



NOVEMBER 12-15  
**ALICE MCDERMOTT**  
*Absolution*

"You have no idea what it was like, for us, the women, I mean, the wives." Set mostly in Saigon in 1963, the novel traces an unlikely friendship between two young Americans whose husbands are stationed in Saigon. One is a shy newlywed whose husband is on loan to navy intelligence. The other is a practiced corporate spouse and mother, a beauty and a bully. They try to "do good" for hospitalized children with baskets of candy and toys. Sixty years later, in letters, there is a look back that is both wistful and judgmental of the altruistic machinations and reflections on their own lives.

Alice McDermott is the author of eight previous novels, including *Charming Billy*, winner of the National Book Award, and *That Night, After Weddings and Wakes*, and *After This*, which were finalists for the Pulitzer Prize.



JANUARY 14-17  
**SAFIYA SINCLAIR**  
*How to Say Babylon: A Memoir*

Filled with colorful imagery that is at times beautiful and inspiring, but at other times brutal and gut-wrenching, this evocative memoir by a debut non-fiction author is poignant, piercing, and touching. Growing up in a Rastafarian household in Jamaica, Safiya Sinclair's life-experiences included the Rastafari religion's toxic patriarchy, domestic abuse, class prejudice, and poverty. Sinclair's mother was her savior, giving her the gift of books and a love of reading and writing. With the help of scholarships, she attended a prestigious Jamaican private school to study poetry and eventually left for college in America.

Safiya Sinclair is an award-winning poet and a debut non-fiction author. *How to Say Babylon* has already won the National Book Circle Critic's Award, finalist for the Kirkus Prize, and finalist for the upcoming Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.



FEBRUARY 11-14  
**MONA SUSAN POWER**  
*A Council of Dolls*

From mid-century Chicago, to the windswept ancestral lands of the Dakota people, to the bleak and brutal Indian boarding schools, *A Council of Dolls* is the story of three generations of women -- Sissy, born 1961; Lillian, born 1925; and Cora, born 1888 -- told in part through the stories of the dolls they carried. A modern masterpiece, *A Council of Dolls* is gorgeous, quietly devastating, and ultimately hopeful, shining a light on the echoing damage wrought by Indian boarding schools, and the historical massacres of Indigenous people. With stunning prose, Mona Susan Power weaves a spell of love and healing that comes alive on the page.

Mona Susan Power is a graduate of Harvard Law School and the Iowa Writers Workshop. She is the winner of the PEN/Hemingway Prize and *A Council of Dolls* was long-listed for the National Book Award.



MARCH 11-14  
**LEAH REDMOND CHANG**  
*Young Queens: Three Renaissance Women and the Price of Power*

In this triple biography, the dynamics of Renaissance Europe are illustrated through the lives and the politically motivated marriages of Catherine de' Medici, Elisabeth de Valois, and Mary, Queen of Scots. Catherine, who married into the French royal family, leveraged her maternal qualities to win the right to govern on behalf of her young sons. Her daughter Elisabeth married Philip II of Spain to seal an unsteady peace between their two countries. Mary's strongest loyalty was to her French relatives—leading her to underestimate a dissatisfied Scottish nobility.

Leah Redmond Chang writes biography and literary non-fiction, with a focus on women's history. She is a former tenured professor of French Literature and Culture at The George Washington University. *Young Queens* was long-listed for the Women's Prize for Non-Fiction.



APRIL 8-11  
**ANGIE KIM**  
*Happiness Falls*

This extraordinary novel is about a biracial Korean-American family whose lives are upended when their beloved father and husband goes missing. What follows is both a ticking-clock investigation into the whereabouts of the father and an emotionally rich portrait of a family whose most personal secrets may be at the heart of his disappearance. Full of shocking twists and fascinating questions of love, language, communication, and family connection, *Happiness Falls* is a mystery, a family drama, and a novel of profound philosophical inquiry.

Angie Kim graduated from Harvard Law School. Her debut novel, *Miracle Creek*, won the Edgar Award. *Happiness Falls*, her second novel, was an instant *New York Times* bestseller and a book club pick for Good Morning America, and Barnes & Noble.