



FRANKFURT 2019

International Rights Guide

For further information about any of these titles please contact:

Kerry Nordling, Director of Subsidiary Rights
UK, Australia, France, Germany
kerry.nordling@stmartins.com

Christopher Scheina, Senior Rights Manager
UK, Australia
chris.scheina@stmartins.com

Marta Fleming, Associate Director, International Rights
Spain, Portugal, Brazil, Latin America, Italy, the Netherlands, Scandinavia, Asia
marta.fleming@stmartins.com

E. Witt Phillips, International Rights Manager
Eastern Europe, Russia, Middle East
witt.phillips@stmartins.com

OTHER PEOPLE’S PETS by R.L. Maizes (June 2020)

Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: manuscript due November; Page count: 320

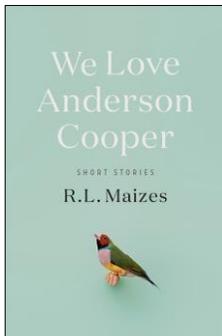
La La Fine’s world stops being whole when her mother, who never wanted a child, abandons her twice. First, when La La falls through thin ice on a skating trip, and again when the accusations of “unfit mother” feel too close to true. Left alone with her father—a locksmith by trade and a thief in reality—La La is denied a regular life. She becomes her father’s accomplice, calming the watch dog while he strips families of their most precious belongings.

When her father’s luck runs out and he is arrested for burglary, everything La La has painstakingly built unravels. In her fourth year of veterinary school, she is forced to drop out, leaving school to pay for her father’s legal fees the only way she knows how—robbing homes.

As an animal empath, she rationalizes her theft by focusing on houses with pets whose maladies only she can sense and caring for them before leaving with the family’s valuables. The news reports a puzzled police force—searching for a thief who left behind medicine for the dog, water for the parrot, or food for the hamster.

Desperate to compensate for new and old losses, La La continues to rob homes even after her father flees custody. But it’s a strategy that will ultimately fail her.

Other People’s Pets examines the gap between the families we’re born into and those we create and the danger that holding onto a troubled past may rob us of the future.

**WE LOVE ANDERSON COOPER by R.L. Maizes (July 2019)**

Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: finished copies; Page count: 176

In this quirky, humorous, and deeply human short story collection, Pushcart Prize-nominated author R.L. Maizes reminds us that even in our most isolated moments, we are never truly alone. In *We Love Anderson Cooper*, characters are treated as outsiders because of their sexual orientation, racial or religious identity, or simply because they look different. A young man courts the publicity that comes from outing himself at his bar mitzvah. When a painter is shunned because of his appearance, he learns to ink tattoos that come to life. A paranoid Jewish actuary suspects his cat of cheating on him—with his Protestant girlfriend. In this debut collection, humor complements pathos. Readers will recognize themselves in these stories and in these protagonists, whose backgrounds are vastly different from their own, because we’ve all been outsiders at some point.

R.L. Maizes was born and raised in Queens, New York and now lives in Boulder, Colorado. Maizes's short stories have aired on National Public Radio and have appeared in the literary magazines *Electric Literature*, *Witness*, *Bellevue Literary Review*, *Slice*, and *Blackbird*, among others. Her essays have been published in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Lilith*, and elsewhere.



Maizes is an alumna of the Bread Loaf Writers' Conference, the Sewanee Writers' Conference, and the Tin House Summer Writer's Workshop. Her work has received Honorable Mention in *Glimmer Train's* Fiction Open contest, has been a finalist in numerous other national contests, and has been nominated for a Pushcart Prize. *We Love Anderson Cooper* is her first book.

Praise for *We Love Anderson Cooper*:

"Maizes's direct manner of storytelling and her imperfect yet unmistakably human characters are sure to win over readers."—*Publishers Weekly*

"Each succinct fictional nugget rolls inexorably along its own quirky trajectory, arrives at its own unexpected destination, and never overstays its welcome...this is a book about the heart. Breaking news: Maizes' gently witty and vaguely weird collection is well worth reading."—*Kirkus Reviews* (starred review)

"Told with humor and wisdom, these charming stories burst with possibility: At any moment, a character might risk all, or the world might tilt on its axis. Here is a wildly entertaining new voice, one to revel in."—Rebecca Makkai, author of *The Great Believers*

"I can't remember the last time I read an entire book with a smile on my face. But from R.L. Maizes's title, *We Love Anderson Cooper*, until the last story here, I grinned. These stories are funny, yes. But they are also so big-hearted and honest that I wanted to thrust them into everyone's hands and make them read this book so we would all be grinning together as we recognized that these oddball characters are really exactly like us."—Ann Hood, author of *The Knitting Circle* and *The Book That Matters Most*

"A unique angle of vision—devastating and funny. In her stories, R.L. Maizes probes the fusion of alienation and yearning, the persistence of attachment to animals and to people."—Ursula Hegi, author of *Stones from the River* (Book #1 of the Burgdorf Cycle Series)

"I found myself dazzled, moved, and lost in admiration for these unforgettable stories, each one a gem. Where do I sign up for the R.L. Maizes school of brilliantly depicting off-kilter love and loss with unfailing wit and empathy?"—Elinor Lipman, author of *Good Riddance* and *On Turpentine Lane*

"The title story in *We Love Anderson Cooper* will break your heart in all the best ways and it will also make you laugh; such is the blueprint for all that is ahead in this stunning collection. R.L. Maizes has such a gift for taking us where we've never been, yet reminding us of what we know about love, grief, a place of belonging."—Jill McCorkle, author of *Life After Life*

MY FIRST BLACK BOYFRIEND by Chris Rock (October 2020)

Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: manuscript due April; Page count: 288

From the iconic comedian, actor, director, and producer, Chris Rock, comes a new book comprised of essays about relationships and race.

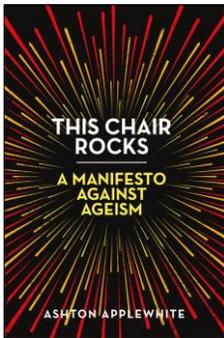
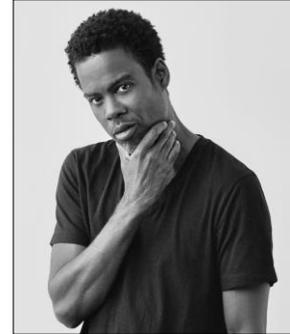
As editor Deb Futter has said about the acquisition: “There are very few topics that are as evergreen as relationships. And the inimitable, singular Chris Rock is the perfect moderator of that discussion.”

News of this book has already received coverage in *The New York Times* and *Rolling Stone*!

Lauded by peers and critics alike, **Chris Rock** is one of our generation’s strongest comedic voices. As an actor, director, producer and writer he has created many memorable moments.

Rock teamed up with Lionsgate and Twisted Pictures in the reimagining of the next Saw franchise movie, *Organ Donor*, which he produces and stars in. Rock made a cameo in Netflix’s *Dolemite is my Name!* On television, Rock will next be seen starring as the head of a crime family on season four of FX’s Emmy-winning drama series *Fargo*.

Rock has won four Emmy Awards, three Grammy Awards and is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *Rock This!* (Hyperion, 1997).

**THIS CHAIR ROCKS: A Manifesto Against Ageism by Ashton Applewhite (March 2019)**

Acquiring editor: Jamie Raab; Material: finished copies; Page count: 304

From author, activist, and TED speaker Ashton Applewhite comes a manifesto calling for an end to discrimination and prejudice on the basis of age. Explaining the roots of ageism in history and how it divides and debases, Applewhite examines how ageist stereotypes cripple the way our brains and bodies function, looks at ageism in the workplace and the bedroom, critiques the portrayal of elders as burdens to society, describes what an all-age-friendly world would look like, and offers a rousing call to action. It’s time to create a world of age equality by making discrimination on the basis of age as unacceptable as any other kind of bias. Whether you’re older or hoping to get there, this book will change the way you see the rest of your life.

Author and activist **Ashton Applewhite** has been recognized by *The New York Times*, *The New Yorker*, National Public Radio, and the American Society on Aging as an expert on ageism. She blogs at This Chair Rocks, speaks widely around the world, has written for *Harper’s* and *Playboy*, and is the voice of Yo, Is This Ageist? In 2016, she joined the PBS site Next Avenue’s annual list of Fifty Influencers in Aging as their Influencer of the Year.

“[This Chair Rocks] provides a positive view of aging that is sorely missing in today’s popular culture. Appealing to a wide audience, it might even serve as a spark for positive social change.”—Library Journal (starred review)



Foreign sales: Italy/Corbaccio (via the author), Korea/Signonsa (via the author), Slovenia/Eno (via the author), Taiwan/Ecus Publishing, UK/Melville House

YOU CAN ONLY YELL AT ME FOR ONE THING AT A TIME: Rules for Couples by Patricia Marx and Roz Chast (January 2020)

Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: early .pdf; Page count: 160

Everyone's heard the old advice for a healthy relationship: *Never go to bed angry. Play hard to get. Sexual favors in exchange for cleaning up the cat vomit is a good and fair trade.* Okay, not that last one. It's one of the tips in ***You Can Only Yell at Me for One Thing at a Time: Rules for Couples*** by the authors of *Why Don't You Write My Eulogy Now So I Can Correct It: A Mother's Suggestions*. This guide will make you laugh, remind you why your relationship is better than everyone else's, and solve all your problems.



Nuggets of advice include:

If you must breathe, don't breathe so loudly.

It is easier to stay inside and wait for the snow to melt than to fight about who should shovel.

Queen-sized beds, king-sized blankets.

You Can Only Yell at Me for One Thing at a Time is the perfect gift for your significant other, your friendly anti-Valentine's Day crusader, or anyone in your life who wants to laugh about the absurdity of love.

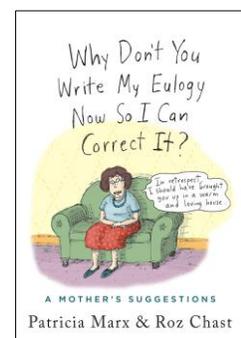
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WHY DON'T YOU WRITE MY EULOGY NOW SO I CAN CORRECT IT?: A Mother's Suggestions (April 2019)

Acquiring editor: Deb Futter; Material: finished copies; Page count: 112

A collection of witty, one-line advice that writer Patricia Marx heard from her mother, accompanied by full-color illustrations by *New Yorker* staff cartoonist Roz Chast.

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Patricia Marx has been contributing to *The New Yorker* since 1989. She is a former writer for "Saturday Night Live" and "Rugrats," and is the author of several books, including *Let's Be Less Stupid*, *Him Her Him Again*, *The End of Him*, and *Starting from Happy*. Marx was the first woman elected to the *Harvard Lampoon*. She has taught screenwriting and humor writing at Princeton, New York University, and Stonybrook University. She was the recipient of a 2015 Guggenheim Fellowship.



Roz Chast has loved to draw cartoons since she was a child growing up in Brooklyn. She attended Rhode Island School of Design, majoring in Painting because it seemed more artistic. However, soon after graduating, she reverted to type and began drawing cartoons once again. She is the author of the #1 *New York Times* bestselling memoir *Can't We Talk about Something More Pleasant?*