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FILM & TV NEWS

With Hollywood still in the midst of a record-breaking double strike (Screenwriters as well as Actors), we've been surprised and grateful to watch several of our new titles still finding their way to exciting Film/TV deals! All of the new deals below will be paused for development until the Writer's Strike has been resolved.

In mid-summer, a major studio pre-empted the Film rights to **Alison Espach's THE WEDDING PEOPLE** (p.6), although our agents at CAA were not yet out on submission with the novel. We've negotiated an aggressive feature deal with this studio (details to follow) and Alison herself is attached as an Executive Producer.

And right BEFORE the Writer's Strike began, we closed terms with a production company for the TV rights to **George Dawes Green's novel THE KINGDOMS OF SAVANNAH** (p.14) (which won the Crime Writer's Association "Gold Dagger" Award shortly thereafter). Showrunner Sheri Holman (*Longmire, George & Tammy*) is attached to lead the development process as soon as the Writer's strike has ended.

An exciting team is also coming together to adapt **Nicole Cuffy's debut, DANCES** (p.23). The author was able to meet with multiple producers and a Director over the summer, and we are currently building a team to collaborate on this adaptation once the strikes are over.

Prior to the US book auction for **THE AFTERTASTE** (p.4), we received an aggressive pre-empt for the Film rights to this debut novel, directly from a major studio. The author will be an Executive Producer on the project—more details to come!

Most recently, **SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN** (p.5), the dual POV romantic suspense co-authored by Dwayne Alexander Smith and Pamela Samuels Young, is newly on submission via WME and generating heavy interest!



THE AFTERTASTE

Daria Lavelle

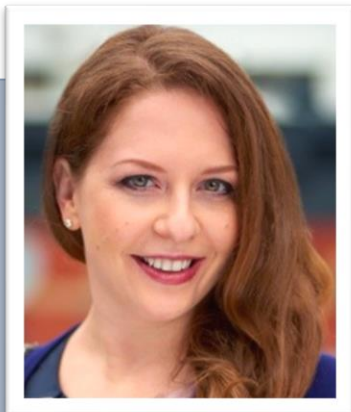
🎬 **Film/TV agent: Sylvie Rabineau at WME**

🌐 **Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Bloomsbury); Hungary (Alexandra Group); Italy (Mondadori)**

An epic love story, dark comedy, and synesthetic adventure through food and grief, THE AFTERTASTE will delight readers of Alice Hoffman and SWEETBITTER.

Konstantin “Kostya” Duhhovny is a haunted man. His father passed shortly after they immigrated to Brooklyn from Ukraine, and ghosts have been hovering around Kostya ever since. He can’t see them, but his mouth will often flood with the tastes of meals he’s never consumed, and Kostya understands that this is how they haunt him.

Keeping to himself has served him well for most of his life, but on the night when Kostya decides to let the phantom flavors guide his hand, everything changes. Could this be his true purpose, offering real closure to grieving strangers? He sets out to learn everything he can by taking on the New York culinary scene. As his kitchen skills begin to catch up with his ambitions, Kostya cannot see the catastrophe that looms. The one person who knows Kostya must be stopped... also happens to be falling in love with him.



Daria Lavelle is a debut novelist who earned her MFA from Sarah Lawrence College. She was born in Kyiv before immigrating to the US as a child, and currently lives in New Jersey with her family.

SOUNDS LIKE A PLAN

Dwayne Alexander Smith & Pamela Samuels Young
(Atria/July 2024)

🎬 **Film/TV agent: Eric Reid at WME**
 🌐 **Option Publishers: Brazil (Alta); Droemer (Germany); Faber (UK); Dobrovsky (Czech Republic)**

A multi-POV romantic suspense novel from two NAACP award-winning authors.

Jackson Jones and Mackenzie Cunningham are both private investigators operating out of Los Angeles. While Jackson specializes in high-end clientele whose swagger matches his own, Mackenzie is scrappy, defensive, and easily underestimated. Despite many shared years in the industry, they first meet when they are both hired to find the same missing woman. Unaware that they've entered a competition, they keep bumping heads until it's clear that something suspicious is afoot. Equally attracted to and frustrated by one another, they soon realize that the client who hired them might actually be setting them up! Just as they shift from rivals to partners, Jackson and Mackenzie find themselves fighting for their lives, a string of bodies piling up around them. With no one to trust but each other, they race to solve the case before they can be forced to pay the price for their involvement.



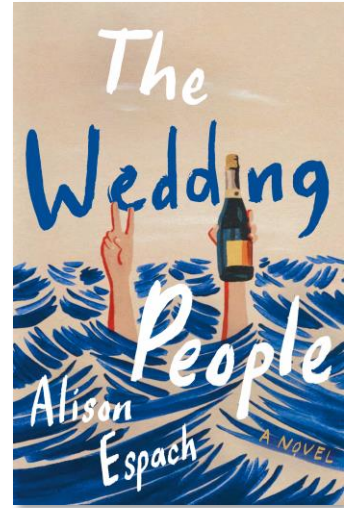
Dwayne Alexander Smith is the author of *FORTY ACRES*, which was recently in development as a Feature Film at Netflix. Dwayne is currently working with Audible to write an original radio play for Kevin Hart and Charlamagne Tha God's imprint. When Dwayne received an NAACP Image Award in 2014 for his debut novel, he met a fellow author named Pamela Samuels Young, whose novel *ANYBODY'S DAUGHTER* won an award that same year. Pamela has been widely published in both commercial suspense and erotica, and many of her characters have legal backgrounds that mirror Pamela's own. Netflix optioned the first two books in her *Vernette Henderson* series, which follows a Black female attorney from Compton, working in a corporate firm. Felicia D. Henderson is attached as Executive Producer (*Empire*, *Everybody Hates Chris*, *Sister Sister*).

THE WEDDING PEOPLE

Alison Espach (Holt/May 1st 2024)

🎬 **Film/TV agent:** Dana Spector at CAA
 🌐 **Rights sold:** UK/ANZ (Orion); Israel (Tchelet); Portugal (ASA); Hungary (Athenaeum); Italy (Bollati)

For fans of Monica Heisey's *REALLY GOOD*, *ACTUALLY* and Kevin Wilson, Alison Espach's *THE WEDDING PEOPLE* is a pitch-perfect balance of humor and heartbreak.



Phoebe Stone arrives at the grand Cornwall Inn wearing a green dress and gold heels, not a bag in sight. She's immediately mistaken by everyone in the lobby for one of the wedding guests, but she's the only one who isn't here for the big event. Phoebe is here because she's dreamt of coming for years—she hoped to shuck oysters and take sunset sails with her husband, only now she's alone, at the lowest moment of her life.

Meanwhile, the bride has accounted for every detail and every possible disaster the weekend might yield except for, well, Phoebe—which makes it that much more surprising when the women can't stop confiding in each other. Soon Phoebe is swept into the lives and the dysfunction of the wedding people, finding herself forever changed.

Praise for Alison Espach:

“Espach is an immensely talented writer, and her prose unfolds with a devastating lightness of touch.”

—Emily St. John Mandel, *New York Times* bestselling author

“Incongruously funny.”
 —*The Wall Street Journal*.”

“Espach once again proves that she's a brilliantly talented author.”
 —*NPR*



Alison Espach is the author of the novels *The Adults* and *Notes on Your Sudden Disappearance*. Her short stories and essays have appeared in *Vogue*, *Joyland*, *Glamour*, *Salon*, and *McSweeney's*, among other places. She is currently a professor of creative writing at Providence College in Rhode Island.

MRS. GULLIVER

Valerie Martin (Doubleday/February 20th 2024)

🎬 Film/TV agent: Lucy Carson

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



From prize-winning and beloved author Valerie Martin comes an inventive tale of female subversion and agency in a patriarchal world.

It's 1954 on far-flung Verona Island, a tropical paradise with a fragile economy and a rising crime rate. Lila Gulliver is proud of her business, a high-end brothel where her clients are guaranteed privacy and discretion. When Carità Bercy, a young, destitute, and beautiful blind woman arrives at her door seeking employment, Lila decides to give her a chance.

Carità proves a valuable asset, as well as a psychological puzzle to her employer. One hot night, Ian Drohan, the handsome scion of the wealthiest family on the island, visits Lila's house and falls madly in love with Carità. She doubts his sincerity and fears for Carità's future. Carità, however, has no such fears.

Spirits of the star-crossed lovers Romeo and Juliet, as well as the devilish denizens of *The Tempest*, haunt this steamy tale of passionate love, found and lost, and found again.

Praise for Valerie Martin:

“Valerie Martin is a consummate stylist. A cool, spare writer who can make the fantastic utterly, often horribly believable.”

—*The Boston Globe*

“Martin's writing is a reward in itself, a wonderful precision-tool. She uses it to chisel at the human condition—and the effect is astonishing.”

—*Financial Times*

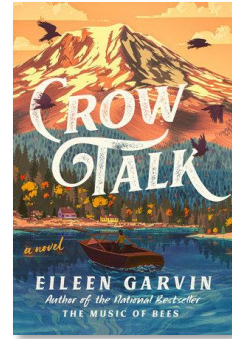


Valerie Martin is the author of 11 novels, including *The Ghost of the Mary Celeste*, *The Confessions of Edward Day*, *Trespass*, and *Property*; four collections of short fiction; and *Salvation*, a biography of Saint Francis of Assisi. She has been awarded grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the John Simon Guggenheim Fellowship, as well as the Kafka Prize (for *Mary Reilly*) and Britain's Orange Prize (for *Property*).

CROW TALK

Eileen Garvin (Dutton/April 30th 2024)

🎬 Film/TV agent: Dana Spector at CAA
 🌐 Option Publishers: UK/ANZ (Headline); Germany (Piper); Holland (HarperCollins Holland); Portugal (LeYas); Korea (Munhakdongne); Russia (AST)



CROW TALK is a story of hope, healing, and finding family where you least expect it, set against the stunning backdrop of the Pacific Northwest, whose rich natural landscape is a character of its own.

On the surface, Frankie O'Neill and Anne Ryan have nothing in common. Frankie is a lonely ornithologist struggling to salvage her dissertation on the spotted owl after a rift with her advisor. Anne is an Irish musician far from home, raising her five-year-old, Aiden, who refuses to speak. Both women are reeling from recent losses and have come to remote June Lake to try and put their lives back together. When Aiden and an injured crow named Charlie bring the two women together, an unlikely friendship begins to bloom.

Praise for *The Music of Bees*:

“Buoyant and bittersweet, Garvin’s impressive first novel [is] a luscious paean to the bonds of friendship and limitations of family.”

—*Booklist*

“This heartwarming, uplifting story will make you want to call your own friends.”

—*Good Housekeeping*, May Book Club Pick

“A sweet story and a nice reminder that 'flaws' can actually be strengths.” —*The*

Washington Post

“Exquisite.”

—*People*



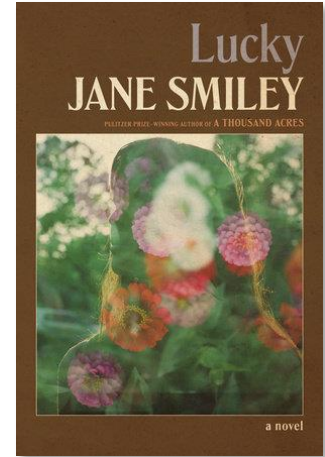
Eileen Garvin is a beekeeper and writer living in Hood River, Oregon. She is the author of *The Music of Bees*, which was a Good Housekeeping book club pick and indie bestseller, and the memoir *How to be a Sister*.

LUCKY

Jane Smiley (Knopf/April 23rd 2024)

- 🎬 **Film/TV agent: Ellen Goldsmith-Vein at Gotham Group**
- 🌐 **Option Publishers: UK/ANZ (Little, Brown), France (Rivages); Bulgaria (Obsidian)**

From the best-selling, Pulitzer Prize–winning writer, a soaring, soulful novel for readers of *DAISY JONES AND THE SIX* about a folk musician who rises to fame across our changing times.



Before Jodie Rattler became a folk sensation, she was just a little girl who struck lucky at a racetrack. That roll of two-dollar bills she won has never left her side since. Jodie comes of age in recording studios, backstage, and on tour, and tries to hold her own in the wake of Janis Joplin, Joan Baez, Judy Collins, and Joni Mitchell. Yet it feels like something is missing.

Full of atmosphere, shot through with longing and exuberance, romance and rock'n'roll, *Lucky* is a colorful portrait of one woman's journey in search of herself.

Praise for Jane Smiley:

“One of the great American writers .”
—**The Society of American Historians**

“There seems to be nothing Smiley can't write about fabulously well.”
—***San Francisco Chronicle***

“America's Tolstoy.”
—***The Guardian***



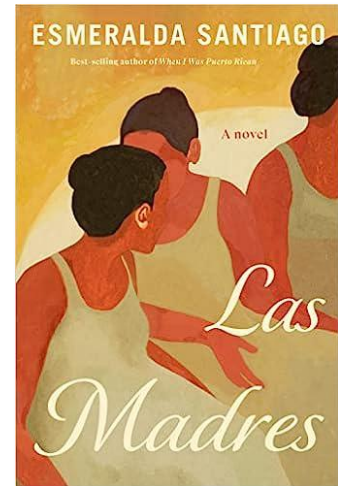
Jane Smiley is the author of numerous novels, including *A Thousand Acres*, which was awarded the Pulitzer Prize, and most recently, *Some Luck*, *Early Warning*, and *Golden Age*. A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, she has also received the PEN Center USA Lifetime Achievement Award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

LAS MADRES

Esmeralda Santiago (Knopf/August 1st 2023)

- 🎬 Film/TV agent: Alexandra Lefkowitz at Anonymous
- 🌐 Rights sold: Spain (Vintage Español)

From the award-winning, best-selling, and beloved author of *When I Was Puerto Rican*, comes a powerful novel of family, race, faith, sex, and disaster.



Puerto Rico, 1975: Luz is an accomplished dancer, but stands out among a sea of petite, light-skinned ballerinas. One night, while driving home with her mother and father, their car crashes and she is orphaned at just sixteen. Luz suffers a brain injury, and her memory of the accident is wiped clean.

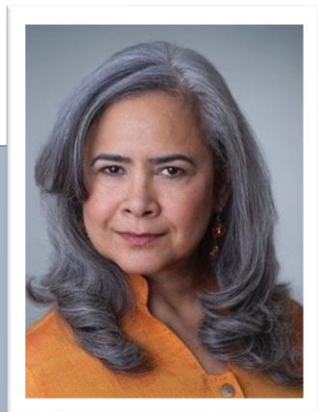
The Bronx, New York, 2017: Marisol wishes she better understood her mother Luz. When their family friend plans a 70th birthday party in Luz’s hometown, they all wonder if the trip might help unearth some long-buried memories. Together, Marisol, Luz, and Graciela and her mothers, Ada and Shirely, plan and scheme, inviting everyone they can find in old address books and online. But their homecoming brings shocking devastation: Two hurricanes and two secrets blow their lives wide open.

Praise for LAS MADRES:

“Richly detailed, [...] a joy to read. [...] Santiago is a deeply gifted storyteller.”
—*Shondaland*

“Powerful and heartbreakingly accurate.”
—*NBC*

“Elegantly woven”
—*Vogue*

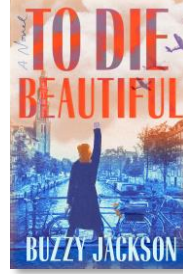


Esmeralda Santiago is the author of the memoirs *When I Was Puerto Rican*, *Almost a Woman*, which she adapted into a Peabody Award-winning film for PBS’s Masterpiece Theatre, and *The Turkish Lover*; the novels *América’s Dream Conquistadora*; and a children’s book, *A Doll for Navidades*. Her work has appeared in *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, and *House & Garden*, among other publications, and on NPR’s *All Things Considered* and *Morning Edition*. Born in San Juan, Puerto Rico, she lives in New York.

TO DIE BEAUTIFUL

Buzzy Jackson (Dutton/May 2nd 2023)

- 🎬 **Film/TV agent: Hilary Zaitz-Michael at WME**
- 🌐 **Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Michael Joseph); Spain (Plaza & Janés); Romania (Litera); Brazil (Arquero); Hungary (Animus); Germany (Aufbau); Finland (WSOY); Italy (Newton Compton); Israel (Matar); Portugal (Porto)**



A gripping debut novel by award-winning writer Buzzy Jackson, based on the true story of Hannie Schaft: the heroic Dutch woman who joined the WWII Resistance and became one of the Nazis’ most wanted women.

When the lives of Hannie’s two Jewish best friends are threatened, Hannie discovers her own untapped ferocity. She lures powerful Nazis close and assassinates them at point-blank range. While humanity collapses around her, Hannie finds a chosen family of friends within the Resistance and falls in love with a fellow resistor, at a tremendous cost. Her greatest weapon is her determination to “stay human”. . . a promise increasingly difficult to keep.

Praise for **TO DIE BEAUTIFUL**:

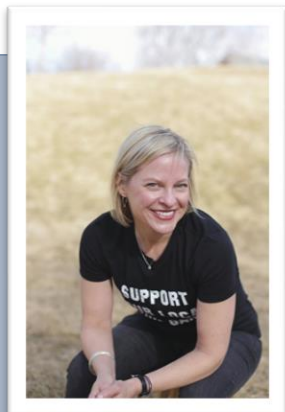
“[A] stunning novel.”
—*The Denver Post*

“Exquisitely balanced.”
—*Booklist*

“Razor-sharp.”
—**Jewish Book Council**

“We need just these kinds of books to give voice to the women who for so long were muted in the official accounts.”

—**Gwen Strauss,**
author of *The Nine*

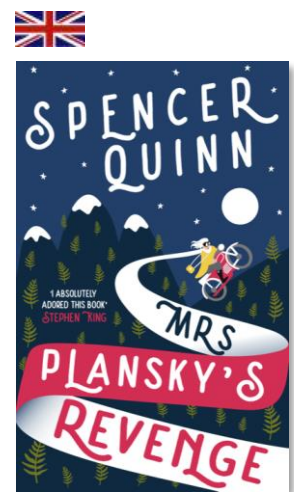
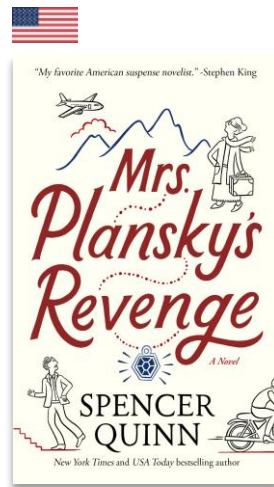


Buzzy Jackson is the award-winning author of three books of nonfiction and has a Ph.D. in History from UC Berkeley. A recent fellow at the Edith Wharton Writing Residency, she is also a member of the National Book Critics’ Circle and writes for the Boston Globe and BookForum. Buzzy grew up in the mountains of California and Montana and now lives in Boulder, Colorado.

MRS. PLANSKY'S REVENGE

Spencer Quinn (Forge/July 25th 2023)

- 🎬 Film/TV agent: Nicole Weinroth and Megan Pelson at WME
- 🌐 Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Bedford Square); Korea (Book21)



A life-affirming story for fans of Richard Osman by *New York Times* bestselling author, Spencer Quinn.

Meet Loretta Plansky. She's 71 and taking full advantage of her retirement. Of course, she still misses her late husband Norm every day, and fielding various cash requests from her adult children is taking its toll, but she's *mostly* content.

Late one night, she receives a call from her grandson, Will, claiming to have been arrested for driving while intoxicated and in need of bail money. Feeling the time crunch, Loretta willingly gives him her password and banking info. When she wakes up the next morning, her accounts are completely drained.

Furious and humiliated, Mrs. Plansky just can't accept that the money is gone. When an FBI agent nearing retirement lets slip that they've narrowed the call down to a small village in Romania, Mrs. Plansky goes to get her life and her dignity back.

Praise for MRS. PLANSKY'S REVENGE:

"I... love Mrs. Plansky."

—*Globe & Mail*

"[A]briskly plotted nail-biter"—*Shelf Awareness*

"I absolutely adored this book. Really fun but with a few teeth, as well."

—**Stephen King**



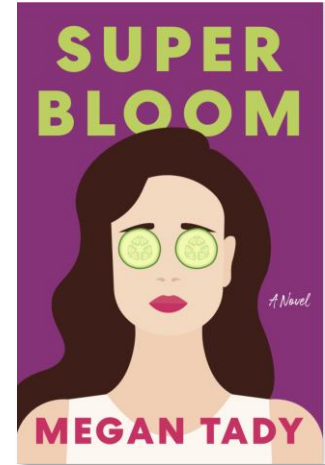
Spencer Quinn is the bestselling author of the Chet and Bernie mystery series, as well as the #1 *New York Times* bestselling Bowser and Birdie series for middle-grade readers. He lives on Cape Cod with his wife Diana—and dogs Audrey and Pearl.

SUPER BLOOM

Megan Tady (Zibby Books/May 2nd 2023)

 **Film/TV agent: Jill Gillette & Carolina Beltran at WME**

For fans of Emily Henry's **BEACH READ** and Maria Semple, **SUPERBLOOM** is a heartwarming and hilarious debut novel about a 30-something massage therapist enlisted by an infamous romance novelist to dish the dirt on the not-so-pristine world of luxury spas.



Icing her hands. Grieving her boyfriend. Trying not to get fired. Each day feels the same for Joan Johnston. Her life gets a boost of excitement when a new massage client—Carmen Bronze, a high-maintenance romance novelist—corners Joan into becoming her research assistant for her next bestseller.

Joan's notes start off as expected—demanding clients, inane spa rules, wacky colleagues— but she soon finds herself journaling about the sudden death of her boyfriend. What's more, she starts writing their relationship back into existence through a romance novel of her own. But the longer she spends crafting her own fictional happily ever after, the more she risks losing the possibility of that in real life...

Praise for SUPER BLOOM:

“That rare sort of novel that’s both a blast to read and leaves you thinking about the characters long after you’ve finished the last page.”

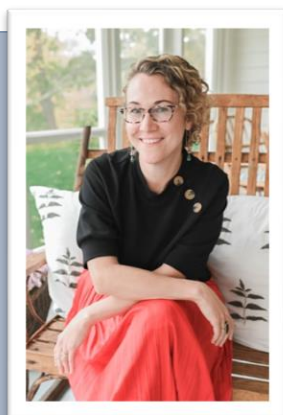
– **Katie Crouch**, *New York Times* best-selling author of *Embassy Wife*

“Fresh, funny and told by a narrator whose voice I would follow anywhere.”

– **Annabel Monaghan**, author of *Nora Goes off Script*

“A true delight—hilarious, poignant”

– **Amanda Eyre Ward**, bestselling author of *The Jetsetters*



Megan Tady is a writer and editor running the company Word-Lift, and her writing has appeared in *The Huffington Post* and *Ms. Magazine*, among others. She was a finalist for the 2021 Penguin Random House Student Fiction Award. Megan lives in Western Massachusetts with her family. **SUPER BLOOM** is her debut novel.

THE KINGDOMS OF SAVANNAH

George Dawes Green (Celadon/July 5th 2022)

- 🎬 **Film/TV agent: Matthew Snyder at CAA**
- 🌐 **Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Headline); France (Archipel); Japan (Shinchosha); Arabic (Spark); France (L'Archipel)**



WINNER OF THE CWA GOLD DAGGER AWARD FOR BEST CRIME NOVEL OF 2023

When matriarch Morgana Musgrove calls upon her prodigal son Ransom to help her with a case, the defunct M. Musgrove & Family Detective Agency is back in business, albeit reluctantly. Tensions rise between the Musgroves and whispers of a mysterious lost “Kingdom”—descendants of the African-American soldiers who fought for King George during the American Revolution, and afterwards formed a secret community, refusing to return to slavery—float in the sultry Savannah night. The family of investigators creeps closer and closer to exposing the city’s seedy underbelly, and a depraved history that a powerful few are determined to keep hidden, no matter the cost...

Praise for George Dawes Green:

“When Green isn't making you laugh, he's making you bite your nails down to the bleeding point.” – **Stephen King**

Praise for **THE KINGDOMS OF SAVANNAH**:

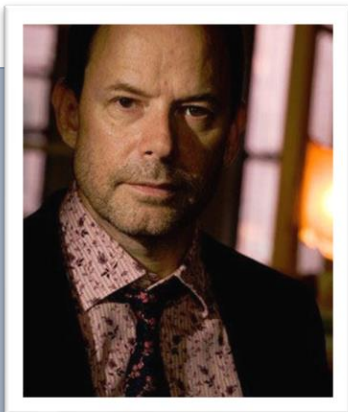
“A rich, sprawling, dazzling mystery. I savored every page.”—**Riley Sager**

“The apotheosis of Southern Gothic Noir’.” —**Neil Gaiman**

“His prose is languid, even luxurious, but at critical moments of suspense, he pares it back to ramp up the terror.”

—**New York Times**

“A chilling southern thriller.”—**PEOPLE**

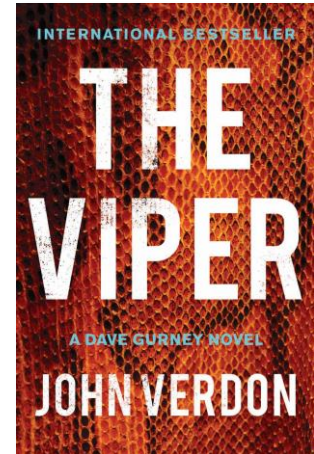


George Dawes Green, founder of *The Moth* and *Unchained*, is an internationally celebrated author. His first novel, *The Caveman's Valentine*, won the Edgar Award and became a motion picture starring Samuel L. Jackson. *The Juror* was an international bestseller in more than twenty languages and was the basis for the movie starring Demi Moore and Alec Baldwin. *Ravens* was chosen as one of the best books of 2009 by the *Los Angeles Times*, the *Wall Street Journal*, the *Daily Mail*, and many other publications. George Green grew up in Georgia and now lives in Brooklyn, New York.

THE VIPER

John Verdon (Counterpoint/July 18th 2023)

- 🎬 **Film/TV agent: Bruce Vinokour at CAA**
- 🌐 **Rights sold: Finland (Gummerus); Israel (Keter); Spain (Roca); Turkey (Koridor)**



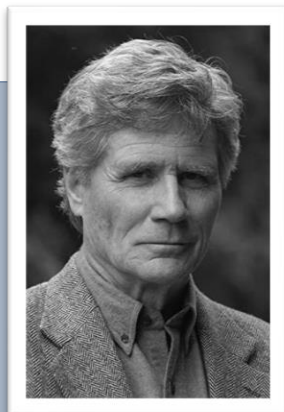
The bloody finale of Dave Gurney's previous case has left him and his wife Madeleine shell-shocked and determined to return to normality. But when an old friend comes calling for Gurney's insight on a cold case, it's Madeleine who pushes him to lend his thoughts. Try as he might, Gurney can't resist getting drawn into the murder case—this one, involving a debauched former tennis star and a beheaded corpse. His initial efforts incite fury from both sides of the law: the criminal forces behind it, and the law enforcement personnel who stand to lose everything if Gurney succeeds in uncovering the truth. For the first time in his life, Gurney finds himself on the run but even the risk of losing his marriage, his reputation and his best friend can't stop his relentless quest for answers. Gurney will learn that justice comes at a great cost.

THE DAVID GURNEY SERIES

John Verdon (2012-2021)

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

Ex-homicide detective and puzzle-solving master David Gurney comes out of retirement to solve seemingly impossible murder cases. Blending hard-boiled noir fiction with the pleasures of classic "whodunit" puzzle-solving, Verdon has written a "hero for the ages" (David Baldacci).



John Verdon is a former Manhattan advertising executive who lives with his wife in the mountains of upstate New York. His first three Dave Gurney novels, *Think of a Number*, *Shut Your Eyes Tight*, and *Let the Devil Sleep*, are all international bestsellers.

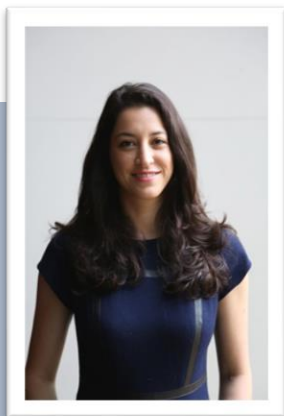
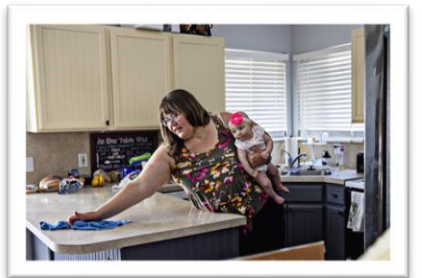


FOUR MOTHERS

Abigail Leonard (Algonquin/Fall 2025)

In the tradition of Lisa Taddeo's *Three Women* and Robert Kolker's *Hidden Valley Road*, *Four Mothers* follows four women—Anna from Finland, Tsukasa from Japan, Sarah from the U.S., and Chelsea from Kenya—through the first year of motherhood.

Abigail blends reporting, research, and history to create an international portrait of new motherhood and the policies that scaffold this transitional phase of life. As debates surrounding paid leave, universal daycare, and national healthcare rage on across different corners of the globe, *Four Mothers* is an intimate narrative of what those policies mean in the everyday lives of four women—and a compelling argument for the necessity and urgency of supporting parents.

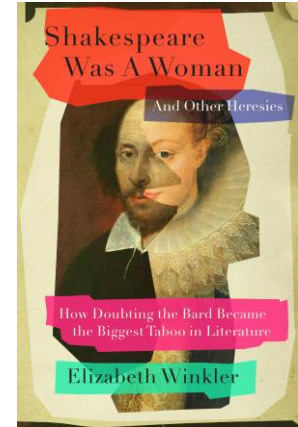


Abigail Leonard is an award-winning international reporter and news producer. Her work has appeared in NPR, *Time Magazine*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, and *Vox*. She has written and produced long-form news documentaries for PBS, ABC and Al Jazeera America. Stories she reported have earned an Emmy Award, an Overseas Press Club Award, an Association of Health Care Journalists Award, a National Headliner Award, and a James Beard Foundation Media Award Nomination.

SHAKESPEARE WAS A WOMAN & OTHER HERESIES: How Doubting the Bard Became the Biggest Taboo in Literature

Elizabeth Winkler (S&S/May 9th 2023)

 **Film/TV agent: Alexandra Lefkowitz at Gotham Group**



A provocative investigation into the Shakespeare authorship question, exploring how doubting that William Shakespeare wrote his plays became an act of blasphemy... and who the Bard might *really* be.

Whisking readers from London to Stratford-upon-Avon to Washington, DC, Winkler pulls back the curtain to show how the forces of nationalism and empire, religion and mythmaking, gender and class helped create the version of the Bard we know and love today—and to explore who may have been hiding behind Shakespeare’s name. A forgotten woman? A disgraced aristocrat? A government spy? Hovering over the mystery are Shakespeare’s plays themselves—with their love for mistaken identities, disguises, and things never quite being what they seem.

Praise for SHAKESPEARE WAS A WOMAN:

“One of the most engaging, riveting, scholarly, and challenging whodunits anyone [...] can hope to read.”

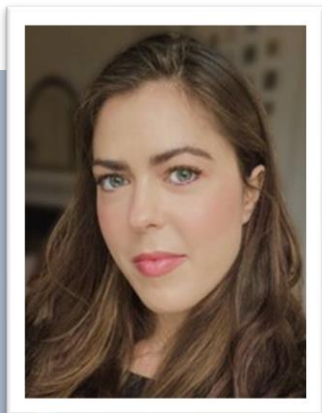
—Bessel van der Kolk, MD, author of *The Body Keeps Score*

“A fascinating detective story... whose irreverence is part of its appeal.”

—*The Guardian*

“[Winkler] pursues her quarry with tenacity and grips it like a dog with a bone.”

—*The Wall Street Journal*



Elizabeth Winkler is a journalist and book critic whose work has appeared in *The Wall Street Journal*, *The New Yorker*, *The New Republic*, and *The Economist*, among other publications. She received her undergraduate degree from Princeton University and her master’s in English literature from Stanford University. Her essay “Was Shakespeare a Woman?” was selected for *The Best American Essays 2020*. She lives in Washington, DC.

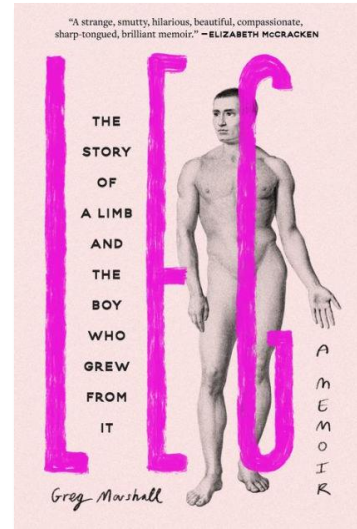
LEG: The Story of a Limb and the Boy Who Grew from It

Greg Marshall (Abrams/June 13th 2023)

🎬 Film/TV agent: Danny Hertz at Gotham Group
 🌐 Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Orion)

A hilarious and poignant memoir grappling with family, disability, and coming of age in two closets—as a gay man and as a man living with cerebral palsy.

Rewind Greg’s VHS tapes (this is the nineties) and you’ll see a lopsided teenager limping across a high school stage, or in a wheelchair after leg surgeries, pondering why he’s crushing on half of the Utah Jazz. Add to this home video footage a mom clacking away at her newspaper column between chemo, a dad with ALS, and a cast of foulmouthed siblings. Fast forward the tape and you’ll find Marshall happily settled into his life as a gay man only to discover he’s been living in another closet his whole life: he has cerebral palsy. Here, in the hot mess of it all, lies Greg Marshall’s wellspring of wit and wisdom.



Praise for LEG:

“[A] witty memoir.”—*USA Today*, 10 Best Memoirs of 2023

“This book has charm for days.”
 —*People Magazine*

“Insightful, and often laugh-out-loud funny.”
 — **NPR**

“Big-hearted, (literally) laugh-out-loud memoir.”
 —*Bustle*

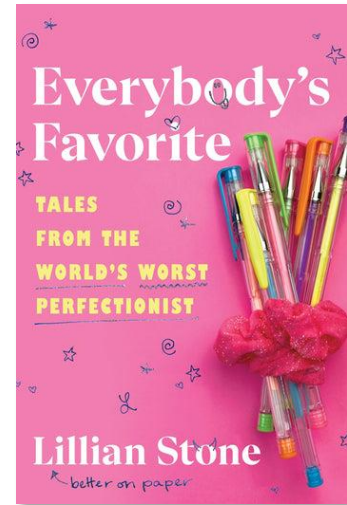


Greg Marshall was raised in Salt Lake City, Utah. A National Endowment for the Arts Fellow in Prose, Marshall is a graduate of the Michener Center for Writers. His work has appeared in *The Best American Essays* and been supported by MacDowell and the Corporation of Yaddo. *Leg* is his first book.

EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE: Tales from the World's Worst Perfectionist

Lillian Stone (Dey Street/July 18th 2023)

From one of the Internet's favorite self-deprecating commentators comes a laugh-out-loud essay collection that tackles the pursuit of perfection alongside the sometimes painful, and often hilarious negotiations that happen within the obsessive-compulsive brain.



Set largely during the early 2000s, and peppered with Stone's biting satire and gloriously self-deprecating personal anecdotes, *Everybody's Favorite* is a wry, empathetic look at the chaos that ensues when we contort ourselves into an ever-changing assortment of socially acceptable shapes —only to fall out of place, twist an ankle, pee your pants a little, and realize that the pursuit of perfection isn't really all that interesting.

Praise for EVERYBODY'S FAVORITE:

"None have come close to the comedic perfection Lillian Stone nails again and again."

—*Glamour*, Best Nonfiction Books of 2023

"Relatable, moving, and emotionally hilarious."

—*Vulture*

"Bitingly funny"

—*Chicago Reader*

"Stone's painfully sharp observations will draw readers in, and her honesty will keep them enthralled."

—*Publishers Weekly*

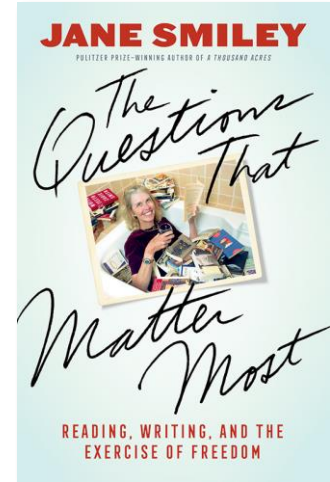


Lillian Stone is a humor writer, journalist, and regular contributor to *The New Yorker*, *McSweeney's Internet Tendency*, *Men's Journal*, *RealSimple*, *Allure*, *MEL Magazine*, and *Reductress*. A leader in the online humor and satire space, she was named one of *Paste Magazine's* 15 Best Humorists Writing Today. She also serves as a staff writer for *The Takeout*. She lives in Chicago.

THE QUESTIONS THAT MATTER MOST: Reading, Writing, and the Exercise of Freedom

Jane Smiley (HeyDay Books/June 6th 2023)

One of America's preeminent novelists, winner of the Pulitzer Prize in fiction, presents her first nonfiction volume on writing since 2005's best-selling *Thirteen Ways of Looking at the Novel*.



Jane Smiley is an unparalleled observer of the craft of writing. In *The Questions That Matter Most* this beloved writer offers steady and penetrating essays on some of the aesthetic and cultural issues that mark any serious engagement with reading and writing. Beginning with a personal introduction tracing Smiley's migration from Iowa to California, the author reflects on her findings in the varied literature of the Golden State, whose writers have for decades litigated the West's contested legacies of racism, class conflict, and sexual politics through their pens. As she considers the ambiguity of character and the weight of history, her essays provide new entry points into literature, and we see how Smiley draws inspiration from across the literary spectrum to invigorate her own writing.

Praise for Jane Smiley:

"She turns literary and stylistic cartwheels. ... Is there anything Jane Smiley cannot do?"— **Pico Iyer, *Time***

"Smiley unceremoniously plunges us into a torrent of character and event, trusting that we will emerge transformed by her exhilarating baptism, and we do."

—**The New Yorker**

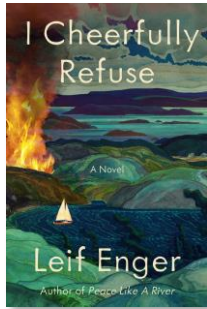


"Smiley has started to look like the best living American novelist."

—**The Observer**

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.

SELECTED WORLD RIGHTS TITLES



I CHEERFULLY REFUSE

Leif Enger (Grove/June 4th 2024)

Enger debuted in the literary world with *Peace Like a River* which sold over a million copies and captured readers' hearts around the globe.

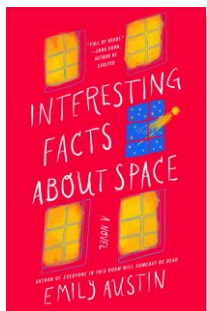
Set in a not-too-distant America, *I Cheerfully Refuse* is the tale of a bereaved and pursued musician embarking under sail on a sentient Lake Superior in search of his departed, deeply beloved, bestselling wife.



FAMILY FAMILY

Laurie Frankel (Holt/January 23rd 2024)

An actress does what you should never do — she tells a journalist the truth: it's a bad movie. Like so many movies about adoption, it tells only one story, a tragic one. Soon she's at the center of a media storm, battling accusations from the press and the paparazzi, from protesters on the right and advocates on the left. Her adopted daughter Fig knows they need help — and who better to call than family?



INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT SPACE

Emily Austin (Atria/January 30th 2024)

Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Atlantic)

Meet Enid: serial dater, obsessed with true crime podcasts, deaf in one ear, and an information architect at The Space Agency who can tell you all about black holes. Oh, and she also has a crippling phobia of bald people. As she fumbles her way through her first serious relationship, struggles with a bald co-worker, and navigates family life with her estranged half-sisters, she starts to worry that someone is following her. As she becomes more and more paranoid, she gradually discovers the one thing she can't outrun—herself.



ALICE ATHERTON'S GRAND TOUR

Lesley MM Blume (Knopf/October 10th 2023)

Ten-year-old Alice Atherton is sent by her father to spend the summer with his dear friends the Murphys who live with their three children and pet monkey in the French Riviera. There, Alice will meet and learn from some of the most extraordinary luminaries of the time. She visits a junk yard with Pablo Picasso looking for objects to make into art, performs a dance inspired by celestial bodies with the renowned Ballet Russes, and imagines magical adventures with Zelda and F. Scott Fitzgerald.

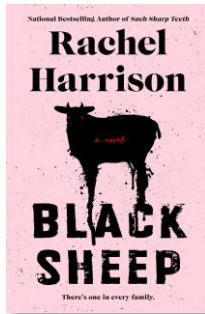


KÜNSTLERS IN PARADISE

Cathleen Schine (Holt/March 14th 2023)

Rights sold: Italy (Mondadori)

The beloved bestselling author of *The Three Weismanns of Westport*—once dubbed “the modern-day Jewish Jane Austen”—brings forth a comedy of generational manners that glides between 1939 and 2020 L.A. as Mamie Künstler and her grandson weather hard times and discover how to make them their own.



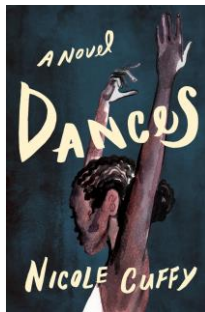
BLACK SHEEP

Rachel Harrison (Berkley, September 19 2023)

Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Titan); Germany (Festa Verlag); Hungary (Agave)

Nobody has a “normal” family, but Vesper Wright’s is truly...something else. Vesper left home at eighteen and never looked back. That is, until an invitation to the wedding of Vesper’s beloved cousin arrives on her doorstep. Is it a sweet gesture? A trap? Doesn’t matter. Something inside her insists that she go.

When Vesper’s homecoming exhumes a terrifying secret, she’s forced to reckon with her family’s beliefs and her own crisis of faith. This deliciously sinister novel explores the family ties that bind us and the struggle to break free.



DANCES

Nicole Cuffy (OneWorld/May 16th 2023)

At twenty-two years old, Cece Cordell reaches the pinnacle of her career as a ballet dancer when she’s promoted to principal at the New York City Ballet. She’s instantly catapulted into celebrity as the first black ballerina in the famed company’s history. Soon after her promotion, Cece is faced with a choice that has the potential to either derail her career or alter her life irrevocably.

OF TIME AND TURTLES:

Mending the World, Shell by Shattered Shell

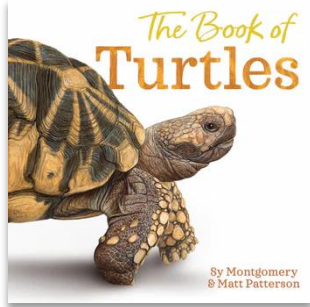
Sy Montgomery & illustrated by Matt Patterson

(Mariner/September 19th 2023)

Rights sold: UK/ANZ (William Collins), Korea (Dolgorae Books), and Germany (Diogenes).



From National Book Award finalist and *New York Times* bestseller, Sy Montgomery’s next major work for adults, a nonfiction investigation that speaks to the wonder and wisdom of turtles, revealing astonishing new perspectives on time and healing with Montgomery’s trademark accuracy, elegance and journalistic curiosity.

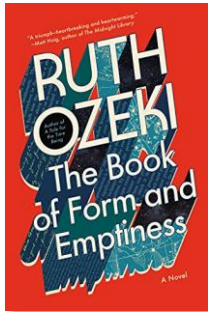


THE BOOK OF TURTLES

Sy Montgomery & illustrated by Matt Patterson
(Clarion Books/May 2nd 2023)

Rights sold: Koea (Prooni Books)

An ode to one of the most diverse and beloved species on the planet: turtles. With dazzling illustrations and emotionally engaging text, this picture book will speak to the wisdom these long-lived animals can lend.



THE BOOK OF FORM AND EMPTINESS,

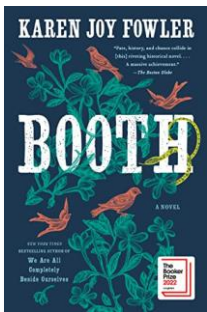
Ruth Ozeki (Viking/September 21st 2021)

WINNER OF THE 2022 WOMEN'S PRIZE FOR FICTION

Canongate holds world rights except Israel, France, and Brazil.

Rights sold: UK (Canongate); ANZ (Text); Israel (Am Oved); Russia (AST); Italy (Edizioni E/O); France (Belfond); Spain (Alianza); Lithuania (Baltos Lankos); Brazil (Morro Branco); Turkey (Ithakivia); Arabic (Kalemat) Taiwan (Yuan-Liou); Germany (Julie Eisele); Greece (Klidarithmos); Indonesia (PT Gramedia); Korea (Influential); Romania (Curtea Veche); Bulgaria (Kryg/BookTrend); Kazakhstan (National Bureau of Translations); Portugal (Infinito Particular)

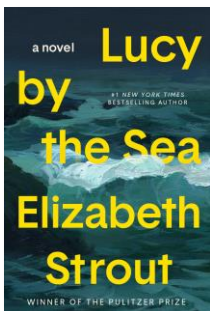
After the tragic death of his father, fourteen-year-old Benny Oh begins to hear voices belonging to the things in his house. He soon meets his very own Book—a talking thing—who narrates Benny's life and teaches him to listen to the things that truly matter.



BOOTH, Karen Joy Fowler (Putnam/March 8th 2022)

Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Serpent's Tail); Holland (Nieuw Amsterdam); Korea (Sigongsa) and Arabic (Dar Athar)

From the Man Booker finalist and bestselling author comes an epic novel about the family behind one of the most infamous figures in American history: John Wilkes Booth. A startling portrait of a country in the throes of change and a vivid exploration of brother- and sisterhood, *Booth* is a riveting historical novel focused on the very things that bind, and break, a family.



LUCY BY THE SEA, Elizabeth Strout (Random House/September 20th 2022)

Rights sold: UK/ANZ (Viking); Finland (Tammi); Slovakia (Vydavateľstvo Inaque); Norway (Forlaget); Sweden (Bokforlaget); Spain (Alfagura); Portugal (Objectiva); Italy (Einaudi); Catalonia (Edicions 1984); Brazil (Companhia Das Letras); Holland (Atlas Contact); Germany (Luchterhand)

From Pulitzer Prize-winning, #1 *New York Times* bestselling author Elizabeth Strout comes a poignant, pitch-perfect novel about a divorced couple stuck together during lockdown—and the love, loss, despair, and hope that animate us even as the world seems to be falling apart.



Casas, Roman, *Jove Decadent*. 1899. Museum of Montserrat.