FRANKFURT 2020

The Friedrich Agency LLC

FOREIGN RIGHTS GUIDE

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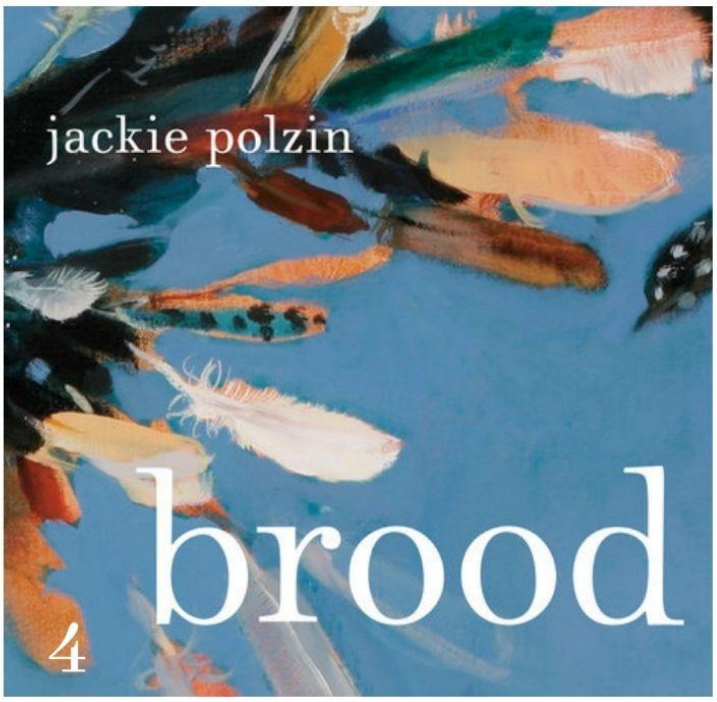

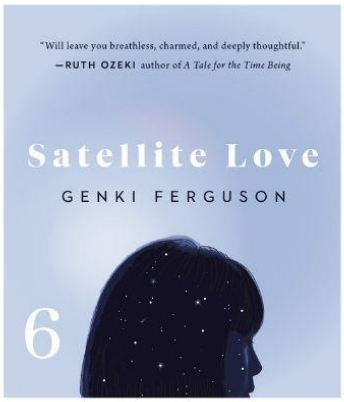

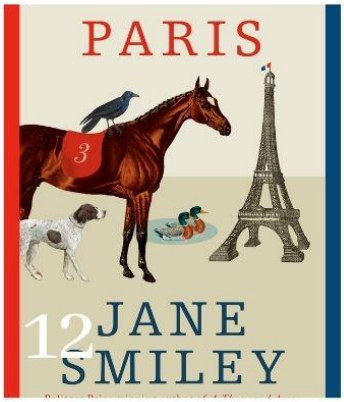

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Film & Television Updates

THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN: Rufi Thorpe's unforgettable coming-of-age novel, following two unlikely best friends whose lives are forever changed by a single act of violence, was optioned by Atlas Films in a competitive auction shortly after hardcover publication.

EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM WILL SOMEDAY BE DEAD: Emily Austin's sharply funny, voice-driven debut, pre-empted by S&S/Atria in May 2020, was immediately optioned by Paramount TV and is now in active development as a series. (Publisher controls translation rights.)

FORTY ACRES: Dwayne Alexander Smith's bone-chilling, racially charged thriller of 2014 has been re-submitted to Film studios in the wake of the Black Lives Matter movement. We are currently fielding multiple offers and will provide further details once the deal is final. Translation rights are available around the world with the exception of Germany and The Czech Republic.

LOOT: Jude Watson's bestselling, multiple award-winning novel for young readers about four friends who embark on a dangerous heist, is now under option with Paradiso Pictures. (Publisher controls translation rights).

THE LAST ONE: Alexandra Oliva's pandemic thriller of 2014, following a young woman who is competing on a reality television show while unknowingly fighting for her life, is freshly under option and in active development with Jesse James Films.

THE BURGESS BOYS: Robert Redford continues to develop Elizabeth Strout's 2013 novel about a community in Maine divided over a recent influx of Somali immigrants. The series is fully scripted, and a lead actress is now attached, with details to follow.

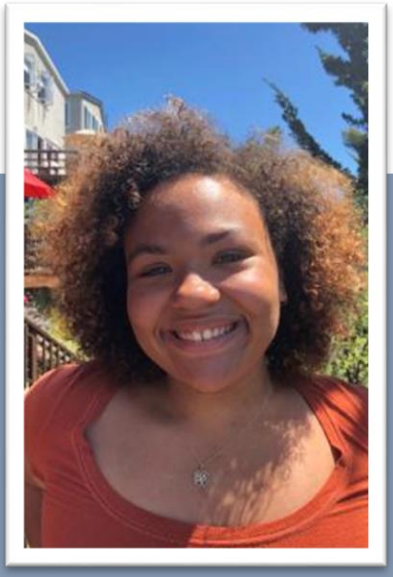
NIGHTCRAWLING
Leila Mottley (Knopf/2022)

Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Bloomsbury); Germany (Harper); France (Albin Michel); Japan (Hayakawa); Sweden (Norstedts); Norway (Gyldendal); Italy (Bollati Boringhieri); Brazil (Companhia das Letras); Finland (Schildts & Soderstroms)
Film/TV agent: Eric Reid at WME

After a three-day, 13 editor auction, Leila Mottley's stellar debut novel was acquired by Diana Miller at Knopf. Breaking through the chaos of a pandemic, NIGHTCRAWLING quickly enraptured editors internationally and sold in nine other territories.

Kiara Johnson and her brother Marcus are barely scraping by in a squalid East Oakland apartment complex that calls itself, optimistically, the Royal-hi. With their family fractured by death and prison, both siblings have dropped out of high school--but while Marcus clings to his dream of rap stardom, Kiara's been hunting for work to pay their mounting bills. Bills that just doubled, with news that the Royal-hi has been sold. And when a neighbor abandons her 9 year old son Trevor, Kiara steps in to keep him safe and fed with money she just doesn't have. What begins as a drunken misunderstanding with a stranger one night soon becomes the job she never wanted but now desperately needs: nightcrawling.

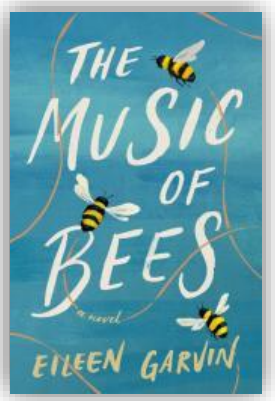
Her world soon breaks open when Kiara's name surfaces in a police officer's suicide note, exposing her as a key witness in a massive scandal within the Oakland PD. Those crying for justice beg Kiara to tell her side of what happened, but if she testifies, she leaves the fragile eco-system of her family vulnerable to police retaliation…



Leila Mottley is a debut author from Oakland, California. She is the 2018 Oakland Youth Poet Laureate and currently attends Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Leila comes from a diasporic family with ties to various cities, including Oakland, Detroit, Harlem, and Nashville, all of which have or will appear in her writing. Leila graduated high school in three years and spent the summer before college writing and starring in *When I Write It*, a short film that was set to premiere at the 2020 Tribeca Film Festival.

THE MUSIC OF BEES

Eileen Garvin (Dutton/April 27th 2021)



Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Headline); Germany (Piper); Holland (HarperCollins Holland); Portugal (LeYas); Korea (Munhakdongne)
Film/TV agent: Dana Spector at CAA

A heartwarming debut novel for readers of *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine*, following three lonely strangers in a rural Oregon town, each working through grief and life's curveballs, who are brought together by happenstance on a local honeybee farm where they find surprising friendship, healing—and maybe even a second chance—just when they least expect it.

Forty-four-year-old Alice Holtzman is stuck in a dead end job, bereft of family, and now reeling from the unexpected death of her husband. Alice has begun having panic attacks whenever she thinks about how her life hasn't turned out the way she dreamed. Even the beloved honeybees she raises in her spare time aren't helping her feel better.

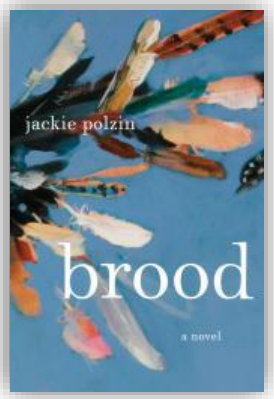
In the grip of a panic attack, she nearly collides with Jake—a troubled, paraplegic teenager with the tallest mohawk in Hood River County—while carrying 120,000 honeybees in the back of her pickup truck. Charmed by Jake's sincere interest in her bees and seeking to rescue him from his toxic home life, Alice surprises herself by inviting Jake to her farm.

And then there's Harry, a twenty-four-year-old with debilitating social anxiety. When he applies to Alice's ad for part-time farm help, he's shocked to find himself hired. As an unexpected friendship blossoms among Alice, Jake, and Harry, a nefarious pesticide company moves to town. The unlikely trio must unite for the sake of the bees—and in the process, they just might forge a new future for themselves.

Eileen Garvin is a beekeeper and writer living in Hood River, Oregon. Her memoir, *How to be a Sister*, was published in 2010. *The Music of Bees* is her debut novel.

BROOD

Jackie Polzin (Doubleday/March 9th 2021)



Rights sold: UK (Picador); Germany (DTV); Italy (Einaudi) France (Editions Dalva); Spain (Libros del Asteroide); Netherlands (Atlas Contact)

An exquisite new literary voice—wryly funny, nakedly honest, beautifully observational, in the vein of Jenny Offill and Elizabeth Strout—which depicts one woman's attempt to keep her four chickens alive while reflecting on a recent loss

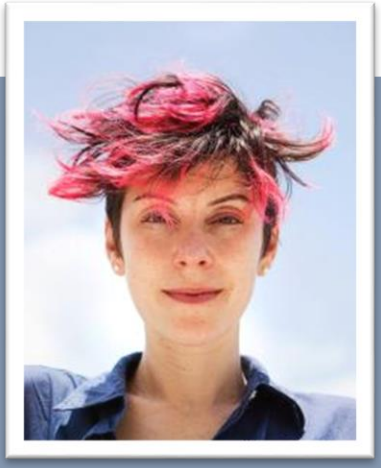
Over the course of a single year, our nameless narrator heroically tries to keep her small brood of four chickens alive despite the seemingly endless challenges that caring for another creature entails. From the forty-below nights of a brutal Minnesota winter to a sweltering summer which brings a surprise tornado, she battles predators, bad luck, and the uncertainly of a future that may not look anything like the one she always imagined.

As the year unfolds, we come to know the small band of loved ones who comprise the narrator's circumscribed life at this moment. Her mother, a flinty former home-ec teacher who may have to take over the chickens; her best friend, a real estate agent with a burgeoning family of her own; and her husband whose own coping mechanisms for dealing with the miscarriage that haunts his wife are more than a little unfathomable to her.

Advance praise for BROOD:

"This is the most wonderful book! Acutely observed and flawlessly conveyed. Completely original, full of surprise, humor, grief, and wisdom and just the right amount of chickens."

– **Karen Joy Fowler**, the award-winning and bestselling author of *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*



Jackie Polzin lives in St. Paul, Minnesota with her husband and children. *Brood* is her first novel.

LOOK AT US

Terry Toma (Bellevue Literary Press/Fall 2021)

Rights sold: Italy (Bompiani)

"The sexiest book Bellevue will ever publish"
– Erika Goldman, publisher

Lily and Martin Fowler's marriage can be reduced to this checklist:
☒ A home (In fact, an apartment on Manhattan`s Maiden Lane, affording a rooftop view of the Brooklyn Bridge.)
☒ An occupation, double tick! (In fact, both Martin and Lily have promising *careers*, not jobs, with clear trajectories and compelling bonus packages.)
☒ Two children (In fact, healthy twin boys)
☐ Childcare (In fact, Paloma isn`t perfect. She won't do windows. She yells at Martin for leaving wet towels on the floor. She`s running off to Florida to be with a man she met on the internet. What`s a New York couple to *do*?)

And thus begins a time-worn, deeply reliable, plot: a stranger enters.

Maeve, a young woman, recently emigrated from Ireland, instantly falls in with the family; the twins love her, her shepherd's pies and soda breads are unparalleled, and she keeps a tidy house. She is everything Lily and Martin could ask for. And more…

With shades of Mary Gaitskill, Toma's characters behave badly and are keenly observed; you keep reading even when you are despairing of their behavior. Like Bong Joon-ho's *Parasite*, *Look at Us* explores the symbiotic relationship of the stranger in the home, and no one emerges victorious – there are masterful, tonal shifts here that manifest as knots in your stomach and an internal conflict as to which horse – if any – you're backing.

Terry Toma teaches Philosophy at Texas A&M University. He worked with a solidarity group in Nicaragua during the 1980s, and in the years since has taught in prisons, to undocumented farmworkers, and to at-risk students. He also worked for a time as a union organizer.

SATELLITE LOVE

Genki Ferguson (McClelland & Stewart PRH Canada/March 2nd 2021)

Film/TV agent: Ellen Goldsmith-Vein and Tara Timinsky at Gotham Group

Set in 1999 Japan, Satellite Love is a heartbreaking and beautifully unconventional debut novel about a girl, a boy, and a satellite. A bittersweet meditation on what it means to be human.

On the eve of the new millennium, in a city in southern Japan that progress has forgotten, sixteen-year-old Anna Obata looks to the stars for solace. An outcast at school, and left to fend for herself and care for her increasingly senile grandfather at home, Anna copes with her loneliness by searching the night sky for answers. But everything changes the evening the Low Earth Orbit satellite (LEO for short) returns her gaze and sees her as no one else has before.

After Leo is called down to Earth, he embarks on an extraordinary journey to understand his own humanity as well as the fragile mind of the young woman who called him into being. As Anna withdraws further into her own mysterious plans, he will be forced to question the limits of his devotion and the lengths he will go to protect her.

Advance Praise for SATELLITE LOVE:

"[O]ne of those rare and affecting novels that will leave you breathless, charmed, and deeply thoughtful. A beautiful rumination on sentience, imagination, impermanence and friendship."

— **Ruth Ozeki**, international bestselling author of A TALE FOR THE TIME BEING

Genki Ferguson was born in New Brunswick, Canada to a family of authors (his father is author Will Ferguson), and grew up reading Murakami. He spent much of his childhood in the subtropical island of Kyushu, Japan, where his mother's family still resides. Fluent in Japanese and capable of making a decent sushi roll, Genki was also the recipient of the 2017 Helen Pitt Award for visual arts and is finishing a degree in Film Production, while working part-time at Book Warehouse, an indie store in Vancouver.

BUILD YOUR HOUSE AROUND MY BODY

Violet Kupersmith (Random House/Summer 2021)

A kaleidoscopic debut for fans of David Mitchell's *Cloud Atlas* and Haruki Murakami's *The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle*, and readers of literary magical realism, like the work of Isabel Allende, Salman Rushdie, and Tea Obreht.

1986: The teenage daughter of a wealthy Vietnamese family gets lost in an abandoned rubber plantation while fleeing her angry father and is forever changed by the experience.

2009: Pressed into a dangerous scheme by a former lover, a woman captures a rare two-headed cobra.

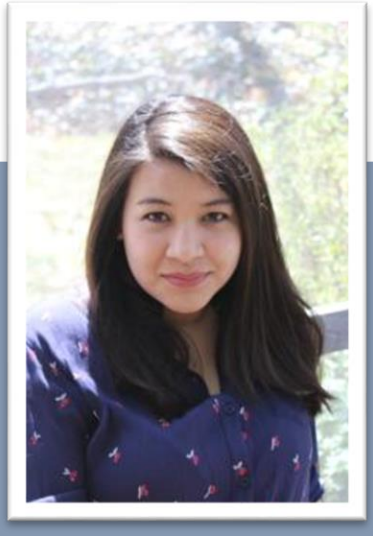
2011: Winnie, a young, unhappy American living in Saigon with her sort-of boyfriend, disappears without a trace.

Over the course of the novel, the fates of these three women will lock together in an exhilarating series of nested narratives. Each new character and timeline brings us one step closer to understanding what binds the three women together, and what happened to Winnie.

Written with wit, ambition, and playfulness, this book takes us from sweaty nightclubs to ramshackle zoos, colonial mansions to ex-pat flats, sizzling back-alley street carts to the noisy seats of motorbikes. Spanning over fifty years and barreling toward an unforgettable conclusion, this is a fever dream about possessed bodies and possessed lands, a time-traveling, heart-pounding, border-crossing marvel of a novel.

Praise for THE FRANGIPANI HOTEL:

"Subversively clever […] playful, angry, at times legitimately scary. "
—The New York Times

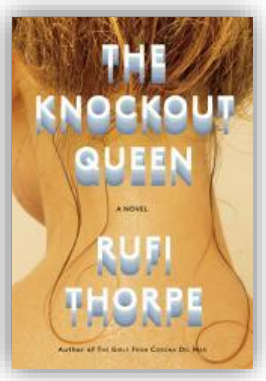


"Surgically precise and feverishly imaginative."
—Téa Obreht, author of *The Tiger's Wife*

Violet Kupersmith is the author of the short story collection *The Frangipani Hotel*. She previously taught English with the Fulbright Program in the Mekong Delta, and was a creative writing fellow at the University of East Anglia. She has lived in Da Lat and Saigon, Vietnam, and currently resides in the U.S.

THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN

Rufi Thorpe (Knopf/April 28th 2020)



Rights sold: Italy (Bollati Boringhieri)
Film/TV Agent: Brooke Ehrlich, Anonymous Content

******LA TIMES* **BESTSELLER* OKLAHOMA BESTSELLER***
INDIE NEXT PICK* BOOK OF THE MONTH PICK*

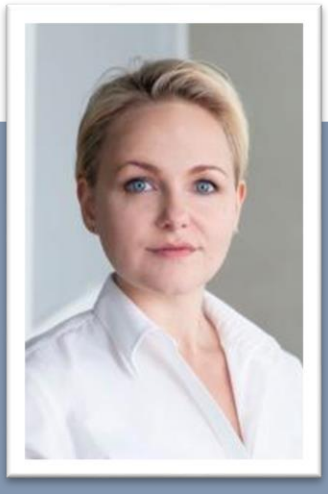
Bunny Lampert is the princess of North Shore—beautiful, tall, blond, with a rich father and a swimming pool in her backyard. Michael—with a ponytail down his back and a septum piercing—lives with his aunt in the cramped stucco cottage next door. When Bunny catches Michael smoking in her yard, he discovers that her life is not as perfect as it seems. At six foot three, Bunny towers over their classmates. Even as she dreams of standing out and competing in the Olympics, she is desperate to fit in, to seem normal, and to get a boyfriend, all while hiding her father's escalating alcoholism.

Michael has secrets of his own. At home and at school he pretends to be straight, but at night he meets men online for anonymous encounters that both thrill and scare him. When Michael falls in love for the first time, a vicious strain of gossip circulates and a terrible, brutal act becomes the defining feature of both his and Bunny's futures—and of their friendship. With storytelling as intoxicating as it is intelligent, this is a fascinating examination of our struggles to exist in our bodies, and an excruciatingly beautiful story of two humans aching for connection.

Praise for THE KNOCKOUT QUEEN:

" [An] electric portrait of adolescence."
—TIME

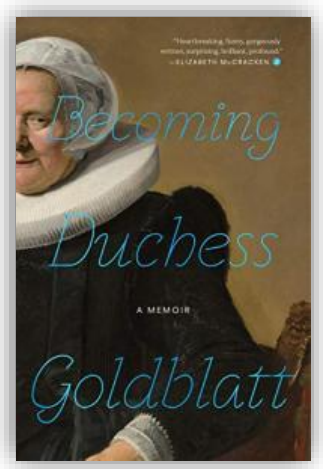
"The most piercing, accurate portrayals of what it means to be a teenager that I've ever come across. "
—Refinery29



Rufi Thorpe is the author of three novels. Her first, *The Girls from Corona del Mar*, was long-listed for the 2014 International Dylan Thomas Prize and for the 2014 Flaherty-Dunnan First Novel Prize, and became a National Bestseller. She holds and MFA from the University of Virginia and lives in California with her husband and sons.

BECOMING DUCHESS GOLDBLATT

Anonymous (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt/July 7th 2020)



Publisher holds world English rights. Rights sold: France (Editions La Table Ronde)
Film/TV Agent: Hilary Zaitz Michael at WME

INDIE NEXT PICK JULY 2020* *NEW YORK TIMES* 20 BOOKS WE`RE WATCHING FOR IN 2020* A BEST BOOK OF JULY IN THE *NEW YORK TIMES,* AMAZON, THE *CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR*, & APPLE

Part memoir and part joyful romp through the fields of imagination, the story behind a beloved pseudonymous Twitter account reveals how a writer deep in grief rebuilt a life worth living.

BECOMING DUCHESS GOLDBLATT is two stories: that of the reclusive real-life writer who created a fictional character out of loneliness and thin air, and that of the magical Duchess Goldblatt herself, a bright light in the darkness of social media. Fans around the world are drawn to Her Grace's voice, her wit, her life-affirming love for all humanity, and the fun and friendship of the community that's sprung up around her.

Praise for BECOMING DUCHESS GOLDBLATT:

"Becoming Duchess Goldblatt recontextualizes the Twitter account as a therapeutic exercise."
—New York Times

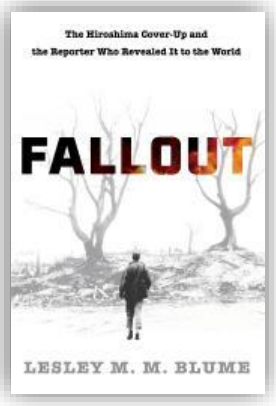
"A life-affirming memoir packed with hilarity and candid observations about life & love."
—Marie Claire

"A tonic . . . Splendid . . . A respite . . . A summer cocktail of a book."
—Washington Post

Anonymous, the real-life person in whose mind @DuchessGoldblatt lives and flourishes, has gathered all available truth and beauty for these pages. Duchess also holds the rarified title of being the fourth anonymous person to be profiled by the *New York Times* in the publication`s history.

FALLOUT

Lesley M. M. Blume (Simon & Schuster/August 4th 2020)



Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Scribe), Japan (Shueisha)
Film/TV Agent: Howie Sanders, Anonymous Content

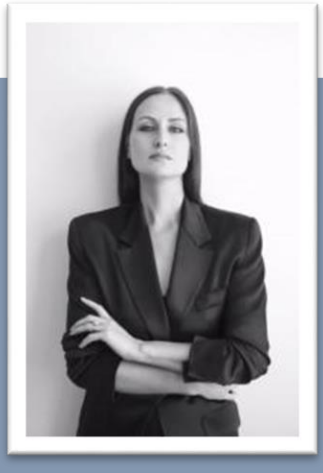
Released on the 75th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing, *Fallout* is an engrossing detective story, as well as an important piece of hidden history that shows how one heroic scoop saved—and can still save—the world.

Just days after the United States decimated Hiroshima and Nagasaki with nuclear bombs, the Japanese surrendered unconditionally. But even before the surrender, the US government and military had begun a secret propaganda and information suppression campaign to hide the devastating nature of these experimental weapons. The cover-up intensified as Occupation forces closed the atomic cities to Allied reporters, preventing leaks about the horrific long-term effects of radiation which would kill thousands during the months after the blast. For nearly a year the cover-up worked—until *New Yorker* journalist John Hersey got into Hiroshima and managed to report the truth to the world. When the magazine published "Hiroshima" in August 1946, it became an instant global sensation. Since 1945, no nuclear weapons have ever been deployed in war partly because Hersey alerted the world to their true, devastating impact.

Praise for FALLOUT:

"Blume [is] a tireless researcher and beautiful writer, who moves through her narrative with seeming effortlessness."
—New York Times

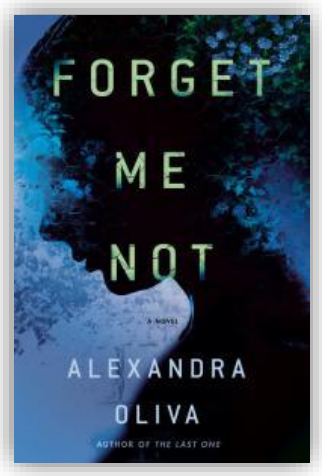
"Blume's meticulously researched tale of the lengths to which a government will go to keep the truth from reaching its citizens might be exactly what everyone should be reading at this deeply worrisome juncture."
—Washington Post



Lesley M. M. Blume is the *New York Times*-bestselling author of *Everybody Behaves Badly* ("[A] must-read" –*Harper's Bazaar*) and an award-winning journalist, reporter, and cultural historian. She contributes regularly to *Vanity Fair* and the *Wall Street Journal*, and her work has appeared in *Vogue, Town & Country,* and *Departures*, among other publications. She holds honors degrees in history from Williams College and Cambridge University. Blume lives in New York and Los Angeles with her husband and daughter.

FORGET ME NOT

Alexandra Oliva (Ballantine/March 2nd 2021)



Rights sold: Czech Republic (Euromedia)
Film/TV Agent: Dana Spector, CAA

A page-turning story of survival, and a commentary on how we grow and reinvent ourselves in this overly connected, digital age.

A woman whose name shouldn't be Linda lives in a city she can't stand, her every movement tracked by her father, a reluctant but duty-bound protector who only learnt of her existence 14 years earlier, when Linda emerged from the woods as a feral child.

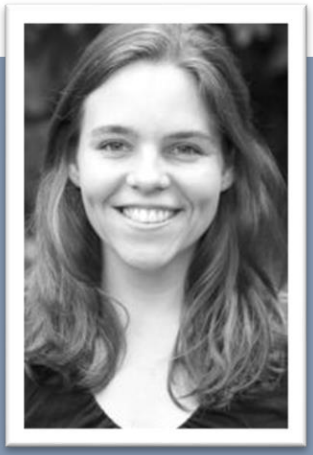
Linda had been raised in total isolation by her dangerously unhinged mother, who birthed her in an attempt to replace her deceased firstborn daughter. The internet exploded over Linda's sudden appearance, labeling her #CloneGirl. Now an adult, the misnomer haunts her still, and she struggles to interact with people and only wants to lead a quiet, solitary life.

That is, until a new neighbor moves in and changes everything. For the first time, Linda sees the potential of true friendship. But just as she's easing into a new sense of belonging, Linda is kidnapped and taken to a remote location where she will ultimately be forced to confront the truth of her traumatic past.

Praise for THE LAST ONE:

"Oliva brilliantly scrutinizes the recorded (and heavily revised) narratives we believe."
—WASHINGTON POST

"A high-concept, high-octane affair . . . The conceit is undoubtedly clever."
—THE GUARDIAN



Alexandra Oliva is the author of the novel *The Last One*, which is currently in development for TV. She has a BA in history from Yale University and an MFA from The New School. She lives in the Pacific Northwest with her family.

PERESTROIKA IN PARIS

Jane Smiley (Knopf/December 1st 2020)

Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Macmillan); France (Rivages)

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *A Thousand Acres* and the *New York Times* best-selling *Last Hundred Years Trilogy*, a captivating, brilliantly imaginative story of three extraordinary animals-and a little boy-whose lives intersect in Paris.

Paras is a spirited young racehorse living at a stable in the French countryside. One afternoon she pushes open the gate of her stall and, after traveling through the night, arrives by chance in Paris. She's dazzled, and often mystified, by the sights, sounds and smells around her, but she isn't afraid. Soon she meets an elegant dog, a German shorthair pointer named Frida, who knows how to get by in the city without attracting the attention of suspicious Parisians. Paras and Frida coexist for a time in the city's lush green spaces, nourished by Frida's strategic trips to the butchery and the bakery. They keep company with two irrepressible ducks, and by an opinionated crow. But then Paras meets a human boy, Etienne, and discovers a new, otherworldly part of Paris: the secluded, ivy-walled house where the boy and his nearly-one-hundred-year-old great grandmother live, quietly and unto themselves. As the cold weather and Christmas near, the unlikeliest of friendships bloom among humans and animals alike. But how long can a runaway horse live undiscovered in Paris? And how long can a boy keep her hidden, and all his own?

Jane Smiley's beguiling new novel is itself an adventure that celebrates curiosity and ingenuity, and expresses the desire of all creatures for true friendship, love, and freedom.

Jane Smiley is the author of numerous novels, including *A Thousand Acres*, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, and most recently, *Some Luck, Early Warning*, and *Golden Age*. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has also received the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award for Literature. She lives in Northern California.

ON HARROW HILL

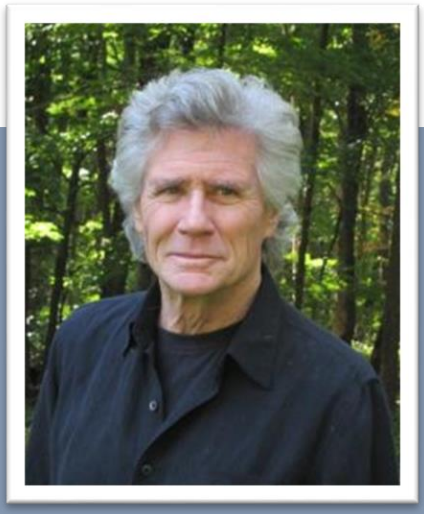
(Dave Gurney #7)
John Verdon (Counterpoint/March 1st 2021)

Rights sold: Spain & Catalonia (Roca); Finland (Gummerus); Israel (Keter); Greece (Dioptra)

When an old colleague comes to him for help solving the mysterious death of his town's most prominent resident, retired detective Dave Gurney must use all of his analytical skills to hunt a murderer who just might be killing from beyond the grave.

The idyllic community of Larchfield is rocked to its core when Angus Russell, its wealthiest and most powerful citizen, is found dead in his mansion on Harrow Hill. A preliminary analysis of DNA gathered at the crime scene points to the guilt of local bad boy Billy Tate, whose hatred for the victim was well known. Except that Tate fell from the roof of a local church and was declared dead by the medical examiner the day before Russell was killed. When police rush to the mortuary, they discover Tate's coffin has been broken open from the inside and the body is gone.

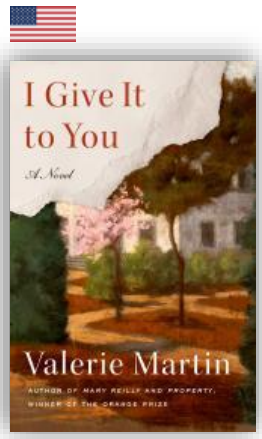
A series of murders soon follows as Larchfield loses its collective mind. Gun sales explode. Conspiracy theories and religious fundamentalism spread. The once-peaceful town becomes a magnet for sensation seekers, self-proclaimed zombie hunters, TV producers eager for ratings, and apocalyptic preachers rallying the faithful for the end of days. His quiet retirement shattered, ex-NYPD detective Dave Gurney finds himself not only facing down a murderer, but struggling to restore order to the town rapidly spiraling out of control.



John Verdon is the author of the Dave Gurney series of thrillers, international bestsellers published in more than two dozen languages: *Think of a Number, Shut Your Eyes Tight, Let the Devil Sleep, Peter Pan Must Die*, and *Wolf Lake*. He lives with his wife, Naomi, in the rural mountains of upstate New York--raising chickens, tending the garden, mowing the fields, and devising the intricate plots of the Gurney novels.

I GIVE IT TO YOU

Valerie Martin (Nan A. Talese/August 11th 2020)



Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Serpent's Tail)

A timeless story of family, war, art, and betrayal set around an ancient, ancestral home in the Tuscan countryside from bestselling novelist Valerie Martin.

When Jan, an American academic, rents an apartment in a Tuscan villa for the summer, she plans to spend her break writing a biography of Mussolini. Instead, she finds herself captivated by her hostess, the elegant, acerbic Beatrice. Beatrice's family ties to Villa Chiara and the land on which it stands extend back generations, although the family has fallen on hard times since WWII and the fate of the property is uncertain. But it is rich in stories, and Jan becomes intrigued by an account of Beatrice's uncle, who was mysteriously killed on the grounds at the conclusion of the war. Did he die at the hands of the invading Americans, or was he murdered by his countrymen for his political opinions?

Beatrice, a student of American literature, proves to be a beguiling storyteller and a sharp critic; she and Jan keep in touch after that summer, and a fierce friendship forms. As the years go on, Jan finds she can't help but write Beatrice's story, a decision that opens up questions of ownership and loyalty and leads to a major betrayal.

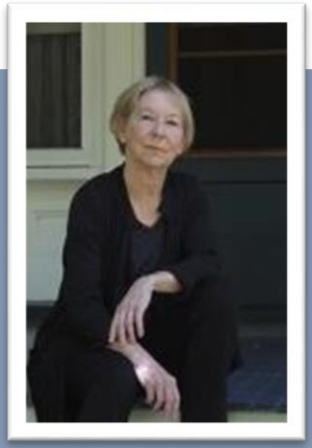
Praise for I GIVE IT TO YOU:

"A novel of philosophical and creative inquiry, cleverly plotted and packed with great characters."

—THE GUARDIAN

"Martin's prose, while effortlessly readable, can take deliciously unexpected turns."

—SEATTLE TIMES



Valerie Martin is the author of twelve novels, including *Trespass, Mary Reilly* (a major motion picture starring Julia Roberts), and *Property*, four collections of short fiction, and a biography of St. Francis of Assisi. She has been awarded numerous prizes for her work, including the Kafka Prize (for *Mary Reilly*) and Britain's Orange Prize (for *Property*.) She resides in Connecticut and is currently Professor of English at Mt. Holyoke College.

SELECTED WORLD RIGHTS TITLES

STRANGER CARE

Sarah Sentilles (Random House/May 4th 2021)
Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Text)

A powerful memoir about love and belonging, *Stranger Care* shares Sarah's discovery of what it means to take care of the Other—in this case, not just a vulnerable infant, but the birth mother who loves her too. With her trademark "fearless, stirring, rhythmic" (Nick Flynn) prose, Sentilles asks universal questions: What does it mean to mother? How can we care for and protect each other? How do we ensure a better future for life on this planet? And if we're all related--tree, bird, star, person--how might we better live?

OH WILLIAM!

Elizabeth Strout (Random House/Summer 2021)
Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Penguin UK); Germany (Random House)
Pulitzer Prize-winner and #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Strout returns with a luminous new novel about love, loss, and the family secrets.

Strout's iconic heroine Lucy Barton recounts her complex, tender relationship with her first husband— and longtime, on-again-off-again friend and confidante. Recalling their college years, through the birth of their daughters, the painful dissolution of their marriage, and the lives they built with other people, Strout weaves a portrait, stunning in its subtlety, of a decades-long partnership.

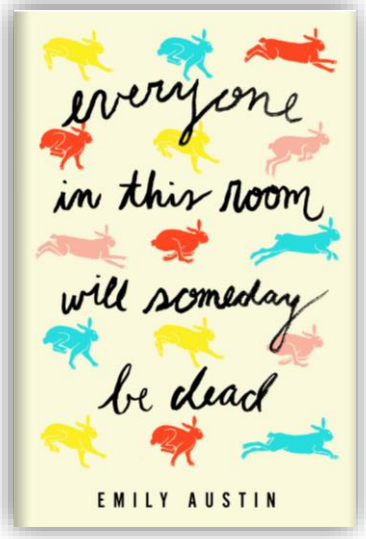
Option publishers:
Italy (Giulio Einaudi); Spain (Duomo Ediciones); Catalan (Edicions de 1984); Brazil (Editora Schwarz); France (Editions Fayard); Ukraine (KM Books); Slovakia (ARThur s.r.o); Russia (Phantom Press); Poland (Wielka Litera); Holland (Uitgeverij); Denmark (Gyldendal); Sweden (Bokforlaget Forem);

Norway (Forlaget Press); Finland (Tammi); Czech Republic (Jota Nakladatelstvi); Croatia (Profil Knijga); Korea (Munhakdogne Publishing); Simplified Chinese (ThinKingdom Media Group)

EVERYONE IN THIS ROOM WILL SOMEDAY BE DEAD

Emily Austin (Atria/July 2021)

In development with Paramount TV

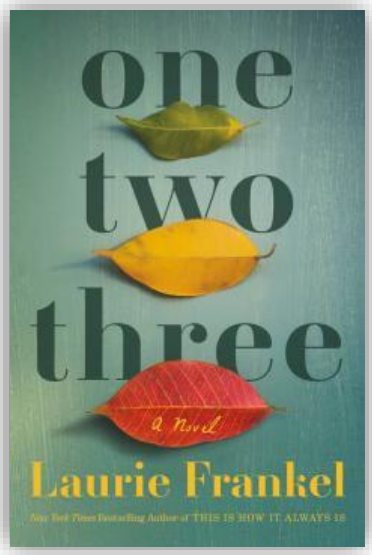


From Canada Council for the Arts grant recipient Emily Austin, comes a story about a morbidly anxious young woman who stumbles into a job as a receptionist at a Catholic church where she hides her atheist lesbian identity and becomes obsessed with the mysterious circumstances surrounding her predecessor's death.

ONE TWO THREE

Laurie Frankel (Holt/Winter 2021)

Film/TV Agent: Dana Spector, CAA

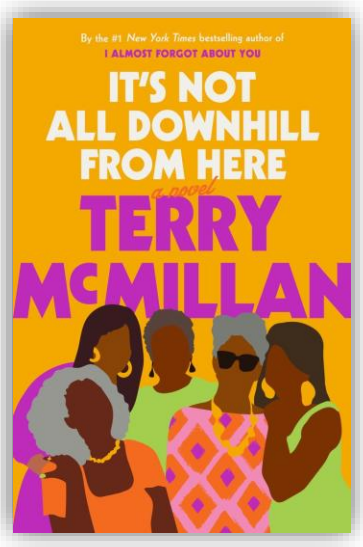


By the author of the Reese's Book Club x Hello Sunshine Book Pick *This Is How It Always Is* that has sold over a quarter of a million copies, comes a timely, topical novel about love and family that will make you laugh and cry and laugh again.

Everyone knows everyone in the tiny town of Bourne. But the Mitchell sisters are especially beloved. For a few weeks seventeen years ago, Bourne was national news when its water turned green and was declared unfit for use, but it was too late for its residents. And just when it seems life might go on the same forever, the first moving truck anyone's seen in years pulls up. Then a new student enrolls at Bourne Memorial High. He's smart and handsome and exciting—and the Mitchell family's sworn enemy.

IT'S NOT ALL DOWNHILL FROM HERE

Terry McMillan (Ballantine/March 31st 2020)

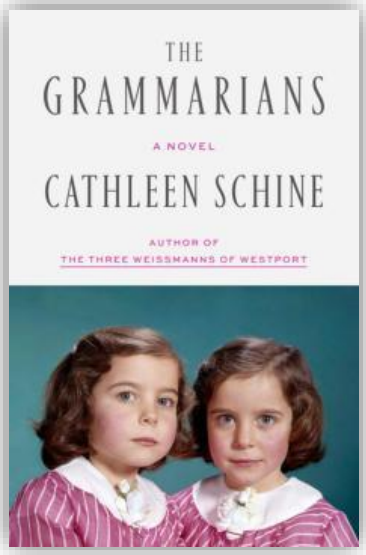


#1 *New York Times* bestselling author, Terry Mcmillan returned this March with *It's Not All Downhill From Here*, a funny and perceptive novel about a woman starting her second act. On the eve of Loretha Curry's sixty-eighth birthday, she is successful in all aspects of her life: in business, in friendship, and in love. She is not one of those women who thinks her best days are behind her—and she's determined to prove that it's not all downhill from here. But when an unexpected loss turns her world upside down, Loretha will have to summon all her strength, resourcefulness, and determination to keep on thriving. Terry's baldly honest but hopeful novel is, as *People Magazine* aptly put it, "a balm for troubled times."

THE GRAMMARIANS

Cathleen Schine (FSG/September 3rd 2019)

Film/TV Agent: Lucy Carson



Laurel and Daphne Wolfe, identical, inseparable redheaded twins, share an obsession with words. They speak a secret "twin" tongue of their own as toddlers; as adults making their way in 1980s Manhattan, their verbal infatuation continues, but this love, which has always bound them together, begins instead to push them apart when the sisters go to war, absurdly but passionately, over custody of their most prized family heirloom: *Merriam Webster's New International Dictionary, Second Edition*.