941, Hitler invaded the Soviet Union, shattering what Stalin had considered an ironclad partnership. There were real fears that Stalin's forces would be defeated or that the Soviet leader would once again strike a deal with Hitler. Either eventuality would spell catastrophe for both Britain and the United States. Enter W. Averell Harriman: a railroad magnate and, at the start of the war, the fourth-richest man in America. At Roosevelt's behest he traveled to Britain to serve as a liaison between the president and Churchill and to spearhead what became known as the Harriman Mission. Together with his fashionable young daughter Kathy, an unforgettable cast of British diplomats, and Churchill himself, he would eventually manage to wrangle Stalin into the partnership the Allies needed to defeat Hitler.

Miodownik, Mark. [It's a Gas](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99)
In this hilarious guide, a best-selling science writer and materials scientist profiles the 10 gases that shaped human history, from hydrogen to neon, and presents the story of that tricky space where science and belief collide, and of the elusive limits of human understanding

Randall, David. [Into Unknown Skies](#) (HarperCollins \$32.99)
In this engaging follow-up to his best-selling *Stuff Matters* and *Liquid Rules*, the acclaimed science writer and materials scientist takes us on an often-humorous tour of gases, which are used to create life-altering technologies, chronicling twelve gases that have shaped human history. "Miodownik combines a specialist's erudition with a generalist's broad scope, producing an expansive inquiry that bounds from human history to natural science and climate research without missing a beat. It's an exemplary work of pop science." (*PW*)