



A trellis is an interwoven structure that supports new growth, allowing it to bloom. Founded in October 2021, **Trellis Literary Management** is a US-based literary agency that was created with that ethos in mind: a company that enables and nourishes the growth of both our authors and our colleagues. We're inherently collaborative, community-minded, and united in our ideas about client care and the future of publishing.

Our team consists of brilliant founding partners **Michelle Brower**, **Stephanie Delman**, and **Allison Hunter**; agents **Allison Devereux**, **Dana Murphy**, **Mariah Stovall**, **Amy Bishop-Wycisk**, **Danya Kukafka**, and **Natalie Edwards**; foreign rights director **Allison Malecha**; editorial associate **Elizabeth Pratt**; and subsidiary rights and operations associate **Tori Clayton**.

Foreign Rights Guide Frankfurt 2024

Director of Foreign Rights
Allison Malecha

Subsidiary Rights Associate
Tori Clayton

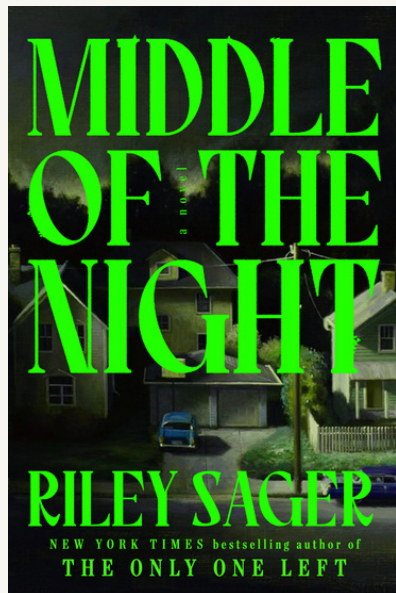
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COMMERCIAL FICTION

MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT

Riley Sager



Dutton (June 18, 2024)

Editor: Maya Ziv

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: Anna Carmichael at
Abner Stein

In the latest bestselling thriller from Riley Sager, a man must contend with the long-ago disappearance of his childhood best friend—and the dark secrets lurking just beyond the safe confines of his picture-perfect neighborhood. This is the first Riley Sager title Trellis is handling rights for, and we've now closed 15 international deals

New York Times and *USA Today* Bestseller

Included in the *New York Times Book Review's* 17 New Books Coming in June, the June *LibraryReads* List Hall of Fame, and *Publishers Weekly's* Top 12 Mystery/Thriller Picks for Summer

The worst thing to ever happen on Hemlock Circle occurred in Ethan Marsh's backyard. One July night, ten-year-old Ethan and his best friend and neighbor, Billy, fell asleep in a tent set up on a manicured lawn in a quiet, quaint New Jersey cul de sac. In the morning, Ethan woke up alone. During the night, someone had sliced the tent open with a knife and taken Billy. He was never seen again.

Thirty years later, Ethan has reluctantly returned to his childhood home. Plagued by bad dreams and insomnia, he begins to notice strange things happening in the middle of the night. Someone seems to be roaming the cul de sac at odd hours, and signs of Billy's presence keep appearing in Ethan's backyard. Is someone playing a cruel prank? Or has Billy, long thought to be dead, somehow returned to Hemlock Circle?

The mysterious occurrences prompt Ethan to investigate what really happened that night, a quest that reunites him with former friends and neighbors and leads him into the woods that surround Hemlock Circle. Woods where Billy claimed monsters roamed and where a mysterious institute does clandestine research on a crumbling estate.

The closer Ethan gets to the truth, the more he realizes that no place—be it quiet forest or suburban street—is completely safe. And that the past has a way of haunting the present.

Category: thriller

Riley Sager is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven novels, most recently *Survive the Night*, *The House Across the Lake*, and *The Only One Left*. His first novel, *Final Girls*, has been published in thirty countries and won the ITW Thriller Award for Best Hardcover Novel. We will have more on his next thriller, *WITH A VENGEANCE* (set on a train!), after the fair.

Rights sold:

UK: Hodder & Stoughton

Brazil: Intrínseca

Czech Republic: Dobrovský

Germany: dtv

Hebrew: Adel Books / Modan Publishing House

Holland: Ambo Anthos

Hungary: Kossuth Kiadó

Italy: Fanucci

Lithuania: Alma Littera

Norway: Gyldendal

Poland: Kobieca Publishing

Slovenia: Hiša Knjig

Spanish: Planeta México

Sweden: Lavender

Ukraine: The Old Lion

Option publishers:

Arabic: Al Karma

Bulgaria: Locus

China: United Sky

Croatia: Fokus

Denmark: Turbine Forlaget

Estonia: Rahva Raamat

Finland: WSOY

Greece: Metaichmio

Japan: Shueisha

Korea: Hyejiwon / Balgunsesang

Portugal: Guerra e Paz

Romania: Editura Art

Russia: AST

Serbia: Vulkan

Thailand: WeLearn

Turkey: Ithaki

Vietnam: Bachviet Books

PRAISE

"Sager is a master of twists, and he delivers plenty of them here. The novel is also full of '90s nostalgia, but the things stalking the backyard and the mysterious institute hidden in the nearby woods are what make this a gripping read."—**New York Times Book Review**

"A classic summer coming-of-age story with a page-turning side of paranormal activity."—**PEOPLE, Most-Anticipated Summer Books**

"MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT is a twisty mystery with a touch of the supernatural, but it's also about the complexities of friendship, those fleeting but overwhelming feelings from growing up and coming to terms with profound grief."—**USA Today**

"Full of tension, urgency, atmosphere, and feeling—this is Riley Sager at his very best."—**Lee Child, #1 New York Times Bestselling Author**

"I've read all of Riley Sager's novels and MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT is my new favorite. . . . Read it outdoors with a flashlight on a warm summer's evening—if you dare!"—**Jason Rekulak, author of Hidden Pictures**

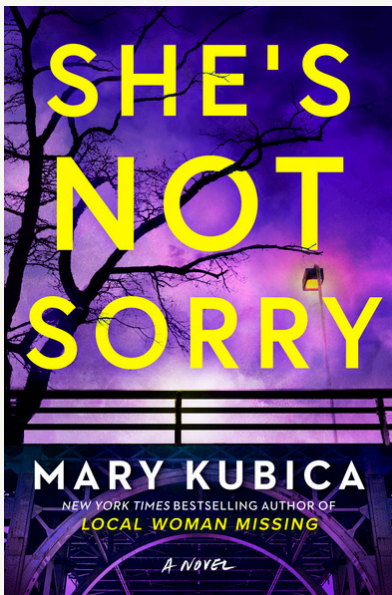
"Bestseller Sager expertly doles out chills and pathos in his mesmerizing latest...This standout work of psychological suspense confirms that Sager has few equals when it comes to merging creepiness and compassion."—**Publishers Weekly, starred review**

"MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT is Riley Sager at his masterful best—this story is dark, scary, and twisty, but also bittersweet. It's the secrets that hide in a bucolic neighborhood on a summer night, lingering in the freshly cut grass and the sound of crickets. You will follow these fascinating characters through its brilliantly woven plot all the way to the unexpected, poignant end."—**Simone St. James, New York Times bestselling author of Murder Road**

"Beyond the big, final reveal, another twist—personal for Ethan—changes our feelings about him, mine dramatically. It's then that all the pieces fall into place to make MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT the most satisfying Sager yet."—**St. Louis Post-Dispatch**

SHE'S NOT SORRY

Mary Kubica



Park Row Books (April 2, 2024)

Editor: Erika Imranyi

Territory sold: World English

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

Film/TV: Hilary Zaitz Michael & Carolina Beltran at WME

An ICU nurse accidentally uncovers a patient's frightening past in this chilling thriller from the million-copy bestselling author. Park Row has already sold over 150k copies across all formats for SHE'S NOT SORRY. Michelle Brower took over Mary's representation for this book and closed the biggest single-book deal of the author's career, for seven figures, and has now closed an even bigger deal for Mary's next novel, and we're thrilled to be selling the rights

New York Times Bestseller

Featured in Apple's Best Audiobooks of the Year (So Far)

Barnes & Noble Thriller/Suspense Pick (Paperback)

Meghan Michaels is trying to find balance between being a single mum to a teenage daughter and working as a full-time nurse. While on duty at the hospital one day, a patient named Caitlin arrives in a coma, having plunged from a bridge onto train tracks below.

But when a witness comes forward with shocking details about the fall, it calls everything they know into question. Was Caitlin pushed and if so, by whom and why?

Meghan has always tried to stay emotionally detached from her patients, but this time, she mistakenly lets herself get too close, until she's deeply entangled in Caitlin's and her family's lives. Only when it's too late, does she realize that she and her daughter could be the next victims.

Category: thriller

Mary Kubica is the *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of the suspense novels: *The Good Girl* (Park Row, 2014); *Pretty Baby* (Park Row, 2015); *Don't You Cry* (Park Row, 2016); *Every last Lie* (Park Row, 2017); *When the Lights Go Out* (Park Row, 2018); *The Other Mrs.* (Park Row, 2020), optioned by Netflix; *Local Woman Missing* (Park Row, 2021); and *Just the Nicest Couple* (Park Row, 2023). Mary's novels have been Indie Next picks, Goodreads Choice Awards nominees, Amazon Best Books of the Month, LibraryReads selections, and have won praise from nearly every major review outlet. Her novels have been translated into over 30 languages and have sold over two million copies worldwide.

Rights sold:

UK: HQ (via Harlequin)

ANZ: Harlequin (via Harlequin)

Estonia: Ersen Ou Eram

France: Mera

Germany: Aufbau

Korea: Happy Books to You

Portugal: Saída de
Emergência

Romania: Corint

Spanish: Newton Compton

Sweden: Lavender

Turkey: Destek

Ukraine: Artbooks

Previous publishers:

Bulgaria: Soft Press

Croatia: Mozaik

Italy: Fanucci

Lithuania: Svajonių knygos

Poland: Poradnia K

Russia: Eksmo

Slovenia: HKZ

PRAISE

"A tense, compelling thriller that's a study in unreliability and that surprises the reader with believable but completely gasp-worthy twists. I was so absorbed, I read it in a single sitting!"—**Nita Prose, #1 New York Times bestselling author of *The Maid* and *The Mystery Guest***

"Cunningly constructed, this is a multilayered story that will hook you from the start, tapping into every parent's darkest fears. It will keep you guessing until the end."—**Alice Feeney, New York Times bestselling author of *Rock Paper Scissors***

"SHE'S NOT SORRY is Mary Kubica's twistiest tale yet . . . Every page is steeped in a sense of deep, debilitating dread."—**Stacy Willingham, New York Times bestselling author of *A Flicker in the Dark***

"Mary Kubica's standalone thrillers will keep you turning the pages feverishly, and SHE'S NOT SORRY is the latest to do just that...doesn't let up until the last page."—**Amazon, Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2024**

"SHE'S NOT SORRY delivers a sleight-of-hand thriller that will leave readers stunned at the shocking conclusion."—**Novels Alive, five-star review**

"The bestselling Kubica's latest thriller is her best one yet, with multiple twists and unreliable characters that will hold readers until the nail-biting end . . . Kubica is a mastermind of fast-paced stories and complex characters that readers can immediately invest in and relate to."—**Library Journal, starred review**

"Twisty, addictive, and bingeable . . . This suspense-thriller will fully engage readers and leave them guessing until the very end."—**Booklist, starred review**

"A twist is expected in any Kubica novel, and this one is pretty successful . . . Interrogates and exposes the everyday fears that women face—while still checking all the thriller boxes."—**Kirkus**

"A compulsively twisty, keeps-you-guessing ride of a book."—**ELLE**

"Gripping . . . A reader can never be sorry spending time in Kubica's world."—**South Florida Sun-Sentinel**

THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER

Mikki Brammer



St. Martin's Press (May 9, 2023)

Editor: Sarah Cantin

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK co-agent: Jemima Forrester at
David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Joe Veltre at Gersh

Publishing in 24 territories, this is a big-hearted and life-affirming debut about a death doula who, in caring for others at the end of their life, has forgotten how to live her own. THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER is also proving to have a long tail in terms of sales in the U.S. The author is now working on her second novel, to be delivered in winter 2025

**Nominated for Best Fiction and Best Debut in the Goodreads Choice Awards
Named a Best Book of 2023 by NPR**

What's the point of giving someone a beautiful death if you can't give yourself a beautiful life?

From the day she watched her kindergarten teacher drop dead during a dramatic telling of *Peter Rabbit*, Clover Brooks has felt a stronger connection with the dying than she has with the living. After the beloved grandfather who raised her dies alone while she is traveling, Clover becomes a death doula in New York City, dedicating her life to ushering people peacefully through their end-of-life process.

Clover spends so much time with the dying that she has no life of her own, until the final wishes of a feisty old woman send Clover on a trip across the country to uncover a forgotten love story—and perhaps, her own happy ending. As she finds herself struggling to navigate the uncharted roads of romance and friendship, Clover is forced to examine what she really wants, and whether she'll have the courage to go after it.

Probing, clever, and hopeful, THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER is perfect for readers of *The Midnight Library* and *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* as it turns the normally taboo subject of death into a reason to celebrate life.

Category: commercial debut

Mikki Brammer is an Australian writer based in New York City. She spent her childhood in the Philippines and Tasmania before living in several different parts of Australia, as well as France and Spain. THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER is her debut novel. Her second novel will deliver to her primary editors this spring, and they are looking at a 2025 publication!

Rights sold:

UK: Viking (2 books)
ANZ: PRH Australia (2 books)
Brazil: Globo Livros
China: China Translation & Publishing House
Croatia: Znanje
Czech Republic: Euromedia
Denmark: Lindhardt & Ringhof (2 books)
France: Eyrolles (2 books)
Germany: Droemer (2 books)
Greece: Dioptra
Hebrew: Keter
Hungary: Helikon
Korea: Influential
Italy: Sperling & Kupfer
Lithuania: Alma Littera
Norway: Cappelen Damm (2 books)
Poland: Muza
Portugal: Bertrand
Romanian: Storia
Serbia: Vulkan
Spanish: Planeta México
Thailand: Amarin
Turkey: Nemesis
Ukraine: Vivat



PRAISE

"Weird, lovely and sweetly satisfying . . . Clover's emergence from a shuttered life is moving enough to elicit tears, and Brammer's take on death and grieving is profound enough to feel genuinely instructional."—**New York Times Book Review**

"Beautiful, poignant and the literary antidote to when life feels a little stationary."—**Jessica George, New York Times bestselling author of Maame**

"This is a beautiful tale of a vulnerable, compassionate woman who finds that, in order to care for others, she must also let herself be cared for. Even that cliché feels moving, rather than saccharine, in Brammer's capable hands."—**Kirkus, starred review**

"A heart-warming tale that offers a poignant message about the meaning of life, and death."—**Sydney Morning Herald (Australia)**

"What a beautiful story! . . . This book will be one that I remember for a long time, and it's a story that we can all learn something from."—**Ruth Hogan, Sunday Times bestselling author of Madame Burova**

"Warm, profound, and expertly told, THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER explores how befriending death can help enrich our lives. While infinitely poised in her role as a death doula, Clover's clumsy foray into the world of the living will have you recalling the sweet awkwardness of your first kiss and the thrill of new belonging. This is one of those special books that will leave a handprint on your heart."—**Emma Brodie, author of Songs in Ursa Majo**

"I couldn't put this book down. THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER is a tender, charming delight, perfect for anyone who loved *The Authenticity Project* or *Eleanor Oliphant Is Completely Fine*."—**KJ Dell'Antonia, New York Times bestselling author of The Chicken Sisters**

"THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER is a warm-hearted, tender story of love, life-lessons and letting go. Full of wisdom, it's a novel that handles with profound sensitivity and delicacy important questions that face us all, while fostering a joyful sense of hope for the future. Clover is a beguiling character who has so much more to offer the world than she knows, and it's a sheer delight to watch as her horizons expand. THE COLLECTED REGRETS OF CLOVER leaves us contemplating what it means to live our lives to the full, without regrets. A beautiful, thought-provoking novel."—**Sarah Haywood, New York Times bestselling author of the Reese Book Club Pick The Cactus**

THE CHRISTMAS ORPHANS CLUB

Becca Freeman



Pamela Dorman Books/Viking

(September 26, 2023)

Editor: Pamela Dorman & Marie Michels

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Maddalena Cavaciuti at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Addison Duffy & Olivia Fanaro at UTA

The holiday rom com done differently, but one that still scratches every yuletide itch. Sold in 13 territories, **THE CHRISTMAS ORPHANS CLUB** is an ode to friendship and chosen family, and its successful US launch has cemented Becca Freeman as a name to watch in this space

Hannah and Finn have spent every Christmas together since college. Neither has anywhere else to go—Hannah’s parents died, and Finn’s disowned him when he came out. Their tradition of offbeat holiday adventures only grows more outrageous with time. When the pair starts their adult lives in New York City, they add stylish Priya and mysterious Theo to the group, solidifying a found family and sense of belonging they’ve always craved.

But now, when Finn announces a move to LA, this Christmas may be their last. Hannah is terrified of losing the family she’s built for herself, even as her boyfriend nudges her toward commitment. Meanwhile, Finn struggles with the things he’s about to leave behind—namely, his unexpressed feelings for Theo. Does growing up mean growing apart? This Christmas the changes these friends fear may be exactly what they need. . . .

Category: debut rom com

Becca Freeman is a freelance marketing consultant and former Head of Marketing at LOLA. She is the host of the popular books and lifestyle podcast *Bad on Paper* and the co-creator of *RomComPods*. She lives in Brooklyn, where she enthusiastically celebrates Christmas every year.

Rights sold:

UK: Michael Joseph (2 books)
Czech Republic: Euromedia
Denmark: Flamingo/Gyldendal (2 Books)
Finland: Bazar
France: Éditions Michel Lafon
Germany: Penguin Verlag
Greece: Dioptra
Holland: Meulenhoff Boekeriej
Hungary: Central
Italy: Sperling & Kupfer
Serbia: Vulkan
Spanish: Suma de Letras
Sweden: Norstedts



PRAISE

“Becca Freeman gives a much-needed update to classic holiday tales . . . Witty and heartfelt . . . [A] whip-smart story of modern love, letting go, and growing up.”—**Carley Fortune, #1 New York Times bestselling author of Meet Me at the Lake**

“A fabulous festive read about found family. I loved it from the first sentence.”—**Sophie Cousens, New York Times bestselling author of Before I Do**

“If you adore Christmas and loved *Friends*, then this is the perfect book for you. . . . A festive, funny, hug of a novel about love in all its forms.”—**Clare Pooley, New York Times bestselling author of Iona Iverson’s Rules for Commuting**

“I’m completely in love with this book! . . . Witty, heartwarming, and hilarious and the most delightful thing you’ll read all year.”—**Jennifer Close, New York Times bestselling author of Marrying the Ketchups**

“A hilarious and poignant contemporary fable.”—**Seattle Times**

“Freeman’s take on how relationships evolve is full of feeling.”—**Publishers Weekly**

“Freeman’s writing is filled with wit and insight, and her dialogue crackles. Beneath the abundant humor and charm is a thoughtful exploration of friendship, tradition, and the challenges of growing old.”—**Grant Ginder, bestselling author of The People We Hate at the Wedding and Let’s Not Do That Again**

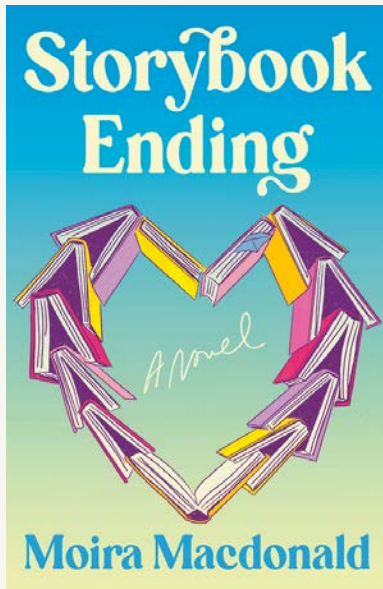
“Funny and wise—this totally unexpected story of chosen family warmed me from the inside out. I absolutely adored it.”—**Annabel Monaghan, author of Nora Goes Off Script**

“THE CHRISTMAS ORPHANS CLUB has everything you could want in a holiday book-treat: sweetness, laughs, and delicious rom-com moments that’ll make you jump up and yell, ‘Kiss him! Kiss him!’ Thank you, Becca Freeman, for an ensemble cast so lovable I wish they were real and could be my friends.”—**Mary Laura Philpott, author of Bomb Shelter: Love, Time, and Other Explosives**

“A big-hearted, poignant, page-turning novel about the chosen families that sustain us. . . . With this dazzling debut, Freeman is the heir apparent to the mantle of sophisticated, feel-good fiction. I will read anything she writes.”—**John Glynn, author of Out East: Memoir of a Montauk Summer**

STORYBOOK ENDING

Moira Macdonald



*cover not final

Dutton (June 10, 2025)

Editor: Maya Ziv

Territory sold: North America

Material: first pass, translatable
delivering in November

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Katie Greenstreet at
Paper Literary

Film/TV: Kristina Moore at UTA

Rights sold:

UK: Bloomsbury

Brazil: Verus/Record

Czech Republic: Dobrovský

France: Hauteville/Brageonne

Germany: Krüger/S. Fischer Verlage

Greece: Metaichmio

Hebrew: Tchelet

Holland: Ambo Anthos

Hungary: General Press

Italy: Mondadori

Lithuania: Alma Littera

Norway: Cappelen Damm

Poland: Muza

Portugal: Planeta Portugal

Romania: Trei

Spanish: Newton Compton

Turkey: Juno

Sold in 17 territories, this warm, funny, escapist debut novel, inspired by Nora Ephron classics like *You've Got Mail*, is set in an unforgettable bookstore that is sure to delight book lovers and book sellers everywhere. Our book of the fair last Frankfurt, and the package is now coming together beautifully!

April, a smart and lonely tech worker, worries work from home has gotten out of hand: She's left an anonymous note in a book for Westley, the clerk at her Seattle neighborhood bookstore who has a gentle smile and looks great in flannel. But thanks to fate, Laura—a busy single mom who had given up on love—buys the book, finds the note, and thinks Westley has left it for her. A handsome man who loves books seems like just the plot twist she has been looking for.

Meanwhile, Westley—not the most perceptive—is too distracted by the movie filming at the store and the ambition it's unlocked in him to notice either of the two women. But as April and Laura's anonymous correspondence continues back and forth, their mundane routines are challenged, sparking a glimmer of hope. Is a happy ending in the cards for them?

A hilarious and intricate web of mistaken identities and serendipitous encounters, *STORYBOOK ENDING* is a playful tribute to romance, friendship, and bookstores, and to the objects—from a forgotten slip of paper to someone's heart—left between the pages of books we loved.

Category: commercial debut

PINKY SWEAR

Danielle Girard



Emily Bestler Books/Atria (spring 2026)

Editor: Sarah Grill

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript after the fair

Agent: Danya Kukafka

UK rights: Stephanie Glencross at David Higham Associates

Option publishers:

Czech Republic: Dobrovský

Hungary: Könyvmolyképző

Norway: Schibsted Forlag AS

Poland: Virtualo

Russia: Eksmo

For fans of Ashley Audrain and Laura Dave, a gripping thriller about a woman whose former best friend and current surrogate disappears four days before the due date of her child. Danya just recently took over this author's representation and sold PINKY SWEAR at auction in a significant two-book deal at the end of the summer. The manuscript will be going through some meaningful edits so we'll wait to share later this fall!

Cilla thought she knew Mara Vannatta. Best friends since high school, where together they weathered a terrible loss, the two women are like sisters. They've lost touch over the last two decades, but when Mara shows up on Cilla's doorstep fleeing an abusive husband, Cilla takes her in without question. Mara is grateful for the refuge, and Cilla is grateful for her childhood confidante, who has the one thing she truly wants: the ability to carry a baby. Mara agrees to be a surrogate, and soon they are preparing for the arrival of Cilla's precious, long-awaited daughter.

But four days before the baby's due date, Mara disappears.

Cilla is shocked. Why would Mara leave with her unborn child? Where would she go? As the questions pile up and the due date looms closer, Cilla starts digging into what, exactly, Mara has been doing for the sixteen years since they graduated high school—and what really happened that tragic night during their senior year. As she embarks on a perilous hunt for her unborn baby, Cilla is forced to consider a friendship she thought she knew, and just how far she will go to bring her child safely home.

Dark and thrilling, sharp and propulsive, PINKY SWEAR is about a mother's devotion, and the secrets we keep for those we love most. This is a new direction for an author who has spent decades writing police procedurals, and more recently cultivating a following with her popular podcast *Killer Women*; PINKY SWEAR is her breakout into the book club space, and we're excited for it to find its readers.

Category: thriller

Danielle Girard is the *USA Today* and Amazon #1 bestselling author of 16 novels, including the Annabelle Schwartzman Series, *Chasing Darkness*, and The Rookie Club series. Her books have won the Barry Award, the Romantic Times Reviewers' Choice Award, and *White Out* was in the top 100 bestselling e-books of 2020. Danielle is also the creator and host of the *Killer Women* Podcast, where she interviews the women who write today's best crime fiction.

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

Alissa Lee



Emily Bestler Books/Atria (fall 2025)

Editor: Lara Jones

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript after the fair

Agent: Danya Kukafka & Michelle Brower

UK rights: Maddalena Cavaciuti at David Higham Associates

Sold at auction in a two-book deal over the summer, WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE is a debut book club suspense for fans of Ellery Lloyd's *The Club*, Julia Bartz's *The Writing Retreat*, or Kirstin Chen's *Counterfeit*. We'll also be waiting for the edited manuscript here!

Harvard promised them everything.

At 18 years old, they had ambitious futures ahead: bright careers, love affairs, an education that would open doors for the rest of their lives. Sara's college roommates were the family she never had: Bee the political hopeful, Dina the academic prodigy, Allie the family girl, Wesley the hard-partying heiress, and Claudine, the Southern belle—the closest thing Sara had ever known to a sister. But their senior year, Claudine died, and everything changed.

20 years later, the five college roommates still indulge in a secret tradition they've kept alive since their campus days: the Circus, a harmless assassin game played across New York City. Inside the private rooms and down the hidden alleys of the city, they compete every year with water guns for "kills," despite whatever might be happening in their bustling lives. The game is a vestige from their Harvard days, a nod to their younger selves and the sixth roommate they lost too young—but this year, Sara keeps catching inexplicable glimpses of Claudine, and she wants out of the Circus. They are 40 years old now, each living out their own paths, with too much at stake for a juvenile game. But when Sara discovers there is a small fortune awaiting the winner of this final round, she agrees out of loyalty and desperation to play one last time. As the Circus unfolds, Sara begins to suspect the others aren't playing by the rules, and as the danger turns real and the roommates start pointing fingers, she discovers that even her closest friends harbor secrets of their own—and those secrets have turned deadly.

WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE is a story of lifelong female friendship, the facades we erect and the lies we tell when the future turns out very differently from what we expected.

Category: debut book club suspense

Alissa Lee is a writer and lawyer. She was formerly Associate General Counsel and COO, Legal at Google and has taught writing workshops to incarcerated youth through The Beat Within. She is a board member of Friends of the San Francisco Public Library and is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Harvard College. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

ONE ON ONE

Jamie Harrow



Dutton (September 24, 2024)

Editor: Cassidy Sachs

Territory: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Maddalena Cavaciuti

at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Addison Duffy & Orly

Greenberg at UTA

Rights sold:

UK: Quercus (2 books)

Brazil: Sextante-Arqueiro

Germany: Bastei Lübbe

For readers of Tessa Bailey, Sally Thorne, and Sarah Hogle, this is a steamy workplace, enemies-to-lovers debut for anyone who can't get enough sports rom-coms. Sold in impressive two-book deals in both the US and UK, and with deals in Germany and Brazil too

Eight years after graduation, Annie Radford is not happy to be back at her alma mater in her old job with the Ardwyn Tigers' basketball team. Worse, her coworker from back in college, Ben Callahan, is still on the Tigers staff, and he's annoyingly wholesome, hot, and clinging to a grudge against Annie for abandoning him and the team their senior year.

But as Ardwyn becomes the season's Cinderella Story, things start heating up between Annie and Ben, too. And while neither of them can deny this could be something special, Annie's afraid to tell Ben the truth about why she left basketball—the thing she loves most—in the first place. She'll have to learn to trust him if they have a shot at being together.

In addition to being funny, romantic, and sexy, ONE ON ONE examines the pressure put on college athletes, challenges the sexism in the world of sports, and exposes the dangers in whole communities idolizing the big men on campus.

For readers of *The Hating Game* and *The Ex Talk*, a workplace, enemies-to-lovers debut for anyone yearning for a courtside romance, perfect for anyone who can't get enough sports rom-coms.

"Move over, hockey romance fans. There's a new game in town. Jamie Harrow's debut novel sails thru the net with the perfect blend of romance, spice, and a healthy dollop of a serious issue that bears addressing."—Jodi Picoult, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

"Harrow's breathtaking debut delves deep into the raw emotions of grief and the pure beauty of rediscovering joy in an exquisite tale of second chances, featuring an enemies-to-lovers romance."—*Library Journal*, starred review

"Forgive me in advance, because I will be shouting about my love for ONE ON ONE until my voice gives out. In her stunning debut, . . . Ben and Annie are so fully explored that they are now real people to me, and their love story unfolds with perfect tension and tenderness. A new all-time favorite."—Jessica Joyce, *USA Today* bestselling author of *You, With a View*

FUN AT PARTIES

Jamie Harrow



A cross-country road trip romance in which celebrity spin instructor Quinn Ray and her high school crush Nate Reed chase their friend across the US in an epic, unplanned party hop and end up finding love somewhere along the road

When online cycling instructor Quinn Ray has a mid-class meltdown—dramatically off-brand for someone whose vibe is reliably sunshine and rainbows—her boss orders her to take a few weeks off work. And that’s fine. But then Nate Reed—the guy who’s barely spoken to Quinn since their friendship imploded two years ago—asks to hitch a ride so he can meet up with their most chaotically lovable pal Logan. And the Internet rallies so strongly behind Quinn post-breakup that her boss orders her to seize the opportunity to rebrand herself as everyone’s favorite emblem of empowered singledom.

Dutton (fall 2025)

Editor: Cassidy Sachs

Territory: North America

Material: unedited manuscript

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Maddalena Cavaciuti
at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Addison Duffy & Orly
Greenberg at UTA

The problem is, Logan seems to be dodging them on purpose, and Nate really needs to speak to him. So Quinn and Nate put aside the awkwardness between them and follow Logan 450 miles to a Las Vegas nightclub. And then chase him to a rooftop rager . . . baby shower? . . . in Denver. A rain-soaked country-western music festival in Kansas. A rowdy Nashville bachelorette party. As Quinn's peaceful road trip becomes a tour of America's biggest party spots with the guy she didn't know she still wanted, things take a turn somewhere along the way, and Nate might just be the silver lining Quinn never thought to look for.

Rights sold:

UK: Quercus (2 books)

Category: rom com

Jamie Harrow grew up on the sidelines of a basketball court since, like her protagonist in *One on One*, her father was a longtime coach. She wrote a sports column for *The Villanovan*, the student paper at her basketball-obsessed college. She is now a lawyer, and lives in New Jersey with her family. *One on One* is her first novel.

IT'S A LOVE STORY

*title may change

Sasha Laurens



Avon (fall 2025)

Editor: Ariana Sinclair

Territory sold: North America

Material: unedited manuscript

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Maddalena Cavaciuti at David Higham Associates

Rights sold:

UK: Michael Joseph

Brazil: Rocco

Germany: Piper

Spanish: Roca

Previous publishers (for YA):

Czech Republic: Albatros

France: Nathan

Hebrew: Kinneret

Holland: Dutch Venture

Hungary: Könyvmolyképző

Italy: Oscar Mondadori

Poland: We Need YA

Russia: Eksmo

One of our biggest books of the spring season, a queer debut adult rom com that's about creative inspiration, what artists owe their fans and the intoxicating appeal of someone who knows who you truly are

When Renee Feldman took time off from her film MFA, she hoped to rediscover her creative spark, away from her hypercritical peers. Instead, she's stalled. So she's not exactly feeling her best when, at a family friend's wedding, she runs into Lola Gray—a childhood neighbor who's become a major pop sensation.

Lola Gray just wants to get through her sister's wedding. It's been a year since her secret relationship with an it-girl model imploded, simultaneously breaking Lola's heart, annihilating her planned coming out as bisexual and cancelling the album of love songs she'd written. Lola's known for her confessional songwriting, but the fan speculation over bad blood with her ex has her paralyzed by writer's block. When Lola runs into Renee, she knows exactly what she needs. Lola's teenage crush on Renee, the fearless lesbian next door, was so bad, it secretly inspired her debut album. She hopes that one night with Renee will put the past behind her, and refill the blank space her creative well has become.

Never in her wildest dreams did Renee think she'd end up in bed with the sensitive girl she knew at 15. Renee is still in the afterglow of the best—and weirdest—one night stand of her life, when she receives an unexpected call: Lola's team wants to film a documentary alongside her next album, but the director they hired was trouble when he walked in. Lola needs Renee to replace him—and filming starts in a week.

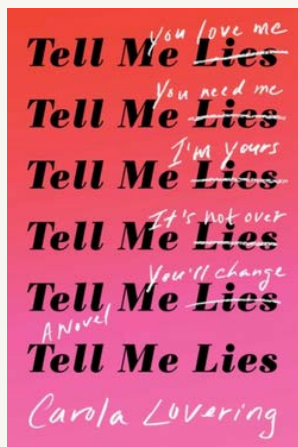
As Lola and Renee reconnect and sparks fly, there's no denying the feelings they have for each other—or the renewed creativity it inspires. When Renee suggests they tell their story, Lola agrees, even if it means coming out and potentially damaging her reputation. But neither Renee or Lola realize how hard it will be to tell their love story, in an industry that sets a narrative of its own.

Category: rom com

Sasha Laurens is the author of the young adult novels *A Wicked Magic* and *Youngblood*, which was translated into 12 languages, was an Amazon Editor's Pick, and was a 2023 CBC Librarian Favorites Winner. She has a PhD in political science and spends her days doing academic research on authoritarianism and Russian politics.

TELL ME LIES

Carola Lovering



Atria Books (June 12, 2018)

Territory: World English

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

Film/TV: Hulu Originals series, executive produced by Emma Roberts and Karah Preiss/Belletrist Productions, starring Grace Van Patten and Jackson White

Rights sold:

UK: Orion (via Atria)

Czech Republic: Bourdon

Germany: Bastei Lübbe

Italy: Salani Editore

Adapted into a hit TV show via Hulu/Disney Plus (and with great reviews rolling in for the second season, which premiered September 4, 2024!), this "sizzling summer read" (*Bustle*) has now sold over 130k copies in paperback alone

Named a Best Book of Summer by *Parade* • *Refinery29* • *PopSugar* • *Bustle* • *Working Mother* • *Town & Country* • *Thought Catalog* • *PureWow* • *Betches* • *Literary Hub* • *Brides*

Lucy Albright is far from her Long Island upbringing when she arrives on the campus of her small California college, and happy to be hundreds of miles from her mother, whom she's never forgiven for an act of betrayal in her early teen years. Quickly grasping at her fresh start, Lucy embraces college life and all it has to offer—new friends, wild parties, stimulating classes. And then she meets Stephen DeMarco. Charming. Attractive. Complicated. Devastating.

Confident and cocksure, Stephen sees something in Lucy that no one else has, and she's quickly seduced by this vision of herself, and the sense of possibility that his attention brings her. Meanwhile, Stephen is determined to forget an incident buried in his past that, if exposed, could ruin him, and his single-minded drive for success extends to winning, and keeping, Lucy's heart.

Lucy knows there's something about Stephen that isn't to be trusted. Stephen knows Lucy can't tear herself away. And their addicting entanglement will have consequences they never could have imagined.

Alternating between Lucy's and Stephen's voices, TELL ME LIES follows their connection through college and post-college life in New York City. With psychological insight and biting wit, this keenly intelligent and staggeringly resonant novel chronicles the yearning ambitions, desires, and dilemmas of young adulthood, and the difficulty of letting go, even when you know you should.

"Everything you could ever want in a summer read."—USA TODAY

Category: suspense

Carola Lovering is the author of the novels TELL ME LIES (Atria, 2018), *Too Good to Be True* (St. Martin's, 2021), *Can't Look Away* (St. Martin's, 2022), and *Bye, Baby* (St. Martin's, 2024). Rights for all but this first novel are with the publisher, and *Can't Look Away* has sold to Niculescu Editura in Romania. TELL ME LIES has been adapted into a television series for Hulu. Carola lives in Connecticut with her family.

CHRISTMAS WITH THE QUEEN

Hazel Gaynor & Heather Webb



William Morrow (November 19, 2024)

Editor: Tessa Woodward

Territory sold: World English

Material: translatable manuscript

Agent: Michelle Brower

The Crown meets The King's Speech in the new historical novel from this bestselling duo which invites the reader to spend the festive season with Queen Elizabeth II as she delivers her traditional Christmas Message during the first five years of her reign

The Christmas Day message aims to unite a nation still dealing with the aftermath of war and the loss of their beloved king, but the annual event also brings together a talented young chef, Jack Bailey, and an ambitious royal correspondent, Olive Carter. Over the next five years, Jack and Olive develop a friendship that threatens to blossom into something more, but as Sandringham prepares for the Queen's first televised Christmas message, a dark secret threatens their bond—until her Majesty intervenes. On Christmas Day, as millions throughout Britain gather around their television sets to watch the queen's first televised Christmas speech, only those who are willing to embrace the season of goodwill, and an era of change, will find the true meaning of Christmas.

Category: commercial historical fiction

Authors of



Option publishers: **Brazil:** Ciranda Cultural, **Bulgaria:** Kragozor, **Croatia:** 24 Sata, **Czech Republic:** Albatros, **Denmark:** Politiken, **Germany:** Blanvalet, **Hungary:** Novivon, **Italy:** TEA, **Norway:** Cappelen Damm, **Poland:** Prószyński, **Romania:** Corint, **Spain:** Ediciones Palabra, **Turkey:** Mona Kitap

"A moving, uplifting read. A winner!"—**Alice Quinn, New York Times bestselling author of The Alice Network**

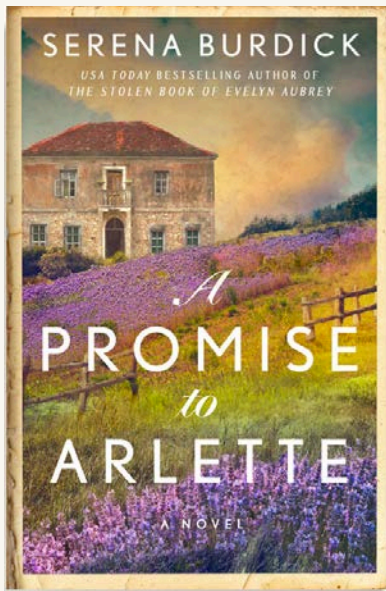
"Webb and Gaynor's latest collaboration is a historical fiction home run... *Meet Me in Monaco* is smart, romantic, and heartbreaking, and the tale captivates from the start."—**Michelle Gable, New York Times bestselling author of A Paris Apartment**

Hazel Gaynor is the award-winning *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *A Memory of Violets* and *The Girl Who Came Home*, for which she received the 2015 Romantic Novelists' Association Historical Romantic Novel of the Year award. Her third novel, *The Girl from The Savoy*, was an *Irish Times* and *Globe and Mail* bestseller, and was shortlisted for the 2016 Irish Book Awards Popular Fiction Book of the Year. Her most recent novel, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter*, was a *USA Today* and *Irish Times* bestseller, and was shortlisted for the 2019 Historical Writers' Association Gold Crown Award. Hazel's work has been translated into 14 languages. She lives in Ireland with her husband and two children.

Heather Webb is the *USA Today* bestselling and award-winning author of historical fiction. In 2015, *Rodin's Lover* was a Goodreads Top Pick, and in 2018, *Last Christmas in Paris* won the Women's Fiction Writers Association STAR Award. In 2019, *Meet Me in Monaco* was selected as a finalist for the 2020 Goldsboro RNA award in the UK, as well as the Digital Book World's Fiction prize. Her newest solo novel, *The Next Ship Home*, is inspired by true events and reveals the dark secrets of Ellis Island. To date, Heather's books have been translated into 15 languages.

A PROMISE TO ARLETTE

Serena Burdick



Atria (June 17, 2025)

Editor: Laura Brown

Territory: World English

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Stephanie Delman

Previous publishers:

Bulgaria: Hermes

Czech Republic: Grada

Germany: Festa Verlag

Lithuania: Balto Leidybos
Namai

Poland: Sonia Draga

Portugal: LeYa

Romania: RAO

Russia: Arkadia

Spanish: PRH Spain

With the scope of a saga and the heart of a thriller, A PROMISE TO ARLETTE is an evocative, lyrically written historical novel where a married couple living the ideal 1950s suburban life must reckon with the promises they made during WWII when past secrets resurface. Editor Laura Brown brought Serena Burdick over with her from Park Row to Atria, in a significant two-book deal, and Atria is working to break Serena out even more widely

Sidney and Ida Whipple are living the suburban 1950s American dream, complete with two children and a white picket fence, an unimaginable reality when they first met at the height of WWII in France. Reveling in the present, they can almost convince themselves that their past is behind them. But when their neighbors show off a newly purchased Man Ray photograph, Ida comes face-to-face with the person she loved and lost in the war: Arlette.

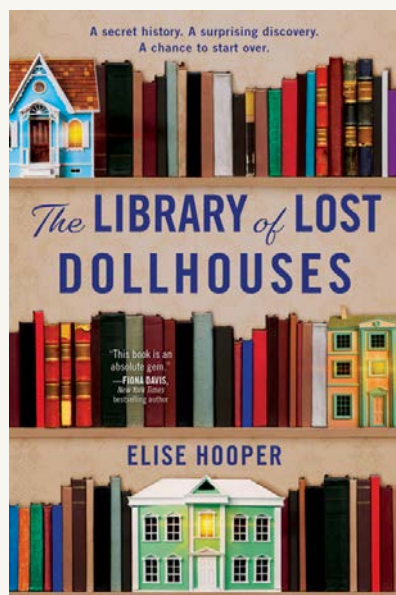
Only Ida knows the truth about the photograph, and why it can't possibly be authentic. In an attempt to right past wrongs, she travels to California vowing to confront Man Ray. Sidney wakes to find his wife missing, the photograph in question stolen, and all the secrets they've tried to bury rushing back to threaten their perfect life. With his daughters in tow, Sidney travels after Ida hoping to forge ahead together. Instead, their sojourn leads to a shocking discovery that could pull their family apart in this sweeping, unforgettable story about love and friendship, trust and betrayal, and how promises made, broken, and ultimately renewed, can determine our fate.

Category: historical fiction

Serena Burdick is the *USA Today*, *Toronto Star* and *Publishers Weekly* bestselling author of *The Girls With No Names* (Park Row, 2020). She is the author of the novels *The Stolen Book of Evelyn Aubrey* (Park Row, 2022), *Find Me in Havana* (Park Row, 2021), and *Girl in the Afternoon* (St. Martin's, 2016). Her books have been translated into multiple languages and published in 12 territories to date. She studied creative writing at Sarah Lawrence College, holds a Bachelors of Arts from Brooklyn College in English literature and an Associates of Arts from The American Academy of Dramatic Arts in theater.

THE LIBRARY OF LOST DOLLHOUSES

Elise Hooper



Morrow (April 8, 2025)

Editor: Liz Stein

Territory sold: World English

Material: translatable pass

Agents: Michelle Brower & Danya Kukafka

For fans of Fiona Davis and Marie Benedict, a novel about a young librarian who discovers historic dollhouses and embarks on a journey to uncover the hidden secrets behind the intricate miniatures

Tildy Barrows, Head Curator of a beautiful archival library in San Francisco, is meticulously dedicated to the century's worth of inventory housed in her beloved Beaux Art building. She loves the calm and order in the shelves of books and walls of art. But Tildy's uneventful life takes an unexpected turn when she, first, learns the library is on the verge of bankruptcy and, second, discovers two exquisite never-before-seen dollhouses. After finding clues hidden within these remarkable miniatures, Tildy starts to believe that Belva Curtis LeFarge, the influential heiress who established the library a century ago, is conveying a significant final message.

With a newfound sense of spontaneity, Tildy sets out to decipher the secret history of the dollhouses, aiming to salvage her cherished library in the process. Her journey to understand introduces her to a world of ambitious and gifted women in Belle Époque Paris, a group of scarred World War I veterans in the English countryside, and Walt Disney's bustling Burbank studio in the 1950s. As Tildy unravels the mystery, she finds not only inspiring, overlooked history, but also a future for herself, filled with exciting possibilities—and an astonishing familial revelation.

Spanning the course of a century, *THE LIBRARY OF LOST DOLLHOUSES* is a warm, bright, and captivating story of secrets and love that embraces the importance of illuminating overlooked women of the past.

"Elise Hooper's latest marvel takes readers on an enchanting journey from San Francisco to Paris, love to war, deception to redemption . . . This beautiful page-turner kept me reading all night."—Janet Skeslien Charles, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Paris Library*

Category: commercial fiction

Elise Hooper spent several years writing for television and online news outlets before getting a MA and teaching high-school literature and history. Her debut novel *The Other Alcott* was a nominee for the 2017 Washington Book Award. More novels—*Learning to See*, *Fast Girls*, and *Angels of the Pacific*—followed, all centered on the lives of extraordinary but overlooked historical women. Elise lives in Seattle with her husband and two teenage daughters.

MOST WONDERFUL

Georgia Clark



Dial (October 15, 2024)

Editor: Katy Nishimoto & Emma Caruso

Territory sold: World English

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

Film/TV: Jason Richman & Addison Duffy at UTA

A charming queer holiday romance about three adult siblings, each at a personal and romantic crossroads, who reunite at their larger-than-life mother's Catskills manor for an unforgettable Christmas. The author's first book at Dial which is positioning her as a pillar of their rom com list!

The holidays are fast approaching, and the Belvedere siblings are a mess. Liz, a Hollywood showrunner and responsible eldest, has no idea how to follow up her hit show's first season, or how to deal with her giant crush on its star, Violet Grace. Birdie turned her chronic middle-child syndrome into a career as a stand-up comic, but since she spends more time wooing women than working on new material, she's facing one-hit-wonder status, especially once she gets axed by her manager. And Rafi, sensitive romantic and the baby golden boy, proposes to his co-worker girlfriend in front of their entire company, only to be turned down by the woman he thought was the love of his life.

Born to three different fathers, the three adult children share one mother: famed actress and singer Babs Belvedere. Seeking direction and holiday cheer, all three siblings head up to their mother's house in the country, determined to swear off love and focus on themselves and their work. But the spirit of the season seems to have different plans for them, and their best intentions are quickly derailed in the most delightfully festive ways.

Emotional, smart, and sexy, this queer holiday rom-com celebrates love, family, and the wild creative life—perfect for fans of *Emily Henry* and *Casey McQuiston*.

“Brimming with hopeful, big-hearted romance, expansive, overlapping love stories, and a cast of lovable, dimensional characters, MOST WONDERFUL is itself the most wonderful.”—Christina Lauren, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Soulmate Equation*

“A delightfully original holiday romance that feels like the most wonderful time of the year.”—Alison Cochrun, Lambda award-winning author of *Kiss Her Once for Me*

Category: Christmas rom com

Georgia Clark is an award-winning six-times published novelist and performer. She's the author of *Island Time*, *It Had To Be You*, *The Regulars*, *The Bucket List*, and others (Simon & Schuster). She's also the host/founder of the popular storytelling night, *Generation Women*, performing monthly at New York's iconic Joe's Pub. She teaches romance writing, mentors up-and-coming writers, hosts weekend writers' retreats, and is the creator of the monthly *Substack*, *Heartbeat*. A native Australian, she lives in Brooklyn with her hot wife and sweet baby.

ISLAND TIME

Georgia Clark



Atria/Emily Bestler Books (June 14, 2022)

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

Love is in the salty sea air in this smart and steamy ensemble romantic comedy set in a tropical paradise, from the author of the “sparkly and entertaining” (*Oprah Daily*) *It Had to Be You*. This is one island you won’t want to be rescued from

The Kellys are messy, loud, loving Australians. The Lees are sophisticated, aloof, buttoned-up Americans. They have nothing in common . . . except for the fact that their daughters are married. When a nearby volcano erupts during their short vacation to a remote tropical island off the coast of Queensland, the two families find themselves stranded together for six weeks.

With only two island employees making up the rest of their party, everyone is forced to question what—or who—they really want. ISLAND TIME is a sumptuous summer read that dives deep into queer romance, family secrets, ambition, parenthood, and a bird-chasing bromance. This sexy, sun-soaked paradise of white sandy beaches, crystal-clear waters, and lush rainforest will show you it’s never too late to change your destiny.

Category: rom com

IT HAD TO BE YOU

Georgia Clark



Atria/Emily Bestler Books (May 4, 2021)

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

A witty and heartfelt romantic comedy featuring a wedding planner, her unexpected business partner, and their coworkers in a series of linked love stories—perfect for fans of Christina Lauren and Casey McQuiston

For the past 20 years, Liv and Eliot Goldenhorn have run In Love in New York, Brooklyn’s beloved wedding-planning business. When Eliot dies unexpectedly, he even more unexpectedly leaves half of the business to his younger, blonder girlfriend, Savannah. Liv and Savannah are not a match made in heaven, to say the least. But what starts as a personal and professional nightmare transforms into something even savvy, cynical Liv Goldenhorn couldn’t begin to imagine.

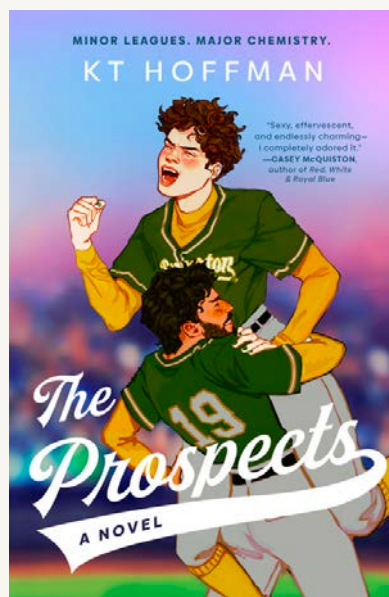
IT HAD TO BE YOU cleverly unites Liv, Savannah, and couples as diverse and unique as New York City itself, in a joyous *Love-Actually*-style braided narrative. The result is a smart, modern love story that truly speaks to our times.

Category: rom com

THE PROSPECTS

KT Hoffman

*previously titled THE KEYSTONE COMBINATION



The Dial Press (April 9, 2024)

Editor: Katy Nishimoto

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Maddalena Cavaciuti
at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Becca Rodriguez at
Grandview

Rights sold:

UK: Sphere/Little, Brown UK

This special edition went out with the Illumicrate subscription box to over 5,500 subscribers in the UK



An Illumicrate romance pick in the UK and published to a glowing reception in the US, this is a joyful, queer enemies-to-lovers romance, perfect for fans of *Red, White and Royal Blue*

April Indie Next Pick

Included in Roundups by *Oprah Daily* • *USA Today* • *The Knot* • *Book Riot* • *Paste Magazine* • *Elle*

Gene Ionescu is content to play in the minor leagues. He's seen teammates get their big breaks, but as the first openly trans man in the world of competitive baseball, he has nearly everything he's ever let himself dream of.

When his former teammate and long-time rival, Luis Estrada, is unexpectedly drafted onto the team, the careful equilibrium of Gene's life is destroyed. Luis is standoffish, talented and inconveniently gorgeous, and the two men can barely get through a game together. This is war, and the team pays the price.

So when Luis surprises Gene with a softer side to his haughty demeanour, Gene offers an olive branch - for the sake of his teammates. Soon they discover that their chemistry on the pitch might lead them all the way to the playoffs. And their chemistry off the pitch . . . well, that could be enough to change the game for ever.

"Tenacious, sexy, effervescent, doggedly hopeful, and endlessly charming, with characters to root hard for and an irresistible voice—I completely adored it."—Casey McQuiston, author of *Red, White and Royal Blue*

"Endearing and tender."—*New York Times Book Review*

"Entertaining, sexy and delivers a much-needed joyful tale of queer love."—*USA Today*

"Gene's heart is so big, you'll want to hug him through the book, and his journey to finding love and success is thrilling and heartwarming."—*Oprah Daily*

"A queer sports romance and a triumphant debut from KT Hoffman, *The Prospects* is a heartstring-pulling tale of two minor-league baseball rivals who realize they play much better together."—*ELLE, The Best (and Most Anticipated) Romance Books of 2024, So Far*

Category: debut rom com

KT Hoffman is an author of queer romance and historical fiction. He is originally from Beaverton, Oregon and currently lives in Brooklyn. KT was a 2021 Pitch Wars mentee.

MALINALLI

Veronica Chapa



Atria (March 11, 2025)

Editor: Michelle Herrera Mulligan

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Mariah Stovall

UK rights: Rachel Clements at
Abner Stein

An imaginative retelling of the triumphs and sorrows of one of the most controversial and misunderstood women in Mexico’s history and mythology, perfect for fans of Silvia Moreno-Garcia’s *Gods of Jade and Shadow* and Zoraida Córdova’s *The Inheritance of Orquídea Divina*

A real-life historical figure, the woman known as Malinalli, Malintzin, La Malinche, Doña Marina, and Malinalxochitl was the Nahuatl interpreter who helped Spanish conquistador Hernán Cortés communicate with the native people of Mexico. When indigenous leaders observed her marching into their cities, they believed she was a goddess—blessed with the divine power to interpret the Spaniards’ intentions for their land. Later, historians and pop culture would deem her a traitor—the “Indian” girl who helped sell Mexico’s future to an invader.

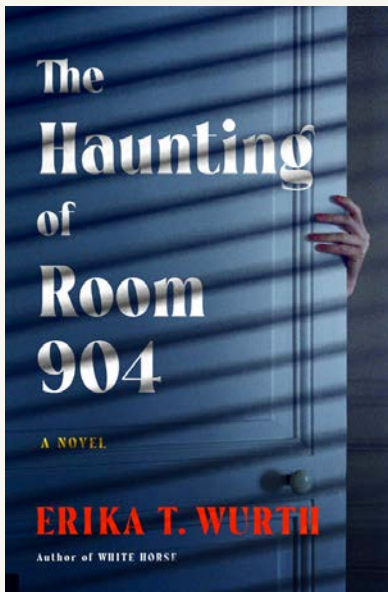
In this riveting, fantastical retelling, Malinalli is all of those things and more, but at heart, she’s a young girl, kidnapped into slavery by age 12, and fighting to survive the devastation wrought by both the Spanish and Moctezuma’s greed and cruelty. Blessed with magical powers, and supported by a close-knit circle of priestesses, Mali vows to help defend her people’s legacy. In vivid, compelling prose, debut author Veronica Chapa spins an epic tale of magic, sisterhood, survival, and Mexican resilience. This is the first novel to reimagine and reinterpret Malinalli’s story with the empathy, humanity, and awe she’s always deserved.

Category: historical fantasy debut

Veronica Chapa is an author, essayist, and award-winning copywriter with a master’s degree in advertising from Northwestern University’s Medill School of Journalism. She lives in the Chicago area with her husband.

THE HAUNTING OF ROOM 904

Erika T. Wurth



Flatiron (March 18, 2025)

Editor: Zack Wagman

Territory sold: North America

Material: first pass

Agent: Rebecca Friedman at
Rebecca Friedman Literary

UK rights: direct (Allison
Malecha)

Also available:

WHITE HORSE

Flatiron (November 1,
2022)

Material: translatable
pass



We're representing this new voice in horror on behalf of Rebecca Friedman Literary Agency. Erika T. Wurth broke out in the US with her last horror novel, *WHITE HORSE* (Flatiron, November 2022), which has sold 40k copies across all formats, and which Silvia Moreno-Garcia called "a perfect example of new wave horror that will also satisfy fans of classic Stephen King," and we now have her exciting new novel, a terrifying and resonant thriller about a woman who uses her unique gift to learn the truth about her sister's death

Olivia Becente was never supposed to have the gift. The ability to commune with the dead was the specialty of her sister, Naiche. But when Naiche dies unexpectedly and under strange circumstances, somehow Olivia suddenly can't stop seeing and hearing from spirits.

A few years later, she's the most in-demand paranormal investigator in Denver, Colorado. She's good at her job, but the loss of Naiche haunts her. That's when she hears from The Brown Palace, a landmark hotel in the city. The owner can't explain it, but every few years, a girl is found dead in room 904, no matter what room she checked into. As Olivia tries to understand these disturbing deaths, history and the present collide as Olivia's investigation forces her to confront a mysterious and possibly dangerous cult, a vindictive journalist, betrayal by her friends, and shocking revelations about her sister's secret life.

THE HAUNTING OF ROOM 904 is a paranormal thriller that is as edgy as it is heartfelt and simmers with intensity and longing. Erika T. Wurth lives up to her reputation as "a gritty new punkish outsider voice in American horror" (*Esquire*).

"Heady, haunting, righteous, and spiritual . . . You'll want to follow Erika and her Olivia into any dark, creaky room."—Paul Tremblay, bestselling author of *Horror Movie*

"Electrifying . . . You don't want to miss this!"—S. A. Cosby, bestselling author of *All the Sinners Bleed*

Category: paranormal thriller

Erika T. Wurth is the author of *WHITE HORSE* (Flatiron, November 2022), a finalist for the Goodreads Choice Awards. She is a Kenyon Review Writers Workshop Scholar, attended the Tin House Summer Workshop, and is a narrative artist for the Meow Wolf Denver installation. She is of Apache/Chickasaw/Cherokee descent.

PSYCHOPOMP

Maria Dong



Dark Matter Ink Press (March 25, 2025)

Editor: Marie Croke

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Amy Bishop-Wycisk

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Film/TV: Orly Greenberg at UTA

A spellbinding debut that combines the psychological suspense and lush prose of a gothic novel with the near-future aesthetics of Bong Joon-Ho's *Snowpiercer*

On the penal colony of Hibiscus Station, no positions are as key as the Pumps, who direct the dangerous mining operations to remove highly valuable—and volatile—crystal from the moon's crust.

Young was previously in training to be a Pump until a depressive episode, mental break, and a suicide attempt. She doesn't need the other convicts on her work team to suspect she's unraveling again, so when she suddenly hallucinates visions of the unstable crystals in the tunnel walls around her—along with the potential danger they hold—she keeps her mouth shut.

And then their newly dug tunnel explodes, killing her crew.

During her reassignment, her new lover, Gyu, makes her an offer: he can pull some strings and help her finish her Pump training. If Young decides to take the gamble that her new secret visions are accurate, she can prevent further accidents and pay off the penal debt keeping her from going home.

However, the more she trains, the more her paranoia convinces her that the collapse wasn't an accident at all, and that everyone—her new crew, the station staff, and even Gyu—are all hiding secrets. If she doesn't figure out what's real before her mental health implodes, she might not survive the next "accident."

Category: science fiction

Maria Dong is the author of *Liar, Dreamer, Thief*. Her short fiction, articles, and poetry have been published in dozens of magazines, like the *Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy*, *Lightspeed*, *Augur*, *Nightmare*, *Khoreo*, *Fantasy*, *Apex*, and *Apparition Literary Magazine*.

YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ME

Isha Raya



Ballantine (fall 2025)

Editor: Jenny Chen

Territory sold: North America

Material: unedited manuscript

Agent: Amy Bishop-Wycisk

UK rights: Katie Greenstreet at Paper Literary

Rights sold:

UK: Michael Joseph

Sold in a major two-book deal, in a pre-empt, this debut sapphic thriller has incredibly fun *Killing Eve* vibes, centering two wickedly clever women who are at odds—and only one can come out on top. Told in dual POV, it marries the cat and mouse game of Ashley Elston's *First Lie Wins* with the character-driven murder plots, betrayals, and romantic tension of M. L. Rio's *If We Were Villains*

Struggling actress Dimple Kapoor probably wouldn't call herself a murderer—she'd prefer being called an opportunist. Years ago, she simply did what had to be done to get herself out of a bad situation. Now, after accidentally killing her Hollywood rival, Irene Singh, Dimple has conveniently created an opportunity to nab her dream leading role and resuscitate her career. It's too bad someone else at the party witnessed the crime . . . and recorded it.

With everything she's ever wanted within reach, Dimple will do anything to keep it in her grasp—including killing again. Unfortunately for her, Irene's parents have hired detectives—who bring in a former colleague, Saffi Mirai Iyer, who is known as one of the best private investigators in the business. When Saffi immediately zeroes in on Dimple, Dimple knows she has to raise the stakes. Saffi invites her into the case, suggesting she act as bait to draw out the killer—and as the two women's cat-and-mouse game intensifies, Saffi starts to wonder if she may have finally met her match.

With their reputations at risk, both women must fight the mutual fascination drawing them closer together. Dimple needs Saffi dead and for her theories to die with her, but first she needs to find a suitable lamb to pin her crimes on. Saffi needs Dimple behind bars where she can hurt no one else, but her life is on the line, and Dimple won't be so easy to catch red-handed. And it's hard to stay objective when you find yourself falling in love with the person who is trying to make this scene your last.

Category: thriller

Isha Raya is a graduate of the University of Texas who enjoys writing stories where queer brown women get to be anything from superstars to villains.

BIG IN SWEDEN

Sally Franson



Mariner (July 2, 2024)

Editor: Kate Nintzel

Territory: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Film/TV: Dana Spector & Allison Warren at CAA

Rights sold:

UK: Headline

Brazil: Buzz Editora

A charming, wise, and laugh-out-loud funny novel following an American woman competing on a Swedish reality show in an attempt to connect with her roots

Paulie Johansson has never put much stock in the idea of family: she has her long-term boyfriend Declan and beloved best friend Jemma, and that's more than enough for her. Yet one night on a lark, she lets Jemma convince her to audition for Sverige och Mig, a show on Swedish television where Swedish-Americans compete to win the ultimate prize: a reunion with their Swedish relatives. Much to her shock, her drunken submission video wins her a spot on the show.

Armed with her Polaroid camera, a beat-up copy of Pippi Longstocking, and an unquenchable sense of possibility, Paulie hops on a plane to Sweden and launches into the contest with seven other Americans, all under the watchful eye of a camera crew. Amid the increasingly absurd challenges—rowing from Denmark to Sweden in the freezing rain, battling through obstacle courses, competing in a pickled herring eating contest—Paulie finds herself rethinking her snap judgments about her fellow countrymen, while her growing attachment to her Swedish roots increases her resolve to win the competition.

Grappling with notions of family, friendship, and love—not to mention her feelings for the distractingly handsome Swedish cameraman who's been assigned to follow her around—Paulie starts to reconsider her past and rethink what she wants for the future. A fish-out-of-water tale filled with warmth, optimism, and wit, *BIG IN SWEDEN* is at its heart a love story: love for family, friends, country, and—most importantly—oneself.

"Sally Franson is a world class entertainer. She can finesse a serio-comic moment in a way that leaves you catching your breath. Deft and delicious, this book is a flat out delight machine. A heart opener, a page turner, and a true 'originell!' I laughed out loud, I ugly cried, and I never, ever wanted it to end."—Meg Ryan, actor, writer, director

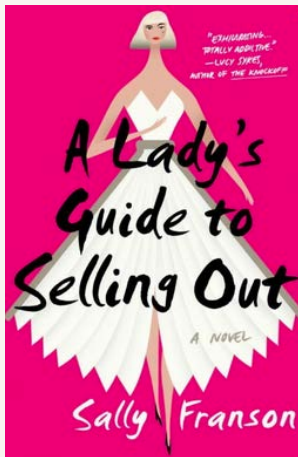
"Reading this hilarious, heartfelt book was even more fun than watching reality television. I absolutely loved it!"—Jessica Anya Blau, author of *Mary Jane*

"A sidesplitting yet wistful story about examining priorities."—*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"BIG IN SWEDEN is full of quick insight and charming detail, and absolutely packed with one-liners. Sally Franson is a brilliant comic writer—and one with a deep love for all her characters. It's a dazzling combination."—Katherine Heiny, author of *Games and Rituals*

A LADY'S GUIDE TO SELLING OUT

Sally Franson



The Dial Press/Random House

(2018), **Mariner** (paperback, January 23, 2024)

Territory: North America

Material: translatable pass

Film/TV: Netflix and Anonymous Content, with Meg Ryan to adapt for feature film

Rights sold:

Brazil: Buzz Editora

Hungary: Libri

Hebrew: Keter (via Aevitas)

Italy: Garzanti (via Aevitas)

Poland: Znak (via Aevitas)

Optioned by Netflix and Anonymous Content (with Meg Ryan to adapt) and recently released in paperback by Mariner, this smart and witty debut rom com is about an ambitious young woman navigating the slippery world of advertising—and the equally slippery question of who she wants to be

At 28, Casey Pendergast is not where she thought she'd be. Sure, she's killing it at her high-paying advertising job, but when she thinks about the idealistic English major she used to be, she can't help the nagging feeling that perhaps her best friend Susan is right – Casey is a sellout who's traded her dreams for a high-rise condominium, expense account, and designer handbags.

When her boss assigns her to a lucrative new campaign to lure acclaimed authors into becoming content creators for corporations, Casey doubts that her literary idols will buy into this particular brand of capitalism. But determined to give it her best shot, she begins her trek across America, only to find herself stunned by how easily these writers agree to compromise their work and integrity in exchange for some extra cash. As she grapples with her own conscience, and falls in love with one of the authors she's courting, Casey begins to question just how much she's willing to sacrifice to chase material success.

“Bitingly funny . . . [Sally] Franson’s snappy debut nimbly skewers the high-flying world of advertising and romance in the age of social media. . . . Franson’s irresistibly flawed heroine holds her own as she strives to find honesty, meaning, and even love in a demanding world, resulting in an addictive, escapist novel.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“A high-spirited heroine loses herself in a vortex of modern striving in this debut novel. . . . Come for the hilarious narration, stay for the whirlwind plot, luxuriate in the satirical gleam.”—*Kirkus*

“A wry, observant take on career success and ambition.”—*New York Post*

Category: commercial debut

Sally Franson's writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Best American Travel Writing*, among numerous others. Meg Ryan is currently developing a screen adaptation of her novel with Netflix and Anonymous Content. Sally was a 2022 cast member of *Allt för Sverige*, a Swedish reality TV show about finding your roots, and her next novel, *Big in Sweden*, is based on the experience (see page 29). She lives in Minneapolis.

RIP TIDE

Colleen McKeegan



Harper (August 13, 2024)

Editor: Sarah Stein

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: Stephanie Glencross at
David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Alice Lawson at Gersh

A heartfelt and suspenseful novel about two sisters returning to their childhood beachfront home who are forced to confront their traumatic past when a body washes ashore

It's been 15 years since Kimmy Devine promised herself she'd never move back to Rocky Cape, the idyllic South Jersey beach town where she grew up. She doesn't want to relive the crushing heartbreak and scandal that ravaged her world as a teen. Her younger sister Erin shares those feelings, the wounds she caused so many years ago forever binding her and Kimmy.

Yet here they are, back in their hometown: Kimmy, floundering after quitting her high-powered finance job in London to help her dad run the family's hardware stores; Erin, reeling from fertility issues and an ongoing divorce, begging to be taken seriously by her parents. The more time they spend in Rocky Cape, the stronger the pull of nostalgia, and both Erin and Kimmy slip on the past like a pair of last year's sandals, forgetting about the blisters when worn too long.

As the sisters celebrate their homecoming at their parents' yacht club, a handful of familiar faces arrive to dampen the revelry. The next morning, a body is found floating nearby and long-buried secrets from their adolescence begin to emerge. Someone from the sisters' past, it seems, is out for revenge.

Told in fast-paced, dual timelines, RIP TIDE is a steamy, tension-filled tale of suspense about family, friendships broken and repaired, young love lost and rekindled, forgiveness and second chances, taking control of your life, and the dangerous decisions we make when blinded by desire.

"A dark, witty beach read about beach-town shenanigans."—Kirkus

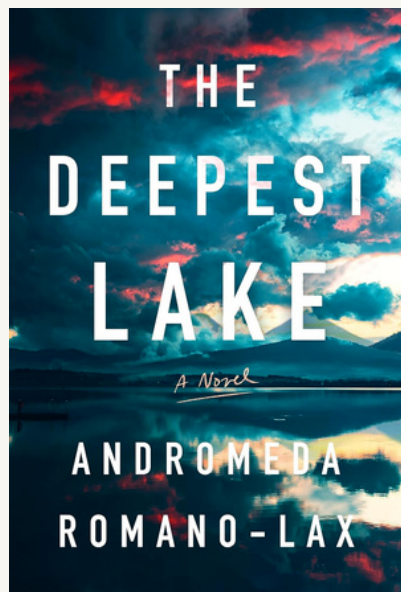
"Suspenseful and resonant . . . A clear-eyed portrait of the wounds teenaged girls inflict and sustain, and the women they become afterward."—Katie Gutierrez, bestselling author of *More Than You'll Ever Know*

Category: book club suspense

Colleen McKeegan is a writer and editor who's held roles at *Marie Claire*, where her work was nominated for a National Magazine Award; *Bloomberg*; and *Fortune*, among others. A native of Allentown, Pennsylvania, and a graduate of Georgetown University, Colleen now lives with her family in New York. Her debut novel, *The Wild One*, was published by Harper in 2022. Page 31

THE DEEPEST LAKE

Andromeda Romano-Lax



Soho Crime (May 7, 2024)

Editor: Alexa Wejko

Territory sold: World English

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

For fans of Jean Hanff Korelitz and Lisa Jewell, a suspense novel that hinges on the fierce bond between a mother and a daughter

Rose, the mother of twentysomething aspiring writer Jules, has waited three months for answers about her daughter's death. Why was she swimming alone when she feared the water? Why did she stop texting days before she was last seen?

When the official investigation rules the death an accidental drowning, the body possibly lost forever in Central America's deepest lake, an unsatisfied Rose travels to the memoir workshop herself. She hopes to draw her own conclusion—and find closure. When Rose arrives, she is swept into the curious world created by her daughter's literary hero, the famous writing teacher Eva Marshall, a charismatic woman known for her candid—and controversial—memoirs. As Rose uncovers details about the days leading up to Jules's disappearance, she begins to suspect that this glamorous retreat package is hiding ugly truths. Is Lake Atitlán a place where traumatized women come to heal or a place where deeper injury is inflicted?

THE DEEPEST LAKE is both a sharp look at the sometimes toxic, exclusionary world of high-class writing workshops and an achingly poignant view of a mother's grief.

“A mesmerizing, twisty page-turner combined with a complex mother-daughter family drama . . . I couldn't put it down.”—Angie Kim, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Happiness Falls*

“All who enjoy writer-focused thrillers will be enthralled by Romano-Lax's morally and intellectually intricate tale, while her fans will marvel at her versatility as she shifts from complexly imagined literary fiction like *Annie and the Wolves* (2021), to this psychologically and culturally spiky work of suspense.”—*Booklist*

“Celeste Ng meets Lisa Jewell in this mesmerizing story.”—Megan Collins, author of *Thicker Than Water*

Category: suspense

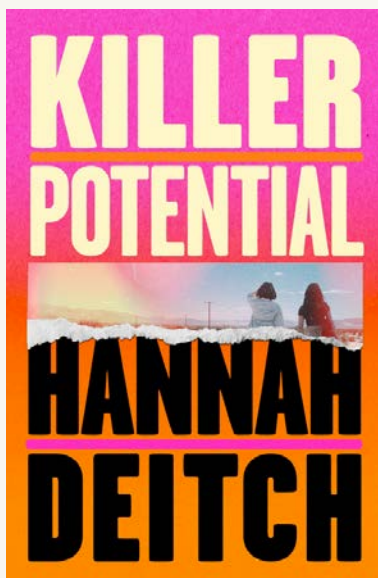
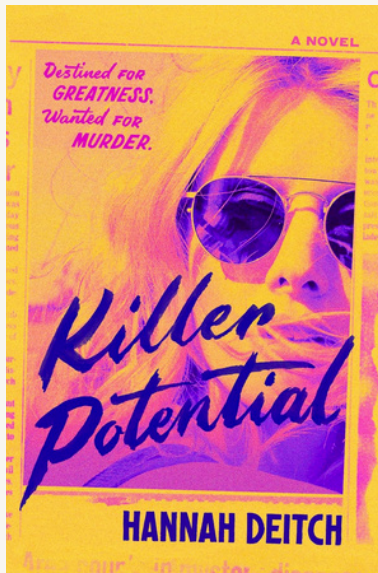
Andromeda Romano-Lax is the author of several novels, including the recent *Annie and the Wolves* (Soho Press, 2021), which has been recognized by *O Magazine*, *Buzzfeed*, *PopSugar*, *The Millions* and received starred reviews from *Booklist* and *Library Journal*. THE DEEPEST LAKE is her first foray into suspense.

UPMARKET & LITERARY FICTION

KILLER POTENTIAL

*previously titled BOOTSTRAPPERS

Hannah Deitch



William Morrow (March 18, 2025)

Editor: Jessica Williams

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Stephanie Delman

UK rights: Emma Finn at C+W

TV option: Universal TV, in development with Nahnatchka Khan

Already shaping up to be one of the biggest debuts of 2025, **KILLER POTENTIAL** has now sold in 18 territories, as well as to Universal TV after a major Hollywood auction. This is a queer, class-conscious *Thelma & Louise* by way of Gillian Flynn, following two unlikely fugitives: an SAT tutor who finds her rich employers brutally murdered in their backyard, and the mute woman she discovers trapped in the walls of their mansion

HarperCollins “Lead Read” for winter 2025

A scholarship kid with straight As and big dreams, Evie Gordon always thought she was special, that she’d be someone. But after graduating from an elite university, she finds herself drowning in debt and working as an SAT tutor for the super-rich of Los Angeles.

Everything changes one Sunday, when she arrives for her weekly lesson at the Victors’ Beverly Hills estate and, in lieu of a bored teenager, finds the bloody remains of the parents strewn through their beautiful back garden, and a woman crying for help within a closet. As Evie works to free her, the two are spotted—and within moments, they go from bystanders to suspects to fugitives.

Suddenly at the heart of a manhunt and accompanied by a mysterious woman who refuses to speak, Evie knows the only way to clear her name is to find the real killer. But first she’ll have to break down the barriers of her companion, who is quickly becoming the most important person in Evie’s upside-down life. Their breathless spree takes them across the U.S. as developments in the case shock the nation and the press runs wild with Evie’s story: a gifted kid turned killer. She’s now on the cover of every magazine and newspaper—anointed the new Charles Manson, a bloodthirsty ninety-nine percenter looking to start a class war. Evie is finally someone.

By turns cuttngly hilarious and deeply insightful, **KILLER POTENTIAL** is a strikingly original debut. A literary novel with the page-turning intensity of a thriller that asks timely questions about our belief in the romance of social mobility, and how the stories we’re sold about our potential can shape the course of our lives.

Category: debut upmarket thriller

Hannah Deitch holds a Master’s degree in journalism from USC as well as a Master’s degree in English from UC Irvine, where she studied Marxist theory and contemporary pop culture. A former arts magazine editor, Hannah has been published by the *LA Times*, *LA Weekly*, and the *LA Review of Books*. She lives in Los Angeles, where she once worked as an SAT tutor.

Rights Sold:

UK: Weidenfeld & Nicolson (2 books)
Brazil: Harper Brasil
Croatia: Fraktura
Finland: Aula & Co
France: Sonatine
Germany: Ullstein
Greece: Dioptra
Hebrew: Yedioth
Hungarian: Helikon
Italy: Marsilio (2 books)
Lithuania: Alma Littera
Poland: Marginesy
Portugal: Saída de Emergência
Romania: Bookzone
Serbia: Laguna
Slovenia: Učila
Spanish: AdN
Sweden: Modernista



Hannah at her first press event at ALA

PRAISE

“Compelling and cool, Hannah Deitch has written a *Thelma & Louise* for our times.”—**Paula Hawkins, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *A Slow Fire Burning* and *The Girl on the Train***

“Thrilling, audacious, and laden with more booby traps than a survivalist's lair, *KILLER POTENTIAL* heralds the arrival of a stunning new literary voice. A riotous, wholly singular debut.”—**Kirstin Chen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Counterfeit***

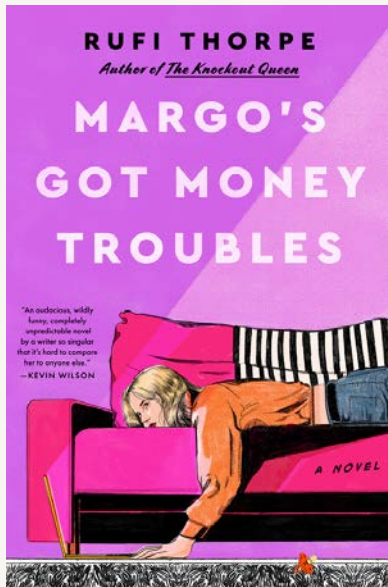
“A hot, twisty fever dream you'll never want to wake up from . . . *KILLER POTENTIAL* throbs with deliciously cunning characters and a fierce intensity that will keep you turning every page quicker than the last.”—**Zakiya Dalila Harris, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Other Black Girl***

“Like encountering a strong electrical current: *KILLER POTENTIAL* is bright, bracing, and surging with power. Deitch's writing style is fast-paced and undeniably bold. This is the kind of book that imprints itself on your brain; it's that wild of a ride. *KILLER POTENTIAL* is one hell of a page turner and an honest to goddamn ton of twisted fun.”—**Kristen Arnett, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Mostly Dead Things* and *With Teeth***

“Deliriously fun, provocative, and gripping, it's almost too easy to give *KILLER POTENTIAL* a perfect score. Hannah Deitch has a voice I would follow anywhere and this book has such a breathless, propulsive pace that I found myself turning to it whenever I had a spare moment. I kid you not, I propped my Kindle on top of the bathroom faucet so I could read it while I brushed my teeth. . . I know this word is overused when talking about books, but truly: unputdownable.”—**Katy Hays, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Cloisters***

MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES

Rufi Thorpe



William Morrow (June 11, 2024)

Editor: Jessica Williams

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

TV option: A24 for an ongoing series

Rufi Thorpe's breakout success, with over 75k copies sold across all formats in the US and 12 international deals, this is a bold, laugh-out-loud funny, and heartwarming story about one young woman's attempt to navigate adulthood, new motherhood, and her meager bank account in our increasingly online world

Kirkus Prize Finalist, BBC 2 Radio Club Pick (UK), and one of Amazon's Top 10 Books of the Month for June
A Most Anticipated Book by the *New York Times* • *Vulture* • *TODAY* • *Bustle* • *Real Simple* • *Goodreads* • *Literary Hub* • *Publishers Weekly* • *Shelf Awareness* and more!

APPLE TV+ to distribute the TV series with A24: Elle Fanning, Nicole Kidman, and Michelle Pfeiffer attached to star

Margo Millet's got money troubles. As the child of a waitress and an ex-Pro-Wrestler, she's always known she'd have to make it on her own. She never planned to have an affair with her English professor at the local college—and while their affair is brief, it isn't brief enough to keep her from getting pregnant. Despite everyone's advice, she decides to keep the baby.

Now, at 20, Margo is alone with an infant, unemployed, and on the verge of eviction. She needs a cash infusion, fast. When her estranged father, Jinx, shows up on her doorstep and asks to move in, she agrees in exchange for help with childcare. Then Margo begins to form a plan: she'll start an OnlyFans as an experiment, and soon finds herself adapting some of Jinx's advice from the world of wrestling, to runaway success. Could this be the answer to all of Margo's problems, or does internet fame come with too high a price?

Blisteringly funny and insightful, MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES is a tender tale starring an endearing young heroine who's struggling to wrest money and power from a world that has little interest in giving it to her. It's a playful, honest examination of the art of storytelling and an empowering portrait of coming into your own, both online and off.

Category: upmarket fiction

Rufi Thorpe is the author of *The Knockout Queen* (Knopf, 2020), a finalist for the PEN/Faulkner Award; *Dear Fang, With Love* (Knopf, 2016); *The Girls from Corona del Mar* (Knopf, 2014), which was longlisted for the International Dylan Thomas Prize and for the Flaherty-Dunn First Novel Prize. A California native, she currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and sons.

Rights sold:

UK: Sceptre

Brazil: Rocco

Czech Republic: auction

France: Jouvence

Germany: Ecco Verlag

Hebrew: Matar

Hungary: Libri

Italy: Bollati Boringhieri

Poland: Media Rodzina

Romania: Trei

Spanish: Harper Español

Turkey: Domingo

Ukraine: The Old Lion

PRAISE

"The warmth of Thorpe's tone, together with the thoroughness of her imagination and the artfulness of her pacing, means that skepticism is kept at bay. She sells us on both the characters and the plot . . . [in] this enormously entertaining and lovable book."—**Nick Hornby, *New York Times Book Review***

"Nonjudgmental, original and very funny; the book is warm and generous too. I loved it."—**India Knight, *Sunday Times STYLE (UK)***

"MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES is the feel-good novel we need right now."—***The Washington Post***

"MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES is an audacious, wildly funny, completely unpredictable novel by a writer so singular that it's hard to compare her to anyone else. Rufi Thorpe writes wildness so well, the messiness of the choices we make, the strange ways we bend and twist ourselves to accommodate those choices, and she does it with the rare qualities of tenderness and empathy. An absolutely brilliant book."—**Kevin Wilson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Nothing to See Here***

"A hilarious novel about making the most of what you've got. Sharp and funny by turns, this is an exceptionally tender look at young motherhood and love that also involves professional wrestling, and yes, OnlyFans. I gobbled it up."—**Emma Straub, *New York Times* bestselling author of *This Time Tomorrow***

"The most captivating narrative of motherhood, sex work, point of view, and regret. I'm obsessed!"—**Leila Mottley, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Nightcrawling***

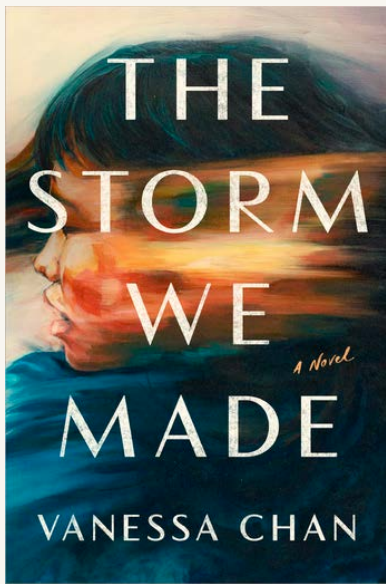
"A thrilling, uproarious, and above all affirming exploration of one young woman's fight to make it in a world that's rooting against her. Margo is an unforgettable heroine, so real she walked right off the page and into my heart."—**Kirstin Chen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Counterfeit***

"Long after the last page of MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES, I think of certain lines and bust out laughing. In public. This novel is damn funny, but also touching and smart and surprising and beguiling and just completely bad ass. Rufi Thorpe is truly one of one!"—**Deesha Philyaw, award-winning author of *The Secret Lives of Church Ladies***

"Endearingly chaotic, this coming-of-age tale is certain to score a passionate fanbase."—***Elle, best books of summer***

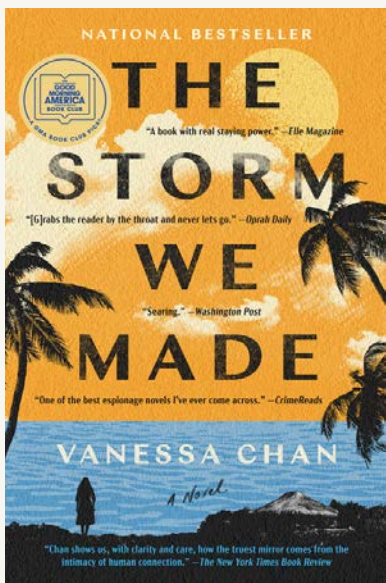
THE STORM WE MADE

Vanessa Chan



One of our first big titles as an agency and a major debut publication at the start of this year, **THE STORM WE MADE** is a spellbinding, sweeping novel about a Malayan mother who becomes an unlikely spy for the invading Japanese forces during WWII—and the shocking consequences that rain upon her community and family

National Bestseller, *Good Morning America* Book Club Pick for January, Longlisted for Center for Fiction First Novel Prize, Gold House Book Club Pick for January with Book of the Month, #1 Indies Introduce Pick, #2 Indie Next Pick, an Amazon Editor's Choice Pick, and One of Six Simon & Schuster Titles for Simon Selects



Marysue Rucci Books/Scribner
(January 2, 2024)

Editor: Marysue Rucci

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agents: Michelle Brower &
Stephanie Delman

UK co-agent: Nicola Chang at
David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Jason Richman & Addison
Duffy at UTA

Malaya, 1945. Cecily Alcantara's family is in terrible danger: her 15-year-old son, Abel, has disappeared, and her youngest daughter, Jasmin, is confined in a basement to prevent being pressed into service at the comfort stations. Her eldest daughter Jujube, who works at a tea house frequented by drunk Japanese soldiers, becomes angrier by the day.

Cecily knows two things: that this is all her fault; and that her family must never learn the truth.

A decade prior, Cecily had been desperate to be more than a housewife to a low-level bureaucrat in British-colonized Malaya. A chance meeting with the charismatic General Fujiwara lured her into a life of espionage, pursuing dreams of an "Asia for Asians." Instead, Cecily helped usher in an even more brutal occupation by the Japanese. As the war reaches its apex, her actions have caught up with her. Now her family is on the brink of destruction—and she will do anything to save them.

Spanning years of pain and triumph, told from the perspectives of four unforgettable characters, **THE STORM WE MADE** is a dazzling saga about the horrors of war, the fraught relationships between the colonized and their oppressors, and the ambiguity of right and wrong when survival is at stake.

Category: upmarket historical debut

Vanessa Chan is a Malaysian writer whose short fiction has been most recently published in the *Kenyon Review* and has received nominations for the Pushcart Prize. She has been awarded fellowships from the Sewanee Writers' Conference, Tin House, Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, and others. She studied for her MFA at The New School and is now based in Brooklyn.

Rights sold:

UK: Hodder & Stoughton

Arabic: MyBook

Brazil: Paralela/Companhia das Letras

Bulgaria: CIELA

Croatia: Znanje

Czech Republic: Host

France: Harper

Germany: Ecco/Harper

Greece: Psychogios

Holland: Prometheus

Hungary: 21. Század Kiadó

Italy: Mondadori (2 books)

Japan: Shunjusha

Lithuania: Baltos Lankos

Poland: Marginesy

Portugal: Presença

Romania: Trei

Spanish: Salamandra

Sweden: Forum

Taiwan: Crown Publishing

Turkey: Domingo



PRAISE

"THE STORM WE MADE kicks up a weather system of epic proportions, ranging from military terror during World War II to domestic warmth . . . The book's greatest power: it makes space for complexity without relinquishing the grip of a good story . . . What makes the book pulse with life is . . . the tenderness in its details, the ordinary ways that these characters love and laugh in the face of the extraordinary . . . Chan shows us, with clarity and care, how the truest mirror comes from the intimacy of human connection."—*New York Times Book Review*

"Chan's impressive debut offers a little-told perspective on a turbulent period of history . . . This is a rich, multi-perspective novel."—*Observer (UK)*

"Ambitious, sweeping" —*New York Times*, "18 New Books Coming in January"

"A chilling exploration of the costs of human weakness and desire, in a compelling and vividly wrought historical context."—*Kirkus*

"In Vanessa Chan's spellbinding debut, one woman's desire to change her destiny shapes the future of a colonized nation. Combining cinematic grandeur with nuanced storytelling, THE STORM WE MADE offers the hidden history that only fiction can reveal . . . I'll never forget this book."—*Jessamine Chan, New York Times bestselling author of The School for Good Mothers*

"There are so many rich layers to this book—my breath caught at the beauty of the words and the kaleidoscope of images they painted. Vanessa Chan has written a masterpiece, and THE STORM WE MADE has not only changed my perspective on war and humanity; it has also transformed my sense of what truly great novels can do."—*Qian Julie Wang, New York Times bestselling author of Beautiful Country*

"THE STORM WE MADE is brave, funny, and immensely moving. One of the most powerful and confident debuts I've ever read. A storytelling star is born."—*Tracy Chevalier, New York Times bestselling author of Girl with a Pearl Earring*

"Vanessa Chan is the kind of author who can completely transport you to another time and place... it is a total page turner."—*Good Morning America, GMA Book Club Pick*

"[T]his debut novel grabs the reader by the throat and never lets go, following a single family through one of World War II's most grisly—and often overlooked—chapters . . . Moving between perspectives and timelines—between actions and their disastrous, unforeseen consequences—Chan tests the bounds of familial bonds, political sacrifice, and human resilience."—*Oprah Daily, The Best Novels to Read This January*

HOMESEEKING

Karissa Chen



Putnam (January 7, 2025)

Editor: Tara Singh Carlson

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: Florence Rees at AM Heath

Film/TV: Jason Richman & Orly Greenberg at UTA

Rights sold:

UK: Sceptre

Denmark: Politikens

Germany: Gutkind

Greece: Ikaros

Holland: Nieuw-Amsterdam

Italy: Garzanti

Norway: Gyldendal

Spanish: Urano

Pre-empted in a major North American deal and quickly sold in several territories, this sweeping love story about a couple destined to meet three times in their lives—as childhood sweethearts in Shanghai in the 1940s, again in middle age in Hong Kong, and finally in California later in their lives—is shaping up well for early 2025

There are moments when a single choice can define an entire life. Haiwen and Suchi are teenage sweethearts in 1940s Shanghai; their childhood friendship has blossomed into young love, and they believe that they are soulmates. But when Haiwen secretly decides to enlist in the army to keep his brother from the draft, their shared future is shattered. Their paths take them far afield from each other, with the exception of one pivotal chance encounter on the Hong Kong ferry in 1966.

60 years later, Haiwen, now in his late seventies, is bagging bananas at a 99 Ranch in Los Angeles when he lifts his head to once more see Suchi. As they begin to rekindle their friendship, it feels like they might have a second chance to live the life they were supposed to have together. But the weight of the past lives with them at every moment, and only time will tell if they are able to forge something new.

Told in alternating narratives, **HOMESEEKING** spans seven decades, through the most tumultuous period of modern Chinese history up to contemporary times, tracing the separated lovers as they migrate from Shanghai to Hong Kong, Taiwan, and America.

“This is historical fiction at its most effective. Romantic lyricism and hard-edged realism merge in this compelling novel.”—Kirkus, starred review

“Chen’s debut novel weaves expertly between present and past . . . kaleidoscopic yet intimate.”—Celeste Ng, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Our Missing Hearts*

“Epic, assured, and beautifully drawn, **HOMESEEKING is a love story that reveals the effects of war and history on the lives of individuals. Karissa Chen has created a world that’s deeply absorbing, following Suchi and Haiwen across decades, borders, and lifetimes.”—Lisa Ko, author of *The Leavers***

Category: upmarket debut

Karissa Chen is a Fulbright fellow, Kundiman Fiction fellow, and a VONA/Voices fellow whose fiction and essays have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *Eater*, *The Cut*, *NBC News THINK*, *Longreads*, *PEN America*, *Catapult*, *Gulf Coast*, and *Guernica*, among others. She is the editor in chief at *Hyphen* magazine. She splits her time between New Jersey and Taipei, Taiwan.

SUPERFAN

Jenny Tinghui Zhang



Flatiron (winter 2026)

Editor: Caroline Bleeke

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript in January

Agent: Stephanie Delman

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Film/TV: Hilary Zaitz Michael at WME

Rights sold:

UK: Michael Joseph

Option Publishers:

Brazil: Autentica

Czech Republic: Prostor

France: Laffont

Germany: Ecco Verlag

Holland: Harper Holland

Italy: Nord

Romania: Nemira

Russia: Eksmo

Spanish: Planeta México

Taiwan: Infortress

Turkey: Altin

We can't wait to share the new novel from the author of the beloved debut *Four Treasures of the Sky*, in which Jenny turns her immense powers of storytelling to a completely fresh and contemporary realm. **SUPERFAN** is about the star of a boy band hiding a dark secret as he catapults to fame, and the lonely girl who believes herself destined to be with him, until their worlds collide in a shocking, inevitable encounter; exploring shame, desire, and obsession

SUPERFAN follows two unforgettable misfits, whose narratives are set to spectacularly collide. Minnie finds herself horribly adrift in college, anxious with her peers and increasingly reclusive. Across Texas, Eason—aka Halo—struggles to hide his dark past as his BTS-like boy band catapults to sudden fame. Their fates will intertwine in ways both shocking and inevitable.

Depressed and withdrawn, Minnie discovers the boys of HOURglass and the online forums that worship them. After a brief romance with a grad student goes terribly awry, Minnie pours everything into her fandom. She especially loves Halo, whose sharp edges feel somehow familiar. And when a scandal threatens to expose Halo to harm, Minnie suspects that her fate might be to protect him.

Except Halo's secret isn't the one that the tabloids seize hold of. When he was recruited for HOURglass, it was an escape—a chance to escape from his past. When he's on stage in front of his fans, he can almost forget where he came from. Until a girl shows up in his greenroom and threatens to unveil him.

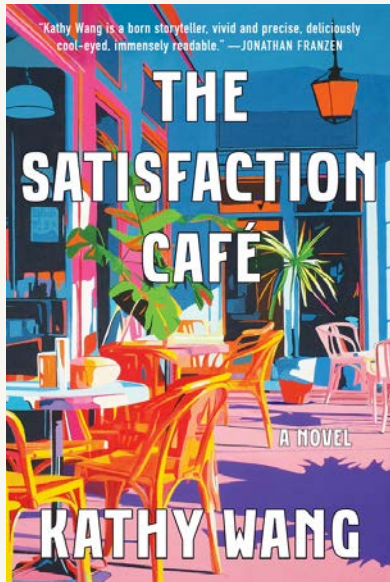
SUPERFAN examines fandom in all its magic and its terror. It honors the reality that many of us grew up online, feeling closer to stars and fictional characters than we felt to our peers. But just as fascinating is the other side of fame—how an idol can feel lonelier than anyone, and how easily the façade of stardom can crumble and fade.

Category: upmarket fiction

Jenny Tinghui Zhang is a Chinese-American writer and author of the internationally bestselling novel *Four Treasures of the Sky* (Flatiron Books), which has been translated into 12 languages and named a *New York Times* Notable Book, *Good Morning America* Book Club Buzz Pick, and Idaho Book of the Year. She is a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree and has received support from Kundiman, VONA/Voices, Tin House, and more.

THE SATISFACTION CAFÉ

Kathy Wang



Scribner (July 1, 2025)

Editor: Kara Watson

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: Felicity Blunt at Curtis Brown UK

Rights sold:

UK: Abacus

Previous Publishers:

China: Fonghong (*Family Trust*)

In the vein of Ann Patchett's *Tom Lake*, Elizabeth Strout's *Olive Kitteridge*, and Ann Napolitano's *Hello Beautiful*, THE SATISFACTION CAFÉ takes an ordinary life and turns it into an extraordinarily powerful prism

Joan Liang's life is a series of surprising developments: she never thought she would leave Taiwan (and for all places, California), nor did she expect her first marriage to implode—especially as quickly and spectacularly as it did. She very definitely did not expect to fall in love with an older, wealthy American and become his fourth wife and mother to his youngest children. Through all this she asks herself the question familiar to so many of us: what are we living for? And are we ever truly satisfied?

As Joan and her children grow older and their circumstances evolve, Joan makes a drastic change: she opens the Satisfaction Café, a place where people can visit for a bit of conversation and to be heard and understood. Through this radical yet pragmatic business, Joan constructs a lasting legacy.

Vivid, comic, and intensely moving, THE SATISFACTION CAFÉ is a novel about found family, the joy and loneliness that come with age, and how we can give ourselves permission to seek satisfaction and connection at any stage of life.

"Kathy Wang is a born storyteller, vivid and precise, deliciously cool-eyed, immensely readable."—Jonathan Franzen

"Subtle, surprising, and elegantly constructed, THE SATISFACTION CAFÉ is an insightful and funny exploration of how seldom our choices feel like choices, how rare and elusive the idea of home can feel."—Lynn Steger Strong, author of *Hold Still*, *Want*, and *Flight*

"Reading Kathy Wang is like talking to your best friend. THE SATISFACTION CAFÉ evokes the narrative power of classic Anne Tyler . . . I want to share this novel with everyone."—Janice YK Lee, bestselling author of *The Piano Teacher*

Category: literary fiction

Kathy Wang is the author of *Family Trust* (Mariner, 2018) and *Imposter Syndrome* (Mariner, 2021). She previously worked at the intersection of technology and industrial design and is currently employed in the transportation industry. She is a graduate of UC Berkeley and Harvard Business School, and lives in the Bay Area with her husband and two children.

MAYA & NATASHA

Elyse Durham

*previous title STONE FLOWERS



Mariner (February 18, 2025)

Editor: Nicole Angeloro

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Jemima Forrester at
David Higham Associates

Rights sold:

Germany: Nagel & Kimche / Harper
Germany

Sold at auction last fall in a significant deal, a big book club debut about the bond between sisters—competitive, complicated, but never broken—set in the tense world of Cold War Soviet ballet. We've just closed a first translation deal and would love to see more interest!

Maya and Natasha are twin sisters born in the midst of the Siege of Leningrad in 1941 and immediately abandoned by their mother, a prima ballerina at the Kirov Ballet who would rather die than not dance. Taken in by their mother's best friend at the Kirov, the girls are raised to be dancers themselves. The Vaganova Ballet Academy—and the totalitarian Soviet regime—is the only world they know.

In 1958, now seniors at the Vaganova at the height of the Cold War, all Maya and Natasha and their classmates want is to dance with the Kirov, and to join the company on its tour to America next year. But a new law from the Kremlin upends Maya and Natasha's lives: due to fears of defection, family members may no longer travel abroad together. The Kirov can only accept one of them.

Maya, long accustomed to living in her sister's shadow, accepts her bitter fate, until a new dance partner inspires her to dream bigger and practice harder. For the first time—and at the cruelest possible moment—the sisters are equally matched. And then one sister betrays the other, altering their lives forever and splitting them in two, though neither will stray far from the other's orbit.

As one of the twins pursues her ballet career and experiences a world outside Russia for the first time, the other is cast in an epic film adaptation of *War and Peace*, produced and financed by the Soviet State. As the Cold War heats up, Maya and Natasha must confront their loyalties: to East versus West; to the government that saved them versus their dreams of freedom; and, always, to each other.

"Bravo, bravo, and flowers to the stage for this fascinating epic story of Cold War Russian ballet dancers. . . . A novel about being the best at one's art by a writer at the best of hers."—Debra Spark, author of *Discipline*

Category: book club historical debut

Elyse Durham is a graduate of the MFA Program for Writers at Warren Wilson College and an Elizabeth George grantee. Her fiction has appeared or is upcoming in the *Cimarron Review*, *Image Journal*, and the *Cincinnati Review*, who in 2019 nominated her for the PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. She lives in Michigan with her husband, a Greek Orthodox priest.

SHE MADE HERSELF A MONSTER

Anna Kovatcheva



Mariner (winter 2026)

Editor: Jessica Vestuto

Territory sold: North America

Material: unedited manuscript

Agent: Stephanie Delman

UK rights: Victoria Hobbs at AM Heath

Rights sold:

UK: Harvill Secker

Italy: Fazi

A heady and cathartic literary debut inspired by Slavic folklore from the author's native Bulgaria, in which a self-proclaimed vampire slayer—really, a traveling con artist—joins forces with a cursed teenage girl to manifest a vampire panic in service of the greater good, won at auction by Mariner which is pitching as *Lapvona* meets *The Brothers Grimm*. We've also just closed a first translation deal for this one, in Italy!

In 19th century Bulgaria, Yana is an unconventional kind of helper. She travels from one desolate town to the next, staging grisly tableaus while the villagers sleep: animal corpses in the public square, eggs filled with blood in the chicken coop. She tells the stricken villagers stories of monsters that stalk the night, vampires that only she can vanquish. The people stop fearing each other, and start to fear the monster. Then Yana eliminates the threat, and leaves seeds of hope in her wake.

But the village Koprivici thinks itself cursed, plagued by illness and dark fortune, with children who rarely survive infancy. There, Yana meets Anka: an isolated, headstrong orphan who the villagers blame for their misfortune, since their troubles began the night she was born. The village Captain has raised her, along with his nephew Kiril, but now they're nearly grown—Kiril a fledging doctor, determined to prove that science can help; Anka a strange adolescent, creeping closer to womanhood. The Captain is grooming her for matrimony and she's powerless against him—until Yana arrives. Together, the orphan and the vampire slayer hatch an urgent plan: to conjure a monster so vile, he might provide cover for Anka to escape. And then their plan takes on a life of its own.

With nods to Lauren Groff and Rivka Galchen, Anna Kovatcheva was equally inspired by Bulgarian folklore and *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*. This is a book about power struggles and violence, but also about agency, friendship, and the work of communal healing.

Category: literary debut

Anna Kovatcheva was born in Bulgaria and now lives in Brooklyn. She holds an MFA in fiction from New York University. Her chapbook, *The White Swallow*, was selected by Aimee Bender as the winner of the Goldline Press Chapbook Competition; her short fiction has been anthologized in *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and has appeared in *The Kenyon Review* and *The Iowa Review*. She speaks Bulgarian and French.

THE UNVEILING

Quan Barry



Grove/Atlantic (fall 2025 or winter 2026)

Editor: Emily Burns

Territory sold: North America

Material: unedited manuscript

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Social horror meets the vast and haunting landscape of Antarctica in this sharp-elbowed novel about a Black location scout on a holiday cruise at the bottom of the world, who ends up as one of the survivors of an ill-fated kayaking excursion. The remaining group becomes stranded on a remote island and must battle both the hostile landscape and their inner demons

Striker is not entirely sure that she should be on this luxury Antarctic cruise. She's a 40-year-old Black location scout, and her mission is to photograph potential film locations for a big-budget film while enjoying the fancy accommodations, the excursions, and the quirks of a small group of rich people who have decided to explore one of the last wild places on earth. While out kayaking on the Southern Ocean, a horrific accident occurs, leaving several of the kayakers dead and the survivors stranded without a guide on a remote island along the Antarctic Peninsula. The survivors include staff from the ship as well as the wealthy tourists, though the group is predominantly white except for Striker.

An abandoned cabin, mysterious rock formations, a missing child; none of these frighten Striker as much as the visions that threaten to unravel her sanity in this hostile place. As their party dwindles and the earth seems to reject them soul by soul, survival becomes something that inspires fear as much as desire.

Leave the World Behind meets *The Ministry of Time*, **THE UNVEILING** is a work that neither comforts nor offers closure as the icy vastness of the Antarctic region reflects the characters' inner ghosts back to them. Quan Barry's canvas is as vast as the Antarctic itself, and yet she's able to create a very specific fever dream that is at its root about the existence of Blackness in white spaces.

Category: literary horror

Quan Barry was born in Saigon and raised on Boston's northshore. She is the Lorraine Hansberry Professor of English at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Barry is the author of eight books of fiction and poetry, including the recent novel *When I'm Gone, Look for Me in the East*, which the *New York Times* described as "a dazzling achievement." *O: Oprah Magazine* described her novel *We Ride Upon Sticks* as "spellbinding, wickedly fun," while the *LA Times* called her previous work, *She Weeps Each Time You're Born*, "haunting and beautiful." A recipient of NEA fellowships in both poetry and fiction, Barry is currently Forward Theater's first ever Writer-in-Residence. The world premiere of her play, *The Mytilenean Debate*, was staged in spring 2022.

OPEN UP

Jessica Gross



Overlook Press / Abrams (fall 2025)

Editor: Abby Muller

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript imminent

Agent: Stephanie Delman

UK rights: Florence Rees at AM Heath

Film option: MGM/Amazon Studios

Rights sold:

UK: Harvill Secker

In the vein of Alissa Nutting and Melissa Broder, OPEN UP is a hilariously absurdist, devastatingly vulnerable novel for anyone who craves an intimacy they can't quite reach. Sold in a competitive four-way auction in the UK, we are excited to submit for translation when the next draft of the manuscript is in!

30-something journalist Olive just wants people to open up. As a radio host, she interviews writers about their works-in-progress, probing for insight; as a friend and a sister, she's hungry for closeness. She has a habit of recording people without their knowledge, just to hear the world reflected back at her. Olive is approaching her mid-thirties, coddled by her mother and perpetually single, when she meets Henry. He's a surgeon—he literally cuts people open, which fascinates her—and, with a quick wit and a charming gap between his two front teeth, he seems to adore her. Henry relishes her curious mind, upending everything she's come to expect from men.

They fall for each other quickly, dizzyingly, but Olive can't get enough. She struggles to comprehend where she stops and Henry begins. As their relationship intensifies, so does Olive's resentment of the physical and emotional boundaries between them. So she tests those boundaries: first by recording their conversations, then by recording their sex. Next, on a night there's no coming back from, she unzips his body and nestles between his organs while he sleeps. Once she starts, she can't stop—and as she climbs inside Henry, Olive has some disturbing revelations about intimacy, trust, and her own long-repressed memories.

OPEN UP pushes the boundaries of genre; it's tense, thoughtful, occasionally grotesque—but it's also incredibly accessible and laugh-out-loud funny. Fans of Jen Beagin's *Big Swiss*, Raven Leilani's *Luster*, and Phoebe Waller-Bridge's work will love this.

Category: literary fiction

Jessica Gross is the author of *Hysteria* (Unnamed Press, 2020), which has been optioned for TV development. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times Magazine*, *Lilith*, and *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, among other places. She has taught writing at The New School and Texas Tech University and currently lives in West Texas.

THOSE OPULENT DAYS

*previously titled SAIGON CONFIDENTIAL

Jacquie Pham



Grove Atlantic (November 12, 2024)

Editor: Joseph Brosnan

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Danya Kukafka

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Rights sold:

ANZ: Ultimo Press

Jacquie Pham's transportive debut, **THOSE OPULENT DAYS**, delivers a classic historical murder mystery centered around the glamor, violence, wealth, and opium of 1920's French-colonial Vietnam that meshes the structural brilliance of Lucy Foley's *The Guest List* and the upstairs-downstairs drama of *Downton Abbey*

One of Publishers Weekly's Top 10 Mysteries & Thrillers of Fall

One will lose his mind. One will pay. One will agonize. And one will die.

Duy, Phong, Minh, and Edmond have been best friends since childhood. Now, as young men running their families' formidable businesses, they make up Saigon's most powerful group of friends in 1928 Vietnam's elite society.

Until one of them is murdered.

In a lavish mansion on a hill in Dalat, all four men have gathered for an evening of indulgence, but one of them won't survive the night. Toggling between this fatal night and the six days leading up to it, told from the perspectives of the four men, their mothers, their servants, and their lovers, an intricate web of terror, loyalty, and well-kept secrets begins to unravel.

THOSE OPULENT DAYS is at once both a historical novel of vivid intensity and a classically structured, pitch-perfect locked-room mystery featuring a robust cast of characters you won't soon forget.

"Eerie, atmospheric, and shot through with peril . . . Both a riveting mystery and a moving historical drama, this is a glittering debut."—Kirstin Chen, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Counterfeit*

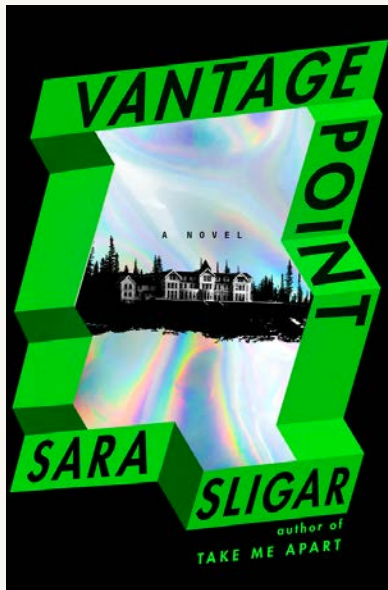
"Pham debuts with a memorable and disturbing historical set in French-occupied Vietnam . . . Pham's prose is lyrical, and her evocation of the period immersive . . . this is a tense and unique dispatch from a key period in Vietnamese history."—*Publishers Weekly*

Category: literary crime fiction debut

Jacquie Pham is a Vietnamese-Australian writer of adult fiction. Growing up in Vietnam during the New Korean wave around 2007, Jacquie started writing short stories about Korean boy bands. She then moved to Australia to attend the University of Sydney— not wanting to let 13-year-old Jacquie down, she has decided to pursue a career as an author. She currently lives in Sydney with two very goofy dogs. Don't tell them, but Jacquie also loves cats.

VANTAGE POINT

Sara Sligar



FSG (January 14, 2025)

Editor: Katie Liptak

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Danya Kukafka

UK rights: Sara Langham at David Higham Associates

Previous publishers:

UK: Text

Germany: Hanserblau

A timely and seductive Gothic suspense novel about the dramatic downfall of a powerful family. It's a juicy, *Succession*-esque story wrapped in a page-turning plot that takes on the ways politics exploit the objectification of women—and also the perils of deepfakes

The old-money Wieland family has it all—wealth, status, power. They're also famously cursed.

Clara and her brother, Teddy, grew up on a small island in Maine in the shadow of their parents' tragic deaths, haunted by rumors and paparazzi. 14 years later, they've mostly put their turbulent past to rest. Teddy has married Clara's best friend, Jess, and the three of them have moved back home to take over the sprawling, remote family mansion known as Vantage Point.

Then Teddy decides to run for the Senate—an unnerving prospect made much worse when intimate videos of Clara are leaked online. The most frightening part is that she doesn't remember filming any of them. Are the videos real? Or are they deepfakes? Is someone trying to take down the Wielands once and for all?

Everyone thinks Clara is losing her grasp on reality. But she knows the truth: the videos are only the beginning. Years ago, the curse destroyed her parents. Now, it's coming for her.

Sara Sligar, the critically acclaimed author of *Take Me Apart*, returns with a shocking family drama full of suspense. Brimming with palpable tension, VANTAGE POINT carefully unravels a twisted web of family secrets and political ambition that raises questions about the nature of "truth" in our digital age.

"Sara Sligar is that rare writer whose high concept is matched by faultless prose, rich emotional insight, and a vein of delicious dark humor that bleeds when pressed. This is a novel to devour, then savor. I loved every mind-bending page."—Katie Gutierrez, author of national bestseller *More Than You'll Ever Know*

"Sara Sligar's new novel is a primal scream, sounding a harrowing alarm about how thin (and deadly) the line between synthetic and real has become."—Katy Hays, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Cloisters*

Category: literary thriller

Sara Sligar is the author of *Take Me Apart*, which was shortlisted for the Ned Kelly Award for Best International Crime Fiction. She lives in Los Angeles, where she is an assistant professor of English and creative writing at the University of Southern California.

LIKE THIS, BUT FUNNIER

Hallie Cantor



Simon & Schuster (winter/spring 2026)

Editor: Carina Guiterman

Territory sold: North America

Material: unedited manuscript

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: Becky Ritchie at AM Heath

Sold at auction, a whip-smart, relatable, and laugh-out-loud hilarious debut novel by an Emmy-nominated television writer and frequent *New Yorker* contributor

TV writer Caroline Neumann is 34, unemployed, and mired in professional envy and self-hatred. Even Harry, her usually supportive therapist husband, thinks it's time for her to press pause on her career ambitions and focus on getting pregnant, despite Caroline's serious ambivalence about having children.

When Caroline accidentally stumbles on Harry's patient session notes and offhandedly mentions what she finds in a meeting with a producer, the momentum of Hollywood takes over. Before she knows it—and unbeknownst to Harry—Caroline finds herself pitching a TV show about the deepest, darkest secrets of her husband's favorite patient, a woman known to Caroline only as the Teacher.

Amid the indignities of the Hollywood development process, Caroline must balance her burning desire for professional validation against her own morality and the health of her marriage. And when Caroline forms a real-life friendship with the Teacher herself, the lines between art and life begin to blur further, shaking up Caroline's understanding of what it means to be the “likable female protagonist” of her own life.

For the readers of Monica Heisey, Dolly Alderton, Katherine Heiny and Taffy Brodesser-Akner, *LIKE THIS, BUT FUNNIER* will also appeal to fans of the television show *Hacks*, the movie *American Fiction*, and the behind-the-scenes first section of Curtis Sittenfeld's *Romantic Comedy*.

Category: debut book club fiction

Hallie Cantor is an Emmy-nominated television writer for shows including *Arrested Development*, *Lady Dynamite!*, *Dollface*, and *Inside Amy Schumer*. Her work has been published in the *New Yorker's* Shouts & Murmurs, *New York Magazine*, NPR's *This American Life* and the humor anthology *Notes From the Bathroom Line*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband, who is—yes—a therapist.

HOUSE LONGE HAS GONE ASTRAY

Tolani Akinola



Pamela Dorman Books

(summer 2025)

Editor: Seema Mahanian

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript after the fair

Agent: Michelle Brower & Natalie Edwards

UK rights: Jemima Forrester at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Rukayat Giwa at CAA

Sold in a major pre-empt, this debut family saga already won the author a coveted spot in the 2023 Reese's Book Club LitUp Fellowship, where she was mentored by Curtis Sittenfeld. This is now undergoing a transformative edit, and we're excited to share once the edited is in

The four Longe siblings, born in Chicago to Nigerian immigrant parents, are making a mess of their lives. When Anjola, the third-eldest, returns to her hometown for residency at an underfunded public hospital and learns that her best friend is engaged to someone else, she begins to search more honestly for her true feelings about him and her life choices so far.

Meanwhile, eldest daughter Sola's ex cheats on her in the most public way possible, blowing up her budding career as an influencer and landing her on a friend's couch. Karen, the baby of the family, feels lost at college, insecure about her autoimmune condition, and unsure of her sexuality. And Ola, their only brother and the oldest child, has succeeded by every measure, but with a baby on the way, it's exactly the wrong time for him to be questioning his relationship with his white wife, or his ability to raise a Black son in America.

Amidst questions of social class, racial belonging, and the search for vocation, HOUSE LONGE HAS GONE ASTRAY asks uncomfortable and necessary questions: How important is romantic love, really? What do we owe to our parents for raising us, and can we forgive them for their secrets and lies? The fateful outcome of a holiday family dinner forces each of the Longes to take stock of what really matters—in their love lives, professional identities, and in one another.

Category: book club debut

Tolani Akinola is a 2023 Reese's Book Club LitUp Fellow. She holds a BA from the University of Chicago and an MPH from the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health.

THIS KIND OF TROUBLE

Tochi Eze



Tiny Reparations/Dutton

(August 2025)

Editor: Lashanda Anakwah

Territory sold: North American

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Allison Malecha

UK rights: Jane Finigan at

Lutyens & Rubinstein

Rights sold:

Canada: McClelland & Stewart

UK: #Merky Books / Hutchinson

Heinemann

Pre-empted in the US, Canada, and the UK, a century-spanning family saga in which a long-estranged couple with ties to the same Nigerian village is reluctantly reunited by their daughter in time to confront the haunting effects of ancestral sins. The edited manuscript is finally here and we're excited to share!

Lagos, 2005. Margaret, at 65, has managed her schizophrenia throughout a successful career and has at last claimed her reward: a comfortable parcel in a gated community where the neighbors show her the deference she deserves. Her ex-husband Benjamin is living alone in Atlanta, a happy enough man but one who is at a loss for who to list as his "next of kin" when his heart trouble acts up. The couple hasn't seen each other in four decades—not since the day in 1966 when Benjamin left Margaret and their seven-month-old daughter, Nwando, on the floor of their kitchen in Lagos, the city where the couple met and fell in love.

Now Nwando, a wife and mother herself, has bridged this long unbridgeable gap, secretly reaching out to her father. Meanwhile Margaret's hard-won peace erupts after a sudden act of violence, causing her to wonder if the western psychiatry and prayer she's long leaned on are still right for her. When Nwando's son in turn begins to show signs of instability, Margaret decides it's time to explore a different approach—time to return to the village she left a lifetime ago, and time to face the generational trauma that has shaped her and Benjamin both, sending the entire family headlong into a reckoning with trespasses intimate and ancestral.

Unfolding across three parallel timelines, from the moment of early 1900s colonial intrusion in one Nigerian village, through the couple's love story in the newly liberated Lagos of the 1960s, to the novel's present, THIS KIND OF TROUBLE brilliantly complicates Eurocentric conceptions of mental illness—all the while asking us whether, and how, we're beholden to the past, and the future.

Category: literary debut

Tochi Eze is a writer and lawyer from Nigeria. *Longreads* named her short story "The Americanization of Kambili," published by *Catapult*, as one of "Ten Outstanding Stories to Read in 2023." She has an MFA from Florida Atlantic University and is currently a PhD student in English Literature at the University of Virginia. This is her first novel.

THESE MEMORIES DO NOT BELONG TO US

Yiming Ma



Mariner (fall 2025)

Editor: Jessica Vestuto

Territory sold: US and Open Market

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Michelle Brower & Natalie Edwards

UK rights: Niki Chang at David Higham Associates

Rights sold:

Canada: McClelland & Stewart

Sold in dual American and Canadian pre-empts, a speculative literary debut for fans of Ted Chiang, Omar El Akkad, and Yoko Ogawa

THESE MEMORIES DO NOT BELONG TO US comes to us from a world in which China, renamed Qin, stands as the sole superpower left on the global stage. In this future, every citizen is fitted with a Mindbank, an implanted device capable of not only recording but also transferring memories between minds; as a result, anyone with means can relive the life experiences of others.

In this same world, a single mother carries on a different storytelling tradition—sharing narratives that are no longer in wide circulation with her son, by voice. After her death, her son decides to gift these stories, his mother's legacy, back to the public, even if it costs him his own freedom. THESE MEMORIES DO NOT BELONG TO US contains those stories.

In "Chankonabe," we get the tale of a sumo wrestler's emotional reunion with his blind mother. In "Promised Land," which takes place soon after Qin conquers the West, an Asian American teenager crawls through a desert in virtual reality for his Gaokao examination and hallucinates conversations with his best friend, an African American boy who fled before the War. And in a future Qin, one deceased protagonist awakens in Reincarnation and is interrogated by an artificial intelligence calling itself the Angel.

A powerfully prescient and genre-bending debut, THESE MEMORIES DO NOT BELONG TO US compels us to question the ways in which governments and media manipulate history and collective imagination for our consumption, and encourages us to look beyond the sheen of convenient truths to unearth the real stories of struggle and sacrifice beneath.

Category: literary debut

Yiming Ma holds an MBA from Stanford and an MFA from Warren Wilson College, where he was the Carol Houck Smith Scholar. His story "Swimmer of Yangtze" won the 2018 *Guardian* 4th Estate Short Story Prize. His work has been shortlisted and/or a finalist for the Gulf Coast Prize, Ploughshares Emerging Writers Contest, LitMag Virginia Woolf Prize and Commonwealth Short Story Prize. He has been awarded grants for residencies and conferences such as the Sewanee Writers' Conference, VQR Writers' Conference and the Vermont Studio Center. Born in Shanghai, he now lives between Toronto and Tokyo.

JUNIE

Erin Crosby-Eckstine



Ballantine (February 4, 2025)

Editor: Wendy Wong

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Danya Kukafka

UK rights: Catherine Cho at
Paper Literary

A young girl faces a life-altering decision, navigating love, friendship, loss of innocence—and her sister’s ghost—as the American Civil War looms in this radiant debut, which has a big pub month get

You deserve more, Delilah June. You deserve to take all the beauty of this world and hold it in your hands. You deserve to bite it like a peach and let the juice drip 'til your fingers get sticky.

16 years old and enslaved since she was born, Junie has spent her life on Bellereine Plantation in Alabama, cooking and cleaning alongside her family, and tending to the white master’s daughter, Violet. Her daydreams are filled with poetry and faraway worlds, while she spends her nights secretly roaming through the forest, consumed with grief over the sudden death of her older sister, Minnie.

When wealthy guests arrive from New Orleans, hinting at marriage for Violet and upending Junie’s life, she commits a desperate act—one that rouses Minnie’s spirit from the grave, tethered to this world unless Junie can free her. She enlists the aid of Caleb, the guests’ coachman, and their friendship soon becomes something more. Yet as long-held truths begin to crumble, she realizes Bellereine is harboring dark and horrifying secrets that can no longer be ignored.

With time ticking down, Junie begins to push against the harsh current that has controlled her entire life. As she grapples with an increasingly unfamiliar world in which she has little control, she is forced to ask herself: When we choose love and liberation, what must we leave behind?

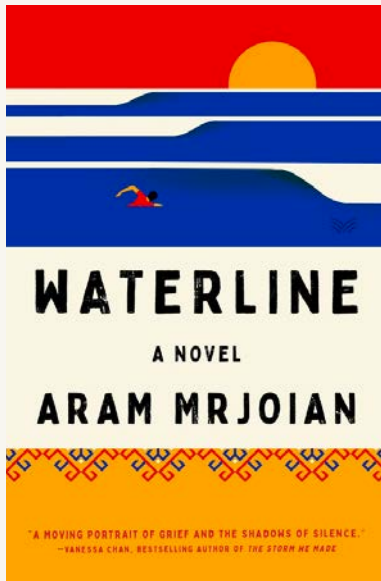
**"The richly textured prose quickly pulled me into the protagonist’s treacherous yet magical world."—
Charmaine Wilkerson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Black Cake***

Category: historical debut

Erin Crosby-Eckstine spends her days teaching love stories to high school students, and her evenings writing the books she wishes she had as a kid. Her work draws inspiration from her birthplace, Montgomery, Alabama. Her nonfiction has appeared in *New York Magazine*, *Catapult*, and *HelloGiggles*. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband and cats.

WATERLINE

Aram Mrjoian



HarperVia (June 3, 2025)

Editor: Ryan Amato & Rakesh Satyal

Territory sold: North America

Material: first pass

Agent: Natalie Edwards

UK rights: TK

In this deeply moving debut, a close-knit Armenian-American family grapples with the aftermath of losing one of their own

Outside Detroit on the island of Gross Ile, the Kurkjian receive news that Mari, the eldest of their youngest generation, has swum into the depths of Lake Michigan with no intent of returning to shore—the consequences of which drag out a deeply rooted pain passed down from generations before.

More than a century earlier, Gregor, the great-grandfather and patriarch of the Kurkjian family, survived the Armenian Genocide after fighting for his freedom atop Musa Dagh. Decades later and miles away, Gregor's epic mythos is inherited by his family as they navigate living in its shadow. As the Kurkjian now struggle with their new, devastating loss, secrets and shortcomings rise to the surface, forcing each relative to decide where their own story fits in the narrative of their family's fraught history.

For fans of Tommy Orange's *There, There*, Thao Thai's *Banyan Moon*, and Jeffrey Eugenides' epic *Middlesex*, *WATERLINE* explores the complex beauty of diaspora, the weight of inherited trauma, and the echoes of the Genocide on contemporary Armenian life. This is a searing portrait of a family afloat in grief and the perseverance needed to rise above.

"A moving portrait of grief and the shadows of silence. Aram Mrjoian shines a piercing and wise light on the way the members of one Armenian family care for and alienate each other with their secrets, and asks the question, how do we keep loving through unspeakable loss?"—Vanessa Chan, author of the bestselling *The Storm We Made*

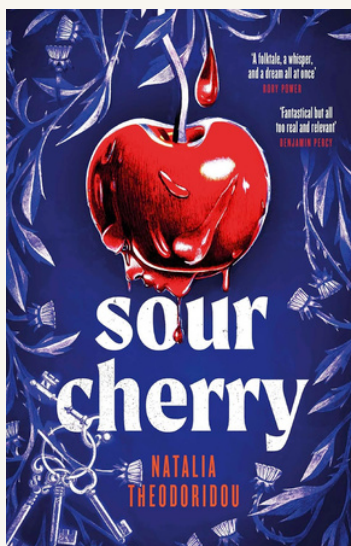
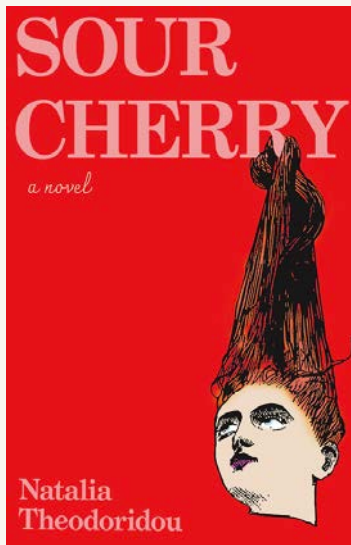
"With a voice wholly unique in its style . . . WATERLINE is a must-read—intense, moving, and unforgettable."—Morgan Talty, national bestselling author of *Night of the Living Rez* and *Fire Exit*

Category: literary debut

Aram Mrjoian is a lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Michigan, where he serves as the managing editor of *Michigan Quarterly Review*. He is the editor-in-chief of *The Rumpus* and a 2022 Creative Armenia-AGBU Fellow. He is also the editor of the anthology *We Are All Armenian: Voices from the Diaspora* published by the University of Texas Press (March 2023). His writing has appeared in *The Guardian*, *Runner's World*, *Literary Hub*, *Catapult*, *West Branch*, *Electric Literature*, *Gulf Coast*, *Boulevard*, *Joyland*, *Longreads*, and many other publications.

SOUR CHERRY

Natalia Theodoridou



Tin House (April 1, 2025)

Editor: Masie Cochran

Territory sold: North American

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Danya Kukafka

UK rights: Sue Armstrong at

C&W

Rights sold:

UK: Wildfire

A polyphonic reimagining of an old French folktale, *SOUR CHERRY* tells the story of Bluebeard—one of our earliest and most revered serial killers—and twists it into a stunning indictment of toxic masculinity

The tale begins with Agnes. After losing her own baby, Agnes is called to the great manor house to nurse the local lord's baby. But something is wrong with the child: his nails grow too fast, his skin smells of soil, and his eyes remind her of the forest. As he grows into a boy, then into a man, a plague seems to follow him everywhere. Trees begin to wither at the roots, fruit rots, and the town turns desperate. The man takes a wife, who bears him a son. But tragedy strikes in cycles and wife after wife, death after death, plague after plague, every woman he touches becomes a ghost. The ghosts become a chorus, and they call urgently to our narrator as she tries to explain exactly what has happened to her. The ghosts all agree on one inescapable truth about this man who has loved and led each to ruin: if you leave, you die. But if you die, you stay.

Natalia Theodoridou's haunting and unforgettable debut novel, *SOUR CHERRY*, confronts age-old systems of gender and power, long-held excuses made for bad men, and the complicated reasons we stay captive to the monsters we love.

"Reading *SOUR CHERRY* did not remind me of great writers. No. It was like I discovered a new one. 'Masterwork' is used so often when discussing a book, and so I'm not going to say it's a masterwork: *SOUR CHERRY* is diamondwork."—Morgan Talty, bestselling author of *Night of the Living Rez* and *Flre Exit*

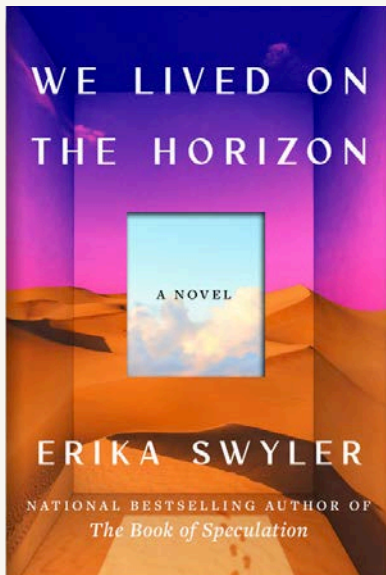
"If you love Kelly Link, Angela Carter, and Carmen Maria Machado, then Natalia Theodoridou is your new favorite author. *SOUR CHERRY* is a hell of an impressive debut."—Benjamin Percy, bestselling author of *The Ninth Metal*, *Red Moon*, and *Thrill Me*

Category: literary debut

Natalia Theodoridou is a queer and transmasculine writer whose stories have appeared in venues such as *Kenyon Review*, *The Cincinnati Review*, *Ninth Letter*, and *Strange Horizons*, and have been translated into Italian, French, Greek, Estonian, Spanish, Chinese, and Arabic. He won the 2018 World Fantasy Award for Short Fiction and the 2022 Emerging Writer Award by Moniack Mhor & The Bridge Awards, and has been a finalist for the Nebula award multiple times. He holds a PhD in Media and Cultural Studies from SOAS, University of London. Born in Greece, with roots in Georgia, Russia, and Turkey, he currently lives in the UK.

WE LIVED ON THE HORIZON

Erika Swyler



Atria (January 14, 2025)

Editor: Loan Le

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Previous publishers:

Germany: Blanvalet

Poland: Czarne Owca

A new direction for the author of *The Book of Speculation* (and offering a rare hopeful look at an AI future!), this is an engrossing literary sci fi novel for fans of Ursula K. Le Guin about a bioprosthesis surgeon and her personal AI as they are drawn into a revolution

The city of Bulwark is aptly named: a walled city built to protect and preserve the people who managed to survive a series of great cataclysms. Bulwark was founded on a system where sacrifice is rewarded by the AI that runs the city. Over generations, an elite class called the Sainted has evolved from the descendants of those who gave up the most to found mankind's last stronghold.

Saint Enita Malovis, long accustomed to luxury, feels the end of her life and decades of work as a bioprosthesis surgeon approaching. The lone practitioner of her art, Enita is determined to preserve her legacy and decides to create a physical being, called Nix, filled with her knowledge and experience. In the midst of her project, a fellow Sainted is brutally murdered and the city AI inexplicably erases the event from its data. Soon, Enita and Nix are drawn into the burgeoning rebellion that could change everything between Bulwark's hidden underclass and the programs that impose and maintain order.

Complex, imaginative, and unforgettable, WE LIVED ON THE HORIZON grapples with concepts as varied as the human desire for utopia, body horror, and what the future holds for humanity and machine alike.

"A brilliant, nuanced book . . . This novel is exactly the sort of thing that I want science fiction to aspire to. I highly recommend it to fans of *Station Eleven* or Ted Chiang's *Stories of Your Life*."—Kat Howard, Alex Award-winning author of *An Unkindness of Magicians*

"Brings to mind the grand ethical visions of writers like Ursula K. Le Guin and Iain M. Banks . . . Unforgettable."—Matt Bell, author of *Appleseed*

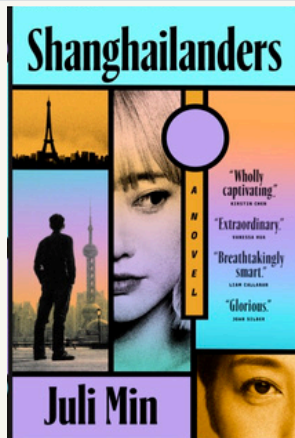
"Kaleidoscopic and incisive . . . I couldn't put it down."—Sequoia Nagamatsu, bestselling author of *How High We Go in the Dark*

Category: literary science fiction

Erika Swyler is the author of *The Book of Speculation* (SMP 2015), *Light from Other Stars* (Bloomsbury 2019), and has published in *Catapult*, *Literary Hub*, *VIDA*, *The New York Times*, and elsewhere. She's been an Indie Next Pick as well as a Target Book Club pick and B&N Discover selection. As *Newsday* wrote: "Only a writer who understands the human heart as well as she understands entropy and space travel can write a book like *Light from Other Stars*—science fiction for the rest of us."

SHANGHAILANDERS

Juli Min



A dazzling and ambitious debut novel that follows a cosmopolitan Shanghai household backward in time—beginning in 2040 and moving through our present and the recent past—exploring their secrets, their losses, and the ways a family makes and remakes itself across the years

Good Morning America Buzz Pick

2040: Wealthy real estate investor Leo Yang—handsome, distinguished, a real Shanghai man—is on the train back to the city after seeing his family off at the airport. His sophisticated Japanese-French wife, Eko, and their two eldest children, Yumi and Yoko, are headed for Boston, though one daughter's revelation will soon reroute them to Paris. 2039: Kiko, their youngest daughter and an aspiring actress, decides to pursue fame at any cost, like her icon Marilyn Monroe. 2038: Yumi comes to Yoko in need, after a college-dorm situation at Harvard goes disastrously wrong.

As the years rewind to 2014, SHANGHAILANDERS brings readers into the shared and separate lives of the Yang family parent by parent, daughter by daughter, and through the eyes of the people in their orbit—a nanny from the provinces, a private driver with a penchant for danger, and a grandmother whose memories of the past echo the present. We glimpse a future where the city's waters rise and the specter of apocalypse is never far off. But in Juli Min's hands, we also see that whatever may change, universal constants remain: love is complex, life is not fair, and family will always be stubbornly connected by blood, secrets, and longing.

Brilliantly constructed and achingly resonant, SHANGHAILANDERS is an unforgettable exploration of marriage, relationships, and the layered experience of time.

“[An] audacious debut . . . Min is a talented writer whose debut shows much promise.”—*Washington Post*

“A thrilling, futuristic family drama that captures the joys, disappointments, and inside jokes of one Shanghai family in reverse chronological orders.”—*TIME*, 14 New Books You Should Read in May

“Sophisticated and affecting.”—*Los Angeles Times*, 10 Books to Add to Your Reading List in May

Category: literary debut

Spiegel & Grau (May 7, 2024)

Editor: Joey McCarvey

Territory: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Stephanie Delman

UK rights: Sue Armstrong at C&W

Film/TV: Jason Richman & Orly Greenberg at UTA

Rights sold:

UK: Dialogue Books

Arabic: Aser Al Kotob

Germany: Eichborn

Japan: Hayakawa

Norway: Cappelen Damm

Spanish: AdN

Juli Min is a writer and editor based in Shanghai. She studied Russian and comparative literature at Harvard University and holds an MFA in fiction from Warren Wilson. She was *The Shanghai Literary Review's* founding editor and was its fiction editor from 2016 to 2023. Her writing has been published in *The New York Times*, *Hazlitt*, and elsewhere. Juli has lived in Shanghai, China for six years, but her home and heart is New York City.

ALL GOD'S CHILDREN

Rickey Fayne

*previously titled THE DEVIL THREE TIMES



Little, Brown (summer 2025)

Editor: Ben George

Territory sold: North America

Material: unedited manuscript

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: Elise Dillsworth at
David Higham Associates

Rights sold:

UK: Fleet/Little, Brown

From a wonderfully mature and original storyteller, **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN** is an engrossing epic of a multi-generational Black southern family who farm the land where they were once enslaved. The cast of characters is impressively vast, but Fayne manages to bring us intimately and convincingly into the inner world of each and every one—including, most imaginatively, the Devil himself. Little, Brown will position as a major literary debut of 2025

The Devil first comes to the conjure woman living on the Laurent plantation, and to her twin children: one a dark-skinned girl, the other a light-skinned boy, and then returns over the decades to their tangled family tree. There is Walter Laurent, consumed by the fire of old-time religion, and his son Louis, tortured by his desire for his brother's wife. There is Cassandra, who smells colors and talks to the dead, and Porter and James, who are both in love with her. And finally there are Lucy and John who, no matter how much distance they try to put behind them, find themselves pulled back home.

Loosely based on the author's hometown and family, who have lived on the same plot of land in West Tennessee for over 150 years, **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN** continues the conversation on Black religion, folklore, and love that goes back to Zora Neale Hurston and Toni Morrison, and will live in the space that includes Jesmyn Ward, Honorée Fanonne Jeffers, Yaa Gyasi, and Robert Jones Jr.

“Not since James Baldwin’s *Go Tell It on the Mountain* has a debut conveyed Black spirituality with such passion, style, and brio. From the first page, I was spellbound, and was left devastated by the novel’s end. This is what literature is all about.”—Nathan Harris, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Sweetness of Water*

Category: literary debut

Rickey Fayne has an MA in English from Northwestern University and an MFA in Fiction from the Michener Center for Writers. An excerpt of **ALL GOD'S CHILDREN** was chosen by Danielle Evans to be part of the Emerging Black Writer's issue of *American Short Fiction*, went on to become a finalist for a National Magazine Award, and received a Notable Mention in *Best American Mystery and Suspense* 2021. Another excerpt, "What Fire Won't Burn," won the 2022 Walter Sullivan Award from *The Sewanee Review*. He has received scholarships from Tin House, Bread Loaf, and Kimbilio. He is on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison English Department.

THE VOLCANO DAUGHTERS

Gina María Balibrera



Pantheon (August 20, 2024)

Editor: Naomi Gibbs

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Stephanie Delman

UK co-agent: Nicola Chang at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Hilary Zaitz Michael & Carolina Beltran at WME

Rights Sold:

UK: Oneworld

Spanish: Planeta México

A saucy, searingly original debut about two sisters raised in the shadow of a brutal El Salvadoran dictator, and their flight from genocide, which takes them from Hollywood to Paris to cannery row, each followed by a chorus of furies, the ghosts of their murdered friends, who aren't yet done telling their stories

A Most Anticipated Book by *Goodreads* • *Vulture* • *Seattle Times* • *Book Riot* • *Electric Literature* • *Debutiful*

Nine-year-old Graciela is raised in the shadow of El Salvador's Izalco volcano, until the day she is taken to the capital city by the country's fearsome – and fearsomely superstitious – dictator, who believes her to be a muse capable of foreseeing the future.

There, Graciela meets Consuelo, the sister she never knew existed. Consuelo is everything she is not – volatile, dreamy and teenaged – yet despite their differences, the sisters form an unlikely bond. When the dictator's brutality is finally unleashed, El Salvador is forever changed. Graciela and Consuelo survive the massacre, but most of their community are not so lucky.

From San Salvador to Los Angeles, Paris to San Francisco, the sisters create a new future for themselves. But the story of those they left behind is not yet over. Their voices, once just a whisper, now shout louder than ever. Listen.

"THE VOLCANO DAUGHTERS spits fire from its very first page . . . a gifted new storyteller with a nose for history and a prodigious imagination."—*The New York Times Book Review*

"A devastating story of sisterhood, community, and memory, quietly magical and utterly unforgettable."—*Library Journal*, starred review

"A new heir to the magical-realism throne."—*Seattle Times*

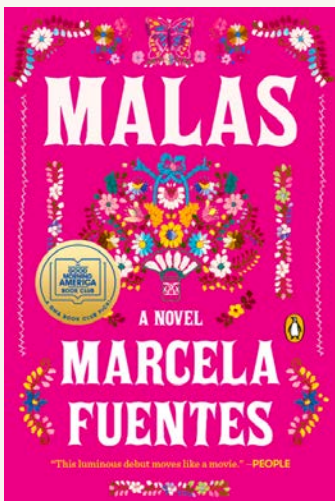
"A gripping and spellbinding novel about a sisterhood ripped apart by violence, narrated by a ghostly chorus. An unforgettable debut."—Brit Bennett, author of *The Vanishing Half*

Category: literary historical debut

Gina María Balibrera earned her MFA from the University of Michigan Helen Zell Writers' Program. A founding fiction editor of *The Offing*, she received the Under the Volcano Sandra Cisneros Fellowship in 2020, and her short fiction was selected by Min Jin Lee for the Aura Estrada Prize. An excerpt of THE VOLCANO DAUGHTERS was selected by Leticia Hernández Linares, Rubén Martínez, and Héctor Tobar, to appear in *The Wandering Song*, an anthology of writing of the Central American diaspora.

MALAS

Marcela Fuentes



Viking (June 4, 2024)

Editor: Laura Tisdell

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: Veronique Baxter at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Katrina Escudero at Sugar23

Rights sold:

Czech Republic: Euromedia

Spanish: Penguin Random House Grupo Editorial

From a brilliant new voice comes a story full of passion and revenge, following one family living on the Texas Mexico border—and a curse that reverberates across generations

**Good Morning America Book Club Pick for June
One of Amazon Top 10 Books of the Month for June
Longlisted for Center for Fiction First Novel Prize**

In 1951, a mysterious old woman confronts Pilar Aguirre, an expectant mother living in a small Texas border town. The old woman is sure Pilar stole her husband. Outraged by Pilar's denials, she lays a curse on Pilar and her family.

More than 40 years later, teenage Lulu Muñoz lives in chaos: her moody, troubled father, her secret life as the singer in a punk band, and especially her upcoming quinceañera. When the only true north in Lulu's life, her beloved grandmother, passes away, Lulu finds herself drawn to the glamorous stranger who crashed the funeral.

Their unexpected kinship picks at the secrets of Lulu's family's past. As the quinceañera looms—and we move between these two strong, irascible female voices—one woman must make peace with the past, and one girl must define her own future.

Rich with cinematic details—from dusty rodeos to the excitement of a Selena concert and the comfort of conjunto ballads played at family gatherings—this memorable debut is a love letter to the Tejano culture and community that sustain both of these women as they discover what family means.

“A vibrant portrait of two strong women and their mixed feelings about home.” —Kirkus, starred review

“Fuentes is a seamless storyteller: the narrative is rich in Mexican culture and fully realized characterizations, especially the defiant Lulu and the overbearing Julio. Fans of Ana Castillo and Erika Sanchez will be thrilled.”—Publishers Weekly, starred review

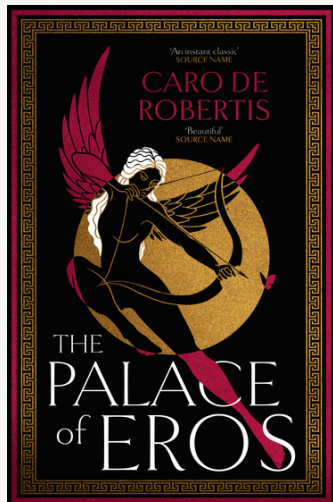
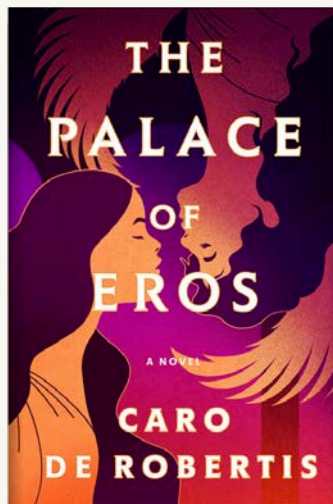
“MALAS is a machete: sharp, terrifying, and beautiful. . . . Fuentes has achieved something rare and indelible with this story of complex women.”—Erika L. Sánchez, New York Times bestselling author of I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter

Category: upmarket debut

Marcela Fuentes is a Pushcart Prize-winning fiction writer and essayist. She is a graduate of the Iowa Writers' Workshop and was the 2016-2017 James C. McCreight Fiction Fellow at the Wisconsin Institute for Creative Writing. Her work has appeared in the *The Rumpus*, *Kenyon Review*, *Ploughshares*, and other journals. Her debut novel *MALAS* (June 2024) and linked story collection *My Heart Has More Rooms Than a Whorehouse* are forthcoming from Viking Books. She lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

THE PALACE OF EROS

Caro De Robertis



Atria (August 13, 2024)

Editor: Michelle Herrera Mulligan

Territory: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Rights sold:

UK: The Borough Press

France: Jouvence

Norway: Gursli Berg

A bold and subversive feminist retelling of the Greek myth of Psyche and Eros explores the power of queer joy and freedom

Sunday Times Top 10 Bestseller (UK)

A Most Anticipated Book from TODAY • Electric Literature • Book Riot

Young, headstrong Psyche has captured the eye of every suitor with her beauty—but also, unfortunately, the jealous gaze of the goddess Aphrodite. As punishment, Psyche is tied to a rock to be sacrificed to a ‘monstrous husband’. And yet, no monster arrives: instead, she is spirited away by Aphrodite’s daughter Eros.

Eros, goddess of desire, can change gender at will. And in her hidden palace, she visits her new bride under the cloak of darkness: Psyche is forbidden to gaze upon the face of her new lover. But as they explore each other’s bodies and discover new pleasures, Psyche is tempted to break her vow... even if it brings down the wrath of the gods.

A gloriously anarchic and seductive retelling of the myth of Psyche and Eros, groundbreaking, gender-fluid and hugely enjoyable, this is a masterpiece from Caro De Robertis, a writer described by Madeline Miller as “brilliant and luminous.”

"Ariveting, sublime, magical, and wildly subversive meditation on love, sex, mythology, and belonging . . . brilliant and beautiful and erotic and insightful and unlike anything I've ever read."—Cristina García, author of *Dreaming in Cuban* and *Vanishing Maps*

"Engrossing queer retelling . . . De Robertis especially shines in their depiction of Eros . . . Admirers of Madeline Miller will be pleased."—*Publishers Weekly*

"De Robertis' prose is as sharp and beautiful as ever. Their meditations on gender, desire, and freedom soar off the page. . . A vulnerable, sensual, and joyous journey about living and loving in one's truth."—*Kirkus*

Category: upmarket fiction

Caro De Robertis is the award-winning and bestselling author of several books, including *THE PALACE OF EROS*, *The President and the Frog*, *Cantoras*, and more. Their work has been translated into 18 languages and has garnered numerous honors including a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, two Stonewall Book Awards, Italy’s Rhegium Julii Prize, and the John Dos Passos Prize for Literature, which they were the first openly nonbinary person to receive. De Robertis is also an award-winning literary translator, and a professor at San Francisco State University. They live in Oakland, California, with their two children. Their next project is an oral history (see page 84).

CARO DE ROBERTIS: THE BACKLIST

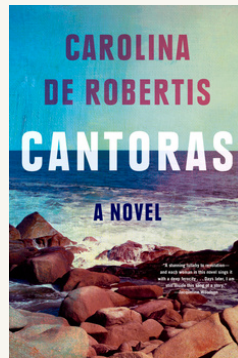


Knopf (2021)

Rights sold: **Brazil:** Editora Dublinense (NEW), **Norway:** Camino Forlag (NEW), **Spanish:** Vintage Español

Shortlisted for the 2022 Pen/Faulkner Prize for Fiction & PEN/Jean Stein Book Award

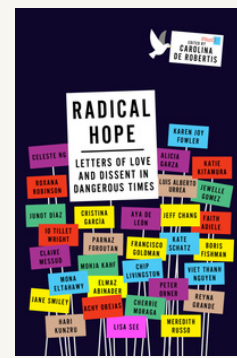
"This sublime and gripping novel is above all about hope."—Madeline Miller, author of *Circe*



Knopf (2019)

Rights sold: **Brazil:** Editora Dublinense (NEW), **Greece:** Diaplasia, **Poland:** Wydawnictwo Albatros, **Spanish:** Vintage Español

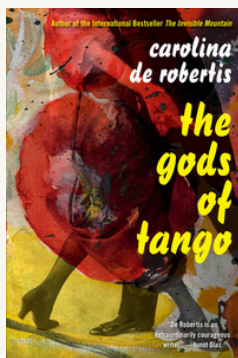
A "bold and unapologetic" (*NYTBR*) novel about five wildly different women who, in the midst of the Uruguayan dictatorship, find each other as lovers, friends, and ultimately, family



Knopf (2017)

Rights sold: **UK:** Virago/Little, Brown, **Poland:** Wydawnictwo Albatros

An anthology of epistolary essays that addresses the tumult and danger of our times, from a range of leading novelists, poets, journalists, and political thinkers, including Celeste Ng, Luis Alberto Urrea, Mona Eltahawy, and Viet Thanh Nguyen

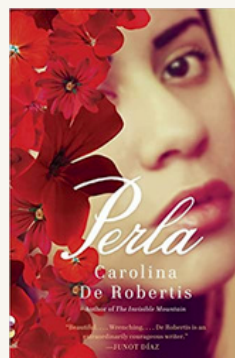


Knopf (2015)

Rights sold: **France:** Le Cherche Midi, **Germany:** S. Fischer Verlag, **Italy:** Garzanti, **Norwegian:** Vigmostad & Bjørke, **Poland:** Wydawnictwo Albatros, **Romania:** Nemira

The lyrical, riveting story of a young woman whose passion for the early sounds of tango becomes a force of profound and unexpected change

"There is something inherently alluring about the tango. . . . [*The Gods of Tango*] captures that allure in a rich feast of history and human drama."—*Booklist*, starred review



Knopf (2012)

Rights sold: **UK:** Haus Publishing, **Germany:** S. Fischer Verlag, **Hebrew:** Matar, **Holland:** De Bezige Bij, **Italy:** Garzanti, **Norwegian:** Schibsted Forlag, **Poland:** Wydawnictwo Albatros

A "moving, poetic" (*O, The Oprah Magazine*) coming-of-age story based on one of the darkest chapters in Argentinean history

"Haunting . . . a sensitive exploration of love, loyalty, and hope in the wake of atrocity."—*The New Yorker*



Knopf (2009)

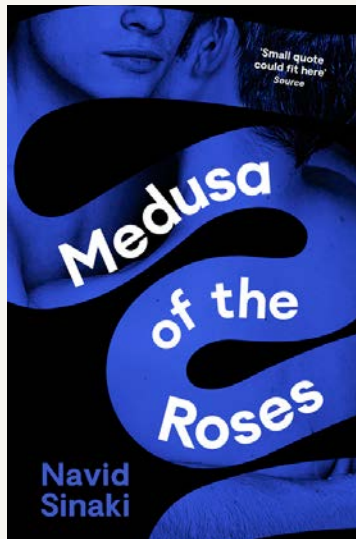
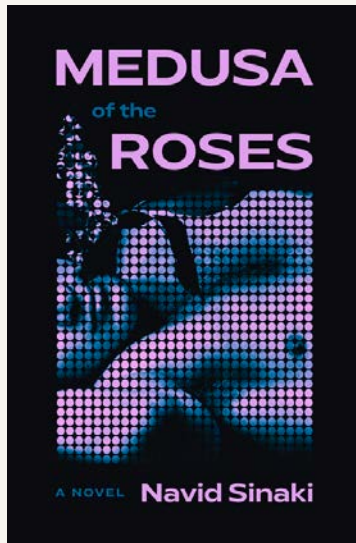
Rights sold: **UK:** Harper, **China:** Yilin Press, **France:** Belfond, **Germany:** S. Fischer Verlag, **Greece:** Livanis, **Hebrew:** Matar, **Holland:** De Boekerij, **Italy:** Garzanti, **Norway:** Schibsted Forlag, **Poland:** Wydawnictwo Albatros, **Serbia:** Dereta (NEW), **Spanish:** Planeta, **Sweden:** Forum, **Taiwan:** Commonwealth

"An incantatory debut. . . . [A] sweeping and lushly lyrical saga that spans three generations of women. . . . Boldly poetic. . . . This visionary book beautifully, bravely breaks open all the old secrets."—*Elle*

Elle

MEDUSA OF THE ROSES

Navid Sinaki



Grove Atlantic (August 13, 2024)

Editor: Amy Hundley & Joseph Payne

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Mariah Stovall

UK rights: Florence Rees at AM Heath

Rights sold:

UK: Serpent's Tail

France: Le bruit du monde

Written with the lyricism of Ocean Vuong's *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, a transgressive Iranian noir steeped in Persian and Greek mythology that follows a queer petty thief in a feverish search for answers and revenge after his boyfriend disappears

A Publishers Weekly Writer to Watch

"Read This Now!" selection in the Southern Bookseller Review

Anjir and Zal have been lovers in Iran since they were young, but must keep this secret or risk execution. When Zal is attacked after being caught with another man, Anjir is heartbroken by the betrayal but chooses to forgive, as the pair formulate a plan to live together. The government will help to fund a trans person's surgeries and Anjir will legally become a woman. Then the two of them can move away under new identities.

When Zal vanishes, leaving only a cryptic note, Anjir must embark on a quest through Tehran's queer underground in search of him. But someone is tailing Anjir too, and soon he suspects that he will have to commit violent acts of his own.

A myth-infused love story of vengeance and desire, *MEDUSA OF THE ROSES* is a provocative, page-turning novel with the wild intensity of a fever dream.

"Checks all the boxes. It's a taut story of doomed love set in Tehran and shot through with noirish imagist poetry."—Los Angeles Times

"A powerful debut . . . unflinching and bold."—Observer (UK)

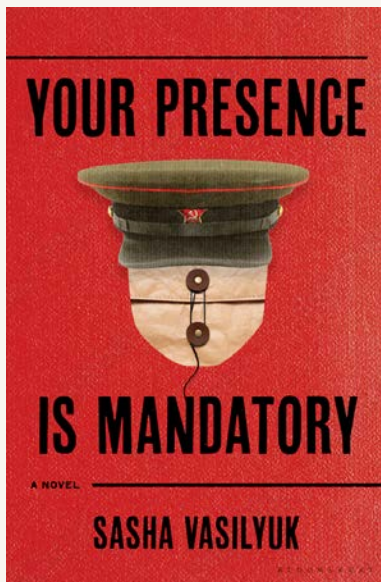
"Stunning debut . . . The narrative teems with references to Greek mythology, Persian folktales, and Old Hollywood as Sinaki considers the psychological toll that living under an ever-present threat of death can take. This is a must."—Publishers Weekly, starred review

Category: literary debut

Navid Sinaki is an artist and writer from Tehran who currently lives in Los Angeles. His works have been exhibited at museums and art houses around the world, including the Lincoln Center, British Film Institute, Cineteca Nacional in Mexico, and the Modern Museum in Stockholm. His first solo art exhibition *The Infinite Garden* debuted at Shangri La Museum of Islamic Art, Culture, and Design, and the Honolulu Museum of Art.

YOUR PRESENCE IS MANDATORY

Sasha Vasilyuk



Bloomsbury (April 23, 2024)

Editor: Grace McNamee

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Rights sold:

Brazil: Rocco

Finland: WSOY

France: Éditions Charleston/Leduc

Germany: Droemer

Hebrew: Kinneret

Italy: Garzanti

A “wonderfully written, elegiac and necessary” (Gary Shteyngart) debut novel, based on real events, about a World War II veteran with a secret that could land him in the Gulag, and his family who are forced to live in the shadow of all he has not told them

Longlisted for Center for Fiction First Novel Prize

Apple’s April Debut Feature

One of *Debutiful’s* 12 Noteworthy Debuts for April

Ukraine, 2007. Yefim Shulman, husband, grandfather and war veteran, was beloved by his family and his coworkers. But in the days after his death, his widow Nina finds a letter to the KGB in his briefcase. Yefim had a lifelong secret, and his confession forces them to reassess the man they thought they knew and the country he had defended.

In 1941, Yefim is a young artillerist on the border between Soviet Union and Germany, eager to defend his country and his large Jewish family against Hitler’s forces. But surviving the war requires sacrifices Yefim never imagined—and even when the war ends, his fight isn’t over. He must conceal his choices from the KGB and from his family.

Spanning seven decades between World War II and the current Russia-Ukraine conflict, *YOUR PRESENCE IS MANDATORY* traces the effect Yefim’s coverup had on the lives of Nina, their two children and grandchildren. In the process, Sasha Vasilyuk shines a light on one family caught between two totalitarian regimes, and the grace they find in the course of their survival.

“Through meticulous attention to specifics and empathetic, searching characterization, Vasilyuk achieves a sense of historical and emotional authenticity . . . Vasilyuk’s engagement with uncomfortable truths is chief among many reasons I think it’s so important for my former compatriots to read her novel.”—*Los Angeles Review of Books*

“YOUR PRESENCE IS MANDATORY focuses on one Ukrainian, it resonates far beyond Eastern Europe.”—*San Francisco Chronicle*

Category: upmarket historical debut

Sasha Vasilyuk was born in the Soviet Crimea and spent her childhood between Ukraine and Russia before immigrating to San Francisco at the age of 13. She has a MA in Journalism from New York University, and her nonfiction has been published in *The New York Times*, *Harper’s Bazaar*, *BBC*, *The Telegraph*, *Narrative*, *USA Today*, *Los Angeles Times*, and elsewhere. She has won several awards, including the Solas Award for Best Travel Writing, NATJA award, and BAM/PFA Fellowship from UC Berkeley. She lives in San Francisco, California with her husband and children.

A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE

Asha Thanki



Viking (July 9, 2024)

Editor: Nidhi Pugalia

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agents: Stephanie Delman & Danya Kukafka

UK rights: Harriet Moore at David Higham Associates

TV option: Amblin Television

Rights sold:

Germany: Harper Germany

Italy: Einaudi Stile Libero

A heartrending family saga following three generations of women connected by a fantastic tapestry through which they inherit the memories of those that lived before them, sweeping readers from Partition-era India to modern day New York

One of *People's* Most-Anticipated Summer Books

Ayukta is finally sitting down with her wife Nadya to respond to a question she's long avoided: Should they have a child? The decision is complicated by a secret her family has kept for centuries, one that Ayukta will be the first to share with someone outside their bloodline: the women in her family inherit a mysterious tapestry, through which each generation can experience the memories of those who came before her.

Ayukta invites Nadya into this lineage, carrying her through its past. She relives her grandmother Amla's life: Once a happy child in Karachi, Amla migrates to Gujarat during Partition, witnessing violence and loss that forever shape her. Amla's daughter, Arni, bears this weight in her own blood in 1974, when gender equity and urban class distinctions divide the community as a bold student movement takes hold. As Ayukta unspools these generations of women, she reveals the tapestry's second gift: the ability for each of these women to dramatically reshape their own worlds. Like all power, both fantastic and societal, this inheritance is more treacherous than it seems.

Sweeping, deeply felt and intergenerational, *A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE* is a debut as poetic as it is propulsive, as healing as it is heartbreaking, examining what it means to carry our past with us and to pass it on.

"Captivating debut . . . *A THOUSAND TIMES BEFORE* is a rich family saga about art and memory's power to inform the present, make peace with the past, and maybe even alter the future."—Celeste Ng, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Our Missing Hearts*

"A sweeping, emotionally powerful tale set against a backdrop of geopolitical strife, a novel about nothing less than self-determination, national identity and ancestral traumas."—*Minneapolis Star-Tribune*

Category: upmarket debut

Asha Thanki received her MFA from the University of Minnesota. She is a Kundiman fellow, a Fiction Scholar at Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, a Randall Kenan Scholar at Sewanee Writers Conference, and her short work has appeared in *The Southern Review*, *Catapult*, and more.

THE INVISIBLE HOTEL

Yeji Y. Ham



Zando (March 5, 2024)

Editor: Emily Bell

Territory sold: US and Open Market

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Danya Kukafka

UK rights: Catherine Cho at Paper Literary

Film/TV: Becca Rodriguez at Curate

Rights Sold:

Canada: Doubleday

UK: Atlantic Books

Korea: GuFic

Turkey: Timas

A haunting, South Korea-set literary debut, which probes the continued human consequences of a war with no end in sight

Yewon dreams of a hotel. In the hotel, there are infinite keys to infinite rooms—and a quiet terror she is both eager to understand and desperate to escape. When Yewon wakes, she sees her life: a young woman, out of a job, trapped in the tiny South Korean village of her birth, watching her mother wash the bones of their ancestors in their bathtub. Every house has them, these rotting and fragmented ribs, tibias, and femurs, whose constant care and persistent stench serve as reminders of what they have all lost to the Forgotten War that never seems to end.

Now Yewon's brother is stationed near the North Korean border, her sister has experienced a life-changing tragedy, and her mother is overwhelmed by anxiety. When Yewon begins to drive a local woman named Ms. Han, a mysterious and aging North Korean refugee, to visit her brother at a distant prison, Yewon's dreams intensify. As the line between reality and illusion slowly begins to blur, Yewon is led to an unsettling truth about her country's collective heritage.

A work of literary horror in the gothic tradition, *THE INVISIBLE HOTEL* is a startling, speculative tale of a woman in crisis and in stasis, and a country's shifting identity in the long afterlife of the Korean War.

“Haunting, compulsive, stylish—as original a debut as you’d ever hope to read.”—Anna Metcalfe, author of *Chrysalis*

“Propulsive, electric, full of fury and ecstatic writing, you won’t be able to put this one down.”—Paul Yoon, author of *The Hive and the Honey*

**“This ethereal debut novel, at once a horror story and a bird’s bone–delicate exploration of trauma, is filled with ghosts . . . Ham somehow conjures up a delicious tension among her lead’s longing to become something, the little tragedies unfolding around her, and the spooky aftereffects of the Korean War.”
—Kirkus**

Category: literary debut

Yeji Y. Ham is a Korean Canadian writer. She received her B.A. in Creative Writing from the University of British Columbia and M.F.A. in Literary Arts from Brown University. At Brown, she completed a short story collection titled *Doraesol*, and part of the manuscript was awarded the Frances Mason Harris’ 26 Prizes in Fiction. This is her first novel.

THREE PARTIES

Ziyad Saadi



Hamish Hamilton (August 2025)

Editor: David Ross

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript imminent

Agent: Mariah Stovall

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

A tragicomic reimagining of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway*, set in 2016 Detroit, where a gay Palestinian refugee prepares to celebrate his birthday amidst an escalating torrent of romantic, professional, and familial surprises—for fans of Bryan Washington and Andrew Sean Greer

The food is prepped. The flowers are arranged. The decorations are waiting to be hung. Everything is ready for Firas Dareer's coming-out party. Except Firas . . . and his guests, who believe they're gathering for a plain old birthday party.

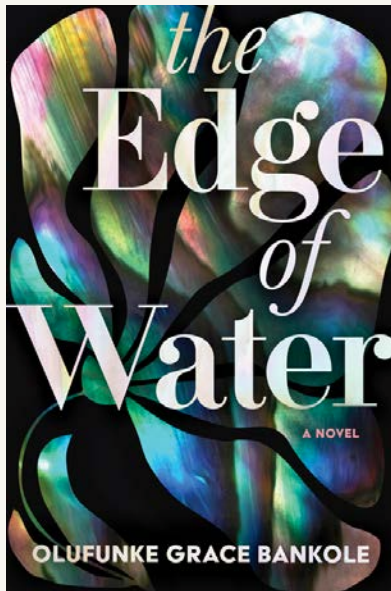
Throughout a single, fateful day, the journey towards Firas's meticulously planned event leads to more than a few missteps, tumbles, and dead ends. An unexpected marriage proposal, an old flame's reappearance, an embittered housekeeper, a runaway grandfather, his mother's extra-marital affair, and his brother's mental health problems all combine to hinder Firas's grand reveal. And while he fights to not let anything thwart his march towards a happy future, he'll soon realize that the past cannot be so easily forgotten.

Category: literary debut

Ziyad Saadi is a Palestinian-Canadian author and screenwriter who has contributed to *Indiewire*, *The Independent*, and *The Gay & Lesbian Review*. He holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing from Concordia University, and recently won the pilot script contest organized by the Hollywood Bureau of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. He was born in Abu Dhabi and raised in Montreal.

THE EDGE OF WATER

Olufunke Grace Bankole



Tin House (February 4, 2025)

Editor: Elizabeth DeMeo

Territory sold: North America

Material: first pass

Agent: Danya Kukafka

UK rights: Catherine Cho at
Paper Literary

Set between Nigeria and New Orleans, THE EDGE OF WATER tells the story of a young woman who dreams of life in America, as the collision of traditional prophecy and individual longing tests the bonds of a family during a devastating storm

In Ibadan, Nigeria, a mother receives a divination that foretells danger for her daughter in America. In spite of this warning, she allows her to forge her own path, and Amina arrives in New Orleans filled with hope. But just as Amina begins to find her way, a hurricane threatens to destroy the city, upending everything she'd dreamed of and the lives of all she holds dear. Years later, her daughter is left with questions about the mother she barely knew, and the family she has yet to discover in Nigeria.

Exploring the love of a determined mother and dreaming daughter who do not say enough to each other until it is too late, the detangling of Yoruba Christianity, traditional religion, and folklore, and the tellings of three generations of daring women—through times of longing, promise, and romance, as well as heartbreak—Olufunke Grace Bankole's *THE EDGE OF WATER* is a luminous debut novel about a young woman brave enough to leave all she knows behind, and the way her fate transforms a family destined to stay together.

"An artfully constructed, beautifully told, and utterly moving book. A thrilling debut."—Jami Attenberg, author of *A Reason to See You Again*

"THE EDGE OF WATER is a beautifully realized epic tale following the lives of three generations of women across two continents. Bankole expertly explores tenderness and heartache without sentimentality. This is a stunning addition to the canon of diasporic tales."—Maurice Carlos Ruffin, author of *The American Daughters*

Category: literary debut

Olufunke Grace Bankole is a first-generation Nigerian American. After graduating from Harvard Law School, and completing a Soros Justice Advocacy Fellowship, she left law to write. She won the Glimmer Train Short-Story Award for New Writers, and the Bread Loaf-Rona Jaffe Scholarship in Fiction at the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She has been awarded an Oregon Literary Fellowship in Fiction, a Ludwig Vogelstein Foundation grant, a residency-fellowship from the Anderson Center at Tower View, and has received a Pushcart Special Mention for her short fiction. An excerpt from *THE EDGE OF WATER*, titled *Serrated*, was chosen by Tom Perrotta for a recent issue of *Ploughshares*.

OYE

Melissa Mogollon



Hogarth (May 14, 2024)

Editor: Clio Seraphim

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Mariah Stovall

UK rights: Sara Langham
at David Higham Associates

Film/TV: Jason Richman at UTA

Rights sold:

Spanish: Vintage Español

A coming-of-age comedy. A telenovela-worthy drama. A moving family saga. All in a phone call you won't want to hang up on.

**Longlisted for Center for Fiction First Novel Prize
May Pick for Latinas y Libros Book Club**

Structured as a series of one-sided phone calls from our spunky, sarcastic narrator, Luciana, to her older sister, Mari, this wildly inventive debut “jump-starts your heart in the same way it piques your ear” (Xochitl Gonzalez). As the baby of her large Colombian American family, Luciana is usually relegated to the sidelines. But now she finds herself as the only voice of reason in the face of an unexpected crisis: A hurricane is heading straight for Miami, and her eccentric grandmother, Abue, is refusing to evacuate. While she often drives Luciana nuts, they're the only ones who truly understand each other. So when Abue, normally glamorous and full of life, receives a shocking medical diagnosis during the storm, Luciana's world is upended.

When Abue moves into Luciana's bedroom, their complicated bond intensifies. Luciana would rather be skating or sneaking out to meet girls, but Abue's wild demands and unpredictable antics are a welcome distraction for Luciana from her misguided mother, absent sister, and uncertain future. Forced to step into the role of caretaker, translator, and keeper of the devastating family secrets that Abue begins to share, Luciana suddenly finds herself center stage, facing down adulthood—and rising to the occasion.

“A classic coming-of-age story meets telenovela-worthy drama in this novel told from the perspective of one juicy phone call. It's kind of like eavesdropping . . . and who doesn't love that every now and then?”—*Cosmopolitan*, 20 Best New Books of Spring 2024 to Add to Your TBR List

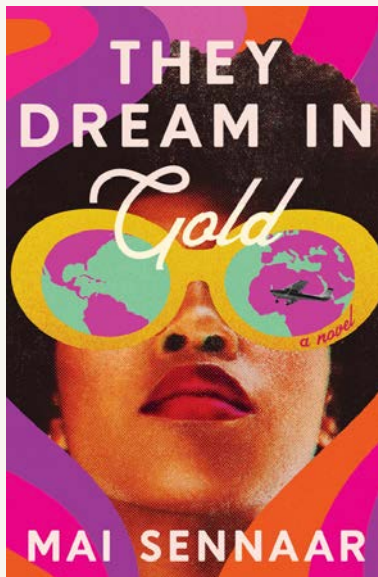
“Brilliant . . . Melissa Mogollon did not come to play.”—*Kiley Reid*, author of *Such a Fun Age*

Category: literary debut

THEY DREAM IN GOLD

*previously titled TASTE

Mai Sennaar



Sarah Jessica Parker Lit/Zando Books (July 30, 2024)

Editor: Caolinn Douglas

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Mariah Stovall

UK rights: Jane Finigan at Lutyens & Rubinstein

Rights sold:

UK: Picador

“A reader traverses half the globe through this story, becomes a singer and a dancer and a chef; and is welcomed into a formidable community of women where love is the unshakeable glue. Subtle yet striking, THEY DREAM IN GOLD is a remarkable comment on motherhood, diaspora, and ambition.”—Sarah Jessica Parker, SJP Lit

**Longlisted for Center for Fiction First Novel Prize
A Real Simple Best Book of 2024 • A Washington Post Best Book of Summer • A TIME Best Book of July**

When Bonnie and Mansour meet in New York in 1968—his piercing gaze in a downtown jazz club threatening to carry her away—their connection is undeniable. Both from fractured homes, with childhoods spent crossing the Atlantic, they quickly find peace with each other. And as Mansour’s soaring Senegalese melodies continue to break new ground, keeping time with the sound of revolution and taking him and Bonnie from Paris to Rio and Switzerland, it seems as though happiness might finally be around the corner for them both.

Then Mansour goes missing. His Spanish tour was only meant to last three weeks, but three months later, he and his band haven’t returned. In his absence, Bonnie reckons with her memories of him, and comes to understand that the hopes of so many women—her mother and grandmother; his mother, aunt, childhood friend—rest on her perseverance. Stirred by the life growing inside her, Bonnie puts a plan in action to find him.

Spanning two decades and moving through the hotbeds of the African diaspora, THEY DREAM IN GOLD is an epic yet intimate exploration of the migrant hunger for belonging and a powerful, intergenerational testament to our shared humanity, for lovers of Tara Stringfellow’s *Memphis* and Abi Daré’s *The Girl with the Louding Voice*.

“Extraordinary . . . a powerful and poignant exploration of the African diaspora and global Black identity . . . This book moves like the storm Sennaar begins it with.”—New York Times Book Review

“A sweeping, fascinating book about identity and families.”—The Times (UK)

Category: upmarket debut

Mai Sennaar is a graduate of NYU’s Tisch School of the Arts. The Smithsonian Affiliate Museum of the African Diaspora, the Berkeley Art Museum and Pacific Film Archive, and the Classical Theatre of Harlem are among the venues that have presented her plays. Her short film *Wax Lovers’ Playlist* premiered at AFI Silver Theatre and Cultural Center and was an Official Selection of the Martha’s Vineyard African American Film Festival. She lives between Baltimore and Dakar.

EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Mariah Rigg



Ecco (August 5, 2025)

Editor: Rachel Sargent

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Amy Bishop-Wycisk

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Magnetic, haunting, and tender, EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD is a stunning portrait of Hawai'i—and a powerful meditation on family, queer love, and community amidst imperialism and environmental collapse

In *EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD*, Mariah Rigg brings us ten vibrant, affecting stories of contemporary Hawai'i. By turns heartbreaking and hopeful, these stories of love, longing, and grief are fierce dispatches from a state haunted by the specter of colonization, and a precious biome under constant threat.

In "Target Island," an older man grapples with the American weapons research conducted on the neighboring island that reverberates through his entire life. "Poachers" follows a haole woman who seeks belonging by trespassing in a rainforest with her Hawaiian partner's mother. In "Dawn Chorus," two teenage girls find love during a summer spent on Midway Atoll. And in the title story, "Extinction Capital of the World," a young woman returns home to O'ahu following a breakup and reconnects with her estranged father and the island itself.

Linked by both place and character, Rigg's stories illuminate the exotification and commodification of Hawai'i in the American mythos. Brimming with wonder, compassion, and deep insight, *EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD* is an environmental love letter to the Hawaiian Islands and an indelible portrayal of the people who inhabit them—marking the arrival of an exciting new voice in contemporary fiction.

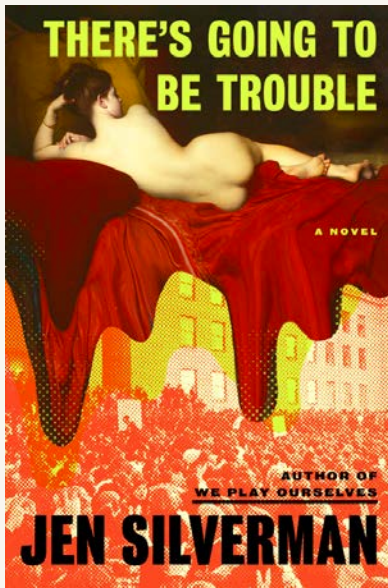
Category: short story collection

Mariah Rigg is a Samoan-Haole settler who was born and raised on the island of O'ahu. Her work has been published in *Oxford American*, *The Sewanee Review*, *Joyland*, and elsewhere, and has received support from MASS MoCA, the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, Lambda Literary, Oregon Literary Arts, Carolyn Moore Writers' House, and the National Endowment for the Arts, where she was awarded a 2024 Fellowship in Creative Writing. She holds an MFA from the University of Oregon and is currently a PhD candidate at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville.

THERE'S GOING TO BE TROUBLE

*previously titled THE HUNTERS

Jen Silverman



Random House (April 9, 2024)

Editor: Caitlin McKenna

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Hunter

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Previous Publishers:

UK: Atlantic Books

A woman is pulled into a love affair with a radical activist, unknowingly echoing her family's dangerous past and risking the foundations of her future in this electrifying second novel from the playwright who has an original play on Broadway this fall

Minnow has always tried to lead the life her single father, Christopher, modeled—private, quiet, hardworking, apolitical. So she is rocked when an instinctive decision to help a student makes her the extremely public face of a scandal in the town where she teaches. When vandalism and death threats follow, an overwhelmed Minnow flees to a teaching position in Paris. There, Minnow falls into an exhilarating and all-consuming relationship with Charles, a young Frenchman whose activism has placed him at odds with his powerful family. As Minnow is pulled into the daring protest Charles and his friends are planning, she unknowingly draws close to repeating a secret tragedy from her family's past. For her father wasn't always the restrained, conservative man he appears today. There are things he has taken great pains to bury from his family and from the world.

In 1968, Keen is avoiding the Vietnam draft by pursuing a PhD at Harvard. When he unexpectedly falls in love with Olya, a fiery community organizer, he is consumed by her world and loses sight of his own. Learning that his deferment has ended and he's been drafted, Keen agrees to participate in the latest action that Olya is leading—one with more dangerous and far-reaching consequences than he could have imagined.

Minnow's and Keen's intertwining stories take us through the turmoil of the late sixties student movements and into the chaos of the modern world. Exploding with suspense, heart, and intelligence, this is a story about revolution, legacy, passionate love, and how we live with the consequences of our darkest secrets.

"This novel asks prescient questions about personal sacrifice, political responsibility, generational secrets, and the space for love in times of revolution."—Oprah Daily

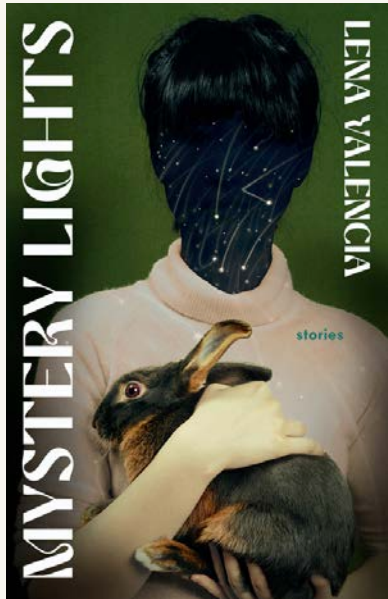
"An exhilarating novel of star-crossed romances and radical politics, with writing so evocative I swear I could smell the tear gas."—Nathan Hill, author of *The Nix* and *Wellness*

Category: literary fiction

Jen Silverman is a playwright, novelist, poet and screenwriter. They are the author of the debut novel *We Play Ourselves* and the story collection *The Island Dwellers* (both Random House) and the poetry chapbook *Bath*. Jen's plays have been produced internationally in Australia, the UK, the Czech Republic, Switzerland, Spain, and elsewhere. Jen is a 2022 National Endowment for the Arts Fellow (prose) and 2022 Guggenheim Fellow (theatre).

MYSTERY LIGHTS

Lena Valencia



Tin House (August 6, 2024)

Editor: Elizabeth DeMeo

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Rights sold:

UK: Dead Ink Books

One of the most buzzed-about debut short story collections of the year! Set against the stark background of the Southwestern desert, Lena Valencia's **MYSTERY LIGHTS** glows with the promise—and fear—of the world we know and the worlds we don't, following women and girls as they navigate dangers both supernatural and existential

An August Indie Next Pick

An influencer attempts to derail a viral TV marketing campaign with her violent cult following. A marriage between two ghost hunters is threatened when one of them loses her ability to see spirits. The lives of a famous painter in the twilight of her career and a teenage UFO enthusiast converge when a mysterious glowing orb appears in their small desert town. And a slasher-flick screenwriter looking for inspiration escapes a pack of wild dogs only to find herself locked in an SUV with a strange man beside her. Set primarily in deserts throughout the American Southwest, Lena Valencia's **MYSTERY LIGHTS** is a debut collection of stories about women and girls at the crossroads of mundane daily life and existential dread.

From the all-too-real horror of a sexual predator on a college campus to a lost sister transformed by cave-dwelling creatures, **MYSTERY LIGHTS** grapples with terrors both familiar and fantastic, introducing an electrifying new voice in contemporary fiction while bringing to light the many faces of the forces that haunt us.

"Delicious. . . . In the umbra of these darkly tinged stories, readers will experience late-night fears and the sweet relief of daylight."—Los Angeles Times, A Best Book of Summer

"If you enjoy the work of Kelly Link or Carmen Maria Machado, you will find much satisfaction in **MYSTERY LIGHTS."—Esquire, A Best Horror Book of 2024**

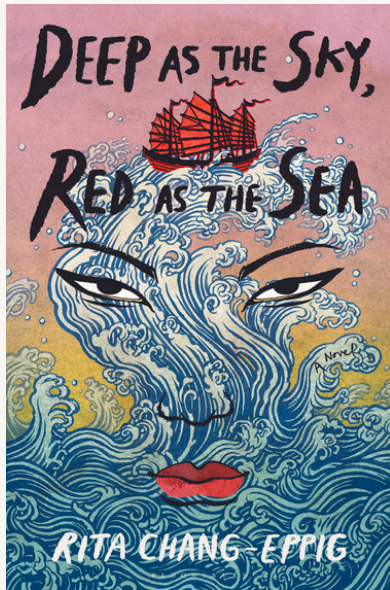
"Full of menace and delight . . . **MYSTERY LIGHTS is gorgeous."—Kelly Link, author of *The Book of Love***

Category: short story collection

Lena Valencia's fiction has appeared in *Ninth Letter*, *Epiphany*, *Joyland*, the anthology *Tiny Nightmares*, and elsewhere. She is the recipient of a 2019 Elizabeth George Foundation grant and holds an MFA in fiction from The New School. Originally from Los Angeles, she lives in Brooklyn, New York, where she is the managing editor and director of educational programming at One Story and the co-host of the reading series Ditmas Lit.

DEEP AS THE SKY, RED AS THE SEA

Rita Chang-Eppig



Bloomsbury (May 30, 2023)

Editor: Grace McNamee

Territory sold: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK co-agent: Daisy Parente at
Lutyens & Rubinstein

Film/TV: Tara Taminsky at
Grandview

Rights sold:

France: Eyrolles

Portugal: LeYa

Bringing alive the story of a real-life 19th century pirate queen who ruled the South China sea with her wits and her sword, this “heart-pounding high-seas adventure is also the moving story of a girl with no options who finds a way to survive” (Anna North)

Good Morning America Buzz Pick

As Recommended by the *TODAY Show* • *Washington Post* • *Goodreads* • *LitHub* • *Real Simple* • *Time* • *Popsugar* • *HuffPost* • *Los Angeles Times* • *Ms. Magazine* • *Book Riot* • *Elle.com* • *The Rumpus* • *Tor.com* • *Polygon* • *Debutiful* • *Electric Lit* • *Shondaland*

When Shek Yeung watches her husband, a feared pirate, die at the hands of the Portuguese, she knows she must act swiftly or perish herself. Kidnapped from her father's fishing boat as a child and sold into a life of prostitution, Shek Yeung is familiar with the price of softness—grief and vulnerability only bring trouble. So instead of mourning her husband, Shek Yeung immediately marries his second-in-command, who expects her to bear an heir. As she fights for control over the army she knows she was born to lead, a larger threat to the alliance of pirates looms. Carrying the magic and splendor of legend brought to life, *DEEP AS THE SKY, RED AS THE SEA* transports readers back to Qing dynasty China and into the life of a woman who leads with the courage and ruthlessness of our darkest and most beloved heroes.

“A captivating portrait of legendary 19th-century pirate queen Shek Yeung . . . [A] lyrically written high-seas adventure.”—*Time*

“For anyone who loves pirates, historical fiction, and a strong heroine force . . . Turn to this book for swashbuckling adventures written with immersive, lyrical prose.”—Qian Julie Wang, the *TODAY Show*

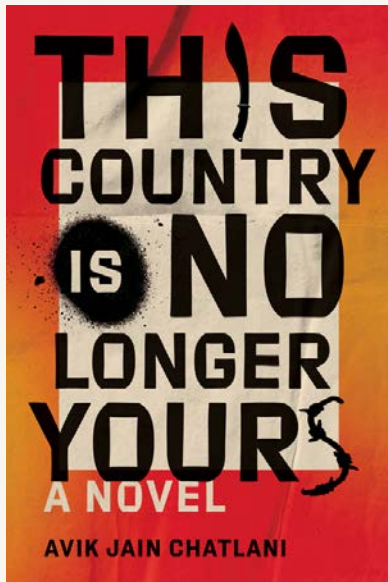
“Swashbuckling.”—*Washington Post*

Category: historical fiction debut

Rita Chang-Eppig received her MFA in fiction from NYU. Her stories have appeared in *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, *Conjunctions*, *The Rumpus*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *Best American Short Stories 2021*, and elsewhere. She has received fellowships from the Rona Jaffe Foundation/Vermont Studio Center and more, and was the winner of *Virginia Quarterly Review's* 2021 Emily Clark Balch Prize for Fiction.

THIS COUNTRY IS NO LONGER YOURS

Avik Jain Chatlani



Doubleday Canada (May 7, 2024)

Editor: Ward Hawkes

Territory sold: World English

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Mariah Stovall

In Avik Jain Chatlani's explosive debut novel, a chorus of disparate voices comes together to explore how idealists and opportunists betray ordinary people in war-torn Peru

Based on real events in 1970s–2000s Peru, *THIS COUNTRY IS NO LONGER YOURS* tells the explosive story of people living through the terrorist campaign of the Maoist Shining Path, while struggling to survive amid economic crisis and state collapse.

A student of the revolution's leader is dispatched to Cambodia to learn from the Khmer Rouge, sending him spiraling into a world of unfathomable political violence that both inspires him and will be his undoing. Then, as the terror spreads across Peru, a ruthless security agent of the newly-elected neoconservative government works to squash the growing insurgency now threatening the halls of power, while applying his surveillance training to romantic pursuits—with chilling results. Just when it looks like the Shining Path has been defeated, a nationalist counter-revolution begins brewing in its wake, and a journalist committed to exposing their ambitions is too preoccupied to help a reader desperately pleading for her help outing a sexual predator who is seeking the presidency. And, in the country that remains, two former guerrillas meet again, one now a teacher stuck in the past, the other living on the margins and still fighting for her future. Depicting a place and time ravaged by terror but alive with new ambitions and enduring love, Jain Chatlani explores the unbearable choices demanded of those living in a society at war with itself.

“Spell-binding and electrifying . . . a visionary work.”—Akil Kumarasamy, author of *Meet Us by the Roaring Sea*.

“Chatlani writes with the calm cognizance of a historian and the unerring precision of a gem cutter.”—Jamaluddin Aram, author of *Nothing Good Happens in Wazirabad on Wednesday*

Category: literary debut

Avik Jain Chatlani, the grandson of the first Indian emigrants to Peru, was born in Canada and raised in Chile. He holds degrees in History and Latin American studies from McGill and Boston University, and currently works as a translator and editor with *El País*. He has taught in schools and prisons in Latin America and the United States and currently divides his time between Ottawa and Washington DC.

NONFICTION

TRANS BERLIN

Laurie Marhoefer



TK (TK)

Editor: TK

Territory: North America

Material: proposal

Agent: Allison Devereux & Natalie Edwards

UK rights: Andrew Gordan at David Higham Associates

Rights sold:

UK: pre-empt turned down

A hot proposal for us heading into the fair! Written by a leading trans historian, TRANS BERLIN is a powerful and necessary account of the world's first-known movement for trans liberation—as well as a thrilling and original work of narrative history. US and UK pre-empts have been turned down, auction results to come!

A century ago, in the heady years between the two World Wars, trans people from across the globe flocked to Berlin under the Weimar Republic seeking resources available to them nowhere else in the world: access to cutting-edge gender-affirming care, identifying documents legally acknowledging their true gender, and safe spaces where they could be themselves. Grounded in richly drawn characters and scenes, TRANS BERLIN brings readers into bygone worlds—from Berlin's gender-bending nightclubs to the tenement buildings, salons, and clubhouses where trans people organized, danced, wrote, swapped fashion tips, and gathered in community and common cause. We'll sit in on the hearing for the soft-spoken barkeep Toni Simon, who dared to show up to court dressed as a woman after being cited by police for "cross-dressing." We'll follow the journey of Karl M. Baer, who questions whether or not to live openly as a trans Jew. And we'll trace the interwoven stories of many other writers, artists, activists, entrepreneurs, sex workers, socialites, and politicians as their revolutionary advocacy and insistence on recognition won trans people unprecedented rights and freedoms, before fascism took it all away.

The culmination of 20 years in the archives, TRANS BERLIN isn't merely a "recovered" or "hidden" history. It's the first chapter in modern trans history and critically relevant to our times. For fans of Sadiya Hartman, Sarah Schulman, and Norman Ohler's bestseller *Blitzed*, TRANS BERLIN is a tightly woven, character-driven account of a familiar, historically rich period told through an unexpected and previously unconsidered lens.

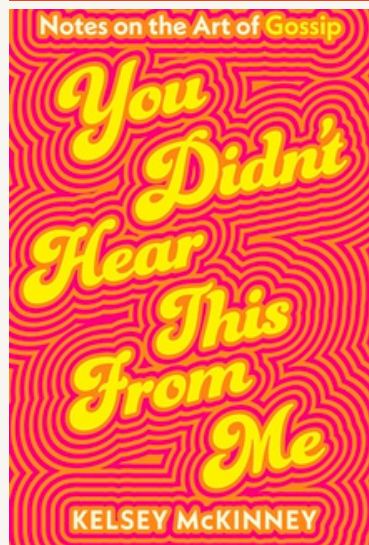
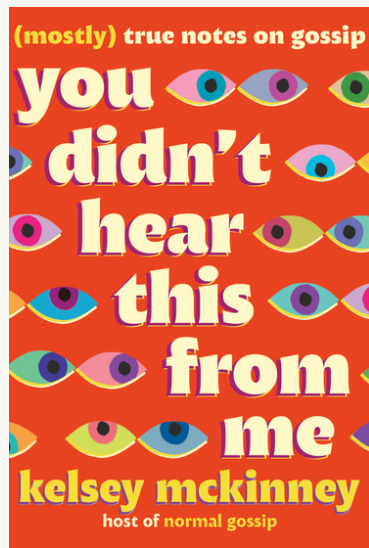
Category: narrative history

Laurie Marhoefer (he or they) is a tenured professor in the Department of History at University of Washington. He has published two academic texts: *Racism and the Making of Gay Rights: A Sexologist, His Student, and the Empire of Queer Love* (Toronto, 2022) and *Sex and the Weimar Republic: German Homosexual Emancipation and the Rise of the Nazis* (Toronto, 2015). His work has appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Der Spiegel*, *Slate*, and *Smithsonian*, among other outlets. He is frequently consulted by journalists, creatives, and lawyers for historical expertise on trans issues, including the musical adaptation of Joey Soloway's *Transparent* and the pending Supreme Court case *US v. Skrmetti*.

YOU DIDN'T HEAR THIS FROM ME

(Mostly) True Notes on Gossip

Kelsey McKinney



Grand Central (February 11, 2025)

Editor: Maddie Caldwell

Territory: North America

Material: first pass

Agent: Dana Murphy

UK rights: Florence Rees at AM Heath

Film/TV: Kristina Moore at UTA

Rights sold:

UK: Viking UK

Spanish: Península

Sold in a major, 18-editor auction in the US, this delightful and incisive work of narrative nonfiction takes a critical look at gossip—its history, its social function, and what it says about our relationship to truth—while also translating the infectious joy of taking part in it to the page

Can you keep a secret? It's harder than it seems – after all, it's only human to thirst after the juicy updates, jaw-dropping stories, and idle chatter that we typically collect over drinks with friends. No one knows this better than Kelsey McKinney, who has always loved gossip wholeheartedly, with abandon, and sometimes to her own detriment. But the more time she spent collecting and sharing and thinking about stories as the host of the blockbuster Normal Gossip podcast, the more her concept of gossip began to expand.

In **YOU DIDN'T HEAR THIS FROM ME**, McKinney explores the murkiness of everyday storytelling. Why do we think we're entitled to every detail of a celebrity's personal life? Why is gossip considered a sin and how can we use gossip for good? And how do we even define "gossip," anyway? But as she dishes on the art of eavesdropping and dives deep into how pop culture has changed the way we look at hearsay, McKinney also hopes to capture the heart of gossiping: how enchanting and fun it can be to lean over and whisper something a little salacious into your friend's ear. With wit and honesty, McKinney un.masks what we're actually searching for when we demand to know the truth – and how much the truth really matters in the first place.

"Gossip is the only cultural tradition I care about, and Kelsey McKinney has written its Bible. I cannot wait to gossip about this book with everyone I know for the rest of my life."—Samantha Irby, *New York Times* bestselling author

"YOU DIDN'T HEAR THIS FROM ME cements Kelsey McKinney's status as one of the greatest storytellers of our time. . . . This book sparkles from start to finish."—Sabrina Imbler, author of *How Far the Light Reaches*

Category: general nonfiction

Kelsey McKinney is a reporter and writer who lives in Philadelphia. She is the host of Normal Gossip, as well as a co-owner and staff writer at Defector.com. Her reporting and essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Vanity Fair* and many others. Her first novel, *God Spare the Girls*, was published in the summer of 2021 by William Morrow.

HOW TO GIVE BIRTH

Ceridwen Morris



FSG (fall 2025 or winter 2026)

Editor: Mitzi Angel

Territory: North America

Material: proposal, manuscript
delivering January 2025

Agent: Allison Devereux

UK rights: Carrie Plitt at Felicity
Bryan Associates

Rights sold:

UK: Ebury/Vermilion

Brazil: Record

Italy: Aboca

Poland: Wydawnictwo
Mamania/Grupa Wydawnicza
Relacja

Spanish: Diana/Planeta

Sold in a pre-empt to Mitzi Angel at FSG and in a nine-way auction in the UK, this is a lyrical, empathetic, philosophical guide—grounded in science and surprisingly universal—for expectant parents and anyone who’s been born. We’ll have the full manuscript early next year!

Ceridwen Morris has been a labor doula and childbirth educator for 20 years, working with thousands of expectant parents in New York City, and this book is what her clients and students have been looking for—and asking her to write—for years (one of them, *New Yorker* staff writer Alexandra Schwartz, said a book based on her childbirth class would be “revolutionary”).

HOW TO GIVE BIRTH is not about pregnancy or what comes after the baby is born, but the pivotal birth experience in between. It takes readers step by step through the fascinating bodily science of labor; the myriad procedures and tools of the hospital; and the tried-and-true strategies and techniques for coping with all that may come up during birth. Ceridwen dismantles the opposition in the “natural” vs medical birth debate and pushes against the trend toward birth horror. The book is intimate and story-driven, woven with accounts from her career as a doula, but always practical. It is also universal: Ceridwen was raised in the UK and has also spent time in the birthing communities in Australia. Her wisdom and advice is aimed at an audience anywhere in the world, not just those navigating the US healthcare system.

HOW TO GIVE BIRTH demystifies, clarifies, and takes the knowable unknowns out of labor and delivery. It is as attentive to the physical, mammalian experience of the laboring body as it is to the tech, the medicine, and the hospital institution. It makes room for the psychological, emotional, even spiritual aspects of birth but it is completely grounded in science and best medical evidence. It combines the practicality and research of classics like Heidi Murkoff’s *What to Expect When You’re Expecting*, Michel Odent’s *The Nature of Birth and Breastfeeding*, and the more recent Emily Oster’s *Expecting Better*, and the philosophy of Oliver Burkeman’s *Four Thousand Weeks* (a comparison made by FSG), with an emotional sincerity and lyricality that makes it a pleasure, and a relief, to be in Ceridwen’s assured company on the page.

Category: general nonfiction

Ceridwen Morris was born in London, raised in the UK, and now lives in New York City. She is the co-author of a popular pregnancy guide *From the Hips*, which sold more than 50,000 copies in the US. She works at night, in hospital rooms around New York City, helping people give birth.

THE HEARTBEAT AT THE EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM

Jennifer L. Roberts, Dario Robleto



Marysue Rucci Books (fall 2025/winter 2026)

Editor: Emily Graff

Territory: North America

Material: proposal, manuscript delivering January 2025

Agent: Allison Devereux

UK rights: Carrie Plitt at Felicity Bryan Associates

Rights sold:

UK: Viking

China: Thinkindom

Germany: Heyne

Pre-empted in a significant deal in the US and before it had even gone out on official submission in the UK, this is truly one of our favorite projects to talk about, a stunning work of narrative nonfiction that has space, science, and love, and will stretch your mind as profoundly as it stirs your heart. Also delivering in early 2025

15 billion miles away, in the cold vacuum beyond the edge of the solar system, a human heart waits to beat again. It is suspended in gold and copper, a groove in a phonographic record that is bolted to the side of NASA's Voyager 1 satellite probe. It is the heartbeat of a young writer named Ann Druyan, who recorded it, along with her brainwaves, during an hour spent reflecting on the history of the Earth and on the experience of having just fallen in love, on a summer's day in 1977. Launched into space a few months later, Druyan's heartbeat is a track on the famous Golden Record: a compilation of Earth recordings assembled on the infinitesimal chance that alien intelligence might intercept the Voyager as it wanders through space.

This heartbeat, this pulsewave, is an interstellar message about humanity—what does it say about us? What does it convey about human life? This book tackles this question: not by attempting to predict some remote scene of unlikely alien decipherment, but by asking what the message—in the very form of its impulse to connect with others—can tell us about ourselves. **THE HEARTBEAT AT THE EDGE OF THE SOLAR SYSTEM** tells a spellbinding story of human emotional technology in which the search for knowledge and the search for intimacy are inseparably entwined.

The chapters in this book weave the cinematic story of Ann Druyan as she conceives of and executes her track for the Golden Record (while secretly falling in love with the project's technical director, Carl Sagan) with the little-known history of physiological recording (from pulse-reading to cardiographs to EEGs). And it traces the intergalactic paths of the Voyagers—pulsewave readers of the cosmos—whose signals back to Earth are expected to flicker out within the next five years.

Category: narrative nonfiction

Jennifer L. Roberts is an art historian at Harvard whose scholarship focuses on the interface between the arts and the natural sciences, particularly astrophysics. **Dario Robleto** is a transdisciplinary artist, researcher, and writer whose work explores how art and science both contemplate—and seek to overcome—the physical and temporal limits of human life. He has been a visiting artist/lecturer at Harvard, MIT, the Hubble Space Telescope Science Institute, and elsewhere.

OUR ARAB

Diaspora and its Aftermath

Zaina Arafat



Little, Brown (winter 2026)

Editor: Vivian Lee

Territory: North America

Material: proposal, manuscript
delivering March 2025

Agent: Michelle Brower

UK rights: direct (Allison
Malecha)

Rights sold:

UK: Dialogue Books

A debut essay collection from an important voice in the Palestinian diaspora, sold in a competitive auction in the US and to Dialogue Books in the UK

Including the author's *New Yorker* piece "Fasting for Ramadan While Gaza Goes Hungry," *OUR ARAB* is a personal look at the Palestinian diaspora and the tensions, joys, and the full sense of longing and belonging that comes with being part of community, the inheritance and intergenerational nature of migration and displacement, and the dual gaze toward the place one is headed and the place left behind.

Zaina has been working on this essay collection for several years, though the war on Gaza has only sharpened the potency and necessity of Zaina's work, and we are passionate about this book reaching as large an audience as possible. Since October, Zaina has been writing to specifically address the war and its devastating impact, both on the Palestinians who live there and the diaspora living abroad. This is a book that is able to hold many truths at once—about society, her identity, her family—and is filled with flashes of radical compassion and necessary anger. Together, the essays create an incredibly complex portrait of what it means to be Palestinian today.

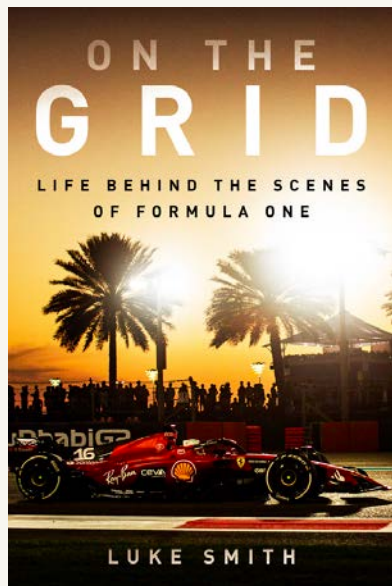
Category: essay collection

Zaina Arafat's debut novel *You Exist Too Much* (Catapult & Dialogue Books, 2020), was exceedingly well-received and has become a cult favorite; it was named Roxane Gay's favorite book of 2020 and a Lambda Literary Award winner in 2021. Her essays have been published in *The New Yorker*, *New York Magazine*, *The Believer* as well as many other places. She teaches writing and lives in Brooklyn with her wife and daughter.

ON THE GRID

Life Behind the Scenes of Formula One

Luke Smith



HarperVia (March 18, 2025)

Editor: Gretchen Schmid

Territory: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Devereux

UK rights: Andrew Gordon at
David Higham Associates

Rights sold:

UK: Simon & Schuster

Hungary: Gabo Kiadó

Poland: Otwarte

Learn how Formula One is the world's greatest team sport with this intimate and colorful insider's account of what really happens on—and off—the race track, from one of the top journalists covering the sport

Formula One has only 20 drivers in its elite ranks, but behind each one is an army of professionals devoted to the sport: statisticians and strategists, engineers and mechanics, PR gurus and party planners, and more—all who spend months traveling thousands of miles across the globe each year. Their achievements (and failures) may not be as well-publicized as those of the drivers and team principals, but they're just as important: one 50-cent screw in the wrong place could cause a \$15 million car to break down mid-race.

In *ON THE GRID*, F1 journalist Luke Smith brings to life the behind-the-scenes stories that don't make it to viewers' screens. From the Bahrain starting grid—thick with sweat and engine fumes—to opulent yacht parties in Monaco, with a stopover at a legendary bakery in Melbourne whose croissants exist only because of F1 technology, he showcases the extraordinary characters who give the sport such color and intrigue. With deep insight, knowledge, and warmth, he writes about the emotions and struggles that come with working in such a high-pressure and inherently dangerous sport, and the efforts being made to improve its class and racial diversity, gender parity, and environmental impact. The result is a richer, broader, and more inclusive look at F1 than ever before—perfect for longtime fans and Drive to Survive neophytes alike.

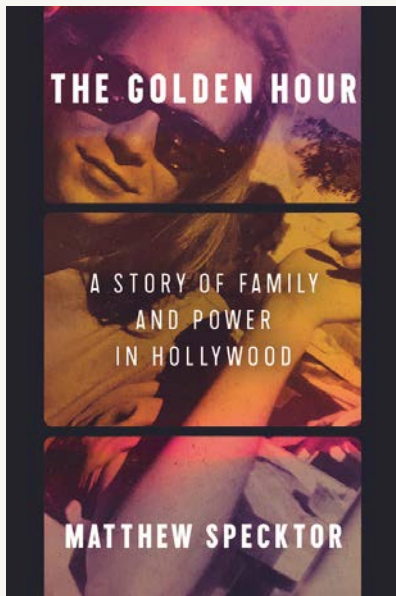
Category: general nonfiction

Luke Smith is a Formula One and motorsport journalist based in London, UK. He is currently a Senior Writer covering Formula One for *The Athletic* (which is owned by *The New York Times*). Before joining *The Athletic*, Luke spent 10 years reporting on Formula One for outlets including Autosport, *The New York Times*, and NBC Sports. He also served as the host for the FIA Formula Three press conferences through the 2019 season and has made both TV and radio appearances as a Formula One pundit. He has over 87k followers on Twitter.

THE GOLDEN HOUR

A Story of Family and Power in Hollywood

Matthew Specktor



Ecco (April 22, 2025)

Editor: Sarah Murphy

Territory sold: World English

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Allison Devereux

A personal and cultural exploration of the struggles between art and business at the heart of modern Hollywood, through the eyes of the talent that shaped it

Matthew Specktor grew up in the film industry: the son of legendary CAA super-agent Fred Specktor, his childhood was one where Beau Bridges came over for dinner, Martin Sheen's daughter was his close friend, and Marlon Brando left long messages on the family answering machine. He would eventually spend time working in Hollywood himself, first as a reluctant studio executive and later as a screenwriter.

Now, with *THE GOLDEN HOUR*, Specktor blends memoir, cultural criticism, and narrative history to tell the story of the modern motion picture industry—illuminating the conflict between art and business that has played out over the last 75 years in Hollywood. Braiding his own story with that of his father, mother (a talented screenwriter whose career was cut short), and figures ranging from Jack Nicholson to CAA's Michael Ovitz, Specktor reveals how Hollywood became a laboratory for the eternal struggle between art, labor, and capital.

Beginning with the rise of the Music Corporation of America in the 1950s, *THE GOLDEN HOUR* lays out a series of clashes between fathers and sons, talent agents and studio heads, artists, activists, unions, and corporations. With vivid prose and immersive scenes, Specktor shows how Hollywood grew from the epicenter of American cultural life to a full-fledged multinational concern—and what this shift has meant for the nation's place in the world.

At once a book about the movie business and an intimate family drama, *THE GOLDEN HOUR* is a sweeping portrait of the American Century.

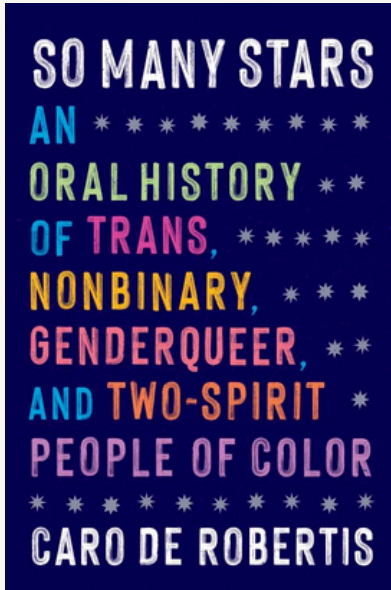
Category: nonfiction

Matthew Specktor is the author of the novels *American Dream Machine* and *That Summertime Sound* and the nonfiction books *The Sting* and *Always Crashing in the Same Car*. His writing has appeared in the *New York Times*, the *Paris Review*, the *Believer*, *Tin House*, *Vogue*, *GQ*, *Black Clock*, and *Open City*. He has been a MacDowell fellow and is a founding editor of the Los Angeles Review of Books. He resides in Los Angeles.

SO MANY STARS

An Oral History of Trans, Nonbinary, Genderqueer, and Two-Spirit People of Color

Caro De Robertis



Algonquin (May 13, 2025)

Editor: Madeline Jones

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Michelle Brower

Award-winning novelist Caro De Robertis offers a first-of-its-kind, deeply personal, and moving oral history of a generation of queer and trans elders of color, from leading activists to artists to ordinary citizens to tell their stories of breathtaking courage, cultural innovations, and acts of resistance, all in their own words

SO MANY STARS knits together the voices of trans, nonbinary, genderqueer and two spirit elders of color as they share authentic, intimate accounts of how they created space for themselves and their communities in the world, how they pursued their passions, and how they continue to be at the vanguard of social change. This singular project collects the testimonies of over a dozen elders, each a glimmering thread in a luminous tapestry, preserving their words for future generations—who can more fully exist in the world today because of these very voices.

Award-winning novelist De Robertis creates a collective coming-of-age story based on hundreds of hours of interviews, offering rare snapshots of ordinary life: kids growing up, navigating family issues and finding community, coming out and changing how they identify over the years, building movements and weathering the AIDS crisis, and sharing wisdom for future generations. Their stories feel particularly urgent in the current political moment, but also remind readers that their experiences are not new. Young trans and nonbinary people of color today belong to a long lineage.

The anecdotes in these pages are riveting, joyful, heartbreaking—so full of life and personality and wisdom, and artfully woven together into one immersive narrative. In De Robertis’s words, SO MANY STARS shares “behind-the-scenes tales of what it meant—and still means—to create an authentic life, against the odds.”

Category: oral history

Caro De Robertis is the award-winning and bestselling author of several books, including *The Palace of Eros*, *The President and the Frog*, *Cantoras*, and more. Their work has been translated into 18 languages and has garnered numerous honors including a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, two Stonewall Book Awards. See pages 61 and 62 for more.

JOLT

My Electric Journey Out of Darkness and Into the Light

Ted Scheinman



Scribner (early 2026)

Editor: Rick Horgan

Territory: North America

Material: proposal,
manuscript delivering spring
2025

Agent: Allison Devereux

UK rights: Carrie Plitt at
Felicity Bryan Associates

Rights sold:

UK: Wildfire

Sold at auction, a work of nonfiction that will vividly illuminate the hidden links between mental illness and memory, and that aims to rehabilitate the image of electroconvulsive therapy, which caused the author to lose his memory—but saved his life

Sitting in a circle at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., 35-year-old writer Ted Scheinman remembered why he was there. He had checked himself into the psychiatric ward after months of worsening, eventually paralytic depression to undergo an aggressive course of electroconvulsive therapy (ECT)—more colloquially known as “shock treatment.” Before turning to ECT as a last resort, Ted had submitted himself, without relief, to nearly every form of psychiatry: prescriptions for every SSRI and SSNI on the market, ketamine infusions, cognitive behavioral therapy, psychodynamic therapy, mindfulness-based therapy. But now, buzzing from his first zap in the ECT chair, he recollected little of all that—not even what he’d had for breakfast that morning. He couldn’t remember the names of the fellow sufferers with whom he was now playing slapjack, or the phone call last night to his mom. All he had were the notes he’d written in his journal or had scrawled on construction paper during art therapy.

That’s one of the things the electricity can do to you before snapping you back to life.

Ted’s account of his descent into and emergence from major depression—and the accompanying memory loss—is the canvas for a broader investigation into the history and effectiveness of ECT, the links between memory and depression, and how our memories make us who we are. Despite Ted’s great loss, his amnesia—a rare severe case—ultimately proves a small price to pay for the new shot at life offered by electroconvulsive therapy.

JOLT is a beautiful, funny, philosophical and ultimately hopeful memoir, which also raises big questions about memory, mental health, and the treatment of depression. It is for readers of books like Rachel Aviv’s *Strangers to Ourselves*, Robert Kolker’s *Hidden Valley Road*, and Susannah Calahan’s *Brain on Fire*.

Category: mental health/memoir

Ted Scheinman is the author of *Camp Austen: My Life as an Accidental Jane Austen Superfan* (FSG, 2018). His essays and reporting have appeared in *The Atlantic*, the BBC, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *GQ*, *The New Republic*, *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *Slate*, and many more. He is also a contributing editor at *Los Angeles Review of Books*.

I HAVE THIS THING FOR FLOWERS

Alysia Li Ying Sawchyn



Flatiron (spring/summer 2026)

Editor: Lee Oglesby

Territory: North America

Material: proposal, manuscript delivering fall 2025

Agent: Natalie Edwards

UK rights: David Evans at David Higham Associates

Sold at auction, a work of literary nonfiction that explores queer love, attention, and the importance we ascribe to flowers, from the mythological to the medicinal, all within the structure of an herbarium

I HAVE THIS THING FOR FLOWERS opens with a broken engagement: on April Fool’s Day, Sawchyn arrives home from a conference to find her fiancé packing his bags and calling off their wedding. Six months later, both in need of health insurance, Sawchyn and her good friend Sarah arrive at City Hall, entering into a marriage of practicality that will later grow to one of love. Through wide-ranging research on everything from the seedlings in her own backyard to the far-flung flora of Monet’s Giverny, Sawchyn employs the physical presentations, scientific and medicinal uses, folkloric myths and resonances, and colonialist histories of flowers to trace the winding path that led her to the home and garden she shares with her now-wife.

Each chapter of FLOWERS takes one floral genus and pairs it with a moniker (i.e., “Achillea | The Addict”) to link that flower’s characteristics to Alysia’s relationship with the chapter’s human subject, drawing on disciplines like botany, painting, herbalism, literature, history, photography, popular culture, and more. Each self-contained segment of this “herbarium” acts in service of the larger narrative, delving into the multivalences of queer marriage, the complexities of addiction and recovery, what it means to be a neighbor in an unknown town, and how diaspora manifests itself biologically, in both humans and plants.

With echoes of Robin Wall Kimmerer’s *Braiding Sweetgrass*, Sawchyn’s work encourages us to forge deep emotional connections with the nature around us to better understand our world and the people who most intimately shape our lives.

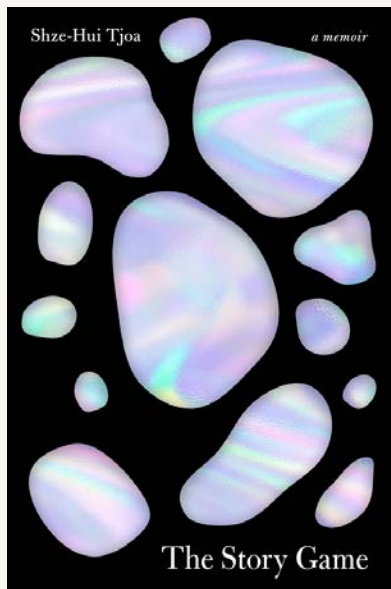
Category: memoir/nature writing

Alysia Li Ying Sawchyn (she/they) is a writer, editor, and educator living in Asheville, North Carolina, where she is an Assistant Professor of Creative Writing at Warren Wilson College. She was the Editor-in-Chief at *The Rumpus* from 2020 to 2023 and remains at the magazine as a Senior Features Editor. She has received fellowships and scholarships to the Kenyon Review Writers’ Workshop, the Sewanee Writers’ Conference, the DISQUIET Literary Conference in Portugal, and more. Her essay collection, *A Fish Growing Lungs* (Burrow Press, 2020), was a finalist for the Believer Book Awards in Nonfiction.

THE STORY GAME

A Memoir

Shze-Hui Tjoa



Tin House (May 21, 2024)

Editor: Elizabeth DeMeo

Territory: North America

Material: translatable pass

Agent: Allison Malecha

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

A transcendent, profoundly imaginative memoir that explores the complexities of sisterhood, the cost of expectation, and the power of storytelling to shape—and ultimately repair—a life. Tin House published as their lead nonfiction title this spring

What was that game we used to play when we were children? We played it every night, before things went wrong between us.

It was a story game, wasn't it?

In the humid dark of a eucalyptus-scented room, a woman named Hui lies on a mattress telling stories about herself to her listener, a little girl. She talks about her identity as the child of an immigrant, her feelings about being in a mixed-race marriage, her opinions on mental health. But as the stories progress, it becomes clear that a volatile secret is lurking beneath their surface. There are events in Hui's past that have great significance for the person she's become, but that have gone missing from her memory. What is it, exactly, that is haunting Hui? And just as importantly—what is the room that Hui is lying in? Who is the little girl she keeps talking to? And who, actually, is Hui herself?

As the conversation continues, what unfolds is a breathtaking and unexpected journey through layers of story toward truth and recovered identity; a memoir that reenacts, in tautly novelistic fashion, the process of healing that author Shze-Hui Tjoa moved through in order to recover memories lost to complex-PTSD and to, eventually, reconstruct her sense of self. Stunning in its originality and intimacy, Tjoa's debut memoir *THE STORY GAME* is a piercing tribute to selfhood and sisterhood, a genre-shattering testament to the power of imagination, and a one-of-a-kind work of art.

"Probes the author's mixed feelings about her father's homeland in Bali, her life in London, the dynamics of her marriage to a white German man and more."—*New York Times Book Review*

"Interrogates subjects including racism and colonialism with piercing intellect. . . . Gorgeous prose and lucid political thought."—*Publishers Weekly*

Category: literary memoir

Shze-Hui Tjoa is a writer from Singapore who lives in London, UK. She is a nonfiction editor at *Sundog Lit*. Her work has been published in journals including *Colorado Review*, and has been listed as notable twice in *The Best American Essays* series (2021 and 2022). Her work has received support from the Tin House Summer Workshop, the Vermont Studio Center, the Voices of Our Nations Arts Foundation, Disquiet International, and AWP's Writer-to-Writer Mentorship Program.

FOXES FOR EVERYBODY

Twenty-Four Hours of Motherhood, Worry, and Wonder

Catherine Pierce



Northwestern University Press

(winter 2026)

Editor: Marisa Siegal

Territory: North America

Material: edited manuscript after the fair

Agent: Allison Malecha

UK rights: direct (Allison Malecha)

Poet Laureate of Mississippi Catherine Pierce's FOXES FOR EVERYBODY, a cycle of lyric essays organized around the hours of the day, salvaging, with a poet's precision, the small revelations and marvels in the ordinary life of a parent

In a world where almost every moment, every headline can be read as a sign of existential and personal threat, this collection salvages, with a poet's precision and clarity, the small revelations and marvels in the ordinary life of a parent.

Everyone says the early days of parenting go so fast, but 1 a.m. is molasses; it's middle-of-the-night math calculating the hours until the next bedtime. Then a first family road trip, four-month-old in tow, narrowly avoids disaster, and those slow hours, in all their abundance, suddenly feel like a gift. At 7 a.m., a six-year-old offers a stuck poet one perfect phrase, gift-wrapped in a question: "How do you spell 'clouds folded over them'?" Noon is animal rage, because a parent can no more protect their child from an active shooter alert on campus than from a bee sting, and wearing that rage is sometimes the only thing to do. And for the hour that turns the page on a new day, a tender realization that this is the house where these children will grow up, are already growing up—a realization set against a loud soundtrack of animal voices saying something urgent but unknowable. In FOXES FOR EVERYBODY, Catherine Pierce reaches through that cloud of anxiety that permeates our everyday and pulls back a little bit of sunshine from the beyond. It's 24 lessons in how to pay better attention—to our families, to our environment, and to those sneaky little moments that just might reshape your mind, if you let them.

Category: essay collection

Catherine Pierce is the Poet Laureate of Mississippi and the author of four books of poems: *Danger Days* (2020), *The Tornado Is the World* (2016), *The Girls of Peculiar* (2012), and *Famous Last Words* (2008), all from Saturnalia Books. Pierce's poems have been published in many journals and anthologies, including *The Best American Poetry*, *American Poetry Review*, *The Nation*, *Ploughshares*, *The Southern Review*, *New England Review*, *FIELD*, *Pleiades*, *Gettysburg Review*, and the 2019 and 2021 Pushcart Prize anthologies. Her essays appear in *The New York Times*, *Ecotone*, *The Rumpus*, *The Millions*, *Cincinnati Review*, and more. In 2019, she was named a National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellow, and in 2022 she was selected as an Academy of American Poets' Laureate Fellow. She is professor of English and co-director of the creative writing program at Mississippi State University.

UNCANNY VALLEY GIRLS

Zefyr Lisowski



Harper Perennial (fall 2025)

Editor: Ezra Kupor

Territory sold: North America

Material: edited manuscript

Agent: Amy Bishop-Wycisk

UNCANNY VALLEY GIRLS by poet and artist Zefyr Lisowski is a memoir-in-essays that overflows with moments of queer joy, disability justice, and trans kinship, and spans a life from a trans childhood in the depths of the Great Dismal Swamp to an adult stay in a locked psychiatric unit in New York City. It is a story about horror and love and loss and care

Lisowski asks: what does it mean to build a life when the only reflection you see is in things that hate you? She found a path to answering that question through horror movies, used to understand not just a life filled with violence, but the necessity of love and care as well. Indeed, Lisowski argues that scary movies—a genre where she first felt seen as a disabled trans woman—can be a way to express love too.

In these wide-ranging essays, Lisowski incorporates nuanced critiques of movies spanning from *The Ring* to *The Wolf-Man*. In "The Girl, The Well, The Ring," she examines society's fears about sickness and disability, twined with her own history of sickness and the coded moral messaging she learned from movies like *The Ring* and *Pet Semetary*. The titular essay, "Uncanny Valley Girls," uses *Scream* as a lens to reflect on Lisowski's dream of escaping her hometown in the rural South for California in the early 2000s, only to re-inspect what she was escaping in the first place.

Examining moments of stillness and love in otherwise intense movies to understand similar moments of care in a trauma-filled life, **UNCANNY VALLEY GIRLS** uses these extreme movies to emphasize the importance of building community even when further hurt is guaranteed. Affirming without being anodyne, the collection is written for horror fans, queers finding themselves, and spooky girls everywhere.

Category: essay collection

Zefyr Lisowski is a poet and essayist from the Great Dismal Swamp, North Carolina. A poetry co-editor of the Whiting Award winning *Apogee Journal*, she's the author of two books, *Blood Box* (Black Lawrence Press, 2019) and *Girl Work*, winner of the 2022 Noemi Book Prize. A 2023 NYFA/NYSCA Fellow in Nonfiction and 2023 Queer|Art Fellow, Zefyr has received further support from Tin House Summer Writers Workshop, Blue Mountain Center, the Center for the Humanities, and Sundress Academy for the Arts. She's seen grave robbers twice.

YOUNG ADULT

THE L.O.V.E. CLUB

Lio Min



Flatiron (fall 2025)

Editor: Sarah Barley

Territory: North America

Material: edited manuscript
imminent

Agent: Dana Murphy

Trellis ventures into the YA space! From the acclaimed author of *Beating Heart Baby* (for which Flatiron had the rights), an immersive novel following three estranged high schoolers who are pulled into a video game to pursue the disappearance of their friend

Three years ago, Elle (the “e” in the self-proclaimed L.O.V.E. Club) disappeared from Calendula, an affluent Chinese American suburb in inland California. Soon afterward, Liberty and Vera (“l” and “v”) moved away, leaving O alone with her grief, abandonment, and confusion. . . until Liberty and Vera return for their senior year of high school.

Though the L.O.V.E. Club’s three remaining members once bonded as outcasts and gamers, they can’t pick up the pieces of their friendship. But the girls are drawn back to their old clubhouse, where they discover, loaded for them to play, a new game created by none other than the missing Elle.

One click, and Liberty, Vera, and O are ported into Morning Glory, an ever-evolving botanical fantasy coded with their lived experiences, complicated history, and repressed insecurities. Unbeknownst to the others, O can’t remember the events surrounding Elle’s disappearance—but within the game, Elle has sent O a cryptic hint about Morning Glory’s real nature.

While Liberty and Vera defeat increasingly sinister bosses, O grapples with the secret knowledge that her deepest wish, to reunite with Elle, might just come true. But as the girls progress through Morning Glory, O begins to wonder how well she actually knew any of her former best friends and if she’s ready to confront the hard truths—and dangerous revelations—about Elle in her returning memories.

Category: young adult

Lio Min is the acclaimed author of *Beating Heart Baby*, a longtime music reporter, a MacDowell fellow, and a fullmetal optimist. THE L.O.V.E. CLUB is their second novel. Min lives in Oakland, California, and writes toward the future.

DAMNED IF YOU DO

Alex Brown



Page Street (August 2023)
Territory sold: World English
Material: translatable pass

Agent: Amy Bishop-Wycisk

Queer *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* meets Filipino folklore in this horror comedy about a high school stage manager who accidentally sells her soul to a demon

Seven years ago, Cordelia Scott's abusive father left without a word, and life has been normal ever since. The 17-year-old spends her days stage managing the school play, pining over her best friend, Veronica, and failing one too many pop quizzes. She's never been sad that her father left, but she knows something is missing. When her school guidance counselor, Fred, reveals during a session that he's actually a demon, she learns that something is indeed missing: a piece of her actual soul. Why? She unwittingly made a deal with him to make her father disappear—then bargained to have the memory erased. To make matters worse, Fred is here to make another bargain: Help him with a "little" demonic problem, or she's doomed to spend eternity in Hell with her father. The deal? Help Fred neutralize a rival demon, who means to do more harm in her hometown than your average demon deal.

REST IN PEACHES

Alex Brown



Page Street (October 2024)
Territory sold: World English
Material: translatable pass

Agent: Amy Bishop-Wycisk

Quinn Marcelo wouldn't necessarily win the award for Most Popular Person at her school, but unbeknownst to her peers, Quinn entertains them at every football, basketball, and baseball game—as Peaches the Parrot, her high school's God-like mascot

When someone sabotages the legendary Peaches costume at the Homecoming Game, Quinn's left unmasked and humiliated. After all, Peaches' identity was a closely guarded secret and a point of pride for nearly everyone at Olivia Newton-John High. As if that wasn't enough, Little Peaches, a new, real parrot that the PTA got to enhance the Peaches Experience, is kidnapped right after Quinn's unmasking. Determined to uncover the culprit, Quinn publicly unravels the lives of everyone in her path—including Tessa Banks, the most popular girl in school—in a no-holds-barred conspiracy-fueled investigation. But when a killer starts going after the people implicated in Quinn's mascot disaster, she must race to uncover the truth behind her feathery faux-pas—before the truth kills her, too.

Category: young adult

Alex Brown is a queer, biracial Filipino American writer who has a short story in *The Gathering Dark: An Anthology of Folk Horror*, which was an instant Indie Bestseller. Her debut, *DAMNED IF YOU DO*, was a Junior Library Guild Gold Standard Selection. Alex co-edited *Night of the Living Queers*, a YA Horror anthology.

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