
Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons

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Verdict of Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons

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VERDICT

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Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons *Fawcett Books*

From the initial formation of The Freesia Court Book Club and over the course of the next thirty years, five women in small-town Minnesota share the events, triumphs, tragedies, hardships, joys, and sorrows of their lives, in a heartwarming story of friendship. By the author of Patty Jane's House of Curl. Reprint.

Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons *Turtleback Books*

From the initial formation of The Freesia Court Book Club and

over the course of the next thirty years, five women in small-town Minnesota share the events, triumphs, tragedies, hardships, joys, and sorrows of their lives.

Patty Jane's House of Curl *Ivy Books*

A whimsical novel with strong but emotive female characters in the tradition of Fried Green Tomatoes features a pair of sisters in Minnesota, including an abandoned mother, who open a cozy beauty salon. Reprint.

The View from Mount Joy

A Novel *Ballantine Books*

The View from Mount Joy, Lorna Landvik's delightfully quirky and intensely moving new novel, is about a man, a supermarket, the roads not taken, and the great, unexpected pleasures found in living a good life. When hunky teenage hockey player Joe Andreson and his widowed mother move to Minneapolis, Joe falls under the seductive spell of Kristi Casey, Ole Bull High's libidinous head cheerleader, the kind of girl a guy can't say no to, even when saying yes guarantees trouble. Joe balances Kristi's lustful manipulation with the down-to-earth companionship of his smart, platonic girlfriend, Darva. But it is Kristi who will prove to be a temptation (and torment) throughout Joe's life. Years later, having once dreamed of a career in pro hockey or as a globetrotting journalist, Joe can't believe that life has deposited him in the aisles of Haugland Foods. But he soon learns that being a grocer is like being the mayor of a small town: His constituents confide astonishing things and always appreciate

the value of a hard-to-pass-up special, a free toy for a well-behaved youngster, a pie for the best rendition of "Alfie," or simply Joe's generous dispensing of the milk of human kindness. For Joe, everyday life is its own roller-coaster ride, and all he wants to do is hold on tight. The path Kristi has charged down, on the other hand, is as wild as Joe's is tame—or at least that's how it appears to the outside world. But who has really risked more? Who has lived more? And who is truly happy? As Joe discovers—in this dramatic, heartbreaking, and hilarious novel—sometimes people are lucky enough to be standing in the one place where the view of the world is breathtaking, if only they'll open their eyes to all there is to see. The View from Mount Joy is truly glorious: a warm, wonderful picture of life as seen from the deepest places in the heart.

Oh My Stars

A Novel *Ballantine Books*

I am convinced that at birth the cake is already baked. Nurture is the nuts or frosting, but if you're a spice cake, you're a spice cake, and nothing is going to change you into an angel food. Tall, slender Violet Mathers is growing up in the Great Depression, which could just as well define her state of mind. Abandoned by her mother as a child, mistreated by her father, and teased by her schoolmates ("Hey, Olive Oyl, where's Popeye?"), the lonely girl finds solace in artistic pursuits. Only when she's hired by the town's sole feminist to work the night shift in the local thread factory does Violet come into her name, and bloom. Accepted by her co-workers, the teenager enters the happiest phase of her

life, until a terrible accident causes her to retreat once again into her lonely shell. Realizing that she has only one clear choice, Violet boards a bus heading west to California. But when the bus crashes in North Dakota, it seems that Fate is having another cruel laugh at Violet's expense. This time though, Violet laughs back. She and her fellow passengers are rescued by two men: Austin Sykes, whom Violet is certain is the blackest man to ever set foot on the North Dakota prairie, and Kjel Hedstrom, who inspires feelings Violet never before has felt. Kjel and Austin are musicians whose sound is like no other, and with pluck, verve, and wit, Violet becomes part of their quest to make a new kind of music together. *Oh My Stars* is Lorna Landvik's most ambitious novel yet, with a cast of characters whose travails and triumphs you'll long remember. It is a tale of love and hope, bigotry and betrayal, loss and discovery—as Violet, who's always considered herself a minor character in her own life story, emerges as a heroine you'll laugh with, cry with, and, most important, cheer for all the way.

Chronicles of a Radical Hag (with Recipes)

A Novel *U of Minnesota Press*

A bittersweet, seriously funny novel of a life, a small town, and a key to our troubled times traced through a newspaper columnist's half-century of taking in, and taking on, the world. The curmudgeon who wrote the column "Ramblin's by Walt" in the Granite Creek Gazette dismissed his successor as "puking on paper." But when Haze Evans first appeared in the small-town newspaper, she earned fans by writing a story about her bachelor

uncle who brought a Queen of the Rodeo to Thanksgiving dinner. Now, fifty years later, when the beloved columnist suffers a massive stroke and falls into a coma, publisher Susan McGrath fills the void (temporarily, she hopes) with Haze's past columns, along with the occasional reprinted responses from readers. Most letters were favorable, although Haze did have her trolls; one Joseph Snell in particular dubbed her "liberal" ideas the "chronicles of a radical hag." Never censoring herself, Haze chose to mollify her critics with homey recipes—recognizing, in her constantly practical approach to the world and her community, that buttery Almond Crescents will certainly "melt away any misdirected anger." Framed by news stories of half a century and annotated with the town's chorus of voices, Haze's story unfolds, as do those of others touched by the Granite Creek Gazette, including Susan, struggling with her troubled marriage, and her teenage son Sam, who—much to his surprise—enjoys his summer job reading the paper archives and discovers secrets that have been locked in the files for decades, along with sad and surprising truths about Haze's past. With her customary warmth and wit, Lorna Landvik summons a lifetime at once lost and recovered, a complicated past that speaks with knowing eloquence to a confused present. Her topical but timeless *Chronicles of a Radical Hag* reminds us—sometimes with a subtle touch, sometimes with gobsmacking humor—of the power of words and of silence, as well as the wonder of finding in each other what we never even knew we were missing.

Best to Laugh

A Novel *U of Minnesota Press*

No one steps up to life's banquet, holds out her tray, and orders, "Grief, please!" But as a child, Candy Pekkala was served a heaping helping of it. Every buffet line has a dessert section, however, and when a cousin calls with a Hollywood apartment to sublet, it seems as though Candy is finally offered something sweet. It's good-bye to Minnesota and hello to California, where a girl who has always lived by her wits has a real chance of making a living with them. With that, the irrepressible Lorna Landvik launches her latest irresistible character onto the world stage—or at least onto the dimly lit small stage where stand-up comedy gets its start. Herself a comic performer, Landvik taps her own adventurous past and Minnesota roots to conjure Candy's life in this strange new Technicolor home. Her fellow tenants at Peyton Hall include a female bodybuilder, a ruined nightclub impresario, and a well-connected Romanian fortune-teller. There are game show appearances and temp jobs at a record company and an establishment suspiciously like the Playboy Mansion, and of course the alluring but not always welcoming stage of stand-up comedy. As she hones her act, Candy is tested by humiliation, hecklers, and the inherent sexism that insists "chicks aren't funny." Written with the light touch and quiet wisdom that have made her works so popular, this is classic Lorna Landvik—sometimes so funny, you'll cry; sometimes so sad, you might as well laugh; and always impossible to put down.

Welcome to the Great Mysterious**A Novel** *Ballantine Books*

"[A] sweet, funny story . . . as good as Patty Jane's House of Curl."—Minneapolis Star Tribune Megastar of stage, screen, and television, Geneva Jordan now has a command performance in Minnesota, where she agrees to look after her thirteen-year-old nephew, a boy with Down's syndrome, while his parents take a long-overdue vacation. Though Geneva and her sister, Ann, are as different as night and day ("I being night, of course, dark and dramatic"), Geneva remembers she had a family before she had a star on her door. But so accustomed is she to playing the lead, finding herself a supporting actress in someone else's life is strange and unexplored territory. Then the discovery of an old scrapbook that she and her sister created long ago starts her thinking of things beyond fame. For *The Great Mysterious* is a collection of thoughts and feelings dedicated to answering life's big questions—far outside the spotlight's glow. . . .

Your Oasis on Flame Lake *Ballantine Books*

In the sleepy town of White Falls, Minnesota, Cadillac salesman Dick Lindstrom realizes his dream when he opens *Your Oasis on Flame Lake*, a tiny cabaret club in his tastefully furnished basement

Once in a Blue Moon Lodge**A Novel** *U of Minnesota Press*

Set adrift when her mother sells the salon that has been a neighborhood institution for decades, Nora Rolvaag takes a camping trip, intending to do nothing more than roast marshmallows over an open fire and under a starry sky. Two

chance encounters, however, will have enormous consequences, and her getaway turns out to be more of a retreat from her daily life than she ever imagined. But Nora is the do-or-die-trying daughter of Patty Jane, who now must embrace the House of Curl's slogan: "Expect the Unexpected." With her trademark wit and warmth, Lorna Landvik follows Nora and an ever-growing cast of characters between city and wooded retreat, Minnesota and Norway, a past that's secret and a future that's promising, but uncertain. Responding to a mysterious letter with a Norwegian postmark, Nora's grandmother lone travels to her native land to tend to a dying cousin and her husband—two people who played a painful, pivotal role in her past. Nora accompanies her and is surprised by her grandmother's long-ago love story—but even more surprised by the beginning of her own. A book about making new beginnings out of old endings, *Once in a Blue Moon Lodge* invites readers to check in, set down their baggage, and spend time with the kind of people who understand that while they can't control all that life throws at them, they can at least control how they catch it. And as anyone who has stopped in at Patty Jane's House of Curl will tell you: you're in for a rollicking good time with characters whose strengths, foibles, and choices will have you laughing and crying. Hankerings for coffee and gingerbread cookies may also be experienced.

The Bronxville Book Club *iUniverse*

The Bronxville Book Club takes you beyond the manicured lawns of some of the most elegant mansions in Bronxville, an affluent suburb in Westchester that is "endlessly copied but never matched." As club members prepare for their monthly meeting,

you'll meet Kathryn, a divorcée forced to (gasp!) get a job to supplement her substantial alimony payments; Anne, owner of an upscale boutique, Annetiques, whose home renovation is prompting cries of outrage from her neighbors; Giselle, former Vogue model who now designs the lingerie she once modeled; Madison, high-powered investment banker and School Board Trustee; Lizbet, Yale graduate and über volunteer caught up in the college admissions game for her daughter, a senior in the Bronxville High School; and their friends Hillary, Carole, Francesca, Sarah and Chelsea. Eavesdrop on the lively discussion of *I Don't Know How She Does It: The Life of Kate Reddy*, *Working Mother*, and then follow each of the women home at the end of a highly entertaining evening. A must read for every book club!

My Home is Far Away *Steerforth*

My Home is Far Away is the most precisely autobiographical of Powell's fifteen novels. In this family chronicle set in early twentieth century Ohio, young Marcia Willard's family struggles to keep up with the rapidly changing times, and Marcia endures disillusionment, cruelty, and betrayal to forge a survivor's sense of independence. John Updike has compared Powell with Theodore Dreiser, Willa Cather, Sherwood Anderson, "and those other Midwestern writers who felt something epic in the national shift from rural to urban, from provincial sequestration to metropolitan liberation." By 1941, when Powell set to work on *My Home Is Far Away*, she was better known for the smart, boozy, bawdy, hilarious send-ups of Manhattan high and low life. She had begun to attain a reputation for high sophistication and nothing could be less "sophisticated" - in the glittering, all-

knowing, furiously present-tense, big-city manner Powell had perfected – than *My Home Is Far Away*. This was the month of cherries and peaches, of green apples beyond the grape arbor, of little dandelion ghosts in the grass, of sour grass and four-leaf clovers, of still dry heat holding the smell of nasturtiums and dying lilacs. This was the best month of all and the best day. It was not birthday, Easter, Christmas, or picnic, but all these things and something else, something wonderful, something utterly unknown. The two little girls in embroidered white Sunday dresses knew no way to express their secret joy but by whirling each other dizzily over the lawn crying, “We’re moving, we’re moving! We’re moving to London Junction!” *My Home Is Far Away* is one of the very few examples of a book written for adults, with an adult command of the language, that maintains the vantage point of a hungry, serious child throughout. It might be likened to a memoir that has been penned not with the usual tranquility of distance but rather with the sense that everything happening to the characters is happening right now, without any promise of eventual escape, without any assurance that childhood, too, shall pass away. *My Home Is Far Away* had been out of print for sixty years when Steerforth reissued it in 1995. It received immediate widespread acclaim, and was featured on the cover of the New York Times Book Review, where Terry Teachout called it “one of the permanent masterpieces of childhood, comparable with David Copperfield, What Maisie Knew and the early reminiscences of Colette,” and where he proclaimed Powell to be “one of this country’s least recognized great novelists.”

The Tall Pine Polka *Reader's Circle*

When a Hollywood movie crew shows up in Tall Pine, Minnesota, two friends find their relationship tested as one of them lands a major part in the film and both fall for the same man. Reader's Guide included. Reprint. 25,000 first printing.

The Saving Graces

A Novel *Harper Collins*

Meet *The Saving Graces*, Four Of The Best Friends A Woman Can Ever Have. For ten years, Emma, Rudy, Lee, and Isabel have shared a deep affection that has helped them deal with the ebb and flow of expectations and disappointments common to us all. Calling themselves the *Saving Graces*, the quartet is united by understanding, honesty, and acceptance—a connection that has grown stronger as the years go by . . . Though these sisters of the heart and soul have seen it all, talked through it all, Emma, Rudy, Lee, and Isabel will not be prepared for a crisis of astounding proportions that will put their love and courage to the ultimate test.

Mayor of the Universe

A Novel *U of Minnesota Press*

A mild-mannered actuary, Fletcher Weschel lives at the crossroads of Bland and Humdrum—or so he thinks until a cosmic contest catapults him into the fantasy world he made up as a boy. Suddenly his childhood bedroom is aswarm with aliens, all bent on discovering the human who best personifies their mission—in this case, the deeply serious pursuit of fun. Ejected

from the boring comfort of his office chair, Fletcher finds himself astride the bare back of a horse, in front of a safe (that he happens to be cracking), and then . . . in the cabin of a weight-loss camp for kids? Apparently adventures come in all shapes and sizes, and it's up to Fletcher to make the most of these, conducted by his alien guide, Tandala, who takes on the corporeal form of a big-boned Jamaican and tends to get distracted by Earth's many surprising pleasures (garlic! libraries! love!). But even fantasies can have consequences, and as Fletcher struggles through them, he is cheered and assisted by Wanda Plum, a plucky second-grade teacher who helps him realize what his ultimate role really is on this highly mysterious, infinitely marvelous pale-blue dot in a vast universe. Though its cast includes aliens, this charmed and charming book is quintessential Lorna Landvik—less about outer space than about the crowded, complex inner space of the human heart.

100 Common Misconceptions about Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons *Lennex*

In this book, we have hand-picked the most sophisticated, unanticipated, absorbing (if not at times crackpot!), original and musing book reviews of "Angry Housewives Eating Bon Bons." Don't say we didn't warn you: these reviews are known to shock with their unconventionality or intimacy. Some may be startled by their biting sincerity; others may be spellbound by their unbridled flights of fantasy. Don't buy this book if: 1. You don't have nerves of steel. 2. You expect to get pregnant in the next five minutes. 3. You've heard it all.

The Bright Side Of Disaster *Random House Digital, Inc.*

Struggling to deal with an advanced pregnancy and a fiancé who abandons her hours before she goes into labor, Jenny Harris finds herself coping with the joys and challenges of single motherhood, a handsome and helpful neighbor, and her fiancé's return, as she confronts a choice between the old life she thought she wanted and the new opportunities of the present. A first novel. Reprint. 30,000 first printing.

The Children's Home

A Novel *Simon and Schuster*

In a sprawling estate Morgan Fletcher, the disfigured heir to a fortune of mysterious origins, spends his days in quiet study, avoiding his reflection in mirrors and the lake at the end of his garden. Two children, Moira and David, appear, and Morgan gives them free reign of the mansion he shares with his housekeeper Engel. Then more children begin to show up. They make bizarre discoveries in the mansion attics, and seem to disappear into the hidden rooms of the estate-- and perhaps into the hidden corners of Morgan's mind.

The Secret Lives of the Kudzu Debutantes

A Novel *Ballantine Books*

Cotillion: A formal gathering of bright young women on the verge of entering adulthood, the society pages, and prospective high-tax-bracket marriages. Think a Civil War reenactment with crisp, clean white dresses. Catfight: An impromptu gathering of not-so-

young women on the verge of losing their cool. Think a cotillion with hair-pulling. It's been more than a year since the Kudzu Debutantes exacted sweet, merciless revenge on their cheating husbands, but the repercussions are still palpable throughout Ithaca, Georgia: Nita is anxiously preparing herself for marriage to Jimmy Lee, a man thirteen years her junior; Lavonne, despite having dropped her husband—and eighty pounds—and launched her own business, longs for love; and while Eadie remains married to Trevor, she feels more neglected than ever. So the occasion of Nita's second wedding seems like just the ticket to cheer up the disconsolate Debs. But they've made a formidable enemy in Virginia Broadwell, first lady of Ithaca and the bride's ex-mother-in-law. Hell-bent on vengeance and determined to restore old-school social mores, Virginia hatches a plan so devious it makes her pedicured toes curl in anticipation. Soon enough, the women are knocked for a loop—but you can keep a Kudzu Debutante down for only so long. The one thing stronger than Virginia's wrath is the bond between the three friends, who soon learn that one of Virginia's Jimmy Choos contains an irresistible Achilles' heel. With spirit, wit, and down-home gumption, the take-no-prisoners trio decides it's time to ditch their cotillion manners as they rally to save Nita's marriage, Lavonne's business, Eadie's sanity . . . and the honor of Kudzu Debs the world over. Packed with authentic Southern flavor and characters as colorful as an azalea in full bloom, *The Secret Lives of the Kudzu Debutantes* serves up stinging one-liners and earthy wisdom in equal measure.

Beautiful Day

A Novel *Reagan Arthur Books*

The Carmichaels and the Grahams have gathered on Nantucket for a wedding. Plans are being made according to the wishes of the bride's late mother, who left behind *The Notebook*: specific instructions for every detail of her youngest daughter's future nuptials. Everything should be falling into place for the beautiful event—but in reality, things are far from perfect. While the couple-to-be are quite happy, their loved ones find their own lives crumbling. In the days leading up to the wedding, love will be questioned, scandals will arise, and hearts will be broken and healed. Elin Hilderbrand takes readers on a touching journey in *BEAUTIFUL DAY*—into the heart of marriage, what it means to be faithful, and how we choose to honor our commitments.

After Francesco

A Haunting Must-Read Perfect for Book Clubs *A John Scognamiglio Book*

"Like Rebecca Makkai's *The Great Believers*, author-activist Malloy's newest novel is a heartrending portrayal of the realities of healing." —Oprah Daily, Best LGBTQ Books of 2021 Acclaimed author Brian Malloy brings insight, humor, and the authenticity of his own experiences as a member of the AIDS generation to this universal story of love and loss set in New York City and Minneapolis at the peak of the AIDS crisis. Published on the 40th anniversary of the disease's first reported cases, *After Francesco* is both a tribute to a generation lost to the pandemic as well as a powerful and universal exploration of heartbreak, recovery and how love can defy grief. The year is 1988 and 28-year-old Kevin

Doyle is bone-tired of attending funerals. It's been two years since his partner Francesco died from AIDS, an epidemic ravaging New York City and going largely ignored by the government, leaving those effected to suffer in silence, feeling unjustifiable shame and guilt on top of their loss. Some people might insist that Francesco and the other friends he's lost to the disease are in a better place, but Kevin definitely isn't. Half-alive, he spends his days at a mind-numbing job and nights with the ghost of Francesco, drunk and drowning in memories of a man who was too young to die. When Kevin hits an all-time low, he realizes it's time to move back home to Minnesota and figure out how to start living again—without Francesco. With the help of a surviving partners support group and friends both old and new, Kevin slowly starts to do just that. But an unthinkable family betrayal, and the news that his best friend is fighting for his life in New York, will force a reckoning and a defining choice. "This novel is fresh, well-observed, often funny, sometimes angry, and always real. I can't think of another novel about the AIDS years that captures that difficult, messy, intense age more accurately or movingly." —Christopher Bram, author of *Eminent Outlaws: The Gay Writers Who Changed America* "In this highly recommended novel, the pain and rage felt by Kevin and those in the trenches with him is palpable and uncomfortable and real. So too is the love and warmth of spirit they manage to nurture in order to survive." —Library Journal(Starred Review)

'Tis The Season!

A Novel *Ballantine Books*

Bestselling author Lorna Landvik shines in this delightful holiday novel of redemption and forgiveness. Heiress Caroline Dixon has managed to alienate nearly everyone with her alcohol-fueled antics, which have also provided near-constant fodder for the poison-pen tabloids and their gossip-hungry readers. But like so many girls-behaving-badly, the twenty-six-year-old socialite gets her comeuppance, followed by a newfound attempt to live a saner existence, or at least one more firmly rooted in the real world. As Caro tentatively begins atoning for past misdeeds, she reaches out to two wonderful people who years ago brought meaning to her life: her former nanny, Astrid Brevald, now living in Norway and Arizona dude ranch owner, Cyril Dale. While Astrid fondly remembers Caro as a special, sweet little girl left in her charge, Cyril recalls how he and his late wife were quite taken with the quick-witted teenager Caro had become when she spent a difficult period in her life at the ranch as her father was dying. In a series of e-mail exchanges, Caro reveals the depth of her pain and the lengths she went to hide it. In turn, Astrid and Cyril share their own stories of challenging times and offer the unconditional support this young woman has never known. The correspondence leads to the promise of a reunion, just in time for Christmas. But the holiday brings unexpected revelations that change the way everyone sees themselves and one another. At once heartfelt and witty, 'Tis the Season bears good tidings of great joy about the human condition—that down and out doesn't mean over and done, that the things we need most are closer than we know, and that the true measure of one's worth rests in the boundless depths of the soul.

Thursdays At Eight *HarperCollins Australia*

Thursday, 8:00 a.m. Mocha Moments Café, Breakfast Club! These words appear in the calendars of four women. Four very different women. Every week they meet for breakfast – and to talk, to share the truths they've discovered about their lives. To tell their stories, recount their sorrows and their joys. To offer each other encouragement and unstinting support. Claire has just been through a devastating and unexpected divorce. She's driven by anger and revenge until she learns something about her ex-husband that forces her to question her own actions. Forces her to look deep inside for the forgiveness and compassion she's rejected – and for the person she used to be. Elizabeth is widowed, in her late fifties, a successful professional – a woman who's determined not to waste another second of her life. And if that life should include romantic possibilities – well, why not? Karen is in her twenties, and she believes those should be the years for taking risks, testing your dreams. Her dream is to be an actor. So what if her parents think she should be more like her sister, the very respectable Victoria? Julia is turning forty this year. Her husband's career is established, her kids are finally in their teens and she's just started her own business. Everything's going according to schedule – until she gets pregnant! That's not in the plan. A time for emotional sustenance. A time to think about lives lived, choices made. A time for friends

Good Night, Mr. Wodehouse**A Novel** *Milkweed Editions*

“More than forty years of history bookend a lifelong love affair

with reading for the resilient heroine of [this] novel set in Harvester, Minnesota.” —Kirkus Reviews A Wall Street Journal Top 10 Book of the Year When Nell Stillman's boorish husband dies soon after they move to the small town of Harvester, Minnesota, Nell is alone, penniless yet responsible for her beloved baby boy, Hillyard. Not an easy fate in small-town America at the beginning of the twentieth century. In the face of nearly insurmountable odds, Nell finds strength in lasting friendships and in the rich inner life awakened by the novels she reads. She falls in love with John Flynn, a charming congressman who becomes a father figure for Hillyard. She teaches at the local school and volunteers at the public library, where she meets Stella Wheeler and her charismatic daughter Sally. She becomes a friend and confidant to many of the girls in town, including Arlene and Lark Erhardt. And no matter how difficult her day, Nell ends each evening with a beloved book, in this novel that celebrates the strength and resourcefulness of independent women, the importance of community, and the transformative power of reading. “Sullivan describes small-town life through the eyes of an intelligent, generous narrator who fights off gossip, pettiness and tragedy with compassion, perseverance and forgiveness. Who wouldn't want to spend a late-summer afternoon or two in the company of such a person?” —Minneapolis Star-Tribune “Her novels are a reliably inviting world, full of friendly faces and intimate dramas. However you first make your way to Harvester, you'll want to return.” —The Wall Street Journal “[An] inspiring novel, which should find its way onto the reading lists of book clubs.” —Publishers Weekly

Table for Seven

A Novel *Bantam*

A warm and witty novel about friendship, fine dining, and learning that life doesn't always turn out quite how we expect it to—perfect for fans of Barbara O'Neal and Nancy Thayer On New Year's Eve, Fran and Will Parrish host a dinner party, serving their friends a gourmet feast. The night is such a success that the group decides to form a monthly dinner party club. But what starts as an excuse to enjoy the company of fellow foodies ends up having lasting repercussions on each member of the Table for Seven Dinner Party Club. Fran and Will face the possibility that their comfortable marriage may not be as infallible as they once thought. Audrey has to figure out how to move on and start a new life after the untimely death of her young husband. Perfectionist Jaime suspects that her husband, Mark, might be having an affair. Coop, a flirtatious bachelor who never commits to a third date, is blindsided when he falls in love for the first time. Leland, a widower, is a wise counselor and firm believer that bacon makes everything taste better. Over the course of a year, against a backdrop of mouthwatering meals, relationships are forged, marriages are tested, and the members of the Table for Seven Dinner Party Club find their lives forever changed. Praise for *Table for Seven* "A fun and delectable journey of love, friendship and delicious food."—RT Book Reviews "[Whitney] Gaskell's engaging novel is a high-wire artist's performance as she spins a highly entertaining tale of a monthly dinner party."—Booklist "[Table for Seven] invites readers to monthly dinner parties featuring mouthwatering menus and a group of

guests dealing not so well with various relationship issues. . . . Gaskell has mastered the art of putting the fun in dysfunctional."—Kirkus Reviews

All We Ever Wanted Was Everything *Random House*

Janice Miller knows this: she loves her husband, her two spirited daughters and the beautiful home in which she has raised her family. But what she doesn't know is how to stay afloat when a devastating discovery tears that familiar world apart. It is only once the damage has been done that she finally realises how distant her daughters have become - and that schoolgirl Lizzie and 28-year-old Margaret now have dark secrets of their own. After years of following separate lives, they are reluctantly drawn back together under the same roof. It's the outside world that has unravelled their dreams, but what they all fear most now is each other. Yet it's there, in the family home, that they are forced to confront their crises - and where, slowly, each of them begins to heal.

The Persian Pickle Club *St. Martin's Griffin*

In her magical, memorable novel, Sandra Dallas explores the ties of loyalty and friendship that unite the women in a quilting circle in Depression-era Kansas. It is the 1930s, and hard times have hit Harveyville, Kansas, where the crops are burning up, and there's not a job to be found. For Queenie Bean, a young farm wife, a highlight of each week is the gathering of the Persian Pickle Club, a group of local ladies dedicated to improving their minds, exchanging gossip, and putting their quilting skills to good use. When a new member of the club stirs up a dark secret, the

women must band together to support and protect one another.

Responding to Student Trauma

A Toolkit for Schools in Times of Crisis *Free Spirit Publishing*

Immediately effective trauma-response framework for educators to help students during and after crises. Responding to Student Trauma is an urgent addition to current trauma response practices. Written by a middle school counselor, this easy-to-follow book provides a framework for understanding and responding to the needs of students experiencing trauma. With many schools lacking adequate staff for supporting student mental health, this guide gives educators the information and strategies they need to address the specific needs of their students. Packed with strategies to use immediately, Responding to Student Trauma categorizes trauma according to the source: self/home, school, community, and country/world. It directly addresses how to respond to crises currently facing students and educators and includes tips for planning ahead to be ready for the next crisis. The versatile structure allows Responding to Student Trauma to be used as a standalone resource, as a supplement to existing programs, or as a trauma response framework to create a schoolwide program. Having clear and comprehensive programs for times of crisis and students who are struggling with traumatic experiences allows staff to support student mental health and helps reduce staff anxiety and uncertainty about unexpected incidents. Digital content includes a reproducible school-planning worksheet, teacher quick-guide worksheet, and action items checklist to ensure the entire staff is

trained and feels prepared to respond quickly to situations. A free downloadable PLC/Book Study Guide available at freespirit.com/PLC.

The Mac + Cheese Cookbook

50 Simple Recipes from Homeroom, America's Favorite Mac and Cheese Restaurant *Ten Speed Press*

A fun and playful cookbook featuring retro, decadent, and kid-friendly mac-and-cheese recipes from the popular Oakland restaurant Homeroom. Macaroni and cheese is one of America's favorite comfort foods, beloved by kids and adults alike. But there's no need to rely on prefab mixes—all you need is a handful of kitchen staples, some tasty cheese, and a little insider advice courtesy of Homeroom restaurant. This perennially popular Oakland, California, eatery—with its entire menu devoted to mac and cheese—now shares its secrets for the best-ever mac recipes that will help you think outside the box! These inventive dishes offer something for everyone: nostalgic homestyle recipes like Tuna Mac, international varieties like Sriracha Mac, decadent delights like Truffle Mac, and even the logic-defying Vegan Mac. You'll also find recipes for quick veggie sides like Brussels Sprouts with Bacon and old-school desserts like frozen Peanut Butter Pie. With a basics section on perfecting mac sauce, choosing the best noodles, and customizing add-ins and toppings, plus an emphasis on quality ingredients and simple techniques, this fun, playful cookbook shows cheese-loving readers how to take this comfort-food staple to creative new heights.

Pieces of Happiness *Anchor*

A novel of five lifelong friends who, in their sixties, decide to live together on a cocoa farm in Fiji, where they not only start a chocolate business but strengthen their friendships and rediscover themselves. "I've planted my feet on Fijian earth and I intend to stay here until the last sunset. Why don't you join me? Leave behind everything that didn't work out!" When Sina, Maya, Ingrid, and Lisbeth each receive a letter in the mail posing the same question, the answer is obvious. Their old high school friend Kat—Kat the adventurer, Kat who spread her wings and took off as soon as they graduated—has extended the invitation of a lifetime: Come live with me on my cocoa farm in Fiji. Come spend the days eating chocolate and gabbing like teenagers once again, free from men, worries, and cold. Come grow old in paradise, together, as sisters. Who could say no? Now in their sixties, the friends have all but resigned themselves to the cards they've been dealt. There's Sina, a single mom with financial woes; gentle Maya who feels the world slipping away from her; Ingrid, the perennial loner; Lisbeth, a woman with a seemingly picture-perfect life; and then Kat, who is recently widowed. As they adjust to their new lives together, the friends are watched over by Ateca, Kat's longtime housekeeper, who oftentimes knows the women better than they know themselves and recognizes them for what they are: like "a necklace made of shells: from the same beach but all of them different." Surrounded by an azure-blue ocean, cocoa trees, and a local culture that is fascinatingly, joyfully alien, the friends find a new purpose in starting a business making chocolate: bittersweet, succulent pieces of happiness. A story of love, hope, and chocolate, **PIECES OF**

HAPPINESS will reaffirm your faith in friendship, second chances, and the importance of indulging one's sweet tooth.

Twelve Long Months *Scholastic Inc.*

From the end of her senior year at Minnesota's Le Seur High School through her first year as a physics major at Columbia University, Molly Swain finds the inner strength and good friends to help her cope with huge challenges, including learning that the boy she loves is gay.

Cheaters *Penguin*

Known as a writer whose stories "balanced romance, scandal, and a considerable amount of heart" (A.V. Club), New York Times bestselling author Eric Jerome Dickey fearlessly explores how bad even good people can sometimes behave in the game of love.... Stephan loves 'em and leaves 'em, just like his dad. Chanté thinks she's found her dream man—until his wife and kids come banging on her door. Jake is a player—left with bad dreams he just can't shake. Darnell is true to his wife...but the temptation's getting tougher every day. Tammy is caught between the man she loves, and the woman he's promised to. And while Karen lectures her friends about fooling around, she may not live up to her own high standards.... This is the world of Eric Jerome Dickey. It's heart-wrenching and hilarious, smart and soulful, and as honest and recognizable as your own—and that of everyone who never loved you back.

Trying Not to Drown

Lucy Miller Brown has seen too many tragedies in her thirty-three

years. Still struggling to survive her veteran husband's death, she works tirelessly to create a good life for her three children and aging grandmother on the farm that has supported their family for multiple generations. With her family thriving and a bumper crop of fruits and vegetables ripening in the fields, Lucy finally feels a satisfying sense of control. But she can't control the weather. Hurricane Florence barrels into the North Carolina coast as a Cat 1, leaving behind normal destruction-nothing Lucy can't handle. But then the storm stalls and dumps over thirty inches of rain in less than three days, causing the rivers to rise to unprecedented levels. Following a harried middle-of-the-night escape to the loft of their tractor shed, Lucy guards her family as she watches the tannin stained water of the Black River swallow up their home and farm and threaten to overtake their refuge. Feeling lost and helpless, Lucy prays for help. The answer to those prayers arrives in the form of a man and his teenage son in a jonboat-strangers Lucy is fearful to trust. But with the water still rising, what other option does she have? Relinquishing much of the independence and control Lucy has fought so hard to achieve, she must make difficult decisions for the survival and future of her family.

The Memoir Club *Macmillan*

Six very different women come together when they enroll in a university extension's memoir class--a class that is soon transformed into the Memoir Club--a transformative encounter in which their efforts to come to terms with their individual pasts helps them create a new present and the promise of a new future.

Last Call

A Novel *Ballantine Books*

Having descended from a long line of indomitable, good-humored Scots, Hayden MacBride sees no reason to take his own death lying down. In fact, he now spends his days crashing funerals for the free food and insight into the Great Beyond. Then he meets Rosamond, a nun playing hooky from the Holy Orders. Hayden is smitten the instant her heavy silver cross smacks him in the face when she leaps up to do the wave at a ball game. Luckily, Rosamond has picked the right person to teach her how to live . . . and to love--because nobody does both better than Hayden MacBride. However, Rosamond's years in the convent have not prepared her for the oddball characters of Hayden's world. There's his ever-fretful, vigilant daughter, Diana, the "Dutchess o' the Sidelong Glance"; his sweet grandson Joey, struggling to break free of his mother's overprotective embrace; Hayden's bagpipe-blowing cronies; the Greyfriars Gang; neighbor Bobbie Anne, a "working girl" full of good advice and tender mercies; and Hank, the sexy architect contemplating the priesthood--a big mistake in Hayden's book. For Hayden thinks that Hank should be married to his daughter and raising Joey. And he has an elaborate plan to make Hank see things his way. . . . In an uproariously funny novel of love, laughter, and one man's final call at the riotous watering hole called life, Laura Pedersen proves that miracles are all around us--when we open our eyes and our hearts to embrace them.

Leaving Eden *Ballantine Books*

“The promise of beauty—the kind of real, personal beauty that can transform a person’s life—arrived in Eden, Virginia, on the fourth Thursday in June.” That’s the day Tallie Brock sees the sign at the Klip-N-Kurl, the beauty parlor where she works part-time, sweeping the floor and refilling shampoo bottles, among other chores. (What she really enjoys is listening to the women chat, gossip, and buzz like a beehive.) The sign in the front window announces GLAMOUR DAY. For twenty dollars, a woman can receive a complete professional makeover—and a glossy nine-by-twelve-inch picture of the result. For Tallie, the glam shot just may be her ticket out of Lovettsville. She dreams of someday going to Hollywood and becoming a Star. Her mother, who was the spitting image of Natalie Wood, used to say “the sky’s the limit.” In fact, her mother once left home to make a movie in Los Angeles. But she returned six months later without whispering a word about it—and tried to pick up her life right where she left off. Tallie noticed something different, though. And her mother’s best friend, Martha Lee, the plainest woman within miles, knew the secret that soon the whole town would discover. At the time, Tallie was just afraid her mother would get antsy and disappear again. She was only half right. But that was four years ago, and now Glamour Day is fast approaching. While jotting down observations in her Rulebook for Living (such as “Women with fat faces shouldn’t wear bangs” and “Beetles signify change”), Tallie finds herself changing in unexpected ways—as she tests the limits of trust, explores her growing attraction to a boy from a family as rich as her imagination, and reaches for the sky like she has never done before. By turns funny and tender, joyous and poignant, bestselling author Anne LeClaire has written a winning,

stylish novel of small-town Southern life— and what it means to be a mother, daughter, best friend, wife, and lover.

Scorpions *Harper Collins*

The Scorpions are a gun-toting Harlem gang, and Jamal Hicks is about to become tragically involved with them in this authentic tale of the sacrifice of innocence and the struggle to steer clear of violence. This Newbery Honor Book will challenge young men to consider their own decisions as they come of age in a complex and often frustrating society. Pushed by a bully to fight and nagged by his principal, Jamal is having a difficult time staying in school. His home life is not much better, with his mother working her fingers to the bone to try to earn the money for an appeal for Jamal’s jailed older brother, Randy. Jamal wants to do the right thing and help earn the money to free his brother by working, but he’s afraid to go against the Scorpions. Jamal eventually pulls free of the gang’s bad influence, but only through the narrowest of escapes. Walter Dean Myers, five-time winner of the Coretta Scott King Award, sensitively explores the loyalty and love between friends faced with hard choices. *Scorpions* is 25 years old, but the issues of poverty and violence make it a timeless powerful read—sadly as relevant as ever.

Housewives at Play

The Wedding Album *Eros Comics*

Is there anything pure and virginal as a bride in white? Not in Rebecca’s world.

Look For Her *Keene and Frohmann*

The memory of Annalise Wood has haunted the town of Lilling near Cambridge for decades. She went missing in 1976 and although her body was later found, the investigation went cold with no one held responsible. The grief and speculation surrounding her disappearance are engrained in the community. Forty years on, another young woman stokes her obsession with Annalise, believing that sharing a name with the dead girl has forged a bond between them. When DNA evidence linked to the Annalise Wood murder comes to light, detectives Keene and Frohmann re-examine the case, picking apart previous

assumptions and finding sinister connections to a recent drowning. With her trademark skill in weaving together multiple perspectives and voices, Emily Winslow paints a complex and compelling portrait of a cold case that is far from dead and buried.

The After Wife *Ballantine Books*

Pouring out her grief to a tree in her backyard following her husband's death, Hannah is astonished when the tree appears to respond, prompting Hannah's discovery that she can communicate with the dead.