

Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 1 Issue 1 January 2026

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New Year, New Books!

Cozy Corner

Connelly, Rebecca. [Mayhem on the Marzipan Express](#) (Shadow Mountain \$18.99)

Amateur baker and part-time sleuth Claire Walker is looking forward to a vacationing with her boyfriend, Jonathan Ainsley on the famed Scottish train, the Mallaig Steam Express—temporarily renamed “The Marzipan Express” in honor of chef Alan Gables, who is hosting an exclusive culinary experience for his most devoted fans. The trip has barely begun when Claire and Jonny discover a dead body, and though it appears to be an accident, Claire can sense something is wrong as easily as she can sense an overbaked soufflé. All clues point to Alan as the culprit: He doesn’t have an alibi, his assistant is oddly nervous around him, and a shadowy figure keeps appearing at all the wrong times. Is someone from Alan’s past trying to frame him? Or could Alan be trying to cover his tracks?

Cullen, Michelle L. [A Field Guide to Murder](#) (Crooked Lane \$19.99)

Once a globe-trotting anthropologist, Harry Lancaster is now certain that all his grand adventures are behind him. Recently widowed and suffering from a fractured hip, Harry spends his days and nights behind a pair of binoculars, nose-deep in his neighbors’ affairs. His millennial caregiver, Emma, is determined to get him out of his armchair and back into the world. Fate intervenes when Harry’s mysterious neighbor, Sue, phones, pleading for help. But instead of rescuing her, Harry and Emma find Sue dead: poisoned, days after a break-in at Sue’s house. Harry resolves to find out what happened, and Emma insists on going along for the ride. Together, they discover motives and suspects abound in Harry’s quaint condominium community—putting them both in the crosshairs of a cold-blooded killer.

Delaney, Vicki. [The Devil in the Details](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

Gemma Doyle is excited about celebrating Jayne Wilson’s big day. It’s supposed to mark

not only the birthday of Jayne, her partner in crime, but also that of the Great Detective himself. Following the festivities at the Sherlock Holmes Bookshop and Emporium, Gemma heads for the Blue Water Café, the site of Jayne's party. To make things even better, Jayne's wedding is only a week away. But the much-anticipated affair quickly turns to disaster with the presence of the bride and groom's respective exes in attendance and other unruly guests. With drama at every corner, Gemma and Jayne take a break on the chilly deck overlooking the ocean when they spot the body of a party attendee floating in the water below. As Detective Ryan Ashburton takes a closer look at the guest list, Jayne's wedding is in peril, especially when it is revealed that her fiancé, Andy, is a prime suspect. With the police closing in and more lives on the line, it's up to Gemma to keep Andy from prison and save Jayne's wedding day from ruin.

Gilbert, Victoria. [A Deadly Clue](#) (Crooked Lane \$29.99)

Cameron Clewe and Jane Hunter, lovers of all things bookish, are slowly cataloging Cam's private collection of first edition books acquired from the deceased patriarch of the wealthy Stewart family. When Jane finds a note from Kimberly Stewart Ward, one of the daughters of the Stewart patriarch—who supposedly committed suicide—she discovers someone was actually targeting her with the intention of killing her. Jane and Cam decide to look into the supposedly closed case, but their investigation becomes urgent when another member of the Stewart family is found dead from a drug overdose. The victim's friends claim he'd been clean and sober for years and refuse to accept the cause of death. Believing both cases to be connected, Jane and Cam are determined to solve them

before any other direct heirs of the family are targeted.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Alban, Emma R. [Like in Love with You](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

In this sapphic Regency romance novel about rivals-to-lovers Catherine and Rosalie, who are forced into competition for the same man but find themselves falling for each other instead. Albans' latest endearing romance features witty banter, slow-burn tension, and a "Mean Girls"-esque friend group in Regency Bath, exploring themes of identity, family expectations, and finding where you belong.

Anderson, Rebecca. [Galentine's Day](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

13 February 2013. Alicia, Marnie and Hannah have their first Galentine's Day sleepover. They're eighteen, single, and the world is at their feet. Soon they'll go their separate ways after college, but they promise that every year, they'll have their sleepover. Thirteen years later, there are only two friends at the annual sleepover. Their friendships have been tested by life, by partying, breakdowns, and even by pregnancies. Are their best Galentine's Days now behind them? *Galentine's Day* is a love letter to female friendship, that celebrates messiness, real relationships, and growing up together.

Asakura, Takuya. [The Vanishing Cherry Blossom Bookshop](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Welcome to The Cherry Blossom Bookshop, a haven for book lovers that only appears during the fleeting cherry blossom season. Nestled amidst the bloom of delicate petals,

you'll find a sanctuary for those burdened by regrets and past sorrows. Here, Sakura, the mysterious young owner, and her wise calico cat, Kobako, patiently await the arrival of souls in need of solace and healing. Told over four seasons, each visitor to the bookshop holds a book that bridges their past and present, guiding them towards understanding and acceptance. Within the antique charm of the shop and the soothing aroma of freshly brewed coffee, Sakura and Kobako help their guests confront their lingering sadness through the power of stories, enabling them to move forward with renewed hope.

Balogh, Mary. [Remember that Day](#) (Penguin \$30)

Winifred Cunningham, the adopted daughter of a portrait painter, hopes that her new close friend, Owen Ware, will soon ask for her hand in marriage. But when Owen introduces Winifred to his elder brother Nicholas, the late Earl of Stratton's second son, the slow burn between them begins. Nicholas is a cavalry colonel—a hardened soldier whom Winifred at first despises. She finds him intimidating and cruel-looking, while he finds her strange and startlingly forthright. During a summer at Ravenswood, however, Nicholas and Winifred are unwillingly thrown together on several occasions, until they realize the passion that drives their disagreements is not due to dislike—it is because of attraction.

Bell, A.D. [The Bookbinder's Secret](#) (St. Martin's \$29)

Lilian ("Lily") Delaney, apprentice to a master bookbinder in Oxford in 1901, chafes at the confines of her life. She is trapped between the oppressiveness of her father's failing bookshop and still being an apprentice in a man's profession. But when she's given a burned book during a visit to a collector, she finds, hidden beneath the binding, a fifty-

year-old letter speaking of love, fortune, and murder. Lily is pulled into the mystery of the young lovers, a story of forbidden love, and discovers there are more books and more hidden pages telling their story. Lilian becomes obsessed with the story but she is not the only one looking for the remaining books and what began as a diverting intrigue quickly becomes a very dangerous pursuit. With its beautifully evoked setting and fascinating details about bookbinding, this is a rare treat for anyone who loves books!

Blum, Jenna. [Murder Your Darlings](#) (Harper-Collins \$30) SIGNED

Simone "Sam" Vetiver is a mid-career novelist finishing a lukewarm publicity tour while facing a deadline for a new book on which she's totally blocked. Recently divorced, Sam is worrying where her life is going when she receives glowing fan mail from stratospherically successful author William Corwyn, renowned for his female-centric novels. When William and Sam meet and his literary sympathy is as intense as their chemistry, both writers think they've found The One. But as in their own novels, things between Sam and William are not what they seem. William has multiple stalkers, including a scarily persistent one named The Rabbit. He lives on a remote Maine island, where his writer life resembles *The Shining*. And when writers turn up dead, including from The Darlings support group William runs, Sam has to ask: Is it The Rabbit—William's #1 Stalker? Another woman scorned? Can William be everything he seems?

Camden, Elizabeth. [Beyond the Clouds](#) (Baker \$18.99)

As teenagers, Delia Byrne and Finn Delaney fell in love while flying kites and dreaming of a future together--until betrayal tore them

apart. Now, as America enters World War I, Delia works for peace as a paralegal and pacifist. Her values forbid her from supporting the war effort, but she volunteers for a relief organization trying to save millions of lives in famine-stricken Belgium. Returning to America as a decorated war hero, Finn is eager to get back to the front but is assigned to use his fame to raise funds instead. To his surprise, this mission will bring him face-to-face with Delia, the only woman he ever loved and once hoped to marry. As their shared mission draws them together, old sparks of romance begin to stir--until duty sends them behind enemy lines in occupied Belgium. Will the greatest danger be the conflict raging around them--or the possibility of falling in love again? Camden incorporates a wealth of intriguing historical details into this sweet romance as well as a cameo character appearance of Herbert Hoover and information about his relief work in Europe during WWI.

Dapunt, Veronika. [Death and Other Occupational Hazards](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99)

Most people think that when they meet Death, it'll be a skeleton in a black potato sack. Maybe with a scythe. Truth is, she's just a woman doing a job, and she's *very* good at it. But when Death takes a much-needed break to live on earth, things start to go terribly wrong. Someone's killing people not on her list (well, not yet anyway) and it's down to her to find the culprit before it's too late. To make matters worse, her sanctimonious sister, Life – whom Death hasn't got on with in millennia – won't stop blaming her . . . And then there's the slight problem of the charming (sexy) parasitologist she's suspicious of. But she'll be fine, right? After all, who better to investigate a murder than Death herself?

Dent, Lizzy. [Drive Me Crazy](#) (Penguin \$19) As one of the first female team principles in Formula 1, Chloe Coleman is determined to prove herself and transform her failing team from underdogs to champions. Nothing can ruin her strategy—except maybe the surprising new addition of a cocky, top-tier driver who's lost his edge. And he just so happens to be her estranged childhood crush Matt Warner, who still sends her heart racing.

Emblidge, Kallie. [Two Left Feet](#) (Random \$18) British Premier League football star Oliver Harris must defend his roster spot—and his heart—when threateningly talented and handsome midfielder Leonardo Davies-Villanueva joins his team in this utterly charming debut romance, a profound love letter to the world's most popular sport. Finished with *Heated Rivalry* and looking for another terrific sports romance? Emblidge delivers all the romantic thrills!

Engel, Isabelle. [Most Eligible](#) (St. Martin's \$19) Georgia Rose is not going on the hit reality dating show *Love Shack* to find love. She's there to write a killer exposé on the producers, which will guarantee the journalism job of her dreams. But when Georgia's unforgettable one-night stand from the year before, country singer Rhett Auburn, steps into the Malibu mansion as the season's new host, all of her carefully crafted plans unravel.

Everhart, Donna. [Women of a Promiscuous Nature](#) (Kensington \$18.95)

Accused of "promiscuity" in 1940s North Carolina, a young woman unjustly incarcerated and subjected to involuntary medical treatment at The State Industrial Farm Colony for Women decides to fight back in this powerful, shockingly timely novel based on the

long-buried history of the American Plan, the government program designed to regulate women's bodies and sexuality throughout the first half of the 20th century.

Feeney, Alice. [My Husband's Wife](#) (Flatiron \$28.99) SIGNED

Eden Fox, an artist on the brink of her big break, sets off for a run before her first exhibition. When she returns to the home she recently moved into, Spyglass, an enchanting old house in Hope Falls, nothing is as it should be. Her key doesn't fit. A woman, eerily similar to her, answers the door. And her husband insists that the stranger is his wife. One house. One husband. Two women. Someone is lying.

Fishbach, Stephen. [Escape](#) (Penguin \$30) A propulsive debut novel following a has-been reality TV star and a disgraced producer who get one last shot at redemption on a show set on a remote island, only to discover that the plot twists are beyond what they ever imagined. This is written by a former two-time contestant on *Survivor*, so you must think some of the plot details were borrowed from real life.

Hawkins, Rachel. [The Storm](#) (St. Martin's \$29) SIGNED

St. Medard's Bay, Alabama is famous for three things: the deadly hurricanes that regularly sweep into town, the Rosalie Inn, a century-old hotel that's survived every one of those storms, and Lo Bailey, the local girl infamously accused of the murder of her lover, political scion Landon Fitzroy, during Hurricane Marie in 1984. When Geneva Corliss, the current owner of the Rosalie Inn, hears a writer is coming to town to research the crime that put St. Medard's Bay on the map, she's less interested in solving a whodunnit than in how

a successful true crime book might help the struggling inn's bottom line. But to her surprise, August Fletcher doesn't come to St. Medard's Bay alone. With him is none other than Lo Bailey herself. Lo says she's returned to her hometown to clear her name once and for all, but the closer Geneva gets to both Lo and August, the more she wonders if Lo is actually back to settle old scores. All the pieces click neatly into place in Hawkins' latest completely captivating take on the gothic.

Kantra, Virginia. [Anne of a Different Island](#) (Penguin \$19)

Anne Gallagher has always lived by the book. *Anne of Green Gables*, that is. Growing up on Mackinac Island, she saw herself as her namesake: the same impulsive charm, the same wild imagination, even the same red hair (dyed, but still). She followed in Anne Shirley's fictional footsteps, chasing dreams of teaching and writing, and falling for her very own storybook hero. But when a string of real-life plot twists—a failing romance, a fight with the administration, and the sudden death of her beloved father—pulls her back to the island she once couldn't wait to leave, Anne is forced to face a truth no story ever prepared her for. Sometimes, life doesn't follow a script.

Marr, Melissa. [Greta Gets the Girl](#) (TOR \$19.99)

NY publishing is Greta Clayborne's life, and she's on a high since she edited a hot new series that was just adapted for television. In her career, everything is on track. On her relationship front, however, there have been no relationships since she had her heart broken. Now in an effort to shake things up romantically, Greta tries a dating app, Sappho's Kiss Society, hoping

to make a casual connection. Greta's hook-up with tattooed, taciturn Kaelee was just supposed to be a temporary thing until the two women discover that they both want more. Then Kaelee walks into a meeting with her new editor only to find out it is Greta!

Mccollum, Alexandra. [Into the Midnight Wood](#) (Penguin \$19)

A whimsical queer romance about two mismatched roommates Meredith Schwarzwelder and David Carew, whose fragile—and definitely not romantic *at all*—balance is upended by an impending family wedding and an otherworldly danger in the nearby enchanted wood.

Meyers, Celina. [Hollow](#) (Hanover Square \$30)

Mia Adair isn't even twenty-five yet, but she's starting to wonder if her peak has already passed. She's spent years working at her local bookstore, a job that was supposed to be temporary. As a kid, she experienced a strange sort of fame within the paranormal community thanks to her inclusion in a book that revealed Mia's ability to talk with the dead. But that was then, and Mia's "gift" dried up once adolescence set in. These days, she feels like she's nobody special. Until she dies in a tragic car crash and reawakens as a vampire.

Moke, Jenny Elder. [Cross Your Heart and Hope He Dies](#) (St. Martin's \$19)

Juliette Winters is used to taking care of business alone. She has no time for petty things like romance, friendships, or emotional commitments. She's too busy dominating the publishing world by single-handedly saving her company from

financial ruin with the book deal of the century. Business magnate Warren Ellingham has guaranteed Juliette exclusive rights to his explosive memoir that promises to expose the secrets of his ultra-exclusive country club, Pacific Pines. But when Warren drops dead of an apparent heart attack and the memoir is stolen, Juliette suspects that someone was willing to resort to murder to keep their secrets from being exposed. Enlisting the help of Charlie Hawkins, a doctor with a heart of gold and abs of steel, Juliette dives into the glamorous and messy world of Pacific Pines Country Club in search of a killer.

Mooreman, Jennifer. [The Charmed Library](#) (Harper Muse \$18.99)

Like many other public libraries, the one in Blue Skye Valley, North Carolina, is a haven for readers. But it's also unlike any other. In this library, fictional characters step off the page into real life. Assistant librarian Stella Parker has no idea this is happening. Still reeling from her father's death and a more recent breakup, she just hasn't noticed anything unusual. All Stella knows is she is stuck in a job she is overqualified for and stumped about what to do with her life. All this changes after Stella burns her beloved journal, and strange characters begin appearing in the library after hours. Characters like Jack Mathis, the hero from her favorite book.

Osler, Rob. [The Case of the Murdered Muckraker](#) (Kensington \$27) SIGNED

In the midst of the Progressive Era, twenty-one-year-old junior detective Harriet Morrow is determined to prove she's more than a lucky hire as the Prescott Agency's first woman operative. But her latest challenge—a murder case steeped in scandal—could become a deadly setback. The mystery has

more twists and turns than her morning bike commute, with a muckraker found murdered in a southside tenement building after obtaining evidence of a powerful politician's corruption. While Harriet gains the trust of the tenement's women residents to gather clues, the undercover mission reveals an innocent mother might have been framed for the crime—and exposes ties to another violent death. Osler deftly immerses the reader in Chicago in the 1890s in this sterling historical mystery series.

Phillips, Susan Elizabeth. [And the Crowd](#)

[Went Wild](#) (HarperCollins \$30) SIGNED

After a mortifying—and very public—humiliation, Dancy Flynn is desperate to find sanctuary far from the crowd. But where can a washed-up sex symbol hide? How about making an unannounced appearance at the secluded lake house of Chicago Stars quarterback Clint Garrett, the sweet, sensitive high school boyfriend she hasn't seen in almost twenty years?

Phillips, who pretty much invented the idea of "sports romances," is back with another exceptionally entertaining entry in her Chicago Stars books. Readers will come for the sweet and sexy second chance romance storyline and then stay for Phillips flair for crafting compelling characters and snappy writing imbued with an abundance of comic charm.

Quirk, Matthew. [The Method](#) (HarperCollins \$32) SIGNED

Actress Anna Vaughn likes to believe she is as tough as the characters she plays on screen, but off-camera she leads a far quieter life: trying to keep her acting career alive so she can take care of her younger sister. However, when her best friend Natalie, her rock, disappears after a night out with a mysterious new man, the signs point to foul play and a circle of spies operating in Manhattan. Anna must

use all the tricks she's learned for her roles to hunt for her missing friend.

Rose, Heather. [A Great Act of Love](#) (Simon and Schuster \$29)

Van Diemen's Land, 1839. A young woman of means arrives in Hobart, Australia, with a boy in her care. Leasing an old cottage next to an abandoned vineyard, Caroline Douglas must navigate an insular colony of exiles and opportunists and invent a new life on this island of extreme seasons and wild beauty. But Caroline is carrying a secret of such magnitude that it has led her to cross the world. It will take all she is made of to bring it into the light. *A Great Act of Love* is a spellbinding story that soars from the French Revolution to London and New York on an epic voyage to Tasmania. Here is a story of a family with champagne in their blood, and an enterprising woman determined to rewrite their legacy. The lives of Caroline, her father, and the residents of the island will collide in devastating and profound ways.

Ross, Harper. [The Unwritten Rules of Magic](#) (St. Martin's \$28)

Emerson Clarke can't remember a time when she felt in control. Her father—a celebrated author—was a chaotic force until he got Alzheimer's. Her mother turned to gin. And recently, her teen daughter has shut her out without explanation. If only she could arrange reality the same way she controls the stories she ghostwrites, life could be perfect. Or so she thinks. After her father's funeral, Emerson steals his vintage typewriter—the one he'd forbidden anyone to touch—and tests its keys by typing out a frivolous wish. When it comes true the very next day, she tries another. Then, those words also spring to life. Suddenly, she becomes obsessed with using the typewriter to rewrite happiness for herself and her daughter. But the more she

shapes her real-life, the more she uncovers disturbing truths about her family's history and the unexpected cost of every story-come-true. She should destroy the typewriter, yet when her daughter's secret finally emerges, Emerson is torn between paying the price for bending fate and embracing the uncertainty of an unscripted life.

Saab, Gabriella. [The Star Society](#) (Harper Muse \$18.99)

Actress Ada Worthington-Fox has discarded the life she left in war-torn Arnhem, where she worked for the Dutch resistance before Gestapo imprisonment prompted her to flee after being released. But Ada is thrust back into that life when Ingrid – the sister she believed to be dead – shows up on her doorstep. Inspired by the indomitable spirit of Audrey Hepburn, this gripping story follows two extraordinary sisters as they reunite after World War II, embarking on a journey of justice, survival, and secrets amid the backdrop of the Red Scare in Hollywood.

San Andres, Lydia. [Only Friends](#) (Atria \$18) After being fired from her day job, unceremoniously ghosted, and facing a bad case of writer's block, twenty-six-year-old aspiring screenwriter Mariel Rivera is one spilled coffee away from crying on the subway. When she's rescued from a Times Square kerfuffle by a very handsome model dressed in regency costume, Mariel has no idea her life is about to change. Dashwood Bennet has been modeling for years, though recently, his current portfolio includes some more risqué shots. Dash is the answer to Mariel's prayers in more ways than one. First, he saved her from an unruly mob. Second, he's the perfect person to play the Duke of Harding, a character she's created that captured her attention and won't let go. Third, he's more than game to be the face of her spicy historical shorts.

And last but not least, he's her perfect partner both in business and in the bedroom. But being work-partners-with-benefits can complicate things. Will their partnership survive or are Mariel and Dash doomed to not have their happily ever after?

Segura, Jo. [The Lust Crusade](#) (Penguin \$19) Daniela Gutierrez has been in love with her brother's best friend for as long as she can remember—until he went missing a year ago during an archaeological expedition. But on a solo trip to Greece, the intrepid librarian discovers that Theo is very much alive, although judging by the criminals holding him hostage, he is *not* doing well. An expert in Ancient Greek archaeology, Dr. Theo Galanis has been abducted by artifact smugglers in search of a priceless gemstone—the Eye of the Minotaur. This ridiculous assignment was supposed to get Dani *out* of his system, not keep her tied up next to him. But when a little white lie spirals into his captors believing Theo and Dani are engaged, they must utilize her research skills and his expertise to solve the centuries' old Minoan mystery, all while feigning a romance to keep each other alive.

Snow, Sookie. [Chef's Kiss at the Chalet](#) (Pan Macmillan \$18.99)

When Eleanor Evans lands a spot at London's most prestigious culinary school, her dreams finally feel within reach. Desperate to scrape together the cash for her tuition, she accepts a last-minute agency position as a chalet girl, which whisks her away to Maplewood Creek, a quaint, snow-kissed town nestled in the Rocky Mountains of Colorado. Hired by the affluent Hawthorne family, Elle finds herself in a world of wealth, luxury and big egos, far removed from her humdrum everyday life. As she navigates the challenges of her new job, mastering gourmet dishes and catering to the whims of her discerning employers,

she realizes there's something she hadn't accounted for: Charles Hawthorne, the family's charming and undeniably sexy eldest son.

St. James, Simone. [A Box Full of Darkness](#) (Penguin \$30)

Strange things happen in Fell, New York. A mysterious drowning at the town's roadside motel. The unexplained death of a young girl whose body is left by the railroad tracks. For the Esmie siblings—Violet, Vail, and Dodie—the final straw was the shocking disappearance of their little brother. It started as a normal game of hide-and-seek. The three closed their eyes and counted to ten while Ben went to hide. But this time, they never found their brother—he was gone and the ongoing search efforts turned up no clues. As their parents grew increasingly distant, Violet, Vail, and Dodie were each haunted by visions and frightening events that made them leave town and never look back. Now after two decades running from their past, it's time for a homecoming. Because Ben is back, and he's ready to lead them to the answers they've longed for and long feared. St. James has mastered the ability to craft a chillingly spooky, marvelously suspenseful story without the need for any graphic gore. Combine this with a subtle but deliciously sharp sense of humor, and you have a book that will keep you up long past your normal bedtime.

Tureaud, Maria. [This House Will Feed](#) (Kensington \$28)

Amidst the devastation of Ireland's Great Famine, a young woman is salvaged from certain death when offered a mysterious position at a remote manor house haunted by a strange power and the horror of her own memories in this chillingly evocative historical novel braided with gothic horror and supernatural suspense.

Underhill, Edward. [The In-Between Book-store](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

When Darby finds himself unemployed and in need of a fresh start, he moves back to the small Illinois town he left behind. But Oak Falls has changed almost as much as he has since he left. One thing is familiar: In Between Books, Darby's refuge growing up and eventual high school job. When he walks into the bookstore now, Darby feels an eerie sense of *déjà vu*—everything is *exactly* the same. Even the newspapers are dated 2009. And behind the register is a teen who looks a lot like Darby did at sixteen. . . who just might give Darby the opportunity to change his own present for the better—if he can figure out how before his connection to the past vanishes forever.

Wan, Sophie. [Women of Good Fortune](#) (Park Row \$18.99)

Bride-to-be Lulu is set to marry Shanghai's most eligible bachelor, but her two best friends know the truth: she's only marrying him to fix her family's financial issues. So together they have devised a plan to turn her upcoming nuptials into an opportunity. The wedding will be the social event of the season, lavish and over the top, but the three women's focus will be on one thing: the red envelopes filled with cash gifts, stored in an elaborate safe at the center of the ballroom. More than enough money to get Lulu out of the marriage and transform all their lives. With the help of a mysterious luxury goods counterfeiter and a snarky getaway driver, the women set in motion a brilliant scheme to lift all the red envelopes on the big day, all the while dodging nosy mothers-in-law and trying not to fall in love with unsuspecting accomplices. But as their plot grows increasingly complicated and relationships are caught in the cross fire, they're forced to

decide what they're willing to give up to get their way.

Williams, Nikesha Elise. [The Seven Daughters of Dupree](#) (Gallery \$30)

It's 1995, and fourteen-year-old Tati is determined to uncover the identity of her father. But her mother, Nadia, keeps her secrets close, while her grandmother Gladys remains silent about the family's past, including why she left Land's End, Alabama, in 1953. As Tati digs deeper, she uncovers a legacy of family secrets, where every generation of Dupree women has posed more questions than answers. From Jubi in 1917, whose attempt to pass for white ends when she gives birth to Ruby; to Ruby's fiery lust for Sampson in 1934 that leads to a baby of her own; to the night in 1980 that changed Nadia's future forever, the Dupree women carry the weight of their heritage. Bound by a mysterious malediction that means they will only give birth to daughters, the Dupree women confront a legacy of pain, resilience, and survival that began with an enslaved ancestor who risked everything for freedom.

Wright, Elle. [The Ex Dilemma](#) (Kensington \$18.99)

Wesley Batchelor is desperate for an image reboot—stat. A mysterious social media influencer keeps revealing his many reckless romantic liaisons, putting everything Wesley has worked so hard for at stake. Worse, he's in deep trouble with his grandmother and Batchelor Enterprises boss, Joyce, his one and only true cheerleader. So he's stunned and relieved when his gorgeous ex, private detective Albany Keyes, is recruited to track down the leaker. All Wes has to do is keep a cool-headed professional distance. Easy, right? Until the incendiary passion between him and Albany suddenly reignites. And he realizes he wants more from her—just like

always.

Winstead, Ashley. [The Future Saints](#) (Atria \$29)

When record executive Theo meets the Future Saints, they're bombing at a dive bar in their hometown. Since the tragic death of their manager, the band has been in a downward spiral and Theo has been dispatched to coax a new—and successful—album out of them, or else let them go. Immediately, Theo is struck by Hannah, the group's impetuous lead singer, who's gone off script by debuting a whole new sound, replacing their California pop with gut-wrenching rosseven dack. When this new music goes viral, striking an unexpected chord with fans, Theo puts his career on the line to give the Saints one last shot at success with a new tour, new record, and new start. A terrific novel about the music industry combined with a emotionally engaging, enemies-to-lovers romance, as well as a thoughtful exploration about grief.

Nonfiction

Braude, Mark. [The Typewriter and the Guillotine](#) (Grand Central \$32.50)

In 1925, the Indianapolis-born Janet Flanner took an assignment to write a regular 'Letter from Paris' for a lighthearted humor magazine called *The New Yorker*. She'd come to Paris to with dreams of writing about "Beauty with a Capital B." Her employer, self-consciously apolitical, sought only breezy reports on French art and culture. But as she woke to the frightening signs of rising extremism, economic turmoil, and widespread discontent in Europe, Flanner ignored her editor's directives, reinventing herself, her assign-

ment, and *The New Yorker* in the process. While working tirelessly to alert American readers to the dangers of the Third Reich, Flanner became gripped by the disturbing crimes of a man who embodied all of the darkness she was being forced to confront. Eugen Weidmann, a German con-man and murderer, and the last man to be publicly executed in France—mere weeks before the outbreak of WWII. Flanner covered his crimes, capture, and highly politicized trial, seeing the case as a metaphor for understanding the tumultuous years through which she'd just passed and to prepare herself for the dangers to come.

Curran, John. [The Murder Game](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

With books flourishing in the 1920s and '30s like never before, no genre was more innovative or popular than detective fiction. It was an era that saw the emergence of Agatha Christie, Dorothy L. Sayers, John Dickson Carr, Ellery Queen and dozens of other authors who became household names for a generation of readers. The Golden Age of Detection has enjoyed a great resurgence of interest in recent years, with publishers mining back catalogues to bring the best of yesteryear to very receptive new audiences. What is it about a literary movement that took off in the 1920s that still appeals to book lovers in the 2020s? In this authoritative new study, John Curran reveals that it is the ludic qualities of classic crime fiction that continue to intrigue. At its heart is the 'whodunit' game between writer and reader, but there is also the game between detective and murderer, between publisher and book-buyer, even between the writers themselves.

Duffy, Chris. [Humor Me](#) (Knopf \$29)
In his days as an exhausted fifth grade teacher, Chris Duffy taught the funniest person

he's ever met: eleven-year-old Gary. Gary was the school newspaper's official food critic, blasting cafeteria pizza for looking like cardboard and opining that the baked beans weren't "beany" enough. These days, Duffy is a professional comedy writer and the host of a podcast with millions of listeners, but he's never forgotten the transformative joy of laughing with Gary during a bleak Boston winter. In *Humor Me*, he shares a road map for how to cultivate and strengthen a sense of humor in a challenging world.

Feldman, Gayle. [Nothing Random](#) (Random \$40)

At midcentury, everyone knew Bennett Cerf: witty, beloved, middle-aged panelist on *What's My Line?* whom TV brought into America's homes each week. But they didn't know that the handsome, driven, paradoxical young man of the 1920s had vowed to become a great publisher and, a decade later, was. By then, he'd signed Eugene O'Neill, Gertrude Stein, and William Faulkner, and had fought the landmark censorship case that gave Americans the freedom to read James Joyce's *Ulysses*. Using interviews with more than two hundred individuals, deeply researched archival material, and letters from private collections not previously available, this book brings Bennett Cerf to vibrant life, drawing book lovers into his world, finally laying open the page on a quintessential American original.

Sancton, Julian. [Neptune's Fortune](#) (Crown \$33)

Roger Dooley wasn't looking for the San José. But an accidental discovery in the dusty stacks of a Spanish archive led him to the story of a lifetime, the tale of a great eighteenth-century treasure ship loaded with riches from the New World and destined for Spain. But that ship, the galleon San

José, met a darker fate. It was drawn into a pitched battle with British ships of war off the coast of Cartagena, and when the smoke cleared, the San José and its bounty had disappeared into the ocean, its coordinates lost to time. Though a diver at heart, Dooley was an unlikely candidate to find the San José. He had little in the way of serious credentials, yet his tenacity and single-minded devotion to finding and excavating the ship powered him across four decades, even as he became a man in exile from the country of his birth. As Dooley jostled with famous treasure hunters and well-funded competitors, he slowly homed in on a patch of sea that might contain a three-hundred-year-old shipwreck—or nothing at all. *Neptune's Fortune* is a thrilling adventure, taking readers from great naval battles on the high seas to the sun-soaked shores that nurtured history's most notorious treasure hunters, to the archives that held the secret keys to lost fortune on the ocean floor.

Suchet, David. [Travels with Agatha Christie](#)
(Hachette \$28)

In *Travels with Agatha Christie*, the celebrated Poirot actor replicates an international expedition which Agatha Christie undertook herself in the 1920s. Traveling to the stunning landscapes of Canada, Hawaii, South Africa, New Zealand and Australia, David offers candid reflections on his visits, told with his trademark charm and warmth, along with an astounding collection of his own extraordinary photography.