

BOOK CATALOGUE – JUL/AUG 2024

Needing some more reading material to help you get through these cold and wet months? There are some great new releases by Ilona Andrews (Sanctuary), Lauren Asher (Love Unwritten), Christine Feehan (Betrayal Road), Deborah Harkness (The Black Bird Oracle), Eloisa James (Viscount In Love), J.P. Pomare (17 Years Later), Nalini Singh (Primal Mirror), Liz Tomforde (Play Along) and more. Enjoy your reading!

Top Books July		Top Books August	
L.J. Andrews	The Ever King*	Ilona Andrews	Sanctuary*
Lauren Asher	Love Unwritten*	Tessa Bailey	The Au Pair Affair*
Callie Hart	Quicksilver*	Christine Feehan	Betrayal Road
Anna Lee Huber	A Deceptive Composition*	Deborah Harkness	The Black Bird Oracle*
Freida McFadden	The Housemaid is Watching*	Eloisa James	Viscount in Love
Scarlett Peckham	The Mistress Experience	Seanan McGuire	Sleep No More#
Devney Perry	Crossroads*	J.P. Pomare	17 Years Later*
Ashley Poston	A Novel Love Story*	Nalini Singh	Primal Mirror*
Ella Quinn	The Groom List	Alexander McCall Smith	The Conditions of Unconditional Love*
Sherry Thomas	A Ruse of Shadows*	Liz Tomforde	Play Along*

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



Title: Sanctuary
Author: Ilona Andrews
Classification: Fantasy & Paranormal
Book Type: Print-On-Demand Novella
Price: \$34

Annotation: *Roman's Chronicles Series.* It's not easy serving Chernobog, the God of Destruction, Darkness and Death... especially during the holidays... Volhv wizard Roman would like nothing more than to be left alone, but when a

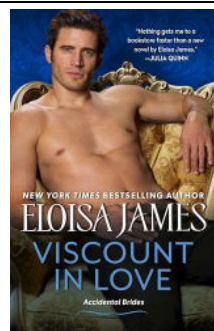
wounded boy stumbles into his yard and begs for sanctuary, Roman takes him in. Now mercenaries are camped out on his property, combat mages are dousing the house with fire, and strange priests are unleashing arcane magic. They thought Roman was easy pickings, but they chose the wrong dark priest to annoy. Roman might be patient, but he is the Black Volhv. For his adversaries, it's a fight to the death, but for him, it's just another day in the neighborhood.



Title: Betrayal Road
Author: Christine Feehan
Classification: Fantasy & Paranormal
Book Type: Mass Market Paperback
Price: \$26

Annotation: *Torpedo Ink Series.* The stranger frequenting Azelie Vargas's coffee shop is a sight to behold. He's tall, dark, muscular, and a complete distraction... Andrii "Maestro" Federoff is in San Francisco on club business. Torpedo Ink needs

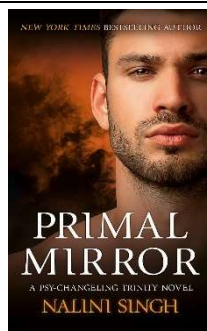
information to bust up a human trafficking ring, and Maestro has found his mark. After weeks of stealthy observation, he's not sure if Azelie is involved directly, or if she's just working for some bad people. What he does know is that he needs to get close to her fast, and soon he can't get enough... What began as a setup quickly turns real. But no matter how hot they burn, Maestro's betrayal could leave their hearts smoldering in the ashes....



Title: Viscount In Love
Author: Eloisa James
Classification: Historical
Book Type: Mass Market Paperback
Price: \$26

Annotation: *Accidental Brides Series.* Suddenly guardian to twins, Viscount Dominic Kelbourne is luckily betrothed to a suitable lady—until she elopes. With no time to woo, Dominic decides to marry his fiancée's unconventional sister.

Torie isn't perfect, but their kisses are so passionate that society thinks he's actually chosen her... Torie longs for a man who values her as she is... but marries for the sake of the twins. She doubts Dominic is capable of love, let alone respect, but as their heated debates turn into something more, Torie begins to imagine a life as a wife, not a nanny... But when the arrogant viscount finds that his viscountess has stolen his heart, he'll have to give all he has to win her love.



Title: Primal Mirror
Author: Nalini Singh (NZ Author)
Classification: Fantasy & Paranormal
Book Type: Demy Paperback
Price: Special \$29 (RRP \$37.99)

Annotation: *Psy/Changeling Trinity Series.* Daughter of two ruthless telepaths, Auden Scott is not the child her Psy parents wanted, even before her brain injury. The only thing she knows for certain is that she must protect her unborn baby...

a baby she has no recollection of conceiving and who draws an abnormal intensity of notice from her dead mother's associates... Leopard alpha Remi Denier is a man driven by the primal instinct to protect. His pack, his allies... and the mysterious woman who has become an unlikely neighbor. Auden is the enemy... but nothing about this Psy is what it seems. When Auden asks Remi to help her shatter the wall of secrets that is the Scott lineage, what they unearth will reveal a nightmare.

This book is also available as a North American Hardcover \$60

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Other Books Available in This Catalogue

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense

The Match by **Sarah Adams** (UK B 19.6x12.8 Paperback—\$27). *It Happened in Charleston Series*. Evie Jones has dedicated her life and limited funds working for Southern Service Paws, the company that matched her with the love of her life: Charlie, a service dog trained to assist with her epilepsy. But the company is struggling to make ends meet. It's up to her and her longtime mentor and boss to throw the fundraiser of the century to keep the doors open... Then Evie meets Jacob Broaden at a client consultation meeting. There are instant sparks—but not the good kind, because Jacob's daughter set up the meeting without his knowledge. Ten-year-old Sam has been diagnosed with epilepsy, and has wanted a service animal ever since. While he had hesitations at first, it doesn't take long for Jacob to be convinced that a service dog, and possibly Evie, with her green eyes, might just be the best thing for him and his daughter... As Evie spends more time with Jacob and helps Sam find her perfect match with a golden retriever named Daisy, she starts longing for something she's never had before: a loving family. For Jacob, falling in love with Evie is the last thing he should be doing, but love has a way of finding those who need it most.

The Fiance Dilemma by **Elena Armas** (UK B 19.8x12.8 Paperback—\$26). Josie Moore has given the opposite sex—and love—plenty of chances. Four exactly, if you count all her failed engagements, and five if you include her no-longer-absentee father. Nonetheless, when the influential man decides to announce his retirement with a splashy magazine piece and Josie learns that her romantic history isn't great PR for the family, she jumps at the chance to offer a solution... Matthew Flanagan is in the mud. Literally. Not only has he been fired from his job, but after taking a wrong turn, his car is stuck. So, he goes in search of a place to crash until he gets his life (and vehicle) back on track. But instead, he stumbles upon his best friend's sister, Josie, greeting him as her fiancé... What starts as a misunderstanding turns into a fake engagement, with Matthew playing the role of doting fiancé as he and Josie are swept into a PR whirlwind. Josie knows this is temporary. They have rules in place, and one of them is that no matter what, there will be no exchange of "I dos." But that's easier said than done, as lines blur, and the rest of the town comes to believe the fifth fiancé is truly The One.

Finding Mr. Write by **Kelley Armstrong** (UK B 19.6x12.6 Paperback—\$27). Daphne McFadden knows that as a female author, the cards are stacked against her. Now she knows just how much. Because her whim to pose as an 'outdoorsy hunk of masculinity' male author for her new book just resulted in the unthinkable: a bidding war, a huge book deal, and the kind of fame every author dreams of. Now she's in big trouble. Because she needs to convince the world that Zane Remington actually exists... but how? By hiring an actor, of course... Only Chris Stanton is not an actor. He's used to balancing the books, not pretending he wrote one. Still, he's mostly certain he can pose as some overly macho bro-author. But when the media descend on Daphne's gorgeous remote home in the Yukon, it's not enough for Chris to just be the face

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense of Zane Remington—he'll have to become him. All while hilariously balancing the terrifying dangers of the wilderness, a massive femme fandom, and a serious crush on Daphne. But as the hype circus gets more out of control, it's just a matter of time before someone discovers their little write lie...

Love Unwritten by **Lauren Asher** (UK B 19.9x12.8 Paperback—\$27). *Lakefront Billionaires Series*. *Rafael* Ellie Sinclair is a hopeless romantic who writes love songs. I'm a struggling workaholic who could inspire a hundred breakup albums. On paper, we have nothing in common except for my son. For eight months, I avoid her until our summer trip. Fourteen days. Two islands. And one nanny I shouldn't be attracted to. Spending time with Ellie is expected, but enjoying her company? That isn't part of our plans. After my divorce, I swore to protect my heart at all costs. Even if it means breaking hers... *Ellie* What's worse than working for a grumpy single dad? Admitting that I had a secret crush on him in high school. Thankfully, Rafael Lopez and I have changed since we graduated from Wisteria High. He is a billionaire with a company to run and a child to take care of. I'm an unemployed songwriter he hired to watch his son and teach music. We coexist without any issues until a vacation changes everything. Lines blur and old feelings for Rafael return as I face a dilemma. Being his son's nanny is one thing, but wishing for more? Sounds like a heartbreak song waiting to be written.

The Au Pair Affair by **Tessa Bailey** (US 20.5x13.7 Trade Paperback—\$24). *Big Shots Series*. Tallulah is smart, vivacious, and studying to be a marine biologist. She's also broke. So when Burgess, a battle-scarred hockey veteran and newly single dad, offers her a job as his live-in nanny, she jumps at the opportunity to get paid while living in a fancy neighborhood and being around Lissa, his cool but introverted tween... Her tween charge isn't the only one who could use some help fitting in. Burgess needs to get back on the dating scene, and Tallulah is just the girl to show him how. But as boundaries are crossed and Burgess finds himself pulled between his daughter, who wants her parents back together, and his insane chemistry with Tallulah, a huge rift is formed, and Tallulah does the right thing—breaks her heart and walks away... Burgess knows it's for the best—he has too much baggage—but a chance meeting, and a new push from his daughter, forces him to put everything on the line and fight to prove he learned his lessons and is worthy of a happily ever after with Tallulah.

You'll Never Find Me by **Allison Brennan** (US Mass Market Paperback—\$26). *Angelhart Investigations Series*. Working alone as a private investigator is tough. Estranged from her PI family, Margo Angelhart takes on sordid cases that pay the bills, even if she'd rather be helping those the justice system has failed... That is, until a cheating husband case she's working intersects with her siblings' corporate espionage investigation, forcing Margo to cooperate with the Angelhart firm. As the siblings compare notes, it's clear they need to work together before a white-collar crime escalates to murder... With more questions than answers and a key suspect on the run, they need the whole family

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense to pitch in. But as they investigate the ever-twisting mystery, Margo isn't sharing everything. Can she trust her family and heal their relationship before her secrets put those she loves most in danger?

Mercy by Sara Cate (US 20.8x14.0 Trade Paperback—\$33). *Salacious Players' Club Series*. Being the only female owner of the Salacious Players' Club, Maggie Anderson thought her life was hard. But as the club grew, she felt even more on the outskirts as the only one who didn't have a kink. Or so she thought... When she takes a kink quiz on the club's app and learns that she's a Domme, she realizes that she might not be so vanilla after all. She's a lot more like her colleague, Emerson Grant, than she thought. There's just one problem—she doesn't know how to be a Domme. Or she didn't, until the app matched her with someone willing to learn. But he's too young. Too stubborn. Too good looking. And, to top it off, Emerson's son... Beau Grant is a brat. And Maggie would hate that about him if she didn't love punishing him so much. Yet she's beginning to see that underneath his attitude, Beau is misunderstood and in need of direction. But if it's mercy he's after, he'll have to earn it... She finally knows what she wants, and she's ready to take it.

Five Brothers by **Penelope Douglas** (UK B 19.7x13.0 Paperback—\$25). On the other side of town are five brothers... Macon is the oldest. I've never seen him smile. Army is a single dad with beautiful green eyes. Iron will be in prison soon. Dallas is the one I hate. Trace used to be mine... I need to go home. Away from the swamps and these men. I'll leave tomorrow. Tonight I'll crash on the couch... Everyone is asleep. Except for one. He sees me crying and comes at me from behind. I let him wrap his arms around my body and hold me. His breath is on my neck, his fingers are in my hair, and he doesn't stop there. I don't think it was Trace. Which means it was another brother. I don't know who, but I can't help but want him to hold me again.

The Game Changer by **Lana Ferguson** (UK B 20.0x12.7 Paperback—\$27). When a public breakup becomes a PR nightmare for Ian Chase's hockey team, he hopes to focus on his game, but that seems less likely than a hat trick. With his career and the team's image in jeopardy, Ian is surprised to find a solution through none other than Delilah Baker, his best friend and teammate's sister... Delilah Baker is known as 'the darling of baking' on her local cable show, and being in the public eye is

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense her bread and butter. But with her numbers dwindling and her producers turning up the heat, Delilah offers up the half-baked idea to collaborate with her brother's team to entice the hockey fans of Boston to tune in to her show. Delilah thinks it will be a piece of cake—until the team sends Ian, her brother's best friend and the object of a decade-long crush that she's never quite gotten over... Delilah's and Ian's teams think it's a win-win situation—gaining higher numbers for Delilah's show and casting Ian in a more positive light. And viewers are eating them up like a cupcake, sparking the idea to play up their relationship. The line between what's real and what's for show begins to blur, but one thing's for certain: This PR stunt will either be a game changer—or leave them both totally pucked.

The Love Shack by **Lori Foster** (US 20.3x13.2 Trade Paperback—\$40). *Indiana Summers Series*. When Berkley Carr opened The Love Shack Animal Haven, she thought she'd finally put her past behind her. But sometimes she feels the sting of the scandal from her youth, especially when she keeps crossing paths with her handsome neighbor. So, she keeps her head down and pours all her love into animals... Lawson Salder moved to Cemetery, Indiana, to escape from the grinding poverty of his childhood. He barely knew Berkley from their old neighborhood, but every time he sees her, the pain and shame come crashing back. He knows she's got baggage of her own. They're better off avoiding each other... But that's impossible in a town full of matchmaking busybodies. Then there's the hard-to-ignore attraction they feel every time they see each other. When the universe is conspiring to bring them together, will Berkley and Lawson let past hurts go and embrace the love they deserve?

God of Malice by **Rina Kent** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$46). *Legacy of Gods Series*. I caught the attention of a monster. I didn't ask for it. Didn't even see it coming. But the moment I do, it's too late. Killian Carson is a predator wrapped in sophisticated charm. He's cold-blooded, manipulative, and savage. The worst part is that no one sees his devil side. I do. And that will cost me everything. I run, but the thing about monsters? They always chase.

Broken Vow by **Sophie Lark** (UK B 19.7x12.9 Paperback—\$29). *Brutal Birthright Series*. Riona Griffin is gorgeous, intelligent, and iron-willed, determined to carve her name in the family ledger

Order "Primal Mirror" by Nalini Singh

Order the New Zealand Demy Paperback first edition of PRIMAL MIRROR (Psy Changeling Trinity series #8). Our special price is \$29 (RRP \$37.99) plus shipping while our first shipment stocks last. Get the book with a signed bookplate now! Or, wait until Nalini Singh is available later on in August, and get your book signed and even personalised! Enquiries to Frances at info@chapter.co.nz ☎ 021-635027 📞 09-6232319 Or order online at www.chapter.co.nz/product/nalini-singh-primal-mirror/

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Sun 28 Jul @ 4.15 – OUTLANDER by Julia Quinn (Historical/Time Travel)

Sun 25 Aug @ 4.15 – THINGS WE NEVER GOT OVER by Lucy Score (Contemporary)

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense

without a man at her side. But when she barely survives an unexpected attack on her life, her family hires Raylan Boone as her bodyguard—a rancher, a soldier, and a southern boy with charm to burn... Raylan is pretty sure Riona needs him. She's being hunted by an assassin who never misses his mark. To keep her safe, Raylan will have to stay by her side, day and night, for the foreseeable future. Riona might think that's a fate worse than death, but once they're alone on Raylan's family ranch, the chemistry between them comes to a boil—and everything changes... Raylan knows Riona could learn to love him. But he'll have to keep her alive. This hitman isn't getting his girl without a fight.

For the Love of Summer by **Susan Mallery** (US 20.4x13.5 Trade Paperback—\$40). As the owner of Twisted, Seattle's best salon, Erica knows that the sharpest cuts come from the people we love. She's terrified that she's losing her teen daughter to her 'other' family as Summer grows closer to her stepmum, Allison... All it takes to blow up Allison's happy life is one call. From prison. Her husband, Peter, has been arrested, leaving Allison pregnant, alone with a toddler, with no money for rent or food. So her stepdaughter rushes to the last person Allison wants to ask for help—her husband's battle-axe ex... Erica would do anything for Summer, even take in the woman her daughter loves like a second mum and her adorable son. Can two women who married the same man move beyond their past and rethink what it means to be family?

Crossroads by **Devney Perry** (US 21.6x13.8 Trade Paperback—\$38). *Haven River Ranch Series*. I met West Haven when I was eight years old. He taught me to play poker when I was nine, and we made paper airplanes together when I was eleven. He kissed me when I was sixteen. He was the best part about my summer vacations to Montana. He was the boy who stole my heart. I was twenty-three when life ripped us apart... Years later, I'm breaking my vow and returning to the ranch, not as a guest but its new owner. West might want me gone, but the only way to save his family's legacy is with my help... It's not easy working side by side with those old memories. We're at a crossroads. As long as I don't let myself fall in love with West again, maybe this is our chance to put those ghosts to rest.

Bringing Home Mr Bacon by **Nikki Perry** and **Kirsty Roby** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$22). *NZ Authors*. For years, Tessa's life revolved around her marriage and her children. After her marriage ended she focused on starting her own business, one that involves her love of food. But lately things have been weighing her down. Her marketing skills are dire and she needs to enlist some help. If it results in the chance to have a fling with a sexy photographer, even better. Except, when he turns out to be her children's teacher, things start to get complicated... Eleni is exhausted by life. She's at the end of her tether with work, a sick mother, lazy husband and a high needs child. The only thing that makes her happy is cooking. She feels like she's spiralling out of control and she'd kill for a break. Not literally!... Abigail wants to become a professional athlete, find a boyfriend and get her licence. Oh and lose weight so she looks more like her best friend Maddy. She does NOT want her

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense mother to date Mr Bacon, the media teacher from school... Can they all have their cake and eat it too?

A Novel Love Story by **Ashley Poston** (UK B 19.7x13.0 Paperback—\$24). Eileen Merriweather loves to get lost in a good happily-ever-after. The fictional kind. Because imaginary men don't leave you at the altar. She feels safe in a book. At home. Which might be why she's so set on her annual book club retreat—she needs good friends, cheap wine, and romantic gestures—no matter what... But when her car breaks down on the way, she finds herself stranded in a quaint town that feels like it's right out of a novel... Because it is... This place can't be real, and yet... she's here, in Eloraton, the town of her favorite romance series, where the candy store's honey taffy is sweet, the local bar's burgers are a little burnt, and rain comes in the afternoon. It feels like home. It's perfect—and perfectly frozen, trapped in the late author's last unfinished story... Elsy is sure that's why she must be here: to help bring the town to its storybook ending... Except there is a character in Eloraton that she can't place—a grumpy bookstore owner with mint-green eyes, an irritatingly sexy mouth and impeccable taste in novels. And he does not want her finishing this book... Which is a problem because Elsy is beginning to think the town's happily-ever-after might just be intertwined with her own.

Cheater by **Karen Rose** (US Mass Market Paperback Release—\$26). *San Diego Case Files Series*. Death is not an unfamiliar visitor to Shady Oaks Retirement Village, which provides San Diego with premier elderly support. But when a resident's body is found brutally stabbed and his apartment ransacked, it's clear there's someone deadly in their community. Detective Katherine "Kit" McKittrick soon discovers that Shady Oaks is full of skeleton-riddled closets, and most tenants prefer to keep their doors closed to the SDPD... A volunteer at the facility, Dr. Sam Reeves honors his late grandfather's memory by playing the piano for the residents regularly. So it shouldn't be a surprise when Kit crosses paths with him during her investigation, after she'd avoided the criminal psychologist—and the emotions he evokes—for the last six months... Sam's rapport within the facility proves vital, and the pair find themselves working together again—to Kit's dismay. But she is determined to apprehend the shadow of death lurking around Shady Oaks... and equally determined to ignore the feelings she has for Sam.

Left Behind by **Sharon Sala** (US Mass Market Paperback—\$26). *Jubilee, Kentucky Series*. Jubilee PD Officer Wiley Pope thinks he's ruined things with Linette Elgin. He hasn't seen or heard from the local nurse since their first date went wrong. But when Wiley walks in on a bank robbery with Linette as one of the hostages, his training kicks into gear. A bullet to his armor-protected chest is enough for Linette to forgive Wiley's mistakes... While his love for Linette grows daily, Wiley finds himself in over his head when a murder investigation is linked to Pope Mountain. If that wasn't enough, a woman from Wiley's father's past abandons her daughter at the police station in a money scheme. The minute the woman signs over her parental rights, Wiley and Linette welcome the wary little girl into their family.

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense

Sinners Anonymous by **Somme Sketcher** (Print-on-Demand Paperback—\$35). *Sinners Anonymous Series*. My fiancé's nephew knows every sin I've ever committed. He's about to become the deepest and darkest of them all... My name is Rory Carter and I do bad things. There's a charred soul under this angelic exterior and sometimes, I wonder if my confessions to the Sinners Anonymous hotline will be enough to heal it. Marrying the seventy-something head of the Cosa Nostra to save my father is the only good deed I've ever done. I'm burning under the fake smile, but I was keeping it together... Until my fiancé's nephew turns up to dinner uninvited... Angelo 'Vicious' Visconti. A beautiful monster with cheekbones as sharp as his tongue... They say I shouldn't be scared of him, because nine years ago, he went straight. He's barely a Made Man anymore. But he's the most dangerous Visconti of all. It's not just because his cold sneer makes my pulse flutter. Or the way his drawl trickles down my spine... No. He holds all of my sins in his big, rough hands. And the only sins darker than mine are his own.

Sabotage by **Shantel Tessier** (Print-on-Demand Paperback—\$42). *L.O.R.D.S. Series*. *Colton Raylee* Lexington Adams is my stepsister and the one woman who can make my blood boil. She's vindictive, crazy, and stunning... I hate everything about her except for when she's on her knees begging me to use her as my own personal toy... We've been playing a game of cat and mouse for too long... I've ruined every relationship my little princess has ever had. A sure way that she'll come crawling back to me, begging me for what only I can give her when another man fails her... But I'm tired of watching others get a piece of what is mine. So, I staked my claim, showed the world that she belonged to me, and I'm going to do whatever it takes to make her believe it too... *Raylee* Colton Remington Knox is a man I despise but can't say no to. He's a walking red flag. But I've never claimed to be a smart woman when it comes to men. Why should he be any different? I've always managed to hold my own against him. But this time, he's gone too far. Posting a video of me on my knees for him, for what? To brag? Embarrass me? Colt wants to play a game? I'll do whatever it takes to win. No matter what it costs me... People already think I have no dignity, so why let them down now?

Play Along by **Liz Tomforde** (UK B 19.7x13.0 Paperback—\$27). *Windy City Series*. *Kennedy* I'm the only woman on staff for the Windy City Warriors baseball team, and after years of putting up with a sexist lead doctor, I'm desperate to land my dream job with a new team next year. All I have to do is maintain my professional reputation for my final season in Chicago... But a Las Vegas run-in with the team's shortstop threatens it all, leaving me with a fuzzy memory and a ring on my left hand... Now, not only am I legally bound to the most persistent man I've ever met, but thanks to Isaiah's scheme to save my job, I have to pretend the whole thing was a planned elopement and not a drunken mistake... Isaiah Rhodes is reckless, impulsive, and frustratingly charming. He's also my brand-new husband... They got the saying wrong. What happens in Vegas doesn't always stay in Vegas... sometimes it follows you right back home.. *Isaiah* As the shortstop for Chicago's professional baseball team, I've had my fair share of fun. But that all ended the

Contemporary Romance & Romantic Suspense

day Kennedy Kay became a single woman... I've crushed on the team's trainer for years. I've flirted to no avail, so imagine my surprise when I woke up in Sin City with a ring on my finger and my favourite redhead in my bed... We agree to stay married for one baseball season, just long enough to keep her job safe, but in my mind, I'm using our time together to prove to her I'm husband material... Kennedy might be reluctant to join in on our game, but it's one I refuse to lose... So come on, wife... play along.

Crime & Mystery & Thriller

Winter's Gifts by **Ben Aaronovitch** (UK B 19.7x12.9 Paperback—Novella—\$27). *Rivers of London Series*. When ex-FBI Agent Patrick Henderson calls in an 'X-Ray Sierra India' incident, the operator doesn't understand. He tells them to pass it up the chain till someone does... That person is FBI Special Agent Kimberley Reynolds. Arriving in snowbound Northern Wisconsin, she finds that a tornado has flattened half the town—and there's no sign of Henderson... Things soon go from weird to worse, as neighbours report unsettling sightings, key evidence goes missing, and the snow keeps rising—cutting off the town, with no way in or out. As the clues lead to the coldest of cold cases—a cursed expedition into the frozen wilderness—Reynolds follows a trail from the start of the American nightmare to the horror that lives on today.

Honey Drop Dead by **Laura Childs** (US Mass Market Paperback Release—\$26). *Tea Shop Mysteries Series*. Theodosia Browning's Honey Bee Tea was an elegant affair set in Charleston's new Petigru Park amid newly planted native grasses and a community beekeeping project. But when a phony beekeeper shows up and sprays toxic smoke at the guests, the party erupts in chaos. Worse yet, a shot rings out and Osgood Claxton III, candidate for state legislature, falls to the ground—dead... Holly Burns, the gallery owner who asked Theodosia to cater the tea, is understandably heartbroken. A man is dead, her guests are angry and injured, and the paintings that were on display are left in tatters. When the police don't seem to have a clue, when old-line politicians don't want questions asked, Holly begs Theodosia to run a shadow investigation and help restore her gallery's good name... Between hosting a Wind in the Willows Tea and a Glam Girl Tea, Theodosia questions everyone that had a bone to pick with Claxton. This includes Booker, an angry outsider artist; Lamar Lucket, Claxton's political opponent; and Mignon Merriweather, the dead man's soon-to-be ex-wife. But the investigation becomes a political hot potato following a second murder, the revelation of a messy affair, a chase through a swamp, and a vandalized shop.

Steeped in Secrets by **Lauren Elliott** (US Mass Market Paperback Release—\$26). *Crystals and Curiosities Series*. Flat broke and divorced, intuitive gemologist Shay Myers has changed since leaving her artsy hometown of coastal Bray Harbor sixteen years ago. But when she moves back under strange circumstances, old instincts may be the only key to spilling the tea on a deadly mystery... Even with her life in ruins in New Mexico, Shay feels uneasy about settling into the small seaside town where she grew up on California's Monterey Peninsula and taking over an estate bequeathed to her by Bridget Early, a woman she had barely known. Her heightened senses—an empathic gift she's had since childhood—

Crime, Mystery & Thriller contd

go into overdrive upon touring Crystals & CuriosiTEAS, Bridget's eclectic tea and psychic shop brimming with Irish lore and Celtic symbols. They reach a boiling point when Shay looks up to discover a stranger's body sprawled across the shop's greenhouse roof... With her new business a crime scene and questions brewing over Bridget's so-called accidental death, Shay fears she's also inherited the attention of a killer. The terrifying realization sets her on an impractical investigation for answers aided by her sister, an elusive pure-white German Shepherd, a strikingly handsome pub owner who speaks in a gentle brogue, and a misunderstood young woman with perceptive talents of her own. As Shay struggles to figure out her true purpose in Bray Harbor and the powerful connection she has with the tea shop, she must trust her judgment above all else to identify a ruthless murderer and save herself from becoming victim number three.

A Deceptive Composition by **Anna Lee Huber** (US 20.1x12.9 Trade Paperback—\$40). *Lady Darby Mystery Series*. October 1832. Lady Kiera Darby is enjoying the slower pace of the English countryside. She, her husband Sebastian Gage, and their infant daughter have accompanied her father-in-law, Lord Gage, home so that he can recuperate from the injuries he sustained in a foiled attempt on his life. But as the chill of autumn sweeps across the land, they receive a summons from an unexpected quarter. Lord Gage's estranged uncle—a member of the notorious Roscarrock family—has been murdered, and his family is desperate for answers. Despite Lord Gage's protests, Kiera and Sebastian press on to Cornwall to assist... It isn't long before they discover that almost nothing is as it seems among the Roscarrocks, and they've been lured to their isolated cove under false pretenses. There are whispers of a lost treasure and frightening allusions to a series of murders stretching back decades that touch the lives of the family personally. Kiera and Sebastian are left with no choice but to uncover the truth before the secrets of the past threaten to destroy them all.

A Refiner's Fire by **Donna Leon** (Royal Trade Paperback—\$35). *Commissario Brunetti Mystery Series*. Around one AM on an early spring morning, two teenage gangs are arrested after clashing violently in one of Venice's squares. Commissario Claudia Griffoni, on duty that night, perhaps ill-advisedly walks the last of the boys home because his father, Dario Monforte, failed to pick him up at the Questura. Coincidentally, Guido Brunetti is asked by a wealthy friend of Vice-Questore Patta to vet Monforte for a job, triggering Brunetti's memory that twenty years earlier Monforte had been publicly celebrated as the hero of a bombing of the Italian military compound in Iraq. Yet Monforte had never been awarded a medal either by the Carabinieri, his service branch, or by the Italian government... That seeming contradiction, and the brutal attack on one of Brunetti's colleagues, Enzo Bocchese, by a possible gang member, concentrate Brunetti's attentions. Surprisingly empowered by Patta, supported by Signorina Elettra's research abilities and by his wife, Paola's, empathy, Brunetti, with Griffoni, gradually discovers the hypocrisy in Monforte's past, culminating in a fiery meeting of two gangs and a final opportunity for redemption.

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The Housemaid is Watching by **Freida McFadden** (UK B 19.6x13.0 Paperback—\$25). *The Housemaid Series*. "You must be our new neighbours!" Mrs. Lowell gushes and waves across the picket fence. I clutch my daughter's hand and smile back—but the second Mrs. Lowell sees my husband a strange expression crosses her face. In that moment I make a promise. We finally have a family home. My past is far, far behind us. And I'll do anything to keep it that way... I used to clean other people's houses—now, I can't believe this home is actually mine. The charming kitchen, the quiet cul-de-sac, the huge yard where my kids can play. My husband and I saved for years to give our children the life they deserve... Even though I'm wary of our new neighbour Mrs. Lowell, when she invites us over for dinner, it's our chance to make friends. Her maid opens the door wearing a white apron, her hair in a tight bun. I know exactly what it's like to be in her shoes. But her cold stare gives me chills... The Lowells' maid isn't the only strange thing on our street. I'm sure I see a shadowy figure watching us. My husband leaves the house late at night. And when I meet a woman who lives across the way, her words chill me to the bone—Be careful of your neighbours... Did I make a terrible mistake moving my family here? I thought I'd left my darkest secrets behind. But could this quiet suburban street be the most dangerous place of all?

17 Years Later by **J.P. Pomare** (Royal Trade Paperback—\$35). *NZ Author*. The violent slaughter of the Primrose family while they slept shocked the nation... The family's live-in chef, Bill Kareama, was swiftly charged with murder and brought to justice. But the brutal crime scarred the town of Cambridge forever... Seventeen years later, true-crime podcaster Sloane Abbott tracks down prison psychologist TK Phillips. Once a fierce campaigner for an appeal, TK now lives a quiet life with Bill's case firmly in his past... As Sloane lures a reluctant TK back into the fight, evidence emerges that casts new light on the Primroses—and who might have wanted them dead... While the list of suspects grows, Bill's innocence is far from assured. What will it cost Sloane and TK to uncover the truth?

Nosy Neighbours by **Freya Sampson** (UK B 19.8x 12.9 Paperback—\$27). At Shelley House, the walls have ears, and they're attached to a ragtag duo of busybodies ready to pry, snoop, and annoy their neighbors into solving a crime... Seventy-seven-year-old Dorothy Darling has lived in Shelley House longer than any of the other residents, and if you take their word for it, she's as cantankerous as they come. But Dorothy has her reasons for spying. And none of them require justifying herself to Kat Bennett... Twenty-five-year-old Kat has never known a place where she felt at home, and crumbling Shelley House is no different. Her neighbors find her prickly and unapproachable, but beneath her tough exterior, Kat's plagued by a guilty secret from her past... When their apartments face demolition, sworn enemies Kat and Dorothy agree on one thing: they must save their historic building. When someone plays dirty—and one of the residents is viciously taken down—Dorothy and Kat seek justice. The police close the investigation too soon, leaving it up to the unlikely amateur sleuths—with a playful

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Jack Russell terrier—to restore peace in their community.

The Conditions of Unconditional Love by **Alexander McCall Smith** (Royal Trade Paperback—\$35). *Isabel Dalhousie Series*. It seems as if Isabel Dalhousie's life has fallen into a comfortable and tidy rhythm. Well, as tidy as things can be with two small boys wreaking havoc around the house. But when her husband, Jamie, invites a woman named Dawn—recently embroiled in a contentious affair with a member of Jamie's orchestra—to stay with them, things go awry. Strange noises can be heard from the upper floor, even when Dawn is supposedly at work, and the couple wonders whether something more nefarious may be afoot... If that weren't enough, Professor Robert Lettuce is staging an academic conference and has asked Isabel to publish the conference papers in a special issue of the *Review of Applied Ethics*. But something is suspect about the funding, and it will be up to Isabel to sort it out. As the truth comes to light, Isabel must once more rely on her kindness, deduction and philosophical expertise to navigate these sensitive matters.

A Ruse of Shadows by **Sherry Thomas** (US 20.6x13.7 Trade Paperback—\$40). *Lady Sherlock Series*. Charlotte Holmes' success on the RMS Provence has afforded her a certain measure of time and assurance. Taking advantage of that, she has been busy, plotting to pry the man her sister loves from Moriarty's iron grip... Disruption, however, comes from an unexpected quarter. Lord Bancroft Ashburton, disgraced and imprisoned as a result of Charlotte's prior investigations, nevertheless manages to press Charlotte into service: Underwood, his loyal henchman, is missing and Lord Bancroft wants Charlotte to find Underwood, dead or alive... But then Lord Bancroft himself turns up dead and Charlotte, more than anyone else, meets the trifecta criteria of motive, means, and opportunity. Never mind rescuing anyone else, with the law breathing down her neck, can Charlotte save herself from prosecution for murder?

Can't Spell Treason Without Tea by **Rebecca Thorne** (Royal Trade Paperback—\$35). *LGBTQ+ Tomes & Tea Cozy Fantasies Series*. Reyna and Kianthe dream of opening a friendly book shop together, serving the best tea and cakes. Worn wooden floors, plants on every table, firelight drifting between the rafters—all complemented by love and good company. But Reyna is an elite bodyguard to a vengeful queen, and Kianthe is the most powerful mage in existence. Leaving their lives behind seems... impossible. Yet they flee to Tawney, a town nestled in the icy peaks of dragon country. There, they open the bookstore they'd always wanted. What follows is a tale of mishaps, mysteries, dragons, and a murderous queen throwing the realm's biggest temper tantrum. Through it, these two women will discover what they mean to each other—and their world.

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The Ever King by **L.J. Andrews** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$45). *Broken Kingdom: Ever Seas Series*. For years Erik, the scarred king of the Ever Kingdom, has thought of nothing but vengeance against the man who killed his father and trapped

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him beneath the waves, making him a prisoner in his own realm... Until his enemy's daughter unintentionally breaks the chains on the Ever, and Erik makes her the unwitting pawn in his vicious game of revenge... She's innocent. He's vicious. But he will take back what he lost, no matter the price... Unless she steals his heart first.

Bear Facts by **Jennifer Ashley** (Print-On-Demand Paperback—\$38). *Shifters Unbound Series*. Shane's bad day gets worse when his sanctuary on the mountains is invaded by an un-collared wolf, who thinks attacking him is a great idea. Shane has no intention of getting involved in this lady Lupine's complicated life, but there's something about her that raises his protective instincts to the highest they've ever been... Freya McHugh is in search of her brother, who disappeared from the city where the two of them had been living as human. The trail leads to a mercenary organization, with whom Freya has managed to land a meeting. That is, until a grizzly bear Shifter derails her plans... Shane not only screws up Freya's meeting with the mercenary leader but he spirits her to Shifertown and a house full of bears. To make matters worse, he's stirring Freya's long-dormant mating frenzy. She has things to do and a brother to find, but now Shane is filling the gaping hole in her life she hadn't realized was there... The hunt for Freya's brother takes a sinister turn, which poses grave danger to all Shifters. Shane and Freya must decide where their loyalties lie and face a peril that might destroy them.

A Dawn of Onyx by **Kate Golden** (UK B 19.8x 12.8 Paperback—\$27). *Sacred Stones Series*. Captured by the king of darkness, she was forced to find the light within... Arwen Valondale never expected to be the brave one, offering her life to save her brother's. Now she's been taken prisoner by the most dangerous kingdom on the continent, and made to use her rare magical abilities to heal the soldiers of the vicious Onyx King... Arwen knows better than to face the ancient, wicked woods that surround the castle on her own, which means working with a fellow prisoner might be her only path to freedom. Unfortunately, he's as infuriating as he is cunning—and seems to take twisted pleasure in playing on Arwen's deepest fears... But here in Onyx Kingdom, trust is a luxury she can't afford... To make it out of enemy territory, she'll have to navigate back-stabbing royals, dark magic, and dangerous beasts. But untold power lies inside Arwen, dormant and waiting for a spark. If she can harness it, she just might be able to escape with her life—and hopefully, her heart.

The Black Bird Oracle by **Deborah Harkness** (Royal Trade Paperback—\$35). *All Souls Series*. The first shadows fall on a Friday afternoon when a single, dying raven lands on the pavement in front of Diana Bishop, harbinger of an invitation that reads, 'It's time you came home, Diana'... Diana is a witch and scholar; her husband Matthew Clairmont, a vampire. Their intense love for one another awoke the dark powers within her and dissolved the Covenant between the three species—Witch, Daemon and Vampire—that live alongside humans. Now, the governing Congregation has decided it must test the magical powers of their seven-year-old twins, Pip and Becca. Concerned with their safety,

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Diana decides to forge a different path for her family's future and travels to Ravenswood, the Proctor family home... There, Diana begins a new era, becoming her great aunt Gwyneth's pupil in higher magic. It's time to confront her family's past—and her own, inescapable desire for greater power.

Quicksilver by **Callie Hart** (Print-on-Demand Paperback—\$54). *Fae & Alchemy Series*. Do not touch the sword. Do not turn the key. Do not open the gate... In the land of the unforgiving desert, there isn't much a girl wouldn't do for a glass of water... Twenty-four-year-old Saeris Fane is good at keeping secrets. No one knows about the strange powers she possesses, or the fact that she has been picking pockets and stealing from the Undying Queen's reservoirs for as long as she can remember... But a secret is like a knot... Sooner or later, it is bound to come undone... When Saeris comes face-to-face with Death himself, she inadvertently reopens a gateway between realms and is transported to a land of ice and snow. The Fae have always been the stuff of myth, of legend, of nightmares... but it turns out they're real, and Saeris has landed herself right in the middle of a centuries-long conflict that might just get her killed... The first of her kind to tread the frozen mountains of Yvelia in over a thousand years, Saeris mistakenly binds herself to Kingfisher, a handsome Fae warrior, who has secrets and nefarious agendas of his own. He will use her Alchemist's magic to protect his people, no matter what it costs him... or her... Death has a name... It is Kingfisher of the Ajun Gate... His past is murky... His attitude stinks... And he's the only way Saeris is going to make it home... Be careful of the deals you make, dear child... The devil is in the details...

Gleam by **Raven Kennedy** (UK B 19.8x12.9 Paperback—\$25). *Plated Prisoner Series*. Auren must plan her revenge against one king while trying to resist falling for another... I was told that being confined was to keep the bad out... Until I realized it was about keeping me in... Midas made me forbidden and weak. Little did he know that I would find my voice which sings now... Something has ignited within me. Something dark. Something angry... Then comes King Ravinger... And the last thing I wanted was my heart to break... Can I fall in love when my fate hangs in the balance? One thing is for sure, I won't be caught in a cage again... This time, it'll be me setting the trap.

A Duet with the Siren Duke by **Elise Kova** (UK B 19.8x12.8 Paperback—\$27). *Married to Magic Series*. She sold her soul to a siren and now he's come to collect... Victoria risks everything to leave a dangerous marriage. But when her escape goes awry, she finds herself caught in the strong embrace of a mysterious siren, forced to choose: temporary salvation or immediate death... And so, a cursed deal is struck... Five years later, Victoria is alive—and the world's finest ship captain. But her debt to the siren is due. Taken to the magical and deadly Eversea, Victoria discovers she's the sacrifice upon which all sirens pin their hopes. With this as leverage, she strikes a new bargain: the safety of her family for her life... As the sacrifice for the God of Death, she's meant to give up everything that draws her to the world of the living. Yet all she can think

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about is how this handsome siren's song, and his hands, make her feel very much alive...

Sleep No More by **Sean McGuire** (US Mass Market Paperback Release—\$28). *October Daye Series*. October is very happy with her life as the second daughter of her pureblood parents, Amandine and Simon Torquill. Born to be the changeling handmaid to her beloved sister August, she spends her days working in her family's tower, serving as August's companion, and waiting for the day when her sister sets up a household of her own. Everything is right in October's Faerie. Everything is perfect. Everything is a lie... October has been pulled from her own reality and thrown into a twisted reinterpretation of Faerie where nothing is as it should be and everything has been distorted to support Titania's ideals. Bound by the Summer Queen's magic and thrust into a world turned upside down, October has no way of knowing who she can trust, where she can turn, or even who she really is. As strangers who claim to know her begin to appear and the edges of Titania's paradise begin to unravel, Toby will have to decide whether she can risk everything she knows based on only their stories of another world... But first she'll have to survive this one, as Titania demonstrates why she needed to be banished in the first place—and this time, much more than Toby's own life is at stake.

The Last Graduate by **Naomi Novik** (UK B 19.8x12.9 Paperback—\$25). *Scholomance Series*. The dark school of magic has always done its best to devour its students, but now that El has reached her final year—and somehow won herself a handful of allies along the way—it's suddenly developed a very particular craving... For her... As the savagery of the school ramps up, El is determined that she will not give in; not to the mals, not to fate, and especially not to the Scholomance. But as the spectre of graduation looms—the deadly final ritual that leaves few students alive—if she and her allies are to make it out, El will need to realise that sometimes winning the game means throwing out all the rules.

The Awakening by **Caroline Peckham** and **Susanne Valenti** (Print-on-Demand Paperback—\$46). *Zodiac Academy Series*. I'm a Gemini. Impulsive. Curious. Headstrong. A twin. Heir to a throne I know nothing about. And it turns out, I'm Fae... But of course there's a catch—all I have to do to claim my birth right is prove that I'm the most powerful super-natural in the whole of Solaria. And sure, technically that's true as I'm the daughter of the Savage King. But the bit they didn't put in the brochure was that every single Fae in this Kingdom would claim my throne if they could... The school they've sent me to is both dangerous as sh*t and one helluva party. Vampires bite weaker students in the corridors, the Werewolf pack has orgies in the Wailing Wood at every full moon and don't even get me started on the dark and twisted ways the Sirens use their powers on people's emotions, or how my sinfully tempting Cardinal Magic teacher hosts detentions that leave people needing therapy... Classes are totally interesting if you manage to live through them. And that Gemini star sign I mentioned? It now determines my elemental magic and affects my destiny, so learning astrology is

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essential if I'm going to beat down my classmates—which is actively encouraged by the way... My biggest problem is the drool worthy Dragon shifter who has his eyes on my throne. He and his three psycho friends are determined to make my time here hell... All I've got to do is survive. But fate might have other ideas... Dammit, why couldn't I have gotten a letter to Hogwarts?

Shades of Smoke and Shadows by **Celia Ralk** (Print-on-Demand Paperback—\$36). *Crooked Crowns Series*. When strange marks appear on Clara Afron's body, this is what she fears most. The whispers and prophecies of nightmares and terror... After successfully ignoring the marks for almost a year, Clara is thrown back into a world of uncertainty... The ruthless king takes her into his castle, under his soldiers' wings and has his staff teach her and train her, clothe her and feed her. Keep her safe... But Clara doesn't know who to trust—not with her secrets or her abilities, much less her life. As relationships grow and power builds, secrets are shared, but there are more questions than answers and the illusion of safety is shattered... Clara fights to stay alive but her life quickly becomes a tailspin of beautiful, powerful, welcome darkness.

The Never King by **Nikki St. Crowe** (Print-on-Demand Paperback—\$35). *Vicious Lost Boys Series*. The stories were all wrong—Hook was never the villain... For two centuries, all of the Darling women have disappeared on their 18th birthday. Sometimes they're gone for only a day, some a week or a month. But they always return broken... Now, on the afternoon of my 18th birthday, my mother is running around the house making sure all the windows are barred and the doors locked... But it's pointless... Because when night falls, he comes for me. And this time, the Never King and the Lost Boys aren't willing to let me go.

Rhapsodic by **Laura Thalassa** (UK B 19.8x12.9 Paperback—\$29). *Bargainer Series*. The King of the Night always collects his debts... Callypso Lillis is a siren with a very big problem, one that stretches up her arm and far into her past... For the last seven years she's been collecting a bracelet of black beads up her wrist, magical IOUs for favours she's received. Only death or repayment will fulfill the obligations. Only then will the beads disappear... Everyone knows that if you need a favour, you go to the Bargainer to make it happen. He's a man who can get you anything you want... at a price. And everyone knows that sooner or later he always collects... But for one of his clients, he's never asked for repayment. Not until now. When Callie finds the Bargainer in her room, a grin on his lips and a twinkle in his eye, she knows things are about to change. At first, it's just a chaste kiss—a single bead's worth—and a promise for more... For the Bargainer, it's more than just a matter of rekindling an old romance. Something is happening in the Otherworld. Fae warriors are going missing one by one. Only the women are returned, each in a glass casket, a child clutched to their breast. And then there are the whispers among the slaves, whispers of an evil that's been awoken... If the Bargainer has any hope to save his people, he'll need the help of the siren he spurned long ago. Only, his foe has a taste for exotic creatures, and Callie just happens to be one.

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A Governess's Guide To Passion And Peril by **Manda Collins** (UK B 19.7x12.7 Paperback—\$27). *Lady's Guide Series*. Jane Halliwell once dreamed of a home of her own—but those dreams (and her dowry) died with her father. Now, she works as a governess, preparing her charge for a future no longer within her reach. When her employer is murdered during a house party, however, Jane is forced back into the world of the ton. But stepping in as hostess will require working with the same lord who once broke her heart... Lord Adrian Fielding was too consumed with his job at the Foreign Office to pay Jane much heed, but he always considered her a friend. Which is why he's confounded by her icy demeanor now. More troubling is his desire to melt the tensions between them. But his mentor's murder means he must first find the culprit—and ensure Jane's safety as she manages a house full of foreign dignitaries... Only Jane insists on joining the investigation, and Adrian finds himself seduced by her wit and sparkling eyes. But with a vicious killer circling, will it be too late for their chance at forever?

The Love Remedy by **Elizabeth Everett** (US 20.3x13.4 Trade Paperback—\$33). *Damsels of Discovery Series*. There's only one way to treat true love—with a happily ever after... When Victorian apothecary Lucinda Peterson's recently perfected formula for a salve to treat croup goes missing, she's certain it's the latest in a line of misfortunes at the hands of a rival apothecary. Outraged and fearing financial ruin, Lucy turns to stoic private investigator Jonathan Thorne for help. She just didn't expect her champion to be so... grumpy?... A single father and an agent at Tierney & Co., Thorne accepts missions for a wide variety of employers—from the British government to wronged wives. None have intrigued him so much as the spirited Miss Peterson. As the two work side by side to unmask her scientific saboteur, Lucy slips sweetly under Thorne's battered armor, tempting him to abandon old promises... With no shortage of suspects—from a hostile political group to an erstwhile suitor—Thorne's investigation becomes a threat to all that Lucy holds dear. As the truth unravels around them the cure to their problems is clear: they must face the future together.

Bookshop Cinderella by **Laura Lee Guhrke** (US Mass Market Paperback Release—\$26). *Scandal at the Savoy Series*. Evie Harlow runs a quaint little bookshop in London, which is the biggest adventure an unmarried woman with no prospects could hope for. Until Maximillian Shaw, Duke of Westbourne, saunters into her shop with a proposition: to win a bet with his friends, he'll turn her into the diamond of the season. The duke might be devilishly attractive, but Evie has no intention of accepting his ludicrous offer. When disaster strikes her shop, however, she's left with little choice but to let herself be whisked into his high-society world... Always happy to help a lady in distress, Max thinks he's saving Evie from her dull spinster's life. He'll help her find a husband and congratulate himself on a job well done. But as shy Evie becomes the shining star he always knew she could be, she somehow steals his heart. And when her reputation is threatened, can Max convince her to choose a glittering and aristocratic life with him over the cozy comfort of her bookshop?

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The Ornithologist's Field Guide to Love by **India Holton** (UK B 19.7x13.2 Paperback—\$25). *NZ Author. Love's Academic Series.* Two rival ornithologists. Seeking one dangerous, beautiful bird. Is the hunt of their lives also how they find the love of their lives?... Beth Pickering is on the verge of capturing the rare deathwhistler bird when Professor Devon Lockley swoops in, stealing her bird and her imagination like a villain. Albeit a handsome and charming villain, but that's beside the point. As someone highly educated in the ruthless discipline of ornithology, Beth knows trouble when she sees it, and she is determined to keep her distance from Devon... For his part, Devon has never been more smitten than when he first set eyes on Professor Beth Pickering. She's so pretty, so polite, so capable of bringing down a fiery, deadly bird using only her wits. In other words, an angel. Devon understands he must not get close to her, however, since they're professional rivals... When a competition to become Birder of the Year by capturing an endangered caladrius bird is announced, Beth and Devon are forced to team up to have any chance of winning. Now keeping their distance becomes a question of one bed or two. But they must take the risk, because fowl play is afoot, and they can't trust anyone else—for all may be fair in love and war, but this is ornithology.

The Meriwell Legacy by **Stephanie Laurens** (Print-on-Demand Paperback—\$40). *Casebook of Barnaby Adair Series.* When Lord Meriwell dies at his dining table, Nurse Veronica Haskell suspects foul play and notifies his lordship's doctor, eminent Harley Street specialist Dr. David Sanderson. In turn, compelled by a need to protect Veronica who is at Meriwell Hall as David's behest, David calls on his friends Barnaby and Penelope Adair for assistance... However, as the fateful dinner was the first of a house party being attended by the local MP and his family, the Metropolitan Police commissioners also consider the Adairs' presence desirable, and consequently, Barnaby and Penelope accompany Stokes to Meriwell Hall... There, they discover a gathering of the Meriwell family intended to impress the visiting Busseltons so that George Busselton, local MP, will agree to a marriage between his daughter and Lord Meriwell's eldest nephew, Stephen. But instead of any pleasant sojourn, the company find themselves confined to the hall and grounds while Stokes, Barnaby, and Penelope set about interviewing everyone and establishing facts, alibis, and the movements of those in the house... To our investigators' frustration, while determining the means proves straightforward, and opportunity reduces their suspect list, motive remains elusive, and their list of suspects stays stubbornly long... Then the killer strikes again, but even then, the investigators are left with the same suspects and too many potential reasons for the second death... What did the killer hope to gain? More importantly, will he kill again?... At last, the investigators stumble on a promising clue, yet following it requires sending to London for information, and their frustration builds. As the clock ticks and they doggedly forge on, they uncover more and more facts, yet none allows them to identify which of their prime suspects is the murderer... Will they get the breakthrough they need, one sufficient to exonerate the innocent?... When the

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answer arrives, they discover that the Meriwell family legacies are more far-reaching than anyone realized, and that the crimes involved and the motivation for the murders is far more heinous than anyone imagined.

A Shore Thing by **Joanna Lowell** (US 20.2x13.3 Trade Paperback—\$36). *LGBTQ+.* Former painter and unreformed rake Kit Griffith is forging a new life in Cornwall, choosing freedom over an identity that didn't fit. He knew that leaving his Sisterhood of women artists might mean forfeiting artistic community forever. He didn't realize he would lose his ability to paint altogether. Luckily, he has other talents. Why not devote himself to selling bicycles and trysting with the holidaymakers? ... Enter Muriel Pendrake, the feisty New-York-bound botanist who has come to St. Ives to commission Kit for illustrations of British seaweeds. Kit shouldn't accept Muriel's offer, but he must enlist her help to prove to an all-male cycling club that women can ride as well as men. And she won't agree unless he gives her what she wants. Maybe that's exactly the challenge he needs... As Kit and Muriel spend their days cycling together, their desire begins to burn with the heat of the summer sun. But are they pedaling toward something impossible? The past is bound to catch up to them, and at the season's end, their paths will diverge. With only their hearts as guides, Kit and Muriel must decide if they're willing to race into the unknown for the adventure of a lifetime..

The Highlander's Wild Flame by **Heather McCollum** (US Mass Market Paperback—\$24). *Brotherhood of Solway Moss Series.* Fearsome Highland warrior Rory MacLeod has sacrificed for his clan. But taken as prisoner—in place of his older brother, who's meant to be laird—is more than any man should bear. So when the chance for escape presents itself, Rory risks everything for freedom. But instead of returning to the welcoming warmth of home, Rory steps into a blazing trap... Despite her betrothal to their laird, Lady Sara Macdonald has no love for the MacLeod clan. But when her treacherous father locks the entire MacLeod wedding party into the church and sets fire to it, she cannot stand by and watch the slaughter. Saving them means turning traitor to her clan and becoming an enemy to her own blood... left to the mercy of her greatest enemy... Now her intended husband lies somewhere between life and death, and Sara's only ally is his younger brother: the fierce MacLeod warrior she's forbidden to want. And as hunger blazes to life between Rory and Sara—unbidden and hotter than the fires of Beltane—they quickly find themselves caught between honor and a love that will turn blood against blood.

The Mistress Experience by **Scarlett Peckham** (US Mass Market Paperback—\$26). *Society of Sirens Series.* She's the most infamous harlot in London... and she's up for auction... That's Magdalene is a legend. The nation's most notorious courtesan, she sells herself once a week, for one night only, and never to the same patron twice. Until now. To raise money for the cause of women's rights, she has auctioned herself off for one month as mistress to the highest bidder... But the winner is not who he seems... Lord Alastair Eden is an earl, a radical politician, and a perfectionist in all things—except one. His confidence belies an unexpected secret: he

Historical & Regency Romance continued

doesn't know how to please a woman in bed. He's determined to change that before he marries. And who could be better than the most skilled lover in the country to teach him?... Thais dreams of finding a man who will love her unconditionally, never mind her past and reputation. Eden dreams of finding a perfectly bred young lady to be his wife. But when a steamy month in the countryside breeds a connection both in and out of the bedchamber, the two of them must decide how much can be sacrificed for love—one's dreams, or one's reputation.

The Groom List by **Ella Quinn** (US Mass Market Paperback—\$26). *The Worthington Brides Series*. Intelligent. Kind. Must like children. Passable looks. A man of means. Must make us laugh... For Lady Alice Carpenter, these are some of the "musts" on the checklist for eligible bachelors compiled with her sisters as they husband-hunt among the ton. Yet when she encounters a striking nobleman on her morning ride in Hyde Park, Alice soon tallies another list of first impressions... Shallow. Flirtatious. Without seriousness of purpose. Impossible to avoid... Gifford, the Marquis of St. Albans, must wed in order to wrest his estate from his controlling father. How hard could it be to snag a suitable match? Waltzing with lovely Lady Alice at the Season's whirl of balls and soirees however, defies Giff's expectations: his dance moves are smooth but their small talk is excruciating—he offers up gossip sheet tidbits while she interrogates him on his charitable works—or lack thereof! ... Charming. Amusing. Irresistible... A disastrous idea? ... Alice is willing to entertain the possibility that there is more to the man than meets the eye—though what meets the eye is attractive. But when Giff's true character is tested, she realizes it takes more than a list to reveal the heart of a worthy and honorable gentleman...

Historical & Regency Romance continued

My Rogue to Ruin by **Erica Ridley** (US Mass Market Paperback—\$26). *Wild Wynchesters Series*. Marjorie Wynchester has always let her siblings take the lead when it comes to planning their investigations. But someone in London is trying to pass off counterfeits, and this time she's the only one with the skill needed to find the culprit. Soon, all the evidence leads her straight to Lord Adrian Webb... Adrian is a roguish scoundrel of the first order, but he never meant to get caught up in a forgery scheme. Especially one that's snowballed out of control. Now a blackmailer is out to ruin him, and the most alluring woman he's ever met is trying to put him behind bars... Every time Marjorie thinks she has Adrian figured out, her assumptions turn on their head. He's a heartless scoundrel. A loyal brother. A smooth liar. A good kisser. Er...wait... Is winning her affections just one more attempt to avoid the law? Or is it possible he's not such a rogue after all?

To Swoon and to Spar by **Martha Waters** (UK B 19.6x12.9 Paperback—\$29). *Regency Vows Series*. Viscount Penvale has been working for years to buy back his ancestral home, Trethwick Abbey, from his estranged uncle. And so he's thrilled when his uncle announces that he is ready to sell but with one major caveat—Penvale must marry his uncle's ward, Jane Spencer... When the two meet in London, neither is terribly impressed. Penvale finds Jane headstrong and sharp-tongued. Jane finds him cold and aloof. Nevertheless, they agree to a marriage in name only and return to the estate. There, Jane enlists her housekeeper for a scheme: to stage a haunting so that Penvale will return to London, leaving her to do as she pleases at Trethwick Abbey. But Penvale is not as easily scared as his uncle and as their time together increases, Jane realizes that she might not mind her husband's company all that much.

Books Available Soon

Top Books Sep/Oct		Top Books Nov/Dec	
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Candace Camp	A Scandal at Stonecliffe	Penn Cole	Glow of the Everflame*
Penn Cole	Spark of the Everflame*	Ana Huang	The Striker*
Hannah Grace	Daydream*	Stephanie Laurens	Dead Beside the Thames*
Meghan Quinn	Bridesmaid for Hire*	Shelly Laurenston	To Kill a Badger*
J.D. Robb	Passions in Death*	Kerri Maniscalco	Throne of Secrets*
Katee Robert	Dark Restraint*	Meghan Quinn	Bridesmaid Undercover*
Cecy Robson	Bloodguard*	Nora Roberts	The Mirror*
Lynsay Sands	The Highlander's Return	Lyla Sage	Lost and Lassoed*
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