



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 London 2025

Director of Foreign Rights  
Allison Malecha

Subsidiary Rights Associate  
Tori Clayton

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# COMMERCIAL FICTION

# WITH A VENGEANCE

Riley Sager



**Dutton** (June 10, 2025)

**Editor:** Maya Ziv

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**UK rights:** direct (Allison Malecha)

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

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Hodder & Stoughton

**Hungarian:** Kossuth Kiadó

Even with last year's huge Sager Summer, Riley Sager's latest is already on track to be his biggest release to date. Inspired by Agatha Christie's classic, *Murder on the Orient Express*, **WITH A VENGEANCE** is set entirely on a luxury overnight train from Philadelphia to Chicago with just a handful of passengers...and a murderer on board

One train. No stops. A deadly game of survival and revenge.

In 1942, six people destroyed Anna Matheson's family. Twelve years later, she's ready for retribution.

Under false pretenses, Anna has lured those responsible for her family's downfall onto a luxury train from Philadelphia to Chicago, an overnight journey of fourteen hours. Her goal? Confront the people who've wronged her, get them to confess their crimes, and deliver them into the hands of authorities waiting at the end of the line. Justice will at last be served.

But Anna's plan is quickly derailed by the murder of one of the passengers. As the train barrels through the night, it becomes clear that someone else on board is enacting their own form of revenge—and that they won't stop until everyone else is dead.

With time running out before the train reaches its destination, Anna is forced to hunt the killer in their midst while protecting the people she hates the most. In order to destroy her enemies, she must first save them—even though it means putting her own life at risk.

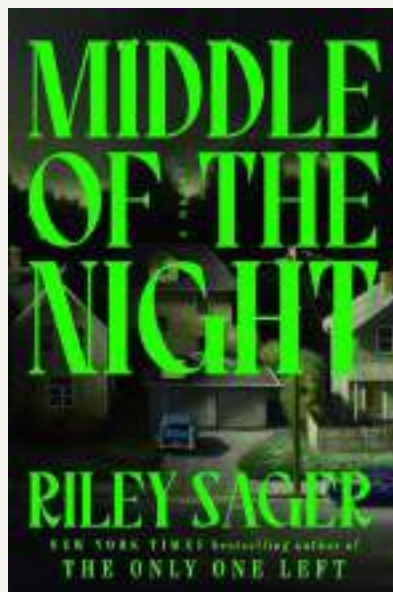
**"WITH A VENGEANCE is a locked room thriller at its best! Nonstop suspense with twists and turns that will leave your head spinning!"—#1 New York Times bestselling author Freida McFadden**

**Category:** thriller

**Riley Sager** is the *New York Times* bestselling author nine novels, most recently *Middle of the Night* 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. A native of Pennsylvania, he now lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

# 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

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Hodder & Stoughton

**Czech:** Dobrovský, OneHotBook

**Dutch:** Ambo Anthos

**German:** dtv

**Hebrew:** Adel Books / Modan  
Publishing House

**Hungarian:** Kossuth Kiadó

**Italian:** Fanucci

**Lithuanian:** Alma Littera

**Macedonian:** Antolog Books

**Norwegian:** Gyldendal

**Polish:** Kobiece Publishing

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Intrínseca

**Slovenian:** Hiša Knjig

**Spanish:** Planeta México

**Swedish:** Lavender

**Turkish:** Ithaki

**Ukrainian:** The Old Lion

In last summer's 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

*New York Times* and *USA Today* Bestseller

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.

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

**"Sager is a master of twists, and he delivers plenty of them here."**—*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

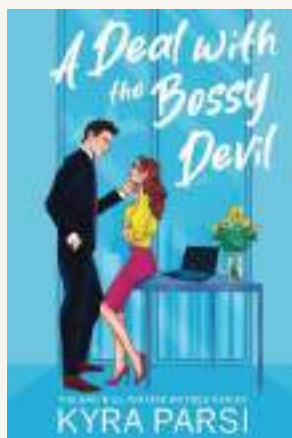
**"Full of tension, urgency, atmosphere, and feeling—this is Riley Sager at his very best."**—Lee Child, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author

**"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

# BAD BILLIONAIRE BOSSES SERIES

Kyra Parsi

With a combined 51 million pages read on Kindle Unlimited for the first two books in the series, which were also the #1 and #4 most mentioned romance books of 2024 on Reddit and which are fast getting more and more BookTok love, Kyra Parsi is a romance author to get in business with now! She's working on the final, third book in the series for delivery this spring



**Self published** (June 24, 2023)

**Agent:** Allison Hunter

**Amazon:** 4.4 stars, 5,655 ratings

**Goodreads:** 4.1 stars, 14,125 ratings

**KU:** 22 million pages read

## Book 1: A DEAL WITH THE BOSSY DEVIL

An enemies-to-lovers romance with loads of spicy banter and laugh-out-loud moments, featuring a dimpled bosshole devil and the smart-mouthed woman who brings him to his knees. (Literally.)

Vengeance (noun): Punishment served by an arrogant, insufferable billionaire who's hellbent on making you suffer over a teeny, tiny, seven-hundred-million-dollar oopsie.

In my defense, I had no way of knowing that "The Incident" would go viral. But Toronto's most notorious billionaire isn't exactly known for his generous or understanding spirit, and he doesn't want to hear my excuses. Not when my little public stunt cost him the biggest investment deal of his career.

What he does want is cold, hard revenge. And that's how I find myself backed into a corner, forced to strike a deal with the snarly, green-eyed devil. But as his demands—and the blistering tension—become increasingly unbearable, I can't help but start to bite back.

**Category:** romance



**Self published** (March 27, 2024)

**Amazon:** 4.4 stars, 6,954 ratings

**Goodreads:** 4.2 stars, 18,025 ratings

**KU:** 29 million pages read

## Book 2: FAILURE TO MATCH

He's the arrogant, grumpy billionaire bane of my existence—and now I'm his full-time, live-in dating coach

I've never failed to match a client—until him.

Jackson Sinclair has dragged me through eight months of matchmaking hell, and I have a trail of broken hearts to prove it. But I refuse to get fired from my dream job because of some gorgeous billionaire and his absurd criteria for a wife.

The plan is simple. All I have to do is infiltrate his penthouse, pretend to be his blind date, and figure out what his actual f\*cking problem is. Except I nearly drown in Satan-clair's massive pool, he figures out who I am, and now I'm forcibly glued to his side for the next 30 days.

It's a nightmare, until it's not. We fight, until the tension boils over into sizzling temptation. Jackson Sinclair may not believe in soulmates, and he may not believe in love, but little does he know, he's finally met his match . . .



# STORYBOOK ENDING

Moira Macdonald



**Dutton** (May 27, 2025)

**Editor:** Maya Ziv

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Allison Hunter

**UK rights:** Katie Greenstreet at  
Paper Literary

**Film/TV:** Kristina Moore at UTA

A charming story about romance, friendship, and a love of books, in which two women—a lonely remote worker and a widowed single mom—and a handsome local bookstore clerk find themselves in an unusual love triangle when an anonymous note left in a book finds the wrong recipient. **Currently sold in 19 territories!**

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

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Bloomsbury

**Czech:** Dobrovský

**Dutch:** Ambo Anthos

**French:** Hauteville/Bragelonne

**German:** Krüger/S. Fischer

Verlage

**Greek:** Metaichmio

**Hebrew:** Tchelet

**Hungarian:** General Press

**Italian:** Mondadori

**Korean:** Minumsa

**Lithuanian:** Alma Littera

**Norwegian:** Cappelen Damm

**Polish:** Muza

**Portuguese (Brazil):**

Verus/Record

**Portuguese (Portugal):** Planeta

Portugal

**Romanian:** Trei

**Spanish:** Newton Compton

**Turkish:** Juno

**Ukrainian:** The Old Lion

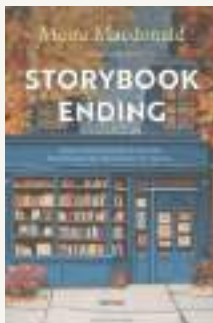
**PRAISE**

"STORYBOOK ENDING is so radiant, so big-hearted, reading it feels like receiving an unexpected gift, one that you've waited a lifetime for. It's a love letter to the secret, unspoken longings nestled within the pages of ordinary lives."—**Jamie Ford, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Many Daughters of Afong Moy***

"An absolutely charming love letter to bookstores and the magic that happens inside there."—**Annabel Monaghan, bestselling author of *Summer Romance***

"I sat down to start STORYBOOK ENDING and before I knew it a hundred pages had passed. Moira Macdonald's novel is just that good--wildly clever, funny, and filled with enough *Princess Bride* and Nora Ephron references to melt my cold Millennial heart. It's also a heartwarming homage to books and the people who cherish them--a celebration of a story's power to fill our lives with hope, romance, and community. I loved it."—**Grant Ginder, author of *The People We Hate at the Wedding***

"I so enjoyed STORYBOOK ENDING. It's the perfect balance of cosiness and originality – warm, comforting, with a hilarious mix-up at its heart that I couldn't wait to see unravel" —**Beth O'Leary, *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *The Flatshare***





# I HOPE THIS EMAIL FINDS YOU IN HELL

Mackenzie Reed



**Berkley** (fall 2026)

**Editor:** Jen Monroe

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** unedited manuscript

**Agent:** Amy Bishop-Wycisk

**UK rights:** direct (Allison Malecha)

**Film/TV:** Mirabel Michelson at UTA

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Headline Eternal

**Czech:** Euromedia

**Dutch:** Zomer & Keuning

**German:** Aufbau

**Italian:** Sperling & Kupfer

**Hands down the most delightfully titled book on our list, this deliciously comic novel about a receptionist who ends up on a journey to hell with her hot boss, for fans of Ali Hazelwood's *Bride*, is collecting early international fans. Sold in heated auctions in the US, UK, and Germany!**

Following the unexpected death of her parents, Brie Benson has kicked into survival mode. Like any down-on-her-luck twenty-seven-year-old, she ran from her hometown, picked up a mind-numbing job as a receptionist for a life insurance company (the irony!), and organized her emotions into compartments nearly as tidy as her type-A boss's pristine office. Life has taken on a soothing mundanity...until she stays late one night and accidentally catches said boss, Luke, performing an exorcism on Debra from Accounting.

Beneath his crisp button downs and managerial facade, Luke hides a chilling secret—he claims to come from a line of demon hunters, and with demonic activity suspiciously on the rise, he's working double time. Luke orders Brie to to forget what she saw, but when her closest friend at work goes missing, Brie knows something's up. With nothing to lose, Brie convinces Luke to let her join his recovery mission. He has a hunch as to where the victims are being taken—the problem is, it's in hell (the entrance to which is located, fittingly, in Times Square!).

Brie and Luke descend on a road trip through a warped, corporate version of their own world, riddled with monsters, demons, and magic. But as Brie peels back the layers of her mysterious boss—and starts to fall for his carefully guarded heart—she realizes that Luke is hiding more secrets than he's letting on. As they try to stay alive long enough to see their mission through, and explore their budding romance, they must also confront an unnerving truth of hell—that the longer you're there, the less likely it is you'll ever leave.

**Category:** adult debut

**Mackenzie Reed** is the author of two young adult novels, *The Rosewood Hunt* (Harper Teen, 2023) and *The Wilde Trials* (Harper Teen, 2025). A native and resident of Rochester, New York, she loves going for brainstorming walks when the weather's behaving and spending time with her family. In the sparse moments she's not writing or daydreaming about her next book, she's usually winging her eyeliner and hunting for the best slice of pizza in town. *I HOPE THIS EMAIL FINDS YOU IN HELL* is the first in a two-book contract, and she also has a new two-book YA contract with Harper Teen.

# WHEN I PICTURE YOU

Sasha Laurens



**Avon** (October 28, 2025)

**Editor:** Ariana Sinclair

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Allison Hunter

**UK rights:** Maddalena Cavaciuti  
at David Higham Associates

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Michael Joseph

**German:** Piper

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Rocco

**Spanish:** Roca

**Previous publishers (for YA):**

**Czech:** Albatros

**Dutch:** Dutch Venture

**French:** Nathan

**Hebrew:** Kinneret

**Hungarian:** Könyvmolyképző

**Italian:** Oscar Mondadori

**Polish:** We Need YA

**Russian:** Eksmo

**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.

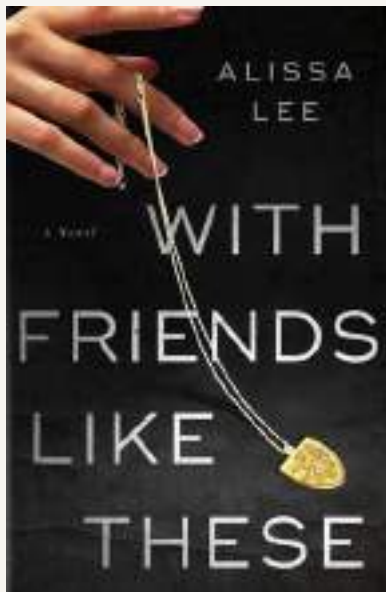
As Lola and Renee reconnect and sparks fly, there's no denying the feelings they have for each other—or the renewed creativity it inspires. When Renee suggests they tell their story, Lola agrees, even if it means coming out and potentially damaging her reputation. But neither Renee or Lola realize how 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* (Razorbill, 2020) and *Youngblood* (Razorbill, 2022), 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.

## WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE

Alissa Lee



**Emily Bestler Books/Atria**

(November 4, 2025)

**Editor:** Lara Jones

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** edited manuscript

**Agent:** Danya Kukafka &  
Michelle Brower

**UK rights:** Maddalena  
Cavaciuti at David Higham  
Associates

**Sold at auction in a two-book deal last summer and now fully edited, WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE is debut book club suspense for fans of Ellery Lloyd's *The Club*, Julia Bartz's *The Writing Retreat*, or Ruth Ware. A group of Harvard alums have played a secret game for decades but as the stakes rise, deadly consequences emerge from old lies**

Harvard promised them everything.

Ambitious futures, peers who pushed each other toward their absolute best, and an education that would open doors for the rest of their lives. And though they started out as roommates, Sara, Bee, Dina, Allie, Wesley, and Claudine soon became family. They had their whole bright lives ahead of them—until their senior year, when a shocking tragedy changed everything.

Twenty years later, five of the roommates still indulge in a secret tradition they've kept alive since their campus days: the Circus, a harmless elimination-style "killing" game played across the private rooms and hidden alleys of New York City. The game is a nod to their younger selves and a tribute to the sixth roommate they lost too young. But this year, Sara wants out of the game—until she discovers there is a small fortune awaiting the winner of this final round.

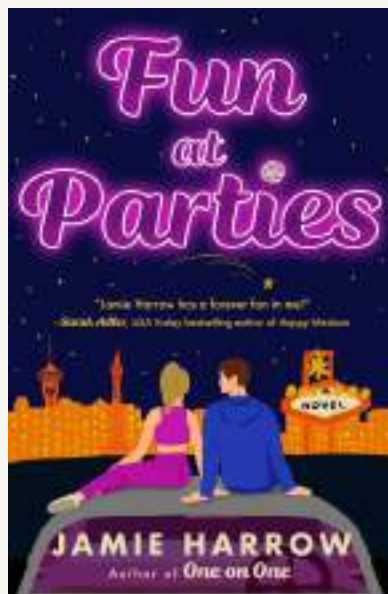
As the Circus unfolds, Sara begins to suspect that the others aren't playing by the rules, and as the danger turns real and the old friends start pointing fingers, she discovers that even those closest to her harbor secrets of their own... secrets that could kill.

**Category:** debut book club suspense

**Alissa Lee** is a writer and lawyer. A graduate of Harvard College and Harvard Law School, she grew up in New Jersey and lives in the San Francisco Bay Area. WITH FRIENDS LIKE THESE is her first novel.

# FUN AT PARTIES

Jamie Harrow



**Dutton** (September 16, 2025)

**Editor:** Cassidy Sachs

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Allison Hunter

**UK rights:** Maddalena Cavaciuti  
at David Higham Associates

**Film/TV:** Addison Duffy & Orly  
Greenberg at UTA

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Quercus

The second novel from *One on One* author Jamie Harrow, this is a cross-country road trip romance in which a celebrity spin instructor and her high school crush 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.

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.

**Category:** rom com

## Author of



For readers of Tessa Bailey, Sally Thorne, and Sarah Hogle, a steamy workplace, enemies-to-lovers debut 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**

“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**

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Quercus; **German:** Bastei Lübbe; **Portuguese (Brazil):** Sextante-Arqueiro

**Jamie Harrow** was born and raised at the Jersey Shore. She is a graduate of Harvard Law School and Villanova University and lives in New Jersey with her family. Her debut novel, *One on One*, was published by Dutton in 2024. FUN AT PARTIES is her second novel.



# BLOOM

EJ Blaise



**Self published** (September 23, 2024)

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Allison Hunter

**UK rights:** Maddalena Cavaciuti at David Higham Associates

**Amazon:** 4.3 stars

**Goodreads:** 4.0 stars

**KU:** 3.8 million pages read

Escape to Serenity Ranch with **BLOOM**, a warm and heart wrenching story about found families and finding yourself. **BLOOM** is currently self-published, with 3.8 million pages read on KU since it was released. Author **EJ Blaise** is a fresh and popular new voice in romance, perfect for fans of Sarah Adams and Elsie Silver

*She is the last thing he needs. He has to remember that.*

Caroline Brennan is fighting to build a life for herself by escaping from her abusive, alcoholic father's home. She's a florist who tries her best to make things beautiful with the limited resources she has. The town good girl, she's never let on about just how bad things have been at home since her mother died when she was young. Once, she found a home at Serenity Ranch with the Jackson family, but when their eldest son broke her heart, she lost that, too.

*Every time he looks at her, something in his chest throbs.*

Determined to stand on her own two feet, even if it means standing alone, Caroline lives in the attic above the flower shop where she works and rediscovers her love of hiking as a means of connecting with her mother. And she tentatively begins to reconnect with Serenity Ranch as her friendship blossoms with Lux, a single mother and her ex-boyfriend's sister. But when she meets Hunter Whitlock, the Jackson family's mysterious and taciturn new ranch hand, she can't help but try and befriend him. Why is he so handsome, and why doesn't he like her?

*His self-control can only be tested so far. She finds the limit.*

As slowly as two skittish horses, they open up to each other. Beneath his gruff exterior, Hunter is unexpectedly gentle and supportive. But he's hiding a secret that might destroy everything Caroline has fought so hard to build. That is, if her father doesn't ruin everything first.

*For the first time in months, he can breathe*

Grounded in the realities of life and loss, **BLOOM** is both a love story and a celebration of the power of female friendship.

**Category:** romance

**EJ Blaise** is an Irish author of *Unexpected*, *Bide*, and *Curveball*, in addition to **BLOOM**. When she's not creating unrealistically perfect men, she can be found traveling throughout the U.S., reading, and dreaming of running a bookstore café. After the Serenity Ranch series, she plans to write a romantasy series based on Irish folk tales.

# 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:** Bourdon

**German:** Bastei Lübbe

**Italian:** Salani Editore

**Polish:** MT Biznes

**Ukrainian:** Glimmer

Adapted into a hit TV show via Hulu/Disney Plus (now renewed for a third season!), this "sizzling summer read" (*Bustle*) has sold over 250k copies across all formats in the US and is steadily accumulating foreign sales. A novel about toxic romance, perfect for new adult lists

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**

**"TELL ME LIES is a page-turner. I devoured it in 48 hours."—Jessica Knoll, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Luckiest Girl Alive***

**Category:** new adult

**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. Carola lives in Connecticut with her family.



# A PROMISE TO ARLETTE

Serena Burdick



**Atria** (June 17, 2025)

**Editor:** Laura Brown

**Territory:** World English

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Stephanie Delman

**Previous publishers:**

**Bulgarian:** Hermes

**Czech:** Grada

**German:** Festa Verlag

**Lithuanian:** Balto Leidybos  
Namai

**Polish:** Sonia Draga

**Portuguese (Portugal):** LeYa

**Romanian:** RAO

**Russian:** Arkadia

**Spanish:** PRH Spain

With the scope of a saga and the heart of a thriller, and inspired by the author's grandmother, **A PROMISE TO ARLETTE** is an evocative, lyrically written novel in which a married couple living the ideal 1950s suburban life must reckon with the promises they made during WWII when past secrets resurface. Has worked well here in the commercial historical space but with this new, significant two-book deal Atria is working to break her out to a book club audience

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.

**"A deeply emotional and sweeping novel that draws us into the heart of hidden lives..... Captivating, profound, and utterly unforgettable."**—Patti Callahan Henry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Secret Book of Flora Lea*

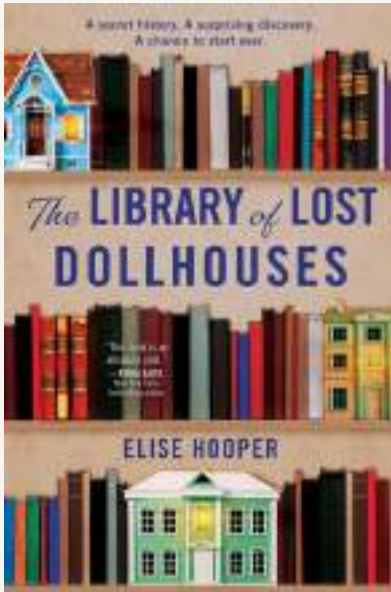
**"Filled with captivating characters and wonderful storytelling which makes it absolutely memorable!"**—Kim Michele Richardson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek*

**Category:** book club fiction

**Serena Burdick** is the 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 1, 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 a hidden room of historic dollhouses and embarks on a journey to uncover the 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 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 sets out to decipher the secret history of the dollhouses, aiming to salvage her cherished library in the process. Her journey 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, hidden history, but also a future for herself—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.

**"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***

**"This one's an absolute gem."—Fiona Davis, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Stolen Queen***

**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.

# 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

**Rights sold:**

**Spanish:** Penguin Random  
House Grupo Editorial

**An imaginative, fantasy-imbued retelling of the triumphs and sorrows of one of the most controversial and misunderstood women in Mexico’s history and mythology**

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.

**“Stunning . . . a propulsive story of magic, love, and the struggle for power in a new world.”—Luis Jaramillo, author of *The Witches of El Paso***

**“A lush tale about the power of language, the complexities of empire, and the bonds of sisterhood, with a heroine of mythical proportions at its center.”—Rita Chang-Eppig, author of *Deep as the Sky, Red as the Sea***

**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:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Rebecca Friedman at  
Rebecca Friedman Literary  
**UK rights:** direct (Allison  
Malecha)

**Also available:**

**WHITE HORSE**  
**Flatiron** (November 1,  
2022)  
**Material:** translatable  
pass



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 Flatiron is now publishing 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.

**“Casts a magnificent spell . . . It’s terrifying, it’s magical—and you’ll miss all the characters to death when it’s over.”—Lev Grossman, author of *The Magicians***

**“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's *White Horse*** is a gritty, vibrant debut novel about an Indigenous woman who must face her past when she discovers a bracelet haunted by her mother’s spirit.

**Erika T. Wurth** is the author of *WHITE HORSE* (Flatiron, November 2022), a finalist for the Goodreads Choice Awards. 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:** translatable pass

**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 Poms, 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 Pomp 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 Pomp 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."

**"A cosmic space opera that explores desperately flawed and human characters thrown into mystery and paranoia . . . in this richly drawn and complex, ache- and angst-driven sci-fi thriller."**—Ai Jiang, *Nebula* and *Bram Stoker* award-winning author of *Linghun*

**"A cinematic sci-fi thriller that cleverly combines action with tension and certainty with doubt. A cast of complex characters propel the reader along a journey of secrets and self-discovery."**—Catherine McCarthy, author of *Mosaic* and *The House at the End of Lacelean Street*

**"Beautifully written and full of cosmic emotional gravity, this shadowy sci-fi world comes alive with vast twisting secrets and darkly intricate characters."**—Amanda Cecelia Lang author of *Saturday Fright at the Movies*

**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** (January 13, 2026)

**Editor:** Jenny Chen

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Amy Bishop-Wycisk

**UK rights:** Katie Greenstreet at Paper Literary

**Film/TV:** Tara Timinsky and Shiv Doraiswamy at Grandview

**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 Villians***

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.



# PINKY SWEAR

Danielle Girard

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**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:** Dobrovský

**Hungarian:** Könyvmolyképző

**Norwegian:** Schibsted Forlag AS

**Polish:** Virtualo

**Russian:** 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 last summer and we are looking forward to sharing the edited manuscript

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

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**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.

# UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Clare Osongco



**Ballantine** (fall 2026)

**Editor:** Jenny Chen

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** unedited manuscript

**Agent:** Amy Bishop-Wycisk

**UK rights:** TK

**Deeply funny, warmly chaotic, and effortlessly charming, Clare Osongco's adult debut, UNFINISHED BUSINESS is perfect for fans of *Dial A For Aunties*. Sold in a two-book pre-empt to Jenny Chen, this is getting a substantial edit and we'll be excited to share when it's in**

It might be too late to make her mother proud, but that won't stop Ruby Ocampo from trying. It's been a few months since Ruby's mom, Adela, died at her desk at work, and in a haze of guilt and confusion about where her life is going, Ruby takes a job at TKCORP, the same sprawling, multi-sector conglomerate where Adela worked for decades—and where she always hoped Ruby would end up one day.

But Ruby's struggling at work, especially now that she's surrounded by constant reminders of her painful relationship with her mom. To make matters worse, Greg—Ruby's estranged childhood best friend who Adela never quite approved of—also works at TKCORP, bringing back memories of things that are ancient history and not worth thinking about, okay!

To cope, Ruby's been sending thoughts she would never say out loud into a Slack DM that's just for her—until her mom suddenly writes back. Horrified that Adela is stuck haunting the company Slack, Ruby becomes convinced that all the ways she's disappointed her mother are preventing her spirit from moving on. So she vows to fix her failures one by one, listing all the ways she can live more like Adela would have wanted (Make friends at work! Get in line for a promotion! Date someone in a higher tax bracket!).

Greg is the only one Ruby trusts enough to confide in about this bizarre supernatural crisis, and as he helps her work through the items on the list, they grow closer—until her quest to free her mother puts Ruby on a collision course with the hot but vaguely sinister new junior executive at work.

Clare Osongco's adult debut is about work, love, and the struggle to define "success" for yourself, perfect for fans of Kirsty Greenwood's *THE LOVE OF MY AFTERLIFE* and Ashley Poston's *THE DEAD ROMANTICS*.

**Category:** adult debut

**Clare Osongco** is a biracial Filipina American author living in Los Angeles who likes to write about diaspora feelings and complicated relationships. Her debut YA novel, *Midnights With You*, was published by Disney-Hyperion.

# BAD JOY

Mikki Brammer



**Mikki Brammer's much-anticipated second novel is about octogenarian, lifelong do-gooder and people pleaser Joy Gardiner who decides to try out life as a ruler breaker, but when her thrilling new existence leads her down a criminal path, she must face the potential impact on her family—and her legacy**

**Category:** commercial fiction

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Viking; **ANZ:** PRH Australia; **Danish:** Lindhardt & Ringhof; **French:** Eyrolles; **German:** Droemer; **Norwegian:** Cappelen Damm

**St. Martin's Press** (winter 2026)

**Editor:** Sarah Cantin

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** edited manuscript

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**UK co-agent:** Jemima Forrester at David Higham Associates

**Film/TV:** Joe Veltre at Gersh

## Author of



**Published in 25 territories, this big-hearted and life-affirming debut is about a death doula who, in caring for others at the end of their life, has forgotten how to live her own.**

**Nominated for Best Fiction and Best Debut in the Goodreads Choice Awards**

"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**

"A beautiful, thought-provoking novel."—**Sarah Haywood, New York Times bestselling author of The Cactus**

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Viking; **ANZ:** PRH Australia; **Arabic:** Tanween; **Chinese (Simplified):** China Translation & Publishing House; **Croatian:** Znanje; **Czech:** Euromedia; **Danish:** Lindhardt & Ringhof; **French:** Eyrolles; **German:** Droemer; **Greek:** Dioptra; **Hebrew:** Keter; **Hungarian:** Helikon; **Korean:** Influential; **Italian:** Sperling & Kupfer; **Lithuanian:** Alma Littera; **Norwegian:** Cappelen Damm; **Polish:** Muza; **Portuguese (Brazil):** Globo Livros; **Portuguese (Portugal):** Bertrand; **Romanian:** Storia; **Serbian:** Vulkan; **Spanish:** Planeta México; **Thai:** Amarin; **Turkish:** Nemesis; **Ukrainian:** Vivat

**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 HOPE KEEPER

Heather Webb



**Sourcebooks** (February 2026)

**Editor:** Shana Drehs

**Territory sold:** World English

**Material:** edited manuscript  
after the fair

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**Previous publishers:**

**Dutch:** Nieuw Amsterdam

**Ukrainian:** Ranok

**A story of seduction and possession, and the legendary Hope Diamond, THE HOPE KEEPER is a riveting tale told in the vein of *The Great Gatsby* meets *Mean Girls***

Elisabeth Beaumont, daughter and apprentice of a renowned jeweler in 1919 Washington D.C., is paralyzed by grief with the sudden death of her twin brother. As unanswered questions from that night—and her own guilt—haunt her, she abandons the jewelry collection she's spent the better part of two years designing. What's more, she's left on her own to run the family business while her father remains in bed, wracked with his own grief. Soon, the bills mount and Elisabeth is in danger of losing her home and workshop.

Desperate for work, she approaches the affluent crowd her brother Julien once courted to expand Beaumont Jewelers. The very same crowd where scandal abounds and the women, despite their glamour and refinement, have barbed tongues and ulterior motives. Their ringleader is renown socialite, Evalyn McLean, friend of the Vanderbilts and Carnegies and presidents' wives—and owner of the world's most infamous gemstone, rumored to curse all who travel within its orbit. The Hope Diamond.

Evalyn insists she doesn't believe in curses. At least, that's what she'd like everyone to believe. Yet both she and her staff confide in Elisabeth the series of unfortunate events surrounding the diamond. Perhaps the old superstition holds water after all.

As Elisabeth is swept into Evalyn's toxic world of opulence, of light and dark, the lines defining who she is and where she belongs begin to blur. She's no longer certain she wants to take over the family business. It is the hallowed halls of the Smithsonian Institute that call to her. But Elisabeth can't fathom leaving her father in the lurch, not after he's lost Julien, his front man, too.

One night, tragedy strikes, and not only is Elisabeth's fragile friendship with Evalyn put to the test, but her carefully constructed new life comes crashing down. Now she must face the truth about her brother's death's and decide what matters most, or lose everything she holds dear.

**Category:** commercial historical fiction

**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 most recent 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.



# CHRISTMAS WITH THE QUEEN

Hazel Gaynor & Heather Webb



**William Morrow** (November 19, 2024)

**Editor:** Tessa Woodward

**Territory sold:** World English

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**Rights sold:**

**Ukrainian:** One More Page

*The Crown* meets *The King's Speech* in the latest 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. This had nice sell-through this Christmas season in the US and UK!

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.

**"A page-turning festive read, full of will they/won't they romance, intriguing glimpses of royal life behind palace doors, and inspiring culinary treats. As delicious as a Christmas pudding topped with flaming brandy and lashings of cream."**—Gill Paul, *USA Today* bestselling author

**Category:** commercial historical fiction

## Authors of



**Previous publishers:** **Bulgarian:** Kragozor, **Croatian:** 24 Sata, **Czech:** Albatros, **Danish:** Politiken, **German:** Blanvalet, **Hungarian:** Novion, **Italian:** TEA, **Norwegian:** Cappelen Damm, **Polish:** Prószyński, **Portuguese (Brazil):** Ciranda Cultural, **Romanian:** Corint, **Spanish:** Ediciones Palabra, **Turkish:** 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**, award-winning *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author, 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. To date, Heather's books have been translated into 15 languages.

# 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

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** HQ (via Harlequin)

**ANZ:** Harlequin (via Harlequin)

**Chinese (Simplified):** Unread Sky

**Estonian:** Ersen Ou Eram

**French:** Mera

**German:** Aufbau

**Hebrew:** Adel Books / Modan Publishing House

**Hungarian:** Maxim

**Korean:** Happy Books to You

**Portuguese (Portugal):** Saída de Emergência

**Romanian:** Corint

**Spanish:** Newton Compton

**Swedish:** Lavender

**Turkish:** Destek

**Ukrainian:** Artbooks

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 290k copies across all formats of SHE'S NOT SORRY. Mary is now working on her next thriller due to deliver in the spring, already sold to Park Row in a seven-figure deal

**New York Times Bestseller**

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.

**"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"—Amazon, Most Anticipated Books of Spring 2024**

**Category:** thriller

**Mary Kubica** is a *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author whose 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.



# 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

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Michael Joseph (2 books)

**Czech:** Euromedia

**Danish:** Flamingo/Gyldendal (2 Books)

**Dutch:** Meulenhoff Boekeriej

**French:** Éditions Michel Lafon

**Finnish:** Bazar

**German:** Penguin Verlag

**Greek:** Dioptra

**Hungarian:** Central

**Italian:** Sperling & Kupfer

**Serbian:** Vulkan

**Spanish:** Suma de Letras

**Swedish:** Norstedts

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. We will have more on Becca's next novel, **'TIS THE DAMN SEASON**, later this spring!

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. . . .

**"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*

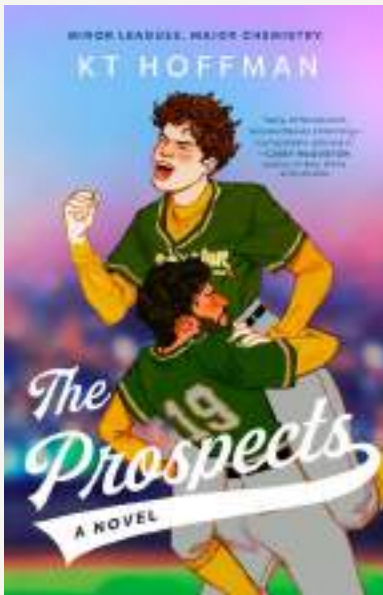
**"A hilarious and poignant contemporary fable."**—*Seattle Times*

**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.

# THE PROSPECTS

KT Hoffman



**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*. We keep it on the list as we continue to get reach out about it!

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.

# 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

**Portuguese (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.

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. . . . 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*

**Category:** commercial fiction

## Author of



**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**

**"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*

**Rights sold:**

**Brazilian:** Buzz Editora; **Hungarian:** Libri; **Hebrew:** Keter (via Aevitas); **Italian:** Garzanti (via Aevitas); **Polish:** Znak (via Aevitas)

**Sally Franson's** writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Guardian*, and *Best American Travel Writing*, among numerous others. Sally was a 2022 cast member of *Allt för Sverige*, a Swedish reality TV show about finding your roots, and her next novel. She lives in Minneapolis.



# 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, Birdie turned her chronic middle child syndrome into a career as a stand-up comic, and Rafi, sensitive romantic and the baby golden boy, are all unlucky in love this festive season.

Seeking direction and holiday cheer, all three siblings head up to their mother’s house in the Catskills, 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. 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 . . . characters,”—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

## Author of



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



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

**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.

# BETWEEN TWO FIRES

Christopher Buehlman



**Self published** (October 2, 2012)

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**Rights sold:**

**Hungarian:** Agave

**Italian:** self published

**Polish:** Mag

**BETWEEN TWO FIRES** has sold over 138k copies across formats, with over half of those sales taking place in the last year alone. In this sophomore novel of Christopher Buehlman's, he invites readers into an even darker age—one of temptation and corruption, of war in heaven, and of hell on earth . . .

The year is 1348. Thomas, a disgraced knight, has found a young girl alone in a dead Norman village. An orphan of the Black Death, and an almost unnerving picture of innocence, she tells Thomas that plague is only part of a larger cataclysm—that the fallen angels under Lucifer are rising in a second war on heaven, and that the world of men has fallen behind the lines of conflict.

Is it delirium or is it faith? She believes she has seen the angels of God. She believes the righteous dead speak to her in dreams. And now she has convinced the faithless Thomas to shepherd her across a depraved landscape to Avignon. There, she tells Thomas, she will fulfill her mission: to confront the evil that has devastated the earth, and to restore to this betrayed, murderous knight the nobility and hope of salvation he long abandoned.

As hell unleashes its wrath, and as the true nature of the girl is revealed, Thomas will find himself on a macabre battleground of angels and demons, saints, and the risen dead, and in the midst of a desperate struggle for nothing less than the soul of man.

**“Fans of historical fantasy and horror will find this epic darkly rewarding.”—*Publishers Weekly***

**“Cormac McCarthy’s *The Road* meets Chaucer’s *Canterbury Tales* in this frightful medieval epic about an orphan girl with visionary powers in plague-devastated France.”—*Kirkus***

**Category:** historical horror

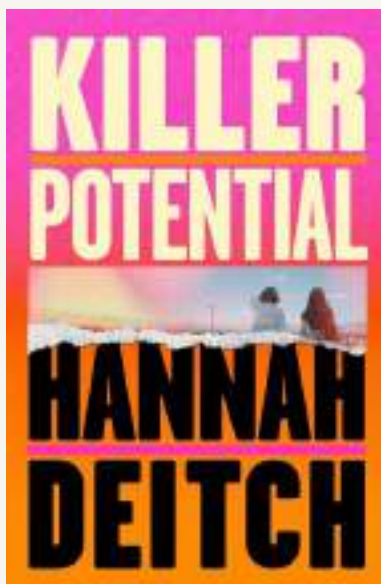
**Christopher Buehlman** is the winner of the 2007 Bridport Prize in poetry, and the author of several provocative plays, including *Hot Nights for the War Wives of Ithaka*. Many know him as comedian Christophe the Insultor, something of a cult figure on the renaissance festival circuit. He lives in St. Petersburg, Florida. His first novel, *Those Across the River*, was nominated for a World Fantasy Award for best novel in 2012.

# UPMARKET & LITERARY FICTION



# KILLER POTENTIAL

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

Sold in major two-book deals in the US and UK and around the world in 18 languages, 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.

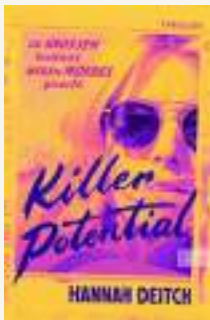
By turns cuttngly hilarious and deeply insightful, KILLER POTENTIAL is a strikingly original debut. A literary novel with the page-turning intensity of a thriller that asks timely questions about our belief in the romance of social mobility, and how the stories we’re sold about our potential can shape 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)  
**Croatian:** Fraktura  
**French:** Sonatine  
**Finnish:** Aula & Co  
**German:** Ullstein  
**Greek:** Dioptra  
**Hebrew:** Yedioth  
**Hungarian:** Helikon  
**Italian:** Marsilio (2 books)  
**Lithuanian:** Alma Littera  
**Polish:** Marginesy  
**Portuguese (Brazil):** Harper Brasil  
**Portuguese (Portugal):** Saída de Emergência  
**Romanian:** Bookzone  
**Serbian:** Laguna  
**Slovenian:** Učila  
**Spanish:** AdN  
**Swedish:** Modernista  
**Ukrainian:** The Old Lion



## PRAISE

“Razor-sharp writing, frenzied pace, twists and turns—prepare for impact!”—**Bonnie Garmus, author of *Lessons in Chemistry***

“Fierce, fun, wild and enraging. KILLER POTENTIAL is by turns moving, thrilling, raucous and funny. A deeply accomplished debut.”—**Chris Whitaker, *New York Times* bestselling author of *We Begin at the End***

“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. . . . 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.”—**Katy Hays, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Cloisters***

“Stylish . . . Deitch’s twisty tale takes the form of an after-the-fact tell-all by Evie, and her wry narration adds texture and fizz to the action without skimping on character development. Neo-noir fans will get a kick out of this.”—***Publishers Weekly***

# SUPERFAN

Jenny Tinghui Zhang



\*UK cover

**Flatiron** (winter 2026)

**Editor:** Caroline Bleeke

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** edited manuscript

**Agent:** Stephanie Delman

**UK rights:** direct (Allison Malecha)

**Film/TV:** Hilary Zaitz Michael at WME

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Michael Joseph

**Option Publishers:**

**Chinese (Traditional):** Infotress

**Czech:** Prostor

**Dutch:** Harper Holland

**French:** Laffont

**German:** Ecco Verlag

**Italian:** Nord

**Japanese:** Shunjusha

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Autentica

**Romanian:** Nemira

**Russian:** Eksmo

**Spanish:** Planeta México

**Turkish:** 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 Tinghui Zhang 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

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 also a National Book Foundation 5 Under 35 Honoree.

# THE DEVIL THREE TIMES

Rickey Fayne



**Little, Brown** (May 13, 2025)

**Editor:** Josh Kendall

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**UK rights:** Elise Dillsworth at  
David Higham Associates

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Fleet/Little, Brown

**“A debut of enormous ambition” spanning eight generations of a Black family in West Tennessee as they are repeatedly visited by the Devil (Nathan Harris, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Sweetness of Water*.) Little, Brown is positioning as a major literary debut of 2025**

Yetunde awakens aboard a slave ship en route to the United States with the spirit of her dead sister as her only companion. Desperate to survive the hell that awaits her at their destination, Yetunde finds help in an unexpected form—the Devil himself. The Devil, seeking a way to reenter the pearly gates of heaven, decides to prove himself to an indifferent God by protecting Yetunde and granting her a piece of his supernatural power. In return, Yetunde makes an incredible sacrifice.

Their bargain extends far beyond Yetunde's mortal lifespan. Over the next 175 years, the Devil visits Yetunde's descendants in their darkest hour of need: Lucille, a conjure woman; Asa, who passes for white; Louis and Virgil, who risk becoming a twentieth-century Cain and Abel; Cassandra, who speaks to the dead; James, who struggles to make sense of the past while fighting to keep his family together; and many others. The Devil offers each of them his own version of salvation, all the while wondering: can he save himself, too?

Steeped in the spiritual traditions and oral history of the Black diaspora, *THE DEVIL THREE TIMES* is a baptism by fire and water, heralding a new voice in American fiction.

**“A major new talent announces himself with *THE DEVIL THREE TIMES*. . . . This book is daring, and it challenged me at every turn. I was also deeply moved by its soulful belief in a universe in which we are all connected across generations.”—Attica Locke, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Bluebird, Bluebird* and *Heaven, My Home***

**“A brilliant gospel chorus of resilience and humanity . . . Rickey Fayne’s talent is a joy to behold.”—Gabriel Bump, author *Everywhere You Don’t Belong***

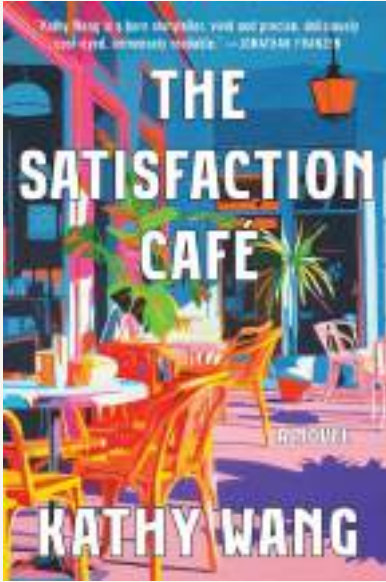
**Category:** literary debut

**Rickey Fayne** has an MA in English from Northwestern University and an MFA in Fiction from the Michener Center for Writers. An excerpt of *THE DEVIL THREE TIMES* 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 is on the faculty of the University of Wisconsin-Madison English Department.



# 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:**

**Chinese (Simplified):**  
Fonghong (*Family Trust*)

**An engrossing and original story about a woman who moves from Taiwan to California and builds an unexpected life there, for readers of *Olive Kitteridge* and *Hello Beautiful***

Joan Liang's life is a series of surprising developments: she never thought she would leave Taiwan for California, nor did she expect her first marriage to implode—especially as quickly and spectacularly as it did. She 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 wrestles with one persistent question: Will she ever truly feel satisfied?

As Joan and her children grow older and their circumstances evolve, she 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."—Janice YK Lee, bestselling author of *The Piano Teacher***

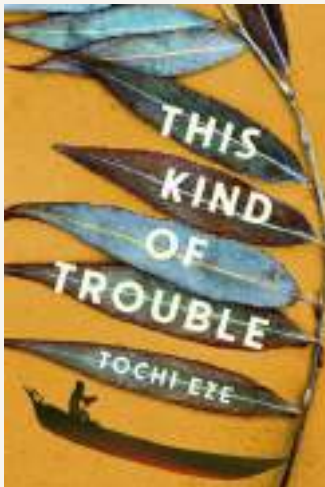
**"*THE SATISFACTION CAFÉ* is a beautiful, intimate novel . . . Kathy Wang's characters are so real and flawed and human you expect them to spring from the page. What a breath of fresh air—a novel with nothing to prove and so much to give. I didn't want it to end."—Lydia Kiesling, author of *Golden State***

**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.

# THIS KIND OF TROUBLE

Tochi Eze



**Tiny Reparations/Dutton**

(August 5, 2025)

**Editor:** Lashanda Anakwah

**Territory sold:** North American

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Allison Malecha

**UK rights:** Jane Finigan at  
Lutyens & Rubinstein

**Film/TV:** Orly Greenberg  
at UTA

**Rights sold:**

**Canada:** McClelland & Stewart

**UK:** #Merky Books / Hutchinson  
Heinemann

**Pre-empted in the US, Canada, and the UK, a riveting, emotionally-charged tale of forbidden love, centered on an estranged couple who are brought together to reckon with the events that tore their family apart decades ago**

In 1960s Lagos, a city enlivened with its newfound independence, headstrong Margaret meets British-born Benjamin, a man seeking his roots after the death of his half-Nigerian father. Their connection is immediate, but as the two begin to fall in love, they discover their pasts are more interwoven than they imagined. The shadow of events which unfolded almost a century ago, combined with Margaret's deteriorating mental health, eventually tear them apart.

By 2005, Margaret has retired to an upscale gated community in Lagos, and seemingly happy Benjamin lives alone in Atlanta, managing his heart problems with no options when asked to name as his next of kin. But their attempt at a settled life is shattered when their grandson begins to show ominous signs echoing the struggles Margaret once faced. The long estranged couple are forced to reunite to confront the buried secrets they had dismissed in the passion of their youth—secrets that continue to ripple through their family.

A startling and propulsive tale of forbidden love, *This Kind of Trouble* traces the intertwined legacies of one family's history, exploring the complex relationship between tradition, modernity, and the ways we seek healing in a changing world. With this debut novel, Tochi Eze announces herself as a dazzling new literary voice in world literature.

**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.

# SHE MADE HERSELF A MONSTER

Anna Kovatcheva



**Mariner** (March 10, 2026)

**Editor:** Jessica Vestuto

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** edited manuscript around the fair

**Agent:** Stephanie Delman

**UK rights:** Victoria Hobbs at AM Heath

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Harvill Secker

**Italian:** Fazi

**A gorgeous 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*. The edited manuscript is imminent!**

In 19th century Bulgaria, Yana is an unconventional kind of helper. She travels from one desolate town to the next, staging grisly tableaux 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.



# HOMESEEEKING

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

A big debut publication for the start of 2025, and the January 2025 Good Morning America book club pick, this is a deeply moving story that follows one couple across sixty years as world events pull them together and apart, illuminating the Chinese diaspora and exploring what it means to find home far from your homeland

**GMA January 2025 Book Club Pick**

**Book of the Month Club December 2024 Pick**

**Good Housekeeping January Book Club Pick**

**The Audacious Book Club February Pick**

**Amazon Editors' Pick: Best Literature and Fiction**

**Apple Book of the Month Pick for January**

Haiwen is buying bananas at a 99 Ranch Market in Los Angeles when he looks up and sees Suchi, his Suchi, for the first time in sixty years. To recently widowed Haiwen it feels like a second chance, but Suchi has only survived by refusing to look back.

Suchi was seven when she first met Haiwen in their Shanghai neighborhood, drawn by the sound of his violin. Their childhood friendship blossomed into soul-deep love, but when Haiwen secretly enlisted in the Nationalist army in 1947 to save his brother from the draft, she was left with just his violin and a note: Forgive me.

HOMESEEEKING follows the separated lovers through six decades of tumultuous Chinese history as war, famine, and opportunity take them separately to the song halls of Hong Kong, the military encampments of Taiwan, the bustling streets of New York, and sunny California, telling Haiwen's story from the present to the past while tracing Suchi's from her childhood to the present, meeting in the crucible of their lives. Throughout, Haiwen holds his memories close while Suchi forces herself to look only forward, neither losing sight of the home they hold in their hearts.

At once epic and intimate, HOMESEEEKING is a story of family, sacrifice, and loyalty, and of the power of love to endure beyond distance, beyond time.

**Category:** book club 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.



**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Sceptre

**Danish:** Politikens

**Dutch:** Nieuw-Amsterdam

**German:** Gutkind

**Greek:** Ikaros

**Italian:** Garzanti

**Norwegian:** Gyldendal

**Spanish:** Urano



**PRAISE**

“Chen’s new novel is an intimate story of a couple torn apart by world events, exploring the Chinese diaspora and the meaning of home.”—**Good Morning America (January Book Club Pick)**

“The novel’s scope is ambitious...History and fate, displacement and separation. These are grand topics, but through Suchi and Haiwen’s quest for belonging amid insurmountable conflict, *HOMESEEKING* captures the enduring and unexpected ways these larger forces impact individual lives.”—**The New York Times Book Review**

“As I tearfully turned the last page of *HOMESEEKING*, I knew that it had earned a place on my top shelf. For Chen has finally put into words the lifelong grief I have carried as an immigrant — grief for a childhood, a place, a home that no longer exists...[Home] can also live on inside a book. Just as I did, many readers are bound to find their home within the pages of Chen’s unforgettable debut.”—**Washington Post**

“[An] ambitious debut...This is a novel historical fiction mavens will adore, as its storytelling magic and emotional depth flow over a foundation of enlightening, critically important facts.”—**Oprah Daily**

“*HOMESEEKING* is about the love of home and family, even against unimaginable circumstances...[A] sweeping epic.”—**Good Housekeeping**

“Fans of historical fiction will want to pick up this exceptional novel immediately.”—**Los Angeles Times**

“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**

“Sweeping, epic, yet deeply intimate . . . A spellbinding meditation on family, immigration, and the many faces of courage in times of hardship, this is a dazzling debut.”—**Kirstin Chen, New York Times bestselling author of Counterfeit**

“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**

# 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

**Also a Good Morning America book club pick and getting fantastic lift in the US! 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**

**GMA February 2025 Book Club Pick**

**Apple Debut Pick and Book of the Month Pick for February**

*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 and is forced to ask herself: When we choose love and liberation, what must we leave behind?

**“Eckstine combines the lyricism of Jesmyn Ward and Toni Morrison with the speculative historical fiction of Tananarive Due and Leslye Penelope in a stunning debut that will also appeal to fans of Percival Everett’s *James*.”—Booklist, starred review**

**"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** is an author of speculative historical fiction, personal essays, and anything else she’s in the mood for. Born in Montgomery, Alabama, Eckstine grew up between the South and Los Angeles. She earned a master’s in secondary English education from Stanford University and taught high school English for six years. She lives in Brooklyn with her partner and their cats.

# 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 155k copies sold across all formats in the US and 14 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. The A24 series starring Elle Fanning begins shooting this month!

Finalist for the 2024 Kirkus Prize in Fiction, an Amazon Top 100 Book of the Year, the Allstora Rupaul August Book Club selection, a July 2024 Indie Next Pick, a June 2024 LibraryReads Pick, Amazon Holiday Gift Pick, TIME Magazine Must-Read Book of 2024, selected by Kirkus Reviews as a Best Fiction Book of 2024, and BBC 2 Radio Club Pick (UK)

APPLE TV+ to distribute the A24 TV series, with David E. Kelley to adapt and Elle Fanning, Nicole Kidman, Michelle Pfeiffer, Nick Offerman 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-Dunnán First Novel Prize. A California native, she currently lives in Los Angeles with her husband and sons. Page 44

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Sceptre

**Czech:** Euromedia

**French:** Jouvence

**German:** Ecco Verlag

**Hebrew:** Matar

**Hungarian:** Libri

**Italian:** Bollati Boringhieri

**Polish:** Media Rodzina

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Rocco

**Portuguese (Portugal):**

Topseller

**Romanian:** Trei

**Spanish:** Harper Español

**Turkish:** Domingo

**Ukrainian:** The Old Lion



**PRAISE**

"[An] this enormously entertaining and lovable book."—**Nick Hornby, *New York Times Book Review***

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

"An expansive, offbeat, gorgeous exploration of resilience, forgiveness and multi-generational parenthood."—**Pandora Sykes**

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

"An audacious, wildly funny, completely unpredictable novel by a writer so singular that it's hard to compare her to anyone else."—**Kevin Wilson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Nothing to See Here***

"A hilarious novel about making the most of what you've got."—**Emma Straub, *New York Times* bestselling author of *This Time Tomorrow***

"It's been a long time since I was so swept up in a book that I read it all in one swoop . . . A page-turning plot with flawed but loveable characters, big philosophical questions, and really top-notch writing. It's funny and touching. Highly recommend!"—**Celeste Ng, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Our Missing Hearts***

"Chock-full of delectable wisdom and affection. Margo is my hero."—**Nick Offerman**

"Deeply funny, thoughtful, riveting."—**Emily Gould, *Vulture***

"A raucous and dazzlingly original novel that might just be the funniest book you read all summer."—***Oprah Daily***

"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***

"Long after the last page of MARGO'S GOT MONEY TROUBLES, I think of certain lines and bust out laughing . . . Rupi 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***



# MAYA & NATASHA

Elyse Durham



**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:**

**German:** Harper Germany

**Portuguese (Brazil):** TAG

**Just published, a beautiful 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 recently closed our first two translation deals 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.

In the fall out, 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.

**“An epic page-turner rife with rich historical detail and dazzling sentences, MAYA & NATASHA is a book in which to lose yourself in.”—Lara Prescott, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Secrets We Kept***

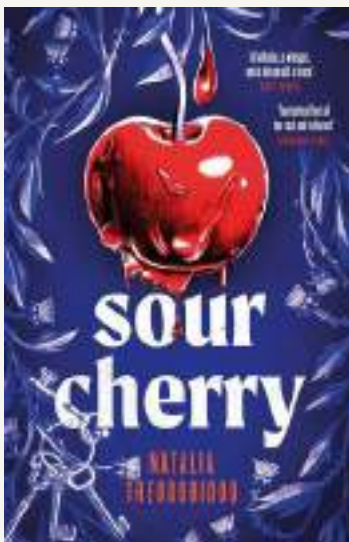
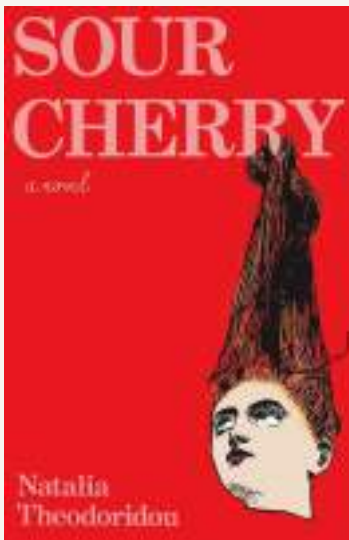
**“Durham soars as a storyteller.”—Rae Meadows, author of *Winterland***

**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.

# 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 *Fire Exit*

**"This gorgeous book will enthrall you like a spell that you cannot nor will you wish to escape. An extraordinary, hallucinatory accomplishment."** —Karen Joy Fowler, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Booth*

**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.

# THESE MEMORIES DO NOT BELONG TO US

Yiming Ma



**Mariner** (August 12, 2025)

**Editor:** Jessica Vestuto

**Territory sold:** US and Open Market

**Material:** first pass

**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, an imaginative and resonant debut set in a future where a renamed China is the sole global superpower, for fans of Ted Chiang, Omar El Akkad, and Yoko Ogawa**

*When I was a boy, my mother used to tell me stories of a world before memories could be shared between strangers...*

In a far-off future ruled by the Qin Empire, every citizen is fitted with a Mindbank, an intracranial device capable of recording and transmitting memories between minds. This technology gives birth to Memory Capitalism, where anyone with means can relive the life experiences of others. It also unleashes opportunities for manipulation: memories can be edited, marketed, and even corrupted for personal gain.

After the sudden passing of his mother, an unnamed narrator inherits a collection of banned memories from her Mindbank so dangerous that even possessing them places his freedom in jeopardy. Traversing genres, empires, and millennia, they are tales of sumo wrestlers and social activists and armless swimmers and watchmakers, struggling amid the backdrop of Qin's ascent toward global dominance. Determined to release his mother's memories to the world before they are destroyed forever, the narrator will risk everything—even if the cost is his own life.

Powerful and provocative, THESE MEMORIES DO NOT BELONG TO US masterfully explores how governments and media manipulate history to control the collective imagination. It forces us to see beyond the sheen of convenient truths and to unearth real stories of sacrifice and love that refuse to be eradicated.

**"A mesmerizing debut! A deeply felt and meticulously crafted story that entrances the reader from the first sentence to its last."—Jason Mott, National Book Award-winning author of *Hell of a Book***

**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 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.

# OPEN WIDE

Jessica Gross



**Overlook Press / Abrams** (August 7, 2025)

**Editor:** Abby Muller

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Stephanie Delman

**UK rights:** Florence Rees at AM Heath

**Film option:** Orion/Amazon Studios

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Harvill Secker

In the vein of Alissa Nutting and Melissa Broder, **OPEN WIDE** is a hilariously absurdist, devastatingly vulnerable novel for anyone who craves an intimacy they can't quite reach. This sold in a competitive four-way auction in the UK, and is now out on submission in translation!

Olive is desperate to get close to Theo—really, really close. She's always struggled to connect with people. And now she's in her thirties, single, and so flustered by relationships that she secretly records her conversations, hoping to decipher social clues and find a way to be less alone.

Then Theo turns up for a shift at the same food pantry where she volunteers. He's a surgeon fascinated by human organs, a former soccer player, and possibly as weird as Olive. For the first time, someone seems to crave and understand her. Every recording Olive makes of Theo is a balm—which just makes her more afraid of losing him. The only solution seems to be to bind him to her forever. Luckily, the gap between Theo's front teeth is just wide enough for something—or someone—to slip inside.

In this arresting and immersive new novel, Gross explores the boundaries of love and the body with a deft hand, as universal human impulses bleed into the surreal.

**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.



# PORTHOLE

Joanna Howard



**McSweeney's** (June, 17, 2025)

**Editor:** Rita Bullwinkel

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Allison Devereux

**UK rights:** direct (Allison Malecha)

**"Crackling with wit and cinematic confession, PORTHOLE is a wicked, propulsive journey through a glass darkly . . . [Howard] offers a black comedy of Muriel Spark-esque proportions and a brilliant and sharply observed meditation on art and its makers."**—Mona Awad, author of *Rouge*

World-renowned art-house film director Helena Désir may (or may not!) be responsible for the on-set death of Corey, her latest muse, leading man of the moment, and frequent bedmate. Haunted by the accident, a long trail of ex-lovers, and the corporate film studio who desperately wants to keep her, their cash cow, at work, Helena unravels and is swiftly delivered to a luxury retreat known as Jaquith House, where fellow sufferers of psychic exhaustion—an agèd sound artist, an international entrepreneur, a tennis pro, a woodsman, twin Finnish massage therapists, and a sex-addicted chef—ferry her from meal, to rest activity, to spa experience, to canoe ride, and back to dinner again, with unmatched hilarity and wit. Told with a captivating quick clip of a gait, PORTHOLE is a portrait of an auteur at the peak of her powers and in the midst of an extravagant, albeit well-dressed, meltdown. Hallucinatory and imagistic, filled to the brim with champagne toasts, boathouse romps, brothels, yoga pants, Parisian hotels, dressing room hookups, and red carpet faux pas, PORTHOLE gifts us the world through the eye of the camera lens, as if through a sea of glass, and asks: If we've sinned in the service of art, can we be forgiven?

**"Beguiling . . . Fellini's 8 1/2 with a twist of Moshfeghian wickedness."**—Rachel Yoder, author of *Nightbitch*

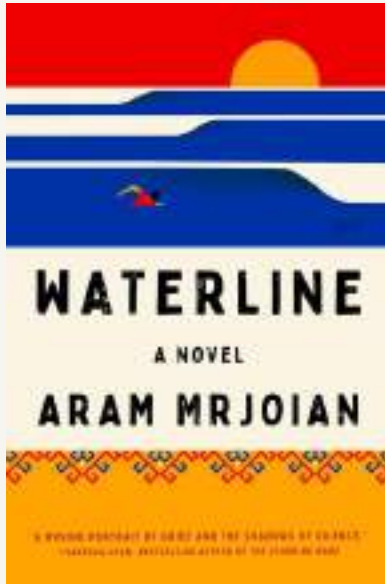
**"Evoking the mighty pens of Katherine Anne Porter, Muriel Spark, Jean Echenoz and Kazuo Ishiguro might begin to give a sense of this funny, strange, sad and terribly smart novel but truly—PORTHOLE is very much its own marvelous animal . . . Joanna Howard is a brilliant writer."**—Laird Hunt, National Book Award Finalist, author of *Zorrie*

**Category:** literary fiction

**Joanna Howard** is a writer and translator from Miami, Oklahoma. She is the author of the memoir *Rerun Era* (McSweeney's, 2019), the novel *Foreign Correspondent*, and the story collections *On the Winding Stair* and *In the Colorless Round*. She also cowrote *Field Glass*, a speculative novel, with Joanna Ruocco. Her work has appeared in *Conjunctions*, *The Paris Review*, *Verse*, *Bomb*, *Flaunt*, *Chicago Review*, *The Brooklyn Rail*, and parts elsewhere. She is a professor of creative writing at Denver University.

# WATERLINE

Aram Mrjoian



**HarperVia** (June 3, 2025)

**Editor:** Ryan Amato & Rakesh Satyal

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Natalie Edwards

**UK rights:** direct (Allison Malecha)

**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* 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 fierce, tender debut about the way tragedies—both personal and national—echo through the generations.”—Rebecca Makkai, *New York Times* bestselling author of *I Have Some Questions for You***

**“Smart and beautiful and breathtaking in its Rashomon-like chronicle of the ripple effect of a young woman’s suicide. The depth of Aram Mrjoian’s exploration of an extended family in crisis is stunning, and his insights into grief and loss are profound. I was awed by this first novel.”—Chris Bohjalian, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Sandcastle Girls***

**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*, *Electric Literature*, *Joyland*, *Longreads*, and many other publications.

# THE UNVEILING

Quan Barry

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**Grove/Atlantic** (October 14, 2025)

**Editor:** Emily Burns

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**UK rights:** direct (Allison Malecha)

From the award-winning poet, playwright, and author of *We Ride upon Sticks* and *When I'm Gone*, *Look for Me in the East*, a genre-bending novel of literary horror set in Antarctica that explores abandonment, guilt, and survival in the shadow of America's racial legacy

Striker isn't entirely sure she should be on this luxury Antarctic cruise. A Black film scout, her mission is to photograph potential locations for a big-budget movie about Ernest Shackleton's doomed expedition. Along the way, she finds private if cautious amusement in the behavior of both the native wildlife and the group of wealthy, mostly white tourists who have chosen to spend Christmas on the Weddell Sea.

But when a kayaking excursion goes horribly wrong, Striker and a group of survivors become stranded on a remote island along the Antarctic Peninsula, a desolate setting complete with boiling geothermal vents and vicious birds. Soon the hostile environment will show each survivor their true face, and as the polar ice thaws in the unseasonable warmth, the group's secrets, prejudices, and inner demons will also emerge, including revelations from Striker's past that could irrevocably shatter her world.

With her signature lyricism and humor, Quan Barry offers neither comfort nor closure as she questions the limits of the human bonds that connect us to one another, proving there are no such things as haunted places, only haunted people. Gripping, lucid, and imaginative, *THE UNVEILING* is an astonishing ghost story about the masks we wear and the truths we hide even from ourselves.

**Category:** literary horror

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**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 cult favorite *We Ride Upon Sticks* (Pantheon, 2020) and *When I'm Gone, Look for Me in the East* (Pantheon, 2022). 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.

# BRIGHT WORK

Eli Raphael



**Grand Central** (May 2026)

**Editor:** Lyssa Keusch

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** unedited manuscript

**Agent:** Danya Kukafka

**UK rights:** Imogen Morrell at  
Greene & Heaton

**This razor-sharp book club debut closed at auction with Lyssa Keusch at Grand Central!**

**“Part mystery, part coming-of-age tale, BRIGHT WORK will keep readers guessing all the way through, but it's the book's emotional center—a daughter in deep mourning for her late mother—that elevates this novel into something truly memorable.”—Liz Moore**

*It is true that I wished him dead dozens of times. Hundreds, even. But I, Lenny Winter, did not kill that boy.*

Lenny Winter is fifteen years old when she moves with her mother and stepfather to an aging houseboat on the rugged coast of Washington State. Lenny, an aspiring astronomer, learns to brightwork: the process of stripping and refinishing the wood on a boat. But when her mother suddenly dies and Lenny is sent away to Blanchard, a renowned boarding school, she finds herself entrenched in a foreign world that both baffles and intrigues her. As she tries to find her footing through the fog of her grief, Lenny becomes entangled with the Pascalianum Club, a secret society known to shape Blanchard's greatest and most notorious students; what she finds in the cult-like group will forever change her relationship to herself, to privilege, and to trauma. Because Lenny's first year at Blanchard will end in tragedy—and a murder investigation.

At once a novel of great suspense and stunning literary finesse, BRIGHT WORK brings together dark academia, coming-of-age, social commentary and immaculately plotted mystery, with a sentence-level poise that sets Eli Raphael entirely apart. In the tradition of *The Secret History*—for readers of Kate Elizabeth Russell's *My Dark Vanessa*, Rebecca Makkai's *I Have Some Questions For You*, Leigh Bardugo's *Ninth House* and Katy Hays' *The Cloisters*—this book brings boarding school to a damp and moody island off the coast of Seattle, where a teenage girl must find herself in the shadow of profound change.

**Category:** upmarket suspense debut

**Eli Raphael** is a writer and editor whose love for narratives about multicultural identities has led to stints in journalism, book preservation, translation, and tech. She holds an MA in Writing from Bar Ilan University, and an MFA in Creative Writing from Temple University. Eli grew up on a boat in Miami, FL, and rural Washington state; she currently lives on dry land in Washington.



# LITTLE ONE

Olivia Muentner

\*previously titled THE MOST MONSTROUS THING



**Little, Brown** (spring 2026)

**Editor:** Gaby Mongelli

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** unedited manuscript

**Agent:** Dana Murphy

**UK rights:** Katie Greenstreet at  
Paper Literary

**A gorgeous and gripping novel pitched as if Jessica Knoll wrote THE GIRLS about a woman who grew up in a utopian commune-turned-cult and must confront a past she's put firmly behind her when a journalist turns up asking questions she would rather leave unanswered**

From the outside, Catharine West's childhood sounds idyllic—balmy days spent running barefoot through acres of gardens, plucking ripe tomatoes straight from the vine as soil wedged its way between her small toes. Her parents built a life that was simple and community-focused, and their home-spun society grew as it attracted others in need of a reset. Her magnetic father played defacto leader, ensuring every need was met and every temptation was kept outside the farm's gates. But as she grew older and their numbers dwindled, Catharine could sense a dark storm brewing.

She abandoned that life a decade ago and has done her best to rewrite her story, until an email from a journalist interrupts her peace. Her first instinct is to ignore the stranger's prying questions—whether she knew about a mysterious “cult” in central Florida, whether she is the same “Catharine West” who lived there for a time. But when she realizes he knows more than he's letting on, she reconsiders. If Catharine can stay one step ahead of him, she may be able to find the one thing she never wanted to leave behind—her sister, Linna—and make sure her own secrets remain buried too.

For fans of Ashley Audrain, Ashley Elston, and Ella Berman, LITTLE ONE captures the sinking dread of facing your past head-on, when the hunger to become your best self threatens to drown out your humanity. Equal parts acid-tongued and achingly vulnerable, Muentner's signature voice lays bare our most intimate insecurities about modern womanhood and questions how far we're willing to go to protect our treacherous inheritances. As undeniably page-turning as it is richly drawn, LITTLE ONE is a masterclass in suspense writing for the book club audience.

**Category:** upmarket suspense

**Olivia Muentner** is the author of *USA Today* instant bestseller *Such a Bad Influence* (Quirk, 2024) and the co-host of the Bad on Paper podcast. Olivia's work has appeared in *Refinery 29*, *HuffPost*, *Glamour.com*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, *Byrdie*, *Apartment Therapy*, and more.

# LIKE THIS, BUT FUNNIER

\*previously titled BAD PITCH

Hallie Cantor



**Simon & Schuster** (April 2026)

**Editor:** Carina Guiterman

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**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 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*.

**“Hallie has one of the funniest and most original voices I've ever encountered, and this book gripped me page one through the end”—Amy Schumer**

**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

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## **Pamela Dorman Books**

(spring 2026)

**Editor:** Seema Mahanian

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** edited manuscript  
delivering in the spring

**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 won the author a coveted spot in the 2023 Reese's Book Club LitUp Fellowship, where she was mentored by Curtis Sittenfeld. This is 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

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**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.

# THREE PARTIES

Ziyad Saadi

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**Hamish Hamilton/PRH**

**Canada** (August 26, 2025)

**Editor:** David Ross

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** edited manuscript

**Agent:** Mariah Stovall

**UK rights:** direct (Allison

Malecha)

## **A queer Palestinian refugee plans to come out at his elaborate birthday dinner party in this tragicomic modern reimagining of Virginia Woolf's *Mrs. Dalloway***

Firas Dareer wakes up on his twenty-third birthday with a sense of purpose: today he'll jump from a Stage 3 to a Stage 6 in his self-determined Coming Out Scale, professing his sexuality to a captive audience of immediate and extended family, friends, acquaintances, coworkers, and neighbours. But despite the meticulously designed invitations, carefully chosen place settings and floral centerpieces, painstakingly curated playlist, and agonizingly fretted-over menu, factors begin to spin out of his control.

Threatening to thwart his big moment are his younger brother, whose mental fragility requires him to be monitored at all times; his cantankerous grandfather, who's just completed his third escape from the retirement home; the Dareers' embittered housekeeper (and Firas's arch nemesis), who could scoop the story before he gets the chance; his harried boss, who on this of all days calls him into work at the architecture firm, where his colleagues share a talent for butchering his name; and his mother, whose accidental text message may have blown the cover of an illicit extra-marital affair. There's also the fact that Firas too has found himself in a love triangle of sorts, choosing between soft and steady Tyrese and fiery Kashif, who makes a sport out of demonstrating how Palestinian he is.

As the future Firas has precisely architected for himself slips further out of his grasp, the past comes crashing in like a wrecking ball. Sharp, darkly funny, and full of surprises, *THREE PARTIES* pays twisted homage to a literary classic, gleefully upends the western coming-out narrative, and sensitively explores the traumas and pressures faced by Palestinian immigrants—all in the span of a single life-changing day.

**Category:** literary debut

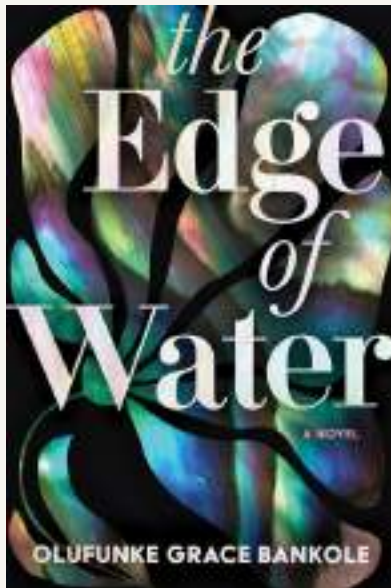
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**Ziyad Saadi** is a Palestinian-Canadian author and screenwriter who has contributed to *Indiewire*, *The Independent*, and *The Gay & Lesbian Review*. He holds a bachelor's degree in Marketing from Concordia University, and recently won the pilot 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:** translatable 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

**Apple Debut Pick for February**

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, 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***

**“Bankole fluidly alternates between Esther’s and Amina’s perspectives as each woman recounts her life story, deepening the reader’s understanding of the characters and the central events of the narrative. This is one to savor.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review**

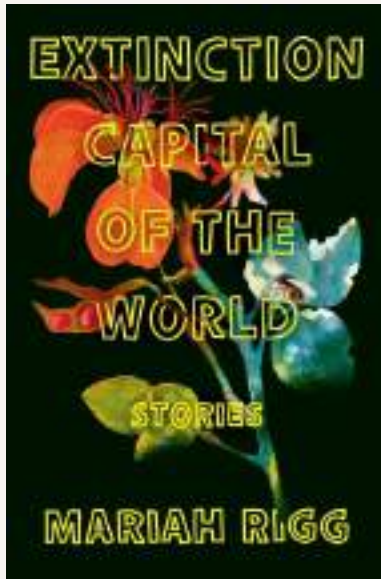
**“A powerful and emotional debut novel that deftly explores the complexities of identity, family, and belonging.”—*Booklist*, starred review**

**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 *Ploughshares*.

# EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD

Mariah Rigg



**Ecco** (August 5, 2025)

**Editor:** Rachel Sargent

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**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.

**“In *EXTINCTION CAPITAL OF THE WORLD*, Mariah Rigg traces the contours of contemporary Hawai‘i with exquisite precision and grace. Across these ten stories, she shows how desire anchors us to vanishing landscapes, and how the heart finds its coordinates even as familiar worlds shift beneath our feet.”—Kimberly King Parsons, National Book Award-nominated author of *Black Light* and *We Were the Universe***

**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. She is next working on a novel.

# 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:**

**German:** Blanvalet

**Polish:** 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 bioprosthetic surgeon and her personal AI as they are drawn into a revolution

**Apple Book of the Month Pick for January**

**Named a Most Anticipated Book of 2025 by the *Los Angeles Times*, *Kirkus*, *Bustle*, *Lit Hub*, *BookBub*, *GoodReads*, and more!**

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 bioprosthetist 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.

**"Brilliant dystopian novel . . . Swyler's elegant, polyphonic narrative juggles many themes, foremost among them human-robot convergence, through ever-shifting perspectives...This is a powerhouse."—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review**

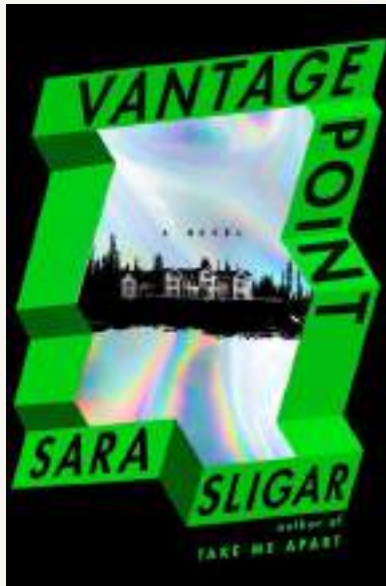
**"Swyler achieves a seemingly impossible amount of sophisticated worldbuilding using an economy of vibrant, graceful prose. . . . Affecting relationships and a sinuous, kaleidoscopic third-person narrative further define and develop the exquisitely rendered characters. Singularly stunning and stunningly singular."—*Kirkus*, starred review**

**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.

# VANTAGE POINT

Sara Sligar



**FSG** (January 14, 2025)

**Editor:** Sean McDonald

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Danya Kukafka

**UK rights:** Sara Langham at David Higham Associates

**Previous publishers:**

**UK:** Text

**German:** 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

**New York Times Editor's Choice Pick**

**Apple Book of the Month Pick for January**

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.

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.

**"Sligar endows her Clara with far more power and personality than her predecessor, making *VANTAGE POINT* a fleet, au courant Gothic thriller."—*New York Times Book Review***

**"*VANTAGE POINT* oozes atmosphere and tension—I was seduced by the fabulously wealthy and famously cursed Wieland family and could not stop turning the pages until I learned every last one of their dark, dynastic secrets."—*Jessica Knoll, New York Times bestselling author of *Young Bright Women****

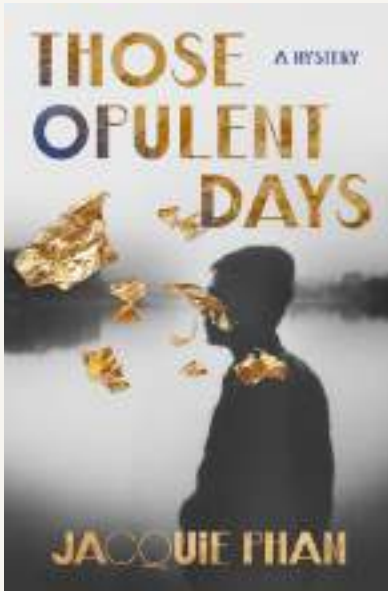
**Category:** literary thriller

**Sara Sligar** is an author and academic based in Los Angeles, where she teaches at the University of Southern California. Her first novel, *Take Me Apart* (FSG, 2020), was a Kirkus Best Book of the Year, a finalist for the Ned Kelly Award for Best International Crime Fiction, and featured in publications such as the *Washington Post*, *People*, *Entertainment Weekly*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, the *Wall Street Journal*, and more. She holds a Ph.D. in English from the University of Pennsylvania and a master's in History from the University of Cambridge.



# THOSE OPULENT DAYS

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**

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*

**"1920s Vietnam is lushly and lovingly described, and its characters vividly realized. . . . [T]he novel . . . examines the dark griminess that is part and parcel of the spectrum of humanity."**—Ilana Masad, *Los Angeles Times*

**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.

# SHANGHAILANDERS

Juli Min



**Spiegel & Grau** (May 7, 2024)

**Editor:** Joey McGarvey

**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

**German:** Eichborn

**Japanese:** Hayakawa

**Norwegian:** Cappelen Damm

**Spanish:** AdN

**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**

**Longlisted for the 2025 Carnegie Medal for Excellence in Fiction**

**One of *People's* Top Ten Debuts of the Year and *TIME's* Top 100 Books of the Year**

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. 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."—*Time*, "14 New Books You Should Read in May"**

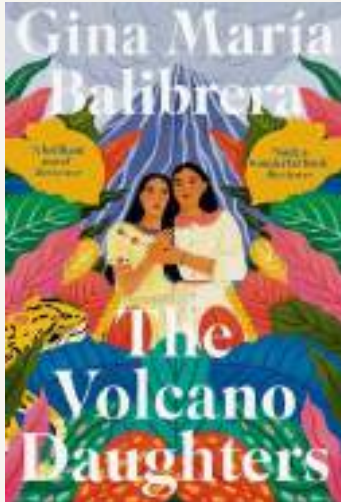
**"Remarkable debut . . . Having knowledge of these characters' futures before we know about their past makes stumbling on their bygone days all the more touching."—*Jean Kwok, The New York Times Book Review***

**Category:** literary debut

**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.

# 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:** Niki 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

**Featured as a Debut Author in Poets & Writers First Fiction 2024**

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 whimper, 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.”—*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 captivating rendition of early-20th-century El Salvador. . . The resilience of sisterly bonds forms the backbone of this swirling, heart-wrenching debut.” —*Kirkus***

**“A gripping and spellbinding novel . . . An unforgettable debut.”—Brit Bennett, author of *The Vanishing Half***

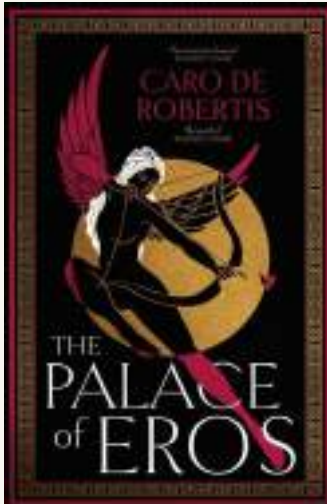
**Category:** literary debut

**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.



# 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

**French:** Jouvence

**Norwegian:** 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)**

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.”

**"A riveting, 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***

**"Bold and barrier-breaking . . . an exquisitely written quest for authentic embodiment, an intoxicating reimagining of myth like no other."—Patricia Engel, author of *Infinite Country***

**Category:** myth retelling

**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 82).



# CARO DE ROBERTIS: THE BACKLIST

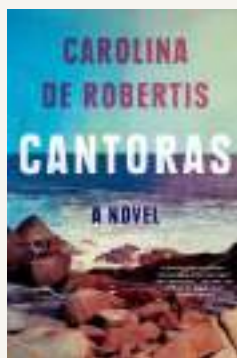


**Knopf** (2021)

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

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

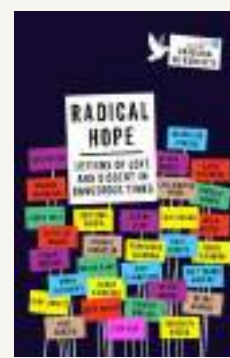
“This sublime and gripping novel is above all about hope.”—Madeline Miller, author of *Circe*



**Knopf** (2019)

**Rights sold:** **Greek:** Diapasi, **Polish:** Wydawnictwo Albatros, **Portuguese (Brazil):** Editora Dublinense (NEW), **Spanish:** Vintage Español

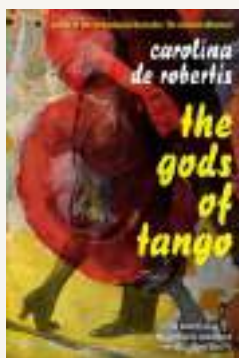
A “bold and unapologetic” (*NYTBR*) novel about five wildly different women who, in the midst of the Uruguayan dictatorship, find each other as lovers, friends, and ultimately, family



**Knopf** (2017)

**Rights sold:** **UK:** Virago/Little, Brown, **Polish:** 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

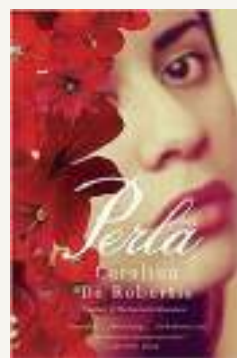


**Knopf** (2015)

**Rights sold:** **French:** Le Cherche Midi, **German:** S. Fischer Verlag, **Italian:** Garzanti, **Norwegian:** Vigmstad & Bjørke, **Polish:** Wydawnictwo Albatros, **Romanian:** 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, **Dutch:** De Bezige Bij, **German:** S. Fischer Verlag, **Hebrew:** Matar, **Italy:** Garzanti, **Norwegian:** Schibsted Forlag, **Polish:** 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)

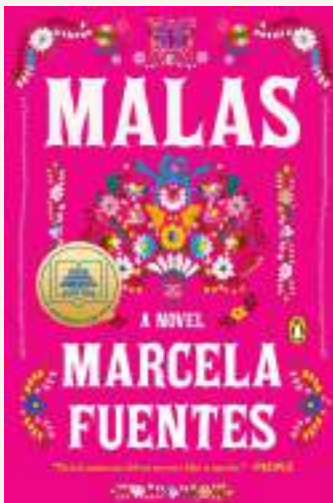
**Rights sold:** **UK:** Harper, **Chinese (Simplified):** Yilin Press, **Chinese (Traditional):** Commonwealth, **Dutch:** De Boekerij, **French:** Belfond, **German:** S. Fischer Verlag, **Greek:** Livanis, **Hebrew:** Matar, **Italian:** Garzanti, **Norwegian:** Schibsted Forlag, **Polish:** Wydawnictwo Albatros, **Serbian:** Dereta (NEW), **Spanish:** Planeta, **Swedish:** Forum

“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*

# 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:** 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**  
**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**

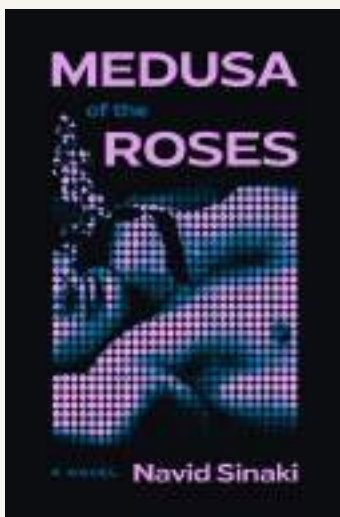
**“MALAS is a machete: sharp, terrifying, and beautiful. Each character feels dynamic, familiar, and so utterly human in their glorious messiness. Fuentes has achieved something rare and indelible with this story of complex women.”—Erika L. Sánchez, New York Times bestseller author of I Am Not Your Perfect 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. She is the author of the debut novel *MALAS* (June 2024) and linked story collection *My Heart Has More Rooms Than a Whorehouse* (forthcoming). She lives in Fort Worth, Texas.

# 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

**French:** Le bruit du monde

**Persian:** Naakojaa Publishing

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**

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)**

**“Magnifique et poignant.”—*La Libération* (France)**

**“Stunning . . . This is a must.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review**

**“A violently beautiful story . . . ”—Golnoosh Nour, author of *The Ministry of Guidance***

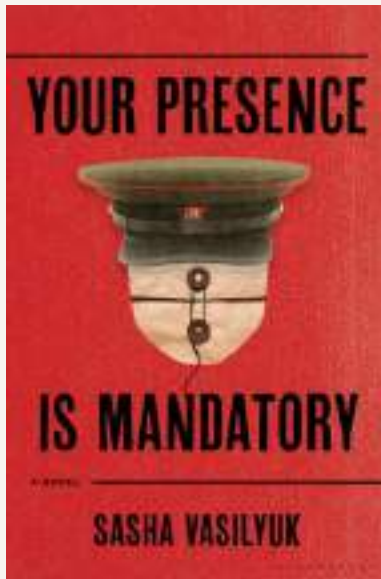
**Category:** literary debut

**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:**

**Finnish:** WSOY

**French:** Éditions Charleston/Leduc

**German:** Droemer

**Hebrew:** Kinneret

**Italian:** Garzanti

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Rocco

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

**An International Bestseller**

**Longlisted for Center for Fiction First Novel Prize**

**Apple Debut Pick 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.”—*Los Angeles Review of Books***

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

**“I sat with the vivid characters Vasilyuk has created for hours after reading, and I continue to think of them. *Your Presence Is Mandatory* is a book to last generations, and one I won't soon forget.” —Lara Prescott, *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE SECRETS WE KEPT***

**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

**TV option:** Amblin Television

**Rights sold:**

**German:** Harper Germany

**Italian:** 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**

**Book of the Month Club Selection**

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***

**“An intricate and heartbreaking novel . . . beautifully captures the warmth of sisterhood and the bonds that women share. . . . It's a story that you want to share with your loved ones.”—NPR, “Books We Love” Roundup**

**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.

# THEY DREAM IN GOLD

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 Shortlisted for Center for Fiction First Novel Prize**

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 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.

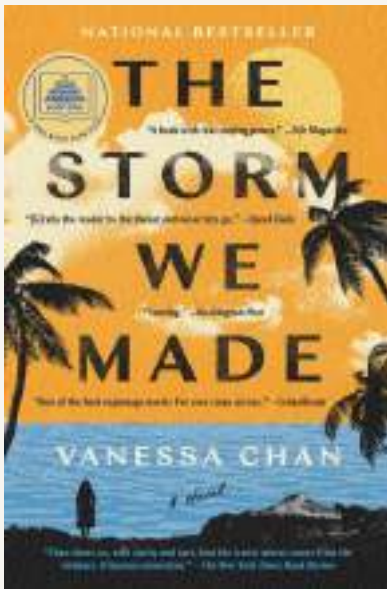
# THE STORM WE MADE

Vanessa Chan



One of our first big titles as an agency and a major debut publication last 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, one of *People's* Top Ten Debuts of the Year, *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



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

**Marysue Rucci Books**

(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

**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. She is at work on her next novel.



## Rights sold:

**UK:** Hodder & Stoughton

**Arabic:** MyBook

**Bulgarian:** CIELA

**Chinese (Traditional):** Crown Publishing

**Croatian:** Znanje

**Czech:** Host

**Dutch:** Prometheus

**French:** Harper

**German:** Ecco/Harper

**Greek:** Psychogios

**Hungarian:** 21. Század Kiadó

**Italian:** Mondadori (2 books)

**Japanese:** Shunjusha

**Lithuanian:** Baltos Lankos

**Polish:** Marginesy

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Paralela/Companhia das Letras

**Portuguese (Portugal):** Presença

**Romanian:** Trei

**Spanish:** Salamandra

**Swedish:** Forum

**Turkish:** 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*

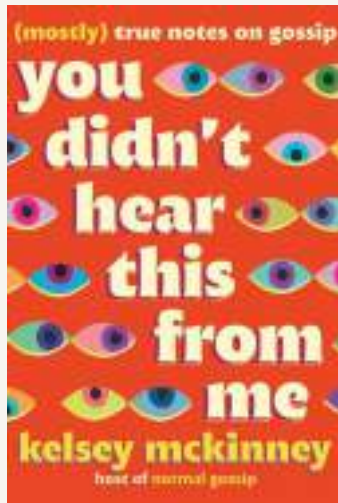


**NONFICTION**

# 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:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Dana Murphy

**UK rights:** Florence Rees at AM Heath

**Film/TV:** Kristina Moore at UTA

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Viking UK

**German:** dtv

**Romanian:** offer

**Spanish:** Península

**Just published to much fanfare in the US, this delightful and incisive book takes a 360-degree look at gossip—its history, its social function, and what it says about our relationship to truth, from the creator of the viral podcast Normal Gossip**

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 captures 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 unmasks 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**

**"A beautiful, expansive ode to the joy of information exchange. An ode that, like the practice of gossip itself, can be all at once inviting, tender, enlivening, and rich with humor, complexity, and an abundance of joys."—Hanif Abdurraqib, *New York Times* bestselling author of *There's Always This Year***

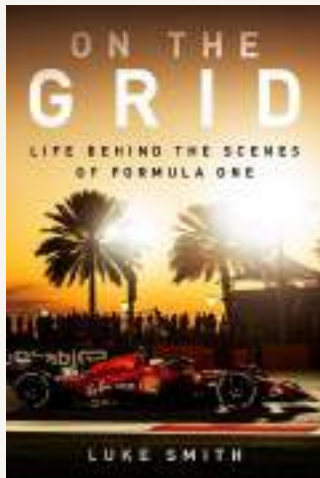
**Category:** general nonfiction

**Kelsey McKinney** is a reporter and writer who lives in Philadelphia. She is the co-creator of Normal Gossip, as well as a co owner and features writer at Defector.com. Her reporting and essays have appeared in the *New York Times*, *New York Magazine*, *GQ*, *Vogue*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Vanity Fair* and others. She is also the author of the novel *God Spare the Girls* (Morrow, 2021)

## ON THE GRID

### Life Behind the Scenes of Formula One

Luke Smith



**HarperVia** (March 18, 2025)

**Editor:** Alfredo Fee

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Allison Devereux

**UK rights:** Andrew Gordon at David Higham Associates

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Simon & Schuster

**Czech:** Dobrovsky

**Hungarian:** Gabo Kiadó

**Polish:** Otwarte

**Slovak:** Motyl

**Learn how Formula 1 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 1 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.

**"Luke's book is a great read for any new and seasoned F1 fan. Recommend!"—Esteban Ocon, F1 driver**

**"Luke is one of the foremost journalists within the paddock."—Toto Wolff, team principal and CEO, Mercedes F1 team**

**"A truly fabulous and unique piece of work . . . I loved every thoughtfully written word."—Will Buxton, motorsport broadcaster, author of *Grand Prix***

**Category:** general nonfiction

**Luke Smith** is a Formula 1 and motorsport journalist based in London, UK. He is currently a Senior Writer covering Formula 1 for *The Athletic* (which is owned by *The New York Times*). Before joining *The Athletic*, Luke spent 10 years reporting on Formula 1 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 1 pundit. He has over 90k followers on X (Twitter).

# TREATABLE

## Rethinking Addiction and How to Get Care Right

Dr. Sarah Wakeman

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**Flatiron** (winter 2027)

**Editor:** Julie Will

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** proposal, manuscript  
delivering early 2026

**Agent:** Allison Malecha & Allison  
Devereux

**UK rights:** Carrie Plitt at Felicity  
Bryan Associates

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Penguin Life

**Sold at auction in a major deal in the US and in a 7-way auction in the UK, an evidence-based, paradigm-shifting, and hopeful book about addiction and addiction care, from a leading American expert on addiction medicine with posts at Mass General Brigham and Harvard Medical School**

All over the world, we digest dismal statistics and headlines about addiction. Many of us have seen friends or family or community members struggle with substance use (or struggled with substance use ourselves). So it might come as a surprise to learn, from a medical doctor and expert on addiction treatment, that addiction is a treatable, good prognosis health condition. Most patients with substance use disorder that Dr. Wakeman sees, through both inpatient and outpatient settings, will get better; and as a general internist, she can say that there are few other health conditions for which she can offer more effective medications than for addiction.

Too often, those medications are not getting to those who need them, but the problems with how we treat substance use disorder—and the humans who are struggling with it—are much bigger and more universal than one flawed healthcare system. How we approach addiction is deeply influenced by misconceptions, stigma, and bad policy. These are all obstacles that a different narrative about addiction and the tools needed to treat it can help address.

In *TREATABLE*, Dr. Wakeman provides that narrative, offering a definitive, evidence-based understanding of addiction and how to effectively treat it. And through the stories of her patients, she will dispel—in a humane, story-driven way—pernicious myths about addiction and addiction care, offering a better way forward for individuals struggling with substance use, families, doctors, and communities/society at large.

**Category:** medical/health

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**Sarah Wakeman, MD**, is the Senior Medical Director for Substance Use Disorder at Mass General Brigham, the largest research hospital group in America, and an Associate Professor of Medicine at Harvard Medical School. Clinically she provides specialty addiction and general medical care in inpatient and outpatient settings, and she has published widely in leading general medicine and addiction journals. Her research and expertise have also been featured in major news and media outlets, including the *New York Times*, *Atlantic*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Boston Globe*, NPR, CNN, TODAY, STAT, on the Mel Robbins Podcast, and more.



# TRANS BERLIN

## A History

Laurie Harhoefer



**Tiny Reparations** (fall 2027)

**Editor:** Emi Ikkanda

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** proposal, manuscript  
delivering fall 2026

**Agent:** Allison Devereux & Natalie  
Edwards

**UK rights:** Andrew Gordan at  
David Higham Associates

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** The Bodley Head

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Record

**Written by a leading trans historian, TRANS BERLIN is a powerful and (more) necessary (than ever) account of the world’s first-known movement for trans liberation. Sold in a significant pre-empt in the US and at auction in the UK**

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.

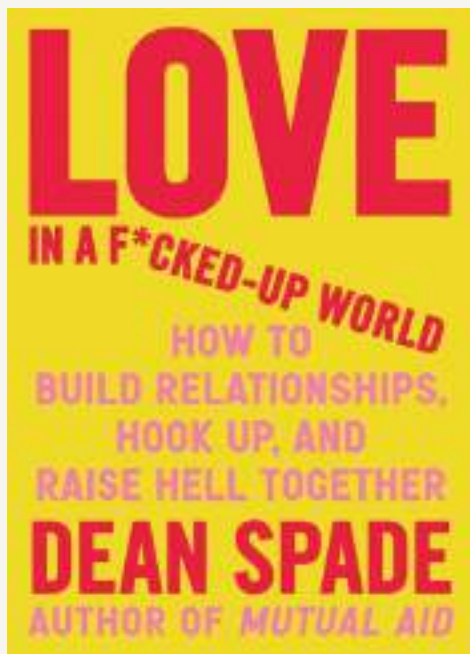
**Category:** narrative history

**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*.

# LOVE IN A F\*CKED-UP WORLD

## How to Build Relationships, Hook Up, and Raise Hell Together

Dean Spade



**Algonquin** (January 14, 2025)

**Territory:** World English

**Material:** translatable pass

**Agent:** Rebecca Friedman

### Previous Publishers:

**Catalan:** Llegir en Catalá

**Czech:** Nevin (Dunno) publishing,  
a project of Tři Océsci

**German:** W\_orten & Meer

**Korean:** Nikebooks

**Italian:** Edizioni Malamente

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Editora

Criação Humana

**Spanish:** Traficantes de Sueños

**Thai:** Sam Nak Nisit Sam Yan

**A self-help book about love, sex, and relationship-building (romantic and platonic), for a younger and politically activated generation**

### National Indie Bestseller

For two decades author Dean Spade has worked with social movement groups to build a world focussed on meeting human needs. Too often, he's seen these groups wrecked from within by the messy explosion of romantic entanglements. Spade has developed techniques to help his fellow social warriors clean up their love lives, and enable his comrades to find more gratifying relationships, both romantic and platonic. He unpacks the ways, and underlying reasons, why people act so sketchy in romantic relationships, and proposes radical friendship as a model for building principled relationships of all kinds. Here, he shares stories and advice, assisting the reader to alter their perspective on relationships to better align their values with their actions.

LOVE IN A F\*CKED UP WORLD is a book for people waking up to injustice in the world and looking for the tools to un-mess their romantic and sexual lives.

**“A pragmatic, timely book to help us navigate our most intimate relationships with a collective mindset; release romance myths and approach love as a practice; and cultivate discernment and freedom where we are trained towards judgement and ownership.”—Adrienne Maree Brown, author of *Loving Corrections, Pleasure Activism, and Emergent Strategy***

**“Dean Spade is a force . . . Spade makes plain the importance of confronting conditioning in love, sex and romance and making way for the revolution(ary) in all our relationships.”—*Ms. Magazine***

**Category:** self-help/relationships

**Dean Spade** is a grassroots activist, attorney, educator, and public speaker. He is the author of *Normal Life: Administrative Violence, Critical Trans Politics, and the Limits of Law* (Duke University Press, 2011), which is taught in universities around the US and the world, *Mutual Aid: Building Solidarity During This Crisis (and the next)* (Verso Books, 2020). He has worked for twenty years as a leading voice for trans rights, prison abolition, and mutual aid. He has been interviewed by Bloomberg TV, Democracy Now, the Nation, the Getting Curious with Jonathan Van Ness podcast, and countless other media outlets.

# HOW TO GIVE BIRTH

Ceridwen Morris



**FSG** (summer 2026)

**Editor:** Mitzi Angel

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** proposal, manuscript  
delivering later this spring

**Agent:** Allison Devereux

**UK rights:** Carrie Plitt at Felicity  
Bryan Associates

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Ebury/Vermilion

**Italian:** Aboca

**Polish:** Wydawnictwo Maman

**Portuguese (Brazil):** Record

**Spanish:** Diana/Planeta

**Sold in a pre-empt to Mitzi Angel at FSG and in a 9-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 this 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 lyricity 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



**Scribner** (fall 2026)

**Editor:** Emily Graff

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** proposal, manuscript  
delivering end of 2025

**Agent:** Allison Devereux

**UK rights:** Carrie Plitt at Felicity  
Bryan Associates

**Rights sold:**

**UK:** Viking

**Chinese (Simplified):**

Thinkingdom

**German:** 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**

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

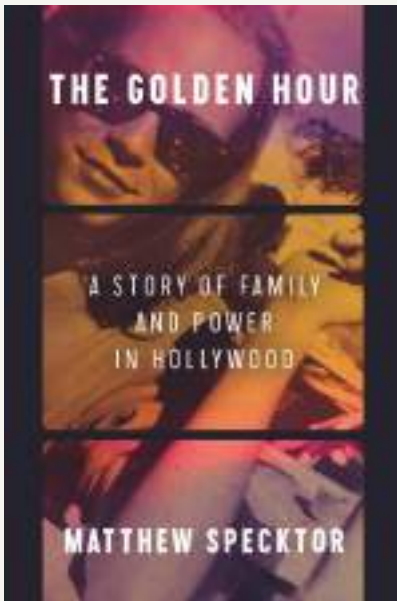
**Jennifer L. Roberts** is an art historian at Harvard whose scholarship focuses on the interface between the arts and the natural sciences, particularly astrophysics. **Dario Robleto** is a transdisciplinary artist, researcher, and writer whose work explores how art and science both contemplate—and 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.



# 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:** first pass

**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.

**“This is a book for anyone who loves the movies; for anyone who is fascinated by family dynamics; and for anyone who wonders about the machinery that propels our culture forward . . . A joy to read.”—Susan Orlean, author of *The Library Book***

**“*THE GOLDEN HOUR* delivers both an ingenious perspective of Los Angeles, and the history of movie business from the birth of television to the age of streaming.”—Griffin Dunne, author of the *New York Times* bestseller *The Friday Afternoon Club***

**“Film buffs will relish this potent blend of personal history and cultural critique.”—*Publishers Weekly*, starred review**

**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.

## SEX AND THE SYMPHONY

Julia Conrad



**Scribner** (winter 2026)

**Editor:** Emily Graff

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** proposal, manuscript  
delivering this spring

**Agent:** Allison Devereux

**UK rights:** Carrie Plitt at Felicity  
Bryan Associates

**SEX AND THE SYMPHONY** by writer, translator, and Iowa MFA Julia Conrad is an expansive alternative history of classical music told through its women, anchored in the story of Helen Jones Rich—an early 20th century pianist and composer on the cusp of an illustrious musical career, before it was cut short by marriage and the birth of her first daughter, the famous poet and feminist Adrienne Rich

Julia Conrad discovered Helen's story after reading the *New York Times* obituary for Adrienne, who was her grandmother. A classically trained violinist herself, Julia never knew that her great-grandmother had forged a similar path in classical music a century before her. This realization sent Julia on a journey of discovery—into Adrienne's archives at Radcliffe, where she unearthed Helen's own extensive papers, giving a rare glimpse into what life was like for women musicians of her era; across Atlanta, Baltimore, New York, Paris, and Vienna, tracing Helen's path through some of the most elite musical spaces of the 20th century; and into the canon of Western classical music, bereft of works composed by women. What Julia found was a hidden history of musicians and composers just like Helen: women whose accomplishments have been forgotten, essential contributions to the artform erased, or careers stymied by social expectation, aesthetic bias, and discrimination—a history that continues today.

A stunning work of literary biography and cultural history spanning three generations, **SEX AND THE SYMPHONY** is nothing short of a revision to classical music history, celebrating the women who endured in their musicianship despite these obstacles; who influenced the music and artistry of their canonized male peers; and who silently transformed the genre.

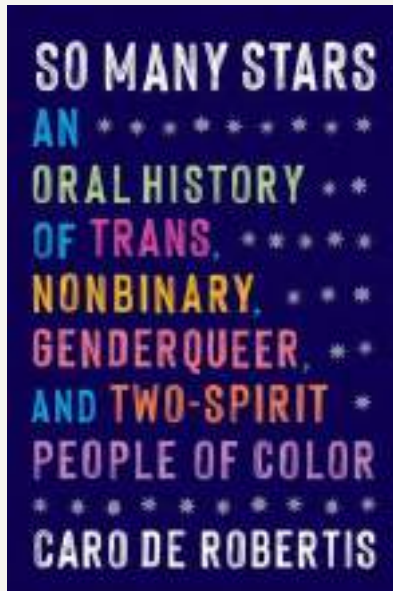
**Category:** general nonfiction

**Julia Conrad** is a writer and literary translator. Her work has been supported by the Fulbright Program, Vermont Studio Center, and Kimmel Harding Nelson Center for the Arts. She has two MFAs from the University of Iowa, where she was the recipient of the Iowa Arts Fellowship for Nonfiction.

# 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:** first pass

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**UK rights:** direct (Allison Malecha)

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.

Bestselling 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.

**“Gratitude to Caro De Robertis for the creation, and Jacqueline Woodson for the inspiration . . . Thank you for bringing light to the perspectives of people who made so many other lives possible and created a new world.”—Sarah Schulman, *The Fantasy and Necessity of Solidarity***

**“This book is a gift—a powerful and necessary addition to the Queer canon.”—Jaquira Díaz, author of *Ordinary Girls***

**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.

## OUR ARAB

### Diaspora and its Aftermath

Zaina Arafat

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**Little, Brown** (June 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 as 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

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**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.



## JOLT

### My Electric Journey Out of Darkness and Into the Light

Ted Scheinman

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**Scribner** (early 2026)

**Editor:** Rick Horgan

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** proposal,  
manuscript delivering later  
this spring

**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 Cahalan’s *Brain on Fire*.

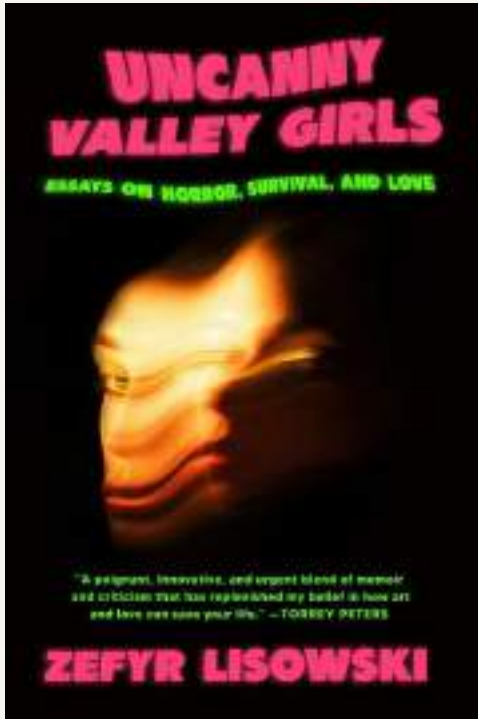
**Category:** mental health/memoir

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**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*.

# UNCANNY VALLEY GIRLS

Zefyr Lisowski



**Harper Perennial** (October 7, 2025)

**Editor:** Ezra Kupor

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**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

At twenty-seven, poet Zefyr Lisowski found herself in the place she feared most: a locked psych ward. While inside, she turned to horror movies—her deepest, most constant comfort.

Rather than disturb, scary movies have always provided solace and connection for Lisowski, as they do many others—offering a vision of a world filled equally with beauty and pain, and a reason to reach out to others and hold them tight. After all, as Lisowski argues, what terrifies us most about these movies is our own uncanny reflection—and at the root of that fear, a desperate desire to love and be loved.

In these wide-ranging essays, Lisowski weaves theory and memoir into nuanced critiques of films such as *The Texas Chain Saw Massacre* and *Saint Maud*. From fears about sickness and disability, to trans narratives and the predator/victim complex, to the struggle to live in a world that wants you dead, she explores horror's reciprocal impact on our culture and—by extension—our lives. Through it all, Lisowski lays bare her own complex biography—spanning from a trans childhood in the South to the sweaty dancefloors of Brooklyn—and the family, friends, and lovers that have bloomed with her into the present.

**"A poignant, innovative, and urgent blend of memoir and criticism that has replenished my belief in how art and love can save your life."—Torrey Peters, author of *Detransition, Baby***

**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**

# NOT YOUR TYPICAL LOVE STORY

C.R. Averett



**Wednesday** (fall 2026)

**Editor:** Hannah Pierdolla

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** unedited  
manuscript

**Agent:** Amy Bishop-Wycisk

**UK rights:** Julia Churchill at  
AM Heath

**Trellis ventures into the YA space! *You've Got Mail* meets *Loveless* by Alice Oseman, centering an asexual and an aromantic teen at the heart of their own kind of love story. With quick banter, deep friendship, and lots of heart, this YA rom-com brings a fresh spin to the genre**

Analeigh Tate's problems are piling up. In order to go behind her parents' backs and attend the musical theater audition at her dream college, she needs her diabolical sister's help, which is conditional on a two-part dares: 1) Make valedictorian (easy), and 2) Get and keep a boyfriend through graduation (less easy). Analeigh has never cared about dating, partly because she fears no one will be interested in an asexual girl, but regardless, she's planned the final act of her high school career to a T. Until it's smashed when her academic nemesis, Drew Eberstark, returns. Like the fell swoop of a curtain at final bows, her time in the spotlight seems to be over. Exit stage left; house lights up.

Drew was never keen on returning to school, but it's ten times worse than he feared when he learns that his anonymous online best friend is none other than Analeigh, who hates his guts. He's desperate not to lose his only friend, with whom he's shared his uncertainty about identifying as asexual, and is worried she'll still see him as the weird "Robot Boy" from class, who always has the right answer and has trouble connecting with people. So he comes up with a plan: he offers to be her fake boyfriend. He already knows about the dare and Analeigh's boyfriend problem, so all he's got to do is prove he's worth her friendship before the stupid meetup he wishes he'd never suggested—while also keeping his true identity a secret. So that's not stressful or anything.

Soon, Analeigh is struggling with the fact that her once-mortal enemy is kind of amazing, while Drew is struggling with his growing web of lies—especially when he learns through their online friendship that Analeigh has fallen for him. Abort mission! But it's too late, and as Drew tries to find the right moment to tell her the truth, they help each other through the difficulties of senior year, through the grief of losing someone you love, and of both identifying as asexual, with Drew eventually confiding that he's somewhere on the autism spectrum, too. When all the secrets in their friendship come to light, both of them will have to decide if they can forgive each other and find their way to their own kind of happily ever after worthy of a standing ovation, or if it's curtain call on their love story.

**Category:** young adult

**C.R. Averett** (she/her) is a former editor at Little, Brown Books for Young Readers and JIMMY Patterson Books, and currently works on the production side at Running Press. She's a recovering perfectionist and a former theater kid, and can be found online at [caitlynaverett.com](http://caitlynaverett.com).



# THE L.O.V.E. CLUB

Lio Min

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**Flatiron** (August 5, 2025)

**Editor:** Sarah Barley

**Territory:** North America

**Material:** first pass

**Agent:** Dana Murphy

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. A YA *Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow*

Three years ago, Elle (the “e” in the self-proclaimed L.O.V.E. Club) disappeared from Calendula, an affluent Chinese American suburb in 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.

**"Truly unlike anything I've ever read. The mystery at the heart of the book keeps the pages turning, but it's the four girls who hook into you and won't leave you long after you've finished reading."—Maurene Goo, author of *Throwback***

**"A story that combines mystery, horror, sci-fi, teen angst, gaming, botany, and some of the most stunningly mind-bending visuals this side of a Miyazaki film." —Sean McGinty, author of *Rainbow in the Dark***

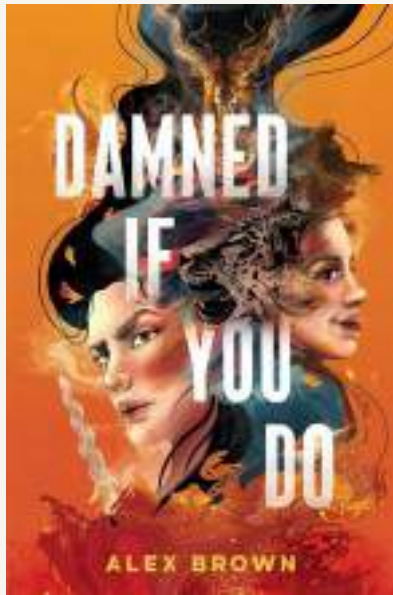
**Category:** young adult

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**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

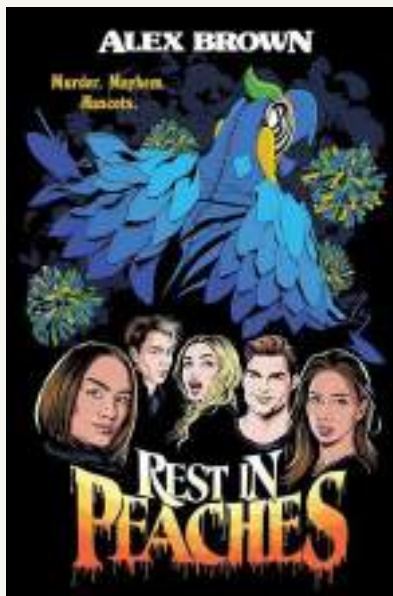
**Agent:** Amy Bishop-Wycisk

**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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# LITTLE WONDER

Sophie Chen Keller



## Ballantine x Thousand Voices

(summer/fall 2026)

**Editor:** Hilary Rubin Teeman  
(Jenna Bush Hager)

**Territory sold:** North America

**Material:** unedited manuscript

**Agent:** Michelle Brower

**UK rights:** Lizzy Kremer and Orli Vogt-Vincent at David Higham Associates

## Option Publishers:

**Dutch:** Harper Holland

**German:** Ullstein

## Previous Publishers:

**UK:** Allison & Busby

**Italian:** Nord

**Jenna Bush Hager fell in love with this heartrending family story over the holidays and has teamed up with Hilary Rubin Teeman to publish it as part of her new Thousand Voices venture! A story about a mother and son who are separated in the crowd at the Beijing Train Station and take years to find each other once again**

Song is a nobody—just a hard-working cleaning woman from a small village in Northern China—but she knows her son is something spectacular. At the age of three, River toddled to a piano and tapped out his favorite song. At five, he could perform Liszt's No. 3 Liebestraume flawlessly; at eight, he blazed through the complete set of Chopin etudes for the virtuoso. And Song is determined to see him shine. But on the eve of Lunar New Year, in the cacophony of the massive Beijing Train Station on the busiest day of the year, every mother's nightmare becomes real: Song loses her grip on River's littlehand, and she cannot find him.

LITTLE WONDER takes us on an extraordinary journey with Song and River through modern Beijing as the minutes apart turn into days, then into years. Even when hope seems more of a burden than a blessing, they try mightily to find their way back to each other. Because as every musician knows: You start in one key. You wander to other notes, strange and distant places. But in the end, you always come back home.

Dickensian in scope and feel, LITTLE WONDER speaks straight to the heart for the readers who flocked to *Remarkably Bright Creatures*, *Our Missing Hearts*, and *All the Light We Cannot See*. LITTLE WONDER sucks you in and doesn't let you go until the very last page—and when you do turn that last page, your world is a little bigger than before.

**Category:** book club fiction

**Sophie Chen Keller** is the author of *The Luster of Lost Things* (Putnam, 2017), which was also released in Germany, Italy, the UK and the Netherlands. Her first publication came at the age of 15, with a short story in *Glimmer Train* literary magazine. A classically trained pianist, she was born in China and raised in California; after graduating from Harvard, she lived in New York City and Beijing before moving to Germany, where she currently resides with her husband and son.