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# The 6 paperbacks

#### Romance



### When Lightning Strikes

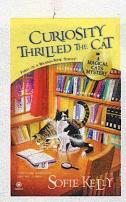
by Brenda Novak
"Feeling harried
by my train commute, I went in
search of a good
romance to lift
my spirits," shares
Lorraine Sullivan,

FIRST associate editor. "This one sounded intriguing and was the perfect size to slip into my bag." When bad-boy movie star Simon O'Neal wrecks his reputation, as well as his former publicist Gail DeMarco's business, she reluctantly agrees to marry him to help improve his image and get her life back on track. In the process, she learns there's more to the sex symbol than meets the eye—like his heart of gold. "I loved Whiskey Creek, the tiny town they visit after their wedding-it felt so quaint and sweet," says Lorraine. "And I enjoyed how their relationship unfolded. After I finished the book, I felt much lighter and wasn't as bothered when someone bumped me while hurrying for the train." (Harlequin Mira, 2012; \$8)

#### Mystery

Curiosity

Thrilled the
Cat: A Magical
Cats Mystery
by Sofie Kelly
"The month
of October
is always my
favorite because
Halloween
makes magic
seem a little



bit more real," says Cassandra Zink, FIRST assistant editor. "So when I came across this book about cats who solve a mystery, I knew I'd found the perfect read." When Kathleen moves to a small town to restore an old library, she becomes the owner of two strays: catnip-addicted Owen, and Hercules, a fellow Barry Manilow fan. On the heels of her arrival, murder strikes and Kathleen becomes the prime suspect, which prompts the cats to try to clear her name. "I love the disdain the cats give everyone—they kept me laughing constantly," says Cassandra. "This fun, cute read had me staring at my cats, waiting for one of them to start talking!" (Signet, 2012; \$8)

digital

#### Memoir

Yes, Chef by Marcus Samuelsson

"Whenever I'm supposed to be doing chores around the house, I inevitably end up watching cooking shows instead—I'm addicted!" admits Katie Choi, FIRST associate editor. "So when I found this memoir by my favorite celebrity chef, Marcus Samuelsson, I had to pick it up." Born in Ethiopia and adopted by a Swedish family at the age of 4,

YES, CHEF a memour.

Samuelsson learns how to cook at his new grandmother's hand and develops a lifelong passion for food. "Although the stories about his cooking achievements are fascinating, this book is really an inspiring coming-of-age tale that emphasizes the importance of family and believing in yourself when faced with challenging situations," says Katie. "I was completely engrossed and couldn't put it down, and by the end I felt like there was nothing I couldn't conquer myself." (Random House, 2012; \$13 for the Kindle edition at amazon.com, or the Nook edition at BN.com.)