

Midmonth BookNotes

Volume 3 Issue 7 June BookNotes 2017

Contact:

email: sales@poisonedpen.com

phone: (888) 560-9919

(480) 947-2974

<https://poisonedpen.com>

4014 N Goldwater Blvd. #101

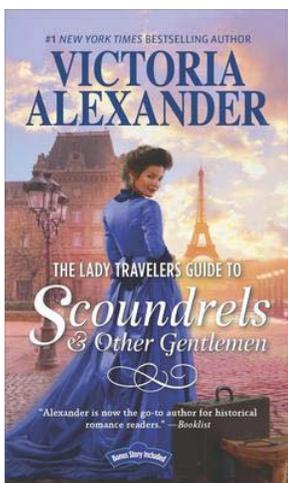
Scottsdale, AZ 85251



Cool Reads for Hot Weather

Alexander, Sara. [Under a Sardinian Sky](#) (Kensington \$15)

While her mother battles cancer, Mina, a London-based travel writer, tries to unearth the story of her Aunt Carmela, who became involved with an American army Captain stationed at a local base near her Sardinian hometown in 1952. As Mina follows the threads of Carmela's life to uncover her fate, she discovers the past and present can't always easily be separated. This engaging debut novel not only delivers a vivid sense of place and time as well as plenty of poignant romance, but also some absolutely mouthwatering descriptions of Sardinian dishes.



Alexander, Victoria. [The Lady Traveler's Guide to Scoundrels](#) (Harlequin \$7.99)

India Prendergast's dear cousin Lady Heloise Snuggs has disappeared, and India knows exactly who is responsible: the Lady Traveler's Society and Assistance Agency. More than six weeks ago, Heloise set off on a tour of the European continent arranged by the agency, but India has

yet to receive any word from her cousin. Now India has arranged a meeting with the trio of septuagenarians in charge of the society – Lady Guinevere Blodgett, Mrs. Fitzhew-Weilmore, and Mrs. Higginbotham – in order to get to the bottom of things. India is convinced the charming little old ladies are running some kind of scam. So, when Lady Blodgett's great-nephew Derek Saunders offers to set off for Paris himself to track down Heloise, India insists on accompanying him whether the annoyingly charming man likes it or not. If you like your historical romances served up with plenty of laughs, Alexander's books are definitely for you.

Ayres, D. D. [Physical Forces](#) (St Martins \$7.99)
Macayla Burkett, a pet detective dedicated to tracking down missing dogs and cats, finds herself in the middle of a serious case when two famous racing greyhounds disappear and turn up dead and she becomes the target of the thieves – until the gorgeous Australian co-owner of K-9 Search and Rescue steps in to save her. Sexy alpha male heroes and adorable dogs; can you really ask for anything more?

Barnett, Karen. [Road to Paradise](#) (Water \$9.99)
Vintage National Parks #1

Margaret Lane, the daughter of a U.S. senator, arrives at Mount Rainier National Park hoping to avoid the unwanted romantic attentions of her former fiancé Philip Carmichael. However, Margaret has only just settled into her new job and her much less glamorous lifestyle when she finds herself sparring with Chief Ranger Ashford Brayden. But when Philip suddenly turns up

Mount Rainier National Park with plans to fully develop the “tourist potential” of the natural paradise, Margaret and Ashford form a reluctant alliance to stop him only to find their new partnership slowly developing into something quite different. Former park ranger Barnett launches a new sweet inspirational romance series, each title of which will be set at a different U.S. national park.

Beattie, Ann. [The Accomplished Guest](#) (Scribner \$26)

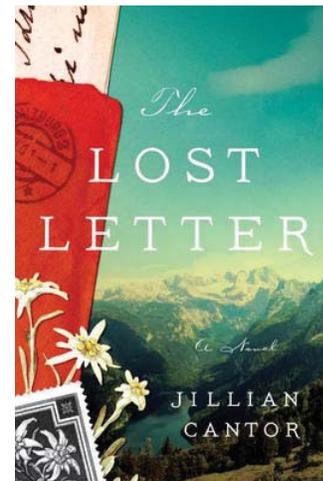
In her 11th collection of stories, Beattie explores the theme of “people paying visits or receiving visitors, traveling to see old friends, the joys and tolls of hosting company (and being hosted).” The occasion that brings these characters together might be a wedding, a birthday, a reunion, or another chance to gather and bond with family be they biological or chosen and in the process, Beattie’s characters must deal with the joys and sorrows of friendship and the unavoidable tolls of aging. While the overall tone of the collection is a bit more somber and dark than the author’s previous story collections, there is no denying the power of Beattie’s sterling prose.

Bourland, Barbara. [I’ll Eat When I’m Dead](#) (Grand Central \$27)

When fashion editor Hillary Martin is found dead in a storage room at RAGE magazine, everyone – including the NYPD – think the diet-obsessed woman simply starved herself to death. However, when a note from Hillary lands on Detective Mark Hutton’s desk several months after the funeral, he begins to think someone may have given Hillary a little “help” in dying. Mark’s subsequent investigation introduces him to RAGE employees Cat Ono and Bess Bonner as well as showing him a world of primped and pampered fashionistas he never knew existed. Anyone expecting a straightforward mystery will probably be disappointed by Bourland’s debut. Instead, read *I’ll Eat When I’m Dead*, which is very much written in the literary vein of *The Devil Wears Prada* with plenty of luxury brand name dropping and work place backbiting, for its gossip insider’s take on the NYC fashion world as well as its occasional flashes of acidic wit.

Cameron, Stella. [Lies that Bind](#) (Severn House \$28.99)

When a body is discovered in the neighboring village of Underhill, Alex Duggins, owner of Folly-on-Weir’s premier pub, The Black Dog, is determined not to get involved – for once. But when she learns that the person who found the body was young Kyle Gammage, who helps out at her friend Tony’s veterinary clinic, she and Tony are reluctantly drawn into the murder investigation. Readers of contemporary British mysteries who have not yet discovered Cameron’s Alex Duggins Cotswolds will definitely want to give this series a try, especially if you are a fan of Caroline Graham’s equally diverting Tom Barnaby mysteries. *Lies that Bind* has also gotten several raves from critics including *Kirkus* who concluded their review with “Cameron provides several elements that will delight series fans, from an interesting frame for her story to a protagonist who can be charmingly human, a trait as rare as it is welcome in the genre.”



Cantor, Jillian. [The Lost Letter](#) (Riverhead \$26) 1989 is not turning out to be a good year for Katie Nelson. Her father’s rapidly declining memory and health has forced Katie to move him into an assisted living facility, and now Katie’s husband Daniel, who also happens to be her boss at the newspaper where Katie works, wants a divorce. When Katie takes her father’s stamp collection to appraiser Benjamin Grossman, she gets another surprise. One of the letters in the collection dates back to World War II. Not only was the letter never delivered to its recipient, the stamp on the envelope is quite unusual. As Benjamin and Katie try to find out more about the

stamp and the person who sent it, they discover the letter will ultimately lead them to a connection to Katie's family neither one ever would have expected. The lost art of stamp engraving as well as the power of a handwritten letter to change a life play important roles in Cantor's latest emotionally engaging novel, which stands out for its vivid depiction of history and its excellent characterization.

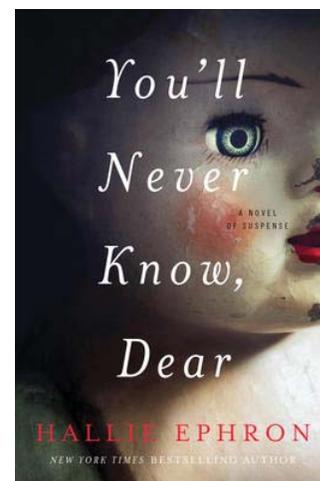
Carlisle, Kate. [Once Upon a Spine](#) (Penguin \$25) The 11th engaging installment in Carlisle's Bibliophile books is jam-packed with everything fans of this charming cozy mystery series crave including a colorfully sketched in San Francisco setting, a generous dash of romance between Brooklyn and her handsome future husband Derek, and captivating details about some aspect of the rare book business (in this case: in the form of tips on the art of handmade papermaking). Of course as always in any Brooklyn Wainwright mystery, there is one particular rare book that is the central focus of the plot, and in *Once upon a Spine* that book is *Alice in Wonderland*. Not only does Carlisle offer up some intriguing literary tidbits about the publication of that famous children's book, readers will especially enjoy the whimsical manner in which Carlisle borrows some of the iconic figures from that book and then cleverly transforms them into characters in her own story

Chance, Maia. [Bad Housekeeping](#) When 28-year-old Agnes Blythe, the contented bifocals-wearing half of an academic power couple, is jilted by her professor boyfriend for the town Pilates instructor, her future suddenly seems a bit less rosy. So when her glamorous, eccentric Great Aunt Effie arrives in town and offers a job helping to salvage the condemned Stagecoach Inn, what does Agnes have to lose? But work at the inn has barely begun when the unlikely duo find the body of manipulative Kathleen Todd, with whom Agnes and Effie both have recently *had words*. Words strong enough to land them at the top of the suspect list. *Bad Housekeeping* is the first in Chance's new Agnes & Effie cozy mystery series, and it is richly imbued with Chance's deliciously distinctive sense of wit as well as stuffed to the gills with a cast of

endearingly quirky characters. If you like your cozy mysteries on the lighter side and served up with an abundance of laughs, Chance is good bet.

Dawson, Jill. [The Crime Writer](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

In 1964, novelist Patricia Highsmith moves to a small cottage in Suffolk hoping to find the peace and quiet she needs to finish her latest novel as well as escape from the increasingly intimate letters she has been receiving from a "fan." But Pat has another reason for looking for an off-the-beaten-track new abode: she needs a place, where she can meet with Sam Gosforth, the married woman with whom she is engaged in a secret affair. However, a nosey journalist, a busy-body neighbor, and Sam's troublesome husband Gerald all create problems for Pat, who soon finds herself turning from writing about crime to becoming an active participant in the process of murder. Who knew Patricia Highsmith had an obsession with snails? This is just one of the real life facts about the author that Dawson deftly incorporates into her own story, which not only effectively blurs the line between fact and fiction, but is also written in the same elegantly seductive manner in which Highsmith penned her own deliciously dark tales of suspense.



Ephron, Hallie. [You'll Never Know](#) (HarperCollins \$26.99)

Forty years after Janey went missing, her older sister Lis Woodham—now a mother with a college-age daughter of her own—still blames herself for what happened. Every year on the

anniversary of her sister's disappearance, their mother, Miss Sorrel, places a classified ad in the local paper with a picture of the toy Janey had with her that day—a one-of-a-kind porcelain doll—offering a generous cash reward for its return. For years, there's been no response. But this year, the doll came home. It is the first clue in a decades-old mystery that is about to turn into something far more sinister—endangering Lis and the lives of her mother and daughter as well. Someone knows the truth about what happened all those years ago, and is desperate to keep it hidden. Readers who love character-driven suspense will definitely want to give Ephron's latest a whirl. The nicely done, evocative southern setting and snippets about doll making and repair greatly add to the appeal of Ephron's latest, which makes perfect warm weather reading for fans of Mary Higgins Clark's early books.

Farnsworth, Christopher. [Flashmob](#) (HarperCollins \$26.99)

If you think social media is causing the downfall of civilization as we know it today. Farnsworth's latest superbly entertaining thriller will only confirm your worst fears. John Smith, a former CIA special ops agent turned private security consultant, thought he had retired from his job as a "fixer" for good. Using his ability to read minds – as well as influence them to a certain degree – had taken its own mental toll on John, which is why he retired to his own private island off the coast of Washington. However, when the reality TV star daughter of one of his old clients is badly injured during her wedding ceremony, John can't help but become involved in the search for the assassins; a search which leads John to a mysterious website known as Downvote. Farnsworth introduced John Smith in *Killfile*, and his second outing is every bit as good as the debut novel. *Flashmob's* inventive plot is packed some wonderfully twisted plot turns and plenty of cinematic action scenes. And the scary thing is that the idea behind *Downvote* seems all too plausible today. The icing on the literary cake is Smith's own dryly ironic voice which provides the sly narration for the story.

George, Nina. [Little French Bistro](#) (Crown \$26)
Trapped for years in a loveless marriage, Marianne Messman travels to Paris with the intention of committing suicide. However, a helpful homeless bystander fishes Marianne out of the Seine, and she is sent to the hospital to recover. Marianne manages to escape the facility, and armed with a hospital tray placemat adorned with an illustration of the Port de Kerdruc, Marianne heads to Brittany intending on finishing the job of ending her life. However, once she arrives in the small town, Marianne finds herself becoming caught up in the lives of its residents including an artist, a fisherman, and a chef, each of whom soon comes to rely on Marianne's advice when it comes to navigating the rocky shoals of romance and life. George's first novel was the *New York Times'* surprise best-seller *The Little Paris Bookshop*, and with her new book, she once again charms readers with an endearingly eccentric cast of characters and a much needed message that life is worth living no matter how old you may be. *C'est tres amusement!*

Kelly, Brynn. [Edge of Truth](#) (HQN \$22.99)

Held hostage in an African dungeon by the terrorist group she's investigating, journalist Tess Newell's salvation - and temptation - arrives in the form of another prisoner. A French Foreign Legionnaire with a sinful smile and too many secrets to be anything but dangerous. Yet she knows he's her only hope of surviving. The Legion is the only family Flynn has. His sanctuary and his purgatory, after years spent in hell. When a mission goes south and Flynn is captured, it's not the enemy that worries him, but the brazen, alluring reporter whose prying questions threaten to bring down his world and the walls he's built around his heart. Fans of Suzanne Brockman and Linda Howard's action-packed romantic suspense novels will find new author Kelly's books to be equally satisfyingly sexy and adrenaline-driven treats.

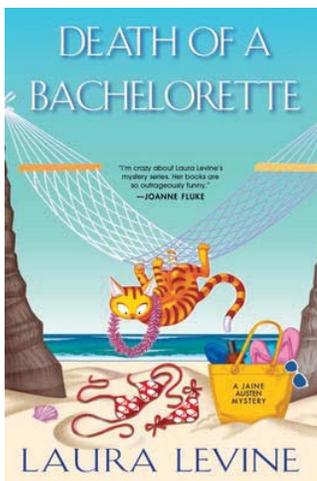
Kingsbury, Karen. [Love Story](#) (Howard Books \$22.99)

Best-selling Christian fiction writer Kingsbury continues her Baxter family series with the

story of how John and Elizabeth Baxter first meet. Their whirlwind romance started when they were young college students and lasted nearly thirty years—until Elizabeth died of cancer. So when John Baxter is asked to relive his long-ago love story with Elizabeth for his grandson Cole’s heritage project, he’s not sure he can do it. The sadness might simply be too great. But he agrees and allows his heart and soul to go places they haven’t gone in decades.

Lauren, Christi. [Dating You Hating You](#) (Gallery \$16)

When their two agencies merge and they vie for the same position, high-powered Hollywood agents Carter and Evie find their blossoming romance turning into an all-out war of sabotage, forcing them both to question what they really want in life—and what is truly important. All’s fair in love and in work in this sexy new contemporary romance from Lauren.



Levine, Laura. [Death of a Bachelorette](#) (Kensington \$25)

For writer Jaine Austen, it sounds like a total dream job: spend several weeks on an island paradise in the Pacific writing dialogue for a reality television show called *Some Day My Prince Will Come*. Plus, the show’s producer is willing to let Jaine bring her cat Prozac with her. And really, how difficult can it be to think up things for a bevy of bachelorettes competing for the hand and heart of Spencer Dalworth VII to say? However, once Jaine arrives, she realizes she has been sold a phony bill of goods. The staff accommodations could double as a sauna, the producer is a

tight-fisted tight-wad, and show’s “prince” is so dimwitted, he can only manage to say one catch phrase without stumbling over his lines. Just when Jaine thinks things can’t get any worse, one of the bachelorettes is murdered leaving Jaine to wonder if someone in the cast may have gone seriously off script. The latest in Levine’s Jaine Austen (her mother loved literature but could never spell) series is another triumph of delightfully breezy humor and funny antics. If you love cleverly crafted, comic cozy mysteries, Levine’s books are perfect warm weather reading.

McKinlay, Jenn. [About a Dog Signed](#) (Berkley \$7.99)

As far as Mackenzie “Mac” Harris is concerned, Thomas Wolfe was wrong. You can go back home again, you just shouldn’t. It has been seven years since Mackenzie “Mac” Harris fled her hometown of Bluff Point, Maine, after being left at the altar, but now she is back because her best friend Emma Tolliver is about to get married. All Mac has to do is survive two weeks in Bluff Point more or less and then she can get the heck out of town and back to her new life in Chicago. Everything seems to be going according to plan until Mac unexpectedly bumps into Gavin Tolliver, Emma’s younger brother and the man with whom Mac spent one unforgettable night right after her wedding imploded. Mac would like nothing better than to let sleeping dogs lie, but Gavin, with some help from a rescued stray puppy named Tulip, is prepared to show Mac what they shared is more than just “puppy love.” After conquering the cozy mystery world, Jenn McKinlay now sets her literary sights on contemporary romance and comes up aces with a sweetly sexy, wonderfully witty love story.

Reid, Taylor Jenkins. [The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo](#) (Atria \$26)

Aging and reclusive Hollywood movie icon Evelyn Hugo is finally ready to tell the truth about her glamorous and scandalous life. But when she chooses unknown magazine reporter Monique Grant for the job, no one in the journalism community is more astounded than Monique herself. Why her? Why now? Monique is not exactly on top of the world. Her husband, David, has left her, and her career has stagnated. Regard-

less of why Evelyn has chosen her to write her biography, Monique is determined to use this opportunity to jumpstart her career. Summoned to Evelyn's Upper East Side apartment, Monique listens as Evelyn unfurls her story: from making her way to Los Angeles in the 1950s to her decision to leave show business in the late 80s, and, of course, the seven husbands along the way. As Evelyn's life unfolds—revealing a ruthless ambition, an unexpected friendship, and a great forbidden love—Monique begins to feel a very real connection to the actress. But as Evelyn's story catches up with the present, it becomes clear that her life intersects with Monique's own in tragic and irreversible ways. Glitzy, glamorous Hollywood is the setting for Jenkins' deliciously gossipy account of one woman's efforts to become the next bright star in the cinematic firmament. Readers will have a lot of fun trying to guess which real life film star Jenkins used for inspiration for her heroine (my guess is Liz Taylor) making this perfect beach reading for anyone interested in the movie biz.

Robards, Karen. [The Ultimatum](#) (MIRA \$26.99)

Growing up, Bianca St. Ives knew she was different from all her friends. Instead of playing hopscotch or combing her dolls' hair, she studied martial arts with sensei masters and dismantled explosives with special-ops retirees. Her father prepped her well to carry on the family business. Now a striking beauty with fierce skills, the prodigy has surpassed the master.

She's known as the Guardian. Running a multinational firm with her father, she makes a living swindling con men out of money they stole and she's damn good at it. But her latest gig had a little hiccup if you count two hundred million dollars and top secret government documents going missing as little. Her father also died on the mission. The thing is, the US government doesn't believe he's really dead. They'll stop at nothing to capture Richard St. Ives, a high-value target and someone who has been on most-wanted lists all over the world for over two decades, and they mean to use Bianca as bait. If you can willingly suspend your sense of disbelief and can willing forgo rich character development in favor of a fast-paced plot, this series launch from

genre icon Robards is a fun summertime read reminiscent of Sidney Sheldon's equally improbable – yet all too readable – *If Tomorrow Comes*.

Rosoff, Meg. [Jonathan Unleashed](#) (Penguin \$16)
Jonathan Trefoil's boss is unhinged, his relationship baffling, and his apartment just the wrong side of legal. His girlfriend wants to marry someone just like him—only richer and with a different sense of humor. He doesn't remember life being this confusing, back before everyone expected him to act like a grown-up. When his brother asks him to look after his dogs, Jonathan's world view begins to shift. Could a border collie and a cocker spaniel hold the key to life, the universe, and everything? Their sly maneuvering on daily walks and visits to the alluring vet suggest that humans may not have cornered the market on emotional intelligence after all.

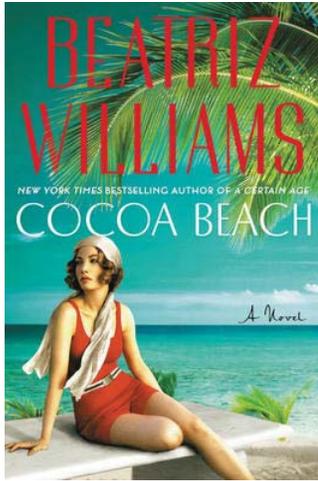
Stern, Abby. [According to a Source](#) (SimonSchuster \$25.99)

Ella Warren loves her job working for celebrity news magazine, *The Life*, as an undercover reporter. Her evenings are spent using her alias to discreetly attend red carpet events, nightclubs, and Hollywood hotspots like the fabulous Chateau Marmont, where her eyes are always peeled for the next big celebrity story. However, Ella's world is both shaken and stirred when *The Life* gets a new boss, who decides to play her employees off one another in a *Hunger Games* style competition (minus the actual killing) in order to winnow down the work force. Now Ella faces some tough choices when she must decide exactly how much she will risk and exactly what she will do in order to keep her job. If you never miss an issue of *People* magazine and you always DVR the latest episode of *TMX*, Stern's addictively acidic debut is for you.

Tunncliffe, Hannah. [French Wedding](#) (Doubleday \$25.95)

A nasty romantic breakup and her parent's failing health prompt Juliette to sell her restaurant in Paris and take a job as personal chef to washed-up rock star Max Dresner, Juliette hopes the new job will provide the peace and quiet she desperately craves. Instead, when Max decides

to host a 40th birthday party for some friends at his house on the coast of Brittany, Juliette finds herself - for better or for worse - being drawn out of her orderly kitchen and into their tumultuous lives. Can't afford a trip to France? Tunnicliffe's book is the next best thing.



Williams, Beatriz. [Cocoa Beach](#)
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

Five years after she married and then left Simon Fitzwilliam, Virginia Fortescue receives word that Simon died in a mysterious house fire at Maitland, the ancestral estate in Cocoa, Florida he had been diligently restoring. When Virginia, along with her daughter Evelyn, arrives at Maitland, they find that Simon's sister and his twin brother Samuel could not be more welcoming. However, Virginia senses a dark shadow lingering among the dazzlingly bright sunshine and sweet smell of orange blossoms that surround the estate. Could it be that there is more to Simon's mysterious death than Virginia has been led to believe? Williams has gained a solid reputation with readers for her elegantly written historical fiction, and *Cocoa Beach* is an excellent example of her ability to flawlessly marry a finely-honed plot rich in unexpected twists and turns with a full cadre of deftly nuanced characters, who will keep readers engaged from the book's first page to its stunning conclusion. Readers who enjoy novels with a strong sense of place and time will especially savor Williams's latest masterwork as she whisks them from World War I France to misty Cornwall and then onto sun-drenched Florida. As an added bonus, fans of classic gothic romances by authors such

as Daphne Du Maurier and Mary Stewart will especially appreciate the clever manner in which Williams remixes and re-masters many of the quintessential ingredients – including the ancestral estate, the heroine torn between the love of two men, and a romantic plot generously seasoned with intrigue and secrets - of those novels and then deftly works them into the spellbinding storyline of *Cocoa Beach*.

Beach Reading

Brenner, Jamie. [The Forever Summer](#)
(Little Brown \$26)

When a single careless mistake costs her the chance at becoming a partner at the prestigious Manhattan law firm where she works, straitlaced Marin Bishop joins a stranger named Rachel Moscowitz, who claims to be her half-sister, on a soul-searching trip to Cape Cod, where she meets family members she never knew she had during a fateful summer of revelations and self-discovery.

Colgan, Jenny. [The Cafe by the Sea](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Years ago, Flora fled the quiet Scottish island where she grew up -- and she hasn't looked back. What would she have done on Mure? It's a place where everyone has known her all her life, where no one will let her forget the past. In bright, bustling London, she can be anonymous, ambitious... and hopelessly in love with her boss. But when fate brings Flora back to the island, she's suddenly swept once more into life with her brothers -- all strapping, loud, and seemingly incapable of basic housework -- and her father. Yet even amid the chaos of their reunion, Flora discovers a passion for cooking -- and find herself restoring dusty little pink-fronted shop on the harbour: a café by the sea. British author Colgan's charming contemporary love stories are the perfect reading antidote to today's stressful times.

Frank, Dorothea. [Same Beach Next Year](#)
(Harper \$27.99)

Reconnecting on one of Charleston's most beau-

tiful barrier islands, a pair of former sweethearts rediscover their feelings for one another while their jealous spouses pursue an unexpected attraction of their own over more than 20 years—also marked by financial catastrophes, family tragedies and devastating heartbreaks.



Gable, Michelle. [The Book of Summer](#)
(St. Martin's \$25.99)

Bess Codman refuses to lose her mother Caroline “Cissy” Packard Codman to erosion. Yet that is exactly what may happen if Bess can't convince her mother to abandon Cliff House, the Codman's ancestral home in Sconset on a bluff high above the ocean. Unfortunately, the gradual passage of time as well as several disastrous meteorological events have eaten away at the ground in front of Cliff House, leaving the Victorian home just one more unexpected weather event away from permanently slipping into the sea. Even though Cissy insists she has a plan to save Cliff House, Bess is able to persuade her to box up the family's belongs and move out just in case. In process, Bess stumbles across *The Book of Summer*, a guest book begun more than a century ago by the first lady of Cliff House Sarah Young. As Bess reads through the stories of assorted visitors to Cliff House as well as the remembrances of its residents (including her formidable grandmother Ruby Genevieve Packard), she discovers an astonishing family secret that could change everything. History, mystery, and a generous dash of romance all come together neatly in Gable's latest marvelously absorbing novel.

Green, Jane. [Sunshine Sisters](#)
(Berkley \$26)

To the general public, Ronni Sunshine was a beautiful, charismatic star of the silver screen. But to her children who lived with her at home, she was a narcissistic, disinterested mother who did everything she could to alienate her three daughters: the Sunshine sisters. As soon as possible, tomboy Nell fled her mother's overbearing presence to work on a farm and find her own way in the world as a single mother. The target of her mother's criticism, Meredith never felt good enough, thin enough, pretty enough. Her life took her to London--and into the arms of a man whom she may not even love. And Lizzy, the youngest, more like Ronni than any of them, seemed to have it easy, using her drive and ambition to build a culinary career to rival her mother's fame, while her marriage crumbled around her. But now, the Sunshine sisters are together again, called home by Ronni, who has learned that she has a serious disease and needs her daughters to fulfill her final wishes.

Hilderbrand, Elin. [Identicals](#)
(LittleBrown \$28)

Forced to call a truce by a family crisis, estranged identical twins Tabitha and Harper reevaluate their bond and the resentments that drove them apart from their respective homes on Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard in the latest engaging family soap opera from the “queen of the beach reads.”

McKinnon, Hannah. [The Summer House](#)
(Atria \$16)

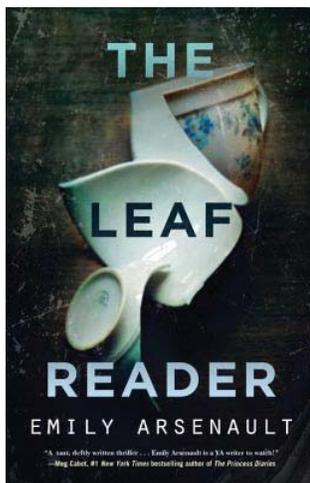
Flossy Merrill has managed to—somewhat begrudgingly—gather her three ungrateful grown children from their dysfunctional lives for a summer reunion at the family's Rhode Island beach house. Clementine, her youngest child and a young mother of two small children, has caused Flossy the most worry after enduring a tragicaly life-altering year. But Samuel and his partner Evan are not far behind in their ability to alarm: their prospective adoption search has just taken a heart-wrenching turn. Only Paige, the eldest of the headstrong Merrill clan, is her usual self: arriving precisely on time with her well-adapted

teens. Little does her family know that she, too, is facing personal struggles of her own. No matter. With her family finally congregated under one seaside roof, Flossy is determined to steer her family back on course even as she prepares to reveal the fate of the summer house that everyone has thus far taken for granted: she's selling it.

Monroe, Mary Alice. [Beach House for Rent](#) (Gallery Books \$26)

When Cara Rutledge rents out her quaint beach house on Isle of Palms to Heather Wyatt for the entire summer, it's a win-win by any standard: Cara's generating income necessary to keep husband Brett's ecotourism boat business afloat, and anxiety-prone Heather, an young artist who's been given a commission to paint birds on postage stamps, has a quiet space in which to work and tend to her pet canaries uninterrupted. It isn't long, however, before both women's idyllic summers are altered irrevocably.

Teen Fiction



Arsenault, Emily. [The Leaf Reader](#) (Soho \$18.99)

Marnie Wells knows that everyone at school thinks she is creepy. So no one even bats an eye when Marnie finds an old book about reading tea leaves and starts telling fortunes. The ceremony and symbols are weirdly soothing, but Marnie knows—and hopes everyone else does too—that none of it's real. Then basketball star Matt Cotrell asks for a reading. He's been getting emails from someone claiming to be his best friend, Andrea Quinley, who disappeared

and is presumed dead. And while they'd always denied they were romantically involved, a cloud of suspicion now hangs over Matt. But Marnie sees a kindred spirit: someone who, like her, is damaged by association. Suddenly, the readings seem real. And, despite the fact that they're telling Marnie things about Matt that make him seem increasingly dangerous, she can't shake her initial attraction to him. In fact, it's getting stronger. And that could turn out to be deadly. Arsenault is the author of a number of critically acclaimed adult novels including *The Broken Tea Glass*, which was a *New York Times* Notable Crime Book of 2009 as well as *The Evening Spider*, an Edgar award nominee. *The Leaf Reader* is her first foray into teen fiction, and it is a spellbinding story whose eerie mix of suspense and the supernatural elements may remind some readers of Lois Duncan's classic teen books of the 1970s and 1980s.

Carmack, Cora. [Roar](#) (Tor Teen \$17.99)

Groomed to be an ideal ruler despite an absence of the magical abilities shared by her predecessors, Aurora is committed by her mother to an arranged marriage with a brooding prince from another kingdom whose secrets compel Aurora to investigate allegations of black-market magic. This is a high fantasy debut by an author whose previous super sexy New Adult romances have consistently hit the *New York Times* best-seller list.

Courtney, Nadin. [Romancing the Throne](#) (Harper \$17.99)

Pippa and Kate Middleton provided the author with her source of inspiration for this tale of two sisters – Libby and Charlotte – who both wind up at the same posh British boarding school only to both fall for another student Prince Edward, heir to the British throne. Light, frothy romantic fun for teens who dream of one day finding their own Prince Charming.

Evans, Kathryn. [More of Me](#) (Amulet Books \$17.95)

Teva seems like a normal teenager. She goes to school and enjoys spending time with her friend. But when Teva is at home, she is anything but normal. Due to a genetic abnormality, Teva un-

willingly clones herself every year. Teva 16 is the currently lives at home with fifteen earlier versions of herself, include Teva 15, who isn't really on speaking terms with her ever since 16 took over her life and her friends. As her birthday starts rapidly approaching, Teva knows her own time in the sun is limited since the next version of herself will soon seize everything she cares about. In order to stop the cloning, Teva decides to try and find out everything she can about her past only to uncover a lie that could very well set her free or destroy her.

Nonfiction

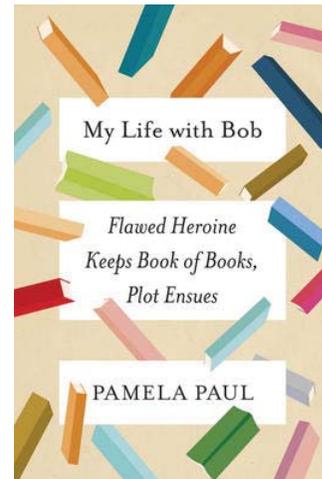
Epstein, Daniel Mark. [The Loyal Son](#)
(Ballantine \$30)

Think you know everything about the man with a kite? Think again. When he was twenty-four, Benjamin Franklin fathered a child with a woman who was not his wife. He adopted the boy, raised him, and educated him to be his aide. Ben and William became inseparable. After the famous kite-in-a-thunderstorm experiment, it was William who proved that the electrical charge in a lightning bolt travels from the ground up, not from the clouds down. On a diplomatic mission to London, it was William who charmed London society. He was invited to walk in the procession of the coronation of George III; Ben was not. The outbreak of the American Revolution caused a devastating split between father and son. By then, William was royal governor of New Jersey, while Ben was one of the foremost champions of American independence. In 1776, the Continental Congress imprisoned William for treason. George Washington made efforts to win William's release, while his father, to the world's astonishment, appeared to have abandoned him to his fate. Epstein offers a balanced account of the complex and often strained family relationship between one of the nation's founding fathers and his son.

Knowlton, Christopher. [The Cattle Kingdom](#)
(HMH \$29)

Since Knowlton is the former London Bureau Chief for *Fortune* magazine, it isn't surprising that he takes an economic approach to look-

ing at the rise and fall of the cattle trade in the American west. What is surprising is just how entertaining *The Cattle Kingdom* turns out to be. Fascinating profiles of historical figures like Teddy Roosevelt and the Marquis de Mores are interwoven into the story of how the open range drove a boom and bust demand for cheap beef that ultimately would change the western landscape for better or worse. I especially enjoyed the author's chronicle of the rise of Cheyenne, which became home to some of the wealthiest individuals in the country as cattle barons become the *nouveau riche* of the west.



Paul, Pamela. [My Life with Bob](#)
(Henry Holt \$27)

Paul, editor of the *New York Times Book Review*, has kept a journal of every book she has read for the last 28 years. Paul calls that journal "Bob," and with *My Life with Bob*, Paul shares stories about the various books – including everything from *The Hunger Games* to *Wild Swans* - that have shaped her life over the years. With great charm and a generous measure of dry wit, Paul writes about how she has found solace in books, and how what we read ultimately shapes the person we become in life. Great fun for any book lover as well as those who devoured Will Schwalbe's *Books for Living*.

Prinstein, Mitch. [Popular](#) (Viking \$27)

For many of us, our notion of what constitutes "popularity" is born early on while we are in school and discover which table we can eat at lunch determines our ranking in the school's

social order. Prinstein, a clinical psychologist, maintains that this idea continues to play out years after we leave the playground in every business meeting, every social gathering, in our personal relationships, and even how we raise our children. Our popularity even affects our DNA, our health, and our mortality in fascinating ways we never previously realized.