

LGLA RIGHTS GUIDE 2020

Recent Sales & Forthcoming Submissions

Laura Gross Literary Agency

39 Chester Street Newton Highlands, MA 02461

Dirt Road Revival

By: Chloe Maxmin & Canyon Woodward

Political Campaign Nonfiction

Publication Date: TBD

Tag Line: *Dirt Road Revival* is an urgent call to action written by two millennials to fight for the future of rural America and reclaim long-lasting political power for the Democratic Power.

Author Bios: Chloe Maxim currently serves as the youngest woman in the Maine legislature. She is the first Democrat elected in a district which had voted Republican by a 16-point margin over the past three elections. Her historic campaign, led by her campaign manager and co-author, Canyon Woodward, earned the attention of national media, including an article about their victory in the *Washington Post* titled “Progressives point the way to recapturing the rural vote.” In the article, Katrina vanden Heuvel (Editorial Director, *The Nation*) wrote: “Maxmin is one of many progressive candidates who prevailed in this month’s elections despite the long odds that Democrats traditionally face in their districts. Yet her victory stands out even more because of where she was able to win: in a district that contains the most rural county in America’s most rural state. And as Democrats reflect on the midterms and plan their next moves, it shows how the party can build on its momentum.”

U.S. Publisher: Beacon Press — North American

All Foreign Rights Available

Eden

By: Liese O'Halloran Schwarz

Literary Fiction

Publication Date: Spring 2021

Tag Line: A sweeping novel following the unfolding mystery of a man in present day claiming to be a child abducted in mid-century Bangkok.

Author Bio: Liese O'Halloran Schwarz grew up in Washington, DC after an early childhood overseas. She went to Harvard and then attended medical school at University of Virginia. While in medical school, she won the Henfield/Transatlantic Review Prize and also published her first novel, *Near Canaan*. Her most recent novel, *The Possible World*, was published by Scribner in 2018.

U.S. Publisher: Atria Books (Simon & Schuster) — World with exclusions

Foreign Rights Available:

Spanish, French, Polish, Italian, British Commonwealth

Lord the One You Love is Sick

By: Kasey Thornton

Novel-in-Short-Stories (Debut)

Publication Date: Spring 2021

Tag Line: Novel addressing grief, isolation, mental illness, abuse, and religion in a small American Southern Town, shedding light on the intersection of prevailing cultural issues in a conservative space.

Author Bio: Kasey attended both the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and North Carolina State University for her M.F.A. in Fiction. She currently lives in Durham County, North Carolina, where members of her family have lived for over two hundred years.

U.S. Publisher: Ig Publishing — North American

All Foreign Rights Available, including British Commonwealth.

Belonging and Betrayal

By: Charles Dellheim

Jewish History/Art History

Publication Date: In Negotiation

Tag Line: An epic story that charts the fortunes and misfortunes of a small number of Jewish art dealers and collectors from the late-19th century to the present and spans both Europe and the United States.

Author Bio: Charles Dellheim, Professor of History, came to Boston University in 2001, after a fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania's Center for Advanced Judaic Studies. He was previously Professor of History and Humanities and Director of the Interdisciplinary Humanities Program at Arizona State University, where he won a Distinguished Teaching Award. He was trained in modern European cultural history, and his chief publications in modern British history include *The Face of the Past: The Preservation of the Medieval Inheritance in Victorian England*; *The Disenchanted Isle: Mrs. Thatcher's Capitalist Revolution*; and "The Creation of a Company Culture: Cadburys, 1861-1931." In recent years his work has focused on the role of Jews in modern culture. Dellheim has won fellowships from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Harvard University, the University of Pennsylvania, and the Littauer Foundation. He is a past president of the Economic and Business Historical Society and served on the executive board of the Western Humanities Alliance. Between 2001 and 2009 he served as Boston University History Department chair, and in 2010 became Director of the Arvind and Chandan Nandlal Kilachand Honors College at Boston University.

U.S. Publisher: North American rights in negotiation

Dead Weight

By: Randall Horton

Memoir-in-essays

Publication Date: On Submission

Tag Line: *Dead Weight* chronicles the improbable turnaround of a drug smuggler who, after being sentenced to a total of eight years in state prison, had his sentence commuted in 2000, and consequently returned to society to earn a PhD in Creative Writing and become the only tenured professor in the United States with seven felony convictions—highlighting the difficulties of trying to change one’s life for the good, how the weight of felony convictions never leaves the returning citizen.

Author Bio: Randall Horton is the recipient of the Gwendolyn Brooks Poetry Award, the Bea Gonzalez Poetry Award, the Great Lakes College Association New Writers Award for Creative Nonfiction and a National Endowment of the Arts Fellowship in Literature. In addition, Randall has been interviewed on Fox News, NPR, CTNPR, CSPAN, the New Haven Register and countless journals, magazines and radio shows. He currently sits on the Advisory Board of Pen America’s Pen Prison Writing Program. In 2018-2019 Randall was selected as Poet-in-Residence for the Civil Rights Corps in Washington DC, which is a non-profit organization dedicated to challenging systemic injustice in the American legal system. He is a member of the experimental performance group Heroes Are Gang Leaders which recently received the 2018 American Book Award in Oral Literature and their latest musical project, *The Baraka Sessions*, was named best vocal jazz album by NPR in 2019. Randall’s memoir *Hook* was published by Augury Books in 2015 and his latest collection of poetry {#289-128} will be published by the University of Kentucky Press in Fall 2020. Dr. Horton is a Professor of English at the University of New Haven.

U.S. Publisher: On Submission

Generation Queer

By: Kimm Topping

Y.A. Illustrated Biography

Publication Date: On Submission

Tag Line: The first illustrated biography collection of its kind to focus on queer and trans youth who are leaders in social change.

Author Bio: Kimm Topping is a writer, queer educator, and feminist historian. Kimm has trained thousands of people to better support LGBTQ+ youth in their work as a facilitator for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education's Safe Schools Program for LGBTQ Students and kyriQ, which they co-founded with their partner in 2016. By sharing stories and providing folks with tools to authentically support youth, Kimm believes that we can create safer and more welcoming environments. Kimm's publications include *Identity*, *Relationships*, and *Media and Mapping Feminist Cambridge*. Kimm will complete an M.Ed. at Harvard Graduate School of Education in 2020 and they look forward to continuing to advocate for LGBTQ+ youth at local and national levels. Kimm lives in Cambridge, MA with their partner and two cats.

U.S. Publisher: On Submission

Mermaids Dream of Trilobites

By: Martha Riva Palacio Obón

Middle Grade Fiction in Translation

Publication Date: On Submission

Tag Line: Told through beautiful marine imagery and funny observations, *Mermaids Dream of Trilobites* follows a young girl who comes to believe—in order to process the hardships around her—that she is a mermaid and those around her are various aquatic beings.

Author Bio: Martha Riva Palacio Obón is a Mexican author of novels, poetry, stories, and television for children of all ages. She won the 2011 Premio Barco de Vapor for *Mermaids Dream of Trilobites* (which was also selected in 2013 for the White Ravens International Children's Library Catalog), as well as the 2014 Premio Hispanoamericano de Poesía para Niños for her illustrated poetry book *Lunática*. Her bilingual picture book *Beso / Kiss* was published in the US by Scholastic in 2017 and in Malta in 2018. She has a degree in psychology.

U.S. Publisher: On Submission

All Foreign Rights Available:

All except Spanish (SM de Ediciones, 2011)

[Untitled]

By: Shalash

Arabic Satire in Translation

Publication Date: TBD

Tag Line: A collection of stories satirizing Iraqi society, written by an anonymous Iraqi blogger.

Author Bio: The anonymous Iraqi blogger known as Shalash published seventy posts between 2005 and 2006 but remains anonymous to this day due to concerns for his safety. Shalash’s satiric writings painted Americans as deliberately incompetent and Iraqis as foolish, opportunistic, stooges, or a mixture of the three. Wildly popular across the Arab world, his writings made anxious Iraqis laugh at themselves shortly after the fall of Saddam Hussein in 2003. Shalash’s writings are written in the colloquial Baghdadi dialect with additional local phrases and expressions thrown in—a rarity for Arabic-language writing. Shalash’s “Iraqiness” is not jingoistic patriotism, but the kind of intimate, defensive and profoundly personal “love of country”. The writer calls himself Shalash “the Iraqi”, even though the word Iraq appears very rarely in his stories. He did not need to belabor a word; love of Iraq is implicit in all his stories, in every character he created.

U.S. Publisher: Forthcoming

Unexpected

By: Rebecca Thompson

Narrative Nonfiction/Parenting (Debut)

Publication Date: TBD – On Submission

Tag Line: A collection of true stories of pregnancy, motherhood, and parenting, based on interviews with a diverse group of women conducted by a Harvard-educated doctor, whose own shocking story bookends the work and is woven into the narrative.

Author Bio: Rebecca Thompson, MD, MSc, IBCLC, is a practicing physician with expertise in women's and children's health and more than fifteen years of clinical experience. She received her bachelor's degree with honors from Harvard University and her master's degree and doctorate from Stanford University. She completed her residency training at Stanford University and Oregon Health & Science University. Since 2014, she has served as a medical consultant to best-selling author Jodi Picoult, including for her novel *Small Great Things* (2016) and *A Spark of Light* (2018). Dr. Thompson represents a rare combination of accomplished physician, sensitive interviewer, keen observer, talented writer, and thoughtful storyteller.

U.S. Publisher: On Submission