

**THE FRIEDRICH AGENCY**  
**Foreign Rights Guide**  
**London Book Fair 2019**

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## **ADULT FICTION AND NONFICTION**

### **THE RESISTERS**

**Gish Jen (Knopf / Spring 2020)**

**A deeply human portrait of a family in the not-so-distant automated future, and the author's first novel in ten years!**

**"Inventive, funny, and tender, *Resisters* is about family, baseball, and the future—but more than anything, it is about freedom, and it is about us—here, now."—Allegra Goodman, *New York Times* Bestselling author of *Intuition* and *The Cookbook Collector***

**"I LOVE this novel as much as I fear the future Gish Jen has conjured in it... Gish Jen has hit a grand slam."—Jane Leavy, NBCC Award-nominated author of *The Big Fella: Babe Ruth and the World He Created***

Gwen Cannon-Chastanet has a Golden Arm. Her parents first noticed it when piles of Gwen's stuffed animals began accumulating at the bottom of their 3-D printed staircase—little Gwen having hurled them from her crib upstairs. And though their automated house implored Gwen's parents to let it clear-float the "mess" from the floor, Grant and Eleanor savor every chance they get to play with their child—that's one job the robots can't take from them. In AutoAmerica, "play" is rare if not altogether suspicious; your role is either to Produce or to Consume, and digital tyrant Aunt Nettie is watching. When Gwen's undeniable talent makes her the ultimate commodity for Team AutoAmerica, the family must grapple with whether they are protecting her or holding her back. At once terrifying and strangely buoyant, *THE RESISTERS* is a powerful exploration of what it means to be a parent, and the timeless struggle of how to protect the people we love even as we respect their freedom to choose.

GISH JEN is the author of seven books and has been published in *The New Yorker*, *The Atlantic Monthly*, and dozens of other magazines. Her work has appeared in *The Best American Short Stories* four times, including *The Best American Short Stories of the Century*, edited by John Updike. Nominated for a National Book Critics' Circle Award, Jen's work was featured in a PBS American Masters' special on the American novel, and is widely taught. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Jen has been awarded a Lannan Literary Award for Fiction and a Guggenheim fellowship among other awards.

## THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN

### Rufi Thorpe (Knopf / Spring 2020)

"Brilliantly constructed and beautifully told, threaded with heartbreak, honesty and hope, *The Knockout Queen* is a sublime coming of age story and Rufi Thorpe is a national treasure."—Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney, author of *The Nest*

Rufi Thorpe returns to the subject that made her debut novel *The Girls from Corona del Mar* so endlessly compelling: the complexity and urgency of best friendship. In *THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN* two unlikely friends form an alliance—a slight, hyper-intelligent gay teen named Michael Hesketh and his next-door neighbor, the remarkably tall Bunny Lampert. Each is antagonized for their differences—Michael for being attracted to the “wrong” people (much older men from the Internet) and Bunny for having the “wrong” body, one with a strength she can’t always control. As their bond intensifies, an accidental act of violence leaves both characters, and their friendship, forever transformed.

*THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN* is about the lengths we go to protect our friends, and what happens when the binding threads of love are stretched to their snapping point. This is Rufi Thorpe at her finest: intoxicatingly charismatic story-telling, a compelling, seductive talent with every sentence.

RUFI THORPE is the author of three novels. Her first, *The Girls from Corona del Mar*, was long-listed for the 2014 International Dylan Thomas Prize and for the 2014 Flaherty-Dunnann First Novel Prize. She holds an MFA from the University of Virginia and lives in California with her husband and sons.

#### Praise for Rufi Thorpe:

“[Her] raw, lyrical tone resonates—a gratifyingly honest dispatch from the battlelines of young womanhood.”—*Entertainment Weekly*

“Thorpe is a gifted writer who depicts friendship with affection and brutality, rendering all its love and heartbreak in painstaking strokes.”—*LA Times*

“Her worldly, rambunctious, feminist, morally interrogative prose style galvanizes every episode with smart, almost cosmic insights, tough talk, elegiac moments of love, dumb wonder, and, of course, further tragic events.”—*Elle Magazine*

**THE COYOTES OF CARTHAGE**  
**Steven Wright (Ecco /April 2020)**  
Film/TV Agent: Eric Reid, WME

**\*Sold in a four-way auction for six figures\***

**A sharp and urgent debut from a gifted young lawyer and fiction writer.**

Toussaint Andre Ross has one more shot. Despite being a successful African-American political consultant, his aggressive tactics have tarnished his firm's reputation. Now his boss and mentor Mrs. Fitz, who plucked him from juvenile incarceration and shepherded his career, is exiling him to the boondocks of South Carolina with \$250,000 of dark money to introduce a ballot initiative on behalf of a mining company. The goal: to manipulate the locals into voting in favor of the sale of pristine public land to the highest bidder.

Dre arrives in God-fearing, flag-waving Carthage County, an area America's New Economy has left behind, with only Mrs. Fitz's well-meaning yet naïve grandson Brendan on his "team." A local is needed as a strawman to collect signatures, and Dre hires blue-collar couple, oafish Tyler Lee and his pious wife Chalene, to act as the initiative's public face.

Under Dre's cynical direction, a land grab is disguised as a righteous fight for faith and liberty. As lines are crossed and lives ruined, Dre's increasingly cutthroat campaign threatens the last remnants of his own humanity and the very soul of Carthage County.

A piercing portrait of our fragile democracy and one man's unraveling, THE COYOTES OF CARTHAGE may very well be the political novel of our times.

STEVEN WRIGHT is a clinical associate professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School, where he co-directs the Wisconsin Innocence Project. From 2007-2012 he served as a trial attorney in the Voting Section of the United States Department of Justice. He has written numerous essays about race, criminal justice, and election law for the New York Review of Books. Steven is a 2014 graduate of the MFA program at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and holds a Masters of Arts in Writing from the Johns Hopkins University.

## CATHERINE HOUSE

Elisabeth Thomas (William Morrow / Spring 2020)

UK/ANZ (Tinder Press); Germany (dtv)

Film/TV Agent: Michelle Kroes and Michelle Weiner, CAA

**\*Sold in an eight-editor auction\***

**\*In active TV development with Stampede Ventures\***

**A sexy, dark, and brainy modern gothic with shades of *The Secret History* by way of Sarah Waters.**

Catherine House is a school of higher learning like no other. Secluded in the woods of rural Pennsylvania, Catherine's experimental liberal arts curriculum, wildly selective admissions policy, and formidable endowment have produced some of the world's best minds: prize-winning authors, artists, and inventors, diplomats, Congressmen, Supreme Court justices, Presidents.

For those fortunate enough to be selected, tuition and room and board are free, but for the duration of the three-year program—summers included—Catherine's incoming class must say goodbye to the outside world. Family, friends, newspapers, television, music, and even their wardrobes must be left behind.

Into this rarefied world arrives Ines, who—despite having traded blurry days and nights of parties, pills, cruel friends, and dangerous men for rigorous, disorienting coursework—discovers a Catherine-sponsored environment of revelry. Through food, drink, and sexual experimentation, the students of Catherine are encouraged to expand their minds. The House's enigmatic director Viktória urges them to make the necessary connections, to understand the patterns, that will enable them to divine their place in the world but most of all within the black iron gates of Catherine.

Catherine is the closest thing to home that Ines has ever experienced, and her stern and serious roommate Baby proves to be an unlikely friend. As Ines continues to engage in old patterns and chafe against the House's rules, Baby's obsessive desire for acceptance into the coveted "New Materials" program ends in her apparent suicide.

Ines's curiosity—the driving force for her past mistakes—is redirected to find the truth behind Baby's death. Spying on classmates' research and seducing out their secrets, Ines discovers that Catherine—in all its shabby splendor, advanced theories, and decadence—hides a questionable yet dangerously appealing agenda for an outlier like Ines.

ELISABETH THOMAS grew up in Brooklyn, where she still lives and now writes. She graduated from Yale University and currently works for The Museum of Modern Art.

## A COSMOLOGY OF MONSTERS

Shaun Hamill (Pantheon / September 2019)

Germany (Heyne); France (Albin Michel)

Film/TV Agent: Kim Yau, Paradigm

**\*In Active TV Development with Chernin Entertainment\***

Stephen King's *It* meets *Stranger Things* in this tender and terrifying coming-of-age tale.

Monsters both figurative and *very* literal stalk the Turner family. The youngest child, Noah, narrates the family history: how in the late '60s, his bookish mother Margaret marries Lovecraft-lover Harry against her better judgment. The couple has two daughters--Sydney, born for the spotlight, and the brilliant but awkward Eunice, a natural writer and storyteller. But finances are tight, Margaret and Eunice are haunted by horrific dreams, and Harry starts acting strangely. He becomes obsessed with the construction of an elaborately crafted haunted house attraction, christened the Wandering Dark. The family tries to shield baby Noah from the house's faux horrors, but unbeknownst to them, he's being visited by a furry beast with glowing orange eyes—the same ghastly being glimpsed by both his mother and sister. However, unlike them, Noah decides to let the creature inside his room.

As he approaches the conclusion of his family's tale, it becomes more and more apparent that there's only one way the story can end: with Noah making the ultimate sacrifice.

SHAUN HAMILL grew up on a steady diet of horror fiction and monster movies. He holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop and his fiction has appeared in *Carve* and *Spilt Infinitive*.

## IN THE DREAM HOUSE

Carmen Maria Machado (Graywolf Press / October 2019)

UK/ANZ (Text); Canada (A Strange Light/PRH); Germany (Klett Cotta); Poland (Agora)

Film/TV Agent: Olivia Blaustein, CAA

**A startling, moving, and innovative memoir from the National Book Award Finalist for Fiction.**

IN THE DREAM HOUSE is Carmen Maria Machado's engrossing and wildly innovative account of a relationship gone bad, and a bold dissection of the mechanisms and cultural representations of psychological abuse. Tracing the full arc of a harrowing relationship with a charismatic but volatile woman, Machado struggles to make sense of how what happened to her shaped the person she was becoming.

And it's that struggle that gives the book its original structure: each chapter is driven by its own narrative trope—the haunted house, erotica, the bildungsroman—through which Machado holds the events up to the light and examines them from different angles. She looks back at her religious adolescence, unpacks the stereotype of lesbian relationships as safe and utopian, and widens the view with essayistic explorations of the history and reality of abuse in queer relationships.

Machado's dire narrative is leavened with her characteristic wit, playfulness, and openness to inquiry. She casts a critical eye over legal proceedings, fairy tales, *Star Trek*, and Disney villains, as well as iconic works of film and fiction. The result is a wrenching, riveting book that explodes our ideas about what a memoir can do and be.

CARMEN MARIA MACHADO's debut short-story collection, *Her Body and Other Parties*, was a finalist for the National Book Award, the Kirkus Prize, LA Times Book Prize Art Seidenbaum Award for First Fiction, the World Fantasy Award, the Dylan Thomas Prize, Brooklyn Public Library Literature Prize, the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize for Debut Fiction, and the winner of the Bard Fiction Prize, the Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Fiction, the Shirley Jackson Award, and the National Book Critics Circle's John Leonard Prize.

Her essays, fiction, and criticism have appeared in *the New Yorker*, *the New York Times*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *VQR*, *McSweeney's Quarterly Concern*, *The Believer*, *Guernica*, *Best American Science Fiction & Fantasy*, *Best American Nonrequired Reading*, and elsewhere. She holds an MFA from the Iowa Writers' Workshop.

**HEART OF BARKNESS:  
A Chet and Bernie Mystery\*  
Spencer Quinn (Forge / July 2019)**

**\*Publisher holds world English rights**

"I don't always read mysteries, but when I do, I read Spencer Quinn. Chet, the dog, and Bernie, the PI, are a team made in mystery series heaven. Chet's amiable narration illustrates a true bromance between dog and man; or would that be dogmance? Would that we all were as infallible in our dogs' eyes as Bernie is in Chet's."—Susan Wilson, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Two Good Dogs*

**The first novel in ten years in the *New York Times*-bestselling series that the *Los Angeles Times* called "nothing short of masterful."**

**Private investigator Bernie and his beloved dog Chet have moved to a new publisher, the house that Bruce Cameron's books call home. It's a match made in canine heaven!!**

Chet the dog, "the most lovable narrator in all of crime fiction" (*Boston Globe*) and P.I. Bernie encounter heartache and much worse in the world of country music. They're both music lovers, so when Lotty Pilgrim, a country singer from long ago, turns up at a local bar, they drive out to catch her act. Bernie's surprised to see someone who was once so big performing in such a dive, and drops a C-note the Little Detective Agency can't afford to part with into the tip jar. The C-note is stolen right from under their noses—even from under Chet's, the nose that misses nothing—and before the night is over, it's stolen again.

Soon they're working the most puzzling case of their career, a case that takes them back in time in search of old border-town secrets, and into present-day danger where powerful people want those secrets to stay hidden. Chet and Bernie find themselves sucked into a real-life murder ballad where there is no one to trust but each other.

SPENCER QUINN is the bestselling author of eight Chet and Bernie mystery series, as well as the #1 *New York Times* bestselling Bowser and Birdie series for middle-grade readers. He lives on Cape Cod with his wife Diana—and dogs Audrey and Pearl. Keep up with him by visiting [SpenceQuinn.com](http://SpenceQuinn.com).



## DIARY OF A MURDERER

Kim Young-ha (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt / April 2019)

Korea (Munhakdongne); France (Editions Philippe Picquier); Spain (Temas y Debate); Italy (Metropoli d'Asia); Japan (Cuon); Taiwan (Azoth); Vietnam (Women's Publishing House); Indonesia (Gramedia); Germany (Cass Verlag)

Film/TV Agent: Kim Yau, Paradigm

**"Filled with the kind of sublime, galvanizing stories that strike like a lightning bolt, searing your nerves . . . It's easy enough to see why Kim . . . is acclaimed as the best writer of his generation; pick up this book and find out for yourself."—*Nylon***

Kim Young-ha brings a new, literary twist to the crime thriller with *DIARY OF A MURDERER*, which debuted atop the Korean bestseller lists, outselling Dan Brown's *Inferno*. To date, over 350,000 copies have been sold, and a **Korean-film version is now streaming on Netflix**.

*DIARY OF A MURDERER: AND OTHER STORIES* is Kim Young-ha's first collection ever to be published in English. Kim's work has been compared to the novels of Haruki Murakami, Raymond Chandler, and Albert Camus, to name a few, and he has earned a reputation as the most talented and prolific Korean writer of his generation.

In the titular novella, a former serial killer suffering from memory loss sets his sights on a new, and final, target: a killer targeting young women, his daughter included. Complicating matters is an old detective seeking to close the cold cases from the now-retired murderer. But whom, if anyone, are we to trust? In the following three stories we witness a family's disintegration after a baby son is kidnapped and recovered years later; a comic, erotic ride about pursuing creativity at all costs; and an affair between two childhood friends that questions the limits of loyalty and love.

*DIARY OF A MURDERER*, translated by award-winning author Krys Lee, is chilling and high-powered all the way through; it cracks open what it means to live on the margins, in that liminal space between life and death.

KIM YOUNG-HA is the author of the acclaimed *I Have the Right to Destroy Myself* and the award-winning *Black Flower*. His works have been translated into more than a dozen languages. He lives in Seoul, South Korea.

**AND I DO NOT FORGIVE YOU:  
Stories and Other Reverages  
Amber Sparks (Liveright / January 2020)**

*The Unfinished World and Other Stories* was a *Washington Post* Best Book of 2016 and its author Amber Sparks was praised by Roxane Gay as "a master of the fantastic." In **AND I DO NOT FORGIVE YOU: STORIES AND OTHER REVENGES**, Sparks present another genre-bending collection tethered by shades of rage, featuring such heroes as time-traveling queens and video game-designing goddesses, and such specters as clingy ghosts and mediocre men.

AMBER SPARKS is the author of two previous collections, and her fiction has appeared in *American Short Fiction*, *The Collagist*, and elsewhere. She lives in Washington, DC.

**Praise for THE UNFINISHED WORLD AND OTHER STORIES:**

"Sparks's stylish second collection is the work of a young writer whose voice feels far wiser than her years...[S]he plays with both fantasy and form. No one story sounds like another, yet her singular voice floats through the collection, tying it together with opulent prose that draws heavily on history and the macabre."—Rachel Syme, *New York Times Book Review*

"Amber Sparks uses the surreal and fantastic in stunning, surprising ways. Like Carola Dibbell's *The Only Ones* and Emily Mandel's *Station Eleven*, the book is a masterful work of speculative fiction."—Nancy Hightower, *Washington Post*

"[H]as all the furnishings of a twenty-first century homage to the carnally macabre Angela Carter. The collection captures an off-kilter universe of almost-fairy tales with equal parts beauty and melancholy."—Keziah Weir, *Elle*

"Amber Sparks is a master of the fantastic. Here are stories about fever librarians and brothers who are swans, time travelers and space janitors. With each story, Sparks defies the known world in absolutely thrilling ways."—Roxane Gay, author of *An Untamed State* and *Bad Feminist*

## **NOTABLE UPDATES!**

### **IN PIECES**

**Sally Field (Grand Central / September 2018)**

**UK/ANZ (Simon & Schuster); Russia (Eksmo)**

**\*Eleven weeks on the *New York Times* Nonfiction Bestseller List\***

**\*Over 200,000 copies sold to date\***

**\*A Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection\***

**\*A *New York Times* Notable Book\***

"A classic in the making—the kind that will land on the bestseller list...and stay on shelves for years to come."—Boris Kachka, *New York Magazine*

### **MEATY**

**Samantha Irby (Vintage / April 2018)**

**UK/ANZ (Faber)**

Film/TV Agent: Jason Richman, United Talent Agency

**\*In active development as a half-hour series for Comedy Central with Abbi Jacobson (*Broad City*) producing!\***

### **FRUIT OF THE DRUNKEN TREE**

**Ingrid Rojas Contreras (Doubleday / October 2018)**

**Spain (Impedimenta); Arabic (Fawasel)**

Film/TV Agent: Will Watkins, ICM

**\*National Bestseller\***

**\*A Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Selection\***

"Original, politically daring, and passionately written—FRUIT OF THE DRUNKEN TREE is the coming-of-age female empowerment story we need in 2018."—*Vogue*

## **NO ONE TELLS YOU THIS\***

**Glynnis MacNicol (Simon & Schuster / July 2018)**

**\*Publisher holds world English rights**

**\*A fearless exploration of one forty-something woman's joys and challenges in building a life without a spouse or children\***

"I found myself underlining sentences, and then entire passages, that resonated with me, articulating the extreme inadequacy and sense of dislocation single women of a certain age, like MacNicol—and like me—experience in moments when others are growing closer without you...**an anthem to choosing the single, family-free life.**"—Amanda Stern, *The New York Times Book Review*

## **WHITE RIVER BURNING**

**John Verdon (Counterpoint / July 2018)**

**Spain (Roca/Spanish, Catalan); Greece (Dioptra); Israel (Keter); Turkey (Koridor); Finland (Gummerus)**

**Film/TV Agent: Bruce Vinokour, CAA**

**\*The masterful latest in the internationally bestselling Dave Gurney series!\***

"John Verdon writes grown-up detective novels, by which I mean stories with intelligent plots, well-developed characters and crimes that have social consequences. WHITE RIVER BURNING, featuring the author's brainy gumshoe-for-hire, Dave Gurney, checks all these boxes . . . While keeping inside the lines of a classic whodunit plot, Verdon enriches the formula with a probing analysis of the way a community rips itself apart." —*The New York Times Book Review*

## **BOOKS FOR YOUNG READERS**

### **SADDLES & SECRETS**

**Jane Smiley (Knopf Books for Young Readers / March 2019)**

**UK/ANZ (Scholastic)**

**Film/TV Agent: Lynn Pleshette**

**A young rider gets to know a new pony, adjusts to a new sibling, and learns a lot about secrets in this charming follow-up to Pulitzer Prize-winner Jane Smiley's *Riding Lessons*.**

Ellen can't stop thinking about the racehorse Ned—and the secret she shares with him. There seem to be a lot of secrets in Ellen's life these days. Secrets between friends. Secrets within families. Secrets that are all her own. And secrets her parents are keeping from her that could change everything about her life.

One thing that's *not* a secret is how much Ellen wants to jump—to feel herself on a horse as it soars through the air, smooth and fast. The horse she's riding these days is Hot Potato—a pony she can trust, a pony she can practice jumping with. But he can't possibly be as interesting as Ned, can he? And will her parents' secret take her away from the stable forever?

JANE SMILEY is the author of many books for adults, including *Some Luck*, *Horse Heaven*, and the Pulitzer Prize-winning *A Thousand Acres*. She is the author of five Horses of Oak Valley Ranch books, *The Georges and the Jewels*, *A Good Horse*, *True Blue*, *Pie in the Sky*, and *Gee Whiz*. RIDING LESSONS is the second book in her new horse trilogy.

### **RUFF VS FLUFF**

**Spencer Quinn (Scholastic / March 2019)**

**UK/ANZ (Scholastic)**

**Film/TV Agent: Sylvie Rabineau, WME**

**A cat and dog do the impossible: team up to solve a murder!**

From the outside, Queenie the cat and Arthur the dog appear to have a lot in common. Both pets live in the charming Blackberry Hill inn. They both love their humans, twins Harmony and Bro. They both have a fondness for sausage.

But that doesn't change the fact that they are mortal enemies.

Goofy, big-hearted Arthur loves everyone he's ever met . . . except the snobby, scheming cat who's devoted her life to ruining his.

Queenie is a bit choosier. And who can blame her? When you're brilliant AND exquisitely beautiful, you can't be expected to rub tails with commoners. Especially not slobbery dogs.

But when the twins' beloved uncle is framed for murder, Queenie and Arthur must work together to clear his name . . . something Queenie finds even more distasteful than inexpensive caviar. Can two enemies put aside their differences long enough to solve the mystery?

SPENCER QUINN the author of the *New York Times*-bestselling Chet and Bernie mystery books and the stand-alone novel *The Right Side*, both for adults. His novels for kids include the New York Times bestselling Bowser and Birdie novel, *Woof*, and the follow-up, *Arf*, as well as the Edgar Award-nominated Echo Falls series. Spencer lives with his wife, Diana, and dogs, Audrey and Pearl, on Cape Cod, Massachusetts.