

Midmonth BookNotes

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Give Thanks for Great Books!

Cozy Corner

Benoit, Deborah J. [The Gardener's Plot](#) (Minotaur \$28)

After life threw Maggie Walker a few curveballs, she's happy to be back in Marlowe, the small, Berkshires town where she spent so much time as a child. Maggie has always loved gardening, so it's only natural to sign on to help Violet Bloom set up a community garden. When opening day arrives, Violet is nowhere to be found, and the gardeners are restless. Things go from bad to worse when Maggie finds a boot buried in one of the plots... and there's a body attached to it. This debut cozy by Benoit, which is perfect for fans of Katherine Hall Page, won the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel.

Connally, Celeste. [All's Fair in Love and Treachery](#) (Minotaur \$28)

Queen Charlotte has tasked Lady Petra Forsyth with attending an event at the Asylum for Female Orphans and making inquiries

surrounding the death of the orphanage's matron. While there Petra discovers a possible link between the matron's death and a plot to topple the monarchy, set to take place during three days of celebrations around Napoleon's surrender currently gripping London. As the clock counts down and London's streets teem with revelers, Petra's nerves are fraying as her past and present collide. Yet while all's fair in love and war, she can never surrender, especially when more orphaned girls may be in trouble. And to save their lives, the monarchy itself, and even her own heart, Lady Petra must face her fears with the strength of an army of soldiers and fight with the heart of a queen.

Day, Maddie. [Deadly Crush](#) (Kensington \$27) It's the beginning of a new year, and for widowed single mom and recent L.A. transplant to California wine country, Cece Barton, that means green hillsides, flowing streams from winter rains, pruned vineyards—and a murder to solve.

Manansala, Mia P. [Guilt and Ginataan](#) (Penguin \$19)

The annual Shady Palms Corn Festival is one of the town's biggest moneymakers, drawing crowds from all over the Midwest looking to partake in delicious treats, local crafts, and of course, the second largest corn maze in Illinois. Lila Macapagal and her Brew-ha Cafe crew, Adeena Awan and Elena Torres, are all too happy to participate in the event and even make a little wager on who can make it through the corn maze the fastest—but their fun is suddenly cut short when a dead body is found in the middle of the maze...and an unconscious Adeena lies next to it, clutching a bloody knife.

Reyes, Raquel V. [Dominoes, Danzon, and Death](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99)

It's been three years since food anthropologist and cooking show star Miriam Quiñones-Smith had her last brush with death. Her Spanglish culinary show, *Abuela Approved*, is topping the charts. Her parents are back in Miami and living with her in Coral Shores. And her kids are great. But when bones start popping up in unexpected places, Miriam's idyllic life is threatened.

Holiday Romances and other Holiday Books

Allen, Amanda. [Murder at the Hacienda](#) (Severn House \$29.99)

When she accepts an invitation from an old friend, former New York darling turned amateur sleuth Madeline Vaughn-Alwin finds herself trapped with her gorgeous husband-to-be Dr. David Cole in the beautiful hacienda of the Luhan family with a killer at Christmas!

Baird, Ginny. [Christmas Eve Love Story](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)

Annie Jones is stuck repeating Christmas Eve until she finds everything she's been missing in life in this heartwarming time travel Christmas romance that is perfect for fans of *Miracle on 34th Street*, *Groundhog Day*, and Josie Silver's *A Winter in New York*.

Boone, Georgia K. [I'll Be Gone for Christmas](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

When Bee Tyler's best friend suggests a getaway on the wildly popular house-swap app, Vacate, Bee decides a countryside retreat might be exactly what she needs. Clover Mills has had a year. So, when Clover hears about Vacate, she jumps at the chance to spend the holidays in the unfamiliar city of San Francisco.

Soon enough, Bee is living in Clover's cozy Salem cottage, and Clover is living in Bee's sleek San Francisco apartment. As Clover can't seem to stop running into Bee's frustratingly gorgeous sister, Beth, and Bee finds herself spending more and more time with Clover's ultra charming ex-fiancé, Knox, the two women realize that this Christmas they may find just what they were looking for and more.

Elliot, Amanda. [Love You a Latke](#) (Penguin \$19)

As the only Jew on the tourism board of her Vermont town, Abby Cohen's been charged with planning their fledgling Hanukkah festival. Unfortunately, the local vendors don't understand that the story of Hanukkah cannot be told with light-up plastic figures from the Nativity scene, even if the Three Wise Men wear yarmulkes. Desperate for support, Abby puts out a call for help online and discovers she was wrong about being the only Jew within a hundred miles. There's one other: Seth, the most annoyingly optimistic customer who ever graced Abby's coffee shop.

Frost, Jacqueline. [I'll Be Home for Mischief](#) (Crooked Lane \$30.99)

It's Christmastime in Mistletoe, Maine, and the Historical Society has launched a wide-spread campaign to celebrate the town's 150th anniversary. Descendants of the founding family, the Snows, have returned for the first time, and Holly is determined to make the family's visit magical. In an attempt to put Mistletoe on the map, Holly's mother, a respected local baker, attempts to break a record by baking the world's largest gingerbread man, but her plans are whisked away when Mr. Snow's body ends up in the batter.

Gaynor, Hazel. [Christmas with the Queen](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

While the young Queen Elizabeth II finds her feet as the new monarch, she must also find the right words to continue the tradition of her late father's Christmas Day radio broadcast. But even traditions must evolve with the times, and the queen faces a postwar Britain hungry for change. As preparations begin for the royal Christmas at Sandringham House in Norfolk, old friends—Jack Devereux and Olive Carter—are unexpectedly reunited by the occasion. As Jack and Olive's paths continue to cross over the following five Christmases, they grow ever closer. Yet Olive carries the burden of a heavy secret that threatens to destroy everything.

Kelly, Carla. [Regency Glad Tidings](#) (Camel Press \$15.95)

A wonderful collection of holiday novellas that includes *Holly and Ivy*, in which a British surgeon returning home from the Napoleonic Wars meets the perfect woman, who just happens to be the fiancée of his hypochondriac patient. *Yours Sincerely*, featuring an English woman and an American sea captain brought together by the reading of a will. And *Picture a Christmas* in which an impoverished Mary

Cooper finds employment in a notions shop belonging to a grouchy old dame, whose ship-builder nephew is certain she is out to con his aunt.

Snowe, Jaqueline. [Christmas Sweater Weather](#) (Forever \$17.99)

Charlotte Calhoun and her brother's best friend, Hayden Porter, struggle to resist their mutual attraction while spending two weeks together at a snowy ski resort during her brother's Christmas bachelor party. Lots of humor and some heat in this fun holiday romance.

Historical Fiction. Mysteries. Romance and More

Ackerman, Sara. [The Maui Effect](#) (MIRA \$18.99)

'Iwa Young's life is high in the Maui rainforest. As a field biologist, she's happiest in the company of trees and birds and waterfalls. When a developer arrives with plans for a so-called eco resort in the middle of a forest full of endangered species, 'Iwa puts all her energy into the fight to protect it. But a chance encounter threatens to distract her. His name is Dane Parsons, a big-wave surfer from California. 'Iwa has a few unbreakable rules, and at the top of her list: *never date a surfer*.

Chenault-Kilgore, Monica. [The Jewel of the Blues](#) (Graydon \$18.99)

Billed as the Little Girl with the Big Voice, blues singer Lucille Arnetta Love always dreamed of life under the lights. From traveling family gospel band to lead singer in a riotous vaudeville troupe, Lucille is on the rise. But a devastating family secret, one that's poised to shatter every dream she's ever had, casts an inescapable shadow over Lu-

cille's career.

Beer, Jade. [The Memory Dress](#) (Penguin \$19)
A missing husband and a dress once owned by Princess Diana set two very different women on paths of discovery that will change both their lives forever in this dazzling new novel from the author of *The Last Dress from Paris*.

Berry, Freya. [The Birdcage Library](#) (Union Square \$18.99)

It's 1932: Australian-based Scottish adventuress (and surviving twin) Emily Blackwood accepts a commission from Heinrich Vogel, a former dealer of exotic animals in Manhattan. Vogel now lives with his macabre collection of taxidermy in a remote Scottish castle. Emily is tasked with finding a long-lost treasure that Heinrich believes has been hidden within. Instead, she discovers pages from a diary written by his sister-in-law, Hester, who died after falling from the Brooklyn Bridge on the eve of its opening in 1883. Hester's diary leads Emily to an old book, *The Birdcage Library*, and into a treasure hunt of another kind—one that will take her down a dangerous path for clues and force her to confront her own darkest secret.

Cousens, Sophie. [Is She Really Going Out with Him?](#) (Penguin \$19)

Columnist Anna Appleby has left her love life behind after a painful divorce. Who needs a man when she has two kids, a cat, and uncontested control of the TV remote? Besides, she'd rather be single than subject herself to the hell of online dating. But her office rival is vying for her column, and no column means no stable source of income. In a desperate attempt to keep her job, Anna finds herself pitching a unique angle: seven dates, all found offline, chosen by her children.

Delozier, Elizabeth. [Eleanore of Avignon](#) (Penguin \$29)

Gorgeously drawn, full of captivating historical drama, and rich with unforgettable characters, Eleanore of Avignon is the story of a woman who is unwilling to bend to the limitations her society places upon her when she becomes the unlikely apprentice to the pope's physician at the most challenging and dangerous moment in medieval European history.

Donovan, Bryn. [Her Knight at the Museum](#) (Penguin \$19)

Emily Porter, a recently divorced conservator at the Art Institute of Chicago, is charged with the restoration of a statue of a medieval English knight. Breaking curses was *not* part of the job description. And yet, here he is, Sir Griffin de Bueford the man of her dreams come to life, resplendent in shining armor as he joyously barrels into priceless antiquities... and goes on to dismantle her defenses, wreak havoc on her senses, and tempt her to believe once more in happy-ever-afters.

Eden, Lucy. [Love in Bloom](#) (Forever \$17.99)

It took exactly twenty-four hours for Atlanta publicist Emma Walters's life to go from near-perfect to a monumental disaster. One day to break up with her boyfriend, get fired and inherit a farm. All that's left is for her to take the still-smoking remains of her dignity and flee to her new farm in Green Acres, Georgia.

However, Emma's new country life is anything but peaceful. The quirky locals seem to inexplicably dislike her, and farming proves way messier than she expected. Adding to her frustration is Dan Pednekar, the farm's infuriatingly handsome manager, who doubts her ability to handle even the simplest tasks.

Frey, J.M. [Time and Tide](#) (Wattpad \$18.99)
When Sam's plane crashes catastrophically over the Atlantic, it defies all odds for Sam to be the sole survivor. But it also seems impossible that she's rescued by a warship in 1805. With a dashing sea captain as her guide, she begins to find her footing in a world she'd only seen in movies. Then Sam is betrayed. At the mercy of the men and morals of the time, and without the means to survive on her own, she's left with no choice but to throw herself on the charity of the captain's sisters. She resigns herself to a quiet life of forever hiding her true self. What she doesn't expect is that her new landlady is Margaret Goodenough—the world-famous author whose yet-to-be-completed novel will contain the first lesbian kiss in the history of British Literature, and a clever woman. Clever enough to know her new companion has a secret.

Jones, Kristi. [Murder in the Ranks](#) (Crooked Lane \$31.99)
In this World War II mystery filled with spies, murder, and a touch of romance, newly minted squad leader Dorothy Lincoln is caught in the crosshairs of a devious plot. "Jones' debut novel often has the flavor of wartime Hollywood movies, complete with a cadre of savvy military gals, each with her own backstory. Deftly handled and equally compelling is the often subtle misogyny and sexism Dottie and her squad face. A solid whodunit built around an important historical footnote." (*Kirkus*)

Jost, Sarah. [The Estate](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99)
Art historian Camille Leray has spent her career surrounding herself with fineries and selling pieces worth millions. But she harbors a secret: she has the ability to enter the world of any piece of artwork, and she can take others with her. But tapping into history comes with great risks. And someone has been watching, someone who knows about

her magic, and her mistakes.

Matthews, Mimi. [The Muse of Maiden Lane](#) (Penguin \$19)
Stella Hobhouse is a brilliant rider, stalwart friend, skilled sketch artist—and completely overlooked. Her out modish gray hair makes her invisible to London society. Combined with her brother's pious restrictions and her dwindling inheritance, Stella is on the verge of a lifetime marooned in Derbyshire as a spinster. Unless she does something drastic...like posing for a daring new style of portrait by aspiring painter Edward "Teddy" Hayes, the only man who's ever really *seen* her.

Meacham, Leila. [April Storm](#) (HarperCollins \$30)
Katherine Walker, married to an accomplished doctor with bright and successful children, grapples with her perfect life unraveling in April, when she discovers someone might be targeting her and trying to kill her husband.

Morelli, Laura. [The Keeper of Lost Art](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)
During World War II, Stella Costa makes an unbreakable connection with a boy sheltering in her family's Tuscan villa, where the treasures of the Uffizi Galleries are hidden. A moving coming-of-age story about the power of art in wartime, based on true events.

Rea, Kerry. [The Jewel of the Isle](#) (Penguin \$19)
If Emily Edwards knows one thing, it's that you don't go to a remote island by yourself. Ever the type A personality, Emily doesn't want to hike around an unfamiliar island, but she's determined to fulfill her late father's national park bucket list, starting with Isle Royale National Park—home to wolves, bears, and hundred-year-old shipwrecks. She has no choice but to hire a tour guide, and there is only one that isn't booked solid: Ryder Fleet, co-owner

of Fleet Outdoor Adventures. However, Emily's perfectly planned trek turns disastrous when she and Ryder witness a brutal crime and are suddenly forced to evade a group of archaeologists on the hunt for a jewel. As they spend nights together too close for comfort, they realize that they must trust each other if they want to escape the island with their lives—and hearts—intact.

Riley, Lia. [Puck & Prejudice](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Goalie for the Austin Regals, Tucker Taylor is benched due to health issues. So he decides to visit his sister in England. But an accidental plunge into an icy pond thrusts him back to 1812 where he comes face to face with Lizzy Wooddash, an aspiring writer and friend of Jane Austen, who regards him as if he's grown two heads.

Runyan, Aimie K. et al. [The Liberty Scarf](#) (Harper \$18.99)

From acclaimed authors Aimie K. Runyan, J'neil Ciesielski, and Rachel McMillan comes an evocative, three-part novel about a thread of connection during World War I--a single scarf that links three extraordinary women, each battling societal expectations, enduring the devastations of war, and striving for personal growth amidst the chaos.

Shane, Lizzie. [Like Cats & Dogs](#) (Forever \$17.99)

Magda Miller's feud with rival baker Mackenzie Newton is so old; folks in tiny Pine Hollow, Vermont forgot how it started. But Magda remembers: Ten years ago, she offered Mac her heart—instead, he ran off with her grandmother's maple cake recipe. So, when Magda gets the call to compete on *The Great American Cake-Off*, she's thrilled to finally shine in a Mac-free zone. But when she arrives on set, her devilishly handsome nemesis is al-

ready there as her competitor on the very first ever *Arch Rivals* edition of *Cake-Off*, and of course Mac has to raise the stakes with a wager. The winner takes all—the *Cake-Off* title, the contested recipe, and control of the narrative. Magda is more than ready to kick Mac's Bundt. But as they spar, on-screen and off, Mac and Magda reveal the best in each other...and the sizzling attraction fueling their rivalry. Only one of them can win, so why does it suddenly feel like they both stand to lose?

Smith, Tiana. [Mr. Nice Spy](#) (Penguin \$19)

When pyrotechnic engineer Andee Paxton discovers her biological father is an international criminal, she must work with sexy CIA agent Adam Chan to take him down in this frothy adventure rom-com.

Wesley, Jamie. [A Legend in the Baking](#) (St. Martin's \$18.99)

Cupcake-baking football player August Hodges gets assistance from a social media maven—and his best friend's little sister— Sloane Dell to help promote his new bakery Sugar Blitz Cupcakes after August accidentally going viral online when he takes a rude customer to task.

Cookbooks

Collocchio, Tom. [Why I Cook](#) (Artisan \$35)

Tom Colicchio cooked his first recipe at 13 years old - a stuffed eggplant from an issue of *Cuisine* magazine that he picked up out of boredom - and it changed his life. Now for the first time ever, Tom recounts the extraordinary personal journey that brought him from his working-class Italian background in Elizabeth, New Jersey, to the award-winning kitchens of New York City's best restaurants to the stage

of the Emmy Awards. Through 10 memoir chapters and 60 recipes, *Why I Cook* shares Tom's personal reflections of more than 40 years behind the stove.

Crocker, Betty. [Betty Crocker Found Recipes](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

From Betty Crocker, the brand beloved by generations of Americans, a carefully curated treasure trove of more than 100 favorite vintage recipes found in the Betty Crocker archives, dusted off and so delicious you'll love them on today's table.

Dioron, Justine. [Justine Cooks](#) (Clarkson Potter \$35)

In her debut cookbook, a social media storyteller and food influencer shares how to find your plant-forward cooking style through 100 approachable and innovative recipes that highlight her love of vegetables, tofu and seafood.

Fennel, Sarah. [Sweet Tooth](#) (Clarkson Potter \$35)

Sarah Fennel began her website, Broma Bakery, as a hobby that combined her love of baked goods with her passion for photography. Soon, millions of readers fell in love with her reliable recipes for nostalgic desserts with a modern twist like Strawberry Shortcake Cake, Oatmeal Cream Cookies, and White Chocolate Brownies.

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

Food Network star Alex Guarnaschelli may be a French-trained chef, an Iron Chef, and a short-order-chef to her daughter, Ava, but at her core, she's an Italian American home cook. Her mom's heritage was Sicilian and her dad's people were from Bari; she pledged allegiance to her father's marinara on week-

days and to her mom's on the weekend and grew up eating at many of the red-checked-tablecloth trattorias throughout New York City. Now she shares her favorite recipes 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.

Stewart, Martha. [Martha: The Cookbook](#) (Clarkson Potter \$40)

Martha Stewart celebrates her landmark 100th book with an intimate collection of 100 treasured recipes, along with stunning photos from her personal archives and the stories behind them. A must for anyone who has ever been inspired by the one and only Martha.

Williamson, Brooke. [Sun-Kissed Cooking](#) (HarperCollins \$35)

Sun-Kissed Cooking is her much-anticipated first cookbook, in which Williamson inspires home cooks to follow their imagination and build dishes from whatever vegetables or fruits capture their fancy in the moment. With over 100 fresh and unexpected recipes, arranged by the ingredient at the center, from mushrooms and tomatoes to peas and pods to starch and greens—accompanied by sixty enticing photos—she shows how to get the most out of items from the farmer's market or the produce aisle.

Yotam, Ottolenghi. [Ottolenghi Comfort](#) (Clarkson Potter \$37.99)

With game-changing low-lift recipes as well as recipes to spend an afternoon on, *Ottolenghi Comfort* presents creative dishes that are comfortable to both cook and eat. In more than 100 recipes, Ottolenghi—and co-authors Helen Goh, Verena Lochmuller, and Tara Wigley—bring together childhood memories and travels around the world,

celebrating food and friends and the connections they build together, ones to pass on from generation to generation.

Teen

Croucher, Lex. [Not for the Faint of Heart](#) (St. Martin's \$20)

Mariel, the granddaughter of Robin Hood, tries to prove herself to her father while suspecting a mole in the Merry Men's ranks but mistakenly kidnaps cheerful healer Clem, and together they embark on a dangerous rescue mission and grow closer along the way.

Gangsei, Jan. [Dead Below Deck](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

When heiress and social queen bee Giselle disappears from her super-yacht and security footage shows her getting pushed overboard, Maggie, now the suspect, must prove her innocence, in a mystery at sea told in reverse chronological order.

Light, Alex. [It's Not Me, It's You](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

Jackie works with her nemesis, Wilson, and provides advice for ending relationships, but when her advice hurts Wilson, Jackie decides to help him win his girlfriend back only to find her own feelings have changed.

Marquis, Krystal. [The Davenports: More Than This](#) (Penguin \$19.99)

The Davenports are one of the few Black families of immense wealth and status in 1910 Chicago, and the two Davenport sisters, along with their closest friends, are finding their way through turbulent changes in life and love.

Pessl, Marisha. [Darkly](#) (Random \$19.99)

When high schooler Arcadia unexpectedly secures the notorious game-maker's internship, she and the other interns become players in the most twisted game yet.

Price, Tirzah. [In Want of a Suspect](#) (HarperCollins \$19.99)

Lizzie Bennett is hired to investigate a deadly warehouse fire and find a mysterious woman, but personal conflicts arise, and Lizzie's life is threatened as she and solicitor Fitzwilliam Darcy try to uncover the truth.

Nonfiction

The Athletic with Dan Kaufman. [The Basketball 100](#) (HarperCollins \$40)

Profiles the NBA's 100 greatest players, exploring their unique stories and contributions to the game, while addressing key debates about championship value, statistical significance, and which player deserves the title of ultimate GOAT.

Brotton, Jerry. [Four Points of the Compass](#) (Grove/Atlantic \$27)

North, south, east, and west: almost all societies use these four cardinal directions to orientate themselves and to understand *who* they are by projecting *where* they are. For millennia, these four directions have been foundational to our travel, navigation, and exploration, and are central to the imaginative, moral, and political geography of virtually every culture in the world. Yet they are far more subjective—and sometimes contradictory—than we might realize.

French, Paul. [Her Lotus Year](#) (St. Martin's \$30)

Before she was the Duchess of Windsor, Bes-

sie Wallis Warfield was Mrs. Wallis Spencer, wife of Earl “Win” Spencer, a US Navy aviator. From humble beginnings in Baltimore, she rose to marry a man who gave up his throne for her. But what made Wallis Spencer, Navy Wife, the woman who could become the Duchess of Windsor? The answers lie in her one-year sojourn in China.

Gordon, Meryl. [The Woman Who Knew Everyone](#) (Grand Central \$34)

Perle Mesta was a force to be reckoned with. In her heyday - the 1940’s, 50’s and 60’s - this extremely wealthy globe-trotting Washington widow was one of the most famous women in America, garnering as much media attention as Eleanor Roosevelt. Renowned for her world-class parties featuring politicians and celebrities, she was very close to three presidents - Harry Truman, Dwight Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson. In this intensely researched biography, author Meryl Gordon chronicles Perle’s lavish life and society adventures in Newport, Manhattan and Washington while highlighting her important, but nearly forgotten contribution to American politics and the feminist movement.

Hamilton, Nigel. [Lincoln vs. Davis](#) (Little, Brown \$38)

From a *New York Times* bestselling presidential biographer comes an untold story of the Civil War: how the American president and the leader of the Confederacy faced off as the fate of the United States hung in the balance—and how Abraham Lincoln came to embrace emancipation as the last, best chance to save the Union.

Mahnke, Aaron. [Cabinet of Curiosities](#) (St. Martin’s \$30)

From the creator of the long-running, smash-hit podcast *Aaron Mahnke’s Cabinet of Curiosities* comes the book—a riveting look inside

some of history’s strangest stories. Learn the fascinating tale of where the invention of the croissant actually happened and relive the adventures of a dog that stowed away and went to war. Along the way, readers will pass through an unfamiliar American state, watch Abraham Lincoln’s son be rescued by someone surprising, and learn how too many crash landings inspired one pilot to leave the airline industry and shift his thirst for flight to new heights.

Masuno, Shunmyo. [How to Let Things Go](#) (Penguin \$26)

An internationally bestselling Buddhist monk offers practical tips and techniques to abandon the futile pursuit of control, teaching readers to embrace calm, focus and well-being amid the relentless demands of modern life and the constant scrolling of social media. A timely read for our turbulent times.

Paranque, Estelle. [Thorns, Lust, and Glory](#) (Hachette \$32.50)

Anne Boleyn has mesmerized the general public for centuries. Her tragic execution at the Tower of London on the 19th of May, 1536—orchestrated by her own husband—never ceases to intrigue. While many stories of Anne’s downfall have been told, few have truly traced the origins of her grim fate. In *Thorns, Lust, and Glory*, Estelle Paranque takes us back to where it all started: to France, where Anne learned the lessons that would set her on the path to becoming one of England’s most infamous queens.

Robertson, Donald J. [How To Think Like Socrates](#) (St. Martin’s \$30)

Socrates is the quintessential Athenian philosopher, the source of the entire Western philosophical tradition, and Godfather to the Stoics. He spent his life teaching practical philosophy to ordinary people in the streets of

Athens, yet few people today are familiar with the wisdom he has to offer us. *How to Think Like Socrates* is an accessible and informative guide to the life of one of the greatest thinkers in history, and the first book to focus on applying his ideas to our daily lives.

Robey, Tim. [Box Office Poison](#) (Hanover Square \$32.99)

From grand follies to misunderstood masterpieces, disastrous sequels to catastrophic literary adaptations, *Box Office Poison* tells a hugely entertaining alternative history of Hollywood, through a century of its most notable flops. What can these films tell us about the Hollywood system, the public's appetite—or lack of it—and the circumstances that saw such flops actually made? Away from the canon, this is the definitive take on these ill-fated, but essential celluloid failures.

Schoch, Richard. [How Sondheim Can Change Your Life](#) (Atria \$28.99)

How Sondheim Can Change Your Life makes the case that Sondheim's greatness—beyond the clever lyrics and adventurous music—rests in his ability to tell stories that relate to us all. From Louise's desire for freedom as Gypsy Rose Lee to Sweeney Todd's thirst for revenge, we as an audience relate easily to Sondheim's characters. His works understand us as much as we understand them.

Tinniswood, Adrian. [The Power and the Glory](#) (Basic \$34)

In *The Power and the Glory*, historian Adrian Tinniswood reconstructs life in the country house during its golden age before the Great War, when Britain ruled over a quarter of the earth's population and its stately homes were at their most opulent. But change was on the horizon: the landed classes were being forced to grapple not only with new neighbors, but also with new social norms and expectations.