

Welcome back and best wishes for 2026! The new year sees the arrival of lots of goodies including Ilona Andrews' *Beast Business*, Mary Balogh's *Remember That Day*, Christine Feehan's *Dark Joy*, Jayne Ann Krentz's *The Shop on Hidden Lane*, Lauren Palphreyman's *The Night Prince*, Leigh Rivers' *Insatiable*, J.D. Robb's *Stolen In Death*, Nalini Singh's *Such A Perfect Family* and more. Enjoy your reading!

NB. Please see p2 for the links for signed copies of *SUCH A PERFECT FAMILY* orders and *ARCHANGEL'S ETERNITY* pre-orders.

Top Books Jan Feb		Top Books Jan Feb continued	
Sarah Adams	In Your Dreams	Jayne Ann Krentz	The Shop on Hidden Lane*
Ilona Andrews	Beast Business*	Mariah Montoya & Grace Pearce	Xantera*
Mary Balogh	Remember That Day	Lauren Palphreyman	The Night Prince*
Eva Camden	Wildflower*	Celia Ralk	Rumours of Rage and Revenge*
Kayla Edwards	City of Gods and Monsters	Emily Rath	Alcott Hall
Heather Fawcett	Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter*	Leigh Rivers	Insatiable
Christine Feehan	Dark Joy*	J.D. Robb	Stolen in Death*
Steffanie Holmes	A Grave Mistake*	L.J. Shen	Bad Bishop
Colleen Hoover	Woman Down*	Nalini Singh	Such a Perfect Family*
Elisa Kova	Dragon Cursed*	Stacia Stark	We Who Will Die*

Paperback Release * Hardcover/TPB/POD & Anthology Please contact us if you would like to reserve a book



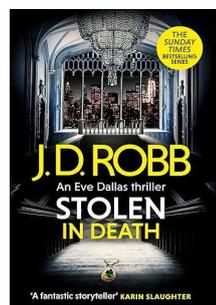
Title: Dark Joy
Author: Christine Feehan
Classification: Fantasy & Paranormal
Book Type: Royal Paperback
Price: \$35
Annotation: *Dark Carpathian Series.* Sarika Silva has come to Peru's rainforest to learn about her family history and her abilities as a jaguar shapeshifter. What she finds is a dangerous world, where jungle

shifters and vampires vie for dominance and a lethal predator waits to claim her... As one of the oldest Carpathians, Tomas Smolnycki is accustomed to seeing the world in unfeeling gray. So he is ill prepared for the emotions that rise like a tidal wave when he hears Sarika's voice. As his world bursts into colour, he knows he has found his lifemate ... however Sarika has no interest in being bound to anyone. But as an ancient enemy gathers power, Tomas and Sarika's bond could be the one thing that will save them from destruction.



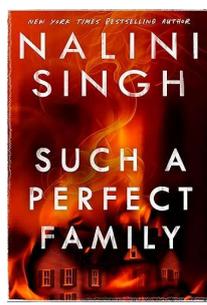
Title: The Night Prince
Author: Lauren Palphreyman
Classification: Fantasy & Paranormal
Book Type: Royal Paperback
Price: \$35

Annotation: *Wolf King Series.* Princess Aurora may have survived the Wolf King, but his bite marks her skin. In accordance with Wolf law, that makes her his property. Now, he wants her back... To beat him and take his throne, Aurora and Callum must form a dangerous alliance with one of the most feared Wolves in the Kingdom, Blake. He is their enemy, but he has entangled his life with Aurora's—meaning she cannot harm him without forfeiting her own life... As she fights to break their connection, she suspects Blake is keeping secrets. With enemies closing in, Aurora may be the only one who can stop an ancient evil from rising—if she can figure out who to trust... To survive, she must decide where she—and her heart—belong.



Title: Stolen in Death
Author: J.D. Robb
Classification: Crime/Mystery/Thriller
Book Type: Royal Paperback
Price: \$35
Annotation: *In Death Series.* A blow to the head has left multibillionaire Nathan Barrister dead—while nearby, a vault, its door ajar, sits filled with priceless paintings, jewelry, and other treasures.

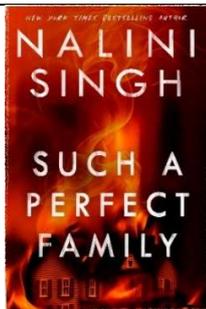
Lieutenant Eve Dallas's husband, Roarke recognizes at least two stolen pieces among the hoard. The crime scene suggests a burglar caught in the act. But only one item seems to be missing... Then it's revealed that the vault had belonged to the victim's late father—and no one knew it was there until a remodeling project exposed it. By all accounts, Nathan was a good man. As for his father—he clearly had secrets. Now it's up to Eve to find out if those secrets got Nathan killed—and if it was a crime of passion or revenge.



Title: Such a Perfect Family
Author: Nalini Singh NZ Author
Classification: Crime/Mystery/Thriller
Book Type: Royal Paperback
Price: \$29 (On Special)

Annotation: For forty-three days, Tavish Advani has been the happiest man in the world—until his new life turns to ash, his wealthy in-laws' house going up in a fiery explosion. His badly injured wife lies in a coma, her family all but annihilated... Tavish thought he left the sins of his Los Angeles life behind, but it's not so easy to leave behind an investigation into the deaths of several high-profile women—all of whom he professed to love. Tragedy and death follow him... but this time, he knows he's innocent. Desperately trying to clear his name, he begins his own investigation into the fire—and learns that his wife's perfect family may have been nothing but a meticulously constructed mirage. The truth is darker than anything Tavish could've imagined.

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



Order Such A Perfect Family | by Nalini Singh

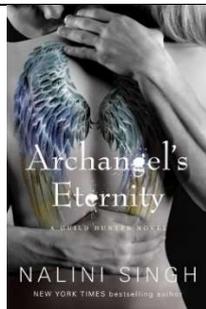
Order a signed copy of SUCH A PERFECT FAMILY by Nalini Singh (her fourth standalone thriller) which was released in New Zealand on Tuesday 27 January. Our special price is \$29 (vs RRP \$37.99) plus shipping if required for the New Zealand/Australian/International First Edition Trade Paperback while first shipment stocks last.

Orders and enquiries to:

✉ info@chapter.co.nz 📞 021-635027 📠 09-6232319

Or order online at <https://chapter.co.nz/product/nalini-singh-such-a-perfect-family/>

NB. Please also contact us re international orders or North American hardcover orders.



Pre-Order Archangel's Eternity | by Nalini Singh

Pre-Order a signed copy of ARCHANGEL'S ETERNITY by Nalini Singh (the final book in the Guild Hunter series) which is due to be released in New Zealand on Tuesday 5 May. Our special price is \$24 (vs RRP \$27.99) plus shipping if required for the New Zealand/Australian/International B Format Paperback while first shipment stocks last.

Orders and enquiries to:

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Or pre-order online at <https://chapter.co.nz/product/nalini-singh-archangels-eternity/>

NB. Please also contact us re international orders or North American mass market paperback orders.

Romance Writers of New Zealand (RWNZ) | Short Story Contest

The Chapter Book & Tea Shop is sponsoring the RWNZ Short Story Contest again. To enter, you must be a RWNZ member and submit a previously unpublished short story of less than 1,800 words between 1–30 Apr. Entry fee is \$20. Chapter is providing \$500 worth of gift vouchers as prizes for the top three entries (1st \$250, 2nd \$150 and 3rd \$100). Details at www.romancewriters.co.nz/product/chapter-short-story.

Romance Writers of New Zealand (RWNZ) | Annual Conference 2026

The Romance Writers of New Zealand Conference will be held in the Holiday Inn Auckland Airport, 14-16 August 2026. The theme is "Kiss 'n' Tell." Details at www.romancewriters.co.nz/event/2026-rwnz-conference-registration.

♥ Auckland Romance Readers | Monthly Book Club Meetings ♥

If you are a romance reader and would like to meet like-minded readers, please join our "Auckland Romance Readers Book Club Group" at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/2423724114458506>. We have monthly Book Club Meetings at the Chapter Book & Tea Shop on Sundays at 4.15pm (turn up from 3.45pm onwards). Water and tea provided. All welcome. <https://www.facebook.com/ChapterBookAndTeaShop/events> or <https://www.eventfinda.co.nz/venue/chapter-book-and-tea-shop-auckland>

Sun 22 Feb—BLOOD AND STEEL* by Helen Scheuerer (lives in NZ) (Fantasy & Paranormal)

Sun 29 Mar—VISCOUNT IN LOVE by Eloisa James (Historical—Regency)

Sun 19 Apr—SHE WAS MADE FOR ME by Jen Morris (NZ Author) (Contemporary)

Sun 24 May—THE VERY SECRET SOCIETY OF IRREGULAR WITCHES by Sanghu Mandanna (Fantasy & Paranormal)

Sun 28 Jun—NE'ER DUKE WELL by Alexandra Vasti (Historical—Regency)

Read the Free prequel novella to BLOOD AND STEEL at <https://helenscheuerer.com/get-an-chemists-vow-now/>

Other Books Available in This Catalogue

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense

In Your Dreams by Sarah Adams (B Paperback—\$27). *Rome, Kentucky Series*. Madison Walker was determined to make it in the culinary world of New York. But with her dreams shattered, she returns home to Rome, Kentucky, where an unexpected chance to rebuild her life awaits her—a head chef position at a new farm-to-table restaurant... The only catch? The job offer comes from the owner of Huxley Farm, her brother's best friend... and the last person she wants to work for... James Huxley has always done what's expected of him in the family business—until now, when Madison's happiness is on the line. He's loved her quietly for years; she's never seen him as more than an annoyance. Now that she's back, he's determined to change that... The one problem? His charming, wildly successful younger brother, Tommy, seems determined to win her over first... When an unexpected disaster strikes on the opening night of

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their dreamy farm-to-table restaurant, and a long-simmering sibling feud reaching breaking point, Madison and James must face their biggest insecurities—and decide if love is worth the risk or if some dreams are safer left untouched.

Back In The Saddle by Kristen Ashley (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$49). *Avenging Angels Series*. Jessie Wylde is on a secret mission. She's trying to find her brother. She hasn't told her friends; this is about family. She doesn't think it's dangerous. Eric Turner disagrees... Eric is a member of the Nightingale Investigations and Security team. Therefore, Eric knows what he's talking about... Eric isn't only badass, he's also a seriously gorgeous guy, and Jessie has a huge crush on him. She doesn't think he knows she exists... until now... Eric steps in, and so do Jessie's besties, the Avenging Angels. Soon, the Angels and the Hottie Squad are on the case to find Jessie's missing sibling... There's

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more happening when it comes to Eric, though. Jessie's so worried about her brother, she's not paying attention. Eric sets about changing that, and just like all the Hot Bunch before him, when he finds his one, he doesn't mess around... However, something is afoot in Phoenix. And as the Angels uncover the sinister workings behind people going missing, and Eric and Jessie unpack their emotional baggage, the Angels dive deeper into the dark underbelly of the city... Finding heroes, more hot guys, lots of hijinks...and heart.

Catch Her if You Can by **Tessa Bailey** (B Paperback—\$25). *Big Shots Series*. Madden Donahue, the newest catcher for the Yankees, has been in love with Eve Mitchell since high school, but for some mysterious reason, the burlesque club owner always turns him down. That never stopped him from being her self-appointed protector. Case in point, now that Eve's sister has left Eve with her two children indefinitely, Madden steps in with a proposition—marry him for the much needed health benefits... Eve has secretly harboured feelings for Madden all along, but there's one problem—her best friend Skylar called dibs on him when they were fourteen. Eve has always put their friendship above all else, and she's not willing to risk losing Skylar over a man. Raised by the local strip club owner, Eve is woefully short on friends and treasures the ones she has. But with Skylar happily paired off, Eve finds herself accepting Madden's proposal—on the condition that their marriage remains strictly private. She's not about to let her unique profession and maligned reputation destroy Madden's shiny new career... Madden won't let Eve get away that easily, though. What starts as a marriage of convenience soon ignites into something much hotter, and now it's up to Madden to convince Eve that their connection is far more than a business arrangement. As the passion builds, can their fake marriage become the real deal?

Get Over It, April Evans by **Ashley Herring Blake** (B Paperback—\$27). *LGBTQ+. Clover Lake Series*. April Evans' life is in a shambles. Her tattoo shop has just closed, she has no money and her love life? Non-existent—ever since her ex-fiancee left her for a younger woman three years ago. When she's asked to teach a summer art class at the town's new resort, April jumps at the opportunity. She's sure that this is the silver lining she needs... until she meets her cabinmate: Daphne Love, the woman who stole her ex. And even worse, it's clear Daphne has no idea who April is... Daphne Love is cursed in, well, love. She thought she'd found the unconditional love she craved in her ex-girlfriend, but now she's single again and utterly broken-hearted. When her friend hooks her up with a summer gig as an art instructor at a swanky resort, Daphne feels optimistic for once. If only she had a roommate who didn't seem to hate her on sight... But slowly, barriers begin to fall, and an inexplicable allure keeps drawing April and Daphne closer, leaving them to wonder if the perfect picture they're looking for can be painted with each other.

Depraved Devotion by **Morgan Bridges** (B Paperback—\$27). *Villains & Vices Series*. My patient is stalking me... and he's a psychopath... I've dedicated my life to understanding the darkest

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense corners of the human psyche, but nothing prepares me for him. Ghost. The man is a brilliant, ruthless serial killer who thrives on chaos. Just like his cult following enrapt by his brutality and beauty, he's completely unhinged. And he's obsessed with me... So when Ghost turns himself in and demands to speak to me, I'm forced to confront the beautiful monster sitting across the glass. And the one inside—the one lurking in my own fractured soul. Ghost's rapt attention brings goosebumps to my skin and sends chills down my spine. I choose to believe my reaction is based in fear. When I'm alone in bed, it's harder to convince myself... As boundaries fade and the line between doctor and patient blurs, I'm faced with a question: What am I willing to pay to unveil the truth about my haunted past? Because to Ghost, the price is me. All of me.

Wildflower by **Eva Camden** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$30). *Author Living in NZ. What Happens In Mayfair Series*. Rey Hart might be the most chaotic intern at Infinio Games—the one the grumpy, stern CEO disapproves of most... But when she slips on a mask while working at London's most exclusive masquerade, she has no idea the mysterious Robin Hood she's captivating is him... Her billionaire boss... The last man who should be watching her like this... As a failed artist and her mum's biggest disappointment, Rey is used to being overlooked. But tonight, dressed as Alice in Wonderland, she's whole, free, and dancing like no one is watching... But Mark Becker is watching. And he can't look away... Until he realises who she really is... Because falling for his new intern, the woman who's made him feel alive again, could cost him his company, his reputation... everything he's built.

Role Play by **Kay Cove** (20.5x13.5 Trade Paperback—\$30). *Off The Books Series*. She wanted to write a bestseller. She wasn't ready for the plot twist... Being an indie romance author was supposed to be a dream come true. But after publishing umpteen books, I still haven't "made it" and now I'm just waiting for the dark cloak of insignificance to completely snuff out my career... I decide to roll the dice on a marketing guru who swears he can yank me out of obscurity. But after a frantic search for "book boyfriend material" and an unexpected bar encounter, I accidentally blow my entire budget on an escort... Forrest is a charming single dad by day and hotter-than-sin escort by night. But before I can fire him and ask for a refund, he reminds me how I got here in the first place... I'm in desperate need of inspiration... He might be a walking red flag, but Forrest is ready to be my muse, which means spending the next three months helping me "research" my next bestseller. (Hey, I'm manifesting here.) Our game plan? Act out all the romance novel tropes that make a bingeable love story: brooding billionaires, masked men, cowboys in small towns, and even swoon-worthy green flags... Forrest plays all the book boyfriend parts perfectly. So perfectly I'm starting to wonder if his feelings for me might be real, or if he's just earning his paycheck. I'm not sure if I'm trying to write a love story or live one out... After all, there is no such thing as happily ever after with a professional escort... right?

Two Can Play by **Ali Hazelwood** (B Paperback—Novella—\$25). Viola Bowen has the chance of a

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lifetime: to design a video game based on her all-time favorite book series. The only problem? Her co-lead is Jesse f-ing Andrews, aka her archnemesis. Jesse has made it abundantly clear over the years that he wants nothing to do with her—and Viola has no idea why... When their bosses insist a wintery retreat is the perfect team-building exercise, Viola can't think of anything worse. Being freezing cold in a remote mountain lodge knowing Jesse is right next door? No, thank you... But as the snow piles on, Viola discovers there's more to Jesse than she knew, and heat builds in more ways than one.

God of Fury by **Rina Kent** (B Paperback—\$27). *LGBTQ+. Legacy of Gods Series*. I'm not attracted to men... Or so I thought before I slammed into Nikolai Sokolov. A mafia heir, a notorious bastard, and a violent monster... An ill-fated meeting puts me in his path. And just like that, he has his sights set on me. A quiet artist, a golden boy, and his enemy's twin brother... He doesn't seem to care that the odds are stacked against us. In fact, he sets out to break my steel-like control and blur my limits... I thought my biggest worry was being noticed by Nikolai. I'm learning the hard way that being wanted by this beautiful nightmare is much worse.

Sweet Venom by **Rina Kent** (B Paperback—\$27). *Vipers Series*. I accidentally witnessed a brutal murder. So to protect myself, I pretended I saw nothing. But my plan backfired. And now I'm the target of cold-blooded revenge... Jude Callahan isn't just a hockey god—he's a devil no one dares to cross. He's also determined to make me pay for my moment of silence. Now, no matter how much I try to hide from him, Jude finds me... I thought he'd stop at the stalking. Or even better, kill me and finally end my misery... But Jude has other plans. He says I can't die. That I must pay for my sins. And just like that, he drags me into his depraved world, kicking and screaming.

The Shop On Hidden Lane by **Jayne Ann Krentz** (Royal Paperback—\$35). The Harper and the Wells families have regarded each other with deep suspicion for four generations. The Harpers have been known to offer their psychic talents for less-than-legal purposes, and the powerful Wells clan has a reputation for playing both sides of the street. But for all the years of history and distrust between them, there is a mysterious pact binding the two. They share the responsibility for protecting a long-buried and very dangerous secret... Sophy Harper and Luke Wells are shocked to learn that her aunt and his uncle have been sleeping together—and now they are both missing. Not only that, but the last traces of them are at the scene of a murder soaked in negative paranormal energy. Clearly, someone is willing to kill to obtain the secret their families have been charged with protecting. Despite their mutual distrust, which, as far as Sophy is concerned extends to Luke's hellhound of a dog, they both know that the terms of the pact must be honored... Their investigation uncovers a psychic trail leading to a bizarre desert art colony where nothing is as it seems. But Luke and Sophy are concealing a few secrets, too. By a strange twist of fate, a Harper and a Wells have no choice but to trust each other and the fierce attraction that is binding them as surely as the pact between the families.

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Taming Mr. Walker by **Rosa Lucas** (20.1x13.2 Trade Paperback—\$33). *London Mister Series*. Danny Walker, my big brother's arrogant, powerful, handsome, and completely unobtainable best friend. He's a ruthless tech tycoon, and I take calls from angry clients who can't reset their passwords. He lives in a London mansion with holiday homes worldwide, and I rent a room in a flat-share with my best friend and mice. Our worlds couldn't be further apart. Falling for him is not an option... Eight years ago, I made the mistake of flirting with him only to be rejected... hard. To this day, he won't acknowledge me as anything more than his best friend's silly little sister. Which is fine because I can't stand to be around that emotionless CEO. Regardless of him being the hottest man I've ever met... Now I find out he's bought the company I work for, making him my boss's boss's boss. And he wants to get rid of me. Danny is not a man to be messed with. But perhaps there's more behind his cold, detached stares than I thought. Stone-faced ruthless CEOs don't fall for scatty girls like me. Or do they?

The Secret Fiancee by **Catharina Maura** (B Paperback—\$27). *Windsors Series*. When Lex finds Raya Lewis's name hidden behind countless security measures on his family's servers, he knows it can only mean one thing... Determined to take control of the situation, he sets out to find her—only for Raya to spill her drink all over him within seconds of meeting... Much to her surprise, the notoriously unattainable tech billionaire asks for only one thing as compensation: six rounds of Truth or Dare... An evening filled with laughter leads to Raya sneaking out of his bed in the morning, not expecting to ever see him again... until he shows up as her professor, offering her class the opportunity of a lifetime: an internship at Windsor Motors... What Raya doesn't realize is that their meeting wasn't coincidental—and she's the sole reason he took up a teaching position at all... After all, Lex knows something she doesn't: the two of them are arranged to be married.

Bluebird Gold by **Devney Perry** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$38). *Montana Romance Series*. Living in Dalton, Montana, was not what I had planned for this winter. But after my father's sudden death, I uprooted my life to move into his tiny lakeside cabin and settle his estate. My friends tell me to sell his place and move on. But this winter is my chance to say goodbye. To remember a man who'd loved tales of Montana lore... Taking a temporary teaching job seemed like the perfect way to keep myself busy on lonely days. Cleaning out the cabin should have been simple. Except the more I learn about my father's life, the more questions I have about his death... The last thing I need is a crush on Sheriff Cosi Raynes. Not only is his son my student, but his life is rooted in Montana, while mine is headed... anywhere else... Yet as I uncover a trail of strange clues Dad left behind about a lost legend of Montana gold, staying away from Cosi is not an option. Neither is denying the attraction between us. And my winter of healing becomes a race for answers... I came to Montana to bury the past. Now I'm falling for the man who might just be my future. And either I'll solve this mystery, or the person in Dalton determined to hide the truth will make sure I die trying.

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense
Just for the Cameras by **Meghan Quinn** (B Paperback—\$27). *Bay Area Players Series*. They're faking it for the cameras. But what if the sparks are real?... Graydon St. John doesn't do drama—or public appearances. The brooding defensive end for football team the San Francisco Foghorns prefers silence, solitude, and avoiding headlines. But when a league-wide PR scandal forces him into a media stunt at the city zoo, he's suddenly face-to-face with squawking birds, nosy fans, and the zookeeper who seems to hate his guts on sight... Maple Baker loves her flamingos. Loud, pink, messy? Sure. But they're hers. And the last thing she needs is a grumpy football player stomping into her sanctuary with a bad attitude and a bigger ego. Unfortunately, they've been paired for the zoo's new public outreach program, and the cameras are already rolling... The banter is sharp. The tension is electric. And the more they pretend to play nice for the press, the more their fake flirtation starts to feel like something dangerously real... But when family secrets, viral fame, and a PR romance gone off-script threaten everything Maple's worked for, Graydon must decide if he's willing to fight for love—or let it slip away to protect her.

Insatiable by **Leigh Rivers** (B Paperback—\$27). *Edge of Darkness Series*. If he can't have her, no one else can... Kade Mitchell is obsessed with someone he despises... A snake in angel's skin, Stacey Rhodes is everything he can't have—the girl who shattered his heart and drove him deep into the darkness of the underworld... He's watched her for years. Killed anyone who came close to her. But now, with a brief moment of freedom from the life he's trapped in, he's back home and ready to reclaim what's his, and break his every rule... Not even his hatred can stop the pull between them. But he'll never forgive her... will he?

The Last Second Chance by **Lucy Score** (B Paperback—\$26). *Blue Moon Series*. There are two things Joey Greer is great at: Raising horses and holding grudges. Eight years ago, her high school sweetheart abandoned her, skipped out on his family, and fled to Hollywood. She vowed never to forgive or forget... Now big-shot screenwriter Jackson Pierce is back in Blue Moon demanding another chance. No place is safe from him. Not the stables. Not the only bar in town. Not even the clawfoot tub on her own deck... No matter how good it feels when he sneaks past her defenses to land a kiss or a compliment, she is determined to pretend he doesn't exist. Except maybe when he's naked in her bed... Jax can't tell Joey the truth about the night he left. It would ruin far more than just their relationship. All he can do is sweep her off her reluctant feet with orgasms, flowers, bacon, and a rescue dog. Oh, and maybe handcuff himself to her for charity too... The Beautification Committee has a few tricks up its devious sleeve where Jax and Joey are concerned. Tricks that will either leave the past in the past or ensure these two lovebirds can never be in the same room again.

Bad Bishop by **L.J. Shen** (B Paperback—\$27). *Society of Villains Series*. He's Deathless. She's trying to find a reason to live.

LILA: My innocence was ripped from me one fatal night under the starless sky, resulting in an

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 unwanted teenage pregnancy and a secret the Camorra must bury. So my father decided to hand me off to the highest bidder... The lucky winner? Tiernan Callaghan, psychopath extraordinaire. The Irish mafia prince wants me for all the wrong reasons: Alliance. Money. Prestige. War... I am but a pawn in his twisted game. The man who sits on a throne of his enemies' skulls thinks I'm a weakling. Little does he know, in this chess game, the underdog wins... Because the thing about bad bishops? They protect good pawns.

Totally and Completely Fine by **Elissa Sussman** (B Paperback—\$27). Can you really find a once-in-a-lifetime love... twice?... In her small Montana hometown, Lauren Parker has assumed a few different roles: teenage hellraiser; sister of superstar Gabe Parker; and most recently, tragically widowed single mother. She's never cared much about labels or what people thought about her, but dealing with her grief has slowly revealed that she's become adrift in her own life... Then she meets the devilishly handsome actor Ben Walsh on the set of her brother's new movie. They have instant chemistry, and Lauren realizes that it has been far too long since someone has really and truly seen her. Her rebellious spirit spurs her to dive headfirst into her desire, but when a sexy encounter becomes something more, Lauren finds herself balancing old roles and new possibilities... There's still plenty to contend with: her disapproving mother-in-law, the complications of Ben's fame, and her daughter's unpredictable moods. An unexpected fling seemed simple at the time—so when did everything with Ben get so complicated? And is there enough room in her life for the woman Lauren wants to be?

How to Kill a Guy in Ten Dates by **Shailee Thompson** (Royal Paperback—Sprayed Edges—\$36). When cinephile Jamie Prescott attends a speed-dating event, she expects to meet some mediocre men and have a laugh—she doesn't expect one of her dates to have his throat slit at her table during a blackout. When the lights come back on, there are more bodies on the floor and the doors are locked... Armed with makeshift weapons and her extensive knowledge of what not to do in a slasher, Jamie must figure out how to make it out of the building alive. But as the night progresses, she begins to suspect the killer is committing the slayings to woo one of the daters. Whatever happened to roses and perfume?... And why can't Jamie stay focused on the important thing here, which is not getting murdered, instead of being distracted by a few hot guys? Especially if one of those hot guys happens to be the bad guy... Oops.

Kulti by **Marianna Zapata** (B Paperback—\$27). 'Trust me, I've wanted to punch you in the face a time or five'... When the man you worshipped as a kid becomes your coach, it's supposed to be the greatest thing in the world... It didn't take a week for twenty-seven-year-old Sal Casillas to wonder what she'd seen in the international soccer icon—why she'd ever had his posters on her wall, or ever envisioned marrying him and having super-playing soccer babies... Sal had long ago gotten over the worst non-break-up in the history of imaginary relationships with a man that hadn't known she'd existed. So she isn't prepared for this version of

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Reiner Kulti who shows up to her team's season: a quiet, reclusive shadow of the explosive, passionate man he'd once been... Nothing could have prepared her for the man she got to know... Or the murderous urges he brought out in her... This was going to be the longest season of her life.

Crime & Mystery & Thriller

Book 'Em, Eddie by **Laurie Cass** (Mass Market Paperback—\$26). *Bookmobile Cat Mystery Series*. The Chilson library bookmobile has a new stop on its route: Honey Hollow Adult Foster Care. When librarian Minnie Hamilton learns that Honey Hollow is just down the road from an enclave of gorgeous Victorian homes, she decides she has to take a look, especially after she learns about identical houses that stood side by side, and were owned by twin siblings. But when Minnie and her rescue cat Eddie and the bookmobile take their scenic detour, Eddie uncharacteristically escapes from the bookmobile—and finds a woman in the woods, horribly wounded with an arrow... Though Minnie desperately calls 9-1-1, all too soon she realizes she was too late. The police seem ready to call the death a hunting accident, but Minnie can't shake the feeling that foul play was involved, particularly given the woman's final whispered words. With evidence lacking, Minnie and Eddie will have to claw their way through a thicket of suspects to find the truth.

Woman Down by **Colleen Hoover** (20.8x14.0 Trade Paperback—\$38). Her words used to set the page on fire. But a viral backlash over her latest film adaptation forced Petra Rose to take a hiatus, resulting in missed deadlines and an overdue mortgage. Branded a fraud and fame-hungry opportunist, she learned the hard way what happens when the internet turns on you. And she's been uninspired to write ever since... Now, with her next suspense novel outlined and savings nearly gone, she retreats to a secluded lakeside cabin, hoping to find inspiration. It's Petra's last-ditch attempt to save her career—and herself... Then he shows up. Detective Nathaniel Saint arrives with disturbing news, his presence igniting a creativity in her she thought long since burned out. Petra's words return in a rush, and her fictional cop character begins to mirror the very real cop who's becoming her muse... Their 'research' sessions blur the lines between fantasy and reality. Each glance, every touch pulls Petra deeper into a world she thought she'd never lose herself in again. She's never felt more alive. But inspiration this powerful comes at a cost... When Saint starts taking his role in her career a little too seriously, Petra's forced to confront the chaos she created. But doing so could cost her more than the reputation she's been trying to salvage. The reputation the world wrote for her—the reputation only she can reclaim.

The Crash by **Freida McFadden** (B Paperback—\$27). Tegan is eight months pregnant, alone, and desperately wants to put her crumbling life in the rearview mirror. So she hits the road, planning to stay with her brother until she can figure out her next move. But she doesn't realize she's heading straight into a blizzard... She never arrives at her destination... Stranded in rural Maine with a dead car and broken ankle, Tegan worries she's made a terrible mistake. Then a miracle occurs: she is rescued by a couple who offers her a room in their

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warm cabin until the snow clears... But something isn't right. Tegan believed she was waiting out the storm, but as time ticks by, she comes to realize she is in grave danger. This safe haven isn't what she thought it was, and staying here may have been her most deadly mistake... Now she must do whatever it takes to save herself—and her unborn child.

First Wife's Shadow by **Adele Parks** (B Paperback—\$25). His first wife died. Now there's a vacancy... When Emma meets Matthew, a kind, handsome widower, he seems to be just what she needs. Yet as their relationship moves fast, Emma's friends worry Emma might be exploited. She's a rich woman after all. Emma doesn't care Matthew has no money. But as the memory of his perfect first wife hangs over them, Emma does have one tiny doubt. If Matthew's wife hadn't died, he wouldn't be with her. And Emma wonders if she's second best. Can she ever fill the dead woman's shoes? As jealousy and suspicion blossom between Emma and Matthew, events take a darker, dangerous turn. Suddenly Emma doesn't know who she can trust. Her friends? Her husband? Or even herself?

Vows and Villainy by **Elizabeth Penney** (Mass Market Paperback—\$29). *Cambridge Bookshop Series*. It's wedding season in Cambridge, and librarian Molly Kimball is thrilled that it's almost time for her best friend's special day. With the help of her boyfriend Kieran Scott, she is determined to be the best maid of honor for Daisy and Tim. Daisy's heart is set upon a Shakespeare-themed wedding to be held at Hazelhurst House, Kieran's family's home. The Scotts are also hosting a Shakespeare troupe for the summer, and the actors have kindly agreed to be part of the festivities... But all goes awry with the discovery of Sir Nigel Peck, a famous actor with a checkered past and present-day misdeeds, floating dead in the moat with flowers strewn around him, à la Ophelia. When Kieran's brother Alan becomes a top suspect, Molly and company must investigate to uncover the ugly truth behind this picturesque scene... before more bodies pile up... Can Molly solve the murder before Daisy and Tim say 'I do'?

The Vanishing Place by **Zoe Rankin** (Royal Paperback—\$35). *Author Living in NZ*. On the remote West Coast of the South Island, vast forests stretch out between mountain ranges and rugged beaches. There, in the small town of Koraha, not a lot happens—until a young girl with blood on her hands walks out of the bush and into the local store, collapsing to the floor... She can't—or won't—speak to anyone. It's the town's sole policeman who recognises her face. She looks exactly like a local girl who disappeared twenty years ago. She has the same red hair. The same green eyes... What horrors has she left behind in the bush? Who will come looking for her? And what secrets are about to come to light?

Witch and Tell by **Angela M. Sanders** (Mass Market Paperback—\$25). *Witch Way Librarian Mysteries Series*. Local librarian and apprentice witch Josie Way's life is in shambles. Her magical abilities are on the fritz, and her relationship with sexy sheriff Sam Wilfred has cooled since she told him she's a witch. On top of that, Josie senses a bad energy which seems to be interrupting her connection with the spellbound library books, usually her sure-fire way to get to the bottom of any mystery... When she wakes

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to a fierce pounding in the library's atrium, she hurries there—only to find a corpse. But after she goes for the phone to call Sam, she returns to the atrium to find the body gone—and all the doors and window are still locked. And that's just the beginning of a mystery that features Josie as the prime suspect, several shady characters, and possible long-lost relatives. It's just like the beginning of an old movie, but Josie will need a lot more direction than her grandmother's magic lessons will provide.

Fantasy & Paranormal Romance

Beast Business by **Iona Andrews** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—Novella—\$30). *Hidden Legacy Series*. Show as little as possible. Make them think that illusion is all you have. Your life depends on it... Augustine Montgomery is an Illusion Prime, the highest rank of magic user. The people who have seen his real face can be counted on the fingers of one hand. The people who've witnessed the full extent of his power are dead. Illusion isn't just his brand of magic. It's become his lifestyle... One day Diana Harrison walks into the office of Augustine's premier PI corporation. Diana is also a Prime, a mage who bonds with animals through her magic and prefers their company to humans. Something precious has been stolen from House Harrison. Something Diana must recover at all costs before it perishes... Augustine is cold, rational, and calculating. He doesn't get emotionally involved, but something about Diana disturbs the careful balance of Augustine's inner world. She asks for his help, and he can't refuse... Neither Augustine nor Diana are who they appear to be. Both would die to keep their secrets. But the enemy they face is unimaginably powerful, and saving the life at risk will demand the ultimate price, one neither ever expected to pay—complete honesty.

Unbound by **Penelope Bloom** (B Paperback—\$27). *Confluence Academy Series*. Welcome to Confluence Academy... Nineteen-year-old Nessa Thorne expects death when she volunteers for the Empire's selection. Instead, she's thrust into Confluence Academy, where students harness elemental magic and bond powerful beasts, from wolves to ancient dragons... Students are branded by affinity: water, air, earth, or fire. But Nessa's mark is different. A silver spiral—the mark of an unbound. It's a power so dangerous her kind were hunted to extinction centuries ago—or so the Empire claims... To survive, she must hide what she is in a castle where alliances are forged in blood and students kill each other freely for advantage. Nessa's greatest threat may be the only other volunteer, Raith Hollow, a powerful fire affinity with a scorching gaze that follows her every move and secrets that could topple kingdoms... Forbidden desires become impossible to ignore, enemies approach from beyond the castle walls, and something evil has found its way inside—stalking the midnight corridors, hiding in plain sight... Nessa must choose: embrace her terrible potential, or watch everything she's fought for burn... Because at Confluence Academy, students leave as weapons... or they don't leave at all.

The Bond That Burns by **Briar Boleyn** (Royal Paperback—\$35). *Bloodwing Academy Series*. At Bloodwing Academy, blood is currency, but a dragon's legacy is priceless—and as dangerous as fire... I thought

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surviving my first year in Bloodwing's deadly halls would be enough. I was wrong... I accidentally woke a dragon—a creature of myth, of death, of fire... Now every highblood house wants control over me and the dragon's legacy I carry. But here's the truth: I have no control. I'm bluffing my way through every encounter, trying to keep everyone from realizing that I'm not the one pulling the dragon's strings... And then there's Blake Drakharrow. I thought he was on my side, that I might even be able to trust him. But he betrayed me. Now I'm his only blood source. How messed up is that? In a place like Bloodwing, where power and survival are everything, this bond may well be the death of us both. Unless I can find a way to end it... In this world of vampires, dragons, and lies, there are no happy endings. Just legends—and the darkness it takes to make them.

The Children of Fallen Gods by **Carissa Broadbent** (Royal Paperback—\$35). *War of Lost Hearts Series*.

No war can be fought with clean hands. Not even the ones waged for the right reasons. Not even the ones you win. Tisaanah bargained away her own freedom to save those she left behind in slavery. Now, bound by her blood pact, she must fight the Orders' war—and Max is determined to protect her at all costs. But, when a betrayal tears apart the land of Ara, Max and Tisaanah are pushed into an even bloodier conflict. Tisaanah must gamble with Reshaye's power to claim an impossible victory. And Max, forced into leadership, must confront everything he hoped to forget: his past, and his own mysterious magic. All the while, darker forces loom—far darker, even, than the Orders' secrets. As Tisaanah and Max become ensnared in a web of ancient magic and twisted secrets, one question remains: what are they willing to sacrifice for victory, for power and for love?

An Ancient Witch's Guide to Modern Dating by **Cecilia Edward** (Royal Paperback—Sprayed Edges—\$36). An ancient witch explores the thrills—and perils—of online dating... Meet Thorn Scarhart: a thirty-nine-year-old witch who's having trouble finding love in the 17th century. Despite the local matchmaker's efforts and Thorn's arsenal of powerful love potions, she has yet to fall in love, and she fears she may have missed her chance... But when one of her potions misfires spectacularly, Thorn is hurled 350 years into the future, landing in a bustling city where her once-isolated cottage is now a historical museum. While this unexpected leap through time is daunting, modern life does have its perks: indoor plumbing, electric kettles and, most intriguing of all, online dating... With the help of the museum's curator—and her charming veterinarian brother—Thorn dives headfirst into the 21st-century dating scene. And as she searches for romance, she just might find herself along the way.

City of Gods and Monsters by **Kayla Edwards** (B Paperback—\$27). *House of Devils Series*. Welcome to the city of Angelthene... We hope you survive... Loren Calla has only ever been ordinary. As a human living in Angelthene, a city of vampires, werewolves, witches, and other supernatural creatures, she always assumed her life would remain simple, predictable, and as safe as her world would allow... But when she barely escapes abduction at the hands of Darkslayers—supernatural bounty hunters—and one of her friends is taken in her place, Loren will do

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whatever it takes to get her back... She'll even accept help from Darien Cassel, leader of the most ruthless Darkslaying circle in the city. Darien is Loren's only chance at finding her friend alive—if she can manage not to fall head-over-heels in love with him. Easier said than done... Their search for answers takes them deep into Angelthene's corrupt underbelly to a dark secret that threatens to unravel their world... When tragedy strikes, can Loren learn that love makes an ordinary person do extraordinary things?

City of Souls and Sinners by **Kayla Edwards** (B Paperback—\$27). *House of Devils* Series. Loren and Darien have settled back into their old routines, grateful that the whirlwind of dangers they'd faced on Kalendae are now behind them—or so they think. But Loren soon finds herself caught in a new storm when the Terran Emperor blackmails her into working for him. There's only one problem—he expects her to use her magic, and she doesn't seem to have any left. To keep Darien safe, she agrees. But the secrets she is forced to keep, and her involvement with the emperor's son, threaten to drive her away from Darien in ways she might never recover from...

Agnes Aubert's Mystical Cat Shelter by **Heather Fawcett** (Royal Paperback—\$35). All strays are welcome here... Agnes Aubert is very fond of making lists. These lists kept her afloat when she lost her husband two years ago. And now, as the founder of a cat rescue charity, her meticulous organization skills feel like the only thing standing between her beloved cats—His Majesty, Banshee and sweet elderly Thoreau, to name a few—and utter disaster... But when Agnes is forced to move the charity, she soon discovers that her new shop is being used as a front; right under her feet is the lair of the decidedly disorganised—not to mention self-absorbed and infuriatingly handsome—Havelock Renard... Havelock is everything Agnes doesn't want in her life: chaos, mischief, and a little too much adventure. But as she gets to know him, she discovers he's more than the dark magician of legend, and that she may be ready for a little intrigue, perhaps even romance. After all, second chances aren't just for rescue cats...

The Mating Game by **Lana Ferguson** (B Paperback—\$27). Contractor Tess Covington has spent her entire life as a regular human, so after she lands in the Denver ER with flu-like symptoms, it comes as a complete shock to be told that, no, she's not sick—she's actually a late-presenting omega wolf shifter. With her family in dire financial straits and a contract for her own television show on the line, she can't afford not to complete the renovation job she came for. And given that her newly emerged wolf is in danger of going into heat, she'll just have to do her best to follow the doctor's advice to keep away from alpha shifters... Alpha wolf Hunter Barrett has spent most of his adult life living by a routine, and a big part of that involves staying clear of omegas after having one stomp on his heart. So when the tiny contractor shows up at his place smelling like the one thing he's determined to avoid, he thinks it must be some sort of cosmic joke. But with his lodge on the verge of failing and this sweet-smelling omega his only hope to turn things

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around... he's left with few other options than to grin and bear it... Set on avoiding each other as much as possible, they find things unexpectedly starting to heat up between them enough to thaw even the frostiest of hearts. Though even with the pair going head over paws for each other, there's no changing that their fling has an expiration date. The more time they spend together, the more they realize they're playing a dangerous game—one where the only thing on the line is their hearts.

Demon's Bluff by **Kim Harrison** (Mass Market Paperback Release—\$28). *Hollows* Series. What's a witch to do when the coven of moral and ethical standards demands she untwist a curse—but an essential spell component no longer exists? There's only one choice: go back in time... Caught between self-exile and an Alcatraz cell, Rachel Morgan must find an Atlantean mirror to reverse the curse and prove to Cincinnati's brand-new witch coven that, no, she does not practice illicit magic. However, the only mirror of its kind in existence belonged to the insane demon Newt, forcing Rachel to go to the past to bargain with her for it... But the time-travel spell goes awry, dragging Elyse, the young leader of the coven, into the past with Rachel. They expect to land five years in the past but instead arrive two days before Rachel's long-lost love, Kisten, dies. Heartbroken and torn, Rachel knows she can't change the past... Even with no allies, Rachel still has one thing going for her: Cincinnati is her city, now and forever. If she can find a way to work with Newt and prevent Elyse from becoming the demon's next familiar, they might all get home.

A Grave Mistake by **Steffanie Holmes** (Royal Paperback—Sprayed Edges—\$36). *NZ Author. Nevermore Murder Club and Smutty Book Coven* Series. Arabella Lestrage is the most notorious dancer in Paris' underground vampire cabaret—until she falls for human Gideon Blake and he ruins her afterlife. Fleeing Paris, she relishes the certainty that Gideon's cheeky, devil-may-care personality will eventually land him six feet under... But 150 years later, Arabella bumps into Gideon and discovers he's now a vampire too. This time, she's determined to make him pay. And she likes her revenge as she likes her coffee: long, dark and dripping with blood... If only her meddling book-club friends would stop scheming to get them together. Arabella is happy being alone, and she doesn't need anyone. Especially not the annoyingly charming billionaire who broke her heart... When you can hold a grudge for eternity, is giving love a second chance a grave mistake?

Dragon Cursed by **Elise Kova** (Royal Paperback—\$29). *Dragon Cursed Duology*. The moment you see a dragon is usually your last... Since the dragons emerged—along with the scourge that ravaged our lands and people—there's only one human city that remains standing: Vingard... But the hellfire from above is nothing compared to the threat from within. For there is no worse fate than being Dragon Cursed. Slowly and excruciatingly, you'll be transformed into a mindless beast who destroys everything—and everyone—you love... Any of us could be tainted. Any of us could be lying. Any of us could be caught and killed by the authorities. And I'm terrified that I might be next... There's only one

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other person who might suspect my secret. He's like my shadow, following me wherever I go. Part protector, part tormentor, fully annoying. Sometimes I think I am just one of the million unfathomable secrets he keeps hidden... Because Lucan definitely knows something... And if I'm Dragon Cursed, death might be the only mercy I get.

Violet Thistlewaite Is Not a Villain Anymore by **Emily Krempholtz** (B Paperback—\$27). Guy Shadowfade is dead, and after a lifetime as the dark sorcerer's right-hand, Violet Thistlewaite is determined to start over "not" as the fearsome Thornwitch, but as someone kind. Someone better. Someone good... The quaint town of Dragon's Rest, Violet decides, will be her second chance—she'll set down roots, open a flower shop, keep her sentient (mildly homicidal) houseplant in check, and prune dark magic from the twisted boughs of her life... Violet's vibrant bouquets and cheerful enchantments soon charm the welcoming townsfolk, though nothing seems to impress the prickly yet dashing handsome Nathaniel Marsh, an alchemist sharing her greenhouse. With a struggling business and his own second chance seemingly out of reach, Nathaniel has no time for flowers or frippery—and certainly none for the intriguing witch next door... When a mysterious blight endangers every living plant in Dragon's Rest, Violet and Nathaniel must work together, through their fears, pasts, and growing feelings for one another, to save their community. But with a figure from her previous life knocking at her door and her secrets threatening to uproot everything she's worked so hard to grow, Violet can't help but wonder... does a former villain truly deserve a happily-ever-after?

Nocticadia by **Keri Lake** (B Paperback—\$27). Mortui vivos docent. The dead teach the living... After watching my mother succumb to a mysterious illness, I promised myself two things—I'd find the cure for what ravaged her—and leave the godforsaken city where she abandoned me... Four years later, I receive an acceptance letter from Dracadia University, a secluded, prestigious school on an island off the coast of Maine. Legends say it's haunted by the exiled souls of long-dead patients... But the ghosts aren't even its most daunting peculiarity... Devryck Bramwell, known on campus as Doctor Death, is my devastatingly handsome professor. He loathes first-years like me—yet his dark gaze tells me all the ways he'd devour me if given the chance, and his stolen kisses burn with forbidden jealousy. Together, we're a toxic disaster waiting to be exposed... And when the truth surfaces, we may be the ones to resurrect Dracadia's most depraved secret.

Throne of Nightmares by **Kerri Maniscalco** (Royal Paperback—\$35). *Prince of Sin Series*. A prince who prefers games of the head to those of the heart... Prince Sloth hates leaving his enchanted library, but when a forgotten deity threatens the very fabric of the Underworld, he's thrust into a race against time. He must find the Book of Nightmares—an ancient artifact that has the power to break worlds—before it unleashes a deadly game to free its master, the Goddess of Night. When a betrayal leaves him marked, and desperate, his path collides with a young woman who possesses the legendary

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Phoenix Tear—a portal stone unlike any other... A librarian who is all sweet sunshine... until she burns... Lore Brimstone has always loved getting lost in a book—but she never meant literally. Yet, after visiting a traveling caravan, she quickly finds herself transported to a terrifying but oddly familiar world—with a calculating prince at her side. Realizing they are living out her favourite novels one by one, they face off against an increasingly dark magic as they try to survive the story... A twisted tale that means they can't trust themselves—or their hearts... As Lore and Sloth navigate the pages of her beloved novels gone wrong, she must channel her inner main character to defeat the Book of Nightmares before the wall between the gods and mortals comes crashing down, dooming them all.

Xantera by **Mariah Montoya & Grace Pearce** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$30). *Guardians & Monsters Duology*. In a utopian society ruled by the Twelve Guardians, twenty-three-year-old Saskia has been taught to never question those who protect her city, Xantera, from the Monster who prowls beyond the Wall—even when they demand living sacrifices in exchange for this protection. She eats the food they provide her, works the Healing Center shifts they've designated for her, and lives with the partner they've assigned her... But when Saskia finds a strange necklace left behind by a mysterious patient in her Healing unit, she begins to hear a voice in her head that could change everything... Smooth, deadly, and masculine, the voice teases and tempts her, igniting embers in the emptiest part of her heart and challenging the beliefs that have been instilled there. Before long, she begins to suspect the necklace has connected her mind to the Monster who prowls outside the Wall—a Monster who is nothing like she expected... And he wants her to let him in.

Rumours of Rage and Revenge by **Celia Ralk** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$38). *Crooked Crowns Trilogy*. With summer less than six weeks away and certain to bring destruction and draw blood, Clara races to uncover the truth and save her kingdoms... Deals struck with Death's acquaintances unveil secrets long since buried while others remain tightly guarded, indifferent to the chaos that might unleash... Jealousy rears its ugly head in the most unlikely places... Relationships are tested, shifting into something unfamiliar and unexpected... Fear and desperation are heavy in Morrin, as their deadline looms over their heads and demands hold Clara hostage in a continent not yet her own... War is here, and with him comes Death. With all her wild, relentless, unforgiving power.

Tender Cruelty by **Katee Robert** (20.8x13.7 Trade Paperback—\$33). *Dark Olympus Series*. I was his wife. His lover. His sworn enemy. The ice queen to Olympus's most hated king... The barrier that's protected Olympus for generations has fallen. The enemy's breached the gates and the Thirteen are scrambling to protect themselves, their loved ones, and the city they've sworn to protect. At least they would be if they weren't at each others' throats instead... Hera has no intention of letting her husband, Zeus, survive the oncoming storm. But despite the white-hot hatred burning between them, when Hera and Zeus are forced to work together, enmity crystalizes into something brighter. Hotter.

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Too powerful to deny or destroy... Hera never bartered on falling in love with the man she married—the man she once swore to kill. But now, standing back-to-back in the ruins of Olympus, she may be forced to admit that she's been wrong about Zeus all these years... and there may be something about their marriage worth saving if they can survive long enough to turn sworn enemies into something more.

We Who Will Die by **Stacia Stark** (Royal Paperback—\$35). *NZ Author. Empire of Blood Series*. Life in the perilous Thorn district is a constant battle for Arvelle and her younger brothers... Faced with an unthinkable choice, Arvelle makes a magically binding vow to do the impossible: kill the emperor, an ancient vampire created by the god Umbros... But first, she must enter the Sundering—an arena where only the fastest, strongest, and deadliest survive long enough to be selected for the emperor's elite guard... As stakes rise and secrets emerge, she draws the ire of the Primus, the powerful figure charged with protecting the emperor—while also finding herself depending on the enemy to hone her power... the emperor's vampiric son... To survive the arena and complete her mission, Arvelle must uncover a deadly conspiracy that will change everything she thought she knew about herself—and the two vampires entwined with her destiny.

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Remember That Day by **Mary Balogh** (B Paperback—\$27). *Ravenswood Series*. A soldier and a pacifist make the unlikeliest of pairs, but when passion sparks, there's nothing that can prevent their love from igniting... Winifred Cunningham, the adopted daughter of a portrait painter, hopes that her new friend, Owen Ware, will soon ask for her hand in marriage. But when Owen introduces Winifred to his elder brother Nicholas, the late Earl of Stratton's second son, the slow burn between them begins... Nicholas is a cavalry colonel—a hardened soldier whom Winifred at first despises. She finds him intimidating and cruel-looking, while he finds her strange and startlingly forthright. During a summer at Ravenswood, however, Nicholas and Winifred are unwillingly thrown together on several occasions, until they realize the passion that drives their disagreements is not due to dislike—it is because of attraction... Winifred still awaits Owen's proposal, and Nicholas has made his intention to marry his commanding officer's daughter quite clear. With allegiances to other marriage prospects and brotherly bonds at risk, not to mention the age difference between them, Nicholas and Winifred know it would be wholly improper to pursue a romance... And yet, romance is irresistible. Perhaps even inevitable.

Lady Violet Holds a Baby by **Grace Burrowes** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$29). *Lady Violet Mystery Series*. If it's not weddings, then hapless widows are expected to attend christenings... Lady Violet returns with St. Sevier to her family seat, and finds Derwent Hall at sixes and sevens upon the occasion of her nephew's christening. Other guests have brought their children along to celebrate the occasion, and Sebastian MacHeath is on hand to serve as godfather... Nobody seems to be getting along, despite the happy nature of the gathering.

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Summer heat builds to an unbearable crescendo as clandestine affairs, marital troubles, and family tensions escalate. Then somebody starts kidnapping little girls, and Lady Violet must figure out who, why, and how the kidnapper can be foiled.

Lady Violet Goes for a Gallop by **Grace Burrowes** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$29). *Lady Violet Mystery Series*. Lady Violet has decided that life in noisy, crowded, busy London is simply not her cup of tea. Her search for a rural property to purchase must be set aside when she learns that Hugh St. Sevier has been accused of murder. Worse, the handsome physician is doing nothing to aid those trying to exonerate him... Though it requires out-smarting the magistrate, enlisting the aid of Sebastian, Marquess of Dunkeld, and literally poking around in the undergrowth, Violet is determined to prove her friend's innocence—with or without St. Sevier's cooperation. Solving the crime also means Violet must face a few of her own demons, and find peace with a past that has proven even more vexatious than this challenging mystery!

Bad Luck Bride by **Laura Lee Guhrke** (20.1x13.2 Trade Paperback—\$35). *Scandal at the Savoy Series*. Third time's a charm? For Lady Kay Matheson, it had better be. Her first engagement was a failed elopement; the second ruined by gossip about the first. Resigned to be a disgraced spinster, no one is more surprised than Kay when an American millionaire offers for her hand. Just when she's convinced she will finally make it down the aisle, the scoundrel who broke her heart arrives with his own fiancée... Devlin Sharpe has finally become a success. He has wealth, connections, and a lovely bride-to-be—and he won't let an old flame derail his hard work. But it turns out time has not dampened his grudge toward Kay—or the desire between them. And one searing kiss threatens to ruin their wedding plans and their futures, and make Kay the bad-luck bride all over again.

All's Fair in Love and War by **Virginia Heath** (B Paperback—\$29). *Miss Prentice's Protegee Series*. When former naval captain, Harry Kincaid, is left in the lurch with his flighty older sister's three unruly children, he hasn't a clue how to handle it. Desperate, and prepared to pay whatever it takes, he turns to Miss Prentice's School for Young Ladies for an emergency governess who can get his formerly ordered house running shipshape again... After a strict and miserable upbringing, fledgling governess Georgie Rowe doesn't believe that children should be seen and not heard. She believes that childhood should be filled with laughter, adventure, and discovery (... everything hers wasn't). Thankfully, the three Pendleton children are already delightfully bohemian and instantly embrace her unconventional approach. However, their staid, stickler-for-the-rules uncle, is another matter entirely... Georgie and Harry are soon butting heads over their differences, but as time passes, their attraction soon becomes undeniable and, after all, all's fair in love and war...

Introducing Mrs Collins by **Rachel Parris** (Royal Paperback—\$35). *A Pride and Prejudice Novel*. She wrote herself out of the story. Now she's daring to want more... Charlotte Lucas has never been a romantic. Practical to a fault, she accepted Mr

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Collins's proposal with clear eyes and a steady heart, trading passion for security. Life at Hunsford Parsonage may be quiet and predictable, but it is hers to manage—and she's determined to make the best of it, whatever Elizabeth Bennet may think... That is, until an unexpected guest at Rosings Park turns Charlotte's careful world on its head. He sees her, challenges her—and a spark is lit. But true contentment is not only about who you choose to love, but who you choose to be. For the first time, she wonders: has playing by the rules kept her on the sidelines of her own life?

Alcott Hall by **Emily Rath** (B Paperback—\$27; Deluxe Limited Edition Paperback—\$45). *Second Sons Series*. Lady Madeline Blair is on a mission. Her eccentric late aunt left her a small fortune with one condition—to claim it, Madeline must marry by New Year's Eve... which is now only three weeks away! An invitation to spend Christmas at Alcott Hall provides the perfect chance to snag herself an unsuspecting beau. She will be generous with her inheritance; on the condition he agrees never to claim his rights as her husband... Five years ago, Charles Bray left Finchley and never looked back. It was too painful to dwell in the past. So, when duty calls him home, he returns, heart heavy, to a town full of ghosts. Seeking any distraction, he sparks an unlikely friendship with a quiet young lady who makes him a surprising offer too good to refuse... And then there's John...

A Waltz on the Wild Side by **Erica Ridley** (20.3x13.5 Trade Paperback—\$35). *Wild Wynchesters Series*. Advice columnist Miss Vivian Henry hates how the Wild Wynchesters flaunt so many privileges ordinary people could never emulate. But when her beloved cousin goes missing and the authorities shrug, Viv has no choice but to beg for help from the vigilantes

Historical & Regency Romance continued

she despises... Aspiring poet Jacob Wynchester prefers animals to people. He'd rather stay behind the safety of a quill than interact with prickly clients. But when he's appointed lead investigator, Jacob finds he admires Vivian's resourcefulness and intelligence—including the sharp wit he must parry. As they team up to rescue her kidnapped cousin, they discover just how compatible they are... Together, they must not only save the day, but also decide how far they're willing to go to be who they really are. And determine whether their partnership is a mistake... or the missing piece that completes them.

Ladies In Hating by **Alexandra Vasti** (B Paperback—\$27). *LGBTQ+. Belvoir's Library Trilogy*. Celebrated authoress Lady Georgiana Cleeve has achieved fame and fortune. Unfortunately, she's also acquired an enemy: the enigmatic Lady Darling, whose spine-tingling plots appear to be pulled from Georgiana's own manuscripts. What's a stubborn, steely writer to do? Unmask her rival, of course... But unmasking doesn't go to plan—because Lady Darling is actually Cat Lacey, the butler's daughter and object of Georgiana's secret embarrassing teenage infatuation... Cat Lacey has spent a decade clawing her family out of poverty. The last thing she needs is to be distracted by the stunning(ly pretentious) Lady Georgiana Cleeve. But Cat can't seem to escape her infuriatingly beautiful rival—including at the eerie manor where they both plan to set their next books... The plot unexpectedly thickens, however, when the novelists find themselves trapped in the manor together. In between ghostly moans and spectral staff, Cat and Georgiana come face-to-face with real danger: the scorching passion that's been haunting their rivalry all along.

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