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## The Christmas Inn

### A Novel

Pamela M. Kelley

Explore this delightfully cozy and wonderfully joyful novel of second chances at the most wonderful time of the year, from *USA Today* bestselling author Pamela Kelley.

### Summary

Riley Sanders didn't plan on losing her job as a content marketing manager right before Christmas. When she calls her sister Amy to vent, she learns that their mother has broken her leg and could really use some help at the inn. Riley decides to head home to the inn, nestled along the shores of Cape Cod, in time for the Christmas rush. She is happy to help and needs something to distract her as mistletoe is hung and snowflakes begin to fall.

When she gets there, she not only finds delicious cookies and a crackling fire to lift her spirits, but also the sense of family she's been missing all along. There's Franny, a woman who has just lost her sister and has four unopened letters from her that she plans to use to open her up to new experiences on the Cape. And there's Aidan, her high school sweetheart, now a widower, who is staying at the inn with his nine year-old son, Luke. What begins as a quick stay over the holidays to help her mom turns into something that means much more—a second chance at romance, a deeper sense of found family, and all the joy and wonder that comes with Christmastime on Cape Cod.

A feel-good novel as delightful and comforting as a cup of hot chocolate on a cold winter's night, *The Christmas Inn* is Pamela Kelley's most heartwarming and magical book yet.

### Contributor Bio

Pamela Kelley is a *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author of women's fiction, family sagas, and suspense. Readers often describe her books as feel-good reads with people you'd want as friends. She lives in a historic seaside town near Cape Cod. She has always been an avid reader of women's fiction, romance, mysteries, thrillers and cook books. There's also a good chance you might get hungry when you read her books as she is a foodie, and occasionally shares a recipe or two.

### Quotes

"Anyone who's ever wanted to turn the page on their old life or felt the whispered promise of a new dream, and a fresh start will fall in love with Pamela Kelley's charming new novel." - *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews

"Four women who are each discovering a new path in life. Taking chances, supporting one another, coming to terms with disappointment. Succeeding... Grab your beach chair, umbrella and a cooler full of snacks and enjoy." - Susan Wilson, *New York Times* bestselling of *One Good Dog* and *What A Dog Knows*



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## If I Stopped Haunting You

Colby Wilkens

An enemies to lovers romance with a spooky twist where two feuding writers end up on a writers retreat together at a haunted castle in Scotland

### Summary

It's been months since horror author Penelope Skinner threw a book at Neil Storm. But he was so infuriating, with his sparkling green eyes and his bestselling horror novels that *claimed* to break Native stereotypes. And now she's a publishing pariah and hasn't been able to write a word since. So when her friend invites her on a too-good-to-be-true writers retreat in a supposedly haunted Scottish castle, she seizes the opportunity. Of course, some things really *are* too good to be true.

Neil wants nothing less than to be trapped in a castle with the frustratingly adorable woman who threw a book at him. She drew blood! Worse still, she unleashed a serious case of self-doubt! Neil is terrified to write another bestselling "book without a soul," as Pen called it. All Neil wants is to find inspiration, while completely avoiding her.

But as the retreat begins, Pen and Neil are stunned to find themselves trapped in a real-life ghost story. Even more horrifying, they're stuck together and a truly shocking (extremely hot) almost-kiss has left them rethinking their feelings, and... maybe they shouldn't have been enemies at all? But if they can't stop the ghosts pursuing them, they may never have the chance to find out.

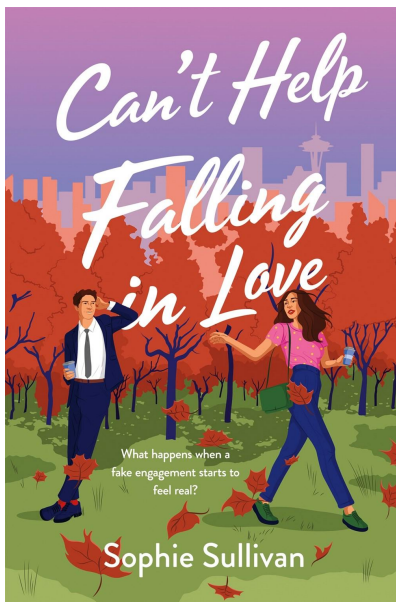
Full of spooky chills and even more sexy thrills, *If I Stopped Haunting You* by Colby Wilkens is the funny, fast-paced romp romance readers have been waiting for!

### Contributor Bio

COLBY WILKENS is a white and Choctaw-Cherokee author of YA and Adult romance and horror. She resides in the Pacific Northwest on unceded, traditional land of the Coast Salish Peoples with her partner, 2 cats, and a vast collection of books and candles. She can be found as @colbywilkens on all social media.

### Quotes

"If you're in the mood for a steamy enemies-to-lovers romance but also a chilling haunted-house horror, GET YOU A BOOK THAT CAN DO BOTH! Colby Wilkens' debut *If I Stopped Haunting You* is so inventive and immersive -- I couldn't tell if my shoulders were up by my ears because of the creeping dread of whatever was going on in that castle or because of the electric chemistry between Pen and Neil. I blazed through this book in one sitting because I just couldn't wait to find out what would happen next!" - Alicia Thompson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *With Love, from Cold World*



## Can't Help Falling in Love

### A Novel

Sophie Sullivan

A struggling waitress and the heir to a major Seattle company stumble into a high-profile fake engagement while simultaneously trying to keep up with their own love lives in this flirty fall rom-com!

### Summary

Lexi Danby is looking for some no-strings, fall fun. Once a college track star, she was forced to drop out when her father passed away. Now she's trying to make ends meet while putting herself through school and caring for her grieving mother. When her comically bad waitressing lands her directly in the path of a handsome, charming stranger named Will, Lexi may just have found the distraction she's been looking for. Their first date looks promising until a misunderstanding at a party thrusts Lexi and Will into a fake engagement they can't talk themselves out of. And Will turns out to be a member of Seattle royalty.

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Will Grand is heir to a major company, and Seattle's most eligible bachelor. But he's been placed in charge of an important merger with a company that values family above all else, and needs to show them that he's settled down. While a fake engagement is advantageous from a business standpoint, it's not so great for a budding relationship with a woman who's wary of commitment. With a woman who Will is beginning to care about much more than he could have anticipated.

As Lexi gets a taste of Will's glamorous world and the pair keeps up the pretense of their fake engagement for the press, they decide to see where a more casual relationship takes them out of the spotlight. And amid apple picking in comfy flannels, outdoor breweries in the crisp air, and fun Halloween preparations, Lexi starts to realize the scariest part of the season might just be taking a chance on love.

### Contributor Bio

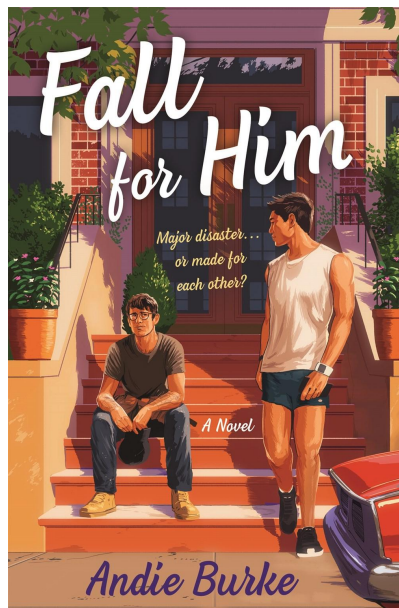
SOPHIE SULLIVAN is a Canadian author as well as a cookie-eating, Diet Pepsi-drinking, Disney enthusiast who loves reading and writing romance in almost equal measure. She writes around her day job as a teacher and spends her spare time with her sweet family watching reruns of Friends. She's had plenty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

### Quotes

Praise for *Love, Naturally*:

"*Love, Naturally* reminds us of the magic of embracing the unexpected." – Amy Lea, international bestselling author of *Exes and O's*

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



## Fall for Him

A Novel

Andie Burke

**Filled with banter, hijinks, and heart, *Fall for Him* is about finding out what it really means to fix things after your life crumbles.**

### Summary

Dylan Gallagher's extremely hot downstairs neighbor seemed to loathe him from the second he moved in, and given that Dylan just caused a flood, fell through the floor, landed directly onto that same neighbor's bed, and made the worst timed "It's Raining Men" joke ever, that seems unlikely to change.

Meanwhile, when rains it pours for ER Nurse Derek Chang. The timing of the astronomically expensive deluge couldn't be worse. Paying off his sister's debts emptied Derek's bank account, and the underlying root cause of the collapsed ceiling came from his own unit. Also, the local HOA tyrant has been sniffing around trying to fine him for the illicit, extended visit of his best friend's dog.

Dylan has his own reasons to keep the catastrophe quiet. He offers to fix the damage himself and help keep Derek's dog-sitting secret. The two men have to squeeze all their emotional baggage and the 130lb dog into a tiny one-bedroom apartment. Dylan knows he's not Derek's type, so he's intent on getting the repair job done as quickly as possible so he doesn't do anything stupid like acting on his inconvenient attraction. Meanwhile Derek's trying to ignore the fact that the surprisingly funny, tattooed nerd sleeping on the couch is growing on him more and more, despite his determination to hate him.

### Contributor Bio

ANDIE BURKE writes books with queer kissing and happily ever afters. She's an English major who jumped into nursing—recently escaping the pandemic ER to a pediatric sedation unit. Andie lives in MD with an alarming number of books and ultra-fine point pens. When not writing, she's feeding two small human creatures or trying not to kill her houseplants. You can find her on Bookstagram adding to her ever-expanding TBR or letting her ADHD brain happily dissociate while listening to Taylor Swift.

### Quotes

Praise for *Fly with Me*

"A soaring, swoony fake-dating tale." - Electric Literature

"A hug in book form. Opposites-attract goodness, top-tier banter, and delightful tenderness all combine to make Andie Burke's debut an instant favorite. A celebration of queer love and joy from start to finish." - Mazey Eddings, author of *A Brush with Love*

"Skillfully balances sweetness and heat...Burke is a writer to watch." - *Publishers Weekly*

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Wt



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## Whenever You're Ready

Rachel Runya Katz

After reconnecting on a road trip, two friends must decide if love is the ultimate risk worth taking in this funny, emotional sapphic romance

### Summary

Nia and Jade had been inseparable ever since their best friend, Michal, introduced them at her tenth birthday party. But now it's been three years since Michal died of cancer— since the brutal fight Nia and Jade had in the weeks after— and they're barely on speaking terms.

Until Nia reads a letter Michal wrote for her 29th birthday, asking her and Jade to go on the southern Jewish history road trip they'd planned before she died. To add to the complications, Michal's then-boyfriend and Jade's twin brother, Jonah, joins the trip. Despite the years apart and Jade and Jonah's strained relationship, any awkwardness quickly disappears as it becomes clear how much Nia and Jade have missed each other.

Unfortunately, old issues soon arise. Nia has been in love with Jade since they were teenagers, and Jade has been so committed to their friendship that she never let herself consider something more. As the stops pass, tensions mount, running high until Nia and Jade are forced to confront what happened three years ago, their feelings for one another, and even their respective relationships with Jonah.

Rachel Runya Katz's *Whenever You're Ready* is about family, friendship, and the kind of first love that could last a lifetime—if only you are willing to take a chance.

### Contributor Bio

RACHEL RUNYA KATZ is a contemporary romance writer living in Seattle with her partner, her cat, and far too many houseplants. She has a PhD in biomedical engineering, which is minimally helpful for this endeavor. Her books center queer Jews of color and their layered lives of joy, sadness, and love. *Thank You for Sharing* is her first novel.

### Quotes

"Is it okay to say that Rachel Runya Katz's characters are always so *hot* to me? The slow burn tension between Jade and Nia in *Whenever You're Ready* was off the charts. But more than that, Katz always creates such believable, relatable friend groups, grounded in their relationships with each other and their relationship to the world around them. I adore this author's mind!" - Alicia Thompson, USA Today bestselling author of *Love in the Time of Serial Killers*

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## The Slowest Burn

### A Novel

Sarah Chamberlain

*Business or Pleasure* meets *Evvie Drake Starts Over* in this delicious opposites-attract romance from debut author Sarah Chamberlain.

### Summary

Ellie Wasserman's life is neat and tidy, and that's exactly how she wants it. Really. A top ghostwriter for celebrity cookbooks, she was widowed three years ago and has no interest in taking chances--not on writing her own cookbook, not on telling her still-grieving in-laws she wants to move out, and certainly not on dating, which is about as intimidating as a recipe with fifty steps.

Kieran O'Neill isn't known for being organized. An up-and-coming chef who scored big on a reality television competition, he's been the guy who cracks jokes and makes messes—something his chilly family has never let him forget. The only place he feels truly capable is at the stove. But when he's paired with an uptight ghostwriter with cool blue eyes and distracting curves to write his debut cookbook, she shreds his class clown act like a paring knife cuts orange peel.

As Ellie and Kieran are forced to work closely together in a hot kitchen for weeks on end, their sharp edges and harsh judgments slowly soften and sweeten into a wildly delicious attraction. Long, steamy days turn into even steamier nights, but they have to face their painful pasts to know if this tender new love can transform into something lasting.

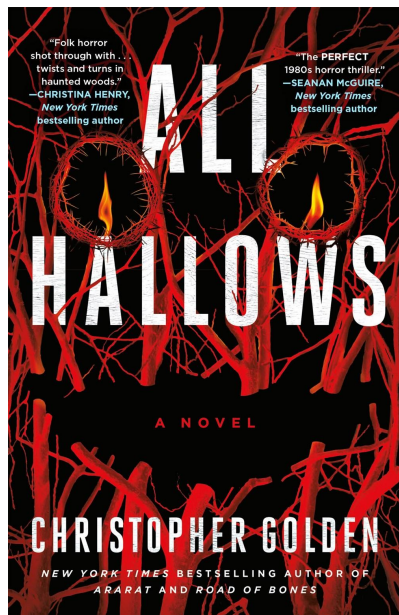
### Contributor Bio

SARAH CHAMBERLAIN is a writer, editor, and cookbook translator whose articles have appeared in *VICE*, *The Guardian* (UK), *Food52*, and *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*. When she's not writing witty, sexy contemporary romance, she enjoys making dinner for her friends and family, watching Cary Grant movies, and setting records as an amateur competitive powerlifter. Originally from Northern California, she lives in London.

### Quotes

"In *The Slowest Burn*, Chamberlain serves up a romance as sharp as it is sweet. Fans of Emily Henry will devour this delectable story of love lost and found." - Cecilia Rabess, author of *Everything's Fine*

"*The Slowest Burn* is a five course feast of longing, banter, gourmet cooking, heaps of spice, and a cherry on top happily ever after. I devoured this fake dating, celebrity chef romance and can't wait to read more from Chamberlain." - Erin La Rosa, author of *For Butter or Worse* and *Plot Twist*



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Wt

## All Hallows

### A Novel

Christopher Golden

With the 80's nostalgia of *Stranger Things*, this horror drama from *NYT* bestselling author Christopher Golden follows neighborhood families and a mysterious, lurking evil on one Halloween day.

### Summary

It's Halloween night, 1984, in Coventry, Massachusetts, and two families are unraveling. Up and down the street, horrifying secrets are being revealed, and all the while, mixed in with the trick-or-treaters of all ages, four children who do not belong are walking door to door, merging with the kids of Parmenter Road. Children in vintage costumes with faded, eerie makeup. They seem terrified, and beg the neighborhood kids to hide them away, to keep them safe from The Cunning Man. There's a small clearing in the woods now that was never there before, and a blackthorn tree that doesn't belong at all. These odd children claim that The Cunning Man is coming for them...and they want the local kids to protect them. But with families falling apart and the neighborhood splintered by bitterness, who will save the children of Parmenter Road?

*New York Times* bestselling, Bram Stoker Award-winning author Christopher Golden is best known for his supernatural thrillers set in deadly, distant locales...but in this suburban Halloween drama, Golden brings the horror *home*.

*All Hallows*. The one night when *everything* is a mask...

### Contributor Bio

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

### Quotes

"An atmospheric tale of folk horror shot through with unrelenting dread." - Christina Henry, author of *The Ghost Tree* and *Near the Bone*

"*All Hallows* may be Golden's best yet." - Alex Segura, bestselling author of *Secret Identity*

"Somehow, in 2022, Christopher Golden has written the PERFECT 1980s horror thriller." - Seanan McGuire

"I love the novels of Christopher Golden, and this one is no exception." - *Book Riot*

"Easily recommended to curious parties, fans of Christopher Golden, or those looking for a new Halloween horror novel." - *A Green Man Review*





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Wt

## Hemlock Island

### A Novel

Kelley Armstrong

A standalone horror novel from #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Kelley Armstrong.

### Summary

Laney Kilpatrick has been renting her vacation home to strangers. The invasion of privacy gives her panic attacks, but it's the only way she can keep her beloved Hemlock Island, the only thing she owns after a pandemic-fueled divorce. But broken belongings and campfires that nearly burn down the house have escalated to bloody bones, hex circles, and now, terrified renters who've fled after finding blood and nail marks all over the guest room closet, as though someone tried to claw their way out...and failed.

When Laney shows up to investigate with her teenaged niece in tow, she discovers that her ex, Kit, has also been informed and is there with Jayla, his sister and her former best friend. Then Sadie, another old high school friend, charts over with her brother, who's now a cop.

There are tensions and secrets, whispers in the woods, and before long, the discovery of a hand poking up from the earth. Then the body that goes with it... But by that time, someone has taken off with their one and only means off the island, and they're trapped with someone—or something—that doesn't want them leaving the island alive.

### Contributor Bio

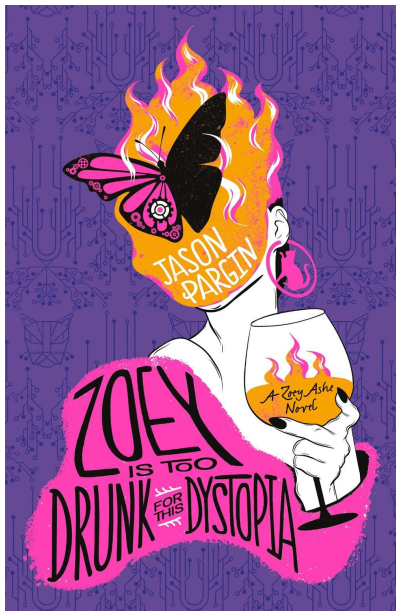
KELLEY ARMSTRONG graduated with a degree in psychology and then studied computer programming. Now, she is a full-time writer and parent, and she lives with her husband and three children in rural Ontario, Canada.

### Quotes

"A must-read for fans of atmospheric and occult horror with intricate storytelling." - *Library Journal*

"With creepy twists on every page and a unique horror element, it's got an ending you'll never see coming." -Alma Katsu, author of *The Fervor*

"Armstrong lures you in with mystery, but once she yanks back the curtain, the horror is full-tilt. A great read!" —Christopher Golden, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Road of Bones* and *All Hallows*



## Zoey Is Too Drunk for This Dystopia

Jason Pargin

*Zoey is Too Drunk for This Dystopia* is the latest hilarious installment in *New York Times* bestselling author Jason Pargin's thrilling Zoey Ashe sci-fi series.

### Summary

Zoey Ashe wakes up every day feeling like she's trying to steer a battleship while tied to the propeller. The twenty-three-year-old heiress to a criminal empire is navigating a futuristic world of high-tech liars and cutthroats, forced to learn the rules of a devious game she never asked to play. Now she's facing a crisis that is both bigger and stranger than all that came before:

The gleaming new city of Tabula Raşa is hosting its massive annual music festival, which every year precedes the equally massive annual drunken riot. This is all organized by Zoey's people, including the riot. As her advisors explain, the citizens need a little controlled chaos now and then. Zoey, however, fears the chaos will not stay controlled for long.

When a horrific crime is broadcast live on an all-seeing social network, Zoey and her team suspect a carefully-stage hoax arranged by one of the Tabula Raşa's shadowy power players. But in a city in which lies are always served in layers, even that explanation will prove far too simple.

### Contributor Bio

JASON PARGIN is the *New York Times* bestselling author of the John Dies at the End series as well as the award-winning Zoey Ashe novels. He previously published under the pseudonym David Wong. His essays at Cracked.com and other outlets have been enjoyed by tens of millions of readers around the world.

### Quotes

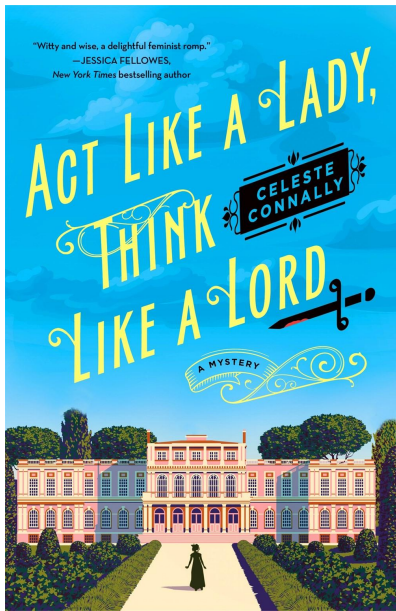
"A fast-paced, witty and much-needed shot in the arm to the genre. Funny without being flippant...one of the best ongoing series out there today. - Lindsay Ellis, *NYT* bestselling author of *Axiom's End*

"Pargin's signature fluid style keeps the gonzo action moving as he uses Zoey's predicament to explore themes of social justice, political necessity, and the sometimes-adverse correlation of wealth to happiness." - *Publisher's Weekly*

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## Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord

### A Mystery

Celeste Connally

**Bridgerton meets Agatha Christie in *Act Like a Lady, Think Like a Lord*, a dazzling first entry in a captivating new Regency-era mystery series with a feminist spin from Celeste Connally.**

### Summary

*London, 1815.* Lady Petra Forsyth, daughter of the Earl of Holbrook, has made a shocking proclamation. After losing her beloved fiancé in an accident three years earlier, she announces in front of London's loosest lips that she will never marry. A woman of independent means—and rather independent ways—Petra sees no reason to cede her wealth and freedom to any man now that the love of her life is gone. Instead, she plans to continue enjoying the best of society without any expectations.

But when ballroom gossip suggests that a longtime friend has died of a fit due to her “melancholia” while in the care of a questionable physician, Petra vows to use her status to dig deeper—uncovering a private asylum where men pay to have their wives and daughters locked away, or worse. Just as Petra has reason to believe her friend is alive, a shocking murder proves more danger is afoot than she thought. And the more determined Lady Petra becomes in uncovering the truth, the more her own headstrong actions and desire for independence are used against her, putting her own freedom—and possibly her life—in jeopardy.

### Contributor Bio

CELESTE CONNALLY is an Agatha Award nominee, and a former freelance writer and editor. A lifelong devotee of historical novels and adaptations fueled by her passion for history—plus weekly doses of PBS Masterpiece—Celeste loves reading and writing about women from the past who didn't always do as they were told.

You can find Celeste Connally on social media at:

[celesteconnally.com](http://celesteconnally.com)

Instagram: [@celesteconnallyauthor](https://www.instagram.com/celesteconnallyauthor)

Twitter: [@cconnallyauthor](https://twitter.com/cconnallyauthor)

### Quotes

"Effervescent...A delightful period adventure with pitch-perfect banter." —*Kirkus Reviews*

"Delightful...Petra is marvelously drawn—an easy-to-love, instantly memorable heroine—and Connally equips her with a brisk, page-turning adventure. This is catnip for historical suspense fans." —*Publishers Weekly*

"Refreshing for the complexity of its lead characters and will be popular with Bridgerton fans." —*Booklist*

"Witty and wise, a delightful feminist romp. Connally's series serves as a reminder to never settle, that what's right and what's easy are rarely the same." —Jessica Fellowes, *New York Times* bestselling author



## Courtiers

**Intrigue, Ambition, and the Power Players Behind the House of Windsor**

Valentine Low

**The gripping account of how the Royal family operates, from the journalist who has spent years studying them. Who really runs the show and, as Charles III begins his reign, what will happen next?**

### Summary

Throughout history, the British monarchy has relied on its courtiers—the trusted advisers in the King or Queen's inner circle—to ensure its survival as a family and a pillar of the country. Today, a carefully selected team of people hidden from view steers the royal family's path between public duty and private life. Queen Elizabeth II, after 70 years of service, saw the final seasons of her reign without her husband Philip to guide her. Now, a newly ascended Charles seeks to define what his future as King, and that of his court, will be.

The question of who is entrusted to guide the royals has never been more vital. Yet, as the tensions within the family are exposed to global scrutiny like never before, the task these courtiers face has never been more challenging. With a dark cloud hanging over Prince Andrew and Harry and Meghan's controversial departure, William and Kate—equipped with a 21st century approach to public relations—now hold the responsibility of making an ancient institution relevant. In fascinating and explosive detail, Valentine Low explores the previously unknown relationship between modern courtiers and the royal family.

*Courtiers* pulls back the veil to reveal an ever-changing system of complex characters, shifting alliances, and battles of ideas over the future of the institution. This is the inside story of how the monarchy really works at a pivotal moment in its history.

### Contributor Bio

**VALENTINE LOW**, a former journalist at *The Times*, has been writing about the royal family for over a quarter of a century. He makes regular appearances on international television as a royal commentator. His exposure of the bullying allegations against the Duchess of Sussex attracted global attention. Valentine previously worked at the London Evening Standard for over twenty years. He lives in West London.

### Quotes

"[Low] explains exactly what a good courtier does: advise royalty and, when necessary, save them from themselves." -***The New York Times Book Review***

"A suave history of the monarchy over the past century, seen through the prism of those who serve it...Low's book has glimpses of the future." -***The Spectator***

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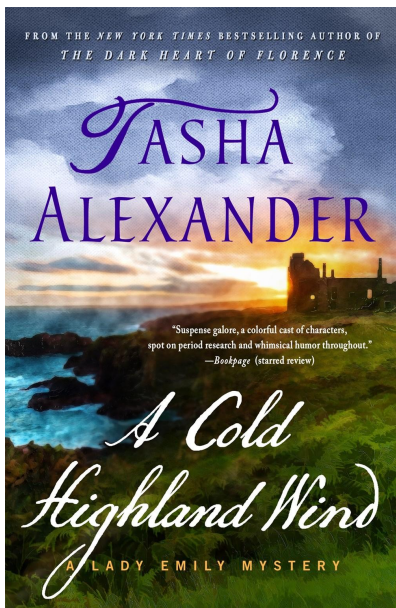
INTRIGUE, AMBITION, AND THE POWER PLAYERS  
BEHIND THE HOUSE OF WINDSOR  
VALENTINE LOW



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## A Cold Highland Wind

### A Lady Emily Mystery

Tasha Alexander

**In this new installment of Tasha Alexander's acclaimed Lady Emily series set in the wild Scottish highlands, an ancient story of witchcraft may hold the key to solving a murder centuries later.**

### Summary

In the summer of 1905, Lady Emily, husband Colin Hargreaves, and their three sons eagerly embark on a family vacation at Cairnfarn Castle, the Scottish estate of their friend Jeremy, Duke of Bainbridge. But a high-spirited celebration at the beginning of their stay comes to a grisly end when the duke's gamekeeper is found murdered. Handsome Angus Sinclair had a host of enemies: the fiancée he abandoned in Edinburgh, the young woman who had fallen hopelessly in love with him, and the rough farmer who saw him as a rival for her affections. But what is the meaning of the curious runic stone left on Sinclair's forehead?

Clues may be found in the story of Lady MacAllister, wife of the Laird of Cairnfarn Castle, who in 1676 suddenly found herself widowed and thrown out of her home. Her sole companion was a Moorish slave girl who helped her secretly spirit her most prized possessions—a collection of strange books—out of the castle. When her neighbors found a poppet—a doll used to cast spells—and a daisy wheel in her isolated cottage, Lady MacAllister was accused of witchcraft, a crime punishable by death.

Hundreds of years later, Lady Emily searches for the link between Lady MacAllister's harrowing witchcraft trial and the brutal death of Sinclair. She must follow a trail of hidden motives, an illicit affair, and a mysterious stranger to reveal the dark side of a seemingly idyllic Highland village.

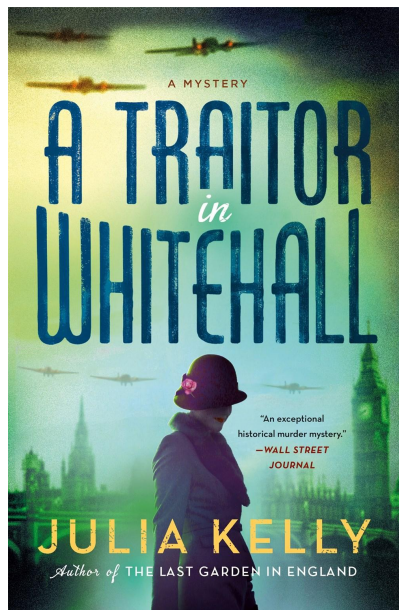
### Contributor Bio

TASHA ALEXANDER, the daughter of two philosophy professors, studied English literature and medieval history at the University of Notre Dame. She and her husband, novelist Andrew Grant, live on a ranch in southeastern Wyoming.

### Quotes

"As is always the case with the Lady Emily series, there is suspense galore, a colorful cast of characters, spot on period research and whimsical humor throughout."  
—**Bookpage, starred review**

"Multiple points of view, interview-based investigation, and a care for the situations of those often forgotten or oppressed are major elements of the story." —**Mystery & Suspense magazine**



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## A Traitor in Whitehall

Julia Kelly

"An exceptional historical murder mystery." –*Wall Street Journal*

### Summary

**ENGLAND 1940:** Evelyne Redfern, known as "The Parisian Orphan" as a child, is working on the line at a munitions factory in wartime London. When Mr. Fletcher, one of her father's old friends, spots Evelyne on a night out, she finds herself plunged into the world of Prime Minister Winston Churchill's cabinet war rooms.

However, shortly after she settles into her new role as a secretary, one of the women at work is murdered, and Evelyne must use all of her amateur sleuthing expertise to find the killer. But doing so puts her right in the path of David Poole, a cagey minister's aide who seems determined to thwart her investigations. That is, until Evelyne finds out David's real mission is to root out a mole selling government secrets to Britain's enemies, and the pair begrudgingly team up.

With her quick wit, sharp eyes, and fierce determination, will Evelyne be able to find out who's been selling England's secrets and catch a killer, all while battling her growing attraction to David?

From Julia Kelly, international bestselling author of *The Last Dance of the Debutante*, comes the first in the mysterious and immersive Parisian Orphan series, *A Traitor in Whitehall*.

### Contributor Bio

JULIA KELLY is the international bestselling author of historical novels about the extraordinary stories of the past. Her books have been translated into 14 languages. She has also written historical romance. In addition to writing, she's been an Emmy-nominated producer, journalist, marketing professional, and (for one summer) a tea waitress. Julia called Los Angeles, Iowa, and New York City home before settling in London.

### Quotes

"Kelly spins an Agatha Christie-esque mystery. . . thoroughly delightful and well-researched."—Susan Elia MacNeal

"Evelyne Redfern is exactly the kind of intrepid, plucky heroine I love to root for. . . *A Traitor in Whitehall* will keep you guessing as to who the killer might be as the pages fly by."—Madeline Martin

"Kelly's narrative zips along. . . a well-plotted start to an entertaining new series."—Shelf Awareness

"Romance, feminism, and historical detail combine in an exciting new series."—*Kirkus Reviews*



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## The Christmas Inn

### A Novel

Pamela M. Kelley

Explore this delightfully cozy and joyful novel of second chances at the most wonderful time of the year, from *USA Today* bestselling author Pamela Kelley.

### Summary

Riley Sanders didn't plan on losing her job as a content marketing manager right before Christmas. When she calls her sister Amy to vent, she learns that their mother has broken her leg and could really use some help at the inn. Riley decides to head home to the inn, nestled along the shores of Cape Cod, in time for the Christmas rush. She is happy to help and needs something to distract her as mistletoe is hung and snowflakes begin to fall.

When she gets there, she not only finds delicious cookies and a crackling fire to lift her spirits, but also the sense of family she's been missing all along. There's Franny, a woman who has just lost her sister and has four unopened letters from her that she plans to use to open her up to new experiences on the Cape. And there's Aidan, her high school sweetheart, now a widower, who is staying at the inn with his nine year-old son, Luke. What begins as a quick stay over the holidays to help her mom turns into something that means much more—a second chance at romance, a deeper sense of found family, and all the joy and wonder that comes with Christmastime on Cape Cod.

A feel-good novel as delightful and comforting as a cup of hot chocolate on a cold winter's night, *The Christmas Inn* is Pamela Kelley's most heartwarming and magical book yet.

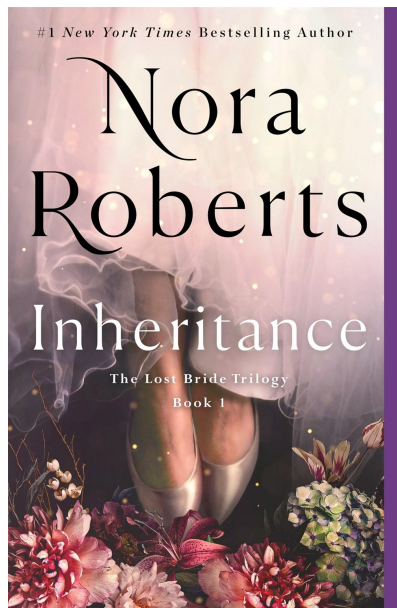
### Contributor Bio

PAMELA KELLEY is a *USA Today* and *Wall Street Journal* bestselling author of women's fiction, family sagas, and suspense. Readers often describe her books as feel-good reads with people you'd want as friends. She lives in a historic seaside town near Cape Cod. She has always been an avid reader of women's fiction, romance, mysteries, thrillers and cook books. There's also a good chance you might get hungry when you read her books as she is a foodie, and occasionally shares a recipe or two.

### Quotes

"Anyone who's ever wanted to turn the page on their old life or felt the whispered promise of a new dream, and a fresh start will fall in love with Pamela Kelley's charming new novel." - *New York Times* bestselling author Mary Kay Andrews

"Four women who are each discovering a new path in life. Taking chances, supporting one another, coming to terms with disappointment. Succeeding... Grab your beach chair, umbrella and a cooler full of snacks and enjoy." - Susan Wilson, *New York Times* bestselling of *One Good Dog* and *What A Dog Knows*



## Inheritance

### The Lost Bride Trilogy, Book 1

Nora Roberts

Here for the first time in paperback is Book One in Nora Roberts's bestselling trilogy—a tale of tragedies, loves found and lost, and a family haunted for generations.

### Summary

*1806: Astrid Poole sits in her bridal clothes, overwhelmed with happiness. But before her marriage can be consummated, she is murdered, and the circle of gold torn from her finger. Her last words are a promise to Collin never to leave him...*

Graphic designer Sonya MacTavish is stunned to learn that her late father had a twin he never knew about—and that her newly discovered uncle, Collin Poole, has left her almost everything he owned, including a majestic Victorian house on the Maine coast, which the will stipulates she must live in for at least three years. Her engagement recently broken, she sets off to find out why the boys were separated at birth—and why it was all kept secret until a genealogy website brought it to light.

Trey, the young lawyer who greets her at the sprawling clifftop manor, notes Sonya's unease—and acknowledges that yes, the place is haunted...but just a little. Sure enough, Sonya finds objects moved and music playing out of nowhere. She sees a painting by her father inexplicably hanging in her deceased uncle's office, and a portrait of a woman named Astrid, whom the lawyer refers to as "the first lost bride." It's becoming clear that Sonya has inherited far more than a house. She has inherited a centuries-old curse, and a puzzle to be solved if there is any hope of breaking it...

### Contributor Bio

NORA ROBERTS is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of more than 230 novels, including *Inheritance*, *Mind Games*, *Identity*, *Nightwork*, The Chronicles of The One trilogy, The Dragon Heart Legacy trilogy, and many more. She is also the author of the bestselling In Death series written under the pen name J. D. Robb. There are more than 500 million copies of her books in print.

### Quotes

"Roberts takes all of the beloved elements of classic gothic romances, then puts her own inventive spin on things... An incisively etched cast of characters and a spooktacular plot that will keep readers up long past their regular bedtimes." —*Booklist* (starred)

"Roberts is in fine form here. Her lush, ethereal world of ghosts and spirits is the perfect foil for Sonya's down-to-earth, almost spartan manner... Exciting launch for Roberts's new trilogy." —*Kirkus Reviews* (starred)

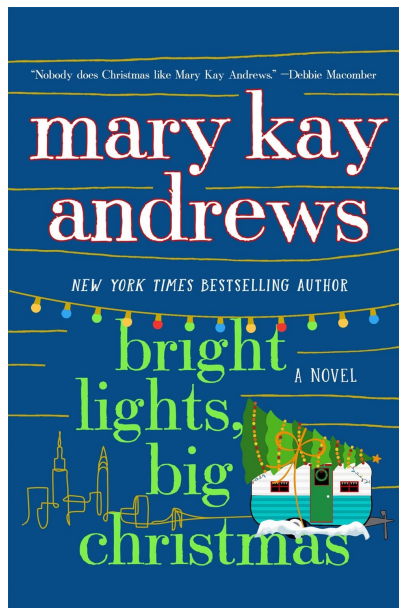
"...robust characters, vivid prose... this will hit the spot for Roberts's many fans." —*Publisher's Weekly*

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## Bright Lights, Big Christmas

### A Novel

Mary Kay Andrews

**From Mary Kay Andrews, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Homewreckers* and *The Santa Suit*, comes a novella celebrating love and the warm, glittering charm of the holiday season.**

### Summary

When fall rolls around, it's time for Kerry Tolliver to leave her family's Christmas tree farm in the mountains of North Carolina for the wilds of New York City to help her gruff older brother & his dog, Queenie, sell the trees at the family stand on a corner in Greenwich Village. Sharing a tiny vintage camper and experiencing Manhattan for the first time, Kerry's ready to try to carve out a new corner for herself.

In the weeks leading into Christmas, Kerry quickly becomes close with the charming neighbors who live near their stand. When an elderly neighbor goes missing, Kerry will need to combine her country know-how with her newly acquired New York knowledge to protect the new friends she's come to think of as family,

And complicating everything is Patrick, a single dad raising his adorable, dragon-loving son Austin on this quirky block. Kerry and Patrick's chemistry is undeniable, but what chance does this holiday romance really have?

Filled with family ties, both rekindled and new, and sparkling with Christmas magic, **BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CHRISTMAS** delivers everything Mary Kay Andrews fans adore, all tied up in a hilarious, romantic gem of a novel.

### Contributor Bio

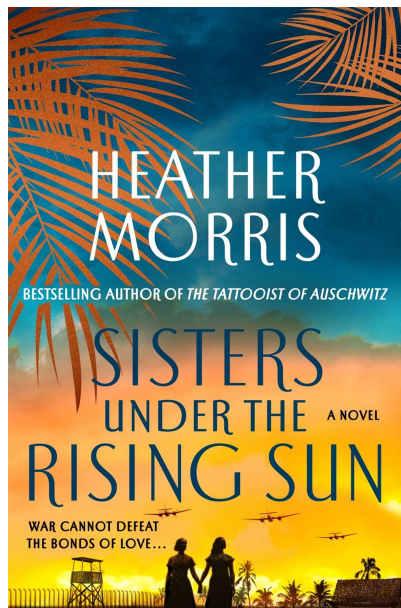
Mary Kay Andrews is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Homewreckers*; *The Santa Suit*; *The Newcomer*; *Hello, Summer*; *Sunset Beach*; *The High Tide Club*; *The Beach House Cookbook*; *The Weekenders*; *Beach Town*; *Save the Date*; *Ladies' Night*; *Christmas Bliss*; *Spring Fever*; *Summer Rental*; *The Fixer Upper*; *Deep Dish*, *Blue Christmas*; *Savannah Breeze*; *Hissy Fit*; *Little Bitty Lies*; and *Savannah Blues*. Andrews is a former journalist for *The Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and she lives in Atlanta, Georgia.

### Quotes

"Andrews (*The Santa Suit*) serves up a Christmas treat in this sparkling tale."  
—Publishers Weekly

"Nobody owns Christmas like Santa's favorite novelist, Mary Kay Andrews. Grab the eggnog and the cookies and cozy up in Greenwich Village with *Bright Lights, Big Christmas* for big fun." —Adriana Trigiani

"From a magical Santa suit, to a Christmas tree stand in the heart of New York, to a neighborhood full of quirky characters, and the smell of fresh cut pine Christmas trees, nobody does Christmas like Mary Kay Andrews." —Debbie Macomber



## Sisters Under the Rising Sun

A Novel

Heather Morris

**A phenomenal novel of resilience and survival from bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, Heather Morris.**

### Summary

In the midst of World War II, an English musician, Norah Chambers, places her eight-year-old daughter Sally on a ship leaving Singapore, desperate to keep her safe from the Japanese army as they move down through the Pacific. Norah remains to care for her husband and elderly parents, knowing she may never see her child again.

Sister Nesta James, a Welsh Australian nurse, has enlisted to tend to Allied troops. But as Singapore falls to the Japanese she joins the terrified cargo of people, including the heartbroken Norah, crammed aboard the *Vyner Brooke* merchant ship. Only two days later, they are bombarded from the air off the coast of Indonesia, and in a matter of hours, the *Vyner Brooke* lies broken on the seabed.

After surviving a brutal 24 hours in the sea, Nesta and Norah reach the beaches of a remote island, only to be captured by the Japanese and held in one of their notorious POW camps. The camps are places of starvation and brutality, where disease runs rampant. Sisters in arms, Norah and Nesta fight side by side every day, helping whoever they can, and discovering in themselves and each other extraordinary reserves of courage, resourcefulness and determination.

*Sisters under the Rising Sun* is a story of women in war: a novel of sisterhood, bravery and friendship in the darkest of circumstances, from the multimillion-copy bestselling author of *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*, *Cilka's Journey* and *Three Sisters*.

### Contributor Bio

HEATHER MORRIS is a native of New Zealand who now resides in Australia. For several years, while working in a large public hospital in Melbourne, she studied and wrote screenplays, one of which was optioned by an Academy Award-winning screenwriter in the United States. In 2003, Heather was introduced to an elderly gentleman who “might just have a story worth telling.” The day she met Lale Sokolov changed both their lives. Their friendship grew, and Lale embarked on a journey of self-scrutiny, entrusting the innermost details of his life during the Holocaust to her. Heather originally wrote Lale’s story as a screenplay—which ranked high in international competitions—before reshaping it into her debut novel, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*.

### Quotes

“Livia, Cibi, and Magda promise their dying father they’ll stick together—a vow later tested at Auschwitz, on a so-called death march and in the postwar era. A stunning novel based on the true story of sisters acquainted with the real-life subjects of Morris’s 2018 bestseller, *The Tattooist of Auschwitz*.” —PEOPLE

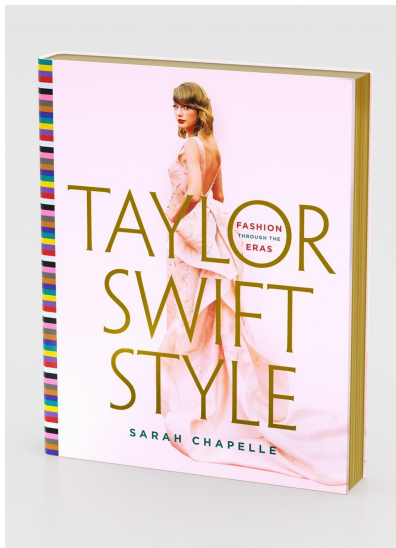
“*Three Sisters* . . . takes readers on an emotional roller coaster. . . . As fascinating as the novel is, the story of how Morris came to discover the women whom she based her plot around is equally compelling.” —HADASSAH MAGAZINE

“Morris (*The Tattooist of Auschwitz*) follows the real-life Meller sisters, who all survived imprisonment at Auschwitz-Birkenau and a winter death march during WWII, in her extraordinary latest. Morris skillfully chronicles the lives of the sisters from childhood to old age, balancing fictional invention with extensive research and immersion into the Mellers’ lives. Readers will be greatly inspired by this story of resilience.” —PUBLISHERS WEEKLY (STARRED REVIEW)

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## Taylor Swift Style

### Fashion Through the Eras

Sarah Chapelle

This gorgeous, four-color book of Taylor Swift's fashion evolution is a journey through all 10 eras with over 200 photographs—this is the book that Swifties have been waiting for!

### Summary

For Taylor Swift, fashion and music go hand-in-hand—each playing a powerful role in shaping the narrative of this generation's most prolific storyteller. Red lipstick isn't just a makeup choice—it's the emblem of an era. A mini skirt isn't simply part of a cute outfit—it's a coat of armor. From cowboy boots to teetering heels, fairytale dresses to bleach-tinged tresses, and the many memorable moments in between, Taylor Swift Style tells the fashion story behind every single Taylor Swift album, tracing Swift's musical evolution along with her ever-changing personal style.

From red carpet looks, to streetwear, to tour costumes, Sarah Chapelle of the successful Instagram and blog Taylor Swift Style, has spent more than a decade documenting Swift's fashion choices and exploring the meaning behind each ensemble. Her deep dives into albums, songs, and behind-the-scenes insights paint a portrait of a megastar who knows exactly what she is doing. Taylor Swift Style seeks to explain the 'why' behind Swift's outfits—the easter eggs and deeper meanings behind every hemline and haircut—that speak to the emotional context of each musical moment.

With over two hundred photos dating from Swift's earliest days as a country singer in Nashville, up through the present, paired with insightful commentary, Taylor Swift Style is a one-of-a-kind keepsake for Swifties.

### Contributor Bio

Sarah Chapelle is the fashion writer and creator of the blog Taylor Swift Style and Instagram account @taylorswiftstyled. Through her journalism degree and penchant for critical kindness, she has fostered a tight-knit and fashion-minded community. Her thoughtful, thorough, and witty approach to style commentary has been featured in The Wall Street Journal, Harper's Bazaar, Coveteur, People, and more. She lives in Vancouver, Canada, with her husband and their cat.

### Quotes

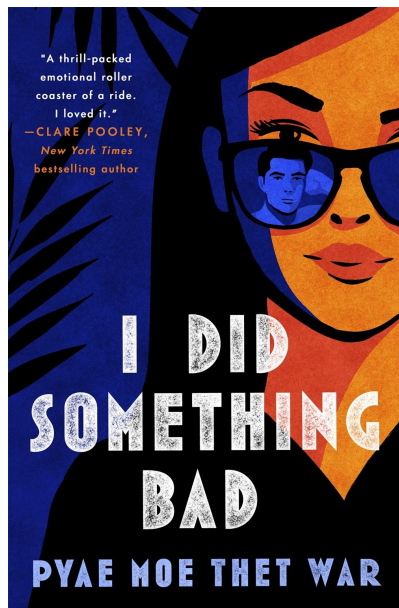
#### **Praise for Sarah Chapelle**

"[Sarah Chapelle] identifies almost everything Swift wears anytime she's photographed: red carpet, candid shot, Instagram post, TV appearance—everywhere. . . the skirts, the tops, the dress, the rings on her finger. She's even dabbled in identifying furniture that pops up in the background of Swift's Instagram." - *Daily Beast*

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## I Did Something Bad

Pyae Moe Thet War

In this smart and swoony adventure rom-com, a journalist and a movie star find themselves teaming up to cover up a murder...and falling for each other in the process.

### Summary

When freelance journalist Khin Hlaing is assigned by *Vogue* to get a scoop on Tyler Tun, Hollywood's hottest movie star who has returned home to Myanmar to shoot a film, she's determined to succeed. If Khin's able to get an explosive exclusive, there may well be a permanent position waiting for her at *Vogue Singapore*, and a ticket out of the city that's felt too small since her recent divorce.

Tyler has done his very best to keep his private life private, and he doesn't show any sign of letting down his walls for Khin. But then one night on set, a strange man follows Khin into the surrounding park grounds. When he threatens her, Tyler steps in and things escalate fast. Khin knows they can't go to the police – killing a white man, as a brown woman, is never going to be overlooked, even if it was self defense. And when she learns that this man seems to have targeted her specifically, she needs to do everything she can to find out why.

As Khin and Tyler work together to hide their secret and find out more about her attacker, they grow closer and Tyler finally starts opening up. The job at *Vogue* suddenly looks more promising, but Khin can't help feel a twang of uncomfortable morality-related guilt. Before long, everything hangs in the balance. Will they get away with murder? Can Khin get the exposé she needs for her dream job? And is she willing to risk Tyler's trust in the process?

There's something about covering up a murder that really brings two people together...

### Contributor Bio

PYAE MOE THET WAR is the author of the essay collection *You've Changed*. Born and raised in Yangon, Myanmar, she holds a BA from Bard College at Simon's Rock, and MA's from University College London and the University of East Anglia. She currently shares a home (and her food) with her dogs, Gus and Missy. *I Did Something Bad* is her debut novel.

### Quotes

"*I Did Something Bad* is an action-packed, whip-smart, deliciously funny romance which will have readers laughing, crying and rooting for the characters from the first page to the last. Pyae Moe Thet War has brilliantly combined the high stakes drama of a thriller with all the banter and chemistry of a romance, with a perfect little side order of social commentary. I adored this gem of a book and I'm sure readers will too." - Freya Sampson, *USA Today* bestselling author of *The Last Chance Library*

"*I Did Something Bad* is a thrill-packed emotional roller coaster of a ride. It has murder, mystery, romance, the best girl squad, and a hot movie star. I loved it." - Clare Pooley, *New York Times* bestselling author



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## How to Help a Hungry Werewolf

Charlotte Stein

*What We do in the Shadows* with the small town feels of *Gilmore Girls* in this swoon-worthy romance that will leave readers delightfully cozy and hungry for more.

### Summary

When Cassandra Camberwell returns to her hometown of Hollow Brook to sort out her late grandmother's affairs, the last person she expects to turn up on her doorstep is Seth Brubaker—her once best friend turned high school nemesis.

Apparently, he's still intent on making her life a living hell, as he's mysteriously always around. That is, until Seth reveals why he keeps showing up at her house: he's an honest-to-goodness werewolf. And Cassie's grandmother? She was a witch, and the only person in Hollow Brook who was able to help him out with the being-a-werewolf thing. Seth desperately needs Cassie's grandmother's witchy medicine, or every full moon he'll end up with some body part inside out.

So, Cassie strikes a deal: she'll give him all the witchy brews he needs to help with his furry ailment, in exchange for Seth telling her everything her grandmother revealed to him about being a witch. Things are fine for while—Cassie turns out to be great at making potions, and Seth is way more like the old friend she once knew—until a pack of angry werewolves show up, demanding Cassie help them with their lycanthropy problem too. There's also the tiny issue of the mating bond that's developing between them, and neither of them know if it's real or just magic woo-woo nonsense. And as an extra bonus, if they don't consummate the bond, well, they'll actually...die.

### Contributor Bio

CHARLOTTE STEIN is the RT and DABWAHA nominated author of over fifty short stories, novellas and novels, including entries in *The Mammoth Book of Hot Romance* and *Best New Erotica 10*. When not writing hilarious, deeply emotional and intensely sexy books, she can be found eating jelly turtles, watching space wizards fight zombies, and occasionally lusting after hunks. For more on Charlotte, visit [www.charlottestein.net](http://www.charlottestein.net)

### Quotes

Praise for Charlotte Stein

"This book had me grinning like a fool from the first chapter. I've read a lot of grumps but Alfie - who lists among his hobbies - not being spoken to - takes the cake as THE ULTIMATE grump- the most charming, most likely to have a gooey inner center, most gone for the glorious sunshine heroine from the jump. I hope romance readers are ready, because I don't think anyone has ever delivered on a slow burn quite like this." - Rosie Danan, bestselling author of *The Roommate*

"Charlotte Stein's *When Grumpy Met Sunshine* delivers all of the heart humour and steam with her usual deft writing style. There's nothing this woman can't do. And Romance reading Ted Lasso fans are sure to be delighted with her take on the surliest soccer star to ever step foot onto the field." - *New York Times* bestselling author Kylie Scott

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## The Merriest Mistery

Timothy Janovsky

*The Santa Clause* meets *Husband Material* in this delightful, queer holiday novel!

### Summary

Patrick Hargrave and Quinn Muller have been married for less than a year, but their passionate, sex-filled romance is cracking under the pressures of domestic life and a cumbersome mortgage. That's until Christmas Eve when Patrick wakes Quinn up with: "I think I've killed a man."

Quinn realizes the "burglar" he knocked out was none other than Mr. Claus himself. Instructed by the groggy elf to don the red suit and take the reins of the reindeer-guided sleigh up on the roof ("We just got that re-shingled!"), Quinn and Patrick work together to save Christmas.

But as the sun rises on Christmas morning, the sleigh brings them back to the North Pole instead of New Jersey, and they're in for a massive shock. The couple must assume the roles of Santa Claus and the first ever Merriest Mister (Mrs. Claus) or Christmas will be canceled... permanently.

With Christmas—and their marriage—on the line, Patrick and Quinn agree to stay together for one year. But can running a toy shop together save their relationship, or will Patrick and Quinn be stuffing coal in each other's stockings come next Christmas?

### Contributor Bio

TIMOTHY JAVOKSKY (he/him) is a queer, multidisciplinary storyteller based in DC. He holds a Bachelor's degree from Muhlenberg College and a self-appointed certificate in rom-com studies (accreditation pending). When he's not daydreaming about young Hugh Grant, he's telling jokes, playing characters, and writing books. He is the author of *Never Been Kissed*, *You're A Mean One*, *Matthew Prince*, and *New Adult*.

### Quotes

Praise for the novels of Timothy Janovsky:

"This book made my queer heart so very full and deeply happy." ?Anita Kelly

"A cinematic daydream guaranteed to steal your heart." ?Julian Winters

"Wonderfully upbeat and sweet." ?Suzanne Park

"Full of hope and heart." ?Alexandria Bellefleur

"[A] fresh, sweet, and swoony love story that blends coming-of-age comedy with the nuances of exploring sexual identity." ?Alison Cochrun



## Perfect Fit

### A Novel

Clare Gilmore

**A hilarious and heartfelt rom-com about having it all, slowing down to see the big picture, and finding out that the person you least expect could be your perfect fit**

### Summary

Josephine Davis has spent her entire twenties building Revenant: a fashion brand headquartered in downtown Austin. When her biggest investor orders Josie to hire a consultant, the last person she expects to be working with is Will Grant – the twin brother of Josie’s ex best friend.

Sure, Will and Josie may have shared one mistake of a kiss during senior spring break nine years ago, but they’ve never been friends. She remembers him as moody; he always thought of her as shallow. Romance isn’t on the table for either of them until they blink, and realize there’s a reason they can’t stay away from each other.

But there’s Will’s sister to consider – whom Josie hasn’t spoken with since their falling out – not to mention, Will and Josie live seventeen hundred miles apart. And it’s not like she has time for a boyfriend anyway when she’s an overworked CEO. As Josie’s burnout looms while she falls deeper and harder for Will, she contends with the fact that eventually, she’ll have to make a choice: stay alone to be productive, or slow down to be in love.

### Contributor Bio

A Nashville-native, Clare Gilmore studied Supply Chain Management and English Literature (a perfect combination) at the University of Tennessee. She is currently a resident of Tennessee daylighting as a corporate analyst.

### Quotes

**"An unexpected romance that’s supportive, sexy, and deeply authentic."**  
 --Lindsay Hameroff, author of *Till There Was You*

**"Deeply relatable and poignant, *Perfect Fit* is, to me, the Perfect book."**  
 --Hannah Bonam-Young, author of *Out on a Limb*

### Praise for *Love Interest*:

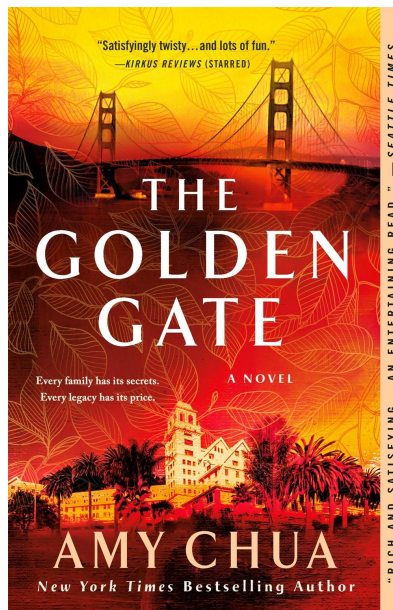
**"Gilmore’s confident debut rom-com...adds some welcome realism to this workplace romance. This should earn the author many fans."**  
 --*Publishers Weekly*

**?"In this engaging enemies-to-lovers romance... The couple are likable, fully developed characters with believable, interesting backstories. Their steamy chemistry and witty banter will have readers cheering for their eventual happy ending."**  
 --*Library Journal*

St. Martin's Griffin  
 9781250880567  
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320 Pages  
 Fiction / Romance  
 FIC027430

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400 Pages  
Fiction / Mystery & Detective  
FIC022060

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## The Golden Gate

### A Novel

Amy Chua

"Satisfyingly twisty, highly educational, and lots of fun." –*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

### Summary

**Amy Chua's debut novel, *The Golden Gate*, is a sweeping historical thriller that paints a vibrant portrait of a California buffeted by the crosswinds of a world at war and a society on the brink of massive change.**

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, 1944: Homicide detective Al Sullivan has just left the bar of the swanky Claremont Hotel when a charismatic presidential candidate is assassinated in one of the rooms upstairs. A rich industrialist with enemies among anarchist factions on the far left, Walter Wilkinson could have been targeted by any number of groups. But strangely, Sullivan's investigation summons the specter of another tragedy at the Claremont, ten years earlier: the death of seven-year-old Iris Stafford, a member of the Bainbridge family, one of the wealthiest in all of San Francisco. Some say she haunts the Claremont still.

The tangled threads of the case keep leading Sullivan back to the three remaining Bainbridge heiresses, now adults: Iris's stunning sister, Isabella, and her cousins Cassie and Nicole. But the heiresses are not the only ones with a stake in the outcome of Sullivan's investigation. Berkeley's ambitious district attorney, Wilkinson's race-baiting political rivals, the heiresses' formidable grandmother, and even China's First Lady, Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, each threaten the detective's relentless search for the truth. As the web of violence spreads beyond the glittering walls of the hotel, Sullivan will risk everything to unearth secrets rooted in the darkest moments of California's past—one that casts a shadow over his own ambiguous history.

Amy Chua's page-turning fiction debut introduces a fascinating character in Detective Sullivan, a mixed-race former army officer who is still reckoning with his past. And in her vivid portrayal of a country at war, she conjures a historical era rife with turbulent social forces and groundbreaking forensic advances, when race and class defined the very essence of power, sex, and justice.

### Contributor Bio

AMY CHUA is the John M. Duff Jr. Professor of Law at Yale Law School. She is an international bestselling author of several nonfiction titles, including her 2011 memoir, *Battle Hymn of the Tiger Mother*, which was a runaway international bestseller that has been translated into more than thirty languages. Chua graduated magna cum laude from Harvard College and cum laude from Harvard Law School. After practicing law at a Wall Street firm for a few years, she joined the Yale Law School faculty in 2001. *The Golden Gate* is her fiction debut.

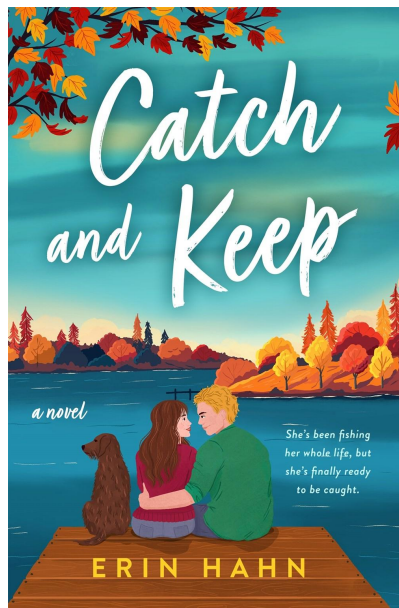
### Quotes

"A successful, compelling mash-up of California history, ghost story, family tale, and social commentary." –*Library Journal* (starred review)

"A riveting mystery. . . Chua skillfully creates tension around Sullivan's complex investigation, tempting red herrings, and thoughtful examination of war-time social divisions." –*Booklist* (starred review)

"A rich and satisfying stew." –*Seattle Times*





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## Catch and Keep

**A Novel**

Erin Hahn

**In Erin Hahn's latest cozy, swoony romance, Maren Laughlin has been fishing her whole life, but she's finally ready to be caught.**

### Summary

At thirty-three, Maren Laughlin's just turned down her boyfriend's proposal, walked away from her decade-long position as a park ranger, and returned to her childhood playground in Northern Wisconsin to accept her inheritance: a decrepit waterfront bait shop. After a lifetime of letting things happen to her, she's ready to start making her own moves, even if everyone else thinks she's making the wrong ones. Well, not everyone—at least the local heartstopper and resort owner is on her side.

Josiah Cole has made some missteps in his life, but he's proud of what he has: two awesome kids and the keys to the kind of getaway spot that has families coming back every summer— their up north home away from home. After his marriage dissolved, leaving him a single dad, he feels he's the last person to judge Maren for her recent transformation (even if his best friend, her brother, wants him to feel otherwise). Besides, he genuinely likes having her around. She's a breath of fresh air, his kids adore her (not to mention her dog, Rogers), and it doesn't hurt that she's beautiful.

Things between Maren and Joe are easy. So easy, they're fully immersed in the middle before they even decide to begin. It's not a question of should they, but rather can they make it last? Are things too easy, or is this just how real love works? In Erin Hahn's heartwarming sexy *Catch and Keep*, Maren and Joe have to be brave enough to find out.

### Contributor Bio

ERIN HAHN is the author of the young adult novels *You'd Be Mine*, *More Than Maybe*, *Never Saw You Coming*, and *Even If It Breaks Your Heart*, as well as the adult romances *Built to Last* and *Friends Don't Fall in Love*. Romance is her vibe, grunge is her soundtrack and fall is her signature color. She fell for her flannel-clad college sweetheart the very first day of school and has two hilarious kids who keep her humble. She lives outside Ann Arbor, Michigan, and has a cat named Gus who plays fetch and a dog named June who doesn't.

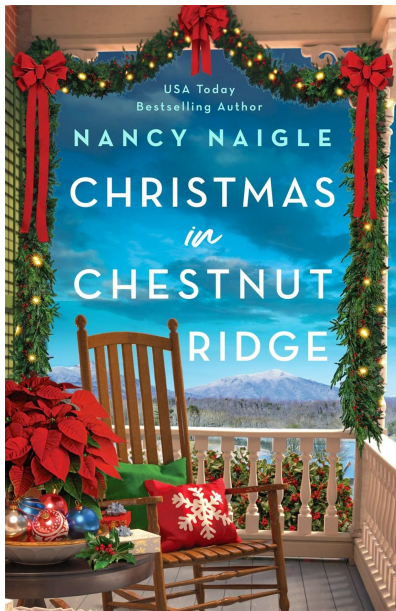
### Quotes

Praise for *Friends Don't Fall in Love*:

"Hahn deserves a CMA (Country Music Association Award) for her insider's depiction of the industry in this thoroughly satisfying romance." - *Booklist*

Praise for *Built to Last*:

"Hahn dazzles in her adult rom-com debut... Home renovation was never this sexy." - *Booklist* (starred review)



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Trade Paperback

352 Pages  
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FIC058000

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## Christmas in Chestnut Ridge

### A Novel

Nancy Naigle

A heartwarming love story set at Christmas time by *USA Today* bestselling author Nancy Naigle.

### Summary

In the enchanting mountain town of Chestnut Ridge, where tree farms blanket the hillsides and the promise of a white Christmas is ever-present, a heartwarming holiday romance is about to blossom. When Sheila's best friend convinces her to help decorate a tree in the annual Christmas Tree Stroll fundraiser, she embarks on an unexpected journey of self-discovery, all wrapped in the cozy embrace of a tight-knit community. As she immerses herself in the joy of twinkling lights, hot cocoa, and the camaraderie of the townsfolk, Sheila's world begins to transform, and she finds the sense of belonging she never knew she needed.

Meanwhile, Tucker, the town's reliable fire captain, is gathering volunteers to help a family with four young children who have just lost their home to a devastating fire weeks before Christmas. Sheila offers her helping hand, and as the town rallies to support the family in their time of need, sparks of love begin to flicker between her and Tucker.

In this charming town where dreams come true, and Christmas magic is everywhere, come along for a tale of love, community, and the true spirit of the season.

### Contributor Bio

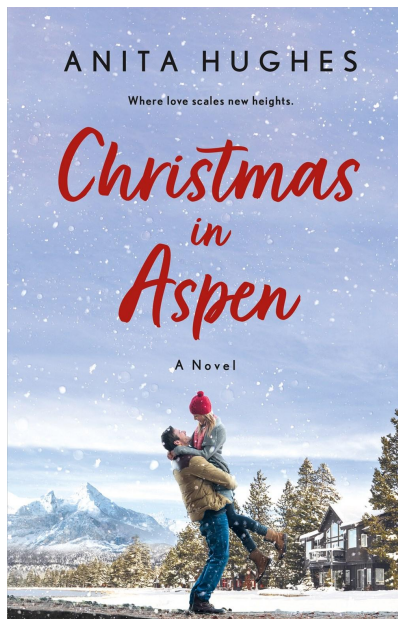
*USA Today* bestselling author NANCY NAIGLE whips up small-town love stories with a whole lot of heart. Several of Nancy's novels have been made into Hallmark movies, and most recently *The Shell Collector* was adapted as the first Fox original movie to stream on Fox Nation. A native of Virginia Beach, Nancy now calls the Blue Ridge Mountains home.

### Quotes

Praise for Nancy Naigle

"Naigle's *The Wedding Ranch* is a lovely and charming tale of second chances that took me on a journey with likable characters and a delightful setting! Highly recommended!"  
- Colleen Coble, *USA Today* bestselling author

"Readers looking for a heart-warming holiday story will enjoy the vibrant small-town setting populated by lovable people, gorgeous horses, and a very cute puppy." -  
*Booklist*



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Trade Paperback

304 Pages  
Fiction / Romance  
FIC027290

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## Christmas in Aspen

### A Novel

Anita Hughes

**A heartwarming story of holiday magic and love scaling new heights**

### Summary

Editor Caroline Holt is on her way to her late mother's upstate cabin in Hudson to spend the holidays. She was supposed to be in London, having a holiday romance. But this Christmas, she isn't in the mood to get her heart broken again. Caroline loves being an editor, but in the last year burnout has taken over. She has been mourning her mother, and she is looking to get that spark back.

In the cabin, Caroline finds a letter addressed to her mother. It's in a red envelope, and the return address is Santa's Little Red mailbox, in Aspen, Colorado. The letter is from a man declaring his love for her mother. He'll be waiting for her in front of the Little Red Mailbox at three pm on New Year's Eve.

Unable to ignore her curiosity, Caroline takes the next flight to Aspen to meet her mother's mysterious lover, but things start getting complicated when she meets another man in town. The more they run into each other, the more she is drawn to him. And when Caroline finds out the truth about the mysterious person her mother had loved, she unravels secrets of her own past.

By the end of Christmas week, Caroline gets a chance to rewrite her own destiny by confronting her fears of loving again and possibly leaving behind what she thought was a perfect life.

### Contributor Bio

ANITA HUGHES is the author of *Rome in Love* (adapted into a Hallmark movie in 2019), and *Christmas in Vermont* (adapted into a Lifetime movie in 2019). She is also the author of *Market Street*, *Lake Como*, *Santorini Sunsets*, *Christmas in Paris*, *Monarch Beach*, and other titles. She attended UC Berkeley's Masters in Creative Writing Program, and lives in Dana Point, California.

### Quotes

#### Praise for Anita Hughes:

"Hughes crafts characters readers will easily fall in love with and keeps the twists coming throughout this low-heat contemporary. The resulting exploration of unexpected love is sure to capture hearts."

--*Publishers Weekly* on *Christmas at the Lake*

"As the two fall in love in glittering New York during the winter holidays and the storied Plaza Hotel casts its elegant spell, Hughes' fabulously enchanting tale will inspire readers to revisit the Eloise books."—*Booklist* on *A Magical New York Christmas*

"The perfect holiday romance"—*POPSUGAR* on *A Magical New York Christmas*



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Wt

## Last to Leave the Room

### A Novel

Caitlin Starling

*Last to Leave the Room* is a new novel of genre-busting speculative horror from Caitlin Starling, the acclaimed author of *The Death of Jane Lawrence*.

### Summary

The city of San Siroco is sinking. The basement of Dr. Tamsin Rivers, the arrogant, selfish head of the research team assigned to find the source of the subsidence, is sinking faster.

As Tamsin becomes obsessed with the distorting dimensions of the room at the bottom of the stairs, she finds a door that didn't exist before - and one night, it opens to reveal an exact physical copy of her. This doppelgänger is sweet and biddable where Tamsin is calculating and cruel. It appears fully, terribly human, passing every test Tamsin can devise. But the longer the double exists, the more Tamsin begins to forget pieces of her life, to lose track of time, to grow terrified of the outside world.

With her employer growing increasingly suspicious, Tamsin must try to hold herself together long enough to figure out what her double wants from her, and just where the mysterious door leads...

### Contributor Bio

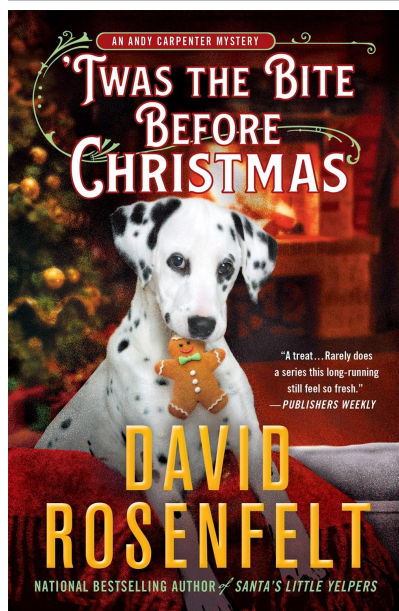
CAITLIN STARLING writes horror-tinged speculative fiction of all flavors. Her first novel, *The Luminous Dead*, won the LOHF Best Debut Award and was nominated for both the Bram Stoker and Locus Awards. She is also the author of the gothic horror tales *Yellow Jessamine* and *The Death of Jane Lawrence*, as well as a novella in the *Vampire: The Masquerade* audio collection, *Walk Among Us*. Her nonfiction has appeared in *Nightmare* and *Uncanny*.

### Quotes

"Part existential horror, part speculative fiction, and part paranoia tale, Starling's latest thrills and chills while exploring the contextual nature of identity and the concept of personhood. Diabolical plotting, relentless pacing, and ascetic worldbuilding function in tandem with Starling's staccato present-tense narration to maximize tension and drive. At once visceral and introspective." - *Kirkus*, starred review

"Her most original, compelling, and terrifying novel yet." - *Booklist*, starred review

"The action is pulse-pounding." - *Publishers Weekly*



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Wt

## 'Twas the Bite Before Christmas

An Andy Carpenter Mystery

David Rosenfelt

"Each new instalment in the Andy Carpenter Mystery series is a winner." — Portland Book Review

### Summary

**In national bestselling author David Rosenfelt's *'Twas the Bite Before Christmas*, all through the Carpenter house, five dogs are stirring, and not even Andy can get out of working this latest case at his door.**

Reluctant lawyer Andy Carpenter is at the Tara Foundation's annual Christmas party. The dog rescue organization has always been his true calling, and this is one holiday tradition he can get behind because every dog that's come through the rescue—and their families—is invited to celebrate.

This year's party is no exception. But before the stockings can be hung by the chimney with care, homicide detectives ruin the evening. Derek Moore, one of the foundation's best foster volunteers, is arrested for murder.

Andy discovers Derek—whose real name is Bobby—is in the witness protection program after giving evidence against his former gang. The police believe Bobby murdered a member. But Bobby swears to Andy he didn't do this. He's built a new life, a new business, and has two new dogs after being a double foster failure.

There isn't much Andy likes about this case, but he likes Bobby. If he's innocent, Andy wants to help. Before Andy can settle down for his long winter's nap, he has a client's name to clear, a murderer to catch, and two new dogs to look after: a golden and a dalmatian. Andy's golden retriever, Tara, will have to adjust to not being the only golden at the house while Andy gets to the bottom of this one. . . .

### Contributor Bio

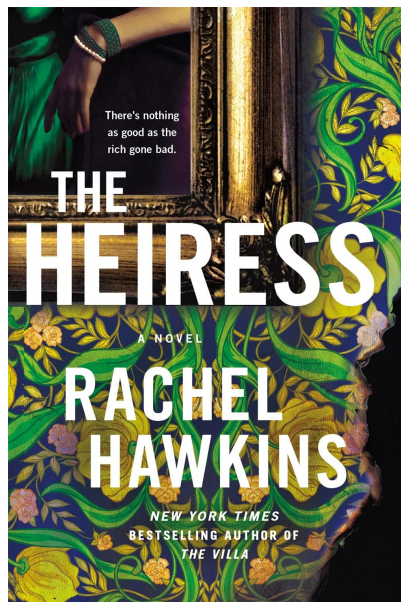
DAVID ROSENFELT is the Edgar-nominated and Shamus Award-winning author of almost thirty Andy Carpenter novels, most recently *Flop Dead Gorgeous*; nine stand-alone thrillers; two non-fiction titles; and four K Team novels, a spinoff series featuring some of the characters from the Andy Carpenter series. After years of living in California, he and his wife moved to Maine with twenty-five of the four thousand dogs they have rescued.

### Quotes

"The climactic revelation, as in all of Andy's best cases, is both head-shakingly incredible and deeply satisfying." —*Kirkus Reviews* on *Santa's Little Yelpers*

"Rosenfelt provides everything you need to enjoy this snowy mystery."  
—Bookreporter.com on *Best in Snow*

"This book was a romping good time, perfect for taking a break through the stressful holidays." — *Dogster Magazine* on *Dachshund Through the Snow*



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Trade Paperback

304 Pages  
Fiction / Thrillers  
FIC031080

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## The Heiress

### A Novel

Rachel Hawkins

**New York Times** bestselling author Rachel Hawkins returns with a twisted new gothic suspense about an infamous heiress and the complicated inheritance she left behind.

### Summary

**THERE'S NOTHING AS GOOD AS THE RICH GONE BAD.**

When Ruby McTavish Callahan Woodward Miller Kenmore dies, she's not only North Carolina's richest woman, she's also its most notorious. The victim of a famous kidnapping as a child and a widow four times over, Ruby ruled the tiny town of Tavistock from Ashby House, her family's estate high in the Blue Ridge Mountains. But in the aftermath of her death, her adopted son, Camden, wants little to do with the house or the money—and even less to do with the surviving McTavishes. Instead, he rejects his inheritance, settling into a normal life as an English teacher in Colorado and marrying Jules, a woman just as eager to escape her own messy past.

Ten years later, his uncle's death pulls Cam and Jules back into the family fold at Ashby House. Its views are just as stunning as ever, its rooms just as elegant, but the legacy of Ruby is inescapable.

And as Ashby House tightens its grip on Jules and Camden, questions about the infamous heiress come to light. Was there any truth to the persistent rumors following her disappearance as a girl? What really happened to those four husbands, who all died under mysterious circumstances? And why did she adopt Cam in the first place? Soon, Jules and Cam realize that an inheritance can entail far more than what's written in a will—and that the bonds of family stretch far beyond the grave.

### Contributor Bio

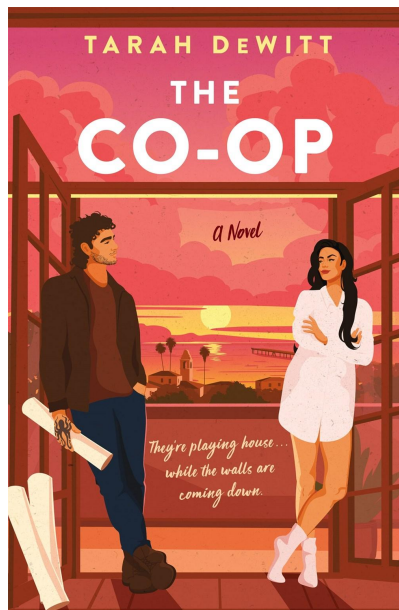
RACHEL HAWKINS is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Wife Upstairs*, *Reckless Girls*, *The Villa*, and *The Heiress*, as well as multiple books for young readers. Her work has been translated into over a dozen languages. She studied gender and sexuality in Victorian literature at Auburn University and currently lives in Alabama.

### Quotes

"Nonstop twists and surprises make this a true thrill ride." —***Publishers Weekly***

"The reigning queen of the Gothic thriller." —***Entertainment Weekly***

"Murder, secrets, Gothic vibes, and one of the most deliciously twisted families ever put to page. I loved it!" —**Riley Sager, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Only One Left***



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320 Pages  
Fiction / Romance  
FIC027250

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## The Co-op

### A Novel

Tarah DeWitt

A witty and heartfelt rom-com involving home renovation and a marriage of convenience, by BookTok and Bookstagram rising star Tarah DeWitt.

### Summary

**They say love and construction don't mix. By that logic, hate and construction may as well be condemned.**

LaRynn Lavigne and Deacon Leeds had one short and contentious summer fling when they were teens—certainly nothing to build a foundation on. But a decade later, when their grandmothers have left them with shared ownership of their dilapidated Santa Cruz building, they're thrust back together and have to figure out how to brace up the pieces.

LaRynn has the money, but in order to access her trust, she has to be married. Deacon has the construction expertise, but lacks the funds. A deal is struck: Marry for however long it takes to fix up the property, collect a profit, and cut ties.

In a home without walls, LaRynn and Deacon quickly learn that it's easy to hide behind emotional ones, even in a marriage. But with all the exposure and pitfalls that come with living with the opposite sex (and none of the perks, much to their growing mutual frustration) they'll also have to learn what it means to truly cooperate as a team.

Filled with crackling tension, *The Co-op* is a steamy second chance romance about restoration and renovation, and uncovering all the things that build character within ourselves. It's about the never-ending construction project that partnership is, and finding enjoyment at every stage.

### Contributor Bio

TARAH DEWITT is an author, wife, and mama. She loves stories centered around perfectly imperfect characters, especially those with just enough trauma to keep them funny, without ever being forcefully cavalier. She believes laughter is an essential part of romance, friendship, parenting, and life. She is the author of *Rootbound*, *The Co-op*, *Funny Feelings*, and *Savor It*.

### Quotes

Praise for *Funny Feelings*:

"*Funny Feelings* is everything I look for in a romance." —Amy Lea, international bestselling author of *Exes and O's*

"Cozy, tender, sexy, hilarious – I adored every word." —Rachel Lynn Solomon, *New York Times* bestselling author of *The Ex Talk*



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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## A Legend in the Baking

### A Novel

Jamie Wesley

**After accidentally going viral on social media, a cupcake-baking football player gets assistance from a social media maven—and his best friend's little sister—to help promote his new bakery.**

### Summary

August Hodges was supposed to be the silent partner in Sugar Blitz Cupcakes. Emphasis on silent. That is until his impromptu feminist rant about how women bakers are the backbone of the industry and baking cupcakes isn't a threat to masculinity goes viral, making him the hottest bachelor in town. With a new location in the works, August and his partners decide to capitalize on this perfect opportunity to help cement their place in the community. But the hiring of his best friend's younger sister, the woman who has haunted some of his best dreams for years, was as much of a shock as his new-found fame.

Social media manager Sloane Dell fell hard for her brother's best friend the moment she met him more than a decade ago, but that teenage infatuation cost her dearly. Still, she accepts her brother's request to revamp the bakery's social media presence to take advantage of August's newfound popularity, knowing it's the big break her fledgling career needs. She'll just ignore the fact that August is still August, i.e. sexier and sweeter than any man has a right to be. And that he drives her crazy with his resistance to all her ideas.

They vow to leave the past in the past. But when an explosive make-out session makes it clear their attraction burns hotter than ever, Sloane and August are forced to reconsider what it means to take a risk and chase your dreams.

As they're both about to find out, all's fair in love and cupcakes.

### Contributor Bio

**JAMIE WESLEY** has been reading romance novels since she was about 12 years old when her mother left a romance novel, which a friend had given her, on the nightstand. Jamie read it instead, and the rest is history. When she's not writing or reading romance, Jamie can be found watching TV, rooting for her favorite sports teams, and/or planning her next trip to Walt Disney World.

### Quotes

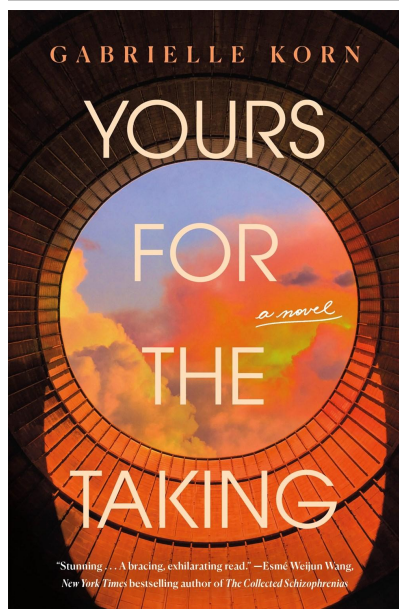
Praise for *Fake It Till You Bake It*

"Wesley combines delightful characters, delicious tension, and a fascinating setup to create this truly satisfying romance." - Talia Hibbert, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Act Your Age*, *Eve Brown*

"A sexy, modern, charming romance between two opposites. Full of friendship, family drama, and emotion, it's truly a sweet treat of a book!" - Leslye Penelope, author of *Song of Blood & Stone*

"Funny, smart, and deliciously romantic." - Farrah Rochon, *USA Today* Bestselling Author of *The Dating Playbook*





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336 Pages  
Fiction / Dystopian  
FIC055000

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## Yours for the Taking

### A Novel

Gabrielle Korn

**A thrilling queer debut novel set several decades in the future and following an unforgettable cast of characters as they become swept up into a strange and exclusive new society.**

### Summary

The year is 2050. Ava and her girlfriend live in what's left of Brooklyn, and though they love each other, it's hard to find happiness while the effects of climate change eclipse their world. Soon, it won't be safe outside at all. The only people guaranteed survival are the ones accepted to The Inside Project, a series of weather-safe, city-sized structures around the world.

The director of the Manhattan Inside is Jacqueline Millender. Her ideas are unorthodox, yet alluring, challenging the very concept of empowerment.

Shelby, a business major from a working-class family, is drawn to Jacqueline's promises of power and impact. When she lands a job as Jacqueline's personal assistant, she's swept up into the glamorous world of corporatized feminism. Also drawn into Jacqueline's orbit is Olympia, who Jacqueline recruits to run the health department Inside. But the more Olympia learns about the project, the more she realizes something else is at play. As Ava, Olympia, and Shelby start to notice the cracks in the system, Jacqueline tightens her grip, becoming increasingly dangerous in what she's willing to do—and who she's willing to sacrifice—to keep her dream alive.

At once a mesmerizing story of queer love, betrayal, and chosen family, and an unflinching indictment of cis, corporate feminism, *Yours for the Taking* holds a mirror to our own world, in all its beauty and horror.

### Contributor Bio

GABRIELLE KORN is the author of *Yours for the Taking* and *Everybody (Else) Is Perfect*, and the former Editor-in-Chief of *Nylon*. Her writing has been published across the internet since 2011, with bylines in *Literary Hub*, *Instyle*, *Domino*, *Oprah*, *Refinery29* and more. Originally from New York, she now lives in Los Angeles with her wife, and together they run The Pink Door artist and writer residency.

### Quotes

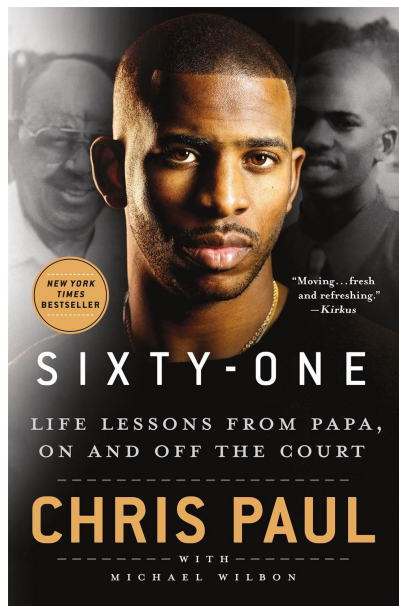
**Harper's Bazaar, The Best Queer Reads of 2023**

**Elle, Our Favorite Books of 2023**

**LGBTQ+ Reads, Most Anticipated Adult Fiction**

"Korn manages to grapple with weighty topics while also delivering a compelling read, rife with twists." —*Elle*

"An alluring story of a feminist dystopia... Readers will eat up this distinctive work of climate fiction." —*Publishers Weekly*



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336 Pages  
Plus one 8-page color photograph  
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Biography & Autobiography  
/ Sports  
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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## Sixty-One

### Life Lessons from Papa, On and Off the Court

Chris Paul, Michael Wilbon

The *New York Times*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Wall Street Journal*, and *USA Today* bestseller

### Summary

In this powerful and unexpected memoir that goes beyond basketball, NBA legend Chris Paul reveals the life lessons his grandfather, "Papa," taught him and how he carries them forward.

The day after future NBA superstar Chris Paul signed his letter of intent to play college basketball for Wake Forest, he received a world-shattering phone call. His grandfather, Nathaniel "Papa" Jones, a pillar of the Winston-Salem community died from a heart attack resulting from an assault. He was sixty-one years old. The day after burying his grandfather, Chris Paul chose to honor him by scoring sixty-one points.

In *Sixty-One*, Chris opens up about life beyond basketball and the role his grandfather played in molding him into the man and father he is today. He writes about the foundation of faith and family he built his life upon, what it means to be a positive light within your community and beyond, and the importance of setting the proper example for future generations. Through his Papa's teachings, Chris shows you the impact of his hometown and the close-knit family that raised him to become one of the most respected leaders in sports.

### Contributor Bio

CHRIS PAUL is a twelve-time NBA All-Star and two-time Olympic Gold medalist. He plays for the Golden State Warriors and was president of the National Basketball Players Association from 2013 to 2021. He is a father, husband, and founder of the Chris Paul Family Foundation.

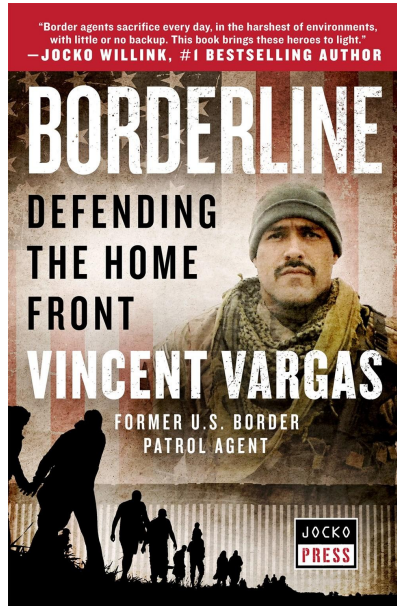
MICHAEL WILBON is an award-winning journalist and co-host of ESPN's *Pardon the Interruption*. He worked with Charles Barkley on *I May Be Wrong But I Doubt It* and *Who's Afraid of a Large Black Man?*. He lives in Bethesda, Maryland.

### Quotes

"Moving...fresh and refreshing." -- *Kirkus*

"Candid." --*Sports Illustrated*

"Unusually moving." --*GQ Sports*



St. Martin's Griffin  
9781250876492  
Pub Date: 11/19/2024  
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320 Pages  
Plus one 16-page color photograph  
insert  
Biography & Autobiography  
/ Military  
BIO008000

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## Borderline

### Defending the Home Front

Vincent Vargas

**An inside look at the U.S./Mexican border through the eyes of former U.S. Border Patrol agent, Vincent Vargas, who served in Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment.**

### Summary

**Featuring a Foreword by #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Jocko Willink.**

The U.S./Mexican border stretches nearly 2,000 miles and is protected by a thin line of overworked and underfunded U.S. Border Patrol Agents, who risk their lives every day. Stigmatized in the media and fought over in the halls of Washington D.C., this is the true story of what is really happening on the U.S./Mexican border.

This story provides an inside look, through the eyes of former U.S. Border Patrol agent, Vincent Vargas, who is no stranger to violence, having served in Iraq and Afghanistan with the U.S. Army's 75th Ranger Regiment.

The story begins on the battlefields of the Middle East and culminates on the southwest border of the United States, where Vincent Vargas was tasked with protecting his country, his fellow agents, and the immigrants caught in the middle. He learned first-hand about the unforgiving brutality of the cartels, human traffickers and the desert.

After bearing witness to the carnage, Vargas made the decision to join the Border Patrol's elite search & rescue unit called BORSTAR.

With almost unfettered access, Vargas provides an in-depth, never-before-seen look into the U.S. Border Patrol, from the agency's origins to its present-day missions.

### Contributor Bio

VINCENT VARGAS served 4-years of active-duty in the United States Army, including 3 combat deployments with 2nd Battalion of the elite 75th Ranger Regiment. In 2009, he became a Federal Agent with the Department of Homeland Security and served as a Medic with the Special Operations Group. Vargas is a successful entrepreneur, actor, writer, producer and motivational speaker. Vincent Vargas is happily married with eight kids and resides in Dallas-Fort Worth, Texas.

### Quotes

"We take our borders for granted—but we shouldn't. People serve and sacrifice every day, in the harshest of environments, facing dynamic situations, with little or no back up. These people are our Border Patrol—and *Borderline* is their story." —Jocko Willink, #1 Bestselling Author



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forthcoming

## When I'm Dead

### A Black Harbor Novel

Hannah Morrissey

One girl murdered. Another one missing. And a medical examiner desperate to uncover the truth in the latest Black Harbor mystery by acclaimed author Hannah Morrissey.

### Summary

On a bone-chilling October night, Medical Examiner Rowan Winthrop investigates the death of her daughter's best friend. Hours later, the tragedy hits even closer to home when she makes a devastating discovery—her daughter, Chloe, is gone. But, not without a trace.

A morbid mosaic of clues forces Rowan and her husband to question how deeply they really knew their daughter. As they work closely to peel back the layers of this case, they begin to unearth disturbing details about Chloe and her secret transgressions...details that threaten to tear them apart.

Amidst the noise of navigating her newfound grief and reconciling the sins of her past, an undeniable fact rings true for Rowan: karma has finally come to collect.

### Contributor Bio

HANNAH MORRISSEY studied English and Creative Writing at the University of Wisconsin - Madison. Her first novel, *Hello, Transcriber*, was inspired by her experience as a police transcriber. She lives in Wisconsin with her husband and two pugs.

### Quotes

"An intriguing mix of police procedural, gothic potboiler, and psychological thriller."  
—*Kirkus*

"An unflinching look at two damaged people trying to do right in a world full of wrong, told in scalpel-sharp prose with a poet's eye for detail."—Riley Sager

"...enthraling." —Samantha Downing

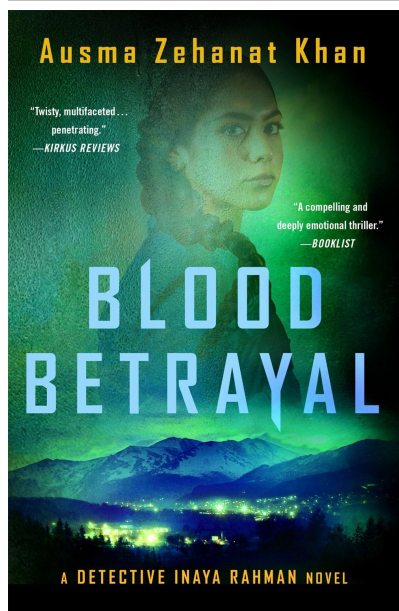
"An electrifying and unnerving exploration of privilege, justice, and the strength it takes to tackle a city's grit and glitter in one fell swoop."—Tessa Wegert

"A propulsive look at family and secrets and desire...gorgeously written."—Hank Phillippi Ryan

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Fiction / Thrillers  
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Fiction / Mystery & Detective  
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## Blood Betrayal

Ausma Zehanat Khan

A complex and timely mystery, *Blood Betrayal* is the stunning follow up to *Blackwater Falls*, proving once again that Ausma Zehanat Khan is a writer at the peak of her powers.

### Summary

In Blackwater Falls, Colorado, Harry Cooper, a police officer nearing retirement, is hot on the heels of some local vandals when the situation turns deadly: believing one of them to have a gun, Harry opens fire and Duante Reed, a young Black man, is killed. The "gun" in his hands was a bottle of spray paint.

Meanwhile in nearby Denver, a drug raid goes south and a Latino teen, Mateo Ruiz, is also killed. The officer thought to be responsible is Kelly Broda, a name Detective Inaya Rahman is all too familiar with. Kelly is the son of the police officer who led a violent attack on her when they were both in Denver: John Broda. No one is more surprised than Inaya when John turns up on her doorstep, pleading for her help in proving the innocence of his son.

With the Denver Police force spread thin between the two cases, protests on both sides of the cases begin and Lieutenant Wagas Seif and Inaya have their work cut out for them. Harry was by all accounts an officer dedicated to the communities he served: was this shooting truly a terrible mistake? Duante was a street artist with no prior record: can his death ever be justified? Was Mateo in the wrong place at the wrong time, or truly a dangerous drug dealer: either way, was lethal force necessary? And can Kelly's apple really have fallen so far from the rotten tree that is his father, or are Inaya's own prejudices working against her?

### Contributor Bio

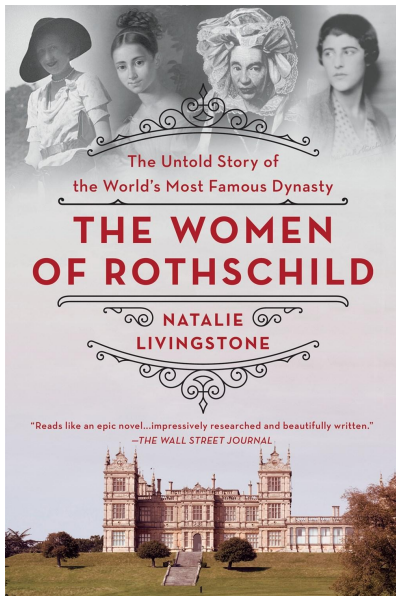
AUSMA ZEHANAT KHAN holds a Ph.D. in international human rights law with a specialization in military intervention and war crimes in the Balkans. She is also a contributor to the anthologies *Private Investigations*, *Sword Stone Table*, and *The Perfect Crime*, and the former Editor-in-Chief of *Muslim Girl* magazine. A British-born Canadian and former adjunct law professor, Khan now lives in DC with her husband.

### Quotes

"Richly drawn characters and nuanced depictions of contemporary policing make this a winner. Readers will be eager to hear more from Inaya soon."—*Publishers Weekly* (Starred Review)

"[Brings] fresh relevance to the subgenre's timeworn conventions . . . twisty, multifaceted . . . A penetrating, of-the-moment police procedural."—*Kirkus Reviews*

"Khan excels in creating multifaceted characters whose engrossing stories bring up social questions to which there are no easy answers. As in the best crime fiction, the solution here is both satisfying and unexpected."—*First Clue*



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Trade Paperback

480 Pages  
History / Social History  
HIS054000

9.3 in H | 6.1 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## The Women of Rothschild

**The Untold Story of the World's Most Famous Dynasty**

Natalie Livingstone

**In *The Women of Rothschild*, Natalie Livingstone reveals the role of women in shaping the legacy of the famous Rothschild dynasty, synonymous with wealth and power.**

### Summary

From the East End of London to the Eastern seaboard of the United States, from Spitalfields to Scottish castles, from Bletchley Park to Buchenwald, and from the Vatican to Palestine, Natalie Livingstone follows the extraordinary lives of the Rothschild women from the dawn of the nineteenth century to the early years of the twenty-first.

As Jews in a Christian society and women in a deeply patriarchal family, they were outsiders. Excluded from the family bank, they forged their own dynasty of daughters, nieces, mothers, and aunts. They became influential hostesses and talented diplomats, choreographing electoral campaigns, advising prime ministers, advocating for social reform, and trading on the stock exchange. They mixed with everyone from Queen Victoria to Chaim Weizmann, Rossini to Isaiah Berlin, and the Duke of Wellington to Alec Guinness, as well as with amphetamine-dealers, suffragists and avant-garde artists. Rothschild women helped bring down ghetto walls in early nineteenth-century Frankfurt, inspired some of the most remarkable cultural movements of the Victorian period, and in the mid-twentieth century burst into America, where they patronized Thelonious Monk and drag-raced through Manhattan with Miles Davis.

Absorbing and compulsive, *The Women of Rothschild* gives voice to the complicated, privileged, and gifted women whose vision and tenacity shaped history.

### Contributor Bio

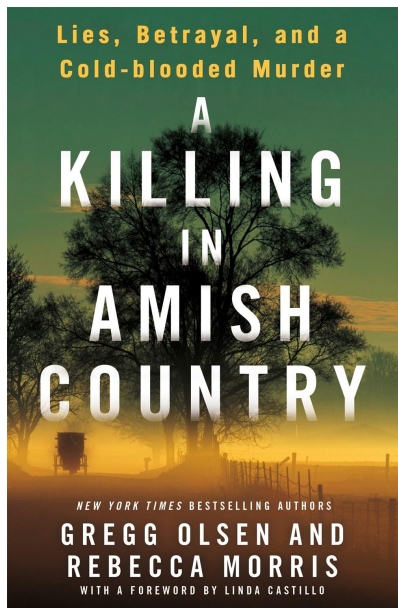
**NATALIE LIVINGSTONE** was born and raised in London. She graduated with a first class degree in history from Christ's College, Cambridge in 1998. She began her career as a feature writer at the *Daily Express* and now contributes to *Tatler*, *Harper's Bazaar*, *US Vogue*, *Elle*, *The Times*, and *The Mail on Sunday*. Natalie lives in London with her husband and three children. She is the author of *The Mistresses of Cliveden* and *The Women of Rothschild*.

### Quotes

"Reads like an epic novel...impressively researched and beautifully written." –**The Wall Street Journal**

"Commendable [and] well-researched." –**The New York Times**

"In this gripping biography, Natalie Livingstone shows that Rothschild women were the velvet gloves guiding the iron fists of their male relatives and far from being mere appendages, they acted as trusted confidants and silent partners." –**Hannah Rothschild, author of *The Improbability of Love***



## A Killing in Amish Country

**Lies, Betrayal, and a Cold-blooded Murder**

Gregg Olsen, Rebecca Morris

**New York Times bestselling authors Gregg Olsen and Rebecca Morris investigate the 2009 death of an Amish wife and mother found murdered in her own bed.**

### Summary

At just 30 years old, with dark-blond hair and freckles, Barbara Weaver was as pretty as the women depicted on the covers of her favorite "bonnet" stories - romance novels set in Amish America. Barbara had everything she'd ever wanted: five beautiful children, a home, her faith, and a husband named Eli. But while Barbara was happy to live as the Amish have for centuries - without modern conveniences, Eli was tempted by technology: cell phones, the Internet, and sexting. Online he called himself "Amish Stud" and found no shortage of "English" women looking for love and sex. Twice he left Barbara and their children, was shunned, begged for forgiveness, and had been welcomed back to the church.

Barb Raber was raised Amish, but is now a Conservative Mennonite. She drove Eli to appointments in her car, and she gave him what he wanted when he wanted: a cell phone, a laptop, rides to his favorite fishing and hunting places, and, most importantly, sex. When Eli starts asking people to kill his wife for him, Barb offers to help. One night, just after Eli had hitched a ride with a group of men to go fishing in the hours before dawn, Barb Raber entered the Weaver house and shot Barbara Weaver in the chest at close range.

It was only the third murder in hundreds of years of Amish life in America, and it fell to Edna Boyle, a young assistant prosecutor to seek justice for Barbara Weaver.

### Contributor Bio

GREGG OLSEN is a *New York Times* and USA Today bestselling author who has written ten nonfiction books, ten novels, a novella, and contributed a short story to a collection edited by Lee Child. REBECCA MORRIS is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Bodies of Evidence*, *Overkill*, and *If I Can't Have You* (all with Gregg Olsen). She is also the author of *Ted and Ann* and *Bad Apples*, and was an award-winning journalist in New York City; Portland, Oregon; and Seattle, Washington.

### Quotes

#### Praise for Gregg Olsen:

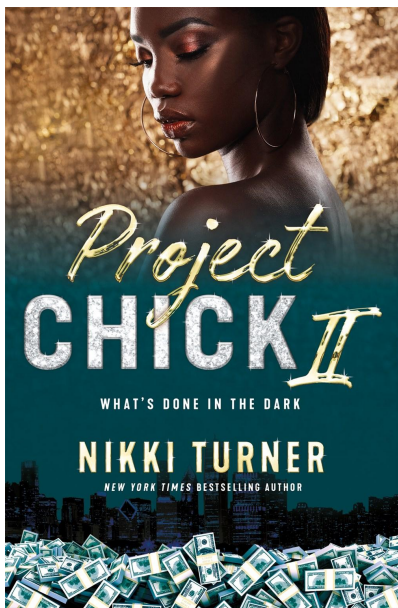
"Olsen [is] the heir apparent to legendary crime writers Jack Olsen and Ann Rule."  
—Ron Franscell, author of *Alice & Gerald: A Homicidal Love Story*

"Gregg Olsen is one of the best." —Allison Brennan, *New York Times* bestselling author

St. Martin's Griffin  
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Trade Paperback

320 Pages  
Includes one 8-page black-and-white photo section  
True Crime / Murder  
TRU002000

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb Wt



## Project Chick II: What's Done in the Dark

Nikki Turner

From *New York Times* bestselling author Nikki Turner comes *Project Chick II*, now at a special value!

### Summary

Tressa always thought that the best moment in her life was the day she gave birth to her twin boys, Khalil and Hadji, but even better was when she got the news that their abusive father, Lucky, was dead. His death gave the streets freedom and safety and gave Tressa an opportunity to start over. Thrilled the bad days were gone, it didn't take long for her to realize that even though Lucky was dead, she would never be free of him.

When the twins discover that Indie, the man who raised them, had a hand in killing their father, nothing can stop them from plotting their revenge. In *Project Chick II: What's Done in the Dark* by Nikki Turner, Tressa's life thrown into chaos and she is about to find out that nothing is what it seems.

### Contributor Bio

NIKKI TURNER is the author of *The New York Times* bestsellers *Black Widow* and *Heartbreak of a Hustler's Wife*, the *USA Today* bestseller *Forever a Hustler's Wife*, and the *Essence* bestsellers *A Hustler's Wife*, *The Glamorous Life*, and *Riding Dirty on I-95*. Turner lives in Florida.

### Quotes

"Nikki puts a new twist on an old favorite. As thought provoking and witty as it is hood, *Project Chick II* is a great read." —K'wan

"Turner's raw writing makes for page-turning suspense...urban-fiction fans will crave this novel and all of Turner's titles." —*Booklist on THE GLAMOROUS LIFE 2: ALL THAT GLITTERS ISN'T GOLD*

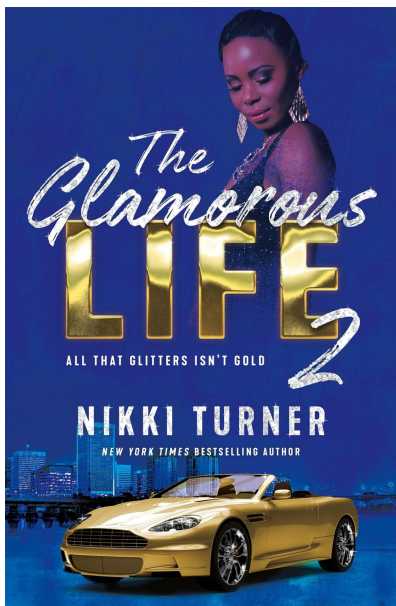
"Few writers working in the field today bring the drama [like] Nikki Turner. . . . [She's] a master at weaving juicy, 'hood-rich sagas of revenge, regret, and redemption." —*Vibe on Forever a Hustler's Wife*

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240 Pages  
Fiction / Urban & Street Lit  
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288 Pages  
Fiction / African American & Black  
FIC049070

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## The Glamorous Life 2

### All That Glitters Isn't Gold

Nikki Turner

From *New York Times* bestselling author Nikki Turner comes *Glamorous Life 2*, now at a special value!

### Summary

Calliope learned at a very early age that if she wanted to survive in this world then she needed to stand on her own. When she and her younger brother are abandoned by their mother, Calliope steps up to the plate and takes care of them both, but really all she really wants is to feel safe and to have a place that she and her brother can call their own. But life takes her down paths she never dreamed and danger always seems to be a hairs breadth away. At her darkest hour, she meets Lynx and her life will never be the same.

Lynx has been released from prison and it should be a fresh start for him and Bambi. But Lynx has discovered an insatiable appetite, for gambling, that threatens to bring both of them to ruin. When he meets Calliope, everything takes a dramatic new twist that will leave everyone reeling.

### Contributor Bio

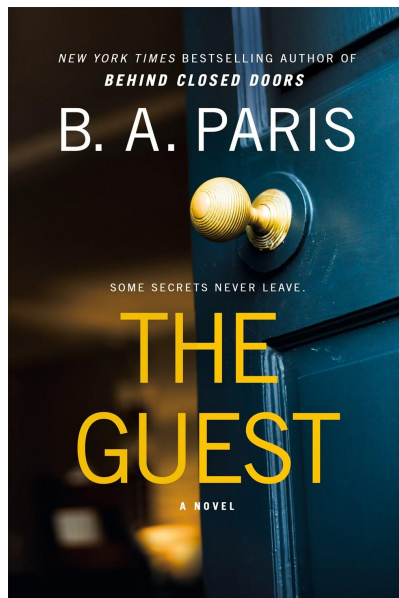
NIKKI TURNER is the author of *The New York Times* bestsellers *Black Widow* and *Heartbreak of a Hustler's Wife*, the *USA Today* bestseller *Forever a Hustler's Wife*, and the *Essence* bestsellers *A Hustler's Wife*, *The Glamorous Life*, and *Riding Dirty on I-95*. Turner lives in Florida.

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Trade Paperback

320 Pages  
Fiction / Thrillers  
FIC031100

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## The Guest

### A Novel

B.A. Paris

The multimillion-copy and *New York Times* bestseller B. A. Paris returns with a stunning new domestic suspense novel.

### Summary

Iris and Gabriel seem to have it all: a beautiful country home, a daughter taking a gap year in Greece, and their good friends from Paris, Laure and Pierre, always up for a holiday weekend away. But when a young man on his bicycle careens off the path of a nearby quarry to his death, Gabriel is the one to find him and hear his final words. When the boy dies, Gabriel is left behind with a guilty burden.

As Iris tries to help ease her husband's trauma, they acquire an unexpected house guest. Their friend Laure has seemingly moved in, her marriage in crisis after her husband's reveal that he has had a child with another woman. Happy to help their friend, Iris and Gabriel insist Laure stay as long as she needs. But Laure keeps wearing Iris's clothes. Following everywhere she goes. Asking her all about the now-closed quarry and the recent tragedy. And Pierre is refusing to answer Gabriel's calls.

Their only respite from the increasingly tense atmosphere in their own home comes in the form of new neighbors—a couple new to town and expecting their first child. But with them comes their gardener, who has a checkered past.

With broken relationships and hidden motives piling up around them, Gabriel and Iris are forced to reckon with whether their life has in fact been a happy one—or if it has all been an illusion.

### Contributor Bio

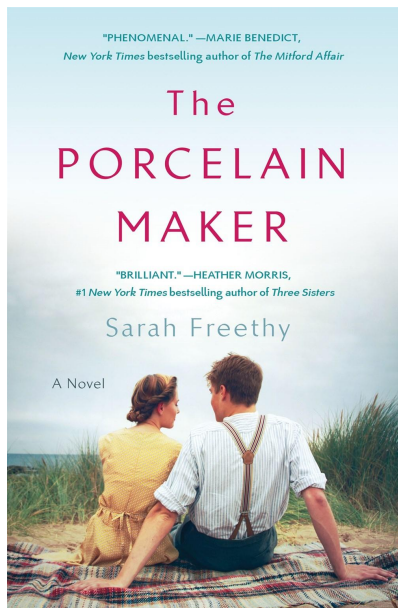
B.A. PARIS (she/her) is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Behind Closed Doors*, *The Breakdown*, *Bring Me Back*, *The Dilemma*, *The Therapist*, and *The Prisoner*. She grew up in England but has spent most of her adult life in France. She has worked both in finance and as a teacher and has five daughters. This is her seventh novel.

### Quotes

"A harrowing Cinderella thriller featuring an underestimated heroine in ruthless survivor Amelie, whose sharp-edged narrative keeps the suspense churning and offers a counterweight to the malignant entitlement of Hawthorpe's world."—*Booklist* on *The Prisoner*

"[A] thrill-stuffed novel about a posh London gated community that's a hotbed of secrets and lies."—*The Washington Post* on *The Therapist*

"The plot twist will come as a surprise and keep you flipping through the pages until the very end."—*Mystery & Suspense Magazine* on *The Therapist*



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384 Pages  
Fiction / Historical  
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8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
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## The Porcelain Maker

### A Novel

Sarah Freethy

**An epic story of love, betrayal, and art that spans decades, through the horrors of World War II to 21st century America, inspired by an actual porcelain factory in Dachau.**

### Summary

Germany, 1929. At a festive gathering of young bohemians in Weimar, two young artists, Max, a skilled Jewish architect, and Bettina, a celebrated avant-garde painter, are drawn to each other and begin a whirlwind romance. Their respective talents transport them to the dazzling lights of Berlin, but this bright beginning is quickly dimmed by the rising threat of Nazism. Max is arrested and sent to the concentration camp at Dachau where only his talent at making exquisite porcelain figures stands between him and seemingly certain death. Desperate to save her lover, Bettina risks everything to rescue him and escape Germany.

America, 1993. Clara, Bettina's daughter, embarks on a journey to trace her roots and determine the identity of her father, a secret her mother has kept from her for reasons she's never understood. Clara's quest to piece together the puzzle of her origins transports us back in time to the darkness of Nazi Germany, where life is lived on a razor's edge and deception and death lurk around every corner. Survival depends on strength, loyalty, and knowing true friend from hidden foe. And as Clara digs further, she begins to question why her mother was so determined to leave the truth of her harrowing past behind...

*The Porcelain Maker* is a powerful novel of enduring love and courage in the face of appalling brutality as a daughter seeks to unlock the mystery of her past.

### Contributor Bio

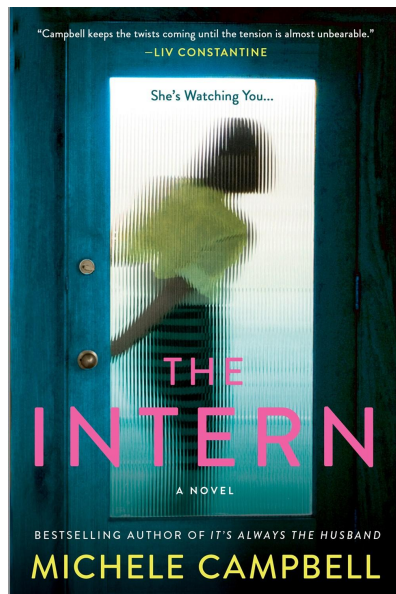
SARAH FREETHY worked as a writer, script consultant, producer and development editor in television before turning her hand to fiction. *The Porcelain Maker* is her first novel. She lives in England with her family.

### Quotes

"Freethy is brilliant as she weaves two time periods effortlessly into a page-turning journey to uncover a past of heroism, betrayal, love, and loss." —**Heather Morris, #1 New York Times bestselling author**

"Phenomenal." —**Marie Benedict, New York Times bestselling author**

"As detailed, delicate, beautiful, and brutal as the hidden porcelain Sarah Freethy conjures, this heart-rending debut intertwines real history and characters both noble and endearing into a story to live in, learn from, and love." —**Meg Waite Clayton, New York Times bestselling author**



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Trade Paperback

384 Pages  
Fiction / Thrillers  
FIC031100

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## The Intern

### A Novel

Michele Campbell

**A young Harvard law student falls under the spell of a charismatic judge in this timely and thrilling novel about class, ambition, family and murder.**

### Summary

Madison Rivera lands the internship of a lifetime working for Judge Kathryn Conroy. But Madison has a secret that could destroy her career. Her troubled younger brother Danny has been arrested, and Conroy is the judge on his case.

When Danny goes missing after accusing the judge of corruption, Madison's quest for answers brings her deep into the judge's glamorous world. Is Kathryn Conroy a mentor, a victim, or a criminal? Is she trying to help Madison or use her as a pawn? And why is somebody trying to kill her?

As the two women circle each other in a dangerous cat-and-mouse game, will they save each other, or will betrayal leave one of them dead?

### Contributor Bio

A graduate of Harvard University and Stanford Law School, MICHELE CAMPBELL worked at a prestigious Manhattan law firm before spending eight years fighting crime as a federal prosecutor in New York City. Michele is the author of *The Wife Who Knew Too Much*, *She Was the Quiet One*, and *It's Always the Husband*.

### Quotes

"This is suspense at its finest! Sharply written and masterfully plotted, *The Intern* is an addictive and cinematic page-turning thriller, further cementing Michele Campbell as a top voice in the genre." —**Jeneva Rose, *New York Times* bestselling author of *You Shouldn't Have Come Here***

"THE INTERN had me hooked from page one.. The cat-and-mouse storyline kept me guessing right up to its suspenseful, satisfying conclusion. At the same time, this is also a story about redemption, resilience, and the right to free oneself from the past, no matter what that may have been." —**Helen Wan, author of *THE PARTNER TRACK* (basis of the hit Netflix series)**

"Richly drawn characters and a fascinating premise that entralls from page one. Campbell keeps the twists coming until the tension is almost unbearable. Harrowing in the best way, I raced through this compelling read!" —**Liv Constantine, author of *THE LAST MRS. PARRISH***

"Real, class driven, suspenseful. The Intern is part John Grisham, part Lisa Gardner. Character driven suspense that kept me up reading far to late." —**Robert Dugoni *New York Times* Bestselling Author Of the *Tracy Crosswhite Series***

"Completely entertaining! Michele Campbell has perfected the modern legal thriller-- and fans of *The Firm* will devour this contemporary high-stakes combination of family pressures, legal machinations, and jaw-dropping twists. I could not turn the pages fast enough!" —**Hank Phillippi Ryan, bestselling author of *THE HOUSE GUEST***

"This page-turner from the author of *It's Always the Husband* delivers a suspenseful narrative with empathetic characters, while also raising timely, provocative questions about corruption within the justice system. Perfect for fans of legal thrillers." —**Library Journal**

"Wow, what a thrill ride! Grisham meets Gillian Flynn. THE INTERN mixes the compelling intrigue of legal suspense with the pacing of a taut, masterfully plotted

psychological thriller. The result is a novel that is simply unputdownable!"— **Wendy Walker, bestselling author of *WHAT REMAINS***



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Trade Paperback

320 Pages  
Fiction / Romance  
FIC027020

8.3 in H | 5.4 in W | 1 in T | 1 lb  
Wt

## How to Get a Life in Ten Dates

### A Novel

Jenny L. Howe

**A young woman who's fed up with dating challenges her family and friends to set her up on ten dates, but gets more than she bargained for when her best friend adds himself to the roster.**

### Summary

Dating as a plus-size woman has been exhausting for Haleigh Berkshire. Sure, she's only twenty-five, but she's been doing it for a decade, and she's beginning to think it's time for a sabbatical. It doesn't help that she's been madly in love with her best friend, Jack, for years--but one disastrous weekend in college taught her the hard way that they'll never be more than friends.

With her sister's engagement party fast approaching, and her friends and family nagging her about a plus-one, Haleigh and Jack do what they do best: scheme. Haleigh agrees to let her friends and family set her up with ten men or women--and she's sure that, once none of them prove to be good matches, her loved ones will finally let her fade into romantic retirement in peace.

To her surprise, some of Haleigh's dates go better than expected, and for the first time in forever, she's actually having fun. Until Jack starts breaking all the rules they'd made to mend their friendship in college. He produces a laundry list of flaws for everyone she likes, crashes some of her nights out, and finally shocks her by throwing himself into the mix. Dating Jack has always been the dream, but Haleigh is afraid of the reality. Is it worth risking her best friend for something that may have never been meant to be?

### Contributor Bio

**JENNY L. HOWE** first started scribbling stories when she was in junior high and never really stopped. In college, she decided to turn her love of books into a career by pursuing a Ph.D. in literature. Now, as a professor, she teaches courses in college writing, literature, and children's media. When she's not writing and teaching, Jenny spends her time buried under puzzle pieces, cross-stitching her favorite characters, and taking too many pictures of her rescue dogs, Tucker and Dale.

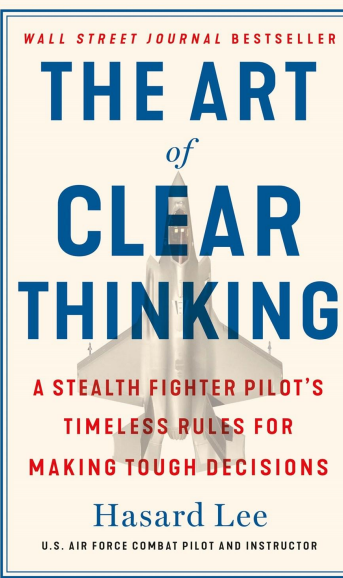
### Quotes

#### Praise for Jenny L. Howe:

"Smart and funny...this one's a must read, y'all." –**Book Riot for *On the Plus Side***

"Howe dazzles with this pitch-perfect rom-com about learning to love oneself at any size...timely, humorous, and heartfelt." –**Publishers Weekly (starred) for *On the Plus Side***

"Featuring a plus-size heroine, *The Make-Up Test* provides some much-needed representation in the rom-com genre...Sweet and funny." –**USA Today**



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## The Art of Clear Thinking

### A Stealth Fighter Pilot's Timeless Rules for Making Tough Decisions

Hasard Lee

**Based on a career of making split-second decisions as an elite U.S. fighter pilot, the national bestseller *The Art of Clear Thinking* teaches readers how to make better decisions in everyday life.**

### Summary

The training to become a fighter pilot is among the most competitive and difficult in the world with fewer than one in a thousand succeeding. Pushing a cutting-edge jet to its limits at over 1,000 mph means that every split-second decision can have catastrophic consequences. This extreme environment has forged a group of warriors who for the last fifty years have been considered at the apex of decision-making theory and practice.

In *The Art of Clear Thinking*, Hasard Lee distills what he's learned during his career flying some of the Air Force's most advanced aircraft. With gripping firsthand accounts from his time as a fighter pilot and fascinating turning points throughout history, Hasard reveals powerful decision-making principles that can be used in business and in life.

Hasard has used and taught these techniques across the full spectrum of human endeavors and proven their effectiveness in both the cockpit and the boardroom. Those who have already benefited include CEO's, astronauts, CIA agents, students, parents, and many others. *The Art of Clear Thinking* is a book that will change how you interact with the world around you.

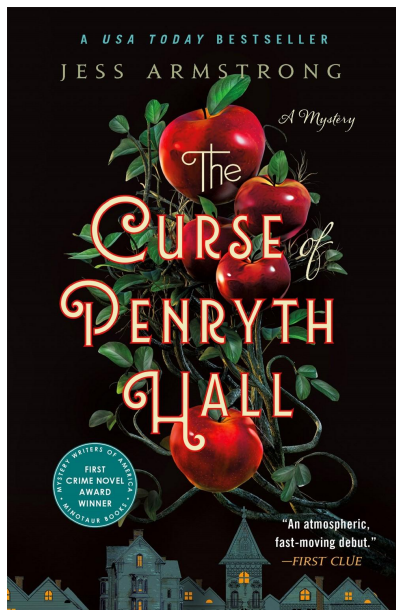
### Contributor Bio

HASARD LEE began his career flying the F-16 Viper and later the F-35—the most advanced and expensive weapon's system in history—which was still in development at the time. Hasard then became the Chief of Training Systems for the largest training base in the world, leading the development of new technology and teaching methods. Hasard speaks and consults for organizations. His social media accounts reach over 290 million people annually. *The Art of Clear Thinking* is his first book.

### Quotes

"I've incorporated Hasard's incredibly valuable decision-making tools into the complex world I experience daily, and you will too." -Dan Schilling, Lt. Col. USAF (ret.), *Black Hawk Down* veteran and *NY Times* bestselling author

"Hasard has some powerful and practical words of wisdom for any leader, on Earth or in space!" -Terry Virts, *NASA* astronaut and international space station commander



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## The Curse of Penryth Hall

### A Mystery

Jess Armstrong

"Readers who like their historical mysteries embellished with plenty of gothic ambience and enhanced with an abundance of dry wit will adore this splendid debut." *-Library Journal* (starred review)

### Summary

After the Great War, American heiress Ruby Vaughn has made a life for herself running a rare bookstore alongside her octogenarian employer and housemate in Exeter. She's always avoided dwelling on the past, even before the war, but it has a way of finding her. When Ruby is forced to deliver a box of books to a folk healer living deep in the Cornish countryside, she is brought back to the one place she swore she'd never return. A more sensible soul would have delivered the package and left without rehashing old wounds. But no one has ever accused Ruby of being sensible. Thus begins her visit to Penryth Hall.

A foreboding fortress, Penryth Hall is home to Ruby's once-dearest friend, Tamsyn, and her husband, Sir Edward Chenoweth. It's an unsettling place, and after a more unsettling evening, Ruby is eager to depart. But her plans change when Penryth's bells ring for the first time in thirty years. Edward is dead; he met a gruesome end in the orchard, and his death brings whispers of a returned curse. It also brings Ruan Kivell, the person whose books brought Ruby to Cornwall, the one the locals call a Pellar, the man they believe can break the curse. Ruby doesn't believe in curses—or Pellars—but this is Cornwall and to these villagers the curse is anything but lore, and they believe it will soon claim its next victim: Tamsyn.

To protect her friend, Ruby must work alongside the Pellar to find out what really happened in the orchard that night. Jess Armstrong introduces heroine Ruby Vaughn in her Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award-winning debut, *The Curse of Penryth Hall*, an atmospheric gothic mystery that beautifully brings the ancient Cornish countryside to life.

### Contributor Bio

JESS ARMSTRONG's debut novel, *The Curse of Penryth Hall*, won the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America First Crime Novel Award. She has a master's degree in American history but prefers writing about imaginary people to the real thing. Jess lives in New Orleans with her historian husband, two sons, a yellow cat, a speckled dog, and the world's most pampered school-fair goldfish. And when she's not working on her next project, she's probably thinking about cheese, baking, tweeting, or some combination of the above. You can find her on Twitter @JessL\_Armstrong or see what's new on her website at [writingjess.com](http://writingjess.com).

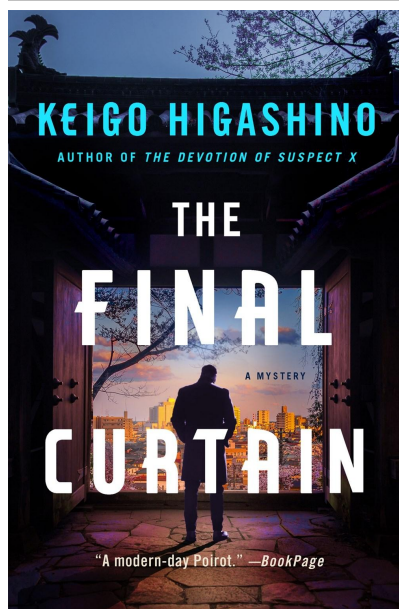
### Quotes

"An intriguing and altogether enchanting mystery." *-Kirkus Reviews*

"An engrossing debut. . . Ruby is a wonderful concoction, world-weary and reckless, and Armstrong outfits her with a moody, gripping mystery that keeps the pages turning. . . Fans of Gothic-flavored suspense will devour this." *-Publishers Weekly*

"An atmospheric, fast-moving debut." *-First Clue*





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## The Final Curtain

### A Mystery

Keigo Higashino, Giles Murray

From the acclaimed author of *Malice* and *Newcomer*, a confounding murder in Tokyo is connected to the mystery of the disappearance and death of Detective Kaga's own mother.

### Summary

A decade ago, Tokyo Police Detective Kyoichiro Kaga went to collect the ashes of his recently deceased mother. Years before, she ran away from her husband and son without explanation or any further contact, only to die alone in an apartment far away, leaving her estranged son with many unanswered questions.

Now in Tokyo, Michiko Oshitani is found dead many miles from home. Strangled to death, left in an empty apartment rented under a false name by a man who has disappeared without a trace. Oshitani lived far away in Sendai, with no known connection to Tokyo—and neither her family nor co-workers have any idea why she was there.

Hers is the second suspicious death in that part of Tokyo—the other was a homeless man, killed and his body burned in a tent by the river. As the police search through Oshitani's past for any clue that might shed some light, one of the detectives reaches out to Detective Kaga for advice. As the case unfolds an unexpected connection emerges between the shocking murders now and the long-ago secret life of Detective Kaga's missing mother.

*The Final Curtain*, one of Keigo Higashino's most acclaimed mysteries, brings the story of Detective Kaga to a surprising climax in a series of rich, surprising twists.

### Contributor Bio

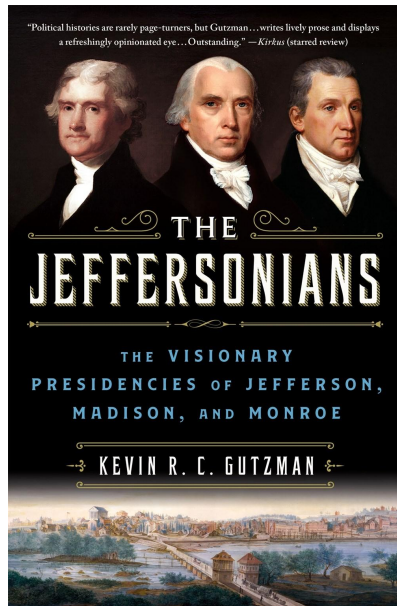
KEIGO HIGASHINO is one of Japan's best-selling novelists, his works translated into more than twenty languages. He's best known for this Detective Galileo mystery series (*The Devotion of Suspect X*) and his Kyoichiro Kaga series (*Malice*, *A Death in Tokyo*). His work has been a finalist for both the Edgar Award and the CWA Dagger, along with many awards in his home country. He lives in Tokyo, Japan.

### Quotes

"Brilliantly twisty...this poignant fair-play whodunit is sure to thrill." —*Publishers Weekly* (starred review)

"Higashino makes the unbelievable become credible in this expansive novel...beautifully written and superbly translated." —*FirstCLUE* (Book of the Week)

"An intricate, many-layered puzzle." —*Kirkus Reviews*



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## The Jeffersonians

### The Visionary Presidencies of Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe

Kevin R. C. Gutzman

A lively and essential chronicle by a noted historian of the only consecutive trio of two-term presidencies of the same political party in American history: Jefferson, Madison, and Monroe.

### Summary

Before the consecutive two-term administrations of Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush, and Barack Obama, there had only been one other trio of its type: Thomas Jefferson, James Madison, and James Monroe.

Kevin Gutzman's *The Jeffersonians* is the first full chronicle of the men, known as The Virginia Dynasty, who served as president from 1801 to 1825 and implemented the foreign-policy, domestic, and constitutional agenda of the radical wing of the American Revolution, setting guideposts for later American liberals to follow.

The three close political allies were tightly related: Jefferson and Madison were the closest of friends, and Monroe was Jefferson's former law student. Their achievements were many, from the founding of the opposition Republican Party in the 1790s; the Louisiana Purchase; and the call upon Congress in 1806 to use its constitutional power to ban slave imports beginning on January 1, 1808.

Of course, not everything the Virginia Dynasty undertook was a success: Its chief failure might have been the ineptly planned and led War of 1812. In general, however, when Monroe rode off into the sunset in 1825, his passing and the end of The Virginia Dynasty were much lamented. Kevin Gutzman's new book details a time in America when three Presidents built upon the achievements of his predecessor to strengthen our Republic in a way we rarely see in American politics today.

### Contributor Bio

KEVIN R. C. GUTZMAN, JD, PhD, is the bestselling author of *James Madison and the Making of America* and *Thomas Jefferson - Revolutionary*. Professor of History at Western Connecticut State University and a faculty member at LibertyClassroom.com, he has published in all the leading history journals, and writes and speaks frequently for popular audiences. He lives with his son in Connecticut.

### Quotes

"A long, insightful look at three Founder presidents. ... Political histories are rarely page-turners, but Gutzman, clearly a scholar who has read everything on his subjects, writes lively prose and displays a refreshingly opinionated eye for a huge cast of characters and their often unfortunate actions. Outstanding historical writing." — *Kirkus* (starred review)

"[Kevin Gutzman] has an eye for detail and a firm grasp of his period." — *The Wall Street Journal*

"Though a conservative historian, Gutzman tries to thread the various needles of contemporary conscience, never excusing the slave-owning Southerners, but aware of the risks of judging the ideas of the eighteenth century by the standards of the twenty-first." — Adam Gopnik, *The New Yorker*