griffin
Passions in Death
An Eve Dallas Novel
J. D. Robb

Homicide Detective Eve Dallas hunts a killer who turns a wedding party into a murder scene in this unputdownable novel by the #1 New York Times bestselling author, J.D. Robb.

Summary
On a hot August night, Lt. Eve Dallas and her husband, Roarke, speed through the streets of Manhattan to the Down and Dirty club, where a joyful, boisterous pre-wedding girls’ night out has turned into a murder scene. One of the brides lies in a pool of blood, garroted in a private room where she was preparing a surprise for her fiancée—two scrimped and saved-for tickets to Hawaii.

Despite the dozens of people present, useful witnesses are hard to come by. It all brings back some bad memories for Eve. In her uniform days, she’d suffered an assault in the very same room—but she’d been able to fight back and survive. She’d gotten justice. And now she needs to provide some for poor young Erin.

Eve knows that the level of violence and the apparent premeditation involved suggest a volatile mix of hidden, heated passion and ice-cold calculation. This is a crime that can be countered only by hard detective work and relentless dedication—and Eve will not stop until she finds the killer who destroyed this couple’s dreams before the honeymoon even began…

Contributor Bio
J.D. ROBB is the pseudonym for #1 New York Times bestselling author Nora Roberts. She is the author of over 240 novels, including the futuristic suspense In Death series. There are more than 500 million copies of her books in print.

Quotes
Praise for Random in Death
"Puts the "procedure" rewardingly back into the police procedural." —Kirkus

"With the fifty-eighth irresistibly readable entry in the ever-popular Eve Dallas series, Robb continues to showcase her mastery when it comes to creating inventive plots generously spiked with nail-biting suspense and populated with compelling characters." —Booklist

Praise for Payback in Death
"Payback in Death is a captivating story full of intrigue." —Bookreporter

"Strong characters and relationships, unique plot lines and tight pacing make this a must read series for fans of crime and police procedurals." —Mystery & Suspense Magazine

"Robb definitely doesn’t disappoint with Payback in Death." —Fresh Fiction
Only If You're Lucky

A Novel

Stacy Willingham

A sharp and twisty exploration of female friendship from the New York Times bestselling author of A Flicker in the Dark and All the Dangerous Things.

Summary

Lucy Sharpe is larger than life. Magnetic, addictive. Bold and dangerous. Especially for Margot, who meets Lucy at the end of their freshman year at a liberal arts college in South Carolina. Margot is the shy one, the careful one, always the sidekick and never the center of attention. But when Lucy singles her out at the end of the year, a year Margot spent studying and playing it safe, and asks her to room together, something in Margot can't say no—something daring, or starved, or maybe even envious.

And so Margot finds herself living in an off-campus house with three other girls, Lucy, the ringleader; Sloane, the sarcastic one; and Nicole, the nice one, the three of them opposites but also deeply intertwined. It's a year that finds Margot finally coming out of the shell she's been in since the end of high school, when her best friend Eliza died three weeks after graduation. Margot and Lucy have become the closest of friends, but by the middle of their sophomore year, one of the fraternity boys from the house next door has been brutally murdered... and Lucy Sharpe is missing without a trace.

From the author of A Flicker in the Dark and All the Dangerous Things comes a tantalizing thriller about the nature of friendship and belonging, about loyalty, envy, and betrayal—another gripping novel from an author quickly becoming the gold standard in psychological suspense.

Contributor Bio

STACY WILLINGHAM is a New York Times, USA Today and internationally bestselling author. Her work has been translated in more than thirty languages. Before turning to fiction, she was a copywriter and brand strategist for various marketing agencies. She earned her B.A. in magazine journalism from the University of Georgia and M.F.A. in writing from the Savannah College of Art and Design. She currently lives in Charleston, South Carolina, with her husband, Britt, and Labradoodle, Mako.

Quotes

"[An] atmospheric mystery perfect for fans of Donna Tartt’s The Secret History...The explosive revelations rolled out at the novel’s end will satisfy even the most jaded readers." —Oprah Daily

"Willingham is known for psychological twists, and the one she plants here is a doozy." —Booklist

"A first-year college student accepts an invitation to leave her dormitory and move into a house with three other women. Then absolutely everything goes wrong...The payoff is handsome.” —Kirkus Reviews

"Cunning...twisty...Willingham's prose remains evocative, and her deep dive into the thorny nature of female friendship rings true...a gripping ride." —Publishers Weekly
I Think They Love You

A Novel

Julian Winters

With his funny, big-hearted adult rom com debut, bestselling, award-winning YA author Julian Winters shows sometimes fake dating your ex can turn into a second chance.

Summary

When Denzel “Denz” Carter’s workaholic father and CEO of 24 Carter Gold unexpectedly announces his retirement, the competition is on for who will become his successor. To convince his judgmental family members that Denz is capable of commitment he impulsively lies about being in a serious relationship. Problem is the last serious relationship he was in hung him high and dry after leaving the continent.

Now Denz needs to find a fake boyfriend to bring to family functions and seal the deal on the CEO position. To do so he enlists the help of his best friend and roommate, Jamie. Someone his family already accepts in their inner circle. But when his BFF is a no-show, Denz is forced to turn to the last person he wants to be in a pretend (or any) relationship with: Braylon, the man who broke his heart.

Braylon’s sudden reappearance in Denz’s life turns everything upside down. But apparently, he needs Denz’s connections to the mayor to win his own promotion and Denz is currently up a creek without a paddle. So, they strike a deal. It’s all business, but between the funny texts and the confusing kisses soon enough Denz is struggling to separate business from the affairs of his heart.

In Julian Winters's I think They Love You, sometimes fake dating your way to success can mean finding the second chance at love you’ve needed all along.

Contributor Bio

JULIAN WINTERS is the author of the award-winning Young Adult novels Running With Lions, Right Where I Left You, How to Be Remy Cameron, The Summer of Everything, and As You Walk On By, as well as the upcoming Prince of the Palisades and his Adult romance debut, I Think They Love You. A self-proclaimed comic book geek, Julian currently lives outside of Atlanta where he can be found swooning over rom-coms or watching the only two sports he can follow—volleyball and soccer.

Quotes

"With all the affection of a small-town romance and all the allure of a big-city love affair... a brilliant rom-com debut from one of my favorite authors! This book will stay with you like a last kiss goodnight.” – Ashley Poston, New York Times best-selling author of The Dead Romantics and The Seven Year Slip

Lone Wolf
An Orphan X Novel
Gregg Hurwitz

When the smallest possible mission pits Orphan X against his most dangerous foe, everything Evan Smoak thinks he knows is in question in this latest in the New York Times bestselling series.

Summary
Once a black ops government assassin known as Orphan X, Evan Smoak left the program, went deep underground, and reinvented himself as the Nowhere Man—a now legendary figure who will go anywhere and risk everything to help the truly desperate who have nowhere else to turn. Since then, Evan has fought international crime syndicates and drug cartels, faced down the most powerful men in the world, and even brought down a president.

Now struggling with an unexpected personal crisis, Evan goes back to the very basics of his mission, and this time, the truly desperate is a little girl who wants him to find her missing dog. Not his usual mission, and not one Evan embraces with enthusiasm, but this unlikely, tiny job quickly explodes into his biggest mission yet, one that finds him battered between twisted AI technocrat billionaires, a mysterious female assassin who seems to be a mirror of himself, and personal stakes so gut-wrenching he can scarcely make sense of them.

Evan’s mission pushes him to his limit. He must find and take down the assassin, known only as the Wolf, before she succeeds in completing her mission and killing the people who can identify her: a teenage daughter of her last target, and Evan himself. Matched skill for skill, instinct for instinct, Evan must outwit an opponent who will literally stop at nothing if he is to survive.

Contributor Bio
GREGG HURWITZ is the author of the New York Times bestselling Orphan X novels. Critically acclaimed, his novels have been international bestsellers, graced top ten lists, and have been published in thirty-three languages. Additionally, he’s sold scripts to many of the major studios, and written, developed, and produced television for various networks. Hurwitz lives in Los Angeles.

Quotes
"Gregg Hurwitz seems to have found a new gear as he kicks things up a notch, ramping up the action and tension to deliver the most fascinating and compelling Orphan X novel to date. Think Jason Bourne on steroids... Lone Wolf is one of the year’s first must-read thrillers." —The Real Book Spy

"The series has always been a blend of Batman, the Equalizer, and Vince Flynn’s Mitch Rapp, and Lone Wolf reinforces why it continues to be great nine novels in. Newcomers to Evan’s adventures should feel fine starting here before diving into the others."
—First Clue

"Lone Wolf is a crushingly brilliant piece of fiction." —Best Thriller Books

“Awesome and propulsive...Big Bourne and Reacher energy.” – The New York Times on Dark Horse

“A stellar series...and the stories get better with each instalment.” – Associated Press on Into the Fire
Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice
A Novel
Elle Cosimano
From New York Times bestseller and Edgar-Award nominee Elle Cosimano, comes Finlay Donovan Rolls the Dice—the fiercely anticipated next installment in the beloved Finlay Donovan series.

Summary
Finlay Donovan and her nanny/partner-in-crime Vero are in sore need of a girls’ weekend away. They plan a trip to Atlantic City, but odds are—seeing as it’s actually a cover story to negotiate a deal with a dangerous loan shark, save Vero’s childhood crush Javi, and hunt down a stolen car—it won’t be all fun and games. When Finlay’s ex-husband Steven and her mother insist on tagging along too, Finlay and Vero suddenly have a few too many meddlesome passengers along for the ride.

Within hours of arriving in their seedy casino hotel, it becomes clear their rescue mission is going to be a bust. Javi’s kidnapper, Marco, refuses to negotiate, demanding payment in full in exchange for Javi’s life. But that’s not all—he insists on knowing the whereabouts of his missing nephew, Ike, who mysteriously disappeared. Unable to confess what really happened to Ike, Finlay and Vero are forced to come up with a new plan: sleuth out the location of Javi and the Aston Martin, then steal them both back.

If Finlay can juggle a jealous ex-husband, two precocious kids, her mother’s marital issues, a decomposing loan shark, and find Vero’s missing boyfriend, she might get out of Atlantic City in one piece. But will she fold under the pressure and come clean about the things she’s done, or be forced to double down?

Contributor Bio
ELLE COSIMANO is a New York Times and USA Today bestselling author, an International Thriller Writers Award winner, and an Edgar Award nominee. Elle’s debut novel for adults, Finlay Donovan Is Killing It, kicked off a witty, fast-paced contemporary mystery series. Cosimano lives with her husband and two sons in Virginia.

Quotes
“Fresh, heartfelt and witty, Finlay Donovan Jumps the Gun is a twisty page-turner, and its relatable heroine Finlay Donovan is irresistible!”—Janet Evanovich

“Refreshing, funny and bright, these are wonderfully escapist novels.”—Charlaine Harris

“This series is simply spectacular and always delightful! The perfect blend of mystery and romcom, and I’m ready to follow Finlay wherever she goes!”—Ali Hazelwood

“This series is magical! I’m in awe of Elle Cosimano. Every book lover in the world should be reading Finlay Donovan.”—Christina Lauren
Let's Call a Truce
A Novel
Amy Buchanan

LET'S CALL A TRUCE is a sexy contemporary romance about second chances at life and love, bursting with humor and a touch of angst from debut author, Amy Buchanan.

Summary
After Juliana's husband dies unexpectedly, leaving her with two grieving kids and a stunted career from years as a stay-at-home mom, she has no choice but to make it work all alone. That is until, on her first day back at work, she overhears her new colleague, the condescending but infuriatingly attractive Ben, talking about how her kids and inexperience are a liability the company can't afford. This sets off a feud between the two, as Juliana vows to prove him wrong.

Two years later, their feud rages on, but it may be charged with something they aren't willing to admit. When they are forced onto a career-making project together, Juliana has no choice but to call a truce. And, as their lives become more intertwined, the truce quickly turns into something more. Could the man she deemed her nemesis understand her life—her stress and responsibilities—better than anyone? She finds it hard to ignore Ben's perpetual smile and charming determination, and what used to be boardroom-clearing arguments turn into desk-clearing kisses.

But just when Juliana decides to open her heart again, Ben's past threatens their newfound bliss, and she has to figure out whether this second chance at love is worth it after all.

Contributor Bio
AMY BUCHANAN'S affair with romance and books started at three, when she watched Beauty and the Beast and couldn't decide if she was more obsessed with the prince or the library (The library. Definitely the library). After decades of devouring love stories written by others, she decided to share the ones pinging around in her brain. She writes fun and spicy contemporary romances with relatable heroines, swoonworthy heroes, and loving found families.

She lives in Central Florida with her three littles, two pups, and one husband. On top of writing, she uses her Masters in Higher Education Administration to run a scholarship foundation for first-generation college students. When not working, she trolls travel sites for luxury rentals outside of her travel budget and—poorly—trains for half-marathons.

Quotes
"Let's Call a Truce felt like a real, lived-in romance between two people who deserve a new beginning, and who found it with each other." - Alicia Thompson, USA Today bestselling author of With Love, from Cold World

"Amy Buchanan's debut had me chuckling one minute and choked up with emotion the next. With a perfect balance of LOL moments, punchy banter laced with sexual tension, and heartwarming moments of found family, grief, and second chances in love, Let's Call a Truce is an outstanding debut by a fresh voice in contemporary romance." Meredith Schorr, author of As Seen on TV

"Featuring one of the most swoon-worthy lines I've ever read from a hero, LET'S CALL A TRUCE delivers a heartwarming and engrossing story that beautifully explores love after loss." --Livy Hart
She Doesn't Have a Clue
A Novel
Jenny Elder Moke

With a colorful cast of characters and a cellar full of wine, anything can happen—from murder to a second chance at love—in Jenny Elder Moke's half mystery, half romance adult debut set at a lavish destination wedding.

Summary
A high-end wedding on a private island off the coast of Seattle sounds like something out of a magazine. But for bestselling mystery author Kate Valentine, it's more like a nightmare.

Why Kate agreed to attend her ex-fiancé's wedding is its own enigma, but she'll plaster on a fake smile for two nights, with the aid of free champagne, naturally. And because the groom happens to be her editor, she'll try to finish a draft of her latest Loretta Starling mystery as a wedding gift. But when the bride is poisoned and Kate stumbles across a dead body, she finds herself in a real-life mystery that eerily echoes the plot of her latest novel. And the only person who seems willing to help Kate catch the killer is Jake Hawkins, aka: the Hostralian; aka: Kate’s biggest romantic regret.

As the wine flows and the weather threatens to hold every guest hostage, bitter resentments and long-held grudges surface amongst the colorful crowd. Anyone could be capable of murder, it seems. What would Loretta do? Unfortunately, Kate doesn't have a clue.

Contributor Bio
JENNY ELDER MOKE is the author of award-winning children’s and adult literature. She enjoys fast-paced adventures with plenty of mysteries, surprising turns, and laughs along the way. When she’s not writing, you can find her knitting, puzzling, or fighting imaginary crime as a black belt in Tae Kwon Do. She Doesn't Have a Clue is her adult debut.

Jenny lives in Denver, CO.

Quotes
"How could I not love a book that’s equal parts closed circle mystery and second chance romance? The perfect recipe for a page-turning read." —Mia P. Manansala, author of the multi-award-winning Arsenic and Adobo

"A little bit Glass Onion, with the madcap energy of Clue...readers who like their whodunits with a side of will-they-or-won’t-they are in for a treat." —Amanda Sellet, author of Hate to Fake It to You

"You'll fall in love with Kate Valentine as she sleuths her way through a Clue-worthy mansion, finding secrets—and sizzling romance." —Jennifer J. Chow, Agatha Award-nominated author
Earl Crush
A Novel
Alexandra Vasti

A reclusive earl's life is turned upside down when a stranger shows up on his doorstep with an astonishing proposal—and an inconvenient connection to espionage—in Vasti's next Regency rom-com.

Summary
For three years, wallflower heiress Lydia Hope-Wallace has anonymously penned seditious pamphlets. And for almost as long, she's corresponded with the Earl of Strathrannoch, whose political ambition is matched only by his charm. When Arthur’s latest letter reveals his dire financial straits, Lydia sets out for Scotland to offer him the only salvation she can think of—a marriage of convenience. To, um, herself.

Unfortunately, the Earl of Strathrannoch has no idea who she is. When a bewitching redheaded stranger offers him her hand in marriage, Arthur Baird is stunned—but when he learns that his traitorous brother has been writing to her under Arthur’s name, he’s bloody furious. He’s content to live alone in his moldering castle, and he has no desire for a provocative, radical wife. (Or at least, he shouldn’t.)

But Arthur is desperate to track down his brother, who’s become dangerously entangled in British espionage, and he needs Lydia’s help. What he doesn’t need? The attraction that burns hotter each moment they spend together. As Lydia slips past his defenses and his brother’s mysterious past becomes a very present threat, Arthur will have to risk everything to keep her safe—even his heart.

Contributor Bio
ALEXANDRA VASTI is a British literature professor who has loved historical romance since age 11. After finishing her PhD at Columbia University in NYC, she moved to New Orleans, where she lives with her very large and noisy family. Ne’er Duke Well is her first novel. For sneak peeks and exclusive bonus content in the world of Ne’er Duke Well, sign up for Alex's newsletter at alexandravasti.com.

Quotes
"Wildly delightful! This belongs on every romance reader’s keeper shelf!" – Joanna Shupe, USA Today Bestselling Author

"Both a rollicking romp and the most tender of love stories, EARL CRUSH is sexy, kind, and full of adventure!“ – Naina Kumar, USA Today bestselling author of Say You’ll Be Mine

"With witty banter, endearing characters, and smoking hot chemistry, Alexandra Vasti’s EARL CRUSH will enchant readers and establish her as a breakout star of historical romance!" – Liana De la Rosa, author of Ana Maria and the Fox
What Truth Sounds Like
Robert F. Kennedy, James Baldwin, and Our Unfinished Conversation About Race in America
Michael Eric Dyson
A “tour de force” (Harry Belafonte) now finally in paperback

Summary
An electrifying and traumatic encounter in the sixties crystallized the fraught conflict between conscience and politics – between morality and power – in addressing race. In 1963 Attorney General Robert Kennedy sought out James Baldwin to explain the rage that threatened to engulf black America. Baldwin brought along some friends, including playwright Lorraine Hansberry, psychologist Kenneth Clark, and a valiant activist, Jerome Smith.

Kennedy walked away from the nearly three-hour meeting angry – that the black folk assembled didn’t understand politics, and that they weren’t as easy to talk to as Martin Luther King. But especially that they were more interested in witness than policy. But Kennedy’s anger quickly gave way to empathy, especially for Smith. “I guess if I were in his shoes...I might feel differently about this country.” Kennedy set about changing policy – the meeting having transformed his thinking in fundamental ways.

Every big argument about race that persists to this day got a hearing in that room. And we grapple still with the responsibility of black intellectuals and artists to bring about social change. This book exists at the tense intersection of the conflict between politics and prophecy – of whether we embrace political resolution or moral redemption to fix our fractured racial landscape.

Contributor Bio
MICHAEL ERIC DYSON—Distinguished University Professor of African American and Diaspora Studies, College of Arts & Science, and of Ethics and Society, Divinity School, and NEH Centennial Chair at Vanderbilt University—is one of America’s premier public intellectuals and the author of seven New York Times bestsellers including Tears We Cannot Stop. A contributing opinion writer for the New York Times Dr. Dyson is a recipient of two NAACP Image awards among many honors.

Quotes
“Passionately written...” —The Washington Post

“Dyson has finally written the book I always wanted to read.” —Harry Belafonte

"A work of searing prose and seminal brilliance. " —Joy-Ann Reid, MSNBC anchor and author of Fracture

“Dyson reminds us that Black artists and intellectuals bear an awesome responsibility to speak truth to power.” —Robin D. G. Kelley, author of Freedom Dreams
One in a Millennial
On Friendship, Feelings, Fangirls, and Fitting In
Kate Kennedy

From pop culture podcaster and a voice of a generation, Kate Kennedy, the New York Times bestselling celebration of the millennial zeitgeist

Summary

One In a Millennial is an exploration of pop culture, nostalgia, the millennial zeitgeist, and the life lessons learned (for better and for worse) from coming of age as a member of a much-maligned generation.

Kate is a pop culture commentator and host of the popular millennial-focused podcast Be There in Five. Part-funny, part-serious, Kate navigates the complicated nature of celebrating and criticizing the culture that shaped her as a woman, while arguing that great depths can come from surface-level interests.

With her trademark style and vulnerability, One In a Millennial is sharp, hilarious, and heartwarming all at once. She tackles AOL Instant Messenger, purity culture, American Girl Dolls, going out tops, Spice Girl feminism, her feelings about millennial motherhood, and more. Kate’s laugh-out-loud asides and keen observations will have you nodding your head and maybe even tearing up.

Contributor Bio

KATE KENNEDY is a Chicago-based millennial multi-hyphenate, author, entrepreneur and pop culture commentator, best known for hosting her weekly pop culture podcast Be There in Five. Kennedy has a marketing degree from the Pamplin School of Business at Virginia Tech, and prior to starting Be There in Five, was an Ogilvy Award nominated market researcher turned accidental entrepreneur. Kate’s life changed when she decided to put “turn off your curling iron” on her doormat so she wouldn’t burn her apartment down. Her "remindoormats" captured the zeitgeist, selling thousands and featured in Glamour, Good Housekeeping, RealSimple, HuffPost, BuzzFeed, Self, and Martha Stewart. Be There in Five is now a full-time gig and has led her to sold-out live shows across the country. Kate's career and commentary have been featured in People, HuffPost, New York Times, BuzzFeed, and The Washington Post.

Quotes

"Deliciously nostalgic and brain-tinglingly astute. Kate Kennedy has a Gilmore Girls-snappy voice, Taylor Swift-style emotional relatability, and a witty wisdom all her own. Thanks to this book, I’m actually proud to be in my millennial cringe era.”— Amanda Montell, author of CULTISH and WORDSLUT

"Kate Kennedy is a champion of -- and among -- millennial women, and her debut book reinforces that there is depth to even the seemingly shallowest subjects. Kate has the rare gift of making everything interesting, and every page of this insightful, tender and hilarious collection feels like a late-night conversation with an old friend about things you were sure only you thought about. She is definitely a voice of this generation. I loved every single page of this book, and was devastated to find that, like all good things, it came to an end."— Nora McInerny, author of BAD VIBES ONLY

"Offers a fresh perspective from one millennial to another...filled with vivid details, from Pentel's R.S.V.P. pens to Beatles’ songs performed by the Across the Universe cast that are more than just nostalgic, but provide opportunities to cultivate a multidimensional and nuanced approach to both cultural analysis and personal reflection, while also encouraging us to embrace the present and look ahead to the future."— Morgan Harper Nichols, Artist and Author of WSJ Bestseller ALL ALONG YOU WERE BLOOMING

"Hilarious, brilliant, and relatable as hell, ONE IN A MILLENNIAL establishes Kate Kennedy as a dazzling new voice for the millennial generation. In every fresh,
insightful, and sneakily powerful essay, Kate excavates personal memories and pop culture moments by pinpointing exactly why they were so meaningful and formative. She allows women of all generations to celebrate our surface-level interests and not limit ourselves to the boxes society tries to put us in."– Jenny Mollen, *New York Times* bestselling author
The French Art of Living Well
Finding Joie de Vivre in the Everyday World
Cathy Yandell

In the tradition of French Toast, a delightful look at French culture, from literature to cuisine to humor and more, showing how the French have captured that magic elixir known as joie de vivre.

Summary
What is joie de vivre, and why is it a fundamentally French concept?

In search of those ineffable qualities that make up the joy of living, this lively book takes readers on a voyage to France through forays into literature, history, and culture. How does art contribute to daily life? Why is cuisine such a central part of French existence? Why are the French more physical than many other cultures? How do French attitudes toward time speak volumes about their sense of pleasure and celebration? And finally, to what extent is this zest for life exportable? These and other questions give way to a dynamic sketch of French life today.

Peppered with anecdotes and humor, this book uncovers some of the secrets of the celebrated French art of living well. Drawing from her years of living in France as a student, professor, and mother, Yandell crafts an honest and profound appraisal of French culture and how la joie de vivre can be developed in anyone’s life.

Contributor Bio
CATHY YANDELL is a professor at Carleton College, teaching courses in French Renaissance literature and culture, contemporary cultural and political issues in France, and the French language. Having published articles on writers from Louise Labé to Montaigne, she has also authored, edited, and co-edited several books including Carpe Corpus, Vieillir à la Renaissance, and Memory and Community in Sixteenth-Century France. In 2019, she was knighted by the French government into the Order of Academic Palms. When not buried in books, she loves dance, yoga, and flying trapeze. The French Art of Living Well is her first book for a general audience.

Quotes
"A wonderful celebration of and guide to the many joys of life in contemporary France."
—Janet Hulstrand, author of Demystifying the French

"[An] erudite book sprinkled with amusing and informative personal anecdotes."
—Harriet Welty Rochefort, bestselling author of French Toast
The Boy Who Cried Bear  
A Haven's Rock Novel  
Kelley Armstrong  

New York Times bestseller Kelley Armstrong keeps readers on the edge of their seats while detective Casey Duncan tries to locate the threat before it’s too late...

Summary  
Haven’s Rock is a well-hidden town surrounded by forest. And it’s supposed to be, being that it’s a refuge for those who need to disappear. Detective Casey Duncan and her husband, Sheriff Eric Dalton already feel at home in their new town, which reminds them of where they first met in Rockton. And while they know how to navigate the woods and its various dangers, other residents don’t. Which is why people aren’t allowed to wander off alone.

When Max, the town’s youngest resident—taught to track animals by Eric—fears a bear is stalking a hiking party, alarms are raised. Even stranger, the ten-year-old swears the bear had human eyes. Casey and Eric know the dangers a bear can present, so they’re taking it seriously. But odd occurrences are happening all around them, and when a dead body turns up, they’re not sure what they’re up against.

Contributor Bio

KELLEY ARMSTRONG graduated with a degree in psychology and then studied computer programming. Now she is a full-time writer and parent, and she lives with her husband and three children in rural Ontario, Canada. She is the author of the Rockton mystery series featuring Detective Casey Duncan, which begins with City of the Lost, and the novel Wherever She Goes. She is the editor of the young adult anthology Life Is Short and Then You Die.

Quotes

"Excellent..Armstrong gives her lead a complex mystery to solve, while vividly evoking the eerie isolation of the setting." – Publishers Weekly (starred review) on Murder at Haven’s Rock

"Armstrong’s intriguing and atmospheric time-travel mystery will appeal to readers who enjoy historical detail." – Library Journal (starred review) on The Poisoner’s Ring

"Armstrong fashions a satisfying narrative out of familiar parts and nails her lead’s cheeky, anachronistic narration. This is winningly silly and satisfying." – Publishers Weekly on The Poisoner’s Ring
Listen to Your Sister
A Novel
Neena Viel

For fans of Jordan Peele's movies, The Other Black Girl, and Stranger Things, Listen to Your Sister is a laugh-out-loud, deeply terrifying, big-hearted horror novel from knockout debut talent Neena Viel.

Summary
Twenty-five year old Calla Williams is struggling since becoming guardian to her brother, Jamie. Calla is overwhelmed and tired of being the one who makes sacrifices to keep the family together. Jamie, full of good-natured sixteen-year-old recklessness, is usually off fighting for what matters to him or getting into mischief, often at the same time. Dre, their brother, promised he would help raise Jamie—but now the ink is dry on the paperwork and in classic middle-child fashion, he's off doing his own thing. And through it all, The Nightmare never stops haunting Calla: recurring images of her brothers dying that she is powerless to stop.

When Jamie's actions at a protest spiral out of control, the siblings must go on the run. Taking refuge in a remote cabin that looks like it belongs on a slasher movie poster rather than an AirBNB, the siblings now face a new threat where their lives—and reality—hang in the balance. Their sister always warned them about her nightmares. They should have listened.

Razor-sharp, wildly imaginative, breathlessly harrowing, and utterly unforgettable, Listen to Your Sister is a hilarious and terrifying speculative tale of the nightmares that haunt us, and the deep, powerful love that can tie family together.

Contributor Bio
NEENA VIEL is a horror writer who lives in a cabin in the woods. A 2021-2022 Pitch Wars mentee, her work explores social horror and humor through a Black lens. She has a Bachelor's in Communication from Arkansas State University, and a Master's in Public Service from the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. She is the Director of Development & Communications at Northwest Education Access, a Seattle-based nonprofit, and has over eight years of experience in philanthropy.

Quotes
"Speculative fiction was invented so stories like Listen to Your Sister could be told. What a knockout debut."
-Ashley Winstead, author of Midnight is the Darkest Hour and In My Dreams I Hold a Knife

"Gripping and powerful, this is horror at its finest." - Nick Medina, author of Sisters of the Lost Nation
Diva
A Novel
Daisy Goodwin

New York Times bestselling author Daisy Goodwin returns with a story of the scandalous love affair between the most celebrated opera singer of all time and one of the richest men in the world.

Summary
In the glittering and ruthlessly competitive world of opera, Maria Callas was known simply as la divina: the divine one. With her glorious voice, instinctive flair for the dramatic and striking beauty, she was the toast of the grandest opera houses in the world. But her fame was hard won: raised in Nazi-occupied Greece by a mother who mercilessly exploited her golden voice, she learned early in life to protect herself from those who would use her for their own ends.

When she met the fabulously rich Greek shipping magnate Aristotle Onassis, for the first time in her life, she believed she’d found someone who saw the woman within the legendary soprano. She fell desperately in love. He introduced her to a life of unbelievable luxury, showering her with jewels and sojourns in the most fashionable international watering holes with celebrities like Elizabeth Taylor, Richard Burton and the Duke and Duchess of Windsor.

And then suddenly, it was over. The international press announced that Aristotle Onassis would marry the most famous woman in the world, former First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy, leaving Maria to pick up the pieces.

In this remarkable novel, Daisy Goodwin brings to life a woman whose extraordinary talent, unremitting drive and natural chic made her a legend. But it was only in confronting the heartbreak of losing the man she loved that Maria Callas found her true voice and went on to triumph.

Contributor Bio
DAISY GOODWIN is the author of the New York Times bestselling novels The American Heiress and The Fortune Hunter. She attended Columbia University’s film school as a Harkness scholar after earning a degree in history at Cambridge University, and was Chair of the judging panel of the 2010 Orange Prize for Fiction. She is the screenwriter and executive producer of the PBS/Masterpiece drama Victoria. She lives in London.

Quotes
Praise for Diva:

"I was blown away by Diva. Beautiful, visceral, tragic, gutting." —Miranda Cowley Heller, #1 New York Times bestselling author

"Told with tenderness and power, this is bravura storytelling in the hands of a master." —Adriana Trigiani, New York Times bestselling author
Get Lost with You
A Novel
Sophie Sullivan
Two friends get a second chance at love amid the gorgeous wilderness setting of the Get Lost Lodge, in this sweet and uplifting rom com from Sophie Sullivan.

Summary
Jillian Keller took the long route to her best life, but is now happily settled in her hometown of Smile, raising her little girl alone while helping run Get Lost Lodge. A lover of structure and routine, she doesn’t need anything, or anyone, disrupting her carefully curated life.

After achieving his culinary dreams, Levi Bright realizes he’s still missing something he can’t find in a big city. Returning home to Smile, he intends to build a different future for himself that includes mending fences with his dad, reconnecting with friends, and creating elevated comfort food for a town he loves.

When Levi and Jilly run into each other one day in Smile, once requited feelings that never had a chance to bloom as teens flare between them. Jaded from her past, Jilly is cautious and convinced that she can handle being just friends, until her brother hires sweet, funny, ridiculously hot Levi as the new chef at the lodge, and the two have to work closely together to prepare for Get Lost’s official summer opening. The more time they spend together, camping, laughing, kayaking, and reminiscing, the more Jilly, and her daughter Ollie, start to get more attached to Levi. But Jilly has been hurt before, and things are moving quicker than she anticipated. If she wants to be head over hills in love, she’ll have to learn that the past doesn’t always repeat itself. Sometimes, it just leads you where you’re meant to be.

Contributor Bio
SOPHIE SULLIVAN is a Canadian author as well as a cookie-eating, Diet Pepsi-drinking, Disney enthusiast who loves reading and writing romance in almost equal measure. She writes around her day job as a teacher and spends her spare time with her sweet family watching reruns of Friends. She’s had plenty of practice writing happily ever after as her alter ego, Jody Holford.

Quotes
Praise for Love, Naturally:

"This opposites-attract romance will capture readers' hearts." - Publishers Weekly

"Sure to make readers smile." - Library Journal

"Author Sophie Sullivan has a knack for penning heartwarming, wholesome rom-coms — and she’s sure to capture hearts again in her latest novel Love, Naturally!" - Woman's World Book Club
Killing the Witches
The Horror of Salem, Massachusetts
Bill O'Reilly, Martin Dugard
What really happened at the notorious Salem witch trials.

Summary
With over 19 million copies in print and a remarkable record of #1 New York Times, Wall Street Journal, USA Today, and Publishers Weekly bestsellers, Bill O'Reilly's Killing series is the most popular series of narrative histories in the world.

Killing the Witches revisits one of the most frightening and inexplicable episodes in American history: the events of 1692 and 1693 in Salem Village, Massachusetts. What began as a mysterious affliction of two young girls who suffered violent fits and exhibited strange behavior soon spread to other young women. Rumors of demonic possession and witchcraft consumed Salem. Soon three women were arrested under suspicion of being witches—but as the hysteria spread, more than 200 people were accused. Thirty were found guilty, twenty were executed, and others died in jail or their lives were ruined.

Killing the Witches tells the dramatic history of how the Puritan tradition and the power of early American ministers shaped the origins of the United States, influencing the founding fathers, the American Revolution, and even the Constitutional Convention. The repercussions of Salem continue to the present day, notably in the real-life story behind The Exorcist and in contemporary “witch hunts” driven by social media. The result is a compulsively readable book about good, evil, community panic, and how fear can overwhelm fact and reason.

Contributor Bio
BILL O’REILLY is a trailblazing TV journalist who has experienced unprecedented success on cable news and in writing eighteen national number-one bestselling nonfiction books. There are more than nineteen million books in the Killing series in print. He lives on Long Island.

MARTIN DUGARD is the New York Times bestselling author of several books of history, among them the Killing series, Into Africa, and Taking Paris. He and his wife live in Southern California.

Quotes
Praise for the Killing series
"Fast-paced narrative history. . . that reads like a thriller." - Kirkus

"[A] well-told account, with detailed documentation of all subjects . . . fascinating treatments of rich world history." - Book Reporter
Bye, Baby
A Novel
Carola Lovering

From the author of the Hulu sensation Tell Me Lies comes an obsessive, addictive novel about female friendship, a missing baby, and the toxic, secret history between two women.

Summary
Every friendship has its shadow...

On a brisk fall night in a New York apartment, 35-year-old Billie West hears terrified screams. It's her lifelong best friend Cassie Barnwell, one floor above, and she's just realized her infant daughter has gone missing. Billie is shaken as she looks down into her own arms to see the baby, remembering—with a jolt of fear—that she is responsible for the kidnapping that has instantly shattered Cassie's world.

Once fiercely bonded by their secrets, Cassie and Billie have drifted apart in adulthood, no longer the inseparable pair they used to be in their small Hudson Valley hometown. Cassie is married to a wealthy man, has recently become a mother, and is building a following as a lifestyle influencer. She is desperate to leave her past behind—including Billie, who is single and childless, and no longer fits into her world. But Billie knows the worst thing Cassie has ever done, and she will do whatever it takes to restore their friendship...

Told in alternating perspectives in Lovering’s signature suspenseful style, Bye, Baby confronts the myriad ways friendships change and evolve over time, the lingering echoes of childhood trauma, and the impact of women’s choices on their lifelong relationships.

Contributor Bio
CAROLA LOVERING is the bestselling author of the novels Tell Me Lies, Too Good to Be True, and Can’t Look Away. She is a graduate of Colorado College, and her work has appeared in Vogue, New York Magazine, W Magazine, National Geographic, Marie Claire, and Yoga Journal, among other publications. Her novel Tell Me Lies is now a television series for Hulu. She lives in Connecticut with her husband and two young children.

Quotes
"Suspenseful to its core...impeccable." --New York Post

"A gripping novel of suspense that explores the complexities of a female friendship, bound by childhood secrets, that is simultaneously life affirming and toxic." --Greer Hendricks, #1 New York Times bestselling author

"Powerful, relatable and crazily addictive." --Rosie Walsh, New York Times bestselling author

"Completely immersive with writing that is propulsive, vivid and rich." --Mary Kubica, New York Times bestselling author
A Circle of Uncommon Witches
Paige Crutcher
A witch cursed to never find true love sets out to break the spell, and must team up with the last person who wants to help her—the witch who set the curse in the first place.

Summary
Doreen MacKinnon is doomed to die of a broken heart - if she can't break the centuries old curse placed on her family.

Three hundred years ago, Ambrose MacDonald, a powerful male witch, fell in love with a MacKinnon. And when the MacKinnon witches forbade him from seeing his love, by secretly hiding her away, he retaliated by cursing the family and its future generations to never find love. But it wasn't without a cost. Now, Ambrose is imprisoned by those same witches, trapped in a tempest and doomed to outlive everyone he has ever loved.

But Doreen isn't like the other MacKinnon witches. As the 13th generation of the MacKinnon line, Doreen is one of the most powerful witches in centuries... and one of the loneliest. So when she discovers where Ambrose has been trapped, she releases him to help her break the curse, once and for all. Ambrose agrees to help, but with his own motive: vengeance. He plans to use her as bait to enact his revenge on her family.

Together, they enter a series of trials, which take them to a castle in Scotland, off a cliff, and into a world beyond their wildest dreams. As they work together, sparks start to fly, but soon Doreen must choose how far she is willing to go to break the curse, and what she's willing to sacrifice.

Paige Crutcher’s A Circle of Uncommon Witches is a story of adventure, romance, and destiny, that asks: is true love worth the cost?

Contributor Bio
PAIGE CRUTCHER is the author of The Orphan Witch, The Lost Witch, and What Became of Magic. She is a former journalist, and when not writing, she prefers to spend her time trekking through the forest with her children, hunting for portals to new worlds.

Quotes
"Mystical, magical, and wildly original... If Alice Hoffman and Sara Addison Allen had a witchy love child, she would be Paige Crutcher. Do not miss this beautifully realized debut!" - JT Ellison, New York Times bestselling author of Her Dark Lies on The Orphan Witch.

"A fun and whimsical read and I think anyone who likes reading about magic and witches would enjoy it." - Woman’s World Online on What Became of Magic
Never Planned on You
A Novel
Lindsay Hameroff

A glittering, laugh-out-loud second chance romance that shows that sometimes true love is something you never planned on

Summary
Ali Rubin has a reputation for spontaneity. Like that time she made a drunken bet in London that led to matching tattoos with a stranger, leading to a night she never forgot. Despite the occasional fantasy about her British tattoo twin, Ali never expected to see Graham again. So no one is more surprised than she is when he turns up in her hometown of Baltimore, at her favorite cafe. When they reconnect during an enchanting evening together, Ali can’t help but wonder if Graham might be someone special.

At the same time, Ali is desperate to succeed in her new career as a wedding planner. When she gets a job planning a high profile wedding at a historic hotel, it seems like things are finally falling into place. That is, until Graham turns out to be the groom. Graham’s family owns the once-grand, now struggling Black-Eyed Susan, and he’s returned to Baltimore to help his grandmother get it back on its feet. He’s certain that hosting a wedding at the hotel is just the publicity boost it needs. Ali’s boss agrees, and promises Ali a full-time gig if the affair goes off without a hitch. Unfortunately, Ali and Graham can’t seem to ignore their rekindled chemistry, especially when it’s revealed that Graham and his fiancée are planning a marriage of convenience. Still, staying away from each other is the best thing they can do. Especially since giving in to their growing feelings might cost them everything.

Contributor Bio
LINDSAY HAMEROFF is a writer, humorist, and former English teacher raised in Baltimore, MD and based in Harrisburg, PA. Her writing has been featured in McSweeney’s Internet Tendency, The Belladonna, Weekly Humorist, and other outlets. She also co-edits Frazzled, a parenting humor site. She is the author of Till There Was You, her debut novel.

Quotes
"There's no sophomore slump here...Refreshingly smart, fun, and sexy, Hameroff writes a pitch-perfect love story of fate and second chances." –Rochelle B. Weinstein, bestselling author of What You Do To Me

"Sparkles with wit.."—Library Journal on Till There Was You

“Witty, warm, and charming with a healthy dose of hilarious one-liners and clever dialogue. Fans of Emily Henry and Robinne Lee’s The Idea of You are going to go crazy for this one!”—Jennifer Close, author of Marrying the Ketchups on Till There Was You
Black Wolf
A Novel
Juan Gómez-Jurado

Antonia Scott returns in this pulse-quickening sequel to the major international bestseller Red Queen.

Summary
Antonia Scott has an unusually gifted mind, able to see what others miss, able to solve the crimes that baffle all others. The only thing she fears is herself.

Antonia is the lynchpin of a top-secret project, created to work behind the scenes to solve the most devious and dangerous crimes. But she is unwilling to move past the last case, convinced it’s related to a personal tragedy, until a series of deadly events pulls her back in.

In southern Spain, in the Costa del Sol, a key Russian mafia figure is found brutally murdered in his villa, his pregnant wife, Lola Moreno, barely escapes a brutal attempt on her life and is on the run. Somehow related is the shocking discovery of a shipping container from St. Petersburg which arrives in port containing the corpses of nine women. With the help of her helper and protector, Jon Gutierrez, Antonia Scott must uncover the connections and track down the missing Lola. But they aren’t the only ones on Lola’s trail – a dangerous contract killer, known as the Black Wolf, is in deadly pursuit. And it’s up to Antonia to outthink, outwit, and outmaneuver this mysterious lethal rival.

But time is swiftly running out and the Black Wolf is getting closer and closer. And Antonia, for the first time in her life, is scared.

Contributor Bio
JUAN GÓMEZ-JURADO is an internationally bestselling author whose award-winning Antonia Scott trilogy (Red Queen, Black Wolf, and White King) has been published around the world and sold millions of copies. The Amazon Prime Video streaming series based on Red Queen will release world-wide in February 2024. He lives in Madrid, Spain.

Quotes
"Propulsive... Gómez-Jurado continues to skillfully render the inner workings of Scott’s hyperactive mind, and the action in this installment is even more relentless than the series opener. Admirers of Stieg Larsson’s Millennium novels will eat this up."
—Publishers Weekly

"One of the most extravagantly entertaining novels I’ve ever read...I loved every word." —A. J. Finn

Praise for Red Queen
"Suspenseful and terrifying...a bit of Clarice Starling and a lot of Lisbeth Salander make Antonia a thoroughly compelling character." —Booklist (starred review) on Red Queen

"A smart, addictive thriller...you won’t be able to put this one down until you reach the last satisfying page." —Alafair Burke

"nail-biting...tantalizing...startling...Lizbeth Salander devotees will find much to like." —Publishers Weekly on Red Queen
The Exvangelicals
Loving, Living, and Leaving the White Evangelical Church
Sarah McCammon

Summary
Growing up in a deeply evangelical family in the Midwest in the ’80s and ’90s, Sarah McCammon was taught to fear God, obey him, and not question the faith. Persistently worried that her gay grandfather or Muslim friend would go to hell, and that she would, too, if she did not believe fervently enough, McCammon was a rule-follower and—most of the time—a true believer. But through it all, she was plagued by fears and deep questions as what she’d been carefully taught clashed with her expanding understanding of the outside world.

After spending her early adult life striving to make sense of an unraveling worldview, she found herself face-to-face with it in 2016 as she covered the Trump campaign for NPR, where she witnessed the power and influence that evangelical Christian beliefs held on the political right. Sarah also learned she was not alone: she is among a rising generation of the children of evangelicalism who are fleeing the fold, thinking for themselves, and deconstructing what feel like the “alternative facts” of their upbringing.

Rigorously reported and deeply personal, The Exvangelicals is the story of the people who make up this generational tipping point, including Sarah herself. This is the first definitive book that names and describes the post-evangelical movement: identifying its origins, telling the stories of its members, and examining its massive cultural, social and political impact.

Contributor Bio
SARAH MCCAMMON is a National Political Correspondent for NPR and cohost of The NPR Politics Podcast. Her work focuses on political, social and cultural divides in America, including the intersections of politics and religion, reproductive rights, and the conservative movement. She is also a frequent guest host for NPR news magazines, podcasts, and special coverage, and has appeared on the BBC, CNN, PBS, and MSNBC. She lives in Norfolk, Virginia with her husband and two children.

Quotes
"Intimate and clarifying . . . those looking in from the outside can find no better introduction to the subculture that has shaped the hopes and fears of millions of Americans." —Kristin Kobes Du Mez, New York Times bestselling author of Jesus and John Wayne


"Captivating and well told." —Los Angeles Times
Mal Goes to War
Edward Ashton
A new standalone novel from Edward Ashton, author of Mickey7 (soon to be a major motion picture from Director Bong Joon Ho).

Summary
The humans are fighting again. Go figure.

As a free A.I., Mal finds the war between the modded and augmented Federals and the puritanical Humanists about as interesting as a battle between rival anthills. He’s not above scouting the battlefield for salvage, though, and when the Humanists abruptly cut off access to infospaces he finds himself trapped in the body of a cyborg mercenary, and responsible for the safety of the modded girl she died protecting.

A dark comedy wrapped in a techno thriller’s skin, Mal Goes to War provides a satirical take on war, artificial intelligence, and what it really means to be human.

Contributor Bio
EDWARD ASHTON is the author of the novels Three Days in April, The End of Ordinary, Mickey7, and Antimatter Blues, as well as of short stories which have appeared in venues ranging from the newsletter of an Italian sausage company to Escape Pod, Analog, and Fireside Fiction. He lives in upstate New York in a cabin in the woods (not that cabin in the woods) with his wife, a variable number of daughters, and an adorably mopey dog named Max.

Quotes
"Ashton offers a technothriller with heart that will appeal to fans of the 'Murderbot Diaries' from Martha Wells but also to readers looking for more AI-led stories like Day Zero by C. Robert Cargill and Emergent Properties by Aimee Ogden," —Library Journal, starred review

"Ashton’s vision of the future feels all too plausible and his blend of action and humor keeps the pages flying. This is sure to please the author’s fans." — Publishers Weekly
My Side of the River
A Memoir
Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez

Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez reveals her experience as the U.S. born daughter of immigrants and what happened when, at fifteen, her parents were forced back to Mexico in this captivating and tender memoir.

Summary

Born to Mexican immigrants south of the Rillito River in Tucson, Arizona, Elizabeth had the world at her fingertips. She was preparing to enter her freshman year of high school as the number one student when suddenly, her own country took away the most important right a child has: the right to have a family.

When her parents’ visas expired and they were forced to return to Mexico, Elizabeth was left responsible for her younger brother, as well as her education. Determined to break the cycle of being a “statistic,” she knew that even though her parents couldn’t stay, there was no way she could let go of the opportunities the U.S. could provide. Armed with only her passport and sheer teenage determination, Elizabeth became what her school would eventually describe as an unaccompanied homeless youth, one of thousands of underage victims affected by family separation due to broken immigration laws.

For fans of Educated by Tara Westover and The Distance Between Us by Reyna Grande, My Side of the River explores separation, generational trauma, and the toll of the American dream. It’s also, at its core, a love story between a brother and a sister who, no matter the cost, is determined to make the pursuit of her brother’s dreams easier than it was for her.

Contributor Bio

Elizabeth Camarillo Gutierrez was born and raised in Tucson, Arizona, as a second-generation immigrant. She graduated from high school at the top of her class and, in 2018, graduated from the University of Pennsylvania. She worked as a banking analyst at Wells Fargo and is now a product manager at a big tech company, where she uses her background and knowledge to empower communities. She has been featured on NPR’s Latino USA and delivered a viral TED Talk on finding stability in the U.S. while examining flaws in narratives that idealize the immigrant experience. She lives in Brooklyn.

Quotes

"My Side of the River is both fierce and poetic. It brilliantly reframes border writing while embracing nature and familial history. There are moments one sees greatness appear. This is one of those moments." —Luis Alberto Urrea, New York Times bestselling author of Good Night, Irene

"Moving, timely." —New York Times

"Affecting." —People Magazine
Death of a Master Chef
A Brittany Mystery
Jean-Luc Bannalec
“Fans of Louise Penny’s Chief Inspector Gamache novels should revel in [this book]... A feast.” –Booklist (starred review)

Summary
Commissaire Dupin is certain these first beautiful summer days in June would be perfect for a fun trip to Saint-Malo. In a region known as the culinary heart of Brittany, the paradoxical city is known for being a uniquely Breton, yet un-Breton, place. Their cuisine’s motto is voyages et aventures. Travel and adventure. Dupin would love to explore the internationally renowned cuisine one bite at a time. But to his chagrin, Dupin is there instead to attend a police seminar dedicated to closer collaboration between the Breton départements.

To prepare himself for what’s to come while in Saint-Malo, Dupin wanders through the halls of a local market—stopping to sample its wares as he goes—while admiring its aromatic orchestra. But Dupin’s morning is derailed when there’s a murder at a nearby stall. He quickly realizes this case is unlike any he’s worked on before. The police know the victim: Blanche Trouin, a grand chef of the region. They know the perpetrator: Lucille Trouin, Blanche’s sister and fellow successful chef in the area. The two had a well-known and public feud. After a bit of searching, Lucille is even in custody. The only thing they’re missing is the motive. And Lucille refuses to talk.

Saint-Malo doesn’t want any help from the visiting commissaires. But Dupin, along with a few of his Breton colleagues, can’t help but begin an investigation into why a chef killed her sister in the middle of a crowded market.

Contributor Bio
JEAN-LUC BANNALEC lives in Germany and the southerly region of the French department of Finistère. In 2016 he was given the award Mécène de Bretagne. Since 2018 he has been an honorary member of the Académie Littéraire de Bretagne. He is also the author of Death in Brittany, Murder on Brittany Shores, The Fleur de Sel Murders, The Missing Corpse, The Killing Tide, The Granite Coast Murders, The King Arthur Case, The Body by the Sea, and An Island of Suspects.

Quotes
Praise for Death of a Master Chef

“Bannalec delivers on all counts.” –BookPage (starred review)

“An intriguing and tasty mystery with surprising twists in a beautiful, charming setting that will appeal to Louise Penny fans.” –First Clue
In Sunshine or in Shadow
A Molly Murphy Mystery
Rhys Bowen, Clare Broyles

“If you are one of the few on the planet yet to discover Molly Murphy, created by Rhys Bowen, now is the time to take the plunge. Molly is sassy, saucy, brave and smart.” —The Huffington Post

Summary
New York, 1908: The days are getting longer—and warmer—in Manhattan. Molly Murphy Sullivan doesn’t want to leave her home in the city, but typhoid is back, and she’s expecting. So she heads north with the children to summer with her mother-in-law in Westchester County. Molly tells herself it won’t be so bad, after all the countryside is pretty, and she’s determined to make the best of it. Even if she’s leaving her husband, Daniel, behind. And at least she’s not the only one heading north. Her great friends, Sid and Gus, are headed to the Catskills to visit Sid’s family.

Though her mother-in-law is a surprisingly excellent host, Molly quickly grows bored. And when Sid and Gus invite her to visit, Molly jumps at the chance to stay with them at an artist’s community. What a pleasant time they’ll have, so far from the city, although Sid isn’t so enthusiastic about having to visit her family in the nearby Jewish bungalow community. But deep in the Catskills, tensions are running high, and it’s not long before a body delays Molly’s return to Westchester.

Contributor Bio
RHYS BOWEN is the New York Times bestselling author of the Anthony Award and Agatha Award-winning Molly Murphy mysteries, the Edgar Award-nominated Evan Evans series, the Royal Spyness series, and several stand-alone novels.

CLARE BROYLES began collaborating with her mother on the Molly Murphy mystery series with Wild Irish Rose. She has worked as a composer and arranger in the theater for both Arizona Theater Company and Childsplay and was nominated for an Arizona 'Zoni' theater award.

Quotes
"Bowen and Broyles, who never disappoint, take a deep dive into the world of early-1900s New York.” —Kirkus Reviews on All That Is Hidden

"[Bowen and Broyles deliver] a satisfying domestic mystery, rich in the details of running a middle-class urban household in the early twentieth century.” —Booklist on Wild Irish Rose

"The clever and adventurous heroine dissects a complicated mystery while standing up for women’s rights.” —Kirkus Reviews on Wild Irish Rose
Darling Girls
A Novel
Sally Hepworth

SISTERS, SECRETS, LOVE, AND MURDER... Sally Hepworth’s new novel has it all.

Summary
For as long as they can remember, Jessica, Norah, and Alicia have been told how lucky they are. As young girls they were rescued from family tragedies and raised by a loving foster mother, Miss Fairchild, on an idyllic farming estate and given an elusive second chance at a happy family life.

But their childhood wasn’t the fairy tale everyone thinks it was. Miss Fairchild had rules. Miss Fairchild could be unpredictable. And Miss Fairchild was never, ever to be crossed. In a moment of desperation, the three broke away from Miss Fairchild and thought they were free. Even though they never saw her again, she was always somewhere in the shadows of their minds. When a body is discovered under the home they grew up in, the foster sisters find themselves thrust into the spotlight as key witnesses. Or are they prime suspects?


Contributor Bio

Quotes
"Sally Hepworth writes characters you love." —LIANE MORIARTY, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF APPLES NEVER FALL
My Big Fat Fake Marriage
Charlotte Stein
A fake marriage at a writer's retreat in goes awry when two people fall in love for real in Charlotte Stein's next sexy and laugh out loud novel!

Summary
Connie Evans has always distrusted nice guys. In her experience, they’re just waiting to reveal some horrible secret. And then she meets big, adorable, Henry Samuel Beckett—lover of bow ties, sweet as a superhero who wears his underpants over his tights, and so cheery she struggles to believe he’s real.

Until Henry Samuel Beckett—or Beck, as he’s known to most—tells her what truly lurks underneath his sunny surface. He’s been single all his life. But somehow seems to have told everyone he works with that he’s married. And when Connie can’t help defending him, she ends up being the wife he doesn’t have.

And now they’re on a writing retreat together, surrounded by people convinced this can’t be real, both of them sure that those people are right. Until they have to share their first kiss, their first touch, their first time in only one bed. Side by side, every night, as the simmering tension builds...something has to give.

The only question for Connie is—could it be her heart?

Contributor Bio
Charlotte Stein is the RT and DABWAHA nominated author of over fifty short stories, novellas and novels, including When Grumpy Met Sunshine, a book The New York Times called “a triumph”. When not writing deeply emotional and intensely sexy books, she can be found eating jelly turtles, getting way too excited over a million movies and TV shows, and occasionally lusting after moustaches. She lives in Leeds with her family.

Quotes
Praise for When Grumpy Met Sunshine

"This, children, is how the professionals do it... It’s the difference between seeing choreography laid out in footprints on the floor, and being swept away by the dance." - New York Times

“The queen of delicious pining returns!” - New York Times bestselling author Talia Hibbert

“This book had me grinning like a fool from the first chapter... I hope romance readers are ready, because I don’t think anyone has ever delivered on a slow burn quite like this.” - Rosie Danan, bestselling author of The Roommate
**If I Dig You**  
Colby Wilkens  
*National Treasure* meets *Count Your Lucky Stars* in this f/f adventure romance where the only thing trickier than finding gold is understanding what's in your best friend's heart.

**Summary**
Archaeologists Isadora Ross and Louise Morgenstern have been best friends for sixteen years. But ever since Lou went back on a promise, broke off her toxic engagement and took a once-in-a-lifetime job on a dig in Turkey, leaving Isi behind - their relationship has been teetering on a precipice.

Lou’s been back a year, and Isi’s avoiding her, struggling with her resentment and unrequited romantic feelings. She throws herself even further into her never ending search for her mom, who went missing on a research trip in the mountains fourteen years ago.

But when Isi unearths an old journal of her mom’s indicating that the legends of lost Cherokee gold were more than legends, and she and Louise are kidnapped by a wealthy private collector who’s also been searching for it, they are forced to work together. After escaping, all they have is a half-empty pack of supplies they stole from the camp, a broken compass, the clothes on their backs... and each other.

Now, they must navigate not only the complicated feelings between them but also predators, the weather, and even the dark as they race through the mountains. Isi will have to decode her mom’s map in order to find the gold and get them out alive.

In Colby Wilkens’ thrilling friends-to-lovers adventure romance *If I Dig You*, there’s no place better for getting dirty than the woods.

**Contributor Bio**
Colby Wilkens is a queer white and Choctaw-Cherokee author with a heart for adventure. When she’s not traveling, she can be found in the PNW on unceded traditional land of the Coast Salish Peoples with her partner, 2 cats, and a vast collection of books and candles.

**Quotes**
Praise for *If I Stopped Haunting You*:

"If you're in the mood for a steamy enemies-to-lovers romance but also a chilling haunted-house horror, GET YOU A BOOK THAT CAN DO BOTH!... I blazed through this book in one sitting because I just couldn't wait to find out what would happen next!" - Alicia Thompson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *With Love, from Cold World*

"I devoured this debut by Colby Wilkens...Every sentence felt like it was coming from a place of authenticity, which I loved...Can't wait to read the next!" - Jessica Clare, *New York Times* bestselling author
The Bane Witch
A Novel
Ava Morgyn

*Practical Magic* meets *Gone Girl* in Ava Morgyn's next, spellbinding novel about a woman who is more than a witch - she's a hunter.

**Summary**

Piers Corbin has always had an affinity for poisonous things - plants and men. From the pokeweed berries she consumed at age five that led to the accidental death of a stranger, to the husband whose dark proclivities have become... concerning, poison has been at the heart of her story.

But when she fakes her own death in an attempt to escape her volatile marriage and goes to stay with her estranged great aunt in the mountains, she realizes her predilection is more than a hunger - it's a birthright. Piers comes from a long line of poison eaters - Bane Witches – women who ingest deadly plants and use their magic to rid the world of evil men.

Piers sets out to earn her place in her family’s gritty but distinguished legacy, all while working at her Aunt Myrtle’s cafe and perpetuating a flirtation with the local, well-meaning sheriff to allay his suspicions on the body count she’s been leaving in her wake. But soon she catches the attention of someone else, a serial killer operating in the area. And that only means one thing - it’s time to feed.

In Ava Morgyn’s dark, thrilling novel, *The Bane Witch*, a very little poison can do a world of good.

**Contributor Bio**

AVA MORGYN grew up falling in love with all the wrong characters in all the wrong stories, then studied English Writing & Rhetoric at St. Edward’s University. She is a lover of witchcraft, tarot, and powerful women with bad reputations, and currently resides in Houston. When not spinning tales, she writes for her blog on child loss, hunts for vintage treasures, and reads the darkest books she can find. She is the author of *The Witches of Bone Hill* and the YA novels *Resurrection Girls* and *The Salt in Our Blood*.

**Quotes**

Praise for *The Witches of Bone Hill*:

“*The Witches of Bone Hill* is a potent spell of legacy and sisterhood. With its haunted manor, powerful magic, and many mysteries, this eerie tale will keep readers up well into the night.” - Rachel Griffin, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Nature of Witches*

“Wickedly wonderful... Ava Morgyn imbues her story with a haunting sorcery all her own, making this compulsively readable new dynasty of powerful witches impossible to put down.” - Paige Crutcher, author of *The Orphan Witch* and *The Lost Witch*
One Way Back
A Memoir
Christine Blasey Ford
The compelling true story behind the testimony that awed the nation

Summary
On September 27, 2018, Christine Blasey Ford testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee which was considering the nomination of Judge Brett Kavanaugh to the United States Supreme Court. She described an alleged sexual assault by the Supreme Court nominee that took place at a high school party in the 1980s. Her words and courage on that day provided some of the most credible and unforgettable testimony our country has ever witnessed.

In One Way Back, Ford recounts the months she spent trying to get information into the right hands without exposing herself and her family to dangerous backlash. Drawing parallels to her life as a surfer, she explains the process of paddling out into unknown waters despite the risks and fears, knowing there is only one way back to shore. The book reveals riveting new details about the leadup to her testimony and its overwhelming aftermath and describes how she continues to navigate her way out of the storm.

This is the real story behind the headlines and the soundbites, a complex, page-turning memoir of a scientist, a surfer, a mother, a patriot and an unlikely whistleblower. Ford’s experience shows that when one person steps forward to speak truth to power, she adds to a collective whole, causing "a ripple that might one day become a wave."

Contributor Bio
CHRISTINE BLASEY FORD is a professor of psychology at Palo Alto University and a clinical professor and consulting biostatistician at the Stanford University School of Medicine. Time?magazine included Ford on its shortlist for Person of the Year in 2018. In 2019, she was named one of the 100 most influential people in Time?100, nominated by then-Senator Kamala Harris. In 2019, she won the inaugural Christine Blasey Ford Woman of Courage Award, and the ACLU’s Roger Baldwin Courage Award.

Quotes
"A blisteringly personal memoir…a thoughtful exploration of what it feels like to become a main character in a major American reckoning." —The Washington Post

"An insightful tour de force." —People

"Lucid…An important entry into the public record." —The New York Times

"Honest and often wry…Ford is 'surfing the wave back' with her head held high." —The Economist

"Unusual and valuable… offers a model of resilience." —The Atlantic
Bless Your Heart
Lindy Ryan
Four generations of women battle the original vampire to protect their small Southern town in this dark and delightful mystery-horror novel.

Summary
Rise and shine. The Evans women have some undead to kill.

It’s 1999 in Southeast Texas and the Evans women, owners of the only funeral parlor in town, are keeping steady with...normal business. The dead die, you bury them. End of story. That’s how Ducey Evans has done it for the last eighty years, and her progeny—Lenore the experimenter and Grace, Lenore’s soft-hearted daughter, have run Evans Funeral Parlor for the last fifteen years without drama. Ever since That Godawful Mess that left two bodies in the ground and Grace raising her infant daughter Luna, alone.

But when town gossip Mina Jean Murphy’s body is brought in for a regular burial and she rises from the dead instead, it’s clear that the Strigoi—the original vampire—are back. And the Evans women are the ones who need to fight back to protect their town.

As more folks in town turn up dead and Deputy Roger Taylor begins asking way too many questions, Ducey, Lenore, Grace, and now Luna, must take up their blades and figure out who is behind the Strigoi’s return. As the saying goes, what rises up, must go back down. But as unspoken secrets and revelations spill from the past into the present, the Evans family must face that sometimes, the dead aren’t the only things you want to keep buried.

Contributor Bio
LINDY RYAN is a Bram Stoker Awards®-nominated and award-winning editor, author, director, and professor. Ryan served from 2020 to 2022 on the Board of Directors for the Independent Book Publishers Association and was named one of Publishers Weekly's 2020 Star Watch Honorees. Currently, she is the co-chair of the Horror Writers Association Publishers Council. Ryan is a regular contributor at Rue Morgue, Booktrib, and LitReactor. Her articles have appeared on NPR, BBC Culture, Irish Times, Daily Mail, and more. She is an active member of the Horror Writers Association (HWA), the International Thriller Writers (ITW), and the Brothers Grimm Society of North America. In 2022, she was named one of horror's most masterful anthology curators and has been declared a "champion for women's voices in horror" by Shelf Awareness (2023).

Quotes
"Such a brilliant blend of banter and dread...Lindy Ryan is on fire with this book." -Josh Malerman, NYT bestselling author of Bird Box

"Ryan’s compelling horror/mystery hybrid is bursting with serious scares, humor, and Southern charm. Fans of Grady Hendrix and Rachel Harrison will appreciate." - Library Journal
Leave No Trace
A National Parks Thriller
A. J. Landau, Jon Land, Jeff Ayers

The Statue of Liberty is the target of a terrorist attack, the first in a possible series of attacks, in this new series featuring Special Agent Michael Walker of the National Park Service.

Summary
In a daring, brutal act of terrorism, an explosion rocks and topples the Statue of Liberty. Special Agent Michael Walker of the National Park Service is awakened by his boss with that news and sent to New York as the agent in charge. Not long after he lands, he learns two things: one, that Gina Delgado of the FBI has been placed in charge of the investigation as the lead of the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and two, that threats of a second terrorism attack are already being called in to the media. While barred from the meetings of the Joint Task Force due to his lack of security clearance, Walker finds a young boy among the survivors with a critical piece of information—a video linking the attackers to the assault.

As a domestic terrorist group, led by a shadowy figure known only as Jeremiah, begins to unleash their plan of attack against America’s cultural symbols, powerful forces within the government are misdirecting the investigation to further their own agenda. As Walker begins to uncover his own tragic connection to the terrorists, it becomes much more than an investigation to him. It becomes a personal mission to uncover and thwart the terrorists’ next attack, one so substantial that the nation’s own future is at stake.

Contributor Bio
A. J. LANDAU is the pseudonym for two authors, Jon Land, the award-winning, bestselling author and co-author of more than fifty books, and Jeff Ayers, reviewer, former-librarian, and author. Land lives in Providence, Rhode Island, and Jeff Ayers lives in Seattle, Washington

Quotes
"Leave No Trace is an expertly crafted gut-punch thriller. The action leaves you aghast, always guessing and very glad you read it. A.J. Landau takes no prisoners when it comes to high octane, fast moving storytelling." —Michael Connelly, creator of Bosch and The Lincoln Lawyer

“A terrific thriller that includes fascinating research about our magnificent U.S. National Parks. Fact and fiction combined to make an excellent read.” —Karin Slaughter, New York Times and #1 international bestselling author

"I barely had a chance to breathe while reading Leave No Trace, it was that exciting. The pacing is lightning speed and the expertise of the characters fascinating and completely believable. Bravo to A. J. Landau for pulling off a timely, pulse-pounding thriller!" —Tess Gerritsen

"An action-packed, coast-to-coast thrill ride, Leave No Trace will leave you breathless." —Brad Meltzer, #1 New York Times bestselling author
Nothing But the Bones
A Novel
Brian Panowich

With lyrical prose and hard-hitting depictions of the hardscrabble life in the rural south, Brian Panowich delivers a gripping new chapter in his tales of McFalls County in Nothing But the Bones.

Summary
In McFalls County, local crime boss Gareth Burroughs runs everything on the mountain. And Nelson “Nails” McKenna has been his enforcer since he was a teenager, though his heart's not really in the dirty work. Then one night in a local roadhouse, Nails goes too far, defending a woman, and even Burroughs’s reach can’t get him out of this one. With a dead body and countless witnesses, Nails and the woman become fugitives on the run, and unlikely partners.

But on the road to Jacksonville, where a possible escape awaits, there’s more than one interested party on the pair’s trail, and the glimpse they had of getting away scot free suddenly seems elusive. In the end, Nails must make one final stand for his freedom—or pay with both of their lives.

Brian Panowich is an award winning author, a Georgia firefighter, and a father to four incredible children. His first novel, Bull Mountain, was a Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist, ITW Thriller Award winner for Best First Novel, Southern Book Prize winner, and a finalist for both the Anthony and the Barry Awards. He lives in Georgia with his family.

Contributor Bio
BRIAN PANOWICH is an award winning author, a Georgia firefighter, and a father to four incredible children. His first novel, Bull Mountain, was a Los Angeles Times Book Prize finalist, ITW Thriller Award winner for Best First Novel, Southern Book Prize winner, and a finalist for both the Anthony and the Barry Awards. He lives in Georgia with his family.

Quotes
"A moving, deeply felt take on Bonnie and Clyde whose inexorable trajectory still allows room for plenty of twists." — Kirkus Reviews

"Brian Panowich goes all-in with Nothing But the Bones, a novel of all that is human: love and friendship, lust and sin, sacrifice and murder. There is profound evil in this story but also enduring goodness, and while not everything is as it appears on the surface, befitting a very satisfying crime story, what is clear from the beginning is that this is a terrific, mesmerizing read that satisfies from beginning to end." –Viet Thanh Nguyen
Burn to Shine
A Joe Ledger and Rogue Team International Novel
Jonathan Maberry
Rogue Team International joins Joe Ledger in a new, tension-filled mission to stop a wave of bioterrorism from devastating the country.

Summary
A covert group is infiltrating the world’s most secure bio-weapons research sites. All across the country, people are acting as human ‘disease bombs’ by infecting themselves and walking into public places. And heavily-armed groups of illegal private soldiers are massing for some unknown strike.

Joe Ledger and the members of Rogue Team International, still reeling from the devastation and heartbreaking losses of their last mission, are forced into relentless action to try and save the country, if not the entire world.

Old enemies are rising and joining forces to hit Joe and his team with one devastating blow after another. What is the end game for all of this madness and terror? Outnumbered, outmaneuvered, and outgunned, Joe Ledger has to find a way back from the fires of grief in order to make a stand between these enemies and millions of potential innocent lives. But Joe has allies, too. His team, the vicious fighters of Arklight, and friends who may or may not be entirely human.

A war of darkness and light is coming. Who will stand? Who will fall? And how will anyone survive?

Contributor Bio
JONATHAN MABERRY is a New York Times bestselling, Inkpot winner, five-time Bram Stoker Award-winning author of Relentless, Ink, Patient Zero, Rot & Ruin, Dead of Night, the Pine Deep Trilogy, The Wolfman, Zombie CSU, and They Bite, among others. His V-Wars series has been adapted by Netflix, and his work for Marvel Comics includes The Punisher, Wolverine, DoomWar, Marvel Zombie Return and Black Panther. He is the editor of Weird Tales Magazine.

Quotes
"Maberry takes a calculated risk here, both in crafting a story that is darker than your typical Ledger novel and in taking Joe to a place from which we wonder if he can fully return... it’s exciting to see [the risks] paying off so spectacularly." — Booklist on Relentless

"Your heart will be in your throat during the non-stop action that Jonathan Maberry has created... one of the best in the business." — Criminal Element on Rage

"Maberry readers who haven't sampled the Ledger novels should rectify that immediately by cracking open this one." - Booklist on Cave 13
Elvis and the Colonel
An Insider's Look at the Most Legendary Partnership in Show Business
Greg McDonald, Marshall Terrill

A fresh biography of legendary entertainment manager Colonel Tom Parker, with a contrarian and corrective point of view.

Summary
Colonel Tom Parker, often reviled in his time, led the strategy from the earliest days of Elvis's career. Together, they built the most legendary partnership in show business. For the first time, Colonel Parker's story is told by an insider, Greg McDonald, who worked under Parker for years. Never-before-heard stories of Parker's collaboration with Elvis reveal the man behind the legend and the strategies that made Elvis a commercial groundbreaker.

Ingrained lore has it that Parker took advantage of "poor country boy" Elvis to sign the singer who became "The King". But Elvis and the Colonel shows that Elvis was not foolish when it came to business arrangements. This book is full of stories of innovations Parker made with his star client, including:

--ingenious merchandising (eg, selling both "I love Elvis" and "I hate Elvis" buttons)
--licensing and branding, from suits to toys, ashtrays to guitars
--establishing The King as an artist-in-residence in Las Vegas
--creating televised concert events, like Elvis' Christmas special

Many of the practices Parker established are still deployed today by most major agencies. Parker's experience as a carny and an immigrant shaped his management style when he was at his peak, showing how he adapted big top practices to the big time. The heart of Elvis and the Colonel is the long, strong, warm and complex relationship between two iconic men.

Contributor Bio
GREG MCDONALD spent his career as an entertainment producer who got his start in show business with Colonel Tom Parker. He managed Ricky Nelson, ran Sonny Bono's political campaigns and was president of Transcontinental Records (Backstreet Boys, NSYNC). He lives in Palm Springs with his wife Sherry.

Marshall Terrill is a journalist, film producer, and author of best-selling biographies of Elvis Presley, Johnny Cash, Steve McQueen, and Billy Graham. He lives in Arizona with his wife Zoe.

Quotes
"Addictive behind-the-scenes account ... this will more than satisfy fans hungry for insight into Elvis and those in his orbit." - Publishers Weekly

"This is a no-brainer for anyone who counts themselves among the legions of Elvis fans, who’s been to Graceland multiple times, and has a lifetime pass to impersonator festivals. Get Elvis and The Colonel the next time you leave the building." - Terri Schlichenmeyer
A Midnight Puzzle
A Secret Staircase Novel
Gigi Pandian

“Fiendishly clever, intricately constructed. . . [Pandian is] a major talent.” –Publishers Weekly (starred review)

Summary
In heroine Tempest Raj, modern-day queen of the locked-room mystery Gigi Pandian has created a brilliant homage to the greats of classic detective fiction.

Secret Staircase Construction is under attack, and Tempest Raj feels helpless. After former client Julian Rhodes tried to kill his wife, he blamed her “accident” on the home renovation company’s craftsmanship. Now the family business—known for bringing magic into homes through hidden doors, floating staircases, and architectural puzzle walls—is at a breaking point. No amount of Scottish and Indian meals from her grandfather can distract Tempest from the truth: they’re being framed.

When Tempest receives an urgent midnight phone call from Julian, she decides to meet him at the historic Whispering Creek Theater—only to find his dead body, a sword through his chest. After a blade appears from thin air to claim another victim, Tempest is certain they’re dealing with a booby trap . . . something Secret Staircase Construction could easily build. Tempest refuses to wait for the investigation to turn to her or her loved ones. She knows the pieces of the puzzle are right in front of her, she just has to put them together correctly before more disaster strikes.

Multiple-award-winning author Gigi Pandian and her sleuth, Tempest Raj, return in A Midnight Puzzle, where an old theater reveals a deadly booby trap, secrets, and one puzzle of a mystery.

Contributor Bio
GIGI PANDIAN is the USA Today bestselling and multiple-award-winning author of the Secret Staircase mysteries, inspired by elements from her own family background. She is also the author of the Accidental Alchemist mysteries, the Jaya Jones Treasure Hunt mysteries, and more than a dozen locked-room-mystery short stories. Pandian has won Agatha, Anthony, Lefty, and Derringer Awards, and was a finalist for an Edgar Award. A breast-cancer survivor, she lives with her husband in Northern California.

Quotes
Praise for The Secret Staircase Mysteries


“Super-fun.” –The Boston Globe

"Delightful." –Reader’s Digest
The Wharton Plot

A Novel

Mariah Fredericks

Mariah Fredericks’ mesmerizing new novel, The Wharton Plot, follows renowned novelist Edith Wharton in the twilight years of the Gilded Age in New York as she tracks a killer.

Summary

New York City, 1911. Edith Wharton, almost equally famed for her novels and her sharp tongue, is bone-tired of Manhattan. Finding herself at a crossroads with both her marriage and her writing, she makes the decision to leave America, her publisher, and her loveless marriage.

And then, dashing novelist David Graham Phillips—a writer with often notorious ideas about society and women’s place in it—is shot to death outside the Princeton Club. Edith herself met the man only once, when the two formed a mutual distaste over tea in the Palm Court of the Belmont hotel. When Phillips is killed, Edith’s life takes another turn. His sister is convinced Graham was killed by someone determined to stop the publication of his next book, which promised to uncover secrets that powerful people would rather stayed hidden. Though unconvinced, Edith is curious. What kind of book could push someone to kill?

Inspired by a true story, The Wharton Plot follows Edith Wharton through the fading years of the Gilded Age in a city she once loved so well, telling a taut tale of fame, love, and murder, as she becomes obsessed with solving a crime.

 Contributor Bio

MARIAH FREDERICKS (she/her) was born, raised, and still lives in New York City. She graduated from Vassar College with a degree in history. She is the author of the Jane Prescott mystery series, which has twice been nominated for the Mary Higgins Clark Award, as well as several YA novels. The Lindbergh Nanny was her first standalone novel.

Quotes

“Superb . . . Fredericks hits this one out of the park.”—Library Journal (Starred Review)

“A vivid, fascinating, entertaining mystery. Readers looking for a bit of history with their suspense will be gripped.”—Publishers Weekly

“Come to this novel for the engrossing mystery, stay for the cinematic portrait of an aging woman who fears her popularity is waning and whose marriage is dissolving, even as she’s struggling with feeling obsolete in a modernizing world.”—Oprah Daily
The Hungry Girl Sheet-Pan Cookbook
One-Pan Wonders Under 400 Calories
Lisa Lillien
At long last... a cookbook completely dedicated to easy recipes that can be made in just ONE pot, pan, or skillet!

Summary
What’s the ONE request we get most from the Hungry Girl audience? They want easy recipes that can be made with just ONE pot, pan, or skillet! Get ready for ONE HUNDRED+ easy, healthy & delicious recipes, like...
* comforting casseroles
* next-level easy stir-frys
* simple sheet-pan dinners
* tasty muffin-pan meals
* speedy meals in mugs
... and so much more!

Contributor Bio
Lisa Lillien is a New York Times bestselling author and the creator of the Hungry Girl brand. The founder of hungry-girl.com and the beloved Hungry Girl daily emails, she is a self-proclaimed “foodologist” and an expert in smart-eating solutions. Millions of fans eagerly await her recipes and tips & tricks each day, watch her on TV, and follow her on social media. Hungryland, Lillien’s test kitchen & headquarters, is in Los Angeles.
My Best Friend’s Honeymoon
Meryl Wilsner

Meryl Wilsner’s spicy f/nb romance, where two childhood best friends go on a nonrefundable honeymoon together and discover sometimes to find a happily ever after, you just have to ask.

Summary
Elsie Hoffman has been engaged to her college boyfriend for a year and a half. Ginny Holtz has been in love with Elsie for almost a decade and a half.

When Elsie discovers her fiancé already planned their wedding and honeymoon as a surprise and she’s expected to be in a white dress in seven days, she swiftly realizes she’s let herself become too comfortable with a future she never wanted. She breaks things off, and a week later is on a plane to the Caribbean for her non-refundable honeymoon with her best friend Ginny instead.

Ginny thinks it’s high time Elise learned how to speak up for herself. So, they make a deal with her. For the next week, Elsie can have whatever she wants, wherever, however, and whenever she wants it, as long as she asks. They never expected Elsie to want them.

What starts as choosing activities and taking selfies soon turns to toe-curling kisses and much, much more. But what happens when the honeymoon is over?

Meryl Wilsner’s My Best Friend’s Honeymoon is about not only learning to ask for what you want, but for the happiness you deserve.

Contributor Bio
MERYL WILSNER writes happily ever afters for queer folks who love women. They are the USA Today bestselling author of Something to Talk About, Mistakes Were Made, and Cleat Cute. Born in Michigan, Meryl lived in Portland, Oregon and Jackson, Mississippi before returning to the Mitten State. Some of Meryl's favorite things include: all four seasons, button down shirts, the way giraffes run, and their wife.

Quotes
Praise for Cleat Cute:

"Wilsner makes this sports romance a winner." - Publishers Weekly

"[A] delightfully steamy sapphic romance...fun and entertaining." - Kirkus

"Wilsner is one of the hottest contemporary f/f romance writers right now." - Electric Literature, "The Most Anticipated LGBTQ+ Books for Fall 2023"
Everyone Who Can Forgive Me Is Dead
A Novel
Jenny Hollander

An electrifying debut thriller about a woman trying to escape the past and the horrific event she witnessed at the prestigious journalism school she attended.

Summary

Nine years ago, with the world’s eyes on her, Charlie Colbert fled. The press and the police called her a “witness” to the nightmarish events at her elite graduate school—though Charlie knows she was much more than that—but, eventually, they left her alone. Now, Charlie has meticulously rebuilt her life: She’s the editor-in-chief of a major magazine, the fiancée of the heir of a publishing dynasty, and hell-bent on never, ever letting her guard down again. But when a buzzy movie about the events of that night threatens to shatter everything she’s worked for, Charlie realizes how much she’s changed in nine years. Now, she’s not going to let anything get in her way.

But Charlie shouldn’t have let her guard down. Suddenly, “Scarlet Christmas”—named for the bloody scene paramedics stumbled across on Christmas Eve at the prestigious Carroll University—is being adapted for film, with Charlie’s classmates promising the public that this time, they’ll get to find out what really happened. With everything at stake, Charlie must decide how far she’ll go to stop the past that haunts her from colliding with her shiny present.

Contributor Bio

JENNY HOLLANDER is the director of content strategy at Marie Claire, where she oversees the brand’s daily coverage, as well as the #ReadithMC book club. Before moving to Marie Claire, she worked at Bustle. A graduate of the Columbia University School of Journalism, Jenny spent ten years in New York before moving back to her hometown of London. Everyone Who Can Forgive Me Is Dead is her first novel.

Quotes

“Witty, tightly plotted, knife-sharp, and utterly immersive... Fans of Jessica Knoll and Megan Miranda, meet your new favorite author.”— Andrea Bartz, New York Times bestselling author of The Spare Room

“In her first novel, Hollander doles out the suspense as masterfully as any veteran author. A dark and dazzling debut.”— Jennifer Hillier, award-winning and bestselling author of Things We Do in the Dark

“An intoxicatingly sharp thriller...deftly explores trauma and the dark things we believe ourselves capable of. I never wanted to stop reading it, and I can't wait for Hollander's next novel.”— Clémence Michallon, internationally bestselling author of The Quiet Tenant

“Relentlessly twisty and bitingly sharp...guaranteed to keep you up past your bedtime.”— Laurie Elizabeth Flynn, author of The Girls Are All So Nice Here

“Hollander paints an engrossing tale of a woman coming to terms not only with the ghosts of her past but her own true nature. A nail-biting ride that will keep readers turning pages long into the night.”— Ashley Winstead, author of Midnight is the Darkest Hour

“A propulsive read, rife with tension from page one... If you liked Luckiest Girl Alive, you'll love Everyone Who Can Forgive Me is Dead.”— Katherine St. John, author of The Siren

“At once twisty and propulsive, Everyone Who Can Forgive Me Is Dead keeps readers...
guessing... If you loved Jessica Knoll's *Luckiest Girl Alive* and Andrea Bartz’s *The Lost Night*, this book is for you!”— Colleen McKeegan, author of *The Wild One*
If Something Happens to Me
A Novel
Alex Finlay
From Alex Finlay, the author of Every Last Fear and The Night Shift, comes an explosive new thriller, If Something Happens to Me.

Summary
For the past five years, Ryan Richardson has relived that terrible night. The car door ripping open. The crushing blow to the head. The hands yanking him from the vehicle. His girlfriend Ali’s piercing scream as she is taken.

With no trace of Ali or the car, a cloud of suspicion hangs over Ryan. But with no proof and a good lawyer, he’s never charged, though that doesn’t matter to the podcasters and internet trolls. Now, Ryan has changed his last name, and entered law school. He’s put his past behind him.

Until, on a summer trip abroad to Italy with his law-school classmates, Ryan gets a call from his father: Ali’s car has finally been found, submerged in a lake in his hometown. Inside are two dead men and a cryptic note with five words written on the envelope in Ali’s handwriting: If something happens to me...

Then, halfway around the world, the unthinkable happens: Ryan sees the man who has haunted his dreams since that night.

As Ryan races from the rolling hills of Tuscany, to a rural village in the UK, to the glittering streets of Paris in search of the truth, he has no idea that his salvation may lie with a young sheriff’s deputy in Kansas working her first case, and a mobster in Philadelphia who’s experienced tragedy of his own.

If Something Happens to Me is told by several distinct characters whose paths intersect, detonating into twist after pulse-pounding twist.

Contributor Bio
ALEX FINLAY is the author of several critically acclaimed novels, including the 2021 breakout Every Last Fear and the 2022 Goodreads Choice Nominee for Best Mystery & Thriller The Night Shift. His work regularly appears on best-of-the-year lists and has been translated into twenty-two languages, and all of his novels have been optioned for film or television. Every Last Fear is in development for a major limited series. Alex lives in Washington, D.C., and Virginia.

Quotes
“Alex Finlay has outdone himself with If Something Happens to Me—a riveting thriller with a twist that you won't see coming. I loved this book.”—Laura Dave, #1 New York Times bestselling author of The Last Thing He Told Me

“A brilliant and taut action-packed thriller that begs to be read in one sitting. I know I did. If Something Happens to Me is perfectly plotted, nail-bitingly intense, and incredibly compelling. Finlay proves once again that he is a master of his craft.”—Jeneva Rose, New York Times bestselling author of The Perfect Marriage
The One That Got Away
A Novel
Charlotte Rixon

A sweeping, poignant novel spanning two decades, about first love, first heartbreak, and the ones we never forget, for readers of Jill Santopolo, Rosie Walsh, and Colleen Hoover.

Summary
Two years together.
Twenty years apart.
One day to change their story.

2000. Benjamin’s world is turned upside down the night he meets Clara. Instinctively, he knows that they are meant for each other, but a devastating mistake on their last night at university will take their lives in very different directions.

20 years later, Clara has a high-profile job and a handsome husband. But despite the trappings of success, she isn’t happy, and she knows that a piece of her heart still belongs to Benjamin, the boy she fell in love with years earlier. The boy whose life she fears she ruined.

When a bombing is reported in the city where they first met, Clara is pulled back to a place she tries not to remember and the first love she could never forget. Searching for Benjamin, Clara is forced to confront the events that tore them apart. But is it too late to put right what went wrong?

Across the miles and spanning decades, The One That Got Away is a sweeping, poignant story about growing up, growing apart, the people who first steal our hearts, and the surprising, winding roads that love can take us on.

Contributor Bio
CHARLOTTE RIXON studied Classics at Leeds University, and went on to gain a postgraduate diploma in Screenwriting at University of the Arts London. She lives in Surrey with her partner and daughter.

Quotes
"This is not your typical romance novel—it will break your heart and then put it back together." —Brad Thor, The Today Show

"Poignant and gripping...this evocative portrait of first love reunited tugs at the heartstrings." —Publishers Weekly

"The kind of book I’m always searching for. A stunning love story that had my heart racing from the first chapter and tears streaming down my face by the end. An instant favorite." —Carley Fortune, #1 New York Times bestselling author

"Utterly mesmerizing. This achingly real and beautiful story of first love is absolutely riveting." —Kristan Higgins, New York Times bestselling author
Resilient
The Untold Story of CrossFit's Greatest Comeback
Brooke Wells
An inspirational memoir about CrossFit star Brooke Wells' rise to fame and miraculous comeback.

Summary
On the last night of the 2021 CrossFit Games, ten thousand fans watched in horror as Brooke Wells' elbow dislocated under the weight of a 190-pound barbell. This is the extraordinary story of what happened next: How Wells pulled off a highly improbable comeback that transformed her mentally and physically into one of the fittest women in the world.

In Resilient, Wells provides a refreshingly honest, authentic account of how she overcame fear, self-doubt, and a slew of unexpected obstacles to return to the CrossFit Games less than a year after undergoing total elbow reconstruction. A story of strength, passion, courage, and grit, Resilient is a celebration of one athlete's extraordinary spirit and her inspiring ability to never say die.

Contributor Bio
BROOKE WELLS is an elite CrossFit athlete who has competed in the CrossFit Games every year since 2015. She holds the title of 5th fittest woman on Earth. Resilient is her first book.

Quotes
“A comeback story that makes a strong case for living on the edge of your comfort zone.” - Dave Castro, CrossFit

“For most, an injury like Brooke’s would have been career-ending. She chose to make it the beginning of an incredible comeback story.” - Mat Fraser, 5x CrossFit Games Champion

“Resilient is an inspiring and meticulous book.” - Tia-Clair Toomey, Olympian, 6x CrossFit Games Champion
The House of Last Resort
A Novel
Christopher Golden
A high concept horror from NYT bestselling author Christopher Golden featuring a young couple, an abandoned house in a remote Italian town, and catacombs holding bodies of possessed people.

Summary
Across Italy there are many half-empty towns, nearly abandoned by those who migrate to the coast or to cities. The beautiful, crumbling hilltop town of Becchina is among them, but its mayor has taken drastic measures to rebuild—selling abandoned homes to anyone in the world for a single Euro, as long as the buyer promises to live there for at least five years.

It’s a no-brainer for American couple Tommy and Kate Puglisi. Both work remotely, and Becchina is the home of Tommy’s grandparents, his closest living relatives. It feels like a romantic adventure, an opportunity the young couple would be crazy not to seize. But from the moment they move in, they feel a shadow has fallen on them. Tommy’s grandmother is furious, even a little frightened, when she realizes which house they’ve bought.

There are rooms in an annex at the back of the house that they didn’t know about. The place makes strange noises at night, locked doors are suddenly open, and when they go to a family gathering, they’re certain people are whispering about them, and about their house. Soon, they learn that the home was owned for generations by the Church, but the real secret, and the true dread, is unlocked when they finally learn what the priests were doing in this house for all those long years—and how many people died in the strange chapel inside. Meanwhile, down in the catacombs beneath Becchina…something stirs.

Contributor Bio
CHRISTOPHER GOLDEN is the New York Times bestselling and Bram Stoker award-winning author of Ararat, Snowblind, Dead Ringers, and Of Saints and Shadows, among many other novels. He is the co-creator of two cult favorite comic book series, Baltimore and Joe Golem: Occult Detective. He is also the editor of such anthologies as Seize the Night, The New Dead, and Dark Cities, and the co-host of the popular podcast "Three Guys with Beards."

Quotes
"This novel shines. Golden’s frenzied tale of demons and exorcisms is fast-paced, his portrayal of the insidiousness of possession is unsettling and it all comes together in a thrilling closing act." - New York Times

"Golden evokes chills without relying on clichés and makes suspending disbelief easy through skillful characterizations of the leads. Horror fans should check this out." - Publishers Weekly

"The king of horror thrillers does it again… Golden will make you believe in the existence of true evil." -Alma Katsu, author of The Fervor
Hitler's Aristocrats
The Secret Power Players in Britain and America Who Supported the Nazis, 1923–1941
Susan Ronald

The acclaimed author of Hitler's Art Thief takes readers into the shadowy world of the aristocrats and business leaders on both sides of the Atlantic who secretly aided Hitler and Nazi Germany.

Summary
Hitler said, “I am convinced that propaganda is an essential means to achieve one’s aims.” Enlisting Europe’s aristocracy, international industrialists, and the political elite in Britain and America, Hitler spun a treacherous tale everyone wanted to believe: he was a man of peace. Central to his deception was an international high society Black Widow, Princess Stephanie Hohenlohe-Waldenburg-Schillingsfürst, whom Hitler called “his dear princess.” She, and others, conspired for Hitler at the highest levels of the British aristocracy and spread their web to America's wealthy powerbrokers.

Hitler's aristocrats became his eyes, listening posts, and mouthpieces in the drawing rooms, cocktail parties, and weekend retreats of Europe and America. Among these “gentlemen spies” and “ladies of mystery” were the Duke and Duchess of Windsor, Lady Nancy Astor, Charles Lindbergh, and two of the Mitford sisters. They were the trusted voices disseminating his political and cultural propaganda about the “New Germany,” brushing aside the Nazis’ atrocities. Distrustful of his own Foreign Ministry, Hitler used his aristocrats to open the right doors in Great Britain and the United States, creating a formidable fifth column within government and financial circles.

In a tale of drama and intrigue, Hitler’s Aristocrats uncovers the battle between these influencers and those who heroically opposed them.

Contributor Bio
Born and raised in the United States, SUSAN RONALD is a British-American biographer, historian, and author of several books, including The Ambassador, Conde Nast, A Dangerous Woman, Hitler’s Art Thief, and Heretic Queen. She lives in a quintessential English village with her writer husband.

Quotes
"[Ronald] offers a timely lesson in the fragility of democracy... Fascinating and heartbreaking." —Amanda Foreman, award-winning author of A World on Fire

"Highly readable." —Kirkus Reviews

"Colorful...Ronald convincingly details a great deal of sympathy for Nazi Germany and fascism in general among English-speaking elites." —Publishers Weekly
The Girl by the Bridge
A Detective Konrad Novel
Arnaldur Indridason
Retired detective Konrad returns to Reykjavik in *The Girl by the Bridge* by Arnaldur Indridason, "one of the most brilliant crime writers of his generation" —*The Sunday Times* (UK)

Summary
An elderly couple are worried about their granddaughter. They know she's been smuggling drugs, and now she's gone missing. Looking for help, they turn to Konrad, a former policeman whose reputation precedes him.

Always absent-minded, he constantly ruminates on the fate of his father, who was stabbed to death decades ago. But digging into the past reveals much more than anyone set out to discover, and a little girl who drowned in the Reykjavik city pond unexpectedly captures everyone's attention.

A brilliant, chilling tale of broken dreams and children who have nowhere to turn.

Contributor Bio
ARNALDUR INDRIDASON worked for years as a journalist and critic before he began writing novels. His books have sold over thirteen million copies world-wide. He won the CWA Gold Dagger for *Silence of the Grave* and is the only author to win the Glass Key Award for Best Nordic Crime Novel two years in a row, for *Jar City* and *Silence of the Grave*. *The Shadow District*—the first of the Flovent and Thorson Thrillers—won the Premio RBA de Novela Negra, the world’s most lucrative crime fiction prize.

Quotes
"There's always a solid sense of history in Arnaldur Indridason's moody Icelandic mysteries. With his usual delicate touch, Indridason weaves in just enough folklore to remind us that a nation can never live down its legends." —*New York Times Book Review* on *The Shadow District*

"Indridason is an international literary phenom." —Harlan Coben
Next of Kin

A Novel

Samantha Jayne Allen

From Tony Hillerman Prize-winning author Samantha Jayne Allen comes Next of Kin, a mesmerizing new novel set in a hardscrabble Texas town, where the past is never far away.

Summary

At a gathering for her cousin’s wedding party, newly-licensed PI Annie McIntyre gets asked an age-old question: what really makes us who we are, nature or nurture? Clint Marshall, an up-and-coming musician and an adoptee at a personal crossroads, wants to hire Annie to find his biological parents, and that question is on his mind. Annie accepts his case, not knowing then that she, too, must decide if she really believes what she tells him that night—in essence, that people are in charge of their destinies. That people can change.

When Annie discovers her client's father is a bank robber who her granddad, Leroy, arrested back when he was sheriff, reverberations sound between the past and the present, igniting old flames and rivalries. When the brother of her client dies suddenly, his death ruled a suicide, Annie questions whether or not it was in fact homicide—and who in this family of outlaws would rather some secrets stay buried.

As Annie sets out to find who killed the brother—and stays out of sight lest she be next—she finds herself searching abandoned, overgrown fields, scouring pool halls and roadside motels, wondering if she will ever escape the sense that her world in Garnett, TX expands and contracts in off-kilter ways, growing smaller and yet still more confounding. Fearing that in a place where everyone knows everyone, your enemy is always closer than you think.

Contributor Bio

SAMANTHA JAYNE ALLEN has an MFA in fiction from Texas State University. Her writing has been published in Ellery Queen’s Mystery Magazine, The Common, and Electric Literature. Raised in small towns in Texas and California, she now lives with her husband and daughter in Atlanta. NEXT OF KIN is her third novel.

Quotes

"A gritty tale of troublesome family dynamics with a tough and determined protagonist." —Kirkus

"Atmospheric....Allen conjures a suitably noirish mood from the opening pages, and renders even her secondary characters in three dimensions. With regional intrigue and plenty of satisfying sleuthing, this series merits a long run." —Publisher's Weekly

"Allen's engaging heroine, sharp descriptions of life in a struggling small town, and a breakneck plot will make readers itch for the next in the series." —Booklist (starred review)
Death and Glory

A Barker & Llewelyn Novel

Will Thomas

In 1894, Cyrus Barker, London's premier enquiry agent, is entangled in a conspiracy to revive the American Civil War by prominent figures, long believed deceased.

Summary

Private enquiry agent Cyrus Barker, along with his partner Thomas Llewelyn, has a long, accomplished history - he’s taken on cases for Scotland Yard, the Foreign Office, and even the crown itself, fulfilling them all with great skill and discretion. None of those cases, however, are as delicate and complicated as the one laid before him by a delegation of men who, thirty years before, fought for the Confederacy during the American Civil War. These men want to revive the Confederacy with a warship promised to the Rebels by the British Government back in 1865. To get it now, they’re threatening to reveal Great Britain’s long-secret treaty with the Confederacy. Barker is hired to use his connections to discreetly bring their threats to the Prime Minister, in hopes he’ll quietly and quickly acquise.

With a web of prominent, if secret, supporters throughout England ready to support their efforts to wage war anew on the United States, the delegates are just waiting for the warship to activate their plans. But some of the men in the delegation are not who they claim to be, and the American government has their own team watching, and waiting, for the right moment to take action.

As this fuse on this powder keg of a situation grows ever shorter, it’s up to Barker & Llewelyn to uncover the real identities and expose the plans of these dangerous men, and thwart their efforts to throw both countries, and the world, into chaos.

Contributor Bio

WILL THOMAS is the author of the critically acclaimed Cyrus Barker and Thomas Llewellyn series, including Some Danger Involved, Fatal Enquiry, and, most recently, Heart of the Nile. He lives in Oklahoma.

Quotes

"The true star power comes from its compatibly mismatched leads. Joy to those who discover Mr. Thomas’s latest novel this holiday season." —The Wall Street Journal on Lethal Pursuit

"The proceedings are awash with the kind of gaslit London ambience that is guaranteed to please the devotees of British historical mysteries." —Booklist (starred) on Heart of the Nile