

A EVITAS

Creative Management

Spring 2024 Fiction Rights Guide



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THE LOST VAN GOGH

A Novel

By Jonathan Santlofer

WE

January 2024 / Sourcebooks / US Editor: Shana Drehs

Final PDF

Rights Sold:

Dutch (De Fontein)

French (Editions du Cherche-Midi)

Italian (Newton Compton)

Polish (Le Tra / Arkady)

Russian (AST)

Vietnamese (Vivabooks)

NOW A USA TODAY BESTSELLER!

From the author of the much-praised *The Last Mona Lisa* comes another thrilling story of masterpieces, masterminds, and mystery.

For years, there have been whispers that, before his death, Van Gogh completed a final self-portrait. Curators and art historians have savored this rumor, hoping it could illuminate some of the troubled artist's many secrets, but even they have to concede that the missing painting is likely lost forever. But when Luke Perrone, artist and great-grandson of the man who stole the Mona Lisa, and Alexis Verde, daughter of a notorious art thief, discover what may be the missing portrait, they are drawn into a most epic art puzzles. When only days later the painting disappears again, they are reunited with INTERPOL agent John Washington Smith in a dangerous and deadly search that will not only expose secrets of the artist's last days but draws them into one of history's darkest eras.

Beneath the paint and canvas, beneath the beauty and the legend, the artwork has become linked with something evil, something that continues to flourish on the dark web and on the shadiest corridors of the underground art world.

Jonathan Santlofer is the author of 6 novels, *The Death Artist*, *Color Blind*, *The Killing Art*, *The Murder Notebook*, *Anatomy of Fear*, and most recently *The Last Mona Lisa*. His first novel, *The Death Artist*, was an international bestseller and translated into 22 languages.

"Ingeniously plotted, irresistibly readable, brimming with inside information about the high-stakes art world of theft, forgery, and murder [...] Also included are brilliantly rendered drawings by the author, who is as accomplished an artist as he is a writer of suspense thrillers." —**Joyce Carol Oates, National Humanities Medal, National Book Award winner and bestselling author**

ACM Agent: Jane von Mehren



PREVIOUS PUBLISHERS

Bulgarian (Kyrg)

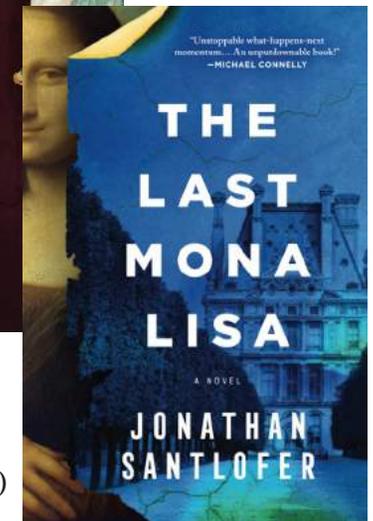
Czech (Jota Nakladatelstvi)

Japanese (Astra House)

Serbian (Vulkan)

Spanish (Roca)

Ukrainian (Fabula)



"A compelling story...a thriller! Fans of Dan Brown and Steve Berry will love it!"
—**Harlan Coben, #1 New York Times bestselling author**

"A globetrotting thriller, a lesson in art history, a reminder of a crime against humanity that will never be expunged, but most of all a tremendously entertaining read." —**Joseph Funder, New York Times bestselling author of House on Fire**

"Packed with international artworld intrigue and utterly delicious plot-twists."
— **John Searles, NYT Bestselling author of Her Last Affair**

TRUE NORTH

A Novel

By Andrew Graff

NA

January 2024 / Ecco (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Helen Atmsa

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

French (Gallmeister)

From the author of *Raft of Stars* comes an epic novel of adventure and river rafting, following a couple whose future depends on finding a way to navigate the changing currents of family, community, and the river itself.

As the summer of 1993 begins, Sam and Swami Brecht roll into town with a twenty-six-foot Winnebago camper van, their three young kids, and the deed to Woodchuck Rafting Company. Sam and Swami met as young, adventurous river guides but, a decade later, find themselves weighed down by money worries and the demands of adulthood. The town of Thunderwater, in Wisconsin's Northwoods, could be the fresh start their marriage needs. But Woodchuck, once the property of Sam's eccentric uncle, has seen better days and will need a serious overhaul if it is going to stand a chance at survival.

Soon Sam and Swami learn they are not the only ones looking for change and profit on the river. A competing rafting outfit, clashing raft guides, stubborn townsfolk, and an exploratory mining company begin to threaten their tenuous livelihood. Then nature intervenes, in the form of historic floods throughout the Midwest. Amid tumultuous currents both on and off the river, Sam and Swami find themselves struggling to maintain the new life they've built. Before the summer draws to a close, the Brechts must learn to face the floodwaters together in order to create a sustainable future for their family, the town, and the pristine river upon which it all flows.

Andrew J. Graff is the author of novel *Raft of Stars*. His fiction and essays have appeared in *Image* and *Dappled Things*. After a tour of duty in Afghanistan, he earned an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He lives in Ohio and teaches at Wittenberg University.

Previous Publishers:

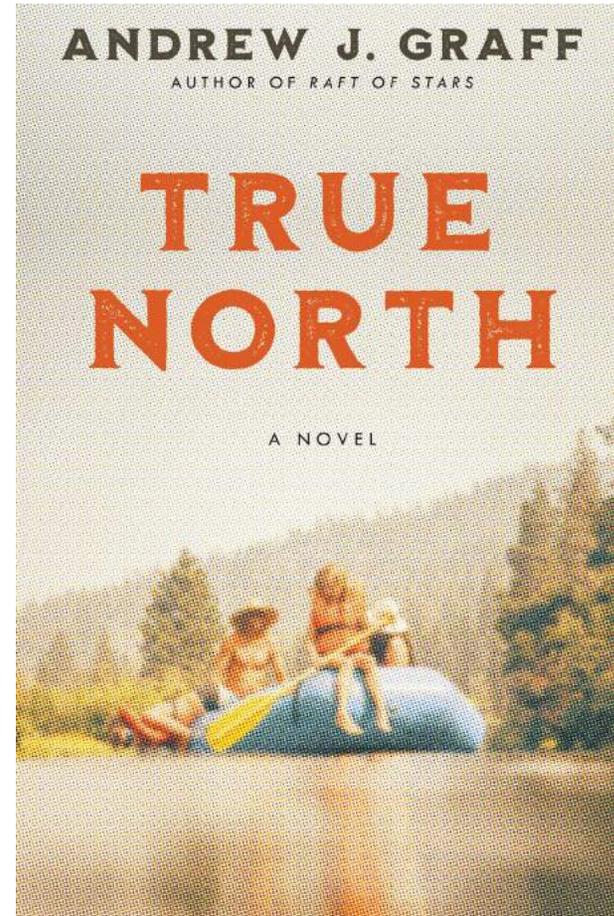
Czech (Dobrovsky)

Dutch (Mozaiek)

French (Gallmeister)

UK/Comm (HQ)

ACM Agent: Maggie Cooper



"Warmhearted... The most terrific passages of *True North* send us shooting through rapids in prose that feels both precise and chaotic"
—*The Washington Post*

"Exciting and intelligent... Readers will enjoy the ride."
—*Publishers Weekly*

"*True North* rolls seamlessly from humor to despair, from beauty to destruction—but in the end is a gorgeous story of family, community, and grace."
— **Kimi Cunningham Grant**, USA Today bestselling author of *These Silent Woods*

★ STARRED REVIEW, BOOKLIST ★

"A remarkable examination of the epidemic of loneliness and sound advice for alleviating it...A pleasing mix of research, advice, and humor, this book is a useful tonic to a key social ailment."

"*True North* is an engaging, character-driven portrait of a marriage under pressure from financial deception and conflicting desires. Graff writes about the outdoors, particularly rivers and river rafting, with an immersive blend of knowledge and passion." — **Charles Frazier**, author of *The Trackers* and *Cold Mountain*

"If you've ever loved a special place in the woods, *True North* will flood you with all the feels. Andrew Graff's clear-eyed, sensitive examination of marriage, family, and community weaves through a delightful story of whitewater adventure and small-town tension." — **Shelby Van Pelt**, author of *Remarkably Bright Creatures*

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SEX ROMP GONE WRONG

Stories

By Julia Ridley Smith

NA

February 2024 / Blair / US Editor: Robin Miura

Final PDF Available

In her debut story collection, Julia Ridley Smith navigates the currents and eddies of desire, sex, love, and relationships—for readers of Curtis Sittenfeld, Elizabeth McCracken, and Ann Patchett.

These twelve highly accomplished stories are witty and accessible, intelligent and thought-provoking. A girls' week at the beach prompts hot tub drinking, awkward confessions, and a poignant reconsideration of friendship. A caregiver extracts a small repayment from her elderly patient for his long-forgotten role in the demise of her family. A young woman, new to New York City, finds herself in a complex but tacky love affair and reckons with the unfolding plot of her life. In the title story, a woman plots to conceive a second child while at a convention hotel with her husband and teenage daughter, both of whom have other plans. Smith's stories will beguile and delight readers while at the same time exploring the deep and often difficult ties of family, marriage, and romantic love in modern life.

Like the writing of her fellow Southerner Ann Patchett, Julia's work takes seriously the deep and often difficult ties of family and marriage; as in Elizabeth McCracken's short fiction, Julia's writing shows us her characters' worlds in all their rich, sometimes-odd detail. Like Elizabeth Strout, Julia introduces us to characters who might be called difficult, but who she renders in all their complex humanity; like Curtis Sittenfeld, she insists on the literary merit of stories about women whose triumphs and problems so many readers will recognize from their own lives.

Julia Ridley Smith's first book was a memoir-in-essays, *The Sum of Trifles*. Julia has been awarded fellowships and residencies from the Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Millay Colony. She holds a MFA from Sarah Lawrence College and is currently the Kenan Visiting Writer at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill.

"A dazzlingly inventive collection [...] You'd be hard pressed to find a writer who is so genuinely funny and yet knows the exact moment to turn that humor towards a moment of realization so deeply felt that you have to read the line again."—**Kevin Wilson, *Now Is Not the Time to Panic and Nothing to See Here***

ACM Agent: Maggie Cooper



"A perfect blend of laugh-out-loud humor and profound pathos as she imagines women's lives gone wrong (and occasionally oh-so-right). The stories in the collection range from formally experimental to deftly executed realism and every one brings complex characters to life through vivid detail and endless empathy."

—**Gwen Kirby, *Shit Cassandra Saw***

"Julia Ridley Smith does a radical thing: she writes about invisible people, like middle-aged mothers, and every story is vibrantly its own thing, and every character trembles on a knife's edge between hilarity and rage."—**Holly Goddard Jones, *Antipodes and The Salt Line***

"These stories tackle questions of love, loss, sexuality, and the complex legacies of race and class in the modern South. Keen-eyed and tender, Smith writes characters with a generosity and humor that mark her as one of the best new voices in short fiction."—**Joanna Pearson, *Bright and Tender Dark***

QUEENS OF LONDON

A Novel

By Heather Webb

NA

February 2024 / Sourcebooks / US Editor: Shana Drehs

Final PDF Available

Maybe women *can* have it all, as long as they're willing to steal it.

1925. London. When Alice Diamond, AKA "Diamond Annie," is elected the Queen of the Forty Elephants, she's determined to take the all-girl gang to new heights. She's ambitious, tough as nails, and a brilliant mastermind, with a plan to create a dynasty the likes of which no one has ever seen. Alice demands absolute loyalty from her "family"—it's how she's always kept the cops in line. Too bad she's now the target for one of Britain's first female policewomen.

Officer Lilian Wyles isn't merely one of the first female detectives at Scotland Yard, she's one of the best detectives on the force. Even so, she'll have to win a big score to prove herself, to break free from the "women's work" she's been assigned. When she hears about the large-scale heist in the works to fund Alice's new dynasty, she realizes she has the chance she's been looking for — and the added bonus of putting Diamond Annie out of business permanently.

A tale of dark glamour and sisterhood, *Queens of London* is a look at Britain's first female crime syndicate, the ever-shifting meaning of justice, and the way women claim their power by any means necessary, from *USA Today* bestselling author Heather Webb.

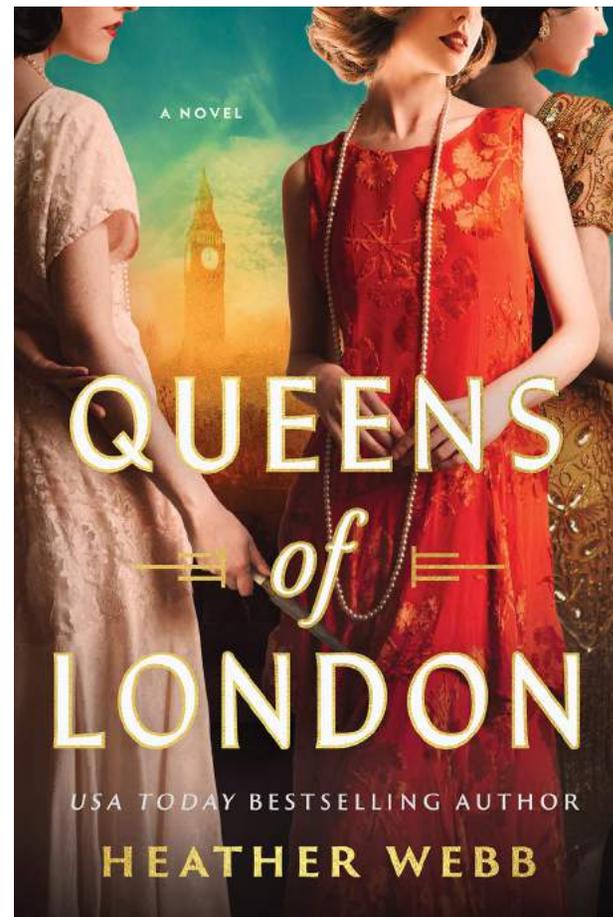
Heather Webb is an award-winning and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Last Ship Home*, *The Phantom's Apprentice*, *Rodin's Lover*, and *Becoming Josephine*.

A gritty, glittering addition to any reader's shelf." —**Julia Kelly**, international best-selling author of *The Last Garden in England*

"Webb's storytelling shines, culminating in a fast-paced chase and a deeply gratifying finale."—**Stephanie Dray**, *New York Times* bestselling author

"A page-turning, high-stakes game of cat and mouse... compelling and suspenseful."—**Marie Benedict**, *New York Times* bestselling author

ACM Agent: Michelle Brower



"A rollicking ride through the criminal underbelly of post-WWI London. Gritty at times and tender at others, *Queens of London* unmask the most lawless—and likable—gang of women you've never heard of." —**Sarah Penner**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Lost Apothecary*

Previous Publishers of Heather Webb:

Brazilian Portuguese (Ciranda Cultural)
Bulgarian (Kragozor)
Croatian (24sata)
Czech (Albatros)
Danish (Politiken)
Dutch (Nieuw-Amsterdam)
German (Blanvet)
Hungarian (Nouvion)

Italian (TEA Libri)
Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)
Polish (Prószyński)
Portuguese (Zero a Oito)
Romanian (Corint Books)
Spanish (Ediciones Palabra)
Turkish (Mona Kitap)

THE TURTLE HOUSE

A Novel

By Amanda Churchill

NA

February 2024 / Harper / US Editor: Sarah Stein

Final PDF Available

Moving between late-1990s small-town Texas to pre-World War II Japan and occupied Tokyo, an emotional literary debut about a grandmother and granddaughter who connect over a beloved lost place and the secrets they both carry.

It's spring 1999, and twenty-five-year-old Lia Cope and her prickly seventy-three-year-old grandmother, Mineko, are sharing a bedroom in Curtain, Texas, the ranching town where Lia grew up and Mineko began her life as a Japanese war bride. Both women are at a turning point, unable to find the path forward.

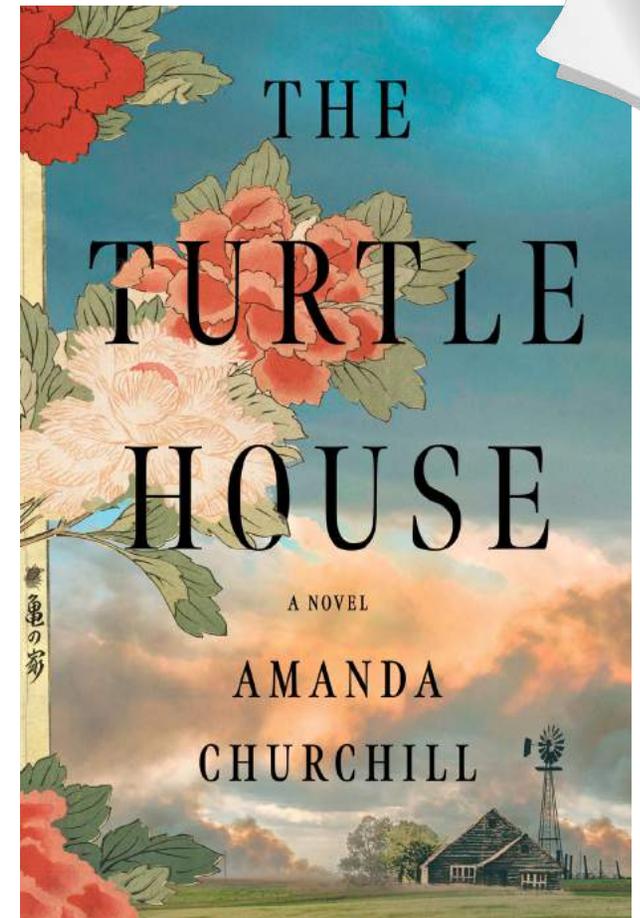
Though Lia never felt especially close to her grandmother, the two bond over late-night conversations. Mineko tells stories of her early life in Japan, of the war that changed everything, and of her two great loves: a man named Akio Sato and an abandoned Japanese country estate they called the turtle house, where their relationship took root. As Mineko reveals more of her past—tales of innocent swimming lessons that blossom into something more, a friendship nurtured across oceans, totems saved and hidden, the heartbreak of love lost too soon—Lia comes to understand the depth of her grandmother's pain and sacrifice and sees her Texas family in a new light. Lia also recognizes that it's she who needs to come clean—about the budding career she abandoned and the mysterious man who keeps calling.

A story of intergenerational friendship, family, coming-of-age, identity, and love, *The Turtle House* illuminates the hidden lives we lead, the secrets we hold close, and what it truly means to find home again when it feels lost forever.

Amanda Churchill is a writer living in Texas. Her work has been featured in *Hobart Pulp*, *Witness*, *River Styx*, and other publications. She was a Writers' League of Texas 2021 fellow and holds a master of arts in creative writing from the University of North Texas.

"A tender, big-hearted story about women, family, and the complicated history of Texas. These characters, and their tentative, flawed stumblings toward grace, will stay with me." —**Elizabeth Wetmore**, author of *Valentine*

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin



"A full and compelling picture of rebirth, renewal, and redemption"
—**Booklist**

"A stunning coming-of-age"
—**Debutiful**

"Impressively wrought... deft... lovely"
—**Kirkus**

"Sweeping yet intimate, Amanda Churchill's *The Turtle House* spans cultures and continents. Minnie and her granddaughter Lia are unforgettable protagonists, whose grit and grace will inspire you. Together, they find a way through in this gripping debut." —**Vanessa Hua**, author of *Forbidden City*

"A touching story of two women who find their way back to themselves, each reclaiming what was once thought to be lost. Tender and full of heart." —**Jenny Tinghui Zhang**, author of *Four Treasures of the Sky*

"Like a bespoke building, there is nothing extraneous or without purpose in this beautifully executed debut. Broad in scope yet intimate in storytelling, *The Turtle House* asks what it is to build a home and what it is to carry a home within."
—**Melissa Fu**, author of *Peach Blossom Spring*

WHAT GROWS IN THE DARK

A Novel

By Jaq Evans

NA

March 2024 / Mira (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Leah Mol

Final PDF Available

In this chilling contemporary horror novel, a phony spiritualist returns to her hometown to assist in an investigation that eerily mirrors her sister's death, forcing her to confront the secrets she's been running from.

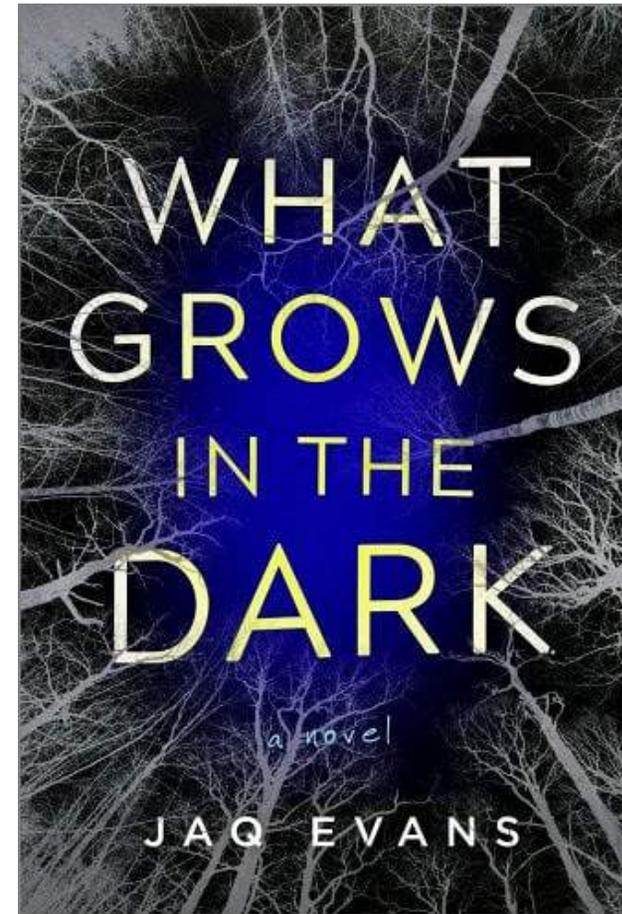
Sixteen years ago, Brigit Weylan's older sister, Emma, walked into the woods in their small hometown of Ellis Creek. She never walked out. People said she was troubled--in the months leading up to her death, she was convinced there was a monster in those trees. Marked by the tragedy, Brigit left town and never looked back. Now Brigit travels around the country investigating paranormal activity (and faking the results) with her cameraman, Ian. But when she receives a call from Ellis Creek, she's thrust into the middle of a search for two missing teenagers. As Brigit and Ian are drawn further into the case, the parallels to Emma's death become undeniable. And worse, Brigit can't explain what's happening to her: trees appearing in her bedroom in the middle of the night, something with a very familiar laugh watching her out in the darkness and Emma's voice on her phone, reminding Brigit to finish what they started. More and more, it looks like Emma was right: there is a monster in Ellis Creek, and it's waited a long time for Brigit to come home.

Jaq Evans' short fiction has been published in *Three-Lobed Burning Eye*, *Apparition Literary Magazine*, *Fusion Fragment*, and others.

"Utterly unsettling and wildly original, *What Grows in the Dark* is an authentic and atmospheric reading experience and a triumph of a horror debut.... The only way out is to follow Evans's exquisitely-realized characters through the living, breathing, growing dark."—Christa Carmen, **Bram Stoker Award®-nominated author of *The Daughters of Block Island*** "

"Evans weaves mystery, horror, and family through impossible forests, making you question character and truth in unsettling yet deeply satisfying ways. Though readers might invoke writers such as Paul Tremblay and Kelly Link (and perhaps even Joe Hill), Evans carves out a patch of cursed soil all her own."—Sequoia Nagamatsu, **author of *How High We Go in the Dark***

ACM Agent: Erica Bauman



"Jaq Evans's dazzling exploration of grief, identity, and the ties that bind is a powerful and unflinching journey into the hidden corners of the human heart. Compulsively readable and unfurling with the seductive beauty of a night-blooming flower, *What Grows in the Dark* is a thrill ride of a debut." —Robert Levy, **author of *The Glittering World***

"Jaq Evans offers you a trip back home to unravel the mysteries of a traumatic but half-forgotten past in *What Grows in the Dark*. This is a smart, absorbing debut novel with memorable characters and much to say about remorse, friendship and sacrifice."—Christi Nogle, **Bram Stoker Award(R)-winning author of *Beulah***

"Through mounting dread, with every turn of the page, *What Grows in the Dark* explores—terrifyingly so—the notions of family, indebtedness, and how the past never really lets us go."—Keith Rosson, **author of *Fever House***

THE GARDEN

A Novel

By Clare Beams

NA

April 2024 / Doubleday (PRH) / US Editor: Lee Boudreaux

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

UK/Comm (Atlantic UK)

The discovery of a secret garden with unknown powers fuels this page-turning and psychologically thrilling tale of women yearning to become mothers and the ways the female body has always been policed and manipulated, from the award-winning author of *The Illness Lesson* (“A masterpiece” – Elizabeth Gilbert)

In 1948, Irene Willard, who’s had five previous miscarriages in a quest to give her beloved husband the child he desperately desires and is now pregnant again, comes to an isolated house-cum-hospital in the Berkshires, run by a husband-and-wife team of doctors who are pioneering a cure for her condition. Warily, she enlists herself in the efforts of the Doctors Hall to “rectify the maternal environment,” both physical and psychological. In the meantime, she also discovers a long-forgotten walled garden on the spacious grounds, a place imbued with its own powers and pulls. As the doctors’ plans begin to crumble, Irene and her fellow patients make a desperate bid to harness the power of the garden for themselves—and must face the incalculable risks associated with such incalculable rewards. With shades of Shirley Jackson and *Rosemary’s Baby*, *The Garden* delves into the territory of motherhood, childbirth, the mysteries of the female body.

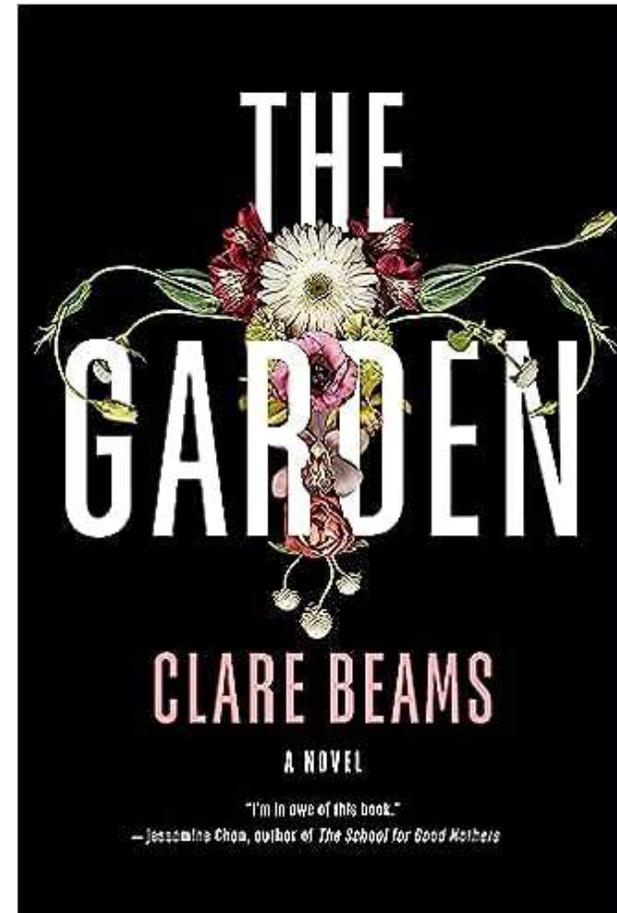
Clare Beams is the author of the novel *The Illness Lesson* and the story collection *We Show What We Have Learned*, which won the Bard Prize and was a Kirkus Best Debut of 2016, as well as a finalist for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, the New York Public Library’s Young Lions Fiction Award, and the Shirley Jackson Award.

Previous Publishers *The Illness Lesson*:

French (Presses de la Cité) UK/Comm (Transworld)

“No one writes feminist historical fiction like Clare Beams [...] *The Garden* powerfully illuminates what is, for many women, a private and isolating grief. Ingeniously using elements of the gothic and weaving in today’s most pressing questions about female bodily autonomy, ” —**Jessamine Chan**, author of *The School for Good Mothers*

ACM Agent: Michelle Brower



★ STARRED REVIEW, *KIRKUS* ★

“Beams’ writing sets her apart, shimmering against the dark subject matter...Like an overgrown garden—untamable, lush, and wild in ways lovely and terrifying.”

“Clare Beams is a master of fiction...Born in the literary legacy of Angela Carter and Stephen King, *The Garden* is, like every child, utterly itself in the end—miraculous and beautiful and strange.” —**Julia Phillips**, author of *Disappearing Earth*

“An assembly of piercing insights into womanhood, ambition, and autonomy, in language as bewitching as it is exact.” —**Megha Majumdar**, author of *A Burning*

“The gender politics, barbed wit, moral complexity, and genuine sense of unease recalls the best of Shirley Jackson’s work” —**Paul Tremblay**, author of *A Head Full of Ghosts*

THEIR DIVINE FIRES

A Novel

By Wendy Chen

NA

May 2024 / Algonquin / US Editor: Kathy Pories

Final PDF Available

A captivating and intimate debut novel interwoven with folktale and myth, Wendy Chen's *Their Divine Fires* tells the story of the love affairs of three generations of Chinese women across 100 years of revolutions both political and personal.

In 1949, at the dawn of the Chinese Revolution, Yunhong grows up in the southern China countryside and falls in love with the son of a wealthy landlord. Yet on the night of her wedding, her brother destroys the marriage before it has even lasted a day. Yunhong's daughter Yuexin will never know her father. She passes that sorrow onto her daughters Hongxing and Yonghong, who come of age in the years following Mao's death, battling the push and pull of political forces as they forge their own paths. Each generation guards its secrets, leaving Emily, living in contemporary America, to piece together what actually happened between her mother, her aunt, and the weight of their shared history.

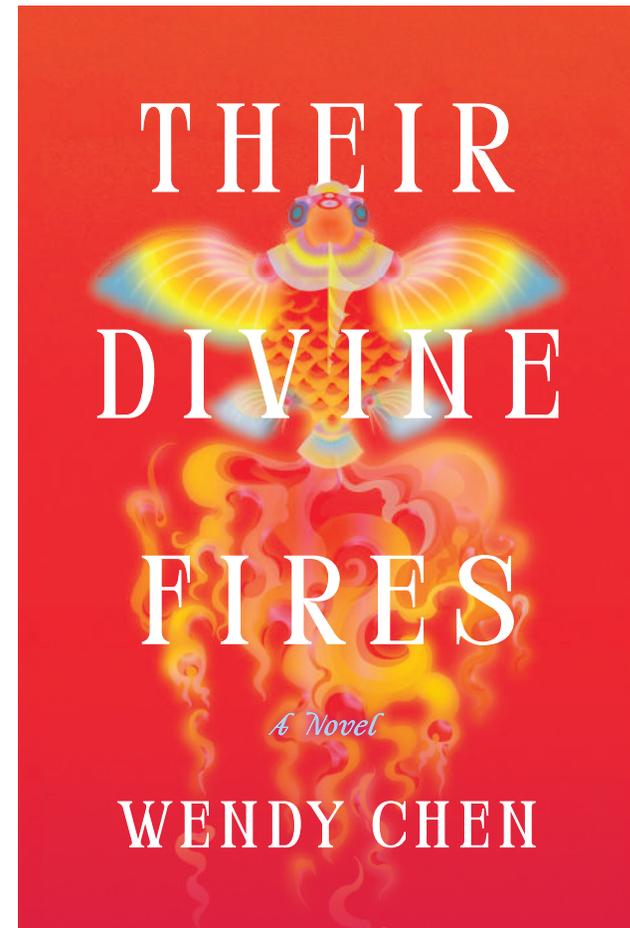
Drawing on the stories of her great grandmother and her great uncles, both of whom fought on the side of the Communists; as well as her mother's experiences during the Cultural Revolution, Wendy Chen infuses *Their Divine Fires* with a passion that will transport the reader back to powerful moments in history and the ghosts of the past, perfect for fans of C. Pam Zhang's *How Much of These Hills is Gold* and Nguyen Phan Que Mai's *The Mountains Sing*.

Wendy Chen is the award-winning author of the collection *Unearthings*. She also serves as the editor of *Figure 1*, translation editor of *Denver Quarterly*, and managing editor of *Tupelo Quarterly*.

"Utterly hypnotic... Never before have I read a debut that captures so perfectly the ache of what is left unsaid between generations... a sensitive and deeply human reckoning with the aftermath of historical trauma and what happens when we try to speak the unspeakable." —**Ruth Madievsky, author of *All-Night Pharmacy***

"Wendy Chen has crafted a peerless first novel that I expect to be the sleeper hit of the season. Read this! You'll thank me." —**Mary Karr, award-winning and bestselling author of *Lit***

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin



"Impressively epic yet intimate... a testament to the power of fiction in reconciling with the secrets of our past. The lyricism of Wendy's prose and the emotional depth of her storytelling will stay with me for years to come." —**Nguyen Phan Que Mai, int'l bestselling author of *The Mountains Sing***

"A gorgeous, emotionally searing debut about the lasting and mysterious effects of the past—both political and personal—particularly on girls and women confined and defined by others in a volatile world. Chen has woven together a deeply moving, complex novel that takes us on multiple journeys of love, sacrifice, and grief." —**Alexandra Chang, author of *Days of Distraction***

"In gorgeous, elegant prose, Chen follows multiple generations of one family, intimately tracing how living through the Chinese Revolution and its aftermath shapes them in ways they don't always fully understand." —**Dana Spiotta, author of *Wayward***

STRANGER FROM ACROSS THE SEA

A Novel

By Regina McBride

NA

May 2024 / Green City Books / US Editor: Jessica Hammerman

Final PDF Available

Set against the backdrop of the Civil War between northern and southern Ireland, a story about an enduring friendship between two young women that is both tragic and transcendent.

In 1973, sixteen-year-old Violet O'Halloran travels from New York to Ireland with her mother to spend a summer month with her grandmother in the tiny village of Castlemacross. When her grandmother dies suddenly, Violet's mother, overwhelmed with new responsibilities, leaves her temporarily with the nuns at a convent school in the north, empty during the summer, except for Indira Sharma, a blind girl from India, with whom Violet forms an intense bond. Both are strangers to Ireland and both have embattled relationships with their Irish mothers. Indira confides in Violet that she is in a romantic relationship with her cousin, whom she affectionately calls Ishta Devta, which means Favorite Deity in Sanskrit. When Indira discovers a devastating family secret, she tries to share it with Violet but is prevented from doing so. Violet worries that a figure she sees one night walking alone on the beach in the distance, is Indira. The tide at that hour is high and Indira drowns.

Thirteen years later Violet meets an Irishman, Emmett Fitzroy, at a party in New York City and, after becoming romantically involved with him, learns that he was Indira's cousin (whom she had called Ishta Devta). He invites her to spend a few weeks by herself at his old Anglo Irish house overlooking the north channel of the Irish Sea. When she arrives, she is warned by the caretaker not to go to the water-damaged third floor, which has been left unrepaired for over a decade. There Violet discovers a repository of family secrets- including the shocking revelation that Indira had once tried to share with her. The novel explores place, displacement and exile, and ways in which the personal and the political are inseparable.

Regina McBride is the recipient of fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts and the New York Foundation for the Arts and teaches fiction writing at Hunter College in New York City. Her first novel, *The Nature of Water and Air*, was a Barnes and Noble Discover Great New Writers Book, A Borders Original Voices Selection, and a Booksense pick (Independent Book Stores Award).

ACM Agent: Lori Galvin



“An intimate, multi-layered narrative of lives disconnected and entwined, loves lost and remembered, secrets buried and resurrected, hopes shattered and redeemed. In richly nuanced prose, McBride weaves together the tragedy of history and the timeless yearnings of the human heart.” —**Peter Quinn, author of *Cross Bronx: A Writing Life and Banished Children of Eve***

“A beautifully written book, filled with original details of place and time and drama that ring true, portraying all the mystery and complex emotion that come with being both familiar and a stranger. It will catch you up from the first page and hold you to the last.”—**Sheila Kohler, author of *Open Secrets and Cracks***

“Captivating and enchanting, the book is a fierce and sensual story of mothers, daughters, friends, and lovers, set amidst generations of Irish struggles. Brava, Regina McBride.”—**Patty Dann, author of *The Wright Sister and Mermaids***

CRAFT

Stories I Wrote for the Devil

By Ananda Lima

WE

June 2024 / Tor (Macmillan) / US Editor: Ali Fisher

Final PDF Available

Strange, intimate, haunted, and hungry—*Craft: Stories I Wrote for the Devil* is an intoxicating and surreal fiction debut by award-winning author Ananda Lima.

At a Halloween party in 1999, a writer slept with the devil. She sees him again and again throughout her life and she writes stories for him about things that are both impossible and true.

Lima lures readers into surreal pockets of the United States and Brazil where they'll find bite-size Americans in vending machines and the ghosts of people who are not dead. Once there, she speaks to modern Brazilian-American immigrant experiences—of ambition, fear, longing, and belonging—and reveals the porousness of storytelling and of the places we call home.

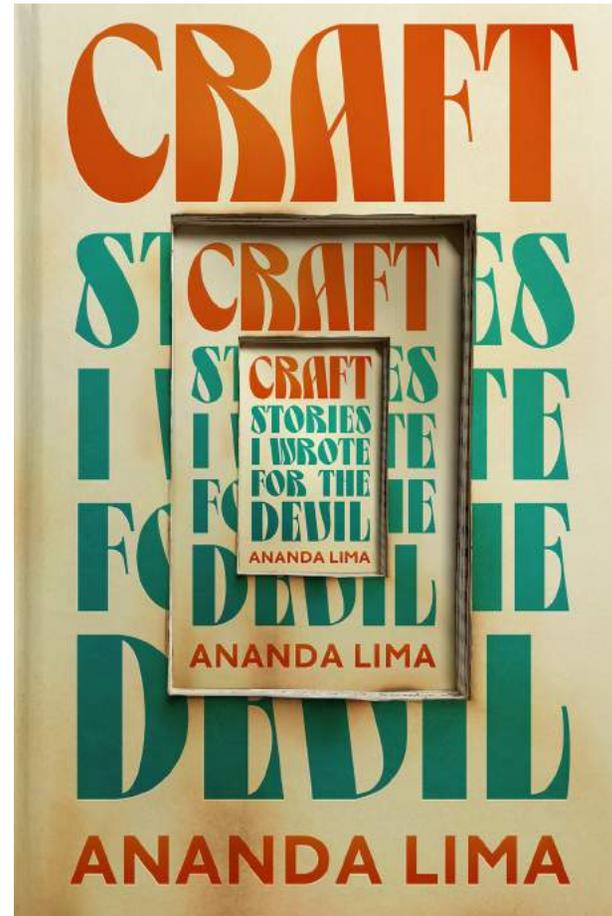
With humor, an exquisite imagination, and a voice praised as “singular and wise and fresh” (Cathy Park Hong), Lima joins the literary lineage of Bulgakov and Lispector and the company of writers today like Ted Chiang, Carmen Maria Machado, and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah.

A great next read for fans of Carmen Maria Machado's *Her Body and Other Parties* and V. E. Schwab's *The Invisible Life of Addie LaRue*.

Ananda Lima is a poet, translator, and fiction writer born in Brasília, Brazil, now living in Chicago, IL. She's the author of the poetry collection *Motherland* (Black Lawrence Press), winner of the Hudson Prize. Her work has appeared in *The American Poetry Review*, *Poets.org*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Gulf Coast*, *Pleiades*, *The Common*, *Witness*, and elsewhere. She has been awarded the inaugural WIP Fellowship by Latinx-in-Publishing. She has an MA in Linguistics from UCLA and an MFA in Creative Writing in Fiction from Rutgers University, Newark.

"Strange, shocking, and downright satisfying. The slim collection hits above its weight class and does more in less than 200 pages than most books do in double the length." —*Debutiful, Most Anticipated Debut Books of 2024*

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin



"Tippy, eerie, wry, and always profound." —**John Keene**, *Punks*

"I love it so much." —**Kelly Link**, *The Book of Love*

"An astounding new voice." —**Eric LaRoca**, *Things Have Gotten Worse Since We Last Spoke*

"Incredible. Truly wondrous." —**Kevin Wilson**, *Nothing to See Here*

"Heart wrenching and wickedly funny." —**Gwen Kirby**, *Shit Cassandra Saw*

"Propulsive, uncanny, and expertly built." —**Julia Fine**, *What Should Be Wild*

"A perfect balance of humor, heart, and hauntedness.... I expect *Craft* to immediately put Lima in the company of writers like Carmen Maria Machado, Kelly Link, and Samanta Schweblin." —**Chicago Review of Books**

"Here is a collection of stories that not only delights in its ability to subvert the reader's expectations but also leaves one haunted." —*The Kenyon Review*

"A wild and surrealistic story collection that pays homage to Kafka and Cortázar, Ananda Lima's *Craft* seeks to disrupt reductive understandings of both the immigrant experience and the art and craft of writing." —*Restless Book*

SANDWICH

A Novel

By Catherine Newman

NA

June 2024 / Harper / US Editor: Sarah Nelson

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

UK/Comm (Transworld / PRH UK)

"Oh, honey," I say. "I'm sorry. Don't worry about me! I'm totally good. I'm so, so happy to be here with you."

This is how it is to love somebody. You tell them the truth. You lie a little. And sometimes you don't say anything at all...

From the beloved author of *We All Want Impossible Things*, a moving, hilarious story of a family summer vacation full of secrets, lunch, and learning to let go.

For the past two decades, Rocky has looked forward to her family's yearly escape to Cape Cod. Their humble beach-town rental has been the site of sweet memories, sunny days, great meals, and messes of all kinds: emotional, marital, and—thanks to the cottage's ancient plumbing—septic too.

This year's vacation, with Rocky sandwiched between her half-grown kids and fully aging parents, promises to be just as delightful as summers past—except, perhaps, for Rocky's hormonal bouts of rage and melancholy. (Hello, menopause!) Her body is changing—her life is, too. And then a chain of events sends Rocky into the past, reliving both the tenderness and sorrow of a handful of long-ago summers.

It's one precious week: everything is in balance; everything is in flux. And when Rocky comes face to face with her family's history and future, she is forced to accept that she can no longer hide her secrets from the people she loves.

Catherine Newman is the author of the novel *We All Want Impossible Things*, memoirs *Catastrophic Happiness* and *Waiting for Birdy*, and the bestselling children's book *How to be a Person*.

Previous Publishers:

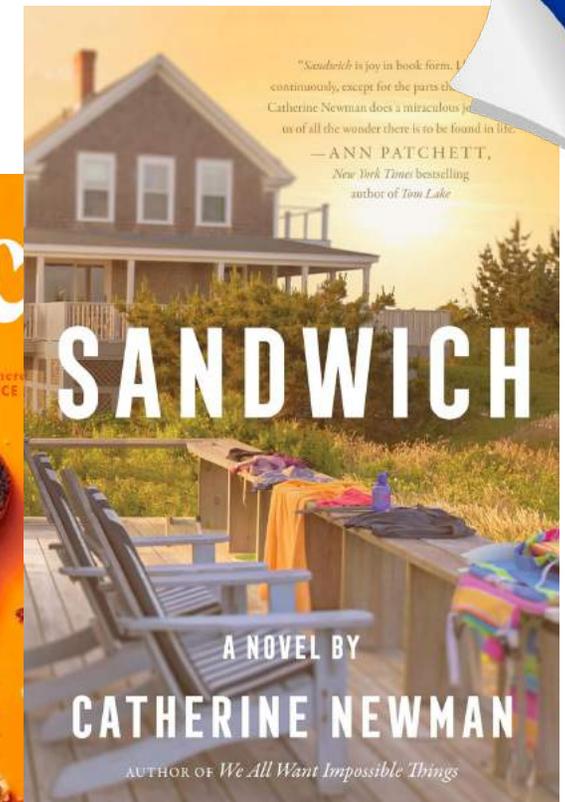
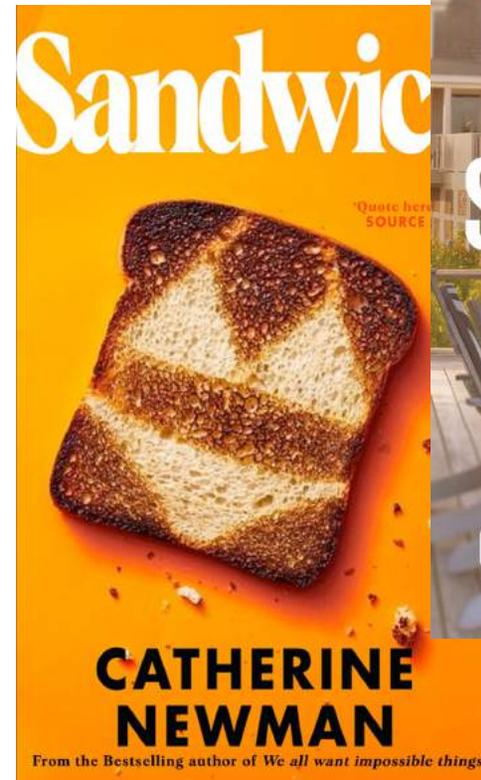
French (Robert Laffont)

German (Piper)

UK/Comm (Transworld / PRH)

ACM Agent: Jennifer Gates

UK cover



US cover

"*Sandwich* is joy in book form. I laughed continuously, except for the parts that made me cry. Catherine Newman does a miraculous job reminding us of all the wonder there is to be found in life."—Ann Patchett, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Tom Lake*

"A total delight."—Kate Christensen, author of *The Great Man*

"I loved reading this book! I'm still laughing out loud when I think of some sentences, and lumping up in my throat when I think of others." —Eliza Minot, author of *In the Orchard* and *The Tiny One*

"Newman nails it all: the hilarious domestic details of family life, the tremendous stakes of our most personal choices, and the vulnerability of loving other human beings wholeheartedly." —Mary Laura Philpott, author of *Bomb Shelter*

AEVITAS 13

WHAT YOU LEAVE BEHIND

A Novel

By Wanda M. Morris

NA

June 2024 / William Morrow (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Asanté Simons
Final PDF Available

Award-winning author Wanda Morris returns with a powerful, haunting thriller following a lawyer who after the mysterious disappearance of a local landowner and the death of his sister just months before, uncovers a conspiracy that dates back to Reconstruction and persists in half the United States today.

Deena Wood's life has fallen apart in the aftermath of losing her beloved mother, her marriage, and her prestigious job at an Atlanta law firm. She needs what the Geechee people of coastal Georgia call a "dayclean," a fresh start.

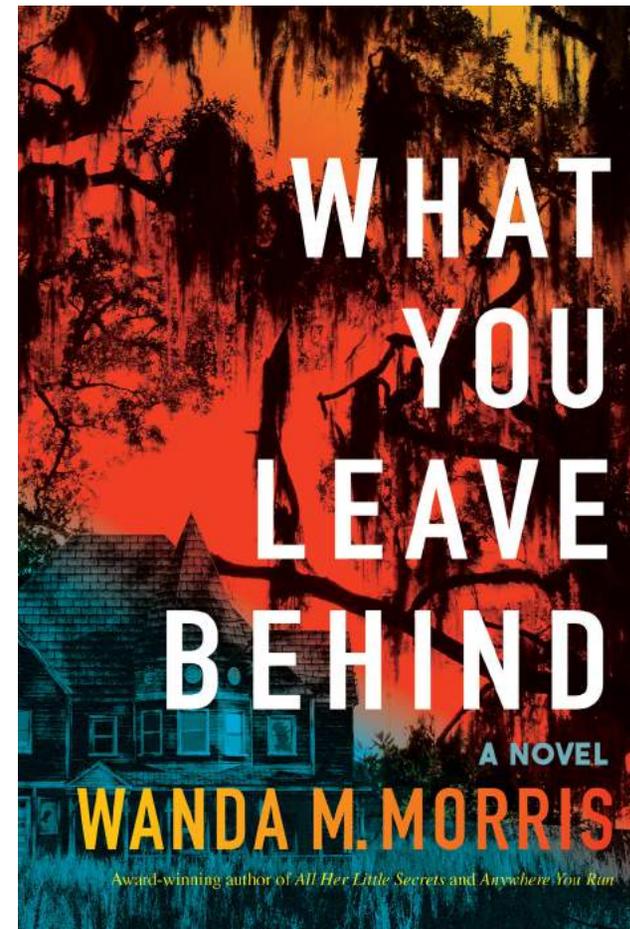
She returns to her childhood home in Brunswick, Georgia, to heal. But her return is anything but the respite she thought it might be. To make peace with all her loss, she often drives through the city. One day, she unwittingly finds herself on the oceanfront property of a loner widower who is fighting to keep land that has been in his family since the end of the Civil War. He threatens her and warns her to never return. But shortly after, he disappears, and his very expensive property is quickly put up for sale. Curious about what has happened to the man, Deena digs into his disappearance and finds a family legacy at risk. What starts out as a bit of curious snooping, turns into a deadly game of illegal land grabs and property redevelopment in poor and rural communities with dark and powerful forces at work.

Without realizing it, Deena finds herself caught up in a nightmarish scheme that threatens her community and her family. She'll need help and finds it in a close but unlikely source because she knows she must do whatever it takes to stop the sinister forces at play before she becomes their next target.

Wanda M. Morris is the award-winning author of *All Her Little Secrets*, which has been reviewed by *The Boston Globe*, *LA Times*, *New York Times*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, *Seattle Times*, and *South Florida Sun Sentinel* among others. Her second novel, *Anywhere You Run*, won the Anthony award for Best Historical Novel of 2023.

"Morris brilliantly explores family ties, community injustice and haunting grief all in one fell swoop. This is the kind of thriller that keeps you thinking long after the last page." —**Lisa Gardner, #1 New York Times bestselling author**

ACM Agent: Lori Galvin



"A propulsive and unforgettable thriller that paints a haunting picture of a homecoming gone wrong." —**Alex Segura, bestselling author of *Secret Identity***

"An engrossing plot that evokes the work of John Grisham... the perfect mix of mesmerizing thriller and emotional exploration of the question if you can ever go home again." —**Kellye Garrett, award-winning author of *Missing White Woman***

"A beautifully balanced novel that includes a foray into the world of the Gullah-Geechee people, the experience of grief, and the uncovering of a land grab, all wrapped up in an edge-of-the-seat thriller... a perfect novel for a book group, and it's sure to be one of the best books of 2024." —**firstCLUE**

"Two novels into her career, Wanda M. Morris has established herself among the biggest risk-takers in the crime genre." —**New York Times**

BRIGHT OBJECTS

A Novel

By Ruby Todd

NA

July 2024 / Simon & Shuster / US Editor: Tim O'Connell

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

ANZ (Allen & Unwin)

French (Gallmeister)

A young widow grapples with the arrival of a once-in-a-lifetime comet and its tumultuous consequences, in a debut novel that blends mystery, astronomy, and romance, perfect for fans of Emma Cline's *The Girls* and Ottessa Moshfegh's *Death in Her Hands*.

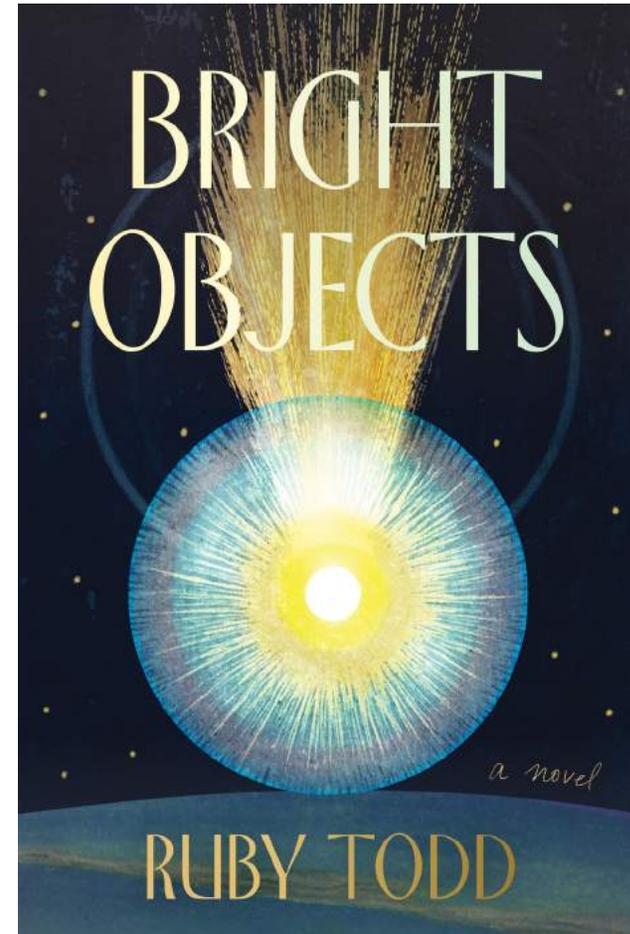
Sylvia Knight is losing hope that the person who killed her husband will ever face justice. Since the night of the hit-and-run, her world has been shrouded in hazy darkness—until she meets Theo St. John, the discoverer of a rare comet soon to be visible to the naked eye.

As the comet begins to brighten, Sylvia wonders what the apparition might signify. She is soon drawn into the orbit of local mystic Joseph Evans, who believes the comet's arrival is nothing short of a divine message. Finding herself caught between two conflicting perspectives of this celestial phenomenon, she struggles to define for herself where the reality lies. As the comet grows in the sky, her town slowly descends further and further into a fervor over its impending apex, and Sylvia's quest to uncover her husband's killer will push her and those around her to the furthest reaches of their very lives.

A novel about the search for meaning in a bewildering world, the loyalty of love, and the dangerous lengths people go to in pursuit of obsession, *Bright Objects* is a luminous, masterfully crafted literary thriller.

Ruby Todd is a winner of the Ploughshares magazine Emerging Writer's Contest, the AAWP Chapter One Prize, and the inaugural Furphy Literary Award, Australia's largest prize for a short story. Ruby holds a PhD in poetics from Deakin University, Australia, and a B.A. in Creative Writing and Visual Media from the University of Melbourne, Australia.

ACM Agent: Janet Silver



"A novel written with immense grace, beauty, and depth, *Bright Objects* plumbs the farthest reaches of one widow's grief, ultimately revealing the brilliance of our humanity in the face of immense loss—the will to fight for what's right, the will to hope, and most importantly, the will to love again. A surprising, thrilling, and seductively dangerous comet of a book." —**Chelsea Bieker, author of *Godshot* and *Madwoman***

"*Bright Objects* is the story of a woman consumed by an unquellable obsession, reduced by solitude and incompleteness....Ruby Todd writes of the strain of fearful events and discoveries, all the while revealing to us the hidden realities that lie in wait for us." —**Susanna Moore, author of *The Whiteness of Bones* and *In the Cut***

THE ANTHROPOLOGISTS

A Novel

By Ayşegül Savaş

NA

July 2024 / Bloomsbury / US Editor: Callie Garnett

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

UK/Comm (S&S UK)

“Savas is an author who simply, and astoundingly, knows.” —Bryan Washington

Asya and Manu are looking at apartments, envisioning their future in a foreign city. What should their life here look like? Can they create their own traditions and rituals? Whom can they consider family?

As the young couple dreams about the possibilities of each new listing, Asya, a documentarian, spends her days gathering footage from the neighborhood park like an anthropologist observing local customs. “Forget about daily life,” chides her grandmother on the phone. “We named you for a whole continent and you're filming a park.” Life back in Asya and Manu's respective home countries continues—parents age, grandparents get sick, nieces and nephews grow up—all just slightly beyond their reach. But the world they're making in their new city is growing, too, they hope, into something that will be distinctly theirs. As they open up the horizons of their lives, what and whom will they hold onto, and what will they need to release?

Hailed by Lauren Groff and Marina Abramovic, Savas's fine, precise craft turns *The Anthropologist's* simple apartment search into a soulful, often funny, examination of modern coupledness, home-building, and expat life in the universal modern city.

Ayşegül Savaş is the author of the acclaimed novels *Walking on the Ceiling* and *White on White*. Her work has been translated into seven languages and has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, and elsewhere. She lives in Paris.

Previous Publishers:

Dutch (Kievenaer & Vijn)

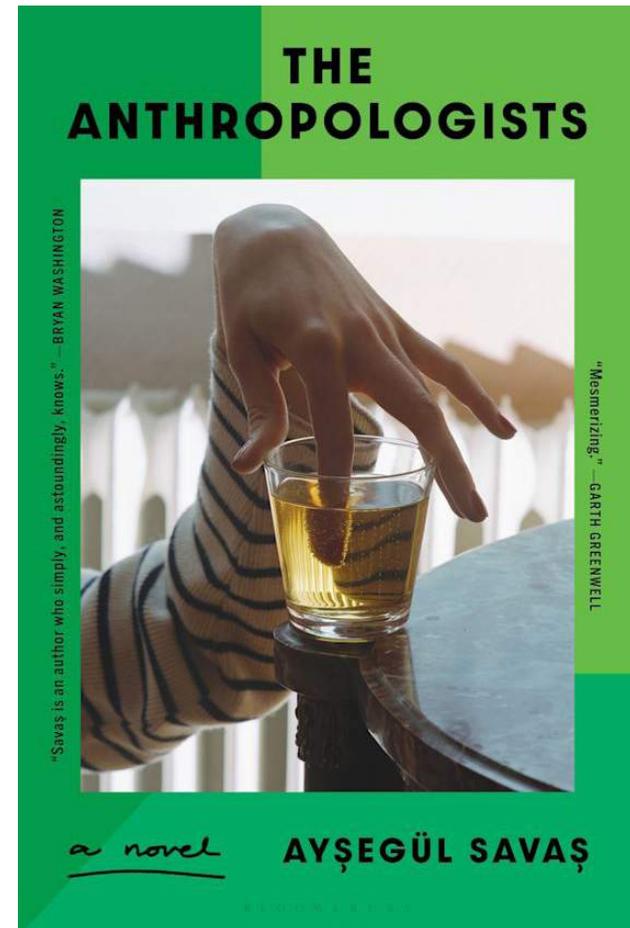
French (Editions Bouquins)

Romanian (Storia)

Spanish (Planeta Mexico)

Turkish (İş Kültür)

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin



"Like Walter Benjamin, Ayşegül Savaş uncovers trapdoors to bewilderment everywhere in everyday life; like Henry James, she sees marriage as a mystery, unsoundably deep. *The Anthropologists* is mesmerizing; I felt I read it in a single breath."
—Garth Greenwell, author of *Cleanness*

“Savas is an author who simply, and astoundingly, knows.” —Bryan Washington, author of *Lot*, *Memorial*, and *Family Meal*

THE NAMING SONG

A Novel

By **Jedediah Berry**

WE

September 2024 / Tor (Macmillan) / US Editor: Carl Engle-Laird

Edited MS Available

There's nothing more dangerous than an unnamed thing

When the words went away, the world changed.

All meaning was lost, and every border fell. Monsters slipped from dreams to haunt the waking while ghosts wandered the land in futile reveries. Only with the rise of the committees of the named—Maps, Ghosts, Dreams, and Names—could the people stand against the terrors of the nameless wilds. They built borders around their world and within their minds, shackled ghosts and hunted monsters, and went to war against the unknown.

For one unnamed courier of the Names Committee, the task of delivering new words preserves her place in a world that fears her. But after a series of monstrous attacks on the named, she is forced to flee her committee and seek her long-lost sister. Accompanied by a patchwork ghost, a fretful monster, and a nameless animal who prowls the shadows, her search for the truth of her past opens the door to a revolutionary future—for the words she carries will reshape the world.

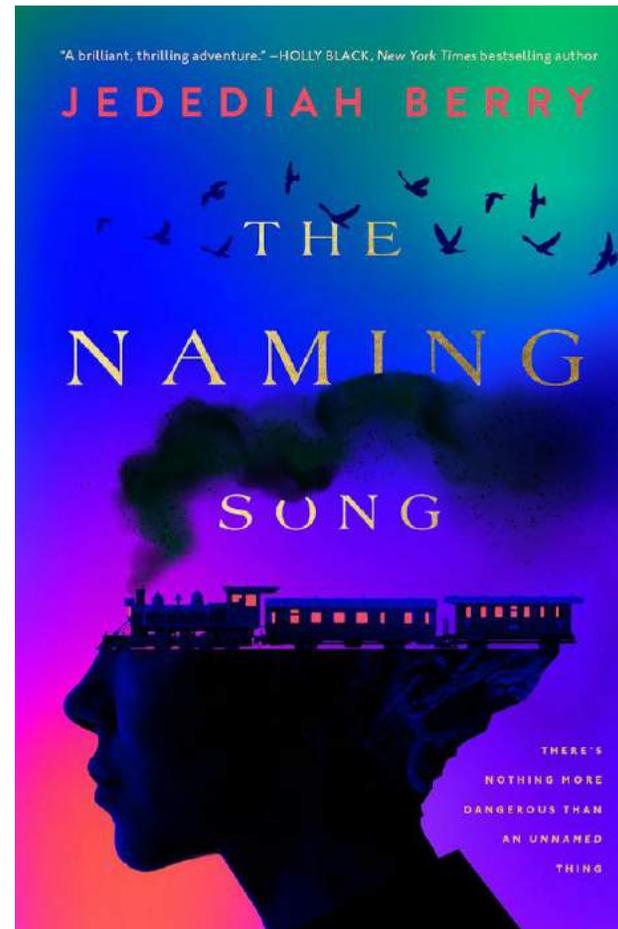
The Naming Song is a book of deep secrets and marvelous discoveries, strange adventures and dangerous truths. It's the story of a world locked in a battle over meaning. Most of all, it's the perfect fantasy for anyone who's ever dreamed of a stranger, freer, more magical world.

Jedediah Berry's first novel, *The Manual of Detection*, won the IAFA Crawford Award and the Dashiell Hammett Prize, and was adapted for broadcast by BBC Radio. The book was named a New York Public Library Young Lions Fiction Award finalist and a Locus Award finalist.

"*The Naming Song* understands the fundamental magic of language, and breathes that magic onto every page." —**Holly Black, #1 New York Times bestselling author**

"Deeply immersive, magnificently imagined [...] a vast and sweeping wonder of a novel." —**J. M. Miro, bestselling author of *Ordinary Monsters***

ACM Agent: Esmond Harmsworth



"A sweeping epic about the language and love between us, the humanity of the living and the dead, and the raw power of creation." —**J. R. Dawson, author of *The First Bright Thing***

"An anti-totalitarian, post-apocalyptic fable featuring mystical theater trains, impossible monsters, and the awesome power of story? Sign me the heck up." —**GennaRose Nethercott, author of *Thistlefoot* and *The Lumberjack's Dove***

"One of the best told fantasy novels of the last twenty-five years." —**Howard Andrew Jones, author of *Lord of a Shattered Land* and *The Desert of Soul***

"A parade of delights and nightmares, written with the kind of incantatory precision that the truest spells are made of." —**Kelly Link, author of the Pulitzer Prize finalist *Get In Trouble***

"A masterful, marvel-filled journey of language and ghosts, of monsters and meaning and mystery [...] haunting, glorious train ride of a novel" —**Erin Morgenstern, #1 bestselling author of *The Starless Sea***

Previous Publishers:

Complex Chinese (Morning Start)

Czech (Albatros)

French (Editions Denoel)

German (CH Beck)

Italian (Adelphi Edizioni)

Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha Co)

Korean (Munhakdongne)

Portuguese (Europa-America Lda.)

Simplified Chinese (CITIC)

Slovak (Monokel)

Spanish (Dumo)

Turkish (Siren)

THE FLOAT TEST

A Novel

By Lynn Steger Strong

NA

Spring 2025 / Mariner (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Kate Nintzel
Edited MS Available

A new novel from acclaimed author Lynn Steger Strong, perfect for fans of Ann Patchett, Joy Williams and Jonathan Franzen.

After the sudden death of the family matriarch, the four adult children of the Kenner family all gather in south Florida to try to bury the complicated woman they worked hard to love. Narrated by one of the middle children, Jude, (who is, in addition to mourning her mother, stewing over a betrayal perpetrated by her sister Fred, a writer), we follow all four over several weeks on a very hot Florida summer as they each reach a turning point. After many years in New York City, Fred (short for Winifred) is back in Florida and she's quit writing for good, has left her lovely husband of many years, and has little structure to her life aside from running, swimming and looking after her friend Mae's young daughter.

On the day of the funeral, Fred finds a handgun in one of her mom's drawers and takes it. Though she usually keeps it in a safe place, she also sometimes takes it out to feel close to her mom—why did her mother have it? And as the family begins to coalesce around their lonely father, what, if anything, is Fred going to do with it?

The Float Test is about a big family trying to connect despite their history, about the sudden loss of a mother and a betrayal between two sisters, about climate anxiety and the beautiful places worth fighting for, about grief and who gets to tell what story, about art. It is also, thrillingly, a book in which we know a gun is going to go off.

Lynn Steger Strong is the author of *Flight*, *Want* and *Hold Still*. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The Cut*, *New York Magazine*, and elsewhere. She teaches writing at Catapult and Columbia University.

Previous Publishers:

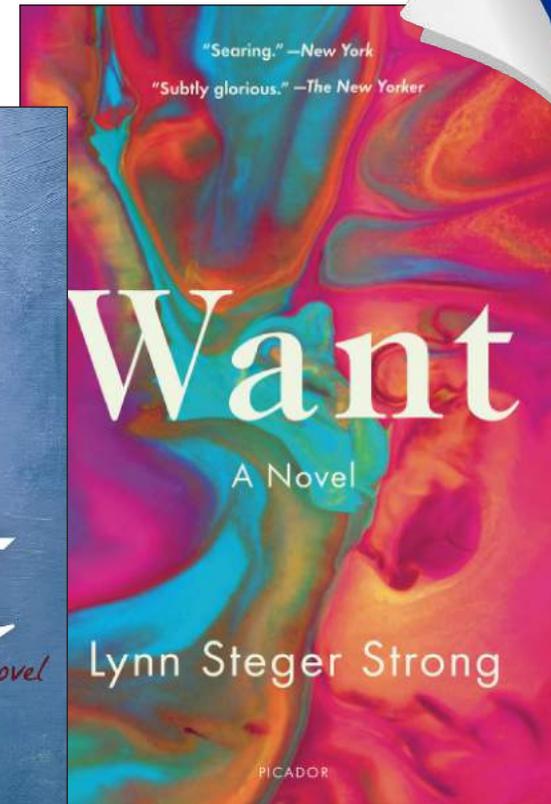
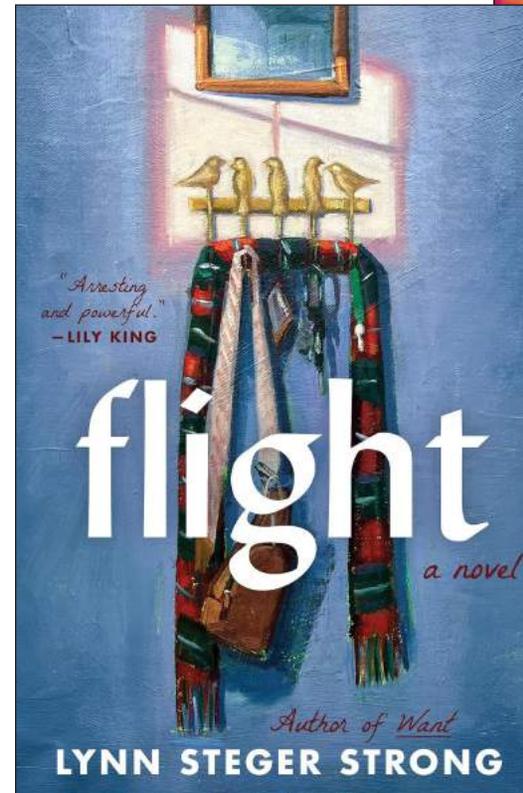
Polish (Pauza)

Vietnamese (Nham Van)

UK/Comm (Scribner / S&S UK)

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

Previously by
Lynn Steger Strong:



Praise for *Flight* and *Want*:

"Quickly, deftly, Strong lays out the financial, emotional and sexual complexities of the three marriages... a resonating depth." —*NYT Book Review*, on *Flight*

"Strong is an exacting observer of families and their idiosyncrasies, in the mode of Anne Tyler and Jonathan Franzen" —*Washington Post*, on *Flight*

"Psychologically astute, deeply affecting... a gut punch" —*Boston Globe*, on *Flight*

"A defining novel of our age of left-behind families... an ideal sample of how to produce fiction that is timely and timeless." —*Vulture*, on *Want*

"To readers it might feel like prophecy... powerful proof that novels, and novelists, can still speak undeniable truths." —*The L.A. Times*, on *Want*

"A devouring read." —*Entertainment Weekly*, on *Want*

BEAUTIFUL DREAMERS

A Novel

By Minrose Gwin

NA

August 2024 / Hub City Press / US Editor: Meg Reid

Edited MS Available Fall 2024

It's 1953 when Memory Feather and her mother, Virginia, are welcomed back home to the Mississippi Gulf Coast community of Belle Cote by Virginia's childhood friend Mac McFadden, whose verve and energy buoy the recently divorced Virginia to embrace this new chapter.

Memory ("Mem") is not like other girls: she is attuned to the voices of plants and animals, and is missing two fingers on her left hand. The three of them knit their lives together and become a close, though unconventional, family.

While Mac's wealth, brains, and good humor have allowed him to carve out a niche in Belle Cote, his position as a gay man active in the burgeoning Civil Rights Movement exposes him to censure, harassment, and even brutality. When the unscrupulous and charismatic Tony Amato arrives in Belle Cote as Mac's "guest," he sets in motion a series of events that will shatter familial bonds and forever change Mem's life. An adult Mem recounts the story of the scars Tony left on her teenage years, confronting her own role in the disastrous events of that final summer.

For fans of Jill McCorkle and Silas House, *Beautiful Dreamers* is Gwin's finest work to date. Sweeping, dramatic, and vividly rendered, it is a novel of innocence and betrayal, love and intolerance, and the care and honesty we owe families we choose.

Minrose Gwin is the award-winning author of the memoir *Wishing for Snow* and the novels *The Queen of Palmyra*, *Promise*, and *The Accidentals*.

Praise for Minrose Gwin

"One of this generation's great novelists" —Margaret Randall, *Time's Language*

"A fiercely talented writer." —Jaimee Wriston Colbert, author of *Wild Things*

"Artfully crafted" —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Saturated with heartbreak but still offering hope." —*Booklist*

"Unexpected flashes of beauty and brilliance." —George Bishop, *Night of the Comet*

"Lyrically precise, taut, and realistic" —Julie Kibler, *Calling Me Home*

ACM Agent: Jane von Mehren

BLUE LIGHT HOURS

A Novel

By Bruna Dantas Lobato

NA

October 2024 / Grove/Atlantic / US Editor: Emily Burns

Edited MS Available Spring 2024

Rights Sold:

Brazilian Portuguese (Companhia das Letras)

Turkish (Is Kultur)

A modern coming-of-age story of love, belonging, and migration from a new literary force, *Blue Light Hours* arrives with the tender power of recent works by Katie Kitamura, Ayşegül Savaş, and Jessica Au.

In a small liberal arts college in the American Northeast, a young woman is buzzing as she settles into a dorm room in a country she's never been to—a dream that a scholarship, hard work, and the support of her mother in Brazil made possible. Once she's unpacked, she calls her mother. It's within this frame that Lobato directs our attention, through the Skype calls of a mother and daughter hoping to stay in one another's lives despite the continent between them. The daughter soon falls in with a small group of international students and starts to form a life—reading, thinking, drinking leftover booze from the rich students' parties, studying, talking. Eventually, the time for calls with her mother grows narrower, as does the conversation, and sometimes it's only late at night with a drink in both their hands, or simply an open computer screen while one falls asleep. As the year passes and the mother recovers from a period of poor health and the daughter begins to question where she fits, both wonder if this is the life they'll always have—not quite apart, but not together. Lobato questions the sacrifices that come with leaving one's home, and she forms a gorgeous portrait of love across borders, both real and imagined.

Bruna Dantas Lobato's fiction has appeared in *The New Yorker*, *Guernica*, *A Public Space*, *The Common*, and other publications. Her literary translations include Caio Fernando Abreu's seminal story collections *Moldy Strawberries* (longlisted, PEN Translation Prize) and the National Book Award winner *The Words That Remain*.

"A melancholy, strange, and love-suffused book" —Lydia Kiesling, *Mobility*

"A spellbinding meditation... Resplendent." —Tess Gunty, *The Rabbit Hutch*

"Subtle and tender" —Maggie Millner, *Couplets*

"The yearning in these pages will haunt me." —Ayşegül Savaş, *White on White*

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

AEVITAS 19

SO LIGHT

A Novel

By Makenna Goodman

NA

Fall 2024 / Coffee House Press / US Editor: Jeremy Davies

Edited MS Available Spring 2024

A failed writer and academic decides to buy a house in the country and start anew. Makenna Goodman's dynamic voice and narrative inventiveness crystallize to explore questions of love, purpose, and power in a world in which old structures demand redefinition.

So Light introduces a professor and writer, a man who has recently realized he's at the end of his career. His wife has left him, and he's in the country with a realtor, a younger woman who is showing him a house with which she has a particular history. With a series of brilliant rhetorical shifts, Goodman draws us into what at first seems like an exploration of a few familiar tropes—campus romance, skewed power dynamics, a retreat to the country to lick psychic wounds—and completely upends them till they bloom and transform. Nothing, as it turns out, is as straight-forward as it might first seem. And as afternoon stretches into evening, strange possibilities begin to open.

So Light reveals a man's fracturing interior world and Faustian crisis of existence. Yet it's also a book about perspective, systems old and new, and the transformations that love and generosity make possible. With incredible dexterity of language, Goodman balances the philosophical and the urgently page-turning and finds company with the work of Katie Kitamura, Sheila Heti and Sigrid Nunez. A work that probes deeply into questions of consciousness and human capacity, it also shares DNA with writers like Olga Tokarczuk, Magda Szabó, Deborah Levy, and Vigdis Hjorth. And while there's clearly a rich inheritance here, *So Light* still feels modern, distinctly its own—like a breakout literary novel by a ferocious talent.

Makenna Goodman's debut novel *The Shame* was named a *Harvard Review* Favorite Book of 2020, a *White Review* Best Book of the Year, a *Refinery29* Best New Book, a *Literary Hub* Recommended Read, and more. She has written for *New York Review of Books*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Electric Literature*, *Literary Hub*, *Catapult*, *Harvard Review*, the *White Review*, *Astra*, and *BOMB*.

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

KAYFABE

A Novel

By Chris Koslowski

WE

Fall 2024 / McSweeney's Books / US Editor: Amanda Uhle

Edited MS Available

A sharp, funny, and deeply intelligent debut novel that delights in the artistry and excess of the world of semi-professional wrestling in the American South.

At 26, Dom Contreras has already spent a decade jobbing through the minor leagues of professional wrestling as Hack Barlow, a 300-pound axe-swinging lumberjack. As his body breaks down and his star power fades, he must invent a new gimmick before he loses the only job he's ever known. Meanwhile, Dom's 17-year-old sister Pilar is eager to make her own pro wrestling debut. Dom is determined to keep Pilar under his wing, but at the same time, he has a vision for her meteoric rise to the top—all the way to stardom (and a big payday) in the WWE.

After Dom loses his temper in a match and Pilar injures herself preparing for her big tryout, Bonnie Blue, the eccentric owner of MCCW, spots an opportunity. She is poised, after years of scheming, to unveil her life's handiwork: an underground, guerrilla-style pro wrestling network with bouts climaxing in real, premeditated injury. To save his career—and his sister's hopes of breaking out—Dom must become Bonnie's new star and take on the one persona he swore he'd never embrace.

KAYFABE is a window into life on the fringes of a uniquely brutal American pastime and an intelligent, self-aware commentary on modern identity, artifice, and violence. In the vein of National Book Award finalist Chris Bachelder's *The Throwback Special*, KAYFABE explores the boundaries of sport, spectacle, entertainment, and exploitation. Like Kevin Wilson's *The Family Fang*, it centers a strange family seeking connection in an even stranger world. Evoking Sam Lipsyte's whip-smart humor and Lauren Oyler's biting insight, KAYFABE challenges readers to consider the truths that fakery can expose.

A University of Michigan graduate, **Chris Koslowski** holds an MA in Creative Writing and Literature from the University of Cincinnati and an MFA in Fiction from the University of South Carolina. His fiction has been published in *Blue Mesa Review*, *Front Porch Journal*, and Amazon's *Day One*. Koslowski lives with his wife in Columbia, South Carolina.

ACM Agent: Justin Brouckaert

AEVITAS 20

THE CUT

A Novel

By C.J. Dotson

NA

Winter 2025 / St. Martin's Press / US Editor: Michael Homler
Edited MS Available Fall 2024

"A chilling, paranoia-inducing thrill-ride of a horror tale! Bizarre twists, great characters, and an ending that will leave you breathless!" —Jonathan Maberry, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Cave 13* and *Necrotek*

A historic hotel long past its prime, huddled near an ugly power plant and a questionable Lake Erie beach, isn't Sadie Miles' ideal place to raise a toddler while also navigating her second pregnancy. After finally fleeing her abusive ex-fiancé, though, Sadie's new housekeeping position and a free room at L'Arpin Hotel are the best she can manage.

On her first night, Sadie runs to help a guest struggling in the hotel's pool only to find the water calm and empty when she gets there, leaving her with a lingering unease. When that guest goes missing and her manager insists they simply left without checking out, Sadie suspects he's covering up darker goings-on in the hotel. After her ex, no one will ever again convince her that what she's experiencing isn't real, so Sadie keeps digging. Suspicious interactions with the staff, mysteriously vanishing security cameras, missing guests, and things that go bump in the night (and drip in the walls, slither in the tub, and squirm in the halls) create a frightening atmosphere. Things aren't as they seem within the dim hallways of L'Arpin.

A coworker's disappearance and a monstrous encounter force a desperate choice on Sadie: pack up her daughter and flee again despite having nowhere else to go, or continue at L'Arpin. Can she uncover L'Arpin's dangers and stop them from spreading beyond the grounds of the hotel, perhaps beyond her ability to outrun?

C.J. Dotson's short fiction can be found in publications such as *Upon a Once Time from Air* and Nothingness Press, *99 Tiny Terrors* from Pulse Publishing, and more. She studied English with a creative writing focus at Cleveland State University.

"A compelling page-turner full of slithery secrets and scares." —Rachel Harrison, national bestselling author of *Black Sheep*

ACM Agent: Chris Bucci

BETA VULGARIS

A Novel

By Margie Sarsfield

NA

Winter 2025 / W.W. Norton / US Editor: Drew Weitman
Edited MS Available Spring 2024

A debut literary horror novel in which a young woman's seasonal gig working the Minnesota sugar beet harvest morphs into a nightmare of grueling manual labor, unexplained disappearances, and escalating self-hatred. A contemporary take on *The Awakening* perfect for readers of Mona Awad, Rachel Yoder and Melissa Broder.

"Uncanny and electric and quietly harrowing [this] is my favorite kind of horror novel—terrifyingly human [...] a novel so vivid and memorable, I'll be thinking of beet pilers for years to come." —Danya Kukafka, *Notes on an Execution*

All Elise and her boyfriend Tom know about the sugar beet harvest is that their paycheck should cover the next few months' rent on their Brooklyn apartment. Both recently out of college, Elise and Tom are broke and directionless enough to believe a few weeks in the field will be an adventure—not realizing that twelve-hour graveyard shifts and days spent attempting to sleep in their pop-up camper will imperil both their relationship and Elise's delicate mental health.

At the farm they meet the other workcampers, including the charismatic, crush-worthy Cee and her partner Sam. They drink schnapps around a bonfire at night and by day learn to operate the piler, an enormous machine that exerts an ineffable pull on Elise's psyche. Slowly, Elise starts to notice strange things: ominous voices, a mysterious rash, impossible notifications from her smartphone. And when Tom and Cee disappear, Elise isn't sure whether to feel abandoned, afraid, pissed off, or pitiful.

As the long cold nights blend into increasingly bleary days, Elise's most toxic coping mechanisms reemerge. Alone in the field, she must face the weight of her past selves, the horror of an unknown future, and the increasingly menacing siren song of the beet pile.

Margie Sarsfield was the recipient of the 2019 Calvino Prize. Her work has appeared in *Salt Hill*, *CutBank*, *The Normal School*, *Seneca Review*, *Hippocampus*, and more.

ACM Agent: Maggie Cooper

AEVITAS 21

MỠ DOCUMENTS

A Novel

By Kevin Nguyen

WE

March '25 / OneWorld (PRH) / US Editor: Sun Robinson-Smith and Chris Jackson
Edited MS Available Fall 2023

Appealing to fans of Ling Ma, Jessamine Chan, and Omar El Akkad, Nguyen's latest novel is a portrait of American ambition, fear, and family, and of four siblings looking to return to each other, and to themselves, after tragedy.

Brother and sister pairs, Ursula and Alvin, and Jen and Duncan, grew up as cousins in the sprawling Nguyen family, but the four were actually half-siblings, abandoned by a father who had left when they were young. As we meet them, a series of violent and senseless attacks lead to a government policy forcing all Vietnamese Americans to internment camps, and the cousins' lives swerve. Jen and Duncan are sent to Camp Tacoma with their mother, while Ursula and Alvin, (who pass as white) receive exemptions. In the camp, inmates are cut off from the world. Soon Jen, enticed by the prospect of two new friends, begins working with the camp's underground network, to pass messages to her cousin Ursula on the outside. As Ursula receives Jen's secret dispatches and turns them into reporting, her nascent journalism career takes off. And when Alvin discovers something strange in a presentation deck from a colleague and leaks it to Ursula, her access to the darker realities of the time begin to overwhelm them both, just as things are tipping into more dangerous territory.

Informed by research on Japanese internment and the Vietnam War, Nguyen gives us a version of reality only a few degrees away from our own. Moving, and finely attuned to both the brutalities and mundanities of racism in America, *My Documents* is a strangely funny and touching portrait of ambition, fear, and family.

Kevin Nguyen is the author of *New Waves* which was named a best book of the year by NPR, *Parade*, *Kirkus Review* and The New York Public Library.

"A knowing and thought-provoking exploration of love, modern isolation, and what it means to exist—especially as a person of color—in our increasingly digital age."—**Celeste Ng, on Kevin Nguyen's *New Waves***

"A satire of internet culture that is also a moving portrait of a lost human being"
—**Los Angeles Times, on Kevin Nguyen's *New Waves***

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

HOW NOT TO SOLVE A MURDER

A Novel (previously, DON'T BE SAD, MY DARLINGS)

By Elisabeth Brink (pseudonym TBD)

WE

Spring 2025 / Berkley (PRH) / US Editor: Tom Colgan
Edited MS Available Fall 2024

A fast-paced mystery packed with messy family intrigue, ominous New England gloom, and the ambition and angst of young adulthood. *Don't Be Sad, My Darlings* will appeal to fans of Louise Penny, Paige Shelton, and Anthony Horowitz.

After trying her hand as a barista, a bicycle courier, and a fact-checker, twenty-five-year-old Olivia Blunt lands her dream job as the assistant to a world-famous Manhattan private investigator. Tula Wahlberg is gruff, demanding, and enigmatic, and Olivia is eager to earn her respect, but it soon becomes clear that Tula has very high standards and this may be more *Devil Wears Prada* than *Death on the Nile*.

Soon, the unlikely pair hop into Olivia's ancient Jeep and head to Lake Champlain, Vermont to solve Olivia's first murder mystery. Victoria Summersworth, the well-loved matriarch of a mountain resort dynasty, has fallen to her death off her balcony, hours after her sixty-fifth birthday party. Her daughter believes she was killed. And it seems as if anyone within a five-mile radius of the swanky, secluded Wild Goose Resort not only could have done it, but had a motive to do it.

Olivia—or Blunt, as Wahlberg calls her—knows that this is her one chance to prove herself to her new boss, whose old-fashioned notions of feminism and fairness, and failure to understand intersectionality and the need to specify one's pronouns, have been getting on her nerves. Determined to show Wahlberg that a cheerful, Gen Z idealist can solve crimes too, thank you very much, Olivia throws herself headfirst into the investigation. But when she takes one (un)calculated risk too many, she realizes she might not even make it out of Vermont alive.

Previous Publishers:

France (Belfont)

Germany (Ullstein)

UK/Comm (Headline)

Elisabeth Brink writes dark thrillers under the name Elisabeth Elo, as well as literary fiction under the name Elisabeth Panttaja Brink. Her titles include *North of Boston* and *Finding Katarina M.*

ACM Agent: Esmond Harmsworth

AEVITAS 22

MAYRA

A Novel

By Nicky Gonzalez

NA

Spring 2025 / Random House (PRH) / US Editor: Marie Pantojan
Edited MS Available Fall 2024

Rights Sold:

UK/Comm (Scribe)

A taut, gorgeous literary gothic debut, *Mayra* asks us: what places and people make us who we are, and what do we do if we want to leave those things behind?

It's been years since Ingrid has heard from her closest childhood friend, Mayra, who fled Miami for college in the Northeast. On the rare occasions when Mayra had visited she had seemed changed, like she'd tried to wipe the part of her life that had contained home and Hialeah clean. But when Ingrid's phone rings unexpectedly, hearing the sound of Mayra's voice after so many years was like she had returned: Mayra picking her nails and chewing her lips, Mayra with her gelled curls and hoops, Mayra thumbing her nose at the world. She asks Ingrid to come spend the weekend, and Ingrid, lonely and a bit lost, knows that she'll still follow Mayra wherever.

As Ingrid sets out for the Everglades, convinced she will only stay two nights, she's nervous—the directions to the house are difficult, out beyond the reach of cell service or wifi, and the wet maw of the swamp around her is almost threatening to swallow her up as she drives. But when she arrives, the house, Mayra, and her new boyfriend Benji welcome her with open arms. Nothing to be afraid of.

The hot, sticky hours linger and slow as the two women settle into the familiar intimacy of one another's company. Benji plays host, cooking lavish meals, and time seems to stretch and expand, obliterating any sense of the outside world. The old house is full of gems from the past, but an aged journal captures Ingrid's attention and sparks an urgent kernel of recognition. She called in sick to stay a few extra days but how long has she really been here? Why does Mayra's memory seem so cloudy? What can Ingrid remember of what is waiting for her at home?

Nicky Gonzalez is a writer from Hialeah, Florida. Her fiction has appeared or is forthcoming in *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, *BOMB Magazine*, *Kenyon Review Online*, *Taco Bell Quarterly*, and other publications.

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

A SHARP ENDLESS NEED

A Novel

By Marisa Crane

NA

Spring 2025 / Dial Press (PRH) / US Editor: Katy Nishimoto
Edited MS Available Spring 2024

A fiercely felt and beautifully captured story about queer coming of age, first love, and basketball.

Set in 2004, *A Sharp Endless Need* is told from the perspective of star point guard Mack Morris, whose senior year of high school begins with twin cataclysms: the death of her father and the arrival of transfer student Liv Cooper. On the court, Mack and Liv discover an exhilarating, game-winning chemistry; off the court, they fall into an equally intoxicating more-than-friendship that is out of bounds for their small Pennsylvania town, and especially, for Liv's conservative mother. As Mack's desire and grief collide with drugs, sex, and the looming college signing deadline, she is forced to reckon with the disconnects between her past and her future—and fight for the life she wants for herself, whether or not Liv will be on the court beside her.

With the lush longing of Andre Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*, the obsessive attention of Jean Kyoung Frazier's *Pizza Girl*, and the manic intensity of Gabe Habash's *Stephen Florida*, *A Sharp Endless Need* sits, perhaps, at the middle of the Venn diagram of Sally Rooney's *Normal People* and the beloved 2000 movie *Love & Basketball*—a voice-driven, literary treatment of the big feelings of first love, intimacy, heartbreak, grief, and of course, sports.

Mac Crane is the author of *I Keep My Exoskeletons To Myself*, a *New York Times* Editors' Choice and Indie Next pick, which has been featured by *The Atlantic*, *Tor.com*, *Buzzfeed*, *Cosmopolitan*, and many other publications. They have attended Bread Loaf and the Tin House Workshop; received fellowships from the Sewanee Writers Conference and American Short Fiction; and their short work has appeared in *Lit Hub*, *TriQuarterly*, *Prairie Schooner*, *Joyland*, and elsewhere.

ACM Agent: Maggie Cooper

WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU

A Novel

By Paul Rudnick

NA

Spring 2025 / Atria (S&S) / US Editor: Peter Borland

Edited MS Available Fall 2024

At an island wedding off the coast of Maine, an ensemble cast of characters are thrown together in a giddy romantic dance reminiscent of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

A renowned book editor, Robb Barnett plies his trade at the venerable publishing firm of Welstrom & Stratters, a legendary name that has recently been acquired by the billionaire Trone Meston to add to his plethora of telecom, media, and technology companies. Rob has known great love, but it is a love from the past, ever since Jake, his husband, died.

Sean Manginaro, Rob's trainer and overall best friend, is an entrepreneur and former TV action star who hit it big with a line of gyms. Sean has just discovered that his ex-wife, Linda Kleinschmidt, formerly the most beautiful flight attendant flying cross-country routes, has become engaged to one of the richest men on the planet, eccentric, nerdy billionaire Trone Meston, and through either a mistake or a last minute, passive aggressive cry for help, Linda has invited Sean to their wedding, which is about to take place on a custom-engineered island off the coast of Maine.

When Rob is fired from his publishing job through the machinations of Isabelle McNally, a much younger and much more devious fellow employee, he joins forces with Sean so that they can both confront Trone Meston—Sean in an attempt to win Linda back, Rob in an attempt to bargain for his job. Soon, they meet another character gatecrashing the wedding of the year, Tremble Woodspill, Rob's literary discovery and his most intriguing author, a tough, cunning writer from the remotest parts of Arkansas who pretends to be a caterer so she can convince Trone to re-hire Rob and to let him edit her book. In Maine, all of these characters are thrown together in a giddy romantic dance, heightened when Trone reveals an astonishing new technology at the wedding that will revolutionize the entire universe of love.

Paul Rudnick is an author, playwright, and screenwriter. He is the author of *Farrell Covington and the Limits of Style*. His plays have been produced on and off Broadway and include *Jeffrey*, *I Hate Hamlet*, *Regrets Only*, and *The New Century*.

ACM Agent: Esmond Harmsworth

LONG DISTANCE

Stories

By Ayşegül Savaş

NA

Spring 2025 / Bloomsbury / US Editor: Callie Garnett

Edited MS Available Fall 2024

A collection that brings together Savaş's incredible talent for the short story. Her work in *The New Yorker* is featured prominently here—including the devastating new story "Notions of the Sacred". In reading these stories all together, though, they accumulate to a deeply moving examination of contemporary life, finding beauty in moments of transition, of hidden devastation, and all the ways in which we seek connection beyond shared language and culture. Ayşegül's plan is to have at least one new story to add to the collection by the time it's ready to publish.

Praise for Ayşegül Savaş's *White on White* and *Walking on the Ceiling*:

"Ambitious" —*New York Times*

"Bright, perspicacious, and elegant" —*Chicago Review of Books*

"An elegantly stark character study" —*Christian Science Monitor*

"A high-minded, slow-moving thriller" —*Vulture*

"A unique and sober examination of friendship" —*Ms. Magazine*

"Exhilarating" —*Electric Lit*

"Beautiful and fraught" —*Ploughshares*

"Brilliantly illuminates the human spectrum of connection and longing." —*Kirkus*

"Alluring" —*Publishers Weekly*

"[Savaş] writes with both sensuality and coolness" —*New York Times*

"[A]n original, mesmerising story" —*The Economist*

"Stuns you in a way both quiet and surprising" —*Nylon Magazine*

"Quiet, intense, and moving." —*LitHub*

"Emotionally rich.. subtly profound" —*Booklist*

"A rich exploration of intimacy, loneliness" —*Publishers Weekly*

"A refined and wistful exploration of the nature of memory" —*Kirkus*

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

TELL ME ONE TRUE THING

A Novel

By Elizabeth Buck

NA

Summer 2025 / Simon & Shuster / US Editor: Tim O'Connell
Edited MS Available Fall 2023

Readers who devour Louise Penny's mysteries and who made Adam White's *The Midcoast* a major bestseller will savor the fun plot twists and atmospheric setting of this stunning debut commercial novel.

Just about everything has gone wrong for creative writing professor Gwen Gilmore over the past year. She's lost her mother, been fired from her college in Atlanta over a petty dispute, and been dumped by her long-time boyfriend, Guy. With few choices and little more than the balance on a few credit cards left to her name, she makes the lonely drive north to take up residence in her family's aging cottage - a home she's recently inherited and where she spent summers as a child.

The cottage and Port Anna, the foggy Maine town of Gwen's childhood, are unchanged. For Gwen, they are full of ghosts; boyfriends and childhood acquaintances, painful memories of a sister who drowned tragically while on her watch, and The Misses, the two young women— now literally ghosts - who are strangely unsettled, banging doors and stomping around the cottage they built more than a century ago. Behind its charming façade, Port Anna has not escaped the realities of modern life. Family homes are being razed for garish condos, the cottage is about to be condemned, and Gwen can't seem to get the flier for a missing teenage girl, Shania Neal out of her head. It's an odd place to make a new start.

But Port Anna is also home to bright new arrivals and newly kept secrets. There's Leandro, a Spanish artist, as aloof and witty as he is wildly attractive and who fills Gwen with the hope that she can laugh easily again; there's Steven, collector of folk art, a shrewd businessman and the new partner of Gwen's high school beau Jess. Even her old friend Hugh is full of surprises as he flaunts his newfound wealth and attempts to rekindle an old flame. As the summer crowds return to the city and the locals hunker down for another harsh Maine winter, secrets will be uncovered, the missing girl will resurface, and Gwen will be forced to make choices that will change her life forever and quiet the restless ghosts haunting her home.

Elizabeth (Libby) Buck is a writer and former teacher based in Chapel Hill, NC.

ACM Agent: Rick Richter

CERTAINTY

A Novel

By John Twelve Hawks

NA

Summer 2025 / Doubleday (PRH) / US Editor: Jason Kaufman
Edited MS Available Winter 2025

A speculative thriller set in a dangerous world dominated by artificial intelligence and sentient machines.

In a not-too-distant future, the world has ground to a halt. A pandemic has wiped out much of the population, and AI has irrevocably infiltrated daily life. Manhattan is overrun with wireheads, who spend their days literally plugged into virtual reality; algorithms tell the police who to arrest and who to prosecute; and grieving people purchase robots in the likeness of their dead loved ones.

Wilson Talley, an analyst at the Executive Information Services in Manhattan, wakes one morning to a mysterious note from a detective, requesting to meet him in person at a murder scene. Respected robot-maker Terrence Greene has been brutally murdered in his workshop. At first, Wilson expects this information-gathering job to be like any other. But when a reclusive billionaire asks him to dig deeper into the crime, he realizes that Greene's death might be part of a much larger scheme. Across the city, Jay Wu—a resourceful young woman who makes a living as a virtual bodyguard for gamers—and her partner Daniel are hired to find a missing wirehead. His parents suspect that he's gone off the grid to live out his virtual fantasies, but Jay and Daniel soon learn that he may have uncovered an AI corporation's dark secret. Meanwhile, in Maine, ten-year-old Kate finds herself on the run after police officers show up at her foster home, attempting to implant a tracker into her body. An algorithm has predicted that she's likely to kill or be killed in the next 30 days. With a backpack of supplies and her trusty Interactive Toy, a stuffed seal named Zeno, Kate sets off on a journey to New York, where she hopes to find refuge with a family friend named Terry Greene.

Wilson, Jay, and Kate don't know it yet, but their individual quests will bring them together in a life-or-death battle for human autonomy.

John Twelve Hawks is the international bestselling author of *The Traveler* series and *Spark*.

ACM Agent: Esmond Harmsworth

BLACKCURRANT

A Novel

By Kerry Cullen

NA

Fall 2025 / Simon & Shuster / US Editor: Olivia Taylor Smith

Edited MS Available Fall 2024

Blackcurrant is part queer literary gothic, part body-horror ghost story about a struggling publishing worker with intense harm OCD who, after a bad episode, retreats to her bucolic hometown and slides quickly into a life—as a wife, step-mother, and homemaker—that still might belong to someone else. Haunting, seductive, and wry, Cullen’s debut joins the company of recent novels by Sylvia Moreno-Garcia, Julia Armfield, and Carmen Maria Machado.

Cassie’s OCD is spiraling. On the subway to her job as an underpaid and over-worked assistant at a literary agency, her thoughts are interrupted by graphic images of herself violently killing the people around her. She’s had other tough OCD themes before—blood disease, bedbugs—but now she’s not sure whether this is the disorder or something rotten deep down within her, newly exposed. Craving a break, she takes the train along the Delaware to her childhood hometown, where she bumps into her old friend Eli. It’s been ten years since Cassie and Eli have last seen each other, and Eli is recently widowed with two children. Within months, they are married and Cassie has given up her New York life entirely, but her mind is still ablaze. In the house in the woods outside of town, Cassie distracts herself from the encroaching bloody images of Eli’s two children, Preston and Annabel, by focusing on homeschooling and walks in the woods. Still, Cass struggles to become the wife and homemaker she has, till now, never been interested in being.

Hanging over her new life is Beth, the wife Eli lost, who is still infused in Cass’s surroundings—the decorations, furniture, the rhythms in the house. And in the woods. After one of her walks, Cassie is overcome by a new understanding of the house and its inhabitants—and by a voice, telling her the story that preceded her. But as the new consciousness in her head grows stronger, what is it trying to piece together?

Kerry Cullen earned her MFA at Columbia University and has spent some years in publishing, most recently as a literary scout.

BACKLIST HIGHLIGHTS



THE ILLNESS LESSON

A Novel

By Clare Beams

Doubleday (PRH) / US Editor: Lee Boudreaux

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

French (Presses de la Cité)

A NEW YORK TIMES EDITORS' CHOICE

LONGLISTED FOR THE CENTER FOR FICTION FIRST NOVEL PRIZE

Haunting, intense and irresistible, *The Illness Lesson* is an extraordinary debut about women's minds and bodies, and the time-honoured tradition of doubting both.

In 1871, at an elite new school designed to shape the minds of young women, the inscrutable and defiant Eliza Bell has been overwhelmed by an inexplicable illness.

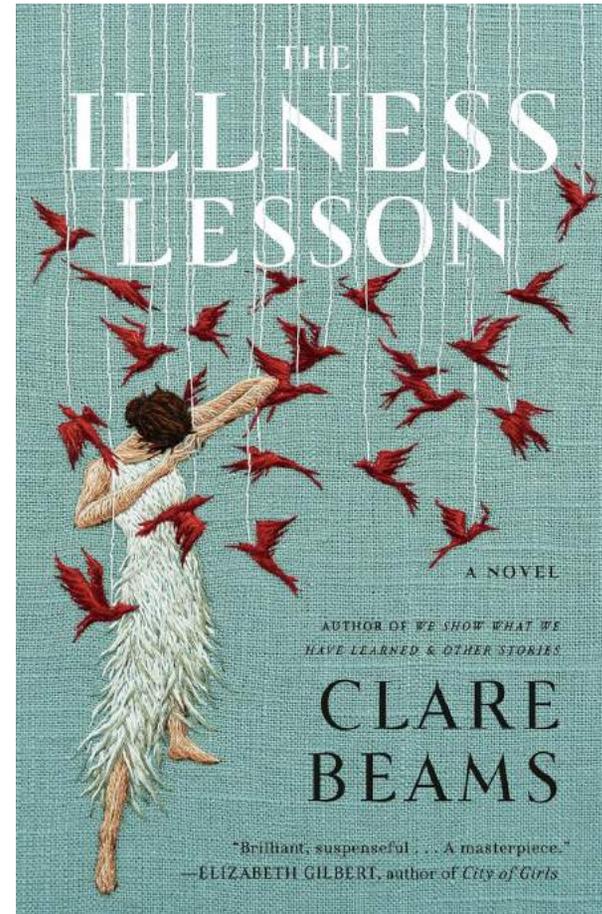
Before long, the other girls start to succumb to its peculiar symptoms - rashes, tics, night wanderings and fits. As the disease takes hold, teacher Caroline Hood tries desperately to hide her own symptoms, but the powers-that-be turn to a sinister physician with dubious methods.

Does Caroline have the courage to confront the all-male, all-knowing authorities of her world and protect the young women in her care?

Clare Beams is the author of the story collection *We Show What We Have Learned*, which won the Bard Fiction Prize and was a Kirkus Best Debut of 2016, as well as a finalist for the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize, the New York Public Library's Young Lions Fiction Award, and the Shirley Jackson Award. Her fiction appears in *One Story*, *Ecotone*, *The Common*, *the Kenyon Review*, *Electric Literature's Recommended Reading*, and *The Best American Nonrequired Reading*. She has received fellowships from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Sustainable Arts Foundation.

"Astoundingly original... belongs on the shelf with your Margaret Atwood"
—*The New York Times*

ACM Agent: Michelle Brower



"This is Alcott meets Shirley Jackson, with a splash of Margaret Atwood... Unusual and transporting." —*Washington Post*

"Beams meditates on how an all-male establishment can denying women's pain, and how the consequences can shape a society." —*Vanity Fair*

"Beams's first novel is a meticulously crafted suspense tale seething with feminist fury."
—*O Magazine*

"Masterfully considered... Clare Beams' cool, cutting prose hypnotically evokes the oppression of female bodies and minds." —*Entertainment Weekly*

★ STARRED REVIEW, BOOKLIST ★

"Luminous... This suspenseful and vividly evocative tale expertly explores women's oppression as well as their sexuality through the eyes of a heroine who is maddening, sympathetic, and always wholly compelling and beautifully rendered."

★ STARRED REVIEW, KIRKUS ★

"Beams takes risk after risk and they all pay off. Her ventriloquizing of the late 19th century, her delicate-as-lace sentences, and the friction between the unsettling thinking of the period and its 21st century resonances make for an electrifying read."

"A modern scream of female outrage. A masterpiece"
—Elizabeth Gilbert, *City of Girls*

"You want to know how horrifying things happened while decent people looked on and did nothing? Read this novel" —Mary Beth Keane, *Ask Again, Yes*

AEVITAS 28

THE MANUAL OF DETECTION

A Novel

By Jedediah Berry

Penguin Press (PRH)

Final PDF Available

Active Licences:

Korean (Munhakdongne)

Slovak (Monokel)

In this tightly plotted yet mind-expanding novel, an unlikely detective, armed only with an umbrella and a singular handbook, must untangle a string of crimes committed in and through people's dreams

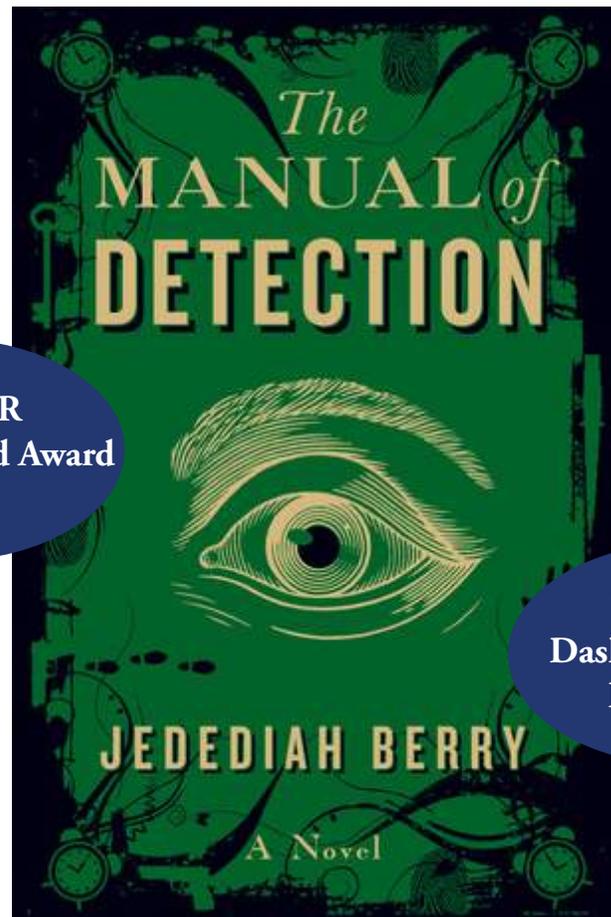
In an unnamed city always slick with rain, Charles Unwin toils as a clerk at a huge, imperious detective agency. All he knows about solving mysteries comes from the reports he's filed for the illustrious detective Travis Sivart. When Sivart goes missing and his supervisor turns up murdered, Unwin is suddenly promoted to detective, a rank for which he lacks both the skills and the stomach. His only guidance comes from his new assistant, who would be perfect if she weren't so sleepy, and from the pithy yet profound Manual of Detection (think *The Art of War* as told to Damon Runyon).

Unwin mounts his search for Sivart, but is soon framed for murder, pursued by goons and gunmen, and confounded by the infamous femme fatale Cleo Greenwood. Meanwhile, strange and troubling questions proliferate: why does the mummy at the Municipal Museum have modern-day dental work? Where have all the city's alarm clocks gone? Why is Unwin's copy of the manual missing Chapter 18? When he discovers that Sivart's greatest cases - including the Three Deaths of Colonel Baker and the Man Who Stole November 12th - were solved incorrectly, Unwin must enter the dreams of a murdered man and face a criminal mastermind bent on total control of a slumbering city.

The Manual of Detection will draw comparison to every work of imaginative fiction that ever blew a reader's mind - from Carlos Ruiz Zafón to Jorge Luis Borges, from *The Big Sleep* to *The Yiddish Policeman's Union*. But, ultimately, it defies comparison; it is a brilliantly conceived, meticulously realized novel that will change what you think about how you think.

Jedediah Berry's next book, *The Naming Song* is forthcoming in September 2024.

ACM Agent: Esmond Harmsworth



WINNER
IAFA Crawford Award
2009

WINNER
Dashiell Hammett
Prize 2009

"This debut novel weaves the kind of mannered fantasy that might result if Wes Anderson were to adapt Kafka." —*The New Yorker*

"It is an elegant and stunningly imaginative fusion of detective and speculative fiction." —*The Guardian*

"The plot's bursting with as many twists and surprises as you could hope for...It steams along the smooth rails of Berry's neatly constructed sentences, barrelling round each well-cambered turn with barely a judder." —*London Review of Books*

Previous Publishers:

Complex Chinese (Morning Start)

Czech (Albatros)

French (Editions Denoel)

German (CH Beck)

Italian (Adelphi Edizioni)

Japanese (Tokyo Sogensha Co)

Portuguese (Europa-America Lda.)

Simplified Chinese (CITIC)

Spanish (Dumo)

Turkish (Siren)

RAFT OF STARS

A Novel

By Andrew J. Graff

Ecco (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Helen Atsma

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

Czech (Dobrovsky)

French (Gallmeister)

Dutch (Kok / Boekencentrum)

UK/Comm (HQ / HarperCollins UK)

An instant classic for fans of Jane Smiley and *Kitchens of the Great Midwest*: when two hardscrabble young boys think they've committed a crime, they flee into the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Will the adults trying to find and protect them reach them before it's too late?

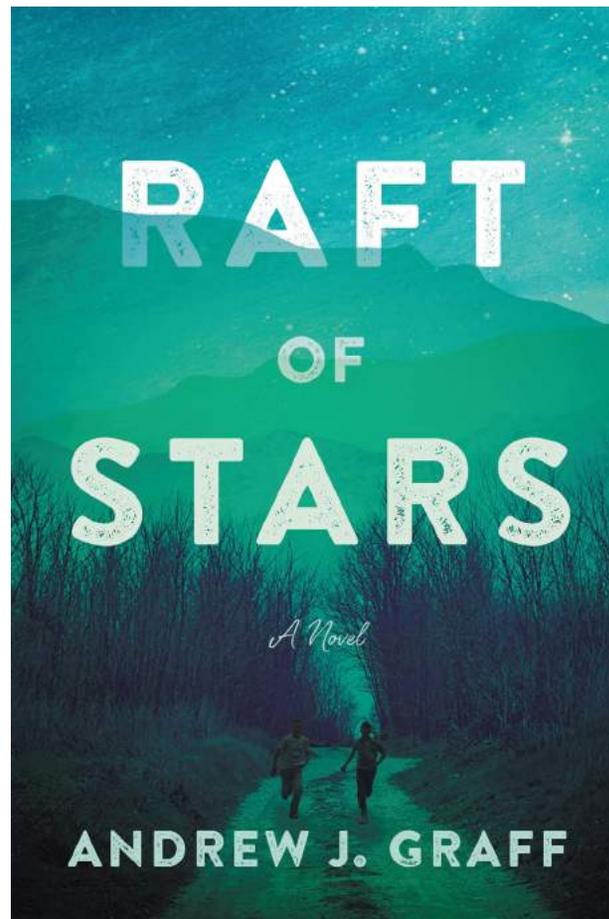
It's the summer of 1994 in Claypot, Wisconsin, and the lives of ten-year-old Fischer "Fish" Branson and Dale "Bread" Breadwin are shaped by the two fathers they don't talk about. One night, tired of seeing his best friend bruised and terrorized by his no-good dad, Fish takes action. A gunshot rings out and the two boys flee the scene, believing themselves murderers. They head for the woods, where they find their way onto a raft, but the natural terrors of Ironsforge gorge threaten to overwhelm them.

Four adults track them into the forest, each one on a journey of his or her own. Fish's mother Miranda, a wise woman full of fierce faith; his granddad, Teddy, who knows the woods like the back of his hand; Tiffany, a purple-haired gas station attendant and poet looking for connection; and Sheriff Cal, who's having doubts about a life in law enforcement. The adults track the boys toward the novel's heart-pounding climax on the edge of the gorge and a conclusion that beautifully makes manifest the grace these characters find in the wilderness and one another. This timeless story of loss, hope, and adventure runs like the river itself amid the vividly rendered landscape of the Upper Midwest.

Andrew J. Graff's fiction and essays have appeared in *Image* and *Dappled Things*. Andrew grew up fishing, hiking, and hunting in Wisconsin's Northwoods. After a tour of duty in Afghanistan, Graff earned an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop. He lives in Ohio and teaches at Wittenberg University.

"A rousing adventure yarn full of danger and heart and humor." —Richard Russo

ACM Agent: Janet Silver & Maggie Cooper



"Exquisitely crafted" —*Boston Globe*

"Engrossing, largehearted" —*The New York Times Book Review*

"Gripping" —*Washington Post*

"Glorious" —*Country Living*

"Must-read" —*Parade*

"Heartfelt and enjoyable" —*Milwaukee Magazine*

"Filled with wonder" —*Front Porch Republic*

"Impressive" —*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"Dark, dreamy, adrenaline-spiked" —*PopSugar*

★ STARRED REVIEW, *LIBRARY JOURNAL* ★

"An engaging adventure and a profound reflection on human bonding, what it means to be a man (and a good one), and the importance of persevering [...] Highly recommended, whether you want literate thrills or thoughtful, affirming meditation."



THE SHAME

A Novel

By Makenna Goodman

Milkweed Editions / Final PDF Available

A “startlingly original” novel of “recursive loops through the mind of a woman who is breaking down from not making the art she absolutely must make” (Alexander Chee, *Paris Review*).

Alma and her family live close to the land, raising chickens and sheep. While her husband works at a nearby college, she stays home with their young children, cleans, searches for secondhand goods online, and reads books by the women writers she adores. Then, one night, she abruptly leaves it all behind—speeding through the darkness, away from their Vermont homestead, bound for New York.

In a series of flashbacks, Alma reveals the circumstances and choices that led to this moment: the joys and claustrophobia of their remote life; her fears and uncertainties about motherhood; the painfully awkward faculty dinners; her feelings of loneliness and failure; and her growing fascination with Celeste, a mysterious ceramicist and self-loving doppelgänger who becomes an obsession for Alma.

A fable both blistering and surreal, *The Shame* is a propulsive, funny, and thought-provoking debut about a woman in isolation, whose mind—fueled by capitalism, motherhood, and the search for meaningful art—attempts to betray her.

Makenna Goodman lives and works in Vermont. *The Shame* is her first novel, and her next novel *So Light* is forthcoming from Coffee House Press in 2024. She has written for *New York Review of Books*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *Electric Literature*, *Literary Hub*, *Catapult*, *Harvard Review*, the *White Review*, *Astra*, and *BOMB*.

“[A] swift and sensual debut . . . Goodman’s sentences pulse, they are alive, with the mess and ambivalence and artistic ambition and desire for more that saturates Alma’s mind as it asks, with fear: *Is this all? Is this enough?*”

—**BOSTON GLOBE**



ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

"Delicious" —**Sheila Heti**, *Motherhood*

"Funny and gutting"
—**Lauren Groff**, *Florida*

"Brilliantly complex."
—**Jenny Offill**, *Weather*

"Unsettling, smart, perceptive" —**Emma Straub**, *All Adults Here*

"Cutting" — **Megha Majumdar**, *A Burning*

"Wckedly smart" —**Helen Phillips**, *The Need*

"A slender, one-long-afternoon-at-the-shore read."
—**Rumaan Alam**, *Leave the World Behind*

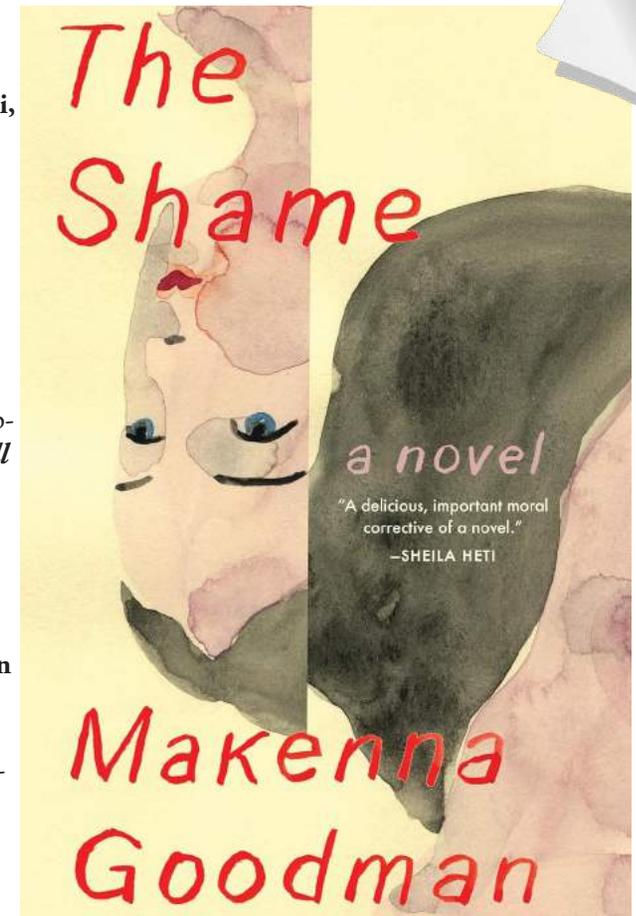
"A sharp, poetic debut . . . Shame and self-loathing have found an honest, witty, and absolutely relatable ride in *The Shame*." —**The Millions**

"Goodman’s writing is lush and propulsive, creating a compact world like a fast-moving car in the night. . . . As in [Sheila] Heti’s work, here the material reality of Alma’s life is fodder for continual revelations about the traps of capitalism, motherhood, and meaning." —**Guernica**

"*The Shame* allowed me to forget my life, forget my name, and when I looked up, and was in my life again, I looked at it through a refreshed, deeper, and more creative, more imaginative lens." —**Chloe Caldwell**, *Electric Literature*

"Traces through mystery with poise, leaving readers raw, nonetheless." —**Bustle**

"A book for any woman that has ever felt captive in any aspect of life." —**Literary Hub**



Jan Fabel Novels

A Seven Book Series

By Craig Russell

PRH UK / Final PDFs Available

Fans of Stuart MacBride, James Oswald and Ian Rankin will love these violently exciting and spine-tingling thrillers from bestselling and prizewinning author Craig Russell.

Active Licences:

Danish (StorySide)

German (Aufbau)

Greek (Harlenic Hellas)

Norwegian (Cappelen Damm)

Polish (StorySide)

Simplified Chinese (Dook)

Turkish (Panama)

BLOOD EAGLE Synopsis:

Hamburg: Two women are killed in the same horrific, ritualistic manner. The murderer taunts the police with e-mails. It seems clear that a serial killer is at work, selecting victims at random and living out some twisted fantasy.

But, as Jan Fabel and his murder team investigate further, nothing is as it first seems. They are drawn into a dark half-world of Viking myth and legend, of obscure religious cults, of political intrigue and of a violent struggle to seize control of the city.

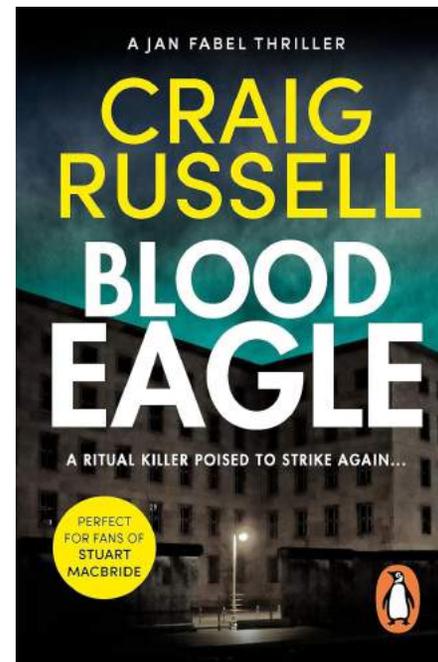
And as Fabel desperately races to track down the killer before more killings take place, he and his team come face to face with a cold, brutal menace they could never have predicted.

A greater evil than they could ever have imagined.

Awards:

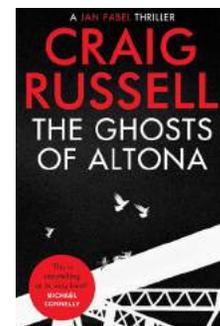
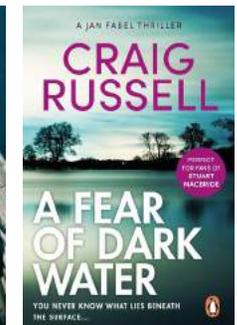
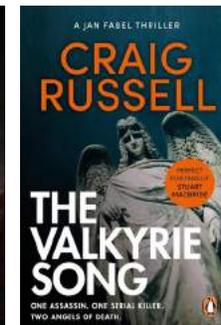
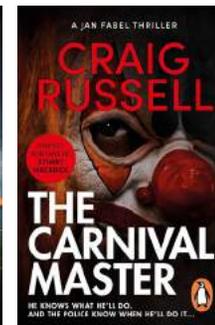
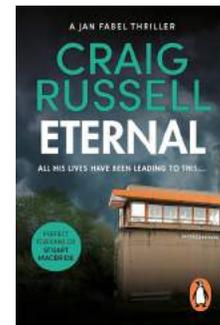
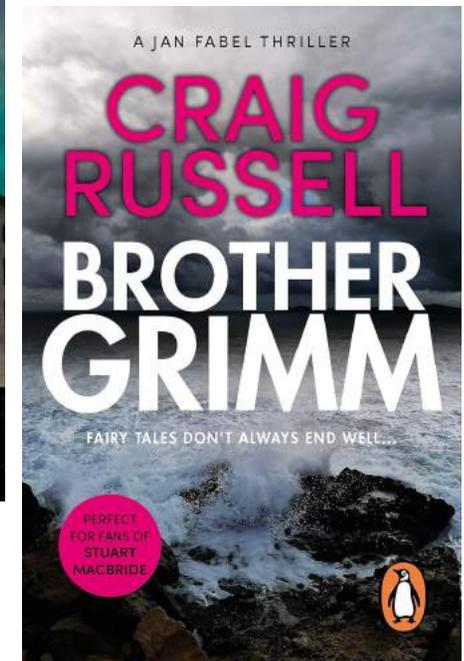
- Won the 2015 Crime Book of the Year (McIlvanney Prize) for *THE GHOSTS OF ALTONA* (Book 7)
- Won the 2008 CWA Dagger in the Library for the Jan Fabel series
- The only non-German to be awarded the highly prestigious Polizeistern by the Polizei Hamburg

ACM Agent: Esmond Harmsworth



"Russell scores equally highly with his atmospheric portrayal of Hamburg and its dark river Elbe, as well as with the intelligence of his plots." —*The Times*

"Gritty, authentic and disturbing stuff"
—Mo Hayder



Craig Russell is an award-winning and best-selling author, published in twenty-five languages around the world. Five Jan Fabel novels have been made into movies (in one of which Craig Russell makes a cameo appearance as a detective) for ARD, the German national broadcaster, and the Lennox series has been optioned for TV development.

THE ONLY ONE LEFT

A Novel

By Riley Sager



Dutton (PRH) / US Editor: Maya Ziv

Final PDF Available

Internationally bestselling author Riley Sager returns with a Gothic chiller about a young caregiver assigned to work for a woman accused of a massacre decades earlier.

At seventeen, Lenora Hope, Hung her sister with a rope

Now reduced to a schoolyard chant, the Hope family murders shocked the Maine coast one bloody night in 1929. While most people assume 17-year-old Lenora was responsible, the police were never able to prove it. Other than her denial after the killings, she has never spoken publicly about that night, nor has she set foot outside Hope's End, the cliffside mansion where the massacre occurred.

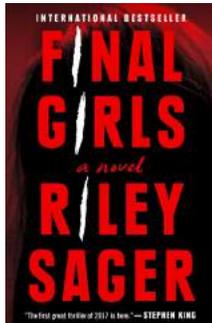
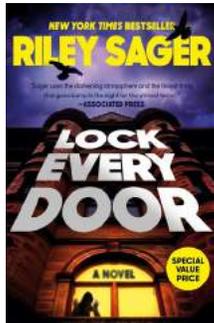
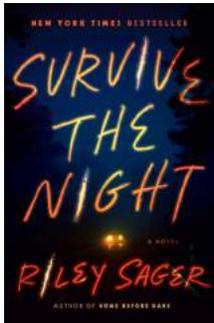
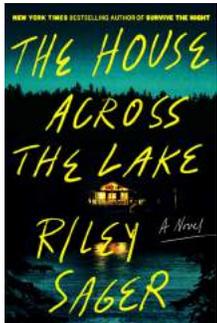
Stabbed her father with a knife, Took her mother's happy life

It's now 1983, and home-health aide Kit McDeere arrives at a decaying Hope's End to care for Lenora after her previous nurse fled in the middle of the night. In her seventies and confined to a wheelchair, Lenora has been rendered mute by a series of strokes and can only communicate with Kit by tapping out sentences on an old typewriter. One night, Lenora uses it to make a tantalizing offer.

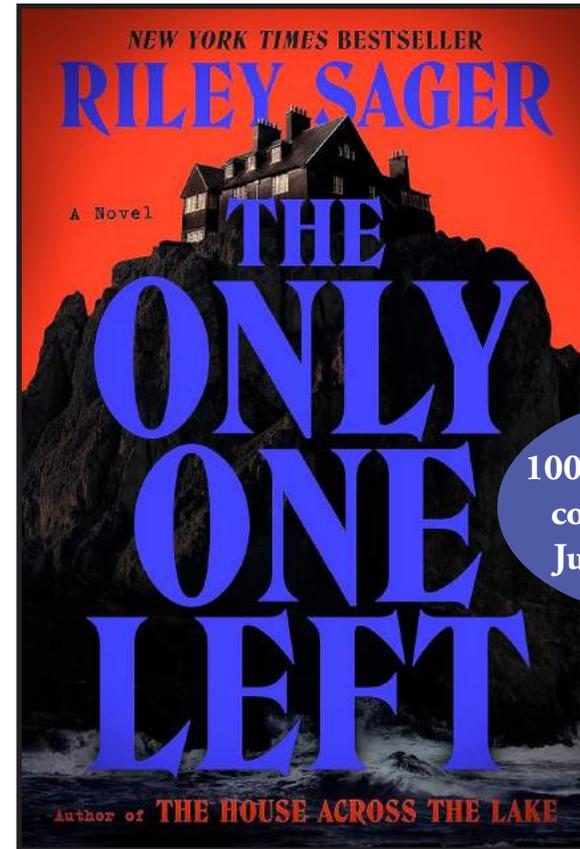
"It wasn't me," Lenora said, But she's the only one not dead

As Kit helps Lenora write about the events leading to the Hope family massacre, it becomes clear there's more to the tale. But when new details about her predecessor's departure come to light, Kit starts to suspect Lenora might not be telling the complete truth—and that she's far more dangerous than Kit first thought.

Also by Riley Sager:



ACM Agent: Michelle Brower



100,000+ hardcover
copies sold since
June 2023! (US)

Foreign Publishers of Riley Sager:

- Arabic (Al Karma)
- Brazilian Portuguese (Intrínseca)
- Bulgarian (Locus)
- Catalan (PRH Spain)
- Complex Chinese (Faces)
- Croatian (Fokus)
- Czech (Dobrovsky)
- Dutch (Ambo Anthos)
- Estonian (Rahva Raamat)
- Finnish (WSOY)
- German (dtv)
- Greek (Metaichmio)
- Hebrew (Adel Books)
- Hungarian (Lettero)
- Italian (Fanucci)
- Japanese (Shueisha)
- Korean (Hyejiwon)
- Lithuanian (Alma Littera)
- Macedonian (Antolog)
- Polish (Mova / Kobiece Publishing)
- Portuguese (20/20)
- Romanian (Editura Art)
- Russian (AST)
- Serbian (Vulkan)
- Simplified Chinese (Booky)
- Slovak (Albatros Media Slovakia)
- Slovene (Hiša Knjig in Zgodb)
- Spanish (PRH Spain)
- Swedish (Modernista)
- Thai (WeLearn)
- Turkish (Ithaki)
- UK/Comm (Hodder & Stoughton)
- Ukrainian (Old Lion Publishing House)
- Vietnamese (Bachviet)

*ACM handles backlist, all new Riley Sager titles will be handled by Trellis Literary

AEVITAS 33

WALKING ON THE CEILING and WHITE ON WHITE

By Ayşegül Savaş

Riverhead Books (PRH)

Final PDFs Available

WALKING ON THE CEILING (April 2019)

Rights Sold:

Dutch (Kievenaar & Vijn)

Romanian (Storia)

German (btb / PRH Germany)

Spanish (Planeta Mexico)

A mesmerizing novel set in Paris and a changing Istanbul, about a young Turkish woman grappling with her past and her complicated relationship with a famous British writer.

After her mother's death, Nunu moves from Istanbul to a small apartment in Paris. One day outside of a bookstore, she meets M., an older British writer whose novels about Istanbul Nunu has always admired. They find themselves walking the streets of Paris and talking late into the night. What follows is an unusual friendship of eccentric correspondence and long walks around the city.

A wise and unguarded glimpse into a young woman's coming into her own, *Walking on the Ceiling* is about memory, the pleasure of invention, and those places, real and imagined, we can't escape.

WHITE ON WHITE (November 2022)

Rights Sold:

Dutch (Kievenaar & Vijn)

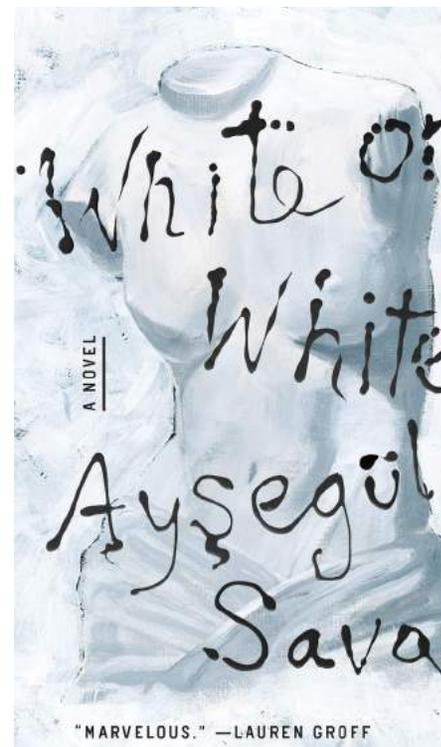
Turkish (İş Kültür)

French (Editions Bouquins)

A “marvelous” (Lauren Groff) and “gentle, mysterious and profound” (Marina Abramović) novel about a woman who has come undone.

A student moves to the city, renting an apartment from a painter, Agnes, who lives in another town with her husband. One day, Agnes arrives in the city and settles into the upstairs studio. In their meetings on the stairs, in the studio, the kitchen at dawn, Agnes tells stories of her youth, her family, her marriage, and ideas for her art – which is always just about to be created. As the months pass, it becomes clear that Agnes might not have a place to return to. *White on White* is a sharp exploration of empathy and the stunning discovery of what it means to be truly vulnerable, and laid bare.

ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin

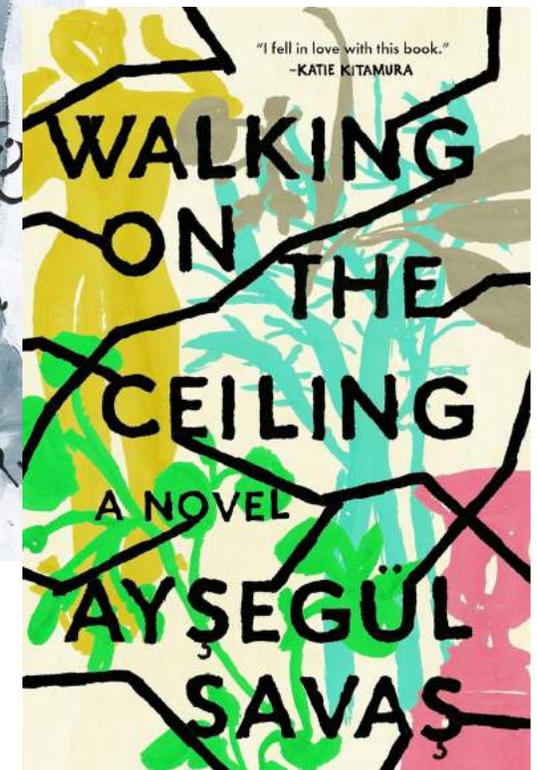


"Elegant" —*Chicago Review*

"Unique" —*Ms. Magazine*

"Alluring" —*Publishers Weekly*

"Subtly profound" —*Booklist*



"Refined" —*Kirkus*

"Exhilarating" —*Electric Lit*

"Mesmerising" —*The Economist*

"Stuns" —*Nylon Magazine*

"Intense, and moving." —*LitHub*

“[Savaş] writes with both sensuality and coolness as if determined to find a rational explanation for the irrationality of existence.” —*The New York Times*



HOLDING PATTERN

A Novel

By Jenny Xie

Riverhead Books (PRH) / US Editor: Alison Fairbrother

Final PDF Available

NAMED A BEST BOOK OF THE YEAR BY *TIME*, *VOGUE*,
VULTURE, *GOOD HOUSEKEEPING*, AND *ELECTRIC LIT*

Holding Pattern. Noun.

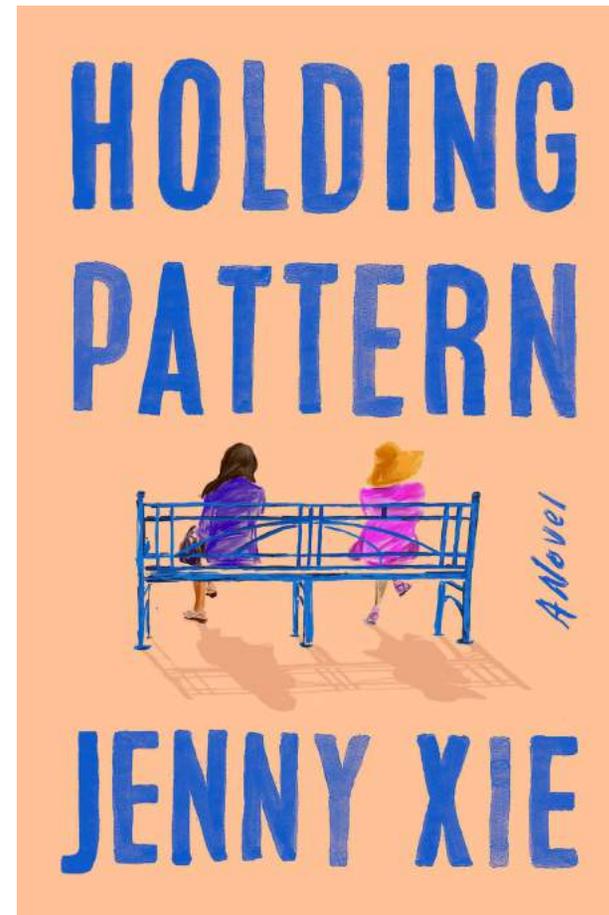
1. A state of suspended progress.
2. The awkward way your mother tries to hug you now that you live with her. Again.

Kathleen Cheng has blown up her life. She's gone through a humiliating breakup, dropped out of her graduate program, and left everything behind. Now she's back in her childhood home in Oakland, wondering what's next. To her surprise, her mother isn't the same person Kathleen remembers. No longer depressed or desperate to return to China, the new Marissa Cheng is sporty, perky, and has been transformed by love. Kathleen thought she'd be planning her own wedding, but instead finds herself helping her mother plan hers—to a Silicon Valley tech entrepreneur. Grasping for direction, Kathleen takes a job at a start-up that specializes in unusual services. But an unforeseen attachment to someone at work pushes her to rethink her relationships—especially the one with Marissa. Will they succeed in seeing each other anew, adult to adult? As they peel back the layers of their history—the old wounds, cultural barriers, and complex affection—they must come to a new understanding of how they can propel each other forward, and what they've done to hold each other back. Brilliantly observant, tender, and warm, *Holding Pattern* is a hopeful novel about immigration and belonging, mother-daughter relationships, and the many ways we learn to hold each other.

Jenny Xie is a writer and editor living in Brooklyn. Originally from Shanghai, she graduated from UC Berkeley and earned her MFA at Johns Hopkins University. Jenny is the recipient of a Bread Loaf scholarship.



ACM Agent: Sarah Bowlin



"Exquisite and wise"
—*The New York Times*

"Beautiful" —*Booklist*

"Stellar" —*Publishers Weekly*

"Tender" —*San Francisco Chronicle*

"Engaging" —*Kirkus*

"Hopeful" —*Minneapolis Star Tribune*

"Warm and humorous"
— *Washington Post*

"Glimmers with wit, with intelligence, with affection and chagrin...infused with compassion, good humor, and hope." —**Alice McDermott**,
The Ninth Hour

"A radiant and illuminating novel that asks big questions and entertains us grandly along the way... hopeful, incisive, and exquisitely observed."—**Kylie Lucia Wu**,
author of *Win Me Something*

"A deeply moving novel about a young woman's search for intimacy... Every page brims with intelligence and insight."—**Alexandra Chang**, *Days of Distraction*

"Jenny Xie writes about the alienation and darkness of our world with a hopeful pen, her literary genius shining through on every page and through the vivid portrayals of each character." —**Lydia Conklin**, author of *Rainbow Rainbow*

"The story pushes boundaries and melds borders. It asks the difficult questions of real families: how do we survive each other, how do we co-exist. There is so much heart in these pages, so much wisdom on how we love." —**Weike Wang**, author of *Joan is Okay and Chemistry*

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