

NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR
J.T. ELLISON



Good Girls Lie coming in Max, Contests, and Tacos!

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Hello GentleReader,

I have a little book on my desk called [Mindfulness on the Go](#) that I turn to when I want to consider something thought-provoking. When I say little, I mean it, the book fits in my palm. I bought it on tour back in January to have as a travel companion, something to keep me focused and grounded. I've found that it's a fun way to start my writing day—opening the book at random and reading the selection within. Today, the message was an interesting one—the chapter is entitled “Secret Acts of Virtue.” The concept is a simple one—do something nice for someone without drawing attention to the act itself.

This is something 2020 has made abundantly clear—even the smallest actions have lasting consequences. Wearing a mask. Buying a book by an author of color. Respecting opinions that don't match your own. Loading the dishwasher when it's not your turn. (This last doesn't necessarily affect anyone but your partner, but you get the idea.) This is a moment in time that needs careful attention. Change is always difficult. There are growing pains. Feelings are hurt. Relationships severed. Lives and livelihoods are sadly destroyed. But we exist in this world together, and together, we will get through this. Be kind to one another. Grant grace to strangers. Hold up your friends. Practice your secret acts of virtue. If anything, it will make you feel good.

Enough of the meditative stuff!

I managed to get a few much needed weeks off between turning in my book and getting the revisions back on [HER DARK LIES](#). I read, a lot. I walked, a lot. I bought a bicycle, and rode her, a lot. I thought, a lot. I wrote some, too, a short story that will be out next year, and did copious amounts of thinking about What's Next.

Revising really is the art of writing, and this book needs heavier revisions than I'm used to. I'm rebuilding it slowly, chapter by chapter, plot point by plot point. I'm changing some of the characters, dropping a subplot entirely. And altering the timeline. So yeah, basically creating a whole new book. It's scary, this level of restructuring, but I hope in the end, it will be worth it. If I'm quiet out in the world, that's why. I'm here, working hard, trying to create a story you will love.

The worst part? After all that time off, all that walking and reading and biking and thinking, I know what I want to do next... so let's get this revision DONE already, yes?

Two bits of news:

Our little literary show, [A Word on Words](#), has a brand-new facet—the full interview transcripts are now available for all our shows for Season 5, and will be available for all shows going forward. I think you'll love reading the entire interview between hosts and guests. I know I loved editing mine! We've been busy taping "At Home" editions with luminaries like R. Eric Thomas, Emily St. John Mandel, Julia Alvarez, and more. Tune in!

Starting this month, if you open this email, you're automatically entered to win a **\$30 gift card** to the bookstore of your choice. Consider it my little kindness to you, my way of saying thanks for being here. I'll announce the winner in the next monthly Smatterings!



GOOD GIRLS LIE Is Coming Out In Max!

Mass market paperback "Max," that is. This is a new larger size compared to regular mass markets at 4.75 inches x 7 inches and it also has a larger font and better paper quality. No more long, tall, skinny oversize mass markets, the new Max format is comfortable in the hand and much easier to read, like a small trade paperback. I think you'll love it, and I'm thrilled GOOD GIRLS LIE is getting the Max treatment! It goes on sale August 18. Be sure to get your preorder in!

Get your copy!

[Amazon](#) | [Barnes & Noble](#) | [Books-A-Million](#) | [Bookshop](#) | [Target](#) | [Indigo](#)



The First Three Books In The Taylor Jackson Series Are On Sale!

Meet your next binge read! If you're new to my work, my Taylor Jackson series is a great place to start. Discover the incomparable, fearless homicide Lieutenant Taylor Jackson in this gripping psychological thriller series set in Nashville. ALL THE PRETTY GIRLS is on sale for \$1.99, 14 is on sale for \$3.99, and JUDAS KISS is on sale for \$3.99. Perfect for fans of John Sanford, Karin Slaughter, and Lisa Gardner.

I WANT THIS DEAL!

☒ What I'm Reading



[THE SPLENDID AND THE VILE](#) by Erik Larson

A remarkable, exceptional book. I haven't read a lot of history books since college because they're often so dry, but even the title of this screamed new and different to me. And I was rewarded. Erik Larson has a true talent for narrative nonfiction. He brings Churchill's first year as Prime Minister to life by bringing us inside the family and aides who knew Churchill best, and by letting us experience the fear and resilience of the British during the Blitz. I loved this one.

[BEACH READ](#) by Emily Henry

I've been doing a lot of deep, important reading lately, and I wanted to lighten things up. BEACH READ was the most perfect book for this. I couldn't stop reading, and I had to keep putting it down because I didn't want it to end. Emily Henry has a wicked sense of humor and knows exactly which rom-com tropes to touch upon and which ones to fling out the window to allow for a deeply satisfying story. Plus - writers writing about writers writing is my FAVORITE theme. A perfect summer read.

[WHITE OUT](#) by Danielle Girard

I've had the joy of getting to know Danielle and her work over the past several months, and I'm telling you, you're in for a treat. WHITE OUT is a superb thriller—intense, intricate, and so intriguing. Detective Kylie Milliard is a badass, and Girard is a one heck of a storyteller. The start of a fabulous new series.

[PRETTY THINGS](#) by Janelle Brown

This book, friends, this book. I will be raving about it all year, I'm sure; it's already made it onto my best of 2020 list. A con artist gets in over her head when she tries to pull a fast one on a wealthy Instagram influencer – but it's so much more: a perfectly paced gothic mystery, a searing social commentary, a case study in how to write rich, deep characters. This one's a winner. I can't wait to see it on the screen, it's one of Nicole Kidman's next projects.

📖 July Recipe: Shredded Chicken Tacos



I mean, is there ever a time when tacos aren't comfort food? This recipe has some of the same elements as my [carnitas recipe](#), but it's bigger, fresher, and even easier to throw the ingredients in a pot and let them cook for hours. The best part? It works with any protein you like: chicken, pork, or beef. It's also easy to double the recipe.

TACO TIME!

You can find all of my recipes [here](#). And if you want some wine to go with the meals, [The Wine Vixen](#) has you covered.

That's all for now! I'll see you next month.

peace and hugs,



PS: Do you get my blog posts in your inbox? Sign up for as it releases (usually once or twice a week), as a weekly digest, or by RSS feed.

DAILY

WEEKLY

RSS FEED

Are you still here?

Here's a kitten for your troubles.



Did you like this month's newsletter? Share it with a friend!



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