

ABOUT SHE WRITES PRESS

She Writes Press is an independent publishing company, founded in 2012, with a thriving publishing program dedicated to community, education, and giving women authors a voice and a platform for their writing.

We are a curated press that's both mission-driven and community-oriented, aiming to serve writers who wish to maintain greater ownership and control of their projects while still getting the highest-quality editorial help possible for their work.

Every expert we work with has been handpicked by She Writes Press Publisher Brooke Warner.

Celebrating 10 years of publishing in 2022, She Writes Press has signed more than 900 authors. We are an award-winning press whose authors have appeared in publications ranging from *O, The Oprah Magazine* to *People* to *Redbook*, as well as all the industry trade reviews. Our books are distributed by Publishers Group West and are sold into bookstores, libraries, and specialty retail accounts. We are excited to be partnering with high-caliber authors whose books are giving the publishing industry reason to keep its eye on She Writes Press.

She Writes Press is a proud member of the SparkPoint Studio family, spearheaded by its CEO, Crystal Patriarche.

Publisher Brooke Warner is a cofounder of the press and leads the editorial and production department along with associate publisher and editorial manager Lauren Wise, and editorial staff Shannon Green, Addison Gallegos, and Megan Milton.

She Writes Press is known for its beautiful cover designs and interiors; for this we would like to thank our design team, led by Creative Director Julie Metz, who's supported in her efforts by Leah Lococo, Tabitha Lahr, Rebecca Lown, Kiran Spees, Stacey Aaronson, and Katherine Lloyd.

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Fall 2024

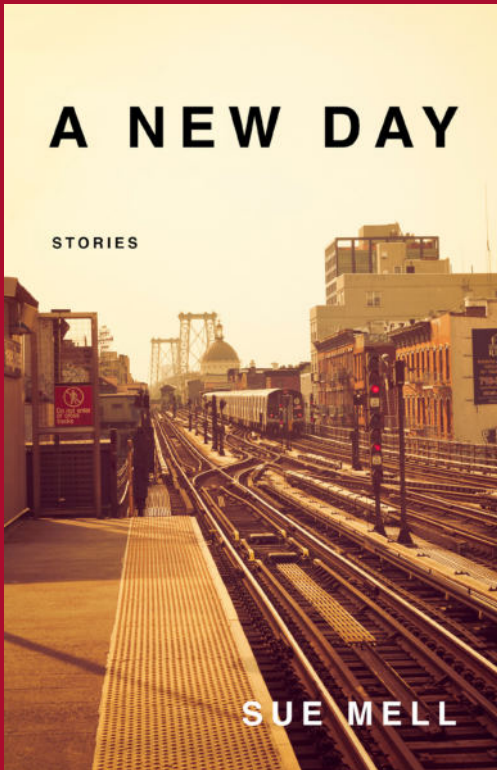
rácter de cada quien. La escribió imaginándose lo que Fermina Daza le hubiera contestado a él si lo quisiera tanto como aquella criatura desamparada quería a su pretendiente. Dos días después, desde luego, tuvo que escribir también la réplica del novio con la caligrafía, el estilo y la clase de amor que le había atribuido en la primera carta, y fue así como terminó comprometido en una correspondencia febril consigo mismo. Antes de un mes, ambos fueron por separado a darle las gracias por lo que él mismo había propuesto en la carta del novio y aceptado con devoción en la respuesta de la chica: iban a casarse.

Sólo cuando tuvieron el primer hijo se dieron cuenta, por una conversación casual, de que las cartas de ambos habían sido escritas por el mismo escribano, y por primera vez fueron juntos al portal para nombrarlo padrino del niño. Florentino Ariza se entusiasmó tanto con la evidencia práctica de sus ensueños, que sacó tiempo de donde no lo tenía para escribir un *Secretario de los Enamorados* más poético y amplio que el que hasta entonces se vendía por veinte centavos en los portales, y que media ciudad conocía de memoria. Puso en orden las situaciones imaginables en que pudieran encontrarse Fermina Daza y él, y para todas escribió tantos modelos cuantas alternativas de ida y vuelta le parecieron posibles. Al final tuvo unas mil cartas en tres tomos tan cuadrados como el diccionario de Covarrubias, pero ningún impresor de la ciudad se arriesgó a publicarlos, y terminaron en algún desván de la casa, con otros papeles del pasado, pues Tránsito Ariza se negó de plano a desenterrar las múcuras para malbaratar sus ahorros de toda la vida en una locura editorial. Años después, cuando Florentino Ariza tuvo recursos propios para publi-

car este trabajo admitir la realidad de las cosas, las penas de amor habían pasado de moda. Fermina Daza ya no daba los primeros pasos en la Comandancia del Caribe y escribía cartas gratis en el taller de los Escribanos, los amigos de juventud que Florentino Ariza tenían la certidumbre de que jamás lo perderían, perdiéndolo poco a poco y sin regreso. Así que todavía cuando regresó del viaje por el río veía algunos de ellos con la esperanza de atenuar los recuerdos de Fermina Daza, jugaba al billar con ellos, fue a sus últimos bailes, se prestaba al azar de ser rifado entre las muchachas, se prestaba a todo lo que le pareciera bueno para volver a ser el que fue. Después, cuando el tío León XII lo acreditó como empleado, jugaba al dominó con sus compañeros de oficina en el Club del Comercio, y éstos empezaron a reconocerlo como uno de los suyos cuando ya no les hablaba sino de la empresa de navegación, que no mencionaba con su nombre completo sino con sus iniciales: la C.F.C. Cambió hasta el modo de comer. De indiferente e irregular que había sido hasta entonces en la mesa, se volvió igual y austero hasta el fin de sus días: una taza grande de café negro al desayuno, una posta de pescado hervido con arroz blanco, al almuerzo, y una taza de café con leche con un pedazo de queso antes de acostarse. Bebía café negro a toda hora, en cualquier parte y en cualquier circunstancia, y hasta treinta tacitas diarias: una infusión igual al petróleo crudo que prefería prepararse él mismo, y que siempre tenía en un termo al alcance de la mano. Era otro, en contra de su propósito firme y sus esfuerzos ansiosos de seguir siendo el mismo que había sido antes del tropiezo mortal del amor.

La verdad es que nunca volvería a serlo. La recuperación de Fermina Daza fue el objetivo único de su vida, y estaba tan seguro de lograrla tarde o

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“Endlessly fascinating characters propel these wonderfully ardent stories.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“I loved the loops and tangles in this gorgeous net of stories. It’s such a beautifully mapped world, where every friendship has its betrayals and rescues and every city is one in which ‘you were bound, eventually, to bump into everyone you’d ever slept with.’ A wonderful and clear-sighted book.”

—Joan Silber, author of *Secrets of Happiness and Improvement*

A NEW DAY

STORIES

SUE MELL

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of Lily King’s *Five Tuesdays in Winter*, a contemporary short story collection that explores the depths of everyday humanity and the universal yearning for new beginnings.

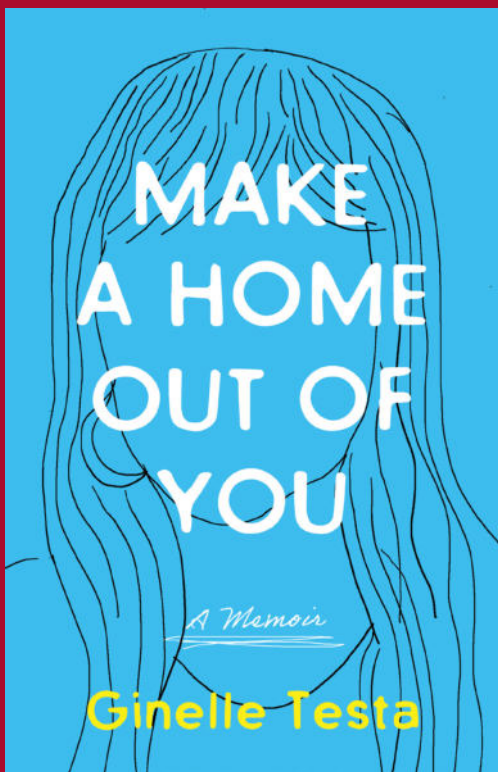
Linked by their personal and professional relationships, the characters in these thirteen stories—all set between 1982 and 2012—struggle to achieve happiness and success. A coke-fueled night with a photographer costs a young woman her job in the display department of Bloomingdale’s, but holds a hidden promise. A sculptor tries to resurrect his relationship with an old flame on the same day her best friend is undergoing a bone marrow transplant. An aspiring actress drifts from house-sit to house-sit until an armed robbery at the restaurant where she works makes her question a lifelong pattern of impermanence.

Moody, elegiac, and full of longing, with ricocheting themes of desire and loss, *A New Day*’s stories are steeped in the highs and lows inherent in the pursuit of love and creative expression.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sue Mell writes fiction and creative nonfiction in both short and long forms. Her work has appeared in *Narrative Magazine*, *Hippocampus Magazine*, *Jellyfish Review*, *Cleaver Magazine*, and elsewhere. She earned her MFA from Warren Wilson and was a 2020 BookEnds fellow at SUNY Stony Brook. You can find more about Sue at www.suemell.com. She lives in Queens, New York, where she cares for her aging mom and a gray tuxedo cat named Poppy.

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“A raw and honest portrait of unhealed trauma and its ripple effect on a young life. With an intense yearning for things, people, and vices, the author earned a heap of battle scars on the journey to self-love and acceptance. This story reminds us that love starts at home, and that home resides within.”

—Suzanne Simonetti, *USA Today* best-selling author of *The Sound of Wings*

“*Make a Home Out of You* shines with honesty and introspection.”

—August McLaughlin, author and podcast host of *Girl Boner*

MAKE A HOME OUT OF YOU

A MEMOIR

GINELLE TESTA

DESCRIPTION:

For readers of *Drinking: A Love Story* by Caroline Knapp comes an unflinching coming-of-age addiction memoir about one woman’s journey to overcome her destructive roots to discover her road to recovery.

Born to an abusive mother and a drug-dealer father, Ginelle Testa is not exactly set up for success—and her early years are just as troubled as one might expect. By the end of her thirteenth year, she’s started experimenting with alcohol and drugs, has fallen prey to anorexia, and has been sexually assaulted. And that’s only the beginning of her spiral down into addiction and disordered eating.

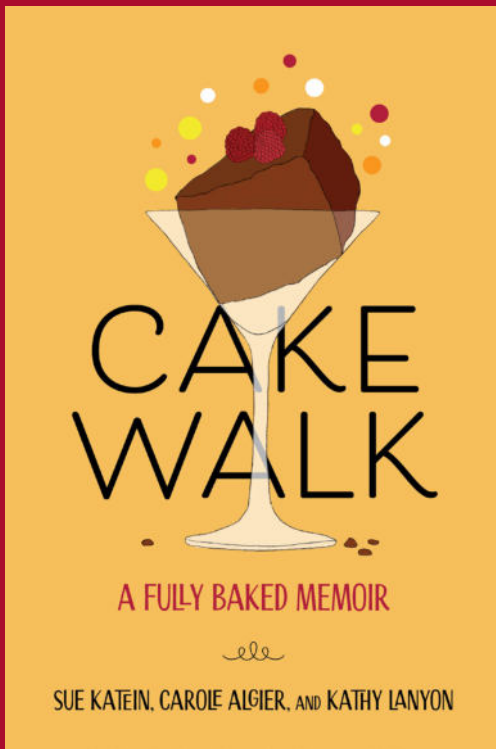
As Ginelle progresses into young adulthood, she hits several substance-related bottoms. In her senior year of college, after blacking out and ending up naked in her dorm’s community shower, she goes to Alcoholics Anonymous and gets sober. But steering clear of drugs and alcohol, she discovers, is not a cure-all—she still has a long way to go before she can truly heal.

Raw, relatable, and powerful, Testa’s is a riveting tale of climbing up from rock bottom—and learning to make a home in oneself instead of in substances and other people.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ginelle Testa (she/they) is a writer originally from Hudson, NH. She has an MS in digital marketing and design from Brandeis University and a BA in sociology from Rivier University, and has been featured in *Insider*, *Byrdie*, *Tiny Buddha*, and other places. She’s a queer person in recovery. When she isn’t writing, she enjoys doing restorative yoga, playing video games, and thrifting eclectic clothes. Ginelle lives in Boston, Massachusetts.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 3, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-746-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-747-4

“A testament to the transformative power of sisterhood, the resilience forged through adversity, and the invaluable lessons unearthed amidst life’s trials. . . . this memoir leaves us cheering for the indomitable force of positivity and the sweetness found when we come from a place of love.”

—Theresa Hummel Krallinger, Emmy Award-winning comedian

“This book drew me in fast and kept me reading from the first ‘oh no – how did they ever survive that?’”

—Annmarie Kelly, best-selling author of *Victorious Woman! Shaping Life’s Challenges into Personal Victories, Victory by Design,* and *The Five-Year Marriage*

CAKEWALK

A FULLY BAKED MEMOIR

SUSAN KATEIN, CAROLE ALGIER,
KATHY LANYON

DESCRIPTION:

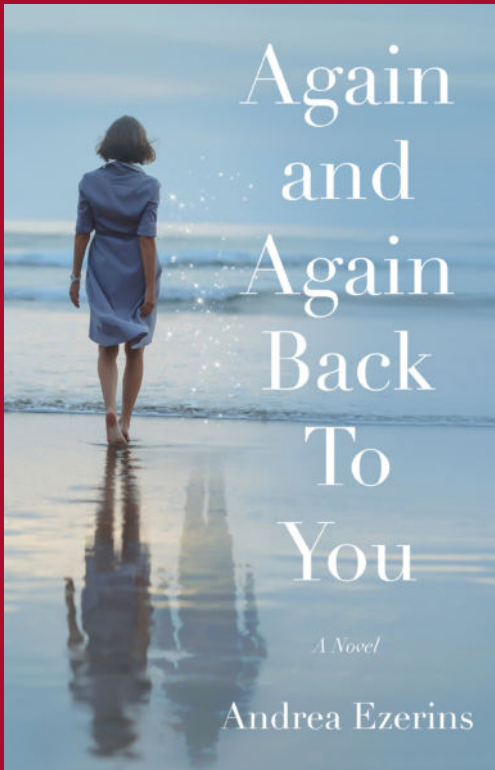
Three sisters gathered after 9/11 to open a liqueur-infused cake business in this hilarious memoir, which spans farmers markets to Rachel Ray and appeals to fans of foodie memoirs and the Food Network.

Born to a depressed, exhausted mother and an abusive father who uses his seven children as cheap labor for his business schemes, Sue, Carole, and Kathy raise themselves in their chaotic household. The sisters all marry young; two divorce quickly. But despite the obstacles they face, the three women grow into confident businesswomen and remain extremely close as they build families and recover from their toxic childhood. After the 9/11 terrorist attacks, the sisters gather over chilled martinis to take a serious look at the future and decide they should be together—in business. Bring on the cake. Liqueur-infused cake, that is. They soon start handing out samples of their inventions at farmers markets like seasoned carnival barkers, and soon a Food Network producer who’s stopped by their table invites them to New York City—sparking a hilarious adventure involving one-way streets, security guards, and the NYPD, all in an effort to get their cake into the hands of the producers at The Food Network and Rachel Ray.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Carole Algier, Sue Katein, and Kathy Lanyon grew up in Collegeville, PA in a family of five girls, two boys, and two absent parents. Carole is an artist who enjoys gardening, gourmet cooking, and entertaining. Kathy is a no-nonsense, light-hearted mother of two whose strength is delegating with great organizational skills. Sue is a practical, sensitive mother of one who enjoys baking, writing, and entertaining. As partners, each of them brings something unique to the table: Sue, who has thirty-five years of experience in corporate small business operations development, is the creator of their business’s cake recipes; Kathy, who has thirty-five years of corporate IT experience, is the technical advisor who keeps them in the twenty-first century; and Carole, who has forty years of experience in the food industry, utilizes her art background for marketing and branding. All three sisters have a great sense of humor and value family time with their husbands, children, grandchildren, and friends.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 3, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-748-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-749-8

“I dare you to read this exceptionally crafted story and not be captivated, emotional, and moved. Truly nostalgic and powerful on so many levels. A debut like none other.”

—Valerie Taylor, author of *What's Not Said*

AGAIN AND AGAIN BACK TO YOU

A NOVEL

ANDREA EZERINS

DESCRIPTION:

In this enchanting novel, an encounter with a mystical channeler allows two soulmates to experience the road not taken and explores the profound impact first love can have on one's life.

Marta and Kevin discover each other early in their lives, coming of age in the '70s, only to be separated just when they are on the cusp of realizing the power of their young love. When Kevin's family moves away, Marta grapples with this loss, as well as their dashed dreams. After high school, she journeys away from her small farm in New Jersey—a place where she was always out of step with those around her—and on to college and a career. She works hard to remake herself and live a life with more sparkle and spontaneity—something she only ever experienced effortlessly with Kevin. But even as she focuses on achieving the goals she believes will ensure her safety and happiness, she remains haunted by what might have been if only she had been a brave enough to seize it.

A chance encounter with a channeler who can transport people back to a juncture in their lives to reveal their road not taken has Marta jumping at the opportunity. But will she be brave enough to channel back to Kevin? Discover what happens as Marta learns that sometimes one must lose something important in order to truly embrace who they are meant to be.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Andrea Ezerins grew up in Columbia, Connecticut, where she was raised on a small hobby farm. She earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at University of Connecticut, and went on to spend thirty years working in the insurance industry. She finished *Again and Again Back to You*, a labor of love, thanks in no small part to the pandemic and an empty nest where distractions suddenly were reduced to only a spoiled German shepherd and the many bluebird families that nest in her boxes. Andrea has two daughters and identical twin sons. She resides in Hebron, Connecticut, with her husband. This is her first novel and she is working on several others.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 3, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-750-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-751-1

“Leavy’s writing shines in its ability to delve into the emotional intricacies of a relationship, offering readers a glimpse into the characters’ heartfelt explorations of trust, understanding, and mutual support. This novel is an inviting read for those who appreciate a story that reaches the heights of romantic idealism and savors the everyday moments that weave two lives together.”

—Literary Titan, 5-star review

“After the Red Carpet is a modern masterpiece and a perfect romance narrative from the more literary side of the book world.”

—Readers’ Favorite, 5-star review

AFTER THE RED CARPET

A NOVEL

PATRICIA LEAVY

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of Tessa Bailey and Hannah Grace, *After the Red Carpet* is a feel-good, contemporary celebrity romance about what happens after the fairy-tale beginning as two lovers work toward their own true meaning of “happily ever after.”

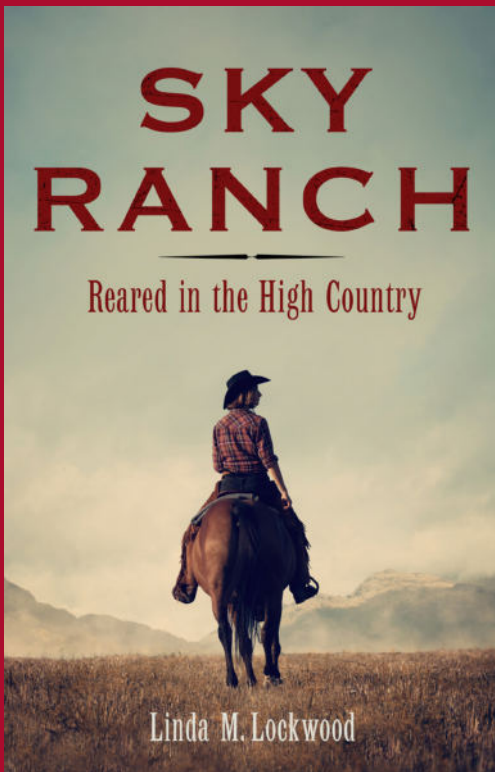
After legendary Hollywood star Finn Forrester proposed to philosopher Ella Sinclair on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival, the couple captivated the press and public with their real-life fairy tale. Now they vow to prioritize their romance and live an adventure of their own making. Ella moves into Finn’s Beverly Hills mansion and must adjust to his world. Finn, secretly afraid of losing Ella, is determined to make everything perfect for his betrothed. Meanwhile, Ella wants nothing more than to retain her own identity as they build their new life together. All the while, she is writing a philosophical treatise on love, exploring the question: when we love so deeply, where do we end and where does the other begin?

In this highly anticipated follow-up to *The Location Shoot*, will Ella and Finn finally live the life they’ve dreamed of? See how their epic romance unfolds, after the red carpet.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patricia Leavy, PhD, is an award-winning, best-selling author. She has published more than forty books; her work has been translated into many languages, and she has received more than a hundred book honors. In 2018, she was honored by the National Women’s Hall of Fame and SUNY-New Paltz established the “Patricia Leavy Award for Art and Social Justice.” Her website is www.patricialeavy.com. She lives in Kennebunk, Maine.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 10, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-634-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-635-4

“Linda Lockwood’s memoir is a personable, heart-warming tale of life on a ranch—and a woman’s vividly told search for her disappearing mother who vacillated between psychotic paranoia and extreme depression. A richly rewarding read.”

—Scott T. Driscoll, author of *Better You Go Home*

“I learned so much from Linda Lockwood as she revealed her childhood. Very well written, and a page turner.”

—Linda Joy Myers, president of the National Association of Memoir Writers and author *The Forger of Marseille*

SKY RANCH

REARED IN THE HIGH COUNTRY

LINDA M. LOCKWOOD

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of Tara Westover’s *Educated* and Ivan Doig’s *This House of Sky* comes a memoir about a girl’s isolated ranch childhood—and her adulthood journey to overcome grief and fear and discover the truth about her mother’s mental illness.

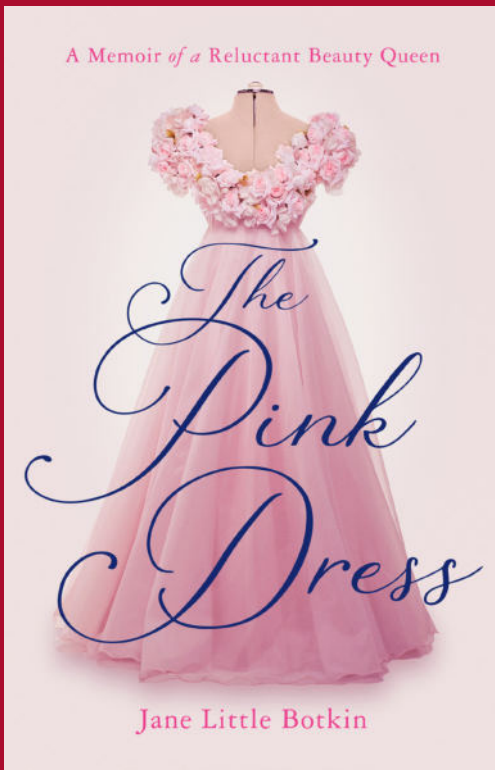
At the age of eight, Linda Lockwood moves with her family to an isolated ranch in eastern Washington State. Within two years, she’s patrolling the ranch on horseback alongside her border collie—herding sheep, killing rattlesnakes, and defending the ranch’s livestock from coyotes, bears, and even trespassing hunters—and working tirelessly to realize her dream of training horses. But her most daunting challenge is one hard work can’t overcome: her mother is descending into madness. And Linda’s deepest fear is that she might inherit the schizophrenia that threatens to dismantle her family.

At age twenty-five, Linda marries, but the joy of her first pregnancy is darkened by her mother’s suicide. Then she endures a painful miscarriage and the death of her beloved grandmother, traumatic events that send her back in time to the births and deaths of animals—domesticated and wild—that she loved in childhood. Eventually, her own family grows, but her happiness is haunted by questions people have tiptoed around all her life. How did her mother become schizophrenic? What did she endure as a patient in 1960s mental hospitals? Might Linda and even her children be next to battle that catastrophic mental disorder? Driven by the courage and will she sharpened as a rancher, Linda vows to find out.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda M. Lockwood lived and worked on an isolated wheat, sheep, and cattle ranch in rural North Central Washington from the age of eight. She holds a BA with Honors in mathematics from Central Washington University, an MA in economics from the University of Michigan, and a Certificate in Literary Nonfiction from the University of Washington. Linda enjoys reading books and writing her own, going on nature walks, traveling, and time with her daughters and grandsons. She lives happily in Seattle, Washington, with her husband.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 10, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-740-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-741-2

“It’s about time the story of GuyRex (Guyrex) was told, and to have someone like Jane, who was the genesis to the legend of these two incredibly talented men, share it so beautifully is a treat for all. Reading the events of their pageantry has brought back many wonderful memories that truly shaped my adult life as well. If you had the opportunity to be a part of the GuyRex system—that is, if you were a GuyRex Girl—then your life was forever changed for the good.”

—Gretchen Polhemus Jensen, Miss USA 1989, former Miss Texas, and former GuyRex Girl

THE PINK DRESS

A MEMOIR OF A RELUCTANT BEAUTY QUEEN

JANE LITTLE BOTKIN

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of *Little Miss Sunshine* and *Secrets of Miss America*, this memoir from a national award-winning author reveals the reality of being the first Guyrex Girl in the 1970s. Beauty pageant stories have never been this raw, this real.

Growing up in West Texas, Jane Little Botkin didn’t have designs on becoming a beauty queen. But not long after joining a pageant on a whim in college, she became the first protégé of El Paso’s Richard Guy and Rex Holt, known as the “Kings of Beauty”—just as the 1970’s counterculture movement began to take off.

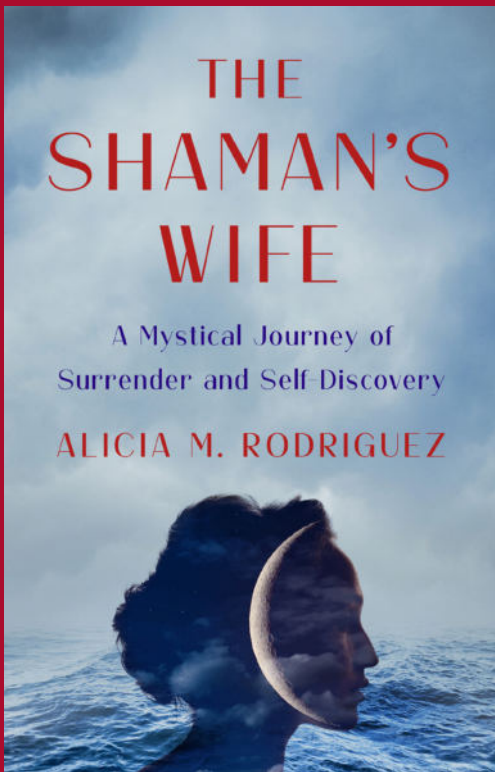
A pink, rose-covered gown—a Guyrex creation—symbolizes the fairy tale life that young women in Jane’s time imagined beauty queens had. Its near destruction exposes reality: the author’s failed relationship with her mother, and her parents’ failed relationship with one another. Weaving these narrative threads together is the Wild West notion that anything is possible, especially do-overs.

The Pink Dress awakens nostalgia for the 1960s and 1970s, the era’s conflicts and growth pains. A common expectation that women went to college to get “MRS” degrees—to find a husband and become a stay-at-home wife and mother—often prevailed. How does one swim upstream against this notion among feminist voices that protest “If You Want Meat, Go to a Butcher!” at beauty pageants, two flamboyant showmen, and a developing awareness of self? Torn between women’s traditional roles and what women could be, Guyrex Girls evolved, as did the author.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

National award-winning author Jane Little Botkin melds personal narratives of American families often with compelling stories of western women. A member of Western Writers of America since 2017, Jane judges entries for the WWA’s prestigious Spur Award, reviews new releases, and writes articles for various magazines. Her books have won numerous awards, including two Spur Awards, two Caroline Bancroft History Prizes, and the Barbara Sudler Award; she has also been a finalist for the Women Writing the West’s Willa Literary Award and Sarton Book Award. She is currently working on a biography of Mary Ann (Molly) Goodnight for the University of Oklahoma Press. Jane blissfully escapes into her literary world in the remote White Mountain Wilderness near Nogal, New Mexico.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 10, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-756-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-757-3

“With vivid imagery and lush prose, Alicia delivers us to her fascinating life in Ecuador and, in her deft weaving of her tale, causes us to simultaneously fall in love with her shaman, empathize with his suffering, and fear him. These are deep insights into the mystical world from someone with the consciousness to understand the magic behind the tapestry.”

—Gina Hayden, author of *Becoming a Conscious Leader*

THE SHAMAN'S WIFE

A MYSTICAL JOURNEY OF SURRENDER
AND SELF-DISCOVERY

ALICIA M. RODRIGUEZ

DESCRIPTION:

Empowering and told from a unique perspective, this globe-spanning memoir of self-discovery and sacrifice has a singular, resounding message for its audience: love is boundless, but it must begin with nurturing oneself.

When Alicia Rodriguez, a successful entrepreneur recovering from divorce and loss, accepts an invitation to Ecuador to help a friend who is studying with a shaman, she has no idea how profoundly the decision will change her life's course.

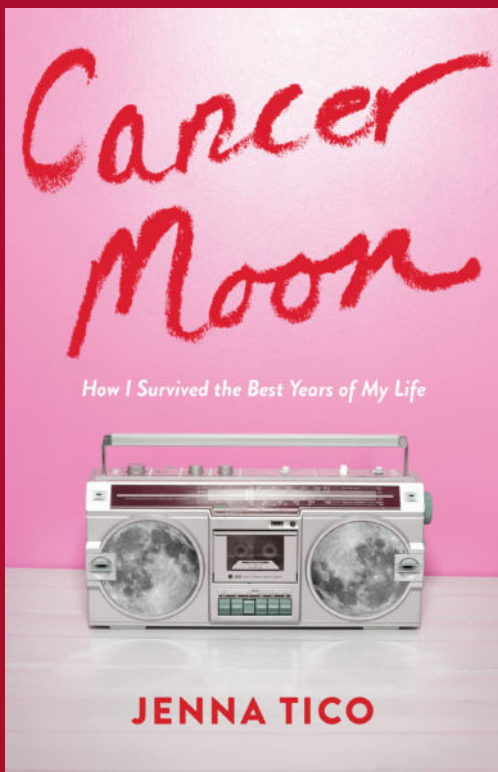
In Ecuador Alicia meets Napo, a powerful shaman, and they begin an extraordinary relationship that spans two continents and eight years. As their connection deepens, Alicia learns the principles of shamanism and witnesses Napo's remarkable healing abilities. Confronted with the illusion of her life in the United States, she decides to move to Ecuador to be with him, and they make plans to build a healing center together on the coast. Within a short time, however, she realizes that she has surrendered her power and agency to Napo, who now wields it as a weapon against her. After years of inner struggle, Alicia finally finds the courage to leave Ecuador and moves to Portugal, where she finds peace . . . until an unexpected phone call rekindles old memories.

An extraordinary memoir steeped in spirituality, shamanism, and metaphysics, *The Shaman's Wife* is the story of a woman who, through a daring journey of self-discovery, reclaims and embraces her feminine wisdom—and realizes that love is the answer to her lifelong spiritual quest.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alicia M. Rodriguez is a seasoned executive coach and the author of two inspiring books, *EveryDay Epiphanies* and *Manage Your Life Before Life Manages You*. Her writing has also been featured in numerous online publications, including Thrive Global, Wilde Magazine, Tiny Buddha, Substack, and Medium. She spent six years exploring the rainforests, mountains, and coast of Ecuador alongside a shaman. She currently resides in Ferragudo in the stunning Algarve region of Portugal, where her morning cliff walks with her dog, Sophie, inspire her creativity and bring her joy and peace.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 17, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-762-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-763-4

“Tico has put her heart and soul into crafting a delightful and thought-provoking memoir, filled with candid and humorous storytelling . . . a refreshing perspective on the challenges and triumphs of young adulthood in a strong voice with a clear attitude. The structure, organized by the cycles of the moon, added an intriguing layer of symbolism and resonance to Tico’s narrative, mirroring the ebb and flow of life’s experiences. *Cancer Moon* is sure to leave readers feeling inspired and empowered to embrace their own journey with humor, self-compassion, and authenticity.”

—Readers Favorite, FIVE STARS

CANCER MOON

A MEMOIR OF A RELUCTANT BEAUTY QUEEN

JANE LITTLE BOTKIN

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of *You’ll Grow Out of It*, this comedic patchwork of flash-prose, essay, and poetry snapshots a millennial performance artist’s journey from late bloomer to adult, inviting twenty-something women to embrace their self-worth, sexuality, and own-your-weird mentality.

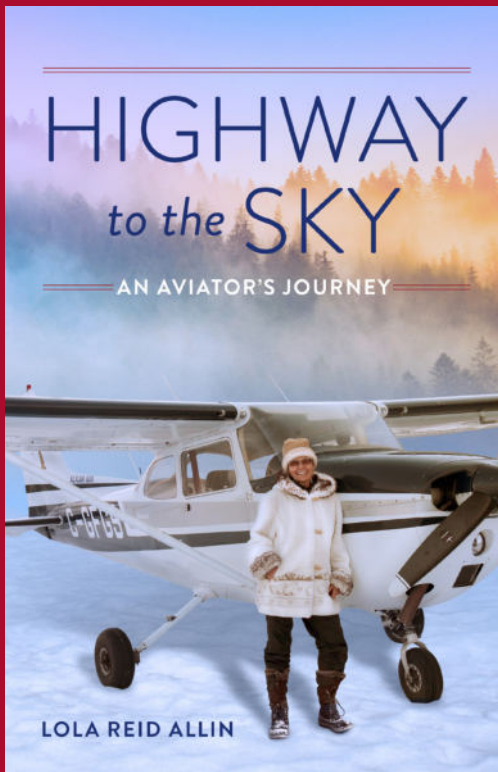
Growing up in Santa Barbara, California, way too close to the Hollywood dream machine, Jenna Tico’s self-worth wanes to invisibility when her identity becomes enmeshed with validation from celebrities and spiritual F-boys . . . until she claws her way back to empowerment. Here, Tico shares vulnerable personal essays, stories, and poetry—all grouped following the cycles of the moon—chronicling her journey from late bloomer to full grownup. Observing the world of twenty-something relationships from perspectives as diverse as a bachelorette houseboat, a music festival afterparty, and the airplane ride to a death bed, she validates the experiences of women who feel like they have been abandoned by the generation that came before them. Her self-reflective stories encourage healthy life choices for young women without telling them where, what, or how to live their lives—and always with a healthy dash of humor on the side.

Simultaneously hilarious and poignant (without the whiff of morality play), *Cancer Moon* invites readers to embrace their twenties—aka the “age of wallowing”—as a humorous and necessary step toward understanding how we become who we want to be in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jenna Tico survived the best years of her life by incessantly journaling, scribbling poetry, and distracting herself from her questionable choices with potato chips and excellent friendships. Now in her mid-thirties, she is a community-builder, performing artist, wife, mother, writer, and group facilitator. Jenna lives with her family in Santa Barbara, CA.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 17, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-800-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-801-3

“When Lola Reid Allin agrees to her husband’s suggestion they take flying lessons, she has no inkling that flying will be the mind-expanding and confidence-building experience of a lifetime. Along the way she navigates through the putdowns, rudeness, and treachery of a patriarchal society, learning when to deflect and when to retaliate. Her vivid prose and well-paced narrative make for an engrossing read.”

—Patricia Whittaker, Journalist (*CBC, Winnipeg Free Press, Toronto Star*) and author

HIGHWAY TO THE SKY

AN AVIATOR’S JOURNEY

LOLA REID ALLIN

DESCRIPTION:

With females making up just 5% of the world’s pilots, this memoir crosses genres to combine aviation history, the author’s journey from unwanted child to successful pilot, and the feminist experience, and will appeal to multiple aviation communities.

“Don’t be silly! Girls can’t fly,” seven-year-old Lola’s father admonishes her as they fly across Canada on a commercial flight in 1962. She is crushed—but decides he must be right. She’s only ever seen male pilots, after all.

Highway to the Sky begins during the empty zone of women in aviation, a three-decade drought following WWII when men reclaimed the jobs that had been performed by women during the war and forced women back to diapers and dishes, where they “belonged.”

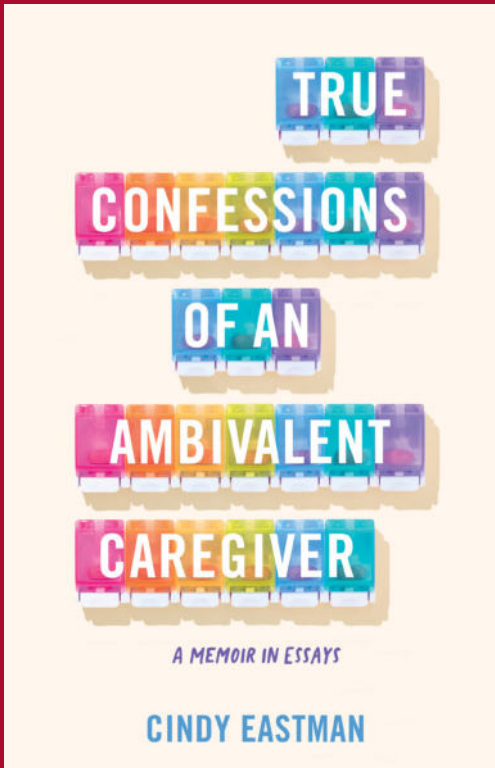
Despite Lola’s childhood desire to avoid the straitjacket of traditional female roles and become a pilot, her desperate need for unconditional affection after a lonesome childhood sways her determination. At age twenty, she leaps into marriage and motherhood. Four years, one toxic relationship, and one private pilot license later, she leaves her husband, even though she knows she’ll be censured by friends, family, and 1970s society at large.

Lola’s head-on battle with tradition continues as the lone female pilot in her advanced flight training program and on the job as a flight instructor, bush pilot, charter pilot, and commuter airline pilot between 1979 and 1993. Flying is challenging at times, yes—but her true obstacles are the hostility, sabotage, and discrimination she faces in her industry. She perseveres, however. Ultimately, flying is what gives her the courage to regain control of her life—and helps her find personal happiness.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lola Reid Allin is a commercial airline transport pilot, flight instructor, SCUBA divemaster, and an award-winning author and photographer whose work has appeared in national newspapers and publications and in juried national and international shows. Her professional aviation affiliations include Women in Aviation International, The 99s: International Organization of Women Pilots, and the Northern Lights Aero Foundation. An adventurer who lived with the Maya in Mexico and Belize for three years, Reid Allin has explored more than sixty-five countries in depth. When she isn’t backpacking Baffin Island, trekking the Andes or the Himalayas, forging deep into the Guatemalan jungle, summiting Kilimanjaro, or guiding a dogsled team in the Yukon, she lives with her husband of twenty-five years in a small community east of Toronto, Canada.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 17, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-718-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-719-1

“If there’s such a thing as a palliative read, then *True Confessions of an Ambivalent Caregiver* was that for me.

It’s no small feat—on the page or in life—to keep a daughter’s love shining through a father’s decline, but Cindy Eastman has shown us the way. She’d argue with being called heroic, but with courage, honesty and wry wit propelling these essays, ambivalence has never looked so generous.”

—Elinor Lipman, award-winning author of sixteen books of fiction and nonfiction, most recently *Ms. Demeanor*

TRUE CONFESSIONS OF AN AMBIVALENT CAREGIVER

A MEMOIR IN ESSAYS

CINDY EASTMAN

DESCRIPTION:

Written for caregivers of parents and spouses, this funny but brutally honest collection of essays from award-winning author Eastman challenges the romanticized notion of caregiving, portraying it as an elegant conflict that reshapes family dynamics.

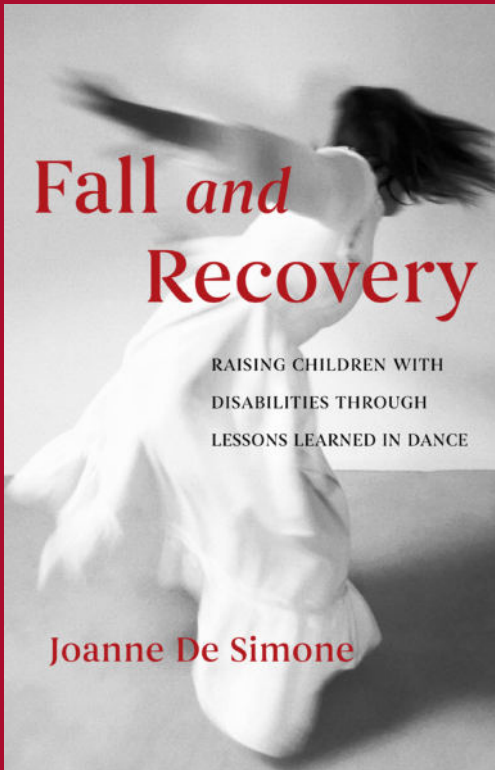
At first grateful to be able remodel the dining room of her family’s modest home in Connecticut to accommodate her eighty-six-year-old father for what everyone felt would be a short duration of care, Cindy Eastman ultimately experienced a whole gamut of feelings over the course of what turned out to be four years of caring for her dying dad. Caregiving impacts everyone, and this account—told in essays recorded before, during, and after the time Eastman’s father was with her—details that impact, not just on the primary caregiver but also the rest of the family.

One of the reasons Eastman committed to writing down her experiences was because she predicted that once her dad died, there would be a tendency to soften or even deny any of the negative and challenging times—and there were many. As of 2020, more than 53 million adults provide homecare in this country, and the reality of that arrangement is different for every family. It is not, as some might suggest, a “noble gesture” but rather an elegant conflict—an intricate reassembling of the family dynamic that many people don’t ever see coming. In these candid, often poignant essays, Cindy Eastman brings all the emotions of taking on the challenging responsibility of caregiving a parent at the end of their life to the surface.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Cindy Eastman is an award-winning author whose work is informed by her ability to be an observer as well as a participant in her life. Cindy’s first book, *Flip-Flops After 50: And Other Thoughts On Aging I Remembered To Write Down*, was published in 2014. She has essays in several other anthologies and in online magazines and writes a weekly essay called *Silver Linings*. She is the creator of the “Writual” writing program, has presented nationally at the Story Circle Network Women’s Writing Conference, and has been a featured speaker on a number of panels and programs. An educator for over twenty-five years, she has a master’s degree in education and is an adjunct at Naugatuck Valley Community College teaching English. Cindy lives with her husband, Angelo, in Watertown, Connecticut.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 17, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-714-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-715-3

“An unflinchingly honest and beautifully rendered memoir. With breath-taking clarity, the author’s words dance across each page, imbued with love, pain, and heart, as she shares the challenges and joys of raising her two special sons.”

—Diana Kupershmit, author of *Emma’s Laugh: The Gift of Second Chances*

“Joanne De Simone takes the reader on a powerful journey, masterfully weaving lessons learned as a dancer into her experiences as a mother of two children with disabilities.”

—Jesse Torrey, LAC, MA, author of *Smiles & Duct Tape*

FALL AND RECOVERY

RAISING CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES THROUGH LESSONS LEARNED IN DANCE

JOANNE DE SIMONE

DESCRIPTION:

Special educator Joanne De Simone bears all in this raw and transformative memoir that captures how she used lessons of modern dance in her journey through motherhood with two children with disabilities.

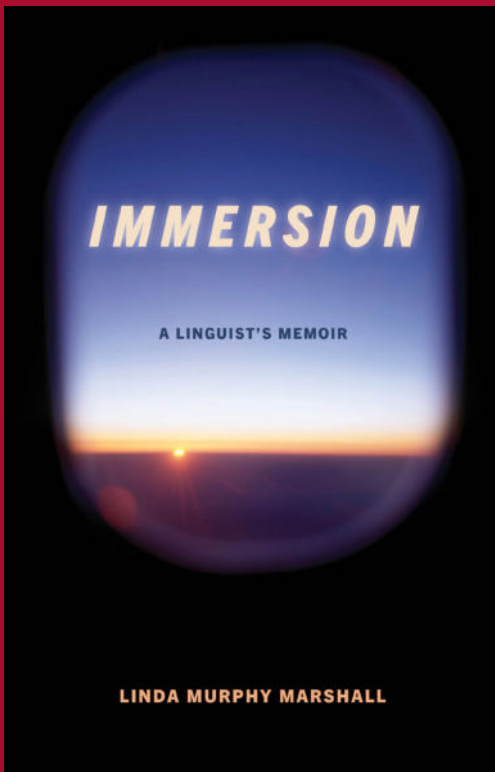
When the pediatrician places the measuring tape around her infant’s head and notes, “His head is a little small,” Joanne knows that motherhood won’t be as she had dreamt. Even as a special educator, Joanne isn’t prepared to raise a child with a life-limiting brain malformation. Nor is she ready for the compounded pain and alienation that comes when her second son is diagnosed with autism. But the struggle to balance her sons’ medical and educational challenges drives Joanne to reconnect with the lessons she learned as a modern dancer—and there she finds enlightenment.

Inspired by her experience performing José Limón’s *There Is a Time*, based on Ecclesiastes 3, each chapter of *Fall and Recovery* details a dance lesson and the dichotomy of parenting children with disabilities. Over time, Joanne discovers that surviving motherhood isn’t a matter of strength, bravery, or faith. It’s a matter of linking your past experiences and creating your own purpose. It’s realizing that we live simultaneously in love and grief. In the end, dance teaches Joanne not only how to move freely through pain but also how to fall and recover.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Joanne De Simone is a graduate of Hunter College with degrees in dance and special education. After dancing professionally with companies including José Limón and Dianne McIntyre, she dedicated her life to teaching children with disabilities and supporting their families. Currently, Joanne is a special education advocate for the Alliance of Private Special Education Schools of North Jersey. Her writing has appeared in the *Washington Post*, *Exceptional Parent Magazine*, and the *Rumpus*, and she is a contributing author to *Barriers and Belongings: Personal Narratives of Disability*. Joanne lives in West Orange, New Jersey, with her husband and sons.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 24, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-720-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-721-4

“Author Linda Murphy Marshall plunges readers into the mission of a government multilinguist who battles her own self-doubts and fears in the midst of often tumultuous and frightening environments. *Immersion* is a fascinating exploration of not only the key role of language but also the personal journey toward self-realization.”

—Donna Koros Stramella, author of *Among the Bones*

IMMERSION

A LINGUIST'S MEMOIR

LINDA MARSHALL

DESCRIPTION:

Fans of the self-discovering journeys in Cheryl Strayed's *Wild* and Andrew McCarthy's *The Longest Way Home* will love diving into linguist Linda Murphy Marshall's adventure-filled international journey as she overcomes her past to find her place in the world—all over the world.

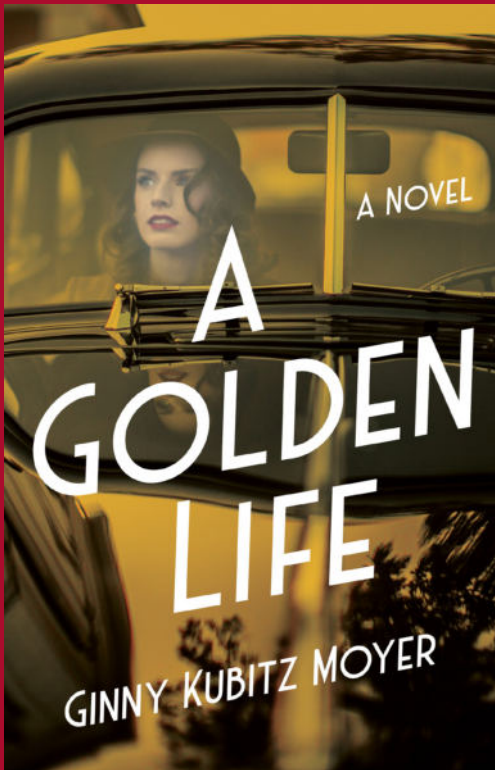
Immersion is a memoir that takes the reader on a captivating emotional and physical journey through Linda Murphy Marshall's life: from the longstanding, crippling impact of family members' low expectations and abuse, to her discovery as a young adult that she possesses special skills in foreign languages.

Linda is taught from an early age that she has little of value to offer the world. But her love of and affinity for languages enables her to create a new life—to separate herself from her toxic environment and to build a successful, decades-long career as a professional multilinguist. It's a rewarding vocation, but a challenging one: her assignments with the US federal government take her on some hair-raisingly dangerous journeys, some to countries with unstable governments and even active war zones. But these sometimes-harrowing experiences teach her how to open the “windows” around her, unearth her true self, and develop a healthy sense of self-worth—and ultimately, paradoxically, her work and travel so far from home allow her to come home to herself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Murphy Marshall is a member of Phi Beta Kappa and holds a PhD in Hispanic Languages and Literature, an MA in Spanish, and an MFA in Creative Writing. A professional multilinguist and a translator for more than thirty years, she has formally studied and worked with more than fifteen languages. She was a senior research scientist at the University of Maryland's Center for Advanced Study of Language/ CASL. She is a former trustee and current associate at the National Museum of Language and is a docent at the Library of Congress in Washington, DC. Murphy Marshall lives in Columbia, Maryland.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 24, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-722-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-723-8

“A *Golden Life* is a wonderful portrait of an independent woman in 1930s California that explores the ways in which women’s lives were constrained by the mores of the time. The settings are beautifully drawn and developed—special and loving attention is paid to the beauty of the natural world. Ginny Kubitz Moyer writes with quiet authority and strong prose, creating a novel that is hard to put down and characters that remain long after the book is read.”

—Laura Spence-Ash, author of *Beyond That, the Sea*

A GOLDEN LIFE

A NOVEL

GINNY KUBITZ MOYER

DESCRIPTION:

Embark on a journey to 1930s California in Ginny Kubitz Moyer’s spellbinding historical novel in which a woman must choose between friendship and her own secrets.

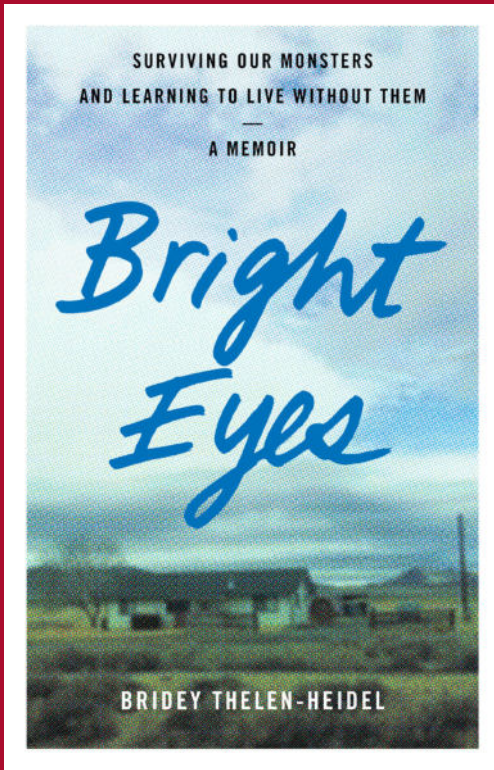
It’s 1938, and twenty-five-year-old secretary Frances Healey is ready for a fresh start. Hoping to forget her painful past, she takes a job working for Hollywood producer Lawrence Merrill. She quickly becomes absorbed in VistaGlen Studios’s biggest project: a movie about Kitty Ridley, the legendary stage actress who disappeared from the public eye in 1895. The movie will be the making of Belinda Vail, a beautiful ingenue who is hungry for a breakout role—and also happens to be Mr. Merrill’s love interest.

But the real Miss Ridley has other ideas. Now ninety years old, she writes a scathing letter insisting the studio halt production of the film. Hoping to change her mind, Frances and Mr. Merrill embark on a trip to find the actress—only to land in a Victorian farmhouse in the Napa Valley. But as she learns the truth of Miss Ridley’s life, Frances finds herself confronting the very past she’s been trying to forget. And with the arrival of the ambitious Belinda, loyalties will be tested, bonds will be forged, and Frances will learn where true happiness lies. Set in Hollywood and the sun-drenched Napa countryside, *A Golden Life* explores friendship, forgiveness, and the power of honoring your own story.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ginny Kubitz Moyer is a California native with a love of local history. She is the author of the novel *The Seeing Garden* (She Writes Press, 2023) as well as several works of spiritual nonfiction. A graduate of Pomona College and Stanford University, she lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, two sons, and one rescue dog.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 24, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-738-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-739-9

BRIGHT EYES

SURVIVING OUR MONSTERS AND
LEARNING TO LIVE WITHOUT THEM

BRIDEY THELEN-HEIDEL

DESCRIPTION:

Fans of Jennette McCurdy's *I'm Glad My Mom Died* will root for Bridey Thelen-Heidel as she struggles to unshackle herself from her mother's chaos in this triumphant debut memoir.

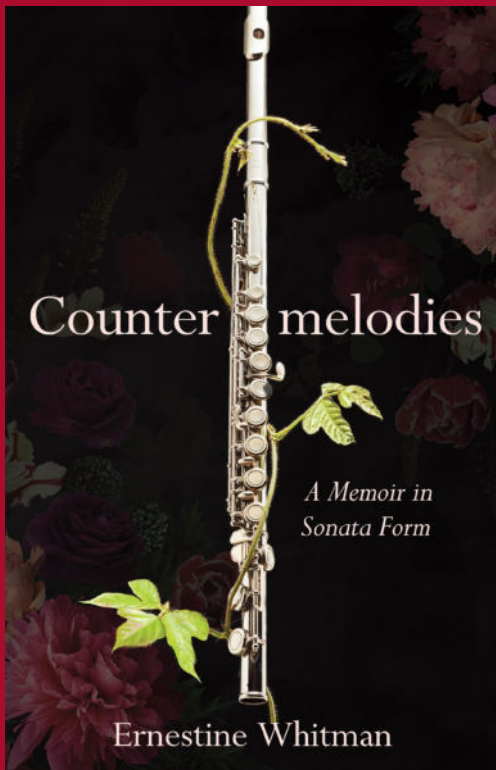
Bridey is tethered to her mom's addiction to dangerous men who park their Harley-Davidsons in the house and kick holes in all their doors. Raised to be her mother's keeper, rescuer, and punching bag, Bridey gets used to stuffing her life into black trash bags, hauling them between Alaska and California, and changing schools every time her mom moves in a new monster—or runs away from one. Desperately seeking the normal life she's observed in sitcoms and her friends' families, Bridey earns her way into a fancy, private college, where she tries to forget who she is—until her mom calls with a threat that drops Bridey to her knees. Watching doctors and police interrogate her mother at the hospital, Bridey realizes her mom has become a monster herself . . . and she doesn't want to be saved. But Bridey does.

Bright Eyes is about the indomitable spirit of a young girl forced to be brave, required to be resilient, and conditioned to be optimistic, and how she ultimately uses the same traits that helped her to survive her mother's chaos to create her own happily-ever-after.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Bridey Thelen-Heidel is a teacher, writer, and youth advocate. She's given a TEDx Talk, performed in Listen to Your Mother NYC, published in MUTHA Magazine, and is a frequent podcast guest. She's been voted Best of Tahoe Teacher several times, and her work with LGBT+ students is celebrated in Read This, Save Lives and California Teachers' Association's California Educator. Bridey lives with her husband and daughter in South Lake Tahoe, California where she teaches high school English.

SEPTEMBER 2024



Publication Date: September 24, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-732-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-733-7

“... In this memoir you will learn about the inner workings of professional orchestras and brush shoulders with luminaries, but the most important lesson it delivers is how to overcome pernicious self-doubt.”

—Jean Feraca, author of *I Hear Voices: A Memoir of Love, Death, and the Radio*

“In her candid and courageous memoir, flutist Ernestine Whitman traces the long term impact of psychological abuse encountered within a dysfunctional family.”

—Leone Buyse, Professor Emerita, The Shepherd School of Music, Rice University; former principal flutist, Boston Pops Orchestra and acting principal flutist, Boston Symphony Orchestra

COUNTERMELODIES

A MEMOIR IN SONATA FORM

ERNESTINE WHITMAN

DESCRIPTION:

Offering a uniquely musical perspective on the #MeToo experience, this is the story of a talented and fiercely determined musician—a young woman with everything to gain and, ultimately, nothing left to lose—who finds a way through despite multiple betrayals by the men in her life.

Jealous of her brilliant older sister, Ernestine longs for her father's approval as a little girl but is never good enough. When she discovers a talent for the flute, she meets a charismatic teacher who gives her the encouragement she craves and becomes her surrogate father. After winning several competitions, she dreams of being a professional musician, but her stern father ridicules the idea and forces her to attend Emory University as a math major like her sister.

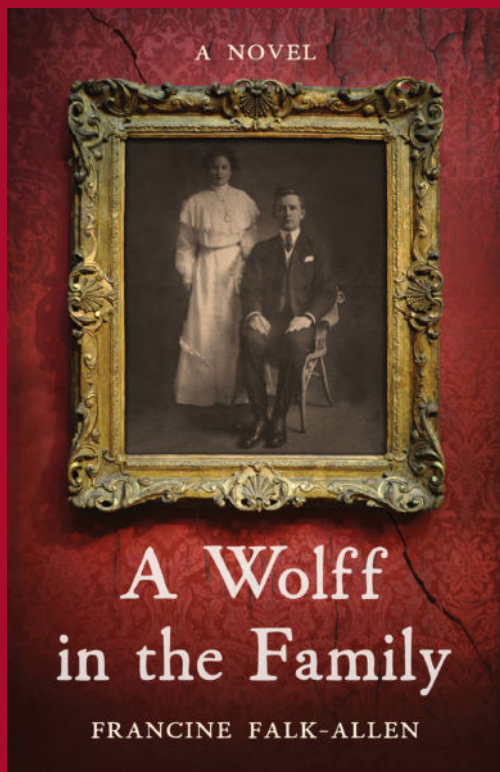
Ernestine doesn't give up on her musical dreams, however, and halfway through college she wins the second flute chair in the Atlanta Symphony. There, she sits beside her former teacher, the principal flute. At first, she loves working with him, but after one successful season he turns on her and does everything in his power to get her fired. Devastated by her idol's merciless harassment, she's driven into a spiral of suicidal depression. As she tries to recover, her vulnerability is exploited, again and again, by the very men she turns to for help.

A harrowing account of one woman's battle with twentieth-century misogyny, *Counter melodies* follows Ernestine as, through the darkness, she clings to her love for the flute and her unshakable dream of making it in the cutthroat world of classical music.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ernestine Whitman began her career as a professional flutist at age twenty, making her the youngest member of the Atlanta Symphony. Her passion for teaching brought her to Lawrence University, where she was professor of flute for thirty-three years. A passionate advocate for restorative justice, she volunteers frequently in programs at several Wisconsin prisons. Ernestine and her husband, Howard Niblock, divide their time between their condo in midtown Atlanta and their longtime residence in Appleton.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 1, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-802-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-803-7

“I was intrigued by the fascinating, well-drawn characters and plot twists in *A Wolff in the Family*. The author brings us into a time and a world she has researched well and portrays with historical accuracy. No spoilers here, but a surprise near the book’s conclusion grabbed me. I recommend this novel for an enjoyable read that will likely keep you wondering what will happen next.”

—Marcia Naomi Berger, author of *The Bipolar Therapist: A Journey from Madness to Love and Meaning*

A WOLFF IN THE FAMILY

A NOVEL

FRANCINE FALK-ALLIN

DESCRIPTION:

Based on a true story, *A Wolff in the Family* is a riveting saga of prejudice, passion, and revenge, perfect for fans of Kristin Hannah’s *The Four Winds*. What mysterious scandals led a father to abandon the youngest of his children—and for the elder siblings to keep their shame secret for eighty years?

Frank and Naomi Wolff were happily married in 1908. She was a Kansas farmgirl; he was a railroad engineer. She was excited to embark upon her role as wife and mother with a hardworking man, and in their early years together they made a life in thriving Ogden, Utah. Despite Frank’s almost-constant absence for his job riding the rails, which left pretty Naomi to raise their children virtually alone, their romantic relationship begat fourteen offspring in eighteen years. Like other lower-middle-class women, Naomi’s life was consumed with caring for her brood, who became helpers as soon as they could fold a diaper—and who, by and by, were required to attend the school of hard knocks as much as public schools. Affection and struggle endured within the family, crowded into a humble house. Despite the respite of occasional family train trips across the plains, the marriage ultimately faced exceptional challenges, just before the Depression era began.

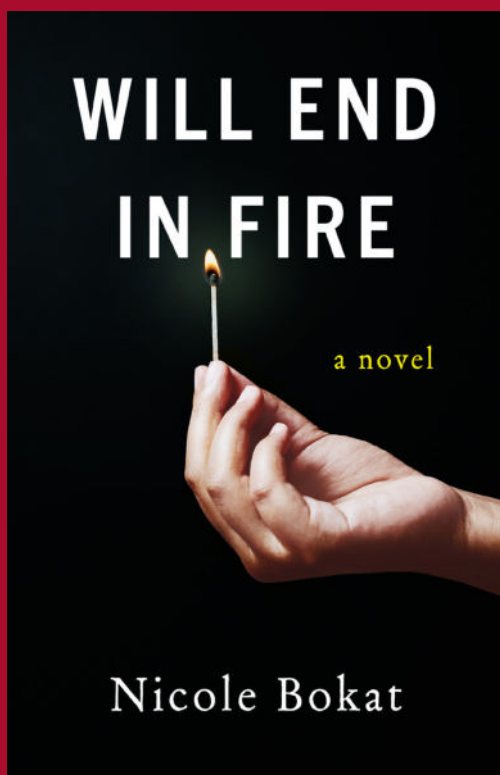
What scandals led Frank Wolff to abandon his younger children at an orphanage far from home? And why did his elder children keep this a secret for eighty years?

Based on true family history, *A Wolff in the Family* is a gripping saga permeated with misogyny, prejudice, and passion . . . for fans of Kristin Hannah’s *The Four Winds*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Francine Falk-Allen has published many essays and articles in national journals. She is the author of *Not a Poster Child*, which has won gold and silver literary awards, and of *No Spring Chicken*, which was named to *Kirkus Reviews*’ Best Books of August 2021 and was a finalist in *Foreword Reviews*’ Indie Awards. Francine has facilitated a writing group for ten years. She loves the outdoors, swimming, gardening, movies, literature, ancestral and historical research, British tea, and a little champagne. She resides in San Rafael, California, with her husband, Richard Falk.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 1, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-802-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-803-7

“Hang on to your breath because you’ll be holding it the whole time you read Nicole Bokat’s fascinating thriller about love, loyalty, family, and the secrets that could save—or even kill us. Set against a backdrop of a mysterious fire, Bokat introduces characters so real and vivid, you’ll swear they’re beside you.”

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Pictures of You* and *With or Without You*

“Nicole Bokat has once again weaved together scintillating storytelling with gorgeous prose. *Will End in Fire* is a haunting poetic thriller.”

—Judy Batalion, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Light of Days*

WILL END IN FIRE

A NOVEL

NICOLE BOKAT

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of Kate White suspense novels, *Will End in Fire* is a heart-racing domestic thriller about an alienated young woman who must find an arsonist before her own life goes up in smoke.

Twenty-seven-year-old climate journalist Ellie Stone has spent her life locked in an unending sibling rivalry with her brother, Josh—star athlete and golden boy—turned—drug addict. One night, after their parents have left her to “babysit” Josh, she and he have a blow-up and she abandons him. Soon after, the house is engulfed in fire—and Josh is burnt beyond recognition. Social media takes this on as a local cause célèbre, blaming Ellie since, years ago, she was involved in a blaze that scarred a teenage girl. Is history repeating itself?

In shock, Ellie can’t recall if she left a lit cigarette in her family home. But could this suspected arson have something to do with the unknown vehicle that was spotted nearby? The only people sympathetic to Ellie are her brother’s best pal—who quickly becomes her new romantic partner—and Josh’s girlfriend, who lets on that their relationship might not have been what it seemed. As she grows closer to her brother’s inner circle, Ellie discovers secrets that make her question whom to trust, how to stay out of danger, and how to save her future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Nicole Bokat has published three novels: *Redeeming Eve* (2000), *What Matters Most* (2006), and *The Happiness Thief* (2021). *Redeeming Eve* was nominated for both the Hemingway Foundation/PEN award and the Janet Heidinger Kafka Prize for Fiction. Bokat is also the author of a book on novelist Margaret Drabble and has written essays for several publications, including *The New York Times*, *Parents*, and *The Forward*. She lives in Montclair, New Jersey, with her husband and dog, Ruby, and has two sons.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 1, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-774-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-775-7

“A solo road trip leads a determined seeker to profound discoveries and personal truths in this engaging and enlightening recovery story. *Recovery Road Trip* is a great read for anyone who’s been there, wants to get elsewhere, or needs to read a story that resonates.”

—J.A. Wright, author of *How to Grow an Addict*

“Patti Clark invites us along for a journey into self through storytelling, guided reflections, and writing prompts.”

—Jean McCarthy, author of *Take Good Care*; Podcast Producer/Host of *The Bubble Hour* and *Tiny Bubbles*

RECOVERY ROAD TRIP

FINDING PURPOSE AND CONNECTION ON THE JOURNEY HOME

PATTI CLARK

DESCRIPTION:

Part recovery journal, part travel log, a woman embarks on a solo road trip through America after her alcoholic father’s death. Through chance encounters, she creates inspiration for those seeking to overcome addiction and find their path.

Meg thought giving up alcohol would lead her to a life of comfort, wisdom, and happiness. Years later, she still hasn’t gotten there. What is it that she’s missing?

When her father—a raging alcoholic himself—dies, Meg, an only child, has to fly to California from her home in New Zealand to clean up the mess that was his life. Once done, left with her father’s car and a few thousand dollars, she decides to take some time for herself—embark on a solo trip across the US that she dubs her Recovery Road Trip.

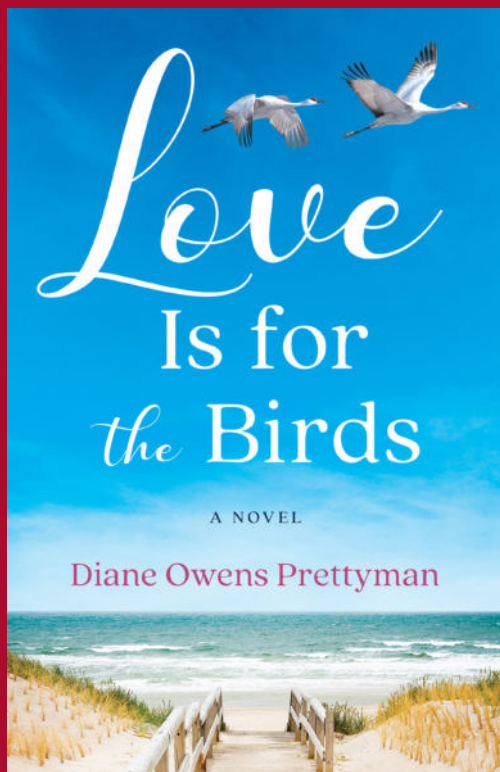
She has no idea that this one decision will change her world forever.

As Meg travels from state to state, making new friends and having meaningful encounters with strangers, she discovers the person she buried long ago, as well as the freedom and creativity she once found elusive—and finally begins to feel that sense of serenity and joy she’s been seeking. Part recovery journal, part travel log, and part woman’s search for self, *Recovery Road Trip* takes readers on an odyssey across America and into a recovering women’s exploration for meaning.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patti Clark is the award-winning author of *This Way Up: Seven Tools for Unleashing Your Creative Self and Transforming Your Life*. She has also been featured on TVNZ’s Breakfast Show, and her work has been featured in numerous publications, including *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Mindful Word*, and *Thrive Global*. Her own experience as a middle-aged woman in recovery is deeply reflected in this book, and is what inspired her to write it. Patti was born and raised in Northern California, lived in New Zealand for the past thirty years, and is now living in Portugal.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 8, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-780-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-781-8

LOVE IS FOR THE BIRDS

A NOVEL

DIANE OWENS PRETTYMAN

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of Mary Alice Monroe's *The Beach House* comes a heartwarming story from women's fiction author Diane Owens Prettyman about second chances as two people find a pathway out of their grief—directly in the aftermath of a hurricane.

The Texas Gulf: beautiful yet unpredictable.

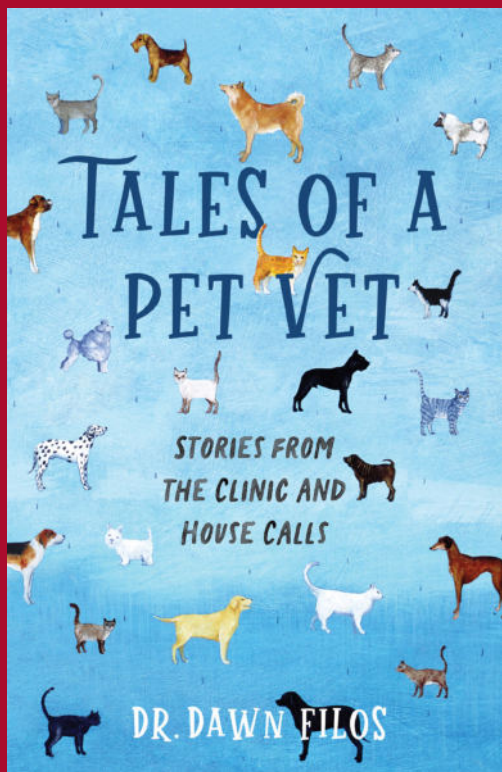
A beach town destroyed. Her mother's candy store swept away. This is what Teddy Wainsworth faces when she returns to Bird Isle. Meanwhile, Jack Shaughness, owner of a popular barbecue restaurant chain and widower still grieving the death of his wife, receives permission to cross over to the island with a smoker full of brisket to feed hurricane survivors. Soon after arriving, he meets Teddy and immediately finds himself drawn to her—which makes him feel he is betraying his wife. When the two find a lost dog, Jack convinces Teddy to take the dog home while they attempt to find the owner, creating a bond that brings them closer.

In the wake of the hurricane, Bird Isle residents fear the Aransas Wildlife Refuge will not be ready for the whooping cranes' annual migration south. Seeing that Jack has important connections and a love for the island, they enlist him to help restore the habitat of the endangered cranes before they fly to Padre Island for the winter. With their rescued dog always nearby, Teddy and Jack work side by side to rebuild Bird Isle for the return of the whooping cranes. But Jack is harboring a secret that may ruin everything he and Teddy are creating—and he won't be able to keep that secret forever.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Diane Owens Prettyman is the author of the romantic adventure story *Thin Places* and the twentieth-century historical novel *Redesigning Emma*. She is also a frequent contributor to the *Austin American-Statesman*. She stays true to her belief that every story has a happy ending, though perhaps sometimes, maybe even often, one has to wait for the perfect finale. Diane lives just a few hours' drive from the Texas Gulf. She is an avid boogie boarder and spends her summers in the water. Her husband and two black standard poodles provide her room and board in Austin, Texas.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 8, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-758-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-759-7

“The author is a gifted storyteller and this collection will certainly entertain and engage readers.”

—Readers’ Favorite

“*Tales of a Pet Vet* is a hilarious collection of stories about working with animals and their humans. Dr. Dawn has a gift for seeing the humor in any situation, and I found myself nodding along at her descriptions of veterinary house-call practice. An enjoyable read!”

—Karen Fine, DVM, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Other Family Doctor: A Veterinarian Explores What Animals Can Teach Us About Love, Life, and Mortality*

TALES OF A PET VET

STORIES FROM THE CLINIC AND HOUSE CALLS

DAWN FILOS

DESCRIPTION:

In stories tailor-made for pet lovers, a seasoned veterinarian shares her good, bad, and messy days on the job—and highlights the undeniable magic of the human-animal bond.

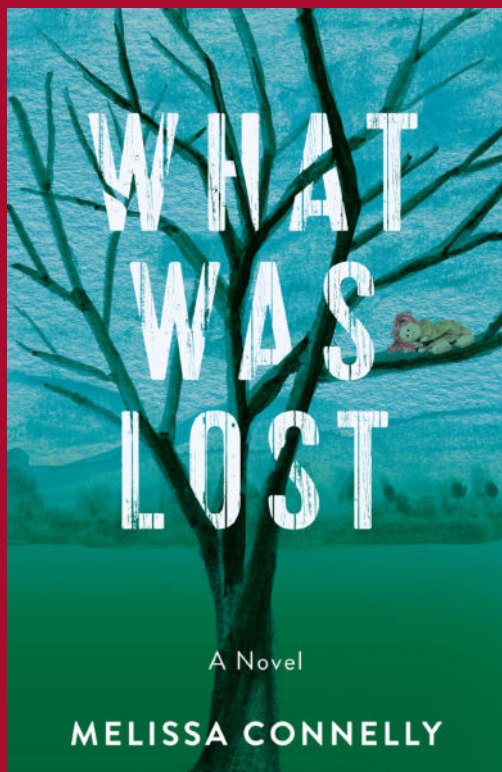
Dr. Dawn Filos has always had a passion for animals—and with a lot of hard work and perseverance, she turned that passion into a career. Here, with emotional honesty, Dr. Dawn shares her colorful, memorable journey from nervous novice to seasoned, self-assured doctor. This modern-day James Herriot ultimately finds her niche as a house-call vet, where she creates a way to practice on her own terms with the privilege of unique, intimate access into the homes and lives of her beloved patients and their human families.

Sometimes heartwarming, sometimes sad, and often hilarious, *Tales of a Pet Vet* will resonate deeply with pet lovers everywhere.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dr. Dawn Filos grew up in New Jersey in a family of eccentric animal lovers, preparing her for a lifelong career spent with like-minded pet people. She was a veterinarian in Pennsylvania for over thirty years. After retiring, she realized a decades-long dream to add “pet portraitist” to her list of talents; she also blogs at www.dr dawn the pet vet.com. She now splits her time between Scottsdale, Arizona, and East Hampton, New York, where she pursues her art and enjoys outdoor activities such as biking, hiking, and spending time at the beach.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 8, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-784-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-785-6

“Multi-layered mysteries unfold with taut precision and suspense as Connelly walks a tightrope between past and present, coercion and consent, redemption and revenge. *What Was Lost* is a provocative spin on a classic theme—the seductive power of a charismatic mentor. Told with deft characterizations, a shrewd eye for detail and emotional complexity, no one is let off the hook—not even the heroine—in this uncompromising novel.”

—Chirlane McCray, Former first lady of New York City, writer, editor and activist

WHAT WAS LOST

A NOVEL

MELISSA CONNELLY

DESCRIPTION:

Reminiscent of *Hello Beautiful* and *The Lying Life of Adults*, this powerful narrative delves into social changes from 1970 to 2000 and captures a woman’s journey in a pre-#MeToo era via the tale of a mother who returns to her hometown to face the perpetrator of her childhood abuse.

When a young girl feels complicit in her own abuse, how does that thwart her attempts to build a happy life as an adult woman?

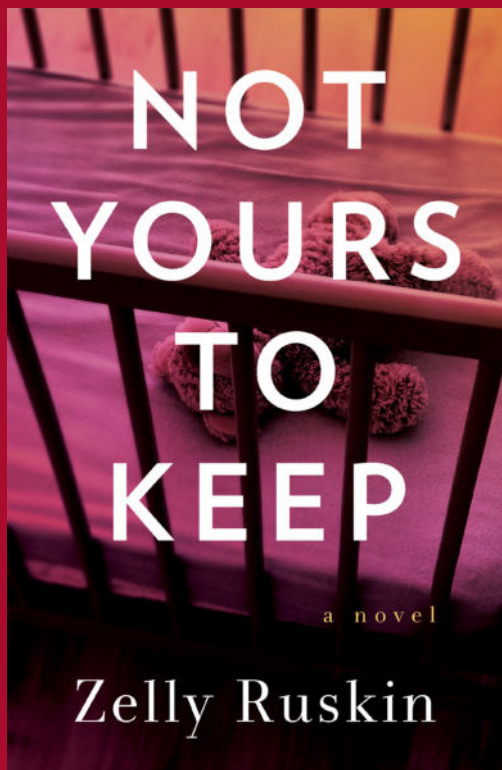
When disturbing memories begin to surface, Marti returns to the small Vermont town she ran away from thirty years ago to face her demons. She drags her unwitting teenage daughter along on the journey—heightening already existing tension between mother and daughter. But Marti is determined to achieve what she’s returned home for: forgiveness for lies told, and revenge for secrets held.

Exploring the vast social changes that took place between 1970 and 2000 and turning a critical eye on times before language such as #MeToo helped give voice to these all-too-common occurrences, *What Was Lost* is a raw, powerful tale of one woman confronting the ghosts of her past.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Melissa Connelly dropped out of high school at age fifteen. In spite of this, she went on to receive a BSN in nursing, an MA in special education, and an MFA in creative writing. She’s had a long career working with children in a variety of roles in schools, hospitals, psychiatric clinics, and day cares. Her work has been published in *American Heritage Magazine* and the anthology *It’s All About Shoes*, and she was a finalist for the 2019 Montana Prize. Connelly has a home in the mountains of Western North Carolina but lives most of the year in Brooklyn, New York.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 8, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-724-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-725-2

“A missing newborn, an adoption worker struggling with infertility, and an abused woman desperate for a second chance at motherhood, all collide in Ruskin’s page-turning debut. About the ache for love, the desperate choices of birth and adoptive parents, and the struggles to make and keep a family, *Not Yours to Keep* is a stunner.”

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times*
bestselling author of *Pictures of You* and
Days of Wonder

NOT YOURS TO KEEP

A NOVEL

ZELLY RUSKIN

DESCRIPTION:

Called a “sensational debut” by Rea Frey, this psychological thriller delves into themes of reproductive rights and healthcare, confronting the complexities that define family—or the risks that lose it all.

Billie Campbell, a Massachusetts adoption specialist grappling with fertility issues, dreams of adopting a baby, but not just any baby—her pregnant client’s baby. While her longing threatens to send her down a dark path, her husband, Tyler, is keeping secrets: he’s full of doubts about becoming a father, and he’s also trying to figure out who is sending him upsetting anonymous texts and photos. On the other side of town, Anne, a woman scarred by childhood abuse, obsesses with a second chance at becoming a family with the two people she regrets ever having let go of: the baby she gave up for adoption twenty years ago and the man of her dreams.

Their lives become entangled when the client’s newborn is abducted, and Billie becomes a prime suspect.

Amid the chaos unleashed by the abduction, Tyler uncovers a link between the person tormenting him and the abduction—but now Billie has disappeared too. The race to find both her and the baby is on; but will they find them before it’s too late?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Zelly Ruskin is a social worker who worked in adoption and foster care. She loves traveling, hiking with her (now adult) children, and, as a survivor, is passionate about and volunteers for Brain Aneurysm Awareness. Zelly and her ridiculous doodle, Strudel, currently live in New York City.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 15, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-790-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-791-7

“In *Lookin’ for Love*, author Susen Edwards delivers a gripping narrative that spans decades, immersing readers in the tumultuous journey of one woman’s battle with addiction and the harrowing descent into the underbelly of society. Edwards masterfully portrays the dark allure of substance abuse and the relentless pursuit of survival against all odds . . . this turbulent and unflinching tale is a testament to the resilience of the human spirit.”

—Joanne Howard, author of *Sleeping in the Sun*

LOOKIN’ FOR LOVE

A NOVEL

SUSEN EDWARDS

DESCRIPTION:

Based on a compelling and sometimes tragic true story, this novel follows young mother Ava from the go-go bars of the 1970s to the heart of Florida’s drug trade to a Kenyan prison to, ultimately, a place of forgiveness, faith, and love through recovery.

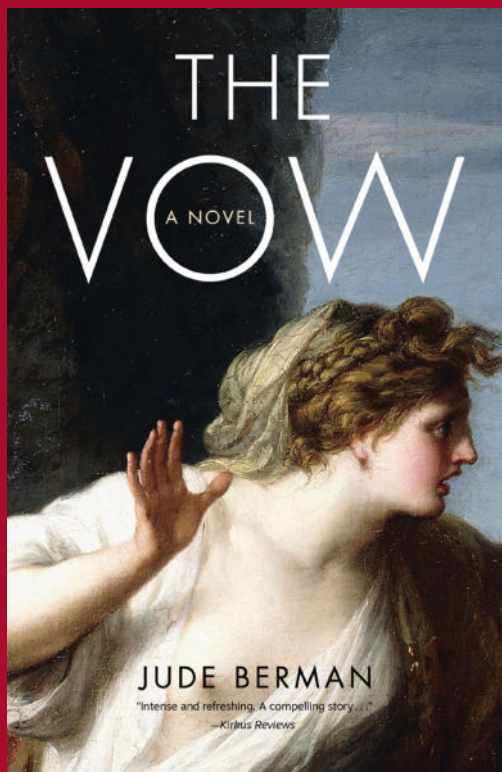
Inspired by a gripping true story, *Lookin’ for Love* begins in 1963, when Ava, nineteen and pregnant, marries a violent alcoholic and is disowned by her abusive mother. She bears two sons, leaves her husband, and turns to go-go dancing to provide for her children, using alcohol and drugs to numb herself to the degrading work. Then she meets Mike, a charismatic drug dealer who promises to give her “a beautiful life.” They move to Florida and begin working for The Crew, one of the largest drug smuggling organizations in the country. The Crew sends Ava and Mike to Kenya to find farmers to grow marijuana—but while they’re there, their home is raided, they’re charged with international drug smuggling, and Ava is sentenced to serve time in a Kenyan prison.

After her release, Ava struggles with sobriety but soon returns to dancing, alcohol, and drugs. Eventually, she hits bottom and surrenders her will to God. Once sober, she learns the power of forgiveness, faith, and love.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susen Edwards is the founder and former director of Somerset School of Massage Therapy, New Jersey’s first state-approved and nationally accredited postsecondary school for massage therapy. During her tenure she was nominated by Merrill Lynch for Inc. magazine’s Entrepreneur of the Year Award. The author of *Doctor Whisper and Nurse Willow* and *What a Trip*, she is currently a full-time writer and the secretary for the board of trustees for her town library. Susen lives in Middlesex, New Jersey, with her husband, Bob, and her two fuzzy feline babies, Harold and Maude.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 15, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-788-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-789-4

“Intense and refreshing. A compelling story about life and art with vivid characters and an engaging setting.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Berman strikes a balance that few other writers can quite as successfully match. . . . [her] narrative style is impressively fluid, skillfully balancing suspense and drama in just the right amounts to entice the reader into this beautifully written novel. *The Vow* is a must-read for all readers looking for an inspiring story of succeeding against the odds.”

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

THE VOW

A NOVEL

JUDE BERMAN

DESCRIPTION:

In a stunning work of feminist historical fiction for readers who loved Dawn Tripp's *Georgia* and Whitney Scharer's *The Age of Light*, Jude Berman brings painter Angelica Kauffman to life.

Accused of dressing as a boy to study in the prestigious galleries of eighteenth-century Italy, child prodigy Angelica Kauffman has set high goals for herself. She is determined to become a history painter, a career off-limits to women. To ensure her success, she has vowed never to marry.

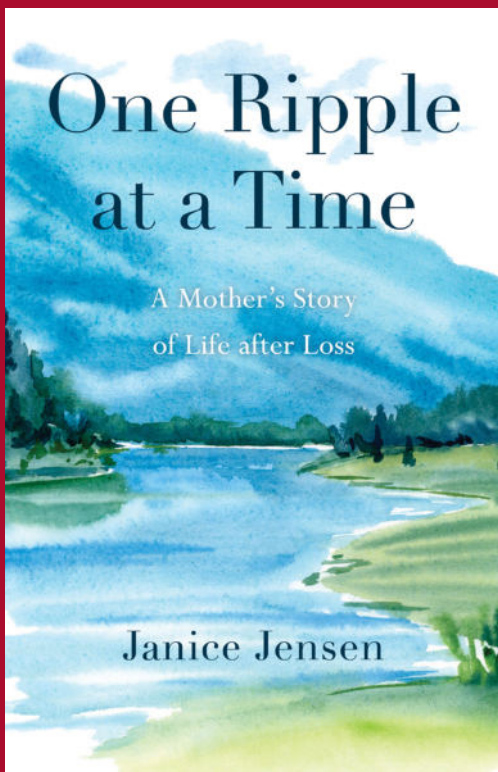
When a new patron invites her to London, Angelica befriends famous artists, paints portraits of Queen Charlotte and other royalty, and becomes a founding member of the Royal Academy. While still in London, an alluring but mysterious Swedish count makes her an offer that may be too tempting to resist. Then, upon returning to Italy, she meets Wolfgang von Goethe.

Time and time again, Angelica faces the insurmountable obstacles and great personal sacrifices that come with being an independent woman. The vows she makes, big and small, are repeatedly challenged. Will she break free from the traditional male/female binary and the many oppressive social dictates of her time and learn to “paint with her soul” . . . or is a vow of a different sort necessary if she is to answer the deepest call of her heart?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

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

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 15, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-788-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-789-4

“This beautiful memoir is a tribute to the author’s son—rich with comfort, solace, and hope to help people who have experienced great loss. As Janice’s dance instructor, I saw the profound effect that learning to dance had on Janice and how it became her final catalyst for healing.”

—Laura Taylor, Dance Instructor, *Dance With Us!*

“Living demands that we deal with the unimaginable, accept the past, and honor the beauty of having been part of that being who is no longer with us.”

—Marisela Rizik, author of *Forgotten Times*

ONE RIPPLE AT A TIME

A MOTHER’S STORY OF LIFE AFTER LOSS

JANICE JENSEN

DESCRIPTION:

Written especially for women who have struggled with the death of a child under age thirteen, *One Ripple at a Time* describes one mother’s guidance of her family and herself through grief, with practical advice for embracing new horizons of growth and self-confidence, as well as surprising connections.

A parent should never outlive their own child, yet this is the position Janice Jensen found herself in after the drowning of her nine-year-old son. In the aftermath of this tragedy, Janice dedicated herself to her roles as mother to her surviving daughter and wife to her devastated husband even as she grappled with her grief.

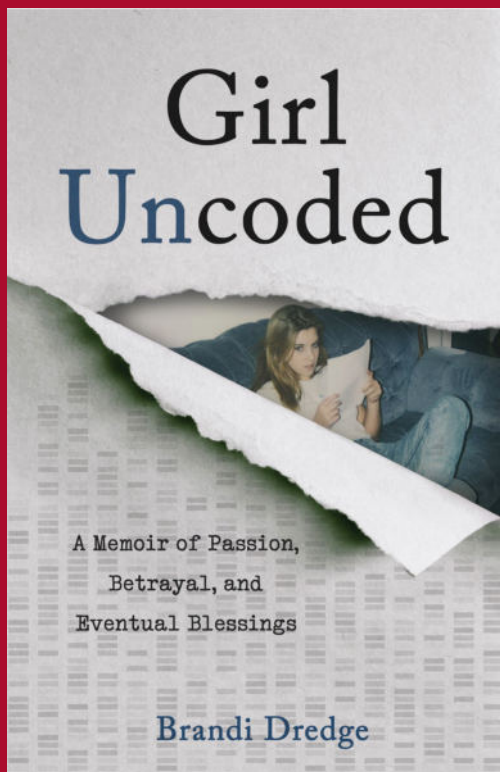
As a non-swimmer, Janice experienced water’s unforgiving power through the loss of her son, but as time went on, she also learned to appreciate its redemptive and healing properties. She sculled symbolic and real rivers, taking the necessary side channels to find waves that soaked peace and happiness into her body, mind, and heart. She learned to sail. And she fell in love with ballroom dancing, a passion that eventually led her back to the very place where she lost her son.

A poignant, heartfelt story that takes readers through the everyday ups and downs of life after a tragedy and highlights the need to view each person’s grief journey and timeline as unique. *One Ripple at a Time* comforts readers and, through decades of the author’s personal quest, imparts a crucial message: The best of you is just around the bend.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

While working as an educator and author in Syria, Colombia, Saudi Arabia, Oregon, and Washington, Janice Jensen embarked on a decades-long journey to glean insights from parents who had lost children. While traveling solo to seventy countries, she examined the grief experiences of several cultures and identities, leading her to embrace a vast range of strategies for overcoming tragedy. *One Ripple at a Time* incorporates the best of her brain and heart wisdom, and today, she lives in Oregon and volunteers with groups to give informal grief recovery support and pass on strength for a thriving life.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 22, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-808-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-809-9

“With raw, searing honesty, Dredge transports us through the incredible journey of her life—a life which, at times, seems beyond repair. A memoir of resilience, hope, and, ultimately, redemption, *Girl, Uncoded* is a brave testimony to the power of a mother’s love and the longing to find our heart’s home.”

—Laura Whitfield, author of *Untethered: Faith, Failure, and Finding Solid Ground*

“Dredge reaches into her darkest truths with this piercing memoir about victimization and the powerful act of reclamation.”

—Rev. Jennifer Dawn Watts, MA, CPC,
founder and CEO of Living Well Counselling
Services

GIRL, UNCODED

A MEMOIR OF PASSION, BETRAYAL, AND
EVENTUAL BLESSINGS

BRANDI DREDGE

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of true crime memoir comes a gripping tale of one woman’s harrowing and spiritual journey of resilience after she learns that she was a victim of a sex crime—and her husband was the culprit.

At sixteen, Caroline longed to meet the man who owned the apartment she was hanging out at with her teenage friends. The one they said was a stripper—a fact that intrigued her. From the moment she finally saw Gary Richard, she craved his attention; and once their eyes met, he was all she wanted.

Months later, she was dismayed to discover that she was pregnant. But she had Gary Richard, she reassured herself, and he was all she needed to be okay. A belief that didn’t change even when she held their week-old son in court, watching her boyfriend face charges for stolen property. This was her family, her life—so when Gary Richard’s lawyer suggested a ploy to show the judge he was a changed man, she married him. At seventeen years old, she became a wife.

Over the next nine years, Caroline’s identity and dreams of a fairy-tale life became twisted by adultery, betrayal, poverty, court cases, and lies. And then, one evening, the reality of her marriage finally became clear to her after a sergeant revealed she was the victim of one of her husband’s crimes—statutory rape—and her son’s DNA was the evidence the prosecution needed to convict him.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Brandi Dredge is a mom, encourager, and author. She shares her story with the hopes that what she went through will bring encouragement to victims and/or individuals who could benefit from knowing about God’s favor and blessings in their lives. She enjoys swimming in the deep end of mystical thoughts, wading in emotions to pen poetry, and sipping a strong cup of coffee. She is a member of The National Association of Memoir Writers and resides in St. Joseph, Missouri.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 22, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-798-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-799-3

“Large and saga-like in scope, and set in 1930s India, Joanne Howard’s *Sleeping in the Sun* delivers a compassionate portrayal of a missionary family as they struggle to navigate the personal and political crosscurrents of enchantment, terror, love, and deceit. What I admire most in her debut novel is the courage with which this writer lifts the masks of disguise from her characters and reveals, as if superimposed on the place itself, that secret, interior world of human emotions.”

—Jack Driscoll, author of *20 Stories: New & Selected*

SLEEPING IN THE SUN

A NOVEL

JOANNE HOWARD

DESCRIPTION:

When two visitors arrive to the boarding house in India where an American boy is coming of age during the British Raj, truths unravel, disrupting his life and challenging the family’s sense of home. A unique historical angle ideal for fans of *The Poisonwood Bible* and *The Inheritance of Loss*.

In the last years of the British Raj, an American missionary family stays on in Midnapore, India. Though the Hintons enjoy white privileges, they have never been accepted by British society and instead run a boarding house on the outskirts of town where wayward native Indians come to find relief.

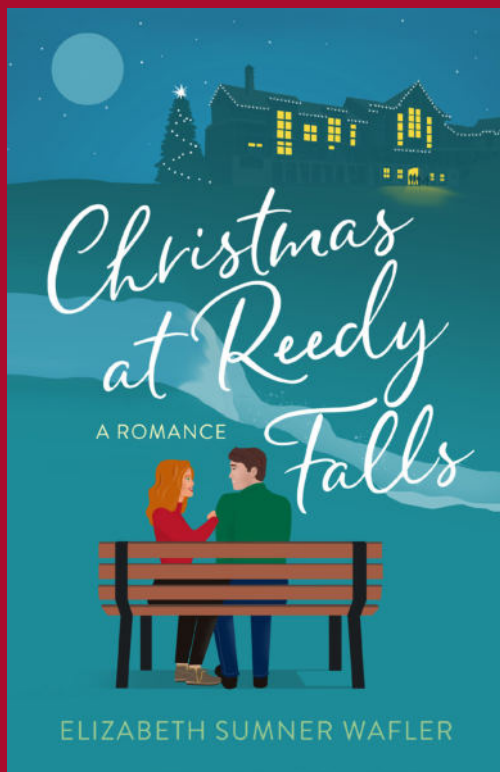
Young Gene Hinton can’t get out from under the thumb of his three older brothers, and the only person he can really relate to is Arthur, his family’s Indian servant. But when Uncle Ellis, a high-ranking British judge, suddenly arrives and announces he’ll be staying indefinitely in their humble house, far from his prestigious post in Himalayan foothills, life as Gene knows it is interrupted. While his brothers are excited at the judge’s arrival, he is skeptical as to why this important man is hiding out with them in the backwaters of Bengal.

Also skeptical is Arthur. Then an Indian woman appears on their doorstep—and, after growing close to her, he learns the sinister truth about the judge. Torn between a family that has provided him shelter, work, and purpose his whole life and the escalating outrage of his countrymen, Arthur must decide where his loyalties lie—and the Hintons must decide if they can still call India home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Joanne Howard is an Asian American writer from California. She holds an MFA in writing from Pacific University. Her poetry received an honorable mention from Stanford University’s 2019 Paul Kalanithi Writing Award. Her fiction has been published in *The Catalyst* by UC Santa Barbara, *The Metaworker Literary Magazine* and the *Marin Independent Journal* and her nonfiction has been published in *Another New Calligraphy* and *The Santa Barbara Independent*. She lives in Santa Rosa, CA.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 29, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-806-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-807-5

“In *Christmas at Reedy Falls*, Elizabeth Sumner Wafler skillfully places the reader smack into the heart of a story brimming with Southern charm and holiday atmosphere. The novel will have you falling head over heels for Mamie and Rob as they fall for each other. Equal parts funny and intriguing, this heartwarming story—about finding love where you least expect it—is truly a gift that keeps on giving!”

—Christina Consolino, author of *Rewrite the Stars* and *The Weight We Carry*

CHRISTMAS AT REEDY FALLS

A ROMANCE

ELIZABETH SUMNER WAFLER

DESCRIPTION:

Perfect for fans of *A Winter in New York* by Josie Silver and *Always in December* by Emily Stone, *Christmas at Reedy Falls* is an opposites-attract, wholesome Christmas romance that will leave readers believing in the magic of the holiday—and how it brings people together.

When Mamie Morrow, a fledgling Charleston journalist, is offered an assignment covering the Grand Bohemian Lodge in Greenville, South Carolina, at Christmastime, she jumps at the chance. Her grandfather recently passed away and left her a mysterious box of objects from the time she spent with him in New Mexico when she was three. Mamie has zero recollection of her time with her grandfather, but she now knows that he was Navajo—and as the majestic Grand Bohemian is filled with Native American art, she hopes being there will help her regain those memories.

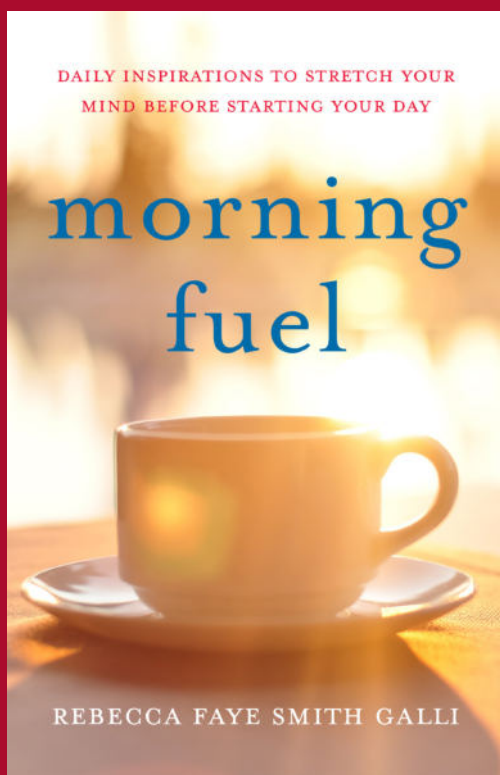
Robert Fitzpatrick is an upstart photographer from South Boston. Through equal parts inspiration and perspiration, he’s managed to compile a stunning portfolio, and he’s just relocated to slower-paced Charleston for its lush beauty and creative community. He’s also looking for the one—a girl to whom he can give his whole heart forever. But he harbors family secrets of his own.

Rob is smitten with Mamie’s energy and pluck, but to Mamie, career comes first. As Christmas Day approaches, the two grapple with the complications that arise when dreams confront reality—and witness the Christmas magic that can happen when you put your faith in love.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elizabeth Sumner Wafler writes evocative women’s fiction and romance. The author of five novels, she is an active member of the Women’s Fiction Writers Association and a former Director of Craft Education for the organization. Elizabeth enjoys working with other writers through her side hustle, Four Eyes Editorial. She can be found working at her blue desk, at a farmers market, poking through a book or vintage furniture store, or enjoying a great read on her back porch. Elizabeth lives with her husband in Greenville, South Carolina.

OCTOBER 2024



Publication Date: October 29, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-782-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-783-2

“Galli delivers on her promise to inspire, encourage, or make you think! *Morning Fuel* is a great addition to the S.A.V.E.R.S. routine.”

—Hal Elrod, best-selling author and creator of *The Miracle Morning*

MORNING FUEL

DAILY INSPIRATIONS TO STRETCH YOUR MIND BEFORE STARTING YOUR DAY

REBECCA FAYE SMITH GALLI

DESCRIPTION:

Best-selling author Rebecca Galli has experienced some of life’s most difficult challenges: sibling loss, special needs children, paralysis. In this book of daily readings, she offers reflective questions and inspiration for readers to “fuel up” on positivity each morning.

If there’s one thing Rebecca Galli knows, it’s the importance of staying fueled—daily. She’s had a lot to power through: Her seventeen-year-old brother’s death. Two children with special needs that include autism and epilepsy. Divorce. And her own paralysis. Galli has lived a life filled with unexpected loss—and learning.

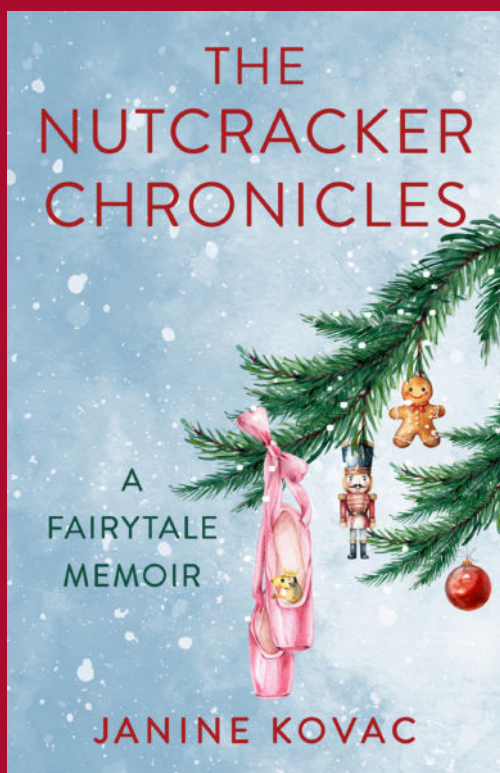
Infused with wisdom from Galli’s deep-thinking pastor father, her ever-optimistic, hostess-with-the-mostest mother, and other memorable family members and friends, *Morning Fuel* offers stories designed to inspire, encourage, or make you think. Sprinkled throughout are quotes from some of the greatest thinkers of our time—words that have bolstered Galli’s resolve to power through her darkest valleys. Each entry ends with questions that invite personal application and provoke further pondering.

How you start your morning sets the tone for your whole day. Let the wisdom of *Morning Fuel* help you make that tone a positive one.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rebecca (Becky) Faye Smith Galli is an author and columnist who writes about love, loss, and healing. A Morehead-Cain Scholar at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, she was formerly employed by IBM, where she was the recipient of the Golden Circle award for marketing excellence. In 2000, *The Baltimore Sun* published her first column, a piece about playing soccer with her son—from her wheelchair. With over 400 columns, she then launched *Thoughtful Thursdays – Lessons from a Resilient Heart*, a weekly column that shares what’s inspired her to stay positive. In 2017, she published her first book, *Rethinking Possible: A Memoir of Resilience*. Becky resides in Lutherville, Maryland, outside of Baltimore.

NOVEMBER 2024



Publication Date: November 12, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-792-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-793-1

THE NUTCRACKER CHRONICLES

A FAIRYTALE MEMOIR

JANINE KOVAC

DESCRIPTION:

Perfect for *The Nutcracker* holiday market and fans of work/life balance books, this memoir of a ballet dancer-turned-literary curator shares the real-life journey of a dancer, wife, and mother.

The Nutcracker Chronicles, a modern twist on the beloved holiday ballet, intertwines the story of Clara and her nutcracker prince with the true-life stories that unfold backstage.

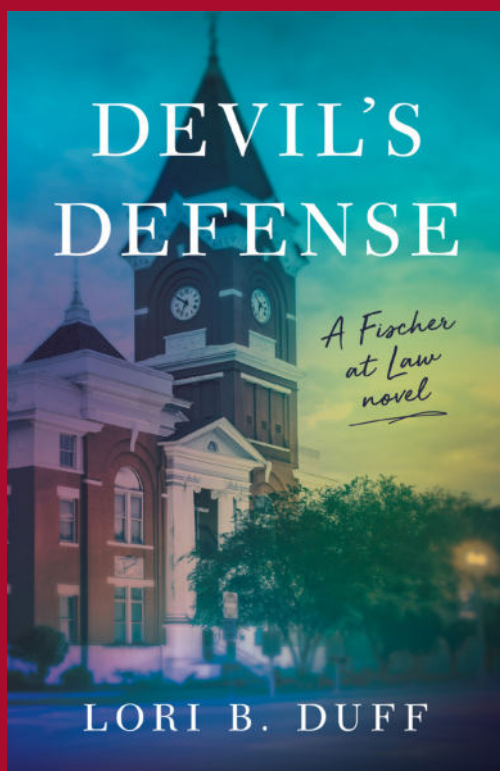
The curtain rises on Ballet El Paso's production of *The Nutcracker*, where young Janine Kovac is cast as Fritz, the boy who breaks the nutcracker. Her director is Ingeborg Heuser, a German woman who once performed for Hitler and who peppers her teaching with insults like, "Why can't you just dance like a pretty girl?" At least it's better than "You look like a cow on ice skates," which is what the other girls hear daily.

Onstage, Janine wins the battle and embarks on a voyage through a snowy forest to the Land of the Sweets, where she serves as spectator to a beautiful dance. She also travels offstage, leaving El Paso to study at San Francisco Ballet before landing a job in Iceland and returning to California, where she rises through the ranks from soldier to snowflake to candy soloist. Eventually, however, she is relegated to watching other people dance—her husband, her children, her students—and her claim to the spotlight is replaced by the quest to find joy in her new roles.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Janine Kovac enjoyed a twelve-year career as a professional ballet dancer in Iceland, Italy, San Francisco, and her hometown of El Paso, Texas. Outside of the ballet world, her distinctions include UC Berkeley's Glushko Award for Distinguished Research in Cognitive Science, an Elizabeth George Foundation Fellowship from Hedgebrook, and the Calderwood Fellowship for Journalism from MacDowell. Janine is the author of *Brain Changer: A Mother's Guide to Cognitive Science and Spinning: Choreography for Coming Home*, which received a National Indie Excellence Award. In addition to dancing in *The Nutcracker*, she's rehearsed *The Nutcracker*, she's choreographed sections of *The Nutcracker*, and, most of all, she's sat through *The Nutcracker*. Janine lives with her family in Oakland, California.

NOVEMBER 2024



Publication Date: November 12, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-736-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-737-5

“Duff scores with a winning protagonist and a captivating courtroom procedural.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Sweet, savvy, and sharp, *Devil's Defense* is a pitch-perfect beach read about gender and sexual politics in a small town. Duff writes with an authentic and witty hand, creating multi-faceted characters and a timely plot that will have readers questioning preconceived notions of right and wrong. Perfect for fans of Katherine Center and Meg Mitchell Moore.”

—Marisa Rae Dondlinger, author of *Come And Get Me* and *Gray Lines*

DEVIL'S DEFENSE

A FISCHER AT LAW NOVEL

LORI B. DUFF

DESCRIPTION:

A gripping courtroom drama that explores the struggle between morality vs. professional obligation, *Devil's Defense* will appeal to fans of female-lead courtroom dramas like *The Good Wife*.

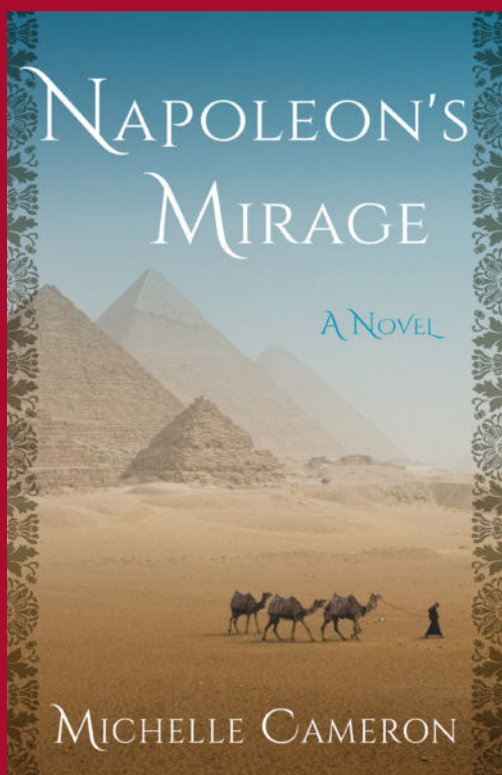
Jessica Fischer wants nothing more than to build her law practice in small-town Ashton, Georgia. She's well on her way when the local town hero, football coach Frank "Tripp" Wishingam III, hires her to represent him in a paternity suit. Coach is everything Jessica despises—arrogant, sexist, entitled—but it's her job to make him look good in public. This is made doubly difficult when her burgeoning relationship with a local reporter gets in the way of telling the truth.

Are things as black and white as Jessica thinks? And can she find a way to succeed without compromising her own personal values—or her personal life?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lori B. Duff is a lawyer, municipal court judge, and award-winning writer. An empty-nester, she lives in Loganville, Georgia, with her husband and rescue puppy.

NOVEMBER 2024



Publication Date: November 12, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-716-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-717-7

“*Napoleon’s Mirage* picks up the thread of Cameron’s epic tale of the tumult, romance, and volatility of the Napoleonic era. She sweeps readers from the quays of Toulon to the shimmering heat of the Egyptian desert with a transportive narrative of assiduous research and textured, vibrant language. To be immersed in the work of Michelle Cameron is to be treated to storytelling by a skilled and masterful hand of historical fiction.”

—Allison Pataki, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Queen’s Fortune* and *The Magnificent Lives of Marjorie Post*

NAPOLEON’S MIRAGE

A NOVEL

MICHELLE CAMERON

DESCRIPTION:

Readers of Stephanie Drey and Allison Pataki will enjoy this highly anticipated sequel, an epic saga of love set during the Napoleonic invasion of Egypt that explores loyalty, cultural failures, and a potentially history-altering military defeat.

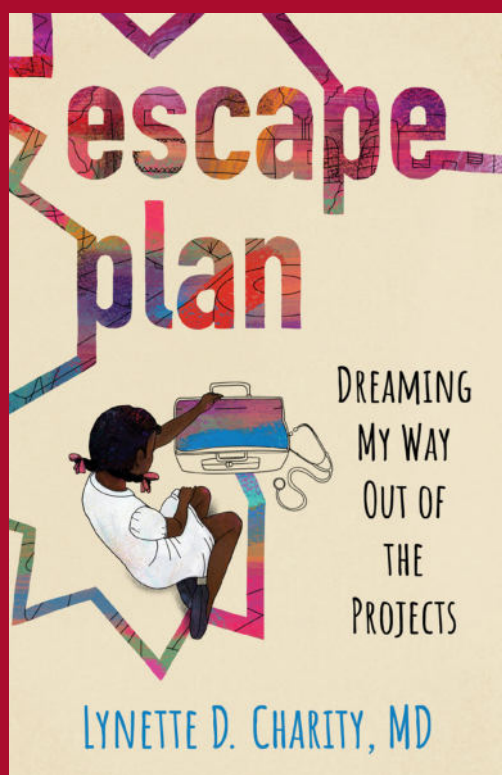
More than a year has elapsed since the ghetto gates were destroyed and Ancona’s Jewish community liberated by Napoleon’s troops. Yet Mirelle is ostracized—by the community, her erstwhile best friend, and even her mother—and labeled a “ruined woman.” As her efforts to nurture her family’s legacy are thwarted, she realizes she might have lost her last chance at love. Meanwhile, Daniel, now a lieutenant in the French army, and Christophe, the man responsible for Mirelle’s disgrace, set sail to an unknown destination with General Bonaparte’s forces. There, Napoleon and his men face a harsh and unforgiving landscape and new, implacable enemies, and Daniel’s faith in and loyalty to the commander he once worshiped are put to the test.

Epic and rich with well-researched detail, *Napoleon’s Mirage* is a novel of misguided ambition leading to brutal warfare, failures of cultural appropriation, and a military defeat that just may have changed the course of history.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michelle Cameron is the author of *Babylon: A Novel of Jewish Captivity* (Wicked Son, 2023); *Beyond the Ghetto Gates*, which was awarded a Silver Medal in Historical Fiction by the Independent Book Publishers, won First Place/Best of Category in the Chanticleer Goethe Awards, and was a Foreword Indies finalist (She Writes Press, 2020); *The Fruit of Her Hands: The Story of Shira of Ashkenaz* (Simon & Schuster’s Pocket Books, 2009); and *In the Shadow of the Globe* (Lit Pot Press, 2003), which was named Shakespeare Theatre of NJ’s 2003-04 Winter Book Selection and performed at the Stella Adler Studio’s Shakespeare Benefit. A director of The Writers Circle, Michelle teaches creative writing to children, teens, and adults in New Jersey and virtually. Residing with her husband in Chatham, NJ, she has two grown sons of whom she is inordinately proud.

NOVEMBER 2024



Publication Date: November 12, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-778-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-779-5

ESCAPE PLAN

DREAMING MY WAY OUT OF THE PROJECTS

LYNETTE CHARITY

DESCRIPTION:

Lynette Charity's grit, grief, and gratitude will have readers rooting for this timeless memoir about growing up in the early '60s South and overcoming all the odds against her to become a doctor in a time when the idea of a Black woman physician was practically unheard of.

At nine years old, Lynette Charity looked on, frozen in place, as her father hit her mother so hard that she flipped over their front porch railing and fell into the hedges below. That night, young Lynette hatched a plan: she would escape this life, no matter what it took. And a month later, after watching the first episode of a new show called Ben Casey, she decided that becoming a doctor was her way out.

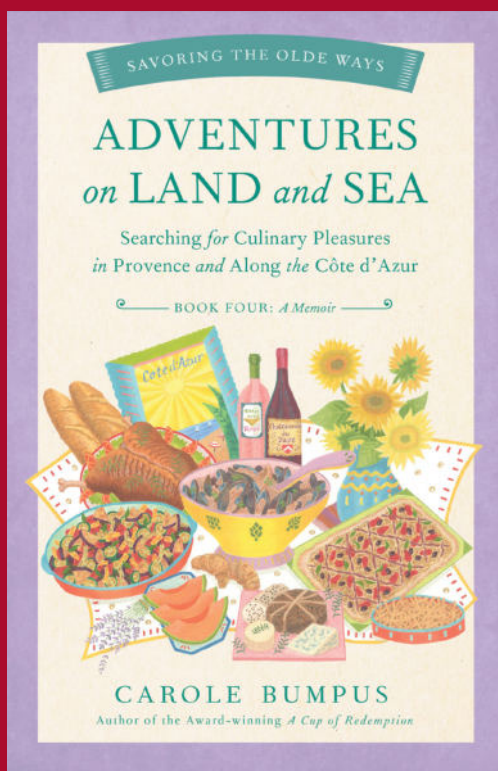
At some point, Lynette noticed that all the real doctors and nurses who took care of her were Black and all the make-believe doctors and nurses on TV were white. Did it make a difference? Not to her. Over the next decade-plus, she focused on her studies. At a time when segregation was still alive and well in Virginia, she forged her mother's signature on transfer papers so she could go to a better-resourced white school on the other side of town. Upon finishing high school, she got a full ride to Pittsburgh's Chatham College. And after graduating Chatham with honors, she became a member of Tufts University School of Medicine's Class of 1978, one of seven Black women in her class.

Raw, candid, and inspiring, *Escape Plan* is the remarkable story of how, through perseverance and single-minded determination, a Black girl from the 1960s South faced down adversity, exceeded everyone's expectations, and fulfilled her dreams.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lynette Charity, MD, is a board-certified anesthesiologist with over forty years' worth of experience "putting people to sleep." After growing up in the segregated South, she graduated with honors from Chatham College for Women, PA, then earned her medical degree from Tufts University School of Medicine. She has practiced nationally and internationally, and as a US Army doctor, achieving the rank of Lt. Colonel. Also, a keynote speaker, humorist and author. Now a septuagenarian living in Gilbert, Arizona, her mission is to help others go after their dreams through sharing her story of overcoming obstacles of racial bias, gender bias, and age bias.

NOVEMBER 2024



Publication Date: November 12, 2024

Collections: Nonfiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-772-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-773-3

“Both a regional history and a cooking memoir, this is even more than the sum of its parts, and a celebration of living life every moment. Francophiles, history fans, and foodies will love this book.”

—Booklist

“The book is peppered with descriptions of regional and family dishes . . . and is a wonderful ride through four regions of France, generating great excitement for its follow-up.”

—Foreword Reviews

ADVENTURES ON LAND AND SEA

SEARCHING FOR CULINARY PLEASURES IN PROVENCE AND ALONG THE CÔTE D'AZUR

CAROLE BUMPUS

DESCRIPTION:

Fans of Peter Mayle and Janine Marsh will enjoy this exploration of medieval villages, cultures, and recipes of France's Provence. This travelogue is Book 4 in the author's best-selling series, which has won the IPPY gold medal for Best Culinary Travel Series three years running.

Join Carole Bumpus, her husband, Winston, and their friends in Book Four of *Savoring the Olde Ways*, her culinary-travel series. Following in the footsteps of writer Peter Mayle, Bumpus is on a quest to find the real Provence. On three separate excursions—from Nice to Nîmes, Moustiers to Marseilles, and San Tropez to San Remy—and while sailing along the Côte d'Azur, she invites you to join her in uncovering the mysteries of Provence. Are they hidden within their myths, festivals, or traditions? Is it possible they're veiled in the sheer beauty of the land and sea? Could they be concealed in Roman arenas in Arles, Orange, or Glanum? Or, perhaps, within the ancient methods of traditional cooking or winemaking? Maybe they are hidden in plain sight among the locals who open their hearts, their bistros, and homes to strangers.

Yes, you may find it in chefs while cooking in ancient kitchens, in the smile of the shy barmaid who speaks no English, in the giggle of the Pizza Wagon baby, in the agreeable village baker, or in the patient waiter and harbor master—but you will most especially experience it through friends who fling open their doors to share their families' recipes. Traveling alongside Bumpus, that is where you'll discover the real Provence.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Carole Bumpus began writing about food and travel when she stumbled upon the amazing stories of women and war in France. Her historical novel, *A Cup of Redemption*, was published in October 2014, and her unique companion cookbook, *Recipes for Redemption*, was released in August 2015. Book One of the *Savoring the Olde Ways* Series was published in 2019, Book Two in 2020, and the third book, *A September to Remember*, was published in 2021. She has also had three short stories published in the California Writers Club San Francisco Branch Fault Zone anthologies. A retired family therapist, Bumpus lives in Redwood Shores in the San Francisco Bay Area.

DECEMBER 2024



Publication Date: December 3, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-726-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-727-6

“In this wise, funny, and moving memoir, McKnight ends up writing a love letter to her childhood in Germany. This memoir is also a love letter to herself and to the poignant, heartbreaking depths of girlhood. Part captivating travelogue and part ode to the girl she once was, *Out of Place* investigates the challenges and traps and beauty of being a girl and a sister and a daughter, all in a new land that she comes to tenderly call home.”

—Susan Conley, author of *Landslide* and instructor at the University of Southern Maine’s Stone Coast MFA in Creative Writing Program

OUT OF PLACE

COMING OF AGE IN COLD WAR WEST GERMANY

MARY MCKNIGHT

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of coming-of-age narratives and feminist journeys, an empowering tale of one teen’s quest to establish her own voice as an Army Brat living in Cold War–era West Germany.

Relocated with her family to Cold War–era West Germany, Army Brat and middle sister of three Mary grapples with the torment exacted by her older sister, the high moral expectations of her military father, and societal pressure to conform to traditional gender roles during the rise of the feminism movement. Through the transformative power of place, travel, and the people she encounters, Mary embarks on a journey of self-discovery, learning about social justice and finding her voice in a world still shaped by male dominance.

Rich with historical context, *Out of Place* is a poignant and compelling exploration of identity, personal growth, and the enduring strength that comes from embracing one’s purpose.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary E. McKnight is an avid observer of people, a teacher of young children, a co-owner of an herb garden (Split Stone Farm LLC), a painter, and a lover of cats. She lives for kindness, creativity, and her amazing daughter. Her writing is the creative expression that feeds her soul, and she enjoys writing in a variety of genres. If she wasn’t her, she would probably be the Lorax. She lives in Ellicott City, Maryland, with her partner and their tortie, Abbey Rhodes.

DECEMBER 2024



Publication Date: December 3, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-760-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-761-0

“This is a tale of women surviving and supporting each other that will amaze and inspire you. Beautifully told with unflinching detail and honesty.”

—Catherine Vance, author of *The Mountains Under Her Feet*

THE HOUSEKEEPER'S SECRET

A MEMOIR

SANDRA SCHNAKENBURG

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of stranger than truth stories, Sandy Schnakenburg is uncovering rattling and unprecedented revelations in this powerful memoir of love, secrets, and survival.

When Lee Metoyer is hired to be the new housekeeper, she has no idea that she's about to become the anchor to a family in an abusive patriarch's home, setting a mystery in motion that will take decades to uncover. At the age of seventy-two, Lee falls ill and on her deathbed asks Sandy to write her story. The only problem is, Sandy doesn't know the story.

Embarking on a quest to honor Lee's final wishes, Sandy takes an emotional and thrilling journey, unveiling shocking truths not only about her beloved housekeeper but also her own upbringing. As she digs further, she learns that Lee came to her family's sprawling estate in Barrington, IL, harboring a secret past. For decades, she's been in hiding. But Lee is not the only one with secrets; Sandy's quest forces her to grapple with her own family history as well, and to finally confront the effects of the psychological abuse she suffered as a child.

Both a chilling and exciting personal tale of love and survival, *The Housekeeper's Secret* is a gripping saga that illuminates the resilience of the human spirit.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sandra Schnakenburg is a dual American/Australia citizen. Sandy earned a BS in finance and international business at Arizona State University and an MBA specializing in finance and accounting at the University of Southern California. She has completed writing courses at Writespace, Rice University, and The Writers University in Houston. She left a career in corporate finance in 2010 to study creative nonfiction. When not writing, Sandra enjoys her family, nature, hiking, skiing, biking, cooking, yoga, and walking her dogs. She and her husband, Karl, split their time between Houston, Texas and Park City, Utah.

DECEMBER 2024



Publication Date: December 10, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.99 paperback / \$12.99 ebook

Distribution by S&S

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-776-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-777-1

“The Irish Girl is a story of resilience amidst trauma, love amidst loss, self-acceptance amidst rejection.

Reminiscent of our immigrant ancestors and the unfathomable hardships they undoubtedly faced, I read this story in one sitting and found myself thinking about this fiercely strong girl long after I finished.”

—Kelli Estes, *USA Today* best-selling author of *The Girl Who Wrote in Silk*

THE IRISH GIRL

A NOVEL

ASHLEY SWEENEY

DESCRIPTION:

From multi-award-winning historical fiction author Ashley E. Sweeney comes a family saga about the Irish immigrant experience spanning New York, Chicago, and Colorado so compelling that, *USA Today* best-selling author Kelli Estes says, “I read this story in one sitting.”

Thirteen-year-old Mary Agnes Coyne, forced from her home in rural Ireland in 1886 after being accused of incest, endures a treacherous voyage across the vast Atlantic alone to an unknown life in America. From the tenements of New York to the rough alleys of Chicago, Mary Agnes suffers the bitter taste of prejudice for the crime of being poor and Irish.

Marriage at age sixteen takes her west to Colorado Springs, where her young husband chases a phantom cure for tuberculosis. When tragedy strikes, Mary Agnes finds herself alone again, dreams shattered. But she is determined to forge her own path, and after securing work as a chuckwagon cook at a rugged Colorado ranch, she discovers a newfound sense of purpose and identity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A native New Yorker, Ashley E. Sweeney is the winner of the Nancy Pearl Book Award and more than a dozen other awards for her previous novels, *Hardland*, *Answer Creek*, and *Eliza Waite*. *The Irish Girl* is based on her paternal great-grandmother’s story of coming alone from Ireland to America in the late 19th century. Sweeney lives and writes in the Pacific Northwest and Tucson.

A still life composition featuring a cup of tea, an open book, a bowl of walnuts, and a sweater. The scene is set on a dark grey surface, possibly a rug or blanket. In the foreground, a light-colored ceramic cup filled with a dark liquid, likely tea, sits on a white book. The tea has a slice of orange and a cinnamon stick floating in it. To the left of the cup, a small bowl made of brown paper is filled with chopped walnuts. A whole walnut is also visible to the left of the bowl. In the background, an open book with text on its pages is visible, with a dried maple leaf resting on one of the pages. A light-colored, textured sweater is draped over the scene, partially covering the book and the cup. The overall lighting is warm and soft, creating a cozy and inviting atmosphere.

Spring
2024

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 2, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-606-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-607-1

“Just in time for the debate over the dangers of AI, Joan Cohen brings us a corporate drama–turned–thriller, layered with sexual misconduct, everyday misogyny, and the power of friendship and romance.”

—Ellen Bravo, activist and author of *Again and Again* and *Standing Up: Tales of Struggle*

THE DEEPPFAKE

A NOVEL

JOAN COHEN

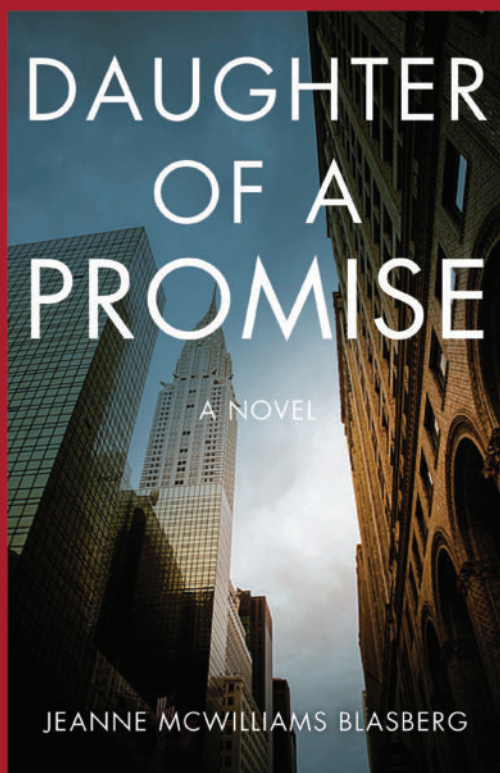
DESCRIPTION:

Sylvie considers herself a team player at her artificial intelligence company, but when she uncovers her colleagues' illegal activities, pleasing everyone becomes impossible. Torn about what to do, she confides in her personal trainer, who's dismayed not only by the choices she faces but also by her advocacy for AI, a technology he considers dangerous. Despite the barbs the two trade at the gym, they are drawn to each other. If only Sylvie weren't getting constantly summoned to the Miami estate of her mother and stepfather, where illness, death, a disputed will, and the rekindled ashes of an old flame swirl into a disaster that follows Sylvie back to Boston, bringing harm to her and those she cares about.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Originally from Mount Vernon, New York, Joan Cohen received her BA from Cornell University and her MBA from New York University. Her career in sales and marketing at technology companies led to the executive level, and after retirement she returned to school for an MFA in Writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. She is the author of the novel *Land of Last Chances*, published in 2019. She now resides in Stockbridge, Massachusetts, in the Berkshires, with her husband and the latest canine addition to their family.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 2, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-608-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-609-5

“Daughter of a Promise has a spirited and deep soul. Once more, Blasberg trains her acute eye on the beauty, joy, and difficulty of familial love. Her latest novel is both timeless and thoroughly modern.”

—Ivy Pochoda, author of *Sing Her Down* and *These Women*

DAUGHTER OF A PROMISE

A NOVEL

JEANNE BLASBERG

DESCRIPTION:

Days after graduating from college, Betsabé Ruiz begins her first job on Wall Street, where she plans to save enough money to eventually pursue her dreams of becoming a theatre actress. What she didn't anticipate was that this job would allow her barely enough free time to sleep or hang out with friends, let alone take acting classes. She didn't apprehend the magnitude of the wealth that would be swirling about her, either, or how the long hours and close quarters would infuse her professional relationships with intimacy. Still, she does her best to navigate this uncharted territory at work, where she makes an unlikely best friend—and develops an unexpected attraction to her boss.

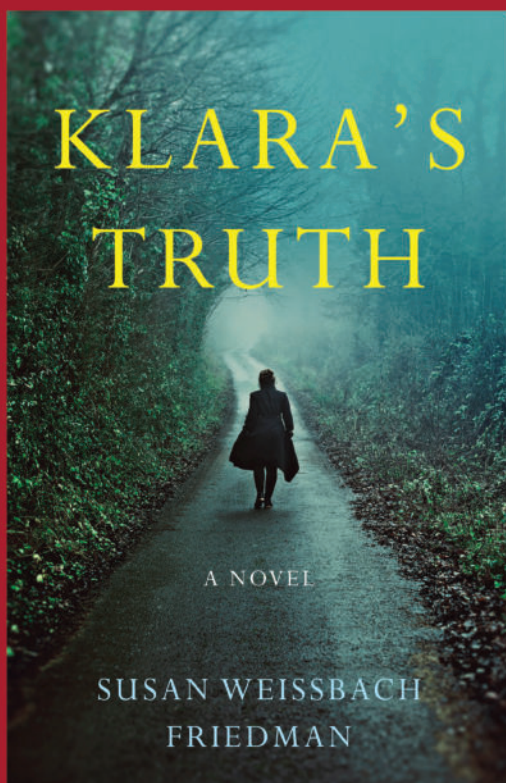
Told in the retrospective as a letter to her unborn son, *Daughter of a Promise* is a coming-of-age tale in which a naïve Betsabé assumes that leaving her past behind is the prerequisite for succeeding as an adult. The wisdom she ultimately passes on to her child, however, is steeped in the very traditions within which her grandmother raised her back in Miami.

A modern retelling of the legend of Bathsheba and David, this novel is a reminder that the biological forces of desire and love are timeless and complicated.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jeanne Blasberg is an award-winning and best-selling author and essayist. Her novel *The Nine* (SWP 2019) was honored with the 2019 Foreword Indies Gold Award in Thriller & Suspense and the Gold Medal and Juror's Choice in the 2019 National Indie Excellence Awards, among others. *Eden* (SWP 2017), her debut, won the Benjamin Franklin Silver Award for Best New Voice in Fiction and was a finalist for the Sarton Women's Book Award for Historical Fiction. A Smith College graduate, Jeanne is both a teacher of writing and a lifetime learner who serves on the boards of the Boston Book Festival and GrubStreet. She reviews contemporary fiction for the *New York Journal of Books* and was named a Southampton Writer's Conference BookEnds Fellow in April 2021. She splits her time between Park City, Utah, and a regenerative farm in Verona, Wisconsin.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 2, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-610-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-611-8

“With great sensitivity, Friedman uses her experience as a social worker and therapist to show how a rejecting mother and hidden childhood sexual trauma froze Klara’s heart and left her fearful of close relationships. I rejoiced as Klara gradually found purpose and love in this engrossing family saga that I could not put down.”

—Florence Reiss Kraut, author of *Street Corner Dreams* and *How to Make a Life*

KLARA'S TRUTH

A NOVEL

SUSAN WEISSBACH FRIEDMAN

DESCRIPTION:

It is May 2014, and Dr. Klara Lieberman—forty-nine, single, professor of archaeology at a small liberal arts college in Maine, a contained person living a contained life—has just received a letter from her estranged mother, Bessie, that will dramatically change her life. Her father, she learns—the man who has been absent from her life for the last forty-three years, and about whom she has long been desperate for information—is dead. Has been for many years, in fact, which Bessie clearly knew. But now the Polish government is giving financial reparations for land it stole from its Jewish citizens during WWII, and Bessie wants the money. Klara has little interest in the money—but she does want answers about her father. She flies to Warsaw, determined to learn more.

In Poland, Klara begins to piece together her father’s, and her own, story. She also connects with extended family, begins a romantic relationship, and discovers her calling: repairing the hundreds of forgotten, and mostly destroyed, pre-War Jewish cemeteries in Poland. Along the way, she becomes a more integrated, embodied, and interpersonally connected individual—one with the tools to make peace with her past and, for the first time in her life, build purposefully toward a bigger future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susan Weissbach Friedman is a psychotherapist with a specialty in women’s issues, family therapy, and trauma-focused therapy. A graduate of Hamilton College, Boston University’s MSW/MPH program, and the Ackerman Institute for Couples and Families, she has also completed EMDR and Somatic Experiencing (SE) training in trauma therapy techniques and has been a practicing clinician for more than twenty-five years. Originally from Long Island, she now lives in Westchester County, New York, where she enjoys practicing yoga and mindfulness, going for walks in nature, listening to music, and spending time near the ocean. Susan has been married to her husband for thirty years and has two daughters in their twenties. *Klara’s Truth* is her first novel.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 2, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-632-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-633-0

“Blackwildgirl encourages all of us to reclaim our superpowers and be change agents in life.”

—Katrina M. Adams, author of *Own the Arena* and former CEO of United States Tennis Association

BLACKWILDGIRL

A WRITER'S JOURNEY TO TAKE BACK HER SUPERPOWER

MENAH ADEOLA EYASIDE PRATT

DESCRIPTION:

Blackwildgirl begins her life as a queen superpower. When she is still a child, however, her parents strike a bargain that leads to her dethronement—and sets her on a forty-five-year journey to become the warrior she was born to be: Blackwildgoddess.

Join an interactive adventure exploring the private life and journals of a young Black girl, beginning at the age of eight, as she struggles and evolves from a tennis player, musician, and college student into a wife, mother, lawyer, scholar, and writer. Documenting revelations and reflections during her twelve-stage initiation journey in America and the African diaspora, this intimate, introspective autobiography—composed of acts, stages, scenes, and letters to Love—reveals how writing can unearth and give life to women's powerful, sassy, and willful spirits.

Authentic, vulnerable, and spirit-filled, this captivating and enthralling road map is a must-read for anyone who wants to understand the experiences of girls as they seek to become wild women—women who are fierce and fearless; women who are warriors for themselves and others; and women who are committed to excavating and cultivating their spiritual gardens to manifest and fulfill their destiny in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Menah Adeola Eyaside Pratt is a nationally recognized and award-winning author of four books on race, gender, and diversity, and the founder of the Faculty Women of Color in the Academy National Conference. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Normal, Illinois, she received a BA and MA from the University of Iowa and an MA, PhD, and JD from Vanderbilt University. She currently serves as Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity and as a professor of education at Virginia Tech. Pratt lives and works in Blacksburg, Virginia.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 2, 2024

Collections: Nonfiction, Workbook

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-713-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-633-0

“Once upon a time, Before time could be counted, Soft words were spoken, Then a song was sung, And a seed hearing those sounds followed them out, To become a part of the newness, To become a part of this warmth, To Become . . . to become, to become a journey into Girlhood. Menah Pratt follows That sound to That warmth to That possibility and invites us to travel with her.”

—Nikki Giovanni, poet

BLACKWILDGIRL COMPANION JOURNAL

FINDING YOUR SUPERPOWER

MENAH ADEOLA EYASIDE PRATT

DESCRIPTION:

Journal along, responding to prompts and questions as part of an interactive adventure exploring the private life and journals of Blackwildgirl, a young Black girl, beginning at the age of eight, as she struggles and evolves from a tennis player, musician, and college student into a wife, mother, lawyer, scholar, writer, and, eventually, into Blackwildgoddess. Use the journal to reflect on your own life to document revelations and reflections during each of the twelve stages of Blackwildgirl's initiation journey in America and the African diaspora. Explore how writing can unearth and give life to powerful, sassy, and willful spirits.

The memoir *Blackwildgirl*, along with this companion journal, allows readers to also become writers, excavating and cultivating the spiritual gardens of their lives and finding their superpower.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Menah Adeola Eyaside Pratt is a nationally recognized and award-winning author of four books on race, gender, and diversity, and the founder of the Faculty Women of Color in the Academy National Conference. Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, and raised in Normal, Illinois, she received a BA and MA from the University of Iowa and an MA, PhD, and JD from Vanderbilt University. She currently serves as Vice President for Strategic Affairs and Diversity and as a professor of education at Virginia Tech. Pratt lives and works in Blacksburg, Virginia.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 9, 2024

Collections: Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-614-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-615-6

“*[Kate’s]* journey is compelling, and readers are likely to empathize with her struggles and triumphs. With its well-developed characters, evocative writing, and exploration of universal themes, *Kate’s War* is likely to resonate with fans of historical fiction and anyone seeking a moving story of love and resilience during tumultuous times.”

—*Readers’ Favorite*, 5-star review

“... engagingly written historical drama.”

—*Kirkus Review*

KATE’S WAR

A NOVEL

LINDA HENLEY

DESCRIPTION:

Twenty-year-old Kate is poised to launch into a long-anticipated life of independence when Britain declares war in 1939. After that announcement, her dream of escaping the London suburb she grew up in and pursuing a singing career is quashed: she must stay put with her family and prepare for bombing and possible invasion by Germany.

Living in these anxious times, Kate strives to achieve balance in her life, though a speech disability interferes with her singing and a failed romance adds to her distress. But when a young Jewish girl whose parents have been deported comes to her for help, Kate’s goals change. Taking on a responsibility she never could have imagined, she learns that freedom and survival cannot be taken for granted—and as new responsibilities outweigh earlier aspirations, she learns that assisting others to escape unspeakable evil requires new perspective, as well as courage she didn’t know she had.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Stewart Henley was born in Liverpool, UK, and grew up in Surrey. She attended school in Carshalton, just south of London, before moving to the United States, where she completed her education. She is the author of two other novels, *Estelle* and *Waterbury Winter*. She lives in Anacortes, Washington, with her husband.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 9, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-616-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-617-0

“*No More Empty Spaces* is an excellent debut—straightforward and yet deceptively complex as it situates its multilayered narratives between the competing forces of nature, both human and geological, over time. Green’s depictions of the rugged and earthquake-prone Anatolian Mountain region of Turkey evoke a dangerously shifting landscape every bit as unstable and unpredictable as the broken American family that seeks to heal itself there.”

—James Anderson, author of *The Never-Open Desert Diner* and *Lullaby Road*

NO MORE EMPTY SPACES

A NOVEL

D.J. GREEN

DESCRIPTION:

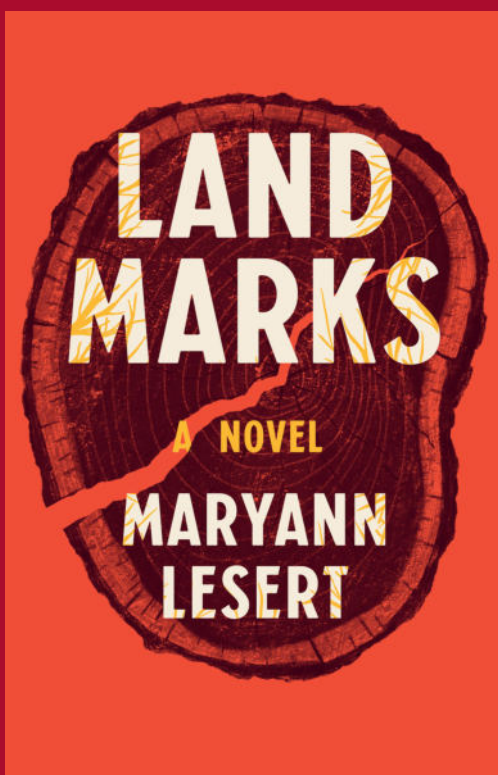
It’s 1973 and Will Ross, a divorced American geologist, has signed on to work on a troubled dam in a remote, rugged part of Turkey. He decides to take his children with him, but they think they’re only going for their usual two-week stint of shared custody, not to live there. Once in Turkey, Will struggles for control—of his family, his work, the landscape the dam is to be built on, and, ultimately, himself. Alongside these emotional conflicts, he, his children, and everyone else involved in the dam face powerful external forces—of erosion, dissolution, landslides, and earthquakes. Whether they let themselves see it or not, natural hazards impact their lives every day. And so do their intractable human natures. Science can help them understand those forces and engineering can help control them, but each character gradually comes to realize that the landscape they stand upon, and the landscapes of their lives, will shift and shake regardless of the choices they make. The question, then, is: how will they respond?

Timely and gripping, *No More Empty Spaces* will make you think about how you relate to yourself, your family, and the Earth and its ever-changing processes.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

D. J. Green is a writer, geologist, and sailor. *No More Empty Spaces* is her first novel. She lives near the Sandia Mountains in Placitas, New Mexico, and cruises the Salish Sea on her sailboat during the summers.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 16, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-646-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-647-7

“This book will make you feel alive. *Land Marks* puts the reader on the gritty front lines of activism as Rebecca Walton, Lesert’s unforgettable protagonist, and a committed band of activists risk it all to battle fracking on Michigan soil. The final pages had me weeping with joy.”

—Katy Yocom, author of *Three Ways to Disappear*, winner of the Siskiyou Prize for Environmental Literature

“. . . For tragically, this book is even more timely today than when it was selected as a 2021 Finalist for the Prism Prize for Climate Literature.”

—Gail Collins-Ranadive, author of *Dinosaur Dreaming, Our Climate Moment*

LAND MARKS

A NOVEL

MARYANN LESERT

DESCRIPTION:

Once you’ve experienced the devastation of fracking, nothing but stopping it makes sense. After a year of well site visits and protests, four college student activists become determined to protect the people and the places they love.

In the river-crossed northwoods of Michigan, Kate, Brett, Sonya, and Mark, mentored by their former professor Rebecca, keep watch as North American Energy (NorA) connects a corridor of frack well sites deep in the state forests. When NorA expands in unexpected directions and their awful, bigger plan becomes clear, the action begins.

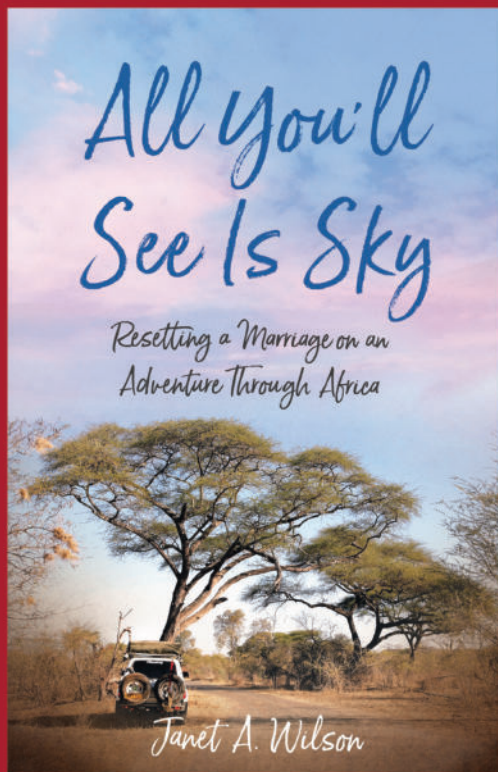
As grassroots activists gather and prepare to stop NorA’s dangerous superfrac, stresses other than the fracturing of the bedrock appear. Sonya is arrested, Rebecca reveals her hidden past, and the one person who knows both women’s stories arrives in camp. Love and solidarity want to win, even if most showdowns with Big Oil don’t end well for those who take a stand.

Suspenseful, poignant, and galvanizing, *Land Marks* is a tribute to the waterways that connect us, the land that sustains us, and the moments that inspire us to rise up together to say, “No more!”

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maryann Lesert writes about people and place in equal measure. Her first novel, *Base Ten* (Feminist Press, 2009), featured an astrophysicist’s quest for self among Lake Michigan’s forested dunes and the stars. *Land Marks* grew from two years of boots-on-well-sites research on fracking. Before novels, Maryann wrote plays, including three full-lengths, five one-acts, and collaborations with a memoirist and a local symphony. Maryann lives in west Michigan, where she teaches writing, enjoys time in the natural world (shared with family and friends), and writes by the big lake.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 16, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-644-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-645-3

ALL YOU'LL SEE IS SKY

RESETTING A MARRIAGE ON AN ADVENTURE
THROUGH AFRICA

JANET WILSON

DESCRIPTION:

Despite having everything she could ask for, Janet Wilson couldn't shake a sense of emptiness in her life—or her desire to return to the continent of her birth. After much back-and-forth, she and her husband reached an agreement: they would embark on a daring adventure, driving 25,000 miles across Africa. What they couldn't anticipate then was how this trip would challenge almost every belief, opinion, and value they held.

Over the course of their journey, Janet and her husband collided with the world and each other. There were tears and laughter. They shared thrilling highlights and challenges that forced them to negotiate and cooperate with one another. And after a heartbreaking tragedy and Janet's arrest, they made critical decisions that transformed their relationship, bringing them to a level of trust and commitment they had never before experienced. Ultimately, this led them to a deeper understanding about their place in the world—and each other's lives.

A suspenseful and emotional true account that explores themes of love, commitment, resilience, and the power of forgiveness in the face of adversity, *All You'll See Is Sky* is a memoir of a woman's transformation from brokenness to wholeness and a couple's transformation from breakdown to breakthrough.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Janet A. Wilson is a South Africa-born author and adventurer with a passion for Africa's wilderness, wildlife, and diverse cultures. She met her husband, Tom, during student anti-apartheid protests in South Africa, and they later immigrated to Canada with their sons in 1979. Together, they have completed three extensive overland travels, driving a total of over 50,000 miles around Africa as well as from Alaska to Argentina and around Europe. Janet has a degree in sociology and nursing and obtained her master's in health administration. She completed the Creative Nonfiction Certificate Course at Toronto's Humber School of Writers. She and Tom currently live in Calgary, Canada.

APRIL 2024

Mattie, Milo, and Me

a memoir



Anne Abel

Publication Date: April 23, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-622-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-623-1

"Mattie, Milo, and Me is a beautifully written testament to the journey of dog ownership. This memoir takes you on an emotional ride that anyone who has loved a pet can surely identify with. You'll laugh, cry, and want to hug your dog by the end. A must-read!"

—Gary and Allie Vider, owners of Metro Pets NYC

"Mattie, Milo and Me began as a winning story at a Moth StorySlam in New York City. In her five-minute story, Anne and her dog Milo captured the hearts of the audience. This is one of those books you won't want to put down, but also one you won't want to finish."

—Inga Glodowski, The Moth

MATTIE, MILO, AND ME

A MEMOIR

ANNE ABEL

DESCRIPTION:

Anne grew up in an abusive home, leading to severe depression and a determination to do better as a mother. One of her sons wants a dog from the time he is a baby; Anne very much does not. For years she appeases him with creatures who live in cages and tanks, but on his tenth birthday she can no longer say no—and she proceeds to fall in love with their new four-legged family member, Mattie. Then Mattie dies a sudden and tragic death, and Anne feels herself begin to sink back into depression.

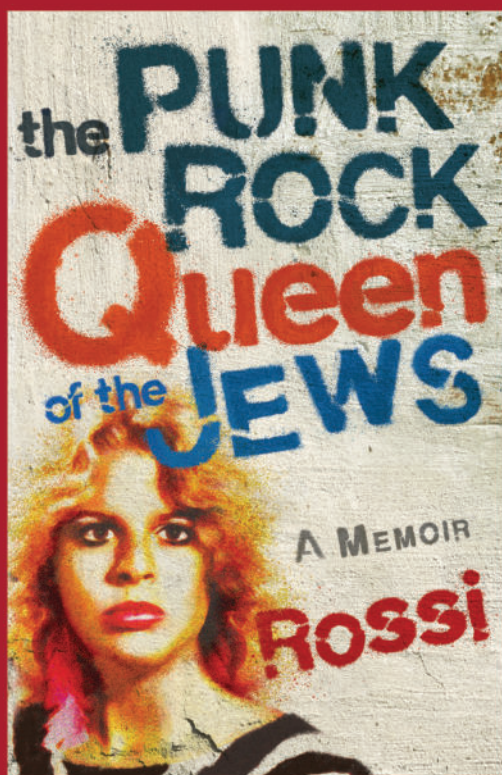
Trying to cope, she immediately adopts Milo—a dog who, unbeknownst to her, has already been returned to the rescue by several families due to his aggressive behavior. But even after she realizes Milo is dangerous, she's committed to trying to give him a chance at a good life.

Anne's journey takes the reader from dog school into the deep woods as she perseveres with Milo's lifelong rehabilitation and her unwavering efforts to be a good mother to her sons. Working with Milo strengthens Anne and expands her ability to love. Ten years later, when Milo dies, Anne faces another choice: close the door to that part of her heart, or risk loving another dog after two tragic losses?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Anne Abel's story about rescuing Milo, a wolfdog in sheepdog's fur, won a Moth StorySlam in New York City. She has won two additional Moth StorySlams in Chicago. Her credentials include an MFA from The New School for Social Research, an MBA from the University of Chicago, and a BS in chemical engineering from Tufts University. She has freelanced for *Lilith*; *Philadelphia Daily News*; *The Jewish Exponent*; *Philadelphia Weekly*, *Main Line Life* and *Main Line Today*, and formerly wrote a weekly column, "The Homefront," for *Main Line Welcomat*. Anne lives in New York City with her husband, Andy, and their three rescue dogs, Ryan, Megan, and Chase. She grew up outside Boston, MA.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 23, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-697-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-710-8

“I thought I'd heard everything until I read Rossi's memoir. It's a story of resilience, acceptance, food, love, chosen family, and the chosen people. What more could you want?”

—Judy Gold, comedian, actress, author, and two-time Emmy Award winner

“Chef Rossi's intensely personal recollection of Yom Kippur services, September 26, 2001, offers me—the rabbi who led them—a new perspective on an already unforgettable event. Rossi is a very special storyteller..”

—Rabbi Sharon Kleinbaum, Senior Rabbi, Congregation Beit Simchat Torah, world's largest LGBT synagogue

THE PUNK-ROCK QUEEN OF THE JEWS

A MEMOIR

ROSSI

DESCRIPTION:

Rossi has been taught only to aspire to marry a nice Jewish boy and to be a good kosher Jewish girl. At sixteen she flowers into a rebellious punk-rock rule-breaker who runs away to seek adventure. Her freedom is cut short when her parents kidnap her and dump her with a Chasidic rabbi—a “cult buster” known for “reforming” wayward Jewish girls—in Crown Heights, Brooklyn.

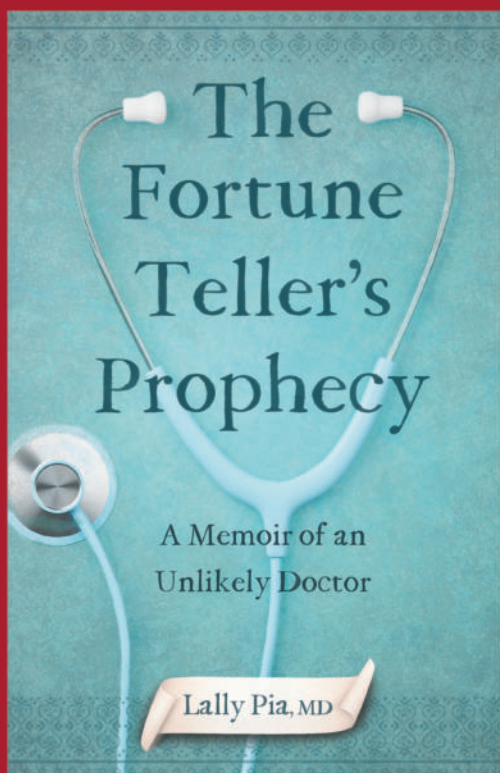
Rossi spends the next couple of years in a repressive, misogynistic culture straight out of the nineteenth century, forced to trade in her pink hair and Sex Pistols T-shirt for maxi skirts and long-sleeved blouses and endure not only bone-crushing boredom but also outright abuse and violence.

A wild, queer coming-of-age story, *The Punk-Rock Queen of the Jews* is filled with wonderfully rich characters, hilarious dialogue, and keen portraits of the secretive hothouse Orthodox world and the struggling New York City of the 1980s: dirty, on the edge, but fully vital and embracing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rossi has been published in outlets including *The Daily News*, *The New York Post*, *Time Out New York*, and *McSweeney's*, to name a few. She has been the food writer of the “Eat Me” column for *Bust* magazine since 1998, hosts her the hit radio show *Bite This* on WOMR and WFMR in Cape Cod (now in its nineteenth season), has been featured on The Food Network and NPR, and has been a popular blogger for *The Huffington Post*. Her first memoir, *The Raging Skillet: The True Life Story of Chef Rossi* was published by The Feminist Press to rave reviews. In addition to memoir, Rossi has written two full-length plays and several short plays.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 30, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-711-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-712-2

“Lally Pia is an extraordinary writer who has led many extraordinary lives and has written an extraordinary book about several of them. An exile, immigrant, friend to cadavers, and a doctor of doctors, this extraordinary human’s story is full of light, dark, inspiration, and love. You must read it.”

—David Henry Sterry, author of *Chicken*

THE FORTUNE TELLER’S PROPHECY

A MEMOIR OF AN UNLIKELY DOCTOR

LALLY PIA

DESCRIPTION:

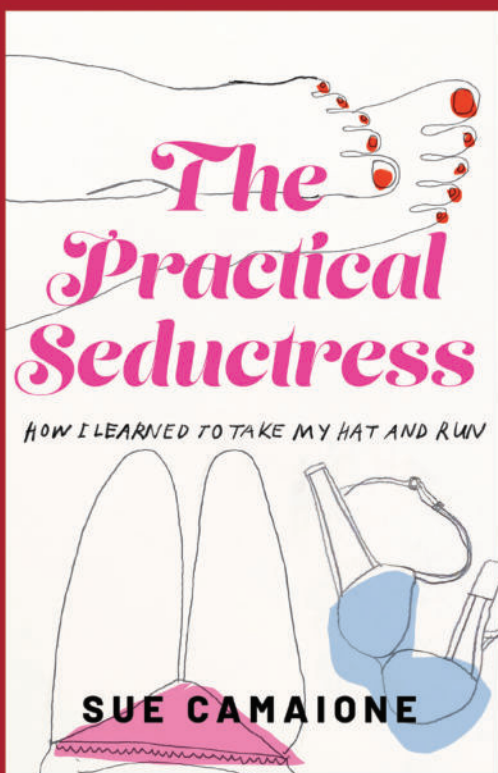
When a military coup in Ghana leads to the abrupt closure of Lally Pia’s medical school, she is left stranded there, thousands of miles away from her family in California, with no educational prospects or money. Adding to her turmoil is her discovery that her American Green Card has been botched, which means she has no country to call home. A Sri Lankan priest told Lally’s father that she would one day become a “Doctor of Doctors”—but given her current predicament, that outcome seems laughably unlikely.

This sizzling multicultural roller coaster illustrates the power of self-determination as Lally, a young immigrant with a drive to succeed, takes on obstacle after obstacle—an abusive relationship, the welfare state, and a gruesome job where she has to dismember human bodies—in order to fulfill her dreams. A story that will resonate with anyone who has faced cultural and immigration hardships, *The Fortune Teller’s Prophecy* is a nail-biting journey across continents, through hardships, and into ultimate triumph.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lally Pia was born in Sri Lanka, grew up in Ghana, and made it halfway through medical school before political turmoil closed down her university and she learned that her American Green Card had been bungled. She went on to work as a church organist, teacher, and ice cream decorator, as well as a scientist in a molecular biology lab. Her next stint was as the director of UC Davis’s Body Donation Program, where she embalmed cadavers and maintained a freezer full of human specimens (a thankless job that she was glad to leave after three years). Lally is a mother, grandmother, and child psychiatrist who lives in Davis, California, with her husband, Tim.

APRIL 2024



Publication Date: April 30, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-624-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-625-5

THE PRACTICAL SEDUCTRESS

HOW I LEARNED TO TAKE MY HAT AND RUN

SUE CAMAIONE

DESCRIPTION:

In this sexually charged memoir, Sue Camaione sets off on a rebellious course to make her way as a young woman determined to live on her own terms despite societal mores.

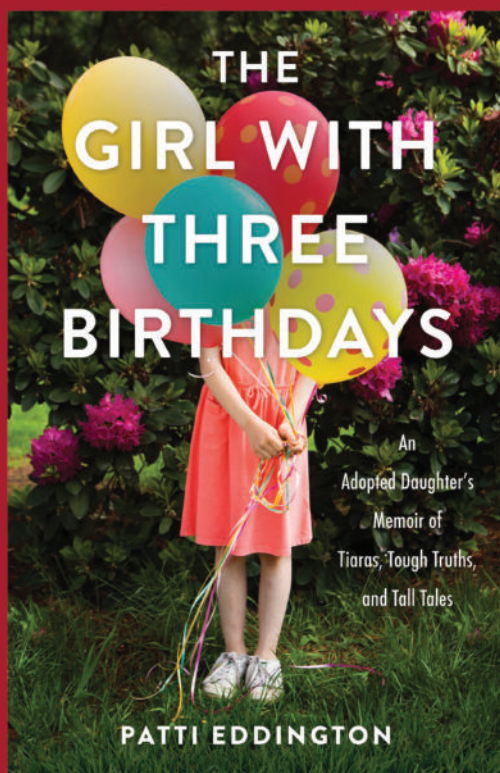
Full of a precocious curiosity about sexuality, Sue questions her religious education, challenges her school dress code, sets herself on a quest to lose her virginity, and, as she grows older, encounters challenges that at times leave her broke, sick, and homeless. She flees upstate New York, embarking on romantic adventures across the country. She discovers orgasmic joy in the Rocky Mountains, falls in love in Tucson, struggles with open marriage in San Diego, and explores forbidden intimacy in the arms of a Chilean graduate student in Boston. These experiences, men, places, and friendships transform her.

Both a coming-of-age story and a depiction of an era, *The Practical Seductress* exposes the gender double standard and the dangers and joys of sexual freedom that defined the 1970s and '80s. Filled with humor and learned wisdom, this is a story of desire and survival, navigating treacherous and unpredictable paths, defying social norms, and finding redemption.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sue Camaione has spent her professional life working as an education reporter, publications creative manager, and proposal writer focused on health research. Two of the chapters from *The Practical Seductress* were originally presented to Washington DC–area audiences at the Story Fest Short Slam storytelling contest, in which she won second place. Sue is a member of The Writers Center in Bethesda, Maryland, where she resides. In addition to performing in area storytelling competitions, she is penning the second book of her trilogy of memoirs and learning to play drums. She is also a literacy mentor to area students, hoping to foster a new generation of writers. Sue's sharp-tongued suffragette grandmother was her inspiration for writing *The Practical Seductress*.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 7, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-650-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-651-4

THE GIRL WITH THREE BIRTHDAYS

AN ADOPTED DAUGHTER'S MEMOIR OF TIARAS, TOUGH TRUTHS, AND TALL TALES

PATTI EDDINGTON

DESCRIPTION:

Patti Eddington always knew she was adopted, and her beloved parents seemed amenable enough to questions—but she never wanted to hurt them by expressing curiosity, so she didn't. The story of her mother cutting off and dyeing her hair when she was a toddler? She thought it was eccentric and funny, nothing more. When she discovered at fifteen that her birthday wasn't actually her birthday? She believed it when her mother said she'd changed it to protect her from the "nosy old biddies" who might try to discover her identity.

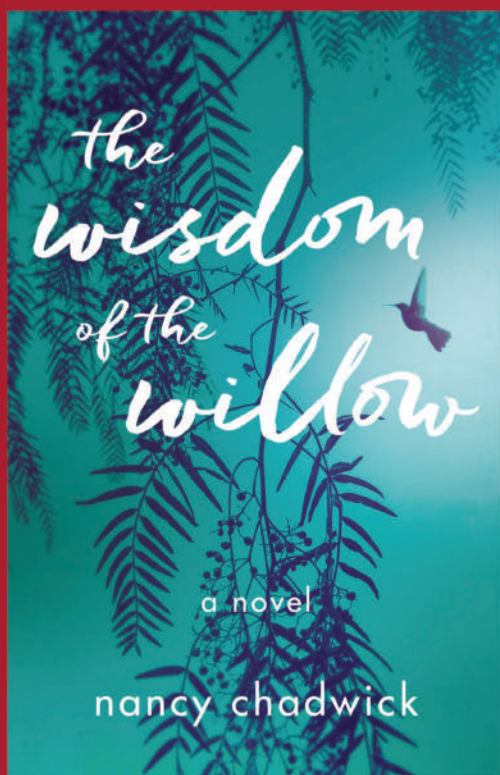
It wasn't until decades later, when a genealogy test led Patti to her biological family (including an aunt with a shocking story) and the discovery of yet another birthday, that she really began to integrate what she thought she knew about her origins. Determined to know the truth, she finally petitioned a court to unseal records that had been locked up for almost sixty years—and began to put the pieces of her past together, bit by painstaking bit.

Framed by a brief but poignant 1963 "Report of Investigation" based on a caseworker's one-day visit to Patti's childhood home, *The Girl With Three Birthdays* tells the story of an adoptee who always believed she was the answer to a couple's seventeen-year journey to become parents, until a manila envelope from a rural county court arrived and caused her to question . . . everything.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patti Eddington is a newspaper and magazine journalist whose favorite job ever was interviewing the famous authors who came through town on book tours. She never dreamed of writing about her life because she was too busy helping build her husband's veterinary practice, caring for her animal-obsessed daughter—whose favorite childhood toy was an inflatable tick—and learning to tap dance. Then fate, and a DNA test, led her to a story she felt compelled to tell. Today, the mid-century modern design enthusiast and former dance teacher enjoys being dragged on walks by her ridiculous three-legged dog, David, and watching the egrets and bald eagles from her deck on a beautiful bayou in Spring Lake, Michigan.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 7, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-652-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-653-8

“A quartet of sisters grows into four strong and deeply individual women, rooted in the steady love of their parents and a childhood yard anchored by a weeping willow tree. *The Wisdom of the Willow* is satisfyingly redemptive tale, well told.”

—Susan Tweit, author of *Bless the Birds*,
Living with Love in a Time of Dying

THE WISDOM OF THE WILLOW

A NOVEL

NANCY CHADWICK

DESCRIPTION:

In the backyard of Margaret and Joe Dowling's new house in the north suburbs of Chicago, Joe plants a young willow tree as a symbol of home, belonging, and growth. As the years pass, the willow becomes a place for Margaret to share life's wisdom with their four young daughters.

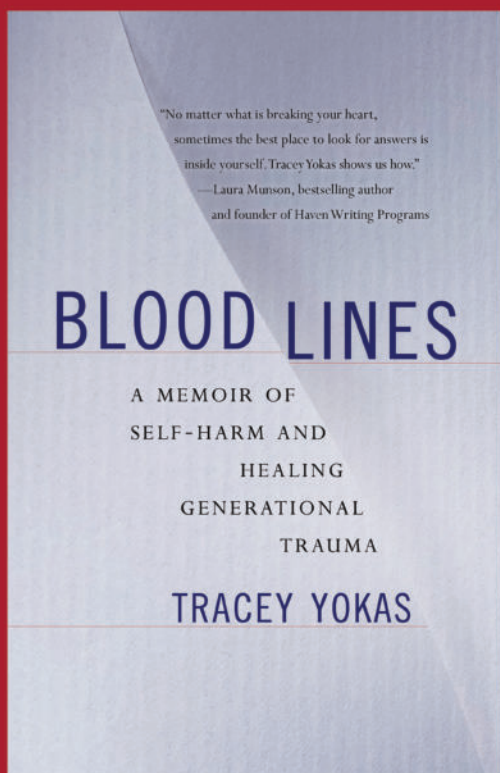
Years after leaving the nest, now in their early forties, the Dowling women find themselves faced with changes that will define their lives. Debra, the oldest, is shattered when she is asked for a divorce. Rose, who has long hidden her true self, finally begins to evaluate her pattern of being in uncommitted relationships. Linney fears losing Magnolia, the magical shop where she works. Charlotte, the youngest, is the only one who knows their mother is terminally ill, and has been charged by her with keeping it a secret. And Margaret, now faced with the greatest of challenges and struggling with whether she has done enough to help her daughters find their way in life, calls them all to the family home to reunite under the willow one last time.

A metaphorically rich and reflective tale of sisterhood and strength, *The Wisdom of the Willow* is a story of hope and healing, of the choices that shape our lives, and the challenges we all face as we seek to find our places in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Nancy Chadwick grew up in a northern suburb of Chicago. She got her first job at Leo Burnett advertising agency in Chicago. After a decade there, and another decade in corporate banking, she quit and began to write full time, finding inspiration from her years living in Chicago and in San Francisco. Her essays have appeared in *The Magic of Memoir: Inspiration for the Writing Journey*, *Adelaide Literary Magazine*, *Turning Points – The Art of Friction*, blogs by Off Campus Writers' Workshop, the Chicago Writers Association Write City, and *Brevity*. She and her husband reside in a northern suburb of Chicago.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 7, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-345-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-346-9

“This book will help parents who are navigating their child’s mental health crisis know that they’re not alone . . . but it also illuminates this fact: no matter what is breaking your heart, sometimes the best place to look for answers is inside yourself. Tracey Yokas shows us how.”

—Laura Munson, *New York Times* and *USA Today* best-selling author of *Willa’s Grove* and founder of Haven Writing Programs

BLOODLINES

A MEMOIR OF HARM AND HEALING

TRACEY YOKAS

DESCRIPTION:

It should have been Tracey Yokas’s time to heal. With the recent death of her mother, she was given a brand-new chance to redefine herself and her happiness on her own terms. But just as she prepares herself to spread her wings, Tracey discovers that her only child, Faith, is battling issues of her own—carrying forward the legacy of disordered eating, depression, and self-harm Tracey is so desperate to leave behind.

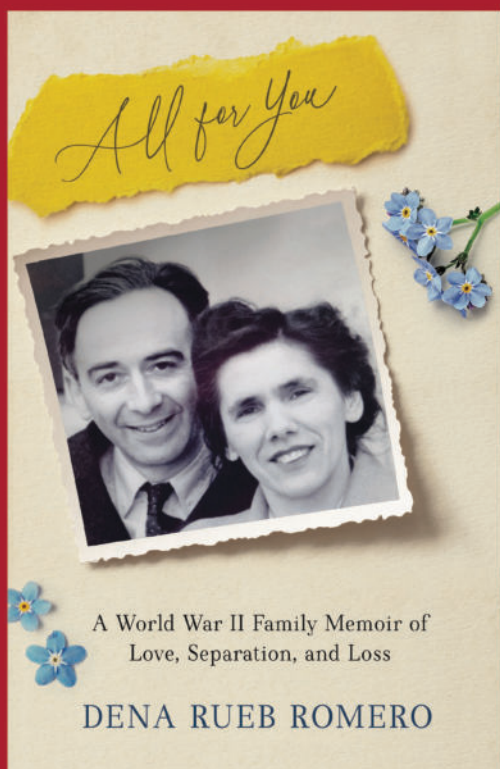
Tracey is determined to save her daughter, but she has no idea how to reach her—and as their fragile family navigates a medical system and a societal fabric that fails innumerable families in need, she and Faith become near strangers to each other. Ultimately, it’s only when Tracey begins the hard work of standing up to her own history of rejection, low self-esteem, and longing does healing—for both mother and daughter—become possible.

Carrying a message made urgent by the epidemic of mental health challenges now besetting millions of American teens each year, *Bloodlines* is a story about how waking up to the power of love can allow us to reimagine the past—and fortify the present.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Tracey Yokas creates stuff. When she isn’t writing about mental health and wellness, she can be found playing with paint, glitter, and glue. She shares about her family’s journey with mental illness so others will know they are not alone. She is dedicated to supporting women in the journey toward authenticity and fulfills her mission by creating safe spaces where art, words, and vulnerability meet in dynamic community. Tracey earned her master’s degree in counseling psychology from California Lutheran University and lives in Newbury Park, CA, with her family. You can find her on Facebook (@traceyyokascreates), Instagram (@traceyyokas), and on her website, www.traceyyokascreates.com.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 7, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-654-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-655-2

“*All for You* is deeply researched and heartfelt story of Romero’s parents’ journey out of Nazi Germany in the late 1930s. Neatly embedding her own family story within the wider historical context of World War II, Romero has written a truly unusual and powerful book that shows how every Holocaust story is unique.”

—Dr. Phyllis Deutsch, PhD, lecturer at Dartmouth College and former editor-in-chief of University Press of New England

ALL FOR YOU

A WORLD WAR II FAMILY MEMOIR OF LOVE, SEPARATION, AND LOSS

DENA RUEB ROMERO

DESCRIPTION:

Emil, a Jewish man in 1930s Germany, loves Deta, a Lutheran, but Nazi racial purity laws forbid their marriage. Desperate to find a place where their love can survive, they must separate to get away. Deta leaves for England, but Emil has to overcome red tape, resistance from his aging parents, and his own ambivalence before he can finally embark for America. Once there, he does all he can to bring his beloved and his family to America, with only telegrams and letters from Deta to sustain him. But the clock is ticking as the war breaks out and the Nazis tighten their stranglehold.

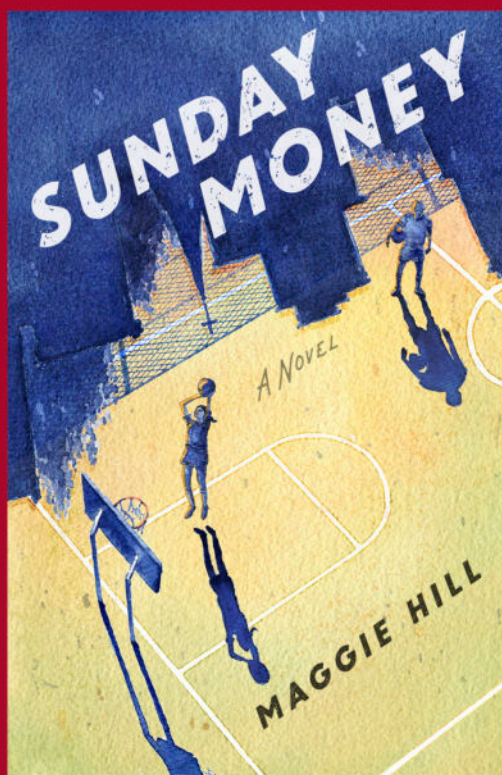
From the heartbreaking news of November 10, 1938—Kristallnacht—to the horrific revelations after the German surrender in 1945, Emil’s story runs the course of the war. Can he make his way in this new world? Will he be reunited with his beloved Deta? And will he ever see his family again?

Told by Emil’s daughter with the help of letters and historical documents, *All for You* is a true story about love overcoming despair and the impact the Holocaust continues to have on the rising generation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dena Rueb Romero grew up in Hanover, New Hampshire, the daughter of a Lutheran mother and a Jewish father, both refugees from Nazi Germany. She graduated from Brandeis University and received an MA in English from the University of Virginia and an MSW from Boston College Graduate School of Social Work. Her previous publications include Gretel’s Albums, a collaborative bilingual internet project with researcher Bernhild Voegel (www.birdstage.net/kleeblatt), and an essay about German citizenship in *A Place They Called Home: Reclaiming Citizenship, Stories of a New Jewish Return to Germany*. *All for You* is her first full-length book. Dena still lives in Hanover, where she sings in a women’s chorus, volunteers at a daycare center, and works with a recently arrived refugee family.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 14, 2024

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-656-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-657-6

SUNDAY MONEY

A NOVEL

MAGGIE HILL

DESCRIPTION:

It's 1971, but for Claire Joyce and girls' basketball, it might as well be 1871. Stilted rules (three-bounce dribbling, two roving players for full-court games, and uniforms that include bloomers) set their play unfairly apart from the boys' basketball Claire's older brother John has trained her in.

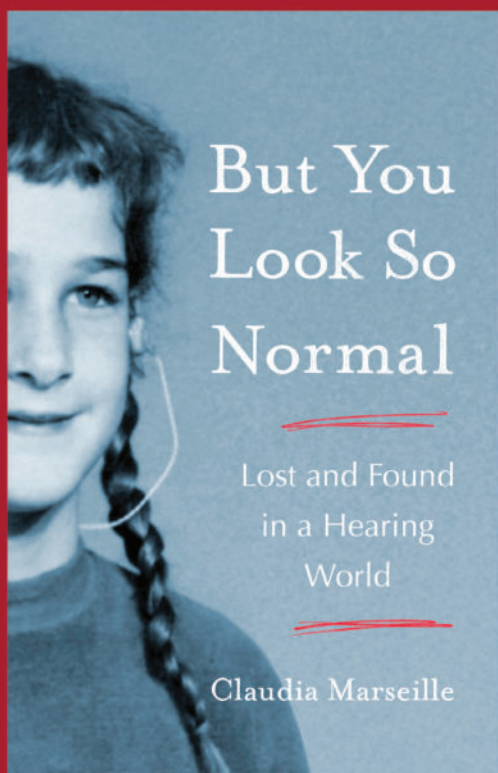
Basketball is the only constant in Claire life, and as she enters her teen years the skills she's cultivated on the court—passing, shooting, and faking—help her guard against the chaos of an alcoholic mother, an increasingly violent younger brother, and the downward spiral her beloved John soon finds himself unable to climb out of. Deeply cut from the cloth of the Catholic Church, Brooklyn's working class, and the limited expectations her world has for girls, Claire strives to find a mirror that might reflect a different, future self. Then Title IX bounces onto the scene. Suddenly, girls' basketball becomes explosive, musical, passionate, and driven—and if Claire plays it just right, it just might offer a full ride to a previously out-of-reach college.

Sunday Money follows Claire as she narrates her way through 1970s Brooklyn, hustling on and off the court and striving to break free of the turmoil in her home and the rulebook "good" girls are supposed to follow.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maggie Hill's essays and non-fiction pieces have been published in *The New York Times*, *The New York Daily News*, and *Scholastic* professional magazines. Current publications include *Lakeshore Literary Review*, *Cleaver Lit Mag*, *Embark Literary*, and *Persimmon Tree*. She has been the recipient of several artist fellowships and residences, including Yaddo, Ragdale, and Prospect Street. *Sunday Money* is her first novel. Maggie resides in Rockaway Beach, New York.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 14, 2024

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-626-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-627-9

“But You Look So Normal is a triumphant, encouraging coming-of-age story for those who have faced the challenges of living with a disability and an eye-opening read for those who have not. It is a heart-rending story but also an account of fortitude and success.”

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

BUT YOU LOOK SO NORMAL

LOST AND FOUND IN A HEARING WORLD

CLAUDIA MARSEILLE

DESCRIPTION:

By age four, Claudia Marseille had hardly uttered a word. When her parents finally had her hearing tested and learned she had a severe hearing loss, they chose to mainstream her, hoping this would offer her the most “normal” childhood possible. With the help of a primitive hearing aid, Claudia worked hard to learn to hear, lipread, and speak even as she tried to hide her disability in order to fit in. As a result, she was often misunderstood, lonely, and isolated—fitting into neither the hearing world nor the Deaf culture.

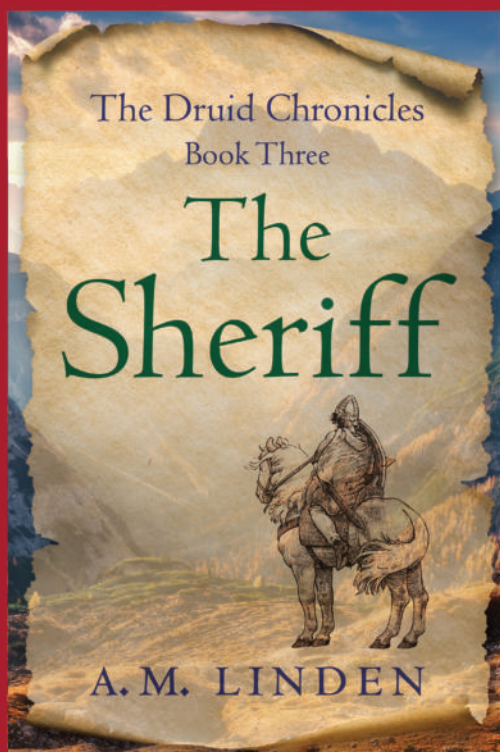
This memoir explores Claudia’s relationships with her German refugee parents—a disturbed, psychoanalyst father obsessed over various harebrained projects and moneymaking schemes and a Jewish mother who had survived the Holocaust in Munich—and with her own identity. Claudia shares how she emerged from loneliness and social isolation, explored her Jewish identity, struggled to find a career compatible with hearing loss, and eventually opened herself to a life of creativity and love.

But You Look So Normal is the inspiring story of a life affected but not defined by an invisible disability. It is a journey through family, loss, shame, identity, love, and healing as Claudia finally, joyfully, finds her place in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

After earning master’s degrees in archaeology and in public policy, and finally an MFA, Claudia Marseille developed a career in photography and painting, a profession compatible with a hearing loss. She ran a fine art portrait photography studio for fifteen years before becoming a full-time painter; her paintings are now represented by a gallery in Mill Valley, California. In her free time Claudia loves to read, watch movies, travel, spend time with friends, attend concerts and art exhibits, and play classical piano. Learn more about her art at www.claudiamarseille.com and more about her writing at www.claudiamarseilleauthor.com. She and her husband live in Oakland, California, and have one grown daughter.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 14, 2024

Collections: YA Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-628-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-629-3

THE SHERIFF

THE DRUID CHRONICLES, BOOK THREE

A.M. LINDEN

DESCRIPTION:

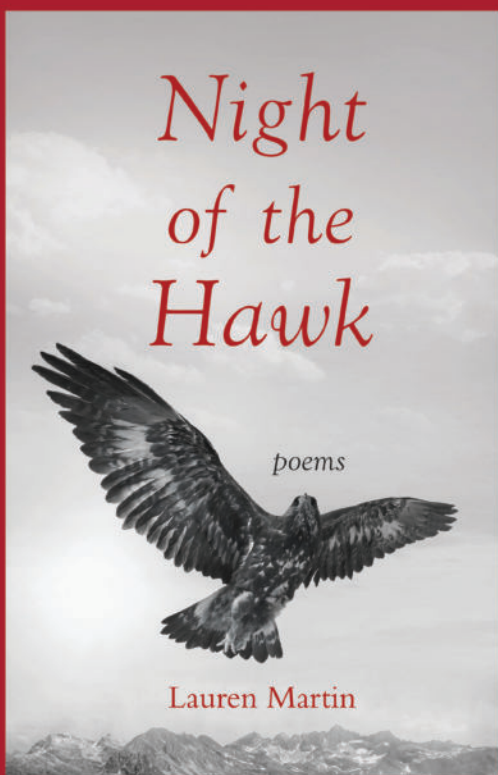
Success as a warrior is one of the few paths to advancement in early medieval Britain and Stefan, a young Saxon peasant, has fought his way up to the rank of captain, serving under an earl who in turn serves the king of Atheldom. Returning from a series of hard-won battles, he hopes for further promotion. Instead, his command is taken from him and given to a better-born rival, while he is sent off to serve as the sheriff of an impoverished shire in the furthest corner of the kingdom.

Stefan arrives in Codswallow to learn that, between marauding brigands, corrupt local officials, and a hostile populace, no sheriff has stayed longer than a single season. Determined to defeat the outlaws and gain control over the shire, Stefan forms an alliance with the keeper of the shire's inn, a Briton with a mysterious past, but is frustrated to find that even with that clandestine aid his efforts are stymied. When he is summoned to join the search for Princess Aleswina, the betrothed bride of the king of a neighboring realm, he jumps at what he sees as his chance to get an army command back—only to be drawn into the web of intrigue that lies behind the princess's disappearance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ann Margaret Linden has undergraduate degrees in anthropology and in nursing and a master's degree as a nurse practitioner. After working in a variety of acute care and community health settings, she began working with a program for children with special health care needs. The Druid Chronicles began as a somewhat whimsical decision to write a tongue-in-cheek historical murder mystery involving Druids and early medieval Christians, but evolved into this multi-book series. Prior to her retirement, this remained an after-hours endeavor that included taking adult education creative writing courses and researching early British history, and was augmented with travel to England, Scotland, and Wales. The author lives with her husband and their cat and dog in Bellingham, Washington, where she is currently completing the final draft of the last book in this series.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 14, 2024

Collections: Poetry

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-658-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-659-0

“Lauren’s poems drop into your psyche and ripple outward, echoing in the moments of life. Their beauty haunts. She explores both all-too-human realities and spiritual aspirations. The Visible and Invisible reflecting one another. The surface and the depths. The sacred and the vile. In the interaction of the poles of these paradoxes, the mystical mind emerges and is drawn out in daily experience.”

—Sallie Ann Glassman, Head Manbo Asogwe,
La Source Ancienne Ounfo

NIGHT OF THE HAWK

POEMS

LAUREN MARTIN

DESCRIPTION:

When I have wandered long enough, what am I still beholden to?

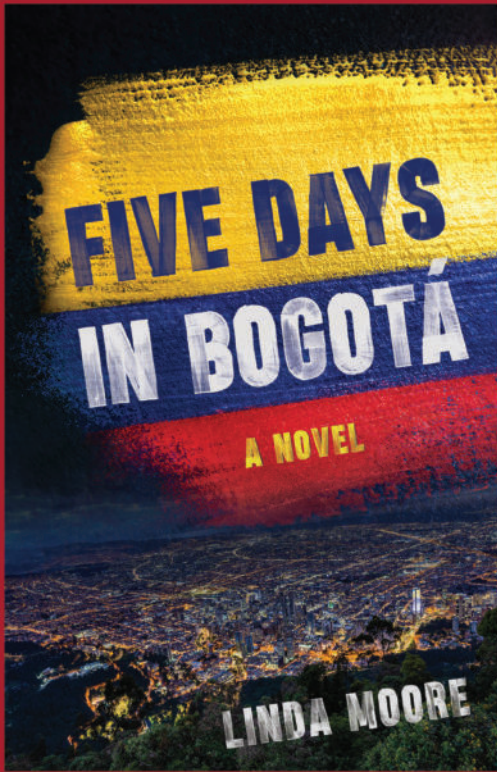
Ifá. Nature. Illness. Love. Loss. Misogyny. Aging. Africa. Our wounded planet. In this sweeping yet intensely personal collection, Lauren Martin tells the untold stories of the marginalized, the abused, the ill, the disabled—the different. Inspired by her life’s experiences, including the isolation she has suffered as a result both of living with chronic illness and having devoted herself to a religion outside the mainstream, these poems explore with raw vulnerability and unflinching honesty what it is to live apart—even as one yearns for connection.

But *Night of the Hawk* is no lament; it is powerful, reverential, sometimes humorous, often defiant—“*Oh heat me and fill me / I rise above lines*”—and full of wisdom. Visceral and stirring, the poems in this collection touch on vastly disparate subjects but are ultimately unified in a singular quest: to inspire those who read them toward kindness, compassion, and questioning.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lauren Martin is a psychotherapist, poet, and devoted Ìyânífá. She studied poetry at Sarah Lawrence College. She spent years writing without submitting her work due to a long shamanic journey that led her to both Ifá and the writing of this collection of poems. Lauren lives in Oakland, California.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 14, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-612-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-613-2

“Love thrillers? Me, too, and Linda Moore’s whip-smart *Five Days in Bogotá* adds extra ammunition to the genre, with a feisty art . . . heroine on the verge of bankruptcy who has to thwart art fraud, [a] nefarious ex-boyfriend, and even drug lords in order to keep her family safe. A hold-your-breath read about what we do for love—of family and of art.”

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times*
best-selling author of *Pictures of You* and
With or Without You

FIVE DAYS IN BOGOTÁ

A NOVEL

LINDA MOORE

DESCRIPTION:

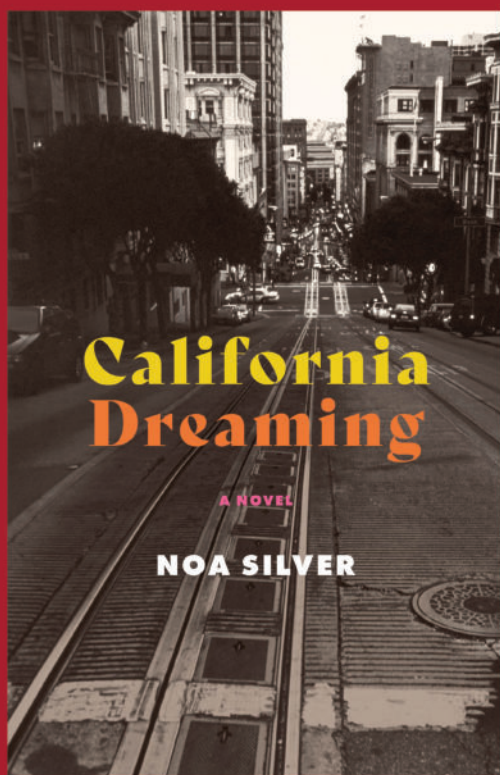
A fast-paced art thriller in the spirit of Gabriel Allon from the Daniel Silva thriller series and Laura Dave’s *The Last Thing He Told Me*.

Ally Blake risks everything to exhibit at an art fair in Bogotá in 1990. She needs to meet wealthy collectors to boost her gallery’s sales and save her family from bankruptcy. When she discovers her art crates have been tampered with and two paintings worth millions—that do not belong to her gallery—have been placed inside, her plans unravel. Chief among her problems is US Political Attaché David Martinez, an ex-boyfriend and former colleague from her posting with the State Department in Santiago, who is attempting to drag her into a scheme to sell paintings seized from drug lords at an art auction and use the proceeds to fund a war Congress will not approve. After refusing, Ally devises a strategy to thwart their fraud, protect her children, and secure her family’s future—but pulling it off will require her to make the art deal of a lifetime.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Moore is an author, traveler, and recovering gallery owner. Her gallery featured contemporary artists from Latin America, Spain, and the United States and she has exhibited at numerous art fairs, including in Bogotá, Buenos Aires, and Madrid. *Attribution*, her debut novel, was an IBPA finalist in Ben Franklin Awards for General Fiction, Eric Hoffer honorable mention winner in General Fiction, on the 2022 Sarton Book Awards Short List in Contemporary Fiction, winner of Somerset Award in Literary and Contemporary Fiction, and a 2022 International Book Awards finalist in Best New Fiction, among other distinctions. She has published award-winning exhibition catalogs and her writing has appeared in art journals and anthologies. She resides with her book-collecting husband in San Diego and is working hard on her next novel in their vacation cottage on Kauai.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 21, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-660-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-661-3

“A splendid debut novel—confessional, engaging, honest. I very much look forward to reading more from this writer.”

—Lynn Freed, author of *The Romance of Elsewhere*

CALIFORNIA DREAMING

A NOVEL

NOA SILVER

DESCRIPTION:

Having grown up on stories of her mother’s wild youth in California, Elena Berg relocates from New England to the Bay Area in 2011 for a placement as an English teacher with Teach for America. Once there, she is eager to inspire a love of poetry and literature in her diverse but underprivileged students. Her own grandfather—a Holocaust survivor—was a storyteller and teacher who touched the lives of his students for years to come. Elena’s mother followed in his footsteps, leaving behind the hippie lifestyle of her twenties to become a university professor.

But Elena quickly finds herself feeling disconnected from teaching, unable to inspire her students, and before long, she grows disillusioned with her career. She quits teaching and transitions to a role in an education technology startup—though she questions her decision, her motivations, and her values.

Coming of age between the Occupy and #MeToo movements and against the backdrop of the 2016 election and California’s ever-worsening fire season, Elena reckons with California as she imagined it and California as it really is. As she does so, she must also ultimately reconcile the person she envisioned herself to be with the person she actually is.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Noa Silver was born in Jerusalem and raised between Scotland and Maine. After receiving her BA in English and American literature and language from Harvard University, Noa lived and taught English as a Second Language on Namdrik—part of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the smallest inhabited atoll in the world. She later completed her MFA in creative writing from San Francisco State University and then worked as an editor on various oral history projects, ranging from an archive documenting the Partition of India and Pakistan to a cancer researcher telling the stories of trauma experienced by cancer survivors. Noa lives in Berkeley, California, with her husband, Jack, and their two daughters, Alma and Leila.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 21, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-630-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-631-6

“When Skies Are Gray is a beautiful memoir about a mother’s love for her children, despite the unpredictability and heartbreak that is associated with motherhood more often than we like to think. With candor, Lindsey Henke takes us on a journey of joy and grief, showing us how life, and particularly motherhood, is often lived between the two.”

—Jenny Albers, author of *Courageously Expecting: 30 Days of Encouragement for Pregnancy After Loss*

WHEN SKIES ARE GRAY

A GRIEVING MOTHER’S LULLABY

LINDSEY M. HENKE

DESCRIPTION:

Lindsey Henke is freshly married and a newly practicing psychotherapist when she finds out she is pregnant with her first child. Nine months later, on a cold Minnesota night in December 2012, after a perfect pregnancy, Lindsey goes into labor—only to be told upon arrival at the hospital that her baby has no heartbeat.

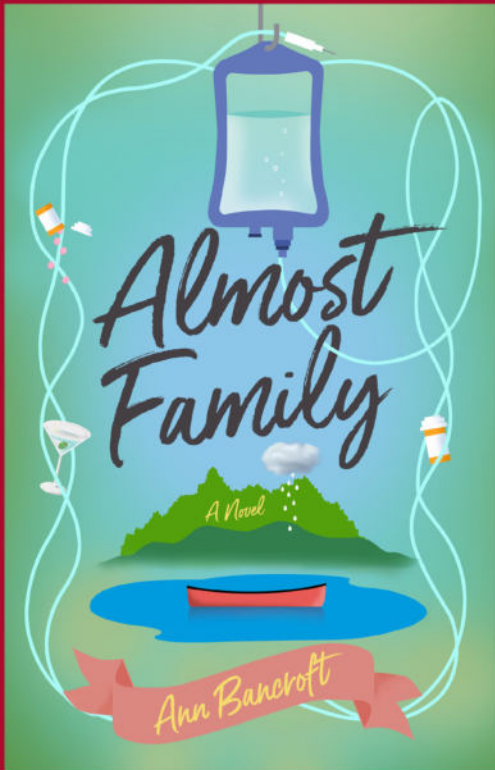
After the stillbirth of her daughter, Lindsey grapples with the unbearable agony of losing a child. Unprepared to cope with a sorrow this deep, she uses the only tools she has—her skills as a therapist—to plot her own path through grief. Over the next year and half, as she mourns the loss of one child while simultaneously trying to hold space for the joy of expecting another baby, she learns that grief can live side by side with joy.

When Skies Are Gray offers a poignant message to any mother who is grieving: Your pain is real. The sharp ache of the grief you feel will soften over time, though your love for the child you lost will always remain. And it’s okay to feel that love; it’s a mother’s love, and like lullabies, a mother’s love never dies.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lindsey M. Henke is a licensed clinical social worker and psychotherapist specializing in the grief that accompanies life transitions. She founded Pregnancy After Loss Support (PALS), a nonprofit for parents who become pregnant after a previous perinatal loss or infant death. Her writing has been featured on TODAY.com and in *Pregnancy and Newborn magazine*, *Huffington Post*, and *The New York Times*. Lindsey enjoys hiking with her two living children and husband. She lives in Minneapolis, Minnesota, where during winter she can usually be found with her nose in a book.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 28, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-666-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-667-5

ALMOST FAMILY

A NOVEL

ANN BANCROFT

DESCRIPTION:

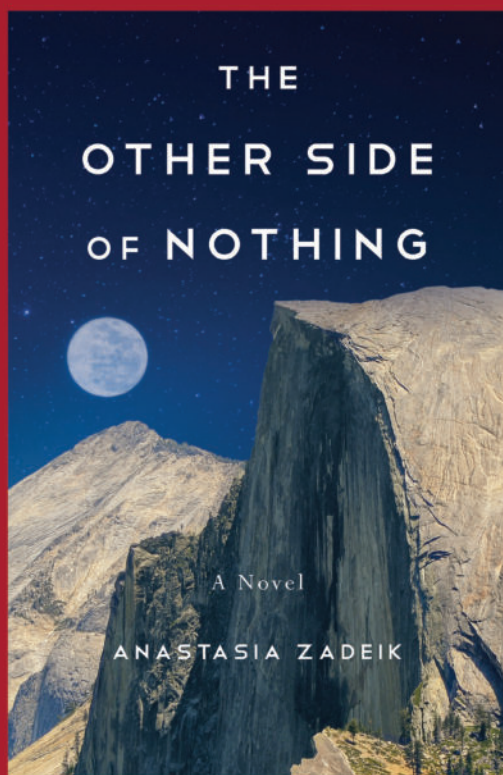
Liz Millanova has stage four cancer, a grown daughter who doesn't speak to her, and obsessive memories of a relationship that tore apart her marriage. She thinks of herself as someone who'd rather die than sit through a support group, but now that she actually is going to die, she figures she might as well give it a go.

Mercy's Thriving Survivors is a hospital-sponsored group held in a presumably less depressing location: a Nordstrom's employee training lounge. There, Liz hits it off with two other patients, and the three unlikely friends decide to ditch the group and meet on their own. They call themselves the Oakland Mets, and their goal is to enjoy life while they can. Together, Dave, a gay Vietnam vet, Rhonda, a devout, nice woman who's hiding a family secret and finds peace in a gospel choir, and snarky Liz plan outings to hear jazz, enjoy nature, and tour Alcatraz. In the odd intimacy they form, Liz learns to open up and get close, acknowledge and let go of the dysfunction in her marriage, and repair her relationship with her daughter. They joined forces to have a good time—but what they wind up doing is helping one another come to grips with terminal cancer and resolve the unfinished business in their lives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ann Bancroft was an Army brat who settled in Sacramento as an adult after attending ten schools in seven cities and four states. As a reporter, she worked in the State Capitol bureaus of the San Francisco Chronicle and the Associated Press. An alumni of the Community of Writers, the Tomales Bay Writers Workshops, and Everwood Farmstead artist's residency, she has ghostwritten two nonfiction books and was the cowriter, with Father Dan Madigan, of *Many Hands, Many Miracles*. She's written personal essays for the former *Open Salon* and *Cure Magazine*, and her writing has appeared twice in *A Year in Ink*, the annual anthology of San Diego Writers, Ink. *Almost Family* is her debut novel, published at age seventy-one. Ann and her husband split their time between Sacramento and Coronado, California.

MAY 2024



Publication Date: May 28, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-668-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-669-9

“In this profound story of love and loss, Anastasia Zadeik tackles the complexities of mental health from every angle and perspective, taking readers on an unforgettable journey that explores what we can and cannot control. Moving, insightful, and deeply compassionate, *The Other Side of Nothing* is a remarkable and important read.”

—J. J. Elliott, author of *There Are No Rules for This*

THE OTHER SIDE OF NOTHING

A NOVEL

ANASTASIA ZADEIK

DESCRIPTION:

At seventeen, talented young artist Julia Reeves loses her father, her *raison d'être*, and her inspiration. Her world goes dark with grief and guilt.

The day after she turns eighteen, Julia checks into an inpatient psychiatric facility, looking for answers to life's most challenging questions. There, she finds Sam Lorenzo, another patient who attempted suicide. A brilliant, enigmatic photographer with a passion for poetry, labyrinths, and existential philosophy, Sam brings beauty and light back to Julia's life. So when he asks her to escape with him on a cross-country odyssey to fulfill their dreams, she agrees. Before she can absorb what she's done, the two young lovers are on the run.

For Julia's stoic mother, Laura, this jarring disappearance is another step into a world she doesn't understand—a world of soul-baring therapy and medications that sometimes deal more pain than good. Laura soon discovers authorities will do little to nothing to help her, and in desperation, she forms an uneasy alliance with the sole person who has as much to lose as she does: Sam's mother, Arabella. Armed with only a handful of clues—a photograph cut from its frame, a second-chance bucket list, and a cryptic text from an unknown sender—the two women embark on a journey of their own, hoping to save their children before they are lost forever.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Anastasia Zadeik is a writer, editor, and storyteller. After graduating *summa cum laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, with a BA in psychology from Smith College, she had an international career in neuropsychological research while raising her children. She now serves as Director of Operations for the San Diego Writers Festival, as a coproducer of the San Diego Memoir Showcase, and as a mentor and board member for the literary nonprofit So Say We All. A frequent performer of narrative nonfiction in a hushed bar, her work has appeared in the San Diego Decameron Project, LitHub, *writeordietribe.com*, *Literary Vine Review*, and the award-winning anthology *Shaking the Tree: Short. Brazen. Memoir*. Her debut novel, *Blurred Fates*, was released by She Writes Press in August 2022.

JUNE 2024

HIDING FOR MY LIFE

BEING **GAY** IN
THE NAVY

KAREN SOLT

Publication Date: June 4, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-672-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-673-6

"In this profound story of love and loss, Anastasia Zadeik tackles the complexities of mental health from every angle and perspective, taking readers on an unforgettable journey that explores what we can and cannot control. Moving, insightful, and deeply compassionate, *The Other Side of Nothing* is a remarkable and important read."

—J. J. Elliott, author of *There Are No Rules for This*

HIDING FOR MY LIFE

BEING GAY IN THE NAVY

KAREN SOLT

DESCRIPTION:

Karen Solt, an eighteen-year-old nonconformist with an alcohol problem, is working at a gas station when a slick Navy recruiter railroads her into enlisting in the military. Before she knows it, she is on a ship in the Deep South, struggling to navigate not only a world much different from her small Northern Arizona hometown but also her new discovery: she's gay.

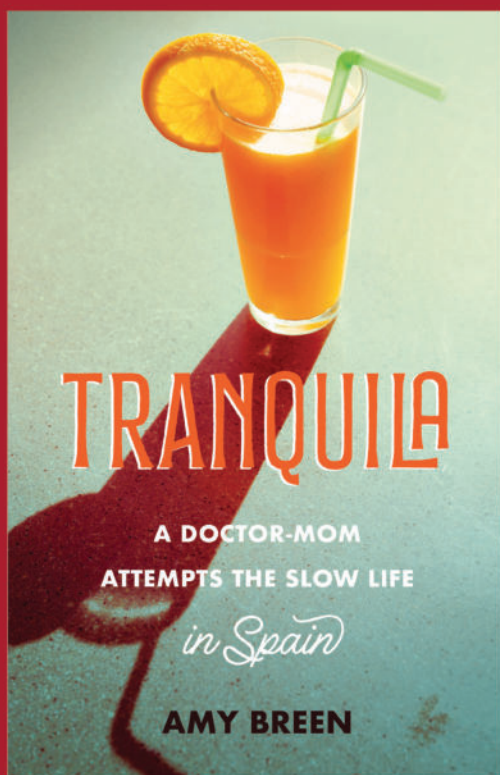
Figuring out her sexuality clarifies many things, but also creates a daunting new set of problems, for Karen. It's 1984: being gay in the Navy is considered a crime, and gay Sailors are regularly hunted by the Navy Criminal Investigative Service. Discovery means being kicked out, and by this point she is committed to the uniform (and to remaining with her first girlfriend, who is also enlisted). So she learns to hide her secret and find a way to serve—and even thrive professionally—without getting caught. But concealing her truth ultimately leads to devastating consequences.

A story of desire, addiction, the damage of secrets, the power of community, and the soul-crushing cost of turning people into "others," *Hiding for My Life* is a celebration of the resilience of the human spirit—and a poignant call for each of us to come out from hiding and live our truth.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Karen Solt is a retired U.S. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer who served as a gay Sailor from 1984–2006, prior to and during Don't Ask Don't Tell. After hiding her sexuality from the world for most of her life, Karen considers herself a "Combat Hideologist" and believes the way back to personal and global peace and freedom is for every human to come out from hiding and commit to living the truth of who they are. She holds a master's in psychology (counseling), is an emotional health coach, and loves to help others discover and heal their own hiding places. Karen currently resides in her small hometown, Prescott, Arizona, where she and her dog, Kai, chase squirrels, drink lattes, and watch over her feisty mother.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 4, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-674-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-675-0

“*Tranquila* will give you the unvarnished truth about the experience of being in a country where you don’t speak the language, understand the customs, or have a clue about how to achieve the most basic daily tasks. Whether you’re an avid or armchair traveler, this is a deep dive into another culture, seen through a perspective of a courageous woman.”

—Karen Gershowitz, author *Travel Mania* and *Wanderlust*

TRANQUILA

A DOCTOR-MOM ATTEMPTS THE SLOW LIFE
IN SPAIN

AMY BREEN

DESCRIPTION:

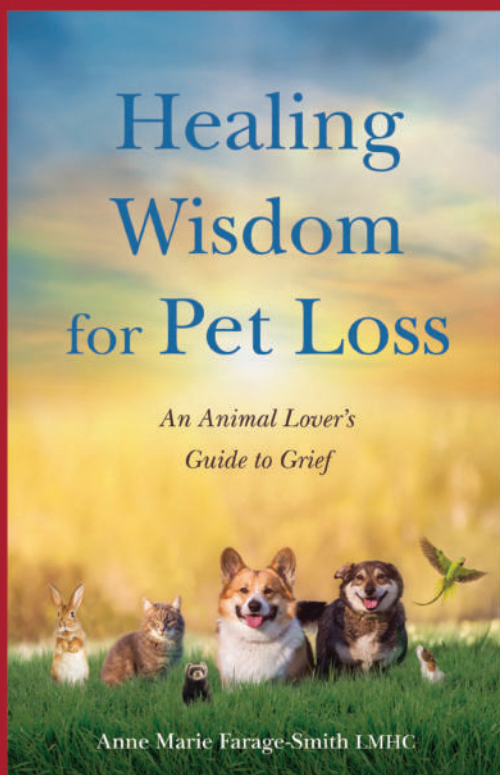
Drinking glasses of cava in the sunshine, indulging in delicious tapas, and learning Spanish with ease is what Amy Breen, a hard-charging physician and mother of three, expected of life in Spain. But when she and her young family move to Barcelona, the *tranquilo* lifestyle of their new country has other ideas for her.

Join Amy and her family in their mishaps and adventures living in Barcelona and traveling throughout Europe, and watch as Amy—openly and with a self-deprecating humor—unfolds her struggles in her transition from a handle-it-all doctor and mother in the States to full-time parent who needs her kids to translate. The *tranquilo* way of life is Amy’s adversary, and then teacher, in this humorous personal and family journey.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amy Breen is a physician, health advocate, and mother. She lives in Menlo Park, California, with her husband and three children. *Tranquila* is her first novel.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 4, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-674-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-675-0

“A unique look at our grief reactions related to our pets. . . . I particularly liked this volume’s focus on the diverse reactions that people experience, and how working through grief is an individual process that might be different from the reactions of others.”

—Risë VanFleet, PhD, RPT-S, CDBC, CAEBC-I,
founder and president of International
Institute for Animal Assisted Play Therapy®
and coauthor of *Animal Assisted Play
Therapy*

HEALING WISDOM FOR PET LOSS

AN ANIMAL LOVER’S GUIDE TO GRIEF

ANNE MARIE FARAGE SMITH

DESCRIPTION:

Whether you recently lost your cherished pet or know you soon will, this book is for you.

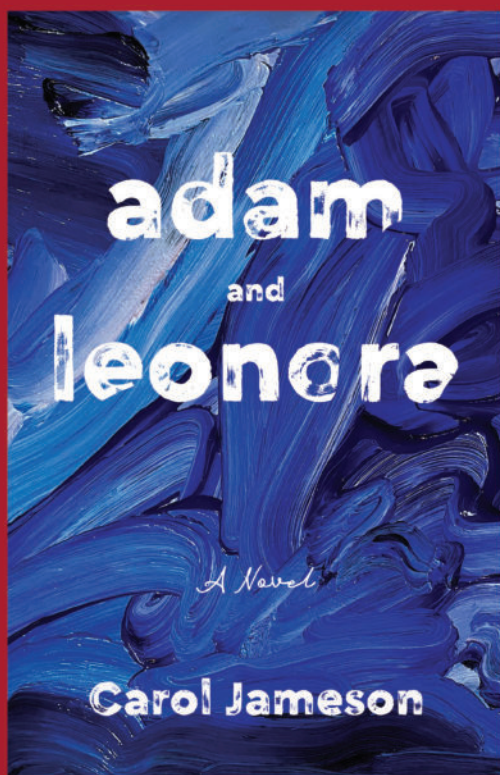
Healing Wisdom for Pet Loss is designed to help readers understand the bond they have with their pets and why losing them is uniquely painful; aid them in understanding the grief they experience in the aftermath of that loss; and teach them the skills they need to process this loss. In these pages, licensed mental health counselor Anne Marie Farage-Smith offers detailed explanations of the types of grief that one may encounter upon the loss or impending loss of a pet and provides validation for the emotions experienced in relation to that loss. She also reminds readers that help is available, and gives actionable criteria for the reader to determine when professional assistance is needed and how to find it.

Containing a variety of deliberately open-ended writing exercises Farage-Smith has seen help others to understand and heal their grief, as well as suggestions for a variety of ways to honor and remember one’s pet, *Healing Wisdom for Pet Loss* is the loving, supportive grief journey companion every bereaved pet parent needs.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Anne Marie Farage Smith is a lifelong animal lover and an advocate for all animals. She holds a master of science degree in mental health counseling from St. John Fisher University and a master of science degree in education from Nazareth University, and is a Pet Loss Grief Counseling Trained Professional. As a licensed mental health counselor and educator in private practice, she has offered clinical guidance to many individuals and groups experiencing grief and loss. She currently resides in Rochester, NY, where she enjoys spending time with her family, visiting local parks with her dog, Jazzy, traveling, and pursuing creative activities.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 4, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-674-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-675-0

“Carol Jameson has a rare talent for delight. In reanimating past artists, poets, and lovers, she snares them in a *Midsummer Night’s Dream* of pure storytelling intoxication. Even her André Breton is halfway loveable!”

—Jonathan Lethem, *New York Times*
best-selling author of *Motherless Brooklyn*
and *The Fortress of Solitude*

ADAM AND LENORA

A NOVEL

CAROL JAMESON

DESCRIPTION:

Adam Sinclair is a reclusive surrealist painter, in search of his muse and obsessed with his visions, who lives in a vast artist’s compound in the Santa Cruz mountains. Leonora Bloom is an artist and scientist who isn’t sure why she is so drawn to a man she’s never met yet can’t shake her obsession with him. After years of hiking the ridge above Adam’s property, she finally knocks on his door.

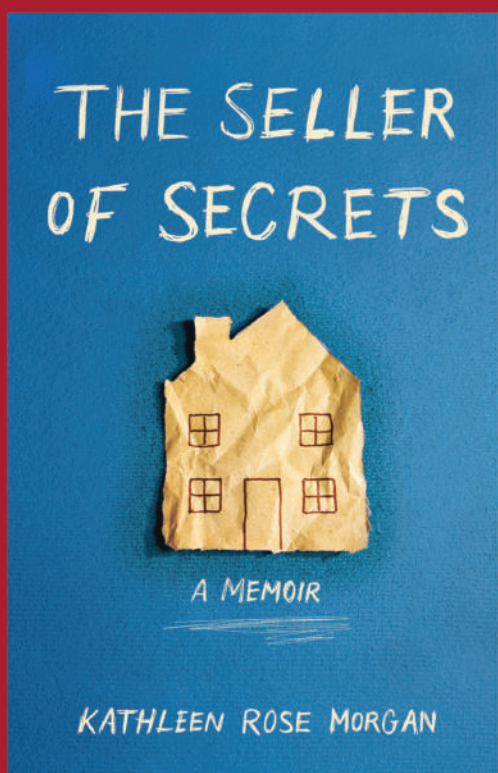
Inside Adam’s house, enormous paintings of golden spirals, cosmic stars, and cobalt universes cover the walls, vibrating with energy and mystery—and though he is aloof, the chemistry between him and Leonora is immediate. When the younger woman catches a glimpse of an old black-and-white photograph of his deceased wife, Pauline, who could be her twin, she begins to understand why.

Interwoven with Leonora’s tale are the voices of modern-day Don Quixote Adam’s muses: Pauline, a talented writer who lives in both 1940s New York City and Mexico; and Mimi Saucier, a sultry singer from 1930s Paris. The two women play off characters of the Surrealist movement, including André Breton, Remedios Varo, and Wolfgang Paalen, creating worlds of dreamy enchantment. Filled with intrigue and tension, secrets and admissions, and the colorful imagery of a painter’s mind, *Adam and Leonora* explores Leonora’s quest to discover Adam’s secret to the creative pulse of life—a journey into the surreal.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Carol Jameson is an educator, swimmer, and pianist. She created and coedited the online zine *Hello Goodbye Apocalypse*, a journal of pandemic writings and artwork, and is the author of *The Kaiser Stories* and *It Builds in the Brain*. Currently, she writes two blogs: *Pool Purrs*, a collection of swimming stories, and *Walk with CJ*, a collection of walking stories that began during the pandemic. She has an MFA in creative writing and literature from Mills College and teaches writing in San Francisco Bay Area colleges. She lives in Richmond, California, with her naughty orange tabby cat, Clara.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 11, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-678-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-679-8

“A stunning account of the impact of child sexual and emotional abuse and an enlightening illustration of how healing is possible, even from the grip of deepest trauma. Morgan’s story is a testament to the human spirit and the importance of looking straight into and naming the truth, even when that truth is painful and ugly.”

—Liz Kinchen, author of *Light in Bandaged Places: Healing in the Wake of Young Betrayal*

THE SELLER OF SECRETS

A MEMOIR

KATHLEEN ROSE MORGAN

DESCRIPTION:

Mother was an emotionally damaged woman shrouded in dark secrets. Father was a man plagued by alcoholism who lived in a state of drunken evasion before jumping ship. Kathleen was born into this family and a community plagued by toxic male aggression, submissive women, wannabe Mafia brutes, charlatan holy men and women, and lurid and criminal goings-on—made possible by cheek-turners, complicit and fearful enablers, and an ever-present, overarching code of silence.

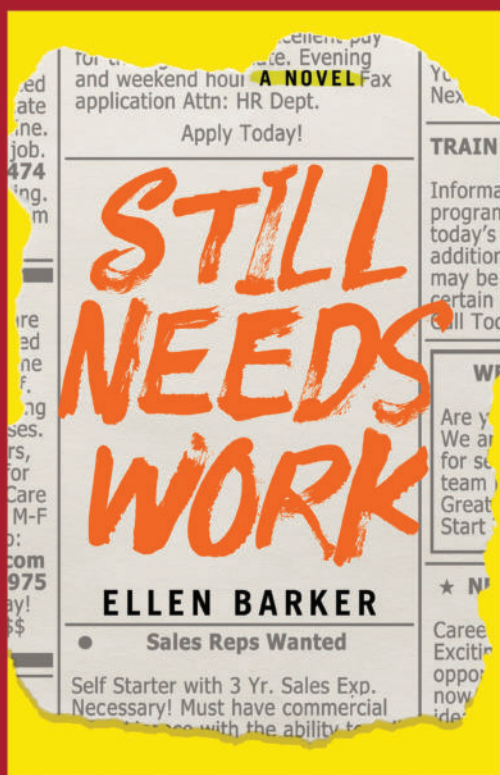
The words etched into Kathleen’s childhood bones never let her completely forget: “We are finally alone,” from *The Teenager*, and “You don’t want to hurt a man’s reputation, especially a holy man’s,” from *Mother*. An explosion of truth tells of cover-ups, drugs, and attempted suicide; the resilience found in books, art, and as a guitarist and singer in a metal band; the tragedy of September 11; and becoming a mother. Kathleen discovers Reiki and leaves NYC for Vermont, where she finds shamanism and Brennan Healing Science. But just as she is finding healing, her mother makes the staggering near-death confession that she participated in Kathleen’s abuse.

A true heroine’s journey, *The Seller of Secrets* is Kathleen’s story of how she made peace with the past and found wisdom in her wounds.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kathleen Rose Morgan is a mother, writer, musician, Reiki Master, and explorer of various methods of energy medicine. Originally from Staten Island, New York, she traded ferry boat rides for her kayak when she moved to Vermont. She enjoys books, sitar, gardening, and photographing birds.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 11, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-680-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-681-1

“The writing is crisp, perfectly befitting the personality of the protagonist, whose insights into the hidden messages and evasive mind games of the corporate world are perfectly on target—even if that doesn’t always work out in her favor. The character’s inner voice is entertaining and insightful.”

—Diane Winger, author of the Ellie Dwyer series

STILL NEEDS WORK

A NOVEL

ELLEN BARKER

DESCRIPTION:

Marianne gets the call while attending a conference in San Francisco: laid off, department dissolved. Two days later, she’s back home in the dicey Kansas City neighborhood she moved to after a reversal of fortune two years ago. After all this time rebuilding her life, it’s all collapsed.

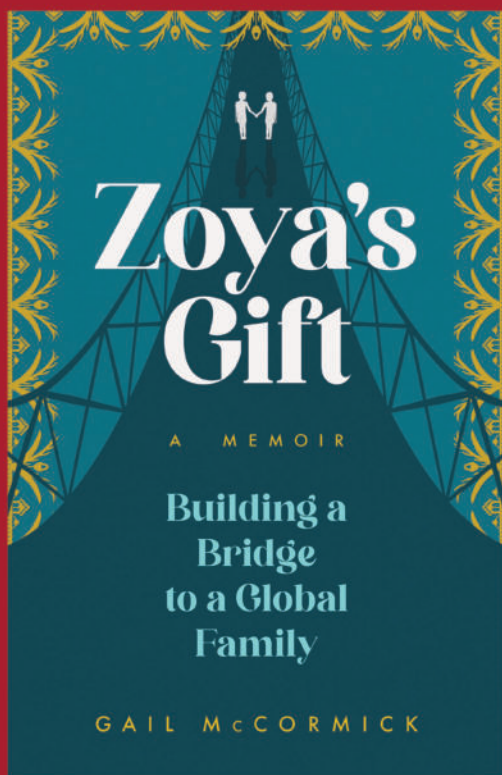
The daily grind is just that—a grind. Until it isn’t; until it’s gone and taken health insurance, retirement contributions, and the currency to buy food and shelter, never mind the free coffee at the office, along with it. In the aftermath of her layoff, Marianne tries all the usual routes to reemployment, but a middle-aged woman, regardless of experience, has little job cred in the tech world—especially one with an address in the heartland. A contract job at a Chicago startup morphs through two acquisitions in eight weeks. And then Marianne is mugged in her own neighborhood, which frightens her enough to consider a permanent move away.

An irreverent look at the alien denizens of the tech world, the fraught business of mergers and acquisitions, and the parallel universe of job openings, *Still Needs Work* is a contemporary story of the working world wrapped around a very human story of one person, her dog, and her community.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ellen Barker grew up in Kansas City during a period of demographic upheaval and returns there in her novels. She has a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Washington University in Saint Louis, where she developed a passion for how cities work, and don’t. She began her career as an urban planner and then spent many years working for large consulting firms, first as a writer-editor and later managing large data systems, jobs rich in corporate drama large and small. She is the author of *East of Troost*, which introduced readers to the neighborhood where *Still Needs Work* takes place. She now lives in Los Altos, California, with her husband and their German shepherd, Boris, who is the inspiration for the dog in this novel.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 11, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-682-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-683-5

“Gail McCormick’s memoir reminds any woman who has yearned for children of her own that there are many ways to ‘mother.’ When one dream ends, an extraordinary life may begin.”

—Melanie Notkin, author of *Otherhood: Modern Women Finding a New Kind of Happiness*

ZOYA’S GIFT

BUILDING A BRIDGE TO A GLOBAL FAMILY |
A MEMOIR

GAIL MCCORMICK

DESCRIPTION:

Still recovering from the heartbreak of infertility, memoirist Gail McCormick and her husband volunteer to host two Children of Chernobyl for a summer reprieve from radiation exposure. Fate pairs the Seattle couple with eight-year-old Ukrainian twin sisters from Belarus—and rekindles Gail’s childhood dream to build a bridge of peace between the US and the former Soviet Union.

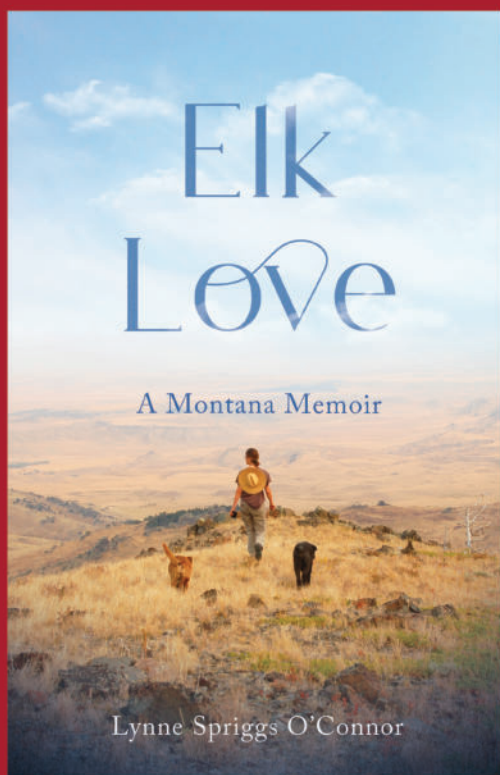
Over four summers of mayhem and magic with the twins, a deep relationship takes root. When the girls age out of the program that brought them to Seattle, Gail confronts her Cold War fears and travels with her husband to reunite with them in Ukraine and Belarus. On this soul-making trip to a land of unspeakable loss, she celebrates life in the homes of an accordion-playing Chernobyl hero and a barefooted babushka who distills her own vodka, and—behind the remnants of the Iron Curtain—finds her place as an honorary mother and babushka in a four-generation family of former Soviets. Poignant and culturally rich, her narrative transports readers to storied cities, villages, and dachas from Kyiv to Minsk.

Written with reverence, insight, humor, and hope, *Zoya’s Gift* illuminates the complexities, joys, and importance of reaching across political, class, and cultural divides.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gail McCormick is a Seattle author and psychotherapist with Midwest roots. She was a finalist in the 2022 Pacific Northwest Writers unpublished memoir competition and took first place for intercultural essays in the 2021 Soul-Making Keats Literary Competition. Her stories have also appeared in the *Timberline Review* and the *Santa Fe Literary Review*, and she is the author of *Living with Multiple Chemical Sensitivity: Narratives of Coping*. A former newspaper reporter and biographer with an MS in community counseling and a BA in journalism, today Gail volunteers her services to community organizations serving immigrants and others affected by dislocation and trauma. Her passions include nature, travel, interfaith spirituality, farmers’ markets, and all things organic. She and her husband live in Seattle.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 18, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-640-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-641-5

"Elk Love demonstrates what it means to endure, to sustain, to adore the fierce wildness of the world around us and to nurture that wildness in ourselves."

—Kim Barnes, author of Pulitzer Prize finalist *In the Wilderness*

"I devoured this enchanting book about the sensual landscape of animals, budding love, and the intrinsic wildness of it all. This unflinching saga teaches the ancient knowledge that hope begins again as we traverse the cycles of life and death."

—Nani Power, author of *New York Times* Notable Book of the Year *Crawling at Night*

ELK LOVE

A MONTANA MEMOIR

LYNNE SPRIGGS O'CONNOR

DESCRIPTION:

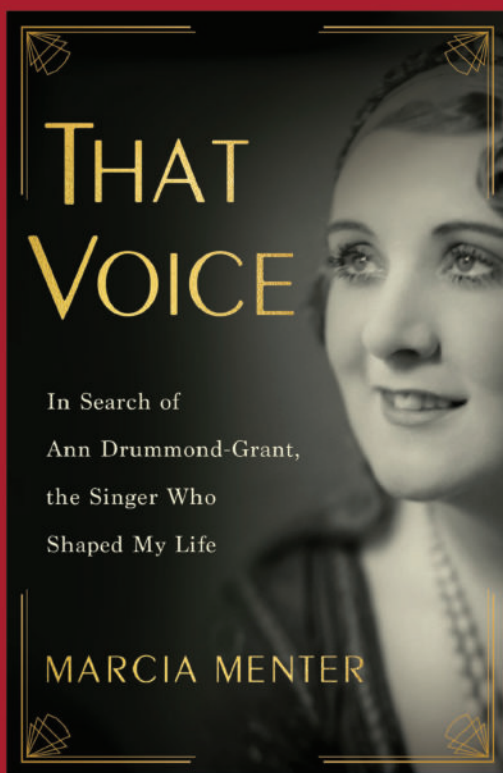
Having spent ten summers on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation near Glacier National Park, part of her doctoral fieldwork for a PhD in Native American Art History, forty-two-year-old Lynne Spriggs thinks of Montana as her healing place. When she moves to "Big Sky Country" from the East Coast in a quest to reset her life, she has high hopes for what awaits her.

Great Falls, a farming and military town in central Montana, is not what Lynne imagined when she decided to leave city life behind. But her dream of being more connected to nature in the American West comes alive when she meets Harrison, a handsome rancher thirteen years her senior. Wary but curious, with her dog Willow by her side, she leans into the seasonal rhythms of Harrison's hidden valley and opens her heart to a wild language that moves beyond words. In a modern world where listening is rare, *Elk Love* explores an intimate place where loneliness gives way to wonder, and where the natural world speaks of what matters most.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Before moving to the rural West at age forty-two, Lynne Spriggs curated exhibitions of folk and self-taught art at the High Museum in Atlanta. She spent ten summers on northern Montana's Blackfeet Indian reservation while pursuing fieldwork for her PhD in Native American Art History at Columbia University. She also worked in the film industry as the production coordinator for Spalding Gray and Jonathan Demme on the iconic *Swimming to Cambodia*. After landing in Montana, she curated *Bison: American Icon*, a major permanent exhibit for the Charlie Russell Museum on bison in the Northern Plains. For the past fifteen years, she and her husband have lived on a cattle ranch in an isolated Montana mountain valley east of the Rockies, where her life centers on writing, animals, and family. *Elk Love* is her first memoir.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 18, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-662-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-663-7

“A stunning, subtle memoir. . . . Through tracking both Drummond-Grant’s performances as well as her own education as a singer, Marcia Menter gives us her own full voice with all its wit and sass. Here is a book for everyone who comes to understand that the choices we turn away from still determine our lives, a sparkling memoir of trying to do what you can’t really do—but blooming in the process.”

—Molly Peacock, author of *Paradise, Piece by Piece* and *A Friend Sails in on a Poem*

THAT VOICE

IN SEARCH OF ANN DRUMMOND-GRANT, THE SINGER WHO SHAPED MY LIFE

MARCIA MENTER

DESCRIPTION:

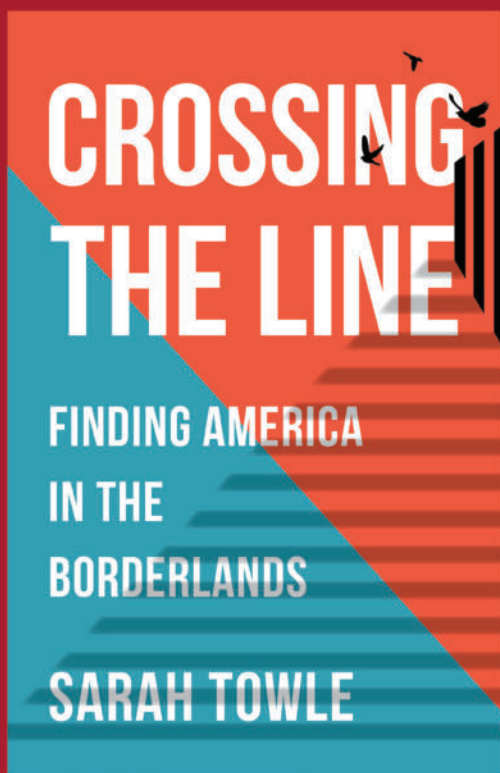
As an adolescent in Syracuse, New York, Marcia Menter fell in love with the recorded voice of Ann Drummond-Grant, a Scottish contralto who sang with the legendary Gilbert and Sullivan troupe the D’Oyly Carte Opera Company. She dreamed of singing with the company, even though it didn’t hire Americans—and even though, as she soon found out, Ann Drummond-Grant had died years earlier. But her dream persisted, and for the young music lover, Drummie’s glorious voice remained a living presence—a refuge from the race riots and political upheavals of her school years.

Menter earned a conservatory degree in singing before finally realizing she was not a performer at heart. She went on to spend decades searching for Ann Drummond-Grant—visiting places she lived and interviewing people who knew her—and putting together the puzzle of her life. This is the story of a singer and her listener—of two separate lives divided by time and geography but connected in unexpected ways.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Marcia Menter grew up in Syracuse, New York, and earned a degree in vocal performance from the Manhattan School of Music. She has held senior writing and editing positions at national magazines, including *Glamour*, *Mademoiselle*, *Self*, *Redbook*, and *More* magazine. Her self-help book, *The Office Sutras: Exercises for Your Soul at Work*, was published in 2003 by Red Wheel/Weiser Press. Her poetry chapbook, *The Longing Machine*, was published in 2007 by HappenStance Press in Scotland. She has published poems, essays, and literary criticism in journals in the US and UK. Menter lives in Manhattan.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 18, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-579-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-580-7

“Sarah Towle has obliterated the dead-end arguments and transformed them into riveting, human stories. We all deserve a narrative with clarity, and Towle’s has delivered. Spectacular!”

—Ken Burns, Filmmaker

CROSSING THE LINE

FINDING AMERICA IN THE BORDERLANDS

SARAH TOWLE

DESCRIPTION:

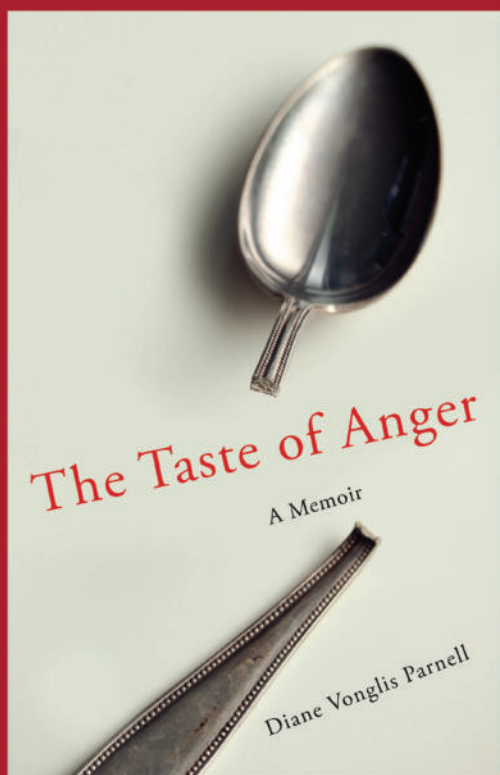
It was family separation and “kids in cages” that first drove Sarah Towle to the US southern border. On discovering the many-headed hydra that is the US immigration system, she refused to look away. *Crossing the Line: Finding America in the Borderlands* charts her journey from outrage to activism to abolition as she exposes, layer by broken layer, the now global deterrence-to-detention-to-deportation complex that is set up to fail everyone—save the profiteers and demagogues who benefit from it.

In *Crossing the Line*, Sarah deftly weaves oral storytelling, history, and memoir together to illustrate how US policy has led the charge in flouting post-WWII global commitments to protecting human rights. Yet within the web of criminalization and cruelty, she finds hope in the extraordinary acts of ordinary heroes who prove, every day, that there is a better way. By amplifying their voices and celebrating their efforts, Sarah reveals that we can welcome with dignity those most in need of safety and compassion. In unmasking the real root causes of the “crisis” in human migration, she urges us to act before we travel much farther down our current course—one which history will not soon forgive, or forget.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sarah Towle is a London-based author, educator, podcaster, and human rights defender. *Crossing the Line* is her debut book. Find her on Twitter @HistoryTurnedOn and subscribe to her Substack newsletter and podcast: *Tales of Humanity From the Borderlands*.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 25, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-164742-684-2

E-ISBN: 978-164742-685-9

“Powerful and gripping, *The Taste of Anger* is like a car wreck you can’t look away from. The narrative opens with a tension that doesn’t subside until the very last paragraph. This is a distinct and original work that refreshingly offers a straight narrative without excuse or analysis.”

—The BookLife Prize

THE TASTE OF ANGER

A MEMOIR

DIANE VONGLIS PARNELL

DESCRIPTION:

“I’ll kill the first person who comes through this door.” My father grips a baseball bat in his meaty hands.

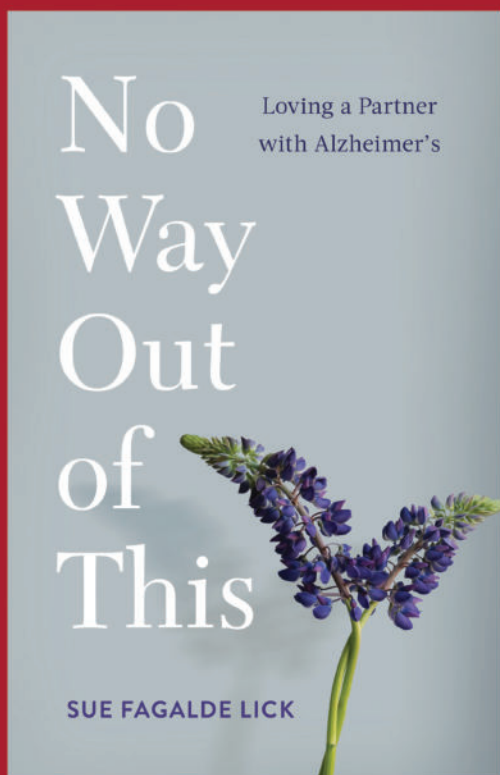
It is 1962 and Diane is three years old when her violent father moves their family—her, her pregnant mother, and her six siblings—to a remote farm in Upstate New York. There, she grabs the reader by the hand and takes them to the broken-down barns, barren fields, and rows of bunk beds in her rat-infested attic bedroom as she questions all that feels wrong about her new world. She watches her ever-pregnant mother grow emotionally colder with each new baby and wonders, Where is she when he swings his fists, his steel-toed boot, or a crowbar? Forced to perform adult manual labor in between the erratic beatings she and her siblings pound on one another to release their own aggressions, she asks herself, Is this what we’ve become? What I’ve become?

Narrated in the ever-hopeful voice of a child, *The Taste of Anger* explores in raw, unflinching detail how years of isolation, oppression, and the threat of retaliation create an environment in which family secrets are guarded at all costs. Tension is palpable with the turning of each page, ensuring that the reader won’t let go of Diane’s hand until she gets an answer to her most urgent question of all: Who will rescue us?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Diane Vonglis Parnell grew up on a remote farm in Western New York with nine siblings. Her essay *Blame the Milkman* was a winner in the Fish Publishing short memoir contest, and included in the Fish Anthology 2022. Vonglis Parnell is a Scrabble enthusiast and a lover of progressive rock music. She serves as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) volunteer for abused children in her community and lives a minimalist’s life in a 200-square-foot cottage in San Luis Obispo, California.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 25, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-686-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-687-3

NO WAY OUT OF THIS

LOVING A PARTNER WITH ALZHEIMER'S

SUE FAGALDE LICK

DESCRIPTION:

No Way Out of This is not the kind of Alzheimer's memoir where you read about a noble, self-sacrificing wife who gives up everything to take care of her husband. We see such spouses in books and movies—but they're not telling the whole story. Nobody's that good. Certainly Sue Lick isn't.

Sue's much-older husband, Fred, is a forgetful man. She's always found that charming. But when his absentmindedness worsens into full-blown dementia, she suddenly finds herself dealing with his illness alone. Struggling to care for Fred and manage their two loveable but incorrigible dogs and still find time to write and play music, Sue constantly faces impossible choices. Tell people about his illness? Let him drive? Put him in an institution? Treat his medical problems, or let him go? Every decision feels wrong—but in the end, their love carries them through it all.

More than 6 million Americans suffer from dementia. One in three seniors have it. Add in the spouses, siblings, adult children, and professionals responsible for their care, and we all have a stake in this story. While some caregivers have loving families to support them and enough money to pay for the best care, more often the situation is a lot messier. Here the author, a longtime journalist, tells the truth about nursing homes, Medicaid, mental health, and more.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sue Fagalde Lick, a former San Francisco Bay Area newspaper reporter and editor, is the author of the poetry chapbooks *Gravel Road Ahead* and *The Widow at the Piano: Poems by a Distracted Catholic*, the nonfiction books *Stories Grandma Never Told: Portuguese Women in California*, *Childless by Marriage*, and *Love or Children: When You Can't Have Both*; and the novels *Up Beaver Creek* and *Seal Rock Sound*. When not writing, she sings and plays piano, guitar, and mandolin at St. Anthony's Catholic Church and wherever people will listen. She lives in a coastal forest just south of Newport, Oregon.

JUNE 2024



Publication Date: June 25, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 9781647427009

E-ISBN: 9781647427009

“With unflinching honesty and raw vulnerability, this memoir offers a powerful message of hope and healing. The author’s journey from victim to victor is a testament to the power of determination and our will to be happy. I was spellbound.”

—Julian Guthrie, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Alpha Girls*

REDEEMED

A MEMOIR OF A STOLEN CHILDHOOD

PENNY LANE

DESCRIPTION:

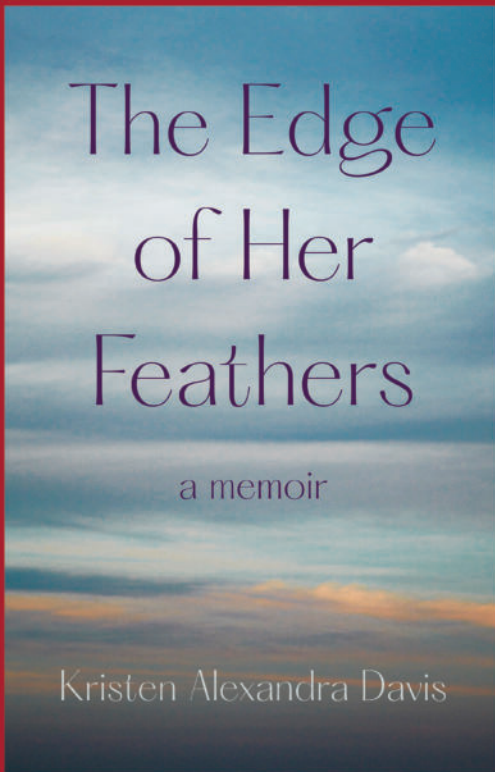
Penny is just four years old when she is snatched away from her all-American home by the Hungarian father who abandoned her when she was a baby. After facing isolation and neglect in a strange, dysfunctional household where heartache, rejection, and physical abuse rule her life, she escapes—only to find herself in a relationship with a man who’s just converted to fundamentalist Christianity. Penny’s road is long, winding, and often painful, but gradually she begins to listen to her inner voice, stand up for herself, and refuse to bow to the pressures of either her family or society—freeing herself to build a life on her own terms and find her way to happiness.

A rise-from-the-ashes hero’s story of overcoming abuse, trauma, and unbearable odds, of being waylaid by both family and religion’s promise of love, and of harnessing the resilience to find the way home, *Redeemed* offers a rare window into Eastern European immigrant culture and reads like a page-turning thriller. Especially relevant today—a time when marginalized people are increasingly finding a voice—this memoir will serve as an inspiration to women everywhere, encouraging them to overcome their obstacles and go after their dreams.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Penny Lane is a writer, wife, mother, and friend with an insatiable passion for life. Originally from Jackson Heights, Queens, she loves being outdoors—cycling, hiking, traveling, and connecting to, and inspiring people. She has a BS in business and management from the University of Phoenix and an MA in industrial/organizational psychology from Golden Gate University. In her spare time, she helps underserved youth learn to read, apply to college, and find jobs once they graduate, and in food pantries and other nonprofits near her home in Mill Valley, California.

JULY 2024



Publication Date: July 2, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-690-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-691-0

THE EDGE OF HER FEATHERS

A MEMOIR

KRISTEN ALEXANDRA DAVIS

DESCRIPTION:

She dreams of driving across the bridges. She's never been afraid before; but now, in the dreams, strange, magical happenings unfold. One night, at the Golden Gate, the span carries her underwater, where she discovers long lost friends, all sitting at a beautiful table at the bottom of the Bay; only it was long ago, and everyone is in Victorian dress. In another dream, the Bridge does not yet exist. Where the beautiful city would appear, there are only sandstone cliffs and desert, and she is just spirit, flying above the water.

But in most of the dreams, she is driving. Her eyelids become heavy, she can't see the road. She struggles desperately to keep control of the car but can feel herself falling, slipping toward the floor, the car breaking over the railing, carrying her with it under the water.

The dreams recur so often that she becomes afraid of heights, terrified of driving over the railing into the waves. Then, just as suddenly, the dreams stop. Years pass, until the day she hears that he's jumped.

In this memoir we accompany the author on her search to unearth the magical and terrifying childhood she has all but buried.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kristen Alexandra grew up in a suburb in the San Gabriel Valley of Southern California, near the Sierra Madre Mountains. She holds a master's degree in early childhood education and has worked in both private/home settings as a nanny and also in elementary school settings as a teacher and teaching assistant. Prior to that, while raising her daughter as a single mother, she worked in the historic fine art photography galleries in Carmel, California, representing the work of some of the main artists in the field—Ansel Adams, Edward and Brett Weston, Imogen Cunningham, and other more contemporary artists. She now lives in southern Marin County, California, where she enjoys exploring beautiful hiking trails and spending time near the water.

JULY 2024



Publication Date: July 2, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-688-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-688-0

“Catherine Hartshorn’s gripping memoir tells the story of her harrowing divorce and her fierce determination to raise her children. It’s a beautifully written testimony to a woman’s right to claim her power.”

—Ellen Sussman, *New York Times*
best-selling author of *A Wedding in Provence*,
The Paradise Guest House, *French Lessons*,
and *On a Night Like This*

THE LONGEST WAR

A PSYCHOTHERAPIST’S EXPERIENCE OF
DIVORCE AND POWER

CATHERINE B. HARTSHORN, PHD

DESCRIPTION:

As a naive freshman, Catherine meets Walter, a senior and Big Man on Campus whose sophistication, confidence, and wealth both intimidate and excite her. A three-year absentee courtship follows, during which time the idea of Walt tethers Catherine to safety. She was programmed to marry someone like him, so she ignores the warning signs that they might not be a good match. Hoping to please her mother and seeking refuge from her fraught childhood, she marries and has children with him—but the marriage doesn’t last.

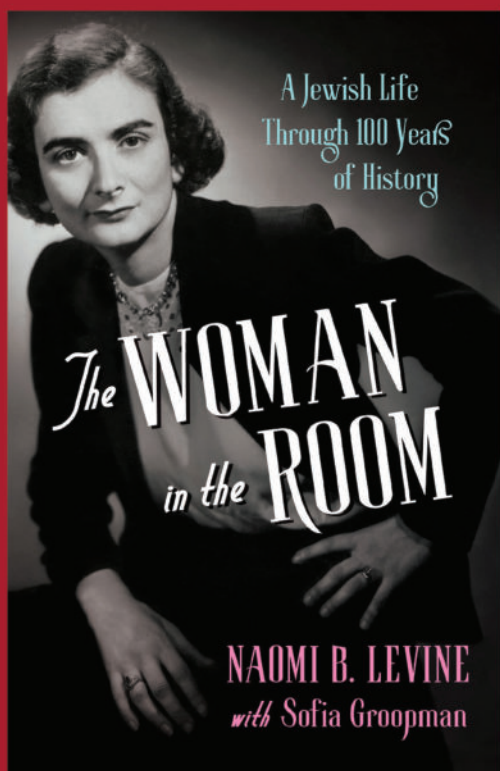
Once divorced, Catherine finds herself in a war with Walt—first over money, and then over access to her children—and suddenly, she can no longer ignore her childhood trauma. The high stakes of her battle with her ex-husband forge her like steel, finding every vulnerability where she needs to heal. Gradually, she develops a backbone, relinquishes her trauma-induced, people-pleasing ways, and steps into her own power.

Honest and unflinching, *The Longest War* reminds us that there’s always a way through when we access the courage within ourselves. No matter how painful life’s difficulties, they offer us the opportunity to heal ourselves and evolve into more open, loving, compassionate people. The choice is ours.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Catherine B. Hartshorn grew up in Colorado, one generation removed from the family farm in Longmont. After graduating from Stanford University, she fell into teaching high school Spanish until she was twenty-eight, when she returned to school to become a psychotherapist. In the years that followed, she did career counseling and taught courses at UC Berkeley, supervised the clinical work of PhD candidates at the Wright Institute, and was an assistant professor at the University of North Carolina Wilmington. She subsequently worked in executive search for nine years and then spent ten years as an organizational consultant. Since finishing her PhD, she has had a private psychotherapy practice. Catherine has adult children and grandchildren, and lives in the Bay Area with her husband.

JULY 2024



Publication Date: July 2, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-702-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-703-0

THE WOMAN IN THE ROOM

A JEWISH LIFE THROUGH 100 YEARS OF HISTORY

NAOMI B. LEVINE WITH SOFIA ERGAS GROOPMAN

DESCRIPTION:

Born into a poor, immigrant family, Naomi B. Levine grew up in the Bronx and on Manhattan's storied Lower East Side in an era when women were not encouraged to have lives of their own. Nevertheless, she managed to raise herself to prominence as a leader of Jewish affairs, champion of civil rights, and expert fundraiser.

Poignant, direct, and inflected with Yiddishkeit, *The Woman in the Room* is the story of how Levine went from living in a crowded tenement with a shared bathroom to penning an amicus brief that was crucial in *Brown v. Board of Education*, assuming the Executive Directorship of the American Jewish Congress, and saving NYU from bankruptcy with the first billion-dollar capital campaign for a university.

A lover of history, Levine describes not just her life but also articulates how the major historical events of the time emboldened her to take social and political positions that were in many circles unacceptable. She was an activist and a feminist before those concepts became part of our everyday parlance. *The Woman in the Room* not only illuminates the decades Levine lived but furnishes future generations with the strength and courage to face the challenges before them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Naomi B. Levine was a celebrated attorney, activist, and fundraiser. She graduated from Columbia Law School at a time when few women were admitted and went on to pen amicus briefs that were essential to the civil rights cases *Sweatt v. Painter* (1950) and *Brown v. The Board of Education Topeka* (1954). She was the first female director of the American Jewish Congress and played an active role in the Civil Rights movement from that position. She later became Executive Vice President of New York University, where she orchestrated the first billion-dollar capital campaign. She passed away in Florida in 2021 at the age of ninety-seven. She was a lifelong New Yorker.

Sofia Ergas Groopman is a writer and editor from New York City. A graduate of Harvard College, she earned her MFA from the Helen Zell Writers' Program at the University of Michigan, where she received the Hopwood Award for Fiction, the Hopwood Award for Nonfiction, and the Chamberlain Award for Creative Writing. Her writing has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Vice*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *Joyland*, and *The Gettysburg Review*. Before turning to writing, she worked in trade publishing for five years, most recently as an associate editor at Harper/HarperCollins. She lives in Brooklyn with her husband, their son, and their sassy dachshund.

JULY 2024

SIDE
EFFECTS
ARE
MINIMAL



A NOVEL

LAURA ESSAY

Publication Date: July 9, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-704-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-705-4

SIDE EFFECTS ARE MINIMAL

A NOVEL

LAURA ESSAY

DESCRIPTION:

When ambitious attorney Claire Hewitt is asked to represent the Satoris, one of Philadelphia's most prominent families, in a lawsuit over the death of their daughter, she is thrust into an opioid nightmare with deadly impact—and not for the first time. Claire's guilt for not saving her sister, Molly, has not subsided in the twenty years since Molly's almost certainly opioid-related death. Now, with this new assignment, her guilt comes full circle. Who was really at fault in Molly's death? And who is at fault now?

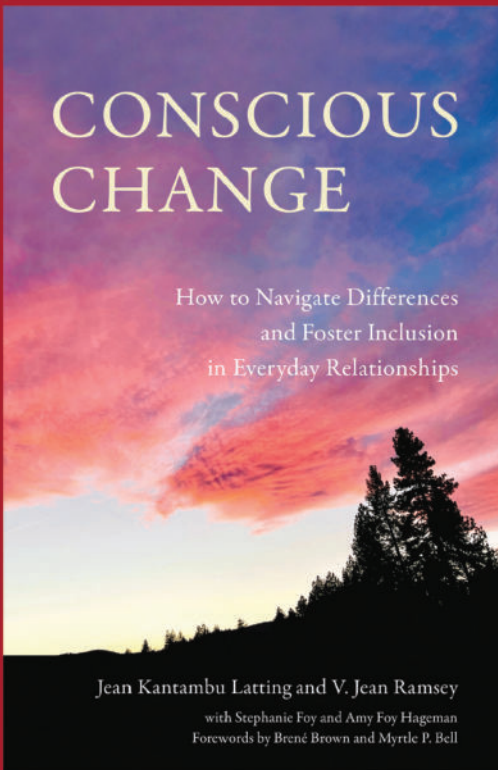
What begins as a quest for truth becomes infinitely more complicated as Claire struggles to balance her desire for justice with the Satoris' thirst for revenge. She knows she needs to expose the greed that transforms legal opioid production into illicit fabrications and the neglect that is the breaking point between physicians and their patients. But there are powerful people who will seemingly stop at nothing to prevent these truths from seeing the light of day, and she is sabotaged at every turn. Can she push past the obstacles in her way to build a winning case?

Based on true events, *Side Effects Are Minimal* is about a corrupt pharmaceutical industry, the guilt of physicians prescribing the opioids that kill, and the pain experienced by families who've lost loved ones to an epidemic that has brought the United States to its knees.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Laura Essay attended the University of Nebraska and obtained a law degree from Creighton University School of Law. When her three grown children moved on to graduate programs in other cities, writing became her passion. *Side Effects Are Minimal* is her debut novel. Her knowledge of the opioid crisis stems from her penchant for research and innumerable hours spent searching for the truth about opioids in America. She also has devoted a great deal of time to working with youth programs in her state, assisting the homeless, and setting up new homes for refugees relocating to Nebraska. In her leisure time, Laura enjoys cooking, music, running, and travel. She lives in Lincoln, Nebraska, with her husband and Australian shepherd, Riley.

JULY 2024



Publication Date: July 9, 2024

Collections: Self-help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-708-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-709-2

“An ideal workplace or social book club selection, as readers can discuss topics, practices, and ideas chapter by chapter. The concepts are applicable to any work or social setting at any stage of life. If you are a human who interacts with other humans, you can learn from this book.”

—Tracy Rathe, Senior Vice President of Organizational Performance and Development, Nebraska Healthcare Association

CONSCIOUS CHANGE

HOW TO NAVIGATE DIFFERENCES AND FOSTER INCLUSION IN EVERYDAY RELATIONSHIPS

JEAN KANTAMBU LATTING AND V. JEAN RAMSEY

DESCRIPTION:

Every day, most of us interact with people of disparate backgrounds, beliefs, and experiences—individuals who hold different expectations than we do of the people and world around them. How does one navigate these often-turbulent waters?

In *Conscious Change*, nineteen authors describe how they have applied the principles of *Conscious Change* within multicultural, diverse environments to overcome difficult and emotionally draining challenges—and, in doing so, provide a road map to shifting one’s own story when moving through similarly demanding situations in all areas of life. These practical case studies reveal how transformational the *Conscious Change* tools can be, leading to a stronger sense of one’s personal capacity as a leader, better interpersonal relationships, and the beginnings of greater equity and inclusion.

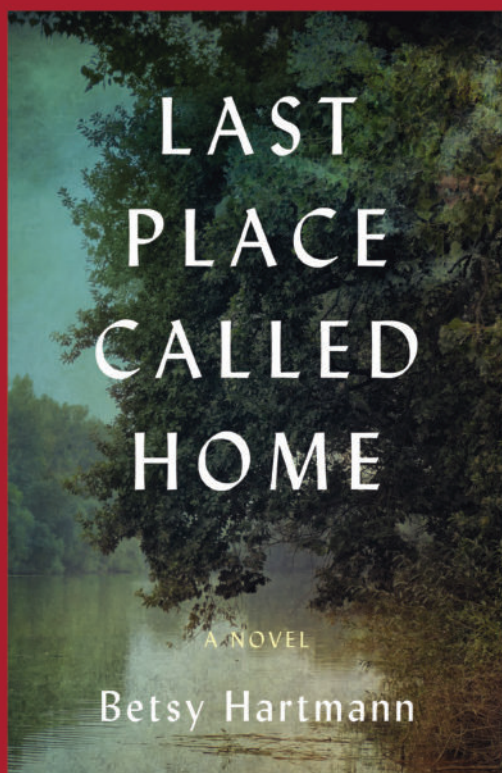
Illuminating and instructive, these stories are vivid illustrations of the skills today’s leaders need in their multicultural organizations and settings, where issues of diversity, equity, and inclusion are, and will increasingly be, front and center.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jean Kantambu Latting, DrPH, LMSW-IPR, is the president of *Leading Consciously* and a professor emerita at the University of Houston. As a consultant, researcher, and educator, Jean helps leaders in multicultural organizations further their people skills and capacity. She is the coauthor of *Reframing Change: How to Deal with Workplace Dynamics, Influence Others, and Bring People Together to Initiate Positive Change*.

V. Jean Ramsey, PhD, was a professor of management at Texas Southern University, an HBCU in Houston, Texas, for nineteen years before retiring in 2009. She has published three previous books: *Reframing Change* (Praeger), *Teaching Diversity* (Jossey Bass), and *Preparing Professional Women for the Future* (Graduate School of Business Administration, University of Michigan).

JULY 2024



Publication Date: July 16, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-642-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-643-9

LAST PLACE CALLED HOME

A NOVEL

BETSY HARTMANN

DESCRIPTION:

As the secret federal sting operation Snakehead targets the fentanyl trade, the small mill town of Stanton, Massachusetts, becomes a battlefield in the war on drugs and three mothers—newspaper reporter Laura Everett, businesswoman Mimi Sullivan, and machinist Angie Gillen—must overcome their differences and confront their pasts to keep their troubled teenagers out of the crossfire.

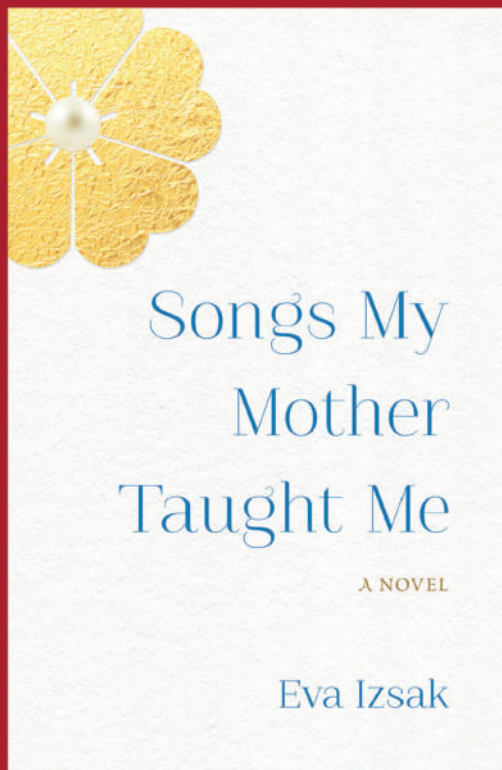
Help comes from unexpected quarters when, after learning that Snakehead's real mission is to militarize the police and northern border, several Stanton cops break ranks with their superiors. Stakes rise as the opioid crisis deepens and Mimi's daughter sinks further into depression and heroin addiction. Laura's and Angie's sons try to save her, but their efforts only place her more at risk and she is forced to run away. Ultimately, the deadly violence being perpetrated all around her—by gangs, dealers, and those running the Snakehead operation—compels Laura to dig deep within herself for the power to take charge.

A fast-paced, multilayered thriller that reveals the high human costs of the drug war, *Last Place Called Home* is also a story about love and loyalty to family, friends, and place. Stanton is a hard place to live in—but it's an even harder place to leave.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Author, scholar, and activist Betsy Hartmann addresses critical national and global challenges in her books, articles, and public appearances. She is the author of the feminist classic *Reproductive Rights and Wrong: The Global Politics of Population Control* and, most recently, *The America Syndrome: Apocalypse, War and Our Call to Greatness*. Eerily prescient, her two political thrillers, *The Truth about Fire* and *Deadly Election*, explore the threat the Far Right poses to American democracy. Betsy did her undergraduate degree at Yale University and her PhD at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She is professor emerita of Development Studies at Hampshire College, where she taught for twenty-eight years. She lives in Amherst, Massachusetts. For more on Betsy, visit www.betsyhartmann.com.

JULY 2024



Publication Date: July 16, 2024

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-698-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-699-6

“This book is a powerful and moving personal account of transgenerational transmission of Holocaust trauma.”

—Natan P.F. Kellermann, clinical psychologist and author of *Holocaust Trauma*

SONGS MY MOTHER TAUGHT ME

A NOVEL

EVA IZSAK

DESCRIPTION:

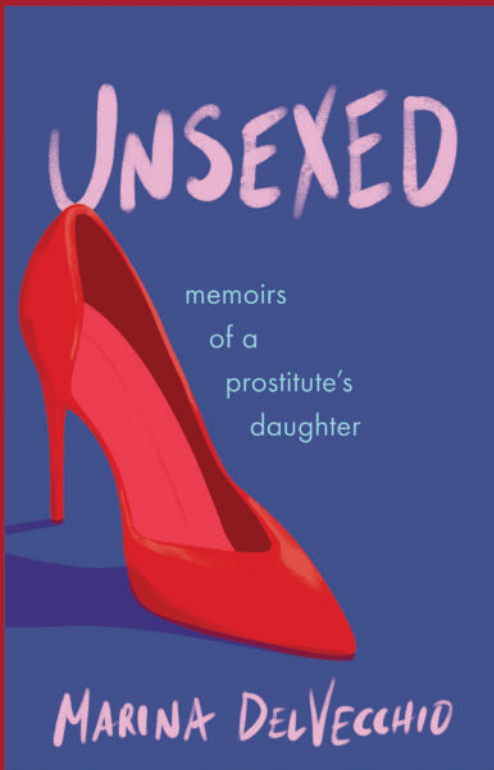
Songs My Mother Taught Me follows its protagonist on her final voyage to see her dying mother, who is hissing and kicking all the way to the grave. Having spent decades trying to escape her heritage by constantly moving around the globe—Tokyo, New York, then Paris—the narrator finds herself back in the house she grew up in. There, she is confronted with the epigenetic endowment inherited from her parents’ experiences and has to come to peace with the looming shadows of the past.

An epic and lyrical tale that spans from Transylvania in the 1930s through Scarsdale, NY, to present-day Europe, *Songs My Mother Taught Me* touches upon questions of identity, immigration, and PTSD transmitted down the generations—giving voice to those who grew up in the aftermath of their parents’ trauma.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Eva Izsak grew up in Israel and graduated from the Hebrew University School of Law. For over twenty years she practiced with some of the largest law firms in New York and served as in-house counsel in the US and in France. A mother of two daughters, Eva lives in Tokyo, Tel Aviv, New York, and Paris.

JULY 2024



Publication Date: July 16, 2024

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-694-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-695-8

“Unsexed is a searingly honest, painful, beautifully expressed, and ultimately transcendent story about the damage caused by the absence of love, and the healing that becomes possible with truth and courage.”

—Adrienne Moore, author of *Seven Tears in the Sea*

UNSEXED

MEMOIRS OF A PROSTITUTE’S DAUGHTER

MARINA DELVECCHIO

DESCRIPTION:

Unsexed examines the role that sex plays in the life of one woman with two mothers who introduce her to polarized frameworks of female sexuality.

Born in Greece to a violent prostitute and then adopted by a cold and unloving virgin from New York, Marina inherits a sexual identity steeped in fear and shame—one that, as she grows older and becomes a wife and mother, trickles into her marriage and the parenting of her children. Without the tools needed to understand her complex mothers or the unpack the lessons they taught her, Marina relies on self-erasure to survive relationships that silence and define her—until she finally becomes fed up with those old patterns and begins to stand in her own power.

A memoir that unearths the layered emotional and sexual lives of women and exemplifies the satisfaction that comes when they assert their voices and power, *Unsexed* speaks to millions of women who have different narratives but face similar struggles in reclaiming their voices, bodies, and sexuality.

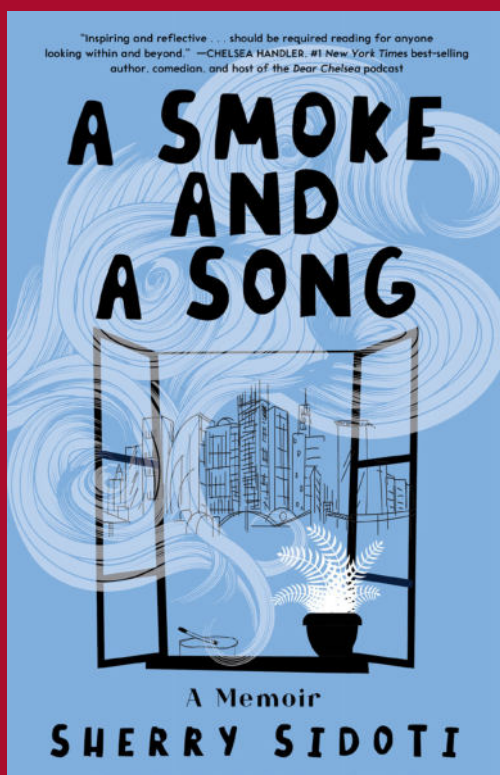
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Marina DelVecchio, PhD, is a college professor and writer. Her work has been published online by outlets including *Ms.* magazine, *Huffington Post*, and *The New Agenda*; her book publications include *Dear Jane*, *The Professor’s Wife*, and *The Virgin Chronicles*. She teaches women’s studies and literature through the lens of bibliotherapy, guiding her students to connect with literary heroes who write for power and self-assertion. She lives in North Carolina with her children and three feral cats.

Fall 2023



AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 1, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-509-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-510-4

“Inspiring and reflective, *A Smoke and a Song* should be required reading for anyone looking within and beyond.”

—Chelsea Handler, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author, comedian, and *Dear Chelsea* podcast host

“*A Smoke and a Song* is a winning book! Sherry Sidoti’s prose is absolutely gorgeous—lyrical and tender, moody and insightful, mystical and relatable.”

—Nancy Slonim Aronie, author of *Writing from the Heart* and *Memoir as Medicine*

A SMOKE AND A SONG

A MEMOIR

SHERRY SIDOTI

DESCRIPTION:

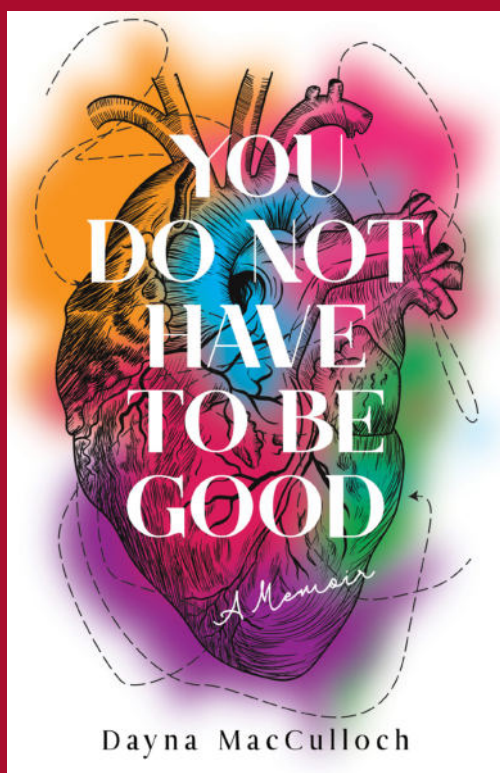
January 2021, ten months into the global pandemic, Sherry Sidoti’s mother is diagnosed with terminal cancer—so Sherry prioritizes a trip to Manhattan over long-awaited empty-nesting and her “second chance” with fiancé Jevon. With new life blooming and loss looming, she is beckoned to answer the question that has haunted her since childhood: is freedom found in “letting go,” as the spiritual teachers (and her mother) insist—or is it found by digging our heels deeper into the earth and holding on to our humanness?

A Smoke and a Song is Sherry’s story of her quest to make meaning from the memories homed in her body. Writing with tenacity, tenderness, and wry humor, Sherry stumbles towards self-actualization, spiritual awakening, and, despite it all, love. This is a story steeped in art and spirituality that explores the complexities of transgenerational maternal bonds, attachment, loss, and leaning into our wounds to find the wisdom.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sherry Sidoti is an author and the founder and lead director of FLY Yoga School, a yoga teacher training program, and FLY Outreach, a not-for-profit that offers yoga and meditation for trauma recovery on Martha’s Vineyard. A certified Labor Doula, Addiction Recovery Coach and Somatic Attachment Therapy Program graduate, she leads spiritual courses, teacher training, and retreats globally. Her musings have been published *The Martha’s Vineyard Times*, *Heart & Soul Magazine*, *Elephant Journal*, and *Anthropology and Humanism Quarterly*. Her essay “Mosaics” is featured in the 2022 *She Writes* anthology *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis*. Sherry is most devoted to her greatest teacher, her son Miles, whose love, sensitivity, humor, and wisdom illuminate her path. *A Smoke and a Song* is her first book. She currently resides on Martha’s Vineyard, Massachusetts.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 1, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-511-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-512-8

“A dazzling, reverent memoir, *You Do Not Have to Be Good* is about living fully in one’s body and one’s history. MacCulloch renders in gorgeous prose her journey across Europe as she strives to understand her father’s death and her own wild heart. Through grief and desire, she leads us ever closer to the sublime.”

—Megan Kruse, author of *Call Me Home*

YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE GOOD

A MEMOIR

DAYNA MACCULLOCH

DESCRIPTION:

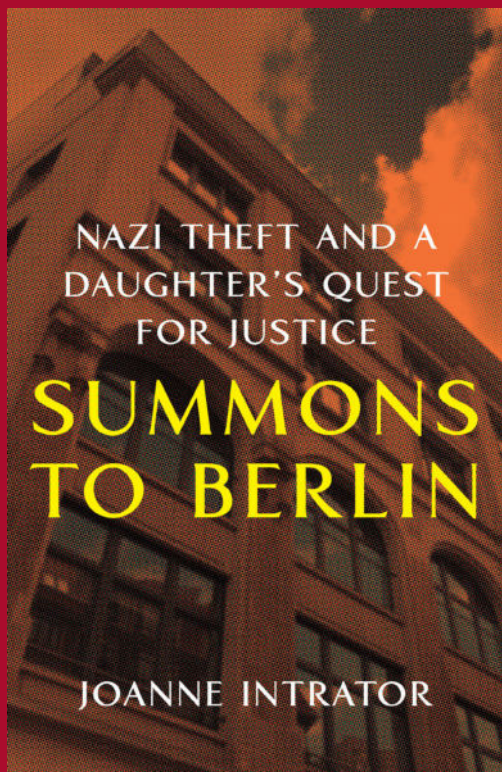
When Dayna MacCulloch was two years old, her father killed his friend and then himself. Twenty years later, she went back to see where it happened—where her father morphed from the hippie, homesteading, jack-of-all-trades man that everyone loved to the guy who took his rifle off the shelf one night and shot his friend in the face. Standing in the place where he did it, a wildfire of unanswered questions—the ones she’d suppressed all her life—blazed open within her. The life she was living no longer made sense, no longer was enough. So, while most of her friends were applying for big jobs, getting married, and getting pregnant, she bought a one-way ticket to a Greek island—determined to, as Rilke advised, live the questions for as long as she could.

You Do Not Have to Be Good is the story of where that choice led her: to five different countries over the course of five years. It is a candid, intimate memoir about the ways that loss and landscape guide and shape us, the ways strangers can heal us, and what it means to finally come home.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Dayna MacCulloch is a Somatic Wellness Coach based near Brighton, UK. You can find out more about her work through her website, WaterStoriesTheBody.com, or follow her on IG @waterstoriesbody.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 1, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-513-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-514-2

“When one person spends years fighting for justice against entrenched evil, maddening bureaucracy, and all but insurmountable odds, it makes for a riveting story. When the story is true, it becomes genuinely inspiring. The ‘summons to Berlin’ came from countless victims of Nazi rule, as well as from a demand from history for justice . . . and Joanne Intrator answered that summons with rare resilience and courage. You will find yourself agonizing over her setbacks, cheering her victories.”

—Jeff Greenfield, award-winning television journalist and author of *If Kennedy Lived*

SUMMONS TO BERLIN

NAZI THEFT AND A DAUGHTER'S QUEST FOR JUSTICE

JOANNE INTRATOR

DESCRIPTION:

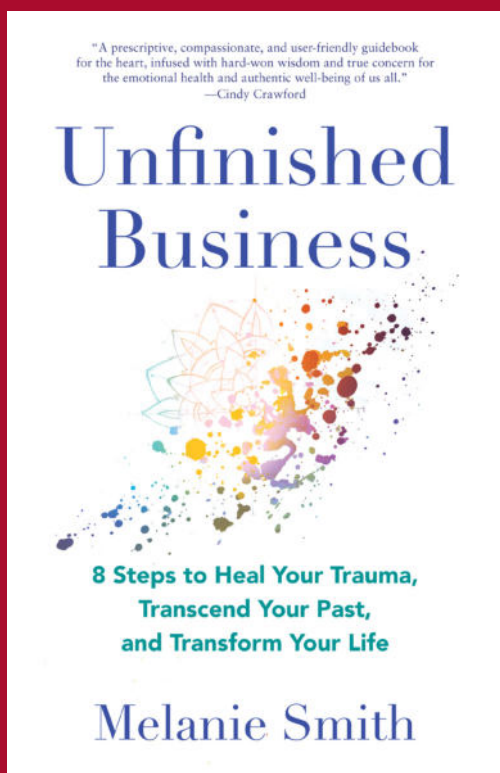
“Are you tough enough yet and do they know who you are?” This question from Joanne Intrator’s father—posed to her while he is on his deathbed—is the spark that lights a fire under Joanne to seek restitution for property stolen from her German Jewish family by the Nazis during the Holocaust. Intellectually, she finds the challenge deeply appealing—she’s always been fascinated with Nazi-era history. But she has also harbored profound and longstanding fears of anything and everything German all her life. Is she up to this task?

Joanne decides that she is, and over the nearly a decade that follows, she pursues justice for her family, traveling back and forth between New York and Berlin. As she gradually realizes that her German lawyers aren’t advocating for her as they should, she draws on her training as a psychiatrist focused on abnormal behavior to consider Germany’s situation before and after World War II and how it has shaped its citizens—including her attorneys. Through this lens she also considers her own damaged childhood, and that of her parents. But it’s not until she hires a private investigator to assist her in her quest that she begins to get some real answers—about the past and the present. Part mystery and part poignant personal journey, packed with twists and turns, *Summons to Berlin* is an insightful and, ultimately, deeply satisfying tale of one woman’s pursuit of truth and justice.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Joanne Intrator was born and raised in New York City by parents who were both refugees from Hitler’s Germany. After becoming a psychiatrist, she conducted groundbreaking research on brain imaging of psychopaths. The associated paper, frequently cited, was published in the journal *Biological Psychiatry*. She went on to teach a popular course on psychopaths in movies at the New School for Social Research, and to become a longtime contributor of book and movie reviews to *The Journal for the Study of Antisemitism*. Her blog, located at JoanneIntrator.com, regularly features interviews with prominent writers and other figures. Joanne lives in New York City.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 8, 2023

Collections: Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-515-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-516-6

“By using her own difficult losses and past traumas Melanie encourages us to organize our complicated histories and take inventory of what was lost so we can enthusiastically grab hold of all that is yet to come. It’s an eye-opener. I loved every page.”

—Cindy Crawford, International SuperModel, Entrepreneur, TV Personality, *New York Times* best-selling author, Mom

“Her ability to help us understand our emotional history as well as how to set it free is a kind of superpower for those of us determined to heal and reach our greatest potential. Engaging. Insightful and a life changer for me.”

—Eric Yavebaum

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8 STEPS TO HEAL YOUR TRAUMA, TRANSCEND YOUR PAST, AND TRANSFORM YOUR LIFE

MELANIE SMITH

DESCRIPTION:

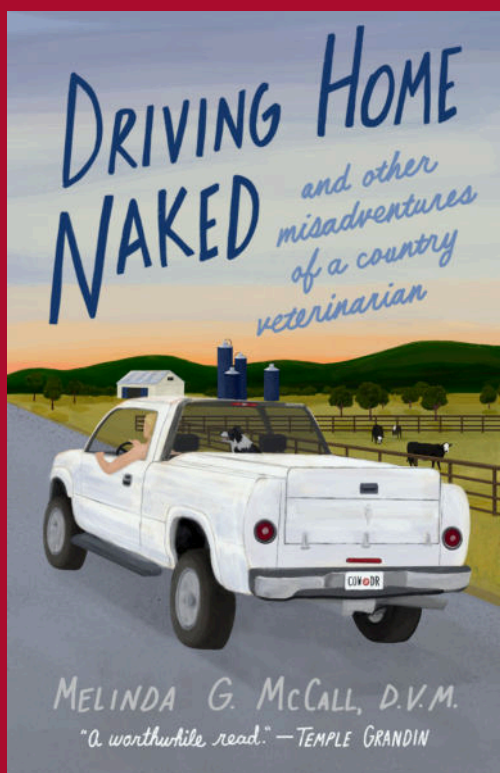
Melanie Smith knows from experience how grief and trauma can feel complex and immovable. She used that experience to fuel her research into the issues of trauma, loss, and finding happiness, which led to the creation of *Unfinished Business*—an eight-step, actionable, step-by-step process that will help you uncover the story of your life from the perspective of heartbreaks, limiting beliefs, old patterns, and unconscious habits.

As you work through this process, you will examine who your models and influencers were and are, as well as the relationships in your life that remain unresolved and incomplete; and you will learn to heal the past, forgive, and overcome long-held beliefs, patterns of behavior, negative self-talk, self-judgment, overwhelm, and misalignment that have held you back from succeeding in love, relationships, business, finance, and health. Through this work, you will come to know yourself at the deepest level, experience clarity of vision, and find complete self-awareness. Grounded in a scientifically supported and solution-based methodology, Melanie’s *Unfinished Business* system has already transformed many people’s lives through her one-on-one and small group coaching sessions; now everyone can access it—and change their lives once and for all.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Melanie Smith has worked in the field of heartbreak, grief, transition, loss, change, reinvention, and all things *Unfinished Business* for over two decades and has helped thousands of people change their lives profoundly. She started her career as a platinum-selling international songwriter and award-winning actress, starring and co-starring in shows such as: *As the World Turns*, *Melrose Place*, *Seinfeld*, *Curb Your Enthusiasm*, *Deep Space Nine*, and *The Division*, to name a few. As an entrepreneur, her award-winning lifestyle, wellness, and yoga center was considered to be one of the most well-respected in the country by sources such as *Vogue*, *Yoga Journal*, *Philadelphia Magazine*, and others. Now a powerful motivational speaker, writer, and leader, Melanie has been a contributing writer for many national health and wellness magazines and holds the distinction of being an PCC-level ICF certified coach and an ICI-master-level coach. She is the proud mother of one grown son, Gideon. Born and raised in Scranton, Pennsylvania, she presently splits her time between New Hope, Pennsylvania, and Naples, Florida.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 8, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-517-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-518-0

“Offering a firsthand glimpse into the fascinating world of veterinary medicine, *Driving Home Naked* is a smart, riveting, and heartfelt memoir that will captivate animal lovers and inspire people to follow their dreams on any scale.”

—*Midwest Book Review*

“Richly told stories of compassionate acts, close calls, and down-in-the-muck adventures, McCall spares no detail in the telling. Her life is an inspiration!”

—Jennifer S. Holland, author of the *New York Times* best-selling *Unlikely Friendships* series

DRIVING HOME NAKED

AND OTHER MISADVENTURES OF A COUNTRY VETERINARIAN

MELINDA G. MCCALL, D.V.M.

DESCRIPTION:

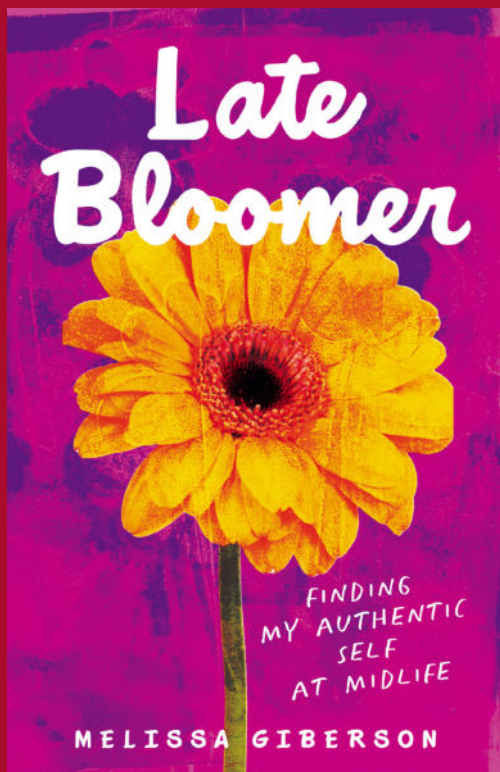
Have you ever driven home from work wearing nothing but a pair of rubber boots? For Dr. Melinda McCall, a large animal veterinarian in rural Virginia, this is living the dream. Caring for cattle, goats, sheep, pigs, llamas, and the occasional alpaca, unusual mishaps and mind-blowing adventures abound. For her, getting caught driving home naked after a tough day at work is just another day at the office. Ride along in the vet truck as this fearless vet confronts every obstacle that crosses her path while building a thriving veterinary practice with an all-female foundation. Prevailing through a fractured skull, back surgery, rare zoonotic diseases, and other extreme challenges with stubbornness and grit, Dr. Melinda surpasses the expectations of adversaries, including her own father, to become the owner of a successful veterinary business and mother of an inquisitive, spirited young daughter.

Offering a firsthand glimpse into the fascinating world of veterinary medicine, *Driving Home Naked* is a smart, riveting, and heartfelt memoir that will captivate animal lovers and inspire people to follow their dreams on any scale. Buckle up for a wild ride.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Melinda McCall, DVM, owns a large animal mobile veterinary service in central Virginia. She and her all-female staff specialize in beef and dairy cattle herds, swine, small ruminant animals, and camelids. Dr. Melinda earned a BS in biology from Queens University and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine from Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine. She is passionate about agricultural education and loves giving back to her community. She resides in Louisa, Virginia, with her daughter, Lucy, and their beloved border collie, Cap.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 8, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-519-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-520-3

“Late Bloomer is an absolutely glorious memoir about a woman coming out, coming into her true self. A woman sharing the most intimate details. The ending of a marriage, the discovering of her own heartbeat, her own desires, the bumpy, scary, frightening, magnificent journey of self-discovery.”

—Amy Ferris, author of *Mighty Gorgeous* and *Marrying George Clooney*

LATE BLOOMER

FINDING MY AUTHENTIC SELF AT MIDLIFE

MELISSA GIBERSON

DESCRIPTION:

Melissa Giberson is a middle-aged suburban wife and mother of two kids, solidly planted in the life she’s always wanted. Yet she longs for something more—something she can’t quite put her finger on until, one day at the Y, she finds herself mesmerized by the sight of a naked woman and asks herself for the first time: *Am I gay?*

This revelation sends Melissa on a head-spinning journey of self-discovery, one that challenges everything she thinks she knows about herself, forces her to decide exactly how much she’s willing to risk for authenticity, and shakes the foundations of the family she’s fiercely determined to shield from the kinds of wounds she sustained during her own childhood. Torn between her desire to be true to herself and her desire to protect her children, she is consumed by fear and conflicting emotions—and when her husband unexpectedly serves her divorce papers, her confusion only deepens.

Adrift in uncharted waters, Melissa finds fragments of understanding and peace in unexpected places—in a conference room in Israel, a small fishing village in Cape Cod, and at a yoga retreat center—that help her deconstruct her preconceptions about faith and identity and begin to construct a new framework for her life. Over the course of her ten-year journey, she finds hope, love, and more courage than she ever knew she was capable of, and she gradually assembles the puzzle that is her—the real her.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Melissa is a native New Yorker who identifies as a late bloomer, a highly sensitive introvert, and a proud mama bear to two children. An occupational therapist and writer, she has published articles in *Kveller* and *Dorothy Parker’s Ashes*; she also received an Honorable Mention in the Memoirs/Personal Essay category of the 91st Annual *Writer’s Digest* Writing Competition. Her essay “Art Is the Antidote” appears in the anthology *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis* (June 2022). Melissa is living her authentic life with her partner and their two cats; together, they split their time between New Jersey and Provincetown, Massachusetts.

AUGUST 2023

transister

Raising Twins in a
Gender-Bending World



Kate Brookes

Publication Date: August 8, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-521-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-522-7

“It’s impossible not to admire Kate Brookes’s moving portrait of her own transgender child blossoming into her own. *Transister* is the poignant story of a family finding its way in a world where gender identity can be a life and death matter. It’s also a testament to the fearless determination of a mother to hold her family together in the face of misunderstanding and prejudice. This is an important book for anyone struggling to find their truest self—and for those who love them.”

—Amy Ellis Nutt, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *NY Times* bestseller *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*

TRANSISTER

RAISING TWINS IN A GENDER-BENDING WORLD

KATE BROOKES

DESCRIPTION:

Transister is the story of a family in transition. Not a prescriptive narrative but an affirming one. A raw, honest, sometimes humorous account of author Kate Brookes’s journey as her young child grapples with gender identity and becomes her authentic self.

Brookes has longed to become a mother for as long as she can remember. And for almost as long, she has harbored a fierce determination to parent her children differently—better—than her own mentally ill mom parented her. To create the “normal” family she’s always wished for. And when she gives birth to twins after two years of fertility struggles, she is, admittedly, hugely relieved that she’s found herself with two boys. There will be no need for her, a decidedly un-girly girl, to braid hair, buy Barbie dolls, or pick out party dresses for her kids. Boys. Easy. Right?

But by the time her twins are eight, Brookes has had two realizations: 1) her obstetrician’s “it’s another boy” announcement was flat-out wrong, and 2) there is no such thing as a “normal” family—and that’s a beautiful thing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kate Brookes is an award-winning TV reporter/anchor-turned-producer/filmmaker who has interviewed everyone from Beyonce to Barbara Walters, field produced for The Discovery Channel, written for Today.com, and emceed galas, live events, and webcasts for nonprofits and Fortune 500 companies. An activist since her teenage years, Kate has devoted countless hours to the causes she supports, including mental health, housing justice, and anti-gun legislation. But it wasn’t until realizing she’d completely botched the birth announcement for her twins that she became active in LGBTQ causes. Kate lives with her husband and rock star children in New York City.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 8, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-523-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-524-1

“A novel of sparkling intelligence and wit, in the end it brings home searching ethical questions, about what it means to be human, and what it means to be real.”

—Louis B. Jones

“*The Brill Pill* is a lively and thoughtprovoking novel from a highly promising young writer. In scientist anti-hero Will, Akemi Brodsky has created a Victor Frankenstein for our time—an ambitious academic who lets personal rivalries deflect his moral compass, making him push the boundaries of genetics too far.”

—Andrew Crumey, author of *Beethoven's Assassins* and *Pfitz*

THE BRILL PILL

A NOVEL

AKEMI C. BRODSKY

DESCRIPTION:

In the not-so-distant future, organs can be re-grown from a handful of stem cells. For patients who can afford the treatment and hang on to life support for long enough, the prognosis is good. Even the most complex organ of all can be reproduced in the lab with nearly perfect accuracy. Nearly.

Patients of brain regeneration face a wide range of problems, from loss of motor functions or intelligence to sociopathy. Spurred by personal tragedy, research scientist William Dalal works feverishly to improve the lives of those he has had a hand in saving. For every success, however, there is a consequence, and eventually a question arises in his mind: *Are they worth it?* His desire to help fades as he comes to realize a shocking truth: the monsters he has created are taking over.

As Will walks a fine line between altruism and ambition, acquaintances and events change the way in which he perceives the world and the extent to which he is willing to compromise in order to make his mark on it. As the situation escalates, he finds himself dealing brain-enhancing drugs and developing life-altering treatments. In their deliverance, he sees his own—but is he deluding himself?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Growing up in the Bay Area, Akemi C. Brodsky always loved unassigned reading and making creative and unnecessarily complicated school projects. She graduated Magna Cum Laude from Brown University with a bachelor of science, then moved to the UK to do a master's in engineering at Imperial College London. She currently lives in the Bay Area and spends most of her spare time traveling, cooking, seeing family and friends, and watching TV.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 15, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-525-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-526-5

“Kathy Elkind eloquently weaves together a narrative of adventure along the legendary long-distance trail, the GR5, with an intimate exploration of personal hopes, dreams and challenges.”

—Carroll Dorgan, author of *The GR5 Trail: Benelux and Luxembourg*

TO WALK IT IS TO SEE IT

1 COUPLE, 98 DAYS, 1400 MILES ON EUROPE'S GR5

KATHY ELKIND

DESCRIPTION:

In 2018, Kathy Elkind and her husband decided to take a grown-up “gap year” in Europe and walk the 1,400-mile Grande Randonnée Cinq (GR5) across The Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.

At fifty-seven, Kathy has chosen comfort over hardship: Unlike the Appalachian Trail and the Pacific Coast Trail, the GR5 winds from village to village instead of campsite to campsite. She and Jim get to indulge in warm beds and delicious regional food every night and croissants in the mornings. But the GR5 is not all comfort. Walking day after day for ninety-eight days bring sickness, accommodation struggles, language barriers, and storm-shrouded mountains in the Alps. Meanwhile, Kathy finds herself reflecting on difficult topics—primarily, her struggles with dyslexia, overeating, and shame. But she also finds that the walking becomes a moving meditation and the beauty of the landscape heals; she begins to discover her own wise strength; and as the days unfold, she comes to the gratifying realization that a long marriage is like a long trail: there are ups and downs and it takes hard work to keep going, but the beauty along the way is staggering.

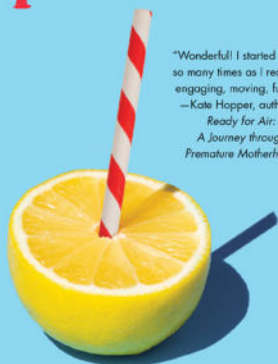
Written with raw honesty and compassion and rich with dazzling scenery, *To Walk It Is to See It* will inspire you to lace up your walking shoes and discover your own path.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kathy Elkind is a writer, walker, and eater. She is the owner of Elkind Nourishment. Kathy walks and lives in the Mad River Valley of Vermont, in Fayston, with her husband.

AUGUST 2023

incurable optimist



living with illness and
chronic hope

Jennifer Cramer-Miller

Publication Date: August 15, 2023

Collections: Self-Help, Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-527-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-528-9

“If you ever want to read an inspirational book, and occasionally laugh out loud, I encourage you to read Jennifer Cramer-Miller’s memoir. It is uplifting and gives new meaning to the word ‘hope.’”

—Herta Feely, author of 2018 National Indie Excellence Award and 2016 New Apple Award winner *Saving Phoebe Murrow*

“Wonderful! I started crying so many times as I read . . . engaging, moving, funny.”

—Kate Hopper, author of *Ready for Air: A Journey through Premature Motherhood* and *Use Your Words: A Writing Guide for Mothers*

INCURABLE OPTIMIST

LIVING WITH ILLNESS AND CHRONIC HOPE

JENNIFER CRAMER-MILLER

DESCRIPTION:

At twenty-two, Jennifer Cramer-Miller was thrilled with her new job, charming boyfriend, and Seattle apartment. Then she received a devastating autoimmune diagnosis—and suddenly, rather than planning for a bright future, she found herself soaking a hospital pillow with tears and grappling with words like “progressive” and “incurable.”

That day, Cramer-Miller unwillingly crossed over from wellness to chronic illness—from thriving to kidney failure. Her chances of survival hinged upon on the expertise of doctors, the generosity of strangers, and the benevolence of loved ones. But what kind of life would that be?

Spanning two-plus decades, this family love story explores loss and acceptance, moving forward with uncertainty, and forging a path to joy. Four kidney transplants later, Cramer-Miller is here to shine a bright light on people helping people in difficult times with a story that will make you want to hug the humans you love. Because sometimes it’s the sorrows that threaten to pull us apart that ultimately unite us in hope.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jennifer Cramer-Miller is a writer, speaker, wellness mentor, and gratitude advocate. Her work is featured in *Brevity Blog*, *The Sunlight Press*, *Grown & Flown*, *Mamalode*, *The Erma Bombeck Blog*, *The Kindness Blog*, *The Star Tribune*, and *Minnesota Physician*. She is the 2023-2026 Board Chair for the National Kidney Foundation (NKF) Serving Minnesota, and a contributing writer for the NKF *Kidney Stories* newsletter. She works as a wellness facilitator (named Joy Scouter) to help others manage uncertainty, move forward with hope, and find some joy. She lives in a suburb of Minneapolis, Minnesota, with her witty, lover-of-golf husband and her waggy, lover-of-treats pup.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 29, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-529-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-530-2

“A touching debut that delights the senses.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“*One Friday in Napa* is a cross generational story of losing love and finding it in unexpected places. A delicious read!”

—Miranda Heller, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Paper Palace*

“Hamm delivers to her readers an intimate view of a family and gracefully sifts through the longing and disappointment that all too often accompany love.”

—Corie Adjmi, author of *The Marriage Box* and *Life and Other Shortcomings*

FRIDAY IN NAPA

A NOVEL

JENNIFER HAMM

DESCRIPTION:

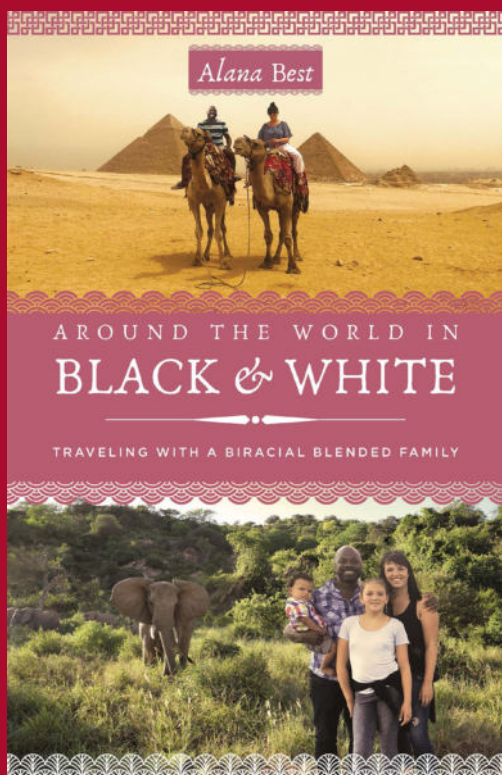
Vene returns home to her dying mother in a final effort to ease their strained relationship. It's as hard as she thought it would be. But there is something there that surprises her: the discovery of a secret past, hidden in the pages of her mother's cookbook, that reveals a side to her mother she never knew.

Told in alternating perspectives a half-century apart within the same house in Napa, California, *Friday in Napa* is a story of family, motherhood, love, and the truths that affect everything.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born and raised in Los Angeles, Jennifer Hamm graduated with a BA in English at UCLA and began her writing career developing screenplays for movies and television. As a travel writer, she has covered the globe on assignment for various magazines and brands. She also writes *It's Only for A Year*, a long-running blog chronicling her adventures raising her four boys in two countries. Hamm currently splits her time between London and Los Angeles. *Friday in Napa* is her first novel.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 29, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-531-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-532-6

“Many of us dream of taking a year off and traveling around the world. Writer Alana Best not only did it but did so with a newborn and, since her husband is black and she is white, in the face of racism and ignorance. Best tells the story of her family’s year abroad with grace, humor, and candidness as we follow them from Japan to Italy to South Africa. It’s a wonderful story about not only a family’s grand adventure but also our complex world—its positives and negatives—and how our time to make a difference is short.”

—Jeremy Leon Hance, author of
Baggage: Confessions of a Globe-Trotting Hypochondriac

AROUND THE WORLD IN BLACK & WHITE

TRAVELING WITH A BIRACIAL BLENDED FAMILY
ALANA BEST

DESCRIPTION:

When Alana and Roland, a spirited Canadian couple with an insatiable desire to live life to the fullest, embark on an epic yearlong travel adventure around the world with their newborn son and ten-year-old daughter, they think they’re prepared for whatever might come their way.

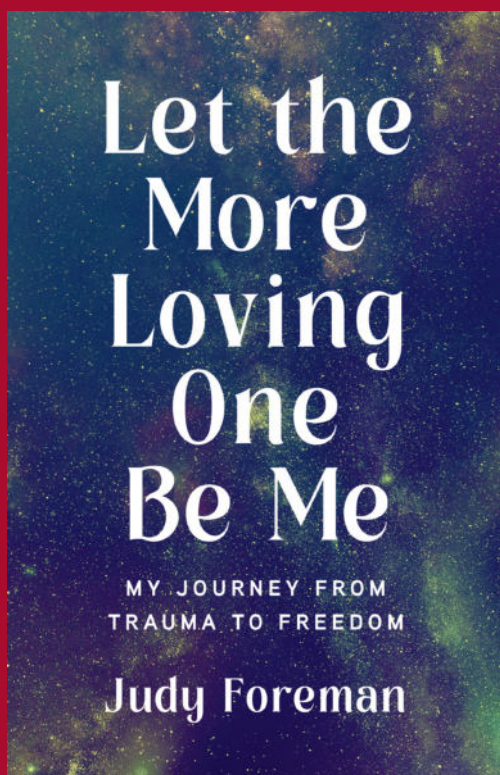
They soon discover that this is not entirely true.

This charming family love story, sure to inspire wanderlust, is peppered with funny parenting mishaps, thrilling adventures, breathtaking sceneries, unforgettable monuments, and culinary bliss. However, as you are taken through the temples of Southeast Asia, the pyramids of Egypt, the rolling hills of Tuscany, and the African plains, you will also be exposed to the world as experienced by a biracial, blended family. *Around the World in Black & White* is a tale of self-discovery, racial awakening, resilience, and deeper understanding. This bold, witty, and heartfelt memoir will have you rethinking how you travel, how you see the world, and how the world sees you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alana Best grew up with her parents, two younger sisters, and older brother on the traditional lands of the Treaty 4 Territory, the original lands of the Cree, Saulteaux, Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the homeland of the Métis, also known as Regina, Saskatchewan. As a travel enthusiast, Alana is passionate about being a global citizen, encouraging wanderlust, and living a full life. She believes travel helps create tolerance, understanding, and empathy. She and her husband, Roland, have the pleasure of working and living on the traditional, unceded territory of the ləkʷəŋən peoples, with their three incredible children. She and her family love their home in Victoria, British Columbia, and will never stop exploring.

AUGUST 2023



Publication Date: August 29, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-596-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-597-5

“From a shocking and revealing start, Judy Foreman’s memoir is riveting. We can see a woman of great success and envy her hold on life. But in this painfully honest account, we find sexual abuse, parental alcoholism, illness, love, loss, and resiliency. In the end, it can inspire others to overcome the challenges that life may throw at us.”

—Matt Storin, retired editor of *The Boston Globe*

LET THE MORE LOVING ONE BE ME

MY JOURNEY FROM TRAUMA TO FREEDOM

JUDY FOREMAN

DESCRIPTION:

In this compelling tale, Judy Foreman reveals the terror she felt every night as a girl as she lay in bed frozen in dread, listening for her father’s footsteps coming down the hall. She recalls his mostly naked body, his stale smell, his silhouette in the bedroom doorway. Worse, in some ways, was her mother’s denial—her insistence that this man was wonderful, her refusal to acknowledge his drinking or his rage. It wasn’t until Foreman spent a high school summer as an exchange student with a Danish family that she began to see how unsafe her own family was; it wasn’t until she went to an all-women’s college that she realized that women had value. Ultimately, this book shows that with time and therapy, it is possible to heal from serious childhood trauma and lead a life of deep fulfillment, rewarding work, and, most wonderfully, love. It is a book about the power of emotional courage to change one’s own inner and outer experience of the world, and about what matters most in life: cultivating healthy connections to other people.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Judy Foreman is a former *Boston Globe* health columnist and the author of three works of nonfiction from Oxford University Press. In 2022, she published her first novel, *CRISPR’d*, from Skyhorse Publishing. A Wellesley College grad (Phi Beta Kappa), she spent three years as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Brazil and has a master’s from the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has been a Lecturer on Medicine and a Fellow in Medical Ethics at Harvard Medical School, a Knight Science Fellow at MIT, and a Senior Fellow at the Schuster Institute for Investigative Journalism at Brandeis University. She has won more than fifty journalism awards, including a George Foster Peabody Award and a Science in Society award from the National Association of Science Writers. She lives outside of Boston with her husband.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 5, 2023
Collections: Business
Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5
Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook
Distribution by Publishers Group West
Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-533-3
E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-534-0

WORK YOUR MAGIC

CREATE A BETTER BUSINESS COMMUNITY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

SHARON DARMODY

DESCRIPTION:

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted corporate life as we know it—and become a tipping point for a change that’s long overdue. But how do we make that change happen? It’s easy to become overwhelmed by what to do next and end up taking a scattergun approach, making lots of changes without really considering exactly what it was about work that was not working. But Sharon Darmody—founding director of Strive Occupational Rehabilitation, a group dedicated to helping organizations improve the health and well-being of their staff—is here to help.

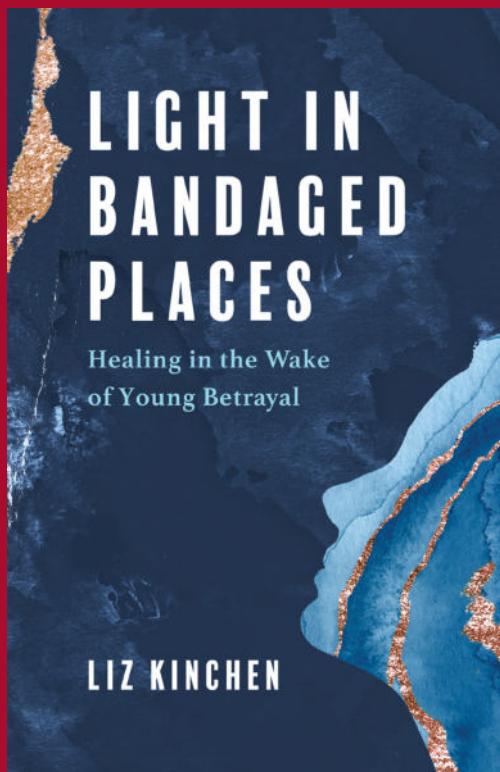
In this interactive, easy-to-follow guide, Darmody provides readers a clear pathway to diagnosing the specific issues at play in their workplace and what they need to do to make a change. She encourages people to get their heads out of the sand, really look at where their workplaces are at, and acknowledge what we have all known for some time—that workplaces are not working, and it’s time to stop ignoring the signs and start overhauling the system.

Straightforward, approachable, and informed by Darmody’s twenty-five-plus years as an organizational coach and consultant, *Work Your Magic* is an indispensable road map for creating a new work order that actually works.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sharon Darmody is an organizational coach and mediator and the founding director of Strive Occupational Rehabilitation, which she launched in 2004. Sharon graduated from the University of Queensland in 1992 with a bachelor’s degree in occupational therapy. Since then, she has completed Workplace Mediator training with Bond University, The Cinergy Conflict Coaching Model from Canada, Acceptance and Commitment Therapy, and was one of only 70 in Australia to complete Google’s Search Inside Yourself six-month training course, which incorporates organizational mindfulness, emotional intelligence, and leadership tools. A huge fan of good seafood, great books, and swimming and walking at the beach, Sharon lives in Brisbane, Australia, with her husband, Chris, and is a proud mother and grandmother.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 5, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-535-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-536-4

“Liz Kinchen has written a compelling and courageous memoir that details the traumatic emotional impact of sexual abuse and its impact on subsequent relationships in her adult life. Kinchen is a fine writer, eloquently weaving together the emotional and spiritual strands that eventually bring her into wholeness and healing. *Light in Bandaged Places* is a book that deserves to be read, speaking as it does to the resilience of the human spirit and the healing power of authentic love.”

—Sarah Rossiter, spiritual director and author of *The Human Season*, *Beyond This Bitter Air*, and *Natural Life with No Parole*

LIGHT IN BANDAGED PLACES

HEALING IN THE WAKE OF YOUNG BETRAYAL

LIZ KINCHEN

DESCRIPTION:

Light in Bandaged Places shows us the harm done when an older man in a position of power convinces a child that sex with him is alright because he loves her. This poignant story takes us through the long-term wounding of such abuse—and the multifaceted path of healing from those wounds.

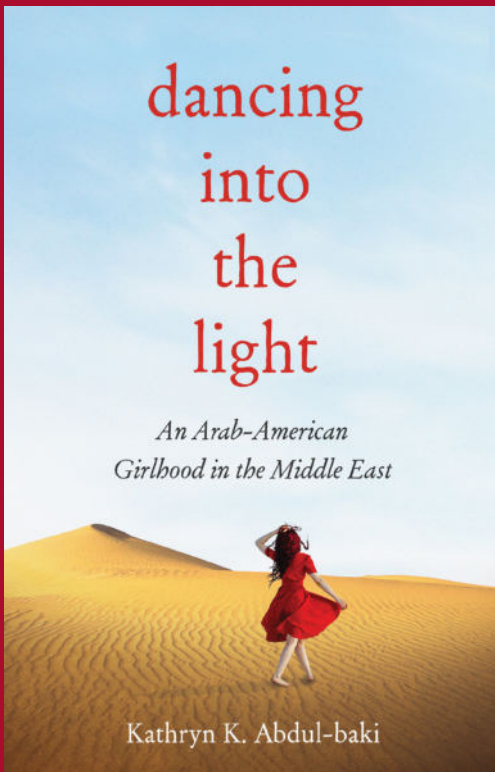
As a lonely girl coming of age in the 1970s, Liz has every reason to believe her eighth grade teacher is in love with her. Because the sex isn't physically violent and is wrapped in a message of love, she learns to exchange sex for attention. It feels like love, after all. But years later, as an adult, emotional closeness eludes Liz. Even after marrying a sensitive, caring man, she is walled off. Struggling through confusing years, she believes something is deeply wrong with her. Healing begins when an unexpected event takes Liz back to those formative years and she sees for the first time that what happened to her was not love but trauma. As she begins to understand how her relationship with her former teacher destroyed her innocence and self-worth, she begins a spiritual and psychological journey that sets her free.

Now a meditation teacher and Buddhist practitioner, Liz offers her story in hope of helping others along their own paths of discovery and healing.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Liz Kinchen is a writer, meditation teacher, and Buddhist practitioner. With graduate degrees in computer science and counseling psychology, she worked in software development management for twenty-one years before moving into the non-profit sector for seventeen years as the executive director of a small organization working with underserved children and families in Honduras. Her passions are her family, meditation, teaching mindfulness, writing, talking with close friends, and walking in nature. She is a contributing author to the anthology *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis*, published by She Writes Press in 2022. Liz lives in the greater Boston area with her husband of over thirty years. You can find her blog, and information about her teaching, at www.lizkinchen.com.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 5, 2023
Collections: Memoir
Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5
Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook
Distribution by Publishers Group West
Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-537-1
E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-538-8

“This eloquently composed remembrance has a musical lilt and emotionality, and it effectively relates the joys, fears, and tragedies the author experienced during a youth spent learning to navigate two cultures. . . . filled with detailed descriptions of Arab food and dress, and of the warmth and closeness of family connections, while offering an intriguing view of expatriate life. A well-composed, poignant reflection on an international childhood.”

—Kirkus Reviews

DANCING INTO THE LIGHT

AN ARAB AMERICAN GIRLHOOD IN THE MIDDLE EAST

KATHRYN K. ABDUL-BAKI

DESCRIPTION:

Set against the backdrop of the early American presence in Iran under the Shah and the burgeoning years of Kuwait's early oil boom, *Dancing into the Light* is Kathryn Abdul-Baki's memoir of growing up within both the expatriate Western communities and the larger Middle Eastern society of Kuwait and Jerusalem. Hers is a story of belonging to two vastly different cultures and finding her place within both, and the search to find the inherent harmony in worlds at odds with each other. She is already caught in both the joys of and the struggle to be both Arab and American, yet not fully either, when her young life of promise is disrupted by tragedy. But instead of derailing her life, her mother's death opens the door to deeper love and support from other places within Kathryn's family.

Dancing into the Light is a story of love, loss, and renewal, and of overcoming devastating early trauma through music, dancing, and the love and devotion of strong American and Arab women.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kathryn K. Abdul-baki was born in Washington DC to an Arab father and an American mother. She grew up in Iran, Kuwait, Beirut, and Jerusalem, where she attended Arabic, British, and American schools. She attended the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, and has a BA in journalism from George Washington University in Washington DC and an MA in creative writing from George Mason University, Virginia. She has published five books of fiction and is a recipient of the Mary Roberts Rinehart award for short fiction. Abdul-baki has three grown children and currently resides with her husband in McLean, Virginia.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 12, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-595-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-539-5

“... puts this complex woman [Bessie] where she belongs: back in the spotlight, with all eyes upon her.”

—Julia Keller, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *A Killing in the Hills*

“Kass is a superbly talented writer, and in her hands, Bess Myerson becomes every woman, and the amazing story of her time becomes the story of our time, too. Brava!”

—Lisa Scottoline, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Eternal*

BESSIE

A NOVEL

LINDA KASS

DESCRIPTION:

Just days after the close of World War II, Bess Myerson—the college-educated daughter of poor Russian Jewish immigrants living in the Bronx—is competing in the Miss America pageant. At stake: a \$5,000 scholarship. The tension and excitement in Atlantic City’s Warner Theatre is palpable, especially for traumatized Jews rooting for one of their own. So begins *Bessie*.

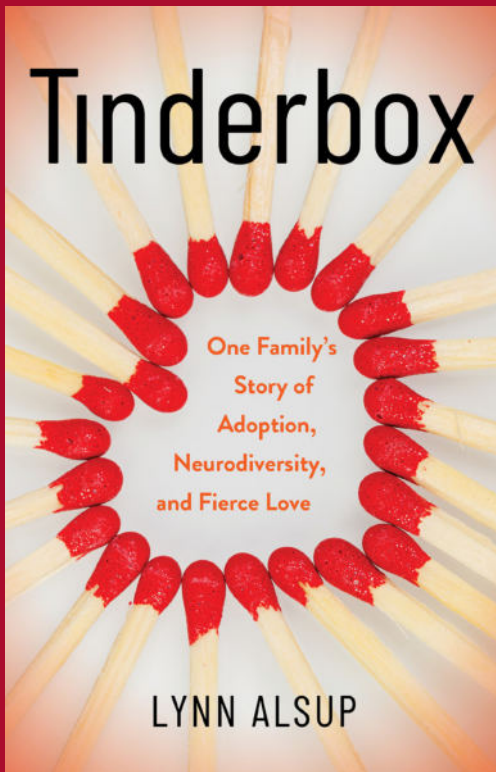
Drawing on biographical and historical sources, *Bessie* reimagines the early life of Bess Myerson, who, in 1945 at age twenty-one, remarkably rises to become one of the most famous women in America. This intimate fictional portrait reveals the transformation of the nearly six-foot-tall, self-deprecating yet talented preteen into an exemplar of beauty—a peripheral quality in her world, where success is measured by intellectual attainment. Yet it is the focus on her beauty, and the secular world of pageantry, that she must choose to escape her roots and fulfill her fierce desire to achieve and become someone for whom great things happen.

Bessie is a tender study of a bold young woman living at a precarious moment in our cultural history as she searches for love and acceptance, eager to make her mark on the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Kass is the author of two historical novels, *Tasa’s Song* (2016) and *A Ritchie Boy* (2020). She began her career as a magazine journalist and correspondent for regional and national publications. Her work has most recently appeared in *Columbus Monthly*, *Full Grown People*, *Jewish Literary Journal*, *Kenyon Review Online*, and *The MacGuffin*. She is the founder and owner of Gramercy Books, an independent bookstore in Columbus, Ohio. She and her husband, Frank, have four children, five grandchildren, and a labradoodle named Wally.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 12, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-541-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-542-5

“... a powerful testament to the strength of faith and belief and the crucial role of support from loved ones. Lynn Alsup's *Tinderbox* provides valuable insights into cross-cultural adoption for parents considering this path. . . recommended for anyone interested in adoption, parenting, or seeking inspiration in the face of adversity. This narrative is a powerful reminder that anything is possible with courage, resilience, and love.”

—Readers' Favorite, Five Star Review

TINDERBOX

ONE FAMILY'S STORY OF ADOPTION,
NEURODIVERSITY, AND FIERCE LOVE

LYNN ALSUP

DESCRIPTION:

Lynn Alsup watched, powerless, as her one-year-old daughter, Clare, newly arrived from Haiti after adoption, crawled the length of their house in a frenzied search for her lost mother. She crouched on her bed—pillow clutched over her head, her own trauma triggered—as four-year-old Clare wailed in the next room. During Clare's elementary years, mirrors crashed and shattered in shards on the subway tiles of their bathroom floor and she scored doors like tigers gouge trees. And as she and Lynn walked hand in hand through their neighborhood just before she turned thirteen, Clare calmly detailed her plan to kill herself.

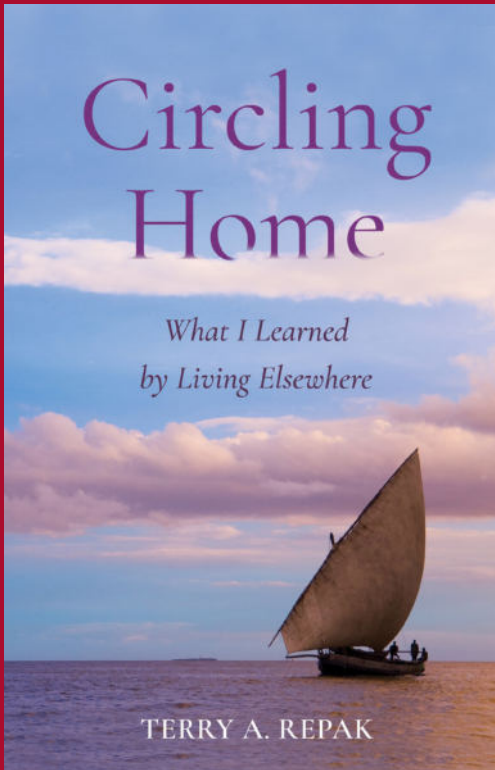
Over the course of these years, Lynn and her family journeyed through psychiatric hospitals, along the Appalachian trail, and in and out of residential placements. Lynn's marriage, faith, and sanity barely survived the ride—until she finally learned about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder (FASD), the source of neurodivergence in one in twenty American children, and discovered the Neurobehavioral Model, a strengths-based approach to neurodiversity. That discovery transformed both her and her family.

At times joyous, at times harrowing, but always full of love, *Tinderbox* is a mother's story of unrelenting resilience, hope, and devotion to her children.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lynn Alsup is a social worker, spiritual director, and meditation teacher. Her three extraordinary, neurodivergent daughters led her to FASCETS, where she now trains parents and professionals in the Neurobehavioral Model—a paradigm that fosters celebration and accommodation of neurodiversity. She lives with her family on the edge of the Chihuahuan desert in Midland, TX, building resilience and joy through writing, yoga, wide-open spaces, and snuggling her four-legged rescuer, Bryn the Bassador.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 12, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-545-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-546-3

“With candor and humility, Repak demonstrates how living overseas can be a rich and fulfilling experience. For Americans, she shows the value of opening ourselves to global perspectives and viewing the rest of the world differently while being more analytical of our own actions . . . a warm, insightful contribution to global understanding and particularly to a more textured understanding of the beauty and the complexities of Africa.”

—Dr. Helene Gayle, President of Spelman College, former President and CEO of CARE, and former Director of the Centers for Disease Control’s National Center (NCHSTP)

CIRCLING HOME

WHAT I LEARNED BY LIVING ELSEWHERE

TERRY A. REPAK

DESCRIPTION:

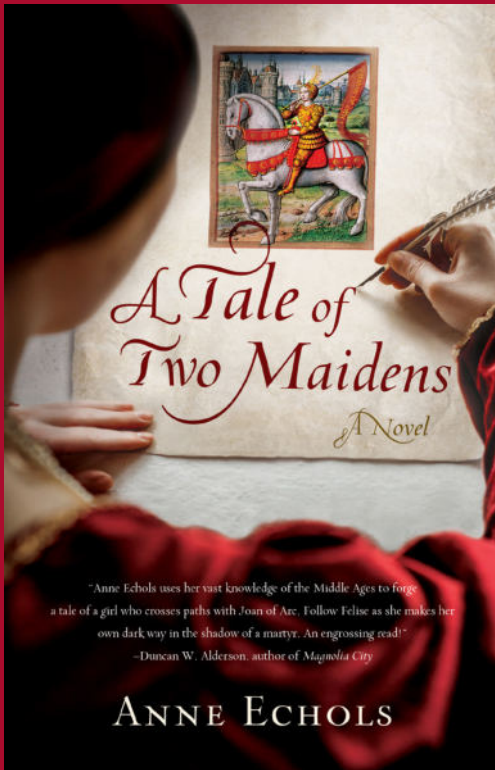
Terry Repak and her partner moved to West Africa with two small children at the height of the AIDS epidemic in the 1990s. He did AIDS work while she wrote and raised their children to become global citizens like their parents. Living in different countries—from Ivory Coast and Tanzania to Switzerland—Terry embraced every opportunity to meet people of other cultures and to bear witness to the ravages of AIDS. Like many expats, she was torn between the pull of home when a parent’s health declined or her siblings needed help and the draw of epic landscapes and foreign cultures. The lessons she learned while living overseas—though not always easy—were deeply transformative.

Candid, thoughtful, and instructive, *Circling Home* explores the notion of home and of how the bonds we form with people from other countries and cultures can profoundly change us.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Terry Repak studied journalism in college and worked as a reporter for a few years before returning to graduate school. She earned a master’s degree in International Relations at the London School of Economics and Political Science and a PhD at Emory University. She and her partner have lived in East and West Africa as well as in Europe, where he worked in the AIDS field and Terry wrote and raised their children. She has authored two other non-fiction books and numerous travel articles for newspapers and magazines, and her research has been published in academic journals. She lives in Seattle, where she continues to write, to teach English to foreign language learners (ELL), and to garden, hike, and swim.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 19, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-543-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-544-9

“. . . Echols’ historical details are seamlessly worked into the narrative, and the pace carries the reader along . . .”

—Kristen McDermott, Historical Novel Society review

A TALE OF TWO MAIDENS

A NOVEL

ANNE ECHOLS

DESCRIPTION:

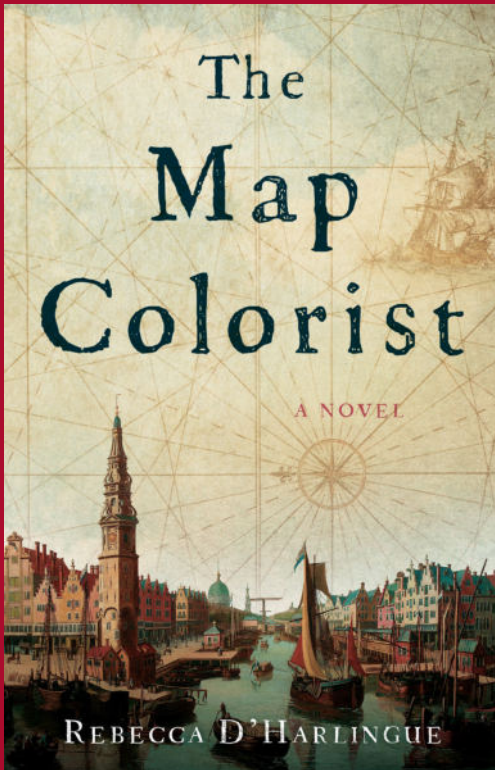
Fifteen-year-old Felise, an apprentice scribe in medieval France, is in a desperate situation. She yearns to find a way to become a writer and a book shop owner, but in order to achieve her dreams she must first escape from her cruel guardian, who is plotting an arranged marriage for her. As the Hundred Years’ War rages all around Felise, Joan of Arc blazes into history, claiming God-given powers to set France free from English control. Her courage inspires Felise to run away, but every day of the journey that follows draws the young scribe further into the underbelly of a world she has never known—a world of burning villages and terrified peasants left behind in the path of war. She soon encounters a young man from home who begins to pursue her, and she is drawn to him despite her quest for freedom and distrust of men. But when she meets Joan face to face, and finds herself torn between her heroine’s single-minded sense of purpose and her own desire for love and personal fulfillment.

A Tale of Two Maidens brings to life the story of an ordinary medieval girl on an extraordinary adventure—one that will require her to dig within herself to claim her own true, independent, and heroic destiny.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Anne Echols is the coauthor (with Marty Williams) of two nonfiction books, *Between Pit and Pedestal: Women in the Middle Ages* and *An Annotated Index of Medieval Women*. After earning a BA and master’s degree from Emory University in Atlanta, Anne enjoyed a long career of teaching English to high school students with language learning disabilities. She and her husband, Russ, have two adult children. Recently retired, she is grateful for the opportunity to divide her time between Silver Spring, Maryland, where her grandchildren live, and Atlanta, Georgia.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 19, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-547-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-548-7

“A fantastic work of literary-styled fiction that packs much into a plot filled with infidelity, long-buried secrets, murder, mystery, and more. . . . *The Map Colorist* will certainly please fans of strong female leads and trend breakers in history, and I'd highly recommend it for literary fiction fans looking for accomplished writing that also has a fast-paced, engaging plot.”

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

THE MAP COLORIST

A NOVEL

REBECCA D'HARLINGUE

DESCRIPTION:

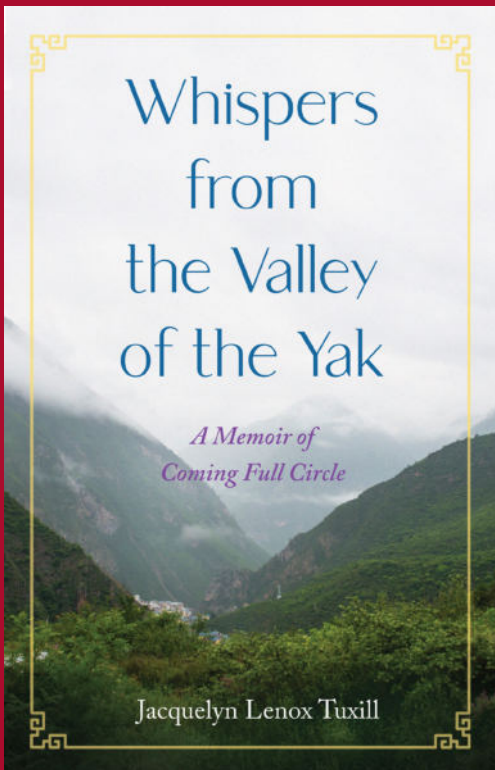
In 1660, Amsterdam is the trading and map-printing capital of the world. Anneke van Brug is one of the colorists paid to enhance black-and-white maps for a growing number of collectors. Her artistic talent brings her to the attention of the Blaeu printing house and she begins to color for a rich merchant, Willem de Groot. But Anneke is not content to simply embellish the work of others; she longs to create maps of her own. Cartography, however, is the domain of men—so it is in secret that she borrows the notes her father made on a trip to Africa in 1642 and sets about designing a new map.

Anneke hopes to convince the charismatic de Groot to use his influence to persuade Blaeu to include her map in the *Atlas Maior*, which will be the largest and most expensive publication of the century. But family secrets, infidelity, and murder endanger her dream. Will her map withstand these threats, or will it be forever lost?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rebecca D'Harlingue writes about women in the seventeenth century taking a different path. She has done graduate studies in Spanish literature, worked as a hospital administrator, and taught English as a Second Language to adults from all over the world. She has been in the same book club for decades, and although members sometimes disagree, there's always a lively discussion. D'Harlingue lives in Oakland, California, with her husband, Arthur, where they are fortunate to frequently spend time with their children and grandchildren.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 26, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-549-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-550-0

“An exquisitely told, never-to-be-forgotten story.”

—Story Circle Network

WHISPERS FROM THE VALLEY OF THE YAK

A MEMOIR OF COMING FULL CIRCLE

JACQUELYN LENOX TUXILL

DESCRIPTION:

Jackie, born of medical missionaries in China during World War II, rejected her connection to her birth country growing up because it made her different. A return to China with her parents in 1980, however, is life-changing. After always having known her mother as distant and emotionally abusive, she is stunned to see a loving side to her for the first time—and pleasantly surprised by the affinity she feels for her birth country.

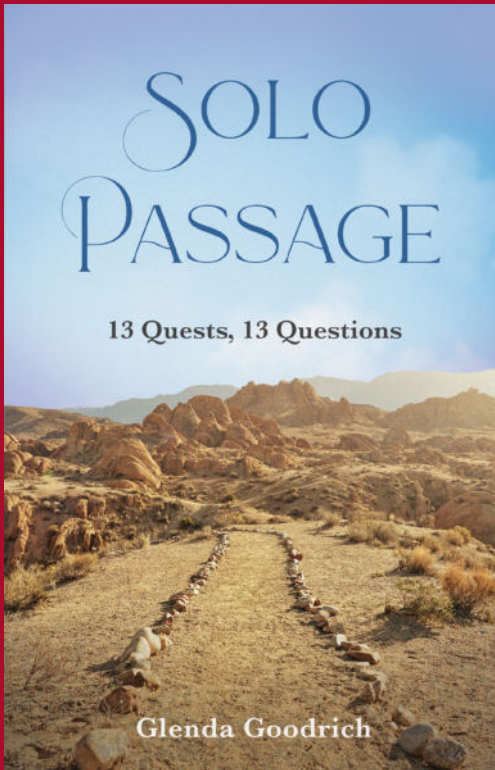
These revelations launch Jackie on a quest to understand her difficult childhood and who she is beyond “wife,” “mother,” and “daughter.” Her journey takes her first to the mountainous landscapes of Alaska, where she finds a passion for nature and begins a thirty-five-year environmental career. As she builds her life there and later in New England, she makes multiple trips to her birth country—with her parents, alone, and with her adult children. Each of these trips provides a benchmark for the growth and transformation she undergoes as she learns to create the authentic life she craves.

Deeply reflective and sensitively rendered, *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak* touches on the healing power of nature and universal themes of unconditional love and forgiveness—and, most importantly, being true to oneself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Even as a child, Jacquelyn Tuxill’s world view was expansive. Born in Chengdu, China, to medical missionary parents, as a toddler she escaped the final months of WWII with her family and celebrated her third birthday in India before obtaining passage to the US and settling in a rural West Virginia town in 1948. After graduating cum laude from Muskingum College with a BS in biology, she worked in a medical research lab while her husband attended medical school; they later moved to Alaska, where Jackie discovered a love of outdoor adventure and a passion for nature that led to a thirty-five-year career in environmental work. “Ashes and Rivers,” a chapter adapted from *Whispers from the Valley of the Yak*, appeared in the 2019 anthology *True Stories: The Narrative Project, Vol. I*. For the past three decades, Jackie has made her home in Vermont.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 26, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-551-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-552-4

**“A poignant and engaging sojourn
into the American wilderness.”**

—Kirkus Reviews

SOLO PASSAGE

13 QUESTS, 13 QUESTIONS

GLEND A GOODRICH

DESCRIPTION:

In her search to find healing and meaning in midlife, Glenda Goodrich undertakes a series of wilderness quests into the backcountry of Oregon, Washington, and California, hoping to discover what the natural world has to teach her about life, death, happiness, spirituality, and forgiveness.

This book chronicles the sacred ceremonies that connected Goodrich to the land, wove her into nature’s web, and transformed her from a woman who worked to please others into a woman who forged her own path. It is a brilliant collection of adventures—the touch of coyote fur, a snake’s kiss, a ceremonial blood offering—and a profound reflection on the healing and restorative power of nature.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

As an artist, art doula, SoulCollage® facilitator, writer, and convener of ceremony, Glenda Goodrich brings together earth-based rituals, community gatherings, and creative expression in a search for new ways to show love for the Earth. She feels most alive exploring wild places and spending time with her two children, three grandchildren, and four great-grandchildren. Glenda lives in a cottage in the Willamette Valley, Oregon.

SEPTEMBER 2023



Publication Date: September 26, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-507-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-508-1

“Propelled by the art of rowing and the complex timing of a love triangle, this is an unusual tale. Deering compels us to question if the lover ever was a lover, and then she brings him onto the family property. *The Handyman* is a complex web well-suited to our times.”

—Kathryn Trueblood, *Take Daily As Needed*

THE HANDYMAN

A NOVEL

MAURA K. DEERING

DESCRIPTION:

Who is the father of Brenna’s daughter?

When Brenna Riley and Dennis Griffin meet on the Stanford rowing team, they are immediately and inexorably drawn to each other. Their attraction leads to an ill-fated hookup. For Brenna, that’s the end of the relationship. But for Dennis, it’s the beginning of an obsession.

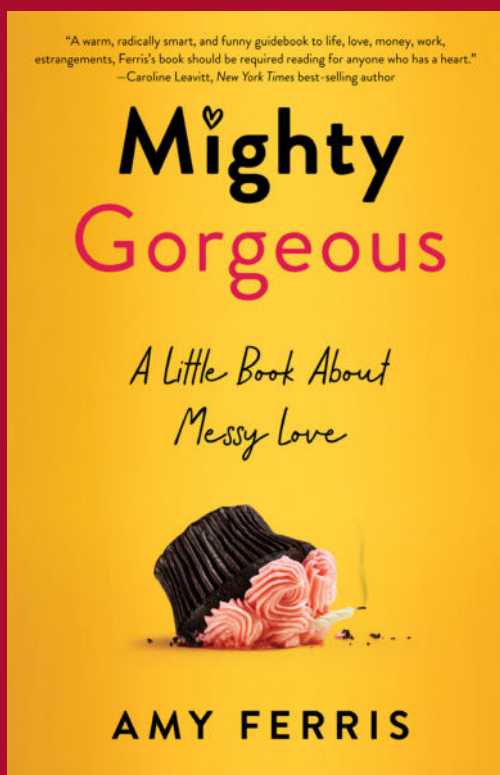
What follows is a nearly forty-year preoccupation for Dennis. Everything about Brenna, from her relationships to the strands of hair in her brush, is at the center of his thoughts. But as his efforts to win her over escalate and repeatedly fail, Dennis focuses his attention on what he’s come to think of as the next best thing: her daughter, Sadie.

A haunting, thrilling story about what happens when strong attractions are ignored, *The Handyman* follows Dennis and Brenna through marriages, addictions, and even an untimely death.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maura K. Deering studied creative writing at the University of Washington. She worked as a writer and communications director at the University of California, Davis, and practiced law for fifteen years. After retiring from her practice in 2019, she returned to writing. She has published essays in the *Seattle Weekly* and *Bird Watcher’s Digest* and articles in *ParentMap*, *UC Davis Magazine*, and the *King County Bar Bulletin*. Deering currently writes educational, healthcare, and technology web content for Red Ventures.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 3, 2023

Collections: Memoir, Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-553-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-554-8

“In Ferris’s powerful and brilliant new book, *Mighty Gorgeous*, she once again demonstrates an uncanny and extraordinary ability to grab you by the heart and take your breath away, like no one else. Each vignette glitters with truth, honesty, inspiration, and a mind-bending understanding of how life is not about either/or but a complex constellation of experience, scars, joys, and hope. Her words build epic revelations from life’s most intimate and private details and ring with abiding truths that will guide and comfort you for the rest of your life.”

—Jessica Keener, author of *Night Swim* and *Strangers in Budapest*

MIGHTY GORGEOUS

A LITTLE BOOK ABOUT MESSY LOVE

AMY FERRIS

DESCRIPTION:

Why are we so determined to be loved rather than to love ourselves? Why is it so hard to forgive our imperfections and remember that we’re extraordinary? Why are we so willing to listen to others’ voices when our own voice is right here, screaming to be heard?

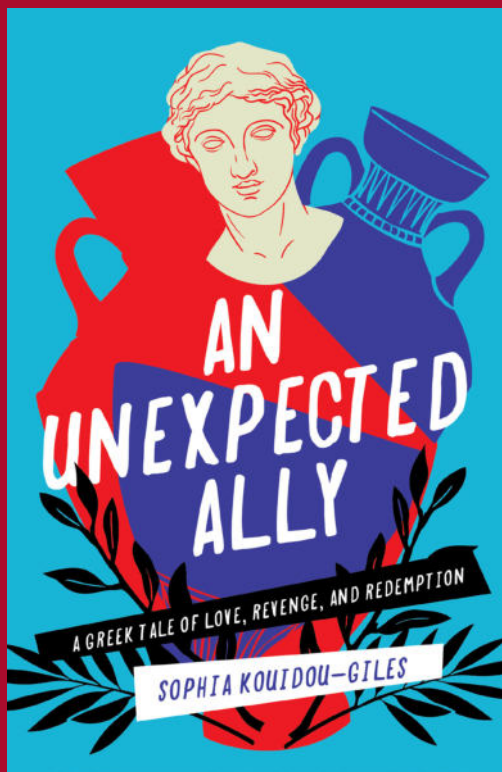
Full of the stories that have brought her to this moment and the accompanying wisdom those experiences have lent her, *Mighty Gorgeous* is Amy Ferris’s answer—tender, fierce, irreverent—to these questions, and much more.

Why? Because we are not on this earth to master suffering; we are here to create magic. Because perfection is overrated; all of our flaws and imperfections and scars are our beauty marks. Because all women deserve to speak their truth, to be heard and seen, to awaken to their own greatness. Because life is so very hard and so very brutal at times, bitter and cruel and excruciatingly difficult to navigate, and sometimes we need a light to guide us through that darkness. Because it’s time for us all to come home to ourselves—and Amy’s here to cheerlead you all the way to your own front door.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amy Ferris is an author, editor, screenwriter & playwright. Her memoir, *Marrying George Clooney: Confessions from a Midlife Crisis* (Seal Press), was adapted into an Off-Broadway play in 2012. As a screenwriter, she wrote the film *Mr. Wonderful* and was nominated for a Best Screenplay Award (BET, Black Reel Award) for her adaptation of the film *Funny Valentines*. Her YA book *a greater goode* was published by Houghton Mifflin. As an editor, she curated *Shades of Blue: Writers on Depression, Suicide, and Feeling Blue* (Seal Press) and coedited the anthology *Dancing at The Shame Prom* (Seal Press). She recently coauthored the book *Old School Love* (HarperCollins) with Rev Run of Run-DMC fame. In 2019, she was named one of Women’s eNews’s “21 Leaders for the 21st Century,” and in 2021 she was a recipient of NextTribe’s “Women of the Year.” Amy is a cofounder of the Milford Readers and Writers Festival and the director of The Story Summit Writer’s School.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 3, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-555-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-556-2

“From the beginning pages, Sophia Kouidou-Giles pulls the reader into a magical world where Greek goddesses and gods come to life. With luminescent prose, she weaves a psychologically astute study of Circe—each chapter compels the reader on to the next.

I found the novel absorbing and enlightening.”

—Kathryn Crawley, author of *Walking on Fire*

AN UNEXPECTED ALLY

A GREEK TALE OF LOVE, REVENGE, AND REDEMPTION

SOPHIA KOUIDOU-GILES

DESCRIPTION:

Powerful Circe, daughter of the sun-god Helios, is sad to see Odysseus, King of Ithaca, depart from her island, Aeaëa—but her heartbreak is eased after dolphins take her to Delos, where she explores a new love relationship.

Circe has a strained relationship with her mother, Perse, but when she finally listens to Perse’s encouragement to seek out the amphibian god Glaucus, she’s glad she’s heeded her advice. Together, the two embark on underwater adventures, and Circe shares with Glaucus her knowledge about the healing and harmful power of herbs. While in Delos, she also meets and befriends Skylla, a local beauty with whom Glaucus is enthralled, although the girl is indifferent.

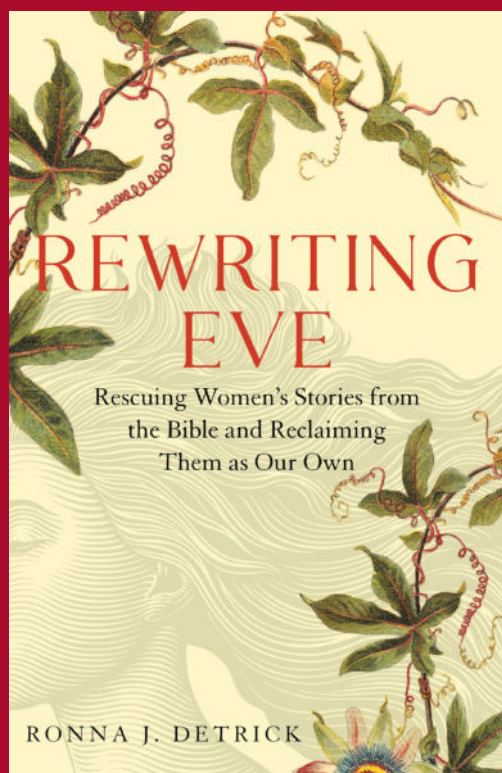
Circe eventually returns to Aeaëa, but one day she learns, upon consulting her scrying mirror, that there is trouble in Delos that requires her immediate action. In the turbulent world of gods mingling with mortals, our heroine shifts shapes, flies, and uses her superpowers to reverse the course of evil.

In a tangle of love, hate, vengeance, and the final righting of wrongs, a cast of irresistible characters weaves an adventure laced with beauty and terror in *An Unexpected Ally*—a newly woven set of tales that brings to life ancient Greek myths and revives issues familiar to contemporary readers.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sophia Kouidou-Giles was born in Thessaloniki, Greece, and was university educated in the US. She holds a bachelor’s degree in psychology and a master’s in social work. In her more than thirty-year child welfare career, she served as a practitioner, educator, researcher, and administrator. Her writing has appeared in *Voices*, *Persimmon Tree*, *Assay*, *The Raven’s Perch*, *The Time Collection*, and *The Blue Nib*. Her poetry chapbook is *Transitions and Passages*. Her work has appeared in anthologies including *The Time Collection*, *Visual Verse*, and *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis*. Her memoir, *Επιστροφή Στη Θεσσαλονίκη/Return to Thessaloniki*, was published in Greek by Tyrfi Press. The English version, *Sophia’s Return: Uncovering My Mother’s Past*, was published by She Writes Press in 2021. Sophia lives in Seattle, Washington, near her son, daughter-in-law, and two grandsons.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 3, 2023

Collections: Nonfiction/Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-561-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-562-3

“Ronna is a modern-day demigoddess. Part soul priestess, part tenderhearted feminist, her words are a divine benediction to all who hear them. She has an instinctive knack for prying you open with the utmost compassion—and she helped me recognize my resistance to reconciling with the beliefs impressed on me throughout my childhood. Ronna is someone I trust implicitly and she is the perfect intermediary for this soul work.”

—Nikki Groom, author of *A Power Of Your Own*

REWRITING EVE

RESCUING WOMEN'S STORIES FROM THE BIBLE
AND RECLAIMING THEM AS OUR OWN

RONNA J. DETRICK

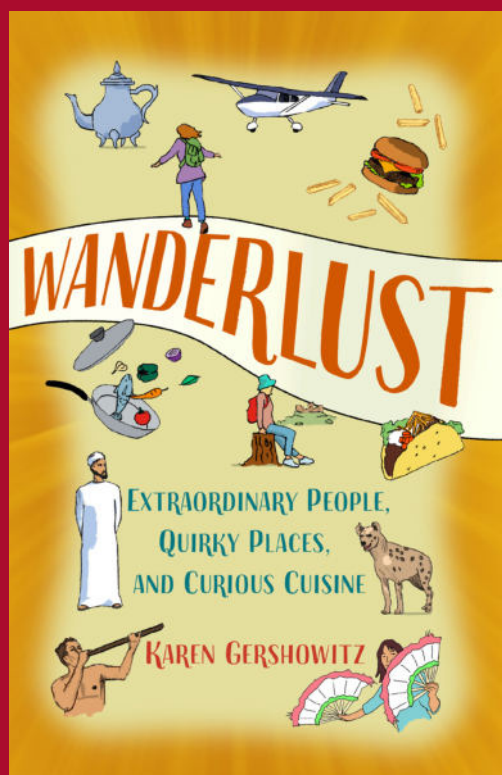
DESCRIPTION:

We wouldn't consider letting Isis, Medusa, Pandora, or Persephone slip from our lexicon. To somehow forget the legend of Harriet Tubman, Anne Frank, or Mother Teresa would never cross our minds. And yet when it comes to the stories of Eve and other biblical characters, they are rarely known, barely appreciated, and ostensibly “lost” by most of us not deeply entwined within organized religion. Trapped in patriarchy and theological argument, dismissed as irrelevant, or viewed as unchangeable even as times change, these women's voices, desires, and hearts have too often been silenced through misunderstanding and neglect. As result, we are as well. But when they are reimagined, deconstructed, disentangled from doctrine and dogma, and heard on their own terms, these stories become powerful inspiration and a source of discernment that reconnects us to a feminine lineage and a sovereign sense of self we've never known to call on or trust. In *Rewriting Eve*, Ronna Detrick invites us into the presence and power of ten sacred women, revealing the endlessly relevant ways in which they speak today and showing how they can heal, embolden, and transform our stories.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ronna Detrick left the church and its dogma nearly twenty years ago but took the stories of women with her. She combines her Master of Divinity degree with decades of coaching and spiritual direction, training and public speaking, corporate leadership, and entrepreneurship. She shocked and delighted her audience in her provocative TEDx presentation on an Eve who inspires and empowers women instead of shaming and silencing them. After living most of her life in the Pacific Northwest, she is now just minutes from the Atlantic Ocean in Hampstead, NC, where she writes, drinks strong coffee, has beautiful conversations with her clients, and cannot be dissuaded from the belief that her two daughters are the most amazing humans on the planet.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 3, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-557-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-558-6

“The book reflects the author’s love of globe-trotting adventure and describes how she built her whole life around it by getting a job in which she effectively got paid to travel. Her recollections take readers to many places around the world, from Southeast Asia to the Galápagos Islands to the American West, as she trekked for business and pleasure. These stories are also, in some ways, about the passage of time, reflecting on how travel has changed, for better and worse, over the decades.”

—Kirkus Reviews

WANDERLUST

EXTRAORDINARY PEOPLE, QUIRKY PLACES, AND CURIOUS CUISINE

KAREN GERSHOWITZ

DESCRIPTION:

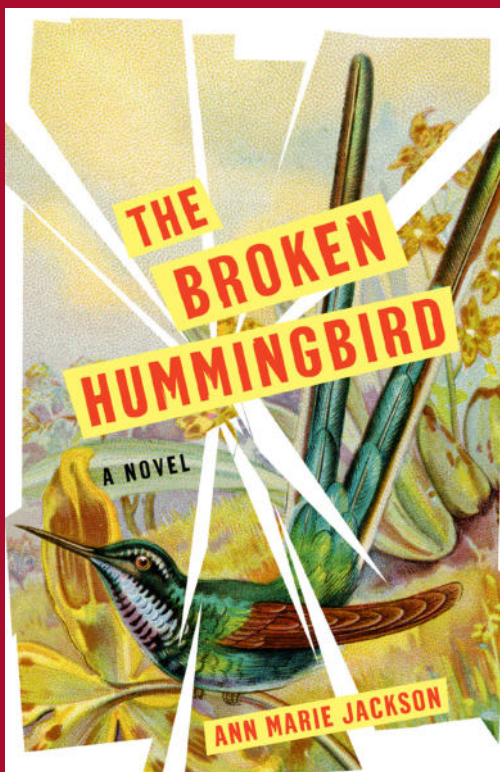
Karen Gershowitz is officially a travel addict—one with more than ninety countries under her belt. In these engaging stories, she brings readers along as her companions as she explores, laughs, and marvels at the richness of other cultures. Whether she’s picking through the worst meal ever in the wilds of Tanzania, eating a transcendent strudel in Vienna, meeting the locals in an isolated opal mining hamlet in Australia’s outback, or learning to make noodles in a Chinese village, she invites you to share in her experiences.

Whatever kind of traveler you are, novice or experienced, or even if you prefer sitting in your armchair, these stories will transport you deep into other ways of living in the world—and, hopefully, inspire you to set out on your own journeys!

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Karen Gershowitz has been traveling solo since age seventeen, when she flew to Europe and didn’t return to the US for three years. In her career as a marketing strategist and researcher she traveled the world conducting thousands of meetings, focus groups, and interviews. Her first book of travel stories, *Travel Mania*, explores the confluence of travel and life events and how travel has changed her beliefs and life direction. *Wanderlust* continues that exploration, addressing issues readers have asked to hear more about—memorable food, people, and places she experienced in her travels. She hopes these stories tickle the travel bug in readers and set them off on their own adventures. Karen lives in New York City.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 3, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-559-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-560-9

“With visually rich prose, Ann Marie Jackson tells a moving tale of a woman’s resilience and reinvention through the eyes of an expat in the beautiful but complicated city of San Miguel de Allende, Mexico.”

—Brian Crewe, director of *Cabeceo, Far, and Une Libération*

THE BROKEN HUMMINGBIRD

A NOVEL

ANN MARIE JACKSON

DESCRIPTION:

In the midst of a marital crisis, Jane hatches an unusual plan to avoid a custody battle, the thing she most fears: she convinces husband Kevin to walk away from the pressures of New York—in particular, her demanding job and an affair she almost had—in the hope that moving to their favorite city abroad will fix their family.

In San Miguel de Allende, Jane and her young sons delight in new adventures, but Kevin still seethes. Jane befriends a circle of intriguing women and helps two girls who remind her of the brother she abandoned when her own parents divorced. After witnessing violence involving the girls’ father, Jane’s vivid dreams, possibly guided by a hummingbird messenger from the hereafter, grow ever darker. When tragedy strikes San Miguel, the community fractures and then rises, and Jane must make a dangerous choice. *The Broken Hummingbird* balances the raw undoing of a marriage with the joys of discovery that lie in building a new life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ann Marie Jackson is cofounder of microlending organization Mano Amiga and former Vice President of Casita Linda, which builds homes for families in extreme poverty in San Miguel de Allende, Mexico. Early in her career, after earning degrees from Stanford and Harvard, Jackson joined the US Department of State to promote human rights in China and other East Asian and Pacific Island nations. She has also worked for NGOs including Human Rights Watch, A Better Chance, and Internews. A native of Rochester, Washington, Jackson currently resides in San Miguel de Allende. This is her first novel. A portion of the proceeds from *The Broken Hummingbird* will benefit nonprofit organizations serving women and families in central Mexico.

OCTOBER 2023

THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND US

A NOVEL

MARY CAMARILLO

Publication Date: October 10, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-565-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-566-1

“Fans of Liane Moriarty will savor the raw suspense and mystery Camarillo has skillfully woven. Juxtaposed against the bright and sunny Southern California sky, this multigenerational tale takes a deep dive into the minds and motivations of a seemingly harmless neighborhood as it strips back each dark and complicated layer, piece by piece.”

—Suzanne Simonetti, *USA Today* best-selling author of *The Sound of Wings*

“Thoughtful and riveting.”

—Shelley Blanton-Stroud, author of *Copy Boy* and *Tomboy*

THOSE PEOPLE BEHIND US

A NOVEL

MARY CAMARILLO

DESCRIPTION:

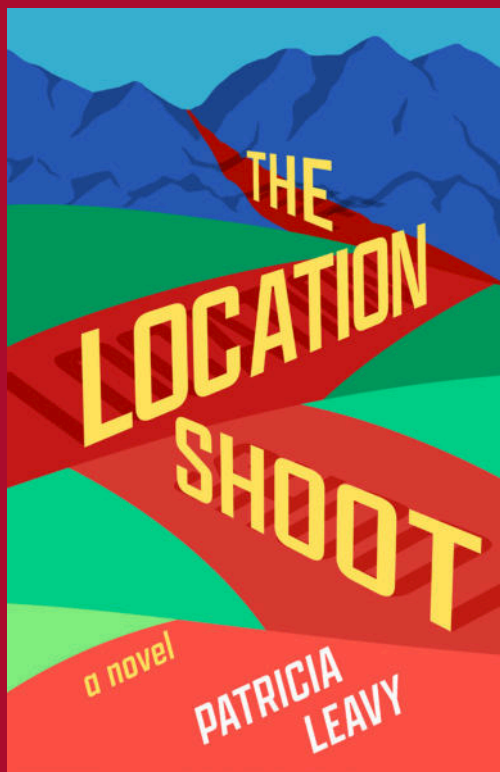
It's the summer of 2017 in Wellington Beach, California, a suburban coastal town increasingly divided by politics, protests, and escalating housing prices—divisions that change the lives of five neighbors.

Longtime resident and real estate agent Lisa Kensington juggles her job, her shopaholic husband, a mother-in-law who knows how to push her buttons, and teenage children with ideas of their own, all while trying to hold on to her own dreams. Her neighbor Ray Gorman is a haunted Vietnam vet who is also caring for his aging mother. Keith Nelson, an ex-con, lives in his car, parked around the corner from Ray, near his parents' house. Keith's got a job, a grandmother he loves, and a gym routine that almost helps him manage his violent tendencies. Down the street from Ray, sixteen-year-old Josh Kowalski is working through the shock of his father's abandonment by slamming on a drum set. He loves Led Zeppelin and setting things on fire and is fascinated with his friend's sister. New neighbor Jeannette Larsen, an aerobics teacher numbed by horrific tragedy, turns away from her husband—and toward sex with strangers. In the end, these characters discover that despite their differences, they are more connected than any of them could have imagined.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary Camarillo's award-winning debut novel, *The Lockhart Women*, was published in June 2021 by She Writes Press. Her poems and short fiction have appeared in publications such as *TAB Journal*, *166 Palms*, *Sonora Review*, and *The Ear*. Mary writes about living in Southern California, a place she's called home for more than fifty-five years and is still trying to understand. She had a long career with the postal service, which might be genetic—both her grandfathers were railway mail clerks—before eventually earning a degree in business administration, a CPA license, and a Certificate in Internal Auditing. She currently serves on the advisory boards of *Citric Acid*, an Orange County online literary arts quarterly, and LibroMobile, an arts cooperative and bookstore. Mary lives with her husband, who plays ukulele, and their terrorist cat, Riley, who makes frequent appearances on Instagram in Huntington Beach, California.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 10, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-567-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-568-5

“A tour de force! Much more than a romance, this novel celebrates the romance of life itself. Set on an exotic film location with a fabulous cast of characters that come to life on the page, this book grabs hold of your heart and mind. *The Location Shoot* poses big questions about the meaning of life and love, and the answers are profoundly satisfying. Leavy’s voice in fiction is singular. She brings her laser-like wit, intelligence, and hopefulness to this enchanting and truly unforgettable love story.”

—Laurel Richardson, award-winning author of *Lone Twin*

THE LOCATION SHOOT

A NOVEL

PATRICIA LEAVY

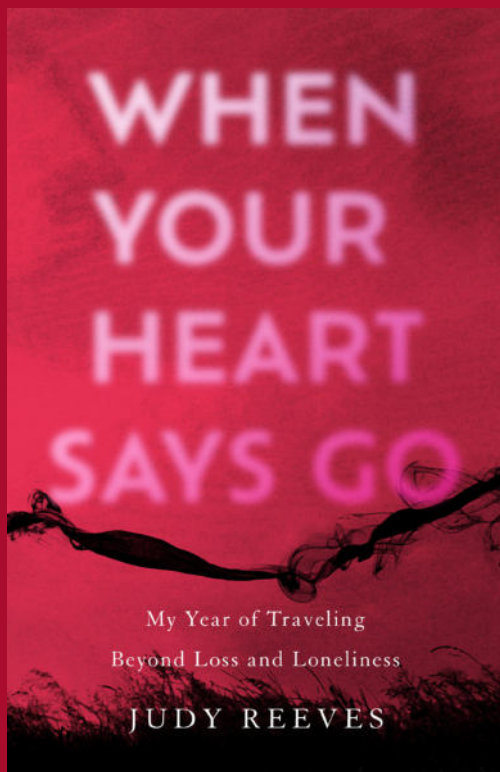
DESCRIPTION:

Controversial filmmaker Jean Mercier is shooting a film on location in Sweden. While spending the summer creating his latest work of cinematic art, he lives in a nearby inn with his lead actors: Albie Hughes, British veteran of stage and screen; Charlotte Reed, British indie film queen; Michael Hennesey, American TV heartthrob; Willow Barnes, fallen former teen star looking to make a comeback; and Finn Forrester, legendary Hollywood movie star. He’s also invited his friend Ella Sinclair—a beautiful, bohemian-spirited American philosopher known for her provocative writing—to stay with them for the summer. When Ella arrives, Finn is instantly enchanted by her, and soon they fall madly in love. Finn wants to plan a life together, but Ella harbors fears and convinces him to wait until the film wraps to decide their future. In a case of life imitating art, the film they are creating explores “the big questions” and prompts the stars to reflect on the crossroads they face in their own lives. How will their experiences on location affect them when they return home? The answers won’t come until months later, when the cast and crew reconvene on the red carpet at the Cannes Film Festival—but their revelation will make for one unforgettable night.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patricia Leavy, PhD, is an award-winning, best-selling author and former Associate Professor of Sociology, Chairperson of Sociology & Criminology, and Founding Director of Gender Studies at Stonehill College. She has published more than forty books; her work has been translated into many languages, and she has received more than forty book honors. She has also received career awards from the New England Sociological Association, the American Creativity Association, the American Educational Research Association, the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, and the National Art Education Association. In 2018, she was honored Patricia Leavy Award for Art and Social Justice,” established by the National Women’s Hall of Fame and SUNY-New Paltz. Her website is www.patricialeavy.com. Leavy currently resides in Kennebunk, Maine.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 10, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-563-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-564-7

“Reeves recounts in loving detail the globe-hopping she embarks upon to chart a new path after the death of her husband. It is in these details—a perfect cappuccino at a café in Amsterdam, a moonrise in Mykonos—that she reveals how we carry on after loss—and take loss with us as we carry on.”

—Sue William Silverman, author, *How to Survive Death and Other Inconveniences*

WHEN YOUR HEART SAYS GO

MY YEAR OF TRAVELING BEYOND LOSS AND LONELINESS

JUDY REEVES

DESCRIPTION:

What sort of mad longing besets a woman—nearing fifty and recently widowed—to sell everything she owns, buy an around-the-world airline ticket, pack a single suitcase, and set off alone on a year-long journey without a plan or agenda? *When Your Heart Says Go* answers that question.

Set in 1990–’91, Judy’s story takes readers from San Diego through eleven European countries, the then-Soviet Union, and finally India, during the lead-up to the first Gulf War.

Explorations of foreign locales and interactions with strangers and acquaintances who become a lifeline to friendship are interspersed with occasional flashbacks to Judy’s life with her beloved husband, Tom, as well as his illness and death. Descriptions of sites historic and current serve as both daily life and background for Judy’s struggle to find her way as a sober, single, independent woman in the vast world as it edges toward the collapse of the Soviet Union and war in the Middle East. The outer journey serves as a container for the inner: the more Judy experiences of the world, the more she learns about herself—and the closer she gets to realizing her lifelong dream of being a writer.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Judy Reeves is an award-winning writer and teacher whose books include *A Writer’s Book of Days* (named “Best Nonfiction” by the San Diego Book Awards and a “Hottest Books for Writers” by *Writer’s Digest*), *Writing Alone/Writing Together*, *The Writer’s Retreat Kit*, and *Wild Women, Wild Voices*. Her fiction, nonfiction, and poetry have appeared in many journals and anthologies. She previously taught creative writing at UCSD Extension and has led community-based writing practice groups for thirty years. She now teaches at writing conferences internationally and at San Diego Writers, Ink, a nonprofit literary center she cofounded. Her awards include those from the San Diego Writers and Editors Guild, San Diego Writer’s Festival, and The African American Writers & Artists Association. Judy lives and writes in San Diego, amid bulging bookshelves and an ancient Underwood typewriter that claims its own social media fan base.

OCTOBER 2023

ROLL BACK THE WORLD

a sister's memoir



DEBORAH KASDAN

Publication Date: October 17, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-571-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-572-2

“The author delves deeply into memory and family dynamics to understand her sister’s diagnosis and, in doing so, finds selfforgiveness for being unable to save her. Intricate and affecting, Kasdan’s debut finds hope in the saddest of stories.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, STARRED REVIEW

ROLL BACK THE WORLD

A SISTER’S MEMOIR

DEBORAH KASDAN

DESCRIPTION:

What happens to sibling relationships when your older sister, the budding poet you loved and admired as a child, falls prey to severe mental illness?

When Deborah Kasdan’s sister returns from a gap year in Israel she seems to glow with health and beauty. In three years, however, Rachel is committed to a psychiatric hospital. The diagnosis: schizophrenia. In clear and vivid prose, and with the help of Rachel’s letters and poetry, Deborah provides a poignant look at a mid-century Jewish family under strain; offers a moving account of Rachel’s indomitable spirit; and explores family history from the WWII years and the Cold War, trying to make sense of what happened.

As the years pass, Deborah focuses on her own family and career but constantly feels shadowed by a sense of guilt, which is compounded when she and her other two siblings make a bold attempt to help Rachel—a plan that fails. Only after a mental health worker asks Rachel to write a poem does she finally gain her freedom. To Deborah’s great joy, Rachel goes on to find acceptance, despite her disabilities, in a compassionate community, including a synagogue where she returns to the religion of her youth.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Deborah Kasdan had a thirty-five-year career writing about business and technology before retiring and joining Westport Writers Workshop to make her personal stories come alive. She has served on the board of directors of an intergenerational housing organization and the National Organization on Mental Illness (NAMI) for Southwest CT. She is a passionate swimmer and yoga practitioner, and a grandmother of four. During the summer she and her husband reside near the great Nauset Marsh of Cape Cod and live the rest of the year in Norwalk, Connecticut. She is currently at work on her next book, a novel set in a 1930s Chicago orphanage.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 17, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-569-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-570-8

“It was an honour to read *Rain Dodging*. It brought tears to the eyes and a renewed sense of how blessed I was with you and your cohorts all those years ago.”

—Professor Peter McCullough, Lincoln College, Oxford

RAIN DODGING

A SCHOLAR'S ROMP THROUGH BRITAIN IN SEARCH OF A STUART QUEEN

SUSAN J. GODWIN

DESCRIPTION:

Scholar Susan Godwin is hooked when she comes across the captivating story of Mary of Modena—a seventeenth-century Italian princess who was only fourteen when coerced into marriage with the future king of England, James II, yet went on to cultivate a court full of women writers in an age when female authorship was rare. How did Mary achieve such a feat?

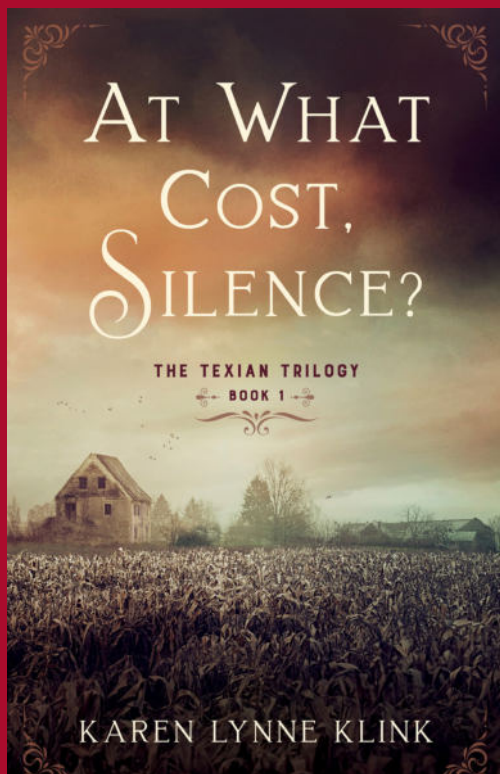
Rain Dodging is Susan's creative nonfiction account of the years-long search upon which this question—and her own unquenchable curiosity—launched her. Godwin travels through both space and time, solo adventuring through Britain in pursuit of truth and, in a spicy parallel arc, chronicling her own cluttered but resilient feminist path. From schizophrenic lovers to out-there musicians to one unhinged mother, Susan tells the story of her personal enlightenment even as she visits the palaces and manor houses in England and Scotland Mary once inhabited and pores over materials in Oxford's stunning 400-year-old Bodleian Library, finding moments of transcendence and unexpected delight along the way.

Join Susan in this irreverent and illuminating journey—a fascinating account of the late Stuart monarchy, the progression of feminist history, and the unexpected connection between the two.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susan Godwin is a fervent educator, writer, and freelance artist whose world has always been steeped in books, from *Harold and the Purple Crayon*—she couldn't resist drawing on her bedroom wall, no matter how many reprimands—to her first job as a library book mender in her Shaker Heights High School basement to teaching English at the prestigious University School of Nashville. A former Oxford scholar, Godwin has received writing awards from the University of Michigan, Middle Tennessee State University, and Bread Loaf School of English. Though writing is her true passion, she is also a visual artist working primarily in oils and pastels. Her home is a hayloft renovated by her sweet, sexy husband, Tony—with help from their rotty, Roody!—that sits on the banks of a winding river in Dickson, TN.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 17, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-603-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-604-0

“At What Cost, Silence? is a family saga that transforms the way we see the past, turning over little-known stones of history by focusing on the antebellum world of East Texas. This is both an epic novel spanning decades of history, culture, and politics, and an intimate, passionate tale of love and morality, rooted deeply in the contradictions and complexities of its many characters. Klink has captured it all with great care and compassion and understanding.”

—Molly Gloss, author of *The Hearts of Horses*

AT WHAT COST, SILENCE?

THE TEXIAN TRILOGY, BOOK 1

KAREN LYNNE KLINK

DESCRIPTION:

Adrien Villere suspects he is not like other boys. For years, he desperately locks away his feelings and fears—but eventually, tragedy and loss drive him to seeking solace from his mentor, a young neighbor Jacob Hart. Jacob’s betrayal of Adrien’s trust, however, results in secret abuse, setting off a chain of actions from which neither Adrien’s wise sister, Bernadette, nor his closest friend, Isaac, can turn him.

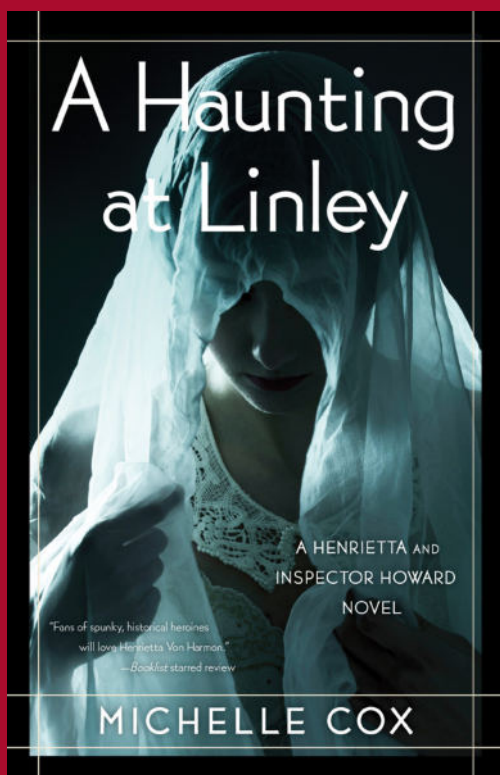
At What Cost, Silence? presents two contrasting plantation families in a society where strict rules of belief and behavior are clear and public opinion can shape an entire life. Center stage are the Villeres, a family less brutal than the Harts, but no less divisive. Often-absent Papa Paien Villere guards several secrets he has kept from everyone—including one which could destroy his entire family. Years after Jacob’s betrayal, Adrien falls hopelessly in love with his former mentor’s erotically precocious and beautiful young sister Lily—whose father has affianced her to a wealthy older man.

What will happen if Lily’s violent brother learns of Adrien and Lily’s clandestine affair? Will Adrien help liberate Isaac—an enslaved Black man—as promised? Will Bernadette find the unconventional life she seeks? Or will their entire world end as states secede and war creeps ever closer?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Karen Lynne Klink began reading before entering first grade and started her artistic career drawing imaginative adventures in the margins of schoolwork—which, unfortunately, few teachers appreciated. After completing her formal education at Kent State University and San Diego State, for four decades she hiked and backpacked her way through the West and parts of Mexico and Central America before settling in Tucson, Arizona, with her cat buddy, Dickens. Although she enjoyed minor success as a watercolor painter, she discovered her true passion when she began writing fiction at the age of sixty. To learn more, visit www.karenklink.com.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 24, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-598-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-599-9

“Michelle Cox masterfully recreates 1930s Chicago, bringing to life its diverse neighborhoods and eclectic residents, as well as its seedy side. *Henrietta and Inspector Howard* are the best pair of sleuths I’ve come across in ages.”

—Tasha Alexander, *New York Times*
best-selling author of *The Lady Emily Mysteries*

“Fans of spunky, historical heroines will love Henrietta Von Harmon.”

—*Booklist*, starred review

A HAUNTING AT LINLEY

A HENRIETTA AND INSPECTOR HOWARD NOVEL

MICHELLE COX

DESCRIPTION:

In the vein of Agatha Christie’s best whodunnits!

In this seventh book of the series, Clive and Henrietta return to England to find Castle Linley in financial ruin. When the estate agent Cilve’s cousin Wallace has invited in to assess the home’s value is found poisoned, all of the Castle’s guests are thrown under suspicion. Clive and Henrietta are soon drawn into an investigation, which is slowed by an incompetent local inspector and several unexplained phenomena—the cause of which many, especially the frail Lady Linley, believe to be the ghost of a hanged maid.

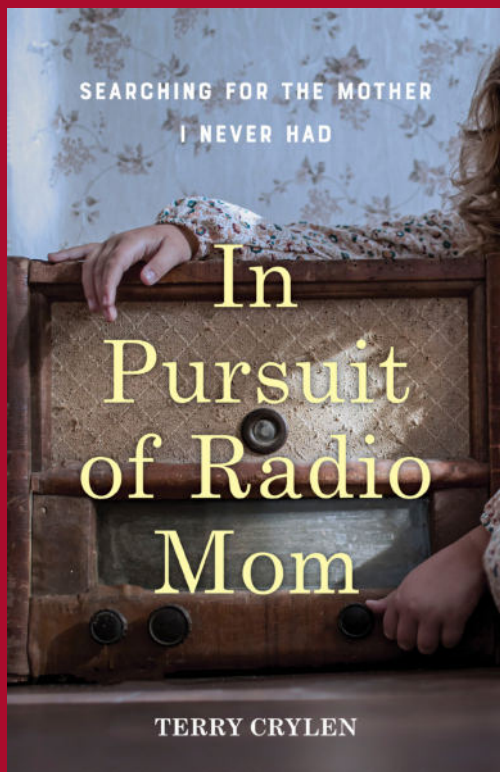
Meanwhile, Gunther and Elsie have begun life on a farm in Omaha. Circumstances are difficult, but they are content—until Oldrich Exely appears, proposing an option Elsie finds difficult to ignore. Melody Merriweather, still masquerading as a nun to aid Elsie’s escape, likewise finds it difficult to ignore a letter with tragic news from home, while Julia, on the other hand, receives a very different sort of letter from Glenn Forbes.

Back in England, Clive is called away to London on suspicious business, leaving Henrietta to carry on with the investigation alone. When she is mysteriously locked in the study one night, however, things take on a more deadly, supernatural feel, leaving her to fear that Lady Linley’s “ghost” might just be real after all . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michelle Cox is the author of the *Henrietta and Inspector Howard* series, a mystery/romance saga set in 1930s Chicago often described as “*Downton Abbey* meets *Miss Fisher’s Murder Mysteries*.” To date, the series has won over sixty international awards and has received positive reviews from *Library Journal* (starred), *Booklist* (starred), *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and various media outlets, such as *Popsugar*, *Buzzfeed*, *Redbook*, *Elle*, *Brit&Co.*, *Bustle*, *Culturalist*, *Working Mother*, and many others. Cox also pens the wildly popular *Novel Notes of Local Lore*, a weekly blog that chronicles the lives of Chicago’s forgotten residents. She lives in the northern suburbs of Chicago with her husband and three children and is hard at work on her next novel.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 24, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-575-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-576-0

“Limned by a deft storyteller with a fresh voice, *In Pursuit of Radio Mom* pulls off a tremendous challenge: it makes empathetic Crylen’s sojourn away from and back to her remote and bitter mother, as well as revealing her subsequent brave battle to loosen her grasp on her anorexic and suicidal daughter. Her background as a clinical psychologist, here unmasked, inspires both her candor and her tenderness.

Bravo!”

—Linda Gray Sexton, author of *Searching For Mercy Street: My Journey Back to My Mother*,
Anne Sexton

IN PURSUIT OF RADIO MOM

SEARCHING FOR THE MOTHER I NEVER HAD

TERRY CRYLEN

DESCRIPTION:

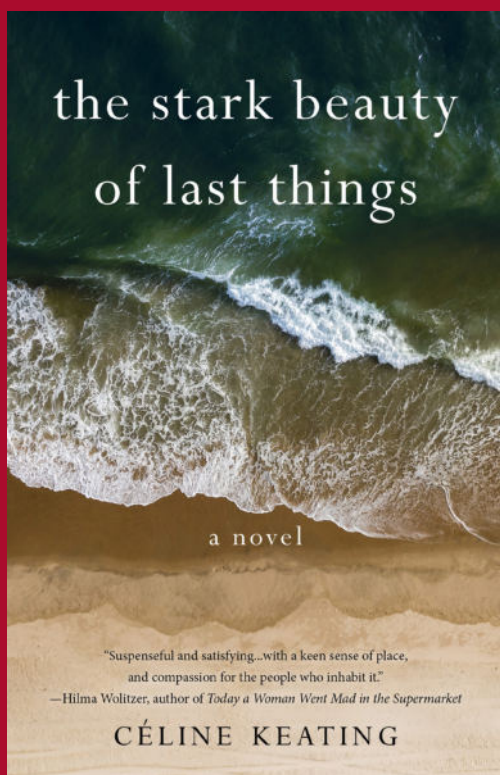
In Pursuit of Radio Mom brings the reader tight to Terry Crylen’s side as it traces her path from frequent and debilitating anxiety, loneliness, and shame—and a dysfunctional marriage that mirrors the dynamics of her relationship with her mother—to the discovery of her authentic self and the happiness and fulfillment such a transformation brings. This insightful memoir goes on to illuminate the ways in which one generation impacts the next—both wittingly and unwittingly—when later, while pressing along the difficult route of raising her own daughter, the author is challenged to confront, yet again, the legacy of her past.

A book that also makes transparent the process of psychotherapy, *In Pursuit of Radio Mom*’s message is this: the excavation of pain clears space within the mind and heart—affording the growth of new insight, overturning fear, and making acceptance and forgiveness possible.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Terry Crylen’s thirty-five years in the mental health field, thirty of them in private practice as a PhD Licensed Clinical Psychologist, served to enrich her understanding and appreciation for the emotional power of the mother-daughter relationship. A graduate of Northwestern University, her career in mental health focused largely on working with adolescent girls and adult women presenting with clinical depression, anxiety, and complex mood disorders. A lifelong Chicagoan, she is committed to supporting community efforts aimed at creating opportunities for the city’s economically disadvantaged youth and is an ardent supporter of the arts. Along with her husband, Phil, Terry is also a “frequent flyer,” devoted to maintaining strong ties with family—most of whom are scattered across the US. When not on the road or writing, she can be found hanging out with four-legged friends or with her nose in a good book.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 24, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-577-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-578-4

“The Stark Beauty of Last Things is suspenseful and satisfying. Céline Keating is a wonderful storyteller, with a keen sense of place and compassion for the people who inhabit it.”

—Hilma Wolitzer, author of *Today a Woman Went Mad in the Supermarket*

“The Stark Beauty of Last Things brilliantly explores the symbiotic relationship between nature, the community, and characters driven to exploit or coexist with each other and the environment. . . . This is a wise and often astonishing debut novel.”

—Robert Eversz, author of the Nina Zero novels

THE STARK BEAUTY OF LAST THINGS

A NOVEL

CÉLINE KEATING

DESCRIPTION:

The Stark Beauty of Last Things is set in Montauk, the far reaches of the famed Hamptons, an area under looming threat from a warming climate and overdevelopment. Now outsider Clancy, a thirty-six-year-old claims adjuster scarred by his orphan childhood, has inherited an unexpected legacy: the power to decide the fate of Montauk’s last parcel of undeveloped land.

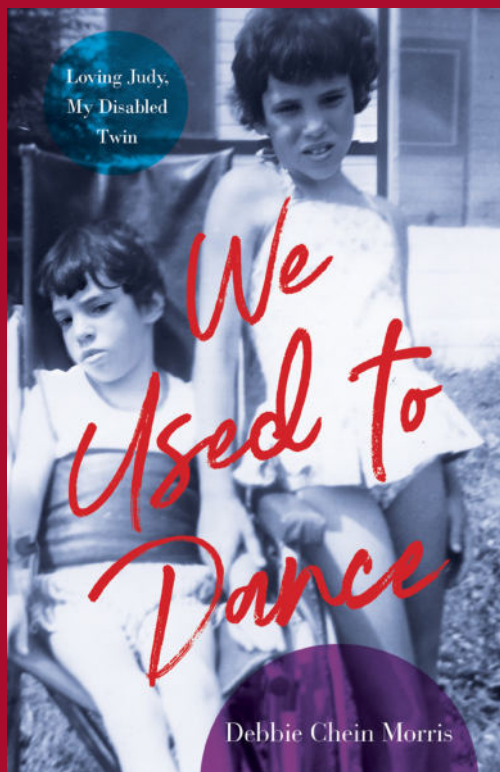
Everyone in town has a stake in the outcome, among them Julianne, an environmentalist and painter fighting to save the landscape that inspires her art; Theresa, a bartender whose trailer park home is jeopardized by coastal erosion; and Molly and Billy, who are struggling to hold on to their property against pressure to sell. When a forest fire breaks out, Clancy comes under suspicion for arson, complicating his efforts to navigate competing agendas for the best uses of the land and to find the healing and home he has always longed for.

Told from multiple points of view, *The Stark Beauty of Last Things* explores our connection to nature—and what we stand to lose when that connection is severed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Céline Keating is an award-winning writer living in Bristol, Rhode Island, and New York City. She is the author of two novels: *Layla* (2011), a Huffington Post featured title, and *Play for Me* (2015), a finalist in the International Book Awards, the Indie Excellence Awards, and the USA Book Awards. Her short fiction and articles have been published in many literary journals and magazines. For many years a resident of Montauk, NY, Céline continues to serve on the board of environmental organization Concerned Citizens of Montauk. She is the coeditor of the anthology *On Montauk: A Literary Celebration*.

OCTOBER 2023



Publication Date: October 24, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-573-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-574-6

“Morris’s story of identical twin sisters recounts a lifetime of loving care and hard choices. . . . A tender and skillfully written account of deep joys and difficult challenges.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“A breathtaking tribute to the power of sisterly love. This story will grip your heart and not let go.”

—Diana Kupershmit, author of *Emma’s Laugh: The Gift of Second Chances – A Memoir*

WE USED TO DANCE

LOVING JUDY, MY DISABLED TWIN

DEBBIE CHEIN MORRIS

DESCRIPTION:

Debbie and Judy are twins—but Judy was born with cerebral palsy, and Debbie was not. Despite the severity of Judy’s brain damage, her parents chose to keep her at home with her three siblings, and ultimately Judy lived at home with them well into adulthood. Even after her father died, she continued to stay with her mother, her care augmented by a succession of home attendants—until, that is, her doctor told Debbie that Judy’s care at home was wanting and she would not survive without nursing home care.

In *We Used to Dance*, Debbie tells of the emotional trauma she experienced when she was forced to place her sister—a sister unable to sit, stand, eat regular food, feed herself, use a bathroom, or make her needs and desires known through speech or other means—in a new and strange environment. Following Judy’s life in her new home as well as her past relationship with Debbie and the rest of their immediate family, this is a raw, personal memoir of love and guilt—and, ultimately, acceptance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Born in the Bronx, NY, Debbie Morris lived on Long Island (Plainview) for most of her adult life. The youngest (by five minutes) of four children, family has always been important to her. Married for forty-four years and since widowed, she is mother to three wonderful sons and two amazing daughters-in-law, and grandmother to a beautiful granddaughter. Debbie holds master’s degrees from Queens College, Hofstra University, and Bank Street College of Education in the field of early childhood education. She spent many years as a classroom teacher to preschool and kindergarten children and teaching reading to kindergarteners in need of extra support. Now retired, she loves spending time taking walks in nature, solving *NY Times* crossword puzzles, and practicing piano. Debbie currently resides in Mt. Kisco, New York, with her new partner.

OCTOBER 2023

TEACHING WITH HEART



*Lessons Learned
in a Classroom*

JENNIFER NELSON

Publication Date: October 31, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-505-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-506-7

TEACHING WITH HEART

LESSONS LEARNED IN A CLASSROOM

JENNIFER NELSON

DESCRIPTION:

Why are so many teachers leaving the profession? They're burned out; they feel disrespected and unsupported. After teaching remotely during a pandemic, they're returning to classrooms with under-socialized and sometimes out-of-control kids. What to do?

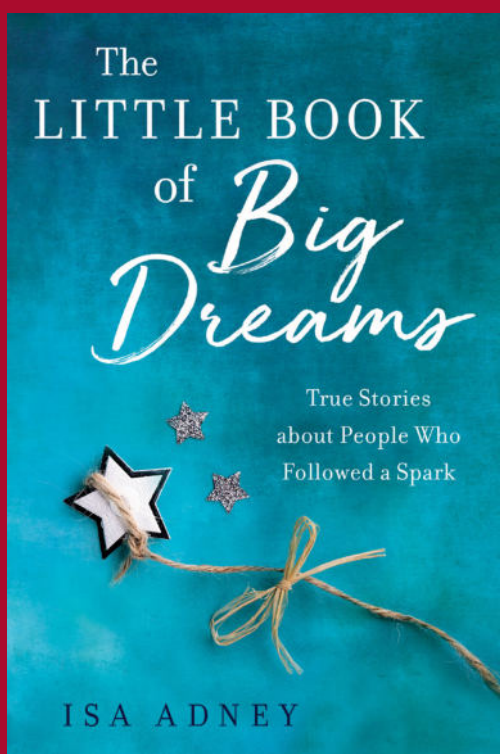
Teaching with Heart chronicles the journey of a journalist-turned-teacher determined to make teaching work—despite its difficulties. Peek into Madame Nelson's classroom to see her trying to reach teens who dance, cry, and hit each other in French class; administrators who laud the latest pedagogical trends and testing regime; and parents who sometimes support—and sometimes interfere with—their children's education. Meet colleagues who save her from quitting, and the children—her own—who provide advice. Along the journey, she evolves from an aloof elitist into an empathetic listener to all sorts of teens.

Isn't it time we create schools in which teachers want to stay and new ones enter? Without committed teachers, how can we prepare students to run our world? *Teaching with Heart* illuminates why it's so hard to hold on to classroom teachers these days—and what can be done to better the situation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jennifer Nelson is high school French teacher, writer, and personal historian. She spent the last fifteen years teaching in public and private schools; before that, she wrote for magazines and newspapers. She runs Your Stories, a writing services company, and holds undergraduate and graduate degrees from Columbia University, University of California, Berkeley, and Vermont College of Fine Arts. During her spare time, she loves walking, traveling, and spending time with her partner and three grown children. She lives in Bucks County, Pennsylvania.

NOVEMBER 2023



Publication Date: November 7, 2023

Collections: Nonfiction/Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-585-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-586-9

“With its passionate prose and poignant anecdotes, it invites readers on a journey of self-discovery and empowerment, illuminating the path to achieving one’s most audacious aspirations.”

—Frederick Joseph, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Better Than We Found It*

“Adney curates a collection of visionaries who freely share their unique insights into the hopes and horrors of creativity. The result is a brilliant road map for following your dreams and living a more creative life.”

—Don Hahn, producer of *Disney’s Beauty and the Beast* and *The Lion King*

THE LITTLE BOOK OF BIG DREAMS

TRUE STORIES ABOUT PEOPLE WHO FOLLOWED A SPARK

ISA ADNEY

DESCRIPTION:

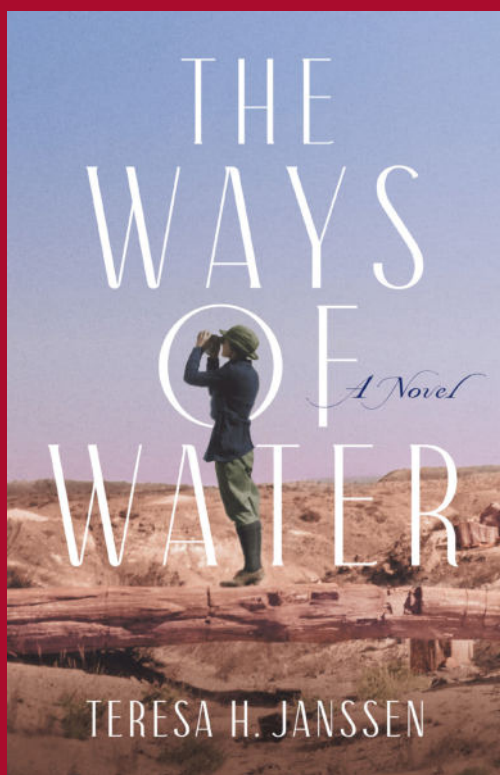
There is a lot of advice out there about how to pursue your goals, but sometimes all a dreamer needs to keep going on their journey is an encouraging story. Proof that lows are normal and a part of the process, and that all that hard work might really still have a chance of paying off. A reminder that sometimes dreams do come true.

The Little Book of Big Dreams is filled with true stories of dreamers just like you who dared to reach for the stars and actually go for the things they wanted most in life—but the most important story in this book is yours. Each uplifting tale you find on these pages is meant to inspire you along your dream journey, not only helping you keep going when things get hard but also reminding you that such obstacles don’t mean that you’re doing this wrong—they mean you’re on your way.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Isa Adney is a writer, dreamer, and storyteller, and one time she shook hands with Lin-Manuel Miranda on the *Hamilton* stage in New York City. (She just has to throw that in.) Meeting him and some of her other creative heroes, like Disney producer Don Hahn, Oscar-winning songwriter Kirsten Anderson Lopez (“Let It Go”), and fashion trailblazer Brandice Daniel, showed her that the whole “never meet your heroes” thing is wrong, especially if you’re a dreamer. She has interviewed over 170 creatives, artists, and dreamers to date and written 50 full-feature profiles and counting. You can read those stories on her blog, *Creative Teacup*, or in the creator stories she writes for ConvertKit. She’s also the host of the *I Am A Creator* podcast and producer of the *I Am A Creator* docuseries, which won four Telly Awards.

NOVEMBER 2023



Publication Date: November 7, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-583-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-584-5

“This story flows with twists and turns much like those of a river. . . . The authentic voice, rich sensory imagery, and often lyrical, poetic language create an emotional and descriptive feast.”

—*Chanticleer Book Reviews*, 5 stars

THE WAYS OF WATER

A NOVEL

TERESA H. JANSSEN

DESCRIPTION:

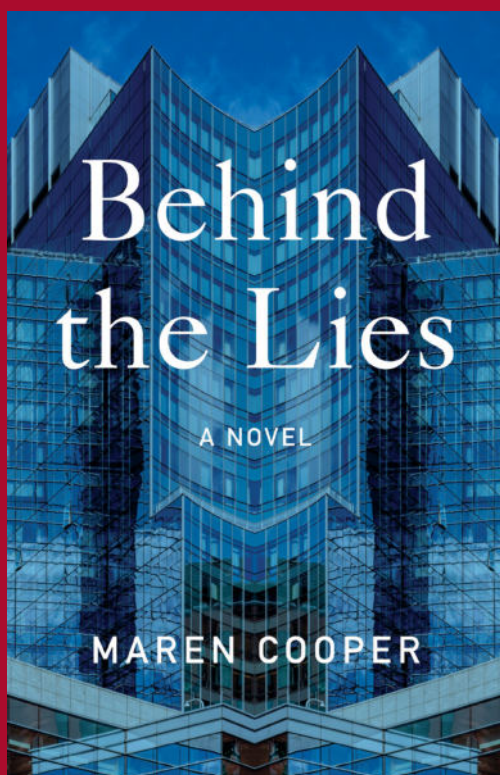
As Josie Belle Gore, daughter of a Louisiana train engineer and Texas seamstress, journeys with her itinerant family through the deserts of the boom-and-bust American West and revolutionary Mexico, she learns that in her life, two things are constant: water is precious, and her role in her family is to save it.

When unforeseeable events force the separation of her family, Josie begins an odyssey that takes her from New Mexico’s Jornada del Muerto to Bisbee, Tucson, Los Angeles, and finally post-WWI San Francisco—experiencing betrayal, pandemic, and survivor’s guilt, as well as the compassion and generosity of friends and strangers, along the way. Once she lands in San Francisco, like a river meeting the sea, Josie has nowhere else to run—and she realizes that she must make peace with the past and good on her promise to the family she loves. Inspired by the author’s family lore, *The Ways of Water* is a lyrical tale of loss, hope, and forgiveness set in the rugged beauty of a turn-of-the-century Southwest that, like Josie, is growing up in fits and starts.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Teresa H. Janssen is a career educator, essayist, and author of short fiction whose writing has appeared in a variety of literary journals. *The Ways of Water* is her debut novel, and was inspired her grandmother’s girlhood in the American Southwest. Teresa resides with her husband near Seattle on Washington State’s Olympic Peninsula.

NOVEMBER 2023



Publication Date: November 14, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-587-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-588-3

“Deftly built on intrigue and anticipation, the reader anxiously waits on tenterhooks for the other shoe to drop as unflagging tension mounts in this high-caliber, captivating page-turner—a must-read for mystery fans.”

—Laurie Buchanan, author of the Sean McPherson novels

BEHIND THE LIES

A NOVEL

MAREN COOPER

DESCRIPTION:

Will Franklin—former academic geek, now recognized as a rare talent in the “fake it ‘til you make it” biotech industry—is in the wings for his dream job as next CEO of a global powerhouse. Or so he thinks, until his boss, Chet, calls him into his office and angrily tells him he is going to be fired. Chet hints at impropriety but won’t say more—and before Will can press him, he falls so ill that he’s put on ventilator care.

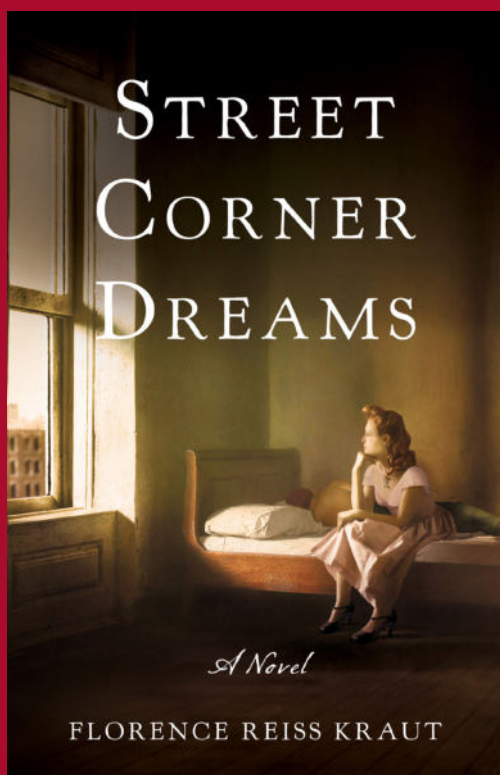
Now, instead of losing his job, Will finds himself in the position of supporting Chet’s family through the hell of a dire illness. Just as suddenly, he finds his leadership ability tested by a crippling cyberattack that threatens the entire industry and leaves him with little time to untangle the mystery of whatever it is that Chet uncovered before he got sick.

Can Will clear his name before the ax falls—or his marriage collapses—due to his lapse in judgment? And does Bella, a young and beautiful rising star making waves with her own start-up company, have anything to do with this mess?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maren Cooper is the author of *A Better Next* (She Writes Press, 2019) and *Finding Grace* (She Writes Press, 2022). She retreats frequently to the shore of Lake Superior, where she loves to hike and watch the deer devour her hosta. She grew up in the Midwest and now resides in St. Paul, Minnesota, where she serves as a volunteer for various nonprofits.

NOVEMBER 2023



Publication Date: November 14, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-591-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-592-0

“Street Corner Dreams will grip you. Florence Kraut has researched the Jewish gangs of immigrant Brooklyn and spun their stories into gold. The book is a tear-jerker at times, but also so much more—Kraut’s ear for dialogue and her ability to portray the small, telling gesture make the book a pleasure to read. The book opens a chapter of history that most of us are unfamiliar with, and brings it to life.”

—Mary Fillmore, Sarton Women’s Book Award-winning author of *An Address in Amsterdam*

STREET CORNER DREAMS

A NOVEL

FLORENCE REISS KRAUT

DESCRIPTION:

A suspenseful family saga, love story, and gangster tale, wrapped into one great book club read . . .

Just before WWI, Golda comes to America yearning for independence, but she tosses aside her dreams of freedom and marries her widowed brother-in-law after her sister dies giving birth to their son, Morty.

In the crowded streets of Brooklyn, where Jewish and Italian gangs demand protection money from local storekeepers and entice youngsters with the promise of wealth, Golda, Ben, and Morty thrive as a family. But in the Depression, Ben, faced with financial ruin, makes a dangerous, life-altering choice. Morty tries to save his father by getting help from a gangster friend but the situation only worsens. Forced to desert his family and the woman he loves in order to survive, Morty is desperate to go home. Will he ever find a safe way back? Or has his involvement with the gang sealed his fate?

Another stunning work of historical fiction by Florence Reiss Kraut, *Street Corner Dreams* is an exploration of a timeless question: how much do we owe the families that have sacrificed for and shaped us—and does that debt outweigh what we owe ourselves and our own hopes and dreams for a better life?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Florence Reiss Kraut is a native New Yorker, raised and educated in New York City. She holds a BA in English and a MSW in social work, and she worked for thirty years as a clinician, a family therapist, and finally CEO of a family service agency before retiring to write and travel widely. She has published stories for children and teens, romance stories for national magazines, literary stories, and personal essays for the Westchester section of *The New York Times*. She has three married children and nine grandchildren. *Street Corner Dreams* is her second novel, following the excellent reception of *How to Make a Life*, her first novel. She lives in Rye, New York, and the Berkshires, Massachusetts.

NOVEMBER 2023



Publication Date: November 14, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-593-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-594-4

Praise for *Tomboy*:

“A wonderful story full of nuance and character.”

—Sheldon Siegel, *NYT* and *USA Today*
best-selling author of the Mike Daley/Rosie
Fernandez series

For *Copy Boy*:

“Smart, lively, and suspenseful, this is
Raymond Chandler for feminists.”

—Sharma Shields, author of *The Cassandra*

POSTER GIRL

A JANE BENJAMIN NOVEL

SHELLEY BLANTON-STROUD

DESCRIPTION:

Cynical young gossip columnist Jane Benjamin joins FDR’s Office of War Information, a propaganda unit, to find a Wendy-the-Welder poster girl to urge more women to the shipyard work essential to America’s winning World War II—and, incidentally, to make herself into the new Hedda Hopper. But somebody doesn’t want those women at work.

During a five-day contest to beat the world speed record for building a liberty ship, Jane investigates the lives of the first women welders and learns more about her flyboy former lover’s secret post–Pearl Harbor mission—and her cynicism begins to melt. But when inspectors find and publicize a series of flaws in the contest-week welding, the women welders are blamed. Worse, two poster girl candidates are killed.

Are they being sabotaged by a belligerent male shipyard supervisor? The industrialist shipyard owner with a history of controlling women? Or someone else trying to diminish the success of the US liberty ship program? To find out, Jane must choose between her professional ambition and service to the women welders—before the murderer harms another girl and America’s best chance of winning the war.

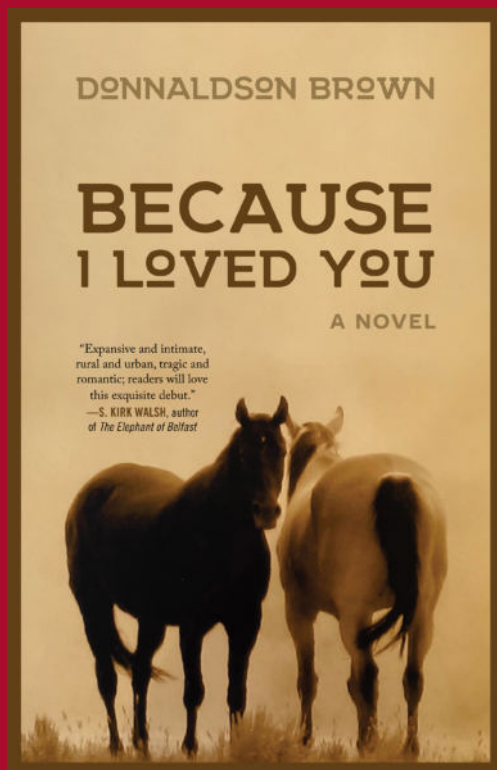
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Shelley Blanton-Stroud grew up in California’s Central Valley. She recently retired from teaching writing at Sacramento State University and still consults with writers in the energy industry. She also serves as President of the Board of 916 Ink, an arts-based creative writing nonprofit for children; serves on the Board of Advisors for the Gould Center for Humanistic Studies at Claremont McKenna College; and previously codirected *Stories on Stage Sacramento*. *Poster Girl* is her third Jane Benjamin novel, following *Copy Boy* and *Tomboy*. Her writing has been a finalist in the Sarton Book Awards, IBPA Benjamin Franklin Awards, Killer Nashville’s Silver Falchion Award, the American Fiction Awards, and the National Indie Excellence Awards. Shelley and her husband live in Sacramento, California, surrounded by photos of their out-of-town sons and their wonderful partners, as well as a lifetime of beloved dogs.



Spring
2023

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 4, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-298-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-299-8

“Cal and Leni first fall in love with horses, then with each other, a love that not even Donaldson Brown’s beautifully rendered North Texas landscapes can contain. Because they’ve other loves, as well—mathematics for Cal, art for Leni—that conflict with the expectations of their families and their town. There are other secrets, too, one of them buried so deep under Leni’s family tree that perhaps it should remain, but it can’t, not if Leni is to be free. *Because I Loved You* is deeply affecting, swooningly romantic, hard as diamonds, too: dreams don’t always add up, and trouble can sometimes be our friend.”

—Bill Roorbach, author of *Lucky Turtle*, *Life Among Giants*, and *The Remedy for Love*

BECAUSE I LOVED YOU

A NOVEL

DONNALDSON BROWN

DESCRIPTION:

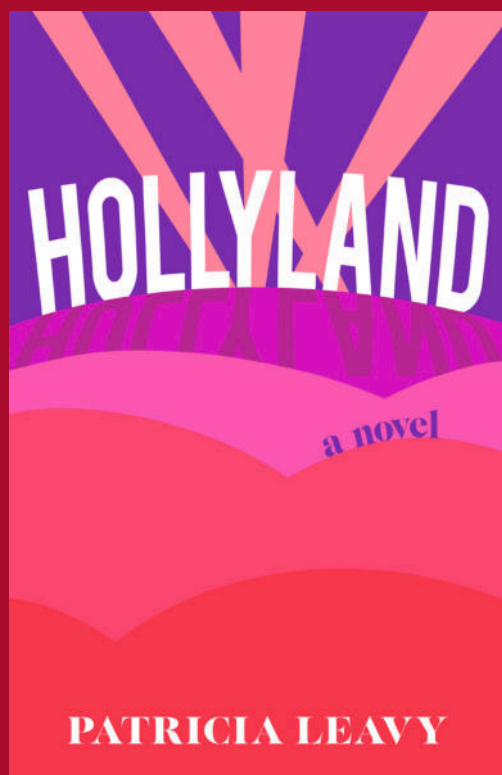
East Texas, 1972. Sixteen-year-old Leni O’Hare spends her free time drawing and galloping her mare across the chaparral. Horse crazy and rebellious, she fears her dream of becoming an artist will be thwarted by her strict mother, the small-town values of her community, and her family’s meager finances. A desperate bid to save her beloved mare from being sold brings her together with Caleb McGrath, the brainy and gentle scion of the county’s richest rancher, whose dream of becoming a physicist also pushes the bounds of their town and defies his family’s expectations. When tragedy strikes Leni’s family, and Caleb’s brother returns from Vietnam angry and dangerous, the two grow closer and make a plan to leave and start a life together. Before they can go, though, Leni learns of something she fears will derail Caleb’s hard-earned shot at the future he wants. Choosing to keep what she’s learned secret, she sets them on sudden and separate paths.

New York City, 1986. Leni, now an artist and activist, and Caleb, now engaged and working on Wall Street, meet once again. Their old passion reignites. Can their love for one another overcome the choices made in the past? And when Leni’s secret—one that impacts not only Leni and Caleb but also four generations of Leni’s family—is finally revealed, will it be too late for them?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Donaldson Brown grew up riding horses across the Texas plains. An attorney and former screenwriter, she’s performed her spoken word pieces in and around New York, including for the Berkshire Theatre Festival and the Deep Listening Institute. Her personal essay “Spell Breaking” was published in the anthology *Spell Breaking: Listening to the Dreaming Heart*. She is a current fellow of Craigardan Arts Colony and past fellow of the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts and the Squaw Valley Community of Writers. She divides her time between Brooklyn, New York, and the Berkshires in Western Massachusetts.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 4, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-296-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-297-4

Featured on She Reads in “The Most Anticipated Romances of Spring 2023”
2022 Literary Titan Book Awards Silver Winner

“Some fun secondary characters, a well-drawn setting, and an exciting eleventh-hour kidnapping plot propel Leavy’s story. The author also offers rich details about Rye’s Hollywood world and Dee’s opinions on art . . .”

—Kirkus Reviews

HOLLYLAND

A NOVEL

PATRICIA LEAVY

DESCRIPTION:

What happens when a seemingly ordinary woman with a passion for the arts meets, falls in love with, and marries a Hollywood star known for his bachelor status and quick temper with the paparazzi? Something extraordinary.

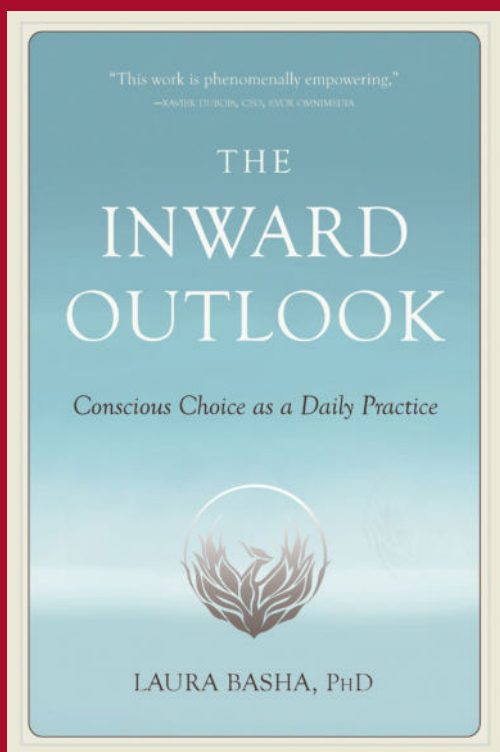
Dee Schwartz is a writer and arts researcher. Ryder Field is a famous actor descended from Hollywood royalty. On the night they meet outside a bar, their connection is palpable. Ryder’s mother—legendary actress Rebecca Field, half of Hollywood’s golden couple when she died—was kidnapped and murdered by a crazed fan in a shocking event that forever tarnished Tinseltown. Dee’s mother, too, died when she was young. Bonded by this loss, the two embark on a love story that explores their search for magic—or “gold dust”—in their lives. Everything changes, however, when Dee mysteriously disappears after an awards ceremony. Is history repeating itself? Can there truly be a “happily ever after” in Hollywood?

Set against the backdrop of contemporary Los Angeles, *Hollyland* is a poignant novel that moves fluidly between romance, humor, suspense, and joy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patricia Leavy, PhD, is an award-winning, best-selling author and former Associate Professor of Sociology, Chairperson of Sociology & Criminology, and Founding Director of Gender Studies at Stonehill College. She has published more than forty books, and her work has been translated into many languages. She has also received career awards from the New England Sociological Association, the American Creativity Association, the American Educational Research Association, the International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry, and the National Art Education Association. In 2018, she was honored with the “Patricia Leavy Award for Art and Social Justice,” established by the National Women’s Hall of Fame and SUNY-New Paltz. Her website is www.patricialeavy.com.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 4, 2023

Collections: Self-Help

Trim size: 6 X 9

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-473-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-474-9

“Both as a CEO and personally, I found the insights and lessons developed in *The Inward Outlook* to be both profound and impactful. I utilize the principles Dr. Basha describes in the book to great success, and since embracing experiencing life from the inside out I’ve been able to put those principles to work and triple the size of our company, resulting in our best performance in over thirty-five years. I would encourage everyone to explore the principles for themselves; the benefits will be profound.”

—Jim Hart, CEO of Senn Delaney Leadership Consulting, a Heidrick & Struggles Company

THE INWARD OUTLOOK

CONSCIOUS CHOICE AS A DAILY PRACTICE

LAURA BASHA, PHD

DESCRIPTION:

Every day, we take in data from the world around us and store that data in our intellect. Then, without conscious awareness, we listen to that data—a process we call “thinking”—and use what it tells us to inform our decisions. But living our lives this way means always living in the past, and it limits us more than we think.

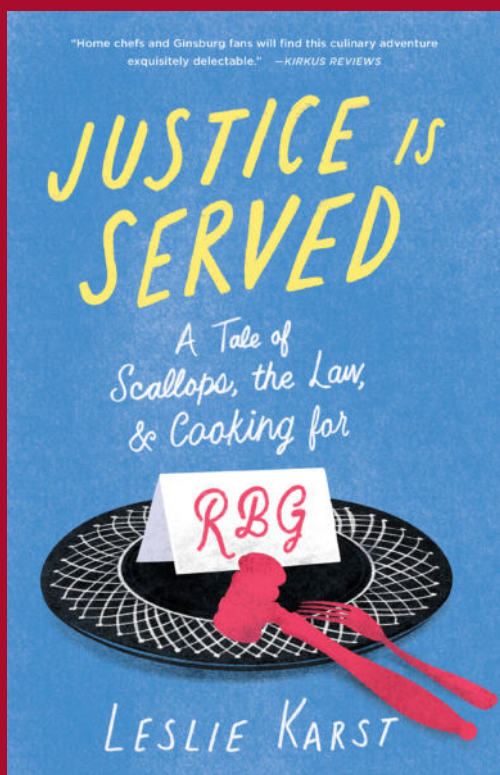
In *The Inward Outlook*, psychologist Laura Basha shares how to discern this habitual way of thinking from the innate wisdom and common sense that we all have available to us at all times. Once we can see this distinction between personal thinking from the past and in-the-moment, impersonal, diffuse thinking, we are awakened to the conscious choice point, which allows us to make choices with awareness and to release judgment of ourselves and of others. We then consciously create ourselves to be the best version of ourselves we can be: our authentic, powerfully creative, compassionate selves.

A powerful guide to accessing one’s own innate health, well-being, and wisdom, *The Inward Outlook* is an accessible exploration of a principle-based paradigm that educates people in the role thought plays in creating their experience of reality—and a road map to cultivating inspired focus, accomplishment, and peace of mind in one’s life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Laura Basha, PhD, is a published author, professional artist and speaker, and certified trainer. She holds a BA in Fine Arts, an MA in counseling psychology, and a combined doctorate in clinical and organizational psychology. The focus of her work has always been personal and organizational transformation and leadership development, and she has been an international consultant, educator, and personal coach for thousands of clients since 1978. Mother of two, stepmother to three, and “Nona” to nine, Dr. Basha resides in Northern California with her husband and beloved Tibetan terrier. You can view her work on her website, www.whitebirdrising.com.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 4, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-458-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-459-6

“An entertaining, engrossing page-turner that documents months of planning and soul-searching . . . an extraordinary evening with the Ginsburgs and Karst’s renewed resolve to find a vocation that she ‘truly loved—as much as Ruth did the law’.”

—Foreword Reviews, STARRED

“Home chefs and Ginsburg fans will find this culinary adventure exquisitely delectable.”

—Kirkus Reviews

JUSTICE IS SERVED

A TALE OF SCALLOPS, THE LAW, AND COOKING FOR RBG

LESLIE KARST

DESCRIPTION:

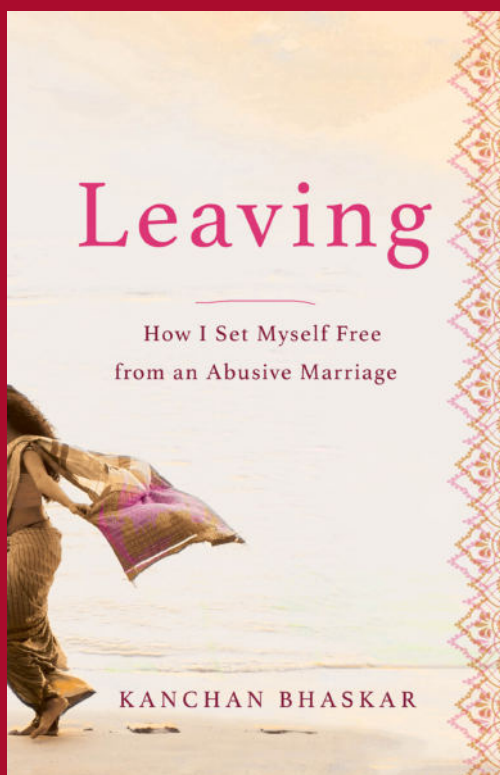
When Leslie Karst learned that her offer to cook dinner for Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg and her renowned tax law professor husband, Marty, had been accepted, she was thrilled—and terrified. A small-town lawyer who hated her job and had taken up cooking as a way to add a bit of spice to the daily grind of pumping out billable hours, Karst had never before thrown such a high-stakes dinner party. Could she really pull this off?

Justice Is Served is Karst’s light-hearted, earnest account of the journey this unexpected challenge launched her on—starting with a trip to Paris for culinary inspiration, and ending with the dinner itself. Along the way, she imparts details of Ginsburg’s transformation from a young Jewish girl from Flatbush, Brooklyn, to one of the most celebrated Supreme Court justices in our nation’s history, and shares recipes for the mouthwatering dishes she came up with as she prepared for the big night. But this memoir isn’t simply a tale of prepping for and cooking dinner for the famous RBG; it’s also about how this event, and all the planning and preparation that went into it, created a new sort of connection between Karst, her partner, and her parents, and also inspired Karst to make life changes that would reverberate far beyond one dinner party. A heartfelt story of simultaneously searching for delicious recipes and purpose in life, *Justice Is Served* is an inspiring reminder that it’s never too late to discover—and follow—your deepest passion.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

The daughter of a law professor and a potter, Leslie Karst waited tables and sang in a new wave rock band before deciding she was ready for “real” job and ending up at Stanford Law School. It was during her career as a research and appellate attorney in Santa Cruz, California, that she rediscovered her youthful passion for food and cooking, at which point she once again returned to school—this time to earn a degree in culinary arts. Now retired from the law, Leslie spends her days penning the Sally Solari culinary mystery series, as well as cooking, gardening, cycling, and singing alto in her local community chorus. She and her wife and their Jack Russell mix split their time between Santa Cruz and Hilo, Hawai‘i.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 11, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 6 X 9

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-475-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-476-3

LEAVING

HOW I SET MYSELF FREE FROM AN ABUSIVE MARRIAGE

KANCHAN BHASKAR

DESCRIPTION:

Raised by two loving parents in New Delhi, India, Kanchan Bhaskar has always been taught that marriage means companionship, tenderness, and mutual respect—so when she enters into an arranged marriage, this is the kind of partnership she anticipates with her new, seemingly wonderful, husband. But after they marry, she quickly discovers that his warmth is deceptive—that the man beneath the bright, charming façade is actually a narcissistic, alcoholic, and violent man.

Trapped in a nightmare, Kanchan pleads with her husband to seek help for his issues, but he refuses. Meanwhile, Indian law is not on her side, and as the years pass, she finds herself with three children to protect—three children she fears she will lose custody of if she leaves. Almost overnight, she finds herself transformed into a tigress who will do whatever it takes to protect her cubs, and she becomes determined to free them from their toxic father. But it's not until many years later, when the family of five moves from India to the United States, that Kanchan is presented with a real opportunity to leave him—and she takes it.

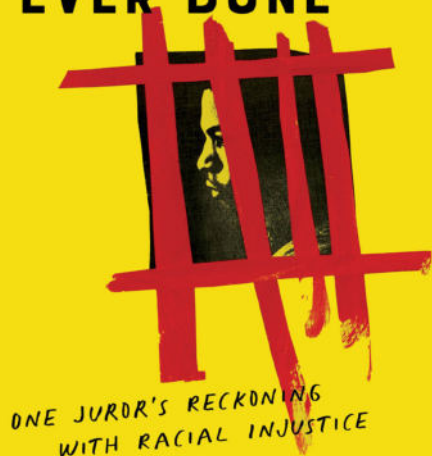
Chronicling Kanchan's gradual climb out of the abyss, little by little, day by day, *Leaving* is the empowering story of how—buoyed by her deep faith in a higher power and single-minded in her determination to protect her children best—she fought relentlessly to build a ramp toward freedom from her abuser. In this memoir, Kanchan clearly lays out the tools and methods she utilized in her pursuit of liberation—and reveals how belief in self and belief in the Universe can not only be weapons of escape but also beautiful foundations for a triumphant, purpose-driven life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kanchan Bhaskar was born and brought up in New Delhi, India. She holds a master's degree in social work from Delhi University and a postgraduate certificate in personnel management and industrial relations. She moved to the US in 2000; today, she works in the corporate world, mentoring, counselling, and coaching employees at all levels in the industry. She is also a certified advocate for domestic violence victims in the state of Illinois and is a volunteer speaker, mentor, and coach for victims and survivors. Kanchan is blessed with three loving children, a daughter and twin boys, who are well settled in their lives. Her Maltipoo, Fifi, is her companion and the love of her life. She currently resides in Chicago.

APRIL 2023

THE WORST
THING WE'VE
EVER DONE



Publication Date: April 11, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-460-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-461-9

“Haunting, heartbreaking, and unerringly candid, this story invites us all to look at ourselves, our presumptions, and the impact of the choices we make. This is a brave book, and Menaker is a brave author to take it on.”

—Betsy Graziani Fasbinder, MFT, author of *Filling Her Shoes* and host of *The Morning Glory Project* podcast

“A page-turner that breaks your heart but also gives you hope that each of us may yet summon the courage Carol has to cultivate our own moral compasses and, most importantly, give a damn about equal justice.”

—Mag Dimond, author of *Bowing to Elephants: Tales of a Travel Junkie*

THE WORST THING WE'VE EVER DONE

ONE JUROR'S RECKONING WITH RACIAL INJUSTICE

CAROL MENAKER

DESCRIPTION:

In May of 1976, twenty-four-year-old Carol Menaker was impaneled with eleven others on a jury in the trial of Freddy Burton, a young Black prison inmate charged with the grisly murders of two white wardens inside Philadelphia's Holmesburg Prison. After being sequestered for twenty-one days, the jury voted to convict Mr. Burton, who was then sentenced to life in prison without parole.

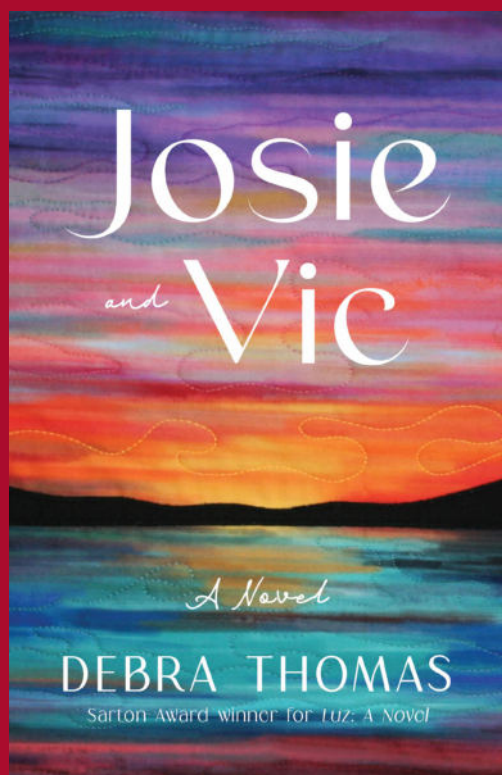
For more than forty years, Menaker did what she could to put the intensely emotional experience of the sequestration and trial behind her, rarely speaking of it to others and avoiding jury service when at all possible. But the arrival of a jury summons at her home in Northern California in 2017 set her on a path to unravel the painful experience of sequestration and finally ask the question, *What ever happened to Freddy Burton—and is it possible that my youth and white privilege were what led me to convict him of murder?*

The Worst Thing We've Ever Done is Menaker's inspirational account of journeying back in time to uncover the personal bias that may have led her to judge someone whose shoes she never could have walked in.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Carol Menaker is a writer living in the Sierra Foothills in Northern California, where she retired after a forty-plus-year career writing and managing communications for universities and nonprofits. She was raised in a Jewish family in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. She holds a BA in theatre arts/acting from Pennsylvania State University and an MS in journalism from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and she enjoys travel, yoga, walking, and bicycling. *The Worst Thing We've Ever Done* is her first full-length work.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 11, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-393-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-394-0

“Josie Serafini—tough yet tender—wins us over from the first page in award-winning Debra Thomas’s second novel, *Josie and Vic*. Dealing with layers of anxiety, grief, and loss, Josie shows us that sometimes the longest road home teaches us the most about ourselves. For fans of Ann Patchett, Joyce Carol Oates, and Barbara Kingsolver. A lovely book.”

—Ashley E. Sweeney, author of New Mexico-Arizona Book Award winner *Answer Creek*

“An unforgettable, heart-filled, heart-filling novel.”

—Gayle Brandeis, author of *The Book of Dead Birds*, winner of Barbara Kingsolver’s Bellwether Prize

JOSIE AND VIC

A NOVEL

DEBRA THOMAS

DESCRIPTION:

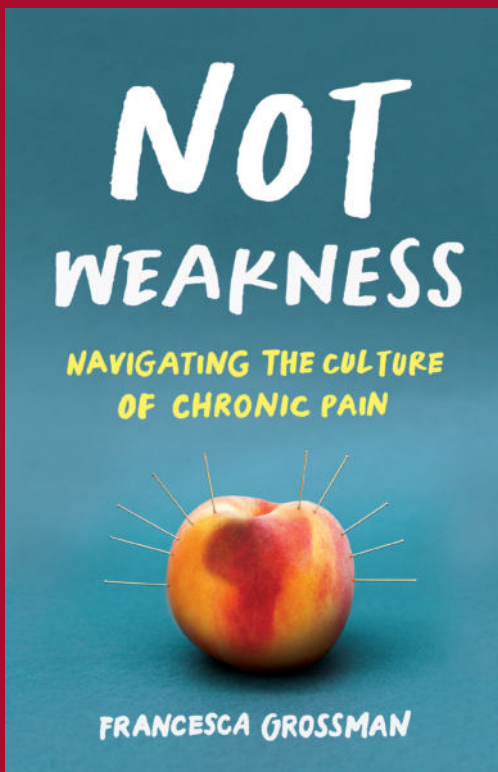
When her brother, Vic, loses his wife and children in a tragic accident, Josie Serafini leaves her home and beloved horses in upstate New York to join him in Los Angeles. While helping Vic pick up the pieces of his shattered life, Josie confronts two broken relationships of her own—one with her estranged father, who abandoned their family long ago; the other with her rebellious singer-songwriter daughter, who abruptly left home last summer. Faced with drastically changed worlds, Josie and Vic each struggle to find where they belong. Josie finds comfort in nature and in a budding long-distance relationship with the empathetic equine veterinarian caring for her horses back home. Vic battles depression as he seeks purpose in his life. Josie’s three horses and a Siberian husky help open hearts to tenderness and healing—but ultimately it’s an unexpected journey to the US–Mexico border that offers this fragmented family a chance to reconnect.

A story of love, loss, and forgiveness, *Josie and Vic* conveys that hope can always be found—even in the darkest of times.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Debra Thomas is a Sarton Award winner for her debut novel, *Luz*. *Josie and Vic* is her second novel. Originally from Binghamton, New York, she has lived in Southern California most of her adult life. After working a decade as a registered nurse, she returned to college to pursue her passion for literature and writing. She is a former English teacher at a Los Angeles public high school, as well as English as a Second Language (ESL) instructor to adults from all over the world. Her experiences as an immigrant rights advocate influence much of her writing. She currently lives with her husband and little dog in Simi Valley, California, just minutes away from her two horses. Learn more at her website, www.debrathomasauthor.com.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 18, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-477-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-478-7

“Intertwining her moving personal journey with the stories of other women living with chronic pain, Grossman sheds light on the stigma our culture places on pain and offers insight into the sense of connection, community, and, yes, hope, that may emerge when those who suffer share their stories—and are heard.”

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

“Simply put, this book is a gift.”

—Michelle Miller, best-selling author of *The Underwriting* and *The Fairer Sex Collection*

NOT WEAKNESS

NAVIGATING THE CULTURE OF CHRONIC PAIN

FRANCESCA GROSSMAN

DESCRIPTION:

After thyroid cancer, Crohn’s disease, and a slew of other autoimmune conditions ransacked her body in her twenties and thirties, Francesca was left left with constant, relentless, often indescribable, and always exhausting chronic pain that affected her whole life—intimacy, motherhood, friendship, work, and mental health. Yet it was also fairly invisible—and because of that, she felt entirely alone in the centrifuge of her own pain. But after twenty-plus years of living this way, isolated and depressed, she started to wonder: if she lived in pain, others must too—so why couldn’t she name one person in her community who suffered like she did?

On a whim, Francesca started asking women in her community if they had chronic pain—only to find that she was surrounded by women also battling in silence. The more she spoke to people, the more she understood that her stories of pain were not unique, and neither were her feelings of loneliness and seclusion. Liberated by this discovery, Francesca realized something: while she couldn’t alleviate anyone’s pain, maybe she could lift the shadows surrounding it—bring these common stories into the light, with the goal of helping her fellow chronic pain sufferers feel a little less alone.

Imbued with a deep respect for the women who tell their stories in its pages, as well as a healthy skepticism of the healthcare world and how it can silence, shame, and ignore women in pain, *Not Weakness* is galvanizing memoir about living and loving with chronic pain.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Francesca Louise Grossman is a writer and writing instructor. Her work has been published in *The New York Times*, *Brain*, *Child Magazine*, *The Manifest Station*, *Ed Week*, *Drunken Boat*, and *Word Riot*, among others. She runs writing retreats and workshops internationally and leads an annual intensive workshop at The Harvard Graduate School of Education. She has a BA and MA from Stanford University and a doctorate from Harvard University in education. Her acclaimed instructional manual *Writing Workshop: How to Create a Culture of Useful Feedback* is used in universities and workshops all over the world. Francesca lives in Newton, MA, with her husband and two children and is currently working on a memoir and a novel.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 18, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-395-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-396-4

“Maan Gabriel takes you on a dizzying roller coaster of emotions with *Twelve Hours in Manhattan*. The story between Bianca and Eric is as engaging and layered as a K-drama, and Gabriel skillfully tackles difficult topics to do with family, love, and duty as well as balancing one’s own deepest desires.”

—Lily Chu, author of *The Stand-In* and *The Comeback*

TWELVE HOURS IN MANHATTAN

A NOVEL

MAAN GABRIEL

DESCRIPTION:

Two worlds. One heart. Twelve hours.

Bianca Maria Curtis is at the brink of losing it all when she meets Eric at a bar in Manhattan. Eric, as it turns out, is the famous Korean drama celebrity Park Hyun Min, and he’s in town for one night to escape the pressures of fame. From walking along Fifth Avenue to eating ice cream at Serendipity to sharing tender moments on top of the Empire State building, sparks fly as Bianca and Eric spend twelve magical hours far away from their respective lives. In that time, they talk about the big stuff: love, life, and happiness, and the freedom they both seek to fully exist and not merely survive.

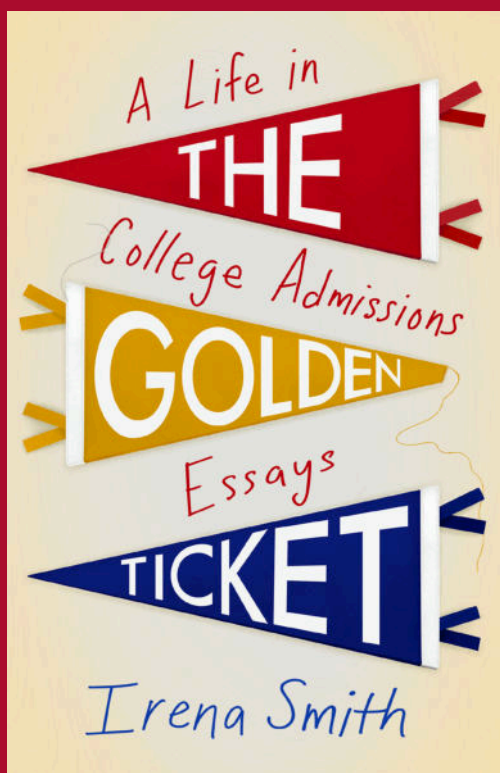
But real life is more than just a few exhilarating stolen moments in time.

When the clock strikes the twelfth hour, Bianca returns back to the life she detests. There, she faces a tragedy that will test her strength and resolve—and the only thing she’ll have to keep herself going will be the memory of a man she loves in secret from a world away.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maan Gabriel is a mom, wife, dreamer, writer, and advocate for women’s stories in literature. She earned her BA in communications from St. Scholastica’s College in Manila and MPS in public relations and corporate communications from Georgetown University. She has lived in Manila, Brussels, Dakar, and Mexico City. During the day, she works in strategic communications. She is the author of *After Perfect*; *Twelve Hours in Manhattan* is her second book. Gabriel, along with her husband and son, currently calls suburban Washington DC home.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 18, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-464-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-465-7

“At a time of an unprecedented youth mental health crisis, Irena Smith’s addictively engaging, literary, witty, and heartrending memoir couldn’t be more timely and important. Thank goodness she had the courage, smarts, and perfect perspective—at ‘the intersection of unbridled ambition and family dysfunction’—to create it.”

—Katherine Ellison, Pulitzer Prize-winning journalist and author of *Buzz: A Year of Paying Attention*

THE GOLDEN TICKET

A LIFE IN COLLEGE ADMISSIONS ESSAYS

IRENA SMITH

DESCRIPTION:

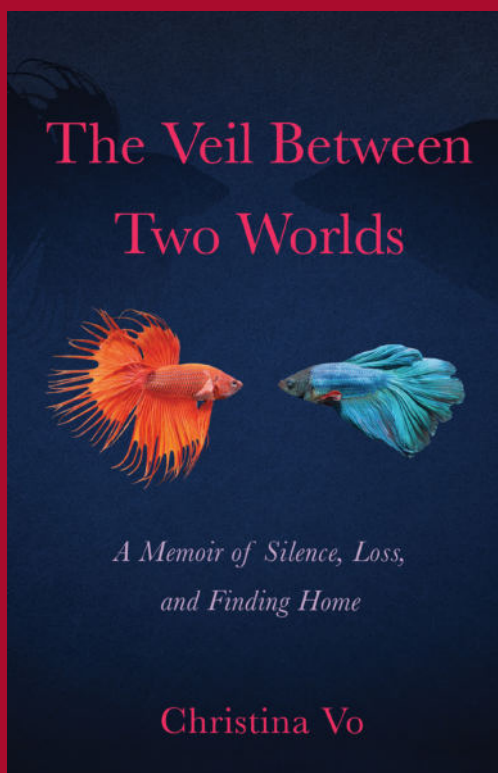
Palo Alto, California, home to stratospheric real estate prices and equally high expectations, is a place where everyone has to be good at something and where success is often defined by the name of a prestigious college on the back of a late-model luxury car. It’s also the place where Irena Smith—Soviet émigré, PhD in comparative literature, former Stanford admission reader—works as a private college counselor to some of the country’s most ambitious and tightly wound students . . . even as, at home, her own children unravel.

Narrated as a series of responses to college application essay prompts, *The Golden Ticket* combines sharp social commentary, family history, and the lessons of great (and not so great) literature to offer a broader, more generous vision of what it means to succeed.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Irena Smith was born in the former Soviet Union and grew up in Moscow in the waning days of the Brezhnev regime; in 1977, her family emigrated from the USSR and sought asylum in the United States as political refugees. She has been published in *HIAS@130: 1+30: The Best of myStory*, *Mama*, *PhD: Women Write about Motherhood and Academic Life*, and *Literary Mama*. She has a PhD in comparative literature from UCLA and lives in Palo Alto, California.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 25, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-397-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-398-8

THE VEIL BETWEEN TWO WORLDS

A MEMOIR OF SILENCE, LOSS, AND FINDING HOME

CHRISTINA VO

DESCRIPTION:

Christina Vo has always struggled with the concept of “home.” The daughter of an emotionally distant father and a mother who died when she was just fourteen, she continues to grapple with that legacy of loss and her constant quest to, as a fortysomething, find a reconciliation with the shape her life has taken. In January 2021, feeling a call to be closer to the land, she decides to leave San Francisco—this time permanently, she hopes—and set off on a road trip with one of her closest friends, David.

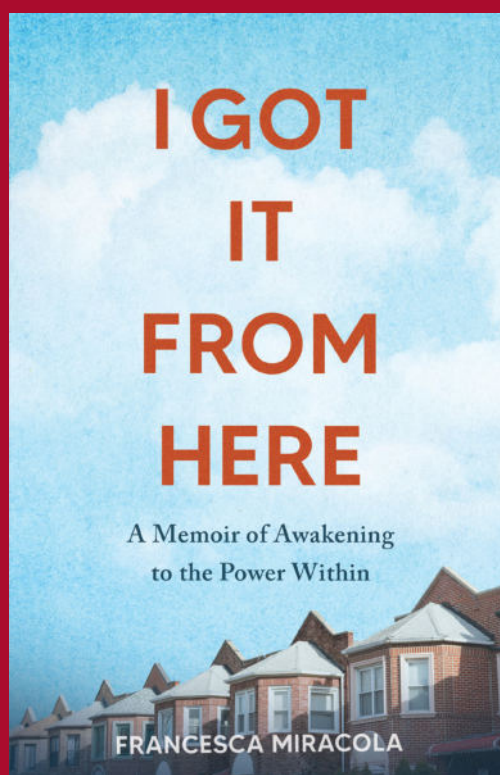
Christina and David begin their journey with an ayahuasca ceremony in Santa Barbara, then continue on to Ojai and ultimately Santa Fe—two magical lands that serve as deep portals for healing. Throughout their travels, Christina reflects on the recent and distant past: her relationships, her past experiences in Santa Barbara and Ojai, and her evolving understanding of her relationship with her parents. All the while, she ponders how the past has shaped her current identity as a single, childless, and motherless woman in her forties. Within the context of intimate friendship, she discovers how thin the veil between worlds can be, and gradually comes to realize that her mother’s spirit has accompanied her since day one of her journey.

Deeply reflective and ultimately joyful, Vo’s memoir takes us on a journey between two worlds—the physical and the spiritual—that eventually brings her to a newfound understanding of how to deepen connections with others, as well as to a place of peace and home within herself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Christina Vo is a writer who previously worked for international organizations in Vietnam and Switzerland and also ran a floral design business in San Francisco. *The Veil Between Two Worlds* is her first book. Vo currently resides in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 25, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-483-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-484-8

“The author’s clear, straightforward prose effectively captures her complex psychological state . . . Miracola does a particularly good job of contextualizing the relationship within a larger culture of neglect and misogyny. The end result is as engaging as it is disturbing. A thoughtful and affecting memoir of marriage and divorce.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Miracola, a talented writer, has the ability to pull readers into her story from the first page, with perfect pacing and evocative, inviting prose.”

—BookLife

I GOT IT FROM HERE

A MEMOIR OF AWAKENING TO THE POWER WITHIN
FRANCESCA MIRACOLA

DESCRIPTION:

Growing up in an Italian American family in Queens, New York, in the '70s, Francesca Miracola was trained from an early age to keep up appearances at all costs—but behind closed doors, her parents’ toxic marriage served as a blueprint for dysfunction. So when she met Jason Axcel at a bar as a twentysomething, she ignored all the red flags—and there were plenty of them—and dove right in, normalizing his emotional and physical abuse just like she’d learned to do. She even married and had two children with him. But something in her clicked one night when Jason strolled out the door after a vicious fight that left her degraded on the floor, and she decided she was done.

Except Jason wouldn’t let her go.

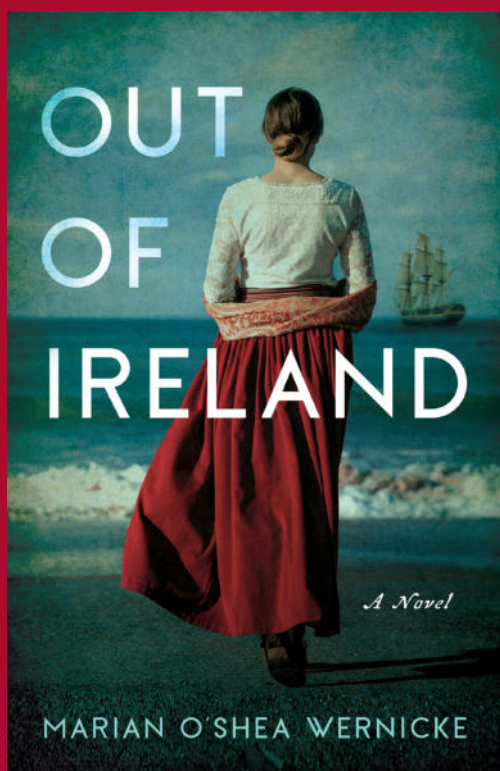
Even after they finally divorced and Francesca fell in love with someone else, her ex-husband was keen enough to recognize that she was the same broken girl he’d met a decade earlier, and he exploited that fact at every turn. He called the cops to her home with bogus claims; he bombarded her with provoking emails and texts; he stalked her every move; and, worst of all, he used their little boys as pawns in his campaign. Then he went for the jugular and sued her for custody. But Francesca was stronger than he’d given her credit for.

Raw and illuminating, *I Got It from Here* is one woman’s story of saving herself and her children from the grips of a sociopath posing as a family man—and from the inherited trauma passed down by her own family of birth—while learning to trust in the inner voice that’s been trying to guide her all along.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Francesca Miracola is an Italian American from Queens, NY. After graduating cum laude from New York University, she worked in financial services for twenty-five years, even though she wanted to be a therapist (probably because she needed a therapist). Eventually, she wound up on her true path as a student and teacher of A Course in Miracles. Today, she is an author and life coach, and the founder of Protagonist Within, LLC. A wife, a best friend, and above all a mother, Francesca currently lives on Long Island—though in her mind she’s a free-spirited wanderer.

APRIL 2023



Publication Date: April 25, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-399-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-421-3

“*Out of Ireland* is a love letter to the strength of women who came before us, full of beauty, pain, and—most of all—perseverance.”

—Stacey Swann, author of *Olympus, Texas*, a *Good Morning America* Book Club Pick

OUT OF IRELAND

A NOVEL

MARIAN O'SHEA WERNICKE

DESCRIPTION:

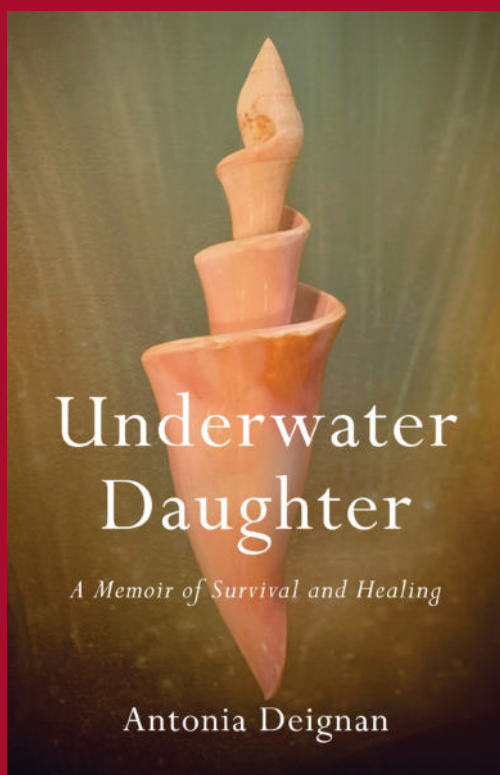
In the late 1860s in Bantry, Ireland, sixteen-year-old Eileen O'Donovan is forced by her family to marry an older widower whom she barely knows and does not love. Her brother Michael, at age nineteen, becomes involved with the outlawed Irish Republican Brotherhood, a secret organization dedicated to the violent overthrow of British rule in Ireland. Their fates intertwine when they each decide to emigrate to America, where both tragedy and happiness await them.

An exciting coming-of-age story of a brother and sister in an Ireland still under the harsh rule of the British, *Out of Ireland* brings alive the story of our ancestors who braved the dangers of immigration in order to find a better life for themselves and their families.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Marian O'Shea Wernicke is the author of *Toward That Which is Beautiful*, her debut novel published in 2020 by She Writes Press. She has also published a memoir about her father called *Tom O'Shea: A Twentieth Century Man*. Born in St. Louis, Missouri, to an Irish Catholic family, she entered the convent of the Sisters of the Most Precious Blood at age sixteen and spent eleven years as a nun before leaving the convent and marrying Michael Wernicke, an electrical engineer from Pensacola, Florida. Wernicke earned a master's degree in English from the University of West Florida and went on to become a professor of English at Pensacola State College for twenty-five years. Upon her retirement from college teaching, Wernicke began her new life as full-time writer in 2010. She and her husband now live in Austin, Texas, near their daughter, Kristin, son-in-law, Max, and beloved grandson, August Michael.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 2, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-422-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-423-7

“Underwater Daughter is a poem, an anthem, a polished crystal, and one of the most profound books I’ve ever read. Antonia Deignan writes of family, dysfunction, and forgiveness beyond our human experience, revealing the exquisite beauty of life in all its pain and joy. Her voice is like the wind: fierce, restorative, and new.”

—Debra Landwehr Engle, author of *The Only Little Prayer You Need*

“Like the author’s dancing, this memoir seems to have some nameless tune in its core.”

—Harriet Ross, cofounder of Dance for Life and retired general manager of the Joffrey Ballet

UNDERWATER DAUGHTER

A MEMOIR OF SURVIVAL AND HEALING

ANTONIA DEIGNAN

DESCRIPTION:

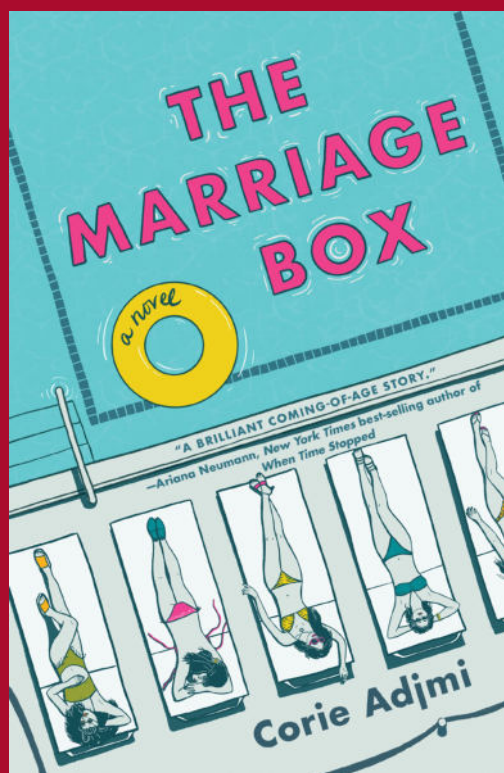
Tuni’s father began sexually abusing her when she was just four years old. Her mother, though aware of the abuse, was a silent witness—one either incapable or unwilling to intervene—and the abuse continued until Tuni was eleven. Three years later, when Tuni was fourteen, she was raped by an adult actor who was part of her cast in a professional theater production. These traumas would go on to shape much of her life.

Underwater Daughter follows how Tuni grappled with her relationship with her parents, the aftermath of her rape, an eating disorder, drug and alcohol excesses, and shame as she came of age and began to build a life. In order to not lose her inner innocence, in order to protect herself, in order to believe in love, she began early on to create imaginary worlds into which she could escape—to use dreams to transport her away from her fears. By early adulthood, she was well practiced at slapping lipstick (pink, frosty, kiss-me, gloss-over, perfect lipstick) over whatever darkness might be bubbling beneath. Ultimately, it took her decades of dancing, hiding, faking, fucking, costuming, implanting, dissociating, marrying, divorcing, and purging—all while staying silent about her past trauma—before a bike accident at age fifty-five forced her to stop and truly take stock of her life. As she did, she came to a resting place, finally, in regard to her father; developed the loving relationship she’d always wanted with her mother; and came to understand that, in the end, love is all anyone wants—or needs.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Antonia Deignan is a mother of five children by choice, a dancer by calling, and a writer by necessity. She was born on the East Coast but spent most of her life in the Midwest, where she danced with multiple dance companies and raised her children. She opened her own dance studio and directed a pre-professional dance company before a bike accident wishboned her path and her identity. Her work has been published in print magazines and online. Now retired, she resides in a beloved island home in Martha’s Vineyard, where she continues to be inspired and write. This is her first book.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 2, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-079-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-080-2

“The Marriage Box is a brilliant coming-of-age story that moves swiftly between the worlds of New Orleans and the Syrian Jewish community in NY. Our heroine, Casey, is flawed, kind, and so vivid. We fall in love with her as she grapples to balance her need for independence with the comforts and constraints of tradition. I can’t remember when I last enjoyed a story so much: I laughed, I cried, I learnt, and couldn’t wait to turn the page to find out what Casey was going to do next. The Marriage Box is an absolute delight!”

—Ariana Neumann, *New York Times*
best-selling author of *When Time Stopped*
and National Jewish Book Award and Dayton
Literary Peace Prize winner

THE MARRIAGE BOX

A NOVEL

CORIE ADJMI

DESCRIPTION:

Casey Cohen, a Middle Eastern Jew, is a sixteen-year-old in New Orleans in the 1970s when she starts hanging out with the wrong crowd. Then she gets in trouble—and her parents turn her whole world upside down by deciding to return to their roots, the Orthodox Syrian Jewish community in Brooklyn.

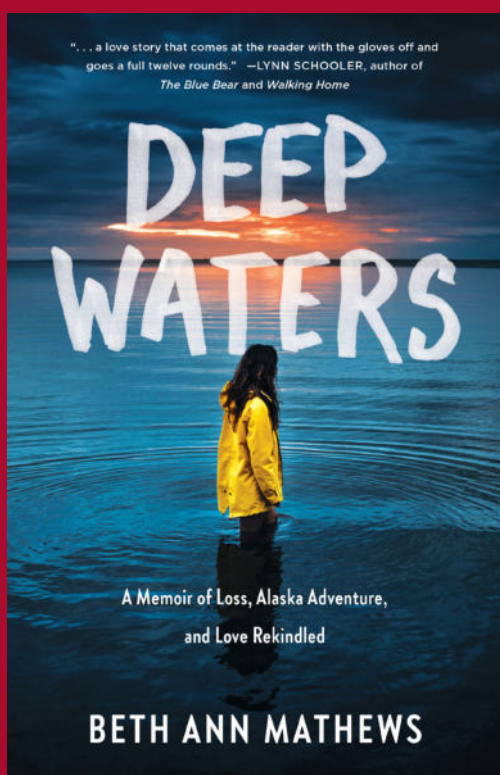
In this new and foreign world, men pray daily, thanking God they’re not women; parties are extravagant events at the Museum of Natural History; and the Marriage Box is a real place, a pool deck designated for teenage girls to put themselves on display for potential husbands. Casey is at first appalled by this unfamiliar culture, but after she meets Michael, she’s enticed by it. Looking for love and a place to belong, she marries him at eighteen, believing she can adjust to Syrian ways. But she begins to question her decision when she discovers that Michael doesn’t want her to go to college—he wants her to have a baby instead.

Can Casey integrate these two opposing worlds, or will she have to leave one behind in order to find her way?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Corie Adjmi is the author of the short story collection *Life and Other Shortcomings*, which won an International Book Award, an IBPA Benjamin Franklin award, and an American Fiction Award. Her essays and short stories have appeared in dozens of journals and magazines, including *HuffPost*, *North American Review*, *Indiana Review*, *Medium*, *Motherwell*, *Kveller*, and others. *The Marriage Box* is Corie’s first novel. She is a mother and grandmother and lives and works in New York City.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 2, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-466-4

E-ISBN: 978-164742-467-1

“Urgent, informative, emotionally satisfying, and thought-provoking, *Deep Waters* opens with a harrowing medical mystery and rewards the reader with a loving account of an adventurous partnership made stronger by crisis.”

—Andromeda Romano-Lax, author of *Annie and the Wolves*

“We felt like we were there with Beth, sharing her emotions, anguish and struggles through the stroke, hospital stay, and recovery. We felt like part of the family as we read, gasped, cried and hoped for recovery and for peace in her heart.”

—Book Club, Seattle, WA

DEEP WATERS

A MEMOIR OF LOSS, ALASKA ADVENTURE,
AND LOVE REKINDLED

BETH ANN MATHEWS

DESCRIPTION:

Beth’s life in Alaska as wife, mother, and marine biologist is derailed when her fit, adventure-seeking husband is slammed by a brainstem stroke. Medevacked to Seattle, Jim fights to walk again—motivated by discoveries in neuroplasticity—while Beth and their young son champion his rehabilitation. Back home in Juneau after five hospital-bound weeks, Beth resumes teaching and research at the university as she becomes Jim’s primary caregiver. Before Beth thinks he’s ready, Jim initiates wilderness explorations on their boat. Sailing Alaska’s Inside Passage with their young son deepens the couple’s bonds, but chafes at Beth’s midwestern instincts to keep her husband safe at home and rebuild security by working more.

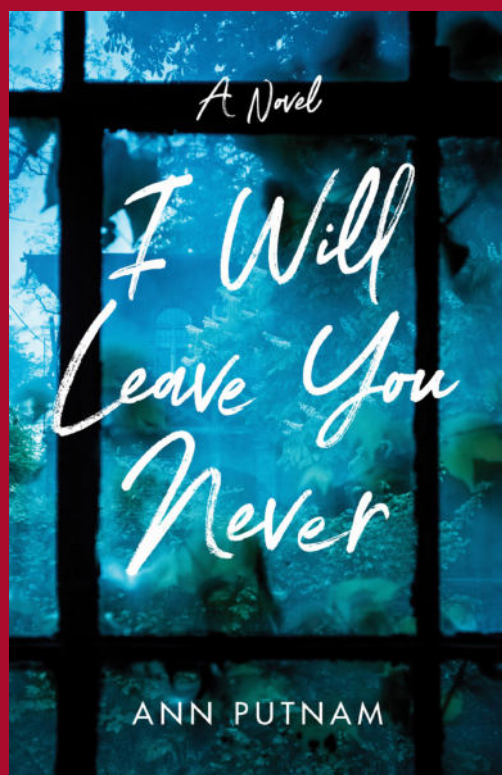
After she rescues Jim during two boating incidents, Beth’s fear of losing him at sea is amplified. When she learns his survivor’s goal is an ambitious multi-year sailing expedition with the family, she questions her ability to live up to his expectations. Should she risk her job as a professor to pursue a less secure, but more empowering and connected, future?

Laced with information on recovery from stroke and tender moments between Beth, her husband, and son, *Deep Water* is a gripping, intimate story of relationship resilience, set against the backdrop of Alaska’s dramatic marine wilderness.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Beth Ann Mathews earned her master’s degree in marine biology from the University of California at Santa Cruz. As an associate professor at the University of Alaska Southeast, she taught courses in biology, behavioral ecology, and marine mammalogy and led research on harbor seals, Steller sea lions, and harbor porpoises. She has also studied humpback, gray, and sperm whales and—briefly—sleeper sharks, and led undergraduate research programs on board tall ships in the Gulf of Maine and from field camps in Hawaii and Alaska. She has published numerous scientific papers, and a chapter from *Deep Waters* placed second in the 2018 Redwood Writers Memoir Contest. *Deep Waters* is Mathews’s first book.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 9, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-424-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-425-1

“This novel resonates with the fragile and yet persistent threads of our living, threads that will vibrate inside you for a long time to come.”

—Lee Martin, author of Pulitzer finalist *The Bright Forever*

“Ann Putnam’s *I Will Leave You Never* is a heartbreaking, gracefully rendered story of the quiet moments between and around the devastating ones and of the beautiful inner workings of the heart and minds battling their way along life’s toughest roads.”

—Laurie Frankel, *New York Times* best-selling author of *This is How It Always Is* and *One Two Three*

I WILL LEAVE YOU NEVER

A NOVEL

ANN PUTNAM

DESCRIPTION:

In the middle of a perilous drought in the Northwest, an arsonist begins setting fires all around. It gives Zoe Penney nightmares about her home—seated right next to tinder-dry woods—rising up in explosions of fire, as well as haunting dreams of a little boy deep in the forest.

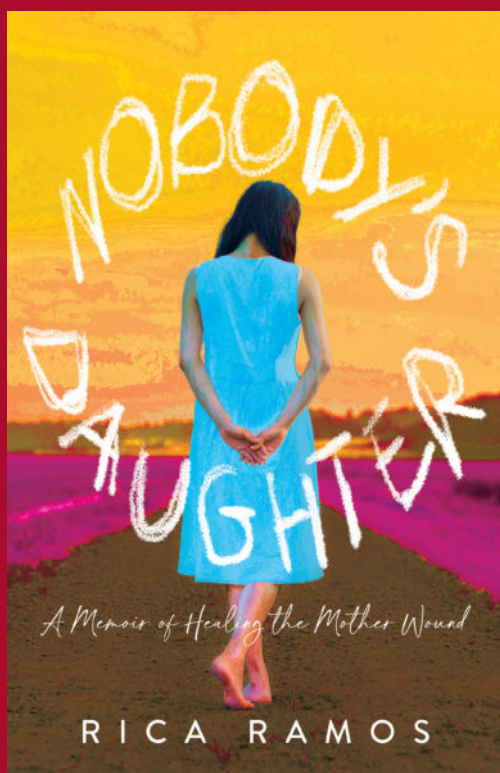
Winter brings the longed-for rains but also a cancer diagnosis for Zoe’s husband, Jay, which plunges the family into disbelief and fear. The children lean in close to their parents, can’t stop touching them. As Jay’s treatment begins, nature lets loose with strange and startling encounters, while a shadowy figure hovers about the corners of the house.

First, Zoe’s fear turns to anger: *How can I love you if I am to lose you? How can I live in joy when the sky is falling?* But she gradually learns that it’s possible to love anything, even terrible things—if you can love them for what they are teaching you.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ann Putnam is an internationally known Hemingway scholar who has made more than six trips to Cuba as part of the Ernest Hemingway International Colloquium. Her forthcoming novel, *Cuban Quartermoon* (June 2022), came, in part, from those trips, as well as a residency at Hedgebrook Writer’s Colony. She has published the memoir *Full Moon at Noontide: A Daughter’s Last Goodbye* (University of Iowa Press) and short stories in *Nine by Three: Stories* (Collins Press), among others. She holds a PhD from the University of Washington and has taught creative writing, gender studies, and American literature for many years. She has also bred Alaskan Malamutes, which appear prominently in *I Will Leave You Never*. She currently lives in Gig Harbor, Washington.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 9, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-491-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-492-3

“The vivid process by which she emerges from this reflective journey to a new position of power is very highly recommended . . .”

—Midwest Book Review

“*Nobody’s Daughter* is a lucid recollection of a childhood no one would have chosen. Ramos’s courage as a sexual abuse survivor has an inspiration of its own. Her yearning for her mother’s love is heartbreakingly raw. In a fiercely candid voice, Ramos has crafted a tale that resonates with the universal truth that our past doesn’t define us; it refines us.”

—Allison Hong Merrill, author of *Ninety-Nine Fire Hoops*

NOBODY’S DAUGHTER

A MEMOIR OF HEALING THE MOTHER WOUND

RICA RAMOS

DESCRIPTION:

Should Rica invite her mother to her wedding?

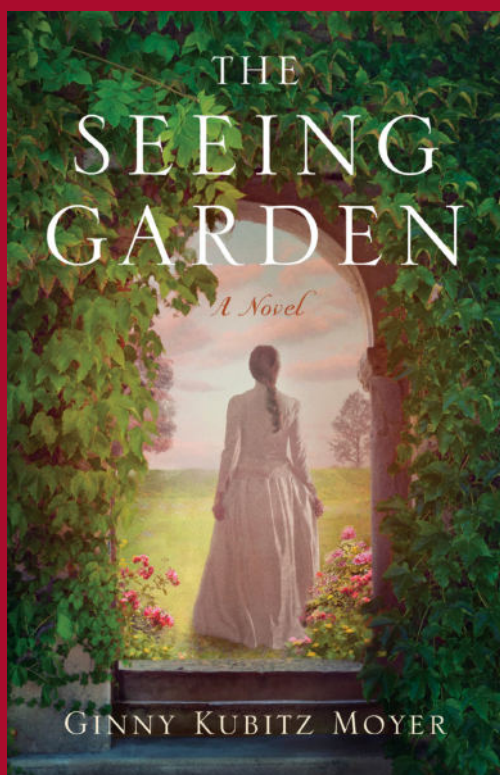
In her early early forties and about to remarry, Rica Ramos realizes that starting over could mean leaving her mother behind. She longs to heal the relationship, but her mother still refuses to acknowledge the sexual abuse Rica suffered at the hands of her stepfather, or her own culpability throughout the years. With old traumas resurfacing and a new life unfolding before her, Rica grasps the power of unspoken grief—and the potential to suffer or heal. Will she and her mother ever cross the chasm between them, or are some secrets meant to stay buried?

As Rica navigates her options, she faces two ultimate choices: submit to a culture that shames daughters for not honoring their mothers, or muster the courage to go her own way. Offering a bold and lucid look at mother-daughter relationships, *Nobody’s Daughter* underscores every woman’s right to truth and validation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rica Ramos is a senior staff writer for a lifestyle magazine in Florida. Her first-person essays are published in *Huffington Post*, *Scary Mommy*, *Motherwell*, *Literary Mama*, *The Sunlight Press*, *Elephant Journal*, and *Ellipsis Zine*, and all around the internet. When she’s not writing, Rica spends her time consuming large quantities of jalapeños, doing yoga and running, reading books, buying books, binge-watching HGTV, and spoiling her dog. She is the author of *Petals of Rain: A Mother’s Memoir*.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 9, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-426-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-427-5

“This well-written and captivating novel about social manners and stifling expectations imposed on women shines a light on a piece of California history that has been overlooked. A delight for the senses with Moyer’s artistic descriptions of gardens and mansions, *The Seeing Garden* is a page-turner of a story that is sure to inspire today’s women who seek creativity and love.”

—Ann Weisgarber, author of *The Glovemaker*

“A sweeping coming-of-age story to savor.”

—Tammy Pasterick, author of *Beneath the Veil of Smoke and Ash*

THE SEEING GARDEN

A NOVEL

GINNY KUBITZ MOYER

DESCRIPTION:

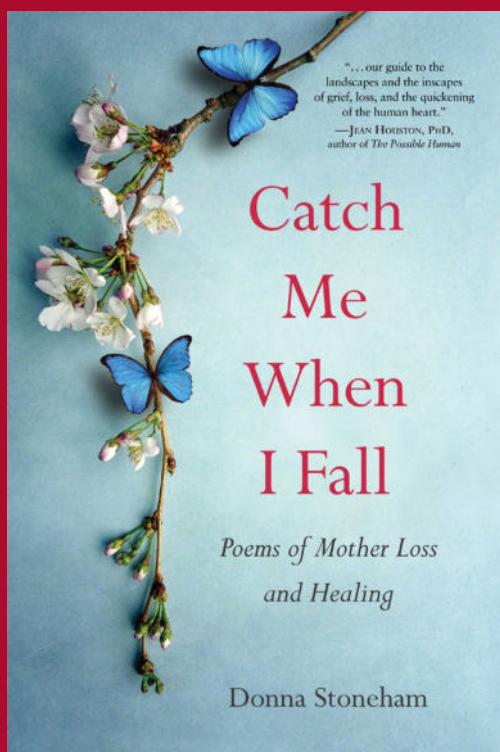
It’s 1910, and Catherine Ogden is aching to live a creative and meaningful life. That’s not easy to do when her aunt and uncle—and all of New York society—consider a good marriage to be the pinnacle of feminine achievement. But when Catherine visits Oakview, the Northern California estate of handsome bachelor William Brandt, she thinks that it might be possible to satisfy her family’s hopes as well as her own. In that beautiful place, she finds the promise of a new start and the opportunity to use her artistic gifts in designing the garden. But as Catherine is drawn into William’s hidden life, as well as the secrets of his estate staff, she discovers that Oakview holds both more opportunity and more risk than she ever imagined. It will take all her courage—and the lessons of some shocking revelations from the past—to choose the path that leads to real freedom.

Full of rich period detail and complex characters, and set against an unforgettable backdrop, *The Seeing Garden* explores what it takes for a woman to discern the path to her most authentic life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ginny Kubitz Moyer is a California native with a love of local history. A graduate of Pomona College and Stanford University, she’s an English teacher and avid weekend gardener, as well as the author of several books on spirituality, most recently *Taste and See: Experiencing the Goodness of God with Our Five Senses* (Loyola Press). She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, two sons, and one rescue dog. Learn more at www.ginnymoyer.org.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 9, 2023

Collections: Poetry

Trim size: 6 X 9

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-428-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-429-9

“Whether or not you are religious, spiritual, or believe in life after death, Donna Stoneham’s beautiful poems about loss and her letters to her dead mother will reach into your own grieving heart and guide you towards healing. Although *Catch Me When I Fall* is Donna’s personal story, anyone who’s had and lost a mother will relate to the connection and pain and will be uplifted—because Donna shows us that although death may end a physical life, it does not end a relationship.”

—Virginia A. Simpson, PhD, Bereavement Care Specialist, and award-winning author of *The Space Between: A Memoir of Mother-Daughter Love at the End of Life*

CATCH ME WHEN I FALL

POEMS OF MOTHER LOSS AND HEALING

DONNA STONEHAM

DESCRIPTION:

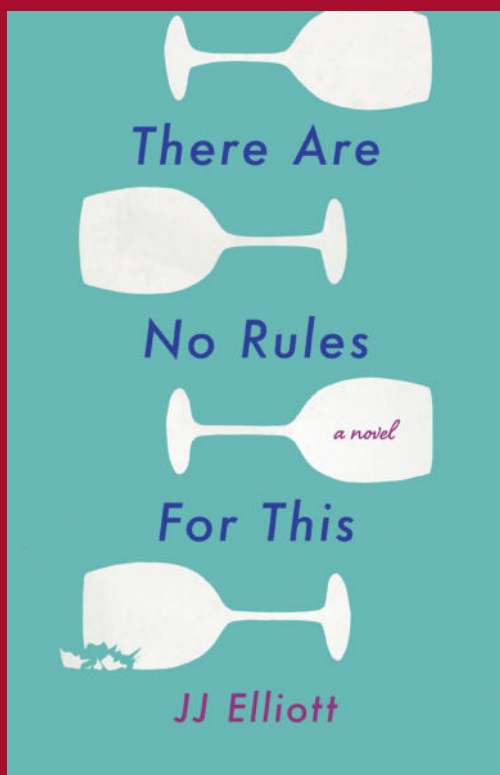
Losing your mother is a transformational event at any age, and yet the number of books on the subject of adult children grieving a mother’s death is meager. In this moving collection of poems and letters, Donna Stoneham chronicles the healing power of love between an adult daughter and her elderly mother—across the boundaries of this world and the next, and over the course of four years—and how that connection teaches her to love more deeply, to fully forgive, and to grow into her authentic self.

An embracing solace for anyone recovering from the loss of a loved one, *Catch Me When I Fall* reveals how our grief journeys can be a powerful transformative force and offers readers a courageous, healing path to the other side of sorrow’s dark passage. Through the conversations between mother and daughter that take place in these lyrical pieces, readers are provided with the opportunity to explore a beautiful notion: as long as we keep our hearts open to the mystery and transformational power of transcendent, eternal love, it will always be possible to heal and continue our most pivotal relationships—even after death.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Donna Stoneham is an executive coach, transformational leadership expert, speaker, lifelong poet, former hospice chaplain, and spiritual seeker who was born and raised in the Texas panhandle. She is also the author of *The Thriver’s Edge: Seven Keys to Transform the Way You Live, Love, and Lead*. When Donna’s not writing, coaching, traveling, or volunteering, she loves to hike, ski, sail, kayak, and do anything else that involves communing with spirit and nature. She, her wife, and their rescue dogs live in Point Richmond, CA.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 16, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-485-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-486-2

THERE ARE NO RULES FOR THIS

A NOVEL

JJ ELLIOTT

DESCRIPTION:

People like Feeney Simms don't commit suicide. Beautiful, charismatic, mother of two, wife to a handsome, successful husband, beloved by her friends—this is not the typical picture of a tortured soul. But one summer night, Feeney drives to the beach and swallows a handful of pills. No note, no explanation, nothing. Like that, she's gone.

Faced with this loss, Ali, Max, and Liddy, Feeney's closest friends, find themselves reeling, grappling with the devastating cocktail of grief, guilt, and anger that's left in the wake of a suicide. In a desperate attempt to avoid further loss, the three women make the unorthodox (and very Feeney-like) decision to hold their own funerals while they are still alive—and the experience changes each of them in ways they couldn't have imagined.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

JJ Elliott writes constantly, thanks to her longtime job as a freelance copywriter. In that role, she has penned everything from national television ads to urinal stickers.

She grew up in Northern California and received a degree in English from UCLA. She now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband, two teenage kids, and two gassy bulldogs. She loves to read, play tennis, drink wine, and eat cheese. *There Are No Rules for This* is her first novel.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 16, 2023

Collections: Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-468-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-469-5

BE BRAVE. LOSE THE BEIGE!

FINDING YOUR SASS AFTER SIXTY

LIZ KITCHENS

DESCRIPTION:

Meet Beige. Beige is reliable, practical, sensible, and safe. Beige doesn't put up a fuss; it follows the rules, blends in, doesn't want to stand out. Now meet Magenta. Magenta is rich, dynamic, loud, sometimes garish, and not easily overlooked.

Society has decidedly beige expectations when it comes to aging, and the intrinsic danger of beige and its many practical aspects is that it precludes creative thinking—which is unfortunate, because creative thinking is an excellent partner in the quest to retain even a little control as you navigate your aging journey. In these pages, Liz Kitchens chronicles how creative thinking helped her cope with empty nest syndrome; navigate sex over sixty; transition from being “outtasight” to literally being out of sight . . . and so much more. In fact, the stories and creative techniques outlined in this guide for Lady Boomers are guaranteed to introduce color, sass, and a lightness of spirit into your later years. Are you ready to defy those beige expectations and start coloring outside the lines, even if a few pesky rules get trampled in the process?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Liz Kitchens is a rare and endangered species, born and raised in Orlando, Florida, whose memory of Florida predates Walt Disney World. She conducts workshops and seminars on creativity and directed an after-school and summer creative arts program for teens in underserved communities. She has also been a market researcher for thirty-five years and is the founder of *What's Next Boomer?*—a website dedicated to helping boomers navigate retirement options—and of the blog *Be Brave. Lose the Beige*, which focuses on issues facing women of the baby boomer generation. She is also a contributing writer for Medium and the online magazine *Sixty and Me*, and has been published in various online and print publications. Liz is married, the mother of three adult children, and the grandmother of three grandchildren.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 24, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-479-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-480-0

“Margaret Klaw’s keen observations about the law and human nature are eye-opening and jaw-dropping. A must-read!”

—Lisa Scottoline, author of *Eternal*

EVERY OTHER WEEKEND

A NOVEL

MARGARET KLAW

DESCRIPTION:

Forty-ish hipster dad Jake is happily settled down in the politically progressive, urban, and notably self-satisfied community of Greenwood, working at his not-so-interesting job, playing guitar with his band, and enjoying domestic life with his beautiful and accomplished wife, Lisa, their two charming daughters, and their beloved family dog.

When Lisa rocks Jake’s world by telling him she wants a divorce, their story unfolds from multiple points of view, including those of other family members, Jake’s self-absorbed divorce lawyer, the cranky family court judge who presides over his custody case, his polyamorous millennial girlfriend, and the eighteen-year-old babysitter who also happens to be his lawyer’s daughter. Throughout Greenwood—at the coffee shop, in the yoga studio, and on the basketball court—lives intersect. Choruses of friends and neighbors gossip, dissect, and weigh in. A surprise witness upends Jake’s custody trial. Things are not always as they seem, but one thing is clear: there is no one truth about a marriage.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Margaret Klaw is a writer, a lawyer, and a founding partner of BKW Family Law, an all-women law firm in Philadelphia. Named a Preeminent Woman Lawyer by Martindale-Hubbell, she has been recognized by *Best Lawyers in America* and designated a Pennsylvania “Super Lawyer” in the area of family law. Always fascinated by the world she inhabited in her work life, Margaret finally found time to write about it after her youngest child went to college. Starting with day-in-the-life vignettes about practicing family law published in *HuffPost*, she has written for *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Washington Post*, *Time*, and *Salon* and is the author of *Keeping it Civil: The Case of the Pre-Nup and the Porsche & Other True Accounts from the Files of a Family Lawyer* (Algonquin Books, 2013). *Every Other Weekend* is her first work of fiction.

MAY 2023



Publication Date: May 30, 2023

Collections: Fiction, Mystery

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-430-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-431-2

“Big Pharma and Big Tech in the glamorous and rainy landscape of Seattle make a fertile backdrop for crime and for the promising young detective Anna Crane’s first case tracking her elusive prime suspect, Eleanor Kiernan. In this very fine, enthralling novel, Peterson is expert with details of murder, and with the intricate human relationships that make her characters triumphantly alive.”

—Diane Johnson, author *Le Mariage* and *Le Divorce*

STILETTO

A NOVEL

BRENDA PETERSON

DESCRIPTION:

Stiletto is a timely, fast-paced, feminine mystery told in two diverse voices—a tense, erotic duet between the sharp, intuitive Detective Anna Crane and her prime suspect, the brilliant biochemist Eleanor Kiernan. Both women are haunted by the tragic loss of a sibling, but Kiernan’s twin brother died of an overdose of the opiate she helped to create.

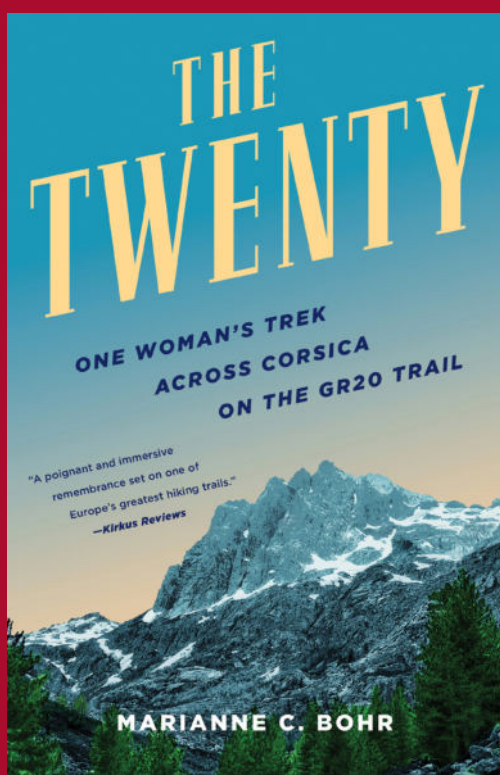
When a Big Pharma exec, Leo Cushman, is fatally stabbed, there are many other suspects: Obliterate Opiates activists, a disinherited ex-wife and stepson, a secret lover, an addict vowing vengeance. But Detective Crane prioritizes investigating Kiernan in her first high-profile case, even as she is unexpectedly drawn to her suspect. Can an antagonist also be an ally? Can a young detective be seduced by a murderer?

A cinematic, stylish psychological thriller, *Stiletto* is a suspenseful cross between the sensual obsessions of *Killing Eve* and the compelling drama of the award-winning TV series *Dopesick*. But the real mystery in *Stiletto* is what its two protagonists discover as its twisting plot unfolds—about the real crime and about themselves.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Brenda Peterson is the critically acclaimed author of more than twenty-three books, including five novels—one of which, *Duck and Cover* (Harper Collins), was a *New York Times* “Notable Book of the Year” and hailed as a “wicked, black comedy.” Her recent memoir, *I Want to Be Left Behind*, was selected as a “Top Ten Best Non-Fiction” book by the Christian Science Monitor and an Indie Next “Great Read,” by Independent Booksellers. Her latest nonfiction book, *Wolf Nation: The Life, Death, and Return of Wild American Wolves*, was chosen as a “Best Conservation Book of the Year” by *Forbes* magazine. Her children’s books include *Wild Orca*, *Catastrophe by the Sea*, and the art book *Crane Maiden*. Her commentaries have appeared on NPR and in *The New York Times*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Tikkun*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Seattle Times*, and *O, The Oprah Magazine*.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 6, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-432-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-433-6

“You need to be strong, fit, and agile in order to complete the GR20. It comes as no surprise to discover that most trekkers are young adults in tip-top condition. Marianne reminds us that age is no barrier to trekking the GR20, provided that careful planning is followed by careful foot placement. Her determination along the trail is inspiring.”

—Paddy Dillon, author of *The GR20 Corsica: Complete Guide to the High-Level Route*

THE TWENTY

ONE WOMAN'S TREK ACROSS CORSICA ON THE GR20 TRAIL

MARIANNE C. BOHR

DESCRIPTION:

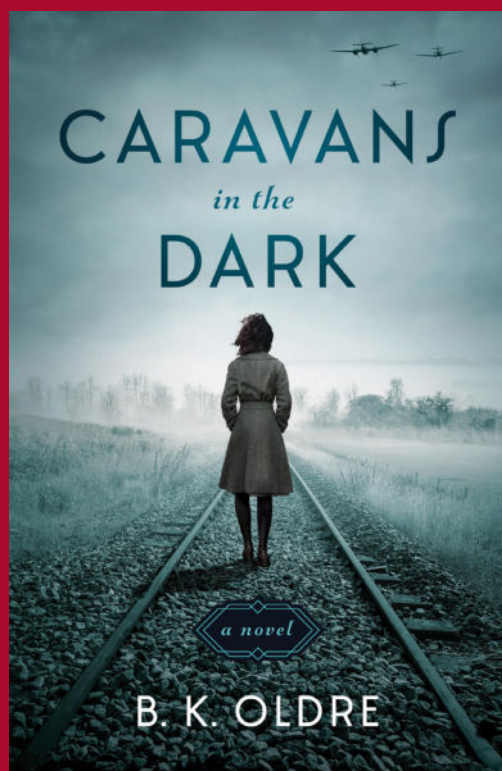
Marianne Bohr and her husband, about to turn sixty, are restless for adventure. They decide on an extended, desolate trek across the French island of Corsica—the GR20, Europe's toughest long-distance footpath—to challenge what it means to grow old. Part travelogue, part buddy story, part memoir, *The Twenty* is a journey across a rugged island of stunning beauty little known outside Europe.

From a chubby, non-athletic child, Bohr grew into a fit, athletic person with an “I’ll show them” attitude. But hiking *The Twenty* forces her to transform a lifetime of hard-won achievements into acceptance of her body and its limitations. The difficult journey across a remote island provides the crucible for exploring what it means to be an aging woman in a youth-focused culture, a physically fit person whose limitations are getting the best of her, and the partner of a husband who is growing old with her. More than a hiking tale, *The Twenty* is a moving story infused with humor about hiking, aging, accepting life's finite journey, and the intimacy of a long-term marriage—set against the breathtaking beauty of Corsica's rugged countryside.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Marianne C. Bohr, published author and award-winning essayist, married her high school sweetheart and travel partner. She follows her own advice and hits the road at every opportunity. She wrote her first book, *Gap Year Girl: A Baby Boomer Adventure Across 21 Countries*, over the course of the yearlong sabbatical she and her husband took to explore Europe. *The Twenty: One Woman's Trek Across Corsica on the GR20 Trail*, is her second book. Marianne lives in Park City, UT, where—after decades in publishing, and then many years teaching middle school French—she now skis, hikes, and writes. She lives in Park City, Utah.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 6, 2023

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-434-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-435-0

CARAVANS IN THE DARK

A NOVEL

B. K. OLDRE

DESCRIPTION:

Fifteen-year-old Jana's Romani family leads a nomadic life, traveling and trading horses, in Czechoslovakia. When her family relocates to Prague, one step ahead of the Nazi invasion, Jana becomes a freedom fighter. She gets a job in the Prague castle, where secret messages are hidden inside of clocks and she must smuggled them out of the Castle and pass them on to the Resistance.

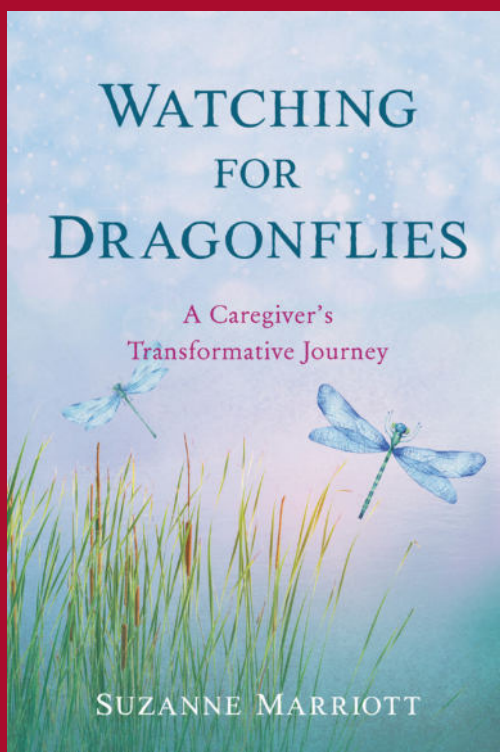
After the Nazis close all Czech colleges and universities, Jana and two of her peers—her Resistance contact, Otto, who was the first in his family to attend college, and a fellow student, Franz—are even more determined to free their country from the Nazi oppressors. All three will face danger and desperate choices as they learn that this fight will cost them more than they ever imagined.

In this coming-of-age story set in extraordinary times, Jana and her friends strive to find love and their place in the world—even as they fight the Nazi occupation of their country.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Bonnie Oldre is a former librarian with a BA in English literature and an MLIS degree. She studied writing at the University of Minnesota and The Loft Literary Center, where she completed the year-long class The Novel Writing Project, taught by best-selling author Peter Geye. She writes short stories, historical fiction, and historical mysteries. She and her husband live in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 6, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-436-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-437-4

WATCHING FOR DRAGONFLIES

A CAREGIVER'S TRANSFORMATIVE JOURNEY

SUZANNE MARRIOTT

DESCRIPTION:

There are 53 million family caregivers in the United States, and many feel isolated and overwhelmed. In *Watching for Dragonflies*, Suzanne reaches out to other caregivers, inviting them to explore the many avenues of growth available to those walking the path.

Suzanne's story begins with a phone call from her husband, Michael, telling her he has collapsed on the job. They soon learn he has multiple sclerosis. Despite the negative patterns threatening their marriage, she is determined to handle the caregiving tasks suddenly thrust upon her. Through love, psychological insights, and spiritual inquiry, she cultivates her abilities—and gains the courage to confront a medical system that often saves her husband but at other times threatens his life. As time progresses, Michael undergoes many hospitalizations; he also makes miraculous recoveries that allow adventure back into their lives, including a numinous experience with dragonflies. When Suzanne faces her own medical crisis, their world is shaken once again—but throughout it all, love is their bond, one even death cannot sever.

Often poignant, at times funny, and always riveting, *Watching for Dragonflies* will serve as comfort—and inspiration—for other caregivers struggling to care for a loved one.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Suzanne Marriott is a memoirist and deep-travel writer. Her writings on compassionate caregiving have been published in *The Union* newspaper, and Writer Advice awarded her the "Scintillating Start Prize" for the first chapter of *Watching for Dragonflies*. Her personal essay "Indian Summer" was included in the ebook anthology *Seasons of Our Lives: Autumn* and won the 2012 Fall Memoir Writing Contest for Women's Memoirs. Her stories of deep travel have appeared on the award-winning website Your Life is a Trip and *Soul of Travel Magazine*. Suzanne holds an MS in education and an MA in transpersonal psychology, and is a former teacher and grant proposal writer. She lives in an ecologically conscious cohousing development in the Sierra Nevada foothills. Visit www.suzannemarriottauthor.com for more on compassionate caregiving and www.transformativetravelwriting.com for more on deep travel.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 6, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-481-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-482-4

“Surrounded by a cast of quirky characters and damaged adults, Evan learns a new definition of family, the cost of untold secrets, and the value of her burgeoning self-esteem. *Eat and Get Gas* is a powerful story about a sad chapter in America’s history that is thoroughly modern, relevant, and inspiring.”

—Anne Leigh Parrish, author of *An Open Door*

“*Eat and Get Gas* is a compelling and affecting read that highlights experiences I haven’t often seen in fiction.”

—Pip Adam, author of *Nothing to See, The New Animals*, and *I’m Working on a Building*

EAT AND GET GAS

A NOVEL

J.A. WRIGHT

DESCRIPTION:

Thirteen-year-old Evan Hanson is always the last in her family to know what’s going on—at least, that’s how it feels. Her father, Gene, who’s been meaner since he began serving in Vietnam, isn’t around much, and she likes it better that way. But then her brother, Adam, gets drafted and her anti-war mother, Endura, takes him across the border to Canada, leaving Evan alone with Gene and her younger, special needs brother, Teddy.

When he realizes Endura isn’t returning, Gene takes Evan and Teddy to Eat and Get Gas, his mother’s café and gas station in Hoquiam, Washington. There, aside from her no-nonsense but loving grandma, Evan encounters Aunt Vivian, a teasing but caring know-it-all; Uncle Frankie, injured in Vietnam and suffering from PTSD; Paco, the draft dodger Frankie is hiding; Hal and Hubert, the strange but gentle next-door neighbors who play the piano like virtuosos and help out when they’re needed; and Louanne, Frankie’s reserved, sensitive sister. She is drawn in particular to Louanne, who was disfigured by a car accident that killed the rest of her and Frankie’s family.

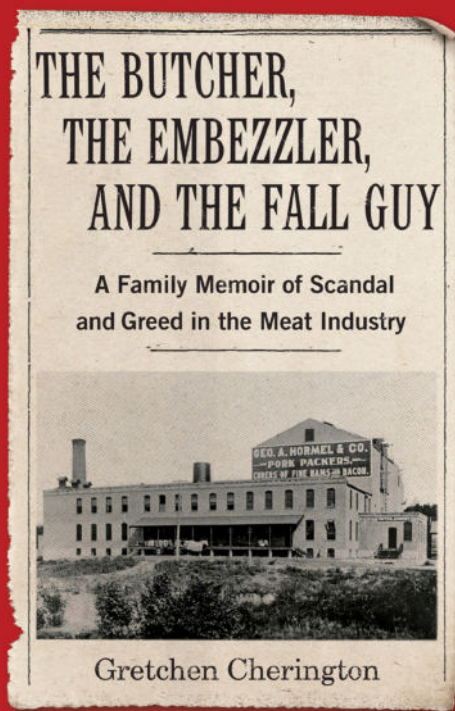
At Eat and Get Gas, Evan finds a new freedom, and she starts to carve out a place for herself by helping in the café and sorting mail for Uncle Frankie, who runs a postal route in addition to running the gas station. She eventually, too, learns some of the family secrets she’s been kept in the dark about—and comes to understand that her mother isn’t coming back any time soon.

Then, after reading a letter that wasn’t meant for her, Evan discovers the biggest secret of all.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jodi Wright is the author of *Eat and Get Gas* and *How to Grow an Addict*. She lives in Seattle, Washington.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 6, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-083-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-084-0

“Cherington’s *The Butcher, the Embezzler, and the Fall Guy* combines what I love best about John Carreyou’s *Bad Blood* and Erik Larson’s *The Devil in the White City*—the fascinating interplay of history, business, personality, and crime. Not just what happened but why it happened, and why we ought to care.”

—Shelley Blanton-Stroud, author of the Jane Benjamin Series

THE BUTCHER, THE EMBEZZLER, AND THE FALL GUY

**A FAMILY MEMOIR OF OF SCANDAL AND GREED IN
THE MEAT INDUSTRY**

GRETCHEN CHERINGTON

DESCRIPTION:

Three powerful men converge on the banks of the Red Cedar River in the early 1900s in southern Minnesota—George Albert Hormel, founder of what will become the \$10 billion food conglomerate Hormel Foods; Alpha LaRue Eberhart, the author’s paternal grandfather and Hormel’s Executive Vice President and Corporate Secretary; and Ransome Josiah Thomson, Hormel’s comptroller. Over ten years, Thomson will embezzle \$1.2 million from the company’s coffers, nearly bringing the company to its knees.

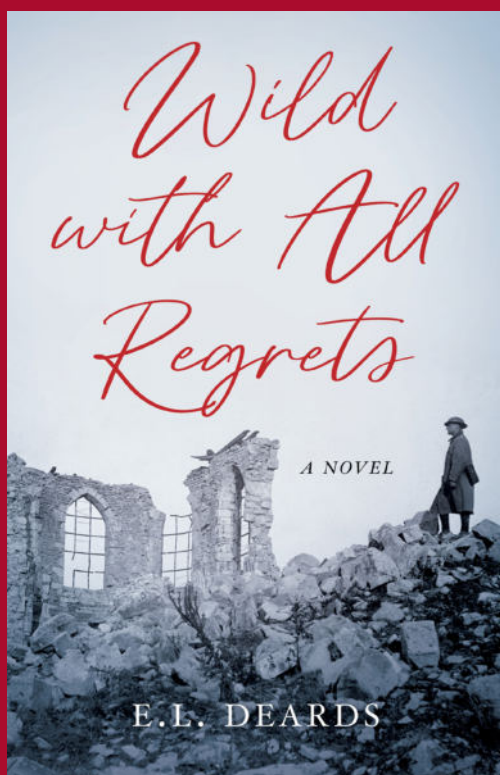
The Butcher, the Embezzler, and the Fall Guy opens in 1922 as George Hormel calls Eberhart into his office and demands his resignation. Hailed as the true leader of the company he’s helped Hormel build, is Eberhart complicit in the embezzlement? Far worse than losing his job and the great wealth he’s rightfully accumulated is the fact that his beloved young wife, Lena, is dying. Of course, his story doesn’t end there.

In scale both intimate and grand, Cherington deftly weaves the histories of Hormel, Eberhart, and Thomson within the sweeping landscape of our country’s early industries, along with keen observations about business leaders gleaned from her thirty-five-year career advising top company executives. *The Butcher, the Embezzler, and the Fall Guy* equally chronicles Cherington’s journey from blind faith in family lore to a nuanced consideration of the three men’s great strengths and flaws—and a multilayered, thoughtful exploration of the ways we all must contend with the mythology of powerful men, our reverence for heroes, and the legacy of a complicated past.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gretchen Cherington’s first view of powerful men was informed at the feet of her father, Pulitzer Prize-winning poet Richard Eberhart, and his eclectic and fascinating writer friends, from Robert Frost to Allen Ginsberg to James Dickey. As an executive management consultant, she figured out what made powerful men tick by working alongside nearly three hundred of them in their corner suites during her thirty-five year career. Her first memoir, *Poetic License*, has won multiple awards; her writing has appeared in *Crack the Spine*, *Bloodroot Literary Magazine*, *Women Writers/Women’s Books*, *MS. Girl*, *Yankee* and more; and she was nominated for a Pushcart Prize for her essay “Maine Roustabout” in 2012. Gretchen and her husband split their time between Portland, Maine, and a saltwater cottage on Penobscot Bay. Learn more at www.gretchencherington.com.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 13, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-487-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-488-6

“From life on the mean and gritty streets of Dublin to survival in the harrowing trenches of the Western Front, we follow Lucas Connolly, a gentle and emotionally battered boy with too many secrets for his tender heart to hold. Emma Deards has written a brave, bold, and essential novel, one that both challenges our assumptions about love and forces us to a broader and deeper understanding of it. Unflinching and original. . . . A book whose effects will linger long after the final page is turned.”

—Kitty Zeldis, author of *Two Daughters* and *Not Our Kind*

WILD WITH ALL REGRETS

A NOVEL

E.L. DEARDS

DESCRIPTION:

A decade has passed since Lucas Connolly lost his best friend—and the only man he’s ever loved—in World War I, but he still can’t shake his guilt over Jamie’s death. In fact, ever since losing Jamie, Lucas has heard his friend’s voice inside his head—confused about what happened to him, begging him for help. And now, suddenly, it’s not just Jamie’s voice anymore; recently, a specter who looks and acts exactly like Jamie did before his death, and who is demanding answers from Lucas about what happened to him, has begun to haunt him.

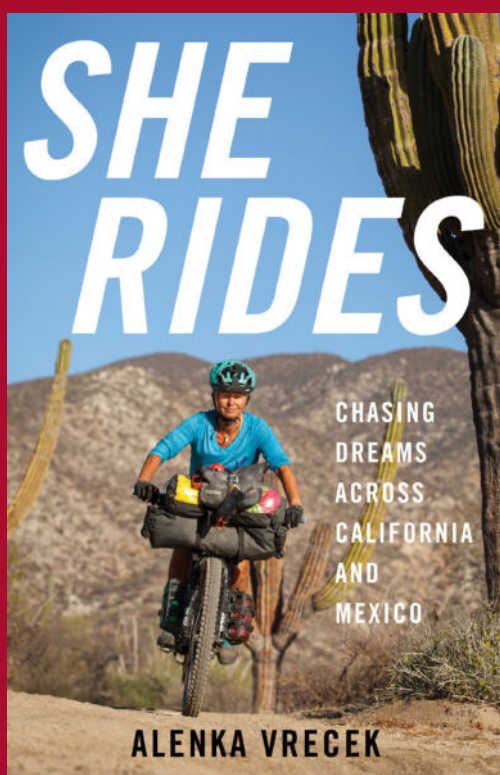
Concerned about Lucas’s deteriorating mental state, his friend Angela encourages him to move on with his life and even sets him up with a coworker whom she suspects is also gay. But Lucas is too consumed with the secret he still keeps about the part he played in Jamie’s death to even begin to form a healthy connection with someone new—and as Jamie’s ghost begins to recover his memories and get closer to the truth, his obsession only deepens.

Ultimately, Lucas realizes that his only path forward is to first go backward—that only in examining his troubled youth, facing his deepest self, and shining a light on the shadowed parts of his past will he finally be able to set Jamie, and himself, free.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Emma Deards grew up in New York City and earned her undergraduate degree at Barnard College at Columbia University, where she studied Japanese literature and biology. She went on to complete a veterinary degree at The University of Edinburgh. She remained in the UK afterward, and since then has split her time between her day job as a vet and her truest passion: writing. Emma has authored a number humor articles for *In Practice*, a veterinary magazine, and was the recipient in college of two writing awards: Oscar Lee Award and the Harumatsuri Award. *Wild with All Regrets* is her first book.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 13, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-456-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-457-2

“A universal story of healing, hope, grit, and determination. Alenka’s bike trip from Tahoe to Baja is a heroine’s journey that will hold you in its grip. But it’s also a love story—about knowing what matters most and finding your way back home.”

—Valerie Andrews, editor of *Reinventing Home* and author of *A Passion for this Earth*

“*She Rides* will make you want to drop everything, get good and lost, and find your way back home.”

—Brian Benson, author of *Going Somewhere*

SHE RIDES

CHASING DREAMS ACROSS CALIFORNIA AND MEXICO

ALENKA VRECEK

DESCRIPTION:

At fifty-four, Alenka was running out of time to follow through on a dream she’d written down in her pocket-size Rumi book just after her first marriage crumbled. Years later, as she slowly rebuilt her life with her second husband, things started spiraling out of control. The only way she knew how to heal and connect all painful parts of her life was by riding her bike, and she didn’t want to have regrets. But was she brave enough to embark on an unknown path and risk losing everything . . . perhaps even her own life?

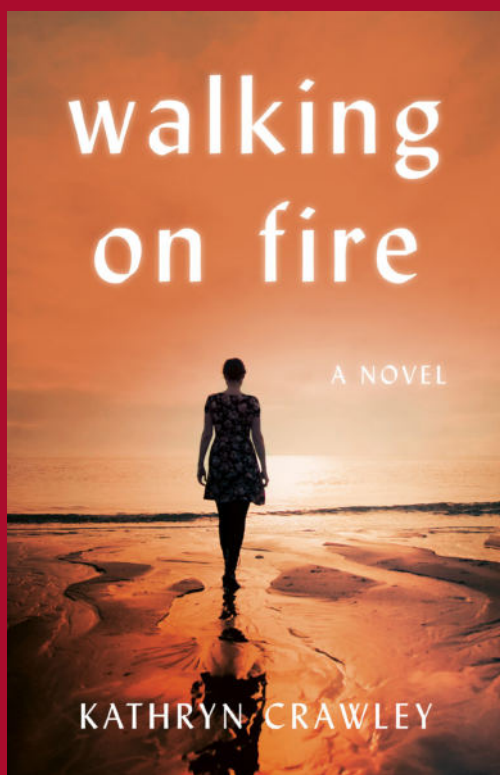
Determined to awaken her dying spirit and heal her battered body, Alenka loaded her mountain bike with 50 pounds’ worth of camping gear and set off on a 2,500-mile journey. Starting in Lake Tahoe, California, she hoped to ride along the Sierra Nevada Mountain range to the tip of Mexico’s Baja Peninsula, following remote mountain trails. Alone.

What followed was an irrevocably transformational journey of love, hope, courage, and resilience—and here, Alenka tells that story in a voice stripped of self-pity and infused with a good dose of humor. *She Rides* is a galvanizing wake-up call for anyone who wants to unearth and follow their own deeply buried dreams—and reclaim their life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alenka Vrecek was born at the foot of the Alps in Slovenia, a part of former communist Yugoslavia. Born with a spirit for adventure, she came to America at twenty years old with a backpack, a pair of skis, and a pocket full of dreams. She was a ski coach and a director of Pedagogy for Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows Ski Teams for thirty years. Alenka owns Tahoe Tea Company and lives in Lake Tahoe, California, with her second husband, Jim, their four children, three grandchildren, and a golden retriever named Monty.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 13, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-438-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-439-8

“This page-turner will initiate you to the tumultuous days in mid-seventies Greece when a young American comes to heal from a divorce and meets love, controversial politics, and danger. It is a must-read, well-researched and heartwarming.”

—Sophia Kouidou-Giles, author of *Sophia’s Return: Uncovering My Mother’s Past*

“Passionate and political, Crawley’s debut novel burns deeply and brightly, pulling the reader into this powerful story about shedding naiveté, trusting fate, and, ultimately, finding transformation.”

—Sandra A. Miller, author of *Wednesdays at One*

WALKING ON FIRE

A NOVEL

KATHRYN CRAWLEY

DESCRIPTION:

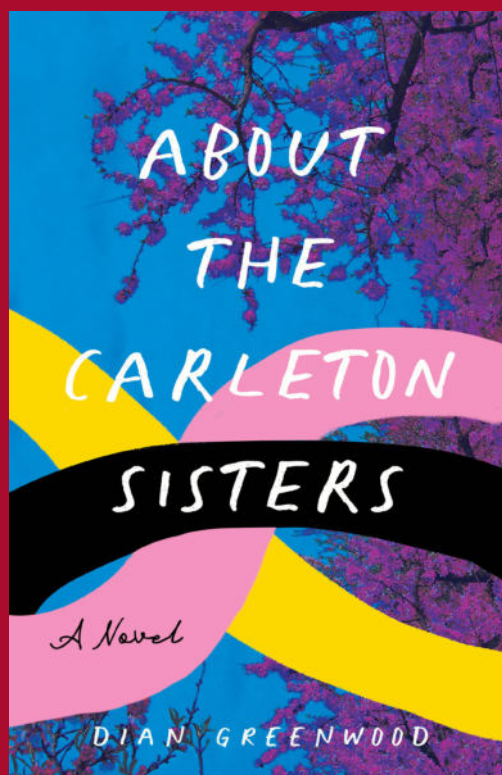
Greece. Politics. Love. Danger. Reeling from a failed marriage and spurred on by a burgeoning sense of feminism, twenty-five-year-old Kate accepts a position as a speech therapist in a center for children with cerebral palsy in Thessaloniki, Greece. It is 1974, and the recent end of Greece’s seven-year dictatorship has ignited a fiery anti-American sentiment within the country. Despite this, as her Greek improves, Kate creates profound friendships and finds a home in the ancient and storied city. From a dramatic Christmas pig slaughter to a mesmerizing fire walking ceremony, her world expands rapidly—even more so when she falls in love with Thanasis, a handsome Communist.

Through Thanasis, Kate meets people determined to turn a spotlight on their former dictators’ massacre of university students, as well as their record of widespread censorship and torture of dissidents. The more she learns, the more her loyalty to her country and almost everything she was taught in her conservative home state of Texas is challenged. Kate is transformed by her odyssey, but when her very safety is threatened by the politics of her lover, she must choose: risk everything to stay with Thanasis and the Greece that has captured her heart, or remove herself from harm’s way by returning to her homeland?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kathryn Crawley was born of pioneer stock and raised in a small West Texas cotton town. She received undergraduate and graduate degrees in speech pathology from Baylor University. Unforeseen events and an adventurous spirit led her to Casper, WY, Colorado Springs, CO, and Thessaloniki, Greece, where she worked in a center for Greek children with cerebral palsy from 1974 to 1976. She went on to establish roots in Boston, where she worked in educational and medical settings, early intervention, and private practice. Today, she enjoys life with her partner, Tom, daughter, Emilia, and two dogs in Belmont, MA; her soul is replenished by summers in Taos, NM, and by continuing connections with beloved friends in Greece.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 13, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-440-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-441-1

“Dian Greenwood’s debut novel, *About the Carleton Sisters*, hits one out of the ballpark with its depiction of three strong-willed sisters coming together to rally around their mother in her final days.”

—Leslie Johansen Nack, author of *The Blue Butterfly*

“Dian Greenwood’s debut novel shines a bright light into the shadowy corners of an unforgettable Central California family. Incisive, raw, and achingly beautiful.”

—Laura Stanfill, author of *Singing Lessons for the Stylish Canary*

ABOUT THE CARLETON SISTERS

A NOVEL

DIAN GREENWOOD

DESCRIPTION:

A Las Vegas showgirl, a diner waitress, and a heartbroken alcoholic—three sisters—are called into an obligatory reunion in California’s Central Valley in the late 1990s as a prelude to their mother’s impending death.

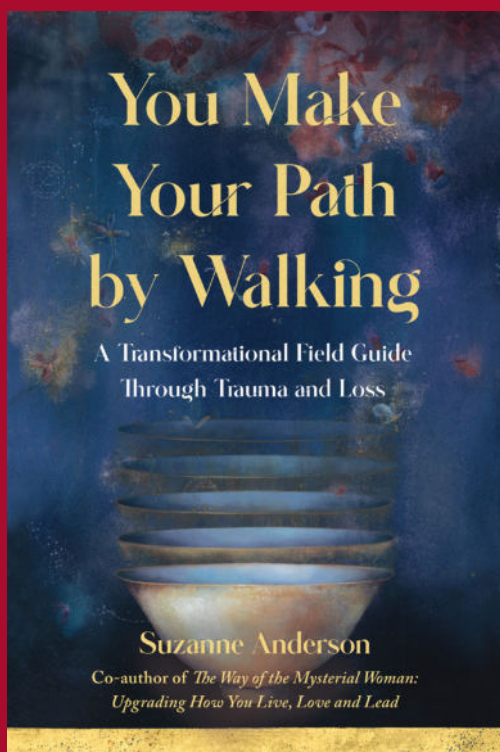
Inside Diego’s Diner on Highway 99, Lorraine, the eldest of the sisters, attempts to convert the truckers and regional farmers to her religious beliefs while managing the counters and booths. Becky, the youngest, lurches into this scene after a night’s drunken romp. Meanwhile, middle sister Julie is en route on a bus from Las Vegas, where she’s just ended a long career as a Riviera showgirl. Overshadowing the longstanding tensions between the three women is the unexplained disappearance of the sisters’ long-absent father from their lives.

Julie is reluctant to return to River’s End, but she makes a valiant attempt to jump-start her life again once she gets there, even as she confronts the loss of the beauty she’s long used to mask her insecurities and failed relationships. Meanwhile, Becky struggles to stay sober and out of jail—and Lorraine throws herself into cheating her sisters out of their inheritance.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Though Dian Greenwood started her life in the Dakotas, she has been a West Coaster since adolescence. She studied both writing and counseling psychology in San Francisco. An early focus on poetry led her to fiction, and she has published personal essays in *The Big Smoke*, a weekly online magazine. *About the Carleton Sisters* is her debut novel. She writes and works as a family therapist in Portland, Oregon. You can learn more about Dian on her website, DianGreenwood.com.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 13, 2023

Collections: Self-Help

Trim size: 6 x 9

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-442-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-443-5

“This is a gift for anyone navigating life towards greater sovereignty, purposefulness, and freedom from self-limiting cultural norms. . . . The nuanced discoveries this book shares—along with practices to enhance readers’ self-reflection and integration—offer pathways to greater joy, fulfillment, and liberation. They are authentic and hard-earned, and reveal the inspiring power of a woman’s fierce determination to live life fully—and, above all, wholeheartedly.”

—Nina Simons, Co-founder and Chief Relationship Officer, Bioneers.org, and author of *Nature, Culture & the Sacred: A Woman Listens for Leadership*

YOU MAKE YOUR PATH BY WALKING

A TRANSFORMATIONAL FIELD GUIDE THROUGH TRAUMA AND LOSS

SUZANNE ANDERSON

DESCRIPTION:

In this beautifully crafted blend of memoir and guidebook, Suzanne Anderson invites you to walk with her through the brutal landscape of trauma and loss. Whether you are going through a personal dark night or struggling with these uncertain and disruptive global times, this book offers a proven pathway to allow the breaking down to be the breaking open into a whole new way of living, loving, and leading.

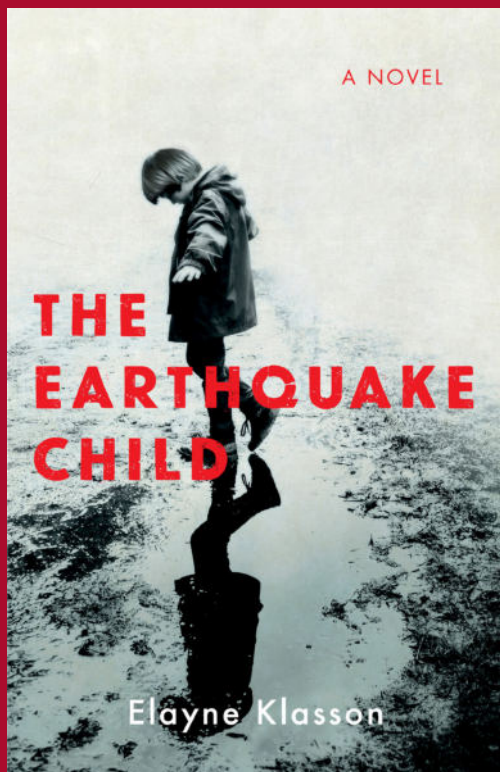
This book is structured into three distinct parts: Part One sets the stage and walks us through the shocking event of Suzanne’s husband’s suicide and the dismantling of her life; Part Two explores how to embody each of the eight critical capacities of resilience, using compelling personal stories throughout; and Part Three provides some of the inner tools, rituals, and broader perspectives needed.

Drawing from her years of exploration into the development of human potential and her own shattering journey of loss Suzanne guides you to make your own path through the darkest of times—and to become a light in the world that others can look to in their own times of need.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Suzanne Anderson, MA, is the founder of The Mysterical Woman and a psychologist, coach, leadership consultant, author, and transformational teacher. Her pioneering work in guiding others to awaken their full Feminine and Masculine strengths combines insights and practices from ancient wisdom, depth psychology, and modern science. She facilitates global online programs, in-person workshops, and retreats and is the coauthor of the award-winning book *The Way of the Mysterical Woman: Upgrading How You Live, Love, and Lead*. She is located in Seattle, Washington.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 20, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-446-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-447-3

“This novel offers rich reportage on the consequences of adopting... An evocative tale about the intertwining life choices, challenges, and tragedies of an adoption.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“The thoughts, feelings, and actions that go into adoption are explored in the novel *The Earthquake Child*, which glories in human faults and virtues.”

—Foreword Clarion Reviews

THE EARTHQUAKE CHILD

A NOVEL

ELAYNE KLASSON

DESCRIPTION:

The Earthquake Child is the fictional story of an adoption, told through the voices of an adoptee, his desperate young birth mother, and his loving but grieving adoptive mother.

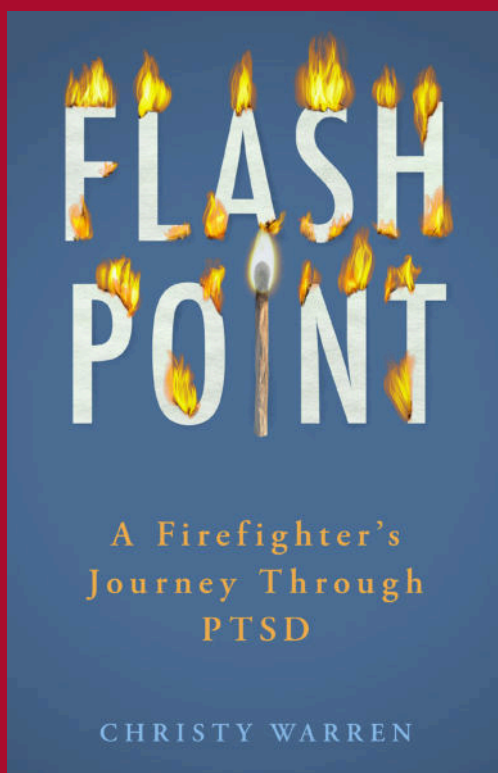
How can Joshua’s behavior be explained? This question is all-consuming for his adoptive family. Joshua was relinquished at birth, then adopted only days later. Is it his genetic inheritance of substance abuse and generational poverty that causes him to act out, run away, and eventually become involved with drugs? Is it the losses he’s experienced in his adoptive family? Or is it the very fact of adoption itself—the trauma of being amputated from his gestational mother to be raised by a family unrelated to him by blood, culture, or biology?

What makes our children who they are? These voices and questions will resonate with all parents, but particularly with those who are or have been part of the adoption triangle: adoptees, mothers who have relinquished a child, and parents who’ve added a child to their family through adoption.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elayne Klasson grew up on Chicago’s northside. She attended university and graduate school in the Midwest—Ohio State University and the University of Michigan, earning a Masters of Public Health and then a PhD in psychology. Her professional career has been in academia at San Jose State University; her research and clinical work focuses on the severely mentally ill. A transplant to the Santa Ynez Valley in California, she is a popular lifestyle newspaper columnist there. She has also appeared on San Francisco public television as a restaurant critic. Elayne is the author of the National Jewish Book Award finalist and best-selling *Love is a Rebellious Bird*. She and her husband, David, have five children between them, biological and adopted.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 20, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-448-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-449-7

“A tough and emotional read but a must-read. Christy dives deep into her life’s journey of trauma and, more importantly, her healing and ultimate recovery. I cried and I laughed and I can honestly say this book has helped me dig into my never-ending healing process. If you need inspiration, Christy nails it.”

—Clint Malarchuk, former NHL goaltender and author of *A Matter of Inches*

FLASH POINT

A FIREFIGHTER’S JOURNEY THROUGH PTSD

CHRISTY WARREN

DESCRIPTION:

For twenty-five years, paramedic and firefighter Christy Warren put each tragic, traumatizing call she responded to in a box and closed the lid. One day, however, the box got too full and the lid blew open—and she found herself unable to close it again. Gut-wrenching scenes from her career played over and over again in her head; she found herself incapable of forgiving herself for what happened at one call in particular. Caught in a loop of shame, anger, irritability, and hypervigilance—classic signs of PTSD—she began to spiral, even to the point of considering suicide, and yet still she was reluctant to seek help.

In the end, it took almost losing her marriage to force Christy into action—but once she began to reach out, she found a whole army of folks waiting and ready to help her. The team of people supporting her eventually grew to include an EMDR therapist, a psychiatrist, her peers at a trauma retreat, and a lawyer who made the case for medical retirement and workers compensation. Along the way, Christy learned the vital truths that made it possible to keep going even in her darkest moments—that post-traumatic stress was literally a brain injury; that suicide and alcohol were not the only ways out; that asking for help was a sign of strength, not weakness; and that although it was ultimately up to her to do the work to change the dialogue in her head, she was not alone.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Christy Warren is a retired fire captain from the Berkeley Fire Department in California. She has twenty-five years of service as a professional paramedic and eighteen years as a professional firefighter/paramedic. After being diagnosed with PTSD in 2014, she retired from the fire service; since then, she has become a triathlete, completed the Escape from Alcatraz swim five times, and earned a bachelor’s degree in business from Washington State University. She is a volunteer Peer at the West Coast Post-trauma Retreat and hosts the podcast *The Firefighter Deconstructed*. She lives in Pleasant Hill with her wife, Lisa, and dog, Harriet.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 20, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-444-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-445-9

“Greene’s unadorned, straightforward prose keeps readers rooted in her lively narrative of hardship and recovery, and her mantras may prove useful for those going through similar experiences. . . . A clear-sighted reflection on the need to let go in the face of uncertainty.”

—Kirkus Reviews

BY ACCIDENT

A MEMOIR OF LETTING GO

JOANNE GREENE

DESCRIPTION:

Joanne Greene grew up in Boston during the 1960s and '70s, a turning point for women in the United States. Doors were opening wider, and Joanne walked through as many as she could. As a young woman, she dove headfirst into San Francisco radio and television, and went on to host and produce award-winning feminist and other timely features and talk shows for decades. Throughout, she worked at having a great marriage and being an exemplary parent. But underlying her high-achieving life was a sometimes-destructive need for control.

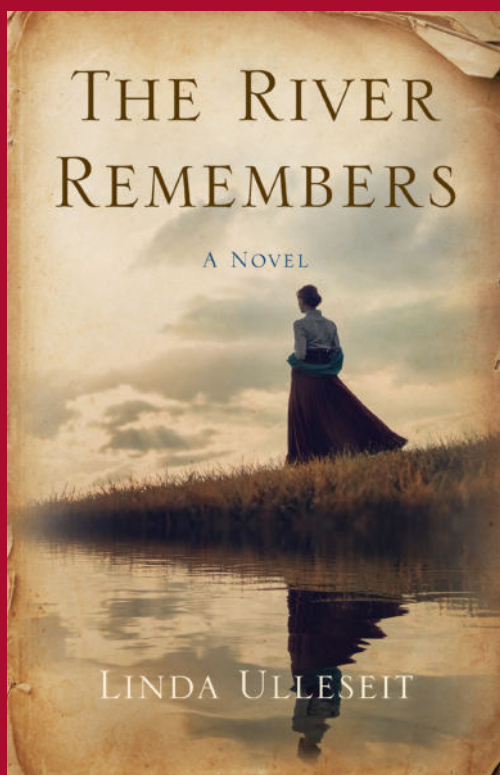
Vulnerability and dependency were okay . . . for other people. Joanne’s value was tied to how in charge, how together, and how productive she was. Then she suffered a traumatic accident—and it set her on a journey of discovery that taught her true power came in the still moments, the moments when she not only loosened her grip but even allowed herself to crack. In fragility, Joanne found, there was beauty—and possibility, too.

By Accident is a story about discovering that control is a seductive illusion, and that letting go of the need for it can reveal great strength and lead us to firmer ground.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Joanne Greene grew up in Boston in the 1960s. She attended Northwestern University and Emerson College before settling in the San Francisco Bay Area, where she was a recognized voice for decades on SF radio. She is the cohost, with Gabi Moskowitz, of the podcast *All the F Words* and the host of *In This Story*, a podcast featuring her flash nonfiction. Joanne lives in Marin County, CA, with Fred, her husband and creative partner since 1980, and their damn near perfect Goldendoodle, Moxie. Their two sons and two grandkids are thriving in LA. *By Accident* is Joanne’s debut memoir.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 27, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-450-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-451-0

“Storyteller Linda Ulleseit shares a fabulous account of frontier women—white, Native, and Black—in a variety of social statuses, tenderly conveyed. Taken from actual histories, each woman seeks independence and thinks she is willing to endure the consequences.

Linda brings to life the prairies of Michigan Territory and the emotional demands on lives changing day by day.

I read well into the night and didn't want to let these women go! Neither will readers everywhere.”

—Jane Kirkpatrick, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Healing of Natalie Curtis*

THE RIVER REMEMBERS

A NOVEL

LINDA ULLESEIT

DESCRIPTION:

Samantha Lockwood, Day Sets, and Harriet Robinson come to Fort Snelling from very different backgrounds. It's 1835; the world is changing, fast, and they are all struggling to keep up. After she refuses another suitor he's chosen for her, Samantha's father banishes her to live in the territory with her brother. He, too, tries to take over her marriage plans—but she is determined to find her own husband, even when her choices go awry.

Day Sets demands that her white husband create a school to educate their daughter, supporting her father's belief that his people must learn the ways of the white man in order to ensure the tribe's future. Until events prove her father wrong.

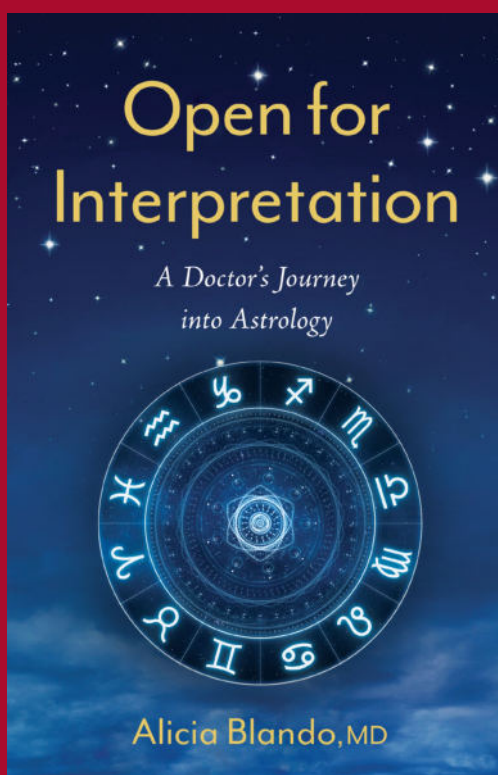
Harriet's life in the territory is more like that of a free person than anywhere she's lived. She even falls in love with Dred Scott and dreams of a life with him. But they are both enslaved, and she keeps being reminded of how little control she has over her own fate.

As their cultures collide, each of these three women must find a way to direct her own future and leave a legacy for her children.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Ulleseit, from Saratoga, California, has an MFA in writing from Lindenwood University and is a member of the Hawaii Writers Guild, Women Writing the West, and Paper Lantern Writers. She is also the award-winning author of two novels, *Under the Almond Trees* and *The Aloha Spirit*. She recently retired from teaching elementary school and now enjoys writing full time as well as cooking, leatherworking, reading, gardening, walking her dog, and playing with her new grandson.

JUNE 2023



Publication Date: June 27, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1164742-470-1

E-ISBN: 978-1--64742-471-8

OPEN FOR INTERPRETATION

A DOCTOR'S JOURNEY INTO ASTROLOGY

ALICIA BLANDO, MD

DESCRIPTION:

As a young doctor working in the middle of the HIV epidemic in the early '90s, Alicia Blando feels unsure of the effectiveness of the medical profession. To gain insight into her life's path, she seeks advice in some unconventional places, and eventually lands on astrology as her way forward. Astrology, based in astronomy, has specific rules; it can't be easily manipulated. The scientist in her can't help but respond to this idea.

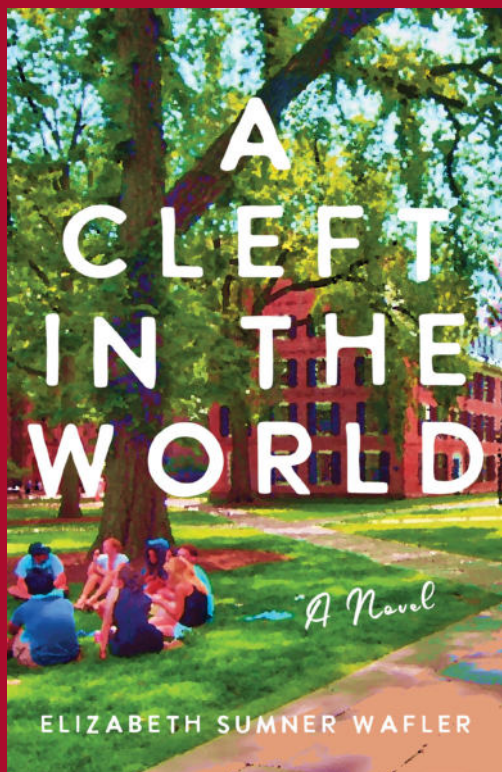
By learning to read the horoscope, Alicia gains insight into her potential and manifests her ambition to travel and explore healing techniques from indigenous cultures. Eventually, her search for new teachers and past knowledge takes her from Manhattan to the Peruvian Amazon, Belize, and Bolivia, where she discovers ancient ways of healing among people who consider the sky to be a continuation of nature on earth. She connects with the tenets of astrology as the language that describes man's connection to the sky environment. The horoscopic map gives information that can assist in making better choices in life, Alicia learns; it has the potential to analyze a person's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and health concerns.

Alicia's journey off the beaten path ultimately leads her to true self-exploration and connection with the world around her, as well as a desire to share her knowledge. In *Open for Interpretation*, she shares her story of finally finding the map she's been seeking—and explains how we can all use that map to access our true selves and untapped potential.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Alicia Blando trained and practiced in the medical specialty of physical medicine and rehabilitation. As a Western physician who has followed the tenets of astrology in her life, she believes that the practice of astrology can function as an adjunct method to study many aspects of life, including the tendencies for certain disease processes. Alicia currently works as a medical consultant and resides in Las Vegas, Nevada.

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 11, 2023

Collections: Fiction, Women's Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-452-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-453-4

A CLEFT IN THE WORLD

A NOVEL

ELIZABETH SUMNER WAFLER

DESCRIPTION:

French professor Georgie Bricker hasn't poked a toe outside Virginia's Willa Cather College for women in two decades. She realizes the irony: she's working to shape her students into world leaders even as PTSD-induced agoraphobia, a result of trauma she suffered as a girl, keeps her prisoner on a tiny college campus. She tells herself her life is fine. Yet on her forty-ninth birthday, she wishes for something extraordinary.

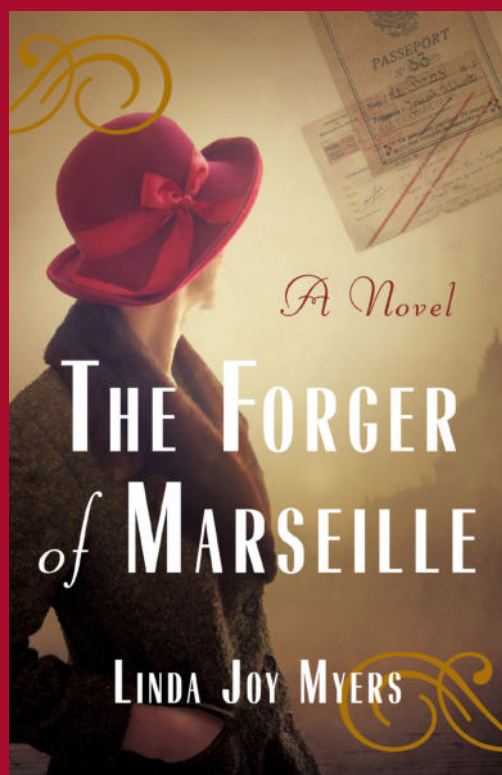
Georgie is shattered to learn that same week that her sanctuary is heavily in debt. While she scrambles to rescue the French department, her first love, Truman Parker, arrives to serve as a financial consultant to the school. By day, Georgie works as faculty liaison to his committee. By night, she's a moth to his porch light.

When the college announces it will shutter, Georgie and fiercely independent Laurel Cross, the student who's closest to Georgie's heart, organize a rally to save it. Between her rekindled love for Truman and Laurel becoming the daughter she never had, her wish for the extraordinary seems to have been granted. But the pivotal rally forces Georgie into the bigger, unsheltered world, where she must confront her final fears—or forfeit her chance for emotional freedom and a fulfilling new life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elizabeth Wafler is a member of the Women's Fiction Writers Association, where she previously served as Director of Craft Education. She enjoys working with other writers through her editorial side hustle, Four Eyes Editorial. She embarked upon a means of benefiting both readers and fellow writers last year with her creation of *The Evocative Author* podcast. Elizabeth can be found working at her blue desk, at a farmer's market in search of the perfect heirloom tomato or bouquet, practicing yoga, or enjoying a pretty cocktail on her porch. She lives with her husband and two puppies in Simpsonville, the sweet spot of South Carolina between the Blue Ridge Mountains and some of the country's most beautiful beaches.

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 11, 2023

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-231-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-232-5

THE FORGER OF MARSEILLE

A NOVEL

LINDA JOY MYERS

DESCRIPTION:

All across Europe in 1939, the Nazis are coming for Jews and anti-fascists. The only way to avoid being imprisoned or murdered is to assume a new identity. For that you need papers. And for that the underground needs forgers.

Sarah, a young Jewish artist, and her music teacher and father figure, Mr. Lieb, have already fled one home—Berlin. Now in Paris, they meet Cesar, a Spanish Republican who knows well the brutality of fascism.

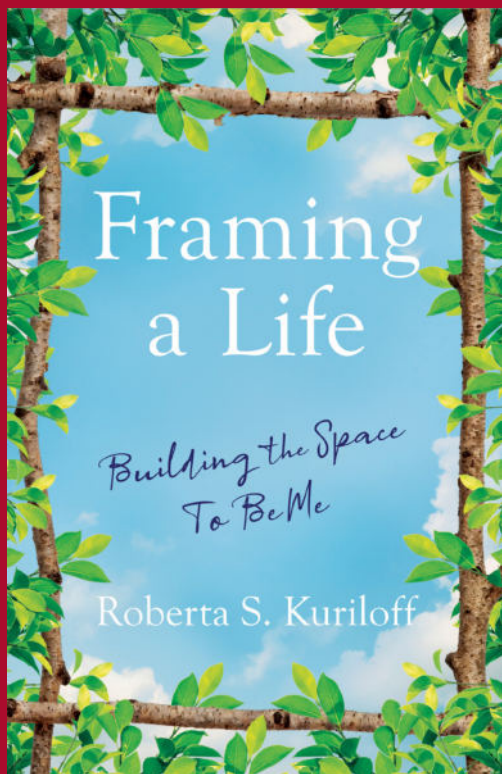
When the war reaches Paris, they join thousands of other refugees in a chaotic exodus south. In Marseille, they're received by friends and become part of a resistance the government is actively hunting. Sarah, now Simone, continues her forgery work in the shadows, expertly creating false papers that will mean the difference between life and a horrifying death for many. When Mr. Lieb is arrested and imprisoned in Les Milles internment camp, Simone, Cesar, and their friends enlist the help of American journalist Varian Fry—a man known for plotting the escapes of high-profile people like Andre Breton and Marc Chagall—in their efforts to rescue him. Will passion and cunning be enough to keep them all alive?

An enlightening and thrilling story of war, love, and courage, *The Forger of Marseille* explores identity, ingenuity, and the power of art to save lives.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Joy Myers has always been haunted by the power of the past to affect people in the stream of time. She has integrated her passion about history and her own struggles with intergenerational trauma into her work as a therapist and a writer. She is the author of two memoirs and four books on memoir writing and is the founder of the National Association of Memoir Writers. Her new book is inspired by Varian Fry's memoir *Surrender on Demand* and Donald Caskie's *The Tartan Pimpernel*, among others, and by the daunting courage of unknown and unnamed people who helped to save the lives of thousands of refugees, British soldiers, and other lost souls during the cruel and chaotic outbreak of the war in France. You can learn more about Linda Joy's work at www.namw.org and www.lindajoymyersauthor.com.

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 18, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-495-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-496-1

FRAMING A LIFE

BUILDING THE SPACE TO BE ME

ROBERTA S. KURILOFF

DESCRIPTION:

On a blustery Maine day, thirty-nine-year-old Roberta Kuriloff found herself standing on a plot of land purchased with her former partner, Mary Ann, holding a couple of wood stakes to mark off exactly where her new house would sit. No longer their land. No longer their dream. Now, just hers.

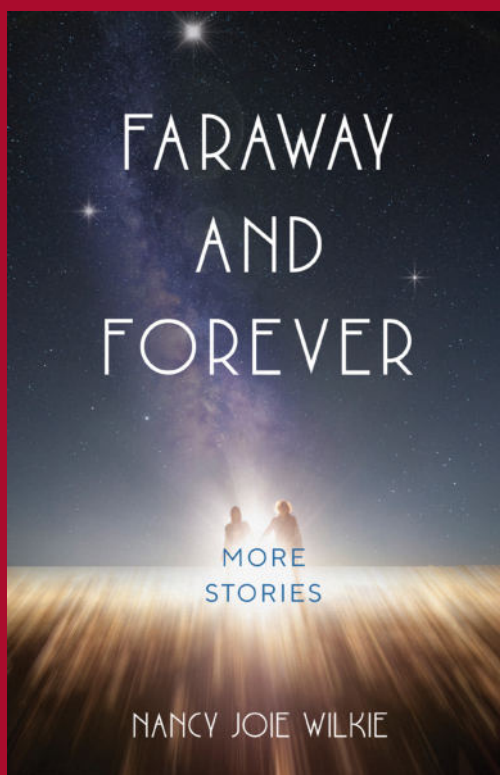
Immersed in a world of blueprints, materials, contractors, and critters, Roberta confronted the major losses she'd suffered in her life—in particular the deaths of her mother and aunt from cancer and her separation from her father and brother during her placement in an orphanage—trying to understand how those losses had shaped the woman, lawyer, and activist she'd become. As she cleared land, hammered nails, lifted beams, and shivered in her rented mobile home, the answers began to come to her.

Roberta soon found love again, with a woman named Nancy . . . only to lose her abruptly just one year later. Her grief over Nancy's death, and the psychic and out-of-body events she experienced following that loss, led to an eight-year spiritual quest where she explored her Jewish roots, the Kabbalah, Buddhism, and reincarnation. As she healed, new love beckoned—and at long last Roberta found that intrinsic sense of self, that unshakable foundation of heart and soul, that home, that she'd been searching for all along.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Roberta Kuriloff is a writer, author, speaker, community activist, and former attorney. She is the author of *Everything Special*, *Living Joy: Poems and Prose to Inspire*; the short story "Unearthing Home," published in the Spring 2020 issue of *Yellow Arrow Publishing Journal*; and the essay "Musings on the Word Atonement," published in the She Writes Press anthology *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis: Women Writers Respond to the Call*. As an attorney, her legal work centered on families in emotional and financial crises. She is a founding member of an elderly services organization and two domestic violence projects, and she has also worked as a hospice patient-volunteer and bereavement workshop facilitator. In between her community work, she makes time to enjoy her passions for writing and dance. She lives in the home she built in the woods of Orland, Maine.

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 18, 2023

**Collections: Science Fiction, Short
Stories**

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-454-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-455-8

**“When I finish a good story like this one,
I continue to think about the characters,
not wanting it to end. I’ll have to let
my imagination finish the love story of
Jonathan and Desiree.”**

**—Nancy Cox, editor at the NIH Library of
Medicine**

FARAWAY AND FOREVER

MORE STORIES

NANCY JOIE WILKIE

DESCRIPTION:

This collection of novelettes takes the reader from the not-too-distant future to a time when travel between worlds is a common occurrence. Each stop along mankind’s journey outward to the stars is accompanied by a deeper look inward—from examining how extraterrestrial beings might use our own biology against us to whether a human consciousness can survive in a virtual environment to how wishes are really granted. Original and thought-provoking, these stories—which include an interstellar religious thriller involving a second coming of Christ—will stimulate the intellect and engage the imagination.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Nancy Joie Wilkie worked for over thirty years in both the biotechnology industry and as part of the federal government’s biodefense effort. Now retired, she composes original music, plays a variety of instruments, and has recorded many of her original compositions. She also created a series of greeting cards that display her artwork and photographs. *Faraway and Forever* is her second collection of stories. *Seven Sides of Self*, her first, was published by She Writes Press in November 2019. She is currently working on a third collection of short stories, *The River Keeper and Other Tales*, a science fiction novel, and a children’s story. Nancy resides in Brookeville, Maryland.

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 18, 2023

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-499-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-502-9

“In her memoir of seeking and finding, Barbara Wolf Terao invites readers into her circle of friends, family members, doctors, nurses, ferry boat personnel, and shoe salesmen. It’s a big, beautiful circle on Whidbey Island and one I did not want to leave. With no recriminations, she tells the story of her stalled marriage and her diagnosis of breast cancer, both of which demand ‘reconfiguration.’ She approaches all her challenges with wit, grit, and a belief in nature and spirit that inspires and warms.”

—Sharon Fiffer, author of *Imagining America* and the Jane Wheel mysteries

RECONFIGURED

A MEMOIR

BARBARA WOLF TERAO

DESCRIPTION:

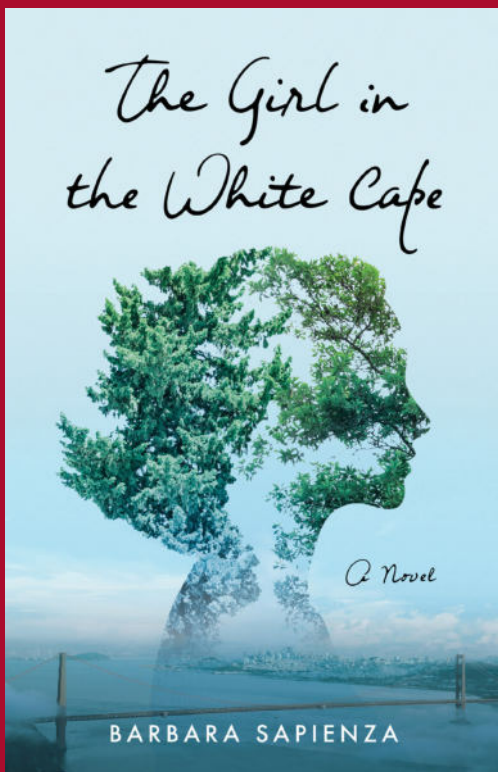
When Barbara Terao moves into a new home in Washington, 2,000 miles from her husband in Illinois, she doesn’t know when—or if—she’ll ever live with him again. Her diagnosis of breast cancer three months later changes both of them in ways they never imagined.

In the ensuing months, Barbara’s husband and adult children show up to help her through a year of difficult treatments and surgery, and Barbara, in her Whidbey Island cottage, learns to listen to her heart and intuition. Nurtured by Douglas fir forests, the Salish Sea, and her community, she changes her life from the inside out. Her journey, she realizes, wasn’t about leaving her husband so much as about finding herself. Reconfigured in body, mind, and spirit, Barbara finally has words for what she wants to say—and the strength to be a survivor.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Barbara Wolf Terao was born and raised in Northfield, Minnesota, and now lives on Whidbey Island in Washington. Besides taking on way too many janitor jobs, Dr. Terao has been a teacher, psychologist, Land Ethic Leader, television host, newspaper columnist, book reviewer, and editor. She happily adds mother and now grandmother to that list. Her articles, essays, and reviews have appeared in *Orion*, *The Seattle Times*, *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis*, *Cabin Life*, *AHP Perspective*, and *Realize*, as well as on her Of the Earth website (ofthebluepla.net).

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 25, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-503-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-504-3

THE GIRL IN THE WHITE CAPE

A NOVEL

BARBARA SAPIENZA

DESCRIPTION:

Fifteen-year-old Elena lives in a church attic in San Francisco's Richmond neighborhood, where she is cared for by her guardian, a kind Russian priest named Father Al. Six days a week, Father Al sends her out of Our Lady, across the meadows and ponds of Golden Gate Park, and all the way to Baba Vera's house on Taraval Street for Baba's version of school.

Baba Vera's preposterous demands, dizzying antics, and house—which is full of skeletons, brooms, strange implements, and guinea pigs, among other oddities—seem straight out of a Russian fairy tale Father Al used to read to Elena . . . not life in 2020. If not for her beloved doll, Kukla—bequeathed to her by the mother she never got to know, but of whom she often dreams—Elena would be overwhelmed. Yet she works hard at every task given her, understanding intuitively that there is a purpose to every one of her grandmother's strange assignments.

Frank, a young taxi driver, enters Elena's world on the day he delivers a strange, witch-like woman named Anya to Our Lady. Upon meeting Anya and Elena, a dream-world begins to spin for him—and he feels a deep, protective pull toward Elena. In the days that follow, Frank devotes himself to saving her from the harm he is sure Anya intends toward her. What he comes to understand as he enters more deeply into Elena's story, however, is that she has magic of her own. He thought he was supposed to save her—but in the end, the two of them may just save each other.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Barbara Sapienza, PhD, is a retired clinical psychologist and an alumna of San Francisco State University's creative writing master's program. She writes and paints, nourished by her spiritual practices of meditation, tai chi, and dance. Her first novel, *Anchor Out* (She Writes Press, 2017), received an IPPY Bronze for Best Regional Fiction, West Coast. Her second novel, *The Laundress* (She Writes Press, 2020), received a starred review from *Kirkus Reviews*. Sapienza lives in Sausalito, California, with her husband.

JULY 2023



Publication Date: July 25, 2023

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-493-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-494-7

WHAT WE LEAVE BEHIND

A NOVEL

CHRISTINE GALLAGHER KEARNEY

DESCRIPTION:

In 1947, war bride Ursula arrives in Minneapolis torn between guilt over leaving loved ones behind and her desire to start a new life—and a family—in this promised land. But the American dream proves elusive—she is struck with polio, and then shocked by the sudden death of her GI husband.

Without a spouse or the child she so desperately wanted, Ursula must rely on her shrewd survival skills from wartime Berlin, and she takes in a boarder to help make ends meet. She soon falls in love with the Argentinean medical technician living in her spare bedroom, but his devotion to communism troubles her—and when she finds herself pregnant with his child, she is faced with a dilemma: how to reconcile her dream of motherhood with an America that is so different from what she imagined.

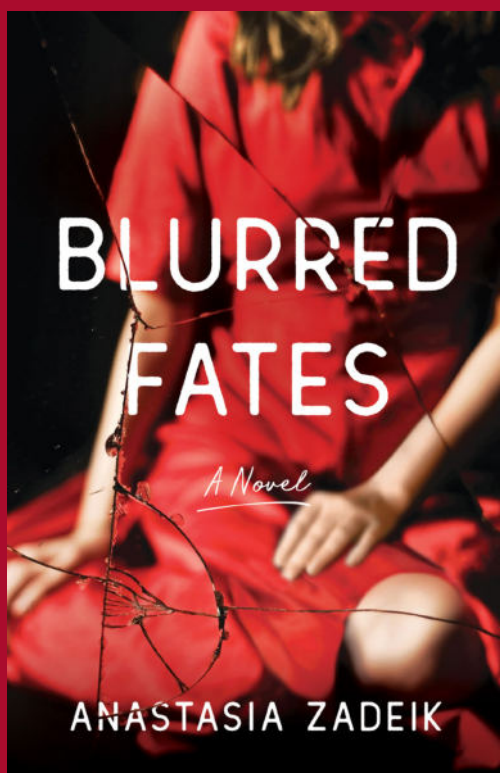
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Christine Gallagher Kearney is a Midwest Review “Great Midwest Writing Contest” finalist, and a semi-finalist for Chestnut Review’s “Stubborn Artists Contest.” She has published in *Wild Roof Journal*, *Driftless Magazine*, *ForbesWoman*, *Fortune*, and *Cara Magazine* and is a former food columnist for the Irish American News. She graduated with her bachelor’s degrees in International Relations and Spanish from Mount Holyoke College, later earning her master’s degree in Organizational and Multicultural Communication through DePaul University. She has a career in the corporate world and writes in her off hours. *What We Leave Behind* is her debut novel. Christine grew up in Minnesota, but now lives in Chicago with her husband and dachshund.



Fall
2022

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 2, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-379-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-380-3

“A woman’s seemingly perfect life unravels in this debut novel that explores what happens when past traumas resurface . . . will keep readers glued to the page . . . The author’s tale is as chilling as it is affecting. . . . A hypnotic page-turner . . .”

—Kirkus Reviews

“In the haunting and finely written *Blurred Fates*, Anastasia Zadeik unravels themes of adultery, jealousy, crimes of passion, betrayal, loss, and guilt.”

—Donna Brown Agins, NAACP Image Award-nominated author of *Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis: Legendary First Lady* and *Maya Angelou: Diversity Makes for a Rich Tapestry*

BLURRED FATES

A NOVEL

ANASTASIA ZADEIK

DESCRIPTION:

Kate Whittier has it all: a loving, even-keeled husband, two great kids, and a beautiful home in Southern California. But Kate is living a lie. In a desperate attempt to create the safe, happy family she never had, she has been hiding secrets for decades—things she’s convinced make her unworthy of her wellborn husband, Jacob, and the privileged life he has provided.

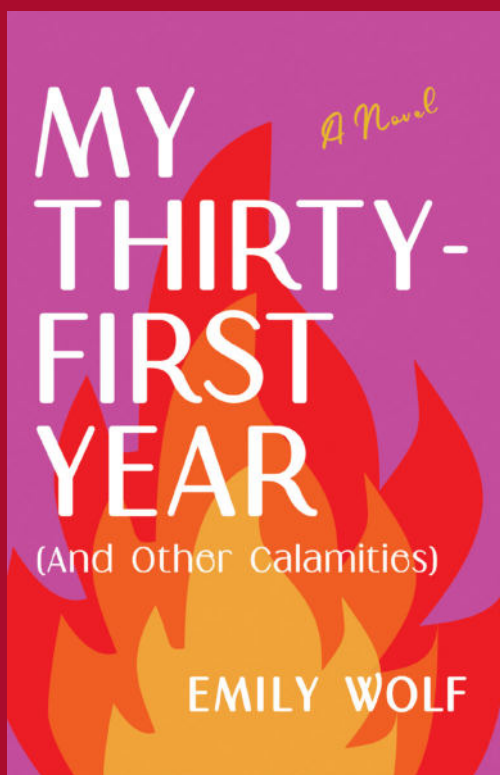
Then, one ordinary evening, Jacob confesses to a drunken sexual indiscretion he doesn’t quite remember, and Kate cracks open. Molten memories rise to the surface. Volatile emotions swirl. Triggered in ways she didn’t see coming, Kate is overwhelmed by rage she cannot explain and fear of who she might become.

Her marriage unraveling, Kate returns to her childhood home, hoping to find closure. Instead, as the past invades the present and relationships collide, She discovers she’s not the only one lying—and the truth may not set anyone free.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Anastasia Zadeik is an author, editor, and narrative nonfiction storyteller. When she’s not reading or writing, you’ll find her practicing yoga, hiking, biking, swimming, or hanging out with her husband and her empty-nest rescue dog, Charlie. *Blurred Fates* is her first novel. She lives in San Diego, CA.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 2, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Women's Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-082-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-081-9

“A brilliantly written novel of friendship, failure, and humor, *My Thirty-First Year (and Other Calamities)* is a thoughtful, thought-provoking, recognizable, and fun read that will have a very special appeal to women readers ages 18-88.”

—Midwest Book Review

MY THIRTY-FIRST YEAR (AND OTHER CALAMITIES)

A NOVEL

EMILY WOLF

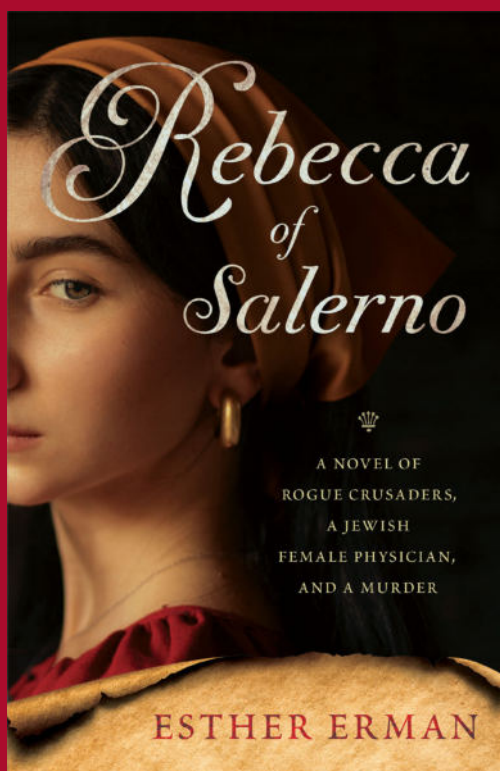
DESCRIPTION:

On her 30th birthday, Yale-educated Zoe Greene was supposed to be married to her high-school sweetheart, pregnant with their first baby, and practicing law in Chicago. Instead, she's planning an abortion and filing for divorce. Zoe wants to understand why her plans failed and to move on, have sex, and date while there's still time. As she navigates dysfunctional penises, a paucity of grammatically sound online dating profiles, and her paralyzing fear of aging alone, she also grapples with the pressure women feel to put others first. Ultimately, Zoe's family, friends, incomparable therapist, and diary of never-to-be-sent letters to her first loves, the rock band U2, help her learn to let go of society's constructs of female happiness, and of her own.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Emily is an ardent feminist, U2 fan, and native Chicagoan. A graduate of Harvard Law School, she volunteers with Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast and with her synagogue's Board of Trustees and Social Justice Core Team. Emily lives in Houston with her husband, children, and dogs, and has published several essays in the Houston Chronicle and at www.emilyvwolf.medium.com.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 2, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Jewish Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-247-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-248-6

“Esther Erman’s meticulously researched novel of Jewish life in the Middle Ages brings the fragility of Jewish existence to life. The reader discovers a strong, brave woman who, while pursuing a path to become a healer in the face of great odds, holds on tenaciously to basic Jewish values like the pursuit of justice . . . a compelling story.”

—Rabbi Sheldon Lewis, author of *Torah of Reconciliation* and *Letters Home: A Jewish Chaplain’s Vietnam Memoir*

REBECCA OF SALERNO

A NOVEL OF ROGUE CRUSADERS, A JEWISH FEMALE PHYSICIAN, AND A MURDER

ESTHER ERMAN

DESCRIPTION:

This book continues the story of Rebecca from Walter Scott’s 1820 novel *Ivanhoe*.

After being rescued by *Ivanhoe* from being burnt at the stake as a sorceress, Rebecca flees from England and the man she loves.

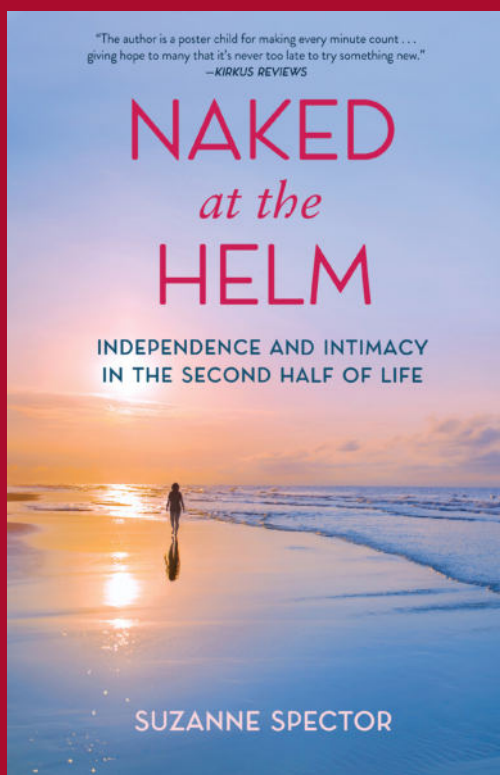
In Salerno, Kingdom of Sicily, she pursues her dreams by attending medical school. Practicing her profession, she defies family pressure to marry Rafael, the man who loves her. But more pressing is the conquest of Sicily by the Hohenstaufens and the arrival of rogue crusaders, both of which threaten Salerno’s long-standing atmosphere of tolerance. When a rabbi is falsely accused of murdering a crusader, Rebecca and Rafael commit to pursuing justice and protecting the Jewish community.

Rebecca struggles to balance community expectations and traditions with her desire for fulfillment—one of the great challenges facing women throughout the ages.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Like her heroine, Rebecca, Esther Erman was a refugee. A naturalized citizen, she early on developed a passion for language, which led to her earning a doctorate in language education, writing her dissertation about the Yiddish language, and working with international students on many levels. A multi-published author, Esther now lives in the San Francisco Bay Area with her husband. When they’re not traveling—especially to be with family in other parts of the US and in England—she loves to bake, quilt, and add to her monumental book collection.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 9, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-085-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-086-4

“Suzanne Spector doesn’t just tell us to expect vibrant, surprising, joy-filled life into our eighties; sharing her stories, her life, her whole self, she shows us how a ‘regular woman’ finds or indeed creates joy in at any age. Suzanne is a real (adorable) person who has built (and continually rebuilt) a life of beauty and adventure by putting in the work on the inside. To read her story, her stories, is to be inspired to strip, stretch, and shine . . . just like she does.”

—Jen Laffler, award-winning poet, teacher, and author of *J is for JITTERBUG: A Fanciful Animal Alphabet*

NAKED AT THE HELM

INDEPENDENCE AND INTIMACY IN THE SECOND HALF OF LIFE

SUZANNE SPECTOR

DESCRIPTION:

At age thirty-nine, Suzanne Spector found herself looking at what conventional 1950s thinking had brought her. Yes, she was a wife, mother of three, and successful school director. But she was also neglected in a sexless marriage, and feeling as if the passion and juice of life had passed her by.

She began with two questions: *Who am I, really?* and *Is it too late?*

After divorcing her husband, Suzanne set out to discover who she was as an independent woman with curiosity, questions, and lust for life. Tracing more than four decades of self-discovery and intellectual, spiritual, and creative exploration, *Naked at the Helm* is Spector’s story of becoming the captain of her own ship in midlife. Her adventurous journey led her from a nude beach on Ibiza at forty-one to a Siberian banya at fifty-five to a hot love affair at eighty. Her intellectual quest, meanwhile, led to a second career as director of a world-renowned psychology center, while deep friendships with women, including her daughters, sustained and nourished her through decades of global travel.

These probably would not be the tales your mother or grandmother would tell about her life, but this eighty-year-old’s ebullient memoir of the second half of her life will move you to weave some rich new yarns into the tapestry of your own story. And no, it’s not too late.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Suzanne Spector is a graduate of Barnard College and holds a master’s degree from the Columbia University School of Social Work. She was Coordinator of the American Montessori Teacher Training Program, then founded and directed The Center for Open Education, an innovative school, before becoming the Director of the Center for Studies of the Person. At age fifty-six, she earned her PhD from The Union Institute. At age seventy-seven, she began to write. Her essays “My Path to CSP” and “A Deeper Listening” were published in the anthology *A Place to Be: CSP at Fifty* (2017). Her short story “Dancing Heart Emoji” won the 2019 SDMWA Memoir Showcase Award and was published in *Shaking the Tree: Volume Three* (2021). Suzanne lives in San Diego, CA.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 9, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback

\$24.95 hardcover / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-087-1

Hardcover 978-1-64742-600-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-088-8

“Rich in storyline and character with plenty of mystery woven throughout. With a climactic pulpit scene that’s not to be missed—and one novel we can highly recommend!”

—Chanticleer Reviews

“The strong characters and vivid sense of place lingered in my mind long after the last page. That’s my measure of a darned good book.”

—Marcia Preston, Mary Higgins Clark Award Winner and author of *The Spiderling* and *The Butterfly House*

WINTER'S RECKONING

A NOVEL

ADELE HOLMES, M.D.

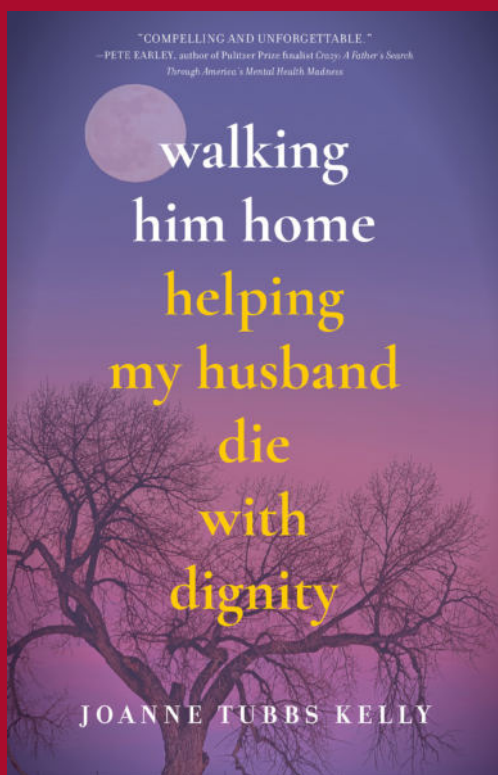
DESCRIPTION:

Forty-six-year-old Madeline Fairbanks has no use for ideas like “separation of the races” or “men as the superior sex.” There are many in her dying Southern Appalachian town who are upset by her socially progressive views, but for years—partly due to her late husband’s still-powerful influence and partly due to her skill as a healer in a remote town with no doctor of its own—folks have been willing to turn a blind eye to her “transgressions.” Even Maddie’s decision to take on a Black apprentice, Ren Morgan, goes largely unchallenged by her white neighbors, though it’s certainly grumbled about. But when a charismatic and power-hungry new reverend blows into town in 1917 and begins to preach about the importance of racial segregation, the long-idle local KKK chapter fires back into action and places Maddie and her friends in Jamesville’s Black community squarely in their sights. Maddie had better stop intermingling with Black folks, discontinue her herbalistic “witchcraft,” and leave town immediately, they threaten, or they’ll lynch Ren’s father, Daniel. Faced with this decision, Maddie is terrified . . . and torn. Will she bow to their demands and walk away—or will she fight to keep the home she’s built in Jamestown and protect the future of the people she loves, both Black and white?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Adele Holmes graduated from medical school in 1993. After twenty-plus years in private practice pediatrics, her unquenchable desire to wander the world, write, and give back to the community led her to retire from medicine. Today, Adele is actively involved in the Interfaith Center in Arkansas, Little Rock Second Presbyterian Church, and the Celebrate! Maya Project, an organization that promotes Maya Angelou’s advocacy through humanities and the arts. Social justice is her passion. Her fun-loving family includes a rollicking crew of her husband Chris, two adult children and their spouses, five grandchildren of diverse ages and talents, a horse, and a Bernedoodle. She is currently at work on her second novel.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 9, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-089-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-090-1

“An unvarnished account of a loving marriage and medical aid in dying.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Inherently engaging, emotionally moving, thought-provoking, and memorable, *Walking Him Home* is a story that lingers long after you’ve finished reading it. . . . A unique and unreservedly recommended addition to personal, professional, and community library collections.”

—Midwest Book Review

WALKING HIM HOME

HELPING MY HUSBAND DIE WITH DIGNITY

JOANNE TUBBS KELLY

DESCRIPTION:

Alan and Joanne marry in midlife and live a happily-ever-after existence until, at sixty-nine, Alan is diagnosed with a rare, fatal, neurodegenerative illness. As he becomes increasingly disabled and dependent on others, and decreasingly able to find joy in life, he decides he wants to end his suffering using Colorado’s Medical Aid in Dying law.

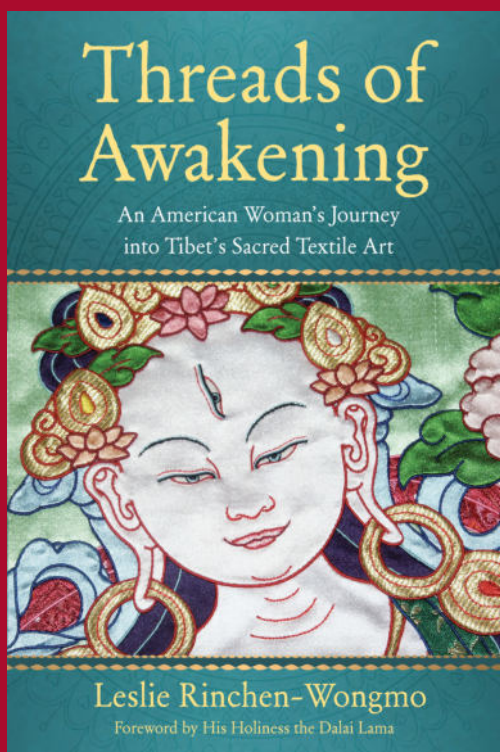
Joanne desperately wants Alan to live, but when he asks for her help completing the Medical Aid in Dying application, she can’t say no. She helps him complete the requirements, hoping deep down that his application will be denied . . . only to be stunned when his medical team approves his request and writes him a prescription for the life-ending drugs.

Told with affection and spiced with humor, *Walking Him Home* is Joanne’s tale of coming to terms with her kind, funny husband’s illness; of learning to navigate the intricate passageways of caregiving and the pitfalls of our medical system; and of choosing to help Alan in his quest to die with dignity, even though she wants nothing more than to grow old with him. Tender and heartfelt, this is one woman’s story about loving extravagantly and being loved in kind.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

As a kid, Joanne Tubbs Kelly moved around a lot, but she always felt at home when she had her nose stuck in a book. As an adult, she provided marketing communications services to high-tech companies. Now that she’s retired, she lives in Boulder in the home she and her husband, now deceased, remodeled from top to bottom. She delights in puttering in her garden and walking and hiking where she can wallow in the beauty of Boulder’s Flatirons and Colorado’s high peaks. Whenever she’s not in her garden or out walking, you can usually find her up to her old tricks: hiding out somewhere with her nose stuck in a book.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 23, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-093-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-094-9

“I am pleased that, having been drawn to a unique Tibetan craft, Leslie Rinchen-Wongmo studied it deeply and is carrying it forward faithfully, in a personal artistic manner.”

—His Holiness the Dalai Lama

“. . . the narrative threads . . . weave together in a sensitive work that considers Rinchen-Wongmo’s difficulties navigating Tibetan culture in her quest to learn a new art. . . . Along the way, it effectively delves into the Buddhist thought that she incorporated into her worldview.”

—Kirkus Reviews

THREADS OF AWAKENING

AN AMERICAN WOMAN’S JOURNEY INTO TIBET’S SACRED TEXTILE ART

LESLIE RINCHEN-WONGMO

DESCRIPTION:

What if you set out to travel the world and got sidetracked in a Himalayan sewing workshop? What if that sidetrack turned out to be your life’s path—your way home?

Part art book, part memoir, part spiritual travelogue, *Threads of Awakening* is a delightful and inspiring blend of adventure and introspection. Leslie Rinchen-Wongmo shares her experience as a California woman traveling to the seat of the Tibetan government-in-exile in India to manage an economic development fund, only to wind up sewing pictures of Buddha instead. Through her remarkable journey, she discovered that a path is made by walking it—and that some of the best paths are made by walking off course.

For more than 500 years, Tibetans have been creating sacred images from pieces of silk. Leslie studied this little-known textile art with two of its brightest living masters and let herself discover where curiosity and devotion can lead. In this book, she reveals the unique stitches of an ancient needlework tradition, introduces the Buddhist deities it depicts, and shares insights into the compassion, interdependence, and possibility they embody.

Includes 49 full-color photos and a foreword by the Dalai Lama.

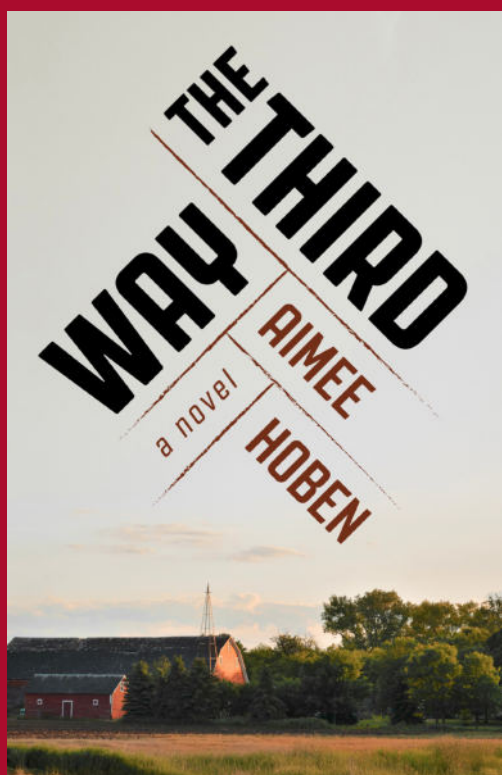
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Leslie Rinchen-Wongmo is a textile artist, teacher, and author. Curiosity carried Leslie from California to India, where she became one of few non-Tibetans to master the Buddhist art of silk appliqué thangka. Her artwork has been exhibited internationally and featured in magazines such as *Spirituality & Health*, *FiberArts*, and *Fiber Art Now* and in the documentary, *Creating Buddhas: The Making and Meaning of Fabric Thangkas*. To share the gift of Tibetan appliqué with stitchers around the globe, she created the Stitching Buddhas virtual apprentice program, an online, hands-on course that bridges East and West, traditional and contemporary. After two decades abroad, Leslie returned to her native Southern California, where she now lives with three cats and enough fabric to last several lifetimes.

AWARDS:

2022 Readers’ Favorite Book Awards Finalist in Non-Fiction (Art/Photography)

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 23, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-095-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-096-3

“This is a book that will appeal to any and all who wish that they were heard among the din of the two-party noise machine. A wonderfully written book that may prove prescient.”

—Seattle Book Review, 5-star review

THE THIRD WAY

A NOVEL

AIMEE HOBEN

DESCRIPTION:

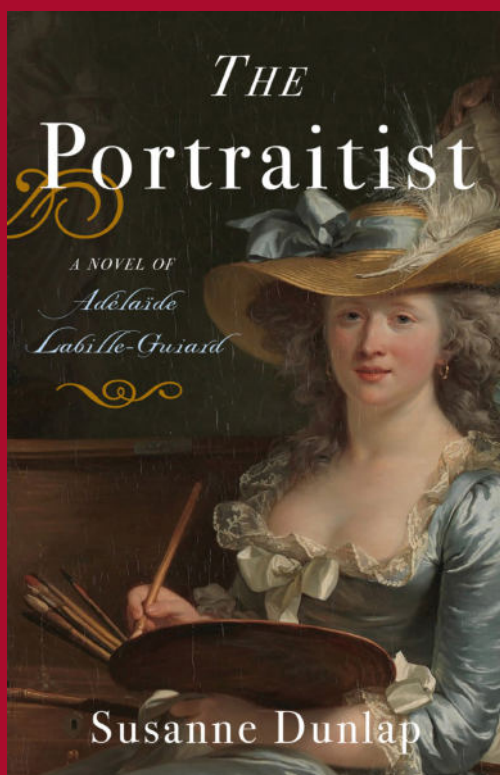
After losing her college scholarship, Arden Firth—with the help of Justin Kirish, a law student with a mysterious past—becomes the reluctant leader of a movement to ban corporations. South Dakota Ballot Initiative 99 is Arden’s last hope to save her grandmother’s farm from foreclosure; but as the movement grows, shadowy forces conspire to quash it, and Arden sees “99” begin to spiral out of her control.

A novel charting the intersection between idealism, extremism, and forgiveness, *The Third Way* is the story of a young woman struggling with her own demons while trying to articulate a vision that could change the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Aimee Hoben is a lawyer and writer who lives with her husband, two kids, and two dogs. She has worked as a land conservation lawyer and town attorney, as well as in-house counsel at the historic fire insurance company (and Fortune 500 corporation) where Wallace Stevens wrote poems as he walked to work. She studied English literature at the University of Colorado and law at the University of Connecticut. She divides her time between northwest Connecticut and Waitsfield, Vermont.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 30, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-097-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-098-7

“Dunlap skillfully paints a portrait of a woman struggling to make her way in a man’s world—a topic as relevant today as it was in Ancien Régime France. Impeccably researched, rich with period detail, *The Portraitist* brings to life the little-known true story of Adélaïde Labille-Guiard, who fought her husband and society to make a name for herself as a painter to the royal family, the very apex of success—only to find everything she had built threatened by the Revolution. A stunning story of determination, talent, and reversals of fortune.”

—Lauren Willig, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Summer Country*

THE PORTRAITIST

A NOVEL OF ADELAÏDE LABILLE-GUIARD

SUSANNE DUNLAP

DESCRIPTION:

Based on a true story, this is the tale of Adélaïde Labille-Guiard’s fight to take her rightful place in the competitive art world of eighteenth-century Paris.

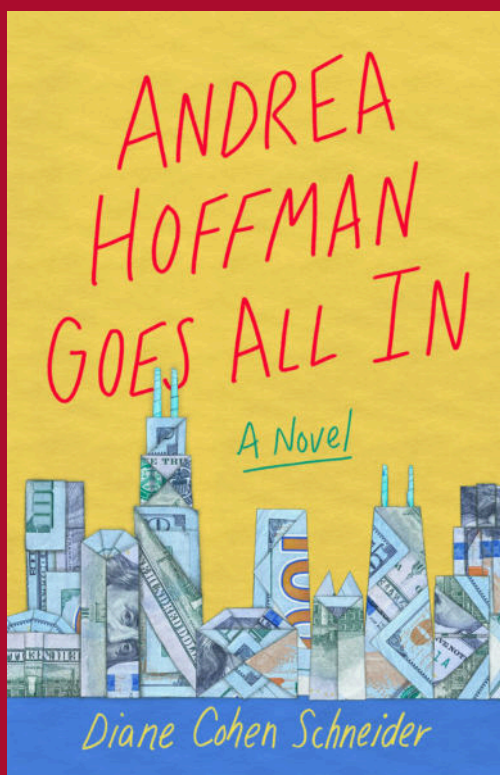
With a beautiful rival who’s better connected and better trained than she is, Adélaïde faces an uphill battle. Her love affair with her young instructor in oil painting gives rise to suspicions that he touches up her work, and her decision to make much-needed money by executing erotic pastels threatens to create as many problems as it solves. Meanwhile, her rival goes from strength to strength, becoming Marie Antoinette’s official portraitist and gaining entrance to the elite Académie Royale at the same time as Adélaïde.

When at last Adélaïde earns her own royal appointment and receives a massive commission from a member of the royal family, the timing couldn’t be worse: it’s 1789, and with the fall of the Bastille her world is turned upside down by political chaos and revolution. With danger around every corner in her beloved Paris, she must find a way adjust to the new order, carving out a life and a career all over again—and somehow stay alive in the process.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susanne Dunlap is the author of twelve works of historical fiction for adults and teens, as well as an Author Accelerator Certified Book Coach. Her love of historical fiction arose partly from her PhD studies in music history at Yale University, partly from her lifelong interest in women in the arts as a pianist and non-profit performing arts executive. Her novel *The Paris Affair* was a first place CIBA Award winner. *The Musician’s Daughter* was a Junior Library Guild Selection and a Bank Street Children’s Book of the Year, and was nominated for the Utah Book Award and the Missouri Gateway Reader’s Prize. *In the Shadow of the Lamp* was an Eliot Rosewater Indiana High School Book Award nominee. Susanne lives in Northampton, MA, with her partner, Charles, and her little dog, Betty.

AUGUST 2022



Publication Date: August 30, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-099-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-222-6

“This book is going to take you on a fabulous '80s adventure in the heart of the go-go Wall Street era . . . Schneider brings us the financial world we never knew, a world she knows well, her own world of money, love, ambition, excess, and success, reimagined. By turns hilarious, poignant, deep, charming, and brutal—and always true—Andrea Hoffman will keep you guessing, and keep you up all night.”

—Bill Roorbach, author of *Lucky Turtle* and *Life Among Giants*

ANDREA HOFFMAN GOES ALL IN

A NOVEL

DIANE COHEN SCHNEIDER

DESCRIPTION:

Andrea Hoffman is an overeducated, underemployed, and unmotivated recent college graduate—until an unexpected robbery blasts her out of her funk and into a job in the finance world of early-1980s Chicago. At first, it seems like a bad fit. But the world of finance has its own weird charm, and she grows increasingly fascinated by the strange language of trading, the complexity of the stock market, and her colleagues, who navigate it all with a ruthless confidence. Even though she has two strikes against her—Jewish and female—Andrea’s quick wit and strong work ethic propel her into an actual sales job and her career takes off. But this is the Wall Street of the eighties, and along with making a lot more money, Andrea adopts a new, fast life of cocktails, cocaine, and casual sex. Gradually, however, she realizes something: she needs to decide what success really means to her—before all this hard living catches up to her.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Diane Cohen Schneider grew up in Illinois but spent most of her adult life in Stamford, CT, with her husband and their three children. Her career as a Wall Street sales executive during the 1980s inspired *Andrea Hoffman Goes All In*, which is her debut novel. Today, she continues her love of finance through an Instagram account called @moneylikeuhmother. Seeking to re-pot themselves, Diane and her husband recently moved to Santa Fe, NM.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 6, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-223-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-224-0

“A bookworm seeks retribution in this novel about eternal friendship. . . . Taylor has woven a heartstrings-tugging story of change. . . . the author’s well-researched work transports readers . . . to the insular world of advertising. . . . This intriguing tale successfully combines reprisal and renewal.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“. . . a tender and quirky story rooted in Eleanor and Jon’s transformations. The unexpected turns in the plot will keep readers guessing as well.”

—Booklist

CALL ME WHEN YOU’RE DEAD

A NOVEL

A. R. TAYLOR

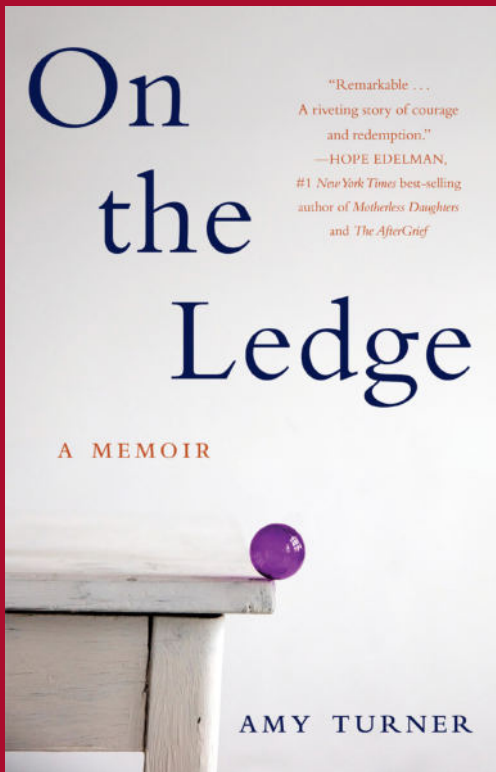
DESCRIPTION:

Call Me When You’re Dead is a darkly comic novel about payback gone wild, gone sour, maybe even sweet. “If anything bad happens to me, I want you to get him.” That’s what Eleanor Birch’s glamorous friend Sasha Cole requests of her at dinner one hot August night. Something bad does happen, and Eleanor is forced to become another person altogether in the wilds of Manhattan, acting as her own little Pygmalion in the harsh world of advertising and its remorseless denizens. How she triumphs, and how her prey becomes first her ally and then her lover, makes her journey a tragic romp, a hilarious disaster, and even an all-out farce—one with very serious consequences.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A. R. Taylor is a playwright, essayist, and fiction writer. Her debut novel, *Sex, Rain, and Cold Fusion*, won a Gold Medal for Best Regional Fiction at the IPPY Book Awards 2015, was a USA Best Book Awards Finalist, and was named by *Kirkus Reviews* as one of the 12 Most Cinematic Indie Books of 2014. Her second novel, *Jenna Takes the Fall*, received the 2021 Readers’ Favorite Book Awards Bronze Medal in Fiction: Intrigue. She’s been published in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Southwest Review*, *Pedantic Monthly*, *The Cynic*, the *Berkeley Insider*, *So It Goes—the Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library Magazine*, *Red Rock Review*, and *Rosebud*. In her past life, she was head writer on two Emmy-winning series for public television. She has performed at the Gotham Comedy Club in New York, Tongue & Groove in Hollywood, and Lit Crawl L.A. 2016. Find her video blog, *Trailing Edge: Ideas Whose Time Has Come and Gone*, at www.lonecamel.com.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 6, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-225-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-226-4

"On the Ledge is an extraordinary memoir of the way trauma harms both body and soul. Inspirational and beautifully told."

—Susan Scarf Merrell, author of *Shirley: A Novel*, now a major motion picture

"This is a riveting story of courage and redemption. And dare I say that parts of it are very, very funny?"

—Hope Edelman, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *Motherless Daughters* and *The After Grief*

ON THE LEDGE

A MEMOIR

AMY TURNER

DESCRIPTION:

In 1957, when Amy Turner was four years old, her father had to be talked down from a hotel ledge by a priest. The story of his attempted suicide received nationwide press coverage, and he spent months in a psychiatric facility before returning home. From then on, Amy constantly worried about him for reasons she didn't yet fully understand, triggering a pattern of hypervigilance that would plague her into adulthood.

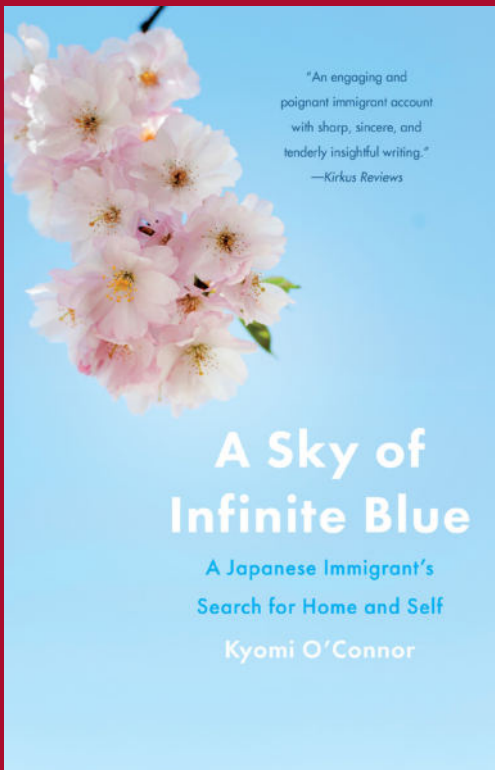
In 2010, fifty-five years after her father's attempted suicide, Amy—now a wife, mother, and lawyer-turned-schoolteacher—is convinced she's dealt with all the psychological reverberations of her childhood. Then she steps into a crosswalk and is mowed down by a pickup truck—an accident that nearly kills her, and that ultimately propels her on a remarkable emotional journey. With the help of Chinese Medicine, Somatic Experiencing, and serendipities that might be attributed to grace, Amy first unravels the trauma of her own brush with the death and then, unexpectedly, heals the childhood trauma buried far deeper.

Poignant and intimate, *On the Ledge* is Amy's insightful and surprisingly humorous chronicle of coming to terms with herself and her parents as the distinct, vulnerable individuals they are. Perhaps more meaningfully, it offers proof that no matter how far along you are in life, it's never too late to find yourself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amy Turner was born in Bronxville, New York. She holds a degree in political science from Boston University and a Juris Doctor from New York Law School. After practicing law (rather unhappily) for twenty-two years, she finally found the courage to change careers at forty-eight and become a (very happy) seventh grade social studies teacher. A longtime meditator and avid reader who loves to swim and bike, Amy lives in East Hampton, New York, with her husband, Ed, to whom she's been married for forty years, and their dog, Fred. She and Ed have two sons. *On the Ledge* is Amy's first book.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 6, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-227-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-228-8

“Overall, *A Sky of Infinite Blue* is a book written with no small degree of bravery. . . . I cannot imagine someone reading it from cover to cover without feeling moved and enlightened by the experience.”

—Readers' Favorite

“Quiet, meditative, and graceful, *A Sky of Infinite Blue* intertwines a spiritual journey with the personal pursuit of freedom.”

—Foreword Reviews, 5 stars

A SKY OF INFINITE BLUE

A JAPANESE IMMIGRANT'S SEARCH FOR HOME AND SELF

KYOMI O'CONNOR

DESCRIPTION:

From an early age, Kyomi's life was filled with emotional difficulties: an adulterous father, an overreliant mother, and a dismissive extended family. In an effort to escape the darkness of her existence in Japan, Kyomi moved to the States in February 1990 to start a new life as a researcher working at NIH in Bethesda, MD. Soon, she fell in love with her husband-to-be: Patrick, a warm, charismatic British cancer researcher whose unconditional love and support helped her begin to heal the traumas of her past. Eventually, their journey together led them to change their careers and move to San Diego, CA, where they dedicated themselves to a Buddhism practice that changed both their lives.

Then Patrick was diagnosed with stage IV metastatic melanoma in the brain and, after a fierce, three-year-long battle against his cancer, died on July 4, 2016. Devastated, Kyomi spent a year lost in grief. But when she one day began to write, she discovered that doing so allowed her to uncover truths about herself, her life history, and her relationship with Patrick. In the process, she surfaced many old, unhealed wounds—but ultimately writing became her daily spiritual practice, and many truths emerged out of the darkness. After many years of struggle and searching, Kyomi finally found the love and light that had existed within her all along.

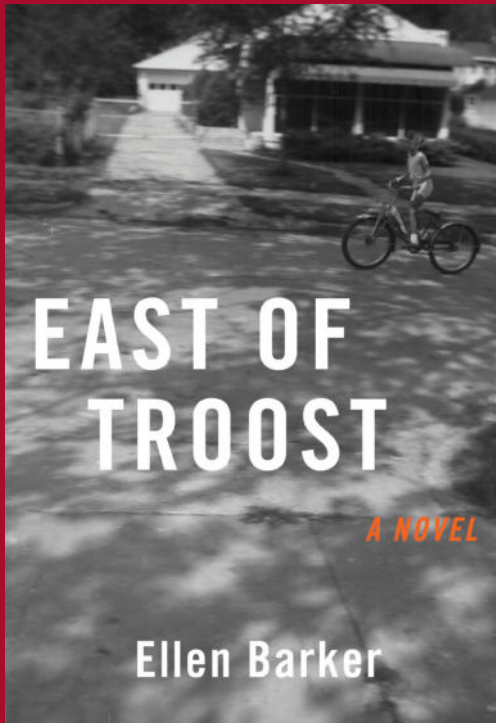
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kyomi O'Connor moved to the States from Japan in February 1990 to work as a post-doctoral researcher at the NIH in Bethesda, Maryland. Soon, she fell in love with her husband-to-be, Patrick. Their journey together led them to change their careers, move to San Diego, and practice Buddhism. Patrick fell ill in the summer of 2013 with the diagnosis of stage IV metastatic melanoma in the brain, and passed away three years later on July 4, 2016. After his death, writing helped Kyomi rediscover light in her life. These days, she spends her time writing (she's an active writer online at Medium), practicing yoga and Qi Gong, cooking, traveling, and taking photographs. Kyomi lives in San Diego with her two cats, Tommy and Omi.

AWARDS:

2022 Firebird Book Awards First Place Winner in Mind/Body/Spirit and Multi-cultural Nonfiction
2022 Firebird Book Awards Second Place Winner in Grief

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 6, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-229-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-230-1

“A quiet, candid recalibration of memories against a changed landscape, Ellen Barker’s *East of Troost* is a journey both touching and powerful, reminding us how gentle courage and faith in humanity can overcome the fear of what divides.”

—Lorraine Devon Wilke, author of *The Alchemy of Noise*

“The pace was perfect, and there was never a dull moment. The momentum suited the story exceptionally well. Ellen Barker wrote an emotive tale with a fascinating protagonist and a powerful message.”

—Readers’ Favorite, 5-star review

EAST OF TROOST

A NOVEL

ELLEN BARKER

DESCRIPTION:

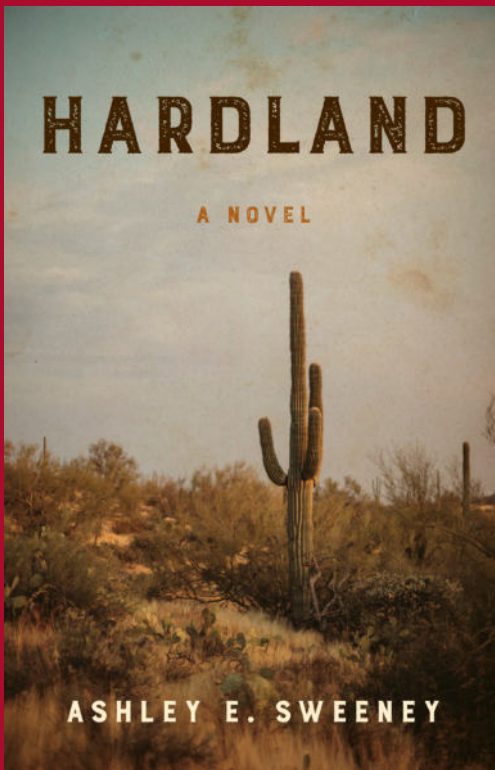
Troost is a street. East of it is where Black families live. What happens when a middle-aged white woman moves back to the east-of-Troost house she grew up in, searching for a sense of home after a personal tragedy? In this compelling novel, we find out.

After moving into her new home, *East of Troost’s* protagonist deals with crime, home repair, self-doubt, and the skepticism of her neighbors and relatives—but, supported by the wise woman next door, a stalwart dog, and the local hardware store, she manages to gradually rebuild her life. Meanwhile, we get glimpses of her living in the same neighborhood as a teenager in the sixties, when white families were fleeing and Black families moving in. A very American story with universal themes, *East of Troost* goes to the basics of human behavior—compassion and cruelty, fear and courage, comedy and drama—in two dramatically different decades.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ellen Barker grew up in Kansas City, where she had a front-row seat to the demographic shifts, the hope, and the turmoil of the civil rights era of the 1960s. She earned a bachelor’s degree in urban studies from Washington University in Saint Louis, where she developed a passion for how cities work, and don’t. She began her career as an urban planner in Saint Louis and then spent many years working for large consulting firms specializing in urban infrastructure, first as a tech writer-editor and later managing large data systems. She now lives in Northern California with her husband and their dog, Boris, who is the inspiration for the German shepherd in *East of Troost*. This is Ellen’s first novel.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 13, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-233-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-234-9

“One of the top standalone Westerns in 2022.”

—*True West* magazine

“Gritty and fierce. . . . *Hardland* is a powerful tale.”

—Chris Enss, *Cowgirl Magazine* Book Editor and *New York Times* award-winning author of *According to Kate*

“A vividly rendered story of survival in the Arizona Territory.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

HARDLAND

A NOVEL

ASHLEY SWEENEY

DESCRIPTION:

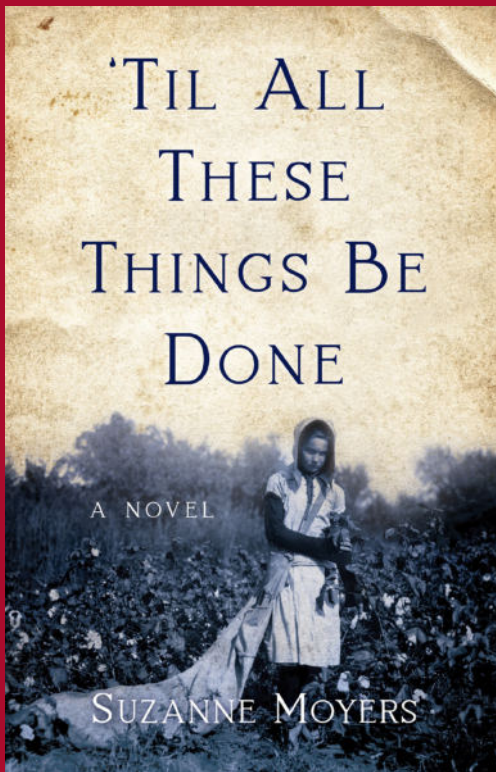
Arizona Territory, 1899. Ruby Fortune faces an untenable choice: murder her abusive husband or continue to live with bruises that never heal. One bullet is all it takes. Once known as “Girl Wonder” on the Wild West circuit, Ruby is now a single mother of four boys in her hometown of Jericho, an end-of-the-world mining town north of Tucson. Here, Ruby opens a roadside inn to make ends meet. Drifters, grifters, con men, and prostitutes plow through the hotel’s doors, and their escapades pepper the local newspaper like buckshot. An affair with an African American miner puts Ruby’s life and livelihood at risk, but she can’t let him go. Not until a trio of disparate characters—her dead husband’s sister, a vindictive shopkeeper, and the local mine owner she once swindled—threaten to ruin her does Ruby face the consequences of her choices; but as usual, she does what she needs to in order to provide for herself and her sons.

Set against the breathtaking beauty of Arizona’s Sonoran Desert and bursting with Wild West imagery, history, suspense, and adventure, *Hardland* serves up a tough, fast-talking, shoot-from-the-hip heroine who goes to every length to survive and carve out a life for herself and her sons in one of the harshest places in the American West.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Award-winning author Ashley E. Sweeney was born in New York and graduated from Wheaton College in Norton, Massachusetts. Her multiple awards include the Nancy Pearl Book Award, Independent Publisher Book Award, Next Generation Indie Book Award, and Arizona Authors Association Literary Award; she has also been a finalist for the Western Fictioneers Peacemaker Award, Sarton Women’s Book Award, and WILLA Literary Award for Historical Fiction (twice), among others. Ashley lives and writes in the Pacific Northwest and Tucson. *Hardland* is her third novel.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 13, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-235-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-236-3

“A rich and beautifully written story of family, tragedy, and love. . . . The author renders her characters in vivid detail, capturing their strengths and foibles with heart and a brilliant ear for dialogue. Moyers also provides a clear-eyed portrait of the prejudices of the time that unfortunately feels too familiar in the 21st century. *'Til All These Things Be Done* is exactly the book any lover of historical fiction—or of stories about the power of families to hurt and heal—would want to have.”

—Mally Becker, Agatha Award–nominated author of *The Turncoat's Widow* and *The Counterfeit Wife*

'TIL ALL THESE THINGS BE DONE

A NOVEL

SUZANNE MOYERS

DESCRIPTION:

Set against the rich but often troubled history of Blacklands, Texas, during an era of pandemic, scientific discovery, and social upheaval, this novel offers a unique—yet eerily familiar—backdrop to a universal tale of triumphing over loss.

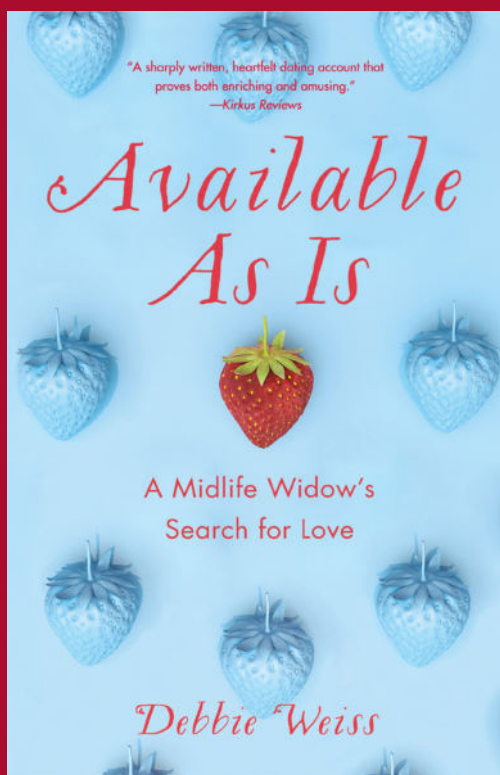
Even as dementia clouds other memories, eighty-three-year-old Leola can't forget her father's disappearance when she was sixteen. Now, as Papa appears in haunting visions, Leola relives the circumstances of that loss: the terrible accident that steals Papa's livelihood, sending the family deeper into poverty; a scandal from Mama's past that still wounds; and Leola's growing unease with her brutally bigoted society.

When Papa vanishes while seeking work in Houston and Mama dies in the “boomerang” Influenza outbreak of 1919, Leola and her young sisters are sent to an orphanage, where her exposure of a dark injustice means sacrificing a vital clue to Papa's whereabouts. That decision echoes into the future, as new details about his disappearance suggest betrayal too painful to contemplate. Only in old age, as her visions of Papa grow more realistic, does Leola confront her long-buried grief, leading to a remarkable family discovery that could offer long-awaited peace.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Suzanne Moyers, a former teacher, has spent much of her career as an editor and writer for educational publishers. An avid volunteer archeologist, mudlarker, and metal detectorist, she's also the proud mom of two amazing young adults, Jassi and Sara. *'Til All These Things Be Done* is based on a still-unraveling family mystery, and the real-life twist of fate that inspired the novel's fictional resolution. Suzanne lives with her husband, Edward, and their spoiled fur baby, Tuxi, in Montclair, NJ.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 13, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-237-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-238-7

“This is a deeply personal story but one that Weiss shares with a beguiling openness and wit. A sharply written, heartfelt dating account that proves both enriching and amusing.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Overall, *Available As Is* sets out a stunning and bittersweet journey of self-discovery that is elevated above your average memoir by a rare breed of emotional honesty and the magic of a gifted wordsmith laying out the lessons learned along the way.”

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

AVAILABLE AS IS

A MIDLIFE WIDOW'S SEARCH FOR LOVE

DEBBIE WEISS

DESCRIPTION:

Beginning with Debbie Weiss's high school prom, George was her one and only. Then, when Debbie was fifty years old, George died of cancer—and she was forced to begin a new chapter.

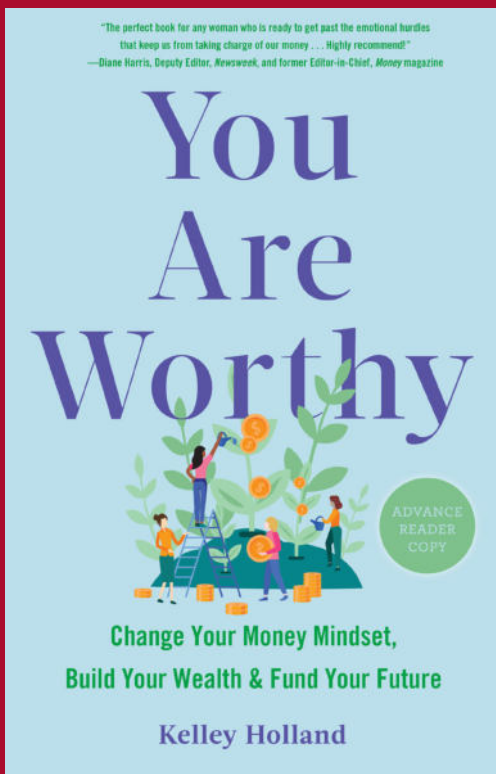
After George's death, Debbie first binge-watched *Weeds* and drank Manhattans; then she became a dating monster. First she went for quality—J-Date, the premier Jewish site—which led to an intense relationship with a much older, rich artist. When that flamed out, however, she went for quantity, joining four different dating sites and averaging two dates a day, several days a week, over a period of months. Debbie had gone from respectable widow to the kind of girl you do in your Trans Am but don't take to the prom—and she suddenly realized she didn't want to be that girl.

So Debbie went offline and finally went through the grieving process, forgiving herself for George's death and taking the small steps of an anxious person who needs to move forward. In the process, she learned how to be alone—and became a more confident, centered, authentic version of herself.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Debbie Weiss is a former attorney who earned her MFA in creative nonfiction from Saint Mary's College of California in 2020. A native of the Bay Area, she turned to writing after George, her husband and partner of more than three decades, died of cancer in April 2013, and she found herself single and living alone for the first time in her life. Weiss's essays have been published in *The New York Times's* “Modern Love” column, *HuffPost*, *Woman's Day*, *Good Housekeeping*, *Elle Décor*, and *Reader's Digest*, among other publications. She lives in Benicia, CA.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 20, 2022

Collections: Self-Help, Business

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-239-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-240-0

“Reading *You Are Worthy* is like having an honest conversation with a money-savvy friend who has the patience, stamina, and skill to tell you what you desperately need to know about your finances. With compassion, humor, and a great deal of insight, Kelley Holland breaks down the stigma many women feel about talking about money.”

—Christina Baker Kline, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Exiles* and *Orphan Train*

YOU ARE WORTHY

CHANGE YOUR MONEY MINDSET, BUILD YOUR WEALTH, AND FUND YOUR FUTURE

KELLEY HOLLAND

DESCRIPTION:

Many women live in silence when it comes to their finances, holding fear and shame. Many know they could feel better financially but are unsure how to even begin to change. In *You Are Worthy*, Kelley Holland, a former *New York Times* business editor and award-winning financial journalist, goes to the heart of women’s money challenges—shining a light on problem areas, providing solutions, and instilling the confidence and skills you need to take charge of your money and achieve financial well-being.

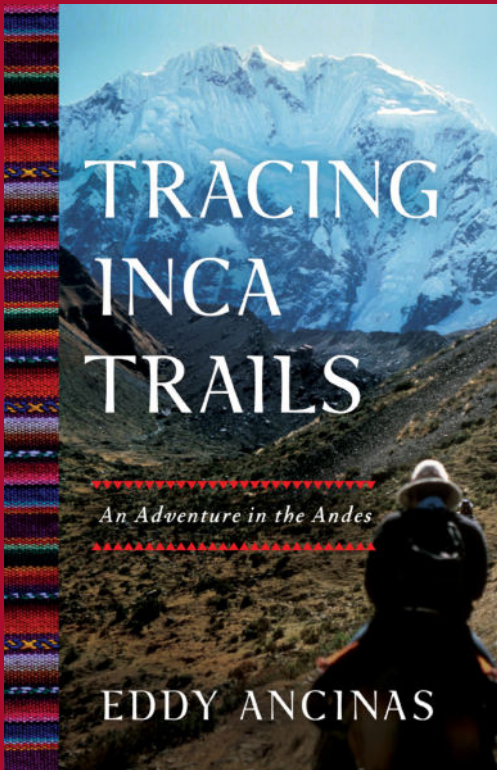
In this accessible, easy-to-follow resource, Holland leverages her professional experience and more than 100 interviews with women around the country, taking you step by step through the process of transforming your relationship to money. You will shed outdated beliefs about your abilities; you will be inspired to put your money to work; and you will come away with skills and knowledge to create an integrated financial plan to help you achieve your goals.

Affirming and empowering, *You Are Worthy* will leave you feeling as if you’ve just had a thorough, reassuring money conversation with a trusted guide. After reading this book, you will have vital financial skills and knowledge. And you will come away with greater confidence, clarity, and hope—not just about money but about your whole life.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kelley Holland is the founder and CEO of Own Your Destiny, which provides financial coaching and empowerment programs for women. At Own Your Destiny, she blends her knowledge of finance with communications expertise developed over two decades as an award-winning business and personal finance journalist with the *New York Times*, *BusinessWeek*, and CNBC. One of her *BusinessWeek* cover stories, “The Bankers Trust Tapes,” helped that publication win a National Magazine Award. Kelley has appeared on CNBC, PBS’s *Frontline*, and dozens of radio shows to speak about banking, investing, and personal finance. She graduated from Amherst College and holds a graduate business degree from the Yale School of Management. She is a Chartered Financial Analyst. Kelley lives in Montclair, NJ.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 20, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-277-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-278-3

TRACING INCA TRAILS

AN ADVENTURE IN THE ANDES

EDDY ANCINAS

DESCRIPTION:

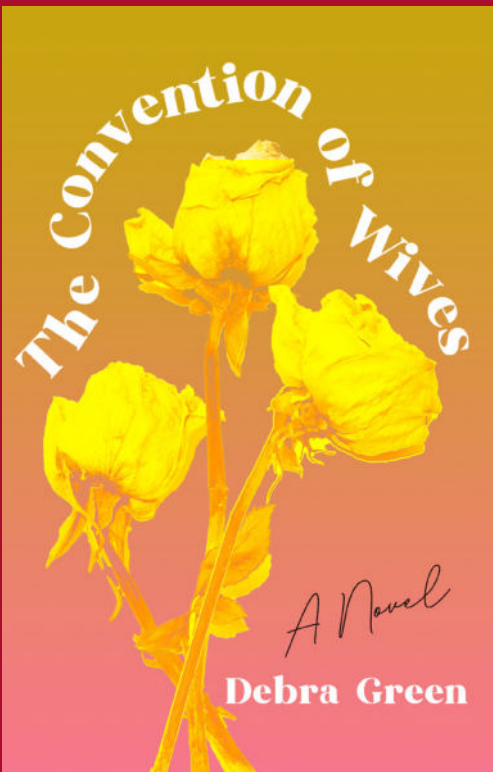
Eddy Ancinas and her friends set out on a seven-day horseback trip that takes them over Peru's rugged terrain to 20,574-foot-high Mt. Salcantay, along an ancient Inca route, and then down into the jungle. During this journey, these fifty-something travelers are challenged by events they never imagined possible: a fall from a horse that results in serious injuries, a train strike that leaves them stranded in a remote village, an eight-hour trek on railroad tracks along the Urubamba River, and a moonlight ride in the back of a truck with questionable brakes on a dirt road over a 14,000-foot pass, among others.

It is a journey full of mishaps—and yet Eddy is enchanted by the culture and places she experiences along the way. As she and her fellow travelers explore Lima, Cusco, and the markets, villages, and ruins of the Urubamba Valley, they are deeply touched by the people they meet, fascinated by the clues to an ancient civilization they learn to respect and admire, and enthralled by the spectacular setting where it all takes place: Andean Peru.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Eddy Ancinas grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and on a nearby cattle ranch. A nonfiction writer specializing in Latin American travel, she has published articles on Argentina, Chile, and Peru in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, *Boston Globe* and *LA Times*, plus six editions of Fodor's Argentina Guide. Her story of a cattle roundup in Elko, Nevada, won the 2010 Nevada Magazine Writers' Contest. Her award-winning book on the history of two ski areas (now one: Alpine Meadows and Palisades-Tahoe), *Tales from Two Valleys: Squaw Valley and Alpine Meadows*, was first published in 2013; a second edition came out in 2019. Eddy has an Argentine husband and is fluent in Spanish. She lives in the San Francisco Bay Area.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 20, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-241-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-242-4

“Green is a strong writer, especially when it comes to descriptions of marital ension. . . . A novel with realistic portrayals of marriage and friendship . . .”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Complicated, secret legacies are exposed as two families reel from a betrayal, creating a ripple effect no one could have imagined at the core of this multigenerational saga.”

—Eva Lesko Natiello, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Memory Box*

THE CONVENTION OF WIVES

A NOVEL

DEBRA GREEN

DESCRIPTION:

Dina and Julia first meet at a surgical convention and bond over frustrations with their husbands' demanding schedules. But geography, time, and growing families make maintaining their friendship difficult and their relationship eventually falls apart. One of them is left to wonder why; the other has a secret. But neither of them knows that decisions made by family members decades earlier have set them on a collision course.

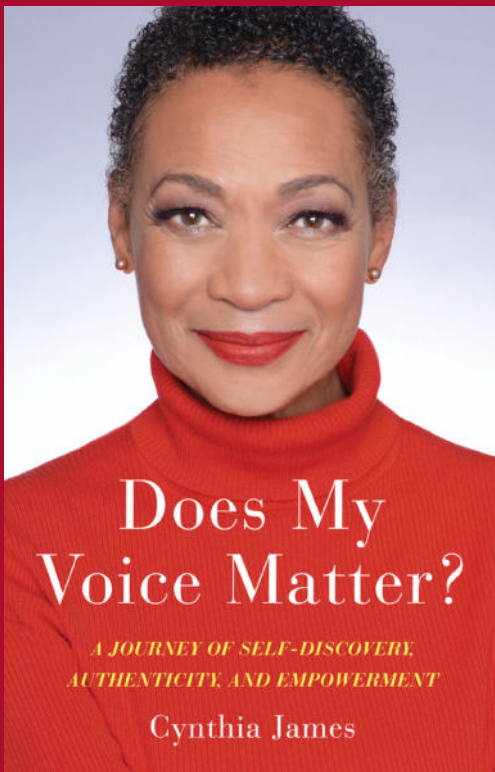
Years after their friendship ends, Julia gets word that her daughter has suddenly become seriously ill—and she and Dina must decide whether they can face the history that now unites them and muster the maturity to rescue their emotionally tattered families.

A sweeping saga that follows generations from a shtetl in Odessa to the comforts of Scarsdale, an uprising in Glasgow to servitude in the Caribbean, and a trek through the Alps to a displaced persons camp in Italy, *The Convention of Wives* is a story about the ever-evolving messiness of friendship and marriage and the wonder of survival.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Debra Green has always been drawn to good storytelling, especially historical novels and Broadway musicals. While motherhood, hospital administration, and community volunteering were all rewarding, none fulfilled her creative longings. A graduate of Rutgers University and Columbia University's Mailman School of Public Health, she lives with her husband, David, in Scotch Plains, New Jersey, where they raised their three children. *The Convention of Wives* is her first novel.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 27, 2022

Collections: Self-Help, Nonfiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-243-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-244-8

“There are countless times in our lives when we’re faced with the most fundamental questions: Am I important? Do I make a difference? Do I matter? In *Does My Voice Matter?*, Cynthia James offers brilliant guidance and powerful inspiration, as she takes us on a personal journey filled with adventure and transformation. What a wonderful opportunity and resource to help you reinvent your life in a way that reflects how important you truly are.”

—Marci Shimoff, #1 *New York Times* best-selling author of, *Happy for No Reason* and *Chicken Soup for the Woman’s Soul*

DOES MY VOICE MATTER?

A JOURNEY OF SELF-DISCOVERY,
AUTHENTICITY, AND EMPOWERMENT

CYNTHIA JAMES

DESCRIPTION:

We live in a critical and oftentimes violent world. People are afraid to talk about what they feel, think, or believe. They withhold energy for fear of being ridiculed, punished, or excluded. They hide their deepest dreams and desires away and cover them up with doubt, insecurity, old experiences, and fears. Cynthia James know this—because that was her experience.

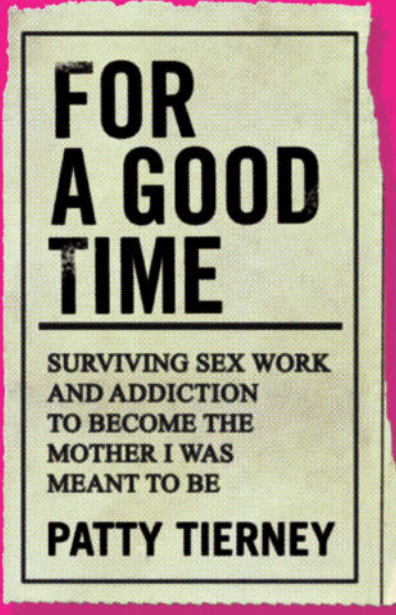
Covering seven decades of living, traveling, and growing, *Does My Voice Matter?* follows James’s journey of self-discovery and authenticity as she gradually recognizes that she has a voice—and learns how to use it. She uses her own life experiences as a backdrop for her exploration of how the voice is used as a tool of engagement; how a singular or collective voice can enhance empowerment, transparency, and accountability; and, finally, how expression can develop new ideas, shift cultures, political views, transform organizations, create laws, and improve lives.

Written for anyone who wants to discover the power within that makes them special, *Does My Voice Matter?* has a vital message: Uniqueness is your own glorious imprint on this planet, and it is calling you to come out. It doesn’t matter if your awakening is large or small, it doesn’t matter what your age, race, religion, or history is—anyone can begin right where they are, right now.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Cynthia James is a transformational specialist and the author of three award-winning and best-selling books—*What Will Set You Free*, *Revealing Your Extraordinary Essence*, and *I Choose Me* (a #1 Amazon Bestseller in three categories). She is a sought-after radio guest and the host of the podcast *Women Awakening*. She has completed two master’s degree programs, one in consciousness studies and the other in spiritual psychology. An ordained licensed minister, she is a frequent presenter and workshop facilitator at spiritual centers around the world who also leads pilgrimages to sacred sites. Cynthia and her husband, renowned photographer and author, Carl Studna, cofacilitate leadership courses at their studio/retreat center in Colorado.

SEPTEMBER 2022



Publication Date: September 27, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-289-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-290-5

FOR A GOOD TIME

**SURVIVING SEX WORK AND ADDICTION TO
BECOME THE MOTHER I WAS MEANT TO BE**

PATTY TIERNEY

DESCRIPTION:

It's 1953 in Southern California, Patty is five years old, and her mother hasn't been home in two days. A police officer eventually arrives and takes Patty and her brothers to juvenile hall—their mother has been drinking again.

Twenty-eight years later, Patty herself is an alcoholic mother to three children. Divorced and homeless, she soon realizes that she can't support her children with her job cleaning houses, so she accepts the offer of a man who works at the gas station: she'll have sex with him for money.

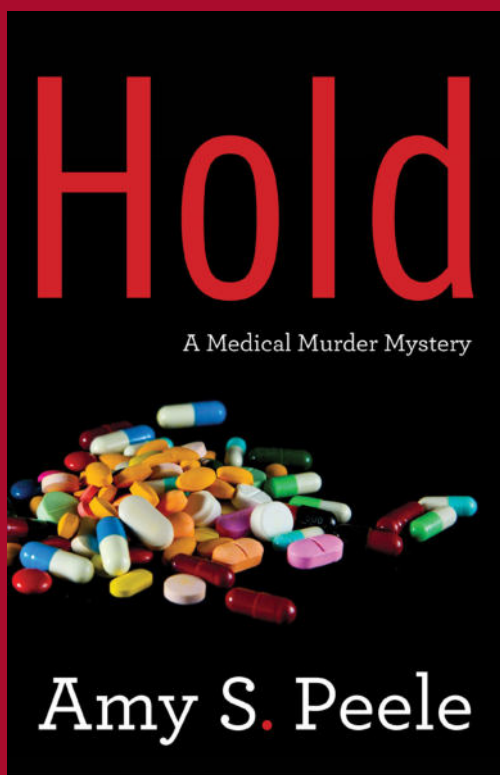
For the next seventeen years, Patty lives a double life as a sex worker. Though she supports her family with the money she makes, she struggles to be the parent she wants to be, until she realizes she has become just like her own mother: an alcoholic who doesn't give her children what they need.

When Patty gets sober, her life begins to change. She finds healing through therapy, spirituality, community, and, most importantly, speaking the truth to her children. Powerful and insightful, Patty's story is proof that we all are capable of healing ourselves—and that forgiveness can transform our lives completely.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patty Tierney worked as a prostitute to support her three children for seventeen years. After getting sober at forty-six years old, her life began to change, and she eventually began a career in caregiving. In 2005 she started her first caregiving company, which she successfully ran for ten years before selling it and shifting her focus to being a private caregiver. Today, Patty and her husband, John, together host retreats called Transform with the Tierneys, through which they provide a safe space for people to share their stories and practice self-love, acceptance, and forgiveness. Patty's three adult children are thriving and successful, and she adores her three grandchildren. She and John live happily in Encino, California, where, when she's not caregiving, hosting Transform, or spending time with family, Patty keeps herself busy with her passion for writing. For more about what she's working on now, visit www.pattytierney.com.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 4, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Mystery

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-245-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-246-2

“Peele’s third medical mystery featuring this entertaining duo is a breezily written, cozy-adjacent read.”

—Kirkus Reviews

HOLD

A MEDICAL MURDER MYSTERY

AMY S. PEELE

DESCRIPTION:

Sarah Golden and Jackie Larsen promised their partners they were out of the detective business. They declared “game over” after both of them almost lost their lives trying to solve their last medical mystery, and they’re happy with that decision: Sarah has finally allowed love and romance into her life, Jackie’s marriage is solid, and Jackie’s son, Wyatt, is still doing great with his year-old kidney transplant.

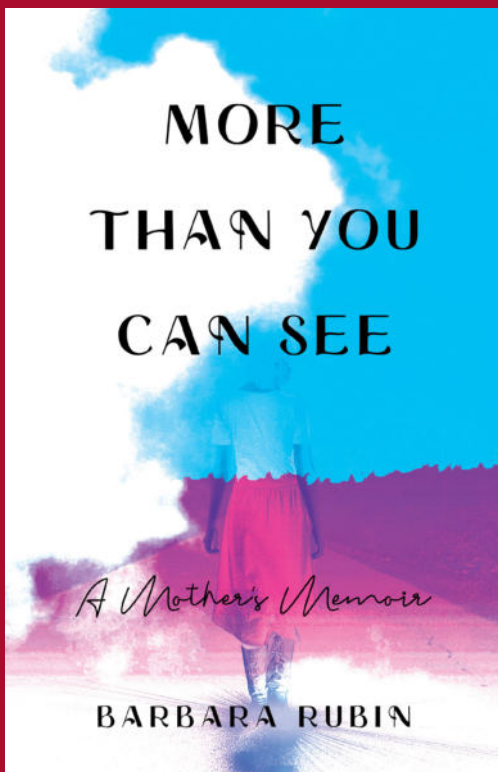
So when they go on their dream trip to Cuba, they are not looking for trouble. But all their plans go out the window when a desperate plea from a Cuban transplant surgeon puts the duo in serious danger with the Cuban government just after the four most prominent immunologists in the world—doctors who were on the verge of solving the huge rejection issues that have plagued the transplant community for over fifty years—are killed in a car accident in Chicago.

Soon, Sarah and Jackie find themselves dragged into the bowels of investigating venture capitalists and corporate greed—a terrain they know nothing about. As they uncover suspect clinical trials at major US transplant centers, including Sarah’s, their usual friends Biker Bob and Officer Handsome aren’t able to help them much, but they do receive assistance from an unlikely source: Sergio, who they helped to land in prison in Florida (and who is trying to win back his girlfriend), offers his help from the inside. Sarah and Jackie are armed with smarts, humor, and enough persistence to help them face the white-collared demons of corporate America—but with dangerous players gunning for them and death threats being made against their families, will they be able to solve this mystery before someone else gets hurt?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amy S. Peele is the award-winning best-selling author of *Cut* and *Match*, medical mysteries with a mission and a side of humor. Originally from Chicago, she went to nursing school, fell in love with the field of transplant at University of Chicago, and then moved to San Francisco in 1985 to follow her transplant career. After thirty-five years she retired from her role as Director of Clinical Operations at UCSF, overseeing 600 solid organ transplants annually, in 2014. She studied improv at Second City Players to add levity to her intense day job. Amy loves to speak, swim, teach chair yoga, mediate, and kill the people she didn’t like from work in her mysteries and use their organs—why waste the kill? She lives in Novato, CA.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 4, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-249-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-250-9

“This book will help readers understand the complexities of recovering from a traumatic brain injury and the healing that comes with time, patience, and endurance. Through laughter, tears, heartbreak, and triumph, the author translates the lessons she learned into a narrative that touches the heart and deepens the respect for survivors of TBI and what they have to teach us.”

—Susan H. Connors, President/CEO, Brain Injury Association of America

MORE THAN YOU CAN SEE

A MOTHER'S MEMOIR

BARBARA RUBIN

DESCRIPTION:

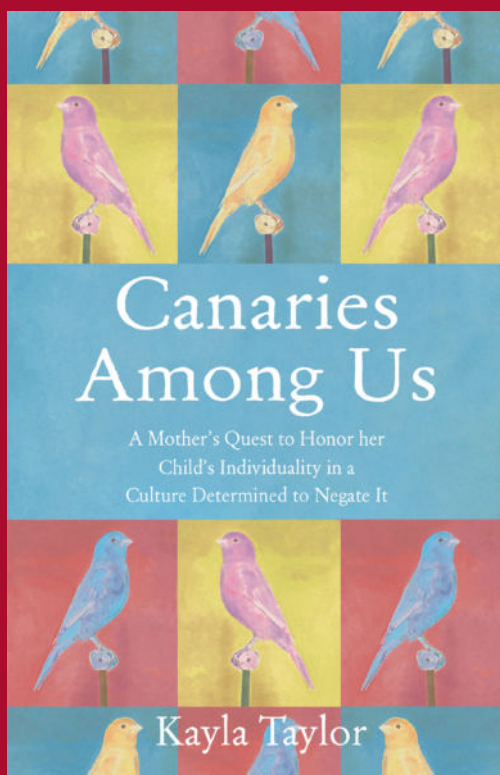
At seventeen, Barbara's daughter Jennifer sustains a traumatic brain injury in a horrific car accident and ends up in a two-week coma. Once she awakens, a unique disability presents itself: Jenn lacks any traditional method of communication. Unable to speak or function on her own, Jenn must relearn basic life skills in a rehabilitation facility while Barbara and her family struggle to piece together their lives, now forever changed.

When it becomes clear that Barbara and her husband cannot care for Jenn on their own, they move her to a group home. Over time, three creative, lighthearted women become Jenn's caregivers, and with their support Jenn reenters the community and experiences travel and adventure, all while capturing the hearts of those around her with her engaging and quirky personality. Ultimately, after watching her daughter connect with everyone in her life despite her disability, Barbara realizes that Jenn's lack of language doesn't stop her from having a voice. A touching memoir that strikes a delicate balance between sorrow and joy, heartbreak and triumph, *More Than You Can See* is Barbara's story of moving beyond tragedy and discovering profound and fulfilling life lessons waiting for her on the other side.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Barbara Rubin wrote this story of joy and sorrow mixed with humor and rage as both mother and advocate for her daughter Jenn. In this role, she witnessed firsthand the battles that come when a person is the most vulnerable, but she also saw the gift of human kindness and the difference it can make in another person's life. She hopes that her journey, lived through her daughter's injury, will help others understand the lessons that can be learned from tolerance and will give hope to families whose paths have also been darkened by tragedy. This is her first book. Barbara resides in Washington Crossing, PA.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-293-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-294-3

"Canaries Among Us is a masterpiece . . . a poignant, urgent, and important story that has yet to be told and needs to be heard. I recommend it to everyone involved in raising or educating children."

—Rosalie Whitlock, CEO of the Children's Health Council

"Overall, this is a powerful book that offers a brilliant exposé of how, even after the rise of anti-bullying efforts, enforcement remains a challenge, and it illustrates what happens when anti-bullying efforts are finally honored. . . . A necessary book on the intersections of neurodivergence and bullying."

—Kirkus Reviews

CANARIES AMONG US

A MOTHER'S QUEST TO HONOR HER CHILD'S INDIVIDUALITY IN A CULTURE DETERMINED TO NEGATE IT

KAYLA TAYLOR

DESCRIPTION:

Canaries Among Us explores one of the most widespread threats to children's well-being: a lack of acceptance. Kayla Taylor starts her day as an ordinary parent at a respected school, but her family's life turns upside-down when her child becomes the prime target of bullying. Taylor assumes the school will partner with her to solve the problem but is confounded when she finds the opposite: officials not only turn a blind eye to cruelty but also ostracize and attack anyone who speaks up against it.

Frustrated by this failure to protect vulnerable students, Taylor researches the challenges those in charge are most unwilling to discuss with her—like bullying, learning differences, and anxiety. She then digs deeper to study empowering responses that are woefully absent from many parenting books and teaching curricula—including validation, empathy, apologies, forgiveness, healing, and belonging. These concepts end up providing the guideposts Taylor needs to navigate both the exquisite joy and raw heartache inherent in raising a child who doesn't fit society's definition of "normal."

Canaries Among Us is both a heart-rending exposé of the ways we mistreat unique children and a searing indictment of society's tendency to revictimize people in their times of greatest need. Throughout, *Canaries Among Us* points to an alternative: supporting, and even celebrating, the dazzling variety of our humanity.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kayla Taylor went to some rigorous schools and has had some high-pressure jobs, but nothing has been more challenging and rewarding than raising her wonderfully inimitable children. She supports organizations dedicated to improving pediatric health and education.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-389-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-390-2

OUR SONG

A MEMOIR OF LOVE AND RACE

LYNDA SMITH HOGGAN

DESCRIPTION:

The year was 1972. The place was rural Pennsylvania. Civil rights, the Vietnam War, and counterculture youth who were defying their traditional parents had the nation in social upheaval. Lynda was white, an anxious but earnest free spirit studying poetry, peyote, and peaceful protest at her small university. JT was Black, a talented athlete recruited from the inner city to win basketball games for Lynda's hometown college. Their chemistry was irresistible, but their schools were hours apart—so, in the days before email, cell phones, and video chat apps to connect them, they reached out to each other in the only way possible: letters. Songs and prose penned late into the night revealed a longing that neither had felt before. JT used music to show Lynda his sensitive side and deep desire for true love. Lynda strove to leave her conservative upbringing behind, to see truths beyond skin color and the pressure—for women, especially—to conform. But their connection, though deep, was also fragile. Racist parents, a jealous friend, and a prior lover who came back to claim Lynda ultimately unraveled the delicate fabric woven by their words.

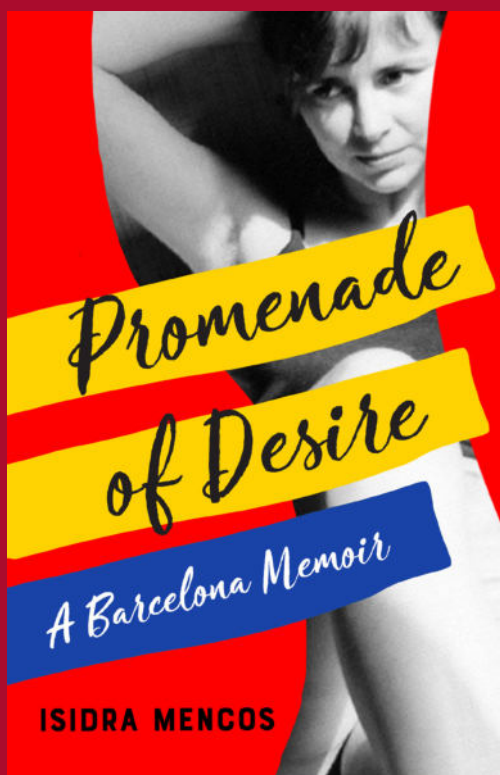
Now, four decades later, Lynda and JT may have another chance. Can they take it?

This sensual memoir by human sexuality professor Lynda Smith Hoggan lays bare the raw contradictions between social expectations and the heart's desires—and leaves readers pondering what love might look like in a world where we are truly free.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lynda Smith Hoggan is Professor Emeritus of Health and Human Sexuality at Mt. San Antonio College in Southern California. She has also been a professional gift shop duster, bra strap counter, playground instructor, army base secretary, garment district house model, barmaid, go-go dancer, high school teacher, technical writer, sex educator, and amateur martini taster. Her writing has appeared in *Westwind: UCLA Journal of the Arts*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *Cultural Weekly*, and more. She blogs at www.lyndasmithhoggan.com.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-251-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-252-3

“A brave and unblinkingly honest portrait of a young woman’s sensual and sexual awakening in the face of censure and repression, and her refusal to be held back by the constraints of her family, culture, and religion. The same joyful spirit that expresses itself in Mencos’s love of dancing shines through in her story of her own personal dance into a brave new world beyond the one her mother prescribed for her. Her story is shameless, in the very best sense of the word.”

—Joyce Maynard, *New York Times*
best-selling author of *Labor Day*, *To Die For*,
and *Count The Ways*

PROMENADE OF DESIRE

A BARCELONA MEMOIR

ISIDRA MENCOS

DESCRIPTION:

María Isidra is a proper Catholic girl raised in 1960s Spain by a strong matriarch during a repressive dictatorship. Early sexual trauma and a hefty dose of fear keep her in line for much of her childhood, but also lead her to live a double life. In her home, there is no discussing the needs of her growing body. In the street, kissing in public is forbidden.

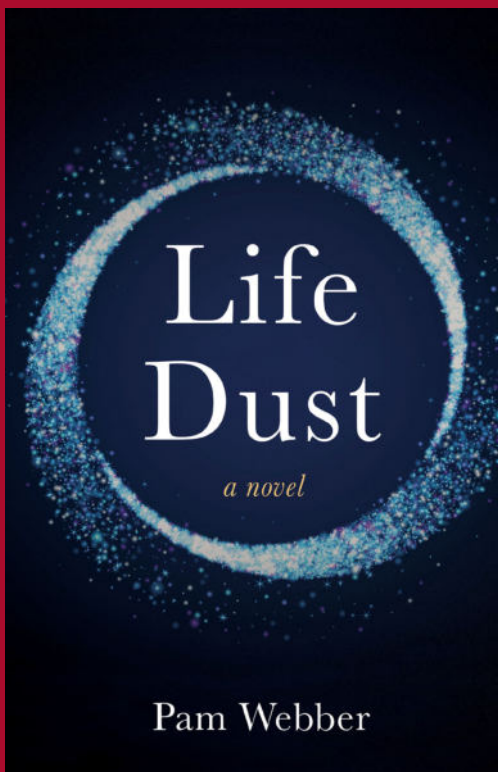
Upon the dictator’s death in 1975, Spain bursts wide open, giving way to democracy and a cultural revolution. Barcelona’s vibrant downtown and its new freedoms seduce María Isidra. She dives into a world of activism, communal living, literature, counterculture, open sexuality, and alcohol.

And yet she knows something is missing. Longing to reconnect with her body—from which she has felt estranged since childhood—María Isidra finds a surprising home in a rundown salsa club, where the lush rhythm sparks a deep wave of healing. Transformed, she sets off on a series of sexual and romantic misadventures, in search of what she has always found painfully elusive: true intimacy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Isidra Mencos was born and raised in Barcelona. As a young woman, she freelanced for prestigious publishing houses, traveled the world as a tour leader, and worked for the Olympic Committee. In 1992 she moved to the US to earn a PhD in Spanish and Latin American contemporary literature at UC Berkeley, where she taught for twelve years. She also developed her own business as a writer and editor for Spanish-speaking media. From 2006 to 2016 she worked as Editorial Director of the Americas for BabyCenter. In 2016 she quit her job to dedicate herself to writing. Her work has appeared in *The Chicago Quarterly Review*, *Front Porch Journal*, *The Penmen Review*, *WIRED*, *The Huffington Post*, and *Better After Fifty* among others. Her essay “My Books and I” was listed as Notable in *The Best American Essays* Anthology. Isidra lives in Northern California with her husband and son.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-091-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-092-5

“Pam Webber did a fantastic job of creating a believable universe. . . . The narrative style was sharp, invigorating, and exceptional. The plot moved with fluidity, the dialogues were crisp, and the characters drove the story forward.”

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

“This novel is a testament to the heroes of the Vietnam War and an eye-opening experience for readers. . . . Highly recommended.”

—Historical Novel Society

LIFE DUST

A NOVEL

PAM WEBBER

DESCRIPTION:

Nettie and Andy have been soul mates since childhood. While planning their wedding, Andy receives orders from the Army to deploy immediately to South Vietnam for a year.

Anxious about Andy's safety, Nettie dives into her work as a nursing intern in the hospital emergency room. When she inadvertently walks in on a nursing supervisor and surgeon during a late-night tryst, the vengeful lovers initiate a campaign to end her career before it starts. Nettie's only respite is an elderly patient who has everything money can buy—except the one thing he wants.

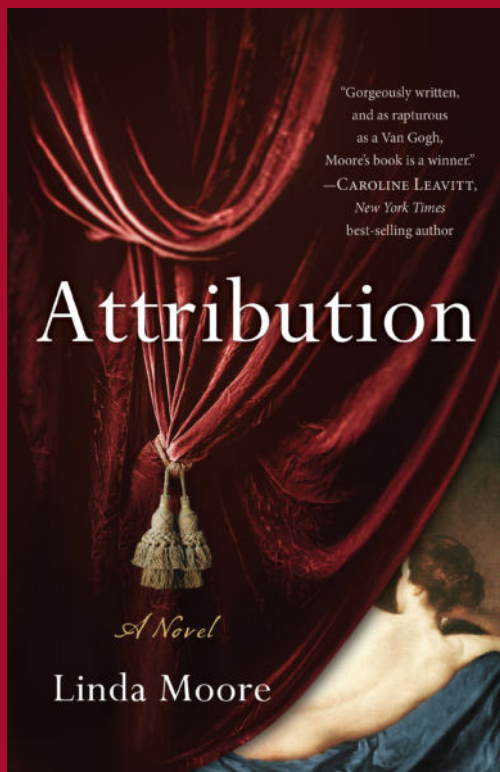
In Southeast Asia, Andy is leading a long-range reconnaissance squad in an unforgiving jungle when he receives orders to escort a high-ranking female freedom fighter, Bien, to a clandestine meeting with an enemy officer who wants to defect. Previously raped, beaten, and left for dead by North Vietnamese soldiers, Bien is suspicious of the enemy officer's motives, but she also thinks he may be the younger brother her attackers conscripted into their army as a child. Andy, meanwhile, believes his unit is walking into a trap that could cost them everything.

Struggling to survive in different worlds, Nettie and Andy navigate the best and worst of human nature as they try to find their way back to each other.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Best-selling, award-winning author Pam Webber has earned critical acclaim from the Historical Novel Society, *The Southern Literary Review*, and Ingram's Book Buzz for writing engaging stories with a hometown flair. As a second-career novelist, Pam is a popular speaker for book clubs, civic organizations, and literary groups and has had the honor of serving as a featured panelist for the Virginia Festival of the Book, the Library of Virginia, and James River Writers. She is an avid traveler, nature lover, and supporter of chasing dreams. Pam and her husband, Jeff, live in the Northern Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. For more information, visit Pam at www.pamwebber.com.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN:978-1-64742-253-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-254-7

“Desperate for meaning and to fill the hole left by her younger brother’s death, an art historian searches for a lost painting—and finds herself. Gorgeously written and as rapturous as a Van Gogh, Moore’s book is a winner.”

—Caroline Leavitt, *New York Times*
best-selling author of *Pictures of You* and
With or Without You

“*Attribution* is an intriguing art-historical fantasia. I loved reading it!”

—Edward J. Sullivan, Professor of the History of Art, New York University

ATTRIBUTION

A NOVEL

LINDA MOORE

DESCRIPTION:

When art historian Cate Adamson leaves her troubled family to complete her doctorate in New York, she finds herself dismissed by her sexist advisor and becomes increasingly desperate to salvage her career. When she finds a hidden painting in the university basement, possibly a seventeenth-century masterpiece, she takes the painting to Spain, against her better judgment. There she meets Antonio, an impoverished nobleman struggling to restore his family’s legacy. They join forces to prove who painted the mysterious artwork as Cate fights to change the course of her life.

Written with vivid prose, and full of rich art references and compelling characters, *Attribution* is the story of a contemporary woman’s journey to understand the past, earn respect for the contributions of women, and unlock her future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Moore studied art history in the Prado while at the University of Madrid. She earned degrees at the University of California and Stanford before opening an art gallery that showcased contemporary Hispanic artists. She has served on art museum boards, edited and published exhibition catalogs, contributed to anthologies, and written for art journals. Born in the Midwest, she enjoys traveling the world and spending time in Kuai with her grandchildren. Linda lives in California with her husband. *Attribution* is her first novel.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback

\$24.95 hardcover / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-255-4

Paperback: 978-1-64742-295-0

Hardcover:

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-295-0

“Swimming for My Life is a memoir of a childhood riddled with events most would never speak of.”

—Dara Torres, twelve-time Olympic medalist in swimming and author of *Gold Medal Fitness and Age is Just a Number*

“Swimming for My Life gripped me from the first chapter.”

—John Naber, Olympic swimming champion, broadcaster, and author of *Awaken the Olympian Within*

SWIMMING FOR MY LIFE

A MEMOIR

KIM FAIRLEY

DESCRIPTION:

In 1970s Cincinnati, Kim’s overwhelmed, financially stressed parents dragged her and her four younger siblings into swimming—starting with a nearby motel pool—as a way to keep them occupied and out of their way. When Kim was eleven, they began leaving the kids at home with a sitter while they traveled the Midwest, where they sold imported wooden ornaments from their motorhome. But when Kim’s six-year-old brother crashed his new Cheater Slick bike and the babysitter deserted the children, what started as an accident became a pattern: Mom and Dad leaving for weeks at a time and the kids wrestling with life’s emergencies on their own.

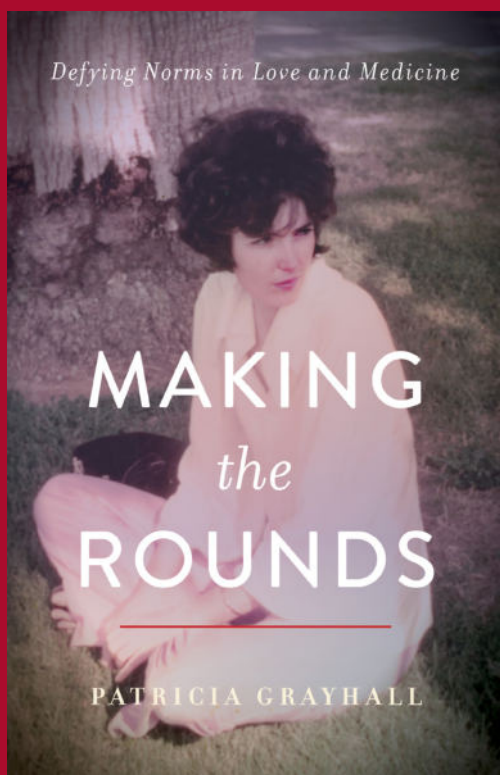
As Kim coped in the role of fill-in mother while dealing with the stresses of elite swimming, she struggled to shape her own life. She eventually found strength, competence and achievement through swimming—and became the second female swimmer to win a full ride to the University of Southern California, where she earned two national titles.

Swimming for My Life is a peek into the dark side of elite swimming as well as a tale of family bonds, reconciling with the past, and how it is possible to emerge from life’s toxic and lifesaving waters.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kim Fairley writes about her wacky family and how life can be filled with countless unexpected surprises, illuminating joys, and sorrowful heartbreaks. She also writes about healing from deep loss and her experience as a competitive swimmer during the early years of Title IX. She grew up in Cincinnati, Ohio, attended the University of Southern California, and holds an MFA in Mixed Media from the University of Michigan. Kim lives in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-273-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-274-5

“Patricia Grayhall has written a vital and thrilling memoir. Most of all her story radiates the power of perseverance in breaking down, brick by brick, the barriers of bigotry.”

—Steve Almond, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Candyfreak* and *Against Football*

“If you have ever felt marginalized or told you could not pursue your dreams . . . this book will inspire you to find the courage.”

—Laura Munson, *New York Times* best-selling author of *This is Not the Story You Think It Is*

MAKING THE ROUNDS

DEFYING NORMS IN LOVE AND MEDICINE

PATRICIA GRAYHALL

DESCRIPTION:

Defying expectations of a woman growing up in Arizona in the sixties, Patricia Grayhall fled Phoenix at nineteen for the vibrant streets of San Francisco, determined to finally come out as a lesbian after years of trying to be a “normal” girl. Her dream of becoming a physician drew her back to college, and then on to medical school in conservative Salt Lake City.

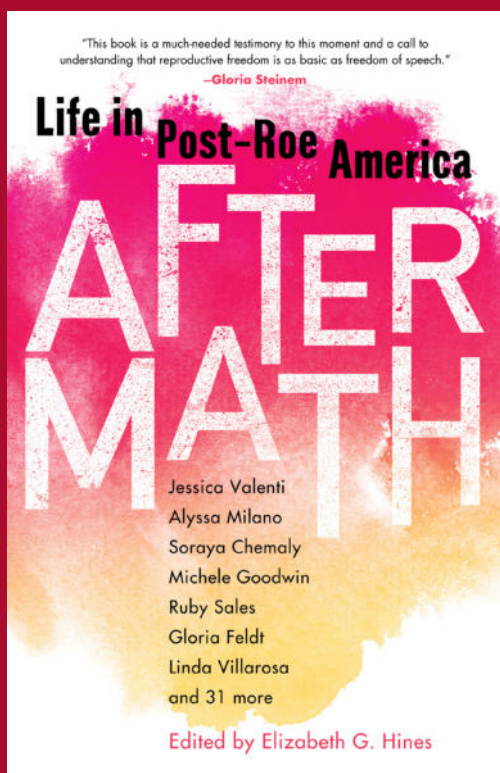
Though Patricia enjoyed a supportive friendship with a male colleague, she longed for an equal, loving relationship with a woman. But between her graduate medical training in Boston, with its emotional demands, long hours, lack of sleep, and social isolation, and the freewheeling sexual revolution of the 1970s, finding that special relationship was difficult. Often disappointed but never defeated, Patricia—armed with wit and determination—battled on against sexism in her male-dominated profession and against discrimination in a still largely homophobic nation, plunging herself into a life that was never boring and certainly never without passion.

A chronicle of coming of age during second-wave feminism and striving to have both love and career as a gay medical professional, *Making the Rounds* is a well-paced and deeply humanizing memoir of what it means to seek belonging and love—and to find them, in the most surprising ways.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patricia Grayhall is a pen name. As a physician, Patricia has published many articles and book chapters during her long career as a medical doctor. Now retired after nearly forty years of medical practice, she has written this very personal and frank LGBTQ memoir about coming out as a lesbian in the late 1960s and training to become a doctor. She chose to write *Making the Rounds* under a pen name to protect the privacy of some of the characters in her memoir, as well as her own.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 11, 2022

Collections: Nonfiction/Anthology

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-601-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-602-6

“Freedom begins with the ability to make decisions about our own lives, and for women, there is no decision more intimate or crucial to our health than the decision of whether or not to give birth. The huge majority of Americans agree, and in the aftermath of *Roe*, the consequence of allowing states to suppress this right will be a new American revolution. This book is a much-needed testimony to this moment and a call to understanding that reproductive freedom is as basic as freedom of speech.”

—Gloria Steinem, author and activist

AFTERMATH

LIFE IN POST-ROE AMERICA

EDITED BY ELIZABETH G. HINES

DESCRIPTION:

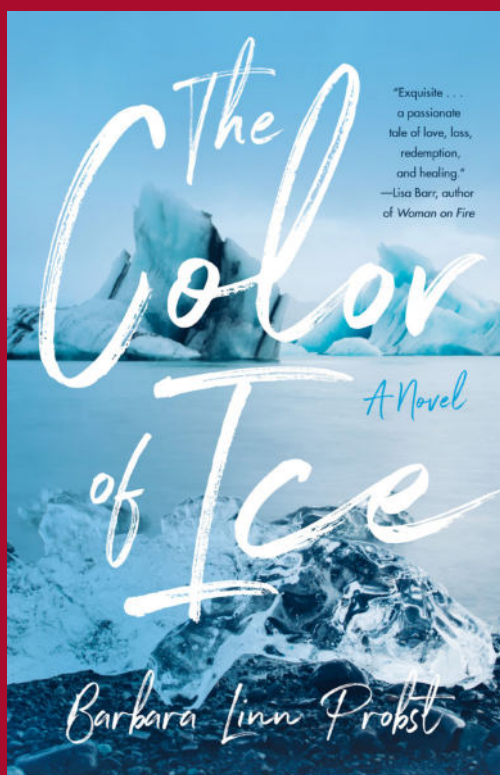
After nearly fifty years as settled constitutional law, the federally protected right to an abortion in America is now a thing of the past. The Supreme Court’s overturning of *Roe v. Wade* has left Americans without a guaranteed right to access abortion—and the cost of that upheaval will be most painfully felt by individuals who already struggle with access to resources: the poor, Black and brown communities, and members of the LGBTQIA+ population.

Pulling together the experiences, expertise, and perspectives of more than 30 writers, thinkers, and activists, *Aftermath: Life in Post-Roe America* offers a searing look at the critical role *Roe* has played in improving women’s and pregnant people’s lives, what a future without *Roe* may look like, and what options exist for us to secure reproductive freedom in the future. With contributions from Jessica Valenti, Soraya Chemaly, Michele Goodwin, Alyssa Milano, Ruby Sales, Heather Cox Richardson, Robin Marty, Linda Villarosa, Jennifer Baumgardner, and more, this anthology is essential reading for anyone who cares about the future of reproductive rights in America—and beyond.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elizabeth G. Hines is an author, editor, and strategic communications specialist. Her work has appeared in numerous online publications, and along with her mother, Carol Jenkins, she is the coauthor of the best-selling biography *Black Titan: A. G. Gaston and the Making of a Black American Millionaire*, winner of a 2004 Non-Fiction Book Honor from the American Library Association. Hines holds a BA from Yale College and conducted her graduate studies at Harvard University. She lives in New York City.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 18, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-259-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-260-8

“A passionate tale of love, loss, redemption, and healing as seen through the power of glass and ice. Color, form, and light ignite this woman’s journey by an artist who manages to open Cathryn’s closed heart. Probst gifts the reader with a seamless, rich portrayal of Iceland and how its natural beauty reflects and transforms everyone who touches its magnificent landscape.”

—Lisa Barr, *New York Times* best-selling author of *The Unbreakables* and *Woman on Fire*

THE COLOR OF ICE

A NOVEL

BARBARA LINN PROBST

DESCRIPTION:

Set among the glaciers and thermal lagoons of Iceland and framed by the magical art of glassblowing, *The Color of Ice* is the breathtaking story of a woman’s awakening to passion, beauty, and the redemptive power of unconditional love.

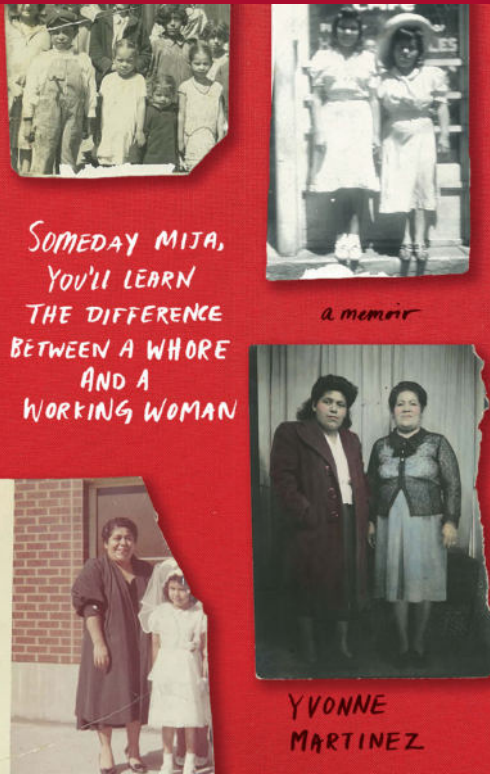
Cathryn McAllister, a freelance photographer, travels to Iceland for a photo shoot with an enigmatic artist who wants to capture the country’s iconic blue icebergs in glass. Her plan is to head out, when the job is done, on a carefully curated “best of Iceland” solo vacation. Widowed young, Cathryn has raised two children while achieving professional success. If the price of that efficiency has been the dimming of her fire—well, she hasn’t let herself think about it. Until now.

Bit by bit, Cathryn abandons her itinerary to remain with Mack, the glassblower, who awakens a hunger for all the things she’s told herself she doesn’t need anymore. Passion. Vulnerability. Risk. Cathryn finds herself torn between the life—and self—she’s come to know and the new world Mack offers. Commitments await her back in America. But if she walks away, she’ll lose this chance to feel deeply again. Just when her path seems clear, she’s faced with a shocking discovery—and a devastating choice that shows her what love really is.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Barbara Linn Probst is a writer, researcher, clinician, and “serious amateur” pianist living on a historic dirt road in New York’s Hudson Valley. Her novel *Queen of the Owls* was chosen as a 2020 selection by the Pulpwood Queens Book Club, a network of more than 780 book clubs across the US. Author of the groundbreaking book on nurturing out-of-the-box children *When the Labels Don’t Fit*, Barbara also holds a PhD in clinical social work and is a frequent guest essayist on major online sites for fiction writers. To learn more about Barbara and her work, visit www.barbaralinnprobst.com.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 18, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-102-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-103-8

“This sharp autobiographical account deftly illuminates prejudice in the American workplace.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“*Someday Mija, You’ll Learn the Difference Between a Whore and a Working Woman* is a memoir that turns time on its head, circling through terror and joy with eloquence and becoming its own sacrament of resistance.”

—Foreword Reviews, 5 stars

SOMEDAY MIJA, YOU’LL LEARN THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A WHORE AND A WORKING WOMAN

A MEMOIR

YVONNE MARTINEZ

DESCRIPTION:

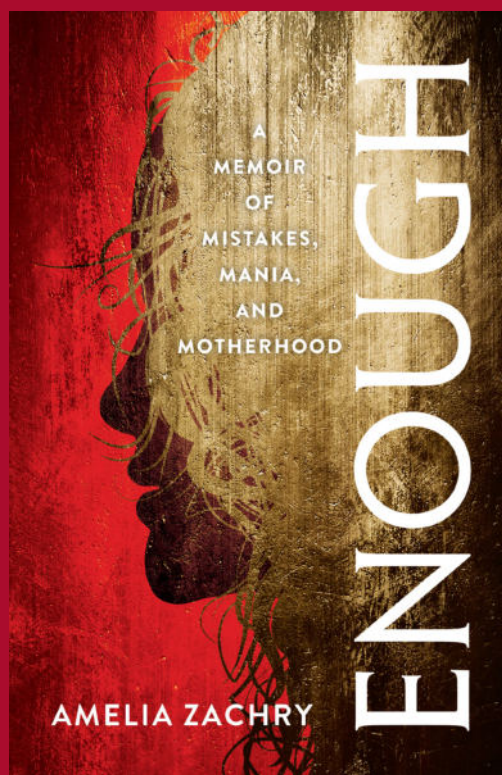
At eighteen, Yvonne Martinez flees brutal domestic violence and is taken in by her dying grandmother . . . who used to be a sex worker. Before she dies, her grandmother reveals family secrets and shares her uncommon wisdom. “Someday, Mija,” she tells Yvonne, “you’ll learn the difference between a whore and a working woman.” She also shares disturbing facts about their family’s history—eventually leading Yvonne to discover that her grandmother was trafficked as a child in Depression-era Utah by her own mother, Yvonne’s great-grandmother, and was blamed for her own rape.

In the years that follow her grandmother’s passing, Yvonne gets an education and starts a family. As she heals from her own abuse by her mother and stepfather, she becomes an advocate/labor activist. Grounded in her grandmother’s dictum not to whore herself out, she learns to fight for herself and teaches others to do the same—exposing sexual harassment in the labor unions where she works and fighting corruption. Intense but ultimately uplifting, *Someday Mija, You’ll Learn the Difference Between a Whore and a Working Woman* is a compelling memoir in essays of transforming transgenerational trauma into resilience and post-traumatic growth.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Yvonne Martinez is a retired labor negotiator/organizer. She has been published by *ZyZZyVa*, *Crab Orchard Review*, *Labor Notes*, and NPR. She is also the author of a play, *Scabmuggers*, which is based on her experience as a National Fellow of the Harvard Trade Union Program in 1994. Yvonne lives in Berkeley, CA, and Portland, OR.

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 18, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-291-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-292-9

“Zachry’s unflinching memoir chronicles her search for love while coping with depression. . . . A harrowing tale of coping with mental illness . . .”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Zachry’s memoir is a roller-coaster of emotions . . . valuable for its articulation and contextualization of mental health issues.”

—Library Journal

“*Enough* is a startling memoir about surviving assault and grappling with mental illness.”

—Foreword Reviews

ENOUGH

A MEMOIR OF MISTAKES, MANIA, AND MOTHERHOOD

AMELIA ZACHRY

DESCRIPTION:

A bicultural child of a Malay mother and an Indian father, Amelia Zachry was different from the get-go, never quite fitting in. In this raw, inspiring memoir, she chronicles the long, winding journey that brought her from Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, to Kentucky, USA—the place she and her family now call home.

Amelia was nineteen years old, her future wide open, when a fellow student from her Kuala Lumpur university sexually assaulted her. After that night, she felt sullied—and convinced that what had happened was her fault. In the months and years that followed, she spiraled, first into isolation and then into promiscuity, as she attempted to try to take back some of the power that had been stripped from her that night. Eventually, she met the man who would become her husband and greatest advocate, Daniel, and began to emerge from that dark place—but even he couldn’t fight her demons for her. In her late twenties, Amelia was diagnosed with PTSD and bipolar II disorder, both of which would go on to shape her adult life as an individual, a wife, and a mother.

A memoir of trauma and healing, mental illness and resilience, culture shock and new beginnings, devastation and triumph, *Enough* is one woman’s story of learning to make peace with the fact that things are as they should be, even if she sometimes wishes they were different—and of discovering that however far away it may seem, there is always a light at the end of the tunnel.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Amelia Zachry was born and raised in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. After graduating from Curtin University in Kuala Lumpur with a degree in marketing, she worked in public relations and marketing until she met her American husband, Daniel. Since then, they have lived together in Japan, Canada (where Amelia obtained a second degree in human ecology from the University of Western Ontario), and Kentucky, and had two daughters together. Now a full-time writer, Amelia is also an advocate for sexual assault survivors and those who suffer from mental illness. She has been published on HuffPost and *Moms Don’t Have Time to Write*, and blogs weekly at <https://ameliazachry.com>, where you can find a list of her recent appearances and more information about her and her work. Amelia lives in Lexington, Kentucky.

OCTOBER 2022

Mother Lode

Confessions of a Reluctant Caregiver

GRETCHEN STAEBLER



Publication Date: October 18, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-283-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-284-4

“A debut memoir of caregiving that addresses issues of life and death in a direct and hopeful way. . . . The author is candid about the struggles of caregiving, which readers who have experienced similar situations will find refreshing . . .”

—Kirkus Reviews

“. . . Gretchen’s frustrations with the healthcare system and with the reluctant patient [are] highly resonant, and she writes with an empathetic but direct narrative style that makes you feel as though a kindred soul is speaking to you.”

—Readers’ Favorite, 5-star review

MOTHER LODE

CONFESSIONS OF A RELUCTANT CAREGIVER

GRETCHEN STAEBLER

DESCRIPTION:

Gretchen Staebler promises to spend one year in her childhood home caring for her stubborn ninety-six-year-old mother—sort of a middle-aged gap year. Then her mother will move to assisted living and she will return to her own life, their relationship magically having become all she’s ever longed for it to be. Could it be that easy?

As mother and daughter each try desperately to keep a firm grasp on their independence, their daily battles in Mama’s kitchen fiefdom echo the clash of adolescence and menopause in the same spot decades earlier. Penetrating the fog of her mother’s advancing dementia, hypochondria, and blindness with humor, frustration, and compassion, the author slowly comes to accept and respect the mother she got, if not the one she wished for. In the process, she becomes a self-taught authority on aging, dementia, the healthcare system, and self-care. But how long will healing between mother and daughter take—and how long do they have?

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Gretchen Staebler is a wandering adventurer who left decades of grown-up life on the East Coast at age sixty to return to the mountains, beaches, and rain of her soul’s home in the Pacific Northwest. She blogs about her adventures from coffee shops, her father’s desk, national park lodges, her tent—wherever she feels cozy. She writes to learn who she is in the world and within herself and shares it with readers who may find themselves in places they never expected to be. She lives with her cat in Washington (the real one).

AWARDS:

2022 Living Now Book Awards Silver Medalist in Mature Living/ Caregiving

OCTOBER 2022



Publication Date: October 25, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-500-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-501-2

“Fans of spunky, historical heroines will love Henrietta Von Harmon.”

—Booklist, starred review

“Flavored with 1930s slang and fashion, this first volume in what one hopes will be a long series is absorbing. Henrietta and Clive are a sexy, endearing, and downright fun pair of sleuths. Readers will not see the final twist coming.”

—Library Journal, starred review

A SPYING EYE

A HENRIETTA AND INSPECTOR HOWARD NOVEL

MICHELLE COX

DESCRIPTION:

In this sixth book of the series, Clive and Henrietta return to Europe in an attempt to resurrect their failed honeymoon. While in London, they are approached by their old friend, Inspector John Hartle, who convinces them to search for the missing panel of the Ghent Altarpiece, a famous Renaissance painting, of which Hitler's top men are also in pursuit.

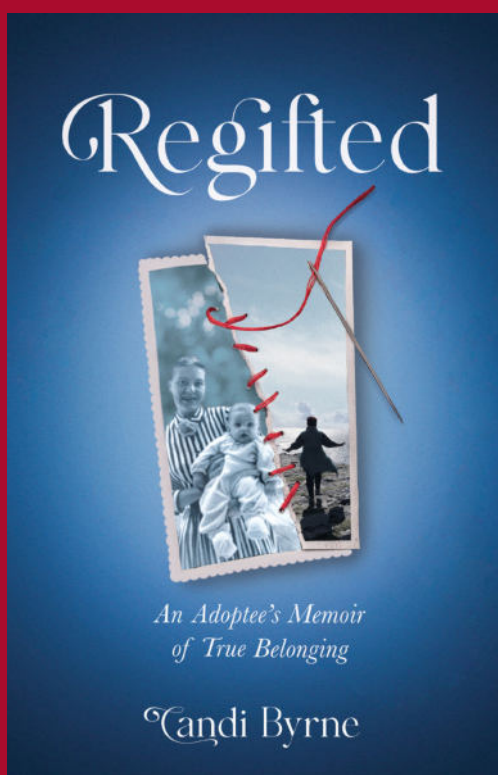
Meanwhile, back in Chicago, Oldrich Exley threatens to cut off financial support for the entire Von Harmon brood if Elsie continues with her plan to marry Gunther—a situation made worse by the sudden appearance of one Heinrich Meyer, who claims to be little Anna's father and threatens to take her away. Desperate, Elsie seeks the help of Clive's sister, Julia, who is herself the victim of domestic abuse and who has fallen under the spell of a handsome Texas millionaire bent on acquiring a rare painting from the Howard collection.

Clive and Henrietta's search takes them to Chateau du Freudeneck in Strasbourg, France—the ancient seat of the Von Harmon and home to three eccentric distant relatives. What begins as a wild goose chase turns decidedly more deadly when several Nazi officers also arrive at the chateau in search of a “valuable item.” When Henrietta and Clive attempt to flee after Henrietta uncovers a shocking truth, they are forced to entrust their safety to a suspicious French servant who seems all too willing to help . . .

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Michelle Cox is the author of the Henrietta and Inspector Howard series, a mystery/romance saga set in the 1930s Chicago often described as “*Downton Abbey* meets *Miss Fisher's Murder Mysteries*.” To date, the series has won over fifty international awards and has received positive reviews from *Library Journal* (starred), *Booklist* (starred), *Publishers Weekly*, *Kirkus*, and various media outlets, such as Popsugar, BuzzFeed, *Redbook*, *Elle*, *Brit&Co.*, *Bustle*, *Culturalist*, *Working Mother*, and many others. Cox also pens the wildly popular *Novel Notes of Local Lore*, a weekly blog chronically the lives of Chicago's forgotten residents. She lives in the northern suburbs of Chicago with her husband and three children and is hard at work on her next novel.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 1, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-279-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-280-6

REGIFTED

AN ADOPTEE'S MEMOIR OF TRUE BELONGING

CANDI BYRNE

DESCRIPTION:

A raw, often wry, memoir of mothers, mysteries, and miracles.

Surrendered at birth in a closed adoption, Candi Byrne's biology and ethnicity is a secret. The impending arrival of her first grandchild ignites an urgency to identify potential genetic time bombs and confirm her ancestry. Due to arcane privacy laws, Candi is repeatedly denied access to the one person who could provide that information—her biological mother.

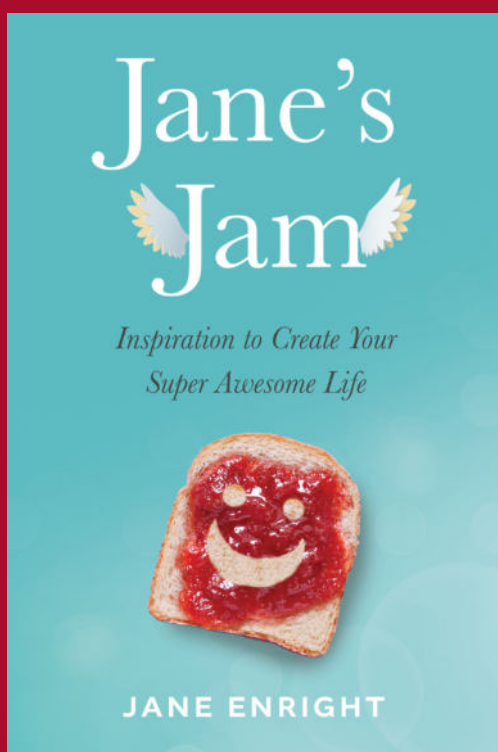
After years of failed attempts, she resigns herself to never learning the truth about her roots; that is, until her ninety-year-old Aunt Delores has a vision and insists Candi resume efforts to find her birth family. Candi is gobsmacked when an internet search she's performed thousands of times before suddenly reveals her birth mother's identity. Within hours, she ends up on the doorstep of her birth mother—a place she's sworn never to visit.

After a series of guilt-driven interactions with "Those People," as she refers to her maternal birth family, Candi terminates contact. Although the reunion proves disastrous, it opens her eyes to truths about her relationship with her adoptive mother, Delphine. Though their relationship was difficult and contentious during Delphine's life, a series of miraculous experiences after her death guides Candi home to herself—where, she learns, she has belonged all along.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Candi Byrne is a gregarious introvert, nomadic homebody, and pragmatic woowooist. She lives in an enchanted forest on the south side of North Mountain in the Eastern Panhandle of West Virginia. Her cozy, colorful cottage contains a bounty of art supplies for the "Magic on the Mountain" creative retreats she facilitates, as well as the "Let's Get Messy" sleepovers she has regularly with her two granddaughters, who live over the creek and through the woods. She lives in Martinsburg, WV.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 1, 2022

Collections: Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-281-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-282-0

“Jane’s My Super Awesome Life, Inc.™ platform provides a much-needed dose of inspiration and motivation to live the best life, even when it’s so hard to do so.”

—TheStylegazer.com

“Enright is a wonderfully clear-minded narrator of her own experiences. . . . The result is a stirringly believable tale of personal reinvention. An unsparing, ultimately uplifting account of turning a crisis into a new view of life.”

—Kirkus Reviews

JANE’S JAM

INSPIRATION TO CREATE YOUR SUPER AWESOME LIFE

JANE ENRIGHT

DESCRIPTION:

Stuff with four letters ending in a “t” happens to everyone; it’s how you handle it that matters . . .

Life puts us all through change; some might even say life is change. In the blink of an eye, the unexpected can happen. Your life can suddenly be toast—butter side down, full of icky stuff you don’t want anywhere near you. Conversely, you can also land butter side up, with wonderful opportunities you never could have imagined.

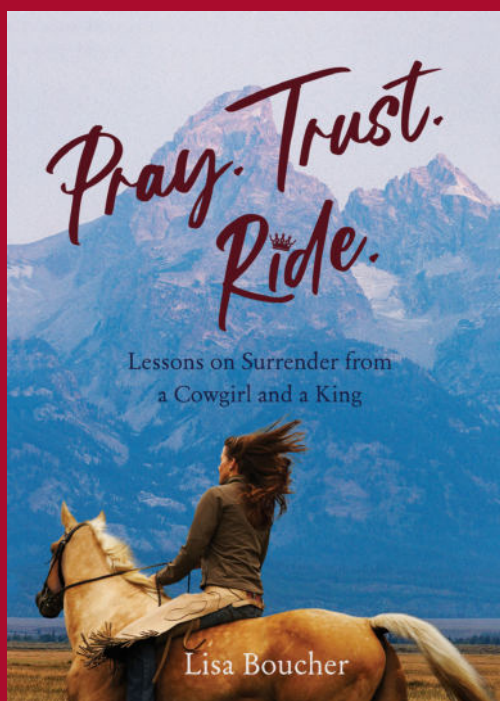
The COVID-19 pandemic is a reminder to all of us that change can change its mind anytime. Now more than ever, it is important to keep perspective and remember that our life is what we create. Positive thoughts have a good effect on us. They can support us to become happier, healthier, and add value to our entire lives—especially during times of great uncertainty. Maintaining a positive mindset can attract more brightness into your life, so you can successfully navigate those curveballs out of left field and move forward, not backward, while life plays out.

Jane’s Jam is not self-help jargon; it is edutainment for the soul. Following in the footsteps of *Butter Side Up: How I Survived My Most Terrible Year and Created My Super Awesome Life*, this powerful, uniquely inspiring, and humorous OMG-playbook approach to overcoming adversity and living your best life will help readers look on the bright side, bounce back from the unthinkable, and intentionally create a super awesome life—no matter what the situation.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jane Enright is an ordinary person who has survived some extraordinary things. An inspiring and humorous thought leader, author, and speaker, Canada-based Enright is a former kindergarten teacher, strategic planner, and university lecturer, as well as the founder of My Super Awesome Life Inc. From top executives to stay-at-home moms, she is helping audiences throughout North America land “butter side up” and find joy after unplanned change. You can find Jane on LinkedIn and Instagram, Facebook and Pinterest. For more information, visit her at www.mysuperawesomelife.com or www.janeenrightauthor.com.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 1, 2022

Collections: Self-Help

Trim size: 5 x 7

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-263-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-264-6

“Lisa weaves her own cowgirl experiences with the King’s into powerful lessons in replacing fear and uncertainty with trust and bravery. It’s full of beautiful language expressing enduring life truths. The reader leaves with inspiration and hope that letting go is the pathway to peace and courage.”

—Gigi Langer, PhD, author of *50 Ways to Worry Less Now*

“With masterful ease Lisa guides us along the trail of a more spiritual path, showing us beautiful vistas of peace, contentment, and faith. Beautifully written and powerfully moving, *Pray. Trust. Ride.* is an unforgettable ride, one I wished would never end.”

—Dan Ames, *USA Today* bestselling author

PRAY. TRUST. RIDE.

LESSONS ON SURRENDER FROM A COWGIRL AND A KING

LISA BOUCHER

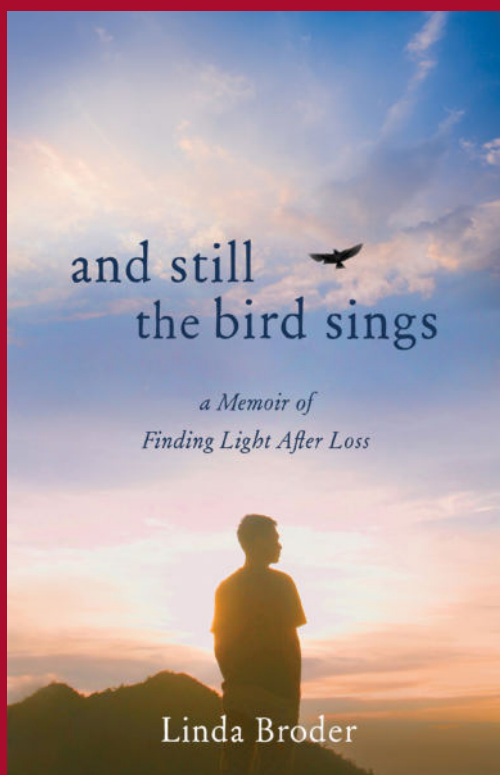
DESCRIPTION:

Pray. Trust. Ride. encourages you to stay in the saddle and ride through life with a looser rein. We live more fully when we can let go—even when all looks bleak and our brains scream, *Hang on and do something! Do anything! Fix this! Stop that!* The truth is, those problems that strangle our hearts are the sort of problems that we can’t fix. King Jehoshaphat understood that when he was boxed in by his enemy; at his most vulnerable moment, he leaned on God and let go of the outcome. Using this approach as her guiding principle, Lisa Boucher shares in this helpful guide how to lean on spiritual principles to help people live with less anxiety and strife, and how letting go allows us to accept that we can’t solve all our problems; we can’t save others from themselves; we can’t stop the inevitable from happening. What we can do is let go and trust that God has our backs.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lisa Boucher is the award-winning author of *Raising The Bottom: Making Mindful Choices in Drinking Culture*. She has contributed to notable publications such as *Shape Magazine* and *U.S. News & World Report* and is a frequent guest on numerous syndicated radio and podcast shows. She is highly intuitive and has assisted hundreds of people in healing from substance abuse, depression, and anxiety. A registered nurse, Lisa believes having a strong spiritual connection with God helps us surrender the things in our lives that we cannot control. She’s married and is the mother of twins.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 8, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-265-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-266-0

“A compelling, moving memoir that shares how our heart connections never die.”

—Paul Denniston, founder of Grief Yoga and author of *Healing Through Yoga: Transform Loss into Empowerment*

“If you’re struggling through grief over the loss of a loved one, then you’ll take tremendous comfort in reading this magnificent book. Linda’s inspiring true story will open your heart and mind to the power of endless love and finding hope again.”

—Shannon Kaiser, author of *Return to You: 11 Spiritual Lessons for Unshakable Inner Peace*

AND STILL THE BIRD SINGS

A MEMOIR OF FINDING LIGHT AFTER LOSS

LINDA BRODER

DESCRIPTION:

Linda Broder loses everything when her fifteen-year-old son Brendan dies—her music, faith, and hope. Even the sound of birds singing outside her window brings pain. When a bird walks into her house, her husband and children embrace it as a sign from Brendan. But not Linda; she’s too logical to believe in signs.

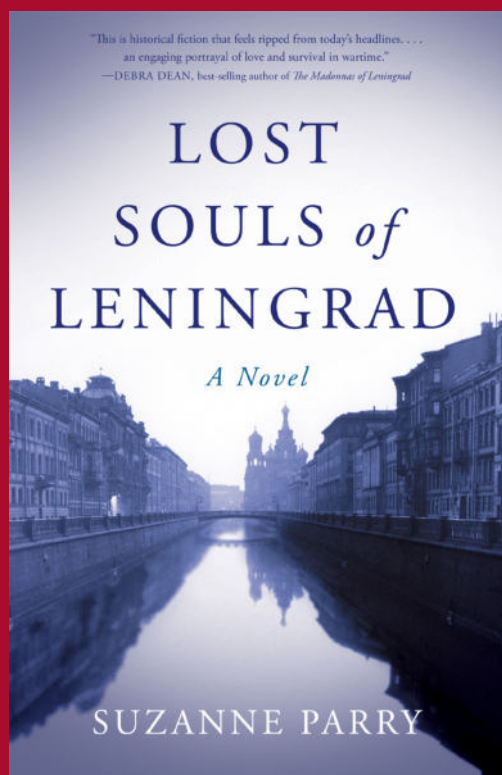
Still, birds keep clinging to Linda’s windows, whispering in her dreams, and showing up in unexpected places—pulling her back to music and showing her how to stay open to wonder.

Full of hope and resilience and the healing magic of music, *And Still the Bird Sings* is a story about finding sacred wonder in the midst of unimaginable loss, and a reminder of the many ways we can still connect with the ones we’ve lost.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Broder is a writer and meditative musician whose essays have appeared in *The Washington Post*, *Spirituality and Health*, *Tiny Buddha*, *Hippocampus*, and *The Sunlight Press*. She is a creativity coach who believes in the healing magic of creative mindfulness. She plays stories on her harp and piano and leads guided meditations. She’s the owner of Zen and the Pen, where she offers classes filled with music, meditation, poetry, prompts, and more. She’s obsessed with crystals and singing bowls. She enjoys cooking and four-hour baths while reading. She believes that a home should be filled with music, books, and laughter. Linda lives in Northern New Jersey.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 8, 2022

Collections: Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-267-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-268-4

*“Lost Souls of Leningrad is a sweeping, heartbreaking, and life-affirming saga. . . . A remarkable and immersive book that belongs on the shelf with *Life and Fate*.”*

—Kim Taylor Blakemore, best-selling author of *The Companion* and *After Alice Fell*

“This is historical fiction that feels ripped from today’s headlines . . . an engaging portrayal of love and survival in wartime.”

—Debra Dean, best-selling author of *New York Times* Editor’s Choice *The Madonnas of Leningrad*

LOST SOULS OF LENINGRAD

A NOVEL

SUZANNE PARRY

DESCRIPTION:

June 1941. Hitler’s armies race toward vulnerable Leningrad. In a matter of weeks, the Nazis surround the city, cut off the food supply, and launch a vicious bombardment. Widowed violinist Sofya Karavayeva and her teenage granddaughter, Yelena, are cornered in the crumbling city.

On Leningrad’s outskirts, Admiral Vasili Antonov defends his homeland and fights for a future with Sofya. Meanwhile, Yelena’s soldier fiancé transports food across the Ice Road—part of the desperate effort to save Leningrad. With their help, the two women inch toward survival, but the war still exacts a steep personal price, even as Sofya’s reckoning with a family secret threatens to finish what Hitler started.

Equal parts war epic, family saga, and love story, *Lost Souls of Leningrad* brings to vivid life this little-known chapter of World War II in a tale of two remarkable women—grandmother and granddaughter—separated by years and experience but of one heart in their devotion to each other and the men they love. Neither the oppression of Stalin nor the brutality of Hitler can destroy their courage, compassion, or will in this testament to resilience.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

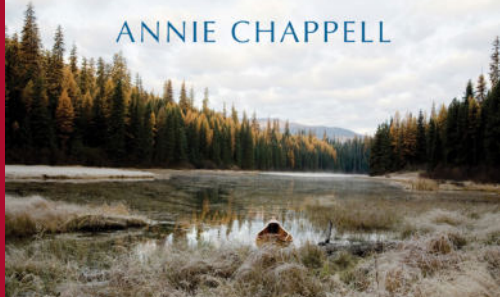
Suzanne Parry’s interest in the Soviet Union began in college. As an undergraduate, she studied Russian in Moscow. After earning a master’s degree from Princeton University, she joined the US Department of Defense and worked as an arms control specialist at the Pentagon, where she helped negotiate the Conference on Disarmament in Europe, the first security agreement of the Gorbachev era. Suzanne went on to raise a large family (requiring its own negotiating skills), teach university, and move to several different countries. She landed in Portland, Oregon, where she coached high school cross-country and track before embarking on a writing career. She now divides her time between Portland and Washington, DC. When not writing, running, or planning her next travel adventure, she enjoys time with her adult children and grandchildren. She lives in Portland, OR.

NOVEMBER 2022

AWAY UP
THE NORTH
FORK

A GIRL'S SEARCH FOR HOME
IN THE WILDERNESS

ANNIE CHAPPELL



Publication Date: November 8, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-269-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-270-7

“Chappell’s courage and resilience, the support of loving parents, and a girl’s naivete and confusion evolving toward a strong womanhood is described in prose as clear as a Montana sky. In its deep respect for the land, this memoir also serves as an antidote to the ruinous behaviors of the modern age. Engaging, surprising, enlightening—it’s everything a fine read should be.”

—Roland Merullo, author of *Breakfast with Buddha*

AWAY UP THE NORTH FORK

A GIRL'S SEARCH FOR HOME IN THE WILDERNESS

ANNIE CHAPPELL

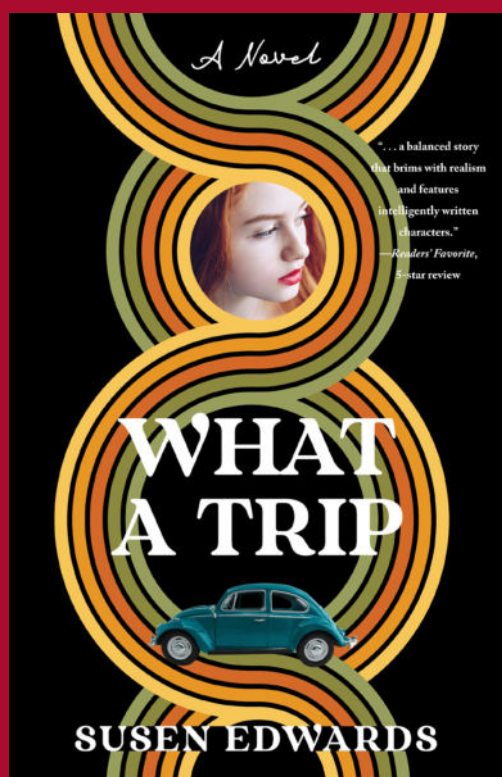
DESCRIPTION:

In the 1970s, Annie Chappell dreams of a homesteading life—a life like the one depicted in Laura Ingalls Wilder’s *Little House in the Big Woods*, where the world is uncomplicated. If she can get to that place, she thinks, the trouble she faces at home—alcohol use, sexual abuse, and the sorrows of modern-day issues—will disappear. Home in Denver during a break from boarding school in the spring of 1973, she meets Bill, a mountain man Vietnam vet who’s traveling through town on his way back to his cabin on the Canadian border in Montana, and she falls in love with the life he describes. In October, after months of imagining a life with Bill, she runs away from her East Coast boarding school to find him so he can teach her the wild ways. When Annie’s plan fails, she goes back to school to graduate, but she continues to exchange letters with Bill for the rest of the school year—and after graduation, with her parents’ blessing, she makes her way to Montana to live with him. Homesteading with an older man in the wilderness, however, presents challenges she hasn’t anticipated. Ultimately, Annie’s experiences with Bill push her to face her own strengths and fears, as well as her relationship with her parents and home—and to begin to figure out who she really wants to be.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Annie Chappell grew up in Denver, a fifth-generation Coloradoan. Her interests in anthropology led her to study ancient cultures, especially those of Native American and Mesoamerican peoples. She has always admired the drawings of naturalists like Audubon and Meriweather Lewis, and she now teaches others to draw from nature and better understand their world. She has an undergraduate degree in art, a master’s degree in environmental studies, and a Certificate in Natural Science Illustration from the Cary Institute. In 2004 she created a series of paintings of invasive species that was exhibited at the Denver Botanic Gardens, The Great Falls Discovery Center, Turner’s Falls, MA, and the Fish and Wildlife Exhibit Hall, Hadley, MA. Annie lives in a small town in Western Massachusetts with her husband. Together, they enjoy tending to their gardens and playing old-time fiddle music with friends.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 15, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

ISBN: 978-1-64742-285-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-286-8

"In this ambitious and skillfully written novel, Edwards presents three intriguing protagonists and delivers some rich period details, including about the Vietnam War and abortion laws."

—Kirkus Reviews

"*What a Trip: A Novel* is flavorful, a balanced story that brims with realism and features intelligently written characters."

—Readers' Favorite, 5-star review

"Spare and uncompromising, *What a Trip* is a historical novel about a young woman's tumultuous, painful coming-of-age."

—Foreword Reviews

WHAT A TRIP

A NOVEL

SUSEN EDWARDS

DESCRIPTION:

In this fast-paced coming-of-age novel we meet Fiona, an art student at a New Jersey college who is brilliant, beautiful, and struggling to find herself. Through her eyes we relive the turbulent culture of sex, drugs, and rock 'n roll, the first draft lottery since World War II, the Moratorium to End the War in Vietnam, the Kent State University shootings, and the harsh realities of war for Americans in their early twenties.

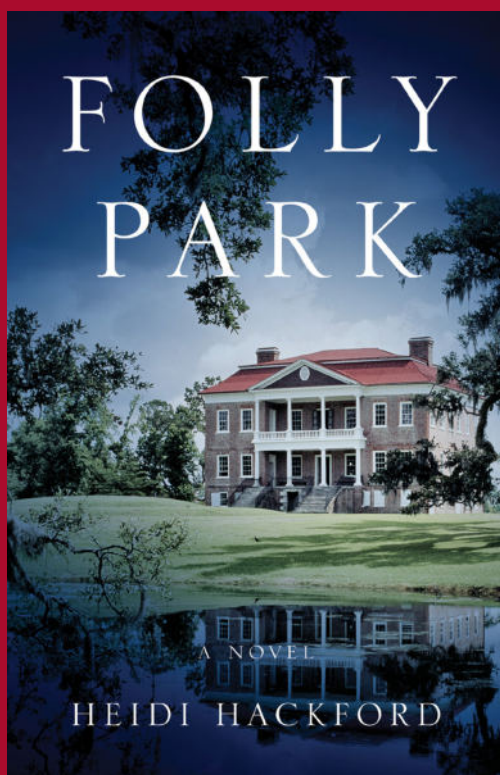
Fiona's best friend, Melissa, is in a dead-end relationship, pregnant, and going nowhere fast. After Melissa's abortion, Fiona and Melissa spend a week in Florida, where they are introduced to tarot cards and the anti-war movement. Following this experience, Melissa becomes obsessed with the occult; Fiona, though intrigued, approaches the tarot cautiously, with the voice of her conservative Christian mother screaming in her head.

After Fiona's return from Florida, she begins dating Reuben—a journalism major and political activist. Reuben decides to move to Canada to avoid the draft and encourages Fiona to accompany him. But is that really what she wants? Caught between her feelings for Reuben and her own aspirations, Fiona struggles to define herself, her artistic career, and her future.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susen Edwards is the founder and former director of Somerset School of Massage Therapy, New Jersey's first state-approved and nationally accredited postsecondary school for massage therapy. During her tenure she was nominated by Merrill Lynch for Inc. Magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year Award. After the successful sale of the business, she became an administrator at her local community college. She is currently secretary for the board of trustees for her town library and a full-time writer. Her passions are yoga, cooking, reading, and, of course, writing. Susen is the author of *Doctor Whisper* and *Nurse Willow*, a children's fantasy. *What a Trip* is her first adult novel. Susen lives in Middlesex, New Jersey, with her husband, Bob, and her two fuzzy feline babies, Harold and Maude.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 15, 2022

Collections: Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-271-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-272-1

“Hackford’s writing is crisp and poignant . . . she artfully conveys a compelling drama. . . . The result is a powerful novel, as affecting as it is provocative.”

—Kirkus Reviews

FOLLY PARK

A NOVEL

HEIDI HACKFORD

DESCRIPTION:

Fans of *Surviving Savannah* by Patti Callahan, *The Book of Lost Friends* by Lisa Wingate, and *Almost Sisters* by Joshilyn Jackson will enjoy *Folly Park*.

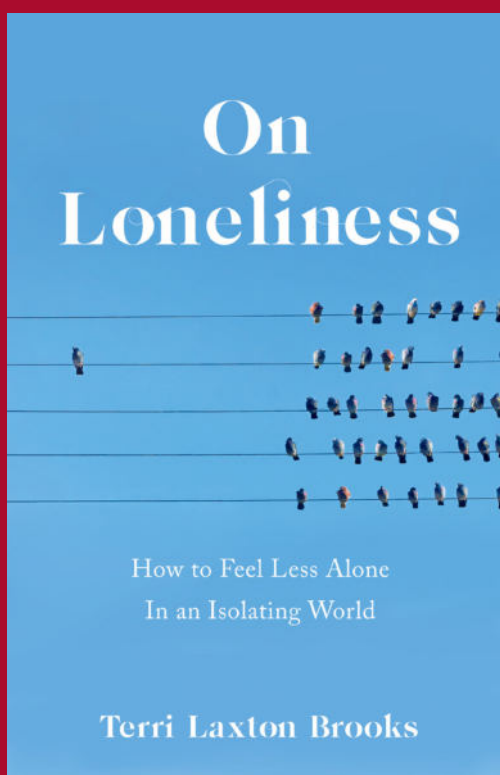
Are we ever able to escape the past? Should we be allowed to?

Though deeply ashamed of her slaveholding heritage, Temple Preston’s sense of duty and bittersweet memories tie her to *Folly Park*, her family’s crumbling ancestral plantation in Virginia. Now a cash-strapped tourist attraction, *Folly Park* was once the home of Confederate General Thomas Temple Smith, a southern war hero who died under mysterious circumstances. Temple is pursuing a plan to secure the house museum’s future when her summer research assistant, a Black PhD student, uncovers a remarkable secret: the general’s wife gave birth to a biracial baby while he was away fighting in the Civil War. This discovery turns Temple’s quiet, insulated life upside down, and—along with further revelations about the past that come to light in the ensuing weeks—fuels the growing tension in her hometown as a Black activist and Temple’s own race-baiting brother square off in a local campaign for mayor. Faced with threats and betrayal, Temple discovers who she really is—and how much she’s willing to lose to tell the truth.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Heidi Hackford has a PhD in American history and finds inspiration in her career at history museums, including Monticello, where she worked on the papers of Thomas Jefferson. She is fascinated by the unexpected twists and turns of the past and loves to incorporate them in her fiction. Her Puritan murder mystery *On a Stony Place* is available on Amazon Kindle and she blogs about how history turns up in everyday life in her newsletter “Living With History,” which lives at <https://heidihackford.substack.com>. Heidi lives in Half Moon Bay, California, with her husband, a fellow historian, and a very old cat.

NOVEMBER 2022



Publication Date: November 29, 2022

Collections: Self-Help, Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-287-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-288-2

“A provocative, important, and timely book for all who are willing to admit their lonely feelings and take steps to overcome them.”

—Dr. Wayne Dyer, author of *Your Erroneous Zones*

“If you read only one book this year, let it be this. It just may change your life.”

—Gloria Vanderbilt, artist, author, heiress, and socialite

“A book I wish I had read in my early years. . . . I hope youths of all ages—from sixteen to sixty—will read it.”

—Howard Koch, primary screenwriter of *Casablanca*

ON LONELINESS

HOW TO FEEL LESS ALONE IN AN ISOLATING WORLD

TERRI LAXTON BROOKS

DESCRIPTION:

In this no-holds-barred, provocative book, Terri Laxton Brooks tells a story that often remains hidden—that of a successful professional who has many friends and family and yet all her life has struggled with a loneliness she’s never revealed to anyone.

Terri thinks her feelings of isolation will end with her marriage to her childhood sweetheart and their move from a farm town to the city of Chicago. But she can’t shake a feeling she’s had since childhood—of failure to connect, not just as a wife but also as a daughter, friend, and colleague—and soon she and her husband separate. Adrift, Terri contemplates suicide. Could a move to different city, to a fresh start, solve her problem?

Terri’s decision to transplant herself to New York City forces her hand in a way she never imagined: it plunges her into a loneliness so total that out of desperation she grabs the key to her own salvation—love of interviewing, researching, hearing people’s stories. After starting therapy, her curiosity leads her into four years of soul-searching conversations with America’s leading psychologists and psychiatrists about how to cope with loneliness, why it is a normal and necessary stage of healthy growth, and how to stop resisting it. She explores with growing understanding intimate details of her dreams, her past traumas, and her role in her own loneliness—and learns not only how to live comfortably with that loneliness but how to use it to her advantage.

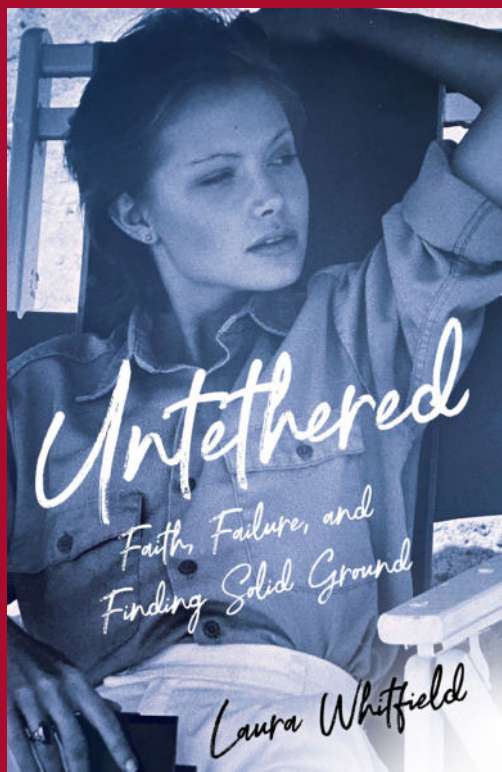
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Terri Laxton Brooks grew up in Reedsburg, Wisconsin, a farm town of one-square-mile surrounded by cornfields. The author of three other nonfiction titles—*Bittersweet: Surviving and Growing from Loneliness*, *Women Can Wait: The Pleasures of Motherhood After 30*, and *Words’ Worth: Write Well and Prosper*—Terri has also published hundreds of articles in publications including the *Chicago Tribune*, *The New York Times*, *Harper’s*, *Redbook*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, and *Writer’s Digest*. She has a wonderful son who serves as a lieutenant commander on destroyers in the US Navy. She currently lives in New York City.



Spring
2022

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 5, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-221-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-319-3

“... Whitfield’s narration is often engaging in its spirited expression of a resolute search for meaning. A candid and inspirational coming-of-age story.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“The writing is engaging and welcomes the reader into the author’s story and thoughts . . . telling a story that is unique to her yet in which readers will recognize the ebbs and flows of tragedy, challenges, and joy we all experience in life.”

—The BookLife Prize

UNTETHERED

FAITH, FAILURE, AND FINDING SOLID GROUND

LAURA WHITFIELD

DESCRIPTION:

When Laura Whitfield was fourteen, her extraordinary brother, Lawrence, was killed in a mountain climbing accident. That night she had an epiphany: *Life is short. Dream big, even if it means taking risks.* So after graduating from high school, she set out on her own, prepared to do just that.

Laura spent her first summer after high school on North Carolina’s Outer Banks, a magical few months filled with friendships, boys, and beer. There she met a handsome DJ who everyone called “Steve the Dream,” and risked her heart. When September came, Steve moved to New York City to become a model, prompting Laura to start thinking about modeling as well. After just one semester of college, still seeking to fill the void left by her brother’s death, she dropped out and moved to New York to become a cover girl. But while juggling the demands of life in the big city waiting tables, failed relationships, and the cutthroat world of modeling, she lost her way.

A stirring memoir about a young woman’s quest to find hope and stability after devastating loss, *Untethered* is Laura’s story of overcoming shame, embracing faith, and learning that taking risks and failing can lead to a bigger life than you’ve ever dared to imagine.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Laura grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, the daughter of a journalist and a teacher. She has been an advertising copywriter, newspaper columnist, staff writer for an international relief agency, travel writer, blogger, teacher, communications director for several nonprofits, and personal assistant to a *New York Times* best-selling author. Laura is passionate about her faith, books, travel, nature (especially the beach), social justice, and her family. She lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, with her husband, Stephen.

AWARDS:

2022 Readers’ Favorite Book Awards Finalist in Non-Fiction (Grief/Hardship)

2022 New York Book Festival Honorable Mention in Biography/Autobiography/Memoir

2022 International Book Awards Finalist in Best New Nonfiction

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 12, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-077-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-400-8

“A heartfelt chorus of narrative voices about decades of racial violence in America.”

—Susan Straight, author of *The Gettin Place* and *In the Country of Women*

“Hilsabeck’s prose is vivid and urgent . . .”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“The blues are black folks’ breathing through the grisly legacies of white malevolence and grotesque bloodlust in America.”

—Pierce Freelon, writer, composer, and codirector of *The History of White People in America*

AMERICAN BLUES

A NOVEL

POLLY HAMILTON HILSABECK

DESCRIPTION:

A week after Easter 1973—following the lynching of Black church sexton Sam Jefferson—Lily Vida Wallace is dropped like an immigrant into Greenville, South Carolina. After returning home to Manhattan, Lily continues theological studies in anticipation of the overturn of a centuries-old, males-only priesthood and simultaneously struggles with her erratic engagement. When her fiancé flees following discovery of professional impropriety and Atlanta attorney Rodney Davis lands in her path, a new love grows—accelerating Lily’s understanding even as it challenges her naïveté about race.

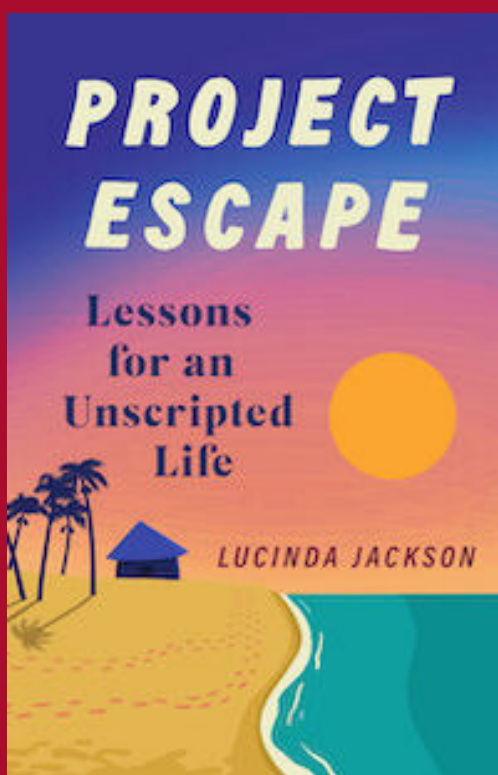
Some two decades later, high-profile interracial nuptials in Oakland, California, become the occasion for a reunion between the now Reverend Vida and Lucius Clay, the fiery journalist she met in South Carolina. Within weeks of their re-meeting, Lucius is dispatched to cover Black church burnings—beginning with Lily’s hometown in Texas.

Writer Hilton Als recently commented: “We need to wake up to the fact that America is not one story. It is many, many, many stories.” *American Blues* offers no neat resolution. Instead, its timely story invites, as it tangles with, readers’ own assumptions and complex experiences of race and gender in America.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Polly Hamilton Hilsabeck was in the second wave of women ordained priest in the Episcopal Church in 1985 in the Diocese of Los Angeles. She currently lives with her husband in Durham, North Carolina.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 12, 2022

Collections: Memoir, Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-403-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-404-6

“[An] articulate. . . engaging. . . intriguing, emotion-filled memoir that chronicles a challenging, humorous and often chaotic post-retirement journey to a life of reimagined possibilities and fulfillment; will especially appeal to those pondering major life changes.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“With deep honesty and humor, Jackson took me on a journey of discovery: not only of another ‘world’ in the culture of the island country of Palau but also of herself—and of her long-term marriage.”

—Margaret Davis Ghielmetti, author of *Brave(ish): A Memoir of a Recovering Perfectionist*

PROJECT ESCAPE

LESSONS FOR AN UNSCRIPTED LIFE

LUCINDA JACKSON

DESCRIPTION:

Adolescence, the middle-age crisis years—those eras are child’s play. Retirement, especially for the new wave of decades-long career women, is the real challenge. While Lucinda Jackson, a harried scientist and business executive, gets the girl out of the corporation at age sixty-six, even the jolt of moving as a volunteer to the island country of Palau can’t fully get the corporation out of the girl. She struggles through self-examination around purpose, identity, ego, money, and marriage after years of investing so much in her job. Whether you’re thinking ahead to a next act or are already there, *Project Escape* provides an unvarnished but ultimately encouraging look—using a practical, five-step process—at navigating the “post-career” era.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Lucinda Jackson is the author of *Just a Girl: Growing Up Female and Ambitious*, a memoir about her struggles to succeed in the male-dominated worlds of corporate America. As a PhD scientist and global corporate executive, Jackson spent almost fifty years in academia and Fortune 500 companies. She has published articles, book chapters, magazine columns, and patents and is featured on podcasts and radio. She is the founder of Lucinda Jackson Ventures, where she speaks and consults on energy and the environment and empowering women in the workplace. Connect with Lucinda or find her books at: www.lucindajackson.com. She lives near San Francisco.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 12, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-405-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-327-8

“Those who expect a feel-good novel to come from all this will be disappointed. But they will be captured by very good writing and wonderful portraits of Fay and Dickie. . . . A very fine novel about a mother’s love and a son’s survival.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“At once tender, cruel, sensitive, and raw, *What We Give, What We Take* is a searing novel in which wounded people make hard decisions in order to survive.”

—Foreword Reviews

WHAT WE GIVE, WHAT WE TAKE

A NOVEL

RANDI TRIANT

DESCRIPTION:

In 1967, Fay Stonewell, a water tank escape artist in Florida, leaves for Vietnam to join the Amazing Humans—a jerry-rigged carnival there to entertain the troops—abandoning her disabled teenage son, Dickie, to the care of an abusive boyfriend.

Months after Fay’s departure, Dickie’s troubled home life ends in a surprising act of violence that forces him to run away. He soon lands in Manhattan, where he’s taken in by eccentric artist Laurence Jones. Fay, meanwhile, is also facing dangerous threats. From the night her plane jolts onto a darkened Saigon runway, she is forced to confront every bad decision she’s ever made as she struggles to return to her son. But the Humans owner is hell-bent on keeping her in Vietnam, performing only for war-injured children at a hospital, daily reminders of the son she’s left behind.

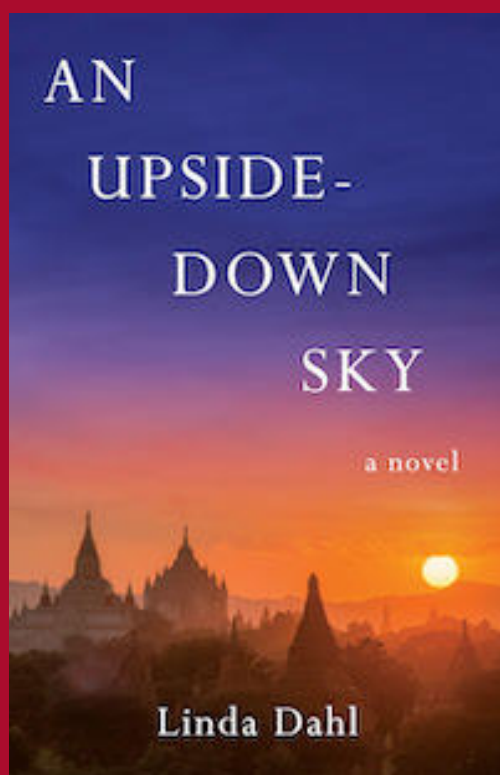
Decades later, Dickie is forty, living in a Massachusetts coastal town with a man who’s dying of AIDS, and doing everything he can to escape his past. But although Spin may be giving Dickie what he’s always wanted—a home without wheels—it seems that the farther Dickie runs, the tighter the past clings to him.

Ultimately, *What We Give, What We Take* is a deeply moving story of second chances and rising above family circumstances, however dysfunctional they may be.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Randi Triant is the author of the novels *The Treehouse*, selected as an *AfterEllen.com* ultimate summer read, and *A New Life*. Her short fiction and nonfiction have appeared in literary journals and magazines, including two anthologies of writing about HIV/AIDS, *Art & Understanding: Literature from the First Twenty Years of A & U* and *Fingernails Across the Blackboard: Poetry and Prose on HIV/AIDS from the Black Diaspora*. She lives in Massachusetts.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 19, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-329-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-330-8

“Brilliant! Sly humor, pathos, love, snappy dialogue, and unforgettable characters in an exotic setting—I was right there with Linda Dahl’s quirky group of upscale travelers as they aired their prickly personalities and petty squabbles while tromping barefoot through Buddhist temples and shrines. Not just an engaging read, *An Upside-Down Sky* offers a bonus: a clear-eyed view of the volatile politics and ethnic conflicts of a fictional south Asian country that’s a stand-in for Burma.”

—Joan Duncan Oliver, author of *Buddhism: An Introduction to the Buddha’s Life, Teachings, and Practices*

AN UPSIDE-DOWN SKY

A NOVEL

LINDA DAHL

DESCRIPTION:

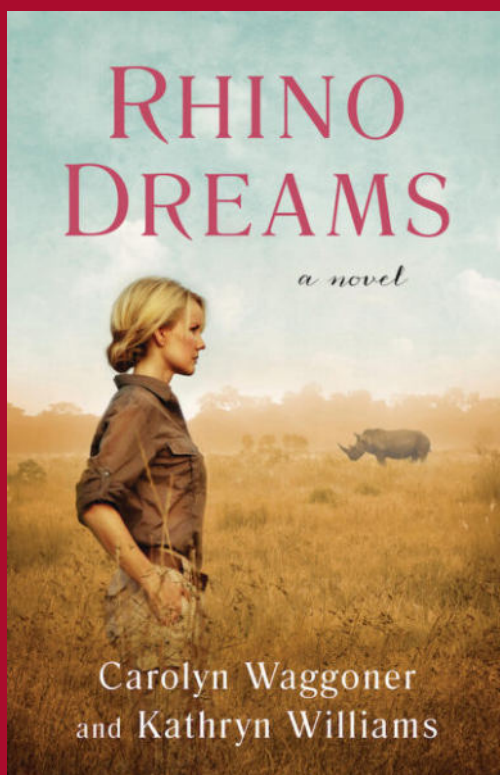
When Lidia, a blocked Latinx artist in her sixties, goes on a group tour of Namyam, a fictional Southeast Asian country reopened to the world after a long dictatorship, she gets much more than the vacation she thinks she’s signed on for. Against a backdrop of pagodas and enigmatic customs, she and the disparate crew of eighteen Americans on the tour encounter one adventure after another—experiences that challenge their assumptions about their host country’s placid surface of beautiful pagodas and wandering Buddhist monks. Along the way, Lidia finds companionship and sexual pleasure with Haynes, a Black man seeking adventure, even danger, in Namyam.

An Upside-Down Sky’s cast of characters, including their Namyanese guide, mirrors America: straight, gay, gender-fluid, black, brown, white, progressive, conservative, artistic, repressed, old, young. Some of them accept Nanyam’s charming façade at face value, while others seek to understand the country’s brutal repression by the military and ongoing ethnic conflicts. And most, resistant as they might be to change, are transformed by their time there.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Dahl began her career as a travel journalist and college teacher before turning to writing full time. An award-winning author, she has written groundbreaking books about women in jazz and women’s needs in recovery from addiction, as well as five works of fiction. She is currently at work on a screenplay and a new novel. She has two children, a cat, and too many plants. She lives in Riverdale in New York City.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 19, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Romance

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-333-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-334-6

“*Rhino Dreams* is a charming and well written debut novel featuring a love story compelling enough to constitute its very own literary safari to Namibia. Where the plight and lives of the local wildlife just might break your heart!”

—John Lescroart, *New York Times*
best-selling author

RHINO DREAMS

A NOVEL

KATHRYN WILLIAMS AND
CAROLYN WAGGONER

DESCRIPTION:

Clare Rainbow-Dashell, the only child of delightfully eccentric, wealthy hippies, has just taken a hiatus from her career as an acclaimed wildlife photographer and returned to California to pursue her academic dreams when a disastrous affair with a professor catapults her to another continent: Africa. There, she immerses herself in well-paid commercial work for a luxury safari lodge as she seeks to regain her emotional and financial self-reliance. All this, however, is complicated by her relationship with her charismatic, imperious employer and her undeniable attraction to a leading black rhino specialist—two men who are at war over both environmental politics and Clare herself.

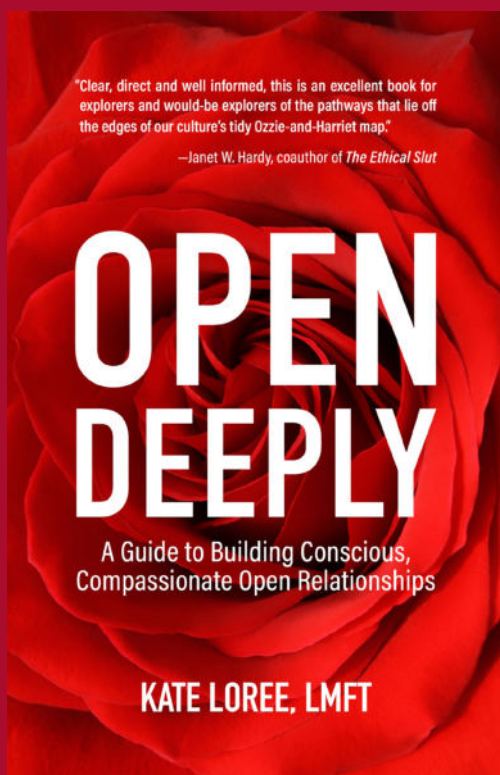
Set against the formidable backdrop of the Namib Desert, *Rhino Dreams* dramatizes the crisis of endangered species preservation and the horrors of poaching, interweaving this very real ecological darkness with the internal and external battles of three characters driven by fierce passions and divided notions of duty, ambition, and desire. It is a sometimes humorous, sometimes poignant ride and, in the end, a testimony to how tenuous and precious both life and love can be.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Raised in the high plains (mining towns) of Wyoming and Montana, Kathryn Williams couldn't wait to see the world. After serving as a Peace Corps English teacher in Afghanistan, then traveling across India, Turkey, and Greece, she returned to the US, where she began teaching college composition in Northern California, using summers to continue traveling throughout South America, Mexico, Canada, and Europe. *Rhino Dreams*, set in far-flung Namibia, seemed a perfect locale for her first book. Kathryn lives in Northern California with her husband and their very demanding Sheltie and is currently finishing a book of short stories set in the least exotic locale imaginable: a down-at-the-heels trailer park in hurricane-prone Florida.

Carolyn Waggoner has been caring for and about animals her entire life. She currently lives in Davis, California, with a sizable menagerie of rescue creatures and an indulgent veterinarian husband. Carolyn devotes her days to throwing sticks, scooping litter boxes, preparing meals, and, on rare occasions, even writing.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 19, 2022
Collections: Self-Help, Relationships
Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5
Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook
Distribution by Publishers Group West
Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-335-3
E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-336-0

“An excellent, well-structured, and thorough guide for readers seeking nonmonogamous relationships.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“Kate has written the perfect primer for anticipating and coping with the inevitable roadblocks that most of us experience along the road to the relationships we want. Clear, direct, and well informed, this is an excellent book for explorers and would-be explorers of the pathways that lie off the edges of our culture’s tidy Ozzie-and-Harriet map.”

—Janet W. Hardy, coauthor of *The Ethical Slut: A Practical Guide to Polyamory, Open Relationships, and Other Freedoms in Sex and Love*

OPEN DEEPLY

A GUIDE TO BUILDING CONSCIOUS,
COMPASSIONATE OPEN RELATIONSHIPS

KATE LOREE, LMFT

DESCRIPTION:

A full one-fifth of the United States has engaged in consensual non-monogamy (CNM) at some point in their lives, and 29 percent of adults under thirty today consider open relationships to be morally acceptable—yet there are few resources to turn to when it comes to navigating this more nontraditional and explorative territory.

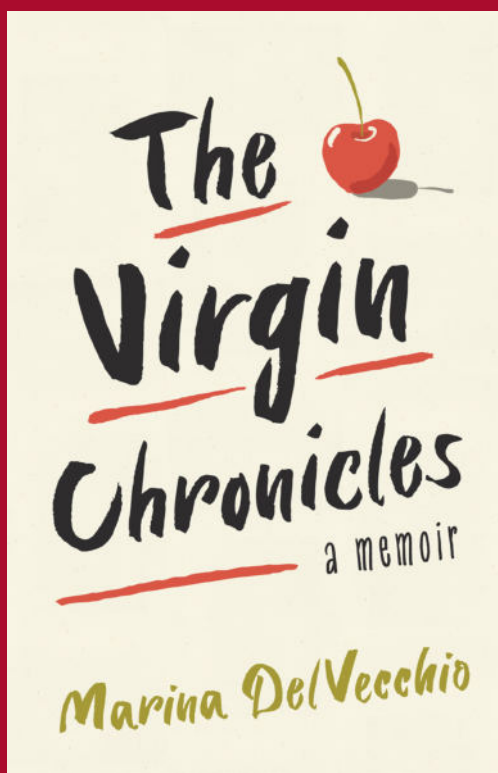
Picking up where CNM self-help books like *Open Up*, *The Ethical Slut*, and *More Than Two* leave off, *Open Deeply* tackles the most difficult challenges posed by CNM. Therapist Kate Loree—who has practiced non-monogamy since 2003, and who specializes in treating clients who also practice non-monogamy—pulls no punches as she uses vignettes based on her own life, as well as her clients’ experiences, to illustrate the highs, lows, and in-betweens of life as a consensual non-monogamist. Interwoven with these stories are thorough explanations of how attachment theory impacts non-monogamy, how blending cutting-edge, neurobiology-informed grounding skills with effective communication skills will make even the most challenging conversations regarding non-monogamy manageable, and more. The result is a compassionate, attachment-focused template for non-monogamy that will allow readers to avoid pitfalls and find adventure while concurrently building healthy relationships.

Non-monogamy is a wild and woolly ride—and *Open Deeply* is here to help make it a great one.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kate Loree, LMFT, is a sex-positive licensed marriage and family therapist who specializes in working with non-monogamous, kink, LGBTQ, and sex worker communities. In addition to her master’s in marriage and family therapy, she also has an MBA and is a registered art therapist (ATR). She has been practicing psychotherapy since 2003 and has additional training in EMDR and the Trauma Resiliency Model (TRM) for the treatment of trauma. She cohosts her own sex-positive podcast, *Open Deeply*, with Sunny Megatron, has been featured in BuzzFeed videos, and has been a guest on Playboy Radio and many podcasts, including *American Sex*, *Sluts and Scholars*, and *Sex Nerd Sandra*. She has written for Good Vibrations and Hollywood Magazine and is a frequent public speaker. Her private practice resides in Encino, CA. For more information, please visit her on the web at KateLoree.com.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 26, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-337-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-338-4

“This memoir is about love—its elusiveness, its tempers, its promise—and the journey to finding it in oneself and in another. Marina DelVecchio’s voice is honest, pragmatic, and powerful even when she feels weak. Her story reminds us that vulnerabilities can bring strength, mistakes can build confidence, and an absence can give us the incentive to find fulfillment. We know we’re in capable hands as DelVecchio tells a story that cries, that stings, that trudges, but never flinches, always endures, and eventually overcomes quite beautifully.”

—Shuly Xóchitl Cawood, author of *The Going and Goodbye*

THE VIRGIN CHRONICLES

A MEMOIR

MARINA DELVECCHIO

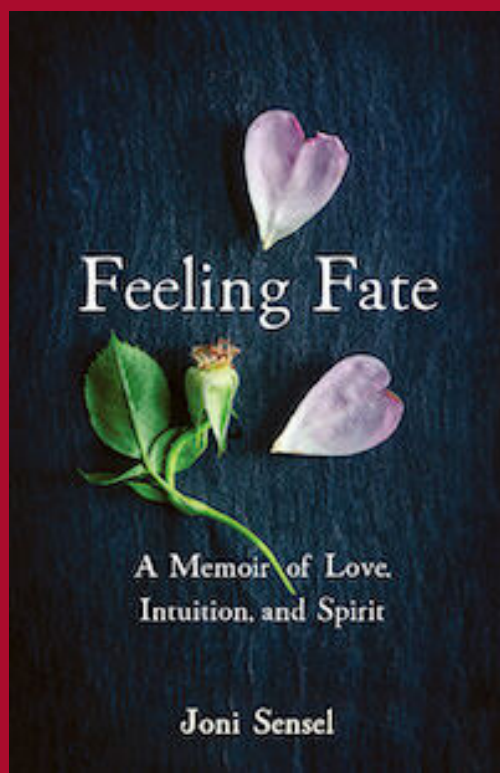
DESCRIPTION:

Kathy is a virgin in her twenties trying to navigate the blurred lines between sex and love even as outside forces attempt to detach her from her sexual autonomy. At home, her adoptive mother’s eyes investigate her body for evidence of sexual promiscuity and, despite her protests, she is called a *putana*; a whore for her perceived sexual debauchery. At work, meanwhile, she is sexually harassed by male managers who slap her butt, tell her they want Greek for lunch (wink, wink), and fill out recommendation forms about her sexy qualities. A young girl on the cusp of womanhood, she encounters a version of herself as men experience her: hypersexualized and objectified. And as if this is not enough, when she enters the dating scene in search of love, she instead finds herself fending off young men who want her just for sex. In each relationship, Kathy uncovers her own strength and conviction as she fights for the kind of sex she wants instead of the kind of empty sex boys seem to require of girls. The more demands they make, the more determined she is to hold out for love—even if it means losing a guy or going home single and alone. Raw and empowering, *The Virgin Chronicles* sends the message that love is worth waiting for and sex is better when it’s paired with self-actualization.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Author of the award-winning debut novel *Dear Jane*, Marina DelVecchio is a college professor and writer who focuses her work on the internal and dark struggles of women. Her writing can be found online and in print. Born in Greece and raised in New York, she currently lives with her family in North Carolina.

APRIL 2022



Publication Date: April 26, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-339-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-340-7

“A poignant, engaging guide to healing that’s infused with valuable insights into dealing with grief.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“A tribute to Sensel’s love affair as well as a spiritual exploration, the book navigates the process of mourning in intriguing ways . . . lively and upbeat, even though it is handling the painful subject of Sensel’s grief.”

—Foreword Reviews

FEELING FATE

A MEMOIR OF LOVE, INTUITION, AND SPIRIT

JONI SENSEL

DESCRIPTION:

As her sweetheart’s body lies cooling on the living room floor, Joni Sensel—shattered but not surprised—revisits her premonition about this moment. From nearly the start of their fairy tale romance less than four years ago, she knew she would lose Tony, the man she considered to be her soulmate. He was in great health, but fate had other plans—a hard truth that visited Joni in the form of a startling vision during their second weekend together. Though she kept the premonition a secret while Tony was alive, upon his death she’s compelled to share it with his spirit in the form of a letter. A grief memoir with a paranormal twist, *Feeling Fate* explores how a dark intuition magnified Sensel’s love and gratitude in the time she and Tony had together before her premonition came true. Faced with evidence of a grand design alongside her grief, she’s torn between faith and skepticism. While she’s nearly undone by the pain of her loss, she eventually discovers that a sassy imagination and the irrational insights of the heart can both defeat despair and transform grief into meaning.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Joni Sensel is the author of more than a dozen nonfiction titles for adults and five novels for young readers, including a Junior Library Guild selection. She holds an MFA in writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts (2015) and has served in leadership roles for the Society of Children’s Books Writers & Illustrators (SCBWI). Over the past twenty years, Sensel has taught dozens of writing workshops and seminars in locations from Alaska to Amsterdam. A certified grief educator and trained First Aid Arts responder, she has recently focused her teaching on creativity and spirituality. Sensel’s adventures have taken her to the corners of fifteen countries, the heights of the Cascade Mountains, the length of an Irish marathon, and the depths of love. She lives at the knees of Mount Rainier in Washington State with a puppy who came into her life as a gift that reflected afterlife influence.

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 3, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-347-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-348-3

“A detailed, moving portrait of a complex woman in a complex life.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“In *The Blue Butterfly*, Leslie Johansen Nack chronicles the career of the fabulous Marion Davies and captures the star’s legendary verve and spirit on the Broadway stage, in her Hollywood movies, and in the battle against *Citizen Kane*. More importantly, this novel tells of the love story between Davies and William Randolph Hearst to its heartbreaking end.”

—Edward Lorusso, author of *The Silent Films of Marion Davies*

THE BLUE BUTTERFLY

A NOVEL OF MARION DAVIES

LESLIE JOHANSEN NACK

DESCRIPTION:

New York, 1915. Marion Davies is a shy eighteen-year-old beauty dancing on the Broadway stage when she meets William Randolph Hearst and finds herself captivated by his riches, passion, and desire to make her a movie star. Following a whirlwind courtship, she learns through trial and error to live as Hearst’s mistress when a divorce from his wife proves impossible. A baby girl is born in secret in 1919 and they agree to never acknowledge her publicly as their own. In a burgeoning Hollywood scene, Marion works hard making movies while living a lavish partying life that includes a secret love affair with Charlie Chaplin. In late 1937, at the height of the depression, Hearst wrestles with his debtors and failing health. Marion loans him \$1 million when nobody else will—and together, they confront the movie that threatens to invalidate all of Marion’s successes in the movie industry: *Citizen Kane*.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Leslie Johansen Nack’s debut title, *Fourteen*, received five indie awards, including the 2016 Finalist in Memoir at the Next Generation Indie Book Awards. She lives in sunny San Diego and enjoys sailing, hiking, and reading.

Before she started writing, she raised two children, ran a mechanical engineering business with her husband, took care of her aging mother, and dreamed of retirement, when she would be able to write full time. She did everything late in life, including getting her degree in English literature from UCLA at age thirty-one, only two years after she married for the second time. You can learn more about her and find out when her next book is coming out at www.lesliejohansennack.com.

AWARDS:

2022 Readers’ Favorite Book Awards Finalist in Fiction (Historical - Personage)

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 3, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-341-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-342-1

“A reflective, witty, and fun story that elegantly crosses genres and addresses intriguing themes.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“... a page-turner. I found I could not put it down until I had reached the end. It makes you think about how you are handling your life and if you are stagnating because you are too afraid to take a chance. I enjoyed reading this book from the first page to the last and found the ending the best, due to the fact that I had started rooting early for the main characters”

—Readers' Favorite 5-star review

WATERBURY WINTER

A NOVEL

LINDA STEWART HENLEY

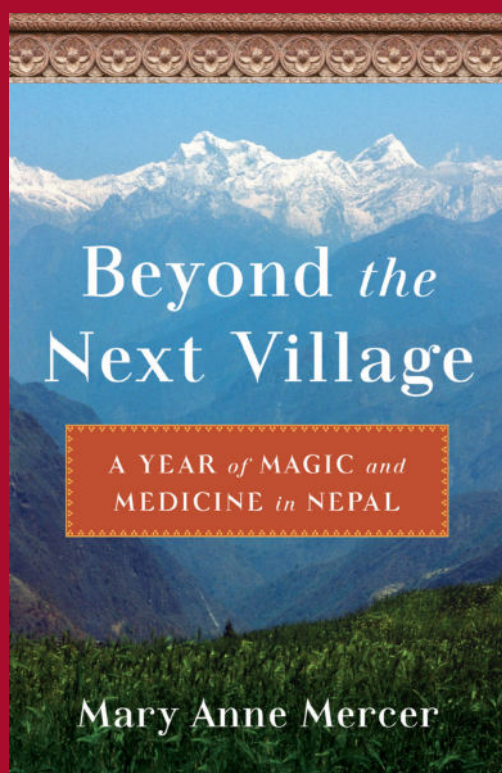
DESCRIPTION:

Barnaby Brown has had enough of freezing winters, a dead-end job, and his life alone with his parrot. He wants to start anew—move to California and reawaken his lost dream of becoming an artist. Then his car crashes into a snow bank and his beloved parrot flies away, and suddenly California feels very out of reach. After a run-in with a former teaching colleague, Barnaby is shocked into an awareness of how low he has sunk. He vows to make changes, including kicking his drinking habit and settling his debts. With the help of some good friends, he starts taking steps toward a better life and finds romance and more than a few mysteries to unravel along the way. A heartwarming novel about ordinary people and their hidden talents, *Waterbury Winter* celebrates the importance of keeping promises and the restorative value of art.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Stewart Henley is the award-winning author of *Estelle: A Novel*. She lives in Anacortes, Washington, with her husband. *Waterbury Winter* is her second novel.

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 3, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-343-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-344-5

“Mercer’s memoir of her months as a volunteer nurse in Nepal is moving, uplifting, and timely. Written with insight and humility, it illustrates the dilemmas of being a stranger in a strange land—even if you’re a stranger with the best intentions and the tools to truly be of service. Mercer’s eye for detail, humor, and frank self-reflections make *Beyond the Next Village* enjoyable as both memoir and travelogue.”

—Jeff Greenwald, author of *Shopping for Buddhas and Snake Lake*

BEYOND THE NEXT VILLAGE

A YEAR OF MAGIC AND MEDICINE IN NEPAL

MARY ANNE MERCER

DESCRIPTION:

Beyond the Next Village is Mary Anne Mercer’s memoir of discovery, growth, and awakening in 1978 Nepal, which was then a mysterious country to most of the world. After arriving in Nepal, Mercer, an American nurse, spent a year traveling on foot—often in flip-flops—with a Nepali health team, providing immunizations and clinical care in each village they visited. Communicating in a newly acquired language, she was often called upon to provide the only modern medicine available to the people she and her team were serving. Over time, she learned to recognize and respect the prominence of her patients’ cultural beliefs about health and illness. Encounters with life-threatening conditions such as severe malnutrition and ectopic pregnancy gave her an enlightening view of both the limitations and power of modern health care; immersed in villagers’ lives and those of her own team, she realized she was living in not just another country but another time. A unique story of the joys and perils of one woman’s journey in the shadow of the Himalayas, *Beyond the Next Village* opens a window into a world where the spirits were as real as the trees, the birds, or the rain and healing could be as much magic as medicine.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary Anne Mercer grew up on a Montana ranch and has spent most of her career working in public health in countries around the globe. A writer and activist, she coedited *Sickness and Wealth: The Corporate Assault on Global Health* and has published extensively in the *Huffington Post* on issues of social justice and health. Excerpts from her book have appeared in *Tikkun* magazine, the *Communion Arts Journal*, and the book *Secret Histories: Stories of Courage, Risk, and Revelation*. She received a 2012 Silver Solas Award from Travelers’ Tales for “Best Travel Writing” and the 2015 inaugural award for “Communicating Public Health to the Public” from the University of Washington.

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 3, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Magical Realism

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-326-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-328-5

“Speed of Dark is a great read, a compelling tale, which examines grief and how humanity, hope, and kindness sometimes prevail against all odds, with even the forces of nature lending a hand. Its wonderfully textured prose will keep you turning pages.”

—Steven A. Jones, producer/director of *Mad Dog and Glory*, *The Harvest*.

“I absolutely loved it! Such diverse characters come alive, their lives linked in such intricate ways. Ricketts captures the ‘yin-yang’ relationship between joy and sorrow, love and loss, gratitude and guilt. Wonderful insights.”

—T.R. Kerth, author of *Revenge of the Sardines*

SPEED OF DARK

A NOVEL

PATRICIA RICKETTS

DESCRIPTION:

Mary Em Phillips has decided to kill herself after losing her beloved Mamie, who raised her; her husband, Jack, who has left her for another woman; and her only son, Petey, who has died as a result of a freak bacterial infection. But when Mosely Albright, a Black man from Chicago’s South Side, comes to her back door one morning needing a drink of water and seeking directions back to the train, her plans are derailed . . . to the chagrin of Mishigami (so named by the Ojibwe, also known as Lake Michigan), who has been trying to lure Mary Em into his icy depths in the hopes that she will save him.

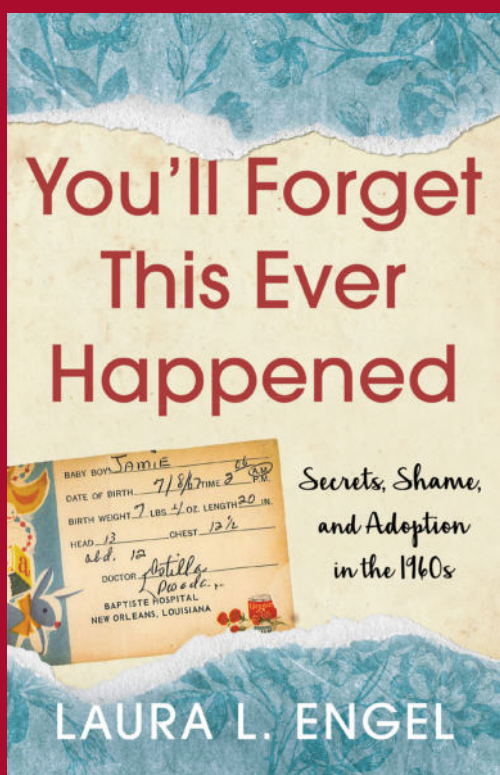
Mary Em wants nothing more than to end her anguish. Mosely is searching for the love he’s been missing most of his life. And Mishigami, who fears he is dying from rampant pollution and overfishing, seeks a champion.

A story of friendship, survival, connection, and the unquestioning power of nature told through three distinct voices, *Speed of Dark* affirms a love of humanity that transcends all else, including race and background.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Patricia Ricketts taught English for many years in Chicagoland and Kansas City school districts. She received a lifelong love of music, the written word, the visual arts, and healthy arguing from her Irish Catholic household. She has been penning essays, short stories, poems, and novels for most of her life; however, after receiving a scholarship to the University of Edinburgh for creative writing in 2010, her passion for writing escalated. Since then, she has had short stories published in *New Directions*, *The Slate*, *Meta*, *The Blue Hour Magazine*, and *Realize Magazine*, and on NPR’s “This I Believe” website. She is currently working on a new novel, tentatively titled *The End of June*. Ricketts raised two fine daughters and one stand-up son and has six beautiful grandchildren who all live in the Kansas City area. She lives in Chicago with her partner, Peter Hurley.

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 10, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-349-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-350-6

“You’ll Forget This Ever Happened will break your heart and exhilarate your spirit. Honest and vulnerable while offering hope and love, Engel speaks to and for many young women of a generation that had little choice on how to cope with teen pregnancy at a time when shame was buried deep and heartbreak was never to be spoken of. Engel’s prose is lyrical, and her storytelling is filled with rich and imaginative details. Endearing and heartwarming, this book is a treasure.”

—Madonna Treadway, award-winning author of *Six Healing Questions: A Gentle Path to Facing Loss of a Parent*

YOU’LL FORGET THIS EVER HAPPENED

SECRETS, SHAME, AND ADOPTION IN THE 1960S

LAURA L. ENGEL

DESCRIPTION:

Mississippi, 1967. It’s the Summer of Love, yet unwed mothers’ maternity homes are flourishing, secret closed adoptions are routine, and many young women still have no voice.

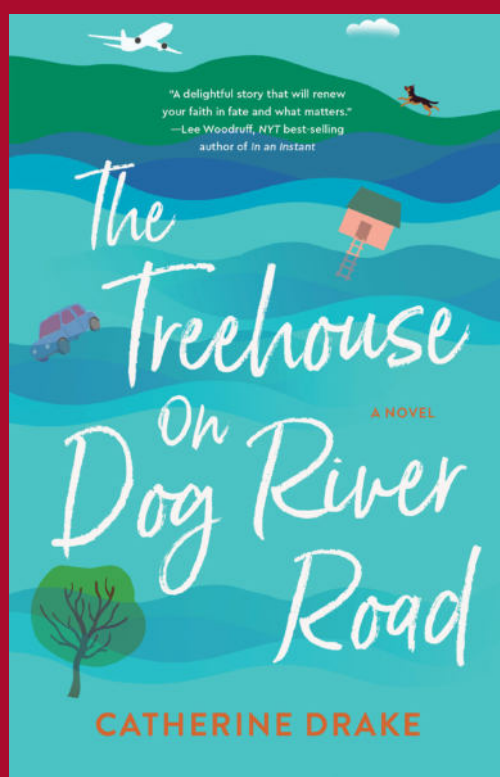
In *You’ll Forget This Ever Happened*, Laura Engel takes us back to the Deep South during the turbulent 1960s to explore the oppression of young women who have committed the socially unacceptable crime of becoming pregnant without a ring on their finger. After being forced to give up her newborn son for adoption, Engel lives inside a fortress of silent shame for fifty years—but when her secret son finds her and her safe world is cracked open, those walls crumble.

Are you still a mother even if you have not raised your child? Can the mother/child bond survive years of separation? How deep is the damage caused by buried family secrets and shame? Engel asks herself these and many other questions as she becomes acquainted with the son she never knew and seeks the acceptance and forgiveness she has long denied herself. Full of both aching sadness and soaring joy, *You’ll Forget This Ever Happened* is a shocking exposé of a shameful part of our country’s recent past and a poignant tale of a mother’s enduring love.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Laura L. Engel originally hails from Biloxi, Mississippi, but moved to San Diego, California, over fifty years ago. In 2015 she retired from a thirty-five-year career in the corporate world with plans to quietly catch up on hobbies and travel with her husband, Gene. Within a year an unexpected miracle took: her firstborn son—the child she’d been forced to relinquish to adoption—found her. After that, Laura stopped guarding her painful secret and started telling the world about the miracle of meeting her son. Laura is currently President of the San Diego Memoir Writers Association. She is also an active member of the International Women’s Writing Guild and a member of San Diego Writers Ink, San Diego Writer’s Festival, and SD Writers and Editors Guild. She has five adult children and ten cherished grandchildren. Check out her website at www.lauralengel.com

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 10, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Romance,
Women's Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-351-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-352-0

“A delightful story of love, family, determination, and the unexpected good things that can come from putting life on pause to look around. This book will renew your faith in fate and what matters.”

—Lee Woodruff, *New York Times* best-selling author of *In an Instant*

“Nathan is intelligent, charming . . . and his chemistry with Hannah is off the charts.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

THE TREEHOUSE ON DOG RIVER ROAD

A NOVEL

CATHERINE DRAKE

DESCRIPTION:

A young, determined woman figures out life and love while staying true to herself in this whip-smart and genuinely witty debut.

Twenty-eight-year-old Hannah Spencer wants nothing more than to change everything about her life. After ten years of living in cities, Nathan Wild has just moved back home to Vermont and doesn't want to change anything about his.

Recently laid off from her depressing job in Boston and ready for a challenge, Hannah heads to Vermont for the summer to take care of her sister's kids and do some serious soul searching. There, against the stunning landscape of the Green Mountains, she embarks on an ambitious project: building a treehouse for her niece and nephew. As she hammers away, she formulates a plan to jump-start her life with a new job out West. But will Nathan-next-door complicate her desire to change course? A witty, romantic, and inspiring story of a young woman taking control and making tough choices about love and work to build the life she wants, *The Treehouse on Dog River Road* will have you rooting for Hannah every step of the way.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Catherine Drake lives with her husband in Stowe, Vermont. *The Treehouse on Dog River Road* is her first novel.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

2022 Next Generation Indie Book Awards Finalist in Romance (Fiction)

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 17, 2022

Collections: Historical Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-355-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-356-8

“Fremont debuts with a dramatic story of lost love, family secrets, and ancient magic. *Magician of Light* is a memorable story of historical intrigue, jeweler René Lalique, and the relationships that inspired his art. This is a compelling, engaging tale of historical intrigue, and Fremont’s characters are immersive.”

—Booklife Reviews by *Publishers Weekly*

THE MAGICIAN OF LIGHT

A NOVEL

J. FREMONT

DESCRIPTION:

For fans of Marie Benedict, Lauren Willig, and Diana Gabaldon, comes a Gothic romance about the charming and ambitious glassmaker René Lalique, the mysterious Englishwoman he falls in love with and their haunting encounters.

Fascinated by the occult, René feels stifled, apprenticed to a traditional jeweler. Yearning for the creative freedom to explore the mythical world in his art, he leaves Paris to study at the Crystal Palace outside London. There, he meets Lucinda Haliburton and her dysfunctional family.

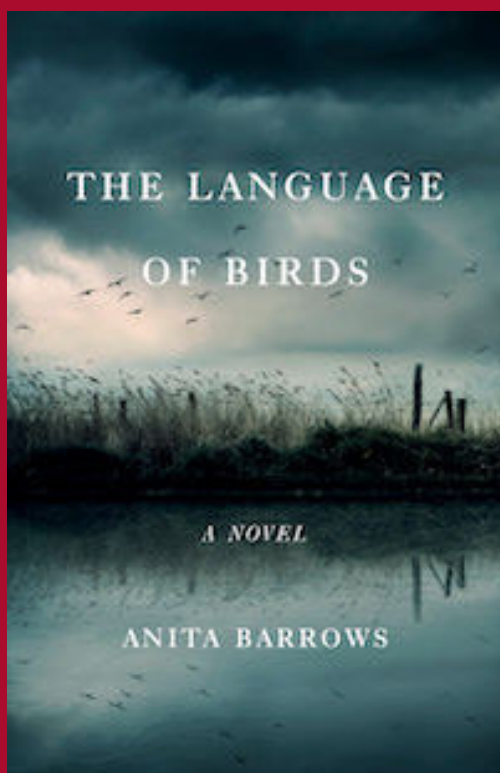
Having returned from an archaeological dig and tomb discovery in Egypt, Lucinda believes she is preyed upon by ancient spirits. René finds her unearthly situation both enchanting and frightening. Is it imagination, delusional, or a real ghostly encounter?

Magician of Light illuminates the dark side of Lalique’s life while spinning a suspenseful tale of twisting fates. An enthralling love story filled with historical intrigue and overshadowed by the unknowable.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

J. Fremont is an author and veterinarian. For more than twenty-five years she practiced small animal veterinary medicine while also serving as an adjunct professor at a local university and community college. The mother of two adult sons, she lives in Southern California with her husband of thirty years. In addition to writing, J. is a passionate practitioner of the decorative arts, including gardening, jewelry making, glass fusing, photography, sewing, and other arts and crafts, and the author of multiple short stories (via her blog, insidetheegg.com). *Magician of Light* is her debut novel.

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 17, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-357-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-358-2

“This novel contains passages so deep that they will literally take your breath away, and you will think: You must remember these words forever.”

—Jeffrey Masson, New York Times best-selling author of *Dogs Never Lie About Love*

“What a deeply human and hopeful story.”

—Elizabeth Rosner, award-winning and best-selling novelist, poet, essayist, and author of *The Speed of Light and Survivor Café: The Legacy of Trauma and the Labyrinth of Memory*

THE LANGUAGE OF BIRDS

A NOVEL

ANITA BARROWS

DESCRIPTION:

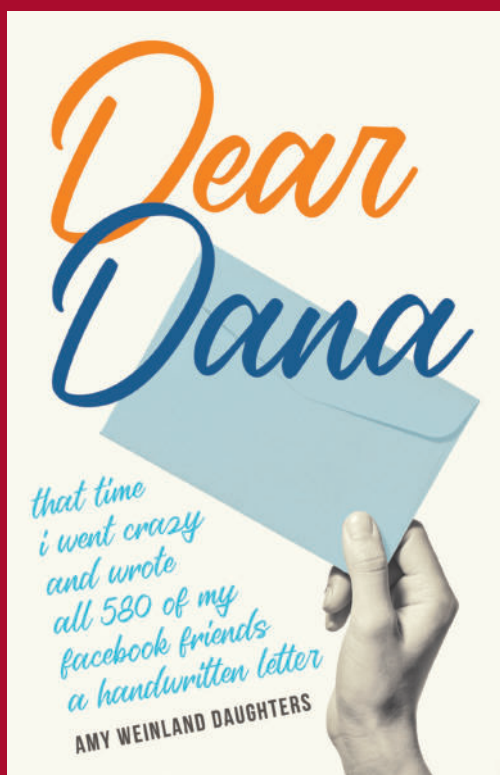
Gracie is a serious, sensitive, aspiring writer; Jannie, her autistic younger sister, is passionate about birds. As children, they were taken by their mother on a senseless trip through Europe that ended in her suicide. Now, in Berkeley, their father works tirelessly to find ways to engage Jannie while Gracie, unwilling to reveal the truth about her mother’s suicide or her sister’s autism to anyone outside her family, weaves a web of lies around herself that isolates her even as Jannie, in part through her relationships with and understanding of birds, begins to speak, interact, and emerge.

Narrated by Gracie and alternating back and forth between 2002, when the sisters are still children/adolescents, and 2017, when they are in their early adulthood, *The Language of Birds* is a story of coming to understand what seems unfamiliar and indecipherable, and of finding authentic ways to be with the people you love.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Among Anita Barrows’ awards in poetry have been grants from the National Endowment for the Arts, The Ragdale Foundation, The Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, *The Quarterly Review of Literature*, and The Riverstone Press. She’s published three poetry chapbooks with Quelquefois Press and the Kelsay Press recently published three volumes of her poetry. She has also appeared in radio programs on NPR and the BBC. Born in Brooklyn in 1947, Barrows has lived in the Bay Area since 1966 (except for three years in London) and is a clinical psychologist with a private practice in Berkeley, where she specializes in the treatment of children with autism spectrum disorder and other developmental disabilities. Barrows is also a tenured professor of psychology at the Wright Institute, Berkeley, and is a mother, grandmother, and companion to a menagerie of dogs, cats, and birds.

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 17, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-900-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-406-0

“Dear Dana is an inspirational memoir about caring for friends near and far by reviving a lost art.”

—Foreword Reviews

“... a captivating study regarding writing letters to friends and rethinking how people successfully bond in the modern world. An intriguing and inspiring exploration of different forms of communication.”

—Kirkus Reviews

DEAR DANA

THAT TIME I WENT CRAZY AND WROTE ALL 580 OF MY FACEBOOK FRIENDS A HANDWRITTEN LETTER

AMY WEINLAND DAUGHTERS

DESCRIPTION:

When Amy Daughters reconnected with her old pal Dana on Facebook, she had no idea how it would change her life. Though the two women hadn't had any contact in thirty years, it didn't take them long to catch up—and when Amy learned that Dana's son Parker was doing a second stint at St. Jude battling cancer, she was suddenly inspired to begin writing the pair weekly letters.

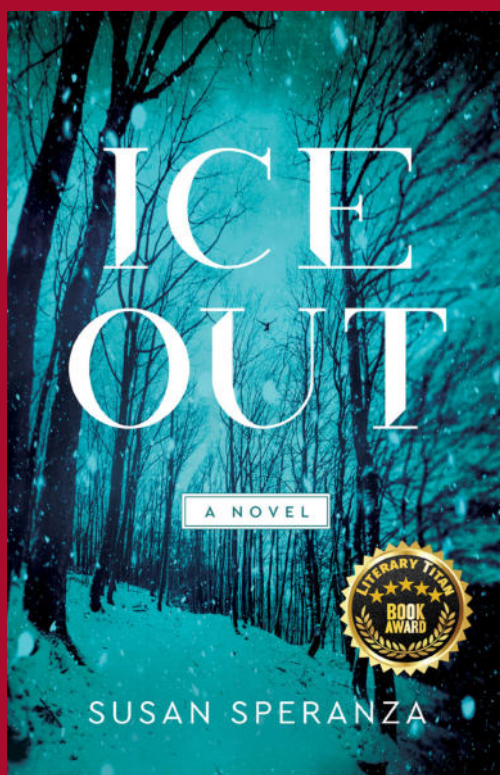
When Parker died, Amy, not knowing what else to do, continued to write Dana. Eventually, Dana wrote back, and the two became pen pals, sharing things through the mail that they had never shared before. The richness of the experience left Amy wondering something: *If my life could be so changed by someone I considered “just a Facebook friend,” what would happen if I wrote all my Facebook friends a letter?*

A whopping 580 handwritten letters later Amy's life, and most of all her heart, would never, ever, be the same again. As it turned out, there were actual individuals living very real lives behind each social media profile, and she was beautifully connected to each of those extraordinary, flawed people for a specific reason. They loved her, and she loved them. And nothing—not politics, beliefs, or lifestyle—could separate them.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

A native Houstonian and a graduate of the Texas Tech University, Amy W. Daughters has been a freelance writer for more than a decade, mostly covering college football and sometimes talking about her feelings. Her debut novel, *You Cannot Mess This Up: A True Story That Never Happened* (She Writes Press, 2019), was selected as the Silver Winner for Humor in the 2019 Foreword INDIES and the Overall Winner for Humor/Comedy in the 2020 Next Generation Indie Awards. An amateur historian, hack golfer, charlatan fashion model, and regular on the ribbon dancing circuit, Amy, a proud former resident of Blackwell, England, and Dayton, Ohio, currently lives in Tomball, Texas, a suburb of Houston. She is married to a foxy computer person, Willie (53), and is the lucky mother of two amazing sons, Will (23) and Matthew (15).

MAY 2022



Publication Date: May 24, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-324-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-325-4

“[D]eftly focuses on redemption and forgiveness . . . an engaging tale about thorny family ties.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“This is a story that will at times chill your bones, but also warm your heart. Susan Speranza’s *Ice Out* is a transformative tale of one woman’s desperate journey to save the ones she loves, and in the process save herself.”

—Wm. Anthony Connolly, author of *Psalms & Stones* and *The Smallest Universe*

ICE OUT

A NOVEL

SUSAN SPERANZA

DESCRIPTION:

Francesca Bodin has a near-perfect life as an accomplished music teacher and professional flautist living in the country with her husband, Ben, and their four-year old daughter, Addie. This ends suddenly when a snowmobiling accident traps the three of them in a frozen lake and Ben gets out, leaving her and Addie to die.

Francesca believes she sees their dog pull Addie from the lake and drag her into the nearby woods. Desperate to help her daughter, she fights her way out of the icy waters and follows them. Once she enters the forest, however, she finds herself trapped in a sinister, dream-like world where night never ends, where Addie’s whereabouts remain hidden from her, and where she encounters a group of women who, like Francesca, have been left to die and now seek to unleash their revenge on those who have harmed them. When they have Ben in their sights, Francesca realizes that if she is ever to escape this nightmare and save her daughter, she must first save the husband who abandoned them.

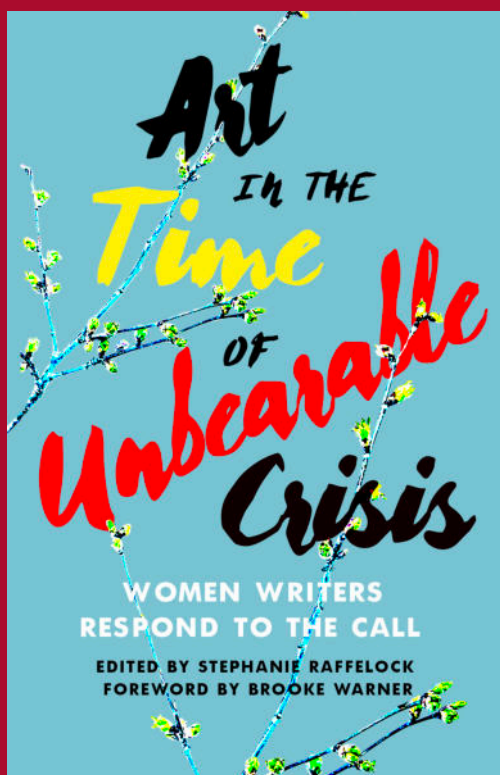
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Susan Speranza was born in NYC, grew up on Long Island, and went to college and for a time worked in Manhattan enjoying the hectic pace and cultural amenities of the City. After a great upheaval, she escaped the urban/suburban jungle and claimed her piece of the country in Vermont, where she has now lived happily for more than twenty years. In between the demands of life, she authored two other books, *The City of Light*, a dystopian story about the end of Western civilization and *The Tale of Lucia Grandi*, *The Early Years*, a novel about a dysfunction suburban family. She also wrote numerous articles, poems, and short stories, all of which have been published. Along the way, she managed to collect a couple of master’s degrees. When she is not writing, she is exhibiting and breeding her champion Pekingese.

AWARDS:

2022 Literary Titan Book Award Gold Award Winner

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 7, 2022

Collections: Nonfiction/Anthology

Trim size: 5.5 x 8.5

Price: \$17.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-489-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-490-9

“These are brave and beautiful and riveting pieces that reinforce the absolute truth that art indeed saves lives, and to make art in the midst of war or crisis or any form of turbulence is triumphant. To make things—create things—to ‘write, to sing, to dance, to pay homage to grief upon an altar in the corner of our garden,’ as Stephanie Raffelock writes in the introduction, is indeed how we change the world, clean up the messes of hatred and violence and indecency. Making art is life-changing and life-affirming, and this book, this stunning collection, is filled to the brim with that affirmation.”

—Amy Ferris, Author, *Marrying George Clooney, Confessions from a Midlife Crisis*

ART IN THE TIME OF UNBEARABLE CRISIS

WOMEN WRITERS RESPOND TO THE CALL

EDITED BY STEFANIE RAFFELOCK
FOREWORD BY BROOKE WARNER

DESCRIPTION:

Art keeps good alive in the worst of times. In the face of ugliness, pain, and death, it's art that has the power to open us all to a healing imagining of new possibility; it's art that whispers to the collective that even in the ashes of loss, life always grows again. That's why right now, in this tumultuous time of war and pandemic, we need poets more than we need politicians.

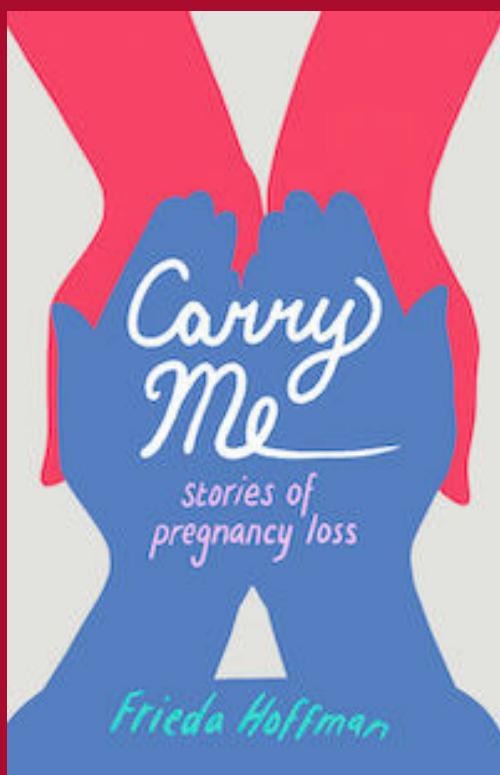
In response to the multitude of global crises we're currently experiencing, editor Stephanie Raffelock put out a much-needed call to her writing community for art to uplift and inform the world, and the authors of She Writes Press answered. *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis*—a sometimes comforting, sometimes devastating, but universally relatable collection of prose, poetry, and art about living through difficult times like these—is the result. Addressing topics including grief and loss, COVID-19 and war in Ukraine, the gravity of need and being needed, the broad range of human response to crisis in all its forms, and more, these pieces explore how we can find beauty, hope, and deeper interpretation of world events through art—even when the world seems like it's been turned inside out and upside-down.

Any and all royalties from *Art in the Time of Unbearable Crisis* will be donated to World Central Kitchen.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Stephanie Raffelock is a graduate of Naropa University's program in writing and poetics. She has penned articles for numerous publications, including *The Aspen Times*, *Quilters Magazine*, *Care2.com*, *Nexus Magazine*, *Omaha Lifestyles*, and *The Rogue Valley Messenger*. Currently she writes a monthly column for SixtyandMe.com. A recent transplant to Austin, Texas, she enjoys life with her husband, Dean, and their Labrador retriever, Jeter (yes, named after the great Yankee shortstop). Raffelock lives an active life that she fills with hiking, Pilates, and swimming in an attempt to offset the amount of time that she spends in her head thinking up stories and essays.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 7, 2022

Collections: Nonfiction, Self-Help

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-359-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-360-5

“Frieda Hoffman has not only written a beautiful and important book, she has written a book that does something few narratives dare: she casts light onto a subject so many keep hidden in the darkness, and guides readers, knowledgeably and tenderly, into a territory that one might just call Hope. This book is a gift.”

—Lee Daniel Kravetz, best-selling author of *Strange Contagion: Inside the Surprising Science of Infectious Behaviors and Viral Emotions* and *What They Tell Us About Ourselves*

CARRY ME

STORIES OF PREGNANCY LOSS

FRIEDA HOFFMAN

DESCRIPTION:

After Frieda Hoffman’s second miscarriage, she felt alone, ignorant, and overwhelmed with emotions. Finding little literature or support available, her entrepreneurial spirit kicked in and she decided to create the resource she wished she’d had: real stories about pregnancy loss from real women without the off-putting lens of religion or academia so typical of the self-help genre.

Through Hoffman’s own journey and those of nineteen women she interviewed, *Carry Me* explores universal themes of grief, bearing witness, transforming adversity into opportunity, and the paradox of feeling alone while sharing a common experience. The diverse women and narratives unpack the physical, emotional, and financial challenges of loss; notions of womanhood and motherhood; and the intersections of public health, body politics, and patient care. Readers are called to action to share their own stories in order to heal themselves and support others.

Nearly everyone knows someone affected by pregnancy loss, yet most of us are not comfortable, even in the relative safety of the company of friends and sisters, discussing this serious health issue. It’s time to normalize the dialogue and help one another through our losses by sharing our resources, our wisdom, and our stories—by carrying one another.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Frieda Hoffman is a transformative coach and mediator, creative consultant, and entrepreneur with a passion for supporting women and courageous leadership. As a coach, she aspires to up lift her clients and break down the barriers that keep so many from stepping into their full potential. As a writer, she aims to cultivate compassion, strength, and a greater sense of connection, particularly for and amongst women. She holds an MA in social work and conflict management from Berlin’s Alice Salomon University and a dual BA in psychology and anthropology from Johns Hopkins University, and is a certified Executive Coach from the UC Berkeley Haas School of Business. This is her first book. For more information, visit www.friedahoffman.com.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 7, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-361-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-362-9

“Levine’s story of resilience is framed by an account of a fire in California that threatened her home, her horses, and human life. Scenes from the blaze and its aftermath are interspersed with traumatic episodes from her childhood. Her prose dazzles. . . . Driven by new experiences and personal revelations, the fascinating, creative memoir *This or Something Better* is a story about remaking a life.”

—Foreword Reviews

THIS OR SOMETHING BETTER

A MEMOIR OF RESILIENCE

ELISA STANCIL

DESCRIPTION:

From Elisa’s first memory, trust was a gift bestowed by nature, not humans. Sexual abuse by her stepgrandfather and her grandmother’s strange compulsion to call her a murderer haunted her from earliest childhood. Only in the wild was she able to find solace. At twelve, in a deep canyon beside the American River, she created her own theory on how to be human.

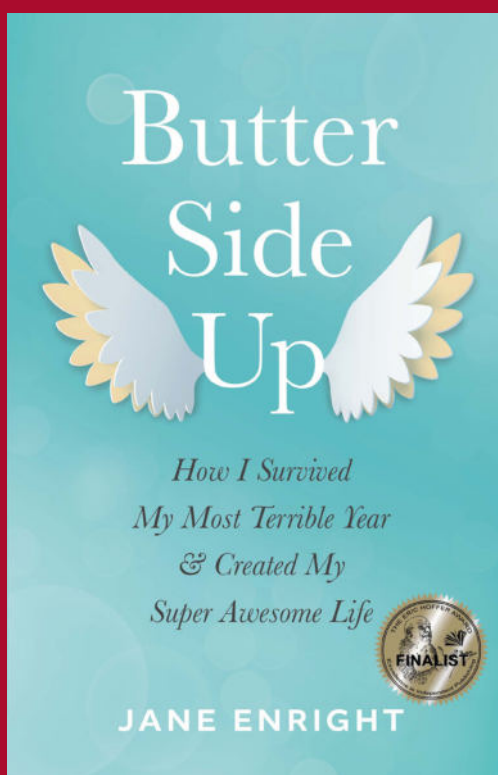
After leaving home at sixteen, Elisa struggled to raise her son, go to college, and forge a career in historic restoration. But when her fiancé died she could not cope; she soon faced financial ruin and, in her grief, fell prey to drug use. But Elisa’s story wasn’t over yet, and she went on to overcome her demons and launch a successful nationwide company as a decorative artist. Life seemed complete when she married in her fifties and she and her husband retired to a ranch on Sonoma Mountain amidst redwood sand oaks.

Then a midnight firestorm ignites thousands of acres near Elisa’s home and she flees without alerting a single neighbor. Who is she, really? What if someone had died? In the aftermath of the fire, Elisa at last faces how shame from early childhood prevented her from bonding with others. Through a course of seasons, she takes steps to reclaim the innocence taken from her long ago.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Elisa Stancil Levine was born in Northern California and grew up beside the American River, the site of the California gold rush. She left high school at sixteen and as a young mother earned an AA degree, remodeled sixteen houses, and wrote for *Sacramento Magazine*. Her successful decorative art company, Stancil Studios, has won numerous awards and is now owned by her son, James. Elisa and her husband spend hours immersed in nature on Sonoma Mountain, hiking, horseback riding, and running in the forest. *This or Something Better* is her second book

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 7, 2022

Collections: Memoir, Motivational

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-075-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-076-5

“It’s hard to believe that after the heart-wrenching, life-altering curve balls life threw Jane Enright, she came out on top . . . butter side up. I’m inspired by her story and her optimism!”

—Brad Aronson, author of the national bestseller *HumanKind: Changing the World One Small Act At a Time*

“The OMG strategy is brilliant. I love the feel of the ‘outside-in thinking’ mindfulness that revolves around the value of gratitude. We’re getting a sunny rainshower of bright insights and advice for balance and wellness that delivers much-needed comfort and real talk right now, helping the reader to a better path.”

—Writer’s Digest

BUTTER SIDE UP

HOW I SURVIVED MY MOST TERRIBLE YEAR AND CREATED MY SUPER AWESOME LIFE

JANE ENRIGHT

DESCRIPTION:

How often have you heard someone say, “I hate change?” That’s because most people do.

But the reality is, whether we like it or not, life puts us all through changes—some challenging, and many joyful—that shape our day-to-day experiences. Sometimes, though, in the blink of an eye, the unthinkable can happen. This begs the question: when the unexpected occurs, how do you successfully navigate change so you can land butter side up when life turns the tables?

Butter Side Up is not self-help jargon; it is edutainment for the soul. Jane Enright’s true story of surviving three life-altering events in the span of twelve months, losing everything, and coming out the other end stronger and more resilient than ever before is compelling and riveting—and full of sage advice for how to do the same. A feel-good story that everyone can relate to and learn from, *Butter Side Up* shows that there can be happiness and joy after unplanned change—and a super awesome life, too.

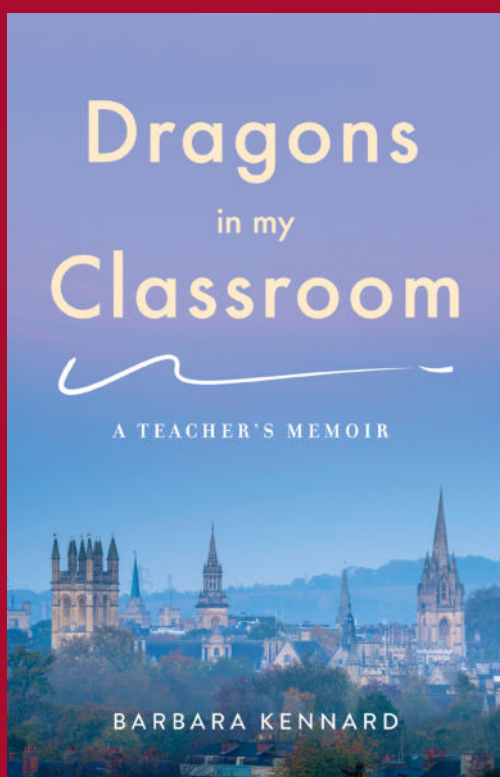
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Jane Enright is an ordinary person who has survived some extraordinary things. An inspiring and humorous thought leader, author, and speaker, Canadian-based Jane is a former kindergarten teacher, strategic planner, and university lecturer, as well as the founder of My Super Awesome Life Inc. She speaks to audiences seeking answers to overcome a fear of the unknown, grief, stress, loss, depression, anxiety, stagnation, indecision, sadness, and more. From top executives to stay-at-home moms, she is helping audiences throughout North America land “butter side up” and find joy after unplanned change. You can find Jane on LinkedIn and Instagram; for more information, visit her at www.mysuperawesomelife.com or www.janeenrightauthor.com.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

2020 Eric Hoffer Award Finalist

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 14, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-365-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-366-7

“In this memoir, an English/dramatic arts teacher recounts a pivotal year at the Dragon School in Britain as part of an exchange program. . . . engaging and thought-provoking. . . . will be of special interest to aspiring as well as seasoned teachers. A well-crafted account about the search for greater flexibility when confronting life’s inevitable challenges.”

—Kirkus Reviews

DRAGONS IN MY CLASSROOM

A TEACHER’S MEMOIR

BARBARA KENNARD

DESCRIPTION:

As a young book lover with dyslexia, Barbara found the solution to her reading struggles in Miss Gluding, her first grade teacher, who showed compassion for her student’s plight—and knew how to help her. From that time on, Barbara knew what she wanted to be: a teacher, just like Miss Gluding.

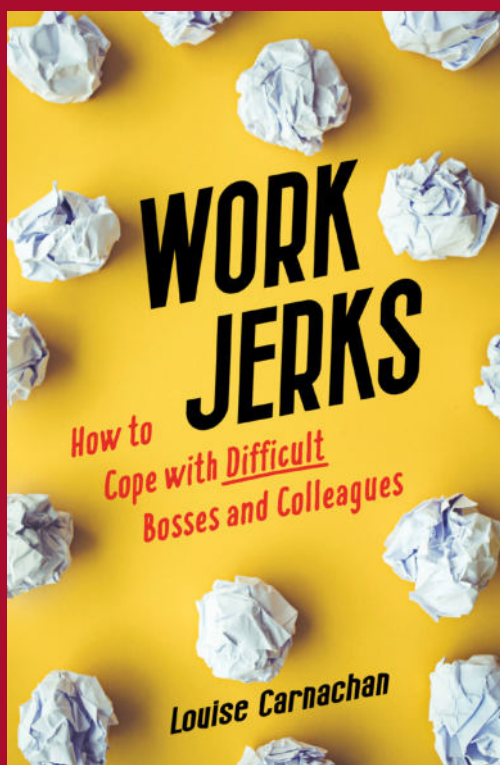
Unfortunately, Barbara also had some bad teachers in the years that ensued—including her sixth grade teacher, an exacting woman who called attention to Barbara’s learning disabilities in front of classmates. Still wanting to follow in Miss Gluding’s footsteps in 1964, Barbara vowed she would be a better one than her sixth grade teacher; instead, however, she became very much like her, with unattainable expectations for her students and herself. After seventeen years in the teaching profession, she realized she had to either change her teaching style or change careers. By providence, right as she stood at this crossroads, she was offered the opportunity to teach overseas at The Dragon School in Oxford, England, for a year—an opportunity she jumped at.

In the year that followed, Barbara would rely on her faith in God to give up a lot of what she knew about teaching and learn to do it differently—ways that wouldn’t have room for her perfectionism. In short, she would have to begin again.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Barbara Kennard taught English and performing arts to elementary, middle, and high school students from 1980 to 2015 and has received two teaching awards: The Christa McAuliffe Award for Teaching Excellence and The Barbara Kennard Sixth Grade English Prize, established in her name at The Fessenden School by a Fessenden family. Barbara lives in Texas with her husband, pianist Brady Millican, and their cat, Piper.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 14, 2022

Collections: Self-Help, Business

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-369-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-370-4

“If you are struggling with a relationship at work, this is a great place to start formulating your strategy for handling it. If you ARE the ‘difficult relationship at work,’ this is a great place to begin your own best self-examination. In either case, Louise Carnachan’s crisp writing, deep experience, and cogent advice offer a strong foundation for practical action and insightful personal growth.”

—Dan Oestreich, coauthor of *Driving Fear Out of the Workplace* and *The Courageous Messenger*

WORK JERKS

HOW TO COPE WITH DIFFICULT BOSSES AND COLLEAGUES

LOUISE CARNACHAN

DESCRIPTION:

If you’re stressed and unhappy because of problems with a boss or colleague, you pay a price. Not only can your mental and physical health suffer, your nearest and dearest also get sick of hearing about it. Going to bed angry and waking up only to dread a new workday is a terrible way to live.

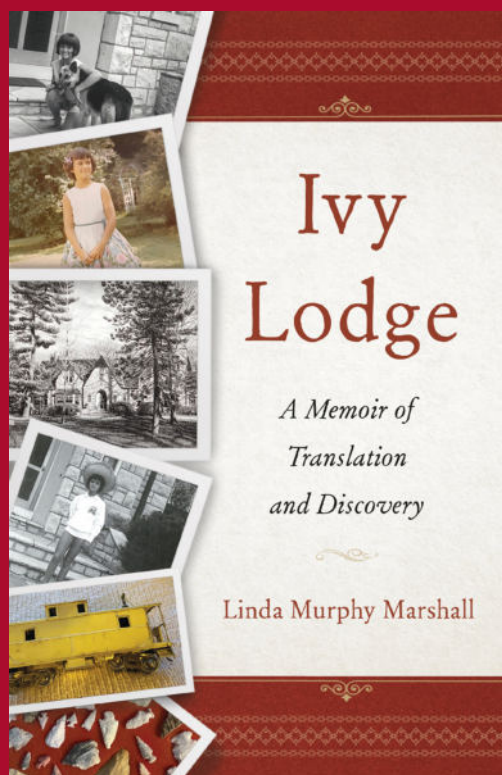
Remote work may have lessened the impact of annoying colleagues for a while, but they can still find ways to irritate. If you’re co-located, the “mute” and “stop video” buttons don’t exist to diminish your exasperation. Not all jerks are the same; the person you find to be a nightmare may be perfectly acceptable to others. And, astonishingly, someone else may even think you’re the jerk!

Author Louise Carnachan has the credentials and experience to make her an expert in this area, but more importantly, she’s been in the trenches herself. With an emphasis on the positive actions you can take while being attentive to your specific situation, *Work Jerks* provides practical advice on how to deal with a variety of problematic coworkers—whether in-person or remotely—so work can stop being something you dread and start being something you enjoy.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

For over forty years, Louise Carnachan has worked as a trainer and organization development consultant helping thousands of leaders and staff members achieve interpersonal success with challenging work relationships. She has worked in manufacturing, education, healthcare, and scientific organizations. As a consultant, her clients have included Head Start programs, PNW Fertility, Bastyr University and Clinic, VA Puget Sound Health Care, a variety of Washington State departments, Boeing, McDonalds Corporation, Starbucks, University of Washington Medical Center, and the Port of Seattle. She is former adjunct faculty at Seattle Pacific University and Seattle Community College and taught a course for the University of Washington’s MBA program. Currently, she is a semi-retired coach for leadership clients and pens a workplace advice blog on her website (with debatable input from her feline office mates). She lives in a suburb of Portland, Oregon, and enjoys Powell’s Books, coastal beach towns, and her local library, where she can most often be found browsing the mystery section.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 14, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-367-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-368-1

“Thoughtfully conceived, this deeply personal, acutely observed recollection is a captivating voyage to the past. Readers who are mourning parents will particularly relate to the story. A moving, courageously frank, and sharply intuitive account about a manor filled with memories.”

—Kirkus Reviews

IVY LODGE

A MEMOIR OF TRANSLATION AND DISCOVERY

LINDA MURPHY MARSHALL

DESCRIPTION:

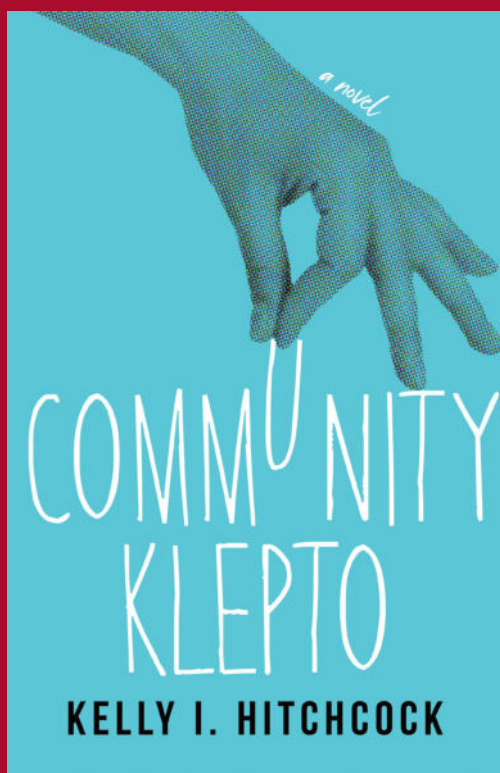
After both her parents die, Linda Murphy Marshall, a multi-linguist and professional translator, returns to her midwestern childhood home, Ivy Lodge, to sort through a lifetime of belongings with her siblings. Room by room, she sifts through the objects in her parents' house and uses her skills and perspective as a longtime professional translator to make sense of the events of her past—to “translate” her memories and her life. In the process, she sees things with new eyes. All of her parents' things, everything having to do with their cherished hobbies, are housed in a home that, although it looks impressive from the outside, is anything but impressive inside; in short, she now realizes that much of it—even the house's fancy name—was show.

By the time Murphy Marshall is done with Ivy Lodge, she has not only made new discoveries about her past, she has also come to a new understanding of who she is and how she fits into her world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Linda Murphy Marshall is a multi-linguist and writer with a PhD in Hispanic languages and literature, a master's in Spanish, and an MFA in creative writing from Vermont College of Fine Arts. Her work has been published or is forthcoming in *The Los Angeles Review*, *Maryland Literary Review*, the *Ocotillo Review*, *Chestnut Review*, *Adelaide Literary Magazine*, *Flash Fiction Magazine*, *Bacopa Literary Review*, *PopMatters*, *Storgy [UK]*, *The Bark Magazine*, *Catamaran Literary Reader*, and *Critical Read*. She was featured in *American Writers Review*, where she was an Honorable Mention for the 2019 Fiction Contest. She was long-listed in Strands Publishers's 2021 International Flash Fiction Contest, and was a finalist in the 2020 Annual Adelaide Literary Contest for one of her essays. In addition, she is currently a reader for *Fourth Genre* and a translation editor for the *Los Angeles Review*. Her sketches and paintings have been featured in art shows and galleries.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 21, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Coming-of-Age

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-373-5

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-374-2

“... devilishly fun . . . A clever, endearing, and funny tale of one woman’s missteps and her efforts to atone.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*

“In this quick-paced read, Hitchcock creates characters who are well developed and humorous. She weaves complex psychological topics with a lighthearted, romantic story line in a way that proves to be both entertaining and thought provoking.”

—*Booklist*

COMMUNITY KLEPTO

A NOVEL

KELLY I. HITCHCOCK

DESCRIPTION:

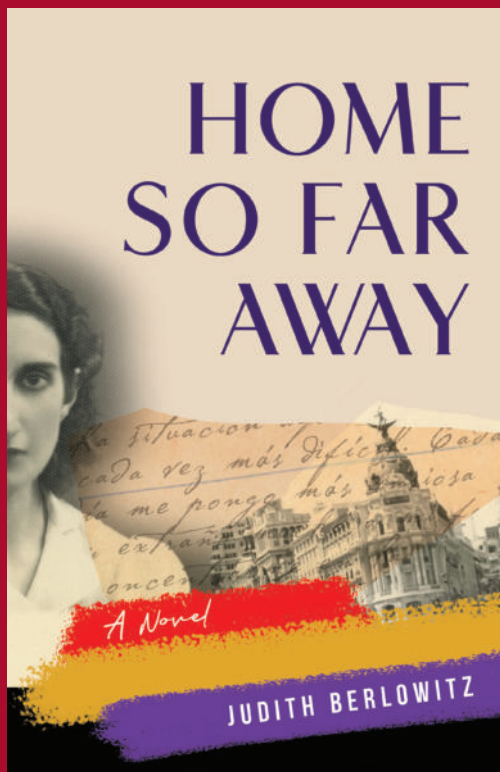
Ann Josephson is a twenty-five-year-old sociopath whose compulsive kleptomania manifests itself in the most unlikely of places: the community center where she works out every day. The walls of the community center insulate her from the terrors of the outside world, which include her freelance work as a graphic artist; her socialite parents, who pay the better part of her living expenses; her therapist, who devotedly punches the clock; and the dark void of romantic relationships.

As Ann battles the inner demons that plague her millennial psyche, she must also battle the fiends that plague her at the gym: the loudly grunting beefcake who can’t be bothered to drop his weights at a reasonable volume, the naked old lady in the locker room using a towel as butt floss, the housewife in yoga pants that obviate the need for yoga wheeling her double stroller up and down the indoor track. Set in suburban Kansas City in 2012, *Community Klepto*—a droll combination of *Bridget Jones’ Diary* and *Choke*—makes incarnate the characters and shenanigans that go on in every gym in the world.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Kelly I. Hitchcock is a literary fiction author and poet who lives in the Austin, Texas, area. She has published several poems, short stories, and creative nonfiction works in literary journals and is the author of the coming-of-age novel *The Redheaded Stepchild*, a semi-finalist in the literary category for The Kindle Book Review’s “Best Indie Books of 2011,” and *Portrait of Woman in Ink: A Tattoo Storybook*. Her work has appeared in *Clackamas Literary Review* and *Foliage Oak Literary Journal*, in anthologies by Line Zero and Alien Buddha Press, and more. Kelly holds a BA in creative writing from Missouri State University. She has five-year-old identical twins and a full-time job, so writing and picking up LEGO are the only other things she can devote herself to.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 21, 2022

Collections: Historical Fiction

Trim size: 6 X 9

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-375-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-376-6

“With passionate commitment and conscientious research, Judith Berlowitz shares the story of her relative, Klara Philipsborn, a German-Jewish refugee who flees to Spain and enlists in the storied Quinto Regimiento in defense of the Republic during the Spanish Civil War . . . Berlowitz tells it with a gripping intensity that will catch you up and help you to understand this era in very personal, human terms.”

—Nancy Wallach, Board of Governors, ALBA,
Abraham Lincoln Brigade Archives

HOME SO FAR AWAY

A NOVEL

JUDITH BERLOWITZ

DESCRIPTION:

A diary abandoned in Barcelona as Franco’s fascist troops storm into the city in 1938 allows us to peek into the life of Klara Philipsborn, the only Communist in her merchant-class, German-Jewish family.

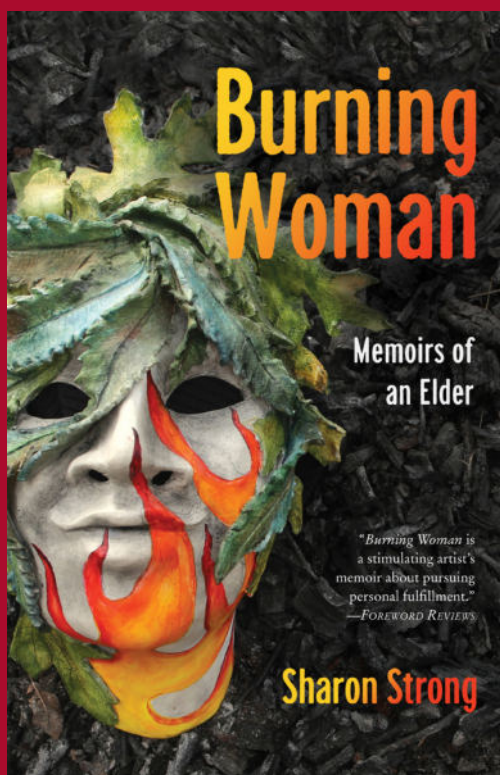
Klara’s first visit to Seville in 1925 opens her eyes and her spirit to an era in which Spain’s major religions, Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, shared deep cultural connections. At the same time, she is made aware of the harsh injustices that persist in Spanish society. By 1930, she has landed a position with the medical school in Madrid. Though she feels compelled to hide her Jewish identity in her predominantly Christian new home, she finds that she feels less “different” in Spain than she did in Germany, especially as she learns new ways of expressing her opinions and desires. And when the Spanish Civil War erupts in 1936, Klara (now “Clara”) enlists in the Fifth Regiment, a step that transports her across the geography of the embattled peninsula and ultimately endangers a promising relationship and even Clara’s life itself.

A blending of thoroughly researched history and engrossing fiction, *Home So Far Away* is an epic tale that will sweep readers away.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Los Angeles–born author Judith Berlowitz had just retired from her Spanish-teaching position at Oakland’s Mills College when her genealogical research uncovered a Gestapo record mentioning a relative, Clara Philipsborn, who was the only woman anti-fascist volunteer in the Spanish Civil War from the German state of Schleswig-Holstein. The few details of the report led to more research, which led to *Home So Far Away*. In addition to her career teaching Spanish and world cultures, Judith is a card-carrying translator and has published in the field of ethnomusicology (Sephardic balladry) and Jewish identity. She sang for years with the Oakland Symphony Chorus and is now a member of the San Francisco Bach Choir. She lives in San Francisco with her husband, not far from her three daughters and three grandsons.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 21, 2022

Collections: Memoir, Inspiration

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-377-3

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-378-0

“Burning Woman is a stimulating artist’s memoir about pursuing personal fulfillment.”

—Foreword Reviews

BURNING WOMAN

MEMOIRS OF AN ELDER

SHARON STRONG

DESCRIPTION:

At sixty-five, artist, writer, and psychologist Sharon Strong doesn’t fit into the cultural stereotype of “senior citizen”—and she has no desire to. Instead, she claims the next decade as the most transformational years of her life. At sixty-six, she erects the first of what will become a series of monumental sculptures on the Black Rock Desert at Burning Man. At sixty-seven, she treks in the Himalayas. At seventy, she meets the love of her life and begins a new life with him. To honor her seventy-fifth year, she delves into an inward journey with psilocybin mushrooms.

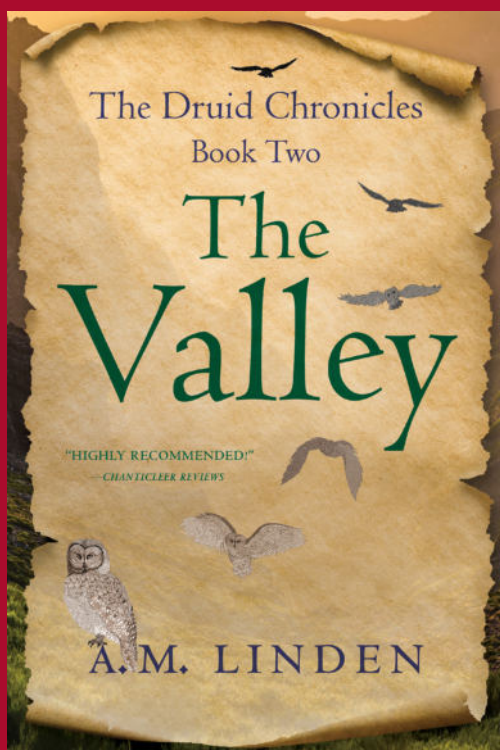
But life has its own seasons and time. The Great Recession necessitates the closing of Sharon’s gallery. She comes to the end of Burning Man. A wildfire destroys her home and, most devastating of all, completely incinerates her art studio and twenty years’ worth of work.

Through it all, Sharon honors her experiences—even the most painful ones—because she knows that each one helps shape who she is. Ultimately, *Burning Woman* is a passionate love story about the adventure of aging that will inspire readers to feel their strength and commit to living their lives to the fullest and with a sense of pride and purpose.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sharon Strong is a practicing psychologist and artist, mask-maker, and creator of towering sculptures for Burning Man as well as gallery exhibits in Northern California. She is the illustrator of two books—*Serious Fun: Ingenious Improvisations on Money, Food, Waste, Water & Home*, by Carolyn North, and *Two Lines 13: Masks*, edited by Zack Rogow—and in 2005 she self-published *Soul Unmasked: A Personal Journey into the Ancient Ritual of the Mask*. She lives on twenty acres in a straw-bale house with her husband, filmmaker Tom Weidinger, whom she met at age seventy. Their story inspired her to write *Burning Woman*.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 28, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Fantasy

Trim size: 6 X 9

Price: \$18.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-409-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-410-7

“With the attention to detail, explanation of ancient rituals, and the mythology within the clan’s legends, this novel builds a community, exploring a people about which little is actually known. It’s an extraordinary portrayal, breathing life into a long-dead civilization. . . . Highly recommended!”

—Chanticleer Reviews

THE VALLEY

THE DRUID CHRONICLES, BOOK TWO

A.M. LINDEN

DESCRIPTION:

Llwdawanden is a hidden sanctuary where remnants of a once-powerful pagan cult carry on their ancient ritual practices, supported by a small but faithful following of servants, craftsmen, and laborers.

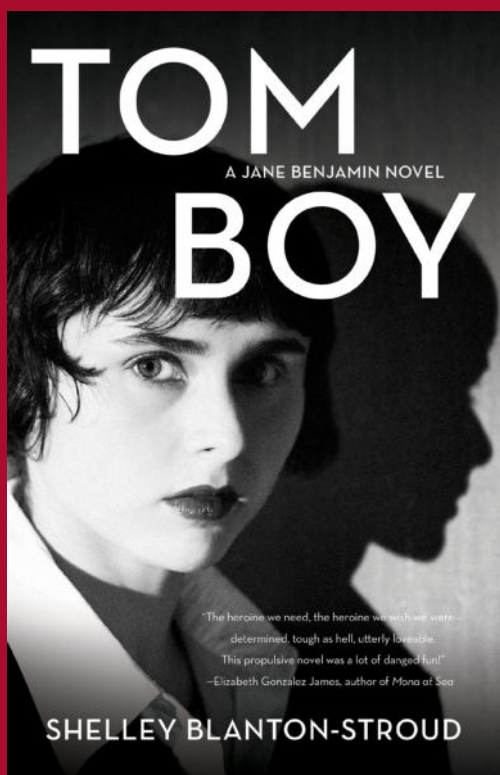
Cut off from the outside world by both geography and conviction, the Druids of Llwdawanden continue to venerate the Great Mother Goddess and to view themselves as the firstborn and favorite of Her mortal children. While the belief that the most important of all divine beings gave birth to their ancestors and that Her spirit inhabits the body of their highest priestess is a tenuous conclusion in view of their reduced lot in life, the Druids of Llwdawanden believe it and are, for the most part, committed to carrying on the traditions handed down to them by their forebears.

Herrwn, the shine’s chief priest and master bard, has the responsibility of overseeing the education of Caelym, the orphaned son of the cult’s previous chief priestess, as well as keeping the peace within the upper ranks of their order—two tasks that grow more difficult as the rivalry over which of the three highest priests will claim Caelym as his disciple grows, and as mounting conflicts between the current chief priestess and her only living daughter threaten to rend the fabric of a society that has endured for more than a millennium.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Ann Margaret Linden was born in Seattle, Washington, but grew up on the East Coast before returning to the Pacific Northwest as a young adult. She has undergraduate degrees in anthropology and in nursing and a master’s degree as a nurse practitioner. After working in a variety of acute care and community health settings, she took a position in a program for children with special healthcare needs, where she remained until she retired. *The Valley* is the second installment of *The Druid Chronicles*, a five-volume series that began as a somewhat whimsical decision to write something for fun and ended up becoming a lengthy journey that involved Linden taking adult education creative writing courses, researching early British history, and traveling to England, Scotland, and Wales. Linden lives with her husband and their cat and dog in the northwest corner of Washington State.

JUNE 2022



Publication Date: June 28, 2022

Collections: Fiction, Mystery

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-407-7

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-408-4

“Mix Jo March and Tom Ripley, shake well, pour into a martini glass and take a big, brisk, bitter swig of Jane Benjamin. Like me, you’ll be deliriously intoxicated by Copy Boy’s bracing sequel.”

—Gretchen Cherington, award-winning author of *Poetic License*

“An intriguing and engaging mystery—readers will hope for more adventures starring the redoubtable hero.”

—Kirkus Reviews

TOMBOY

A NOVEL

SHELLEY BLANTON-STROUD

DESCRIPTION:

It’s 1939. On the brink of World War II, Jane Benjamin wants to have it all. By day she hustles as a scruffy, tomboy cub reporter. By night she secretly struggles to raise her toddler sister, Elsie, and protect her from their mother. But Jane’s got a plan: she’ll become the *San Francisco Prospect’s* first gossip columnist and make enough money to care for Elsie.

Jane finagles her way to the women’s championship at Wimbledon, starring her hometown’s tennis phenom and cover girl Tommie O’Rourke. She plans to write her first column there. But then she witnesses Edith “Coach” Carlson, Tommie’s closest companion, drop dead in the stands of apparent heart attack, and her plan is thrown off track.

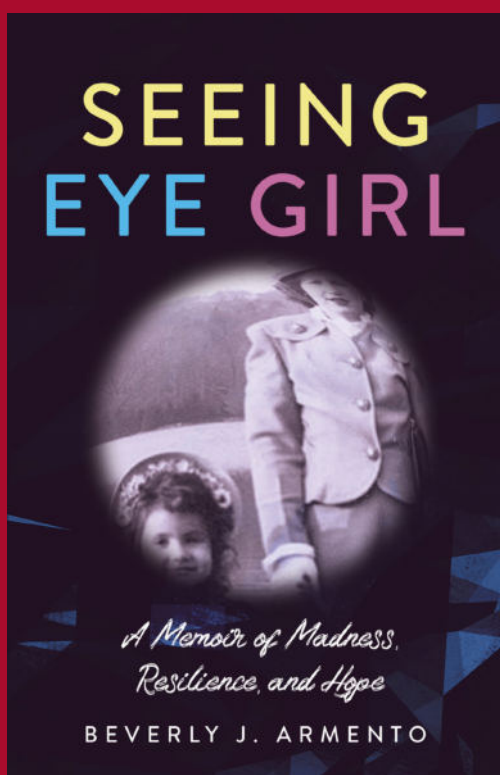
While sailing home on the RMS *Queen Mary*, Jane veers between competing instincts: Should she write a social bombshell column, personally damaging her new friend Tommie’s persona and career? Or should she work to uncover the truth of Coach’s death, which she now knows was a murder, and its connection to a larger conspiracy involving US participation in the coming war?

Putting away her menswear and donning first-class ballgowns, Jane discovers what upper-class status hides, protects, and destroys. Ultimately, she—like nations around the globe in 1939—must choose what she’ll give up in order to do what’s right.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Shelley Blanton-Stroud grew up in California’s Central Valley, the daughter of Dust Bowl immigrants who made good on their ambition to get out of the field and into the city. She taught college writing for three decades and consults with writers in the energy industry. She codirects *Stories on Stage Sacramento*, where actors perform the stories of established and emerging authors, and she serves on the advisory board of 916 Ink, an arts-based creative writing nonprofit for children. She has also served on the Writers’ Advisory Board for the Belize Writers Conference. *Tomboy* is the second book in her Jane Benjamin series. Her debut novel, *Copy Boy*, was the first. Shelley and her husband live in Sacramento with an aging beagle and many photos of their out-of-state sons.

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 5, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-391-9

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-392-6

“Is it possible that a story of chronic abuse at the hands of a mentally unstable mother can be beautiful? *Seeing Eye Girl* proves that the answer is yes. Armento’s masterful prose and her penchant for the revealing detail make her account illuminating. This book is a testament to the human spirit that will not be denied fulfilling its potential. Armento gives witness to the hard fact that we sometimes have to nurture ourselves and shows just how that can be done.”

—Sue William Silverman, author of *How to Survive Death and Other Inconveniences*

SEEING EYE GIRL

A MEMOIR OF MADNESS, RESILIENCE, AND HOPE

BEVERLY J. ARMENTO

DESCRIPTION:

As the “Seeing Eye Girl” for her blind, artistic, and mentally ill mother, Beverly Armento was intimately connected with and responsible for her, even though her mother physically and emotionally abused her. She was Strong Beverly at school—excellent in academics and mentored by caring teachers—but at home she was Weak Beverly, cowed by her mother’s rage and delusions.

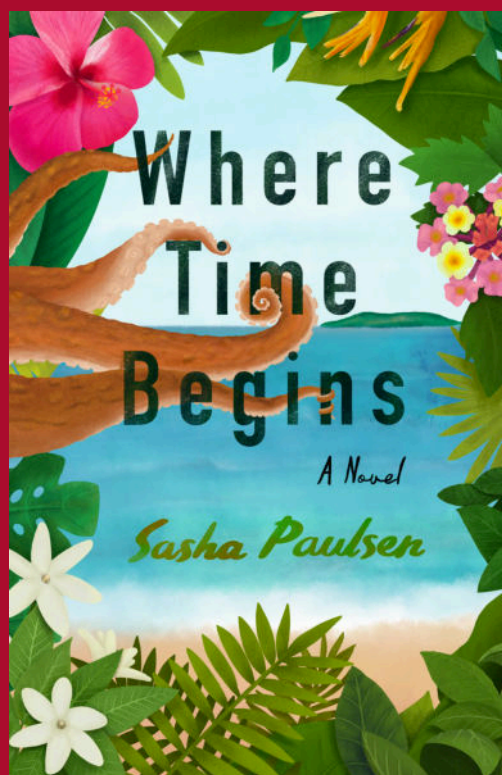
Beverly’s mother regained her sight with two corneal transplants in 1950 and went on to enjoy a moment of fame as an artist, but these positive turns did nothing to stop her disintegration into her delusional world of communists, radiation, and lurking Italians. To survive, Beverly had to be resilient and hopeful that better days could be ahead. But first, she had to confront essential ethical issues about her caregiving role in her family.

In this emotional memoir, Beverly shares the coping strategies she invented to get herself through the trials of her young life, and the ways in which school and church served as refuges over the course of her journey. Breaking the psychological chains that bound her to her mother would prove to be the most difficult challenge of her life—and, ultimately, the most liberating one.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Inspired by the many teachers who mentored her, Beverly J. Armento became an educator and enjoyed a fifty-year career working with middle school children as well as prospective teachers. Retired now, she is Professor Emerita at Georgia State University and holds degrees from The William Paterson University, Purdue University, and Indiana University. She currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia. *Seeing Eye Girl* is her first book for the general public.

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 5, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-413-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-414-5

WHERE TIME BEGINS

A NOVEL

SASHA PAULSEN

DESCRIPTION:

It's 1976, and Shelley Illiouette, unemployed and without prospects, has never heard of the Kingdom of Tonga—but when an artist offers her a job in this South Pacific kingdom, she takes it.

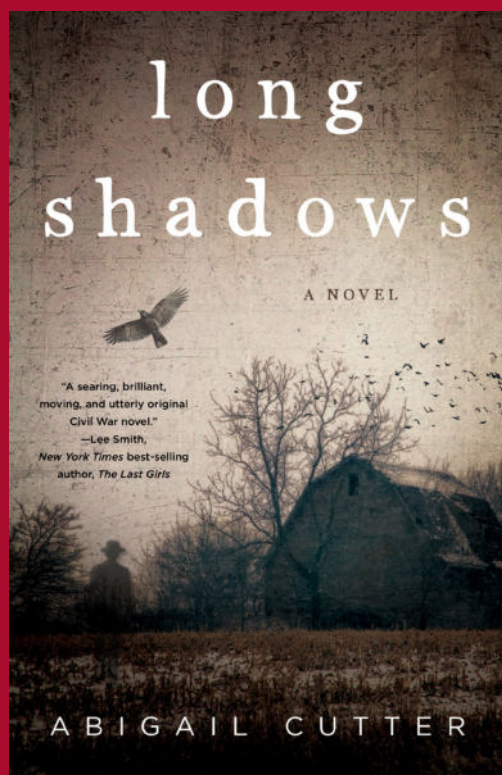
She arrives in Tonga to discover that her employer has vanished. Alone in a bewildering world where ancient Polynesia mingles with missionaries, Peace Corps, and yacht dwellers, she is adopted by Foata, a genial Tongan who decides that a *mafu*—a sweetheart—will solve Shelley's problems. Foata favors the Peace Corps doctor, Skip, but he is smitten with Lily, a mysterious half-Tongan actress. Then Shelley's first and only lover, Jackson, follows her to the islands, and life only get more complicated.

When Lily goes missing, too, and Jackson's visit proves disastrous, Shelley has to admit that she has not escaped from anything; she has just brought all the confusion of life with her. Why, Foata wonders, are Americans so bad at love? Amidst encounters with sharks and one octopus (meetings far less harrowing than those she has with missionaries and ex-lovers over the course of her adventure), Shelley untangles a web of stories reaching back decades, leading her to conclude that Tonga may indeed be what its king has proclaimed: the place where time begins.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Sasha Paulsen lives in Napa Valley, California, where she has written about food, wine, art, and travel for two decades. A graduate of the UC Berkeley School of Journalism, she published her first novel, *Dancing on the Spider's Web*, in 2019. Her love of travel has taken her across through Europe, across Russia, Mongolia, and China, into the mountains of Tibet and Nepal, and to the Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific.

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 12, 2022

**Collections: Fiction, Historical Fiction,
Magical Realism**

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-387-2

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-388-9

“Cutter paints a vivid portrait of the 19th century—a time of slavery and civil unrest . . . striking prose . . . A somber but absorbing Civil War tale about overcoming guilt.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“A searing, brilliant, moving, and utterly original Civil War novel, told by the guilt-ravaged Virginia infantryman Tom Smiley whose own war never ended.”

—Lee Smith, *New York Times* best-selling author

LONG SHADOWS

A NOVEL

ABIGAIL CUTTER

DESCRIPTION:

Tom Smiley signed up as a private in the Confederate army when he was eighteen and quickly came to regret it. Spending the last year of the war in a Union prison scarred him so deeply that even death hasn't brought freedom from its memory.

A ghost in his deserted childhood home, he can't forget the bloody war and its meaningless losses, or shed his revulsion for his role in the Confederate defense of slavery. But when a young couple moves in and makes his home their own in the early 21st century, trouble erupts—and Tom is forced to not only face his own terrible secret but also come to grips with his family's hidden wartime history. He finds an unexpected ally in his house's new owner, Phoebe Hunter, who is both fascinated and frightened by his ghostly presence—and whose discoveries will have momentous consequences for them both.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Abigail Cutter started out as an artist/printmaker with a MFA from George Washington University, but during a long stint at the National Endowment for the Humanities she developed a deep love of American history. She married a man who came with a farm and an 18th-century farmhouse in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia. The farmhouse came with a very active ghost. She currently lives both at the farm and in the small town of Waterford, VA, with her husband, a black Labrador named Emma, and a cat named Barnibi.

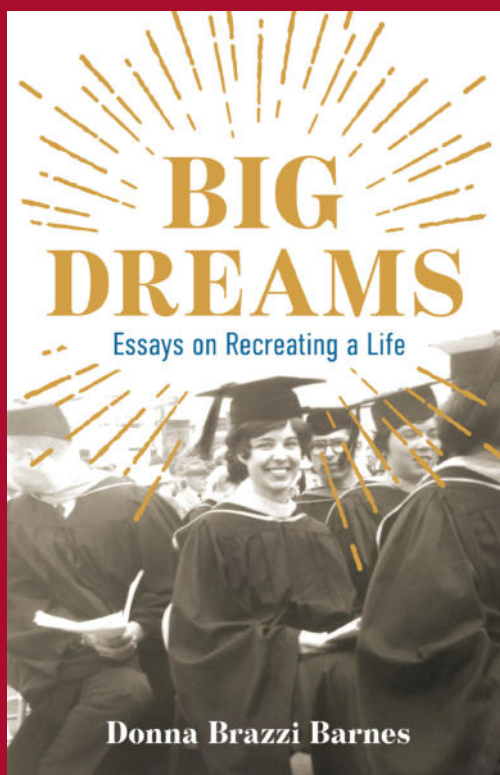
AWARDS:

2022 American Fiction Awards Winner in Best Cover Design:
Adult Fiction

2022 American Fiction Awards Finalist in General Fiction

2022 International Book Awards Finalist in Best Cover Design:
Fiction

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 12, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-186-1

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-188-5

BIG DREAMS

ESSAYS ON RECREATING A LIFE

DONNA BRAZZI BARNES

DESCRIPTION:

Growing up in the '50s in what was then the small town of Napa, California, Donna Brazzi had loving parents, a backyard the size of a football field with a swing and a big wooden picnic table perfect for summer barbecues, a cocker spaniel named Patty, and a cat named Stinky—everything a kid could want. She was a happy child. But as she grew older and started to reach for more than a young woman from a working-class, Swiss-Italian family was expected to want—a university education and a career in the larger world beyond her hometown—she began to see that if she was going to realize her big dreams, she was going to have to fight for them. *Big Dreams* is Donna's story of pursuing her education goals while confronting society's assumptions about women's roles in work, marriage, and motherhood from the 1950s through the mid-2000s, helped along by the evolving social movements for equality. Her journey from obedient daughter to minister's wife to PhD in sociology was never a smooth one—but ultimately, with passion and persistence, she broke free of the family and cultural assumptions constraining her, forged her own identity, and shaped the life she wanted.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Donna Brazzi Barnes taught dental hygiene for over twenty years before earning a PhD in sociology from the University of California, San Francisco, after which she began a career teaching women's studies and continuing her research on women with HIV/AIDS in three US cities. Barnes has given talks at numerous national social science conferences, including the International AIDS Society Conference in Paris and International AIDS Conferences in Toronto and Barcelona. Her scholarship has been anthologized in *Women, Motherhood and Living with HIV/AIDS* (Springer, 2013), and two other books, as well as in various academic journals. She lives in Kensington, California.

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 19, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-383-4

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-384-1

“Lilienthal’s story is a finely observed portrait of the wellness industry in affluent Northern California... Vera is a vibrant hoot of a hero as she wanders down the road to wisdom. A raucous, entertaining, New Age erotic yarn, by turns funny and soulful.”

—*Kirkus Reviews*, starred review

“A vibrant send-up of Marin County massage scene thrums with enlightenment and hot sex.”

—*San Francisco Chronicle*

THE T ROOM

A NOVEL

VICTORIA LILIENTHAL

DESCRIPTION:

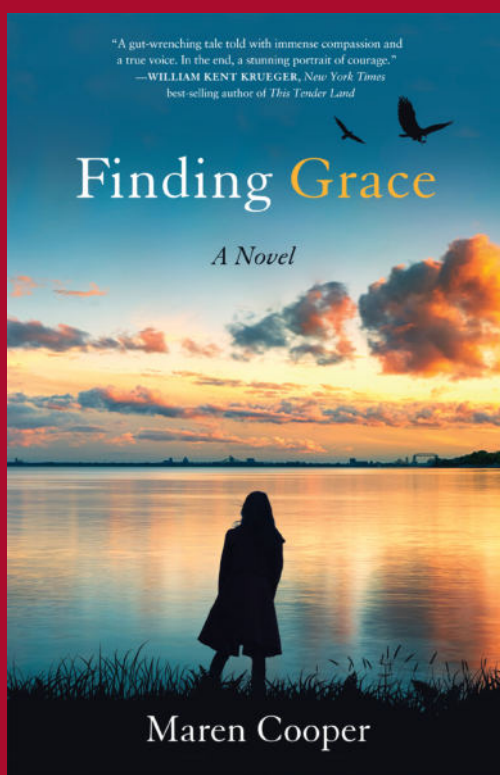
When her charismatic mentor, Ernesto, publicly chooses her as his professional partner, all indications are that Vera’s bodywork career is about to ignite. There is just one glitch—no, make that two. Vera—single mother of savvy, smart teenage India and her scruffy mutt, Francisco—is fucking Ernesto. As for her new promotion . . . Ernesto took it from his wife, Jean, in order to give it to her. As Vera becomes increasingly embroiled in Ernesto and Jean’s dark shenanigans, she quickly realizes that what seemed like an exciting opportunity is more like a deal with the Devil. Confronted with the consequences of her own yearning for male validation, it takes India, a glamorous and aristocratic client named Grace, and the mysterious goddess White Tara, Tibetan Goddess of compassion, to teach Vera the virtues of a sustainable path to self-authority.

A fast-paced, humorous tale, *The T Room* is sure to prove irresistible to every adventurous woman familiar with that Saturday-morning-bookstore trajectory that starts with Self-Help, diverts into Romance, and lands heartfirst in Spirituality.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Combining her passion for women’s mentorship with a commitment to philanthropy, San Francisco native Victoria Lilienthal writes books that explore the quest for freedom. Outside of her work, Victoria, together with her husband and their dachshund, Luigi, splits her time between San Francisco and Western Sonoma County. *The T Room* is her first novel.

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 19, 2022

Collections: Fiction

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-385-8

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-386-5

“A gut-wrenching tale told with immense compassion and a true voice. In the end, a stunning portrait of courage.”

—William Kent Krueger, *New York Times* best-selling author of *This Tender Land*

“[Cooper’s] characterizations of the three major characters are raw and realistic, and her story ably navigates the complexities of a dysfunctional family. . . . An effective exploration of one family’s complicated troubles.”

—Kirkus Reviews

FINDING GRACE

A NOVEL

MAREN COOPER

DESCRIPTION:

Charles Booker is thrilled to start married life in Two Harbors, Minnesota, with his ambitious ornithologist bride, Caroline—but he sabotages his own happiness when, blinded by his desire for a family, he tricks Caroline into a pregnancy she doesn’t want.

Caroline, bold and unapologetic, follows her own nature and holds Charles to his promise to parent their daughter without her help—an arrangement that allows her to travel the world and follow her birds, wherever they may take her. This uneasy truce results in near tragedy for their daughter, Grace, who comes of age in a household full of toxic resentment on the one side and suffocating love on the other, and increasingly struggles with her mental health as she grows older.

Told by all three of the characters involved and set against the backdrop of Lake Superior, *Finding Grace* is a piercing chronicle of the struggles and eventual insight gained by each over the years, starting with Charles and Caroline’s courtship and continuing into Grace’s early adulthood—and a poignant coming-of-age journey for both Grace and her parents.

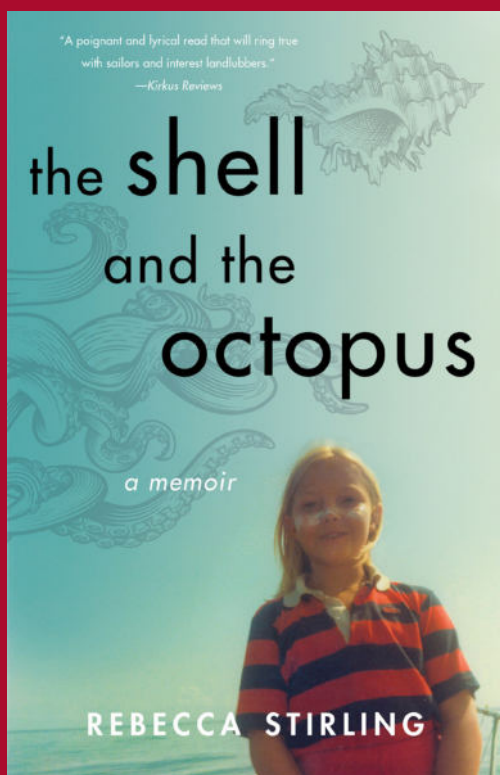
ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Maren Cooper grew up in the Midwest and now resides in Minnesota. She currently serves as a volunteer for various nonprofits and retreats frequently to the shore of Lake Superior, where she loves to hike and watch the deer devour her hosta. Her debut novel, *A Better Next*, was published in May of 2019 by She Writes Press. Visit her at www.marencoper.com.

AWARD:

2022 International Book Awards Finalist in Fiction: Women’s Fiction

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 26, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-323-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-322-3

“A poignant and lyrical read that will ring true with sailors and interest landlubbers.”

—Kirkus Reviews

“. . . conveys a message of hope, clarity, patience, acceptance, understanding, and non-conformity to the reader. The author makes the reader think and re-think actions and incidents that helped shape their own life. A most interesting memoir.”

—eaders' Favorite, 5-star review

THE SHELL AND THE OCTOPUS

A MEMOIR

REBECCA STIRLING

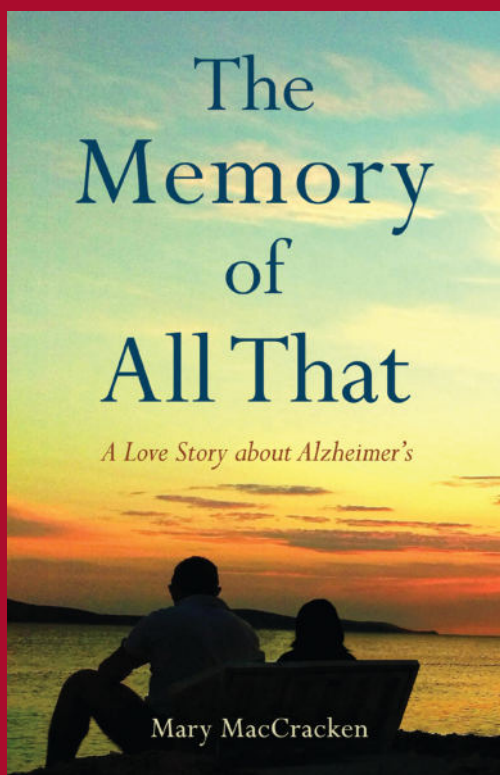
DESCRIPTION:

This is the story of Rebecca Stirling: childhood: a young girl raised by the sea, by men, and by literature. Circumnavigating the world on a thirty-foot sailboat, the Stirlings spend weeks at a time on the open ocean, surviving storms and visiting uncharted islands and villages. Ushered through her young life by a father who loves adventure, women, and extremes, Rebecca befriends “working girls” in the ports they visit (as they are often the only other females present in the bars that they end up in) and, on the boat, falls in love with her crewmate and learns to live like the men around her. But her driven nature and the role models in the books she reads make her determined to be a lady, continue her education, begin a career, live in a real home, and begin a family of her own. Once she finally gets away from the boat and her dad and sets to work upon making her own dream a reality, however, Rebecca begins to realize life is not what she thought it would be—and when her father dies in a tragic accident, she must return to her old life to sift through the mess and magic he has left behind.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Rebecca Stirling lives between Colorado and Kauai with her two children. She teaches creative art and writing classes to help spread the knowledge and ingenuity of world cultures. She continues to sail, travel, read, and write, and has a love for the stories individuals, cultures, and our earth have to tell.

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 26, 2022

Collections: Memoir

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-417-6

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-418-3

“The Memory of All That tells a compelling story of a marriage tested to the fullest by the ravages of Alzheimer’s; it is the drama of a passionately committed relationship transformed by suffering and grace. Ultimately, MacCracken shows us, the true triumph of the spirit is found in the resolve to love more fully in the face of certain debilitation and death. I was haunted by this poignant memoir.”

—Alicia Hokanson, award-winning author of *Perishable World* and *Mapping the World*

THE MEMORY OF ALL THAT

A LOVE STORY ABOUT ALZHEIMER’S
MARY MACCRACKEN

DESCRIPTION:

From award-winning, best-selling author of books about autistic and learning-disabled children Mary MacCracken comes an engaging memoir of love, marriage—and Alzheimer’s. After braving divorce to be together, Cal and Mary help each other overcome setbacks in their work. Cal’s inventions are increasingly successful; Mary’s first book is published to much acclaim, followed by three more. It seems nothing can stop them.

Then Alzheimer’s strikes. Always a fighter, Cal vows to beat his disease, while Mary finds ways to sustain their loving life together, devising ways to help Cal as he falters. She herself is helped by good doctors, social workers, and many friends—a whole community of care.

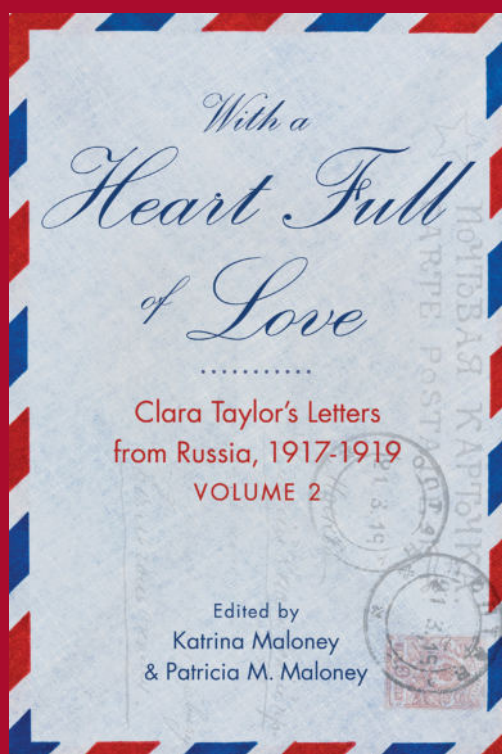
Still, all the support in the world can’t stop Cal’s decline. He goes missing at night, flees his daycare program repeatedly, and must finally go to a memory unit. But even then, he and Mary share bits of happiness. In the end, they fail to beat Alzheimer’s. Yet their story is also one of triumph, as their love persists all through and beyond their battle.

Poignant and inspiring, *The Memory of All That* is a beautifully written love story that offers guidance and comfort to those dealing with dementia, or any of life’s challenges.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Mary MacCracken, an internationally best-selling author, has written four books about her work with autistic and learning-disabled children: *Circle of Children*, *Lovey*, *City Kid*, and *Turn-About Children*. Her books have been published in fourteen countries and the first two were made into movies for television, starring the actress Jane Alexander. Mary spent her last years with her husband, Cal, an inventor with eighty patents, at Kendal at Hanover, a Continuous Care Retirement Community in Hanover, New Hampshire, and the decade after his death writing about their experiences dealing with his disease.

JULY 2022



Publication Date: July 26, 2022

Collections: Memoir, Historical

Trim size: 5.5 X 8.5

Price: \$16.95 paperback / \$9.95 ebook

Distribution by Publishers Group West

Print ISBN: 978-1-64742-381-0

E-ISBN: 978-1-64742-382-7

WITH A HEART FULL OF LOVE

CLARA TAYLOR'S LETTERS FROM RUSSIA, 1917–1919, VOLUME 2

EDITED BY KATRINA MALONEY & PATRICIA M. MALONEY

DESCRIPTION:

From the fall of 1918 to summer 1919, six YWCA women are attached to the North Russia Expeditionary Forces, an international military mission posted in the city of Arkhangelsk, North Russia. With this change, Clara Taylor's second year working for the YWCA in Russia turns out to be vastly different from her previous year in Moscow.

No longer teaching home economics or surveying factory conditions, Clara now finds herself dancing with soldiers at parties, then learning of their deaths in action the next day; reading to ill soldiers in the hospital; and serving hot coffee to ragtag men on the front lines of the Vologda railroad front in the bitter Russian winter. Throughout, she remains strong, courageous, and dedicated to her ideals of service. Able to let loose about her own political views in these letters, Clara writes scathing commentary about the ineptitude of the military command. She also writes of the frozen landscape, the astounding beauty of the northern lights, homesickness, the strength of the Russian people, and, finally, the overwhelming joy of returning home to her family.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Katrina Maloney, EdD, lives and writes in southern New Hampshire. She is a former professor of natural sciences and education. When not at her day job as a legal assistant, she kayaks, reads, writes, plays music, and gardens on her property, which faces Mount Monadnock.

Patricia M. Maloney grew up in Nebraska and came east to attend college. She and her husband, John, raised their three children in Connecticut. Now retired from her career as a director of Christian education, she spends her time traveling, reading and boating at her lake cottage, playing the organ and piano, and singing in local chorales.

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Gloria Vanderbilt, designer and author

Matt Iseman, host of *American Ninja Warrior*

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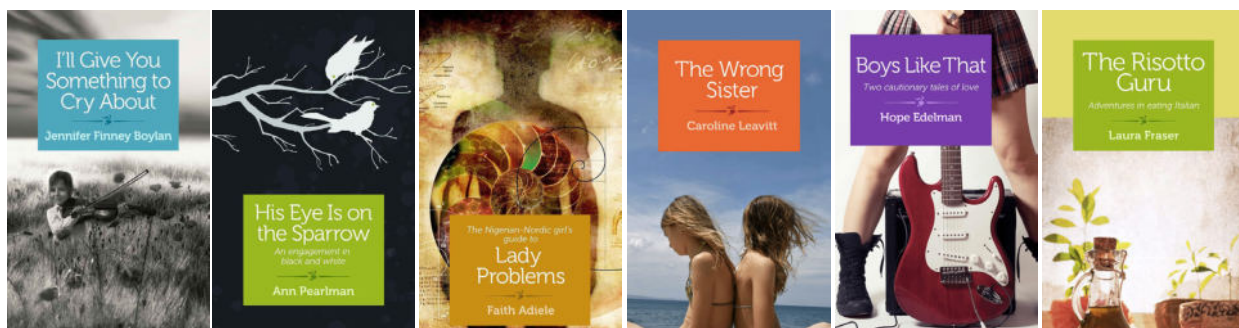


SheBooks is now part of She Writes Press

SparkPoint Studio, parent company of award-winning hybrid publisher She Writes Press, announced in 2018 the acquisition of SheBooks, a women’s e-book publisher with the mission of bridging the gap between magazines and books by carefully curating and publishing short e-books, by and for women, designed for women’s busy lives. The acquisition of SheBooks, which SparkPoint rolled into She Writes Press, is a testament to the reputation and success of She Writes Press in the hybrid publishing space. It also demonstrates SparkPoint Studio’s continued investment and commitment to growing She Writes Press as the leader and gold standard in hybrid publishing for women authors and expand She Writes Press’s product offerings.

SheBooks was cofounded in 2013 by Laura Fraser, journalist and best-selling author (*An Italian Affair*); veteran magazine editor Peggy Northrop (former Global Editor-in-Chief of *Reader’s Digest* and former Editor-in-Chief of *More* magazine and *Sunset* magazine); and publishing veteran Rachel Greenfield (former Executive Vice President, *Martha Stewart Living Omnimedia*).

When it launched, SheBooks was awarded a seed grant by the New Media Women’s Entrepreneurial Fund, raised additional funding, and was able to publish 75 high-quality short e-book titles from well-respected authors, including best-selling author Hope Edelman; National Book Award nominee Ann Pearlman; best-selling author Caroline Leavitt; PEN award-winning memoirist Faith Adiele; and many others.





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