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Everything I Needed to Know About Being a Girl I Learned from
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Stacey Ballis cooks up a delicious broth of a novel about a woman whose perfect life falls apart in spectacular fashion--leaving her with a house to restore, an antique cookbook (but no cooking talent), and one very unhappy schnauzer. For fans of Jen Lancaster, Jennifer Weiner, and Emily Giffin. To an outside observer, Anneke Stroudt is a mess—her shirts are stained, her fingernails stubby, her language colorful. But, despite her flaws, Anneke’s life is close to perfect. She has a beautiful historic house to restore and a loving fiancé who cooks like a dream. Until Anneke’s charmed existence falls apart when she loses both her job and her future husband in one terrible day. In need of a new start, she packs up her disgruntled schnauzer and moves into her half-finished home, where she throws her pent-up frustration—and what little savings she has—into finishing the renovation. But at the first step into the house’s overhaul, Anneke is sidetracked when she discovers a mysterious leather-bound book, long hidden away, filled with tempting recipes and steamy secrets from Gemma Ditmore-Smythe, the cook for the house’s original owners. Slowly, with the help of some delicious food and Emma’s life lessons, Anneke begins to realize that, just like a flawless recipe, she’s been waiting for the right ingredients to cook up a perfect life all along... “With the perfect blend of humor and heart, Ballis’s writing is powerfully honest and genuinely

hilarious.”—Jen Lancaster INCLUDES RECIPES With a little bit of flour and a pinch of love, anything is possible... Rose-Ellen "Zell" Carmichael Roy doesn't cook, but she wears her late husband Nick's camouflage apron every day. That's her widow style. It's been more than a year since Nick's tragic death during a post-Katrina relief mission in New Orleans, but Zell can't bring herself to move on. Then, a postman's error spurs her to enter a baking contest in the hopes of donating the grand prize to the hurricane survivors in Nick's memory. After Zell's first attempt at baking goes embarrassingly awry, she meets Ingrid Knox—her motherless nine-year-old neighbor—and the two forge an unlikely friendship that will alter both their lives forever.

Rachael's top 10 lists of 30-minute meals For more than a decade, Rachael Ray has wowed you with her flavorful dishes on TV. And she has written one incredible collection after collection of delicious 30-minute meals. Her latest cookbook includes her most-requested recipes from fans like you and her family faves. Rachael Ray's Book of 10 is jam-packed with thirty top 10 lists of recipes in all your favorite categories. Leave it to Rachael to make a book that is easy to use and fun, too! There's a chapter on Burgers with 10 Figure-Friendly Faves, 10 of John's Faves, and 10 Gut-Busters. She has lists of Date Night/Fake Outs for you and your special someone, Seafood for a Steal, and Potluck Picks. You will find a list of 10 for whatever you are making for dinner—Family Faves, Great Rollovers, Kids' Picks, and many more. There are even 10 variations on Surf 'n' Turf! Looking to show off? Try Spinach-Stuffed Steaks with Sautéed Cremini Mushrooms. How about a veggie sammie? Rachael includes Grilled Eggplant Roll-Ups and Mushroom Veggie Sloppy Sandwiches. What's great for the grill? Baby Lamb Chops with Artichoke and Tarragon Dip or try a Grilled Flank Steak Sandwich with Blue Cheese Vinaigrette-Dressed Arugula and Pears. Rachael has a recipe for you for every simple dinner, family meal, and special occasion. There are endless ideas here for what to put on the table. 150

simple and scrumptious recipes from Stacy Ballis’s hit novels *Out to Lunch*, *Off the Menu*, *Good Enough to Eat*, and *Recipe for Disaster*, as well as 40 new, never-before-seen recipes! Stacey Ballis is not a professional chef. She is, however, a foodie novelist, meal innovator, family cook, memory maker, and Brussels sprout advocate who believes that delicious meals can be simple, fun, and creative. Her love of all things culinary has made her “foodie fiction” irresistible. Now, all of the best recipes featured in her novels are available in one mouthwatering cookbook, including 40 “lost” recipes that were not included in the original printings. With dishes for every occasion, designed to appeal to both experienced cooks and kitchen newbies, this easily-transportable digital collection will make every meal a happy moment and a special memory. Includes a preview of Stacey’s delectable novel, *Recipe for Disaster*

Praise for Stacy Ballis “Deeply satisfying.”—Jen Lancaster, New York Times bestselling author of *The Tao of Martha* “Dangerously good descriptions of food.”—Sarah Pekkanen, author of *Catching Air* “One delicious bite.”—Amy Hatvany, author of *Safe with Me*

Stacey Ballis was born in Chicago with a full head of hair and a naturally charming disposition. She majored in English Literature and American Studies with a minor in Creative Writing at Brandeis, spent time in a mud hut in Kenya, and got a Masters in Teaching from DePaul University, before spending fifteen years as an educator in Chicago. She then settled back into writing full time, focusing on stories about big girls who are comfortable in their own skin, have great lives, and aren’t dieting or morose about their bodies. She has since authored eight foodie novels, including *Good Enough to Eat*, *Off the Menu*, and *Out to Lunch*. You can run from your problems, but you can’t hide from love in the Scottish seaside town of Gandiegow.... When a video of her calling happily ever after “a foolish fantasy” goes viral, marriage therapist Emma Castle is out of a job—and off to Scotland. The tiny town of Gandiegow is the perfect place to ride out the media storm and to

catch up with her childhood friend Claire. But also in Gandiegow is the one man she hoped never to see again. She's successfully avoided Gabriel MacGregor since Claire and Dominic's wedding, only to find he's now the village doctor—and just as tall, dark, and devilish as ever. Claire and Dominic's blissful marriage, however, is not what it used to be. Soon Emma and Gabriel find themselves taking sides even as the sparks begin to fly between them. Can Emma help her friends—or regain her career—as she struggles with her own happily ever after? After her marriage fails and she loses her home and custody of her children, Barb Barrett moves into Vladimir Nabokov's old house, discovering what could be his last unpublished manuscript and embarking on a journey toward redemption. The last thing Melanie expected to lose when she went on a diet was her husband. Former lawyer Melanie Hoffman lost half her body weight and opened a gourmet take-out café specializing in healthy and delicious food. Then her husband left her—for a woman twice her size. Immediately afterwards, she's blindsided by a financial crisis. Melanie reaches out to a quirky roommate with a ton of baggage and becomes involved in a budding romance with a local documentary filmmaker. In this warm and often laugh-out-loud novel, Melanie discovers that she still has a lot to learn about her friends, her relationships with men, and herself—and that her weight loss was just the beginning of an amazing journey that will transform her life from the inside out... INCLUDES RECIPES A touching and hilarious novel from the fabulous Stacey Ballis about best friends, true love, and the joy of food—for fans of Jen Lancaster, Jennifer Weiner, and Emily Giffin... Jenna has lost her best friend. With Aimee gone so tragically young, Jenna barely knows where to turn. Aimee was the one who always knew what to do—not to mention what to wear. The two built a catering company together and had so much in common—well, except their taste in men. Jenna never understood what the successful, sophisticated Aimee saw in Wayne, with his Star Wars obsession and harebrained business

schemes. And gained her best friend's husband... But Aimee has left a shocking last request: Jenna now has financial custody of the not-so-merry widower. True, Wayne needs someone sensible around to keep him under control, but what was her dear departed friend thinking? The thing is, as she gets to know Wayne better, his latest moneymaking idea actually starts to intrigue her. Her attractive new lawyer boyfriend doesn't approve of it—but then, Wayne doesn't approve of her attractive new lawyer boyfriend. Now Jenna has to figure out what direction her life is going to take next. And she can't help asking herself: What would Aimee do? Chef Michael Smith, Canada's most popular chef, is back with a brand-new cookbook for all his fans! Chef Michael Smith's Kitchen is a fabulous new collection of Michael's all-time favourite recipes that he regularly cooks at home. Simple, easy to make and packed with tips, all you have to do is follow the instructions and you will be making the best version of the recipe that Chef Michael Smith creates consistently in his own kitchen. Chef Michael Smith's Kitchen includes 100 recipes—from Oatmeal Crusted French Toast or Buttermilk Waffles, to Coconut Crusted Chicken or Honey Mustard Barbecue Baked Baby Back Ribs, or a great fish dish like Grilled Tuna Steak or Pan Seared Scallops. Also included are lots of recipes for delicious vegetables, grains, and side dishes like Nutmeg Roast Sweet Potatoes or Sausage Sage Bread Pudding—and, of course, Michael's favourite desserts including his Iron Chef Strawberry Shortcake! After their fifteen-year-old daughter Maddie survives a successful transplant, Olivia is bound to her abusive husband now more than ever, while Maddie re-enters the real world only to find it more complicated. Full of wit and mouth-watering cuisines, Jessica Tom's debut novel offers a clever insider take on the rarefied world of New York City's dining scene in the tradition of *The Devil Wears Prada* meets *Kitchen Confidential*. Food whore (n.) A person who will do anything for food. When Tia Monroe moves to New York City, she plans to put herself on the culinary

map in no time. But after a coveted internship goes up in smoke, Tia's suddenly just another young food lover in the big city. But when Michael Saltz, a legendary New York Times restaurant critic, lets Tia in on a career-ending secret—that he's lost his sense of taste—everything changes. Now he wants Tia to serve as his palate, ghostwriting his reviews. In return he promises her lavish meals, a bottomless cache of designer clothing, and the opportunity of a lifetime. Out of prospects and determined to make it, Tia agrees. Within weeks, Tia's world transforms into one of luxury: four-star dinners, sexy celebrity chefs, and an unlimited expense account at Bergdorf Goodman. Tia loves every minute of it...until she sees her words in print and Michael Saltz taking all the credit. As her secret identity begins to crumble and the veneer of extravagance wears thin, Tia is forced to confront what it means to truly succeed—and how far she's willing to go to get there. The last thing Melanie expected to lose when she went on a diet was her husband. Former lawyer Melanie Hoffman lost half her body weight and opened a gourmet take-out café specializing in healthy and delicious food. Then her husband left her—for a woman twice her size. Immediately afterwards, she's blindsided by a financial crisis. Melanie reaches out to a quirky roommate with a ton of baggage and becomes involved in a budding romance with a local documentary filmmaker. In this warm and often laugh-out-loud novel, Melanie discovers that she still has a lot to learn about her friends, her relationships with men, and herself—and that her weight loss was just the beginning of an amazing journey that will transform her life from the inside out... INCLUDES RECIPES A literary celebration of one of the most important relationships in a straight girl's life—her gay best friend This collection of original essays goes beyond the banter to get to the essence of an intimate relationship like no other. With a foreword by Tales of the City author Armistead Maupin, *Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys* brings together pieces by National Book Award winner Andrew Solomon (*The Noonday Demon*),

novelist Gigi Levangie Grazer (*The Starter Wife*), Barneys New York creative director Simon Doonan (*Nasty*), and many others from all walks of life. In addition to stories of gays and gals bonding over brunch, these essays chronicle love and lust, infatuation and heartbreak, growing up and coming out, and family and children. With genuine warmth, this definitive anthology proves that more durable than diamonds, straight women and gay men are each other's true best friends. From the New York Times bestselling author of *Something Borrowed* comes a novel that shows how someone with a 'perfect life' can lose it all—and then find everything. Darcy Rhone thought she had it all figured out: the more beautiful the girl, the more charmed her life. Never mind substance. Never mind playing by the rules. Never mind karma. But Darcy's neat, perfect world turns upside down when her best friend, Rachel, the plain-Jane "good girl," steals her fiancé, while Darcy finds herself completely alone for the first time in her life...with a baby on the way. Darcy tries to recover, fleeing to her childhood friend living in London and resorting to her tried-and-true methods for getting what she wants. But as she attempts to recreate her glamorous life on a new continent, Darcy finds that her rules no longer apply. It is only then that Darcy can begin her journey toward self-awareness, forgiveness, and motherhood. Emily Giffin's *Something Blue* is a novel about one woman's surprising discoveries about the true meaning of friendship, love, and happily-ever-after. It's a novel for anyone who has ever, even secretly, wondered if the last thing you want is really the one thing you need. A collection of personal essays by popular young adult and women's fiction writers considers the ways in which the books of Judy Blume influenced their emotional, social, and physical developments. From the "sharp, sassy, [and] surprisingly emotional"* author of *In Dog We Trust* comes a novel set in the charming seaside town of Black Dog Bay, Delaware... Cammie Breyer needs a big glass of cabernet—her restaurant failed and

her chef boyfriend left for a hotter kitchen. Just when she thinks she's hit rock bottom, her Aunt Ginger calls with a surprise. She's bought a vineyard—in Delaware. At Ginger's command, Cammie returns to Black Dog Bay, the seaside town where she spent her childhood summers with her aunt and her cousin, Kat. The three women reunite, determined to succeed. There's only one little problem: None of them knows the first thing about wine making. And it turns out, owning a vineyard isn't all wine and roses. It's dirt, sweat, and desperation. Every day brings financial pitfalls, unruly tourists, romantic dilemmas, and second thoughts. But even as they struggle, they cultivate hidden talents and new passions. While the grapes ripen under the summer sun, Cammie discovers that love, like wine, is layered, complex, delicious, and worth waiting for... Mr. Howgego is never late, but when his friend Mrs. Burdle, who is rarely on time, invites him to lunch to prove she can be punctual, their roles are reversed. Nothing scares Tessa King more than the thought she will never have children. It doesn't matter how good her life is, and it is, it never feels good enough. She has four godchildren and dozens of friends, yet love eludes her. She knows how good a mother she could be, if only she had the chance. And then one terrible day she does, and Tessa learns firsthand that life on the other side of that white picket fence is more complicated than she ever could have imagined. Heartwarming, funny, and genuine, *The Godmother* speaks to anyone who has wondered about the next step and reminds us that happily-ever-after is just the beginning of the story. "An enchanting and heartwarming story, *A Magical Christmas* is a perfect gift for the season."—RT Book Reviews

From New York Times and USA Today bestselling author Heather Graham comes a wondrous Christmas romance to be reread and cherished anew each year.... Jon and Julie Radcliff are facing the last Christmas of a marriage in trouble. The love they once shared has been tattered by time and torn apart by divergent goals. Their teenagers, Christie and Jordan, are rebellious, and their youngest

child, six-year-old Ashley, is showing the hurt and confusion of her family's turmoil. Yet somehow the Christmas season must be gotten through, even if it is only for appearance's sake. The perfect place for this is the Oak River Plantation, where the Radcliffs are promised a traditional Christmas. So imagine their surprise when they are met by the quaint couple in charge, Jesse and Clarissa Wainscott, dressed in costumes dating from before the Civil War. Have they somehow entered a place that spans the gulf between past and present? Before Jon and Julie and their children can uncover the secrets surrounding their mysterious but marvelous hosts, they become aware of some profound truths about themselves—and they discover that love lost can be found, making the bond of marriage and family strong enough to survive—even triumph. "Little River, New York, 1994: April Sawicki is living in a run-down motorhome, flunking out of school, and picking up shifts at the local diner. But when April realizes she's finally had enough-enough of her selfish, absent father and barely surviving in an unfeeling town-she decides to make a break for it. Stealing a car and with only her music to keep her company, April hits the road, determined to live life on her own terms. She manages to scrape together a meaningful existence as she travels, encountering people and places she's never dreamed of, and could never imagine deserving. From lifelong friendships to tragic heartbreaks, April chronicles her journey in the beautiful music she creates as she discovers that home is with the people you choose to keep"--Publisher's description. As the executive culinary assistant to celebrity Chicago chef Patrick Conlon, Alana Ostermann works behind the scenes—and that's just the way she likes it. But with developing recipes for Patrick's cookbooks, training his sous chefs, picking out the perfect birthday gifts for his ex-mother-in-law, and dealing with the fallout from his romantic escapades, she barely has a personal life, much less time to spend with her combo platter of a mutt, Dumpling. Then a fluke online connection brings her RJ, a transplant from

Tennessee, who adds some Southern spice to her life. Suddenly Alana's priorities shift, and Patrick—and Dumpling—find themselves facing a rival for her time and affection. With RJ in the mix, and some serious decisions to make about her personal and professional future, Alana must discover the perfect balance of work and play, money and meaning, to bring it all to the table—one delicious dish at a time... INCLUDES RECIPES

What is Cuban cuisine? A delectable intermingling of Spanish, Portuguese, Arabian, Chinese, and African culinary traditions—a true melting pot of all the influences that combine in Cuban culture. Now, Raquel Rabade Roque gives us the definitive book of Cuban cuisine: encyclopedic in its range, but intimate and accessible in tone with more than five hundred recipes for classic, home-style dishes—from black bean soup to pork empanadas, from ropa vieja to black beans and croquetas, from tostones to arroz con pollo, from churros to café con leche—as well as the vividly told stories behind the recipes. Based on the author's family recipes, this is real Cuban cooking presented with today's busy cooks in mind. Whether you are an experienced cook or a novice, a lover of Cuban cuisine or just discovering it, *The Cuban Kitchen* will become an essential part of your kitchen library.

A dare between friends leads to startling revelations and simmering tensions in the latest novel from the author of *Wedding Girl*. Eloise is happy with her life as a successful private chef. She has her clients, her corgi, and a recipe for the world's most perfect chocolate cream pie. What more could she need? But when her long-lost trio of high school friends reunites, Eloise realizes how lonely she really is. Eloise, Lynne, and Teresa revamp their senior-class assignment and dare one another to create a list of things to accomplish by the time they each turn forty in a few months. Control freak Lynne has to get a dog, Teresa has to spice up her marriage, and Eloise has to start dating again. Enter Shawn, a hunky ex-athlete and the first man Eloise could see herself falling for. Suddenly forty doesn't seem so lonely—until a

chance encounter threatens the budding romance and reveals the true colors of her friends. Will the bucket listers make it to forty still speaking to one another? Or do some friendships come with an expiration date? Readers Guide and Recipes Included In this chronicle of the lives of five unique girlfriends, the author of "Inappropriate Men" examines both romantic and platonic relationships, and looks at all the various configurations of what it means to "spend the night" with someone. From the bestselling author of "The Godmother" comes this addictive and wonderfully true-to-life story of jealousy, regret, reconciliation, and love. A city girl finds love in a small Southern town in this "deliciously warm and feel-good" romance by the USA Today bestselling author (Publishers Weekly, starred review). After years of Chicago's hustle and bustle, Riley Brown is savoring her new life on Georgia's tranquil Sugarberry Island. With a dream job as a house stager and fantastic new friends in the Cupcake Club, she's got it all—or almost. While she's still healing from a bad breakup, Riley is starting to crave an eligible man. Then a gig staging a renovated beach house delivers a delicious treat: Quinn Brannigan, a six-foot, blue-eyed writer as delectable and Southern as pecan pie. Quinn is back in his hometown to finish his latest novel, and suddenly Riley has a taste for the bad boy author that no amount of mocha latte buttercream or lemon mousse will satisfy. "Hilarious from start to finish." -Affaire du Coeur Includes irresistible recipes! Jodi and Jill Spingold are the Spinster Sisters... With a radio show, speaking engagements, DVDs, and two bestselling books, they've built a thriving cottage industry helping other single women find happiness. Their futures have never been brighter-until Jill turns out the lights on Jodi by announcing her engagement. Jodi is stunned. How can they be the Spinster Sisters if one of them is married? Complicating things is her own love life, involving three vastly different paramours offering three different kinds of happiness-none of which Jodi is sure she wants. And her ex-husband, backed by his

lawyer girlfriend, may be angling for a piece of the Spinster Sisters empire. Now, Jodi must make some tough decisions, keep the business afloat, and get to the altar to stand by her sister—even if means that from now on she'll be single all by herself. Hannah Sugarman seems to have it all. She works for an influential think tank in Washington, D.C., lives in a swanky apartment with her high-achieving boyfriend, and is poised for an academic career just like her parents. The only problem is that Hannah doesn't want any of it. What she wants is much simpler; to cook. When her relationship collapses, Hannah seizes the chance to do what she's always loved and launches an underground supper club out of her new landlord's town house. Though her delicious dishes become the talk of the town, her secret venture is highly problematic, given that it is not, technically speaking, legal. She also conveniently forgets to tell her landlord she has been using his place while he is out of town. On top of that, Hannah faces various romantic prospects that leave her guessing and confused, parents who don't support cooking as a career, and her own fears of taking a risk and charting her own path. A charming romantic comedy, *The Girls' Guide to Love and Supper Clubs* is a story about finding yourself, fulfilling your dreams, and falling in love along the way. A charming new contemporary romance set in Silverlake, Texas, where love throws old rivals a curveball. . . . Andrew "Ace" Braddock is a player in every sense of the word. The center fielder for the Austin Lone Stars, he's also been at the center of numerous sports scandals involving beer, bars, and baseball bunnies. But when he takes the fall for a teammate, Ace wakes up in the hospital, injured and in serious trouble. He's sent to lie low and recover at his family ranch in Silverlake, Texas, where he's saddled with his worst nightmare: his high school nemesis—a beautiful nurse who refuses to play doctor with him. Mia Adams has no time to fool around. The daughter of Silverlake's high school baseball coach has three jobs and a pile of debt left behind

by her missing ex. The very last thing she wants is to spend her time indulging hometown hero Easy Ace Braddock. If she didn't need the money, she'd have nothing to do with the guy from her past who stole her dad's time, attention, and love away from her before leaving for the major leagues. As Mia does her best to corral the irrepressible Ace, keep a sense of humor, and fight her unwelcome attraction to him, he charms, sidesteps, and outmaneuvers her. Will the onetime enemies find love at home base, right in the town where they grew up? Once happily married, Sidney Stein finds herself drawn into an illicit affair. She soon decides it's time to turn her life around and dives right into the dating pool. But a string of disastrous dates leaves Sidney wondering if it wouldn't just be easier to let herself drown.

Original. Award-winning chef Nancy Silverton has conquered the gourmet world as the original dessert chef at Spago and founder of the celebrated La Brea Bakery. Her recipes are legendary, innovative, and delicious. However, in the last few years, there has been a great shift in cooking toward the Home Meal Replacement (HMR), better known as "takeout." It's impossible to spend hours in the kitchen after a hard day's work, so more people are buying prepared foods and frozen meals, compromising taste for convenience. Realizing that people's hectic workdays don't afford everyone the time to re-create her epicurean triumphs, Nancy has come up with the perfect solution . . . Enter, the jar! Compiling a list of her favorite products that come in jars—and cans, bags, and boxes—Nancy has created easy-to-follow recipes that require less than thirty minutes to prepare. With this book there's no need to sacrifice flavor, sophistication, and taste just because you're spending less time chopping, cleaning, cooking, or baking. Nancy's shortcuts not only allow us to produce quick and easy meals at home, they let us bring back the pride and the joy of creating gourmet meals for our family and friends. *A Twist of the Wrist* contains 137 quick and delicious gourmet recipes from salads to pasta to meats and

desserts, such as: Cumin Shrimp and Chickpea Salad with Roasted Carrots Creamy Corn Soup with Bacon and Cheddar Crostini Orzo with Dried Porcini Mushrooms, Radicchio, and Aged Balsamic Vinegar Boneless Pork Chops, with Creamy Polenta and Fennel Pollen Seared Rare Tuna with Tomato-Olive Salsa Dulce de Leche Ice Cream Pie with Hot Fudge Sauce, Cajeta, and Salty Spanish Peanuts In addition to Nancy's own creations, she includes recipes concocted with prepared ingredients from some of her chef friends, including Sara Foster, Tom Colicchio, Charlie Trotter, Mario Batali, Suzanne Goin, Ruth Reichl, and Jean-Georges Vongerichten. There is also a pantry section, telling us where to get—by the Internet and mail order—the best of all things canned, jarred, and bottled. This charming and utterly indispensable cookbook is suited for any type of cook, whether you're an on-the-go gourmand or you just love flavorful, accessible meals at home. *A Twist of the Wrist* fits perfectly into today's modern lifestyle and is a must-have for the contemporary kitchen. As the executive culinary assistant to celebrity Chicago chef Patrick Conlon, Alana Ostermann works behind the scenes—and that's just the way she likes it. But with developing recipes for Patrick's cookbooks, training his sous chefs, picking out the perfect birthday gifts for his ex-mother-in-law, and dealing with the fallout from his romantic escapades, she barely has a personal life, much less time to spend with her combo platter of a mutt, Dumpling. Then a fluke online connection brings her RJ, a transplant from Tennessee, who adds some Southern spice to her life. Suddenly Alana's priorities shift, and Patrick—and Dumpling—find themselves facing a rival for her time and affection. With RJ in the mix, and some serious decisions to make about her personal and professional future, Alana must discover the perfect balance of work and play, money and meaning, to bring it all to the table—one delicious dish at a time... INCLUDES RECIPES An irresistible, funny, sharply observed debut novel in which two roommates, and two sisters, will learn that sometimes

family--and love—find you in the most unexpected places Hazel and Alfie have just moved in together as roommates. They've also just slept together, which was either a catastrophic mistake or the best decision of their lives--they aren't quite sure yet. Whatever happens, they need to find a way to keep living together without too much drama or awkwardness, since neither of them can afford to move out of the apartment. Then Hazel's sister, Emily, and her wife, Daria, come for a visit, and Hazel's and Alfie's feelings about each other are pushed to the side in the whirlwind of their arrival. Recently returned from abroad, Emily and Daria are excited for a new life in a new town, and ready to start a family of their own. As the lives of Hazel, Alfie, Emily, and Daria collide, a complicated chain of events begins to bind them all together, bringing joy and heartache, hope and anxiety, and reshaping their relationships in ways that no one quite predicted. Warm, clever, and devastatingly relatable, *Not Exactly What I Had in Mind* is by turns funny, heartbreaking, and a painfully true-to-life story about family, friends, and everything in between. At the end of their rope in the City of Light, two women discover the healing magic of friendship in this heartfelt novel from “a master storyteller” (Booklist). To celebrate their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary, Grace planned a surprise getaway in Paris for her and her husband. But now he has a surprise of his own: he wants a divorce. Reeling from the shock but refusing to be broken, Grace makes the bold decision to go to Paris alone. Audrey, a young woman from London, left behind her own heartache when she arrived in Paris. Working in a bookshop seems like her ticket to freedom, but with no money and terrible French, she may wind up spending the summer wandering the cobbled streets alone . . . until she meets Grace, and everything changes. Grace can't believe how daring young Audrey is. Audrey can't believe how cautious newly single Grace is. Living in neighboring apartments, this unlikely pair offer each other just what they've both been missing. They came to Paris to find

themselves, but finding this unbreakable friendship might be the best thing that's ever happened to them . . . "[A] poignant tale of opportunities lost and regained...This emotional romance is an easy choice to throw in the beach bag."—Publishers Weekly USA Today bestselling author Sarah Morgan returns with the ultimate beach read, as one woman forges the most unlikely friendship of all, and embarks on a summer of confronting her past in order to build the future she wants... When Joanna Whitman's famous ex-husband dies in a car accident, she doesn't know what to feel. Their dysfunctional marriage held more painful secrets than she cares to remember. But when she discovers that the young woman with him in the crash is pregnant, Joanna feels compelled to act, knowing exactly how brutal the media spotlight will be on celebrity chef Cliff Whitman's ex-wife and his mysterious female friend. Ashley Blake can't believe it when Joanna shows up in her hospital room and suggests they hide away at her beach house on a sleepy stretch of California coast. Joanna should be hating her, not helping her. But alone and pregnant, Ashley can't turn down Joanna's offer. Yet she knows that if Joanna ever found out the real reason Ashley was in that car, their tentative bond would shatter instantly. Joanna's only goal for the summer is privacy, but her return causes major waves in the local community, especially for the man she left behind years ago. All Ashley wants is space to plan for her and her baby's future, and to avoid causing any trouble for Joanna. But as secrets spill out under the hot summer sun, this unlikely friendship is about to be put to the test. What happens if the only Christmas celebration you want to attend is one you haven't been invited to? Find out in *Snowed in for Christmas*, a hilarious and heartwarming Christmas romance by USA Today bestselling author Sarah Morgan! Stacey Ballis tackles home improvement and reality TV—and reminds us that sometimes life and love are better left unscripted... What do you get when you give two hopeful singles fashion consultants and interior designers, allow them four days to perk up each other's

homes and get a total style overhaul, then let their single friends celebrate the results at a fabulous party? You get *Swap/Meet*, the newest reality show on the network block, where major changes are either embraced or embarrassing—and Lily Allen’s dream job turned nightmare. At first, Lily was thrilled to appear on *Swap/Meet*. What better way for a Chicago interior designer to promote her business and enjoy some pseudo-celebrity? She just didn’t think she’d be doing take after take with the ditzy host, dodging sabotage attempts, and getting caught in the middle of the fashion czars’ lovers’ spat. Plus, the cute, curmudgeonly carpenter on her team knows just how to push her buttons. Episode by episode, through do-it-yourself disasters and matchmaking miracles, Lily discovers that a little bit of controlled chaos is the spice of life—and love... Stacey Ballis cooks up a delicious broth of a novel about a woman whose perfect life falls apart in spectacular fashion—leaving her with a house to restore, an antique cookbook (but no cooking talent), and one very unhappy schnauzer. For fans of Jen Lancaster, Jennifer Weiner, and Emily Giffin. To an outside observer, Anneke Stroudt is a mess—her shirts are stained, her fingernails stubby, her language colorful. But, despite her flaws, Anneke’s life is close to perfect. She has a beautiful historic house to restore and a loving fiancé who cooks like a dream. Until Anneke’s charmed existence falls apart when she loses both her job and her future husband in one terrible day. In need of a new start, she packs up her disgruntled schnauzer and moves into her half-finished home, where she throws her pent-up frustration—and what little savings she has—into finishing the renovation. But at the first step into the house’s overhaul, Anneke is sidetracked when she discovers a mysterious leather-bound book, long hidden away, filled with tempting recipes and steamy secrets from Gemma Ditmore-Smythe, the cook for the house’s original owners. Slowly, with the help of some delicious food and Emma’s life lessons, Anneke begins to realize that, just like a flawless recipe, she’s been

waiting for the right ingredients to cook up a perfect life all along... “With the perfect blend of humor and heart, Ballis’s writing is powerfully honest and genuinely hilarious.”—Jen Lancaster

INCLUDES RECIPES Stacey Ballis tackles home improvement and reality TV—and reminds us that sometimes life and love are better left unscripted... What do you get when you give two hopeful singles fashion consultants and interior designers, allow them four days to perk up each other’s homes and get a total style overhaul, then let their single friends celebrate the results at a fabulous party? You get *Swap/Meet*, the newest reality show on the network block, where major changes are either embraced or embarrassing—and Lily Allen’s dream job turned nightmare. At first, Lily was thrilled to appear on *Swap/Meet*. What better way for a Chicago interior designer to promote her business and enjoy some pseudo-celebrity? She just didn’t think she’d be doing take after take with the ditzy host, dodging sabotage attempts, and getting caught in the middle of the fashion czars’ lovers’ spat. Plus, the cute, curmudgeonly carpenter on her team knows just how to push her buttons. Episode by episode, through do-it-yourself disasters and matchmaking miracles, Lily discovers that a little bit of controlled chaos is the spice of life—and love... Includes recipes and discussion questions.

From author Alicia Bessette comes an all-new mystery series featuring Callie Padget, a former reporter turned bookshop clerk in the Outer Banks who is pulled into a deadly web of secrets when a mysterious fall at a lighthouse echoes a tragedy from her past. When Callie is laid off from her reporting job, she returns to her hometown of Cattail Island and lands a gig at the local bookstore—the same one where she found comfort after her mother died. In fact, the anniversary of her mother’s infamous death is approaching. Years ago, Teri Padget tumbled from the top of the lighthouse. As islanders are once again gossiping about the tragedy, devastating news strikes: the lighthouse has claimed another victim. Eva Meeks, of Meeks

Hardware. The police are calling it suicide, but Callie does not believe Eva jumped any more than she believes her mother did—especially because Callie knows that before her death, Eva had dug up a long-forgotten treasure hunt that could have put a target on Eva’s back. In Callie’s search for answers, she enlists the help of some beloved books and several new friends, including the handsome local martial arts instructor, Toby Dodge. But when another death rocks Cattail Island, Callie must face her fears alone. As she earns enemies in pursuit of the truth, Callie knows she will either uncover the killer or become a victim herself.

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- [Out To Lunch](#)
- [Room For Improvement](#)
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- [How To Change A Life](#)
- [Good Enough To Eat](#)
- [Recipe For Disaster](#)
- [Sleeping Over](#)
- [Girls Who Like Boys Who Like Boys](#)
- [The Spinster Sisters](#)
- [Big Delicious Life](#)
- [Not Exactly What I Had In Mind](#)
- [Wedding Girl](#)
- [Sweet Stuff](#)
- [The Girls Guide To Love And Supper Clubs](#)
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- [Inappropriate Men](#)
- [Hometown Hero](#)
- [Recipe For Disaster](#)
- [One Summer In Paris](#)
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- [The People We Keep](#)
- [Rachael Rays Book Of 1](#)
- [Once Upon A Wine](#)
- [Room For Improvement](#)
- [Beach House Summer](#)
- [A Twist Of The Wrist](#)
- [Food Whore](#)
- [Meet Me In Scotland](#)
- [A Magical Christmas](#)
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