



Autumn 2024
Frontlist Rights Guide

Adult and Children's books

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

FICTION

- General Fiction.....5-37**
- Science Fiction and Fantasy...38-49**

NON-FICTION

- General non-fiction...51-69**

CHILDREN'S

- Picture Books...72-80**
- Middle Grade...81-93**
- Young Adult...94-99**

INDEX

Baxter, Holly	6, 7
Blecher, Jennifer	81
Breukelaar, J.S.	39
Buchanan, Lynn	40, 41
Calonita, Jen	82
Chen, Kara H.L.	94
Cherryh, C.J.	42
Cortez, Rio	72
Coverly, S.D.	43
Dass, Sarah	95
De Ruiter, Geraldine	52, 53
Deutermann, P.T.	8
Dorn, Anna	9, 10
Drakeford, Scott	44, 45
Elegant, Naomi Xu	11
Enrich, David	54
Flynn, Katie M.	12, 13
Fong, Pam	73
Foster, Thomas C.	55
Frey, Dan	43
Gong, Zoey Xinyi	56
Gopal, Jyoti Rajan	74-76
Grant, Rebecca	57
Gu, Yan	77
Hays, Katy	14, 15
Hedva, Joanna	16, 17
Hightower, Lynn	18, 19
Joseph, Frederick	96, 97
Kakimoto, Megan	20, 21
Kapelke-Dale, Rachel	22, 23
Levine, Arthur	58
Liar, Benjamin	46, 47
Lin, Jami Nakamura	59, 60

Lu, Shaina	83
Mao, Sally Wen	24, 25
Marks, Janae	84
Mester, Emily	61
Montague, Liz	85, 86
Morin, Tomas Q.	26, 62
Nasserzadeh, Sara	63, 64
Novak, Ali	98
Ocker, J.W.	87
Oet, Raine	88
Page, Katherine Hall	27
Pearson, Mallory	28
Podemski, Max	65
Rende, Sydney	29
Rothfuss, Patrick	48
Schwartz, Dana	43
Shah, Reena	30
Skogman, Calahan	31
Stewart, Douglas Day	32
Stolos, Jacqueline	89
Swinarski, Claire	33, 90
Tatasukawa, Maya	78, 79
Taupin, Bernie	66, 67
Thayer, Alex	91
Thor, Brad	34, 35
Vandelly, T. Marie	36
Van Pelt, Scott	58
Warga, Jasmine	92, 93
Williams, Tad	49
Wu, Simon	68, 69
Yang, Alice Evelyn	37
Yuly, Toni	80



FICTION



Holly Baxter
CLICKBAIT

HarperCollins, August 13, 2024 | NA
300 pages, first pass pages available
Agent: Dan Mandel

With the dark comedy and sharp observations of Monica Heisey and Dolly Alderton, a whip-smart and laugh-out-loud funny debut novel about a disgraced, newly divorced journalist demoted to a “clickbait” job at a Manhattan tabloid

The first thing they tell you when you begin your training is never to become the news.

Natasha has screwed up royally. Her mistake isn't just embarrassing, it's a breach of journalistic ethics that makes headlines and costs her a plum job reporting from London. Back in New York at thirty-five and single, divorced from a kind man she loved, she finds herself at the bottom of the media food chain—a junior reporter at a clickbait factory, rewriting sensational tabloid stories to make them just different enough to avoid lawsuits.

As if her professional fall from grace weren't bad enough, she's taken the money she'd saved for a down payment for a home on a charming Brooklyn block with her husband, and rashly bought a boxy apartment overlooking the gray ocean in Rockaway Beach, Queens.

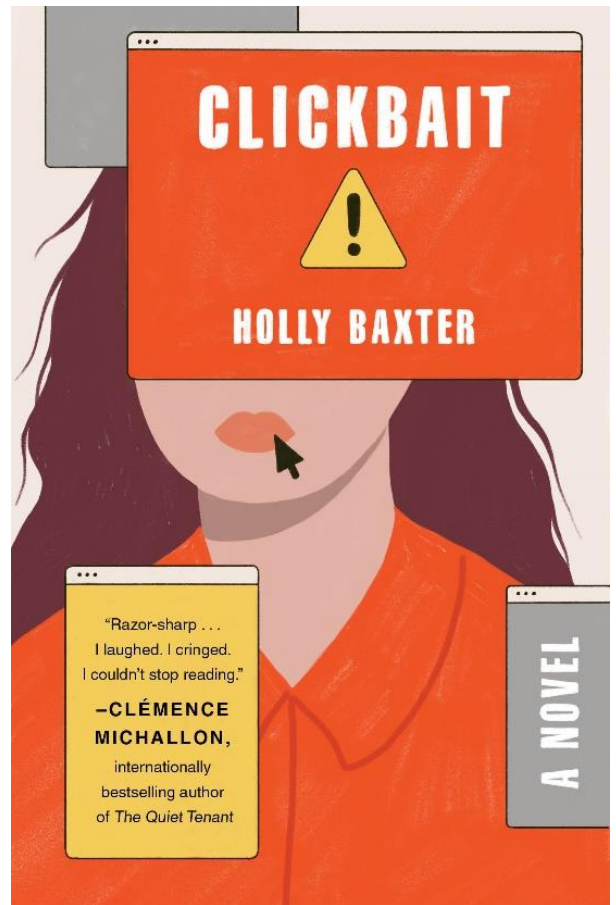
Though seeing friends and family only serves to remind her of what she's lost, things begin to pick up when her ex-boyfriend Zach moves back to New York and accepts her offer of a spare bedroom. The arrangement is strictly platonic, of course—for him. But Natasha can't help but wonder whether he might be the solution to all her problems.

As Natasha's obsession with Zach grows and her involvement in increasingly dystopian "churnalism" deepens, her worlds threaten to collide in the most cataclysmic, extremely public way.

[Holly Baxter](#) is a journalist and writer from Newcastle, who spent 12 years working in London journalism before transferring to New York City in 2019. Having reported for *The Guardian* and *The New Statesman*, she now does



political satire and social justice-themed investigations for *The Independent*. Her work was shortlisted for a Press Award for Feature of the Year in 2019 and she often appears on British radio and television. In 2013, she co-authored *THE VAGENDA*, a media satire non-fiction book for women, with *The Guardian*'s Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett. She is currently based in Brooklyn, where she lives with her husband, son and semi-feral cat Nelson, and is covering the 2024 US election for *The Independent*. @hollybaxter



Reviews for CLICKBAIT:

"Like yelling at the movie screen, 'DON'T OPEN THAT DOOR,' you will yell at *Clickbait's* fabulously flawed, smart, and entertaining Natasha as she bungles and fumbles her way through a skyrocketing and hell-plunging time in her life. This book is impossible to put down—you can't help but root for Natasha who manages to humiliate herself from England to Rockaway and beyond." — **Jessica Anya Blau**, author of *Mary Jane*

"In this razor-sharp, darkly humorous novel, Holly Baxter draws a no-holds-barred portrait of a woman whose actions have caused her life to collapse at her feet—and charts her misguided attempts to climb out of the rubble. I laughed. I cringed. I couldn't stop reading." — **Clémence Michallon**, internationally bestselling author of *The Quiet Tenant*

"A dazzling and hilarious debut novel about work, love, passion and publishing. Think Bridget Jones meets Fleabag at a Manhattan tabloid."
— **Susan Shapiro**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Unhooked* and *Five Men Who Broke My Heart*

"Clickbait made me wince and made me howl. With a biting humor and a flair for the outrageous that is entirely her own, Holly Baxter has created an antiheroine for our times. A darkly hilarious debut that satirically captures our morally vapid media world with more accuracy than I ever thought possible. I loved it." — **Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett**

"This satire of media and publishing may hit a little too close to home for anyone who works in journalism--but you should definitely give this dark comedy a try either way. Baxter captures just the right blend of cringe and humor, and you won't want to look away from this train wreck." — **Katie Couric Media**

"Baxter's debut is a portrait of a misanthropic yet wry thirtysomething in vain trying to fix her life...She's living in a tumultuous world of her own making, and she'll have to change if she ever wants a life she can be proud of. Recommend to readers of *She's a Killer*, and anyone who enjoys stories of adults refusing to grow up."
— **Booklist**

P.T. Deutermann

THE SECOND SUN

St. Martin's Press | March 18, 2025 | North America

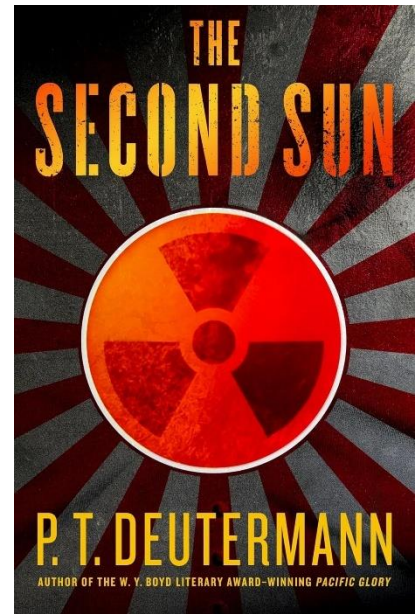
304 pages, final text available

Agent: Dan Mandel

A taut, suspenseful historical thriller set in the waning months of WWII: Did Japan also have an atomic weapon, and did America bomb Hiroshima and Nagasaki to pre-empt an attack on its fleet?

World War II thrillers: based on the author's experiences as Commander in the US Navy.

Globally published: previous titles sold in 19 territories.



P. T. Deutermann is a contemporary master of World War II military fiction: writing about the lives, deaths, dreams, fears, and combat experiences of sailors and soldiers, generals and grunts, captains and snipes, pilots and submariners, who served in the Pacific theatre war against Japan.

March 1945: After a career of commanding destroyers in the Pacific theater of WWII, Captain Wolfe Bowen is based in Washington, DC, working for the Chief of Naval Operations. Bowen receives an urgent call from the commander of the naval shipyard in Portsmouth, New Hampshire: A German U-boat has been captured and brought to port. But what grabs Bowen's attention is the presence of two Japanese civilians on board, along with the massive size of the U-boat itself. What these civilians know about the cargo of the U-boat, as well as its destination, begins a race against time that will change the course of history.

When President Franklin Delano Roosevelt dies, Harry Truman ascends to office with no prior knowledge of the Manhattan Project. Bowen is assigned a dangerous mission: Discover whether Japan has the technology to produce an atomic weapon, and find out how close the desperate enemy is to deploying it. Working with a small team—including Captain Villem Amherst Van Rensselaer, part of the inner circle on the Manhattan Project, and Lieutenant Commander Janet Waring, a naval intelligence officer and skilled translator of Japanese—Bowen must report back to President Truman with the information that will transform the war—and the world.

Brilliantly imagined and deeply informed by P. T. Deutermann's long history as a navy captain, as well as his family's service in the Pacific theater, *The Second Sun* is a compelling novel timed for the 80th anniversary of the end of World War II.





Anna Dorn
AMERICAN SPIRITS

Simon & Schuster | Spring 2025 | World English
Manuscript anticipated....
Agent: Sarah Phair

Combining the toxic obsession of SINGLE WHITE FEMALE with the dark side of celebrity explored in VOX LUX and THE LOVE SONG OF JOHNNY VALENTINE, AMERICAN SPIRITS probes how all artists steal, emulating their heroes to the point of transformation, or in some cases, takeover.

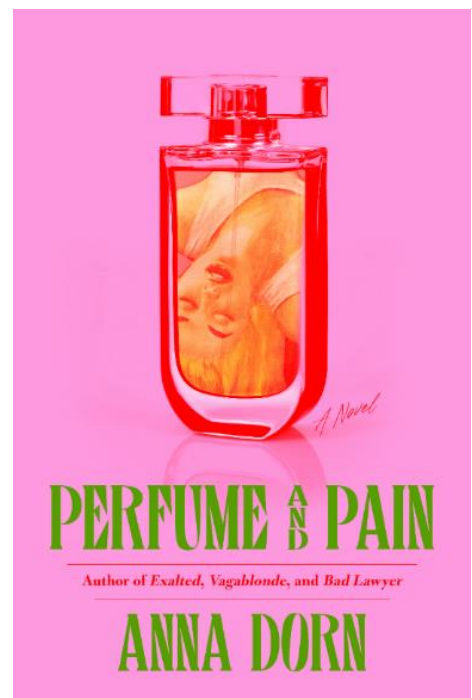
It's 2019 and 37-year-old Blue Velour has finally achieved the critical acclaim she's long been chasing (think: Lana Del Rey after *Norman Fucking Rockwell*). Her latest album, *Blue's Beard*—a cheeky reference to the subreddit fanatically dedicated to her suspected secret relationship with her longtime producer—has rocket-launched her reputation. Given the pressures of the upcoming tour, she hires a new assistant, Rose Lutz, a nerdy superfan with a classically trained voice who is, unknown to Blue, also the founder of r/BlueBeards.

When the pandemic shuts down the *Blue's Beard* tour, Blue retreats to a cabin in the redwoods with her producer and assistant to make another album. Rose is delighted to be isolated with the two objects of her longtime obsession, and there a strange love triangle develops. During a manic episode, Blue goes behind Sasha's back to release the album, which is panned by critics. Furious at the failure, Blue fires Sasha and Rose, relapses, and drives to New York to work with Sasha's nemesis. While Blue is hitting rock bottom, Rose convinces Sasha to stay in the redwoods and make their own album. By the time the cabin lease is up, Blue's sister is checking her into rehab.

Back in LA, Sasha struggles to get Rose signed until a viral Britney Spears cover propels Rose into the spotlight, enabling them to sell their record, *Pop My Cherry*. Blue is livid to learn about it and, adding insult to injury, Blue's album *Violet* comes out to little fanfare. With urging from her sister, Blue gives her fans the chaos they crave by teaming up with Rose and Sasha to make a new album. The three of them make what becomes *American Spirits* under the name Blue Rose during three darkly debaucherous months in Malibu. But at the *American Spirits* tour, both Blue and Rose try to outstunt each other to avenge various past wrongs, culminating in a tragic act that changes their lives forever.

The acclaimed author of *PERFUME AND PAIN* and *EXALTED* once again delivers an incisive and wildly entertaining exploration of contemporary culture

[Anna Dorn](http://www.anna-dorn.com/about) is an author, editor, and writing teacher living in Los Angeles. She teaches writing classes at Write or Die and is an associate editor at Hobart Pulp. She was a Lambda Literary Fellow and her second novel *EXALTED* was a finalist for the *L.A. Times* Book Prize.
<http://www.anna-dorn.com/about>



PERFUME & PAIN

Simon & Schuster, May 21, 2024 | World English
280 pages, final manuscript available

Acquired by Legendary Television, Clea DuVall will write and direct the television series; Christine Vachon and Pamela Koffler of Killer Films to produce

A controversial LA author attempts to revive her career and finally find true love in this hilarious nod to 1950s lesbian pulp fiction.

Mid-list author Astrid Dahl, recently moved into a tiny bungalow in Los Angeles, finds herself back in the Zoom writer's group she cofounded after an incident that leaves her and her career *lightly* canceled. But she temporarily forgets that by throwing herself into a few sexy distractions—like Ivy, a grad student researching 1950s lesbian pulp who smells like metallic orchids, or her new neighbor, Penelope, a painter who smells like patchouli. Penelope immediately ingratiates herself in Astrid's life, bonding with her best friends and family, just as Astrid and Ivy begin to date in person. Astrid feels judged and threatened by Penelope, but also finds her irresistibly sexy.

When Astrid receives an unexpected call from her agent with news that she finally has a chance to resurrect her waning career, the pressure causes Astrid's worst vice to rear its head—the Patricia Highsmith, a blend of Adderall, alcohol, and cigarettes—and results in blackouts and a disturbing series of events.

Unapologetically feminine yet ribald, steamy yet hilarious, Anna Dorn has crafted an exquisite homage to the lesbian pulp of yore, reclaiming it for our internet and celebrity-obsessed world. With notes of Southern California citrus and sultry smokiness, *PERFUME AND PAIN* is a satirical romp through Hollywood and lesbian melodrama.

“Acerbic, steamy, and compulsively readable—fans of ribald, satirical humor (with a specific focus on celebrity melodrama and LGBTQ+ culture) will read it in one go. It's this author's best work yet. A Sapphic roller-coaster ride and pitch-perfect homage to lesbian pulp fiction.”—*Kirkus Reviews*★

“This brash novel pushes the envelope in all the best ways.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Perceptive and witty—like a Sally Rooney novel set in Southern California.”—*Star Tribune (Minneapolis)*

“Come to *Perfume & Pain* for the sexy drama, stay for the satire and hilarious doses of shade thrown at Hollywood. This novel is like driving down PCH listening to Lana Del Rey and vaping out the sunroof. Every moment feels sun-drenched, edgy, and unstoppable.” —**ALLIE ROWBOTTOM, author of *Aesthetica***

“Anna Dorn's *Perfume & Pain* is a wonder. Dorn masterfully takes on cancel culture, holier-than-thou writers groups, and the complex rules of lesbian dating. The result is a smart and sexy, laugh-out-loud funny page-turner.” —**MARCY DERMANSKY, author of *Hurricane Girl* and *Very Nice***

“*Perfume & Pain* slaps so hard it stings—but in the best way. Astrid, agent of lesbian chaos and love addict who's half-heartedly trying to change, is a magnetic main character, and I found myself relating to too many of her uncouth opinions. It was thoroughly enjoyable to follow Astrid's antics—I flipped pages fast and LOLed frequently. And I'll never again see the name Patricia Highsmith without thinking about Astrid's favorite drug cocktail that leads to her most entertaining bad behavior.” —**CELIA LASKEY, author of *Under the Rainbow*, a finalist for the 2020 Center for Fiction First Novel Prize**

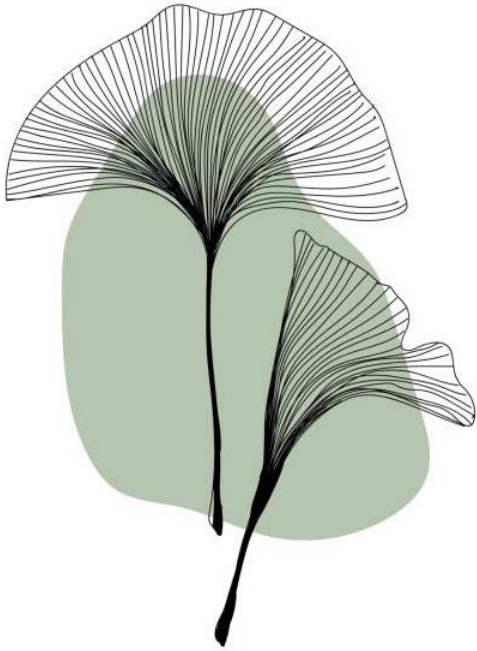
“*Perfume & Pain* combines the very best impulses of pulp fiction (dysfunction, drama, deception) with Anna's signature whip-smart, fearless style. Darkly funny and careening down every perverted, doomed spiral, this is the funniest novel of the year and Dorn's best yet. Light on its feet yet endlessly probing, *Perfume & Pain* is as sharp as it is delicious.” —**JENNY FRAN DAVIS, author of *Dykettes***

Naomi Xu Elegant
GINGKO SEASON

Norton, May 20, 2025, tpb | NA

Manuscript available

Agent: Iwalani Kim



A story of friendship, love, and living a life that matches your ideals, pitched for readers of THE IDIOT and HAPPY HOUR

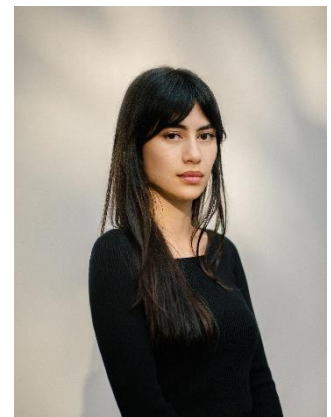
“Ginkgo Season is a stunning debut that immerses readers in a vibrant, layered world of introspection and discovery. Following Penelope as she navigates love, identity, and the complexities of city life, the novel masterfully balances poignant observations on relationships with moments of quiet beauty. Elegant's lyrical prose captures the rhythms of daily life, while also exploring deeper themes of belonging and cultural heritage. This is a deeply moving, thought-provoking read that will resonate with anyone who's ever felt adrift and sought meaning in the everyday. A must-read.”—**Weike Wang, author of *Joan Is Okay***

Twenty-five-year-old Penelope Lin spends her days cataloging an archeology museum’s vast collection of Qing Dynasty-era bound feet shoes, wandering the streets of Philadelphia appreciating its architecture, and reading up on her beloved hero, Napoleon. After suffering her first big heartbreak several years ago, she’s built a quiet life with a few close friends and no romantic entanglements. While running a work errand one day, she happens to meet Hoang, who has just confessed to releasing the lab mice in the cancer research lab he works at. He will almost certainly be fired, but he hates to lie. Hoang’s openness catches Penelope off guard and from then on, she finds her carefully constructed life slowly start to unravel.

Terrified of “leaping into the same sea from which [she’d] already once escaped,” Penelope pursues Hoang in ways that breach her comfort zone but remain bewilderingly oblique to her no-nonsense friends and, of course, to Hoang himself. Her days become consumed with volunteering with a labor union for an excuse to run into him, though she has never even voted, and agonizing over letters and postcards that skirt her true feelings. When she receives an unexpected visit from her ex-boyfriend and learns a jarring revelation regarding the whereabouts of her estranged mother, Penelope is forced to confront her past in order to take a leap of faith.

GINGKO SEASON is a wise and tender-hearted debut novel that explores the nature of our deepest friendships as seriously as it does the dizzying terror and thrill of falling in love. With Raven Leilani’s flaneur-like prose, GINGKO SEASON channels the wry humor and quiet devastation of Rachel Khong’s GOODBYE, VITAMIN. Readers who were charmed by Elif Batuman’s protagonist Selin—fiercely intelligent but clueless in matters of the heart—will adore Penelope’s curiosity and her precisely observed world.

Naomi Xu Elegant was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Kuala Lumpur and Beijing. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in history before returning to Hong Kong to work as a journalist. She currently lives in Singapore, where she is a writer for Monocle magazine. Her writing has appeared in *The Drift*, *Penn Review*, and *Cleaver*, among other places. @naomielegant



Credit: Julia Tran

Katie M. Flynn

ISLAND RULE: Stories

Simon & Schuster, March 5, 2024 | NA
Paperback Gallery/Scout Press April 1, 2025
288 pages, final manuscript available

From the author of the “urgent and heartfelt” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) novel *The Companions*, a genre-bending collection of interconnected short stories in the tradition of Jennifer Egan and Karen Russell.

An angry mother turns into a literal monster. A company in San Francisco can scrub your entire reputation and create a new one...for a price. A failed actor on a reality show turns into an unlikely world savior. And much more.

Through each of these twelve interconnected stories, Katie Flynn masterfully blends people, places, and even realities. From a powerful and “radiant” (Kassandra Montag, author of *After the Flood*) new literary voice to be reckoned with, this collection will stay with you after turn the final page.



Katie’s previous book, *THE COMPANIONS*, sold in Italy to Sperling & Kupfer, in Germany to Heyne, and in the Czech Republic to Dobrovsky.



Katie M. Flynn is a writer, editor, and educator based in San Francisco. Her short fiction has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Indiana Review*, *The Masters Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Tin House*, *Witness Magazine*, and many other publications. Her debut novel, *The Companions*, about love, revenge, and uploaded consciousness, is out now from Scout Press/Gallery Books. Katie has been awarded Colorado Review’s Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction, a fellowship from the Writers Grotto, and the Steinbeck Fellowship in Creative Writing. She holds an MFA from the University of San Francisco and an MA in Geography from UCLA. <https://www.katiemflynn.com/>

Praise for ISLAND RULE:

“There is much of Kelly Link and Karen Russell in Flynn’s work here—they all share a concern with types of monstrosity—but Flynn’s writing, her grasp of the complexities of human character and experience, and her concern with the interconnectedness of existence in the face of change are all very much her own.” —*Ancillary Review of Books*

“This short-story collection mixes the mundane and the bizarre with an authority stemming from its concrete sense of place . . . the overall effect is appealingly weird, as if the uncanny valley took literary form. A compelling exercise in worldbuilding and genre blending that toggles among the recent past, present, and near future.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Flynn blends realism and fantasy for a diffuse collection that probes the limits of democracy.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Some short story collections are treats to be consumed like little chocolates, with delight and frivolity. Other collections, rich like a multi-course meal at a Michelin-starred restaurant, are meant to be devoured. *Island Rule* by Katie M. Flynn is the latter . . . Brilliantly, eerily, and soundly, Flynn [contrasts] feelings of isolation and rejection while never staying in the territory of any one genre, but using genre as a tool to tell a grander story of humanity.” —**Shelf Awareness (starred review)** “A wonderfully eerie collection, *Island Rule* haunts and delights. Flynn’s writing is taught and teeming, making a world of bone mounds and monsters as alarmingly real as teenage angst and midlife crises. The creeping darkness of *Island Rule* revels in exploring darkness at the edges of our world, and what happens when we invite it in.” —**Erika Swyler, author of *The Light from Other Stars***

“In this eerie collection, Flynn challenges our notions of the familiar with 12 resonant interlocking short stories. *Island Rule* surprised me at every turn.” —**Chana Porter, author of *The Seep* and *The Thick and the Lean***

“Bruised and bruising, the stories in *Island Rule* bring to life a near-future in which loneliness and desire—for connection, visibility, and compassion— fuel every encounter. Funny, tender, and compulsively readable, Katie Flynn’s warm-hearted collection is an absolute gem, with an enormous generosity of spirit and keen wit on display in every line.” —**Maryse Meijer, author of *Rag* and *Heartbreaker***

Katy Hays
SALTWATER

Ballantine, Spring 2025 | World English
UK: Transworld
~300 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Sarah Phair

On glittering Capri, anything can be a mirage. And no one holds a grudge like family.

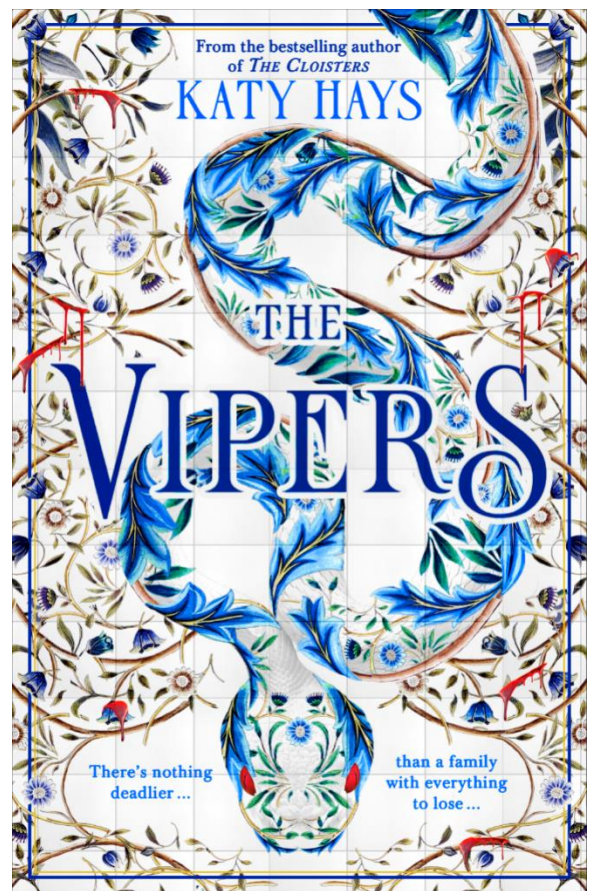
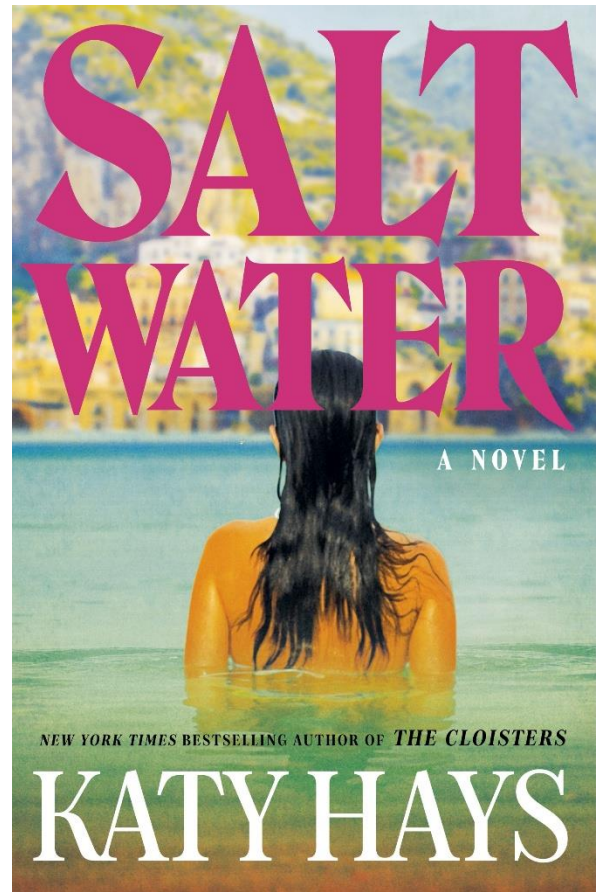
From the instant *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *THE CLOISTERS* comes an electrifying thriller about an opulent family retreat to Italy that's shattered by the resurfacing of a decades-old crime.

In 1992 Sarah Lingate is found dead below the cliffs of Capri, leaving behind her three-year-old daughter, Helen. Despite suspicions that the old-money Lingates are involved, Sarah's death is ruled an accident. And every year, the family returns to prove it's true. But on the thirtieth anniversary of Sarah's death, the Lingates arrive at the villa to find a surprise waiting for them—the necklace Sarah was wearing the night she died.

Haunted by the specter of that night, the legendary Lingate family unity is pushed to a breaking point, and Helen seizes the opportunity. Enlisting the help of Lorna Moreno, a family assistant, the two plot their escape from Helen's paranoid, insular family. But when Lorna disappears and the investigation into Sarah's death is reopened, Helen has to confront the fact that everyone who was on Capri thirty years ago remains a suspect—her controlling father Richard, rarely-lucid aunt Naomi, distant uncle Marcus, and their circle of friends, visitors, and staff. Even Lorna, her closest ally, may not be who she seems.

As long-hidden secrets about that night boil to surface, one thing becomes clear: not everyone will leave the island alive.

Foreign rights: France: Livre de Poche Italy: Rizzoli Germany: Penguin Verlag Netherlands: Singel/De Geus Turkey: Altin Kitaplar





Katy Hays is a Californian, writer, and cake aficionado. She lives in the shadow of the Sierra with her husband and their dog, Queso. In addition to writing, Katy works as an adjunct Art History Professor teaching rural students from Truckee to Tecopa. She holds an MA in Art History from Williams College and pursued her PhD in Art History at UC Berkeley. Her academic writing has been published by Ashgate, an imprint of Routledge.

Her fiction explores how far humans are willing to go to believe the unbelievable, strange-but-real worlds, and complex female friendships. Her debut novel, *THE CLOISTERS*, was a *Today Show* #ReadwithJenna Book Club pick, a B&N Book Club pick, and an Amazon Best Book of November 2022.

When not writing (or eating cake) Katy is a skier, cyclist, trail runner, eastern Sierra enthusiast, and—well, reader. <https://www.katyhays.com/>

Select praise for *THE CLOISTERS* by Katy Hays (all rights are with Atria)

**INSTANT *NEW YORK TIMES* BESTSELLER • INSTANT *SUNDAY TIMES* BESTSELLER •
READ WITH JENNA • B&N BOOK CLUB PICK**

An Amazon Best Book of November 2022: ...If you like your tales of dark academia threaded with dark secrets and even darker agendas, then this sultry, atmospheric thriller is worth the price of admission. —*Vannessa Cronin, Amazon Editor*

“Claustrophobic . . . An underhanded antiques dealer, a sexy Cloisters gardener with a side hustle in poisonous plants, a suspicious death or two, a mysterious centuries-old document written in an obscure language, the sense that no one, not even Ann, is telling us the whole truth—all this adds up to a dense forest of a plot . . . Is this a story of the occult, or a story of ambition, or a tale of one (or more!) murderous psychopaths? The answer is a shock, and it sneaks up on you unawares.” —*The New York Times*

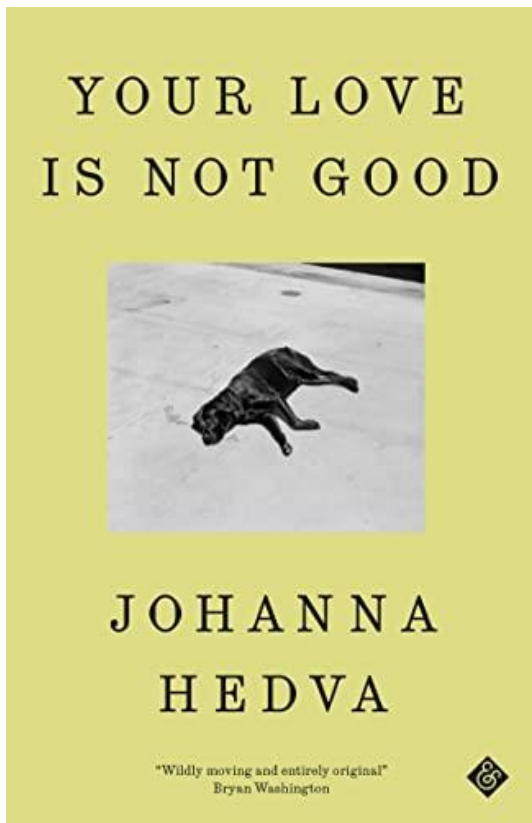
“A story of academic obsession, Renaissance magic and the ruthless pursuit of power. Captivating in every sense of the word.” —**Sarah Pearse, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Sanatorium***

“Sultry and sinister . . . Hays's debut teems with sexual tension, the secrets of divination, and scholarly obsessiveness. With a jaw-dropping twist at the end, *The Cloisters* serves as a warning to us all: we may think we know what life has in store, but fate and fortune tend to turn their own tricks.” —**Sarah Penner, bestselling author of *The Lost Apothecary***

“A moody and suspenseful story... Readers will be fascinated by the evocative setting as well as the behind-the-scenes glimpses into museum curatorship and the cutthroat games of academia...An accomplished debut.” —***Publishers Weekly***

“A tour de force by an important new voice, *The Cloisters* begins as a fish-out-of-water story. But as Katy Hays deftly weaves in layer after layer of the occult, art, and academia, it turns into a rich tapestry that speaks to issues of privilege, power, and ambition—and, more than anything, the darkness lurking just inside ivory towers. Virtuoso and incredibly compelling, *The Cloisters* grabbed me in a way that no book has done since *The Secret History*.” —**Rachel Kapelke-Dale, author of *The Fortune Seller***

“Like the moment before a thunderstorm on a summer afternoon, *The Cloisters* is sultry, lush, and trembling with menace.”—**Julia May Jonas, author of *Vladimir***



Johanna Hedva
YOUR LOVE IS NOT GOOD
And Other Stories, May 23, 2023 | World English
Paperback March, 2025
320 pages, final text available
Agent: Clare Mao

An artist of color becomes obsessed with a white model in a novel with the glamor of Clarice Lispector and the viscerality of Han Kang.

Longlisted for the 2024 Republic of Consciousness Prize

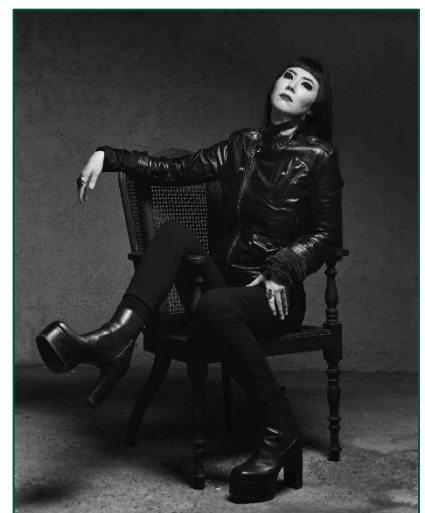
At an otherwise forgettable party in Los Angeles, a queer Korean American painter spots a woman who instantly controls the room: gorgeous and distant and utterly white, the center of everyone’s attention. Haunted into adulthood by her Korean father’s abandonment of his family, as well as the specter of her beguiling, abusive white mother, the painter finds herself caught in a perfect trap. She wants Hanne, or wants to be her, or to sully her, or destroy her, or consume her, or some confusion of all the above. Since she’s an artist, she will use art to get closer to Hanne, beginning a series of paintings with her new muse as model. As for Hanne, what does she want? Her whiteness seems sometimes as cruel as a new sheet of paper.

When the paintings of Hanne become a hit, resulting in the artist’s first sold-out show, she resolves to bring her new muse with her to Berlin, to continue their work, and her seduction. But, just when the painter is on the verge of her long sought-after breakthrough, a petition started by a Black performance artist begins making the rounds in the art community, calling for the boycott of major museums and art galleries for their imperialist and racist practices.

Torn between her desire to support the petition, to be a success, and to possess Hanne, the painter and her reality become more unstable and disorienting, unwilling to cut loose any one of her warring ambitions, yet unable to accommodate them all. Is it any wonder so many artists self-destruct so spectacularly? Is it perhaps just a bit exciting to think she could too?

Your Love Is Not Good stuffs queer explosive into the cracks between identity and aspiration, between desire and art, and revels in the raining debris.

Johanna Hedva (they/them) is a Korean-American writer, artist, and musician, who was raised in Los Angeles by a family of witches, and now lives in LA and Berlin. Their novel, *On Hell*, was named one of Dennis Cooper's favorites of 2018, and their writing has been published in *Triple Canopy*, *frieze*, and *The White Review*. Their art work has been shown at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Performance Space New York; the Museum of Architecture and Design, Los Angeles; and the Museum of Contemporary Art on the Moon. In 2019, they released the album, *The Sun and the Moon*, and in 2020 they released *Minerva the Miscarriage of the Brain*, a collection of poetry, plays, and essays published by Sming Sming and Wolfman Books. Johanna is the author of the viral/seminal essay in disability justice, “Sick Woman Theory” (forthcoming in their essay collection, *HOW TO TELL WHEN WE WILL DIE*, from Zando in 2024—Zando has World rights). “Sick Woman Theory” has been translated into: Albanian, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Korean, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, and Turkish. <https://johannahedva.com/>



PRAISE for YOUR LOVE IS NOT GOOD

“Impassioned, wry, compassionate, and hell-raising, this novel illuminates its frangible but resilient world the way a painter uses color on canvas to illuminate the focal point of her vision—building layer after layer of meaning until the image appears as if it has always been there for us to see. A resplendent and fearless book. Must read.”

—★ *Kirkus*

“Hedva is consistently savvy and surprising.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“A gripping, tightly plotted novel characterized by a trenchant exploration of race, queer desire, and power dynamics in the art world —**Reed McConnell, *Frieze***”

“An emotional and artistic bildungsroman ... filled with apt perceptions and accurate barbs.”—*ArtReview*

“A thin permeable line between love and hate, pain and pleasure, self-love, self-flagellation, and total narcissism. Hedva's characters show us the complexities of being (in)human(e) beings and push our faces into the mud, an antagonism inflicted unto ourselves as we bully, bruise, blur, and break our way into the waking world. Hedva's willingness to parse apart ‘love’ from ‘goodness’ is the honesty we're all here and have been waiting for.”

—**Legacy Russell, curator of The Kitchen and author of *Glitch Feminism***

“This precise page-turner of a tale about bad or nonexistent mothers, race, and the erotics of painting masterfully pins the art world to the buckram of its specimen tray, pointed sentence after sentence. Here everyone loses gorgeously, definitively—and lucky readers learn a lot about the game.”—**Lucy Ives, author of *Life is Everywhere***

“*Your Love Is Not Good* is a whirlwind, and a mural, and a mirror—Hedva's prose is incisive and empathetic, wholly comedic and deeply poignant. This story about the life of our ideas, the trajectory of our dreams, and the burden of our loves is wildly moving and entirely original. Hedva deftly juggles questions of ambition and debt with what we owe others, and what we owe ourselves, resulting in a novel that's both honest and enrapturing. *Your Love Is Not Good* is a genuine blast.”—**Bryan Washington, author of *Memorial***

“It's more than all this, but here is something about labor, the capitalist inseams in Identity, as expressed in an international art market that careens its participants—or is it the *art?*—towards suicide. For those needing—by hook or by crook, by rope, knife, mirror, or by truck—to leave something, or the art world, or the debt-collision of whatever they're doing, or even the internet for the next 24 goddamned hours, *Your Love Is Not Good* is very worth your beautiful time.”—**Caren Beilin, author of *Revenge of the Scapegoat***

“*Your Love Is Not Good* is a dazzling tale of claustrophobia and neglect. Swinging deftly between savage realism, scathing social satire, and brutal erotic haze, Johanna Hedva moves from agony to alchemy in this meticulously layered portrait of intimate corruption. Bursting into the broken places between shame and self-creation, trauma and accountability, righteousness and complicity, *Your Love Is Not Good* cracks open the art world to exorcise the pain of belonging.”—**Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, author of *The Freezer Door***

“Electric, pornographic, mischievous, and deeply funny. *Your Love is Not Good* is a parable of the artist who in search of beauty encounters something far more intoxicating: ruin. Burn your diaries, kill your darlings, and go toast your real friends— this is the summer beach read you'll be talking about for the rest of the year.”

—**Lara Mimosa Montes, author of *Thresholds***

“By turns funny, brutal, and (surprisingly) tender, *Your Love is Not Good* is a major achievement. Hedva's prose—which is gusty and taut—conveys a thrumming, kaleidoscopically constructed narrative structure to produce for the reader an experience of something incredibly intimate, something profuse, raw, erotic and challenging. *Your Love is Not Good* contains revelations (both vibrating and appalling) about artists and practice, and about contemporary art worlds. An instant classic/must-read/ important addition to the (woefully scanty) genre of books by artists about art-life. A very moving read.” —**Harry Dodge, author of *My Meteorite***

Lynn Hightower
The Hunting Dark
Book 2 of *The Enlightenment Project*

Severn House, May 7, 2024 | World English

Paperback January 28, 2025

Final text available

Agent: Matt Bialer

Did you know that demonic possession is a recognized psychiatric condition? The gripping sequel to *The Enlightenment Project* is a terrifying blend of horror and real-life science that will keep you turning pages . . . and keep you from sleeping. Read it if you dare!

The house is waiting . . .

In the Amish countryside of Kentucky, there is a house. Everyone knows about it. They whisper about the things that happen there. Creepy things. Terrible things. It would be better if they shouted: *Run*.

Six weeks ago, fragile mother of two Pammie LaRue moved in with her beloved partner Conor. They ignored the knocks on the walls. Whispering voices. Water pooling, with no obvious leak.

Eight days ago, Conor went missing, without a trace. Unless you count the drag marks in the crawl space under the house.

Neurosurgeon Noah Archer doesn't believe in ghosts and demons and haunted houses - he knows from terrible experience just how real they are. But despite his work with the Enlightenment Project, which pits cutting-edge scientific research against the darkness, he's no exorcist.

Still, when Pammie pitches up on his doorstep late one night, children in tow, Noah helps. He enters the house. But in doing so, he's made a terrible mistake. Because once the darkness has its claws in you, it won't let go.

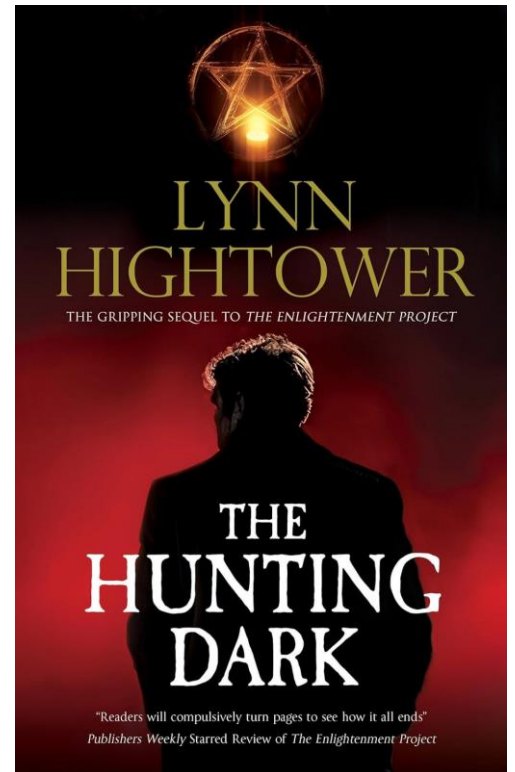
Reviews for THE ENLIGHTENMENT PROJECT | Severn House, March 2022

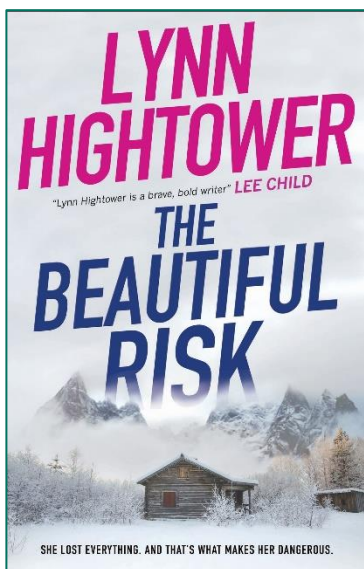
“Lynn Hightower is a brave, bold writer - and this spooky, suspenseful masterpiece could be her best yet. Super-recommended!” — **Lee Child**, #1 international bestselling author of the *Jack Reacher* thrillers

“Sensitive characterizations match the imaginative plot. Readers will compulsively turn the pages to see how it all ends.”— **Publishers Weekly** ★

“Both the medical and supernatural elements are detailed in engrossing terms. But human connections are at the heart of the novel's draw” — **Foreword Reviews**

“Establishing unsettling tones early on, the book's tension mounts, even during its quiet, tender moments”
— **Foreword Reviews**





Lynn Hightower
THE BEAUTIFUL RISK

Severn House, August 2023 | World English
Paperback April 30, 2024
256 pages, finished text available
Agent: Matt Bialer

The Beautiful Risk is a story of grief, of a dangerous mountain with a dark history, of corruption and greed, of ecoterrorism . . . and of a vulnerable woman with hearing loss, an injured dog and a broken heart, who will stop at nothing to uncover the truth.

“THE BEAUTIFUL RISK IS A BEAUTIFUL BOOK . . . Lynn Hightower's riveting thriller has a brave and valiant dog at the center, whose devotion gets the heroine through the deepest loss and grief — and jeopardy.” – Tracie Hotchner, NPR

A GRIPPING SUSPENSEFUL READ – *Booklist*

DARK AND SWIFTLY MOVING -- *Kirkus Reviews*

Her husband died in a plane crash on Mount Blanc. It was a tragic accident.

These are the simple facts.

Except someone's not telling the truth . . .

After nine months of sorrow and grief, Junie Lagarde – a brilliant forensic accountant and passionate guitarist – is gradually accepting life without her beloved husband Olivier, a French safety consultant and climate-change expert, whom she lost in a tragic plane accident over Mont Blanc. If only she could have found her loyal hearing-dog Leo, who ran off in the terrifying aftermath of the crash, before she had to return home to America. But then Junie receives an unexpected call from France . . .

Capitaine Philippe Brevard, the man in charge of investigating Olivier's death, has seen recent CCTV footage which shows Leo being held by a man who closely resembles Olivier . . . right down to his distinctive jacket.

It's not Olivier. It *can't* be . . . can it? But who is the man – and what else is Capitaine Brevard hiding from her? Junie knows she must go to Chamonix, rescue her dog, and uncover the truth . . . but there are those who mean her harm, and soon Junie's learning dangerous secrets. Secrets that will shake her faith in her closest friends and put more than just her own life in the gravest of danger.



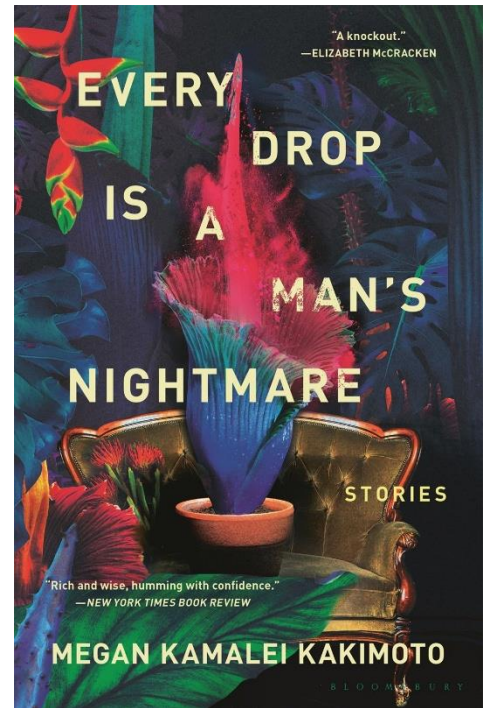
Lynn Hightower is the internationally bestselling author of numerous thrillers including the *Sonora Blair* and *Lena Padgett* detective series. She has previously won the Shamus Award for Best First Private Eye novel and a WHSmith Fresh Talent Award. Lynn lives in Kentucky, in a small Victorian cottage with a writing parlor.

Megan Kamalei Kakimoto
EVERY DROP IS A MAN'S NIGHTMARE: Stories

Bloomsbury, August 2023 | UK: Granta
272 pages, final text available
Agent: Iwalani Kim

From major new storytelling talent Megan Kamalei Kakimoto, a blazing, bodily, raucous journey through contemporary Hawaiian identity and womanhood.

Instant *USA Today* Bestseller
An Indies Introduce Pick
September Indie Next Pick



"A knockout. Eleven knockouts, one KO for every story."-Elizabeth McCracken

"A stunning debut."-Laura van den Berg

"Throbs with searing talent."-Kali Fajardo-Anstine

"As exquisite as it is terrifying."-Jenny Tinghui Zhang

Megan Kamalei Kakimoto's wrenching and sensational debut story collection follows a cast of mixed native Hawaiian and Japanese women through a contemporary landscape thick with inherited wisdom and the ghosts of colonization. This is a Hawai'i where unruly sexuality and generational memory overflow the postcard image of paradise and the boundaries of the real, where the superstitions born of the islands take on the weight of truth

A childhood encounter with a wild pua'a (pig) on the haunted Pali highway portends one young woman's fraught relationship with her pregnant body. An elderly widow begins seeing her deceased lover in a giant flower. A kanaka writer, mid-manuscript, feels her raw pages quaking and knocking in the briefcase.

Every Drop Is a Man's Nightmare is both a fierce love letter to Hawaiian identity and mythology, and a searing dispatch from an occupied territory threatening to erupt with violent secrets.

BLOODSICK: A Novel
Megan Kamalei Kakimoto

Bloomsbury late 2025 | UK: Granta
Manuscript anticipated Spring 2025

Written in the vein of Stephen Graham Jones' *THE ONLY GOOD INDIANS*, Helen Phillips' *THE NEED*, and Jessamine Chan's *THE SCHOOL FOR GOOD MOTHERS* and set in a contemporary Hawai'i with a speculative twist, *BLOODSICK* is the story of an overbearing mother and her newly menstruating daughter as they encounter ghosts, cults, and the scrutiny of the state when they flee their former lives for good.

[Megan Kamalei Kakimoto](https://www.megankakimoto.com/) is a Japanese and Kanaka Maoli (native Hawaiian) writer from Honolulu, Hawai'i. Her fiction has been featured in *Granta*, *Conjunctions*, *Joyland*, and elsewhere. She has been a finalist for the Keene Prize for Literature and has received support from the Rona Jaffe Foundation and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She received her MFA from the Michener Center for Writers, where she was a Fiction Fellow. She lives in Honolulu.
<https://www.megankakimoto.com/>



Photo credit: Van Wishingrad

Praise for EVERY DROP IS A MAN'S NIGHTMARE

“The contemporary Hawaii of Kakimoto’s debut is neither idyllic backdrop nor tragic fable; the stories evoke the land and its intermixing cultures in all their anxiety, claustrophobia and restlessness. Following Indigenous and Japanese women, these stories are fluid, feminine, tormented, haunted and incredibly horny... Weaving Hawaiian words into English ones, Kakimoto positions language as a tether to our most ancient and eternal selves... *Every Drop Is a Man’s Nightmare* is rich and wise, humming with confidence in the knowledge of a particular community’s lovely, miserable ways.” — *New York Times Book Review*

“Kakimoto interweaves themes of sexual desire and fertility with Hawaiian mythology in her unflinching debut collection . . . Marked by a wry sense of humor and an unerring touch for the surreal, Kakimoto’s stories add up to a powerful exploration of gender, class, race, colonialism, and domestic violence. This eloquent outing marks Kakimoto as a writer to watch.” — ★ *Publishers Weekly*

All things weird, wonderful, mysterious, and mythical collide in this excellent debut story collection. Focused on mixed native Hawaiian and Japanese women and ensconced in Hawaiian history and lore, each story explores what it means to be a woman, but especially a woman of color . . . This great book signals the arrival of a very talented writer.” — ★ *Booklist*

“Absorbing . . . Magical events illuminate the all-too-real problems of Hawaiian women in an impressive story collection.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“Megan Kamalei Kakimoto is a short story writer that all other short story writers should study. *Every Drop* is a frontrunner for Book of the Year.” — *Debutiful*

“Kakimoto’s debut collection tells 11 stories of contemporary Hawaiian identity, mythology, and womanhood. Unruly sexuality, generational memory, and the ghosts of colonization collide in what promises to be an auspicious short-fiction debut.” — *The Millions*, Most Anticipated

“The world desperately needs more Hawaiian voices in literature (and everywhere!), and Megan Kamalei Kakimoto’s debut collection is a brave and atmospheric addition. Reflective and bold, the stories take on the violence of colonization while celebrating Hawaiian identity and womanhood.” — *Ms. Magazine*

“Megan Kamelei Kakimoto’s collection blooms with opulent and tender language. She weaves an intimate and expansive worldview of Hawai‘i as sacred, abundant, and thoroughly alive with ancestral stories. Kakimoto is one of Hawai‘i’s most brilliant new voices. The power of her monumental debut will reverberate across generations past and those yet to come.” — Joseph Han, author of *Nuclear Family*

“Lyrical collisions of superstition, folktales, and modern Hawaiian culture saving itself in the face of cliches. Desire and confusion are rarely far apart in these powerful coming-of-age stories that prove ‘it is possible to be many things, all the time, all at once.’” — Amy Hempel, author of *The Collected Stories* and *Sing to It*

“Megan Kakimoto is an extraordinary writer—compassionate, insightful, fiercely funny and super-smart—and *Every Drop Is a Man’s Nightmare* thrums with intelligence, wisdom, and wild originality. A tremendous debut by a writer who, lucky for us, has only just begun.” — Molly Antopol, author of *The UnAmericans*

“Megan Kakimoto is one of those rare writers who has mastered both story and sentence. ‘The Love and Decline of the Corpse Flower’—thick with grief, desire, and magic—teems with deft lyricism and poetic attention. The women in this story are audacious, resilient, and unforgettable—they have my whole heart.” — Kimberly King Parsons, author of *Black Light*

“A wholly original debut, [it’s] everything I want in a collection: daring, big-hearted, electric, lyrical, and utterly unforgettable. ... This book is a resounding yes... We are lucky to live in the time of Megan Kamalei Kakimoto.” — Marisa Crane, author of *I Keep My Exoskeletons To Myself*

Rachel Kapelke-Dale
THE FORTUNE SELLER

St. Martin's Press | February 13, 2024 | World English
320 pages, final text available
Agent: Sarah Phair

In development with a major television studio

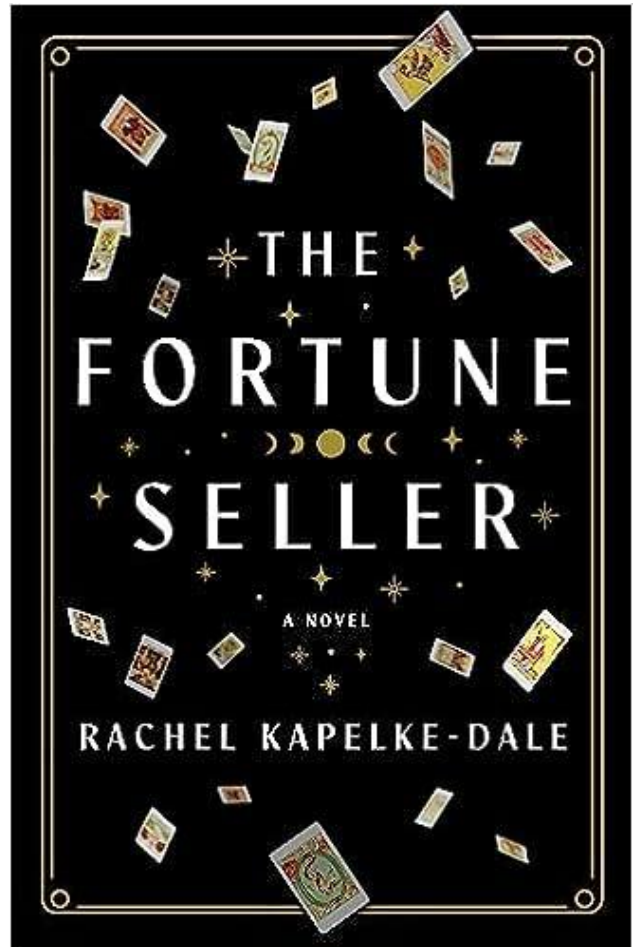
Yellowjackets meets The Cloisters in this beguiling coming-of-age story about class, reinvention, and destiny, set against the backdrop of two mysterious deaths.

When it comes to seeing the future—do you really want to know?

Middle-class Rosie Macalister has worked for years to fit in with her wealthy friends on the Yale equestrian team. But when she comes back from her junior year abroad with newfound confidence, she finds that the group has been infiltrated by a mysterious intruder: Annelise Tattinger.

A talented tarot reader and a brilliant rider, the enigmatic Annelise is unlike anyone Rosie has ever met. But when one of their friends notices money disappearing from her bank account, Annelise's place in the circle is thrown into question. As the girls turn against each other, the group's unspoken tensions and assumptions lead to devastating consequences.

It's only after graduation, when Rosie begins a job at a Manhattan hedge fund, that she uncovers Annelise's true identity—and how her place in their elite Yale set was no accident. Is it too late for Rosie to put right what went wrong, or does everyone's luck run out at some point? Set in the heady days of the early aughts, *The Fortune Seller* is a haunting examination of class, ambition, and the desires that shape our lives.



Rachel Kapelke-Dale is the author of *The Ingenue*, *The Ballerinas*, and co-author of *Graduates in Wonderland* (Penguin 2014). Kapelke-Dale received a BA from Brown University, where she rode on the varsity equestrian team, an MA from the Université de Paris VII, and a PhD from University College London. She currently lives in Paris. <http://rachelkapelkedale.com/>

Praise for THE FORTUNE SELLER

"Propulsive and engrossing, *The Fortune Seller* deftly examines the ways in which our lives are shaped by luck and by fate, illustrating the sometimes grizzly consequences of tempting either. Rachel Kapelke-Dale has (once again) captured the complexities of female friendship, ambition, and privilege with razor-sharp insight and sparkling prose, all set in the evocative worlds of equestrian competitions, dark academia, and the New York elite. Tarot cards offer hints at what's to come in each chapter, but this story kept me on my toes throughout; I absolutely devoured it." -**Genevieve Wheeler, author of *Adelaide***

"Kapelke-Dale is fluent in the double-edged language of female friendship. I ripped through *The Fortune Seller*, her captivating, fast-paced novel about upper-crust, ride-or-die housemates at Yale whose petty cruelties take a sinister turn. A refreshing look at girl power and identity, longing and belonging, and fate and free will, *The Fortune Seller* reveals the dark impulses that fuel our most intense, intoxicating relationships." -**Jillian Medoff, author of *When We Were Bright and Beautiful***

"Delicious and addicting, *The Fortune Seller* is the book of my occult horse girl dreams. Ambition, excess, equestrians—all filtered through the tarot and the question of fate versus luck. Kapelke-Dale has constructed a glittering tale of sacrifice and privilege. I guarantee you will not be able to put it down." -**Julia Fine, author of *Maddalena and the Dark***

"*The Fortune Seller* is pure magic. A juicy campus novel suffused with complex friendship dynamics and an insider-outsider story of one woman's struggle to fit in with her high-flying peers, Kapelke-Dale weaves suspense with sharp prose for a read that's both fast-paced and thought-provoking. The novel's tarot cards may illuminate the future, but this much is clear: I'd follow Kapelke-Dale anywhere." -**Avery Carpenter Forrey, author of *Social Engagement***

"Kapelke-Dale ... perfectly portrays the complexities of class and status among privileged peers, where wealth outweighs talent and ambition spawns cruelty. ...Sophisticated with just the right dose of sinister, this coming-of-age story doesn't shy from the grisly power dynamics of privilege." -**Library Journal**

"Kapelke-Dale skillfully blends class concerns, character development, and a menacing atmosphere, emerging with an intoxicating mystery that defies easy categorization. Readers will be tempted to devour it in a single sitting. - **Publishers Weekly** ★

"Brimming with competitions, rivalries amid friendships, and secrets within lies...Fans of Kapelke-Dale's signature twisty suspense will be riveted." - **Booklist**

"This dark page-turner has excellent storytelling (strange deaths! class warfare!), characters you'll love to hate, and fascinating insights into the twists and turns of friendship." -**Real Simple**

"This book combines so many things I enjoy...who doesn't want to read about horse girls and fortune tellers? Delightful." -**CrimeReads**

Sally Wen Mao

NINETAILS: Stories

Penguin, May 28, 2024 | NA

288 pages, Full MS available

Agent: Clare Mao

“A sumptuous and lively collection, leaping from story to story in much the same way a fox does — surprisingly, gracefully, and with impressive aim. I loved this book.”—Kelly Link, author of *The Book of Love*

A MOST ANTICIPATED AND BEST BOOK WITH RECTOR | LARGEHEARTED BOY | POLYGON | CHICAGO REVIEW OF BOOKS | GIZMODO | ELECTRIC LIT | BIBLIOLIFESTYLE | BOOKRIOT | ELLE

A fox spirit avenges a teen girl by seducing her abuser. A shapeshifting woman finds herself chased through the woods by fox hunters; meanwhile, an assassination plot called Operation Fox Hunt unfolds against the last Queen of Korea. Chinese migrants hoping to make new lives as “paper children” in America find their pasts—and their hopes for the future—embodied in the foxes that haunt the harbor in 1900s Angel Island.

In the nine tales of NINETAILS acclaimed poet Sally Wen Mao reimagines the fox spirit from Asian folklore—a shapeshifter, shaman, and seductress—as an icon of vengeance, solidarity and liberation. The characters of her stories are varied—from silicone sex dolls who come to life with new purpose, to women whose crushes manifest as stones—but they all reach for a common purpose: to find truth and belonging in a difficult world determined to consider them alien.

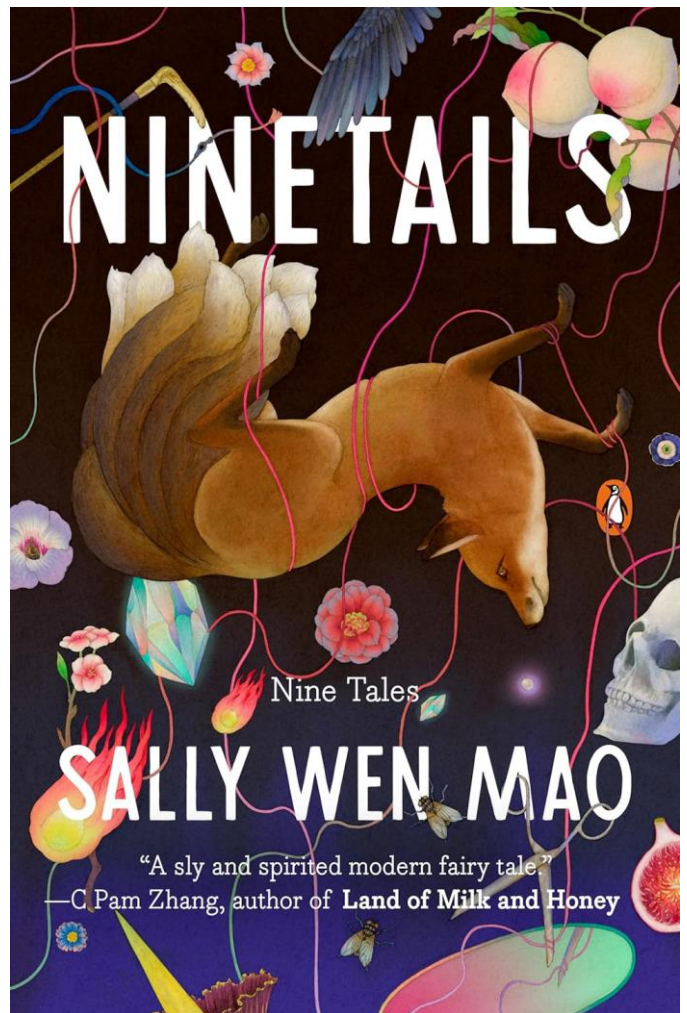


Photo credit: Jelani Ameer

With the fabulist vibrancy of Carmen Maria Machado, the sinuous world-building of Helen Oyeyemi, and the sensuous feminist rage of Han Kang, NINETAILS is both timeless—unearthing a cultural icon whose origins date back over a thousand years—and timely in its contemporary political urgency.

[Sally Wen Mao](https://www.sallywenmao.com/) is the acclaimed author of three poetry collections—*Oculus* which was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and one of Time Magazine’s 100 Must-Read Books of 2019; *Mad Honey Symposium*, which named a Top Ten Debut of 2014 in *Poets & Writers*; and *The Kingdom of Surfaces*, a finalist for the 2023 Maya Angelou Book Award. The recipient of two Pushcart Prizes and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, she’s been published in *The Paris Review*, *Harper Bazaar*, *Guerilla*, *PEN America*, among others, with rave reviews of her writing in national outlets such as the *New Yorker*, *NPR*, and *The Washington Post*. She currently lives in New York City <https://www.sallywenmao.com/>

Praise for NINETAILS:

“*[Ninetails]* not only plays with language and imagery, it also brings a surreal, poetic logic to the narrative itself. ... Often, even a great collection blurs into undifferentiated sameness after you finish — but each must-read story in “Ninetails” remains fresh and distinct long after you close the pages.” — *Washington Post*

“An exquisite collection of fairy tale stories.... In gorgeous language and intimate attention to detail, Sally Wen Mao presents stories that span centuries, addressing dating apps and dancers and migrants and sex dolls with the same keen eye and enchanting prose.” — *ELLE*

“... each story glimmers with captivating premises and glistens with undeniable lyricism. Sally Wen Mao has built entire worlds in each short entry, making this a prose debut that you don’t want to miss.” — *Chicago Review of Books*

"Award-winning poet Mao's fiction debut is a spectacularly multifaceted collection about women and their feral superpowers....Mao challenges and disrupts expectations of womanhood, demanding and forging brilliant new narratives." —

Booklist ★

"Myth and folklore intertwine seamlessly with the tumultuous lives of Asian women in *Ninetails*...Unfolding with gripping intensity through author Sally Wen Mao's vivid depictions of the gritting settings and sobering situations that confront her characters, each premise is made even more powerful by the magical element introduced when a fox spirit manifests to liberate the women from their misery, or inflict retribution for wrongdoings...Mao's compelling depiction of Asian women's experiences is powerfully unsettling in its authenticity. Through themes of revenge and redemption, these stories illuminate our enduring capacity for resilience." — *Bookpage*

“Sally Wen Mao's work, both in prose and poetry, is a deep exploration of power and the fabrications our cultures have cast to weaponize power against the underclass, the forgotten, the lost, and the beautifully strange. What I love most about NINETAILS is its fierce allegiance to underdogs of all kinds, its careful and myriad empathy for its characters, but also its pure and artisanal delight in language and fictive possibilities. It marks, to my mind, the beginning of a poet's long and potent exploration in literature's most capacious genre. And it's a welcomed sight to see.” —*Ocean Vuong, New York Times*-bestselling author of *On Earth, We're Briefly Gorgeous* and *Time is a Mother*

Ninetails is a spirited modern fairy tale that takes cues from history, mythology, headline news, dating apps, and Mao's gift for sly observation. This is an exploration of the animal magic within the feminine, written with ardor and ambition.”N—C.
Pam Zhang, author of *How Much of These Hills is Gold*

“Fiercely imaginative and nourished by a wild subterranean river of magic, folklore, and futuristic myth, Sally Wen Mao's *Ninetails* is a beguiling book and one that challenges the reader to conjure strange new modes of subverting oppression. Long a luminary of the poetry world, Sally Wen Mao proves here that she is an unstoppable, incandescent force in prose as well.”—*Alexandra Kleeman, author of *Something New Under the Sun**

“With this first collection of deft and poignant stories, Sally Wen Mao continues to prove herself as one of the most fascinating and versatile writers of her generation.”—*Dave Eggers, New York Times* bestselling author of *The Eyes & The Impossible* and *The Every*

“[A] well-constructed debut collection... these smart, fabulist pieces confirm Mao's reputation as a voice to be reckoned with.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“With *Ninetails*, Mao weaves a beguiling and epic paean to the power of the feminine. Lyrical and virtuosic, with a sly sense of humor, this collection features a colorful and unforgettable cast of characters, from love dolls to dancers to translators to witches. A bewitching fiction debut as magical and shape-shifting as the fox spirit herself.”—*Gina Chung, author of *Sea Change* and *Green Frog**

“I've loved reading Sally Wen Mao's work for years and am beyond thrilled that she's putting a collection of short stories out in the world. These stories will explore myth and folklore from Chinese culture — shapeshifting foxes, ghosts, mysterious goddesses—as well as immigration, sexuality, Asian American identity, and more with linguistic skill and spectacular imagination. Knowing *Ninetails* was a two book deal and there's a novel to follow only makes this release even sweeter.” —
Christina Orlando, Tor.com

Tomás Q. Morin

CAT LOVE

Pantheon 2025 | North America

Manuscript available November 2024

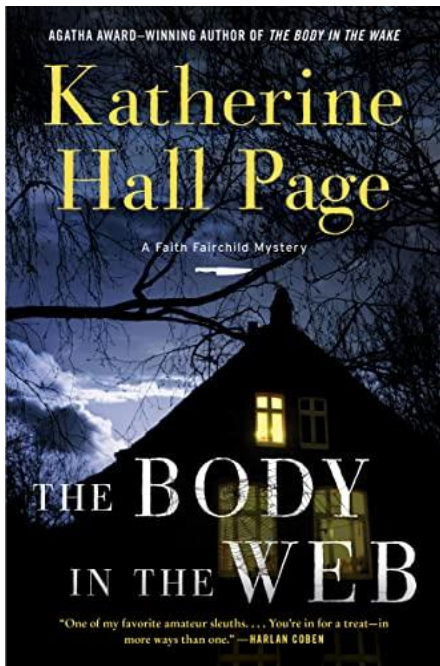
Agent: Dan Mandel

A near-future dystopian novel narrated by a cat who finds herself imprisoned in a Schrodinger's box at the center of an emotional statistics course.

I wonder if they can hear me? If only they could, I might have a chance at convincing one of them to let me out. A long time ago, the first cat to wander into the cave of a human and make itself at home, learned how to meow in the same frequency as human babies. Not surprisingly, since that first cat chirped, humans haven't been able to resist stroking our fur and sharing their food with us and letting us snuggle in their beds. Knowing how to hijack the nurturing instinct of humans is not genetic though. It's a skill taught from one cat to another.



Tomás Q. Morin is the author of several books, including the memoir *Let Me Count the Ways* (Nebraska, 2022), winner of the 2022 Writers' League of Texas Nonfiction Book Award; the poetry collections *Machete*, *A Larger Country*, and *Patient Zero*; and other books. He is on the faculty at Rice University. <https://www.tomasqmorin.com>



Katherine Hall Page
THE BODY IN THE WEB:
A Faith Fairchild Mystery

William Morrow, May 2023, ppk May 2024 | World English
272 pages, final text available
Agent: Faith Hamlin

Mystery Writers of America 2024
Edgar Allan Poe Award winner:
Grand Master

In this 26th book in the award-winning Faith Fairchild Mysteries series, Katherine Hall Page's beloved amateur detective is hunkered down with her family during the pandemic when a Zoom-bombing scandal sends the community into a tailspin ... and a dead body is discovered.

"The best book I have read so far about life under Covid." – Barbara Peters, the Poisoned Pen Bookstore

"The 26th Faith Fairchild mystery (after *The Body in the Wake*) is fresh and remarkable in its ability to bring back memories of the day-to-day aspects of living through COVID. The reader and the victim are both trapped in a web in this skillful combination of mystery and pandemic story." — ★ *Library Journal*

"All the hallmarks that signify a Katherine Hall Page Faith Fairchild Mystery are here, but it is really the depiction of everyday life during our recent pandemic that will resonate the longest with readers." — Bolo Books

Faith Fairchild joins the rest of the world in lockdown mode when reality flips in March 2020. As the pandemic spreads, Faith and her family readjust to life together in Aleford, Massachusetts. Her husband, Tom, continues his sermons from Zoom; their children, Ben, who's in college, and Amy, a high school senior, are doing remote learning at home.

Faith is happy to have her family under the same roof and grateful for her resilient community, friends, and neighbors in Aleford. Town halls remain lively and well-attended, despite residents joining from their living rooms. It is at one of these town halls that scandal breaks out. In the midst of a Zoom meeting, damaging images suddenly flash upon everyone's screens. Claudia, local art teacher and Faith's dear friend, is immediately recognized as the woman who has been targeted.

When Claudia is later discovered dead, Faith, with the help of her friends, journeys deep into the dark web to unravel the threads of Claudia's mysterious history and shocking passing.



previously sold in 5 territories.

Katherine Hall Page is the recipient of the 2024 Mystery Writers of America Edgar Allan Poe Grand Master Award, joining the ranks of previous winners including, among others, Jeffrey Deaver, Michael Connelly, James Ellroy, Ken Follett and Mary Higgins Clark. She was also awarded the 2015 Malice Award for Lifetime Achievement, bestowed by the Malice Board of Directors in recognition of a significant body of distinguished work. Previous recipients include Tony Hillerman, Sara Paretsky, Sue Grafton, Dick Francis, Mary Stewart, Mary Higgins Clark, and others. Page has received the Agatha Award three times for her Faith Fairchild mystery series, the first—and only—writer ever to receive this honor. She has been nominated for the Edgar, the Mary Higgins Clark, and the Macavity awards, and her titles have

<https://www.katherine-hall-page.org/>



Mallory Pearson

VOICE LIKE A HYACINTH

47North | January 7, 2025 | World English

443 pages, final text available

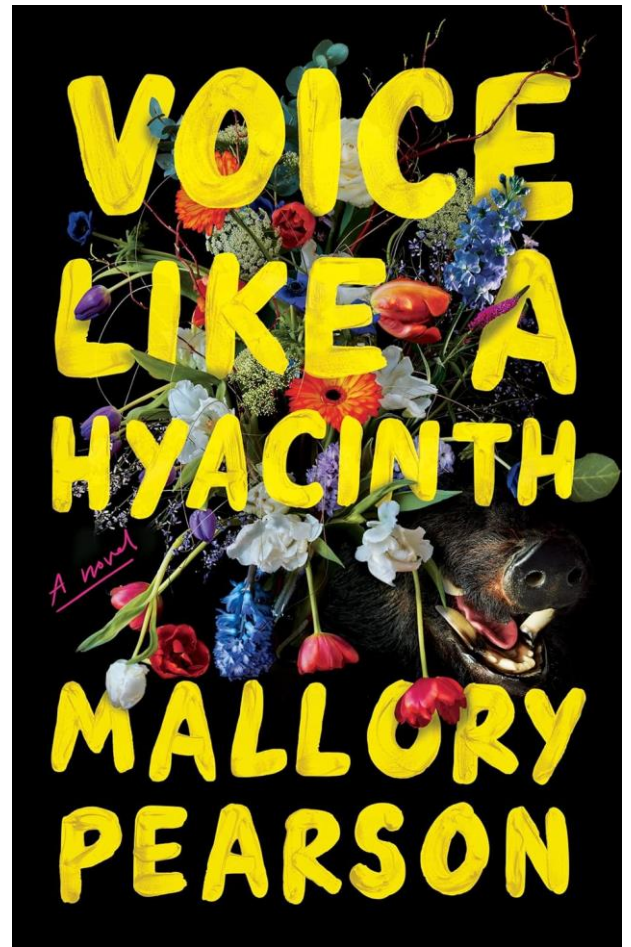
Agent: Bailey Tamayo

Five young women eager for success rely on the unspeakable to make their dreams come true in a chilling novel about martyrdom, ritual, and obsession by the author of *We Ate the Dark*.

Art student Jo Kozak and her fellow classmates and best friends, Caroline, Finch, Amrita, and Saz, are one another’s muses—so close they have their own language and so devoted to the craft that they’ll do anything to keep their inspiration alive. Even if it means naively resorting to the occult to unlock their creativity and to curse their esteemed, if notoriously creepy, professor. They soon learn the horrible price to be paid for such a transgressive ritual.

In its violent aftermath, things are changing. Jo is feeling unnervingly haunted by something inexplicable. Their paintings, once prodigious and full of life, are growing dark and unhealthy. And their journey together—as women, students, and artists—is starting to crumble.

To right the wrong they’ve done, these five desperate friends will take their obsession a step too far. When that happens, there may be no turning back.



Praise for WE ATE THE DARK:

“The two story lines wind and twist and eventually connect in this leisurely paced, lyrically written paean to the power of friendship and chosen family.” —*Booklist*

“Pearson’s first novel, which explores magic, loss, family, and friendships, will captivate readers from the start. Her luscious writing brings the characters’ feelings to the page, all set in a world rife with sorcery. ... With stunning prose, Pearson draws readers into the lives of her characters and weaves a horror-esque fantasy tale.” — *Library Journal*



Mallory Pearson is the author of *We Ate the Dark*. She is a writer and artist portraying themes of folklore, queer identity, loss, and the interaction of these elements with the southern United States. She studied painting and bookbinding, and now spends her time translating visual art into prose. She is an avid fan of horror movies and elaborate stews cooked in big witchy pots, and her work has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Capsule Stories*, and *Haverthorn Press*. Mallory was raised in Virginia and now lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her dearest friends. For more information, visit <https://mallorypearson.com/>

Sydney Rende
I COULD BE FAMOUS

Bloomsbury, Winter 2026 | North America

Manuscript anticipated January 2025

Agent: Madeline Wallace

A debut collection of eleven stories that follow ten women, and one man, connected by a complicated desire—whether to be famous, to be adored, or simply to be seen—that threatens to consume each of them.

I COULD BE FAMOUS takes the messy millennial trope to weird, wild, and wonderful places, spanning the dazzling to the mundane. A listless woman gets pulled into the orbit of a wannabe influencer, whose lavish lifestyle is not what it seems. Meanwhile, a narrator tries to ignore the haunting photorealistic tattoo on her boyfriend’s thigh of his dead mother—until the matriarch herself shows up to offer a warning. An assistant on Architectural Digest–style videos finds renewed purpose in kleptomania when she begins nabbing trinkets from celebrity houses, and a struggling actress goes method so she can nail an audition for the role of High School Junkie Girlfriend. Threaded throughout these explorations of feminine neuroses and aspirations is a young hotshot male actor, who faces his own fall from grace when he’s leveraged with accusations of cannibalism. With an energy that sparks off the page, Rende’s delusion-driven characters hold a mirror to our own obsession with how we’re perceived.

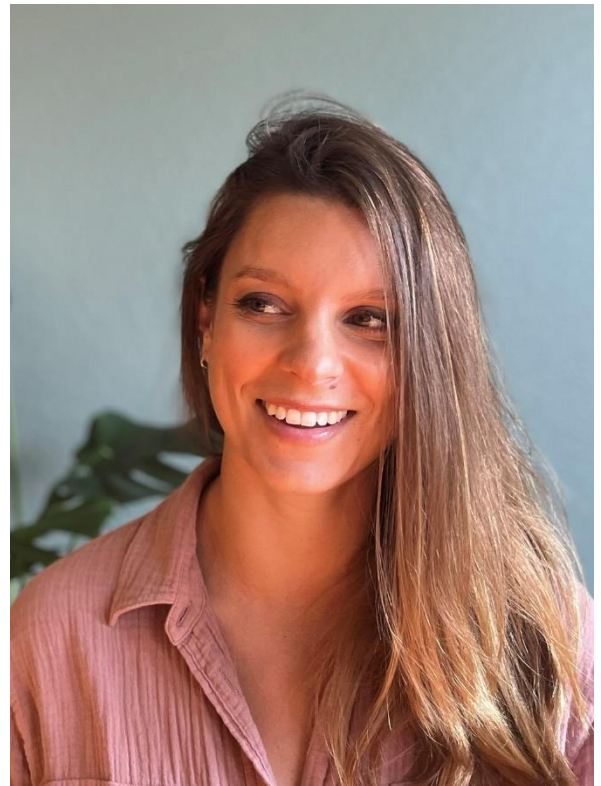
The women of I COULD BE FAMOUS are wry, witty, inspired, and—above all else—motivated by their desire for *more* (whatever that means to them). Combining the primal, voice-centric qualities of Melissa Broder’s *Milk Fed* with the propulsive eclecticism of Ottessa Moshfegh’s *Homesick For Another World*, and including a hefty dose of the ennui, hilarity, and cringing relatability of Lena Dunham’s *Girls* series, I COULD BE FAMOUS is a love letter to big ambitions and bigger dissatisfactions, belief in ourselves, and the fascination we all hold with the idea that we could—someday, maybe, somehow—be famous.

Sydney Rende is a writer and editor. You can read her work in *The New York Times Style Magazine*, *Carve Magazine*, *Joyland*, and elsewhere. Her debut short story collection, I COULD BE FAMOUS, is forthcoming from Bloomsbury in 2026.

A reality TV enthusiast since that fateful night in 2007 when LC called Spencer Pratt a “Sucky Person,” she will challenge anyone who argues that reality TV isn’t high art.

She lives in Southern California.

<https://www.sydneyrende.com/>



Reena Shah

EVERY HAPPINESS

Bloomsbury | early 2026 | NA

Manuscript due Autumn 2024

Agent: Iwalani Kim

Rights sold: India/English & Hindi
(PRH India)

**Sold at auction in a
6-figure deal**

Every Happiness is a dazzling exploration of the ties that bind two women across decades and continents, despite rivalry, class difference, and the conflicting needs of family and self, for readers of *The Interestings*, *Fruit of the Drunken Tree*, and *Fiona and Jane*.

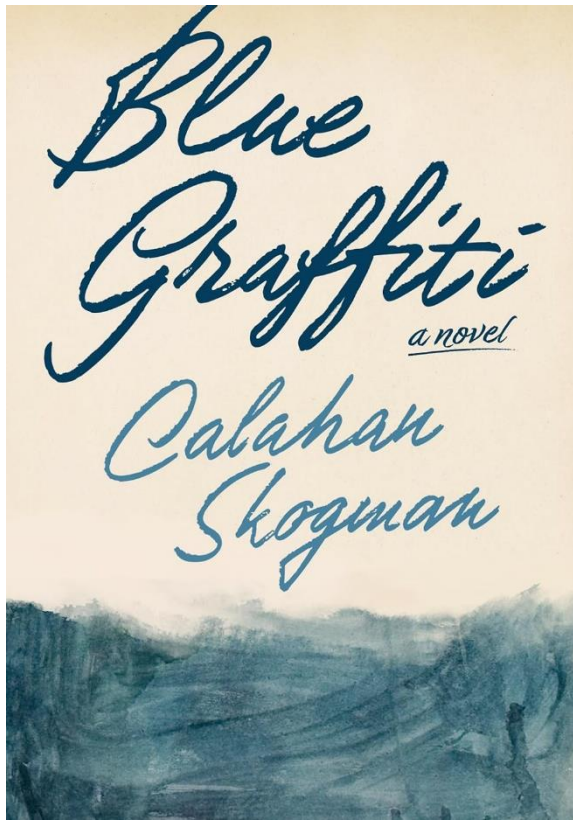


Deepa and Ruchi are 12 years old when they meet at their Catholic school in India, but their connection is swift and lasting. As the two girls grow up and face their family's expectations and the limits of their ambitions, their friendship unfurls with dizzying intimacy, despite painful jealousy and suppressed desire.

When, in their twenties, Deepa marries a doctor and moves from India to the suburbs of Connecticut, Ruchi quickly finds an engineer bound for the same state and follows her friend across the world. But life in the United States is different than either woman expects. Deepa's daughter seeks affection Deepa refuses to give, and Ruchi's son resists her smothering care. At the same time, Deepa and Ruchi find their closeness tested by a growing class disparity, competing family needs, and the differences in their desires. Ultimately, when Ruchi discovers a dangerous secret about Deepa's husband's wealth, both women are forced to weigh the tangled bonds of their friendship with their lives, and their families', in the burgeoning Indian-American community.

"Moving and unforgettable" (Kimberly King Parsons), *Every Happiness* explores the slippery edges of a lifelong relationship, and the invisible threads that bind us, sometimes painfully, to those we love the most.

Reena Shah is a writer, editor, and teacher. She has received fellowships and residencies from the Millay Arts, Tin House, the Sustainable Arts Foundation, Cuttyhunk Island Residency, and the Fulbright Foundation. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Master's Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Midnight Breakfast*, *Waxwing Magazine*, *Joyland*, *BBC*, *The American Prospect*, *National Geographic*, *The Guardian*, *Third Coast*, and *Writer's Digest*, among others. For many years she was a kathak dancer and public school teacher in New York and India. <https://www.reenadshah.com/about>



Calahan Skogman
BLUE GRAFFITI

Unnamed Press, August 13, 2024 | World English

Final manuscript available

Agent: Matt Bialer

From the lead actor in Netflix's *Shadow and Bone* comes a love letter to middle-of-nowhere America.

Living in the home he inherited from his mother and abandoned by his father, painter and construction worker Cash has never known anything beyond the fields of Johnston, WI—never particularly wanted to, either. Why would he when his friends are there, his work is there, his history is there? He loves Johnston. But when an emerald-eyed stranger named Rose blows into town one summer evening in his favorite local bar, everything changes. It's love at first sight. For Cash, anyway.

What follows is an intimate reflection on the love, faith, and tragedy that courses through the blood of America's backbone. Cash and his closest friends find themselves vital threads in the fabric of their community, the memory of those forgotten, and partners in a new enterprise. A bluesy ode to the Beat generation for the modern era, *Blue Graffiti* is writer Calahan Skogman's poetic debut brimming with an essential freedom, romance, and longing for a bygone era.

Foreign Rights:
Spanish: RBA

"You'll feel echoes of Kerouac and *The Outsiders* in this poetic debut novel about fathers and sons, of boys becoming men, of what it feels like to be caught between the helium of dreams and the ceiling of small-town American reality." — **Jodi Picoult, #1 NYT bestselling author**

"*Blue Graffiti* is a big-hearted, hypnotic ode to the American Midwest, the waning days of youth, and the power of love to break, heal, and remake us a thousand times over. An emotional and utterly romantic—in the truest sense of the word—debut." — **Emily Henry, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *Funny Story***

"The fabric of this story feels well-worn and delicate. Skogman speaks with such an assured familiarity of the characters and spaces in *Blue Graffiti*, like a tour guide driving you around his hometown. And within every seemingly mundane moment, he directs your attention to the bit of magic and mystery imbued in it." — **Eric Heisserer, Oscar-nominated screenwriter of *Arrival***

"Skogman's debut is a love letter to barstool philosophizing and a tender portrait of small-town life with a simple but powerful message: There's always something special about home. Thoughtful, measured storytelling with moments of tremendous heart." — **KIRKUS REVIEWS**

Calahan Skogman is a writer, poet, and actor born in Davenport, Iowa, raised in Wisconsin. He earned his MFA at the University of Southern California's School of Dramatic Arts and is best known for his leading role as Matthias Helvar in Netflix's Emmy-nominated show *Shadow and Bone* (based on the best-selling series by Leigh Bardugo).



Douglas Day Stewart

AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN'S DAUGHTER

Blackstone, June 25, 2024 | World English

Manuscript available

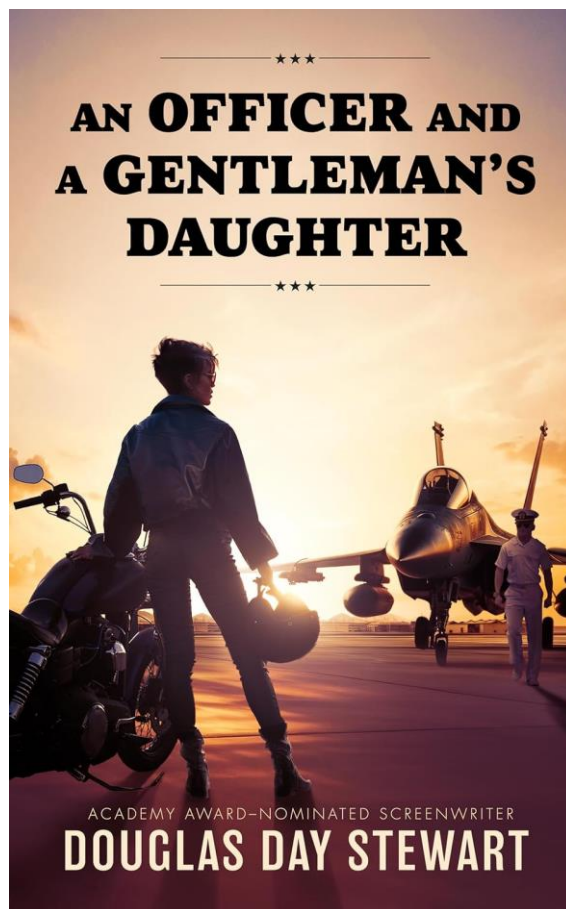
Agent: Matt Bialer

The official sequel to the 1982 hit film, *An Officer and a Gentleman's Daughter* is a brilliant story of struggle and redemption written by Academy Award-nominated screenwriter, Douglas Day Stewart.

"Douglas Day Stewart is a bold and fearless writer. Can't wait to see the movie." – **Richard Gere**

"*An Officer and a Gentleman's Daughter* is the sequel you've been waiting forty-two years to read. This book delivers!" --**Don Bentley, New York Times** bestselling author of *Forgotten War*

"Watch out for my friend, Douglas Day Stewart. He's already made your heart skip a beat. Get ready for him to do it again." --**Louis Gossett Jr., Academy Award-winning actor**

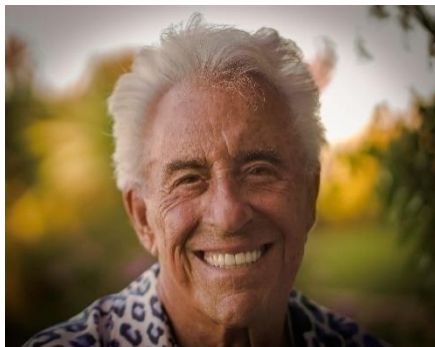


Thirty-five years after the events of *An Officer and a Gentleman*, Zack Mayo finds himself facing a very different kind of struggle. His beloved wife died tragically over a decade ago, his daughter--severely impacted by the death of her mother--disappeared after turning to drugs, and now he is being forced into retirement after a heroic career.

Convinced his daughter had died two years ago in a fire, Mayo is shocked when she shows up as a student in the last class he will teach before retirement. Shannon Mayo must accomplish the impossible if she is to pass her father's class and prove to herself that she has fully conquered her demons. Jet school is an unforgiving gauntlet for student and teacher, and their own personal journey is fraught with guilt, grief, and secrets that must be faced by both father and daughter before it's too late.

It's up to an old mentor to help them navigate their way forward, allowing a daughter to forgive herself for the past and regain her love of life, and a father to prove to himself that he truly is an officer and a gentleman.

Stewart wrote the iconic film based largely on his own experiences as a Naval Officer during the Vietnam era. From its release in 1982, the film (starring Richard Gere, Louis Gossett Jr., and Debra Winger) has been an inspiration to generations. Considered a cinema classic, the film has been heralded as one of the ten best and ten most profitable love stories in film history. The world responded to an uplifting love story in 1982 and it is even more hungry for such a story now.



[Douglas Day Stewart](#) has written some of the most successful films and television movies in Hollywood history. His *Blue Lagoon* taught a generation about sex. His *The Boy in the Plastic Bubble* launched John Travolta as a star and was in its day the most-watched television film in history. *An Officer and a Gentleman*, which Stewart based on his own experiences as a naval officer, secured him an academy award nomination and became one of the ten highest grossing love stories of all time. Stewart is the happily married father of three. *An Officer and a Gentleman's Daughter* is his first novel.

Claire Swinarski

LIKE A MOTHER

William Morrow / Avon, tpb | Fall 2025 | NA

Manuscript anticipated late 2024

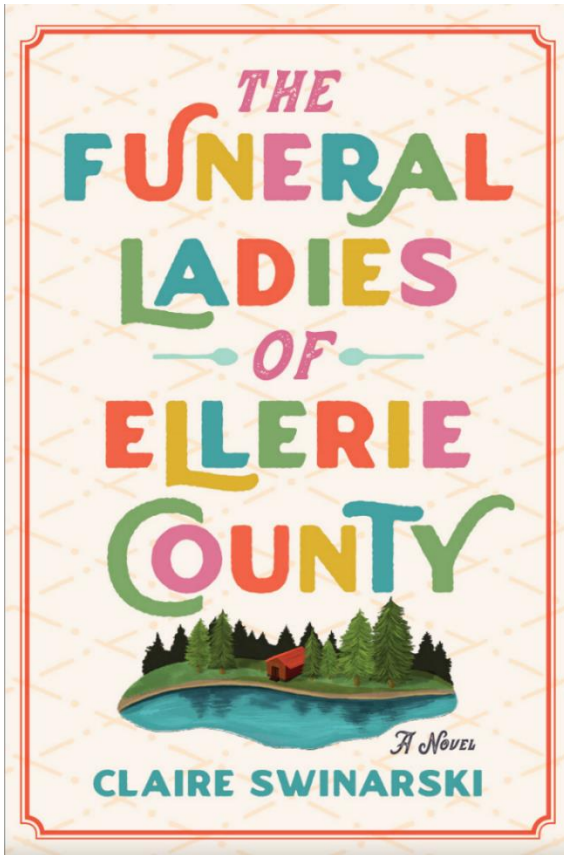
Agent: Alexander Slater

From the author of *THE FUNERAL LADIES OF ELLERIE COUNTY* and 2024 Edgar Award nominee *WHAT HAPPENED TO RACHEL RILEY* comes a tale told in alternating voices about a mid-western family in which one of the daughters, who left to join a cult-like “mommune,” returns home, and the ripple effects that her reappearance has on the family and, indeed, on the entire town.

THE FUNERAL LADIES OF ELLERIE COUNTY

William Morrow/Avon, tpb | March 12, 2024 | NA

272 pages, final manuscript available



Armed with a Crock-Pot and a pile of recipes, a grandmother, her granddaughter, and a mysterious young man work to bring a community together in this uplifting novel for readers of *The Chicken Sisters*.

Esther Larson has been cooking for funerals in the Northwoods of Wisconsin for seventy years. Known locally as the “funeral ladies,” she and her cohort have worked hard to keep the mourners of Ellerie County fed—it is her firm belief that there is very little a warm casserole and a piece of cherry pie can’t fix. But, after falling for an internet scam that puts her home at risk, the proud Larson family matriarch is the one in need of help these days.

Iris, Esther’s whip-smart Gen Z granddaughter, would do anything for her family and her community. As she watches her friends and family move out of their lakeside town onto bigger and better things, Iris wonders why she feels so left behind in the place she is desperate to make her home. But when Cooper Welsh shows up, she finally starts to feel like she’s found the missing piece of her puzzle.

Cooper is dealing with becoming a legal guardian to his younger half-sister after his beloved stepmother dies. While their celebrity-chef father is focused on his booming career and top-ranked television show, Cooper is still hurting from a public tragedy he witnessed last year as a paramedic and finding it hard to cope. With Iris in the gorgeous Ellerie County, though, he hopes he might finally find the home he’s been looking for.



It doesn’t seem like a community cookbook could possibly solve their problems, especially one where casseroles have their own section and cream of chicken soup mix is the most frequently used ingredient. But when you mix the can-do spirit of Midwestern grandmothers with the stubborn hope of a boy raised by food plus a dash of long-awaited forgiveness—things might just turn out okay.

Claire Swinarski is the author of three middle-grade books and, now, one adult novel. Her writing has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Seventeen*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, and many other publications. She lives in small town Wisconsin with her husband and three kids, where she writes books, wears babies, and wrangles bread dough. <http://www.claireswinarski.com/>

Brad Thor

SHADOW OF DOUBT

Emily Bestler Books / Atria, August 6, 2024 | World English

320 pages, final text available

Agent: Heide Lange

Instant *New York Times* bestseller

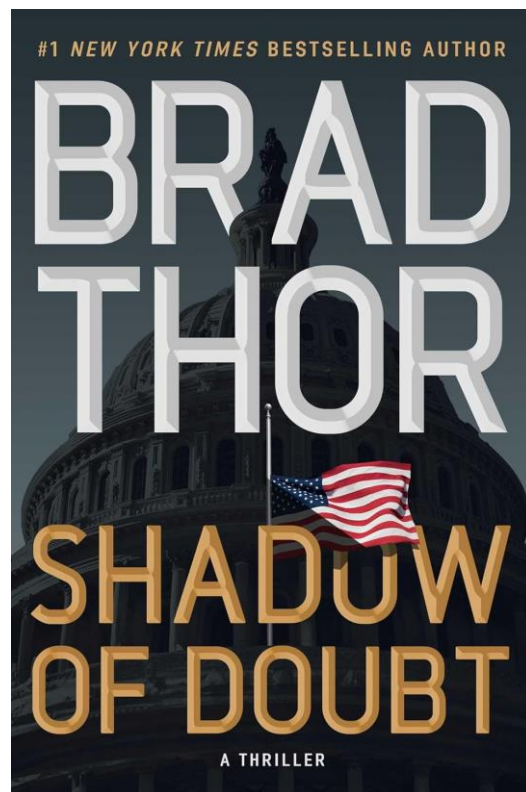
In a world shrouded in shadows, where doubt is the only weapon, can one spy expose the truth? #1 *New York Times* and #1 *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author Brad Thor delivers his latest high-octane thriller.

A mysterious cargo plane, flanked by a squadron of Russia's most lethal fighters, has just taken off from a remote airbase. Closely monitored by the United States, no one inside the Pentagon has any idea where it's going or what it's carrying.

A high-level Russian defector, a walking vault of secrets that could shatter the West, seeks asylum in Norway. Across the continent, in the heart of Paris, a lone French agent stumbles upon a conspiracy so explosive it could ignite a global firestorm.

As alarm bells ring in Washington, the CIA's most lethal weapon, Scot Harvath, is forced to choose between his conscience and his country.

You'll be left breathless as Harvath is swept into a whirlwind of double agents, international intrigue, and heart-stopping chases.



"Prepare to be blown away by SHADOW OF DOUBT, the latest masterpiece from #1 New York Times bestselling author Brad Thor, who cements his place as one of the greatest authors the thriller genre has ever known with yet another tale of high-stakes adventure packed with relentless suspense and bone-crushing action." — *The Real Book Spy*

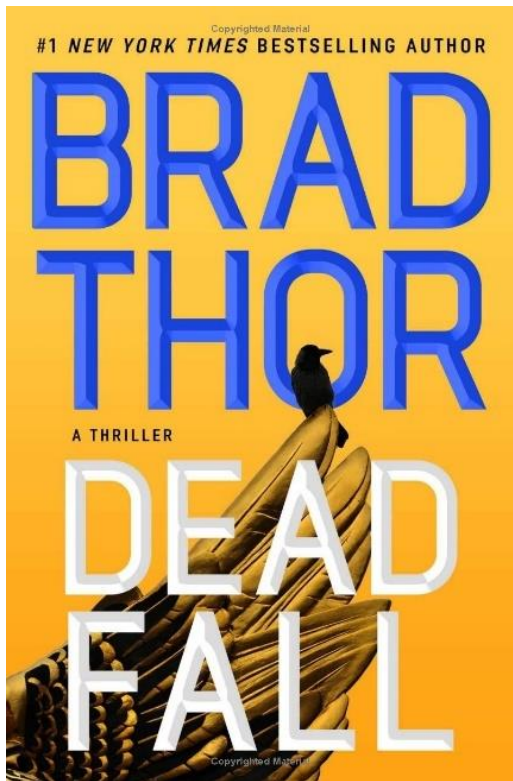
"SHADOW OF DOUBT doubles down on the stakes by blending love, trust, and loyalty in a tight cord that is woven through a web of betrayal and deceit – all on a backdrop of nuclear tensions with dire global consequences. Not knowing where the twists and turns will take you in this page-turner makes SHADOW OF DOUBT the biggest and best thriller of the year." — *Wharton County Leader-Journal*

"SHADOW OF DOUBT...is so well written and plotted that only a writer of Thor's caliber is capable of pulling off the heart-pounding suspense that drives this entire novel." — *Bookreporter*

"You'll savor SHADOW OF DOUBT. Every plot twist, harrowing battle, and passionate entanglement add complexity and depth to a sensory experience." — *Townhall*

"SHADOW OF DOUBT is a smörgåsbord of action and intrigue. There is more than enough espionage and explosions for fans to feast on from start to finish. Like a three star Michelin chef, Brad Thor selects only the finest ingredients to add to his thrilling recipe, accenting each chapter with a perfect pairing of physical and psychological dangers." — *Best Thriller Books*

*A *New York Post* Beach Read of the Summer*



DEAD FALL

Emily Bestler Books / Atria,
hc July 11, 2023, ppk May 15, 2024 | World English
320 pages, final text available
Rights sold: Poland, Sonia Draga; Portugal, Bertrand

Instant *New York Times* bestseller

Lethal operative Scot Harvath is dispatched to avenge the killing of American citizens abroad

"Thor brings the fireworks like never before." — *The Real Book Spy*

"[Brad Thor] changes the game in DEAD FALL and ratchets the action and suspense to a new level." — *Wharton Journal-Spectator*

"This book has it all - spies, tradecraft, espionage, and geopolitics." -- **Fred Burton, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ghost***

"DEAD FALL drips with danger, depravity, and daring deeds." — *Best Thriller Books*

"No one in the business does political thrillers quite like Thor...DEAD FALL is an important, intensely brutal and exciting read that is not to be missed." — *Book Reporter*

"Mr. Thor has established himself as a master of this genre. He thoroughly researches the subjects of his books, making them educational and entertaining. DEAD FALL will keep readers turning the pages." — *Epoch Times*

"It's not only Thor at his best, but Thor testing his own, and Harvath's, boundaries. Refreshing for any novel, but especially a thriller. This is heady stuff, brilliantly conceived and wondrously realized." — *BookTrib*

In the war-ravaged borderlands of Ukraine, a Russian military unit has gone rogue. Its members, are the most criminally violent, psychologically dangerous combatants to ever set foot upon the modern battlefield. As they move village to village deeper into the interior, committing horrific war crimes, they meet little resistance as all able-bodied men are off fighting the war.

Simultaneously, a team of Russian mercenaries has been dispatched by the Kremlin to loot truckloads of art and priceless cultural treasures hidden away in a host of churches, museums, and private homes.

When multiple American aid workers are killed, America's top spy is sent in to settle the score. But in a country almost the size of Texas, will Harvath be able to find the men in question and, more importantly, will he be able to stop them before they can kill again?



Brad Thor is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty-three international thrillers and has served as a member of the Department of Homeland Security's Analytic Red Cell program. Please visit www.BradThor.com

T. Marie Vandelly

AN EVIL PREMISE

Blackstone, August 12, 2025 | NA

Manuscript available

Agent: Zoe Sandler

*The reader is the main character in this nasty tale.
And for that, I am truly sorry.*



Evil Premise, T. Marie Vandelly's follow-up to her acclaimed horror novel *Theme Music*, is a mind-bending, thrilling meta-novel about possession, insanity, and the lengths a writer will go to find inspiration, even murder.

A struggling, self-published author, Jewel has always lived in the shadow of her older, more successful sister, Deidre, a bestselling fantasy author. They are not close, but when Jewel arrives at the hospital to find Deidre in a coma, the victim of a hit and run and some grotesque skin malady, she resolves to be there for her. Staying in her sister's apartment, the attic of a house where they lived as children until their mother died, Jewel immediately senses a presence. Then Deidre's agent, Emily, calls, in a panic and desperate for Deidre to deliver her new novel. Jewel tells her about Deidre's accident and Emily confides that Deidre is in a bad financial situation and absolutely must deliver the novel on time. To Jewel's surprise, it's a departure from her other works—it's horror.

Jewel agrees to search for the novel and manages to find it saved on the cloud. Deidre didn't finish it, but Jewel has the idea-- *she* can finish it. She can help Deidre and also impress Emily, maybe even get her to represent her too. Jewel starts reading, eager for the opportunity to prove herself. But the story is unsettling.

It begins with a writer looking for inspiration. She finds an unclaimed manuscript, something she thinks she can work with, improve upon. But the novel is just a series of protagonists who commit one heinous act after another. And soon the writer starts to have her own evil thoughts.

Jewel is determined not to be scared off, but the novel hits too close to home, mirroring her own thoughts and feelings. She swears she can hear someone typing when she is not at the desk, and somehow the word count of the novel seems to be going up. Her skin begins to itch.

Terrified of losing her sanity but equally terrified of losing her one shot at success, Jewel tries to find a story somewhere in the carnage, even as her rash becomes worse and she starts to have not so neighborly thoughts about her neighbors, who tell her of other strange, violent happenings in the house. Is this what happened to Deidre? Did the manuscript drive her mad, drive her to kill? Jewel finds herself hoping her sister never wakes up. And fearing what she will do if she does.

T. Marie Vandelly has wanted to write her entire life but (after a career change) has only recently been granted the freedom to pursue her dream full-time. She lives on Gwynn's Island, in Virginia's Chesapeake Bay, with her husband and their two dogs. AN EVIL PREMISE is her second novel.



Photograph by Tiana Michele, 2022

Alice Evelyn Yang A BEAST SLINKS TOWARDS BEIJING

William Morrow, early 2026 | North America

Manuscript anticipated November 2024

Agent: Iwalani Kim

Sold in a 6-figure preempt

This dazzling, magical realist historical follows three generations of a northern Chinese family, beginning in present-day NYC with an estranged father's sudden reappearance in his daughter's life.

Qianze, a Chinese American woman from the South, has not heard from Ba since he walked out on her and her mother eleven years ago. The man who shows up on her doorstep is deeply changed, struggling with dementia and alcoholism, but he has found his way back to her to deliver a warning prophecy—only he's forgotten it. As Qianze resentfully takes Ba in, attempting to unspool the mystery of his decade-long absence, Ba tumbles into harrowing childhood memories of his time in the Red Guard during the Cultural Revolution, when he was a young boy named Weihong.

The story zooms backward in time to Ba's childhood and that of his mother, Qianze's grandmother. Ming, who grew up in rural Manchuria during the Second Sino-Japanese War and Japanese occupation, is kidnapped and made to be a comfort woman for the Japanese Kwantung Army. There, she encounters an inhuman creature who irrevocably alters Ming's family's fate, with reverberations that Qianze and Ba can confront only by reconciling with each other.

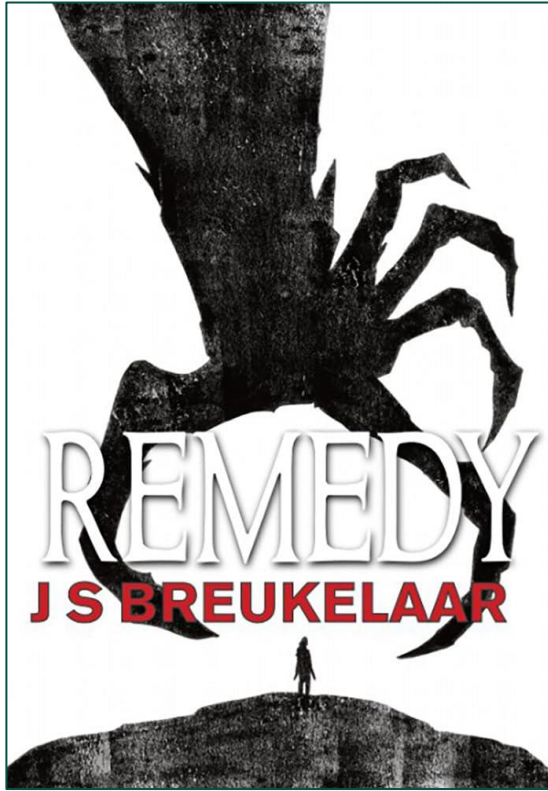
A BEAST SLINKS TOWARDS BEIJING derives its title from William B. Yeats' poem, "The Second Coming," a reference to the Anti-Christ. But in this story, there is no Anti-Christ; humanity, destiny, morality, and horror refract into a spectrum, and no one is innocent of history's atrocities. Yang's spell-binding novel explores intergenerational trauma and the legacy of colonialism, with an unforgettable father-daughter relationship at its heart. Told in an interwoven narrative, the book combines the generational scope of Rachel Khong's forthcoming *Real Americans* and the family dynamics of Charles Yu's *How to Live Safely in a Science Fictional Universe*, with a dash of K-Ming Chang's fabulism.

Alice Evelyn Yang is a Chinese American writer from Norfolk, Virginia. Her work has been published in *MQR*, AAWW's *The Margins*, and *The Rumpus*, among others. Her work has been sponsored by Tin House Workshops, and she is the recipient of the 2022-23 Jesmyn Ward Prize from *MQR*. She completed her MFA in Fiction in 2022 at Columbia University, where she was awarded the Felipe De Alba Fellowship and nominated for the Henfield Prize. She currently works as a Speakers Representative at the Blue Flower Arts speaker agency. <https://www.aliceevelynyang.com/>



**SCIENCE FICTION
& FANTASY**





J.S. Breukelaar
REMEDY

PS Publishing, August 1, 2024 | World English
Manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer

A literary horror novella about grief, monsters, and alternate lives

Nat Jacobs finds herself alone and far from home in a mirror world, where she is herself . . .and not. She can remember being nightmarishly wrenched away from her child, unbearable pain, and then nothing.

Traumatized and visibly scarred, dismissed as hysterical, irrational even—she finds others like her in a support group, all living lives of those wounded in terrible accidents that they can't remember, taken from those they love with no explanation. And no hope of return. Or is there?

When an apparent saviour appears, claiming to have a remedy, some jump at the chance. But what if the cure is worse than the disease?

“Existential horror, mind-bending metaphysics and philosophical inquiry collide violently in a mushroom cloud of gorgeous prose and brilliantly realised characters. Breukelaar's cosmic reach is at once sprawling and compassionate, asking vital questions about the nature of choice, trauma, identity, and love. A sleek and deeply honest piece of fiction, *Remedy* is a rare marvel.” —**Laura Mauro, author of *Sing Your Sadness Deep***

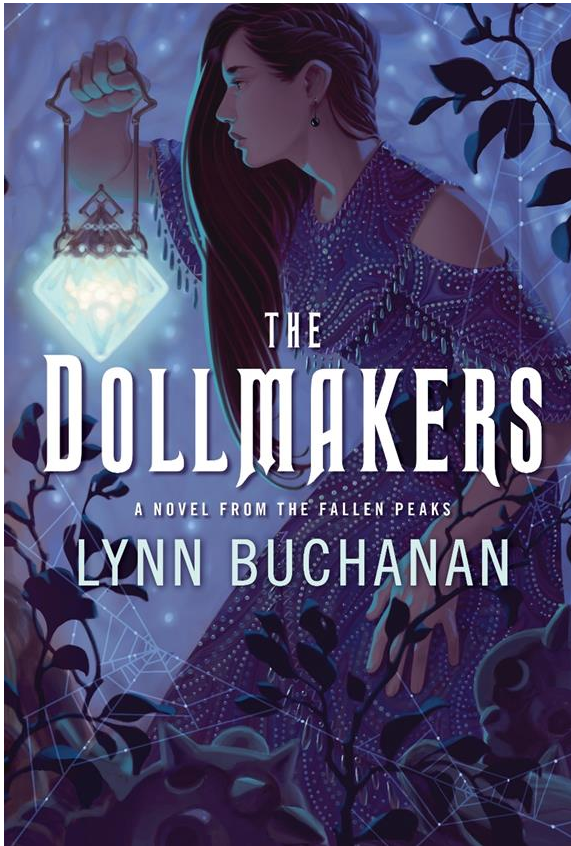
“In her usual sumptuous prose, J.S. Breukelaar transports us to new realms with *Remedy*, a dark study of the duality of self in the aftermath of trauma and heartbreak. With echoes of Susanna Clarke's *Piranesi*, *Remedy* is both complex and satisfying. A new classic.” —**Lee Murray, five-time Bram Stoker Award®-winning author of *Grotesque: Monster Stories***

“Brilliant and shocking as a flash of lightning, as unexpected as a giant claw from the sky tearing you from your life. J.S. Breukelaar's *Remedy* is a hymn to grief and hope, skillfully written and achingly beautiful.” —**Angela Slatter, award-winning author of *The Briar Book of the Dead***



J.S. Breukelaar is an American-Australian author living in Sydney. Her collection, *Collision* was a finalist in the Shirley Jackson Award as well as winning both the Aurealis and Ditmar Awards, and longlisted for both the Locus and Stoker awards. Her novels and stories have won, been nominated, or commended in international awards including Stoker, Locus, Shirley Jackson, Story South, Australian Shadows, Ditmar, Varuna Award, Wonderland Award and James R Tiptree Jnr. Award. Breukelaar's stories, essays, and poems have appeared in numerous publications including *Apex Magazine*, *The Dark*, *Black Static*, *Fantasy*, the Shirley Jackson nominated anthology *Tiny Nightmares* (Catapult), the award-winning *Flame Tree* anthology series edited by Mark Morris, and elsewhere including several Years Bests. She has a PhD in Creative Writing and Film Studies and teaches writing and literature in Sydney and elsewhere.

A graduate of the Tin House Summer Writers Workshop (2013) she is also one of the authors selected for Bloomsbury Press's *Women in Speculative Fiction* (2024). <https://www.thelivingsuitcase.com/>



Lynn Buchanan

THE DOLLMAKERS:

A Novel from the Fallen Peaks

HarperCollins/Voyager, August 13, 2024 | World English

Manuscript available

Agent: Matt Bialer

Rights sold: Italy: Ne/oN

In this dark and enchanting stand-alone fantasy from debut author Lynn Buchanan--complete with black and white illustrations and a full-wrap illustrated cover--discover a world centered around destructive, all-consuming monsters; the magical dolls designed to fight this force; and the artisans tasked with creating demon-slaying dolls. A touch cozy fantasy and a touch horror, *The Dollmakers* is perfect for fans of Studio Ghibli films, the works of TJ Klune and Travis Baldree, and readers of *Juniper & Thorn* and *The Goblin Emperor*.

In the country called One, dollmakers are vital members of the community. An artisan's doll is the height of society's accomplishments, while a guard's doll is the only thing standing between the people of One and the Shod: vicious, cobbled monstrosities that will tear apart any structure—living or dead, inanimate or otherwise—to add to their horde.

Apprentice Shean of Pearl is a brilliant dollmaker. With her clever dolls, she intends to outsmart and destroy the Shod, once and for all—a destiny she's worked her whole life toward accomplishing. But when the time comes for her dolls to be licensed, she's told her work is too beautiful and delicate to fight. A statement that wounds and infuriates her; the Shod killed everyone she loved. How could her fate be anything *but* fighting them?

In an attempt to help her see a new path for herself, Shean's mentor sends her on a journey to the remote village called Web, urging her to glean some wisdom from Ikiisa, a reclusive and well-respected guard dollmaker. But Shean has another plan: if she can convince the village of Web of her talents, the Licensor Guild will *have* to reconsider and grant her a guard's license. And what better way to convince them than challenging Ikiisa and instating herself as the official dollmaker of Web? Once she's done that, proving her dolls' worth in the fight against the Shod will be simple.

As simple, that is, as calling the Shod to Web.

THE DOLLMAKERS is part of a planned series of standalones all set in the same fantasy world, featuring varying casts of unique, colorful characters knit together by a single recurring character whose overarching story concludes in the final two books of the series. The structure of the series is similar to the Penric and Desdemona books by Lois McMaster Bujold, the Discworld books by Terry Pratchett, or the various Cosmere books/series of Brandon Sanderson--self-contained adventures with wider-world-implicating drama in the background that, by the end of the series, will culminate in a large-scale conflict. Five of these standalones have already been written.



[Lynn Buchanan](#) is a fantasy writer based in the foothills of some impressive, chilly mountains in Utah. She's a 2019 graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop and holds an MFA in creative writing from BYU, where she was a student of Brandon Sanderson; currently, she works for Sanderson's art director at Dragonsteel Entertainment, while also helping Sanderson with his creative writing course. When she isn't writing about moody painters, demonic dolls, and mummified arms used as dancing props, she enjoys playing the oboe, drawing, and watching Ghibli movies. She can be found at her website lynnbwrites.com, and on Twitter [@LynnBwrites](https://twitter.com/LynnBwrites).

Reviews for **THE DOLLMAKERS**:

"An engaging new voice with excellent worldbuilding. I enjoyed *The Dollmakers*, and can't wait to see what is next!" — **New York Times** bestselling author **Brandon Sanderson**

"Buchanan's novel echoes with alluring nostalgia that's sure to ensnare others to the very end." — **Library Journal**

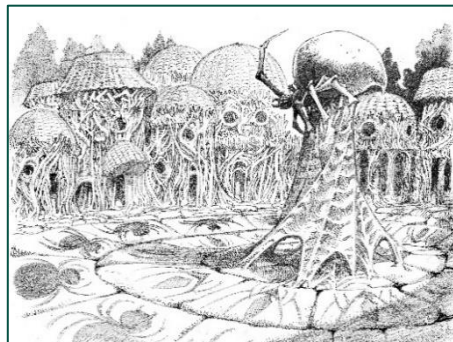
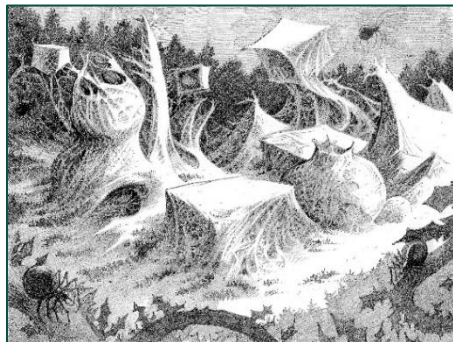
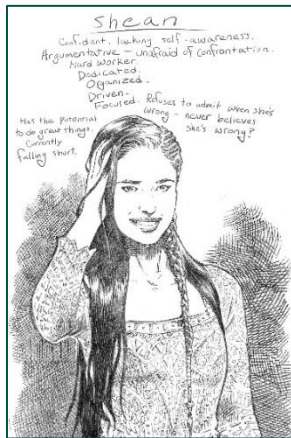
"A unique tale of self-discovery and transformation, filled with fabulous magic and monsters, featuring a stunning character arc with an immensely satisfying ending. I couldn't put it down!" — **Sarah Beth Durst**, award-winning author of *The Spellshop*

"This beautifully written dark fantasy is a fascinating read ... Arrogant, willful Shean is as unlikable as they come at first, but her redemption arc, as she grows in empathy and self-realization, truly satisfies." — **Booklist**

"*The Dollmakers* is an evocative and engaging fantasy filled with a lush worldbuilding and a killer, creepy premise. The doll magic system is one of the most creative and unique magic systems I've ever read. Shean is a complex character that grows with the reader as they continue along a dark journey toward that light in the far distance. Buchanan has written an absolutely captivating debut, and I can't wait to read their next book." — **Wesley Chu**, #1 **New York Times** bestselling author of *The Art of Prophecy*

"*The Dollmakers* is guaranteed to be a contender for one of the strongest fantasy debuts of the year 2024." — **Petrik Leo**, **Novel Notions**

"Never before have I had so much fun rooting for a character I hate." — **Dan Wells**



C. J. Cherryh
ALLIANCE UNBOUND
(The Hinder Stars, book 2)

DAW, October 15, 2024 | NA
352 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer

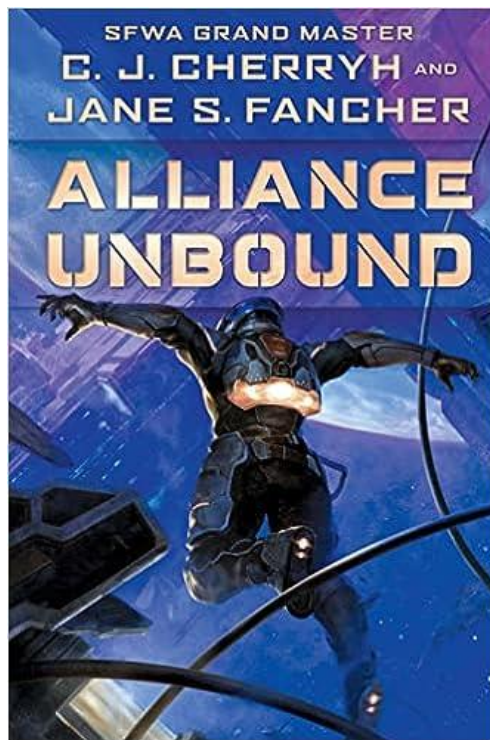
The 2nd novel of The Hinder Stars series returns to an intergalactic corporate conflict, set in the Hugo Award–winning Alliance-Union Universe.

With deft prose and complex characters, *Alliance Unbound* is thought-provoking science fiction that shrewdly examines the technological and sociopolitical challenges of humanity’s journey to the stars.

When Cyteen opened up faster-than-light travel, it gave the technology for free to any ship that could reach it; and with that technology, it provided a map of jump-points, points of mass enabling starships to navigate hyperspace safely.

The map of jump-points, however, stopped with the route to Alpha—thus excluding Sol, and Earth, and the Earth Company, whose gateway to the stars was Alpha. Cyteen knew exactly what it was doing with its gift. Sol and the EC could still reach Alpha with sub-light pusher-ships as it always had—but Sol and the Earth Company no longer had any authority in the Beyond.

But Sol intends to take back control of its star-stations and stop Cyteen's unbridled expansion, however it can. To do that, they are willing to starve Alpha and concentrate their efforts on a huge FTLer capable of carrying military force.



Praise for *Alliance Rising*

"SFWA Grand Master C.J Cherryh and Jane Fancher team up to create another exciting entry in Cherryh's extensive Alliance-Union Universe." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Cherryh and Fancher ground this fine work in the difficult choices that their characters must make in the face of an uncertain future. The economics and sociopolitics are as riveting as space battles, enhancing this welcome addition to the Alliance-Union saga." —*Publishers Weekly*

"[*Alliance Rising*] showcases a concern—common to Cherryh's other novels—with organisations and bureaucracies, with systems and societies, and how such wider contexts shape the people (ambitious or content, well-meaning or malicious) who operate within them.... Cherryh and Fancher deploy an anthropological eye." —*Tor.com*



Recognized for “lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy,” **C. J. Cherryh** joins SFWA’s Grand Master ranks alongside an esteemed group of previous recipients of this high honor, including Robert A. Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and Ursula K. Le Guin. She won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1977 and three Hugo Awards, including the Best Novel Award for *Cyteen* and *Downbelow Station*. In 1998, Cherryh was the Guest of Honor at the World Science Fiction Convention. She is the author of *The Faded Sun* series, the *Chanur* books, and the long-running beloved space opera *Foreigner* series. Her writing spans the breadth from space opera to historical fantasy. <https://www.cherryh.com/www/menu.htm>

S.D. Coverly
ARCANE MECHANICALS

Del Rey, February 2026 | World English
Manuscript anticipated November 15, 2024

Agent: Dan Mandel and Zoe Sandler

Rights sold: Rocco (Brazil), Mondadori (Italy), Hidra (Spanish)

The Night Circus meets *Ninth House* meets *Babel*, from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Dana Schwartz and acclaimed sci-fi/fantasy writer Dan Frey: a fantasy-romance novel set at an elite graduate school where magic is something to be studied only very, very carefully.

Newlyn University is an elite Vermont college where students can pursue degrees in medicine, history, technology—or the Arcane Arts. But the study of magic has become a niche academic interest, largely displaced by technology for daily use, with its most powerful applications banned after a series of magic-fueled atrocities throughout the 20th century.

Ellsbeth Shore, a plucky and ambitious graduate student, is determined to study Arcane Mechanicals—even though she failed her Arcanus exam to qualify—and has set her sights on working under acclaimed professor Thaddeus Rawlins. Once the rising star of his field, now reeling from a string of professional disappointments and a messy divorce. Rawlins is irritated by Ellsbeth’s reckless persistence, but reluctantly agrees to serve as her adviser, and grudgingly finds his own passion rejuvenated by hers.

Against his better judgment, Rawlins decides to let Ellsbeth pursue a thesis on writ magic, the controversial and banned field of the Arcane Arts that involves controlling other people. Both student and teacher profess to be interested in the topic for purely academic purposes, but they harbor equally dark secrets—one intending to use the magic for redemption, the other for revenge.

As Rawlins and Ellsbeth undertake their clandestine research, their relationship evolves beyond the professional. Harmless flirtation crosses the line into uncontrollable desire, which threatens to bloom into something even more troubling: love. But when two people are mastering the ability to control others, will they ever be able to trust each other? As their project spins wildly out of control, they become entangled in a web of lust and power that could destroy them both.

Told in dual perspectives, ARCANE MECHANICALS uses fantasy to explore real questions about modern relationships. Can romance transcend power? Is there anything pure that runs deeper than the dynamics of domination and desire? Or is love just another word for control?

Dana Schwartz is the author of five books, including the #1 *New York Times*-bestselling novels *Anatomy: A Love Story*, and *Immortality: A Love Story*. She’s the creator and host of the acclaimed podcast *Noble Blood* which reaches over 250,000 listeners every week. Dana has also written for *Entertainment Weekly*, *Glamour*, *Cosmopolitan*, *GQ*, and *The Washington Post*, and for Marvel Comics. Her writing has been translated into more than a dozen languages. She’s developed television pilots for CBS, Disney+, and ABC.

Dan Frey is the author of three novels, including the recent contemporary-fantasy *Dreambound*. As a screenwriter, he has worked extensively in both television (*Magic: The Gathering* at Netflix, pilots for Fox and HBO Max) and film (*Descendants: The Rise of Red* at Disney, where he is under a deal), and he is currently adapting his sci-fi novel *The Future Is Yours* at Hulu.

Scott Drakeford

THE FATE OF SILENT GODS

(The Age of Ire Book 2)

Tor, November 19, 2024 | North America

400 pages | manuscript anticipated November 2023

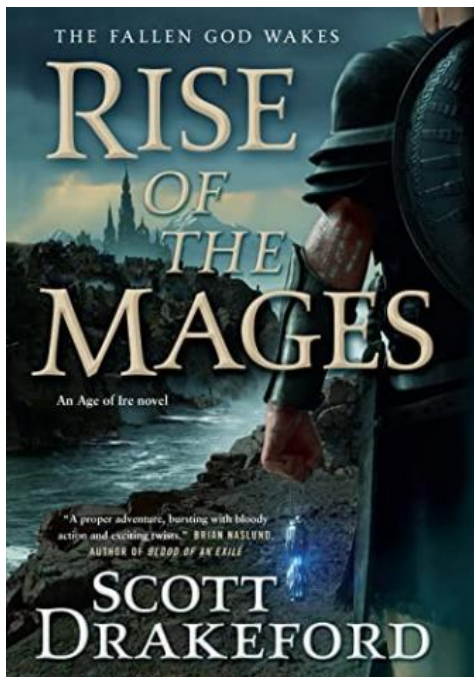
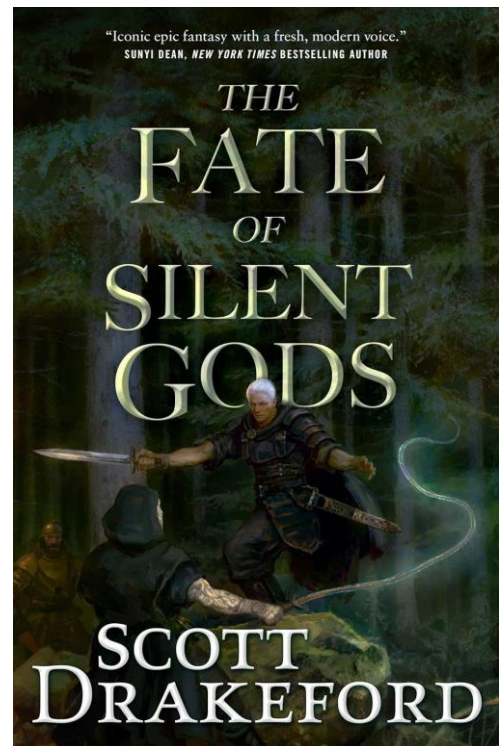
Agent: Matt Bialer

In the second book of the acclaimed Age of Ire trilogy, the War for Iraea begins in earnest as the Fallen God grows bolder in His bid to slaughter everything and everyone Emrael loves.

Following the events of book one, Emrael and his followers now face the full might of the United Provinces, whose Legions and sinister Malithii allies are poised to crush their fledgling rebellion. Blood, friendships, and morals must be sacrificed if they are to survive. Brutal tactics and political maneuvers are the order of the day. Emrael has no other choice. But not all among his ranks agree with his methods.

Ambitions grow, lovers become enemies, and critical alliances shift. All the while, the Fallen God schemes to not only defeat Emrael's armies, but to subdue him personally.

When Emrael's ambitions push him to conquer yet another Lord Holder's lands, the Watchers and Malithii anticipate Emrael's moves to an impossible degree; Ban comes under siege at Trylla while Emrael is away. Once again, Emrael is forced to risk everything to save his brother from the forces of the Fallen God. This time, Emrael must contend with the fact that he's to blame.



THE RISE OF THE MAGES

(The Age of Ire Book 1)

Tor, January 2023 | North America

400 pages | final text available

Agent: Matt Bialer

A young warrior and his improbable band of allies face impossible odds as they seek to rescue his brother from the servants of the Fallen God.

Emrael Ire is a student of war with lofty ambitions, despite being so poor his boots are more hole than leather. He and his talented younger brother Ban work hard to build themselves a better life at the Citadel, a school that specializes in both *infusori* Crafting and military arts.

Their lives are upended when the power-hungry Lord Governor of the neighboring province invades the school with the help of a sinister sect of priests devoted to the newly awakened Fallen God of Glory. Many of the *infusori* Crafter students are captured — including Ban.

Though Emrael stands little chance against the Lord Governor and his armies, he's desperate to save his brother—even if that means accepting the help of allies with uncertain motives, or becoming a practitioner of a forbidden magic. There is nothing he won't sacrifice to save his brother, but what happens when the cost of success is not his to pay?

Praise for THE FATE OF SILENT GODS

"The balancing act of character development versus large-scale plotting is handled deftly as Drakeford waves together various story threads... Readers drawn to interesting political epic fantasy with lots of violent battles will find it all in this story."—*Booklist*

Praise for RISE OF THE MAGES

"This book commits almost every crime against heroic fantasy that I can imagine ... and I have not been able to put it down."—**Glen Cook, bestselling author of *The Black Company***

"This is old-school and new-school epic fantasy rolled into one... *Rise of the Mages* is a fast-paced adventure that will satisfy any fantasy fan young or old."—**Brian Lee Durfee, author of *The Forgetting Moon***

"[This] superbly crafted and epic fantasy saga is the first volume in his new 'Age of Ire' series and will keep enthusiastic readers eagerly awaiting the next installment."—*Midwest Book Review*

"Drakeford crafts a complex geopolitical environment, and Emrael is a joy to follow and root for."—*Booklist*

"Rise of Mages opens a door into a character-driven world of distinctive magic, rousing adventure, and corruption of the first order. Fantasy lovers will experience the full range of curiosity, anger, delight, frustration, joy, and satisfaction."—**Kel Kade, *New York Times* bestselling author**

"Rise of the Mages is a proper adventure, bursting with bloody action and exciting twists. Emrael is a fantastic lead, full of strength and loyalty, but also a hot-headed impulsiveness and a compelling inner darkness that I couldn't get enough of."—**Brian Naslund, author of *Blood of an Exile***

"An immersive world epic fantasy fans will be glad to return to."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Drakeford has certainly laid the groundwork for a truly captivating epic fantasy series."—*Out of This World SFF*

"A piece of SFF that refuses to be pinned to any one subgenre. Is it magical academy? Found family? Band of misfits? Chosen One? Grimdark? Mil-fantasy? The answer is all and none of these. Drakeford will give you the fantasy novel you didn't know you wanted. Highly recommend." - **Richard Swan, Bestselling Author of *The Justice of Kings***

Scott Drakeford Scott Drakeford was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. He currently lives in the PNW with his badass tech wizard of a wife, their tenacious children, and two dogs.

Scott is a longtime lover of the written word, especially fantasy fiction. His father convinced him to read *The Belgariad* as a youngster, and the best books soon became Scott's world. *The Wheel of Time*, *Harry Potter*, *The Saga of Recluce*, and many other books influenced Scott deeply.

Later, Scott was tricked into becoming a "responsible adult", getting a degree in engineering, and living the corporate life. Still, his addiction to books lived on, and more recent favorites like *The Name of the Wind* and *Red Rising* convinced him that writing could be his way of contributing something beautiful and meaningful to the world.

While Scott spends most of his time working and writing, when he has time he enjoys cooking, NBA basketball (go Jazz!), weightlifting, video games, hunting, fishing, and (of course) reading.



Benjamin Liar

THE FAILURES

Book one of The Wanderlands

DAW, July 2, 2024 | NA

544 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Matt Bialer

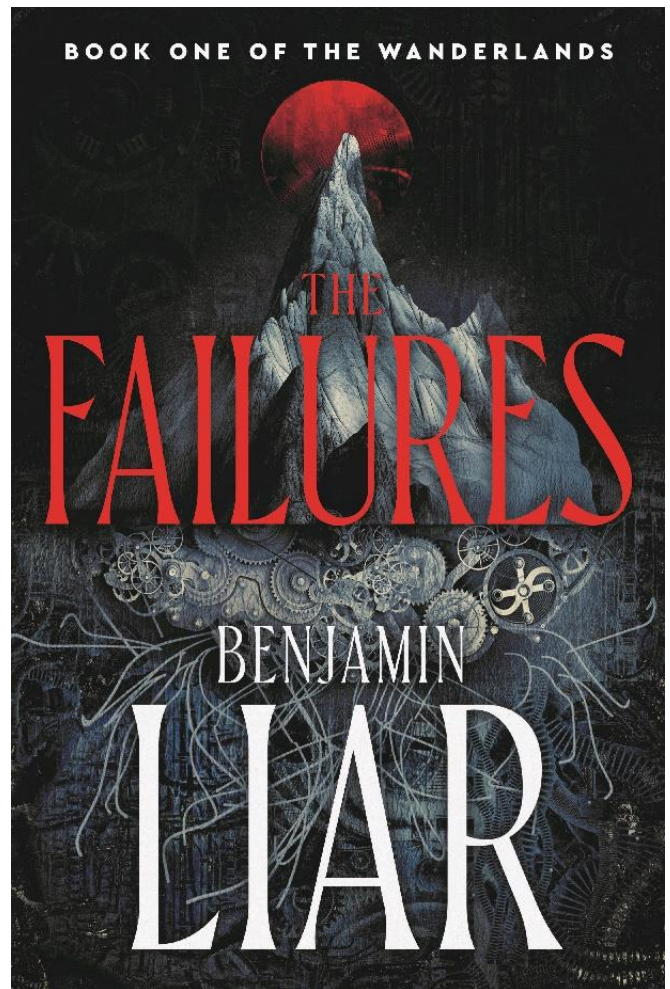
Screenrant 10 Most Anticipated Books in Sci-fi
Coming Out in July

BookBub All the Science Fiction and Fantasy
Books You Need To Read Right Now

Audio rights sold at auction to Recorded Books

Abridged and dramatic audio rights sold to
GraphicAudio

From a debut voice comes a genre-breaking blend of apocalyptic sci-fi and epic fantasy about a scattered group of unlikely heroes traveling across their broken mechanical planet to stave off eternal darkness. A tightly-coiled puzzle of a thrill ride, *The Failures* launches The Wanderlands trilogy.



Welcome to the Wanderlands,

A vast machine made for reasons unknown, the Wanderlands was broken long ago. First went the sky, splintering and cracking, and then very slowly, the whole machine—the whole world—began to go dark.

Meet the Failures.

Following the summons of a strange dream, a scattering of adventurers, degenerates, and children find themselves drawn toward the same place: the vast underground Keep. They will discover there that they have been called for a purpose—and that purpose could be the destruction of everything they love.

The end is nigh.

For below the Keep, imprisoned in the greatest cage ever built by magicians and gods, lies the buried Giant. It is the most powerful of its kind, and its purpose is the annihilation of all civilization. But any kind of power, no matter how terrible, is precious in the Wanderlands, and those that crave it are making their moves.

All machines can be broken, and the final cracks are spreading. It will take only the careless actions of two cheerful monsters to tip the Wanderlands towards an endless dark...or help it find its way back to the light.



Benjamin Liar is a writer, musician, filmmaker and game designer. He has been writing for most of his life, but *THE FAILURES* will be his first published novel. He has performed his music under many names and in many places, has won several local awards for short filmmaking, and recently published a virtual reality game. His name is clearly a pseudonym, but you still shouldn't trust anything he says. You can find him on most of the things @benjaminliar.

Praise for THE FAILURES

"What makes *The Failures* so gripping as a novel is that it manages to balance the heaviness and the hope at the same time, the desperate, painful battles and choices with that first glimmer of adventure. Even in a world which has already ended, we're given the chance to believe that maybe it can still be saved."—**Reactor Magazine (formerly Tor.com)**

"Quirky and wondrous, *THE FAILURES* presents a fantastical world filled with enigmas and magic, engaging oddball characters, exotic tableaux, and meticulous world building. It's like a steampunk fantasy version of *SILO*."—**Kevin J. Anderson, *New York Times* bestselling coauthor of *Dune: House Atreides***

"*THE FAILURES* reminds me of so many good things, not least Stephen King's *Dark Tower* stories and Mervyn Peake's arch-Gothic creation, *Gormenghast*. I also detected undertones of China Miéville, Roger Zelazny, Ursula LeGuin, Gene Wolfe, as well as other amazing fantasy and science-fiction writers. Most importantly, though, whatever his influences might truly be, Benjamin Liar has a new and unique voice of his very own, and this book is one of the best things I've read in a long, long time." — **Tad Williams, fantasy superstar creator of the worlds of *Otherland*, *Shadowmarch* and *Osten Ard***

"Liar's writing is like the world it depicts: a finely-tuned piece of clockwork. *The Failures* is the kind of science fantasy little made these days, and the sort of book I could read again and again." — **Christopher Ruocchio, internationally award-winning author of *The Sun Eater***

"*The Failures* is an unabashed triumph of speculative fiction. It's not exactly science fiction, not quite fantasy, but a synergistic mix. Descriptors are tough, as even a small army of them wouldn't convey this book's inviting complexity, but if I had to pick a few sitting top tier in the pantheon I'd point to: deep, thrilling (*I'm looking at you, Deadsmith*), and masterfully atmospheric."--**Daniel Cohen, author of *The Coldmaker Saga***

"Benjamin Liar's "*The Failures*" is a wonderful and gripping Fantasy tale of misfits trying to save the world in their own twisted ways. Well served by a realistic dialogues and a meticulously woven intrigue, "*The Failures*" engulfs the reader in a sinister yet thrilling wild-goose chase where intentions, good or bad, are never quite enough. Benjamin Liar is a master story-teller who reinvents Dark Fantasy through familiar tropes he takes an obvious pleasure in deconstructing. If you love Steven Erickson, Patrick Rothfuss or the early VanderMeer, you will immediately be hooked."—**Seb Doubinsky, author of *Missing Signal*, *The Invisible*, and *Paperclip*.**

"Innovative and fascinating! Recommended!" —**C. J. Cherryh, Hugo award-winning author of the *Foreigner* series**

Patrick Rothfuss
**THE NARROW ROAD
BETWEEN DESIRES**
(A KINGKILLER CHRONICLE novella)

Illustrated by Nate Taylor

DAW, November 14, 2023 | NA

240 pages, final text and illustrations available

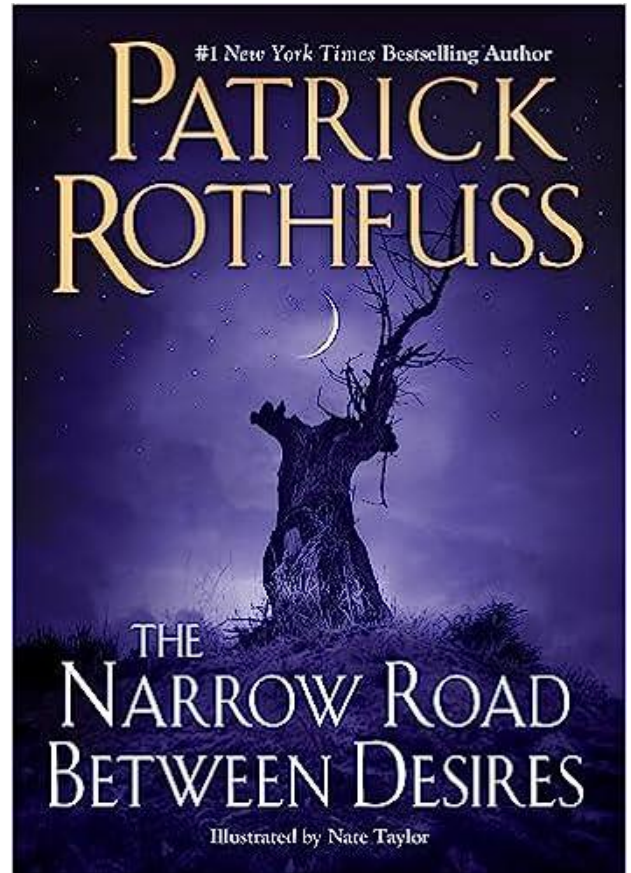
Agent: Matt Bialer

Rights sold: Brazil (Sextante), Bulgaria (Prozorets), Croatia (Vorto Palabra), Czech (Argo), Germany (Klett Cotta), Hungary (Gabo), Poland (Rebus), Netherlands (Meulenhoff Boekerij), Portugal (Presenca), Spain (PRH), UK (Gollancz)

An instant *New York Times*, *USA Today*, Indie and German Bestseller!

Still remains on the *NYT* extended bestseller list

#1 *New York Times*-bestselling phenomenon Patrick Rothfuss returns to the wildly popular Kingkiller Chronicle universe with a stunning reimagining of "The Lightning Tree." Expanded to twice its previous length and lavishly illustrated by Nate Taylor, this touching stand-alone story is sure to please new readers and veteran Rothfuss fans alike.



"[Rothfuss] clearly has a heart for stories . . . His prose is the sort that forces you to stop cold and just savor the words."
—Eric Pierce, *Fanfare*

"*The Narrow Road Between Desires* is a fascinating book . . . When I think about this book, the word I keep coming back to is 'beautiful' . . . Between the art and the additions to the prose, which roughly double the size of *The Narrow Road Between Desires* from *The Lightning Tree*, there's no doubt that this is the ideal way to experience this story." —Daniel Roman, *Winter is Coming*

Bast knows how to bargain. The give-and-take of a negotiation is as familiar to him as the in-and-out of breathing; to watch him trade is to watch an artist at work. But even a master's brush can slip. When he accepts a gift, taking something for nothing, Bast's whole world is knocked askew, for he knows how to bargain—but not how to owe.

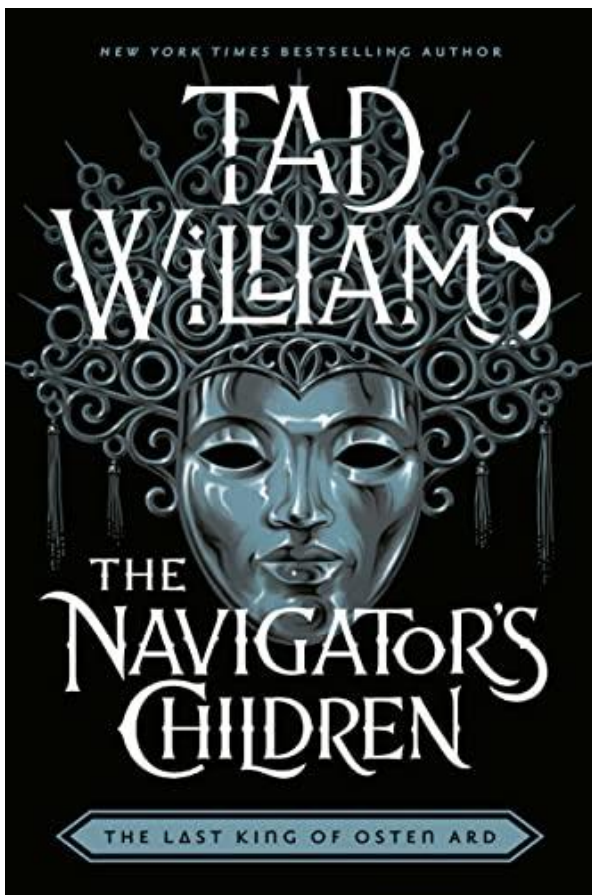
From dawn to midnight over the course of a single day, follow the Kingkiller Chronicle's most charming fae as he schemes and sneaks, dancing into trouble and back out again with uncanny grace.

THE NARROW ROAD BETWEEN DESIRES is Bast's story. In it he traces the old ways of making and breaking, following his heart even when doing so goes against his better judgement. After all, what good is caution if it keeps him from danger and delight?

Patrick Rothfuss is the author of the #1 *New York Times* and international bestselling *The Kingkiller Chronicle* series, which have been licensed in 37 territories and sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. He is also the co-author, with illustrator Nate Taylor, of a graphic novel series *The Adventures of the Princess and Mr. Whiffle*.

<https://blog.patrickrothfuss.com/>





Tad Williams
THE NAVIGATOR'S CHILDREN
(Last King of Osten Ard Book 4)

DAW, November 12, 2024 | NA
HodderScape UK
768 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer

“[W]ithout Tad Williams, there would be no *Game of Thrones*.” —*The Guardian* (UK)

“By definition, epic fantasy involves a world with a creator. Tad Williams’s Osten Ard is the best since Tolkien’s Middle-earth.”—Brad East, *The Christian Century*

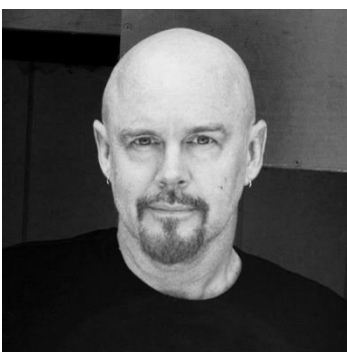
The latest saga in the *New York Times* bestselling world of Osten Ard concludes in the fourth and final Last King of Osten Ard novel.

The Hayholt is besieged by the Norns. Once the home of their immortal brethren, the Sithi, now capital of the kingdom of men, the fabled castle is under attack. And as the world is distracted by

this strike against humankind, the Norns’ deathless witch-queen Utuk’ku turns towards the mysterious fateful valley called Tanakirú—the Vale of Mists.

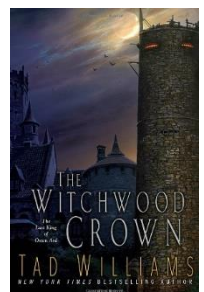
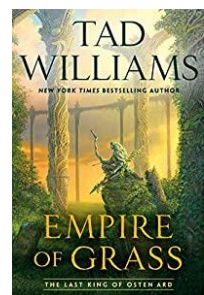
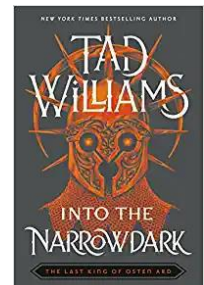
Meanwhile, Queen Miriemele hurries to save the Hayholt and capture the treacherous noble Pasevalles, but arrives to discover the traitor has escaped.

And inside Tanakirú, Vale of Mists, the bond between Prince Morgan and Nezeru, a renegade Norn, has become something deeper and stranger than either of them could have anticipated. They journey ever deeper to the heart of the valley’s mystery, encountering wonder and horror, and come face to face at last with the ancient secret that has kindled the Norn Queen’s war—a secret that will destroy immortals and humans alike.



mountains in a suitably strange and beautiful house. Visit him online at www.tadwilliams.com

Tad Williams is a California-based fantasy superstar. His genre-creating (and genre-busting) books have sold tens of millions worldwide. His works include the worlds of Otherland, Shadowmarch, and Osten Ard—including the Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn, and The Last King of Osten Ard series—as well as standalone novels Tailchaser’s Song and The War of the Flowers, plus the Bobby Dollar urban fantasies. His considerable output of epic fantasy, science fiction, urban fantasy, comics, and more have strongly influenced a generation of writers. Tad and his family live in the Santa Cruz





NON-FICTION



Geraldine DeRuiter
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT:
Tales of Food, Feminism, and Fury

Crown, March 12, 2024 | NA
336 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Zoe Sandler

National bestseller!

From the James Beard Award-winning blogger behind *The Everywhereist* is a fresh look at food and feminism from one of the culinary world's sharpest voices.

When celebrity chef Mario Batali sent out an apology letter for the sexual harassment allegations made against him, he had the gall to include a recipe—for cinnamon rolls, of all things. Geraldine DeRuiter decided to make the recipe, and she happened to make food journalism history along with it. Her subsequent essay, with its scathing commentary about the pervasiveness of misogyny in the food world, would be read millions of times, lauded by industry luminaries from Martha Stewart to *New York Times* restaurant critic Pete Wells, and would land DeRuiter in the middle of a media firestorm. She found herself on the receiving end of dozens of threats, when all she wanted to do was make something to eat (and, okay fine, maybe take down the patriarchy).

In *IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT*, DeRuiter shares stories about her shockingly true, painfully funny (and sometimes just painful) adventures through gastronomy. We'll learn how she finally got a grip on her debilitating anxiety by emergency meal-planning for the apocalypse ("You are probably deeply worried that in desperate times, I would eat your pets. And yes, I absolutely would."). Or how she learned to embrace her hanger ("Because women can be a lot of things, but we can't be angry. Or President, apparently."). And how she inadvertently caused *another* international incident with a negative restaurant review (she made the homepage of *The New York Times* website! And she got more death threats!).



Geraldine DeRuiter is the James Beard Award-winning blogger behind *The Everywhereist* and the author of *All Over the Place: Adventures in Travel, True Love, and Petty Theft*. Her writing has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *The New Yorker's Daily Shouts*, *Marie Claire*, and *Refinery 29*. She lives in Seattle, Washington, with her husband, Rand. They are currently working on a cooking-themed video game and ordering too much takeout.

<https://www.everywhereist.com/>



Praise for IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT

“Whether writing about her affinity for Red Lobster or putting the pieces back together after a terrible kitchen fire, DeRuiter approaches the subject with both wry wit and a sharp tongue. . . . She manages to examine the ways that women are marginalized in the culinary world—and her own anxieties surrounding food—with refreshing candor and a big pinch of humor.”—*Eater*, “**The Best Food Books to Read This Spring**”

“Geraldine DeRuiter is wickedly hilarious and tenderhearted, observant and original, and candidly vocal when she sees an emperor with no clothes.”—*The Seattle Times*

“DeRuiter shares her stories with great candor, while providing important historical and academic research throughout.”—*Electric Literature*

“IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT is hilarious, clever, profound and poignant at the same time, with food as its focus. . . . Readers will find this witty series of vignettes humorous, comforting, and enlightening.” – *BookPage* ★

“Delightfully salty...DeRuiter seamlessly blends gallows humor and sharp observation. The result is a witty and empowering volume that will satisfy foodies and non-foodies alike.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Zesty food memories from a James Beard Award–winning blogger. . . . A deft, entertaining collection.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This series of essays...delivers everything the book’s subtitle promises: mouthwatering descriptions of marvelous food (and one unforgettably horrific dining experience), stories that will evoke plenty of snorting and laughing our loud, and those that will prompt sympathetic seething over well-documented incidents of food service industry misogyny. A thoroughly enjoyable writer, DeRuiter can be very funny, . . . she can also be sweet, reassuringly insecure, and candid. . . . She writes with directness and laser-sharp observations as she documents her research, unafraid to name names. . . . There should be lots of well-deserved publicity for this amiable collection that’s likely to appeal to a wide range of readers.”—*Booklist* ★

“Food is sustenance and often comfort, and in *If You Can't Take the Heat*, DeRuiter reminds us that it can be all of that and so much more. Food can be markers of our history, our relationships, and a lesson in what we do and don't want. It's oddly poignant to read this and realize how many memories are tied not just to the smell of food but the desire or aversion to it. Food is the story of our life written in flavors and influences and nostalgia for chain restaurants. With charm and humor, DeRuiter welcomes us into her personal history and thus reconnects us with ourselves.”—**Mikki Kendall**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hood Feminism*

“Witty does not begin to describe the razor sharp takes DeRuiter packs in chapter after chapter of this hilarious, astute, and at times heartbreaking, memoir. DeRuiter somehow manages to raise your hackles over indignities like 'ladies menus' while making you giggle simultaneously, and you'll find yourself wanting to hug, high-five, and cheer for her as she navigates anxieties and adventures full of food and feminist awakenings.” - **Rabia Chaundry**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fatty Fatty Boom Boom*

“*If You Can't Take the Heat* is a hysterical and incisive journey through the world of food and feminism. The essays will cause you to snort with laughter and then make the tender muscle of your heart ache. Whether she’s writing about growing green onions during lockdown or the sexism of the restaurant industry, Geraldine is smart, sarcastic, delightful, and sharper than a kitchen knife. This book is an absolute delight!”—**Lyz Lenz**, author of *This American Ex-Wife*

“Geraldine DeRuiter’s particular genius is using a subject such as food to write—and write exceptionally well—about absolutely everything. Feminism, family, appetites literal and figurative, power dynamics, the search for one’s own voice—it’s all here, and more. The book is hilarious and haunting by turns, and if the last line doesn't make you cry, your heart is a tiny ugly stone and you probably have no taste buds.”—**Laura Lippman**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Lady in the Lake*

David Enrich
**MURDER THE TRUTH: Threats,
Intimidation, and a Secret Campaign to Protect
the Powerful**

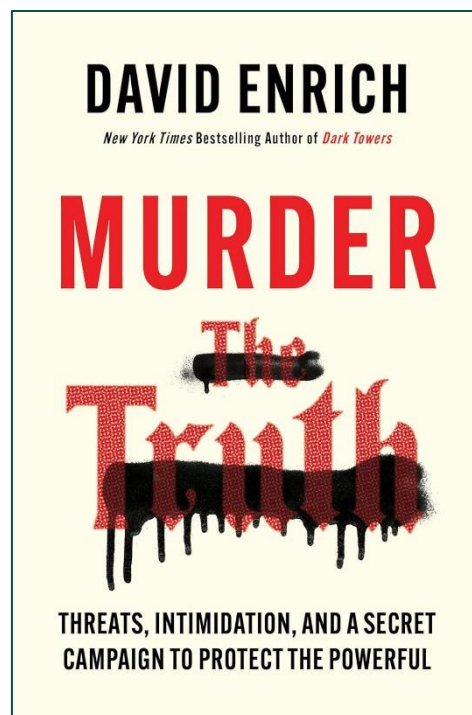
Mariner Books, March 11, 2025 | NA
336 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel

David Enrich, the *New York Times* Business Investigations Editor and the #1 bestselling author of *Dark Towers*, produces his most consequential and far-reaching investigation yet: an in-depth exposé of the broad campaign—orchestrated by elite Americans—to overturn sixty years of Supreme Court precedent, weaponize our speech laws, and silence dissent.

It was a quiet way to announce a revolution: In an obscure 2019 case that the Supreme Court refused to even hear, Justice Clarence Thomas raised the prospect of overturning the legendary *New York Times v. Sullivan* decision. Though hardly a household name, *Sullivan* is one of the most consequential free speech decisions, ever. Fundamental to the creation of the modern media as we know it, it has enabled journalists and writers all over the country—from top national publications to revered local newspapers to independent bloggers—to pursue the truth aggressively and hold the wealthy, powerful, and corrupt to account.

Thomas's words were a warning—the public awakening of an idea that had been fomenting on the conservative fringe for years. Now it was going mainstream. From the Florida statehouse to small town New Hampshire to Donald Trump himself, this movement today consists of some of the world's richest and most powerful people and companies, who believe they should be above scrutiny and want to silence or delegitimize voices that challenge their supremacy. Indeed, many of the same businessmen, politicians, lawyers, and activists are already weaponizing the legal system to intimidate and punish journalists and others who dare criticize them.

In this masterwork of investigative reporting, David Enrich, *New York Times* Business Investigations Editor, traces the roots and reach of this new threat to our modern democracy. Laying bare the stakes of losing our most sacrosanct rights, *Murder the Truth* is a story about power—the way it's used by those who have it, and the lengths they will go to avoid it being questioned.

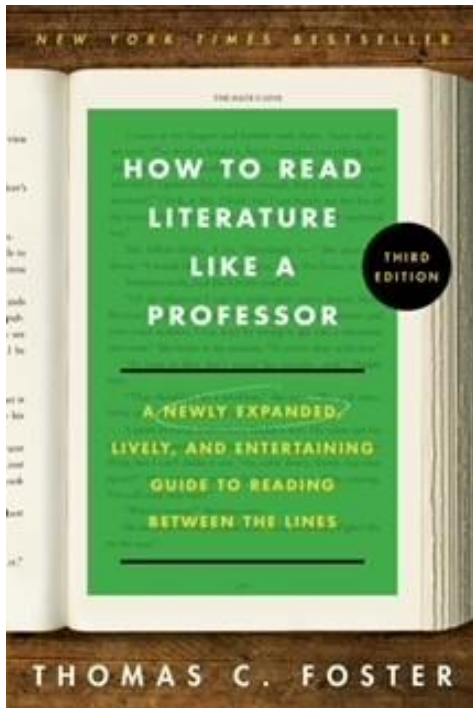


"Astonishing...A powerful and important picture of how mega law firms distort justice." — *Washington Post* on *Servants of the Damned*

"*Servants of the Damned* is a feat of thoughtful, detailed research, rendering with clarity and even compassion the moral drift of 'big law.' As an attorney, I found it illuminating—but this is important reading for anyone concerned about law and policy." — Ronan Farrow, Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *Catch and Kill*



David Enrich is the Business Investigations Editor at the *New York Times* and the #1 bestselling author of *Dark Towers*. He previously was an editor and reporter at the *Wall Street Journal*. He has won numerous journalism awards, including the 2016 Gerald Loeb Award for feature writing. His first book, *The Spider Network: How a Math Genius and Gang of Scheming Bankers Pulled Off One of the Greatest Scams in History*, was short-listed for the *Financial Times* Business Book of the Year award. Enrich grew up in Lexington, Massachusetts, and graduated from Claremont McKenna College in California. He currently lives in New York with his wife and two sons.



Thomas C. Foster
**HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A
PROFESSOR: A Lively and Entertaining Guide
to Reading between the Lines: 3rd Edition**

(rev 2024)

HarperCollins, September 2024 | World English

320 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Faith Hamlin

**Extensively revised edition of a
classic instruction book that has
been in print for over 20 years**

For nearly two decades, *HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR* by Thomas C. Foster has been the go-to text for English classes, particularly Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. With its mix of high ideas and cheeky discussions, it has delighted teachers and students alike as they make their way through the wilds of literary analysis, explaining such matters as the symbolic implications of quests, meals, and seasons, as well as the ways that works written today rely on texts from Shakespeare, the Greeks, and the Brothers Grimm. The book invites readers to develop their own ideas about these heady topics and even provides a sample story on which to practice their newly acquired skills.

To all the insight and wit of the original book, Foster brings discussions of diverse works that better represent the reading experience at earlier levels of their secondary English Language Arts classes. This new edition includes readings from more minority, female, and Young Adult writers, including Angie Thomas, Neil Gaiman, Helen Oyeyemi, Tahereh Mafi, Zora Neale Hurston, Pat Barker, Sandra Cisneros, and Madeline Miller. Two new chapters have been added. The first, on the significance of roads, acts as a bookend of sorts to the opening chapter on quests. The two are not the same, however much they may seem to overlap, and carry different symbolic weight. The second is a rumination on how critics and readers grapple with genuinely new literary forms.

Above all, *HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR* seeks to impart knowledge without killing the excitement and joy of deep reading, to remember always that, far from the drudgery depicted in many old films, literary study is really an advanced form of play.

The New Revised Edition includes new chapters, new examples, an updated preface, and new insights gathered over interactions with teachers and students over the last two decades.

Thomas C. Foster is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Michigan, Flint. His bestselling *How to Read Like a Professor* series has sold more than 2 million copies and has been licensed in 15 territories.



Previous editions of this title were sold:

Armenia: Edit Print; Brazil: Leya; Bulgaria: Ex Libris; China: Thinkindom; Czech: Host; Greece: Klitharithmos; Italy: Vallardi; Japan: Hokusui-sha; Korea: Jihyeong; Lithuania: Kitos Knygos; Poland: Fabula Frazza; Slovakia: Tatran; Spain: Turner; Taiwan: Ecus; Ukraine: Tempora, Thailand: Bookscape; Vietnam: Nha Nam

Zoey Xinyi Gong
**THE FIVE ELEMENTS COOKBOOK:
A Guide to Traditional Chinese Medicine
with Recipes for Everyday Healing**

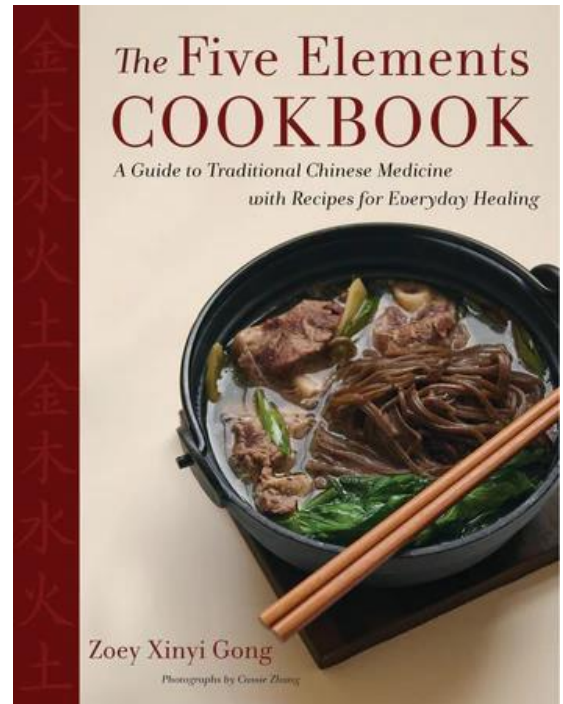
Harvest, February 14, 2023 | World English
288 pages, final files available
Agent: Clare Mao
Rights sold: German (Narayana)

A stunning and accessible guide to cooking with Traditional Chinese Medicine, featuring over 50 nourishing recipes to eat for healing every day by TCM chef and registered dietitian Zoey Xinyi Gong.

Bon Appetit – [The Best Cookbooks of Spring 2023](#)

[WTVR Virginia This Morning](#)

Food & Wine – [How Traditional Chinese Medicine Combines Health and Culinary Traditions](#)



Chef and registered dietitian Zoey Xinyi Gong offers an incredibly fresh, elegant, and authentic approach to food therapy and a truly accessible guide to cooking with Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), a thousands-year-old practice for holistic wellness.

Named after a foundational theory of what balance and optimal health looks like, *The Five Elements Cookbook* is a stunning introduction to the beginner concepts of TCM and offers a photographic guide to the most commonly used medicinal ingredients (American ginseng, turmeric, reishi, and more), their healing properties, and how to use them seamlessly in your cooking—whether in a warm tea, restorative bone broth, a sweet smoothie, or your favorite dinner.

Each of the over 50 delicious recipes ingeniously incorporates a food-as-medicine ingredient, with consideration for seasonality, digestion, and body constitution, and specific concerns, like menstrual pains, nausea, anxiety, blood circulation, respiratory health, and more. For those with dietary restrictions, each recipe also includes a key for vegan, nut free, dairy free, gluten free, plus the TCM energetics and uses.

“*The Five Elements Cookbook* is a wonderful introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine food therapy. The section on Chinese herbs is an indispensable guide and beautifully photographed.”—Grace Young, author of *Stir-Frying to the Sky’s Edge* and *The Breath of a Wok*

“I am simply blown away by how wonderful *The Five Elements Cookbook* is. It is well researched, beautifully photographed, and, most important, practical. I am so excited for readers to roll up their sleeves and try the recipes!”—Thomas N. Leung, DACM, CEO of Kamwo Meridian Herbs

Zoey Xinyi Gong is a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) chef, food therapist, registered dietitian, and educator based in Shanghai, China. She has hosted hundreds of pop-up dinners, workshops, and events featuring TCM food therapy since 2018 across the United States and Asia. Her first cookbook “The Five Elements Cookbook” was released in February, 2023 by Harper Collins.. <https://www.zoeyxinyigong.com/>



Rebecca Grant

**ACCESS: *Inside the Abortion Underground
and the Sixty-Year Battle
for Reproductive Freedom***

Avid Reader Press, June 2025 | NA

Manuscript anticipated Fall 2024

Agent: Sarah Phair

From the award-winning author of *Birth*, a comprehensive, eye-opening history of the reproductive freedom movement—a journey into the underground activist networks that have been working to protect women’s autonomy over their bodies amidst legal, political, religious, and cultural oppression over the past sixty years.

When it comes to the fight for bodily autonomy and women’s rights in America, there are names and stories that we recognize—Gloria Steinem, Flo Kennedy, Norma McCorvey (a.k.a. Jane Roe), and the Janes. We are aware of the legislation, the victories, and the setbacks. But the people and stories that have defined the nearly sixty-year battle over abortion in America has largely been untold, hidden in the shadows and operating between and around changing

laws, across digital and physical borders, and even in the liminal space of international waters.

Now, in *Access*, journalist and award-winning author Rebecca Grant reveals the full scope of the underground reproductive freedom movement in, around, and outside the United States, from the clandestine work of the Janes and referral networks like The List in the second wave women’s liberation movement to the modern practice of self-managed abortion with pills through “accompaniment” networks and online platforms like Women on Web and Aid Access. In the wake of the SCOTUS decision *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health Organization*, *Access* provides both a historical framework and up-to-date details and stories about how feminist activists have always fought to subvert, undermine, and resist abortion bans by keeping pathways open, beyond the scope of the law.

Told with Grant’s trademark blend of expert research and investigative reporting, with deep compassion and humanity, *Access* celebrates the bravery, ingenuity, and determination of women across decades who have fought for a fundamental human right—and is an inspiring rallying cry for the work that lies ahead.

Praise for the author’s previous book, *BIRTH*:

“An important book . . . Grant is a good storyteller, subtle and compassionate.” — *The New York Times Book Review*

“A much-needed perspective on childbirth.” — *Porchlight, Editor’s Choice*

“A significant and compelling sociological investigation.” — *Kirkus Reviews*

“An enlightening and accessible portrait of maternal healthcare in America.” — *Publisher’s Weekly* ★

Rebecca Grant is an award-winning journalist and author who covers reproductive rights, health and justice. Her work has appeared on *This American Life* and in *New York Magazine*, *The Guardian*, *Elle*, *The Nation*, *Marie Claire*, *Mother Jones*, *Cosmopolitan* and other publications, and her first book, *BIRTH: Three Mothers, Nine Months, and Pregnancy in America* published in April 2023 with Avid Reader Press. She has received grants and fellowships from the International Women’s Media Foundation, International Reporting Project, Type Investigations, and the Fund for Investigative Journalists, and was part of a team that won a Peabody Award in 2023 for coverage of the fall of Roe.

Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt

WHAT WORKS: How Higher Education is Confronting Profound Demographic, economic, and Technological Change

Johns Hopkins University Press, Autumn 2025 | NA

Manuscript anticipated January 2025

Agent: Faith Hamlin

In the two years since the publication of their acclaimed book, *THE GREAT UPHEAVAL* (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2021), Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt have visited more than 60 colleges, state systems, accrediting association meetings, conferences of for-profit companies, and foundation convenings. These meetings occurred from coast to coast, Florida to Washington and Maine to Texas, nationally and internationally. They met with faculty, staff, trustees, students, accreditors, government officials, professional associations, media, and foundation leaders. Based on these encounters, *WHAT WORKS* describes what they saw and what they learned about how institutions are responding to the Great Upheaval—their concerns, their errors, and their successes. It also augments the findings of “The Great Upheaval,” discussing issues that have gained prominence in the years since its publication such as AI, DEI, censorship, affirmative action, declining enrollments and public confidence in higher education.

WHAT WORKS grows out of Levine and Van Pelt’s article published in *Inside Higher Ed* in June entitled “[5 C’s to Navigate Higher Ed’s Great Upheaval](#)” which could only briefly touch upon their findings. This brilliant follow up to *THE GREAT UPHEAVAL* will be especially relevant to higher education leaders, trustees, faculty, and practitioners across the United States as well as internationally, though its subject matter and style are also likely to be of interest to more general audiences that are connected to higher education (e.g., students, policy makers, Foundations, associations, media, etc.)

THE GREAT UPHEAVAL sold internationally to The Commercial Press (China) and Korea National Open University Press (Korea)

Praise for *THE GREAT UPHEAVAL*

“On the subject of higher education, Arthur Levine is astonishingly prescient, spotting trends on the horizon long before they come into focus for the rest of us. In this thoughtful and engaging book, he and Scott Van Pelt offer a clear-eyed assessment of the changes—and the potential disruption—facing colleges and universities. An indispensable guide to rethinking our assumptions about learning and preparing to thrive in a transformed educational landscape.”

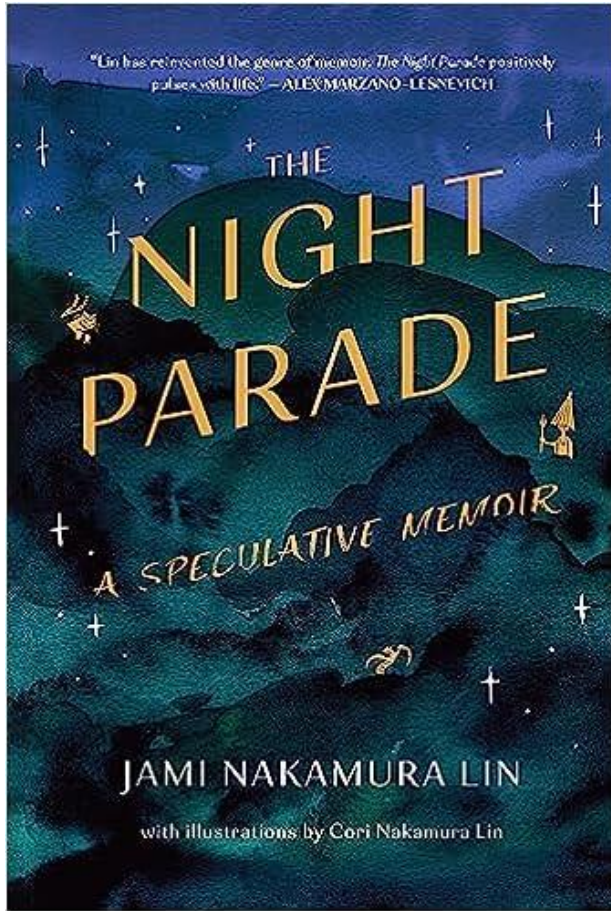
—Rafael Reif, President, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

“This clearly written book will be of interest to a broad spectrum of readers, including educators, policymakers, nonprofit professionals, students, and families. Levine and Van Pelt focus not only on colleges and universities but also on the challenges and opportunities of the larger postsecondary world, as they explore the dramatically different future of higher education and proposed actions to shape it.” —Freeman A. Hrabowski III, President, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, author of *The Empowered University*

“Levine and Van Pelt make the compelling case that higher education must urgently shift its focus to prepare learners and workers for an increasingly fractured world—one where subjects and disciplines are less important than enhancing our human traits and capabilities and contributing to our shared social, democratic, and economic well-being.” —Jamie Merisotis, President & CEO, Lumina Foundation

Merisotis, President & CEO, Lumina Foundation

[Arthur Levine](#) is a distinguished scholar of higher education at New York University's Steinhardt Institute for Higher Education Policy; a senior fellow and president emeritus of the Institute on Citizens and Scholars; and president emeritus of Columbia University's Teachers College. He is the author or coauthor of many books, including *Generation on a Tightrope: A Portrait of Today's College Students*. [Scott Van Pelt](#) is the associate director of the Wharton Graduate Communication Program at the University of Pennsylvania, where he is also a lecturer.



Jami Nakamura Lin,
with illustrations by Cori Nakamura Lin
THE NIGHT PARADE:
A Speculative Memoir

Mariner Books / William Morrow, October 2023
Scribe, UK | 352 pages, final text available

Sold at US auction for 6-figures.

A Most Anticipated Book by *Poets & Writers* • *The Boston Globe* • *San Francisco Chronicle* • *Los Angeles Times* • *The Millions* • *Library Journal* • *Book Riot* • *Debutiful* • and many more!

In the groundbreaking tradition of *In the Dream House* and *The Collected Schizophrenias*, a gorgeously illustrated speculative memoir that draws upon the Japanese myth of the Hyakki Yagyo—the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons—to shift the cultural narrative around mental illness, grief, and remembrance.

Are these the only two stories? The one, where you defeat your monster, and the other, where you succumb to it?

Jami Nakamura Lin spent much of her life feeling monstrous for reasons outside of her control. As a young woman with undiagnosed bipolar disorder, much of her adolescence was marked by periods of extreme rage and an array of psychiatric treatments, and her relationships suffered as a result, especially as her father's cancer grasped hold of their family.

As she grew older and learned to better manage her episodes, Lin became frustrated with the familiar pattern she found in mental illness and grief narratives, and their focus on recovery. She sought comfort in the stories she'd loved as a child—tales of ghostly creatures known to terrify in the night. Through the lens of the yokai and other figures from Japanese, Taiwanese, and Okinawan legend, she set out to interrogate the very notion of recovery and the myriad ways fear of difference shapes who we are as a people.

Featuring stunning illustrations by her sister, Cori Nakamura Lin, and divided into the four acts of a traditional Japanese narrative structure, *The Night Parade* is a genre-bending and deeply emotional memoir that mirrors the sensation of being caught between realms. Braiding her experience of mental illness, the death of her father, the grieving process, and other haunted topics with storytelling tradition, Jami Nakamura Lin shines a light into dark corners, driven by a question: *How do we learn to live with the things that haunt us?*



Jami Nakamura Lin is the writer of the popular Catapult column *The Monster in the Mirror* and also published a viral *New York Times* essay *Does My Child's Name Erase My Identity?* She was the 2016 National Endowment for the Arts U.S.-Japan Creative Artists Fellow, inaugural Walter Dean Myers Grant winner, and Writers' Colony at Daily Hollow Mental Health Fellow.

Cori Nakamura Lin is an illustrator and designer whose work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Eater Chicago*, and other publications.

Praise for THE NIGHT PARADE

"Jami Nakamura Lin has reinvented the genre of memoir, weaving an intricate braid of fable, memory, art, cultural legacy, and legend into a gorgeous tapestry of the stories that made her. The haunting illustrations by her sister, Cori Nakamura Lin, are a potent reminder that no one is self-authored. We all collaborate to become ourselves. Serpentine, polyphonic, and stunningly textured, *The Night Parade* positively pulses with life."
— Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, award-winning author of *The Fact of A Body*

"A gorgeous invocation of the magic-haunted spaces between lived experience and folkloric traditions, between the living and the dead, between memory and story. I loved *The Night Parade*." — Kelly Link, bestselling author of *Get in Trouble*

"Beautifully written and imaginative, THE NIGHT PARADE takes speculative nonfiction to new heights. Jami Nakamura Lin is both poet and storyteller, mystic and philosopher, teaching us to see the world differently, to suspend our disbelief, using mythology to interrogate our notions of family, grief, fear, love, and belonging. There is no other book like this—it's truly a stunning and visionary work of art." — Jaquira Díaz, author of *Ordinary Girls: A Memoir*

"Genre-defying and deeply poetic, *The Night Parade* invites the pandemonium within the personal and mythic to a round table where ancestors and folkloric creatures transform grief, memory, and mental illness into the tangible. Ancient tales and horrific specters braid throughout Jami Nakamura Lin's life, but will worm your way under your skin, prompting the question: what do we cut out from our lives and histories and what do we let grow with us? Impossible to put down, gut-wrenching, and magical. I cannot think of a writer who has written so personally while acknowledging ancestral and cultural grief with such grace and honesty. A crucial and groundbreaking entry for the literature of the Asian Diaspora and explorations of mental illness."
— Sequoia Nagamatsu, author of *How High We Go in the Dark*

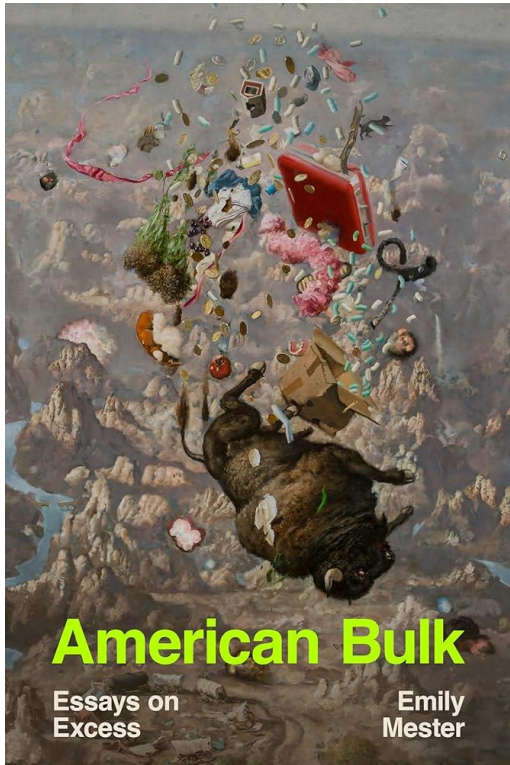
"*The Night Parade* is a stunning excavation of personal and collective histories, filled with the endless alchemy of storytelling. Jami Nakamura Lin writes with meditative precision and expansive empathy, challenging and reaffirming what communal stories can make possible. Exploring the many worlds that flourish beyond certain knowledge, this boundary-blurring memoir finds power in the undefinable. It reveals to us that the fracturing of a story can be beautifully fruitful. Teeming with language that is transformative and fully embodied, and gorgeously illustrated by Cori Nakamura Lin, *The Night Parade* is a generous and abundant feast for our living and our dead, our salvaged lineages and our continuing stories." — K-Ming Chang, award-winning author of *Bestiary*

"With abundant honesty and tenderness, Jami Nakamura Lin wraps her story in the expansive frameworks of folklore and the mystical, bringing in centuries of storytelling about love and loss, death, illness, and mystery. A moving and notable memoir." — Aimee Bender, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

"*The Night Parade* is stunning — it is haunting and magical and terrifying at once. Deeply intimate, but with a sense of scope that transcends history and genre, I loved stepping into this dream of a memoir, of a shared experience." — Catherine Cho, author of *Inferno*

"Throughout this inventive narrative, Lin takes calculated literary risks, ranging from the use of epistolary forms to experiments with point of view. These risks pay off mightily, coming together in a vulnerable, insightful, and refreshingly original meditation on survival, illness, and grief. A stunning memoir about the stories that make us who we are." — ★ *Kirkus*

"In this debut speculative memoir, Lin isn't afraid of her demons. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder as a teenager, Lin struggled to manage her illness while caring for her cancer-stricken father. Unhappy with the rose-colored narratives about recovering from mental illness, she takes a different approach here, leaning into the darkness. Inspired by Japanese, Taiwanese, and Okinawan ghost stories, Lin blends memoir and horror—plus stunning illustrations—to consider what it means to coexist with anguish." — The Millions (The Great 2023 Book Preview)?



Emily Mester

AMERICAN BULK: Essays on Excess

Norton, November 26, 2024 | World English

256 pages, manuscript available

Agent: Clare Mao

What if we explored our relationship to consumption with the same depth and feeling we use to tell stories of great loves and losses?

Americans are caught up in bulk. We guiltily watch Amazon boxes pile up on the porch, wade through endless reviews to find the perfect product, and crave the comforting indulgence of a chain restaurant. In *American Bulk*, Emily Mester intertwines cultural critique and personal history to explore how the things we buy, eat, amass, and discard become an intimate part of our lives. With humor and sharp intellect, she reflects on the joys and anxieties of family Costco trips, how a seasonal stint at Ulta Beauty taught her the insidious art of the sale, and what it means to get Mall Sad. In a nuanced examination of diet culture and fatness, Mester recounts her teenage summer at fat camp and the unexpected liberation she finds there. Finally, she ventures to Storm Lake, Iowa, to reckon with her grandmother's abandoned hoard, excavating the dysfunction that lies at the heart of her family's obsession with stuff. *American Bulk* introduces readers to a striking new literary talent from the American heartland, one who dares to ask us to regard consumption not with guilt but with grace and empathy.

Part family history, part cultural critique, and part cautionary tale, Emily Mester's **AMERICAN BULK** shares literary DNA with Patricia Lockwood's sharp but intimate portrayal of family in *Priestdaddy* and Jenny Odell's critiques of capitalism and the culture it begets in *How to Do Nothing*, and introduces a clear-eyed, empathetic, and deeply intelligent writer who acutely identifies the true cost of all the *stuff* we love.

"With compassion, wit, and piercing honesty, Emily Mester delves into our love of consumerism—and what our desires say about who we want to become. Bravely personal, incisively critical, *American Bulk* is a report on our national psyche and a captivating family story."— **Larissa Pham, author of National Book Critics Circle John Leonard finalist *Pop Song***

"A funny, incisive, humane dispatch from a brilliant new voice in nonfiction. *American Bulk* had me cringing, laughing, and yes, even tearing up as it drew the contours of my own, and our national, appetites. I remain amazed that a book so clear-eyed in its scrutiny of our capitalistic perversity left me with so much hope."— **Melissa Febos, author of *Girlhood*, winner of the National Book Critics Circle Award in Criticism**



"*American Bulk* is composed of some of my favorite nonfiction essays on family, capital, love and dysfunction that I've ever read. It's a refreshing and needed reframing of what all these things mean, today, right now, as the neon haze of fast-food signs flicker from their long-time dominion of the American experience. Mester examines our compulsion to consume with careful incisions that I kept highlighting and coming back to, just to whisper the words to myself to make their clear-eyed cleverness my own."— **Arabelle Sicardi, beauty writer and author of the forthcoming *The House of Beauty***

Emily Mester is from the Midwest, where she learned how to read by sounding out signs in the strip mall parking lot of a Chicago suburb. She is a graduate of Grinnell College and the University of Iowa Nonfiction Writing Program, where she studied with Kerry Howley and Melissa Febos. She lives in Brooklyn. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/emilymester>

Tomás Q. Morín
**WHERE ARE YOU FROM:
LETTERS TO MY SON**

University of Nebraska Press, PPB March 1, 2024 | NA
130 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel

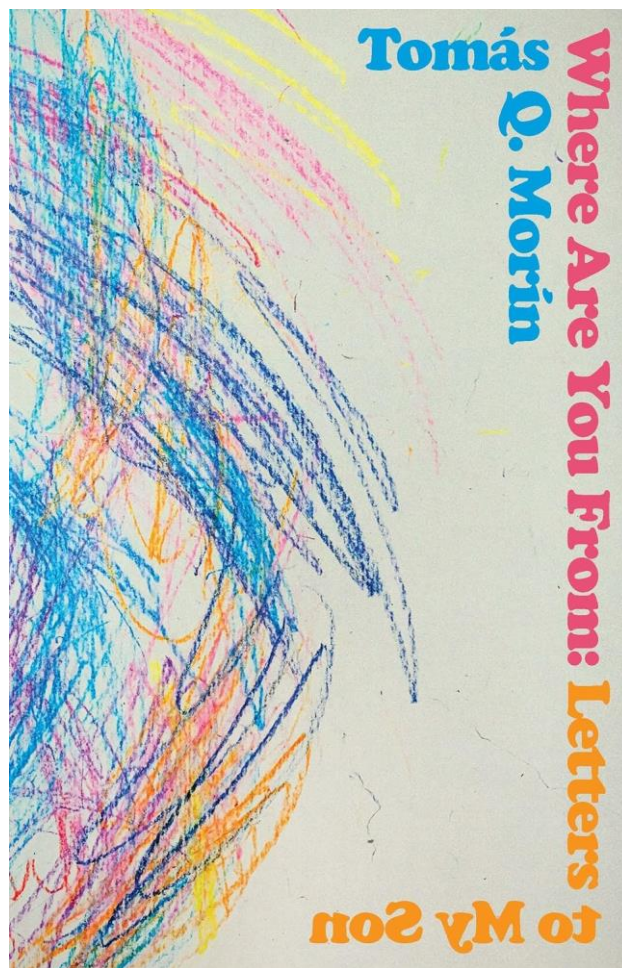
“A vast, poetic, and heartfelt collection, grappling through politics, culture, and art with what it may mean to be Mexican American under late-stage capitalism. Tomás Q. Morín’s work will never fail to astound you. At once playful, informative, and devastating.”

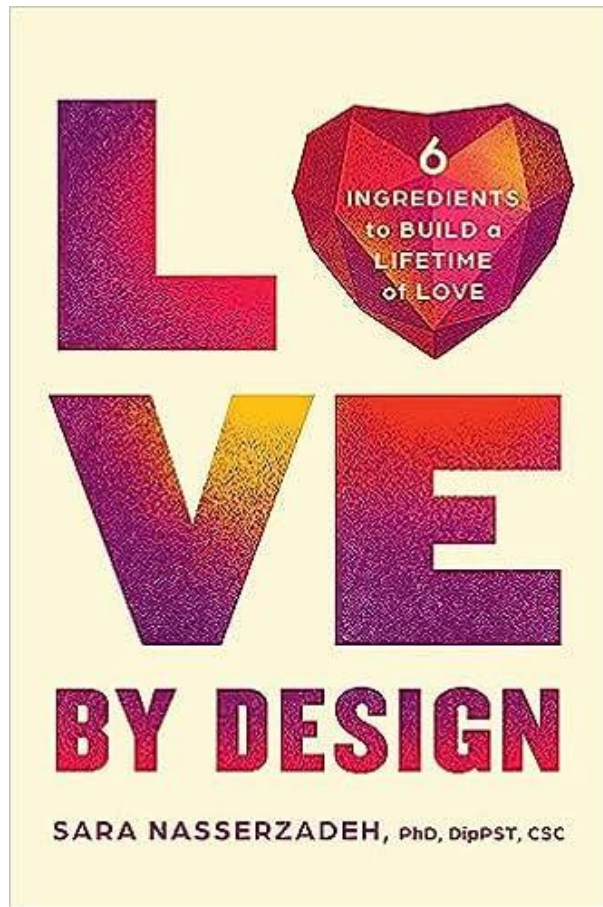
**—Fernando A. Flores, author
of *Valleyesque* and *Tears of the Trufflepig***

In this tender collection of letters to his son, Tomás Q. Morín meditates on love, the body, and the future his son will have to face. He writes about the America his son will soon be born into, a country that will constantly question his place in it. An America that wields labels like Black, Brown, and white to make itself feel safe. An America in which Mexican American people continue to be seen as outsiders in their ancestral lands.

Starting in New Jersey during a long-distance teaching position before his son’s birth and spanning to the present day, Morín shares his experiences with racism to sketch for his son ways to respond to bigotry that won’t sacrifice his dignity or his spirit. He also challenges his young son, and the reader by extension, to reassess their perception of the world and the language we use to understand and label our surroundings. Hovering over Morín’s bold vision for shaking off the chains of injustice is a quartet of literary angels: Baldwin and Dostoevsky, Ellison and Camus. *Where Are You From* is a poignant and gripping testament that speaks to all the sons and daughters of America.

Tomás Q. Morín is the author of several books, including the memoir *Let Me Count the Ways* (Nebraska, 2022), winner of the 2022 Writers’ League of Texas Nonfiction Book Award; the poetry collections *Machete*, *A Larger Country*, and *Patient Zero*; and other books. He is on the faculty at Rice University. <https://www.tomasqmorin.com>





Dr. Sara Nasserzadeh LOVE BY DESIGN: 6 INGREDIENTS TO BUILD A LIFETIME OF LOVE

Grand Central Publishing, February 6, 2024

UK: HarperCollins

Paperback February 4, 2025

352 pages, full manuscript available

Agent: Sarah Phair

Rights sold: Slovak (Barecz & Conrad), Turkey (Zeynep)

“Get ready to revolutionize your relationship with Emergent Love.” —Dr. Pepper Schwartz, *New York Times* bestselling author and Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington.

Many of us were raised with the idea that true love means finding our "other half" and that a spark is the best foundation for successful long-term partnerships and marriages. But what if this understanding is flawed?

Grounded in two decades of original research and work with couples from around the world, *Love by Design* introduces a groundbreaking new foundation for love: The Emergent Love Model. As Dr. Nasserzadeh knows, successful partnerships do not thrive on love, at least as we know it. Instead of chasing our butterflies we need to cultivate six core relational ingredients that make it possible for love to emerge:

- **Attraction:** What do you like and value about each other?
- **Respect:** How do you keep each other's needs and priorities in mind?
- **Trust:** Do you know that you will show up for each other consistently?
- **Compassion:** Can you honor the other's emotional experience without making it about you?
- **Shared vision:** Where are you committed to going together?
- **Loving behaviors:** How do you show your partner they're special to you?

Offering dozens of exercises and reflection prompts, this groundbreaking book—perfect for fans of *8 Rules of Love* or *The Love Prescription*—will give readers a new foundation for their coupledness—one that will help your coupledness thrive for a lifetime.



Dr. Sara Nasserzadeh, Ph.D., is a world-renowned social psychologist, sexologist, and relationship expert. She has spent over 20 years working with thousands of couples in more than 40 countries. She is highly regarded by her peers as a Key Opinion Leader and has a multitude of articles, books and book chapters to her credit. Her work has also been featured in media around the world, including **NPR, BBC, ABC, CNN** and **Goop**, and she has won awards for her **BBC** radio and TV series on sex and relationships called **“Whispers.”**
<https://www.sara-nasserzadeh.com/>

Praise for LOVE BY DESIGN:

“A revelatory re-conceptualization of how we create love. No other book so seamlessly blends scientific evidence with diversity and acceptance.”—**Dr. Emily Nagoski, bestselling author of Come As You Are and Burnout**

“Dr. Nasserzadeh is an important relationship scholar and gifted clinician. Her vision of Emergent Love will revolutionize your relationship.”
—**Dr. Pepper Schwartz, Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington and New York Times bestselling author**

"Love by Design is an essential read for those looking to cultivate connected and fulfilling intimate relationships. Her model of emergent love will transform how you enter your next relationship or enliven the one you are in for years to come."—**Alexandra H. Solomon, PhD, faculty at Northwestern University, bestselling author of Love Every Day and host of the podcast, Reimagining Love**

“In Love by Design, Dr. Nasserzadeh brings us an exciting, sustainable way of perceiving and living love.”—**Guy Winch, TED Speaker and author of How to Fix A Broken Heart**

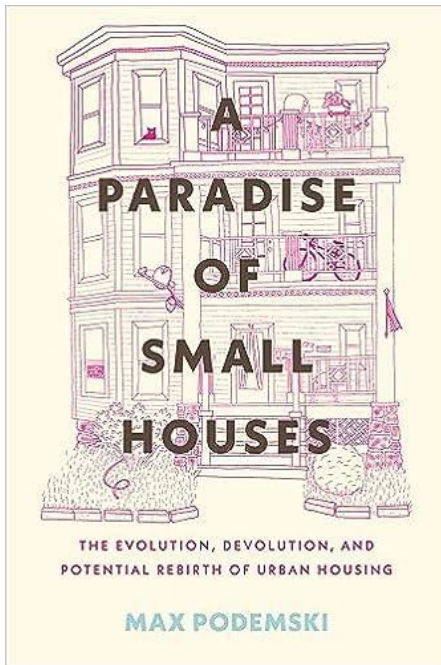
"Love by Design supports the wisdom of ages with original evidence-informed research to create a realistic and powerful way to make love work for modern relationships."—**Susan Quilliam, author of the revised The Joy of Sex**

"Clear, concise, and wise. Dr. Nasserzadeh encourages us toward greater self-awareness, teaching readers how to strengthen our bonds by bringing compassion, loving communication, and more to their partnerships. It would do all of us well to heed her expert guidance."—**Barry R. Komisaruk, Ph.D, Distinguished Professor, Psychology at Rutgers University and co-author of The Orgasm Answer Guide.**

"This wise, practical book sheds new light on the perennial question of how to keep romantic love alive. Read it and be prepared never to think about love the same way again." —**Stephen Snyder M.D. Author, Love Worth Making**

“Dr. Sara has elevated the common Venn diagram to a work of art. Or rather a work of love. Understanding your relational overlap (where 'me' meets 'we') is at the heart of her concept of emergent love, and Love by Design will show you how to occupy your 'we-space' to the fullest.”—**Ian Kerner, sex therapist and best-selling author of She Comes First**

"Everyone wants to experience the spirit and joy of love. Here are insights on how to ignite the delights of a long life of 'love you forever and love you for always.'"—**Mark Victor Hansen, Co-Creator of the New York Times' bestselling Chicken Soup for the Soul Series**



Max Podemski
**A PARADISE OF SMALL HOUSES: The
Evolution, Devolution, and Potential Rebirth of
Urban Housing**

Beacon Press, March 26, 2024 | NA
272 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Sarah Phair

From the Haitian-style “shotgun” houses of the 19th century to the lavish high-rises of the 21st century, a walk through the streets of America’s neighborhoods that reveals the rich history—and future—of urban housing

The Philadelphia row house. The New York tenement. The Boston triple-decker. Every American city has its own iconic housing style, structures that have been home to generations of families and are symbols of identity and pride. Max Podemski, an urban planner for the city of Los Angeles and lifelong architecture buff, has spent his career in and around these buildings. Deftly combining his years of experience with extensive research, Podemski walks the reader through the history of our dwelling spaces—and offers a blueprint for how time-tested urban planning models can help us build the homes the United States so desperately needs.

In *A PARADISE OF SMALL HOUSES*, Podemski charts how these dwellings have evolved over the centuries according to the geography, climate, population, and culture of each city. He introduces the reader to styles like Chicago’s prefabricated workers cottages and LA’s car-friendly dingbats, illuminating the human stories behind each city’s iconic housing type. Through it all, Podemski interrogates the American values that have equated home ownership with success and led to the US housing crisis, asking, “How can we look to the past to build the homes, neighborhoods, and cities of the future that our communities deserve?”

“His intelligent analysis and deep research lend strength to his conclusion that what is required to solve the housing crisis is not just more large-scale urban developments but the deregulation of what was once common—small-scale urban home-building by local businesses and families drawing on regional design traditions. It’s a must-read for housing advocates.”
—*Publishers Weekly* ★

“[Podemski’s] argument is convincing. A thoughtful history of affordable housing that establishes the basis for reasoned discussion and well-informed policy.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“Through this beautifully written and illustrated rich history of everyday houses that form our communities and neighborhoods, Max Podemski shares an insightful account of American cities and their urban development that will greatly appeal to architects, urban designers, planners, historians, housing advocates, and urbanists interested in just cities.”
—Vinit Mukhija, author of *Remaking the American Dream: The Informal and Formal Transformation of Single-Family Housing Cities*

“If an author writes about the history and future of urban housing, and has references I didn’t know about, I have to read further. If the book not only tells me things I didn’t know about urban housing but also a new frame for thinking about it, well then, that’s worth paying for. Max’s book is worth it.”—Gordon Price, former Vancouver city council member and founder of the City Program at Simon Fraser University

Max Podemski is an urban planner, author, and illustrator with a lifelong interest in how buildings shape the urban environment. He is the author of the forthcoming book, “A Paradise of Small Houses: The Evolution, Devolution, and Potential Rebirth of Urban Housing” published by Beacon Press. He holds a Master’s in Urban Planning from Columbia University and Bachelor’s in Urban and Environmental Policy from Occidental College. He lives between a duplex and a fourplex in Los Angeles, CA. <https://www.maxpodemski.com/>



Bernie Taupin

SCATTERSHOT: Life, Music, Elton, and Me

Hachette, September 12, 2023, paperback September 10, 2024

UK: Monoray

416 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Zoe Sandler

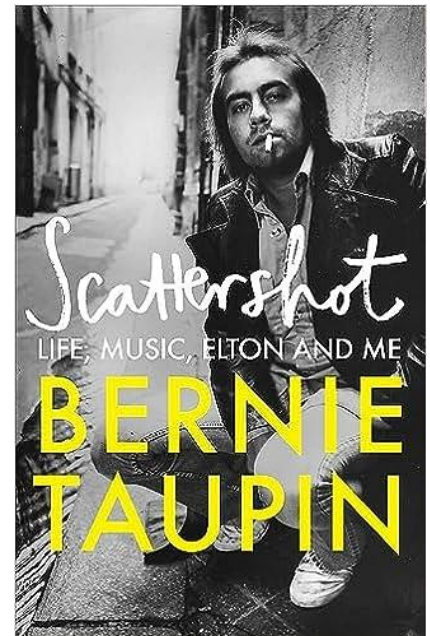
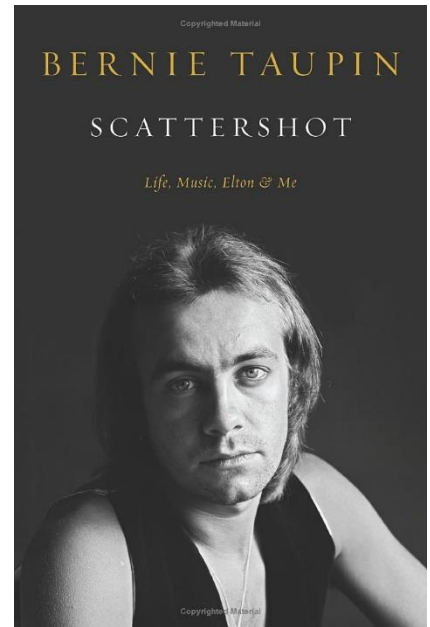
**An instant *Sunday Times* bestseller
An instant *New York Times* bestseller**

Best Classic Bands, "Best Music Books of 2023"

***Town & Country*, "Must-Read Books of Fall 2023"**

AudioFile, EarPhones Award Winner

Cleveland.com, "The Season's Top Music Books"



**An evocative, clear-eyed, and revealing memoir by Bernie Taupin,
the lyrical master and long-time collaborator of Elton John**

"I loved writing, I loved chronicling life and every moment I was cogent, sober, or blitzed, I was forever feeding off my surroundings, making copious notes as ammunition for future compositions. . . . The thing is good, bad, or indifferent I never stopped writing, it was as addictive as any drug."

This is the memoir music fans have been waiting for. Half of one of the greatest creative partnerships in popular music, Bernie Taupin is the man who wrote the lyrics for Elton John, who conceived the ideas that spawned countless hits, and sold millions and millions of records. Their extraordinary, half-century-and-counting creative relationship has been chronicled in biopics (like 2019's *Rocketman*) and even John's own autobiography, *Me*. But Taupin, a famously private person, has kept his own account of their adventures close to his chest, until now.

Written with honesty and candor, *Scattershot* is an exciting, multi-decade whirlwind told in a non-linear yet grounded narrative. It whizzes around the world as we ride shotgun with Bernie on his extraordinary life. Unique and utterly compelling, *Scattershot* will transport the reader across the decades and around the globe, along the way meeting some of the greatest creative minds of the 20th century, and into the vivid imaginings of one of music's most legendary lyricists.

Reviews for SCATTERSHOT:

"This is the most glorious of books. I am besotted by the life I never knew he had."—Elton John

"A collection of amusing anecdotes assembled by a charming raconteur."—*Washington Post*

"A memoir that doesn't skimp on wild rockstar revelations or touching tales of friendship and self-discovery... a thoroughly entertaining and enlightening read."—*Daily Beast*

"...[A] legendary writer... Taupin tells the story of how he and John developed the sound that would make them superstars and honestly chronicles life in the spotlight—for better and worse—giving readers a singular look behind the curtain of both incredible artistry and global superstardom."—*Town & Country*

"Fascinating... a wild array of colorful anecdotes and drunken adventures... [with] plenty of tasty revelations along the way."—*Vulture*

"[Taupin] describes meeting [Elton John] and their famous longtime collaboration and friendship. He revisits their early years, through John's megastardom, with plenty of wild times along the way."—*AARP*

"The book is gold for any longtime fan, new admirer or classic rock aficionado. There is such a plethora of engaging stories here... SCATTERSHOT stands high amongst the very best rock-and-roll memoirs."—*BookReporter*

"Written in a highly entertaining, articulate style with a wickedly acidic sense of humor, this book sets a new standard for rock biographies."—*Library Journal*

"Fans of the two artists [Elton John and Bernie Taupin]... should check this out. For the less-initiated, Taupin has a lot to say, and it shouldn't be missed."—*Booklist*

"I simply wouldn't write songs without Bernie Taupin. I've read every word he's ever written and there could never be enough of them to satiate my need for Bernie's way of seeing the world. Scattershot, though, is a lifting of the veil, as beautifully written as it is honest and rugged. Reading this book brought me face to face with who he truly is: an empathic genius who speaks to the everyman."—**Brandi Carlile**

"Orgasmic. Every page of Scattershot is a delight, a joy, a name-dropper fan's delight. Divine. I couldn't put it down."—**Pete Townshend**

"In Bernie Taupin's miraculous memoir Scattershot you'll meet legends, cowboys, geniuses, unforgettable faces in the night, shady purveyors of outrageous fortune, warriors of the heart, and most of all, Taupin himself. Hilarious and so emotionally true, Scattershot is like a letter from a cherished friend. You'll want to keep it close, so you can read it again and again."—**Cameron Crowe**

"Touching. Charming. Humble. Witty. And exquisitely written. Taupin's words need no musical accompaniment. They sing with a poet's voice."—**Gary Oldman**

"Eloquent and inspiring, Scattershot is a freewheeling memoir that is as warm and evocative as Bernie Taupin's most memorable lyrics. A born storyteller, Taupin gives us the life of an artist whose outlook was shaped by a rare but fascinating blend of lifelong innocence and endless intellectual curiosity."—**Robert Hilburn, author of *Johnny Cash: The Life***

"Scattershot takes a non-linear approach and is all the better for it. It's funny too (one cokey chapter is titled Days Of Wine And Noses), and encounters with Salvador Dali and Princess Margaret colour the zippy narrative. There's a sense Taupin can't quite believe it all happened..."—*MOJO*

Compellingly written - Scattershot is a thoroughly enjoyable read — *Record Collector Magazine*

Bernie is well-read, highly literate and, on the evidence of his memoir, a man of wise, sensitive intelligence. -- **Roger Lewis, *Daily Mail***

"An entertaining ride that doesn't spare the horses" -- *RTE Guide*

"Illuminating and entertaining."—*PopMatters* "A fascinating read."—*Associated Press*

"Sharply Written" — *The Independent* "A great read."—*New York Journal of Books*

"Evocative" — *The Guardian* "Engaging and poetic" — *The Times*

A wildly entertaining roller-coaster of a life story — *Daily Mail* Brilliant memoir — *Daily Express*

Simon Wu
DANCING ON MY OWN:
Essays on Art, Joy, and Collectivity

HarperCollins, June 25, 2024 | NA
224 pages, full text available
Agent: Clare Mao

A The Millions and Hyperallergic Most Anticipated Book of 2024
A Publishers Weekly Summer Reads Pick

An expansive and deeply personal essay collection which explores the aesthetics of class aspiration, the complications of creating art and fashion, and the limits of identity politics.

“Simon Wu manages to be both a shrewd critic and enthused aspirant of what passes for today’s cultural capital. . . with a disarming lack of cynicism that is both keen and refreshing.” –
Cathy Park Hong, author of *Minor Feelings*

"A beautifully ecstatic history of our present, and what it means to seek freedom in the things, institutions, and, most importantly, people around us."—**Hua Hsu, Pulitzer Prize-winning and *NYT* bestselling author of *Stay True***



Taking inspiration from Robyn’s seminal 2010 track, *Dancing on My Own*, which transforms solitude into a more complex joy, emerging art critic and curator Simon Wu dances through the institutions of art, capitalism, and identity in these expertly researched, beautifully rendered essays. In “A Model Childhood” he catalogs the decades’ worth of clutter in his mother’s suburban garage and its meaning for himself and his family. In “For Everyone,” Wu explores the complicated sensation of the Telfar bag (often referred to as “the Brooklyn Birkin”) and asks whether fashion can truly be revolutionary in a capitalist system—if something can truly be “for everyone” without undercutting someone else. Throughout, Wu centers the sticky vulnerability of living in a body in a world where history is mapped into every choice we make, every party drug we take, and every person we kiss.

Wu’s message is that to dance on your own is to move from critique into joy. To approach identity with the utmost sympathy for the kinds of belonging it might promise, and to look beyond it. For readers of Cathy Park Hong and Alexander Chee, *Dancing on My Own* is a deeply felt and ultimately triumphant anthem about the never-ending journey of discovering oneself, and introduces a brilliant new writer on the rise.



Simon Wu is a curator and writer involved in collaborative art production and research. He has organized exhibitions and programs at the Brooklyn Museum, the Whitney Museum, The Kitchen, MoMA, and David Zwirner, among other venues. In 2021 he was awarded an Andy Warhol Foundation Art Writers Grant and was featured in *Cultured* magazine's Young Curators series. He was a 2018 Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellow at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program and is currently in the PhD program in History of Art at Yale University. He has two brothers, Nick and Duke, and loves the ocean. <http://simonwu.info/>

Additional Reviews for DANCING ON MY OWN

"A genius melding of art criticism, autobiography, personal essay, and travel writing. . . . Wu—an artist, curator, and writer—layers experiences like translucent curtains through which we see the landscape of a past in the present making its future." —**Claudia Rankine, author of *Just Us* and *Citizen***

"This exhilarating debut essay collection from art curator Wu uses cultural artifacts as springboards to reflect on connection, sexuality, and the immigrant experience. . . . This dynamic first outing heralds the arrival of a promising new talent." — ***Publishers Weekly* ★**

"[A] devourable collection of essays. . . . Wu's myriad observations on art, queerness, identity, and the trap of capitalism are narrated with a similar unfussy self-awareness, brimming with humor and depth." — ***Hyperallergic***

"A neon-bright picture of gay nightlife, leftist class strivers, the seductions of the art world, and what Wu critically—but fondly—calls the 'empty orchestra' of Asian America. In fact, there he is now in his mesh coattails, striking the empty air." — **Andrea Long Chu, Pulitzer Prize-winning critic at *New York* magazine**

"In this striking and inspiring collection of essays, Simon Wu shows how art defines us, how we anchor our identities in particular pieces of clothing, works of literature, exhibitions in galleries, parties in clubs. His perceptive voice, observant of every detail, guides us into a different kind of vision in which objects glow with significance. With an insider's eye for the operation of the art world, Wu introduces us to a lesser-known and unjustly overlooked side of the New York City scene of the past decades, not just Keith Haring, but Tseng Kwong Chi and Ching Ho Cheng. Like a great mixtape (or a digital playlist), *Dancing On My Own* is a thoughtful and intimate act of curation." — **Kyle Chayka, author of *Filterworld***

"Wu...weaves himself in and out of this bold collection. . . . These smart, sly essays will appeal to lovers of both pop and museum culture." — ***Kirkus***

"Taking his title from an anthem of steely defiance by the Swedish pop star Robyn, Simon Wu offers writings on art (from the mind of a critic, curator, and *Art in America* contributor) and such other topics as 'the complicated sensation of the Telfar bag' and 'clutter in his mother's suburban garage and its meaning for himself and his family.'" — ***Art in America***

"The subtitle of this collection (*Essays on Art, Collectivity, and Joy*), is all I need to know to want it immediately. . . . [Wu] infuses these essays with his own interests, longings, and experiences, even as he stretches them beyond himself, asking what it means to love and create in such a fraught and constantly changing world." — ***Book Riot***

"Inspired by Swedish pop singer Robyn's eponymous song, this genre-defying work takes unexpected detours through contemporary America, as well as from places further afield, weaving heady late-night encounters with reflections on the state of contemporary art, identity, and politics. . . . Wu invites readers to watch him groove at his most personal moments and to witness his feelings of lust, doubt, bliss, and innocence, while reminding us that being human, with all the joys and challenges that come with that, is ultimately what makes us." — ***Art Asia Pacific***

"A curator and writer, Wu's playful consideration explores everything from raving to art-world drama to Bushwick fashion, breathing life into the tired tropes that sometimes weigh heavy in what he calls 'Asian American-core' writing." — ***Interview Magazine***



CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Rio Cortez

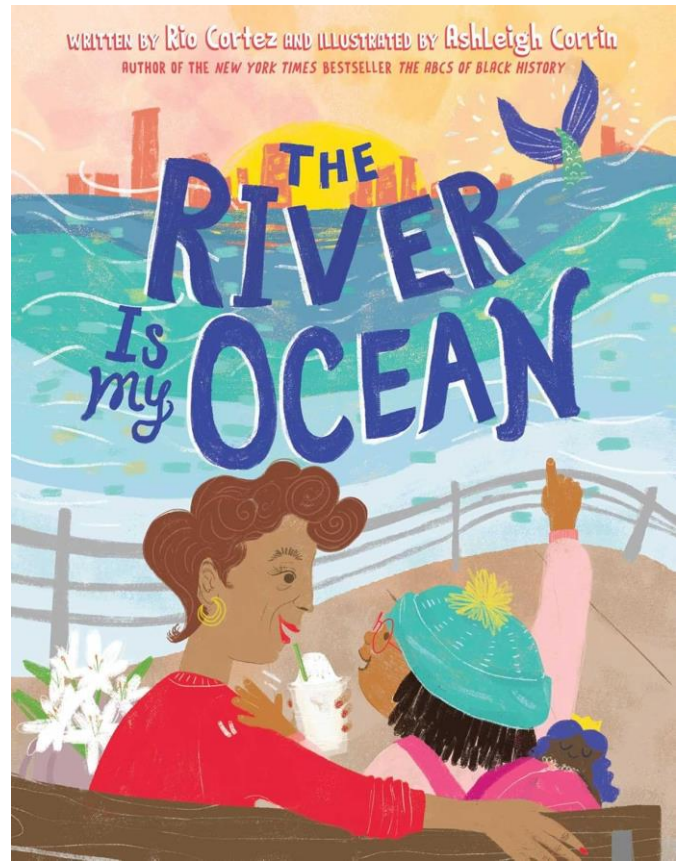
THE RIVER IS MY OCEAN

Simon & Schuster BYR, August 27, 2024 | World English and Spanish
32 pages, final material available

A grandmother and granddaughter share a magical trip to the Hudson River affirming intergenerational love and the power of water in this heart-song of a picture book.

Every day, Abuela misses the ocean in Puerto Rico. But on Saturdays, when the sun is high, Abuela takes her granddaughter on a walk down the hill in Harlem to Twelfth Avenue, to a place that is just as magical: the Hudson River.

There, they admire the iconic waterway that brought millions of new Americans to its shores, make offerings to Yemaya, the goddess portrayed as a mermaid in ancient religions, and celebrate familial love passed down through the generations, showing the vastness of expansive intergenerational love, memory and the childlike curiosity they each inspire.



"VERDICT For fans of Last Stop on Market Street, this book is sure to delight younger readers and is nice addition to library shelves that lends itself to further discussion of gods and goddesses in mythology." -- *School Library Journal* — 7/1/24

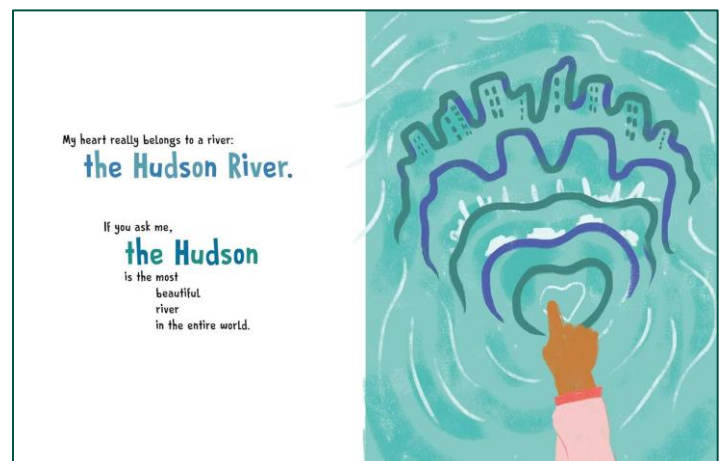
"Sweet, simple prose brimming with emotion celebrates cultural heritage and the connection between generations, while vivid, childlike illustrations capture the warmth of family moments... a heartfelt narrative steeped in love and tradition." -- *Kirkus Reviews* — 6/15/24

"Hand this book to kids who live life vividly or are especially grateful for a dose of magic in the everyday." - *The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books* — 9/1/24

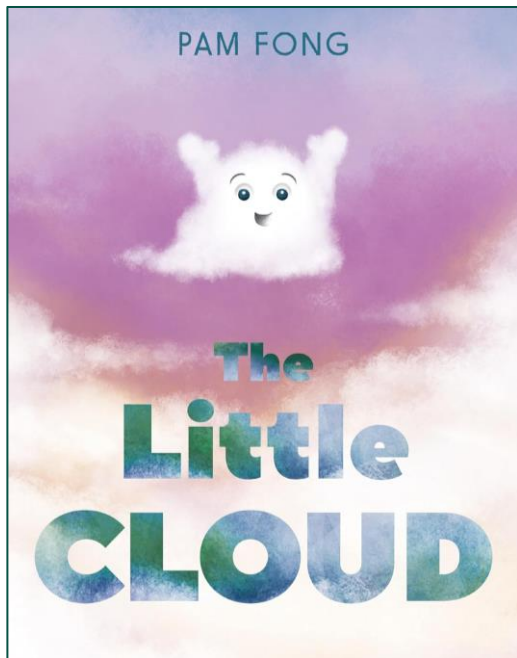


Rio Cortez is an award-winning poet and children's book writer. She is the author of the New York Times bestseller, *The ABCs of Black History* (Workman, 2020) and her debut poetry collection, *Golden Ax*, is forthcoming from Penguin Books in 2022. Born and raised in Salt Lake City, UT, she now lives and writes in Harlem, NY.

<https://www.riocortez.com/>



Picture Book



Pam Fong

THE LITTLE CLOUD

Greenwillow March 4, 2025 | World English

40 pages, manuscript available

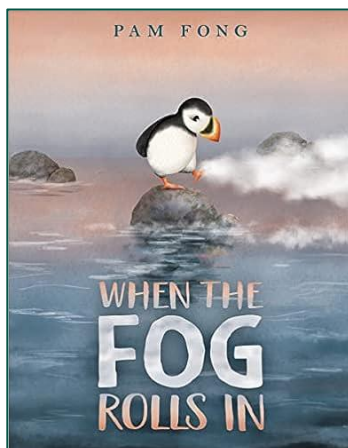
Agent: Abigail Frank

A beautiful day is dawning—but everyone except Little Cloud is too busy to notice. A lush and emotional picture book about curiosity, exploration, and being present.

A cloud's job is to make storms. And that is what they love to do. All except one, that is. Little Cloud would much rather take a moment to enjoy the view of the world below. The farmer is whistling, the piglets are having a snack, the bees are buzzing, ducks waddling, and stream babbling. But NONSENSE, thunders Big Gray Cloud. There's no time for that. Big Gray Cloud and the others are so busy getting ready to storm that they never notice the sun coming out until it scatters them.



With expressive characters and lush scenery, Pam Fong delivers a beautiful picture book with compelling social and emotional hooks. *The Little Cloud* encourages us to stay curious and be present, find delight in what others may overlook, and make the most out of each day.



WHEN THE FOG ROLLS IN

Greenwillow October 10, 2023 | World English

32 pages, final text and art available

When a thick fog rolls in, an irresistible little puffin is lost in unfamiliar territory. *When the Fog Rolls In* is an exceptional picture book about navigating uncertainty, opening your mind, and finding your way back to your flock.

“Robert Frost’s famous quote perfectly applies to Fong’s story: “The best way out is always through.” ...Arresting artwork in muted watercolors....The youngest listeners will empathize with the lost bird trying to find its way home, while older readers,

perhaps through discussion with an adult, may better understand Fong’s symbolic message”—*Booklist*

“...young readers will ... be able to empathize with the puffin’s vulnerable condition. Given the foggy setting, the palette is necessarily muted, but despite the general haziness, there are still discoveries to be made for shrewd viewers, like realizing that what looks like a menacing creature is actually a harmless tree. Though the idea of fog as a metaphor for life’s uncertainties might go over the heads of younger readers, the book provides an effective jumping-off point for discussions about fear, anxiety, and obstacles. A simple but poignant tale about navigating difficulties with courage and patience.” – *Kirkus Reviews*

Pam Fong earned a degree in Visual Arts and Art History from the University of California, San Diego, and a Masters of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University. She is the creator of picture books including *ROU AND THE GREAT RACE* (Reycraft Books 2020), *ONCE UPON A FOREST* (Random House Studio, Spring 2022), *A SPARK IN THE DARK* (Greenwillow, Fall 2022), and *HEDGEHOG AND THE LOG* (Union Square Books: January, 2024). <https://pamfong.com/>

Picture book

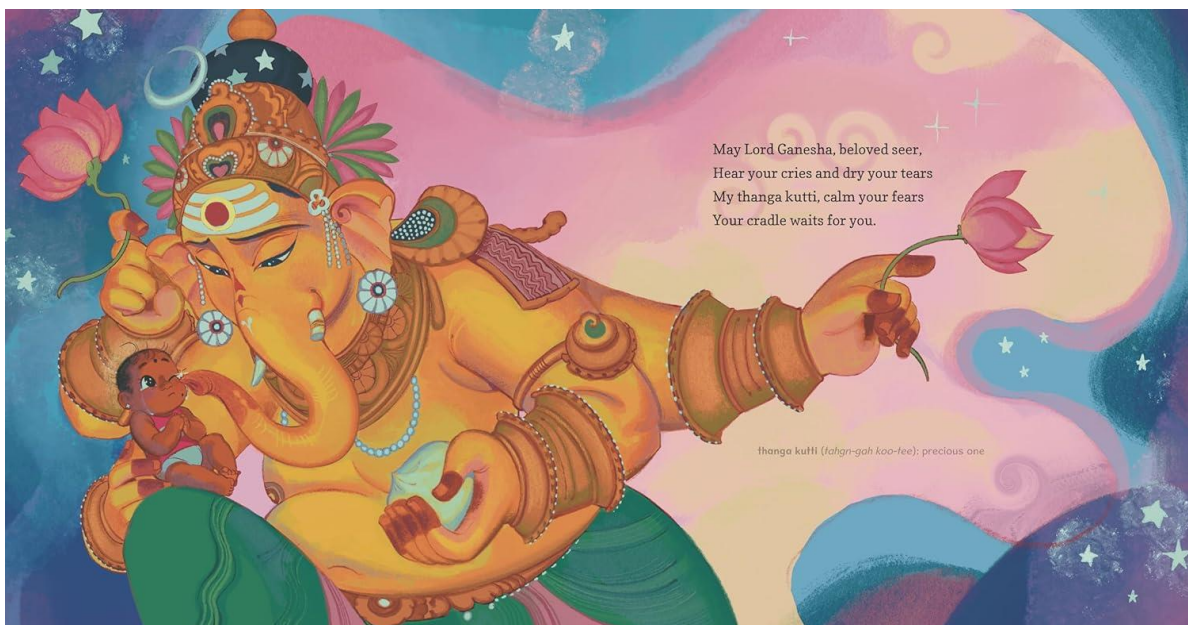
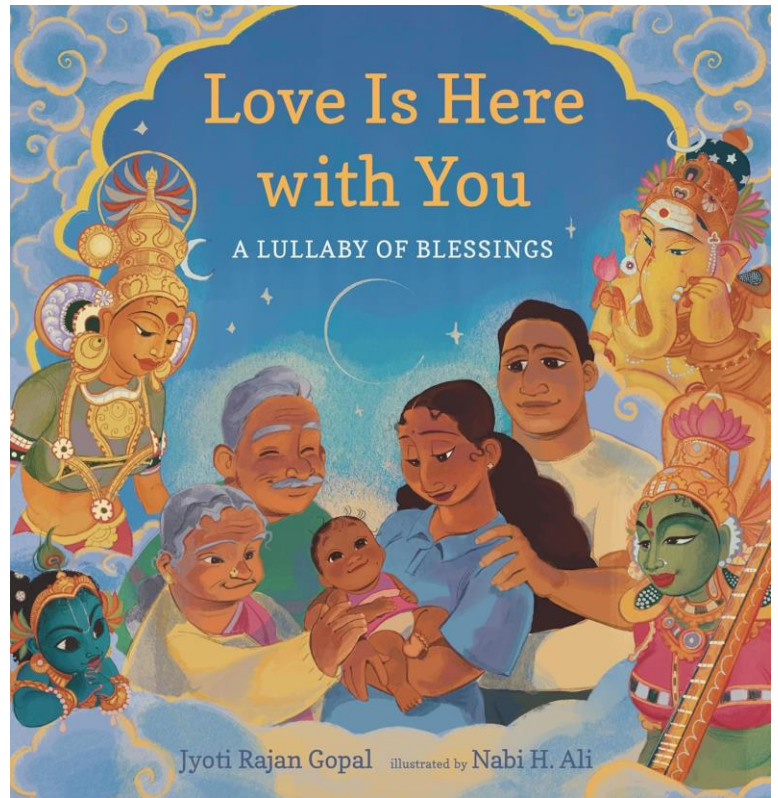
Jyoti Rajan Gopal
LOVE IS HERE WITH YOU: A
Lullaby of Blessings
illustrated by **Nabi H. Ali**

Candlewick, December 3, 2024 | World English
32 pages, final material available
Text c/o SJGA, Illustrations handled by Candlewick

In this original lullaby, rich cultural traditions combine with a family's hopes for their baby to create a soothing ritual sure to be a favorite bedtime read and baby shower gift.

*May mighty Durga, fierce and true,
guard your slumbers all night through.
My little angel, my honeyden,
your cradle waits for you.*

As a family sings their baby to sleep, deities from the Hindu pantheon act as guardians of sweet slumber, from wise Ganesha, remover of obstacles, to joyful Krishna, prince of music, to powerful Durga, goddess of strength and protection. Richly illustrated by artist Nabi H. Ali, this gentle, reassuring text by author Jyoti Rajan Gopal wraps reader and listener in a message of love and comfort.



Nabi H. Ali is a Tamil-American illustrator who enjoys creating diverse works that showcase an array of cultures and people. Among the books he's illustrated are the picture books *We Move the World* by Kari Lavelle, *Beautifully Me* by Nabela Noor, *Laxmi's Mooch* by Shelly Anand, and *All the Way to the Top: How One Girl's Fight for Americans with Disabilities Changed Everything* by Annette Bay Pimentel.



Jyoti Rajan Gopal
ONE SWEET SONG

illustrated by **Sonia Sánchez**

Candlewick, January 16, 2024 | World English

40 pages, final text available

Text c/o SJGA, Illustrations handled by
Candlewick

In an ode to the power of music and community, this vibrantly illustrated picture book steps out on the balcony for a shared moment of spontaneous joy and celebration.

In a quiet neighborhood, a single note trills through the air. Another note joins, and then another. One by one, curious people are drawn to their windows, doorways, and balconies to support the medley. Professional musicians play instruments from around the world, while others bang pots and pans. All are welcome as the notes swirl and dip and crescendo, coming together to make one sweet song. And when the music fades and this diverse neighborhood is once again silent, the reverberations of unity remain. Written by a kindergarten teacher and inspired by the balcony singing in Italy during the pandemic—with a countdown from one to ten and back gently woven in—this rhythmic synergy of text and art is a buoyant, global-minded celebration of how music connects us, even in the darkest of times.

In a quiet neighborhood, a single note trills through the air. Another note joins, and then another.



Jyoti Rajan Gopal is a kindergarten teacher and the author of *American Desi*, illustrated by Supriya Kelkar, *My Paati's Saris*, illustrated by Art Twink and *Desert Queen*, illustrated by Svabhu Kohli, named a Stonewall Honor book from the ALA awards and best of 2023 by *Booklist*, *BookPage*, *Kirkus*, and *BCCB*.



She was born in India but grew up all over the world, from Thailand to Indonesia to Myanmar to China. More than twenty-five years ago, she moved to New York City with her husband and raised her two daughters in

Yonkers in a very old house with an amazing porch, where she still lives.

Sonia Sánchez is the illustrator of *Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away* by Meg Medina; *Dog Says, Cat Says* by Marilyn Singer; *Here I Am* by Patti Kim, for which she was nominated for a Will Eisner Comic Industry Award; and many other acclaimed picture books. She lives in Barcelona, Spain.

Picture Book

Praise for ONE SWEET SONG:

“In this tale inspired by the Italian performers who serenaded their neighbors from their balconies during the Covid-19 lockdown, a single musical note leads to a neighborhood symphony. . . . The bright illustrations show swirls of colors and musical notes weaving in and out of the homes, suggesting a sense of connection. . . . A joyful celebration of music and community”. —**Kirkus Reviews**

“Propulsive rhymes unite neighbors in this counting picture book featuring a collaborative musical performance that expands and contracts. . . . Driving rhythms and clear rhymes by Rajan Gopal (*American Desi*) tug with a gentle beat, while energetic illustrations from Sanchez (*Evelyn Del Rey Is Moving Away*) render a sun-washed cityscape with texture and vigorous scribbles in this work about how individuals retain the warmth and support of connection.” —**Publishers Weekly**



“Gopal, a kindergarten teacher, offers a pleasant, rhyming text that features numbers counting up to 10 and then back down to 1 as night falls. The warm, colorful artwork depicts a diverse group of urban apartment dwellers, young and old, who are clearly enjoying their shared musical experience. Reminiscent of spontaneous musical happenings during the pandemic, this picture book could inspire young children to create their own.” —**Booklist**

“Equally suitable for bedtime or a music-themed storytime program. Sánchez’s spirited art has an endearing hand-sketches look, and a broad range of strokes (scribbles, loops, dots, and smudges) lend a sense of energy and vibration to each exuberantly earth-toned scene. While there are subtle parallels to the balcony singing in various cities during early COVID-19 lockdown, the story itself is deeply resonant and speaks to the power of music to enhance the resilience, creativity, and unity of global communities during an exceptionally trying time.” —**The Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

“The rhyming, rhythmic text counts up to ten participants and back down to one, first animating readers and then bringing them back down to a quieter, peaceful state that gives this book a dual function as a bedtime story. Colorful painted and digital illustrations show individual lines, an almost scribbly texture, and imperfectly drawn shapes, all of which make the pictures buzz with energy and movement. Even if they didn’t personally experience these types of balcony performances, readers will understand the way music-making can bring people together.” —**The Horn Book**

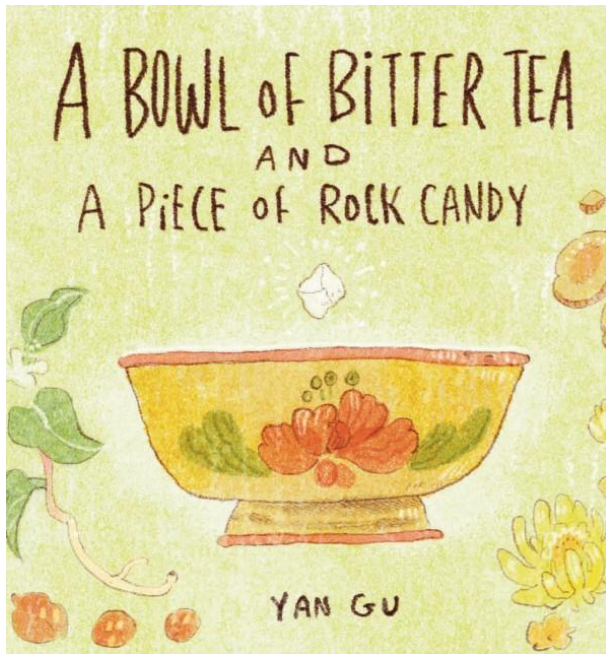
“From windows, balconies, and rooftops, a neighborhood joins an impromptu symphony in Gopal’s warm, endearing picture book that begs to be read aloud. . . . Preschool and kindergarten teachers will find this title to be an easy fit for math lessons, and music teachers may even use One Sweet Song with students to identify the many instruments featured. . . . A twist on the usual counting book that emphasizes community and the ways that music can bridge the distance between people.” —**School Library Journal**

Yan Gu

A BOWL OF BITTER TEA AND A PIECE OF ROCK CANDY

Henry Holt BYR, Fall 2025 | World English
Final art anticipated September 2024

A humorous and heartfelt tale about the bitterness of liangcha, a popular tea from traditional Chinese medicine, and the sweetness of a Waipo (grandmother)



drink Waipo's liangcha, only to realize that she is rejecting Waipo's caring love by doing so. By the end, Waipo and Mimi meet in the middle and delight in a sweet antidote to the bitterness.

This book is about two different flavors of love. Other marketing points: a little knowledge about TCM (traditional Chinese medicine), and intergenerational love between a grandmother and granddaughter. Not to mention: gorgeous illustrations.



Yan Gu is an illustrator from Shanghai. She graduated from RISD in 2022. In her free time, she loves plein-air painting. *A BOWL OF BITTER TEA AND A PIECE OF ROCK CANDY* is her first picture book.

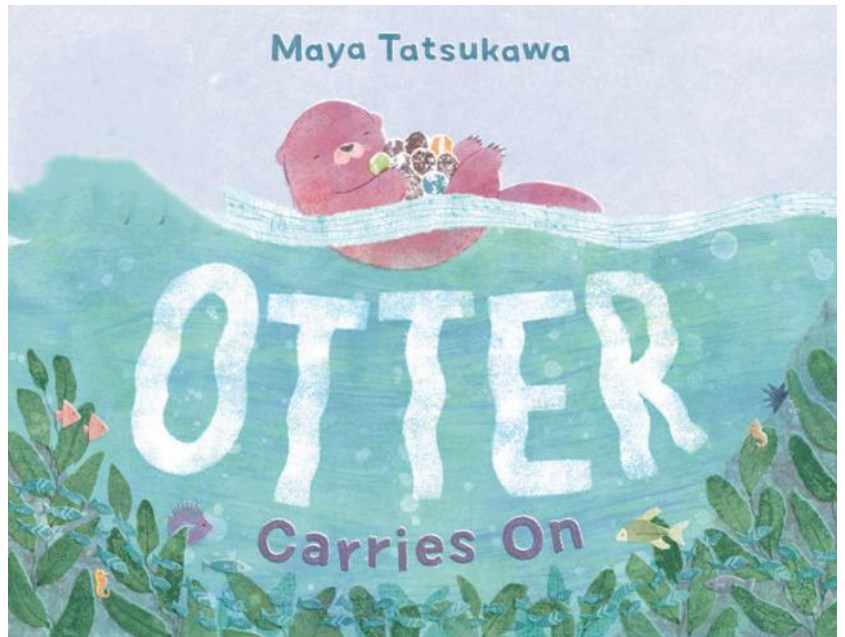
Picture Book

Maya Tatsukawa

OTTER CARRIES ON

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,
February 4, 2025 | World English
40 pages, final material available

From the Theodore Seuss Geisel Award-winning author of **THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY**, the second in a two-book, six-figure deal (with **MOLE IS NOT ALONE**) that finds a headstrong otter learning a valuable lesson about trying to do it all.

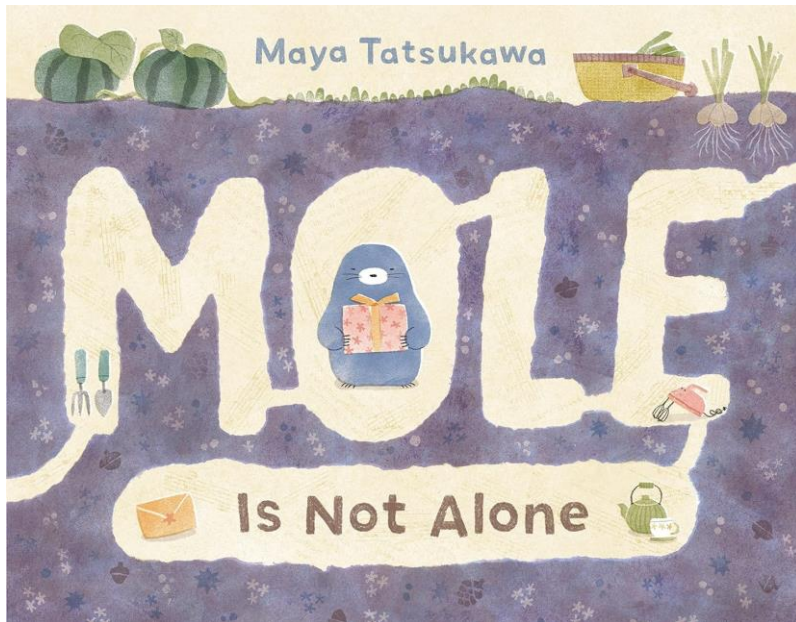


Otter loves floating and collecting pretty, heavy rocks all by themselves. When a storm comes, Otter has so many rocks that they can't swim home—and soon, they're lost at sea. But when a few rocks accidentally slip away, Otter feels...lighter. And with the help of a new friend, Otter realizes that maybe they don't need to carry everything alone.

With gorgeous undersea illustrations, cozy storytelling, and a group of lovable characters, this sweet and beautiful picture book shows readers that it's okay to ask for help from a friend.

By day, [Maya Tatsukawa](https://petitemayat.com/) is a book designer at Walker/Candlewick. By night, she bakes beautiful desserts and illustrates children's books. She is the author/illustrator of Geisel Honor winner **THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY** (Dial 2020), **SUNDAY PANCAKES** (Dial 2022), and **MOLE IS NOT ALONE** (Holt 2023). She sometimes teams up with writer Darren Farrell and together they've created **DANDELION MAGIC** (Dial 2021), **GIVE THIS BOOK AWAY** (Knopf 2022), and the forthcoming **LION IN BED** (Dial 2025). Today, she lives outside of Boston with her cat/studio manager Mosami. <https://petitemayat.com/>





MOLE IS NOT ALONE

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,
October 3, 2023 | World English
40 pages, final text and art available

Rights sold: China (21st Century), France
(Albin Michel), Germany (Gerstenberg),
Israel (Agam Books), Korea (Bear Books),
Taiwan (Easten Publishing)

**Art for MOLE IS NOT ALONE will be
included in the Society of Illustrators
exhibit at the Bologna Book Fair**

Tatsukawa brings this tale to satisfying conclusion that lets young introverts know they can have fun on their own terms."— ★ *Kirkus*

"...a story about anticipatory worry that ends not with forced revelry, but with a "Maybe... next time?" and gentle camaraderie found." — ★ *Publisher's Weekly*

"Sweet and cozy—much like the cream puffs Mole makes—*Mole Is Not Alone* lends itself well to both storytime read-alouds and quiet snuggles before bed. Fans of Yeorim Yoon and Jian Kim's *It's OK, Slow Lizard* and Cori Doerrfeld's *The Rabbit Listened* will want to add this to their shelves." — ★ *BookPage*

"Tatsukawa's adorable illustrations . . . would be at home on any nursery blanket, making the story's handling of social anxiety feel comforting and reassuring." — *Booklist*

"Tatsukawa creates art that is as gentle as the story, with soft, muted tones in greens, browns, and blacks, clean stenciled lines, and stamp-like smudgy textures. The tunnels Mole traverses are cleverly set up to function like comic book panels, and all text is in speech bubbles, making this easy for youngsters to try to read on their own." — *BCCB*

"Tatsukawa's beautiful pastel illustration create a whimsical feel; kids will delight in the many details in the pictures. . . . This sensitive story will delight party lovers and those with social anxiety alike—a charming addition to the SEL shelves." — *SLJ*

Mole is invited to a party, which is very worrisome. What if the party is too rowdy for Mole? What if Mole doesn't know anyone there? What if Mole is just too shy to make friends? Mole worries through the tunnels, around Snake's burrow, under the forest, past Bear's den, and all the way to Rabbit's door. But despite all those worries, maybe Mole can find a quiet way to make friends.

With warm and sweet illustrations, every page is an invitation to look and look again. Readers can follow Mole's tunnel as it connects from one page to the next, learning along the way that everyone can make friends, even if some parties are quieter than others.

Please see the artist's artistic process at the QR code at right:



Toni Yuly

SLOWLY SLOWLY

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, September 12, 2023 | World English
40 pages, final text and art available

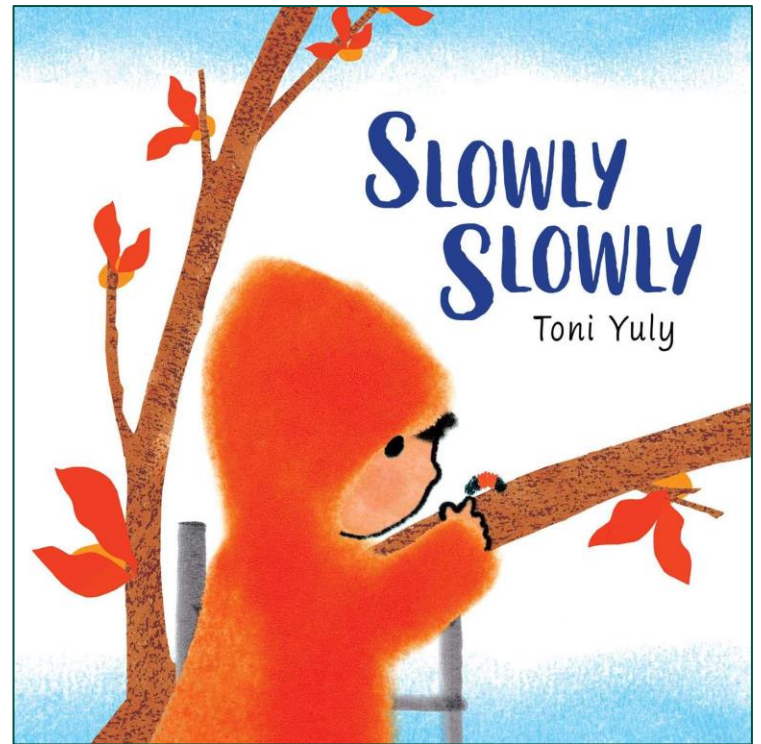
A persimmon branch takes its time creating a wonderful gift for the community around it in this charming picture book celebrating the beauty that can be found in slowing down.

When you slow down...
you see more.

You see the day waking up,
the turtle taking steps,
the wind having fun.

You see wonder
all around.

In this this simple yet stunning picture book, a persimmon tree stretches across every page, changing with the seasons. In the world beyond its branches, a boy and his puppy delight in the wonders they see around them. All the while, the tree is slowly growing, blooming, and creating fruit to be enjoyed.



"With a few carefully chosen words and images, Yuly fashions a delicate paean to nature and mindfulness. "When you slow down.../ you see more," whisper the inviting first lines. . . The minimalist style and composition of the hazy, soft-textured art winningly reflect the book's philosophy of stripped-down simplicity. . . An appealing purchase for all collections, with plenty of details to inspire conversation and reward multiple read-throughs." --★ *School Library Journal*

"The simplicity of this story results in its perfection. Repeated scenes of a branch of the persimmon tree, shown in different weather and at various times of day, will hold children's interest during multiple rereads and help them learn about the seasons and other aspects of the natural world. . . The precise, limited narrative and its message that good things can take time to develop will lull readers into a sense of calm appreciation, making this an ideal story for bedtime. Delightful and soothing encouragement to slow down and enjoy life."--- ★ *Kirkus Reviews*



Toni Yuly is the creator of many acclaimed picture books including *Some Questions About Trees*, *The Whole Wide World and Me*, and *Thank You, Bees*. She studied painting at the University of Washington, where she worked with the great American painter Jacob Lawrence. Toni also worked for many years as a librarian with the King County Library System. She now lives in Bremerton, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington. Visit her at www.ToniYuly.com .

Picture Book

Jennifer Blecher
LISTEN TO THIS

Greenwillow Books/HarperCollins | March 26, 2024 | NA
224 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater



Which secrets do you keep, and which do you spill?

LISTEN to THIS
JENNIFER BLECHER



Secrets, rumors, shifting friendships, overbearing parents, and, on top of all that, a first dance—how does anyone survive seventh grade?

Lily, Maddie, and Sasha have always been the perfect friendship trio. But this year, everything is changing. Maddie and Sasha made the elite soccer team, and Lily feels that they're always leaving her behind. And everyone seems to have secrets now: Maddie, and Sasha, and Lily's sister, and even Lily herself.

Lily's classmate Will wishes he had some secrets. After all, his life is already out there for the whole world to hear about, thanks to his dad's super-popular parenting podcast. And Will hates it, but telling his dad that is harder than the hardest climbing wall at Philly Rocks. Until his dad finally crosses a line, and Will's not sure he can forgive him.

But maybe when Lily and Will meet, they'll find just what they need: someone who will listen.

"This story of shifting friendships follows two seventh graders: Lily, who feels left out now that Maddie and Sasha are on an elite soccer team together; and Will, who has a crush on Lily and whose every move is fodder for his dad's podcast. . . . Misunderstandings ensue, largely because, to its credit, the novel allows friend-group dynamics to be complicated. . . . Some of the many characters . . . are touched upon only briefly, but we . . . understand what they're all learning: that each of them is the main character in their own life." — **Horn Book Magazine**

"Blecher's strength lies in her ability to write from a thirteen-year-old's perspective about the embarrassment of everyday life, as well as in the authentic sweetness she crafts in many of the characters' relationships. . . . Readers braving or about to brave middle school will enjoy following along . . . in this sweet and funny ode to new relationships." — **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

"This tender, easy exploration of friendship, family, and first romance hits the mark." — **Kirkus Reviews**

"A dual-perspective story about friendships, crushes, secrets, families, and middle school. . . . An authentic portrayal of the middle school years and the conflicts tweens have to deal with on their own. Parental expectations and pressures will ring true. . . . The friendship drama will have broad appeal." — **School Library Journal**

"[A] potent journey in developing self-confidence." — **Publishers Weekly**



Jennifer Blecher is the author of *CAMP FAMOUS*, *STICK WITH ME*, and *OUT OF PLACE*. She lives in Boston, Massachusetts, with her husband and their three children, but spends part of every summer on Martha's Vineyard. Visit her at www.jenniferblecher.com.

Middle Grade novel

Jen Calonita

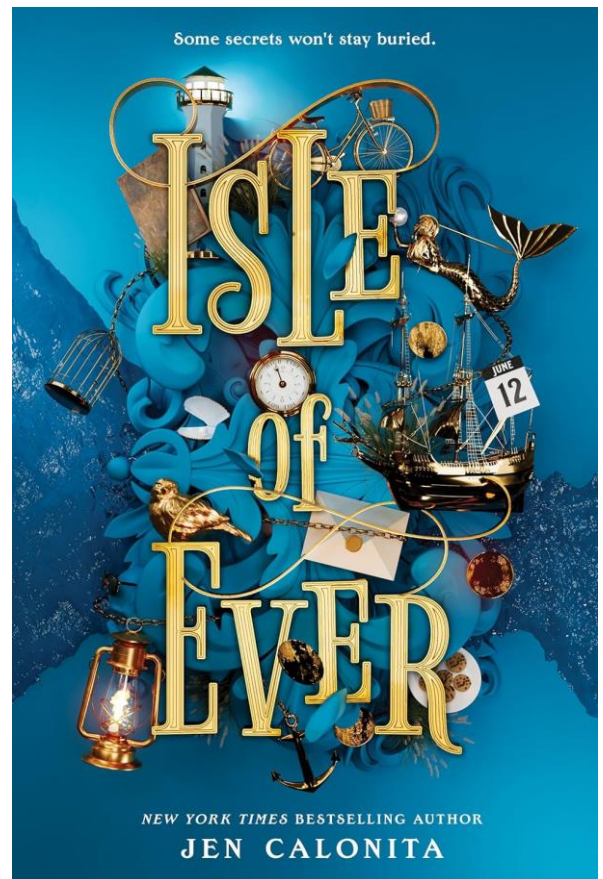
THE ISLE OF EVER

Sourcebooks, March 2025 | NA
320 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel

Bestselling and beloved author Jen Calonita delivers the first in a brand new series featuring a girl who will inherit a mysterious fortune if she can break a centuries-old curse!

Days after her twelfth birthday, Everly "Benny" Benedict learns she's the heir to a fortune! But to collect the inheritance, she first has to play—and win—a game. Following clues that her ancestor left, Benny must locate a small island that vanished long ago, according to legend.

She has only two weeks to play the game and find the island. If she's successful, she'll break a two-hundred-year-old curse. If she fails, the fortune will be forfeited. And if she's not careful, she'll cross paths with someone else who is after the island's secrets, and who will stop at nothing to get them. Because, as it turns out, there's far more than a fortune at stake.



“Buckle up for an adventure-mystery that will keep you guessing till the last page, then begging for a sequel immediately! Calonita’s *Isle of Ever* cleverly follows a spunky present day 12-year-old heroine and an equally bold 12-year-old ancestor two hundred years in the past. Using diary entries, articles, and other fun devices, she weaves a story that allows the reader to solve the mystery along with the books’ characters. Throw in a cursed treasure, a pirate, and an atmospheric magical island and you’re bound to find readers up well past their bedtime.”—**Melissa de la Cruz, #1 New York Times Bestselling author of *The Isle of the Lost***

“*The Isle of Ever* is a gripping game and grand adventure. A treasure hunt filled with riddles, clues, an ancient curse, and a main character you’ll be cheering for all the way to the final page. I loved it!” — **Chris Grabenstein, #1 New York Times bestselling author of the Lemoncello series.**

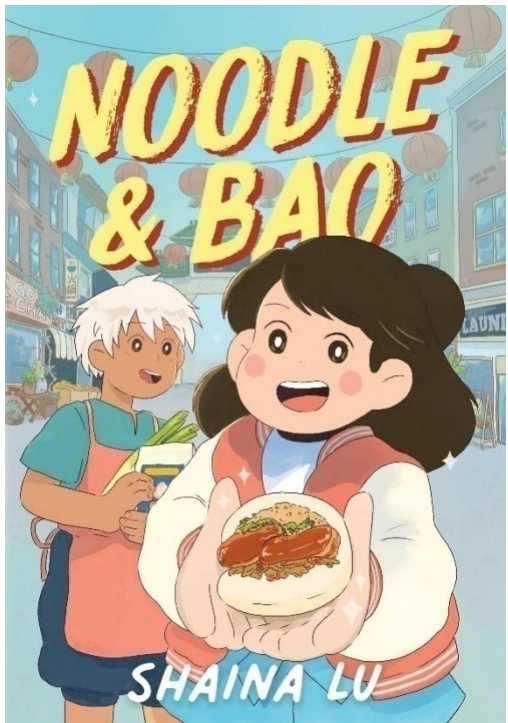
“This book has everything: An engaging young protagonist, mystery, adventure, danger, a strange inheritance, a treasure hunt, pirates, a two-hundred year old curse and a lost island. What an incredibly fun read. I couldn’t put it down!” — **Stuart Gibbs, NYT bestselling author of The Spy School series and The Charlie Thorne series**

THE ISLE OF EVER is the first of a three-book deal to Sourcebooks Fire. The second of the series is expected to be delivered this autumn for a likely late 2025 or early 2026 publication. The third book is as yet undetermined.



Jen Calonita has interviewed everyone from Reese Witherspoon to Justin Timberlake, but the only person she’s ever wanted to trade places with is Disney’s Cinderella. She’s the award-winning author of the Royal Academy Rebels and Fairy Tale Reform School series. Jen lives in Merrick, New York with her husband, two sons, and their two Chihuahuas, Captain Jack Sparrow and Ben Kenobi. Visit www.jencalonitaonline.com

Middle Grade Novel



Shaina Lu
NOODLE & BAO

HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books, October 15, 2024 | World English
222 pages, final art available

Perfect for fans of *Animal Crossing* and *Measuring Up*, this whimsical and empowering middle grade graphic novel follows a girl who helps her friend’s humble food cart stand its ground against the gentrification of their Chinatown neighborhood. Sold at auction in a two-book deal, **NOODLE & BAO** is an ode to Chinatowns everywhere.

“Rich, layered and bursting with charm. *Noodle & Bao* is a tasteful ode to the importance of community. Shaina Lu leaves us craving for more!” — **Laura Gao**, creator of *Messy Roots* and *Kirby's Lessons for Falling (In Love)*

“An empowering combination of food, humor, and advocacy.” — **Kirkus**

“Lu not only takes on the big topic of gentrification but also expertly dives into the personal intricacies that come along with it. Lu’s dynamic characters navigate a quickly changing town and the internal complexities of belonging, all in beautifully drawn art with a mouth-watering menu!” — **Liz Montague**, cartoonist and author/illustrator of *Maybe an Artist* and *Brooklyn School of Magic*

“Timely and engaging, the book’s adorable characters and heartwarming approach to a serious issue will have broad appeal.” — **School Library Journal**

Momo has lived in Town 99 her entire life. She knows all its quirks and rhythms: the best places to buy fruit, practice tai-chi in the park, and, most of all, get the best meal: Noodle & Bao, run by Momo’s best friend, Bao, and their amah, Noodle.

But Town 99 is changing. Rent is becoming unaffordable for Momo and her parents, and even Noodle & Bao has been edged out of its storefront, which was just recently bought out by a new business venture—Fancé Cafe. Fancé is run by the ambitious Ms. Jujube and her henchmen, who claim they’re only beautifying Town 99 with good business.



Momo knows that’s not true, and knows that if she doesn’t do something, she’ll lose everything she loves about her neighborhood. From undercover recon to a cook-off proposal, protest signs to petitions, Momo and Bao are on a mission to protect Town 99. Will they succeed before it’s too late?

Shaina Lu 呂明穎 (she/her) is a queer Taiwanese-American community artist and educator interested in the intersection of art, education, and activism. She graduated from Wellesley College and Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she studied Arts in Education.

She lives with her wife and cat on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Massachusett and Pawtucket people.
<http://shainadoesart.com/>

Middle Grade Graphic Novel

Janae Marks

A SPLIT SECOND

HarperCollins, October 1, 2024 | NA

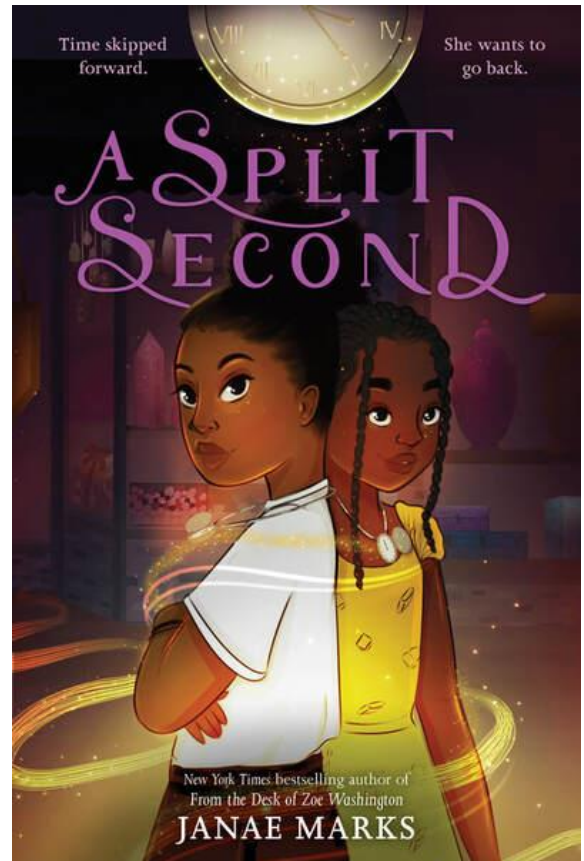
256 Pages, Final Manuscript Available

Agent: Alexander Slater

***New York Times* bestselling author Janae Marks delivers a stunningly crafted and twisty mystery about the tests of friendships that examines what matters most when everything can change in a split second—perfect for fans of Rebecca Stead and Anne Ursu.**

That clock can't be right. When Elise wakes up the morning after her birthday celebration, she's surprised to find herself in her bedroom. Last she can remember, she had fallen asleep next to her best friends at her slumber party in her basement, and it was October. But now she's alone, and her phone says it's April 8. Elise doesn't understand. How could she have woken up six months later?

No one else is acting like anything strange has happened, yet Elise can't remember the last half year. To make matters worse, her friends refuse to talk to her and Elise doesn't know why. She also has no idea how she got signed up for photography club or why her former best friend, Cora, is talking to her again. Is it a memory problem? Could it be magic? Every day that passes takes Elise further from the world she knew. Thankfully, Elise has Cora to lean on in this new reality, and the two come together to investigate why Elise woke up in the future—and, more important, how to get her back to her past and away from this nightmare.



"A beautiful story about being brave and finding your people." — *Booklist* ★

"A nuanced look at middle school friendships...thoughtfully delves into the consequences of the social isolation many young people experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Janae Marks writes characters you can't help but love and plots you can't help but devour. I couldn't put this book down." — **Tae Keller**, author of *Newbery Medalist* and *New York Times* bestselling *When You Trap a Tiger*

"A smart and sweet magical mystery, bursting with hope and heart." — **Sarah Mlynowksi**, *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Whatever After* series

"A fun and twisty story—*A Split Second* shines with charm and intrigue." — **Jasmine Warga**, *Newbery Honor*-winning author of *Other Words for Home*



Janae Marks is the *New York Times* bestselling author of middle grade novels *From the Desk of Zoe Washington*, *On Air with Zoe Washington* and *A Soft Place to Land*. She has an MFA in Writing for Children from The New School, and lives in Connecticut with her husband, daughter and miniature schnauzer named Cookie. Visit her at <https://www.janaemarks.com/>.

Middle Grade novel

Liz Montague
CAMP FRENEMIES

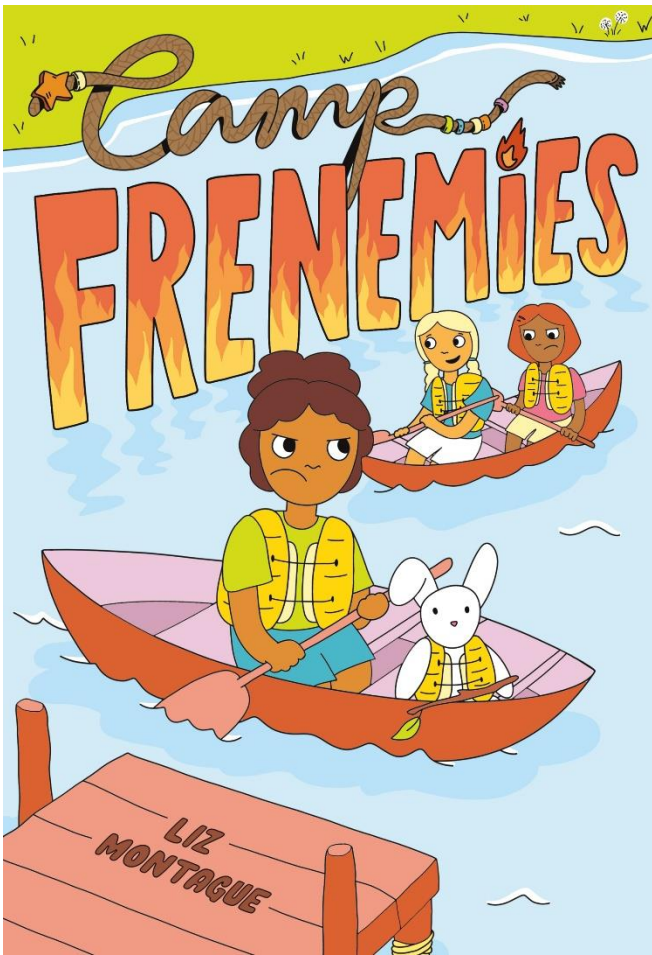
Random House Studio, May 13, 2025 | World English
272 Pages, manuscript available

A frenemies-to-friends graphic novel about the trials and tribulations of three twelve-year-old girls and cabinmates at sleepaway camp. Perfect for fans of *Guts* and *Real Friends*!

Beatrice, Roxy, and Virginia have conquered 6th grade and now they're ready for the next big milestone: their first week at sleepaway camp.

Beatrice isn't happy about this. After all, she prefers stuffed animals over people. Roxy doesn't think camp is so bad. Honestly, she's just excited to get some peace and quiet—she hasn't had enough of that at home lately. And Virginia is the most excited for camp out of everyone since ALL the middle school soccer girls are going.... but then Virginia doesn't make the soccer team.

Further complicating things is the fact that Virginia and Bea do not get along—which makes being cabinmates tricky. Will they stay enemies? After all, it's only one week of camp and then never again... right?



Liz Montague began as a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* in 2019. She is the author-illustrator of the graphic novel *Maybe an Artist*, which was nominated for an NAACP Image Award, the picture book *Jackie Ormes Draws the Future*, and middle grade series *School for Unusual Magic*. Liz is passionate about nature and emotional literacy. She lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with her husband Pat.
<https://lizatlarge.org/about-3/>



Liz Montague

SCHOOL FOR UNUSUAL MAGIC: The Winter Frost

Book #2

Scholastic, November 12, 2024 | World English

240 Pages, final manuscript available

Perfect for fans of *Witchlings* and *The Wizards of Waverly Place*, three friends discover magic and mayhem around every corner of their school in the second of this illustrated series from *New Yorker* cartoonist and NAACP Image Award nominee Liz Montague.

After a chaotic semester of Elementary Magic, Rose, Amethyst, and Lav have found themselves with new magical skills up their sleeves which will come in handy when they begin Middle Magic next year. But school is the last thing on their minds over winter break. Tensions are high between the Land Walkers and the Merfolk's mysterious leader Frost. Worse, Amethyst's mom has gone missing with an extremely illegal wand, and everyone--their classmates, Principal Ivy, the Committee--thinks she's somehow involved in the disappearance of Rose's cousin Heather. But Amethyst is determined to find her mother and set everything right. Her mom just has to be innocent!

When a secret about Amethyst's identity is revealed, her whole world comes crashing down. She doesn't understand how her mom could keep something so important from her. Is her mom actually the villain or is something even darker at work here? She'll have to trust that Rose and Lav can keep the peace above ground while she ventures underwater for answers...

SCHOOL FOR UNUSUAL MAGIC: The Equinox Test Book #1

Scholastic, April 2, 2024 | World English

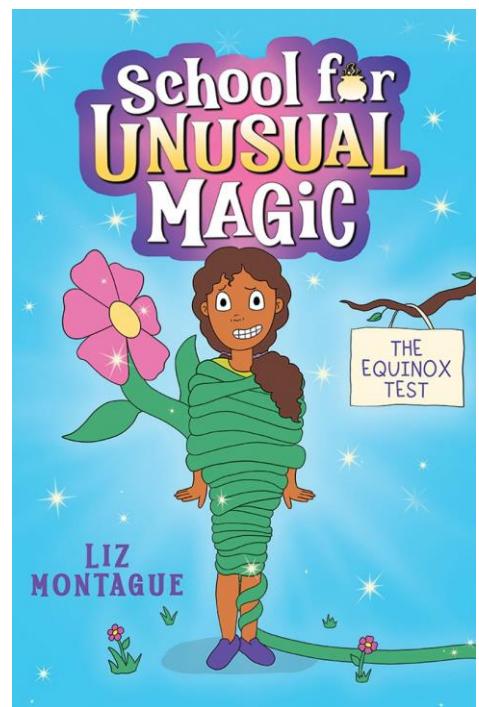
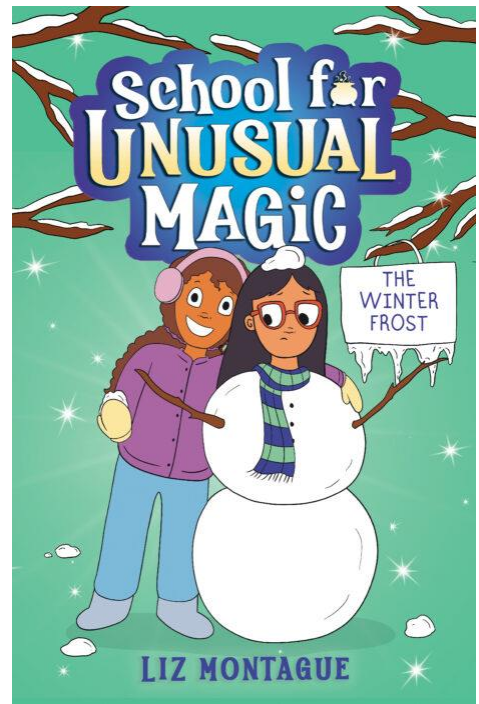
240 pages, B&W illustrations

Final manuscript available

Welcome to the Brooklyn School of Magic, where seeds of enchantment are planted and magic sprouts in every corner. And where each fall, fifth years must pass the Equinox Test if they want to move up to Middle Magic.

Rose is worried. She's never been the best student. And if she doesn't pass with flying colors, Principal Ivy says she may have to transfer to a boring, non-magical school. Amethyst knows she's got the skills to ace the test. But to really impress her mom, she's got her eye on the school's top prize. Lavender just wants to fit in. Even after a few years in the States, he still feels homesick. All. The. Time. Passing the test might just be his ticket back to the island.

But with best friend battles, a cheating scandal, and trouble brewing in the magical community, the Equinox Test may not even be the biggest challenge our Magic Bearers will face this year...



Middle Grade Illustrated



J.W. Ocker
WELCOME TO THE GHOST SHOW

HarperCollins, Autumn 2025 | World English

Manuscript anticipated November 2024

Agent: Alex Slater

Something Wicked This Way Comes
meets *Ghostbusters*

In a town that's recently experienced a great tragedy, a so-called "Ghost Circus" arrives, promising customers a chance to meet with their recently departed, but Autumn and her friends in the Shivers Society can tell the creepy "ring leader" is up to something sinister. The fourth middle-grade novel from Edgar Award-winning author J.W. Ocker, *THE GHOST CIRCUS* is horror fiction for a curious crowd.

Praise for Ocker's previous Middle-Grade horror novels:

A creepy horror novel that fans of *Stranger Things* will gravitate toward... A good choice for readers moving on from "Goosebumps" and in search of something to bridge the gap to YA horror.— **School Library Journal**

Ocker pushes the boundaries of middle grade horror... Griffin is well-developed and slowly comes into his own role as necessary hero, with vulnerability that adds some welcome depth to the horror framework. — **Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books**

A genuinely bloodcurdling thriller... Dread-inducing.— **Publishers Weekly**

The imaginative and truly horrifying monster at its center



J. W. Ocker is the Edgar Award-winning author of *Poe-Land: The Hallowed Haunts of Edgar Allan Poe*, *A Season with the Witch*, and *Death and Douglas*. His work has appeared in *The Guardian*, the *Boston Globe*, *CNN*, the *Atlantic*, and other places people stick writing. He's from Maryland but has lived in New Hampshire for more than a decade.

He is also the creator of *OTIS: Odd Things I've Seen* (Oddthingsiveseen.com), where he writes about his visits to oddities of nature, history, art, and culture.

Middle Grade Novel

Rainie Oet
GLITCH GIRL!

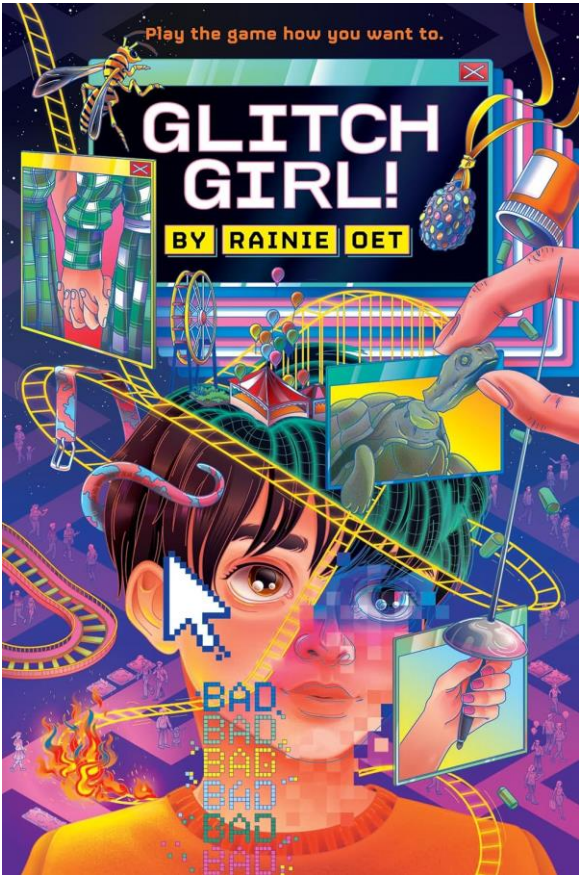
Kokila, March 11, 2025 | World English

Manuscript available

Agent: Abigail Frank

Sold at auction

The first middle grade novel in verse from poet and children’s book author Rainie Oet, **GLITCH GIRL!** is about a young trans girl who uses a video game to process an ADHD diagnosis, isolation, and her relationship to gender.



About Rainie Oet:

George Saunders called her work “complex, mysterious, finely wrought, and formally daring,” and said that she is “a young writer to watch.”

Mary Karr said, “Rainie Oet has it all,” and called her second book of poetry “an extraordinary display of poetic power, and [2020]’s must-read new voice.”

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah called Rainie “a brilliant new writer with the power to make you see things you’ve never seen before with stunning clarity.”

“J—’s life is consumed by the roller coaster video game Coaster Boss, and by the power she exerts over the pixelated theme park attendees. Her life outside the game, however, is less controllable.

Me. I’m such a big space. I break the universe, a glitch.

She’s navigating ADHD, the loneliness of middle school, and an overwhelming crush on a girl named Junie. J— is convinced that Junie sees her as who she really is, a person who isn’t “bad” just because she doesn’t stay quiet and sit still in class. As a person who is realizing that the name she’s been given doesn’t really fit her. And that maybe boy doesn’t either.

Glitch Girl! follows J— from fifth to seventh grade, from the beginning to the end of her obsession with Coaster Boss, and to the start of a new friendship. When J— meets Sam, a nonbinary classmate, she begins to realize that it’s okay to not fit into neat, pixelated boxes.”



Rainie Oet (she/her) is a trans woman who writes fiction and poetry for adults and young readers including *Robin’s Worlds* (Astra), and *Monster Seek* (Astra). She received her MFA in Poetry from Syracuse University, where she was awarded the Shirley Jackson Prize in Fiction. She currently lives in Los Angeles with her cat, Skipper. Her website is www.rainieoet.com .

Middle Grade novel in verse



Jacquelyn Stolos
ASTERWOOD

Delacorte, Summer 2025 | NA
Manuscript anticipated October 2024
Agent: Alexander Slater

A middle grade version of *The Hazel Wood* by way of Kelly Barnhill, a mysterious new friend introduces a motherless girl to a fantastical yet ominous world, where she discovers not only a secret world and a group of kids that are relying on her, but also that her family has secrets of its own.

Now, the tree wavered back and forth, its base engulfed in flames. “And what kind of mother would I have been if I had found you? You don’t think I love you? You don’t think I want you to live a life untouched by badness or hurt? Untouched by me? You are my greatest love and greatest agony.”

Twelve-year-old Madelyn Delios doesn’t quite fit in her small New Hampshire town, but she’d never let her father, Ezra, know how much it hurts. Life in their lopsided old farmhouse overflows with great books, cozy meals, and father-daughter adventures in the surrounding woods. What more could a good daughter ask for? After all, it’s not Ezra’s fault that Madelyn doesn’t have a mother.

But, when a mysterious new friend appears in the woods behind her house and invites her down a forbidden trail to another world, Madelyn is forced to reckon with yearnings she’s long suppressed and uncomfortable truths she’s always suspected. *ASTERWOOD* is a story of what we inherit, of magic and mothers, and of how one society’s insatiable desire brings their enchanted ecosystem to the brink of collapse. Beware of cannibals, complacency, raging rivers, and the shock of seeing your parents as human for the very first time.

Jacquelyn Stolos is a writer living and teaching in Los Angeles. She holds an MFA in fiction from New York University where she was a Writers in the Public Schools Fellow. Jacquelyn has won fellowships to attend the New York State Summer Writers Institute and the Community of Writers. Her short fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *Bodega Magazine*, *No Tokens*, *Joyland* and more. Find her online at <http://www.jacquelynstolos.com/>.

Middle Grade novel

Claire Swinarski

TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

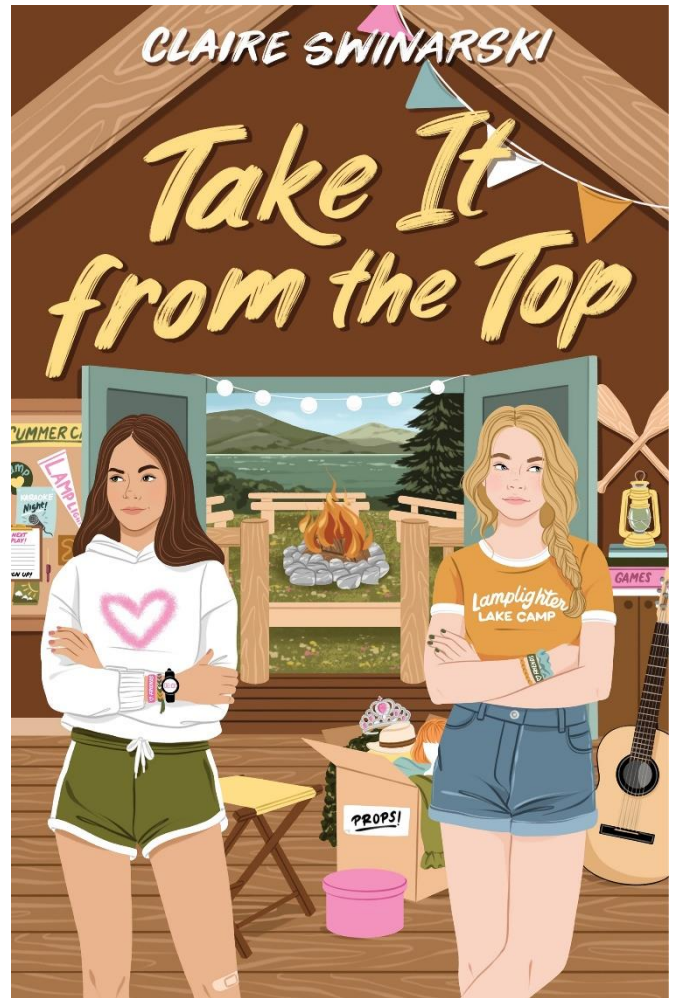
Quill, November 19, 2024 | NA

Manuscript available

Agent: Alexander Slater

A contemporary story told non-sequentially a la *The Friendship List* meets *500 Days of Summer*, following two girls who have become best friends over the course of six summers, while getting flashbacks into what contributed to their present-day falling out.

Eowyn and Jules have been going to theater camp together for the past six summers. But for some reason, Jules is being a total jerk this year – and Eowyn can't figure out why. When they learn the mainstage show is *Wicked* – their dream show – they need to decide if they can keep acting the roles of BFFs, or if unraveling the past six summers could help them understand what happened to their friendship. This summer might just change them for good.



"This book left my heart feeling so full. *Take It from the Top* perfectly captures the magic of summer camp and the joy of musical theater, all while exploring themes of jealousy and life's inherent unfairness. Ultimately, it is a book about giving others grace—and giving yourself some, too." — **Arianne Costner**, author of *Confessions of a Class Clown*

"Brimming with heart and musical theater fun, Eowyn and Jules's journey will leave readers cheering for the healing power of friendship."—**Beth Turley**, author of *The Flyers*

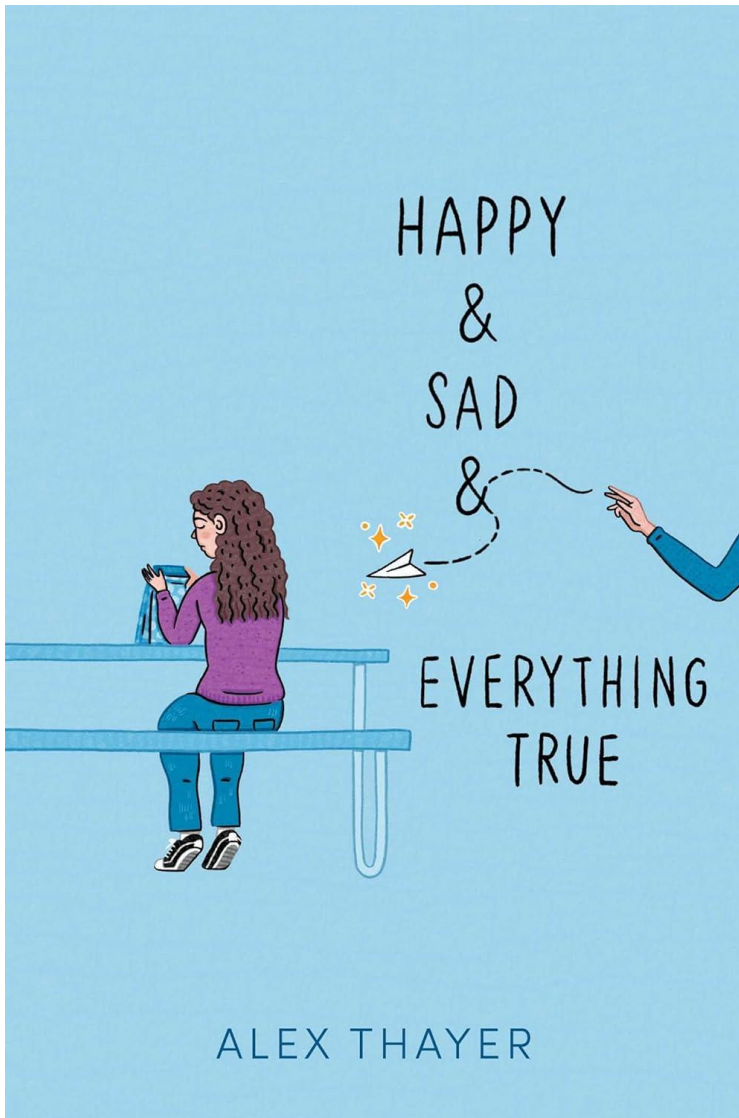
"[A] masterful exploration of friendship gone wrong. Evocative worldbuilding brings LampLighter to life for the intimately developed, well-intentioned characters who often struggle to see other points of view. The well-paced interweaving of multiple summers' experiences builds tension and shines light on how the past reverberates into the present. Brilliantly executed: a gem that's a love letter to theater and summer camp." — **Kirkus Reviews** ★

"The vibrant and exceptionally rendered setting makes for a compelling backdrop against which layered character building unravels. Swinarski (What Happened to Rachel Riley?) intersperses Eowyn's conversational narration—suffused with theater-obsessed sensibilities—with sympathetic third person chapters that cover the events of previous summers, offering context and history to the white-cued girls' relationship." — **Publisher's Weekly** ★

Claire Swinarski is the author of three middle-grade books and one adult novel. Her writing has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Seventeen*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, and many other publications. She lives in small town Wisconsin with her husband and three kids, where she writes books, wears babies, and wrangles bread dough. <http://www.claireswinarski.com/>

Middle Grade novel





Alex Thayer
**HAPPY & SAD &
EVERYTHING TRUE**

(formerly BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING)
Aladdin, November 12, 2024 | World English
272 pages, Manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater

Sold in a pre-empt!

With charm and sincerity reminiscent of Judy Blume and Rebecca Stead, this debut middle grade novel is a heartfelt, hopeful story about a girl finding herself through secretly giving out advice to classmates.

Back when Dee and Juniper were still friends, Dee never hid in the bathroom. Now, at the beginning of sixth grade, Dee finds herself there often. The dripping faucet is annoying, and there are other places she'd rather be—like at home and in her room with her cat, Norman. But at least Dee is safe from overenthusiastic teachers and having to see Juniper walking through the halls with her new friends. Dee would rather be alone than witness that.

But it turns out Dee isn't the only one hiding from something. There are kids all over the school worrying in secret and needing someone to talk to. After Dee helps a second grader with spelling advice, more students begin coming to Dee with their

problems. It turns out she's a good listener, and she likes helping people. And when she starts receiving mysterious notes, it seems someone out there wants to be her friend—if only they would reveal themselves.

“A compassionate window into the awkward and isolating stages of growing up.” —*Kirkus Reviews*

“*Happy & Sad & Everything True* has a sincere earnestness that brings you right back to the halls of middle school. Kids will absolutely love this sweet-yet-strong story.” —**Claire Swinarski, author of *What Happened to Rachel Riley?***

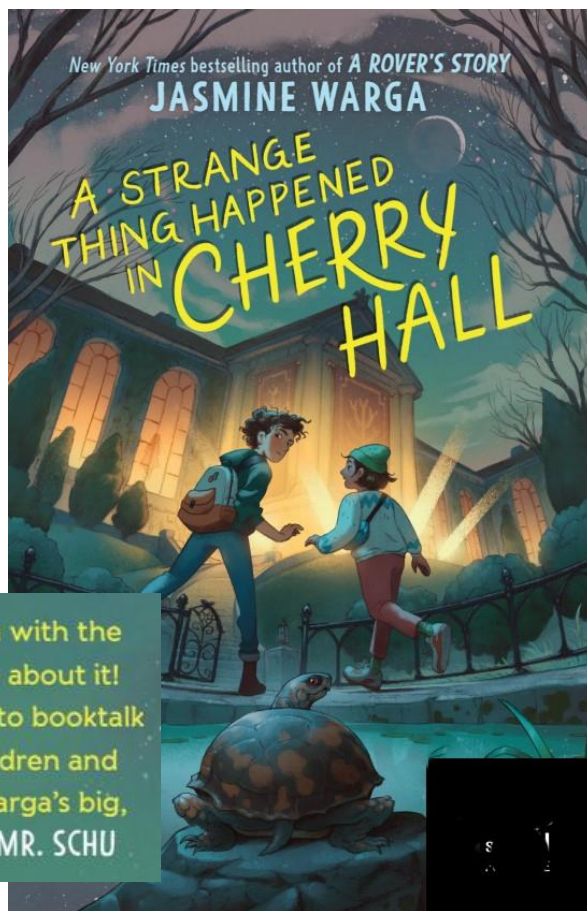
Alexandra Thayer is a former film and television actress and elementary school teacher. She lives in New England with her two sons and can be found on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/alexandra_thayer/.

Middle Grade novel

Jasmine Warga
**A STRANGE THING HAPPENED IN
CHERRY HALL**

Balzer & Bray, September 10, 2024 | World English
224 Pages, manuscript available

From the award-winning, *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Rover's Story* and *Other Words for Home* comes an extraordinary story about two friends, a ghost, a missing painting, and a turtle named Agatha. The perfect next read for fans of *The Swifts*, Kate DiCamillo, and Erin Entrada Kelly.



“A *Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall* reeled me in with the opening sentence and didn’t let go. I love EVERYTHING about it! The characters! The setting! The suspense! I cannot wait to booktalk it during school visit presentations. I’m going to tell children and educators around the world that I could feel Jasmine Warga’s big, kind heart on every page! What a gift she’s given us!”—MR. SCHU

A painting has been stolen...!

When Rami sees a floating girl in the museum, he knows he has seen her somewhere before. Then he realizes: She looks just like the girl in the painting that has gone missing. But how does her appearance connect to the theft?

Agatha the turtle knows—she has been watching from the garden. But she can’t exactly tell anyone...can she?

Will Rami, with the help of his classmate, Veda, be able to solve the mystery? The clues are all around them, but they’ll have to be brave enough to really look.

This is a whimsical, moving story about the universal desire to be seen and understood and how art can help us find connection, even when we are at our loneliest.

Jasmine Warga is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of middle grade novels *Other Words For Home*, *The Shape of Thunder*, and *A Rover's Story*. *Other Words For Home* earned multiple awards, including a John Newbery Honor, a Walter Honor for Young Readers, and a Charlotte Huck Honor. *The Shape of Thunder* was a *School Library Journal* and Bank Street best book of the year, a finalist for the Barnes & Noble Children's and YA Book Award, and has been named to several state award reading lists. *A Rover's Story* was an instant *New York Times* bestseller, a Indie Next List and a Junior Library Guild selection, and was named a best book of the year by *Publishers Weekly* and *The Washington Post*. She is also the author of young adult novel, *My Heart and Other Black Holes*, which has been translated into over twenty different languages. Originally from Cincinnati, she now lives in the Chicago-area with her family in a house filled with books. <https://jasminewarga.com/>



Middle Grade novel

Praise for **A STRANGE THING HAPPENED IN CHERRY HALL**

"Jasmine Warga has written a modern classic. Smart, charming, and wholly unique--this book about stolen art will steal your heart." — **Tae Keller, Winner of the Newbery Medal for *When You Trap a Tiger***

"Intrigue! Ghosts! A turtle named Agatha! This book has everything you could want in a mystery. Jasmine Warga is a wonder!" — **Karina Yan Glaser, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Vanderbeekers Series***

"Jasmine Warga has crafted a clever mystery that unfolds in unexpected ways and answers the question not only of "Whodunnit?" but more importantly the greater mystery of "Who am I?" It is powered by good friends, true fears, and the importance of taking time to notice things that are easily overlooked. Like one of its characters says of art, *A Strange Thing Happened in Cherry Hall* is filled with surprise gifts and secrets for you to discover. It is a winner in every way!" — **James Ponti, *New York Times* bestselling author of *City Spies***

"The mystery drives this exquisitely paced story that readers will quickly consume. The characters are the beating heart of this tender, quiet tale —each drawn with texture, depth, and warmth. A slowly unfurling delight." — ***Kirkus Reviews* ★**

"The meticulously fleshed-out museum backdrop evokes impeccable ambiance for a mystery in this cozy tale. Grayscale illustrations by Rockefeller depict the museum and cast through vivid portraiture." — ***Publishers Weekly***

"Warga's spare prose, sweet characters, and gentle narration offer early middle-graders an accessible, even poetic read. This is a story with a sense of wonder. The budding relationship between reserved Rami and upbeat Veda illustrates the power of affirming friendship in an uncertain period of life. A treat for bighearted, bookish sleuths."
— ***Booklist***

"Focalization shifts among various characters adding a contemplative note about art, loss, ambition, and the different ways we find home. Warga has a knack for creating characters deeply relatable, with struggles and insecurities that will no doubt resonate with young readers." — ***Bulletin of the Center for Children's Books***

Kara H.L. Chen

ASKING FOR A FRIEND

HarperCollins July 23, 2024 | NA

336 page, Manuscript available

Agent: Alexander Slater

This charming YA rom-com follows a strong-willed, ambitious teen as she teams up with her childhood frenemy to start a dating-advice column, perfect for fans of Emma Lord and Gloria Chao.

“Hard to put down. Teen readers will root for Juliana to figure out what she wants—and who she wants to be—in time to have a shot at the happiness she’s spent so long denying herself.” — *Booklist*

A swoon-worthy, heart-wrenching view into the trials of growing up second generation in an immigrant community. — *Kirkus Reviews*

Juliana Zhao is absolutely certain of a few things:

1. She is the world’s foremost expert on love.
2. She is going to win the nationally renowned Asian Americans in Business Competition.

When Juliana is unceremoniously dropped by her partner and she’s forced to pair with her nonconformist and annoying frenemy, Garrett Tsai, everything seems less clear. Their joint dating advice column must be good enough to win and secure bragging rights within her small Taiwanese American community, where her family’s reputation has been in the pits since her older sister was disowned a few years prior.

Juliana always thought prestige mattered above all else. But as she argues with Garrett over how to best solve everyone else’s love problems and faces failure for the first time, she starts to see fractures in this privileged, sheltered worldview. With the competition heating up, Juliana must reckon with the sacrifices she’s made to be a perfect daughter—and whether winning is something she even wants anymore.

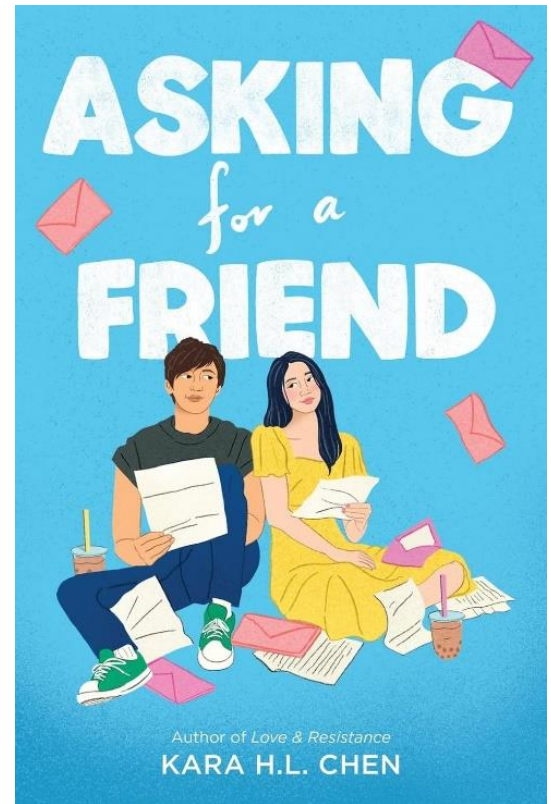
LOVE AND RESISTANCE

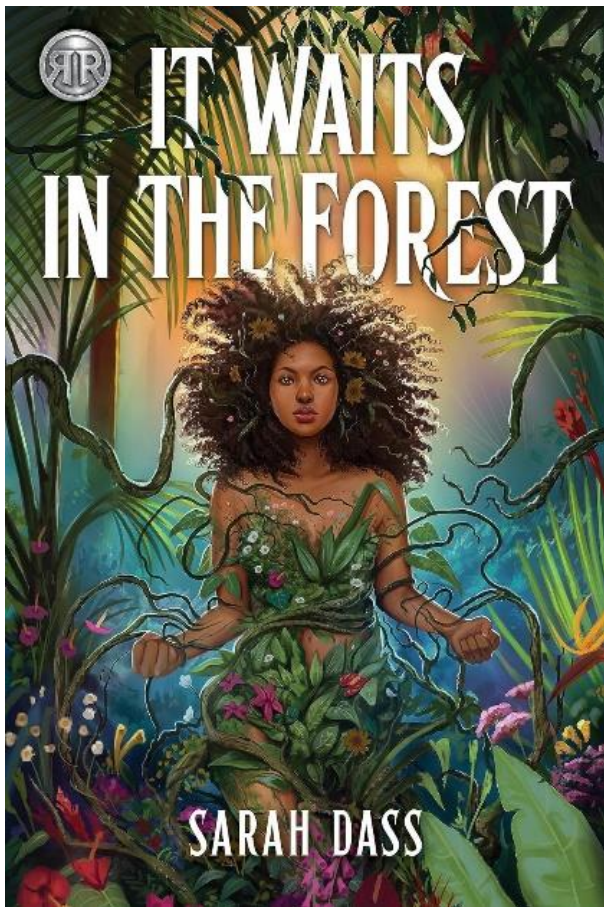
HarperCollins July 2, 2023 | NA

***Moxie* meets Mary H.K. Choi in this funny, whip-smart YA debut about love, resistance, and the enduring friendships that make it all worthwhile.**



Kara H.L. Chen grew up near Cleveland, Ohio, where she once had to shovel snow off her car with a plastic trashcan. She now lives on the West Coast with her husband and daughters, and is learning how to use an Instapot. She has undergraduate degrees in English and economics, a J.D., and a MFA in fiction. She has used her economics degree exactly once, when she tried to make a joke about marginal costs and marginal returns. It did not go well.





Sarah Dass

IT WAITS IN THE FOREST

Disney Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents May 14, 2024 /
paperback April 8, 2025 | World English
320 pages, manuscript available

With an introduction by Rick Riordan

The very first thriller from Rick Riordan Presents! Drawing from the darkest corners of Caribbean mythology, acclaimed author Sarah Dass crafts a chilling tale of magic, murder, and how far we'll go to protect what's ours—perfect for fans of Angeline Boulley and Tiffany D. Jackson.

Unlike the other residents of the small Caribbean Island of St. Virgil, Selina DaSilva does not believe in magic. With a logical mind and a knack for botany, Selina used to dream of leaving the island to study Pharmacology—until a vicious, unsolved attack left her father dead and her mother in a coma.

Now her guilt over her mother's condition keeps her tethered to the island, relegated to conning gullible tourists with useless talismans and phony protection rituals. But when one of those tourists ends up at the center of a string of strange murders, the truth that Selina has been denying can no longer be avoided: there is evil lurking in the forests that surround St. Virgil. Another thing that can't be avoided? Selina's

ex-boyfriend Gabriel, newly employed at the local newspaper and eager to put his investigative skills to use.

Desperate to put an end to the killings and claim justice for Selina's family, these two former lovers race to find answers. But evil bides its time. And as long-buried feelings and long-hidden secrets about Selina's family's past begin to reveal themselves, only one answer remains—and it waits in the forest.

“A wickedly delectable thriller that will have you looking over your shoulder to make sure nothing followed you out of the forest.” – **Roseanne A. Brown**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *A Song of Wraiths and Ruin*

“A dark, tantalizing tale that will keep you on your toes as much as it will knock you back on your seat.” – **Vincent Tirado**, *Pura Belpré* Award-winning author of *Burn Down, Rise Up*

“I was glued to these pages from beginning to end!” – **Lauren Blackwood**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Within These Wicked Walls*

“Beggars the question of how far you would go to reclaim what you've lost and what you risk sacrificing to get it. Compelling, creepy, and complex, this story will haunt you long after you've finished reading.” – **Liselle Sambury**, author of *Blood Like Magic* and *Delicious Monsters*



Sarah Dass was born in Trinidad but has lived in Tobago since she was two years old. A graduate of University College London, she works as an office administrator by day and writes stories about the Caribbean by night. You can learn more about the author at www.sarahdass.com.

Young Adult

Frederick Joseph
THIS THING OF OURS

Candlewick, May 6, 2025 | World English
Manuscript anticipated Spring 2024
Agent: Alexander Slater

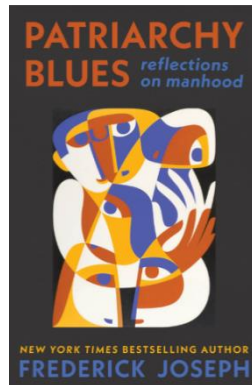
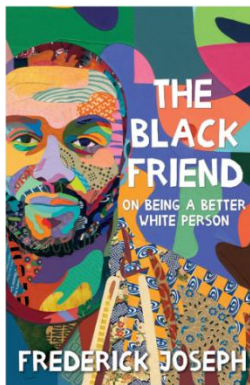
From the two-time *New York Times* bestselling author of **THE BLACK FRIEND** (2020) and **PATRIARCHY BLUES** (2022), and the author of **BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT** (2022), a powerful and timely YA debut that is a deeply heartfelt story—and a rallying cry against book banning.



In an instant, Ossie Brown’s entire future is in jeopardy when a torn ACL ends his promising basketball career. Now that basketball is no longer a major part of his identity, Ossie—a Black teen who doesn’t come from wealth and privilege—must navigate his new place in the social and academic ecosystems of his affluent, predominantly white school.

When a Black teacher encourages him to join her highly regarded writing program, Ossie begins to find a new purpose, buoyed by not only the rich works of literature by marginalized authors he’s now reading, but also by new friends who see him as something more than an asset to the sports program. Everything changes when some students’ viral “anti-woke” video puts the teacher’s job, the writing program, and even Ossie’s friends’ safety at risk—and Ossie must find his true voice.

This unflinching novel confronts critical issues like racism and classism, the treatment of student athletes, homophobia, and book banning while weaving together a moving testament to family, romance, friendship, and the power of words.



Frederick Joseph is an author, activist, philanthropist, and marketing professional. Two of his nonfiction titles, *The Black Friend* and *Patriarchy Blues*, were instant *New York Times* bestsellers. He is the coauthor, with Porsche Joseph, of *Better Than We Found It* and the author of the picture book *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever: The Courage to Dream*, illustrated by Nikkolos Smith. A recipient of both the Bob Clampett Humanitarian Award and the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Vanguard Award, Frederick Joseph was named to the 2019 *Forbes* 30 Under 30 list and was selected for the 2018 Root 100, an annual list of the most influential African Americans. He lives in New York City with his wife, Porsche, and their dog, Stokely.

Young Adult

Praise for THIS THING OF OURS

“This Thing of Ours is a heartbreakingly topical novel that lays bare the systemic inequities permeating the world of young people today. This coming-of-age story illuminates the full humanity of young people as well as their capacity to lead the revolution. In *Joseph* we have an author who delivers a gripping, urgent plot with characters readers will rally to and embrace. Joseph more than just trusts young people to grapple with the challenges and complexities of the issues impacting their lives; his faith in their ability to find the inspiration, courage, and commitment to call out injustice and work toward the future they deserve is unshakeable.” —**Dr. Sonja Cherry-Paul, educator and coauthor of *Stamped (for Kids)***

“In a moment where ‘wokeness’ is weaponized, *This Thing of Ours* is the light that can guide us through the darkness. I laughed, I cried, I felt everything was broken . . . and then, that it could be fixed. This book is so unflinching, so heartfelt, so authentic, so damn of-the-now, it’s bound to be banned. I loved every page.” —**Damon Lindelof, Emmy Award-winning writer and producer of *Watchmen***

“A triumphant exaltation of the redemptive power of family, friendship, and community, *This Thing of Ours* is a fast-paced, emotionally rich attestation to the fight for the dignity and humanity of all Americans. It should be celebrated in classrooms across this country. With an ear for lyrical beauty as much as an eye for social critique, Joseph reminds us why caring about the truth matters and that the time to stand up for it is now.” —**Brendan Kiely, *New York Times* best-selling coauthor of *All American Boys***

“With a cast of naturally diverse characters you will root for, *This Thing of Ours* beautifully explores the awkward, anxiety-inducing, beautiful reality of growing up. All while reminding us that nothing is worth doing alone—not sports, not grief, not standing up and fighting for your people, and, most importantly, not life. *This Thing of Ours* is a must-read!” —**Keah Brown, author of *The Secret Summer Promise***

“Once again, regardless of genre, Frederick Joseph puts his heart, soul, passion, and unapologetic voice into every paragraph, sentence, and syllable. This rich tale of self-discovery, self-worth, and resilience will land protagonist Ossie Brown in the pantheon of legendary young adult characters that will live forever.”
—**Derrick Barnes, two-time Kirkus Prize winner, Newbery Honoree, and National Book Award Finalist**

“*This Thing of Ours* weaves the timeless magic of the YA novel (the friendship, love, family, and coming-of-age that readers have always adored) with present-day realities that need a firmer place in the genre, in a way that is both narratively rich and urgently necessary. Frederick Joseph does with this story what he does with all of his writing: he speaks truth with the authority of an educator and the passion of an artist. This book is truly for everyone—for those who feel directly represented by its characters and those with whom its author is sharing a generous heap of insight, education, and relentless hope.” —**Cree, actress and storyteller**

Ali Novak

MY RETURN TO THE WALTER BOYS

Sourcebooks, April 2025 | World English

Manuscript anticipated late 2024

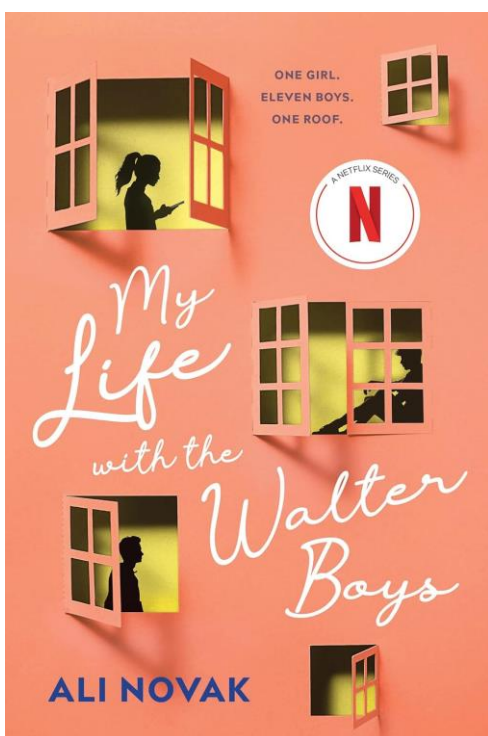
Agent: Alex Slater

Rights sold: Germany (cbj), Italy (Newton Compton), Spanish (PRH)

The highly anticipated sequel to *My Life with the Walter Boys*, the internationally bestselling novel that inspired the Netflix series!

Jackie Howard returns to the Walter ranch after a summer in New York. She needed space—and got it. But she doesn't know where things stand with her and Cole Walter after that goodbye kiss. Over the summer, she stopped texting him. She never stopped thinking about him.

Still, with Cole living off in town to work at Tony's garage before he heads off to college, Jackie thinks it'll be easy to avoid him—only to find that when she sees him face to face at last, it's, well... impossible to resist him. Things are getting complicated: he's the boy she can't get off her mind, and the Walters have become the family she loves and needs. How can Jackie move forward when she's afraid of taking the next step?



MY LIFE WITH THE WALTER BOYS

Sourcebooks, September 2019

A *New York Times* Bestseller

A top ten Netflix series in 79 countries!
#1 in a dozen of them!

When a tragic accident leads Jackie to move into a house filled with eleven boys, she gets far more than she ever expected. This sweet YA romance is perfect for fans of Kasie West and Jenny Han—and is one of the most beloved Wattpad books ever!

Funny and moving, *My Life with the Walter Boys* is perfect for readers looking for:

- Wattpad love stories
- contemporary romance for teens
- binge-worthy YA novels
- relatable characters

Foreign sales:

Brazil: VR Editoras- (TMG)

Bulgaria: Ibis (SJGA)

Czech: Albatros (SJGA)

France: Hachette Livre (TMG)

Germany: cbt (Sourcebooks)

Hungary: Konyvmolyképzo Publisher (TMG)

Italy: Newton Compton (Sourcebooks)

Poland: Helion (TMG)

Portugal: Marcador (SJGA)

Russian: Mann-Ivanov-Ferber (TMG)

Spanish: PRH Spain (TMG)

Ukraine: Old Lion (SJGA)

Young Adult



XiXi Tian

ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN

Balzer & Bray, Fall 2025 | World English

Manuscript anticipated November 2024

From the acclaimed author of THIS PLACE IS STILL BEAUTIFUL comes an enduring tale of friendship, love, and heartache.

Stella and Alan meet and connect with each other as “satellite babies” - children raised by their grandparents in China before rejoining their parents in the United States - before an unbearable betrayal tears their friendship apart. Years later, Stella’s brother dies in college, putting Stella’s final year in high school in a tailspin. With her parents unable to move past the devastation or support their remaining child, Stella is thrown into an unexpected reunion with Alan, which threatens to unearth long kept secrets and lingering feelings.

ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN is about the things we hide from the people we love. It’s about the enduring bond of family across oceans and beyond the grave. And at it’s core, it’s a childhood friends to lovers story about two lonely people, who find themselves falling again and again into each other’s orbit.

Praise for THIS PLACE IS STILL BEAUTIFUL:

“... Told in alternating perspectives, this emotionally layered novel, populated by nuanced characters and culminating in complex resolutions, resonates.” — *Publishers Weekly* ★

“Quiet yet powerful, complex, and grounded in the reality that nothing will ever be completely resolved.” — *Kirkus Reviews* ★

“An impressive first novel.” — *ALA Booklist* ★

“Tian’s debut explores our vulnerabilities in the face of change and how we find redemption for our past mistakes.” — *Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* ★

“A radiant YA debut about biracial identity and the complexity of love for people and places. An incisive read.” — *Shelf Awareness* ★

XiXi Tian was born in China and immigrated to the United States when she was a year old. She grew up in central Illinois. She graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in history and then attended Harvard Law School. She is a tech lawyer by day and a writer by night. She lives outside of New York City. You can visit her online at www.xixiwrites.com.