# Chapter TEA • BOOKS • CAFE BOOK CATALOGUE - JAN/FEB 2023

Welcome back and best wishes for 2023! We hope you've had a good break and we hope you have not been badly impacted by the severe weather. The new year sees the arrival of lots of goodies including Lauren Asher's *Final Offer*, Holly Black's *The Stolen Heir*, Cassandra Clare's *Chain of Thorns*, Christine Feehan's *Recovery Road*, Ali Hazelwood's *Loathe to Love You*, Jayne Ann Krentz's *Sleep No More*, J.D. Robb's *Encore in Death* and Katee Robert's *Radiant in Sin*. Enjoy your reading! N.B. Please see page 3 for the details of the inaugural meeting of the Auckland Romance Readers Book Club on Sun 12 Mar at 4pm.

Top Books January		Top Books February	
Ilona Andrews	Sweep of the Heart*	Ilona Andrews	Magic Tides*
Mary Balogh	Remember Love#	Lauren Asher	Final Offer*
Holly Black	The Stolen Heir*	Tessa Bailey	Secretly Yours*
H.D. Carlton	Haunting Adeline*	Allison Brennan	Don't Open the Door
Alison Cochrun	Kiss Her Once For Me*	Cassandra Clare	Chain of Thorns*
Ali Hazelwood	Loathe to Love You*	Christine Feehan	Recovery Road
Talia Hibbert	Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute*	Devney Perry	Jasper Vale*
Jayne Ann Krentz	Sleep No More*	J.D. Robb	Encore in Death*
J.D. Robb	Desperation in Death#	Katee Robert	Radiant Sin*
Scarlett St. Claire	Queen of Myth and Monsters*	Lynsay Sands	In Her Highlander's Bed
# Paperback Release	* Hardcover/TPB/POD & Anthology	Please contact us if ye	ou would like to reserve a book



Title: Final Offer Author: Lauren Asher Classification: Contemporary Book Type: UK Trade Paperback Price: \$26

**Annotation:** Dreamland Billionaires Series. Callahan...I'm the Kane brother everyone gossips about behind closed doors. Trust fund brat. Washed-up athelete. Highfunctioning alcoholic. No one knows the real me but her. Lana Castillo—

my childhood best friend and the only woman I ever loved. When I broke her heart six years ago, I promised to never return to Lake Wisteria. I kept my word until my grandfather's will changed everything. To receive my inheritance, I was tasked with spending a summer at the family lake house before selling it. But turns out Lana lives at the house, and she claims to own it too.



Title: Sleep No More Author: Jayne Ann Krentz Classification: Contemporary/Suspense Book Type: UK Trade Paperback Price: \$33

**Annotation:** Lost Night Files Series. Seven months ago, Pallas Llewellyn was one of three women-strangerswho stayed a fateful night at Lucent Springs Hotel which was destroyed, but the women have no memory of their time there...Now close friends,

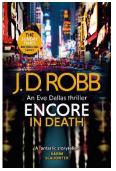
together they investigate cold cases, hoping to connect with others who have experienced forgotten encounters and enhanced psychic abilities...After receiving a tip, Pallas travels to Carnelian, to explore an abandoned asylum. There she meets Ambrose Drake who is certain he witnessed a murder, but without a body, no one believes him. Pallas and Ambrose investigate-but someone is willing to kill to keep the truth from coming out.



Title: Recovery Road Author: Christine Feehan Classification: Fantasy & Paranormal Book Type: NA Mass Market Paperback Price: \$24

**Annotation:** *Torpedo Ink Series.* Kir "Master" Vasiliev doesn't care whether he lives or dies. He's a burnt-out shell with no one and nothing but his club. ...Investment banker Ambrielle Moore knows her own mind, and she's not willing to

settle for anyone. So when a second-rate gangster and his thugs try to coerce her into marriage—and giving up her family's money—she's having none of it. Until they turn to cold-blooded murder...Grieving and enraged, Ambrie is ready to go scorched earth on her captors when Master shows up. But Ambrie is nothing like he expected, and everything he never knew he desired...



Title: Encore In Death Author: J.D. Robb Classification: Crime/Mystery/Thriller Book Type: UK Trade Paperback Price: \$32

**Annotation:** *Eve Dallas Series.* It was a glittering event full of Alisters, hosted by celebrity couple Eliza Lane and Brant Fitzhugh. But as the crowd gathered to watch Eliza sing, Fitzhugh raised a toast to his wife and fell to the floor. Death by

cyanide poisoning. It's time for Lt. Eve Dallas to make her entrance...Fitzhugh wasn't the kind of star who made enemies. Eliza, on the other hand, had many rivals, and a few of them could class as enemies. Since the cocktail that killed Brant was originally intended for Eliza, could it be that she was the real target? With so many people at the party, Eve has her work cut out determining who could commit murder in a crowd.

The book prices shown apply at the time of publication of this catalogue. Prices are subject to change.

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### Other Books Available in This Catalogue

**Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense** Secretly Yours by Tessa Bailey (Trade Paperback-\$25). Secretly Yours Series. Hallie Welch fell hard for Julian Vos at fourteen, after they almost kissed in the dark vineyards of his family's winery. Now the prodigal hottie has returned to Napa Valley and when Hallie is hired to revamp the gardens on the Vos estate, she wonders if she'll finally get that smooch. But the grumpy professor isn't the teenager she remembers and their polar opposite personalities clash spectacularly...One wine-fueled girls' night later, Hallie can't shake the sense that she did something reckless-and then she remembers the drunken secret admirer letter she left for Julian. Oh shit...On sabbatical from his ivv league job, Julian plans to write a novel. But having Hallie gardening right outside his window is the ultimate distraction. She's eccentric, chronically late, often literally covered in dirt-and so beautiful, he can't focus on anything else. Until he finds an anonymous letter sent by a woman from his past...Even as Julian wonders about this admirer, he's sucked further into Hallie's orbit. Like the flowers she plants all over town, Hallie is a burst of color in Julian's grayscale life. For a man who irons his socks and runs on tight schedules, her sunny chaotic energy makes zero sense. But there's something so familiar about her... and her very presence is turning his world upside down.

Don't Open the Door by Allison Brennan (Mass Market Paperback—\$26). Regan Merritt Series. A family torn apart. A botched investigation. She'll stop at nothing to get answers...US Marshal Regan Merritt never bought the FBI's theory that her tenyear-old son's murder was tied to her job. Yet as leads went cold, she'd had to walk away from the marshals, the case and her now ex-husband, Grant, who blamed her for Chase's death...After Regan receives a chilling voice mail from her former boss, Tommy, claiming new information about Chase's murder, she can no longer stay away from her painfilled past. Especially when Tommy's murdered before she can return his call...Now more than ever, Regan's determined to find the truth, but the more she digs, the more evidence points to Grant as the killer's true target. But Grant isn't talking. As she tries to pin down her ex, Regan discovers something much bigger and far more sinister is at play-and she's running out of people she can trust..

Haunting Adeline by H.D. Carlton (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$49). Cat and Mouse Duet Series. The Manipulator: I can manipulate the emotions of anyone who lets me. I will make you hurt, make you cry, make you laugh and sigh. But my words don't affect him. Especially not when I plead for him to leave. He's always there, watching and waiting. And I can never look away. Not when I want him to come closer...*The Shadow:* I didn't mean to fall in love. But now that I have, I can't stay away. I'm mesmerized by her smile, by her eyes, and the way she moves. The way she undresses...I'll keep watching and waiting. Until I can make her mine. And once she is, I'll never let her go. Not even when she begs me to.

**Kiss Her Once For Me** by **Alison Cochrun** (Trade Paperback—\$26). *LGBTQ+*. One year ago, recent

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense Portland transplant Ellie Oliver had her dream job in animation and a Christmas Eve meet-cute with a woman at a bookstore that led her to fall in love over the course of a single night. But after a betrayal the next morning and the loss of her job soon after, she finds herself adrift, alone, and desperate for money...Finding work at a local coffee shop, she's just getting through the days—until Andrew, the shop's landlord, proposes a shocking, drunken plan: a marriage of convenience that will give him his recent inheritance and alleviate Ellie's financial woes and isolation. They make a plan to spend the holidays together at his family cabin to keep up the ruse. But when Andrew introduces his new fiancée to his sister, Ellie is shocked to discover it's Jack-the mysterious woman she fell for over the course of one magical Christmas Eve the year before. Now, Ellie must choose between the safety of a fake relationship and the risk of something real.

Point Last Seen by Christina Dodd (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$26). Last Seen in Gothic Series. When you've already died, there should be nothing left to fear...When Adam Ramsdell pulls Elle's halffrozen body from the surf on a lonely California beach, she has no memory of what her full name is and how she got those bruises ringing her throat...Elle finds refuge in Adam's home on the edge of Gothic, a remote village located between the steep lonely mountains and the raging Pacific Ocean. As flashes of her memory return, Elle faces a terrible truth-buried in her mind lurks a secret so dark it could get her killed ... Everyone in Gothic seems to hide a dark past. Even Adam knows more than he will admit. Until Elle can unravel the truth, she doesn't know who to trust, when to run and who else might be hurt when the killer who stalks her nightmares appears to finish what he started...

**Glitterland** by **Alexis Hall** (Trade Paperback—\$28). LGBTQ+. Spires Series. Once the golden boy of the English literary scene, now a clinically depressed writer of pulp crime fiction, Ash Winters has given up on hope, happiness, and-most of all-himself. He lives his life between the cycles of his illness, haunted by the ghosts of other people's expectations...Then a chance encounter throws him into the path of Essex-born Darian Taylor. Flashy and loud, radiant and full of life, Darian couldn't be more different...and yet he makes Ash laugh, reminding him of what it's like to step beyond the boundaries of his anxiety. But Ash has been living in his own shadow for so long that he can no longer see a way out. Can a man who doesn't trust himself ever trust in happiness? And how can someone who doesn't believe in happiness ever fight for his own?

Loathe to Love You by Ali Hazelwood (Trade Paperback—Anthology—\$24). Mara, Sadie, and Hannah are friends first, scientists always. Though their fields of study might take them to different corners of the world, they can all agree on this universal truth: when it comes to love and science, opposites attract, and rivals make you burn...Under One Roof: An environmental engineer discovers that scientists should never cohabitate when she finds herself stuck with the roommate from hell—a detestable big-oil lawyer who won't leave the Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense

thermostat alone...*Stuck with You*: A civil engineer and her nemesis take their rivalry—and love—to the next level when they get stuck in a New York elevator...*Below Zero*: A NASA aerospace engineer's frozen heart melts as she lies injured and stranded at a remote Arctic research station and the only person willing to undertake the dangerous rescue mission is her longtime rival.

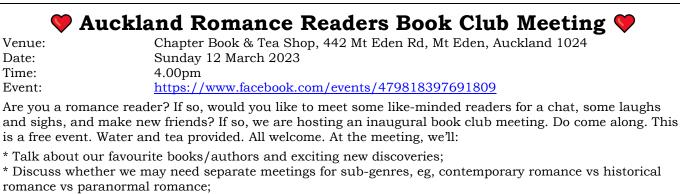
Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute by Talia Hibbert (Trade Paperback—\$24). Rivalry or Romance?...These enemies can't decide...Bradley Graeme is pretty much perfect. He's a star football player, manages his OCD well (enough), and comes out on top in all his classes...except the ones he shares with his ex-best friend, Celine...Celine Bangura is conspiracy-theory-obsessed. Social media followers eat up her takes on everything from UFOs to holiday overconsumption-yet, she's still not cool enough for the popular kids' table. Which is why Brad abandoned her for the in-crowd years ago. (At least, that's how Celine sees it.)...These days, there's nothing between them other than petty insults and academic rivalry. So when Celine signs up for a survival course in the woods, she's surprised to find Brad right beside her...Forced to work as a team for the chance to win a grand prize, these two teens must trudge through not just mud and dirt but their messy past. And as this adventure brings them closer together, they begin to remember the good bits of their history. But has too much time passed...or just enough to spark a whole new kind of relationship?

Rogue by Elle Kennedy (Trade Paperback—\$26). Prep Series. Return to Sandover Prep, where secrets lurk in the dark and no one is safe when they come into the light...It's been a long time since Casey Tresscott has felt like her life was her own. After the car accident that nearly cost her everything, she's used to her family's coddling and the relentless whispers at school, no matter how much they sting. After all, she's found a safe harbour in her budding relationship with Sandover's golden boy, Fenn Bishop...or so she thinks...Beneath Fenn's pretty, party-boy surface is a dangerous truth about the night Casey almost died. He thought lying to her was the right thing to do, but when the secret shakes loose, he just might lose her for good... Because Casey is done being taken advantage of...Grasping for the control she's been missing, Casey snaps—telling off her bullies, gallivanting with rebels, and shirking her headmaster father's

**Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense** curfews, despite the consequences. A desperate Fenn must ally with his stepbrother RJ and the other Sandover delinquents to uncover the full story of Casey's accident and the ones responsible if he hopes to win her back...But what happens if Casey is no longer the same girl he fell for? Is there any hope for their future if she's gone rogue for good?

The Last Mile by Kat Martin (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$24). Blood Ties, The Logans Series. When Abigail Holland awakes to the sound of a nighttime intruder in her rambling Denver Victorian, she knows exactly what the black shrouded figure is after—the map she recently inherited from her grandfather. Whoever he is, the man who grapples with her, then escapes, is willing to kill for the location of a treasure King Farrell hunted for more than ten years. The Devil's Gold has claimed hundreds of lives, and it was her grandfather's obsession...With a killer pursuing her and her own family not to be trusted, Abby decides to take up the search herself. But she'll need help, and there's no one better than renowned explorer and treasure hunter Gage Logan. Despite the instant chemistry between them, Gage is reluctant. Innocent people have been hurt on his watch before. But when Abby shows him a genuine gold ingot she found with the map, his curiosity is piqued. Before long they're heading into the flash floods and brutal winds of the Superstition Mountains, straight into a passionate entanglement—and the dark heart of danger.

Jasper Vale by Devney Perry (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$42). Edens Series. Eloise Eden's pride and joy is her family's hotel in Quincy, Montana. Her lifelong dream is to own The Eloise Inn. All she has to do is prove to her parents that she's the epitome of responsible. That her days of being duped and making reckless decisions are history. She's so close she can taste it...Until after one weekend in Las Vegas, she comes home married to a stranger...Jasper must have put her under a spell with those soul-deep eyes because after a single night together, they woke up husband and wife. Her only hope is to keep this marriage a secret until it's annulled. Then she'll pretend it never happened... Except Jasper begs her to stay married. To fake it for three months so she can accompany him to a wedding. Maybe she's lost her mind to agree. But her husband seems desperate. It's only three months, right? Then she'll say goodbye to Jasper Vale, and with any luck, hello to her new hotel.



\* Set date/time/venue for next meeting and choose organiser(s) and book(s).

Please RSVP to Frances at: info@chapter.co.nz M 021-635027 🖀 09-6232319

**Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense** When Stars Collide by Susan Elizabeth Phillips (Mass Market Paperback Release-\$26). Chicago Stars Series. Thaddeus Walker Bowman Owens, the backup quarterback for the Chicago Stars, is a team player, talented sideline coach, occasional male underwear model, and a man with a low tolerance for Divas...Olivia Shore, international opera superstar, is a driven diva with a passion for perfection, a craving for justice, too many secrets-and a monumental grudge against the egotistical, lowbrow jock she's been stuck with...It's Mozart meets Monday Night Football as the temperamental soprano and stubborn jock embark on a nationwide tour promoting a luxury watch brand. Along the way, the combatants engage in soul-searching and trash talk, backstage drama and, for sure, a quarterback pass. But they also face trouble as threatening letters, haunting photographs, and a series of dangerous encounters complicate their lives. Is it the work of an overzealous fan or something more sinister?

The True Love Bookshop by Annie Rains (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$24). Somerset Lake Series. She's ready to start a new chapter in her life...For Tess Lane, owning Lakeside Books is a dream come true, but it's the weekly book club she hosts for the women in town that Tess enjoys the most. The gatherings have been her lifeline over the past three years since her husband's mysterious death. Tess has tried to move on, but when River Harrison shows up on her doorstep, all her lingering questions come rushing back...River, a former marine turned private investigator, was her husband's best friend, and seeing him again is a reminder of everything Tess lost. At first, she tries to ignore him, but Tess comes to realize that this is her chance, once and for all, to find the answers that have troubled her for years...With the support of her friends, Tess joins River on a journey of discovery that leads them to the edges of Somerset Lake and on a road trip down the Carolina coast. Although their adventure isn't always easy, Tess starts to find the joy in life again. But when secrets surrounding her husband's death are finally revealed, can Tess find it in her heart to forgive the mistakes of the past...and maybe even open herself up to love again?

Quarter to Midnight by Karen Rose (Mass Market Paperback Release-\$24). New Orleans Series. Good cops. Bad cops. Only one will win...After completing her tours with the Marines in Iraq, Molly Sutton knew she could take down any bad guy she met. But when a family tragedy exposes the dark side of her local police, she joined up with her former CO Burke Broussard, who left New Orleans PD to set up a private investigative service for people who couldn't find justice elsewhere...Gabe Hebert saw the toll that working for the NOPD took on his dad and decided instead to make a name for himself as one of the best young chefs in the French Quarter. But when his father's death is ruled a suicide after a deliberately botched investigation by his former captain, Gabe knows his dad stumbled onto a truth that someone wants silenced...Gabe goes to his father's best friend, Burke, for help. Burke assigns the toughest member of his team, Molly, to the case. Molly can't believe she's being asked to work with the smoking hot chef whose chocolate cake is not the only thing that makes her mouth water. Sparks fly as they follow the

**Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense** leads Gabe's dad left them, unraveling a web of crimes, corruption, and murder that runs all the way to the top.

**The Next Best Day** by **Sharon Sala** (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). A fresh start in a new place is always full of surprises...After two back-to-back lifechanging events, first grade teacher Katie McGrath leaves Albuquerque for a fresh start in Borden's Gap, Tennessee. She is finally back in the classroom where she belongs, but it will take a little while for her to heal and truly feel like herself. She'll need to dig deep to find the courage to try again—in life and in love—but with some help from her neighbor Sam Youngblood and his adorable twin daughters, her future is looking brighter than she dared imagine.

The Backup Plan by Jill Shalvis (Trade Paperback— \$38). Sunrise Cove Series. Three people are brought together when they're bequeathed an old Wild West inn that has the potential to pull their lives apart, but instead turns into the gift of a lifetime...When Alice receives a call about an unexpected windfall, she's stunned to learn the gift is a falling-apart-atthe-seams old Wild West B&B she once considered home-and she's inherited it along with two strangers. Except they weren't always strangers. Once upon a time, they were friends. One is her ex-BFF Lauren. The other is Knox, the only guy to ever break her heart, all while never even knowing she existed...It turns out their lives are unknowingly entangled because they once separately helped the same woman without expecting anything in return. Years later, Alice, Lauren, and Knox are broken in their own way, with their own history-and secretscausing them to start out on the wrong foot with each other. But according to the will, they must renovate and be partners in the inn for one year or else lose their inheritance...Stuck together, they make a list of rules to keep the peace—rules that end up doing the opposite, but by some miracle they find what they didn't even know they were looking foracceptance, true friendship, and in a case (or two!), true love.

Do I Know You? by Emily Wibberley and Austin Siegemund-Broka (Trade Paperback—\$26). After five years' marriage they're about to have their first date...Eliza and Graham's marriage is quietly failing. With their five-year anniversary approaching, neither of them are thrilled about the weeklong getaway they've been gifted. The luxury retreat prides itself on being a destination for those in love and those looking to find it—but for Eliza and Graham it's the last place they want to be...After a well-meaning guest mistakes Eliza and Graham as being single and introduces them at the hotel bar, they don't correct him. Suddenly, they're pretending to be perfect strangers and it's unexpectedly fun. Eliza and Graham find themselves flirting like it's their first date...Everyone at the retreat can see the electric chemistry between Eliza and Graham's alter egos. But as their game continues they realize this performance could be the very thing that saves their marriage...

**The Chemistry of Love** by **Sariah Wilson** (Trade Paperback—\$33). How can Anna Ellis, a geeky, brilliant, and hopelessly smitten cosmetic chemist possibly win over Craig Kimball, the man of her

**Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense** dreams-who also happens to be her boss? The answer is Craig's empathetic (and handsome) CEO half brother, Marco. The makeup mogul knows Craig for the ridiculously competitive rival he is. Whatever Marco has, Craig wants. That can be Anna, if she's game to play ... All Anna and Marco have to do is pretend they're falling in love and let the rumors begin. If the experiment in attraction works, a jealous Craig will swoop in and give Anna her happily ever after-if it weren't for one hitch in the plan. There's more to Marco than meets the eye. With every fake date, Anna's feelings are starting to become dizzvingly real...Blame it on chemistry. It's unpredictable, exciting, and occasionally combustible. If Anna and Marco are really falling in love, who are they to argue with science?

### Crime & Mystery & Thriller

Murder on the Poet's Walk by Ellery Adams (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). Book Retreat Mysteries Series. When corpses clutching poems begin turning up around Storyton Hall, resort manager Jane Steward is on the trail of someone exercising poetic license to kill...As Jane eagerly anticipates the wedding of her best friend Eloise Alcott, Storyton Hall is overrun with poets in town to compete for a coveted greeting card contract. They're everywhere, scrawling verses on cocktail napkins in the reading rooms or seeking inspiration strolling the Poet's Walk, a series of trails named after famous authors. But the Tennyson Trail leads to a grim surprise: a woman's corpse drifting in a rowboat on a lake, a crumpled copy of The Lady of Shallot in her lifeless fist...When a second body is discovered, also holding a page from a poetry book, a recurring MO emerges. Fortunately, Jane is well versed in sleuthing and won't rest until she gives the killer a taste of poetic justice...

Buried in a Good Book by Tamara Berry (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). By the Book Mysteries Series. Bestselling thriller writer Tess Harrow is almost at the end of her rope when she arrives with her teenage daughter at her grandfather's rustic cabin in the woods. She hopes this will be a time for them to heal and bond after Tess's recent divorce, but they've barely made it through the door when an explosion shakes the cabin. Suddenly it's raining fish guts and...is that a human arm?...Tess was hardly convincing Gertie that a summer without Wi-Fi and running water would be an adventure. Now she's thrust into a murder investigation, neighbors are saying they've spotted Bigfoot in the woods near her cabin, and the local sheriff is the spitting image of her character Detective Gabriel Gonzales—something he's less than thrilled about. With so much more than her daughter's summer plans at stake, it's up to Tess to solve this case before anyone else gets hurt.

**To the Tome of Murder** by **Lauren Elliott** (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). *Beyond the Page Bookstore Mystery Series*. Three weeks before Thanksgiving, bookshop owner Addie Greyborne already has a full plate—and a killer on her case...Addie's determined to turn a seemingly ordinary November in coastal Greyborne Harbor into one for the books. The windows of her shop display carefully curated works by American writers, including a rare selection of

#### Crime, Mystery & Thriller contd

traditional holiday recipes from the influential 19thcentury publication *Godey's Ladies Magazine*. And then there's the town's Civil War-era themed cooking and baking competition, with a hefty cash prize and free publicity going to the winning dish...But when she finds her cousin's boyfriend murdered, a stunned Addie reluctantly realizes she may be the only person who can blow the cover off a grisly crime. With so many unanswered questions surrounding the victim's death, Addie must figure out the strange connection between a mysterious vintage briefcase, the disappearance of a first edition copy of Sarah Josepha Hale's famous nursery rhyme, *Mary Had a Little Lamb*, and a dangerously well-read culprit...

Dark Horse by Gregg Hurwitz (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$26). Orphan X Series. Evan Smoak is a man with many identities and a challenging past...As Orphan X, he was a government assassin for the off-the-books Orphan Program. After he broke with the Program, he adopted a new name and a new mission—The Nowhere Man, helping the most desperate in their times of trouble. Having just survived an attack on his life, and the complete devastation of his base of operations, as well as his complicated (and deepening) relationship with his neighbor Mia Hall, Evan isn't interested in taking on a new mission. But one finds him anyway...Aragon Urrea is a kingpin of a major drug-dealing operation in South Texas. He's also the patron of the local area-supplying employment in legitimate operations, providing help to the helpless, rough justice to the downtrodden, and a future to a people normally with little hope. He's complicated—a not completely good man, who does bad things for often good reasons. However, for all his money and power, he is helpless when one of the most vicious cartels kidnaps his innocent eighteen year old daughter, spiriting her away into the armored complex that is their headquarters in Mexico. With no other way to rescue his daughter, he turns to The Nowhere Man...Now not only must Evan figure out how to get into the impregnible fortress of a heavily armed, deeply paranoid cartel leader, but he must decide if he should help a very bad man-no matter how just the cause.

A Murderous Persuasion by Katie Oliver (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). Jane Austen Tea Society Mystery Series. Phaedra Brighton has her life all figured out-she has a profession she enjoys, a wonderful (if exasperating) cat, and a cozy carriage house on the grounds of her aunt's inn. She needs no Captain Wentworth to sweep her off her feet (though, she would not mind a Mr. Darcy)...But when Aunt Wendy decides she is selling Laurel Springs Inn, Phaedra faces losing her beloved home. In a lastditch attempt to drum up more business, Phaedra convinces Wendy to host an immersive Persuasionthemed murder-mystery weekend. It is a fool proof plan to draw attention to the establishment in the hopes of saving it...Until make-believe becomes reality and one of the participants winds up dead...With more suspects than she knows what to do with, Phaedra finds herself on the hunt for a killer once again. But with time running out, Phaedra quickly realizes that with this investigation, there will be no second chances.

### Crime, Mystery & Thriller contd

**The Thursday Murder Club** by **Richard Osman** (Trade Paperback—\$24). *Thursday Murder Club Series*. Four septuagenarians with a few tricks up their sleeves. A female cop with her first big case. A brutal murder. Welcome to...*The Thursday Murder Club*...In a peaceful retirement village, four unlikely friends meet weekly in the Jigsaw Room to discuss unsolved crimes; together they call themselves the *Thursday Murder Club*...When a local developer is found dead with a mysterious photograph left next to the body, the *Thursday Murder Club* suddenly find themselves in the middle of their first live case...As the bodies begin to pile up, can our unorthodox but brilliant gang catch the killer, before it's too late?

Desperation in Death by J.D. Robb (Mass Market Paperback Release-\$26). Eve Dallas Series. New York, 2061: The place called the Pleasure Academy is a living nightmare where abducted girls are trapped, trained for a life of abject service while their souls are slowly but surely destroyed. Dorian, a thirteen-year-old runaway who'd been imprisoned there, might never have made it out if not for her fellow inmate Mina, who'd hatched the escape plan. Mina was the more daring of the two-but they'd been equally desperate...Unfortunately, they didn't get away fast enough. Now Dorian is injured, terrified, and wandering the streets of New York, and Mina lies dead near the waterfront while Lt. Eve Dallas looks over the scene...Mina's expensive, elegant clothes and beauty products convince Dallas that she was being groomed, literally and figuratively, for sex trafficking—and that whoever is investing in this high-overhead operation expects windfall profits. Her billionaire husband, Roarke, may be able to help, considering his ties to the city's ultra-rich. But Roarke is also worried about the effect this case is having on Dallas, as it brings a rage to the surface she can barely control. No matter what, she must keep her head clearbecause above all, she is desperate for justice and to take down those who prey on and torment the innocent.

Fantasy & Paranormal Romance Extra-Witchy by Ann Aguirre (Trade Paperback— \$28). Fix-It Witches Series. After two failed marriages, Leanne Vanderpol is here for a good time, not for a long time. She only loves the witches in her coven, and she cares more about her career than happily ever after. A difficult past makes her skittish, and she doesn't trust relationships to stick. But when she decides to run for city council instead of wasting her talents cleaning up messes for the mayor's office, she fears her past could be used against her...Unless she can find the right husband to shore up her political career...Trevor Montgomery might have peaked in high school. He was popular then, and in college as well, but he partied away his future, met the wrong person, and everything fell apart. Now he's jobless, dateless, and hopeless, at least according to his toxic family. Then a chance meeting with the redhead of his dreams offers an unexpected ray of light just when he needs it most...Can a woman who doesn't believe in forever find true love with a man who's stopped believing in anything at all?

Fantasy & Paranormal Romance continued Mirror, Mirror by Ann Aguirre (Print-On-Demand Paperback-\$29). Gothic Fairytales Series. Trude Burgess has eyes for only one person...Her entire life, she never loved anyone other than Viggo Calder. She watched as he courted the perfect lady, wooed and won her. And then...he lost that ideal love. Trude married him anyway...because his little girl needed a mother. And she would do anything to prove that her love is enough to make up for that tragic loss...Viggo Calder has never truly seen her...Though he married for convenience, his heart remains icy and untouched. He made the sacrifice for his daughter, but he spends his nights drinking and mourning. As a friend, Trude was perfect, patient and endlessly generous; as his partner, she seems sensitive and difficult. If only he could be with his beloved first wife again...When a magic mirror is involved, they must both take care with their wishes...

The Heretic Royal by G.A. Aiken (Trade Paperback-\$38). Scarred Earth Saga Series. Gods save the queen!...Ainsley Farmerson has always planned to break free of the family business-and the family drama. But what was once farming, smithworking, and bickering over the dinner table has turned into open warfare between sisters. Sides have been taken, lives are on the line, and Ainsley has no doubt which sister must be queen. She'll do whatever is necessary to take down the soulless Beatrix. Even if that means joining forces with angry battle nuns, irritating monks, and overbearing centaurs...Gruffyn of the Torn Moon Clan has no time for human beings. And yet...there is something about the uncontrollable princess that he can't ignore. Maybe it's the way her eldest sisters underestimate her. Or her bravery facing down dragons and mad queens from distant lands. Whatever the reason, Gruff is willing to fight by this human's side. Not only for the entertainment value, but because she's right. Beatrix must never be queen. So whatever he has to do, whoever he has to destroy, Gruff will battle beside Ainsley. Fast. Hard. And with absolutely no mercy...

**Magic Tides** by **Ilona Andrews** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—Novella—\$27). *Kate Daniels Series*. Kate, Curran and their son, Conlan have left Atlanta, vowing to keep a low profile, and are settling into a new city and new house...but some things never change! Magical mayhem is about to erupt when Kate undertakes the rescue of a kidnapped youth, while Curran guards the home front...It should be a simple retrieval, but with monsters on land and sea, Kate's got her work cut out for her. Still, she's never let her blade dull or her purpose falter. And that low profile? It's about to wash away with the raging tides!

**Sweep of the Heart** by **Ilona Andrews** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$45). *Innkeeper Chronicles Series*. Life is busier than ever for Innkeeper, Dina DeMille and Sean Evans. But it's about to get even more chaotic when Sean's werewolf mentor is kidnapped. To find him, they must host an intergalactic spouse-search for one of the most powerful rulers in the Galaxy. Dina is never one to back down from a challenge. That is, if she can manage her temperamental Red Cleaver chef; the **Fantasy & Paranormal Romance continued** consequences of her favorite Galactic ex-tyrant's dark history; the tangled politics of an interstellar nation, and oh, yes, keep the wedding candidates from a dozen alien species from killing each other. Not to mention the Costco lady...They say love is a battlefield; but Dina and Sean are determined to limit the casualties!

A Rip Through Time by Kelley Armstrong (Print-On-Demand Paperback-\$35). Rip Through Time Series. A modern-day homicide detective finds herself in Victorian Scotland-in an unfamiliar body-with a killer on the loose...May 20, 2019: Homicide detective Mallory is in Edinburgh to be with her dying grandmother. While out on a jog one evening, Mallory hears a woman in distress. She's drawn to an alley, where she is attacked and loses consciousness... May 20, 1869: Housemaid Catriona Mitchell had been enjoying a half-day off, only to be discovered that night in a lane, where she'd been strangled and left for dead...exactly one-hundredand-fifty years before Mallory was strangled in the same spot...When Mallory wakes up in Catriona's body in 1869, she must put aside her shock and adjust quickly to the reality: life as a housemaid to an undertaker in Victorian Scotland. She soon discovers that her boss, Dr. Gray, also moonlights as a medical examiner and has just taken on an intriguing case, the strangulation of a young man, similar to the attack on herself. Her only hope is that catching the murderer can lead her back to her modern life...before it's too late.

Crowbones by Anne Bishop (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$24). World of the Others Series. Crowbones will gitcha if you don't watch out!...Deep in the territory controlled by the Others-shape-shifters, vampires, and even deadlier paranormal beings-Vicki DeVine has made a new life for herself running The Jumble, a rustic resort. When she decides to host a gathering of friends and guests for Trickster Night, at first everything is going well between the humans and the Others...But then someone arrives dressed as Crowbones, the Crowgard bogeyman. When the impostor is killed along with a shape-shifting Crow, and the deaths are clearly connected, everyone fears that the real Crowbones may have come to The Jumble-and that could mean serious trouble...To "encourage" humans to help them find some answers, the Elders and Elementals close all the roads, locking in suspects and victims alike. Now Vicki, human police chief Grimshaw, vampire lawyer Ilya Sanguinati, and the rest of their friends have to figure out who is manipulating events designed to pit humans against Others-and who may have put Vicki DeVine in the crosshairs of a powerful hunter.

**The Stolen Heir** by **Holly Black** (Trade Paperback—\$30). *Stolen Heir Duology*. A runaway queen. A reluctant prince. And a quest that may destroy them both...Eight years have passed since the Battle of the Serpent. But in the icy north, Lady Nore of the Court of Teeth, has reclaimed the Ice Needle Citadel. There she is using an ancient relic to create monsters of stick and snow who will do her bidding and exact her revenge...Suren, child queen of the Court of Teeth, and the one person with power over her mother, fled to the human

Fantasy & Paranormal Romance continued world, where she lives feral in the woods. Lonely, and still haunted by the merciless torments she endured in the Court of Teeth, she bides her time by releasing mortals from foolish bargains. She believes herself forgotten until the storm hag Bogdana chases her through the night streets. Suren is saved by none other than Prince Oak, heir to Elfhame, to whom she was once promised in marriage and who she has resented for years...Now seventeen, Oak is charming, beautiful and manipulative. He's on a mission that will lead him into the north, and he wants Suren's help. But if she agrees, it will mean guarding her heart against the boy she once knew and a prince she cannot trust, as well as confronting all the horrors she thought she had left behind.

**Chain of Thorns** by **Cassandra Clare** (Trade Paperback—\$30). *Last Hours Series*. Cordelia Carstairs has lost everything that matters to her. In only a few short weeks, she has seen her father murdered, her plans to become parabatai with her best friend, Lucie, destroyed, and her marriage to James Herondale crumble before her eyes. Even worse, she is now bound to an ancient demon, Lilith, stripping her of her power as a Shadowhunter After flaging to Darie with Matthew Faighbild

... After fleeing to Paris with Matthew Fairchild, Cordelia hopes to forget her sorrows in the city's glittering nightlife. But reality intrudes when shocking news comes from home: Tatiana Blackthorn has escaped the Adamant Citadel, and London is under new threat by the Prince of Hell, Belial...Cordelia returns to a London riven by chaos and dissent. The long-kept secret that Belial is James and Lucie's grandfather has been revealed by an unexpected enemy, and the Herondales find themselves under suspicion of dealings with demons. Cordelia longs to protect James but is torn between a love for James she has long believed hopeless, and the possibility of a new life with Matthew. Nor can her friends help-ripped apart by their own secrets, they seem destined to face what is coming alone...For time is short, and Belial's plan is about to crash into the Shadowhunters of London like a deadly wave, one that will separate Cordelia, Lucie, and the Merry Thieves from help of any kind. Left alone in a shadowy London, they must face Belial's deadly army. If Cordelia and her friends are going to save their city-and their families-they will have to muster their courage, swallow their pride, and trust one another again. For if they fail, they may lose everything-even their souls.

Sugar Plum Spies by Jennifer Estep (Print-On-Demand Paperback-\$33). Section 47 Series. Visions of Sugar Plums...Most spies take a break for the holidays, but not me, Charlotte Locke. As an analyst for Section 47, a secret spy organization, I normally use my magical form of synesthesia to uncover lies and track paramortal criminals from the comfort of my cubicle. But tonight I'm going out into the field, along with my partner, Desmond Percy, a powerful galvanist...Instead of enjoying Christmastime in the city, I'm in a German castle, dressed like a toy soldier and masquerading as a waitress at a swanky Christmas Eve party. My mission? To gather information that will help Section 47 track down a dangerous enemy...Despite the glitz and glamour, I can't shake the sense that something is wrong**Fantasy & Paranormal Romance continued** and that Desmond and I might not leave the party alive...*Dances of Death*...My name is Desmond Percy, although I've had many aliases during my years working as a cleaner for Section 47. But I've never had a real partner until Charlotte Locke...My part of the mission is simple: pretend to be a guest and keep an eye on things at the party while Charlotte uses her synesthesia to track down the information we need. But what starts out as a sugar plum dream quickly turns into a holiday nightmare...Forget the mission. All I want for Christmas is to keep Charlotte safe.

Back in a Spell by Lana Harper (Trade Paperback-\$26). LGBTQ+. Witches of Thistle Grove Series. Even though she won't deny her love for pretty (and pricey) things, Nineve Blackmoore is almost painfully downto-earth and sensible by Blackmoore standards. But after a year of nursing a broken heart inflicted by the fiancée who all but ditched her at the altar, the powerful witch is sick of feeling down and ready to try something drastically different: a dating app...At her best friend Jessa's urging, she goes on a date with Morty Gutierrez, the nonbinary, offbeat soul of spontaneity and owner of the Shamrock Cauldron. Their date goes about as well as can be expected: awkward and terrible. To make matters worse, once Morty discovers Nina's last name, he's far from a fan; it turns out that the Blackmoores have been bullishly trying to buy the Shamrock out from under Morty and his family...But when Morty begins developing magical powers-something that usually only happens to committed romantic partners once they officially join a founding family—at the same time as Nina's own magic surges beyond her control, Nina must manage Morty's rude awakening to the hidden magical world, uncover its cause, and face the intensity of their own burgeoning connection.

**Night Stalker** by **B.R. Kingsolver** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$32). *Rosie O'Grady's Paranormal Bar and Grill Series*. All I want is to pay the rent and find a boyfriend. But an insane vampire thinks I hold the key to his takeover of the city, and I have a new stalker...At least for now, I've dodged the Illuminati's Hunters, but life is still a little too challenging. Rival vampire lords want to use me against each other, and the mysterious members of the Columbia Club are offering bounties for vampires and werewolves ...I'm lucky that the gang at Rosie's has my back, because I'm going to need them.

Spelunking Through Hell: A Visitor's Guide to the **Underworld** by **Seanan McGuire** (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$24). Incryptid Series. Love, noun: 1. An intense feeling of deep affection; may be romantic, filial or platonic...Passion, noun: 1. A strong or barely controllable emotion. 2. Enthusiasm, interest, desire. 3. See also "obsession"...For Alice Price-Healy, finding her missing husband isn't just a mission: it's an obsession, the thing she has willingly given up every other aspect of her life to pursue. And after more than fifty years, she finally has confirmation that he might be alive out there. She may even have a direction. Now, if she can just keep herself from getting killed before she reaches her destination, she might be able to finish her seemingly endless quest...All she wants is a happy ending. That's the only thing the universe has never wanted her to have...Fifty years of running through

**Fantasy & Paranormal Romance continued** dimensions without a lot of concern for making friends has left her with more enemies than allies, but she's still got a few places to turn, including Naga, the professor of extra-dimensional studies and giant snake-man she met when she was seven, Helen and Phoebe, the Ithacan satyrs, and Cynthia, the owner of the Red Angel Tavern...Where she can't turn is to her family, back on Earth and tired of her dimension-hopping obsession. They wrote her off as unreliable, and are unlikely to join what looks like one more wild goose chase...But is it? Or is this the time Alice finally brings Thomas home to stay?

Wicked Beauty by Katee Robert (Trade Paperback— \$28). Dark Olympus Series. In Olympus, you either have the power to rule...or you are ruled. Achilles Kallis may have been born with nothing, but as a child he vowed he would claw his way into the poisonous city's inner circle. Now that a coveted role has opened to anyone with the strength to claim it, he and his partner, Patroclus Fotos, plan to compete and double their odds of winning...Neither expect infamous beauty Helen Kasios to be part of the prize...or for the complicated fire that burns the moment she looks their way ... Zeus may have decided Helen is his to give to away, but she has her own plans. She enters into the competition as a middle finger to the meddling Thirteen rulers, effectively vving for her own hand in marriage. Unfortunately, there are those who would rather see her dead than lead the city. The only people she can trust are the ones she can't keep her hands off-Achilles and Patroclus. But can she really believe they have her best interests at heart when every stolen kiss is a battlefield?

Radiant Sin by Katee Robert (Trade Paperback-\$28). Dark Olympus Series. As a disgraced member of a fallen house, Cassandra Gataki has seen firsthand what comes from trusting the venomous Thirteen. But when the maddeningly gorgeous and kind Apollo asks her to go undercover as his plus-one at a weeklong party hosted by a dangerous new power player...Cassandra reluctantly agrees to have his back...On one condition: when it's all over, and Apollo has the ammunition he needs to protect Olympus, she and her sister will be allowed to leave. For good... Apollo may be the city's official spymaster, but it's his ability to inspire others that keeps him at the top. Despite what the rest of Olympus says, there's no one he trusts more than Cassandra. Yet even as their fake relationship takes a wicked turn for the scaldingly hot, a very real danger surfaces...threatening not only Cassandra and Apollo, but the very heart of Olympus itself.

**The Immortal** by **Gena Showalter** (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$26). *Rise of the Warlords Series.* Halo Phaninon, assassin of gods, is as cold and merciless as a machine. For victory, he crosses any line. When tasked to kill twelve of mythology's fiercest monsters in twenty-four hours, Halo eagerly accepts. Except, each morning he awakens to the same day, forced to relive new horrors. Only one other person retains their memory—the beauty who threatens his iron control...Ophelia the Flunk Out hates her disaster of a life. She's the family disappointment, a harpy warrior without a kill and powerless—or is she? Nearly every night she's doomed to repeat her own murder, but each morning **Fantasy & Paranormal Romance continued** she arises to spar with Halo, the ruthless warlord increasingly determined to save her...and lure her to his bed...Halo's insatiable desire for the stubborn Ophelia drives him wild...and he only craves more. If he remains in the time loop, they stay together. But if he escapes, they lose each other forever.

Wolf Takes the Lead by Terry Spear (Mass Market Paperback-\$24). Billionaire Wolf Series. Billionaire wolf Derek Spencer may have a rocky history with she-wolves, but there's no one better to take as his date to the latest gala than the wolf he's had his eye on ever since she applied to be his bodyguard-the remarkable Kate Hanover. Kate checks all the boxes for his perfect mate: she's smart, sexy, and business savvy, not to mention one of the best bodyguards around...But ever since Derek gave his bodyguard position to another wolf. Kate has been avoiding him. It's only when she reluctantly agrees to be his date to the gala that she realizes why: the attraction between the two alpha wolves is undeniable, but Kate doesn't want to end up as one of the billionaire's many flings. The more time Kate and Derek spend together, the more they are in danger...of falling deeply in love.

Queen of Myth and Monsters by Scarlett St. Claire (Trade Paperback—\$28). Adrian X Isolde Series. "I am of the House of Lara, daughter of Elvira of Nailani, sister of witches, and I have come to reclaim my crown"...Isolde, newly coronated queen, has finally found a king worthy of her in the vampire Adrian. But their love for each other has cost Isolde her father and her homeland. With two opposing goddesses playing mortals and vampires against one another, Isolde is uncertain who her allies are in the vampire stronghold of Revekka...Now, as politics in the Red Palace grow more underhanded, inexplicable monster attacks plague the villages, and a deadly crimson mist threatens all of Cordova, Isolde must trust in the bond she's formed with Adrian, even as she learns troubling information about his complicated past.

**Historical & Regency Romance** Remember Love by Mary Balogh (Mass Market Paperback Release-\$24). Ravenswood Series. The handsome and charismatic Earl of Stratton, Caleb Ware, has been exposed to the ton for his clandestine affairs-by his own son...As a child, Devlin Ware thought his family stood for all that was right and good in the world. They were kind, gracious, and shared the beauty of Ravenwood, their grand country estate, by hosting lavish parties for the entire countryside. But at twenty-two, he discovered his whole world was an elaborate illusion, and when Devlin publicly called his family to account for it, he was exiled as a traitor...So be it. He enlisted in the fight against Napoleon and didn't look back for six years. But now his father is dead, the Ware family is broken, and as the heir he is being called home. It's only when Gwyneth Rhys-the woman he loved and then lost after his family banished him-holds out her hand to help him that he is able make the difficult journey and try to piece together his fractured family...It is Gwyneth's loyalty, patience, and love that he needs. But is Devlin's war-hardened heart even capable of offering her love in return?

#### Historical & Regency Romance continued A Wicked Game by Kate Bateman (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). Ruthless Rivals Series. Shipwrecked and imprisoned thanks to an incorrect map, Captain Morgan Davies has returned to London

map, Captain Morgan Davies has returned to London to exact sweet revenge on the cartographer responsible for his suffering. He's also vowed to claim the winner's prize—three kisses—in the bet he made with his long-time nemesis, the prickly, smartmouthed Harriet Montgomery. His incarceration has clarified his feelings for her, but convincing the infuriating woman he wants to marry her is going to be his greatest challenge yet. When Harriet's revealed to be the very mapmaker he seeks, Morgan decides to combine revenge and seduction into one delightful package...Harriet's always wanted witty scoundrel Morgan, and now he's back; as handsome and as taunting as ever. She has enough on her plate dealing with her father's failing eyesight and a rival mapmaker copying her work to play wicked games with a dastardly Davies—however tempting he might be. But when a threat from Morgan's past puts them both in danger, Harry discovers that she and Morgan might not be enemies at all...

#### Curled Up with an Earl by Amy Rose Bennett

(Mass Market Paperback—\$24). Byronic Book Club Series. "Ever since we first met, I've imagined what it would be like to be in your arms, to feel your lips upon mine. I'm twenty-eight years old. A shy and ofttimes awkward spinster with singular scientific interests, and I've...I've never been kissed. Not once. In fact, I never thought I would ever want to be kissed. But then I met you and...and I do want this. Very much"...Miss Lucy Bertram is content to spend her days writing scientific articles or curling up with a Gothic romance novel. Indeed, she'd rather stick a hatpin in her eye than attend a ball. But when her father, the eccentric botanist Sir Oswald, insists she accept the suit of a wealthy but stiffer-than-a-poker industrialist to save the family from penury, Lucy decides to act. She's certain her disowned brother, Monty, will take her side. But first she must find him in St. Giles's cutthroat rookeries...A covert agent for the Crown, William Lockhart, the Earl of Kyle, is on the hunt for a ruthless killer determined to destroy the Linnean Society. Sir Oswald, a botanical poisons expert, is the prime suspect. Posing as a groom in the baronet's household, it shouldn't take Will long to unearth the evidence Scotland Yard needs. If only the beguiling Miss Bertram wasn't so distracting...As an unexpected passion flares between Lucy and Will, confidences are exchanged and dark secrets come to light. But will a murderer, determined to stay hidden, destroy their chances of finding a happy-ever-after?

**One Duke Down** by **Anna Bennett** (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). *Rogues to Lovers Series*. Miss Poppy Summers is determined to keep her family's fishing business afloat. Her poor widowed father has fallen ill, and her foolhardy brother has moved to London, leaving her precious little time to read or pursue her own dreams. But she'll do anything for her family, so she cheerfully spends mornings in her rowboat, casting her nets. The very last thing Poppy expects or wants to find tangled in them is a dangerously attractive man. Especially one with a head wound—who's convinced he's a duke...Andrew *Historical & Regency Romance continued* Keane is the Duke of Hawking, but he's having the

devil of a time convincing his fiery-haired rescuer of that fact. The truth is he came to the seaside resort of Bellehaven Bay to escape his life in London. Unfortunately, someone in Bellehaven wants to kill him-and he intends to find out who. He implores Poppy to tend to his injuries and hide him on her beach, reasoning it will be easier to find his attacker if that man assumes Keane is already dead. She wants no part of the scheme but can't refuse the generous sum he offers in exchange for food and shelter while he recovers. It's a mutually beneficial business arrangement...nothing more...Under Poppy's care, Keane regains his strength-and a sense of purpose. As they work together to solve the puzzle of his would-be murderer, he's dazzled by her rapier wit and adventurous spirit; she's intrigued by his mysterious air and protective streak. Though Poppy's past gives her every reason to mistrust someone like Keane, the seawalls around her heart crumble in the storm of their passion. But when clues hint at the prime suspect in Keane's attempted murder, Poppy must decide where her loyalties lie. Torn between the world she's always known and the one she's always dreamed of, she'll need true love for a shot at her fairytale ending.

Cinderella and the Duke by Lydia Drake (Mass Market Paperback—\$24). Miss Julia Beaumont has exactly one night to find herself a husband...The Weatherford Ball is the last chance Julia Beaumont has to escape the clutches of her horrid stepmother. Any potential husband will do-rich, poor, even a reasonably well-groomed walrus. But all of Julia's matrimonial chances are completely obliterated...thanks to the actions of an infuriating and utterly rakish duke...Gregory Carter, Duke of Ashworth, would never risk his cherished bachelorhood by flirting with marriage-starved debutantes. But one look at the luscious and refreshingly clever Julia, and he simply can't resist a stolen kiss-scandal be damned. Then just as things start getting deliciously interesting, the lady flees...leaving only a slipper behind...And it must have been one dandy of a kiss. Because now Julia has proposed to him. After all, the lady needs a husband, and this roguish duke will certainly do. It's simply a matter of making him the perfect scandalous offer ...

#### Her Lessons in Persuasion by Megan Frampton

(Mass Market Paperback—\$26). School for Scoundrels Series. To Lady Wilhelmina Bettesford, the "game" of finding a husband is a competitive sport she wants no part of...until her much-younger step mama forces her to play it. So when her stepmother asks sexy barrister Bram Townsend to pretend to woo the amateur astronomer to boost Wilhelmina's popularity, it's up to Wilhelmina to navigate a fake courtship that will keep the family from forcing her into a marriage—any marriage—before she finally receives the inheritance that will allow her to live as she wants...The trouble is every time Bram takes her in his arms she has a most difficult time remembering theirs is an act...the make-believe passion feels very real indeed...Bram Townsend is a man on the way up: living for his books and his beliefs. Squiring Lady Wilhelmina through London's

Historical & Regency Romance continued

dusk-to-dawn social whirl is hardly an ordeal—she's beautiful, bright, and bold, everything he finds tempting in a woman. Their deal means he can meet the "best" people while she keeps her family at bay. The challenge is he quickly finds himself wanting her to say "yes" when she's so determined to say "no." She persuaded him to make this impetuous bargain, but how can he convince her to make it real?

**The Rogue Steals a Bride** by **Amelia Grey** (Mass Market Paperback Reissue—\$24). *Rogue's Dynasty Series.* "It is the truth. I've often dreamt of being kissed by a handsome stranger"...He gave her an almost imperceptible smile. "You've dreamed of it? Then let me make your dream come true"...Sophia's heartbeat quickened. Should she let this man be the first to kiss her? "Yes," she heard herself whisper...Matson Brentwood has finally met the woman of his dreams. The lovely Sophia Hart heats his blood like no other lady. But no matter how attracted Matson is to Sophia, there's no way he can get involved with anyone who is under the watchful eye of the man he's sworn to hate...

Never Rescue a Rogue by Virginia Heath (Trade Paperback—\$28). Merriwell Sisters Series. Diana Merriwell and Giles Sinclair only tolerate one another for the sake of their nearest and dearest. Everyone believes that the two of them are meant to be together, but Diana and Giles know that their constant pithy barbs come from a shared disdainnot a hidden attraction. Diana loves the freedom of working at the newspaper too much to give it up for marriage, and Giles is happily married to his bachelor lifestyle. But they do have one thing in common—the secrets they can't risk escaping...When Giles' father, the curmudgeonly Duke of Harpenden unexpectedly turns up his toes, it's only a matter of time before someone comes crawling out of the woodwork who knows the true circumstances of his only son's birth. As the threat of blackmail becomes real, Giles must uncover the truth of his parentage first, or else he and all those who depend upon him will be ruined—and dogged bloodhound Diana is his best hope at sniffing out the truth. As Giles and Diana dive into his family's past, the attraction that the two of them insisted wasn't there proves impossible to ignore. Soon, the future of the Sinclair estate isn't the only thing on the line ...

The Runaway Duchess by Joanna Lowell (Trade Paperback-\$28). Duke Undone Series. Pretty and pampered, Lavinia Yardley always dreamed of becoming a duchess. But family disgrace forces her into marriage with the most vile duke in England, and she finds herself desperate for a way out. When a rustic stranger mistakes her for globe-trotting botanist Muriel Pendrake at a train station, Lavinia has a split second to decide whether to submit to her fate or steal someone else's...Neal Traymayne spent his youth traveling the world as Varnham Nursery's most daring plant hunter. Now he runs the nursery and is ready to settle down with a like-minded wife who'll fit right in with his large, happy, down-to-earth family. His correspondence with Muriel Pendrake proved they're the perfect match. Odd that the woman in the flesh seems more like a society belle than a scientist...As they tramp the Cornish moors together, Lavinia and Neal discover a wild and rare

The Marriage List by Ella Quinn (Mass Market Paperback-\$24). Worthington Brides Series. As part of a large, rambunctious family, Lady Eleanor Carpenter has gained some knowledge of what makes a successful marriage. She's even compiled a list of essential qualifications in a potential husband. John, the Marquis of Montagu, seems of good character (check), with money enough to support a family (check). But what of the many other requirements on her list?...Montagu, meanwhile, believes the key to a comfortable life lies in marrying someone quiet and docile. Yet the one lady who captivates him could hardly be more different to what he envisioned. Lady Eleanor is as opinionated as she is lovely, determined to improve working conditions for coal miners, even at risk to her own safety ... From evenings at Almack's to carriage rides in Hyde Park, this Season will contain many pleasures—and a few surprises that compel both John and Eleanor to rethink their expectations. For one thing is certain: love will not be defined by any list...

**In Her Highlander's Bed** by **Lynsay Sands** (Mass Market Paperback—\$26). *Highland Brides Series*. An invigorating swim in the loch was exactly what Calan Campbell, Laird of Kilcairn, needed after defeating his enemies in battle. What he didn't need was a thief running away with his plaid while he swam. Calan gave chase and managed to catch the lad, only the lad turned out to be a lass, and have to take her back to his castle and tend her wounds to learn that...Kidnapped and forced to wed her clan's enemy, Allissaid MacFarlane had risked death to escape. But after a struggle over a plaid she tried to "borrow," she awakens in a strange bed with a strange man seated in a chair beside her. Unsure if he is friend or foe, she claims not to remember her own name or how she'd come to be in the clearing. However, the more time she spends with Calan, the more she falls for this strong, honorable laird. She soon decides she can trust him with her life...but can she trust him with her heart?

The Duke Gets Even by Joanna Shupe (Mass Market Paperback—\$26). Fifth Avenue Rebels Series. To escape the shackles of marriage, Nellie Young purposely ruined her reputation a long time ago. Now she dedicates herself to hedonistic pleasures only, like kissing a handsome stranger in the ocean under the moonlight...To save his estate, the proper Duke of Lockwood must marry the perfect bride—wealthy, with an unblemished reputation. While in New York he's the perfect gentleman, and no one knows he's suppressing his darkest desires. The last thing he needs is another scandal...Except Nellie sees through Lockwood's charade, straight to the real man underneath. This uptight duke is far more than he lets on, and she can't resist him. Their secret affair turns scorching, far more than either expected. And when his beautiful rebel finds an unconventional cause, Lockwood has to decide if he's willing to sacrifice everything to keep her.

### **Books Available Soon**

Top Books Mar/Apr		Top Books May/Jun		
Kristen Ashley	The Girl in the Woods*	Mary Balogh	Remember Me*	
Lori Foster	The Dangerous One	Katherine Center	The Bodyguard*	
Lorraine Heath	The Counterfeit Scoundrel	Carley Fortune	Meet Me at the Lake*	
Colleen Hoover & T Fisher	Never Never*	Laura Griffin	Deep Tide	
Sabrina Jeffries	What Happens in the Ballroom	Emily Henry	Happy Place*	
Stephanie Laurens	Miss Flibbertigibbet & The Barbarian*	India Holton	The Secret Service of Tea & Treason*	
Lora Leigh	In Isabeau's Eyes*	Ana Huang	King of Pride*	
Lucy Score	Things We Hide from the Light*	Christina Lauren	The True Love Experiment*	
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