



Spring 2021 Fiction Rights Guide

A E V I T A S
Creative Management

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE REDSHIRT

RAFT OF STARS

THE ROCK EATERS

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

SURVIVE THE NIGHT

THREE WORDS FOR GOODBYE

NOBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY

THE BACHELOR

THE LAST MONA LISA

IMMEDIATE FAMILY

THE BODY SCOUT

O, BEAUTIFUL

THE UNKNOWN WOMAN OF THE SEINE

ALL HER LITTLE SECRETS

THE LIGHT PIRATE

GO HOME, RICKY!

CAIRO CIRCLES

THE ALMOST QUEEN

WHITE ON WHITE

BEND YOU TO REMAIN

NEXT SHIP HOME

WALK THE VANISHED EARTH

THE MAN WHO SOLD AIR IN THE HOLY LAND

WILD CAT

CHEVY IN THE HOLE

THE COMMUNITY BOARD

FOR THE LOVE OF THE BARD

THE WILD ONE

NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED...

MORE OF EVERYTHING

FLIGHT

ISLANDERS

EXOSKELETONS

THE MYTHMAKERS

THE REDSHIRT

A Novel

By Corey Sobel

NA

October 2020 / University Press of Kentucky

Final PDF Available

Shortlisted for 2020 Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize

Corey Sobel challenges tenacious stereotypes in this compelling debut novel, shedding new light on the hypermasculine world of American football.

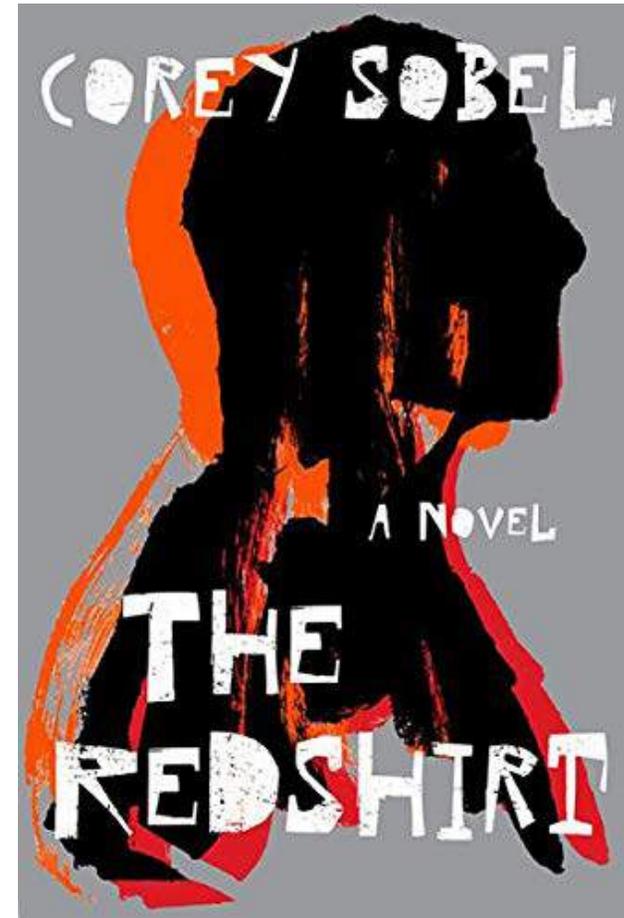
The Redshirt introduces Miles Furling, a young man who is convinced he was placed on earth to play football. Deep in the closet, he sees the sport as a means of gaining a permanent foothold in a culture that would otherwise reject him. Still, Miles's body lags behind his ambitions, and recruiters tell him he is not big enough to compete at the top level. His dreams come true when a letter arrives from King College.

The elite southern school boasts one of the best educations in America and one of the worst Division One football programs. King football is filled with obscure, ignored players like Miles—which is why he and the sports world in general are shocked when the country's top recruit, Reshawn McCoy, also chooses to attend the college. As brilliant a student as he is a player, the intensely private Reshawn refuses to explain why he chose King over other programs.

Miles is as baffled as everyone else, and less than thrilled when he winds up rooming with the taciturn Reshawn. Initially at odds with each other, the pair become confidants as the win-at-all-costs program makes brutal demands on their time and bodies. When their true selves and the identities that have been imposed on them by the game collide, both young men are forced to make life-changing choices.

Corey Sobel was born in Colorado and spent his childhood moving around the United States with his family of seven. He attended Duke University on a football scholarship and has since researched HIV/AIDS in North Carolina and Kenya, and served as a researcher for international development organizations around the world.

"The Redshirt is an absorbing portrait of the culture of college athletics as expressed at an institution determined to move from loser to winner at football."*—The New York Journal of Books*



"Sobel debuts with an incisive, sweeping portrait of a secretly gay college football player. The author captures Reshawn's frustration and Miles's conflicted desires in sharp prose. Sobel's fervent, literary treatment of sexuality and masculinity perfectly captures the messy world of college sports."*—Publishers Weekly*

"Like the best sports-focused books that expand to and endure in broader cultural circles, *The Redshirt* is about so much more than the game it's built around, college football. It's about identity and race and class and sex and systems and how our old ideals of masculinity have fared in the new century. It's both a brutal reckoning and a tender elegy."*—Esquire*

"The Redshirt is an understated yet seething novel about what it means to be a man and is one of the best football novels to come along in recent years."*—NPR*

RAFT OF STARS

A Novel

By Andrew J. Graff

NA

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

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

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

French (Gallmeister)

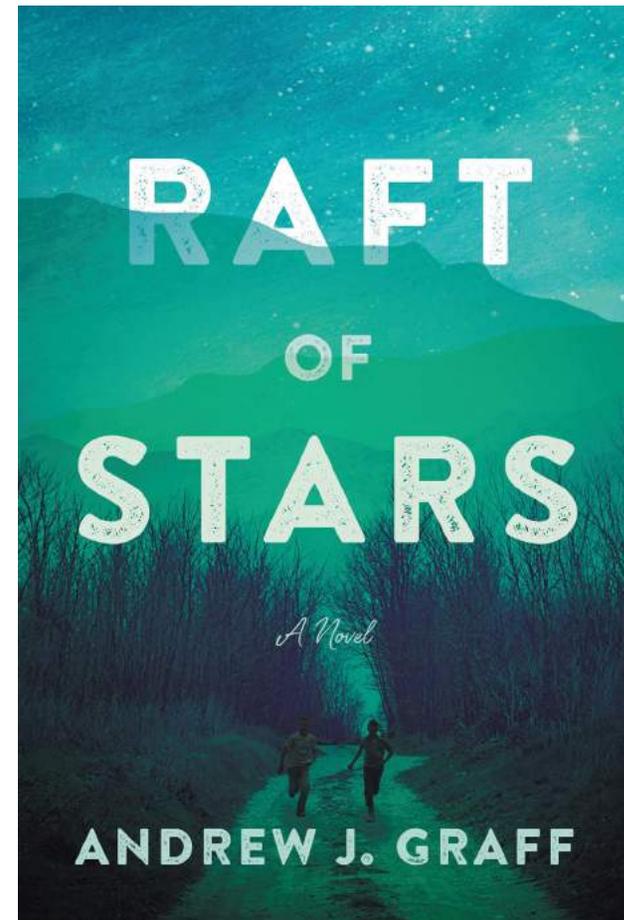
An instant classic for fans of Jane Smiley and Kitchens of the Great Midwest: when two hardscrabble young boys think they've committed a crime, they flee into the Northwoods of Wisconsin. Will the adults trying to find and protect them reach them before it's too late?

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

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

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

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



STARRED REVIEW, *LIBRARY JOURNAL*

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

"Graff's characters have heart to spare, and his affection for this rugged part of the country is infectious. His coming-of-age story offers us nostalgia and escape, and he reminds us that while freedom can be elusive, the people who love you always make your life worth living." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"The wilderness odyssey that shapes Graff's rewarding coming-of-age debut has a timeless, archetypal resonance. . . . Graff depicts the harsh Northwoods setting and his misfit characters' inner lives with equal skill. The dynamic quest narrative offers plenty of rich moments." —*Publishers Weekly*

THE ROCK EATERS

Stories

By Brenda Peynado

NA

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

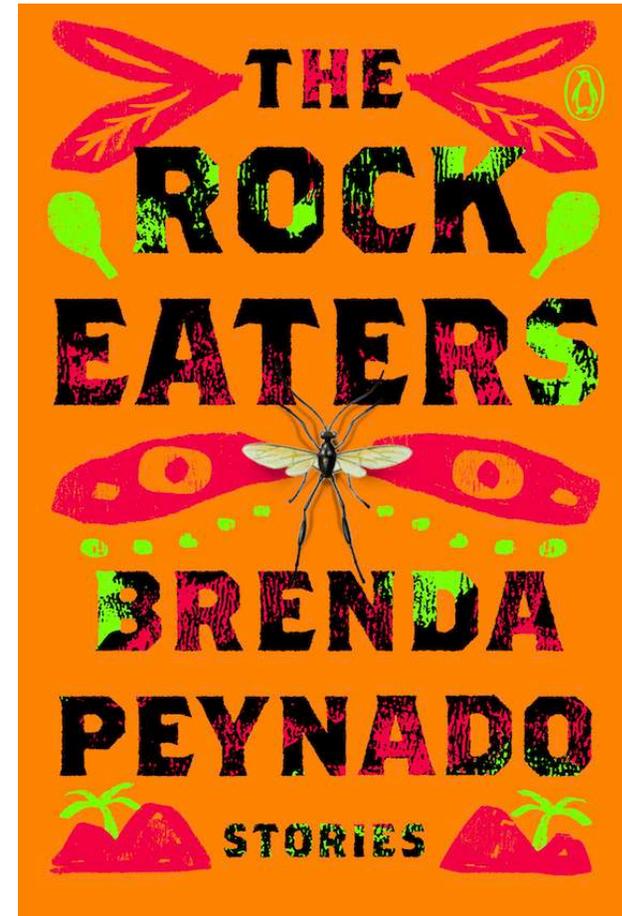
Final PDF Available

A story collection, in the vein of Carmen Maria Machado, Kelly Link, and Nana Kwame Adjei-Brenyah, spanning worlds and dimensions, using strange and speculative elements to tackle issues ranging from class differences to immigration to first-generation experiences to xenophobia

What does it mean to be other? What does it mean to love in a world determined to keep us apart? These questions murmur in the heart of each of Brenda Peynado's strange and singular stories. Threaded with magic, transcending time and place, these stories explore what it means to cross borders and break down walls, personally and politically. In one story, suburban families perform oblations to cattlelike angels who live on their roofs, believing that their "thoughts and prayers" will protect them from the world's violence. In another, inhabitants of an unnamed dictatorship slowly lose their own agency as pieces of their bodies go missing and, with them, the essential rights that those appendages serve. "The Great Escape" tells of an old woman who hides away in her apartment, reliving the past among beautiful objects she's hoarded, refusing all visitors, until she disappears completely. In the title story, children begin to levitate, flying away from their parents and their home country, leading them to eat rocks in order to stay grounded. With elements of science fiction and fantasy, fabulism and magical realism, Brenda Peynado uses her stories to reflect our flawed world, and the incredible, terrifying, and marvelous nature of humanity.

Brenda Peynado's stories have appeared in over forty magazines and won an O. Henry Award, a Pushcart Prize, the *Chicago Tribune's* Nelson Algren Literary Award, selection for *The Best American Science Fiction and Fantasy* and *The Best Small Fictions*, a Dana Award, a Fulbright grant to the Dominican Republic, and other awards. She currently teaches at the University of Central Florida.

"Vicious and beautiful, full of characters who will refuse to leave you at peace. Both painfully realistic and mind-bendingly fantastical, these stories capture the sense of displacement that comes with recognizing who we really are. Read it now, and see for yourself."—**Annalee Newitz**, author of *The Future of Another Timeline*



STARRED REVIEW, *PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY*

"These alluring stories make powerful use of their fantastical motifs, enhancing the realities of the characters' lives. The author's skillful storytelling soars."

"A genre-bending sociopolitical commentary with prose that shines."
—*The Washington Post*

"*The Rock Eaters* is the work of an imagination that brooks no limits, that claims, masterfully, all territories as its own. I'm in awe of this book. It's one of the most thrilling debuts I've read in years." —**Clare Beams**, author of *The Illness Lesson*

"A stunning debut collection comprised of provocative stories that are oddly healing and horizon-expanding. An exciting new voice." —**Jeff VanderMeer**, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Annihilation*

IMPOSTER SYNDROME

A Novel

By Kathy Wang

NA

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

Final PDF Available

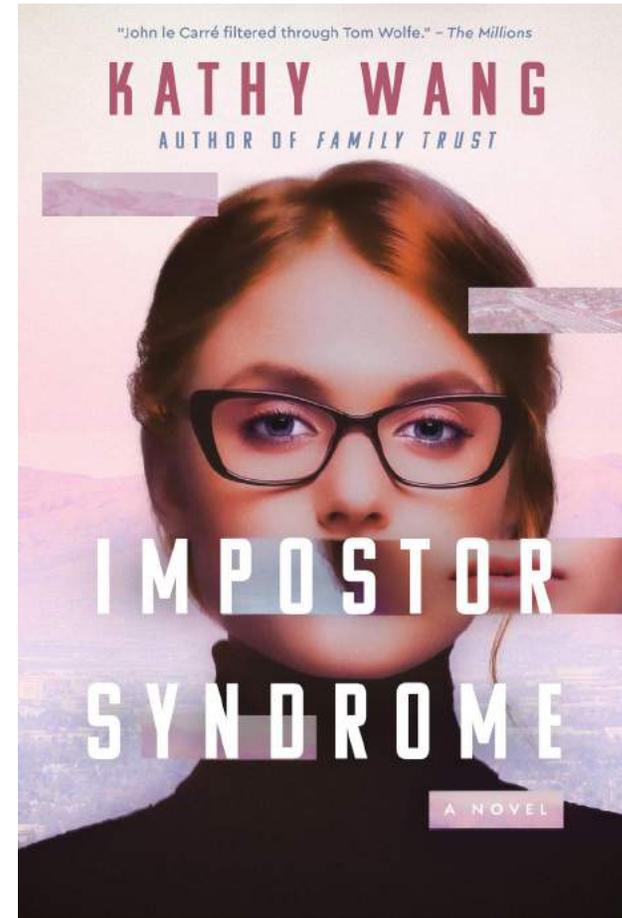
A sharp and prescient novel about women in the workplace, the power of Big Tech, and the looming threat of foreign espionage from Kathy Wang, “a skilled satirist of the northern California dream” (Harper’s Bazaar)

In 2006 Julia Lerner is living in Moscow, a recent university graduate in computer science, when she’s recruited by Russia’s largest intelligence agency. By 2018 she’s in Silicon Valley as COO of Tangerine, one of America’s most famous technology companies. In between her executive management (make offers to promising startups, crush them and copy their features if they refuse); self promotion (check out her latest op-ed in the WSJ, on Work/Life Balance 2.0); and work in gender equality (transfer the most annoying females from her team), she funnels intelligence back to the motherland. But now Russia’s asking for more, and Julia’s getting nervous.

Alice Lu is a first generation Chinese American whose parents are delighted she’s working at Tangerine (such a successful company!). Too bad she’s slogging away in the lower echelons, recently dumped, and now sharing her expensive two-bedroom apartment with her cousin Cheri, a perennial “founder’s girlfriend”. One afternoon, while performing a server check, Alice discovers some unusual activity, and now she’s burdened with two powerful but distressing suspicions: Tangerine’s privacy settings aren’t as rigorous as the company claims they are, and the person abusing this loophole might be Julia Lerner herself.

The closer Alice gets to Julia, the more Julia questions her own loyalties. Russia may have placed her in the Valley, but she’s the one who built her career; isn’t she entitled to protect the lifestyle she’s earned? Part page-turning cat-and-mouse chase, part sharp and hilarious satire, *Impostor Syndrome* is a shrewdly-observed examination of women in tech, Silicon Valley hubris, and the rarely fulfilled but ever-attractive promise of the American Dream.

Kathy Wang grew up in Northern California and holds degrees from UC Berkeley and Harvard Business School. She is the author of *Family Trust*.



Previous Publishers of Kathy Wang:

Simplified Chinese (Fonghong)

UK/Comm (Head of Zeus)

“A smart, ambitious, and hugely original novel that succeeds on every level. It’s part gripping spy thriller, part sharp-eyed Silicon Valley satire, part nuanced character study – and fully, deeply entertaining every step of the way.”—**Lou Berney, Edgar Award-winning author of *November Road* on IMPOSTER SYNDROME**

“A captivating read...at its best when it’s telling us a truth about Silicon Valley: that racism and greed operate here as well — no measure of assimilation or success can change that.”—**NPR on FAMILY TRUST**

“Wang’s characters never bought into the idea that tech is a meritocracy... most deft when the competing demands of race, class, and gender intersect.” —**Wired on FAMILY TRUST**

SURVIVE THE NIGHT

A Novel

By Riley Sager

NA

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

Final PDF Available

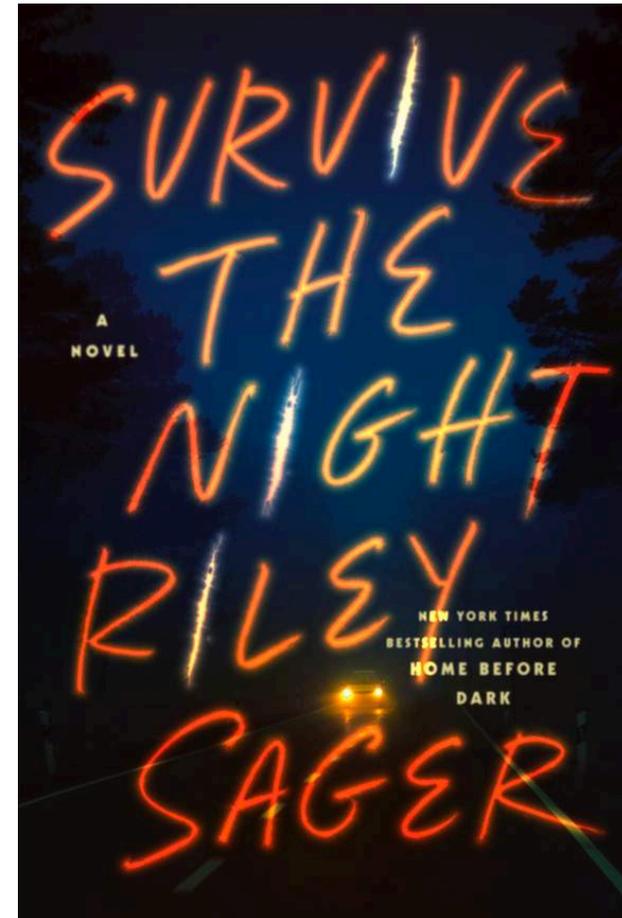
It's November 1991. George H. W. Bush is in the White House, Nirvana's in the tape deck, and movie-obsessed college student Charlie Jordan is in a car with a man who might be a serial killer.

Josh Baxter, the man behind the wheel, is a virtual stranger to Charlie. They met at the campus ride board, each looking to share the long drive home to Ohio. Both have good reasons for wanting to get away. For Charlie, it's guilt and grief over the murder of her best friend, who became the third victim of the man known as the Campus Killer. For Josh, it's to help care for his sick father. Or so he says. Like the Hitchcock heroine she's named after, Charlie has her doubts. There's something suspicious about Josh, from the holes in his story about his father to how he doesn't seem to want Charlie to see inside the car's trunk. As they travel an empty highway in the dead of night, an increasingly worried Charlie begins to think she's sharing a car with the Campus Killer. Is Josh truly dangerous? Or is Charlie's suspicion merely a figment of her movie-fueled imagination? 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, Charlie must do one thing—survive the night.

Survive the Night is the fifth thriller from **Riley Sager**. Riley's first novel, *Final Girls*, was an international bestseller that has been published in more than twenty-four countries and won the ITW Thriller Award for Best Hardcover Novel. Sager's subsequent novels *The Last Time I Lied*, *Lock Every Door*, and *Home Before Dark*, which received the Crimson Scribe Award by *Suspense Magazine*, were all *New York Times* bestsellers.

"Noir at its best! This one-sitting-read of a thriller will grab you in the opening pages and simply not let go until the very (and very shocking) end. Author Sager is a master of creating both psychological suspense and richly drawn characters, both good, bad and somewhere in the middle. Bravo!"

—Jeffrey Deaver, author of *The Final Twist*



Previous Publishers of Riley Sager:

Brazilian Portuguese (Autentica)
Bulgarian (Locus)
Catalan (PRH Spain)
Complex Chinese (Faces)
Croatian (Fokus)
Czech (Dobrovsky)
Danish (Turbine Forlaget)
Dutch (Ambo Anthos)
Estonian (Rahva Raamat)
Finnish (WSOY)
French (Michel Lafon)
German (dtv)
Hebrew (Adel Books)
Hungarian (Lettero)

Italian (Fanucci)
Japanese (Shueisha)
Korean (Hyejiwon)
Macedonian (Antolog)
Polish (Mova / Kobicce Publishing)
Portuguese (20/20)
Romanian (Editura Bestseller)
Russian (AST)
Serbian (Vulkan)
Simplified Chinese (Booky)
Spanish (PRH Spain)
Swedish (Modernista)
Turkish (Ithaki)
UK/Comm (Hodder & Stoughton)

AEVITAS 7

THREE WORDS FOR GOODBYE

A Novel

By Hazel Gaynor & Heather Webb

WE

July 2021 / William Morrow (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Lucia Macro
Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

Brazilian Portuguese (Ciranda Cultural)

From Hazel Gaynor and Heather Webb, the bestselling authors of Meet Me in Monaco, comes a coming-of-age novel set in pre-WWII Europe, perfect for fans of Jennifer Robson, Beatriz Williams, and Kate Quinn.

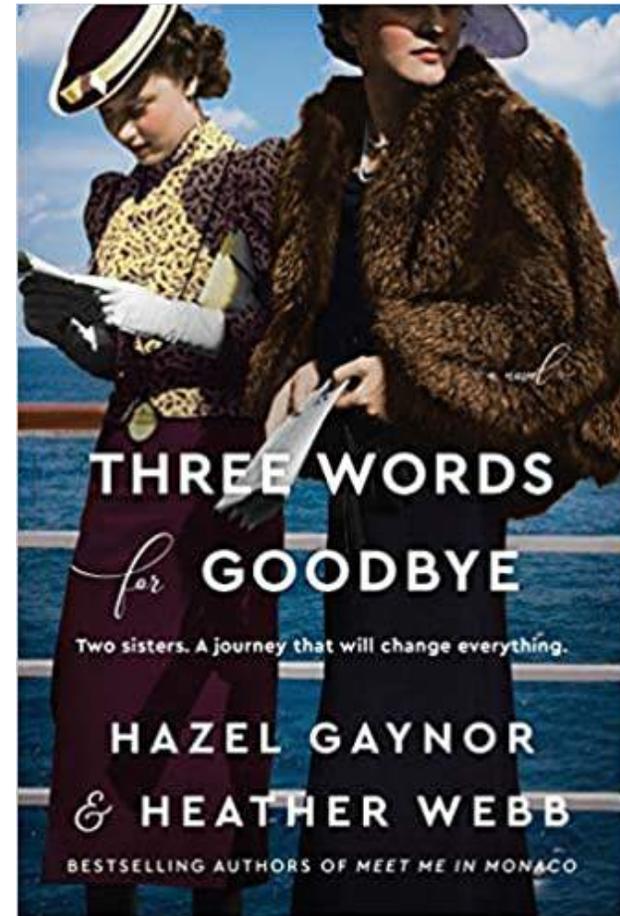
Three cities, two sisters, one chance to correct the past . . .

New York, 1937: When estranged sisters Clara and Madeleine Sommers learn their grandmother is dying, they agree to fulfill her last wish: to travel across Europe—together. They are to deliver three letters, in which Violet will say goodbye to those she hasn't seen since traveling to Europe forty years earlier; a journey inspired by famed reporter, Nellie Bly.

Clara, ever-dutiful, sees the trip as an inconvenient detour before her wedding to millionaire Charles Hancock, but it's also a chance to embrace her love of art. Budding journalist Madeleine relishes the opportunity to develop her ambitions to report on the growing threat of Hitler's Nazi party and Mussolini's control in Italy.

Constantly at odds with each other as they explore the luxurious *Queen Mary*, the Orient Express, and the sights of Paris and Venice, Clara and Madeleine wonder if they can fulfill Violet's wish, until a shocking truth about their family brings them closer together. But as they reach Vienna to deliver the final letter, old grudges threaten their reconciliation again. As political tensions rise, and Europe feels increasingly volatile, the pair are glad to head home on the *Hindenburg*, where fate will play its hand in the final stage of their journey.

Hazel Gaynor is an award-winning *New York Times*, *USA Today* and international bestselling author of titles including *When We Were Young and Brave*, *The Lighthouse Keeper's Daughter*, and with Heather Webb, *Meet Me in Monaco* and *Last Christmas in Paris*. **Heather Webb** is an award-winning and *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Last Ship Home*, *The Phantom's Apprentice*, *Rodin's Lover*, and *Becoming Josephine*.



Previous Publishers of Hazel Gaynor & Heather Webb:

Bulgarian (Kragozor)
Croatian (24sata)
Czech (Albatros)
German (Blanvet)
Hungarian (Nouvion)
Italian (TEA Libri)

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

“With so many established and beloved names included, this title will be easy to suggest to the existing fan base of a particular writer as well as anyone looking for historical fiction with elements of intrigue and romance.”—*Library Journal*

“An enchanting novel...Gaynor & Webb weave a wonderful tale of love and loss, graced with the scents of perfumes, magnificent vistas and characters you will not soon forget.”—*MJ Rose, New York Times bestselling author*

NOBODY, SOMEBODY, ANYBODY

A Novel

By Kelly McClorey

NA

July 2021 / Ecco (HarperCollins) / US Editor: Sara Birmingham

Final PDF Available

A moving and darkly comic debut novel about an anxious young woman who administers a self-made “placebo” treatment in a last-ditch attempt to rebuild her life.

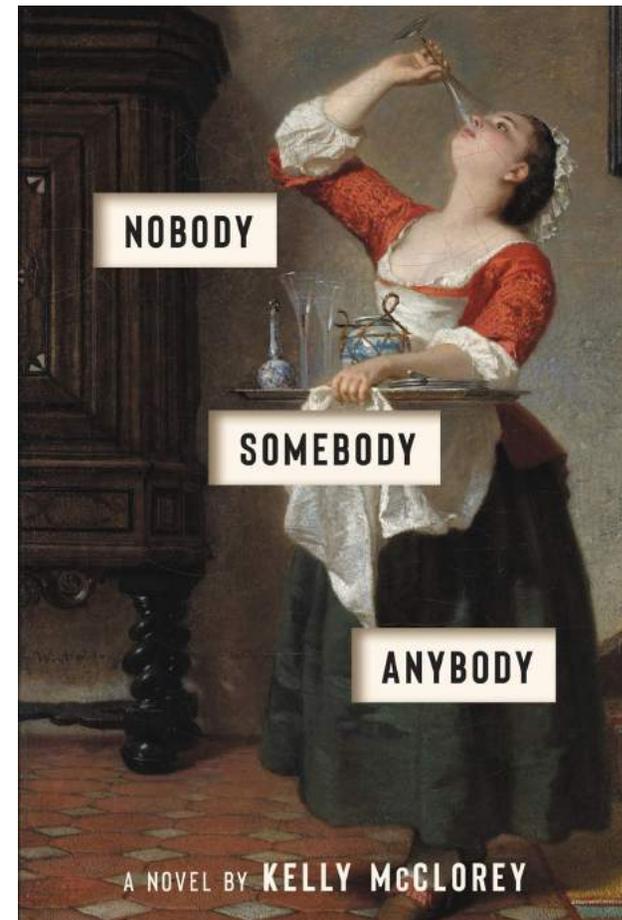
Amy Harney has a job as a chambermaid for the summer, but on August 25, she will take the exam to become an EMT (third time’s the charm!) and finally move on with her life. In the meantime, she doesn’t mind scrubbing toilets immaculately clean or tucking the sheet corners just so. In fact, she tells 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 date for the EMT exam comes closer, 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.

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. Kelly McClorey captures the hilarity and heartbreak of American ambition.

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



“I read *Nobody, Somebody, Anybody* the way I watch horror films: half-hiding behind my fingers, both worried for the anxious young protagonist and eager to know what trouble she’d find herself in next. Kelly McClorey’s voice is funny, heartbreaking, and singular—unlike anything I’ve ever read. This is a book for anyone who’s ever been sad or stuck, or longed to be somewhere or someone else. I loved it.”—**Rachel Khong, author of *Goodbye, Vitamin***

“Kelly McClorey’s *Nobody, Somebody, Anybody* is a beautiful book about very messy people. McClorey’s writing is sharp and witty and her novel is thoroughly hilarious. This book forces us to examine the desperately human, utterly embarrassing ways that people can f— up and gives us permission to revel in it. Compulsively readable, *Nobody, Somebody, Anybody* is spectacular and Kelly McClorey is a dynamo.”—**Kristen Arnett, author of *Mostly Dead Things***

THE BACHELOR

A Novel

By Andrew Palmer

WE

July 2021 / Hogarth (PRH) / US Editor: Alexis Washam

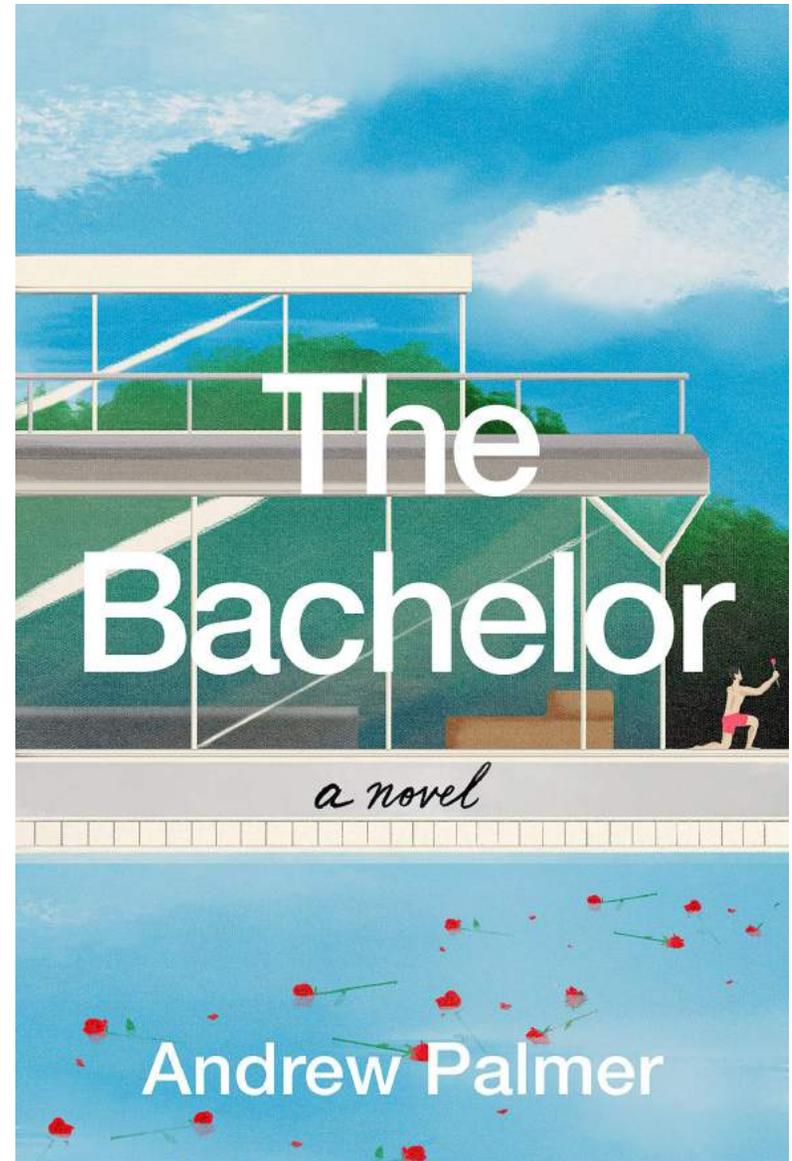
Final PDF Available

An incisive, witty, and tender debut novel about love and commitment, celebrity and obsession, poetry and reality TV.

Reeling from a breakup with his almost-fiancée, the narrator of Andrew Palmer's first novel returns to his hometown in Iowa to house-sit for a family friend. There, a chance flick of the TV remote and a new correspondence with an old friend plunge him into unlikely twin obsessions: the reality TV show *The Bachelor* and the Pulitzer Prize-winning poet John Berryman. As his heart begins to mend, his fascination with each deepens. Somewhere along the way, representations of reality become harder and harder to distinguish from real life. Soon he finds himself corresponding with multiple love interests, participating in an ill-considered group outing, and trying to puzzle through the strange turn his life seems to have taken.

Smart, sexy, and provocative, *The Bachelor* is also an absorbing coming-of-age tale that tells the story of finding one's footing in love and art. If salvation can no longer be found in fame, can it still be found in romantic relationships? In an era in which reality TV can make two dozen women fall in love with one man in six weeks, where does entertainment end and reality begin? Why do we, season after season, repeat the same mistakes in love and life?

Andrew Palmer's writing has appeared in *Slate*, *The Times Literary Supplement*, *The Paris Review Daily*, *The New Yorker* online, and *McSweeney's*. He has been a fiction fellow at the Fine Arts Work Center in Provincetown and a resident at Ucross, the Anderson Center, and Yaddo. He grew up in Iowa and lives in Seattle with his partner and their dog. *The Bachelor* is his first novel.



THE LAST MONA LISA

A Novel

By Jonathan Santlofer

NA

August 2021 / Sourcebooks / US Editor: Shana Drehs

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

Dutch (De Fontein)

Italian (Newton Compton)

Serbian (Vulkan)

"This is a terrific read—compelling, intelligent, fascinating and deeply satisfying. It was a book I did not want to end."—Peter James, #1 bestselling crime thriller author

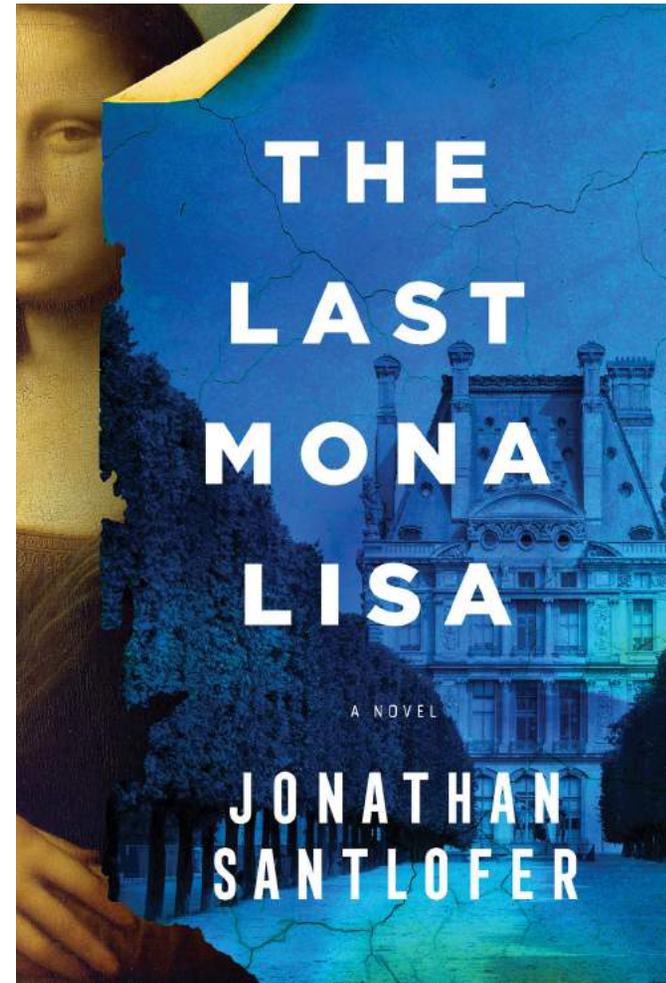
August, 1911: The Mona Lisa is stolen by Vincent Peruggia. Exactly what happens in the two years before its recovery is a mystery. Many replicas of the Mona Lisa exist, and more than one historian has wondered if the painting now in the Louvre is a fake, switched in 1911.

Present day: art professor Luke Perrone digs for the truth behind his most famous ancestor: Peruggia. His search attracts an Interpol detective with something to prove and an unfamiliar but curiously helpful woman. Soon, Luke tumbles deep into the world of art and forgery, a land of obsession and danger.

A gripping novel exploring the 1911 theft and the present underbelly of the art world, *The Last Mona Lisa* is a suspenseful tale, tapping into our universal fascination with da Vinci's enigma, why people are driven to possess certain works of art, and our fascination with the authentic and the fake.

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.

"From its seductive first pages, *The Last Mona Lisa* carries us along on an utterly irresistible time-jumping, continent-leaping tale of intrigue and family secrets, obsession and the ineffable power of art itself. I could not put it down."—**Megan Abbott**, bestselling and award-winning author of *Give Me Your Hand* and *The Turnout*



"The Last Mona Lisa is a pacy, seductive international thriller of the first order. With its seamless blend of action, intriguing maze of family secrets, and the gripping, emotional journal entries of a long-dead art thief, this is a transporting novel, made all the more captivating because of the true story at its heart. Don't miss it!"
—**Lisa Unger**, New York Times bestselling author of *Confessions on the 7:45*

"Fabulous - instantly immersive, intriguing and suspenseful, and expert and authentic too ... only a writer who is also an artist - or an artist who is also a writer - could have pulled it off. This feels like the thriller Santlofer was born to write."
—**Lee Child**, author of the #1 New York Times bestselling *Jack Reacher* series

IMMEDIATE FAMILY

A Novel

By Ashley Nelson Levy

NA

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

Final PDF Available

Rights Sold:

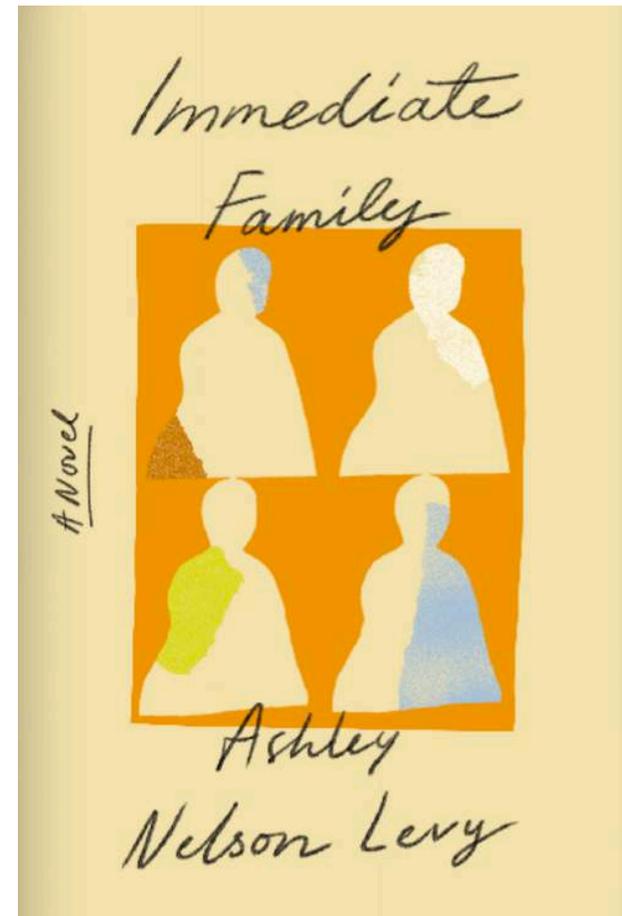
UK/Comm (Zeljka/Daunt Books)

A tender and fierce debut novel that explores the bond between two siblings—one the biological child and one adopted—and the complexities of motherhood, infertility, race, and the many definitions of family.

It is the day of her brother's wedding and our narrator 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. She was nine years old when she traveled with her parents to Thailand to meet her brother, six years her junior. They grew up together like any other siblings, sharing a bucolic childhood in Northern California. Yet when she holds their story up to the light, it refracts in ways she doesn't expect. What follows is *Immediate Family*, a heartfelt letter addressed to Danny and an attempt at a full accounting of their years growing up, invoking everything from the Victorian adoption plot to childless women in literature to documents from Danny's case file. It's also a confession, of sorts, to the parts of her life that she has kept from him, including her own struggle with infertility. And as the hours until the wedding wane, she uncovers the words that can't and won't be said aloud.

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

"This unsparing and absorbing family portrait broke my heart and remade it a hundred times over. In prose that is distilled, astute, and precise, *Immediate Family* covers the territory of life that words are often insufficient for, those challenges that are at once isolating and universal"—**Rachel Khong**, author of *Goodbye, Vitamin*



"A stirring novel by a writer with uncanny insight and sensitivity, *Immediate Family* asks urgent questions about belonging, what makes a family, and the horizons of love. It moved me deeply."—**Julie Buntin**, author of *Marlena*

"Complex, challenging, sensitively and beautifully told. This is a gorgeous, affecting novel that probes the fissures and hidden places of familial love—and all its provocations and possibilities—and in so doing gets to the heart of love itself."—**Lydia Kiesling**, author of *The Golden State*

"It it plumbs the ethical ambiguities, surveys the fault lines of race and privilege, creates space for the uncertainties and obligations so often written out. Composed with emotional candor and intellectual clarity [...] a testament to the reality that no family, regardless of origin or composition, is ever fully formed."—**Anthony Marra**, author of *A Constellation of Vital Phenomena*

THE BODY SCOUT

A Novel

By Lincoln Michel

NA

September 2021 / Orbit (Hachette) / US Editor: Angeline Rodriguez

Edited MS Available

Diamond-sharp and savagely wry, The Body Scout is a timely science fiction thriller debut set in an all-too-possible future, perfect for readers of William Gibson.

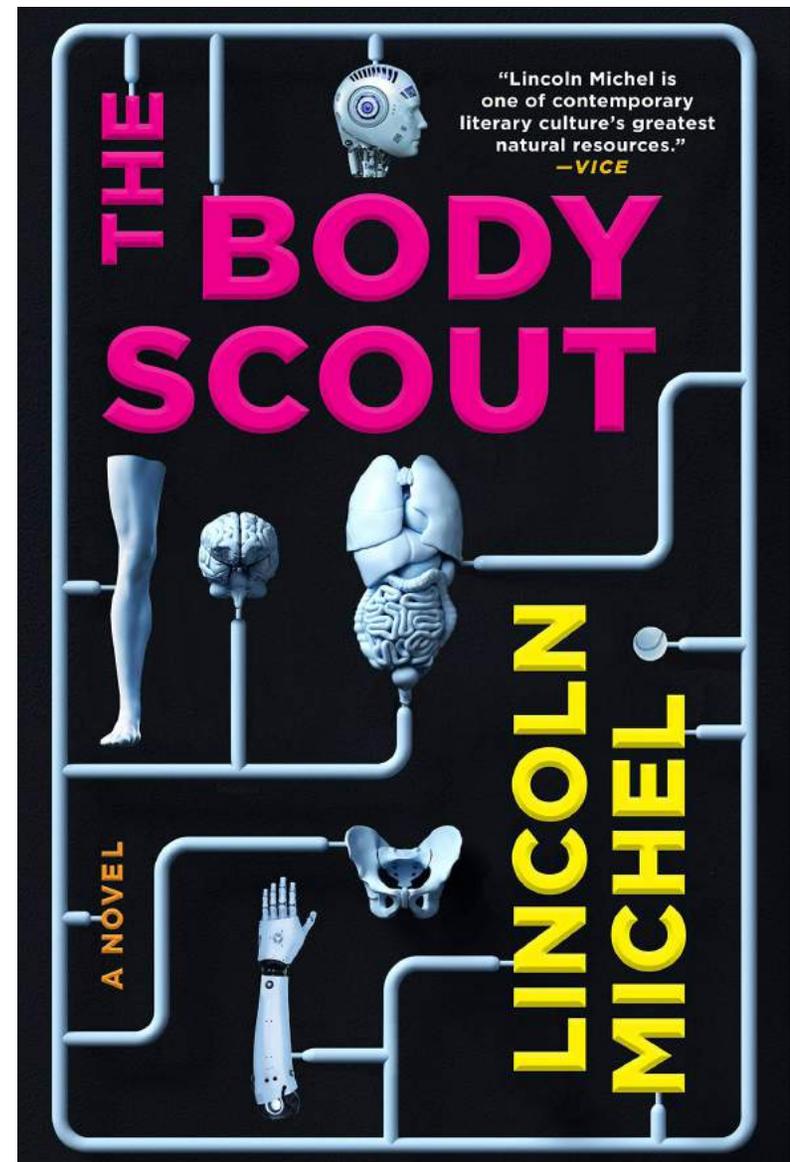
In the future you can have any body you want—as long as you can afford it.

But in a New York ravaged by climate change and repeat pandemics, Kobo is barely scraping by. He scouts the latest in gene-edited talent for Big Pharma-owned baseball teams, but his own cybernetics are a decade out of date and twin sister loan sharks are banging down his door. Things couldn't get much worse.

Then his brother—Monsanto Mets slugger J.J. Zunz—is murdered at home plate.

Determined to find the killer, Kobo plunges into a world of genetically modified CEOs, philosophical Neanderthals, and back-alley body modification, only to quickly find he's in a game far bigger and more corrupt than he imagined. To keep himself together while the world is falling apart, he'll have to navigate a time where both body and soul are sold to the highest bidder.

Lincoln Michel is the author of the story collection *Upright Beasts* (Coffee House Press 2015) and the co-editor of the anthologies *Tiny Crimes* (Catapult 2018) and *Tiny Nightmares* (Catapult 2020). His fiction and criticism appear in *The Paris Review*, *The New York Times*, *Granta*, *BOMB*, *Strange Horizons*, and elsewhere. He teaches fiction writing at Sarah Lawrence College and Columbia University. *The Body Scout* is his first novel. You can find him online at lincolnmichel.com and @thelincoln.



O BEAUTIFUL

A Novel

By Jung Yun

NA

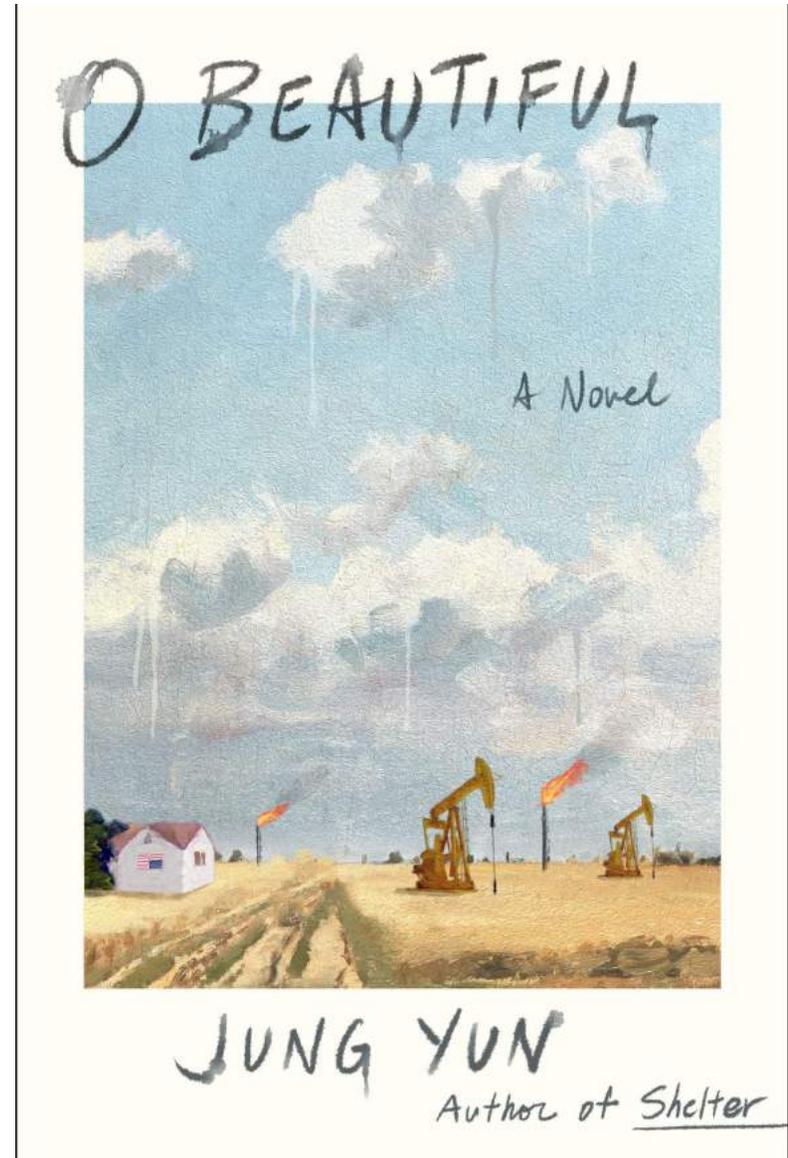
November 2021 / St. Marin's Press (Macmillan) / US Editor: Anna DeVries
Edited MS Available Spring 2021

From Jung Yun, the award-winning author of Shelter, O Beautiful is an emotionally resonant novel following a Korean-American journalist on assignment in North Dakota as she confronts her hometown and ghosts of her past...

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, and was long-listed for the Center for Fiction's First Novel Prize, a finalist for the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers Award, and a semi-finalist for Good Reads' Best Fiction Book of 2016.



THE UNKNOWN WOMAN OF THE SEINE

A Novel

By Brooks Hansen

NA

November 2021 / Delpinium Books / US Editor: Joseph Olshan

Edited MS Available

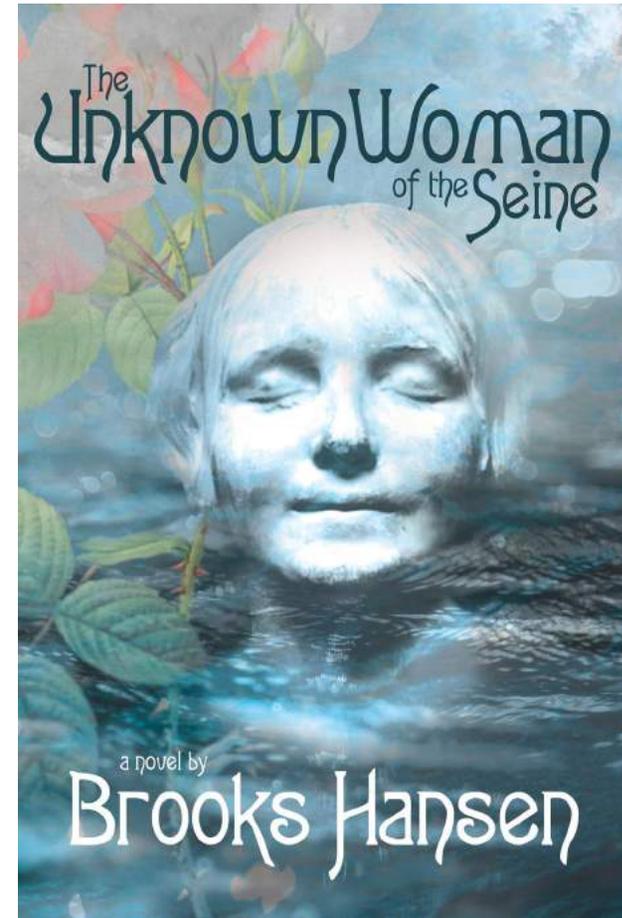
In the late autumn of 1889, the body of an unknown woman appeared on the banks of the Seine River in Paris.

The body was taken to the city morgue behind Notre Dame and put on display for a month, according to protocol. The eerie beauty of the young woman's expression attracted crowds but no claimant, and so, before the body was dispatched, a mold was taken of the face, yielding a mask which was to become one of the most celebrated cult *objets/curios* of the 20th century.

Set during the final days of the Paris expo of 1889, Brooks Hansen's *The Unknown Woman of the Seine* sets out to solve the mystery of who the woman was behind the mask. In charge of that investigation is a former Gendarme and recent prisoner of war just returned from Tonkin, China. Henri Brassard is on his way to Paris, determined to reclaim his place in La Force when he crosses paths with a mysterious and unnamed young maiden and her gypsy wagon. Detecting villainy, and bent on proving himself to his former superiors, Brassard tracks her into the city and observes from the shadows as, with evident but inscrutable purpose, she wends her way into the orbit of several savory and unsavory characters—an Artist, an Impresario, a Madame, a Countess, and one Disciple even—each of whom sees in her some opportunity, a chance for profit or redemption; any one of whom may therefore be responsible for her sudden and unexplained disappearance.

On that account, Brassard's chase will lead him on a grand tour of the city's lushest and seamiest venues, from its highest spires down into its darkest, dankest catacombs and past a gallery of equally diverse crimes—the moral, the political, the maniacal. By the end, he will, in fact, learn the stunning truth of the unknown woman's true identity, her past and present, but not before unearthing the equally disturbing truth about himself, who he has been, and who he must become.

Brooks Hansen is an American novelist, screenwriter, and illustrator. His novels, *The Monster of St. Helena*, *Perlman's Ordeal*, *The Chess Garden*, and *Boone* (co-authored with Nick Davis) were all New York Times Notable Books.



“An innately engaging story... adroit and poignant.”—*Los Angeles Times*

“Ingenious... written with a... consciously literary grave that has the remarkable power to act as a lens.”—*New York Times Book Review*

Praise for *The Chess Garden*:

“These tales form an allegory not only of the Doctor's exemplary life but also of the wisdom he has gained in it—a quietude and a benevolence that in today's world really do seem fabulous.” —*The New Yorker*

“Extravagantly, even bewilderingly inventive. [Perlman's Ordeal] is crammed with the stuff of dreams.” —*New York Times Book Review*

ALL HER LITTLE SECRETS

A Novel (Previously titled THE ELEPHANT FIGHTER)

By Wanda M. Morris

NA

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

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

Rights Sold:

Brazilian Portuguese (Companhia Editora Nacional)

In this fast-paced thriller, Wanda M. Morris crafts a twisty mystery about a black lawyer who gets in over her head after the sudden death of her boss. A debut perfect for fans of Attica Locke, Alyssa Cole, Harlan Coben, and Celeste Ng, with shades of How to Get Away with Murder and John Grisham's The Firm.

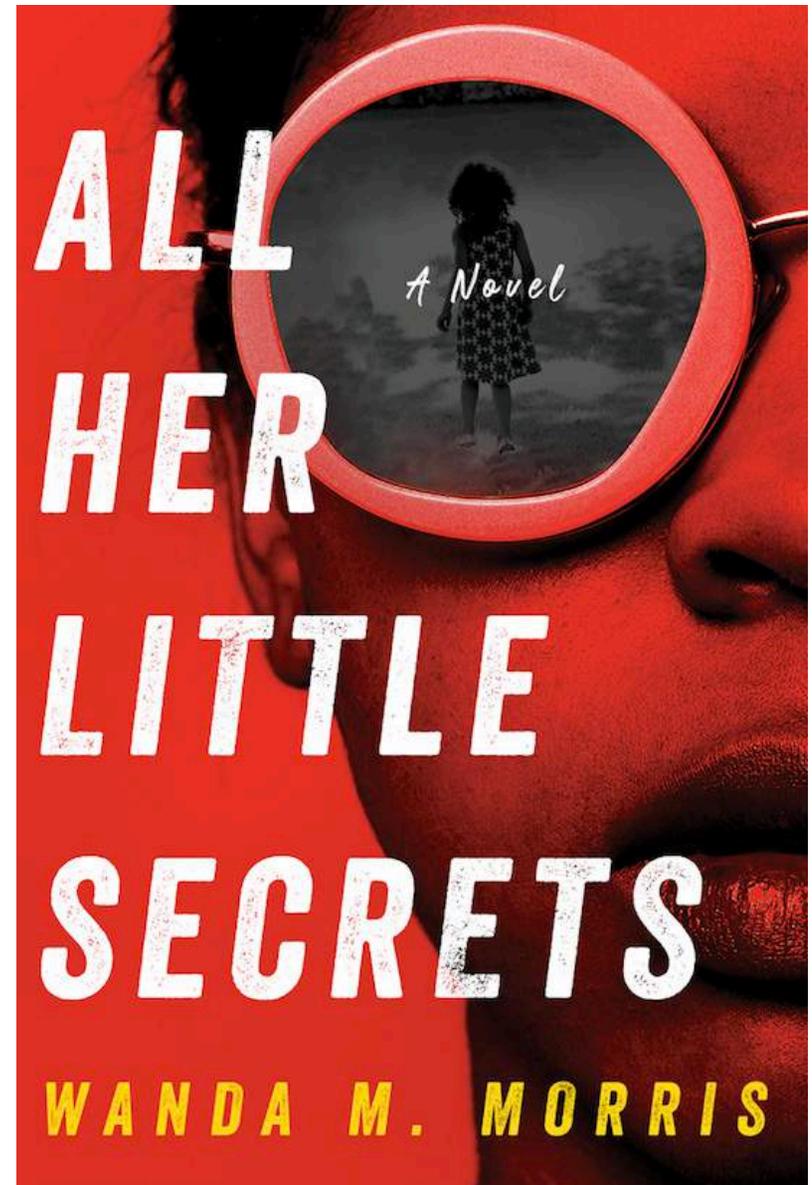
Ellice Littlejohn seemingly has it all: an Ivy League law degree, a well-paying job as a corporate attorney in midtown Atlanta, great friends, and a “for fun” relationship with a rich, charming executive—her white boss, Michael. But everything changes one cold January morning when Ellice goes to meet Michael... and finds him dead with a gunshot to his head.

And then she walks away like nothing has happened. Why? Ellice has been keeping a cache of dark secrets, including a small-town past and a kid brother who's spent time on the other side of the law. She can't be thrust into the spotlight—again.

But instead of grieving this tragedy, people are gossiping, the police are getting suspicious, and Ellice, the company's lone black attorney, is promoted to replace Michael. While the opportunity is a dream-come-true, Ellice just can't shake the feeling that something is off.

When she uncovers shady dealings inside the company, Ellice is trapped in an impossible ethical and moral dilemma. Suddenly, 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 conspiracy far more sinister than she could have ever imagined...

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



THE LIGHT PIRATE

A Novel

By Lily Brooks-Dalton

NA

TK / Grand Central / US Editor: Karen Kosztołnyik

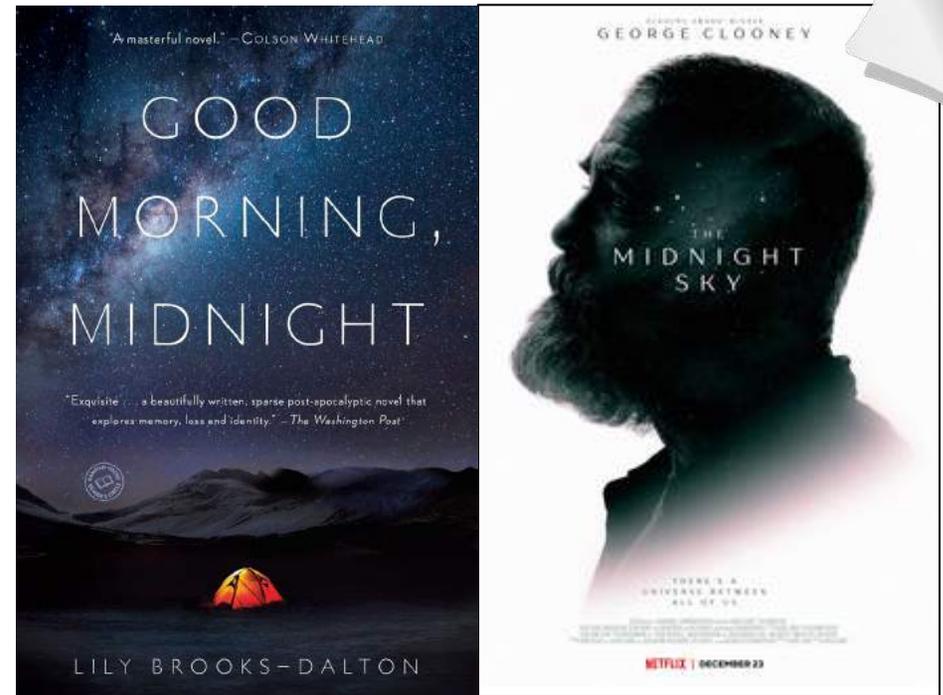
Full MS Available

FROM THE AUTHOR OF *GOOD, MORNING, MIDNIGHT*,
ADAPTED FOR THE SCREEN BY NETFLIX, STARRING &
DIRECTED BY GEORGE CLOONEY

As *The Light Pirate* opens, devastating weather patterns and flooding have driven an untold number of residents out of what had once been the vital and well-populated state of Florida. As another powerful hurricane approaches, Kirby Lowe and his two sons from his first marriage, Flip, age seven, and Lucas, twelve, remain behind preparing for the worst. The boys are living with their father and his new wife, Frida, who joined her husband in the States after her Puerto Rican hometown was destroyed by a prior storm. Frida is due to give birth to the couple's first child any day. Kirby's job as an electrical line-worker becomes a coveted resource as the government downsizes and electricity. But as the storm closes in, Flip and Lucas go missing and Kirby heads out into the high winds in search of his children. Left behind, Frida goes into labor, giving birth to a daughter, Wanda, named after the storm that coincided with her arrival.

Told in four parts: power, water, light, time, *The Light Pirate* traces Wanda's deeply moving, remarkable journey as she navigates the vicissitudes of adolescence and adulthood, steadfast love and loss and the uncertainties, brutality and unexpected beauty of a rapidly changing natural world whose rhythms are deftly mirrored in the book's unique structure. Written in Lily Brooks-Dalton's luminous prose, *The Light Pirate* is a sweeping, singular narrative laced with magic realism and lit by the enduring power of hope, as well as a larger meditation on our turbulent relationship with the environment, with one another and with ourselves.

Lily Brooks-Dalton is a critically acclaimed author of fiction and memoir. Her first novel, *Good Morning, Midnight* was described by *The Washington Post* as "a beautifully written, sparse post-apocalyptic novel that explores memory, loss and identity . . . Fans of Emily St. John Mandel's *Station Eleven* and Kim Stanley Robinson's *Aurora* will appreciate the Brooks-Dalton's exquisite exploration of relationships in extreme environments." Her memoir, *Motorcycles I've Loved*, was shortlisted for the Oregon Book Awards She earned her MFA from Portland State University.



Previous Publishers of *GOOD MORNING, MIDNIGHT*:

Brazilian Portuguese (Morro Branco)	Japanese (Sogensha)
Catalan (Columna)	Korean (Sigongsa)
Complex Chinese (Delight Press/Systemex)	Romanian (Editura Bestseller)
Croatian (Knjigoteka)	Russian (AST)
Czech (Prah)	Simplified Chinese (United Sky)
French (Presses de la Cite)	Spanish (Blackie Books)
Hebrew (Agam Books)	Turkish (Ybanci)
Hungarian (Agave)	UK/Comm (W&N)
Italian (Nord)	

Praise for *GOOD MORNING, MIDNIGHT*:

"A remarkable and gifted debut. Lily Brooks-Dalton is an uncanny chronicler of desolate spaces, whether it's the cold expanse of the universe or the deepest recesses of the human heart."—**Colson Whitehead**

"Brooks-Dalton's prose lights up the page in great swathes, her dialogue sharp and insightful, and the high-concept plot drives a story of place, elusive love, and the inexorable yearning for human contact [...] Memorable characters explore complex questions that resonate with the urgency of a glimpse into the void."

—**Publishers Weekly**

GO HOME, RICKY!

A Novel

By Gene Kwak

NA

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

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

From a rising literary star comes a fresh, satirical novel about masculinity and tenderness, fatherhood and motherhood, and who gets to tell what story, set in the world of 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, a.k.a. Richard Powell, needs one last semi-pro match before he gets the call to move up 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—even if he’s never met his father. But the night of the match 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 a video already going viral: him in full headdress, spewing profanities at his opponent Johnny America. Injury aside, he’s out of the league.

Without a routine or identity, Ricky spirals down, finally setting off to learn about his father, and what he finds will explode everything he knows about who he is—as a man, a friend, a son, a partner, an advocate, and a wrestler. *Go Home, Ricky!* is a sometimes-witty, sometimes-heart-wrenching, but always gripping look into the complexities of identity.

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*. In 2020, he will attend the Ragdale Residency and has attended residencies at Tin House and Yale. He teaches English and creative writing at the University of Nebraska, Omaha. He was a semi-finalist for the George Bennett Fellowship. *Go Home, Ricky!* is his debut novel.

CAIRO CIRCLES

A Novel (Previously titled **THE DISBELIEVERS**)

By Doma Mahmoud

NA

October 2021 / The Unnamed Press / US Editor: Olivia Taylor Smith

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

Sherif “Sheero” Abdallah is an NYU student reveling in independence, free from the judgmental gaze of his conservative family in Egypt to indulge in all sorts of pleasures. When the FBI comes knocking on his door, he’s convinced it’s a case of mistaken identity—until they show him a picture of his cousin Amir. Amir has perpetrated a horrific attack and Sheero is suddenly forced to return to Cairo and confront the events that led to their wildly different circumstances.

While Amir wore Sheero’s hand-me-downs and suffered at the hands of neglectful, abusive parents, Sheero attended Cairo’s most prestigious high school, where he and his best friend Taymour, the son of one of Cairo’s business moguls, could enjoy sports clubs, beach vacations, high-end dining, and socializing with girls from the French and British schools. Once inseparable cousins, Sheero and Amir grew further apart, Amir ultimately having more in common with the children of Taymour’s housekeeper: Omar, Mustafa, and Zeina.

In *Cairo Circles*, the lives of this unforgettable group of six young Egyptians intertwine dramatically over the course of over a decade, revealing complex relationships dominated by faith, tradition, social class, and the boundaries of personal freedom. An epic, multi-perspective page-turner, Doma Mahmoud’s debut introduces readers to a bold and inventive new voice in fiction as Cairo’s streets burst to life on the page.

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 MFA from NYU, where he was mentored by Zadie Smith, Jonathan Safran Foer, Nathan Englander, and Joyce Carol Oates. *Cairo Circles* is his debut novel.

THE ALMOST QUEEN

A Novel

By Alys Murray

WE

October 2021 / Sword & Silk / US Editor: MaryBeth Dalto-McCarthy
Edited MS Available

A witch needs her freedom. A reluctant king needs a queen. The deal they make changes their worlds forever.

Ellara Wist, one of the many witches that fought on the losing side of the war, has no intentions of returning to Outerland when it is finished and she has no intention of letting her fellow witches suffer either. So, during her sentencing for war crimes against the kingdom of Aulen, she boldly offers their new king a proposal: she'll join the king's court as his own personal sorceress in exchange for the lives and freedom of those trapped in Outerland.

The King Needs a Wife.

Terran didn't want to be king. But after years of war and the loss of almost his entire family, he will not put the crown aside. But when a witch from his past offers herself as a sacrifice, he sees her as an equal. So, he instead counters her offer with one of his own: Don't be my sorceress. Be my Queen.

And the deal they strike will change their world forever.

Desperate, Ellara agrees, swearing to herself that she could never love him. But as time reveals the man she's married not as the monster everyone thought he was and danger draws them closer together, she finds her vow almost impossible to keep.

Alys Murray is a screenwriter and author from New Orleans, Louisiana.

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.

NEXT SHIP HOME

A Novel (Previously titled LANGUAGE OF DREAMS)

By Heather Webb

NA

February 2022 / 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*.

WALK THE VANISHED EARTH

A Novel

By Erin Swan

NA

Spring 2022 / Viking (PRH) / US Editor: Margaux Weisman

Edited MS Available Fall 2021

Rights Sold:

French (Gallmeister)

This is a story about the end of the world.

The year is 1873, and Samson travels the Kansas plains with bright eyes, full of hope for his new country. The year is 1975, and an adolescent girl named Bea walks those very same plains, pregnant, mute. The year is 2073, and Moon has heard only stories of the blue planet—Earth, as they once called it, now succumbed entirely to water. This is the story of one family, told over seven generations, as America changes and so does its dream; a story about ancestry, legacy, and the trauma we inherit. This is the story of one planet, and its imminent collapse.

This is a story about the end of the world—but it is also about the beginning of something entirely new.

Erin Swan's debut novel is startling, experimental, and wildly prescient. Her writing tackles urgent questions about environmental collapse through a combination of poetic prose, speculative world-building, and a cast of distinct characters. Erin's imagination pulls her into the cohort of female literary writers with sci-fi crossover, like Emily St. John Mandel, Karen Thompson Walker, or Ling Ma. The intergenerational structure of this book recalls Yaa Gyasi's *Homegoing*, while her sentences conjure the sophistication and vitality of writers like Lauren Groff. But Erin is a writer entirely distinct, a pioneer at the forefront of a wholly new era, where we may begin to examine our flaws as a country, and as a planet, more fearlessly and thoughtfully than ever before. This novel gives us a wide, expansive exploration of where humanity has been—and where we might still go from here.

Erin Swan is a writer of fiction and nonfiction whose work has been published in such literary journals as *The Portland Review*, *The South Carolina Review*, and *Inkwell Journal*. She is a graduate of the MFA program at the New School, and her stories have been nominated for the Pushcart Prize and Best of the Net.

THE MAN WHO SOLD AIR IN THE HOLY LAND

Stories

By Omer Friedlander

NA

Spring 2022 / Penguin Random House / US Editor: Robin Dresser

Edited MS Available Spring 2021

Rights Sold:

Dutch (Spectrum)

Italian (NN Editore)

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. Heart-wrenching moments of fragile intimacy with comic notes of the absurd.

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.

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.

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.

FOR THE LOVE OF THE BARD

A Series

By Jessica Martin

NA

Summer 2022 / Berkley (PRH) / US Editor: Kate Seaver
Edited MS Available Summer 2021

A debut rom-com set in the Shakespeare-obsessed town of Bard's Rest, New Hampshire, in which a literary jill-of-all-trades and the veterinarian who broke her heart in high school find that while the course of true love never did run smooth, all's well that ends well.

Fresh off a break-up with her cream-faced loon of an ex-boyfriend, literary agent and writer Miranda Barnes rolls into her hometown of Bard's Rest with one goal in mind: finally finishing her YA novel. Yet as soon as she arrives, it becomes clear that Miranda's in for a midsummer that's not exactly what she dreamed. It's the centennial of Bard's Rest's beloved annual Shakespeare festival, and Miranda's mother is the head of the planning committee, which means that before you can say "all's fair in love and war," Miranda is somehow directing a mainstage production of *Twelfth Night*—while simultaneously plugging away at her book, navigating a family health scare, and doing her best to avoid the boy who broke her heart in high school. The boy in question, of course, is now a man: Adam Winters, a surprisingly nice-smelling veterinarian with a talent for set design and an infuriating knack for saving Miranda's dog Puck from the consequences of his imprudent eating. When it comes to Adam, the lady doth protest too much: in spite of their history—a prom night tragedy starring Miranda's older sister Portia—and the fact that the end of the summer will put them back on opposite coasts, Miranda can't help but wonder if what they have might last beyond the end of the festival.

A treat for fans of Abbi Waxman's *The Bookish Life of Nina Hill* and Kate Clayborn's *Love Lettering*, Jessica Martin's debut is a warm and witty novel about a woman coming into her own with the help of her community—and the man who just might earn his place at her side. With the small-town charm of *Evvie Drake Starts Over* and enemies-to-lovers (or is it lovers-to-enemies-to-lovers?) spark of Emily Henry's *Beach Read*.

Jessica Gorbet is a lawyer by day, writer by night, and a Shakespeare-lover 24/7. Based in the burbs of Boston, she shares her life with a finance geek, an unruly toddler, and two dogs named after Bond characters.

THE WILD ONE

A Novel

By Colleen McKeegan

NA

Fall 2022 / HarperCollins / US Editor: Sarah Stein

Edited MS Available Spring 2022

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.

NONE OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAPPENED IF PRINCE WERE ALIVE

A Novel By Carolyn Prusa

NA

Fall 2022 / Atria (S&S) / US Editor: Trish Todd

Edited MS Available Fall 2021

Filled with laugh-out-loud moments and sharp observations, this debut is reminiscent of Where'd You Go, Bernadette?—with scattered showers of purple glitter.

Ramona has it all: two children who prefer mini golf to potty training, a boss who won't stop emailing after office hours, a pain-in-the-neck mom, and a husband who's cheating on her with a LaCroix-drinking woman Ramona recognizes from the school pick-up line. If that wasn't enough, add in Hurricane Matthew bearing down on Savannah, Georgia—and kicking off 48 madcap hours that upend Ramona's life and her relationships.

In the face of extreme weather warnings, Ramona leads her two kids, the neighbor boy, her mother, and assorted pets through police roadblocks and increasingly torrential downpours—all the while fielding apology calls and texts from her cheating husband Desmond. Even as she attempts to ignore the persistent glow of the minivan's check engine light, Ramona thinks back through their marriage, sorting through memories in an attempt to find the moment things went wrong.

Perspective comes in the eye of the storm with a rare moment of mother-daughter bonding that leaves Ramona wondering: can she forgive Desmond's infidelity? Does she want to? After the hurricane sweeps through, what will be left of the life they've built together—and is Ramona in or out?

For fans of the novels of Maria Semple, Katherine Heiny, Laurie Gelman, and the warmth and wit of Mary Laura Philpott, *None of This Would Have Happened If Prince Were Alive* is a highly readable, deeply relatable look at marriage, motherhood, and a woman finding her way back to herself.

Carolyn Prusa earned a BA from Stanford University and an MA in creative writing from Boston University. She has been a contributor to the *Charlotte Observer*, *the Greensboro News and Record*, *Savannah Magazine*, *Savannah Morning News*, among other publications. She lives in Savannah with her husband, two sons, and giant wookie dog.

MORE OF EVERYTHING

A Novel

By Mecca Jamilah Sullivan

NA

Fall 2022 / Liveright (W.W. Norton) / US Editor: Gina Iaquinta

Edited MS Available Spring 2022

A fiction counterpart to Roxanne Gay's Hunger, this is a novel about an young girl growing up in 1990s Harlem, grappling with the stigma of obesity passed down through three generations of women in her family, who comes to terms with her self-image and her sexuality against the backdrop of Harlem's changing landscape.

Malaya Clondon loves to paint, she loves hip-hop, and she loves to spend time with her adoring father. But every day brings painful reminders that she doesn't fit in. Malaya is one of only a handful of Black students at her elite Upper East Side school, and the few friends she makes there betray her trust. Her desires and sexuality are a source of confusion, and her parents' conflicts are becoming increasingly tense. Needing an escape, she retreats into a fantasy world in which butter-swaddled french fries and hip-hop beats vie as a source of comfort. Soon eating wins out, and Malaya balloons from a 150-pound girl of eight to a morbidly obese adolescent. Malaya remains helpless to define her needs for herself, until a family tragedy upends her world, and she comes to realize that her desires provide the nourishment she has craved.

More of Everything is very much a novel that speaks to the moment: issues of race and social class, sexual identity, and women's body image infuse Malaya's story. Doing what only the finest fiction can do, it brings these conversations to life in a character who wins our hearts and reveals us to ourselves. Malaya's coming of age echoes the agonies of so many of adolescents: family conflicts, bullying, betrayal, confusion about their desires as they grow into womanhood. Like too many young women, Malaya's inner turmoil takes self-destructive form. But Malaya is a survivor, art and music feed her soul, and she emerges healthy in both mind and body. Its topicality makes it an ideal book club destination, extending the vibrant explorations of race, weight, body image, sexual identity, and girlhood taken up in such popular nonfiction as *Heavy* by Kiese Laymon, *Young Gifted and Fat* by Sherrell Luckett.

Mecca Jamilah Sullivan is the author of the short story collection *Blue Talk and Love*, which won the Judith Markowitz Award from Lambda Literary.

FLIGHT

A Novel

By Lynn Steger Strong

NA

Fall 2022 / HarperCollins / US Editor: Sarah Stein

Edited MS Available Spring 2022

It's Christmas Eve Eve in upstate New York and a young mother is frantic about her missing daughter.

Quinn has lost custody of Maddie before but worked hard to get her back—rehab, counseling, and the interminable waiting that follows. She loves Maddie fiercely and she fears that this episode, if reported, might mean she loses her for good. Alice, Maddie's social worker and a strikingly beautiful Black woman whose relationship with her daughter reminds Quinn mostly of her own failures, might be her only option. Just a few miles away, Alice prepares the house she's inherited from her grandmother for the arrival of her husband Henry's siblings and their children. It will be the first Christmas for all of them in this house, a change after spending many Christmases at Henry's mother's in sunny Florida. As the adult siblings arrive, the old resentments and instabilities begin to bubble up. But when Alice receives a call from her client Quinn that Maddie is missing, her love for Maddie swirls with the devastating losses of the previous years and the forces already at work within the family take over. With urgency and artfulness, Strong turns the convention of a "missing girl novel" on its head as each character in the ensemble cast searches not only for Maddie but for a connection or force that might make them feel individually less lost. Taut and tense, Strong's attention is tuned, again, to the structural and systemic failings that are haunting Americans, but also to the ways in which people, with all their hopefulness and love, can support each other through the gaps. In conversation with the work of writers like Claire Messud, Lydia Millet and Lily King, *Flight* is a novel of family, ambition, precarity, art, and desire, and it forms a big next step for a writer at the height of her powers.

Previous Publishers for WANT:

Polish (Fame Art)

Vietnamese (Nham Van)

Lynn Steger Strong is the author of the novels *Hold Still* and, most recently, *Want*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *Time*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *Los Angeles Times*, *The Paris Review*, *Bomb*, *Guernica*, *Literary Hub*, *Catapult*, *Elle.com*, *The Cut*, *New York Magazine*, *LARB*, *The Millions*, and elsewhere.

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.

EXOSKELETONS

A Novel

By Marisa Crane

NA

Spring 2023 / Catapult / US Editor: Alicia Kroell

Edited MS Available Summer 2022

Jenny Offill's Dept. of Speculation meets Black Mirror, Exoskeletons is set in an alternate reality where rulebreakers are marked with extra shadows, and one queer woman grapples with grief, new parenthood, and a corrupt surveillance state.

A bold debut whose thought-provoking speculative premise invites the reader to confront urgent questions about justice, grief, love, and survival. In a United States not so unlike our own, the Department of Balance has adopted a radical new form of law enforcement: rather than facing incarceration, wrongdoers are given a second (and sometimes third, fourth...) shadow—as a reminder of their crime and a warning to those they encounter. Corruption and prejudice run rampant, giving rise to an underclass of so-called Shadesters: disenfranchised, publicly shamed, and deprived of civil rights protections. Kris is a Shadester, a new widow and mother to a baby born with a second shadow of her own. Wracked with grief at the loss of her wife and thoroughly unprepared for the reality of raising a child alone, Kris teeters on the edge of collapse, fumbling through her first months of motherhood in a daze of alcohol, shame, and self-loathing. Yet as the kid grows, Kris finds her footing, raising a child whose irrepressible spark cannot be dampened by the harsh realities of an unjust, violent world. She can't forget her wife, but with time, she can make a new life for herself and the kid, supported by a community of fellow misfits who defy the Department to lift one another up in solidarity and hope.

In vignettes that trace the first ten years of the kid's life, *Exoskeletons* examines the long shadow of grief, the hard work of parenting, and the power of queer resistance. With a first-person register reminiscent of the fierce self-disclosure of Sheila Heti, and lyric impulse of Maggie Nelson, *Exoskeletons* marks the debut of a bold new voice in fiction that will resonate with readers of Sarah Rose Etter's *The Book of X*, Alejandro Zambra's *Multiple Choice*, Ling Ma's *Severance*, and the work of Carmen Maria Machado.

Marisa Crane is a queer, nonbinary writer whose fiction, nonfiction, and poetry has appeared in *Literary Hub*, *Catapult*, *TriQuarterly Review*, *The Rumpus*, and elsewhere.

THE MYTHMAKERS

A Novel

By Keziah Weir

NA

Spring 2023 / Simon & Schuster / US Editor: Marysue Rucci

Edited MS Available Fall 2022

Rights Sold:

Canada (McClelland and Stuart)

A nesting doll of a book that grapples with perspective and memory, and the battles between creative ambition and love.

The Mythmakers begins in a Brooklyn apartment. Sal, a former magazine staffer and now somewhat aimless freelancer, opens the latest issue of *The Paris Review* to read a story by a much older writer, Martin Keller, who made a great impression on her years ago at one of her first literary parties. Much to her shock, the story is about... her, and the moment they shared together. The details are there, it is undeniable, and supposedly this story is part of a yet-unpublished novel. Sal, who has been trying and failing to balance the demands of art and life, and who feels increasingly desperate as her twenties come to a close without her having accomplished anything she deems worth notice, is consumed with a hunger to read the rest of the story. Her story. But when Sal attempts to learn more, she discovers that Martin has died, and this story was published posthumously.

Amid her own life and relationships going increasingly sideways, Sal impulsively decides to find Martin's widow and try to get the unpublished manuscript. Seeing more of how Martin thought of her, how she influenced an undeniably great writer who noticed and valued the real her, the writer in hiding—surely his book would show Sal the path forward, the right door to open at this painful, confusing, and dangerous juncture in her life? But then Sal meets Moira, who turns out to be much more than Sal bargained for. For Moira, Sal discovers, is certain SHE is the main character in Martin's story. Who does the truth belong to?

The Mythmakers lives somewhere in the universe of Laurie Colwin, *Trust Exercise* by Susan Choi, *Writers and Lovers* by Lily King, and *Fates and Furies* by Lauren Groff.

Keziah Weir is a senior editor at Vanity Fair.

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