

# Midmonth BookNotes

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## Spring Into Reading

### Cozy Corner

Brinkworth, J.D. [The Pie & Mash Detective Agency](#) (Penguin \$19)

Having just lost their jobs, Jane Pye and Simon Mash are a millennial couple with a little extra time on their hands. So, they sign up for a private detective class on a whim. Their instructor, having a feeling his two worst students don't have a chance of solving anything beyond finding the classroom, assigns them the case of Nellie Thorne, a woman recently reported missing. But she's not the first Nellie Thorne to disappear. In fact, she's the fifth in fifty years. Jane and Simon set out to solve the case, armed with just a few days of notes, matching trench coats, and a feeling they should have enrolled in a different class.

Childs, Laura. [Death at a Firefly Tea](#) (Penguin \$30)

As fireflies dazzle like tiny glowing lanterns, tea maven Theodosia hosts an elegant eve-

ning tea on the patio of the Tangled Rose B and B. But in this gentle darkness an intruder has made their way in and slipped deadly drugs into the baked Alaska of Mrs. Van Courtland, one of Charleston's local grande dames. Shocked by this brazen act, urged on by Mrs. V's grieving son, Theodosia begins her own shadow investigation only to find herself at odds with a greedy developer, the questionable residents of Honey Badger House, a vengeful ex-daughter-in-law, ne'er do well relatives, and a housekeeper who knows all the secrets.

Hackney, Stacy. [The Primrose Murder Society](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

After her husband went to jail for white-collar crime, Lila Shaw is broke, friendless, and losing her house—and to make things worse, her true-crime-obsessed daughter, Bea, was just expelled from fourth grade. Desperate for a fresh start, Lila agrees to temporarily move in and clean out an abandoned junk-filled apartment in Richmond's palatial Primrose building. Soon after Lila's arrival, the Primrose is thrown into chaos. The owner of the building's splen-

did penthouse has died and in his final days he set up a two-million-dollar reward for any resident who helps to solve the 21-year-old murder of his granddaughter at the Primrose. A fan of all detective stories and true-crime podcasts, Bea convinces Lila to help her investigate. After all, Lila is certain the killer is long-gone after all these years anyway. That is, until another resident is murdered... and Lila becomes the prime suspect.

Phillips, Rob. [Stakeouts and Strollers](#) (St. Martin's \$28)

Charlie Shaw is low on sleep. And cash. Otherwise, life is going pretty well for the ex-crime reporter: he's happily married to his college sweetheart, he's a first-time dad to the most adorable baby girl in existence, and he's making ends meet as a rookie PI. But when Charlie meets Friday Finley, a frightened sixteen-year-old runaway on a stakeout-gone-wrong, his world gets a little more complicated.

Friday is looking for her estranged father Shawn, an unreliable alcoholic who left when she was young—and who also happens to be her only shot at avoiding the foster care system since her mother's death a few weeks earlier. At first, Charlie believes the man is simply hiding out somewhere, avoiding his responsibilities as usual, but the more he investigates, the more unsettling—and dangerous—Shawn's disappearance becomes.

Riches, Marnie. [The Gardeners' Club](#) (Pegasus \$28.95)

Pushing herself to "get out there," Gill Swanley picks up a pair of secateurs and joins the Bromley Botanists. Here she finds a seven-strong group whose main agenda is how to win the coveted Golden Trowel for best community club of the year. But when a dead body turns up in the community greenhouse, they suddenly have more serious matters to consider than victory. They must uncover

whether their arch-rivals, Croydon, are taking things to another level or whether someone more dangerous is targeting their rag tag group. Can the Bromley Botanists dig up the truth before someone else is left pushing up the daisies?

## Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Barker, Joanna. [A Love Most Daring](#) (Shadow Mountain \$18.99)

After years of whispered gossip and quiet exile in the countryside, Beatrice Lacey arrives in London determined to reclaim her life. But her resolve is shaken when she witnesses a horrific attack tied to a chilling high-profile murder case gripping the city. Thrust into sudden danger, Beatrice finds herself under the reluctant protection of Alexander Rawlings—a brooding Bow Street officer with a guarded heart and a fierce sense of duty. Though it's clear he'd rather be chasing the killer than shielding a scandal-stained Society miss, their forced closeness begins to unravel his defenses. In the unnerving moments between danger and discovery, every sharp exchange and lingering glance fans a slow-burning connection—one neither of them expected and neither can resist.

Bastone, Cara. [No Matter What](#) (Random \$19)

Roz and Vin can't look each other in the eyes anymore, let alone share a bed. It's been a year since they survived a life-altering accident, and their marriage hasn't been the same. But Roz has held out hope that they can fix things, until she discovers Vin has signed a new lease. So she does what any soon-to-be-divorced Manhattanite would do: sign up for

a figure-drawing class. Between Roz's determined attempts to improve her artistic skills and her adventures with her best friend, Raffi, she can almost ignore Vin's impending move-out date and his footsteps in their previously unoccupied guest room. But it would all be a lot easier if Vin wasn't Raffi's older brother, and if she didn't still find him incredibly, debilitatingly attractive and kind.

Benedict, Marie. [Daughter of Egypt](#) (St. Martin's \$29) SIGNED

In the 1920s, archeologist Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon of Highclere Castle made headlines around the world with the discovery of the treasure-filled tomb of the boy Pharaoh Tutankhamun. But behind it all stood Lady Evelyn Herbert—daughter of Lord Carnarvon—whose daring spirit and relentless curiosity made the momentous find possible. Nearly 3,000 years earlier, another woman defied the expectations of her time: Hatshepsut, Egypt's lost pharaoh. Her reign was bold, visionary—and nearly erased from history. When Evelyn becomes obsessed with finding Hatshepsut's secret tomb, she risks everything to uncover the truth about her reign and keep valued artifacts in Egypt, their rightful home. But as danger closes in and political tensions rise, she must make an impossible choice: protect her father's legacy—or forge her own.

Bowen, Elizabeth. [The Hotel](#) (Union Square \$17.99)

Sydney Warren is a young, rebellious woman in her twenties, uninterested in marriage and a puzzle to her friends and family. She becomes infatuated with Mrs. Kerr, an older and very beautiful widow—and the two women's close friendship swiftly becomes the subject of gossip at the hotel. But when Mrs. Kerr's young son arrives to visit his mother, the balance of Sydney and Mrs. Kerr's relationship is upset: a drama that plays out in front of an ar-

ray of delightful, fascinating minor characters. Originally published in 1927, Elizabeth Bowen's *The Hotel* is a debut novel that explores social and emotional relationships and one young woman's coming-of-age.

Bromley, Kate. [In My Tudor Era](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

One moment, Lily's just your average 21st-century woman, the next, she's stuck in the body of Catherine Howard, soon-to-be King Henry VIII's doomed fifth wife... Yep, the one who gets beheaded. Surprise! Not only is Lily now stranded in Tudor England, but she's also juggling a whole host of problems like, say, dodging royal executioners; dealing with the *seriously* touchy and smoldering courtier Francis Dereham (who may or may not be her *actual* husband); and falling head over heels for Henry's flirtatious, *incredibly* sexy, and devilishly handsome court groom. So what's a girl to do when she's stuck between two hot guys, an entire court full of rumors, and a dangerously short timeline before her head ends up on a chopping block?

Broom, Izzy. [The House of Hidden Letters](#) (Penguin \$30)

When she wins a lottery to buy a run-down cottage on a Greek island for only one euro, Skye MacKinnon jumps at the chance to get out of England and start over. As she unlocks the tattered blue door of her whitewashed new cottage, the sun-kissed sea glinting in the bay outside her windows, Skye immediately feels like she's found her true home. Skye and the other lottery winners—the first residents in these houses since the 1940s—form a tight-knit group, finding in one another the strong relationships they'd been missing in their own lives. When Skye and local contractor Andreas find a set of mysterious letters, they begin to unravel the history of the prior residents, and the truth about life on Folegandros during

World War II.

Carlyle, Christy. [The Scoundrel and the Siren](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

Dominic Prince is passionate, tenacious, and determined to carve out a legendary name for himself—just like his famous treasure-hunting father. When an American tycoon funds his expedition to uncover a Viking hoard in Norfolk and ship it across the Atlantic, Dominic sees his chance to claim glory. Tess Hawthorne doesn't quite know what to make of the entirely too handsome scoundrel who shows up in her village seeking the very treasure she's been hoping to find all her life. When Dominic asks to employ her knowledge and familiarity with the locals to assist on the dig, she accepts. But she doesn't want whatever treasure they find to leave England, and she certainly doesn't want to lose her heart to the man determined to claim it.

Couch, Robbie. [Bloom](#) (Gallery \$28)

Morris Warner is withering away. After the sudden death of his husband, Fred, he has shut himself off from the world. No more going to movies with friends, or swims in Lake Michigan, instead preferring the quiet loneliness of his history books and Jeopardy episodes with only the cat to hear his answers. Jade is drying out. Literally. As a plant in Morris's home, she and her plant housemates have been slowly wasting away, leaf by falling leaf, since Fred's death and Morris's lack of care. She needs to come up with a plan to make her new owner come back to life, no matter what it takes. A delightful and heart-warming novel about family, love, grief, and one precocious houseplant.

Dallas, Sandra. [The Hired Man](#) (St. Martin's \$28)

1937. It's been seven years since the dust storms started in Colorado. Folks can barely

remember a time when the clouds were filled with rain instead of dirt, and when the fields were green instead of brown. High school student Martha Helen Kessler and her family are luckier than most; they still eke out a living from the land. When Martha Helen's compassionate mother insists they take in Otis Hobbs, a handsome drifter who saves a local boy from a vicious storm, she quickly discovers a darker side to their rural community. Suspicion, jealousy, and prejudice grip their neighbors – and emotions reach a frenzy after Martha Helen's best friend, Frankie, disappears and is then found murdered. Ultimately, Martha Helen is forced to make sense of her conflicting feelings and loyalties in order to help find retribution and to reconcile the difference between the law and justice.

DeStefano, Ren. [A Lie for a Lie](#) (Penguin \$19)

Margaux leads a double life that would make most people dizzy. By day, she's a seemingly ordinary interior decorator with a picture-perfect marriage. By night, she works for a mysterious employer known only as Mr. X. Her specialty: infiltrating the lives of dangerous targets, gaining their trust, and ultimately exposing their crimes. Her latest assignment: unraveling the reclusive life of Bertram Casimir, a billionaire tech CEO whose career is as mysterious as his past. His sister claims he stole her app to build his fortune. Not only that, his girlfriend may or may not have recently gone missing.

Dickerson, Melanie. [The Good Fortune of Miss Robbins](#) (Baker \$18.99)

Charlotte Robbins accepts a governess position for the Earl of Brookhaven's siblings despite rumors of the earl's severe and mysterious demeanor. As a lowly governess, Charlotte entertains thoughts of possible romance with an eligible servant until she does fall unexpectedly in love—with the pensive earl himself.

But love does not mean a match is possible, and the earl's friends warn Charlotte that if he were to fall for her, it would ruin him. Just as Charlotte resigns herself to the impossibility of her feelings, she receives news that she has inherited a fortune from a long-lost relative. Now thrust into London high society, Charlotte grapples with suitors vying for her attention, but her heart still belongs to the Earl of Brookhaven.

Dugan, Jennifer. [Anderson in Bloom](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

From the author of *Love at First Set*, a hilariously sexy enemies-to-lovers, second-chance rom-com about Anderson "Andy" Duchame, a reclusive former child star turned florist whose quiet life is turned upside down when her annoyingly hot ex (and former costar) shows up in town, with plans to write a tell-all memoir.

Easton, Lily. [Summer of Love](#) (DK \$17)

For boxer Declan King, his performance on the UK's #1 reality dating show, *Summer of Love*, will be the hardest of his life. Millions are watching his dates with bikini-clad bombshells as he compete to win, but he's rapidly losing his heart to the one person he shouldn't want. Oliver Wright, a ballet dancer, needs the prize money to move to New York to get his ex-girlfriend back. But when his and Declan's on-screen bromance leads to a behind-the-scenes kiss, they can no longer deny their attraction to one another. With meddling producers, fame-hungry co-stars and viewers watching their every move, they must decide what they are willing to give up to live in the public eye, even if it means each other.

Etcheves, Florencia. [Frida's Cook](#) (Atria \$29)

Mexico City, 1939: Young and determined Nayeli Cruz flees from her Oaxaca home to arrive in Mexico City with neither friends

nor prospects. Alone and armed only with her sharp wit and extraordinary talent in the kitchen, she finds herself in front of La Caza Azul, the home of Frida Kahlo. As she begins work as the artist's cook, Nayeli is pulled into Frida's world of pain, passion, and defiance. But it isn't long before amid the vibrant tapestry of flavors, scents, and colors, the two women form a deep bond—one that will shape the course of Nayeli's life and leave behind a secret buried in art. Buenos Aires, Present Day: Paloma, Nayeli's granddaughter, stumbles upon a mysterious painting depicting her grandmother as a young woman. The artist's identity is unknown, but the artwork's existence threatens to unravel long-held family secrets. As Paloma delves into her grandmother's past, she uncovers a tale of passion, betrayal, and resilience that challenges everything she thought she knew about the one woman who raised her.

Everett, Elizabeth. [Magic & Mischief at the Wayside Hotel](#) (Penguin \$19)

Manager of the Number Five Wayside Inn and World Travel Hub, Pax Nomen has one of the easiest jobs in all the known universes, unless you count the occasional plumbing disaster. However, when Number Five Wayside gets stranded on a non-magical world, even Pax's trusty Wayside Handbook can't help him. How is he going to "reboot" the hotel and keep it on its magical journey? Josie LaChusia is a single mom experiencing debt, having parenting doubts, and tipping dangerously toward depression when an ad pops up on her phone that an apartment is available in a building she's never seen before. Pax needs a new guest to restart his hotel, and Josie needs a nudge to restart her life. In a building occupied by faeries, gargoyles, and a gnome with a bad attitude, two souls from very different places come together to create a home like no

other.

Gilmore, Olesya Salinkova. [The Fortune Tellers of Rue Daru](#) (Penguin \$30)

Spirited Zina and her secretive grandmother, Baba Valya, own a tearoom on rue Daru in Paris, where they have lived quietly since Zina's mother's untimely death. By day, the women serve tea, mostly to members of the bustling Russian émigré community, but when dusk falls, they divine fortunes and perform séances for their loyal clientele. Then the charming Princess Olga and her brother arrive, searching for knowledge about the disappearance of their father, the exiled Grand Duke, cousin of the last Tsar of Russia. Zina, eager to learn more about the spirit world and her powers, performs the séance. She is able to summon the Grand Duke, but to her horror, he starts to haunt the shop, and he seems to know something sinister about her mother's death. A fascinating glimpse into the Russian émigré community in 1920s Paris.

Goo, Maurene. [One & Only](#) (Penguin \$30)

Cassia Park believes in soul mates. It's her family business, after all—for centuries, from Korea to Los Angeles, Park women have peered into clients' past lives to find their one true love. This magical secret is why One & Only Matchmaking has a 100% guarantee...for everyone but Cassia. For ten years, Cass has been searching for her fated, a man named Daniel Nam. But he's still nowhere to be found. And so, on the eve of her 40th birthday, Cass decides to do something for herself. She impulsively has a fling with Ellis. He's twenty-eight, indecently handsome, and not destined to be the love of her life. But she's surprised by their connection and their fling feels like something more—up to the moment he introduces her to his boss...Daniel Nam.

Hall, Lori Inglis. [The Shock of the Light](#) (Penguin \$30)

Twins Tessa and Theo are roots of the same tree, in tune with one another's every thought and desire. As World War II takes hold across Europe, both are eager to do their part. Theo is recruited by the RAF and disappears into the skies, while Tessa jumps at the chance to join the Special Operations Executive, devoted to spying and sabotage behind enemy lines. Two years later, Theo comes home. Tessa does not. Theo, wounded, broken by the loss of his fellows and disappearance of his sister, is indefatigable, angry, and driven. Decades later, PhD candidate Edie is deep into her research on the Special Operations Executive during the war. When she finds Theo in London, they form an unlikely partnership, and together they will try to uncover the truth about Theo's beloved sister—and the one secret she never told him.

Hamilton, Linda. [The Fourth Wife](#) (Kensington \$18.95)

*The Hacienda* by Isabel Cañas meets “Sister Wives” in a deliciously chilling, darkly romantic, historical gothic horror with a feminist slant, as a young Mormon woman is haunted by a malevolent presence in the decrepit Salt Lake City mansion she shares with her new husband and his other wives.

Hewlett, Rosie. [Sweetbitter Song](#) (Sourcebooks \$17.99)

Perfect for fans of *The Song of Achilles* and from the award-winning author of *The Witch of Colchis* comes a profoundly moving story of Princess Penelope (wife of Odysseus) and slave Melantho, two women on the shores of Ithaca, in the shadows of a legendary war, who must face their own battle – one of sisterhood, survival, and a forbidden love that could destroy them both.

Hochhauser, Rachel. [Lady Tremaine](#) (St. Martin's \$29)

Twice-widowed, Lady Etheldreda Verity Isolde Tremaine Bramley is solely responsible for her two children, a priggish stepdaughter, a razor-taloned peregrine falcon, and a crumbling manor. Fierce and determined, Ethel clings to the respectability her deceased husband's title affords her, hoping it will secure her daughters' future through marriage. When a royal ball offers the chance to change everything, Ethel risks her pride in pursuit of an invitation for all three of her daughters—only to see her hopes fulfilled by the wrong one. As an engagement to the future king unfolds, Ethel discovers a sordid secret hidden in the depths of the royal family, forcing her to choose between the security she craves and the wellbeing of the stepdaughter who has rebuffed her at every turn. A brilliant reimagining of the myth of the evil stepmother at the heart of the world's most famous fairy tale.

Jimenez, Abby. [The Night We Met](#) (Grand Central \$29)

In everyone's life there is a split-second decision that can change everything. For Larissa, it came when choosing who to ride home with after a concert. That night, she had no idea she'd met the perfect man. She and Chris are great friends, co-parenting a slightly unhinged rescue Yorkie, sharing their favorite books, and judging bread (pumpnickel for the win!). For the first time amid all her side hustles to scrape by, things finally feel easy. But she didn't choose Chris to drive her home all those months ago—she went with his best friend, and he became her boyfriend. All Chris wants is for Larissa to be happy. Standing by on the sidelines is slowly killing him, but making a move would destroy someone else. How can something that feels so right be absolutely impossible?

Kosik, Alli Hoff. [Too Blessed to Stress](#) (Grand Central \$18.99)

Camryn, Savannah, Trishy, and Kristin are #blessed. As influencers at the hottest megachurch in town, Moving Word, the quartet is committed to sharing everything from modest (but on-trend!) style tips to advice on finding the godliest man possible. But behind their veneer (and veneers), the truth isn't quite so picture perfect. When Moving Word's charming leader, Pastor Kyle, and his ridiculously perfect wife, Cassidy, decide to host a lavish fundraiser to put the megachurch further on the map, Camryn, Savannah, Trishy, and Kristin find themselves knee deep in the most important event since the Last Supper. But the brighter the spotlight, the darker the shadows—and when the women discover an incendiary secret at the heart of Moving Word, they are forced to confront questions of hypocrisy, exposure, and how to wield one's power for good.

Kung, Jessen Lauren. [The Fortune Flip](#) (Grand Central \$18.99)

Hazel Yen would love to be that person who doesn't believe in bad luck. But having lost her job, her mom, her optimism, and even her dim-sum leftovers, she's sitting in a fortune teller's booth, desperate for a sign—any sign—that her luck might change. Which is when fate crashes into her, disguised as Logan Wells and his utterly chaotic cat. Except after one spontaneous and mind-melting kiss, Hazel's terrible misfortune starts taking a turn for the miraculous. Money problems vanish. A new job lands in her lap. And she's crushing—hard—on the guy who started it all. Only there's a problem: Logan's luck has taken a turn for the worse. A shared lottery ticket could be just the answer they're seeking or a disaster waiting to happen. Has Hazel's fortune truly changed? And if so, could winning

at life mean losing at love?

Lehmann, Rebecca. [The Beheading Game](#) (Crown \$29)

The Beheading Game begins in the hours after Anne Boleyn's beheading, when she wakes to find herself unceremoniously laid to rest in a makeshift coffin, her head wrapped in linen at her knees. Anne escapes the Tower of London, sews her head back on, then sets out on a quest to kill Henry VIII before he can marry her own lady-in-waiting Jane Seymour. The stakes are high—if Jane gives birth to a rival heir, Anne's daughter, Elizabeth, will lose her claim to the throne. Traveling the streets of London in the guise of a commoner, with the help of a prostitute who becomes a trusted friend (and perhaps something more), Anne soon realizes how little she knew about life in the real world.

Marsh, Violet. [Miss Wick and the Duke Dilemma](#) (Grand Central \$18.99)

Eoin Aucourte, the newly minted Duke of Foxglen, always played by his grandfather's rules. But now that the old man is dead, Eoin's first decision is to track down his long-lost mother. The only problem? He'll have to visit the infamous Black Sheep Coffeehouse to begin his search. Rumor has it that the owner, Miss Hannah Wick, knows all the gossip from the dingiest St. Giles alleyways to the glittering ballrooms of Mayfair. But the whip-smart daughter of a pirate also has a way of making Eoin forget all the lessons on propriety that his grandfather ruthlessly instilled in him.

Nicole, Brittanee. [Darling Daffodils Farm](#) (Penguin \$20)

When aspiring pastry chef, Tally Darling, returns home to her family's daffodil farm, the last thing she expects to find is a hot—half-naked—farmhand living in her childhood bedroom and running her late daddy's business.

Jesse Walker might be gorgeous but he's also infuriatingly grumpy. Walker has no time for Tally and the feeling is mutual. That is, until Tally hears him moan over one of her signature salted honey cupcakes. And then discovers how good it tastes when they kiss. As dewy April days turn into warm May evenings, Walker and Tally soon realize that there is a thin line between love and hate. But will their budding connection grow into something that lasts beyond one season?

Noble, Shelley. [The Sisters of Book Row](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)

1915: Manhattan's Book Row, an eclectic jumble of forty bookshops along Fourth Avenue, is the mecca for rare book buyers from around the world, and the haunt of locals looking for a bargain. It is also the target of the most vicious censor in American history—Anthony Comstock. And home to three sisters who vow to stop him. For the three Applebaum sisters - Olivia, Daphne, and Celia - the narrow, four-storied Arcadia Rare Bookshop is the only home they've ever known. Little do her sisters know, Celia has joined a group of young people who secretly print and distribute articles on women's health by hiding them within the pages of ordinary cookbooks, household hints, and sewing patterns, despite the personal risk. Meanwhile, the Comstock Laws threaten anybody who owns or circulates "obscene, lewd, or lascivious" publications. In the face of such oppression, Celia and the booksellers of Book Row band together. But secrets and a mysterious stranger mean the fate of the famed Book Row is anything but secure.

Pataki, Allison. [It Girl](#) (Random \$30)

At the dawn of the twentieth century, New York's streets teem with change: electricity, automobiles, the brash young President Teddy Roosevelt—and the It Girls. Among these new celebrities, no one shines brighter than Ameri-

ca's sweetheart, Evelyn Talbot. A former shop-girl, Evelyn is recruited as a studio model and soon catches the eye of the preeminent artists of the age. When Broadway comes calling, Evelyn solidifies her status as the first self-made American female celebrity: the iconic Gibson Girl, the most sought-after figure and face of her time. Enter a parade of powerful and power-hungry men, from world-famous architect Stanley Pierce, the visionary behind Manhattan's mansions and iconic landmarks, to Hal Thorne, the shockingly wealthy railroad heir and premier "playboy" of high society. When Evelyn finds herself at the center of a murder of passion declared "the Crime of the Century," she is blamed for the acts of the men in her life. In the media frenzy that spirals around her, Evelyn realizes that to survive, she will have to write her own ending. But can this artists' muse turned showgirl pull off the greatest act of her life?

Reid, Andrew. [The Survivor](#) (St. Martin's \$29) Fired and walked out by security on his first day at his new job in New York City, Ben Cross thought his day couldn't get worse. But he couldn't be more wrong. Getting on the 1 train headed uptown, Ben starts receiving text messages from an anonymous killer, showing that they've already killed someone, then pointedly killing another as they got off the train to prove they aren't bluffing and to ensure Ben follows orders. But Ben wasn't picked at random—he has a history that no one is supposed to know. At the same time, A NYPD detective, Kelly Hendricks, is on punishment duty with the transit police. The first one on the scene after the first murder, she gets on the train to find out what is really going on. Switching rapidly between Cross and Hendricks, as the hijacked 1 train heads from South Ferry to 181st, the secret to the killer lies in Ben's own history—why he's been

targeted and punished." Propulsive, unpredictable, and genuinely scary, this crackerjack thriller barrels forward like a runaway train. Readers won't want it to end." (PW)

Rouse, Wade. [That's What Friends Are For](#) (Mira \$28.99)

Theodore Copeland has created a fabulous life in the desert oasis of Palm Springs, where he shares a fabulous pink mid-century home with three fabulous friends: Barry, a former actor still clinging to his youth, his hair, and the memory of the dream role that killed his career; Ron, an uprooted Christian from the Midwest with a big heart but no one to give it to; and Sid, who, after coming out late in life, has never found love. Teddy is the caustic, unspoken leader of "The Golden Gays"—the foursome's monthly drag tribute to *The Golden Girls*. Despite their foibles and bickering, they have turned their golden years into a golden era. But the harmony of their desert enclave becomes a carousel of emotional baggage when Teddy's estranged sister, Trudy, shows up on their doorstep, her dramatic teenage granddaughter in tow. While Teddy tries to keep Trudy at arm's length, she manages to wheedle her way into the lives of the Golden Gays, until the real reason for her visit is revealed and the secrets they've all been keeping from each other unravel faster than a hastily stitched hemline.

Thompson, Shalee. [How to Kill a Guy in Ten Dates](#) (Gallery \$18)

After one too many terrifying encounters, Millie Masters sets up a hotline for women who feel unsafe walking home alone at night: Message M. But very quickly she realizes that there's much more to be done to help the women who call in. Because the men just do it again the next night, and the next, and the next. And when her own sister is assaulted

on a night out, the temptation to take the law into her own hands becomes too much to resist. Because M can also stand for murder.

Thornton, J.R. [Lucien](#) (HarperCollins \$18.99)  
The son of working-class Czech immigrants, Christopher “Atlas” Novotny is a talented painter who arrives at Harvard on a full scholarship. Raised amid hardship, he is unprepared for the privileged world introduced to him by his freshman roommate, Lucien Orsini-Conti. Born to wealthy European diplomats, Lucien plays the part of the confident, sophisticated bon vivant. Where Lucien is bold and brash, Atlas is timid and introverted. Growing up a lonely outsider, Atlas is insecure, impressionable, and in awe of his brilliant roommate. But is Lucien all that he seems? Sensing a willing disciple, Lucien introduces Atlas to a glittering new world of lavish parties and elite social clubs. When Atlas struggles to afford his new lifestyle, Lucien offers a solution, convincing the naïve artist to become a forger, passing off fakes to galleries and dealers. But Lucien’s charismatic facade conceals something darker and more sinister. An elegantly seductive novel of suspense with a similar literary flavor to *The Talented Mr. Ripley*.

Walsh, Catherine. [How to Write a Love Story](#) (Penguin \$19)  
Ciara Sheridan’s father has left her with three things: a sprawling and distinctly ramshackle estate on the Irish coast, the outline for the finale to his bestselling epic fantasy series that he wanted her to finish—and writer’s block. Enter Sam Avery: Frank Sheridan fanboy and hotshot editor, sent from the New York publishing house direct to Ciara’s doorstep—red pen ready. At first, Ciara and Sam butt heads with crackling energy. But with the deadline looming, Ciara and Sam have just a few weeks to stop bickering, write this novel, and secure Frank’s legacy. As the summer heats up, so,

too, does the tension between them. Will their own love story be the plot twist neither of them see coming?

Wan, Sophie. [The Social Circle](#) (Park Row \$30)  
*The Social Network* meets *Daisy Jones & The Six* in this dual-narrative novel about a group of college friends who found a social media company in the early days of the internet, their scandalous falling out, and the 10-year anniversary exposé that forces them back together again.

Wojciechowski, [All Carry](#) (Crown \$30)  
A recently laid-off golf reporter. A down-on-his-luck caddie. And a magical set of clubs once owned by Jack Nicklaus. In this funny, feel-good novel, *New York Times* bestselling author and former ESPN reporter Gene Wojciechowski gives us a pair of unlikely champions unlike any other.

## Nonfiction

Brooks, Arthur C. [The Meaning of Your Life](#) (Penguin \$30)  
If you struggle to discern life’s meaning, you’re not alone. Millions today describe a growing sense of emptiness, a lack of purpose and significance. And there’s a reason: Rapid cultural, economic, and technological changes have rewired our brains, reducing their ability to perceive depth and purpose. In *The Meaning of Your Life*, social scientist and happiness expert Arthur C. Brooks shows you how to push back against these changes and find the meaning you need to live a happy, fulfilling life. Relying on cutting-edge science, he offers practical, evidence-based strategies for breaking free of the powerful trends and personal habits that

dull your focus on the why of your life. Drawing on the great philosophers and the world's faith traditions, he shows how everyone can—and must—approach life's most important and mysterious questions and provides a blueprint that will help even the most skeptical person find a life of spiritual transcendence, passionate love, and true calling.

Buckley, Veronica. [Seven Sisters](#) (Penguin \$38) For three centuries, the astute positioning of their many princesses and princes had kept the Habsburgs at the peak of European power. By 1764, after a generation of costly war, confronted by shaken alliances, immense debts, and restive subjects, the Empress Maria Theresia was seeking once again to assert the dynasty's power through strategic marriages. Her arsenal was full: her seven daughters were to serve as her pawns in the ruthless game of eighteenth-century dynastic politicking. Delivered to the grandest or dingiest courts in Europe, they made their difficult and even dangerous ways: Marianna the seeker; the grande dame Marie Christine; Elisabeth, the malicious, disfigured beauty; fractious and wayward Amalie of Parma; the tragic bride Josepha; Carolina of Naples, Napoleon's relentless enemy; and Antonia, youngest of the seven, sacrificial offering to the gods of revolution, better known to history as Marie Antoinette.

DuBois, Ellen Carol. [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](#) (Basic \$35) Elizabeth Cady Stanton was a singular leader, thinker, and organizer whose fight for women's emancipation stretched from the 1840s to her death in 1902, a full fifth of America's history. Yet her legacy has been marked by controversy. In this landmark biography, eminent historian Ellen Carol DuBois paints a

fresh portrait of this complex crusader whose tireless work made contemporary feminism possible.

Haskell, David George. [How Flowers Made Our World](#) (Penguin \$32)

We live on a floral planet, yet flowers don't get the credit they deserve. We admire them for their aesthetics, not their power. In this exquisite exploration of the role flowers played in creating the world we know today, David George Haskell observes, smells, and studies flowers such as magnolias, orchids, and roses, as well as fascinating but less celebrated flowers such as seagrasses and tea to show us what we've been missing.

Kutchinsky, Serena. [Kutchinsky's Egg](#) (Scribner \$30)

When she was eleven years old, Serena Kutchinsky's life changed forever. Her father Paul, who owned the high-end jewelry company the House of Kutchinsky, set out to create the world's largest jeweled egg—one to rival Fabergé's masterpieces. He succeeded, but at a ruinous price. The Argyle Library Egg was astonishing: two feet tall, made of solid gold, and dripping with pink diamonds. But when Paul was unable to secure a buyer, the House of Kutchinsky collapsed, his marriage fell apart, and he sank into a spiral of drink and drugs. Within ten years he was dead. As for the egg, it was seized by business partners and disappeared without a trace. Over time, the mystery of the egg began to eat away at Serena. Why did her father risk everything for the pursuit of this audacious dream? And where in the world was his extravagant, ill-fated creation, which had been lost for decades and was estimated to now be worth more than £30 million. Desperate for answers, she set out in search of the egg—and an elusive understanding of her late father. The journey begins in the slums of London's East End

where her great-great-grandparents arrived as Jewish immigrants from Russia—and ends in the most unexpected of places.

Lawson, Jenny. [How to Be Okay When Nothing Is Okay](#) (Penguin \$29)

Jenny Lawson is full of contradictions. She's a celebrated author but battles self-doubt, paralysis, and anxiety. She's an award-winning humorist but struggles with treatment-resistant depression. The questions people most often ask her are, "How do you do it? How do you keep going even when it feels impossible? How do you keep creating?" This book is her answer.

Lester, Melissa. [The Comfort of Books and Tea](#) (Hoffman Media \$35.95)

*The Comfort of Books & Tea: A Gentle Guide to Reading and Teatime* celebrates the beloved pairing of literature and tea through storybook settings, literary-inspired recipes, and journeys to British destinations cherished by book lovers. This beautifully curated volume from Victoria magazine offers seasonal tea blends, gathering menus, and glimpses into the homes of famous authors, creating the perfect companion for bibliophiles and tea enthusiasts alike.

McCommons, James H. [The Feather Wars](#) (St. Martin's \$33)

From the time the country was founded, early Americans assumed that the land's natural resources were infinite, including its birds, which were zealously hunted for food, game, and fashion. With the rapid extinction of the passenger pigeon—a bird once so numerous that its flocks darkened the sky in flight—many realized actions needed to be taken if other birds were to be saved. What followed was both a spiritual awakening and a great crusade to save birds and their habitat. The campaign took place on many battlefields:

society teas in Boston, hunt clubs on the East Coast, the mangroves in the Everglades, and in the editorial pages of newspapers and periodicals. From many corners of the country the bird protection movement was born and brought together a remarkable coalition of people and organizations to save America's birds.

Oppenheimer, Mark. [Judy Blume](#) (Penguin \$35)

To know the name Judy Blume is to know and love literature. Her influential novels turned classics—including *Are You There God? It's Me, Margaret*; *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*; *Deenie*; and *Summer Sisters*—touched the lives of tens of millions of readers. In *Judy Blume*, journalist, historian, and longtime Blume aficionado Mark Oppenheimer pens a beautiful, multidimensional portrait of the acclaimed author through extensive interviews with Blume herself, invaluable access to her papers and correspondence, and thoughtful analysis of Blume's beloved novels, including early, unpublished works that shed light on the path-breaking writer she would become

Stamper, Kory. [True Color](#) (Knopf \$32)

begonia (n.): 3 -s : a deep pink that is bluer, lighter, and stronger than average coral (see coral 3b), bluer than fiesta, and bluer and stronger than sweet william — called also gaiety. What could "bluer than fiesta" possibly mean? While editing dictionaries for Merriam-Webster, Kory Stamper found herself drawn again and again to the whimsical color definitions in Webster's Third New International Dictionary—especially when compared to the dry and impersonal entries that filled the rest of the volume. Stamper couldn't help but wonder: Who was the voice behind these peculiar definitions? Meet I. H. Godlove, an erratic but brilliant up-and-coming scientist who was one of the experts Merriam-Webster

hired in 1930 to help revise the dictionary to reflect a rapidly modernizing world. His fascinating life mirrors the wild and winding journey that color science, color psychology, and color production took through the twentieth century. Stamper tracks these industries as they move into the atomic age and intertwine in strange and surprising ways, spanning two world wars and involving chemical explosions, an unexpected suicide, dramatic office politics, and an extraordinary love story.

Vladic, Sara. [The Dangerous Shore](#) (HarperCollins \$42)

Throughout the Second World War, German U-boats presented a very real threat to America's eastern coastline, destroying ships, landing spies, and planning assaults on cities. With the country's attention focused on the European and Pacific fronts, the U.S. would have been left undefended, if not for a ragtag bunch of characters who rose to the occasion. Comprised of misfits, rejects, and outlaws, this motley crew came from unexpected places. Among their ranks was the stalwart Gill Robb Wilson, leader of a barnstorming corps of volunteer civilian pilots; the brilliant Dayton engineer, Joe Desch; and the nearsighted yet "clairvoyant" Kenneth Knowles, commander of the Phantom Fleet, entrusted with ULTRA intelligence. Meanwhile, the cooperation of Grace Buchanan-Dineen, a self-styled countess and German spy turned double agent, helped the FBI net even more spies. Notorious but all-American mobsters Lucky Luciano, Meyer Lansky, and Socks Lanza struck deals with Naval Intelligence and kept watch over critical ports. Together their efforts turned the tide of war at home and saved thousands of American lives.