



Autumn 2023
Frontlist Rights Guide

Adult and Children's books

Greenburger.com

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Zoe Sandler
Alexander Slater

Abigail Frank
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Alexander Reubert
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Director of Foreign Rights
dvincent@sjga.com



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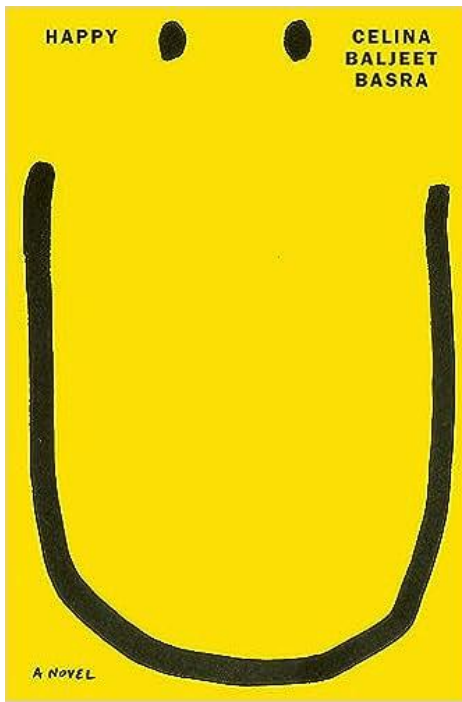
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FICTION





Celina Baljeet Basra **HAPPY**

Astra House, November 2023 | World English
UK rights: Headline/Wildfire
360 pages, final text available
Agent: Alexander Reubert

Sold in a preempt

"A bonkers story that reads like a fine ten-course meal." - Gary Shteyngart

"Playful, funny, and wildly free, *Happy* inhabits the seam between beauty and tragedy. A miraculous novel." – Mega Majumdar

"...a damning indictment of capitalism, a system that swallows the global poor whole and spits out wasted humans. ...the novel wears its burdens with good humor."—Poornima Apte, ★ *Booklist*

"...Happy's view of the world starts off as quirky and charming, but gains increasing pathos as the divide between his starry-eyed hopes and his increasingly hopeless reality grows. Happy's singular voice echoes long after the close to this striking story."— ★ *Publishers Weekly*

"With an innovative form that is simultaneously playful and profound, Celina Baljeet Basra's *HAPPY* is outstanding! From the first to the final pages, I was completely charmed by Happy and his crew as they made their treacherous journey towards dreams of a better life. Using wry humour to deliver a dead serious message with laser-sharp lightness, Basra gives depth and definition to the unjust and inhumane conditions facing many migrants and undocumented workers. Read this book." – Melissa Fu, author of *Peach Bloom Spring*

For fans of Vikas Swarup and Charles Yu, the story of a starry-eyed cinephile who leaves his rural village in Punjab to pursue his dreams—a formally daring debut novel set against the global migration crisis.

When he's not sleeping among the cabbages, eating his mother's sugary rotis, or sneakily watching YouTube clips of his favorite films, Happy Singh Soni dreams of becoming an actor, one who plays the melancholy roles—sad, pretty boys, rare in Indian cinema.

After an amusement park buys up the neighboring farms, Happy takes a job with them as an attendant, saving money for a clandestine journey to Europe, where he'll finally land a breakout role. Little does he know his immigration is being coordinated by an Italian crime syndicate.

After a nightmarish passage to Italy, Happy still manages to find relief in food and fantasy, even as he is forced into ever-worsening work conditions over a debt he allegedly accrued in transit and his daydreams grow increasingly at odds with his bleak reality.

At turns funny and poetic, sunny and tragic, *Happy* is a daring feat of postmodern literature, a polyphonic novel about the urgent, lovely coping mechanisms created by generations of diasporic people. Set against the enmeshed crises of global migration and the politics of labor within the food industry, Celina Baljeet Basra's luminous debut argues for the things that are essential to human survival: food, water, a place to lay one's head, but also pleasure, romance, art, and the inalienable right to a vivid inner life.



Celina Baljeet Basra is a writer and curator based in Berlin. She graduated from the Free University Berlin, where she studied Art History in a Global Context, and has since worked with Nature Morte Delhi, Kunstraum Kreuzberg/Bethanien, Galerie im Turm, Berlin Biennale, Times Art Center Berlin, Talking Objects Lab, and other art institutions at the local and international level. Her residencies include stays with Shanghai Curators Lab and Kochi Biennale and she was awarded both curatorial and literary research scholarships from the Berlin Senate. She is a founder of The Department of Love, a curatorial collective. www.Celinabasra.com, @CelinaBasra

Holly Baxter CLICKBAIT

HarperCollins, Summer 2024 | NA

300 pages, first pass pages available

Agent: Dan Mandel

With the dark comedy and sharp observations of Monica Heisey and Dolly Alderton, a whip-smart and laugh-out-loud funny debut novel about a disgraced, newly divorced journalist demoted to a “clickbait” job at a Manhattan tabloid



“CLICKBAIT made me wince and made me howl. With a biting humour and a flair for the outrageous that is entirely her own, Holly Baxter has created an antiheroine for our times. A darkly hilarious debut that satirically captures our morally vapid media world with more accuracy than I ever thought possible. I loved it.” -- Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett

“In this razor-sharp, darkly humorous novel, Holly Baxter draws a no-holds-barred portrait of a woman whose actions have caused her life to collapse at her feet—and charts her misguided attempts to climb out of the rubble. I laughed. I cringed. I couldn’t stop reading.” —Clémence Michallon, internationally bestselling author of *The Quiet Tenant*

The first thing they tell you when you begin your training is never to become the news.

Natasha has screwed up royally. Her mistake isn’t just embarrassing, it’s a breach of journalistic ethics that makes headlines and costs her a plum job reporting from London. Back in New York at thirty-five and single, divorced from a kind man she loved, she finds herself at the bottom of the media food chain—a junior reporter at a clickbait factory, rewriting sensational tabloid stories to make them just different enough to avoid lawsuits.

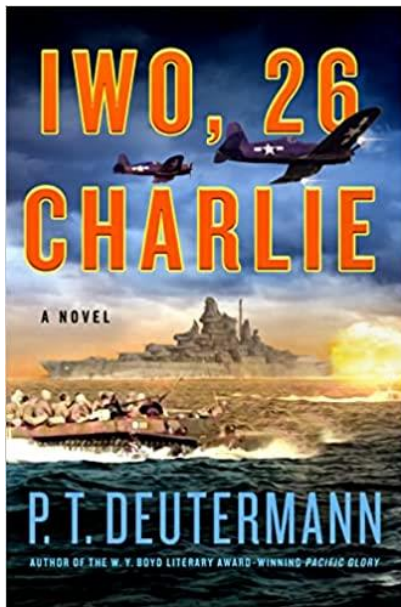
As if her professional fall from grace weren’t bad enough, she’s taken the money she’d saved for a down payment for a home on a charming Brooklyn block with her husband, and rashly bought a boxy apartment overlooking the gray ocean in Rockaway Beach, Queens.

Though seeing friends and family only serves to remind her of what she’s lost, things begin to pick up when her ex-boyfriend Zach moves back to New York and accepts her offer of a spare bedroom. The arrangement is strictly platonic, of course—for him. But Natasha can’t help but wonder whether he might be the solution to all her problems.

As Natasha’s obsession with Zach grows and her involvement in increasingly dystopian “churnalism” deepens, her worlds threaten to collide in the most cataclysmic, extremely public way.



Holly Baxter is a journalist and writer from Newcastle, who spent 12 years working in London journalism before transferring to New York City in 2019. Having reported for *The Guardian* and *The New Statesman*, she now does political satire and social justice-themed investigations for *The Independent*. Her work was shortlisted for a Press Award for Feature of the Year in 2019 and she often appears on British radio and television. In 2013, she co-authored *THE VAGENDA*, a media satire non-fiction book for women, with *The Guardian*’s Rhiannon Lucy Cosslett. She is currently based in Brooklyn, where she lives with her husband, son and semi-feral cat Nelson, and is covering the 2024 US election for *The Independent*. @hollybaxter



P.T. Deutermann
IWO, 26 CHARLIE

St. Martin's Press | November 28, 2023 | World English

288 pages, final text available

Agent: Dan Mandel

World War II thrillers: based on the author's experiences as Commander in the US Navy.

Globally published: previous titles sold in 19 territories.

P. T. Deutermann is a contemporary master of World War II military fiction: writing about the lives, deaths, dreams, fears, and combat experiences of sailors and soldiers, generals and grunts, captains and snipes, pilots and submariners, who served in the Pacific theatre war against Japan.

The island of Iwo Jima was the epic land and sea battle that produced one of the iconic images of WWII: the Marines raising the American flag on Mount Surabachi, an active volcano that was the site of intense hand to hand combat. In this gripping novel, the tenth of his WWII thrillers, Deutermann follows a young gunnery liaison officer, Lee Bishop, who during the ferocious battle for the island is pulled from his station aboard the USS Nevada to serve on-shore as a spotter, calling in coordinates for the ship to target with missiles.

But Bishop is completely unready for what he will witness and experience: a literal hell, during which 26,000 Americans are killed in a fight to the very last man, which culminates in the blistering, sulphurous tunnels of Surabachi itself, where an entire platoon of Marines is held captive. *Iwo, 26 Charlie* is a dramatic, utterly authentic novel by an award-winning writer.

“Heroism abounds as Deutermann skillfully brings moments like the rescue of 300 men trapped below decks to life, while also vividly conveying the sensations of pervading death... fans of naval history will be enthralled.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“[G]ripping first-person narrative.... Deutermann, long a master of military thrillers, is at the top of his game here.”—*Booklist*



Anna Dorn

PERFUME & PAIN

Simon & Schuster, spring 2024 | World English

280 pages, edited manuscript available

Agent: Sarah Phair

Taking its title from an out-of-print lesbian pulp novel, *PERFUME & PAIN* is a campy nod to the lesbian anti-romance of the 1950s.

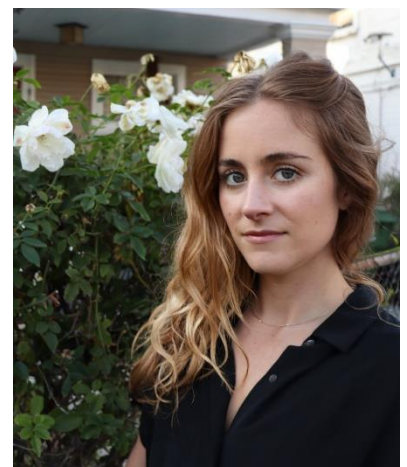
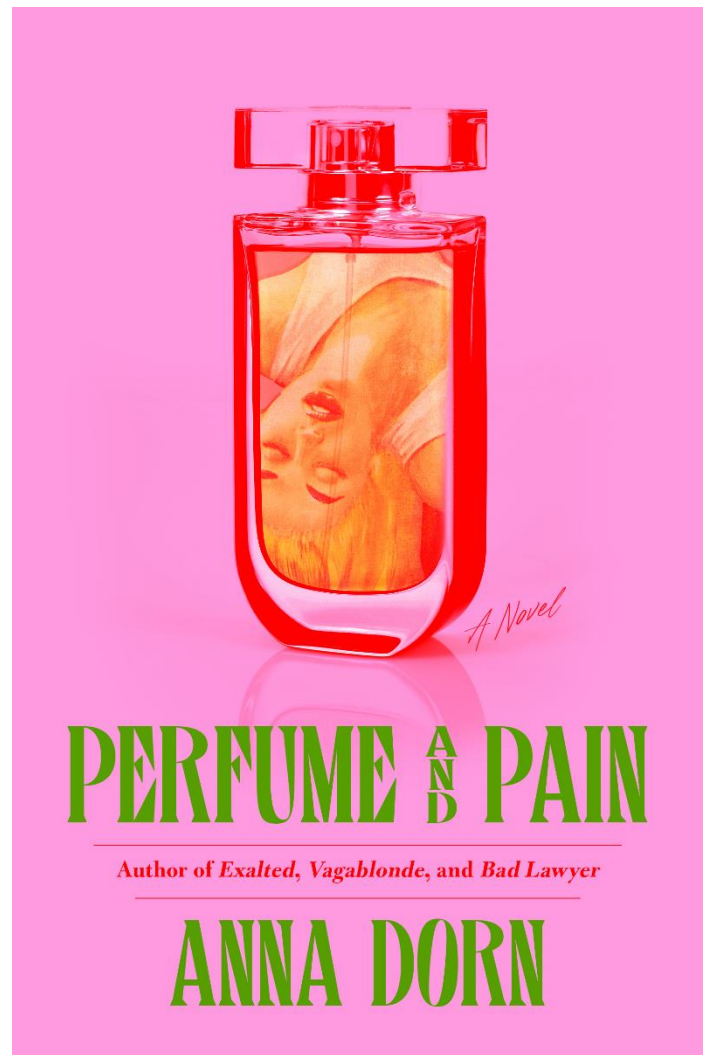
Twelve-steppers might call Astrid Dahl a love addict, but she's not a twelve-stepper, she's a romantic... To Astrid, love is the best drug and she's tried them all. The novel opens with Astrid meeting Ivy, the enigmatic PhD student in her lesbian Zoom writing group, Sapphic Scribes. Seducing Ivy quickly becomes Astrid's *raison d'être*.

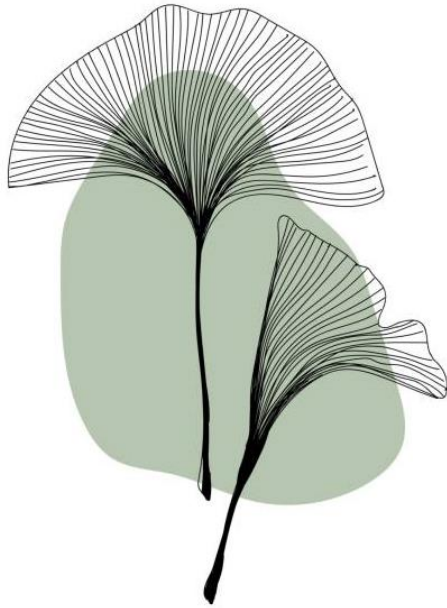
A novelist, Astrid just sold the TV rights to her book for a lump sum and is focused exclusively on quitting the "magic cocktail" she calls The Patricia Highsmith, which she took throughout her 20s to thrive. But like all coping mechanisms, it turned on her—and started jeopardizing her wellbeing and career. Worse, Astrid's landlord makes her leave her perfect bungalow to one sharing a yard with an artist, Penelope.

Penelope quickly becomes a problem. Astrid is private and Penelope is nosy. As Astrid obsesses over Ivy, ignoring all the red flags, Penelope becomes the bane of Astrid's existence, interfering with her cherished privacy. The red flags become banners, but Astrid uses her fiction brain to narrativize around them, until an unexpected love triangle develops.

PERFUME & PAIN is a novel about a woman escaping the historic trappings of lesbian melodrama, the suggestion that lesbian romance be doomed and crazy-making, to accept real intimacy as she enters into mid-life.

[Anna Dorn](http://www.anna-dorn.com/about) is an author, editor, and writing teacher living in Los Angeles. She teaches writing classes at Write or Die and is an associate editor at Hobart Pulp. She was a Lambda Literary Fellow and her second novel *EXALTED* was a finalist for the *L.A. Times* Book Prize. <http://www.anna-dorn.com/about>





Naomi Xu Elegant
GINGKO SEASON

Norton, Spring 2025, tpb | NA
Manuscript anticipated early 2024
Agent: Iwalani Kim

A story of friendship, love, and living a life that matches your ideals, pitched for readers of *THE IDIOT* and *HAPPY HOUR*

Twenty-five-year-old Penelope Lin spends her days cataloging an archeology museum's vast collection of Qing Dynasty-era bound feet shoes, wandering the streets of Philadelphia appreciating its architecture, and reading up on her beloved hero, Napoleon. After suffering her first big heartbreak several years ago, she's built a quiet life with a few close friends and no romantic entanglements. While running a work errand one day, she happens to meet Hoang, who has just confessed to releasing the lab mice in the cancer research lab he works at. He will almost certainly be fired, but he hates to lie. Hoang's

openness catches Penelope off guard and from then on, she finds her carefully constructed life slowly start to unravel.

Terrified of "leaping into the same sea from which [she'd] already once escaped," Penelope pursues Hoang in ways that breach her comfort zone but remain bewilderingly oblique to her no-nonsense friends and, of course, to Hoang himself. Her days become consumed with volunteering with a labor union for an excuse to run into him, though she has never even voted, and agonizing over letters and postcards that skirt her true feelings. When she receives an unexpected visit from her ex-boyfriend and learns a jarring revelation regarding the whereabouts of her estranged mother, Penelope is forced to confront her past in order to take a leap of faith.

GINGKO SEASON is a wise and tender-hearted debut novel that explores the nature of our deepest friendships as seriously as it does the dizzying terror and thrill of falling in love. With Raven Leilani's flaneur-like prose, GINGKO SEASON channels the wry humor and quiet devastation of Rachel Khong's GOODBYE, VITAMIN. Readers who were charmed by Elif Batuman's protagonist Selin—fiercely intelligent but clueless in matters of the heart—will adore Penelope's curiosity and her precisely observed world.

Naomi Xu Elegant was born in Hong Kong and grew up in Kuala Lumpur and Beijing. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in history before returning to Hong Kong to work as a journalist. She currently lives in Singapore, where she is a writer for Monocle magazine. Her writing has appeared in *The Drift*, *Penn Review*, and *Cleaver*, among other places. @naomielelegant



Cally Fiedorek

ATTA BOY

University of Iowa Press, Spring 2024 | NA

280 pages, full manuscript available

Agent: Alexander Reubert



A rollicking, polyphonic debut novel in the vein of *FLEISHMAN IS IN TROUBLE* and *THE PARTY UPSTAIRS*, following a bar owner's son from Queens as he's pulled into the fold of a crooked taxi mogul and his charismatic family on the eve of a legal and moral reckoning.

"*Atta Boy* is a New York novel like I've never read before. Lively, madcap, and frequently hilarious, but not without sensitivity and insight, too. Via its cast of all-too-human characters, Cally Fiedorek whisks us from dim barrooms to gleaming penthouses to examine the complexities and compromises of being alive today." —Rachel Khong, author of *Real Americans* and *Goodbye, Vitamin*

"In a lukewarm literary landscape, Cally Fiedorek's *Atta Boy* blazes like a burning copy of the New York *Post* chucked from the open window of a 1 train. Fiedorek is a writer to watch—and watch out for." —Andrew Ridker, author of *Hope* and *The Altruists*

"A *Bonfire of the Vanities* for the 21st century—a propulsive, unforgettable journey through a deeply stratified New York. *Atta Boy* is a fearless chronicle of the way we live and where we are headed. Fiedorek is an urgent writer for these times, with an unstinting eye for the class divisions that define who we are. I couldn't put *Atta Boy* down." —Ross Barkan, contributing writer, *The New York Times Magazine*, and author of *The Night Burns Bright*

Christmas 2018, we meet Rudy Coyle in the throes of a major quarter-life crisis. Quarter life, if he's lucky. Dumped, evicted, and fired from the family bar, Rudy gets a hail-Mary job as a doorman in a storied co-op on Park Avenue, where he comes under the wing of the family in 4E. Jacob, their fast-talking patriarch—think Michael Cohen via Saul Bellow—is one of a generation of lenders who made hundreds of millions of dollars in the cutthroat taxi medallion industry in the early 2000s, largely by preying on the American dreams of impoverished immigrant drivers. As Jacob, up to his eyeballs in debt, claws back his assets from a dangerous coterie of Brighton Beach associates, Rudy goes from errand boy to right-hand man to family man, becoming a fixture in the lives of Jacob's neglected son, his glamorous, manically-depressed wife, and his shy, sharp-eyed daughter, Marley, who narrates the story alongside Rudy. A private school pariah, Marley grows more aware of her father's misdeeds when she becomes involved with the son of a rival taxi tycoon. As she barrels down a path of rebellion, the family's dirty laundry comes to light, and Rudy must choose between his blue-collar conscience and white-collar ambitions.

Part crime comedy, part coming-of-age tale, ATTA BOY draws as much from Cally's experience on the Upper East Side, growing up in the environs of *Gossip Girl*, as it does her time tending bar at dives in lower Manhattan. Reminiscent of Whit Stillman's *Metropolitan* as well as Gary Shteyngart's zeitgeisty charm, balanced deftly with ripped-from-the-headlines social realism. ATTA BOY captures pre-pandemic New York in the full breadth of its grime and glitz, presenting the all-too-real medallion crisis through Rudy and Marley's eyes in a lyric, exuberant style that pulls the reader immediately along for the ride.

Cally Fiedorek is the winner of an Emerging Writer Fellowship from the Center for Fiction and a Pushcart Prize. Her work has appeared in *Narrative*—where she serves as a contributing editor—and the *Sewanee Review*—where the novel's first chapter was recently excerpted. She graduated from Yale with a B.A. in History and from the University of Oxford with an MSt. in Creative Writing. She lives in Manhattan, in the house she grew up in, now with her husband and three young kids. ATTA BOY is her debut novel.



Katie M. Flynn

ISLAND RULE: Stories

Simon & Schuster, March 5, 2024 | NA

288 pages, final manuscript available

From the author of the “urgent and heartfelt” (*San Francisco Chronicle*) novel *The Companions*, a genre-bending collection of interconnected short stories in the tradition of Jennifer Egan and Karen Russell.

An angry mother turns into a literal monster. A company in San Francisco can scrub your entire reputation and create a new one...for a price. A failed actor on a reality show turns into an unlikely world savior. And much more.

Through each of these twelve interconnected stories, Katie Flynn masterfully blends people, places, and even realities. From a powerful and “radiant” (Kassandra Montag, author of *After the Flood*) new literary voice to be reckoned with, this collection will stay with you after turn the final page.

"A wonderfully eerie collection, *ISLAND RULE* haunts and delights. Flynn's writing is taught and teeming, making a world of bone mounds and monsters as alarmingly real as teenage angst and midlife crises. The creeping darkness of *Island Rule* revels in exploring darkness at the edges of our world, and what happens when we invite it in." – Erika Swyler, author of *Light From Other Stars*

Katie's previous book, *THE COMPANIONS*, sold in Italy to Sperling & Kupfer, in Germany to Heyne, and in the Czech Republic to Dobrovsky.

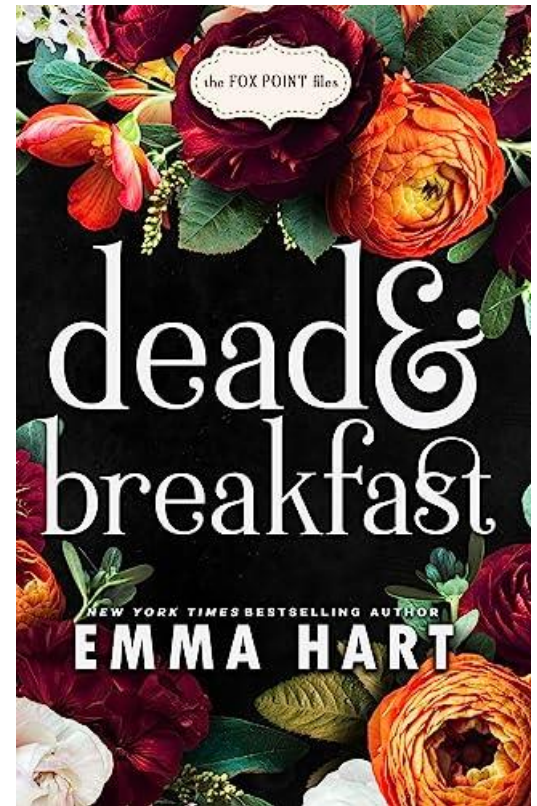
Katie M. Flynn is a writer, editor, and educator based in San Francisco. Her short fiction has appeared in *Colorado Review*, *Indiana Review*, *The Masters Review*, *Ninth Letter*, *Tin House*, *Witness Magazine*, and many other publications. Her debut novel, *The Companions*, about love, revenge, and uploaded consciousness, is out now from Scout Press/Gallery Books. Katie has been awarded Colorado Review's Nelligan Prize for Short Fiction, a fellowship from the Writers Grotto, and the Steinbeck Fellowship in Creative Writing. She holds an MFA from the University of San Francisco and an MA in Geography from UCLA. <https://www.katiemflynn.com/>



Emma Hart
DEAD & BREAKFAST
(The Fox Point Files, book #1)

Independently published, July 11, 2023
358 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Dan Mandel

From *New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author, Emma Hart, comes an addictive new romcom mystery series that fans of her *Holly Woods Files* series will adore. It's all the heat, heart, and snark you love—just deadly.



"What an intense read! Such fun and quirky characters that you just can't get enough of." - *Besties & Books*

"This laugh out loud comedy with a twist of mystery is sure to entertain you for hours. I can't express how much fun this book was." - *Moonsbine's Corne*

"Fantastic dialogue and lots of wicked one liners. I can't wait to read more from this series." - *Liz, Goodreads*

"This light hearted murder mystery was such a light fluffy, easy read. The one-liners in this book and banter between characters was unmatched." - *KirstenReads*

"Funny, quirky and charming, Dead and Breakfast exceeded all my expectations!" - *The Paperback Princess*

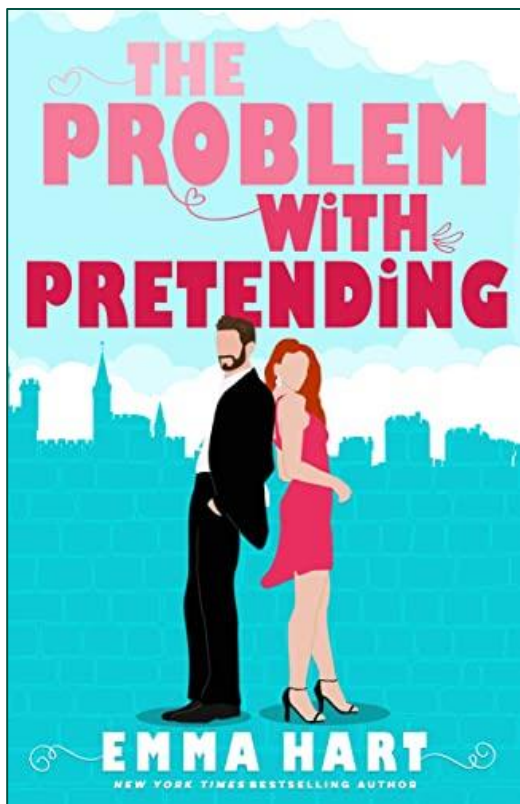
"The perfect mix of small town, cozy mystery, and second chances filled with fabulous characters I want more of!" - *The World Was Hers For The Reading*

Welcome to Fox Point—not everyone leaves this town alive.

When Lottie O'Neil inherits her grandfather's dilapidated bed & breakfast, she returns to the seaside town of Fox Point where she spent countless summers as a child, where she had her first sleepover party, and where her grandma taught her to cross-stitch. It was also there as a seven-year-old that she met Noah George, who threw sand in her eye and captured her heart forever. He was her first kiss. They savored their summers together, until they turned eighteen, life got in the way, and they never spoke to each other again. Until now.

Now that Lottie is the prime suspect in the death of a man she's barely met, Detective Inspector Noah George will be the man to arrest her.

Unless she can find the real killer first.



Emma Hart THE PROBLEM WITH PRETENDING (A Fake Relationship Romantic Comedy)

Independently published, May 14, 2023

432 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Dan Mandel

A swoony, hilarious romcom about what happens when you find yourself snowed in at Scottish castle... with only one bed to share with your aristocratic fake boyfriend.

Literally colliding with the hottest guy in the world and agreeing to be his date to his sister's wedding? Done... for some reason.

Finding out he's actually an aristocrat and will one day inherit an ancient Scottish dukedom and castle? Yep, that's a surprise.

Sharing a bed with him at said castle because his family thinks I'm his girlfriend? Okay, I'm sure I'll survive. Even if he does make my heart pitter-patter and my lady bits—*uh, never mind.*

Dealing with his family feud, his bridezilla sister, and his grandma's gobby cockatiel who fancies himself the castle alarm system? It's... well, it's... something.

Oh, and a snowstorm, keeping my real identity a secret, trying to figure out where the heck I know the Glenroch family from, and why his mum keeps looking at me weirdly?

Yeah, *that* I'll need some help with...



Emma Hart is a *New York Times* & *USA Today* bestselling author, who has written more than seventy romance novels in the last decade. She loves writing snarky, swoony romcoms with a side of chaos, occasionally venturing into romantic mysteries. Which are exactly the same as her romcoms, just with a dead body or two. That's the reason for her questionable Internet history—at least that's the story she's sticking to.

She lives on a smallholding in North Wales with her husband and their two children, a clowder of very fluffy cats, one giant German Shepherd, and an undisclosed number of chickens and ducks. Don't ask her to count them. She will not, thank you very much.

When she's not writing or chasing ducks in her pyjamas, you can find her creating cosy gaming content for her Youtube channel and live streaming on Twitch. <https://www.emmahart.org/>

Previous Foreign Publishers: Czech: Galatea; France: Hachette; Germany: Fischer; Israel: Adel; Italy: Fabbri; Spain: Roca; UK: Hodder

Katy Hays

MONSTERS OF CAPRI

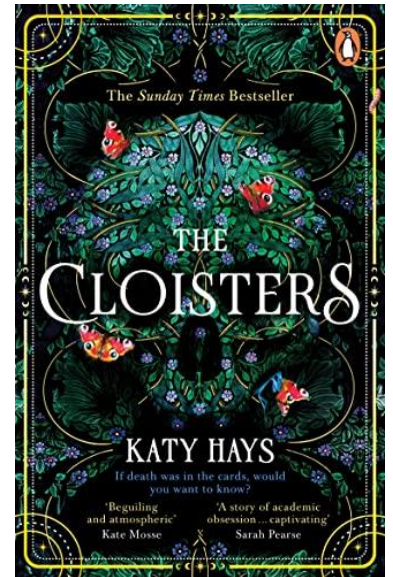
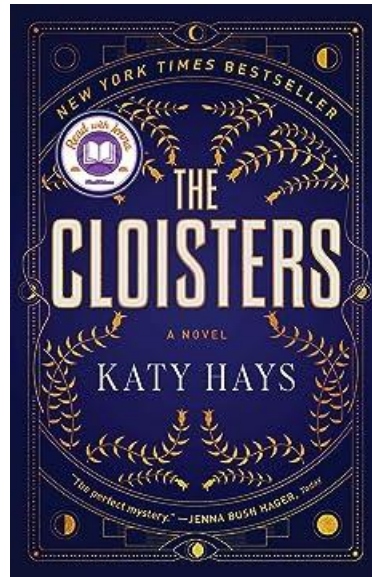
Atria, Spring 2025 | Atria has rights to: World English, Romania, The Netherlands, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Portugal, Russia, Italy, Spain, Lithuania, and France

Atria has all rights to *THE CLOISTERS*

~300 pages, manuscript anticipated Nov 2023

Agent: Sarah Phair

From the instant *New York Times* and *Sunday Times* bestselling author of *THE CLOISTERS* comes another gripping tale of history and family secrets that, when they start to unravel, bring dire results to the present.



For thirty years, playwright Sarah Lingate's death has been magazine fodder. And for thirty years, her husband, Richard Lingate, has lived under the suspicion that he got away with murder. That hasn't stopped Richard or his brother Marcus—heirs to the vast and historic Lingate fortune—from returning to the site of Sarah's death: a Moorish, whitewashed villa on the island of Capri. Every July they return to the island to vacation with family and friends.

But on the thirty-year anniversary of Sarah's death, they arrive on the island to discover an anonymous gift waiting for them: someone has sent Helen, Sarah and Richard's thirty-three-year-old daughter, the necklace her mother was wearing the night she died. Whether a warning or a joke, the gift sets into motion a series of decisions that culminate in the unthinkable—once again, a member of their group is found dead below the cliffs of their villa.

Paranoid and insular, the Lingate family begins to unravel. And as they fracture, the long-hidden secrets they have kept from one another, and the public, bubble to the surface.

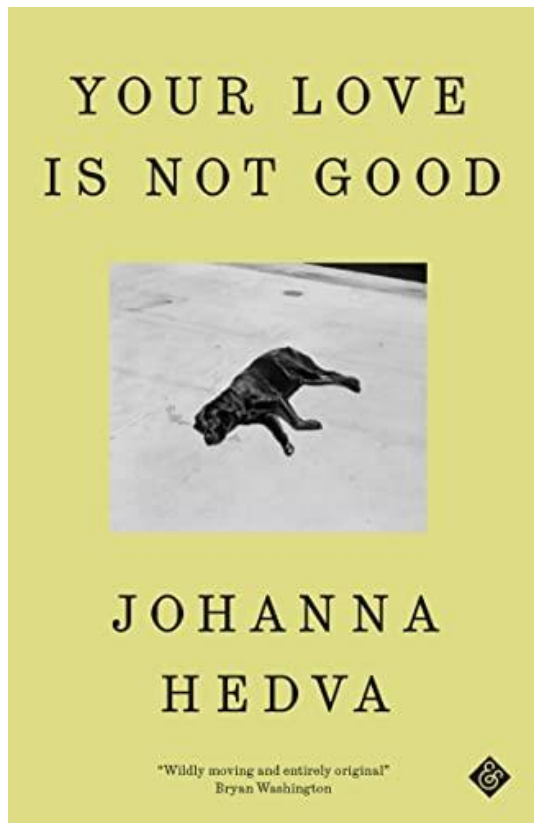
One thing is true: no one holds a grudge like family.

Katy Hays is a Californian, writer, and cake aficionado. She lives in the shadow of the Sierra with her husband and their dog, Queso. In addition to writing, Katy works as an adjunct Art History Professor teaching rural students from Truckee to Tecopa. She holds an MA in Art History from Williams College and pursued her PhD in Art History at UC Berkeley. Her academic writing has been published by Ashgate, an imprint of Routledge.

Her fiction explores how far humans are willing to go to believe the unbelievable, strange-but-real worlds, and complex female friendships. Her debut novel, *THE CLOISTERS*, was a *Today Show* #ReadwithJenna Book Club pick, a B&N Book Club pick, and an Amazon Best Book of November 2022.

When not writing (or eating cake) Katy is a skier, cyclist, trail runner, eastern Sierra enthusiast, and—well, reader. <https://www.katyhays.com/>





Johanna Hedva YOUR LOVE IS NOT GOOD

And Other Stories, May 23, 2023 | World English
320 pages, final text available
Agent: Clare Mao

An artist of color becomes obsessed with a white model in a novel with the glamor of Clarice Lispector and the viscerality of Han Kang.

At an otherwise forgettable party in Los Angeles, a queer Korean American painter spots a woman who instantly controls the room: gorgeous and distant and utterly white, the center of everyone's attention. Haunted into adulthood by her Korean father's abandonment of his family, as well as the specter of her beguiling, abusive white mother, the painter finds herself caught in a perfect trap. She wants Hanne, or wants to be her, or to sully her, or destroy her, or consume her, or some confusion of all the above. Since she's an artist, she will use art to get closer to Hanne, beginning a series of paintings with her new muse as model. As for Hanne, what does she want? Her whiteness seems sometimes as cruel as a new sheet of paper.

When the paintings of Hanne become a hit, resulting in the artist's first sold-out show, she resolves to bring her new muse with her to Berlin, to continue their work, and her seduction. But, just when the painter is on

the verge of her long sought-after breakthrough, a petition started by a Black performance artist begins making the rounds in the art community, calling for the boycott of major museums and art galleries for their imperialist and racist practices.

Torn between her desire to support the petition, to be a success, and to possess Hanne, the painter and her reality become more unstable and disorienting, unwilling to cut loose any one of her warring ambitions, yet unable to accommodate them all. Is it any wonder so many artists self-destruct so spectacularly? Is it perhaps just a bit exciting to think she could too?

Your Love Is Not Good stuffs queer explosive into the cracks between identity and aspiration, between desire and art, and revels in the raining debris.

Johanna Hedva (they/them) is a Korean-American writer, artist, and musician, who was raised in Los Angeles by a family of witches, and now lives in LA and Berlin. Their novel, *On Hell*, was named one of Dennis Cooper's favorites of 2018, and their writing has been published in *Triple Canopy*, *frieze*, and *The White Review*. Their art work has been shown at the Institute of Contemporary Arts, London; Performance Space New York; the Museum of Architecture and Design, Los Angeles; and the Museum of Contemporary Art on the Moon. In 2019, they released the album, *The Sun and the Moon*, and in 2020 they released *Minerva the Miscarriage of the Brain*, a collection of poetry, plays, and essays published by Sming Sming and Wolfman Books. Johanna is the author of the viral/seminal essay in disability justice, "Sick Woman Theory" (forthcoming in their essay collection, *HOW TO TELL WHEN WE WILL DIE*, from Zando in 2024—Zando has World rights). "Sick Woman Theory" has been translated into: Albanian, Danish, Dutch, French, German, Italian, Korean, Russian, Slovak, Spanish, and Turkish.
<https://johannahedva.com/>



PRAISE for YOUR LOVE IS NOT GOOD

“Impassioned, wry, compassionate, and hell-raising, this novel illuminates its frangible but resilient world the way a painter uses color on canvas to illuminate the focal point of her vision—building layer after layer of meaning until the image appears as if it has always been there for us to see. A resplendent and fearless book. Must read.”

—★ *Kirkus*

“Hedva is consistently savvy and surprising.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“A gripping, tightly plotted novel characterized by a trenchant exploration of race, queer desire, and power dynamics in the art world —Reed McConnell, *Frieze*”

“An emotional and artistic bildungsroman ... filled with apt perceptions and accurate barbs.”—*ArtReview*

“A thin permeable line between love and hate, pain and pleasure, self-love, self-flagellation, and total narcissism. Hedva's characters show us the complexities of being (in)human(e) beings and push our faces into the mud, an antagonism inflicted unto ourselves as we bully, bruise, blur, and break our way into the waking world. Hedva's willingness to parse apart ‘love’ from ‘goodness’ is the honesty we're all here and have been waiting for.”

—Legacy Russell, curator of The Kitchen and author of *Glitch Feminism*

“This precise page-turner of a tale about bad or nonexistent mothers, race, and the erotics of painting masterfully pins the art world to the buckram of its specimen tray, pointed sentence after sentence. Here everyone loses gorgeously, definitively—and lucky readers learn a lot about the game.”—Lucy Ives, author of *Life is Everywhere*

“*Your Love Is Not Good* is a whirlwind, and a mural, and a mirror—Hedva's prose is incisive and empathetic, wholly comedic and deeply poignant. This story about the life of our ideas, the trajectory of our dreams, and the burden of our loves is wildly moving and entirely original. Hedva deftly juggles questions of ambition and debt with what we owe others, and what we owe ourselves, resulting in a novel that's both honest and enrapturing. *Your Love Is Not Good* is a genuine blast.”—Bryan Washington, author of *Memorial*

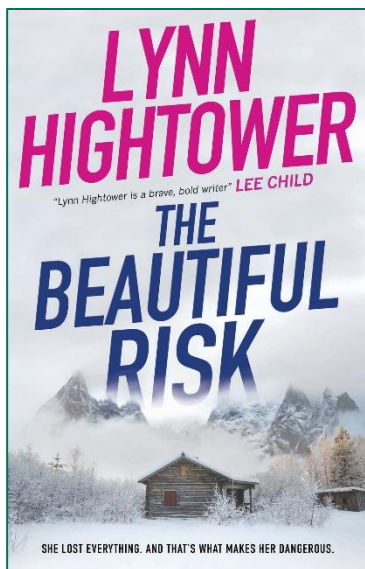
“It's more than all this, but here is something about labor, the capitalist in-seams in Identity, as expressed in an international art market that careens its participants—or is it the *art*?—towards suicide. For those needing—by hook or by crook, by rope, knife, mirror, or by truck—to leave something, or the art world, or the debt-collision of whatever they're doing, or even the internet for the next 24 goddamned hours, *Your Love Is Not Good* is very worth your beautiful time.”—Caren Beilin, author of *Revenge of the Scapegoat*

“*Your Love Is Not Good* is a dazzling tale of claustrophobia and neglect. Swinging deftly between savage realism, scathing social satire, and brutal erotic haze, Johanna Hedva moves from agony to alchemy in this meticulously layered portrait of intimate corruption. Bursting into the broken places between shame and self-creation, trauma and accountability, righteousness and complicity, *Your Love Is Not Good* cracks open the art world to exorcise the pain of belonging.”—Mattilda Bernstein Sycamore, author of *The Freezer Door*

“Electric, pornographic, mischievous, and deeply funny. *Your Love is Not Good* is a parable of the artist who in search of beauty encounters something far more intoxicating: ruin. Burn your diaries, kill your darlings, and go toast your real friends— this is the summer beach read you'll be talking about for the rest of the year.”

—Lara Mimosa Montes, author of *Thresholds*

“By turns funny, brutal, and (surprisingly) tender, *Your Love is Not Good* is a major achievement. Hedva's prose—which is gusty and taut—conveys a thrumming, kaleidoscopically constructed narrative structure to produce for the reader an experience of something incredibly intimate, something profuse, raw, erotic and challenging. *Your Love is Not Good* contains revelations (both vibrating and appalling) about artists and practice, and about contemporary art worlds. An instant classic/must-read/ important addition to the (woefully scanty) genre of books by artists about art-life. A very moving read.” —Harry Dodge, author of *My Meteorite*



Lynn Hightower **THE BEAUTIFUL RISK**

Severn House, August 2023 | World English

256 pages, finished text available

Agent: Matt Bialer

The Beautiful Risk is an intelligent, thought-provoking standalone thriller from internationally bestselling author Lynn Hightower.

It's a story of grief, of a dangerous mountain with a dark history, of corruption and greed, of ecoterrorism . . . and of a vulnerable woman with hearing loss, an injured dog and a broken heart, who'll stop at nothing to uncover the truth.

“THE BEAUTIFUL RISK IS A BEAUTIFUL BOOK . . . Lynn Hightower's riveting thriller has a brave and valiant dog at the center, whose devotion gets the heroine through the deepest loss and grief — and jeopardy.” – Tracie Hotchner, NPR

A GRIPPING SUSPENSEFUL READ – *Booklist*

DARK AND SWIFTLY MOVING -- *Kirkus Reviews*

Her husband died in a plane crash on Mount Blanc. It was a tragic accident.

These are the simple facts.

Except someone's not telling the truth . . .

After nine months of sorrow and grief, Junie Lagarde – a brilliant forensic accountant and passionate guitarist – is gradually accepting life without her beloved husband Olivier, a French safety consultant and climate-change expert, whom she lost in a tragic plane accident over Mont Blanc. If only she could have found her loyal hearing-dog Leo, who ran off in the terrifying aftermath of the crash, before she had to return home to America. But then Junie receives an unexpected call from France . . .

Capitaine Philippe Brevard, the man in charge of investigating Olivier's death, has seen recent CCTV footage which shows Leo being held by a man who closely resembles Olivier . . . right down to his distinctive jacket.

It's not Olivier. It *can't* be . . . can it? But who is the man – and what else is Capitaine Brevard hiding from her? Junie knows she must go to Chamonix, rescue her dog, and uncover the truth . . . but there are those who mean her harm, and soon Junie's learning dangerous secrets. Secrets that will shake her faith in her closest friends and put more than just her own life in the gravest of danger.



Lynn Hightower is the internationally bestselling author of numerous thrillers including the *Sonora Blair* and *Lena Padget* detective series. She has previously won the Shamus Award for Best First Private Eye novel and a WHSmith Fresh Talent Award. Lynn lives in Kentucky, in a small Victorian cottage with a writing parlor.



Megan Kamalei Kakimoto

EVERY DROP IS A MAN'S NIGHTMARE: Stories

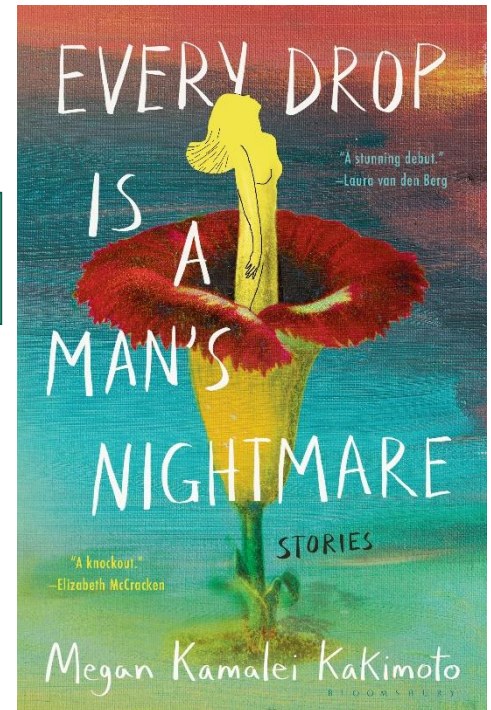
Bloomsbury, August 2023 | UK: Granta

272 pages, final text available

Agent: Iwalani Kim

From major new storytelling talent Megan Kamalei Kakimoto, a blazing, bodily, raucous journey through contemporary Hawaiian identity and womanhood.

Instant *USA Today* Bestseller
An Indies Introduce Pick
September Indie Next Pick



"A knockout. Eleven knockouts, one KO for every story."-Elizabeth McCracken

"A stunning debut."-Laura van den Berg

"Throbs with searing talent."-Kali Fajardo-Anstine

"As exquisite as it is terrifying."-Jenny Tinghui Zhang

Megan Kamalei Kakimoto's wrenching and sensational debut story collection follows a cast of mixed native Hawaiian and Japanese women through a contemporary landscape thick with inherited wisdom and the ghosts of colonization. This is a Hawai'i where unruly sexuality and generational memory overflow the postcard image of paradise and the boundaries of the real, where the superstitions born of the islands take on the weight of truth

A childhood encounter with a wild pua'a (pig) on the haunted Pali highway portends one young woman's fraught relationship with her pregnant body. An elderly widow begins seeing her deceased lover in a giant flower. A kanaka writer, mid-manuscript, feels her raw pages quaking and knocking in the briefcase.

Every Drop Is a Man's Nightmare is both a fierce love letter to Hawaiian identity and mythology, and a searing dispatch from an occupied territory threatening to erupt with violent secrets.

BLOODSICK: A Novel
Megan Kamalei Kakimoto

Bloomsbury 2025 | UK: Granta
Manuscript anticipated Summer 2024

Written in the vein of Stephen Graham Jones' *THE ONLY GOOD INDIANS*, Helen Phillips' *THE NEED*, and Jessamine Chan's *THE SCHOOL FOR GOOD MOTHERS* and set in a contemporary Hawai'i with a speculative twist, *BLOODSICK* is the story of an overbearing mother and her newly menstruating daughter as they encounter ghosts, cults, and the scrutiny of the state when they flee their former lives for good.

[Megan Kamalei Kakimoto](https://www.megankakimoto.com/) is a Japanese and Kanaka Maoli (native Hawaiian) writer from Honolulu, Hawai'i. Her fiction has been featured in *Granta*, *Conjunctions*, *Joyland*, and elsewhere. She has been a finalist for the Keene Prize for Literature and has received support from the Rona Jaffe Foundation and the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference. She received her MFA from the Michener Center for Writers, where she was a Fiction Fellow. She lives in Honolulu.
<https://www.megankakimoto.com/>



Photo credit: Van Wishingrad

Praise for EVERY DROP IS A MAN'S NIGHTMARE

"The contemporary Hawaii of Kakimoto's debut is neither idyllic backdrop nor tragic fable; the stories evoke the land and its intermixing cultures in all their anxiety, claustrophobia and restlessness. Following Indigenous and Japanese women, these stories are fluid, feminine, tormented, haunted and incredibly horny...Weaving Hawaiian words into English ones, Kakimoto positions language as a tether to our most ancient and eternal selves...*Every Drop Is a Man's Nightmare* is rich and wise, humming with confidence in the knowledge of a particular community's lovely, miserable ways." — *New York Times Book Review*

"Kakimoto interweaves themes of sexual desire and fertility with Hawaiian mythology in her unflinching debut collection . . . Marked by a wry sense of humor and an unerring touch for the surreal, Kakimoto's stories add up to a powerful exploration of gender, class, race, colonialism, and domestic violence. This eloquent outing marks Kakimoto as a writer to watch." — ★ *Publishers Weekly*

All things weird, wonderful, mysterious, and mythical collide in this excellent debut story collection. Focused on mixed native Hawaiian and Japanese women and ensconced in Hawaiian history and lore, each story explores what it means to be a woman, but especially a woman of color . . . This great book signals the arrival of a very talented writer." — ★ *Booklist*

"Absorbing . . . Magical events illuminate the all-too-real problems of Hawaiian women in an impressive story collection." — *Kirkus Reviews*

"Megan Kamalei Kakimoto is a short story writer that all other short story writers should study. *Every Drop* is a frontrunner for Book of the Year." — *Debutiful*

"Kakimoto's debut collection tells 11 stories of contemporary Hawaiian identity, mythology, and womanhood. Unruly sexuality, generational memory, and the ghosts of colonization collide in what promises to be an auspicious short-fiction debut." — *The Millions*, Most Anticipated

"The world desperately needs more Hawaiian voices in literature (and everywhere!), and Megan Kamalei Kakimoto's debut collection is a brave and atmospheric addition. Reflective and bold, the stories take on the violence of colonization while celebrating Hawaiian identity and womanhood." — *Ms. Magazine*

"Megan Kamelei Kakimoto's collection blooms with opulent and tender language. She weaves an intimate and expansive worldview of Hawai'i as sacred, abundant, and thoroughly alive with ancestral stories. Kakimoto is one of Hawai'i's most brilliant new voices. The power of her monumental debut will reverberate across generations past and those yet to come." — Joseph Han, author of *Nuclear Family*

"Lyrical collisions of superstition, folktales, and modern Hawaiian culture saving itself in the face of clichés. Desire and confusion are rarely far apart in these powerful coming-of-age stories that prove 'it is possible to be many things, all the time, all at once.'" — Amy Hempel, author of *The Collected Stories* and *Sing to It*

"Megan Kakimoto is an extraordinary writer—compassionate, insightful, fiercely funny and super-smart—and *Every Drop Is a Man's Nightmare* thrums with intelligence, wisdom, and wild originality. A tremendous debut by a writer who, lucky for us, has only just begun." — Molly Antopol, author of *The UnAmericans*

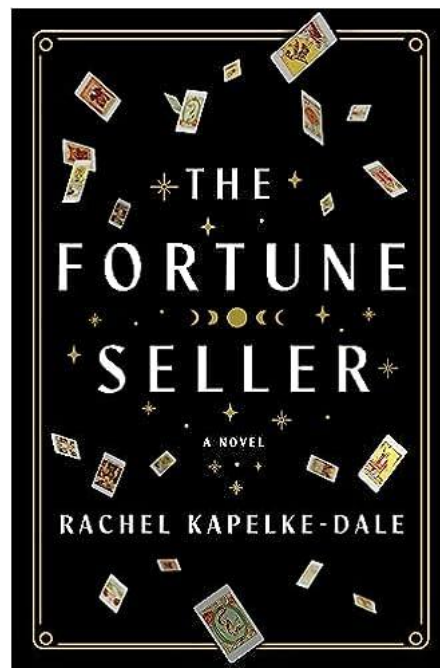
"Megan Kakimoto is one of those rare writers who has mastered both story and sentence. 'The Love and Decline of the Corpse Flower'—thick with grief, desire, and magic—teems with deft lyricism and poetic attention. The women in this story are audacious, resilient, and unforgettable—they have my whole heart." — Kimberly King Parsons, author of *Black Light*

"A wholly original debut, [it's] everything I want in a collection: daring, big-hearted, electric, lyrical, and utterly unforgettable. ... This book is a resounding yes... We are lucky to live in the time of Megan Kamalei Kakimoto." — Marisa Crane, author of *I Keep My Exoskeletons To Myself*

Rachel Kapelke-Dale
THE FORTUNE SELLER

St. Martin's Press | February 13, 2024 | World English
320 pages, final text available
Agent: Sarah Phair

Yellowjackets meets *The Cloisters* in this beguiling coming-of-age story about class, reinvention, and destiny, set against the backdrop of two mysterious deaths.



"Propulsive and engrossing, *The Fortune Seller* deftly examines the ways in which our lives are shaped by luck and by fate, illustrating the sometimes grizzly consequences of tempting either. Rachel Kapelke-Dale has (once again) captured the complexities of female friendship, ambition, and privilege with razor-sharp insight and sparkling prose, all set in the evocative worlds of equestrian competitions, dark academia, and the New York elite. Tarot cards offer hints at what's to come in each chapter, but this story kept me on my toes throughout; I absolutely devoured it." -Genevieve Wheeler, author of *Adelaide*

"Kapelke-Dale is fluent in the double-edged language of female friendship. I ripped through *The Fortune Seller*, her captivating, fast-paced novel about upper-crust, ride-or-die housemates at Yale whose petty cruelties take a sinister turn. A refreshing look at girl power and identity, longing and belonging, and fate and free will, *The Fortune Seller* reveals the dark impulses that fuel our most intense, intoxicating relationships." -Jillian Medoff, author of *When We Were Bright and Beautiful*

"Delicious and addicting, *The Fortune Seller* is the book of my occult horse girl dreams. Ambition, excess, equestrians—all filtered through the tarot and the question of fate versus luck. Kapelke-Dale has constructed a glittering tale of sacrifice and privilege. I guarantee you will not be able to put it down." -Julia Fine, author of *Maddalena* and *the Dark*

"*The Fortune Seller* is pure magic. A juicy campus novel suffused with complex friendship dynamics and an insider-outsider story of one woman's struggle to fit in with her high-flying peers, Kapelke-Dale weaves suspense with sharp prose for a read that's both fast-paced and thought-provoking. The novel's tarot cards may illuminate the future, but this much is clear: I'd follow Kapelke-Dale anywhere." -Avery Carpenter Forrey, author of *Social Engagement*

When middle-class rider Rosie returns to her Ivy League university after a year abroad, she finds that her elite group of equestrian friends has been infiltrated by a mysterious transfer student, Annalise, a talented tarot reader. But when money starts disappearing from one of the rider's bank accounts, Annalise's role in the group is thrown into question, with devastating consequences—and causes that will take Rosie years to fully excavate. As she begins a new job at a hedge fund, Rosie begins to uncover who Annalise truly was with the help of an enigmatic stranger linking Annalise to the uber-rich. Taking place at Brown University and in New York in 2005 and 2006, *THE FORTUNE SELLER* is set in a moment when anything seemed possible—right before financial systems came crumbling down.



[Rachel Kapelke-Dale](http://rachelkapelkedale.com/) is the author of *The Ingenue*, *The Ballerinas*, and co-author of *Graduates in Wonderland* (Penguin 2014). Kapelke-Dale received a BA from Brown University, where she rode on the varsity equestrian team, an MA from the Université de Paris VII, and a PhD from University College London. She currently lives in Paris.
<http://rachelkapelkedale.com/>



Photo credit: Sookoon Ang

Sally Wen Mao **NINETAILS: Stories**

Penguin, May 28, 2024 | NA
Full MS available October 2023
Agent: Clare Mao

**“‘smart and deft’ fabulist debut collection of stories
re-imagining the nine-tailed fox spirit of Asian
folklore (C. Pam Zhang).**

“Sally Wen Mao's work, both in prose and poetry, is a deep exploration of power and the fabulations our cultures have cast to weaponize power against the underclass, the forgotten, the lost, and the beautifully strange. What I love most about *NINETAILS* is its fierce allegiance to underdogs of all kinds, its careful and myriad empathy for its characters, but also its pure and artisanal delight in language and fictive possibilities. It marks, to my mind, the beginning of a poet's long and potent exploration in literature's most capacious genre. And it's a welcomed sight to see.” —Ocean Vuong, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *On Earth, We're Briefly Gorgeous* and *Time is a Mother*

“Sally Wen Mao's *NINETAILS* is smart and deft, moving with precision and great command from the surreal to the hilarious to the wincingly true. I am obsessed with these stories, which take place in settings from the glittering mythical future to the unfair beauty of San Francisco. Mao is a triple threat of a writer who inspires me.”—C. Pam Zhang, author of *How Much of These Hills is Gold*

A fox spirit avenges a teen girl by seducing her abuser. A shapeshifting woman finds herself chased through the woods by fox hunters; meanwhile, an assassination plot called Operation Fox Hunt unfolds against the last Queen of Korea. Chinese migrants hoping to make new lives as “paper children” in America find their pasts—and their hopes for the future—embodied in the foxes that haunt the harbor in 1900s Angel Island. In the nine tales of *Ninetails*, acclaimed poet Sally Wen Mao reimagines the fox spirit from Asian folklore—a shapeshifter, shaman, and seductress—as an icon of vengeance, solidarity and liberation. The characters of her stories are varied—from silicone sex dolls who come to life with new purpose, to women whose crushes manifest as stones—but they all reach for a common purpose: to find truth and belonging in a difficult world determined to consider them alien.

With the fabulist vibrancy of Carmen Maria Machado, the sinuous world-building of Helen Oyeyemi, and the sensuous feminist rage of Han Kang, *NINETAILS* is both timeless—unearthing a cultural icon whose origins date back over a thousand years—and timely in its contemporary political urgency.

Sally Wen Mao is the acclaimed author of two previous poetry collections—*Oculus*, which was a finalist for the Los Angeles Times Book Prize and one of Time Magazine's 100 Must-Read Books of 2019, as well as *Mad Honey Symposium*, which named a Top Ten Debut of 2014 in Poets & Writers, as well as *The Kingdom of Surfaces*. The recipient of two Pushcart Prizes and a National Endowment for the Arts fellowship, she's been published in *The Paris Review*, *Harper Bazaar*, *Guenrica*, *PEN America*, among others, with rave reviews of her writing in national outlets such as the *New Yorker*, NPR, and *The Washington Post*. She currently lives in New York City and is writing her first novel. <https://www.sallywenmao.com/>

Katherine Hall Page
THE BODY IN THE WEB:
A Faith Fairchild Mystery

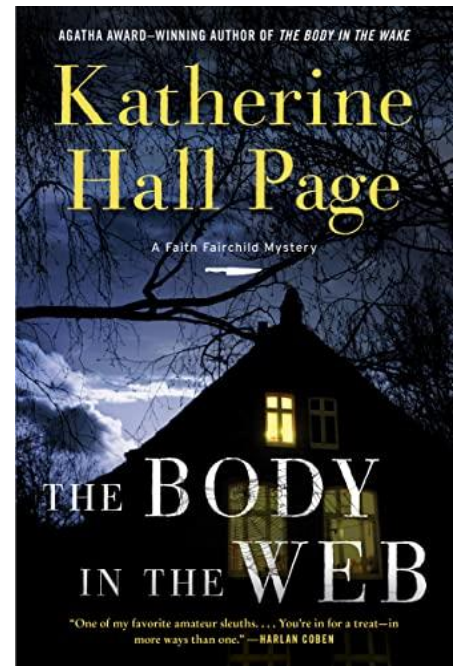
William Morrow, May 2023 | World English
272 pages, final text available
Agent: Faith Hamlin

In this 26th book in the award-winning Faith Fairchild Mysteries series, Katherine Hall Page's beloved amateur detective is hunkered down with her family during the pandemic when a Zoom-bombing scandal sends the community into a tailspin ... and a dead body is discovered.

"The best book I have read so far about life under Covid." –
Barbara Peters, the Poisoned Pen Bookstore

"The 26th Faith Fairchild mystery (after *The Body in the Wake*) is fresh and remarkable in its ability to bring back memories of the day-to-day aspects of living through COVID. The reader and the victim are both trapped in a web in this skillful combination of mystery and pandemic story." — ★ *Library Journal*

"All the hallmarks that signify a Katherine Hall Page Faith Fairchild Mystery are here, but it is really the depiction of everyday life during our recent pandemic that will resonate the longest with readers." — Bolo Books



Faith Fairchild joins the rest of the world in lockdown mode when reality flips in March 2020. As the pandemic spreads, Faith and her family readjust to life together in Aleford, Massachusetts. Her husband, Tom, continues his sermons from Zoom; their children, Ben, who's in college, and Amy, a high school senior, are doing remote learning at home.

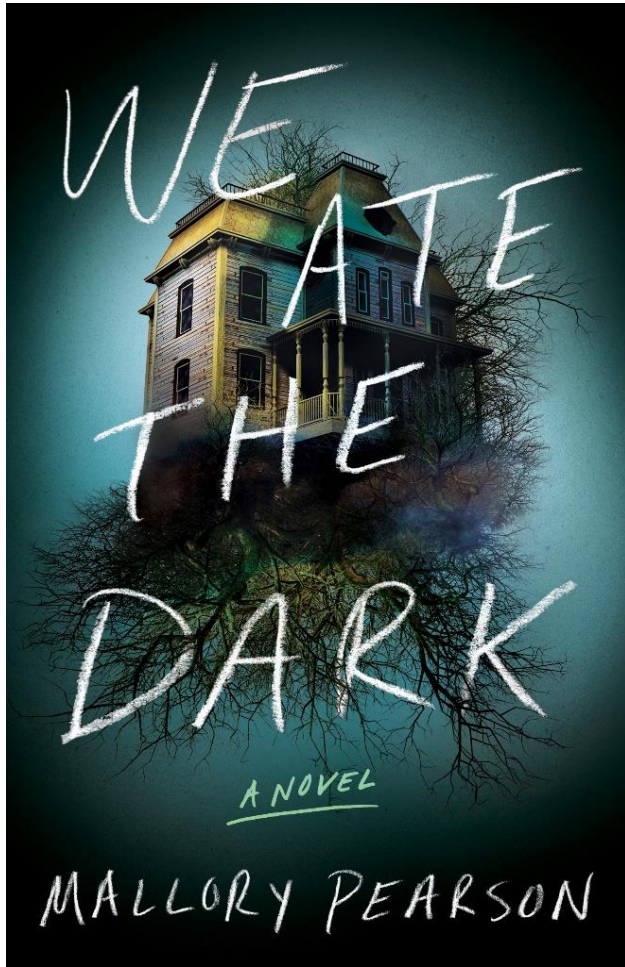
Faith is happy to have her family under the same roof and grateful for her resilient community, friends, and neighbors in Aleford. Town halls remain lively and well-attended, despite residents joining from their living rooms. It is at one of these town halls that scandal breaks out. In the midst of a Zoom meeting, damaging images suddenly flash upon everyone's screens. Claudia, local art teacher and Faith's dear friend, is immediately recognized as the woman who has been targeted.

When Claudia is later discovered dead, Faith, with the help of her friends, journeys deep into the dark web to unravel the threads of Claudia's mysterious history and shocking passing.



Katherine Hall Page is the recipient of the 2015 Malice Award for Lifetime Achievement, bestowed by the Malice Board of Directors in recognition of a significant body of distinguished work. Previous recipients include Tony Hillerman, Sara Paretsky, Sue Grafton, Dick Francis, Mary Stewart, Mary Higgins Clark, and others. Page has received the Agatha Award three times for her Faith Fairchild mystery series, the first—and only—writer ever to receive this honor. She has been nominated for the Edgar, the Mary Higgins Clark, and the Macavity awards, and her titles have previously sold in 5 territories.
<https://www.katherine-hall-page.org/>





Mallory Pearson

WE ATE THE DARK

47North | February 1, 2024 | World English

443 pages, final text available

Agent: Bailey Tamayo

Four women investigating the haunting murder of their friend discover more than they ever imagined in a terrifying novel about good and evil, love and death, and the spaces between.

"WE ATE THE DARK is a gripping tale of friendship and grief and the real and imagined ghosts from the past that come to haunt us. Deliciously queer and wildly Southern, this book had me turning pages fast, lost in its poetic language, immersed in the lush landscape, holding my breath in anticipation. Mallory Pearson has written a stunning debut filled with sentences that continued to surprise me with their beauty and generosity until the very last page." -- Genevieve Hudson, author of *Boys of Alabama*

and
Pretend We Live Here

Five years after Sofia Lyon disappeared, her remains are found stuffed into the hollow of a tree bursting through the floorboards of an abandoned house in the woods. The women who loved her flock home to the North Carolina hills to face their grief.

Frankie, Sofia's twin, is in furious mourning. Poppy is heartbroken. Cass has never felt more homesick. And Marya knows something the rest of them don't. Determined to find Sofia's murderer, they share more than a need to see justice done for their friend. Each woman is haunted, bound to the next by something both cruel and kind, and now stalked by a shadowy presence they've yet to understand. Only to question, and to fear.

As Sofia's secrets unravel, so do those of the woods, and the women soon realize that Sofia might not be who they thought she was at all. And that whoever—or whatever—killed her is coming after them.



This is the first of a two-book deal with 47North, the second to be a horror/dark academia standalone novel to be delivered in early 2024.

Mallory Pearson is a writer and artist portraying themes of folklore, queer identity, loss, and the interaction of these elements with the southern United States. She studied painting and bookbinding, and she now spends her time translating visual art into prose. She is an avid fan of horror movies and elaborate stews cooked in big witchy pots. Her work has appeared in *Electric Literature*, *Capsule Stories*, and *Haverthorn Press*, among others. Mallory lives in Brooklyn, New York, with her dearest friends. For more information, visit <https://mallorypearson.com/>

Nicolette Polek

BITTER WATER OPERA

Graywolf Press | April 16, 2024 | NA

128 pages, final text available

Agent: Alexander Reubert

An electrifying debut novel about art, solitude, family, and faith in a world without it

“Exuberant and improbable, *Bitter Water Opera* is a wonder work of noticing. At times a field guide, a compass, a low-key pilgrimage. Built with each precise line, a chimera of meaning comes into startling focus by its end. The effect of the haunted observer at the center of this limerent, faith-shaped novel is measureless. I wanted to travel with her indefinitely.”

— Marie -Helene Bertino, author of *Parakeet*

“Mesmerizing. *Bitter Water Opera* is a book dense and delicious with God-made language and violent emotion. This is an original for the 21st century.” —Fanny Howe, poet and novelist

“Nicolette Polek’s *Bitter Water Opera* is a real garden of a book, full of mysteries and mustard seeds. She shows us a door and asks us to open it, to see what others cannot see. I was astonished.” — Scott McClanahan, author of *The Sarah Book*

“A lush and dreamy, ‘storybook-like’ novel, reminiscent of Leonora Carrington and Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Bitter Water Opera* asks if we can change our lives—or make choices at all—if we can dwell in possibility ‘as if permanently,’ if we can allow enchantment into ‘the realm of the real.’ This is a work of subtle, spiritual intelligence.” — Elisa Gabbert, poet and essayist

In 1967, the dancer Marta Becket and her husband were traveling through Death Valley Junction when they came across an abandoned theater. Marta decided it was hers. She painted her ideal audience on its walls and danced her own dances until her death five decades later.

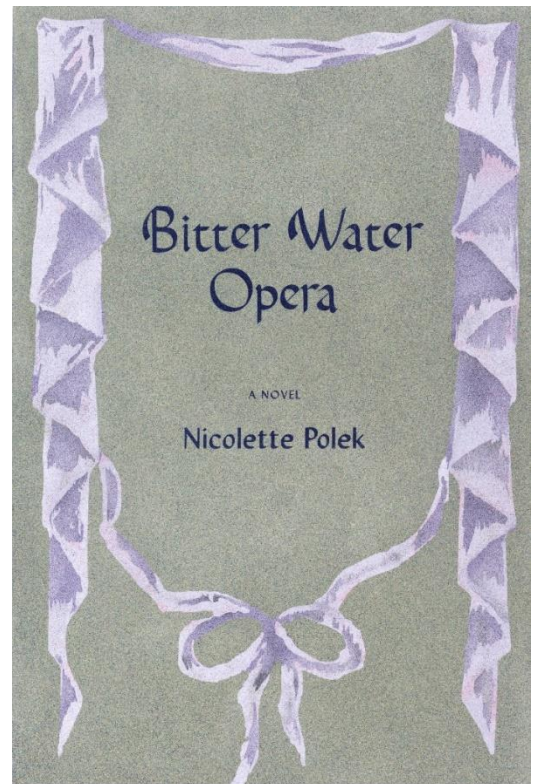
In the present day, Gia has ended a relationship and taken a leave from her job in film studies at a university. She is sleeping fifteen hours a night and ignoring calls from her mother. In a library archive, she comes across a photo of Marta Becket and decides to write her a letter. Soon Marta magically appears in her home.

Gia hopes Marta Becket will guide her out of her despair. But is Marta—the example of her single-minded, solitary life—enough? Through precise, vivid vignettes, *Bitter Water Opera* follows Gia as she resists the urge to escape into herself and struggles to form a lasting connection to the world. Her search has her reckoning with a set of terrifying charcoal drawings on her garage walls, a corpse in the middle of a pond, a crooked pear sapling, and other mysterious entities before bringing her to Marta’s theater, the Amargosa Opera House. There in the desert, Gia finds one answer.



In this brief, astonishing novel, Nicolette Polek describes an individual awakening to faith while exploring our deepest existential questions. How do we look beyond ourselves? Where do words go? What is art for?

Nicolette Polek is the author of *Imaginary Museums* (Soft Skull Press, 2020) and recipient of a 2019 Rona Jaffe Writers' Award. Her writing has appeared in *Paris Review*, *BOMB*, *Spike Art Magazine*, *Muumuu House*, and elsewhere. She grew up in Northeast Ohio and currently lives in New Haven, Connecticut. @NicolettePolek





Sold at auction in a
6-figure deal

Reena Shah
EVERY HAPPINESS

Bloomsbury | 2025 | NA

Manuscript due 2024

Agent: Iwalani Kim

Rights sold: India/English & Hindu
(PRH India)

From a 2022-2023 Steinbeck Fellow, a Fiction Fellow at the Michener MFA program, and a Senior Fiction Editor at The Rumpus, comes Reena Shah's piercing family saga and debut novel, EVERY HAPPINESS.

EVERY HAPPINESS is the story of Ruchi and Deepa, childhood friends who immigrate with their families from Mumbai to the sunny, anesthetized suburbs of Connecticut in the 1970s. Though they arrive with Bollywood-inspired fantasies about love and family, their relationships soon struggle under the weight of the model minority myth and hierarchies along caste, class, religion, and gender within the South Asian communities they encounter. As they fight to assert themselves, a forbidden intimacy binds Ruchi and Deepa, but it also produces a rivalry as the years pass and they keep constant score of each other's marriages, careers, and children.

Ruchi hunts for dignity in a clerical job at an OB/GYN office, trying to forget that she once aspired to be a doctor. Though she loves her son Moksh fiercely, Ruchi often fails to assert her love when it matters most, hiding his differences as a false form of protection. Moksh meanwhile retreats perilously deep into himself through disordered eating. Deepa and her family accrue wealth and status, but at a moral cost. After she catches her daughter Anu making out with a girl, Deepa refuses to accept it, even as she recognizes a similar desire in herself. When a scandal shakes their community and lays bare the fault lines in their families, Ruchi and Deepa must reckon with the secrets they've kept to preserve appearances. Years later, Anu and Moksh must in turn contend with the shame they've inherited from their mothers and the intimacy they still long for in adulthood.

Told in multiple points-of-view, the novel weaves between Mumbai in the 1960s and Connecticut in the '70s through '90s, culminating in the 2010s. In the vein of Avni Doshi's BURNT SUGAR and Elena Ferrante's THE LOST DAUGHTER, EVERY HAPPINESS delves into the culture of repression and silence that pervades so many South Asian immigrant households, and the ripple effect this has on the children who grow up in them. In Kimberly King Parsons' words, it is "moving and unforgettable, containing what I love most about fiction: a lush, unique, urgent voice steeped in cultural relevance, biting humor, and sentences that swerve and surprise."

Reena Shah is a writer, editor, and teacher. She has received fellowships and residencies from the Millay Arts, Tin House, the Sustainable Arts Foundation, Cuttyhunk Island Residency, and the Fulbright Foundation. Her work has appeared or is forthcoming in *The Master's Review*, *Electric Literature*, *Midnight Breakfast*, *Waxwing Magazine*, *Joyland*, *BBC*, *The American Prospect*, *National Geographic*, *The Guardian*, *Third Coast*, and *Writer's Digest*, among others. For many years she was a kathak dancer and public school teacher in New York and India. <https://www.reenadshah.com/about>

Calahan Skogman

BLUE GRAFFITI

Unnamed Press, Fall 2024 | World English

Delivery anticipated late 2023

Agent: Matt Bialer

From the lead actor in Netflix's *Shadow and Bone* comes a love letter to middle-of-nowhere America.

Imbued with an essential American freedom and longing, Calahan Skogman's novel *Blue Graffiti* is a poetic, raw first person narrative written in a style which pays homage to the late Jack Kerouac and other beat generation icons. Through the voice of its wild and blues-ridden romantic protagonist, Cash, the novel is a love letter to Johnston, Wisconsin, a humble hometown in the middle of nowhere Midwestern America.



A painter and construction worker, living in his parent's long ago abandoned home, Cash weaves in and out of time, place and memory with his closest friends as they find themselves vital threads in the fabric of those forgotten. When an emerald eyed heroine named Rose shows up one random summer evening in their favorite town bar, winds start to change. What follows is an intimate reflection on the love, faith, and tragedy that courses through the blood of America's backbone.

Hear him announce the project in his own words:



Calahan Skogman is a writer and actor born and raised in the Midwest, USA. Growing up in small town Seymour, Wisconsin, he became familiar with an intimate and unique slice of middle of nowhere America. It was there that he became a multiple sport all-state athlete and went on to compete in both NCAA football and basketball while cultivating his love for writing and observation and art. Upon completing his undergraduate degree, he pursued his passion for acting and received his MFA from the University of Southern California. At USC, he furthered his commitment to writing and completed a handful of full length screenplays. A few months after receiving his degree, he booked a role on the popular new Netflix fantasy show *Shadow and Bone*. That same year he wrote his debut novel *Blue Graffiti*.

<https://www.instagram.com/calahan.skogman/?hl=en>

<https://www.tiktok.com/@calahan.skogman?lang=en>

Douglas Day Stewart
AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN'S DAUGHTER

Blackstone, June 25, 2024 | World English

Manuscript anticipated November 2023

Agent: Matt Bialer

From Academy Award nominated screenwriter Douglas Day Stewart, AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN'S DAUGHTER is the long-awaited sequel to Stewart's wildly successful movie "An Officer and a Gentleman." The debut novel picks up the story thirty-five years later when Shannon, the daughter of Zack Mayo (Gere) and Paula Pokrifki (Winger), shows up unexpectedly at the school that trains Navy jet pilots and finds that her father, the head instructor in his last class before retirement, stands firmly in the path of her dreams.

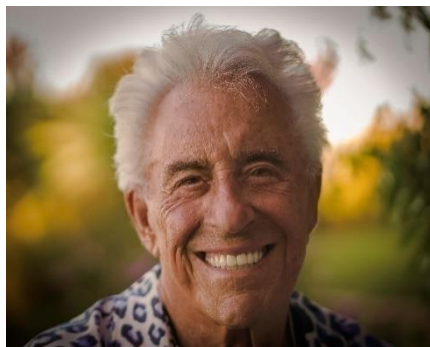
Written in the gritty, working-class style of the original film, the sequel follows Shannon's brave journey from opioid addict to the greatest pilot in Navy history. Facing the biggest challenge of his life, her father must bring the power of truth to the table to save his own life and the life of his beloved daughter. An old friend from the past, Zack's ferocious drill instructor (now reduced to a torso in a wheelchair), returns to be the catalyst for change in both father and daughter.

At its heart, this is a love story about a father and a daughter, set against the rigors of jet training, but it is also the story of a young woman's journey back to her own heart. The Fishery Kid, a handsome want-to-be writer, chronicles her story, falling in love with both the real Shannon and the Shannon he is writing about. He knows that if they are to enjoy a future together, she will need to resolve her issues with her father first.

Stewart wrote the iconic film based largely on his own experiences as a Naval Officer during the Vietnam era. From its release in 1982, the film (starring Richard Gere, Louis Gossett Jr., and Debra Winger) has been an inspiration to generations. The film's Cinderella ending has inspired millions of men around the world to propose to women by first lifting them up in their arms like Zack did with Paula when he carried her out of that factory.

Over the past four decades, the story has been frequently parodied in popular television shows and has become part of the global zeitgeist. Considered a cinema classic, the film has been heralded as one of the ten best and ten most profitable love stories in film history. The world responded to an uplifting love story in 1982 and it is even more hungry for such a story now.

Like "An Officer and a Gentleman", AN OFFICER AND A GENTLEMAN'S DAUGHTER is about the power of love to heal the secrets of the heart, a theme in [Douglas Day Stewart](#)'s writing. His screenwriting credits include "The Boy in the Plastic Bubble," (John Travolta), "The Blue Lagoon," (Brooke Shields) and "A – The Scarlet Letter" (Demi Moore and Gary Oldman). This is Stewart's debut novel.



Claire Swinarski

THE FUNERAL LADIES OF ELLERIE COUNTY

William Morrow/Avon | March 12, 2024 | NA

272 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Alexander Slater

Sold at auction

A debut adult novel from the acclaimed author of **WHAT HAPPENED TO RACHEL RILEY?**

Armed with a Crock-Pot and a pile of recipes, a grandmother, her granddaughter, and a mysterious young man work to bring a community together in this uplifting novel for readers of *The Chicken Sisters*.

Esther Larson has been cooking for funerals in the Northwoods of Wisconsin for seventy years. Known locally as the “funeral ladies,” she and her cohort have worked hard to keep the mourners of Ellerie County fed—it is her firm belief that there is very little a warm casserole and a piece of cherry pie can’t fix. But, after falling for an internet scam that puts her home at risk, the proud Larson family matriarch is the one in need of help these days.

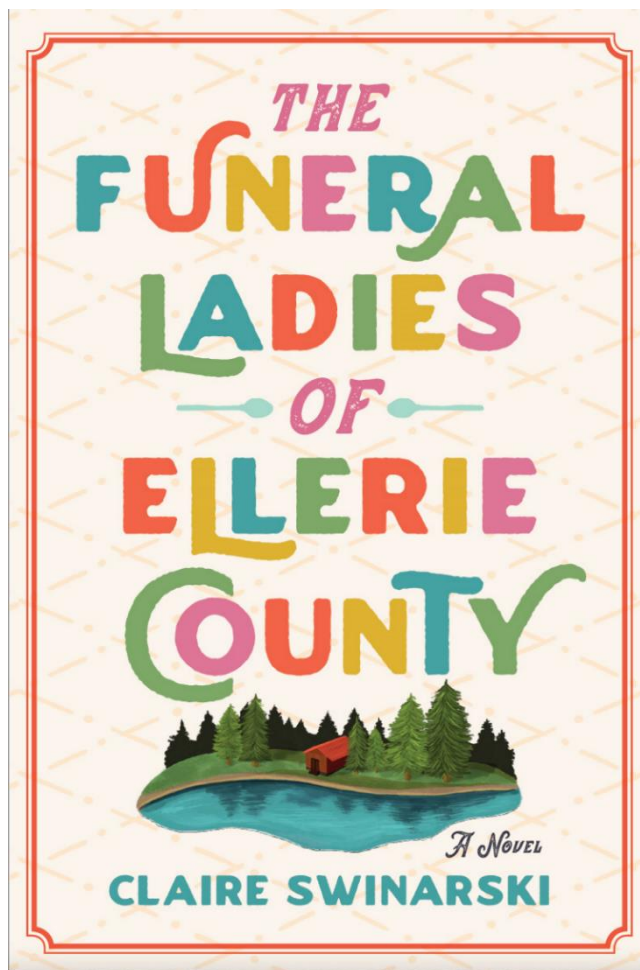
Iris, Esther’s whip-smart Gen Z granddaughter, would do anything for her family and her community. As she watches her friends and family move out of their lakeside town onto bigger and better things, Iris wonders why she feels so left behind in the place she is desperate to make her home. But when Cooper Welsh shows up, she finally starts to feel like she’s found the missing piece of her puzzle.

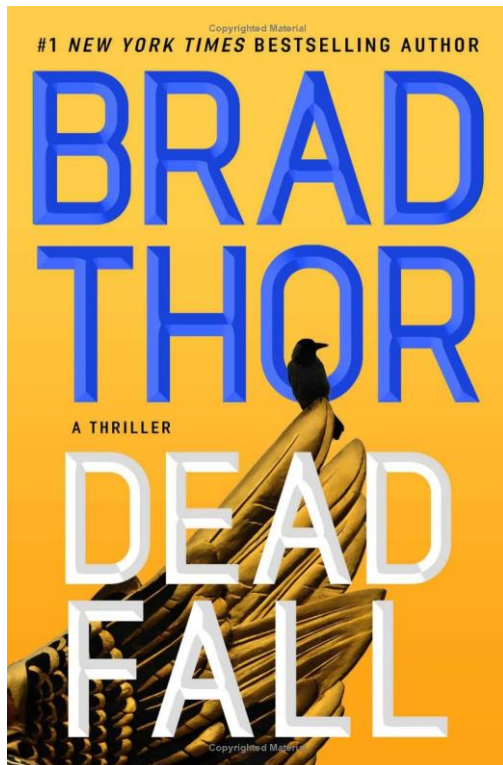
Cooper is dealing with becoming a legal guardian to his younger half-sister after his beloved stepmother dies. While their celebrity-chef father is focused on his booming career and top-ranked television show, Cooper is still hurting from a public tragedy he witnessed last year as a paramedic and finding it hard to cope. With Iris in the gorgeous Ellerie County, though, he hopes he might finally find the home he’s been looking for.



It doesn’t seem like a community cookbook could possibly solve their problems, especially one where casseroles have their own section and cream of chicken soup mix is the most frequently used ingredient. But when you mix the can-do spirit of Midwestern grandmothers with the stubborn hope of a boy raised by food plus a dash of long-awaited forgiveness—things might just turn out okay.

Claire Swinarski is the author of three middle-grade books and, now, one adult novel. Her writing has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Seventeen*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, and many other publications. She lives in small town Wisconsin with her husband and three kids, where she writes books, wears babies, and wrangles bread dough. <http://www.claireswinarski.com/>





Brad Thor DEAD FALL

Emily Bestler Books / Atria, July 11, 2023 | World English
320 pages, final text available
Agent: Heide Lange
Rights sold: Poland, Sonia Draga

Lethal operative Scot Harvath is dispatched to avenge the killing of American citizens abroad in #1 *New York Times* and #1 *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author Brad Thor's new pulse-pounding thriller

"Thor brings the fireworks like never before." — *The Real Book Spy*

"[Brad Thor] changes the game in DEAD FALL and ratchets the action and suspense to a new level." — *Wharton Journal-Spectator*

"This book has it all - spies, tradecraft, espionage, and geopolitics."
-- Fred Burton, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Ghost*

"It's not only Thor at his best, but Thor testing his own, and Harvath's, boundaries. Refreshing for any novel, but especially a thriller. This is heady stuff, brilliantly conceived and wondrously realized." — *BookTrib*

"DEAD FALL drips with danger, depravity, and daring deeds." — *Best Thriller Books*

"No one in the business does political thrillers quite like Thor...DEAD FALL is an important, intensely brutal and exciting read that is not to be missed." — *Book Reporter*

"Mr. Thor has established himself as a master of this genre. He thoroughly researches the subjects of his books, making them educational and entertaining. DEAD FALL will keep readers turning the pages." — *Epoch Times*

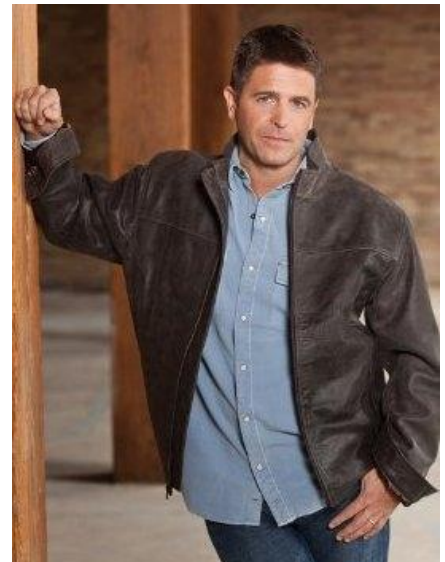
In the war-ravaged borderlands of Ukraine, a Russian military unit has gone rogue. Its members, conscripted from the worst prisons and mental asylums across Russia, are the most criminally violent, psychologically dangerous combatants to ever set foot upon the modern battlefield.

With all attention focused on the frontlines, they have pushed deeper into the interior to wage a campaign of unspeakable barbarity. As they move from village to village, committing horrific war crimes, they meet little resistance as all able-bodied men are off fighting the war.

Simultaneously, a team of Russian mercenaries has been dispatched by the Kremlin to loot truckloads of art and priceless cultural treasures hidden away in a host of churches, museums, and private homes.

When multiple American aid workers are killed, America's top spy is sent in to settle the score. But in a country almost the size of Texas, will Harvath be able to find the men in question and, more importantly, will he be able to stop them before they can kill again?

Brad Thor is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of twenty-three international thrillers and has served as a member of the Department of Homeland Security's Analytic Red Cell program. Please visit www.BradThor.com





SCIENCE FICTION & FANTASY



Lynn Buchanan

THE DOLLMAKERS

HarperCollins/Voyager, Fall 2024 | World English

Manuscript anticipated November, 2023

Agent: Matt Bialer



THE DOLLMAKERS is a beautifully-written and self-contained debut fantasy about art and creation, self-possession and self-discovery, growth, and the nebulous balance between accepting less than you deserve and reaching for more than you can grasp.

Dollmakers are the backbone of the country called One. An artisan's doll is the height of society while a guard's doll is the only thing standing between the people of One and the Shod: vicious cobbled monstrosities which will tear apart any structure, living or dead, inanimate or otherwise, to add to their horde.

Apprentice Shean of Pearl is a brilliant dollmaker and she knows it. With her clever, beautiful dolls she intends to outsmart and destroy the Shod, once and for all. So when the Licensor Guild proclaims her work to be that of an artisan, she refuses to accept it. And when they insist, Shean loses her temper and punches the licensor in the face.

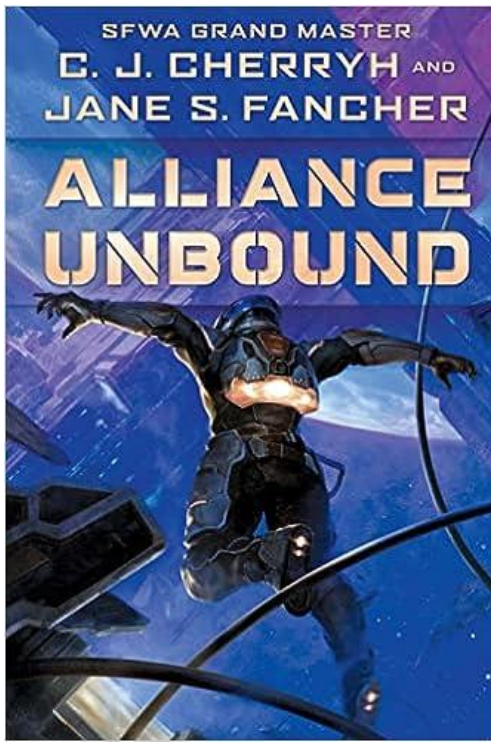
But honestly, how is that her fault? Her dolls are works of art, yes, but they are meant to be more than the frivolous companions of children. *She* is meant to be more. And if the other dollmakers refuse to see that, she'll just have to make them.

When her mentor sends her to the remote village called Web to glean some wisdom from Ikiisa, the reclusive guard dollmaker there, Shean gets to work on a plan of her own. Surely her masterpieces are superior to the dolls of some country bumpkin dollmaker. If she can convince Web to hire her as their dollmaker instead, the Licensor Guild will have to recognize the error of their ways and grant her a guard's license. Whatever happens to dollmaker Ikiisa after that is her problem.

But all is not as it seems, and Shean may be in for more than she bargained for. In the village called Web, Shean will uncover secrets about the Shod, the dolls, dollmaker Ikiisa, and herself that will change the country called One forever.

THE DOLLMAKERS is part of a planned series of standalones all set in the same fantasy world, featuring varying casts of unique, colorful characters knit together by a single recurring character whose overarching story concludes in the final two books of the series. The structure of the series is similar to the Penric and Desdemona books by Lois McMaster Bujold, the Discworld books by Terry Pratchett, or the various Cosmere books/series of Brandon Sanderson--self-contained adventures with wider-world-implicating drama in the background that, by the end of the series, will culminate in a large-scale conflict. Five of these standalones have already been written.

Lynn Buchanan is a fantasy writer based in the foothills of some impressive, chilly mountains in Utah. She's a 2019 graduate of the Odyssey Writing Workshop and holds an MFA in creative writing from BYU, where she was a student of Brandon Sanderson; currently, she works for Sanderson's art director at Dragonsteel Entertainment, while also helping Sanderson with his creative writing course. When she isn't writing about moody painters, demonic dolls, and mummified arms used as dancing props, she enjoys playing the oboe, drawing, and watching Ghibli movies. She can be found at her website lynnbwrites.com, and on Twitter [@LynnBwrites](https://twitter.com/LynnBwrites).



C. J. Cherryh
ALLIANCE UNBOUND
 (The Hinder Stars, book 2)

DAW, October 15, 2024

352 pages, manuscript anticipated late 2023

Agent: Matt Bialer

The 2nd novel of The Hinder Stars series returns to an intergalactic corporate conflict, set in the Hugo Award–winning Alliance-Union Universe.

With deft prose and complex characters, *Alliance Unbound* is thought-provoking science fiction that shrewdly examines the technological and sociopolitical challenges of humanity's journey to the stars.

When Cyteen opened up faster-than-light travel, it gave the technology for free to any ship that could reach it; and with that technology, it provided a map of jump-points, points of mass enabling starships to navigate hyperspace safely.

The map of jump-points, however, stopped with the route to Alpha—thus excluding Sol, and Earth, and the Earth Company, whose gateway to the stars was Alpha. Cyteen knew exactly what it was doing with its gift. Sol and the EC could still reach Alpha with sub-light pusher-ships as it always had—but Sol and the Earth Company no longer had any authority in the Beyond.

But Sol intends to take back control of its star-stations and stop Cyteen's unbridled expansion, however it can. To do that, they are willing to starve Alpha and concentrate their efforts on a huge FTLer capable of carrying military force.

Praise for *Alliance Rising*

"SFWA Grand Master C.J Cherryh and Jane Fancher team up to create another exciting entry in Cherryh's extensive Alliance-Union Universe." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Cherryh and Fancher ground this fine work in the difficult choices that their characters must make in the face of an uncertain future. The economics and sociopolitics are as riveting as space battles, enhancing this welcome addition to the Alliance-Union saga." —*Publishers Weekly*

"[*Alliance Rising*] showcases a concern—common to Cherryh's other novels—with organisations and bureaucracies, with systems and societies, and how such wider contexts shape the people (ambitious or content, well-meaning or malicious) who operate within them.... Cherryh and Fancher deploy an anthropological eye." —Tor.com



Recognized for “lifetime achievement in science fiction and/or fantasy,” [C. J. Cherryh](https://www.cherryh.com/www/menu.htm) joins SFWA’s Grand Master ranks alongside an esteemed group of previous recipients of this high honor, including Robert A. Heinlein, Arthur C. Clarke, Isaac Asimov, Ray Bradbury, and Ursula K. Le Guin. She won the John W. Campbell Award for Best New Writer in 1977 and three Hugo Awards, including the Best Novel Award for *Cyteen* and *Downbelow Station*. In 1998, Cherryh was the Guest of Honor at the World Science Fiction Convention. She is the author of *The Faded Sun* series, the *Chanur* books, and the long-running beloved space opera *Foreigner* series. Her writing spans the breadth from space opera to historical fantasy. <https://www.cherryh.com/www/menu.htm>

Scott Drakeford

THE FATE OF SILENT GODS

(The Age of Ire Book 2)

Tor, November 19, 2024 | North America

400 pages | manuscript anticipated November 2023

Agent: Matt Bialer

In the second book of the acclaimed Age of Ire trilogy, the War for Iraea begins in earnest as the Fallen God grows bolder in His bid to slaughter everything and everyone Emrael loves.

Following the events of book one, Emrael and his followers now face the full might of the United Provinces, whose Legions and sinister Malithii allies are poised to crush their fledgling rebellion. Blood, friendships, and morals must be sacrificed if they are to survive. Brutal tactics and political maneuvers are the order of the day. Emrael has no other choice. But not all among his ranks agree with his methods.

Ambitions grow, lovers become enemies, and critical alliances shift. All the while, the Fallen God schemes to not only defeat Emrael's armies, but to subdue him personally.

When Emrael's ambitions push him to conquer yet another Lord Holder's lands, the Watchers and Malithii anticipate Emrael's moves to an impossible degree; Ban comes under siege at Trylla while Emrael is away. Once again, Emrael is forced to risk everything to save his brother from the forces of the Fallen God. This time, Emrael must contend with the fact that he's to blame.



THE RISE OF THE MAGES

(The Age of Ire Book 1)

Tor, January 2023 | North America

400 pages | final text available

Agent: Matt Bialer

A young warrior and his improbable band of allies face impossible odds as they seek to rescue his brother from the servants of the Fallen God.

Emrael Ire is a student of war with lofty ambitions, despite being so poor his boots are more hole than leather. He and his talented younger brother Ban work hard to build themselves a better life at the Citadel, a school that specializes in both *infusori* Crafting and military arts.

Their lives are upended when the power-hungry Lord Governor of the neighboring province invades the school with the help of a sinister sect of priests devoted to the newly awakened Fallen God of Glory. Many of the *infusori* Crafter students are captured — including Ban.

Though Emrael stands little chance against the Lord Governor and his armies, he's desperate to save his brother—even if that means accepting the help of allies with uncertain motives, or becoming a practitioner of a forbidden magic. There is nothing he won't sacrifice to save his brother, but what happens when the cost of success is not his to pay?

Praise for RISE OF THE MAGES

“This book commits almost every crime against heroic fantasy that I can imagine ... and I have not been able to put it down.” —Glen Cook, bestselling author of *The Black Company*

“This is old-school and new-school epic fantasy rolled into one... *Rise of the Mages* is a fast-paced adventure that will satisfy any fantasy fan young or old.” —Brian Lee Durfee, author of *The Forgetting Moon*

“[This} superbly crafted and epic fantasy saga is the first volume in his new 'Age of Ire' series and will keep enthusiastic readers eagerly awaiting the next installment. ”—*Midwest Book Review*

“Drakeford crafts a complex geopolitical environment, and Emrael is a joy to follow and root for.”—*Booklist*

“Rise of Mages opens a door into a character-driven world of distinctive magic, rousing adventure, and corruption of the first order. Fantasy lovers will experience the full range of curiosity, anger, delight, frustration, joy, and satisfaction.”
—Kel Kade, *New York Times* bestselling author

“Rise of the Mages is a proper adventure, bursting with bloody action and exciting twists. Emrael is a fantastic lead, full of strength and loyalty, but also a hot-headed impulsiveness and a compelling inner darkness that I couldn't get enough of.” —Brian Naslund, author of *Blood of an Exile*

“An immersive world epic fantasy fans will be glad to return to.” —*Publishers Weekly*

“Drakeford has certainly laid the groundwork for a truly captivating epic fantasy series.”—*Out of This World SFF*

"A piece of SFF that refuses to be pinned to any one subgenre. Is it magical academy? Found family? Band of misfits? Chosen One? Grimdark? Mil-fantasy? The answer is all and none of these. Drakeford will give you the fantasy novel you didn't know you wanted. Highly recommend." - Richard Swan, Bestselling Author of *The Justice of Kings*

"Drakeford expertly weaves princely vengeance, unworthy gods, and innovative magic into an iconic epic fantasy." - Sunyi Dean, Bestselling Author of *The Book Eaters*

Scott Drakeford Scott Drakeford was born and raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. He currently lives in the PNW with his badass tech wizard of a wife, their tenacious children, and two dogs.

Scott is a longtime lover of the written word, especially fantasy fiction. His father convinced him to read *The Belgariad* as a youngster, and the best books soon became Scott's world. *The Wheel of Time*, *Harry Potter*, *The Saga of Recluce*, and many other books influenced Scott deeply.

Later, Scott was tricked into becoming a “responsible adult”, getting a degree in engineering, and living the corporate life. Still, his addiction to books lived on, and more recent favorites like *The Name of the Wind* and *Red Rising* convinced him that writing could be his way of contributing something beautiful and meaningful to the world.

While Scott spends most of his time working and writing, when he has time he enjoys cooking, NBA basketball (go Jazz!), weightlifting, video games, hunting, fishing, and (of course) reading.



Benjamin Liar
THE FAILURES
(THE WANDERLANDS, book 1)

DAW, July 2, 2024 | NA

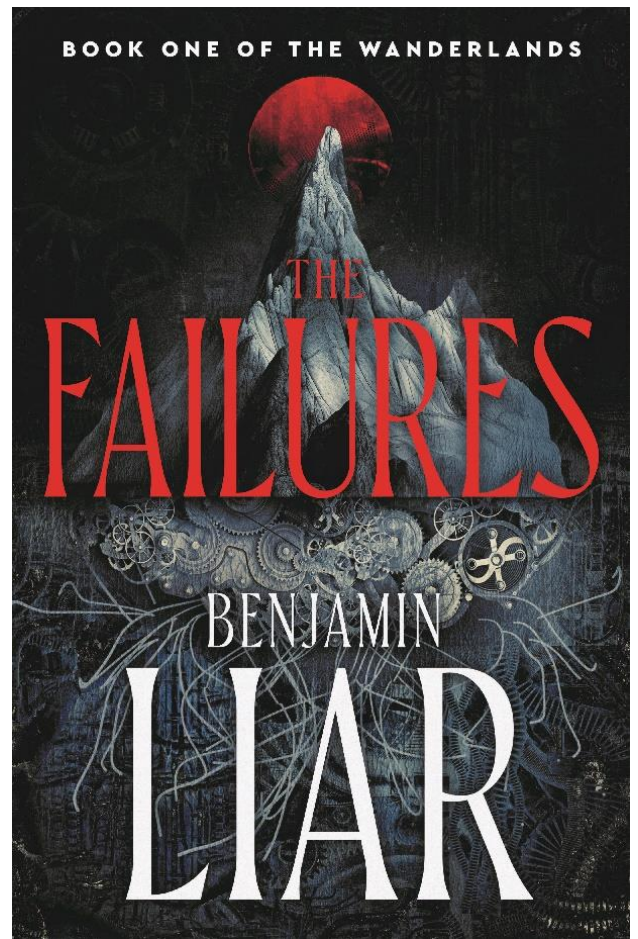
800 pages, final manuscript expected late 2023

Agent: Matt Bialer

Evoking the irreverence of *Deadpool*, and incorporating elements of *Dr. Who* and traditional fantasy, weird and wonderful **THE FAILURES** is the debut of a revolutionary new voice in fantasy fiction.

DAW lead title

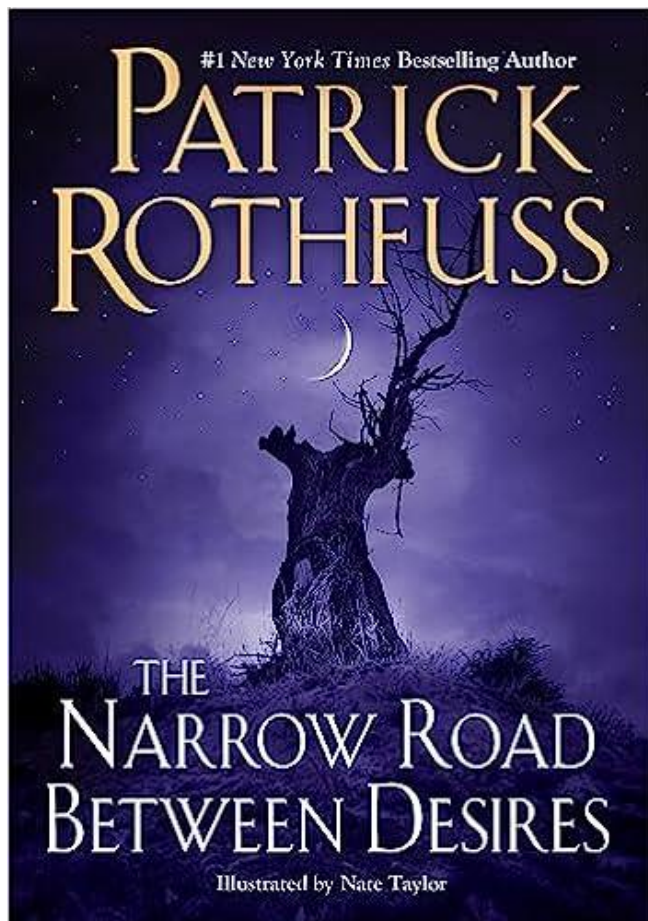
The first of three books sold to DAW, a subsidiary of Astra, this interconnected, complex story follows a rich ensemble of characters, led by Sophie Vesachai, once child-hero and current cynical and disillusioned leader of a gang of runabout degenerates, ironically and affectionately called The Killers. Now, Sophie once again finds herself embroiled in a struggle for the very fate of the world. But unfortunately for the fate of the world, Sophie turned her back on that kind of bullshit years ago. She and a small group of ragtag and failed heroes, from scattered places—and times—all across the Wanderlands will follow the summons of a strange dream and find each other in one of the last places in this doomed world to hold any light: the underground Keep, where a buried giant has awakened and threatens to destroy their entire civilization.



Benjamin Liar is a writer, musician, filmmaker and game designer. He has been writing for most of his life, but **THE FAILURES** will be his first published novel. He has performed his music under many names and in many places, has won several local awards for short filmmaking, and recently published a virtual reality game. His name is clearly a pseudonym, but you still shouldn't trust anything he says. You can find him on most of the things [@benjaminliar](#).

See a video about the book from the author here:





Patrick Rothfuss
**THE NARROW ROAD
 BETWEEN DESIRES**
 (A KINGKILLER CHRONICLE
 novella)

Illustrated by Nate Taylor

DAW, November 14, 2023 | NA

240 pages, final text and illustrations available

Agent: Matt Bialer

Rights sold: Brazil (Sextante), Bulgaria (Prozorets), Czech (Argo), Germany (Klett Cotta), Netherlands (Meulenhoff Boekerij), Spain (PRH), UK (Gollancz)

#1 *New York Times*-bestselling phenomenon
Patrick Rothfuss returns to the wildly popular
Kingkiller Chronicle universe with a stunning
reimagining of "The Lightning Tree." Expanded to
twice its previous length and lavishly illustrated by
Nate Taylor, this touching stand-alone story is sure
to please new readers and veteran Rothfuss fans
alike.

Bast knows how to bargain. The give-and-take of a negotiation is as familiar to him as the in-and-out of breathing; to watch him trade is to watch an artist at work. But even a master's brush can slip. When he accepts a gift, taking something for nothing, Bast's whole world is knocked askew, for he knows how to bargain—but not how to owe.

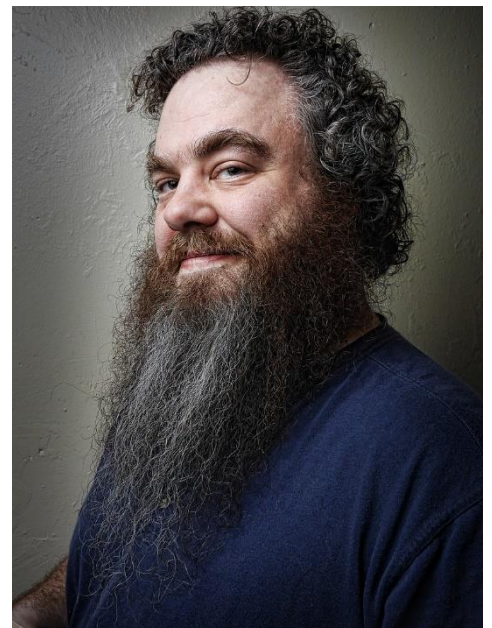
From dawn to midnight over the course of a single day, follow the Kingkiller Chronicle's most charming fae as he schemes and sneaks, dancing into trouble and back out again with uncanny grace.

THE NARROW ROAD BETWEEN DESIRES is Bast's story. In it he traces the old ways of making and breaking, following his heart even when doing so goes against his better judgement.

After all, what good is caution if it keeps him from danger and delight?

Patrick Rothfuss is the author of the #1 *New York Times* and international bestselling *The Kingkiller Chronicle* series, which have been licensed in 37 territories and sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. He is also the co-author, with illustrator Nate Taylor, of a graphic novel series *The Adventures of the Princess and Mr. Whiffle*.

<https://blog.patrickrothfuss.com/>



Tad Williams

THE NAVIGATOR'S CHILDREN

(Last King of Osten Ard Book 4)

DAW, November 12, 2024 | NA

HodderScape UK

768 pages, manuscript available

Agent: Matt Bialer

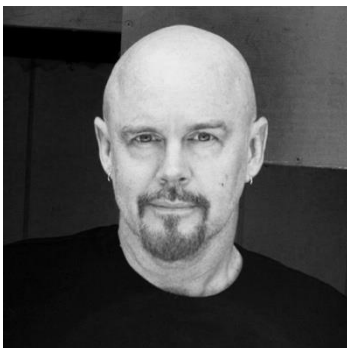
“[W]ithout Tad Williams, there would
be no *Game of Thrones*.”
—*The Guardian* (UK)

The latest saga in the *New York Times* bestselling world of Osten Ard concludes in the fourth and final Last King of Osten Ard novel.

The Hayholt is besieged by the Norns. Once the home of their immortal brethren, the Sithi, now capital of the kingdom of men, the fabled castle is under attack. And as the world is distracted by this strike against humankind, the Norns’ deathless witch-queen Utuk’ku turns towards the mysterious fateful valley called Tanakirú—the Vale of Mists.

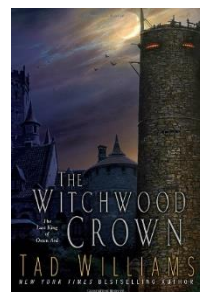
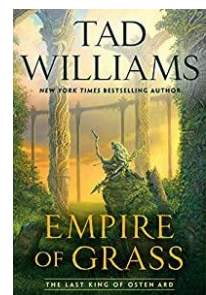
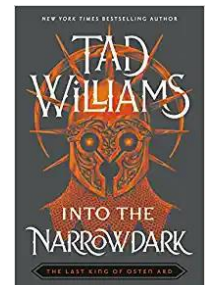
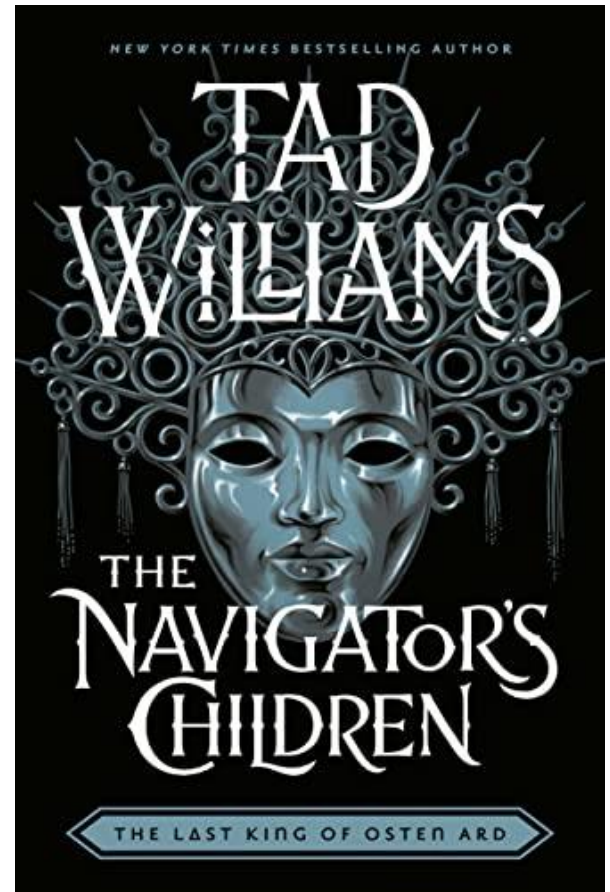
Meanwhile, Queen Miriamele hurries to save the Hayholt and capture the treacherous noble Pasevalles, but arrives to discover the traitor has escaped.

And inside Tanakirú, Vale of Mists, the bond between Prince Morgan and Nezeru, a renegade Norn, has become something deeper and stranger than either of them could have anticipated. They journey ever deeper to the heart of the valley’s mystery, encountering wonder and horror, and come face to face at last with the ancient secret that has kindled the Norn Queen’s war—a secret that will destroy immortals and humans alike.



mountains in a suitably strange and beautiful house. Visit him online at www.tadwilliams.com

Tad Williams is a California-based fantasy superstar. His genre-creating (and genre-busting) books have sold tens of millions worldwide. His works include the worlds of Otherland, Shadowmarch, and Osten Ard—including the Memory, Sorrow, and Thorn, and The Last King of Osten Ard series—as well as standalone novels Tailchaser’s Song and The War of the Flowers, plus the Bobby Dollar urban fantasies. His considerable output of epic fantasy, science fiction, urban fantasy, comics, and more have strongly influenced a generation of writers. Tad and his family live in the Santa Cruz





NON-FICTION



Geraldine DeRuiter
IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT:
Tales of Food, Feminism, and Fury

Crown, March 12, 2024 | NA
336 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Zoe Sandler

From the James Beard Award-winning blogger behind *The Everywhereist* is a fresh look at food and feminism from one of the culinary world's sharpest voices.

"Food is sustenance and often comfort, and in *If You Can't Take the Heat*, DeRuiter reminds us that it can be all of that and so much more. Food can be markers of our history, our relationships, and a lesson in what we do and don't want. It's oddly poignant to read this and realize how many memories are tied not just to the smell of food but the desire or aversion to it. Food is the story of our life written in flavors and influences and nostalgia for chain restaurants. With charm and humor, DeRuiter welcomes us into her personal history and thus reconnects us with ourselves." —Mikki Kendall, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Hood Feminism*

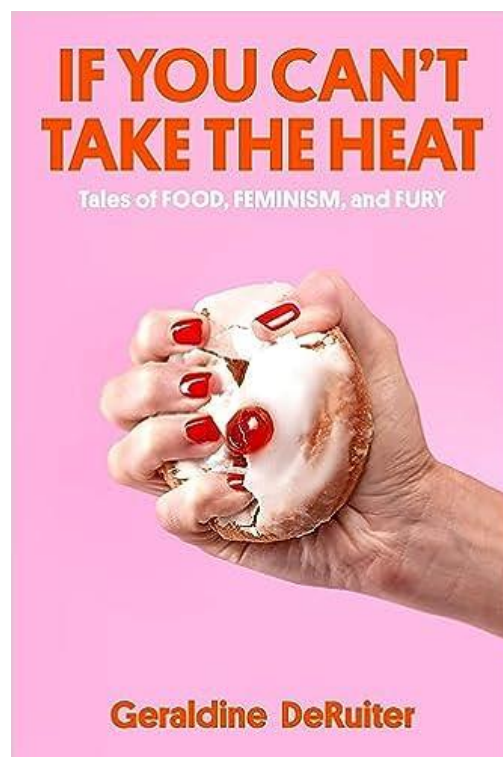
"Witty does not begin to describe the razor sharp takes DeRuiter packs in chapter after chapter of this hilarious, astute, and at times heartbreaking, memoir. DeRuiter somehow manages to raise your hackles over indignities like 'ladies menus' while making you giggle simultaneously, and you'll find yourself wanting to hug, high-five, and cheer for her as she navigates anxieties and adventures full of food and feminist awakenings." —Rabia Chaundry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Fatty Fatty Boom Boom*

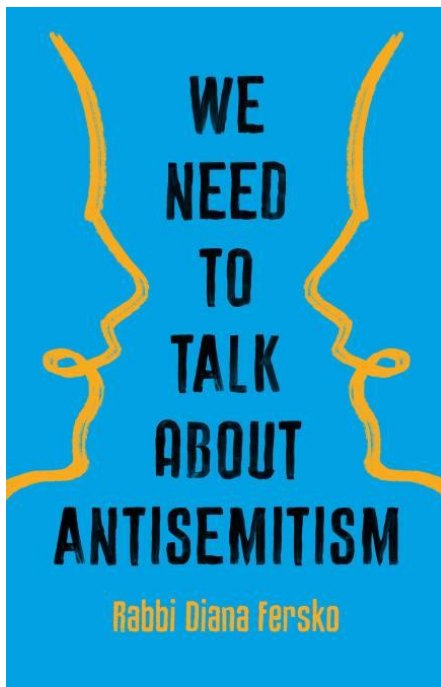
When celebrity chef Mario Batali sent out an apology letter for the sexual harassment allegations made against him, he had the gall to include a recipe—for cinnamon rolls, of all things. Geraldine DeRuiter decided to make the recipe, and she happened to make food journalism history along with it. Her subsequent essay, with its scathing commentary about the pervasiveness of misogyny in the food world, would be read millions of times, lauded by industry luminaries from Martha Stewart to *New York Times* restaurant critic Pete Wells, and would land DeRuiter in the middle of a media firestorm. She found herself on the receiving end of dozens of threats, when all she wanted to do was make something to eat (and, okay fine, maybe take down the patriarchy).

In *IF YOU CAN'T TAKE THE HEAT*, DeRuiter shares stories about her shockingly true, painfully funny (and sometimes just painful) adventures through gastronomy. We'll learn how she finally got a grip on her debilitating anxiety by emergency meal-planning for the apocalypse ("You are probably deeply worried that in desperate times, I would eat your pets. And yes, I absolutely would."). Or how she learned to embrace her hanger ("Because women can be a lot of things, but we can't be angry. Or President, apparently."). And how she inadvertently caused *another* international incident with a negative restaurant review (she made the homepage of *The New York Times* website! And she got more death threats!).



[Geraldine DeRuiter](#) is an acclaimed author, world-renowned public speaker, and the voice behind the award-winning *Everywhereist* blog. While ostensibly a travel writer, Geraldine also writes about dessert, feminism, and Jeff Goldblum's entire filmography. *TIME* Magazine described her work as "consistently clever" and *The New York Times* said her writing was "dark and hilarious". Her blog has received accolades from *The Independent*, *Forbes Magazine*, and *The Huffington Post*, because sometimes features editors get drunk.





Rabbi Diana Fersko WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT ANTISEMITISM

Hachette/Seal Press, August 2023 | NA

256 pages, final text available

Agent: Dan Mandel

**A millennial rabbi explores why we're reluctant to discuss antisemitism—
and empowers us to fight against it**

"An essential read for anyone interested in any aspect of antiracism or diversity, equity, and inclusion, or who generally wants to understand the current climate for Jewish people."—★*Library Journal*

"An eye-opening and thought-provoking read."—*Kirkus*

"Rabbi Diana Fersko's book is written with passion, insight, and a deep commitment to the Jewish people. It shows how antisemitism enters different aspects of our life, sometimes without us realizing it. It is urgent to discuss these issues and Fersko demonstrates to us how to do so."—Natan

Sharansky, human rights activist and author of *The Case for Democracy*

"In this clearly argued, readable, and passionate book, Rabbi Diana Fersko confronts the complicated set of poisonous ideas facing Jews in our times and seeks the tools and words to fight back. A crucial guide for those perplexed by the persistence of antisemitism and by what can be done about it."—Matti Friedman, author of *Who by Fire*

"This is a fervent and heartfelt call to combat antisemitism."—*Publishers Weekly*

"'Antisemitism is complicated and confusing'—or so we all say. Rabbi Diana Fersko's book says otherwise, demystifying the convoluted subject with clarity, conviction, and real-life case studies. You'll find yourself emotionally invested, nodding, gasping, sighing and eye-rolling your way through a book that could be a 101 course or a PhD study guide. You'll be surprised that, with such a serious topic, you could thoroughly enjoy the read."—Amanda Berman, founder and Executive Director of the Zioness Movement

Antisemitism is on the rise, in cities and rural areas, and in guises both subtle and terrifyingly overt. Rabbi Diana Fersko is used to having difficult conversations with members of her congregation about the issues they face—from the threat of violence to microaggressions and identity denial. In *We Need to Talk About Antisemitism*, she gives all of us the ultimate guide to modern antisemitism in its many forms.

Exploring topics like vile myths about Jewish people and the intersection of antisemitism with other forms of discrimination, *We Need to Talk About Antisemitism* gives readers the tools they need to understand the state of antisemitism today. Fersko shows Jews and non-Jews alike how to speak up and come together, spreading a message of solidarity and hope. This is a timely read for anyone passionate about fighting for social justice.

Rabbi Diana Fersko is the Senior Rabbi at The Village Temple in Manhattan. She is the former national vice president of the Women's Rabbinic Network and a member of the New York Board of Rabbis. Fersko has been profiled in *The New Yorker*, featured on NBC News with Lester Holt, published in *Tablet*, the *Forward*, and *The New York Daily News*, and cited widely in the Jewish press. She lives in New York City where she has been preaching and teaching about antisemitism for over a decade. <https://rabbidianafersko.com/>



Thomas C. Foster

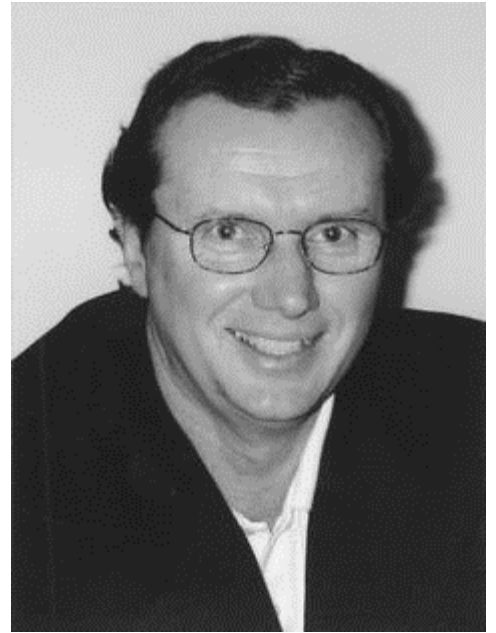
HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR: A Lively and Entertaining Guide to Reading between the Lines (rev 2024)

HarperCollins, September 2024 | World English

320 pages, final manuscript anticipated early 2024

Agent: Faith Hamlin

Extensively revised edition of a classic instruction book that has been in print for over 20 years



For nearly two decades, HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR by Thomas C. Foster has been the go-to text for English classes, particularly Advanced Placement Literature and Composition. With its mix of high ideas and cheeky discussions, it has delighted teachers and students alike as they make their way through the wilds of literary analysis, explaining such matters as the symbolic implications of quests, meals, and seasons, as well as the ways that works written today rely on texts from Shakespeare, the Greeks, and the Brothers Grimm. The book invites readers to develop their own ideas about these heady topics and even provides a sample story on which to practice their newly acquired skills.

To all the insight and wit of the original book, Foster brings discussions of diverse works that better represent the reading experience at earlier levels of their secondary English Language Arts classes. This new edition includes readings from more minority, female, and Young Adult writers, including Angie Thomas, Neil Gaiman, Elizabeth Acevedo, Helen Oyeyemi, Tahereh Mafi, Zora Neale Hurston, Paula McClain, Pat Barker, Emma Donoghue, Sandra Cisneros, and Madeline Miller. Two new chapters have been added. The first, on the significance of roads, acts as a bookend of sorts to the opening chapter on quests. The two are not the same, however much they may seem to overlap, and carry different symbolic weight. The second is a rumination on how critics and readers grapple with genuinely new literary forms.

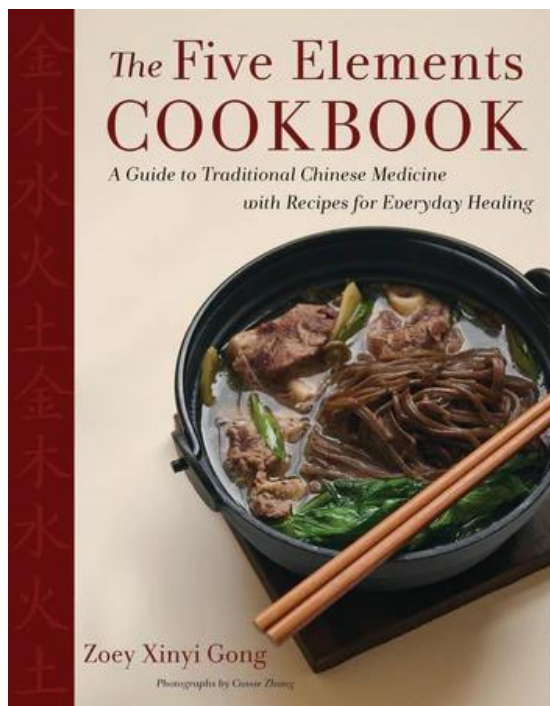
Above all, HOW TO READ LITERATURE LIKE A PROFESSOR seeks to impart knowledge without killing the excitement and joy of deep reading, to remember always that, far from the drudgery depicted in many old films, literary study is really an advanced form of play.

The New Revised Edition includes new chapters, new examples, an updated preface, and new insights gathered over interactions with teachers and students over the last two decades.

Thomas C. Foster is Emeritus Professor of English at the University of Michigan, Flint. His bestselling *How to Read Like a Professor* series has sold more than 2 million copies and has been licensed in 15 territories.

Previous editions of this title were sold:

Armenia: Edit Print; Brazil: Leya; Bulgaria: Ex Libris; China: Thinkingdom; Czech: Host; Greece: Klitharithmos; Italy: Vallardi; Japan: Hakusui-sha; Korea: Jihyeong; Lithuania: Kitos Knygos; Poland: Fabula Frazza; Slovakia: Tatran; Spain: Turner; Taiwan: Ecus; Ukraine: Tempora; Thailand: Bookscape; Vietnam: Nha Nam



Zoey Xinyi Gong

THE FIVE ELEMENTS COOKBOOK: A Guide to Traditional Chinese Medicine with Recipes for Everyday Healing

Harvest, February 14, 2023 | World English

288 pages, final files available

Agent: Clare Mao

Rights sold: German (Narayana)

A stunning and accessible guide to cooking with Traditional Chinese Medicine, featuring over 50 nourishing recipes to eat for healing every day by TCM chef and registered dietitian Zoey Xinyi Gong.

Bon Appetit – [The Best Cookbooks of Spring 2023](#)

[WTVR Virginia This Morning](#)

Food & Wine – [How Traditional Chinese Medicine Combines Health and Culinary Traditions](#)

Chef and registered dietitian Zoey Xinyi Gong offers an incredibly fresh, elegant, and authentic approach to food therapy and a truly accessible guide to cooking with Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM), a thousands-year-old practice for holistic wellness.

Named after a foundational theory of what balance and optimal health looks like, *The Five Elements Cookbook* is a stunning introduction to the beginner concepts of TCM and offers a photographic guide to the most commonly used medicinal ingredients (American ginseng, turmeric, reishi, and more), their healing properties, and how to use them seamlessly in your cooking—whether in a warm tea, restorative bone broth, a sweet smoothie, or your favorite dinner.

Each of the over 50 delicious recipes ingeniously incorporates a food-as-medicine ingredient, with consideration for seasonality, digestion, and body constitution, and specific concerns, like menstrual pains, nausea, anxiety, blood circulation, respiratory health, and more. For those with dietary restrictions, each recipe also includes a key for vegan, nut free, dairy free, gluten free, plus the TCM energetics and uses.

“The Five Elements Cookbook is a wonderful introduction to Traditional Chinese Medicine food therapy. The section on Chinese herbs is an indispensable guide and beautifully photographed.”—Grace Young, author of *Stir-Frying to the Sky’s Edge* and *The Breath of a Wok*

“I am simply blown away by how wonderful *The Five Elements Cookbook* is. It is well researched, beautifully photographed, and, most important, practical. I am so excited for readers to roll up their sleeves and try the recipes!”—Thomas N. Leung, DACM, CEO of Kamwo Meridian Herbs

Zoey Xinyi Gong is a Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) chef, food therapist, registered dietitian, and educator based in Brooklyn, New York. Born in Shanghai, China, she has hosted hundreds of pop-up dinners, workshops, and events featuring TCM food therapy since 2018. Her first cookbook “The Five Elements Cookbook” was released in February, 2023 by Harper Collins. Her studio and event space, the Red Pavilion, is located in the heart of Bushwick, NY. <https://www.zoeyxinyigong.com/>



Soo Jin Lee and Linda Yoon
**WHERE I BELONG: Healing Trauma
and Embracing Asian American Identity**

TarcherPerigee, January 9, 2024 | World English

320 pages, 2nd pass pages available

Agent: Clare Mao

**An essential resource that addresses the unique experiences
of trauma, healing, and mental health in Asian and Asian
American communities.**

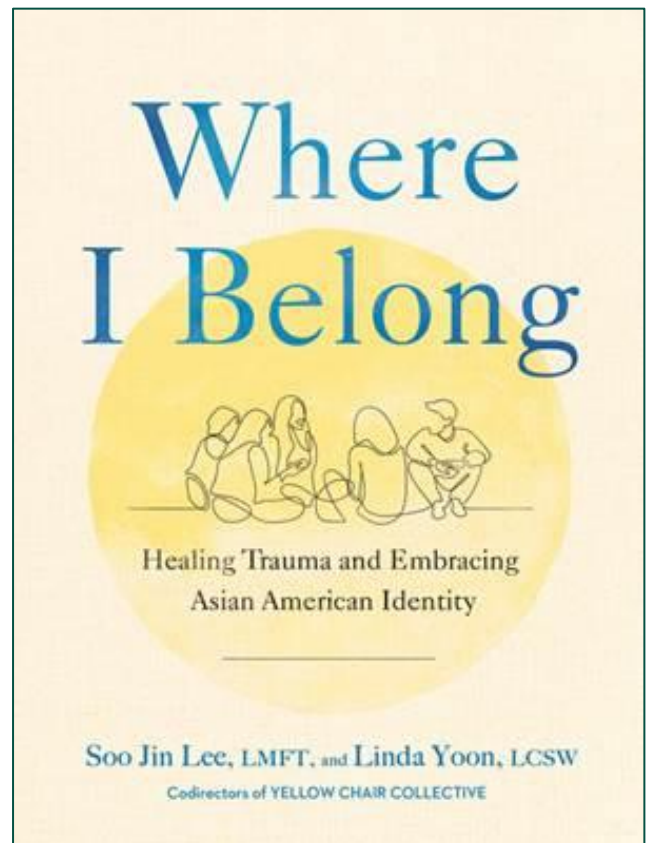
Coauthors Soo Jin Lee and Linda Yoon are professional therapists who witnessed firsthand how mental health issues often went unaddressed not only in their own immigrant families, but in Asian and Asian American communities. *Where I Belong* shows us how the cycle of trauma can play out in our relationships, placing Asian American experiences front and center to help us process and heal from racial and intergenerational trauma.

This book validates our experiences and helps us understand how they fit into the broader context of our family history and the trauma experienced by previous generations. Lee and Yoon draw on their own stories, as well as those of a diverse segment of the Asian diaspora, to help us feel seen and connected to our wider community. They provide essential therapeutic tools, reflection questions, journal prompts, and grounding exercises to empower readers to identify their strengths and resilience across generations and to embrace the beauty and fullness of their own identity and culture.

Soo Jin Lee, LMFT is a licensed marriage and family therapist, executive director of Yellow Chair Collective, and cofounder of Entwine Community. As a previously undocumented Asian immigrant who struggled to access mental healthcare, she brings a unique perspective to her work. Lee has a degree in fine arts, and creativity plays an essential role in her personal and therapeutic process. When she's not spending quality time with her family, she can often be found exploring nature on a hiking trail or offering expert guidance in psychotherapy to individuals and groups alike.

Linda Yoon, LCSW, is a licensed therapist and social worker who has dedicated her career to helping people along their healing journey find a sense of belonging. As a survivor of C-PTSD and having received a late adult diagnosis of ADHD, Linda is passionate about serving Asian American communities, survivors of violence, and those who are neurodivergent. Growing up, Linda was drawn to the color yellow, which symbolizes resilience, joy, and hope. This deep personal connection inspired her to name her founding practice Yellow Chair Collective. She is also a cofounder of Entwine Community, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit supporting Asian and Asian American mental health. Linda currently resides in Los Angeles with her spouse, Mathew, and her furry companion, Mini, who has been by her side for eighteen years.

<https://www.instagram.com/yellowchaircollective/?hl=en>



Advance praise for WHERE I BELONG

"One of the most terrifying and isolating aspects of feeling like you don't belong is the ineffableness: Asian Americans, even in all our diversity, often lack the words to describe how it hurts, why we feel this way, the ways our loneliness manifests, and — most importantly — how we can change things. *Where I Belong* is an entire book that puts words to this too-often invisible pain, in astute and kind ways that take into account the latest scientific studies and the particularities of Asian American family dynamics and cultural norms. Many among the diaspora will appreciate the book's tone: Never patronizing or cloying, authors Soo Jin Lee and Linda Yoon provide diverse examples, clarifying explanations, and actionable steps that make you feel in control of your future happiness."—Connie Wang, author of *Oh My Mother!*

"With compassion and warmth, Soo Jin Lee and Linda Yoon have taken their experiences as professional therapists to create an essential resource for anyone exploring their Asian American identity and wondering how therapy might help in that journey. Weaving history, personal anecdotes, journal prompts and reflection questions, *Where I Belong* gives readers the necessary language to name—and reclaim—their experiences. An inclusive, grounding work that will help countless people in search of what it means to be Asian in America."—
Kat Chow, author of *Seeing Ghosts*

"Filled with relatable anecdotes and tangible exercises for self exploration, *Where I Belong* is a loving exploration of Asian American identity that is rooted in community and compassion. This book allows us all to feel less alone as we redefine who we are as Asians and Americans."—Jenny Wang, founder of Asians for Mental Health and author of *Permission to Come Home: Reclaiming Mental Health as Asian Americans*

"*Where I Belong* by Soo Jin Lee and Linda Yoon is a much-needed book for our AAPI communities during this moment of racial reckoning. Although capturing our communities' diversity and addressing our racial trauma are difficult tasks, they have done so with amazing sensitivity, insight and expertise. The book highlights the ethnic particularities of our mental health issues well, especially by sharing the voices of individuals. Even more significantly, the authors detail the unique AAPI cultural wealth and community assets that can bring health and wholeness. *Where I Belong* has contributed to my own journey of healing and hope, and I know it can assist others just as deeply."—Russell M Jeung, Professor of Asian American Studies, San Francisco State University and cofounder of Stop AAPI Hate

Jami Nakamura Lin,
with illustrations by Cori Nakamura Lin
THE NIGHT PARADE:
A Speculative Memoir

Mariner Books / William Morrow, October 2023
Scribe, UK | 352 pages, final text available

Sold at US auction for 6-figures.

In the groundbreaking tradition of *In the Dream House* and *The Collected Schizophrenias*, a gorgeously illustrated speculative memoir that draws upon the Japanese myth of the Hyakki Yagyo—the Night Parade of One Hundred Demons—to shift the cultural narrative around mental illness, grief, and remembrance.

Are these the only two stories? The one, where you defeat your monster, and the other, where you succumb to it?

Jami Nakamura Lin spent much of her life feeling monstrous for reasons outside of her control. As a young woman with undiagnosed bipolar disorder, much of her adolescence was marked by periods of extreme rage and an array of psychiatric treatments, and her relationships suffered as a result, especially as her father's cancer grasped hold of their family.

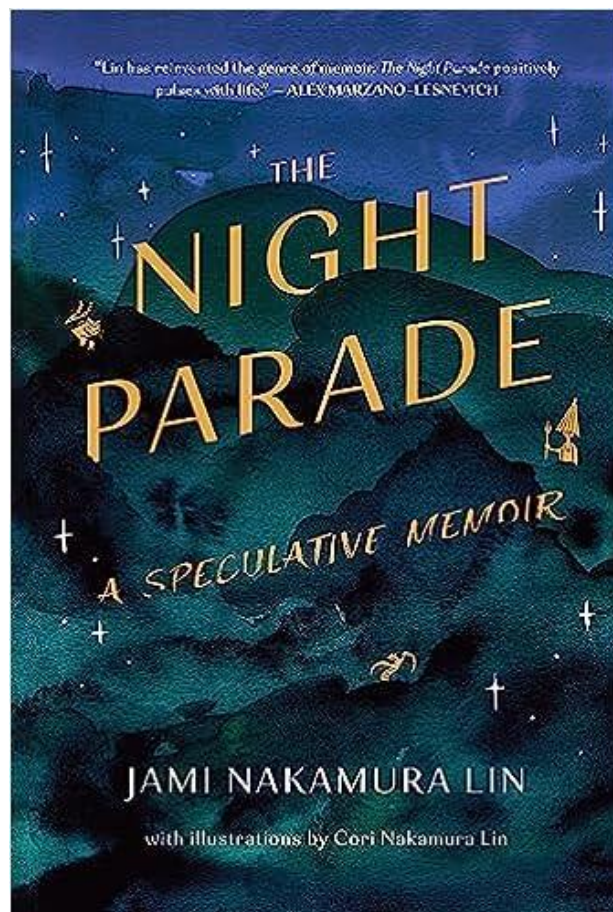
As she grew older and learned to better manage her episodes, Lin became frustrated with the familiar pattern she found in mental illness and grief narratives, and their focus on recovery. She sought comfort in the stories she'd loved as a child—tales of ghostly creatures known to terrify in the night. Through the lens of the yokai and other figures from Japanese, Taiwanese, and Okinawan legend, she set out to interrogate the very notion of recovery and the myriad ways fear of difference shapes who we are as a people.

Featuring stunning illustrations by her sister, Cori Nakamura Lin, and divided into the four acts of a traditional Japanese narrative structure, *The Night Parade* is a genre-bending and deeply emotional memoir that mirrors the sensation of being caught between realms. Braiding her experience of mental illness, the death of her father, the grieving process, and other haunted topics with storytelling tradition, Jami Nakamura Lin shines a light into dark corners, driven by a question: *How do we learn to live with the things that haunt us?*



Jami Nakamura Lin is the writer of the popular Catapult column *The Monster in the Mirror* and also published a viral *New York Times* essay *Does My Child's Name Erase My Identity?* She was the 2016 National Endowment for the Arts U.S.-Japan Creative Artists Fellow, inaugural Walter Dean Myers Grant winner, and Writers' Colony at Daily Hollow Mental Health Fellow.

Cori Nakamura Lin is an illustrator and designer whose work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *Eater Chicago*, and other publications.



Praise for THE NIGHT PARADE

"Jami Nakamura Lin has reinvented the genre of memoir, weaving an intricate braid of fable, memory, art, cultural legacy, and legend into a gorgeous tapestry of the stories that made her. The haunting illustrations by her sister, Cori Nakamura Lin, are a potent reminder that no one is self-authored. We all collaborate to become ourselves. Serpentine, polyphonic, and stunningly textured, *The Night Parade* positively pulses with life."
— Alex Marzano-Lesnevich, award-winning author of *The Fact of A Body*

"A gorgeous invocation of the magic-haunted spaces between lived experience and folkloric traditions, between the living and the dead, between memory and story. I loved *The Night Parade*." — Kelly Link, bestselling author of *Get in Trouble*

"Beautifully written and imaginative, THE NIGHT PARADE takes speculative nonfiction to new heights. Jami Nakamura Lin is both poet and storyteller, mystic and philosopher, teaching us to see the world differently, to suspend our disbelief, using mythology to interrogate our notions of family, grief, fear, love, and belonging. There is no other book like this—it's truly a stunning and visionary work of art." — Jaquira Díaz, author of *Ordinary Girls: A Memoir*

"Genre-defying and deeply poetic, *The Night Parade* invites the pandemonium within the personal and mythic to a round table where ancestors and folkloric creatures transform grief, memory, and mental illness into the tangible. Ancient tales and horrific specters braid throughout Jami Nakamura Lin's life, but will worm your way under your skin, prompting the question: what do we cut out from our lives and histories and what do we let grow with us? Impossible to put down, gut-wrenching, and magical. I cannot think of a writer who has written so personally while acknowledging ancestral and cultural grief with such grace and honesty. A crucial and groundbreaking entry for the literature of the Asian Diaspora and explorations of mental illness."
— Sequoia Nagamatsu, author of *How High We Go in the Dark*

"*The Night Parade* is a stunning excavation of personal and collective histories, filled with the endless alchemy of storytelling. Jami Nakamura Lin writes with meditative precision and expansive empathy, challenging and reaffirming what communal stories can make possible. Exploring the many worlds that flourish beyond certain knowledge, this boundary-blurring memoir finds power in the undefinable. It reveals to us that the fracturing of a story can be beautifully fruitful. Teeming with language that is transformative and fully embodied, and gorgeously illustrated by Cori Nakamura Lin, *The Night Parade* is a generous and abundant feast for our living and our dead, our salvaged lineages and our continuing stories." — K-Ming Chang, award-winning author of *Bestiary*

"With abundant honesty and tenderness, Jami Nakamura Lin wraps her story in the expansive frameworks of folklore and the mystical, bringing in centuries of storytelling about love and loss, death, illness, and mystery. A moving and notable memoir." — Aimee Bender, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Particular Sadness of Lemon Cake*

"*The Night Parade* is stunning — it is haunting and magical and terrifying at once. Deeply intimate, but with a sense of scope that transcends history and genre, I loved stepping into this dream of a memoir, of a shared experience." — Catherine Cho, author of *Inferno*

"Throughout this inventive narrative, Lin takes calculated literary risks, ranging from the use of epistolary forms to experiments with point of view. These risks pay off mightily, coming together in a vulnerable, insightful, and refreshingly original meditation on survival, illness, and grief. A stunning memoir about the stories that make us who we are." — ★ *Kirkus*

"In this debut speculative memoir, Lin isn't afraid of her demons. Diagnosed with bipolar disorder as a teenager, Lin struggled to manage her illness while caring for her cancer-stricken father. Unhappy with the rose-colored narratives about recovering from mental illness, she takes a different approach here, leaning into the darkness. Inspired by Japanese, Taiwanese, and Okinawan ghost stories, Lin blends memoir and horror—plus stunning illustrations—to consider what it means to coexist with anguish." — The Millions (The Great 2023 Book Preview)?

Navied Mahdavian

THIS COUNTRY: Searching for Home in (Very) Rural America

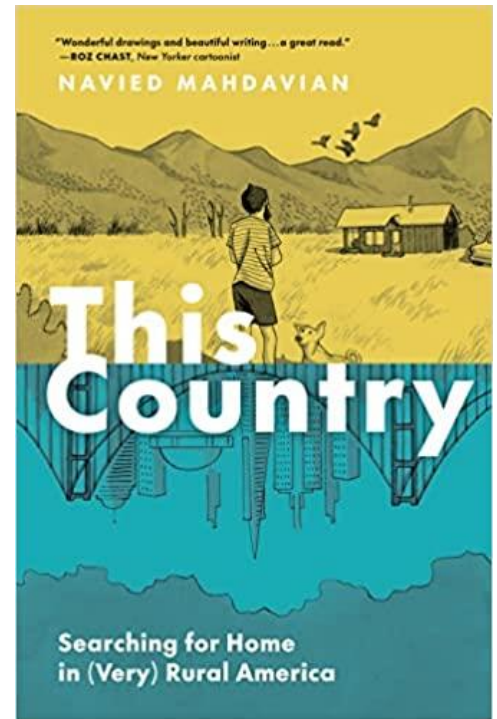
Princeton Architectural Press, September 2023 | NA

288 pages, final text and illustrations available

Agent: Dan Mandel

A gorgeously illustrated and written debut graphic memoir about belonging, identity, and making a home in the remote American West, by *New Yorker* cartoonist Navied Mahdavian.

Before Navied Mahdavian moved with his wife and dog in November of 2016 from San Francisco to an off-the-grid cabin in rural Idaho, he had never fished, gardened, hiked, hunted, or lived in a snowy place. But there, he could own land, realize his dream of being an artist, and start a family—the Millennial dream. Over the next three years, Mahdavian leaned into the wonders of the natural Idaho landscape and found himself adjusting to and enjoying a slower pace of living. But beyond the boundaries of his six acres, he was confronted with the realities of America’s political shifts and forced to confront the question: *Do I belong here?*

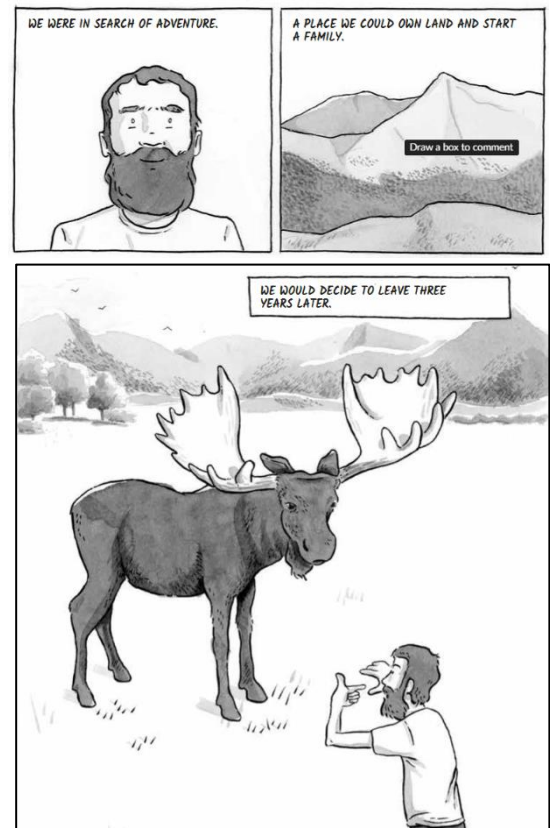


Mahdavian’s beautifully written and unflinchingly honest graphic memoir charts his growth and struggles as an artist, citizen, and new father. It celebrates his love of place and honors the relationships he makes in rural America, touching on dynamics like culture, environment, and identity in America, and even articulating difficult moments of racism and brutality he found there as a Middle Eastern American. With wit, compassion, and a sense of humor, Mahdavian’s insider perspective offers a unique portrait of one of the most remote and wild areas of the American West.



Navied Mahdavian has been a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* since February 2018, and also contributed to *Wired*, *Reader’s Digest*, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, *Narrative*, and elsewhere. Before becoming a cartoonist, he taught 5th grade, and received his Masters of Education from Stanford University. He now lives in Salt Lake City with his wife, a Sundance award-winning filmmaker, and their daughter.

<https://www.naviedm.com/>



Praise for THIS COUNTRY

"Why did urban, vegetarian, gun-wary Navied, of Iranian descent, have the big, bright idea to move with his wife to the frigid mountains of Idaho, months before Trump's election? Riveting, searching, complex and, oh, hilarious, this memoir ultimately is a quest for strength, wildness, and love, for a deeper vision of all things Earth. Surely this is my favorite graphic memoir I've read in years." —Deb Olin Unferth, author (*Revolution: The Year I Fell in Love and Went to Join the War*)

"Enamored of nature and dazzled by fantasies of the rugged west, a young mixed-race couple build a tiny home in the wilds of Idaho—and must confront an America at odds with itself. In *This Country*, Mahdavian explores today's cultural divide with a keen eye and a graceful touch. The resulting portrait is by turns hilarious and heartbreaking, elegant and complex, brutal and tender. I dare you not to fall in love." —Alia Volz, author (*Home Baked: Marijuana, My Mother and the Stoning of San Francisco*)

"*This Country* is a hilarious and sometimes harrowing graphic memoir about the Mahdavians' quest to live self-sufficiently in rural Idaho. Learning how to cut down a tree to heat your own house and grow your own vegetables is only one part of it...Wonderful drawings and beautiful writing make this book a great read." —Roz Chast, author and cartoonist (*Can't We Talk About Something More Pleasant?*)

"I knew Navied Mahdavian was one of the funniest cartoonists of his generation; *This Country* proves he is also one of its most subtle and sophisticated graphic storytellers. In Navied's hands, comics feel like poetry. Perfect ink drawings bring land, beast, and human, with all their delicacy and yearning, viscerally to life. *This Country*, a quintessential story of seeking a home in America and (maybe) finding it, and made me want to grant my own surroundings the grace, humor, and dignity of Navied's observant study." —Amy Kurzweil, cartoonist and author (*Flying Couch: A Graphic Memoir*)

"A charming, wise, and haunting book. [I've known] that town quite well for the last thirty years, [and Mahdavian has] captured it in all its complexity." —Christopher Guest, actor, screenwriter, and director (*Best in Show, Waiting for Guffman, This is Spinal Tap*)

"*This Country* is touching, personal, and frequently hilarious. Mahdavian weaves heavy themes of home and belonging with disarming moments of silliness and levity. It's a story specific to his experience, yet relatable to anyone who has ever searched for a place to be." —Reza Farazmand, writer and illustrator of *Poorly Drawn Lines*

"Ostensibly, *This Country* is about a couple finding their place in the world and learning the true history of the land they're building a life on—a land that has seen both turmoil and awe—but amid the harsh truth, blatant racism, and struggles to fit in, there is so much beauty and humor and compassion. Mahdavian's drawings are deceptively simple, perfectly capturing the wonder of little everyday occurrences. Of time moving, a small family growing and changing, of an entire country still reckoning with past and present mistakes. This is a very important book for pretty much everyone." —Julia Wertz, cartoonist and author of *Impossible People*

A LETTER TO READERS FROM NAVIED MAHDAVIAN...

"Let's move to the middle-of-nowhere-America," said no middle-eastern American after the 2016 presidential election. But that's just what I did. As someone who spent three years in very rural Idaho (and I mean *rural*) with my wife and dog, *This Country* offers a unique and nuanced insider's perspective on a place many people in cities know nothing about. A humorous personal story, it charts my growth and struggles as an artist, citizen, and new father through the lens of the land—the good, the bad, and the frequently silly.

—NAVIED MAHDAVIAN



Emily Mester

AMERICAN BULK: Essays on Excess

Norton, Fall 2024 | World English

manuscript anticipated January 2024

Agent: Clare Mao

Every Sunday for six years, Emily Mester and her family went not to church, but Costco. For Emily's father, a corporate lawyer who grew up solidly middle-class in rural Iowa, Costco, and all that it promised with its bulk-buy deals and seemingly endless cavernous warehouse space, inspired a devotion akin to religion.

So begins Emily's funny, tender, yet incisive debut essay collection **AMERICAN BULK: Essays about Stuff**, which combines memoir and cultural criticism in an urgent excavation of modern-day consumerism, from Costco to sweepstakes to the multibillion-dollar waste industry. Emily tells the story of her grandmother, her father, and herself, and their shared love for accumulating, hoarding, collecting, consuming—in other words, their love for *stuff*. From the house her grandmother has abandoned in Storm Lake, Iowa, filled to the brim with a lifetime of collected detritus, to the brand new warehouse her father has built for his pathological online shopping habits, Emily explores the shrines—physical and otherwise—that we build to stuff, as well as the anxieties about scarcity, class, and financial insecurity that underwrite them. Far from a detached observer, Emily also indicts herself as a willing and vigorous participant, allowing herself to balance knowing reflection with sharp critique.

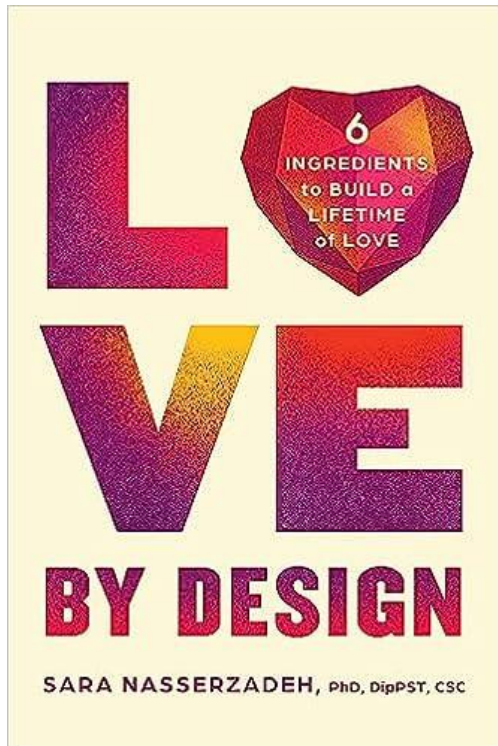
But Emily turns her sharp eye outwards too, in essays that delve deep into the uniquely American obsession with what she calls bulk culture, characterized by our love for acronyms like BOGO and AYCE, endless breadsticks, and loyalty programs. She brings us to the American mall and fat camp, to Yelp review pages and plasma donation clinics, and even to the Texas-sized Pacific Ocean garbage patch in her mission to understand how consumerism and capitalism holds her—and us all—in thrall. And like all good love stories, this one ends in death—in this case, our environment's and thus ultimately our own, a slow one brought on by the dark side of stuff: waste.

Part family history, part cultural critique, and part cautionary tale, Emily Mester's **AMERICAN BULK** shares literary DNA with Patricia Lockwood's sharp but intimate portrayal of family in *Priestdaddy* and Jenny Odell's critiques of capitalism and the culture it begets in *How to Do Nothing*, and introduces a clear-eyed, empathetic, and deeply intelligent writer who acutely identifies the true cost of all the *stuff* we love.



Emily Mester is from the Midwest, where she learned how to read by sounding out signs in the strip mall parking lot of a Chicago suburb. She is a graduate of Grinnell College and the University of Iowa Nonfiction Writing Program, where she studied with Kerry Howley and Melissa Febos. She lives in Brooklyn. Twitter: <https://twitter.com/emilymester>





Dr. Sara Nasserzadeh LOVE BY DESIGN: 6 INGREDIENTS TO BUILD A LIFETIME OF LOVE

Grand Central Publishing, February 6, 2024

UK: HarperCollins

352 pages, full manuscript available

Agent: Sarah Phair

“Get ready to revolutionize your relationship with Emergent Love.” —Dr. Pepper Schwartz, *New York Times* bestselling author and Professor of Sociology at the University of Washington.

Many of us were raised with the idea that true love means finding our "other half" and that a spark is the best foundation for successful long-term partnerships and marriages. But what if this understanding is flawed?

Grounded in two decades of original research and work with couples from around the world, *Love by Design* introduces a groundbreaking new foundation for love: The Emergent Love Model. As Dr. Nasserzadeh knows, successful partnerships do not thrive on love, at least as we know it. Instead of chasing our butterflies we need to cultivate six core relational ingredients that make it possible for love to emerge:

- **Attraction:** What do you like and value about each other?
- **Respect:** How do you keep each other's needs and priorities in mind?
- **Trust:** Do you know that you will show up for each other consistently?
- **Compassion:** Can you honor the other's emotional experience without making it about you?
- **Shared vision:** Where are you committed to going together?
- **Loving behaviors:** How do you show your partner they're special to you?

Offering dozens of exercises and reflection prompts, this groundbreaking book—perfect for fans of *8 Rules of Love* or *The Love Prescription*—will give readers a new foundation for their coupledness—one that will help your coupledness thrive for a lifetime.



Dr. Sara Nasserzadeh, Ph.D., is a world-renowned social psychologist, sexologist, and relationship expert. She has spent over 20 years working with thousands of couples in more than 40 countries. She is highly regarded by her peers as a Key Opinion Leader and has a multitude of articles, books and book chapters to her credit. Her work has also been featured in media around the world, including **NPR, BBC, ABC, CNN** and **Goop**, and she has won awards for her **BBC** radio and TV series on sex and relationships called **“Whispers.”**
<https://www.sara-nasserzadeh.com/>

Max Podemski

A PARADISE OF SMALL HOUSES: The Evolution, Devolution, and Potential Rebirth of Urban Housing

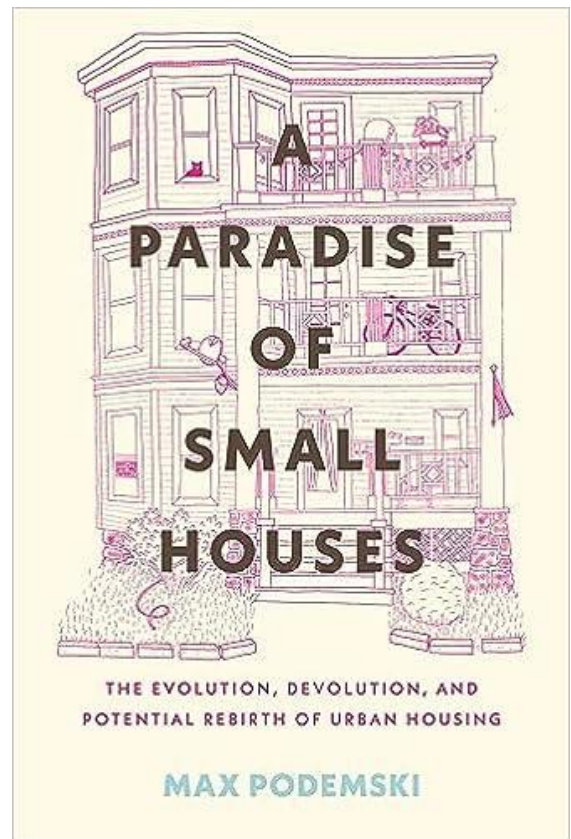
Beacon Press, March 26, 2024 | NA

272 pages, galleys available

Agent: Sarah Phair

From the Haitian-style “shotgun” houses of the 19th century to the lavish high-rises of the 21st century, a walk through the streets of America’s neighborhoods that reveals the rich history—and future—of urban housing

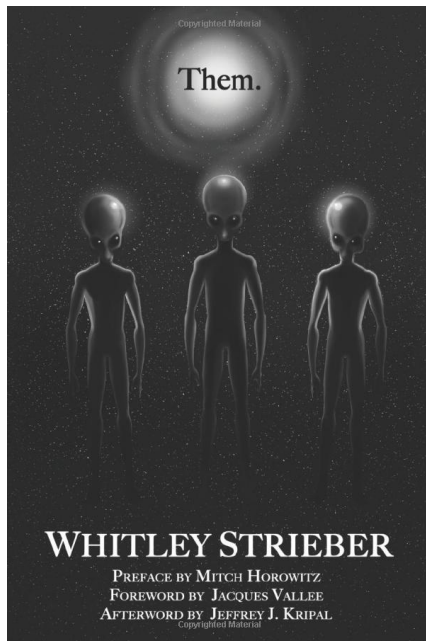
The Philadelphia row house. The New York tenement. The Boston triple-decker. Every American city has its own iconic housing style, structures that have been home to generations of families and are symbols of identity and pride. Max Podemski, an urban planner for the city of Los Angeles and lifelong architecture buff, has spent his career in and around these buildings. Deftly combining his years of experience with extensive research, Podemski walks the reader through the history of our dwelling spaces—and offers a blueprint for how time-tested urban planning models can help us build the homes the United States so desperately needs.



In *A PARADISE OF SMALL HOUSES*, Podemski charts how these dwellings have evolved over the centuries according to the geography, climate, population, and culture of each city. He introduces the reader to styles like Chicago’s prefabricated workers cottages and LA’s car-friendly dingbats, illuminating the human stories behind each city’s iconic housing type. Through it all, Podemski interrogates the American values that have equated home ownership with success and led to the US housing crisis, asking, “How can we look to the past to build the homes, neighborhoods, and cities of the future that our communities deserve?”

Max Podemski is an urban planner, author, and illustrator with a lifelong interest in how buildings shape the urban environment. He is the author of the forthcoming book, “A Paradise of Small Houses: The Evolution, Devolution, and Potential Rebirth of Urban Housing” published by Beacon Press. He holds a Master’s in Urban Planning from Columbia University and Bachelor’s in Urban and Environmental Policy from Occidental College. He lives between a duplex and a fourplex in Los Angeles, CA. <https://www.maxpodemski.com/>





Whitley Strieber **THEM**

Independently published, March 2023 | World English
304 pages, final manuscript available
Agent: Matt Bialer

With a preface by Mitch Horowitz, a foreword by Jacques Vallee, and an afterword by Jeffrey J. Kripal, **THEM** is the first book ever to examine the intent of the presence known as "aliens" or "visitors" from the perspective of what both civilian and military close encounter witnesses report happening to them.

There has never been a book written like **THEM**. It is as much a first as Mr. Strieber's groundbreaking volume about his own close encounter, **COMMUNION**. While it does not deal with his own experiences, here he takes advantage of over three decades of study and research to create a vision of contact that may prove foundational to useful understanding of what is now a confused, sometimes violent, and fraught relationship.

"Whitley Strieber has produced a searing, masterful account of the high strangeness of the phenomenon with which humans are, and have been, interacting globally." – Colm elleher, Vice-President, Bigelow Aerospace

"Whitley shines a startlingly bright light into a dark and unexplainable corner of human experience... Groundbreaking in the truest sense of that word." – Leslie Kean, New York Times Reporter and Author of *UFOs: Generals, Pilots and Government Officials Go on the Record*

"This is an important next chapter in the unending adventure that transcends time and space." – Col. John Alexander, Nonlethal Weapons Expert

"As always, Whitley Strieber's work leads the way and it is best that we listen, as the stakes have never been higher." – Dr. Diana Pasulka, Author of *American Cosmic*

"Whitley has taken a deep dive into the UAP mystery not heretofore taken in any depth. That is, just what does it mean to potentially interact with a species so foreign to our understanding of reality as to be well nigh incomprehensible. Questions are raised and addressed which are themselves so provocative that the fact that we recognize that we have no answers is itself exceedingly valuable. I highly recommend immersion in such a challenge." – Dr. Hal Puthoff President of EarthTech International

Whitley Strieber is best known for his horror novels **THE WOLFEN** and **THE HUNGER** and for **COMMUNION**, a non-fiction account of his experiences with non-human entities. He has maintained a dual career of author of fiction and advocate of paranormal concepts through his best-selling non-fiction books, his Unknown Country web site Unknowncountry.com., and his podcast, Dreamland.



Bernie Taupin

SCATTERSHOT: Life, Music, Elton, and Me

Hachette, September 12, 2023

UK: Monoray

416 pages, final manuscript available

Agent: Zoe Sandler

**An evocative, clear-eyed, and revealing memoir by Bernie Taupin,
the lyrical master and long-time collaborator of Elton John**

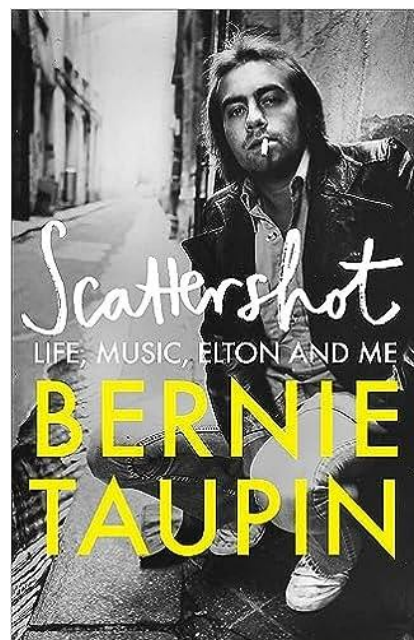
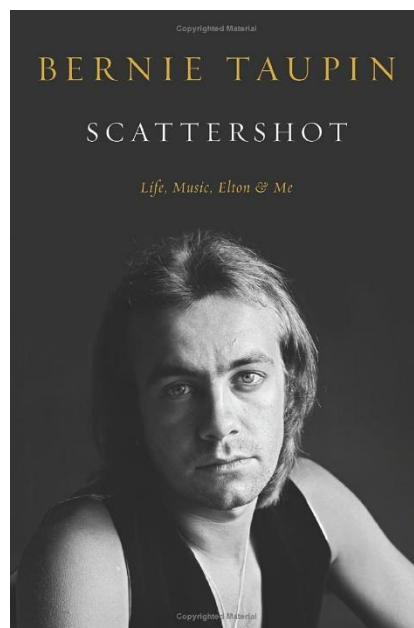
"I loved writing, I loved chronicling life and every moment I was cogent, sober, or blitzed, I was forever feeding off my surroundings, making copious notes as ammunition for future compositions. . . . The thing is good, bad, or indifferent I never stopped writing, it was as addictive as any drug."

This is the memoir music fans have been waiting for. Half of one of the greatest creative partnerships in popular music, Bernie Taupin is the man who wrote the lyrics for Elton John, who conceived the ideas that spawned countless hits, and sold millions and millions of records. Together, they were a duo, a unit, an immovable object. Their extraordinary, half-century-and-counting creative relationship has been chronicled in biopics (like 2019's *Rocketman*) and even John's own autobiography, *Me*. But Taupin, a famously private person, has kept his own account of their adventures close to his chest, until now.

Written with honesty and candor, *Scattershot* allows the reader to witness events unfolding from Taupin's singular perspective, sometimes front and center, sometimes from the edge, yet always described vibrantly, with an infectious energy that only a vivid songwriter's prose could offer. From his childhood in the East Midlands of England whose imagination was sparked and forever informed by the distinctly American mythopoetics of country music and cowboy culture, to the glittering, star-studded fishbowl of '70s and '80s Beverly Hills, *Scattershot* is simultaneously a *Tom Jones*-like picaresque journey across a landscape of unforgettable characters, as well as a striking, first-hand account of a creative era like no other and one man's experience at the core of it.

An exciting, multi-decade whirlwind told in a non-linear yet grounded narrative, *Scattershot* whizzes around the world as we ride shotgun with Bernie on his extraordinary life. We visit Los Angeles with him and Elton on the cusp of global fame. We spend time with him in Australia almost in residency at an infamous rock 'n' roll hotel in an endless blizzard of drugs. And we spend late, late night hours with John Lennon, with Bob Marley, and hanging with Frank Sinatra. And beyond the world of popular music, we witness memorable encounters with writers like Graham Greene, painters like Andy Warhol and Salvador Dali, and scores of notable misfits, miscreants, eccentrics, and geniuses, known and unknown. Even if they're not famous in their own right, they are stars on the page, and we discover how they inspired the indelible lyrics to songs such as "Tiny Dancer," "Candle in the Wind," "Bennie and The Jets," and so many more.

Unique and utterly compelling, *Scattershot* will transport the reader across the decades and around the globe, along the way meeting some of the greatest creative minds of the 20th century, and into the vivid imaginings of one of music's most legendary lyricists.



An instant *Sunday Times* bestseller
An instant *New York Times* bestseller

"This is the most glorious of books. I am besotted by the life I never knew he had."—Elton John

"I simply wouldn't write songs without Bernie Taupin. I've read every word he's ever written and there could never be enough of them to satiate my need for Bernie's way of seeing the world. *Scattershot*, though, is a lifting of the veil, as beautifully written as it is honest and rugged. Reading this book brought me face to face with who he truly is: an empathic genius who speaks to the everyman."—Brandi Carlile

"Orgasmic. Every page of *Scattershot* is a delight, a joy, a name-dropper fan's delight. Divine. I couldn't put it down."—Pete Townshend

"In Bernie Taupin's miraculous memoir *Scattershot* you'll meet legends, cowboys, geniuses, unforgettable faces in the night, shady purveyors of outrageous fortune, warriors of the heart, and most of all, Taupin himself. Hilarious and so emotionally true, *Scattershot* is like a letter from a cherished friend. You'll want to keep it close, so you can read it again and again."—Cameron Crowe

"Touching. Charming. Humble. Witty. And exquisitely written. Taupin's words need no musical accompaniment. They sing with a poet's voice."—Gary Oldman

"Eloquent and inspiring, *Scattershot* is a freewheeling memoir that is as warm and evocative as Bernie Taupin's most memorable lyrics. A born storyteller, Taupin gives us the life of an artist whose outlook was shaped by a rare but fascinating blend of lifelong innocence and endless intellectual curiosity."—Robert Hilburn, author of *Johnny Cash: The Life*

"Written in a highly entertaining, articulate style with a wickedly acidic sense of humor, this book sets a new standard for rock biographies."—*Library Journal*

"Fans of the two artists [Elton John and Bernie Taupin]... should check this out. For the less-initiated, Taupin has a lot to say, and it shouldn't be missed."—*Booklist*

"[Taupin] describes meeting [Elton John] and their famous longtime collaboration and friendship. He revisits their early years, through John's megastardom, with plenty of wild times along the way."—*AARP*

Bernie Taupin is an English lyricist who has worked in partnership with legendary singer, composer, pianist, and worldwide icon Elton John since 1967 and has written the lyrics for most of John's famous hits, including "Rocket Man," "Candle in the Wind," "Crocodile Rock," "Your Song," "I'm Still Standing," and countless others. One of the most successful and long-running musical collaborations in music history, John and Taupin received the Johnny Mercer Award from the Songwriters Hall of Fame, a lifetime achievement Grammy, an Academy Award, and many more. In 2022, Taupin was made a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for services to music, and in 2023, he was inducted into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. He lives in Southern California.

<https://www.instagram.com/bernietaupinofficial/?hl=en>

Simon Wu

DANCING ON MY OWN: Essays on Art, Joy, and Collectivity

HarperCollins, June 25, 2024 | NA

180 pages, full text available (pre-copyedit)

Agent: Clare Mao

A lot of words describe Simon Wu, all of which would be true: artist, writer, curator, first-generation Burmese American, gay, son of immigrant parents. Taken together, this laundry list of identity markers may even give you a sense of who he is. But what constitutes an "identity"? To what ends does "identifying" aspire, and what is left for us if and when it fails?

These are the questions that Wu grapples with in his electrifying debut essay collection, **DANCING ON MY OWN: On Art, Joy, and Collectivity**, that weaves memoir, cultural history and critique, and art writing to open new and startling lines of inquiry into how we understand ourselves, through the exploration of topics as varied as Telfar bags, immigration patterns, class aspirationalism, queer dance parties, 1980s Asian American art collectives, and the Berlin rave scene.

Taking a unique narrative journey that moves Wu—and by extension, the reader—through three inflection points, **DANCING ON MY OWN** first explores how identity is formed, whether that is through what one does or consumes or makes, before moving on to how identity is disrupted, whether that is through what it is defined against or the political and communal history that we seem destined to forget and repeat, and ending, finally, on how identity can be lost, whether that is considering theories of queer ecology or drawing from the Buddhism Wu grew up with.

Like the Robyn song that it shares a name with, **DANCING ON MY OWN** is melancholy yet triumphant, and ultimately an anthem about the joy of discovering oneself. In critically examining the ways that we have always conceived of ourselves and our identities through the lens of his own life and passions, Wu draws on the work of authors such as Cathy Park Hong, Jeremy Atherton Lin, and Hanif Abdurraqib to create an astonishing collection by an incredible young author, as inquisitive and empathetic as the never-ending journey to understand ourselves.

Simon Wu is an artist and writer involved in collaborative art production and research. Since 2017, he has served as a Curator and the sole Program Coordinator for Claudia Rankine's Racial Imaginary Institute. He has held curatorial positions at MoMA, the Brooklyn Museum, the Whitney Museum, and the New Museum and he has organized exhibitions and programs at David Zwirner, The Kitchen, and CUE Art Foundation, among others. In 2021 his art writing was awarded an Andy Warhol Foundation Art Writers Grant and he was featured in *Cultured* magazine's 2021 Young Curators series. He writes for *Artforum*, *Booksforum*, *BOMB*, *frieze*, and *The Drift*, where he is a contributing editor. In 2018 he was named the Van Lier Fellow in Curation by the Asian American Arts Alliance and in 2018-2019 he was a Helena Rubinstein Curatorial Fellow at the Whitney Museum Independent Study Program. He will start a PhD in History of Art in Fall 2022 at Yale University. <http://simonwu.info/>





CHILDREN'S BOOKS



Pam Fong

WHEN THE FOG ROLLS IN

Greenwillow October 10, 2023 | World English

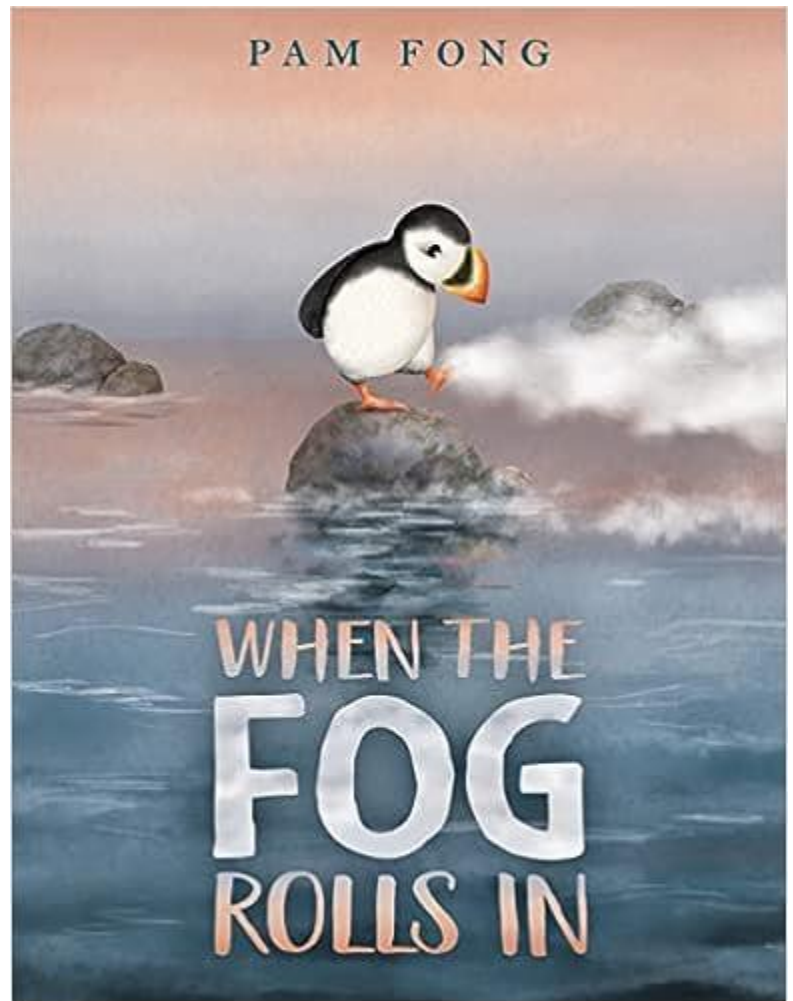
32 pages, final text and art available

Agent: Abigail Frank

When a thick fog rolls in, an irresistible little puffin is lost in unfamiliar territory. *When the Fog Rolls In* is an exceptional picture book about navigating uncertainty, opening your mind, and finding your way back to your flock.

“Robert Frost’s famous quote perfectly applies to Fong’s story: “The best way out is always through.” ...Arresting artwork in muted watercolors....The youngest listeners will empathize with the lost bird trying to find its way home, while older readers, perhaps through discussion with an adult, may better understand Fong’s symbolic message”—*Booklist*

“...young readers will ... be able to empathize with the puffin’s vulnerable condition. Given the foggy setting, the palette is necessarily muted, but despite the general haziness, there are still discoveries to be made for shrewd viewers, like realizing that what looks like a menacing creature is actually a harmless tree. Though the idea of fog as a metaphor for life’s uncertainties might go over the heads of younger readers, the book provides an effective jumping-off point for discussions about fear, anxiety, and obstacles. A simple but poignant tale about navigating difficulties with courage and patience.” — *Kirkus Reviews*



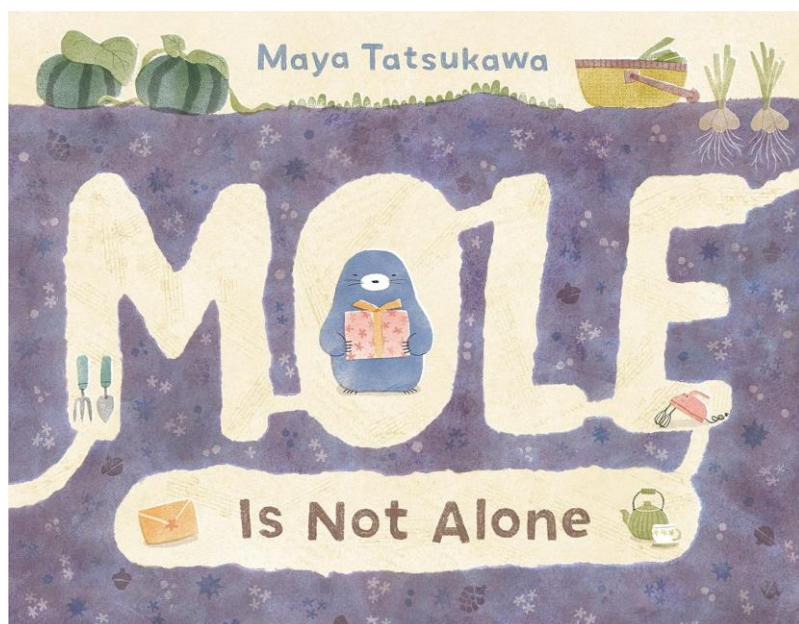
On a clear day, it’s easy to see your way. But when the fog rolls in, it’s hard to know which way to go. Sometimes the only way to escape the fog is to go through it, knowing that the big, bright world is waiting for you on the other side. With a sensitive, layered text and atmospheric, lush illustrations, author-artist Pam Fong has crafted a tenderhearted story about a lost puffin finding its way through foggy circumstances. This expressive picture book will help readers—and their parents—talk about feeling lost, making decisions, and broadening their perspectives.

As in the acclaimed *A Spark in the Dark*, Pam Fong’s *When the Fog Rolls In* masterfully tackles nuanced emotions in a way that’s accessible for young children. *When the Fog Rolls In* is an excellent choice for social and emotional learning for readers of Cori Doerrfeld’s *The Rabbit Listened* and Dan Santat’s *After the Fall*.



Pam Fong earned a degree in Visual Arts and Art History from the University of California, San Diego, and a Masters of Arts Management from Carnegie Mellon University. She is the creator of three picture books, *ROU AND THE GREAT RAZE* (Reycraft Books 2020), *ONCE UPON A FOREST* (Random House Studio, Spring 2022), and *A SPARK IN THE DARK* (Greenwillow, Fall 2022). <https://pamfong.com/>

Picture Book



Maya Tatsukawa
MOLE IS NOT ALONE

Henry Holt Books for Young Readers,
October 3, 2023 | World English
40 pages, final text and art available

Agent: Wendi Gu

Rights sold: China (21st Century), France
(Albin Michel), Germany (Gerstenberg), Israel
(Agam Books), Korea (Bear Books), Taiwan
(Easten Publishing)

From the Theodore Seuss Geisel Award-winning author of THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY, the first in a two-book, six-figure deal with Holt that finds a delightfully relatable mole making an arduous journey.

"Soft, muted artwork depicts an utterly cozy and enchanting world. . . . Mole's self-talk is endearing and all-too relatable. Ultimately, Tatsukawa brings this tale to satisfying conclusion that lets young introverts know they can have fun on their own terms." — ★ *Kirkus*

"...a story about anticipatory worry that ends not with forced revelry, but with a "Maybe... next time?" and gentle camaraderie found." — ★ *Publisher's Weekly*

"Tatsukawa's adorable illustrations . . . would be at home on any nursery blanket, making the story's handling of social anxiety feel comforting and reassuring." — *Booklist*

Mole is invited to a party, which is very worrisome. What if the party is too rowdy for Mole? What if Mole doesn't know anyone there? What if Mole is just too shy to make friends? Mole worries through the tunnels, around Snake's burrow, under the forest, past Bear's den, and all the way to Rabbit's door. But despite all those worries, maybe Mole can find a quiet way to make friends.

With warm and sweet illustrations, every page is an invitation to look and look again. Readers can follow Mole's tunnel as it connects from one page to the next, learning along the way that everyone can make friends, even if some parties are quieter than others.

By day, [Maya Tatsukawa](https://petitemayat.com/) is a book designer at Walker/Candlewick. By night, she bakes beautiful desserts and illustrates children's books. She is the author/illustrator of Geisel Honor winner THE BEAR IN MY FAMILY (Dial 2020), SUNDAY PANCAKES (Dial 2022). She sometimes teams up with writer Darren Farrell and together they've created DANDELION MAGIC (Dial 2021) and GIVE THIS BOOK AWAY (Knopf 2022). Today, she lives outside of Boston with her cat/studio manager Mosami. <https://petitemayat.com/>

Please see the artist's artistic process at the QR code here:



Jack Wong

WHEN YOU CAN SWIM

Scholastic, May 2, 2023 | World English,

NA Spanish, and French

48 pages, final text and art available

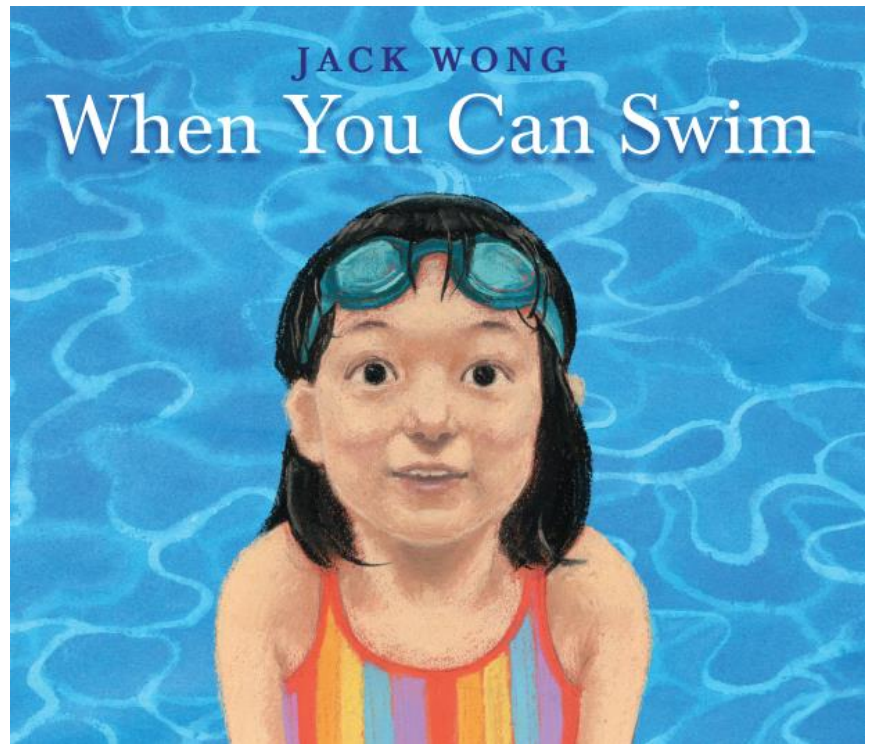
Agent: Wendi Gu

**Winner of the Boston Globe-Horn
Book Picture Book Award**

Amazon Best Book of May: Ages 3-5

**Publishers Weekly Best Summer
Read for 2023**

**A reverent celebration of learning to
swim among a diverse cast of
children and families who each
experience the mysterious joys of
water in nature.**



In this exploration of what it truly means to swim, expansive vignettes introduce sandpipers, tannin-soaked lakes, and the feeling of a small waterfall on sun-soaked shoulders. But what about those who are afraid of the water's mysterious ways and resist learning to swim? Painting a compelling picture of the many joys and surprises that the water holds, artist and author Jack Wong has delivered an empowering, poetic journey that invites children to discover their confidence within to receive the warmth and wonder of the natural world.

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Jack Wong (黃雋喬) was born in Hong Kong and raised in Vancouver. In 2010, he left behind a life as a bridge engineer to pursue his Bachelor of Fine Arts at NSCAD University (Halifax, Canada), where he now lives with his wife and two cats.

A self-declared actual Jack-of-all-trades, he has also tried his hand at bookkeeping, teaching art, managing a psychology research lab, and running his own bicycle repair shop, just to name a few—a real education for creating children's books, if you ask him!

The books that Jack writes and illustrates are indelibly marked by a first-generation Asian Canadian experience, transposed upon the small-city living, natural beauty, and deeply rooted storytelling traditions of the Maritime east coast. Jack is the recipient of 12x12 Picture Book Challenge's 2021 Diversity Scholarship, competitive mentorships from Annick Press and Visual Arts Nova Scotia (with artist Steve Higgins), and a longlist mention in the 2020 CANSCAIP Writing for Children Competition. He volunteers in the Virtual Readers and Refugees Program hosted by the International Board on Books for Young People, and is an active member of SCBWI, Visual Arts Nova Scotia, and Writers' Federation of Nova Scotia.

Picture Book

Praise for WHEN YOU CAN SWIM

“In VISUALLY INVENTIVE, LOVINGLY FINISHED pastel-and-watercolor spreads and sinuous lines of prose-poetry, debut author-illustrator Wong showcases myriad children encountering the joys of swimming.” ★ *Publishers Weekly*

“[When You Can Swim] is BOUND TO INSPIRE all swimmers to embrace nature, no matter where they are on their journey....A GORGEOUSLY RENDERED love letter to swimming and the magical experiences that it can unlock.” ★ *Kirkus Reviews*

“Jack Wong’s BREATHTAKING watery landscapes, strong currents surge beneath rushing waterfalls, and sunlight shimmers on ocean waves and the surface of a river...Text and illustrations merge SEAMLESSLY....Wong’s playful perspectives are CAPTIVATING...STUNNING...[A] SPLENDID PICTURE BOOK.” ★ *BookPage*

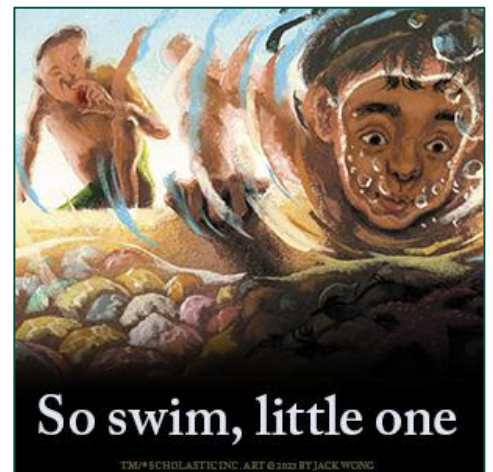
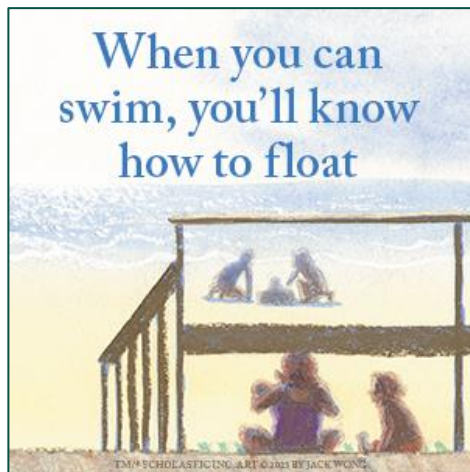
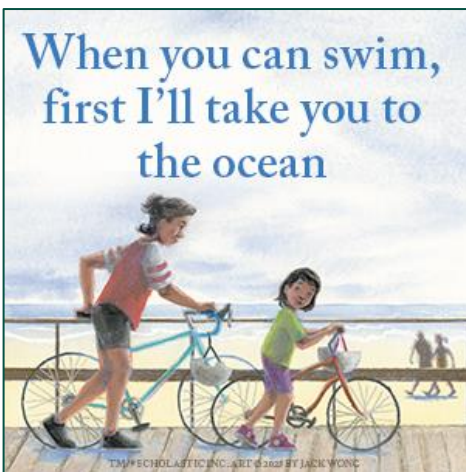
“With POETIC text and GORGEOUS, INCLUSIVE illustrations, Wong invites readers to learn how to swim—to conquer fear of the water, and also to reclaim aquatic spaces for Brown, Black, and differently abled bodies...This isn’t just a book about swimming but also ‘about our ideas of the world’; it’s a manifesto that ‘this belongs to you, too.’” ★ *Horn Book*

“In watercolors and pastels, this picture book EXTOLS the future joys of swimming in many different locales.” *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, “New Books for 2023 Summer Reading”

“[A] MARVELOUS book with its GLORIOUS poetry and SPECTACULAR pastel and watercolor illustrations offers an INSPIRING of what is possible when someone conquers their fear of the water and dares to swim in the ocean, a pond, a lake, a canal, a swimming pool.” *The Buffalo News*

“STUNNINGLY ILLUSTRATED and LYRICAL.” *BookRiot*

“This EXQUISITELY ILLUSTRATED picture book celebrates all the wonder and adventure to be found when you sink your body into water.” *Northern Virginia Magazine*



Jack’s flight to ALA was cancelled so he ended up missing the Scholastic event where he was supposed to speak, but he made a video at an airport hotel and apparently it stole the show. Enjoy here this video that beautifully captures his intentions for the book:



Toni Yuly

SLOWLY SLOWLY

Atheneum Books for Young Readers, September 12,

2023 | World English

40 pages, final text and art available

Agent: Wendi Gu

A persimmon branch takes its time creating a wonderful gift for the community around it in this charming picture book celebrating the beauty that can be found in slowing down.

When you slow down...

you see more.

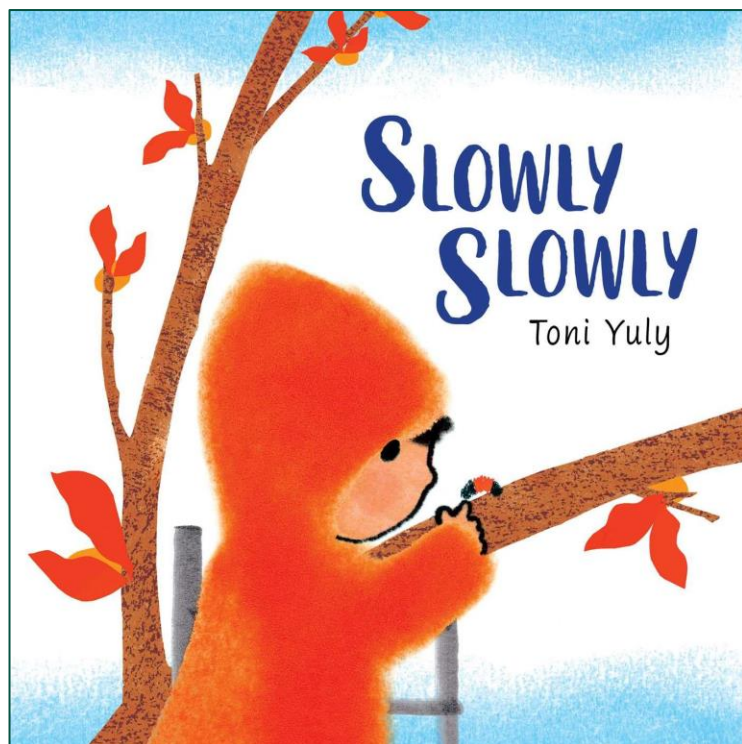
You see the day waking up,

the turtle taking steps,

the wind having fun.

You see wonder

all around.



In this this simple yet stunning picture book, a persimmon tree stretches across every page, changing with the seasons. In the world beyond its branches, a boy and his puppy delight in the wonders they see around them. All the while, the tree is slowly growing, blooming, and creating fruit to be enjoyed.

"With a few carefully chosen words and images, Yuly fashions a delicate paean to nature and mindfulness. "When you slow down.../ you see more," whisper the inviting first lines. . . The minimalist style and composition of the hazy, soft-textured art winningly reflect the book's philosophy of stripped-down simplicity. . . An appealing purchase for all collections, with plenty of details to inspire conversation and reward multiple read-throughs." --★ *School Library Journal*

"The simplicity of this story results in its perfection. Repeated scenes of a branch of the persimmon tree, shown in different weather and at various times of day, will hold children's interest during multiple rereads and help them learn about the seasons and other aspects of the natural world. . . The precise, limited narrative and its message that good things can take time to develop will lull readers into a sense of calm appreciation, making this an ideal story for bedtime. Delightful and soothing encouragement to slow down and enjoy life."--- ★ *Kirkus Reviews*



Toni Yuly is the creator of many acclaimed picture books including *Some Questions About Trees*, *The Whole Wide World and Me*, and *Thank You, Bees*. She studied painting at the University of Washington, where she worked with the great American painter Jacob Lawrence. Toni also worked for many years as a librarian with the King County Library System. She now lives in Bremerton, a short ferry ride from Seattle, Washington. Visit her at www.ToniYuly.com.

Picture Book

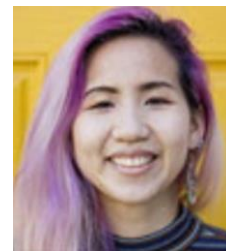
Shaina Lu
NOODLE & BAO

HarperCollins/Quill Tree Books, Fall 2024 | World English
222 pages, final art due December 2023
Agent: Wendi Gu, text and art

Sold at auction in a two-book deal, NOODLE & BAO is an ode to Chinatowns everywhere.

When a hip new café takes over their spot, a humble food cart must stand its ground against the gentrification of their Chinatown neighborhood. And one girl has a plan.

Shaina Lu 呂明穎 (she/her) is a queer Taiwanese-American community artist and educator interested in the intersection of art, education, and activism. She graduated from Wellesley College and Harvard Graduate School of Education, where she studied Arts in Education. She lives with her wife and cat on the ancestral and unceded lands of the Massachusetts and Pawtucket people. <http://shainadoesart.com/>



"I like to create community art for social change, which means that my art happens in conversation with community members of places that I live, work, or play. Basically, my art is made through dialogue with other people. Sometimes I photograph protests, sometimes I paint murals in collaboration with youth, and sometimes I write and illustrate stories for a more just and liberated world."



Middle Grade Graphic Novel

Liz Montague
SCHOOL FOR UNUSUAL MAGIC:
The Equinox Test

Scholastic | World English
240 pages, B&W illustrations
ARCs available
Agent: Wendi Gu

Three friends discover magic and mayhem around every corner of their school in the first book of this brand-new illustrated series from *New Yorker* cartoonist and NAACP Image Award nominee Liz Montague.

It's time to put their magic to the test!

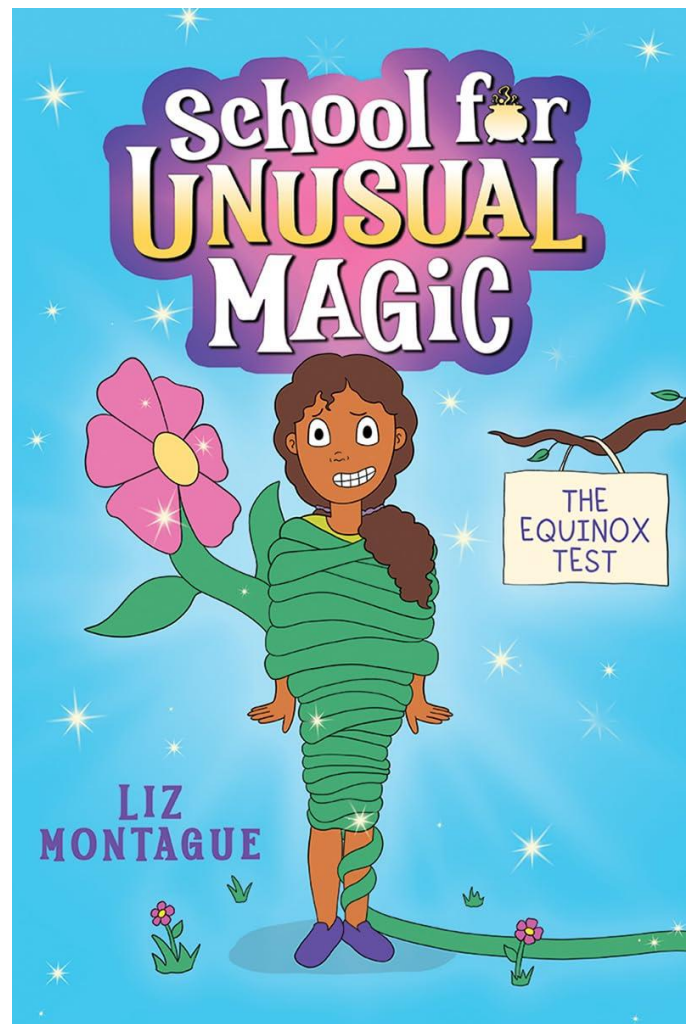
Welcome to the Brooklyn School of Magic, where seeds of enchantment are planted and magic sprouts in every corner. And where each fall, fifth years must pass the Equinox Test if they want to move up to Middle Magic.

Rose is worried. She's never been the best student. And if she doesn't pass with flying colors, Principal Ivy says she may have to transfer to a boring, non-magical school.

Amethyst knows she's got the skills to ace the test. But to really impress her mom, she's got her eye on the school's top prize.

Lavender just wants to fit in. Even after a few years in the States, he still feels homesick. All. The. Time. Passing the test might just be his ticket back to the island.

But with best friend battles, a cheating scandal, and trouble brewing in the magical community, the Equinox Test may not even be the biggest challenge these Magic Bearers will face this year...



Liz Montague began as a cartoonist for *The New Yorker* in 2019. She is the author-illustrator of the graphic novel *Maybe an Artist*, which was nominated for an NAACP Image Award, the picture book *Jackie Ormes Draws the Future*, and middle grade series *School for Unusual Magic*. Liz is passionate about nature and emotional literacy. She lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, with her husband Pat.

<https://lizatlarge.org/about-3/>

Middle Grade Illustrated



Rainie Oet GLITCH

Kokila, Fall 2024 | World English
manuscript coming end 2023
Agent: Abigail Frank

Sold at auction

The first middle grade novel in verse from poet and children's book author Rainie Oet, *GLITCH* is about a young person who processes the isolation of middle school, ADHD, confusion about their gender, and an overwhelming crush on a girl at school through playing a roller-coaster-park-building game.

About Rainie Oet:

George Saunders called their work “complex, mysterious, finely wrought, and formally daring,” and said that they are “a young writer to watch.”

Mary Karr said, “Rainie Oet has it all,” and called their second book of poetry “an extraordinary display of poetic power, and [2020]’s must-read new voice.”

Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah called Rainie “a brilliant new writer with the power to make you see things you’ve never seen before with stunning clarity.”

GLITCH follows Jacob from 5th to 7th grade—from, roughly, the beginning to the end of their obsession with the video game, *Coaster Boss* (based off of *RollerCoaster Tycoon*). Jacob’s life is consumed by this game, by the power they exert over the pixelated theme park attendees. Their life outside the game is less controllable. They’re navigating an ADHD diagnosis, the isolation of middle school, and an overwhelming crush on a girl named Junie. They are convinced that Junie sees them as who they really are, as a person who isn’t “bad” just because they don’t stay quiet and sit still in class. And as a person who is realizing that the name “Jacob” doesn’t really fit them. That maybe “boy” doesn’t either.

Rainie Oet (she/they) is a queer, nonbinary trans woman who writes for adults and younger readers alike. She is the former Editor-in-Chief at *Salt Hill Journal*, and the author of three books of poetry: *Glorious Veils of Diane* (Carnegie Mellon UP, 2021), *Inside Ball Lightning* (SEMO Press, 2020), and *Porcupine in Freefall* (winner of the Bright Hill Press Poetry Book Competition, 2019). She has two upcoming picture books with Astra Young Readers: *THE BIRTHDAY PARTY* and *MONSTER SEEK* (world rights are with the publisher). Her writing appears in *Poetry Review*, *Blackbird*, *jubilat*, *Palette Poetry*, and *The Yale Review*, among other publications. She received her MFA in Poetry from Syracuse University, where she was awarded the Shirley Jackson Prize in Fiction. Her website is www.rainieoet.com.

Middle Grade novel in verse

Claire Swinarski

TAKE IT FROM THE TOP

Quill, Fall 2024 | NA

Final art due January 2024

Agent: Alexander Slater

A contemporary story told non-sequentially a la *The Friendship List* meets *500 Days of Summer*, following two girls who have become best friends over the course of six summers, while getting flashbacks into what contributed to their present-day falling out.



Claire Swinarski is the author of three middle-grade books and one adult novel. Her writing has been featured in *The Washington Post*, *Seventeen*, *Milwaukee Magazine*, and many other publications. She lives in small town Wisconsin with her husband and three kids, where she writes books, wears babies, and wrangles bread dough. <http://www.claireswinarski.com/>

Middle Grade novel



Alex Thayer

BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING

Aladdin, Fall 2024 | World English

Manuscript anticipated end of 2023

Agent: Alexander Slater

Sold in a pre-empt!

BECAUSE I'M EVERYTHING has the voice, the heart, and the brevity of the best middle grade debuts. A contemporary story that feels classic, compare this to Caroline Gertler or Rebecca Stead, and watch librarians hand this to students for years to come.

"Hello?" I call into the grate. "Is someone there?"

Now it's completely quiet. The quiet is even scarier than the clatter.

"Hello?" I say again.

A tremble of breath shifts toward me. "Is someone there?" I ask.

"Yeah."

In one of the girl's bathrooms of Jefferson Middle, in the last stall through the grate in the wall, Dee Diller gives advice. She didn't always give advice in the last stall through the grate in the wall. Back when Dee and Juniper were still friends, Dee never hid in the bathroom. But now, it's where she seeks comfort. It's where she whispers hello. And it's where kids reveal their fears and secrets to her.

Soon, more and more students come to Dee with their problems, and even Juniper learns about the advice she's doling out. What could possibly go wrong?

Alexandra Thayer is a former film and television actress and elementary school teacher. She lives in New England with her two sons and can be found on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/alexandra_thayer/.

Middle Grade novel

Sarah Dass

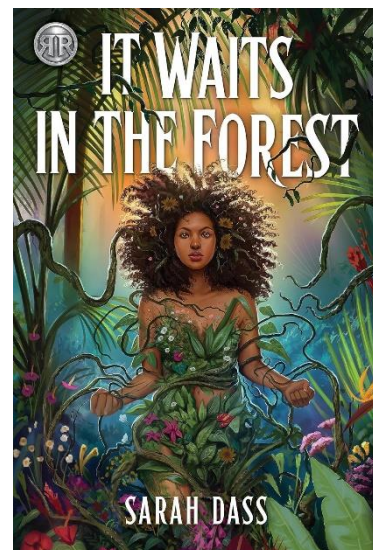
IT WAITS IN THE FOREST

Disney Hyperion, Rick Riordan Presents May 14, 2024 | World English

320 pages, manuscript anticipated November 2023

Agent: Wendi Gu

With an introduction by Rick Riordan

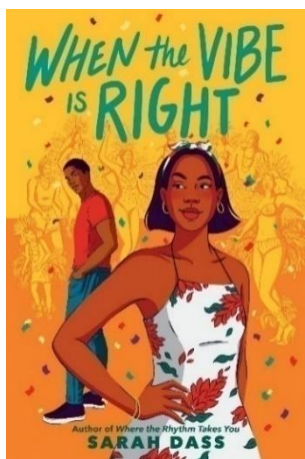


The very first thriller from Rick Riordan Presents! Drawing from the darkest corners of Caribbean mythology, acclaimed author Sarah Dass crafts a chilling tale of magic, murder, and how far we'll go to protect what's ours—perfect for fans of Angeline Boulley and Tiffany D. Jackson.

Unlike the other residents of the small Caribbean Island of St. Virgil, Selina DaSilva does not believe in magic. With a logical mind and a knack for botany, Selina used to dream of leaving the island to study Pharmacology—until a vicious, unsolved attack left her father dead and her mother in a coma.

Now her guilt over her mother's condition keeps her tethered to the island, relegated to conning gullible tourists with useless talismans and phony protection rituals. But when one of those tourists ends up at the center of a string of strange murders, the truth that Selina has been denying can no longer be avoided: there is evil lurking in the forests that surround St. Virgil. Another thing that can't be avoided? Selina's ex-boyfriend Gabriel, newly employed at the local newspaper and eager to put his investigative skills to use.

Desperate to put an end to the killings and claim justice for Selina's family, these two former lovers race to find answers. But evil bides its time. And as long-buried feelings and long-hidden secrets about Selina's family's past begin to reveal themselves, only one answer remains—and it waits in the forest.



WHEN THE VIBE IS RIGHT

Balzer + Bray, HarperCollins, May 30, 2023 | World English

336 pages, final text available

A delightful enemies-to-lovers, contemporary romance set during Trinidad's Carnival celebration about finding love in the most unexpected places.

Tess Crawford is destined to be a great Trinidadian Carnival costume designer like her renowned uncle and will one day inherit leadership of the family's masquerade band, Grandeur. But when the future of Grandeur nears the brink of collapse in the face of band rivalry, Tess finds to her chagrin that she must team up with her worst enemy, classmate and social media influencer Brandon, in a desperate attempt to revive the company. But as Tess and Brandon spend more time together, Tess begins to wonder if everything she thought she knew might not be so certain after all.

"Dass infuses this enemies-to-lovers romance with amusing dialogue, fully fleshed-out characters, and nuanced conversations surrounding loss and loneliness. The cast's magnetic chemistry, both romantic and platonic, and the palpable love for the beauty and culture of Trinidad and Tobago stand out in this radiant depiction of love, creative passion, and closure." — ★ *Publishers Weekly*

"Through captivating, witty, and heartfelt prose, Dass' sweet romance novel shows her protagonist dealing with grief and growing pains. The banter and obvious chemistry between Tess and Brandon are enthralling from the get-go; readers root for Tess and feel invested in every part of her journey. An exciting and sentimental love story perfect for romance lovers who appreciate multifaceted characters." — ★ *Kirkus Reviews*



Sarah Dass was born in Trinidad but has lived in Tobago since she was two years old. A graduate of University College London, she works as an office administrator by day and writes stories about the Caribbean by night. You can learn more about the author at www.sarahdass.com.

Young Adult



Frederick Joseph **THIS THING OF OURS**

Candlewick, Fall 2024 | World English

Manuscript anticipated November 2023

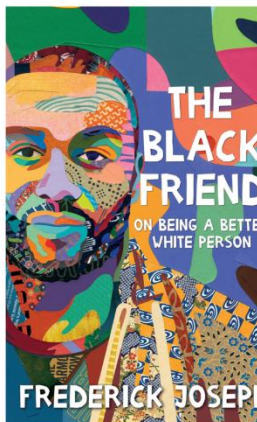
Agent: Alexander Slater

From the two-time *New York Times* bestselling author of **THE BLACK FRIEND** (2020) and **PATRIARCHY BLUES** (2022), and the author of **BETTER THAN WE FOUND IT** (2022), comes a YA debut novel that digs deep into the teen mind and the role of art in today's societal struggles.

When a teenage basketball star loses his scholarship at a prestigious high school, he turns to writing poetry to cope with his sense of identity. He befriends other artists in his writing class, and uses his social media following to push back against recent book bannings.

In 2020 [Frederick Joseph](#) published **THE BLACK FRIEND**, a social justice book aimed at younger readers based on his own experiences as Black youth in Westchester County, New York and subsequent college years. He has been published on the topics of marketing, culture, and politics in various publications including *HuffPost*, *USA Today*, *NowThisNews*, and *The Independent*. Joseph also received media attention for a fundraising initiative for rent relief program in the early months of the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2019, Joseph was named in the Forbes 30 Under 30 list for marketing and advertising. He was also honored with the 2018 Comic-con Humanitarian of the Year Award and was a member of the 2018 The Root 100 List of Most Influential African Americans. He has been featured over 2,000 times in the media for his work, including *Business Insider*, *Vogue*, *The Oscars*, *Ellen*, *CNN*, *Good Morning America*, and *iHeart Media*.



Young Adult

Dana Schwartz

IMMORTALITY: A Love Story

Wednesday Books, Macmillan, February 28, 2023 | NA

400 pages, final manuscript available

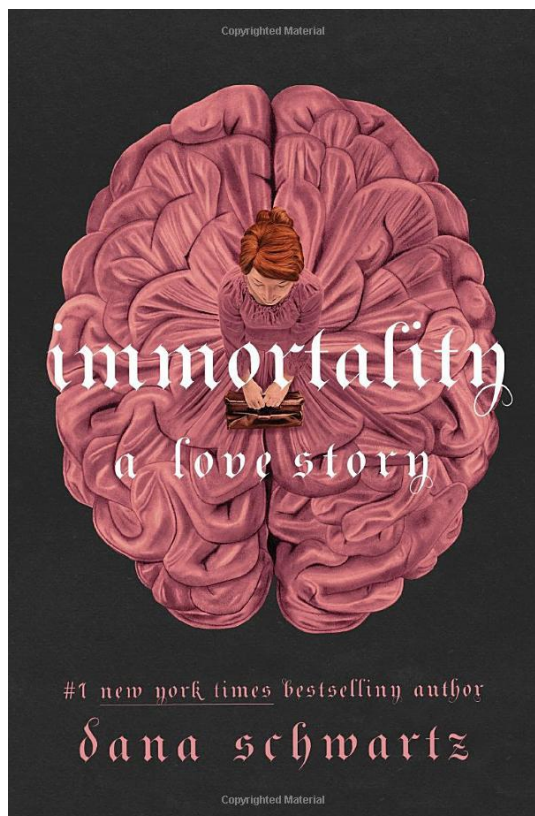
Agent: Dan Mandel

Rights sold:

Brazil – Intrinseca	Italy – Mondadori
Bulgaria – Orange Books	Poland – Kobiece
Czech – Dobrovsky	Portugal – Porto
France – Albin Michel	Romania – Trei
Germany – Loewe	Slovakia – Tatran
Greece – Psychogios	Turkey – Indigo
Israel – Sifrut She'nogaat	United Kingdom – Piatkus
	Ukraine – Zhorzh

INSTANT #1 New York Times Bestseller
INSTANT #1 Indie Bestseller

IMMORTALITY: A Love Story is the eagerly-anticipated sequel to Dana Schwartz's internationally bestselling gothic romance, ANATOMY: A Love Story



Hazel Sinnett is alone. She's half-convinced the events of the year before—the immortality, Beecham's vial—were a figment of her imagination. She doesn't even know if Jack is alive or dead. All she can really do is run her free clinic, helping people and maintaining Hawthornden Castle as it starts to decay around her.

When saving a life leads to her arrest, Hazel seems doomed to rot in prison until a message intervenes: Hazel has been specifically requested to be the personal physician of Princess Charlotte, the sickly daughter of King George IV. Soon Hazel is dragged into the glamor and romance of a court where everyone has something to hide, especially the enigmatic, brilliant social club known as the Companions to the Death.

As Hazel's work entangles her more and more with the British court, she realizes that her own future as a surgeon isn't the only thing at stake for her. Malicious forces are at work in the monarchy, and Hazel may be the only one capable of setting things right.

Schwartz continues to seamlessly blend fiction with historical events, creating a richly detailed and engaging look at life in Regency London...the central mystery is intriguing and fun, with a delightful historical who's who in the form of a secret society. —★*School Library Journal*

Accomplished prose —*Kirkus*

Among “books to add to your reading list in February” - PopSugar



[Dana Schwartz](#) is a television writer and the creator of the #1 charting history podcast Noble Blood. As a journalist and critic, Dana has written for *EW*, *Marie Claire*, *Glamour*, *GQ*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Vanity Fair*, and more. In addition to *ANATOMY: A Love Story*, She is the author of *CHOOSE YOUR OWN DISASTER*, *THE WHITE MAN'S GUIDE TO WHITE MALE WRITERS OF THE WESTERN CANON*. Find more at <https://dana-schwartz.com/>

Young Adult