

# Midmonth BookNotes

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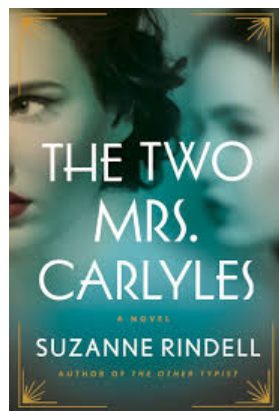
## Escape into a Cool Book

### Gothic Revival

The last couple years have seen the return of the gothic novel to literary favor with the publication of such superbly entertaining, eerily bewitching books as Suzanne Rindell's *The Two Mrs. Carlyles*. If you need something that will send a chill or two down your spine (and anything cool would be welcome here in the hot as hades Valley of the Sun), try Rindell's latest or another of the selected titles that follow it.

**Rindell, Suzanne.** [The Two Mrs. Carlyles](#)  
(Penguin \$27)

Violet is one of three people grateful for the destruction wrought by 1906 San Francisco earthquake. It leaves her and her two best friends Flossie and Cora unexpectedly wealthy--if the secret that binds them together stays buried beneath the rubble. Fearing discovery, the women strike out on their own, and orphaned, wallflower Violet reinvents herself. When a whirlwind romance with the city's most eligible widower, Harry Carlyle, later lands her in a luxurious mansion as the second Mrs. Carlyle, it seems like her dreams of happiness and love have come true. But all is not right in the Carlyle home, and Violet soon finds herself trapped by the lingering specter of the first Mrs. Carlyle, and by the inescapable secrets of her own violent history. Rindell, author of the spectacular *The Other Typist*,



deftly draws upon the quintessential gothic elements that made *Rebecca* (creepy housekeeper, dead glamorous first wife, spooky house) such a mesmerizing read and then puts her own inventive spin on these same things as well as incorporating that 21<sup>st</sup> century thriller staple the unreliable narrator to the mix. Here is what the author herself says "With this new novel, I'd been mulling over what I call "eerie dead-wife tales" – Daphne du Maurier's *Rebecca* and Hitchcock's *Vertigo* being two of my favorites (I hope you love those too!). I've always enjoyed the unsettling feeling between man and woman (and ghost woman) in those stories, but I was struck how expected it was that the female protagonists wouldn't have any power or machinations of their own. I found myself wondering, "What if the men weren't the only ones with dark secrets?" And "In a period when a woman had less power than she would now, what if she contrived to take it?"

### More recent Gothics

**Donohue, Meg.** [You, Me, and the Sea](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Merrow Shawe, a young woman living with her family on a fog-cloaked California cliffside farm struggles to choose between independence and her passionate childhood sweetheart in this modern tale inspired by *Wuthering Heights*.

**Downes, Anna.** [The Safe Place](#)  
(St. Martins \$26.99)

Losing her job and agent on the same miserable day, Emily accepts a nanny position on a remote French

estate before discovering that her employer, a successful CEO, and his wife are hiding dangerous secrets. A terrific debut by an Australian author, who effectively channels the gothic literary sensibilities of both Daphne du Maurier and Shirley Jackson.

**Fox, Hester.** [The Witch of Willow Hall](#)  
(Graydon \$15.99)

Fleeing to a rural estate in the wake of a scandal, young Lydia of the affluent Montrose family is forced to confront dark secrets, a sinister presence and a tragedy to safeguard her loved ones. Fox's novel is very much in the spirit of Victoria Holt's classic gothics.

**Gabriele, Lisa.** [The Winters](#)  
(Penguin \$17)

Moving into the opulent estate of her senator husband after a whirlwind romance, a second wife navigates the ire of his manipulative teen daughter and her husband's cutthroat political ambitions in this modern update of *Rebecca*.

**Gerritsen, Tess.** [The Shape of Night](#)  
(Ballantine \$9.99)

In a last-ditch attempt to outrun her past, Ava Collette moves to a small coastal community in Maine only to be confronted by a string of murders and the ghost of sea captain Jeremiah Brodie, who is haunting her isolated home.

**James, Rebecca.** [The Woman in the Mirror](#)  
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

Investigating her birth family upon inheriting a centuries-old English manor, an adopted art gallery curator uncovers the story of a mid-20th-century governess who was cruelly treated by the curator's unknown ancestors. Miss those marvelous old gothic romances by Barbara Michaels (a.k.a. Elizabeth Peters), then you can't afford to miss this stunning book.

**Maine, Sarah.** [The House Between the Tides](#)  
(Atria \$17)

Leaving a strained marriage to return to her ancestral home in Scotland, Hetty discovers human remains beneath a basement floorboard and uncovers the century-old story of an unfaithful painter and a wife who went missing under mysterious circumstances.

**Moreno-Garcia, Silvia.** [Mexican Gothic](#)  
(Random House \$27)

A reimagining of the classic gothic suspense novel follows the experiences of a courageous socialite in 1950s Mexico who is drawn into the treacherous secrets of an isolated mansion.

**Purcell, Laura.** [The House of Whispers](#)  
(Penguin \$17)

Fleeing to Cornwall after accepting a position as a nurse to an elderly woman, Hester is surrounded by superstitious staff who enact bizarre rituals and tell her of fairies who hunt for humans to steal back to their realm.

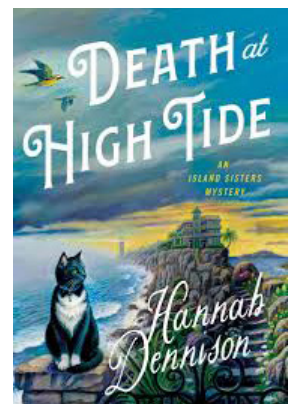
## Cozy Corner

**Andrews, Donna.** [The Falcon Always Wings Twice](#)  
(St. Martin's \$26.99)

Volunteering at her grandmother's craft-center Renaissance Faire, Meg Langslow is challenged to prove the innocence of her grandfather when he is wrongly accused of murdering a fairgrounds performer who was suspected of mistreating a rare falcon. This is the 27th sparkling addition to Andrews' award-winning series featuring blacksmith/amateur sleuth Meg and her quirky family and friends.

**Dennison, Hannah.** [Death at High Tide](#)  
(St. Martin's \$25.99)

When Evie Mead's husband, Robert, suddenly drops dead of a heart attack, a mysterious note is found among his possessions. It indicates that Evie may own the rights to an old hotel on Tregarrick Rock, one of the Isles of Scilly, off the coast of Cornwall. Still grieving, Evie is inclined to leave the matter to the accountant to sort out. Her sister Margot, however, envisions a luxurious weekend getaway, she goes right ahead and buys two one way tickets—one for Evie and one for herself—to Tregarrick. Once at the hotel, which turns out to be more fixer-upper than glamorous resort, Evie and Margot attempt to get to the bottom of things, only to find themselves



caught up in a murder investigation when the hotel's current owner is found dead on the beach. The first completely charming installment in Dennison's new Island Sisters series is a clever, cozy take on Agatha Christie's classic *And Then There Were None*.

**Gilbert, Victoria.** [Booked for Death](#)  
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

When a rare book dealer turns up dead in the carriage house at Chapters Bed-and-Breakfast during a celebration of Golden Age mystery author Josephine Tey, the victim's daughter points the finger at forty-two-year-old widow and former schoolteacher Charlotte Reed, who inherited the B&B from her great-aunt Isabella. Charlotte is shocked to discover that the book dealer suspected Isabella of being a thief who founded Chapters on her ill-gotten gains. Armed with intelligence and courage and assisted by her vibrant older neighbor, a visiting author, and members of a local book club, Charlotte is determined to prove her innocence and to clear her great-aunt's name.

**Giordano, Mario.** [Aunti Poldi and the Handsome Antonio](#) (HMH \$14.99)

When her idyllic Sicilian retirement is interrupted by one of her unfaithful detective inspector husband John Owenya's cases, the irascible Auntie Poldi uncovers shocking secrets in her effort to rescue an in-law from the Mafia. This is the third in Giordano's Auntie Poldi series, of which *PW* said "the prose remains sharp, the humor pointed, and Poldi—a whirlwind of sexual bravado and confidence—shines. Readers will hope to see a lot more of her."

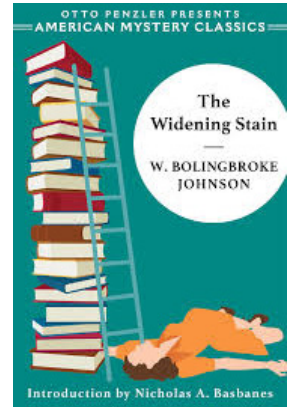
### Back in Print

**Hitchens, Dolores.** [Fools' Gold](#)  
(Library of America \$14.95)

The basis for Jean-Luc Godard's film *Band of Outsiders*, *Fools' Gold* is a swift and unadorned tale of three young people—two boys just released after being incarcerated for a juvenile offense, and an orphaned girl living in a house full of secrets—whose lives are rapidly torn apart by what starts as a simple plan of robbery.

**Johnson, W. Bolingbroke.** [The Widening Stain](#)  
(Norton \$15.95)

For the staff of the library at the center of *The Widening Stain*, it's easy enough to dismiss the death of a woman who fell from a rolling ladder as nothing more than an unfortunate accident. It's more difficult, however, to explain away the strangled corpse of a man found inside a locked room, surrounded by rare and obscure erotica. And that's not all—a valuable manuscript has vanished from the stacks, which means that both a killer and a thief are loose in the facility's hallowed halls. It's up to chief cataloger Gilda Gorham to solve the crimes but, unless she's careful, the next death in the library might just be her own. This witty and wonderful academic mystery was first published in 1941 by Johnson (a pseudonym for Cornell professor Morris Bishop, who was better known for his poetry – especially his limericks).



**MacLean, Alistair.** [The Last Frontier](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

In this newly reissued cold war thriller from MacLean an undercover mission beyond the Iron Curtain to recover a defected scientist goes disastrously wrong.

**MacLean, Alistair.** [When Eight Bells Toll](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Millions of pounds in gold bullion are being pirated in the Irish Sea—and investigations by the British Secret Service, and a sixth sense, have brought Philip Calvert to a bleak, lonely bay in the Western Highlands. But the sleepy atmosphere of Torbay is deceptive: many mysterious disappearances have occurred there, and even the unimaginative Highland Police Sergeant seems to be involved. But why?

### Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, and More

**Ashley, Jennifer.** [Murder in the East End](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

When young cook Kat Holloway learns that the children of London's Foundling Hospital are mysteriously

disappearing and one of their nurses has been murdered, she can't turn away. Kat enlists the help of her scullery maid Elsie, who reveals she was a foundling, as well as the professional expertise of charming and enigmatic confidant Daniel McAdam, who has ties to Scotland Yard, and also Errol Fielding, a disreputable man from Daniel's troubled past, to bring the killer to justice. This is the fourth superb installment in Ashley's Victorian-set series.

**Austin, Finola.** [Brontë's Mistress](#)  
(Atria \$27)

With her teenage daughters rebelling, her testy mother-in-law scrutinizing her every move, and her marriage grown cold, Lydia Robinson, mistress of Thorp Green Hall is restless and yearning for something more. All of that changes with the arrival of her son's tutor, Branwell Brontë, brother of her daughters' governess, Miss Anne Brontë and those other writerly sisters, Charlotte and Emily. A love of poetry, music, and theatre bring Lydia and the twenty year younger Branwell together, but Lydia's new taste of passion comes with consequences. As Branwell's inner turmoil rises to the surface, his behavior grows erratic and dangerous, and whispers of their passionate relationship spout from her servants' lips, reaching all three protective Brontë sisters. Soon, it falls on Lydia to save not just her reputation, but her way of life, before those clever girls reveal all her secrets in their novels. A spellbinding debut by the author of the noted blog the Secret Victorianist.



**Cabot, Meg.** [No Offense](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

A broken engagement only gave Molly Montgomery additional incentive to follow her dream job from the Colorado Rockies to the Florida Keys. Now, as Little Bridge Island Public Library's head of children's services, Molly hopes the messiest thing in her life will be her sticky-note covered desk. But fate - in the form of a newborn left in the restroom- has other ideas. So does local sheriff John Hartwell, who comes to investigate the "abandonment." The latest in Cabot's Little Bridge Island series, each of which can

be read as a standalone, is another humorous and heartwarming romantic comedy by the author who gave us *The Princess Diaries*.

**Davidson, MaryJanice.** [The Love Scam](#)  
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

When fabulously wealthy and carefree bachelor Rake Tarbell wakes up horribly hungover in Venice, it's not something that would normally be a problem...except he has no idea how he got there from California. Or who stole his wallet. Or who emptied his bank account of millions. Or who in the world is Lillith, the charming little girl claiming to be his long lost daughter. For the first time in his life, Rake is on his own and throwing Benjamins around aren't going to solve his problem. Now if only the gorgeous, fun, and free-spirited woman named Claire Delaney, who brought Lillith into his life, was willing to help the situation.

**Dann, Patty.** [The Wright Sister](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

On December 17, 1903, Orville and Wilbur Wright flew the world's first airplane at Kitty Hawk, North Carolina, establishing the Wright Brothers as world-renowned pioneers of flight. Known to far fewer people was their whip-smart and well-educated sister Katharine, a suffragette and early feminist. After Wilbur passed away, Katharine lived with and took care of her increasingly reclusive brother Orville, who often turned to his more confident and supportive sister to help him through fame and fortune. But when Katharine became engaged to their mutual friend, Harry Haskell, Orville felt abandoned and betrayed. He smashed a pitcher of flowers against a wall and refused to attend the wedding or speak to Katharine or Harry. As the years went on, the siblings grew further and further apart. Now in the pages of Katharine's "Marriage Diary," she writes to her brother in the hopes she can repair their fractured relationship before it is too late.

**Fields, Jennie.** [Atomic Love](#)  
(Penguin \$26)

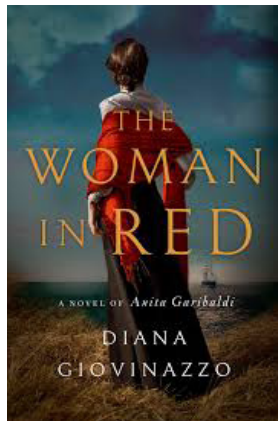
Rosalind Porter has always defied expectations--in her work as a physicist on the Manhattan Project and in her passionate love affair with colleague Thomas Weaver. Five years after the end of both, her guilt over the bomb and her heartbreak over Weaver are

intertwined. She desperately misses her work in the lab, yet has almost resigned herself to a more conventional life. Then Weaver gets back in touch—and so does the FBI. Special Agent Charlie Szydlo wants Roz to spy on Weaver, whom the FBI suspects of passing nuclear secrets to Russia. Roz helped to develop these secrets and knows better than anyone the devastating power such knowledge holds. But can she spy on a man she still loves, despite her better instincts? At the same time, something about Charlie draws her in. He’s a former prisoner of war haunted by his past, just as her past haunts her. The author’s own mother worked on the Manhattan Project, and *LJ* called her “immersive love story” perfect for “fans of Beatriz Williams or Paula McLean, who will take great pleasure in the rich historical detail, suspenseful intrigue, and emotionally charged romance.”

**Giovinazzo, Diana.** [The Woman in Red](#)

(Grand Central \$27.99)

Forced into marriage at a young age, Anita de Jesus feels trapped in a union she does not want. But when she meets the leader of the Brazilian resistance, Giuseppe Garibaldi, in 1839, everything changes. Swept into a passionate affair with the idolized mercenary, Anita’s life is suddenly consumed by the plight to liberate Southern Brazil from Portugal -- a struggle that would cost thousands of lives and span almost ten bloody years. Little did she know that this first taste of revolution would lead her to cross oceans, traverse continents, and alter the course of her entire life -- and the world. A fascinating debut novel about a woman, who became one of the most revered figures of South America and Italy.



**Goldin, Megan.** [The Night Swim](#)

(St. Martin’s \$27.99)

The new season of Rachel Krall’s true-crime podcast has brought her to a small town being torn apart by a devastating rape trial. A local golden boy, a swimmer destined for Olympic greatness, has been accused of raping the beloved granddaughter of the police chief. Under pressure to make Season 3 a success, Rachel

throws herself into her investigation—but Rachel keeps finding mysterious letters begging her for help. Someone is following her, and she won’t stop until Rachel finds out what happened twenty-five years ago. Officially, Jenny Stills tragically drowned, but the letters insist she was murdered—and when Rachel starts asking questions, nobody in town wants to answer. The past and present start to collide as Rachel uncovers startling connections between the two cases—and a revelation that will change the course of the trial and the lives of everyone involved.

**Gould-Bourn, James.** [Bear Necessity](#)

(Scribner \$26)

Danny’s life is falling apart. He’s become a single father to eleven-year-old Will, who hasn’t spoken since the death of his mother in a car crash a year earlier, and Danny has just been fired from his construction job. To make matters worse, he’s behind on the rent and his nasty landlord is threatening to break his legs if he doesn’t pay soon. Danny needs money, and fast. After observing local street performers in a nearby park, Danny spends his last few dollars on a tattered panda costume, impulsively deciding to become a dancing bear. While performing one day, Danny spots his son in the park, and chases off the older boys who are taunting him. Will opens up for the first time since his mother’s death, unaware that the man in the panda costume is his father. Afraid of disclosing his true identity, Danny comforts his son. But will Danny lose Will’s trust once he reveals who he is? And will he be able to dance his way out of debt, or be beaten up before he has a chance? A heartwarming and emotionally engaging debut that is perfect for fans of *The Rosie Project*.

**Holden, Wendy.** [The Royal Governess](#)

(Penguin \$26)

In 1933, twenty-two-year-old Marion Crawford accepts the role of a lifetime, tutoring the little Princesses Elizabeth and Margaret Rose. Her one stipulation to their parents the Duke and Duchess of York is that she bring some doses of normalcy into their sheltered and privileged lives. At Buckingham Palace, Windsor Castle and Balmoral, Marion defies stuffy protocol to take the princesses on tube trains, swimming at public baths, and on joyful Christmas shopping trips at Woolworth’s. From her ringside seat at the heart of the British monarchy she witnesses

twentieth-century history's most seismic events. The trauma of the Abdication, the glamour of the Coronation, the onset of World War II. She steers the little girls through it all, as close as a mother. But being beloved confidante to the Windsors comes at huge personal cost. Marriage, children, her own views: all are compromised by proximity to royal glory. In this majestic story of love, sacrifice and allegiance, best-selling novelist Holden shines a captivating light into the years before Queen Elizabeth II took the throne.

**Hooper, Elise.** [Fast Girls](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

In the 1928 Olympics, Chicago's Betty Robinson competes as a member of the first-ever women's delegation in track and field. Destined for further glory, she returns home feted as America's Golden Girl until a nearly-fatal airplane crash threatens to end everything. Outside of Boston, Louise Stokes, one of the few black girls in her town, sees competing as an opportunity to overcome the limitations placed on her. Eager to prove that she has what it takes to be a champion, she risks everything to join the Olympic team. From Missouri, Helen Stephens, awkward, tomboyish, and poor, is considered an outcast by her schoolmates, but she dreams of escaping the hardships of her farm life through athletic success. Her aspirations appear impossible until a chance encounter changes her life. These three athletes will join with others to defy society's expectations of what women can achieve. As tensions bring the United States and Europe closer and closer to the brink of war, Betty, Louise, and Helen must fight for the chance to compete as the fastest women in the world amidst the pomp and pageantry of the Nazi-sponsored 1936 Olympics in Berlin.

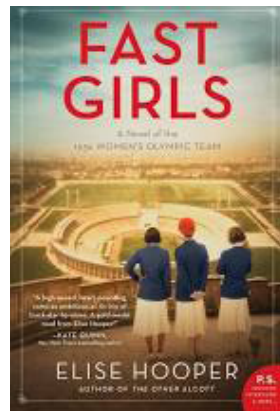
**Katz, Erica.** [The Boys' Club](#)

Alex Vogel has always been a high achiever who lived her life by the book: star student and athlete in high school, prelaw whiz in college, Harvard Law School degree. Accepting a dream offer at the prestigious Manhattan law firm of Klasko & Fitch, she promises her sweet and supportive longtime

boyfriend that the job won't change her. Yet Alex is seduced by the firm's money and energy . . . and by her cocksure male colleagues, who quickly take notice of the new girl. In the firm's most profitable and competitive division, Mergers and Acquisitions, Alex works around the clock, racking up billable hours and entertaining clients late into the evening. While the job is punishing, it has its perks, like a weekend trip to Miami, a ride in a client's private jet, and more expense-account meals than she can count. Alex knows the corporate world isn't black and white, and that to reach the top means playing by different rules. But who made those rules? And what if the system rigged so that women can't win, anyway? This complicated and compelling debut (written under a pseudonym and obviously drawn from the author's own experiences as a graduate of Columbia Law School, who went on to work at a major Manhattan law firm) won't be to every reader's taste. The publisher bills it as a combination of *Sweetbriar* and *The Firm*, but I found it to be more *Sweetbriar* (a brutal chronicle of one young woman's struggles to succeed in a male-dominated field) and that old television show *L.A. Law* (office politics and soap opera antics). Reviews have been very favorable including *Kirkus* which concluded "A knowing, nuanced #MeToo story from the world of corporate law, with juicy *The Wolf of Wall Street*-type action."

**Landragin, Alex.** [Crossings](#)  
(St. Martin's \$27.99)

Written by a former author of Lonely Planet travel guides, this unique fictional debut is written in three parts and is designed to either be read straight through or in alternating chapters finds a Jewish-German bookbinder in occupied Paris discovering links between poet Charles Baudelaire, a Walter Benjamin-like exile and a seven-generation woman monarch. *PW* raved about this saying "While tacking back and forth through the three narratives is going to require more effort than some readers will be willing to give, the author has a talent for injecting intrigue and answers into his literary puzzle at all the right moments while deepening themes of memory and migration. Landragin's seductive literary romp shines as a celebration of the act of storytelling."

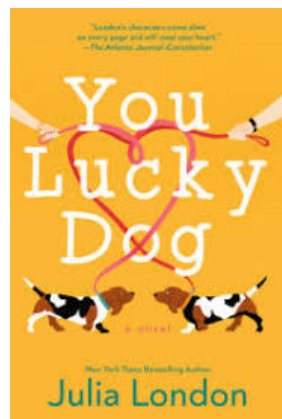


**Lim, Roselle.** [Vanessa Yu's Magical Paris Tea Shop](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

Ever since she can remember, Vanessa Yu has been able to see people's fortunes at the bottom of their teacups. To avoid blurting out their fortunes, she converts to coffee, but somehow fortunes escape and find a way to complicate her life and the ones of those around her. To add to this plight, her romance life is so nonexistent that her parents enlist the services of a matchmaking expert from Shanghai. After her matchmaking appointment, Vanessa sees death for the first time. She decides that she can't truly live until she can find a way to get rid of her uncanny abilities. When her eccentric Aunt Evelyn shows up with a tempting offer to whisk her away, Vanessa says *au revoir* to California and *bonjour* to Paris. There, Vanessa learns more about herself and the root of her gifts and realizes one thing to be true: knowing one's destiny isn't a curse, but being unable to change it is.

**London, Julia.** [You Lucky Dog](#)  
(Penguin \$16)

Carly Kennedy's life is in a spiral. She is drowning in work, her divorced parents are going through their midlife crises, and somehow Carly's sister convinces her to foster Baxter—a basset hound rescue with a bad case of the blues. When Carly comes home late from work one day to discover that the dog walker has accidentally switched out Baxter for another perkier, friendlier basset hound, she has reached the end of her leash. When Max Sheffington finds a depressed male basset hound in place of his cheerful Hazel, he is bewildered. But when cute, fiery Carly arrives on his doorstep, he is intrigued. He was expecting the dog walker, not a pretty woman with firm ideas about dog discipline. And Carly was not expecting a handsome, bespectacled man to be feeding her dog mac and cheese. Baxter is besotted with Hazel, and Carly realizes she may have found the key to her puppy's happiness. For his sake, she starts to spend more time with Hazel and Max, until she begins to understand the appeal of falling for your polar opposite. London's laugh-out-loud new



rom-com will have you (yes, even you feline fancier readers) sitting up and begging for more.

**McConaghy, Charlotte.** [Migrations](#)  
(Flatiron \$26.99)

Franny Stone has always been a wanderer. By following the ocean's tides and the birds that soar above, she can forget the losses that have haunted her life. But when the wild she loves begins to disappear, Franny can no longer wander without a destination. She arrives in remote Greenland with one purpose: to find the world's last flock of Arctic terns and track their final migration. She convinces Ennis Malone, captain of the *Saghani*, to take her onboard, winning over his eccentric crew with promises that the birds will lead them to fish. As the *Saghani* fights its way south, Franny's dark history begins to unspool. Battered by night terrors, accumulating a pile of unsent letters, and obsessed with pursuing the terns at any cost, Franny is full of secrets. When her quest threatens the safety of the entire crew, Franny must ask herself what she is really running toward—and running from.

**McMillan, Rachel.** [The London Restoration](#)  
(Thomas Nelson \$16.99)

Architectural historian Diana Somerville's experience as a codebreaker at Bletchley Park and her knowledge of London's churches intersect in MI6's pursuit of a Russian agent named Eternity. Diana wants nothing more than to begin again with her husband Brent after their separation during the war, but her signing of the Official Secrets Act keeps him at a distance. Brent Somerville, professor of theology at King's College, hopes aiding his wife with her church consultations will help him better understand why she disappeared when he needed her most. But he must find a way to reconcile his traumatic experiences as a stretcher bearer on the European front with her obvious lies about her wartime activities and whereabouts.

**O'Leary, Beth.** [The Switch](#)  
(Flatiron \$16.99)

When overachiever Leena Cotton is ordered to take a two-month sabbatical after blowing a big presentation at work, she escapes to her grandmother Eileen's house for some long-overdue rest. Eileen is newly single and about to turn eighty. She'd like

a second chance at love, but her tiny Yorkshire village doesn't offer many eligible gentlemen. So they decide to try a two-month swap. Eileen will live in London and look for love. She'll take Leena's flat, and learn all about casual dating, swiping right, and city neighbors. Meanwhile Leena will look after everything in rural Yorkshire: Eileen's sweet cottage and garden, her idyllic, quiet village, and her little neighborhood projects. But stepping into one another's shoes proves more difficult than either of them expected. Will swapping lives help Eileen and Leena find themselves...and maybe even find true love? O'Leary's debut rom com *The Flatshare* won the Romance Novelist's Award last year (the British equivalent of America's RITA award). Her funny and sweet books remind me in the best possible way of Beth Kendrick's equally delightful novels.

**Park, Suzanne.** [Loathe at First Sight](#)  
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

Melody Joo is thrilled to land her dream job as a video game producer, but her new position comes with challenges: an insufferable CEO; sexist male coworkers; and an infuriating - yet distractingly handsome - intern, Nolan MacKenzie, aka "the guy who got hired because his uncle is the boss." Just when Melody thinks she's made the worst career move of her life, her luck changes. While joking with a friend, she creates a mobile game that has male strippers fighting for survival in a post-apocalyptic world. Suddenly Melody's "joke" is her studio's most high-profile project, and Melody's running the show. When Nolan is assigned to Melody's team, she's sure he'll be useless. But as they grow closer, she realizes he's smart and sexy, which makes Melody want to forget he's her intern. As their attraction deepens, she knows it's time to pump the brakes, even with her Korean parents breathing down her neck to hurry up and find a man. With her project about to launch, Melody suddenly faces a slew of complications, including a devastating trolling scandal. Could the man she's falling hard for help her play the game to win; in work and in love?

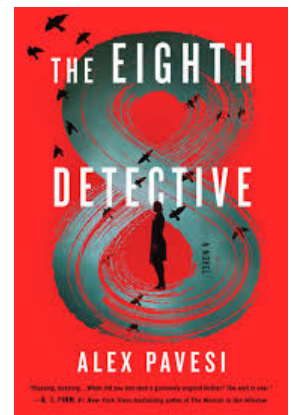
**Paul, Gill.** [Jack and Maria](#)  
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Jackie Kennedy was beautiful, sophisticated, and contemplating leaving her ambitious young senator husband. Life in the public eye with an overly ambitious--and unfaithful--man who could hardly be

coaxed to return from a vacation after the birth of a stillborn child was breaking her spirit. So when she's offered a holiday on the luxurious yacht owned by billionaire Ari Onassis, she says yes...to a meeting that will ultimately change her life. Maria Callas is at the height of her operatic career and widely considered to be the finest soprano in the world. And then she's introduced to Aristotle Onassis, the world's richest man and her fellow Greek. Stuck in a childless, sexless marriage, and with pressures on all sides from opera house managers and a hostile press, she finds her life being turned upside down by this hyper-intelligent and impeccably charming man. Little by little, Maria's and Jackie's lives begin to overlap, and they come closer and closer until everything they know about the world changes on a dime. Paul has built a name for herself with her impeccably crafted and deliciously fun historical novels like *Another Woman's Husband* (Wallis Warfield Simpson) and *The Lost Daughter* (Russian Grand Duchess Maria Nikolaevna), and now she is back "at her best in this irresistible tale of the two complex and glamorous women closest to Greek billionaire Aristotle "Ari" Onassis" (PW).

**Pavesi, Alex.** [The Eighth Detective](#)  
(Henry Holt \$26.99)

There are rules for murder mysteries. There must be a victim. A suspect. A detective. Grant McAllister, a professor of mathematics, once sat down and worked all the rules out - and wrote seven perfect detective stories to demonstrate. But that was thirty years ago. Now Grant lives in seclusion on a remote Mediterranean island, counting the rest of his days. Until Julia Hart, a brilliant, ambitious editor knocks on his door. Julia wishes to republish his book, and together they must revisit those old stories: an author hiding from his past and an editor keen to understand it. But there are things in the stories that don't add up. Inconsistencies left by Grant that a sharp-eyed editor begins to suspect are more than mistakes. They may be clues, and Julia finds herself with a mystery of her own to solve. PW had this to say about Pavesi's cerebral debut, which is cut from the same literary cloth as Peter Swanson's fiendishly fun *Eight Perfect*





*Murders*, “Pavesi clearly knows his classic murder mysteries, as shown by a story that evokes Agatha Christie’s *And Then There Were None*, and all his plot tricks will please readers with a similar passion. Some may be put off by the lack of emotional depth and an overly long denouement that serves chiefly to illustrate the author’s cleverness. Whatever one’s take on this ingenious if schematic novel, Pavesi is a writer to watch.”

**Pennell, Julie.** [Louisiana Lucky](#)  
(Atria \$16.99)

Lexi, Callie, and Hanna Breaux grew up in small-town Louisiana, and have always struggled to make ends meet. For years, they’ve been playing the lottery, fantasizing about how much better life would be if they had the money. For Lexi, it means the perfect wedding; for Callie, it means having the courage to go after her career dreams; and for Hanna, it means buying a house that isn’t falling apart and sending her bullied son to private school. When the incredible happens and the Breaux sisters hit it big - \$204 million dollars big - all their dreams come true. Or so they think. Because it’s actually not a cliché: money isn’t the answer to everything, and it often comes with problems of its own.

**Rose, Karen.** [Say No More](#)  
(Berkley \$26)

Seventeen years ago. That was the last time Mercy Callahan saw Ephraim Burton, the leader of the twisted Eden cult where she was raised. But even though she escaped the abuse and terror, they continue to haunt her. When her brother Gideon discovers new evidence of the cult’s--and their victims’--whereabouts, Mercy goes to Sacramento to reconnect with him. There, she meets Gideon’s closest friend--homicide detective Rafe Sokolov. From Rafe, she receives an offer she never knew she needed: to track down Ephraim and make him pay for everything. But Ephraim, who had thought Mercy long dead, discovers she is in fact alive and that she is digging around for the cult’s secrets. And now he’ll do anything to take her back to Eden--dead or alive.

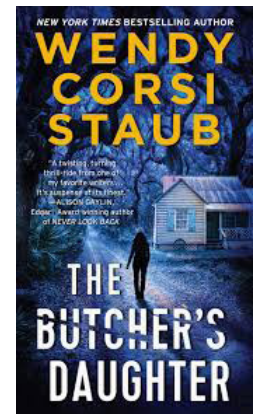
Rose writes some of the most chilling – and unput-downable – suspense novels around. If you are a fan of Lisa Gardner or Tami Hoag and haven’t yet discovered Rose, treat yourself right now.

**Rooney, Kathleen.** [Cher Ami and Major Whittlesey](#)  
(Penguin \$17)

From the green countryside of England and the gray canyons of Wall Street come two unlikely heroes: one a pigeon and the other a soldier. Answering the call to serve in the war to end all wars, neither Cher Ami, the messenger bird, nor Charles Whittlesey, the Army officer, can anticipate how their lives will briefly intersect in a chaotic battle in the forests of France, where their wills will be tested, their fates will be shaped, and their lives will emerge forever altered. Rooney, the author of the quirky and critically acclaimed *Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk*, based this novel on the true story of a WWI messenger pigeon and the soldiers whose lives she forever altered.

**Staub, Wendy Corsi.** [The Butcher’s Daughter](#)  
(HarperCollins \$8.99)

Investigative genealogist Amelia Crenshaw solves clients’ genetic puzzles, while hers remain shrouded in mystery. Now, Amelia suspects that the key to her birth parents’ identities lies in an unexpected connection to a stranger, who’s hired her to find his long-lost daughter. NYPD Detective Stockton Barnes had walked away from his only child for her own good. He’ll lay down his life to protect her if he and Amelia can find out where – and who – she is. But someone has beat them to it, and she has a lethal score to settle. This is the last in the author’s Foundling’s trilogy which began with [Little Girl Lost](#) and continued with [Dead Silence](#).



**Strauss, Darin.** [The Queen of Tuesday](#)  
(Random \$27)

Lucille Ball - the most powerful woman in the history of Hollywood - was part of America’s first high-profile interracial marriage. She owned more movie sets than did any movie studio. She more or less single-handedly created the modern TV business. And yet Lucille’s off-camera life was in disarray. While acting out a happy marriage for millions, she suffered in private. Her partner couldn’t stay faithful. She struggled to balance her fame with the demands of being a mother, a creative genius, an entrepreneur, and,

most of all, a symbol. This “ambitious meta-fictional” account of one of the 20<sup>th</sup> century’s most beloved actresses posits that the author’s grandfather may have had an affair with Lucille Ball.

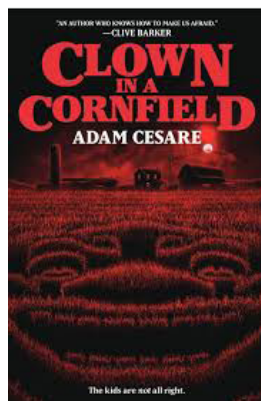
**Ward, J.R.** [The Jackal](#)  
(Gallery \$27.99)

The location of the *glymera*’s notorious prison camp was lost after the raids. When a freak accident provides Nyx clues to where her sister may still be doing time, she becomes determined to find the secret subterranean labyrinth. Embarking on a journey under the earth, she learns a terrible truth and meets a male who changes everything forever. The Jackal has been in the camp for so long he cannot recall anything of the freedom he once knew. Trapped by circumstances out of his control, he helps Nyx because he cannot help himself. After she discovers what happened to her sister, getting her back out becomes a deadly mission for them both. Ward spins off a new series based on her popular Black Dagger Brotherhood books in a “spicy new chapter that is sure to delight her fans” but which also serves as an excellent entry point for new readers as well.

## Teen Fiction

**Cesare, Adam.** [Clown in a Cornfield](#)  
(HarperCollins \$17.99)

Quinn Maybrook and her father have moved to tiny, boring Kettle Springs, to find a fresh start. But what they don’t know is that ever since the Baypen Corn Syrup Factory shut down, Kettle Springs has cracked in half. On one side are the adults, who are desperate to make Kettle Springs great again, and on the other are the kids, who want to have fun, make prank videos, and get out of Kettle Springs as quick as they can. Kettle Springs is caught in a battle between old and new, tradition and progress. It’s a fight that looks like it will destroy the town. Until Frendo, the Baypen mascot, a creepy clown in a pork-pie hat, goes homicidal and decides that the only way for Kettle Springs to grow back is to cull the rotten crop of kids who live there now. *Kirkus* calls



this thriller about a group of teens besieged by killer clowns “A pulse-pounding thrill ride for retro-horror fans, who are not faint of heart (or stomach). Halloween reading, then.

**Kadono, Elko.** [Kiki’s Delivery Service](#)  
(Random House \$16.99)

Half-witch Kiki *never* runs from a challenge. So when her thirteenth birthday arrives, she’s eager to follow a witch’s tradition: choose a new town to call home for one year. Brimming with confidence, Kiki flies to the seaside village of Koriko and expects that her powers will easily bring happiness to the townspeople. But gaining the trust of the locals is trickier than she expected. With her faithful, wise-cracking black cat, Jiji, by her side, Kiki forges new friendships and builds her inner strength, ultimately realizing that magic can be found in even the most ordinary places. This Japanese novel was the source for the award-winning animated film by Hayao Miyazaki, and now is available in English for the first time.

## Nonfiction

**Bairne, A.J.** [Dewey Defeats Truman](#)  
(HMH \$30)

1948 was a fight for the soul of a nation. In *Dewey Defeats Truman*, A. J. Baime, author of *The Accidental President* which followed Truman’s first four months as President following FDR’s death, sheds light on one of the most action-packed six months in American history, as Truman not only triumphs, but oversees watershed events including the passing of the Marshall plan, the acknowledgement of Israel as a new state, the careful attention to the origins of the Cold War, and the first desegregation of the military.

**Donovan, Lisa.** [Our Lady of Perpetual Hunger](#)  
(Penguin \$27.99)

Noted chef and James Beard Award-winning essayist Lisa Donovan helped establish some of the South’s most important kitchens, and her pastry work is at the forefront of a resurgence in traditional desserts. Yet Donovan struggled to make a living in an industry where male chefs built successful careers on the stories, recipes, and culinary heritage passed down from generations of female cooks and cooks of color. At one of her career peaks, she made the perfect dessert

at a celebration for food-world goddess Diana Kennedy. When Kennedy asked why she had not heard of her, Donovan said she did not know. “I do,” Kennedy said, “Stop letting men tell your story.” This is Donovan’s searing, beautiful, and searching chronicle of reclaiming her own story and the narrative of the women who came before her. Her family’s matriarchs found strength and passion through food, and they inspired Donovan’s accomplished career. Donovan’s love language is hospitality, and she wants to welcome everyone to the table of good food and fairness.

**Guillen, Mauro F.** [2030](#)

(St. Martin’s \$28.99)

Once upon a time, the world was neatly divided into prosperous and backward economies. Babies were plentiful, workers outnumbered retirees, and people aspiring towards the middle class yearned to own homes and cars. Companies didn’t need to see any further than Europe and the United States to do well. Printed money was legal tender for all debts, public and private. We grew up learning how to “play the game,” and we expected the rules to remain the same as we took our first job, started a family, saw our children grow up, and went into retirement with our finances secure. That world—and those rules—are over. By 2030, a new reality will take hold, and before you know it: there will be more grandparents than grandchildren. The middle-class in Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa will outnumber the US and Europe combined, meaning the global economy will be driven by non-Western consumers for the first time in modern history. There will be more robots than workers. These are just a few of the trends shaping the future that Guillen, a professor at the Wharton School, uses to develop his concept of “peripheral vision,” or the idea of approaching problems creatively from unorthodox points of view.

**Hill, David.** [The Vapors](#)

(FSG \$27.99)

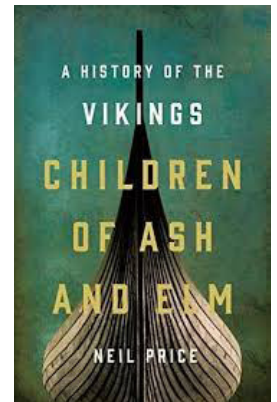
Back in the days before Vegas was big, when the Mob was at its peak and neon lights were but a glimmer on the horizon, a little Southern town styled itself as a premier destination for the American leisure class. Hot Springs, Arkansas was home to healing waters, Art Deco splendor, and America’s original national park—as well as horse racing, nearly a dozen illegal casinos, countless backrooms and brothels, and some

of the country’s most bald-faced criminals. Gangsters, gamblers, and gamines: all once flocked to America’s forgotten capital of vice, a place where small-town hustlers and bigtime high-rollers could make their fortunes, and hide from the law. *The Vapors* is the extraordinary story by a native Arkansan of three individuals—spanning the golden decades of Hot Springs, from the 1930s through the 1960s—and the lavish casino whose spectacular rise and fall would bring them together before blowing them apart.

**Price, Neil.** [Children of Ash and Elm](#)

(Basic \$35)

The Viking Age -- from 750 to 1050 -- saw an unprecedented expansion of the Scandinavian peoples into the wider world. As traders and raiders, explorers and colonists, they ranged from eastern North America to the Asian steppe. But for centuries, the Vikings have been seen through the eyes of others, distorted to suit the tastes of medieval clerics and Elizabethan playwrights, Victorian imperialists, Nazis, and more. None of these appropriations capture the real Vikings, or the richness and sophistication of their culture. Based on the latest archaeological and textual evidence, *Children of Ash and Elm* tells the story of the Vikings on their own terms: from Eirik Bloodaxe, who fought his way to a kingdom, to Gudrid Thorbjarnardóttir, the most traveled woman in the world.



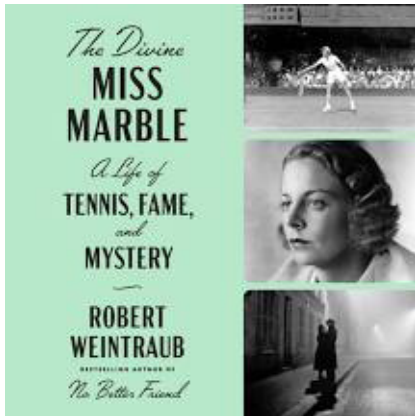
**Ricca, Brad.** [Olive the Lionheart](#)

(St. Martin’s \$29.99)

Ricca, the Edgar-nominated author of *Mrs. Sherlock Holmes* returns with another fascinating historical account. In 1910, Olive MacLeod, a thirty-year-old, redheaded Scottish aristocrat, received word that her fiancé, the famous naturalist Boyd Alexander, was missing in Africa. So, she went to find him. *Olive the Lionheart* is the thrilling true story of her astonishing journey that draws upon Olive’s own letters and secret diaries to tell a love story that defies all boundaries, set against the backdrop of a beautiful, unconquerable Africa.

**Weintraub, Robert.** [The Divine Miss Marble](#) (Penguin \$29)

Who was Alice Marble? In her public life, she was the biggest tennis star of the pre-war era, a household name like Joe DiMaggio and Joe Louis. She was famous for overcoming serious illness to win the biggest tournaments, including Wimbledon. She was also a fashion designer and trendsetter, a contributor to a pioneering new comic called *Wonder Woman*, and friend to the biggest names in Hollywood and society, like Carole Lombard and Clark Gable, William Randolph Hearst and Marion Davies, and members of families named Bloomingdale, Loew, and du Pont. She helped integrate tennis with her support of Althea Gibson, and even coached two young women who became stars in their own right: Billie Jean King and Sally Ride. Yet her private life provoked constant speculation while she was alive, and her own memoirs added layers of legend upon stories. According to Alice, she married a man who was killed in the skies over Europe during World War II. But who was the man she loved, and had he even existed? She was widely known for her patriotism during World War II. Had she really nearly given her life for her country as a spy, shot during a wild car chase fleeing foreign espionage agents? In *The Divine Miss Marble*, best-selling author Robert Weintraub traveled the country to uncover her fascinating story.



mented by examples of other sentences, drawn from a wide range of sources including Stephen King, The King James Bible, and even ads and ends with writing exercises. Kirkus called this “A practical, nonb

**Woods, Geraldine.** [25 Great Sentences and How They Got That Way](#) (Norton \$25.95)

*25 Great Sentences and How They Got That Way* is for word lovers, readers interested in encountering new authors or revisiting favorite works, and aspiring writers. The author, a master English teacher at Horace Mann for several decades and author of *English Grammar for Dummies*, leads readers on a delightful tour of sentences by authors in the canon, using deft analysis and humor to “look under the hood” and allow us to see what makes a sentence great.” Each chapter features one key sentence aug-