



WOLF LITERARY SERVICES

Wolf Literary Services

Frankfurt 2026

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FICTION

STRANGE HARM

by Ainslie Hogarth

Publisher: Doubleday (N/Am) + **Editor:** Chris Howard-Woods.

Pub date: March 2027 + **Materials:** Proofs.

Category: Horror/Lit Fic + **Agent:** Rach Crawford.

Rights sold: UK: Atlantic (Ed: James Roxburgh).

+ From author of cult favorite *Motherthing*.
+ Comedy horror for fans of *Widow's Bay*.

When a teenage girl disappears from a supposedly haunted wood, everyone has a theory. Their stories are strange, but the truth is even stranger.

When Janie Yearling disappears from the small town of Gold River, her parents, Calvin and Annette, immediately make the primetime rounds, pleading for her safe return on every talk show and network news program that will have them. Annette becomes a bona fide star; her exquisite poise in the face of such pain is a marvel. Calvin, on the other hand, can't stop crying long enough to get a word out; he becomes a punch line at best and, at worst, a potential suspect.

Fifteen years later, they're no closer to finding out what happened to Janie; only now, no one cares. Janie's story is circling the daytime TV drain when a young woman who'd once suffered her own star-making tragedy asks if Calvin and Annette want to be the subject of her new podcast. Calvin is skeptical, but Annette is thrilled—this could be their last chance to find out what really happened to their girl.

Was it the creepy drifter who crossed paths with Janie in town that night, like most people believe? Or was it Calvin's pet theory—one the disturbed podcaster seems to be stoking, even though it drives Annette up the wall—that Druda, the tortured spirit said to haunt the river, pulled her into another world? Chilling, funny, and ultimately moving, *Strange Harm* is a kaleidoscopic novel about the many layers of narrative at work on us constantly—keeping us scared, keeping us anxious, and keeping the truth concealed.

Praise for *Motherthing*:

"A quirky, gruesome, utterly original feminist horror experience."

—*The New York Times Book Review*

"A masterfully crafted horror novel that's by turns humorous and deeply unsettling. . . . This dark domestic drama packs a punch." —*Publishers Weekly*, starred review

"Profane, insane, hilarious, disgusting—and unexpectedly moving."

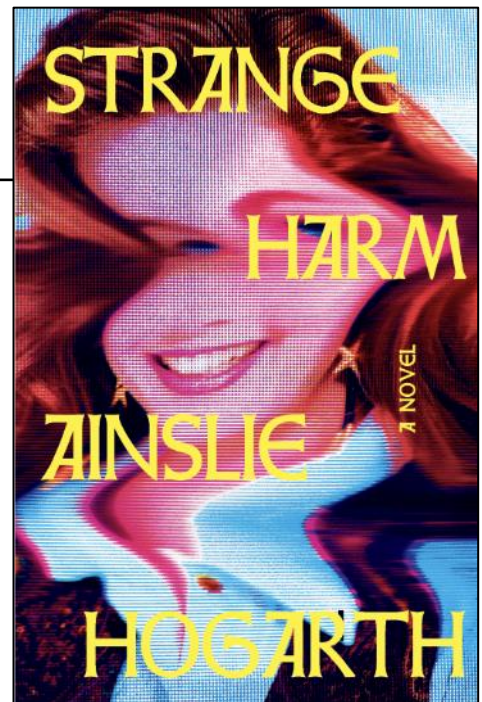
—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

"A darkly comic, kaleidoscopic novel of unhealthy fixations, love, murder, the gifts and wounds that family can inflict and one woman's fight to save herself." —*CrimeReads*

"Quirky, unexpected, and charming. Highly recommend." —*Mystery and Suspense Magazine*

Ainslie Hogarth is the author of five novels. She lives in Canada.

Previous rights sales: *Motherthing*: Catalan: Cap de Brot; French: 10/18; Italian: Bottega dell'Invisibile; Spanish: Alpha Decay.



FEW AND FAR BETWEEN

by Jan Carson

Publisher: Scribner (N/Am) + **Editor:** Emily Polson.

Pub date: July 2026 + **Materials:** Finished pages.

Category: Literary + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

Rights sold: UK/Comm: Doubleday (Ed: Kirsty Dunseath); **French:** Sabine Wespieser; **Greek:** Vakxikon

+ From the EU Prize for Literature-winning author of *The Fire Starters*.

+ Literature Ireland grants available for translation.

Sometimes a utopia is not all that it seems... An archipelago of haunted islands. A community seeking refuge from the Troubles. The perfect place to escape to - or so it appears. It's summer 2017 and the last few residents of the Lough Neagh Archipelago are facing imminent eviction. The flood planned to combat a devastating algae outbreak will submerge their homes, forcing them back to the Mainland for the first time in fifty years. How will they cope with modern life? Will the Ark give up its secrets before it sinks? Can they leave the past behind?

"A joy to read...No writer captures the absurdity and beauty of life quite like [Jan Carson] does, and with this novel she has created something especially prescient." — Sara Baume, author of *Spill Simmer Falter Wither*

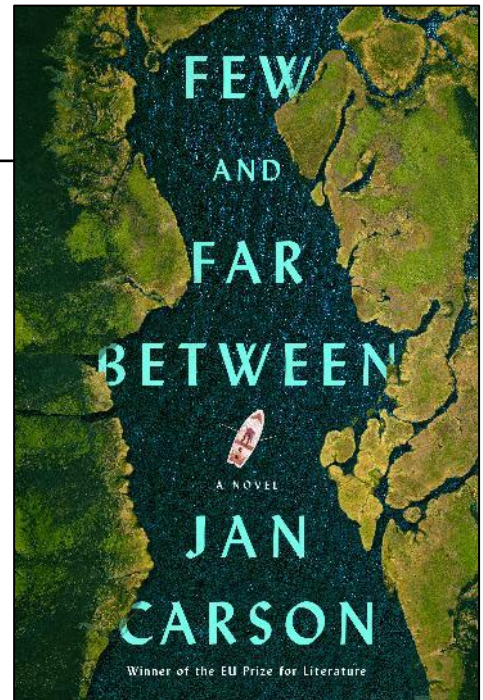
"Warm, sharp and gloriously funny, Jan Carson writes exuberant prose about difficult people in interesting times." — Sarah Moss, author of *Ripeness*

"Jan Carson's understanding of, and love for, complicated human people is unmatched in contemporary literature... her best book yet." — Heather Parry, author of *Carrion Crowe*

"Carson is one of the most industrious writers on this island, and every one of her novels is a lesson in craft and imagination." — *The Sunday Times* (Ireland)

Jan Carson is the author of several short story collections and novels including *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses*; *The Raptures*; and *The Fire Starters*, winner of the EU Prize for Literature. Her new novel *Few and Far Between* is forthcoming this year from Scribner US and Doubleday UK. She has won the Harper's Bazaar short story competition and been shortlisted for many awards, including the BBC National Short Story Award, the Seán Ó Faoláin Short Story Prize, and the Irish Book Awards Novel of the Year. Jan is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Literature, and her writing has been translated into over a dozen languages, appeared in numerous journals, and been frequently broadcast on BBC Radio. She lives in Belfast.

Previous Rights Sales: *The Fire Starters* (Doubleday, 2019): **Winner of the EU Prize for Literature:** Albanian: Toena; Arabic: Al Arabi; Bulgarian: Perseus; Croatian: HENA Com; French: Sabine Wespieser; Georgian: MTP; German: Liebeskind; Greek: Vakxikon; Hungarian: Metropolis; Italian: Giulio Perrone; Latvian: Janis Roze. Macedonian: TRI Publishing Centre; Spanish: Hoja de Lata; Turkish: Kitap Vadisi. // *The Raptures* (Doubleday, 2022): French: Sabine Wespieser; Italian: Giulio Perrone; Brazil: Incompleta; Arabic: Al Arabi; Greek: Vakxikon. // *Quickly, While They Still Have Horses (stories)* (Scribner, 2024): UK: Doubleday; French: Sabine Wespieser; Greek: Vakxikon.



STRANGE ANIMALS

by Jarod K. Anderson

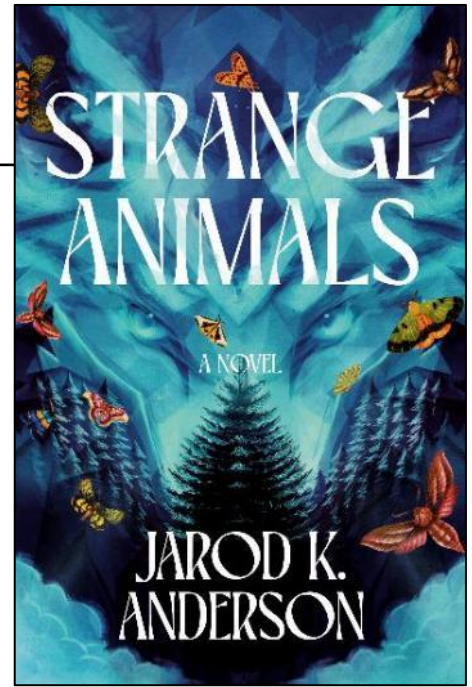
Publisher: Ballantine (N/Am) + Editor: Julian Pavia.
Pub date: February 10, 2025 + Materials: Finished pages.
Category: Fantasy + Agent: Rach Crawford.

Rights sold: UK: Solaris/Profile (Ed: Amy Borsuk)

+ Sold in a six figure preempt.
+ 500,000 lifetime downloads of author's podcast, 280,000 followers across platforms.
+ For fans of Jeff VanderMeer and Robin Hobb.

An ordinary man discovers a hidden world of fantastical creatures—and an unexpected home—in this enchanting contemporary fantasy debut.

Green trips on the curb, falls flat into the street, and sees the city bus speeding towards him. And then...blink. He's back on the curb, miraculously still alive. Desperate for answers and beset by visions of impossible creatures, Green finds his way to a remote campsite in the Appalachian Mountains, where he meets a centuries-old teacher and begins an apprenticeship unlike anything he could imagine. Under his new mentor's grouchy tutelage, Green begins to see past hidden nature's terrors and glimpse its beauty—all while befriendng fellow misfits, finding connection and community. But Green's new happiness promises to be short-lived, because alongside these marvels lurks a deadly threat to this place he's already come to love.



"a wholly captivating tale of magic and nature." — *Publisher's Weekly*

"One of the most fun and original books I've read in years. Excellent storytelling. See for yourself." — Jim Butcher, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the *Dresden Files*

"Delightfully creepy . . . I was immediately struck by the evocative prose and world-building. If you're a fan of nature, things that go bump in the night, or just like reading extremely well-executed writing, you should do yourself a favor and check this one out." — *Lightspeed*

"I cannot express how much this book scratched an itch I didn't know I had. ... I envy everyone who gets to read *Strange Animals* for the first time." —Kevin Hearne, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Unique, haunting, riveting, and beautifully magical--this is the kind of strange and wonderful book that you carry around in your heart." — Sarah Beth Durst, *New York Times* bestselling author

"A wildly inventive, fantastically fun story about a man who goes to find himself and finds so, so much more. I absolutely loved it from the first page." —Peter Clines, *New York Times* bestselling author

"like listening to a master storyteller weave tales of cryptids and extradimensional gods. A delight from start to finish." — Lucy A. Snyder, Bram Stoker Award-winning author

"Both creepy and comforting. Recommended for fans of Alisa Alering's *Smothermoss* and Kay Chronister's *The Bog Wife*." — *Booklist*

Jarod K. Anderson has written three best-selling collections of nature poetry. His memoir *Something in the Woods Loves You* (Timber Press/Hachette, 2024) explores his lifelong struggle with depression through a lens of love and gratitude for the natural world. Jarod created and voices *The CryptoNaturalist* podcast, a scripted show about real adoration for fictional wildlife. He lives in Ohio between a park and a cemetery. You can find him across platforms @cryptonaturalist.

THE WATER TAKES

by Sarah Walker

Publisher: Summit (ANZ) + **Editor:** Jane Palfreyman.

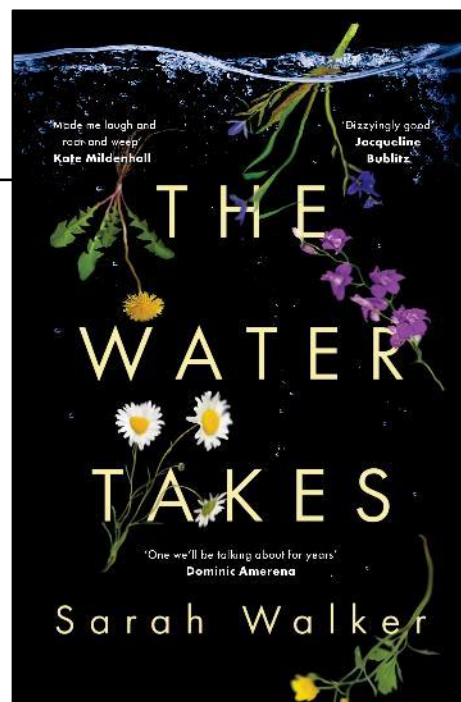
Pub date: April 2026 + **Materials:** Final pdf.

Category: Literary/upmarket + **Agent:** Rach Crawford.

+ ANZ rights sold in a six figure pre-empt.

+ For readers of Sophie Mackintosh.

Pam is in her mid-seventies, widowed and hiding from the world behind a caustic sense of humour. Her health is declining, but her most pressing concern is complaining to the local authorities about her waterlogged garden. When Pam's ten-year-old neighbour, Charlotte, is foisted upon her, a tentative friendship unfurls, cracking open Pam's hard exterior. But the puddles in the garden become pools, and then sinkholes. Nowhere seems safe. With no help coming, Pam and Charlotte can only shelter in place for so long – eventually, they know they must attempt to navigate a catastrophically altered world. *The Water Takes* is a work of astonishing literary imagination with the urgent page-turning propulsion of a thriller.



"When legendary publisher Jane Palfreyman describes a novel as one of the best debuts she's read, you pay attention." — *The Age*

"balanced, evocative and engrossing ... a novel that feels both deeply unnerving and ... eerily prescient." — *The Saturday Paper*

"The Water Takes is beautifully written with a sharp blend of humour to offset the looming menace reminding us that that connection is our saving grace when catastrophe hits. I love dystopian fiction and this is an impressive debut." — *Sydney Arts Guide*

**"This is compelling, it's funny ... I was really drawn into this book."
— *The Bookshelf, ABC Radio National.***

"In *The Water Takes*, Sarah gives us Pam: sharp, stubborn, funny, and so vividly drawn it feels like she's lived a whole other life before the page." — *Ramona Magazine*

"A dizzily good debut." — Jacqueline Bublitz, author of *Before You Knew My Name*

"*The Water Takes* is haunting, terrifying and still somehow hopeful. Seventy-something Pam is one of the most vivid characters I've ever encountered - she made me laugh and roar and weep. I am in awe of Sarah Walker and this book." — Kate Mildenhall, author of *The Hiding Place*

**"*The Water Takes* is an intimate epic; both a dazzling paean to hope and a staggering monument to loss. While Walker's prose pulls tighter than a garotte wire, her characters are drawn with unspeakable tenderness ... heartfelt, horrifying, and wholly original."
— Jordan Prosser, author of *Big Time***

Sarah Walker is a Naarm/Melbourne-based writer and artist. Her first book, *The First Time I Thought I Was Dying*, won the 2021 Quentin Bryce Award. She was runner-up in the 2019 Calibre Essay Prize and received the 2020 ABR Victorian Rising Star award. Her work has been shortlisted for the Commonwealth Short Story Prize, the Walkley Awards, the Hammond House International Short Story Prize, and many other prizes. She is widely published, and is also an award-winning photographer and fine artist, whose work has been commissioned across multiple countries. She is a PhD candidate at RMIT. Her work is online at sarahwalker.work

HOT FRUIT

by Erinrose Mager

Publisher: Fonograf Editions (N/Am) + **Editor:** Jeff Alessandrelli.

Pub date: November 2026 + **Materials:** Final PDF.

Category: Literary fiction/stories + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

Strange and incantatory, Erinrose Mager's debut collection *Hot Fruit* investigates the longing for self, the longing for another, and the longing for connection between the self and another when the other is inherently unknowable, obscured, or out of reach.

A woman speaks to her celebrity father through the television screen. A mother and daughter approach each other on a dock by the ocean. A lonely king discovers his heir in a golden box. A new bride eats endless candy in the back of a limo. An adjunct professor falls into a vivid, frantic dream.

The pieces in this collection constellate sensations of familial loss and longing, financial precarity, cultural and racial hybridity, consumption, fractured memory, and the peculiarity of placelessness, all observed in proximity to the quotidian: a racoon in the road, a lemon, an unhurried meal, a scrap of fabric. Interspersed with a fable cycle that reimagines Korean myths, legends, and contemporary media through the lens of the adoptee experience, these stories confront the question: When all is borrowed or given or stolen or lost, can anything—can anyone—be known?



"The "here" of the stories in *Hot Fruit*, these bursts of "desperate, enigmatic poetry," is a fabulist space of possibility, a world of "sudden double exposure" where to think a thing is to make it so. ...Like some chimeric offspring of Diane Williams, Donald Barthelme, and Marguerite Duras, Erinrose Mager is dreamlike, frightening, tragic, very funny, and totally singular."

— Elisa Gabert, author of *Any Person is The Only Self*

"The fictions and fables in Erinrose Mager's *Hot Fruit*, are gem-like studies of intimacy and of familial connections in all their paradoxical and enigmatic complexities. Here is Mager's invitation to enter these beautiful, haunting reveries on love and intimacy, saturated and made sacred by their deep humanity."

— Mary-Kim Arnold, author of *Litany for the Long Moment*

"The stories in *Hot Fruit* are almost painfully good—weird, smart, hilarious, sad—they stunned me. I kept thinking of Donald Barthelme's idea that literature's aim is "the creation of a strange object covered with fur which breaks your heart." If that's the sort of literature you've been looking for, here it is!"— Danielle Dutton, author of *Prairie, Dresses, Art, Other*

"*Hot Fruit* is an enthralling and virtuosic ode to the dark and ecstatic entanglements of the Korean adoptee diaspora. A collage of fable, absurdity, and in-between-ness, Erinrose Mager's self-contained worlds conjure many moods. A gorgeous and vital debut."

— Patrick Cottrell, author of *Sorry to Disrupt the Peace*

Erinrose Mager was born in Korea. Her work appears in *Prelude*, The Poetry Project's *The Recluse*, *DIAGRAM*, *jubilat*, *Fence*, and elsewhere. She teaches at The Brooklyn Writer's Foundry MFA Program at St. Joseph's University in New York. *Hot Fruit* is her first book.

THE GERMAN SISTERS

by Helen Klein Ross

Publisher: Union Square (N/Am) + **Editor:** Claire Wachtel.

Pub date: January 19, 2027. **Materials:** Proofs.

Category: Literary + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

Two sisters in Berlin find themselves on opposite sides of WWII, separated by an ocean and decades of silence. But a love child remains their last, secret bond.

Gerda is thirteen when Hitler takes office; Ilse, eleven. While Gerda grows disillusioned by Nazism, Ilse becomes a follower. Politics becomes a wedge between them as their country becomes unrecognizable.

At fifteen, Ilse is honored to be sent to Year on the Land, an indoctrination program meant to produce mothers who embrace the regime's catchphrase *Kinder, Küche, Kirche* (Children, Kitchen, Church) and boost the Aryan birth rate. There, Ilse falls in love with a boy from a nearby camp and becomes pregnant. Her troubles escalate when the boy's racial heritage is discovered. Dreading the consequences, she surprises her estranged sister at the train station, handing her a basket, just as Gerda and her new husband are fleeing the regime.

Years after the war, Ilse reflects on the girl she was, naively caught up in fascism's false promises. Regretting the loss of her motherhood, she resolves to track down her sister. What will happen when she finds the daughter she gave away?

Timely and profoundly resonant, *The German Sisters* explores how ordinary lives are transformed by extraordinary times, and how love – and motherhood – survives history's deepest betrayals.

***"The German Sisters is a gift: A deeply felt story of sisterhood, war, authoritarianism, and betrayal. Helen Klein Ross is an impeccable writer who brings her great intelligence and heart to every page."* — Jenny Jackson, *New York Times* bestselling author**

"Helen Klein Ross makes history intimate, tracing the point at which a nation's lies become a family's secrets. Refusing the comfort of dividing the past neatly into the guilty and the innocent, she shows how ordinary lives become entangled with evil through the most human of hungers — for belonging, purpose, safety, and love. Gripping, clear-eyed, and morally searching."

— Christina Baker Kline, *New York Times* bestselling author

"Vivid and compelling, *The German Sisters* conjures the complexities of a family sundered by Hitler's rise. In this moving and memorable novel, Helen Klein Ross brilliantly captures the sisters' tumultuous trajectories, and the consequences, across generations, of their choices."

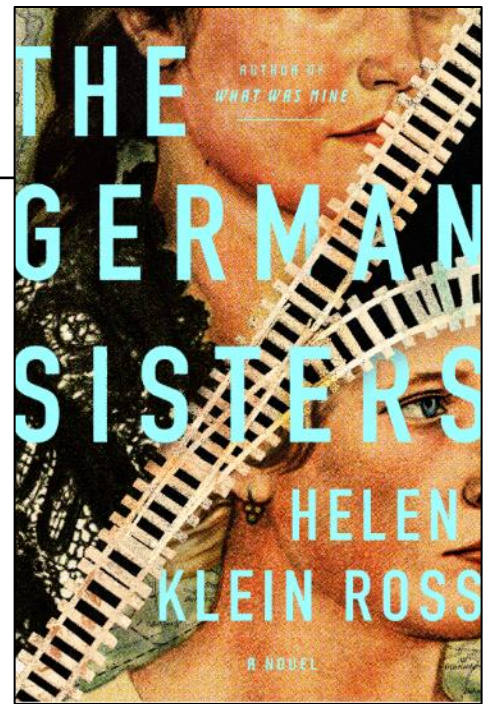
— Claire Messud, *New York Times* bestselling author

***"Immersive, heart-stopping and beautifully written account of the everyday choices that will force two young German sisters apart and ask us all to confront the impossible and the unforgivable."* —**

Helen Simonson, *New York Times* bestselling author

Helen Klein Ross is a poet and novelist whose work has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal* and in *The Iowa Review*. She is the author of the *What Was Mine*—a *People* magazine "Best New Book of 2016" – and *The Latecomers*.

Previous rights sales: *What Was Mine*: Dutch: House of Books; Polish: Prószyński; UK: Ebury; Turkish: Indigo Kitap. *The Latecomers*: Dutch: Ambo Anthos; Russian: Phantom



IN RESIDENCE

by Jessica Widner

Publisher: Mariner (US/Eng) + **Editor:** Caroline Zancan.
Pub date: UK and Canada: Fall 2027; US: Winter 2028.
Materials: Edited manuscript.
Category: Literary/horror + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

Rights sold: UK/Comm: Verve (Ed: Jenna Gordon); **Canadian:** House of Anansi Press (Ed: Shivaun Hearne).

+ Sold to Mariner for six-figures.

A literary ghost story in the vein of Pola Oloixarac's *Mona* with a Shirley Jackson twist, for fans of Jordan Peele.

When Eva and Elliot receive a vast inheritance from Elliot's mother, it is as welcome as it is troubling. Middle aged, without children and already leading a comfortable middle-class life in Edinburgh, they decide to use the money to launch a fully funded residency for emerging artists.

Yet, as soon as the money arrives in Elliot's account, a strange atmosphere converges around the couple. It follows them to the Yorkshire Dales, where they renovate a large countryside property ahead of the inaugural residency. They each begin dreaming of a presence, a dark and inescapable creature, and whispers seem to linger in the air even after they wake.

When the first batch of guests arrives – a dancer from Busan, a mixed-media artist from Los Angeles and a writer from Toronto – they too are caught up in the increasingly terrifying happenings. Tensions escalate as they all suspect each other of foul play, but the true culprit is a legacy that extends far into the past, surfacing to remind Eva and Elliot of the full extent of their inheritance.

Perceptive and piercing, Widner examines the small compromises we make with ourselves every day, spinning a story of patronage, privilege, class, and complicity until its dark heart emerges.

Jessica Widner is a writer and literary scholar. She is a lecturer in English & Creative Writing at the University of Strathclyde.



NON-FICTION

NIGHT OWL:

Staying Up Late in a World Built for
Early Birds

by Haley Shapley

Publisher: St. Martin's Press (N/Am) + **Editor:** Hannah O'Grady.

Pub date: March 2027 + **Materials:** First pass.

Category: Popular science. + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

Rights sold: UK/Comm: Souvenir Press/Profile (Ed: Cindy Chan);

Japanese: Tsukiji Shokan; **Spanish:** Grijalbo.

+ Aims to do for night owls what Susan Cain's *Quiet* did for introverts.

An investigation, celebration, and vindication of "noctonauts," those of us who are most productive at night.

In *Night Owl*, journalist (and lifelong noctonaut) Haley Shapley sifts through academic research, historical anecdotes, and expert interviews to create a compelling, fast-paced read on the culture of night owls, offering insight on everything from how they evolved and the ways sleep varies around the world to the benefits and drawbacks of going to bed later and why it would be good for everyone if we better accommodated the very real, very normal variation in sleep-wake patterns among humans. The result is a long-overdue celebration of a large but misunderstood population, with the power to change our relationships to sleep, to ourselves, and to one another.

"Haley Shapley makes a convincing case that society is better off when individuals are allowed to honor their natural sleep patterns. This book will help readers develop an appreciation for night owls in a culture that tends to celebrate morning larks."

– Leigh Ann Henion, *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Night Magic*

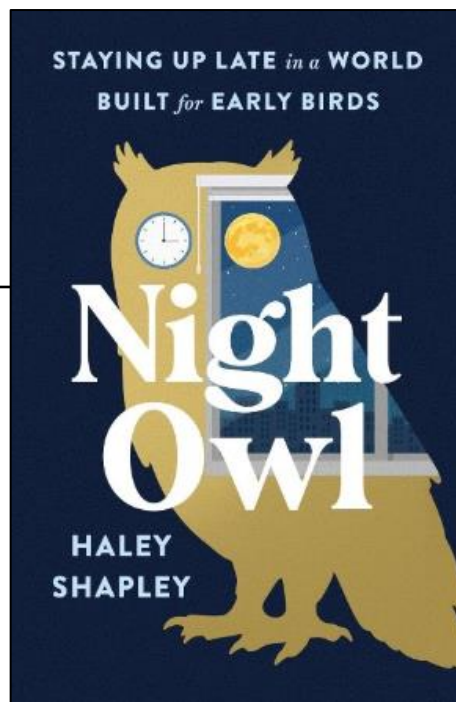
"*Night Owl* is a thoughtful book about a forgotten people... Haley has done an amazing job of teaching us all that it's OK to be a night owl, and it may even be an advantage! I highly recommend this book." –Dr. Michael Breus, author of *The Power of When*

"Finally, this book delivers justice for night owls—backed by science and told with wit. It traces the biology and history of late chronotypes, celebrates their creative strengths, and shows how people and institutions can better work with, rather than against, our internal clocks."

– Lynne Peeples, author of *The Inner Clock: Living in Sync with Our Circadian Rhythms*

"Haley Shapley takes us on a fascinating and entertaining tour - scientific, historical and cultural - of why it is that night owls are so misunderstood. She provides a potent argument for the advantages that those with a preference for the night bring, as well as the hurdles that society's structures and norms place in their way." – Guy Leschziner, author of *Seven Deadly Sins: The Biology of Being Human*

Haley Shapley is author of *Strong Like Her: A Celebration of Rule Breakers, History Makers, and Unstoppable Athletes* (Gallery). She is a freelance journalist with work in *Shape*, *SELF*, *Forbes Health*, *Teen Vogue*, *The Saturday Evening Post*, *The Seattle Times*, and *The Telegraph*. She is frequently booked on podcasts and for lectures.



COUNT ME IN

by Allie Goodbun

Publisher: Alcove Press (N/Am) + **Editor:** Thai Perez.

Pub date: June 2027 + **Materials:** Copyedited MS.

Category: Memoir + **Agent:** Leigh Eisenman.

+ Author has 690k followers on Instagram, and 447k and 20+ million likes on TikTok.

+ Written commitment of support from Moulin Rouge, including promotion, events, and book sales in their gift shop.

The Moulin Rouge has been a source of fascination and artistic inspiration for over 135 years, but there has never been a memoir written from behind its curtains—until now.

In this backstage pass to one of Paris's most beloved institutions, Allie Goodbun—dancer and social media sensation—takes readers along the cobblestone streets of Montmartre and into the dazzling heart of the Moulin Rouge. Her own journey begins in a tiny town in Ontario, where she started dancing at the age of five. From international dance competitions to a role on a popular TV series, it wasn't until she turned 22 that her biggest dreams were realized: She landed a spot at the iconic Moulin Rouge.

Since then, Allie has performed at the Opening Ceremony of the 2024 Olympics, taught the French Cancan on *The Today Show*, launched a thriving apparel brand, fallen in love, and developed a community of millions who follow her adventures in Paris and beyond.

Count Me In traces Allie's path to Paris and offers a deep dive into the stories of the celebrated cabaret. With personal anecdotes, portraits of some of the famous dancers who came before her, and illuminating behind-the-scenes access, Allie's memoir reveals the true essence of the life of a showgirl.

Straight from the heart of Paris, *Count Me In* unveils the glittering world of Moulin Rouge and the magic of a showgirl's life in Paris. A stunning debut.

Allie Goodbun is a Canadian dancer and entrepreneur known for her dynamic presence on stage and screen, as well as her innovative business ventures. Born and raised in Woodstock, Ontario, Allie began dancing at the age of five, mastering various contemporary, jazz, ballet, and hip-hop styles. She now dances at the world-famous Moulin Rouge in Paris, France, where she has been performing since 2021.

In high school, she was cast as Cassie on *The Next Step*, a dance-based sitcom that aired on Family Channel in Canada and around the world on the Disney Channel. She earned a degree in kinesiology from the University of Toronto. In 2023, she co-founded Ready Freddie, creating and selling one-piece jumpers that dancers wear for warming up and anyone can wear for lounging.

Allie has appeared on podcasts including *The Earful Tower*, *Dance Matters*, *CEO-ish*, and others, has been featured in outlets including *Newsweek*, *Well+Good*, *Toronto Star*, and has appeared on [The Today Show](#), *CTV Your Morning*, and performed in the FIFA World Cup 2026 Opening Ceremony in Toronto. She has collaborated with brands including Netflix, Maybelline, Amazon France, Microsoft, Hello Fresh, Door Dash, and more.

Allie has developed a significant and highly engaged community on social media. She currently has 690k followers on [Instagram](#) and 447k followers on [TikTok](#).



THE DESERVING:

What the Lives of the Condemned Reveal about American Justice

by Elizabeth Vartkessian

Publisher: Bloomsbury (N/Am) + **Editor:** Callie Garnett.

Pub date: January 20, 2026 + **Materials:** Final pages.

Category: Social justice/Politics + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

Rights sold: UK/Comm: Footnote/Bonnier

+ Sold at auction for mid-six figures.
+ Foreword by *Dead Man Walking* author Sister Helen
Prejean.

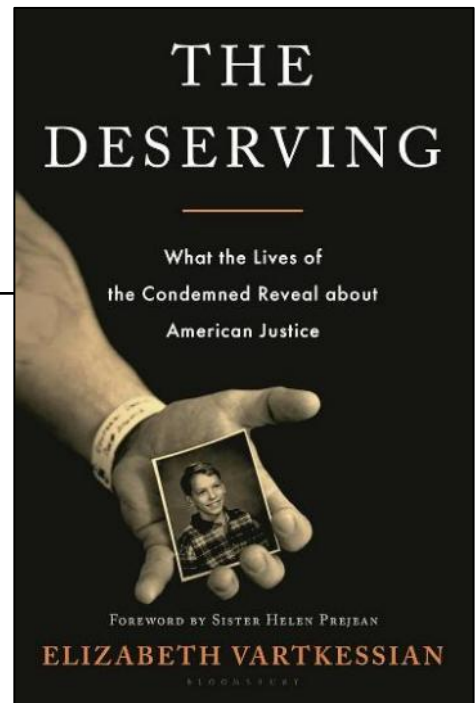
A groundbreaking new take on the justice system from one of its unknown revolutionaries, offering a powerful new vision of responsibility, punishment, and repair, for readers of *No Visible Bruises* and *Just Mercy*. Elizabeth Vartkessian works with criminal defense teams as a mitigation specialist. She isn't part of an Innocence Project; her clients are often legally guilty, and often of terrible crimes. Rather, her job is to spend hundreds of hours per case talking to the parents, siblings, teachers, and neighbors of a defendant, situating their crimes in context. Her life's work has been to discover how her clients end up where they are and how their trajectories could have been different. In this book, she weaves powerful, gripping stories from her extraordinary career into an inspiring argument for dignity.

"There is hope in these pages. Through Vartkessian's work, we see the power of connection. Like mercy, connection is harder to conjure than vengeance or detachment, but *The Deserving* makes it clear that a safe and functional society relies on people's ability to do that hard work." — *BookPage*, starred review

"Vartkessian has one of the most demanding jobs I've ever heard of: humanizing convicted murderers...their histories are wrenching to read about...Vartkessian renders them neither clinically nor sensationally—a fine line to walk." — *Harper's Magazine*.

"Elizabeth Vartkessian writes about death row like a detective crossed with a philosopher, propelling us one revelation at a time into a richer understanding of how violence begets violence... Vartkessian offers a new, courageous vision for a society with less violence and more mercy, through an honest reckoning with how we fail the least among us."
—Maurice Chammah, author of *Let the Lord Sort Them: The Rise and Fall of the Death Penalty*

Elizabeth Vartkessian has been investigating the life histories of those facing the most severe penalties possible in the United States since 2004. Vartkessian holds a Ph.D. in Law and an M.S. in Comparative Social Policy from the University of Oxford and B.A.s in Philosophy and Political Science from the George Washington University, where she was a Presidential Scholar. In 2015 she was awarded the J. M. K. Innovation Prize for her efforts to bring mitigation to all areas of the criminal justice process. Vartkessian is a founder of Advancing Real Change, Inc., a national non-profit dedicated to conducting life history investigations in criminal cases. She has spoken and written widely and written on the essentialness of anchoring human dignity in the criminal legal system.



DUTY TO WARN

by Charlotte Grieve

Publisher: Hachette Australia (W/Eng) + **Editor:** Vanessa Radnidge.
Pub date: January 31, 2026 + **Materials:** Final pages.
Category: Memoir/journalism + **Agent:** Rach Crawford.

- + #1 Amazon bestseller in multiple categories.
- + Sold in a pre-empt.
- + Author is a rising star of Australian journalism.
- + The doctor at the center of the story has patients all around the world.

It all started when a daughter asked her father 'Are there any risks?'.

Investigative journalist Charlotte Grieve had a very personal reason to be interested in celebrated orthopaedic surgeon Dr. Munjed Al Muderis. Her father had lost his leg almost sixty years before a chance meeting with Dr. Al Muderis, who raised concerns about her father's ongoing mobility. The collision of the personal and professional would spark an investigation that led to a \$20 million defamation trial. Charlotte uncovered serious concerns about the doctor's surgical practice and evidence that he routinely failed to adequately inform patients of the risks involved in his signature procedure. Doctors have a duty of care, but they also legally have a duty to warn. It means that they *must* warn patients of any risks.

The doctor would go on to spend millions trying to prevent Charlotte from warning the public about his failures. Though pressured to drop her investigation, Charlotte stood firm. In the defamation trial, thirty-five of his patients, dozens of doctors, surgeons, and health professionals would take the stand, defending their stories, their lives, their truths.

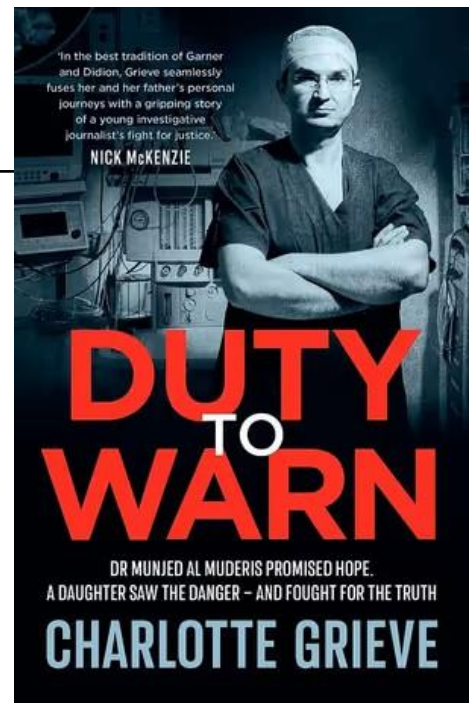
Compelling and masterfully written, *Duty to Warn* is the inside story of a young journalist fighting to uncover the facts whilst coming up against a powerful individual determined to stop her. It delivers a rare window into legal and ethical reckoning in medicine and in journalism. Ultimately, it is a story about the duty to warn, what it means, and the catastrophic outcomes that can ensue when a doctor fails to uphold their ethical responsibilities.

"In the best tradition of Garner and Didion, Grieve seamlessly fuses her and her father's personal journeys with a gripping story of a young journalist's fight for justice. Grieve is not only one of the finest reporters of her generation, she's a fine writer too." — Nick McKenzie

"Powerful." — *The Guardian*

**"This is no dry courtroom drama. Grieve brings a personal touch to an important story."
— *The Age***

Charlotte Grieve is an award-winning investigative journalist with *The Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald*. She was twice awarded Citi Young Business Journalist of the Year in 2022 and 2023, as well as two Quill Awards, highly commended for the Grant Hattam Quill for Investigative Journalism and nominated for a Walkley Mid-Year Prize for Environment Reporting. She has producer credits for five documentaries with *60 Minutes*. She currently works for the ABC.



WE DON'T BELONG TO OURSELVES

by Lauren Carroll Harris

Publisher: Ultimo Press (ANZ) + **Editor:** Brigid Mullane.
Pub date: February 2, 2027 + **Materials:** Final PDF.
Category: Parenting/Cultural History + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

+ For readers of Jia Tolentino and *Matrescence* by Lucy Jones.
+ Sold at auction.

After the birth of her child, Lauren Carroll Harris discovered what so many mothers do: that her lactating postnatal body didn't resemble the docile, serene Madonna of art history, and that mom-and-baby products and design hacks seemed to exist in a parallel universe, where stretchmarks can be prevented and baby chaos tamed.

Modern motherhood has been intensified and drip-fed onto social media in rose-tinted representations retouched by influencers and brands, but our birthing bodies are historical bodies, our conceptions of which are shaped over time by the images we see.

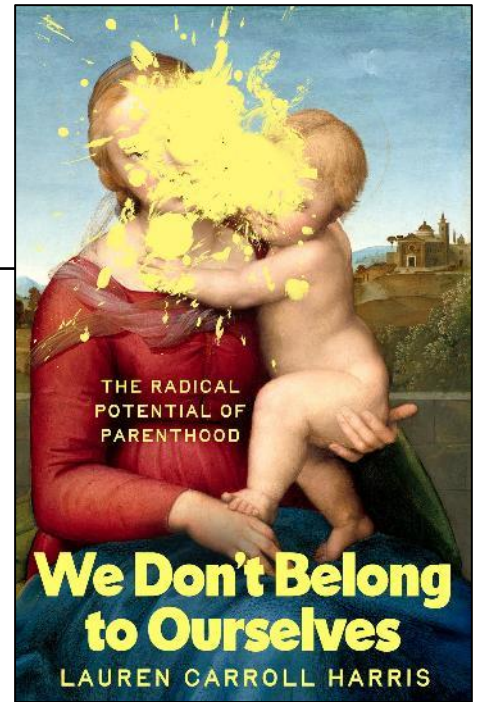
Relayed with an intimate, inclusive verve and wit, *We Don't Belong to Ourselves* traces Lauren Carroll Harris's quest for real, unromanticised images of pregnant or breastfeeding women.

The author takes us on deep dives into art (see Jusepe de Ribera's transgender breastfeeding *Bearded Woman*); maternity fashion (cue Rihanna's reclamation of a sensual, pregnant body); television and cinema (like the surprising corporate origins of the ubiquitous pregnancy test scene); the digital parenting landscape, and momfluencers. Through her analysis and experience, Lauren unpicks the ways in which motherhood and feminism are being commodified, privatised, and controlled.

We Don't Belong to Ourselves holds a mirror to our modern conception of motherhood, and asks how we might rebel against these ideas to imagine radical alternative systems of love and care. It shows that modern parenthood is an adaptable thing, one that might yet write a new, collective story.

"Never again can a pregnant woman, let alone a new mother, be waved away as having 'brain fog'. Harris blows that idea apart in her brilliant deep dive into modern parenthood. *We Don't Belong to Ourselves* is pure intellectual pleasure – and utterly galvanising."
– Anna Krien, author of *Night Games* and *Act of Grace*

Lauren Carroll Harris' work has appeared in *Brooklyn Rail*, *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Lit Hub*, *Sydney Review of Books*, Radio National's *The Screen Show* as a producer and presenter, ABC TV, *Open Secrets: Essays on the Writing Life* (Giramondo Publishing) and *Outside the Frame: Art and the Moving Image* (Perimeter Books). A former casual academic, she has a PhD in cinema from UNSW and was the curator of the Prototype experimental film and video platform.



GOOD LOOKS AND BAD MANNERS

by Joanna Scutts

Publisher: St. Martins Press (N/Am) + **Editor:** Brigitte Dale.

Pub date: April 30, 2027 + **Materials:** Final PDF.

Category: History/Feminism + **Agent:** Kate Johnson.

A narrative history of American women's love affair with Paris, from the Belle Epoque to the gritty and glamorous jazz age, through WWII and the cultural transformations beyond.

GOOD LOOKS AND BAD MANNERS, a deeply researched and character-driven cultural history, tells the story of seismic change—from the 1870s to the 1960s—and the American women whose creativity, boundary-pushing, and dauntless spirit shaped, and in turn were shaped by, the city of Paris.

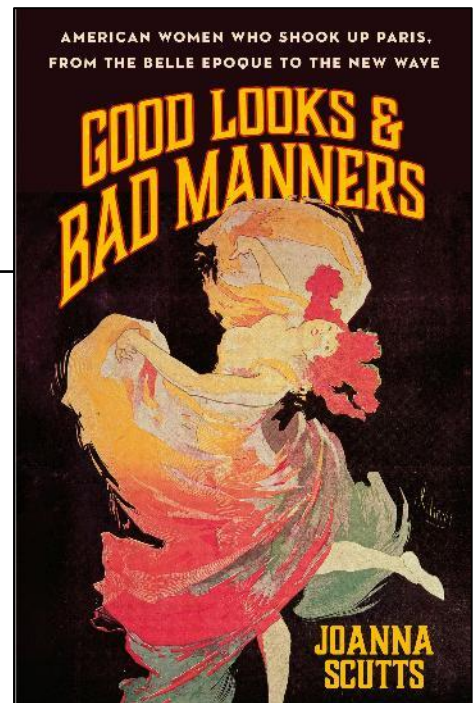
Famous figures like Edith Wharton, Julia Child, and Angela Davis take their place among a riotous assembly of lesser-known artists and adventurers. The book invites us into the art scene of the 1870s, where Americans like Mary Cassatt and May Alcott (sister of Louisa) made a home for themselves outside the male-only Ecole de Beaux Arts, to the 1920s, where Isadora Duncan and Josephine Baker captivated audiences, to the hardships of WWII, shouldered by writers like Sylvia Beach and Gertrude Stein, and the ensuing cultural transformations beyond.

Often on their own for the first time, unsupervised by parents and rarely married, these women flaunted their talents and navigated limited budgets with thriftiness and good humor. Facing less (or at least different kinds of) sexism and racism than back home, the Americans cultivated a vibrant expat sisterhood—one that could withstand wars, epidemics, and financial crashes, as well as uplift extraordinary successes.

A love story, and a celebration of a Paris both mythologized and realized by the daring women who chose to call it home. A book for anyone who moves abroad and finds home.

“Anyone who loves about Paris will devour this fascinating book extolling the American woman’s voice in Paris: loud, rich and vulgar on occasions but always exciting. The book is crammed full of interesting details and fabulous characters all pulled together in such a lively and vibrant way. I loved it.” – Anne Sebba, author of *Les Parisiennes*

Joanna Scutts is a literary critic and cultural historian. She is the author of *Hotbed: Bohemian New York and the Secret Club that Sparked Modern Feminism*, and *The Extra Woman: How Marjorie Hillis Led a Generation of Women to Live Alone and Like It*. Her book reviews, profiles, and critical essays have appeared in *The New York Times*, *Guardian*, *Washington Post*, *Times Literary Supplement*, *Paris Review*, *Slate*, and the *New Yorker*. Originally from London, she holds a B.A. in English from King's College, Cambridge, an M.A. in Modern English Literature from Sussex University, and a Ph.D. in English and Comparative Literature from Columbia University in New York. She now lives with her husband and son in Paris, where she is a professor at the American University of Paris.



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