Midmonth BookNotes

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All Treats and No Tricks Books!

Cozy Corner

Adams, Ellery. The Liar's Book Club (Kensington $27)
As clouds gather over the Great Smoky Mountains, the townsfolk of Miracle Springs, North Carolina are stocking up on essentials. Nora, Sheldon, and the other members of this book club are all gathered at the Unitarian Church for the wedding of their friend Jess. But when Ravi, the groom, fails to show up, Jess finally tells her guests to go home. As the big storm hammers the small town, a body in a tuxedo is pulled from the river. Put this together with a stolen historical document and a book club coming apart at the seams, and Nora must now figure out exactly how far one book lover will go to keep a secret.

Carlisle, N.E. Books, Bunnies, and a Body (Plot Twist $21.50)
Spring has come to Hazelton at last, and bookshop owner Année's calendar is in full bloom. There's a Peter Rabbit tea to host at The Literary Table, a wedding to plan in her garden, and family arriving from every direction for the holidays. With chocolate bunnies on order and her loyal Bernedoodle, Oscar, on full-time bunny patrol, the season promises nothing but sweetness. Then the town's beloved egg hunt takes a dark turn, and the celebration unravels into suspicion. Hazelton has weathered trouble before, and so has Année. But this one cuts close to home, and she can't leave it alone. Not when the truth may be hiding behind one of the friendly faces she greets every day. The second charming addition to Carlisle's Bonne Annee series is every bit as much fun as the first *Hazelnuts and Homicide*. Fans of culinary cozies will eat this charming series up with a spoon!

Cass, Laurie. Murder on Thin Ice (Crooked Lane $19.99)
It's winter in northwest lower Michigan, which means librarian Minnie Niswander and her cat, Eddie, are staying cozy in the bookmobile. But not everything is as it should be. When an elderly housebound patron, Gerald Arnold, fails to answer his door, Minnie knows something is wrong. Her fears are confirmed when

the police discover Gerald's body beneath the surface of a small frozen lake. Minnie knows that the kind and cautious Gerald would never have been so careless as to fall through the ice, and she suspects foul play. But law enforcement rules the old man's death an accident, and Minnie knows she will have to take the investigation into her own hands.

Flower, Amanda. The First Ladies Guide to Murder (Kensington $27)
The only daughter of former President Ulysses S. Grant, Nellie Grant has left England after being granted a divorce from her abusive husband. She plans to hide away with her three children at the home of her mother, Julia Dent Grant. However, Julia, the unofficial queen mother of Washington's elite, has other ideas—and convinces Nellie to attend a White House dinner in honor of the current president, Grover Cleveland. The lavish event turns somber when First Lady Frances Cleveland discovers that her prized Tiffany brooch is missing. Young maid Kitty Thorn is accused of theft and dismissed on the spot. The next morning, Kitty is found drowned, her death ruled a suicide. However, Frances doesn't believe Kitty stole the brooch – or committed suicide, and she calls on Nellie and Julia for help in solving this puzzling mystery.

Malone, Alicia. Murder at the Movies (Running Press $18.99)
When Audrey Sullivan moves to Pine Island to take over her family's theater, the Starlight Movie Palace, following the death of her grandmother, not everyone is thrilled with her arrival. A mysterious note is left at her doorstep telling her to return to L.A. While she's a little spooked, Audrey is all the more determined to make opening night a success. But when the movie ends and the lights go on, there's more than popcorn to clean up: the body of ruthless real estate developer Liam Ross is found in the theater. Malone, a host for TCM channel and a scholar of cinema, draws upon her extensive knowledge of and love for classic movies and Maine in crafting this entrancing mystery, the first in a new series. Fans of classic films and cozy crimes will adore this as well as anyone who misses Katherine Hall Page's Faith Fairchild mysteries.

Quigley, Mindy. Murder in the Upper Crust (St. Martin's $9.99)
Chef Delilah O'Leary is going where no deep dish pizza chef has gone before: a swanky wellness retreat, where she's agreed to cater for a crowd of the who's who. Instead of cashing a fat check for an easy gig, though, she encounters a diabolical plot with more layers than one of her signature pies when a spiteful attendee turns up dead during the guided meditation. With her restaurant short-staffed, and her boyfriend, Detective Calvin Capone, splitting his time between bartender duties and undercover sleuthing, Delilah's got her hands full. Can she slice through the lies before the killer strikes again? Or will this luxe getaway turn into a one-way trip to the great beyond?

Turner, Friday. The Country House Murders (Amazon $16.99)
Polly Hope is bravely working as an air raid warden in London during the Blitz when she saves the life of the charming Freddie Fairbank. Over a thank-you breakfast at the Ritz, he asks Polly to help requisition a sprawling English country house for the war effort. Petherbridge Hall has grand rooms, lovely views and will be a perfect nursing home for injured troops, if they can only persuade the family to give up their house. But then they find the lord of the manor dead behind the gardener's shed. With the local police too busy to investigate, Polly and Freddie realize they need to find the culprit, and fast. First in a new series.

Cozy Adjacent Reading

Heil, Emily. A Pinch of Magic (Grand Central $18.99)
As a cookbook ghostwriter, Cam Parker lives a quiet, orderly life well behind the scenes. But when a storm smashes into her beloved grandmother's house, she'll do anything to pay for the repairs, even taking on a nightmare celebrity client and returning to her coastal-Virginia hometown of Silver Cove and all its small-town drama. Before she can say boo, Cam's predictable world collapses like an underbaked souffle. For starters, she's developing inconvenient feelings for carpenter Ian McCabe, who's equal parts charm and complication. And then there's the *actual* ghost Cam accidentally summons from an old cookbook, who apparently needs her help to right a century-old wrong.

Mills, Miranda. The Cozy Commonplace Book (Rizzoli $30)
This warm and welcoming anthology concentrates on the things that make us happy, from spending time in nature and seeing our friends, to enjoying the comfort of being at home. *The Cozy Commonplace Book* contains a rich selection of quotations from novels, letters and diaries and poems from a wide range of writers including Jackie Kay, William Wordsworth, Emily Dickinson, Jorge Luis Borges, Sara Teasdale and many more. Alongside the literary content, Miranda Mills provides a wealth of additional features including book lists to help you plan your reading, TV and film recommendations, recipes and lists of cozy activities for all times of the year.

Seasonal Spooky Reads

Huneycutt. Sophia. The House Built on Alligator Bones (Penguin $30)
Dartrine Beaumont believes her mother's sudden death has left her alone in the world—until she learns of long-lost wealthy relatives living in Florida. Confused but delighted by the possibility of extended family, Dart travels to her grandmother's stately Gilded Age mansion on Amelia Island for answers, just in time to stake a claim on an unusual inheritance: an alligator farming empire. However, Datrine's arrival at Greer House comes with more than its share of dangers including a family curse and another heir determined to gain control of business for himself. Think of this as a southern gothic.

Harrison, Rachel. Kiss Slay Replay (Penguin $30)
While attending the wedding of her best friends, Willa Sullivan meets the groom's charming and single best friend Danny. Their romantic connection, however, is interrupted when a mask killer begins terrorizing the reception. The next morning Willa wakes up thinking she has just had the worst nightmare of her life, until the same sequence of events begins repeating itself. After a horrifying turn of events, Willa comes to understand that she's stuck in a loop of carnage and terror that she must learn how to escape or else suffer a fate worse than death—being an eternal wedding guest.

Kostova, Elizabeth. Mystery Play (Random $33)
After his beloved mother passes away suddenly, Jay Turner finds himself at a crossroads. She was always secretive, and when he returns

to their Boston home to clear out her possessions, he finds an unusual item: a partially burned scrap of newspaper bearing the name "Gael Brogan." Soon after, a deliveryman leaves behind a package containing a small antique volume bound in leather—and two bloody footprints. The last living member of a family of historians who have been hunted by the dark forces association with Dracula finds himself now in peril in the thrilling new novel by the author of *The Historian*.

Mackenzie, Reed. I Hope This Email Finds You in Hell (Penguin $20)
When Brie Benson returns to the office late one afternoon, she discovers her hot, uptight boss Luke D'Angelo performing an exorcism on Debra from accounting. It turns out Luke is actually a demon hunter, and he is battling a demon targeting humans. When Brie's workplace bestie Krystal suddenly disappears, she fears the worst. Now can Brie find a way to convince Luke to let her accompany him on a mission to rescue Krystal from Hell? "YA author Mackenzie makes her adult fiction debut with a "wildly entertaining, wonderfully imaginative genre-blurring delight" of a read.

Marlowe, Mallory. Entities to Lovers (Penguin $20)
Paranormal medium Rory Woods spends her days offering psychic readings at Ye Olde Spirit Shop and nights haunting the streets of Boston as a ghost-tour guide. Sure, business could be better, but she's proud of the shop she runs with her mom. Enter Ezra Blackwell: adjunct history professor, noted thorn in Rory's side, and—though she'd only admit it under threat of medieval torture he surely knows too much about—a distractingly handsome, charismatic coworker. Rory can't stand Ezra's know-it-all, show-offy behavior. Ezra loves to tease the gorgeous, brilliant medium at the shop. And when the two are forced to host a tour together? It's no wonder they end up hexed after disturbing a matchmaking ghost. But the more time the two spend together, the more Rory and Ezra think growing closer might not be the curse they once thought it was.

Mooney, Kate. The Woman of the House (Penguin $30)
Rose Crawley has finally gotten everything she's ever wanted: a house by the lake, an adoring husband, and a fresh start from the past she's long tried to outrun. But the house she now calls home seems to have other plans. She wakes with bloody scratches lining her arms. She sees reflections in mirrors, only to find she's standing alone. She hears the floors creak under invisible footsteps. And when Rose lies awake in the dark, the air feels heavy, like the house is pressing in on her, waiting for her to crack. When Rose learns that the previous occupant, a wife and mother named Angela, vanished under suspicious circumstances, she becomes obsessed with uncovering what happened.

Nelson, Madison Tyler. Portrait of a Haunting (Penguin $30)
To Tatum Alexander, the Sight—her ability to see spirits—has always been more of an affliction than a gift. Having inherited the power from her mother, Amarina, an infamous artist known for murdering her lover and using his blood for her final painting, Tatum has been reluctant to step into her talent or even get close to the man she loves. She's been able to find a safe space to hide her Sight with the largest witch coven in Manhattan and her best friend, Mischa. But when Mischa is murdered, the act eerily connected to Amarina's own crime, a traumatized Tatum must reckon with both the loss and the sudden surge of spirits vying for her attention and her life.

Noon, Neena. To Vex & to Hex (St. Martin's $20)
Lucy Ansari has a magical life. Literally — she's a witch, managing a perfect little bookshop. And whenever she's a little lonely, she turns to Charles — her beloved, ageing boss — to keep her company. Disaster strikes when Charles breaks his hip: his prickly (and gorgeous) grandson Grayson arrives. The English professor from Dublin has never bothered to visit before, but now he's determined to look after Charles and his bookshop, and Lucy's ideal life is thrown into disarray. But Grayson is as stubborn as he is handsome, and he's set on winning Lucy over, one way or another. As sparks fly between them, Lucy and Grayson may find themselves spellbound by more than just magic.

Roberts, Nora. Birth of the Witch (St. Martin's $30)
In this immersive, enchanting first novel in a new epic trilogy, Roberts introduces the magical world of Neve McShane, a young witch tasked with stopping a growing darkness, and the coven she has been connected to across lifetimes.

Ruoff. Audrey Goldberg. Vengefully Matched (Atria $19)
In this witchy, sapphic rom-com mischievous runaway bride Priscilla Hart and her prim-and-proper Witchery Council rival Agatha Vanderbilt Voison enter into a fake-date relationship in order to catch a would-be murderer—and accidentally fall in love in the process.

Shephard, Ben. Blood Drunk (Grand Central $30)
Freddie Burns just wants ten pints, a spot of football violence, and to take over his uncle's fading South London crime business. But when a gangland execution goes wrong, Freddie discovers a new kind of organized crime—one where vampires are spine-breakingly real and monsters hide just out of sight. Good thing Freddie has a supernatural gift for giving vampires a kicking—them and anyone else that looks at him funny.

Wallace, Auralee. The Haunted Librarian (Penguin $20)
Life hasn't always been kind to Amelia Bates, and being a ghostseer certainly doesn't make things any easier. Glowing warmly through the autumnal downpour is her safest haven: the library. Amelia, the newly hired librarian, has always relished the comfort of curling up with a novel, vastly preferring it to the company of humans (alive or ghostly). But Amelia is shocked to discover the building is full of more than quiet stories and warm cups of tea. There are curious, talkative patrons, a shy, bespectacled head librarian who makes her heart skip a beat, and three quirky spirits causing paranormal havoc that endangers the future of the library. To help the ghosts and save the building, Amelia will have to gather all her bravery and wits, because learning to trust others might just be the first step to a happily ever after she only thought was possible in books.

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

Aldrich, Matthew. The Natural Order (Atria $29) SIGNED
From an acclaimed screenwriter comes a provocative, propulsive debut novel about Paul Whitmore,a billionaire tech visionary who creates a method to stop aging (ironically or not known as The Method), putting him in the crosshairs of an extremist group and

forcing a tense reunion with his estranged son, Max, who is dying of old age. "[A] clever speculative debut. . . . The novel's high-concept premise drives the action-packed plot, but its heart is in Paul and Max's broken relationship. . . . This is a blast." (*PW*)

Baszile, Natalie. Friends and Family (Penguin $30)
Babs and Nora have spent a decade's worth of morning walks sharing family secrets, local drama, and advice—everything from tips on lingerie choices to Babs's suggestions to Nora, a white woman, on how to raise Nathan, her adopted Black son. But their worlds are turned upside down when the cops are called on their kids while they're home alone, leading to a traumatic police encounter for Nathan. In the aftermath, Babs and Nora find themselves divided as never before, and Nathan looks for refuge with Babs and her family, where, unlike in his own home, race, identity, and culture are always up for discussion. Babs can see that Nathan is a young Black man without community trying to find himself. Torn between respecting Nora's boundaries and embodying the values so important to her own family, Babs will make a choice that will shape their lives forever.

Birrell, Rebecca. Venus, Vanishing (Henry Holt $28.99)
In raucous 1928 Berlin, Hannah Sherman has deviated from the traditional arc of a woman's life. An artist and a runaway, she revels in the city's underground art scene and her newfound freedom. Working as a tailor while studying art in every spare moment, Hannah comes to know women and their bodies, first with measuring tape and silk, and later through sensuous layers of paint. Hannah feels like she can finally call herself an artist when an intoxicating, wealthy female collector commissions an elaborate series of nude portraits. But after Hannah finishes the acclaimed Venus paintings, she discovers that her work has been tampered with and exhibited under a man's name. When lines between artist and muse are crossed in a heady but perilous affair, Hannah transforms her work into an act of revenge, finding herself caught up in a devastating game of betrayal.

Blaeser-Wardzala. Amber. Another Name for Red (Knopf $30)
The debut novel by one of the bestselling *Never Whistle at Night*'**s** most memorable contributors, in which, after a young Anishinaabe woman vanishes, her sister tries to pick up the pieces of her broken family, even as her investigations put her at risk of suffering a similar fate. A fascinating and revelatory examination into the generations of harm done to Indigenous women and the way their stories have been ignored by society.

Dornbush, Jennifer. Walking on White (Blackstone $29.99) SIGNED
When the frozen body of high school senior Ethan Quon is found wedged deep in a snowbank, medical examiner Dr. Emily Hartford is called in to determine how—and why—he died. What should be a routine case quickly turns thorny. The evidence is inconclusive, the timeline fractured, and the town's citizens close ranks. As Emily digs deeper, she uncovers a tangle of lies, betrayals, and half truths that ignite outrage among Freeport's residents. Tensions explode when local teenagers begin receiving chilling text messages—apparently sent by Ethan himself. The latest chilling (in so many ways) addition to this author's thrilling series featuring Dr. Emily Hartford.

Eason, Lynette and Kelly Underwood. Deadly Charade (Baker $18.99)
Special Agent Kira Miller's new career at the

FBI has started--in translations. It's not the opportunity she was hoping for to show off her skills, until she detects a lead in some paperwork. Now assigned an undercover role, she's in her element as she gathers intel on an art smuggling ring. She's daunted not by the mission but by her cover--posing as a married woman to the fake husband she met less than twenty-four hours earlier: Special Agent Bryce Lambert. The authors were inspired by the real historical mystery about the disappearance of the Amber Room from the Soviet Union in WW II when they developed the plot for this fast-paced, romantic suspense novel.

Edwards, Julianne. Odette Rising (Penguin $30)
It's 1896 in Sèvres, France and, from her bedroom window, Odette Huré watches a funeral procession carry her father's coffin away. She is twenty-one and she has not left the house for ten years. Odette looks on as her life passes, reading and soothing herself with food. But with the sudden death of her father, the walls she has built around herself begin to crumble. Forced into the world, she discovers to her horror that she is responsible for her father's considerable fortune and his celebrated stockings factory—renowned for its exquisite designs that adorn the slender ankles of Parisian *femmes célèbres*. Now Odette must try and navigate the world she has hidden from for so long. In doing so, she will unearth secrets left behind by her father and the shocking truth of her own identity.

Goedjen, Tara. Please Enjoy Your Stay (Atria $29)
When they were teenagers, Mia's beloved cousin was murdered during their stay at an infamous castle in the Austrian Alps. As the only witness, Mia's testimony put the killer behind bars, but it tore her life apart: the media accused her aunt, a controversial true crime author, of being involved. Now, a decade later, the murderer is appealing his conviction, and a popular true crime podcast starts covering the case, determined to exonerate him, and resurfacing lies about Mia's family in the process. Desperate to protect her aunt—and what she *knows* to be the truth—Mia returns to Austria. The castle is being revamped as a luxury hotel, and Mia gets a job as a nanny for the new owner, hiding in plain sight as she investigates, needing to set the story straight once and for all. But after someone mysteriously disappears on the property and sinister new evidence emerges regarding her cousin's death, she realizes she might have accused the wrong man...and put her own life in danger. A marvelous, modern day take on the classic gothic novels like those written by Mary Stewart.

Green, Amy Lynn. The Home Front Sisters (Baker $18.99)
In this *Little Women*-inspired novel set against the backdrop of WW II, Joan Alcott restless for a new start after turning down a proposal from her best friend Lawrence Whitman and watching her writing dreams crumble under constant rejection, joins Philadelphia's streetcar workforce as a wartime "Rosie." Meanwhile, youngest sister Amelia once hoped of becoming an animator in California, but those aspirations have faded. Uncertain what to do next, she enlists in the Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service and finds herself in Florida, training navy gunners in a tropical outpost. In a world remade by war, Joan and Amelia discover that purpose and love can be found in the most unexpected places.

Harbach, Chad. The Brightness (Little, Brown $32)
Parties and weddings, messy hookups and

marred friendships, art and love and grief—*The Brightness* follows the electric, chaotic, everything-can-happen lives of Pella and her best friend, Irma, as they fumble their way out of sleepy, Midwestern Westish College and into a larger world that will upend their connection to it and everything they thought they understood about their own place within it.

Hash, Kate. The Mother-in-Law Book Club (Penguin $19)
On a temporary assignment in Durham, North Carolina, Andi, a recently divorced 40-something woman, surprises herself by joining a neighborhood book club with a group of charming older ladies, all mother-in-laws who need major advice. But things get juicy when Andi falls in love with one of their sons.

Higson, Charlie. King Zero (Blackstone $29.99)
Le Chiffre. Dr. No. Goldfinger. James Bond has faced them all. But now the world is changing, and even 007 has no idea what's coming for him. It starts with a murdered agent in the Saudi desert. Only a traitor could have known enough to bring him down. But even James Bond can't guess at the secret that was worth killing him to keep. As Bond follows the trail across the globe, he doesn't realize the countdown has already begun. And hiding in the shadows is a man with more power than he could ever have imagined. In collaboration with Ian Fleming Publications Ltd., *King Zero* is a brand-new blockbuster James Bond novel from Charlie Higson—bestselling author of the Young Bond series.

Jurczyk. Eva. The Paris Files (Penguin $30)
Genie St. Onge's heart is broken more often than it's not—but that doesn't stop her from diving in head-first when she meets Jacob Ford. Their connection is instantaneous and consuming, and they agree to meet again in Paris. In a heady mix of sugared pastries and rumpled bed sheets, they begin plotting their future together. Until Jacob disappears. Genie knows Jacob would never leave her. Not by choice. When phone calls to hospitals turn up nothing, she grows convinced that someone must have taken him. It's the only explanation. Under the scrutiny of the French police, however, Genie's story doesn't quite hold up—and it sounds like Jacob might not be all he seems, either. Through police interviews with Genie and nearby residents of the 11th arrondissement, the truth remains elusive. She swears has no idea what happened to Jacob – so why doesn't her story align with anyone else's?

Kelly, Julia. The Queen of Roses (Gallery $19)
Beautiful but haughty, Adele Pearce is reluctant to leave the London Season and her last hope of a proposal. When she arrives in California in 1903, she discovers the startling truth of why her mother has called her there: her father has squandered his fortune and Adele must marry a wealthy American to save the family. Stifled by expectation as Pasadena's newest doyenne, Adele's only comfort is Rosewood House and the beautiful garden she creates with the help of taciturn gardener Alexander Macalister. However, as Adele's feelings for Alex flourish, a fire ignites in the San Gabriel Mountains above Rosewood House, threatening everything Adele holds dear. Almost sixty years later, a Miss Pearce learns that history has a terrible habit of repeating itself when she asks frustrated reporter Theresa Johnson help her settle some old scores by writing her biography.

Klassen, Julie. The Widow of Woodlark Cottage (Baker $18.99)
When she learns her estranged father, a writer and naturalist, has died at a rented cottage on the North Devonshire coast, young widow Elizabeth Eaton reluctantly agrees to travel

there to claim his belongings and the partial draft of a new book. When she reaches the cottage on the grounds of an estate, she is told the nearby manor house is empty, yet she sees candlelight flickering within, giving Elizabeth reason to doubt her eyes--and her safety. Finding her father's final manuscript nearly complete, Elizabeth decides to stay long enough to finish it, hoping to make amends for cutting him out of her life. As she does, she meets two very different men, a charming seafarer who fills her head with local legends and an aloof man of business with his own agenda. Strange, frightening incidents begin to occur, and Elizabeth must decide which man to trust when her life--and her heart--are in danger.

Krieger, Gus. The Seventh Ribbon (Grand Central $29)
A moving, whimsical debut love story of 'what if' about Caroline Ora, a grieving widow who attempts to rewrite her past with magical typewriter ribbons to try to save her husband Forest from his unfortunate fate.

Reay, Katherine. The Undercover Bookshop (Harper Muse $18.99)
During the winter of 1950 in the small Cotswold village of Great Rollright, amateur sleuth Gemma Brown starts to suspect that the town's best baker, Ursula Beurton, is a Soviet spy. This sends Gemma on a cat-and-mouse chase that will lead Gemma to the Undercover Bookshop and a decision that will change her life forever.

Robb, Kate. Solar Eclipse of the Heart (Random $18)
Raised by her uncle after her mother's death, Annalise Harris always relied on logic to avoid the unexpected. So when her uncle passes away, Annalise is left reeling. Luckily, she has an escape plan: a PhD program abroad to leave her grief behind. Unluckily, Mackenzie Smith, her new roommate, is not the woman she was expecting but a leather jacket–wearing, wannabe rock star, extremely attractive man, whose leather jacket seems to possess some unusual powers.

Shelton, Paige. The Bone Woman (Crooked Lane $29.99) SIGNED
The desert runs through Hazel Dylan's marrow. She grew up on the edge of The Wild, an untamed expanse outside her hometown of Black Vulture, Arizona. She became fascinated with bones as a child while observing her taxidermist father, Wilmot, until he disappeared without a trace decades ago. Now, after years of study and countless cases, she's known as the Bone Woman. She can read the dark stories that bones tell. When a hiker makes a disturbing discovery in The Wild—bleached human bones arranged with surgical precision into a taxidermy-like sculpture of a coyote mid-howl—Sheriff Calloway summons Hazel to the scene. Not just for her formidable expertise but because it looks like it could be Wilmot's work. Could Hazel's father be behind this twisted creation? Are these his bones?

Wright, Jaime Jo. The Resurrection of Evania James (Baker $18.99)
When Eloise James's sister, Evania, goes missing after being admitted to an asylum in 1879, Eloise is determined to find her sibling but instead discovers evidence of dying patients and missing remains. Wannabe journalist Silas Dobbs has his own suspicions that something more nefarious is going on at the asylum. Together, they are intent on learning whether Evania is alive, or if her body has also been stolen. But unraveling a web of underground resurrectionists proves daunting, and the dead cannot share their secrets. Over one hundred and forty years later, Tilly Thompson is horrified to find historical human remains

entombed in a wall of the James' family mansion her grandfather just purchased, launching her into an investigation of the original owners' questionable past. However, will Tilly's search for the truth resurrect dangers best kept buried forever?

Agatha Christie: The Queen of Crime

Cambridge, Colleen. Death Down the Aisle (Kensington $27) SIGNED
Agatha Christie's cherished housekeeper, Phyllida Bright, not only keeps the celebrated author's home running smoothly, but she has also proven herself an accomplished sleuth. So when a murderer brings mayhem to a wedding, Phyllida's on hand to sweep up the mystery when a wedding guest is discovered dead in the small chapel only hours after the ceremony.

Chapman, Amanda. Mrs. Christie and the Mystery in the Mews (Penguin $30)
It's been six months since book conservator Tory Van Dyne first encountered a woman in the Agatha Christie Room of the Mystery Guild Library claiming to be the author herself on holiday from the Great Beyond. Mrs. Christie has long since disappeared back to . . . wherever she came from. And Tory has returned to her safe, sane, sensible—and, let's face it, boring—life. That is, until a rare edition of Christie's *Murder in the Mews* is somehow stolen and to make matters much, much worse, a guest is found bizarrely murdered in the library's back alley. Thankfully, Mrs. Christie reappears just in time to guide Tory and her fellow sleuths—snarky librarian Adrian Gooding, computer whiz kid Mairead Butler, flighty cousin Nic, and the hot detective himself, Sebastian Mendez-Cruz—as they work to solve a seemingly impossible crime.

Connolly, Rebecca. Webs of Ink (Shadow Mountian $28.99)
In early 1920s London, journalist Maud West has gained a public reputation as "London's Lady Detective," though the title is largely of her own making. Instead of high-profile investigations, she is routinely assigned divorce work, missing persons, and blackmail—cases that rarely challenge her talents or elevate her status. When a frightened woman comes to her office claiming she is being stalked by a strange man, Maud senses a rare opportunity to prove her skill.

Elsewhere in London, Agatha Christie is both a new mother and a rising author, thrilled to see her first detective novel in print. Yet she hungers to observe a real investigation firsthand. Maud West's exploits in the newspapers captivate her imagination and fuel her desire to study genuine detective work. To Agatha's astonishment, she receives a message from Maud requesting a private meeting. Maud outlines the increasingly perilous case and proposes a partnership. Together, the celebrated detective and the rising mystery writer become entangled in a dangerous, twisting web that will test their ingenuity, courage, and trust as they work to bring justice to light.

Rentzenbrink, Cathy. The Agatha Christie Cure (Penguin $32)
One recent Christmas, journalist and *Sunday Times* bestselling memoirist Cathy Rentzenbrink finds herself drained by life's upheavals. In need of comfort and escape, she turns to her first literary love: Agatha Christie. As Cathy delves into Christie's novels, and

her mysterious disappearance in 1926, she discovers more than she expected. Beyond the hidden jewels, detectives, and thrilling escapes on trains and automobiles, Cathy unearths an adventurer and innovator who hid—within the pages of her own books—the secrets of how she survived a personal crisis and started life again. With the Queen of Crime at her side, Cathy soon begins finding answers to questions she hadn't even realized she was asking.

Nonfiction

Bell, Jason. Operation Sparrow (Hanover Square $32.99)
March 16, 1944. Colonel Duke jumped into Hitler's Europe to lead Operation Sparrow, an OSS mission authorized by the president. Duke was forty-eight, twice the age of most paratroopers. He had played pro football for the New York Giants, flown fighter planes, and made his fortune in advertising before World War II made him a spy behind enemy lines. Within days, the three Sparrows were captured in Hungary. It wasn't a failure. It was the plan. Under brutal Gestapo interrogation, Duke and his men set out to convince the Third Reich that the D-Day invasion would strike the Balkans, far from France. Of the tens of millions who fought in the war, the Sparrows were the only ones whose mission required capture by the Nazis. Drawing on recently declassified OSS files, Jason Bell brings their story to life.

Garfield, Simon. The Pen (Crown $33)
In this expansive history, beloved author Simon Garfield delivers an enthralling look at society through the evolution of our favorite writing tool. Garfield takes readers on a trek across time and place, from the home of the calamus reed pens along the banks of the Nile in the fourth century BC; to the factory floor at Montblanc and Bic; to the Apple Pencils we use today. We meet the pioneers behind various iterations of the pen, such as Joseph Priestley, who was among the first to affix a steel tip to a quill in 1780; Bartholomew Folsch, who created the early reservoir pen in 1809; and Milton Reynolds, who introduced the world to the first (and very leaky) ballpoint pen. Written with Garfield's unique narrative flair and drawing on a wealth of historical research and original interviews, The Pen makes a case for why this most important instrument is an indelible marker of our shared culture and how it continues to shape the way we live in the digital age.

Gleick, James. The Telephone (Farrar, Straus & Giroux $35)
A supernatural instrument bringing voices from afar, the telephone burst onto the world stage 150 years ago, a triumphant story of individual ingenuity and vision. Instantly, the ability to speak across vast distances began to transform every part of life: from business organization to military tactics, from news gathering to sex work. But the story of the telephone, is also one of corrupt scheming and ruthless tactics; the race to the patent office, to make money, a contest replete with bribery, fraud and speculation. And no one, not even its inventors, realised what the telephone was good for or how ubiquitous it would become. As the telephone settled into the background – in offices and on streets, on bedside tables and kitchen walls – people forgot how they ever lived without it. Now, as landlines, telephone books and telephone

boxes vanish into the past, science writer James Gleick – bestselling author of *Chaos*– shows how this commonplace object irreversibly changed not only the world but who we are as human beings.

Marriott, James. The New Dark Ages (Knopf $26)
Now, around the world, the number of people who read is in free fall. Literacy is declining or stagnating in most developed countries. University students struggle mightily to read the books assigned in their classes. The golden chain of knowledge linking reader to reader through the centuries is breaking. Here, *London Times* columnist James Marriott argues that this—the New Dark Ages—is the most important cultural shift of our time and singles out the written word as the best defense we have for a more enlightened world. Provocative and enthralling, *The New Dark Ages* argues that reading and writing are essential for innovation, creativity and complex thought.

Wasson, Sam. Frank CapraFrank Capra (HarperCollins $45)
Frank Capra, the director of *Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, It Happened One Night,* and, supremely, *It's a Wonderful Life* remains one of the great chroniclers of the American heart, how we love, lead, dream, hope, and fight for our individuality. But Frank Capra was a more complex artist than is usually reckoned and a more complicated man than anyone knows. As his most famous collaborator Jimmy Stewart put it, "the best Frank Capra story is the story of his own life. It's got more highs and lows than a roller coaster. It's heartwarming. It's kind of hard to believe, really. And it could only happen in America." This extraordinary book, making full use for the first time of Capra's own archives, including deeply personal writings from his later years, has brought this seminal artist into urgent life. At the same time, in its epic richness, it offers a dazzling portrait of both a lost America and an enduring one.