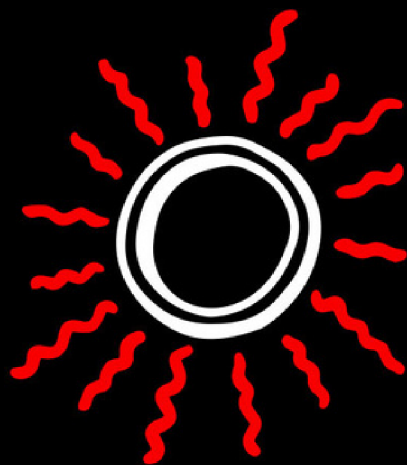


Spring 2024

Contact: Kent D. Wolf // kent@neonliterary.com

Time for a new story.

Upcoming Titles



GIVE ME SPACE BUT DON'T GO FAR

My Unlikely Friendship with Anxiety Haley Weaver



Graphic
Memoir

**An illustrated memoir of one woman's utterly
relatable and life-affirming anxiety journey.**

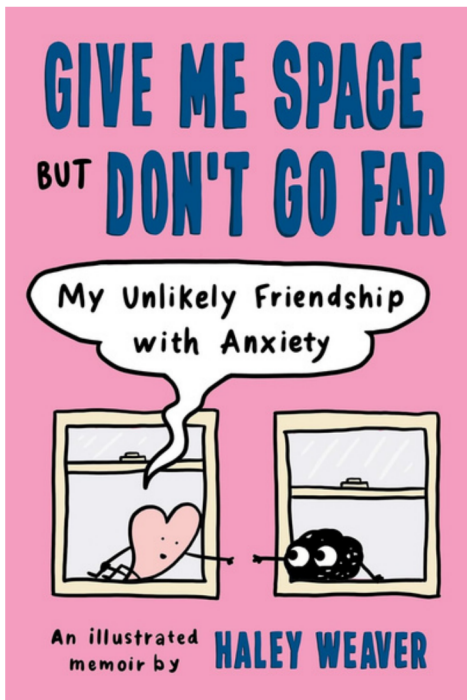
Haley Weaver decided that the constant what-ifs and worst-case scenarios that Anxiety whispered in her ear were an obstacle to her happiness. But over time she realized anxiety's true intention: to keep her safe. Could she learn to let it do its job but also figure out how to live without constant worry and fear?

Starring Haley and Anxiety (as themselves), this illustrated memoir showcases their complicated but ultimately uplifting relationship. It also introduces readers to the helpful (and not-so-helpful) coping mechanisms Haley relies on. There's the Distractor, who wears a bright red boa and encourages Haley to avoid uncomfortable feelings by scrolling the Internet, the Liar, who teaches Haley the pillars of a good fib to survive the middle school lunch table, and even the Partier, who gives Haley a social life but also lands her in the ER.

Give Me Space but Don't Go Far brings to life the pivotal moments of Haley's life and illuminates the lesson she's learned: With care, practice, and sound strategies, we can learn to coexist with our anxiety—and maybe even love it.

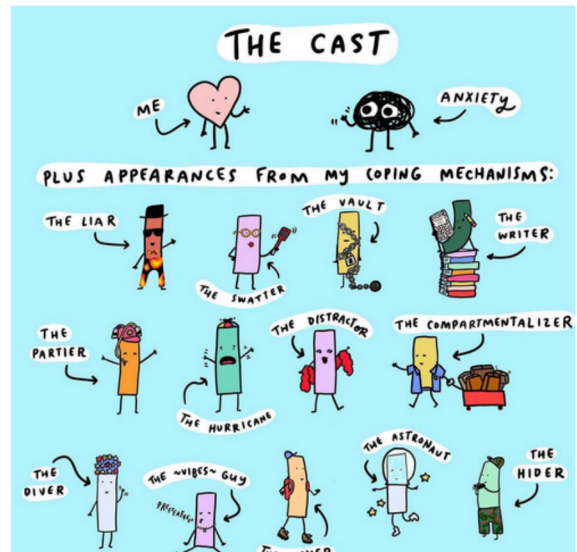


Avery // April 2024



Haley Weaver (@haleydrewthis) is an illustrator and writer whose work focuses on mental health, relationships, and selfhood. Her illustrations have been featured on notable accounts and websites including *Bustle*, *Betches*, *New York Magazine*, *the Huffington Post*, and *Bored Panda*. She lives in Seattle with her partner and, of course, her anxiety.

“Haley Weaver deftly uses the comics format to present a range of characters as simple shapes—herself, other people, and a chatty range of coping mechanisms—allowing her to present heavy material with sweetness and humor.”—**Ellen Forney**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Marbles*



“A heartwarming and empowering reminder of the wisdom and care that’s nested within our (sometimes scary and overwhelming) scribbly anxieties.”—**Ariella Elovic**, author of *Cheeky*

CINEMA LOVE

Jiaming Tang



**Debut
Fiction**

A staggering, tender epic about gay men in rural China and the women who marry them.

"The stories of the men and women in this book swallowed me whole, and I will never forget them."—**Vanessa Chan**, national bestselling author of *The Storm We Made*

For over thirty years, Old Second and Bao Mei have cobbled together a meager existence in New York City's Chinatown. But unlike other couples, these two share an unusual past. In rural Fuzhou, before they emigrated, they frequented the Workers' Cinema: a theater where gay men cruised for love.

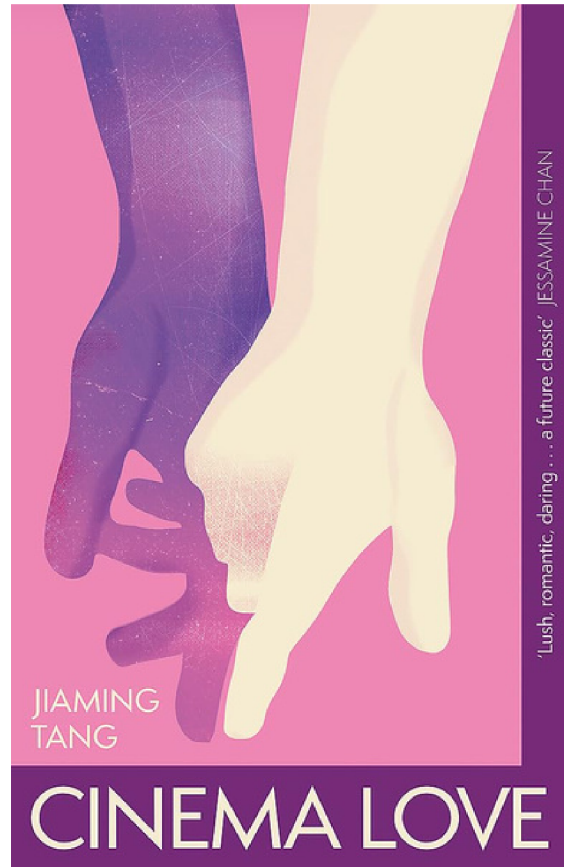
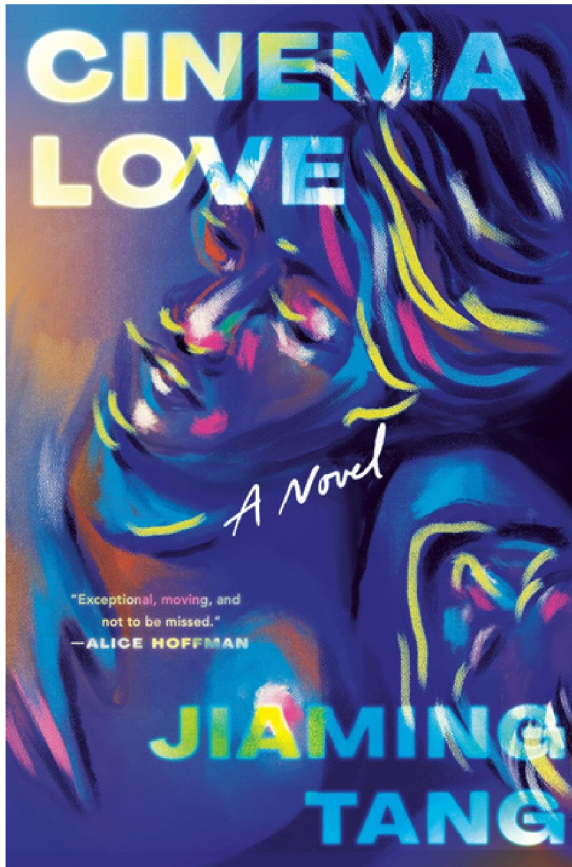
While classic war films played, Old Second and his countrymen found intimacy in the screening rooms. In the box office, Bao Mei sold movie tickets to closeted men, guarding their secrets and finding her own happiness with the projectionist. But when Old Second's passion for his male lover is revealed, a series of haunting events unfold, propelling these characters toward an uncertain future in America.

Spanning three timelines—post-socialist China, 1980s Chinatown, and contemporary New York—*Cinema Love* is an "exceptional" and "moving" (Alice Hoffman) epic about men and women who find themselves in forbidden relationships; the weight of secrets; and the way memory forever haunts the present.

Dutton // May 2024

John Murray (UK) / Edizioni E/O (Italy) / Klett-Cotta (Germany) / Czarna (Poland)

“*Cinema Love* is not just an extraordinary debut but a future classic”—
Jessamine Chan, author of *The School for Good Mothers*



"Gentle and fierce, heartbreaking without sacrificing its sense of humor, *Cinema Love* perfectly mines the difficult-to-reach space between agony and pleasure. . . . I found myself breathless until the very end. This is the unforgettable work of a patient master."

Robert Jones, Jr., author of National Book Award-finalist *The Prophets*

Jiaming Tang is a queer immigrant writer. He holds an MFA from the University of Alabama, and his writing has appeared in *AGNI*, *Lit Hub*, *Joyland*, and elsewhere. He is a 2022-23 Center for Fiction Emerging Writer Fellow and lives in Brooklyn. *Cinema Love* is his first novel.

I CAN FIX THIS

And Other Lies I Told Myself While Parenting My Struggling Child

Kristina Kuzmič



From the author of *Hold On, But Don't Hold Still*, the emotional and eye-opening account of a mother who navigates the numerous best practices and urgent advice from parenting authorities in search of a way to support her teen as he maps his own path to mental health.

When Kristina Kuzmič started to see signs that her otherwise sunny, resilient teenage son was struggling, she was sure a few simple fixes could right the ship. But over the following months, the issues her family faced became more nuanced, complicated, and pervasive than she could've predicted—and what began as a clear to do list spiraled into an emotionally fraught and seemingly endless push and pull between signs of progress and overwhelming fear.

Despite her best efforts, Kuzmič had internalized a set of obligations, ideas, and unrealistic standards from parenting culture and social media that left her unprepared to guide her child when he needed her most. Featuring an urgent and affirming foreword by renowned and *New York Times*-bestselling clinician Dr. Shefali Tsabary—Kuzmič's new book debunks ten "parenting truths" that kept her in crisis, and delves into her insecurities and the mistakes she made to reveal invaluable lessons and transformative approaches that worked.

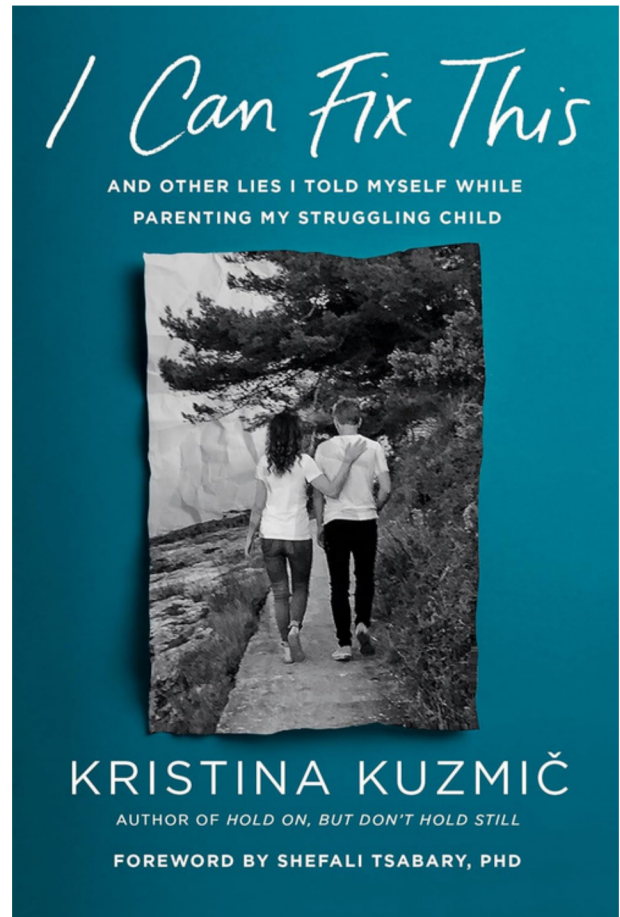
While her family stands on the other side now stronger than ever, Kuzmič's journey calls to parents who have felt the instinct to say "I can fix this" in situations where good intentions far exceed our abilities to enact change.

Penguin Life (world English) // May 2024

Option holders: Madinska (Slovenia) / Ikar (Slovakia) / Univers (Romania) / LifeTime (Bulgaria) / Jalees (world Arabic) / Liūtai ne avys (Lithuania) / Profil (Croatia)



“Kristina’s ability to share the darkest, most vulnerable moments on her son’s path toward wholeness is the most rewarding element of this book.”—**Shefali Tsabary Ph.D.** (from her foreword)



Kristina Kuzmič was born in Croatia and is a world-renowned speaker known for her unique insight and humor on family-related topics. She currently lives with her husband in Southern California, where her most important, rewarding, and exhausting careers include being a sanitation engineer, chef, chauffeur, and conflict-resolution guru for her three (mostly satisfied) clients—her children.

THIS ORDINARY STARDUST

A Scientist's Path from Grief to Wonder

Alan Townsend



Memoir

A compassionate, vulnerable, and transformative exploration of the nurturing and spiritual power of scientific wonder.

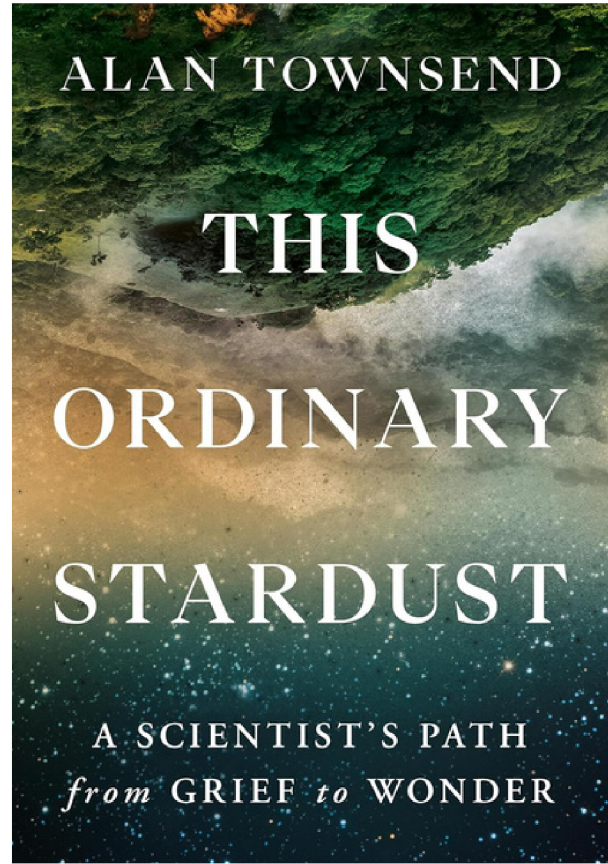
"*This Ordinary Stardust* is a wondrous book that reduced me to tears and brought me a fresh perspective on life, death, and the bittersweet consequences of impermanence."—**Jon Krakauer**

A decade ago, Dr. Alan Townsend's family received two unthinkable, catastrophic diagnoses: his 4-year-old daughter and his brilliant scientist wife developed unrelated, life-threatening forms of brain cancer. As he witnessed his young daughter fight during the courageous final months of her mother's life, Townsend – a lifelong scientist – was indelibly altered. He began to see scientific inquiry as more than a source of answers to a given problem, but also as a lifeboat: a lens on the world that could help him find peace with the painful realities he could not change. Through scientific wonder, he found ways to bring meaning to his darkest period.

At a time when society's relationship with science is increasingly polarized while threats to human life on earth continue to rise, Townsend offers a balanced, moving perspective on the common ground between science and religion through the spiritual fulfillment he found in his work. Awash in Townsend's electrifying and breathtaking prose, *This Ordinary Stardust* offers hope that life can carry on even in the face of near-certain annihilation.

Grand Central // June 2024

"This is an extraordinary, powerful book full of science and suffering, spirit and love. It's rare to encounter such a rich mix, and Townsend's steady voice makes it all work."—**David Quammen**, author of *The Heartbeat of the Wild*



"Townsend shows us — in a way that nobody else could—how scientists are first and foremost people, with hearts both delicate and resilient."—**Hope Jahren**, author of National Book Critic's Circle Award-winning *Lab Girl*

Dr. Alan R. Townsend is a scientist, author, speaker, and dean of the University of Montana's W. A. Franke College of Forestry and Conservation. He is a highly cited author of more than 140 scientific articles and has served in multiple prominent leadership roles. He was named an Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellow and a Google Science Communication Fellow and was one of six scientists chosen to be in the Let Science Speak documentary film series, which premiered at the 2018 Tribeca TV Festival. He lives in Montana with his family and two ridiculous dogs.

THE DISSONANCE

Shaun Hamil



Fiction

From the acclaimed author of *A Cosmology of Monsters* ("I loved it."—Stephen King) comes an epic contemporary fantasy, a mixture of *The Magicians* and *It: a story of dark magic, terrible mistakes, and second chances.*

This wildly imaginative, thrilling, time-hopping, magic and monsters epic feels authentic and lived in. Not sure how Shaun did it. The jerk."

—**Paul Tremblay**, author of *The Cabin at the End of the World*

"You can never go home again," the saying goes—but Hal, Athena, and Erin have to. In high school, the three were trained by the eccentric Professor Marsh in a secret system of magic known as the Dissonance, which is built around harnessing negative emotions: alienation, anger, pain. When a tragedy shattered their coven, they were scattering across the country, stuck in mundane lives.

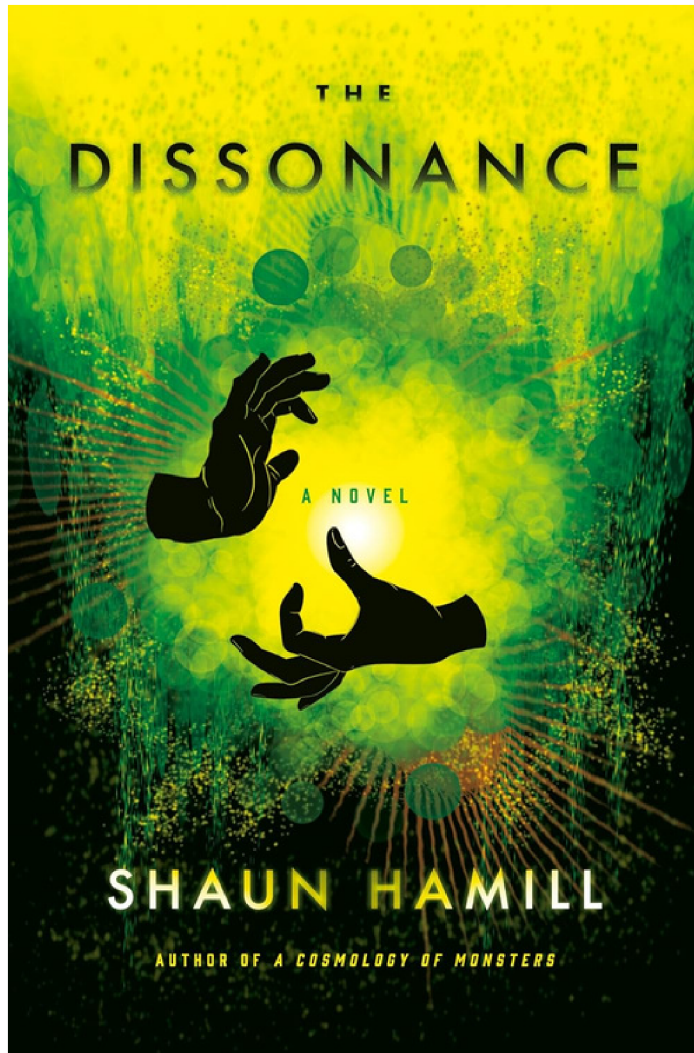
But now, terrifying signs and portents have summoned them back to Texas where their paths will collide with that of Owen, a teenager whose aborted seance summoned a murderous entity who kidnapped Owen to serve as its Renfield. As Owen tries to outwit his new master, Hal, Athena, and Erin reckon with how the choices they made as teens connect to the apocalyptic event unfurling over the Lone Star State. Shocking alliances form, old and new romances brew, and three unsuccessful adults and one frightened teen are all that stand between reality and oblivion.

From one of the boldest, most brilliant voices in modern fantastical horror, *The Dissonance* is a thrilling and beautifully written story of magic and monsters, forgiveness and friendship.

Pantheon // July 2024

Titan (UK) / Albin Michel (France)

"You won't read another novel quite like it this year, or perhaps ever in this life—or even beyond it."—**Clay McLeod Chapman**, author of *What Kind of Mother and Ghost Eaters*



"A brilliantly rendered tale of friendship, redemption, cosmic horror, and so much heart, *The Dissonance* cements Hamill as a master world-builder and one of the most exciting voices in fantasy today. I already want to reread this book."
—**Erin A. Craig**, #1 *New York Times*-bestselling author of *House of Roots and Ruin*



Shaun Hamill received his BA in English from the University of Texas at Arlington and his MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He is the author of *A Cosmology of Monsters*, and his fiction has appeared in *Carve* and *Tor Nightfire's Come Join Us By the Fire 2*. He currently lives and works in North Texas.

MAKE SURE YOU DIE SCREAMING

Zee Carlstrom



**Debut
Fiction**

A loud, fast-paced debut that punches the road-trip novel right in the face.

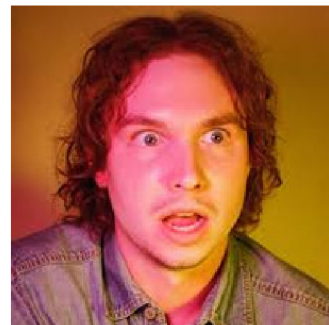
The newly nameless narrator of *Make Sure You Die Screaming* has rejected the gender binary, flamed out with a vengeance at their corporate job, is most likely brain damaged from a major tussle with their now ex-boyfriend, and is drinking enough booze for two people .

A call from their mother with the news that their conspiracy-theorist father has gone missing, launches the narrator from Chicago to Deep Red Arkansas in a stolen car and their new bestie in tow—a self-proclaimed "garbage goth" with her own emotional baggage (and someone on her tail). Along the way, they unpack the narrator's childhood, one ruled by the whims of their father's anger and paranoia, and a recent personal loss they would rather eat glass than face.

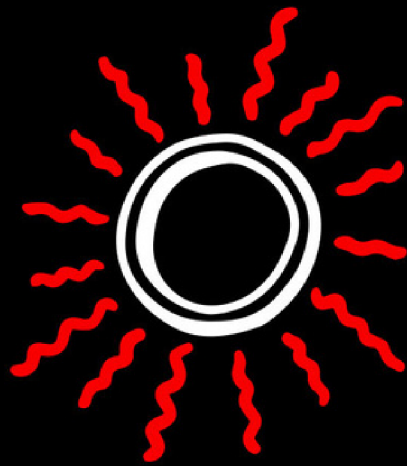
An unflinching interrogation of class rage, economic (im)mobility, the liberal/conservative divide, toxic masculinity, and the rot at the heart of capitalism, *Make Sure You Die Screaming* is the loud, funny, tragic, fucked-up enby road-trip novel of our times.

Zee Carlstrom is a creative director and writer from Illinois. They live in Brooklyn.

Flatiron // Spring 2025



Recently Published



THIS AMERICAN EX-WIFE

How I Ended My Marriage and Started My Life

Lyz Lenz



Memoir

A deeply validating manifesto on the gender politics of marriage (bad) and divorce (actually pretty good!) in America today, and an argument that the former needs a reboot—from journalist and proud divorcée Lyz Lenz

*“This American Ex-Wife is a bomb, a bouquet (but not a wedding bouquet), a memoir, a manifesto, and a total joy to read.”—Rebecca Solnit, author of *Men Explain Things to Me**

Studies show that nearly 70 percent of divorces are initiated by women—women who are tired, fed up, exhausted, and unhappy. We’ve all seen how the media portrays divorcées: sad, lonely, drowning their sorrows in a bottle of wine. Lyz Lenz is one such woman whose life fell apart after she reached a breaking point in her twelve-year marriage. But she refused to take part in that tired narrative and decided to flip the script on divorce.

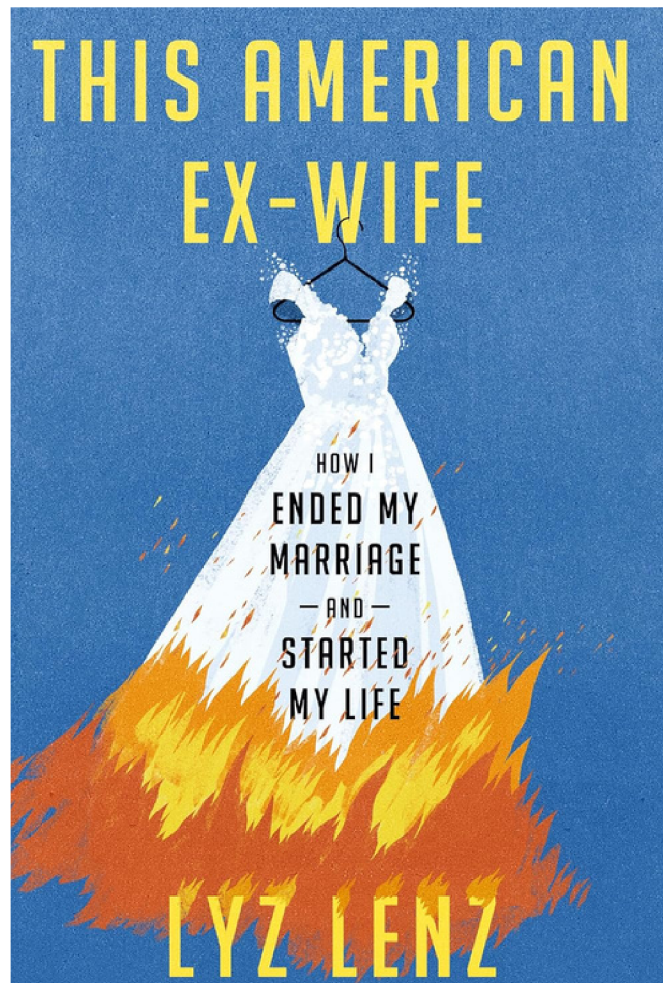
In this exuberant and unapologetic book, Lenz makes an argument for the advantages of getting divorced, framing it as a practical and effective solution for women to take back the power they are owed. Weaving reportage with sociological research and literature with popular culture along with personal stories of coming together and breaking up, Lenz creates a kaleidoscopic and poignant portrait of American marriage today. She argues that the mechanisms of American power, justice, love, and gender equality remain deeply flawed, and that marriage, like any other cultural institution, is due for a reckoning. A raucous argument for acceptance, solidarity, and collective female refusal, *This American Ex-Wife* takes readers on a riveting ride—while pointing us all toward a life that is a little more free.

Crown // February 2024



“Far from being a sign of failure, divorce, she argues persuasively, can be a source of liberation. . . . A well-researched, acerbic critique of a sacred institution.”—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Lenz guides us to explode the dishonest fairy tales and shake off the suffocatingly gendered expectations around love, partnership, and domestic responsibility. *This American Ex-Wife* is a pleasure and an inspiration.”—**Rebecca Traister**, author of *Good and Mad*



Lyz Lenz is a journalist and the author of *God Land* and *Belabored*. She has written for *Insider*, *The New York Times*, *Marie Claire*, and *The Washington Post*. Lenz also writes the newsletter “Men Yell at Me,” about the intersection of politics and personhood in red-state America. She lives in Iowa with her two kids.

AMERICAN GIRLS

One Woman's Journey into the Islamic State and
Her Sister's Fight to Bring Her Home

Jessica Roy



Current
Events

A brilliant, deeply reported narrative about religious extremism, radicalization, and the bonds of family.

"The narrative at the heart of *American Girls* is so remarkable it could have been scripted for Hollywood . . . [Roy] leans into the inherent drama of her tale, crafting a stranger-than-fiction thriller."

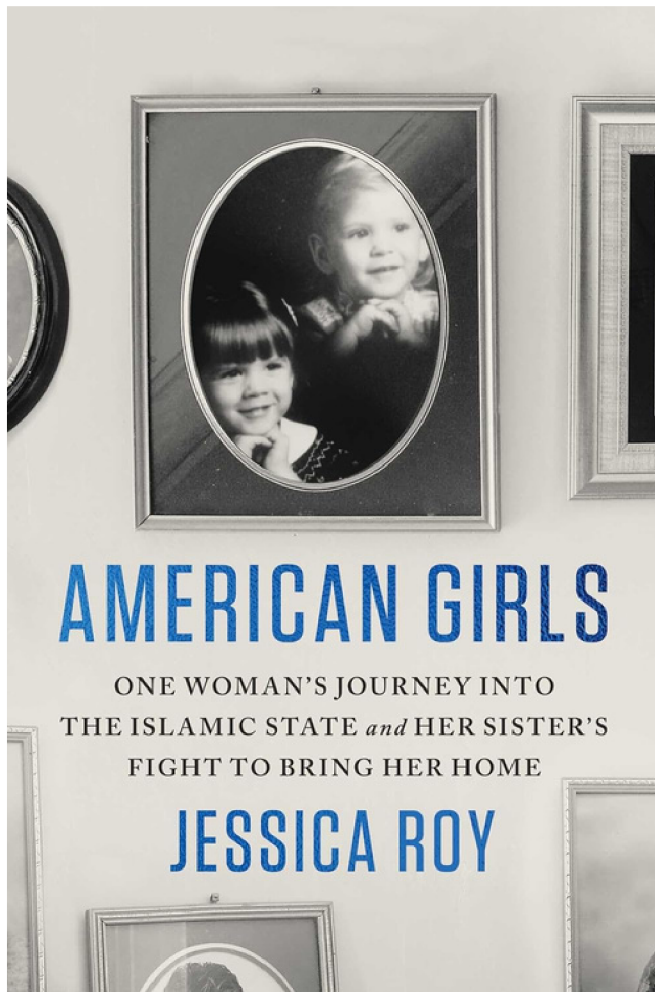
—*New York Times Book Review*

Raised in a restrictive Jehovah's Witness community, sisters Lori and Sam moved often, working low-wage jobs. Caught in an eternal sibling rivalry—where younger, quieter Lori protected outgoing, reckless Sam—the two women married a pair of brothers and settled down in Indiana, just around the corner from each other. And it was there that their lives totally diverged.

While Lori was left her violent marriage, Sam was drawn deeper into hers—and deeper into the control of a husband who became radicalized, as a jihadist via the internet. With their children, the couple moved to Syria, where Moussa fought for ISIS and Sam attempted to survive and protect her children from airstrikes, extremist indoctrination, and the brutality of ISIS. Sam's oldest son appeared in Islamic State propaganda videos, and she participated in ISIS's practice of enslaving Yezidi women and children. Sam claimed her husband coerced her to move, but Lori—who quit her job and worked tirelessly to try get Sam out of Syria—wasn't so sure.

American Girls combines an in-depth examination of Sam and Lori's lives with on-the-ground reporting from Iraq, providing readers with a rare glimpse into the world of American women who join ISIS.

Scribner // January 2024



"The details are shocking, but Roy provides a chilling reminder that this could happen to anyone."

—Kirkus

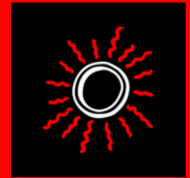


"[*American Girls*] uses incisive, on-the-ground reporting to explore how, even through experiences with abusive partners, poverty, and religious extremism, it's the bond of sisterhood that is perhaps most complicated of all."—*Elle Magazine*

Jessica Roy is a journalist and editor who splits her time between Paris and the United States. Previously, she served as the Digital Director of *Elle* magazine, where she oversaw content and strategy for the website. Jessica has also worked as a writer and editor at *The Cut*, *Time*, and *The New York Observer*, and is an adjunct professor at New York University, where she teaches writing and editing for digital platforms.

NO ONE DIES YET

Kobby Ben Ben



**Debut
Fiction**

A genre-breaking novel from a powerful new African voice.

“A book that brims with possibilities, contradictions, jokes, puzzles, detours, ambiguities, secrets and metafictional tricks and twists.”

—**Yagnishsing Dawoor**, *The Guardian*

How do you begin a murder story starring a curious foreigner and an opportunistic local without giving away the entire plot—who died and why? You start with the obvious villain.

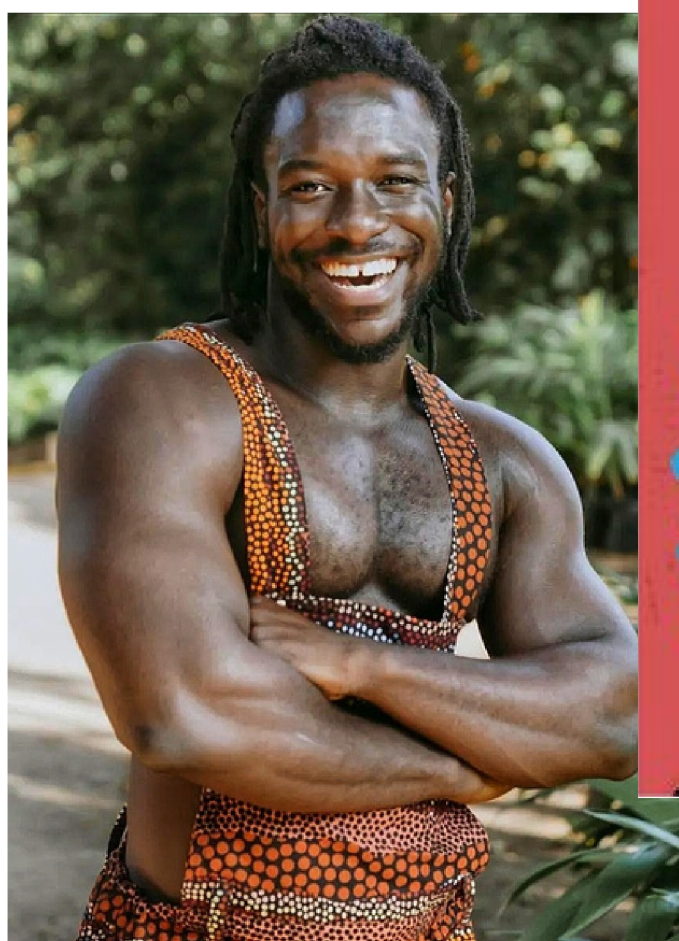
It is 2019, The Year of Return. Ghana is inviting Black diasporans to return and get to know the land of their enslaved ancestors. Elton, Vincent, and Scott arrive from America to explore Ghana’s colonial past, and to experience the country’s underground queer scene. Their visit and activities are narrated by two very different Ghanians: the exuberant and rebellious Kobby, who is their guide to Accra’s privileged and queer circles; and Nana, the voice of tradition and religious principle. Neither is very trustworthy and the tense relationship between them sets the tone for what turns into a gripping, energetically told, and often funny tale of murder reminiscent of the novels of Patricia Highsmith, Graham Greene, Chinua Achebe, and Alain Mabanckou.

Europa Editions // August 2023 (UK)

February 2024 (US)

Edizioni E/O (Italy)

“The sheer wonder of Ben Ben’s narrative design anchors the reader in the immersive maelstrom of voices. The results are propulsive and deliciously irreverent in equal measure.”—*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)



Kobby Ben Ben was born in Ghana, where he is a prominent book reviewer and runs the African Book Club and the Ghana Must Read website. His eccentric Instagram book blog, @bookworm_man, has caught the attention of Booker Prize-winner Bernardine Evaristo, as well as Maaza Mengiste and Petina Gappah, among others. *No One Dies Yet* is his first novel.

DELIVER ME

Elle Nash



Fiction

"Audacious, disturbing, and utterly unique, *Deliver Me* is body horror at its most shocking and unforgettable." — Eric LaRocca, Bram Stoker Award Winner and author of *Things Have Gotten Worse Since We Last Spoke*

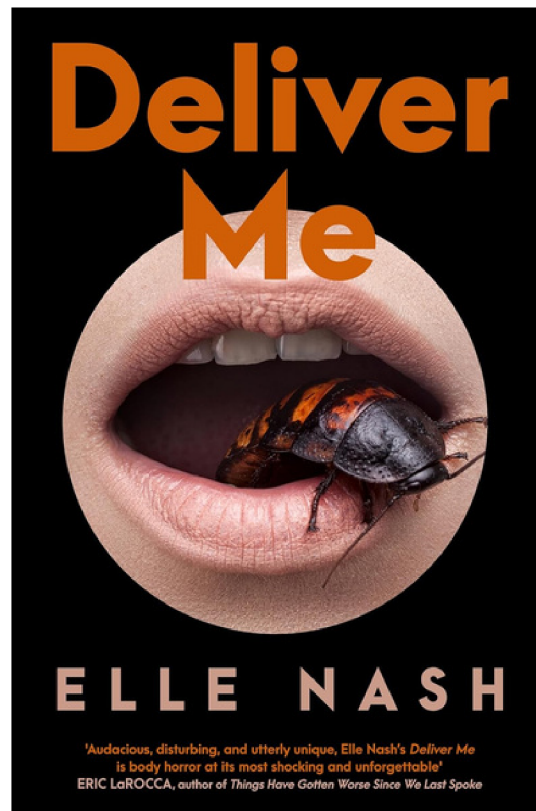
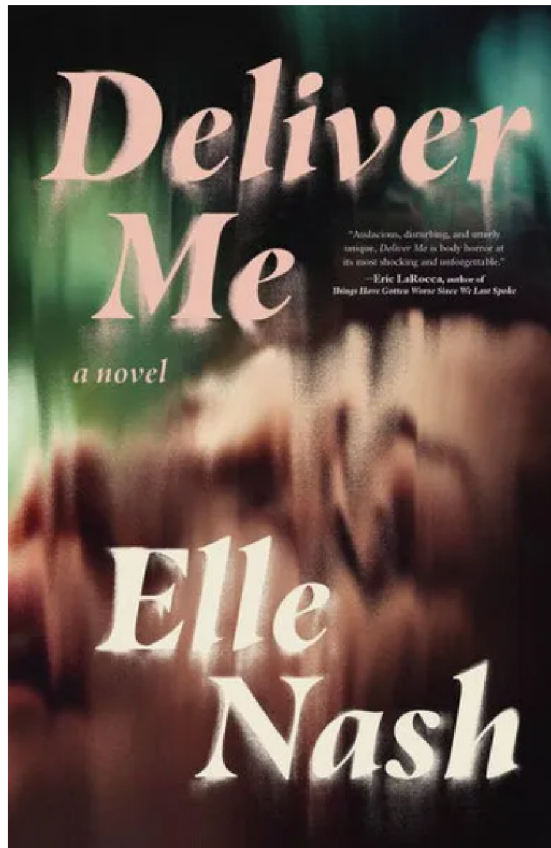
At a meatpacking facility in the Missouri Ozarks, Dee-Dee and her co-workers kill and butcher 40,000 chickens in a single shift. The work is repetitive and brutal, with each stab and cut a punishment to her hands and joints, but Dee-Dee's more concerned with what is happening inside her body. After a series of devastating miscarriages, Dee-Dee has found herself pregnant, and she is determined to carry this child to term.

Dee-Dee fled the Pentecostal church years ago, but judgment follows her in the form of regular calls from her mother, whose raspy voice urges Dee-Dee to quit living in sin and marry her boyfriend Daddy, an underemployed ex-con with an insect fetish. With a child on the way, at long last Dee-Dee can bask in her mother's and boyfriend's newfound parturient attention. She will matter. She will be loved. She will be complete.

When her charismatic friend Sloane reappears after a twenty-year absence, feeding her insecurities and awakening suppressed desires, Dee-Dee fears she will go back to living in the shadows. Neither the ultimate indignity of yet another miscarriage nor Sloane's own pregnancy deters her: she must prepare for the baby's arrival.

Unnamed Press // October 2023

Verve (UK) / Pidgin (Italy)

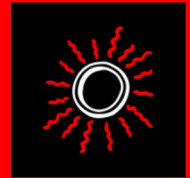


Brilliant, fearless, and utterly deranged, *Deliver Me* is a gift to readers who love a seriously unhinged woman. Nash spelunks in the depths of human depravity and leaves readers gasping. A wild, disturbing, super-smart novel,”
—**Chelsea G. Summers**, author of *A Certain Hunger*

Elle Nash is the author of the novel *Animals Eat Each Other* and the story collection *Nudes*. Her work has appeared in *Guernica*, *Adroit*, *The Creative Independent*, *Hazlitt*, *Literary Hub*, *Cosmopolitan*, *New York Tyrant* and elsewhere. She is a founding editor of *Witch Craft Magazine* and a fiction editor at *Hobart Pulp*. She lives in Edinburgh.

RIPE

Sarah Rose Etter



Literary
Fiction

A surreal novel with “a dark, delicious edge” (Time) about a woman in Silicon Valley who must decide how much she’s willing to give up for success—from an award-winning writer whose work Roxane Gay calls “utterly unique and remarkable.”

National Bestseller

A year into her dream job at a cutthroat Silicon Valley start-up, Cassie is trapped in a corporate nightmare. Between the long hours, toxic bosses, and unethical projects, she also struggles to reconcile the glittering promise of a city where obscene wealth lives alongside abject poverty and suffering. Ivy League grads complain about the snack selection from a conference room with a view of houseless people bathing in the bay. Start-up burnouts leap into the paths of commuter trains, and men literally set themselves on fire in the streets.

Though isolated, Cassie is never alone. From her earliest memory, a miniature black hole has been her constant companion. It feeds on her depression and anxiety, growing or shrinking in relation to her distress. The black hole watches, but it also waits. Its relentless pull draws Cassie ever closer as the world around her unravels.

As her CEO’s demands cross into illegal territory, she finds herself pregnant, and Cassie must decide whether the tempting fruits of Silicon Valley are worth cost. Sharp but vulnerable, funny yet unsettling, *Ripe* portrays one woman’s journey through our late-capitalist hellscape and offers a brilliantly incisive look at the absurdities of modern life.

Scribner // July 2023

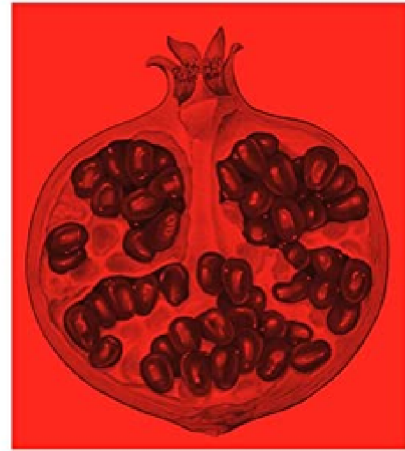
Verve (UK) / Horror Vacui (Spain) / La Nuova
Frontiera (Italy)

“Sharp . . . absorbing . . . unforgettable . . .
Etter’s exquisite prose powers the book. . . .
[She] expertly diverts the novel from neat
or didactic tropes. . . . [and] accomplishes
what we seek in fiction: a deeply human
connection.”—*New York Times Book Review*

“A novel like no other. . . . Etter’s work is
undoubtedly surreal, but then so is
American life today. She knows how to
channel its contradictions because she
lives them. . . . *Ripe* hits very close to
home.” —*Los Angeles Times*

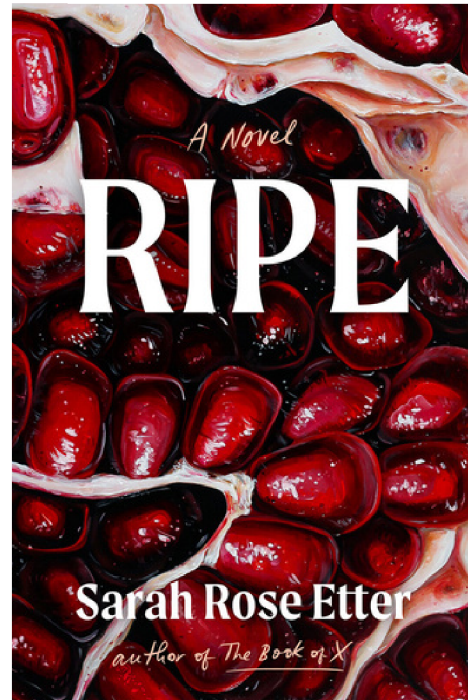


RIPE



“A TRIUMPHANT, DARKLY GORGEOUS TIGHTROPE
BETWEEN THE BITTER AND BEAUTIFUL”
— SOPHIE MACKINTOSH

SARAH ROSE ETTER



Sarah Rose Etter is the author of *Tongue Party* and *The Book of X*, winner of a 2019 Shirley Jackson Award. Her work has appeared in *Guernica*, *BOMB*, *Gulf Coast*, *The Cut*, *VICE*, *TIME*, among other publications. She earned her B.A. in English from Pennsylvania State University and her MFA in Fiction from Rosemont College. She lives in Los Angeles.

UNDER THE EYE OF POWER:

How Fear of Secret Societies Shapes American Democracy

Colin Dickey



History

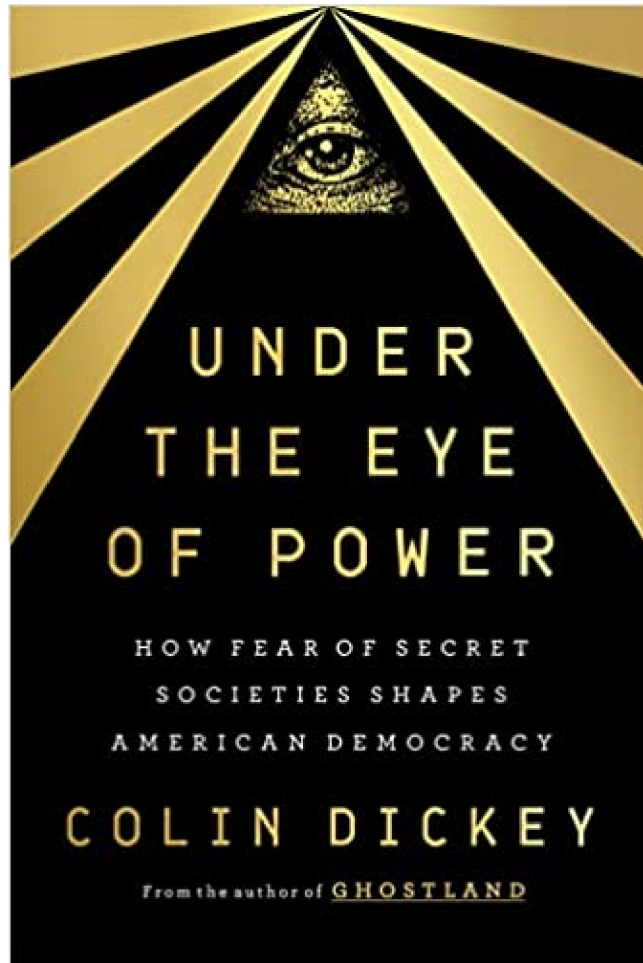
From beloved cultural historian and acclaimed author of *Ghostland* comes a history of America's obsession with secret societies and the conspiracies of hidden power

The United States was born in paranoia. From the American Revolution (thought by some to be a conspiracy organized by the French) to the Salem witch trials to the Satanic Panic, the Illuminati, and QAnon, one of the most enduring narratives that defines the United States is simply this: secret groups are conspiring to pervert the will of the people and the rule of law. We'd like to assume these panics exist only at the fringes of society, or are unique features of the internet age. But history tells us, in fact, that they are woven into the fabric of American democracy.

Cultural historian Colin Dickey has built a career studying how our most irrational beliefs reach the mainstream, why, and what they tell us about ourselves. In *Under the Eye of Power*, Dickey charts the history of America through its paranoias and fears of secret societies, while seeking to explain why so many people—including some of the most powerful people in the country—continue to subscribe to these conspiracy theories. Paradoxically, he finds, belief in the fantastical and conspiratorial can be more soothing than what we fear the most: the chaos and randomness of history, the rising and falling of fortunes in America, and the messiness of democracy. Only in seeing the cycle of this history, Dickey says, can we break it.

Viking // July 2023

"Roaming from the Freemasons to QAnon, this tour of American moral panics amid social upheaval and downturn is a bracing reminder that conspiratorial thinking is nothing new."—*New York Times Book Review's* "Editors' Choice"



Colin Dickey is the author of multiple books, including *Ghostland: An American History in Haunted Places*, and *The Unidentified: Mythical Monsters, Alien Encounters, and Our Obsession with the Unexplained*. A regular contributor to the *New Republic* and *Lapham's Quarterly*, he is also the coeditor of *The Morbid Anatomy Anthology*. With a PhD in comparative literature from the University of Southern California, he is an associate professor of creative writing at National University.

MADAME RESTELL

The Life, Death, and Resurrection of Old New York's Most Fabulous, Fearless, and Infamous Abortioneer Jennifer Ashley Wright



History/
Biography

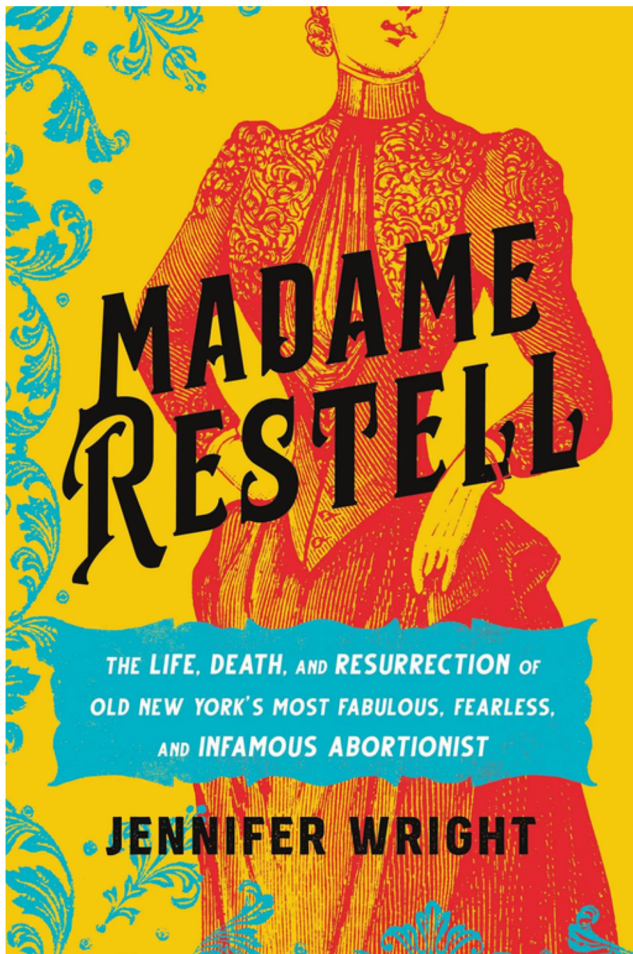
**The story of one of the boldest women in American history:
self-made millionaire, a celebrity in her era, a woman
beloved by her patients and despised by the men who
wanted to control them.**

An industrious immigrant who built her business from the ground up, Madame Restell was a self-taught surgeon on the cutting edge of healthcare in pre-Gilded Age New York, and her bustling “boarding house” provided birth control, abortions, and medical assistance to thousands of women—rich and poor alike. As her practice expanded, her notoriety swelled, and Restell established herself as a prime target for tabloids, threats, and lawsuits galore.

Her rise to the top of her field coincided with a campaign to curtail women’s power by restricting their access to both healthcare and careers of their own. Powerful, secular men were eager to declare abortion sinful, a position endorsed by newly-minted male MDs who longed to edge out their feminine competition and turn medicine into a standardized, male-only practice. By unraveling the misogynistic and misleading lies that put women’s lives in jeopardy, Wright simultaneously restores Restell to her rightful place in history and obliterates the faulty reasoning underlying the very foundation of what has since been dubbed the “pro-life” movement.

Thought-provoking, character-driven, boldly written, and feminist as hell, Madame Restell is required reading for anyone and everyone who believes that when it comes to women’s rights, women’s bodies, and women’s history, women should have the last word.

Hachette Books // February 2023

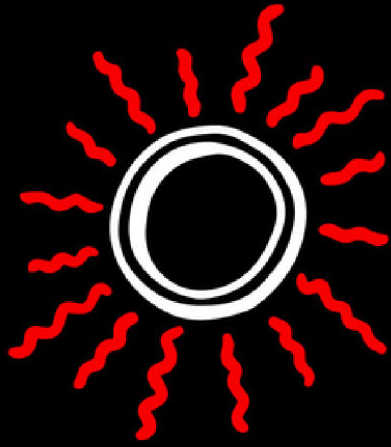


"Painfully timely... Wright observes that Americans don't take well to learning history. When it is delivered with this kind of blunt force, however, perhaps they might. Whatever readers end up thinking of Madame Restell, they surely cannot miss the core lesson: that there has never been a culture in human history without abortion. The only variable has ever been the cost."—*New York Times Book Review*

"Restell is central to the story of the dismantling of American women's reproductive freedom during the last half of the nineteenth century [This work] fill[s] a grievous void . . . Wright . . . has produced an engaging . . . chronicle, with clear passion."—*New York Review of Books*



Jennifer Ashley Wright is the author of several pop history books, including *It Ended Badly: 13 of the Worst Breakups in History* and *Get Well Soon: History's Worst Plagues and the Heroes That Fought Them* (winner of Audible's Best History Book of 2017). Previously, she was the political editor-at-large for *Harper's Bazaar*. She lives in Los Angeles with her husband and their daughter.



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