



Fall 2020 Fiction Rights Guide

A E V I T A S
Creative Management

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YOU EXIST TOO MUCH

A Novel

By Zaina Arafat

NA

June 2020 / Catapult / US Editor: Jonathan Lee

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

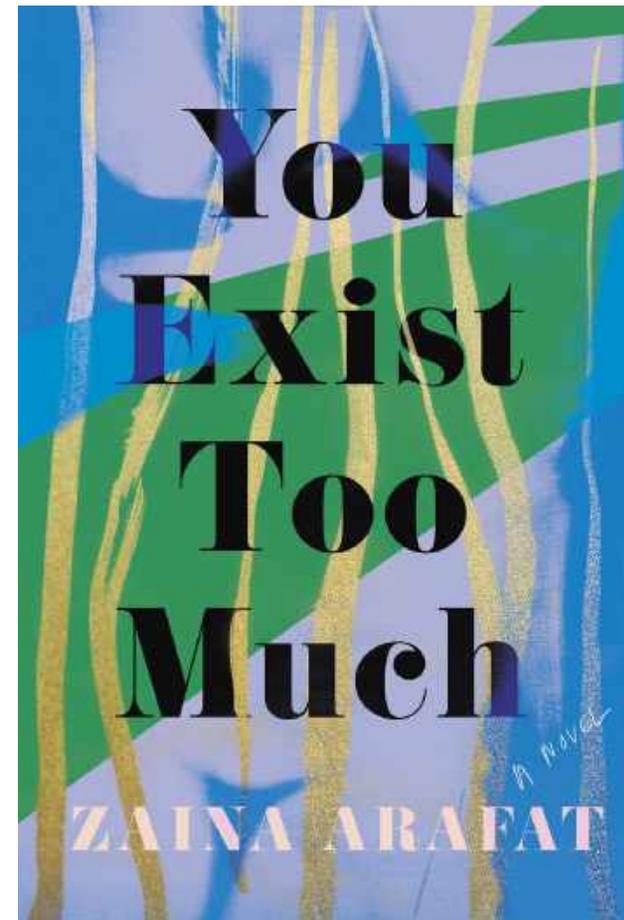
UK/Comm (Dialogue Books / Little, Brown UK)

A “provocative and seductive debut” of desire and doubleness that follows the life of a young Palestinian American woman caught between cultural, religious, and sexual identities as she endeavors to lead an authentic life (O, The Oprah Magazine)

On a hot day in Bethlehem, a 12-year-old Palestinian-American girl is yelled at by a group of men outside the Church of the Nativity. She has exposed her legs in a biblical city, an act they deem forbidden, and their judgement will echo on through her adolescence. When our narrator finally admits to her mother that she is queer, her mother’s response only intensifies a sense of shame: “You exist too much,” she tells her daughter.

Told in vignettes that flash between the U.S. and the Middle East—from New York to Jordan, Lebanon, and Palestine—Zaina Arafat’s debut novel traces her protagonist’s progress from blushing teen to sought-after DJ and aspiring writer. In Brooklyn, she moves into an apartment with her first serious girlfriend and tries to content herself with their comfortable relationship. But soon her longings, so closely hidden during her teenage years, explode out into reckless romantic encounters and obsessions with other people. Her desire to thwart her own destructive impulses will eventually lead her to The Ledge, an unconventional treatment center that identifies her affliction as “love addiction.” In this strange, enclosed society she will start to consider the unnerving similarities between her own internal traumas and divisions and those of the places that have formed her. Opening up the fantasies and desires of one young woman caught between cultural, religious, and sexual identities, *You Exist Too Much* is a captivating story charting two of our most intense longings—for love, and a place to call home.

Zaina Arafat is a queer Palestinian-American writer. She holds an MFA from Iowa and her stories and essays have appeared in publications including *Granta*, *The New York Times*, *The Believer*, *Virginia Quarterly Review*, *VICE*, *BuzzFeed* and *The Atlantic*.



“This book is about much more than being multicultural; it offers a messy, multilayered, flawed, insecure character as proof that multi-everything should be a category, because humans are too complicated for every other classification... At once complicated and engaging, this is the kind of debut novel that announces the arrival of a powerful new author who has a lot to say.”—*NPR*

“For anyone who’s ever felt their body or identity takes up too much space, this deeply affecting story of doubt and love is a gut-punch and a solace.” —*Elle*

“This story about love, identity, gender and family is brilliantly written and questions the effects of maternal love.” —*Good Morning America*

“A study in the rejection and reclamation of shame, as it applies to the experience of an isolated young woman within layers of geographic marginalization.”—*Parade*

THE DISTANT DEAD

A Novel

By Heather Young

NA

June 2020 / William Morrow (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Kate Nintzel

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

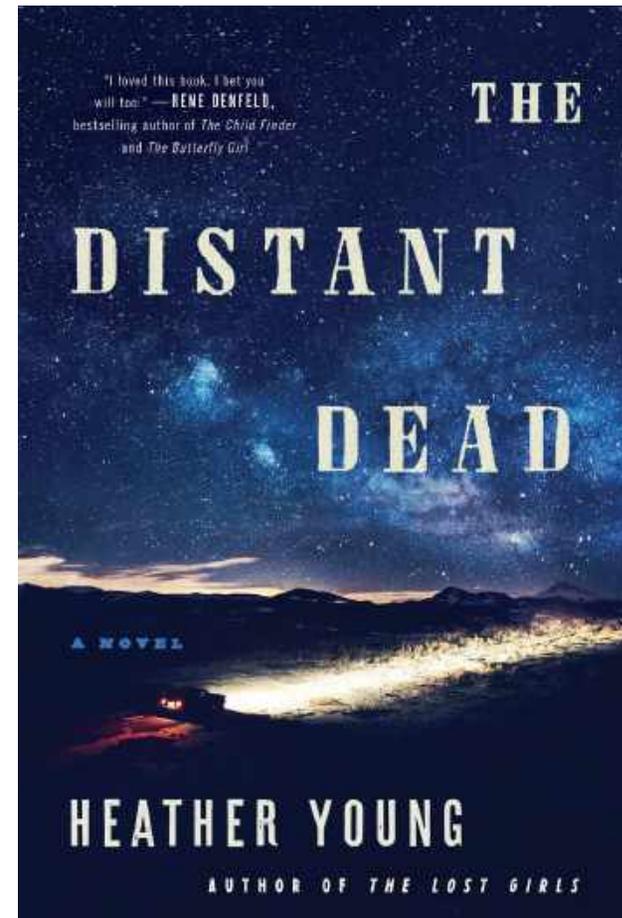
France (Belfond)

A body burns in the high desert hills. A boy walks into a fire station, shocked by a grisly discovery. A middle school teacher worries when her colleague is late for work. By day's end, when the body is identified as local math teacher Adam Merkel, a small Nevada town will be rocked to its core by a brutal and calculated murder.

Adam Merkel left a university professorship in Reno to teach middle school in Lovelock seven months before he died. A quiet, seemingly unremarkable man, he connected with just one of his students: Sal Prentiss, a lonely sixth grader who lives with his uncles on a desolate ranch in the hills. The two outcasts developed a tender, trusting friendship that brought each of them hope in the wake of tragedy. But it is Sal who finds Adam's body, charred almost beyond recognition, half a mile from his uncles' compound. Nora Wheaton, the middle school's social studies teacher, dreamed of a life far from Lovelock only to be dragged back on the eve of her college graduation to care for her disabled father, a man she loves but can't forgive. She sensed in the new math teacher a kindred spirit--another soul bound to Lovelock by guilt and duty. After Adam's death, she delves into his past for clues to who killed him and finds a dark history she understands all too well. But the truth about his murder may lie closer to home. For Sal Prentiss's grief seems heavily shaded with fear, and Nora suspects he knows more than he's telling about how his favorite teacher died. As she tries to earn the wary boy's trust, she finds he holds not only the key to Adam's murder, but an unexpected chance at the life she thought she'd lost.

Weaving together the last months of Adam's life, Nora's search for answers, and a young boy's anguished moral reckoning, this unforgettable thriller brings a small American town to vivid life, filled with complex, flawed characters wrestling with the weight of the past, the promise of the future, and the bitter freedom that forgiveness can bring.

Heather Young received an MFA from the Bennington College Writing Seminars, and studied at Tin House Writers' Workshop & Squaw Valley Writers Workshop.



STARRED REVIEW, *BOOKLIST*

“Stunning ... An ideal recommendation for fans of Kate Atkinson.”

STARRED REVIEW, *KIRKUS*

“At heart about the timelessness of human curiosity, the eternal possibility of forgiveness, and the everyday miracle of survival. Electrifying, ambitious, and crushingly beautiful.”

“This emotionally resonant saga, firmly rooted in the high desert hills, will keep readers turning the pages.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“Engrossing...an enjoyable character-driven murder mystery that is emotionally poignant and empathetic.”—*Mystery Scene*

WANT

A Novel

By Lynn Steger Strong

NA

July 2020 / Henry Holt (Macmillan) / US Editor: Kerry Cullen

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

Polish (Fame Art)

Vietnamese (Nham Van)

Grappling with motherhood, economic anxiety, rage, and the limits of language, Want is a fiercely personal novel that vibrates with anger, insight, and love.

Elizabeth is tired. Years after coming to New York to try to build a life, she has found herself with two kids, a husband, two jobs, a PhD—and now they're filing for bankruptcy. As she tries to balance her dream and the impossibility of striving toward it while her work and home lives feel poised to fall apart, she wakes at ungodly hours to run miles by the icy river, struggling to quiet her thoughts.

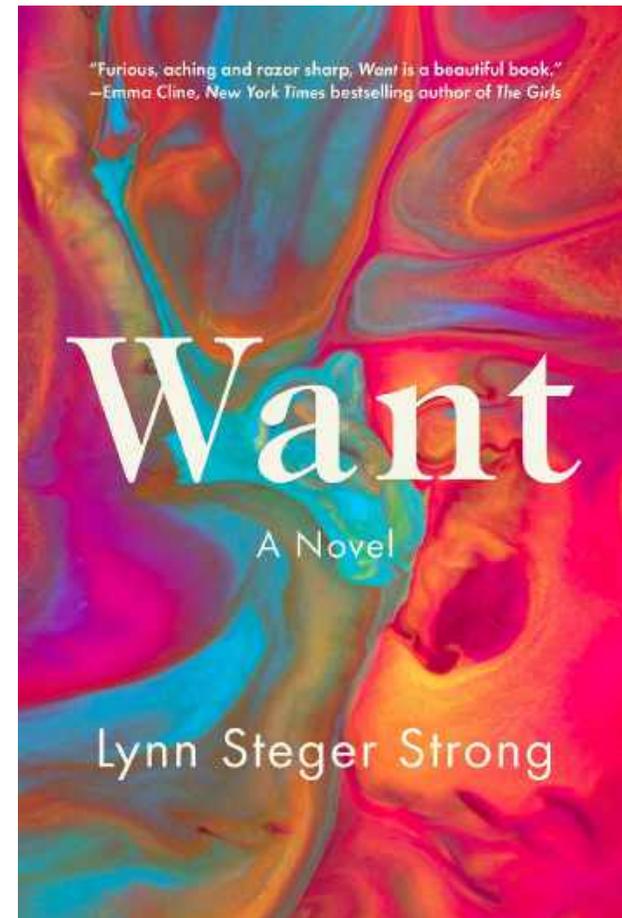
When she reaches out to Sasha, her long-lost childhood friend, it feels almost harmless—one of those innocuous ruptures that exist online, in texts. But her timing is uncanny. Sasha is facing a crisis, too, and perhaps after years apart, their shared moments of crux can bring them back into each other's lives. In *Want*, Lynn Steger Strong explores the subtle violences enacted on a certain type of woman when she dares to want things—and all the various violences in which she implicates herself as she tries to survive.

Lynn Steger Strong's first novel, *Hold Still*, was published in 2016. Her nonfiction has appeared in *The Paris Review*, *Guernica*, *LARB*, *Literary Hub*, and elsewhere. She teaches writing at Catapult and Columbia University.

STARRED REVIEW, KIRKUS

"Strong writes womanhood with brutal honesty; exhaustion, love, desire, anxiety, and the devastation of unfulfilled expectations permeate every page. . . .Strong's writing consistently distills bitter truths in understated yet penetrating ways. A wise, unflinching, and compelling novel about womanhood."

"*Want* is a defining novel of our age of left-behind families. . . .as if Anne Helen Peterson's viral burnout article and John Steinbeck's oeuvre had a baby. . . an ideal sample of how to produce fiction that is timely and timeless."—*Vulture*



"To readers it might feel like prophecy—or the surfacing of something invisible. *Want*, like our current crisis, exposes a system on the verge of collapse. . . .but it's also powerful proof that novels, and novelists, can still speak undeniable truths." —*The L.A. Times*

"A brisk first-person saga with a plot that reads both like every millennial Brooklynite's worst nightmare and a 200-page argument for the necessity of democratic socialism. . . .*Want* is a highly-anticipated tome, with praise from Emma Cline, Leslie Jamison, Rumaan Alam, Jenny Offill—a literary A-list of blurbs" —*Entertainment Weekly*

"Moving... As a narrator, Elizabeth is smart and funny and literary to the marrow. The books she inhales for sustenance have turned out to be a great addition to my own pandemic pile. (Thank you, Ms. Strong.)" —*The New York Times*

WINTER COUNTS

A Novel

By David Heska Wanbli Weiden

NA

August 2020 / Ecco (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Zach Wagman

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

French (Gallmeister)

“Winter Counts is a marvel. It’s a thriller with a beating heart and jagged teeth. This book is a brilliant meditation on power and violence, and a testament to just how much a crime novel can achieve. Weiden is a powerful new voice. I couldn’t put it down.”—Tommy Orange, author of There There

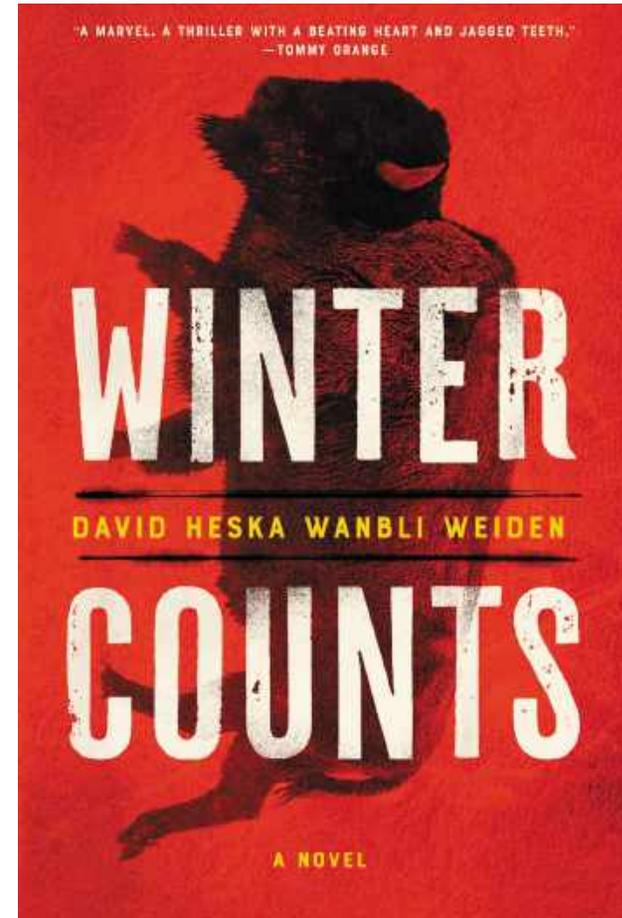
A groundbreaking thriller about a vigilante on a Native American reservation who embarks on a dangerous mission to track down the source of a heroin influx.

Virgil Wounded Horse is the local enforcer on the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota. When justice is denied by the American legal system or the tribal council, Virgil is hired to deliver his own punishment, the kind that’s hard to forget. But when heroin makes its way into the reservation and finds Virgil’s nephew, his vigilantism suddenly becomes personal. He enlists the help of his ex-girlfriend and sets out to learn where the drugs are coming from, and how to make them stop.

They follow a lead to Denver and find that drug cartels are rapidly expanding and forming new and terrifying alliances. And back on the reservation, a new tribal council initiative raises uncomfortable questions about money and power. As Virgil starts to link the pieces together, he must face his own demons and reclaim his Native identity. He realizes that being a Native American in the twenty-first century comes at an incredible cost.

Winter Counts is a tour-de-force of crime fiction, a bracingly honest look at a long-ignored part of American life, and a twisting, turning story that’s as deeply rendered as it is thrilling.

David Heska Wanbli Weiden is an enrolled citizen of the Sicangu Lakota Nation and received his MFA from the Institute of American Indian Arts. He’s a MacDowell Colony Fellow, a Tin House Scholar, and the recipient of the PEN America Writing for Justice Fellowship.



“[A] revelatory debut crime novel propelled by vital and affecting Native American characters . . . Suspenseful, gritty, gruffly endearing, and resonant.”—*Booklist*

“Weiden’s debut is a gritty, complex, and dynamic thriller. . . It’s an absolutely riveting page-turner, compelling not only for the mystery at its core, but also for its piercing criticism of US (mis)treatment of Native populations.”—*Buzzfeed*

“I’ve been waiting most of my life for this book. *Winter Counts* is a knowing, authentic, closely observed novel about modern-day Lakotas that rings absolutely true, warts and all. The sense of place is breathtaking and raw. It’s a hell of a debut.”—**C.J. Box**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Long Range*

“You’ll love the tough-guy hero who refuses to back down to anyone.”
—*Parade*

THE GREAT OFFSHORE GROUNDS

A Novel

By Vanessa Veselka

NA

August 2020 / Knopf (PRH) / US Editor: Tim O'Connell

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

Italian (Einaudi)

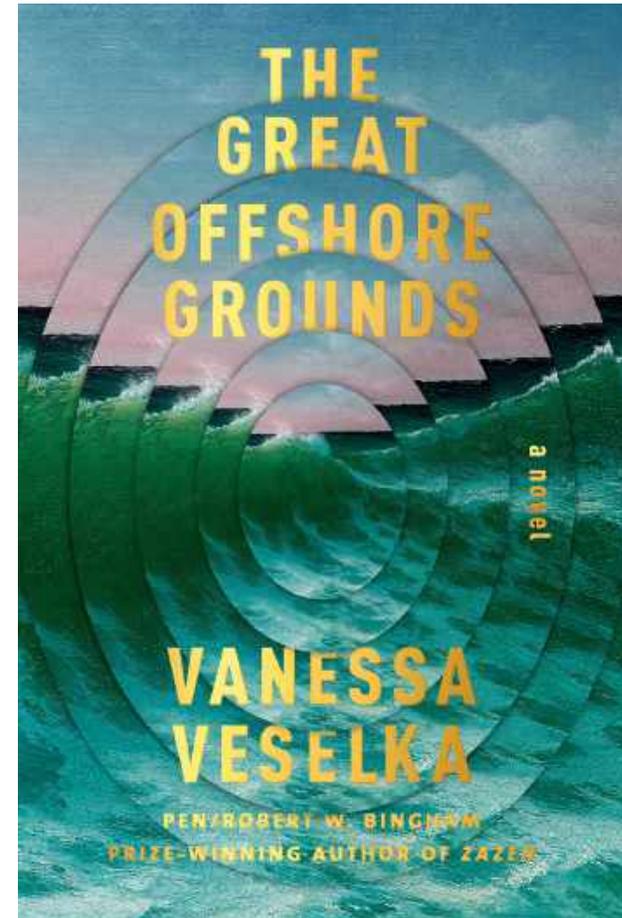
UK/Comm (Weidenfeld & Nicolson / Orion)

A wildly original, cross-country novel that subverts a long tradition of family narratives and casts new light on the mythologies—national, individual, and collective—that drive and define us.

On the day of their estranged father's wedding, half sisters Cheyenne and Livy set off to claim their inheritance. It's been years since the two have seen each other. Cheyenne is newly back in Seattle, crashing with Livy after a failed marriage and a series of dead ends. Livy works refinishing boats, her resentment against her free-loading sister growing as she tamps down dreams of fishing off the coast of Alaska. But the promise of a shot at financial security brings the two together to claim what's theirs. Except, instead of money, what their father gives them is information—a name—which both reveals a stunning family secret and compels them to come to grips with it. In the face of their new reality, the sisters and their adopted brother each set out on journeys that will test their faith in one another, as well as their definitions of freedom.

Moving from Seattle's underground to the docks of the Far North, from the hideaways of the southern swamps to the storied reaches of the Great Offshore Grounds, Vanessa Veselka spins a tale with boundless verve, linguistic vitality, and undeniable tenderness.

Vanessa Veselka is the author of the novel *Zazen*, which won the PEN/Robert W. Bingham Prize. Her short stories have appeared in *Tin House* and *ZYZZYVA*, and her nonfiction in *GQ*, *The Atlantic*, *Smithsonian*, *The Atavist*, and was included in *Best American Essays* and the anthology *Bitchfest: Ten Years of Cultural Criticism*. She has been, at various times, a teenage runaway, a sex worker, a union organizer, an independent record label owner, a train hopper, a waitress, and a mother. She lives in Portland, OR.



STARRED REVIEW, *PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY*

Veselka blends fascinating details of seamanship, cab driving, and boot camp with intimate, spot-on descriptions of contemporary American poverty... This gritty and unsentimental work is compassionate, funny, and deeply human."

"Vanessa Veselka is an expert portraitist of the forgotten and left behind [...] an unforgettable journey through a country full of malice and greed and beauty and grace. A brilliant and fearless book."—**Nathan Hill, author of *The Nix***

"A magnificent beast of a novel. Utterly engrossing. Original. One of the rare novels that understands the realities of American poverty. Epic."—**Roxane Gay, author of *Hunger***

"Veselka is a remarkable writer, able to break through the surfaces of her narrative to reveal the animal chaos underneath..."—*Los Angeles Times*

BENEFICENCE

A Novel

By Meredith Hall

WE

September 2020 / David R. Godine / US Editor: Joshua Bodwel

Final PDF Available

“If the word ‘luminous’ didn’t already exist, you’d have to invent it to describe Meredith Hall’s radiant new novel Beneficence.”—Richard Russo

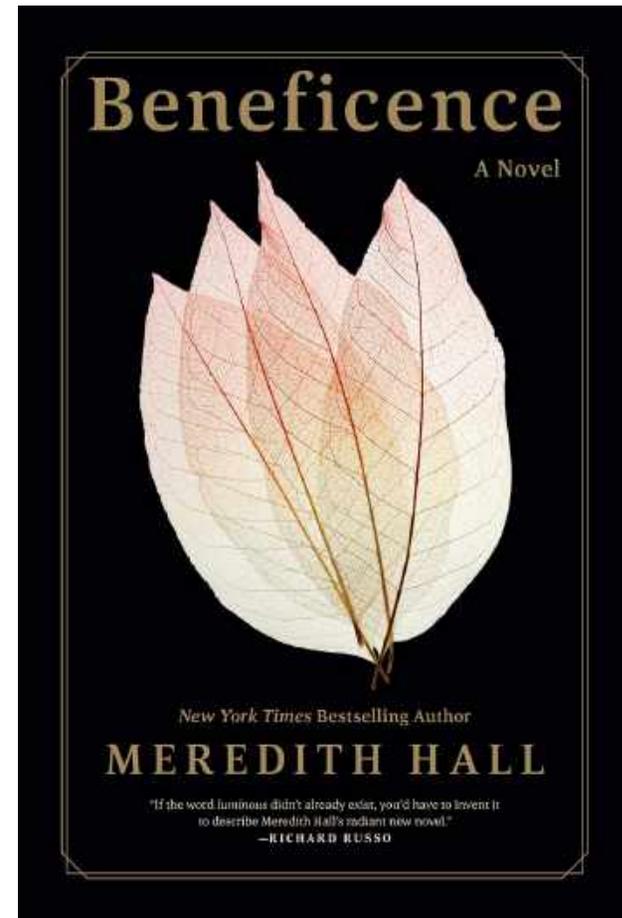
When they meet in the 1930s, Doris and Tup’s love is immediate. They marry quickly and Doris commits to the only life Tup ever wanted: working the Senter family farm, where his parents and grandparents and great-grandparents are buried under the old pines. Their lives follow the calming rhythms of the land—chores in the cow barn, haying the fields, tending their gardens—and in this they find immeasurable joy.

Soon their first child, Sonny, is born and Doris and Tup understand they are blessed. More children arrive—precocious, large-hearted Dodie and quiet, devoted Beston—but Doris and Tup take nothing for granted. They are grateful every day for the grace of their deep bonds to each other, to their family, and to their bountiful land. As they hold fast to this contentment, Doris is uneasy, and confesses, “We can’t ever know what will come.”

When an unimaginable tragedy turns the family of five into a family of four, everything the Senters held faith in is shattered. The family is consumed by a dark shadow of grief and guilt. Slowly, the surviving Senters must find their way to forgiveness—of themselves and of each other.

New York Times bestselling author Meredith Hall’s radiant debut novel is a study of love—both its gifts and its obligations—that will stay with readers long after the last page. With a rare tenderness and compassion, *Beneficence* illuminates the heart’s enduring covenants and compromises.

Meredith Hall’s memoir *Without a Map* was instantly recognized as a classic of the genre and became a *New York Times* bestseller. It was named Best Book of the Year by *Kirkus* and *BookSense*, as well as *Elle’s* “Readers’ Pick of the Year.” Her work has appeared in the *Five Points*, *Gettysburg Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *Southern Review*, *New York Times*, and many other journals.



“Powerful...[Hall’s] meticulous prose convincingly captures the daily realities—sometimes beautiful, sometimes cruel—of agricultural life, and offers insight into the ways calamity fractures family bonds...readers will be rewarded.”—*Publishers Weekly*

“An emotional journey so deep into the lives of others, you will find yourself, and the people you love, staring back with a face for each of Meredith Hall’s characters. One of the best books I’ve ever read, this quiet, family saga—a masterpiece of compassion and objectivity—has changed the way I see everyone around me, forever.”—**Simon Van Booy**

“Beneficence is a beautiful novel, quiet and meditative, exquisite in its language, moving in its emotional reach. It delivers a particular time and presence... with deep love and understanding. This book is like a communion with the land.”
—**Roxana Robinson**

WHEN WE WERE YOUNG & BRAVE

A Novel

By Hazel Gaynor

NA

October 2020 / William Morrow (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Lucia Macro
Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

Swedish (Modernista)

UK/Commonwealth (Harper UK)

Their motto was to be prepared, but nothing could prepare them for war. . .

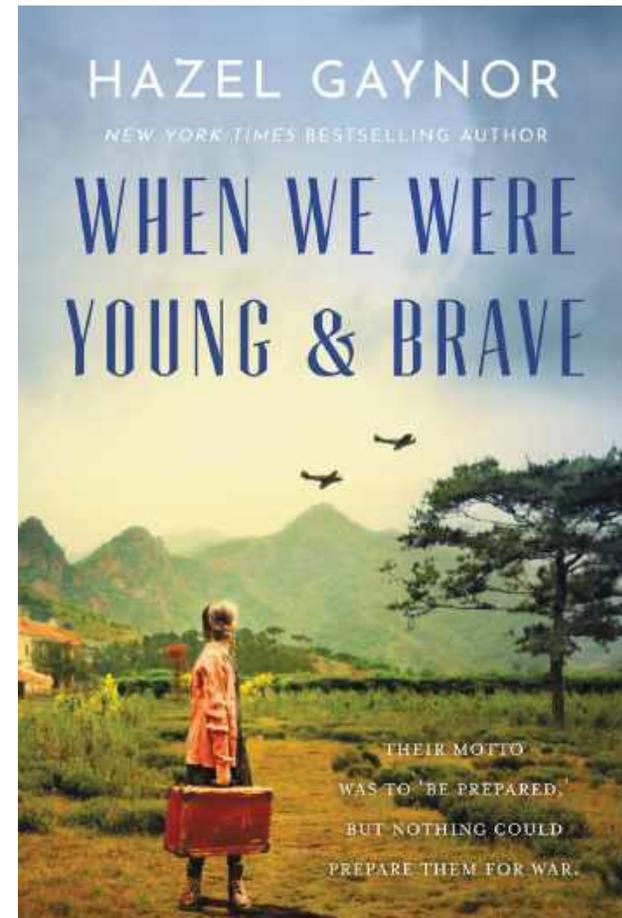
The New York Times bestselling author of The Girl Who Came Home sets her unforgettable new novel in China during WWII, inspired by true events surrounding the Japanese Army's internment of teachers and children from a British-run missionary school.

China, December 1941. Having left an unhappy life in England for a teaching post at a missionary school in northern China, Elspeth Kent is now anxious to return home to help the war effort. But as she prepares to leave China, a terrible twist of fate determines a different path for Elspeth, and those in her charge.

Ten-year-old Nancy Plummer has always felt safe at Chefoo School, protected by her British status. But when Japan declares war on Britain and America, Japanese forces take control of the school and the security and comforts Nancy and her friends are used to are replaced by privation, uncertainty and fear. Now the enemy, and separated from their parents, the children look to their teachers – to Miss Kent and her new Girl Guide patrol especially – to provide a sense of unity and safety. Faced with the relentless challenges of oppression, the school community must rely on their courage, faith and friendships as they pray for liberation – but worse is to come when they are sent to a distant internment camp where even greater uncertainty and danger await . . .

Inspired by true events, *When We Were Young and Brave* is an unforgettable novel about impossible choices and unimaginable hardship, and the life-changing bonds formed between a young girl and her teacher in a remote corner of a terrible war.

Hazel Gaynor is an award-winning *New York Times*, *USA Today* and international bestselling author.



“Told with a keen eye toward history, but also with compassion and humanity, this is a tale as vast as China itself, and as personal as the workings of an individual soul. Gaynor’s story of courage and strength will make you believe in the heroic spirit in each of us.”—**Lisa Wingate**, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of *Before We Were Yours* and *The Book Of Lost Friends*

“A story of courage, friendship, and humanity in the bleakest of circumstances, Gaynor takes a slice of true history and brings it to vivid life. I loved these characters and rooted for them all the way.”—**Mary Beth Keane**, *New York Times* bestselling author

“Hazel Gaynor again breathes fresh life into a lost piece of history... transporting, important, and tremendously moving.”—**Patti Callahan Henry**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Becoming Mrs. Lewis*

THE THIRTY NAMES OF NIGHT

A Novel

By Zeyn Joukhadar

NA

November 2020 / Touchstone (S&S) / US Editor: Trish Todd

Final PDF Available

The author of the “vivid and urgent...important and timely” debut The Map of Salt and Stars returns with this remarkably moving and lyrical novel following three generations of Syrian Americans who are linked by a mysterious species of bird and the truths they carry close to their hearts.

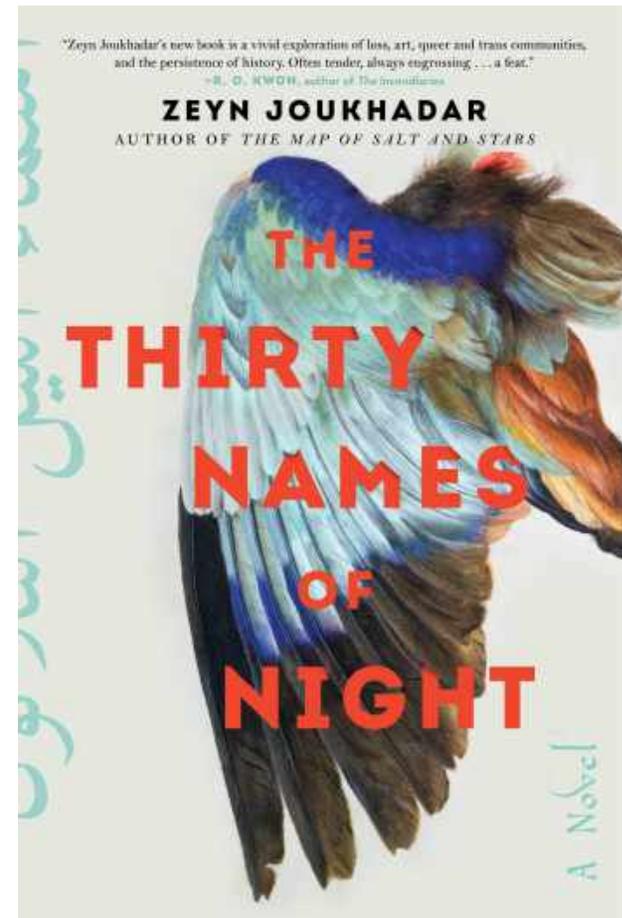
Five years after a suspicious fire killed his ornithologist mother, a closeted Syrian American trans boy sheds his birth name and searches for a new one. One night, he finds the tattered journal of a Syrian American artist named Laila Z, who dedicated her career to painting the birds of North America. She famously and mysteriously disappeared more than sixty years before, but her journal contains proof that both his mother and Laila Z encountered the same rare bird before their deaths. Even more surprising, Laila Z’s story reveals the histories of queer and transgender people within his own community that he never knew. Realizing that he isn’t and has never been alone, he has the courage to officially claim a new name: Nadir, an Arabic name meaning rare. As unprecedented numbers of birds are mysteriously drawn to the New York City skies, Nadir enlists the help of his family and friends to unravel what happened to Laila Z and the rare bird his mother died trying to save. A timely exploration of how we all search for and ultimately embrace who we are.

Publishers of *The Map of Salt and Stars*:

Arabic (Dar Shafaq Publishing)
Brazilian Portuguese (Dublinense)
Bulgarian (Egmont)
Czech (Dobrovsky)
Dutch (Ambo Anthos)
French (Les Escales)
German (Heyne)
Italian (Garzanti)
Macedonia (Matica Makedonska)

Norwegian (Font Forlag)
Polish (Czarna Owca)
Portuguese (Saida de Emergencia)
Serbian (Laguna)
Simplified Chinese (CITIC)
Spanish (Lumen)
Swedish (Wahlstrom & Widstrand)
Turkish (Hep Kitap)
UK/Comm (Weidenfeld & Nicolson)

Zeyn Joukhadar is the author of *The Map of Salt and Stars* and *The Thirty Names of Night*.



STARRED REVIEW, BOOKLIST

“Stunning...vivid, visceral, and urgent....This clarifying and moving tale has far-reaching significance and appeal.”

STARRED REVIEW, KIRKUS

“A fable of being and belonging....Joukhadar’s prose style--folkloric, lyrical, and emotionally intense--creates its own atmosphere. Gorgeous and alive.”

“Zeyn Joukhadar’s new book is a vivid exploration of loss, art, queer and trans communities, and the persistence of history. Often tender, always engrossing, *The Thirty Names of Night* is a feat.”—R.O. Kwon, author of *The Incendiaries*

RAFT OF STARS

A Novel

By Andrew J. Graff

NA

March 2021 / Ecco (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Helen Atsma

Edited MS Available Fall 2020

Rights Sold:

Dutch (Kok / Boekencentrum) UK/Comm (HQ / HarperCollins UK)

French (Gallmeister)

An instant classic for fans of Peace Like a River and Jim the Boy: when two hard-scrabble young boys think they've committed a crime, they flee into the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Will the adults trying to find and protect them reach them before it's too late?

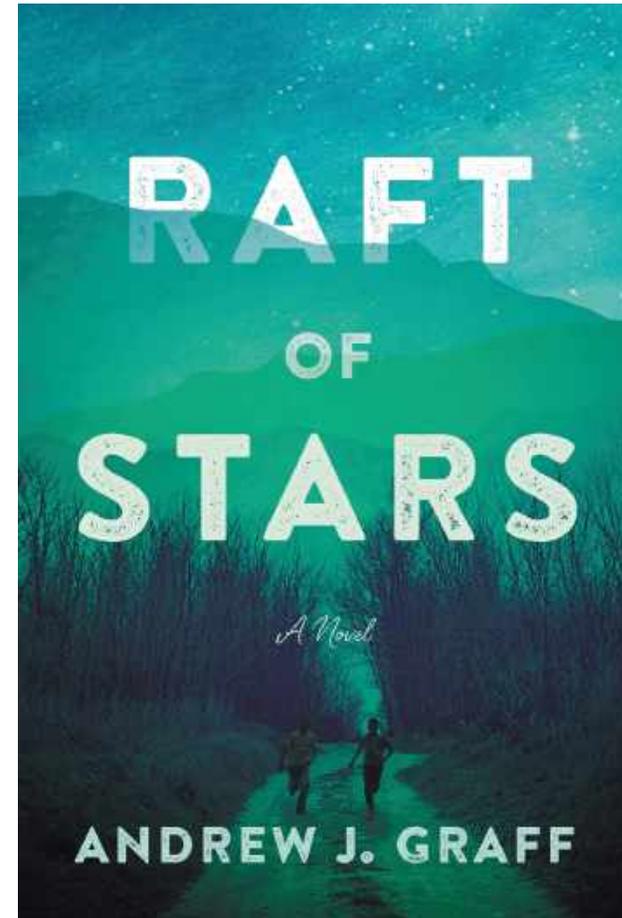
It's the summer of 1994 in Claypot, Wisconsin, and the lives of ten-year-old Fischer "Fish" Branson and Dale "Bread" Breadwin are shaped by the two fathers they don't talk about.

One night, tired of seeing his best friend bruised and terrorized by his no-good dad, Fish takes action. A gunshot rings out and the two boys flee the scene, believing themselves murderers. They head for the woods, where they find their way onto a raft, but the natural terrors of Ironsforge gorge threaten to overwhelm them.

Four adults track them into the forest, each one on a journey of his or her own. Sheriff Cal, who's having doubts about a life in law enforcement; Tiffany, a purple-haired gas station attendant and poet looking for connection; Fish's mother Miranda, full of fierce faith; and his granddad, Teddy, who knows the woods like the back of his hand.

The adults track the boys toward the novel's heart-pounding climax on the edge of the gorge and a conclusion that beautifully makes manifest the grace these characters find in the wilderness and one another. This timeless story of loss, hope, and adventure runs like the river itself amid the vividly rendered landscape of the Upper Midwest.

Andrew J. Graff grew up fishing, hiking, and hunting in Wisconsin's Northwoods. After a tour of duty in Afghanistan, Graff earned an MFA from the University of Iowa. He teaches writing and literature, and has served as editor of the *Cedarville Review*.



“Graff has not only crafted an adventure story with a warm heart at its center, but a whole town of characters for readers to fall in love with.”—**J. Ryan Stradal**, author of *The Lager Queen of Minnesota*

“In ruggedly beautiful prose, and with a deep affection for his damaged, but always loveable characters, Graff delivers a novel with real heart and soul. An authentic look into the heartland of America, into one-parent households, where mothers and grandparents are supporting the next generation while fathers are either absentee, or should be. Like a barrel going over a waterfall, *Raft of Stars* sweeps its reader downstream, and fast. Hold on for the ride.”—**Nickolas Butler**, author of *Little Faith*

THE ROCK EATERS

Stories

By Brenda Peynado

NA

May 2021 / Penguin (PRH) / US Editor: Margaux Weisman

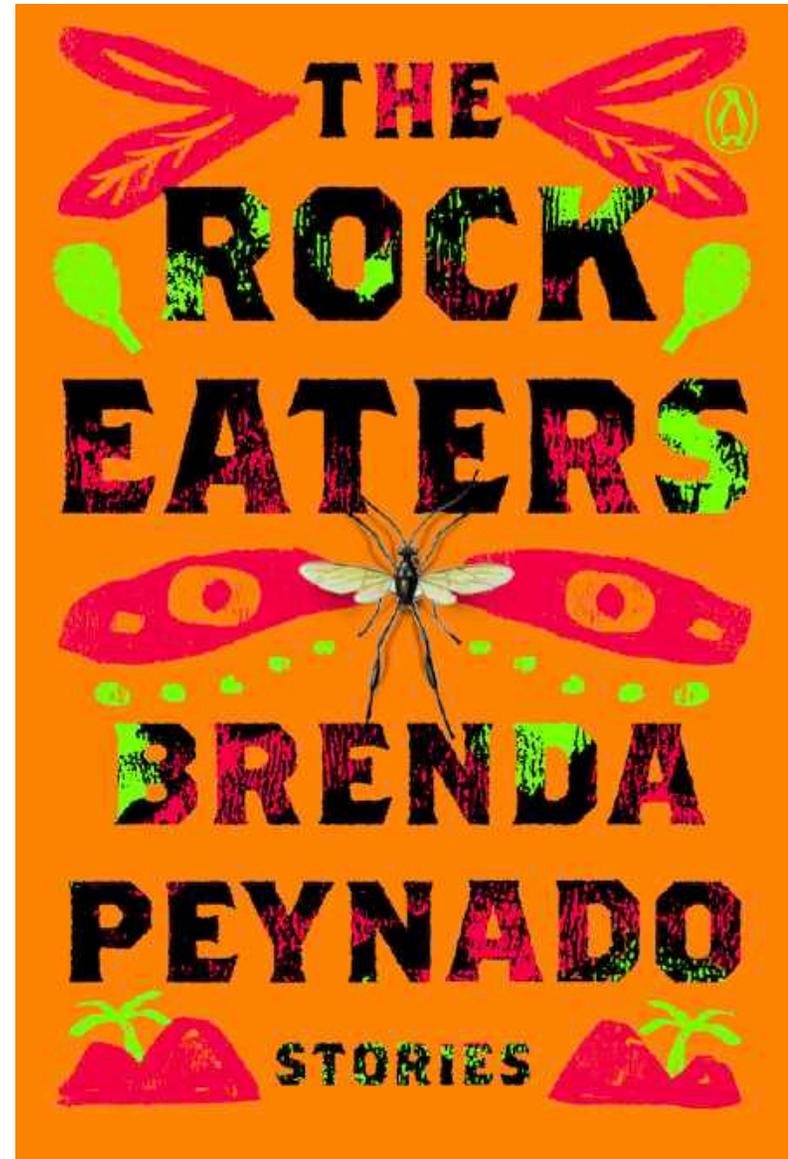
Edited MS Available

Threaded with magic, strange happenings, and a deep sense of longing, the stories here explore what it means to cross boundaries personal, physical, and political.

In “The Stones of Sorrow Lake” a woman visits her boyfriend’s hometown, where each person grows a rock from their body that represents their life’s one great sorrow; in “The Great Escape” a woman hides herself in her apartment until she disappears completely; in “The Dreamers” a teenage girl grapples with staying awake when to sleep means she’ll sleep all the sleep of her life at once; and in the collection’s title story, children fly away from parents conflicted about their own ability to take to the sky. Brenda Peynado’s fabulism illustrates the conflict inherent in being from more than one place, the absurdity in thinking we can control our destinies. With grace and a razor-sharp imagination, she shows us that borders are nothing but an invitation to cross. Quite literally, her work is marvelous.

The Rock Eaters will find a place beside Carmen Maria Machado’s *Her Body and Other Parties*, Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah’s *Friday Black*, Karen Russell’s *Vampires in the Lemon Grove*, or Helen Oyeyemi’s *What is Not Yours is Not Yours*. Like these strong, intimate voices, Peynado threads her work with magical realism, fabulism, and science fiction to reveal the uncomfortable truths about our lives.

Brenda Peynado is a Dominican-American writer whose stories have received an O. Henry Prize, a Pushcart Prize, a Nelson Algren Award from the *Chicago Tribune*, a Fulbright grant, and other awards. She currently teaches fiction and screenwriting at the University of Central Florida’s BA and MFA programs.



IMMEDIATE FAMILY

A Novel

By Ashley Nelson Levy

NA

August 2021 / FSG (Macmillan) / US Editor: Emily Bell

Edited MS Available in Spring 2021

Rights Sold:

UK/Comm (Zeljka/Daunt Books)

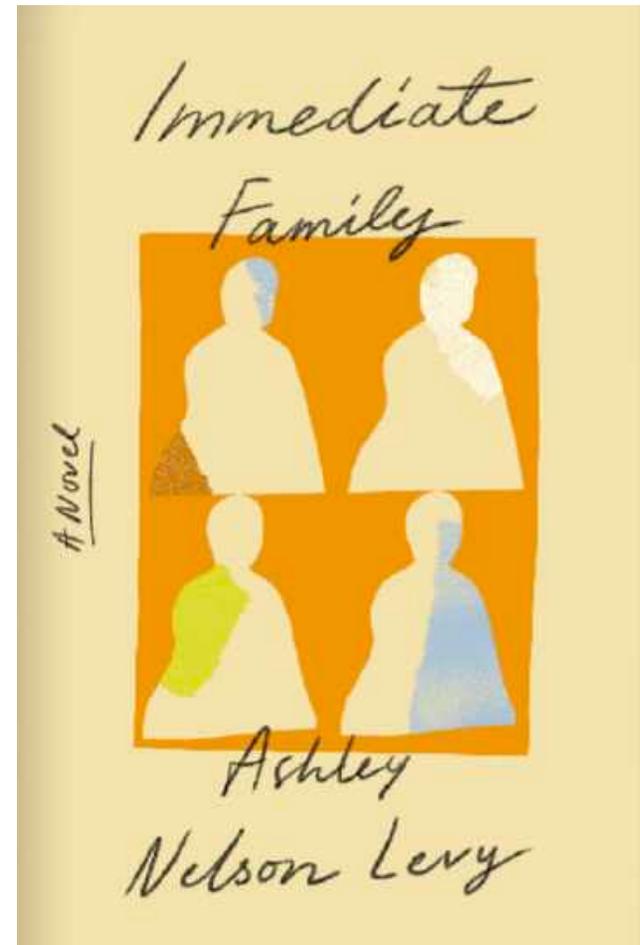
A tender and fierce debut novel that explores of the bond between two siblings—one the biological child and one adopted from an orphanage in Thailand.

It is the eve of her brother's wedding and Ashley is still struggling with her toast. Despite a recent fracture between them, her brother, Danny, has asked her to give a speech and she doesn't know where to begin, how to put words to their kind of love. Ashley was nine in 1994 when she traveled with her parents to Rangsit Babies' Home in Thailand to meet her little brother, six years her junior. They grew up together like any other siblings, sharing a bucolic childhood in sleepy Petaluma, California. Yet when Ashley holds their history up to the light, it refracts in ways she doesn't expect.

What follows is *Immediate Family*, a gorgeous and painful narrative addressed to Danny, an attempt at a full accounting of their years together, and a confession, of sorts, to the ways in which Ashley has kept him out, including her own struggle with infertility. The unreliability of memory comes into stark relief when Ashley begins to research adoption and trauma, scenes from literature, and the documents from Danny's case file, looking for answers to questions that have none. And as the hours till the wedding wane, Ashley comes up against an unexpected truth of her own, even as she finally finds words for the things that can't and won't be said aloud.

Ashley Nelson Levy's debut novel possesses a rare sensitivity, encapsulating the myriad ways we form families, both real and chosen.

Ashley Nelson Levy has published fiction and essays in *ZYZZYVA*, *Catapult*, *The Atlas Review*, and *Fourteen Hills*. She is the recipient of the Bambi Holmes Award for Emerging Writers. She received her MFA from Columbia University, where she was a Clein/Lemann Fellow. In 2015, she co-founded Transit Books, an independent publishing house with a focus on international literature.



“A testament to the reality that no family, regardless of origin or composition, is ever fully formed...by the time I turned the last page, this book that had undone me had also left me magnificently whole.”—**Anthony Marra, author of *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena***

“This unsparing and absorbing family portrait broke my heart and remade it a hundred times over.”—**Rachel Khong, author of *Goodbye Vitamin***

WILD MILK

Stories

By Sabrina Orah Mark

NA

Oct 2018 / Dorothy, a publishing project / US Editor: Danielle Dutton
Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

France (Éditions Do)

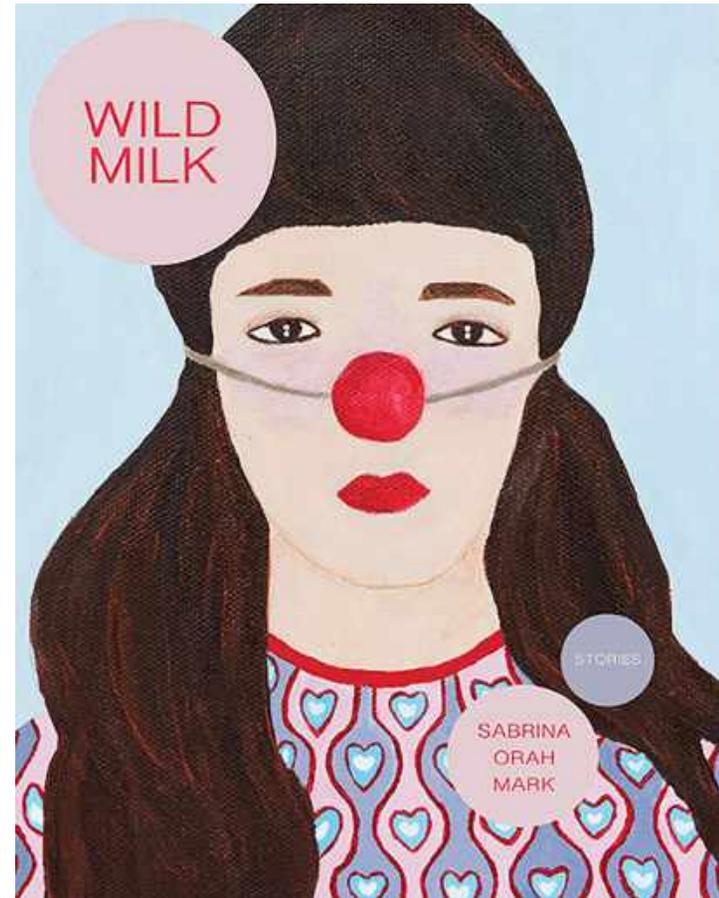
From the acclaimed author of The Paris Review's "Happily" column (and the forthcoming book Happily), a genre-expanding collection of stories that Publishers Weekly calls "perplexingly captivating" and "astonishing."

This first collection of short fiction by award-winning poet and Sabrina Orah Mark encompasses fairytales, absurdism, infantilized Presidents, Jewish families, angst, lips, skewed yet somehow inevitable logic, Samuel Beckett, surrealist daycare, songs, gripes, scribbles, and jokes taken far past their comfort zones. As is the signature of Mark's work, these are stories that take in our contemporary moment only to remake it into something stranger, something less obvious and possible.

Wild Milk is like Borscht Belt meets Leonora Carrington; it's like Donald Barthelme meets Pony Head; it's like the Brothers Grimm meet Beckett in his swim trunks at the beach. In other words, this remarkable collection of stories is unlike anything you've read.

Winner of the Georgia Author of the Year Award for Short Story Collection.

Sabrina Orah Mark has received fellowships from the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown, the Glenn Schaeffer Foundation, and The National Endowment for the Arts. Mark's poetry and stories most recently appear in *American Short Fiction*, *The Bennington Review*, *Tin House (Open Bar)*, *The Believer*, and she writes a monthly column for *The Paris Review*. She is the author of *Wild Milk* as well as the poetry collections *Tsim Tsum* and *The Babies*, both from Saturnalia Books. Her poetry has appeared in many journals and in the anthologies, *Legitimate Dangers: American Poets of the New Century* and *The Best American Poetry 2007*. Her essay collection *Happily* will be published by Random House in 2022 as well as a forthcoming collection of fiction.



STARRED REVIEW, *KIRKUS*

"The stories drift in the way of the best fairy tales--released from dependence on narrative sensibility to become both more odd and more true than any mere fiction...Stories in which laughter is sometimes the only response to sorrow, beauty is strange, and love is fierce and unending. A necessary book for our perilous age."

"A talent in the vein of Leonora Carrington, maintaining the strange dreamlike atmosphere of her fiction without losing its sense of substance, using skillfully interwoven images that create tight seams between each story."—*Paris Review Daily* staff pick

"Mark's collection is perplexingly captivating; she applies a poet's playful sensibilities to the fiction form and creates something astonishing and new."—*PW*

"Totally spellbinding and mesmerizing."—*Boston Globe*

ADVICE FOR LADY ADVENTURERS

A Novel

By Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb

WE

April 2021 / William Morrow (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Lucia Macro
Edited MS Available Spring 2021

1939: Feuding twin sisters, Maddie and Clara, are heartbroken over the death of their beloved grandmother, Alice, but a reading of Alice's will brings an unexpected surprise: in order to inherit the family home and estate, Maddie and Clara must embark on a journey around the world—together. An old book of newspaper clippings about the famous race undertaken by Nellie Bly and Elizabeth Bisland in 1889 will be their guide. If the sisters refuse the journey, or if they fail to complete it together, they will lose everything. But what Maddie and Clara don't yet know are the unusual circumstances surrounding the deeply personal connection between Nellie Bly and their grandmother.

Both in need of the financial security offered by the inheritance, but for very different reasons, the sisters reluctantly agree to accept their grandmother's quest. Not only are they ill-prepared to embark on such a journey, they are also shaken by what awaits them in a troubled Europe on the brink of war. As the Nazis close borders and families are separated, the sisters encounter a young Jewish boy searching for his mother. Now they must decide whether to continue their journey and head east to secure their inheritance, or abandon it, and bring the child to safety aboard the Queen Mary—his only chance of escape. Can Maddie and Clara put aside their differences and join together as their race around the world becomes a race for survival?

Hazel Gaynor is *The New York Times* and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Girl Who Came Home* and *A Memory of Violets*.

Historical fiction author, freelance editor, and teacher, **Heather Webb's** novels *Rodin's Lover* and *Becoming Josephine* have sold in six countries and received starred reviews. Her works have been featured in *The Wall Street Journal*, *Cosmopolitan*, *Elle*, and *The New York Journal of Books*.

NOBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY

A Novel

By Kelly McClorey

NA

June 2021 / Ecco (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Sara Birmingham
Edited MS available

Tender and laugh-out-loud funny, Nobody, Somebody, Anybody explores the shadowy corners of a young woman's inner world of grief, delusion, and self-loathing, revealing the creeping loneliness of modern life and our endless search for connection.

Amy Harney has a job as a chambermaid for the summer but on August 25th, she will take the exam to become an EMT (third time's the charm!) and finally move on with her life. In the meantime, she doesn't mind scrubbing toilets immaculately clean or tucking the sheet corners just so. In fact, she tells herself that her work is a noble act of service to the rich guests at the yacht club.

Amy's profound isolation colors everything: her job, her aspirations, even her interactions with the woman at the deli counter. And as the summer unfurls, Amy's anxiety ratchets up in a way that is both familiar and troubling. In desperation, she concocts a "placebo" program—a self-prescribed regimen for her confidence, devised to trick herself into succeeding.

When her landlord Gary starts to invite her over for dinner—to practice his cooking skills as he awaits approval of his Ukrainian fiancé's visa—Amy makes her first friend since her mother's passing. Alongside this unexpected connection comes a surge of hopeful obsession that Amy knows she must reckon with before the summer's end.

Like the work of Jen Beagin, Ottessa Moshfegh, and Sayaka Murata, McClorey explores the shadowy corners of a young woman's inner world and offers up a darkly comic vision of modern life and captures the hilarity and heartbreak of American ambition.

Kelly McClorey is a graduate of the MFA at the University of Montana. She lives in Massachusetts.

SURVIVE THE NIGHT

A Novel

By Riley Sager

NA

Summer 2021 / Dutton (PRH) / US Editor: Maya Ziv

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

It's November 1991. George Bush is in the White House, Nirvana's in the tape deck and 19-year-old Casey Jordan is in a Pontiac Grand Am being driven by a serial killer. Maybe.

The man behind the wheel is Josh Baxter, a virtual stranger to Casey—they met via the ride board posted in the campus commons. Both have good reason for leaving Olyphant University in the middle of the semester. For Josh, it's to help care for his father, debilitated by a stroke at age fifty. And for Casey, it's an unplanned pregnancy following a one-time encounter with an unnamed boy she met at a frat party. Buzzing like white noise in the background of their personal problems is news that the Campus Killer, who's tied up and stabbed three college students in the span of a year, has struck again, this time at Olyphant.

As they travel the formidable stretch of Pennsylvania between campus and their final destination of Youngstown, Ohio, Casey begins to notice discrepancies in Josh's story. While searching for a map in the glove compartment, she finds a knife. A quick glance at his driver's license reveals that Josh isn't his real name. And during a break at an interstate rest stop, she discovers rope and a blood-stained rag in the trunk. Almost certain she's sharing a car with the Campus Killer, Casey knows she needs to get away from Josh and alert the police. That proves difficult when an interstate-closing accident forces them onto Dead River Road, a desolate byway in the Poconos studded with run-down gas stations and vacant roadside motels. As Casey plans her escape, she begins to suspect that Josh knows exactly what she's thinking—and that she could very well end up becoming his next victim.

What follows is a game of cat and mouse played out on night-shrouded roads and in neon-lit parking lots, during an age when the only call for help can be made on a pay phone and in a place where there's nowhere to run. In order to win, Casey must do only one thing—survive the night.

Riley Sager is the author of the *New York Times* bestselling novels, *Lock Every Door*, *The Last Time I Lied*, and *Final Girls*.

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

A Novel

By Kathy Wang

NA

Summer 2021 / William Morrow(HarperColins) / US Editor: Kate Nintzel

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

From the author of FAMILY TRUST comes a new novel best described as Red Sparrow meets The Social Network.

Julia Lerner is the most powerful female technology executive in the world. She is the COO of Tangerine, the internet giant/social network, gives speeches about gender equality, and has a very good looking husband. She is also a Russian asset.

As Julia's power grows, her handlers begin to press for more intelligence, placing her career, plush lifestyle, and family at risk. At the same time, Alice, a junior analyst at Tangerine, has just discovered an anonymous employee stealing user data from Tangerine's network. As Alice searches for this unknown employee, the demands from Julia's handlers increase, and the pressure drives both women down their individual paths until the increasing risk forces a final confrontation.

Kathy Wang grew up in Northern California and holds degrees from UC Berkeley and Harvard Business School. She lives in the Bay Area with her husband and two children.

Publishers of FAMILY TRUST:

Simplified Chinese (Fonghong) UK/Comm (Head of Zeus)

Praise for FAMILY TRUST:

STARRED REVIEW, PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY

"Astute...[Wang] brings levity and candor to the tricky terrain of family dynamics, aging, and excess [and] expertly considers the values of high-tech high society."

STARRED REVIEW, LIBRARY JOURNAL

"Readers who enjoy complicated novels about family issues will find this engrossing work impossible to put down."

"A globe-trotting, whirlwind, tragi-comic family saga that wrings tears from absurdity and laughter from loss. A joy to read from start to finish."—Andrew Greer

THE BACHELOR

A Novel

By Andrew Palmer

WE

Summer 2021 / Hogarth (PRH) / US Editor: Alexis Washam
Edited MS Available Fall 2020

A story about love and commitment, poetry and basketball, obsession, truth, the male gaze, and, yes, reality TV.

“A pitch perfect story of the self-conscious agonies of searching for someone to marry, composed with a mastery of free indirect style; a piece of art as dizzying as the technological and cultural changes of its time.”—**Salvatore Scibona, author of *The Volunteer***

Reeling from a breakup with his almost-fiancé, the narrator of Palmer’s novel returns to his hometown in Iowa to house-sit for a family friend. There, he’s plunged into unlikely twin obsessions: the reality TV show *The Bachelor* and the work and life of Pulitzer Prize-winning poet (and notorious womanizer) John Berryman. As our narrator’s isolation deepens and he dives further into each, the dark thread that joins his world to theirs begins to grow and strengthen. An encounter with a beautiful young woman at the dry-cleaners, a fresh correspondence with an old friend, and a growing flirtation with his new landlord all begin to take on a strange new weight.

When he travels from the blustery frozen plains of Iowa to a glass house in the mountains of Northern California, a promising “contestant” or “suitor” finally emerges from the pack. But what, exactly, is this game he’s playing and who is Berryman, *The Bachelor*, the narrator, really? In addicting prose that recalls the emotional intelligence and skewering insight of writers like Ben Lerner, Elif Batuman, and Sally Rooney, Palmer’s novel examines our culture’s stilted approach to love, desire, and what constitutes art. In an era in which reality TV can slingshot Donald Trump into the presidency, make two dozen women love one man in six weeks, spawn this, and this, where does art exist, entertainment end, and reality begin?

Andrew Palmer has written about “The Bachelor,” a reality TV show that launched in 2002 and is now in its 22nd season, for *Slate* and *The Paris Review Daily*. His work has also appeared in the *Times Literary Supplement*, *Salon*, the *San Francisco Chronicle*, the *New Yorker’s* daily “Shouts and Murmurs” and more.

THE LAST MONA LISA

A Novel

By Jonathan Santlofer

NA

Fall 2021 / Sourcebooks / US Editor: Shana Drehs
Edited MS Available in Spring 2021

Here are the facts: On August 21, 1911, the Mona Lisa was stolen from the Louvre by Vincent Peruggia, who not long before had been fired by the museum. Exactly what happened to Leonardo Da Vinci’s masterpiece during the two years before it was recovered and returned is unknown. Indeed, it is speculated that the painting in the Louvre could be a forgery, switched at the time of the infamous theft.

A fast-pasted tale of second guesses and double crosses that keep changing the picture, right until the harrowing finish. The novel opens as Vincent Peruggia removes the *Mona Lisa* from the walls of the Louvre, whisking it away into the Parisian night and into the hands of the Marquis de Valfiero and the art forger Yves Chaudron.

More than a century later, Luke Perrone, a professor of art on the cusp of tenure, arrives in Florence. Luke’s career as a painter is tenuous and he jumps at the chance to solve a hundred-year-old mystery and twenty years of research in pursuit of his family’s most famous criminal ancestor: Vincent Peruggia. Luke soon unknowingly becomes embroiled in a game of cat and mouse that takes him from Florence to Paris and back to New York. What Perrone does not know, is that the people involved in art theft and forgery are not only unscrupulous, but often dangerous.

And people are beginning to die ...

Reminiscent of bestselling authors like Steve Berry, Raymond Khoury, and Martin Walker who infuse history into their storytelling, the novel will also appeal to readers of Donna Leon, Cara Black, Martin Walker, and Anthony Horowitz whose bestselling books take readers into richly evoked milieus in classic, one might even say call them old-fashioned, thrillers.

Jonathan Santlofer is an artist and award winning writer, most recently of the critically acclaimed memoir, *The Widower’s Notebook*. His debut novel, *The Death Artist*, an international bestseller, is currently in development for screen adaptation. His paintings and drawings are included in many public and private collections.

THE DISBELIEVERS

A Novel

By Doma Mahmoud

NA

Fall 2021 / Unnamed Press / US Editor: Olivia Taylor Smith

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

The novel tells the story of three families from different social classes, whose lives are closely intertwined throughout, exploring the barriers—cultural, physical, religious, political—between the three.

Sherif Abdallah is a senior at New York University, luxuriating in American decadence, unshackled from the conservatism and ever watchful God dictating his life back home in Egypt. That is, until a terrorist attack on the 10th anniversary of 9/11 cleaves Sherif's life in two, and the police show up at his apartment door, asking questions about his cousin Amir.

Ten years earlier, it's New Year's Eve in Cairo. Zeina plays the forced sidekick to her mother Salma, a domestic worker for a wealthy family. She passes the time in a locked room—for her own protection—until Madame Alia's party winds down, marking the end of Salma's shift. Little does Zeina know, or her twin brothers Mustafa and Omar, free to ring in the New Year by themselves at home in the slums across the Nile, that their lives are about to change.

Intertwined with their story is that of the family Salma serves: Madame Alia and her son Taymour; descendants of the minority landowning elite whose absurd wealth came at the expense of Egypt's peasant population. It would take nothing less than a revolution, a true new world order, to threaten their luxurious way of life.

Meditating on the boundaries of free will, and exploring questions about nature versus nurture, class, hedonism, faith, violence, and Islam, the novel is for lovers of *Kite Runner* and *The Beekeeper of Aleppo*.

Adham “Doma” Mahmoud was born and raised in Cairo, Egypt. He is a full-time instructor of Rhetoric and Composition at the American University of Cairo. He received his BA and (at just 21) MFA from NYU, where he was mentored by Zadie Smith, Jonathan Safran Foer, Nathan Englander, and Joyce Carol Oates. *The Disbelievers* is his debut novel. He is 25.

THE WILD ONE

A Novel

By Colleen McKeegan

NA

Fall 2021 / HarperCollins / US Editor: Sarah Stein

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

The Wild One follows Amanda Brooks, a born-and-bred New Yorker harboring a dark past.

It all starts the year she turns eleven and is banished to a summer at Camp Catalpa, an all-girls sleepaway camp in middle-of-nowhere Pennsylvania. While at camp, Amanda begins to target her nerdy cabinmate Catherine Wagner to impress the camp's cool girl. Until one night, when a prank goes awry and Amanda and Catherine find themselves alone and lost in the woods. There, they meet a new, mysterious girl named Meg O'Hea. Together, the three encounter a dangerous situation... One that ends with a man dead. They silently vow to keep the details of what they saw to themselves, forever tying the three. Over a decade later, Amanda falls in love and, under the dizzying spell of her new boyfriend, she shares their secret. When her relationship turns turbulent and the secret is used as a ruse to keep her from leaving, Amanda finally has to confront her past demons. She reunites with Catherine and Meg for the first time since that summer, and together they navigate how to help Amanda break free.

With chapters alternating between present and past, *The Wild One* turns the familiar summer camp setting on its head, dipping into the dark edges of the forest to craft a narrative about childhood trauma and the scars, both debilitating and empowering, that shape our futures—as well as the undeniable power of female friendship. *The Wild One* is Jessica Knoll's *Luckiest Girl Alive* meets Meg Wolitzer's *The Interestings*. It will resonate with readers between 16-35ish who are fans of books with vivid atmospheres and emotion-heavy plots.

Colleen McKeegan is a freelance writer based in New York. She was most recently a senior features editor at *Marie Claire*, where she was nominated for a National Magazine Award. Before joining *Marie Claire*, she worked at *Bloomberg*, *Fortune*, *The New Yorker*, and *Bicycling* magazine. She's a graduate of Georgetown University and currently lives in Westchester with her husband, their son, and their mutt Sydney.

O BEAUTIFUL

A Novel

By Jung Yun

NA

Fall 2021 / St. Marin's Press (Macmillan) / US Editor: Anna DeVries
Edited MS Available Spring 2021

Written in Jung Yun's stunningly precise and gorgeous prose, O Beautiful is a powerful narrative as well as a compelling commentary on race, socioeconomic power and mobility, and what it means to be a woman in America.

O Beautiful tells the story of Elinor Hanson, a striking Korean-American journalist and former model who, as the novel opens, is embarking on her first major magazine assignment on the cultural impact of the North American oil boom as exemplified by the economic explosion in Avery, North Dakota, a small town, two hours from where she and her sister, Maren had grown up. Elinor booked modeling jobs for as long as she could, not returning to college until her mid-thirties and attending graduate school at thirty-nine. Richard, her graduate school mentor had recommended Elinor for this potentially career-changing article with the prestigious Standard, she assumes because of her North Dakota history. We soon learn that Elinor is returning to her birthplace with trepidation and with years of unresolved trauma. As Elinor delves deeper into her assignment and into the heart of Avery itself, she uncovers dark secrets about its inhabitants, the assignment's true origins, about herself and about the country she calls home.

Jung Yun's work has appeared in *Tin House* (the "Emerging Voices" issue); *The Best of Tin House: Stories*; and *The Massachusetts Review*. She has an MFA from the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. Yun received an honorable mention for the Pushcart Prize and was awarded an Artist's Fellowship in fiction from the Massachusetts Cultural Council. Her debut novel, *Shelter*, was published in 2016 by Picador.

WHITE ON WHITE

A Novel

By Ayşegül Savaş

NA

Fall 2021 / Riverhead (PRH) / US Editor: Laura Perciasepe
Edited MS Available

Rights Sold:
Dutch (Kievenaar & Vijn)

Expanded from the author's 2019 New Yorker story "Canvas", White on White is a sharp exploration of empathy and cruelty, and the stunning discovery of what it means to be truly vulnerable, and laid bare.

An art-history student moves to the city to research Gothic nudes. She rents an apartment from a painter, Agnes, who lives in another town with her husband. One day, Agnes arrives in the city and settles into the upstairs studio.

In their meetings on the stairs, in the studio, at the corner café, the kitchen at dawn, Agnes tells stories of her youth, her family, her marriage, and ideas for her art – which is always just about to be created. As the months pass, it becomes clear that Agnes might not have a place to return to. The student is increasingly aware of Agnes's disintegration. Her stories are frenetic; her art scattered and unfinished, white paint on a white canvas. What emerges is the menacing sense that every life is always at the edge of disaster, no matter its seeming stability. Alongside the research into human figures, the student is learning, from a cool distance, about the narrow divide between happiness and resentment, creativity and madness, contentment and chaos.

Publishers of WALKING ON THE CEILING:

Dutch (Kievenaar & Vijn) Romanian (Storia)
German (btb / PRH) Spanish (Planeta Mexico)

Ayşegül Savaş is a Turkish writer living in Paris. Her first novel, *Walking on the Ceiling*, was published by Riverhead Books and her writing has appeared in or is forthcoming from *The New Yorker*, *Granta*, *The Guardian*, *Guernica*, *The Paris Review*, *The Dublin Review*, among others.

BEND YOU TO REMAIN

A Novel

By Tsering Lama

NA

Fall 2021 / Bloomsbury / US Editor: Grace McNamee

Edited MS Available in Spring 2021

What if survival means leaving behind your land, your family, even your gods?

The year is 1959 and Mao Tsetung's Red Army has invaded Tibet. Following the escape of the Dalai Lama, the village oracle leads her entire community, including her two daughters and husband, into exile. On the mountainous border between Nepal and Tibet, they live in limbo as rations dwindle, people grow sick, and rumors swirl of nearby guerilla battles and possible help from the Americans. So begins *Bend You To Remain*, the sixty-year story of a single Tibetan family's journey through Nepal and North America.

Lhamo and her sister Tenkyi are the first generation to have memories of their homeland but must survive in the refugee camps; Lhamo's daughter Dolma joins her aunt Tenkyi in Canada while leaving her mother behind. And Samphal is a fatherless boy whose story is tied deeply to the three women and a statue of a mysterious, unnamed saint that seems to watch over their family. Titled after a line from Hamlet, the novel is a meditation of profound displacement, parental hauntings and the enduring connections to our families and pasts, an indictment of colonialism as well as a love story. It is an homage to women who break social norms, to the beauty in survival, and also a critique of Western scholarship on Tibet. It is about the transfer of stolen antiquities across borders as well as the transfer of refugees and their stories, following in the footsteps of Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing* and Min Jin Lee's *Pachinko*.

Tsering Lama has earned an MFA from Columbia University. She has received grants and residencies from Tin House, Vermont Studio Center, Hedgebrook, the Canada Council for the Arts, and the Barbara Deming Memorial Fund, among many others.

THE ELEPHANT FIGHTER

A Novel

By Wanda M. Morris

NA

Fall 2021/ William Morrow (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Asanté Simons

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

Rights Sold:

Brazilian Portuguese (Companhia Editora Nacional)

A fast-paced thriller in the twisty style of How to Get Away with Murder featuring a Black female protagonist, as well as a stirring tale of sibling love, loyalty, and the identities we create to protect ourselves and those we love. Powerful themes of race, class, privilege, and gender are explored in the narrative as Morris shifts timelines between 1970s rural Georgia and the "new South" of present-day Atlanta.

The book opens in August 1979 and 14-year-old Ellie is waiting for a bus to take her North to boarding school—and away from the dangerous whispers and suspicions floating through town. Beside her, little brother Sam and “Aunt” Vera, her only protector, say their goodbyes. Thirty years later, Ellice seemingly has it all — Ivy league degrees, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney in downtown Atlanta, a hilarious best friend who's always got her back, and a ‘for fun’ relationship with a rich, charming man—who just happens to be her boss. But Ellice also has a cache of dark secrets and a small town past she's spent years hiding. When her white boss is found dead of an apparent suicide, Ellice is asked to replace him as General Counsel. The CEO blithely compares her position as the lone black C-Suite executive to “gravy on a biscuit.” Ellice has been dealing with this type of racial bigotry for years but professional success is her goal.

But soon after settling in, she uncovers an ugly side to the company—one where money laundering is just the tip of a much more sinister scheme—and her boss's death may be tied to it all. Ellice's past and present lives collide as she launches into a pulse-pounding race to protect the brother she tried to save years ago and stop a terrifying plot bigger than she ever imagined, from unfolding. A thriller with heft, *The Elephant Fighter* is comparable to the works of Attica Locke and Dennis Lehane. *The Elephant Fighter* is also reminiscent of Celeste Ng and Harlan Coben, each of whom steep their novels with themes around class and privilege, family and relationships.

Wanda M. Morris is a corporate attorney in Atlanta. She has studied at the Yale Writers Workshop and Robert McKee's Story Seminar.

THE MAN WHO SOLD AIR IN THE HOLY LAND

Stories

By Omer Friedlander

NA

Fall 2021 / Penguin Random House / US Editor: Robin Dresser

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

The ten marvelously imaginative stories set in different conflict zones in the Middle East – the Negev Desert, Jerusalem, Beirut, the West Bank – where war is the background landscape to a world where people young and old, Israeli and Palestinian, reach out to connect across sharply drawn political and religious boundaries, often in surprising ways. Heart-wrenching moments of fragile intimacy with comic notes of the absurd and fairy tales turned on their heads.

The collection is filled with characters who are outcasts, sometimes on the fringes of society: junk collectors, con artists, smugglers, loners, and those who are haunted by the past. In “Checkpoint” an Israeli woman who volunteers for a Palestinian rights organization is mourning the death of her son, a soldier killed in the last war in Gaza. In “Jaffa Oranges,” the elderly Israeli owner of one of the country’s last orange groves confronts the secrets of his past when he is suddenly visited by the Palestinian granddaughter of his childhood friend. In the title story, “The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land,” a divorced con-artist enlists his young daughter’s help to sell empty bottles of air to gullible American tourists. As the con fails, he begins to lose everything, his home, his possessions, even his daughter. In the end, his get-rich-quick schemes are all “castles in the air.” *The Man Who Sold Air in the Holy Land* arrives with the highest praise from Sigrid Nunez and Rebecca Makkai. Makkai, who chose one of Omer’s stories as winner of the 2020 Sonora Review Competition, declared, “I found it captivating and different, and I’d follow this writer anywhere.” Nunez, Omer’s thesis advisor for his MFA at Boston University, said, “From sophisticated narrative structure, to the creation of vivid, original characters, to distinctive prose style— this collection is truly remarkable.”

Fans of Nathan Englander, Jonathan Safran Foer, and Michel Chabon will be captivated by Omer’s work. At the same time, like the characters in Moriel Rothman-Zecher’s *Sadness is a White Bird*, his stories transcend the borders of region and religion, with a universal appeal to the heart.

Omer Friedlander was born in Jerusalem and grew up in Tel-Aviv, and he currently lives in Brooklyn, NY.

THE LANGUAGE OF DREAMS

A Novel

By Heather Webb

NA

Fall 2021 / Sourcebooks / US Editor: Shana Drehs

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

Ellis Island, 1902. A young Italian woman arrives on the shores of America, her sights set on a better life.

That same day, a young German woman reports to her first day of work with the immigrant processing center. Francesca is desperate to escape the tragedy of Ellis Island; Alma is horrified by the corruption she sees at her new job. As Francesca resorts to desperate measures to ensure she will make it off the island, Alma realizes her dreams of becoming a translator, while her world spins closer and closer to Francesca’s plight. As the two women face the atrocities of a system known to batter and abuse immigrants searching for new hope in America, they form an unlikely friendship—and a terrible secret—that will change both of their lives forever.

A sweeping epic inspired by true events—Teddy Roosevelt’s decision to clean up criminality on Ellis Island—Webb’s novel is meticulously researched and thoughtfully plotted. It is a story of immigrant strength, and also of female friendship; of the power and resilience women find in one another on even our darkest days. Webb thoughtfully excavates the social and political issues of the era, holding a mirror up to our own times, as she deftly questions America’s history of prejudice and exclusion while also reminding us of our citizens’ singular determination. Given the political climate today and the never-ending question of how to impose immigration reform, this topic proves itself as timely today as it was a hundred years ago.

Heather Webb is the co-author with Hazel Gaynor of *Meet Me in Monaco* and *Last Christmas in Paris*, as well as the editor of the anthology *Ribbons of Scarlet*.

GO HOME, RICKY!

A Novel

By Gene Kwak

NA

Fall 2021 / The Overlook Press / US Editor: Tracy Carns

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

A rollicking and original debut about masculinity and tenderness, fatherhood and motherhood, race and appropriation, vulnerability and loss, and semi-professional wrestling.

“Gene Kwak is an enormously talented young writer who has a way of untangling race and masculinity with a lot more humor and originality than any of his contemporaries.”—**Catherine Lacey, author of *Pew***

After seven years on the circuit, Ricky Twohatchet, recognized by the government as Richard Powell, needs one last semi-pro match, one last turn as heel, before he gets the call to the big leagues. Unlike some wrestlers who only play the stereotype, Ricky comes by his persona honestly—he’s half white and half Native American and he takes pride in how he’s built his character. But the night of the match, deep in the belly of the Sokol in Omaha, Nebraska, something askew in the match’s intricate choreography sets him on a course for disaster. He finishes with a neck injury that leaves him in a restrictive brace, and with a video already going viral: him in full headdress, spewing profanities at his opponent Johnny America. Injury aside, he’s out of the league. Housebound by his recovery, he misses his workouts, his colleagues from the league, even his gig as a janitor at his high school alma mater and the kids he mentors from an afterschool group for Native teens. And reeling from a recent break-up, Ricky sets out to discover more about who he is without wrestling by hunting down his own estranged father. What he finds will explode everything he knows. But it will also offer a way forward that he could never have imagined. Kwak’s debut draws a clear line from the muscular, voice-driven prose of Barry Hannah and Harry Crews, to a new generation of writers like Tommy Orange, Matt Sumell, Halle Butler and Gabe Habash. Kwak investigates questions of identity, gender, power, the body, and who gets to own what story.

Gene Kwak is the author of two chapbooks: *Orphans Burning Orphans* and a self-titled collection. His work has appeared in *The Los Angeles Review of Books*, *The Rumpus*, *Wigleaf*, *Paper Darts*, *Redivider*, *Hobart*, *Electric Literature*, and in the flash anthology *Forward: 21st Century Flash Fiction*. He is from Omaha, Nebraska.

CHEVY IN THE HOLE

A Novel

By Kelsey Ronan

NA

Spring 2022 / Henry Holt (Macmillan) / US Editor: Caroline Zancan

Edited MS Available Fall 2021

Chevy in the Hole is a 130-acre vacant lot in Flint, the former site of GM’s assembly line, where 14,000 workers were employed during Flint’s peak. Once a potent symbol of Flint’s promise, thirty years of decay and disuse later, the site is evolving into a nature reserve.

When Gus Molloy returns home to Flint for another shot at sobriety, he takes to wandering through the empty fields of Chevy in the Hole. On another plot of the city’s reused land, Gus falls in love with Monae, an urban farmer trying to coax a tenuous rebirth from the damaged land. Their troubled personal and family histories are inextricably tied to Flint’s growth and decline, throwing up roadblocks to their budding love. While Gus and Monae are dreaming up an urban oasis together in Flint, the city’s water supply is being quietly poisoned. Flint, along with their burgeoning family and their hopes for the future, are threatened again. Woven throughout *Chevy in the Hole* are the stories of Gus and Monae’s families, exploring how generations survive the troubled city. In 1937, Gus’s great-grandmother runs supplies to the strikers at Chevrolet while her husband, a luckless salesman, daydreams of riches. Meanwhile, Monae’s grandmother, Esther Williams, arrives during the Great Migration to confront the limitations of “GM Crow.” One of Esther’s sons finds his political voice in the civil rights movement while another works at the ill-fated theme park AutoWorld. The families collide one night at the Holiday Inn when Keith Moon drives a Cadillac into its swimming pool.

Chevy in the Hole is a love letter to Flint. The city reverberates through these families and friendships, uncovering its every corner, rising and falling with the fortunes of its inhabitants. An unforgettable novel about love and betrayal, race and family: about what people need from each other and from the city that they call home. In the spirit of Angela Flournoy’s *The Turner House*, *Chevy in the Hole* tells the story of Flint with remarkable humanity and empathy.

Born and raised in Flint, Michigan, **Kelsey Ronan**’s work has been published in *Kenyon Review*, *Literary Hub*, *Michigan Quarterly Review*, *New Ohio Review*, *Utne Reader*, and elsewhere.

THE COMMUNITY BOARD

A Novel

By Tara Conklin

WE

Spring 2022 / William Morrow (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Kate Nintzel
Edited MS Available Fall 2021

In the suburban New England town of Murbridge, things are disappearing. A stop sign, a garden gnome, a pork tenderloin, a lilac tree dug from the ground. Who's to blame? What does it mean?

When Darcy Clipper returns to her hometown, she's reeling from a series of personal calamities: divorce, job loss, dead cat, bad haircut. She volunteers to serve as moderator for the Murbridge community message board, hoping she'll find her place once more in the town she knows and loves best. But when a proposal to build a homeless shelter erupts into controversy, long-simmering divisions are revealed and Darcy realizes that the quaint, nurturing place she remembers has changed irrevocably.

As Darcy struggles to re-build her life and sense of self, she uses the message board—in her own misguided but genuine way—to unite neighbors and bring back a sense of community and understanding. Along the way she finds a lost friend, grows out her bangs, acquires a menagerie of pets, and discovers who exactly is responsible for the disappearances plaguing the town of Murbridge. Told through board posts and draft emails Darcy never quite gets around to sending, *The Community Board* is the story of a woman learning to live alone and a town learning to live with itself. Funny, sweet and timely, *The Community Board* will appeal to fans of *Where'd You Go Bernadette?* and *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*.

Tara Conklin is a writer and former lawyer whose first novel, *The House Girl*, was a *New York Times* bestseller, #1 IndieNext pick, Target book club pick and has been translated into 8 languages. Her second novel, *The Last Romantics*, published in February 2019 and was also a *New York Times* bestseller.

THE BODY SCOUT

A Novel

By Lincoln Michel

NA

Spring 2022 / Orbit (Hachette) / US Editor: Angeline Rodriguez
Edited MS Available Fall 2021

In this debut, satirical, sci-fi thriller, we grapple with the limitations of the body, the soul, and baseball.

The Body Scout is set in a future New York wallowing in income inequality and yellow smog. Baseball scout Kobo has some problems. His cybernetics are a decade out of date, and he's got a pair of twin sister loan sharks knocking on his door. He ekes out a living working for a league run by pharmaceutical companies. Then his childhood best friend—Monsanto Mets slugger J.J. Zunz—is murdered at home plate.

Kobo's quest to find the killer leads him through the dark corners and glittering cloud condos of a world where genetic editing and advanced drugs mean you can have any body you want—as long as you can afford it. Filled with philosophical Neanderthals, zootech weapons, and genetically modified CEOs who decorate their offices with living bio-sculptures, *The Body Scout* is a satirical thriller set in an all-too-possible future.

Lincoln Michel is the author of the story collection *Upright Beasts* (Coffee House Press, 2015), which was named a best book of the year by *Buzzfeed* and reviewed in the *New York Times*; *Vanity Fair*; *O, The Oprah Magazine*; *Tor.com* and elsewhere. His fiction and poetry appear *The Paris Review*, *Granta*, *Tin House*, *Strange Horizons*, *Vice's Motherboard*, and the *Pushcart Prize* anthology. His essays and criticism have been published by *The New York Times*, *GQ*, *Rolling Stone*, and *The Guardian*. He is the former editor-in-chief of *Electric Literature*. He is the co-editor of the science fiction anthology *Gigantic Worlds* (Gigantic Books 2015), the flash noir anthology *Tiny Crimes* (Catapult, 2018), and the forthcoming horror anthology *Tiny Nightmares* (Catapult, 2020). He teaches speculative fiction writing in the MFA programs at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University.

WILDCAT

A Novel

By Amelia Morris

NA

Spring 2022 / Flatiron (Macmillan) / US Editor: Megan Lynch

Edited MS Available Fall 2021

A timely and sharply observed social comedy about motherhood, friendship, ambition, vaccination and misinformation.

New mother, aspiring writer, and former shopgirl Leanne has lost her way. It began months ago when her son Hank was born in the same week as her father's passing. As she struggles with both her grief and the haze of new motherhood, it also becomes clear that her best friend, the default queen of East Side Los Angeles, Regina Mark, might not actually be a friend at all. On the eve of her first book's release, when she should be celebrating, Leanne instead receives a call from the CDC and rushes her baby in for an emergency measles vaccination. There's an outbreak in Los Angeles and Hank was exposed on a visit to the Getty museum. During the agonizing wait to see if Hank will develop symptoms, Leanne must confront the suspicion she's been harboring for months: Is Regina really spreading misinformation about vaccines online? And what began as a crack in the foundations of Leanne and Regina's relationship ruptures into something greater. Leanne's desire for the truth—about anti-vaxxers, the effects of the disease, and about Regina—drives her, finally, to action. As Leanne begins to investigate, she also strikes up an unexpected friendship with the reclusive and lauded writer Maxine Hunter. For the first time since she can remember Leanne seeks power and truth wherever she can, whether that's in diving deep into public health policy, in listening to the messages her father is sending from beyond the grave, or in holding her own against a petulant student in her creative writing class. Most of all, however, she looks for it within Maxine who offers Leanne something new.

In a novel with the skewering smarts of *Where's You Go Bernadette* and the insights of Jami Attenberg's *All Grown Up*, Morris lovingly chronicles the anxieties—real and imagined—of one woman's journey into motherhood against the backdrop of a society that plays fast and loose with information.

Amelia Morris is the author of the memoir *Bon Appétit* and her work has appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, *McSweeney's*, *The Millions*, and *USA Today*. She is also the co-creator of the podcast, *Mom Rage* and lives in Los Angeles.

ISLANDERS

A Novel

By Meghan Gilliss

WE

Fall 2022 / Catapult / US Editor: Kendall Storey

Edited MS Available Fall 2021

After the death of her grandmother, Tuck and her husband seek refuge on an abandoned family island off the coast of Maine. With her young daughter Agnes in tow, how has she arrived in this beloved, wild, isolated place in such a state—grief-stricken, no money, no work, unsure of what and who she married?

In the months leading up to their decampment from the city, her husband Paul had been disappearing for days at a time, reappearing with an unfamiliar smell lingering on his skin. While Paul detoxes on the island, Tuck scrounges for ways to survive, with Agnes at her hip. Electricity is scarce and hot water must be worked for, and yet the island itself, a place where Tuck spent feral summers as a child, is still a comfort. Survival here—different from survival in the city—is urgent, but not without joy: She forages rose hips from the bushes along the beaches, mussels from the rocks by the water, berries, seaweed, and whatever else she can find. She revives a failed business of her father's, stretching whatever meager sums come in. She dreads the arrival of both Winter, which will make living on the island impossible, or the Law, whose handling of the estate could mean the island slips from their hands for good. But when Paul gets a job with a small lobstering outfit, and Tuck hears news from her father, she invites in a dangerous and slippery stranger: hope.

With exquisite prose that traces a line from the work of Amy Hempel, Chloe Aridjis, Bonnie Jo Campbell, Anna Noyes, and even Paul Harding, Gilliss explores the wild, unknown spaces of what makes a family, a marriage, a person, and of our capacity to concede ourselves in order to begin again. *Islanders* is a brilliant and heartbreaking novel about addiction and doubt, the ground that is ever-shifting beneath our feet.

Meghan Gilliss has worked as a journalist in West Marin County, California; as the founder and owner of Get Lost Bookshop in Columbia, Missouri; and as a public library and now hospital worker in Portland, Maine.

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