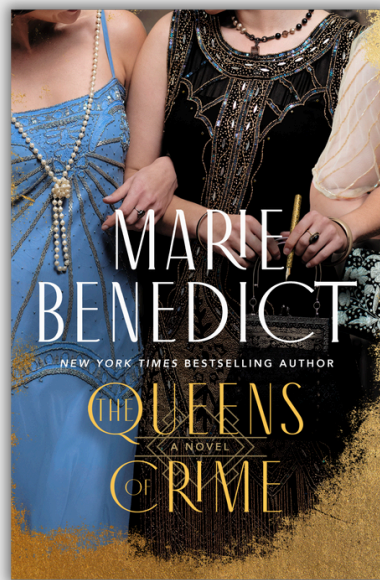
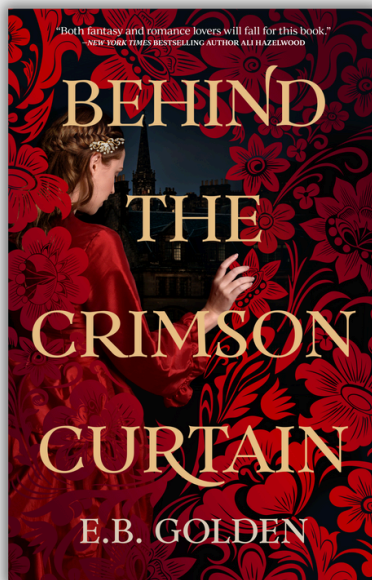


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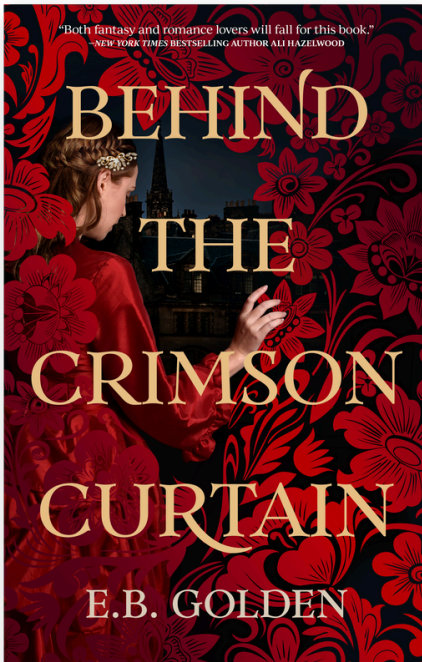
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Frankfurt 2024



BEHIND THE CRIMSON CURTAIN (#1 of 2)

By E.B. Golden



47 North (Amazon)
September 2024

Firin and Bregan never should have met, let alone started a relationship that would haunt them their whole lives. Firin is a face-changing con artist trained by her domineering father. Bregan is an actor turned heroic leader in the Reform movement that's overthrowing the coal-choked island of Luisonn.

As the flames of revolt settle, Firin joins Bregan in the theater. She's determined to create a life with the man she never forgot. But love and truth evade her—especially when one of Firin's victims, now President, chooses Bregan as his right-hand man. In a web of war and false identities, Firin must choose a side. Will the price of freedom be her heart?

Early Praise

"This story isn't what you think, and neither are its characters. Stellar prose carries a tormented and morally gray protagonist through a polarized city, where her struggle to survive threatens to unravel the very threads of her identity. This is a thought-invoking and compelling read that will appeal to readers inside and outside of the fantasy genre."

—WALL STREET JOURNAL BESTSELLING AUTHOR CHARLIE N. HOLMBERG

"Her prose is stunning, her world building gripped me from the very start, and on top of that she gave us a steamy, epic romance with two backdrops—a revolution and the theater—that somehow work perfectly together... I cannot wait to see what happens next in this series, and I cannot wait for both fantasy and romance lovers to fall for this book!"

—ALI HAZELWOOD, NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLING AUTHOR

About the author.

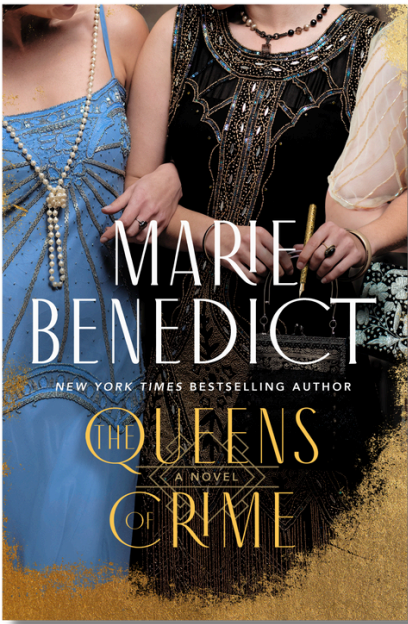
Though born and raised on the coast of Maine, **E.B. GOLDEN** spends most of her free time exploring the mountains of southwest Colorado with her husband and daughter. Since she could hold a pen, she's used speculative fiction to make sense of a nonsensical world, and when she's not writing, she's usually traveling or coaching other writers, because the world always needs more stories.

TRANSLATION SALES

France: Pygmalion
Hungary: Central
Poland: Publicat
Russia: Rosman

THE QUEENS OF CRIME

By Marie Benedict



St. Martin's Press
(Macmillan), February 2025

The New York Times bestselling author returns with a story of five female crime writers at the top of their game, the race to solve a murder, and the power of friendship.

London, 1930: The leading mystery writers of Great Britain band together to form the Detection Club. The group is unusual for its time as among its founders and early members are women—only begrudgingly, though.

Five of these women—Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers, Ngaio Marsh, Baroness Emma Orczy, and Margery Allingham—decide that solving a real life mystery, not just fictitious ones on the page, will persuade the men that they belong in the male-dominated world of letters and help them understand the mysteries and secrets at the heart of their own lives.

Dorothy Sayers, acclaimed author of mysteries, knows where to begin. Her husband, Scottish journalist “Mac” Fleming, is covering the murder of a young English nurse, who vanished on a day trip with a friend. The murder has all the hallmarks of the locked room mysteries for which these authors are famous, and Dorothy and the other Queens travel to France with Mac and the press corps to investigate the murder themselves.

The Queens of Crime are determined to solve the highly publicized murder, but when the killer targets Dorothy Sayers herself, he threatens to expose a dark secret in her past that she would do anything to keep hidden.

Advance Praise:

"I was riveted....Smart, biting, and a tribute to female friendship and loyalty. An absolute delight!"

—FIONA DAVIS, NYT BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE SPECTACULAR*

"Brilliant, irresistible, and page-turning delight... a rallying cry for what women can accomplish when we stick together. If I always had a new book by Marie Benedict, I would do nothing but read sixteen hours a day."

—NINA DE GRAMONT, AUTHOR OF *THE CHRISTIE AFFAIR*

"Breathtaking suspense and female friendship make for a heady combination in this wonder of a book, which will have fans of both historical fiction and thrillers torn between racing through the pages and wanting to savor every word."

—PAM JENOFF, NYT BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *CODE NAME SAPPHIRE*

About the author:

MARIE BENEDICT is the *New York Times* bestselling author of *THE MITFORD AFFAIR*, *HER HIDDEN GENIUS*, *THE MYSTERY OF MRS. CHRISTIE*, and many other novels. She is co-author of *THE PERSONAL LIBRARIAN*, *THE FIRST LADIES*, and the forthcoming middle grade novel, *THE SECRETS OF LOVELACE ACADEMY*.

TRANSLATION SALES

Germany: Kiepenheuer & Witsch

Italy: Newton Compton

France: Presses de la Cité

THE ROMANOV BRIDES

By Clare McHugh



St. Martin's Press
(Macmillan), February 2025

From the author of *A MOST ENGLISH PRINCESS* comes a rich novel about young Princess Alix of Hesse—the future last Empress of Imperial Russia—and her sister, whose decisions to marry into the Romanov royal family changed history.

The granddaughters of Queen Victoria and two of the most beautiful princesses in Europe, Princesses Alix and Ella were destined to marry well. But while their grandmother wants them to marry into the English and German royal families, the sisters fall in love with Russia—and the Romanovs.

Defying the Queen's warnings, Ella weds the tsar's brother, Grand Duke Serge. Cultivated, aloof, and proud, Serge places his young wife on a pedestal for all to admire. But behind the palace gates, Ella struggles to secure private happiness.

Visiting Russia for Ella's wedding, Alix meets and captivates Nicky—heir to the Russian throne. Despite falling in love with him, Alix feels her conscience urging her to walk away. Both sisters' fateful decisions to marry lead to tragic consequences for not only themselves and their families, but for millions in Russia and around the globe.

Advance Praise:

"I truly could not put this book down. Clare McHugh is a genius... Utterly addictive!"

—MARIAH FREDERICKS, AUTHOR OF *THE LINDBERGH NANNY*

"A beautifully spun chronicle of love, family, and faith."

—HISTORICAL NOVEL SOCIETY

"THE ROMANOV BRIDES tells a moving and plausible tale, rich in detail of places, costumes, and interesting characters."

—THE EAST HAMPTON STAR

About the author:

CLARE MCHUGH was born in London and grew up in the United States, graduating from Harvard University with a degree in European history. She is a newspaper reporter and magazine editor, and has reviewed books for the Wall Street Journal and the Baltimore Sun.

TRANSLATION SALES

World Spanish: Ediciones Kiwi
Serbia: Vulkan
Russia: Exmo

RUNNING COLD

By Susan Walter



Lake Union (Amazon)

October 2024

From the bestselling author of *LIE BY THE POOL*, *GOOD AS DEAD*, and *OVER HER DEAD BODY* comes this new gripping novel of suspense.

When Julie Adler's husband dies, he leaves her penniless. With nowhere else to go, the former Olympian goes to work as a chambermaid at the historic Canadian Banff Springs Hotel. Her concerned friends, who know nothing of her financial ruin, travel up to visit her, assuming she's simply a guest seeking refuge from the cruel gossip, and dealing with her grief.

Julie doesn't want her friends to know she's working as a maid, so she entertains them in the suite of a wealthy guest while the woman is out on the slopes. She even dares to dip into the wealthy guest's closet to borrow an outfit for a night out. But when the wealthy guest is found murdered, Julie is arrested in front of everyone wearing the dead woman's clothes.

Just as Julie is hauled off to the town jail for questioning, a storm rolls in. Fierce winds knock the power out, and Julie flees. On the run in a blizzard, she has until the storm clears to find the real murderer and prove her innocence.

First her husband, then the socialite. Could bad luck be following Julie Adler? Or something more sinister?

Praise and Reviews:

"Set in a stunning but unforgiving landscape, *RUNNING COLD* is chilling – both literally and figuratively. This twisty tale of murder, secrets, and exceptional human grit had me flying through the pages!"

—ROBYN HARDING, BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *THE DROWNING WOMAN* AND *THE HATERS*

"When Julie's life is ripped apart by her husband's untimely death, it's just the beginning of the journey that will lead her into her dark past and the secrets that swirled around her, sight unseen. A taught, page-turner that draws you in and never lets go, *RUNNING COLD* will have you turning the pages deep into the night."

—CATHERINE MCKENZIE, *USA TODAY* BESTSELLING AUTHOR OF *I'LL NEVER TELL* AND *HAVE YOU SEEN HER*

"Like an avalanche roaring down a mountain, *RUNNING COLD* will ensnare you and not let go until the nail-biting finish. Walter masterfully explores the triumph of grit, the bonds of friendship, and the majesty of nature."

—LORI BRAND, AUTHOR OF *BODIES TO DIE FOR*

LETTERS FROM STRANGERS

By Susan Walter



*Lake Union (Amazon)
May 2025*

Driven by secrets and a long-buried mystery, this twisting family drama that starts with two strangers — an adopted teenager in search of his birth mother, and a childless woman in search of a sibling born in secret. With themes of adoption, marriage, and family, this deeply emotional read will make you cry!

When her father dies suddenly, Jane thinks it's the worst thing that could ever happen to her. And then she finds the letters — nine years' worth of "I love you's" from a woman who isn't her mother.

The letters make her cry. And then they make her angry. Because in them is talk of a baby, and if Jane has a half-sibling, she wants to know. So she boards a flight from L.A. to Boston to find her father's mistress and the teenage child she suspects they had together.

In a suburb of Boston, sixteen-year-old Adam Ross dreams of playing college football. But he's got to get his weight under control first. He wants to be a wide receiver and receivers are lean and fast. But he just can't stop eating.

Adam's mother never wanted to show him the letters from his birth mother, but Adam is self-destructing and wants answers, even if they hurt. And so she gives her son the box full of "I'm sorry's" from the woman who birthed then abandoned him. They only fuel his hunger for answers about why she gave him up.

Jane and Adam are on a collision course — but not for the reasons we might suspect. Because the letters do not tell the whole story. And maybe Jane and Adam are lying about some things, too?

What is true is that Adam and Jane are both looking for a woman who doesn't want to be found. A love story wrapped in a mystery, "Letters from Strangers" is a novel about the healing power of acceptance told from three points of view — a troubled teenage boy, a woman desperate to know her father's secret, and the other woman, who forces Jane to confront some secrets of her own.

About the author:

SUSAN WALTER has been a writer, producer and director working in film and television for over two decades. A native of Boston, Susan graduated cum laude from Harvard University and lives in Los Angeles.



DROP DEAD

By Lily Chu



Audible Originals, August 2024

Casablanca (Sourcebooks), May 2025

One mysterious mansion. Two rival journalists. Three weeks to uncover the story—and love—of a lifetime. Don't miss this unforgettable romantic comedy performed by Phillipa Soo and John Cho!

Obituary writer Nadine Barbault doesn't mind being called "Lady Death." It suits the ice queen persona she's cultivated to survive the fast-paced *Toronto Herald*. So when Nadine learns that famous (and reclusive) author Dot Voline has died, she doesn't hesitate to run the obituary...only to discover that Dot is very much alive.

Wesley Chen is smug in the face of Nadine's mistake—she's been a thorn in his side for years. But renewed interest in Dot has also surfaced a mysterious past scandal. Intrigued, Wes goes to the source to learn more—only to discover Nadine had the exact same idea. Typical.

At first, Dot refuses to speak to either of them, but then they receive an unusual request—work together, and Dot will talk. The offer seems too good to be true...and of course, it is: in a bitter twist of irony, Dot dies before she can finish recounting her story. Not all is lost, however. The estate's executor allows Wes and Nadine access to Dot's sprawling wonderland of a mansion for three weeks to find their answer. That's three weeks of working together sweltering in tight spaces...three weeks of learning there could be something more between them than a desire to win at any cost.

Praise for Lily Chu:

"THE STAND-IN pulls you into the spotlight immediately, playing on the tension between public and private lives; THE COMEBACK allows something secret and vulnerable to flourish, and then blasts it with megawatts of toxic attention. I binged this unusually rich pair of rom-coms back-to-back in one whirlwind summer weekend."

—THE NEW YORK TIMES

THE LIBRARY OF FLOWERS

By Lily Chu



*Landmark (Sourcebooks),
March 2026*

Thirty-two-year-old Lucy Hua comes from an ancient, magical line of Chinese perfumers renowned for their secret ability to manipulate emotions through their ‘moli’ perfumes. Throughout history, they served the rich and powerful, from empresses to taipans and their wives to CEOs. But even among the Hua family, Lucy’s talent is rare: she can create scents that attract true love. It’s a gift that only presents itself in the eldest daughter of every fifth generation.

And her family is hoping that boon will save them now. Ever since immigrating to Vancouver after World War II, the Huas’ fortunes haven’t been the same. Eager to regain their former status and riches, they were waiting for Lucy and her powers to mark the end of their decline. Unfortunately, Lucy’s abilities never manifested and, devastated by her failure, she leaves home to open her own, thoroughly non-magical, artisanal parfumerie...until the day her past finally catches up with her again.

Featuring poignant family dynamics, the search for love and identity, and interwoven with the narratives of other Fifth Daughters (from the Tang Dynasty, Ming Dynasty, and the last days of the Qing Dynasty), THE LIBRARY OF FLOWERS is an absorbing story about finding your true heart's desire that readers will fall head over heels for!

About the author:

LILY CHU writes romantic comedies set in Toronto with strong Asian characters. She is also the author of THE STAND-IN, a Target Book Club pick, THE COMEBACK, and THE TAKEDOWN.

HALFLING & IRONLING

by S.E. Wendel



Self-published (KDP),
October 1, 2021
Podium Audio, April 16, 2024

A half-orc, half-human belongs nowhere... Orek has spent his life trying to prove himself to a clan that despises him. The son of a deposed orc chief and human captive, he must try twice as hard to prove himself a worthy male, a strong hunter, a potential mate.

Resigned to a thankless place in the shadows, Orek ekes out a living on the fringes of the clan, just waiting for an opportunity. But what he finds instead one cold autumn night could ruin everything he's worked so hard to gain—a human woman, captured just as his mother was so many years ago. The choice to protect her from the clan isn't a choice at all, but what will protect him and his lonely heart from her?

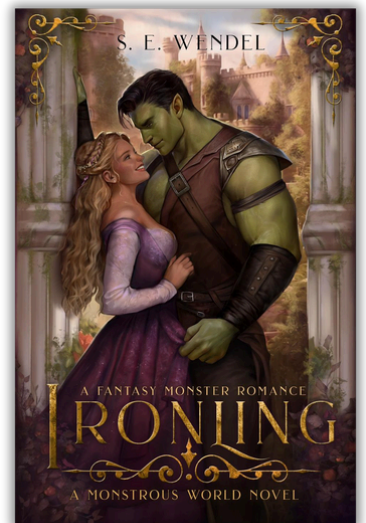
Sorcha has spent her life helping raise her many siblings, but now finally has the chance to seek her own adventures. At least, she did, before she was snatched from her horse and peddled by slavers. Taken far from home, she's brought to the worst place imaginable—the craggy western mountains infested with brutal orcs. All humans know to fear them and stay away, and now she's been sold to the cruelest clan-chief of them all. But the first orc she meets is nothing like the stories. He's gentle. He frees her.

Nothing is what it seems as they lose themselves in the forest, hunted by trackers and slavers. Out of her depth, Sorcha has no choice but to rely on the mysterious halfling who saved her—but she's been betrayed already and cannot afford to trust him. Even if, little by little, the quiet male reveals himself to be everything she could ever want.

Aislinn Darrow was never meant to be her father's heir, but that was before her selfish brother condemned himself. Now, she must give up her old life to take his place. She should be presiding in her father's council chamber and serving the people of the Darrowlands—yet time and again, she finds herself in the castle smithy, to visit the handsome new blacksmith manning the forge.

Hakon has known all his life his place is in the background. At least at his forge, he can be of use. The life of a halfling is one of never quite to belonging. When he hears of a place that welcomes halflings, he determines to build a new life for himself in the Darrowlands. It is a bittersweet fate to find everything he could ever want there, in a woman he can never have. He knows his green, sooty hands don't deserve to touch her, but Hakon cannot resist tempting Lady Aislinn back to him, nor indulging in the fantasy of claiming her as his own.

But in a world of lords and politics, Aislinn could never truly take a halfling like him to mate and wed—especially when her position as a woman lord and usurper leave her and her people vulnerable. When grasping lords threaten the Darrowlands, prepared to take Aislinn's hand and land through marriage or force, she must choose—the halfling who loves her or the people who need her.



Self-published (KDP),
August 30, 2024

THE SECRETS OF LOVELACE ACADEMY

By Marie Benedict & Courtney Sheinmel



*Aladdin (Simon & Schuster),
April 2025*

From New York Times bestselling author Marie Benedict and Courtney Sheinmel comes a historical adventure that follows the young and gifted Lainey as she is plucked from a London orphanage to begin attending Lovelace Academy, a boarding school with ivy-covered walls that hide more secrets than Lainey can even imagine.

London, 1904.

Lainey Phillips has lived at the Sycamore Home for Orphaned Children since she was three years old. Now nearly a teenager, her life is difficult, and she doesn't expect it to get better—until a chance encounter changes everything: Lainey meets a woman who invites her to attend the prestigious Lovelace Academy.

Fitting in amongst the many privileged students at Lovelace Academy proves challenging in a different way. Terrified she'll be cast out of the academy, Lainey grabs the chance to prove herself by traveling to Switzerland to witness a female scientist craft a groundbreaking theory. The journey that includes a train, a ferry, and a mysterious boy named Gen is treacherous, but the real test is what awaits her at the home of Mileva Maric, wife of Albert Einstein.

About the authors:

MARIE BENEDICT is the *New York Times* bestselling author of several adult books of historical fiction, including *THE OTHER EINSTEIN*, the inspiration for this book. She lives in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

COURTNEY SHEINMEL is the author of nearly thirty books for kids and teens, including the acclaimed *Stella Batts* and *My Pet Slime* series for young readers. Her book, *Helen Keller*, was part of Chelsea Clinton's *She Persisted* series. Courtney received a National Scholastic Outstanding Educator Award for her work as a writing instructor at the non-profit Writopia Lab. She lives in New York City.

RAVENFALL Series

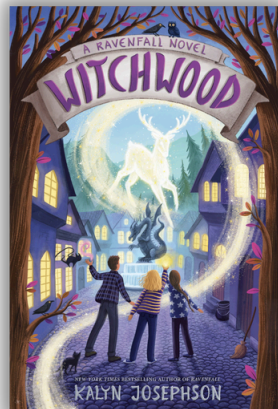
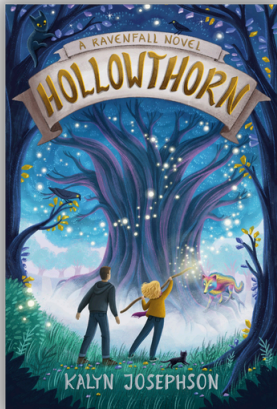
By Kalyn Josephson



Delacorte (Penguin Random House), September 2022, October 2023, and October 2024

Thirteen-year-old Annabella Ballinkay has never been normal, even by her psychic family's standards. Every generation uses their magical abilities to help run their sprawling B&B, which has developed a campy, occultist reputation amongst tourists (and also happens to be sentient). But it's hard to contribute when your only power is seeing death—whenever Anna touches someone who's experienced loss, she relives it through them.

So when fourteen-year-old Colin Pierce arrives at the Ravenfall Inn in search of answers about the men who killed his brother, she jumps at the chance to help. But the murder of Colin's brother isn't the only mystery they have to solve. Colin is descended from a long line of Scáths—supernatural guardians of the veil to the Otherworld—and someone is hunting them down. The more Scáths that die, the thinner the veil becomes. The two of them must discover who's doing this and why before Samhain...otherwise, there will be nothing to stop millions of wraiths from entering the human world and wrecking havoc.



★ **RAVENFALL** was nominated as a “Best MG Book of the Year” in the 2022 Goodreads Choice Awards and was B&N’s 2023 October Young Reader monthly pick! ★

TRANSLATION SALES

Russia: Eksmo

About the author:



KALYN JOSEPHSON is a fantasy writer living in the California Bay Area. She loves books, cats, books with cats, and making up other worlds to live in for a while.

Her YA debut, *THE STORM CROW*, was one of Indigo’s Best YA Books of 2019, B&N’s Best YA books of July 2019, and Goodreads’s most popular 2019 debuts.