

Midmonth BookNotes

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Fall into a Good Book

Cozy Corner

Bateman, Daisy. [Murder Goes to Market](#)
(Seventh Street \$15.95)

If you had asked computer programmer Claudia Simcoe what she expected to come of her leaving San Francisco for the California coast to open a farm-to-table marketplace, assembling a mismatched team to investigate a murder would not have been her first guess. Lori Roth is one of the tenants of the market, or she had been until Claudia learned that the hands making her “hand-dyed” textiles belonged to overseas factory workers.



Claudia terminates Lori’s lease, but her hopes that this will be the last she sees of her problem tenant are dashed when she arrives at the marketplace the next morning to find Lori dead, hit over the head with a jar of pickles and strangled with a cheese wire. The police chief thinks Claudia looks like an easy pick (or, pickle to keep with the farm-to-table theme) to be the killer, and he closes the marketplace to put the pressure on her. So, Claudia has no choice but to solve the mystery herself. *Kirkus* called this “a pleasing debut for a complicated sleuth in this up-to-date take on the cozy mystery.”

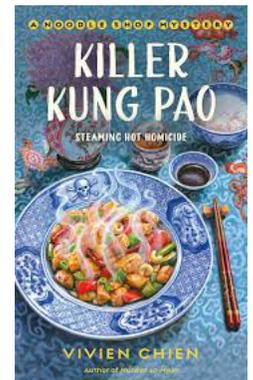
Blackburn, Maggie. [Little Bookshop of Murder](#)
(Crooked Lane \$26.99)

Summer Merriweather’s career as a Shakespeare professor hangs by a bookbinder’s thread. Academic

life at her Virginia university is a viper’s pit, so Summer spends her summer in England, researching a scholarly paper that, with any luck, will finally get her published, impress the Dean, and save her job. But her English idyll ends when her mother, Hildy, shuffles off her mortal coil from an apparent heart attack. Returning to Brigid’s Island, NC, for the funeral, Summer is impatient to settle the estate, sell her mom’s embarrassingly romance-themed bookstore, Beach Reads, and go home. But as she drops by Beach Reads, Summer finds threatening notes addressed to Hildy: “Sell the bookstore or die.” Clearly, something is rotten on Brigid’s Island. *PW* concluded that “cozy fans will be delighted with this charming series launch from Blackburn,” who also writes as Mollie Cox Bryan.

Chien, Vivien. [Killer Kung Pao](#)
(St. Martin’s \$7.99)

Running her family’s Chinese restaurant in Cleveland’s Asia Village is challenging on the best of days. But just when Lana Lee thinks she might be able to catch her breath before the weekend—which she’s eager to spend with her equally overworked boyfriend, Detective Adam Trudeau—Lana witnesses a car accident in the parking lot. And now she has no choice but to get involved. June Yi, of Yi’s Tea and Bakery, is a serious businesswoman well-known for her heartlessness. But June meets her match when she rear-ends the Cadillac belonging to Mah Jong lover Mildred “Millie” Mao. As each woman curses—and threat-



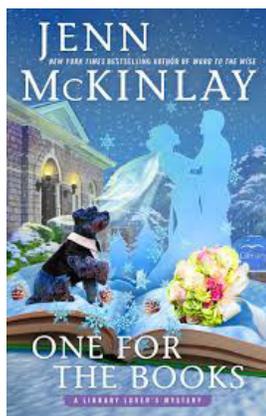
ens—the other, it becomes clear to Lana that trouble lies ahead. Still, who could have imagined that Millie would end up dead at the beauty salon? The latest in Chien’s fabulously fun Noodle Shop series is a tasty treat for culinary cozy fans. Start with [Death by Dumpling](#) if you are new to the series.

Hollis, Lee. [Murder at the PTA](#)
(Kensington \$7.99)

Someone is trying to turn Portland High into a school for scandal with a gossipy website called Dirty Laundry. The latest target of ruinous rumors is newly elected PTA president Sandra Wallage. After a heated meeting with outraged parents, Sandra runs into fellow school mom and private investigator Maya Kendrick, who’s discovered the person behind the website. But when the women storm into the venomous gossip columnist’s office they find a lifeless body along with a confession. Although the police rule the death a suicide, Maya suspects an injured party hung the Dirty Laundry creator out to dry. Maya already has a PI partner; but she’s pregnant, and sonograms and stakeouts tend to conflict. So, when Sandra volunteers for a crash course in sleuthing, Maya accepts the help. But as these unlikely partners study the clues, a killer plans to teach them a lesson.

McKinlay, Jenn. [One for the Books](#)
(Berkley \$26)

Love is in the air in Briar Creek as library director Lindsey Norris and boat captain Mike (Sully) Sullivan are finally tying the knot. The entire town is excited for the happy day, and Lindsey and Sully’s plan for a small wedding evaporates as more and more people insist upon attending the event of the year. When Lindsey and her crafternoon pals head out to Bell Island to see if it can accommodate the ever-expanding guest list, they are horrified to discover a body washed up on the rocky shore. Even worse, Lindsey recognizes the man as the justice of the peace who was supposed to officiate her wedding ceremony. When it becomes clear he was murdered, Lindsey can’t help but wonder if it had to do with the wedding. Now she has to book it to solve the mystery before it ends her happily ever after before it’s even begun.



Ness, Lucy. [Haunted Homicide](#)
(Berkley \$7.99)

Avery Morgan has had a harrowing first week on the job as manager of the Portage Path Woman’s Club. Not only is she in charge of a grand old home with a mountain of maintenance problems and scheduling nightmares--thanks to a recent fire in the Marigold meeting room--but she’s also got Muriel Sadler to deal with. Muriel is the current president of the club, the one “nay” vote when the rest of the board voted “aye” to hiring Avery. After a morning of dealing with another one of Muriel’s snits and a meeting with the delicious and delightfully unsettling Ben Harkness, who will be handling renovations in the fire-damaged portions of the house, the last thing Avery needs is for one of the fuses to blow. Again. She grabs her handy flashlight and heads into the basement, where she stumbles across Muriel’s body. She also stumbles across an unexpected helper, Clemmie Bow, the ghost of a young woman who was accidentally killed in the building almost a hundred years ago. *Kirkus* called this a “series debut with fun and flair.”

Weaver, Ashley. [A Deception at Thornecrest](#)
(St. Martin’s \$27.99)

Amory Ames is alone at her country house Thornecrest, enjoying her last few weeks of peace and quiet as she prepares for the imminent arrival of her baby. Her husband, Milo, is in London on business, and Amory is content to catch up on her correspondence, organize the nursery, and avoid the well-meaning if rather overbearing company of the ladies in the village as they prepare for the Springtide Festival. But then a woman appears on her doorstep, claiming to be *another* Mrs. Ames, Milo’s first wife. The seventh sterling addition to Weaver’s Edgar-nominated, marvelously entertaining historical series is, in the words of *PW* tailor-made for “those who enjoy escaping into make-believe English villages in the company of pleasant vicars, mildly eccentric aristocrats, and wily village folk.”

Classics Back in Print

Eustis, Helen. [The Horizontal Man](#)
(Library of America \$14.95)

The Horizontal Man was Helen Eustis’s only crime novel, and she won an Edgar Award for it, combining a wildly disparate set of elements into an

enduringly fascinating work. In its way it is a classical whodunit that stands comparison with old-school practitioners such as Agatha Christie or Dorothy Sayers. This mystery transpires in the rarefied precincts of the English department of a venerable New England college, one very much of the restless postwar moment, echoing with references to Freud and Kafka. Eustis finds comedy high and low in a cavalcade of characters bursting at the seams with repressed sexual longings and simmering malice. Beyond the satire, she stirs up--with a narrative whose multiple viewpoints give the book a striking modernistic edge--a troubling sense of the mental chaos lurking just beneath the civilized surfaces of her academic setting. This new edition includes an introduction from author and Poisoned Pen favorite Charles Finch.

MacLean, Alistair. [Caravan to Vaccares](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

Originally written as a screenplay and then turned into a novel by MacLean, this classic tale of suspense is set in Provence, where English tourist Cecile Dubois and British agent Neil Bowman investigate a series of mysterious deaths that may be tied to an annual pilgrimage made by gypsies to the holy site of their patron saint, Saint Sarah.

MacLean, Alistair. [The Dark Crusader](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

Originally published in the U.S. under the title *The Black Shrike*, this thriller centers around efforts by British agent (and physicist) John Bentall to discover what happened to eight scientists (and their wives) who all disappeared after answering job postings in the newspaper. MacLean originally published this under the pseudonym of Ian Stuart in part to prove he could sell books without having to rely on the cachet of his name, but later reissued in under his real name when sales of the book proved disappointing. I think J.K. Rowling might know a thing or two about this as well....

MacLean, Alistair. [Force 10 from Navarone](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

This sequel to MacLean's 1957 best-seller (and subsequent movie blockbuster) *The Guns of Navarone* tells the tense tale of ten widely divergent WW II troubleshooters, who are attempting to blow up a key bridge in Yugoslavia.

MacLean, Alistair. [Puppet on a Chain](#) (HarperCollins \$15.99)

Assisted by two beautiful (aren't they always) female agents, Interpol Narcotics Bureau agent Paul Sherman investigates a vicious heroin smuggling ring in the Netherlands. *The New York Times* called this "one of the best in the Greene-Ambler-MacInnes tradition."

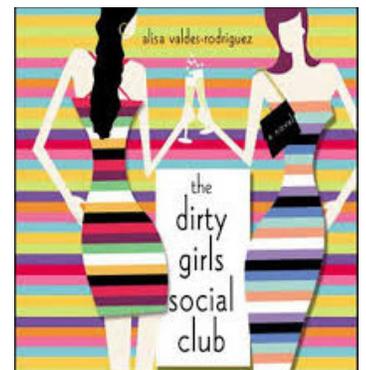
Happy Book Anniversary

Maguire, Gregory. [Wicked](#) (HarperCollins \$30)

Gregory Maguire's groundbreaking *New York Times* bestseller redefined the land of Oz, its inhabitants, its Wizard, and the Emerald City, viewing the world created by L. Frank Baum through a darker and greener lens. Brilliantly inventive, *Wicked* offered a radical new portrait of one of the most feared and despised villains in all of literature: the universally maligned Wicked Witch of the West who, in Maguire's imaginative retelling, isn't nearly as black-hearted as we imagined. Now readers old and new can indulge in this classic with a special 25th anniversary hardcover edition. Maguire's latest fairy tale based novel [A Wild Winter Swan](#) (HarperCollins \$27.99) inspired by Hans Christian Andersen's "The Wild Swans" will publish next month, but it is not too early to reserve a copy now!

Valdes-Rodriguez, Alisa. [The Dirty Girls Social Club](#) (St. Martin's \$16.99)

Inseparable since their days at Boston University almost ten years before, six friends form the Dirty Girls Social Club, a mutual support and (mostly) admiration society that no matter what happens to each of them (and a lot does), meets regularly to dish, dine and compare notes on the bumpy course of life and love. *Las sucias* include columnist Lauren, wife and mother Sara, television anchor Elizabeth, rock and roller Amber, magazine publisher Rebecca, and gold digger (and proud of it) Usnavys. Twenty years ago, there was a fierce bidding war among publishers for this novel about six ambitious Latinas (which had



been billed as the Latina literary answer to *Waiting to Exhale*). *Library Journal's* reviewer called it "a truly universal friendship book, crossing cultural lines as the characters advise, comfort, and support each other."

Historical Fiction, Mysteries, Romance, and More

Bailey, Tessa. [Tools of Engagement](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

When a television producer gets wind of the Castle sibling rivalry between Bethany Castle and her older brother, they're invited on *Flip Off*, a competition to see who can do the best renovation. Bethany wants the winner's bragging rights, but she needs a crew and the only member of her brother's construction team willing to jump ship is Wes Daniels, the new guy in town. His Texas drawl and handsome face got under Bethany's skin on day one, but the last thing she needs is some cocky young cowboy in her way. As the race to renovate heats up, Wes and Bethany are forced into close quarters, trading barbs and biting banter as they remodel the ugliest house on the block. It's a labor of love, hate, and everything in between, and soon sparks are flying. But Bethany's perfectly structured life is one kiss away from going up in smoke and she knows falling for a guy like Wes would be a *flipping* disaster. *PW* called the latest in Bailey's Hot and Hammered rom-com series "sweet and super-spicy." I would add with an emphasis on the "super-spicy."

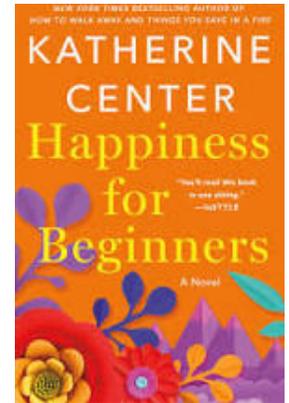
Blakely, Lauren. [The Real Deal](#)
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

April Hamilton wants you to know she hasn't been on *GigsForHire* since that time she sold her futon after college. She doesn't even spend *that* much time online. And even if she did, she would not be looking up personal ads. But going home alone for her family's summer reunion is an invitation for every single relative to butt into her personal life. She simply can't handle another blind date with the butcher, the baker or the candlestick maker from her hometown. So, when she finds the *GigsforHire* ad for a boyfriend-for-hire, she's ready to pay to play. Theo Banks has been running from the past for years. He's *this* close to finally settling all his debts, and one more job as a boyfriend-for-hire will do the trick. He's no gigolo. *Please*. He's something of an actor, and he knows how to slip into any role, including pretending

to be April's new beau -- the bad boy with the heart of gold. The one thing neither April nor Theo planned on was loving every single second of the game.

Center, Katherine. [Happiness for Beginners](#)
(St. Martin's \$16.99)

Newly divorced at thirty-two, Helen Carpenter's life has fallen apart beyond her ability to put it together again. So, when her annoying younger brother, Duncan, convinces her to sign up for a hardcore wilderness survival course in the backwoods of Wyoming—she hopes it'll be exactly what she needs. Instead, it's a disaster. It's nothing like she wants, or expects, or anticipates. She doesn't anticipate the surprise summer blizzard, for example—or the blisters, or the rutting elk, or the mean pack of sorority girls. And she *especially* doesn't anticipate that her annoying brother's even-more-annoying best friend, Jake, will show up for the exact same course—and distract her, derail her, and . . . kiss her. But it turns out sometimes disaster can teach you exactly the things you need to learn. Like how to keep going, even when you think you can't. How being scared can make you brave. And how sometimes getting really, really lost is your only hope of getting found.



Danan, Rosie. [The Roommate](#)
(Berkley \$16)

The Wheatons are infamous among the east coast elite for their lack of impulse control, except for their daughter Clara. She's the consummate socialite: over-achieving, well-mannered, predictable. But every Wheaton has their weakness. When Clara's childhood crush invites her to move cross-country, the offer is too tempting to resist. Unfortunately, it's also too good to be true. After a bait-and-switch, Clara finds herself sharing a lease with a charming stranger. Josh might be a bit too perceptive - not to mention handsome - for comfort, but there's a good chance he and Clara could have survived sharing a summer sublet if she hadn't looked him up on the Internet. Once she learns how Josh has made a name for himself, Clara realizes living with him might make her the Wheaton's most scandalous story yet. His professional prowess inspires her to take tackling the stigma

against female desire into her own hands. They may not agree on much, but Josh and Clara both believe women deserve better sex. What they decide to do about it will change both of their lives, and if they're lucky, they'll help everyone else get lucky too. This debut has been getting rave reviews across the board including one from *PW*, which concluded "Romance fans will especially appreciate that the steamy erotic scenes are used to further character development, rather than just for cheap thrills. This delectable rom-com is both red-hot and fiercely feminist."

Daniels, Devon. [Meet You in the Middle](#)
(Berkley \$16)

There's just one thing standing between liberal Senate staffer Kate Adams and passage of the landmark legislation she's been fighting for all year: Ben Mackenzie, intimidating gatekeeper for one of DC's most powerful conservative senators. After Kate and Ben lock horns in a meet-not-so-cute, they vow to take each other down by any means necessary. This debut rom-com seems tailor-made for politically minded romance readers.

DeLuca, Jen. [Well Played](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Stacey Lindholm knew she was putting her life on hold when she stayed in Willow Creek to care for her sick mother, but it's been years now, and even though Stacey loves spending her summers pouring drinks and flirting with patrons at the local Renaissance Faire, she wants more out of life. Stacey vows to have her life figured out by the Faire next summer. Maybe she'll even find The One. When Stacey imagined "The One," it never occurred to her that her summertime Faire fling, Dex MacLean, might fit the bill. However, when Stacey comes face-to-face with Dex the man with whom she thinks she's exchanged hundreds of online messages over the past nine months, she is shocked to discover it isn't Dex she's been falling in love with, but a man she barely knows. The "laughs are frequent and the plot charms" (*PW*) in the latest from rising romance star DeLuca, whose brand-new rom-com is cleverly constructed on a Cyrano de Bergerac inspired plot.

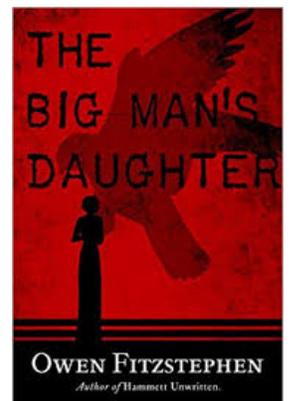
Dunmore, Evie. [A Rogue of One's Own](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Lady Lucie is fuming. She and her band of Oxford suffragists have finally scraped together enough capital

to control one of London's major publishing houses, with one purpose: to use it in a coup against Parliament. But who could have predicted that the one person standing between her and success is her old nemesis and London's undisputed lord of sin, Lord Ballentine? Or that he would be willing to hand over the reins for an outrageous price: a night in her bed. Lucie tempts Tristan like no other woman, burning him up with her fierceness and determination every time they clash. But as their battle of wills and words fans the flames of long-smoldering devotion, the silver-tongued seducer runs the risk of becoming caught in his own snare. "All the elements that made *Bringing Down the Duke*, Dunmore's delightful debut, are present in her smart, sexy second League of Extraordinary Women romance (*PW*)."

Fitzstephen, Owen. [The Big Man's Daughter](#)
(Seventh Street \$15.95)

18-year-old Rita Gaspereaux is suddenly "orphaned" when her con-artist father's illegal enterprise blows up around her. Alone and broke in San Francisco 1922, she must now navigate his criminal world, all the time haunted by tales of a black bird statuette reputed to possess otherworldly, wish-fulfilling powers. Rita has learned much from her father about the dark fringes of society. But has she learned enough? Fortunately, she is not without her own resources. What helps her most to cope with the greed, cruelty, and deceit around her is her almost obsessive reading of fiction, particularly the novel she possesses (and is possessed by) at the time of her father's death. This book-within-the-book, a source of escape and solace for the blossoming young con-artist, tells the story of another 18-year-old, a Dorothy G. from Kansas. The two young women couldn't be more different. But as the story proceeds their lives become entwined in unexpected ways.



Fitzstephen takes a minor character from Dashiell Hammett's *The Maltese Falcon* and spins an intriguing new tale in which "Lies, cons, shifting alliances, kidnapping, and death propel readers toward a strangely hypnotic climax, which is skillfully presaged yet still an exhilarating surprise. Fans of metafictional mysteries will be enthralled." (*PW*)

Fox, Hester. [The Orphan of Cemetery Hill](#)
(Graydon House \$17.99)

As an orphaned child, Tabby fled with her sister, Alice, from their charlatan aunt Bellefonte, who wanted only to exploit Tabby's special gift for communicating with the recently departed in order to profit from the recent craze for seances. Now a young woman and tragically separated from Alice, Tabby works with her adopted father, Eli, the kind caretaker of a large Boston cemetery. When a series of macabre grave robberies begins to plague the city, Tabby is ensnared in a deadly plot by the perpetrators, known only as the "Resurrection Men." In the end, Tabby's gift will either save both her and the cemetery; or bring about her own destruction. Sounds like marvelously spooky reading for Halloween!

Hornby, Nick. [Just Like You](#)
(Riverhead \$27)

Lucy used to handle her adult romantic life according to the script she'd been handed. She met a guy just like herself: same age, same background, same hopes and dreams; they got married and started a family. Too bad he made her miserable. Now, two decades later, she's a nearly-divorced, forty-one-year-old schoolteacher with two school-aged sons, and there is no script anymore. So, when she meets Joseph, she isn't exactly looking for love--she's more in the market for a babysitter. Joseph is twenty-two, living at home with his mother, and working several jobs, including the butcher counter where he and Lucy meet. It's not a match anyone one could have predicted. He's of a different class, a different culture, and a different generation. But sometimes it turns out that the person who can make you happiest is the one you least expect, though it can take some maneuvering to see it through. Here's *Kirkus'* conclusion "The fans Hornby has won with his comely backlist—*High Fidelity* (1995), *About A Boy* (1998), *How to Be Good* (2001), etc.—might not change their favorite but they won't be disappointed. Hornby is as charming as ever in this nimble, optimistic take on the social novel."

Joel, Alexandre. [The Paris Model](#)
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Raised on a vast Australian sheep farm, the beautiful Grace Woods is compelled to travel to tumultuous, postwar Paris in order to start a new life. While working as a glamorous model for Christian Dior, the world's newly acclaimed emperor of fashion,

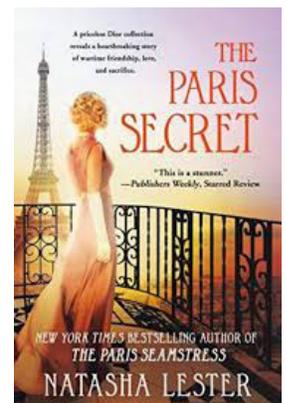
Grace mixes with counts and princesses, authors and artists, diplomats and politicians. Amongst those she befriends are Pablo Picasso, Julia Childs, and the future Jackie Kennedy. But when Grace falls in love with the handsome Phillippe Boyer, she doesn't know that he is leading a double life, nor that his past might hold secrets and lies that will turn her life upside down. Based on a true story, this spellbinding debut by Alexandra Joel, is an unforgettable tale of glamour, family secrets, and heartbreak.

Kelk, Lindsey. [In Case You Missed It](#)
(HarperCollins \$15.99)

When Ros comes home to London after being away for three years, she's ready to pick up with her life exactly where she left off. But Ros's friends have moved on, her parents have rekindled the romance in their marriage, and Ros's old bedroom is now a garden shed. Suddenly, Ros is swept up in a nostalgia for the way things once were. Then Ros's phone begins to ping, with messages from her old life. Including one number she thought she'd erased for good – the man who broke her heart. Is this her second chance at one big love?

Lester, Natasha. [The Paris Secret](#)
(Grand Central \$16.99)

After discovering a priceless collection of Dior gowns in her grandmother Margaux's vacant cottage in Cornwall, fashion conservator Kat Jourdan begins delving into the mystery of their origins. At the same time historian and author Elliott Beaufort tries to convince Kate that her grandmother is the very same courageous World War II spy whom he has been researching for his latest book. Lester deftly switches back and forth between different timelines – 1920s, 1930-1940s, and the 2010s – as she recounts the thrilling story of one family of women, who over two generations worked as spies



as well as offering readers an intriguing snippet about Christian Dior's sister's role in the French Resistance. *PW's* starred review (just one of many) concluded with "Lester's magnetic characters, lyrical writing, and extensive historical research breathe life into this riveting tale. This is a stunner." Fans of Beatriz Williams' and Kate Morton's enthralling novels, as well

as anyone interested in good, old-fashioned storytelling, will not want to miss this.

McHugh, Claire. [A Most English Princess](#)
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

In January 1858, Princess Victoria glides down the aisle of St James Chapel to the waiting arms of her beloved, Fritz, Prince Frederick, heir to the powerful kingdom of Prussia. Although theirs is no mere political match, Vicky is determined that she and Fritz will lead by example, just as her parents Victoria and Albert had done, and also bring about a liberal and united Germany.

Vicky nonetheless struggles to thrive in the constrained Prussian court, where each day she seems to take a wrong step. And her status as the eldest daughter of Queen Victoria does little to smooth over the conflicts she faces. But handsome, gallant Fritz is always by her side, as they navigate court intrigue, and challenge the cunning Chancellor Otto von Bismarck, while fighting for the throne and the soul of a nation. Anyone who loved PBS's series *Victoria* will want to give this new fictional biography a try.

Moore, Brianne. [All Stirred Up](#)
(Crooked Lane \$16.99)

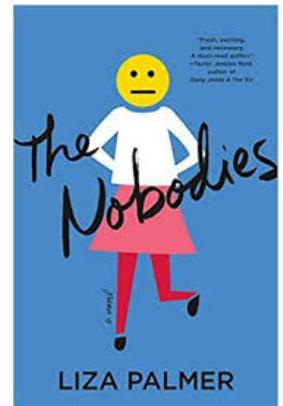
After bad luck and worse management bring the Napier's family's restaurant business to the edge of financial ruin, it is up to Susan Napier to save the last remaining restaurant: Elliot's, the flagship in Edinburgh. But what awaits Susan in the charming city of Auld Reekie is more than she bargained for. Chris Baker, her grandfather's former protégé--and her ex-boyfriend--is also heading to the Scottish capital to open his own restaurant. Although the storms have cleared after their intense and rocky breakup, Susan and Chris are re-drawn into each other's orbit--and their simmering attraction inevitably boils over. As Chris's restaurant opens to great acclaim and Susan tries to haul Elliot's back from the brink, the future brims with new promise. But darkness looms as they find themselves in the crosshairs of a gossip blogger eager for a juicy story--and willing to do anything to get it. Can Susan and Chris reclaim their lost love, or will the tangled past ruin their last hope for happiness? A "charming debut inspired by Jane Austen's *Persuasion*" that is "peppered with just the right amount of family drama, foodie descriptions, and rom-com hijinks."

Morelli, Laura. [The Night Portrait](#)
(HarperCollins \$16.99)

Milan, 1492: When a 16-year old beauty becomes the mistress of the Duke of Milan, she must fight for her place in the palace; and against those who want her out. Soon, she finds herself sitting before Leonardo da Vinci, who wants to ensure his own place in the ducal palace by painting his most ambitious portrait to date. Munich, World War II: After a modest conservator unwittingly places a priceless Italian Renaissance portrait into the hands of a high-ranking Nazi leader, she risks her life to recover it, working with an American soldier, part of the famed Monuments Men team, to get it back. Two women, separated by 500 years, are swept up in the tide of history as one painting stands at the center of their quests for their own destinies.

Palmer, Liza. [The Nobodies](#)
(Flatiron \$16.99)

If there's one thing Joan Dixon knows about herself, it's that she is a damn good journalist. But when she is laid off from yet another soon-to-be-shuttered newspaper, and even the soulless, listicle-writing online jobs have dried up, she is left with few options. Closer to 40 than 30, single, living with her parents again, Joan decides she needs to reinvent herself. She goes to work as a junior copywriter at Bloom, a Los Angeles startup where her bosses are all a decade younger and snacks and cans of fizzy water flow freely. For once, Joan has a steady paycheck and a stable job. She befriends a group of misfit coworkers and even begins a real relationship, after years of false starts. But once a journalist, always a journalist, and as Joan starts to poke beneath Bloom's bright surface, she realizes that she may have accidentally stumbled onto the scoop of her lifetime. Is it worth risking everything for the sake of the story? Palmer has a real gift for wry wit, and a "talent for finding magic in small moments." (PW)



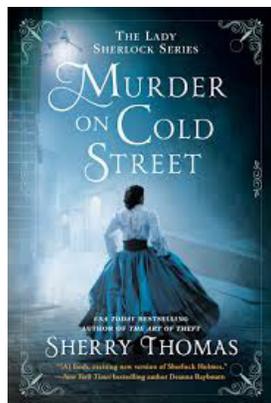
Stuart, A.M. [Revenge in Rubies](#)
(Berkley \$16)

Harriet Gordon has found fulfillment at last. Her young ward, Will, has settled into his new home with

Harriet and her brother, Julian. And Harriet's employment as a typist at the Straits Settlements Police Force has given her an intriguing way to occupy her time and some much-needed financial independence. But when her friend and employer, Inspector Robert Curran, is called to the scene of a brutal murder and Harriet is asked to comfort the victim's family, her newfound sense of contentment is abruptly shattered. Sylvie Nolan, the new and much-younger wife of Lieutenant Colonel John Nolan, has been bludgeoned to death in her bedroom. The tightly knit military community in Singapore quickly closes ranks to hinder Curran's investigation, and Harriet realizes that her friendship with the colonel's sister might prove useful. But to get close enough to the family's secrets, Harriet must once again face her painful past, and Curran is forced to dredge up some long-buried secrets of his own. This terrific new historical mystery series debut with [Singapore Sapphire](#) (Berkley \$16)

Thomas, Sherry. [Murder on Cold Street](#) (Berkley \$16)

Inspector Treadles, Charlotte Holmes's friend and collaborator, has been found locked in a room with two dead men, both of whom worked with his wife at the great manufacturing enterprise she has recently inherited. Rumors fly. Had Inspector Treadles killed the men because they had opposed his wife's initiatives at every turn? Had he killed in a fit of jealous rage, because he suspected Mrs. Treadles of harboring deeper feelings for one of the men? To make matters worse, he refuses to speak on his own behalf, despite the overwhelming evidence against him. Charlotte finds herself in a case strewn with lies and secrets. But which lies are to cover up small sins, and which secrets would flay open a past better left forgotten? In the fifth fun and fabulous addition to her Lady Sherlock series, Thomas plays with the classic locked-room mystery, while at the same time delivering another intriguing cast of supporting characters and a generous measure of the deliciously dry wit. If you are new to the books, start with [A Study in Scarlet](#) (Berkley \$16) and be prepared to binge-read all the rest in this cleverly conceived and brilliantly constructed series.



Tedrowe, Emily Gray. [The Talented Miss Farwell](#) (HarperCollins \$26.99)

At the end of the 1990s, with the art market finally recovered from its disastrous collapse, Miss Rebecca Farwell has made a killing at Christie's in New York City, selling a portion of her extraordinary art collection for a rumored 900 percent profit. Dressed in couture YSL, drinking the finest champagne at trendy Balthazar, Reba, as she's known, is the picture of a wealthy art collector. But a thousand miles from the Big Apple, in the small town of Pierson, Illinois, Miss Farwell is someone else entirely: a quiet single woman known as Becky who still lives in her family's farmhouse, wears sensible shoes, and works tirelessly as the town's treasurer and controller. No one understands the ins and outs of Pierson's accounts better than Becky. Somehow, her neighbors marvel, she always finds a way to get the struggling town just a little more money. What Pierson doesn't see - and can never discover - is that much of that money is shifted into a separate account that she controls, "borrowed" funds used to finance her art habit. How long can the talented Miss Farwell continue to pull off her double life? Tedrowe loosely based her delightfully clever novel on a true story about a government employee in a small town in Illinois, who embezzled \$50 million over 20 years. If the book's title reminds readers of the classic suspense novel *The Talented Mr. Ripley* by Patricia Highsmith, that is no coincidence. Tedrowe was definitely inspired by the book and told *ET* "I would hope I took kind of everything, because Patricia Highsmith is such a genius. I love the Tom Ripley character; when you read those novels, you just cannot stop your own intense fear of him getting caught. You know he needs to, but you can't bear the suspense. I wanted to play that same tune."

Verant, Samantha. [The Secret French Recipes of Sophie Valroux](#) (Berkley \$16)

French-born American chef Sophie Valroux had one dream: to be part of the 1% of female chefs running a Michelin-starred restaurant. From spending summers with her grandmother, who taught her the power of cooking and food, to attending the Culinary Institute of America, Sophie finds herself on the cusp of getting everything she's dreamed of. Until her career goes up in flames. Sabotaged by a fellow chef, Sophie is fired, leaving her reputation ruined and confidence shaken. To add fuel to the fire, Sophie learns that her grandmother has suffered a stroke and takes the red-eye to France. There, Sophie discovers the simple

home she remembers from her childhood is now a luxurious château, complete with two restaurants and a vineyard. As Sophie tries to reestablish herself in the kitchen, she comes to understand the lengths people will go to for success and love, and how dreams can change. Verant's delicious fiction debut (she is also the author of the memoir *How to Make a French Family*) "immerses readers in the sounds, smells, and tastes of a professional kitchen, with a cast of sous-chefs, old friends, and a gruff but handsome mushroom forager along for the ride." (*Booklist*) This "will appeal to romance fans and foodies alike, and comes complete with a select menu of Sophie's delectable recipes" (*PW*).

Walschotts, Natalie Zina. [Hench](#)
(HarperCollins \$27.99)

Anna does boring things for terrible people because even criminals need office help and she needs a job. Working for a monster lurking beneath the surface of the world isn't glamorous. But is it really worse than working for an oil conglomerate or an insurance company? In this economy? As a temp, Anna's just a cog in the machine. But when she finally gets a promising assignment, everything goes very wrong, and an encounter with the so-called "hero" leaves her badly injured. And, to her horror, compared to the other bodies strewn about, she's the lucky one. So, of course, then she gets laid off. With no money and no mobility, with only her anger and internet research acumen, she discovers her suffering at the hands of a hero is far from unique. When people start listening to the story that her data tells, she realizes she might not be as powerless as she thinks. A sharp, witty, modern debut, *Hench* explores the individual cost of justice through a fascinating mix of Millennial office politics, heroism measured through data science, body horror, and a profound misunderstanding of quantum mechanics. Tired of the same-old, same-old reads? Then you just might want to give this remarkably clever debut, of which *Booklist* says "not to be missed," and *PW* says "The inventive premise, accessible heroine, and biting wit will have readers eager for more from this talented author," a try.

Walsh, M.O. [The Big Door Prize](#)
(Putnam \$27)

What would you do if you knew your life's potential? That's the question facing the residents of Deerfield, Louisiana, when the DNAMIX machine appears in their local grocery store. It's nothing to look at,

really--it resembles a plain photo booth. But its promise is amazing: With just a quick swab of your cheek and two dollars, the device claims to use the science of DNA to tell you your life's potential. With enough credibility to make the townspeople curious, soon the former teachers, nurses, and shopkeepers of Deerfield are abruptly changing course to pursue their destinies as magicians, cowboys, and athletes--including the novel's main characters, Douglas Hubbard and his wife, Cherilyn, who both believed they were perfectly happy until they realized they could dream for more. Walsh's 2015 debut novel *My Sunshine Away* went on to sell 100,000 copies, and now he is back with another feel-good fiction read that also touches upon some of life's more darker aspects. *Kirkus* called this "An eccentric, well-written small-town novel jam-packed with appealing characters and their dreams."

Ware, Ruth. [One by One](#)
(Gallery \$27.99)

When the cofounder of Snoop, a trendy London-based tech startup, organizes a weeklong trip for the team in the French Alps, it starts out as a corporate retreat like any other: PowerPoint presentations and strategy sessions broken up by mandatory bonding on the slopes. But as soon as one shareholder upends the agenda by pushing a lucrative but contentious buyout offer, tensions simmer and loyalties are tested. The storm brewing inside the chalet is no match for the one outside, however, and a devastating avalanche leaves the group cut off from all access to the outside world. Even worse, one Snooper hadn't made it back from the slopes when the avalanche hit. As each hour passes without any sign of rescue, panic mounts, the chalet grows colder, and the group dwindles further: one by one. Best-selling Ware offers her own clever take on the classic Agatha Christie novel *And Then There Were None* (even Ware's title pays homage!), and fans of the Grand Dame of the Golden Age of British mystery writing will definitely be pleased with the results right down to the Christie like ending which *Kirkus* (in its own masterful way) says "The solution is maddeningly simple, but the construction, simply masterful."



Weinberger, Andy. [Reason to Kill](#)
(Prospect Park \$16)

Somewhat-retired L.A. private eye Amos Parisman is hired by lonely booking agent Pinky Bleistiff to find one of his missing singers, Risa Barsky. But what starts out as a simple investigation turns into a complex puzzle when Pinky is murdered and Risa is still nowhere to be found. With suspects dropping dead at every turn, Parisman must act quickly to discover the truth about Risa's relationship with Pinky before an innocent person gets sent to prison. Weinberger introduced Amos to readers with [An Old Man's Game](#) (Prospect Pak \$16)

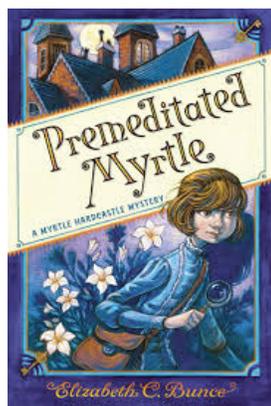
Children's Books and Teen Fiction

Angeles, Janella. [Where Dreams Descend](#)
(St, Martin's \$18.99)

In a city covered in ice and ruin, star showgirl Kallia must win a magician's competition riddled with danger in order to secure her freedom, even as a handsome magician distracts her heart, in this beguiling, unforgettable debut fantasy that *Kirkus* called a "lush, captivating blend of *The Phantom of the Opera* and fresh, new magic."

Bunce, Elizabeth C. [Premeditated Myrtle](#)
(Algonquin \$17.95)

Twelve-year-old Myrtle Hardcastle has a passion for justice and a highly unconventional obsession with criminal science. Armed with her father's law books and her mum's microscope, Myrtle studies toxicology, keeps abreast of the latest developments in crime scene analysis, and observes her neighbors in the quiet village of Swinburne, England. When her next-door neighbor, a wealthy spinster and eccentric breeder of rare flowers, dies under "mysterious circumstances," Myrtle seizes her chance. With her unflappable governess, Miss Ada Judson, by her side, Myrtle takes it upon herself to prove Miss Wodehouse was murdered and find the killer, even if nobody else believes her; not even her father, the town prosecutor. This is the first in a delightfully fun new series.



Bunce, Elizabeth C. [How to Get Away with Myrtle](#)
(Algonquin \$17.95)

Myrtle Hardcastle has no desire to go on a relaxing travel excursion with her aunt Helena when there are more important things to be done at home, like keeping close tabs on criminals and murder trials. Unfortunately, she has no say in the matter. So off Myrtle goes with her governess, Miss Judson, and cat, Peony, in tow, on a fabulous private railway coach headed for the English seaside. Myrtle is thrilled to make the acquaintance of Mrs. Bloom, a professional insurance investigator aboard to protect the priceless Northern Lights tiara. But before the train reaches its destination, both the tiara and Mrs. Bloom vanish. When Myrtle arrives, she and Peony discover a dead body in the baggage car. The trip is derailed, the local police are inept, and Scotland Yard is in no rush to arrive. What's a smart, bored Young Lady of Quality stranded in a washed-up carnival town to do but follow the evidence to find out which of her fellow travelers is a thief and a murderer?

Nix, Garth. [The Left-Handed Booksellers of London](#)
(HarperCollins \$19.99)

In a slightly alternate London in 1983, Susan Arkshaw is looking for her father, a man she has never met. Crime boss Frank Thringley might be able to help her, but Susan doesn't get time to ask Frank any questions before he is turned to dust by the prick of a silver hatpin in the hands of the outrageously attractive Merlin. Merlin is a young left-handed bookseller (one of the fighting ones), who with the right-handed booksellers (the intellectual ones), are an extended family of magical beings who police the mythic and legendary Old World when it intrudes on the modern world, in addition to running several bookshops. Now Susan's search for her father and Merlin's quest with his sister, right-handed bookseller Vivien, for the Old-World entity responsible for the sibling's mother's death begin overlapping in dangerous ways.

Poston, Ashley. [Bookish and the Beast](#)
(Quirk Books \$18.99)

Rosie Thorne's only solace was her late mother's library of rare *Starfield* novels, but even that disappeared when her family sold it to pay off hospital bills. When a tabloid scandal catches up Hollywood heartthrob and *Starfield* star Vance Reigns, he's forced to hide out somewhere the paparazzi would never expect to find him: Small Town USA. When

Rosie and Vance's paths collide and a rare book is accidentally destroyed, Rosie finds herself working to repay the debt. And while most Starfield superfans would jump at the chance to work in close proximity to *the Vance Reigns*, Rosie has discovered something about Vance: he's a jerk, and she can't stand him. The feeling is mutual. But as Vance and Rosie begrudgingly get to know each other, they may just find that there's more risk in shutting each other out than in opening their hearts. A fun, geeky retelling of *Beauty and the Beast*.

Timberlake, Amy and Jon Klassen. [Skunk and Badger](#) (Algonquin \$18.95)

The last thing Badger wants is a roommate, and certainly not Skunk, but since the house does not belong to him he does not have a choice; and soon everything in Badger's quiet and ordered life studying rocks is turned upside down (and where on earth did all the chickens come from)--but after he drives Skunk and his chickens away, Badger starts to miss his roommate and sets out to find him and make amends. This charming new book by Newberry Honor author Amy Timberlake and Caldecott Medalist Jon Klassen has been billed as *Winnie-the-Pooh* meets *Wallace and Gromit* (and maybe a bit of the classic reader series *Frog and Toad*).

Young, Adrienne. [Fable](#) (St. Martin's \$18.99)

Eighteen-year-old Fable joins the young, motley crew of the Marigold and their captain West to escape the island where her father, and infamous merchant captain, abandoned her, but she quickly realizes life off the island is more dangerous than she imagined. Now Fable's only hope of a happily-ever-after is if she can convince West and his crew to help her find a fabled – and fabulously lucrative - shipwreck in the *Unnamed Sea*.

Nonfiction

Anderson, Scott. [The Quiet Americans](#) (Knopf \$30)

The Quiet Americans chronicles the exploits of four spies - Michael Burke, a charming former football star fallen on hard times, Frank Wisner, the scion of a wealthy Southern family, Peter Sichel, a sophisticated German Jew who escaped the Nazis, and Edward

Lansdale, a brilliant ad executive. The four ran covert operations across the globe, trying to outwit the ruthless KGB in Berlin, parachuting commandos into Eastern Europe, plotting coups, and directing wars against Communist insurgents in Asia. But time and again their efforts went awry, thwarted by a combination of stupidity and ideological rigidity at the highest levels of the government - and more profoundly, the decision to abandon American ideals. By the mid-1950s, the Soviet Union had a stranglehold on Eastern Europe, the U.S. had begun its disastrous intervention in Vietnam, and America, the beacon of democracy, was overthrowing democratically-elected governments and earning the hatred of much of the world. All of this culminated in an act of betrayal and cowardice that would lock the Cold War into place for decades to come.

Cozzens, Peter. [Tecumseh and the Prophet](#) (Knopf \$35)

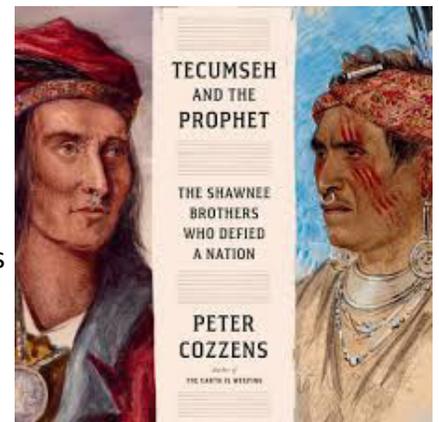
Until the Americans killed Tecumseh in 1813, he and his brother Tenskwatawa were the co-architects of the broadest pan-Indian confederation in United States history. In previous accounts of Tecumseh's life, Tenskwatawa

has been dismissed as a talentless charlatan and a drunk. Bancroft Prize winning historian Peter Cozzens now shows us that while Tecumseh was a brilliant diplomat and war leader--admired

by the same white Americans he opposed--it was Tenskwatawa, called the "Shawnee Prophet," who created a vital doctrine of religious and cultural revitalization that unified the disparate tribes of the Old Northwest. Detailed research of Native American society and customs provides a window into a world often erased from history books and reveals how both men came to power in different but no less important ways.

Cushing, Mark. [Pet Nation](#) (Avery \$27)

Since 1998 the pet population in the U.S. has almost doubled -- about two-thirds of the country now



owns a pet. No longer left to wander the neighborhood, dogs and cats eat special food, get individualized medical attention, and even fly in the cabin. As founder of the Animal Policy Group, Mark Cushing provides an inside look at the rise of Pet Nation, tracking the myriad ways pets are acquired (a “Canine Freedom Train” runs south to north), reporting on pet rights legislation (and the unseen problems that come with elevating their status), pet health-care (revealing the truth and myths about large scale breeders), and discovering that despite what many organizations would have us believe, there is a shortage of dogs. Insightful, surprising, and full of great stories, *Pet Nation* opens our eyes to the big changes happening in front of us right now. It shows us not only what our love of animals says about pets, it shows us what it says about ourselves.

Dasai, Jennifer. [ArtCurious](#)
(Penguin \$17)

We’re all familiar with the works of Claude Monet, thanks in no small part to the ubiquitous reproductions of his water lilies on umbrellas, handbags, scarves, and dorm-room posters. But did you also know that Monet and his cohort were trailblazing rebels whose works were originally deemed unbelievably ugly and vulgar? And while you probably know the tale of Vincent van Gogh’s suicide, you may not be aware that there’s pretty compelling evidence that the artist didn’t die by his own hand but was accidentally killed—or even murdered. Or how about the fact that one of Andy Warhol’s most enduring legacies involves Caroline Kennedy’s moldy birthday cake and a collection of toenail clippings? *ArtCurious* is a colorful look at the world of art history, revealing some of the strangest, funniest, and most fascinating stories behind the world’s great artists and masterpieces.

Easter, Geral and Mara Vorhees. [The Tsarina’s Lost Treasure](#) (Pegasus \$29.95)

On October 1771, a merchant ship out of Amsterdam, *Vrouw Maria*, crashed off the stormy Finnish coast, taking her historic cargo to the depths of the Baltic Sea. The vessel was delivering a dozen Dutch masterpiece paintings to Europe’s most voracious collector: Catherine the Great, Empress of Russia. Among the lost treasures was *The Nursery*, an oak-paneled triptych by Leiden fine painter Gerrit Dou, Rembrandt’s most brilliant student and Holland’s first international superstar artist. Dou’s triptych was long the most beloved and most coveted

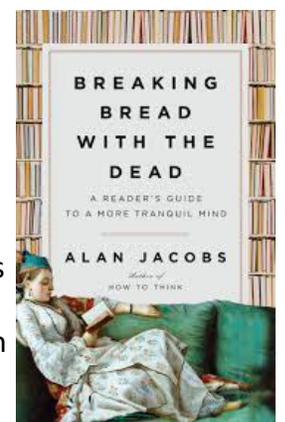
painting of the Dutch Golden Age, and its loss in the shipwreck was mourned throughout the art world. *Vrouw Maria*, meanwhile, became a maritime legend, confounding would-be salvagers for more than two hundred years. In July 1999, a daring Finnish wreck hunter found *Vrouw Maria*, upright on the sea floor and perfectly preserved. *The Tsarina’s Lost Treasure* masterfully recounts the fascinating tale of *Vrouw Maria*.

Hampton, Dan. [Operation Vengeance](#)
(William Morrow \$28.99)

In 1943, the United States military began to plan one of the most dramatic secret missions of World War II. Its code name was Operation Vengeance. Naval Intelligence had intercepted the itinerary of Admiral Isoroku Yamamoto, the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese Combined Fleet, whose stealth attack on Pearl Harbor precipitated America’s entry into the war. On April 18th, the U.S. discovered, he would travel to Rabaul in the South Pacific to visit Japanese troops, then fly to the Japanese airfield at Balalale, 400 miles to the southeast. Set into motion, the Americans’ plan was one of the most tactically difficult operations of the war. To avoid detection, U.S. pilots had to embark on a circuitous, 1,000-mile odyssey that would test not only their skills but the physical integrity of their planes. The timing was also crucial: the slightest miscalculation, even by a few minutes; or a delay on the famously punctual Yamamoto’s end, meant the entire plan would collapse, endangering American lives. But if these remarkable pilots succeeded, they could help turn the tide of the war, and greatly boost Allied morale.

Jacobs, Alan. [Breaking Bread with the Dead](#)
(Penguin \$25)

Today we are battling too much information in a society changing at lightning speed, with algorithms aimed at shaping our every thought—plus a sense that history offers no resources, only impediments to overcome or ignore. The modern solution to our problems is to surround ourselves only with what we know and what brings us instant comfort. Jacobs’s answer is the opposite: to be in conversation with, and challenged by, those from the past



who can tell us what we never thought we needed to know. What can Homer teach us about force? How does Frederick Douglass deal with the massive blind spots of America's Founding Fathers? And what can we learn from modern authors who engage passionately and profoundly with the past? In *Breaking Bread with the Dead*, a gifted scholar draws us into close and sympathetic engagement with texts from across the ages, including the work of Anita Desai, Henrik Ibsen, Jean Rhys, Simone Weil, Edith Wharton, Amitav Ghosh, Claude Lévi-Strauss, Italo Calvino, and many more.

MacIntyre, Ben. [Agent Sonya](#)
(Crown \$28)

In 1942, in a quiet village in the leafy English Cotswolds, a thin, elegant woman lived in a small cottage with her three children and her husband, who worked as a machinist nearby. Ursula Burton was friendly but reserved, and spoke English with a slight foreign accent. By all accounts, she seemed to be living a simple, unassuming life. Her neighbors in the village knew little about her. They didn't know that she was a high-ranking Soviet intelligence officer. They didn't know that her husband was also a spy, or that she was running powerful agents across Europe. Behind the facade of her picturesque life, Burton was a dedicated Communist, a Soviet colonel, and a veteran agent, gathering the scientific secrets that would enable the Soviet Union to build the bomb. This true-life spy story is a masterpiece about the woman code-named "Sonya." Over the course of her career, she was hunted by the Chinese, the Japanese, the Nazis, MI5, MI6, and the FBI, and she evaded them all. Her story reflects the great ideological clash of the twentieth century between Communism, Fascism, and Western democracy, and casts new light on the spy battles and shifting allegiances of our own times.

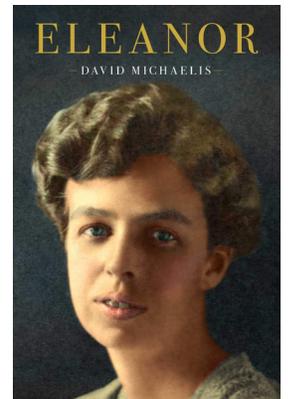
Maroney, Tyler. [The Modern Detective](#)
(Riverhead \$27)

As a private investigator, Tyler Maroney has traveled the globe, overseeing sensitive investigations and untying complicated cases for a wide array of clients. In his new book, he shows that it's private eyes who today are being called upon to catch corrupt politicians, track down international embezzlers, and mine reams of data to reveal which CEOs are lying. The tools Maroney and other private investigators use are a mix of the traditional and the cutting edge, from

old phone records to computer forensics to solid (and often inspired) street-level investigative work. Each of the investigations Maroney explores in this book highlights an individual case and the people involved in it, and in each account, he explains how the transgressors were caught and what lessons can be learned from it. Whether the clients are a Middle Eastern billionaire whose employees stole millions from him, the director of a private equity firm wanting a background check on a potential hire (a known convicted felon), or creditors of a wealthy American investor trying to recoup their money after he fled the country to avoid bankruptcy, all of them hired private investigators to solve problems the authorities either can't or won't touch.

Michaelis, David. [Eleanor](#)
(Simon and Schuster \$35)

In the first single-volume cradle-to-grave portrait in six decades, acclaimed biographer David Michaelis delivers a stunning account of Eleanor Roosevelt's remarkable life of transformation. An orphaned niece of President Theodore Roosevelt, she converted her Gilded Age childhood of denial and secrecy into an irreconcilable marriage with her ambitious fifth cousin Franklin. Despite their inability to make each other happy, Franklin Roosevelt transformed Eleanor from a settlement house volunteer on New York's Lower East Side into a matching partner in New York's most important power couple in a generation. Despite the number of excellent previous biographies of Eleanor (including Blanche Wiesen Cook's multi-volume treatment), *PW* called this "compulsively readable and exhaustively researched, and a must-read for 20th century history buffs."



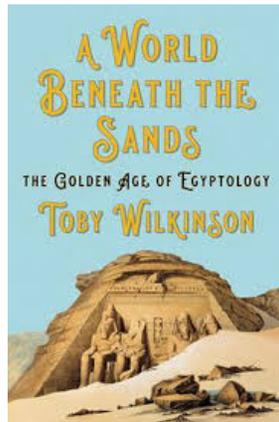
Pearlman, Jeff. [Three-Ring Circus](#)
(HMH \$30)

In the history of modern sport, there have never been two high-level teammates who loathed each other the way Shaquille O'Neal loathed Kobe Bryant, and Kobe Bryant loathed Shaquille O'Neal. From public sniping and sparring, to physical altercations and the repeated threats of trade, it was warfare.

ed book contains fifty DIY projects: from a uniquely American quilt pattern to on-trend crafts like terrarium making and pickling. For those craving more, features provide rare insights from Smithsonian experts on prominent figures, events, and trends. Readers can learn about influential Americans who've had an impact on each realm; look at visual timelines of significant events that pushed development forward; or stay in the present and see how American arts in contemporary life is being redefined, all while enjoying satisfying and unique projects.

Wilkinson, Toby. [A World Beneath the Sands](#)
(WW Norton \$30)

From the decipherment of hieroglyphics in 1822 to the discovery of Tutankhamun's tomb by Howard Carter and Lord Carnarvon a hundred years later, the uncovering of Egypt's ancient past took place in an atmosphere of grand adventure and international rivalry. In *A World Beneath the Sands*, the acclaimed Egyptologist Toby Wilkinson chronicles the ruthless race between the British, French, Germans and Americans to lay claim to its mysteries and treasures. He tells the riveting stories of the men and women whose obsession with Egypt's ancient civilization helped to enrich



and transform our understanding of the Nile Valley and its people, and left a lasting impression on Egypt, too. Travelers and treasure-hunters, ethnographers and archaeologists: whatever their motives, whatever their methods, a century of adventure and scholarship revealed a lost world, buried for centuries beneath the sands. This historical survey of 100 years of digging up Egypt's ancient past is filled with fascinating stories, and would make the perfect gift for any fan of Elizabeth Peter's marvelous mystery series featuring the intrepid Amelia Peabody and her archaeologist husband Emerson.