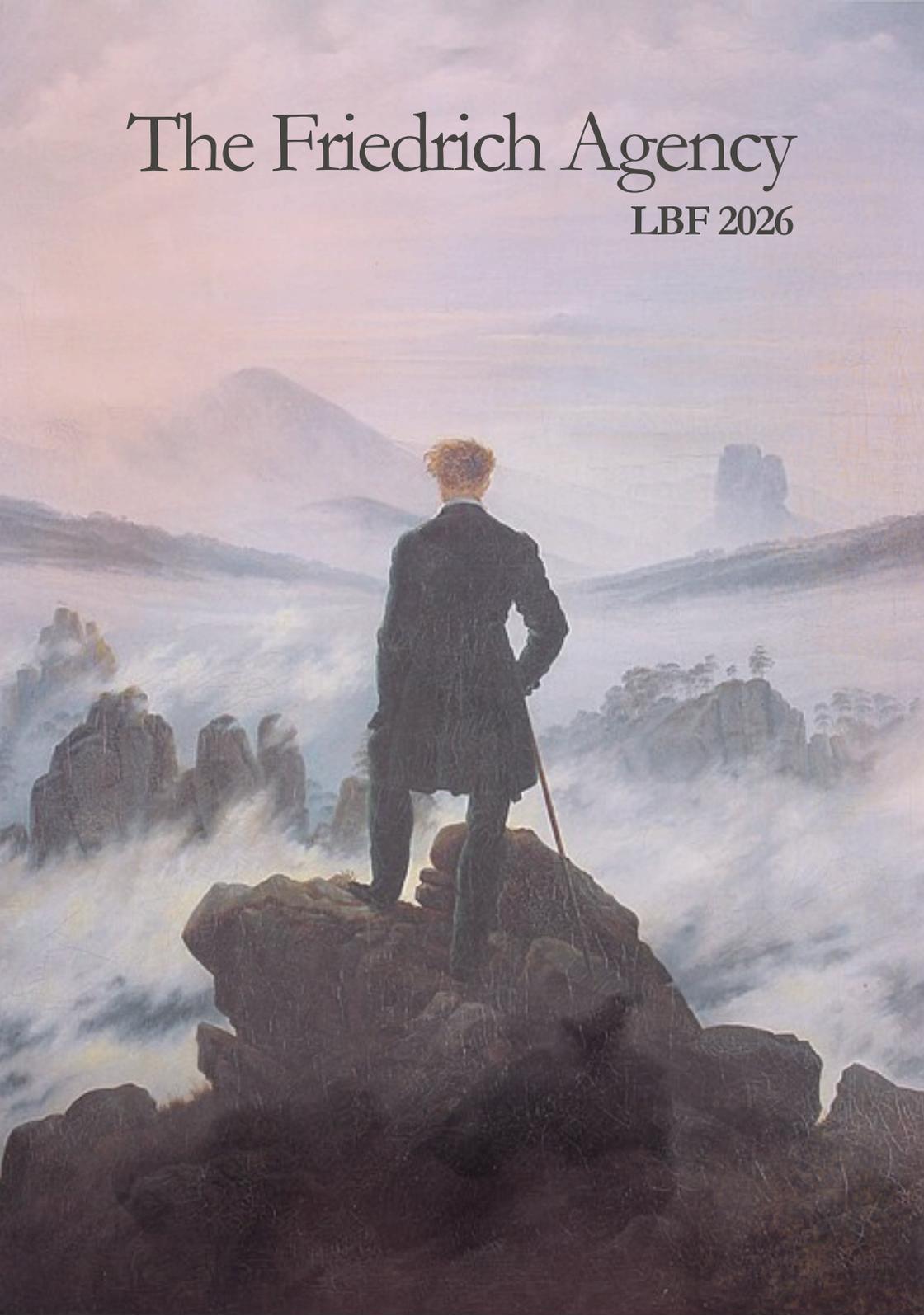


The Friedrich Agency

LBF 2026



For international rights queries, contact: Marin
Takikawa at mtakikawa@friedrichagency.com

For film & tv: Lucy Carson at
lcarson@friedrichagency.com

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PRIZES



Leila Mottley is the proud recipient of [“The Alex Award”](#), for her stunning sophomore novel, **THE GIRLS WHO GREW BIG**. The Alex award is generated by the American Library Association, and given to Adult novels that have resonated with particular impact on young readers.

Daria Lavelle’s genre-bending debut novel **AFTERTASTE** has been longlisted for a [brand new award](#) created by mega-bestselling author and literacy advocate James Patterson, in concert with Bookshop.org.

Alison Espach’s international bestseller **THE WEDDING PEOPLE** is one of just three finalists for the Thurber Prize for American Humor, in the [Writing category](#), alongside humor writers Shalom Auslander and Steven Rowley.

Silvia Park’s debut sci-fi masterpiece **LUMINOUS** is a finalist for the prestigious LA Times Book Award in the category of “Science-Fiction, Fantasy and Speculative Fiction”.

Neil McRobert’s haunting novella **GOOD BOY** received a [Bram Stoker Award](#) nomination for “Superior Achievement in Long Fiction”.



UNTRAVELLED WORLD

Martha Perotto-Wills

A heart-pounding, otherworldly adventure, mixed with the thorny, sexy lesbian dynamics of a Julia Armfield novel. For fans of *The Ministry of Time* and *Annihilation*.

Ten years ago, the door opened to reveal a surreal, uncharted world adjoining our own: a terrifyingly beautiful expanse of glass which shifts at its own whims—every two hours, every two days—unpredictably gifting clear, flat planes or delivering dangerous crevasses hiding reality-bending hallucinations.

For Teddy, newly graduated and directionless, the era-defining mystery of the other world is merely an icebreaker, a conversation topic on dates gone cold. But then Adrian Clermont, an old family friend, appears in Teddy's living room seeking funding for an expedition into the other world. Teddy, seeing a chance for purpose and an escape from her privileged, hermetic world, begs to join Adrian's team.

When the Clermont party make it through the door, Teddy falls helplessly in love with both the landscape and with Jenny Cattaneo, a flinty meteorologist with a strangely deep connection to the other world. When Teddy makes a staggering discovery about a missing explorer, she is forced to reckon with the true cost of the life she's built in the other world—the first real home she's ever known.

Martha Perotto-Wills is a writer from London. She has a BA in History and an MA in Queer History. After spending several years as a bookseller and cataloguer in crumbling second-hand bookshops she moved into trade publishing, and now works as an associate agent at a literary agency. She lives in south London with her girlfriend and their cat. *Untravelled World* is her first novel, partially born from her obsession with Apsley Cherry-Garrard's 1922 memoir *The Worst Journey in the World*.



Random House (Fall 2027/ Winter 2028)

Territory: NA

Materials: sub ms

Page count: 313

Rights sold:

UK: auction ongoing

Film/TV: Jiah Shin / CAA

OTTER MUSIC

Karen Joy Fowler

A love letter to the California Coastline, the creatures who inhabit it, and the stories we tell ourselves to find courage and hope—from the Booker shortlisted author of *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*.

Lainey Miller is a reasonably happy, unmarried Marine researcher living in Santa Cruz, California, heading rapidly towards middle age. When her 11 year old niece points out that Lainey never actually has any FUN (not really) it sends Lainey spiraling down a reinvestigation of both her past—the conspiracist father who abandoned her in his misguided pursuit of "lizard people"—and her future, where most days it feels as if every effort to save and conserve the natural world is futile.

OTTER MUSIC is a story about how each of us must find a little patch of the world to save and tend to—even amongst the fires, and floods and cruelty—because it takes bravery to extend ourselves with love and determination into the awaiting world.



Putnam (Feb/March 2027)

Territory: NA

Materials: sub ms

Page count: 133

Rights sold:

UK: Serpent's Tail

Option Publishers:

France: Presses de la Cite

Netherlands: Uitgeverij
Nieuw Amsterdam

Film/TV: Sylvie Rabineau /
WME

Karen Joy Fowler is the *New York Times* bestselling author of seven novels and three short story collections. Her 2004 novel, *The Jane Austen Book Club*, spent 13 weeks on the *New York Times* bestseller list and *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* won the 2014 PEN/Faulkner Award and was shortlisted for the 2014 Man Booker Prize. Her most recent novel *Booth* was longlisted for the 2022 Booker Prize. She lives in Santa Cruz, California.

ENORMOUS WINGS

Laurie Frankel

An urgent novel about female agency and bodily autonomy, morality, and mortality, told with Laurie Frankel’s signature warmth and wit.

At seventy-seven, Pepper Mills is too old to be a stranger in a strange land. She didn’t choose the Vista View Retirement Community of Austin, Texas—that would be her three grown children—but when she grudgingly moves in, she not only makes new friends, she falls in love. Then the exhaustion, vomiting, and confusion start. Her children and grandchildren worry it’s cancer, dementia, a stroke. But a raft of tests later, the news is even more shocking: she’s pregnant.



Holt (May 2026)

Territory: NA

Materials: final pdf

Page count: 304

Film/TV: Dana Spector /
CAA

Once word gets out, everyone wants a piece of her: the press and the paparazzi, activists and medical researchers, all descending on Vista View as Pepper tries to determine her next move. Soon Pepper has some hard decisions to make—and some she’s not allowed to make.

Praise for *Enormous Wings*:

“The rare novel that is unabashedly political, gloriously entertaining, and deeply humane. A vital novel for our time.”

— Nina LaCour, author of *We Are Okay*

“A delicious novel of second chances that will warm you from your heart all the way down to your feet.”

— Annie Hartnett, author of *The Road to Tender Hearts*

Laurie Frankel is the *New York Times* bestselling, award-winning author of the novels *Family Family*, *One Two Three*, *Goodbye for Now*, *The Atlas of Love*, and the Reese’s Book Club Pick *This Is How It Always Is*. Frankel lives in Seattle with her husband, daughter, and border collie. She makes good soup.

THE TYPING LADY

Ruth Ozeki

A spellbinding debut short story collection from Booker Prize finalist Ruth Ozeki, grappling with faded ideals, evolving identities, and the inevitable compromises that shape a life—all with her distinctive blend of wit, warmth, and deep humanity.

A college student falls for her professor and learns to transmute longing into language. A disquieted husband watches with tenderness and unease as the ghost of his wife’s ambition roams the woods outside their home. A long-deceased Beat poet hijacks the mind of a young publishing assistant during a sales meeting, railing against the state of modern literature. A curious grandmother creates a fake online dating profile to spy on her granddaughter’s romantic life—and sets in motion a deception she can’t control.

Ruth Ozeki brings us twelve richly imagined stories of characters standing at life’s thresholds.

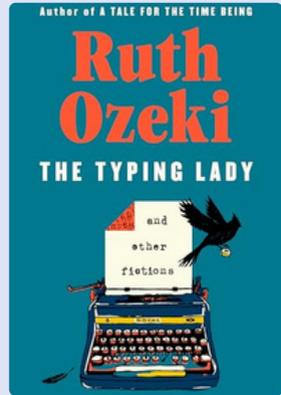
Praise for *The Book of Form and Emptiness*:

“There’s powerful magic here.”

— *New York Times Book Review*

“A masterful meditation on consumer culture.”

— *USA Today*



Viking (June 2, 2026)

Materials: 1P

Page count: 304

Film/TV: Sylvie Rabineau / WME

Territory: Canongate holds world rights EXCEPT for France, Brazil, and Israel.

Rights sold:

ANZ: Text

Canada: Penguin Canada

UK: Canongate

Italy: Edizioni E/O

Russia: AST

Option Publishers:

Arabic: Kalematt

Brazil: Morro Branco

France: Belfond

Israel: Am Oved

Lithuania: Balthos Lankos

Spain: Alianza

Taiwan: Yuan-Liou

Turkey: Ithakivya

Ruth Ozeki is a novelist, filmmaker, and Zen Buddhist priest. She is the award-winning author of four novels: *The Book of Form and Emptiness*, winner of the UK’s 2022 Women’s Prize for Fiction; *My Year of Meats*; *All Over Creation*; and *A Tale for the Time Being*, which was a finalist for the 2013 Booker Prize.

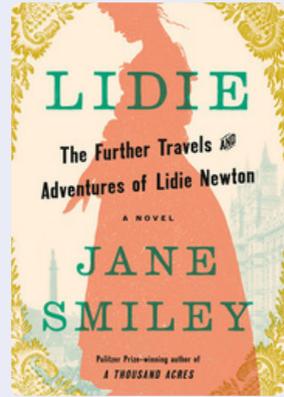
LIDIE

Jane Smiley

From the bestselling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jane Smiley, a sequel to *The All-True Travels and Adventures of Lidie Newton*, a 1998 *New York Times* bestseller

After her abolitionist husband is murdered, Lidie Newton returns, in mourning, to her hometown of Quincy, Illinois. Haunted by the memories of her failures, when her niece Annie is offered the opportunity to perform abroad, Lidie accompanies her, armed with her pistol and wit.

Upon arriving in Liverpool, England, they vanish into new roles in the household of Annie's benefactor: Annie takes a stage name and finds her way to a career, while Lidie becomes her ladies' maid. But will either of them be content with her new lot in life?



Knopf (April 21, 2026)

Territory: NA

Materials: 4P

Page count: 336

Rights sold:

France: Rivages

Film/TV: Ellen Goldsmith-
Vein / Gotham

Praise for Jane Smiley:

“America’s Tolstoy.”

— *The Guardian*

Praise for *Lucky*:

“A robust, atmospheric coming-of-age story.”

— *People*

Jane Smiley is the author of numerous novels, including *A Thousand Acres*, which won the Pulitzer Prize. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has also received the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature. She lives in Northern California.

OLD WIVES' TALES

Julie Zhou

A brilliant sliding doors debut where the same couple is told and retold, echoing oral storytelling traditions from Chinese folklore to childhood nursery rhymes.

In one story, Elizabeth and Simon are having a baby, and as they convert a closet into a nursery, Elizabeth is cursed with a magical second sight.

In another, Elizabeth and Simon can't get pregnant, and something unseen is leaving bruises on Elizabeth's body as she sleeps, making rest impossible.

Each story retells an old wives' tale: from the Persephone myth to The Princess and the Pea, pulling from legends across time and geography.



Cardinal/Hachette (April 2027)

Territory: NA

Materials: CE ms

Page count: 165

Rights sold:

UK: Verve

Julie Zhou is a Chinese American writer from the Midwest. She is the author of *Generics*, winner of the 2017 Gold Line Press Fiction chapbook prize, selected by Danzy Senna. She lives in Saint Paul, Minnesota, where she serves as a communications consultant for organizations working towards reproductive and gender justice, food justice, disability justice, prison abolition, and the many intersections of those movements.

GOOD BOY

Neil McRobert

A cosmic horror, love story, and coming of age all deftly braided into one hair-raising debut, **GOOD BOY** is an ode to buried secrets and one man’s courageous best friend.

After a boy vanishes on the outskirts of a small North England town, everyone is living on a razor’s edge—especially Margie, whose house sits across from the patch of land where the boy disappeared. So when she sees Jim Howarth digging a grave in the exact same spot, she doesn’t hesitate to act.

What’s unearthed through her confrontation are truths much more sinister than anything Margie could have imagined, as the fatal past of the town, Jim Howarth’s real purpose that day, and one dog’s lifelong mission to protect his village from the monster who still dwells there all—finally—come to light.

Praise for *Good Boy*:

“An excellent story – reminded me of classic English stories of the supernatural. People like M.R. James and Arthur Machen. Heady company to be in!”

— **Stephen King**

“There’s good dogs, there’s excellent writers, and there’s extraordinary novellas. What you’re holding in your hands now is all three.”

— **Stephen Graham Jones, author of *The Buffalo Hunter Hunter***



Wild Hunt Books (Oct 9, 2025)

Territory: World English

Materials: Final pdf

Page count: 150

Rights sold:

Spain: Muneca Infinita

Film/TV: Hilary Zaitz Michael & Sylvie Rabineau / WME

Neil McRobert is a writer, journalist, and podcast host of *Talking Scared*, the premier show devoted to horror writing and creativity. When he isn’t writing for *Vulture*, *The Guardian*, *Elle*, or *Esquire*, he’s usually outside in Northern England, running with his dog Ted.

NYMPH

Sofia Montrone

Sensuous and precise, searching and knowing, *NYMPH* captures so potently the exquisite pain and exhilaration of first love, and will sit on the shelf alongside sultry summer classics such as *Call Me By Your Name*, *The Lost Daughter*, and *Bonjour Tristesse*.

Ten-year-old Leo spends her mornings tidying the rooms of her nonna's time-worn Italian hotel, quietly accumulating the junk and treasures left behind by guests – a pearl earring, a lock of hair. Her nights are suffused with her father's liquor-spun tales of his childhood, mingled with stories of Greek heroes of old.

Years later, over another hot, endless Italian summer, the hotel is one of the only things in Leo's life that has remained constant. An accident has knocked her family sideways; her brother Max is distant and Nonna has grown frail. But then she meets Dolores, an American girl who sets something alight in Leo that she didn't know existed.

Heat-soaked, sensual and steeped in an exquisite longing, *Nymph* traverses the extraordinary pains, soaring pleasures and many metamorphoses it takes to finally grow up.

Praise for Nymph:

“An immersive, queer, and atmospheric coming-of-age story. This book transports you to Italy and into the mind of a contemplative, curious, and resilient young person.

Nostalgic, wistful, and beautifully written. The perfect summer read.”

—**Emily Austin**, author of *Everyone in This Room Will Someday Be Dead*

Sofia Montrone is a writer based in New York. She teaches at Columbia University, where she earned her MFA. Her fiction and criticism have appeared in *The Columbia Review*, *Quarto*, and *Adroit*.



Avid Reader Press (June 9, 2026)

Territory: NA

Materials: 2P

Page count: 224

Rights sold:

UK: Canongate

Germany: Rowohlt

Canada: S&S Canada

Netherlands: Meulenhoff

ANZ: Text

NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED

Yu-Mei Balasingamchow

R.F. Kuang’s *Yellowface* meets Susie Yang’s *White Ivy* in **NAMES HAVE BEEN CHANGED**; a stylish, fast-paced story about friendship, betrayal, and the masks we wear to survive.

Ophir isn’t her real name, but she likes it fine for now, and if she’s going to get through this story—the real story of her last 12 years on the run—she’s going to do it on her own terms. This is what our narrator promises as she sets out to broadcast (with the help of a mysterious friend, from an undisclosed location) her tumultuous life as a fugitive, forever estranged from her home and family in Singapore, where it all began.

Entrancing her listeners with a tale that transports us from Thailand to Tokyo, and from London to America, it is Ophir’s loneliness and longing for connection that eventually jeopardizes her hard-won freedom.

Praise for *Names Have Been Changed*:

“*Names Have Been Changed* is crackling with energy.”

— *Debutiful*

“I can’t remember the last time a character gripped me as hard as Ophir did. Exciting, sharp, at times fun and at other times heartbreaking, Ophir held my heart in her hands and I was only too happy to give it to her.”

— **Jesse Q. Sutanto**, *USA Today* bestselling author of *Vera Wong’s Unsolicited Advice for Murderers*



Tiny Reparations (June 2026)

Territory: NA

Materials: final pdf expected mid-March '26

Page count: 272

Film/TV: Hiliary Zaitz
Michael / WME

Yu-Mei Balasingamchow was born and raised in Singapore, and now lives and teaches writing in Boston, where she was a bookseller at Papercuts Sewanee for many years. She has been supported by the Elizabeth George Foundation, Sewanee, Tin House, and Bread Loaf.

HONEY IN THE WOUND

Jiyoung Han

A lyrical and suspenseful debut family saga about a mysteriously gifted Korean family confronting the brutality of the Japanese empire--an epic tale of survival and the reclamation of power.

Young-Ja, a girl who is able to infuse food with her emotions, revels in her gift for cooking, nourishing the people she loves with her cheerfulness. But her sunny childhood comes to an end in 1931 when Japanese soldiers crush her family's defiance against the Empire. Young-Ja is cast adrift, her food turning increasingly bitter with grief.

When a Korean rebel fighter notices her talents, however, she is whisked off to Manchuria to join a secretive sisterhood of beautiful teahouse spies. There, Young-Ja finds a new sense of belonging and starts using her abilities for the resistance. But the Imperial Army is not yet finished with her...

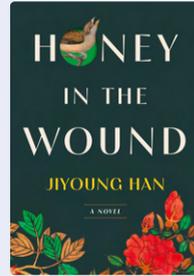
Decades later, Young-Ja lives alone in Seoul, withdrawn from the world until her Tokyo-born granddaughter Rinako bursts into her life with the ability to see into dreams. In cultivating a tentative bond, they confront the long-buried past in a stunning emotional climax.

Praise for *Honey in the Wound*:

"Honey in the Wound is a spellbinding debut, both a lyrical fable and unflinching testimony... The resulting work leaves one shaken. Absolutely unforgettable."

— **Karissa Chen**, author of *Homeseeking*

Jiyoung Han is a Korean American woman who only learned as an adult about her grandparents' experience under Japanese rule. She's since committed to studying this history, in part for her BA at UChicago and Master's at Harvard. Her debut novel is an attempt to bring this history to life for more readers and to make amends for the ignorance of her youth.



Avid Reader Press (April 7, 2026)

Territory: NA

Materials: final pdf

Page count: 320

Rights sold:

Italy: Nord

Hungary: Libri

Spain: Quaterni Ediciones

UK: Manilla Press/Bonnier

BUT FOR FORTUNE

Erin Miller Reid

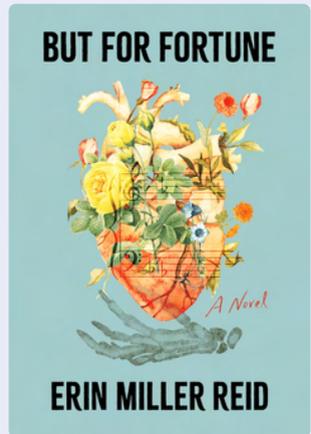
A sweeping debut grappling with the legacy and stigma of mental health in intertwined, dual storylines set 50 years apart, inspired by the author’s family history.

When Corinth discovers her grandmother’s chart at the site of her month-long rotation for medical school, she’s desperate to make sense of the story in its pages, which her family refuses to discuss. The Granny she knows is docile and incoherent from decades of overmedication, unable to tell her own story.

But what if Corinth’s assignment to Maxwood was fate? What if there’s a connection between her and Granny that reveals something about herself even she can’t ignore?

With the layered complexity and lyricism of Yaa Gyasi’s *Transcendent Kingdom*, Erin Miller Reid’s debut follows in the footsteps of writers like Barbara Kingsolver and Carter Sickels, exploring the underrepresented and often misunderstood region of Appalachia with nuance and empathy.

Erin Miller Reid is a physician and writer. She merged her appreciation for both medicine and the humanities by studying narrative medicine at Columbia University. Originally from Kentucky, she now lives in northeast Tennessee with her husband and three children. *But For Fortune* is her first novel.



Kentucky University Press
 (September 15, 2026)
Territory: World English
Materials: pre-CE
Page count: 359 (CE)

BUMBLEBEE SEASON

Eileen Garvin

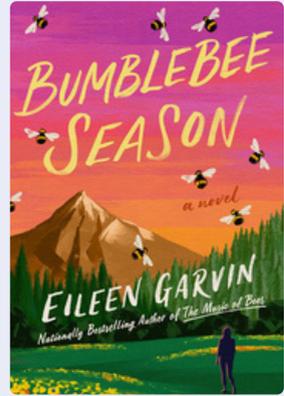
A heartwarming new story that returns to the vibrant world of *The Music of Bees* and beekeeping.

Beekeeper Jake Stevenson should be celebrating: his fledging honey farm has been inundated with orders. But as he approaches his largest harvest ever, Jake is worried—there’s no way he can do it all by himself.

Meanwhile Flaco López, a Mexican teen fleeing growing danger in his village, has become separated from his companions and is lost on Mount Hood when he stumbles upon Jake’s beehives.

And Abigail Plue, an entomology graduate student who prefers insects to people, is studying Mount Hood’s threatened Western bumblebee—and her research might be the only thing standing between the pristine wilderness and a controversial plan to build a commercial hunting camp there.

Soon, these three loners meet and forge an unexpected friendship as they come together to protect everything they hold dear.



Dutton (April 21, 2026)
Territory: NA
Materials: 1P
Page count: 400

Option publishers:

UK: Headline
Korea: Munhakdongne
Germany: Piper
Netherlands: HarperCollins
Portugal: Casa Das Letras
Russia: AST
Czech: Dobrovsky/Omega

Film/TV: Dana Spector / CAA

Praise for *Bumblebee Season*:

“A heart-wrenching yet uplifting story... Readers will cheer on the heroes of this winning story.”

— *Publishers Weekly*

Praise for Eileen Gavin:

“A song of praise to the beauty and power of connecting with creatures other than ourselves.”

— **Sy Montgomery**, NYT bestselling author of *The Soul of an Octopus*

Eileen Garvin is a beekeeper and writer living in Hood River, Oregon. She is the author of *The Music of Bees*, which was a Good Housekeeping book club pick and indie bestseller, and the memoir *How to be a Sister*.

THE GIRLS WHO GREW BIG

Leila Mottley

From the author of Oprah’s Book Club pick and *New York Times* bestseller *Nightcrawling*, an astonishing new novel—full of heart and life and hope—about the joys and entanglements of a fierce group of teenage mothers in a small town in Florida.

Adela Woods is sixteen years old and pregnant. Her parents banish her from her comfortable upbringing in Indiana to her grandmother’s home in the small town of Padua Beach, Florida. When she arrives, Adela meets Emory, who brings her newborn to high school, determined to graduate despite the odds; Simone, mother of four-year-old twins, who weighs her options when she finds herself pregnant again; and the rest of the Girls, a group of outcast young moms who raise their growing brood in the back of Simone’s red truck.

The town thinks the Girls have lost their way, but really they are finding it: looking for love, making and breaking friendships, and navigating the miracle of motherhood and the paradox of girlhood.

Praise for Leila Mottley:

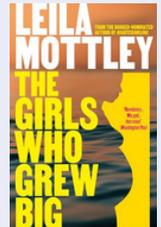
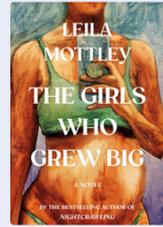
“A bold new voice in fiction.”

— *Associated Press*

“Mottley writes with a lyrical abandon.”

— *New York Times Book Review*

Leila Mottley is the author of *Nightcrawling*, an Oprah’s Book Club pick and a *New York Times* best seller, which was nominated for the Booker Prize, making her the youngest author to have been nominated for the award. At age 16, Leila was named the Youth Poet Laureate of Oakland.



Knopf (June 24, 2025)

Territory: World English

Materials: Final available

Page count: 352

Rights sold:

UKANZ: Fig Tree

France: Albin Michel

Germany: btb

Italy: Bollati Boringhieri

Spain: Urano

Film/TV: Brooke Ehrlich /

CAA

THE WEDDING PEOPLE

Alison Espach

- *Over a million copies sold in the US*
- *An instant NYT bestseller*
- *International bestseller in multiple countries*

A propulsive and uncommonly wise novel about one unexpected wedding guest and the surprising people who help her start anew.

It's a beautiful day in Newport, Rhode Island, when Phoebe Stone arrives at the grand Cornwall Inn wearing a green dress and gold heels, not a bag in sight, alone.

She's immediately mistaken by everyone in the lobby for one of the wedding people, but she's actually the only guest at the Cornwall who isn't here for the big event. Phoebe is here because she's dreamed of coming for years—she hoped to shuck oysters and take sunset sails with her husband, only now she's here without him, at rock bottom, and determined to have one last decadent splurge on herself.

Meanwhile, the bride has accounted for every detail and every possible disaster the weekend might yield except for, well, Phoebe and Phoebe's plan—which makes it that much more surprising when the two women can't stop confiding in each other.

Praise for *The Wedding People*:

“Espach has an eye for the full gamut of emotions that go hand in hand with lifelong commitment, from humor to self-involvement to pathos.”

—Elisabeth Egan, *The New York Times Book Review*

“A feel-good testament to the life-altering magic of chance meetings.”

—*People*



Holt (June 30, 2024)

Territory: NA

Materials: Final available

Page count: 367

Film/TV: Dana Spector / CAA

Film rights optioned by TriStar

Rights sold:

Albania: Pegi

Brazil: HarperCollins

Bulgaria: Cielia Norma AD

Croatia: Znaję

Czech: Pavel Dobrovsky-BETA

Denmark: Politikens

Estonia: Eesti Raamat

Finland: Bazar

France: Editions Leduc

Georgia: PALITRA L

Germany: Lübbe

Greece: Klidarithmos

Hungary: Athenaeum

Iceland: Bokabeitan

Indonesia: Gramedia

Israel: Tchelet

Italy: Bollati

Korea: The Bookman Group

Latvia: Latvijas Mediji

Lithuania: Baltos

Macedonia: TRI

Netherlands: Atlas Contact

Norway: Gursliberg

Poland: Wydawnictwo Poznanskie

Portugal: LeYa

Romania: Bookzone

Serbia: Vulkan

Slovakia: Vydavateľstvo Motyl

Slovenia: HKZ

Spain: V&R

Sweden: Forum

Taiwan: Delight Press

Thailand: Salmon Books

Turkey: Nemeses

Ukraine: Fabula

UK/ANZ: Orion

THE ADULTS

Alison Espach

From the author of the Read with Jenna pick *The Wedding People*, a ruefully funny debut novel that deftly dissects matters of the heart and captures the lives of children and adults as they come to terms with life, death, and love.

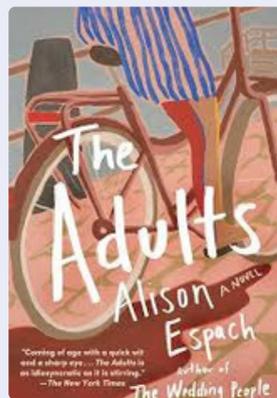
At the center of this affluent suburban universe is Emily Vidal, a smart and snarky teenager, who gets involved in a dangerous relationship. Among the cast of unforgettable characters is Emily's father, whose fiftieth birthday party has the adults descending upon the Vidals' patio; her mother, who has orchestrated the elaborate party even though she and her husband are getting a divorce; and an assortment of eccentric neighbors, high school teachers, and teenagers who teem with anxiety and an unbridled desire to be noticed, and ultimately loved.

An irresistible chronicle of a young woman's struggle to grow up, *The Adults* lays bare a world where an adult and a child can so dangerously be mistaken for the same thing.

Praise for *The Adults*:

“Coming of age with a quick wit and sharp eye... *The Adults* is as idiosyncratic as it is stirring.”

—*The New York Times*



Scribner (February 1, 2011)

Territory: NA

Materials: Final available

Page count: 307

Rights sold:

Italy: Bollati

UK: Orion

Film/TV: Dana Spector /
CAA

Alison Espach is the author of *New York Times* bestseller *The Wedding People*, *The Adults*, and *Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance*. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *Vogue*, *Glamour*, and *McSweeney's*, among other places. She is currently a professor of creative writing at Providence College in Rhode Island.

MRS. PLANSKY GOES ROGUE

Spencer Quinn

This tale of the irresistible and unforgettable Mrs. Plansky, “a terrific character” (Stephen King), will lead her up and down coastal Florida and beyond in a brand-new, whirlwind adventure, *MRS. PLANSKY GOES ROGUE!*

Mrs. Plansky is fresh off of winning a thrilling senior tennis championship with her doubles partner, Kev Dinardo, and is gearing up to celebrate with him on his yacht. That is, until the yacht is destroyed in a fire. Kev claims the fire was caused by a lightning strike, pure bad luck, but there's one small problem—Mrs. Plansky didn't see any lightning.

Already certain there's more going on than she's being told, Mrs. Plansky's curiosity turns to concern when Kev goes missing. Her suspicion gets the better of her and leads her to break into his house, only to find it ransacked.

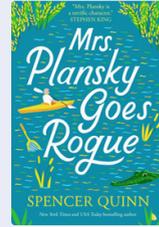
Praise for *Mrs. Plansky's Revenge*:

“Nothing short of masterful.”

— *Los Angeles Times*

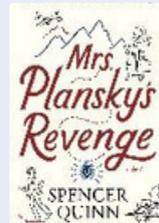
“I absolutely adored this book. Really fun but with a few teeth, as well.”

— **Stephen King**



Forge (July 15th, 2025)
Territory: World English
Materials: Final available
Page count: 304

Rights sold:
UK/ANZ: Bedford Square
Film/TV: Nicole Weinroth
 and Megan Pelson / WME



Forge (July 25th, 2023)
Territory: World English
Materials: Final available

Rights sold:
UK/ANZ: Bedford Square
Korea: Book21
Poland: Heraclon International

Spencer Quinn is the bestselling author of the Chet and Bernie mystery series, as well as the #1 *New York Times* bestselling Bowser and Birdie series for middle-grade readers. He lives on Cape Cod with his wife Diana—and dogs Audrey and Pearl.

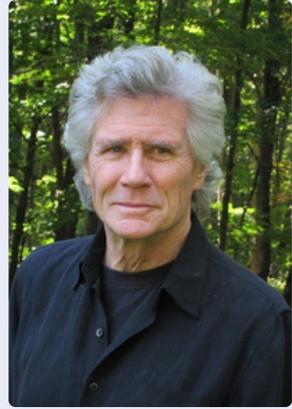
GHOST BARN

John Verdon

The thrilling conclusion to the retired NYPD detective Dave Gurney saga.

Ghosts are returning from the past to trouble Dave Gurney's peace as a local election sees a powerful real estate mogul with plans for a massive development face off against a librarian and ardent conservationist. When bodies start turning up and the local police turn a blind eye, Gurney suspects he's the town's only hope.

But involvement comes at a price. His last case nearly got his best friend killed, and it shattered his marriage. In the aftermath, he's focused on breaking his reliance on police work in hopes of rekindling things with his wife, Madeleine. Can he ignore what's happening and potentially let a murderer run amok, or will he once again dive into the darkness, giving in to his obsessive need to solve the unsolvable—even if it costs him Madeleine for good? One thing is clear: This harrowing, confounding case will be his last.



Counterpoint (September 15, 2026)

Territory: World English

Materials: 2P in March '26

Page count: 392

Option publishers:

Listed below

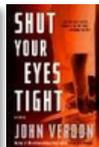
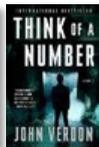
Film/TV: Bruce Vinokour/CAA

TV rights optioned by a major network

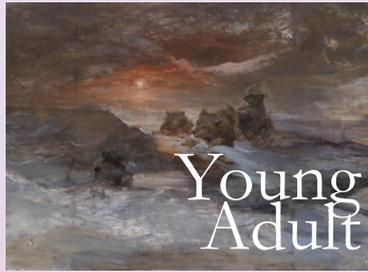
THE DAVID GURNEY SERIES

Rights sold: Spain & Catalonia (Roca); Finland (Gummerus); Israel (Keter); Greece (Dioptra); Turkey (Koridor)

Ex-homicide detective and puzzle-solving master David Gurney comes out of retirement to solve seemingly impossible murder cases. Blending hard-boiled noir fiction with the pleasures of classic “whodunit” puzzle-solving, Verdon has written a “hero for the ages” (David Baldacci).



John Verdon is the author of the Dave Gurney series of thrillers, international bestsellers published in more than two dozen languages: *Think of a Number*, *Shut Your Eyes Tight*, *Let the Devil Sleep*, *Peter Pan Must Die*, *Wolf Lake*, *White River Burning*, *On Harrow Hill*, and *The Viper*.



STRANGEBLOOD

alex terrell

For fans of *The Wicked Deep* by Shea Ernshaw and *Practical Magic*, **STRANGEBLOOD** is a lush, gripping novel that asks how one might find true power in unexpected places.

15-year-old Halle Kessel has always felt like the black sheep in her family: she and her four sisters are the latest in a long lineage of Wise Women—Black women imbued with potent and unpredictable magical abilities—only, Halle has already passed the age when Wise Women get their powers.

When Momma passes in mysterious (and mystical) circumstances, her power gets divided up between the sisters—excluding Halle—and the chasm only widens. As her sisters use their power to pursue their deepest ambitions and secrets, Halle turns her attention to uncovering the details of Momma’s mysterious death. But as sinister, hard-to-explain accidents increase throughout town, her investigation leads her deep into Witchurch’s dark past and might be the key to saving them all.



Feiwei & Friends (Fall 2027)

Territory: NA

Materials: revised ms in April 2026

Page count: 372 (sub ms)

Film/TV: Mary Pender / WME

alex terrell (she/her) is a Black Southern writer. Her work has appeared in *Black Warrior Review*, *The Offing*, *The Kenyon Review*, and elsewhere. She is a recipient of the 2018 PEN/Robert J. Dau Short Story Prize for Emerging Writers. Originally from Tennessee, she works at Smith College and is now based in Massachusetts with her sister and two cats.

SALT WATER BLOOD

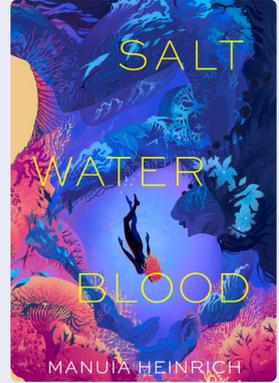
Manuia Heinrich

Sold in a 7-imprint US auction, and a 4-way ANZ auction during Frankfurt 2024

Inspired by the impact of France’s nuclear tests on the people of Mā’ohi Nui, **SALT WATER BLOOD** is a YA thriller set on an alternate Polynesian island for fans of **Angeline Boulley’s *Firekeeper’s Daughter*** and **Disney’s *Moana***.

Eighteen-year-old Moe hears the sea’s prophetic thoughts. Correction: Moe doesn’t just hear them—the sea makes Moe *feel* them. This is how Moe learned years ago that her father would drown and her mother would abandon her and her younger brother, Tao. So, when the sea warns that Tao will follow their father’s fate, Moe is determined to secure them a way off the island. All those plans fall apart when Tao’s girlfriend is then found dead and Tao is blamed.

As incriminating evidence piles up, Moe will do all she can to protect the only family she has left, even if it means swallowing her pride and teaming up with her archenemy Temanea. Even if it means relying on the sea and its prophecies—because her dreaded gift might be the only way to stop the killer.



Sarah Barley/S&S (Nov 17, 2026)

Territory: NA

Materials: copyedited ms in early March 2026

Page count: 350 (pre ce)

Rights sold:

ANZ Allen & Unwin

Italy Giunti

Manuia Heinrich holds a PhD in Pacific Studies and is the co-founder of APIpit and Pacific Islanders in Publishing. She is a We Need Diverse Books mentee, and was selected for the Write Mentor and New Zealand Society of Authors program. She currently lives in Aotearoa/New Zealand.



Nonfiction

WILD GRIEF: Animal Lessons on Loss

Emily Arden Polk

A window of light into the strange, poignant, and sometime hilarious habits of other creatures, and what humans can take away from these practices—leaving readers with a sense of relief, comfort, and hope; perfect for fans of Ed Yong and Sy Montgomery

Wild Grief explores how wild animals experience and respond to loss, while revealing how the customs and rituals of grief in the more-than-human world can help us process our own personal and ecological pain. Blending personal narrative, cultural mythologies, and folklore with the most recent science from leading experts in comparative thanatology—the emerging scientific field on nonhuman animal responses to the dead and the dying—Emily Polk takes readers to animal sanctuaries, the world’s largest pet cemetery, a falconry training center, and the Cavy Clubs Championship Guinea Pig Show, to name a few.

Wild Grief presents cutting-edge research while taking readers by the hand with humor and hope to illuminate how connecting with the world outside ourselves can allow us to better take care of one another, and our ailing planet.

Emily Polk currently serves on the faculty of the Program in Writing and Rhetoric at Stanford University and as the Writing and Arts Coordinator for Stanford’s Doerr School of Sustainability. She holds a Ph.D. in Communication from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Before Stanford, she worked internationally as a human rights and environment-focused writer and editor.



Putnam (Fall 2027)

Territory: NA

Materials: Proposal; full ms available end of 2026

Rights sold:

China: Unread Sky

Germany: Klett-Cota

Italy: Sonda

Korea: Next Wave Media

UK: Viking UK

FOUR MOTHERS

Abigail Leonard

**The Sunday Times* Book of the Week
featured on PBS News Weekend, live
news broadcasts, and NPR*

A page-turning narrative of four real
women—Anna from Finland, Tsukasa
from Japan, Sarah from the U.S., and
Chelsea from Kenya—through the first
year of motherhood.

Utterly moving and propulsively readable,
Leonard interweaves these four stories with a
critically researched exploration of how
parental support programs evolved in each
country—and why some provide more help
than others.

As nations around the world debate programs like paid leave, universal
daycare, reproductive healthcare, and family tax incentives, *Four Mothers*
offers a uniquely intimate, moving portrait of what those policies mean for
parents on the ground—and considers what modern families really want.

Praise for *Four Mothers*:

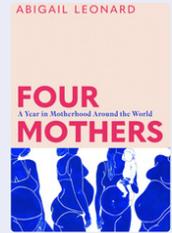
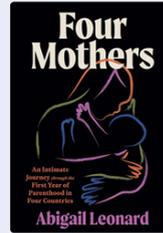
“Leonard is a masterly reporter. The four women share intimate details of
their shifting post-baby lives, which read like gripping fiction... It’s public
interest journalism at its best.”

— *The Sunday Times*

“This is real motherhood on the page, bolstered by rigorous research to
explain why our current systems have failed families and offer insights for
a brighter future.”

— **Jo Piazza**, bestselling author of *How to be Married*

Abigail Leonard is an award-winning international reporter and news
producer. Her work has appeared in NPR, *Time Magazine*, *The New
York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *Vox*. She has written and
produced long-form news documentaries for PBS, ABC and Al Jazeera
America.



Algonquin (May 6, 2025)

Territory: NA

Materials: Final available

Page count: 288

Rights sold:

UK/ANZ: Sceptre

Simplified Chinese: Citic

NIGHT MAGIC: Adventures Among Glowworms, Moon Gardens, and Other Marvels of the Dark

Leigh Ann Henion

Winner of the American Society of Journalism and Authors 2025 Nonfiction Award

New York Times bestselling nature writer Leigh Ann Henion invites us to leave our well-lit homes, step outside, and embrace the night—for readers of *Entangled Life* and *World of Wonders*.

No matter where we live, we are surrounded by animals that rise with the moon, and blooms that reveal themselves as light fades. Henion explores her home region of Appalachia, where she attends a synchronous firefly event in Tennessee, a bat outing in Alabama, and a moth festival in Ohio. In North Carolina, she finds forests alight with bioluminescent mushrooms, neighborhood trees full of screech owls, and valleys teeming with migratory salamanders. Along the way, Henion encounters naturalists, biologists, primitive-skills experts, and others who've dedicated their lives to cultivating relationships with darkness.

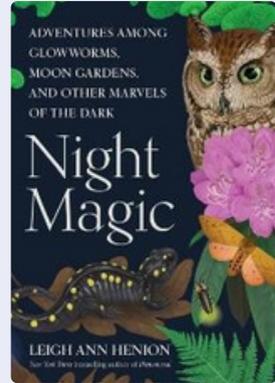
Praise for *Night Magic*:

“[A] nature lover’s guide to the dark that unfolds like a novel.”

— *The Christian Science Monitor*

“[A] revelation. A series of captivating field trips illuminating life in the wild at night.”

— *Minneapolis Star Tribune*



Algonquin (Sep 24, 2024)

Territory: NA

Materials: Final available

Page count: 336

Rights sold:

Germany: Klett-Cotta

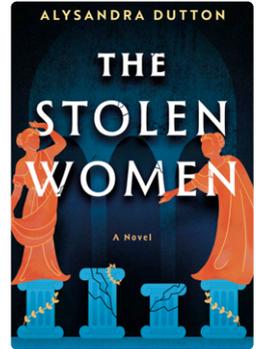
Leigh Ann Henion is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Phenomenal: A Hesitant Adventurer’s Search for Wonder in the Natural World*. She has received four awards from the Society of American Travel Writers, and has been supported by the Alicia Patterson Foundation and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation.



THE STOLEN WOMEN

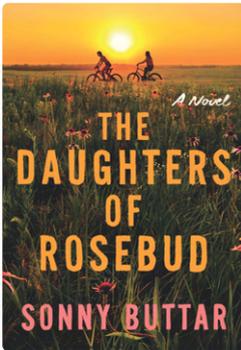
Alys Dutton (Park Row/Fall 2026)

A queer, feminist retelling of the founding of Rome told through the eyes of a Sabine woman. With two vulnerable sisters to care for, Safinia has no intention of sticking her nose into anyone's business... until women, including her former lover, begin disappearing. All of the missing women have vanished from powerful households, but their formidable fathers are in utter denial, thwarting Safinia's investigation at every turn. As war looms, Safinia must face the reality that the only leader she can turn to is herself.



THE DAUGHTERS OF THE ROSEBUD

Sonny Buttar (Lake Union / October 2026)



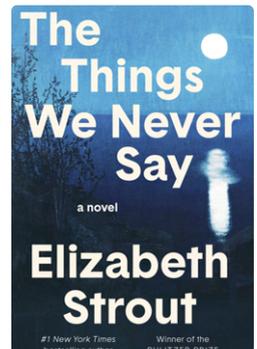
Salma and her older sister Asma were inseparable growing up in small-town Rosebud. While Asma was bold and fearless, Salma tried to keep the peace in their fractured family. But amid their mother's decline and their parents' rigid expectations, Asma makes a choice that tears the family apart. The fallout changes everything—and forces Salma to choose between her sister and her parents.

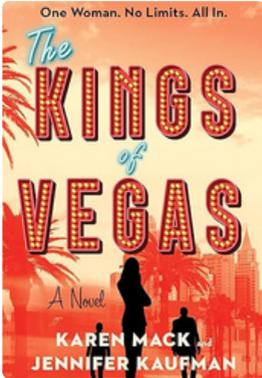
THE THINGS WE NEVER SAY

Elizabeth Strout (Random House/May 5, 2026)

Rights sold: UK (Penguin), Germany (Penguin Random House Verlagsgruppe GmbH), Catalan (Edicions de 1984)

Pulitzer Prize-winning, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Strout's new novel tells the story of a chance incident that sparks a powerful realization in a beloved teacher's life, turning the question over and over: How is it that we know so little about one another, even those closest to us? With exquisite prose and profound insight, *The Things We Never Say* takes one man's fears and loneliness and makes them universal.





THE KINGS OF VEGAS

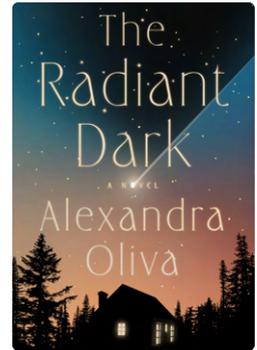
Karen Mack & Jennifer Kaufman
(William Morrow/June 30, 2026)

When Josie King is summoned back to her family's lavish Vegas ranch, it's with news of her father's death. Josie and her siblings learn that their father's will requires each of them to spend 3 years working for the family casino "The Jackpot", if they want to receive their inheritance. What at first seems like a mere inconvenience quickly becomes a perilous situation for Josie, as she gets a glimpse at the much darker interior beneath The Jackpot's glistening veneer.

THE RADIANT DARK

Alexandra Oliva (Zando/SJP Lit/April 28, 2026)

Beginning in 1980, one American family navigates a world where there is definitive proof of intelligent life on another planet, 11 lightyears from Earth. Over the course of 50 years, as communication is exchanged between the two planets, we follow this family as they grow and change, with increasing cultural and political tensions in the world around them.



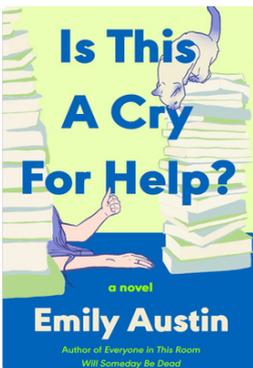
IS THIS A CRY FOR HELP?

Emily Austin (Atria/January 13, 2026)

Rights sold: Germany (Bastei Lubbe), Spain (Urano), Thai (Marshmallow Publishing)

Instant US & Canadian bestseller

The bestselling "queen of darkly quirky, endearingly flawed heroines" (Sarah Haywood, author of *The Cactus*), returns with a luminous new novel following a librarian who comes back to work after a mental breakdown only to confront book-banning crusaders in an empowering story of grief, love, and the power of libraries.

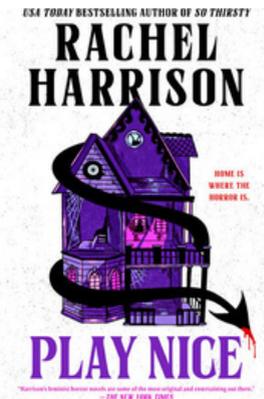
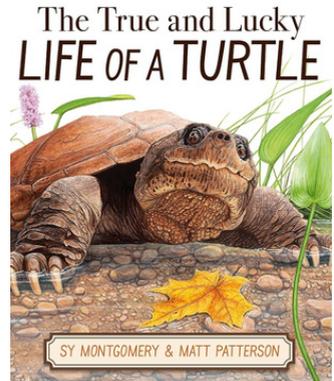


THE TRUE AND LUCKY LIFE OF A TURTLE

Sy Montgomery and illustrated by Matt Patterson (Clarion/September 9, 2025)

Rights sold: China (Beijing Tianlue Books)

The bestselling and Sibert Honor–winning creators of *The Book of Turtles* bring us the true story of a snapping turtle’s extraordinary journey—and the amazing conservationists who helped give him a second chance. This feel-good, gorgeously illustrated story about beating the odds is complete with inspiring back matter and photos.



PLAY NICE

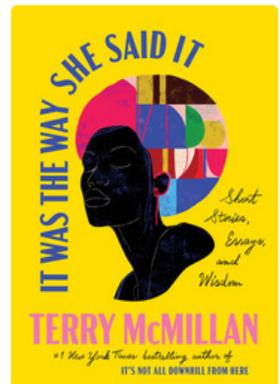
Rachel Harrison (Berkley/September 9, 2025)

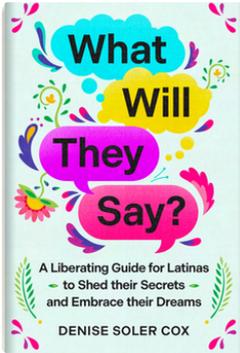
In the *New York Times* bestselling novel *Play Nice*, Clio Louise Barnes leads a picture-perfect life as a stylist and influencer, but beneath the glossy veneer she harbors a not-so glamorous secret: she grew up in a haunted house. After her mother’s sudden death, the supposedly possessed house passes to Clio and her sisters. Where her sisters see childhood trauma, Clio sees an opportunity for house flipping content. Only, as the home makeover process begins, Clio discovers there might be some truth to her mother’s claims.

IT WAS THE WAY SHE SAID IT

Terry McMillan (Ballantine/Sep 9, 2025)

From the #1 *New York Times* bestselling novelist comes a remarkable, career-spanning collection of short fiction and nonfiction pieces capturing the struggles and triumphs of Black life in America, from the workaday factory man’s malaise in “The End” to the cast-aside lover’s resolve in “Touching” to the elderly woman’s wiles in “Ma’Dear.” Whether she’s revealing life lessons, pontificating about aging, recalling her sources of inspiration, or laying bare the beginnings of her life as a writer, McMillan approaches every piece with enduring candor, wit, and fearlessness.





WHAT WILL THEY SAY?

Denise Soler Cox (Primerro Sueño/August 2026)

A liberating guide for Latinas to shed their secrets and embrace their dreams, exploring secrets, taboo, shame, and belonging in Latino culture and how we can create a paradigm for change

O SINNERS!

Nicole Cuffy (OneWorld/May 18th, 2025)

A young journalist, reeling from loss, investigates a mysterious cult in the California redwoods, only to be drawn in by its charismatic leader in this addictive novel that asks why people give up control and what it takes, ultimately, to find one's place in the world.

