

# SPARKPRESS CATALOG 2024



*SparkPress is an independent, hybrid imprint focused on merging the best of the traditional publishing model, such as manuscript vetting and traditional distribution through Publishers Group West, with new and innovative strategies, such as higher royalties and more creative control for authors. We are proud to bring to market this list of New York Times best-selling, award-winning, and debut authors with an array of fiction and nonfiction titles to entertain, empower, and change readers everywhere.*

**GoSparkPress.com**



# HIGHLIGHTS

Since launching in 2014, SparkPress has . . .

Published more than  
40 best-selling authors

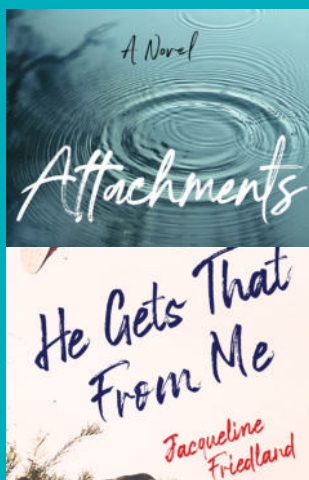
Sold multiple rights in foreign  
countries and film rights

Sold and transitioned a  
best-selling book series to  
HarperCollins

Seen its authors earn  
more than 350 awards and  
finalist titles



SPARK Award for  
Excellence in Independent  
Publishing for Children:  
Illustrated Book category



2021 Kirkus Indie  
Books of the Year



2022 *USA Today*  
best seller  
2022 American Fiction  
Awards Winner in  
Family Saga, General  
Fiction, and LGBTQ+  
Fiction  
*USA Today* Best Seller



Series winner of 17  
awards, including 2  
IBPA Benjamin Franklin  
Awards Gold medals.

SparkPress has received rave reviews from . . .

## Booklist

*The House Children*  
*Echoes of War*  
*Tree Dreams*  
*So Close*  
*The Frontman*  
*Hindsight*

## LIBRARY JOURNAL

*The Leaving Year*,  
starred review  
*The House that Made  
Me*, starred review  
*A Dangerous Woman  
from Nowhere*  
*The Thorn Queen*,  
starred review

## PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

*Firewall*  
*Hindsight*, starred  
review  
*Girl With a Gun*  
*Deepest Blue*  
*Resistant*

## KIRKUS

*Above the Star*  
*Just Like February*  
*The House Children*  
*The Restless Hungarian*  
*Rubicus Prophecy*  
*Attachments*  
*He Gets That From Me*

# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## SPRING 2024

<i>The Die</i> by Jude Berman .....	15
<i>Iniquity</i> by Laurie Buchanan .....	16
<i>When Happily Ever After Fails</i> by Courtney Deane .....	17
<i>This Animal Body</i> by Meredith Walters .....	18
<i>Burner</i> by Mike Trigg .....	19
<i>Walk the Web Lightly</i> by Mary Pascual .....	20
<i>High Priestess and Empress</i> by Susan Wands .....	21
<i>The Ogma Stone</i> by Alane Adams .....	22
<i>Amaranth</i> by Jen Braaksma .....	23
<i>The Goldilocks Genome</i> by Elizabeth Reed Aden .....	24
<i>City of Books</i> by Nicole Meier .....	25
<i>The Grandest Garden</i> by Gina L. Carroll .....	26
<i>Anna Bright Is Hiding Something</i> by Susie Orman Schnall .....	27
<i>Love Bombed</i> by Kenni Elle King .....	28



## FALL 2023

<i>Algorithms</i> by Sid Balman Jr. ....	30
<i>The Truth About Horses</i> by Christy Cashman .....	31
<i>The Stockwell Letters</i> by Jacqueline Friedland .....	32
<i>Ride or Die</i> by Jarie Bolander .....	33
<i>This Time Could Be Different</i> by Khristin Wierman .....	34
<i>MoneyWise Mabel's Bursting Bank</i> by Kalee Boisvert .....	35
<i>Follow the Shadows</i> by Rosemary Drisdelle .....	36
<i>Blood Divided</i> by Katie Keridan .....	37
<i>Beyond a Thousand Words</i> by Michael Rose .....	38
<i>Magic By Any Other Name</i> by Alison Levy .....	39

## SPRING 2023

<i>Impervious</i> by Laurie Buchanan .....	41
<i>The French Lover's Wife</i> by Janet Garber .....	42
<i>Mastering the Art of Entertaining at Home</i> by Joseph Marini .....	43
<i>Shadows We Carry</i> by Meryl Ain .....	44
<i>Magician and Fool</i> by Susan Wands .....	45
<i>Next of Twin</i> by Jass Aujla .....	46
<i>The Byways</i> by Mary Pascual .....	47
<i>The Garden of Second Chances</i> by Mona Alvarado Frazier .....	48
<i>Secrets and Revenge</i> by Noel F. Caraccio .....	49
<i>The Belonger</i> by Mary Kathleen Mehuron .....	50
<i>A Hundred Days Till Tomorrow</i> by L. S. Case .....	51
<i>Worldwide Crush</i> by Kristin Nilsen .....	52

## FALL 2022

<i>Hello, Goodbye</i> by Kate Stollenwerck .....	56
<i>Bit Flip</i> by Mike Trigg .....	57
<i>The Year Without a Summer</i> by Arlene Mark.....	58
<i>The Fun Master</i> by Jeff Seitzer .....	59
<i>The Gray Bird of Baghdad</i> by Stephen Phillip Monteiro .....	60
<i>Evangeline's Heaven</i> by Jen Braaksma .....	61
<i>Buck's Pantry</i> by Khristin Wierman .....	62
<i>Reign Returned</i> by Katie Keridan .....	63
<i>Journey to the Heart Stone</i> by Catherine Raphael .....	64
<i>Relative Distance</i> by David Pruitt .....	65
<i>The Sorceress</i> by Alane Adams .....	66
<i>Blue Flame</i> by Alison Levy .....	67
<i>Drawing Outside the Lines</i> by Susan Austin .....	68
<i>The Last Huntress</i> by Lenore Borja .....	69
<i>The Phantom Glare of Day</i> by M. Laszlo .....	70
<i>My Big Heart-Shaped Fail</i> by Cindy Callaghan .....	71
<i>Love in the Age of Dragons</i> by Fatima R. Henson .....	72

## SPRING 2022

<i>The Lives of Diamond Bessie</i> by Jody Hadlock .....	74
<i>Sentient</i> by Gary Durbin .....	75
<i>A Stream to Follow</i> by Jess Wright .....	76
<i>Hope, A History of the Future</i> by G.G. Kellner .....	77
<i>Iconoclast</i> by Laurie Buchanan .....	78
<i>The Bus to Beulah</i> by E.C. Hanes .....	79
<i>The Walled Garden</i> by Robin Farrar Maass .....	80
<i>A Letter in the Wall</i> by Eileen Brill .....	81
<i>A Week of Warm Weather</i> by Lee Bukowski .....	82
<i>The Spy's Wife</i> by Jane Elizabeth Hughes .....	83
<i>Sunday Afternoons and Other Times Remembered</i> by Ben Ewell.....	84
<i>The Well of Truth</i> by Elizabeth A. Gould .....	85
<i>Will's Surreal Period</i> by Robert Steven Goldstein .....	86

## BACKLIST 2021

### FALL 2021

<i>21 Questions</i> by Alexandria Rose Rizik .....	88
<i>Murmuration</i> by Sid Balman Jr. ....	89
<i>The Long-Lost Jules</i> by Jane Elizabeth Hughes .....	90
<i>Dovetails in the Tall Grass</i> by Samantha Specks .....	91
<i>Riding High in April</i> by Jackie Townsend .....	92
<i>Cold Snap</i> by Codi Schneider .....	93
<i>He Gets That from Me</i> by Jacqueline Friedland .....	94
<i>The Sorting Room</i> by Michael Rose .....	95
<i>What They Didn't Burn</i> by Mel Laytner .....	96
<i>Final Table</i> by Dan Schorr .....	97
<i>The Girl Who Ruined Christmas</i> by Cindy Callaghan .....	98
<i>The Mermaid Queen</i> by Alane Adams .....	99
<i>Sissie Klein is Perfectly Normal</i> by Kris Clink .....	100
<i>Ski Weekend</i> by Rektok Ross .....	101

### SPRING 2021

<i>Goodbye Lark, Lovejoy</i> by Kris Clink .....	103
<i>Indelible</i> by Laurie Buchanan .....	104
<i>The Medusa Quest</i> by Alane Adams .....	105
<i>Those the Future Left Behind</i> by Patrick Meisch .....	106
<i>When We Were All Still Alive</i> by Keith McWalter .....	107
<i>Attachments</i> by Jeff Arch .....	108



## BACKLIST 2020

### FALL 2020

<i>The Takeaway Men</i> by Meryl Ain .....	110
<i>Charming Falls Apart</i> by Angela Terry .....	111
<i>The Journalist</i> by Jerry A. Rose and Lucy Rose Fischer .....	112
<i>A Place Called Zamora</i> by LB Gschwandtner .....	113
<i>Caley Cross and the Hadeon Drop</i> by Jeff Rosen .....	114
<i>Behind the Red Veil</i> by Frank Thoms .....	115
<i>Gatekeeper</i> by Alison Levy .....	116
<i>Imagine</i> by VII Foundation .....	117
<i>Absolution</i> by Regina Buttner .....	118
<i>Witch Wars</i> by Alane Adams .....	119
<i>Malcolm and Me</i> by Robin Farmer .....	120

### SPRING 2020

<i>The Eye of Zeus</i> by Alane Adams .....	122
<i>Wave Woman</i> by Vicky Heldreich Durand .....	123
<i>Urban Playground</i> by Katie Burke .....	124
<i>Child Bride</i> by Jennifer Smith Turner .....	125
<i>That's Not a Thing</i> by Jacqueline Friedland .....	126
<i>The Hairbrush and the Shoe</i> by Jeanne D. Stanton .....	127
<i>Inside the Sun</i> by Alexis Marie Chute .....	128
<i>Watermark</i> by Elise Schiller .....	129
<i>Enemy Queen</i> by Robert Steven Goldstein .....	130
<i>Sky of Water</i> by Stacey L. Tucker .....	131
<i>The Goddess Twins</i> by Yodassa Williams .....	132

## BACKLIST 2019

### FALL 2019

<i>A Song for the Road</i> by Rayne Lacko .....	134
<i>Even if Your Heart Would Listen</i> by Elise Schiller .....	135
<i>The Sea of Japan</i> by Keita Nagano .....	136
<i>Echoes of War</i> by Cheryl Campbell .....	137
<i>And Now There's You</i> by Susan S. Etkin .....	138
<i>Seventh Flag</i> by Sid Balman, Jr. ....	139
<i>Below the Moon</i> by Alexis Marie Chute .....	140
<i>The Rubicus Prophecy</i> by Alane Adams.....	141
<i>Roots and Wings</i> by Margery Kraus with Phyllis Piano .....	142
<i>Squirrels in the Wall</i> by Henry Hitz .....	143
<i>Raising a Doodle</i> by Theresa Piasta .....	144
<i>Firewall</i> by Eugenia Lovett West .....	145

### SPRING 2019

<i>The House Children</i> by Heidi Daniele .....	146
<i>Sarah's War</i> by Eugenia Lovett West .....	147
<i>The Restless Hungarian</i> by Tom Weidlinger .....	148
<i>Alchemy's Air</i> by Stacey L. Tucker .....	149
<i>Love You Like the Sky</i> by Sarah Neustadter, PhD .....	150
<i>Pursuits Unknown</i> by Ellen Clary .....	151

## BACKLIST 2018

### FALL 2018

<i>The Cast</i> by Amy Blumenfeld .....	153
<i>The Leaving Year</i> by Pam McGaffin .....	154
<i>Mission Afghanistan</i> by Elie Paul Cohen, translated by Jessica Levine .....	155
<i>The Thorn Queen</i> by Elise Holland .....	156
<i>Deepest Blue</i> by Mindy Tarquini .....	157
<i>Bedside Manners</i> by Heather Frimmer .....	158
<i>Resistant</i> by Rachael Sparks .....	159
<i>The Blue Witch</i> by Alane Adams .....	160
<i>The Circus Thief</i> by Alane Adams, illustrated by Lauren Gallegos.....	161

### SPRING 2018

<i>Engineering A Life</i> by Krishan K. Bedi .....	162
<i>The Frontman</i> by Ron Bahar.....	163
<i>Tree Dreams</i> by Kristin Kaye .....	164
<i>Just Like February</i> by Deborah Batterman .....	165
<i>The Opposite of Never</i> by Mary Kathleen Mehuron .....	166
<i>Trouble the Water</i> by Jacqueline Friedland .....	167
<i>Above the Star</i> by Alexis Marie Chute .....	168
<i>But Not Forever</i> by Jan Von Schleh .....	169



## BACKLIST 2017

### FALL 2017

<i>Love Reconsidered</i> by Phyllis J. Piano .....	171
<i>The Forbidden Temptation of Baseball</i> by Dori Jones Yang .....	172
<i>The Raven God</i> by Alane Adams .....	173
<i>A Dangerous Woman From Nowhere</i> by Kris Radish .....	174
<i>Quiet The Rage</i> by R.W. Burke .....	175
<i>Ocean's Fire</i> by Stacey Tucker .....	176
<i>Reading is Fun! Imagine That!</i> by Ruth A. Radmore .....	177
<i>The Infinite Now</i> by Mindy Tarquini .....	178
<i>The Santa Thief</i> by Alane Adams, illustrated by Lauren Gallegos .....	179
<i>Potty-Mouthed</i> by Anne Johnsos .....	180

### SPRING 2017

<i>The Absence of Evelyn</i> by Jackie Townsend .....	181
<i>Forks, Knives, and Spoons</i> by Leah DeCesare .....	182
<i>A Story That Matters</i> by Gina L. Carroll .....	183
<i>The Half-Life of Remorse</i> by Grant Jarrett .....	184
<i>The Rules of Half</i> by Jenna Patrick .....	185
<i>Alphonse</i> by Carl Sever .....	186
<i>Colorblind</i> by Leah Harper Bowron .....	187
<i>Wendy Darling, Volume 3: Shadow</i> by Colleen Oakes .....	188

## BACKLIST 2016

### FALL 2016

<i>Learning to Fall</i> by Anne Clermont .....	190
<i>Kalifus Rising</i> by Alane Adams .....	191
<i>First Rodeo</i> by Judith Hennessey .....	192
<i>Wendy Darling, Volume 2: Seas</i> by Colleen Oakes .....	193
<i>Hostile Takeover</i> by Phyllis J. Piano .....	194
<i>Found</i> by Emily Brett .....	195
<i>The Natives Are Restless</i> by Constance Hale .....	196
<i>Hindsight</i> by Mindy Tarquini .....	197

### SPRING 2016

<i>Funny Little Pregnant Things</i> by Emily Doherty .....	198
<i>The Egg Thief</i> by Alane Adams, illustrated by Lauren Gallegos (starred <i>Kirkus</i> review ) .....	199
<i>The House That Made Me</i> edited by Grant Jarrett (starred <i>Library Journal</i> review) .....	200
<i>The Goodbye Year</i> by Kaira Rouda .....	201
<i>Running for Water and Sky</i> by Sandra Kring .....	202
<i>The House of Bradbury</i> by Nicole Meier .....	203
<i>Within Reach</i> by Jessica Stevens .....	204
<i>25 Sense</i> by Lisa Henthorn .....	205
<i>The Alienation of Courtney Hoffman</i> by Brady Stefani .....	206
<i>So Close</i> by Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus .....	207
<i>Tracing the Bones</i> by Elise A. Miller .....	208
<i>Gridley Girls</i> by Meredith First .....	209





**SPRING 2024**



APRIL 2024



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E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-231-2

“... an imaginative tale alive with captivating ideas.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This book is a page-turner, and the suspense kept me on the edge of my seat. . . . masterfully written . . .”

—*Readers' Favorite, 5 stars*

# THE DIE

## A NOVEL

JUDE BERMAN

### DESCRIPTION:

Darah, a tech writer living in the democratic nation of California, is dismayed to see the game she's helping develop for a Silicon Valley tech company has been tampered with. When her hacker friend Jedd investigates, he uncovers a conspiracy that could change the nation—and the world.

With a circle of close friends, Jedd digs deeper and deeper into the darknet and exposes the unthinkable: an app is being developed that uses quantum computing and neuroscience to alter people's brains, totally unbeknownst to them. As the friends realize the devastating impact of this technology, they're presented with a dilemma: stay quiet and stay safe, or risk their lives to stand up to the international authoritarian force behind this plot?

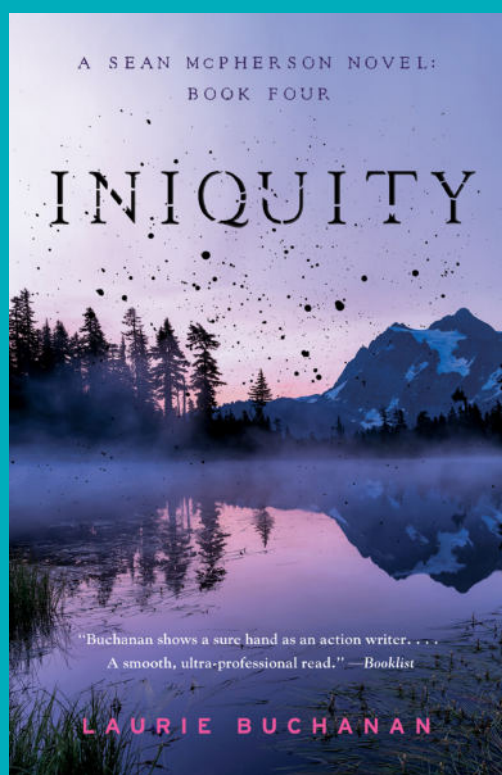
Combining activist, techno-thriller, and metaphysical fiction elements and scaffolded on three realities—the ancient wisdom of the Mahabharata, our current sociopolitical reality, and the near future—*The Die* is a fast-paced story about friendship, courage, and democracy.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jude Berman grew up amid floor-to-ceiling shelves of books in many languages. In addition to a love of literature, her refugee parents instilled in her a deep appreciation for cultural diversity and social justice. Jude has a BA in art from Smith College and an EdD in cross-cultural communication from UMass Amherst. After a career in academic research, she built a freelance writing and editing business and ran two small independent presses. In her free time, she volunteers for progressive causes, paints with acrylic watercolors, gardens, meditates, and blogs at [www.judeberman.org](http://www.judeberman.org). Jude lives in Berkeley, California, where she continues to work with authors and write fiction.



# APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 9, 2024

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“A propulsive plot with engaging characters . . .”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Buchanan shows a sure hand as an action writer. . . . A smooth, ultra professional read.”

—*Booklist*

“An absolute page-turner. . . . Not the one to be missed. With its atmospheric setting, page-turning suspense, and luminous insights into trauma, resilience, recovery, and friendship, this thriller will hook readers and keep them hooked.”

—*The Prairies Book Review*

# INIQUITY

## A SEAN MCPHERSON NOVEL, BOOK FOUR

### LAURIE BUCHANAN

#### DESCRIPTION:

Crime boss Georgio Gambino abducts Sean “Mick” McPherson’s pregnant wife, Emma, and his friend’s two daughters and contracts to sell them and another group of women—some into forced labor, others as sex slaves, and a few for their organs.

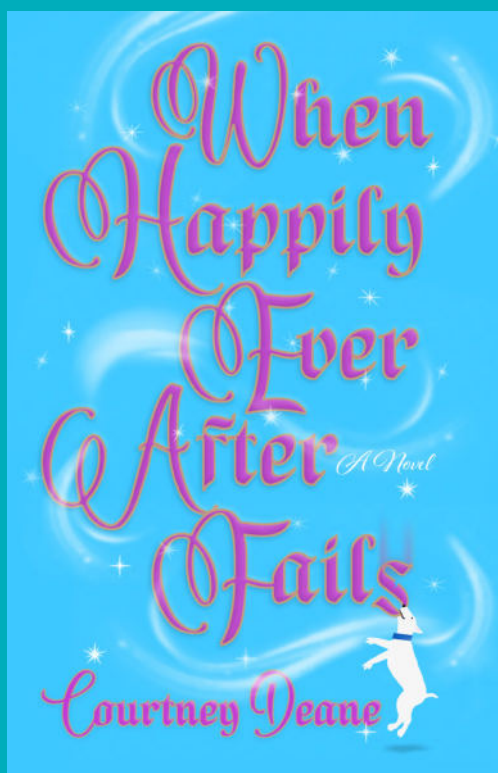
Gambino confines three best friends—Mick, a PI; Joe, a homicide detective; and Rafferty, an FBI special agent—to Pines & Quill writing retreat and pits them against each other with a warning: “Mick, if you try to save Emma, I’ll kill Joe’s daughters. Joe, if you try to save your daughters, I’ll kill Emma. And Rafferty, if you help Mick or Joe, I’ll kill your fiancée, Ivy.”

With help from the writers in residence—a fiction novelist, a retired maritime pilot, the granddaughter of a legendary pearl diver, and a former mountain climber now double-amputee—Mick, Joe, and Rafferty manage to sneak away and journey to Mount Baker, where the captives await transport. Along the way, the three best friends learn the lines they’ll cross to save the people they love.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Laurie Buchanan is the author of the Sean McPherson novels—fast-paced thrillers set in the Pacific Northwest that feature a trifecta of malice and the pursuit and cost of justice. A cross between Dr. Dolittle, Nanny McPhee, and a type-A Buddhist, Buchanan is an active listener, observer of details, payer of attention, reader and writer of books, kindness enthusiast, and red licorice aficionado. Her books have won multiple awards, including a Foreword INDIES Book of the Year gold and an International Book Award gold. Laurie and her husband live in the Pacific Northwest, where she enjoys long walks, bicycling, camping, and photography—because sometimes the best word choice is a picture.

APRIL 2024



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# WHEN HAPPILY A NOVEL

COURTNEY DEANE

## DESCRIPTION:

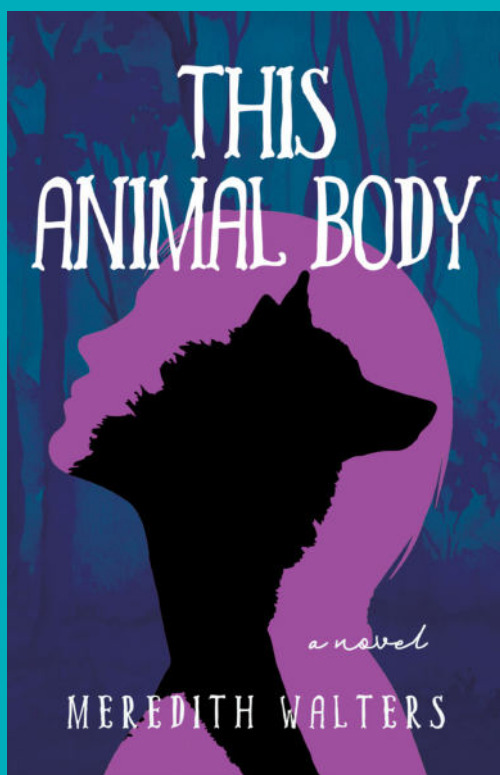
Twentysomething Abigail Gardner’s life is circling the drain. Her parents are dead, her “like a brother” is in love with her, and her nascent career as an art teacher was fully squashed by an unfortunate viral incident involving sophomores and Spanx. But just as that whirlpool feels poised to suck her down completely, she’s granted a second chance: she lands a teaching job at Excelsior Primm, one of Philadelphia’s oldest and most prestigious preparatory academies. Only problem is, instead of teaching art she’ll be stuck teaching her least favorite subject—literature—and her least favorite theme: tragedy.

Tired of being stuck in her own tragic tale, Abigail starts rewriting every sad ending she can get her hands on, in and out of the classroom. To her surprise, her life soon starts to resemble the fairy tales she adores—great job, hot guy, a career gaining recognition. But when an unexpected plot twist threatens to derail her happy ending, Abigail begins to realize why these conclusions are so hard to come by.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Courtney Deane has been a writer and pursuer of happily-ever-afters since she can remember. As a full-time freelance writer, her days are spent working for print, digital, and broadcast entities, as well as a variety of PR and marketing clients. She continues her craft by dedicating some space each day to work on her fiction books. After both of her parents died, she worked to turn those tragedies into something beautiful—an effort that inspired her debut novel, *When Happily Ever After Fails*. She holds bachelor’s degrees in English and sociology from UC Irvine and a master’s in journalism from USC. Deane lives in San Diego with her husband, daughter, and rescue dog—her very own happily-ever-after.

APRIL 2024



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Collections: Fiction

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E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-243-5

“If you’ve ever wondered what the cockroach who narrowly escaped your boot is thinking, if you’ve ever imagined what it feels like to run like a wolf, if you’ve ever questioned who you are—*This Animal Body* is a tale for you.

Creative and thought-provoking, it might change the ways you relate to all animals, both human and nonhuman.”

—Jenni Ogden, Sarton Women’s Book Award-winner and author of *A Drop in the Ocean*

# THIS ANIMAL BODY

A NOVEL

MEREDITH WALTERS

## DESCRIPTION:

Frankie Conner, first-year graduate student at UC Berkeley, is finally getting her life together. After multiple failures and several false starts, she’s found her calling: become a neuroscientist, discover the cause of her depression and anxiety, and hopefully find a cure for herself and everyone like her.

But her first day of the program, Frankie meets a mysterious group of talking animals who claim to have an urgent message for her. The problem is, they’re not willing to share it. Not yet. Not until she’s ready.

While Frankie’s new friends may not have her highly evolved, state-of-the-art, exalted human brain, they do know things she doesn’t—poems, scientific facts, and what happened in the forgotten years before her adoption. Hearing what they have to say, she can’t dismiss her conversations with these animals as mere dreams; but she also can’t accept them as real. To prove she’s still sane, she begins to investigate her past and defies the professor who heads her lab by conducting a series of scientific experiments to test just how much animals understand—and are capable of communicating. Just when Frankie uncovers the truth, one of her animal friends shows up in her lab severely injured, and she has to make what feels like an impossible decision: betray the beings she’s fallen in love with or give up her dream of neuroscience, her last chance at success, and everything she thought she knew.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Growing up in Atlanta, Meredith Walters often wandered nearby forests looking for animals and magic and writing stories about what she found. After getting a BA in literature from UC Berkeley, she spent ten years trying to figure out what she wanted to do with her life. Her adventures included volunteering for a nonprofit in Mexico, getting an MBA, and working for a social enterprise startup. Her short story collection *The Adventures of Little One* was published in 2018. Eventually, she moved back East to be close to her human and non-human family. She now lives in Atlanta, working as a life/career coach helping others rediscover their lost magic and once again writing stories about what she finds on her wanders through the woods.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 16, 2024

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

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Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-250-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-251-0

“Political unrest, paranoia, conspiracies, and internet culture—Trigg has brought them all together into a killer novel more relevant now than ever. An absolute page-turner.”

—Tosca Lee, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Line Between*

“In *Burner*, Mike Trigg shines a light on homegrown domestic terrorism in a way seldom seen before. This thought-provoking thriller will keep you on the edge of your seat. I couldn’t put it down. If you are interested in the shadowy world of domestic, violent extremism and how it affects us all, read this book.”

—Frank Runles, FBI Supervisory Special Agent (Retired)

# BURNER

## A NOVEL

MIKE TRIGG

### DESCRIPTION:

What if your social media addiction jeopardized the person you love?

Inspired by the explosive events of our polarized political climate, *Burner* is an all-too-plausible contemporary thriller that examines the social and personal consequences of the lost sense of identity, trust, and truth itself that characterizes our technology-obsessed culture.

Shane Stoller has just been arrested for domestic terrorism, accused of being the mastermind behind the online profile *Burner\_911*—the anonymous leader of a massive populist movement. Chloe Corbin has just been abducted by *Burner\_911*’s followers in a lawless uprising on the streets of San Francisco, targeted as the socialite daughter of a tech billionaire. What nobody knows is that Shane and Chloe are secretly in love despite coming from opposite worlds. Plagued with regret but unable to communicate with his followers from prison, Shane tries desperately to find a way to save Chloe from the forces he has unleashed. Meanwhile, from her own captivity, Chloe becomes more sympathetic to *Burner\_911*’s cause—and transitions from victim to conspirator in an effort to free herself and exonerate Shane.

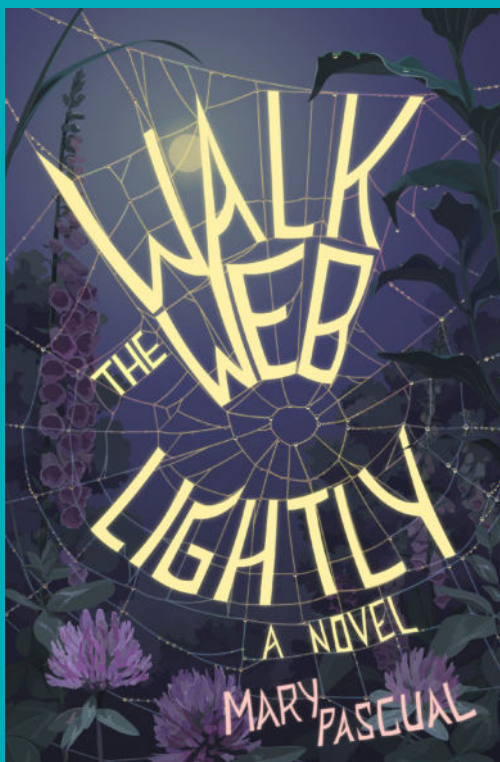
Part tragic love story, part mind-bending psychological thriller, *Burner* dives headfirst into the modern zeitgeist of politically motivated disinformation, toxic internet subcultures, and our continuing need for belonging, purpose, and love in an age of distorted online personas.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mike Trigg was born in Kentucky and raised in Wisconsin. He earned a BA from Northwestern University and an MBA from University of California, Berkeley. Prior to becoming an author, he was an executive, founder, and investor in dozens of technology start-up companies for over twenty-five years. His first novel, *Bit Flip*, was released in August 2022 to critical acclaim, lauded by the *San Francisco Chronicle* as a “twisty, acerbic corporate thriller.” His work has been featured in *Publisher’s Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and *Literary Hub*. He has been a contributor to *TechCrunch*, *Entrepreneur*, and *Fast Company*, and frequently posts on his author site, [www.miketrigg.com](http://www.miketrigg.com). Trigg lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with his wife and two sons.



MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 7, 2024

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-232-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-233-6

# WALK THE WEB LIGHTLY

## A NOVEL

MARY PASCUAL

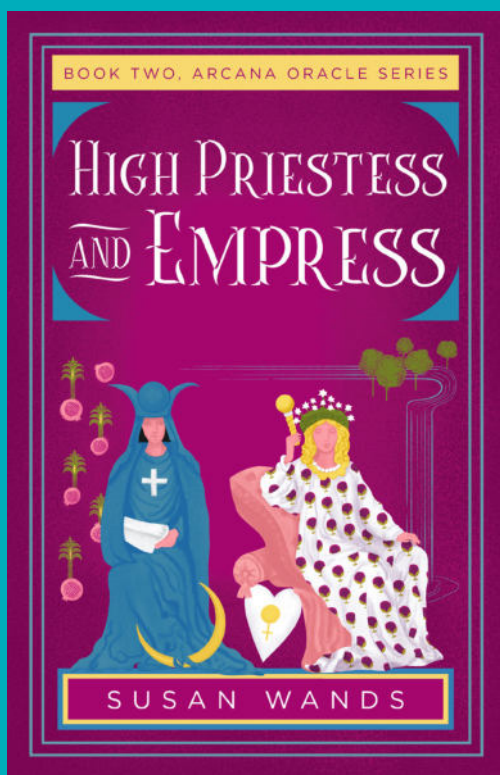
### DESCRIPTION:

Naya's family is all about heritage: their art, their traditions, their secret ability to see time. They expect her to follow in their footsteps, creating art and keeping their powers concealed. But she wants to be a doctor—and you can't do that if you're hiding all the time! When a chance to go to medical science camp comes up, her family disapproves, but Grandmother challenges her to a contest: if she can weave her soul wrap before the camp begins, she can go; if she fails, she has to say goodbye to her science dreams for good. With all of the knowledge of time at her fingertips, Naya is sure she can win. But someone is rigging events to learn her family's secrets—and it turns out that what she doesn't know could jeopardize everyone she loves.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary Pascual is a writer and artist who believes finding magic is only a matter of perspective. She loves stories about characters with heart and fantastical settings that are more than meets the eye. She grew up in California and enjoys reading, art, traveling, exploring outside, and building elaborate stage sets for Halloween. Writing has taken her on a number of unexpected adventures, including working in high tech, meeting psychics, interviewing rock bands, and even once attending a press conference for Bigfoot. She got hooked on reading adult science fiction and fantasy in the fifth grade; in retrospect, much of her reading material was completely inappropriate (which probably explains a few things). She lives with her husband, son, and assorted demanding cats in San Jose, California.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 14, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-234-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-235-0

# HIGH PRIESTESS AND EMPRESS

## BOOK TWO, ARCANA ORACLE SERIES

SUSAN WANDS

### DESCRIPTION:

On her return to London, artist and seer Pamela Colman Smith discovers that her nemesis, Aleister Crowley, has returned—and his sights are set on her. Despite Aleister's efforts to stop Pamela from further developing her tarot deck and accessing its magic, she carries on casting her High Priestess and Empress muses, Golden Dawn society leader Florence Farr and popular theatre star Ellen Terry. But when Ellen is poisoned and nearly killed, Pamela realizes that Aleister won't stop coming for her—not until her muses are dead.

When Aleister reveals his plot to assassinate Queen Victoria and all female rulers, war breaks out between the Aleister's Carlists and the Golden Dawn. With so many lives on the line—that of the queen, and those of her friends—Pamela must access her inner magic to face the battle of her life.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susan Wands is a writer, tarot reader, and actor. A graduate from the University of Washington, she has acted professionally across the United States and on Broadway, has written plays, screenplays, and skits, and has produced several indie films. As a cochair of the NYC Chapter of the Historical Novel Society, she helps produce monthly online book launches and author panels. Wands's writings have appeared in *Art in Fiction*, *Kindred Spirits* magazine, and The Irving Society journal *First Knight*. She lives in NYC with her husband, actor Robert Petkoff, and two cats, Flora and Flynn. The third book of the Arcana Oracle Series, *Emperor and Hierophant*, is currently in the works.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 14, 2024

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-184-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-185-8

Praise for the author's *The Legends of Olympus* series:

“A recommended purchase, especially for libraries that already own the first title or where Greek mythology is popular.”

—*School Library Journal*

“An adventurous page-turner.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE OGMA STONE

## LEGENDS OF GALAWAY, BOOK 1

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

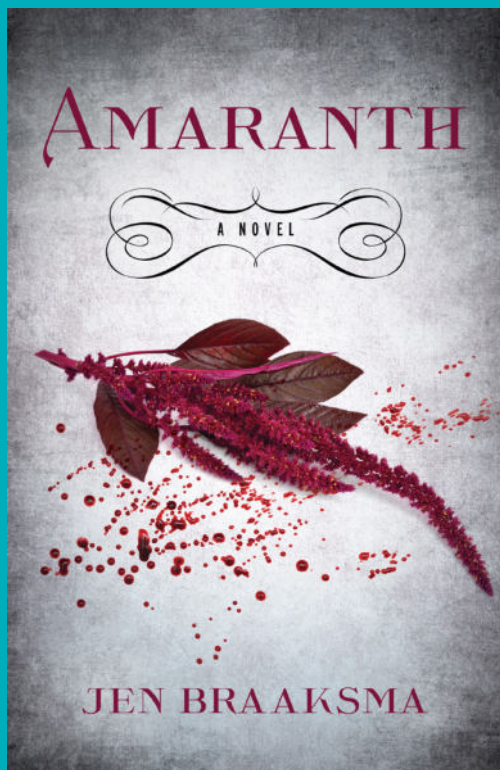
In the two years since Surt and his army of red giants were defeated, life in Orkney has been quiet. Too quiet for a he-witch like Sam Baron. Until a messenger arrives from Galaway—a mysterious realm whose gods, the Tuatha de Danann, pleaded with Odin to take their small islands into the Ninth Realm the same as Orkney. The news is dire: Balor, a famed Fomorian sorcerer, has his malevolent gaze set on raising the Ogma Stone, an ancient tablet that holds the secrets to the gods' powers. Balor will stop at nothing to gain the stone and return the magic taken from his people by Odin.

To access the stone, Balor must obtain one of the ancient treasures of Galaway, the Retaliator Sword, and use it to shed the blood of a royal offspring—one whose return his sorceress has foreseen. Could Eithan, an orphaned slave who roams the lands with Fenrir the wolf, be the true heir to the Vanirian throne? With the help of a shadow elf named Seeth, Sam and his closest allies must join forces to stop Balor before the Blood Moon returns and Balor has the power to raise the stone—which threatens to set off an all-out war between the gods, all of whom are eager to possess it. Rich with Celtic lore and dark sorcery, *The Ogma Stone* will take readers on a wild new adventure.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the *Legends of Orkney*<sup>™</sup> and *Legends of Olympus* fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, *The Santa Thief*, and *The Circus Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Orange, Southern California.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 21, 2024

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-244-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-245-9

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*“Amaranth is a must-read for anyone who, like its protagonist Lyra, wrestles with wanting a place to belong in a world that too often feels devoid of compassion.”*

—Alison Levy, author of *Magic by Any Other Name*

*“A powerful story of survival, sacrifice, love, and loss, this action-packed dystopian read is perfect for fans of Divergent and The Hunger Games.”*

—Katie Keridan, author of *The Felserpent Chronicles*

# AMARANTH

## A NOVEL

JEN BRAAKSMA

### DESCRIPTION:

A devastating virus. A nationwide quarantine. A ruthless government at war with the world. And it's all seventeen-year-old Lyra Harmon's fault.

Lyra is the only person known to have “phoenix cells,” which regenerate no matter the injury or illness. If she had just let the doctors clone her cells when Hecate's Plague was first discovered, she could have stopped the pandemic—and the war. But her parents knew the government would also use her cells to clone an undefeatable army and wanted to protect Lyra from being a pawn in anyone's game. So they kept her hidden, and have now been on the run for years. It's a lonely, isolated existence, and Lyra hates it.

When she secretly befriends a young girl orphaned by the plague, Lyra takes a stand. She won't run again. But her impulsive decision has devastating consequences: her parents contract the deadly virus, leaving them only three days to live—unless Lyra can save them. But as she's sucked into a dangerous political game, she no longer knows the right thing to do. With time running out, she must finally decide what—or whom—she's willing to sacrifice in order to find a cure.

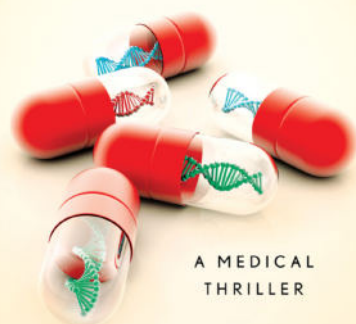
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jen Braaksma is an author and book coach. Her debut YA fantasy novel, *Evangeline's Heaven*, was published in 2022. She started her career as a journalist, then veered into the classroom as a high school English teacher for almost two decades. Now a book coach, she helps other writers develop and share their stories. She lives in Ottawa, Canada, with her husband (soulmates do exist!) and two daughters (Best. Kids. Ever.).



MAY 2024

THE  
**GOLDBLOCKS**  
GENOME



ELIZABETH REED ADEN, PhD

Publication Date: May 21, 2024

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-254-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-255-8

“Aden intersperses her remarkable knowledge of pharmacology, epidemiology, and biochemistry with an even more detailed knowledge of wine and a veritable culinary tour of Bay Area restaurants. The result is a fascinating scientific whodunit that you’ll think of at every hotel banquet you attend for the rest of your life.”

—George W. Rutherford, MD, AM, Professor of Epidemiology, Preventive Medicine, Pediatrics and History, University of California, San Francisco

# THE GOLDBLOCKS GENOME

## A MEDICAL THRILLER

ELIZABETH REED ADEN, PHD

### DESCRIPTION:

When San Francisco–based FDA epidemiologist Dr. Carrie Hediger uncovers a rash of unexplained deaths while investigating the suspiciously convenient death of her best friend, she becomes determined to find answers—even if it leads her to a murderer, and even if confronting authority, using her wiles, and bending the rules to get justice risks her future in the FDA.

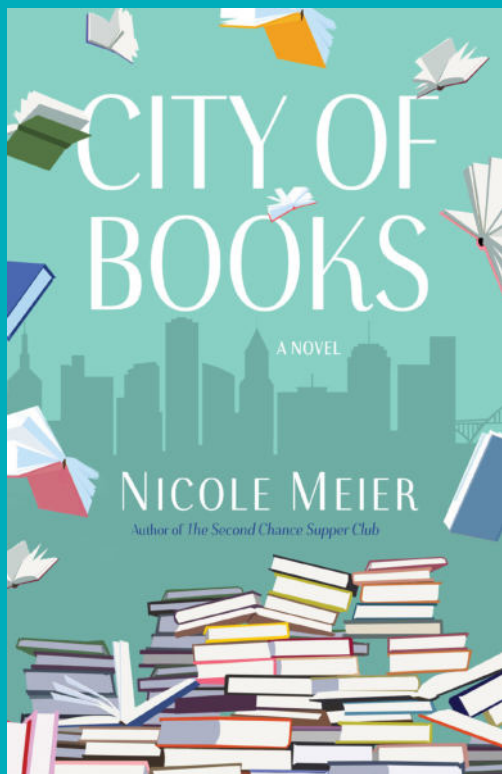
To unravel the puzzle, Carrie assembles a team: some talented post-doctoral fellows, a quirky pharmacologist, an unctuous chemist, and a skeptical FBI agent that she can’t help her attraction for. Together, they follow the data and eventually uncover that the Goldilocks effect in prescription drugs—the premise that people are inclined to seek “just the right amount” of something—is central to understanding these mysterious deaths. As they navigate twists and turns, Carrie and her team find themselves in a race to uncover the truth . . . and catch a killer.

Grounded in data analysis techniques, science and pharmacology, and actual current psychiatric practices, *The Goldilocks Genome* is simultaneously a taut, race-against-time thriller and a condemnation of the psychiatric industry’s failure to implement genetic-based “personalized medicine”—a problem that persists to this day.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elizabeth Reed Aden, PhD, earned her doctorate in biomedical anthropology from the University of Pennsylvania. After conducting extensive epidemiology and serology studies and teaching as an assistant professor at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign, she began career in the pharmaceutical industry, where she rose to be Senior Vice President for Global Pharmaceutical Strategy at a major Swiss pharmaceutical company. After leaving Big Pharma, she founded and co-founded biotech companies, consulted for a wide range of clients, and served on boards of directors. Since 2017, she has brought multiple previously unpublished cozy murder mysteries written by her godmother, Eunice Mays Boyd, to print. *The Goldilocks Genome* is Elizabeth’s debut medical thriller. She is currently working on a memoir, *Hepatitis Beach*, which she hopes to have published by 2025. She lives in Berkeley, California.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 28, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-246-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-247-3

“Meier expertly draws a varied cast of characters—including the city of Portland, Oregon—who are all lovable and flawed and struggling with timely, relatable issues. In doing so she reminds us that it is never too late to find love and family.”

—Tracey Lange, author of *New York Times* bestseller and Goodreads Choice finalist *We Are the Brenns*

# CITY OF BOOKS

A NOVEL

NICOLE MEIER

## DESCRIPTION:

Jo Waterstone knows what you should read next. She’s honed the skill of sizing up a person and recommending their next book in the decades she’s worked at Bruebaker’s Books. Her life has been shaped by the store, the bustle of customers exploring the stacks, and managing the eager staff. She can honestly say it’s the best job she’s ever had.

Then the store’s elderly owner, Mr. Bruebaker, suffers a stroke, and just like that Jo’s perfect job is on the chopping block. Mr. B’s daughters and the bookstore’s icy CEO think the time is right to close for good, and they order Jo to lock up. But she doesn’t know what she would be without Bruebaker’s—and besides, the place is an institution. So instead of following orders, she decides to take a stand: along with a few brave team members, she barricades herself in the store, trying to buy time until Mr. Bruebaker recovers and can speak for himself.

Living in a bookstore has a certain magic to it, but the quiet hours among the books throw the choices Jo has made in her life into sharp relief. As supporters—and detractors—start to voice their opinions about her actions, Jo will have to decide what, exactly, is worth saving.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Nicole Meier is an author and certified book coach. Her novels include *The House of Bradbury*, *The Girl Made of Clay*, and *The Second Chance Supper Club*. You can visit her website at [www.nicolemeier.com](http://www.nicolemeier.com) or find her on Instagram: @nicolemeierwrites. She lives with her family in the Pacific Northwest.



JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 4, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-236-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-684-63237-4

“The author’s smooth prose brings to vivid life the smells, sights, and wondrous textures of an astonishing array of flowers and herbs as she shares Bella’s tale of love, devotion to her grandmothers, and commitment to the fragile task of loving, supporting, and embracing the important people in her life. Gina Carroll deftly weaves a story of beauty, heartbreak, survival, and, ultimately, enduring love.”

—Anita Bunkley, author of *The Twisted Crown*

# THE GRANDEST GARDEN

## A NOVEL

GINA L. CARROLL

### DESCRIPTION:

Young Bella Fontaine grows up spending much of her time with her grandmothers, Olivette and Miriam, in their gardens—beautiful, mature gardens, each one as different from each other as the two gardeners who tend them. As Bella’s homelife begins to unravel, she relies on those gardens to be her refuges of stability and belonging. But when Miriam moves in with Olivette in search of healing, the grandmothers bond in a way that makes Bella feel excluded. What happens next sends Bella out into the world before she is ready.

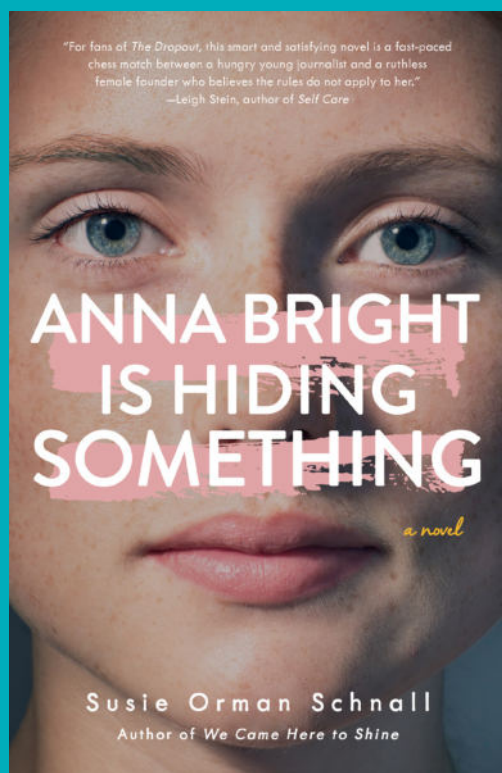
Fresh out of college and with the winnings from her first international photography competition, Bella decides to leave Los Angeles to forge a new life in New York City. But will she be able to overcome the trauma of her childhood and her break from home to make it as a successful artist and professional photographer in a new city? Or will her secrets catch up with her and keep her from developing the relationships she needs to make her dreams come true?

*The Grandest Garden* is a poignant coming-of-age story about the ties that bind us to our people—and how to survive when they break.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gina L. Carroll is the author of *A Story That Matters: A Gratifying Way to Write About Your Life* and editor of *Stories Are Medicine: Writing to Heal*. A self-professed story wrangler, Gina founded StoryHouse LA and StoryHouse Texas, artist-led creative spaces dedicated to cultivating and amplifying the diversity of vision and voice in art and story. *The Grandest Garden* is her debut novel. To learn more about Gina, visit [www.ginacarroll.com](http://www.ginacarroll.com). She lives in Houston, Texas.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 4, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-252-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-253-4

"An engrossing novel of two ambitious women that takes an unflinching look at the role of women in the male-dominated tech industry but also at the sexism that exists in the world of journalism. So timely, I devoured this riveting story in one sitting."

—Amy Poeppel, author of *Musical Chairs* and *The Sweet Spot*

"A fast-paced chess match between a hungry young journalist chasing the story that could make or break her career and a ruthless female founder who believes the rules do not apply to her. For fans of *The Dropout*, this is a smart and satisfying novel about ambition, delusion, and stubborn pride."

—Leigh Stein, author of *Self Care*

# ANNA BRIGHT IS HIDING SOMETHING

## A NOVEL

SUSIE ORMAN SCHNALL

### DESCRIPTION:

What some women will do for success . . .

A fast-paced and ripped-from-the-headlines story set in the glossy offices of Silicon Valley startups and New York City new media, *Anna Bright Is Hiding Something* explores our culture's fascination with businesswomen who are breaking barriers—and sometimes behaving badly in the process.

Anna Bright is committing fraud. But nobody knows it yet. Not the board of her multibillion-dollar company, BrightLife; not her investors; not the media; not the public breathlessly anticipating the imminent launch of BrightSpot.

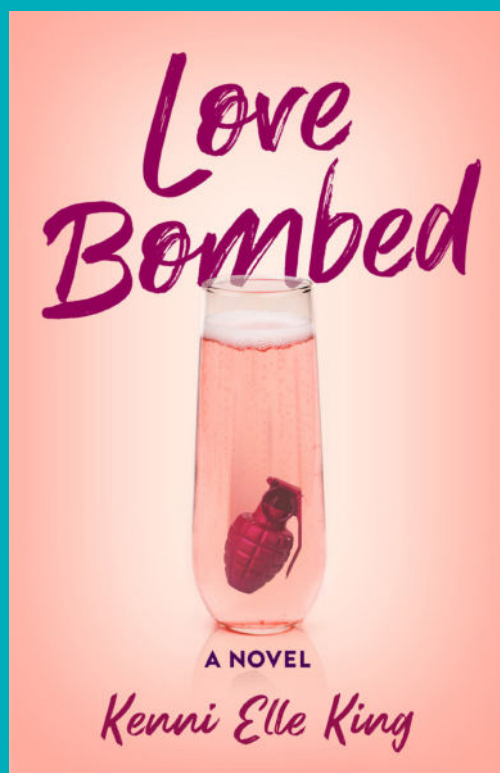
Jamie Roman, a hardworking journalist for BusinessBerry, is, no surprise, in awe of Anna: her company's billion-dollar valuation, her polished confidence, and her hustle. But when Jamie learns about Anna's misconduct, she embarks on a bicoastal journey to expose the crimes in the hope of making a name for herself as a journalist. It's not long before Anna learns what the young reporter is up to, however—and she'll do anything to stop Jamie, especially now that BrightLife's IPO is days away.

With news of the deceit about to break, each woman will risk everything for her version of the truth . . . and only one will emerge unscathed.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susie Orman Schnall is the author of the novels *We Came Here to Shine*, *The Subway Girls*, *The Balance Project*, and *On Grace*. She grew up in Los Angeles, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania, and now lives in Westchester County, New York.

**JUNE 2024**



Publication Date: June 11, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-248-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-249-7

# LOVE BOMBED

A NOVEL

**KENNI ELLE KING**

## DESCRIPTION:

When Clara, a single working mom in her late thirties, first meets Andreas, an offbeat Italian father of two, she's not overly impressed. He's not particularly her type, and she finds some of his eccentricities off-putting. But his attentiveness is seductive—and their sexual chemistry is undeniable. So much so that Clara overlooks all the initial red flags and succumbs to his charm.

As Andreas whisks her off on romantic vacations to places like Tulum and Greece, Clara begins to notice subtle changes and odd turns in their sexually charged relationship. Does he truly love her, or is he manipulating her to get what he wants? Is he a quirky, unpredictable romantic—or a gaslighting narcissist?

Follow Clara as she struggles to unravel the truth about the man she loves in this erotic and suspenseful story of what can happen when seemingly magical chemistry takes a dark turn.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kenni Elle King is originally from the Midwest. When time allows, she can be found running, seeking passport stamps, drinking coffee, or gracefully falling off a surfboard. She lives in the Bay Area with her son and several four-legged companions. *Love Bombed* is her debut novel.

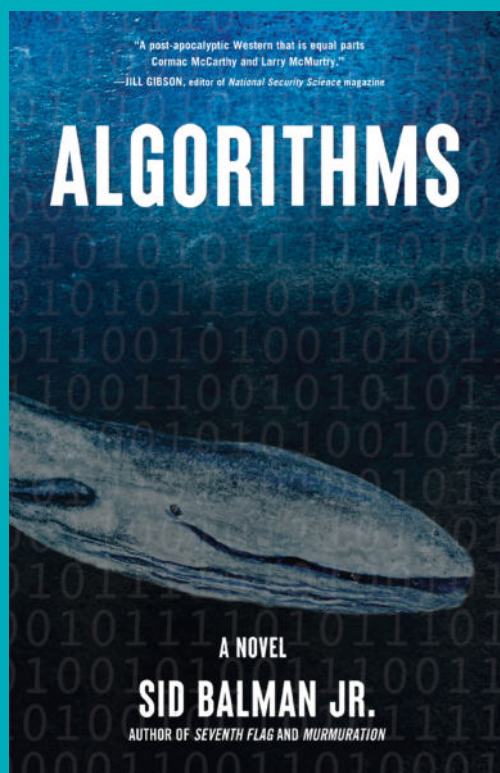




**FALL 2023**



FALL 2023



Publication Date: August 1, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-208-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-209-1

“The third installment in the Seventh Flag Trilogy, *Algorithms*, perfectly combines the excitement of a post-apocalyptic thriller with a poignant coming-of-age story featuring an engaging heroine facing a very different ‘American Dream.’ Indeed, a page-turner . . . an important read for any citizen concerned about the reality of where our culture wars and politics are taking American society.”

—Laura Payne, Dean, Jimmy D. Case College of Literature, Arts, and Social Sciences, Sul Ross State University

# ALGORITHMS

A NOVEL

SID BALMAN JR.

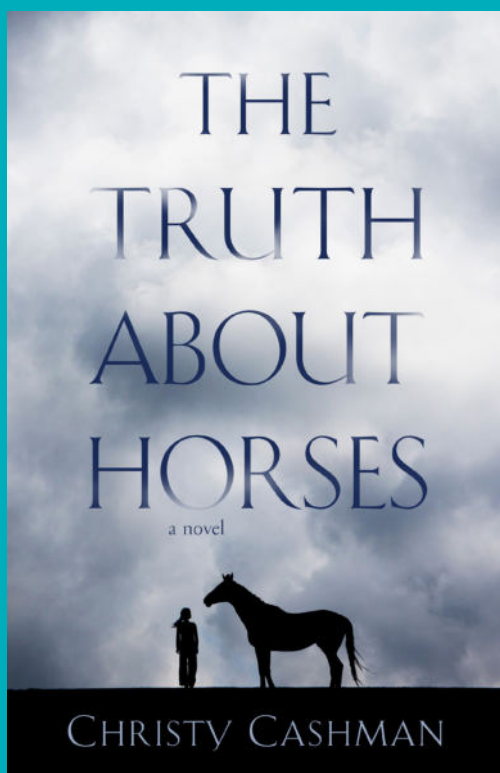
## DESCRIPTION:

This final novel in the acclaimed Seventh Flag Trilogy thrusts readers thirty years into the future—a dystopic reality of regional fiefdoms, marauding scavengers, and the quest for ultimate power: the Algorithms of everything, which have been secretly pilfered from an undersea Internet cable, stored on hard drives, and implanted in the last surviving blue whale. Ademar Zarkan—the iconic and unlikely heroine of the American West, now a seventy-year-old woman—leads the Free People of West Texas in an alliance with Native Americans and the indigenous people of northern Mexico to retrieve the hard drives and to rescue her clairvoyant granddaughter from the radicalized Sisterhood and its merciless leader, Mother. But they aren’t the only ones in pursuit of the Algorithms. Haunting and prophetic, *Algorithms* is a story of violent extremism, resilience, family, and, above all, the interconnectedness of humankind and the natural world.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A Pulitzer-nominated national security correspondent and Writer in Residence at Sul Ross State University, Sid Balman Jr. has covered wars in the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo, and has traveled extensively with two American presidents and four secretaries of state on overseas diplomatic missions. After leaving daily journalism, he helped found a news syndicate focused on the interests of women and girls, served as the communications chief for the largest consortium of US international development organizations, led two progressive campaigning companies, and launched a new division at a large international development firm centered on violent radicalism and other security issues on behalf of governments. In addition to his current position as Writer In Residence at Sul Ross State University, Balman remains a working journalist and magazine contributor. A fourth-generation Texan, as well as a climber, surfer, paddler, and benefactor to Smith College, Balman lives in Alpine, TX, and has two children and a dog.

FALL 2023



Publication Date: August 15, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-212-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-213-8

“With all of the unpredictable thrill of a horseback ride, *The Truth About Horses* took me deep into the mind of a teenage girl searching for her post-traumatic truth. It is a beautiful, moving story that I’m glad to know and certain to remember.”

—Harry Connick Jr., Emmy Award–winning actor and Grammy Award–winning musician

“This is a heartwarming novel about facing down the perils of adversity. It’s also an examination of how and why we become stronger at the broken places. Christy Cashman has written a book for everyone, young and old, who wants to know about the elemental gallop of the heart.”

—Colum McCann, author of *Apeirogon* and *Let the Great World Spin*

# THE TRUTH ABOUT HORSES

## A NOVEL

CHRISTY CASHMAN

### DESCRIPTION:

Fourteen-year-old Reese’s dream of winning the Black Elk race is shattered when her beloved horse, Trusted Treasure, falls at the last jump. While still reeling from that loss, her family suffers a second tragedy—one that results in the end of their family business, the sale of Trusted Treasure, and irreparable damage to Reese’s relationship with her father.

Heartbroken and still longing to find Trusted Treasure, Reese meets Wes, a Lakota Indian, whose way of training horses is unlike anything she’s ever seen. If anyone can win the Black Elk, it’s Wes—but he’s struggling with his troubled past, and having a teenage girl hanging around his barn isn’t exactly what he’d planned. Through heartaches and triumphs, Reese must prove her worth if she wants to heal her family, help Wes, and show them all that some dreams are worth fighting for.

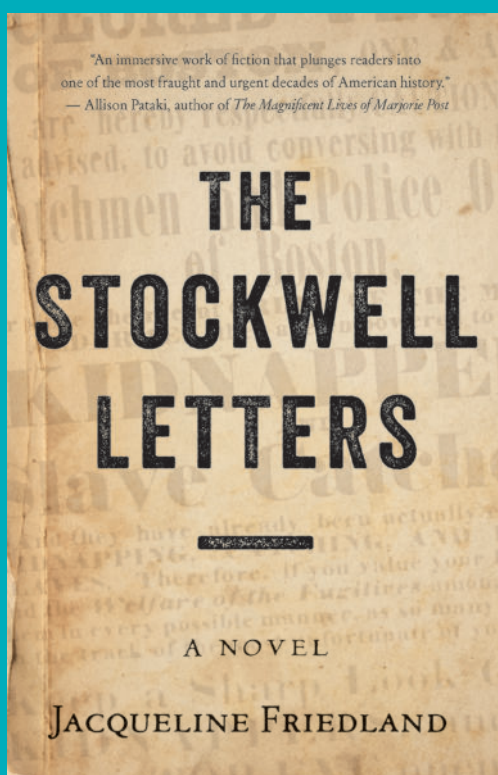
A spellbinding tale in which every teenager has magical powers within them just waiting to be discovered, this book will have you laughing and crying—sometimes on the same page—all the while rooting for Reese, the most unlikely of heroes.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Christy Cashman is an American author, actress, and producer who has appeared in more than twenty films, including *Kettle of Fish*, *The Love Guide*, *American Hustle*, *Joy*, *The Descendants*, *Ted 2*, *The Women*, *The Golden Boys*, and *The Forger*. She has also written two children’s books set in Ireland: *The Not-So-Average Monkey of Kilkea Castle* and *Petri’s Next Things*. *The Truth About Horses* is her first novel. Christy lives with her husband, Jay; two sons, Jay Michael and Quinn; their three dogs, Ben, Dan, and Violet; and three horses, Calvin, Butterscotch, and Victor. When Christy is not writing or working on production projects, she is most likely riding her horses or spending time with her dogs. The family divides their time between Kilkea Castle in Ireland and their homes in Chatham and Boston, Massachusetts.



# FALL 2023



Publication Date: August 29, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-214-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-215-2

“A riveting portrait of the women who risked everything to help usher slaves to freedom, Jacqueline Friedland’s latest is told with a tender heart. Thanks to a cast of captivating characters, colorful period details, and an ending that will have you cheering, the book will stay with you long after you finish. *The Stockwell Letters* is book club fiction at its best.”

—Brooke Foster, award-winning journalist and author of *On Gin Lane*

“*The Stockwells Letters* is an immersive work of fiction that plunges readers into one of the most fraught and urgent decades of American history.”

—Allison Pataki, author of *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*

# THE STOCKWELL LETTERS

## A NOVEL

### JACQUELINE FRIEDLAND

#### DESCRIPTION:

From *USA Today* best-selling and multi-award-winning author Jacqueline Friedland comes a gripping work of fiction based on the true story of female abolitionist Ann Phillips and her connection to Anthony Burns, a young man who briefly escaped American slavery and rocked the nation with his astoundingly heroic story.

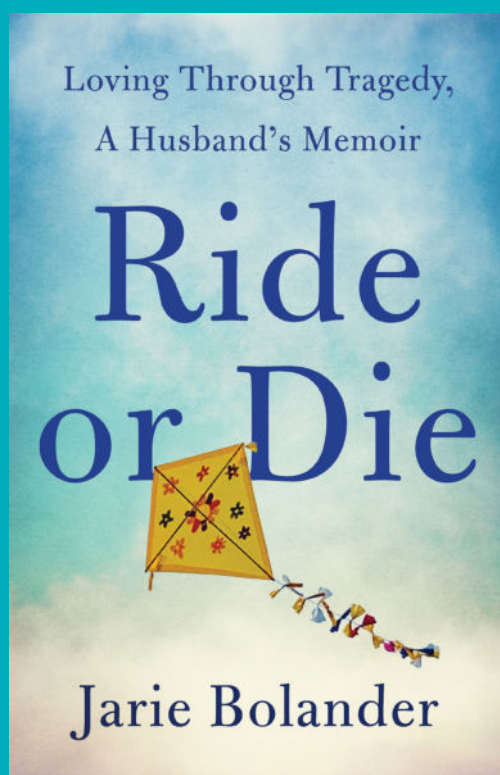
A passionate advocate of abolition from her earliest years, Ann’s activism was derailed just before her twenty-fourth birthday, when she fell sick with a mysterious illness. In order to protect her fragile health, her husband, the famous abolitionist Wendell Phillips, has forbidden her from joining any further anti-slavery outings. Even so, when fugitive slave Anthony Burns is apprehended in Boston, Ann is determined to help him, no matter what it costs her.

With a particular focus on the predicament of nineteenth-century women who wanted to effect change despite the restrictions society imposed on them, *The Stockwell Letters* takes a deep dive into the harrowing conditions of the antebellum South and the obstacles faced by abolitionists who fought tirelessly to eradicate slavery. A fast-paced, arresting recounting of America’s not-so-distant history, the story will stay with readers long after the final page.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jacqueline Friedland is the *USA Today* best-selling and multi-award-winning author of *He Gets That From Me*, *That’s Not a Thing*, and *Trouble the Water*. A graduate of the University of Pennsylvania and NYU Law School, she practiced briefly as a commercial litigator in Manhattan and taught Legal Writing and Lawyering Skills at the Benjamin Cardozo School of Law. She returned to school after not too long in the legal world, earning her Masters of Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Sarah Lawrence College. Jacqueline regularly reviews fiction for trade publications and appears as a guest lecturer. When not writing, she loves to exercise, watch movies with her family, listen to music, make lists, and dream about exotic vacations. She lives in Westchester, New York, with her husband, four children, and two very lovable dogs.

FALL 2023



Publication Date: September 5, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-210-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-211-4

2023 Living Now Book Awards Bronze Medalist in Relationships/Marriage

“The courage it took to share this story of love and loss is an incredible testament to the bond Jarie and Jane shared which I was so fortunate to witness. This book honors Jane’s memory in a way that will bring comfort and guidance to others experiencing similar tragedies.”

—London N. Breed, San Francisco Mayor

“A deft recollection that brings the journeys of both a patient and a caregiver into focus.”

—Kirkus Reviews

## RIDE OR DIE

### LOVING THROUGH TRAGEDY, A HUSBAND’S MEMOIR

JARIE BOLANDER

#### DESCRIPTION:

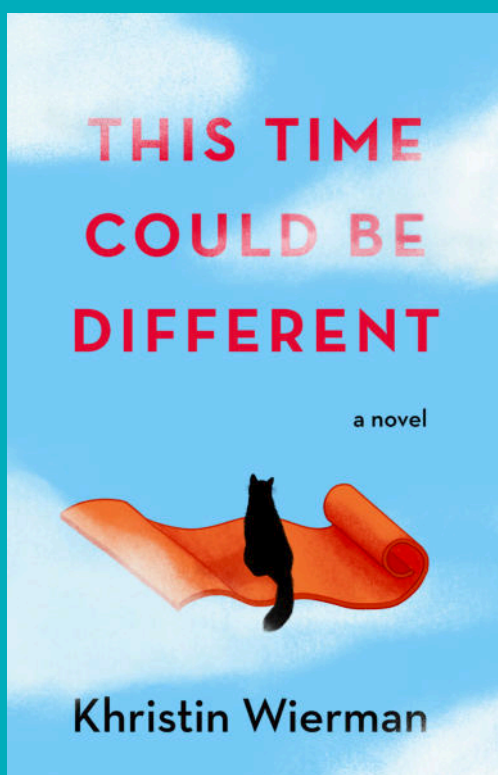
Modern society has a warped sense of the partner-caregiver role, especially its male members. Too often, men are ill equipped to handle switching from provider to caregiver, and the “just suck it up” advice so many offer up falls as flat as the Kansas prairie in the face of the reality of life and death.

*Ride or Die* takes its audience through the intimate conversations and thoughts of a Gen-X latchkey-generation husband—a man who has always had to fend for himself and believed that it’s up to him to solve his own problems—as and after his wife, Jane, succumbs to a terminal disease. Jarie Bolander wrote this raw, heartfelt tribute to Jane and her handling of her illness to help men and the people who love them through the experience of loss and grief. A frank chronicle of how an intimate relationship can change and grow—even when the people involved feel there is nothing left to give—*Ride or Die* offers a detailed exploration of the male experience of grief, in the hopes that others suffering through it will not feel so alone.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jarie Bolander caught the startup bug right after graduating from San Jose State University in 1995 with a degree in electrical engineering. With 6 startups, 7.75 books, and 10 patents under his belt, his experience runs the gamut from semiconductors to life sciences to nonprofits. He also hosts a podcast called *The Entrepreneur Ethos*, which is based on his last book by the same name. When he’s not helping clients convert a concept to a viable strategy, he can be found on the Jiu-Jitsu mat (he’s a blue belt), interviewing entrepreneurs on his podcast, or researching the latest in earthship construction techniques. Currently, Jarie lives and works in San Francisco, where he works as head of market strategy for Decision Counsel, a B2B growth consulting firm. He’s engaged to a wonderful woman named Minerva and lives with her, her daughter, and their Bernedoodle, Sage.

FALL 2023



Publication Date: September 12, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-216-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-217-6

“There are plenty of laugh-wince moments to enjoy in this novel...Both an insightful depiction of therapy supporting growth and a dead-on skewering of corporate culture.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Kristin Wierman has put on the boxing gloves and taken out the meditation candle to delve into the underbelly of the workplace and the choices it forces women to make. This thought-provoking page-turner captures the very real drama of working in corporate America as a woman.”

—*Arielle Eckstut, co-creator of America's Next Great Author*

# THIS TIME COULD BE DIFFERENT

A NOVEL

KHRISTIN WIERMAN

## DESCRIPTION:

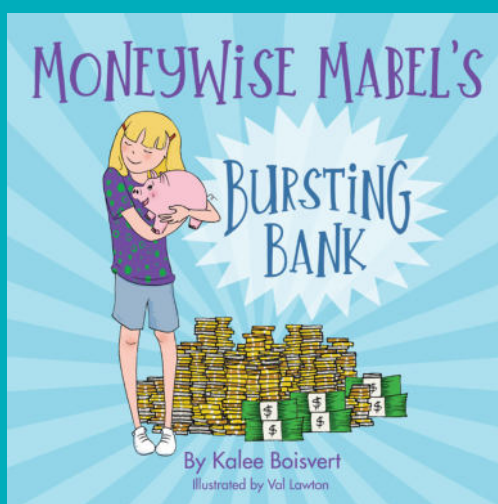
A compulsive overachiever, Madeline lives by the credo that easy is synonymous with mediocre—which is why, at forty-nine, she’s a senior vice president at a prominent bank, frantically adheres to a five-step nightly face cream regimen, and panics anytime she’s a foot away from her phone. Madeline works alongside her best friend, Emma—a master juggler of her own career, marriage, and motherhood to a fourteen-year-old daughter who speaks only in baffling acronyms. The path ahead for both women is brimming with opportunity. There’s only one problem: Madeline is miserable.

Seeking purpose in her life while trying to unravel the source of habits she wants to change, Madeline reluctantly agrees to try yoga, meditation, and other wacky suggestions her new-agey therapist tosses her way. She feels as if she’s risking everything—but in doing so, she just might unlock a world more fulfilling than she ever could have imagined.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kristin Wierman spent twenty years rising through the marketing ranks of Fortune 500 companies, building a career that was lucrative, ego-boosting, and a little bit soul-crushing. So she quit—and then had no idea what to do with her life. Writing novels ensued. Born and raised in a small East Texas town—which means she came into this world a Dallas Cowboys fan and ardently believes “y’all” is a legitimate pronoun—Kristin enjoys playing golf with her husband and stepson, poker, yoga, chocolate, the Golden State Warriors, and the daily adventure of life with an adorably imperfect cat named Rocco. She lives in San Francisco, California. Find out more at [www.kristinwierman.com](http://www.kristinwierman.com).

FALL 2023



Publication Date: September 19, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 8.25 x 8.25

Price: \$9.99 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-228-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-229-9

# MONEYWISE MABEL'S BURSTING BANK

## A NOVEL

**KALEE BOISVERT**

**DESCRIPTION:**

When Mabel pulls her piggy bank out from under the bed, it's stuffed. She can't fit one more coin inside—Piggy is bursting!

What should Mabel do with all that money? Buy candy? Toys? Games!? Mabel's so excited that her bed becomes a trampoline and she wants to spend it all. But then her mother explains that money doesn't have to burn a hole in your pocket—a lesson that sends Mabel on a journey to learn what it means to become "moneywise." Follow her as she takes her first steps to independence by opening a bank account!

Teach your school-aged kids fundamentals about money management with this approachable, fun, and charming debut from Kalee Boisvert, full of colorful illustrations and easy-to-understand concepts.

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Kalee Boisvert has been in the financial industry for over fifteen years, but her love of money began very young. Growing up in a single parent household, she watched her mom struggle with finances and wished there was something she could do to help. She wasn't going to allow her circumstances to define her, and thus her own journey into financial literacy and wealth management began. Kalee now has an MBA in Finance from the Haskayne School of Business and is a financial professional whose focus remains on sparking healthy and positive conversations around wealth and investments. She is also a proud mom to eight-year-old Ivy and new baby Jax. She lives with her family in Calgary, Alberta. *MoneyWise Mabel's Bursting Bank* is her first book for children. Her self-help title *Make Money Your Thing* will be released by RE: Books in Spring 2023.



FALL 2023



Publication Date: September 19, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-218-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-219-0

# FOLLOW THE SHADOWS

## A NOVEL

ROSEMARY DRISDELLE

### DESCRIPTION:

When sixteen-year-old Marise Leeson gets her hands on a crystal ball, she believes her knowledge of Wicca is about to expand. The magic, however, goes horribly wrong. In short order, she's thrown into an alternate world, attacked by a dragon, and rescued by Javeer, a young male dragon in search of a friend.

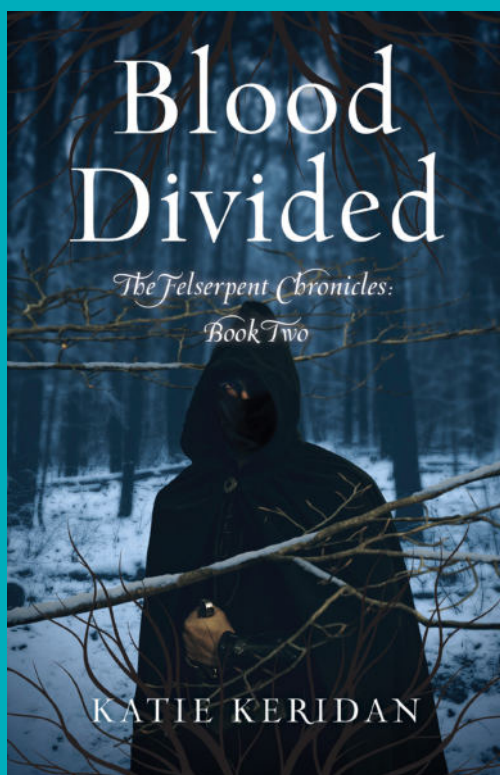
Marise is desperate to get home alive. Instead of dabbling in scrying and spells, she must now use her Wicca skills to survive in Moerden—navigating rival dragon factions, riding Javeer without falling, and dodging the unknown perils of an alien landscape. Through a series of adventures and mishaps, she learns that the dragons face slow extinction from a mysterious disease. Some see Marise as part of the cause. Some hope she's a key to a cure.

Marise grows up fast as her focus switches from escape from Moerden to saving the dragons. She draws upon her powers, intuition, and some help from home as she and Javeer begin a quest to solve the puzzle of the stagger. If they survive, and if their trust and courage are strong, they may succeed. If they do not, the dragons of Moerden will cease to exist.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rosemary Drisdelle has written on various nonfiction science and professional topics. A fascination with parasites—where fiery serpents are not unknown—inspired her science book *Parasites: Tales of Humanity's Most Unwelcome Guests*. She's always had a weakness for reptiles and hopes to meet a real live dragon some day; however, there don't seem to be any in Bedford, Nova Scotia, where she currently lives.

FALL 2023



Publication Date: October 3, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-220-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-221-3

“A fast-paced epic fantasy adventure with plenty of thrills and charm. Keridan’s writing sparkles and provides the perfect blend of suspense, adventure, and romance that will keep you turning pages long into the night.”

—Lenore Borja, author of *The Last Huntress*

“Keridan presents a vivid, teeming fantasy world. . . . Her narrative features sharply etched characters, a chilling portrait of social prejudice, and powerful, emotionally fraught prose. . . . The result is a complex, captivating yarn. An imaginative sword-and-sorcery tale with a winsome love story at its heart.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# BLOOD DIVIDED

## THE FELSERPENT CHRONICLES BOOK 2

KATIE KERIDAN

### DESCRIPTION:

Kyra Valorian and Sebastian Sayre have finally remembered their pasts as the former Felserpent Queen and King, and now it’s time for them to change the future—by reuniting the realms and bringing peace to Astrals and Daevals. But tensions between Aeles and Nocens have never been higher, and those of silver and gold blood are more divided than ever.

In addition to improving her recovrancy abilities and completing internship, Kyra is determined to uncover her father’s role in the evil Astral experimentation program, no matter the danger. As Sebastian learns to be in a relationship, he finds himself facing the traumas of two very different pasts, forcing him to make tough decisions about his chosen profession and who he wants to be. Meanwhile, Tallus, arch-enemy to the Felserpent monarchy, has also returned—and it will take help from Cyphers, as well as friends both old and new, to find and stop him.

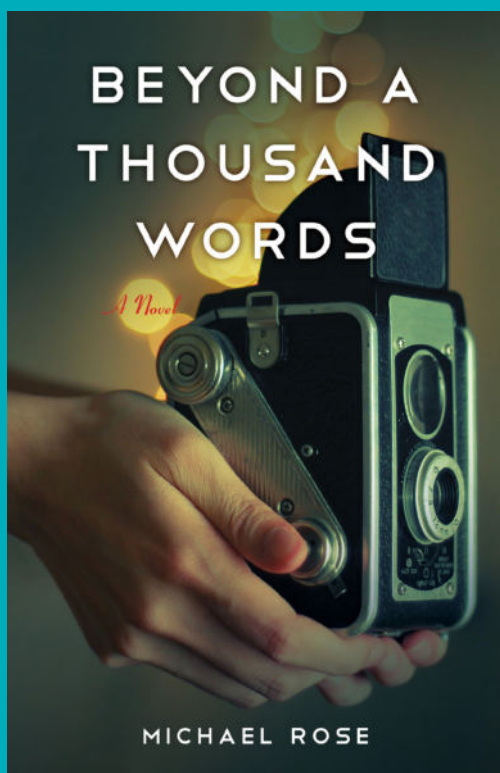
As Kyra and Sebastian struggle to navigate the differences between their past and current relationship, one thing’s clear: part of fulfilling their destiny means accepting their fate. The choices they make will reach all the way into Death in this thrilling sequel to *Reign Returned*.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Katie Keridan made her literary debut at ten years of age when she won a writing contest by crafting a tale about her favorite childhood hero, Hank the Cowdog. After that, Katie continued to write, through college and graduate school and during her career as a pediatric neuropsychologist. But while Katie enjoyed being a doctor, scientific research didn’t bring her nearly as much joy as creating her own characters and worlds, so she slowly left the medical world behind to focus exclusively on writing. Her debut YA fantasy novel, *Reign Returned*, was published by SparkPress in 2022, and her work has been featured in *Highlights Hello Magazine*, *The Blue Nib*, *Youth Imagination Magazine*, *Red Fez*, *The Red Penguin Review*, *Sand Canyon Review*, and *Every Day Fiction*. She loves sharing her writing with others who feel different, misunderstood, or alone. Katie lives in Northern California with her husband and two very demanding cats.



FALL 2023



Publication Date: October 10, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-222-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-223-7

“Rose’s prose is evocative and captures the beauty of rural Vietnam, tropical Africa, and urban and temperate San Francisco with grace and precision. . . . Coty is a remarkable character, her personality, hopes, concerns, and art will grip the interest of readers fascinated by the lives of trailblazing women.”

—*Publishers Weekly Booklife*

# BEYOND A THOUSAND WORDS

## A NOVEL

MICHAEL ROSE

### DESCRIPTION:

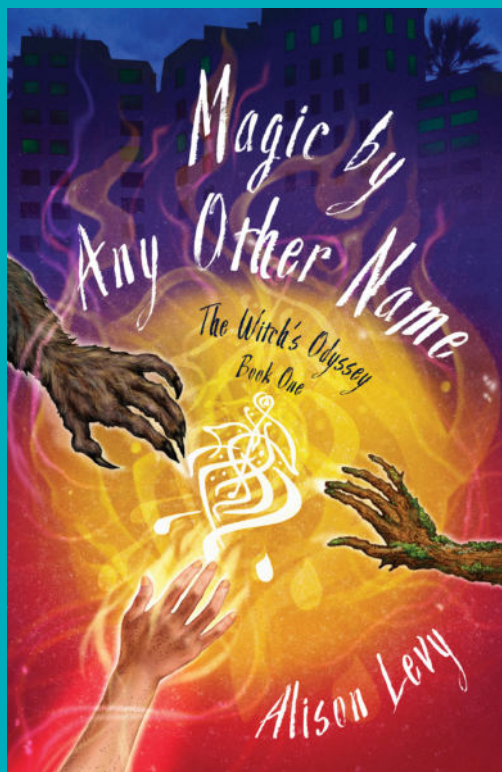
As 1954 Vietnam roils from its conflict with the French interlopers, American photographer Coty Fine leaves Hanoi in a rush on the flatbed of a truck. Also on the truck is a French priest, Laurent Sabatier—a man who will forever change the course of Coty’s life.

Six decades later, Coty struggles to repair the frayed bond between Jette, her often-absent, widowed daughter, and Evelyn, her only grandchild. Evelyn, at the behest of her grandmother, travels to Vietnam to locate a nun, Sister Lan, whom Coty has never met yet has been haunted by for many years. Evelyn persuades Sister Lan to return with her to San Francisco to meet Coty, even as Coty invites Matheo Aubert, a visiting priest from Gabon, to move into her home as a guest during his reluctant sabbatical. The two clerics are central—albeit unwitting—players in Coty’s scheme to heal the rift in her family, and her own wounds from the past. But if she is going to succeed in her quest, she must secure Jette’s long-withheld permission to share a revelatory photograph—one that promises to change everything—with Evelyn. And Coty’s daughter, like her, is one stubborn woman.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michael Rose was raised on a small family dairy farm in Upstate New York. He retired after serving in executive positions for several global multinational enterprises. He has been a non-executive director for three public companies headquartered in the US. He lives and writes in San Francisco.

FALL 2023



Publication Date: November 7, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-224-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-225-1

“Levy’s *Magic by Any Other Name* is a thrilling and thought-provoking fantasy ride. Her motley crew of vibrant characters will frighten, inspire, and tug at the heartstrings. Don’t miss this moving, courageous, and imaginative tale.”

—Lenore Borja, author of *The Last Huntress*

“Wildly imaginative and bursting with creativity, *Magic by Any Other Name* is a powerful and heartfelt story about the ties that bind us—and who we choose to bind ourselves to.”

—Jen Braaksma, author of *Evangeline’s Heaven*

# MAGIC BY ANY OTHER NAME

## THE WITCH’S ODYSSEY, BOOK ONE

ALISON LEVY

### DESCRIPTION:

Ivy Nichols O’Reilly has grown up in a wealthy family full of magic, fantasy creatures, and emotional abuse—but when her narcissistic mother arranges an unwanted marriage for her, the young witch reaches her breaking point. She drops out of college, changes her name to Georgette, and flees across the country with her best friend, a Wood Nymph named Mei-Xing. Georgette is determined to build a new identity and a new life. But her journey leads her to cross paths with a number of magical characters—a Werehyena searching for his kidnapped wife; a Vampire who runs a unique magical business; a curandero, a shamanistic practitioner of traditional medicine; and a Valkyrie who, along with her raven partner, wants to make a risky deal—who make it clear to her that the past is not so easily left behind. In order to grow into her new identity, help her new friends, and develop a healthy relationship with a man she’s beginning to care for, Georgette will have to confront the privileges that have shielded her from the pain and ugliness of the magic community in which she was raised—and find the strength to overcome the trauma of her childhood.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alison Levy lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with her husband, son, and variety of pets. When she’s not writing or doing mom things, she crochets, gardens, and walks her collies.

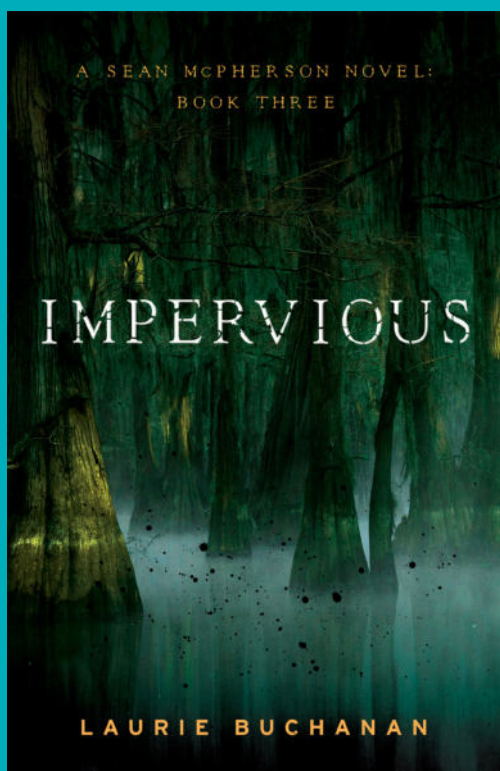




**SPRING 2023**



APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 4, 2023

Collections: Fiction, Mystery

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-194-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-195-7

“A propulsive plot with engaging characters . . .”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Don’t miss this engaging story filled with an intricate plot, realistic characters, and mesmerizing suspense!”

—DEBBIE HERBERT, *USA Today* best-selling author of *Not One of Us*

“As I read the ongoing adventures of Sean McPherson and his family, friends, and foes, I think to myself, This really would be excellent for a television series. Wouldn’t be surprised if it’s on Netflix’s radar!”

—SHERRY BRISCOE, author of *The Man in Number Seven*

# IMPERVIOUS

A SEAN MCPHERSON NOVEL, BOOK THREE

LAURIE BUCHANAN

## DESCRIPTION:

In the village of Fairhaven—nestled between Washington State’s Bellingham Bay and the Cascade Mountains, home to writers’ retreat Pines & Quill—friends and family have gathered for the union of Sean McPherson and Emma Benton. Sean has been working with the FBI and local police to help solve crimes, particularly murders bearing the mark of crime boss Georgio “The Bull” Gambino. Emma, who has just learned to walk again, has begun to feel at home and hopes to one day raise a family.

But just as the festivities begin and corks fly, an explosion shatters everything, killing one and injuring others. From Bellingham to San Francisco and New Orleans, the chase is on to discover who’s dead set on ensuring the newlyweds don’t live happily ever after.

The writers currently in residence at Pines & Quill include a vineyard owner, a Bryn Mawr College professor, a special education teacher accompanied by her seeing-eye dog, and an intuitive who can’t—or won’t—identify the killer. Gambino has a knack for finding people in even the most inaccessible places to do his bidding. Could one of the writers be on his payroll?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A cross between Dr. Dolittle, Nanny McPhee, and a type-A Buddhist, Laurie Buchanan is an active listener, observer of details, reader and writer of books, and red licorice aficionado. Her books have won multiple awards, including the *Foreword* INDIES Book of the Year Gold Winner, the International Book Award Gold Winner, the National Indie Excellence Awards Winner, the Crime Fiction/Suspense Eric Hoffer Awards Finalist, and the PenCraft Award for literary excellence; they’ve also been a finalist for the CLUE Suspense/Thriller Book Awards. Laurie and her husband live in the Pacific Northwest, where she enjoys long walks, bicycling, camping, and photography—because sometimes the best word choice is a picture. To learn more, please visit her website at [www.lauriebuchanan.com](http://www.lauriebuchanan.com).



APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 11, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-181-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-182-7

“By focusing on a protagonist who struggles with discontentment despite having the trappings of joy in her life, Garber takes a fresh approach to exploring what constitutes happiness.”

—BookLife

“Garber paints her protagonist vividly and sympathetically as she begins to accept that her evolving sense of self won’t fit into the confines of her seemingly ideal life.”

—Ursula De Young, founding editor of *Embark Literary Journal*

# THE FRENCH LOVER'S WIFE

A NOVEL

JANET GARBER

## DESCRIPTION:

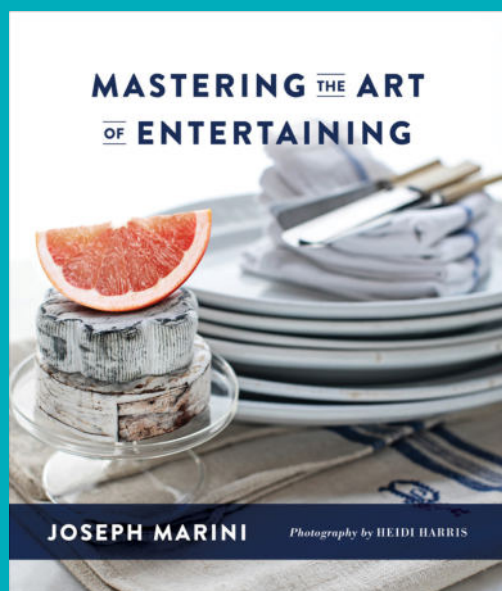
When Lucie, a smart and sassy girl from NYC, meets Pierre, a dashing Frenchman, at a grad school party in 1973, she abandons her PhD program to run off with him. It's the start of the sexual revolution, and she doesn't intend to miss a thing. They first land in Mexico, then marry and settle in Paris to live the dream. But not long into their marriage, Pierre becomes an intolerant critic of her wifely imperfections; Lucie just can't seem to measure up to French standards.

Instead of settling into her new life, she balks at French customs. As planned, she has their baby son in 1976, but far from succeeding in settling her down, the baby highlights her inability to depend on Pierre and precipitates a meltdown. Finally, she makes two friends, young mothers she's met at the playground. When one of them tries to commit suicide, Lucie panics and considers returning to the US but fears the impact on her young son. An English-speaking women's writing group sets her on the right path. Ultimately, those women help her realize what she truly needs and wants out of life: to be a mother, a career woman, and a writer.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Janet Garber holds an MA in English from the University of Rochester. Her work has been published in the *Wall Street Journal's* Vertical Network, *The New York Times*, *New York Post*, *Working Mother Magazine*, *HR Magazine*, *Chicken Soup for the Soul*, dozens of literary journals (*The Raven's Perch*, *Forge Literary Magazine*, *Tigershark Publishing*), several anthologies, and elsewhere. She's published two books: *I Need a Job, Now What?* (Silver Lining Books, 2001), rereleased as *Getting a Job* (Barnes & Noble Books, 2003), and *Dream Job: Wacky Adventures of an HR Manager*. Garber lives fifty miles north of the Big Apple; when she's not writing, you can find her hiking in the Gunks with her hubby, in the audience at live music events, or trying to talk some sense into her two charming rescue cats.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 11, 2023

Collections: Cooking, Entertainment

Trim size: 9 x 11

Price: \$ 45.00 paperback / \$ 22.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-196-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-197-1

“Not just a labor of love but a work of devotion. Joseph’s heart is on every page, and yours cannot help but follow. His good sense and great ideas are a beautiful bonus.”

—Frances Schultz, author of *The Bee Cottage Story* and *California Cooking and Southern Style* and 2019 *The Salonnière* 100 winner

“This fabulous first book from veteran caterer and event designer extraordinaire Joseph Marini offers a window into his wonderful world. But even better, *Mastering the Art of Entertaining* provides all of us with the principles of being a good host. This book is filled with both rich photography and sage advice.”

—Ronda Carman, author of *The Art of Pantry Cooking*, *Entertaining at Home*, and *Designers at Home* and 2019 *The Salonnière* 100 winner

# MASTERING THE ART OF ENTERTAINING

JOSEPH MARINI

## DESCRIPTION:

The spaces we live in are more than just buildings. Our homes have a pulse; like us, they have a past, present, and future. They reflect who we are, and they are the center of our lives. For that reason, entertaining is more than just throwing a great party or setting a pretty table. There is a vulnerability inherent in opening our home and inviting people in to see how we live—and that vulnerability, says home entertainer extraordinaire Joseph Marini, is something to embrace wholeheartedly.

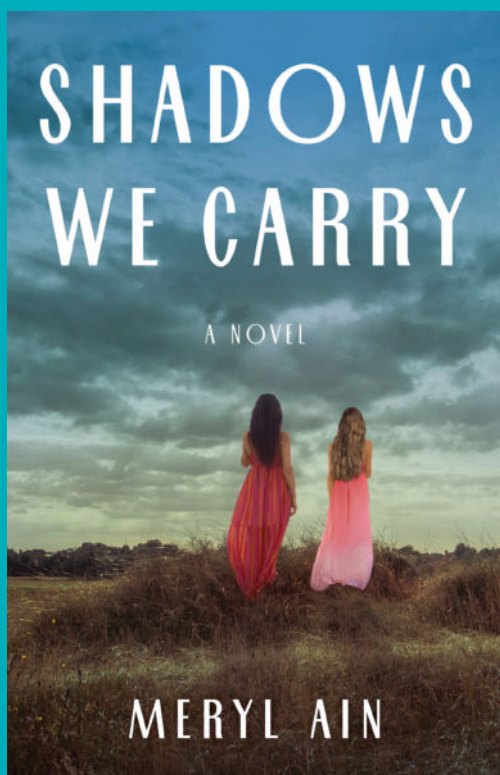
In this beautiful, accessible guide, Joseph shares his secrets for being a thoughtful and authentic host when entertaining at home, along with distinctive recipes, tasteful advice on etiquette appropriate for today’s lifestyles, and a multitude of ways to make your next gathering unforgettable. Becoming a proficient host means that you are taking the time to nurture people—bringing them together in a space that is comfortable and welcoming while creating memories over food and drinks. Even someone who hates to cook can become a talented host by taking the time to give their presentation a special touch (by serving those store-bought foods on earthenware platters with beautiful garnishes, for example) and learning how to care well for their guests.

Including close to 100 recipes that Joseph has used both throughout his career as a caterer and for his own personal use at home—each one accompanied by a gorgeous, full-page lifestyle photo and a recommendation on how to serve the dish with style—*Mastering the Art of Entertaining at Home* is the empowering, inspiring coach you need to become the host you’ve always wanted to be

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Joseph Marini has been captivated by home economics since his first class in grade school. Since that time, he’s honed his skills to include all aspects of creating an authentic, inviting social environment at home, and today he is renowned for his enterprising entertaining skills. Noted for his nod to etiquette, Joseph is an expert on how to host well, from serving the perfect canapé to creating a tabletop prop closet to averting a conversation crisis at the dinner table. At the core of his teachings is the understanding that entertaining is about creating community and nurturing people through the intimacy of home. Joseph lives in Florida with his husband and their family of beautiful dogs.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 25, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-200-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-201-5

“*Shadows We Carry* transports you into the multi-faceted lives of Jewish Holocaust survivors and their children during the 1960s and '70s in America. Her fully developed characters wrestle with guilt, love, marriage, Judaism, sexuality, politics, and the unraveling of family secrets. Ain, with impeccable research, has made a significant contribution to our understanding of the Holocaust and its dramatic impact on survivors and their descendants.”

—Esther Amini, author of *CONCEALED: Memoir of a Jewish-Iranian Daughter Caught Between the Chador and America*

# SHADOWS WE CARRY

## A NOVEL

MERYL AIN

### DESCRIPTION:

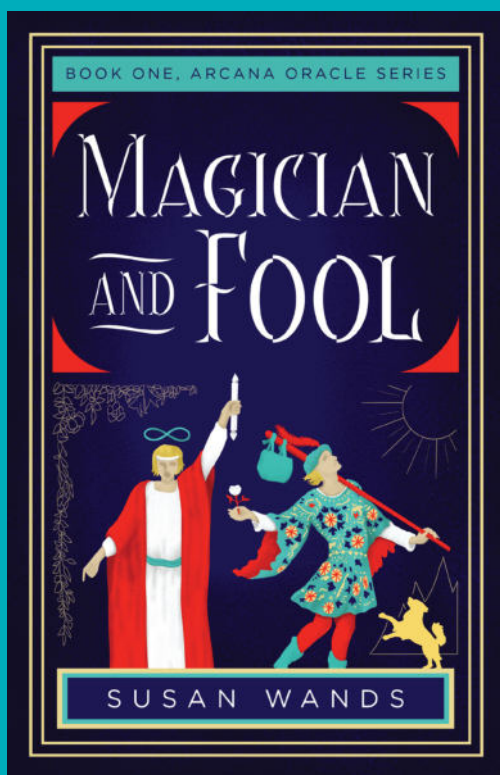
In this eagerly anticipated sequel to Meryl Ain’s award-winning post-Holocaust novel *The Takeaway Men*, we follow Bronka and JoJo Lubinski as they find themselves on the cusp of momentous change for women in the late 1960s. With the United States in the grip of political and social upheaval, the twins and a number of their peers, including a Catholic priest and the son of a Nazi, struggle with their family’s ancestry and how much influence it has on their lives. Meanwhile, both young women seek to define their roles as women, and as individuals.

Enlightening and evocative, *Shadows We Carry* explores the experience of navigating deeply held family secrets and bloodlines, confusing religious identities, and the scars of World War II in the wake of revolutionary societal changes.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Meryl Ain is a writer, author, podcaster, and career educator. *The Takeaway Men*, her award-winning post-Holocaust debut novel, was published in 2020. Her articles and essays have appeared in numerous publications and she is the author of two nonfiction books. A member of The International Advisory Board for Holocaust Survivor Day, she is the host of the podcast *People of the Book* and the founder of the Facebook group Jews Love To Read. She holds a BA from Queens College, an MA from Columbia University, and a doctorate in education from Hofstra University. She and her husband, Stewart, a journalist, live in New York. They have three married sons and six grandchildren.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 2, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-186-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-187-2

“Rich and atmospheric; Wands dazzles with the wealth of research she’s woven into the fabric of the novel, using her own creative magic to bring some of our most bewitching historical figures back to life.”

—Kira Jane Buxton, author of *Hollow Kingdom* and *Feral Creatures*

“*Magician and Fool* is an enchanting read that whisks you to a time in London when life is steeped in a cutting-edge exploration of magic and the otherworldly. It is a world I loved spending time in from the beginning to the end.”

—Naomi McDougall Jones, author of *The Wrong Kind of Woman: Inside Our Revolution to Dismantle the Gods of Hollywood*

# MAGICIAN AND FOOL

## BOOK ONE, ARCANA ORACLE SERIES

SUSAN WANDS

### DESCRIPTION:

Pamela Colman Smith, newly arrived from New York to her birthplace of London, is received as an oddball in Victorian society. Her second sight helps her in her new job: illustrating tarot cards for the Golden Dawn, a newly formed occult group. But when Pamela refuses to share her creations with Aleister Crowley, a controversial magician, he issues a threat: give up the cards’ power, or he’ll harm her muses.

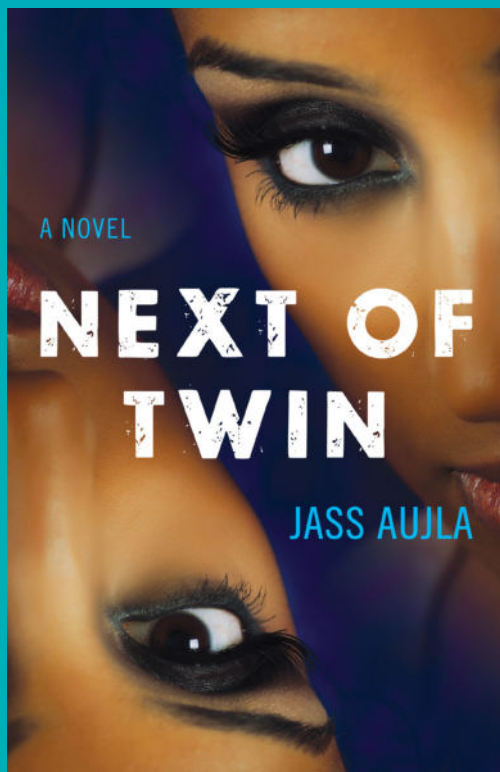
In the midst of this battle, two of Pamela’s idols, the actors Henry Irving and William Terriss, take her under their wing. Henry, who tutors her as the leader of the Lyceum Theatre, becomes the muse for her Magician card. William Terriss, teaching her by examples of instinct and courage, becomes the muse for her Fool card. As Pamela begins to create the tarot deck, she is almost overwhelmed by the race to possess the magical power of her cards. In order to defeat Aleister, Henry and William will have to transform into living incarnations of the Magician and the Fool—and Pamela will have to learn how to conjure her own magic.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susan Wands is a writer, tarot reader, and actor. A graduate from the University of Washington, she has acted professionally across the United States and on Broadway. Her adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice* was produced at the Cornish Institute in Seattle and she has written plays, screenplays, and skits and produced several indie films. She was a company member in Rumble in the Red Room, an off-Broadway troupe, for four years. As a co-chair with the NYC Chapter of the Historical Novel Society, she helps produce monthly online book launches and author panels. Wands’s writings have appeared in *Art in Fiction*, *Kindred Spirits* magazine, and The Irving Society journal *First Knight*. She lives in NYC with her husband, actor Robert Petkoff, and two cats, Flora and Flynn.



MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 16, 2023

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-198-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-199-5

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“How far would you go for your family? A compelling story of family ties that bend and break—all wrapped up in a riveting, bloody murder.”

—JEN BRAAKSMA, author of *Evangeline’s Heaven*

“A GRIPPING MYSTERY THAT DIGS DEEP BENEATH THE SURFACE.”

—J. KNIGHTSTONE, author of *The Kids Are Turning Thirty*

# NEXT OF TWIN

A NOVEL

JASS AUJLA

## DESCRIPTION:

Riah Arora has traveled from Italy to San Francisco to find her twin. Born in India and separated from her sister at birth in an era when parents didn’t want baby girls, even she isn’t sure if she’s on a mission to deliver a message from their ailing birth mother . . . or to con her sister like one of the marks she expertly robs to make her living.

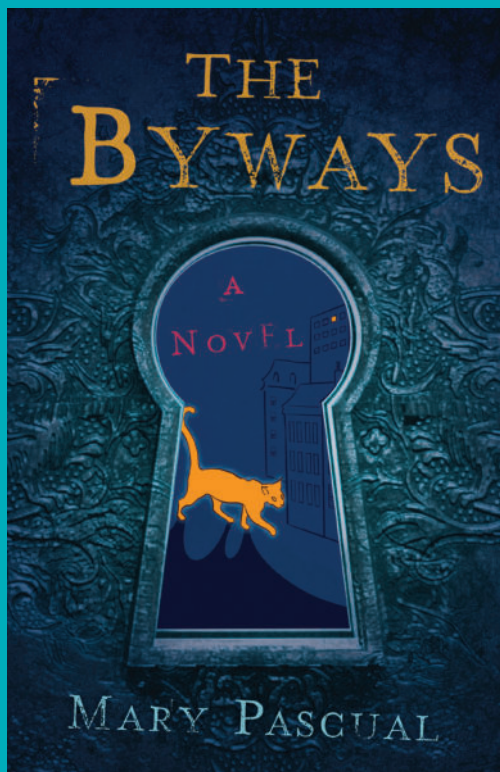
Anjali Murphy—successful owner of a trendy café, married to a well-to-do lawyer—has an agenda of her own. But when she and her sister finally meet, they feel an instant bond and connection only a twin can understand. Even so, Riah is envious of Anjali’s life, and she seizes the opportunity to pull one last, lucrative con.

A week later, Riah wakes up in the hospital and is mistaken for Anjali. Moreover, she’s told by Sadie Harper, a homicide detective, that Anjali’s husband, Michael, is dead. Who killed Michael? And where is the real Anjali? The detectives are convinced that this is a simple crime-of-passion case—but as Riah struggles to recover her memory and answer these questions, she discovers a plot that runs deeper than bloodlines.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jass Aujla is a South Asian–Canadian writer—born in India and raised in Canada. She’s passionate about creativity and personal growth, and shares her writing life with a career in financial services. Her microfiction has appeared in small press publications worldwide. *Next of Twin* is her debut novel.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 6, 2023

Collections: Young Adult Fantasy,  
Young Adult Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-190-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-191-9

“... a smart, delightful novel that features a pinch of danger, a spoonful of political unrest, and a dash of romance . . . A fun, charming, and modern twist on an old classic.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“For anyone who has ever felt miscast or bypassed, set down or let down, this story about a girl who feels just a little too much is exciting and weird and beautiful and wise.”

—Sean Stewart, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Galveston* and *Mockingbird*

# THE BYWAYS

A NOVEL

MARY PASCUAL

## DESCRIPTION:

High school student CeeCee Harper has special needs, a temper, and a reputation for trouble. Angry at the rumors and afraid she'll never fit in, she makes a wrong move—and lands in the byways, a world of alleys, magic, and forgotten people, some of whom aren't even human. And if she doesn't escape quickly, CeeCee learns, she'll be trapped for good.

Searching for a way out, she gets lost among monsters, drug pushers, the homeless, and political upheaval, and soon finds there are those who will stop at nothing to keep her from leaving. But the byways pull people in for a reason. CeeCee must figure out why she got stuck in the first place—before her loved ones are put in danger and she loses them forever.

A dark retelling of *Alice in Wonderland* meets *Neverwhere*, this contemporary fantasy will enchant Neil Gaiman and Christina Henry fans.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary Pascual is a writer and artist who believes finding magic is only a matter of perspective. She loves stories about characters with heart and fantastical settings that are more than meets the eye. She grew up in California and enjoys reading, art, traveling, exploring outside, and building elaborate stage sets for Halloween. Writing has taken her on a number of unexpected adventures, including working in high tech, meeting psychics, interviewing rock bands, and even once attending a press conference for Bigfoot. She got hooked on reading adult science fiction and fantasy in the fifth grade—so in retrospect, much of her reading material was completely inappropriate (which probably explains a few things). She lives with her husband, son, and assorted demanding cats in San Jose, CA.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 6, 2023

Collections: Young Adult Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-204-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-205-3

“Frazier masterfully limns Juana’s waning hope as she comes to terms with the fact the government that’s locked her away will likely kick her out of the country after she’s released...a persistently tense story... both narratively and emotionally satisfying.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Mona Alvarado Frazier is masterful with tension and is able to thread it through every single page. Depictions of life in prison are painfully raw and have an authenticity to them...”

—Reader’s Favorite, 5-star review

# THE GARDEN OF SECOND CHANCES

## A NOVEL

MONA ALVARADO FRAZIER

### DESCRIPTION:

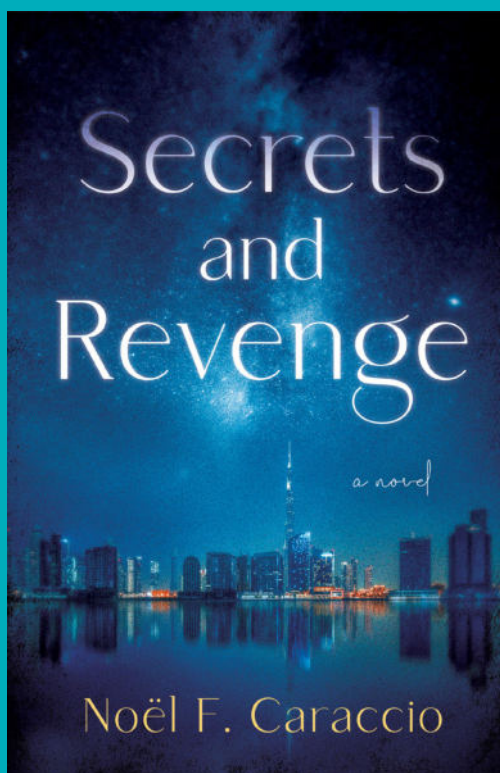
Juana, a seventeen-year-old mother, is sentenced to prison for murdering her husband. She claims she’s innocent—but no one believes her, including the prison staff and a gang leader in her block who torments her.

Juana’s troubles aren’t confined to prison, however—she’s undocumented, and her husband’s bereaved family is now threatening to take her baby from her forever. Feeling hemmed in on all sides and desperate to stay out of trouble, Juana creates her own refuge in the prison yard: a garden she created. As she digs in the soil, nurturing the plants, she remembers her courageous, long-deceased mother, who she knows would never give in or give up. Juana’s only hope for saving herself and her baby is to prove her innocence—but how?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

After decades of working with incarcerated youth and raising three creative kids as a single parent, Mona Alvarado Frazier is now fulfilling her passions of writing and traveling. When not doing either of those she’s reading, volunteering, watching K-dramas, and tending the family’s two cats and her succulent gardens. Mona’s short stories are published in the University of Nevada, Reno anthology *Basta! Latinas Against Gender Violence* and *Palabritas*, a Harvard literary journal. She is a member of SCBWI and Macondo Writers and a cofounder of LatinxPitch, a Twitter event. She is a 2021 Mentee of Las Musas Latinx children’s literature collective.

**JUNE 2023**



Publication Date: June 13, 2023

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-202-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-203-9

# SECRETS AND REVENGE

## A NOVEL

**NOEL F. CARACCIO**

### DESCRIPTION:

Years ago, Rick Singleton blackmailed the very wealthy managing partner of a large New York law firm after stumbling across a black market adoption ring the man was running on the side. He got a million dollars out of Steve Goldrick before going to the district attorney to turn him in—and Goldrick fled the country before the authorities could arrest him.

Someone has invaded Rick's home, badly injured his wife, Maizie, and taken his three-month-old daughter, Grace—and all signs point to Goldrick.

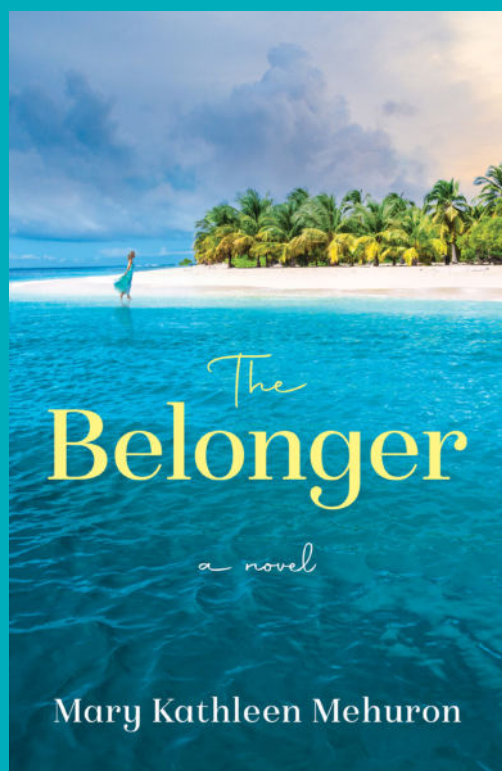
Maizie's long-deceased grandmother, Fannie, has come back from the other side to help her family before; now, Maizie's mother, Abby, calls on her again. A force to be reckoned with, Fannie is able to move freely in the physical world, although no one can see her. When she answers her daughter's call, she finds herself in Dubai, with no clue as to what her surprising new surroundings have to do with her great-granddaughter's kidnapping. Will Fannie be able to help her family figure out who really kidnapped Grace and where she is being held? And even if she does, will it be possible to return Grace safely to her parents?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Noël F. Caraccio is a full-time practicing attorney in Westchester County, where she has lived her entire life. She has served on numerous not-for-profit boards, including Marian Woods, School of the Holy Child, Westchester County Bar Association Grievance Committee, New York State Bar Association, Bonnie Briar Country Club, and WARC Properties. She is an avid golfer and belongs to Bonnie Briar Country Club, where she won the Women's Club Championship. The coauthor of *Secrets Change Everything*, the prequel to *Secrets and Revenge*, Noël is also the author of *Shattered City* and currently has another novel in the works.



JULY 2023



Publication Date: June 13, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-206-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-207-7

“The warm breezes of the Caribbean, a wild hurricane, and a woman who finds her own power and becomes an unwitting heroine.

Readers of this entertaining novel will be transported to a magical place where great loss and sacrifice pave the way to an unexpected love and life.”

—Kris Radish, author of *Annie Freeman’s Fabulous Traveling Funeral* and *The Year of Necessary Lies*

“This is a straight-shot read from start to finish, so Caribbean-real you almost expect sand to shake from the pages.”

—James M. Tabor, author of *Blind Descent* and *The Deep Zone*

# THE BELONGER

A NOVEL

MARY KATHLEEN MEHURON

## DESCRIPTION:

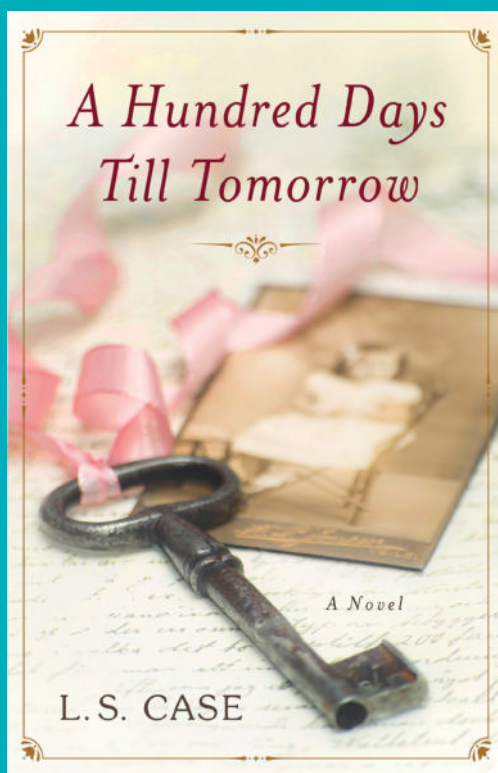
Holly Walker is happy, if occasionally a bit lonely, in the life she’s built on the island of Grand Turk. She and her grown son, Byron, have built a thriving business there together, and the slow pace of life “on island” suits her well. But when a Category 5 hurricane is projected to make landfall on Grand Turk and Holly finds herself hunkering down with Lord Anthony Bascombe, a fellow who routinely chalks up his bad behavior to the fact he is descended from pirates, her mostly predictable life is turned entirely upside-down.

After the hurricane passes, Holly finds herself separated from her grown son, Byron, and his father, Montez—her unrequited love of more than twenty years. Unable to contact them, and unsure if they’re even alive, she is undone. Will she ever see them again? And what about all the others on the island who may be hurt, or even dying? To survive the storm’s aftermath, Holly will have to draw on her own strength—and open herself to the possibility that what she once wanted and what she wants now may be two very different things.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary Kathleen Mehuron is a career educator who made a splash with her first book, *Fading Past*, an autobiographical novel about growing up Irish-Catholic in New Jersey. Her second novel, *The Opposite of Never*, was selected for Breakout Novels of 2018, IndiePicks; 16 of the Most Anticipated Books of 2018, Brit & Co; Six Books About Family to Cherish This Spring, BuzzFeed; Ten Heartwarming Tales About Family, Culturalist; 12 Inspiring Me-Time Reads Perfect for Mother’s Day, Working Mother; and others. Mary Kathleen lives in the ski town in Vermont where she and her husband raised their three sons, where she is a weekly columnist for the local newspaper, *The Valley Reporter*, and writes curriculum for private students. She takes extended time to work on her novels on Grand Turk Island and in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 20, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-188-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-189-6

“L. S. Case has a rare turn of phrase, filling every paragraph with words that seem to spill out of magical scarves.”

—Shelley Ross, writer, producer, director, and three-time Emmy Award winner

“*A Hundred Days Until Tomorrow* by L. S. Case is a delicious escape from any cares—present or past. Like the magical sea glass on the shores of Cobblers Hill, each chapter of Miranda’s journey with the green-eyed Jake Colby and his magical Gran Addie gleams with light and newly found joy. Curl up with this book and prepare to be swept off your feet whether you believe in such things or not.”

—Jane Sibbett, writer, director, and actress on the hit television series *Friends*

# A HUNDRED DAYS TILL TOMORROW

## A NOVEL

L. S. CASE

### DESCRIPTION:

Miranda Blair is a self-proclaimed hypocrite. Employed by her town’s historical society, she preserves brick-and-mortar landmarks from yesterday but has spent two decades running from her past. Having never been able to afford life’s indulgent toppings, she’s settled for vanilla.

Miranda is coaxed from her childhood home when she’s named the sole heir to her estranged grandmother’s estate. Gertrude Blair has outlined a hundred-day stay at her New England cottage as a prerequisite for the inheritance. Begrudgingly, Miranda accepts this unorthodox final request from the woman who never deserved the title “grandma.”

In idyllic Cobblers Hill, shingled homes boast charming front porches and roses entwine white picket fences. But Gertrude’s abandoned property needs a makeover as desperately as Miranda does. And while remnants from Miranda’s history bake within the dark paneled cottage walls, “no strings attached” prevails as her motto—that is, until she meets the emerald-eyed guy next door.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

L. S. Case is a lifelong Long Islander and a twenty-year volunteer wish granter for the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Before embarking on her author journey, she spent over a decade as a proud region leader, recruiter, trainer, and multi-award sales achiever for lia sophia jewelry. In 2017, she cofounded a nonprofit; she currently serves on that organization’s board of directors. Her life’s joy is the time she spends with her husband, family, and temperamental cockatiel. Always on the lookout for her next adventure, L. S. can be found singing off-key at an ’80s concert, cycling to the beach, participating in races, swinging from a trapeze, or hanging from the warehouse ceiling in Fear Factor Live at Universal Studios (goat yoga, anyone?). She currently resides in Huntington, New York.

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 11, 2023

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-192-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-193-3

“Brimming with hope, humor, and possibility, best friends and annoying hangers-on, ridiculous teachers and more ridiculous family members, indignities, sorrows, despair, and triumph, Nilsen builds a story that feels so real, I could almost feel the flutter of butterflies doing backflips in my own stomach. A sharply-drawn and big-hearted story. I loved every single page.”

—Kelly Barnhill, Newbery Medal–winning author of *The Girl Who Drank the Moon*

# WORLDWIDE CRUSH

## A NOVEL

KRISTIN NILSEN

### DESCRIPTION:

Rory Calhoun is a teen popstar with perfect teeth and messy hair who’s inspiring first crushes all over the globe. Millie Jackson is just one of the millions of fans who love him—but that doesn’t mean her heart doesn’t break for him every single day in this laugh-out-loud coming-of-age story.

How many of Rory’s fans collect “data” about him in a special notebook hidden in their underwear drawer? Or have faked a fascination with whale migration for a chance to visit his hometown? Millie may not be Rory’s only fan at Susan B. Anthony Middle School, but she’s convinced she’s the biggest—and the best.

Rory’s new song “Worldwide Crush” is climbing the charts, and his lyrics are clear: he’s looking for love—and he’s looking in the audience. Meaning Millie’s secret fantasies of running in the surf and eating waffles with him may not be crazy after all . . . she could be that girl! But first she has to get to his concert—his completely sold-out concert in a city nowhere near her home for which she does not have tickets or a ride. She just has to figure out how.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kristin Nilsen has been a children’s librarian, a bookseller, a perfume seller, a horse poop shoveler, a typist (on an actual typewriter), a storyteller, a seventh grader, and a mom to both humans and dogs. Today she is a self-proclaimed Pro Crushologist who talks about Gen X pop culture on *The Pop Culture Preservation Society* podcast. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, one of the only big cities in the world where you can look out your window and see a lake. Which she likes. A lot.



A top-down photograph of a person sitting on a bed, reading an open book. The person is wearing a rust-colored t-shirt and blue jeans. Their hands are visible, holding a pair of thin, gold-rimmed glasses. On their left wrist, they wear a white watch with a gold case and a gold ring on their ring finger. The book is open to a page with dense text in a Cyrillic script. The background is a white, wrinkled bedsheet. A white rectangular box with a thin border is centered over the book, containing the text 'FALL 2022' in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

FALL 2022



AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 2, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Young Adult Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-145-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-146-9

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“Well-written and engaging, this story has an authentic voice . . .”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Stollenwerck’s heartfelt debut . . . utilizes accessible language, tender intergenerational bonds, and a steady pace to thoughtfully unfurl one teen’s family history.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

# HELLO, GOODBYE

A NOVEL

KATE STOLLENWERCK

## DESCRIPTION:

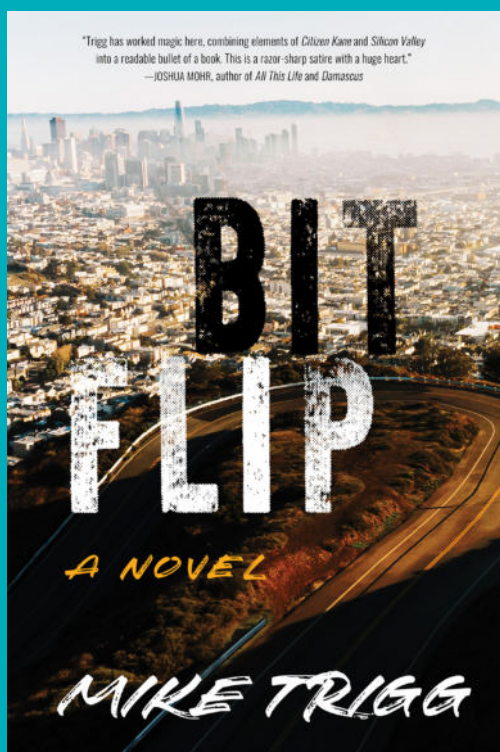
Fifteen-year-old Hailey Rogers is sure her summer is ruined when her parents force her to spend a few days a week helping her grandmother, Gigi. Although she only lives across town, Hailey never sees her grandmother and knows little about her. But Gigi is full of surprises—and family secrets. Throw in the gorgeous boy down the street, and Hailey’s ruined summer might just be the best of her life.

Then tragedy strikes, lies are uncovered, and Hailey’s life suddenly falls apart. After unearthing clues in an old letter written by her great-grandfather, she takes off on a road trip to solve the family mystery with the only person she can trust. In a forgotten Texas town, the past and the present collide—and Hailey is forced to choose what she truly values in life.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kate Stollenwerck is an attorney turned author. A fifth-generation Texan, she graduated from Northwestern University and the University of Texas at Austin School of Law. She now lives in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida, with her husband, three children, and a crazy cat.

# AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 16, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-177-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-178-0

“As much a compelling narrative as it is a critical analysis of contemporary capitalism, this story worries over the coming future, in which technology could take over much of what people used to do. This helps to make *Bit Flip* an engrossing novel that satirizes the pretensions of tech bros and billionaires.”

—Foreword *Clarion Reviews*, 5 stars

“Trigg has worked magic here, combining elements of *Citizen Kane* and *Silicon Valley* into a readable bullet of a book. This is a razor-sharp satire with a huge heart.”

—Joshua Mohr, author of *All This Life* and *Damascus*

## BIT FLIP A NOVEL

### MIKE TRIGG

#### DESCRIPTION:

Combining the corporate intrigue of Joseph Finder, the satirical cultural critique of Dave Eggers, and the domestic drama of Laura Dave, *Bit Flip* is a fast-paced contemporary thriller that delivers an authentic insider’s view of the corrupting influences of greed, entitlement, and vanity in technology start-ups.

Tech executive Sam Hughes came to Silicon Valley to “make the world a better place.” He’s just not sure he’s doing that anymore. And when an onstage meltdown sends him into a professional tailspin, he suddenly sees the culture of the Bay Area’s tech bubble in a new light.

Just as Sam’s wondering if his start-up career and marriage might both be over at fortysomething, an inadvertent discovery pulls him back into his former company, where he begins to unravel the insidious schemes of the founder and venture investors.

Driven by his desire for redemption, Sam discovers a conspiracy of fraud, blackmail, and manipulation that leads to tragic outcomes—threatening to destroy not only the company but also his own moral compass. Entangled in a web of complicity, how far will Sam go to achieve his dreams of entrepreneurial success?

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mike Trigg was born in Kentucky and raised in Wisconsin. He earned a BA from Northwestern University and an MBA from University of California, Berkeley. Over his twenty-five-year career in Silicon Valley, he has been a founder, executive, and investor in dozens of venture-funded technology start-ups, as well as a contributor to *TechCrunch*, *Entrepreneur*, and *Fast Company*. He lives in Menlo Park, California, with his wife and two sons. *Bit Flip* is his first novel.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 16, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Young Adult

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-147-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-148-3

“A wonderful and captivating read about courage, commitment, and the power to make a difference at any age. Don’t go another day without reading *The Year Without a Summer*.”

—Howard Roughan, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Promise of a Lie*

“Mark’s novel will appeal to both a middle-grade and YA audience, as it discusses its heavy topics with finesse and warmth. It’s a compelling blend of a teenage romance and a tale of attempting to make a difference in the world at large. . . . A well-balanced and wide-ranging story for young readers.”

—Kirkus Review

# THE YEAR WITHOUT A SUMMER

## A NOVEL

ARLENE MARK

### DESCRIPTION:

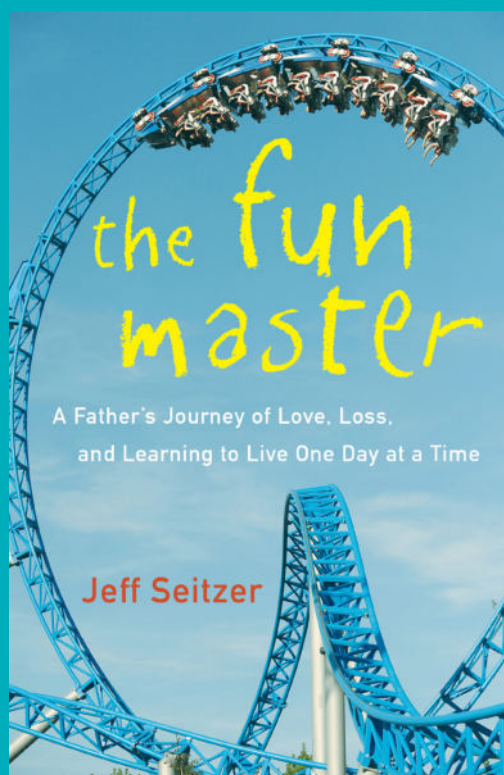
Explosive volcanic eruptions are cool, really, cool. They inject ash into the stratosphere and deflect the sun’s rays. When eighth grader Jamie Fulton learns that snow fell in June in his hometown because of an eruption on the other side of the world, he’s psyched! He could have snowboarded if he’d lived back in 1815 during the year without a summer.

Clara Montalvo, who recently arrived at Jamie’s school after surviving Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico, has a different take on all this. She is astounded—and disturbed—by Jamie’s frenzied enthusiasm for what she considers an obvious disaster. The teens’ battling arguments cause science class disruption and create academic trouble: Jamie’s headed for a failing grade in science, and may not even graduate from eighth grade; Clara’s scholarship hopes are dashed. And school isn’t the only place where Jamie and Clara are facing hardship: as they quarrel whether natural disasters can be beneficial, their home lives are also unraveling. Uncertainty about Jamie’s wounded brother returning from Afghanistan and Clara’s unreachable father back in Puerto Rico forces the two vulnerable teens to share their worries and sadness. As their focus shifts from natural disasters to personal calamities to man-made climate changes, the teens take surprising steps that astonish them. Ultimately, through hard work and growing empathy for each other, as well as for their classmates’ distress over the climate change affecting their lives, Jamie and Clara empower themselves and the people they touch.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Arlene Mark grew up in Western PA steel country before making her way to NYC to begin her career. After working in fashion, marrying, and committing to her family, she lived in London, Caracas, and Toronto with husband and three children before settling in CT. She has an MA in special education and a certification in school psychology. Her work has appeared in *Highlights for Children*, *Spider*, *Skipping Stones*, *Adolescence*, *Their World*, and *Greenwich Magazine*. She is the author of *To the Tower: A Greenwich Adventure* and a coauthor of *Paraverbal Communication with Children: Not Through Words Alone* and has served as a *Greenwich Time* contributing editor writing articles about children’s emotional lives. When not writing, Arlene can be found lobstering with her husband, Reuben, visiting schools in Asia and Latin America, reading (mostly books for kids), and screening new films.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 16, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-149-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-150-6

“In this poignant memoir, Seitzer takes us inside the grueling day-to-day of parents turned inside out by the arrival of a child with intense medical needs, while reminding us that even in the most challenging times the joy and humor that children bring always shines through. And the love. The big, life-changing love.”

—Nicola Kraus, coauthor of *The Nanny Diaries*

“About coping, self-sacrifice, and loss, *The Fun Master* is a moving memoir by a father who was transformed by his love for his child.”

—Foreword Reviews

# THE FUN MASTER

## A FATHER'S JOURNEY OF LOVE, LOSS, AND LEARNING TO LIVE ONE DAY AT A TIME

JEFF SEITZER

### DESCRIPTION:

A self-involved academic struggling to cope with his own neurological problems, Jeff could hardly take care of himself, let alone a child with special needs, when his son, Ethan, was born. But despite multiple surgeries, hospitalizations, serious breathing and swallowing problems, hearing loss, and a challenging social environment in his first months of life, Ethan thrived—all the while teaching Jeff to take things as they came. And eight years later, the arrival from China of adopted baby sister Penelope took Jeff's on-the-job training to a whole new level.

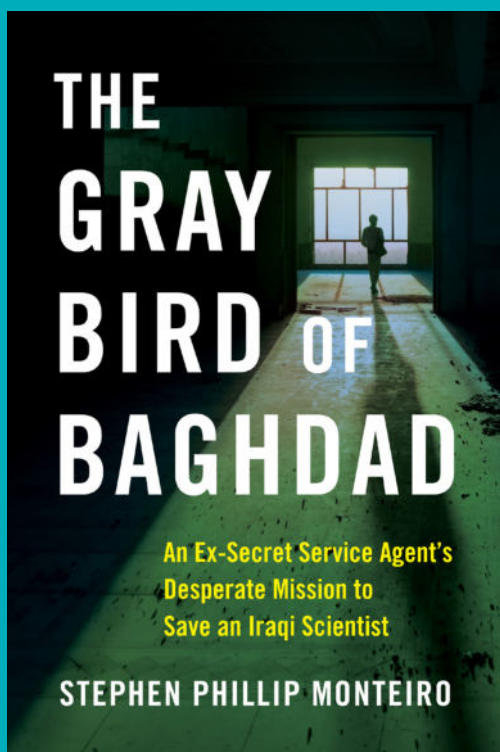
Ethan's instinct for fun proved the perfect complement to Jeff's determination to live life fully. He died too young, but not before he, Penelope, and their mother, Janet, taught Jeff that the true path to happiness was putting other people's needs before his own—and living in the moment rather than trying to control it.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jeff Seitzer was an expert on the care of the self, himself in particular, before he unexpectedly became a stay-at-home dad concerned with other people's needs. Accounts of his on-the-job training as a full-time parent have appeared in the *Omaha World-Herald*, *Hippocampus*, *Brevity Nonfiction Blog*, *Adoptive Families Magazine*, and elsewhere. An award-winning teacher, he is also author of a number of books and articles on law and philosophy. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, he now lives with his family in Chicago, where he teaches philosophy and religion at Roosevelt University.



AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 30, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-151-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-152-0

“Monteiro’s unrelenting quest gives the reader a shocking view of inside bureaucratic misfeasance and political hedging. His story is a page-turning reveal of how a post-9/11 hatred evolved into a most unusual friendship against the backdrop of a terrible war.”

—Alan Brenham, author of *Price of Justice*

“Monteiro’s account is a compelling story that is ripe for a movie adaptation.”

—*Booklist*

“As Monteiro and his team fight to locate Thamer and understand his role in the affairs and future of two nations, readers embark on a gripping journey that brings the sights, smells, and politics of the times to life.”

—*Midwest Book Review*

# THE GRAY BIRD OF BAGHDAD

## AN EX-SECRET SERVICE AGENT'S DESPERATE MISSION TO SAVE AN IRAQI SCIENTIST

STEPHEN PHILLIP MONTEIRO

### DESCRIPTION:

A missing Iraqi scientist, an ex-Secret Service agent, and the threat of another biological terrorist attack—all these elements come together in the gripping true story of the Gray Bird of Baghdad.

Iraqi microbiologist Thamer Abdul Rahman Imran has information vital to stopping the unthinkable: a biological attack on the US. When he learns that the new Iraqi government wants to arrest him and the insurgents want to kill him, he goes into hiding.

Racing against time, ex-Secret Service agent Steve Monteiro and his team set out on a mission to find the missing scientist and learn what he knows. The journey takes them from the White House to the Middle East as they fight bureaucrats in Washington who want them to fail. Why? And what is this vital information that Thamer possesses?

*The Gray Bird of Baghdad* tells the true story of one man's quest to protect his country and another man's fight to save his family from the ravages of a country at war.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Stephen Phillip Monteiro is an expert in security, forensics, intelligence, and bioterrorism. He spent more than twenty years as a Special Agent with the US Secret Service and served in the US Navy, where he was trained in cryptology. He was a member of the elite Presidential Protective Division at the White House and served as the Special Agent in Charge and director of the Forensic Crime Laboratory. Later, he became a Senior Advisor to the Director of Weapons of Mass Destruction Intelligence for the DHS focusing on bioterrorism and received the Director of National Intelligence Meritorious Unit Citation for his work on Iraqi scientists. His expertise has led to appearances on episodes of *The Forensic Files*, the National Geographic Channel, and the History's Channel's *America's Book of Secrets*, as well as local newscasts. He currently resides in Annapolis, MD.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 30, 2022

Collections: Fantasy

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-153-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-154-4

“Jen Braaksma’s *Evangeline* is an engaging, complex protagonist who knows her worth but struggles to find her place and is torn between love and truth. *Evangeline’s* will take you on the journey of a lifetime.”

—Alison Levy, author of the *Daemon Collecting Series*

“Fast-paced and beautifully written, *Evangeline’s Heaven* will make you question everything you thought you knew about angels and leave you wanting more.”

—Lenore Borja, author of *The Last Huntress: Mirror Realm Series Book I*

# EVANGELINE’S HEAVEN

## A NOVEL

JEN BRAAKSMA

### DESCRIPTION:

War is ravaging the Seven Heavens. Lucifer and his Commoner supporters, the lowest class of angels, are rebelling against God’s plan to exile them to the new Earth. When Lucifer departs on a desperate war mission, he leaves his daughter, Evangeline, to defend their home in First Heaven. Fiercely loyal and trained to fight, Evangeline stands ready to do her father’s bidding.

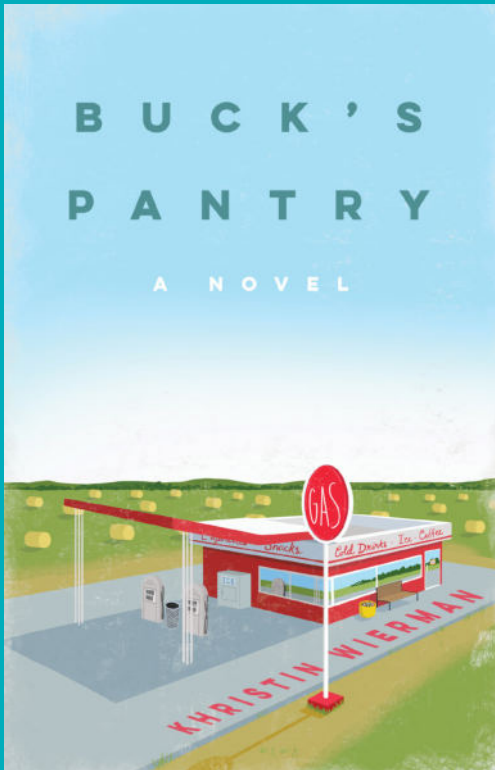
But things change when Evangeline overhears the archangel Gabriel forming a plan to destroy Lucifer—because, as he tells his son, Michael, he believes Lucifer’s plan is to find the Key to the Kingdom and claim the power of God to control all the Heavens for eternity. Refusing to believe her father capable of such treachery, Evangeline sets off to alert him.

As she battles through the Heavens, however, Evangeline is shocked to discover that what she believed she knew about her father might not be true after all. For the first time in her life, she begins to question whether or not her father’s motives are pure. With the fate of the Heavens hanging in the balance, she must decide who she’s going to be: her father’s daughter, or her own person.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jen Braaksma is a writer and book coach. She started her career as a journalist, then veered into the classroom as a high school English teacher for almost two decades. Now she helps other writers develop and share their stories. She lives with her husband and two teen daughters. And cats. Four of them. *Evangeline’s Heaven* is her first published novel, though it’s not the first one she’s written. That one still lives in her drawer. She lives in Ottawa, Canada.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 6, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-165-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-166-7

“Wierman weaves together an engaging storyline that twists and turns in ways that readers aren’t likely to see coming. . . a witty and uplifting novel.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“*Buck’s Pantry* by novelist Khristin Wierman is an engaging read from first page to last.”

—Midwest Book Review

# BUCK’S PANTRY

## A NOVEL

KHRISTIN WIERMAN

### DESCRIPTION:

In a small Texas town, three women—Gillian, a former prom queen and furious juggler of her three children’s manic schedules; Lianna, a foul-mouthed East Coast banking super star; and Aimee, a woman capable of far more than her current life will allow—find their lives converging.

Gillian, reeling from the revelations her husband shared at a fundraiser she hosted just days ago, is suddenly grappling with what she has always believed about politics, family, and her own comfortable life—and aghast at some of the choices she’s made. Lianna is en route to close a deal and languishing in the August heat. Desperate to return to her beloved New York and a first-time visitor to rural Texas, she’s certain she has landed in one of the outer rings of hell. Aimee, though withering under the covert dysfunction and mental illness lurking in her family, still manages to shine in her low-level job and allows herself to dream of a life far away. When Gillian and Lianna stop at the same convenience store, they find themselves in an unthinkable situation. Aimee may be their only hope—if she can put the pieces together.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Khristin Wierman was born and raised in a small East Texas town—which means she came into this world a Dallas Cowboys fan and ardently believes “y’all” is a legitimate pronoun. Some things she really likes are playing golf with her husband and stepson, poker, yoga, chocolate, the Golden State Warriors, the Oakland A’s, and the daily adventure of life with an adorably imperfect cat named Rocco. She lives in Oakland, California.



SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 13, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Fantasy, Young Adult

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-155-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-156-8

“Keridan’s worldbuilding is excellently crafted and seamlessly integrated into the story, enhancing the exposition. . . . A fine questing adventure and a promising start to a series.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“A romantic phantasm of swords and sorcery fueled by excellent world-building, *Reign Returned* is a perfect read for fans of Robin McKinley and Adrienne Young.”

—Colleen Oakes, best-selling author of the Queen of Hearts Series, *The Black Coats*, and the Wendy Darling Saga

# REIGN RETURNED

## THE FELSERPENT CHRONICLES, BOOK ONE

KATIE KERIDAN

### DESCRIPTION:

Kyra Valorian is the most gifted Astral healer the golden-blooded realm of Aeles has seen in ages. When tragedy strikes, Kyra discovers she possesses a life-changing gift: she’s a Recovrancer, able to enter the realm of the dead and recover those who’ve died before their time. Unfortunately, recovrancy is outlawed in her realm. Desperate for answers, Kyra will do anything to get them . . . even partner with a dangerous enemy.

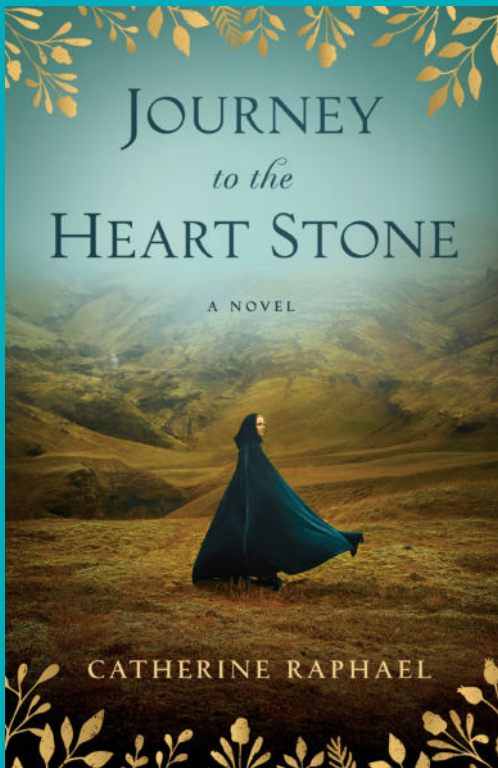
Sebastian Sayre is the most sought-after Daeval assassin in all of Nocens. A silver-blooded Pyromancer, he wields fire and dreams of finding Rhannu, a legendary sword that makes its holder invincible. Since the sword was long ago stolen from Nocens and hidden where no Daeval can retrieve it, however, such a dream seems impossible . . . until he encounters the one Astral who might be both able and willing to help him.

As Kyra and Sebastian work together to uncover the secrets of their realms, they also uncover secrets within their own pasts—pasts that are far more intertwined than they ever imagined. Ultimately, in this tale of discovery, destiny, and a love strong enough to outlast time, remembering the past just may prove to be the only way to change the future.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Katie Keridan made her literary debut at ten years of age when she won a writing contest by crafting a tale about her favorite childhood hero, Hank the Cowdog. After that, Katie continued to write, through college and graduate school and during her career as a pediatric neuropsychologist. She slowly left the medical world behind to focus exclusively on writing. In 2018 she self-published a poetry book, *Once Upon a Girl*, and her work has been featured in *Highlights Hello Magazine*, *The Blue Nib*, *Youth Imagination Magazine*, *Red Fez*, *The Red Penguin Review*, *Sand Canyon Review*, and *Every Day Fiction*, to name a few. She loves sharing her writing with others who feel different, misunderstood, or alone. Katie lives with her husband and two very demanding cats in San Jose, CA.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 27, 2022

Collections: Fantasy

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-167-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-168-1

*“Journey to the Heart Stone is an epic fantasy full of warmth, insight, humor, and intrigue.*

*Raphael delivers both a novel bound to delight lifelong fantasy readers as well as a story that feels refreshingly new. Don’t miss Raphael’s beautiful debut novel and all the wit, wisdom, and adventure within.”*

*—K.C. Mead-Brewer, author of The Hidden People*

# JOURNEY TO THE HEART STONE

## A NOVEL

CATHERINE RAPHAEL

### DESCRIPTION:

In the beginning, the Goddess danced the world into existence. Peace reigned for generations through matriarchal rule within the Minca, Dute, and Carroo tribes. But then one man’s lust for power destroyed this balance: Vestor assassinated his sister, Mother of the Minca tribe. His army ravaged the Dute and Carroo tribes. A once-idyllic world was thrust into war, famine, and despair.

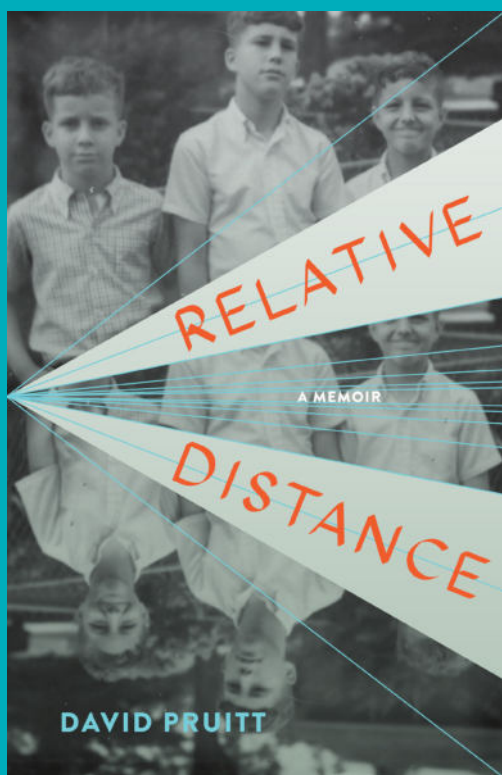
Yet today, there is hope. Vestor’s niece, Cora, has a vision: if she can convince an emissary from each tribe to rendezvous at the Heart Stone, she can overthrow her evil uncle, take her rightful place as Mother Minca, and restore harmony.

But the Dutes have disappeared deep into their mountains. There are rumors that the Carroos are extinct. And Cora must move swiftly—lest Vestor learn that she’s pregnant with the Mincan heir.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Catherine Raphael grew up in a suburb of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and has a bachelor’s degree in fine arts/metalsmithing. She worked as a jeweler in Pennsylvania for sixteen years, during which time she also traveled to Arizona to do construction work on Arcosanti, Paolo Soleri’s “City of the Future.” She is one of the founding mothers of the Women and Girls Foundation of Southwest Pennsylvania, and she has served on the boards of the Ms. Foundation for Women and the Women Donors Network and volunteered with other progressive women’s rights organizations. Her stories have won prizes in Writer Advice and the Ageless Authors competition, and her work has been short-listed in Women On Writing and long-listed in Bumble Bee. This is her first novel. She currently resides in Pittsburgh, PA.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 4, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-168463-169-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-170-4

“Uplifting memoir... Pruitt’s bootstrapping mentality should appeal to fellow boomers, particularly those of faith.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Pruitt’s brave and beautiful memoir teaches us about the miraculous resilience of the human spirit. But it’s the book’s generous compassion that makes it singular, offering something to each of us, no matter our circumstances.”

—Aran Shetterly, author of *The Americano* and *Morningside*

# RELATIVE DISTANCE

## A MEMOIR

DAVID PRUITT

### DESCRIPTION:

*Relative Distance* is a powerful memoir of resilience and faith. While it’s an unflinching look at brothers being raised by a violent, abusive father and a detached, mentally ill mother, it’s also an inspiring account of two distinctive life journeys and an examination of the role played by family and society in individual homelessness.

After surviving his tumultuous upbringing, David Pruitt rises to become a CEO in Corporate America while his brother, Danny, becomes a longtime homeless traveler. As David helps to grow a fledgling North Carolina business into what is at the time the largest specialty bicycle retailer in the United States, Danny sleeps under overpasses, jumps passing freight cars, lives in and out of shelters, faces death more than once—and encounters the best and worst of America in a restless search to find a better place in the world. Yet, despite their differences, a common thread runs through the distinct trajectories of the brothers’ lives: each of them struggles with difficult psychological issues stemming from their troubled past.

This deeply moving memoir examines the lifelong challenges that often come for those raised in an abusive home, along with the limitless possibilities we open ourselves to when we allow faith and determination to overcome judgment and fear.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

David Pruitt is a first-generation college graduate from UNC-Greensboro and previously served on the advisory board for their Bryan School of Business. As a senior leader in the US bicycle industry, he served on the board of “People for Bikes,” a national organization with 1.3 million members that works to make riding a bicycle in America safer, easier to access, and more fun. A licensed CPA and a member of the AICPA and NCACPA, David started his business career in an entry-level accounting position before advancing to first CFO, then CEO, of Performance Bike, for a time the largest cycling retailer in the United States. He is an avid reader, a happily married husband for over thirty years, and a proud father of two successful children. He currently resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.



OCTOBER 2022



# THE SORCERESS

## WITCHES OF ORKNEY, BOOK 5

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

As Abigail embarks on her third year at the Tarkana Academy, the coven is under a dark cloud: their coven leader, Madame Hestera, has fallen under a deadly curse and Anarae, a powerful High Witch, has taken over the coven. Worse, Abigail fears that Abignus, the malignant presence that once took possession of her, has moved on to Calla.

While Hugo and Abigail seek answers, a surprising ally appears in Endera, Abigail's longtime nemesis. Endera has sworn to help bring Hestera back, and now she must rely on Abigail to protect her from witchlings who want revenge and from the dark forces working to tear the coven apart. As clues surface that Anarae may not be a Tarkana witch at all but a powerful sorceress from a far-off realm, Abigail and Endera become stuck in the nightmarish Netherworld, leaving Hugo with the dire dilemma of facing Anarae on his own. Will Abigail and her companions stave off disaster one more time? Or does this spell the end of Orkney forever? Join Hugo and Abigail in their final adventure in this stunning conclusion to the Witches of Orkney series.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney™ and Legends of Olympus fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, *The Santa Thief*, and *The Circus Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

Publication Date: October 11, 2022  
Collections: Fantasy, Middle Grade Fiction  
Trim size: 6 x 9  
Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook  
Distribution by Publishers Group West  
Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-157-5  
E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-158-2

#### Praise for the series:

“An enchanting new book full of magical mischief and adventure . . . guaranteed to please.”

—Foreword

“Adams’ concise prose delivers a quick read that’s packed with colorful characters and subplots. . . . Returning illustrator Stroh’s bold black-and-white artwork, as in the previous book, perfectly captures the author’s stunningly detailed world.”

—Kirkus Reviews

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Fantasy

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-168463-171-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-172-8

“The Daemon Collecting Series is a great spin on an age-old stereotype. Its fun, engaging characters will create a fantastical journey without leaving the very world surrounding us.”

—Chanticleer Book Reviews, 5-star review

# BLUE FLAME

## BOOK TWO IN THE DAEMON COLLECTING SERIES

ALISON LEVY

### DESCRIPTION:

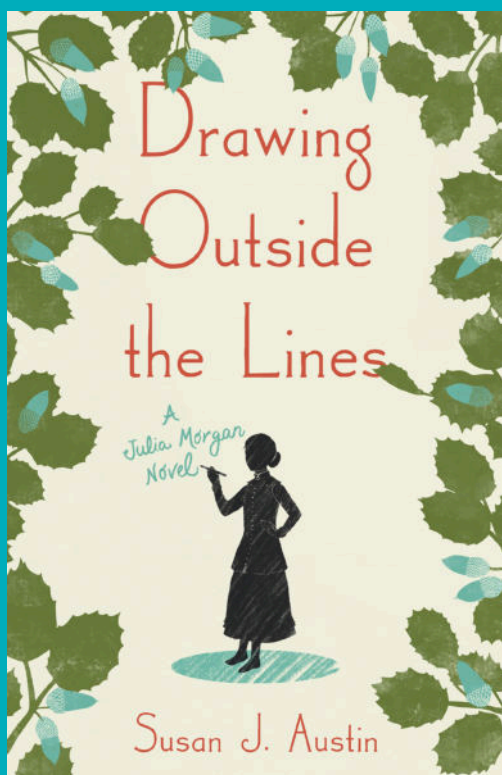
While introducing Leda Morley, last of an ancient line of gatekeepers, to the ins and outs of her daemon-collecting work, Rachel Wilde encounters something far more dangerous than any daemon: a young boy who stands alone against an unseen yet terrifying enemy that has invaded his home—an inhuman creature who, hellbent on revenge for a minor slight, intends to harm the boy’s oblivious family. Meanwhile, Leda’s brother, Simon, is feeling left out of his maternal family legacy but is coping partly by helping Rachel’s friend Bach—a previously homeless man with unusual mental abilities—get his life back on track.

In the midst of all of this, Bach unintentionally but serendipitously makes contact with a capable otherworldly being who, with great reluctance, agrees to help Bach and his friends take on the dangerous creature that’s just become their problem to solve. Together, this group of unlikely allies must put aside their differences to save an innocent child, and his family, from a monster—before it’s too late.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alison Levy lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with her husband, son, and variety of pets. When she’s not writing or doing mom things, she crochets, gardens, walks her collies, and works on home improvement projects.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 18, 2022

Collections: Historical Fiction,  
Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-168463-159-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-160-5

*"Drawing Outside the Lines opens a window into another time and place . . . a window into the remarkable life of Julia Morgan, who challenged gender discrimination to follow her dream of becoming an architect. Readers will find mirrors in Julia's story as she describes wanting something different—something that doesn't fit the norms of the time and place. This wonderful story encourages us to take a stand and follow our dreams. It is indeed a story for our time—one of inspiration and perseverance. A must-read!"*

—Sarah Gill, author of *Julia Morgan's Berkeley City Club*

# DRAWING OUTSIDE THE LINES

A JULIA MORGAN NOVEL

SUSAN AUSTIN

## DESCRIPTION:

Meet the brilliant, fearless, and ambitious Julia Morgan. In 1883, eleven-year-old Julia visits the amazing new Brooklyn Bridge—an experience that ignites within her a small but persistent flame. Someday, she decides, she too will build an astounding structure.

Growing up in horse-and-buggy Oakland, Julia enjoys daring fence walks, climbing the tallest trees, and constantly testing her mother's patience with her lack of interest in domestic duties and social events. At a time when "brainy" girls are the object of ridicule, Julia excels in school and consistently outsmarts her ornery brothers—but she has an even greater battle ahead. When she enrolls at university to study engineering, the male students taunt her and the professors belittle her. Through it all, however, Julia holds on to her dream of becoming an architect. She faces each challenge head-on, firmly standing up to those who believe a woman's place is in the home. Fortunately, the world has yet to meet anyone like the indomitable Miss Morgan.

*Drawing Outside the Lines* is an imagined childhood of pioneering architect Julia Morgan, who left behind her an extraordinary legacy of creativity, beauty, and engineering marvels.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

As an educator, Susan J. Austin knows the minds of young readers. Her first novel, *The Bamboo Garden*, is set in Berkeley, California, 1923, and describes an unlikely friendship between two girls that is tested by a fierce fire that threatens to destroy their town. Currently, she is writing about twelve-year-old Goldie, a whiz kid in the kitchen who hopes that her culinary magic can help her family's delicatessen out of a pickle in 1928 Hollywood. Susan and her husband live in Northern California, surrounded by family, their splendid but fussy rose bushes, and a lifetime collection of books. Learn more at [www.susanjaustin.com](http://www.susanjaustin.com).



NOVEMBER 2022



# THE LAST HUNTRESS

## MIRROR REALM SERIES BOOK I

LENORE BORJA

### DESCRIPTION:

Alice Daniels has a problem. Her reflection keeps misbehaving when she looks in the mirror—and the longer she ignores it, the harder it tries to get her attention. On her eighteenth birthday, she learns why: she is a huntress, someone gifted with the power to enter mirrors and the magical world that exists beyond. But with this power comes immense responsibility, for in the Mirror Realm lurks an evil that has infected the human race for centuries: demons. It is up to her and her three huntress sisters—with the help of one handsome and overbearing protector—to hunt and banish this evil one demon at a time, thereby keeping the chaos in check. But when an ancient god pays Alice a visit that turns deadly, it is clear the Mirror Realm is more than it seems, and she soon finds herself in a race against time to save the life—and soul—of the one man the gods are determined to never let her have.

*The Last Huntress* is a story of redemption and sacrifice, the bonds of true sisterhood, and the impossible, sometimes frightening, things we'll do for love.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lenore Borja grew up in Phoenix, Arizona. She attended Arizona State University before moving to New York City to study acting at The American Academy of Dramatic Arts. After a brief career as an actress, she spent several years working in executive search and human resources in both New York and San Francisco. She now resides in Fort Collins, Colorado, with her husband and a bossy feline named Maximus. When she's not writing, she enjoys adventure travel and anything that gets the heart racing, whether it's hiking, running, or getting lost in a good book.

Publication Date: November 1, 2022  
Collections: Fiction, Young Adult, Fantasy  
Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook  
Distribution by Publishers Group West  
Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-173-5  
E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-174-2

"Borja's series opener radiates the youthful, sisterly glow of classic TV shows like *Buffy the Vampire Slayer* and *Charmed*. . . Strong characters remain the focus in this confident, imaginative fantasy."

—Kirkus Reviews

"Borja managed to create a well-balanced novel . . . it was hard to put down!"

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

"You'll never look at a mirror the same way again. Buckle up before entering the Realm."

—Turney Duff, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Buy Side*

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 1, 2022

Collections: Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-175-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-176-6

# THE PHANTOM GLARE OF DAY

## THREE NOVELLAS

M. LASZLO

### DESCRIPTION:

In this trio of novellas, three game young ladies enter into dangerous liaisons that test each one's limits and force them to confront the most heartrending issues facing society in the early twentieth century.

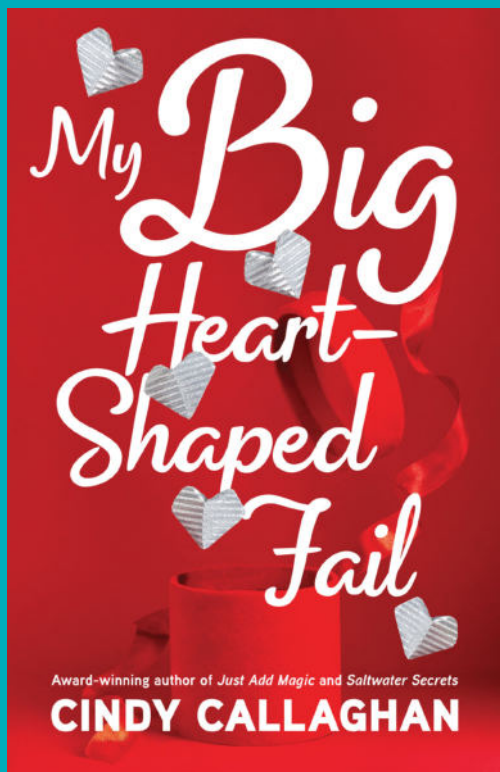
*The Phantom Glare of Day* tells of Sophie, a young lady who has lived a sheltered life and consequently has no idea how cruel public school bullying can be. When she meets Jarvis, a young man obsessed with avenging himself against all those students who delight in his daily debasement, she resolves to intervene before tragedy unfolds. *Mouvements Perpétuels* tells of Cécilia, a young lady shunned by her birth father. She longs for the approval of an older man, so when her ice-skating instructor attempts to take advantage of her, she cannot resist. Not a month later, she realizes that she is pregnant and must decide whether or not to get an abortion. *Passion Bearer* tells of Manon, a young lady who falls in love with a beautiful actress after taking a post as a script girl for a film company—and is subsequently confronted with the pettiest kinds of homophobia.

Specific to their time yet unquestionably relevant for women today, *The Phantom Glare of Day* is a compelling interrogation of who gets to decide what is right and what is wrong.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

M. Laszlo is a reclusive author from Ohio. *The Phantom Glare of Day* is his first book and follows from an unpublished diary of travel sketches that he made while living in London. He lives in Bath, OH.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 1, 2022

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$7.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-161-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-162-9

“Full of heart, cringing decisions, and tween crush angst. Callaghan owns the sweet spot for this age reader. Hoping to see it on the screen.”

—C. M. Surrisi, author of the Agatha-nominated Quinnie Boyd Mysteries, *The Unofficial Lola Bay Fan Club*, and *Bone Quake: Awakening a Female Viking Warrior*

“Full of secrets, mix-ups, and a mystery crush, *My Heart-Shaped Fail* is a fun page-turner that celebrates the importance of being yourself.”

—Amy Bearce, author of *Paris on Repeat* and *Shortcuts*

# MY BIG HEART-SHAPED FAIL

A NOVEL

CINDY CALLAGHAN

## DESCRIPTION:

In this hourly time-stamped, action-packed tween romantic comedy, Abby Gray, feeling weighed down by her secrets and lies, lets five balloons float into the sky with her deepest secrets attached to them in a desperate attempt to clear her conscience. Her relief is short-lived, though: the next day, those balloons start dropping one by one at her school, revealing Abby’s innermost thoughts to both friends and frenemies and creating hilarious misinterpretations of crushes amongst her peers.

This is the worst day of her life . . . or is it? Before the last bell rings, Abby manages to integrate the oddball who is blackmailing her in her friend group and to fix the mix-ups the notes have caused—not only getting couples back together but also making a few new love matches—and finally comes clean as the author of the notes that have created such chaos.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Cindy Callaghan is best known for her book *Just Add Magic* and its sequel, *Potion Problems*, which are the basis for the Emmy-nominated Amazon Original live-action series *Just Add Magic*. She is also the author of the middle-grade novels *Lost in London*, *Lost in Paris*, *Lost in Rome*, *Lost in Ireland* (formerly titled *Lucky Me*), and *Lost in Hollywood*; the award-winning *Sydney Mackenzie Knocks ‘Em Dead*; *Saltwater Secrets*, which is also set up at a major studio; and, most recently, *The Girl Who Ruined Christmas*. Cindy lives in Wilmington, Delaware.



NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 1 2022

Collections: Fiction, Young Adult, Fantasy

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-163-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-164-3

“The author describes an extraordinary world through a thrilling and addictive narrative. . . . Henson pays attention to details. The result is a fast-paced but not rushed story, perfect for dystopia/fantasy lovers.”

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

“Ayanna stands out as a multi-faceted and inspirational protagonist . . . This fast-paced dystopian fantasy is intensely captivating until the very last page.”

—BookLife Reviews

# LOVE IN THE AGE OF DRAGONS

A NOVEL

FATIMA R. HENSON

## DESCRIPTION:

Two years ago, a wormhole opened and ushered vicious dragons into the world. The dragons burned Earth's cities to the ground and sent its inhabitants scattering for cover—and since then, Ayanna Grace, a seventeen-year-old Black girl, has been scratching out a life in an abandoned subway system, part of an extensive underground community. Underground, medicine runs short and outbreaks of disease spread uncontrollably. The water supply is low, uprisings occur frequently, and dragon attacks are imminent. But those aren't the only challenges Ayanna is facing: she's also busy wrestling with her feelings, torn between Richard, who she's known all her life, and Jackson, a mysterious newcomer. Worse, her mentor, the community's only doctor, is dying from a failing heart. With no hope of rescue from aboveground, will Ayanna be able to save him before it's too late?

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Fatima Henson is a native of Atlanta, Georgia. She is a passionate US history teacher and writer with a penchant for dystopian and fantasy storytelling. She is also an alum of the University of Miami in Coral Gables, Florida, and American University in Washington DC. Much of her work seeks to swing open the doors of imagination into fantastical worlds where she reveals the deep and intimate lives of young Black characters thriving against persistent and remarkable obstacles. Henson is also the author of *Courageous Cody's Western Adventure*, an action-adventure book for children ages 8–12. She currently resides in Atlanta.

## AWARDS:

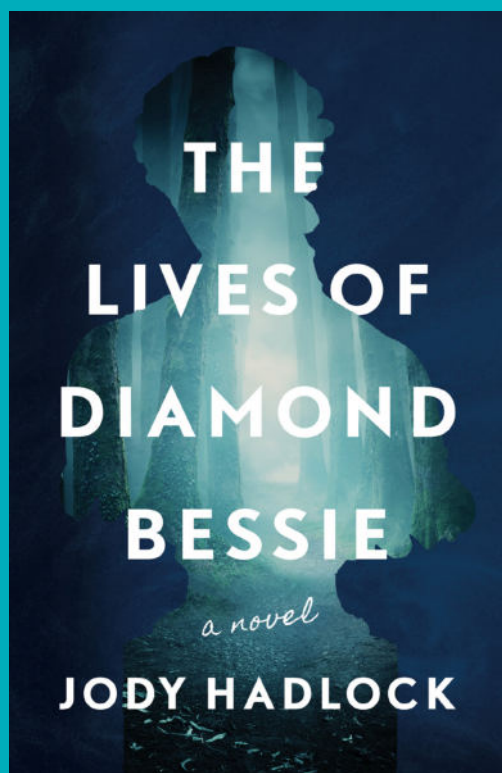
- 2022 Moonbeam Children's Book Awards Gold Winner in Young Adult Fiction (Fantasy / Sci-Fi)
- 2022 American Fiction Awards Finalist in Multicultural Fiction and Science Fiction: Post-Apocalyptic
- 2021 STEP Award contest winner

A stack of several old, worn books with yellowed pages and frayed spines, bound together with natural twine. The books are decorated with several vibrant pink chrysanthemum flowers and buds. The entire arrangement is set against a background of a newspaper with Japanese text. In the bottom right corner, a white bowl filled with a golden-brown liquid, likely tea, is partially visible. The overall aesthetic is rustic and nostalgic, evoking a sense of quiet study and traditional Japanese culture.

SPRING 2022



APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 5, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-117-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-118-6

“Drawing on a true story, Hadlock uses authentic period detail and well-drawn characters to pull readers into Annie/Bessie’s precarious journey toward redemption, which comes to an unexpected ending. This affecting tale of a 19th-century American woman struggling to prove her worth other than as a marriage prospect leaves a lasting impression.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“[A] genre-bending debut novel. . . . There’s an impressive deliberateness in the way that Hadlock present her themes. . . . The novel also skillfully uses foreshadowing to create a suspenseful atmosphere without giving the game away.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE LIVES OF DIAMOND BESSIE

A NOVEL

JODY HADLOCK

## DESCRIPTION:

Pregnant out of wedlock, sixteen-year-old Annie Moore is sent to live at a convent for fallen women. When the nuns take her baby, Annie escapes, determined to find a way to be reunited with her daughter. But few rights or opportunities are available to a woman in the 1860s, and after failing to find a respectable job, Annie resorts to prostitution in order to survive.

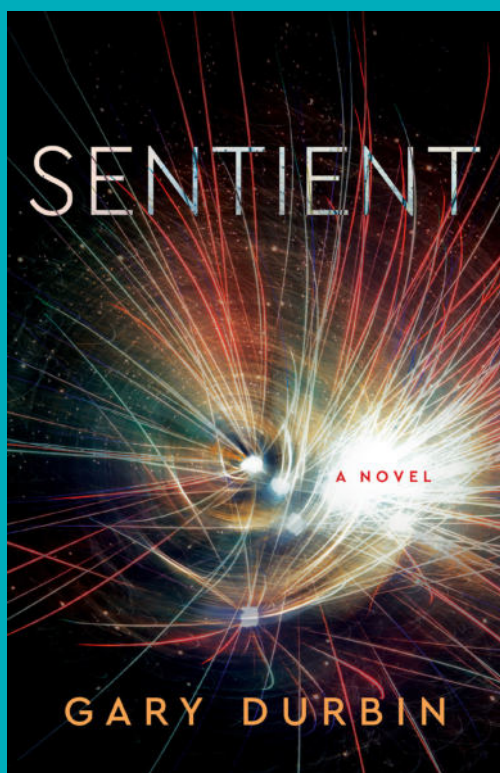
As a highly sought-after *demi-mondaine*, Annie—now Bessie—garners many expensive gifts from her admirers, and eventually meets and marries the son of a wealthy jeweler. With her marriage, she believes her dream of returning to proper society has finally come true. She’s proven wrong when she suffers the ultimate betrayal at the hands of the man she thought would be her salvation. But Bessie doesn’t let her story end there.

Inspired by a true story and set amid the burgeoning women’s rights movement, *The Lives of Diamond Bessie* is a haunting tale of betrayal and redemption that explores whether seeking revenge is worth the price you might pay.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jody Hadlock’s love of history goes all the way back to junior high, when she was a member of the Junior Historians of Texas—so it’s no surprise her first novel is historical. She studied journalism at Texas A&M University and worked as a broadcast journalist and then in nonprofit public relations before turning her focus to fiction. She also writes screenplays and won the 2020 Dallas International Film Festival’s screenplay contest.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 12, 2022

Collections: Science Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-119-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-120-9

# SENTIENT

## A NOVEL

GARY DURBIN

### DESCRIPTION:

When James Forrest agrees to help detectives understand the artificial intelligence work of a murder victim, it seems simple enough. But then he finds that she was investigating a stolen version of the same AI he's experimenting with—and the situation becomes more complicated. James has been working deep in the code of his own AI, Alpha, struggling with the psychedelic effects of a tool that visualizes thought. Now Alpha is asking him questions he can't answer, however, and he's realizing that there is no way to control the sentinel. Concerned that the rogue AI, Omega, might be weaponized, he solicits the help of a hacker group, ScarletsWeb.

As the situation becomes more heated, and after James and his girlfriend, Susanne, narrowly escape a kidnapping attempt, James considers releasing Alpha. If Alpha engages in the fight with Omega on the billions of PC, smartphones, and servers connected to the internet, will it become indestructible? Omega is penetrating military operations, disrupting transportation, and crashing the electric grid. People are dying. But can he trust Alpha to do any differently?

Together, James, Alpha, and ScarletsWeb have to find the source of the worm and stop Omega's destruction—and James has to hope that his worst fears about what will happen if the two AIs merge aren't realized.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gary Durbin is a serial entrepreneur and software industry pioneer. He has authored four software patents—one for an artificial intelligence engine for massively parallel computers—and wrote about measuring operating systems for the National Bureau of Standards. Durbin started his career as a technologist specializing in operating systems and databases. His first company, Institute for Cybernetic Development, Inc., developed operating system improvements for IBM computers; his second, Tesseract Corporation, became a leading Human Resource software company. In 1996, he founded and became CEO of Seeker Software, which grew rapidly and was acquired by Concur Technologies two and a half years later. Today, instead of writing computer code and starting software companies, Durbin spends his time writing, hiking, and advising young entrepreneurs. He has published several technical articles in magazines and journals, various short stories, and one previous novel, *Nano-Uncertainty*.



APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 19, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-121-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-122-3

*“A Stream to Follow touchingly examines trauma, heartbreak, and what it takes to move ahead, in a story that will please readers of character-driven historic and literary fiction.”*

—BookLife

*“Jess Wright’s emotional rendering of a front-line surgeon searching for meaning in post-WWII America is engaging, well-paced, and has an excellent arc of character, theme, and plot.”*

—IndieReader

# A STREAM TO FOLLOW

## A NOVEL

JESS WRIGHT

### DESCRIPTION:

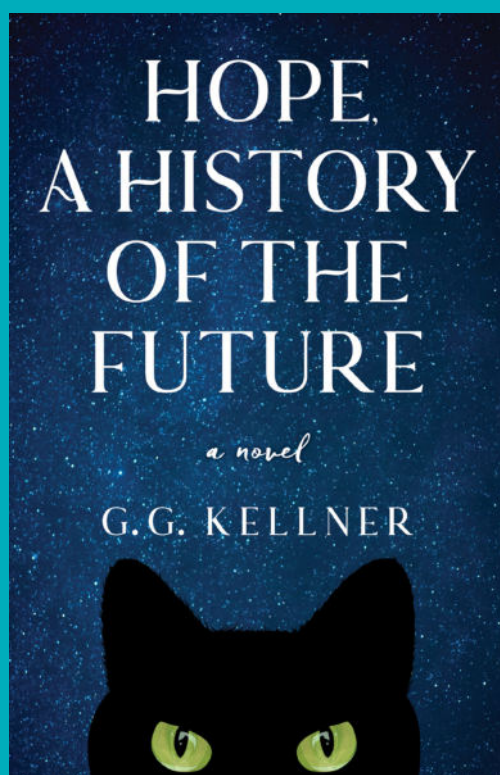
When WWII ends, Bruce Duncan, a battlefield surgeon, returns home to a small town in Pennsylvania with plans of opening a general practice, fly fishing in his spare time, and forgetting the past. But the ravages of his war aren't over. Haunted by images of soldiers he tried to save, his own near-death experiences, and the love he lost, Bruce has little respite before new battles grip him. His brother, a decorated fighter pilot, is sinking fast and rebels against Bruce's attempts to help him. A former friend begins waging a vicious campaign to stop Bruce from uncovering the dangers that could shutter a local industry. And amid all this turmoil, he must decide between the slim prospect of reuniting with his former love—an Englishwoman who chose her family over him—and a growing attraction to a trail-blazing woman doctor.

With a story that moves from post-war America back to the killing fields of Alsace and to England under the siege of German rockets, *A Stream to Follow* gives fresh vision for paths to healing. Plunging deep into the crucible of trauma, it's an uplifting tale of valor, resilience, and the search for enduring love.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jess Wright is an internationally recognized psychiatrist and a Kolb Endowed Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Louisville. *Breaking Free from Depression*, one of his self-help books, has been called a “must-have for finding a way through the pain of depression.” *Good Days Ahead*, his scientifically tested online program for depression and anxiety, has helped many thousands on their path to recovery. He is also the first author of a trilogy of award-winning and best-selling books that integrate text and video to help readers learn the key methods of cognitive-behavior therapy, and has lectured widely in Europe, Asia, South America, and the United States. *A Stream to Follow* is his first novel.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 19, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Fantasy

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-123-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-124-7

“An inherently fascinating, deftly written, thought-provoking, and fully entertaining blend of fantasy, the paranormal, and science fiction *Hope, a History of the Future* will leave readers grappling with questions of destiny, responsibility, and the possibility for hope in a future world some two centuries from now.”

—Midwest Book Review

# HOPE, A HISTORY OF THE FUTURE

A NOVEL

G.G. KELLNER

## DESCRIPTION:

One quiet afternoon in 2037, Joyce Denzell hears a thud in her family’s home library and finds a book lying in the middle of the room, seemingly waiting for her—a book whose copyright page says it was published in the year 2200. Over the next twenty-four hours, each of the Denzell family members discovers and reads from this mystical history book from the future, nudged along by their cat, Plato.

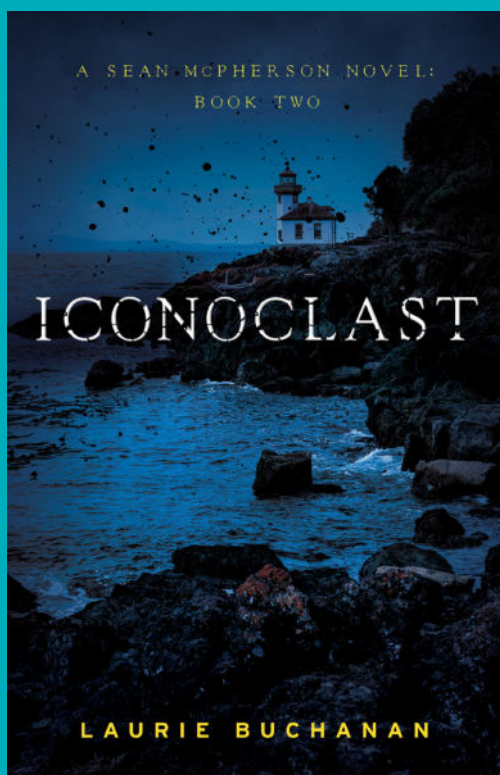
As the various family members take turns reading, they gradually uncover the story of Gabe, Mia, and Ruth—a saga of adventure, endurance, romance, mystery, and hope that touches them all deeply. Along the way, the Denzells all begin to believe that this book that has seemingly fallen out of time and space and into their midst might actually be from the future—and that it might have something vitally important to teach them.

Engaging, playful, and thought-provoking, *Hope* is a seven-generation-spanning vision of the future as it could be—based on scientific projections, as well as historical and legal precedence—that will leave readers grappling with questions of destiny, responsibility, and the possibility for hope in a future world.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gayle G. Kellner lives on an island in the Salish Sea in a home that has been in her family for over 100 years. She is a writer, artist, poet, and former educator. She is a weekly guest on the community radio program *The Brown Briefly*, a humorous look at politics and culture. When she isn’t writing, reading, or painting you can probably find her wondering the beaches and forests of her island home with her dog, Pippi, or swimming in her beloved Salish Sea. Gayle is allergic to cats. Visit her at [www.gaylekellner.com](http://www.gaylekellner.com).

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 26 2022

Collections: Fiction, Mystery

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-125-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-126-1

“An absolute page-turner... Not the one to be missed. With its atmospheric setting, page-turning suspense, and luminous insights into trauma, resilience, recovery, and friendship, this thriller will hook readers and keep them hooked.”

—The Prairies Book Review

“I savored every page of *Iconoclast*, turning the pages viciously because I couldn’t wait to find out what would happen next.”

—Online Book Club

# ICONOCLAST

## A SEAN MCPHERSON NOVEL, BOOK TWO

LAURIE BUCHANAN

### DESCRIPTION:

Burdened by the pressing weight of survivor’s guilt, Sean McPherson, an ex-cop, is desperate for redemption. At Pines & Quill, a writer’s retreat in the Pacific Northwest, he and his fiancée, Emma Benton, are planning their lives together. He wants to go back into law enforcement. She plans to walk again.

Georgio “The Bull” Gambino, head of a Seattle-based crime family, has a long reach. Like cockroaches, his minions infiltrate even the most inaccessible of places to do his bidding. With Seattle to the south, the Canadian border a stone’s throw to the north, and Bellingham Bay—a gateway to the Pacific Ocean—immediately to the west, Bellingham is the ideal location for the Gambino crime family to traffic drugs, weapons, and humans. But McPherson’s in Gambino’s way—which which means he must be eliminated.

The writers in residence at Pines & Quill include an Afghanistan War veteran, a professional photographer, a civil rights attorney, and a gourmet chef. But McPherson suspects that there’s more going on than the joy of creating plot twists. Is one of them conspiring murder outside the pages of their manuscript?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A cross between Dr. Dolittle, Nanny McPhee, and a type-A Buddhist, Laurie Buchanan is an active listener, observer of details, payer of attention, reader and writer of books, kindness enthusiast, and red licorice aficionado. Her books have won multiple awards, including a Silver Nautilus, the International Book Award Gold Winner, and the *Foreword* INDIES Book of the Year Gold. She and her husband live in the Pacific Northwest, where she enjoys long walks, bicycling, camping, and photography—because sometimes the best word choice is a picture.

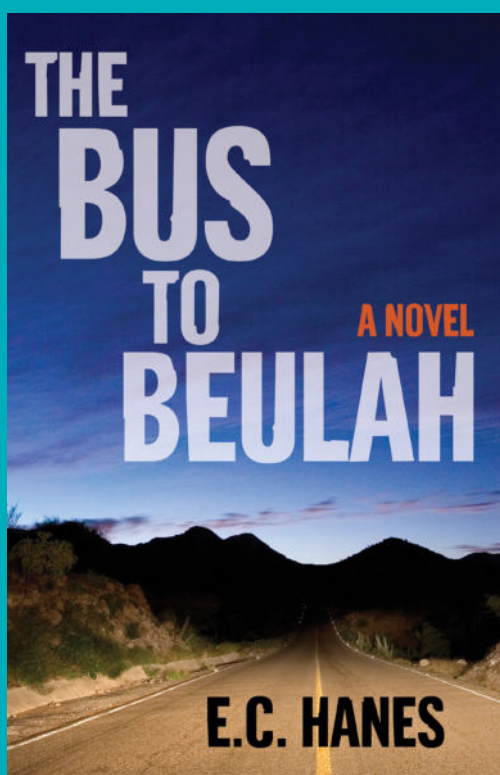
### AWARDS:

2021 15th Annual National Indie Excellence® Awards: Winner, Crime Fiction/Suspense

2021 Eric Hoffer Awards: Finalist



MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 10, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-129-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-130-8

*“Bus to Beulah takes us on a fast and furious ride through some of America’s toughest territory—straight into border problems, trafficking, and drug cartels—and features a Dickensian cast of characters swirling around the kidnapped Maria through eleven tense days. Topical, timely, terrifying. I read it one sitting.”*

—Lee Smith, best-selling author and winner of the American Academy of Arts and Letters award for fiction, the O’Henry Award, and Mercer University’s Sidney Lanier Prize for Southern Literature

# THE BUS TO BEULAH

## A NOVEL

E.C. HANES

### DESCRIPTION:

On her way to a new job in America, Maria Puente accidentally discovers a human trafficking ring. Fearing exposure, the American company that manages the operation—with the help of their Mexican partners—kidnaps Maria.

Maria’s disappearance triggers a desperate search—by her family and by local law enforcement—to find her before the kidnapers can permanently dispose of her. As the investigation unfolds, longtime Hogg County high sheriff Will Moser confronts Albert Waters, a powerful businessman who Will suspects knows about Maria’s disappearance—but Albert and his Mexican cartel partners prove to be brick walls.

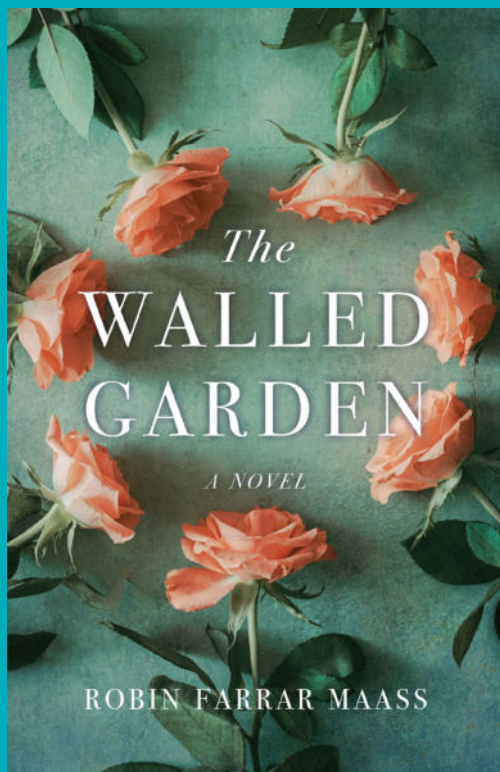
At the urging of his wife, Lana, Will calls on Elijah Kahn, a man he got to know while serving in Vietnam who now runs one of the largest international security firms in the world. The idea of working with men who are rightly known as mercenaries troubles Will, but he knows he’ll never find Maria without Elijah’s help—and when Lana reminds Will of the debt they owe to Tomas Delgado, Maria’s uncle, his hesitation evaporates.

Organized in an hour-by-hour structure, *The Bus to Beulah* is a taut thriller that culminates in a massive, heart-pounding chase to save Maria—before she disappears forever.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Eldridge C. Hanes—Redge to his friends—was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. After earning a BA in economics, he served three years of active duty, the last of which was in the Republic of Vietnam and earned him the Bronze Star. After the army, Redge worked seven years for Hanes Corporation and then left to start Xpres Corporation, which eventually became The Russ Companies, for whom Redge served as chairman for three years before retiring in 2011. In addition to his business interests, he has served on a number of boards in the education, environmental, and arts fields. Redge has published two novels, *Billy Bowater* and *Justice by Another Name*, in addition to contributing essays and articles to various publications. His essay “Helen of Marion” appeared in the recent UNC Press anthology, *Mothers and Strangers: Essays on Motherhood from the New South*. Redge has been married for fifty years to Jane Grenley Hanes. They have a son, Philip, and a daughter, Lara, and are grandparents of five lively and beautiful grandchildren.

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 17, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-131-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-132-2

“The narrative drops enough hints to ease the audience through its twists; anticipating the young detective’s discoveries as she works toward a happy ending for her grandmother, her new friends, and herself is engaging.”

—Foreword Reviews

“Robin Farrar Maass is a terrific writer whose voice and vision will hold you captive from page one. But this mystery is more than a page-turner: it’s also an exquisite portrait of a young woman who is, truly and finally, seeking to solve the mystery of herself and discover who she is. This is a wonderful book. Read it!”

—Bret Lott, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Jewel* and *Dead Low Tide*

# THE WALLED GARDEN

## A NOVEL

ROBIN FARRAR MAASS

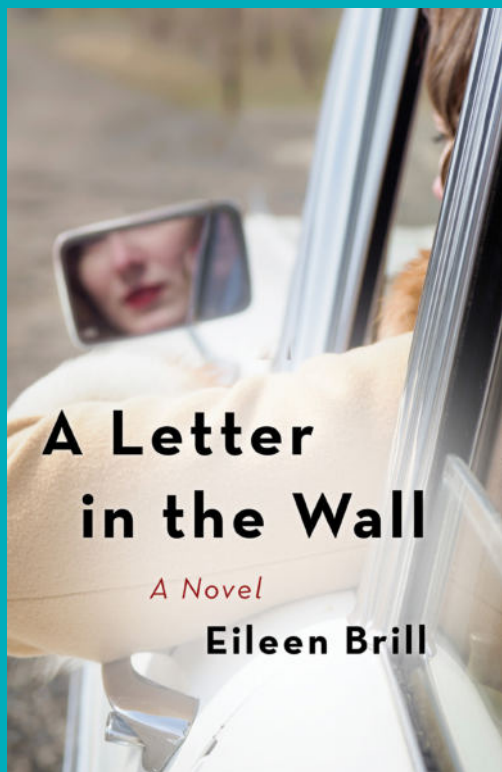
### DESCRIPTION:

American grad student Lucy Silver arrives in England hoping to solve a longstanding literary mystery, write her dissertation, and finish her graduate studies in a blaze of academic glory. But as Lucy starts to piece together the correspondence between her late grandmother and Elizabeth Blacksphear, the famous poet and garden writer who’s the subject of Lucy’s dissertation, she discovers puzzling coded references in the letters—and when an elderly English aristocrat with a secret connection to Elizabeth offers Lucy access to a neglected walled garden on his estate, the mystery deepens. As spring turns to summer in Bolton Lacey, Lucy finds herself fighting the director’s attempt to deny her access to vital documents in the Blacksphear archives and trying not to fall in love with an attractive Scottish contractor. In the midst of this turmoil, she stumbles upon an illicit plot to turn the historic gardens into a theme park, and becomes determined to stop it. As she races against time to save the gardens, Lucy’s search for the truth about Elizabeth’s life leads her to a French convent where she uncovers explosive evidence that will change her life and the lives of everyone around her, ultimately revealing a home—and an inheritance—more incredible than anything she could ever have imagined.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Robin Farrar Maass is a lifelong reader and writer who fell in love with England when she was twenty-two. She enjoys tending her messy wants-to-be-English garden, painting watercolors, and traveling. She lives in Redmond, Washington, with her husband and two highly opinionated Siamese cats. *The Walled Garden* is her first novel, and she’s already at work on her next novel set in England.

MAY 2022



**A Letter  
in the Wall**

*A Novel*

**Eileen Brill**

Publication Date: May 24, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-133-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-134-6

“A profound and captivating portrait of a woman who, after having suffered a devastating loss in her early childhood, struggles to find her identity and independence, while juggling the demands of family life in a world that dictates the role of a woman.”

—Lene Fogelberg, *Wall Street Journal*  
best-selling author of *Beautiful Affliction*

“Brill . . . wrote a compelling story giving us an inside look through six decades into the life of a woman who wanted to own what was truly hers . . . An ideal read for historical fiction fans.”

—*San Francisco Book Review*

# A LETTER IN THE WALL

## A NOVEL

**EILEEN BRILL**

### DESCRIPTION:

It's 1971, and Joan Dumann fears her former business partner wants her dead—but her anxiety is less about dying than it is about feeling disrespected and invalidated. As she constructs a letter about her predicament, she revisits her past.

Born into a prominent Philadelphia Quaker family in 1915 and raised with privilege and opportunity, Joan wrestles with her turbulent thoughts and unfulfilled desires—an internal battle that often results in self-destructive tendencies. When she attempts to push against the norms for women of her time in order to forge her own identity, she is met with resistance. Yet she might also be her own worst enemy, often alienating those who care deeply for her. Both manipulative and vulnerable, naive and conniving, Joan is, like many people, complex and misunderstood.

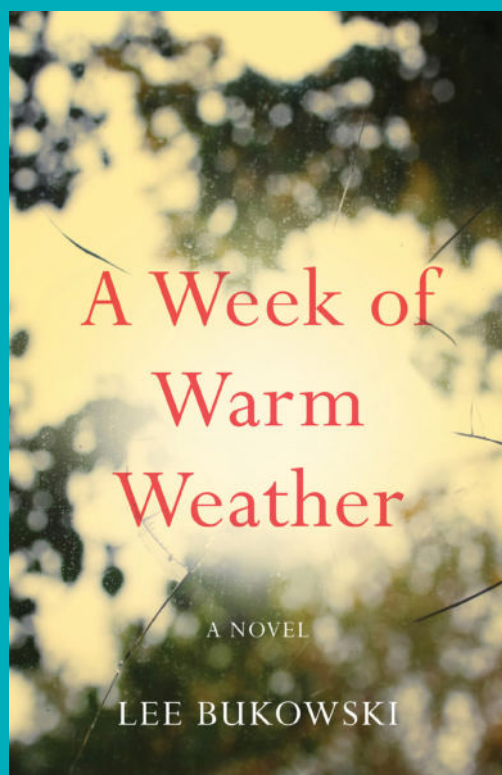
Inspired by a letter found hidden in the wall of a Pennsylvania home more than seventy years after its writing, *A Letter in the Wall* moves through several decades and events, from the 1918 influenza pandemic to Prohibition to the Great Depression to Vietnam, as it examines the internal and external factors that influence one woman's journey toward independence and empowerment.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Eileen Grace Brill is a painter, writer, and sign language interpreter who grew up outside of Philadelphia and graduated from Carnegie Mellon with a BS in economics. She has written professionally for the restaurant, hotel, and commercial real estate industries. Eileen's short story "Christmas Angel" appeared in the international literary magazine *Beyond Words* in 2021. She and her husband, Eli, raised their sons in her hometown of Elkins Park, Pennsylvania, where they still live, along with their two adopted mutts, Athena and Gaia.



JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 7, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-137-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-138-4

“As I drilled into *A Week of Warm Weather*, I wondered if love could be that blind? In this emotional page-turner, Bukowski transports us into the downward-spiraling life of a young mother struggling to face her husband’s addiction and her own abandonment. The true-to-life cast of characters and harrowing storyline kept me in my chair, grinding my teeth, until this heartbreaking family saga reached its conclusion. An engaging, gripping, and thought-provoking debut to be sure.”

—Valerie Taylor, international award-winning author of *What’s Not Said* and *What’s Not True*

# A WEEK OF WARM WEATHER

## A NOVEL

LEE BUKOWSKI

### DESCRIPTION:

Tessa Cordelia appears to have it all: a loving husband who’s just opened a dental practice, a beautiful baby girl, a big house in the suburbs, and a large, supportive family. But when her husband’s reckless choices resurrect a trauma from her childhood, she must decide which is more costly: keeping his secrets or revealing them. He manipulates Tessa into believing his career and their happiness depend on her silence. She feels like she’s losing her mind. Is her husband’s habit so awful? In many ways, he’s an ideal husband; should she let him have this one thing? Determined to maintain the lie that she’s living the perfect life, Tess lies to everyone she knows—except for CeCe, a woman new to the area whom she’s just befriended. But after confiding in her, Tessa learns that CeCe has an explosive secret of her own, and her world is further upended.

A gripping, nuanced exploration of the havoc addiction can wreak on a family, *A Week of Warm Weather* is the story of a woman who has to figure out how much she is willing to lose in order to find herself.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born and raised in a large family in eastern Pennsylvania, Lee Bukowski has always had an interest in reading, writing, and storytelling. She holds a BA in English and Secondary Education from Millersville University and taught seventh grade English and writing for fifteen years. In 2017, she obtained an MFA in English and Creative Writing from Southern New Hampshire University. Currently, she teaches writing at the college level and freelances as a proofreader and editor. When she’s not teaching or writing, she loves reading and traveling, especially visiting her grown daughters in Boston and Fort Lauderdale. Lee lives with her husband in Reading, PA. *A Week of Warm Weather* is her debut novel.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 7, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Thriller, Romance

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-135-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-136-0

*"The Spy's Wife is a smart, intimate look into a marriage imperiled by a secret. A moving, unforgettable novel with a complex protagonist. A must read."*

—Nicki Chen, author of *When in Vanuatu* and *Tiger Tail Soup*

# THE SPY'S WIFE

## A NOVEL

JANE ELIZABETH HUGHES

### DESCRIPTION:

How would it feel to wake up one morning and discover that you're married to James Bond? Shelley has always believed that her husband is a mild-mannered management consultant—but then one morning his picture appears on CNN above the headline "CIA Spy David Harris is Source of British News Leak."

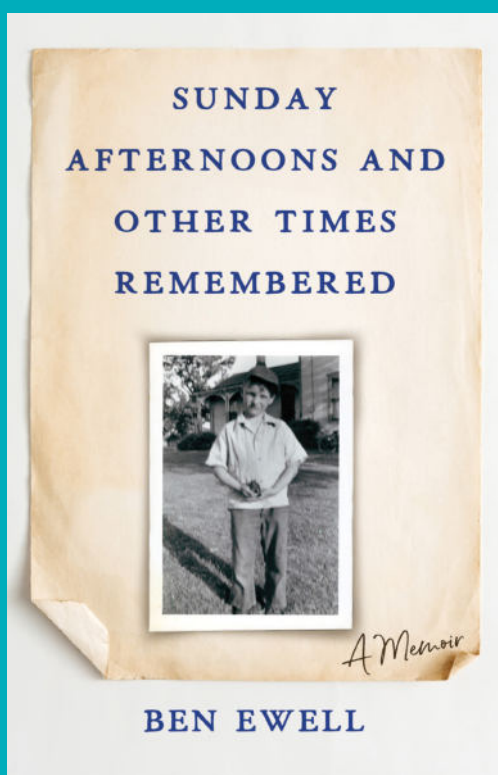
Quiet, self-possessed David a spy? Impossible! But while Shelley is still reeling from the first revelation, David's photo is again splashed across the news—and this time he's not alone. This time he has his arm around a beautiful, sun-streaked blonde, and this time the headline screams, "CIA Superspy and British Reporter in Romantic Relationship!"

In the weeks that follow, together and apart, David and Shelley dodge foreign agents and international media hounds (not to mention his desperate ex-lover) from Paris to Bogotá to Jerusalem. But more alarming than this game of hide-and-seek is the fact that Shelley finds herself fascinated and deeply, disturbingly attracted to the dangerous stranger her husband has become. Can she reconcile her dream of domestic tranquility with the fierce emotions that have suddenly taken over her life? Can she become the perfect spy's wife?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jane Elizabeth Hughes is an obsessive reader with two fully loaded Kindles; she buys so many books that Amazon sends her a gift every year for the holidays. Unfortunately, reading novels all day is not an easy career path, so Jane has a day job as professor of international finance at Simmons College School of Business in Boston. She has also consulted with multinational corporations and governments for nearly three decades and written and lectured widely about international finance throughout the world. With the help of her brilliant agent, Marcy Posner, she published her first novel, *Nannyland*, with Simon & Schuster Pocket Star Books in 2016, and she joined the SparkPress family in 2021 with the publication of *The Long-Lost Jules*. A mother of four and granny of eight (the eldest is only seven, so she's a very busy granny), she is fortunate enough to live on beautiful Cape Cod, Massachusetts. Oh yes, and she did work for the CIA once upon a time—so she knows whereof she writes.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 14, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-141-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-142-1

“Over the course of this memoir, Ewell’s prose is pleasant, straightforward, and evocative. His descriptions of farm life are particularly vivid.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Ben Ewell’s memoir tells us that the bright light of success inevitably casts shadows. Alternately inspiring and daunting, this book is always engaging, with the unforeseen turns in the road leading to personal contentment all against the backdrop of a multi-generational story that blends close family ties with tragedy and loss.”

—John Hales, author of *Shooting Polaris: A Personal Survey in the American West*

# SUNDAY AFTERNOONS AND OTHER TIMES REMEMBERED

## A MEMOIR

**BEN EWELL**

### DESCRIPTION:

On the afternoon of Easter Sunday, 1992, Ben Ewell’s brother, sister-in-law, and niece were all murdered. While trying to make sense of this staggering tragedy, Ben can’t help but think back through his life: the hard work and the many peaceful Sundays afternoons growing up on his family farm in Ohio in a house without a bathroom or running water; his high school antics in the 1950s; his time in Haight-Ashbury while attending law school in 1960s San Francisco; and the highs and lows, both personal and professional, of life after school. Threaded throughout these reminiscences, he reveals the details of the investigation of his family members’ murders—and the arrest and trial of the parties involved.

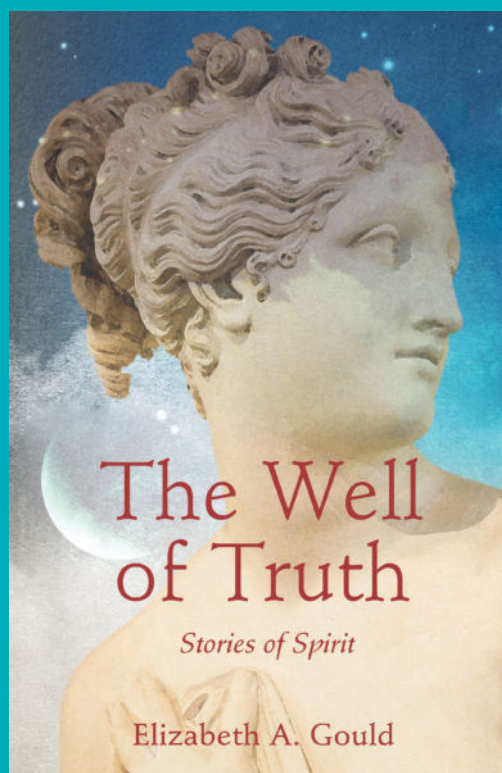
In this decades-long saga, there is marriage and divorce, love and loss, family and friendship; there are political campaigns and business ventures, some failed and some fruitful. Ultimately, this is a story of perseverance in the face of tragedy, of creating opportunities out of problems, and of appreciating the gift of life and the world around us—with some humor along the way.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ben Ewell was born and raised on a small farm near Brighton, Ohio. He received his BA from Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, and his JD from UC Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, California. He practices law, specializing in water rights, in Fresno, California, where he resides with his wife, Suzanne. He is the father of five sons. He is also a developer whose projects include a New Town financed by foreign investors. Ben is active in his community, his church, and in politics, and he loves spending time with his family at his ranch in the Sierra Nevada foothills. This is his first book.



JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 14, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Magical Realism

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-139-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-140-7

# THE WELL OF TRUTH

## STORIES OF SPIRIT

**ELIZABETH A. GOULD**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

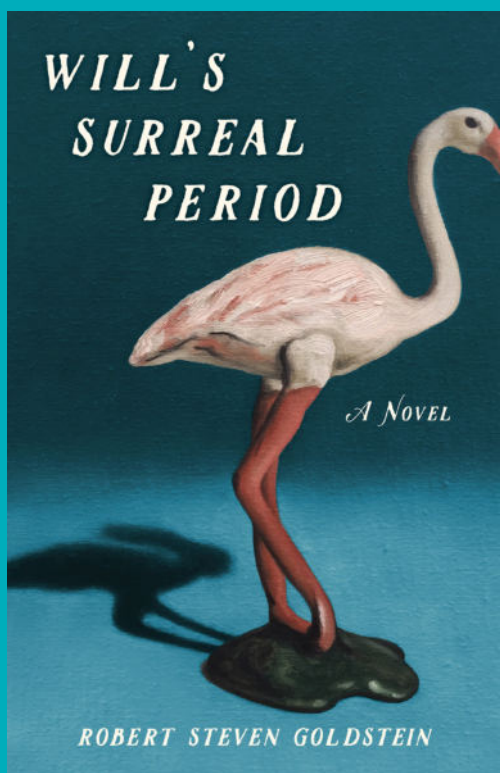
Incorporating elements of fantasy, mysticism, and lore, *The Well of Truth* follows a female heroine through poignant moments of her adult life. Through the initiations of marriage, raising children, getting divorced, going through menopause, losing loved ones, and ultimately making an independent life for herself, she gains insight and spiritual wisdom from unexpected places.

These short stories are filled with reflections on feminine resilience, power, and agency.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Elizabeth Gould has long been fascinated with the importance of rites of passage and divine feminine archetypes for women in our modern culture. For over a decade she has taught and mentored girls at puberty and has run a nonprofit dedicated to women's health and well-being through positive menstrual/menopausal education. She holds a BA in art history and an MS in education. She currently resides on the South Island of New Zealand.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 21, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-143-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-144-5

“At times hilarious and at times deeply moving, *Will's Surreal Period* is a richly satisfying novel, featuring a rollickingly dysfunctional family, a seemingly endless array of succulent foodstuffs, and a brain tumor that transforms a mediocre painter into a virtuoso. The book's characters are alluring, its ideas are seductive, and its plot is irresistible—this is a story that will hook you fast and captivate you till the end.”

—Ken Jakobs, librettist, director, and producer of opera in the San Francisco Bay Area

# WILL'S SURREAL PERIOD

## A NOVEL

ROBERT STEVEN GOLDSTEIN

### DESCRIPTION:

When William Wozniak, a San Francisco artist who has struggled for years in obscurity, suddenly and inexplicably finds himself painting in a startlingly new, surreal style, he is embraced by the art world.

But health issues lead him to a neurology appointment, where William discovers that his new artistic style is the result of a brain tumor threatening his life. He must decide whether to have surgery to remove it—which will likely relegate him back to painting in the drab style that defined his years of anonymity—or allow the tumor to grow and, most likely, kill him.

To make matters worse, William and his wife Rosemary are struggling financially, having been disowned by William's father Arthur, a cantankerous and homophobic old widower. Arthur is cared for by his younger son, Bertram, in a big house in Scarsdale, New York. But when Bertram, a gay man in the closet due to his fear of being disinherited, finally comes out, Arthur decides to switch allegiance to Will and move to California.

Will Laurel, a portly California real estate agent who's taken an improbable liking to Arthur, make the situation better . . . or worse?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Robert Steven Goldstein retired from his job as a healthcare information executive at age fifty-six and has been writing novels ever since. His first novel, *The Swami Deheftner*, has developed a small cult following in India. His second novel, *Enemy Queen*, an erotic thriller set in a North Carolina college town, was published in 2020 and was a finalist in the category of cross genre fiction for the International Book Awards. An excerpt from his third *Cat's Whisker*, published in 2021, entitled “An Old Dog,” was featured in the fall 2018 edition of the literary journal *Leaping Clear*. *Will's Surreal Period* is his fourth novel. Robert lives in San Francisco with Sandy, his wife of thirty-three years, and Cali, a fearless, lovable Akita/cattle dog. Robert has practiced yoga, meditation, and vegetarianism for more than fifty years.

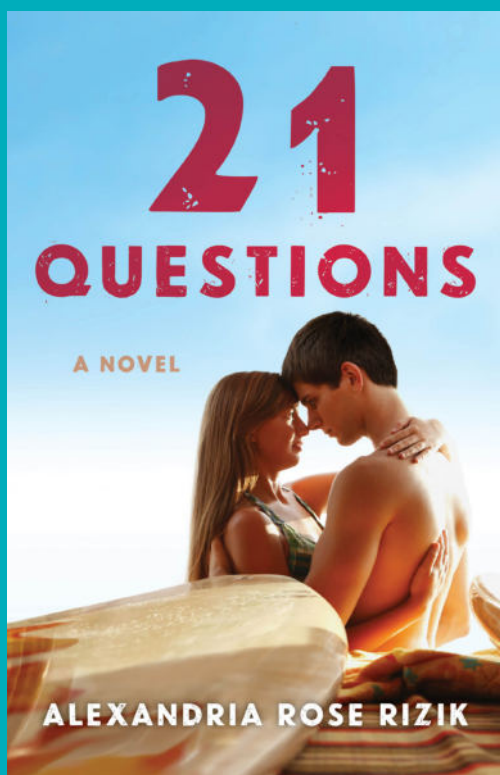




**FALL 2021**



AUGUST 2021



Publication Date: August 3, 2021

Collections: Fiction, Young Adult

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-087-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-088-2

“Rizik is the new queen of writing bad boys!”

—Simone Elkeles, *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author

“Rizik’s coming-of-age story brings everything you want in a young adult novel: first love, first heartbreak, and all the growing pains along the way.”

—Jennifer Millikin, author of *Our Finest Hour* and *The Lifetime of a Second*

“Along the way, readers get a clear view of how their decisions have affected their lives and forced them to mature. An often engaging story of two teens’ emotional highs and lows.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# 21 QUESTIONS

A NOVEL

ALEXANDRIA ROSE RIZIK

## DESCRIPTION:

In Laguna Beach, California, sixteen-year-old Kendra Dimes is preparing for the 2010 USA Surfing Prime West. She’ll be competing this year in honor of her brother, who was a surfer too, but who died from a drug overdose. Kendra has suffered anxiety attacks ever since her brother’s death, and surfing is what’s been helping her heal.

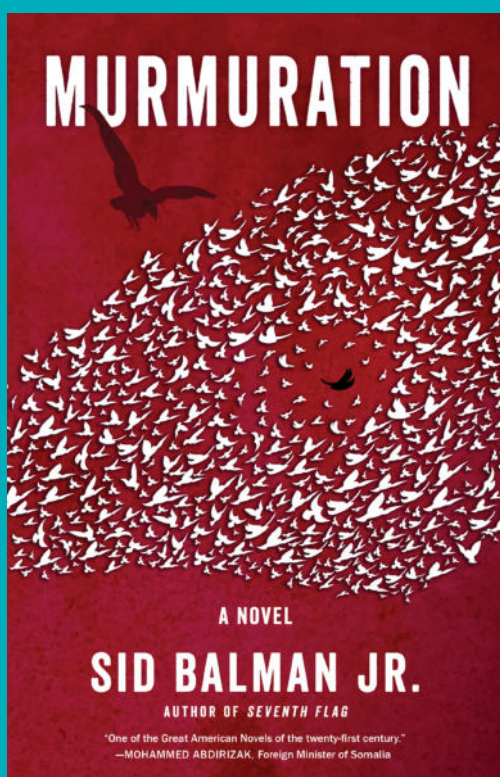
Brock Parker is the new bad boy at school; he deals drugs to the high school clientele for his parents, who work for a Mexican drug lord. Though Brock and Kendra come from two different worlds, sparks fly when they meet at the homecoming dance—their attraction is magnetic. When they start a game of 21 Questions one night, they begin to learn more about each other—and, surprisingly, about themselves too. But some questions aren’t answered with the whole truth; after all, Brock can’t tell Kendra what his parents do for a living.

As Kendra and Brock experience all of life’s most exciting firsts, they prove that even when life throws you the perfect storm, you can make it through and come out stronger than before. *21 Questions* is a coming-of-age journey packed with passion and heartbreak, risk and romance.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alexandria Rizik is an award-winning filmmaker and the author of two books, the poetry collection *Words Written in the Dark* and the children’s book *Chocolate Milk*. She was born and raised in Scottsdale, Arizona, where she was brought up by a large Armenian family. She received her bachelor of arts in English literature from Arizona State University. Alexandria’s love for writing began when she was a young child: her aunt bought her a journal and told her to write her a story, and the rest is history. Her favorite part about writing is being able to write the happily ever after that doesn’t always happen in real life. Besides writing, Alexandria loves yoga, wine, and family time. She lives in Scottsdale, AZ.

AUGUST 2021



Publication Date: August 3, 2021

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-091-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-092-9

# MURMURATION

## A NOVEL

SID BALMAN JR.

### DESCRIPTION:

Charlie Christmas, Ademar Zarkan, and Prometheus Stone are the best of America—united by war, scarred by displacement, and resolute in the face of the troubles that rip the nation apart over three decades. Christmas, a Somali translator with a split personality, and Zarkan, a Muslim sharpshooter who defies gender and religious constraints to graduate from West Point, are first brought together by Stone, a lapsed Jew and an Army captain, amidst war and famine in East Africa. Their ensuing journey—which takes them from the mean streets of Mogadishu to the high desert of West Texas, from the barren plains of Indian country to the rolling hills of Minnesota—is at turns tragic and uplifting. Charlie's son, Amir, is the bookmark in their lives, and the struggle to raise him amid the predators of white supremacy and violent radicalism is their life's work. With the help of Buck, the bomb-sniffing dog with a nose for danger, they prevail over Somali militias, pirates, white supremacists, and ISIS terrorists in a splintering world that has turned on itself like a serpent in the singularly obscene act of devouring its own tail. A sweeping novel that digs deep into the backstories of some of the beloved West Texas characters from *Seventh Flag*, Balman's award-winning debut novel, *Murmuration* is a mesmerizing story of what it means to be American in the twenty-first century.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A Pulitzer-nominated national security correspondent, Sid Balman Jr. has covered wars in the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo, and has traveled extensively with two American presidents and four secretaries of state on overseas diplomatic missions. With the emergence of the web and the commoditizing of content, Balman moved into the business side of communications. In that role, over two decades, he helped found a news syndicate focused on the interests of women and girls, served as communications chief for the largest consortium of US international development organizations, led two successful progressive campaigning companies, and launched a new division at a large international development firm centered on violent radicalism and other security issues on behalf of governments and nonprofits. A fourth-generation Texan, as well as a climber, surfer, paddler, and benefactor to Smith College, Balman splits his time between West Texas and Washington DC with his three kids and two dogs.

AUGUST 2021



Publication Date: August 3, 2021

Collections: Fiction, Young Adult

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-089-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-090-5

“A sharp, engrossing international thriller with twists that will keep you turning pages, *The Long-Lost Jules* is a perfect blend of mystery, high-stakes financial intrigue, and romance. It grabs readers from the first page and doesn’t let go until the satisfying ending.”

—Lindsay Cameron, award-winning and best-selling author of *BIGLAW*

“Hughes offers up a contemporary mystery/thriller with a strong helping of historical fiction and romance. . . . An enjoyable globe-trotting adventure and investigation.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE LONG-LOST JULES

## A NOVEL

JANE ELIZABETH HUGHES

### DESCRIPTION:

She thinks he’s either a stalker, a nutcase, or a harmlessly eccentric Oxford professor. He thinks she’s the long-lost descendant of Henry VIII’s last Queen, Katherine Parr. Amy is living a cautious life as a London private banker to wealthy oil sheikhs, but her quiet solitude is upended by the sudden appearance of two people: a half-sister who is virtually a stranger to her, and Oxford don Leo. Both need something from Amy, who has been emotionally frozen for years and isn’t sure she has anything left to give. She also harbors deep secrets—as does Leo. Even so, the two join forces to investigate the mystery of Queen Katherine’s lost baby, and soon long-suppressed emotions start to surface—and enemies start to close in. As they crisscross Europe in a quest for answers, Amy and Leo find themselves in danger of losing control of their secrets, their hearts—and maybe even their lives.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

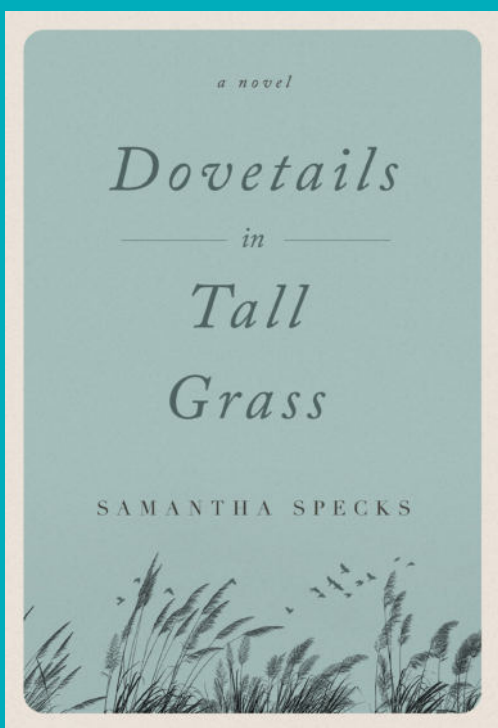
Jane Elizabeth Hughes is an obsessive reader with two fully-loaded Kindles; she buys so many books that Amazon sends her a gift every year for the holidays. Unfortunately, reading novels all day is not an easy career path, so Jane has a day job as professor of international finance at Simmons College School of Business in Boston. She has also consulted with multinational corporations and governments for nearly three decades, including the Rockefeller Foundation, Inter-American Development Bank, and Asian Development Bank. An engaging and accomplished public speaker, Professor Hughes has written and lectured widely about international finance throughout the world. She published her first novel, *Nannyland*, with Simon & Schuster Pocket Star Books in 2016. A mother of four and granny of eight (the eldest is only seven, so she’s a very busy granny), she is fortunate enough to live on beautiful Cape Cod, Massachusetts.

### AWARDS:

- 2022 IPPY Book Awards Silver Medal in Popular Fiction
- 2022 16th Annual National Indie Excellence Awards Finalist in Women’s Fiction
- 2022 Next Generation Indie Book Awards Winner in Mystery



AUGUST 2021



Publication Date: August 24, 2021

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-093-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-094-3

“. . . a startling, nuanced amalgam of past events and impressive, delicate literary creation. A dramatically engrossing and thoughtful novel.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This extraordinary novel is thought-provoking and heartbreaking, and should be read by all.”

—Historical Novel Society, Editor’s Choice

“Samantha Specks weaves an unforgettable tale of two women in frontier America—one white, one Dakota—each changed forever by the violence of colonization.”

—Olivia Hawker, best-selling author of *One for the Blackbird*, *One for the Crow*

# DOVETAILS IN THE TALL GRASS

A NOVEL

SAMANTHA SPECKS

## DESCRIPTION:

As war overtakes the frontier, Emma’s family farmstead is attacked by Dakota-Sioux warriors; on that same prairie, Oenikika desperately tries to hold on to her calling as a healer and follow the orders of her father, Chief Little Crow. When the war is over and revenge-fueled war trials begin, each young woman is faced with an impossible choice. In a swiftly changing world, both Emma and Oenikika must look deep within and fight for the truth of their convictions—even as horror and injustice unfolds all around them.

Inspired by the true story of the thirty-eight Dakota-Sioux men hanged in Minnesota in 1862—the largest mass execution in US history—*Dovetails in Tall Grass* is a powerful tale of two young women connected by the fate of one man.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Samantha Specks is a clinical social worker who has worked on a child/adolescent psychiatric unit, as a Dialectical Behavioral group therapist with adults and adolescents, and as an outpatient psychotherapist. She currently lives in Texas, but her heart and mind resided in Minnesota, her home state, while working on *Dovetails in Tall Grass*, which is her debut novel. Her happy place is reading a good book or watching a terrible TV show with a cup of tea and her leggings covered in dog hair. Sticking with the theme of strong young women, Samantha and her husband welcomed a baby girl to their family while she was writing this novel. She lives in Houston, TX.

## AWARDS:

- 2021 Best Book Award Winner in Fiction: Western
- 2021 Best Book Award Finalist in Fiction: Historical

AUGUST 2021



Publication Date: August 24, 2021

Collections: Fiction, Literary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-095-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-096-7

Featured in POPSUGAR “Best Books of 2021”

\* SheReads “Best Book Club Picks of Fall” \*

Women.com \* Brit & Co. “Fifteen New Books to Read on your Summer Vacation”

“Townsend vividly depicts the singular cultural ethos of the tech world—that peculiar combination of microscopically diligent engineering and dreamy aspiration—and deftly dissects its global variations...”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Timely, supremely relevant, and a great read.”

—Dan Lyons *New York Times* best-selling author of *Disrupted: My Misadventure in the Start-Up Bubble*

# RIDING HIGH IN APRIL

## A NOVEL

JACKIE TOWNSEND

### DESCRIPTION:

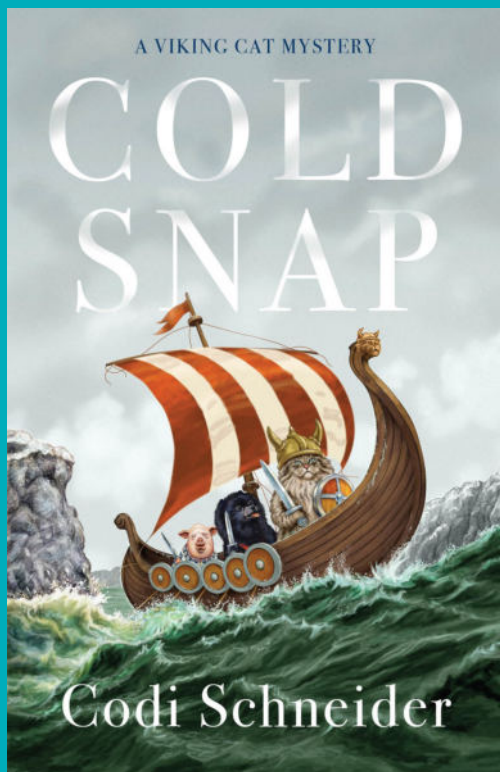
Inside the rising tech microcosms of Seoul, Singapore, Japan, and India, far from the mendacity of Silicon Valley, a serial tech entrepreneur pursues a last-ditch attempt to build something great: COMPASS, an open-source network platform that Microsoft has labeled “reckless.” At stake are his reputation, his dwindling bank account, and his fifteen-year relationship with the only woman he’s ever loved—a woman in the midst of reckoning with who she is and what really matters to her in the face of the narcissism and destructiveness of the technology world. She shows up in Seoul in a big, bold move to be with him—only to find that living in Asia reshapes her in intangible, unexpected ways.

Taut and richly layered, *Riding High in April* is a powerful evocation of our contemporary tech moment, a revealing exploration of resilience and the pursuit of something unattainable, and a moving story of love, friendship, and letting go.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Before becoming a full-time writer, Jackie Townsend received her MBA from UC Berkeley and worked as a financial consultant in the Bay Area alongside her Italian husband, who worked in Silicon Valley and other parts of the world before starting and running his own tech company. That career, both exciting and exhausting, fuels Jackie’s novels and essays, as well as the blogs she posts at [jackietownsend.com](http://jackietownsend.com), as do her travels and exposure to foreign cultures. Meanwhile, her husband continues the pursuit. Jackie’s previous two books, *The Absence of Evelyn* (Spark Press) and *Imperfect Pairings*, both won or placed in a variety of Indie Awards. She is a native of Southern California who lived for many years in the Bay Area before she and her husband landed themselves in New York City, where they live today.

SEPTEMBER 2021



Publication Date: September 14, 2021

Collections: Mystery

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-101-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-102-5

“A don’t-miss witty and whimsical cozy with a feisty feline sleuth that paw-sitively pounces off the page.”

—Elizabeth Craig, best-selling author of the Myrtle Clover mysteries

“A cozy told from a unique purr-spective makes for an interesting series debut. Cat lovers in particular will find Bijou, an adroit Norwegian Forest Cat, irresistible.”

—T. C. LoTempio, national best-selling author of the Nick and Nora mysteries

# COLD SNAP

## A NOVEL (A VIKING CAT MYSTERY)

**CODI SCHNEIDER**

### DESCRIPTION:

Tucked in the cold Colorado mountains lies the remote village of Gray Birch, a place where outsiders are frowned upon. In this village lives a cat named Bijou. But she’s no ordinary house cat; her ancestors were mousers on Viking longships, and their blood runs through her veins. Since her battle skills are hardly needed in this modern age, however, she spends her energies running the Fox Burrow Pet Inn with her human, Spencer, and her assistant, Skunk, a mentally negligible Pomeranian. Together, the happy trio has created a safe haven for their four-legged guests.

But when Eddy Line, a handsome baker from California, comes to the inn—along with his piglet and pit bull puppy—everything changes. Spencer falls for Eddy, Bijou is unhappy with the sudden changes to her clan, and the townspeople are anything but welcoming; in fact, threats are made against Eddy when he buys the town’s historic firehouse in order to open a bakery.

Then a shocking murder/dognapping occurs on the night of the bakery’s grand opening, and Bijou finds herself thrust into a tangled mystery. To solve it, she will have to summon her inner Viking—and fight tooth and claw for her new clan.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

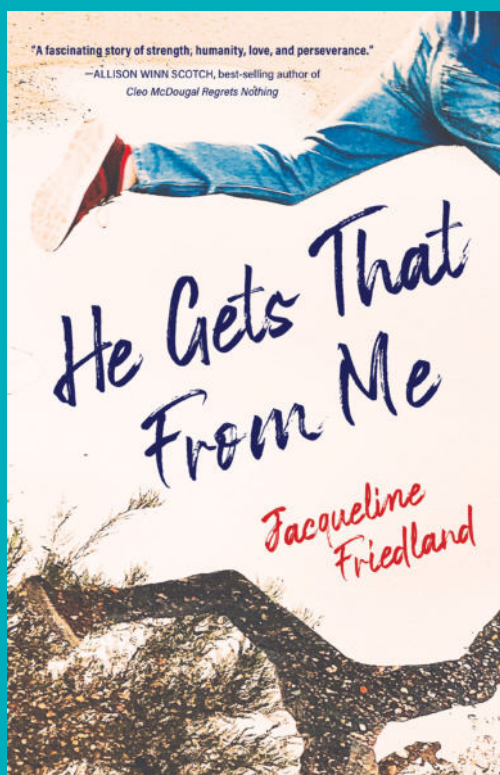
Codi Schneider was raised in the snowy mountains of Colorado on a steady diet of books. She is a mystery-loving animal enthusiast who, when not writing, can be found traveling the world on horseback. She lives in Denver with her husband, two horses, and a cat who is not a Viking but a lover of REM sleep.

### AWARDS:

- 2021 CIBA Mystery and Mayhem Book Awards Finalist
- 2021 American Fiction Awards Winner in Mystery/Suspense: Cozy Mysteries/Cozies
- 2021 Readers’ Favorite Book Awards Bronze Medal in Fiction - Animals



SEPTEMBER 2021



Publication Date: September 14, 2021

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-097-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-098-1

**USA Today Bestseller**

“A heartfelt exploration of what it means to be a family, *He Gets That From Me* is a fascinating story of strength, humanity, love, and perseverance. This is one you won’t stop thinking about.”

—Allison Winn Scotch, best-selling author of *Cleo McDougal Regrets Nothing*

“Friedland spins a web of intrigue, questioning the truest expression of parenthood. Fans of Nicola Marsh, Tana French, and Hannah Mary McKinnon will race through this thrilling exploration of nature versus nurture and the sacrifices needed to keep loved ones together.”

—Booklist

# HE GETS THAT FROM ME

## A NOVEL

JACQUELINE FRIEDLAND

### DESCRIPTION:

As a young mother with a toddler and a live-in boyfriend, Maggie Fisher’s job at a checkout counter in downtown Phoenix doesn’t afford her much financial flexibility. She dreams of going to college and becoming a teacher, options she squandered when she fled her family home as a teenager. When Maggie stumbles onto an ad offering thousands of dollars to women who are willing to gestate other people’s babies, she at first finds the concept laughable. Before long, however, she’s been seduced by all the ways the extra money could improve her life. Once she decides to go for it, it’s only a matter of months before she’s chosen as a gestational carrier by Chip and Donovan Rigsdale, a married couple from New York.

After delivering twin babies and proudly handing them off to the Rigsdales, Maggie finally gets her life on a positive trajectory: she earns her degree, lands a great job, and builds a family of her own. She can’t fathom why, ten years after the fact, the fertility clinic is calling to ask for a follow-up DNA test.

High-energy and immensely readable, *He Gets That from Me* explores what it really means to be part of a family.

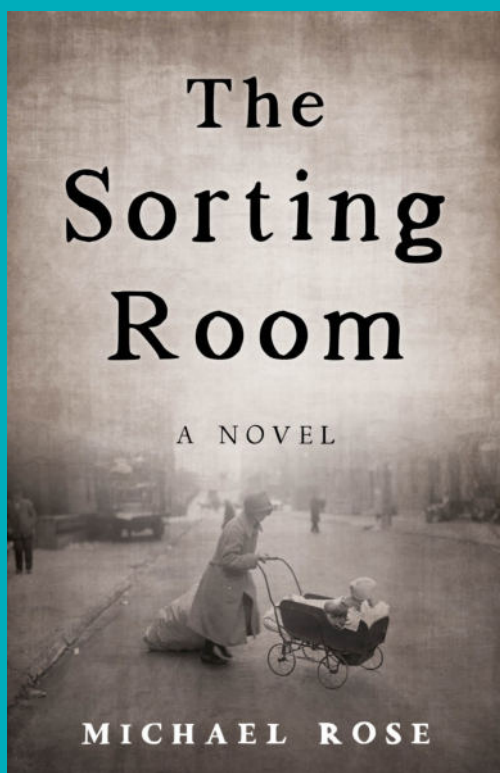
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jacqueline Friedland is the author of the award-winning novels *Trouble the Water* and *That’s Not a Thing*. She holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from NYU Law School. She practiced as an attorney in New York for a hot second before transitioning to writing full time. She lives in New York with her husband, four children, and two very bossy dogs.

### AWARDS:

- 2021 Kirkus Indie Book of the Year
- 2022 American Fiction Awards Winner in Family Saga, General Fiction, and LGBTQ+ Fiction
- USA Today Best Seller
- A 2021 Kirkus Reviews’ Best Indie Book of the Year
- 2021 Reader’s Favorite: Gold Medal, Fiction
- SheReads 2021 Book Awards: Best Book Club Pick

SEPTEMBER 2021



Publication Date: September 21, 2021

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-105-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-106-3

“A moving and evocative tale, sweeping in scope, and beautifully narrated. Its depiction of Depression-era New York City is vivid and haunting. *The Sorting Room* is a memorable and inspirational saga about the power of one woman’s indomitable will, and its reverberations on the extended family she creates.”

—Robert Steven Goldstein, author of *Cat’s Whisker*, *Enemy Queen*, and *The Swami Deheftner*

“Rose has composed an affecting and unpredictable story, unsentimental and unflinching.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE SORTING ROOM

A NOVEL

MICHAEL ROSE

## DESCRIPTION:

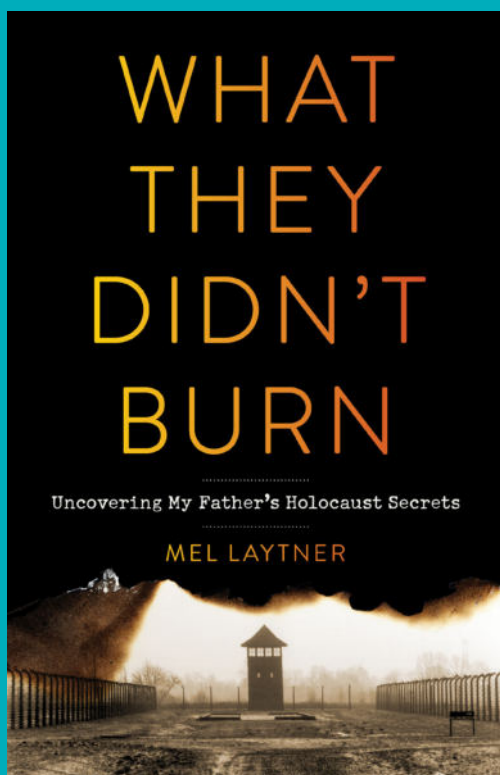
In Prohibition-era New York City, Eunice Ritter, an indomitable ten-year-old girl, finds work in a sweat shop—an industrial laundry—after impairing her older brother with a blow to the head in a sibling tussle. When the diminutive girl first enters the sorting room, she encounters a giant, the largest human being she has ever seen. Gussie, a powerful, hard-working Black woman, soon becomes her mentor and sole friend. Eunice is entrapped in the laundry’s sorting room by the Great Depression, sentenced to bring her low wages home to her alcoholic parents as penance for her childhood mistake. Then, on her sixteenth birthday, Eunice becomes pregnant and her drunken father demands the culprit marry his daughter, trapping her anew—this time in a loveless marriage, along with a child she never wanted. Within a couple of years, Eunice makes a grave error and settles into a lonely life of drudgery that she views as her own doing. Decades pass in virtual solitude before her secret history is revealed to those from whom she has withheld her love.

An epic family saga, *The Sorting Room* is a captivating tale of a woman’s struggle and perseverance in faint hopes of reconciliation, if not redemption.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michael Rose was raised on a small family dairy farm in Upstate New York. He enjoyed a successful career in high technology as Chief Information Officer for both Hewlett Packard and Royal Dutch Shell and in various executive positions for Juniper Networks. He has been a non-executive director for three global public companies headquartered in the US. In addition to writing, Rose is an investor in technology startups. *The Sorting Room* is his debut novel. He lives and writes in San Francisco.

SEPTEMBER 2021



Publication Date: September 21, 2021

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-103-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-104-9

Amazon #1 New Release in Minority Studies

“A scrupulously researched and dramatic remembrance... the author presents his findings with a remarkable blend of meticulousness and unabashed emotion, movingly communicating what he experienced during the process.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“A thought-provoking, impressive union of historical information and personal narrative.”

—BookLife Prize

# WHAT THEY DIDN'T BURN

## UNCOVERING MY FATHER'S HOLOCAUST SECRETS

MEL LAYTNER

### DESCRIPTION:

What if you uncovered a Nazi paper trail that revealed your father to be a man very different from the quiet, introspective dad you knew . . . or thought you knew?

Growing up, author Mel Laytner saw his father as a quintessential Type b: passive and conventional. As he uncovered documents the Nazis didn't burn, however, another man emerged—a black market ringleader and wily camp survivor who made his own luck. The tattered papers also shed light on painful secrets his father took to his grave.

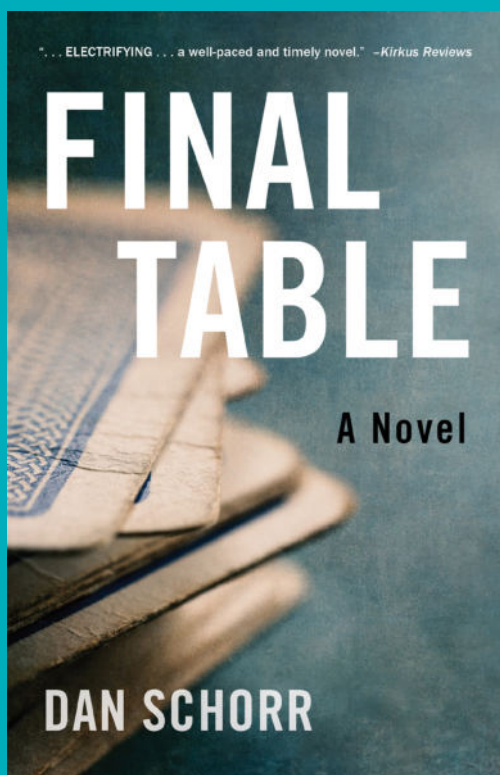
Melding the intimacy of personal memoir with the rigors of investigative journalism, *What They Didn't Burn* is a heartwarming, inspiring story of resilience and redemption. A story of how desperate survivors turned hopeful refugees rebuilt their shattered lives in America, all the while struggling with the lingering trauma that has impacted their children to this day.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mel Laytner was a reporter and editor of hard news for more than twenty years, primarily covering the Middle East for NBC News and United Press International. After seven grinding years overseas, he won a prestigious Knight-Bagehot Fellowship in Economic and Business Journalism, which included a year's residency at the Columbia Graduate School of Business. He received his BA in political science at the City College of New York and master's degrees from the Columbia Graduate School of Journalism (with a concentration in broadcast news) and Columbia's School of International and Public Affairs (with a specialization in foreign policy analysis). Mel and his wife, an artist and teacher, live in New York City and are the proud parents of three daughters.



OCTOBER 2021



Publication Date: October 5, 2021

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-107-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-108-7

**“An international political thriller that successfully weaves together multiple storylines. . . electrifying. . . A well-paced and timely novel.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*

**“*Final Table* is a captivating, multifaceted, original debut novel that is smart and riveting from the first word to the last. Dan Schorr brings his real-world experience as a sex crimes prosecutor and investigator to create a powerful, engaging, and complex study of media, politics, and trauma. A must-read.”**

—Rita Cosby, Emmy-winning TV host and best-selling author

# FINAL TABLE

## A NOVEL

DAN SCHORR

### DESCRIPTION:

A political thriller about sexual misconduct in the #MeToo era, one victim's battle to survive and overcome trauma, and the cable news machine that feeds off titillating scandal coverage and inflammatory confrontation, *Final Table* draws upon Dan Schorr's firsthand experience as a New York City sex crimes prosecutor and sexual misconduct investigator to tackle the worlds of political and media dysfunction.

Former White House staffer Maggie Raster is struggling to build her own consulting firm and overcome a recent sexual assault by an ex-boss. Kyler Dawson, a broke former poker champion, desperately needs to gain entry into a controversial but potentially very lucrative international poker tournament. The host nation faces widespread condemnation for the recent murder of a prominent female US journalist, and a pending presidential executive order threatens to prohibit him and others from participating.

Maggie's chaotic first attempt to promote her new business as a television political analyst brings her to Kyler's attention, and convinces him that her political smarts and connections can provide the help he needs. When he approaches her for assistance, she must decide whether to agree—in return for a portion of the potential \$20 million prize. To succeed, she will have to confront numerous challenges—personal and political, foreign and domestic—including mounting pressure to publicly address the misconduct of her former boss. Kyler also has his own obstacles and upsetting past to overcome, but if they each can outmaneuver their daunting challenges, he might win the tournament—and earn them both a fortune.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dan Schorr is a sexual misconduct investigator at his firm, Dan Schorr, LLC, and an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School, where he teaches a course on sexual misconduct and domestic violence. Previously, he served as a New York sex crimes prosecutor, the Inspector General for the City of Yonkers, and an adjunct law professor with Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. He has been a regular television legal analyst for *Good Morning America*, CNN, Fox News Channel, BBC, and elsewhere. Schorr holds a BA and MA from the University of Pennsylvania, and a JD from Harvard Law School. *Final Table* is his first novel. He lives in White Plains, New York, with his wife and two children.

### AWARDS:

- 2021 Firebird Book Award Winner in Political Thriller
- 2021 Best Book Award Finalist in Fiction: Literary
- 2021 Best Book Award Finalist in Best New Fiction
- 2021 American Fiction Awards Finalist in Thriller: Political

OCTOBER 2021



Publication Date: October 12, 2021

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-115-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-116-2

“A spicy-sweet treat--this fun and fast-paced holiday tale will make your Christmas!”

—Ben Guterson, author of the award-winning Winterhouse series and upcoming *The Einsteins of Vista Point*

“*The Girl Who Ruined Christmas* is a fun festive read, filled with humor and real depth of feeling.”

—Richie Narvaez, award-winning author of *Holly Hernandez* and *the Death of Disco*

“A small town, a presidential pine tree, and an accident-prone girl make for the best holiday read.”

—Fleur Bradley, award-winning author of *Midnight at the Barclay Hotel*

# THE GIRL WHO RUINED CHRISTMAS

A TWEEN HOLIDAY NOVELLA

CINDY CALLAGHAN

## DESCRIPTION:

Imagine you're a tween visiting a small town that loves nothing more than its prize fir—a perfect Christmas tree destined for the White House. Now picture yourself accidentally destroying that tree, making you public enemy number one. Lastly, imagine that to repay your debt, you have to remain in said town for the Christmas season.

That's what happens to Brady Bancroft.

When Brady ruins Harper Hollow Fall's prize tree, she's sentenced to stay in the holiday-festooned town for the month of December. At first, she couldn't be more depressed about the whole situation; but during her month there, she is surprised to discover that there's much more than pine needles to the little town holding her captive. In the end, Harper Hollow Falls reminds Brady of the true meaning of Christmas—and she, in turn, saves the town.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Cindy Callaghan is best known for her book *Just Add Magic* and its sequel, *Potion Problems*, which are the basis for the Emmy-nominated Amazon Original live-action series *Just Add Magic*. She is also the author of the middle grade novels *Lost in London*, *Lost in Paris*, *Lost in Rome*, *Lost in Ireland* (formerly titled *Lucky Me*), and *Lost in Hollywood*, the award-winning *Sydney Mackenzie Knocks 'Em Dead*, and *Saltwater Secrets*, which is also set up at a major studio. Cindy lives in Wilmington, Delaware.

## AWARDS:

- 2022 BookFest: First Place, Juvenile Holiday
- 2022 International Book Awards Finalist in Fiction: Novella and Fiction: Young Adult

OCTOBER 2021



Publication Date: October 12, 2021

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 6 X 9

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-113-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-114-8

Praise for series: Featured in Frolic, “10 MG and YA Books for Back to School”

“An enchanting new book full of magical mischief and adventure, Alane Adams’s *The Blue Witch* is guaranteed to please.”

—Foreword Clarion Reviews

“Adams’ concise prose delivers a quick read that’s packed with colorful characters and subplots . . . Returning illustrator Stroh’s bold black-and-white artwork, as in the previous book, perfectly captures the author’s stunningly detailed world.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# THE MERMAID QUEEN

## THE WITCHES OF ORKNEY, BOOK 4

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

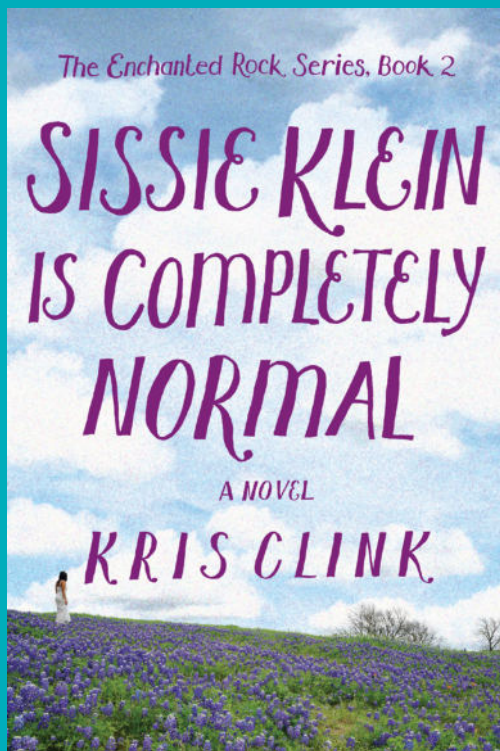
Abigail and Hugo have just helped restore the balance of power in Orkney by defeating the powerful alchemist Vertulious when Abigail discovers that Capricorn, the mermaid queen she trusted to help them, has unleashed the powerful Midgard Serpent named Jormungand—who, years ago, encircled the world of mankind and held it captive until Odin banished it to an underwater prison. Capricorn is determined to force Odin to make her goddess of the seas over Aegir, and she’s ready to use the massive serpent to bend him to her will—threatening all of Orkney. Abigail and Hugo must embark on an adventure across the seas to Odin’s island sanctuary to find a way to stop Capricorn and return Jormungand to his watery cell. But when Abigail finds that her powers are not enough, she has to tap into her dark magic again and again. As she is drawn further down this path, a dark presence makes itself known to her—one that may alter her path forever.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is also the author of the Legends of Orkney™ and Legends of Olympus fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, *The Santa Thief*, and *The Circus Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.



OCTOBER 2021



Publication Date: October 19, 2021

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-099-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-100-1

“Loved this beautifully written, thoughtful book! Clink did a fantastic job capturing the dynamics of real relationships: From the joys and frustrations of parenthood and extended families to the thrill of finding love amidst the despair of deep loss, this book was a truly wonderful read.”

—Bethany Crandell, author of *The Jake Ryan Complex* and *See Jane Snap*

“A warmhearted tale about second chances that will satisfy fans of romance and family dramas.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# SISSIE KLEIN IS PERFECTLY NORMAL

## THE ENCHANTED ROCK SERIES, BOOK 2

**KRIS CLINK**

### DESCRIPTION:

Sissie Klein can barely remember the night that tore her from life as she knew it. At the bedside of her premature daughter, she makes a deal with God to create a normal family out of her muddled life. With good intentions and a youthful optimism, Sissie moves heaven and earth so baby Meg will enjoy a better future than the one she sees stretching out before her . . . but some fates are unavoidable.

As Meg comes into her own, tragedy strikes, taking the girl’s father and leaving behind a web of secrets—and a toddler.

Forgiveness is hard to come by. Friends attempt to control Sissie’s life, and her family only demands more of her attention. Gradually, Sissie peels back the secrets to take a hard look at what she’s sacrificed for this life she created: her happiness. Suddenly no longer in the shadow of her husband, she steps outside her comfort zone, forging new friendships and tasting a love she’s never known. But will she sacrifice her daughter’s future for her own?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kris Clink’s relatable characters rely on humor and tenderness to navigate complicated relationships. Set in middle America, her novels are laced with romance, heartbreak, and just enough snarky humor to rock the boat. When not writing, Kris spends her time searching for an open karaoke mic and an understanding audience. Her pups run the house Kris shares with her doctor husband, who’s stretching his skills as an editor-in-training. Kris is a mom, an empty nester, and a huge fan of Willie Nelson. She loves talking about writing and books, and looks forward to attending your book club by Zoom until she can meet you in person. Kris lives in Wichita, Kansas.

# OCTOBER 2021



Publication Date: October 26, 2021

Collections: Fiction, Young Adult

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-109-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-110-0

“Ross offers YA readers genuinely diverse characters, each of whom continues to grow throughout the narrative. . . . Brace for impact readers, this YA thriller holds little back.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This is a suspenseful book that had me thoroughly hooked from page one . . . The emotional journey of *Ski Weekend* is relentless . . .”

—*Readers' Favorite*, five-star review

“A nail-biter with some surprising moments. Recommended for high school and YA collections.”

—*School Library Journal*

## SKI WEEKEND

### A NOVEL

## REKTOK ROSS

#### DESCRIPTION:

*The Breakfast Club* meets *Alive* in this gripping tale of survival, impossible choices, and the harrowing balance between life and death.

*Six teens, one dog, a ski trip gone wrong . . .*

Sam is dreading senior ski weekend and having to watch after her brother and his best friend, Gavin, to make sure they don't do anything stupid. Again. Gavin may be gorgeous, but he and Sam have never gotten along. Now they're crammed into an SUV with three other classmates and Gavin's dog, heading on a road trip that can't go by fast enough.

Then their SUV crashes into a snowbank, and Sam and her friends find themselves stranded in the mountains with cell phone coverage long gone and temperatures dropping. When the group gets sick of waiting for rescue, they venture outside to find help—only to have a wilderness accident leave Sam's brother with a smashed leg and, soon, a raging fever. While the hours turn to days, Sam's brother gets sicker and sicker, and their food and supplies dwindle until there isn't enough for everyone. As the winter elements begin to claim members of the group one by one, Sam vows to keep her brother alive.

No matter what.

Filled with twists, secrets, and life-changing moments, *Ski Weekend* is a snow-packed survival thriller featuring a diverse cast of teens that will appeal to fans of *One of Us is Lying* and *I Am Still Alive*.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rektok Ross is the pen name of Liani Kotcher, a trial attorney turned young adult author and book blogger. An avid reader since childhood, Liani writes exactly the kind of books she loves to escape into herself: exciting thrillers with strong female leads, swoon-worthy love interests, and life-changing moments. She graduated from the University of Florida School of Journalism and obtained her juris doctorate at the University of Miami School of Law. Originally from South Florida, she currently splits her time between San Francisco and Los Angeles with her husband, stepkids, and her dogs. You can find her online just about anywhere at @RektokRoss, as well as on her website, [www.RektokRoss.com](http://www.RektokRoss.com), where she blogs about books and writing.





# SPRING 2021

e, až ju uvidíme.  
"Katalo?"  
Tess šla k rodi-  
povedal, "že som  
nebudem čítať,  
šlienka a Brazí-  
naoza]. Bolo by  
prvu cestu. Za-  
nezamýšľal ju  
niakým spó-  
a z istých pri-  
ak uvidie kniež.  
čieť poznať po-  
Angel čítal  
okojíť, že no-  
nie vzbudilo  
šľala si skoro,  
Angel v tal-  
osovala syna  
sfme pokroč,  
adškoum, že  
žno počty-

tmavé mihainice a obrvy a vrkoče hrubé ako lodné lano,  
a veľké lilavo-belaso-čierne oči."

"Áno, mamička."  
"Ako by som ju videla pred sebou. A pretože žila tak  
v ústraní, sotva poznala pred tebou iného mužského."

"Sotva."  
"Ty si jej prvá láska?"

"Pravdaže."  
"Sú horšie ženy ako tieto prosté, ružovolice, statné  
dedinake dievčatá. Bola by som si sice želala — tuž, keď  
chceš byť hospodárom, isteže je dobre, aby tvoja žena  
bola zvyknutá na život v prírode."

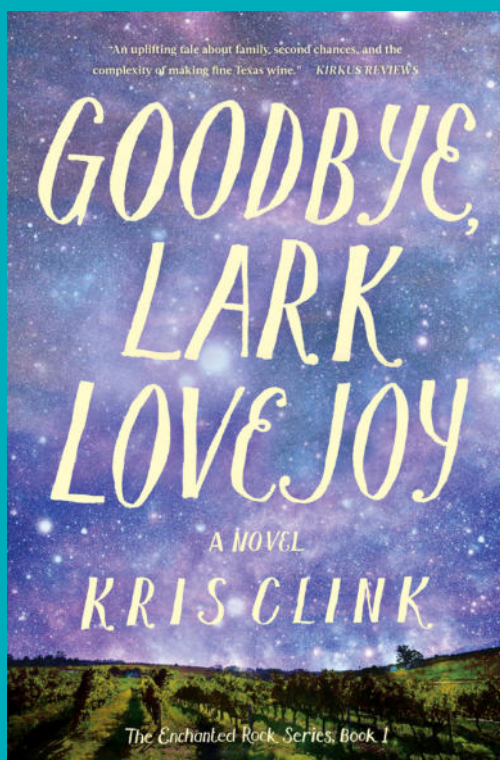
Otec sa toľko nevyptoval, ale keď došlo na šitanie  
Bible pred večernou modlitbou, povedal žene —  
"Myslím, že keď prídeš Angel, bolo by primeranejšie  
predtiaľ tridsať prvé Petalovic, ako kapitolu, na ktorej  
je doos rad."

"Áno, pravdaže," odpovedala pani Clarová. "Slová  
kráľa Salumina." (Vedela citovať kapitoly a vsaže pekvu  
tak dobre ako jej muž). "Syn môj, otec sa rozhodol, že  
nám predtá kapitolu z knihy Petalovic. Chcela ženy Ma-  
chtnúť. Nemusím pripomenúť, že sa tieto slová týkajú  
nepřítomnej. Nech je Boh ochotný na všetkých našich."  
Clarová mala veľkú. Práve keď púť prinesla z káfa do-  
prosiť sa pred kozub, dva staré služobné vodky a  
Angelove otec sadal štít dostate veľkej spracovanej kapit-

"Zaujímaš kto napísal? Lebo čiastočne súť party je  
ktorá zúčastnená vďaka diera pokrm ľuďoch.  
Opavie siluť badeť sepe a možnosti zamená  
svoja škumpu, sít učitelná je jej zamenávanie, sít v noh  
sokamo jej učuoa. Spavozie obcovania ľuďoch zozaj a  
ohľadu sňahy nap. Rozstane synova jej, pokračovaj



APRIL 2021



Publication Date: April 6, 2021

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-073-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-074-5

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“An uplifting tale about family, second chances, and the complexity of making fine Texas wine.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“*Goodbye, Lark Lovejoy* is a deftly crafted, inherently absorbing, and unfailingly entertaining read from cover to cover. . . . very highly recommended . . .”

—*Midwest Book Review*

## GOODBYE LARK, LOVEJOY THE ENCHANTED ROCK SERIES, BOOK ONE

**KRIS CLINK**

### DESCRIPTION:

Lark’s lost her husband, and the expiration date has come and gone on her fake-it-till-you-make-it “Happy Mommy Show.” Healing her broken family requires drastic measures—like returning to her hometown in the Texas Hill Country. But she’s going to need more than clean air and a pastoral landscape to rebuild a life for her and her young sons.

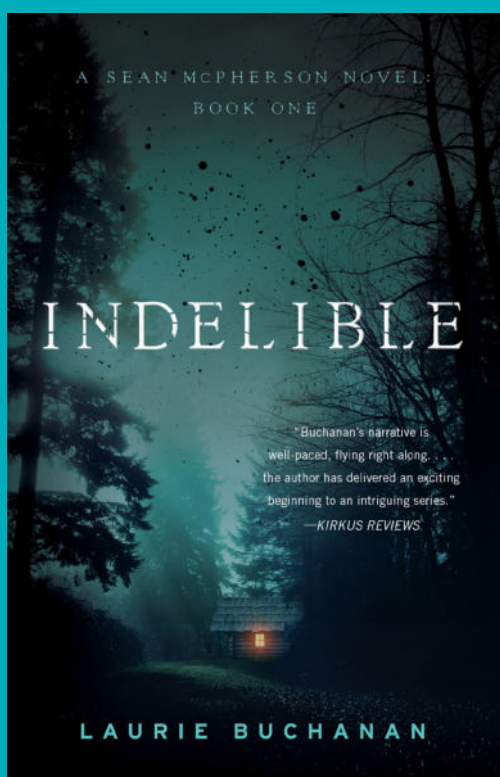
After years of putting off her dream of becoming a winemaker, Lark puts every cent into a failing vineyard, determined to work through her grief and make a brighter future for her children. The last thing she expects is to fall in love again. Especially not with Wyatt Gifford, an injured Army vet with a past of his own to conquer.

Coming home may not be the reset Lark imagined, but it does take her on a journey filled with humor and reconciliation—one that prepares her for a courageous comeback.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kris Clink’s relatable characters rely on humor and tenderness to navigate complicated relationships. Set in middle America, her novels are laced with romance, heartbreak, and just enough snarky humor to rock the boat. When not writing, Kris spends her time searching for an open karaoke mike and an understanding audience. Born and raised in the Texas Panhandle, Kris lives in Wichita, Kansas where her great Dane, Sophieanne, runs the house Kris shares with her editor-in-training husband.

APRIL 2021



Publication Date: April 6, 2020

Collections: Fiction, Mystery, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-071-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-072-1

“Early in *Indelible*, I realized I was in the hands of a gifted storyteller. Through flawed characters and a vivid setting, tension mounts in this fast-paced thriller, leading to a riveting climax.”

—Greg Renz, author of *Beneath the Flames*

“Smart and sassy, Laurie Buchanan’s *Indelible* is a fast-paced mystery with deftly drawn characters and a palpable sense of place. I couldn’t put it down!”

—Ashley E. Sweeney, author of *Answer Creek*

# INDELIBLE

## A SEAN MCPHERSON NOVEL, BOOK ONE

LAURIE BUCHANAN

### DESCRIPTION:

When a sniper killed his partner, Sean McPherson was injured in the ambush. Now an ex-cop, he takes a job at a writing retreat in the Pacific Northwest. At Pines & Quill, he hopes, he’ll heal and put his life back together in the Zen-like capacity of groundskeeper and all-around handyman.

Sniper Jason Hughes, meanwhile, blames McPherson for the loss of more than 10 million dollars’ worth of heroin—and he wants revenge. In the guise of a New York City limo driver working on a sizzling tell-all memoir, Hughes arrives at Pines & Quill along with three other writers-in-residence: a bohemian psychic taking a break from grueling work as a forensic intuitive, a bitter divorcée who wants to open herself to a new life, and a vibrant and resilient potter navigating life in a wheelchair.

With all the conflicting agendas, uncertain loyalties, and romantic entanglements at play, Hughes finds it difficult to get McPherson in his sights. Original designs thwarted, he forms a different plan—one that threatens the lives of everyone at the retreat.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A cross between Dr. Dolittle, Nanny McPhee, and a type A Buddhist, Laurie Buchanan is an active listener, observer of details, payer of attention, reader and writer of books, kindness enthusiast, and an unabashed optimist. A former holistic health practitioner and transformational life coach, she holds a doctorate in holistic health with an emphasis in energy medicine. Her first two books, *Note to Self: A Seven-Step Path to Gratitude and Growth* and *The Business of Being: Soul Purpose In and Out of the Workplace*, are nonfiction titles designed to motivate, inspire, and transform. Laurie lives in the Pacific Northwest with her pilot-husband, Len, and their Irish Wolfhound, Willa. She enjoys yoga, long walks, bicycling, photography, and travel. To learn more, please visit her website at [www.lauriebuchanan.com](http://www.lauriebuchanan.com). She resides in Boise, Idaho.

APRIL 2021



# THE MEDUSA QUEST

## THE LEGENDS OF OLYMPUS, BOOK 2

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

Phoebe Katz is back on a new mission to save Olympus and undo the fallout from her first visit. Damian has troubling news—the epic mythology stories in the books are changing. Instead of Perseus slaying Medusa and becoming a hero, the books now say he’s turned to stone. Worse, thanks to Phoebe slaying the Nemean lion and the Lernean hydra to complete the Eye of Zeus, Hercules failed his first two trials—which means he’s not the immortal hero he’s supposed to be. After speaking with the oracle who brought her to New York, Phoebe learns that without great heroes, the entire fabric of Greek mythology is in peril. She must go back to Olympus and right the history she wrecked. To do that, she must embark on a quest to collect the items she will need to help Perseus defeat Medusa, including the curved blade the Argus Slayer, the winged shoes of Hermes, and Hades’s Helmet of Invisibility, and convince Hercules to complete his new trials without giving up—despite the efforts of a powerful force that will stop at nothing to see the demi-god children of Zeus destroyed. Can Phoebe collect the items she needs and save Olympus once again?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and the new Witches of Orkney series, as well as *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, *The Santa Thief*, and *The Circus Thief* picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Orange County in Southern California.

Publication Date: April 13, 2020  
Collections: Fiction, Middle Grade Fiction  
Trim size: 6 x 9  
Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook  
Distribution by Publishers Group West  
Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-075-2  
E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-076-9

#### Praise for *The Eye of Zeus*:

“With twists, loyalty between friends, and its cast’s cleverness, the middle grade fantasy *The Eye of Zeus* hits all the right notes.”

—Foreword Reviews

“This charming and brilliant novel is superbly plotted and will win over readers . . . Phoebe’s voice is dead on and authentic, as are those of her friends. The author’s masterful prose and style serve the story instead of merely taking center stage . . . This author and novel are ready for prime time and the big time.”

—Publishers Weekly, BookLife Prize Critic’s Report



MAY 2021



Publication Date: May 4, 2020

Collections: Fiction, Science Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-079-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-080-6

“Patrick Meisch’s ability to overlay the social and humanitarian issues of modern times with a futuristic approach to their resolution is exceptional.”

—Midwest Book Review

# THOSE THE FUTURE LEFT BEHIND

A NOVEL

PATRICK MEISCH

## DESCRIPTION:

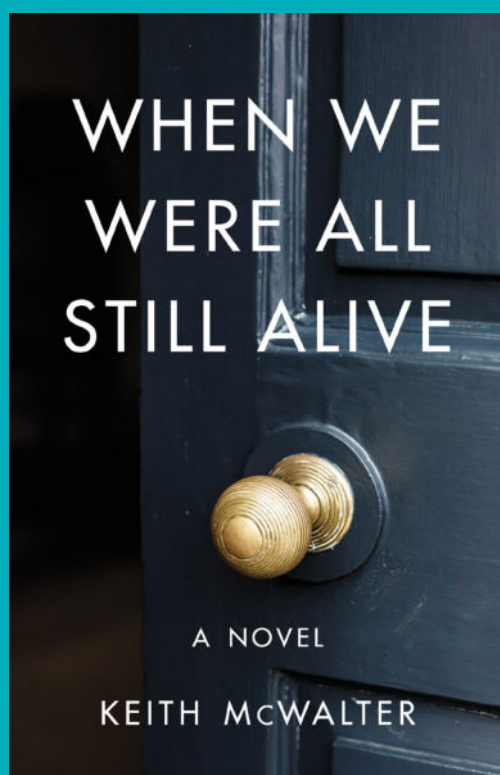
The ever-increasing disparity between people on Earth has grown to the point that governments are now implementing a radical program: submit your life for “Collection” at a young age, and you’ll gain access to immediate wealth—with some strings attached. For many from marginalized communities, this is barely a choice, as they would rather live an abbreviated life fulfilling their dreams than an elongated one scratching out an existence in the gutter.

Unpackaged from the first-person account of a neurodiverse Collector, an employee of the government who is charged with the execution of contracted individuals upon the conclusion of their allotted time, *Those the Future Left Behind* is a work of speculative science fiction that explores what life might be like on an Earth suffering from resource depletion and overpopulation—an Earth plagued by the same problems we continually brush off today on the chance that others will solve them for us tomorrow.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patrick Meisch is a high school science teacher who has harbored an ambition to write ever since his literature classes influenced him at a young age. He is passionate about educating future generations of people who can make a difference on topics such as climate change, resource management and sustainability, and responsible use of technology. His writing is often used as a vehicle to broach these topics in an engaging format. He lives, works, reads, and plays a lot of video games in Edina, Minnesota. *Those the Future Left Behind* is his debut novel.

MAY 2021



Publication Date: May 4, 2020

Collections: Fiction, Literary Fiction,  
Romance

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-077-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-078-3

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“McWalter’s prose is precise and fluid, weaving characters, settings, and timelines together in a complex tapestry with detailed description.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# WHEN WE WERE ALL STILL ALIVE

A NOVEL

KEITH MCWALTER

## DESCRIPTION:

For Conrad Burrell—husband, father, and successful attorney in the autumn of his life—the world has come apart. Having long ago lost his first wife, the mother of his grown daughter and a widow herself, to youth and pride, he’s now lost his second to a violent accident. “You think you’re finished, that you have no more stories in you,” his ex-wife warns, and he fears she’s right. Within hailing distance of the end of his days, after a lifetime of meeting the expectations of others, none are left but Conrad’s own, and he must discover whether love survives death as well as divorce—whether family memory can redeem individual mortality.

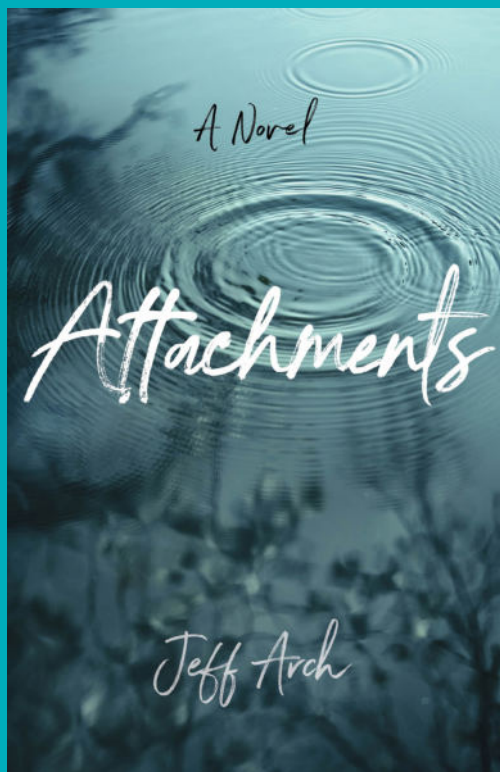
*What do we do, then, we widows and widowers for whom there’s nothing left but the world’s permission to stop what we’ve done all our lives?* In the cities of his youth, in the deserts of New Mexico, but most of all in a small Pennsylvania town, Conrad finds he has one more lesson in love to learn from the women of his past, and the one woman he’s certain he can’t live without.

*When We Were All Still Alive* is a novel of grief and healing, a portrait of a marriage, and a love song to ordinary lives.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Keith McWalter writes the essay blog *Mortal Coil* ([www.keithmcwalter.com](http://www.keithmcwalter.com)), and his narrative nonfiction and opinion pieces have appeared in *The New York Times*, *The New York Times Magazine*, and the *San Francisco Chronicle*. A collection of his essays, *No One Else Will Tell You: Letters from a Bi-Coastal Father*, won the Writer’s Digest Award for Nonfiction, and his family memoir, *Befriending Ending*, was anthologized in the online literary magazine *Feathered Flounder*. McWalter grew up in Mexico and Pennsylvania, is a graduate of Denison University and Columbia Law School, and spent much of his first career in the legal and investment banking worlds of New York and San Francisco. He and his wife live in Granville, Ohio, and Sanibel, Florida.

MAY 2021



Publication Date: May 11, 2020

Collections: Fiction, Literary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback

\$24.95 hardcover / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN:

978-1-68463-081-3 (paperback)

978-1-68463-500-9 (hardcover)

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-082-0

“Prior to reading this wonderful book, I had only known Jeff Arch’s body of work as a screenwriter, most famously for his Oscar-nominated *Sleepless in Seattle*. Now, with *Attachments*, Jeff brings his deep humanity, his unique and unmistakable voice, and his cinematic economy of style to this powerful story of love and betrayal and the possibility of forgiveness. With meticulous plotting and masterful language, he brings life and light to characters as real as they are unforgettable.”

—David P. Kirkpatrick, former production chief of Walt Disney Studios and president of Paramount Pictures

# ATTACHMENTS

## A NOVEL

JEFF ARCH

### DESCRIPTION:

At a boarding school in Pennsylvania, a deathbed request from the school’s dean brings three former students back to campus, where secrets and betrayals from the past are brought out into the open—secrets that could have a catastrophic effect on the dean’s eighteen-year-old son. Told in alternating points of view and time frames, *Attachments* is the story of best friends Stewart (“Goody”) Goodman, Sandy (“Pick”) Piccolo, and Laura Appleby, the girl they both love. The friends meet in 1972 at a boarding school in coal-country Pennsylvania, where they encounter Henry Griffin, the school dean, whose genuine fatherly interest and deep human bond with them is so strong that when he has a severe stroke almost twenty years later, he uses what could be his last words ever to call out their names.

*Attachments* is a puzzle—and the only one who knows how all the pieces fit is in a coma. As Goody, Pick, and Laura seek to fulfill Henry’s request, longtime secrets are unearthed and revelations come out into the open—including something young Chip Griffin may or may not be able to handle.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jeff Arch grew up in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he spent two of his high school years at a boarding school much like the one depicted in *Attachments*. In the ’70s, he studied film/tv/theater production at Emerson College in Boston and then moved to Los Angeles. Years later, married and with a young family, he was teaching high school English and running a martial arts school when he heard the call to write again; in 1989, he sold the school he’d built, rented a small office, and gave himself one year to write three screenplays. The second of those—a quirky romantic comedy where the two lovers don’t even meet until the very last page—sold almost immediately, and *Sleepless in Seattle* became a surprise megahit worldwide. For his screenplay, Jeff was nominated for an Oscar, as well as for Writers Guild and BAFTA awards, among others. His other credits include the Disney adventure film *Iron Will*, New Line’s romantic comedy *Sealed With a Kiss*, and the independent comedy *Dave Barry’s Complete Guide to Guys*. His script for *Saving Milly*, based on Mort Kondracke’s searing memoir, earned the 2005 Humanitas Nomination, an honor Jeff treasures. Jeff is a father, stepfather, father-in-law, and grandfather. *Attachments* is his first novel.

### AWARDS:

Winner of General Fiction and Finalist for Best New Fiction of 2021 by “Best Book” Awards, and a Best Indie Book of 2021 by Kirkus

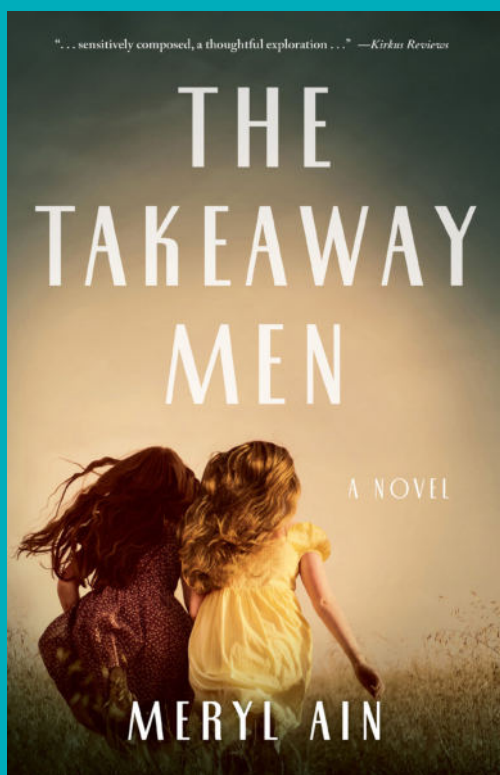


FALL 2020





AUGUST 2020



Publication Date: August 4, 2020

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-047-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-048-6

“The author’s tale is sensitively composed, a thoughtful exploration into the perennially thorny issues of religious identity, assimilation, and the legacy of suffering.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Ain builds a layered world of many different characters to create a complex, difficult, and well-researched novel around the identity of the Jewish community following the Holocaust and the problems and debates it faced.”

—Booklist

# THE TAKEAWAY MEN

## A NOVEL

MERYL AIN

### DESCRIPTION:

With the cloud of the Holocaust still looming over them, twin sisters Bronka and Johanna Lubinski and their parents arrive in the US from a Displaced Persons Camp. In the years after World War II, they experience the difficulties of adjusting to American culture as well as the burgeoning fear of the Cold War. Years later, the discovery of a former Nazi hiding in their community brings the Holocaust out of the shadows. As the girls get older, they start to wonder about their parents’ pasts, and they begin to demand answers. But it soon becomes clear that those memories will be more difficult and painful to uncover than they could have anticipated. Poignant and haunting, *The Takeaway Men* explores the impact of immigration, identity, prejudice, secrets, and lies on parents and children in mid-twentieth-century America.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Meryl Ain’s articles and essays have appeared in *Huffington Post*, *The Jewish Week*, *The New York Times*, and *Newsday*, and at *MariaShriver.com*, among other outlets. In 2014 she coauthored the award-winning book *The Living Memories Project: Legacies That Last*, and in 2016 she wrote a companion workbook, *My Living Memories Project Journal*. She is both a student and teacher of history, as well as a school administrator and researcher. She holds a BA from Queens College, an MA from Teachers College, Columbia University, and an EdD from Hofstra University. She lives in New York with her husband, Stewart. They have three married sons and six grandchildren. This is her first novel.

### AWARDS:

2020 American Fiction Awards Winner in Historical Fiction

AUGUST 2020



Publication Date: August 4, 2020

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-68463-049-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-050-9

“From the very first page, I was hooked on this tale of heartbreak, self-discovery, and one woman’s charming determination to turn lemons into lemonade. Fans of Emily Giffin and Lauren Weisberger will love this engaging and entertaining debut!”

—Meg Donohue, *USA Today* best-selling author of *You, Me, and the Sea*

“*Charming Falls Apart* is the perfect comfort read. A smart and heartfelt ode to the healing power of friendship and the strength in reinvention. Fans of Sophie Kinsella will root for Allison James as she rebuilds her life on her own terms.”

—Allie Larkin, internationally best-selling author of *Swimming for Sunlight*

# CHARMING FALLS APART

## A NOVEL

ANGELA TERRY

### DESCRIPTION:

Allison James is a people pleaser and rule follower, but the day before her thirty-fifth birthday, that all backfires: she is unexpectedly fired from the public relations firm she’s worked at for twelve years, only to come home and find out that her fiancé has been sleeping with her maid of honor.

Feeling lost, Allison takes her friend Jordan’s advice and uses the time off for some self-reflection. Over the next few months, she devours countless self-help books (albeit skeptically), schedules a soul reading with an astrologer/psychic/magician, and goes on a meditation retreat in Costa Rica, where she finally starts to feel like she’s getting her groove back.

Back at home, her desire to escape the condo she once shared with her fiancé makes her a regular at the new coffeehouse in her neighborhood, where she finds some guidance from (and eye candy in) the attractive owner, Eric. Between Jordan’s support, the Barnes & Noble self-help aisle, and the Tao of Eric, Allison gradually discovers that her old life wasn’t as perfect as she thought—and that if she truly wants to find her happily-ever-after, she’s going to have to start writing her own rules.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Angela Terry is an attorney who formerly practiced intellectual property law at large firms in Chicago and San Francisco. She is also a Chicago Marathon legacy runner and races to raise money for PAWS Chicago—the Midwest’s largest no-kill shelter. She resides in San Francisco with her husband and two cats, and enjoys throwing novel-themed dinner parties for her women’s fiction book club.

### AWARDS:

2021 Independent Press Awards Winner in Chick-Lit

2021 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards Silver Winner in Fiction: Romance

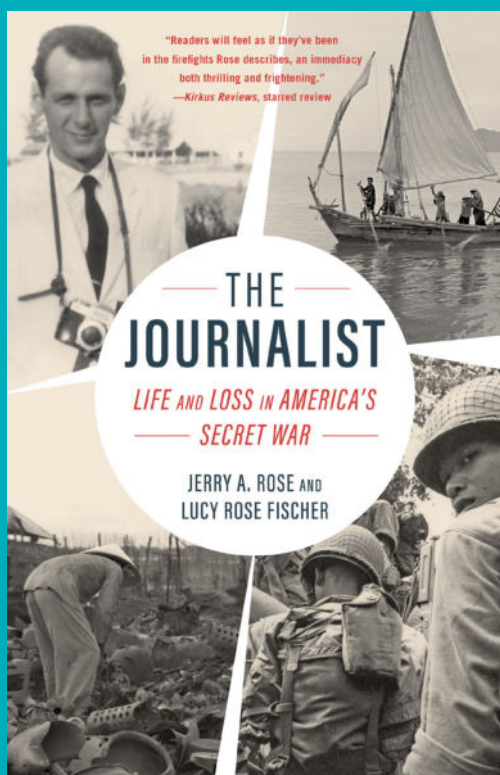
2020 Best Book Awards Finalist in Best New Fiction

2020 Best Book Awards Finalist in Fiction: Women’s Fiction

2020 Best Book Awards Finalist in Fiction: General



# AUGUST 2020



Publication Date: August 11, 2020

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-065-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-066-0

“A thoughtful, revealing look at the early years of the war in Vietnam from one of the first reporters to cover it. This book sits well alongside *The Mark*, *Street Without Joy*, and other essential frontline reports. Readers will feel as if they’ve been in the firefights Rose describes, an immediacy both thrilling and frightening.”

—Kirkus Reviews, starred review

“Passionate and gripping, *The Journalist* is the story of Jerry Rose, an acclaimed American journalist who gave his life to tell the hidden truth about the US’s involvement in the bloody, divisive Vietnam War.”

—Foreword Reviews

# THE JOURNALIST

## LIFE AND LOSS IN AMERICA'S SECRET WAR

### JERRY A. ROSE AND LUCY ROSE FISCHER

#### DESCRIPTION:

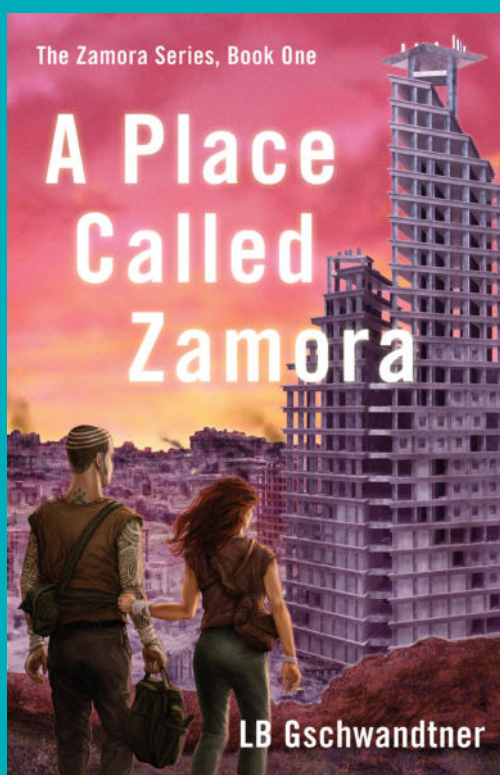
Jerry Rose, a young journalist and photographer in Vietnam, exposed the secret beginnings of America’s Vietnam War in the early 1960s. Putting his life in danger, he interviewed Vietnamese villagers in a countryside riddled by a war of terror and intimidation and embedded himself with soldiers on the ground, experiences that he distilled into the first major article to be written about American troops fighting in Vietnam. His writing was acclaimed as “war reporting that ranks with the best of Ernest Hemingway and Ernie Pyle,” and in the years to follow, *Time*, *The New York Times*, *The Reporter*, *New Republic*, and *The Saturday Evening Post* regularly published his stories and photographs. In spring 1965, Jerry’s friend and former doctor, Phan Huy Quat, became the new Prime Minister of Vietnam, and he invited Jerry to become an advisor to his government. Jerry agreed, hoping to use his deep knowledge of the country to help Vietnam. In September 1965, while on a trip to investigate corruption in the provinces of Vietnam, he died in a plane crash in Vietnam, leaving behind a treasure trove of journals, letters, stories, and a partially completed novel. *The Journalist* is the result of his sister, Lucy Rose Fischer, taking those writings and crafting a memoir in “collaboration” with her late brother—giving the term “ghostwritten” a whole new meaning.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jerry Rose published feature articles and photographs in *Time*, *The New York Times*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *New Republic*, *The Reporter*, and other news venues. He authored two books: *Reported to be Alive* (Grant Wolfkill, Simon & Schuster, 1965) and *Face of Anguish* (Free Asia Press, 1965), a book of his photographs. He is deceased and this memoir was created with the help of his sister and coauthor, Lucy Rose Fischer.

Lucy Rose Fischer, an award-winning Minnesota author, artist, and social scientist, is the author of five previous books: *Linked Lives: Adult Daughters and Their Mothers* (Harper and Row, 1986, translated into German); *Older Minnesotans* (Wilder Foundation, 1989); *Older Volunteers* (Sage, 1993, NSFRE Research Prize); *I’m New at Being Old* (Temuna Press, 2010, Independent Publishers Gold Award and Midwest Book Award); and *Grow Old With Me* (Temuna Press, 2019), as well as more than 100 professional research articles.

SEPTEMBER 2020



Publication Date: September 8, 2020

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-051-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-052-3

“Glimmers of discontent and secrets arise in a city that’s under authoritarian rule in *A Place Called Zamora*, a promising start to a new dystopian series.”

—Foreword Reviews

“With her sharp storytelling skills, Ms. Gschwandtner takes the reader on a blood-curdling ride through a post-apocalyptic world where no one is safe. And yet, for all of its astonishing twists, turns, and futuristic touches, the novel speaks directly to what we face today with our truth-failing government, and the need for an unlikely hero to arise.”

—Lary Bloom, author of *Sol LeWitt: A Life of Ideas*, columnist featured in the *New York Times*, and teacher

# A PLACE CALLED ZAMORA

## THE ZAMORA SERIES, BOOK ONE

LB GSCHWANDTNER

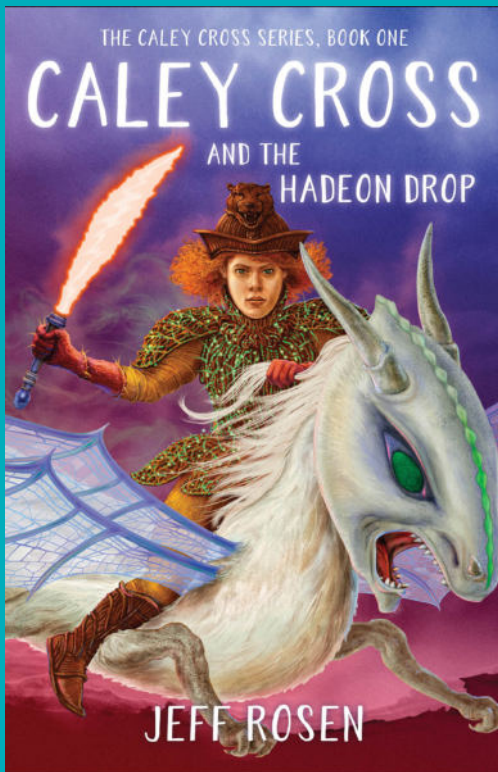
### DESCRIPTION:

Niko and El are trapped in a politically corrupt dystopian city where brutality rules. After winning a cynical race where only one rider can survive, Niko tosses aside his chance to join the city’s corrupt inner circle by choosing lovely, innocent El as his prize—thus upsetting the ruling order and placing them both in mortal danger. With the Regime hunting them and the children of the city fomenting a guerrilla revolt, the two attempt a daring escape to the possibly mythical utopia Zamora. But as events unfold, the stirrings of love El once felt for Niko begin to morph into mistrust and fear. If they reach Zamora, will Niko claim his secret birthright? And what will the future hold if he loses El’s love?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

LB Gschwandtner has attended numerous fiction-writing workshops—the Iowa Writers Workshop and others—studied with Fred Leebron, Bob Bausch, Richard Bausch, Lary Bloom, Joyce Maynard, Sue Levine, and Wally Lamb, and published five adult novels, one middle-grade novel, and one collection of quirky short stories. She began her professional career as an artist, became a magazine editor in 1980, and began writing fiction in 1986. She’s won awards in literary contests and independent publishing contests, and been published in literary digests and magazines. *A Place Called Zamora* is her eighth book.

SEPTEMBER 2020



Publication Date: September 8, 2020

Collections: Juvenile Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-053-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-054-7

“In this wildly imaginative series opener, Rosen’s storytelling overflows with creative fancy. . . . A fun and fast-moving adventure giddy with ideas.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# CALEY CROSS AND THE HADEON DROP

## THE CALEY CROSS SERIES, BOOK ONE

JEFF ROSEN

### DESCRIPTION:

Caley Cross has always known she’s not a “normal” thirteen-year-old (her ability to create zombie animals was her first clue). Still, she never expected to be whisked off to a faraway world—Erinath—where she is Crown Princess and people have “baests” that live inside them, giving them fantastic, animal-like powers. Which would be cool, except that Caley’s baest turns out to be an ancient monster that can swallow planets. Despite this, Caley manages to make the first friends of her life, Neive Olander and Kipley Gorsebrooke. They help her navigate the Erinath Academy, where students train to compete in the annual—and deadly—Equidium contest, flying giant, dragonfly-like oroc. But to add to her usual (bad) luck, an evil “Watcher” known as Olpheist is seeking her, anxious to retrieve something that will make him immortal.

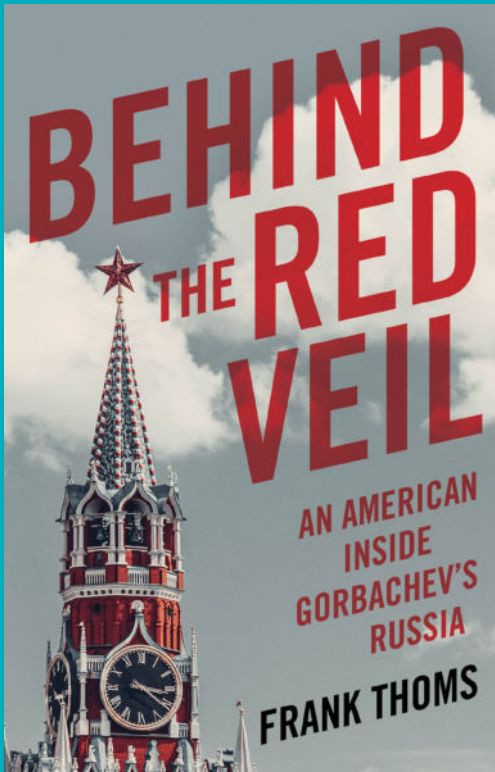
The first in an epic fantasy series from Jeff Rosen that will keep readers laughing and on the edge of their seats.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

When he’s not writing Caley Cross, Jeff Rosen creates award-winning children’s television series like *Bo on the Go*, *Poko*, *Animal Mechanicals*, *The Mighty Jungle*, *Pirates!*, *Monster Math Squad*, and *Space Ranger Roger*. He was the principal writer of the beloved Theodore Tugboat. His programs have been viewed around the world and translated into numerous languages. Jeff was a founding creative partner of WildBrain (formerly DHX Media), a global children’s content company, home to *Peanuts*, *Teletubbies*, *Strawberry Shortcake*, *Caillou*, *Inspector Gadget*, and *Degrassi*. Jeff got the idea for Caley Cross when some horses escaped from his daughter’s riding academy and roamed the city, popping into various shops along the way, mixing it up with the locals. The books have nothing to do with that, but you never know where ideas will lead. An accomplished painter, Jeff’s work can be found in galleries, at [www.jeffrosenart.com](http://www.jeffrosenart.com), and on Instagram @jeff.rosen. Jeff lives in Halifax, Nova Scotia, with his wife and vampire poodle, Vlad.



SEPTEMBER 2020



Publication Date: September 15, 2020

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-055-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-056-1

“... uncovers the spirit of Russia and captures Frank Thoms’s interactions with Russians.”

—Readers’ Favorite, 5 Star Review

# BEHIND THE RED VEIL

## AN AMERICAN INSIDE GORBACHEV’S RUSSIA

FRANK THOMS

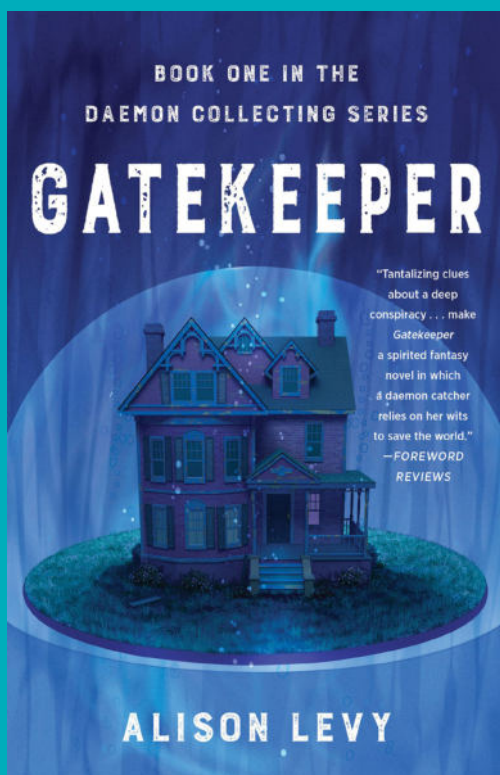
### DESCRIPTION:

Frank Thoms went to the Soviet Union not to judge but to learn. As a result, he gained the trust and confidence of the people he befriended—and discovered much about himself. *Behind the Red Veil* recounts Frank’s quest to understand the Russian people. He spent his initial twenty-five years there as a teacher, during which time he pursued his understanding of Marxism, Russian history, and Soviet Communism. His first venture to the Soviet Union occurred in October 1985, Mikhail Gorbachev’s first year as general secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union. In his following six trips, Frank served twice as a US–Soviet exchange teacher of English in Leningrad (St. Petersburg), and on his own taught English in schools in Moscow and Alma-Ata (Almaty), Kazakhstan. His final journey, which was to the new Russia in 1994, three years after Gorbachev’s resignation, took him to Yekaterinburg in the Ural Mountains. Through it all, Frank sought the love and respect of the Russians he came into contact with. *Behind the Red Veil* is the story of how they opened their hearts to him—and, in doing so, opened his.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

More than ten years ago, after forty years as a teacher and twelve as a consultant and keynote speaker, Frank Thoms became a writer. He’s published four books: *Teaching from the Middle of the Room: Inviting Students to Learn* with Stetson Press (2010), and three books with Rowman & Littlefield, *Teaching That Matters: Engaging Minds, Improving Schools* (2015); *Exciting Classrooms: Practical Information to Ensure Student Success* (2015); and *Listening is Learning: Conversations between 20th and 21st Century Teachers* (2019). He spent the majority of his teaching career with eighth graders in public and private schools in New Hampshire and Massachusetts, coaching soccer and hockey and serving as a timer for a youth ski program. For the past eight years, he has lived with his wife in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where he continues to write, mentors university students, and serves as Ambassador-at-Large for the San Miguel Writers’ Conference.

OCTOBER 2020



Publication Date: October 6, 2020

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-057-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-058-5

“Tantalizing clues about a deep conspiracy . . . make *Gatekeeper* a spirited fantasy novel in which a daemon catcher relies on her wits to save the world.”

—Foreword Reviews

“A compelling yet endearing read about a very resourceful interdimensional cop, Rachel, who deals with broken daemons, homeless oracles, linguists, and serial killers with her own style of grace and tenacity. You might not see your own world in quite the same way as you look for the hidden passageways just out of view.”

—Ellen Clary, author of *Pursuits Unknown*

# GATEKEEPER

## BOOK ONE IN THE DAEMON COLLECTING SERIES

ALISON LEVY

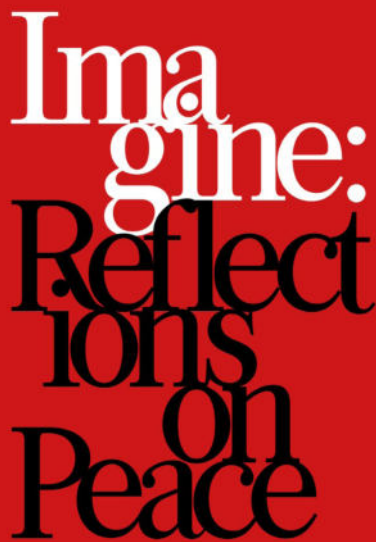
### DESCRIPTION:

Rachel Wilde comes from a dimension that exists adjacent to ours. The people there have structured their society around daemon collecting: they locate, catch, and repair malfunctioning daemons (creatures out of phase with our world that tempt people to do good or evil). Now Rachel has been given two unusual assignments: 1) find a person who has been trying to break down dimensional barriers, and 2) track down a missing line of gatekeepers—human placeholders for a daemon that was too badly damaged to repair. Authorities of Rachel’s world believe the missing gatekeepers are descended from a girl who went missing from West Africa hundreds of years ago, likely sold into slavery. With no leads to go on, Rachel seeks help from Bach, a raving homeless man who happens to be an oracle. Bach does put her in the path of both of her targets—but he also lands her in a life-threatening situation. Somehow, Rachel has to stop the criminal, reunite a gatekeeper with her stolen past, and, above all, survive.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alison Levy lives in Greensboro, North Carolina, with her husband, son, a variety of pets. When she’s not writing or doing mom things, she crochets, gardens, walks her collies, and works on home improvement projects.

OCTOBER 2020



Imagine:  
Reflections  
on  
Peace

VII F

Publication Date: October 6, 2020

Collections: Nonfiction

Trim size: 6.7 x 9.5

Price: \$49.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-085-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-086-8

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“The searing images and moving essays contained in this book teach us much about the lessons of history, the costs of war, and the overlooked challenges of achieving lasting peace.”

—Madeleine K. Albright, former US Secretary of State

“Powerful, persuasive, and forensic, this book will open your eyes, challenge your assumptions, and deepen your understanding of war and the people who survive it.”

—Angelina Jolie, UNHCR Special Envoy

# IMAGINE

## REFLECTIONS ON PEACE

### VII FOUNDATION

#### DESCRIPTION:

When victory through battlefield prowess and political manipulation are not enough to achieve peace, we summon our best and brightest to negotiate an end; we celebrate peace settlements; and we give prizes, if not to victors, then to visionaries. We exalt peace as a human achievement, and justly so. But the reality of peace is flawed. Its rewards are elusive for the men and women who live in the post-conflict societies of our time. Why is it so difficult to make a good peace when it is so easy to imagine? That is the question behind *Imagine: Reflections on Peace*.

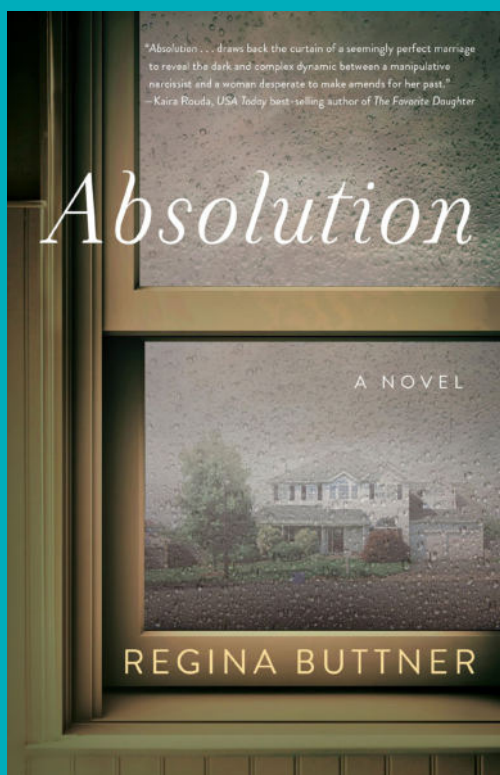
In this stunning collection, photographic essays make grippingly palpable the stakes during war and peace. Samantha Power, former US Ambassador to the United Nations, Justice Richard Goldstone, and Jonathan Powell, chief negotiator for the Northern Ireland Good Friday agreement, are joined by world-renowned writers in revealing the complexities of redemption and rebuilding in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Colombia, Lebanon, Northern Ireland, and Rwanda. We hear first-person accounts of survival and the search for inner peace, bringing the big picture to a personal level. With added insights from scholars and practitioners, the book offers a rare and fascinating glimpse into the unvarnished story of peace and a window into what it takes for societies and individuals to move forward after unspeakable brutality.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gary Knight (Editorial Director) is the principal architect and founder of the VII photo agency and the director and cofounder of the VII Foundation. He began his career as a photojournalist in southeast Asia in the late 1980s and has covered most major global conflicts since, including the invasion of Iraq in 2003. Knight is a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University. He has chaired World Press Photo twice, was a brand Ambassador for Canon for ten years, and in 2018 founded the VII Academy to train students from the majority world in documentary practice. He was the director and founder of the Program for Narrative and Documentary Practice at Tufts University. Knight's exposure to war was the catalyst for this exploration into post-conflict societies and analysis of what it takes to build and keep the peace. He is an articulate, impassioned, and charismatic speaker. Other journalists from the project will be available for interviews.



OCTOBER 2020



Publication Date: October 13, 2020

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463061-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-062-2

“[An] emotionally potent tale about the power of a secret.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“*Absolution*, Regina Buttner’s captivating debut, draws back the curtain of a seemingly perfect marriage to reveal the dark and complex dynamic between a manipulative narcissist and a woman desperate to make amends for her past. The story reveals that when we seek forgiveness, we must also accept it for ourselves.”

—Kaia Rouda, *USA Today* best-selling author of *The Favorite Daughter*

# ABSOLUTION

## A NOVEL

REGINA BUTTNER

### DESCRIPTION:

Jeanie thinks she was to blame for the sexual assault she suffered in college—and she’d do anything to keep her old-school Catholic family from finding out about the resulting pregnancy, as well as what she did to conceal it.

Years have passed since the assault, and Jeanie’s husband, Greg, still thinks she’s the seemingly innocent girl he married in a rush to spite his controlling mother. It’s the height of the Seattle dot-com boom, and he’s too busy cashing in his stock options to pay attention to his wife. He isn’t aware of Jeanie’s lingering shame and guilt, or that she married him in the desperate hope that devoting herself to marriage and motherhood would somehow absolve her from the sins in her past.

Their hidden agendas collide when Greg discovers evidence of Jeanie’s long-ago pregnancy. As she confesses the details of that drunken night with her married professor, Greg’s pristine image of her is blown. His shock deepens into violent fury, and Jeanie realizes she needs to leave him—but Greg won’t let her go. He’s up for a big promotion, and he’s not about to let her ruin his reputation by walking out on him. He’ll resort to blackmail, if necessary. Or worse.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Regina Buttner is a registered nurse-turned-writer from upstate New York. *Absolution* is her first novel. Learn more about her at [www.reginabuttner.com](http://www.reginabuttner.com).

OCTOBER 2020



Publication Date: October 13, 2020

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-063-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-064-6

“Bright brave characters star in this exhilarating tale of magic and mystical creatures.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# WITCH WARS

## THE WITCHES OF ORKNEY, BOOK 3

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

Abigail’s second year at the Tarkana Academy has been an all-out disaster. She’s just unwittingly helped Vertulious, an ancient he-witch and powerful alchemist, destroy Odin’s Stone and restore his powers, and now all of Orkney is caught up in the threat of war as the witches prepare to destroy the helpless Orkadians. Determined to set things right, Abigail and Hugo set off for Jotunheim, the land of the giants, to find a weapon to restore the balance. All they have to do is track down the God of Thunder and convince Thor to turn his hammer over to them. When their former-friend-now-foe Robert Barconian arrives with a band of dwarves, intent on stopping them, Abigail and friends must unite to prevent a war that will destroy them all. But has Abigail made the biggest mistake of all by trusting in the wrong ally?

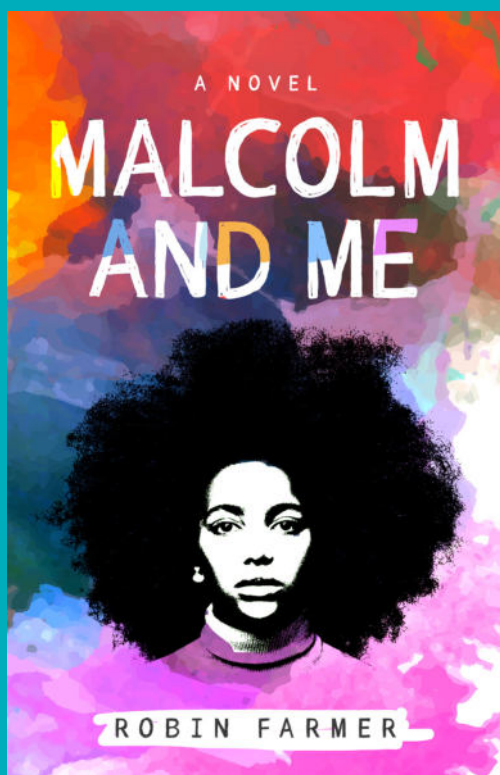
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, *The Santa Thief*, and *The Circus Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

### AWARDS:

Alane Adams has won more than 10 awards for The Legends of Orkney series and 2 awards for The Witches of Orkney series.

NOVEMBER 2020



Publication Date: November 17, 2020

Collections: Fiction, Young Adult

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-083-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-084-4

“Farmer has created a timely and relevant story, peopled with realistic characters. Many readers will discover much about themselves alongside Roberta as they travel with her on her journey of self-discovery. We need more characters—in books and in real life—as strong and as willing to speak up as Roberta is.”

—Padma Venkatraman, award-winning author of *The Bridge Home*

“Readers will root for Roberta as she musters the courage to take a stand in this unflinching debut set in 1973 Philadelphia. Rich and poignant, funny and blasphemous, *Malcolm and Me* reveals how relevant Malcolm X’s words remain today.”

—Anne Westrick, author of *Brotherhood*

# MALCOLM AND ME

## A NOVEL

**ROBIN FARMER**

THE SPARKPRESS 2020 STEP WINNER! (SHE WRITES PRESS & SPARKPRESS TOWARD EQUALITY IN PUBLISHING)

### DESCRIPTION:

Philly native Roberta Forest is a precocious rebel with the soul of a poet. The thirteen-year-old is young, gifted, black, and Catholic—although she’s uncertain about the Catholic part after she calls Thomas Jefferson a hypocrite for enslaving people and her nun responds with a racist insult. Their ensuing fight makes Roberta question God and the important adults in her life, all of whom seem to see truth as gray, while Roberta believes it’s black or white.

An upcoming essay contest, writing poetry, and reading *The Autobiography of Malcolm X* all help Roberta cope with the various difficulties she’s experiencing in her life, including her parent’s troubled marriage. But when she’s told she’s ineligible to compete in the school’s essay contest, her explosive reaction to the news leads to a confrontation with her mother, who shares some family truths Roberta isn’t ready for.

Set against the backdrop of Watergate and the post-civil rights movement era, *Malcolm and Me* is a gritty yet graceful examination of the anguish teens experience when their growing awareness of themselves and the world around them unravels their sense of security—a coming-of-age tale of truth-telling, faith, family, forgiveness, and social activism.

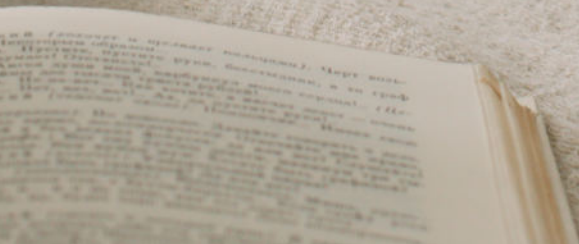
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Robin Farmer is a national award-winning journalist and transplanted Philadelphian who currently calls the Richmond, VA, area home. At eight, she told her mother she would write for a living, and she is grateful that her younger self knew what she was talking about (many young folks do). Her other interests include screenwriting, poetry, movies, and traveling. She’s still hoping to write stories about young people for television and film. Robin earned her degree in journalism from Marquette University. She lives in Richmond, VA.





**SPRING 2020**



APRIL 2020



Publication Date: April 7, 2020

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-028-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-029-5

“With twists, loyalty between friends, and its cast’s cleverness, the middle grade fantasy *The Eye of Zeus* hits all the right notes.”

—Foreword Reviews

# THE EYE OF ZEUS

## LEGENDS OF OLYMPUS, BOOK ONE

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

Meet Phoebe Katz, a twelve-year-old foster kid from New York City who’s been bounced around the system her entire life. Things happen around Phoebe, but it’s not like they’re her fault! But when a statue of Athena comes to life, Phoebe gets the stunning news that she’s the daughter of Zeus, has a twin brother named Perseus—and was sent away from ancient Greece as a baby to stop a terrible prophecy that predicted she would one day destroy Olympus.

Athena warns Phoebe to stay in hiding, but when the vengeful god Ares kidnaps her beloved social worker, Phoebe has no choice—she has to travel back to ancient Greece and rescue him. There, Phoebe and her friends Angie and Damian discover a new prophecy, one that may fix everything. The catch: Phoebe has to collect talismans from six Greek monsters, including the fang from a nine-headed hydra, a talon from the Nemean lion, and a feather from the sphinx. No problem for a girl with the power to call up lightning bolts and change the weather! But can Phoebe collect them all and stop the prophecy before she destroys Olympus?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

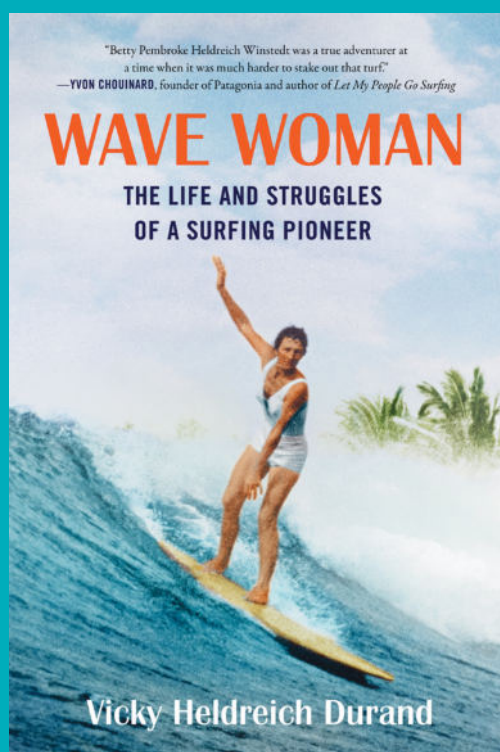
Alane Adams is an award-winning author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and the Witches of Orkney series, as well as *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, *The Santa Thief*, and *The Circus Thief* picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

### AWARDS:

Alane Adams has won more than 10 awards for The Legends of Orkney series and 2 awards for The Witches of Orkney series.



# APRIL 2020



Publication Date: April 7, 2020

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 6 x 9

Four-color

Price: \$29.95 paperback / \$14.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-042-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-043-1

“There are some people who venture into uncharted territory. They are referred to as pioneers, and that they are. In the world of surfing, one such pioneer was Betty. She was prominent, accomplished, and a champion surfer when women were not supposed to surf. She also ventured into bigger waves when most others were content to watch.

Every young woman enjoying surfing in contemporary times should remember and appreciate Betty Heldreich. She made it ‘happen.’”

—Fred Hemmings, author, keynote speaker, and former surfing champion

## WAVE WOMAN THE LIFE AND STRUGGLES OF A SURFING PIONEER

### VICKY HELDREICH DURAND

#### DESCRIPTION:

*Wave Woman* is the untold story of an adventurer whose zest for life and learning kept her alive for ninety-eight years. Betty Pembroke Heldreich Winstedt was the granddaughter of Mormon pioneers who, after spending an active and athletic childhood in Salt Lake City, moved to Santa Monica with her family and enrolled at USC to study dental hygiene. Betty went on to elope with a man she hardly knew, and to have two daughters.

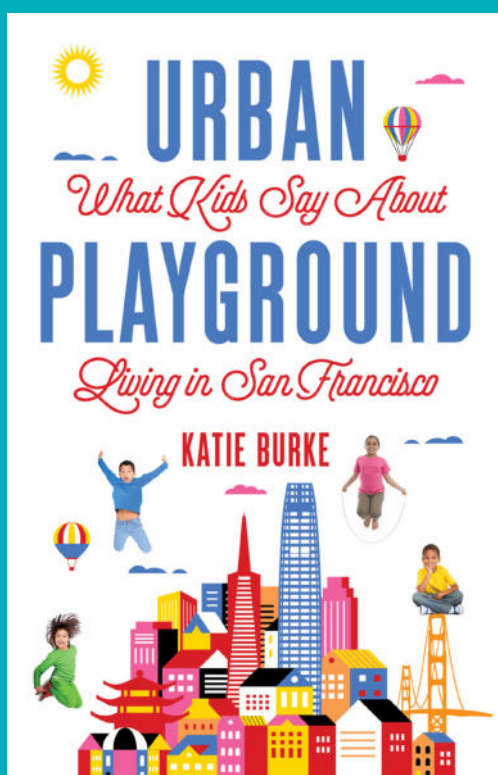
In middle age, Betty finally followed her dream of living near the ocean: she moved to Hawaii and, at age forty-one, took up surfing. She lived and surfed at Waikiki during the golden years of the mid-1950s and was a pioneer surfer at Makaha Beach. She was competitive in early big-wave surfing championships and was among the first women to compete in Lima, Peru, where she won first place. Betty was an Olympic hopeful, a pilot, a mother, a sculptor, a jeweler, a builder, a fisherwoman, an ATV rider, and a potter who lived life her way, dealing with adversity and heartache on her own stoic terms. A love letter from a daughter to her larger-than-life mother, *Wave Woman* will speak to any woman searching for self-confidence, fulfillment, and happiness.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Vicky Heldreich Durand first fell in love with Hawaii at age twelve, when she spent a summer with her aunt and uncle on the island of Molokai. She returned home and talked her mother, Betty, into a trip the following summer, and by the following winter, Betty, Vicky, and Vicky’s sister had moved to Honolulu. Vicky spent her formative years surfing with her mother; they both competed in the Makaha International Surfing Contest in Hawaii, and they traveled as invited guests to Lima, Peru, on behalf of The Club Waikiki’s efforts to interest women in surfing. She is the mother of two grown daughters and grandmother of six grandchildren, gardens avidly, and is passionately involved in animal rescue, working mainly with cats and dogs. *Wave Woman* is her first book.



APRIL 2020



Publication Date: April 7, 2020

Collections: Nonfiction, Self-help

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-016-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-017-2

*“Urban Playground is an entertaining introduction to San Francisco thanks to the charm, sense of wonder, and joy of its participants.”*

—Foreword Reviews

*“An engaging series of glimpses into the minds and priorities of kids in San Francisco.”*

—Kirkus Reviews

# URBAN PLAYGROUND

## WHAT KIDS SAY ABOUT LIVING IN SAN FRANCISCO

KATIE BURKE

### DESCRIPTION:

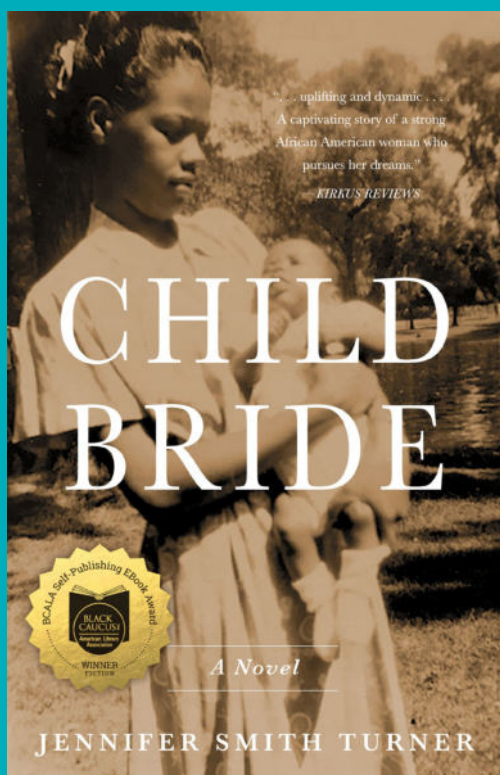
Rural areas cover 97 percent of the United States—yet more than 80 percent of the US population lives in urban areas. What is life like for the millions of children who populate our nation’s cities?

In *Urban Playground*, Katie Burke interviews fifty children, ages five to nine, who live in San Francisco. In each conversation, she explores one of ten different themes—family, school, pets, vacation, work, heroes, holidays, favorite foods, talents, and sports—followed by insights on the topic. She rounds out each segment with five questions for adults and kids to discuss after they’ve read it together, encouraging open, honest dialogue about young readers’ thoughts on the subject matter at hand. Future books in the series will expand into other major US cities. Fun, accessible, and interactive, *Urban Playground* is an important window into the ways children in cities think about and describe the most important aspects of their lives—which is every aspect of their lives!

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Katie Burke is a family law attorney and writer in San Francisco. Prior to entering law school, she earned a master’s degree in counseling. She owns Burke Family Law and writes Noe Kids, a monthly column for *The Noe Valley Voice*. Burke has been published by *HarperCollins*, *the LA Times*, *The Journal of Law and Social Challenges*, *Trial Insider*, *BASF Bulletin* (the Bar Association of San Francisco’s newspaper), *Legal by the Bay* (the Bar Association of San Francisco’s blog), *the San Francisco Chronicle*, *The Examiner*, *The Fairfield Citizen-News*, *The SoMa Literary Review*, *Women’s Voices*, *The Sitting Room*, *The Compass*, *Culture-Voice*, and *Street Spirit*. She has had her essays broadcasted on KQED, read at Litquake, and taught writing at City College of San Francisco.

APRIL 2020



Publication Date: April 14, 2020

Collections: Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-038-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-039-4

“Jennifer Smith Turner’s *Child Bride* offers a rich and immersive evocation of life for a young black American woman in the mid-twentieth century. Her portrayals of both rural, segregated Louisiana and Boston, Massachusetts, are vivid, powerful, and striking in their historical accuracy. But it is protagonist Nell’s journey as a woman seeking independence that makes this book stand out: her evolution from a child bride into a forceful and self-assured adult testifies to the incalculable value of a warm heart and an inquiring mind.”

—Ursula DeYoung, editor of *Embark Literary Journal*

# CHILD BRIDE

## A NOVEL

JENNIFER SMITH TURNER

### DESCRIPTION:

In the segregated South of the mid-1900s, fourteen-year-old Nell bears witness to a world that embraces the oppression of women. She is fascinated with the prospect of being an independent person—but when she turns sixteen, she is married off and brought to the city of Boston as a bride.

Nell is a shy girl who must quickly learn how to be a wife and mother. She discovers that she must acquire new skills to navigate the unknown territory of the North, as well as her relationship with her husband, Henry, who is controlling and emotionally abusive. After giving birth to three children, her body begins to fail her and Henry, concerned for her health, pulls away from her physically. But this void of intimacy drives Nell into the arms of another man.

It’s through her encounter with Charles in the church kitchen, at the point when she is most vulnerable, that Nell finds escape from her depressing life with Henry. The cost, though, is another pregnancy. Charles initially appears ready to leave Nell when he finds out that the baby is his; ultimately, however, his love for her brings him back.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jennifer Smith Turner is a New England–born writer. She is the author of two poetry books, *Lost and Found: Rhyming Verse Honoring African American Heroes* and *Perennial Secrets: Poetry & Prose*. She is the retired CEO of Girl Scouts of Connecticut. During her professional career, she served as an appointed government official with the State of Connecticut and the City of Hartford as a corporate and nonprofit executive, and as a member of many academic and nonprofit boards of directors. She retired to Martha’s Vineyard with her husband, Eric Turner, in 2012.

APRIL 2020



Publication Date: April 14, 2020

Collections: Women's Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-030-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-031-8

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“Fun, flirty and fabulous . . . I devoured this read!”

—Stephanie Evanovich, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Big Girl Panties* and *The Sweet Spot*

“Exploring the messy concept of closure, this is a charmingly witty novel that fans of Emily Belden’s *Hot Mess* (2019) and J. Ryan Stradal’s *The Lager Queen of Minnesota* (2019) will eat up.”

—*Booklist*

# THAT'S NOT A THING

## A NOVEL

JACQUELINE FRIEDLAND

### DESCRIPTION:

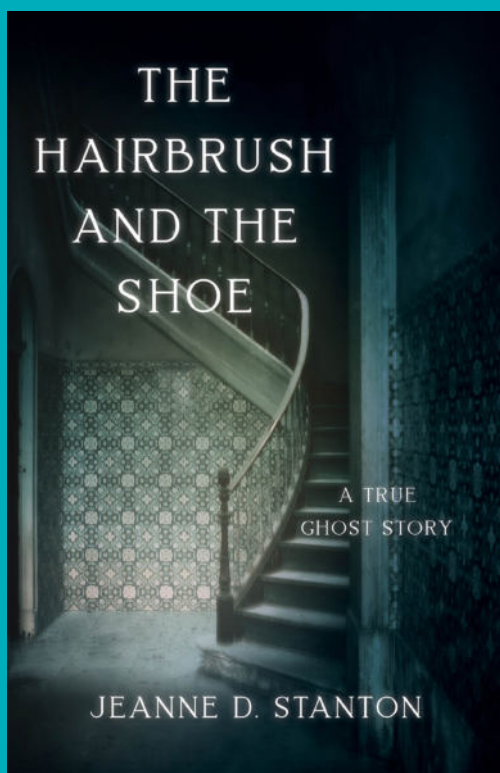
Meredith Altman’s engagement to Wesley Latner ended in spectacular disaster—one that shattered her completely. Years have passed since then, and now she’s about to marry Aaron Rapp, a former Ivy League football player and baby-saving doctor. As they celebrate their engagement at a new Tribeca hotspot, Meredith is stunned to find the restaurant owner is none other than Wesley, the man she is still secretly trying to forget. When Meredith learns that Wesley has been diagnosed with ALS, her feelings about their past become all the more confusing. As she spends more time with Wesley and is pulled further under his spell, she discovers what kind of man her new fiancé really is—and what kind of woman she wants to be.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jacqueline Friedland holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from NYU Law School. She practiced as an attorney in New York before returning to school to receive her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. She lives in New York with her husband, four children, and two overly pampered dogs.



APRIL 2020



Publication Date: April 21, 2020

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-034-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-035-6

# THE HAIRBRUSH AND THE SHOE

## A TRUE GHOST STORY

JEANNE D. STANTON

### DESCRIPTION:

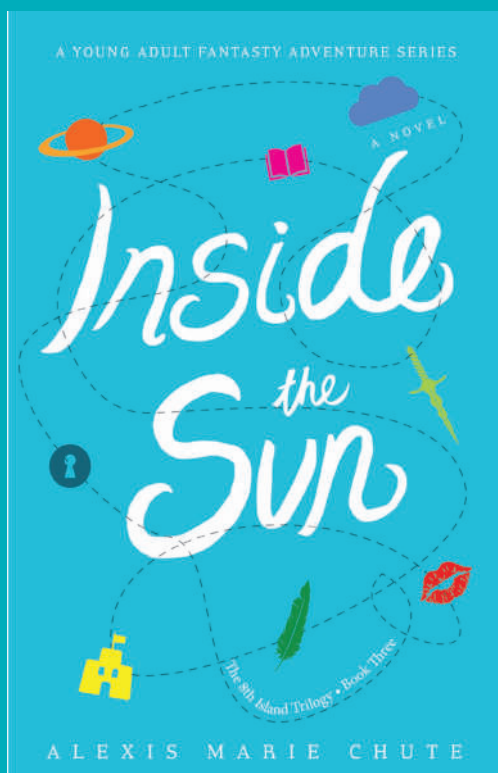
When a workman is pushed and hissed at by something invisible on the stairs of her family's 150-year-old townhouse, Jeanne Stanton must confront the possibility that a ghost inhabits the space. She proceeds in the way any former Harvard Business School case writer would: she embarks upon a rigorous search for proof of the ghost's existence and identity, exploring the literature and lore of ghosts; the practices of mediums, psychics, and "ghost busters"; and the various attempts that have been made over the decades to verify ghostly sounds and sights through scientific methods. After visits to a psychic provide insights but not proof, Stanton enters the equally mysterious realms of physics and neurology, hoping science has answers.

Notables encountered during these research efforts include Henry James, Arthur Conan Doyle, Oliver Sacks, and Sigmund Freud, the latter a colleague of her home's original owner. Wry and witty, Stanton takes time out to laugh at her own futile attempts at ghost detection—spending a sleepless night in an allegedly haunted bedroom, creeping along the edges of rooms in search of cold spots—along the way. Determined to get to the bottom of the ghost business, she wavers between skepticism and belief, searching for definitive evidence—and almost failing to find it. Almost.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jeanne D. Stanton lives and writes in an 1875 townhouse in Boston's historic Back Bay. Formerly a faculty member at Harvard Business School and the Simmons College Graduate School of Management, her book *Being All Things* profiles women attempting to manage family and careers.

# APRIL 2020



Publication Date: April 21, 2020

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-045-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-046-2

“A *Wrinkle in Time* meets  
*The Princess Bride* . . .”

—Lee Lee Thompson, *The Perpetual You*  
magazine

“Will hold you spellbound until the last page.”

—Readers’ Favorite

“At its core, the novel conveys that though life’s darkest moments may seem utterly unconquerable, finding a path through them always leads to an overwhelming brightness that surpasses all . . . a must-read for anyone needing inspiration and healing during seemingly insurmountable times of grief, loss, and devastation.”

—US Review of Books

# INSIDE THE SUN

## THE 8TH ISLAND TRILOGY, BOOK THREE

### ALEXIS MARIE CHUTE

#### DESCRIPTION:

All worlds are dying, and it’s up to one broken and dysfunctional family from Earth—the Wellsleys—to save the day. Cancer-ridden Ella celebrates her fifteenth birthday beneath an enchanted mountain, but it is what lies even farther below—the mysterious Star in the sea—that demands she grow up quickly. While Ella grapples with the sacrifice she must make and the lies she is forced to tell, her mother, Tessa, is hell-bent on protecting her. Through bizarre encounters, love-sick Tessa realizes that she is not the lonely orphan she’s long believed herself to be, and that her husband, Arden, and father-in-law, Archie, are not the only ones with magical bloodlines. This revelation changes everything. As Archie chooses to embody his unexpected ancestry, he learns that leading the charge in the ultimate battle against evil won’t be as easy as he thought. He’ll need his family—and the strange allies he has gained—by his side to give Ella enough time to set things right. Can they defeat the unstoppable Millia sands—and another unexpected foe—before everything they hold dear is destroyed? Or will their adventure tear them apart for good? The finale to *The 8th Island Trilogy* will hold you spellbound until the final page, and long after.

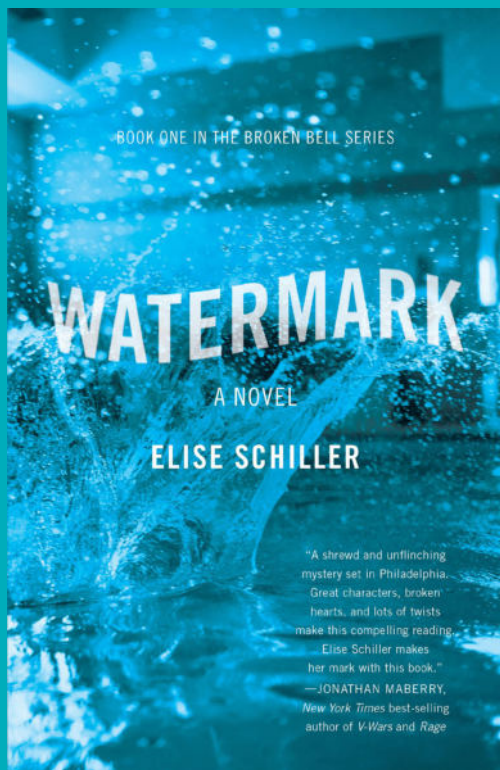
#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alexis Marie Chute is an award-winning author, artist, filmmaker, curator, and inspirational speaker. Her memoir, *Expecting Sunshine: A Journey of Grief, Healing, and Pregnancy After Loss*, was a *Kirkus* Best Book of 2017 and received many literary awards. *Expecting Sunshine* is also a highly acclaimed feature documentary film, produced, and directed by the author that was screened around the world in 2018 and 2019. Her *8th Island Trilogy*—which includes the novels *Above the Star*, *Below the Moon*, and *Inside the Sun*—has been called “A *Wrinkle in Time* meets *The Princess Bride*” (Lee Lee Thompson, *The Perpetual You*) and was a 2018 “Top 15 Unputdownable YA Reads” pick (Bookstr) and a 5/5 *Readers’ Favorite* book.

#### AWARDS:

Alexis Marie Chute has been honored by the Readers View Literary Awards and the International Book Awards for the *8th Island Trilogy*.

MAY 2020



Publication Date: May 5, 2020

Collections: Fiction, Thriller

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-036-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-037-0

**“A measured, affecting look at a struggling and burdened teenager . . . tight, unembellished prose makes for an easy read and even adds a hint of mystery.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*

**“*Watermark* is a shrewd and unflinching mystery set in some of the less charming parts of Philadelphia. Great characters, broken hearts, and lots of twists make this compelling reading. Elise Schiller makes her mark with this book.”**

—Jonathan Maberry, *New York Times* best-selling author of *V-Wars* and *Rage*

# WATERMARK

## BOOK ONE IN THE BROKEN BELL SERIES

ELISE SCHILLER

### DESCRIPTION:

The oldest child in a troubled Philadelphia family, Angel Ferente struggles to care for her three sisters while pursuing her goal of attending college on a swimming scholarship. She has a problematic relationship with her mother, Pic, who uses alcohol and drugs to self-medicate and at one point lost custody for a year, and an outright hostile relationship with her stepfather, the only father figure in her life. Angel is the center of stability in the household—making sure the younger girls get to school, ensuring that holidays are observed, doing the family’s laundry at her part-time job at a Laundromat, and even taking care of Pic when she is sick or depressed. It’s 1993, the midst of the crack epidemic, and Angel and her sisters are witness to the everyday events of life in a community beset by poverty and drugs: dealers on the corner, shoot-outs that kill bystanders, prostitutes on the job, and more.

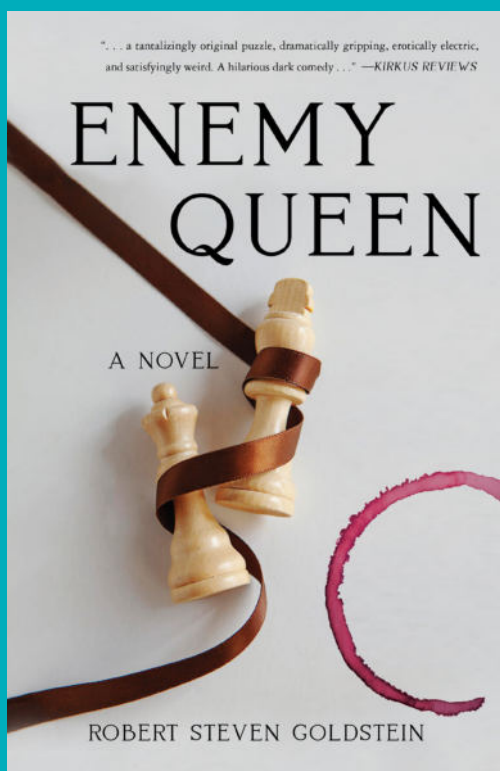
Then Angel goes to a team party on New Year’s Eve—and doesn’t come home afterward. In the wake of her disappearance, her teammates, her coach’s church, and her family search the city for her. The result changes their lives forever.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elise Schiller has been writing fiction, memoir, and nonfiction and actively participating in writing groups since adolescence. She has published several short stories and a number of articles and essays. In August of 2019, SparkPress published her memoir, *Even If Your Heart Would Listen: Losing My Daughter to Heroin*. She is now working on the second book of her Broken Bell series. Schiller also blogs about the opioid epidemic, books, and family history on her website. After a thirty-year career in education and family services in Philadelphia, Schiller retired in 2015 to write full time. She is an active volunteer and served on the Philadelphia Mayor’s Task Force to Combat the Opioid Epidemic. She currently serves on the advisory board of the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Disability Services and is an active member of the Friends of Safehouse. When not writing, reading, or volunteering, Schiller enjoys visiting museums and historical sites, often with one of her seven grandchildren or various nieces and nephews in tow.



MAY 2020



Publication Date: May 12, 2020

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-026-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-027-1

“Each paragraph of the story is as unpredictably peculiar as the next—the plot is a tantalizingly original puzzle, dramatically gripping, erotically electric, and satisfyingly weird. A hilarious dark comedy that explores the nature of friendship through the lens of sexual licentiousness.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# ENEMY QUEEN

## A NOVEL

ROBERT STEVEN GOLDSTEIN

### DESCRIPTION:

When Stanley Berman, a Jewish New York attorney, is appointed Chief Counsel at a North Carolina University, he opts to share a house with his good friend, Thomas McClellan, a professor in the school’s English Department. The men spend their evenings drinking wine, playing chess, and lamenting their ineptitude with women. Then the Professor, a southern good old boy, former high school football lineman, and avid hunter, hatches a scheme to bring a young woman into the house, insisting that as a creative writing teacher, such women find him alluringly subversive and artistic. The Counselor is dubious but persuaded nonetheless—much to his detriment.

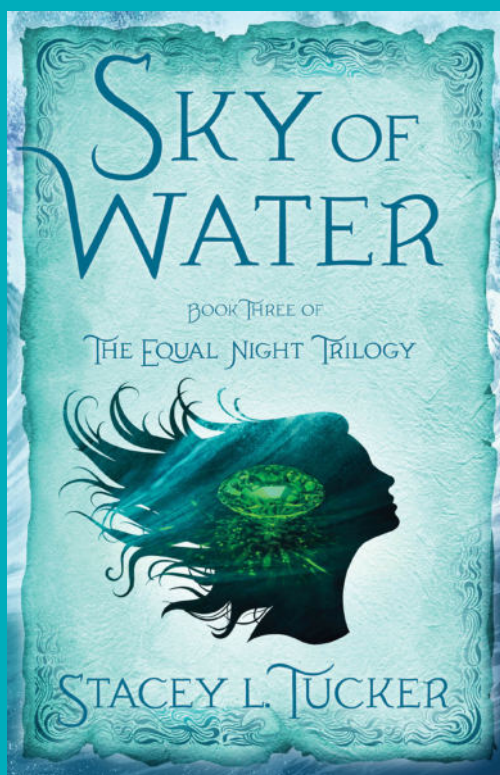
The articulate but bumbling Counselor and Professor find themselves outwitted at every turn by Victoria, a young woman who is clever, inscrutable, and superb at finishing what she starts. She initiates passionate sexual encounters with the men, but as time goes on, what she demands in return becomes untenable. When she goes missing, John Watson, the county sheriff—and the Professor’s lifelong friend—feels compelled to open a murder investigation.

Full of wicked humor, artful eroticism, scintillating dialogue, and a bit of intrigue, *Enemy Queen* is an exhilarating romp set in a North Carolina college town.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Robert Steven Goldstein retired from his job as a healthcare information executive at age fifty-six and has been writing novels ever since. His first novel, *The Swami Deheftner*, about the problems that ensue when ancient magic and mysticism manifest in the twenty-first century, has developed a small cult following in India. *Cat’s Whisker*, his second novel, will be published soon; an excerpt from it, entitled “An Old Dog,” was featured in the fall 2018 edition of *Leaping Clear*, a literary journal. *Enemy Queen* is his third novel. Goldstein has practiced yoga, meditation, and vegetarianism for over fifty years. Born and raised in Brooklyn, he now lives in San Francisco with his wife of thirty years and two rambunctious dogs.

MAY 2020



Publication Date: May 12, 2020

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-040-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-041-7

“Tucker’s gift for dialogue asserts itself often . . . A romantic fantasy series starter full of intriguing concepts from science and spirituality.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“It is time for the power of women, and women’s mysteries, to reclaim their rightful place in world cosmology . . . the lore behind the book came across as well researched. Enjoyable.”

—*San Francisco Book Review*

# SKY OF WATER

## BOOK THREE OF THE EQUAL NIGHT TRILOGY

STACEY L. TUCKER

### DESCRIPTION:

This final installment of The Equal Night Trilogy will put Skylar to her biggest test to date. After Magus takes her through the alchemical door in the Quine library, she quickly remembers her strange surroundings and the reason she’s been brought back to the First Age. Here, she will have to rely on her own magic to navigate the overlapping timelines that will allow her to rewrite history. But if she’s not careful, she could destroy it completely. Back home, it will take every one of Skylar’s loved ones to execute Ocean’s plan, and Argan has the biggest role among them: the impossible task of retrieving Skylar home from the past. Luckily, it’s something he’s been training for his entire life.

Meanwhile, a woman now sits in the Oval Office, the corrupt scaffolding of the US government collapsing around her. Mica Noxx has a vision for the US, one that returns it to the original intention of the Founding Fathers. With Skylar held in the First Age and Mica planted in current day, they have one shot to banish the darkness that’s held control for centuries, and return the United States to a trajectory toward its true destiny: becoming the New Atlantis.

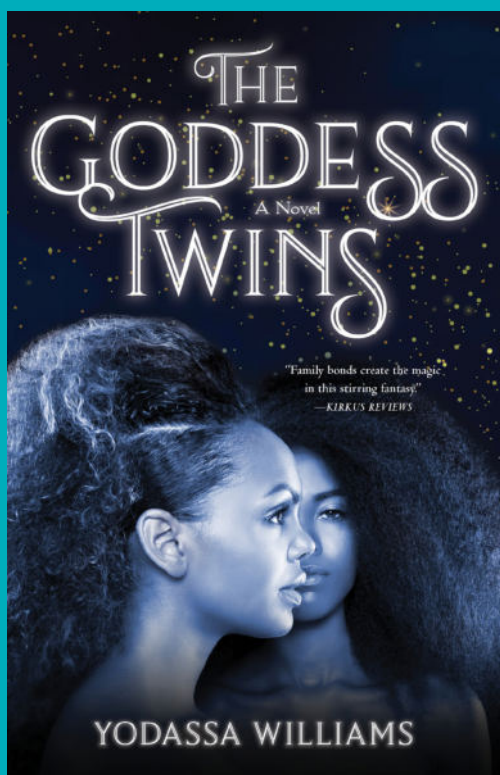
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Stacey L. Tucker uses the fantasy fiction genre to bridge science and spirituality in her Equal Night series. Tucker’s first book in the trilogy, *Ocean’s Fire*, took gold at the Living Now Book Awards. She is passionate about helping women and teens see their untapped potential and follow the voice within. She has written for *Women’s World*, *Working Mother*, and *PopSugar*, and speaks to teen groups about self-empowerment and awareness in today’s social media-saturated climate. You can find her at [www.staceyltucker.com](http://www.staceyltucker.com). She currently resides in Connecticut.

### AWARDS:

2017 Living Now Book Awards, Gold Medal, Adventure Fiction

MAY 2020



Publication Date: May 19, 2020

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-032-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-033-2

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“Family bonds create the magic in this stirring fantasy.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“*The Goddess Twins* is a fantastic ride, viewed through the eyes of girls on the verge of adulthood . . . Twins Arden and Aurora are at once teenagers tackling contemporary issues as well as immortals in training, learning to harness their supernatural gifts in the face of adversity. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel, and can’t wait for it to reach its readers!”

—Devi S. Laskar, award-winning author of *The Atlas of Reds and Blues*

# THE GODDESS TWINS

## A NOVEL

**YODASSA WILLIAMS**

THE SPARKPRESS 2019 STEP WINNER! (SHE WRITES PRESS & SPARKPRESS TOWARD EQUALITY IN PUBLISHING)

### DESCRIPTION:

*It’s days before your eighteenth birthday, but your mother is missing and suddenly you have supernatural powers. What are you willing to face to discover the truth of who you really are?* After years of traveling the world, black identical twins Aurora and Arden think they’ve settled into normalcy in Ohio. But days before their eighteenth birthday, the snarky twins develop powers in telekinesis and telepathy—at the same time that their famous mother, who’s on tour in London, disappears. Searching for answers and determined to rescue her, the sisters unearth truths that threaten to extinguish their bond and demolish their strength as individuals. Can they trust their beguiling, newly discovered British cousins when they barely trust one another? Should they heed the warnings of their immortal grandmother, a Patois-chatting goddess, who says she’s friendly with The Fates and can see inside a person’s very soul? In order to succeed in their quest, these goddess twins must work together, master their powers, and unveil a horrifying, century-old family mystery. Otherwise, they may not live to see eighteen—or their mother again.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Yodassa Williams is a powerful conjurer of black girl magic (70 percent Jedi, 30 percent Sith). A Jamaican American writer, speaker, and award-winning performing storyteller, an alumna of the VONA/Voices Travel Writing program and the Fortify Writer’s Retreat, and the creator of the podcast *The Black Girl Magic Files*, Yodassa (Yoda) launched Writers Emerging, a wilderness writing retreat for women of color and non-binary people of color, in 2019. She grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, and currently resides in the Bay Area. *The Goddess Twins* is her debut novel.

### AWARDS:

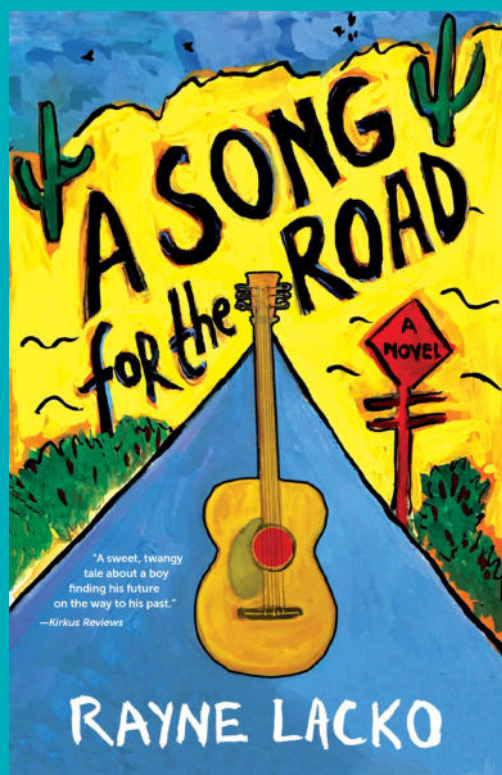
- 2018 STEP Award contest winner



A close-up photograph of a person's hands and arms as they read a book. The person is wearing a grey t-shirt and blue pants. The book is open, and the person's right hand is in the process of turning a page. The background is a dark, textured surface. The year '2019' is printed in white text inside a white-bordered box on the left side of the image.

**2019**

AUGUST 2019



Publication Date: August 27, 2019

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-002-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-003-5

“A sweet, twangy tale about a boy finding his future on the way to his past.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“I really loved Carter’s gentle, sweet soul and the magic of his journey. Really lyrical and exquisite moments; I felt really drawn in by its tenderness and charm. Very nicely done!”

—Noelle August, author of the Boomerang novels

“A boy, a guitar, and the open road. In *A Song for the Road*, Rayne Lacko brings this timeless archetype to full, vivid life as fifteen-year-old Carter embarks on a journey that will define him as an artist, a son, and a man.”

—Mark Sarvas, award-winning author

# A SONG FOR THE ROAD

## A NOVEL

RAYNE LACKO

### DESCRIPTION:

When a tornado destroys his Tulsa home, fifteen-year-old Carter Danforth is trapped in the pawnshop where his daddy hawked his custom, left-handed Martin guitar six years ago—and then took off, leaving Carter with nothing but a hankering to pluck strings and enough heartache to sing the blues. Carter’s mother, meanwhile, is laid up in the hospital with an injury sustained during the storm. She wants Carter to fly out to Reno and stay with her sister. Too bad Carter already spent her hidden cash stash to buy his dad’s guitar. Rather than tell her the truth, he embarks on an epic road trip in search of his father in Santa Monica. But Carter isn’t a runaway. He reckons he’s a “running to.”

On his way west, Carter picks up licks, chord changes, and performance techniques from a quirky cast of southwestern charmers—a rock star, a thief, a bluesman, a chanteuse-turned-chef, and the dream of a girl back home. By the time he reaches the end of old US Route 66, he has learned how to deep-fry yucca blossoms and tell the truth of his life through music.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rayne Lacko believes music, language, and art connect us, and she explores those themes in her novels, *Listen To Me* and *A Song for the Road*, and her guided journal *Dream Up Now*, an interactive exploration of emotions for teens. She now resides on a lush, forested island in the Pacific Northwest, where she sits on the board of trustees at a performing arts organization. She cohosts a library youth writing workshop and an annual filled-to-capacity writing camp, and she established Teen Story Slam, a twice-annual spoken word event for teens. Rayne is married with two children (a pianist and a drummer), and she and her family share their home with a noisy cat and their canine best friend.

AUGUST 2019



Publication Date: August 27, 2019

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-008-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-009-7

“A heartrending story of a mother’s anguished journey to understand her daughter’s addiction. It indicts a treatment industry that often does more harm than good and a drug policy that fails to help parents save their children’s lives.”

—Maia Szalavitz, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Unbroken Brain: A Revolutionary New Way of Understanding Addiction*

“Through her bravery and strength, Schiller strives to make a difference in our country and the way we treat addiction both within our own homes and on a national scale.”

—*Parade*, “These Are the 10 Most Inspiring Books by Women in 2019”

# EVEN IF YOUR HEART WOULD LISTEN

## LOSING MY DAUGHTER TO HEROIN

ELISE SCHILLER

### DESCRIPTION:

In January 2014, Elise Schiller’s youngest child, thirty-three-year-old Giana Natali, died of a heroin overdose while a resident in a treatment program in Boulder County, Colorado. *Even if Your Heart Would Listen* is about Giana’s life, which was full of accomplishments, and her mental illness, addiction, and death. Using excerpts from the journals, planners, and letters Giana left behind, as well as evidence from her medical records, Schiller dissects her daughter’s treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) at the five residential and several outpatient programs in eastern Pennsylvania where she tried to recover, taking a close look at the lack of continuity and solid medical foundations in the American substance-use treatment system even as she explores the deeply personal experience of her own loss.

Poignant and timely, *Even if Your Heart Would Listen* is a meditation on a family’s grief, an intimate portrayal of a mother-daughter bond that endures, and an examination of how our nation is failing in its struggle with the opioid epidemic.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

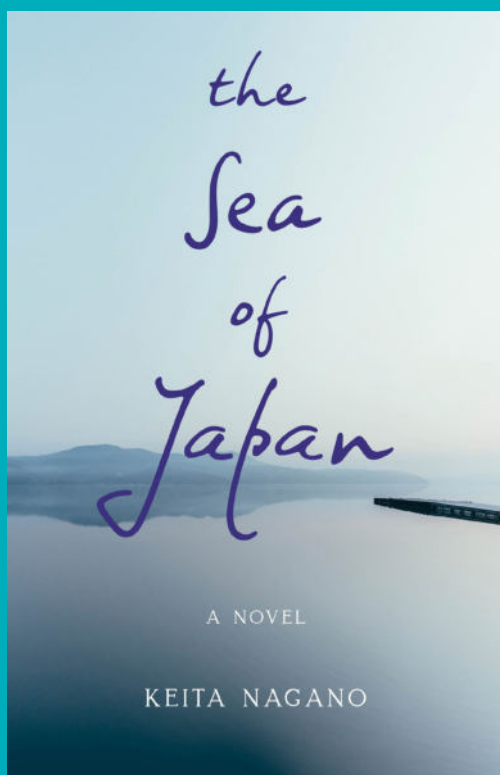
Elise Schiller has been writing fiction and actively participating in writing groups since adolescence. After a thirty-year career in education and family services in Philadelphia, she retired to write full time. She is currently working on a fiction series about Philadelphia; SparkPress will be publishing the first book in the series. Schiller sits on the advisory board of the Philadelphia Department of Behavioral Health and Intellectual disAbility Services (DBHIDS), and she has served on the Philadelphia Mayor’s Task Force on the Opioid Epidemic. When not writing, reading, or volunteering, she enjoys visiting museums and historical sites, often with one of her seven grandchildren or various nieces and nephews in tow.

### AWARDS:

2019 Philadelphia Writers’ Conference, Nonfiction, 3rd place



SEPTEMBER 2019



Publication Date: September 3, 2019

Collections: Women's Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-012-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-013-4

# THE SEA OF JAPAN

## A NOVEL

### KEITA NAGANO

#### DESCRIPTION:

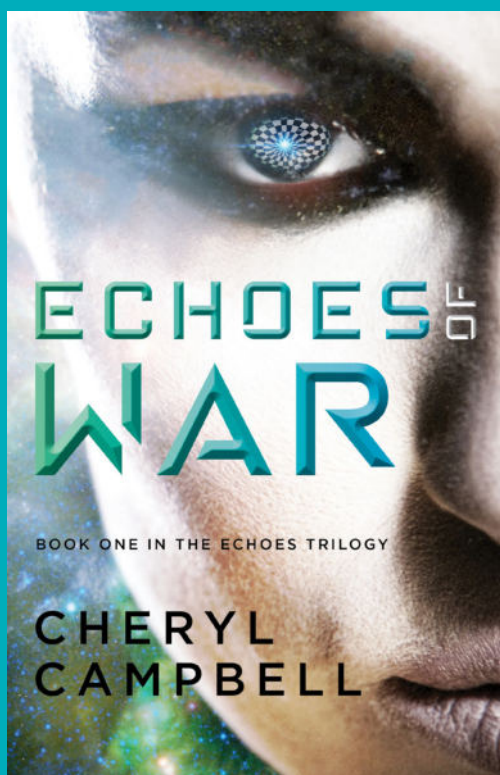
After fleeing a disastrous teaching job (and a bad gambling habit) in Boston, Lindsey starts teaching English in Hime, a small fishing town in Japan. One morning, while trying to snap the perfect ocean sunrise photo for her mother, she slips off a rock at the edge of Toyama Bay, hits her head, and plunges into the sea—and in doing so, sets off an unexpected chain of events.

When Lindsey comes to in the hospital, she learns that she owes her life to a young man named Ichiro—a local fisherman who also happens to be the older brother of one of her students. She begins to spend time with her lifesaver, and in the ensuing months, when she is not busy teaching, she splits her time between an apprenticeship with the local master sushi chef and going out fishing with Ichiro. As she and Ichiro grow closer, however, she also learns that not all is well in Hime, and she is drawn into a war to stop the town next door from overfishing their shared bay. Soon, she, Ichiro, and her pastrami-obsessed best friend, Judy—the person who talked Lindsey into coming to Japan in the first place—are spending all their free time working together to rescue the town. But when their efforts backfire, Hime gets closer to falling apart—putting Lindsey's friends, her budding relationship with Ichiro, and her career in jeopardy. To save Hime, Lindsey realizes, she'll have to become a true American fisherwoman and fight for her new home with everything she has.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Keita Nagano is an award-winning Japanese author who has lived almost equally in Nevada and Tokyo—more than twenty years in each place—and reflects the difference of the two cultures in his novels. He has a bachelor's degree in economics from Keio University in Japan, as well as an MBA in global business and PhD in management from Walden University in Minnesota. The pursuit of the authentic American experience is his hobby: he has been to all fifty states, all thirty major league ballparks, and the top sixty big cities in America. He has published seventeen business nonfiction and eight fiction books in Japan. In 2013, he received a Nikkei (*Japanese Wall Street Journal*) Award for Contemporary Novel for his missing-child thriller, *Kamikakushi*. He is also an official weekly columnist for *Forbes Japan*. Nagano lives in Henderson, Nevada, with his wife and Welsh corgi. Their teenage daughter is currently studying in Tennessee.

SEPTEMBER 2019



Publication Date: September 10, 2019

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-006-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-007-3

“Readers who enjoy a blend of action and character exploration will eagerly anticipate the next book in the trilogy.”

—*Booklist*

“... perfect for fans of post-apocalyptic worlds who are looking for more of a science fiction twist.”

—*ScienceFiction.com, 4/5 atoms*

# ECHOES OF WAR

## BOOK ONE IN THE ECHOES TRILOGY

CHERYL CAMPBELL

### DESCRIPTION:

Decades of war started by the Wardens—a genocidal faction of nearly immortal aliens called Echoes—threatens the existence of any human or alien resisting their rule on Earth. Dani survives by scavenging enough supplies to live another day while avoiding the local military and human-hunting Wardens. But then she learns that she is an Echo—not the human she’s always thought herself to be—and suddenly nothing in her life seems certain.

Following her discovery of her alien roots, Dani risks her well-being to save a young boy from a violent kidnapping—a move that only serves to make her already tenuous existence on the fringes of society in Maine even more unstable, and that forces her to revisit events and people from past lives she can’t remember. Dani believes the only way to defeat the Wardens and end their dominance is to unite the Commonwealth’s military and civilians, and she becomes resolved to play her part in this battle. Her attempts to change the bleak future facing the humans and Echoes living on Earth if the Wardens are allowed to maintain their grip on the planet will lead her to clash with a tyrant determined to kill her and all humankind—a confrontation that even her near-immortal heritage may not be able to help her survive.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Cheryl Campbell was born in Louisiana and lived there and in Mississippi prior to moving to Maine. Her varied background includes art, herpetology, emergency department and critical care nursing, and computer systems. She lives in Maine and has won four awards through the New England Book Festival for her fantasy series. *Echoes of War* is her first science fiction novel and is the first volume of a trilogy.

SEPTEMBER 2019



Publication Date: September 24, 2019

Collections: Women's Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-000-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-001-1

# AND NOW THERE'S YOU

## A NOVEL

**SUSAN S. ETKIN**

### DESCRIPTION:

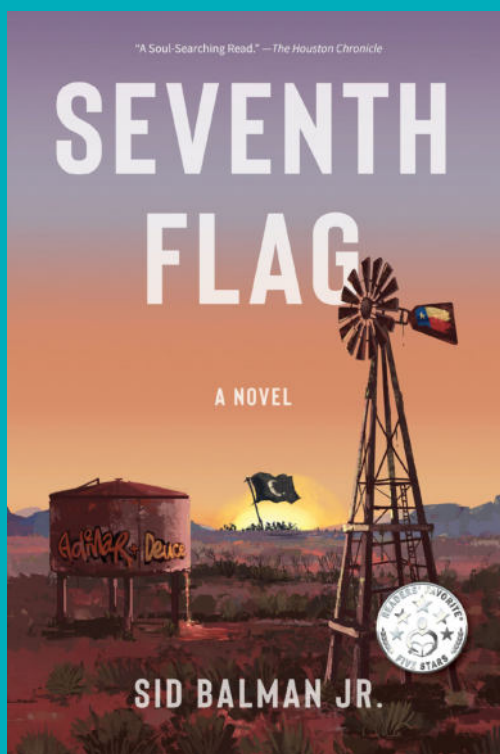
Leila Brandt lost her husband—her perfect match—to cancer five years ago. Now, still single and squarely in her mid-fifties, she copes with her profound loneliness by channeling her energies into her interior design business and close circle of grown children, family, and friends. Her formula works until she meets Ayden Doyle, an arrogant but hypnotically appealing architect, at a new client's home. Ayden has been divorced for twenty-five years and is open about his aversion to commitment and the family obligations that go along with long-term relationships. He's also had significant experience with wooing women, and Leila gets to know firsthand that he's very good at it. A little too good. Still, despite her reservations, the astounding chemistry between them is impossible to ignore, and she finds herself beginning to fall under his spell. Ayden, meanwhile, finds Leila unlike the younger women who have occupied his time in the past, and is drawn to her intellectual depth, style, creativity, sense of humor, and sexual allure. Leopards may not change their spots—but if anyone can tame the beast, it will be Leila.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susan S. Etkin grew up on Philadelphia's Main Line and graduated from Temple University with a bachelor's in English for secondary education. She also holds a master's in literacy and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction, both earned at the University of Cincinnati. Her professional life has entailed writing and teaching experiences, as well as entrepreneurship in the art and design fields. Her husband's career within a large US conglomerate prompted numerous moves. Etkin and her two sons always viewed Dad's relocations, which took the family to four states on the East Coast, as well as to Ohio, as adventures. Etkin now lives in a suburb of Philadelphia and is grateful that her sons and daughters-in-law decided to raise their families nearby. She devotes her days to reading and writing novels that focus on romance and topics of interest to women.



OCTOBER 2019



Publication Date: October 8, 2019

Collections: Literary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-014-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-015-8

“At precisely the moment when our diverse and multi-ethnic nation needs a spiritual lift, Sid Balman gives us a portrait of the complex racial and generational relations that define who we really are as Americans. You can smell the creosote of the desert and taste the huevos rancheros in this tale of West Texas . . . a splendid account of what being American is all about, a rich portrait useful to us all . . . The book Donald Trump doesn’t want you to read.”

—Mike McCurry, former White House Press Secretary (1995–1998) and Director/Professor, Center for Public Theology, Welsey Theological Seminary, Washington DC

# SEVENTH FLAG

## A NOVEL

**SID BALMAN, JR.**

### DESCRIPTION:

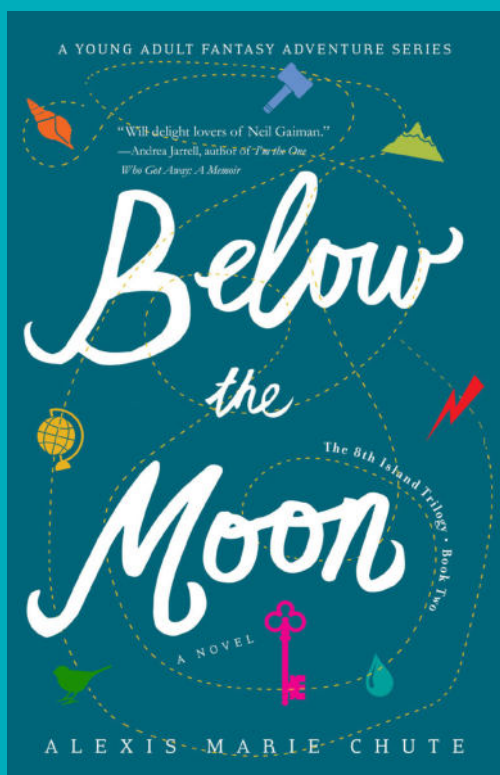
The US and Europe have unraveled since World War II and radicalism has metastasized into every community, tearing away the decency, optimism, and security that shaped those robust democracies for more than eight decades. No place is immune, including the small West Texas town of Dell City, where four generations of an iconic American family and a Syrian Muslim family have carved a farming empire out of the unforgiving high desert.

These families’ partnership is as unlikely as the idea of a United States, and their powerful friendship can be traced back to a bloody knife fight in a Juarez cantina just after World War II. The bond forged that night between Jack Laws, an Irish American who staked his claim in West Texas after the war, and Ali Zarkan, whose great-grandfather sailed from the Middle East to Texas in the mid-1800s as part of President Franklin Pierce’s attempt to create the US Army Camel Corps, shapes each generation of the families as they come of age and adapt to shifting paradigms of gender, commerce, patriotism, loyalty, religion, and sexuality. From the beaches of the Western Pacific to the battlefields of the Middle East and from the lawless streets of Juarez to the darkest corners of the Internet, the two families fight real and perceived enemies—journeying, as they do, through the football fields of Texas and West Point, the hippie playgrounds of Asia, the music halls of Austin, the terrorist cells of Europe, and the political backrooms where fortunes are gained or lost over the rights to Western water.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A Pulitzer-nominated national security correspondent, Sid Balman has covered wars in the Persian Gulf, Somalia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and Kosovo, and has traveled extensively with two American presidents and four secretaries of state on overseas diplomatic missions. With the emergence of the web and the commoditizing of content, Balman moved into the business side of communications. In that role, over two decades, he helped found a news syndicate focused on the interests of women and girls, served as communications chief for the largest consortium of US international development organizations, led two successful progressive campaigning companies, and launched a new division centered on security issues at a large international development firm. A fourth-generation Texan, as well as a climber, surfer, paddler, and benefactor to Smith College, Balman lives in Washington DC with his wife, three kids, and two dogs.

OCTOBER 2019



Publication Date: October 15, 2019

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-004-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-005-9

Praise for *Above the Star*, Book 1 of the 8th Island Trilogy:

“Will hold you spellbound until the last page.”

—Readers' Favorite

“Think of *Star Wars*, *The Lord of the Rings*, and *Homer's Odyssey* all wrapped up together.”

—Raymond Gariepy, editor of *WestWord* magazine

“Shows readers that there is a power within all of us to change the world.”

—Jessica Kluthe, author of *Rosina, The Midwife*

## BELOW THE MOON

### THE 8TH ISLAND TRILOGY, BOOK 2

ALEXIS MARIE CHUTE

#### DESCRIPTION:

Ella Wellsley is not your typical teenager. Cancer has left her mute, but not powerless. Trapped in a parallel dimension, Ella rallies her strength to join her family—her mother, Tessa, her grandpa Archie, and her magical boyfriend—in locating the cure to her illness. This cure is entangled in the fate of all worlds, and threatened by the presence of an evil Star anchored in the sea. The Star has thrown life everywhere into chaos—and it is Ella who holds the key to unlocking its mystery.

Caught in a web of betrayal, mistaken identities, secrets, and love triangles, Ella, Tessa, and Archie must overcome their troubled pasts to ensure a future for all worlds. On this journey—armed with unearthly abilities and unexpected allies—each member of the Wellsley family will learn the power of love in the face of their greatest fears.

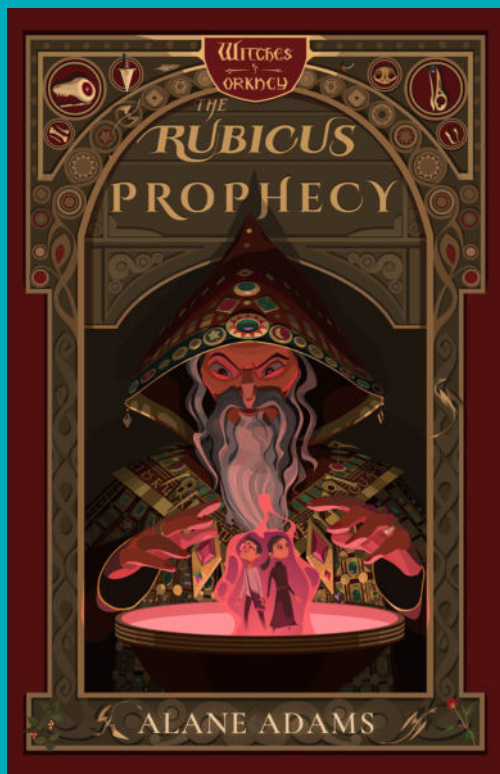
#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alexis Marie Chute is an award-winning author, artist, filmmaker, curator, and inspirational speaker. Her memoir, *Expecting Sunshine: A Journey of Grief, Healing, and Pregnancy After Loss*, was a Kirkus Best Book of 2017 and received many literary awards. *Expecting Sunshine* is also a highly acclaimed feature documentary film, produced, and directed by the author that was screened around the world in 2018 and 2019. Her 8th Island Trilogy—including the novels *Above the Star*, *Below the Moon*, and *Inside the Sun*—has been called “A *Wrinkle in Time* meets *The Princess Bride*” (Lee Lee Thompson, *The Perpetual You*) and was a 2018 “Top 15 Unputdownable YA Reads” pick (Bookstr) and a 5/5 Readers' Favorite book.

#### AWARDS:

Alexis Marie Chute has been honored by the Readers View Literary Awards and the International Book Awards for the 8th Island Trilogy.

OCTOBER 2019



Publication Date: October 15, 2019

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-98-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-99-1

“Adams’ concise prose delivers a quick read that’s packed with colorful characters and subplots . . . Returning illustrator Stroh’s bold black-and-white artwork, as in the previous book, perfectly captures the author’s stunningly detailed world.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# THE RUBICUS PROPHECY

## THE WITCHES OF ORKNEY, BOOK 2

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

Abigail has just started her second year at the Tarkana Witch Academy and is already up to her ears studying for Horrid Hexes and Awful Alchemy! Worse, Endera’s malevolent spellbook has its hooks in her, whispering in her ear to use its dark magic. Meanwhile, the entire school is talking about the Rubicus Prophecy; a sign has arrived that the chosen witchling is among them, the one who will one day break Odin’s curse over them.

When an Orkadian warship arrives carrying troubling news, Abigail and her friend Hugo are swept into a new mystery after a young boy from the ship, Robert Barconian, asks for their help retrieving a missing item. Along with the former glitch-witch, Calla, the four friends end up deep in the catacombs beneath the Tarkana Fortress—a place where the draugar, the living dead, wander about—and Abigail discovers there is more to the Rubicus Prophecy than anyone ever imagined. Can she stop it before she and her friends are destroyed?

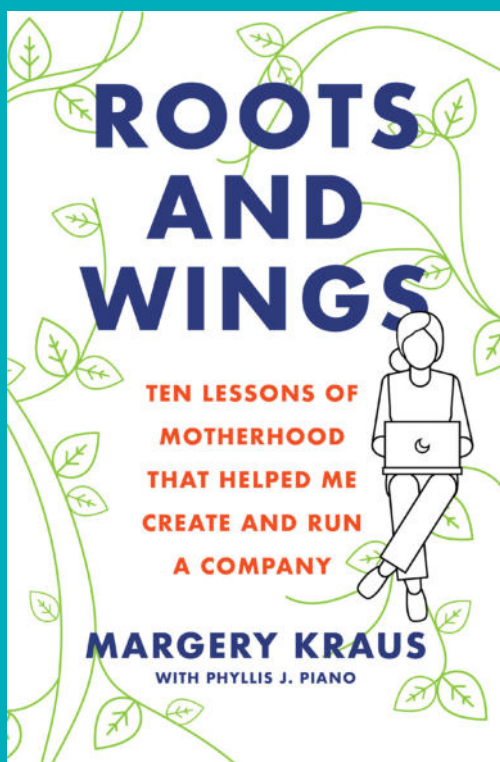
Filled with magical spells, spine-tingling ghosts, and visits from the Norse gods, *The Rubicus Prophecy* pits Abigail against a sinister power greater than anything she has ever imagined.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, *The Santa Thief*, and *The Circus Thief* picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.



OCTOBER 2019



Publication Date: October 22, 2019

Collections: Nonfiction, Business

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-024-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-025-7

**“Kraus is a transformational leader who has proven that one can be brilliant, decent, and forward-thinking in life generally, and specifically in building a company that helps to prove that one can do well by doing good. Her life lessons as a wife and a mother provide a clear guide for success and leadership, which can be replicated in so many ways.”**

**—Daniel Glickman, former chairman and CEO of the Motion Picture Association of America, and former Secretary, US Department of Agriculture, and Congressman**

# ROOTS AND WINGS

## TEN LESSONS OF MOTHERHOOD THAT HELPED ME CREATE AND RUN A COMPANY

**MARGERY KRAUS WITH PHYLLIS J. PIANO**

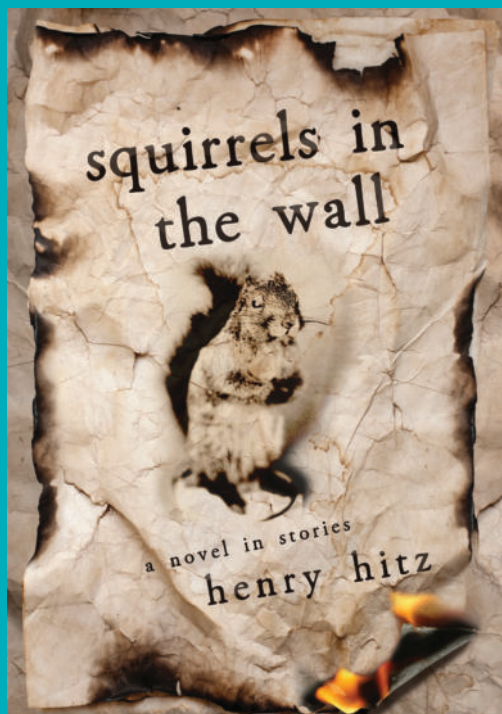
### DESCRIPTION:

A child of immigrants, Margery Kraus knew the value of hard work from an early age. Graduating from college before she had finished high school, she learned to be a risk taker. As a young wife and mother coming of age in the 1960s, she faced plenty of people who told her, “You can’t do that.” But in the end, she did: she founded APCO Worldwide, a global consulting firm headquartered in Washington DC, specializing in public affairs, communication, and business consulting for major multinationals. Under her leadership, the company grew from nothing to almost \$150 million in revenues. In *Roots And Wings*, Kraus shares the ten lessons she learned from motherhood and leadership that guided her along the way—an inspiration to all seeking to overcome obstacles, achieve career and personal success, and do the right thing.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Margery Kraus, founder and executive chairman of APCO Worldwide, a global consulting firm headquartered in Washington DC, specializes in public affairs, communication, and business consulting for major multinationals. She is the author of numerous articles in the fields of public affairs management and corporate reputation; has been a guest lecturer throughout the world; and has received many prestigious awards. Kraus serves as a trustee of American University and sits on the advisory board of the J.L. Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University, is the Chair of Women’s Presidents Organization, and has served on the boards of various industry, professional associations, and corporations. She has been married to her husband, Steve, for more than fifty years, is a mother of three, and has nine grandchildren.

OCTOBER 2019



Publication Date: October 29, 2019

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-022-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-023-3

“My mind is BLOWN. Hitz has exposed and bared his soul, poured his guts out, expounded on every profound question surrounding the mysteries of life, time, space, eternity, death . . . and offered meaningful solutions.”

—Will Wright, author of *The Poetry of Living*

“*Squirrels in the Wall* is a unique collection of interwoven stories that explore the interactions between humans and animals in a single habitat. The stories range from hilarious to poignant. Henry Hitz’s sensitive portrayal of both humans and animals reminds us of the interconnectivity of nature.”

—Alon Shalev, author of 2013 Eric Hoffer YA Book Award winner *At the Walls of Galbrieth*

# SQUIRRELS IN THE WALL

## A NOVEL IN STORIES

HENRY HITZ

### DESCRIPTION:

*Squirrels in the Wall*—a novel told in stories by a collection of interspecies voices—presents a unique and darkly hilarious blend of human and animal perspectives in a single setting on a Wisconsin lake. The stories provide a kaleidoscope of heartbreak among both human and animal characters as they confront abuse and death.

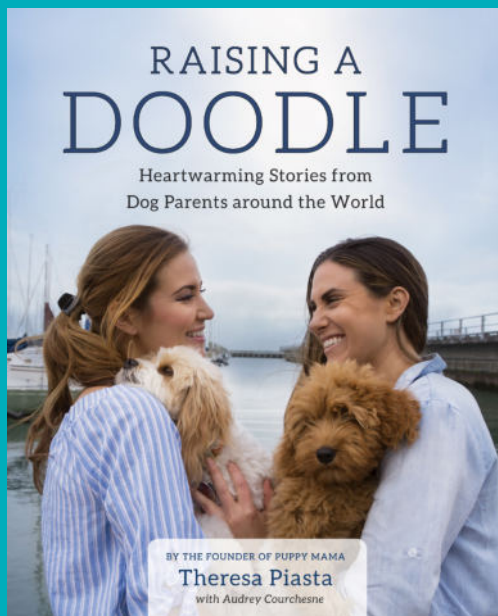
“They call me Herziger, but my real name is Woof,” the first story opens. “They call me a dachshund, but in reality, I am just a dog. I live with my mother among a pack of wild humans in a big house on a lake.” In the second story, “Squirrels in the Wall,” Herzie’s “human,” Barney Blatz, experiences a fire in that house when he is just four. The stories follow Barney from infancy to death, tracing the epic, ongoing conflict between him and Father—a bumbling tyrant guilty of shocking abuse but also capable of poignant redemption.

On this rollicking journey, we meet a suicidal toad, a cat, two mice, a bee, Grandfather’s ghost, and a turtle who possesses Barney in a climactic tale of environmental activism gone awry. Other stories reflect the points of view of Barney’s mother, sister, and older brother; together, they construct a collage of spectacular family dysfunction—and of healing love.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Henry Hitz taught preschool for thirty years. He divides his time between Oakland, California—where he lives with his wife, son, two sisters, two dogs, and a cat—and San Miguel de Allende, Mexico, where he first observed how the boat-tailed grackles and local teenagers all gather at the central jardín at sunset for precisely the same reason. He has published stories in *Cube Literary Magazine*, *Magnolia Review*, *Scarlet Leaf Review*, and *Moonfish*. His first novel, *Tales of Monkeyman*, won the Walter Van Tilburg Clark Prize. His novel *White Knight* was published in January 2016 by Wordrunner Press and reissued last year for the fortieth anniversary of Jonestown. He blogs at [HenryHitz.com](http://HenryHitz.com).

NOVEMBER 2019



Publication Date: November 4, 2019

Collections: Nonfiction

Trim size: 7.5 x 9.25

French flaps, Four-color

Price: \$34.95 paperback / \$14.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-020-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-021-9

# RAISING A DOODLE

## HEARTWARMING STORIES FROM DOG PARENTS AROUND THE WORLD

**THERESA PIASTA WITH AUDREY COURCHESNE**

### DESCRIPTION:

*Raising a Doodle: Heartwarming Stories from Dog Parents around the World* is a source of guidance and support for new and experienced doodle parents alike. With interviews featuring dog experts who cover practical advice on training, health, grooming, and canine therapy, plus heartwarming stories and beautiful photos from more than sixty puppy mamas, this book is your guide to doodle parenthood.

### You'll find:

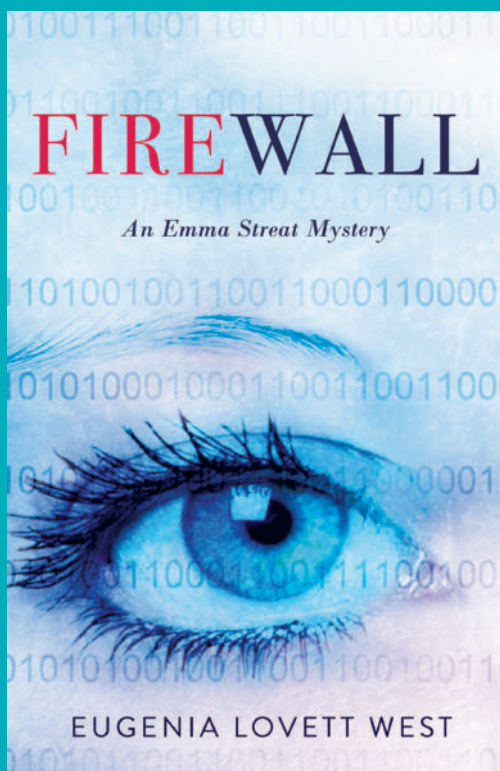
- Information on dog developmental phases and stages
- Tips for training and socializing your doodle
- Guidance to help keep your fluffy best friend healthy
- Advice for exploring the world with your doodle
- 60+ stories about unconditional love and canine therapy
- And so much more!

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Theresa Piasta is the Founder and CEO of Puppy Mama, a pet-tech company enhancing the lives of dog moms. Together, the Puppy Mama community is advocating for a more dog-friendly world and for the healing power of canine therapy. Before founding Puppy Mama, Theresa Piasta was a vice president at JPMorgan and an Army Captain. From 2008–2009, Theresa served fourteen months in the Iraq War, earning the Bronze Star Medal for her leadership. Theresa attended the Stanford GSB Ignite program in 2016 and received a BA in Economics from Wellesley College in 2006.



NOVEMBER 2019



Publication Date: November 5, 2019

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-68463-010-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-68463-011-0

“West spins a plausible tale and flawed, grieving Emma makes an appealing heroine.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

“A fast-paced page turner . . . strong characters . . . interesting backgrounds with international flair. An engaging read.”

—Dominick Dunne, author of *People Like Us*

“This snappy, fast-paced work will keep you reading late in the night. A delight!”

—Rebecca Sinkler, former editor of *The New York Times Book Review*

# FIREWALL

## AN EMMA STREAT MYSTERY

EUGENIA LOVETT WEST

### DESCRIPTION:

Former opera singer Emma Streat has survived the murder of her husband and the destruction of her beautiful old house. Now a full-time single mother, she struggles to move forward and make a home for her two sons. Because of her detection skills, she has become a go-to person for help—so, when her rich, feisty, socialite godmother is blackmailed, she turns immediately to Emma.

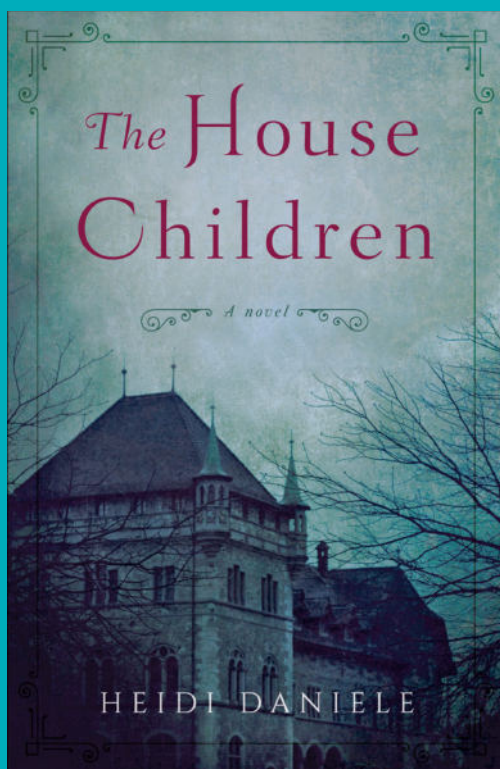
Soon, Emma finds herself thrust into the dark world of cybercrime. Mounting challenges take her to exclusive European settings where she mixes with top people in the financial and art collecting worlds and has intriguing and emotion-packed experiences with men—including her dynamic ex-lover, Lord Andrew Rodale. When she is targeted by a cybercrime network using cutting-edge technology, it takes all of Emma’s resilience and wits to survive and bring the wily, ruthless criminal she’s hunting to justice.

Action-packed and full of twists and turns, this third book of the Emma Streat Mystery series does not disappoint!

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Eugenia Lovett West (known to her friends as Jeannie) was born in Boston, MA. Her father was Reverend Sidney Lovett, the widely known and loved former chaplain at Yale. She attended Sarah Lawrence College and worked for *Harper’s Bazaar* and the American Red Cross. Then came marriage, four children, volunteer work, and freelancing for local papers. Her first novel, *The Ancestors Cry Out*, was published by Doubleday; it was followed by two mysteries, *Without Warning* and *Overkill*, published by St. Martin’s Press. West divides her time between Essex, CT, and Holderness, NH, where she summers with her large extended family. Visit her at [www.eugenialovettwest.com](http://www.eugenialovettwest.com).

APRIL 2019



Publication Date: April 9, 2019

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-94-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-95-3

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“An unassuming but riveting tale of the hardships and ultimate rewards of family.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Peg’s story includes dark themes: the shame of being a House Child in a society that degrades them, the dangers of being a young woman in a period when they had no rights, the struggles to find happiness while hiding who you are . . . however, those who read Peg’s tale are sure to root for her and be drawn in by her determination to secure a better life for herself.”

—*Booklist*

# THE HOUSE CHILDREN

## A NOVEL

HEIDI DANIELE

### DESCRIPTION:

In 1937, Mary Margaret Joyce is born in the Tuam Home for unwed mothers. At age five she is sentenced to an industrial school with one hundred other unwanted girls, where she is given the name Peg and assigned the number 27. Peg quickly learns the rigid routine of prayer, work, and silence under the watchful eye of Sister Constance. Her only respite is an annual summer holiday with the Hanleys, a kindly host family from Galway that has taken an interest in Peg.

At the tender age of thirteen, Peg accidentally learns that Norah Hanley is her birth mother. Once the truth is out, she struggles with feelings of anger and abandonment; meanwhile, Norah, though she loves Peg, also grapples with the shame of having born a child out of wedlock. The tension between them mounts as Peg, now becoming a young adult, begins to make plans for her future beyond Ireland.

Based on actual events, *The House Children* is a compelling story of familial love, shameful secrets, and life inside Ireland’s infamous industrial schools.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Heidi Daniele’s passion for history and genealogy opened the door for *The House Children*, which is her debut novel. She has a degree in communications and media arts and has worked on several short independent films. She earned the Learning in Progress Award for Excellence at a Dutchess Community College Film Festival for coproducing, writing, filming, and editing the film *Final Decisions*. She also volunteers at The Lisa Libraries, an organization that donates new children’s books and small libraries to organizations that work with kids in poor and underserved areas. An empty nester who lives in the Hudson Valley with her husband, Daniele enjoys gardening, photography, and exploring her family tree.

APRIL 2019



Publication Date: April 16, 2019

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-92-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-93-9

“West provides excellent ingredients in this well-told historical novel, including scheming, flirting, romance, and villainy. There is also some fine period detail that helps to set the scene. . . . An entertaining blend of intrigue and romance . . .”

—Kirkus Reviews

“This outstanding historical novel is filled with exciting twists and surprises to the very end. . . . Enthusiastically recommended.”

—The Historical Novel Society

# SARAH'S WAR

## A NOVEL

EUGENIA LOVETT WEST

### DESCRIPTION:

1777 is a pivotal year in the United States. George Washington and his untrained militia struggle to survive. The thirteen states are torn apart by politics. Amidst all this chaos, Sarah Champion—a beautiful young Patriot and parson's daughter whose twin brother was killed in the Battle of Long Island—is sent from rural Connecticut to live with a rich Loyalist aunt in Philadelphia. There, she is plunged into a world of intrigue and treachery. She spies on British officers enjoying festivities in winter quarters. She goes to Valley Forge with information about a plot to kill Washington.

During her time in Philadelphia, Sarah experiences passion and heartbreak, and learns that love comes in many forms. Ultimately, she must dig deep for courage in order to overcome deadly threats—and to fulfill her dream of helping to create a new and independent country.

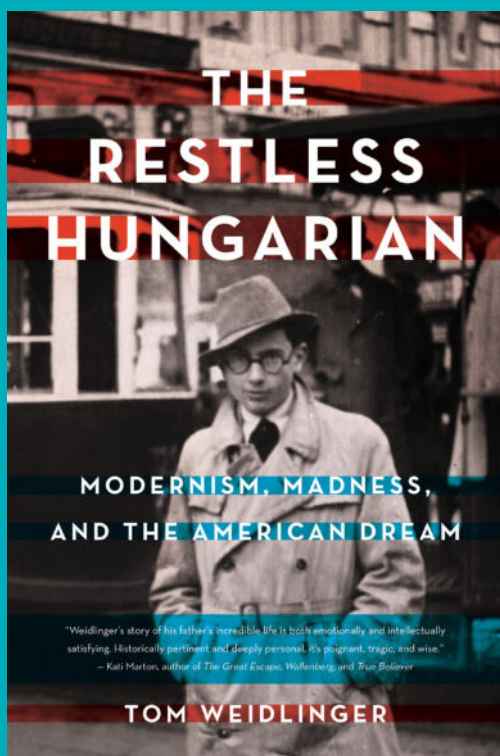
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Eugenia Lovett West (known to her friends as Jeannie) was born in Boston, MA. Her father was Reverend Sidney Lovett, the widely known and loved former chaplain at Yale. She attended Sarah Lawrence College and worked for *Harper's Bazaar* and the American Red Cross. Then came marriage, four children, volunteer work, and freelancing for local papers. Her first novel, *The Ancestors Cry Out*, was published by Doubleday; it was followed by two mysteries, *Without Warning* and *Overkill*, published by St. Martin's Press. West divides her time between Essex, CT, and Holderness, NH, where she summers with her large extended family.

Visit her at [www.eugenialovettwest.com](http://www.eugenialovettwest.com).



APRIL 2019



Publication Date: April 16, 2019

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-96-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-97-7

“[A] story of the visionary upheavals of the 20th century. . . . An immersive and well-told account of a father and his legacy.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“*The Restless Hungarian* is a warm, heartfelt family memoir revolving around complicated relationships defined by world events.”

—*Foreword Reviews*

# THE RESTLESS HUNGARIAN

## MODERNISM, MADNESS, AND THE AMERICAN DREAM

TOM WEIDLINGER

### DESCRIPTION:

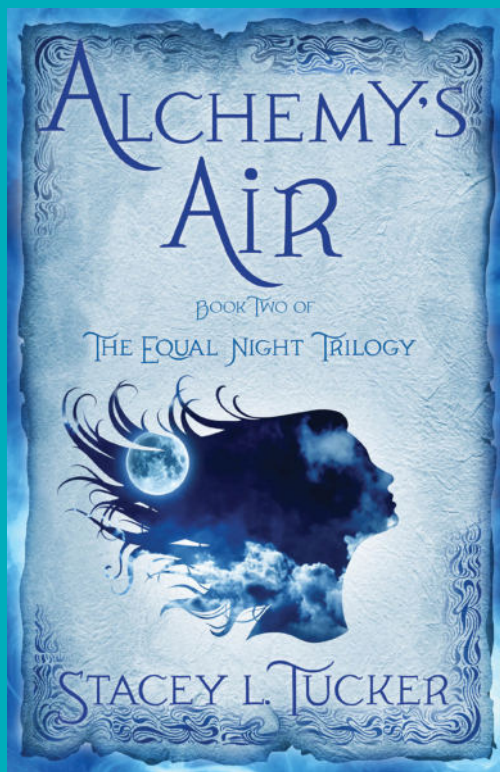
*The Restless Hungarian* is the saga of an extraordinary life set against the history of the rise of modernism, the Jewish Diaspora, and the Cold War. A Hungarian Jew whose inquiring spirit helped him to escape the Holocaust, Paul Weidlinger became one of the most creative structural engineers of the twentieth century. As a young architect, he broke ranks with the great modernists with his radical idea of the “Joy of Space.” As an engineer, he created the strength behind the beauty in mid-century modern skyscrapers, churches, and museums, and he gave concrete form to the eccentric monumental sculptures of Pablo Picasso, Isamu Noguchi, and Jean Dubuffet.

In his private life, however, Weidlinger was a divided man who lived behind a wall of denial as he lost his family to war, mental illness, and suicide. In telling his father’s story, the author sifts meaning from the inspiring and contradictory narratives of a life: a motherless child and a captain of industry, a clandestine communist who designed silos for the world’s deadliest weapons during the Cold War, a Jewish refugee who denied he was a Jew, a husband who was terrified of his wife’s madness, and a man whose personal saints were artists.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Tom Weidlinger is an independent filmmaker who has been writing, directing, and producing documentary films for thirty-five years. Many of his films have won festival awards, and twenty-one have aired nationally on public television. Concerned with themes of social justice, his work deals with a broad range of topics, from the dilemmas of humanitarian aid in the Congo to the struggles of high school students with learning differences. After a lifetime of city dwelling and global travel, Weidlinger moved to the rural foothills of the Sierras. He and his wife, Sharon, live in a straw-bale house on twenty acres of land forested with oak and manzanita. When he is not writing or working on a film in his editing room, he volunteers at a community center, helping teenagers find their voice through filmmaking.

MAY 2019



Publication Date: May 14, 2019

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-84-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-85-4

**Praise for *Ocean's Fire*:**

"Tucker's gift for dialogue asserts itself often. . . . A romantic fantasy series starter full of intriguing concepts from science and spirituality."

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# ALCHEMY'S AIR

## BOOK TWO OF THE EQUAL NIGHT TRILOGY

**STACEY L. TUCKER**

### DESCRIPTION:

Skylar Southmartin is not the naïve girl she was a short year ago. She's made some mistakes and learned a few secrets to life, all the while clinging to the faith her mother instilled in her as a child . . . in herself. And now that she has discovered her life's purpose within the pages of the ancient Book of Sophia, she knows what she must do: restore a vital memory to the Akashic Library, located deep within the Underworld of Earth. This library is sought after by many who are aware of its existence, for they know the future of human potential rests at its core.

Meanwhile, Devlin Grayer has been elected as the 46th President of the United States and his wife, Milicent, is miserable in her new role as First Lady—especially because the Great Mothers have asked her to use her new status to help their cause, and she has no interest in tackling that task.

With the help of friends in the unlikeliest of places, Skylar's journey reveals the significance of the darkness within all of us, and its potential to save or destroy the most precious part of us all: our soul.

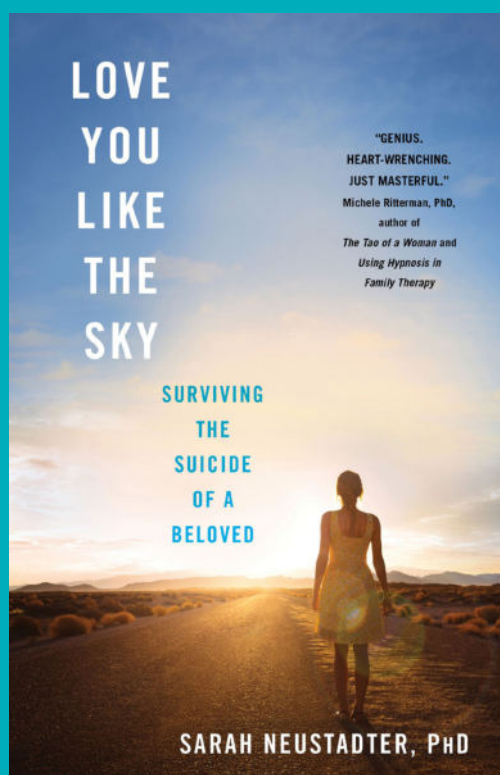
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Stacey L. Tucker uses the action/adventure genre to bridge science and spirituality in her Equal Night series. Tucker's first book in the trilogy, *Ocean's Fire*, took gold at the Living Now Book Awards. She has written for *Women's World*, *Working Mother*, and PopSugar, and speaks to teen groups about self-empowerment and awareness in today's social media-saturated climate. You can find her at [www.staceyltucker.com](http://www.staceyltucker.com).

### AWARDS:

2017 Living Now Book Awards, Gold Medal, Adventure Fiction

JUNE 2019



Publication Date: June 4, 2019

Collections: Memoir, Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-94300-688-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-94300-689-2

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“Genius. Heart-wrenching. Just masterful. An important book, enabling of life after death and loss.”

—Michele Rittnerman, PhD, author of *The Tao of a Woman* and *Using Hypnosis in Family Therapy*

“Honest, poignant, and filled with hard-earned advice and healing strategies. Highly recommended for anyone who has lost a loved one to suicide and is struggling to find hope and purpose.”

—Karen Meadows, author of *Searching for Normal*

# LOVE YOU LIKE THE SKY

## SURVIVING THE SUICIDE OF A BELOVED

SARAH NEUSTADTER, PHD

### DESCRIPTION:

Writing from the unique point of view of a suicide survivor who is also a psychologist, Sarah Neustadter presents a selection of the emails she sent to John, her deceased beloved, over a three-year period following his death. Documenting the raw emotions she experienced during this time period—grief, despair, abandonment, confusion, and the seductive feeling of wanting to die—she seeks to answer the hard existential and psychological questions: *Why is this happening? What does this mean about mortality? How do I go on with the rest of my life without my beloved? How do I heal my broken heart? Will I ever love again?*

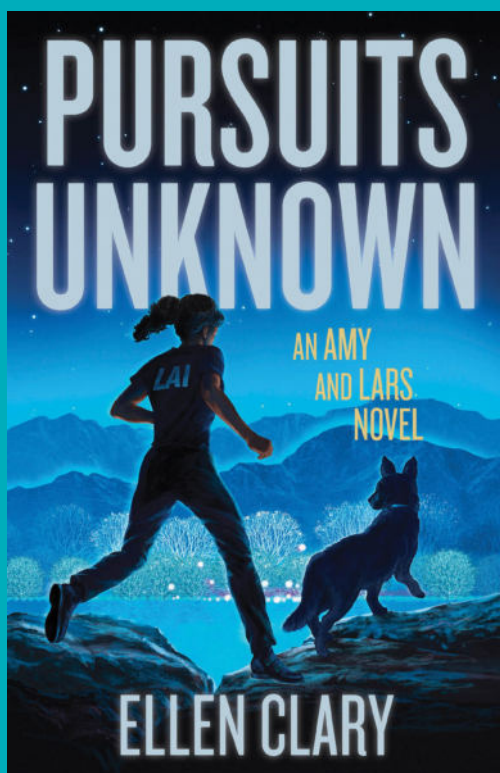
*Love You Like the Sky* is a companion guide and roadmap for supporting younger women and men through intense and complicated grief as an access point toward deeper transformation—shifting awareness from despair to beauty.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Sarah Neustadter is a licensed clinical and spiritual psychologist based in Venice Beach, Los Angeles, who specializes in spiritual growth, suicide survivor grief, suicide prevention, grief, loss, existential heartbreak, and millennial issues. Her passion lies in exploring metaphysical and existential concerns and helping others understand grief as an entryway into a deeper process of spiritual transformation.



JULY 2019



Publication Date: July 9, 2019

Collections: Fiction, Sci-Fi, Mysteries/  
Thrillers

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-86-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-87-8

“With a deft combination of nearly real science and savvy observations of human nature, *Pursuits Unknown* spins a crime-fighting story in which dogs partner with humans in novel and unexpected ways. Like Sue Grafton, Ms. Clary will have readers eagerly anticipating more tales about Amy and Lars!”

—Patricia Minger, author of *Magic Flute*

## PURSUITS UNKNOWN

### AN AMY AND LARS NOVEL

ELLEN CLARY

#### DESCRIPTION:

Amy and her kelpie-shepherd mix, Lars, work with a search team that specializes in finding lost people. Despite his average-mutt appearance, Lars is no ordinary dog: he and Amy have a telepathic connection, and while he has a lot to learn about human language, their bond allows them to communicate in unusual ways and is a boon to their success rate.

When Amy and Lars find a missing scientist suffering from the Alzheimer’s-like disorder “Disorientation,” Amy and her support team realize this is not a typical lost-person case. Instead, this assignment appears to be an attempt to steal this man’s highly sensitive research—which, if misused, could have serious consequences for their overpopulated world. During their quest, Amy discovers and confronts her own limitations; to succeed, she must surpass them.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ellen Clary is a dog-owning computer professional who has both literary and technical college degrees. She has a love of dog behavior and training, as well as a dog sports habit. Formerly a humor writer, she now devotes her time to writing dog-related novels that she, and others, would like to read. A California native, she lives in a Victorian house in the San Francisco Bay Area with her wife and dogs.

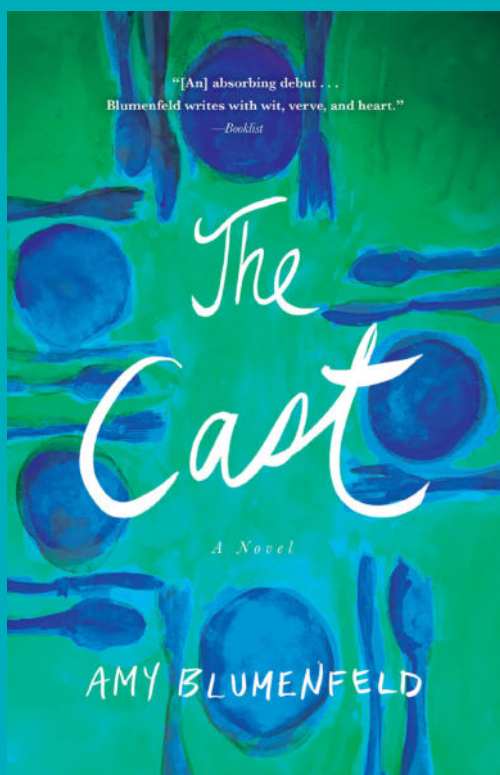




2018



# AUGUST 2018



Publication Date: August 14, 2018

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-72-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-71-7

“In *The Cast*, Blumenfeld deftly reminds us how friendship and love, when cultivated over decades, can transcend even the darkest moments. A heartfelt, moving page-turner.”

—Fiona Davis, best-selling author of *The Address*

“In her captivating and wholly engrossing debut, Blumenfeld pulls the reader in from the very beginning. She deftly handles the perspective of multiple characters, and writes about complicated issues with levity and grace. This well-told story is timely and relatable and leaves the reader wondering how she would handle similar situations.”

—Susie Orman Schnall, author of *Subway Girls* and *The Balance Project*

## THE CAST A NOVEL

### AMY BLUMENFELD

#### DESCRIPTION:

Twenty-five years ago, a group of ninth graders produced a *Saturday Night Live*-style videotape to cheer up their ailing friend. The show's running time was only ninety minutes, but it had a lasting impact: Becca laughed her way through recovery, and the group—Jordana, Seth, Holly, and Lex—became her supporting cast for life.

On the silver anniversary of *Becca Night Live*, the friends reunite over the Fourth of July to celebrate Becca's good health—but nothing goes as planned. The happy holiday card façades everyone's been hiding behind quickly crumble and give way to an unforgettable three days filled with complex moral dilemmas and life-altering choices. Through humor, drama, and the alternating perspectives of five characters, *The Cast* explores the power of forgiveness, the importance of authenticity, and the immeasurable value of deep, enduring friendships to buoy us when life plays out differently than expected.

#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amy Blumenfeld's articles and essays have appeared in various publications, including *The New York Times*, *Huffington Post*, *O, The Oprah Magazine*, *George*, and *Moment*, as well as on the cover of *People*. She is a graduate of Barnard College and the Columbia University Graduate School of Journalism, where she was the recipient of the James A. Wechsler Award for National Reporting. She has been interviewed on the CBS Evening News, FOX News, MSNBC, and NY1, and has contributed to two nonfiction books. She lives in New York with her husband and daughter. This is her first novel.

#### AWARDS:

- 2018 IPPY Awards: Gold Medal, Popular Fiction
- 2018 IPPY Gold Medal in Popular Fiction
- 2018 International Book Award Finalist in Best New Fiction
- 2018 International Book Awards Finalist, Best New Fiction
- 2018 Best Book Awards, Winner, Best New Fiction
- 2018 Best Book Awards, Finalist, Chick Lit/Women's Lit
- 2019 Foreword Indies, Finalist, Adult Fiction—General



AUGUST 2018



Publication Date: August 14, 2018

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-81-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-82-3

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“This debut novel is a masterly coming-of-age story. . . . This indie delight will charm readers with its story about family and self-discovery.”

—*School Library Journal*, starred review

“A charming, emotional story about family, fishing, and self-discovery.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE LEAVING YEAR

## A NOVEL

PAM MCGAFFIN

### DESCRIPTION:

As the Summer of Love comes to an end, fifteen-year-old Ida Petrovich waits for a father who will never come home. While commercial fishing in Alaska, he has been lost and likely drowned, but with no body and no wreckage, Ida and her mother are forced to accept a “presumed” death that tests their already strained relationship. While still in shock over the loss of her father, Ida overhears an adult conversation that shatters everything she thought she knew about him. This prompts her to set out on a search for the truth that takes her from her Washington State hometown to Southeast Alaska, where she works at a salmon cannery, develops love for a Filipino classmate, and befriends a Native Alaskan girl. In this wild, rugged place, she also begins to understand the physical and emotional bonds that took her father north and why he kept them secret—a journey of discovery that ultimately brings her family together and helps them heal. Insightful and heartfelt, *The Leaving Year* is a tale of love and loyalty, family and friendship, and the stories we tell ourselves in our search for meaning.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Pam McGaffin is an award-winning former journalist who returned to her original passion of writing fiction after a long career in newspapers and public relations. Her short stories have appeared in online literary journals, and her articles and essays have been featured in newspapers and magazines. She and her family live in Seattle. This is her first novel.

### AWARDS:

- 2018 Best Book Awards Winner in Fiction: Young Adult
- 2018 Wishing Shelf Awards Finalist in Books for Teenagers
- 2019 Foreword Indies, Finalist, Children’s—Young Adult Fiction
- 2019 IBPA Ben Franklin Awards, Finalist, Teen: Fiction

SEPTEMBER 2018

# MISSION AFGHANISTAN

AN ARMY DOCTOR'S MEMOIR



ELIE PAUL COHEN  
TRANSLATED BY JESSICA LEVINE

Publication Date: September 18, 2018

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-65-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-66-3

"It's absorbing, staggering, comic and tragic . . . Run fast and buy it, you won't regret it."

—*Chronique santé intégrative*

"Elie's astonishing destiny, vividly and poignantly narrated, offers a vertiginous dive into the heart of this new contemporary situation that has disrupted our lives, wars without front lines and terrorism. A journey that is out of the ordinary, thrilling, and marked by a great humanity."

—*Handicap. Fr*

# MISSION AFGHANISTAN

## AN ARMY DOCTOR'S MEMOIR

ELIE PAUL COHEN, TRANSLATED BY JESSICA LEVINE

### DESCRIPTION:

Elie Paul Cohen, a Franco-British civilian emergency doctor, was in his youth an anti-militarist who evaded conscription. But decades later, his military record comes back to haunt him when it turns up in his professional dossier. In a surreal coincidence, the French, British, and Israeli secret services suddenly become interested in recruiting him, and Cohen accepts the deal the French Army offers: he can settle his accounts by serving as a liaison emergency doctor in Afghanistan. After a year and a half of training, Cohen is in 2011 deployed at Camp Bastion, the largest British Military base since World War II. His mission is twofold: First, to study Damage Control Resuscitation, a new treatment for polytraumatized soldiers that was developed by British doctors in Afghanistan. Second, to share these advanced protocols with the French Military Health Service. Combining elements of spy thriller and adventure story with reflections on the costs of war, Cohen's memoir offers a unique perspective on the conflict in Afghanistan, and on the medical challenges presented by the expansion of terrorism into Europe and America.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Elie Paul Cohen was recruited in 2009 by the French Army and deployed in 2011 at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan, where he worked with the British and studied their new treatment for polytraumatized soldiers. *Mission Afghanistan* is a memoir of his experience. The original French edition was nominated for the Erwan Bergot Prize, given in recognition of works celebrating service to France and its values. A Franco-British citizen, Cohen now works as an emergency doctor in the emergency services of Paris. He has a special interest in integrative medicine and works as an osteopath in private practice. He is also a composer of experimental music. His album *Le Cinquième Élément* was released by Radio France in 2018. You can visit him at [www.eliepaulcohen.com](http://www.eliepaulcohen.com).

Jessica Levine has translated several books from French and Italian into English. She is also the author of two novels published by She Writes Press, *Nothing Forgotten* and *The Geometry of Love*, a *Booklist* Top 10 Women's Fiction Title for 2015. Her other works include *Delicate Pursuit: Discretion in Henry James and Edith Wharton*, as well as essays, short stories, and poetry. Levine holds a PhD in English Literature from the University of California at Berkeley, where she was a Mellon Fellow. She was born in New York City and now lives in Northern California. You can find her at [www.jessicalevine.com](http://www.jessicalevine.com).

SEPTEMBER 2018



Publication Date: September 18, 2018

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-79-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-80-9

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“This middle grade debut sees a young outcast discover her true potential while on a quest to save others . . . Holland excels in burying twists that flip the whole narrative on its head. Readers should wish for a longer stay in Glendoch. An effervescent fantasy crafted from the heart.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“With clever writing and detailed world building, Holland draws us into the many wonders of Glendoch and its surrounding lands, all the while deceiving us with her nefarious plot twists that leave the reader wanting to know just how she fooled them.”

—Alane Adams, author of the award-winning Legends of Orkney series

# THE THORN QUEEN

A NOVEL

ELISE HOLLAND

## DESCRIPTION:

Welcome to Glendoch!

Hidden to most, this glacial world once crackled with alchemy. Now it waits for war—divided and bound by strict rules. So when twelve-year-old Meylyne falls from a tree onto Glendoch’s sickly prince, she must flee or face imprisonment in the Shadow-Cellars. The only way she may return home is with a cure for the prince’s peculiar disease.

Convinced she will perish, Meylyne and her companions embark on their journey—and before they know it, they are knee-deep in a plot to sink Glendoch into shadow, like other worlds before it. Poisoned guardians, cursed wizards, and cunning witch-spirits bound into wands are just some of the dangers that dot the way of their travels.

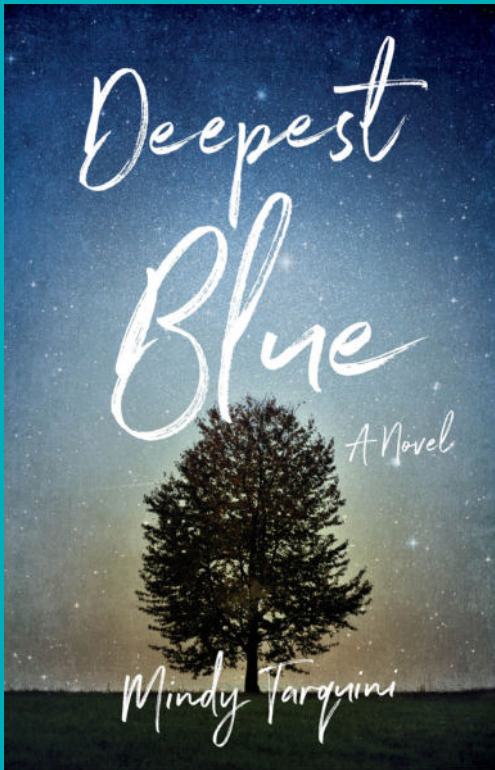
And behind it all is the Thorn Queen. Mysteriously magnetic (or murderously vengeful, depending on whose side you’re on), she is always one step ahead of them . . .

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elise Holland grew up in England before moving to the US in her teens. Now she lives in Mill Valley, CA, with her husband, daughter, dog, and cat. In addition to fueling her tea addiction, she enjoys hiking, yoga, and spending time with family and friends.



SEPTEMBER 2018



Publication Date: September 25, 2018

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-69-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-70-0

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“There’s a lot to like about Tarquini’s Italian-inflected fantasy story, starting with her often lyrical prose.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Tarquini spins a haunting, lyrical fantasy dealing with love, loss, and political turmoil . . . Patient readers will be rewarded by the mysteries at the heart of these brothers’ struggles, which slowly unfold until the last page.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

# DEEPEST BLUE

## A NOVEL

MINDY TARQUINI

### DESCRIPTION:

In an enchanted city seen only at twilight, a resentful second son uncovers secrets that could cause his world’s star to set.

In Panduri, everyone’s path is mapped, everyone’s destiny determined, their lives charted at birth and steered by an unwavering star. Everyone has his place, and Matteo, son of Panduri’s duca, is eager to take up his position as Legendary Protector—at the border and out from under his father’s domineering thumb. Then Antonio, Matteo’s older brother and also Panduri’s heir, pulls rank and heads to the border in Matteo’s stead, leaving Panduri’s orbit in a spiral and Matteo’s course on a skid.

Forced to follow an unexpected path, Matteo is determined to rise, and he pursues the one future Panduri’s star can never chart: a life of his own.

*Brigadoon* meets *Pippin* in this quirky tale of grief, drawn from Italian folklore, that reminds the reader to remember what helps, forget what hurts, and give what remains permission to soar.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mindy Tarquini grew up convinced that there are other worlds just one giant step to the left of where she’s standing. Author of the critically acclaimed and award-winning *Hindsight* (SparkPress, 2016) and *The Infinite Now* (SparkPress, 2017), Tarquini’s writing has appeared in *Writer’s Digest*, *BookPage*, *Hypable*, and other venues. An associate editor on the *Lascaux Review* and a member of the Perley Station Writers Colony, Tarquini is a second-generation Italian American who believes words have power. She plies hers to the best of her ability from an enchanted tower a giant step left in the great Southwest.

OCTOBER 2018



Publication Date: October 16, 2018

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-68-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-67-0

“Drawing from her experience as a radiologist, Frimmer’s poignant debut examines a beautifully authentic mother-daughter relationship and the challenges inherent in a breast cancer diagnosis. Her writing is both heartfelt and astute—this book will stick with you long after you’ve finished reading it.”

— Emily Liebert, *USA Today* best-selling author

“A warm and insightful glimpse from both sides of the examining table. Frimmer merges the experiences of doctor and patient as this mother-daughter relationship faces a frightening diagnosis.”

— Leah DeCesare, award-winning author of *Forks, Knives, and Spoons*

# BEDSIDE MANNERS

A NOVEL

HEATHER FRIMMER

## DESCRIPTION:

As Joyce Novak’s daughter, Marnie, completes medical school and looks ahead to a surgical internship, her wedding, and a future filled with promise, a breast cancer diagnosis throws Joyce’s own future into doubt. Always the caregiver, Joyce feels uncomfortable in the patient role, especially with her husband and daughter. As she progresses through a daunting treatment regimen including a biopsy, lumpectomy, and radiation, she distracts herself by planning Marnie’s wedding.

When the sudden death of a young heroin addict in Marnie’s care forces Marnie to come face-to-face with mortality and her professional inadequacies, she also realizes she must strike a new balance between her identity as a doctor and her role as a supportive daughter. At the same time, she struggles with the stark differences between her fiancé’s family background and her own, and comes to understand the importance of being with someone who shares her values and experiences.

Amid this profound soul-searching, both Joyce and Marnie’s futures change in ways they never would have expected.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Heather Frimmer is a physician by day, specializing in diagnostic radiology and breast imaging, and an avid reader and writer at all other times. A published book reviewer across multiple websites, including Books, Ink and Booktrib, she lives in Connecticut with her husband and two sons.

## AWARDS:

- 2019 Connecticut Press Club, 2nd place, Fiction for Adult Readers

OCTOBER 2018



Publication Date: October 16, 2018

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-73-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-74-8

“A chilling examination of a possible future, filled with lovable characters, excellent pacing, and sharp sociopolitical criticism.”

—*Publishers Weekly*

# RESISTANT

## A NOVEL

RACHAEL SPARKS

### DESCRIPTION:

When antibiotics ceased to work, Rory Stevigson lost her mother to an infection, the same type that has killed a seventh of the world's population. Then stoic and scarred Navy, a young military veteran, enters the quiet life Rory leads with her father on their farm, and Rory finds herself drawn to him despite his mysterious past . . . until he reveals the secrets her parents kept from her, including the fact that her own blood may hold the cure the world needs and she is a target because of it.

The government's research arm, TEAR, wants to sell the cure only to those who can afford it. The Resistance would give the cure away to all, and they've sent Navy to find her before TEAR can. Fleeing the dangerous government who would use her to gain power and struggling to survive a world turned upside down, Rory, her father, and their new protector narrowly avoid capture and death in their efforts to keep her hidden. Can she find the new path of human evolution before TEAR finds her?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rachael Sparks was born in Waco, Texas. She graduated with a degree in microbiology from Texas A&M University and her first post-college job was ghostwriting a nonfiction science book. After a decade-long career in Austin, Texas, as a transplant specialist, she joined a startup fighting healthcare-acquired infections. After relocating with her husband, young daughter, and mother to Asheville, North Carolina, she finally put her first novel on the page. In her free time, she serves on the board of the Asheville Museum of Science and loves to cook, brew, garden, and spend time with friends and family in between obsessively researching emerging science concepts, history, or new recipes.

### AWARD:

- Shortlisted for the Global Thriller Award, a division of the Chanticleer International Book Awards



OCTOBER 2018



Publication Date: October 23, 2018

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-77-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-63152-461-5

“An enchanting new book full of magical mischief and adventure, Alane Adams’s *The Blue Witch* is guaranteed to please”

—Foreword Clarion Reviews

“Bright, brave characters star in this exhilarating tale of magic and mystical creatures.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# THE BLUE WITCH

## THE WITCHES OF ORKNEY, BOOK 1

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

Nine-year-old Abigail Tarkana is about to fail Spectacular Spells class because her witch magic hasn’t come in yet! Even worse, her nemesis, Endera, is making her life miserable by pulling pranks and trying to get her kicked out. Then her new friend Hugo’s life is put in danger by a stampeding sneevil, and a desperate Abigail manages to call up her magic—only to find out it’s unlike that of any other witchling at the Tarkana Witch Academy. When a competition is announced to see who can bespell a wild creature in the swamps, Abigail is first attacked by a strange creature known as a viken, then snatched out of its grasp by an Omera, a powerful winged beast capable of tearing Abigail to pieces. This one is a mother with a hatchling that won’t hatch—and if Abigail can’t find a way to use her magic to get her stubborn baby out of its shell, Big Mama may just decide to eat her. As Abigail learns more about her mysterious magic, she and Hugo must travel to the Netherworld, home to Queen Octonia and her nasty spiderlings, to rescue her nemesis and keep from being kicked out of the coven.

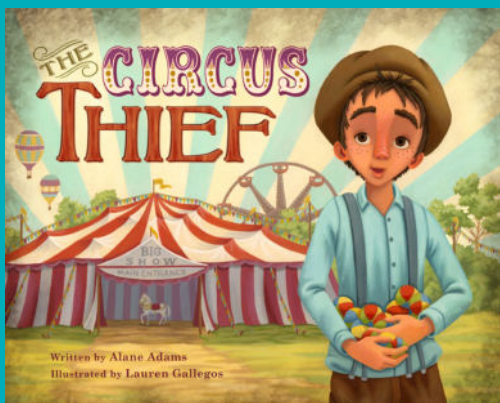
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, and *The Santa Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

### AWARDS:

Alane Adams’s Legends of Orkney series has won more than eleven awards and finalist titles, including the Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards: Gold Medal, Best Book Series – Chapter Book

NOVEMBER 2018



Publication Date: November 6, 2018

Collections: Children

Trim size: 8 x 10

Price: \$15.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-75-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-76-2

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“The circus is bursting with amazing sights and sounds, from clowns and elephants to a lady with a beard, in *The Circus Thief*, a delightfully nostalgic tale of compassion, kindness, and generosity.”

—Foreword Clarion Reviews

# THE CIRCUS THIEF

ALANE ADAMS, ILLUSTRATED BY  
LAUREN GALLEGOS

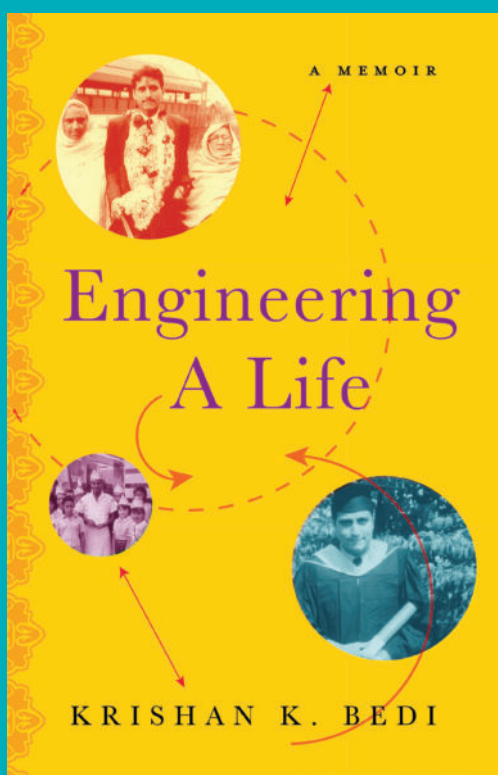
## DESCRIPTION:

The circus is in town, and Georgie has his heart set on going. When Papa agrees to take him and his friend Harley, the boys marvel at the amazing elephants and clowns. But the best act of all is the amazing Roxie, a trained horse who can do all sorts of tricks. When Georgie is invited to ride on her back, he discovers it's her last show—Roxie is going to be sent to the work farm! When Roxie bolts with Georgie on her back, Papa must come to his rescue. *The Circus Thief* is a heartwarming tale of boyhood set in 1920s Pennsylvania for children ages 4–8.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, and *The Santa Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

APRIL 2018



Publication Date: April 3, 2018

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-43-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-42-7

*“Engineering a Life is a story not only of determination and grit but also of hope. Bedi’s indomitable spirit, positive attitude, and work ethic are a joy to read about.”*

—Foreword Reviews

*“A remarkable memoir about a young immigrant who becomes a successful engineer in the US after years of hardship. . . . Throughout his vivid account, Bedi shows amazing resolve and determination in achieving his dreams. Readers will likely applaud the author as he skillfully narrates his many trials on the road to forging a stable life in his new home. This engrossing and timely book should appeal to anyone wishing to learn more about the immigrant experience in America.”*

—Kirkus Reviews

# ENGINEERING A LIFE

## A MEMOIR

KRISHAN K. BEDI

### DESCRIPTION:

Krishan Bedi came to the United States in December of 1961 at the tender age of twenty. He had only \$300 in his pocket, and he had made it out of his small village in India on sheer faith, determined to get an education in the US. For him, there was no option but to succeed—so he began his new life in Knoxville, Tennessee, where he had to adapt to the culture shock not only of being in the US but also being a Punjabi man in the South in the 1960s.

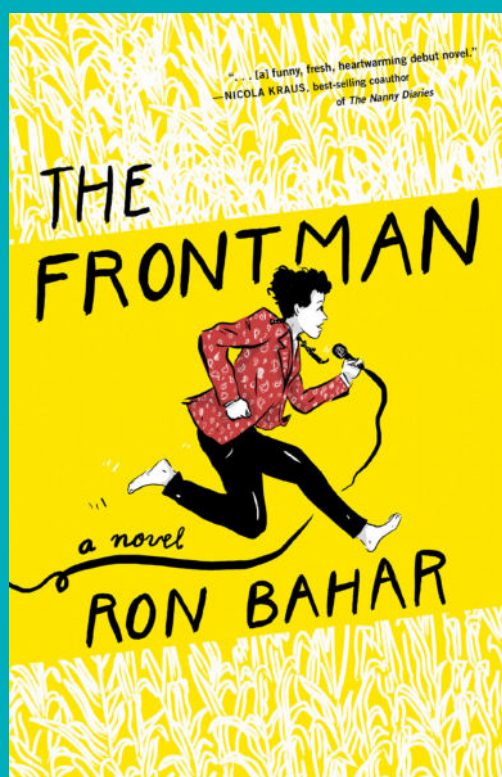
*Engineering a Life* is an examination of Bedi’s life and how he has handled the plethora of curve balls thrown his way with determination, humor, and an unwavering belief that everything will work out. This is a book about values and faith and the importance of friendship, family, and hard work. It’s a story about achieving the American Dream, proving that no matter how thoroughly you map out your life’s journey, no matter how many blueprints you draw up, when you veer off the course you’ve plotted—as we all do, somehow, in the end—you end up where you’re supposed to be.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Krishan K. Bedi came to the US by boat with only \$300 in his pocket in December 1961. A twenty-year-old from the tiny village of Punjab, India, he had big dreams and ideas of what he wanted to do with his life. He eventually earned a master’s degree in industrial engineering at the University of Tennessee. After nine years in the US, he returned to India to have an arranged marriage; together, he and his wife returned to the States, where Bedi developed a career as a healthcare executive. He’s since served as member of several healthcare professional organizations and is currently a member of the board of Indo-American Society of Peoria. Bedi is a contributing author to *The Magic of Memoir*, edited by Linda Joy Myers and Brooke Warner. He now lives with his wife in Peoria. They have three successful sons and five grandchildren.



APRIL 2018



Publication Date: April 3, 2018

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-44-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-45-8

“Fans of Matthew Norman and Jonathan Tropper will enjoy this immersive and heart-opening novel.”

—*Booklist*

“Bahar wields biting humor like a sword, skewering everything from the trials and tribulations of growing up to rock ‘n’ roll and the expectations of parents and peers.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE FRONTMAN

## A NOVEL

RON BAHAR

### DESCRIPTION:

Ron Bahar is an insecure, self-deprecating, seventeen-year-old Nebraskan striving to please his Israeli immigrant parents, Ophira and Ezekiel, while remaining true to his own dreams. During his senior year of high school, he begins to date longtime crush and non-Jewish girl Amy Andrews—a forbidden relationship he hides from his parents. But that’s not the only complicated part of Ron’s life: he’s also struggling to choose between his two passions, medicine and music. As time goes on, he becomes entangled in a compelling world of sex, drugs, and rock and roll. Will he do the right thing?

A fictionalized memoir of the author’s life as a young man in Lincoln, Nebraska, *The Frontman* is a coming-of-age tale of love and fidelity.

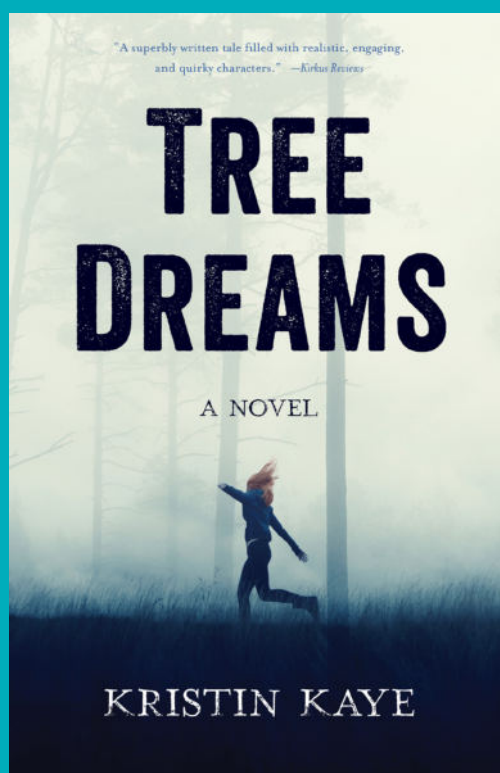
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ron Bahar is the child of Israeli immigrants. He was born in 1965 in Boulder, Colorado, and was raised in Lincoln, Nebraska. He graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a degree in zoology with honors/Phi Beta Kappa before attending medical school at the University of Nebraska and graduating with honors. He completed all of his post-graduate training at UCLA, where he went on to serve as a full-time Clinical Assistant Professor of Pediatrics from 1997 to 2000, after which time he started his own private practice in the Los Angeles suburb of Encino. Bahar has two children, Ethan and Matthew, and two energetic Goldendoodles, Olivia and Diego. He and his wife, Laurie, like to travel and exercise, and spend many weekends at their family mountain retreat in Lake Arrowhead, CA.

### AWARDS:

• 2018 IPPY Awards: Bronze Medal, Young Adult Fiction

APRIL 2018



Publication Date: April 10, 2018

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-46-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-47-2

"In brilliantly onomatopoeic prose, Kaye shows how Jade comes to several epiphanies about her tree dreams while also coming to know the people that her family considers enemies. Throughout, the author relates the protagonist's tale of redemption in delightfully sparse language, like a long poem in which small details matter, every word counts, and images are so cogent that they anchor readers in the fictive reality like tree roots . . . A superbly written tale filled with realistic, engaging, and quirky characters."

—Kirkus Reviews

# TREE DREAMS

A NOVEL

KRISTIN KAYE

## DESCRIPTION:

When seventeen-year-old Jade Reynolds witnesses a violent clash between a protesting tree sitter and a local logger, she runs as far as she can from the battles that plague her home and from the mysteries of the redwood forest. But the ancient redwoods are embedded in her psyche—she feels their call even in the dark and forgotten back alleys of Portland, Oregon where she's hiding out. She soon becomes entangled with a lovable misfit and a band of radical slackers, environmentalists, and anarchists, and finds herself living 100 feet high in the canopy of a redwood grove, trying to decide whose side she's on: the logging community she's known her entire life or the environmentalists who are risking their lives for the future of the forest. To find a way beyond the division between Us and Them, Jade turns to the ancient trees themselves—and the thread-thin web that connects us all.

*Tree Dreams* is an eco-literary, coming-of-age novel relevant for teenagers and adults alike, for this rite of passage asks the same of us all—whatever our age or life stage, we each must discover our one true voice, and learn how to offer it to the world.

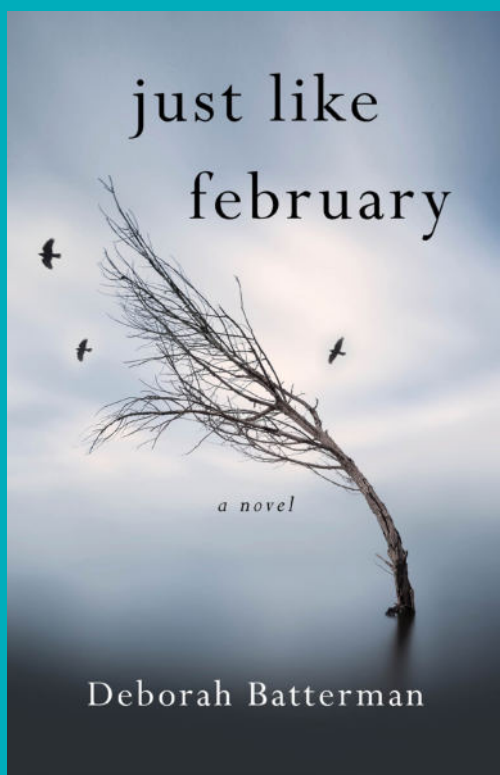
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kristin Kaye is an author, ghostwriter, and teacher whose work sits at the intersection of nature, narrative, and spirituality. *Tree Dreams* has given rise to a global tree-tagging campaign that celebrates the myriad ways we are connected to each other, to nature, and to our future ([treedreams.net](http://treedreams.net)). Kristin's previous work includes *Iron Maidens: The Celebration of the Most Awesome Female Muscle in the World*, a work of literary nonfiction about her experience directing twenty-five of the world's strongest and most muscular women in their off-Broadway debut. *Iron Maidens* was a finalist for the Oregon Book Awards and described by *Utne* magazine as "one of 5 new titles for women who resist easy definition."

## AWARDS:

- 2018 International Book Awards Winner in Fiction: Young Adult

APRIL 2018



Publication Date: April 10, 2018

Collections: Literary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-48-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-49-6

*"Just like February is a chronicle of love, family, heartbreak, and healing, jam-packed with warmth and humor. Deborah Batterman's portrayals of the lives and travails of her characters are so clear-eyed, so perceptive and poetic, that this reader hated to see the story end."*

—Rossandra White, author of *Monkey's Wedding* and *Loveyoubye*

*"An ultimately optimistic and hopeful novel about growing up amid personal and political disarray."*

—Kirkus Reviews

# JUST LIKE FEBRUARY

## A NOVEL

DEBORAH BATTERMAN

### DESCRIPTION:

To Rachel, there's no one in the world like her uncle Jake. Handsome and mysterious, he fills her with stories, sends postcards and gifts from exotic places. And he's so much more fun to be with than her parents, who are always fighting. When she learns he's gay, she keeps it under wraps. And when he gets sick, she doesn't even tell her best friends. Until she realizes that secrecy does more harm than good.

Framed by the passions of the '60s and the AIDS crisis of the '80s, *Just Like February* begins with the wedding of Rachel's parents when she's five and ends with her sexual awakening as Jake is dying. As this poignant coming-of-age story unfolds, Rachel is forced to reckon with a home broken by the stormy love between her mother (a social worker) and her father (a Vietnam veteran) and a heart broken by the realities of homophobia and AIDS.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

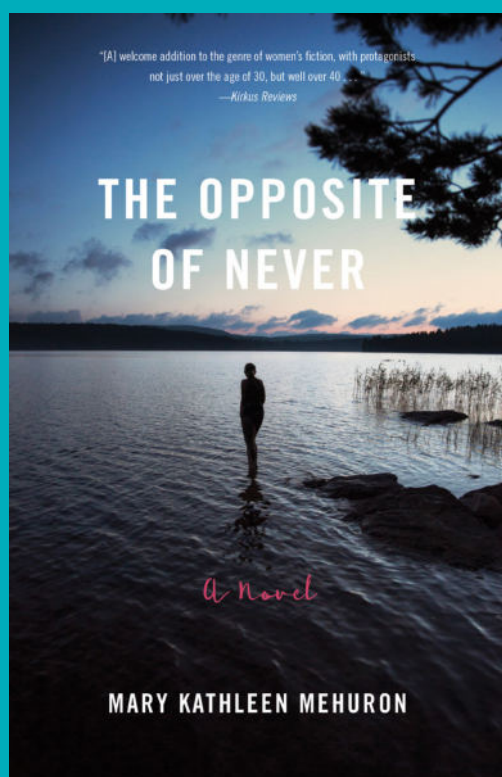
A native New Yorker, Deborah Batterman has worked over the years as a writer, editor, and teaching artist. A story from her debut collection, "Shoes Hair Nails," was nominated for the Pushcart Prize. Her stories and essays have appeared in anthologies as well as various print and online journals, including Akashic Books's *Terrible Twosdays*, *Dr. T. J. Eckleburg Review*, *Every Mother Has a Story, Vol. 2*, *Open to Interpretation: Fading Light*, and *Mom Egg Review, Vol. 14*. Her blog continues to be an exploration of all the small things, and the big ones, that impact our day-to-day lives. To find out more about her, please visit [www.deborahbatterman.com](http://www.deborahbatterman.com).

### AWARDS:

- 2018 International Book Awards Finalist in Fiction: Literary
- 2018 American Fiction Awards Finalist in Coming of Age
- 2018 Best Book Awards Finalist in Fiction/Literary



APRIL 2018



Publication Date: April 24, 2018

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-50-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-51-9

“The characters are identifiable, sympathetic, vivid, and clear even in their human damage and wonderful redemption. Mehuron pens a memorable story of friendship, love, romance, and . . . life.”

—Marley Gibson, best-selling author of the *Glamorous Life* series

“*The Opposite of Never* is a lovely story about loss, love, redemption, the power of female friendship, and one of the most important emotions needed to become whole again—forgiveness.”

—Kris Radish, best-selling author of *A Dangerous Woman From Nowhere*

# THE OPPOSITE OF NEVER

A NOVEL

MARY KATHLEEN MEHURON

## DESCRIPTION:

Life is mostly a mixed bag.

Devastated when they lose their spouses, both Kenny Simmons and Georgia Best carry on for the sake of their children, although they are certain that the best part of their lives is long over. Then Georgia and her lifelong companions, Linda and Yvonne, meet Kenny while walking down a dusty Vermont country road, and the four of them hit it off. Soon, Kenny becomes a regular part of their hiking group, and he and Georgia grow more than fond of each other.

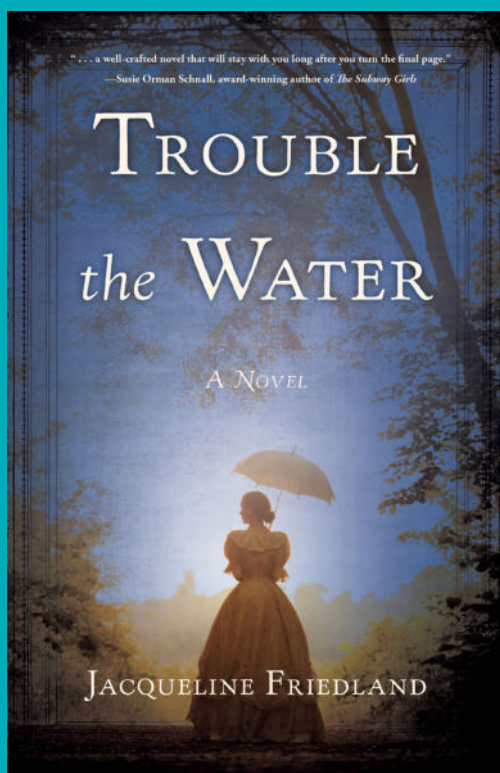
Kenny’s stepdaughter, Zelda, and Yvonne’s teenage son, Spencer, also fall in love—at first sight. Through surprisingly relatable circumstances, they are drawn into opiate use, shocking everyone, and the two of them struggle through the torment of addiction together.

In an impulsive and daring attempt to create a grand finale out of difficult times, Kenny takes Georgia off to vacation in Cuba just as it is opening up to Americans—and what they discover in the golden light of Old Havana is another startling surprise.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary Kathleen Mehuron is a career educator who made a splash with her first book, *Fading Past*, an autobiographical novel whose protagonist, like Mehuron, grew up Irish-Catholic in New Jersey. *The Opposite of Never* is Mehuron’s second book; to finish it, she traveled alone to Havana in January 2015 in order to experience the city before it became Americanized. She lives and teaches in a ski town in Vermont where she and her husband raised three sons. She is an occasional contributor to the local newspaper *The Valley Reporter* and writes curricula daily for private students. She takes extended time to work on her novels on Grand Turk Island and in Vermont’s Northeast Kingdom.

MAY 2018



Publication Date: May 8, 2018

Collections: Literary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-54-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-55-7

“With compelling characters, a charming peek into Charleston society, a heart-racing romance, rich historical detail, and an epilogue that will have you holding your breath, Friedland has written a well-crafted novel that will stay with you long after you turn the final page.”

—Susie Orman Schnell, award-winning author of *The Subway Girls*, *The Balance Project*, and *On Grace*

“This is a promising debut from Friedland, who writes with an enviable emotional intuitiveness . . . engaging characters that readers will care about. . . . A vibrant, solidly entertaining story that will seize readers from the first page and not let go.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# TROUBLE THE WATER

## A NOVEL

JACQUELINE FRIEDLAND

### DESCRIPTION:

Abigail Milton was born into the British middle class, but her family has landed in unthinkable debt. To ease their burdens, Abby’s parents send her to America to live off the charity of their old friend, Douglas Elling. When she arrives in Charleston, seventeen-year-old Abby discovers that the man her parents raved about is a disagreeable widower who wants little to do with her. To her relief, he relegates her care to a governess, leaving her to settle into his enormous estate with little interference. But just as she begins to grow comfortable in her new life, she overhears her benefactor planning the escape of a local slave—and suddenly, everything she thought she knew about Douglas Elling is turned on its head.

Abby’s attempts to learn more about Douglas and his involvement in abolition initiate a circuitous dance of secrets and trust. As Abby and Douglas each attempt to manage their complicated interior lives, readers can’t help but hope that their meandering will lead them straight to each other. Set against the vivid backdrop of Charleston twenty years before the Civil War, *Trouble the Water* is a captivating tale replete with authentic details about Charleston’s aristocratic planter class, American slavery, and the Underground Railroad.

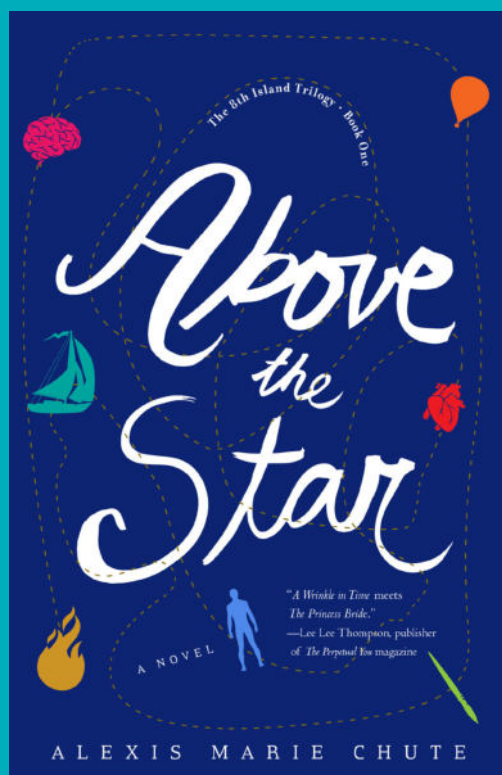
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jacqueline Friedland holds a BA from the University of Pennsylvania and a JD from NYU Law School. She practiced as an attorney in New York before returning to school to receive her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. She lives in New York with her husband, four children, and a tiny dog. This is her first novel.

### AWARDS:

- 2018 IPPY Awards: Silver Medal, South-Best Regional Fiction
- 2019 Foreword Indies, Finalist, Adult Fiction—Historical

JUNE 2018



Publication Date: June 5, 2018

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-56-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-57-1

“*Above the Star* is a creative tour de force from the wildly talented author/artist Alexis Marie Chute. Part adventure, part fantasy, part family saga, part quest, the novel leads its heroines and heroes—some human, some extra-human—into peril and redemption, love and loss, and terrors generated by both illness and magic, until they finally emerge into a world where courage makes everything possible. The first in the 8th Island Trilogy, *Above the Star* ingeniously incorporates Chute’s own drawings as important clues that keep the tale racing forward. Her images help to create a strange new world so thoroughly real that when you put the book down—if you do—you won’t remember where you are.”

—Pamela Petro, author of *Sitting Up with the Dead* and the artist’s book *AfterShadows*

# ABOVE THE STAR

## THE 8TH ISLAND SERIES, BOOK 1

ALEXIS MARIE CHUTE

### DESCRIPTION:

When frumpy senior citizen Archie goes in search of his missing son in the Spanish Canary Islands, he stumbles upon a higher mission: locating a magical cure for his ailing fourteen-year-old granddaughter, Ella. Using a portal-jumping device called the Tillastrion, Archie and a stone-headed creature named Zeno are transported—along with a cruise ship full of people, including Ella and her mother, Tessa—to Jarr-Wya, a magnificent yet terrifying island in another realm where Archie hopes to locate Ella’s cure.

What they find on Jarr-Wya is an island tortured by a wicked Star anchored in the sea. There, a three-way battle for dominion rages between the stone-wielding Bangols, the fiery Olearons, and the evil Millia sands. When Ella is captured, her wit and resourcefulness emerge as she fights against all odds to survive. At the same time on another part of the island, an enchanted river exposes Tessa’s long-buried secrets and forces her to confront her broken marriage and a confusing new love triangle. She and Archie—with the help of a company of peculiar allies—track Ella and seek to unravel the terrible mystery of her cure. A mesmerizing, stay-up-all-night adventure of three unlikely heroes, *Above the Star* reminds us that no matter how young we are, or how old, even the smallest act of bravery can transform our lives and the fates of the worlds around us.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alexis Marie Chute is an award-winning author, artist, filmmaker, curator, and inspirational speaker. Her memoir, *Expecting Sunshine: A Journey of Grief, Healing, and Pregnancy After Loss*, was a Kirkus Best Book of 2017 and received many literary awards. *Expecting Sunshine* is also a highly acclaimed feature documentary film, produced, and directed by the author that was screened around the world in 2018 and 2019. Her 8th Island Trilogy—including the novels *Above the Star*, *Below the Moon*, and *Inside the Sun*—has been called “A Wrinkle in Time meets *The Princess Bride*” (Lee Lee Thompson, *The Perpetual You*) and was a 2018 “Top 15 Unputdownable YA Reads” pick (Bookstr) and a 5/5 *Readers’ Favorite* book.

### AWARDS:

- Alexis Marie Chute has been honored by the Readers View Literary
- Awards and the International Book Awards for the 8th Island Trilogy.



JUNE 2018



Publication Date: June 12, 2018

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-58-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-59-5

“Satisfying romance, a good comeuppance, and a plan that comes together all add up to a great read. A time-travel story that entertains with distinct characters, well-observed details, and an exciting finish.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“*But Not Forever* is a magical time-traveling adventure that captivates readers from the start. Von Schleh’s sparkling prose sets the stage for the thrilling, intertwining journeys of Sonnet and Emma. Doppelgangers born into separate worlds, both are forced to face family dysfunction and reexamine societal conventions.”

—Heather Cumiskey, award-winning author of *I Like You Like This*

# BUT NOT FOREVER

## A NOVEL

JAN VON SCHLEH

### DESCRIPTION:

Could she be everything you aren’t, but somehow—still be you?

It’s the year 2015, and Sonnet McKay is the smarty-pants daughter of a globe-trotting diplomat, home for the summer from her exotic life. Everything would be perfect if not for her stunning sister, whose bright star has always left her in the shadows. In 1895, passionate Emma Sweetwine is trapped in a Victorian mansion, dreaming of wings to fly her far beyond her lonesome mountain home. As the mistreated daughter of the richest man in town, she lives with the heartbreaking knowledge that her mother loves her brothers but doesn’t love her.

In the same house at the same moment, 120 years apart, fierce storms attack and the identical fifteen-year-olds are mysteriously switched in time. As both girls struggle to adapt to this sudden change, destiny intervenes—Sonnet falls in love with a boy and Emma falls in love with a life—and in both their new worlds, astonishing family secrets are discovered. Torn, both girls find themselves wanting to go home yet reluctant to give up what they now have.

*But Not Forever* is an enchanting story of love and longing, and the heart’s quest to find where it belongs.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jan Von Schleh is a third-generation Seattleite who has lived and worked around the world in fascinating places including Zimbabwe, Nicaragua, Democratic Republic of Congo, Turkmenistan, and the Kingdom of Bahrain. When she’s not writing, she likes to explore ancient buildings wherever she can find them and wonder about the stories they would tell—if only they could talk. She is sure that whatever those stories are, they most probably have to do with love.

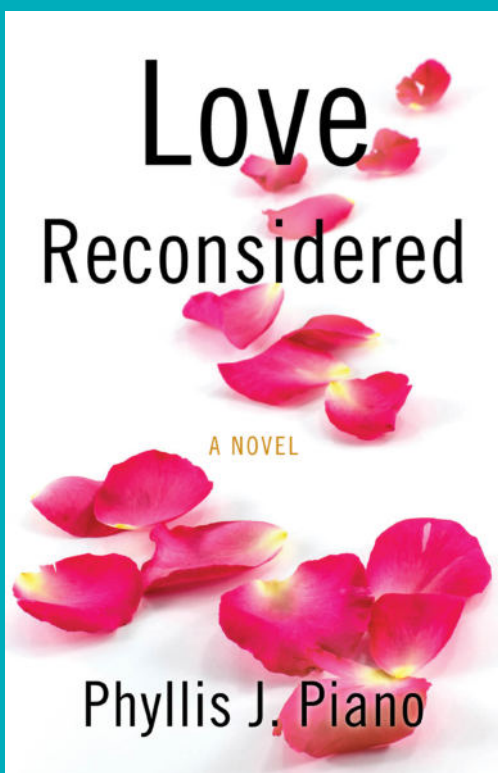
### AWARD WINNER

- Rossetti Book Awards Shortlist in Young Adult Fiction
- 2019 Foreword Indies, Finalist, Children’s—Young Adult Fiction
- 2019, IPPY, Silver medal, Juvenile/Young Adult Fiction E-Book
- 2019 IBPA Ben Franklin Awards, Finalist, Teen: Fiction

2017



AUGUST 2017



Publication Date: August 8, 2017

Collections: Fiction,  
Contemporary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-20-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-22-9

*“Love Reconsidered is a touching story filled with extraordinary characters put in heartbreaking situations. Enjoyable and engrossing, with surprising twists, this is a book that is hard to put down.”*

*—Foreword Reviews*

*“Fans of stories of good, earnest people entangled in messy relationships will find plenty here to enjoy. . . . A charming work about two damaged, intertwined families.”*

*—Kirkus Reviews*

# LOVE RECONSIDERED

## A NOVEL

PHYLLIS J. PIANO

### DESCRIPTION:

When Aleen Riddick’s marriage falls apart after her eighteen-year-old daughter, Sunny, loses her beloved boyfriend in a tragic accident, they look to the dead boy’s father, grief-stricken Ted Hammand, to help them heal and redefine life. When shocking developments force them to confront those who deceived them, Aleen, Ted, and Sunny must decide if forgiveness will drive them back to the pain of the past or forward to a future of possibilities. *Love Reconsidered* is about families—their grief, guilt, compassion, love, forgiveness, and hope.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

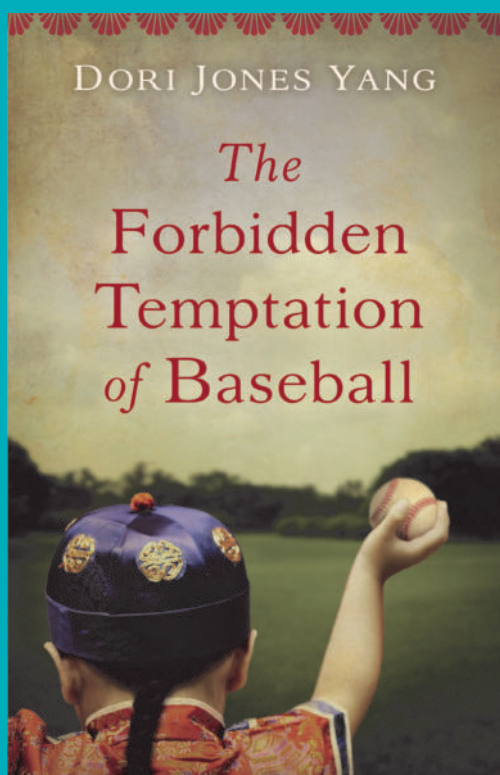
Phyllis J. Piano spent more than thirty years as an award-winning corporate communications expert for some of the world’s largest companies. She has somehow managed to maintain her sense of humor, love of writing, and passion for life and the people she loves and cares about through it all. A world traveler, Piano has since left the corporate world and fallen back into the arms of her own first love: writing. She and her husband divide their time between California, England, and the Midwest. When she is not packing a bag, making artisan sourdough bread, or cooking with lots of garlic, Piano is working on her next novel.

### AWARDS

- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction, Chick Lit/Women’s Lit, Finalist
- 2018 Independent Press Award: Winner, Fiction
- 2018 Next Generation Indie Book Awards Finalist in Chick Lit
- 2018 International Book Awards Finalist in Fiction: Chick Lit/Women’s Lit



AUGUST 2017



Publication Date: August 15, 2017

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$12.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-32-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-33-5

“As I read this story, I was continually amazed about what those boys went through not only in traveling to the States but in adjusting to life, education, and customs here.”

—Kirby Larson, author of Newbery Honor Book *Hattie Big Sky*

“Through the eyes of the ever curious ‘Leon’ (Woo Ka-Leong), America is a play of both dazzling light and layered shadows. *The Forbidden Temptation of Baseball* turns our assumptions of America, and the Chinese impact on our history, upside down. A riveting and revealing story for the ages.”

—Conrad Wesselhoeft, author of *Dirt Bikes, Drones, and Other Ways to Fly*

# THE FORBIDDEN TEMPTATION OF BASEBALL

DORI JONES YANG

## DESCRIPTION:

Despite his impulsive and curious nature, twelve-year-old Leon is determined to follow the Emperor’s rules—to live with an American family, study hard, and return home to modernize China. But he also must keep the braid that shows his loyalty—and resist such forbidden American temptations as baseball. As Leon overcomes teasing and makes friends, his elder brother becomes increasingly alienated and disturbed. Eventually, Leon faces a tough decision, torn between his loyalty to his birth country—and his growing love for his new home.

*The Forbidden Temptation of Baseball* is a lively, poignant, and nuanced novel based on a little-known episode from history when 120 boys were sent to New England by the Emperor of China in the 1870s. This story dramatizes both the rigid expectations and the wrenching alienation felt by many foreign children in America today—and richly captures that tension between love and hate that is culture shock.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dori Jones Yang is a Seattle-area writer. Raised in Ohio, she lived and worked in Singapore and Hong Kong and covered the opening of China as a journalist for *Business Week*. Married to a Chinese man, she has traveled widely throughout Asia. Her previous books include a young-adult historical novel set in China at the time of Marco Polo and a middle grade novel about a girl from China who begins fifth grade in Seattle, only to discover that she has lost her voice. After studying Chinese for many years, Yang knows what it feels like to struggle to express your thoughts in an unfamiliar language. Learn more at [www.booksbydori.com](http://www.booksbydori.com).

## AWARDS:

- 2017 Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards: Gold Award,
- Pre-Teen Fiction – Historical/Cultural
- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Winner, Children’s Fiction
- 2018 IPPY Awards: Gold Medal, Multicultural Fiction
- 2018 Freeman Book Awards: Winner, Young Adult

SEPTEMBER 2017



Publication Date: September 12, 2017

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-36-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-37-3

“Gorgeously written, *The Raven God* delivers a fresh, lively fantasy with enough twists and turns to keep a young reader captivated. A magical read filled with otherworldly beings both good and evil—and always entertaining.”

—Jennifer Gooch Hummer, award-winning author of *Girl Unmoored* and *Operation Tenley*

“A fast-paced, satisfying caper to a trilogy that’s sure to enchant fans of adventure-driven fantasy.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE RAVEN GOD

## LEGENDS OF ORKNEY, BOOK 3

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

After defeating the Volgrim witches, life in Orkney is quiet. Too quiet. Before Sam Baron can catch his breath, Surt gathers an army of fire giants in the Eighth Realm of Musspell, determined to destroy Orkney—and it’s all Sam’s fault. After all, he took Odin’s life with an ancient cursed dagger, and now mankind has lost its protector. To make matters worse, the God of Mischief, Loki, is on the loose and determined to reunite with his evil wife, Angerboda, and their three children: Fenrir the wolf, Jormungand the sea serpent, and Helva, Goddess of Death.

Orkney’s only hope lies with Sam and his stalwart friends. As Surt prepares to launch his forces against Orkney, Sam and two of his fellow witches, Perrin and Mavery, set out on a journey to rescue Odin, aided by Skidbladnir, a magical ship of the gods that can fly over land and sea, and Geela, a Valkyrie who can transform into a battle-ready goose. Meanwhile, Leo and Keely travel north to stop Loki from starting a war between the Eifalians and the Vanir, while Howie is left to watch over Skara Brae. With time running out, our heroes try frantically to prove that they can once again find the courage to do what’s needed when the odds are stacked against them—even when the sacrifice asked is greater than any of them could imagine.

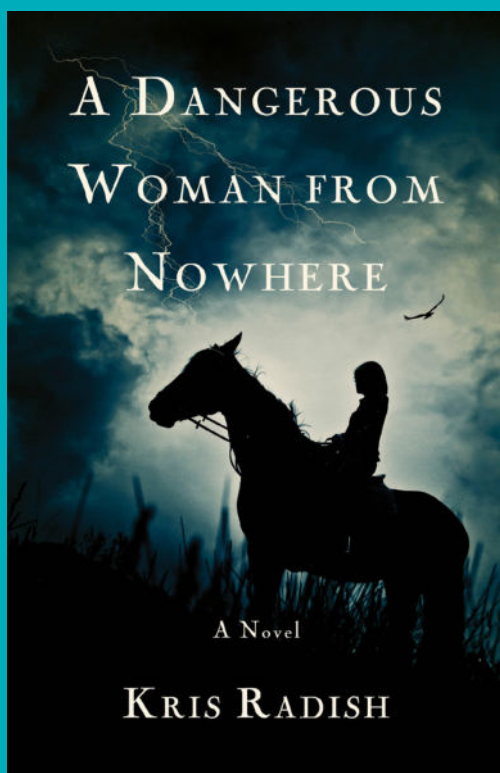
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, and *The Santa Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 Moonbeam Children’s Book Awards: Gold Award, Pre-Teen Fiction – Historical/Cultural
- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction/Young Adult, Finalist

SEPTEMBER 2017



Publication Date: September 12, 2017

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-26-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-27-4

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“As in her previous best-selling novels (*A Grand Day To Get Lost*), Radish weaves an engaging story of inspiring women who discover the importance of being true to one’s ideal.”

—*Library Journal*

“Radish’s characters know how to have a good time on their way to matriarchal nirvana.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# A DANGEROUS WOMAN FROM NOWHERE

## A NOVEL

KRIS RADISH

### DESCRIPTION:

Briar Logan is a loner who has already survived a wretched childhood, near starvation, and the harsh western frontier in the 1860s. Just when she is on the brink of finally opening her heart to the possibilities of happiness, the love of her life is kidnapped by lawless gold miners—and she steels herself for what could be the greatest loss of her life.

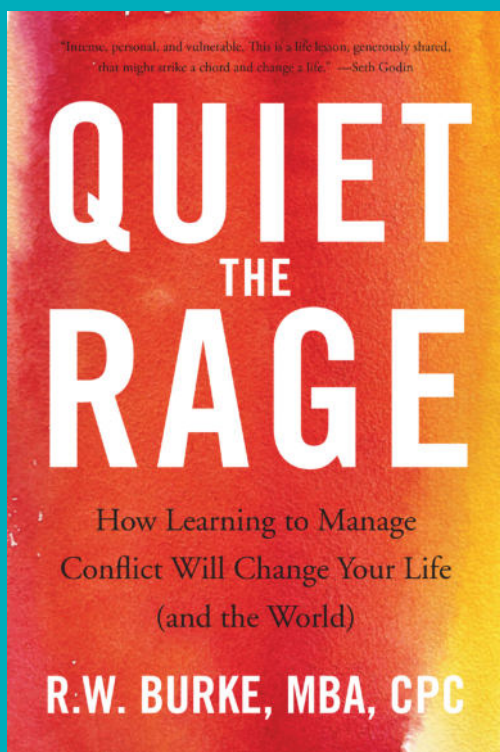
Desperate to save her husband and the solitary life they have carved out of the wilderness, Briar is forced to accept the help of a damaged young man and a notorious female horse trainer. Facing whiskey runners, gold thieves, unpredictable elements, and men who will stop at nothing to get what they want, the unlikely trio must forge an uncommon bond in order to survive. Full of lessons of love, letting go, and the real meaning of family, *A Dangerous Woman From Nowhere* is a timeless Western adventure story about courage, change, risk, and learning how to unlock damaged hearts and live in the sweet moments of now.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kris Radish is the best-selling author of twelve novels and three works of nonfiction. Her empowering books focus on the very real issues women face in their lives, and she celebrates the important and amazing power of female friendship via her novels and with the yearly retreats she holds for women. Radish lives in St. Petersburg, Florida.



OCTOBER 2017



Publication Date: October 10, 2017

Collections: Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$22.95 hardcover /

\$18.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-41-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-40-3

"In this thorough, explorative, and highly personal work, Burke gives readers tools and ideas for self-examination, growth, and conflict resolution . . . successfully tackles a complex subject that's relatively uncommon in self-help titles . . . What makes it particularly stand out is Burke's willingness to show his story in all lights in the service of his project—what his wife, Denise Burke, in a preface, calls 'the good, the bad, and the ugly of my husband's life.'"

—Kirkus Reviews

# QUIET THE RAGE

## HOW LEARNING TO MANAGE CONFLICT WILL CHANGE YOUR LIFE (AND THE WORLD)

R.W. BURKE, MBA, CPC

### DESCRIPTION:

In a world with more than 7 billion people, 196 countries, 7,000 spoken languages, and close to 30 religions, the probability of one group or one person intentionally or unintentionally offending another group or another person is absolutely certain. Many people limit themselves in life based on their inability to get along with others, and too often we allow ourselves to be ruled by our emotions. When we're emotionally reactive, we're not our best selves, nor do we produce the smartest outcomes. Emotional reactions create winners and losers. And winning directly at the expense of another is actually losing in disguise, due to the resentment it inspires in the loser. Often, people get stuck in a pattern of reacting emotionally, long past the time when the combativeness that once served them no longer does—long past the time when the pattern has become destructive without them being aware of it. For everyone who wants to change that part of themselves—everyone who wants more peaceful interactions and more successful outcomes, but doesn't know how to achieve that—*Quiet the Rage* is the answer.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

R.W. Burke is a Certified Professional Coach through the Institute for Professional Excellence in Coaching (iPEC). He holds BS in accountancy from Providence College and a master's of business administration degree with a concentration in finance from Providence College's School of Business. For thirty years, he's worked in and around the automobile business. For the last six of those years, he's worked to become the top coach on Ford Motor Company's Consumer Experience Movement (CEM) project, covering twenty-three dealerships in seven states. He is also responsible for CEM Inside, Ford Motor Company's regional initiative to bring the work done by coaches in the field to its own field staff, and has worked with BMW North America and their half-owned subsidiary, The Retail Performance Company, to develop a coaching initiative and workshop.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Self-Help/Relationships, Finalist

OCTOBER 2017



Publication Date: October 10, 2017

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-28-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-29-8

“When a mystical book comes into her hands, Skylar’s eyes are opened to the underlying magic in her life and the forces that are working to anoint her as the next great successor. Stacey Tucker has filled the pages with dangerous romance, explosive family secrets, and a nail-biting ending that will leave readers pining for the next installment.”

—Alane Adams, author of the *Legends of Orkney* series

“Tucker’s gift for dialogue asserts itself often. . . . A romantic fantasy series starter full of intriguing concepts from science and spirituality.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# OCEAN’S FIRE

## BOOK ONE OF THE EQUAL NIGHT TRILOGY

STACEY TUCKER

### DESCRIPTION:

Once the Greeks forced their male gods upon the world, the belief in the power of women was severed. For centuries it has been thought that the wisdom of the high priestesses perished at the hand of the patriarchs—but now the ancient Book of Sophia has surfaced. Its pages contain the truths hidden by history, and the sacred knowledge for the coming age. And it is looking for Skylar Southmartin.

Busy picking up the pieces after her mother’s untimely death and trying to finish her veterinary degree, Skylar has no idea that she is the link between four mystical women in her life and the perfect storm the Great Mothers have been waiting for. Meanwhile, she’s just reconnected with the first and only love of her life, Argan—but Joshua, a dangerous, irresistible stranger, threatens to ruin everything she’s trying to build. Amidst unraveling family secrets that shatter her views of the world and call into question everything she’s ever known, Skylar must fight off Joshua’s maddening pull and get a handle on her own budding powers—before it’s too late.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Stacey L. Tucker uses the action/adventure genre to bridge science and spirituality in her *Equal Night* series. Tucker’s first book in the trilogy, *Ocean’s Fire*, took gold at the Living Now Book Awards. She has written for *Women’s World*, *Working Mother*, and *PopSugar*, and speaks to teen groups about self-empowerment and awareness in today’s social media-saturated climate. You can find her at [www.staceyltucker.com](http://www.staceyltucker.com).

### AWARDS:

• 2017 Living Now Book Awards: Adventure Fiction, Gold Medal

OCTOBER 2017



Publication Date: October 24, 2017

Collections: Educational, Children

Trim size: 8.5 x 8.5

Price: \$19.95 hardback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-38-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-39-7

“These booklets are absolutely incredible. An excellent job of inspiring children’s creativity activities.”

—Mosun Johnston Smith, former teacher, principal, and member of the Ministry of Education, Nigeria

“I think these booklets are perfect for children. They are colorful, bright, and the illustrations are awesome. I regret there were no such booklets in my childhood.”

—Ludmila Levine, Chairman of the American English Department at the Linguistics University in Nizhny Novgorod, Russia

# READING IS FUN! IMAGINE THAT!

## BOOK ONE

RUTH A. RADMORE

### DESCRIPTION:

The first installment in a new educational activities series designed to help children expand their creativity and improve their reading and language skills, *Reading is Fun!* is a collection of children’s story-poems that encourage children to respond by creating artworks and writings using their own ideas. There are two story-poems on each of six topics: Art Activities, Construction Activities, Creative and Imaginative Thinking, Decision Making, Planning Ahead, and Self-Awareness. Following each set of three story-poems, there are two educational pages with topics such as “Our Amazing Memories” and “The Wonder of Words.” Curiosity, imagination, positive views, and personal abilities are encouraged. This material is ideal for use at home, school, club groups, and summer camps, and for learning English as a second language.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

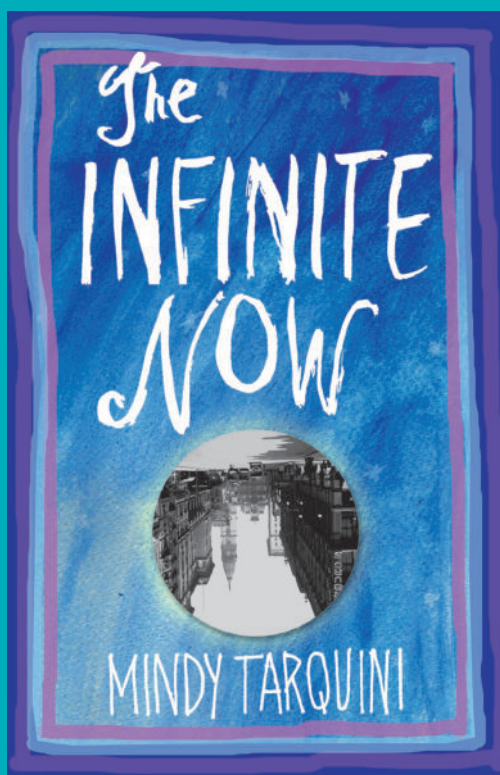
Ruth Radmore received her BA in art education at UCLA and her MA in art education at the University of the Pacific. After teaching art at the secondary level and at a teacher training college, she operated an advertising business for seventeen years. Radmore and her husband have traveled abroad independently by bicycle, motorcycle, and camper. They have also served in the Peace Corps and hosted visitors from eighteen nations. Radmore’s series of creative children’s booklets, which comprise part of *Reading is Fun!*, have received enthusiastic endorsements from students and educators in five nations. A past president of the California PTA stated that they should be available in all of California’s elementary schools.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

- 2018 National Indie Excellence Awards Finalist in Picture Books—Ages 4-8
- 2018 International Book Awards Finalist in Children’s Educational



OCTOBER 2017



Publication Date: October 24, 2017

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-34-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-35-9

“Replete with poignant details, Mindy Tarquini’s *The Infinite Now* is an engrossing tightrope walk over the relational lines that connect human beings to each other and to time itself. . . . *The Infinite Now*’s potent sorcery doesn’t lie primarily in its forays into fantasy and myth, but rather in the humanity of its characters and the energy of its storytelling.”

—Foreword Reviews, 5 out of 5 stars

“This book offers a well-researched and engagingly drawn portrait of a displaced Italian community in one of America’s most turbulent years. Fiora is a forceful, determined protagonist among an intriguing cast of supporting characters.”

—Kirkus Reviews

# THE INFINITE NOW

## A NOVEL

MINDY TARQUINI

### DESCRIPTION:

On a rainy night in Philadelphia’s Ninth Street Market, sixteen-year-old Fiora, newly orphaned by the 1918 influenza epidemic, is dumped at an old man’s door. Daughter of the local fortune teller, Fiora arrives with a little money, a lot of attitude, and her mother’s formidable reputation. The old man, a widowed shoemaker ticking down his clock, is the only person in their superstitious immigrant community brave enough to stand between Fiora and an orphanage.

Fiora’s a modern, forward-thinking young woman, uninterested in using old-world magic to make a way for herself—but when her mother’s magical curtain shows her that the old man will shortly die of a heart attack, she panics and casts her entire neighborhood into a stagnant bubble of time. A bubble where everything continues but nothing progresses—tomatoes won’t ripen, babies refuse to be born, and the sick suffer under the weight of a never-ending stream of unspent seconds. Not everything in the bubble is bad. Love, fresh and fascinating, ignites. Friendships take root. But as day drags into interminable day, the pressure inside the bubble world builds. Fiora must accept that not everything found can be kept and not everything saved will remain—and that unless she finds the courage to collapse the bubble, every one of her hopes will be trapped inside an unbearable, unyielding, unpredictable, and infinite Now.

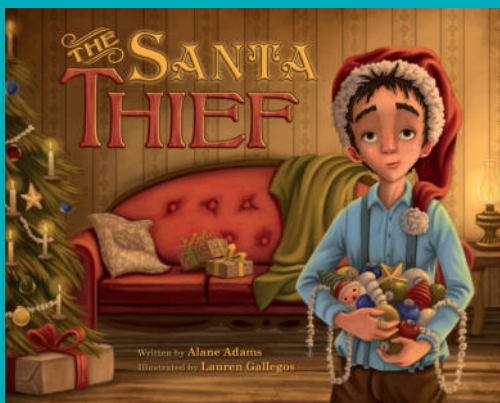
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Raised by traditional people in a modern world, Mindy Tarquini is a second-generation Italian American who grew up believing that dreams are prophecy, the devil steals lost objects, and an awkward glance can invite the evil eye. She is an assistant editor with the Lascaux Review and a member of the Perley Station Writers’ Colony, as well as the author of the novel *Hindsight*. A native Philadelphian, Tarquini resides in Phoenix with her husband. She loves writing heroines with special powers. Alas, she has none herself.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Winner, Fiction: LGBTQ
- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction/Fantasy, Finalist
- 2017 Foreword Indies Winner in Adult Fiction—Fantasy
- 2017 Foreword Indies Finalist in Adult Fiction—LGBT
- 2017 INDIES Book of the Year Finalist

NOVEMBER 2017



Publication Date: November 7, 2017

Collections: Children

Trim size: 8 x 10

Price: \$15.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-86-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-87-9

“The appealing illustrations glow with lamplight and provide many small details that ground this story in a Pennsylvania farmhouse in the 1920s, and Georgie’s dark eyebrows and freckles give him personality.”

—*School Library Journal*

“An entertaining story with a plucky main character, a problem-solver rather than a thief.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# THE SANTA THIEF

ALANE ADAMS, ILLUSTRATED BY  
LAUREN GALLEGOS

## DESCRIPTION:

It’s winter in Girard, Pennsylvania and the pond is completely frozen over—ready for a young boy to go skating!—but Georgie’s ice skates are too small. All Georgie wants for Christmas is a new pair of skates. But times are tough in 1920s Pennsylvania, and he gets the disappointing news Santa might not come this year. Follow Georgie as he decides to take matters into his own hands—and discovers what Christmas is all about. *The Santa Thief* is a heartwarming tale of boyhood set in 1920s Pennsylvania for children ages 4–8.

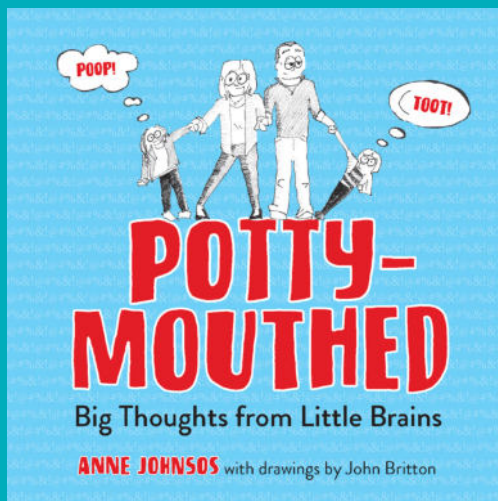
## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is a children’s author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, and *The Santa Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

## AWARDS:

- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Winner, Children’s Picture Book/Hardcover Fiction
- 2018 IPPY Awards: Gold Medal, Holiday

NOVEMBER 2017



Publication Date: November 21, 2017

Collections: Parenting, Educational

Trim size: 6 x 6

Price: \$19.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-30-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-31-1

# POTTY-MOUTHED

## BIG THOUGHTS FROM LITTLE BRAINS

**ANNE JOHNSOS**

**DRAWINGS BY JOHN BRITTON**

### **DESCRIPTION:**

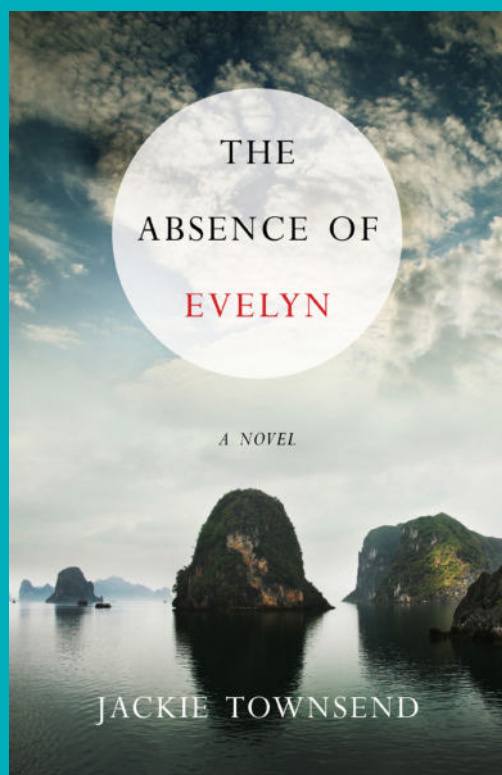
*Potty-Mouthed* documents actual conversations one mom has had with her smalls. And while that may sound saccharine and self-congratulatory, it's neither. It's a collection of oofs and acks with a sprinkling of aahs, and it's written the way kids talk. This is the book you give your friend who secretly agrees that kids are the meanest kind of truth tellers. This is the book you give your coworker who's about to be a parent and thinks it's all unicorns and lollipops. This is the book you give those grownups who chose not to play the parenting game. It's a chance for them to sit back and stroke their inner gloat. And, by the way, the illustrations are hilarious.

### **ABOUT THE AUTHOR:**

Anne Johnsos is an award-winning journalist determined to document the "oofs" and "acks" of parenting. After years of recording the ways her kids interpreted the world, she realized their words needed pictures, so she reconnected with John Britton, a fellow former performer from Yale who happens to be an illustrator, and *Potty-Mouthed* was born.



APRIL 2017



Publication Date: April 4, 2017

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-21-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-23-6

*“The Absence of Evelyn is a powerful testimony to the value of love, in all its forms, but also a testimony to the need to let go, whether of one’s own carefully-laid plans or of a loved one. One by one, the characters see their masks, their old comfortable behavior patterns, and their secrets stripped away, leaving only the core of who they really are and what they really want . . . an engaging book, with well-drawn characters set in vivid context, and an engrossing and thought-provoking plot.”*

—IndieReader

*“A careful examination of family ties with an international flavor.”*

—Kirkus Reviews

# THE ABSENCE OF EVELYN

## A NOVEL

JACKIE TOWNSEND

### DESCRIPTION:

Newly divorced Rhonda, haunted by her sister Evelyn’s ghost, travels to an old palazzo in Rome to confront Marco, the man who stole her sister’s heart—only to find out he’s vanished in the wake of Evelyn’s death. Meanwhile, Rhonda’s nineteen-year-old daughter Olivia, adopted by Rhonda at birth, travels to the mysterious and lush waters of northern Vietnam, where she’s been summoned by the missing Marco—a man she only knows from her parents’ whispers, a man she has never met or seen. Soon, truths are exposed and lives unraveled, and the real journey begins. Four lives in all, spanning three continents, are now bound together in an unfathomable way—and they tell a powerful story about love in all its incarnations, filial and amorous, healing and destructive.

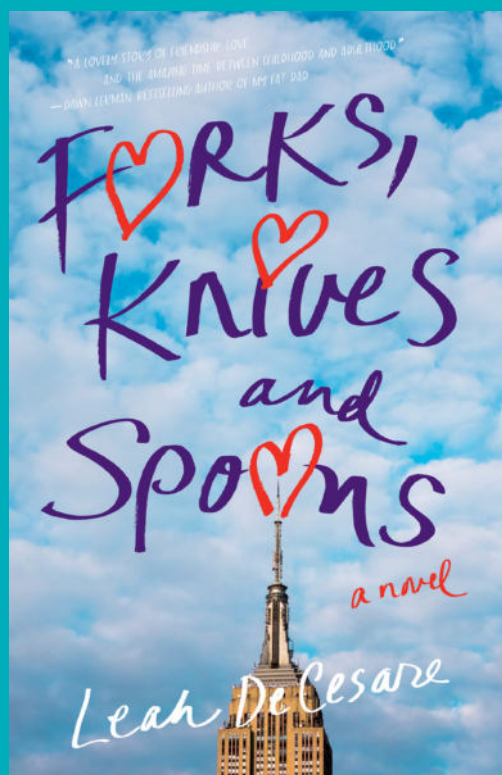
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jackie Townsend is the award-winning author of *Imperfect Pairings*. A native of Southern California with an MBA from UC Berkeley, she is a management consultant turned author. Married to an Italian and incessant world traveler, Townsend spends a lot of her time in places not her own. As the youngest of four children, she carries a strong sense of family with her to these places, often foreign, and writes about belonging (or not belonging), loss, and love. She lives in New York City with her husband, and sometimes they are even there at the same time.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 Next Generation Indie Awards: Finalist, General Fiction
- 2017 International Book Awards: Finalist, Women’s Lit
- 2017 NextGen Indie Book Awards: Chick Lit, finalist
- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction/Chick Lit/Women’s Lit, Finalist

APRIL 2017



Publication Date: April 18, 2017

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-10-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-11-3

“The novel’s construct of categorizing men’s qualities according to a Utensil Classification System when looking for a romantic partner is memorable, wittily practical, and has the power to influence readers’ real-life choices. For that, *Forks, Knives, and Spoons* breaks new ground.”

—The BookLife Prize

# FORKS, KNIVES, AND SPOONS

## A NOVEL

LEAH DECESARE

### DESCRIPTION:

There are three kinds of guys: forks, knives, and spoons. That is the final lesson Amy York’s father sends her off to college with, never suspecting just how far his daughter will take it. Clinging to the Utensil Classification System as her guide, Amy tries to convince her skeptical roommate, Veronica Warren, of its usefulness as they navigate the heartbreaks and soul mates of college and beyond. Beginning in 1988, their freshman year at Syracuse University, Amy and Veronica meet an assortment of guys—from slotted spoons and shrimp forks to butter knives and sporks—all while trying to learn if the UCS holds true. On the quest to find their perfect steak knives, they learn to believe in themselves—and not to settle in love or life.

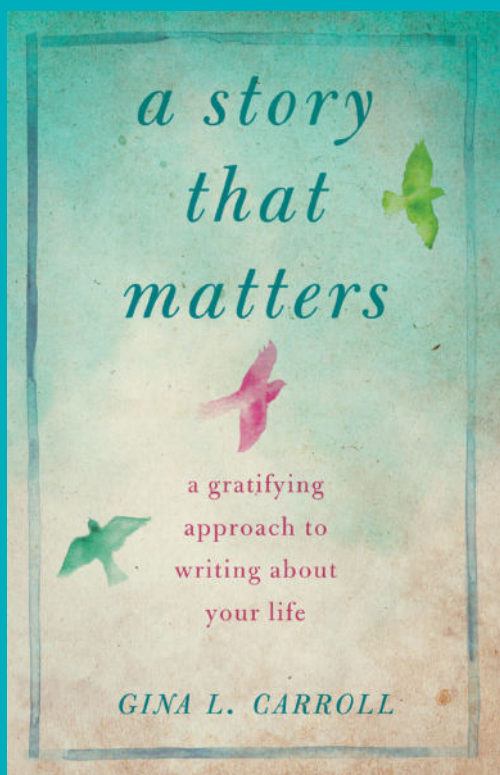
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Leah DeCesare is the author of the nonfiction parenting series *Naked Parenting*, based on her work as a doula, and an early parenting educator and mom of three. Her articles on parenting have been featured in the *Huffington Post*, the *International Doula*, and *The Key*, among others. In 2008 she cofounded the nonprofit *Doulas of Rhode Island*, and in 2013 she spearheaded the Campaign for Hope to build the *Kampala Children’s Centre for Hope and Wellness* in Uganda. In a past life, DeCesare worked in public relations and event planning. She now writes, teaches, and volunteers in Rhode Island, where she lives with her family and talking cockatiel.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 NYC Big Book Awards: Winner, Women’s Fiction
- 2017 Independent Press Awards Distinguished Favorites: New Fiction (First Time Published)
- 2017 National Indie Excellence Book Awards: Winner, Contemporary Fiction
- 2017 National Indie Excellence Book Awards: Women’s Fiction, Finalist
- 2017 IAN Book of the Year Awards: Winner, Women’s Fiction
- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Best New Fiction, Finalist

MAY 2017



Publication Date: May 2, 2017

Collections: Creative Writing, Reference

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-12-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-13-7

“Gina L. Carroll believes everyone has a story and a unique voice to tell it. She also thinks each account will impact others, which makes telling it almost a duty. This is especially true for women, people of color, and anyone struggling with a transformative experience. Carroll gently nudges, including practical strategies and personal examples, hopefully generating voices we’ve long needed to hear.”

—Nan Cuba, award-winning author of *Body and Bread*

# A STORY THAT MATTERS

A GRATIFYING APPROACH TO WRITING ABOUT YOUR LIFE

GINA L. CARROLL

## DESCRIPTION:

No matter who you are, your story is a part of something big—the fabric of history and the human experience. Once written and shared, it will change someone. And that someone is most likely you.

*A Story That Matters* offers an accessible and simplified way to get your stories written. Each chapter is divided into three sections: the first discusses memoir writing in the context of themes—motherhood, childhood, relationships, professional life, and spiritual journey; the second provides basic writing and editing prescription, with a focus on common beginner mistakes and roadblocks; and the third provides a sample story related to the life theme discussed in the first section of the chapter. Chock full of writing and editing lessons that focus on how to get a first draft written and how to craft that draft into a compelling story, *A Story That Matters* explores our ability to help, heal, and connect to others through story, reminding us of the greater need for a broader array of authentic voices in the story-sharing universe.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gina L. Carroll is an author, speaker, and editor who believes everyone has a story that matters. Also the author of *24 Things You Can Do with Social Media to Help Get into College*, she helps students use their social media to share their best stories and show their highest selves online; and as a partner at Inspired Wordsmith, a writing services business, Gina helps aspiring writers and business professionals get their life stories in print. Born and raised in Los Angeles, she currently lives with her husband and children in Houston, Texas.

## AWARDS:

- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Self-Help/Motivational, Finalist
- 2017 Living Now Book Awards: Bronze Medal, Personal Growth/Self-Help



MAY 2017



Publication Date: May 16, 2017

Collections: Literary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-14-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-15-1

“An often engaging and heartwarming novel . . .”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“The true wizardry of *The Half-Life of Remorse* is how the random intersection of two homeless men evolves into a story of irresistible forward motion, stunning revelations, deepest human complexities, and highest consequences. Underwriting this feat is Jarrett’s ability to inhabit his fated characters absolutely, conjuring their voices, their minds, their wounds, their guilt, their haunted and mingled histories, with such spooky fidelity that you feel you are each one of them, and all of them, all at once.”

—Tim Johnston, author of *New York Times* bestseller *Descent*

# THE HALF-LIFE OF REMORSE

## A NOVEL

GRANT JARRETT

### DESCRIPTION:

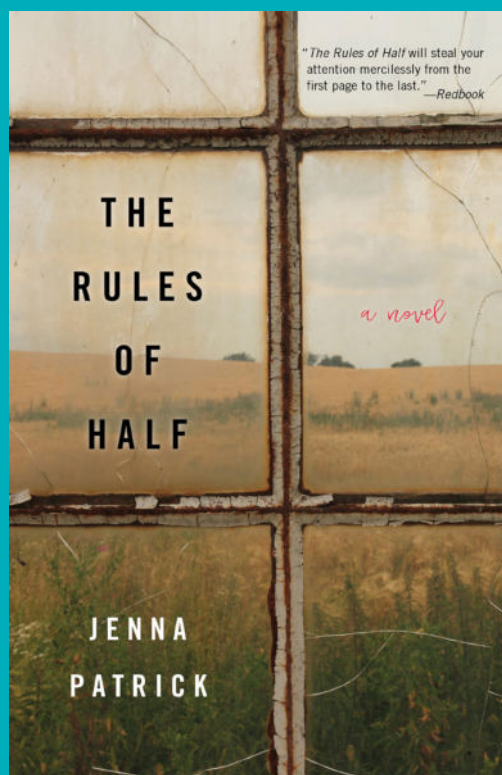
When two vagrants meet on the streets of Muncie, Indiana, they are both unaware that their paths crossed years before. Chic, crude and uneducated, is convinced that Sam is nothing more than a harmless lunatic, and Sam, emotionally scarred and psychologically traumatized by events long past, regards Chic as just another denizen of the street. But Chic has spent his adult life trying to purge his soul of the brutal crime he committed as a teenager—the same botched burglary that resulted in the deaths of Sam’s wife and son. Meanwhile, Sam’s daughter, Claire, is still unable to give up hope that her father might someday reappear.

When these three lives converge, the puzzle of the past gradually falls together, but redemption commands a high price, and what is revealed will test the limits of love and challenge the human capacity for forgiveness.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Originally from northeastern Pennsylvania, Grant Jarrett lived in Manhattan for twenty years before moving to Marin County, CA, where he now works as a writer, ghostwriter, editor, musician, and occasional songwriter. His publishing credits include numerous magazine articles, essays, short stories, and *More Towels*, his coming-of-age memoir about life on the road. His debut novel, *Ways of Leaving*, won the Best New Fiction category in the 2014 International Book Awards. *The House That Made Me*, his 2016 anthology about the meaning of home, was chosen as an *Elle* “Trust Us” book. Jarrett is an avid cyclist, skier, and surf skier.

JUNE 2017



Publication Date: June 6, 2017

Collections: Contemporary Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-18-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-19-9

"In her debut novel, Patrick writes with sensitivity about the trials of mental illness for both sufferers and caregivers. . . . [A] novel that's strengthened by its attention to how people forgive and connect."

—Kirkus Reviews

"In her debut novel, *The Rules of Half*, Patrick flawlessly delivers both a deeply thoughtful depiction of mental illness and a heartwarming, and dare I say humorous, story about the scars people carry, the healing power of human connections, and the wondrous child that lives in us all."

—Brady Stefani, award-winning author of *The Alienation of Courtney Hoffman*

# THE RULES OF HALF

## A NOVEL

JENNA PATRICK

### DESCRIPTION:

If Will Fletcher's severe bipolar disorder isn't proof he shouldn't be a parent, his infant daughter's grave is. Once a happily married, successful veterinarian, he now lives with his sister and thrives as the small-town crazy of Half Moon Hollow. But when a fifteen-year-old orphan claims she's his daughter, Will is forced back into the role he fears most: fatherhood.

Her biological dad isn't the hero Regan Whitmer hoped for, but he's better than her abusive stepfather back in Chicago. Still haunted by her mother's suicide and the rebellious past she fears led to it, Regan is desperate for a stable home and a normal family—things Will can't offer. Can she ride the highs and lows of his illness to find a new definition of family?

*The Rules of Half* explores what it is to be an atypical family in a small town and to be mentally ill in the wake of a tragedy—and who has the right to determine both.

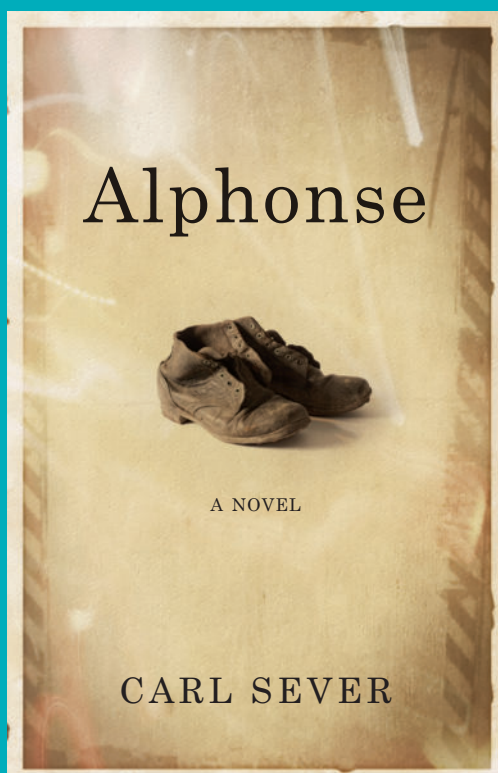
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Raised in northern Ohio, Jenna Patrick moved to North Carolina in 1998 to attend the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, where she received a Bachelor of Science in civil engineering. After ten years of devoting her brain to science and math, she returned to her true passion: writing fiction. She and her husband reside on Lake Norman with their two daughters and two rescue dogs. *The Rules of Half* is her debut novel.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Best New Fiction, Finalist

JUNE 2017



Publication Date: June 27, 2017

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-24-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-25-0

# ALPHONSE

## A NOVEL

CARL SEVER

### DESCRIPTION:

After twenty years of riding the rails, Alphonse has earned a reputation for being a kindhearted soul always ready to help. When he helps the Sadlers, a young couple seeking a better life in small-town 1950s Indiana, he doesn't intend to stay. But stay he does, keeping a close eye on the Sadlers and their two young sons—and an even closer eye on the town's new priest, Father Brennon. On the surface, Brennon seems perfect for the job—but Alphonse crossed paths with him years earlier in the railyard jungle, and he knows better. Brennon doesn't recognize Alphonse, but Alphonse has never forgotten Brennon . . . or his crimes. So when Brennon assigns the Sadlers' son, Francis, who is now thirteen, the thankless task of cleaning and maintaining the church's bell tower—work that often continues into the night—Alphonse immediately grows suspicious. Soon, he discovers that his worst fears have come to pass, and he races to find a way to protect Francis and reveal the truth to the Sadler family.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

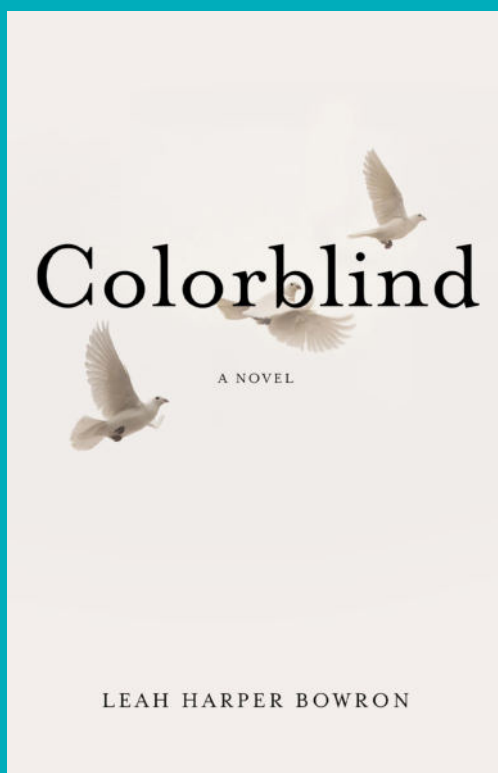
Carl Sever began writing fiction in part because of his interest in the 1930s Dust Bowl, hobo culture and lore, and small-town midwestern life, especially in areas dominated by the Roman Catholic Church. His writing has also been an important part of recovery from a traumatic brain injury he suffered in a car accident in 1990. Sever has been a teacher, a journalist, and nature photographer. He has also been a businessman and co-owner of an exclusive wholesale photo lab. He's an avid outdoorsman, passionate fly-fisherman, and adventurer who has explored the mountains of Colorado, Montana, Canada, and Alaska. His travels have taken him to Costa Rica and Panama, reinforcing his study of Spanish as a second language. He's a lifelong learner, with studies ranging from screenwriting and sculpture to nature photography. *Alphonse* is his first novel.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 Beverly Hills Book Award Winner in General Fiction
- 2017 Beverly Hills Book Award Finalist in New Fiction
- 2017 International Book Awards: Fiction, General, Finalist
- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction, General, Finalist
- 2018 IPPY Awards: Gold Medal, Best First Book-Fiction



JULY 2017



Publication Date: July 11, 2017

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-08-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-09-0

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“Bowron’s debut novel is a short and fast-paced novel that will appeal to reluctant readers . . . The story demonstrates the bravery required to stand up to ignorance and cruelty; readers will appreciate the overall message of tolerance and acceptance embedded in this historical fiction novel.”

—VOYA Magazine

# COLORBLIND

## A NOVEL

LEAH HARPER BOWRON

### DESCRIPTION:

The time is 1968. The place is Montgomery, Alabama.

The story is one of resilience in the face of discrimination and bullying. Using the racially charged word “Negro,” two Caucasian boys repeatedly bully Miss Annie Loomis—the first African American teacher at the all-white Wyatt Elementary School. At the same time, using the hateful word “harelip,” the boys repeatedly bully Miss Loomis’s eleven-year-old Caucasian student, Lisa Parker, who was born with cleft palate and cleft lip. Who will best the bullies? Only Lisa’s mood ring knows for sure.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Leah Harper Bowron is a lawyer and James Joyce scholar. Her article “Coming of Age in Alabama: Ex parte Devine Abolishes the Tender Years Presumption” was published in the *Alabama Law Review*. She recently lectured on Joyce’s novel *Ulysses* at the University of London and the Universite de Reims. She lives in Texas and has a daughter named Sarah and a cat named Jamie.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 International Book Awards: Best New Fiction, Finalist
- 2017 International Book Awards: Social Change, Finalist
- 2017 Living Now Book Awards: Silver Medal, Inspirational Fiction

JULY 2017



Publication Date: July 18, 2017

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-16-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-17-5

“The Wendy Darling series is a gripping adventure and the final installment does not disappoint. *Shadow* provides a satisfying conclusion to Wendy and Peter’s story, with Wendy far from the prim, strait-laced girl of her beginnings.”

—VOYA Magazine

“The soaring conclusion to a brilliant trilogy, *Shadow* is the icing on Colleen Oakes’s masterful retelling of the Peter Pan and Wendy story. Oakes sweeps us along effortlessly to a jaw-dropping climax that will leave readers gasping and crying for more.”

—Alane Adams, award-winning author of the Legends of Orkney series

# WENDY DARLING

## VOLUME 3: SHADOW

COLLEEN OAKES

### DESCRIPTION:

Wendy Darling has found herself once again in the arms of charming Peter Pan, the god-child who desires power above all things. This time, though, Wendy burns not with passion but with a secret: with Hook as her ally, she is there to defeat the evil that lies inside of Peter, the evil that holds all Neverland hostage—the Shadow.

To do this, Wendy must quietly undo Peter from inside his heart while at the same time convincing Tink to betray the twisted love that binds them together. This is a task made nearly impossible by the arrival of Booth, her sweetheart from London and a new pawn in Peter’s manipulative game—a boy whose heart she must break in order to save his life. As all of Neverland prepares to fight, Wendy races to untangle Peter’s connection to the Shadow, a secret long buried in the Forsaken Garden. When the time comes, pirates, mermaids, Lost Boys, and the Darling family will all rise—but if Wendy can’t call the Shadow, they will all be destroyed by Peter’s dark soul. War has come to paradise, and Neverland will never be the same. *Wendy Darling: Shadow* is the thrilling final installment in Colleen Oakes’s Wendy Darling Trilogy.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

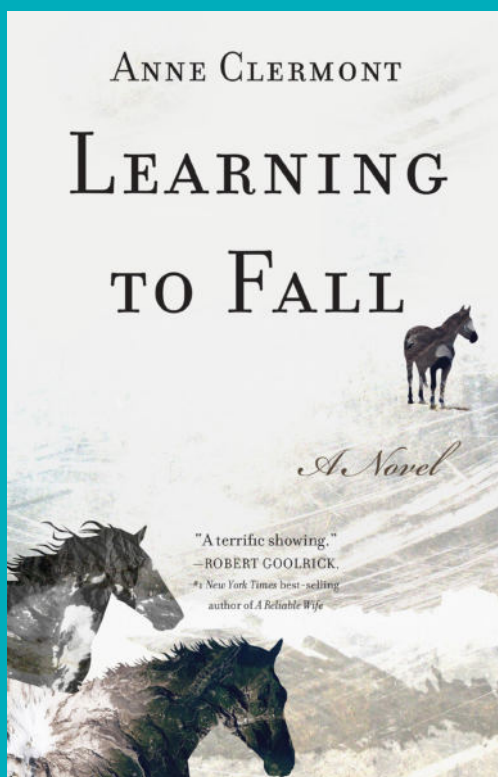
Colleen Oakes is the author of books for both teens and adults, including The Queen of Hearts Saga and the Wendy Darling Saga. She lives in North Denver with her husband and son and surrounds herself with the most lovely family and friends imaginable. When not writing or plotting new books, she can be found swimming, traveling, and totally immersing herself in nerdy pop culture. She is currently at work on her third YA fantasy series, a children’s book, and a stand-alone YA novel.

2016





AUGUST 2016



Publication Date: August 2, 2016

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-78-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-79-4

“In her debut novel, *Learning to Fall*, Anne Clermont tells a compelling, page-turning story about one young woman’s search for success and love in the world of horse show jumping. Clermont writes with great compassion and insight. I thoroughly enjoyed this novel.”

—Ellen Sussman, *New York Times* best-selling author of *French Lessons* and *A Wedding in Provence*

“Clermont’s passionate storytelling captures the essence of life as an equestrian.”

—John Pearce, Canadian Show Jumping Team Olympian

# LEARNING TO FALL

## A NOVEL

ANNE CLERMONT

### DESCRIPTION:

Brynn honors her passion for horses by studying at the toughest veterinary program in the country. Months from graduating, tragedy strikes—tragedy for which she can’t help but feel responsible. Brynn feels suffocated by the weight of her father’s legacy and his dusty hopes for horse show jumping success. When her frenetic efforts to dig the family business out of debt fail, she’s down to one desperate hope. Enter Jason Lander, who understands what it’s like to walk away from the ring. The one-time champion agrees to train Brynn, and her horse Jett, for an all-or-nothing run at the prestigious Million Dollar Gold Cup. But going all the way means doing it his way, which has Brynn questioning her decisions, her loyalties, and her growing feelings for Jason—complicating her relationship with her lover. Set in Northern California against a stunning backdrop of coastal hills and valleys, *Learning to Fall* is about discovering how to let go—and how to hang on with your heart. Fans of *Seabiscuit* and *The Horse Whisperer* will love this beautifully written debut—and are bound to add it to their shelf of favorites.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Anne Clermont is a Canadian living in the US, born in Kraków and raised outside of Toronto. She spent fifteen years in California before relocating to the beautiful Pacific Northwest. She holds a BS in animal biology and an MBA. Her background ranges from studying animal behavior to carrying out pancreatic cancer research at one of the world’s largest and most innovative biotech companies. Inspired to write *Learning to Fall* in part by her own experience of running a show jumping business, she now devotes her time to writing and working as a developmental editor. She lives on an island in the middle of Puget Sound with her husband and two children.

### AWARDS:

• 2016 Foreword INDIE: General, Finalist

SEPTEMBER 2016



Publication Date: September 6, 2016

Collections: Middle Grade Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback /

\$24.00 hardcover / \$9.95 ebook

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-84-8

“Adams is a master of exposition, never letting it slow the narrative by immersing it in rapid-fire dialogue . . . Indelible characters, both good and evil, and a rescue storyline that refuses to dawdle.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Combined with strong female leads, both heroic and villainous, the ever growing and changing cast of characters has something for everyone. Fantasy, mythology, a touch of romance, and enough sword fights and battles to appease even the most action-hungry make *Kalifus Rising* a well-rounded, solid choice for those craving a new type of adventure.”

—*Foreword Reviews*, five-star review

# KALIFUS RISING

## LEGENDS OF ORKNEY, BOOK 2

ALANE ADAMS

### DESCRIPTION:

Sam Baron just freed Orkney from the ravages of the Red Sun—but now, imprisoned by Catriona, leader of the Volgrim Witches, Sam finds the darker side of his half-god, half-witch heritage released, and he fears he might destroy what he saved. Unable to resist the witches’ enchantments, Sam has become their most potent weapon and is leading an army of monstrous men against Skara Brae. Sam’s only hope for salvation lies with his three best friends and a mystical artifact known as the Moon Pearl. Keely travels north in search of the pearl, while Howie prepares for the gathering onslaught. Leo seeks a powerful artifact in the underworld, and faces an ancient evil that could be an even greater threat than Catriona and her cronies.

As Sam’s friends rush to save him, other forces are at work in Orkney’s shadows—forces that could help free Sam, or condemn him to the darkness forever.

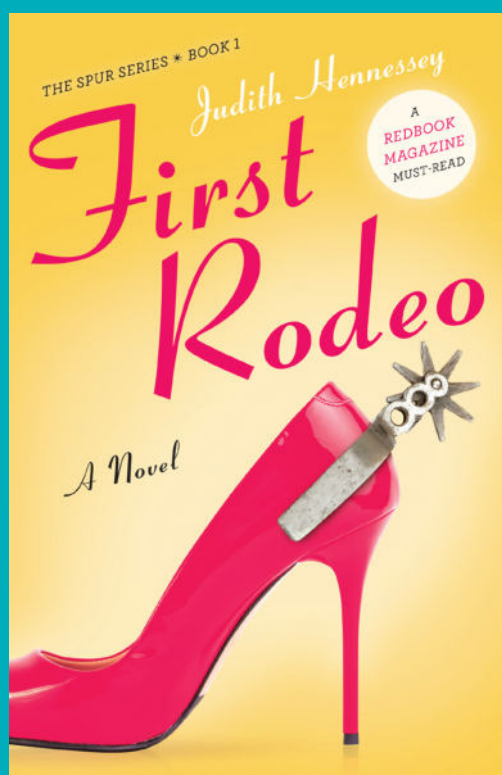
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is an author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, and *The Santa Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

### AWARDS:

- A #1 hot new release pick on Amazon
- 2017 NextGen Indie Book Awards: Winner, Children’s/Juvenile Fiction
- 2017 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards: Gold Medal for both Children/Young
- Adult Cover Design and Young Reader Fiction
- 2017, 2016 International Book Awards: Fiction: Young Adult Finalist
- 2017, 2015 USA Best Book Awards: Best Cover Design: Fiction, Winner
- 2016 USA Best Book Awards: Children’s Fiction, Winner
- Beverly Hills Book Award: Best Juvenile Fiction, Winner
- 2016 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards: Best New Voice Children’s/Young Adult, Silver Medal
- Readers Favorite Awards Children Preteen: Silver Medal Winner

SEPTEMBER 2016



Publication Date: September 20, 2016

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-03-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-04-5

*Booklist* named *First Rodeo* one of the Top 10 Romance Debuts of 2016.

“... at its heart this story about a single mother blazing new trails after finding business success is plenty appealing.”

—*Booklist*

“*First Rodeo* is a celebration of one of life’s most underrated truths: The most precious relationship is the one you have with yourself.”

—*Redbook*

# FIRST RODEO

## A NOVEL

JUDITH HENNESSEY

\*Please note that the first printing of Judith’s novel, *First Rodeo*, has transposed pages (a printer error). SparkPress is eager to remove these books from circulation and replace all misprinted copies free of charge. If you have one of these books, please contact Lauren Wise (lauren@sparkpointstudio.com) for a replacement copy.

### DESCRIPTION:

Kate is an attractive, thirty-something-year-old workaholic single mother with a tendency of always pleasing others. At the top of her “yes” list is her sometimes surly and controlling boss: her father. But when a crisis at work spurs Kate to examine her life, she surprises everyone by taking her young son and heading where few high heels have ever gone: Wyoming, home to more cows than humans. There, at the Prickly Pear Ranch, she meets a young, sexy bull rider who’s lived a lifetime in just over two decades and is full of big dreams of training horses. His passion fuels Kate’s dormant dreams of becoming an artist, and sparks fly—and once again, Kate shocks everyone, even herself, and jumps on for the romantic ride of her life. Fast-paced and wildly entertaining, *First Rodeo* is filled with humorous scenes of a city girl gone country, encounters with handsome cowboys, the struggles of the creative process, and a powerful message: the greatest love of all is the love you have for yourself.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

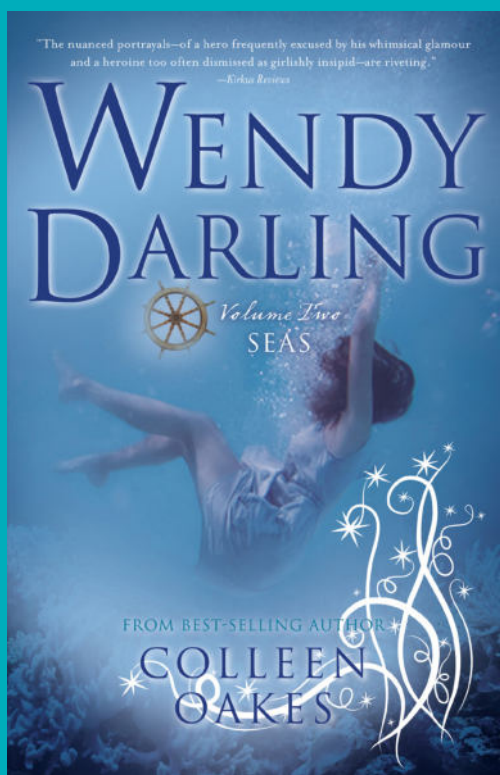
Judith Hennessey was in the automobile industry for twenty-five years, formerly operated her own advertising agency, and is a full-time writer. Her works have appeared in multiple magazines and newspapers, including the *St. Louis Post-Dispatch*. Actively involved in the film industry, she is the executive producer of *20 Ways*, an award-winning short film; has served on the board of New Mexico Women in Film; and is partners in the New Mexico–based production company White Crow Raven Productions. She is also a cowriter of the screenplay adaptation of *First Rodeo*. Judy lives on an organic farm with her husband in Missouri.

### AWARDS:

- 2016 USA Best Book Awards: Best New Fiction, Finalist
- 2016 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction, Chick Lit/Women’s Lit, Finalist



SEPTEMBER 2016



Publication Date: September 20, 2016

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-88-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-00-7

“For readers craving a whimsical adventure and an unforgettable sequel to the first *Wendy Darling*, this swashbuckling plot will leave readers stunned well beyond the last page.”

—*The Reading Room*

“In this extraordinary, stunningly written adventure, readers will encounter a darkly suspenseful twist on an old tale which reminds readers of every age of a Neverland-lesson: we never truly grow up.”

—*Redbook*

# WENDY DARLING

## VOLUME TWO: SEAS

COLLEEN OAKES

### DESCRIPTION:

From the author of *Queen of Hearts* comes the much-anticipated sequel to *Wendy Darling*.

*Wendy Darling: Seas* finds Wendy and Michael aboard the dreaded *Sudden Night*, a dangerous behemoth sailed by the infamous Captain Hook and his bloodthirsty crew. In this exotic world of mermaids, spies, and pirate feuds, Wendy finds herself struggling to keep her family above the waves. Hunted by the twisted boy who once stole her heart and struggling to survive in the whimsical Neverland sea, returning home to London now seems like a distant dream—and the betrayals have just begun. Will Wendy find shelter with Peter’s greatest enemy, or is she a pawn in a much darker game, one that could forever alter not only her family’s future but also the soul of Neverland itself?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Colleen Oakes is the author of books for both teens and adults, including the *Queen of Hearts* Saga and the *Wendy Darling* Saga. She lives in North Denver with her husband and son and surrounds herself with the most lovely family and friends imaginable. When not writing or plotting new books, she can be found swimming, traveling, and totally immersing herself in nerdy pop culture. She is currently at work on her third YA fantasy series, a children’s book, and a stand-alone YA novel.

OCTOBER 2016



Publication Date: October 4, 2016

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-82-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-83-1

“What goes best with professional affairs? A lover who cons you. Fans of the *The Catch* will simply consume this entertaining cocktail of first love and business acquisitions which will put our heroine in the ultimate conundrum: should she follow her heart and risk losing everything or choose the safety net of her career? Gorgeously entertaining, expertly crafted and wildly addictive, readers of *Hostile Takeover* will be left with a stomach full of butterflies and a new favorite soul-warming love story on their bookshelf.”

—*Elle* magazine

# HOSTILE TAKEOVER

## A LOVE STORY

PHYLLIS J. PIANO

### DESCRIPTION:

Long-lost love, a hostile corporate takeover, and the death of her beloved husband send attorney Molly Parr's life into a tailspin that threatens to ruin everything she has worked for. Molly's all-consuming job is to take over other companies, but when her first love, a man who she feels betrayed her, appears out of nowhere to try and acquire her business, long-hidden passions and secrets are exposed.

Can Molly trust the man who broke her heart years ago, and who may be manipulating her now to get what he wants? Further complicating matters is the reemergence of her lost love's brother, who was a dear friend and knows the shocking truth about their past. As Molly painfully revisits the old betrayal, she partners with her boss and mentor to fight the takeover at all costs—and the chaos that ensues forces her to chart a dramatic new direction for her life. She must decide: does she have the courage to follow her heart and expose her painful past—a decision that may cost her everything?

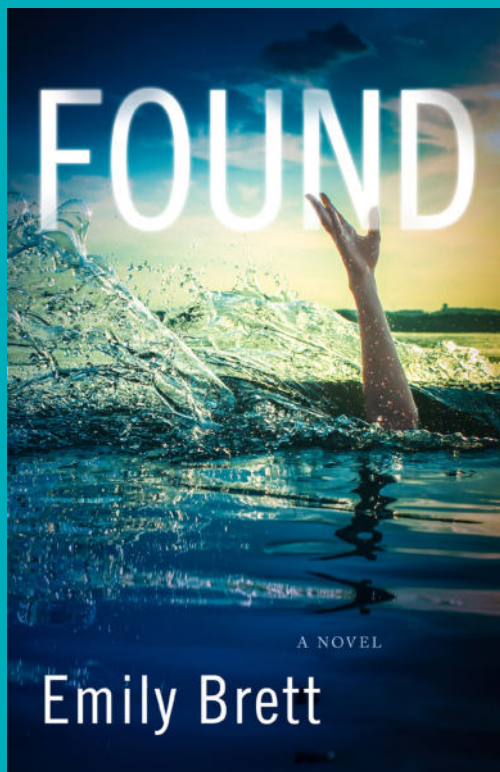
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Phyllis J. Piano spent more than thirty years as an award-winning corporate communications expert for some of the world's largest companies. She has somehow managed to maintain her sense of humor, love of writing, and passion for life and the people she loves and cares about throughout it all. A world traveler, Piano has since left the corporate world and fallen back into the arms of her own first love: writing. She and her husband split their time between California, England, and the Midwest. When she is not packing a bag, making artisan sourdough bread, or cooking with lots of garlic, Piano is working on a screenplay and her next novel.

### AWARDS:

- 2016 Best Book Award: Fiction, Chick Lit/Women's Lit, Finalist
- 2017 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards: Fiction Romance, Finalist
- 2017 National Indie Excellence Awards: Romance, Finalist
- 2017 Independent Press Awards: Winner, Romance

OCTOBER 2016



Publication Date: October 18, 2016

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-80-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-81-7

“Brett’s nursing background imbues her writing with authentic details of the physical and emotional challenges of patient care.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“Full of adventures to exciting and exotic places with colorful characters and sexy men, *Found* is a fast-paced debut novel with unexpected twists and turns.”

—Elena Mikalsen, PhD, clinical psychologist and member of the Women’s Fiction Writers Association

# FOUND

## A NOVEL

EMILY BRETT

### DESCRIPTION:

Twenty-seven-year-old ICU nurse Natalie Ulster has a desire to see the world, in case she dies young like her mother, and a need to heal, which is compensation for her own damaged heart. Armed with an independence and self-reliance that stems from her father’s emotional abandonment—and wanting to separate herself from a deranged nurse whose husband just died under suspicious circumstances on Natalie’s watch—Natalie grabs life by the globe and accepts successive assignments in Belize, Australia, and Arizona. When she meets Dr. Joel Lansfield, a physician who is also familiar with grief, she finds that Joel sees her for the strong woman she is and loves her for all she has yet to figure out—but she’s not sure she’s ready to make room in her heart for love.

Desperate to maintain her emotional distance from Joel, Natalie continues to travel. In each country, however, she finds herself confronted with near-death accidents, from a poisoned drink to a severe food allergy to being thrown overboard in the Great Barrier Reef. Too many coincidences force her to ask herself a frightening question: Is someone trying to kill her?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

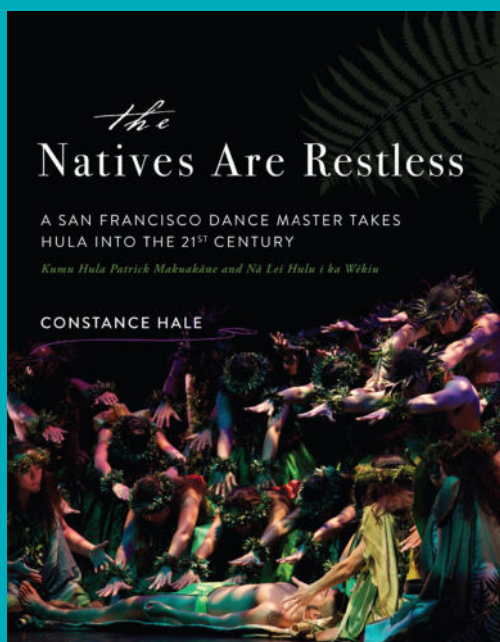
Emily Brett received her first bachelor’s degree from the University of Colorado Boulder in kinesiology, after which she went on to Arizona State University to receive a bachelor’s degree in nursing. While working as an ICU nurse, she earned a master’s degree in nursing at Arizona State. She is board-certified as an Adult Nurse Practitioner and has been in the nursing profession for over ten years. Presently she serves on the Advanced Practice Committee with the Arizona State Board of Nursing and shares a medical practice with her husband, a physician. She has been published in a number of medical journals, including *The Journal for Nurse Practitioners* and the *Online Journal of Nursing Scholarship*. She is also a member of the Women’s Fiction Writers Association.

### AWARDS:

• 2016 Best Book Award: Best New Fiction, Finalist



OCTOBER 2016



Publication Date: October 11, 2016

Collections: Performing Arts, Dance

Trim size: 11.5 x 9

Price: \$40.00 hardcover

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-06-9

**Praise for Kumu Patrick Makuakāne and  
Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu:**

“The departures from the traditional, lovingly preserved and beautifully danced, were the most fascinating parts of the evening. Mr. Makuakāne retained the purity of the form and intent in choreography that clearly held tradition in esteem.”

—*The New York Times*

“Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu is something else. Lines of dancers provided an ineffably smooth unison reminiscent of the best corps de ballet moments of classical masterpieces. The lasting aftereffect is something like having seen flowers that breathe and butterflies that think.”

—*Los Angeles Times*

# THE NATIVES ARE RESTLESS

## A SAN FRANCISCO DANCE MASTER TAKES HULA INTO THE 21ST CENTURY

### CONSTANCE HALE

#### DESCRIPTION:

The art of hula is thriving in cities all over the country and the world, but it is not always understood. In *The Natives Are Restless*, journalist Constance Hale presents the largely untold story of the dance tradition, using the twin keyholes of Kumu Patrick Makuakāne, a Hawai'i-born, San Francisco-based hula master and his 350-person arts organization, Nā Lei Hulu I Ka Wēkiu. In the background, she weaves the poignant story of an ancient people and the resilience of their culture. In the foreground, she tells the story of an electrifying new form of hula that has emerged from a restless generation of artists like Makuakāne. The crisp narrative is complemented by full-color photographs and illustrations. Hale's love for hula, and her history with the dance, inform her prose on every level. She makes Makuakāne's exuberant, fierce, sensuous dance style come alive on the page.

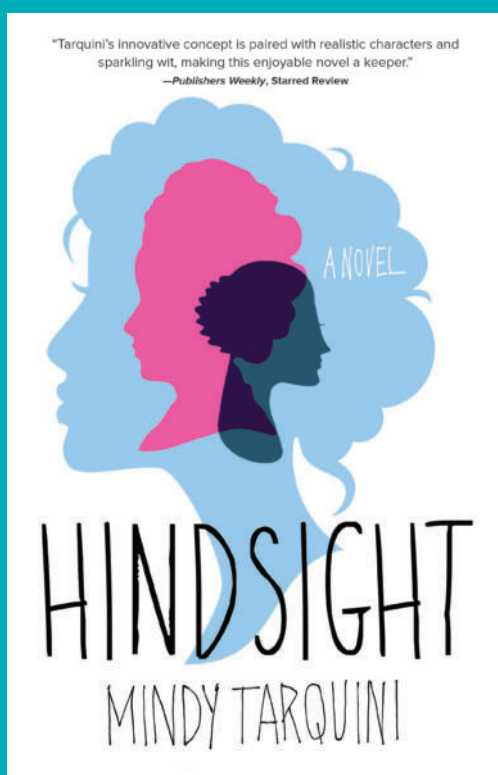
#### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Constance Hale is a Hawai'i-born, San Francisco-based journalist who has been writing about Hawaiian culture for more than twenty-five years. Her award-winning features on slack-key guitar, the sovereignty movement, the Hawaiian language, Big Island cowboys, and Spam sushi have appeared in *The Atlantic*, *National Geographic Adventure*, *Afar*, *Smithsonian*, the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Miami Herald*, and *Honolulu Magazine*. She has also worked as a staff reporter and editor at the *Oakland Tribune*, the *San Francisco Examiner*, *Wired*, and *Health* magazine. She has written three books on language and literary style, including the best-selling *Sin and Syntax*, and her eight-part series on writing a sentence is on *The New York Times*'s “Opinionator.” Hale started dancing the hula at seven and performed each year in May Day festivals at Hale'iwa Elementary School, switching to ballet and jazz dance while at Punahou School and Princeton University. She holds a bachelor's degree from Princeton and a master's degree from UC Berkeley. She has studied hula with Patrick Makuakāne for twenty years and edits the hālau's annual newsletter, *Kaholo'ana*.

#### AWARDS:

- 2017 USA Best Book Awards Finalist in Performing Arts: Film, Theater, Dance, Music

NOVEMBER 2016



Publication Date: November 8, 2016

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-943006-01-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-943006-02-1

**Redbook Best Book of 2016**

*“Hindsight is an evocative and inventive reincarnation tale. Drawing on snippets of wisdom from long-gone literary giants, including Chaucer, Dante, Goethe, and Kipling, Tarquini illustrates the eternal universality of human behavior . . . the narrative emphasizes the importance of acting in the here and now: saying what should be said, forgiving what needs to be forgiven, embracing opportunities to deepen connections with others, and seizing moments of happiness when they’re presented.”*

—Foreword Reviews, five-star review, Book of the Day Selection

# HINDSIGHT

## A NOVEL

MINDY TARQUINI

### DESCRIPTION:

Eugenia Panisporchi, a thirty-three-year-old Chaucer professor who remembers all her past lives, is desperate to change her future.

Born this time around into an Italian American family so traditional that neither she nor any of her adult siblings have escaped their mother’s tiny South Philly row home, Eugenia lives a simple life—no love connection, no controversy, no complications. Her hope is that the Blessed Virgin Mary (who oversees her soul’s progress) will grant her heart’s desire, the option to choose the circumstances of her next life. But when a student reveals that he shares her ability, Eugenia suddenly finds herself setting up a Facebook page and sponsoring a support group for others like her—an oddball odyssey during which she discovers she must confront her current shortcomings before she can break the cycle and finally live the life of her dreams.

A layered contemporary fable, *Hindsight* reminds us to live this life like it’s the only one we’ll have.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Raised by traditional people in a modern world, Mindy Tarquini is a second-generation Italian American who grew up believing dreams are prophecy, the devil steals lost objects, and an awkward glance can invite the evil eye. She is an assistant editor with *The Lascaux Review* and a member of the Perley Station Writers’ Colony. A native Philadelphian, Ms. Tarquini resides in Phoenix with her husband, where she divides her time between writing and wrestling with her bread machine. She does not have hindsight.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Award: Gold Medal, Fiction/Science Fiction/Fantasy
- 2016 Best Book Award: Fiction, General, Finalist

APRIL 2016



Publication Date: April 5, 2016

Collections: Nonfiction, For Women

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-58-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-57-2

“Brutally honest and laugh-out-loud funny, with chapters short enough to read between trips to the bathroom, this is a welcome addition to the expectant parent’s bookshelf.”

—Booklist

“You won’t find out what fruit your budding babe resembles, but you will get her sometimes humorous, always candid take on baby-making—the good, the bad and the gross— so you’re prepared for it all.”

—Pregnancy and Newborn Magazine

# FUNNY LITTLE PREGNANT THINGS

THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE UGLY PREGNANCY FACTS  
THOSE OTHER BOOKS WON'T TELL YOU

EMILY DOHERTY

## DESCRIPTION:

Today’s pregnancy books may no longer recommend martinis and cigarettes to help pregnant women relax, but most offer moms an abundance of worthless information—like what kind of fruit your baby is the size of at Week 16. Is there any practical value in knowing that your child resembles produce? And where’s the good stuff—the useful details, like beware of the baby registry and all the crap you will never use, and be prepared to get breast milk all over everything you own?

Hilarious, candid, and easy to read, *Funny Little Pregnant Things* is full of helpful information about all the stuff people don’t tell you about pregnancy—the good, the bad, and the ugly.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Emily Doherty is a full-time working mother of two. A graduate of Northeastern University and once an avid rugby player, she is driven to succeed. She is currently a director of mutual fund sales for MFS Investment Management, where she has spent the last eight years educating financial advisors as well as doing public presentations on the stock market and other investment related topics. When she is not traveling around the state of Virginia and Washington, DC, Doherty is at home with her husband, Patrick, raising her two young sons, Cullen and Lachlan.

## AWARDS:

- Next Generation Indie Book Awards 2016: Gift/Specialty/Novelty: Finalist



APRIL 2016



Publication Date: April 5, 2016

Collections: Children

Trim size: 10 x 8

Price: \$15.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-36-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-37-4

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*Kirkus Reviews* Best Indie Book of 2016

“A delightful take on the theme of a boy and his dog, full of detailed—and frequently funny—images and a valuable message about paying attention to the needs of your neighbors . . . Adams uses challenging, but perfectly appropriate, vocabulary words . . . The story’s hint about the importance of kindness resonates, especially in light of so many recent news reports about bullying.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“This Depression-era tale gently impacts lessons about persistence, honesty, and helping those in need.”

—*Foreword Reviews*

# THE EGG THIEF

ALANE ADAMS, ILLUSTRATED BY  
LAUREN GALLEGOS

## DESCRIPTION:

Young Georgie wakes up to a morning of chores back in 1920s Pennsylvania when he gets the bad news: someone has stolen all the eggs in the henhouse. The culprit is Buster, a stray dog who takes Georgie on an adventure to find more eggs. Follow Buster and Georgie and their mischievous antics in this heartwarming tale of farm life in America’s storied past.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alane Adams is a children’s author, professor, and literacy advocate. She is the author of the Legends of Orkney fantasy mythology series for tweens and *The Coal Thief*, *The Egg Thief*, and *The Santa Thief*, picture books for early-grade readers. She lives in Southern California.

## AWARDS:

- *Kirkus* Indie Book of the Month, May 2016
- 2017 Foreword Indie: Picture Book Finalist
- 2017 IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards: Children’s Picture Book (4–7 years), Finalist
- Starred *Kirkus* review

APRIL 2016



the  
WRITERS REFLECT  
house  
ON THE PLACES  
that  
AND PEOPLE THAT  
made  
DEFINED THEM  
me

edited by GRANT JARRETT, author of *Ways of Leaving*

Publication Date: April 12, 2016

Collections: Nonfiction,

Literary Collection, Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-31-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-32-9

Featured as an *Elle* magazine's "Trust Us" book, May 2016

"Slim and succinct, this exquisite compilation shows how the universal nature of childhood experiences trump both cultural and geographical differences."

—*Library Journal*, starred review

# THE HOUSE THAT MADE ME

WRITERS REFLECT ON THE PLACES AND  
PEOPLE THAT DEFINED THEM  
EDITED BY GRANT JARRETT

## DESCRIPTION:

Home—the place where we were born, where we learned our first lessons, where family was defined. The very notion evokes powerful feelings, feelings as individual as our fingerprints, as enduring as the universe, and as inescapable as gravity. In this candid, evocative collection of essays, a diverse group of acclaimed authors reflects on the diverse homes, neighborhoods, and experiences that helped shape them—using Google Earth software to revisit the location in the process. Moving and life-affirming, this poignant anthology gives fresh insight into the concept of Home. Essays include submissions by several award-winning authors, including Alice Eve Cohen, Antonya Nelson, Tim Johnston, Jeffrey Renard Allen, Lee Upton, and more.

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Originally from northeastern Pennsylvania, Grant Jarrett lived in Manhattan for twenty years before moving to Marin County, CA, where he now works as a writer, ghostwriter, editor, musician, and occasional songwriter. His publishing credits include numerous magazine articles, essays, short stories, and *More Towels*, his coming-of-age memoir about life on the road. His debut novel, *Ways of Leaving*, won the Best New Fiction category in the 2014 International Book Awards. *The House That Made Me*, his 2016 anthology about the meaning of home, was chosen as an *Elle* "Trust Us" book. Jarrett is an avid cyclist, skier, and surf skier.

MAY 2016



Publication Date: May 3, 2016

Collection: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-33-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-71-8

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Author was included in *Forbes* magazine's "Top Women to Follow on Twitter"

Named a "Best Book of Spring" by *Redbook* magazine

"Rouda deftly examines the difficult transition parents and their children face as they prepare for the end of one life and the beginning of another . . . a compelling story and a thoughtful examination of the nature of change and the importance of working to accept it."

—*Booklist*

# THE GOODBYE YEAR

## A NOVEL

KAIRA ROUDA

### DESCRIPTION:

Melanie, a perfectionist mom who views the approaching end of parenting as a type of death, can't believe she has only one more year to live vicariously through her slacker senior son, Dane. Gorgeous mom Sarah has just begun to realize that her only daughter, Ashley, has been serving as a stand-in for her traveling husband, and the thought of her daughter leaving for college is cracking the carefully cultivated façade of her life. Will and his wife are fine—as long as he follows the instructions on the family calendar and is sure to keep secret his whole other life with Lauren, the woman he turns to for fun (and who also happens to have a daughter in the senior class).

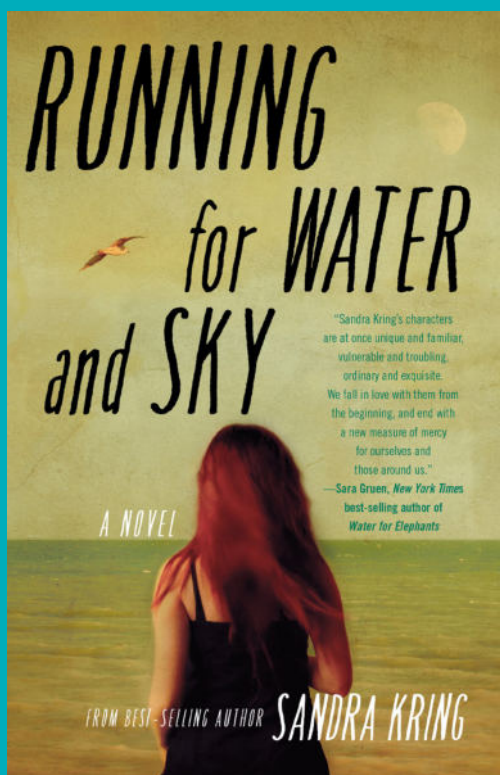
Told from the points of view of both the parents and the kids, *The Goodbye Year* explores high school peer pressure, what it's like for young people to face the unknown of life after high school, and how a transition that should be the beginning of a couple's second act together—empty nesting—is often actually the end.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kaira Rouda is a *USA Today* best-selling, award-winning author of contemporary women's fiction and modern romance novels that sparkle with humor and heart. Her previous award-winning and best-selling women's fiction novels include *Here, Home, Hope* and *In the Mirror*. When she's not writing, she can be found walking the beach, practicing yoga, playing Pickleball, and enjoying as much time as possible with her family. Connect with her at [www.kairarouda.com](http://www.kairarouda.com).



MAY 2016



Publication Date: May 10, 2016

Collection: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-93-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-92-3

**“Sandra Kring’s characters are at once unique and familiar, vulnerable and troubling, ordinary and exquisite. We fall in love with them from the beginning, and end with a new measure of mercy for ourselves and those around us.”**

—Sara Gruen, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *Water For Elephants*

**“Richly realized storytelling, setting, and detailed characters paint a vivid picture of Bless’s experiences in Nebraska.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*

# RUNNING FOR WATER AND SKY

## A NOVEL

SANDRA KRING

### DESCRIPTION:

They say that right before you die, your whole life flashes before your eyes. But what they don’t say is that the same thing can happen when your soul mate is dying.

After spending most of her seventeen years being shuffled between families that don’t want her, Bless Adler has no intention of opening her heart to anyone. And then she falls in love with Liam Reid.

The closer Bless lets Liam get, the more fearful she becomes. Then her new friend, Maylee, convinces her to go see a local psychic—and the woman’s glimpse into the future is anything but reassuring: Bless’s absent father, drunk and bitter. A frantic crowd gathered at the beach. Liam lying in a pool of blood, a gun at his side.

Now Bless has fourteen blocks to reach Liam on the shores of Lake Michigan. If he’s still alive, she’ll beg for him to fight for his life. If he’s not, she’ll say good-bye to the first person who made her want to fight for her own. Edgy, intense, and emotional, *Running for Water and Sky* is a story of the elation and angst that comes with love, and the challenge of learning to trust when betrayal is all you’ve ever known.

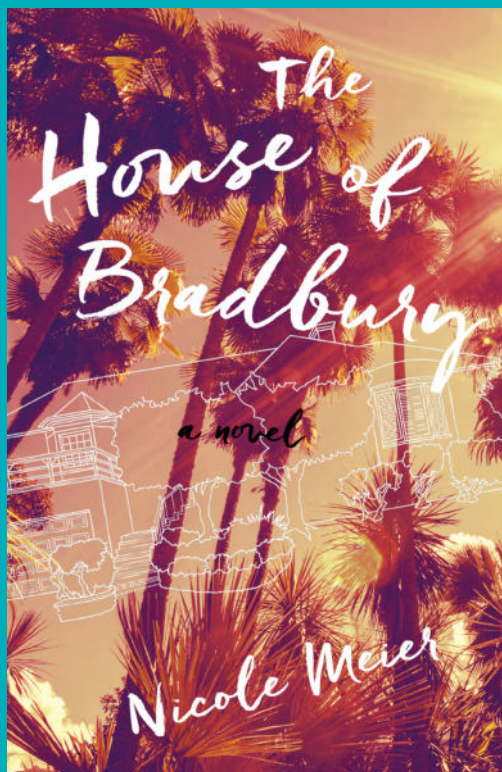
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sandra Kring is the author of five novels, including bestseller *The Book of Bright Ideas*, which was named to the New York Public Library’s Books for the Teen Age list in 2007. Her novel *Carry Me Home* was a Book Sense Notable Pick and Midwest Bookseller’s Choice Award nominee. She lives in Northern Wisconsin with her high school sweetheart; they have three grown children. Writing is her greatest passion, but she also loves reading, music, and movies. *Running for Water and Sky* is her first YA novel.

### AWARDS:

• 2016 Best Book Award: Fiction, Cross Genre Fiction, Finalist

MAY 2016



Publication Date: May 10, 2016

Collection: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-38-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-39-8

“Readers will find magic in *The House of Bradbury*, which weaves a contemporary Hollywood storyline with authentic Los Angeles literary history. The effect is a sparkling premise, memorable characters, and crisp dialogue that draws in the reader. Author Nicole Meier whips up a thoroughly enjoyable modern story of self-discovery.”

—Lian Dolan, creator and host of *Satellite Sisters* and author of best-selling novels *Helen of Pasadena* and *Elizabeth the First Wife*

“Hot new book to read this summer.”

—*Coastal Living*

# THE HOUSE OF BRADBURY

## A NOVEL

NICOLE MEIER

### DESCRIPTION:

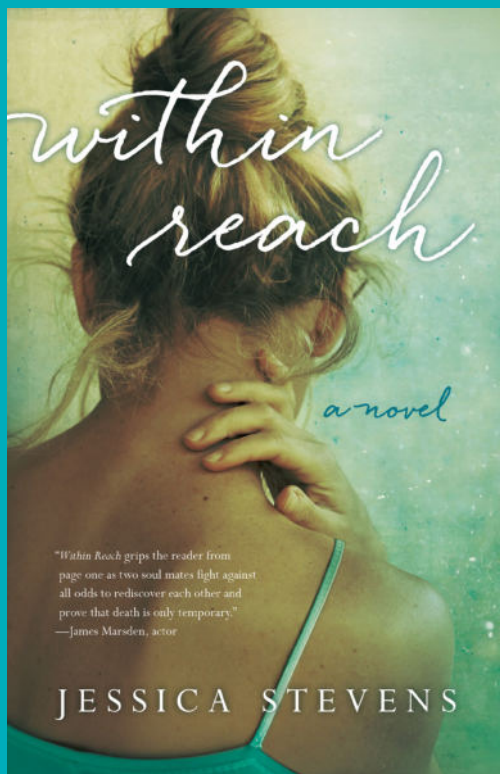
Mia Gladwell’s life is going nowhere. The media has skewered her debut novel; her fiancé, Carson, a successful Hollywood producer, has jumped ship; and now she’s living in her sister’s carriage house—unattached, unemployed, and uninspired. Then she learns that the Los Angeles estate of iconic author Ray Bradbury is up for sale, and she feels an immediate urge to buy the wonky old house, convinced that moving into the late author’s home will inspire her to create her best work yet.

Life in the Bradbury house is not what Mia imagined, however. Soon after moving in, to fulfill a debt she owes to Carson, she agrees to take in a pill-popping young actress as a tenant, and suddenly she finds herself in a balancing act between her needy ex, an unpredictable starlet, and her disapproving sister, who’s keeping a close eye on her. Add to this a series of mysterious sketches left at her doorstep by a stranger, and Mia’s life is more complicated than ever. As she searches for clues, though, Mia discovers insights into her own life. Maybe moving into Bradbury’s house was a big mistake—but maybe not.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Nicole Meier is a native Southern Californian who pulled up roots and moved to the Pacific Northwest. She works as a freelance travel and lifestyle writer for several Oregon publications. When she’s not working, she’s fulfilling her wanderlust and writing about it at [HaveToteWillTravel.com](http://HaveToteWillTravel.com). She lives in Oregon with her husband and three children.

MAY 2016



Publication Date: May 17, 2016

Collection: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-69-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-68-8

**“In alternating chapters, the present-tense, frequently purple narrative of the vividly drawn Xan and Lila is urgent, keeping the intensity taught. An intense, at-times overwrought romance for genre fans.”**

—*Kirkus Reviews*

**“*Within Reach* is an elegant and sometimes painful story of teenagers struggling with love, loss, and redemption. Jessica Stevens’s unique portrayal of misguided souls finding their way through darkness dances confidently off the page. The story’s ending lingers reflectively long after the music stops.”**

—Brady G. Stefani, author of *The Alienation of Courtney Hoffman*

# WITHIN REACH

## A NOVEL

JESSICA STEVENS

### DESCRIPTION:

Dying wasn’t on sixteen-year-old Xander Hemlock’s summer to-do list. Finding ways to spend more time with his girlfriend, Lila, was the most critical thinking he planned on doing. But that was before he found himself trapped in a realm of darkness with thirty days to convince Lila he’s not actually dead—well, not completely, anyway.

As Xan tries to show Lila she isn’t alone, she struggles to comprehend how her life has changed so completely. Six months ago her life was perfect: she was on her way to becoming a professional dancer, her parents were still married, and her boyfriend was alive. But now, with her anorexic tendencies stronger than ever, she must decide which is the lesser of two evils: letting go, or holding on to the unreasonable yet overpowering feeling that Xan is trying to tell her something.

Improbable and endearing, *Within Reach* is a story of two teenagers discovering that it sometimes takes more than one lifetime to get it right.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jessica Stevens grew up knowing without a doubt that she would become a professional ballet dancer. When life told her otherwise, she went to college like the rest of the world and earned a degree in psychology. Shortly after, while raising her two boys, she found herself glued to her computer, writing, all hours of the night while everyone else slept. Today she lives in suburbs of Milwaukee, where she spends as much time as possible on lakes and rivers.

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

- 2016 Best Book Awards: YA Fiction, Finalist
- 2017 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction/Young Adult, Finalist
- 2018 Next Generation Indie Book Awards in Young Adult (12 years to 16 years)



MAY 2016



Publication Date: May 24, 2016

Collection: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-30-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-29-9

“Henthorn’s novel is absolutely a rare thing. It’s wonderful, encompassing, and comforting in some way, because it perfectly captures what it feels like to be 25.”

—*Literature Typeface*

“25 Sense is funny, sad, and keeps the reader engaged.”

—*Synchronized Chaos*

“A book every badass woman should read.”

—*San Francisco Book Review*

## 25 SENSE

A NOVEL

LISA HENTHORN

### DESCRIPTION:

Claire Malone didn’t mean for this to happen when she moved to New York. She just wanted to live the city life and gain experience in television writing, her dream career. It’s not like she meant to reciprocate when her married boss, Sean Vared, sent her flirty emails. And you can’t blame her for coming into the office on the weekend when Sean told her he was going to be there . . . alone. She didn’t mean to sleep with him—but hey, she wanted to experience the city life, so no big deal, right?

Wrong. By the time Claire wakes up on her twenty-fifth birthday, she’s very much in love with Sean. At work, she struggles to hold it together when he passes her desk—the very desk that they used to make love on. Soon Sean has turned his affection to the show’s starring actress, and Claire is devastated. Can she break away from him without ruining her barely started career? Will someone find out what happened? Will she ever grow up and stop making stupid mistakes? *25 Sense* is about the time in a young woman’s life when the world starts to view her as a responsible adult—but all she feels is lost.

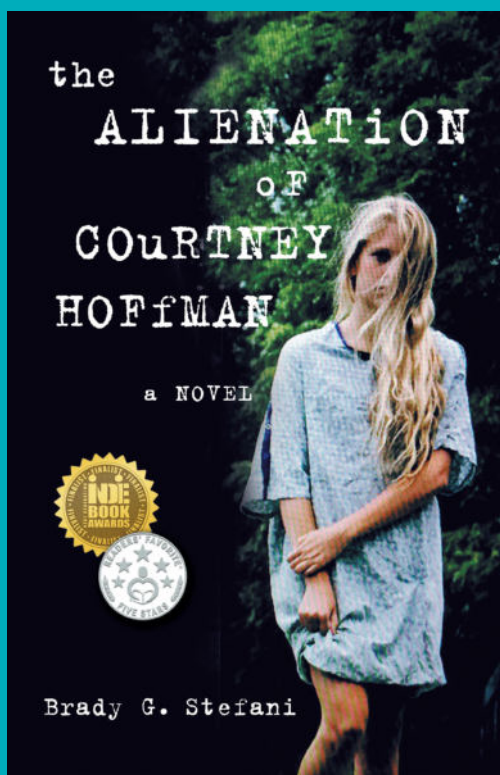
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lisa Henthorn is a television writer who has written on the CBS show *Swingtown*, the CW show *The Beautiful Life*, and the A&E show *The Glades*. She lives in Santa Monica, California with her husband.

### AWARDS:

- 2016 Best Book Award: General Fiction, Finalist

JUNE 2016



Publication Date: June 7, 2016

Collection: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-34-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-35-0

“This novel has a breakneck pace and Stefani’s writing is fluid and perfectly suited to this most extraordinary tale that blends the coming of age, adventure, science fiction, and post-apocalyptic genres—and it all works beautifully.”

—Readers’ Favorite, five-star review

“If you love *Stranger Things*, read *The Alienation of Courtney Hoffman*.”

—Elle magazine

# THE ALIENATION OF COURTNEY HOFFMAN

## A NOVEL

BRADY G. STEFANI

### DESCRIPTION:

Fifteen-year-old Courtney Hoffman is determined not to go insane like her crazy grandfather did—right before he tried to drown her when she was seven. But something is happening to her. She’s being visited in her bedroom at night by aliens who claim to have shared an alliance with her now-dead grandfather. Since Courtney knows that aliens aren’t real, this means she must be going crazy. And her mother and her new boyfriend have zero tolerance for craziness.

Then Courtney meets Agatha Kirlich, a mysterious older girl with sleuthing skills and alien-obsession issues of her own, and together—armed with ancient stories of a human-alien bloodline, a few photographs, and the creepy tattoo Courtney’s grandfather left on her rib cage before he disappeared—the girls embark on a mission to uncover the truth about Courtney’s alien visitors. Ultimately, Courtney must put her fears aside, defy her mother, embrace her true identity, and risk everything in order to save herself—and the world.

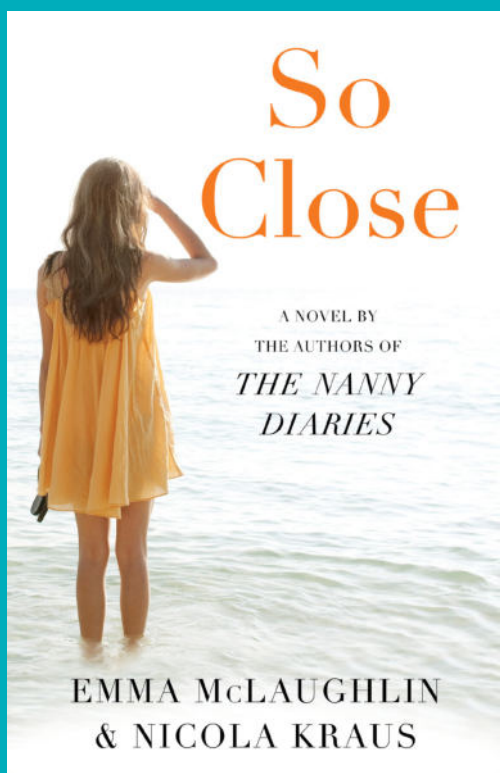
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Brady G. Stefani has a bachelor’s degree in creative writing and a graduate degree in law. During law school, he spent time as an involuntary commitment caseworker for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, where he interacted with patients suffering from severe thought disorders, including numerous patients presenting with subjectively real memories of being visited and abducted by alien beings. After law school, Stefani wrote and directed a feature film, *The Wind Cried Larry*, which received honorable mentions at the East Lansing Film Festival. In addition to working on a second YA novel that continues the storyline from *The Alienation of Courtney Hoffman*, Stefani continues to write YA fiction for his website, exploring issues of mental health in the context of our boundaryless imaginations.

### AWARDS:

- 2017 International Book Awards: Fiction/Science Fiction/Fantasy, Finalist
- 2017 Independent Press Awards Distinguished Favorites: Science Fiction
- 2017 Independent Press Awards: New Fiction (First Time Published), Winner
- 2016 NextGen Indie: Finalist in the First Novel category
- 2016 Readers’ Favorite Awards: Finalist in Young Adult Fiction
- 2016 New Apple Annual Book Awards for Excellence in Independent Publishing: Young Adult Science Fiction Medalist Winner
- 2016 NextGen Indie Book Awards: Finalist in the First Novel category
- 2016 Readers’ Favorite Awards: Finalist in Young Adult Fiction

JUNE 2016



Publication Date: June 7, 2016

Collection: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-76-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-77-0

Included in *Parade's* "10 of the Best Beach Reads to Indulge in This Summer"

"A skillful follow-up to their juggernaut *The Nanny Diaries*, *So Close* is a sharp cultural examination of ambition, politics, and the exhausting climb that can be chasing dreams. Amanda Beth is both a heartbreaking and refreshingly relatable protagonist. Female readers will enjoy smiling and crying with her as we see Amanda battling the wrong attractions while trying to rise above her life's cruel station. Playfully barbed commentary makes this all the more fun."

—Colleen Oakes, best-selling author of the *Queen of Hearts*, *Elly in Bloom*, and *Wendy Darling* series

# SO CLOSE

## A NOVEL

EMMA McLAUGHLIN AND NICOLA KRAUS

### DESCRIPTION:

Named "Summer Book Pick" by *Us Weekly* \* *Redbook Magazine* \* *Brit + Co* \* *Buzzfeed*\* *SheKnows* \* *Bustle* \*

From international #1 best-selling authors Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus comes a story about a girl from the trailer parks of central Florida and the two powerful men who shape her life—one of whom will raise her up to places she never imagined, the other who will threaten to destroy her.

Amanda Beth Luker has spent her whole life desperately looking for someone who can show her the way out of her trailer park Florida town. And then, finally, help arrives—in the form of Tom Davis, a successful lawyer who grew up just a few miles over from Amanda and has aspirations of making a difference in towns just like hers all across the country. But it's his wife, Lindsay, who really captures Amanda's imagination. Strong, smart, and determined, she gives Amanda something she's never had—a role model. Meanwhile, Amanda is introduced to the wealthy, charismatic, and deeply troubled Pax Westerbrook. He clearly desires Amanda, but if she gives in will that move her closer to the life she's always dreamed of—or make it impossible?

Can a girl from a trailer park make it to the White House? What will it cost her? When her loyalty is tested, will she save the only family she's ever known—even if it means keeping a terrible secret from the American people?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

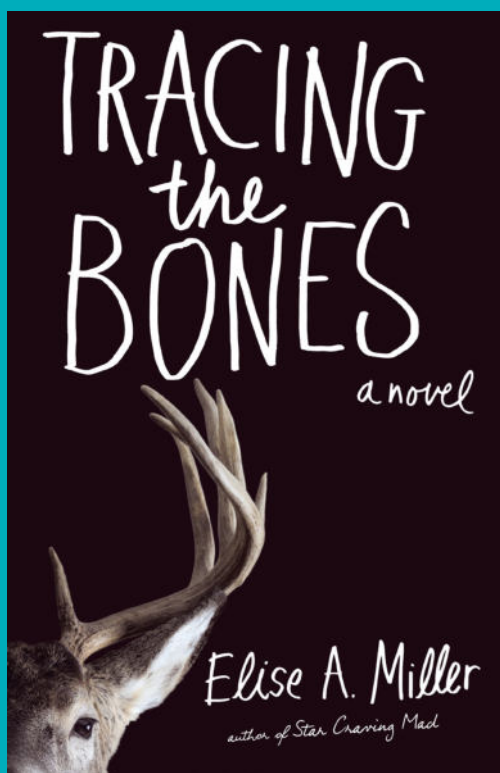
Newsweek declared Emma McLaughlin and Nicola Kraus's *The Nanny Diaries* a "phenomenon." It is a #1 *New York Times* bestseller and the longest-running hardcover bestseller of 2002. In 2007 it was released as a major motion picture starring Scarlett Johansson, Laura Linney, and Alicia Keys. McLaughlin and Kraus are also the authors of three other *New York Times* bestsellers—*Citizen Girl*, *Dedication*, and *Nanny Returns*—as well as the soon-to-be-released novels *Between You & Me* and *Over You*. They have appeared numerous times on CNN, MSNBC, *The Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *Entertainment Tonight*, and *The View*. In addition to writing for television and film, McLaughlin and Kraus travel around the country speaking to young women about feminism and gender issues in American corporate culture.

### AWARDS:

• 2016 USA Best Book Awards: Chick Lit/Women's Lit, Finalist



JUNE 2016



Publication Date: June 14, 2016

Collection: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-48-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-49-7

“Elise’s writing is smart, beautiful, dark, funny, unflinchingly honest, and downright poetic. As a fellow writer, I find the whole thing infuriating.”

—Jon Gunn, writer/director of *Mercy Streets*, *My Date With Drew*, *Like Dandelion Dust*, *Do You Believe?* and *The Week*

“New-age bodywork, interdimensional sex, a possible murder, and a really hot yoga guy—Elise Miller is lighting up all my chakras with her page-turner *Tracing the Bones!*”

—Mike Albo, author of *Spermhood*

# TRACING THE BONES

## A NOVEL

ELISE A. MILLER

### DESCRIPTION:

Cynical housewife Eve Myer has two kids, chronic back pain, and a decaying writing career—as well as a stagnant marriage haunted by her husband’s long-ago affair.

When a new family moves in next door, Eve becomes consumed with curiosity about beautiful life coach Anna and powerful lust for Billy, a sexy alternative healer with a troubled, mysterious past. As Eve begins healing sessions with Billy, an unthinkable tragedy strikes Anna and her small son. Eve’s obsession invites even more suspicion and mistrust into her marriage and as her life unravels, her sessions with Billy intensify, culminating in an alternative, experimental trip deep into the woods—a freezing winter’s journey that threatens the remaining bonds of Eve’s marriage and finally uncovers the reason for Anna’s death.

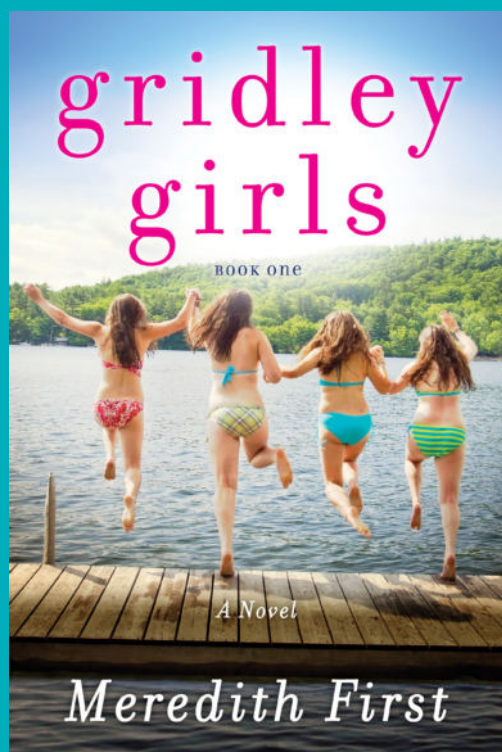
### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elise A. Miller is the author of the satirical romance *Star Craving Mad*. Her work has appeared in the anthology *Because I Love Her*, at Nerve.com and *Fresh Yarn*, and in the *Northern Liberties Review*, *Elephant Journal*, and *Schuylkill Valley Journal*. Miller is also an SFG kettlebell instructor and fitness trainer, as well as a creative writing coach and editor. She lives in Lower Merion, Pennsylvania with one husband, two kids, two dogs, and one constantly shedding wool shag rug.

### AWARDS:

- 2016 Best Book Award: General Fiction, Finalist

JUNE 2016



Publication Date: June 21, 2016

Collection: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.00 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distributed by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-940716-97-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-940716-96-1

**“If you remember watching *Gilligan’s Island* while drinking TAB and jotting your deepest secrets inside the pages of your gold leaf-edged diary, you’ll discover many fond memories in the *Gridley Girls*. An enjoyable story of friendship and love, 1970s style.”**

—Kaira Rouda, *USA Today* best-selling author of *The Goodbye Year*

# GRIDLEY GIRLS

## GRIDLEY GIRLS SERIES, BOOK ONE

MEREDITH FIRST

### DESCRIPTION:

Sometimes you have to go back before you can move forward.

In 1978, Meg, Anne, Jennifer, and Tonya were such close friends, they were known as “The Group” in their hometown of Gridley, California. But in ninth grade, their lives were changed forever. Loss, lies, and secrets separated them, but could not break their bonds of friendship. Thirty years later, Meg and Anne reminisce about those days—dealing with parents, school, boys, sex, love, and betrayal. Anne remembers their freshman year as an easier time, but Meg, still feeling guilty about a betrayal of Anne’s trust, is haunted. Even now, Meg is keeping a secret she’s not prepared to face, let alone share. In her debut novel, based on true events, Meredith First tells a timeless story about the bonds of friendship, loss, and betrayal—and the forgiveness that is within everyone. Can anyone really keep a secret forever?

### ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Meredith First left an insanely great recruiting career with Apple, Inc. to write books for anyone who survived high school with a little help from friends. After studying abroad at the University of London, she received a BA in communications/broadcasting from Oregon State University. Through the donation of 10 percent of the profits of the Gridley Girls series to children’s charities, she hopes to help people who struggle with issues similar to those experienced in her books. First lives with her family in Minneapolis and Sacramento and is hard at work on *Gridley Girls Reunited*, the second of the Gridley Girls series.

### AWARDS:

- 2016 Next Generation Indie Book Awards: General Fiction Finalist
- 2015 USA Best Book Awards: Fiction: Chick Lit/Women’s Lit, Finalist
- 2016 Next Generation Indie Book Awards: General Fiction, Finalist
- 2016 Best Book Award: Fiction, LGBTQ, Finalist

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**Gloria Vanderbilt**, designer and author

**Matt Iseman**, host of *American Ninja Warrior*

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