



Spring 2025
Frontlist Rights Guide

Adult and Children's books

Greenburger.com

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Albania, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Romania, and Serbia: Andrew Nurnberg Associates Sofia
Brazil: MB Agencia Literaria
China: Andrew Nurnberg Associates International Ltd., Beijing
Czech Republic, Slovakia, and Slovenia: Andrew Nurnberg Associates Prague
Estonia, Georgia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Ukraine: Andrew Nurnberg Associates Kyiv
France and Quebec: La Nouvelle Agence
Greece: Read n' Right Agency
Germany: Mohrbooks
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Thailand, Mongolia, Indonesia: Andrew Nurnberg Associates, Bangkok
Turkey: AnatoliaLit
United Kingdom: Abner Stein Ltd
Vietnam: Andrew Nurnberg Associates, Hanoi

TABLE OF CONTENTS



FICTION

General Fiction – 6-36
Science Fiction and Fantasy – 37-54

NON-FICTION

General Non-fiction – 55-81

CHILDREN'S

Picture Books – 84-96
Middle Grade – 97-114
Young Adult – 115-123

INDEX



Baxter, Holly	9-10	Kaur, Baljinder	92
Blecher, Jennifer	97	Kurcinka, Mary	68-69
Brower, Michael	57	Levine, Arthur	70
Brown, Dan	6-7	Liar, Benjamin	49-50
Brown, Stefanie Foster	84	Lu, Shaina	101
Bruekelaar, J.S.	39	Lu, Wendy	102
Buchanan, Lynn	40-41	Mao, Sally Wen	26-27
Calonita, Jen	98-99	Marks, Janae	103
Carraway, Kate	58-59	Marks, John Garrison	71
Chen, Kara HL	115	Mester, Emily	72-73
Cherryh, CJ	42	Montague, Liz	104-105
Cortez, Rio	85-86	Morin, Tomas	28, 74
Coverly, S.D.	43	Nasserzadeh, Sara	75-76
Dass, Sarah	116-117	Novak, Ali	120
DeRuiter, Geraldine	60-61	Ocker, JW	106
Deutermann, PT	11	Oet, Rainie	107-108
Dorn, Anna	12-13	Oliva When	96
Drakeford, Scott	44-45	Pearson, Mallory	51-52
Dudum, Elena	62	Peltz, Madeline	77
Elegant, Naomi	14-15	Rende, Sydney	29
Enrich, David	63-64	Shah, Reena	30
Epperson, Tom	46	Skogman, Calahan	31
Flynn, Katie	16-17	Steward, Daniel Day	32
Fong, Pam	87	Stolos, Jacqueline	109
Foster, Thomas	65	Swinarski, Claire	33, 110
Gopal, Jyoti	88-90	Tatsukawa	93-95
Grant, Rebecca	66	Taupin, Bernie	78-79
Gu, Yan	91	Thayer, Alex	111-112
Gurule, Michelle	67	Thor, Brad	34-35
Hays, Katy	18-19	Tian, Xixi	121-122
Hedva, Johanna	20-21	Van Pelt, Scott	70
Hightower, Lynn	22, 47	Vandelly, T. Marie	53
Høstrup, Line Høj	100	Warga, Jasmine	113-114
Jones, Christy Anne	48	Williams, Tad	54
Joseph, Frederick	118-119	Wroten, K	123
Kakimoto, Megan	23	Wu, Simon	80-81
Kapelke Dale, Rachel	24-25	Yang, Alice	36

Dan Brown

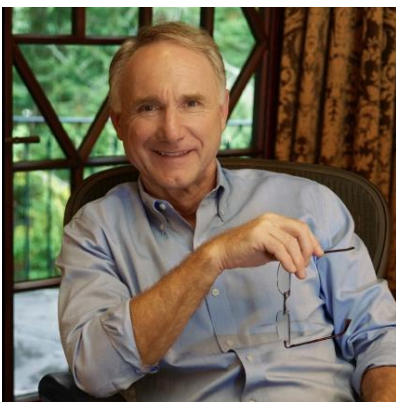
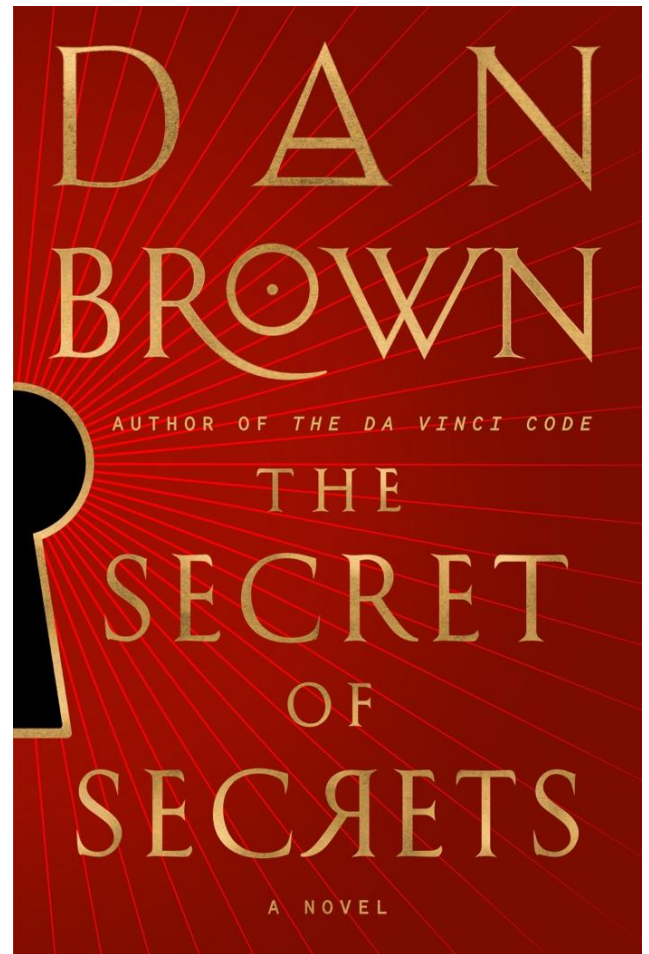
THE SECRET OF SECRETS

Doubleday, September 9, 2025

Agent: Heide Lange

The world's most celebrated thriller writer returns with his most stunning novel yet—a propulsive, twisty, thought-provoking masterpiece that will entertain readers as only Dan Brown can do.

Robert Langdon, esteemed professor of symbology, travels to Prague to attend a groundbreaking lecture by Katherine Solomon—a prominent noetic scientist with whom he has recently begun a relationship. Katherine is on the verge of publishing an explosive book that contains startling discoveries about the nature of human consciousness and threatens to disrupt centuries of established belief. But a brutal murder catapults the trip into chaos, and Katherine suddenly disappears along with her manuscript. Langdon finds himself targeted by a powerful organization and hunted by a chilling assailant sprung from Prague's most ancient mythology. As the plot expands into London and New York, Langdon desperately searches for Katherine . . . and for answers. In a thrilling race through the dual worlds of futuristic science and mystical lore, he uncovers a shocking truth about a secret project that will forever change the way we think about the human mind.



Dan Brown is the author of eight #1 bestselling novels, including *The Da Vinci Code*, which has become one of the bestselling books of all time, as well as *Origin*, *Inferno*, *The Lost Symbol*, and *Angels & Demons*. His thrillers have captivated readers worldwide and been the subject of intellectual debate and speculation. He is also the author of the bestselling children's book *Wild Symphony*. Brown's novels are published in 56 languages internationally, with over 250 million copies in print.

The son of a mathematics teacher and a church organist, Brown was raised on a prep school campus where he developed a fascination with the paradoxical interplay between science and religion. These themes eventually formed the backdrop for his books. He is a graduate of Amherst College and Phillips Exeter Academy, where he later returned to teach English before focusing his attention full time to writing. He lives in New England.

Dan Brown's Adult Book Publishers

Published in 56 languages | Over 250 million copies in print worldwide

Albania: Botimet Dudaj	Italy: Rizzoli Libri
Arabic: Arab Scientific	Japan: Kadokawa
Armenia: Zangak	Kazakhstan: Turan-Asia
Azerbaijan: Qanun	Korea: Moonhak Soochup
Bosnia: Buybook	Latvia: Kontinents
Brazil: Sextante	Lithuania: Jotema
Bulgaria: Bard	Macedonia: Kultura
Catalan Columna	Montenegro: Nova Knjiga
China: Beijing Xiron	Netherlands: Luitingh-Sijthoff
Croatia: VBZ	Poland: Sonia Draga
Czech: Argo	Portugal: Bertrand
Czech (Audio): Tympanum	Romania: R.A.O.
Denmark: Hr. Ferdinand/ Politikens	Russia: AST
Denmark (Audio): Den Grimme Audio	Russia (Audio): AST Audio
Estonia: Eram/Ersen	Serbia: Tir Solaris
Finland: WSOY	Slovakia: Ikar
France: JC Lattès	Slovenia: Mladinska Knjiga
Frisian: Luitingh-Sijthoff	Spain: Planeta
Germany: Bastei Luebbe	Sri Lanka (Sinhala): Ashirwada
Greece: Psychogios	Sweden: Bonniers Forlag
Georgia: Sulakauri	Taiwan: China Times
Galician: Grupo 62	Thailand: Amarin
Hungary: Gabo	Turkey: Altin
Iceland: Bjartur	Ukraine: Family Leisure Club
India (Hindi): PRH India	US (English): Doubleday
India (Malayalam): DC Books	US (Spanish): Vintage Español
India (Marathi): Mehta Publ.	UK: Transworld
India (Tamil): Ethir Veliyedu	Uzbekistan: Nihol Publishing
India (Gujarati): R.R. Sheth	Vietnam: BachViet Books
Israel: Kinneret-Zmora	

GENERAL FICTION

Holly Baxter CLICKBAIT

HarperCollins, August 13, 2024 | NA
336 pages, manuscript 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.

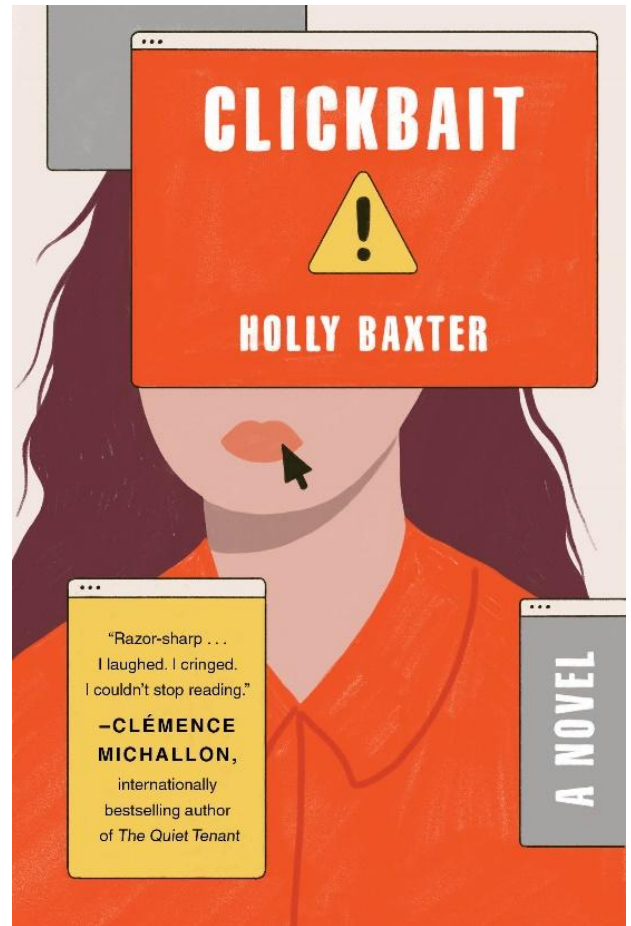
As if her professional fall from grace weren't bad enough, she's taken the money she'd saved for a down payment for a home on a charming Brooklyn block with her husband, and rashly bought a boxy apartment overlooking the gray ocean in Rockaway Beach, Queens.

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*. @h0llyb4xter



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

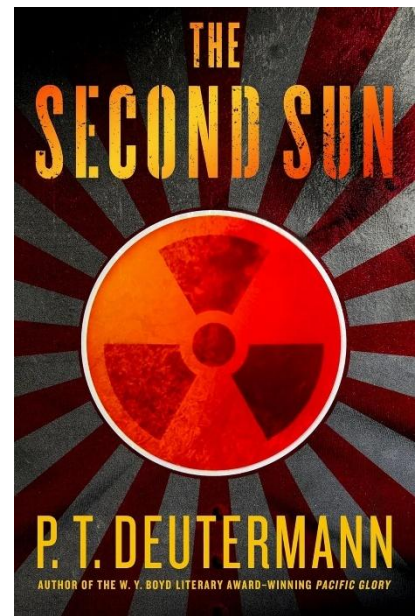
304 pages, final text available

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?

"Suspenseful...intriguing...thrilling...gripping." --*Publishers Weekly*

"Dramatic history presented in vivid detail." --*Kirkus Reviews* ★



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.



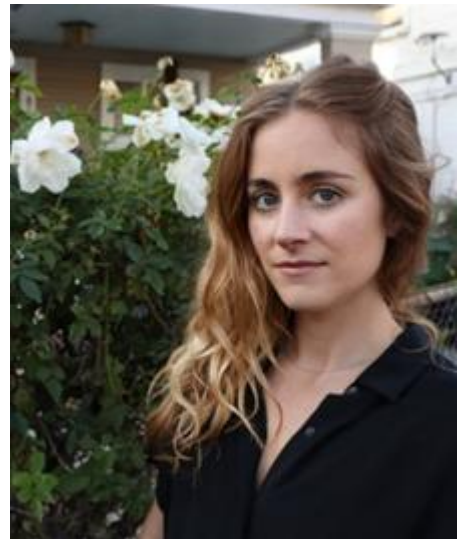
Anna Dorn

AMERICAN SPIRITS

Simon & Schuster | late 2025 | World English

Manuscript anticipated 2025

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.

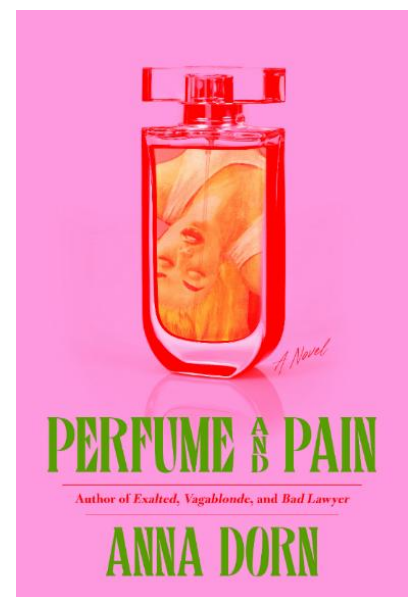
When the pandemic shuts down the *Blue's Beard* tour, Blue retreats to a cabin in the redwoods with her producer and assistant to make another album. Rose is delighted to be isolated with the two objects of her longtime obsession, and there a strange love triangle develops. During a manic episode, Blue 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 debauchorous 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 wildy entertaining exploration of contemporary culture

[Anna Dorn](#) 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>



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

Anna Dorn
PERFUME & PAIN
Simon & Schuster, May 21, 2024 | World
English
280 pages, final manuscript available

**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*

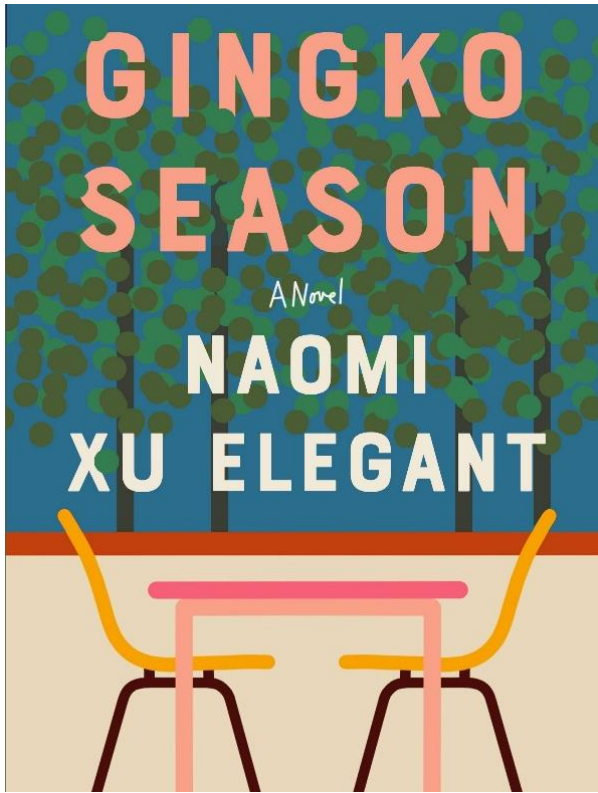
“Perceptive and witty—like a Sally Rooney novel set in Southern California.”—*Star Tribune (Minneapolis)*

“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 Dykette**



Naomi Xu Elegant
GINGKO SEASON

Norton, May 20, 2025, tpb | North America
264 pages, 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

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 *Clever*, among other places. @naomielegant

Credit: Julia Tran

Praise for GINGKO SEASON

“*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***

“Exquisitely written and deeply felt. Suffused with a gentle, ever-precise sense of humor, *Ginkgo Season* is a resonant and tender portrayal of the complexities of connection and attachment. A remarkable debut that perfectly captures the loneliness and hope of youth, and the delightfully disorienting sensation of becoming unmoored in love.”—**Gina Chung, author of *Sea Change* and *Green Frog***

“*Ginkgo Season* is an atmospheric wonder of a novel that's as enchanting as it is wise. I loved wandering the halls of narrator Penelope's rich interior, which is conveyed in Elegant's inimitable lyricism. Like the eclipse that heralds a season of transformation, meditation, and self-discovery for Penelope, *Ginkgo Season* is an immersive book that announces Elegant as one of my new favorite writers.”—**Megan Kamalei Kakimoto, author of *Every Drop Is a Man's Nightmare***

“*Ginkgo Season* is a deeply funny portrayal of young adulthood's most classic anxieties. Naomi Xu Elegant nails the earnest confusion of one's mid-twenties as told through the modern parlance of situationships, ethical altruism and diasporic angst. This is a novel interested in dissecting the *feeling* of feelings—and wondering aloud about the grace of living a so-called small life.”—**Delia Cai, author of *Central Places***

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](https://www.katiemflynn.com/) 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 (US title)

THE VIPERS (UK title)

Ballantine, March 25, 2025 | World English

336 pages, manuscript available

Agent: Sarah Phair

Foreign rights sold:

France: Livre de Poche

Hungary: XXI Szazad

Italy: Rizzoli

Germany: Penguin Verlag

Netherlands: Singel/De Geus

Spanish: Urano

Turkey: Altin Kitaplar

UK: Transworld (via Ballantine)

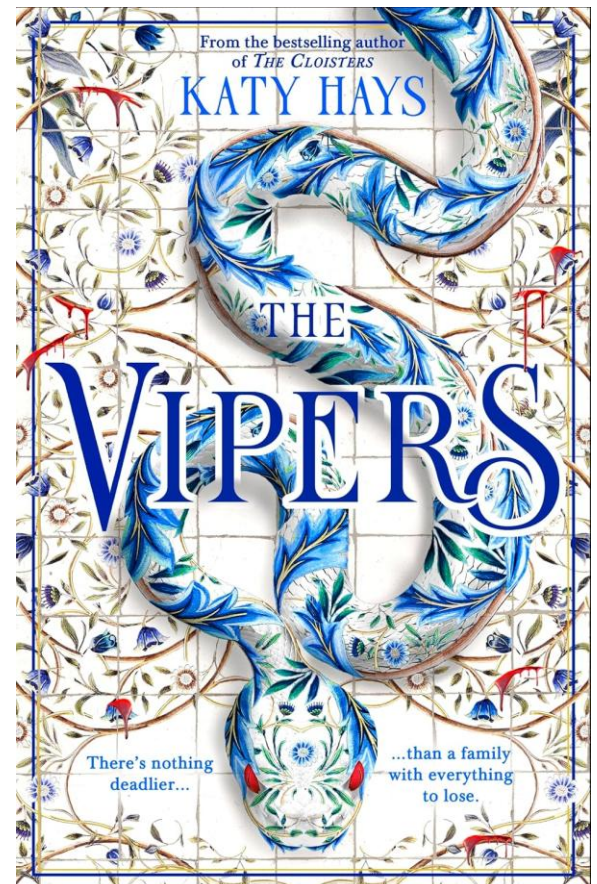
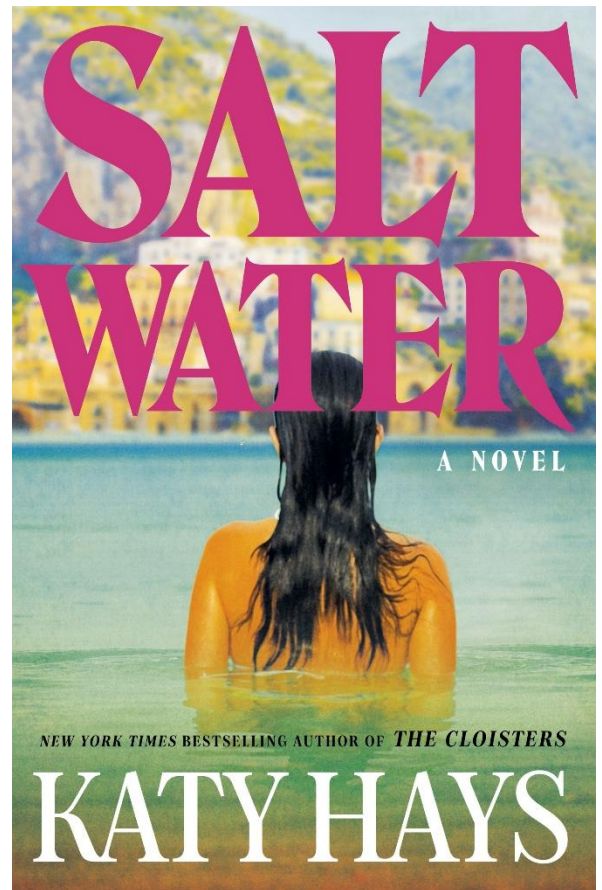
**On glittering Capri,
anything can be a mirage.
And no one holds a
grudge like family.**

**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.





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/>

Praise for *SALTWATER/THE VIPERS*:

“The Lingates have it all: prestige, power and the potential to be irrevocably destroyed if long-buried secrets get into the wrong hands . . . Katy Hays' *The Vipers* is **sultry and sophisticated with a menacing undercurrent that keeps you thrillingly unsettled until its final spellbinding twist**. Let the languid glamour of Capri gently take you by one hand, an ice cold Negroni in the other, but watch your step—the cliffs are treacherous and so, too, is a family with everything to lose”. – **Rachel Koller Croft, author of *Stone Cold Fox***

“Engrossing and sinister, *Saltwater* has all the elements thriller readers love: dead bodies, deception, and betrayal. But at its core, this multilayered story delves into the concepts of familial loyalty and generational trauma, making *Saltwater* a must-read.”—**Julie Clark, New York Times bestselling author of *The Last Flight***

“A riveting, atmospheric, elegantly written, and twist-packed tale . . . brilliant!”—**Ellery Lloyd, New York Times bestselling author of *The Club***

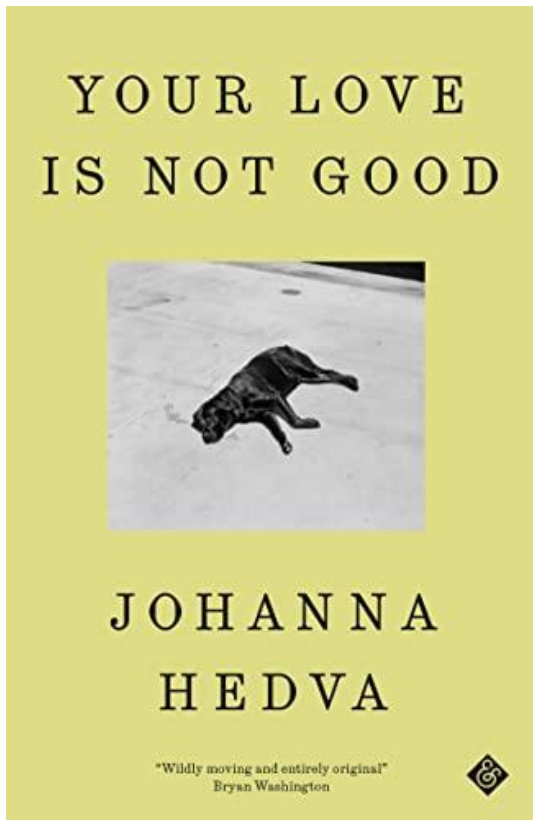
“A masterful, riveting, and unsettling tale of privilege, greed, and lust . . . I can't remember reading a book with as many deftly executed twists and revelations. I devoured it in what felt like seconds.”—**Ella Berman, author of the Reese's Book Club pick *Before We Were Innocent***

“The truest literary successor to HBO's *Succession* I've encountered, *Saltwater* is so gorgeously written that its twists didn't need to hit nearly so hard nor land nearly so perfectly for this to already be one of the best books of 2025, and yet they do. What a knockout.”—**Ashley Winstead, bestselling author of *Midnight Is the Darkest Hour***

“Brilliantly written in scintillating prose, Katy Hays's *Saltwater* is an Italian opera for the modern age. Superbly plotted and deftly executed, this searing takedown of the upper crust is one to savor.”—**Katherine Wood, author of *Ladykiller***

“A twisty, seductive thriller.”—**Nina Simon, New York Times bestselling author of *Mother-Daughter Murder Night***

“Hays uses the island setting to brilliantly exploit locked-room mystery tropes, and doles out jaw-dropping reveals at just the right moments. This masterful suspense story has all the momentum of a runaway train.”— ***Publisher's Weekly***



Johanna Hedva YOUR LOVE IS NOT GOOD

And Other Stories, May 23, 2023
Paperback April 16, 2025 | World English
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" (published in their 2004 essay collection, *HOW TO TELL WHEN WE WILL DIE—Zando has World rights*). "Sick Woman Theory" has been translated into: Albanian, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Korean, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, and Turkish. Johanna is a 2024 Ford Foundation Disability Futures Fellow. <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***”

“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
SPIES IN PLAIN SIGHT
(A Junie Lagarde novel, book 2)

Severn House, June 3, 2025 | World English
208 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer

From the award winning, internationally bestselling author Lynn Hightower comes a gripping, tense thriller with a hearing-impaired main character

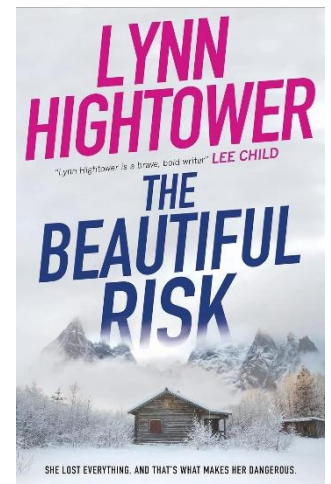
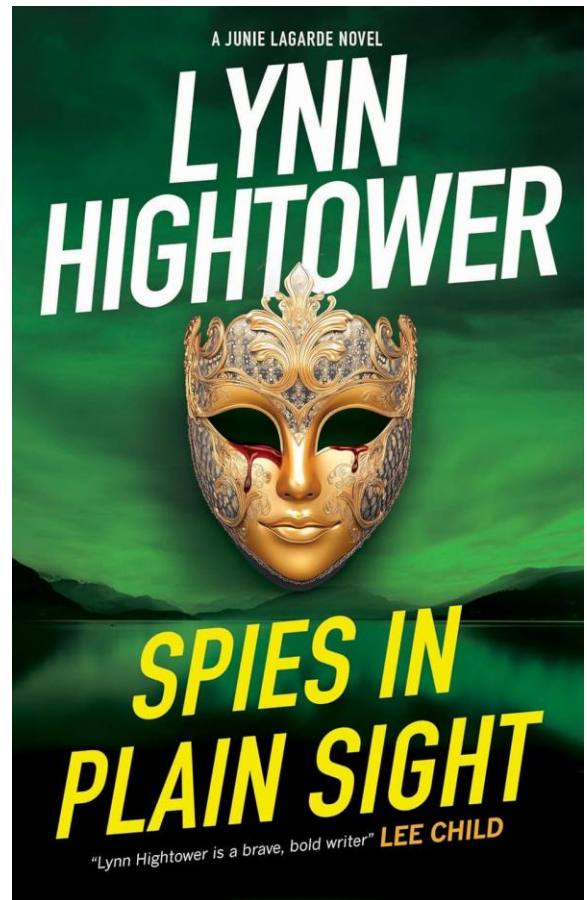
Welcome to VIE. A spy organization of the people, by the people, and for the people. We are spies in plain sight. We make billionaires afraid.

Junie Lagarde is a woman on a mission. With the help of her young team of citizen journalists, she's determined to hold billionaires accountable for the environmental atrocities they commit. Their current target: Kentuckian billionaire "Daddy" Sullivan Carr, whose plans to open a bitcoin mine in Annecy, France, threaten to destroy the place Junie and her beloved hearing dog Leo now call home.

But locking horns with Daddy Carr plunges Junie into a waking nightmare. For the twisted billionaire has drawn the attention of a dark and lethal French secret society known as the Emerald Vipers – and for this he blames her.

Escaping only narrowly with her life from an assassination attempt, Junie's determination to unmask Daddy Carr as a villain only grows stronger. But as her quest for justice leads her from the masked revels of Annecy's Venetian carnival to the glittering excesses of the Kentucky Derby, it will take all her strength to find not just the justice she burns for – but to face the shocking truth. That's if she manages to stay alive

Fans of fast-paced mysteries and thrillers with international settings, like those by David Hewson, Jeffrey Siger, Donna Leon and Louise Penny will love this series from award-winning author Lynn Hightower, who Lee Child praised as a "brave, bold writer".



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

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



Photo credit: Van Wishingrad

WHAT FEEDS YOU: A Novel (formerly BLOODSICK)

Megan Kamalei Kakimoto

Bloomsbury Summer 2026 | UK: Granta

Manuscript anticipated June 2025

Rights sold: UK (Granta)

Joan Kealakekua comes of age in Waikāne, Hawai'i on ancestral land that years ago fell out of her mother Sylvie's hands and into those of a dubious family friend named Kila. Sylvie, a fervent defender of Hawaiian rights and an early climate change activist, is a distracted mother whose commitment to the cause often unintentionally eclipses her daughter's needs. As Joan drifts away from her best friend Dina and further into Kila's orbit, she witnesses the decline of her

family's farm and endures an assault from the one person in whom she thought she'd found companionship. Fleeing life in Waikāne in a frantic move to the continent, Joan has a daughter named Ku'uiipo whose passion and determination to defend her homeland eventually ushers both women home. There they face a charged encounter with ghosts, trauma, and the lifelong wounds of colonization. WHAT FEEDS YOU is the story of one Hawaiian family's struggle to do good for the land and for each other in a collision of the global, the mythical, and the deeply personal.

Megan Kamalei Kakimoto

EVERY DROP IS A MAN'S NIGHTMARE: Stories

Bloomsbury, August 2023 | UK: Granta

272 pages, final text available

Agent: Iwalani Kim

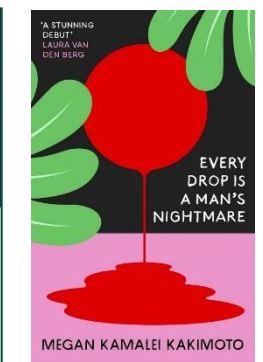
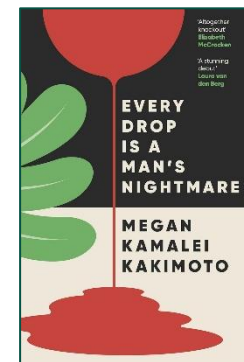
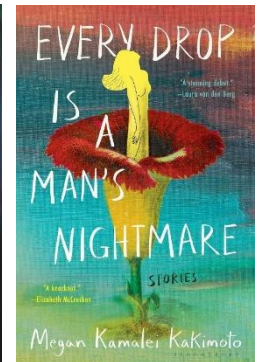
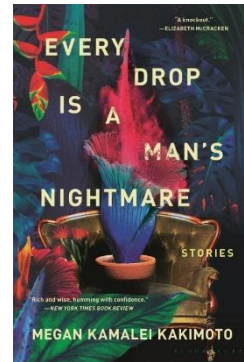
Rights sold: France (Editions du Typhon), UK (Granta)

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

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

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

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.



"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 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/>

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?

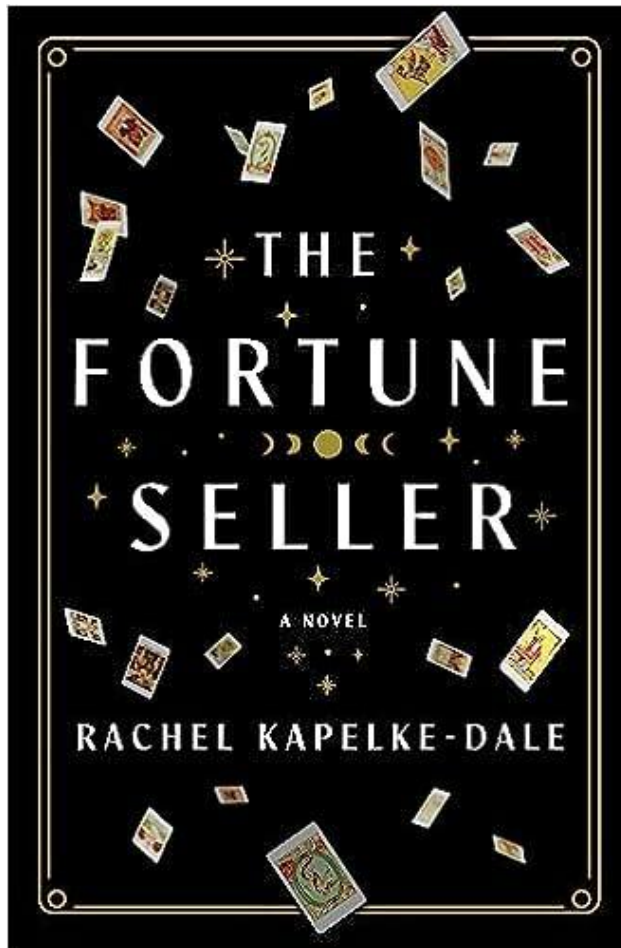
Middle-class Rosie Macalister has worked for years to fit in with her wealthy friends on the Yale equestrian team. But when she comes back from her junior year abroad with newfound confidence, she finds that the group has been infiltrated by a mysterious intruder: Annelise Tattinger.

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.

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.

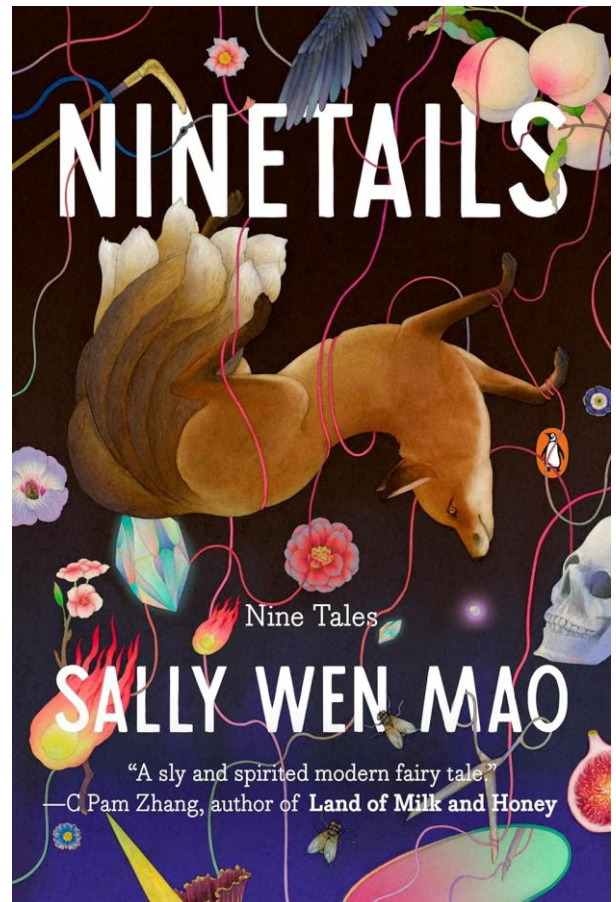


Photo credit: Jolani Ameer

[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*, *Guenrrica*, *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/>

Select Praise for NINETAILS:

“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***

“*[Ninetails]* not only plays with language and imagery, it also brings a surreal, poetic logic to the narrative itself. Some of these stories feature fox spirits as a motif, while others feature foxes as major characters. What unites them is a focus on women trying to make sense of a world that makes unreasonable demands while projecting various archetypes onto them. These stories dance around fertility and sexuality, seduction and rage, and the final tales reach for a kind of shared transformation or redemption. 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, each of which connect in some manner (figurative and literal) to foxes, and particularly the fox spirits of East Asian folklore. 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**

“From acclaimed poet Sally Wen Mao comes her first collection of short stories *Ninetails*, a fabulist retelling of the nine-tailed fox spirit of Asian folklore. From a fox spirit avenging a teen girl by seducing her abuser to an assassination plot against the Queen of Korea known as Operation Fox Hunt, 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 ★**

“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, Pulitzer Prize finalist and bestselling author of *Get in Trouble* and *The Book of Love***

“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***

“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**

“*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.” — **C Pam Zhang, author of *Land of Milk and Honey***

“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***

“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***

Tomás Q. Morin

CAT LOVE

Pantheon Spring 2026 | North America

Manuscript available

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.



Isle of Dogs meets *The Lobster*: a near-future dystopian novel narrated by a cat who finds herself imprisoned in a Schrödinger's box inside a school. After an outbreak of empathy, Emotional Statistics classes have spread across the United States. Successful completion of one of these classes can land you anything from a deferred sentence to a career as a pity party planner. There's just one catch: does the box in the center of your classroom contain a cat that is alive or dead or both?

This absurdist black comedy set in L.A. is both a whodunit and a ghost story that follows a cat as she struggles to understand how she went from a quiet life in a suburban home to a classroom of students contemplating her suffering inside a box. In order to find answers, this cat obsessed with 80s action movies will have to summon her inner Bruce Willis in order to escape and find her way back to her beloved owner.



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>

Sydney Rende
I COULD BE FAMOUS

Bloomsbury, Winter 2026 | North America

Manuscript anticipated March 2025

Agent: Madeline Wallace

Rights sold: UK, Fleet

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 | February 3, 2026 | NA

320 pages, manuscript available

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*.

“I have just finished reading Reena Shah’s *Every Happiness* and I don’t think I have ever missed a set of novel characters more: astonishingly alive, lovable, aggravating, real. Shah writes beautifully about every sort of love: filial, parental, marital, and above all the longing and vivid pettiness and durable, complicated love between women over decades. *Every Happiness* is a stunner of a book, and Reena Shah is absolutely brilliant.” – **Elizabeth McCracken**

“*Every Happiness* is a bold and moving novel with great emotional intricacy and keen attention to moral predicaments. It marks the arrival of a radiant new voice unafraid to examine love in all its forms, from the most stifling to the most freeing.” – **Megha Majumdar, author of *A Burning***

“*Every Happiness* is one of the most arresting and rewarding novels I’ve read in years. Reena Shah is a writer of immense gifts, vital and nuanced vision, and a wise, urgent voice that we’ve long been missing. How lucky—and yes, how very happy—we are to have this book in the world.” – **Bret Anthony Johnston, author of *We Burn Daylight***

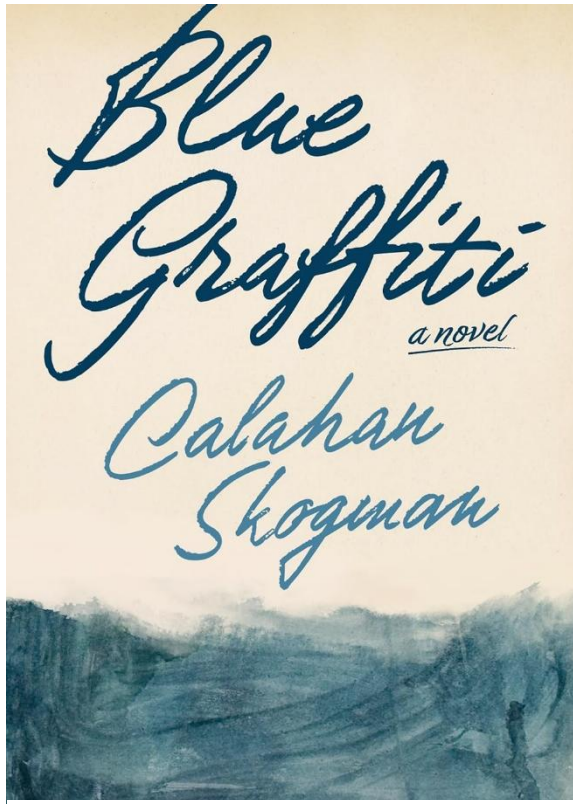
“Full of keen observations and confident prose, *Every Happiness* exposes the complexities of family, friendship, and the so-called American dream.” – **Rita Chang-Eppig, author of *Deep as the Sky, Red as the Sea***

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 and moves to the suburbs of Connecticut, likewise Ruchi follows her friend across the world. But life in the United States is different than either woman expects. 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 situation, 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

Rights sold: Spanish (RBA)

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 bluesey 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.

"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

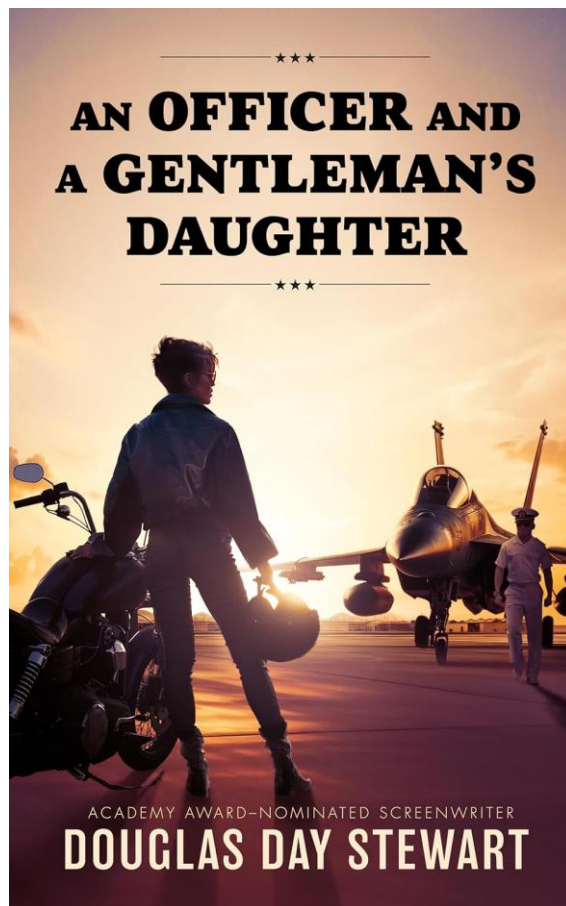
Agent: Matt Bialer

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**

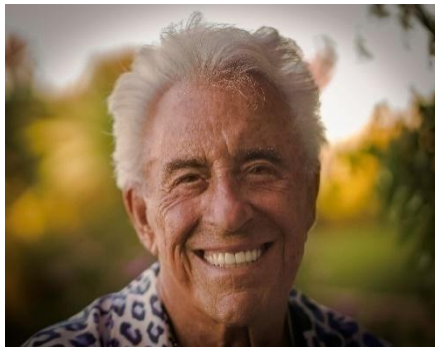


Thirty-five years after the events of *An Officer and a Gentleman*, Zack Mayo finds himself facing a very different kind of struggle. His beloved wife died tragically over a decade ago, his daughter--severely impacted by the death of her mother--disappeared after turning to drugs, and now he is being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

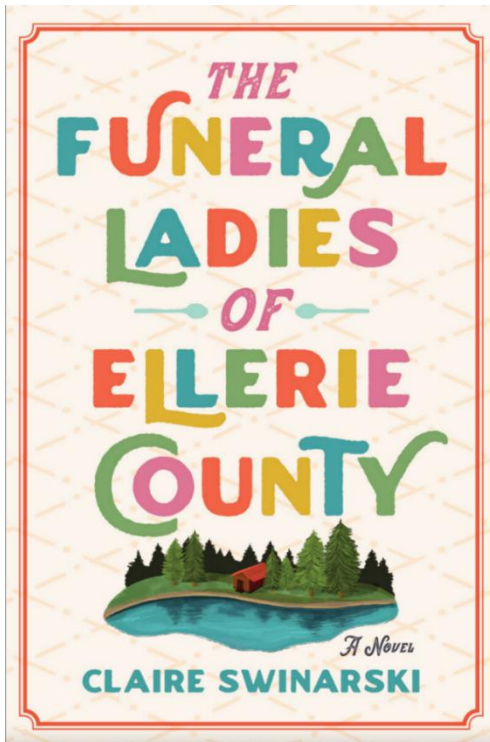
Convinced his daughter had died two years ago in a fire, Mayo is shocked when she shows up as a student in the last class he will teach before retirement. Shannon Mayo must accomplish the impossible if she is to pass her father's class and prove to herself that she has fully conquered her demons. Jet 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 March 2025
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

Television rights optioned by Sony Pictures Television

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

EDGE OF HONOR

Emily Bestler Books / Atria, July 1, 2025 | World English
320 Pages, manuscript available May 2025
Agent: Heide Lange

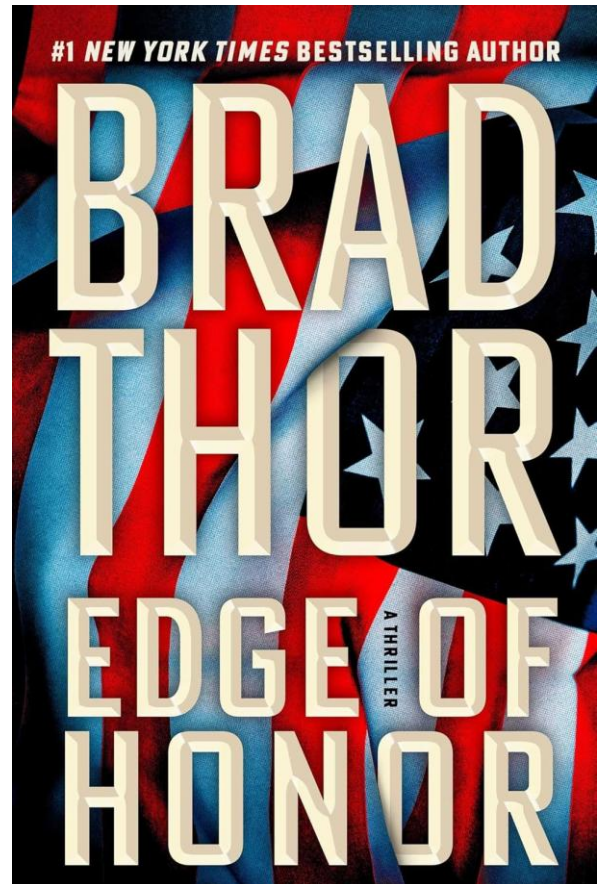
#1 *New York Times* bestselling author Brad Thor returns with an exhilarating new Scot Harvath thriller.

After six months abroad, America’s top spy returns to a new administration, a new set of global priorities, and a power struggle—the likes of which the United States has never experienced.

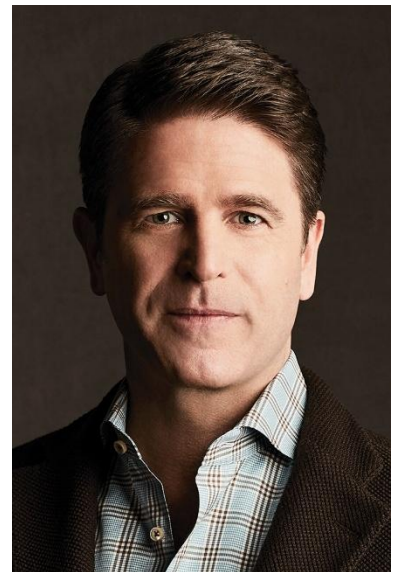
Drawn into a web of deceit and deadly politics, Scot Harvath is thrust into a high-stakes conspiracy that could change the course of history. A cabal of shadowy elites is maneuvering for control and if they succeed, they will bring the country to its knees.

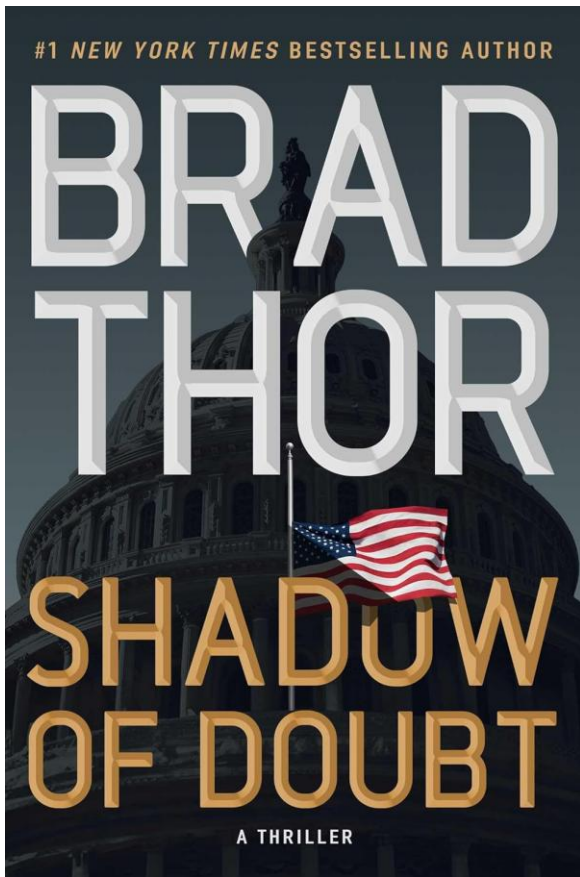
When trust is fleeting and survival means making impossible decisions, Harvath finds himself at the precipice. The actions he takes will shape the future of America—and might cost him everything he holds dear.

With enemies at every turn, one wrong move could push the nation over the edge.



Brad Thor is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty-four thrillers, including *Shadow of Doubt*, *Black Ice* (*ThrillerFix* Best Thriller of the Year), *Near Dark* (one of *Suspense Magazine*’s Best Books of the Year), *Backlash* (nominated for the Barry Award for Best Thriller of the Year), *Spymaster* (named “One of the all-time best thriller novels” —*The Washington Times*), *The Last Patriot* (nominated Best Thriller of the Year by the International Thriller Writers association), and *Blowback* (one of the “Top 100 Killer Thrillers of All Time” —NPR). Visit his website at BradThor.com and follow him on Facebook @BradThorOfficial, on Instagram @RealBradThor, and on X @BradThor.





SHADOW OF DOUBT

Emily Bestler Books / Atria, hardcover August 6, 2024,
paperback April 29, 2025 | World English
320 pages, final text available
Agent: Heide Lange

Instant *New York Times* bestseller
One of Apple's top selling thrillers of 2024

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*



Photograph by Tiana Michele, 2022

Alice Evelyn Yang A BEAST SLINKS TOWARDS BEIJING

William Morrow, early 2026 | North America

Manuscript anticipated March 2025

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.

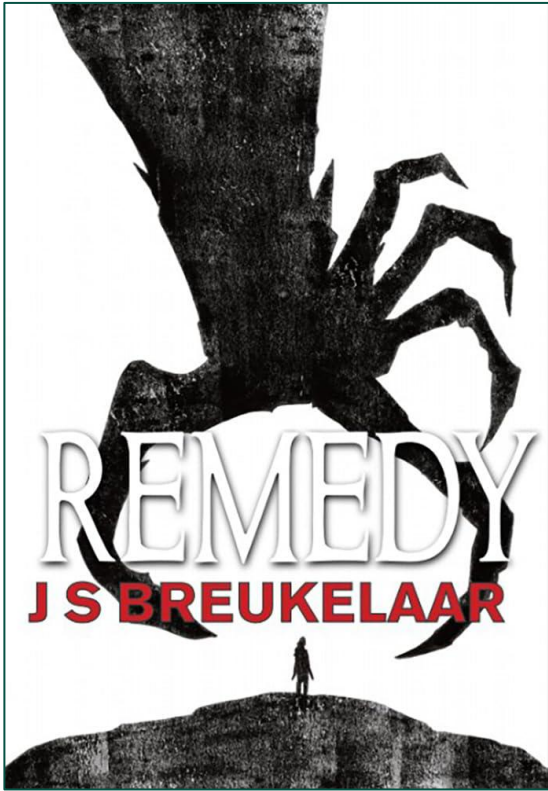
The story zooms backward in time to Ba's childhood and that of his mother, Qianze's grandmother. Ming, who grew up in rural Manchuria during the Second Sino-Japanese War and Japanese occupation, is kidnapped and made to be a comfort woman for the Japanese Kwantung Army. There, she encounters an inhuman 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.

Please hear the author in her own words [here](#).

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 and FANTASY



J.S. Breukelaar
REMEDY

PS Publishing. August 1, 2024 | World English
150 pages, 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 Jr. 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 T.J. 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?

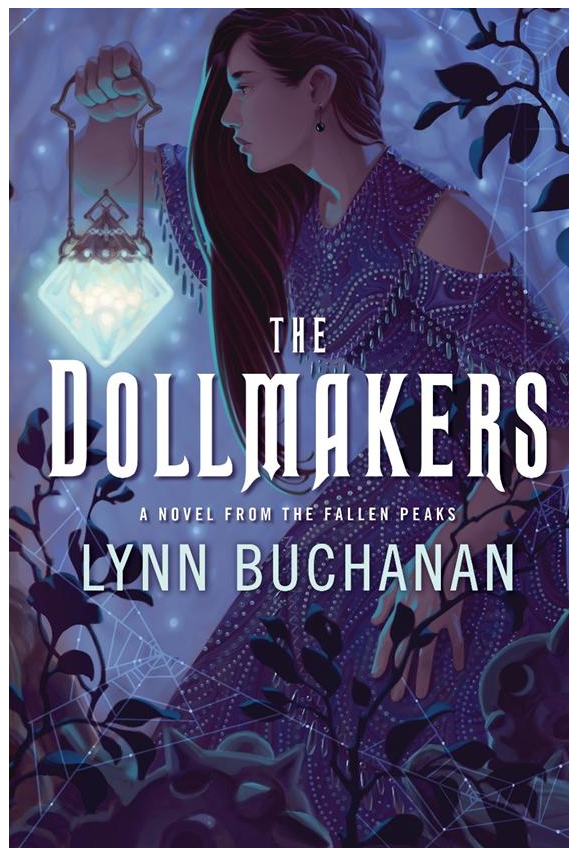
In an attempt to help her see a new path for herself, Shean's mentor sends her on a journey to the remote village called Web, urging her to glean some wisdom from Ikiisa, a reclusive and well-respected guard dollmaker. But Shean has another plan: if she can convince the village of Web of her talents, 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.



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**

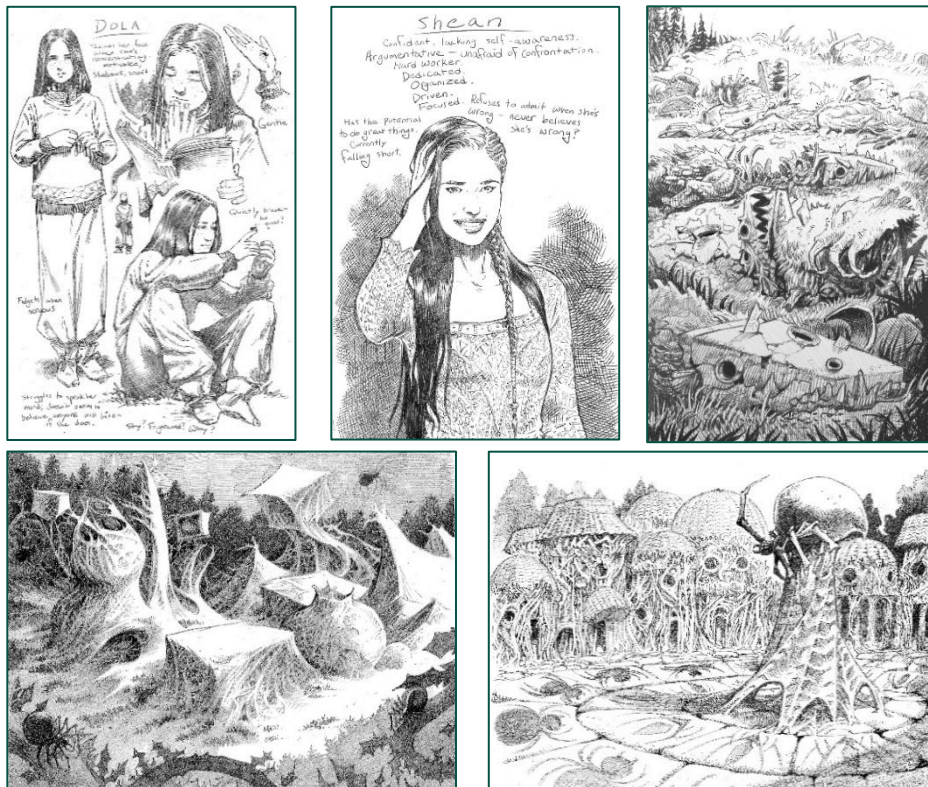
"A unique tale of self-discovery and transformation, filled with fabulous magic and monsters, featuring a stunning character arc with an immensely satisfying ending. I couldn't put it down!" — **Sarah Beth Durst**, award-winning author of *The Spellshop*

"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

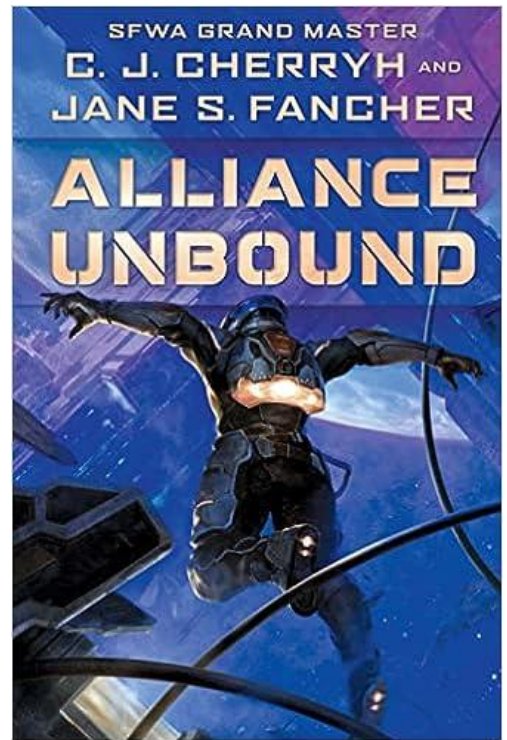
The 2nd novel of The Hinder Stars series returns to an intergalactic corporate conflict, set in the Hugo Award–winning Alliance-Union Universe.

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 *Donnbelow 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 early March, 2025

Agent: Dan Mandel and Zoe Sandler

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

***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)

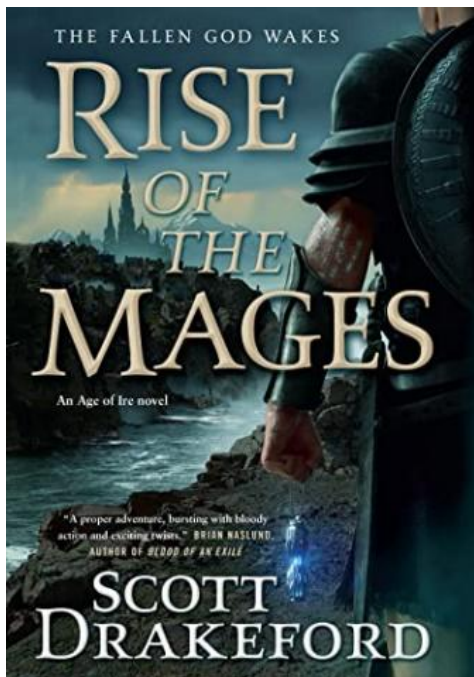
Tor, November 19, 2024 | North America
432 pages | manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer
Rights sold: UK (Broken Binding)

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.

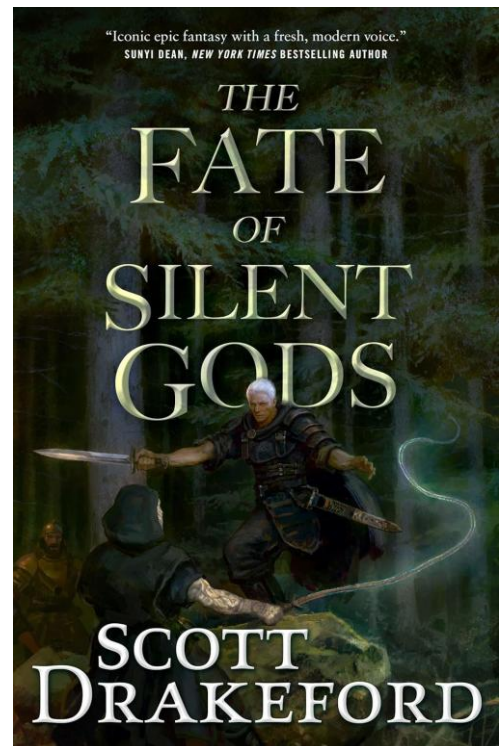
Ambitions grow, lovers become enemies, and critical alliances shift. All the while, the Fallen God schemes to not only defeat Emrael's armies, but to subdue him personally.

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.



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?



THE RISE OF THE MAGES

(The Age of Ire Book 1)

Tor, January 2023 | North America
400 pages | final text available
Agent: Matt Bialer
Rights sold: UK (Broken Binding)

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.

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.

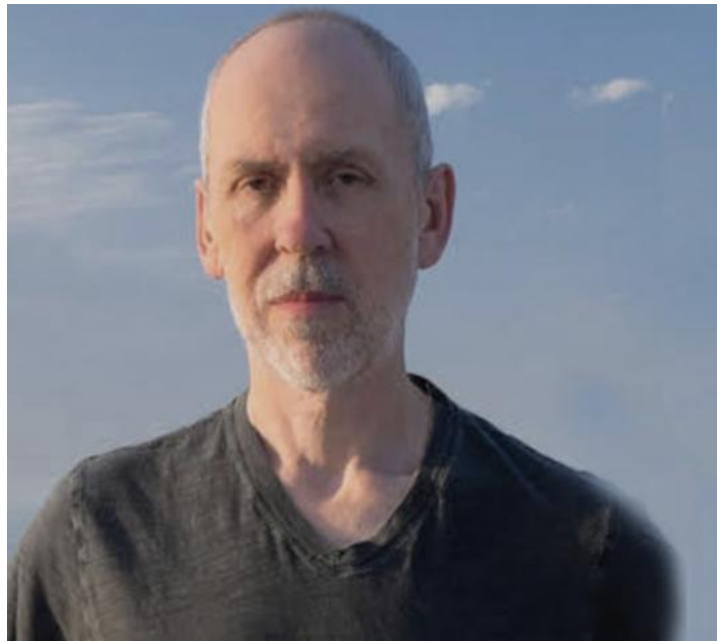
While Scott spends most of his time working and writing, when he has time he enjoys cooking, NBA basketball (go Jazz!), weightlifting, video games, hunting, fishing, and (of course) reading.

Tom Epperson

BABY HAWK

PS Publishing | World English
150 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer

A gripping novel-in-verse by acclaimed novelist and screenplay writer Tom Epperson, about one girl's struggle to survive at the end of the world



We never learn her name. She is called simply “the female.” She’s seventeen years old, and is living with her father in the mountains and forests of northern California. They are survivors of a plague called the Sickness that resulted in the deaths of nearly all the world’s humans. The Sickness was even more lethal to females than males, and as far as the girl and her father know, she is the last female on earth.

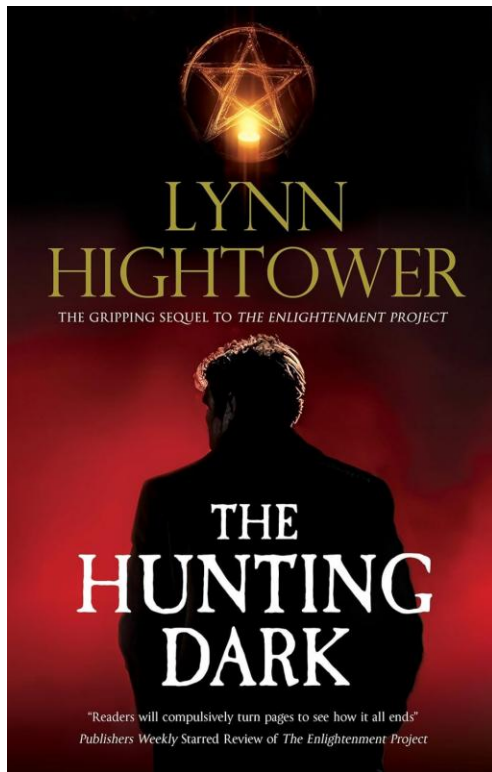
The female and her father are everything to each other, and despite the harshness of the conditions, their lives together in the rugged, beautiful mountains are happy. That all comes to an end one chilly autumn morning when they’re discovered by a ragtag, racist, violent band of sixteen males. The female’s father tries to protect her but he’s shot dead and his daughter’s kidnapped.

The males take the female back to their camp. They can’t believe their good fortune. The last female on earth somehow has fallen into their (merciless) hands. They intend to treat her like gold, like the most valuable treasure that’s ever existed because that’s what she is. They install her in her own cabin and waste no time in setting up a schedule: each male is given a day where they’ll have one hour with her, and one day a week she’ll have for herself. The female’s distraught. She’s never been without her father, and she’s as alone as any human could be.

The leader of the males is Braydon. Before the sickness, he was an elite soldier. He’s a superb physical specimen and a ruthless killer. It was he who killed her father. Braydon reads books and fancies himself an intellectual. He has his own plans for the female. He wants her for himself. He sees her as the new Eve, and eventually their children and their children’s children will repopulate the empty earth.

Winter comes. The forest is deep in snow. The males are enjoying themselves with her, but when she’s alone in the cabin, she’s doing exercises. She’s preparing herself. She’s smart and brave and resourceful. Her father taught her all about the forest. When spring comes and the snow melts, the last female on earth is going to escape or die trying.

Tom Epperson, a native of Arkansas, headed west with his boyhood friend Billy Bob Thornton to pursue a career in show business. Epperson’s co-written the scripts for *One False Move*, *A Family Thing*, *The Gift*, *A Gun, a Car, a Blonde*, and *Jayne Mansfield’s Car*. His L.A. noir *The Kind One* was nominated for both the Edgar Award and the Barry Award for Best First Novel. Three more books followed, *Sailor*, *Roberto to the Dark Tower Came*, and *Make Believe*. He lives in Santa Fe, New Mexico with his wife, Stefani, two pampered cats, and two frisky dogs. www.tomepperson.com



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**

Christy Anne Jones

THEODORA'S TEA SHOP

| ANZ

Draft manuscript available

Final manuscript anticipated late 2025

Agent: Bailey Tamayo

THEODORA'S TEA SHOP is *Howl's Moving Castle* if Howl were a woman, the castle were a tea shop, and the story centered a complex and moving female friendship instead of a romance. The rich and atmospheric world will appeal to lovers of THE NIGHT CIRCUS, while the vivid characters and family-of-choice themes will speak to fans of SIX OF CROWS.



Dorothy Louise Walcott should have died at fourteen with her best friend. Instead, she is twenty-three, timid, chronically ill, and yearning for a life she can never have. Her peers make jokes she doesn't understand. Her family ignores her. Dot's dreams of being a bright young thing of the city, studying magic and publishing her discoveries, can only ever be dreams: even if licenseless magic weren't outlawed, her family would never allow it.

But if Dot stays at home any longer, she will die there. And she would never forgive herself if she didn't *try* to live, at least once.

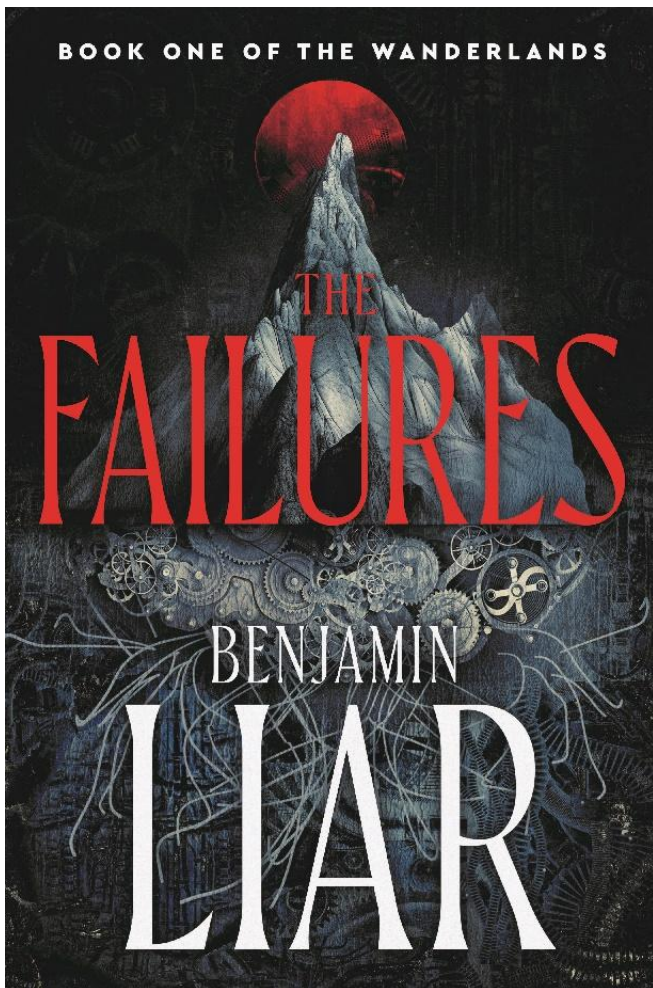
With nothing but a carpetbag and her ambergris tonic, Dot flees dreary Seafarthing for the capital city of Alliaster, where she tumbles headfirst into an apprenticeship with the most powerful witch in the city, Theodora.

Empress of an underground syndicate peddling magic through the quaint façade of her tea shop, Theodora is everything Dot wants to be: beautiful, witty, confident. An esteemed oil painter one day, a member of parliament the next, the many faces of Theodora have charmed power from the city's elite: spirits, daemons, and mortal gentry alike. Under her tutelage and in the company of the tea shop's eccentric staff—headstrong teenager Rupert, brooding and Byronic magician Lio, and the kindly spirit Belchambre—Dot finally has the opportunity to be magic. She may even have found a place to belong.

But the dazzling and enigmatic Theodora has more secrets than she does faces. When her dark past comes calling, it threatens to drown her entire empire—and take Dot, the tea shop, and the city of Alliaster with it.

At the heart of this tea shop you will find monstrous women, gothic twists, and awkward, unrequited examinations of love. You will find poignant explorations of how we change for others, and how we can learn to love and forgive ourselves. And, of course, you will find tea.

Christy Anne Jones is a speculative fiction writer based in Adelaide. Her short stories and travel writing have been published in Australia and Japan. In addition to writing, Christy runs a bookish YouTube channel which has amassed a motivated and enthusiastic audience of over 230,000 subscribers. Here, she has spent the last few years cinematically documenting the writing journey of THEODORA'S TEA SHOP under the alias of PROJECT TEACUP. Her vlogs on the writing of PROJECT TEACUP have amassed over 1.2 million total views. <https://www.christyannejones.com/>



Benjamin Liar THE FAILURES

Book one of The Wanderlands

DAW, July 2, 2024 | NA

544 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Matt Bialer

Rights: Italy (Mondadori), Serbia (Carobna Knjiga)

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 *SILCO*."—**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***

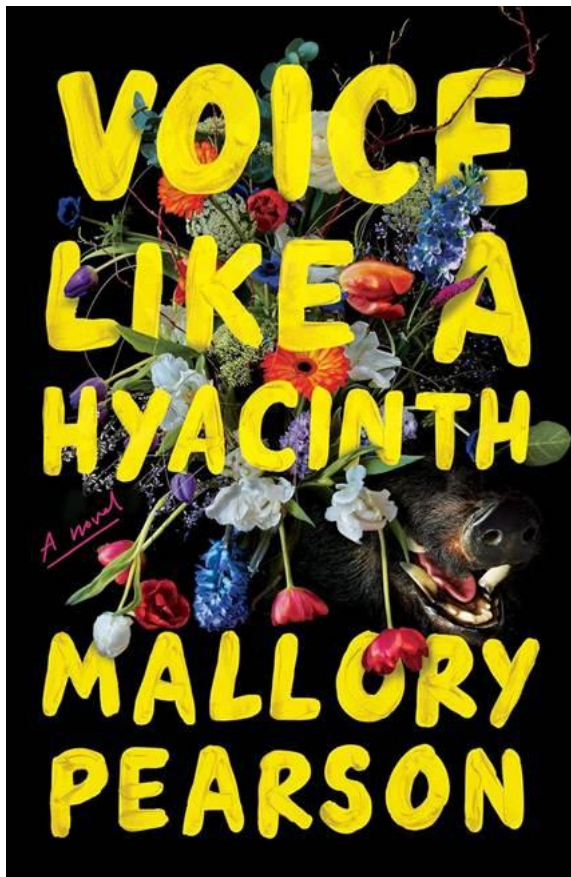
"Liar's writing is like the world it depicts: a finely-tuned piece of clockwork. *The Failures* is the kind of science fantasy little made these days, and the sort of book I could read again and again." — **Christopher Ruocchio, internationally award-winning author of *The Sun Eater***

"*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**

"*THE FAILURES* is wildly ambitious & beyond impressive. If you're looking for something epic in scope, and totally unique, this one should definitely be on your radar! ... this is without a doubt one of the most impressive fantasy books I've ever read. I feel like this is a book (and hopefully a whole trilogy) that will kind of slowly develop a bit of a cult following. But for now, hi, I'm here. In the cult. I think anyone with an interest in dark fantasy, sci-fi, apocalyptic stuff...you'll find something here that you'll love. I sure did. I'll be thinking about (and likely rereading) *THE FAILURES* for years to come, and I'm not-so-patiently waiting for news of book two. This is an epic, original, wondrous story and I'm so glad to have read it." — **Grimdark Dad (fantasy blogger)**



Mallory Pearson

VOICE LIKE A HYACINTH

47North | ebook January 1, 2025, paperback February 1,

2025 | World English

443 pages, final text available

Agent: Bailey Tamayo

Selected for the Amazon First program

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.

Mallory Pearson is a writer and artist portraying themes of folklore, queer identity, loss, and the interaction of these elements with the southern United States. Her work has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Capsule Stories*, and *Haverthorn Press*. Mallory was raised in Virginia and now lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she spends her time translating visual art into prose. For more information, visit <https://mallorypearson.com/>



Praise for VOICE LIKE A HYACINTH:

"Vivid descriptions, believable emotional stakes, and deeply creepy horror elements keep the pages flying... This stuns." -*Publishers Weekly* ★

"A miraculous, enthralling book that combines the magic of queer friendship, the toxicity of ambition, and the dangerous rivalry between artists, *Voice Like a Hyacinth* is the dark academia book of my dreams—and nightmares. Pearson works magic in creating this special group of characters and their obsessive ties to one another; I felt like I had become one of them, living in their house, attending their classes, and falling in love with them and their darkness.

Hyacinth is everything I want in a novel: addictive, gorgeously-written, deeply unsettling, and very queer. A perfect page-turner with staying power. I cannot wait to return to it." —

Francesca McDonnell Capossela, author of *Trouble the Living*

"Voice Like a Hyacinth blends the seductive decadence of Saltburn with the fierce, feral femininity of Yellowjackets to conjure a spine-tingling story of ambition and obsession that deserves to be an instant dark academia classic. You'll be desperate to join Mallory Pearson's indelible art school girl gang—and to read whatever her dark imagination conjures up next." -

Layne Fargo, author of *The Favorites and They Never Learn*

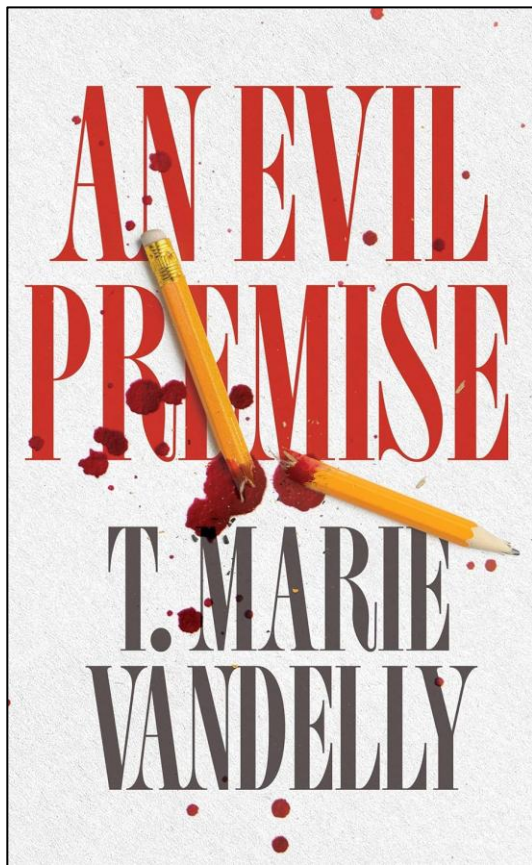
"Mallory Pearson's *Voice Like A Hyacinth* is lush chaos. Whatever your experience with codependent, homoerotic friendships, Pearson's feral quintet is on another level. "I want to go home, but maybe home was years ago," her narrator, Jo, thinks after reaping what they've sowed. If going home means putting down Pearson's novel and returning to my life, I'm not going without a fight." - **Ruth Madievsky, author of *All-Night Pharmacy***

"Pearson's lush prose enlivens this creepy tale of friendship, art, and ambition..." —*Booklist*

"Voice Like a Hyacinth captivated me like a siren's song. Mallory Pearson's sophomore novel tackles obsession, art, friendship, and competition, and asks just how far people are willing to go to create the immortal. Pearson's signature prose is rich, lush, and a mesmerizing spell in itself, twisting me around and pulling me along these women's journey in crossing lines and resisting the consequences of their choices. This is a must-read for not only every artist, but everyone who thirsts for the eternal mirage of just enough recognition. It's spooky, surreal, and utterly alive." —**Marissa Higgins, author of *A Good Happy Girl***

"Voice Like a Hyacinth is violently delicious. Prose so vibrant it's neon. So skillfully messy, deep in the mess, obsessed with the mess. This book makes me want to learn how to write." —**Sarah Gailey, author of *Just Like Home* and *The Echo Wife***

"Kira Fixx narrates a chilling story of obsession as five young women call upon the occult and learn everything has a price... Fixx evokes the youthful energy of the five women with a breathy eagerness. Each has a distinct voice, but they start to sound alike as they grow closer. The narration and story fuel each other as the five friends hunger for success, love, revenge, and a feeling of being alive. While the story is often lush and sentimental, the horror elements haunt the performance and creep into the listener's imagination. Fixx brings this haunting story to life." —*AudioFile Magazine*



T. Marie Vandelly
AN EVIL PREMISE

Blackstone, August 12, 2025 | North America
350 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Zoe Sandler

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

From T. Marie Vandelly, author of the acclaimed horror novel *Theme Music*, *An Evil Premise* is a mind-bending, thrilling meta-novel about possession, insanity, and the lengths a writer will go to find inspiration.

When a bizarre accident leaves her sister, bestselling author Deidre Baldwin, in a coma and suffering from a grotesque skin malady, Jewel rushes to her bedside. Though the sisters are not close, she is determined to do what she can for Deidre. Staying at her sister's apartment, Jewel stumbles upon an unfinished manuscript, the one that Deidre was rushing to complete for her publisher. When Deidre's literary agent calls in a panic, Jewel--a self-published writer

herself, desperate for a break--suggests she can finish it by the deadline.

But the story is unsettling. It begins with a writer looking for inspiration, who finds an unclaimed manuscript. But said manuscript is just a series of protagonists who feel compelled to act out their heinous contributions to the grisly plot.

Jewel is determined not to be scared off, but the novel hits a little close to home. She tries to tell herself she's being paranoid, but swears she can hear someone typing when she's not at the desk, and somehow the word count of the novel keeps 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. Is this what happened to Deidre? Did the manuscript drive her mad? Infect her somehow? Jewel finds herself hoping her sister never wakes up. And fearing what will happen if Deidre 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.

Tad Williams

THE NAVIGATOR'S CHILDREN

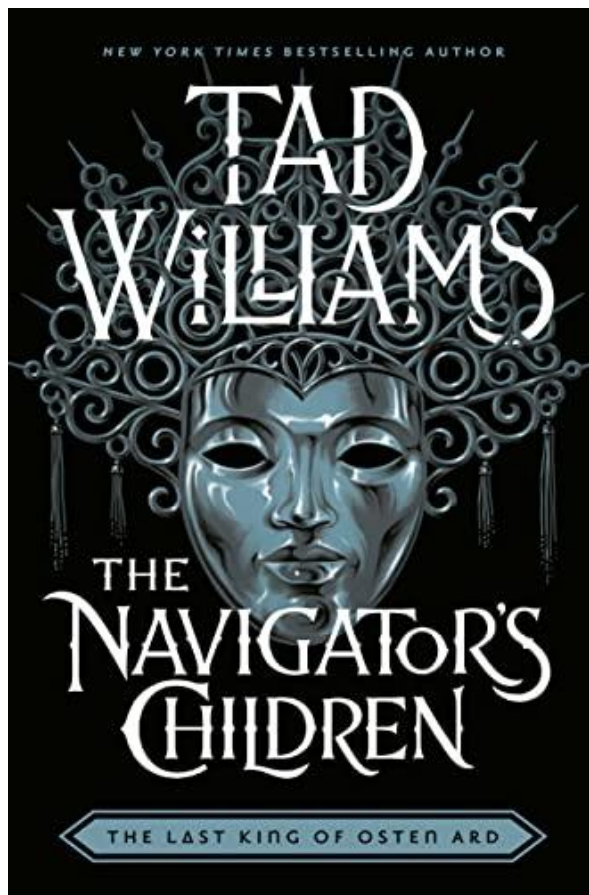
(Last King of Osten Ard Book 4)

DAW, November 12, 2024 hardcover,
August 5, 2025 paperback | North America
768 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer
Rights sold: China (Chongqing); Czech (Euromedia),
Germany (Klett Cotta), UK (HodderScape)

“[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*

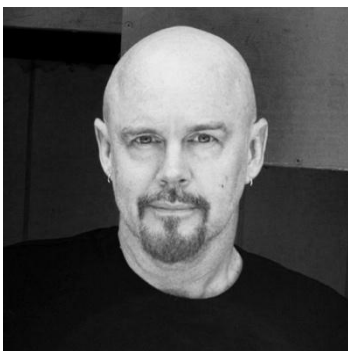
The latest saga in the New York Times bestselling world of Osten Ard concludes in the fourth and final Last King of Osten Ard novel.



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.

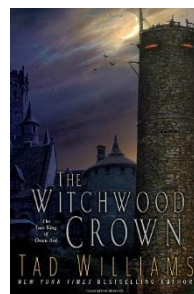
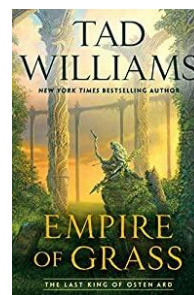
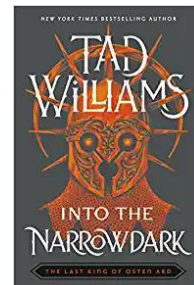
Meanwhile, Queen Miriamele hurries to save the Hayholt and capture the treacherous noble Pasevalles, but arrives to discover the traitor has escaped.

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



Michael Brower

CLIMATE INNOVATION: Smart New Technologies to Stop Global Warming and the Creative Minds Behind Them

Glenn Yeffeth, BenBella | World English

Delivery November 1, 2025

Publication TBD

Agent: Faith Hamlin

This desperately needed, thoroughly researched, and unabashedly hopeful book argues that the same human ingenuity that caused climate change can also solve it—and Brower tells us how.

The greatest environmental challenge of our time is gathering force like a boulder rolling downhill. Public opinion surveys show that most people perceive the dangers of climate change, but have very little hope that it can be stopped. This book seeks to counter this pessimism and inspire people to believe that more must be—and *can* be—done.

Despite the constant negative news, there is definitely good news: rapid changes in key areas of new technologies such as electric cars and renewable sources of power (solar and wind) are being adopted much more quickly than experts once predicted, and they are having a measurable impact on climate change. CLIMATE INNOVATION makes the case that such technologies, far from being the exception, are just the tip of the iceberg of coming solutions for global warming. There's a seaweed that can be added to cow feed that eliminates their production of methane. There's a jet fuel created from gases in the atmosphere. There are massive leaps being made in our battery technology. This book not only describes these exciting climate-solving innovations in an accessible, informative, and compelling way, it also tells the stories of some of the inspiring entrepreneurs, most of them young scientists and engineers, who are making these advances possible. This is an invaluable resource for investors, environmentalists, business leaders, tech enthusiasts, policy makers, government agencies and the general, anxious public.

It is important to note that this book does not address the type of technologies that come and go in a matter of a year or two. As Dr. Brower puts it, "Technologies that can make a real difference to global warming are much more fundamental to our economy and take much longer to develop and get in the field than that." As an example, we won't wake up one day and discover that, say, batteries are obsolete or no longer needed. Instead, in CLIMATE INNOVATION, Dr. Brower discusses different types of batteries and how those can affect the environment. "The point is," he powerfully insists, "credible options exist, and will have a huge impact. And how cool is that?!" The optimism that this inspires is not to be taken for granted.

CLIMATE INNOVATION also challenges other calls to action: from the Greta Thunberg-esque approach to a radically frugal lifestyle, to the Elon Musk-esque techno-optimistic billionaires who, while touting the benefits of market-driven solutions, often contribute to the problems they purport to solve. This is the kind of conversation Michael Brower's work sparks. He urges, instead, for a reinvigorated alliance of innovation, finance, and democratic institutions to both propel and steer the transition to a low-carbon future.

Michael Brower is a respected writer of authoritative yet accessible books on energy and the environment, including the groundbreaking, *The Consumer's Guide to Effective Environmental Choices* (Harmony Books, 1999), written with Warren Leon and The Union of Concerned Scientists, one of the most respected environmental organizations. Still in print, the book provided the first-ever comprehensive analysis of the critical impacts of US consumer spending decisions on the environment. Other titles by Brower are *Cool Energy: Renewable Solutions to Environmental Problems* (MIT Press, 1990) and *Wind Resource Assessment: A Practical Guide to Developing a Wind Project* (Wiley, 2012).

With his many science and entrepreneurial talents, Michael co-founded a leading global consultancy group on renewable energy and works as an advisor and investor for "clean-tech" startups. In CLIMATE INNOVATION, he brings together these various strands of his life and career to advocate for a new approach to the world's greatest environmental challenge.

Kate Carraway
**THE WILDS: How to Return to Yourself,
Rewild Your Body, and Revolutionize the
Rest of Your Life**

Running Press (HBG), Fall 2026 | North America
Manuscript anticipated November 2025
Agent: Sarah Phair

If *Untamed* by Glennon Doyle was for 39-year-olds discovering feminism, *THE WILDS* is for 29-year-olds discovering ease, rest, pleasure, and joy. Specifically, it's for the deep-feeling, over-thinking members of the Millennial and Gen Z cohorts.



In *THE WILDS*, journalist Kate Carraway — who writes about wellness, self-care, relationships, and “feelings culture” for publications including the *New York Times*, *ELLE*, *GQ*, and *VICE* — brings a provocative, action-oriented, and warmly personal approach to self-development.

Across ten expansive, propulsive chapters, each one positioned like a “*New York Times Magazine* cover story from an alternate, better dimension” (per a friend and editor), *THE WILDS* is a close study of everything that goes wrong in the transition to “real” adulthood, in this particular era — and how it could be better, and how it could be *great*.

This book is a potent, immersive, extensively researched, interdisciplinary guide to the “wilds” of coming-of-age, for the millions of Millennials and Generation Zs who are lost in the woods, dense and silver, of their own lives. These are readers who are seeking a way back into their bodies, origin stories, identities, relationships, desires, and futures — and who will find everything they need in their fundamental, natural wildness. They are in, they are of, and they *are*, “the wilds.”

THE WILDS defines, explains and transforms this moment in time for Millennials and Gen Zs. It takes on and shakes out what it is so disorienting about this particular era, and offers a way through. It considers, most of all, the incredible tension between aloneness and belonging: who we are, and what we need, together and apart.

Kate brings an experienced journalist’s approach to research and context, and the strong, smart opinions that made her a popular columnist at *VICE* magazine — as well as a playful, lively voice, and a kind, empathetic vibe. Kate’s personal and professional obsessions with the topics of coming-of-age, and her original, open-field perspectives, together make for a singularly daring and necessary book for a new era of self-development.

Kate Carraway writes about life and lifestyle, especially wellness, relationships, and the self. She has written features and columns for the *New York Times*, *ELLE*, *GQ*, *VICE*, the *Guardian*, the *Globe and Mail*, *LA Weekly*, and many (many) other publications. She is also the author of **THE FEELING**, [a free weekly newsletter](#) about wellness, happiness, relationships, feelings and emotions, health and healing, meditation and mindfulness, rest, pleasure, and self-care.

(SOME) HYPE for Kate Carraway

“Kate is, in a word, hilarious” — *Glamour* magazine

“Wicked-smart”; “très insightful” — *FLARE* magazine

“Everyone’s favorite”; “delightfully rapid-fire, razor-sharp wit” — *VICE* magazine

“My doctor tells me I need to make friends with anxiety, and that’s what Kate’s writing does —she distills the chaos we’re feeling outside our homes and inside our heads into calming, clear-eyed affirmations that reassure you we’re all flailing through this life together, so let’s at least turn it into a cool dance move.” — **Stuart Berman,**
producer, CBC

"An anatomist of the heart who gets there without sounding like a creepy ‘#Blessed’ hashtag. Humming with wise enchantment, while not being afraid to get in the mud!" —
Shinan Govani, society columnist and author

“Kate is the sweetheart of the self-care rodeo.” — **Charles Aaron, writer, *New York Times Magazine*, and former editorial director of SPIN Media**

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

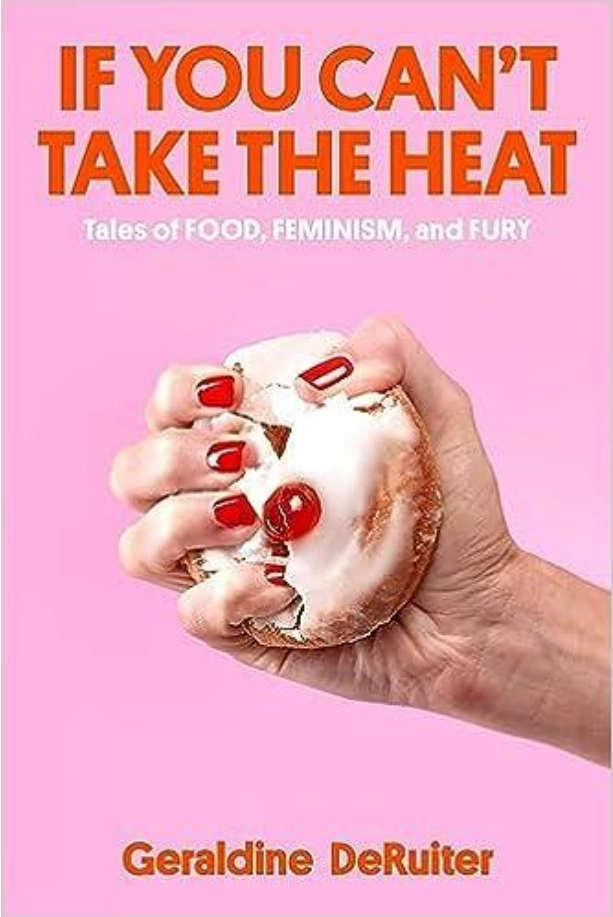
Crown, March 12, 2024 | NA
336 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Zoe Sandler

National bestseller!
Best of 2024: NPR, *Food & Wine*

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.

“As the title promises, I was sometimes infuriated, sometimes astonished, by what I learned. But, mostly, I laughed at DeRuiter’s humor, which made this book a joy to read.” -- *NPR*

“Sharp and funny. . . . You can hear her voice on the page, shouting. This is a good thing. Questioning her husband’s attachment to her, she asks him, “WHAT IS BROKEN ABOUT YOU THAT MAKES YOU THINK THAT?” His response could serve as our own: “Because you are great.” -- *Food & Wine*



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*

Elena Dudum

THEY TOLD ME BACK HOME WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL

One Signal | Fall 2026 | North America
Manuscript anticipated Fall 2025
Agent: Iwalani Kim

A stirring and poignant memoir that follows Elena Dudum’s transformational journey as she interrogates her evolving relationship to Palestine, from fear and avoidance of its history in her youth to reclamation of both the pain and the beauty of being Palestinian in adulthood.



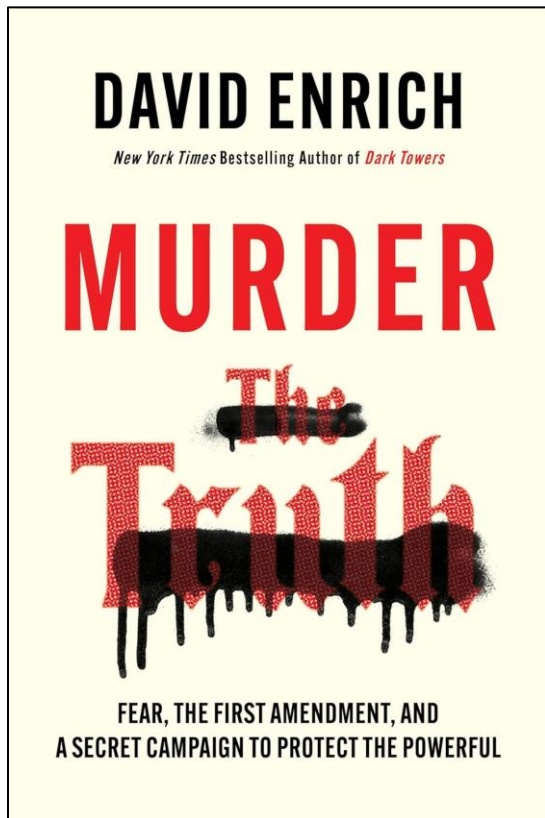
As a child, Elena understood Palestine as a secret place “too important for maps” whose trapdoor her family had been trying to recover for two generations. Born into a Palestinian Christian family in which Ramallah and Jaffa were ever-present in stories and debates but physically distant, Elena’s clearest connection to ‘back home’ was her father, who lectured his children endlessly about Israel’s occupation, hoping to instill in them the pride and reverence he felt for their homeland. But as she slowly became aware of the politicized and precarious nature of Palestinian identity, especially post-9/11, and as she witnessed her father become wrung out by his own intensity verging on paranoia about Palestine, Elena began to avoid an inheritance that felt too heavy to hold.

Elena’s first trip to Palestine was disorienting but radicalizing. The militarized checkpoints, the razed olive tree groves, the occupation—it was all plainly there in front of her, as were the ghosts of her family’s history. In the wake of this trip, Elena developed a gnawing sense of anxiety, terrified of being consumed by what she had witnessed. Her body, her relationships, and her psyche quietly unraveled.

What followed is Elena’s journey navigating deeply Zionist institutions as she sought first to bury her connection to Palestine, then to rehabilitate it. Throwing herself into corporate America, she excelled outwardly but couldn’t shake a growing disillusionment with the depoliticized world of LinkedIn and its ties to the IDF. As Elena awakened to her role in perpetuating her own erasure, her path to reclaiming her Palestinian identity brought her to Columbia’s MFA program, where she fought overwhelming institutional silencing to be heard in the maw of Zionist liberalism.

THEY TOLD ME BACK HOME WOULD BE BEAUTIFUL is an incisive story of coming into political consciousness, asking what it means to embrace the fullness of the pride and pain in diasporic inheritance. Elena’s tender and clear-eyed writing about Palestine in recent essays in *The Atlantic* and *TIME* struck a chord with readers from all parts of the world, and her nuanced exploration of identity is for readers of Nadia Owusu’s *AFTERSHOCKS* and Safiya Sinclair’s *HOW TO SAY BABYLON*.

Elena Dudum is a Palestinian-Syrian writer whose work explores the boundaries of generational trauma and what it means to have an identity shaped by political narratives. Elena recently graduated from Columbia University with an MFA in Nonfiction Writing where she also taught freshmen composition. Her personal essays on Palestine have been published in *The Atlantic*, *TIME Magazine*, *Bon Appétit*, and *Cosmopolitan Magazine* among others. She is also at work on a novel based on her grandmother’s life, an exploration of exile, love, and identity in 1960s San Francisco in the vein of Colm Tóibín’s *BROOKLYN*. <https://elenadudum.com/>



David Enrich
MURDER THE TRUTH: Fear, the First Amendment, and a Secret Campaign to Protect the Powerful

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

1ST serial publication in the *New York Times* and *Vanity Fair*

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.



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.

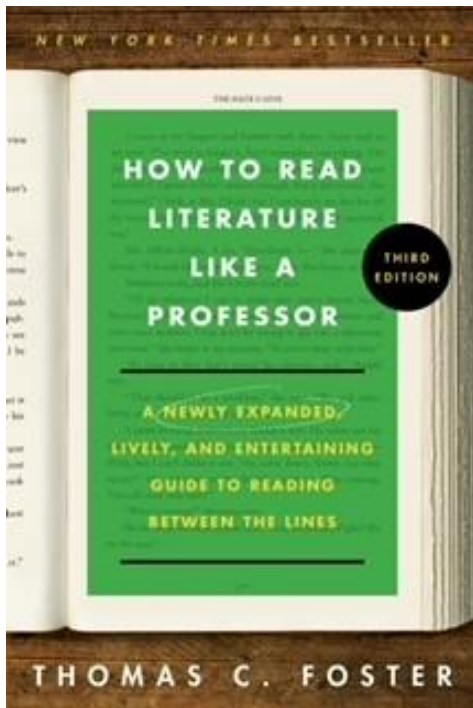
Praise for MURDER THE TRUTH

"Chilling... An unsettling look at a dire threat to democracy." — *Publishers Weekly* ★

"This is the deeply reported, richly narrated story of a war on honest journalism that disturbs the interests of the wealthy and powerful. David Enrich takes us behind the scenes of a concerted right-wing campaign to destroy news organizations financially — but the ultimate goal is to overturn *New York Times v. Sullivan*, the linchpin of libel protection for reporters who err in good faith. Nothing less than the future of accountability journalism is at stake." —
Barton Gellman, bestselling author and three-time winner of the Pulitzer Prize

"This important book is about an attempted murder. With readers as witnesses, we see small newspapers killed, and editors and publishers terrorized by legal assaults from public officials who demonize the press as Enemies of the People. Yet as this riveting narrative shows, the ultimate target is the Supreme Court's landmark *New York Times vs Sullivan* decision, which erected a First Amendment wall to protect journalists from being silenced by those in power. David Enrich's engrossing, carefully reported account is vital to help prevent this murder."
--bestselling author Ken Auletta

"Authoritarian governments abroad have long used legal threats and lawsuits against journalists to cover up their disinformation, corruption, and violence. Now, as master investigative journalist David Enrich reveals, those tactics have arrived in America. *Murder the Truth* is a timely and essential study of how these favored legal tools of repressive regimes are being regularly deployed in the United States to conceal the truth, discredit the press, and benefit anti-democratic forces." — **Ruth Ben-Ghiat, author of *Strongmen***



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, 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: Hakusui-sha; Korea: Jihyeong; Lithuania: Kitos Knygos; Poland: Fabula Fraza; Slovakia: Tatran; Spain: Turner; Taiwan: Ecus; Ukraine: Tempora, Thailand: Bookscape; Vietnam: Nha Nam

Rebecca Grant

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

Avid Reader Press, June 24, 2025 | North America

480 pages, manuscript ...

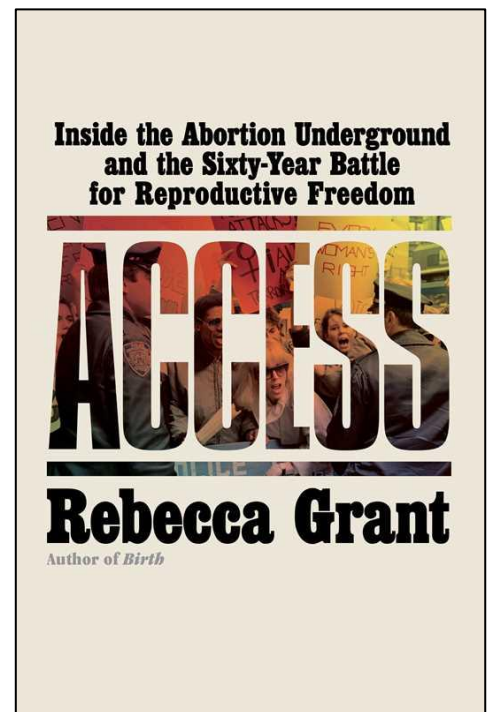
Agent: Sarah Phair

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.



Michelle Gurule THANK YOU, JOHN

Unnamed Press | November 2025 | World English

Manuscript April 2025

Agent: Hannah Strouth

A humorous and heartfelt debut, a memoir of gender, race, family, and economic divides, following Michelle’s journey through generational poverty and life of sex work as a sugar baby

“Thank You, John is a compelling, darkly funny memoir about class, power and sex work, and how all of these subjects intertwine.” —
Celia Lasky, author of *Under the Rainbow*

“A stunning debut, full of heart, and desperately funny.” — **Mark Sundeen, author of *The Man Who Quit Money***

Michelle Gurule’s edgy and hilarious memoir, THANK YOU, JOHN follows the story of navigating her life of sex work as a queer, biracial, aspiring writer, exasperated by poverty and the poor choices of her family, is perfect for fans of Melissa Febos and T Kira Madden.

At 24, with a mouthful of cavities and no insurance, Michelle is living in a tiny Colorado apartment with her sitcom-worthy family, including her Chicano father who’s convinced aliens will rule the world and her white mother who’s maxed out her credit cards to feed her McDonald’s addiction. Barely making ends meet, she turns to the world of stripping until her true chance of financial freedom lands in her lap in the form of John, a rich older man who offers her a weekly pile of cash to be his “sugar baby.” Immediately, Michelle and her struggling family liken this new arrangement to winning the lottery. All the while, Michelle becomes infatuated with her professor, who, after learning about her arrangement, offers to pimp her out on Craigslist for a cut of the profit, amongst other money-grabbing schemes.

Her sense of security comes crashing down, when John learns the severity of her family’s poverty and leverages it against her, offering lifelong financial security for the lot of them in exchange for marriage, plunging Michelle into an ever deeper moral dilemma. When it’s revealed John is already married, Michelle must once again face the uncertain future for her and her family.

With raw honesty that blends wry humor and deep emotional insights on gender, race, and economic and social divides, Michelle lays bare her often painful, scary, and utterly demeaning experience in sex work through the lens of basic survival in a world stacked against her and asks the question, “how far would you go for total financial freedom?”

Michelle Gurule is a writer, whose work has appeared in Joyland, StoryQuarterly, Homology, and Alien. She holds an MFA in Creative Nonfiction from the University of New Mexico, where she has taught creative writing courses. In 2021, her essay, “Exit Route,” won StoryQuarterly’s Nonfiction Prize, judged by T Kira Madden. She currently teaches writing at The University of Colorado, Boulder. She lives in Denver with her partner Daisy. <https://www.michellegurule.com/>

Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, Ed.D
**RAISING YOUR SPIRITED CHILD,
FOURTH EDITION: A Guide for Parents
Whose Child is More Intense, Sensitive,
Perceptive, Persistent, and Energetic**

Morrow/ HarperCollins, September 2, 2025 | North America
496 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Heide Lange

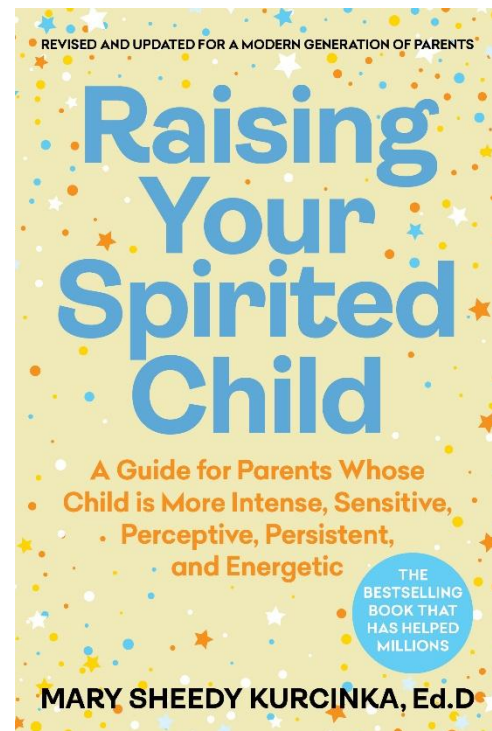
**A classic parenting book with over 1 million copies sold,
revised by popular demand yet again in 2025**

In this fourth edition of her perennial bestselling book, Dr. Mary Sheedy Kurcinka utilizes her deep experience to address the pressures previous generations of parents didn't have to consider. Her empathy and effective advice are exemplified in the introduction of her new and easy to apply Spirited Child Approach, which nurtures the *entire* family.

The Spirited Child Approach helps parents understand their child and their own inborn temperament while focusing on three simple, but vital concepts—calm, connect, and coach—to help their family thrive. Research- and strength-based, yet honest, *Raising Your Spirited Child* speaks to parent burnout and, in a helpful and supportive manner, offers solutions to that exasperated question, “How am I supposed to stay calm and connect with my child when I’m just trying to survive the moment?”

In this newly revised edition Dr. Mary:

- **Introduces the calming effect of routine.** Experts often focus on calming a child in the middle of a meltdown, but dealing with ten or twenty flare-ups a day is exhausting. Dr. Mary demonstrates how bringing structure into daily routines—even when every day seems different—stops the tantrums, power struggles, morning wars, and bedtime battles before they ever start. Structure calms everyone.
- **Recognizes that families are different.** Dr. Mary’s refreshing philosophy is one size does NOT fit all. In the social media culture of comparison and claiming that there’s only one “right” way, Dr. Mary explains individual differences and encourages parents to trust their own intuition as they select the strategies that fit their child’s needs and their family’s situation.
- **Thoughtfully addresses the impact of social media and electronic use on the well-being of all family members.** No guilt or shame here, just insightful questions that encourage informed screen time and offer healthy alternatives when a few minutes of peace or distraction are needed.



Earlier Foreign Sales:

China: Cheers
Czech: Portal Nakladatelstvi
Estonia: Tanupa
Germany: MVG-Verlag
Greece: Dioptra
Hungary: Jaffa Kiado
Italy: Mondadori
Japan: Sunmark
Korea: Mulpure
Poland: Edgard
Romania: Multi Media EST
Russia: Alpina Business
Spain: Medici
Taiwan: Ye-Ren
Turkey: Altin
Ukraine: Nash Format
Vietnam: Thaiha

- **Prioritizes sleep for everyone—without leaving anyone to cry.** The importance of adequate sleep and realistic strategies to get it are woven throughout the book. Sleep is the best self-care strategy for all!

Even fans of the previous editions of this book will find tons of brand-new information and skills—updated with Dr. Mary’s latest findings after close to a decade of additional experience as a parenting coach, and for the challenging age of parenting in the age of smartphones and social media.

about the third edition:

"The book will prove to be a real lifesaver." --**Louise Bates Ames, author and association director, Gessell Institute of Human**

"Through excellent examples and easy-to-read text, this book provides parents with a pathway to understanding their child's temperament and to a place where parents can balance the needs of their child's unique temperament with their own needs and those of their family." -- **James Cameron, Ph.D., executive director, The Preventive Ounce, Berkeley, California**



Mary Sheedy Kurcinka, Ed.D., is a bestselling author and internationally recognized lecturer and parent educator. Her books *Raising Your Spirited Child*, *Raising Your Spirited Baby*, *Raising Your Spirited Child Workbook*, *Kids, Parents and Power Struggles* and *Sleepless in America: Is Your Child Misbehaving or Missing Sleep?* have been translated into more than twenty languages. A former director of one of Minnesota's largest Early Childhood Family Education programs, Mary is the founder of the Spirited Child and Kids, Parents, and Power Struggles workshops. She resides in Bozeman, Montana, with her husband.

Arthur Levine and Scott Van Pelt

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

Johns Hopkins University Press, late 2025 | NA

Manuscript anticipated April 2025

Agent: Faith Hamlin

In the two years since the publication of their acclaimed book, *THE GREAT UPHEAVAL* (JHU Press, 2021), Levine and Van Pelt have visited more than 60 colleges, state systems, accrediting association meetings, conferences of for-profit companies, and foundation convenings. These meetings occurred coast to coast, 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, 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.)

Rights to *THE GREAT UPHEAVAL* sold to The Commercial Press (China) and Korea National Open U 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

Arthur Levine is a distinguished leader in the world of higher education. He is currently the President of Brandeis University and previously served as the president at the Teachers College, Columbia University and Bradford College. He has also held positions as a professor of higher education at Harvard University, Teachers College, and New York University; a higher education policy researcher at the Carnegie Council on Policy Studies in Higher Education and Carnegie Foundation; and a senior fellow and president emeritus of the Institute on Citizens and Scholars. 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.



John Garrison Marks **THY WILL BE DONE: Manipulating the Memory of George Washington and Slavery**

The University of North Carolina Press, Spring 2026 | North America
321 manuscript pages; manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel

"I pass the proverbial baton to John Marks, who finishes what I started in this fascinating and frustrating look at how we remember George Washington. Of all his impressive titles, he held "master" the longest, and it was arguably the key to his success--and our own. But for the last 250 years, Americans have done their best to ignore that reality in favor of a more fashionable, palatable one. In the process, we've lost sight of him, and of ourselves. The 250th Anniversary of the Declaration of Independence offers us a unique chance to set the record straight--because if we don't try, it may just be our last." --Alexis Coe, New York Times bestselling author of *You Never Forget Your First: A Biography of George Washington*

Americans of the past, just as much as Americans today, argued about Washington's character, struggled to make sense of his ties to slavery, and staked competing claims to his legacy. For more than two centuries, the politics and culture of the present have shaped the way Americans of all backgrounds assess how Washington's involvement with slavery should shape his place in American history. When it comes to Washington, today's conversations about our history are profoundly shaped by our history in underappreciated ways.

In *THY WILL BE DONE*, John Garrison Marks shows how generations of Americans have wielded history and manipulated the public's memory of George Washington's ties to slavery, each of them claiming to be carrying out his will—sometimes quite literally. The book details how abolitionists, educators, preservationists, politicians, Washington's former slaves and their descendants, and other disparate groups of Americans throughout our history have all grappled with, selectively remembered, and at times weaponized George Washington's contradictory status as both enslaver and emancipator. These competing claims to Washington's legacy transformed how the American public understood Washington's involvement with slavery in ways that still profoundly shape our public discourse.

Weaving together historical research with analysis of contemporary American culture, *THY WILL BE DONE* reveals how our understanding of Washington has changed over time, and illuminates how our relationship with the past has always been inextricably linked to the political and cultural movements of the present.

John Garrison Marks is a historian, public history researcher, and writer. As a scholar, his research focuses on the history of race, slavery, and culture in the United States and Atlantic World. He is currently a Kluge Fellow at the John W. Kluge Center at the Library of Congress. In his first book, *Black Freedom in the Age of Slavery: Race, Status, and Identity in the Urban Americas* (University of South Carolina Press, 2020), he explored the lives of free people of color in Charleston, South Carolina, and Cartagena de Indias, Colombia. His public history writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *TIME*, and *Smithsonian Magazine*, and elsewhere, and is forthcoming in the *Atlantic*.

He serves as the Director of the Public History Research Lab at the American Association for State and Local History—the national professional association for public history institutions and professionals—where he helps connect emerging research with history practitioners across the country. In addition to researching the field, he leads national planning and resource development efforts to prepare the public history field for the U.S. 250th anniversary in 2026, and manages other special initiatives that serve history museums, historic sites, and others in the public history community.

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

Emily Mester

AMERICAN BULK: Essays on Excess

Norton, November 26, 2024 | World English

256 pages, manuscript available

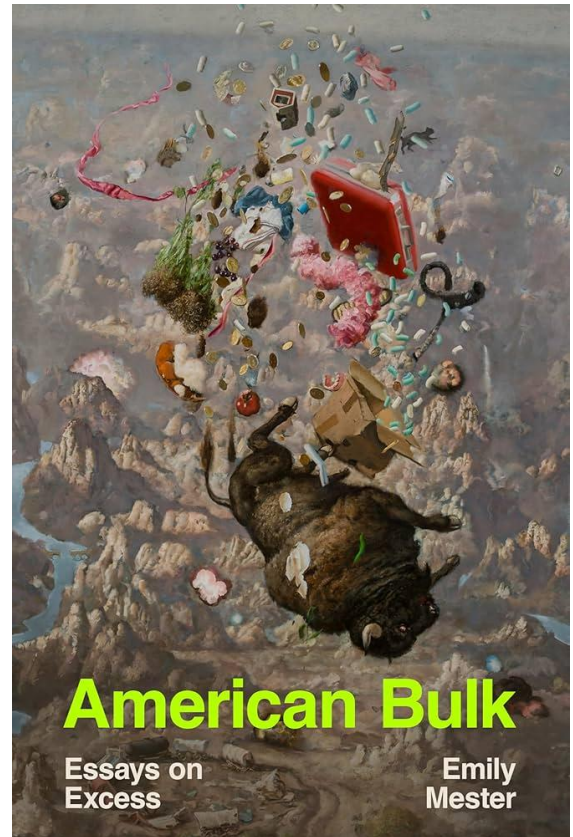
Agent: Clare Mao

Raised with hoarding and compulsive shopping, Emily Mester is caught in between. What happens when consumption begins to consume you back?

A December Indie Pick
New York Times extended bestseller list
An Indie Bestseller!

In a series of deeply personal essays, Mester explores how the things we buy, eat, amass, and discard become an intimate part of our lives

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.



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>

Praise for AMERICAN BULK:

“This is not the book to turn to for the true and gruesome ecological consequences of wastefulness. But it excels at restoring texture to the smooth banalities of our consumer existence. Mester is like a Midwestern Baudrillard, distinguishing between the “earthy bourgeois glamour of Whole Foods,” “Target’s warm graphic buoyancy” and “the hot American urgency of 7-Eleven.” – ***New York Times***

"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***

“Sly and Brilliant” – ***The Guardian***

“[Mester’s] writing is capacious enough to hold both the complexity of her own family’s addiction and the absurdities of our collective excess.” – ***Bustle***

“This interview is a real *just trust me*. It’s about Costco, and American hunger for (and dissatisfaction with) abundance, and how we grapple with accumulation and desire across generations, and Emily Mester — author of *American Bulk: Essays on Bulk* — will hook you immediately. So consider giving this interview some time, and if it strikes you or challenges you, I strongly recommend buying the book.”

—**Anne Helen Petersen**

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

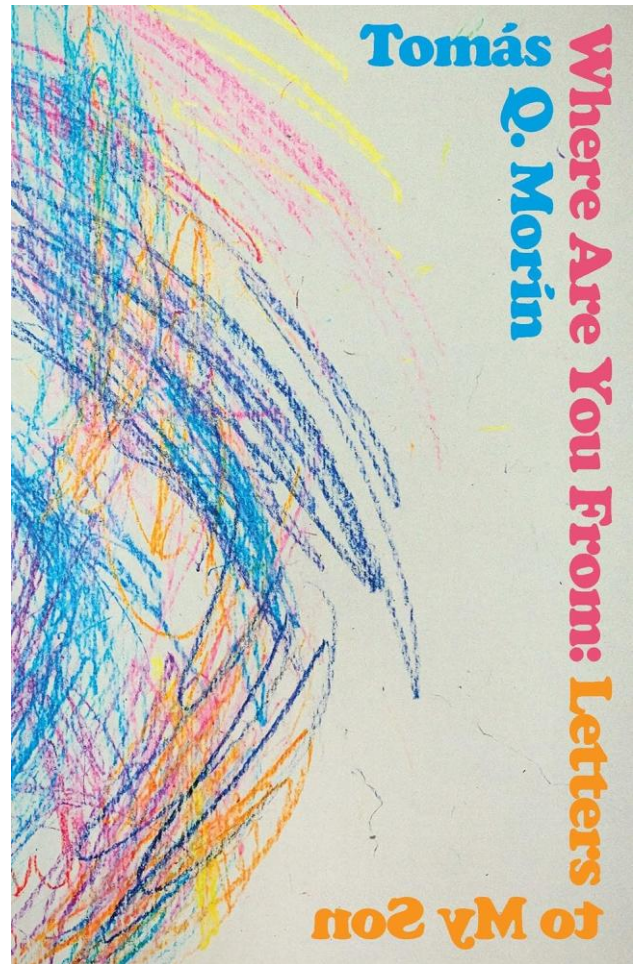
“A vast, poetic, and heartfelt collection, grappling through politics, culture, and art with what it may mean to be Mexican American under late-stage capitalism. Tomás Q. Morín’s work will never fail to astound you. At once playful, informative, and devastating.”

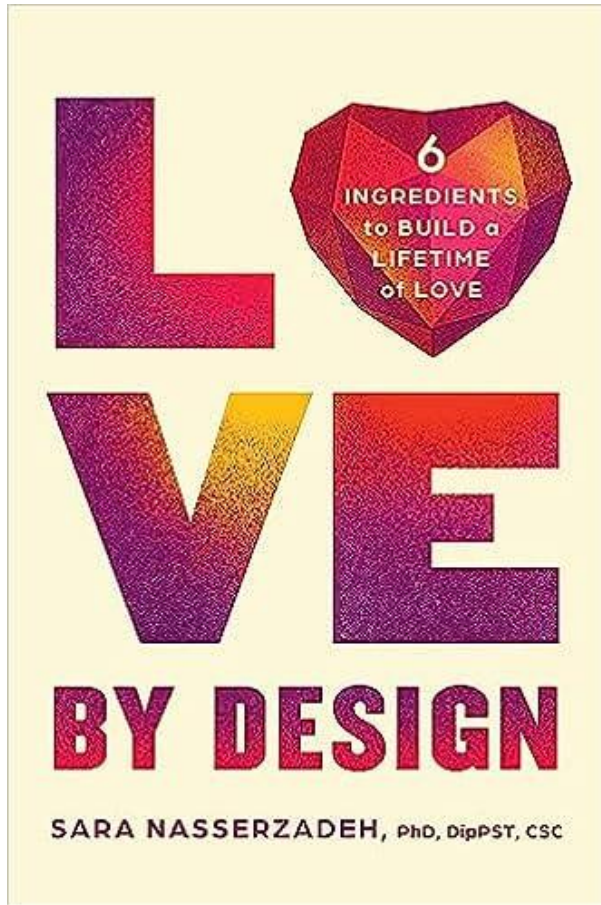
**—Fernando A. Flores, author
of *Valleyesque* and *Tears of the Trufflepig***

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**



Madeline Peltz

PICK ME: The Right-Wing Siege of Gender and Gen Z

Sourcebooks Autumn 2026 | North America

Manuscript anticipated late 2025

First of two book deal

Agent: Madeline Wallace

Over the past year, a puzzling trend has taken hold: as the women and queer people of Generation Z skew further left, their male peers have taken a sharp right. The country's youngest voting bloc are experiencing a historically unprecedented intra-generational divide on nearly every major issue along strictly gendered lines, just as they ascend into greater political power.

Madeline Peltz, a reporter with progressive nonprofit Media Matters for America, has watched this fissure materialize from the frontlines. What has become clear across thousands of hours of right-wing media monitoring and on-the-ground coverage of conservative conferences is that this is no longer an emergent trajectory—it's our new political reality. But how did we get here? When did the regressive antics of the right, so often associated with bumbling attempts at cultural relevance and contradictory ideology, begin to resonate again?

The answer lies in PICK ME, a tonal successor to Amanda Montell's *Cultish* that argues right-wing media has captured its youngest adherents through a relentless push into cultural spheres, fueled by a backlash against changing gender norms in society. Whether solidifying Gen Z's role in the political hierarchy, juxtaposing sanitized #Tradwife content with the violent conservatism of the "Manosphere," delving into the right's skewed brand of self-help, or unspooling a growing alt-economy of entertainment, Peltz captures, breaks down, and makes accessible the complicated path to our present—and dares to consider the future.

Grounded in her relatable, sardonic perspective, PICK ME—part cultural criticism, part narrative nonfiction, part journalistic deep dive—trains Peltz's perceptive gaze on the pulse of conservatism, situating Gen Z within the movement. This isn't a book classically concerned with Trump, but the ways in which a whole group born into his political reign are making sense of the world they've inherited. In dialogue with the zeitgeisty work of Naomi Klein and Talia Lavin, and for those drawn to the demystification offered in Tim Miller's *Why We Did It* and David Korn's *American Psychosis*, PICK ME unveils a right-wing cultural takeover that makes clear the urgency of this moment, and forces us to confront questions—and seek answers—about our collective political future.

Madeline Peltz is a progressive writer, journalist, and critic with Media Matters for America, a nonprofit media watchdog based in Washington D.C. She's covered virtually every aspect of the right-wing media for nearly a decade, from 4chan to Fox News and beyond, focusing on emerging trends and ascendent personalities. She's been quoted as an expert in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, CNN, the BBC, the *Guardian*, and more, and her research has been covered in virtually every major media publication. She's also written for MSNBC and Newsweek and been profiled for her work in the *Washington Post* and *Vox*. She's provided her research and perspective to many progressive organizations to advise how to combat the pernicious effects of disinformation and the radical right. Currently residing in D.C., she is an avid consumer of all things mass media, especially celebrity gossip, social media, and reality TV.

Bernie Taupin

SCATTERSHOT: Life, Music, Elton, and Me

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

UK: Monoray

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"

416 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Zoe Sandler

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.

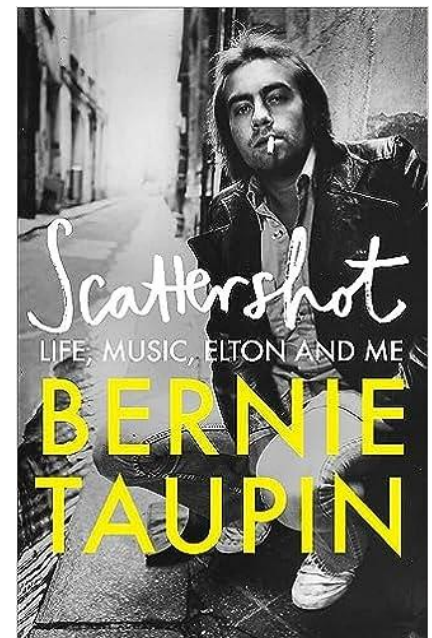
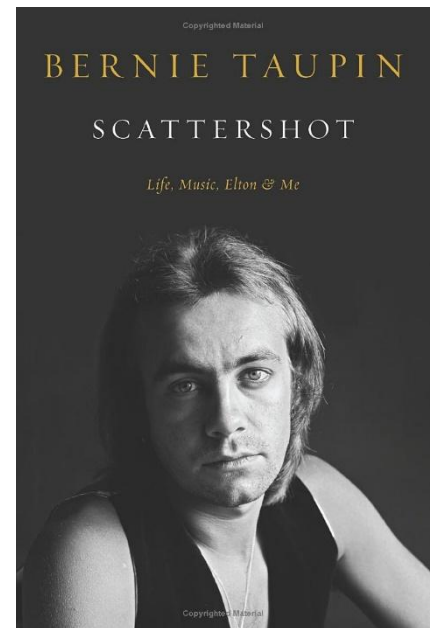
Reviews for SCATTERSHOT:

"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**

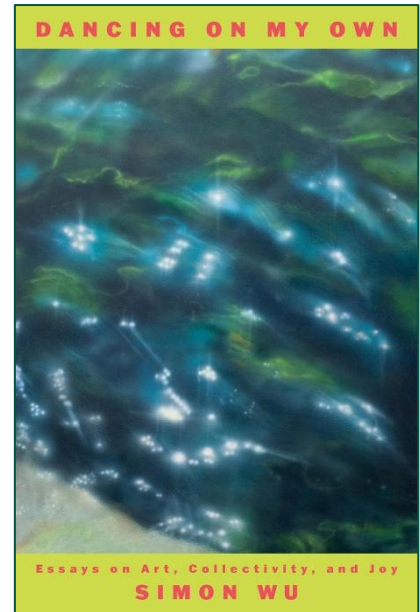
Brilliant memoir — **Daily Express**

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
A Best of 2024 from PopMatters, Brooklyn Rail, and LitHub

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/>

Selected 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***

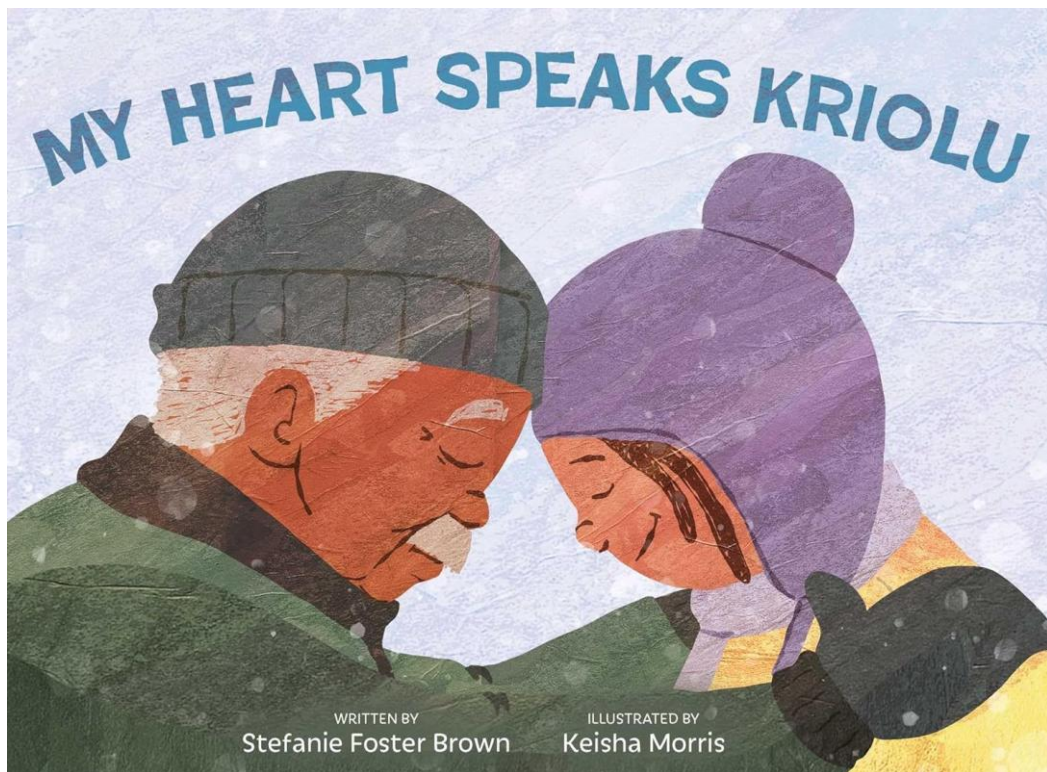
CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**Stefanie Foster
Brown (author)
with Keisha
Morris
(illustrator)
MY HEART
SPEAKS
KRIOLU**

Simon & Schuster,
November 4, 2025 |
World English
40 pages, manuscript
available

**TEXT ONLY VIA
SJGA**

Illustrations via S&S



On Saturday walks with her grandfather, a young girl connects with her Cabo Verdean heritage while learning about the true meaning of home in this moving debut picture book.

Papa always speaks of someday bringing his granddaughter Stefanie back home to Cabo Verde. But Stefanie hasn't yet set foot on their ancestral island's faraway shores. And each time Papa urges her to speak Kriolu, the Portuguese creole native to the West African country, Stefanie's tongue betrays her, and she stumbles over her own words. If she can't even get the language right, can grandfather's home ever truly be hers, too?

But each Saturday afternoon that she helps guide her sight-impaired grandfather through their close-knit Massachusetts community, Stefanie swears she can smell, hear, *feel* Kriolu. And each Saturday she comes closer to discovering where home truly lies.

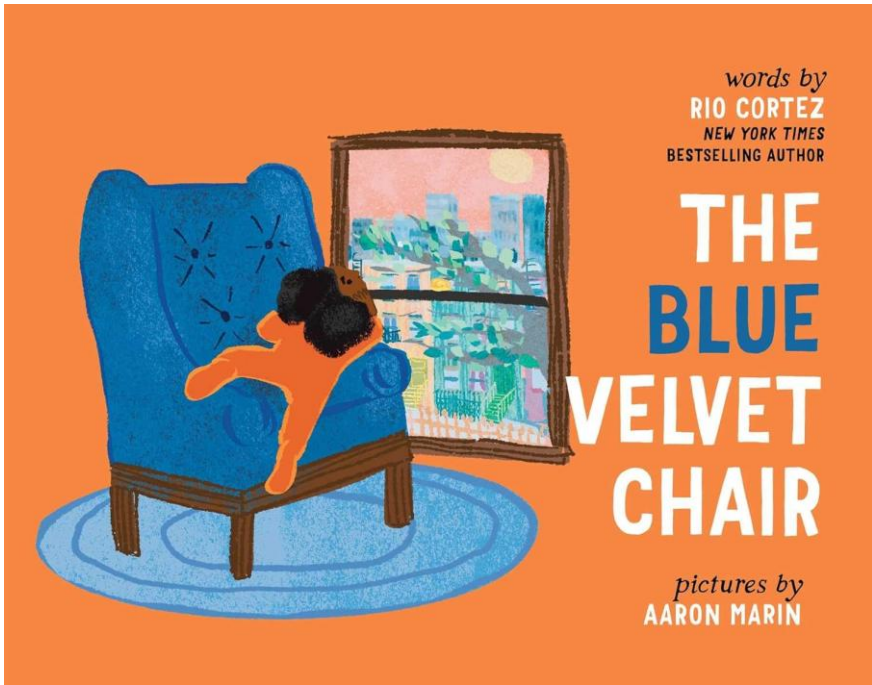


Stefanie Foster Brown is a fourth-generation Cabo Verdean American whose grandparents were the last in her family to speak Kriolu. A former school psychologist, Stefanie spent part of her professional training researching the relationship between language, culture, and identity. She lives in Connecticut with her husband, Eli, their three kids, a dog, and one noisy parakeet. *My Heart Speaks Kriolu*, inspired by Stefanie's memories of taking walks with her Papa in New Bedford, Massachusetts, is her debut book. Visit Stefanie at SteffosterBrown.com or on social media [@SteffosterBrown](https://www.instagram.com/SteffosterBrown).



Keisha Morris is an illustrator living and working in Maryland. What she loves about her illustration process most is creating characters whose personalities jump off the page. She earned her BFA in illustration at the Fashion Institute of Technology in New York and mentored with illustrators such as Sean Qualls, Selina Alko, and Dan Santat. When she is not drawing, she loves spending time with her wife, daughter, and two wild cats Elphie and Ollie.

Picture Book



**Rio Cortez (author) with
Aaron Marin (illustrator)
THE BLUE VELVET
CHAIR**

Simon & Schuster Children's Books,
August 19, 2025 | World English
40 pages, manuscript June 2025
TEXT ONLY VIA SJGA
Illustrations via S&S

A young girl contemplates the passing of time and changing of seasons as she looks out on the world from her favorite chair in this heartwarming picture book by award-winning poet and *New York Times* bestselling author Rio Cortez.

In the morning, a young child opens her eyes, and, after one biiiiig streeeeetch, heads straight for her favorite place in the house: the blue velvet chair. Perched from the chair set by the living room window, the child daydreams about each season of the year and the changes that come with them. A now-snowy roof was once pelted by the slick rain of spring showers. Icy windows will once again transform into conveyors of sunshine and warmth against her skin.

And just as the seasons change, the child will continue to change too. But one thing will always remain the same: the coziness of the blue velvet chair.



[Rio Cortez](#) is the *New York Times* bestselling author of picture book *The ABCs of Black History* and adult poetry collection *Golden Ax*, which was longlisted for the 2022 National Book Award in poetry and the PEN Open Book Award. Born and raised in Salt Lake City, she now lives, writes, and works in Harlem, New York. <https://www.riocortez.com/>

[Aaron Marin](#) has worn many hats in the past, holding positions as an officer in the Navy, a classically trained chef, and a summer camp baker. More recently, he returned to his childhood passion of illustration and now works as an illustrator and editorial artist in upstate New York. When not doodling new ideas, he likes to read a good book in a big comfy chair. See more of his work at Aaron-Marin.com.



Rio Cortez

THE RIVER IS MY OCEAN

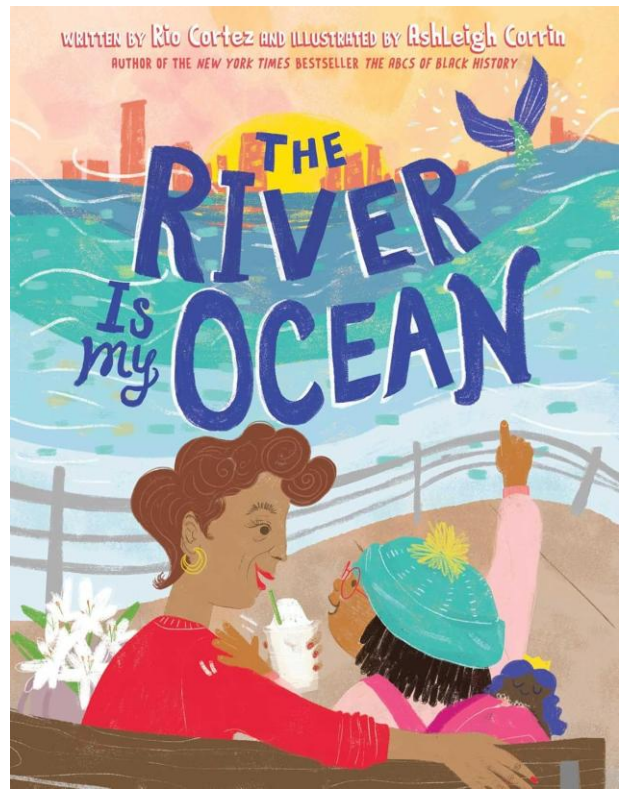
Simon & Schuster BYR, August 27, 2024 | World English and Spanish

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.

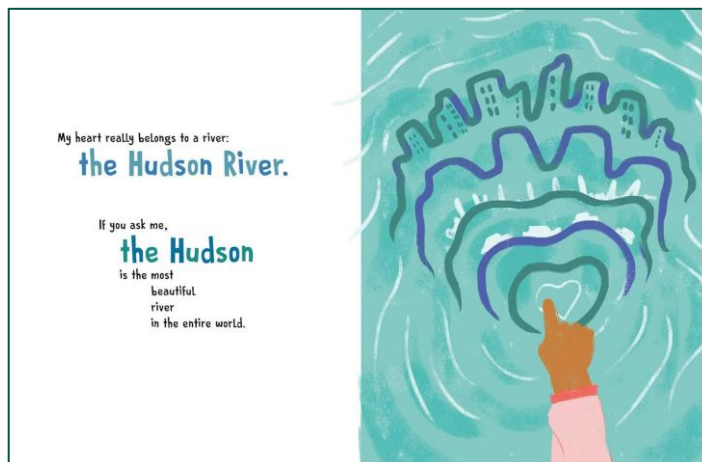
There, they admire the iconic waterway that brought millions of new Americans to its shores, make offerings to Yemaya, the goddess portrayed as a mermaid in ancient religions, and celebrate familial love passed down through the generations, showing the vastness of expansive intergenerational love, memory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

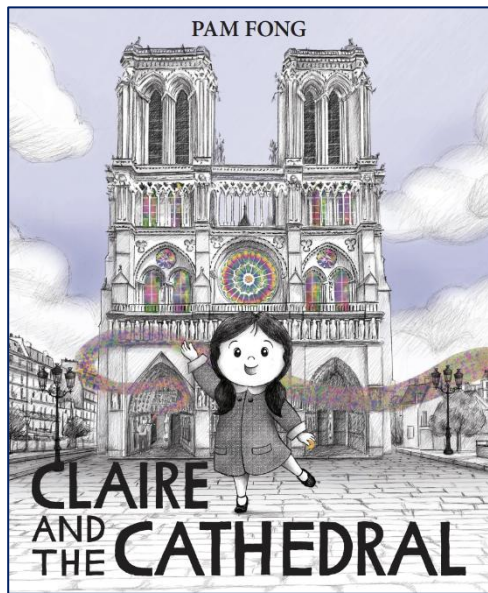


"VERDICT For fans of Last Stop on Market Street, this book is sure to delight younger readers and is nice addition to library shelves that lends itself to further discussion of gods and goddesses in mythology." -- *School Library Journal* — 7/1/24

"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





Pam Fong CLAIRE AND THE CATHEDRAL

Greenwillow, Winter 2026 | World English
40 pages, manuscript anticipated March 2025
Agent: Abigail Frank

A wordless picture book featuring a young girl on an excursion to an unnamed, yet entirely recognizable Notre Dame.

Though a tour of the cathedral might not be able to hold her attention, the imaginative Claire learns how to seek—and even make—her own magic by appreciating the art around her.

The architecture and the way Pam plays with light creates a story that is beautifully and playfully rendered, as we follow Claire through an emotional, energetic adventure. As with every one of Pam’s books, the story weaves subtle and moving truths to inspire the reader into the beautiful fabric of

the story. Here, we are reminded of the power of art in all of its varied forms, and the amazement that is possible if we just open our eyes and look around. In Pam’s own words: “Art has always played a HUGE part in my life and I feel the same delight as Claire whenever I am exposed to it.”

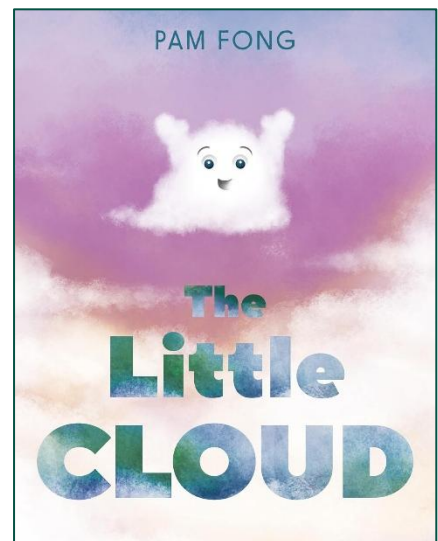
Though Notre Dame remains unnamed throughout the story, it is recognizable and captures the magic that makes it so beloved, especially after the devastating fire. For young readers who have never heard of Notre Dame, or even Paris, the story resonates with anyone who has had to amuse themselves when a grown-up has brought them somewhere that feels a bit *too* grown-up to be interesting. Ultimately, this is a book about finding joy and enchantment in art, and in the everyday.

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.



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

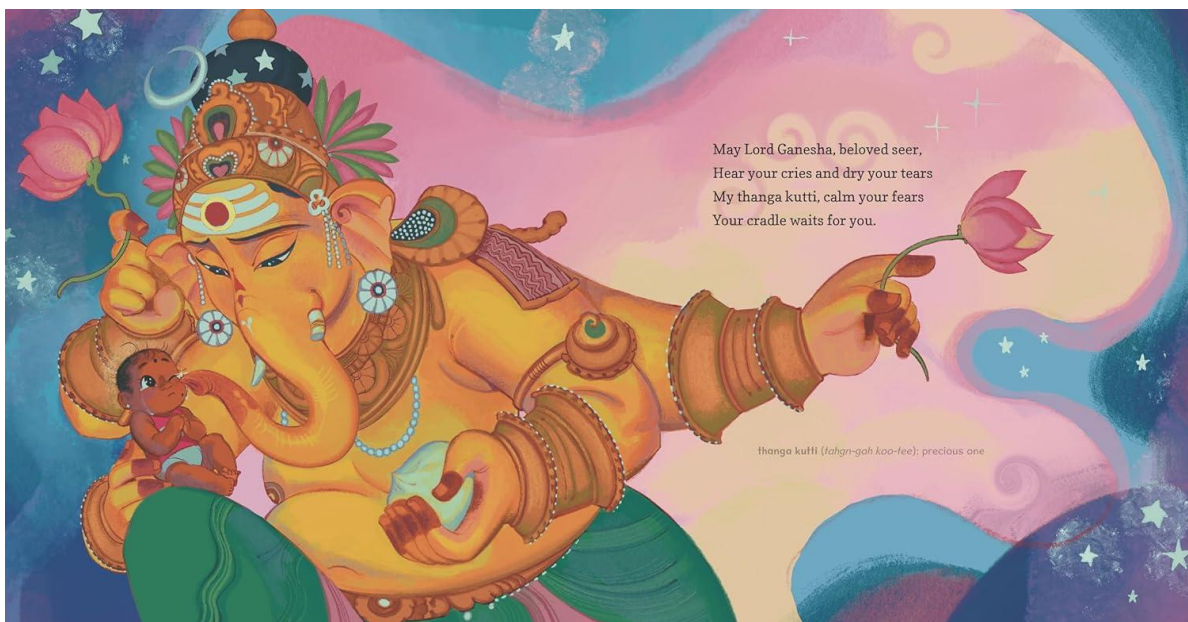
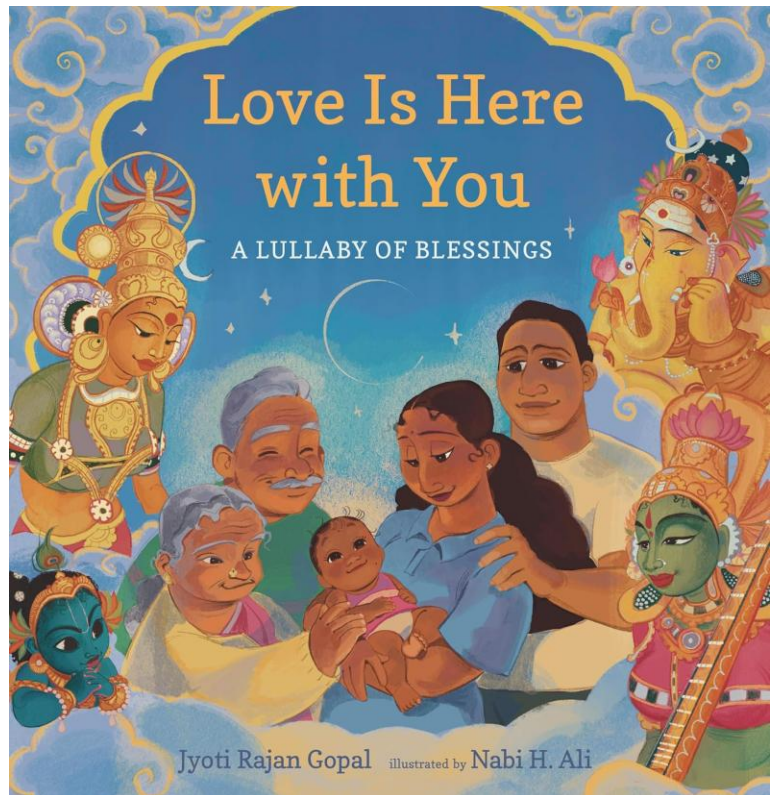
32 pages, final material available

SJGA REPRESENTS TEXT ONLY,
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

SJGA REPRESENTS TEXT ONLY

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***

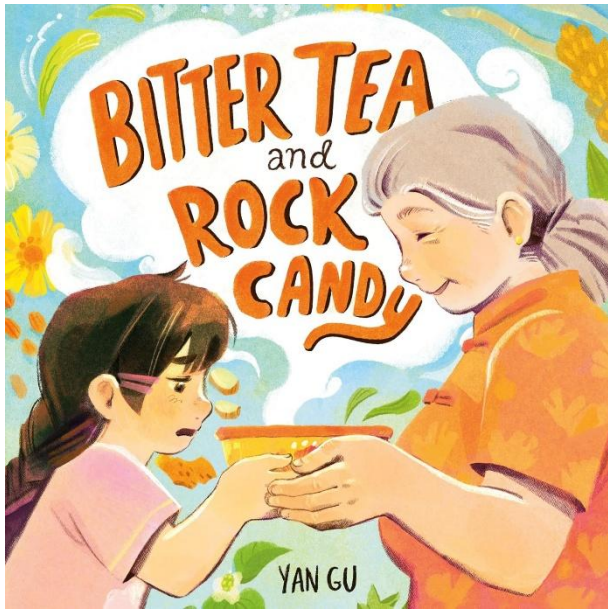


“Gopal, a kindergarten teacher, offers a pleasant, rhyming text that features numbers counting up to 10 and then back down to 1 as night falls. The warm, colorful artwork depicts a diverse group of urban apartment dwellers, young and old, who are clearly enjoying their shared musical experience. Reminiscent 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-sketched 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

BITTER TEA AND ROCK CANDY

Henry Holt BYR, September 9, 2025 | World English
Final art anticipated imminently

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

This tender and warm picture book is a touching ode to grandparents and family traditions—even picky eating.

Mimi's Waipo loves liangcha, but Mimi thinks her grandmother's favorite tea is just too bitter.

It burns her lips, it tastes sour on her tongue, and it smells like her grandfather's socks—yuck!

Mimi secretly feeds her liangcha to the fish, and hides it in a plant, and pours it down the sink—anything to avoid drinking it again. But Waipo has an idea. One morning, she makes a new batch of liangcha for them to share. Will Waipo's secret ingredient be enough to win Mimi over?

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

Baljinder Kaur LOST AND FOUND AT THE GURDWARA

Katherine Tegen Books, Winter 2026 |
World English
Manuscript expected October 2025

In this search-and-find picture book, help Darshan and her friends and family at the Gurdwara locate missing things as they all prepare for the big celebration!



Today is Darshan's favorite day -- the Nagar Kirtan, a colorful procession through the streets to celebrate equality and community. Bibi, Baba, and Darshan must first go to the Gurdwara to help with the preparation, but everyone at the Gurdwara needs some help! In the Diwan Hall, Shindo Auntie can't find her purple purse. In kirtan class, Professor Ji can't find their talcum powder, which is important for the tabla. In the langar hall for cooking, Sodhi Uncle can't find his rolling pin, and Jaswant Auntie can't find the tub of turmeric and the bag of onions! When it's finally time for the big procession, Darshan even loses Bibi and Baba, until she gets completely lost herself.

In these gorgeous illustrations, the reader gets to delight in the meditative act of searching and finding, while learning a little bit more about the Sikh faith and traditions at the Gurdwara and beyond, especially and including the Nagar Kirtan.

The author writes:

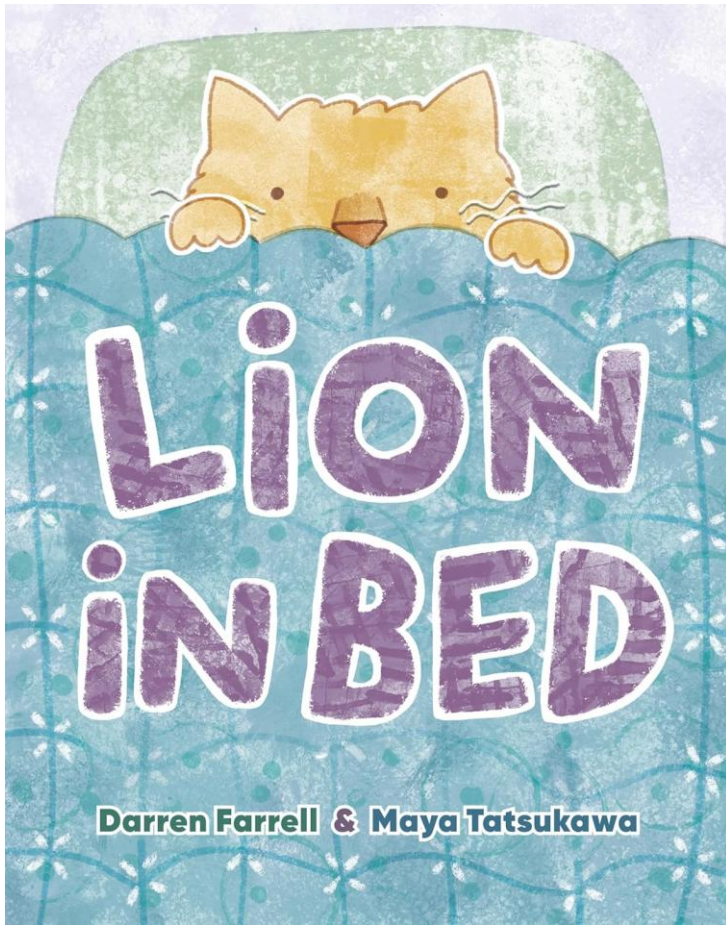
I have many fond memories of attending Nagar Kirtans as a child. Nagar means town and Kirtan means singing praises. A Nagar Kirtan is when Sikhs gather in the form of procession to sing the praises of God, throughout the streets of their local community. It is a communal celebration of devotion.

My mother always encouraged us to connect with Sikh tradition by cultivating our relationship with the Gurdwara. She planted seeds that would soon blossom into my own love for Sikhi. However, this path has not felt linear. I stumble and lose my way often, only to find and forget myself, again and again. The Nagar Kirtan is a sweet reminder of how I do not walk this path alone. We all stride side by side, helping each other along.



Baljinder Kaur graduated with distinction from Cambridge School of Art with a Masters degree in Children's Book Illustration. Among her published work is *FAUJA SINGH KEEPS GOING* written by Dr. Simran Jeet Singh (Penguin/Kokila, 2020), *KAMAL'S KES* (Saffron Press 2021). The yet-to-be-published *NOOR* (Chronicle, 2025) and *THIS LAND* (Viking, 2025) both sold at auction. In the UK, she also has a book called *THE SLEEPER TRAIN* by Mick Jackson (Walker UK, 2025). She lives in the Wolverhampton, UK with her husband and cat, Chandan.

Picture Book



**Maya Tatsukawa (illustrations) and
Darren Farrell (text)
LION IN BED**

Dial Books for Young Readers, October 21, 2025
| North America

40 pages, manuscript available

SJGA represents illustrations only;
text represented by Sara Crowe Literary

A gentle but silly picture book about mental health and the power of a good cuddle

Papa Lion just can't convince Little Lion to get out of bed this morning! They have so much to do, so Papa Lion decides to bring all the activities to him in bed, no matter how big and wild they are. From a full-diner breakfast to a soccer game and surprise party for Grandma, can anything convince Little Lion to finally get up?

Award-winning author and illustrator duo Darren Farrell and Maya Tatsukawa have created a sweet story about a persistent Papa and his tuckered-out cub, with a reminder that sometimes it's the simplest things that bring the most happiness.



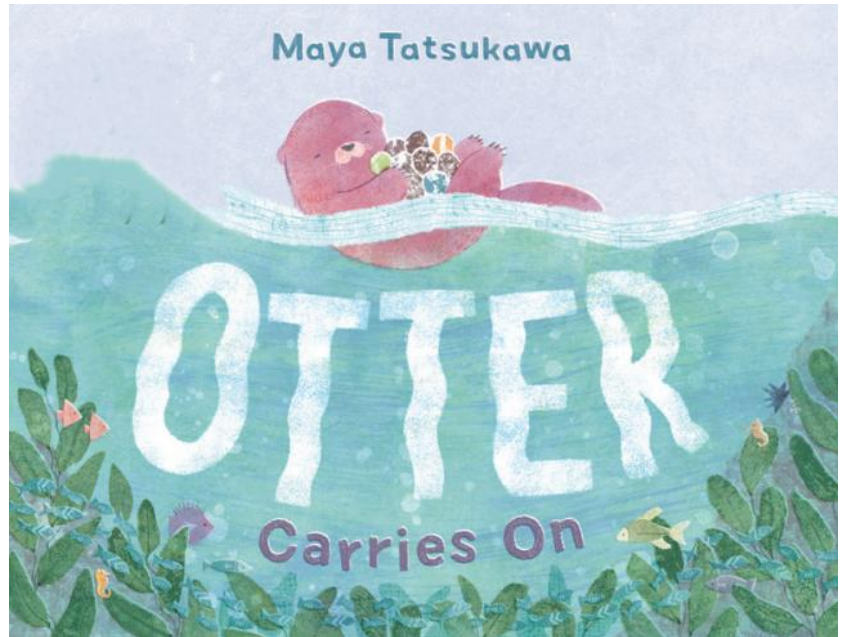
Darren Farrell is an award-winning children's book author and illustrator. His book *Thank You, Octopus* was an NPR and *HuffPost* best book of the year. The *New York Times* called *Stop Following Me, Moon!* “a perfect introduction to the wonders of the universe.” He is the author of *Dandelion Magic* and *Give This Book Away*, illustrated by Maya Tatsukawa. He has been featured in the *Wall Street Journal*, on NPR, and in *HuffPost* and is creating his first original series with Audible.

Maya Tatsukawa is a children’s book illustrator and designer residing just out of Boston with her cat/studio manager. When she's not designing, illustrating, or thinking about children's books, you can find her baking cream puffs, eating ice cream, or searching for the perfect scone. She is the author and illustrator of *Sunday Pancakes* and *The Bear in My Family* and the illustrator of Darren Farrell’s *Dandelion Magic* and *Give This Book Away*.

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.



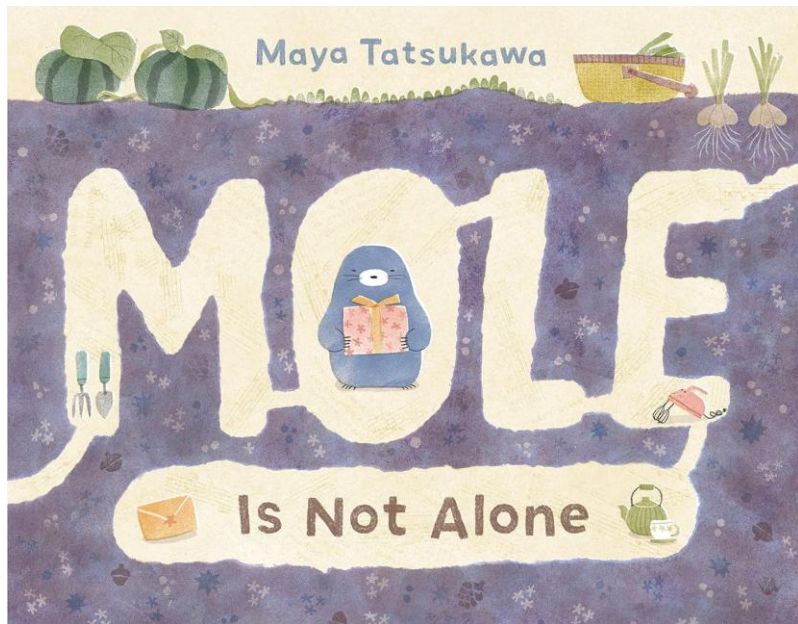
Otter loves floating and collecting pretty, heavy rocks all by himself. When a storm comes, Otter has so many rocks that they can't swim home—and soon, they're lost at sea. But when a few rocks accidentally slip away, Otter feels...lighter. And with the help of a new friend, Otter realizes that maybe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



Picture Book



Maya Tatsukawa
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**

endearing and all-too relatable. Ultimately, 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.

**Eastern Publishin in Taiwan has created a brilliant trailer
 for this book, found at the QR code at right:**

Picture Book



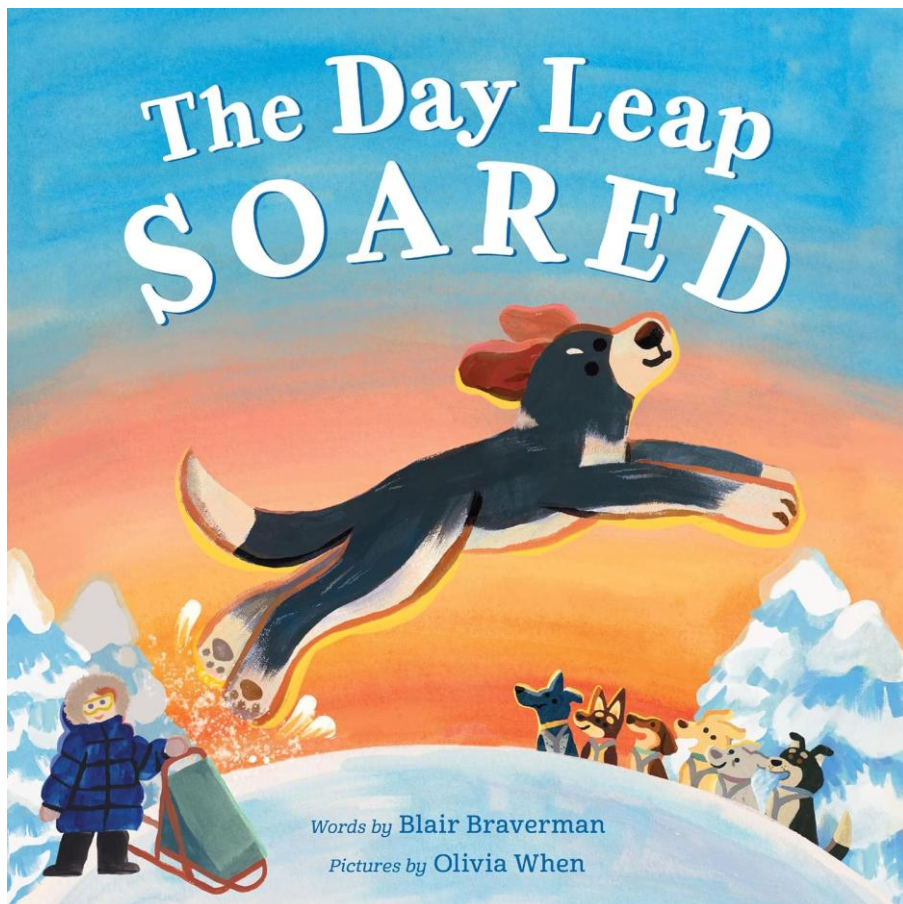
**Olivia When (illustrator)
with Blair Braverman
(author)
THE DAY LEAP
SOARED**

HarperCollins Children's Books,
October 21, 2025 | North America
40 pages, manuscript anticipated early
summer 2025

**SJGA HANDLES
ILLUSTRATIONS ONLY**

Text via HarperCollins
Agent: Bailey Tamayo

**Based on bestselling author and
award-winning dogsledder Blair
Braverman's real-life team of sled
dogs! An adorable sled dog
discovers the power of teamwork,
self-acceptance, and never giving
up in this debut picture book.**



Leap is a sweet, snow-loving sled dog puppy who can't wait until she's big enough to join the team. Each of the other sled dogs is special in their own way. Boo is fast. Donut is brave. Jenga is smart. And Leap wonders: Is she special, too?

This empowering story reminds us that anything is possible when teamwork, individuality, and friendship grow in leaps and bounds.

Includes an author's note with photos of the real-life Leap and her teammates!

Blair Braverman is a writer, dogsledder, and adventurer. She is the bestselling author of *Welcome to the Goddamn Ice Cube*, *Dogs on the Trail*, and *Small Game*, a contributing editor to *Outside* magazine, and a contributor to the *New York Times*, *Vogue*, *This American Life*, and elsewhere. She lives in the northwoods with her husband, Quince Mountain, their kids, and their team of amazing sled dogs.

Olivia When is an animator and filmmaker. She graduated from the Maryland Institute College of Art with honors and a BFA in animation. Her work has been featured by MoMA, Animation Block Party, Animateka, New York International Children's Film Festival, Northwest Animation Festival, New Urbanism Film Festival, Beliot International Film Festival, International Dark-Sky Association, the Daily Beast, Fox ADHD, Nickelodeon, BuzzFeed, and NASA.

Picture Book



Which secrets do you keep, and which do you spill?
LISTEN to THIS
JENNIFER BLECHER



Jennifer Blecher
LISTEN TO THIS

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

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

ISLE OF EVER

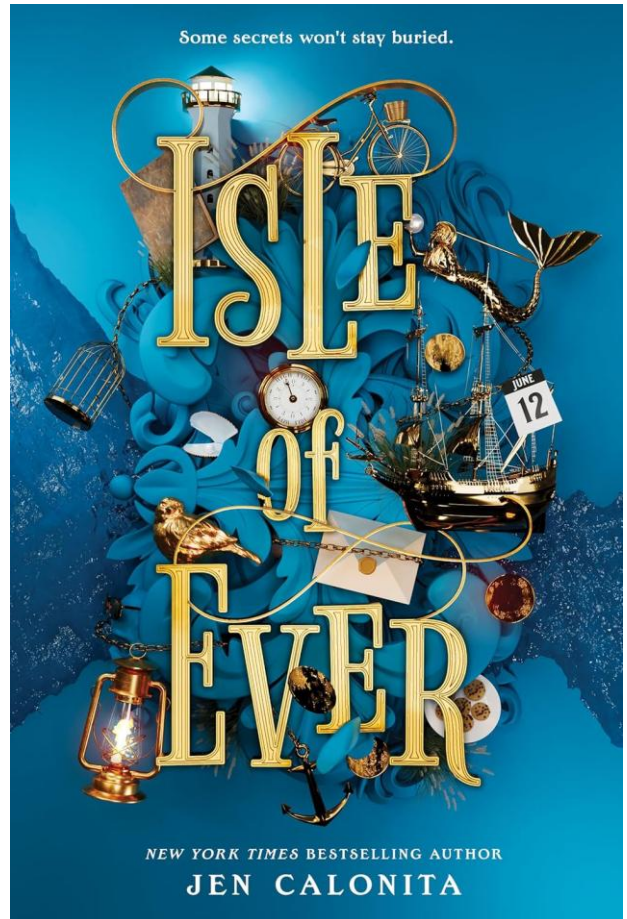
Sourcebooks, March 2025 | NA
320 pages, manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel
Rights sold: UK (DK Books)

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!

Find the Island. Save Them. All of them.

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.



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 Spring for a likely late 2025 or early 2026 publication. The third book is as yet undetermined.



Jen Calonita is the *New York Times* and *USA Today*-bestselling author of more than thirty books for teens and middle grade. Her books have sold more than a million copies and have been translated into 15 languages. She is the author of the best-selling *Fairy Tale Reform School* and books in Disney's *New York Times* best-selling *A Twisted Tale* series. *A Twisted Tale's Mirror Mirror* was the winner of the 2020 Teen Choice Book Awards, the only national book awards program where winners are selected by children and teens. Her writing also has appeared in *Glamour*, *Marie Claire*, *Self*, *TV Guide* and *Entertainment Weekly*. Visit www.jencalonitaonline.com

Middle Grade novel

Praise for THE ISLE OF EVER

"The pacing is excellent, the character development enticing, and the finale positively nail-biting." *School Library Journal*, starred review★

"[An] atmospheric fantasy ride." — *Publishers Weekly*★

"An engaging, puzzle-centered page-turner." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"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 Lemongello 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**

"A nail-biter of a novel for readers who like their mysteries with a touch of magic."
— **Booklist**

"An entertaining, genre-blending story that incorporates politics, climate crises, history, pirates, and magic and introduces a tenacious and thoughtful heroine. Readers will be in Benny's corner from the very beginning of the book, and will have fun trying to solve the mystery right alongside her and her new friends." — **Youth Services Book Review**

"[An] intriguing mystery...Calonita places red herrings and subtle clues throughout, deftly connecting past with present." — **Bulletin for the Center of Children's Books**

"Calonita leaves us breathless as Benny races to save the day and her family. Young readers will love it!" — **James Ponti, New York Times Bestselling Author of *City Spies***

Lina Høj Høstrup

WILDERNESS ADVENTURE CLUB

Andrews McMeel | World English

Del final ms January 2026

Agent: Alexander Slater

Meet **Frida**: raised by her genius grandmother among the most incredible plants and extraordinary potions, she couldn't care less about the marvelous surroundings of their extraordinary Plant Pharmacy.

Here's **Bastian**: a nerdy bookworm who opens Frida's eyes to the wonderful world of botany. Together, this unlikely duo discovers worlds of adventure, and dark secrets, within their quiet, fantastical village. I am thrilled to bring your attention to this outstanding new graphic novel series by Line Høj Høstrup.



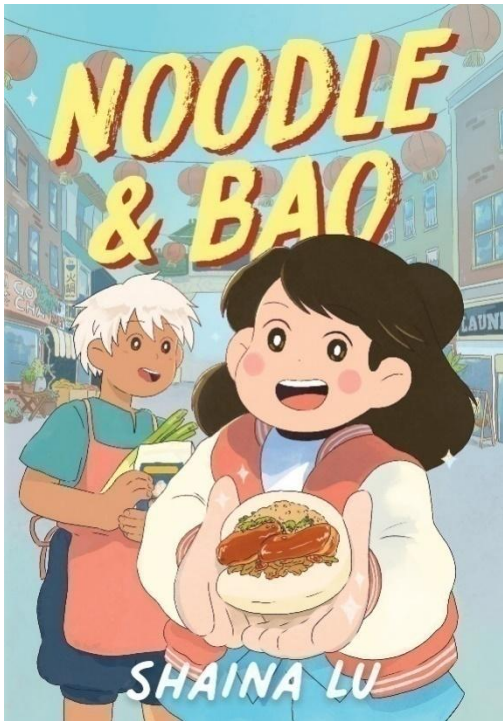
Frida is NOT interested in her Grandma Neri's amazing Plant Pharmacy, so when she gets the chance to follow the pompous Count Humberg and his nerdy squire Bastian on a quest, she doesn't hesitate. As Frida and Bastian discover a shared love of comic books, they form the "Wilderness Adventure Club," and become best friends.

Along the way, they learn that their sleepy town of Greenleaf used to be a hide-out for the legendary pirate Caliban the Barbarian. A treasure map, and a run in with the ghost of the infamous pirate himself, lead the duo to the treasure, but Bastian accidentally unleashes a mysterious curse. It's up to Frida to save the day, maybe actually learn a little about botany, and prove to her grandmother that she is more than just a daydreaming goofball.



[Line Høj Høstrup](#) graduated from The Animation Workshop in 2017. Her first comic book, "Det Rette Element," won the Pingprisen Comics Award and the Claus Deleuran Award as debut of the year. She has written and illustrated easy-read books for children in Danish and has never been published outside Denmark. Find her online at <https://papertwinillustration.com/>.

Middle Grade Graphic 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 Massachusetts and Pawtucket people. <http://shainadoesart.com/>

Wendy Lu
CASTING APRIL

Knopf, Spring 2026 | North America
Manuscript anticipated May 2025
Agent: Alexander Slater



THE CHANCE TO FLY meets **STAND UP, YUMI CHUNG!** in this debut contemporary middle grade novel.

Featuring a talented disabled girl who loves all things Broadway and will do anything for a chance at the spotlight, even if it means stretching the truth, **CASTING APRIL** is a story about friendship, identity, and the importance of chasing dreams no matter how big.

Sixth grader April Xue lives and breathes all things Broadway. When she builds up the courage to audition for the lead role in the school play, she's led to believe that she has knocked it out of the park — until she finds out that she's been assigned as a techie and stage crew. Devastated, April vows to give up her dreams of being an actor. A day later, April overhears that the theater director, Ms. Rooney, ultimately decided not to cast her because she's disabled. With the help of her best friend, a sneaky student reporter, and her spirited cast members, April learns to confront her own insecurities as a performer and proves to everyone (including Ms. Rooney) that she deserves a fair shot — all in time for opening night.

Wendy Lu is an award-winning journalist, a middle-grade fiction writer, and a global speaker on disability representation in the media. Named as one of [Forbes's 30 Under 30 in the Media division for 2022](#) and recognized as one of 30 global disability leaders on Diversability's D-30 Disability Impact List, Lu was also selected as a Knight Visiting Nieman Fellow. She is on the board for the National Center on Disability & Journalism and has judged the Katherine Schneider Journalism Award for Excellence in Disability Reporting. In 2022, she received a [Disability Futures Fellowship](#), provided by the Ford Foundation, the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation and the United States Artists. She speaks publicly for a wide range of audiences and institutions including Harvard, Lincoln Center, New York University Abu Dhabi, Princeton, Press Pass NYC, The Texas Tribune, Asian American International Film Festival and more.

Lu describes herself as “a proud disabled woman.” Since birth, she has worn a tracheostomy (trach) tube that helps her breathe. Her disability fuels her passion for telling important stories and reporting on historically marginalized communities. She grew up in Boston and eastern North Carolina, and spent summers off from school in Shanghai, where her family is from. She lives in New York City with her husband and in her spare time enjoys bullet journaling, pampering her turtle and her plant family, and trying new restaurants. <https://wendylu.wpengine.com/>



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

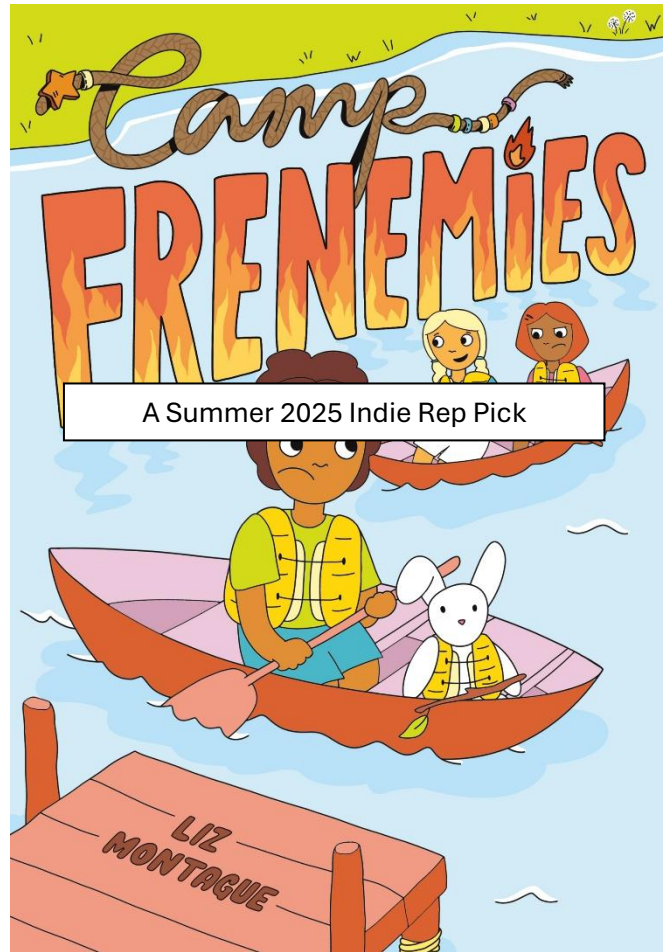
Random House Studio, May 13, 2025 | World English
272 Pages, manuscript available

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 the nationally bestselling 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/>

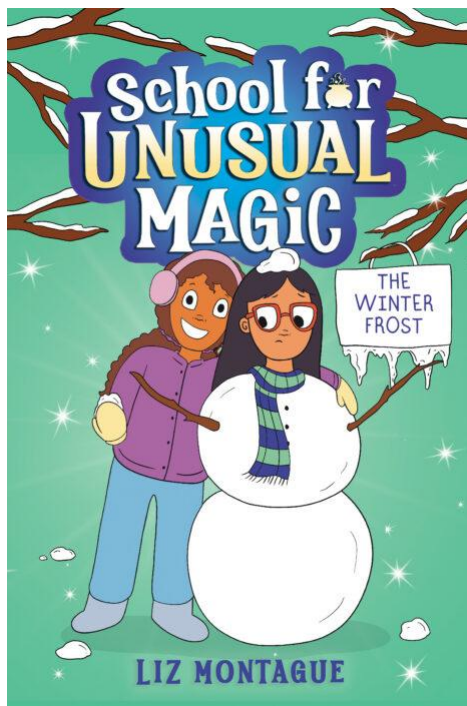
Middle Grade Graphic Novel

Liz Montague

SCHOOL FOR UNUSUAL MAGIC: The Winter Frost

Book #2

Scholastic, November 12, 2024 | World English
240 Pages, final manuscript available



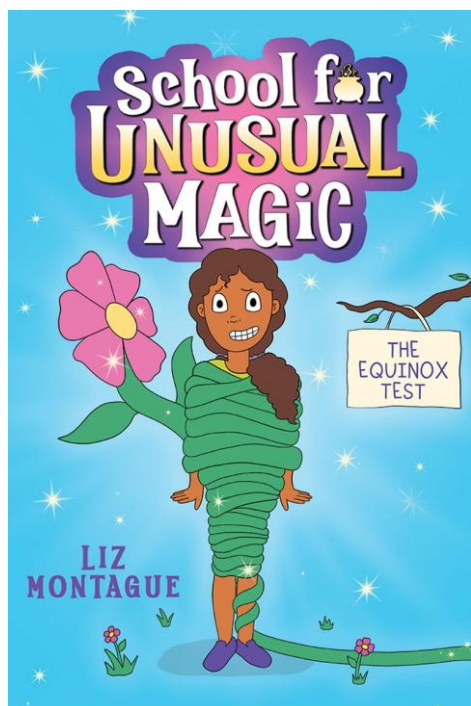
Perfect for fans of *Witchlings* and *The Wizards of Waverly Place*, three friends discover magic and mayhem around every corner of their school in the second of this illustrated series from *New Yorker* cartoonist and NAACP Image Award nominee Liz Montague.

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, August 26, 2025 | World English

224 pages, Manuscript anticipated ...

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, *WELCOME TO THE GHOST SHOW* 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**

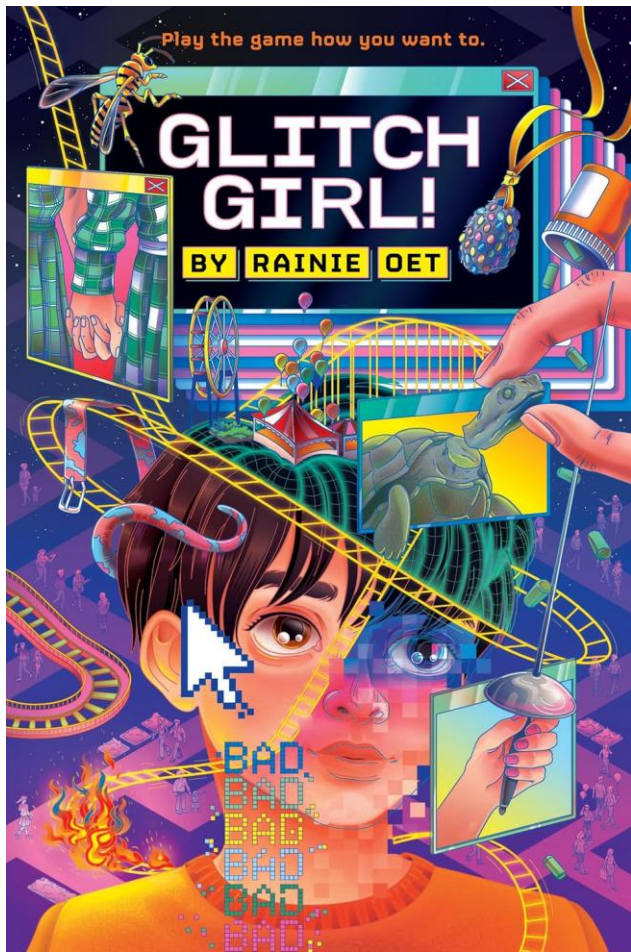
The imaginative and truly horrifying monster at its center



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
Final 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.

“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

Praise for Rainie Oet

"Rainie Oet brings a **fresh and affecting** poetic voice to this **tender** tale of neuro-spiciousness and gender quest. Her depiction of gaming's power for good in today's young lives is keenly observed and quirkily imagined. **This is an original and necessary book.**" —**Lisa Bunker**, author of *Felix XY* and *Zenobia July*.

"A turbulent, emotionally wrenching coming-of-age story." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Each poem is as **raw** as it is **beautiful**." —**Alex Gino**, author of ALA Stonewall Award-winning novel *Melissa*

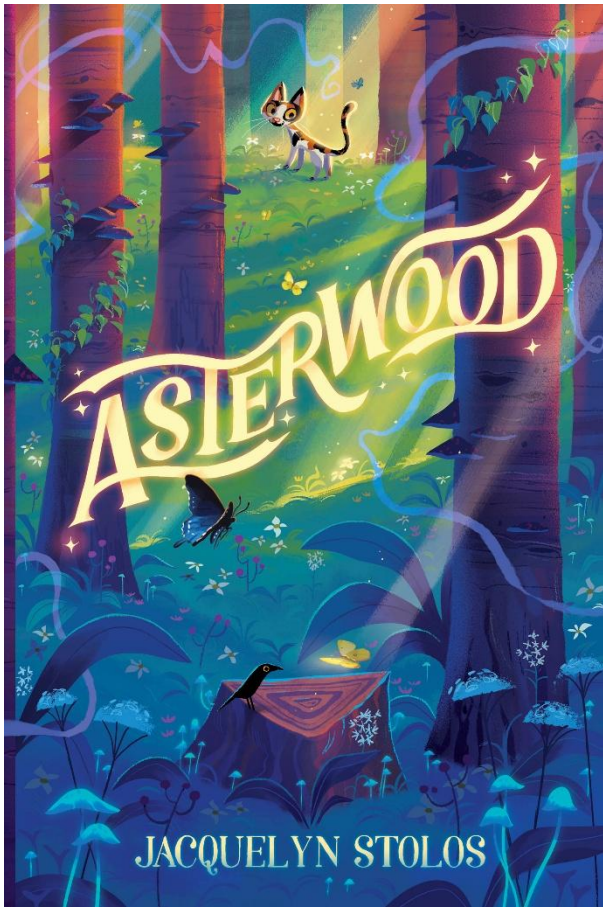
"Explore[s] the intensity and isolation of adolescence. Rainie's writing is a **gift to young readers**." —**Mary Karr**, Whiting Award winning and *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Liar's Club*

"**Poignant**, illuminating. ...**accessible**, immersive." —*Booklist*

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."

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."



Jacquelyn Stolos ASTERWOOD

Delacorte, December 30, 2025 | NA
Manuscript anticipated March 2025
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 | North America

256 pages, Manuscript available

Agent: Alexander Slater

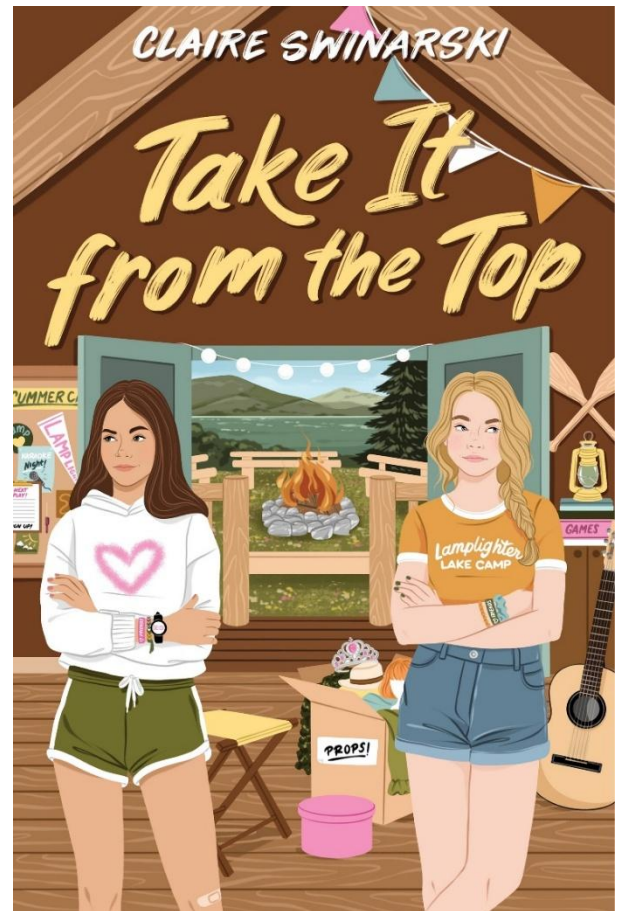
Set at a camp over the course of six summers, this novel dives into the falling-out of two girls from different backgrounds who thought they'd be friends forever...until a production of *Wicked* brings all their buried issues to the surface. Claire Swinarski, Edgar Award nominee of the ALA Notable *What Happened to Rachel Riley?*, tackles privilege, perspective, and the power of friendship in this page-turning puzzle that readers will devour.

Eowyn Becker has waited all year to attend her sixth summer at Lamplighter Lake Summer Camp. Here, the pain of her mom's death can't reach her, and she gets to reunite with her best friend, Jules Marrigan—the only person in the world who understands her. This year will be their year--*Wicked*, the girls' favorite musical, has been chosen for the camp's end-of-year production. If anyone can be Glinda to Eowyn's Elphaba, it's Jules!

But when Eowyn arrives at camp, everything seems wrong. The best-friend reunion Eowyn had been dreaming of doesn't go as planned. Jules will barely even *look* at Eowyn, let alone talk to her, and Eowyn has no idea why.

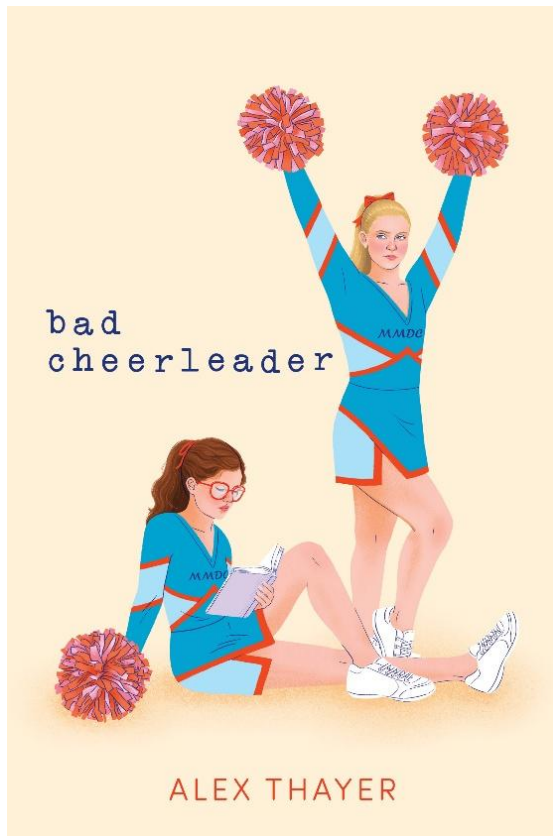
Well, maybe she does...

There are two sides to every story, and if you want to understand this one, you'll need to hear both. Told in a series of alternating chapters that dip back to past summers, the girls' story will soon reveal how Eowyn and Jules went from being best friends to fierce foils. Can they mend ways before the curtains close on what was supposed to be the best summer of their lives?



[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.clareswinarski.com/>

Middle Grade novel



Alex Thayer

BAD CHEERLEADER

Aladdin, November 11, 2025 | World English

288 pages, manuscript available April 2025

Agent: Alexander Slater

A dyslexic bookworm joins her school's cheerleading squad to investigate her sister's strange behavior in this insightful and sharp middle grade novel about the unbreakable bonds of sisterhood.

Seventh grader Bag loves to read. It doesn't come easy to her, thanks to her dyslexia, but she's determined, and she spends every afternoon after school at the library. It's a ritual she refuses to miss.

Then a new career opportunity for her mother means Bag will no longer have a ride to her cherished library. Instead, Bag will have to wait for a ride at school. With her sister, Minerva. At cheerleading practice.

Bag is uncoordinated and completely uninterested in school spirit. But she *is* curious about what her sister has been hiding. Minerva has been acting stranger than usual, and Bag has been noticing. So while cheerleading practice may be the last place Bag wants to be, she's going to use her time wisely and get to the bottom of Minerva's secrets.

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

Alex Thayer
HAPPY & SAD &
EVERYTHING TRUE

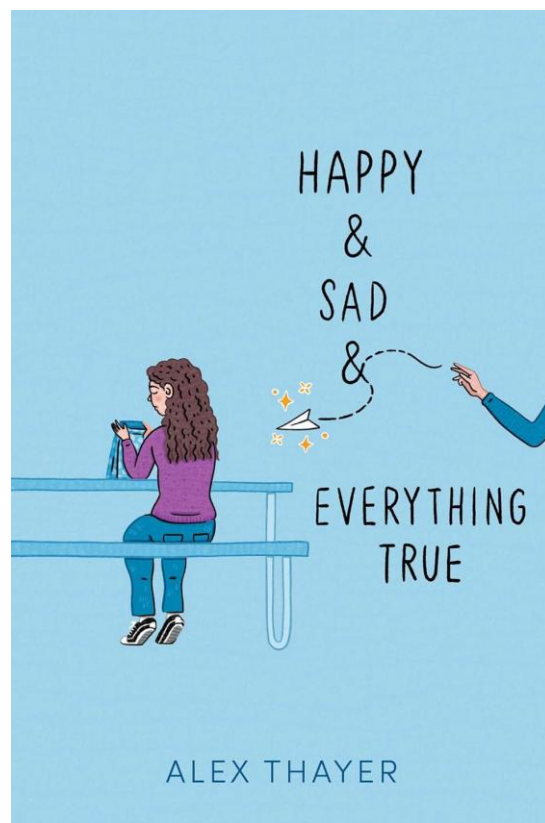
(formerly BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING)
Aladdin, November 12, 2024 | World English
272 pages, Manuscript available
Agent: Alexander Slater

Sold in a two-book 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*

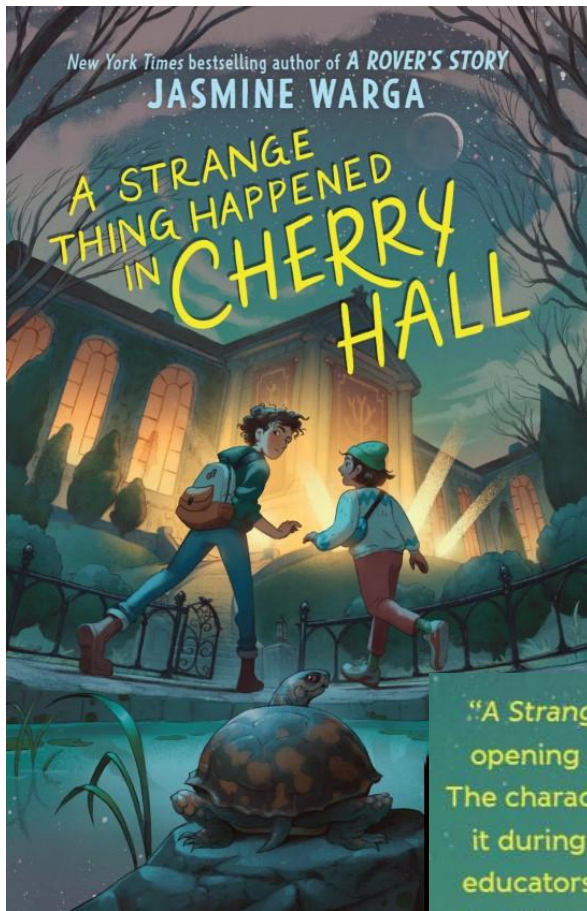
“*Happy & Sad & Everything True* has a sincere earnestness that brings you right back to the halls of middle school. Kids will absolutely love this sweet-yet-strong story.” –**Claire Swinarski, author of *What Happened to Rachel Riley?***

“Any kid who’s ever hidden in the bathroom will wish they had a Dee to whisper with.” -- **BCCB**

“Thayer’s debut novel brings readers to an authentic view of junior high, with its daily drama and moments of discovery... A solid purchase for libraries with a following for authors like Kate DiCamillo and Rebecca Stead.”-- **Booklist**

“Alex Thayer’s delightful debut could not be more perfectly named. I experienced all the feels watching Dee navigate mean-girl cliques, lose her best friend, handle her eccentric single mother (who is maybe dating her PE teacher) all the while staying open to new possibilities. A charming, entertaining, and true book that gently illustrates how so many of life’s problems can be improved by a large dollop of generosity. I would follow Dee’s advice any time.” -- **Gayle Forman, author of *Frankie & Bug* and *Not Nothing***

Middle Grade novel



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

Balzer & Bray, September 10, 2024 | World English
224 Pages, manuscript available
Rights sold: Korea, Prooni Books

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***

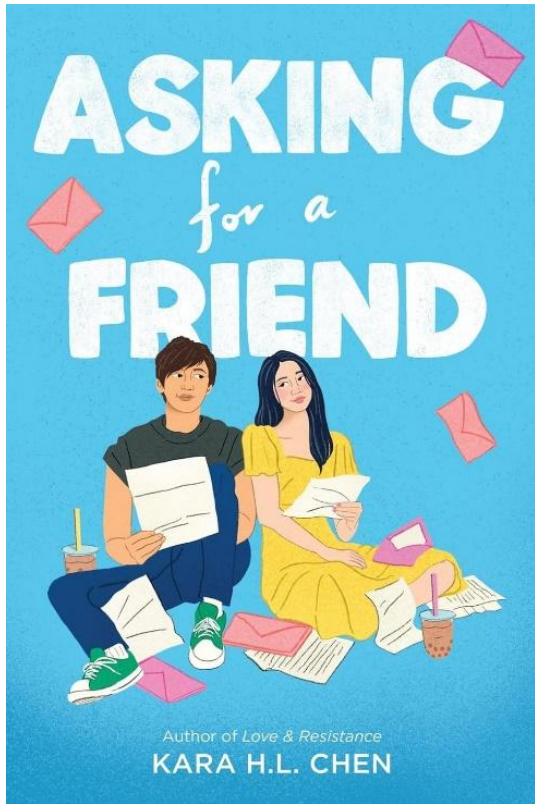
"The mystery drives this exquisitely paced story that readers will quickly consume. The characters are the beating heart of this tender, quiet tale —each drawn with texture, depth, and warmth. A slowly unfurling delight." — ***Kirkus Reviews* ★**

"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***

"Warga employs a fantastic writing style. Every character, tortoise included, is perfectly developed. Readers will discover a beautifully relatable story about the importance of finding the people who see the world the same way you do. A delightful mystery sure to captivate all readers." — ***School Library Journal* ★**



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.



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.

Young Adult

Sarah Dass

IT LURKS IN THE NIGHT

Disney Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents, November 4, 2025 | World English
400 pages, final manuscript available

From the author of *It Waits in the Forest* comes a new stand-alone supernatural YA thriller steeped in Caribbean folklore—a lush and evocative tale of the rot that grows at the heart of even the most beautiful places.

Perfect for fans of Angeline Boulley and Tiffany D. Jackson!

All Maya Woods wants is to reunite her three best friends, Pearl, Erica, and Lystra, for one last epic boat trip to the islands around their Caribbean home before they all graduate from high school. But the girls are forced to make an emergency landing on Annatto—an island avoided by locals and tourists alike because of the rumors of monsters and shadows that lurk in its depths—and their yearly tradition descends into darkness as Erica turns up dead. The girls have no choice but to leave her body behind.

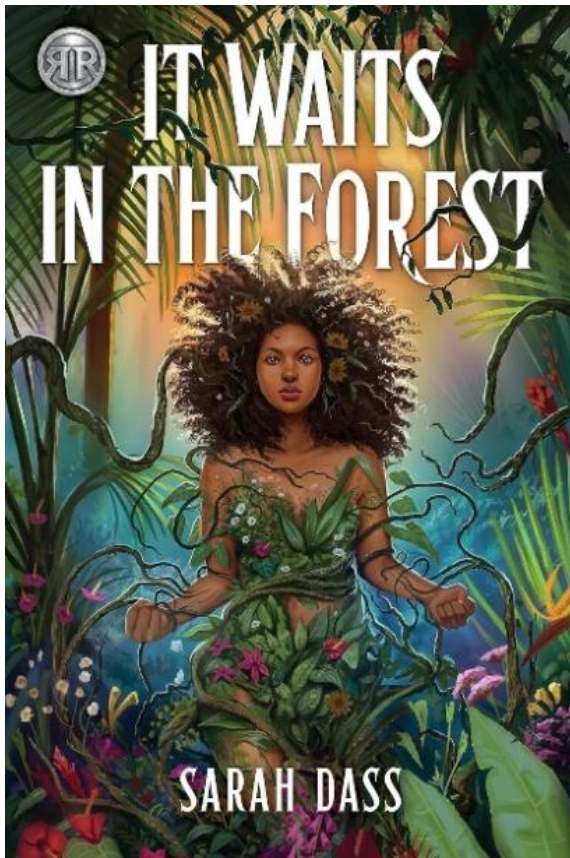
As their tight-knit community spirals into grief and suspicion, Maya and her friends struggle to understand what happened on the island. Was it simply an accident, or is there truth to the rumors about Annatto?

A week later, everyone rejoices when Erica mysteriously returns alive and well, but Maya can't seem to let go of her questions. What did they see that night? And who—or what—is Erica now? As old arguments and new betrayals rise to the surface, Maya and her friends can feel the shadows closing in on them. Something is lurking in the night, and they must be ready to face it.



Sarah Dass was born in Trinidad but has lived in Tobago since she was two years old. A graduate of the University of the West Indies and University College London, she is a full-time author, crafting stories inspired by growing up in the Caribbean. When she's not writing, she's reading or taking walks with her dachshund. Sarah is also the author of *Where the Rhythm Takes You* (Balzer + Bray, 2021), *When the Vibe is Right* (Balzer + Bray 2023) and *It Waits in the Forest* (Rick Riordan Presents, 2024). You can learn more about the author at www.sarahdass.com.

Young Adult



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

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*

Young Adult

Frederick Joseph

THIS THING OF OURS

Candlewick, May 6, 2025 | World English

384 pages, Manuscript available

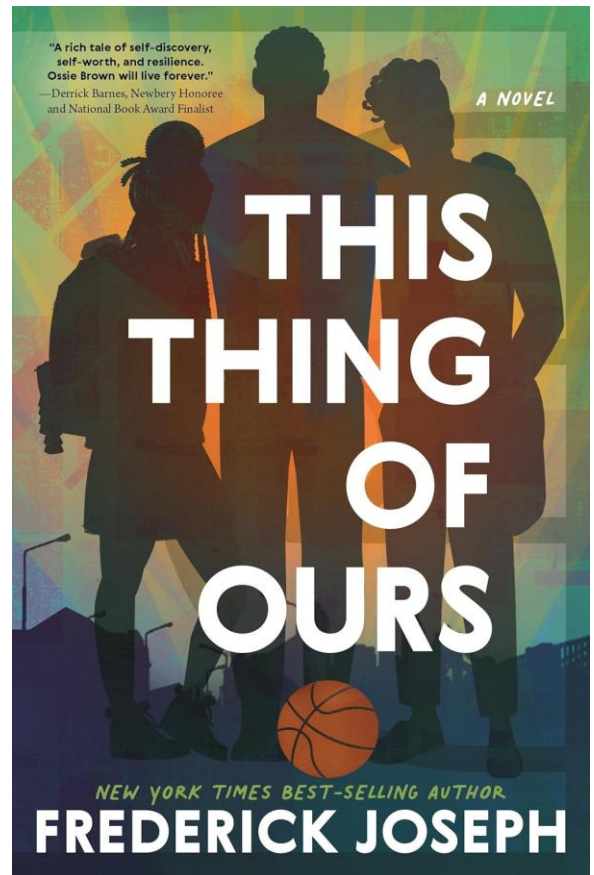
Agent: Alexander Slater

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 Nikkolas 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

“Both heartening and heartbreaking, this richly layered, sensitive YA fiction debut from Joseph (Better Than We Found It) unflinchingly confronts systemic racism, classism, and homophobia via a powerful story of self-discovery and social justice that aims, shoots, and scores.” – *Publishers*

Weekly ★

“A thought-provoking exploration of storytelling dynamics in a social media–driven society.” –

Kirkus Reviews

“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**

Young Adult

Ali Novak

MY RETURN TO THE WALTER BOYS

Sourcebooks, April 2025 | World English

Manuscript anticipated early 2025

Agent: Alex Slater

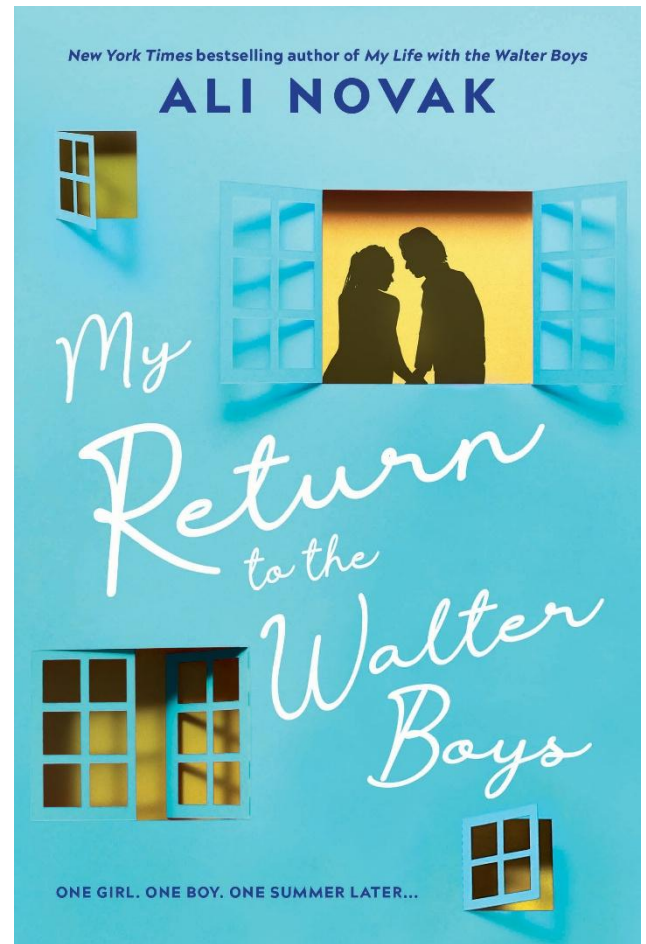
Rights sold: Brazil (V&R), Czech (Albatros Media),
Germany (cbj), Italy (Newton Compton), Spanish (PRH)

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?

Born and raised in Wisconsin, [Ali Novak](#) is an awarding-winning author of contemporary young adult novels. She started writing her debut book, *My Life with the Walter Boys*, when she was only fifteen. Since then, her work has received more than 150 million reads online. When she isn't writing, Novak enjoys traveling with her husband, Jared; binding fan fiction; and reading any type of fantasy novel she can get her hands on. You can follow her on Wattpad, Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram @authoralinovak.



Young Adult

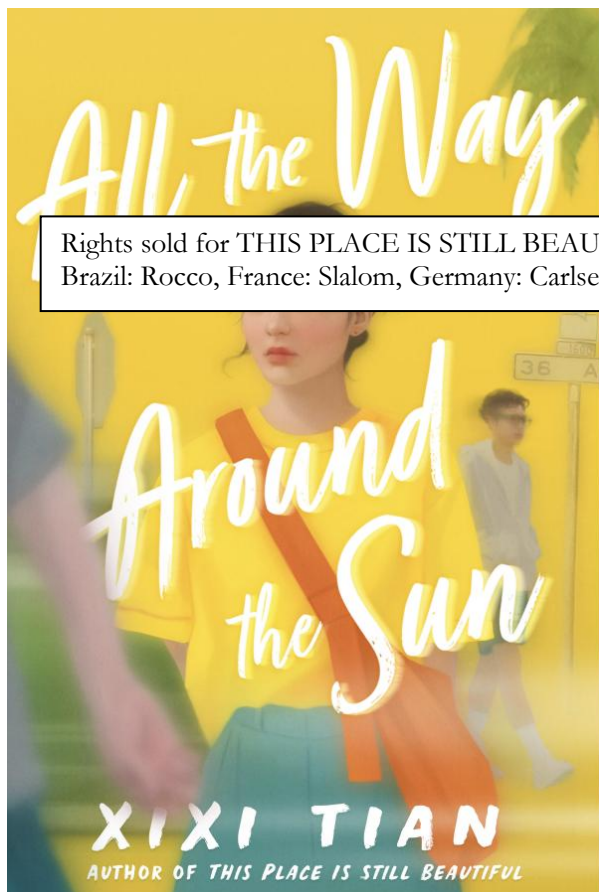
XiXi Tian

ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN

Balzer & Bray, September 30, 2025 |

World English

336 pages, Manuscript available



From the acclaimed author of **THIS PLACE IS STILL BEAUTIFUL** comes an evocative, achingly romantic road trip story about grief, diasporic identities, and the deep-buried secrets that haunt us, perfect for fans of *Past Lives* and *The Farewell*.

"Raw and honest, XiXi Tian's sophomore novel is a must-read for anyone who has lost someone they love and is trying to move forward. Exquisitely written and buttressed by a slow-burn enemies-to-lovers romance, **ALL THE WAY AROUND THE SUN** is exactly that: a beam of bright, beautiful light." —E. L. Shen, author of *The Queens of New York*

Stella Chen's life ground to a halt when her brother unexpectedly passed away a year ago. Raised together by their grandmother for years in the Chinese countryside before rejoining their parents in the United States, his absence destroys the connective tissue in her family. With another jarring move her senior year, from rural Illinois to unfamiliar surroundings in San Diego, she is left alone and adrift in her family's suffocating silence and the void of unanswered questions her brother left behind.

So when Stella's parents force her to join her estranged childhood friend Alan Zhao for a college tour all over California, Stella dreads it. Alan is a reminder of everything Stella wishes she could be—popular, gregarious, unburdened—and a reminder of how lost she is.

As this road trip takes Stella and Alan down beautiful coastlines and through fraught family dynamics, Stella can't help but feel the spark of why she and Alan were once so close. Before long, they find themselves pulled into each other's orbits, forcing unspoken feelings and long-hidden truths into the light.

From rising star XiXi Tian comes an evocative, achingly romantic tale of grief, healing, and enduring bond of family across oceans and beyond the grave.

XiXi Tian was born in China and immigrated to the United States when she was a year old. She grew up in central Illinois, graduated from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a degree in history and then attended Harvard Law School. She is a writer, lawyer, avid reader, and lifelong Midwesterner no matter where she lives. Her debut novel, *This Place Is Still Beautiful*, won the 2024 Kalbacher Klapperschlange award, was an Indies Introduce and Indies Next pick and received five starred reviews. She lives outside of New York City. You can visit her online at www.xixiwrites.com.

Young Adult



Praise for THIS PLACE IS STILL BEAUTIFUL:

“Tian’s tender debut centers the estranged, stormy, evolving sisterhood of Annalie and Margaret Flanagan following a racist incident. . . . Tian simultaneously addresses racism’s lasting effects on individual lives while eloquently tackling the uncertainty that teens can face in transitional periods. Told in alternating perspectives, this emotionally layered novel, populated by nuanced characters and culminating in complex resolutions, resonates.”

— *Publishers Weekly* ★

“As the sisters grapple with what it means to be mixed race and Asian American in a largely White Midwestern town, when to speak up, and whose expectations they should meet, they also struggle to navigate their relationship with each other. About much more than just racism toward Chinese Americans, this novel deftly tackles the precarious moments surrounding the end of high school and the beginning of college when romantic and familial relationships are complicated, changing, and all-consuming. Quiet yet powerful, complex, and grounded in the reality that nothing will ever be completely resolved.” — *Kirkus Reviews* ★

“While Tian doesn’t shy away from dealing with large and small acts of racial prejudice, the story revolves around the two very different sisters: their personalities, their perceptions, and their evolving connections with each other, their mother, and their friends. An impressive first novel.” — *ALA Booklist* ★

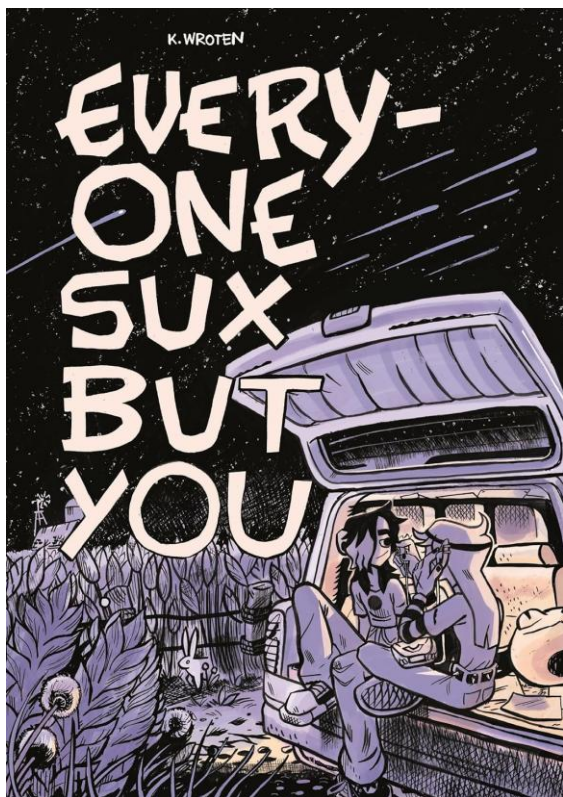
“Tian’s debut explores our vulnerabilities in the face of change and how we find redemption for our past mistakes.” — *Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books* ★

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

“Tian crafts a realistic, nuanced coming-of-age tale that deals with questions of identity and self-doubt, internalized racism, sibling rivalry, young love, and microaggressions.” — *Horn Book Magazine*

“Tender and lovely, *This Place is Still Beautiful* tells the story of a family forced to face their town—and each other—in the wake of a crime that can’t be ignored. XiXi Tian is an exciting new voice in YA, and this moving debut is not to be missed.” — **Nina LaCour, Michael L. Printz Award Winner**

“Tian excavates the awkward, ugly truths we avoid, and exposes them with raw emotional honesty and grace. This book made me feel seen in a way that very few books ever have. I found myself nodding and saying, ‘Yes, that’s so true!’ over and over again.” — **Misa Sugiura, author of *This Time Will Be Different***



K. Wroten

EVERYONE SUX BUT YOU

Holt, May 20, 2025 | North America

368 pages, manuscript available

A bold young adult graphic novel about the highs and lows of growing up, queer love, and learning to accept yourself for who you are, perfect for fans of *Laura Dean Keeps Breaking Up With Me*, *Daria* and *Ladybird*.

High school senior Carson Flynn doesn't give a damn—about you, about school, or about her future. The only thing she cares about is jumping into mosh pits at concerts with her best friend Ash.

But when Ash and Carson's friendship becomes something more, a lot of complicated feelings enter the pit swinging: the unresolved grief they share over the loss of Carson's mother, the realities of growing up queer in small-town America, and the biggest bruiser of all: what does it mean to love and be loved?

As Carson discovers new corners of her heart, she sees that her too-cool approach to life may have been keeping her closed off from her potential. Maybe there is something greater out there, a bright future full of promise . . . if only she could convince Ash to see it too.

EVERYONE SUX BUT YOU, the first young adult graphic novel from award-winning comics creator K. Wroten, defines what being a teen feels like while redefining what a graphic novel for teens can be.

K. Wroten is an award-winning comics author and illustrator. They are originally from the Midwest and currently live in Brooklyn, NY with their pet snake, Jules.

Young Adult