

# Midmonth BookNotes

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## A Bounty of Reading Treasures

### Jane's World

**Dev, Sonali.** [Recipe for Persuasion](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99).

When chef Ashna Raje is asked to join the cast of *Cooking with the Stars*, the latest hit reality show teaming chefs with celebrities, it seems like just the opportunity she needs to put her restaurant back on the map not mention offering her a way to prove to her estranged, overachieving mother that she's not a complete screw up. Ashna's a chef, what's the worst that could happen? Being paired with Rico Silva, who was her first love and who ghosted her at the worst possible time in her life, that's what could happen. Dev, author of the popular *Pride Prejudice, and Other Flavors*, returns with another deliciously fun romantic comedy that delivers a clever twist on Jane Austen's *Persuasion*.

**Hadlow, Janice.** [The Other Bennet Sister](#)  
(Henry Holt \$28).

What if Mary Bennet's life took a different path from that laid out for her in *Pride and Prejudice*? What if the frustrated intellectual of the Bennet family, the marginalized middle daughter, the plain girl who takes refuge in her books, eventually found the fulfillment enjoyed by her prettier, more confident sisters? (In other words, think of Mary as a Regency version of Jan from *The Brady Bunch*). While Mary's destiny does not involve broad acres or landed gentry, it does include a man; and, as in all Austen novels, Mary must decide whether he is the truly the one for her. In *The Other Bennet Sister*, Mary is a fully rounded character—complex, conflicted, and often uncertain;

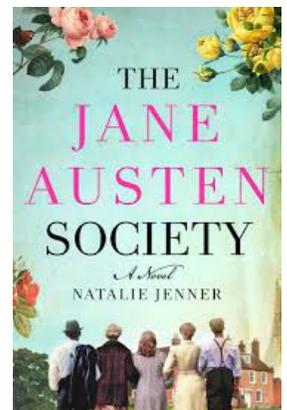
but also vulnerable, supremely sympathetic, and ultimately the protagonist of an uncommonly satisfying debut novel.

**Hornby, Gill.** [Miss Austen](#)  
(Flatiron \$26.99).

Two decades after the death of her beloved sister, Jane, Cassandra Austen returns to the village of Kintbury and the home of her family friends, the Fowles. In a dusty corner of the vicarage, there is a cache of Jane's letters that Cassandra is desperate to find. Dodging her hostess and a meddlesome housemaid, Cassandra eventually hunts down the letters and confronts the secrets they hold, secrets not only about Jane but about Cassandra herself. Will Cassandra bare the most private details of her life to the world, or commit her sister's legacy to the flames? Moving back and forth between the vicarage and Cassandra's vibrant memories of her years with Jane and interwoven with Jane's brilliantly reimagined lost letters, *Miss Austen* is the untold story of the most important person in Jane's life: her sister Cassandra.

**Jenner, Natalie.**  
[The Jane Austen Society](#)  
(St. Martin's \$26.99).

One hundred and fifty years ago, Chawton was the final home of Jane Austen, one of England's finest novelists. Now it's home to a few distant relatives and their diminishing estate. With the last bit of Austen's legacy threatened, a



group of disparate individuals come together to preserve both Jane Austen's home and her legacy. These people—a laborer, a young widow, the local doctor, and a movie star, among others—could not be more different and yet they are united in their love for the works and words of Austen. As each of them endures their own quiet struggle with loss and trauma, some from the recent war, others from more distant tragedies, they rally together to create the Jane Austen Society. *PW* concluded their rave review of this marvelous novel with “Jenner’s immersive character development is juxtaposed against her study of Austen’s characters, providing clever insight into how the trials of Austen’s life were revealed through her books. The narrative, meanwhile, is rich with references to Austen’s literature and carried along by the strong bonds formed by the characters based on their shared appreciation for her work. Austen-ites are in for a treat.” I couldn’t agree more!

## More Jane books

**Austen, Jane and Kate Riordan.** [Sanditon](#) (Grand Central \$16.99).

When a chance accident transports her from her rural hometown of Willingden to the would-be coastal resort of the eponymous title, it exposes Charlotte to the intrigues and dalliances of a seaside town on the make, and the characters whose fortunes depend on its commercial success. Based on a partial manuscript left behind by Austen.

**Davidson, Hilary.** [Dress in the Age of Jane Austen](#) (Yale \$40).

A comprehensive and beautifully illustrated examination of dress, clothing, fashion, and sewing in the Regency seen through the lens of Jane Austen’s life and writings

**Sheridan, Sara.** [The World of Sanditon](#) (Grand Central \$40).

This, the official companion to the Masterpiece series, contains everything a fan could want to know. It explores the world Austen created, along with fascinating insights about the



period and the real-life heartbreak behind her final story. And it offers location guides, behind the scenes details, and interviews with the cast, alongside beautiful illustrations and set photography. A terrific gift for readers who loved the PBS series (like John) but definitely not for those that hated the minis-series (that would be Barbara).

**Wilson, Kim.** [Tea with Jane Austen](#) (Francis Lincoln \$21).

Tea figures prominently in Jane Austen’s life and work. At the center of almost every social situation in her novels one finds tea. In *Emma*, does Miss Bates drink coffee? Of course not: ‘No coffee, I thank you, for me-never take coffee.-A little tea if you please.’ In *Pride and Prejudice*, what is one of the supreme honors Mr. Collins can envision Lady Catherine bestowing on Elizabeth Bennet and her friends? Why, drinking tea with her, naturally. *Tea with Jane Austen* begins with tea drinking in the morning and ends with tea in the evening, at balls and other gatherings. Each chapter includes a description of how tea was taken at a particular place or time of day, along with history, recipes, excerpts from Austen’s novels and letters and illustrations from the time.

## Jane Swag

[Jane Austen Mug](#) (Unemployed Philosophers Guild \$13) Drink your tea in a beautiful mug embellished with quotes from Austen.

[Jane Austen Bag](#) (Unemployed Philosophers Guild \$12) Store your stuff in this cute little Austen quote decorated bag.

[Jane Austen BabyLit \(TM\) Tote](#) (Gibbs Smith \$20) It’s never too early to start developing a love for the world’s greatest novelist!

## Cozy Corner

**Collette, Abby.** [A Deadly Inside Scoop](#) (Berkley \$16).

Recent MBA grad Bronwyn Crewse returns home to Chagrin Falls, Ohio to take over running her family’s ice cream shop, and she’s going back to basics. Win is renovating Crewse Creamery to restore its former glory, and filling the menu with delicious,

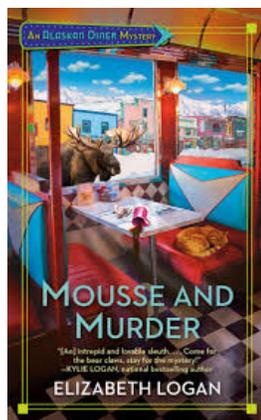
homemade ice cream flavors based on her grandmother's original recipes. However, Win's plans for a grand re-opening take an unexpected turn when she stumbles across a body in the snow, and it turns out the dead man was a con artist, who had not only swindled Win's family, but also stolen from other residents of Chagrin Falls. It's not easy to juggle a new-to-her business while solving a murder, but Win is determined to do it. With the help of her quirky best friends and her tight-knit family, she'll catch the ice cold killer before she has a meltdown. *PW* called this series launch "a tasty treat for cozy fans."

**Lansing, Kate.** [Killer Chardonnay](#)  
(Berkley \$7.99).

Parker Valentine has always dreamed of opening her own winery in her hometown of Boulder, Colorado. But she gets more than she bargained for when a food and wine critic unexpectedly shows up at Vino Valentine on opening day. A negative review could be fatal for her business, and not only does the critic seem to hate her chardonnay, he also collapses and dies shortly after drinking it. Now with #killerchardonnay trending online, Parker's business is in danger of closing, which leaves her with no choice but to investigate the murder herself. *Kirkus* concluded their review with "Lansing's brisk style and her heroine's efficient approach make her debut a treat."

**Logan, Elizabeth.** [Mousse and Murder](#)  
(Berkley \$7.99).

When Chef Charlie Cooke is offered the chance to leave San Francisco and return home to Elkvew, Alaska, to take over her mother's diner, she doesn't even consider saying no. After all--her love life has recently become a Love Life Crumble, and a chance to reconnect with her roots may be just what she needs. Determined to bring fresh life and flavors to the Bear Claw Diner, Charlie starts planning changes to the menu, which has grown stale over the years. But her plans are fried when her head cook Oliver turns up dead after a bitter and public fight over Charlie's ideas--leaving Charlie as the only suspect in the case. With her career, freedom, and life all on thin ice, Charlie must find out



who the real killer is, before it's too late. Logan's series debut does a terrific job with its Alaskan setting, offers readers an easily relatable cast of characters, and there is a totally adorable cat to boot. As an added bonus cozy carnivores may dig the recipe for moose meatloaf.

## Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance and More

**Ackerman, Sara.** [Red Sky Over Hawaii](#)  
(MIRA \$17.99).

The attack on Pearl Harbor changes everything for Lana Hitchcock. Arriving home on the Big Island too late to reconcile with her estranged father, she is left alone to untangle the clues of his legacy, which lead to a secret property tucked away in the remote rain forest of Kilauea volcano. When the government starts taking away her neighbors as suspected sympathizers, Lana shelters two young German girls, a Japanese fisherman and his son. As tensions escalate, they are forced into hiding; only to discover the hideaway house is not what they expected. When a detainment camp is established nearby, Lana struggles to keep the secrets of those in her care. Trust could have dangerous consequences. As their lives weave together, Lana begins to understand the true meaning of family and how the bonds of love carry us through the worst times.

**Agresti, Aimee.** [The Summer Set](#)  
(Graydon House \$17.99).

Charlie Savoy was once Hollywood's hottest A-lister. Now, ten years later, she's pushing forty, exiled from the film world and back at the summer Shakespeare theater in the Berkshires that launched her career; and where her old flame, Nick, is the artistic director. It's not exactly her first choice. But as parts are cast and rehearsals begin, Charlie is surprised to find herself getting her groove back, bonding with celebrity actors, forging unexpected new friendships and even reigniting her spark with Nick, who still seems to bring out the best in her despite their complicated history. Until Charlie's old rival, Hollywood's current It Girl, is brought on set, threatening to undo everything she's built.

**Alers, Rochelle.** [The Seaside Cafe](#)  
(Kensington \$15.99).

For three decades, the Seaside Café has served delicious meals to locals and island tourists alike. Now Kayana Johnson has moved home to help her brother run the café; and to nurse her wounds following a deep betrayal. Between cooking favorite recipes and spending time reading, Kayana is trying to embrace a life free of entanglements, while staying open to new connections. After striking up conversation with two customers, Kayana suggests a summer book club. Each week, they'll meet on the patio to talk about their favorite novels. But there are plot twists awaiting them in real life too.

**Ashley, Kristen.** [Dream Maker](#)  
(Grand Central \$7.99).

After being the responsible one in her family, Evan "Evie" Gardiner is finally going to put her own dreams first and finish that engineering degree she's been working toward. But first she needs to come up with the money to pay for tuition. Working as a dancer at Smithie's club seems like the perfect solution to her problems . . . until her family lands in yet another scrape and comes to Evie for help. Only, this time, her family's recklessness is risking more than her dreams—it's endangering her life, and the only person who can help get her out of trouble is Daniel "Mag" Magnusson, who knows a thing or two about desperation and disappointment. This sexy and suspenseful spin-off from the Ashley's Rock Chick and Dream Man series is the perfect summer read.

**Brookes, Maggie.** [The Prisoner's Wife](#)  
(Berkley \$17).

Izabela and British prisoner of war Bill have secretly married and are on the run, with Izzy dressed as a man. The young husband and wife evade capture for as long as possible; until they are cornered by Nazi soldiers with tracking dogs. Izzy's disguise works. The couple are assumed to be escaped British soldiers and transported to a POW camp. However, their ordeal has just begun, as they face appalling living conditions and the constant fear of Izzy's exposure. But in the midst of danger and deprivation comes hope, for the young couple is befriended by a small group of fellow prisoners. These men become their new family, willing to jeopardize their lives to save Izzy from being discovered and shot. This novel is inspired by a true story.

**Brown, Janelle.** [Pretty Things](#)  
(Random \$28).

"Every criminal has an M.O. and this is mine: I watch and I wait. I study what people have, and where they have it. It's easy because they show me. Their social media accounts are like windows into their worlds that they have flung open, begging me to peer inside and take inventory." While Nina Ross, whose criminal M.O. appears above, might be a thief and might have grifting in her blood, but Nina never intended on making crime her life's work. However, a degree in art history from a mid-level college will only get a girl so far economically, and when Nina's mom Lisa gets cancer, Nina, with some assistance from her occasional partner-in-crime/sometimes lover Lachlan, turns to stealing from the super-rich as a way of paying her mom's medical bills. Now, in order to afford a new experimental treatment for her mom, Lisa has targeted fashion influencer and Instagram star Vanessa Liebling, who has recently moved back into her family's palatial mountain estate Stonehaven, on the shores of Lake Tahoe. Posing as a couple who want to rent the groundskeeper's cottage on the estate, Nina and Lachlan slowly insert themselves into Vanessa's life, but when it comes time to enact their con, Nina discovers Vanessa may not be quite the vapid internet celebrity she appeared to be. *New York Times* best-selling Brown's latest deliciously duplicitous tale is a thing of near perfection. Not only does Brown manage to give each of her main characters amazing layers of depth, her Hitchcockian plot delivers the kind of twists and turns (including a killer ending) worthy of Patricia Highsmith at her best. And the icing on this addictively readable suspense novel is the clever way in which the author also manages to effectively skewer society's current obsession with internet fame and posting every minute detail of their lives on the web. As good as *Gone Girl* or *The Woman in the Window*.



**Chang, Janie.** [The Library of Legends](#)  
(Harper \$16.99).

Set in 1937 China, as Japanese bombs begin falling on the city of Nanking, Hu Lian and her classmates at Minghua University, entrusted with a priceless

treasure, must navigate a world of danger, betrayal and love to keep a 500-year-old collection of myths and legends safe. *LJ* concluded their rave review of Chang's latest terrific historical novel with "Chang (*Dragon Springs Road*) has created a lovely novel that is both joyful and lighthearted and deeply tragic as she explores a culture and people who are forced to accept that their country will never be the same following war and the departure of the spirits that protected their land for centuries."

**Delinsky, Barbara.** [A Week at the Shore](#) (St Martin's \$27.99).

Returning to her family's Rhode Island beach home after a 20-year estrangement, real estate photographer Mallory Aldiss navigates painful family secrets that test her bonds with her sisters, while her 13-year-old daughter Joy pursues desperately wanted family ties. In just seven watershed days on the Rhode Island coast the Aldiss women will test the bonds of sisterhood, friendship and family, and discover the role that love and memory plays in defining their lives.

**George, Alex.** [The Paris Hours](#) (Flatiron \$26.99).

Camille Clermont was once the maid of Marcel Proust, and she has a secret: when she was asked to burn her employer's notebooks, she saved one for herself. Now she is desperate to find it before her betrayal is revealed. Souren Balakian, an Armenian refugee, performs puppet shows for children that are nothing like the fairy tales they expect. Lovesick artist Guillaume Blanc is down on his luck and running from a debt he cannot repay—but when Gertrude Stein walks into his studio, he wonders if this is the day everything could change. And Jean-Paul Maillard is a journalist who tells other people's stories, because his own is too painful to tell. When the quartet's paths finally cross in an unforgettable climax, each discovers if they will find what they are looking for. Told over the course of a single day in 1927, *The Paris Hours* takes four ordinary people whose stories, told together, are as extraordinary as the glorious city they inhabit. *PW* concluded their appraisal of



George's third novel with "elegant and evocative, this will have special appeal for lovers of Paris and fans of Paula McLain's *The Paris Wife*."

**Gortner, C W.** [The First Actress: A Novel of Sarah Bernhardt](#) (Ballantine \$28).

Sarah Bernhardt's highly dramatic life starts when she returns to Paris after her convent schooling and is confronted by her mother's demand that Sarah follow in the family trade as a courtesan. To escape this fate, Sarah pursues a career onstage at the esteemed *Comédie-Française*, until her rebellious acting style leads to her scandalous dismissal. Only nineteen years old and unemployed, Sarah is now forced to submit to her mother's wishes. But her seductive ease as a courtesan comes to an abrupt end when she discovers she is pregnant. Unwilling to give up her child, Sarah defies social condemnation and is cast adrift, penniless and alone. With her striking beauty and innovative performances in a bohemian theater, Sarah quickly catapults to unexpected success, the first step in her journey in becoming the "Divine Sarah."

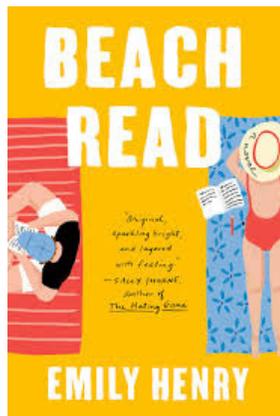
**Hankin, Laura.** [Happy and You Know it](#) (Berkley \$26).

After her former band shot to superstardom without her, Claire reluctantly agrees to a gig as a playgroup musician for wealthy infants on New York's Park Avenue. Claire is surprised to discover that she is smitten with her new employers, a welcoming clique of wellness addicts with impossibly shiny hair, who whirl from juice cleanse to overpriced miracle vitamins to spin class with limitless energy. There is perfect hostess Whitney who is on the brink of social-media stardom and just needs to find a way to keep her flawless life from falling apart. Caustically funny, recent stay-at-home mom Amara who is struggling to embrace her new identity. And old money, veteran mom Gwen who never misses an opportunity to dole out parenting advice. But as Claire grows closer to the stylish women who pay her bills, she uncovers secrets and betrayals that no amount of activated charcoal can fix.

**Henry, Emily.** [Beach Read](#) (Penguin \$16).

Augustus Everett is an acclaimed author of literary fiction. January Andrews writes bestselling romance.

When she pens a happily ever after, he kills off his entire cast. They're polar opposites. In fact, the only thing they have in common is that for the next three months, they're living in neighboring beach houses, broke, and bogged down with writer's block. Until, one hazy evening, one thing leads to another and they strike a deal designed to force them out of their creative ruts: Augustus will spend the summer writing something happy, and January will pen the next Great American Novel. She'll take him on field trips worthy of any rom-com montage, and he'll take her to interview surviving members of a backwoods death cult (obviously). Everyone will finish a book and no one will fall in love. Really. *PW* says "Readers are sure to fall hard for this meta, heartfelt take on the romance genre."



**Jackson, Kwana.** [Real Men Knit](#) (Penguin \$16).

Jesse Strong is known for two things: his devotion to his adoptive mom, Mama Joy, and his reputation for breaking hearts. When Mama Joy unexpectedly passes away, Jesse and his brothers have different plans for what to do with Strong Knits, their mom's neighborhood knitting store. Jesse wants to keep the store open. His brothers want to tie off loose ends and close shop. Part-time shop employee Kerry Fuller has kept her crush on Jesse a secret. When she overhears his impassioned plea to his brothers to keep the knitting shop open, she volunteers to help. Unlike Jesse, Kerry knows the "knitty-gritty" of the business, and together they make plans to reinvent Strong Knits for a new generation. But the more time they spend together, the stronger the chemistry builds between them. Kerry, knowing Jesse's past history with women, doesn't believe their relationship can last longer than she can knit one, purl two. But Jesse is determined to prove to her that he can be the man for her forever and always. After all, real men knit.

**Leaman, Louisa.** [The Second Chance Boutique](#) (Sourcebooks \$16.99).

Francesca Delaney has a knack for matching a bride-to-be with the perfect gown. Her shop, The Whispering Dress, is no ordinary bridal boutique. Every gown

is vintage, and the dresses seem to share their stories with Francesca, pointing to which woman needs them next. Fran credits her success to two rules: never covet a dress and never sell a dress that led to a doomed marriage. But then she finds a beautiful 1950s couture floor-length gown, and her talent veers into obsession. The owner, however, would quite like the dark past of the dress to remain hidden forever. The author, who serves as the wedding dress archivist for the V&A museum in London obviously knows a thing or two about wedding dresses, and she puts that information to good use in this fun debut.

**Meyerson, Amy.** [The Imperfects](#) (Park Row \$27.99).

Estranged siblings Beck, Ashley and Jake Miller find themselves under one roof for the first time in years, forced to confront old resentments and betrayals, when the family's mysterious, eccentric matriarch, Helen, passes away. But their lives are about to change when they find a secret inheritance hidden among her possessions—the Florentine Diamond, a 137-carat yellow gemstone that went missing from the Austrian Empire a century ago. Desperate to learn how one of the world's most elusive diamonds ended up in Helen's bedroom, they begin investigating her past only to realize how little they know about their brave, resilient grandmother. As the Millers race to determine whether they are the rightful heirs to the diamond and the fortune it promises, they uncover a past more tragic and powerful than they ever could have imagined, forever changing their connection to their heritage and each other. This fascinating novel was inspired by the true story of the real (and still-missing) Florentine Diamond.

**Morgenthaler, Sarah.** [The Tourist Attraction](#) (Sourcebooks \$14.99).

When Graham Barnett named his diner The Tourist Trap, he meant it as a joke. Now he's stuck slinging reindeer dogs to an endless parade of resort visitors who couldn't interest him less. Not even the sweet, enthusiastic tourist in the corner who blushes every time he looks her way...

Two weeks in Alaska isn't just the top item on Zoey Caldwell's bucket list. It's the whole bucket. One look at the mountain town of Moose Springs and she's smitten. But when an act of kindness brings Zoey into Graham's world, she may just find there's more to

the grumpy local than meets the eye...and more to love in Moose Springs than just the Alaskan wilderness. A sweet and sassy debut.

**Patel, Sajni.** [The Trouble with Hating You](#) (Grand Central \$14.99).

Liya Thakkar is a successful biochemical engineer, takeout enthusiast, and happily single woman. The moment she realizes her parents' latest dinner party is a setup with the man they want her to marry, she's out the back door in a flash. Imagine her surprise when the same guy shows up at her office a week later -- the new lawyer hired to rescue her struggling company. What's not surprising: he's not too thrilled to see her either after that humiliating fiasco.

Jay Shah looks good on paper . . . and off. Especially if you like that whole gorgeous, charming lawyer-in-a-good-suit thing. He's also infuriating. As their witty office banter turns into late night chats, Liya starts to think he might be the one man who truly accepts her. But falling for each other means exposing their painful pasts. Will Liya keep running, or will she finally give love a real chance? Find out in this laugh-out-loud romantic comedy debut about first impressions, second chances, and finding the love of your life in the most unexpected way.

**Roberts, Nora.** [Hideaway](#) (St. Martins \$28.99).

Caitlyn Sullivan comes from a long line of Hollywood royalty, stretching back to her Irish immigrant great-grandfather. At nine, she was already a star—yet still an innocent child who loved to play hide and seek with her cousins at the family home in Big Sur. It was during one of those games that she disappeared. Cate managed to escape her abductors and ran to the nearby Cooper ranch, where Dillon Cooper was shocked to find the bloodied, exhausted girl huddled in his house—but when the teenaged Dillon and his family heard her story they provided refuge, reuniting her with her loved ones. Cate's ordeal, though, was far from over. First came the discovery of a shocking betrayal that would send someone she'd trusted to prison. Then there were years spent away in western Ireland, peaceful and protected but with restlessness growing in her soul. Finally, she would return to Los Angeles, gathering the courage to act again and get past the trauma that had derailed her life. What she didn't yet know was that two seeds

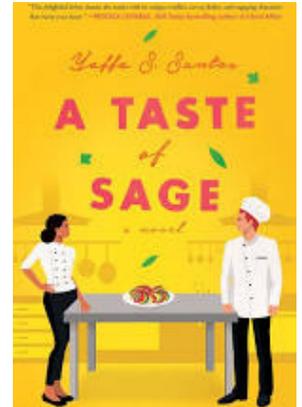
had been planted that long-ago night—one of a great love, and one of a terrible vengeance.

**Santos, Yaffa S.** [A Taste of Sage](#) (Harper \$15.99).

Lumi Santana is a chef with the gift of synesthesia—she can perceive a person's emotions just by tasting their cooking. Despite being raised by a single mother who taught her that dreams and true love were silly fairy tales, she decides to take a chance and puts her heart and savings

into opening a fusion restaurant in Inwood, Manhattan. But when Lumi's eclectic venture fails, she is forced to take a position as a sous chef at a staid, traditional French restaurant in midtown owned by Julien Dax, a celebrated chef known for his acid tongue as well as his brilliant smile. It would be a definite

understatement to say that Lumi and Julien don't get along in the kitchen, and Lumi secretly vows never to taste Julien's cooking. Little does she know that her resolve doesn't stand a chance against Julien's culinary prowess and neither does her heart against his considerable romantic charms.



**Shipman, Viola.** [The Heirloom Garden](#) (Grand Central \$16.99).

Iris Maynard lost her husband in World War II, her daughter to illness and, finally, her reason to live. Walled off from the world for decades behind the towering fence surrounding her home, Iris has built a new family of flowers. Iris propagates her own day-lilies and roses while tending to a garden filled with the heirloom starts that keep the memories of her loved ones alive. When Abby Peterson moves next door with her family; a husband traumatized by his service in the Iraq War and a young daughter searching for stability; Iris is reluctantly yet inevitably drawn into her boisterous neighbor's life, where, united by loss and a love of flowers, she and Abby tentatively unearth their secrets, and help each other discover how much life they have yet to live.

**Skilton, Tash.** [Ghosting: A Love Story](#)  
(Kensington \$15.95).

Dumped by his fiancée, not only is Miles Ibrahim couch-surfing across New York City, but downsizing has forced him to set up shop at a café. Also, he no longer believes in love. Not a good look in his line of work. Zoey Abot's eccentric L.A. boss sent her packing to New York to "grow" but beneath her chill Cali demeanor, Zoey's terrified to venture beyond the café across the street. The only thing Miles and Zoey share is their daily battle for Café Crudite's last day-old biscotti. They don't know they're both ghost-writing "authentic" client profiles for rival online dating services. Nope, they have absolutely nothing in common. . . . Until they meet anonymously online.

**Slee, Katherine.** [The Book of Second Chances](#)  
(Grand Central \$15.99).

After her grandmother and beloved children's author Catriona's death, Emily Robinson is at a complete loss . . . until she gets an unexpected letter from the woman she loved most. Catriona has revealed there might be one last, lost unpublished manuscript in her wildly popular book series, for which Emily provided the illustrations. The letter along with a secret diary left behind by her grandmother provide a trail of clues to the manuscript, which if found, will provide the financial security Emily needs to hold onto the cottage, where she grew up with grandmother and where she currently resides. From London to Paris to Verona, Emily traces her grandmother's past, finding out more about her family -- and herself -- than she ever imagined possible. Hopeful and adventurous, this heartfelt and heartwarming debut novel celebrates books and bookstores, the power of imagination, and having the courage to shape our own destinies. This is just the kind of restorative reading we all need now.



**Weiner, Jennifer.** [Big Summer](#)  
(Atria \$28).

Six years after the fight that ended their friendship,

Daphne Berg is shocked when Drue Cavanaugh walks back into her life, looking as lovely and successful as ever, with a massive favor to ask. Drue wants Daphne to be her maid-of-honor at the society wedding of the summer. Drue was always the one who had everything; except the ability to hold onto friends. Meanwhile, Daphne's no longer the same self-effacing sidekick she was back in high school. Daphne's built a life that she loves, including a growing career as a plus-size Instagram influencer. Letting glamorous, seductive Drue back into her life is risky, but it comes with an invitation to spend a weekend in a waterfront Cape Cod mansion. When Drue begs and pleads and dangles the prospect of cute single guys, Daphne finds herself powerless as ever to resist her friend's siren song.

**Wilsner, Meryl.** [Something to Talk About](#)  
(Berkley \$16).

Hollywood powerhouse Jo is photographed making her assistant Emma laugh on the red carpet, and just like that, the tabloids declare them a couple. The so-called scandal couldn't come at a worse time; threatening Emma's promotion and Jo's new movie. As the gossip spreads, it starts to affect all areas of their lives. Paparazzi are following them outside the office, coworkers are treating them differently, and a "source" is feeding information to the media. But their only comment is "no comment." With the launch of Jo's film project fast approaching, the two women begin to spend even more time together, getting along famously. Emma seems to have a sixth sense for knowing what Jo needs. And Jo, known for being aloof and outwardly cold, opens up to Emma in a way neither of them expects. They begin to realize the rumor might not be so off base after all; but is acting on the spark between them worth fanning the gossip flames?

## Nonfiction

**Berfield, Susan.** [The Hour of Fate](#)  
(Bloomsbury \$30).

It seemed like no force in the world could slow J. P. Morgan's drive to power. In the summer of 1901, the financier was assembling his next mega-deal: Northern Securities, an enterprise that would affirm his dominance in America's most important industry-the railroads. Then, a bullet from an anarchist's gun put

an end to the business-friendly presidency of William McKinley. A new chief executive bounded into office: Theodore Roosevelt. He was convinced that as big business got bigger, the government had to check the influence of the wealthiest or the country would inch ever closer to collapse. By March 1902, battle lines were drawn: the government sued Northern Securities for antitrust violations. But as the case ramped up, the coal miners' union went on strike and the anthracite pits that fueled Morgan's trains and heated the homes of Roosevelt's citizens went silent. With millions of dollars on the line, winter bearing down, and revolution in the air, it was a crisis that neither man alone could solve.

**Brower, Kate Andersen.** [Team of Five](#) (HarperCollins \$28.99).

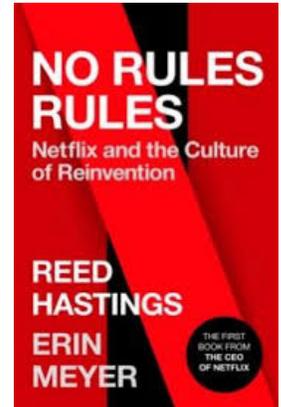
After serving the highest office of American government, five men—Jimmy Carter, the late George H. W. Bush, Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama—became members of the world's most exclusive fraternity. In *Team of Five*, Kate Andersen Brower goes beyond the White House to uncover what, exactly, comes after the presidency, offering a glimpse into the complex relationships of these five former presidents, and how each of these men views his place in a nation that has been upended by the Oval Office's current, norm-breaking occupant, President Donald Trump.

**Harvey, Miles.** [The King of Confidence](#) (Little, Brown \$29).

In the summer of 1843, James Strang, a charismatic young lawyer and avowed atheist, vanished from a rural town in New York. Months later he reappeared on the Midwestern frontier and converted to a burgeoning religious movement known as Mormonism. In the wake of the murder of the sect's leader, Joseph Smith, Strang unveiled a letter purportedly from the prophet naming him successor, and persuaded hundreds of fellow converts to follow him to an island in Lake Michigan, where he declared himself a divine king. From this stronghold he controlled a fourth of the state of Michigan, establishing a pirate colony where he practiced plural marriage and perpetrated thefts, corruption, and frauds of all kinds. Eventually, having run afoul of powerful enemies, including the American president, Strang was assassinated, an event that was frontpage news across the country.

**Hastings, Reed.** [No Rules Rules](#) (Penguin \$27.99).

Netflix cofounder Reed Hastings reveals for the first time the unorthodox culture behind one of the world's most innovative, imaginative, and successful companies. There's never before been a company like Netflix. Not only because it has led a revolution in the entertainment industries; or because it generates billions of dollars in annual revenue; or even because it is watched by hundreds of millions of people in nearly 200 countries. When Reed Hastings co-founded Netflix, he developed a set of counterintuitive and radical management principles, defying all tradition and expectation, which would allow the company to reinvent itself over and over on the way to becoming one of the most loved brands in the world.



**Sally, David.** [One Step Ahead](#) (Macmillan \$29.99).

The world's best negotiators have moved beyond *How to Win Friends & Influence People* and *Getting to Yes*. For over twenty years, David Sally has been teaching the art of negotiation at leading business schools and to executives at top companies. Now, he delivers the proven, clear, actionable insights you need to stay competitive in an ever-changing marketplace. Based on cutting-edge studies and real-world results, and drawing parallels to everything from the NBA to the corner con game to Machiavelli, Xi Jinping, and Barack Obama, *One Step Ahead* upends conventional wisdom to make sure that you have what it takes to stay one step ahead—no matter whom you are facing across the table.

## Teen Fiction

**Bashardoust, Melissa.** [Girl, Serpent, Thorn](#) (Flatiron \$18.99).

There was and there was not, as all stories begin, a princess cursed to be poisonous to the touch. But for Soraya, who has lived her life hidden away, apart from her family, safe only in her gardens, it's not just

a story. As the day of her twin brother's wedding approaches, Soraya must decide if she's willing to step outside of the shadows for the first time. Below in the dungeon is a demon who holds knowledge that she craves, the answer to her freedom. And above is a young man who isn't afraid of her, whose eyes linger not with fear, but with an understanding of who she is beneath the poison. Soraya thought she knew her place in the world, but when her choices lead to consequences she never imagined, she begins to question who she is and who she is becoming... human or demon. Princess or monster. Bashardoust's latest is a mesmerizing mix of Persian and European fairy tales.

**Cluess, Jessica.** [House of Dragons](#)  
(Random House \$18.99).

When the Emperor dies, the five royal houses of Etrusia attend the Call, where one of their own will be selected to compete for the throne. It is always the oldest child, the one who has been preparing for years to compete in the Trial. But this year is different. This year these five outcasts will answer the call. The Liar is Emilia, who must hide her dark magic or be put to death. The Soldier is Lucian: a warrior who has sworn to never lift a sword again. The Servant is Vespri: a dragon trainer whose skills alone will keep her in the game. As The Thief, Ajax knows that nothing is free--he must take what he wants. Known as The Murderer, Hyperia was born to rule and will stop at nothing to take her throne.

**Mobley, Jeannie.** [The Jewel Thief](#)  
(Viking \$18.99).

The only daughter of the King's crown jeweler, Juliette marvels at the large, deep-blue diamond Louis XIV has commanded her father to make shine like the sun. But Jean Pitau has never cut a diamond quite like this, and shaping it is a risky endeavor. As Jean spirals into depression, Juliette takes it upon herself to cut the stone, and with every misstep, brings her family closer to ruin. When her efforts land Juliette in a cold, dark cell of the Bastille prison and charged with stealing the King's diamond, Juliette has but one chance to convince him that her motives were pure. If she fails, this night may very well be her last. Though, death wouldn't be her worst fate. Because recording Juliette's confession is René, a court-appointed scribe, and the man she loves. But René holds his own grudge against Juliette, and this is her

one and only chance to win back his heart. Set in 17<sup>th</sup> century France, this fascinating historical novel was inspired by the true history of the Hope Diamond.

**Sellet, Amanda.** [By the Book](#)  
(HMH \$17.99).

Mary Porter-Malcolm has prepared for high school in the one way she knows how: an extensive review of classic literature to help navigate the friendships, romantic liaisons, and overall drama she has come to expect. When some new school friends seem in danger of falling for the same tricks employed since the days of Austen and Tolstoy, Mary swoops in to create the Scoundrel Survival Guide, using archetypes of literature's debonair bad boys to signal red flags. But despite her best efforts, she soon finds herself unable to listen to her own good advice and falling for a supposed cad; the same one she warned her friends away from. Without a convenient rain-swept moor to flee to, Mary is forced to admit that real life doesn't follow the same rules as fiction and that if she wants a happy ending, she's going to have to write it herself.

**Taylor, Jordyn.** [The Paper Girl of Paris](#)  
(HarperCollins \$17.99).

After unexpectedly inheriting a Parisian apartment once owned by her beloved grandmother Chloe, Alice Prewitt finds a diary hidden by Chloe's sister Adalyn Bonhomme. Since no one in Alice's family had ever heard of Adalyn, Alice teams up with a charming French student Paul to uncover the story of her long-lost great aunt who hid her work with the Resistance behind the persona of a socialite Nazi collaborator.

