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# Revenge Of The Kudzu Debutantes 1 Cathy Holton

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The Ladies of  
Garrison Gardens  
Ballantine Books  
Atlanta  
magazine ' s  
editorial mission  
is to engage our  
community

through  
provocative  
writing,  
authoritative  
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superlative design  
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issues, the trends, and the events that define our city. The magazine informs, challenges, and entertains our readers each month while helping them make intelligent choices, not only about what they do and where they go, but what they think about matters of importance to the community and the region. Atlanta magazine 's editorial mission is to engage our community through provocative writing, authoritative reporting, and superlative design that illuminate the people, the

issues, the trends, and the events that define our city. The magazine informs, challenges, and entertains our readers each month while helping them make intelligent choices, not only about what they do and where they go, but what they think about matters of importance to the community and the region. *St. James Encyclopedia of Popular Culture* Harper Collins Contains essays that provide information on various elements of popular culture in the United States during the twentieth century, covering the major areas of

film, music, print culture, social life, sports, television and radio, and art and performance. Arranged alphabetically from A-to-D. **Summer in the South** Ballantine Books **BONUS:** This edition contains an excerpt from Sandra Kring's *A Life of Bright Ideas*. Wisconsin, 1961. Evelyn "Button" Peters is nine the summer Winnalee and her fiery-spirited older sister, Freeda, blow into her small town—and from

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the moment she sees them, Button knows this will be a summer unlike any other. Much to her mother's dismay, Button is fascinated by the Malone sisters, especially Winnalee, a feisty scrap of a thing who carries around a shiny silver urn containing her mother's ashes and a tome she calls "The Book of Bright Ideas." It is here, Winnalee tells Button, that she records everything she learns: her answers to the

mysteries of life. But sometimes those mysteries conceal a truth better left buried. And when a devastating secret is suddenly revealed, dividing loyalties and uprooting lives, no one—from Winnalee and her sister to Button and her family—will ever be the same. **Kitchens of the Great Midwest** Ballantine Books "Break out the tissues, sunblock, and

margarita mix as four friends reunite after twenty-three years for a beach party in [this] feast of Southern friendship. . . . [Cathy] Holton refreshes the action with winning humor."—Publishers Weekly Mel, Sara, Annie, and Lola have traveled diverse paths since their years together at

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a small Southern liberal arts college during the early 1980s. Mel, a mystery writer living in New York, is grappling with the aftermath of two failed marriages and a stalled writing career. Sara, an Atlanta attorney, struggles with her own slowly unraveling marriage. Annie, a successful Nashville businesswoman married to her childhood sweetheart, can't seem to leave behind the regrets of her youth. And sweet-tempered Lola whiles away her hours—and her husband's money—on little pills that keep her happy. Now the friends, all in their forties, converge on Lola's lavish North Carolina beach house in an attempt to relive the carefree days of their college years. But as the week wears on and each woman's hidden story is gradually revealed, these four friends learn that they must inevitably confront their shared past, and a secret that

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threatens to change their bond, and their lives, forever. "A brilliant, bubbly, bracing novel . . . packed with hilarity and heartache."—Wichita Falls Times Record News Riding Lessons Bloomsbury Publishing In this #1 New York Times bestseller in Sue Grafton's Alphabet series, private investigator Kinsey Millhone has her hands full when a job that should be easy money takes a turn for the worse. Reba Lafferty was a daughter of privilege,

the only child of an adoring father. Nord Lafferty was already in his fifties when Reba was born, and he could deny her nothing. Over the years, he quietly settled her many scrapes with the law, but wasn't there for her when she was convicted of embezzlement and sent to the California Institution for Women. Now, at thirty-two, she's about to be paroled, having served twenty-two months of a four-year sentence. Her father wants to be sure Reba stays straight, stays home and away from the drugs, the booze, and the gamblers... It seems a straightforward assignment for Kinsey: babysit Reba until she settles in, make sure she follows all the niceties of her parole. Maybe a week 's

work. Nothing untoward—the woman seems remorseful and friendly. And the money is good. But life is never that simple, and Reba is out of prison less than twenty-four hours when one of her old crowd comes circling round... Being Dead Is No Excuse Penguin Now a major motion picture nominated for nine Academy Awards. Narrative of Solomon Northup, a Citizen of New-York, Kidnapped in Washington City in 1841, and Rescued in 1853. Twelve Years a Slave by Solomon Northup is a memoir of a black man who was born free in New York state but kidnapped, sold into slavery and kept in bondage for 12 years in Louisiana before the

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American Civil War. He provided details of slave markets in Washington, DC, as well as describing at length cotton cultivation on major plantations in Louisiana. The Word Rhythm Dictionary Bloomsbury Publishing USA "A poignant and touching story of friendship, love and healing. Perfect for your book club!" —#1 New York Times bestselling author, Barbara Freethy A recipe for living . . . New friends can be found in unexpected places. For Bridget and Amy, that place was the cancer ward of an Anchorage hospital. Now, as each struggles to

overcome loss, they lean on each other for support—sharing suppers, laughter and tears. Bridget and Amy aren't about to let hardship knock them down—Bridget plans to return to her veterinarian school studies, Amy to her position as a second-grade teacher—but neither feels quite ready. And so the Sunday Potluck Club is born, a way for Bridget, Amy, and other women who have lost a loved one to find solace and understanding. Savoring favorite dishes while sharing memories and the comfort of connection, the members of the Sunday Potluck Club nourish body and

soul. As weeks go by and the group grows in unforeseen ways, both Bridget and Amy are inspired to find greater purpose. Amy reaches out to a student whose father bravely faces his own struggle. Bridget volunteers at the local animal shelter, rehabilitating dogs whose unconditional love will bring others a chance to heal. And with the help of two special men, Bridget and Amy are realizing that there's always room at the table for love and rekindled joy . . . The Debutante's Revenge Sourcebooks, Inc. Friends, family, depression. Not My Daughter

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Simon and Schuster  
NATIONAL  
BESTSELLER •  
From the Pulitzer  
Prize – winning, #1  
New York Times  
bestselling author of  
Olive Kitteridge  
comes a “superb”  
(O: The Oprah  
Magazine) novel that  
“confirms Strout as  
the possessor of an  
irresistibly  
companionable,  
peculiarly American  
voice.” (The Atlantic  
Monthly) In the late  
1950s, in a small New  
England town,  
Reverend Tyler  
Caskey has suffered a  
terrible loss and finds  
it hard to be the  
person he once was.  
He struggles to find  
the right words in his  
sermons and in his  
conversations with  
those facing crises of  
their own, and to  
bring his five-year-old  
daughter, Katherine,

out of the silence she  
has observed in the  
wake of the family’s  
tragedy. Tyler’s  
usually patient and  
kind congregation now  
questions his  
leadership and  
propriety, and  
accusations are born  
out of anger and  
gossip. Then, in  
Tyler’s darkest hour,  
a startling discovery  
will test his parish’s  
humanity—and his  
own will to endure the  
trials that sooner or  
later test us all. Praise  
for *Abide With Me*  
“Strout’s greatly  
anticipated second  
novel . . . is an  
answered  
prayer.” —Vanity  
Fair “Deeply moving  
. . . In one beautiful  
page after another,  
Strout captures the  
mysterious  
combinations of hope  
and sorrow. She sees all  
these wounded people

with heartbreaking  
clarity, but she has  
managed to write a  
story that cradles them  
in understanding and  
that, somehow, seems  
like a foretaste of  
salvation.” —The  
Washington Post  
“Graceful and  
moving . . . The pacing  
of Strout’s deeply felt  
fiction about the  
distance between  
parents and children  
gives her work an  
addictive  
quality.” —People  
(four stars)  
The Book of Bright  
Ideas Harper Collins  
Follows Eva  
Thorvald’s life  
journey, rooted in the  
foods of Minnesota  
and growing into a  
legendary, sought-  
after chef.  
R is for Ricochet Saint  
James Press  
kud • zu \kud-z ü \  
n: a ubiquitous  
vine/weed found in

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Southern climes that, left uncontrolled, will grow over any fixed object in its path, including trees, power lines, and the entire state of Georgia. deb • u • tante \de-byu-t ä nt\ n: a young woman making a debut into society, easily spotted in white dress and pearl necklace. Common names include Muffy, Bootsy, and Bunny. Eadie Boone is no shrinking violet. An artist and former beauty queen who married into one of the first families of Ithaca, Georgia, she tackles everything with gusto and flair. But tailing her wayward husband proves to be, well, an exasperating chore. If only Trevor would just see the light, dump his twenty-two-year-old hussy, and return home, Eadie ' s

creative energy could be put to better use. Now all she has to do is convince him. Nita Broadwell, a good Southern girl from a good Southern family, is jolted out of complacency when she discovers condoms in her husband ' s shirt pocket ( " Maybe he ' d found them on the ground and picked them up " ). Between clinging to denial and dodging her overbearing mother-in-law, Nita is also trying to break her addiction to steamy bodice-ripper novels. Only now it appears she ' s authoring her own real-life romance tale with a hunky handyman thirteen years her junior. Lavonne Zibolsky – a transplanted Yankee, bless her heart – is saddled with planning the annual Broadwell

& Boone law firm party. That and her lackluster marriage have her seeking solace in the contents of her refrigerator. If she could just put down the Rocky Road ice cream and peach pie, she might get around to finding a caterer, dropping sixty pounds, and figuring out how to fall in love with her husband again. Not necessarily in that order. Bonded by years of friendship, these three women discover what else they have in common: lying, cheating spouses. So they heed their collective betrayals as a wake-up call and band together to exact sweet revenge. The take-charge trio will see to it that the punishment is just, exquisitely humiliating, and downright hilarious. Cathy Holton ' s



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debut novel is a delicious yarn of friendship and marriage, secrets and retribution, and how nothing stays hidden for long. Against a Southern backdrop of gentility and decorum, *Revenge of the Kudzu Debutantes* dares to abandon Junior League social graces in ways that would make even *Scarlett O' Hara* blush. "It ' s great fun reading about these women as they trade their tea for tequila and get smart, get out, and get even, with amusing, and surprising results." --Nancy Thayer, author of *The Hot Flash Club* "Sly, smart, and full of great characters -- and then there ' s that sweet, sweet revenge. Getting even has never been so creative. Or delicious." --Louise Shaffer, author of *The Ladies of*

*Garrison Gardens*  
*Milk Glass Moon*  
*Anchor*  
A pregnancy pact between three teenaged girls puts their mothers' love to the ultimate test in this explosive new novel from Barbara Delinsky, " a first-rate storyteller who creates characters as familiar as your neighbors. " (Boston Globe) When Susan Tate's seventeen-year-old daughter, Lily, announces she is pregnant, Susan is stunned. A single mother, she has struggled to do everything right. She sees the pregnancy as an unimaginable tragedy for both Lily and herself. Then comes word of two more pregnancies among high school juniors who happen to be Lily's best friends- and the town turns to

talk of a pact. As fingers start pointing, the most ardent criticism is directed at Susan. As principal of the high school, she has always been held up as a role model of hard work and core values. Now her detractors accuse her of being a lax mother, perhaps not worthy of the job of shepherding impressionable students. As Susan struggles with the implications of her daughter's pregnancy, her job, financial independence, and long-fought-for dreams are all at risk. The emotional ties between mothers and daughters are stretched to breaking in this emotionally wrenching story of love and forgiveness. Once again, Barbara Delinsky has given us a powerful novel, one

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that asks a central question: What does it take to be a good mother?

### Crossword Lists

Penguin

Reckless Flirting and a Dangerous Temptation Daisy

Trippe is the perfect daughter and the perfect woman to be a wealthy man's wife. At the Debutante Ball, her goal is to kiss a handsome man. A rich handsome man who would make all her socialite dreams come true. Then she sees Lee Sackett. She overhears that the man is well off and he fills out his

clothes so deliciously. A temptation too much to resist. Lee Sackett is building his ranch. One day he will be a rich man, but right now, his one-room cabin is all he can afford. He needs to swap bulls with Mr. Trippe but the man is impossible to talk to. Lee hears Trippe will be at the Debutante Ball, so he puts on a suit coat and goes to the ball. He doesn't want a wife. It's too soon. But one young woman is too alluring to walk away from. Everything seems so innocent until they are caught.

Now the hard-working rancher is being forced to marry a woman who vows to get revenge on him for ruining her dreams. The Debutante's Revenge Ballantine Books "Some women can touch a man and heal like Jesus. The man who sees sunrise from a Belle woman's bed will swear he's been born again." So begins Paula Wall's funny, poignant, and sexy novel, The Rock Orchard. Musette Belle could lay her hand on a baby's heart and see his life as if he'd already lived it.

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Even in death, she continues to shock the good citizens of Leaper's Fork, Tennessee, and her descendents are doing their best to carry on her legacy. Angela Belle, a haunting and beautiful siren, lures every man she meets into greatness, while her illegitimate and very independent daughter, Dixie, serves tea and vanilla wafers to the statue of the Confederate soldier she believes is her father. But when Charlotte Belle, a woman who would rather spend the night with Jack Daniel's than any man she knows, seduces a stranger in the cemetery, it not only transforms the two people involved but the entire town. Blending sensuality, wisdom, and wry wit to create a truly unique love story, The Rock Orchard is about the strength of community, the might of God, and the ultimate power of extraordinary women.

The Sisters Montclair Random House As a world-class equestrian and Olympic contender, Annemarie Zimmer lived for the thrill of flight atop a strong, graceful animal. Then, at eighteen, a tragic accident destroyed her riding career and Harry, the beautiful horse she cherished. Now, twenty years later, Annemarie is coming home to her dying father's New Hampshire horse farm. Jobless and abandoned, she is bringing her troubled teenage daughter to this place of pain and memory, where ghosts of an unresolved youth still haunt the fields and stables—and where hope lives in the eyes of the

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handsome, gentle veterinarian Annemarie loved as a girl . . . and in the seductive allure of a trainer with a magic touch. But everything will change yet again with one glimpse of a white striped gelding startlingly similar to the one Annemarie lost in another lifetime. And an obsession is born that could shatter her fragile world. The Vintage Teacup Club Crown The last thing twenty-one-year-old Stella Nightingale wants is a job as a caregiver for wealthy Alice Montclair Whittington. Alice, a ninety-four-year-old

Southern grande dame with a dry sense of humor and a wicked tongue, has already run off a long line of caregivers. But Stella, a former runaway from a broken home who's only recently begun to put her life back together, is desperate for work. And she figures she can handle Alice. But strange things are happening at Alice's rambling mountaintop estate. As an unlikely friendship develops between the two women, Alice, whose memory comes and goes, begins to reveal long-ago tales of her illustrious past, tales that pose more questions than they answer. Who is her

mysterious sister, Laura? Why won't Alice and her sister, Adeline, ever speak of her? And why are the other caregivers afraid to go down in the basement? As Stella tries to separate fact from fiction in Alice's life, she struggles to overcome her own devastating family secret, compelled by a deepening friendship that will change the lives of both women forever. Do This for Me Hachette UK From the bestselling author of Between Husbands and Friends and An Act of Love comes a wise, wonderful, and delightfully

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witty “ coming of age ” novel about four intrepid women who discover themselves as they were truly meant to be: passionate, alive, and ready to face the best years of their lives. Meet Faye, Marilyn, Alice, and Shirley. Four women with skills, smarts, and secrets—all feeling over the hill and out of the race. But in a moment of delicious serendipity, they meet and realize they share more than raging hormones and lost dreams. Now as the Hot Flash Club, where the topics of motherhood, sex, and men are discussed with double servings of chocolate cake, they vow to help each other . . . and themselves. Faye, the artist. A determinedly cheerful widow and connoisseur of control-top pantyhose, she ’ s struggling with creative block and an empty, lonely house. Now she ’ s got a tricky problem to bring to the club ’ s table: how can they catch her perfect son-in-law cheating on her only daughter Laura? Shirley, the healer. Though her yoga-slender body belie her years, decades of dating losers and the strain of being broke make her feel her age. Shirley has a secret dream: a wellness spa that nurtures body and soul. But first she needs to believe in herself, in her abilities, and in her friends at the club. Marilyn, the brain. A paleontologist who has spent so many years looking at dried-up fossils, she ’ s almost become one herself. Worried that her brilliant but nerdy son is about to marry the very wrong woman, she gets some help from the HFC, who

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transform her from a caterpillar to a butterfly, with amazing results. Alice, the executive. Black and regal, she soared to the top of the corporate ladder. Now her shoes are murder on her arthritic back and the younger jackals are circling in for the kill. But as the inspiration behind the HFC, she's about to discover something extraordinary: contentment. For Faye, Shirley, Marilyn, and Alice, the time has come to use it or lose it—be it their bodies, their brains, their spirits, and

their sense of fun. Together they realize that they can have it all, perhaps for the first time in their lives. And though what sags may never rise again, feeling sexy has no expiration date—and best of all, with a little help from her friends, a woman can always start over . . . and never, ever, give up what matters most. While We Were Watching Downton Abbey Penguin 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

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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, Lavone'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. *The Secret Lives of the Kudzu Debutantes* Delta From Mary Kay Andrews, the New York Times bestselling author of *Hello, Summer*, comes a novella celebrating the magic of Christmas and second chances in *The Santa Suit*. When newly-divorced Ivy Perkins buys an old farmhouse sight unseen, she is definitely looking for a change in her life. *The Four Roses*, as the farmhouse is

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called, is a labor of love—but Ivy didn't bargain on just how much labor. The previous family left so much furniture and so much junk, that it's a full-time job sorting through all of it. At the top of a closet, Ivy finds an old Santa suit—beautifully made and decades old. In the pocket of a suit she finds a note written in a childish hand: it's from a little girl who has one Christmas wish, and that is for her father to return home from the war. This discovery sets Ivy off on a mission. Who

wrote the note? Did the man ever come home? What mysteries did the Rose family hold? Ivy's quest brings her into the community, at a time when all she wanted to do was be left alone and nurse her wounds. But the magic of Christmas makes miracles happen, and Ivy just might find more than she ever thought possible: a welcoming town, a family reunited, a mystery solved, and a second chance at love. Atlanta Magazine Virtual Bookseller, LLC  
Cathy Holton, author of the popular Beach

Trip, returns with an intriguing and mysterious tale of dark deeds and family secrets in a small Southern town. After a personal tragedy, Chicago writer Ava Dabrowski quits her job to spend the summer in Woodburn, Tennessee, at the invitation of her old college friend Will Fraser and his two great-aunts, Josephine and Fanny Woodburn. Her charming hosts offer Ava a chance to relax at their idyllic ancestral estate, Woodburn Hall, while working on her first novel. But Woodburn is anything but quiet: Ancient feuds lurk just beneath its placid surface, and modern-day rivalries emerge as Ava finds herself caught between the competing attentions of Will and his black-



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sheep cousin Jake. Fascinated by the family ' s impressive history—their imposing house filled with treasures, and their mingling with literary lions Fitzgerald, Hemingway, and Faulkner—Ava stumbles onto rumors about the darker side of the Woodburns ' legacy. Putting aside her planned novel, she turns her creative attentions to the eccentric and tragic clan, a family with more skeletons (and ghosts) in their closets than anyone could possibly imagine. As Ava struggles to write the true story of the Woodburns, she finds herself tangled in the tragic history of a mysterious Southern family whose secrets mirror her own.